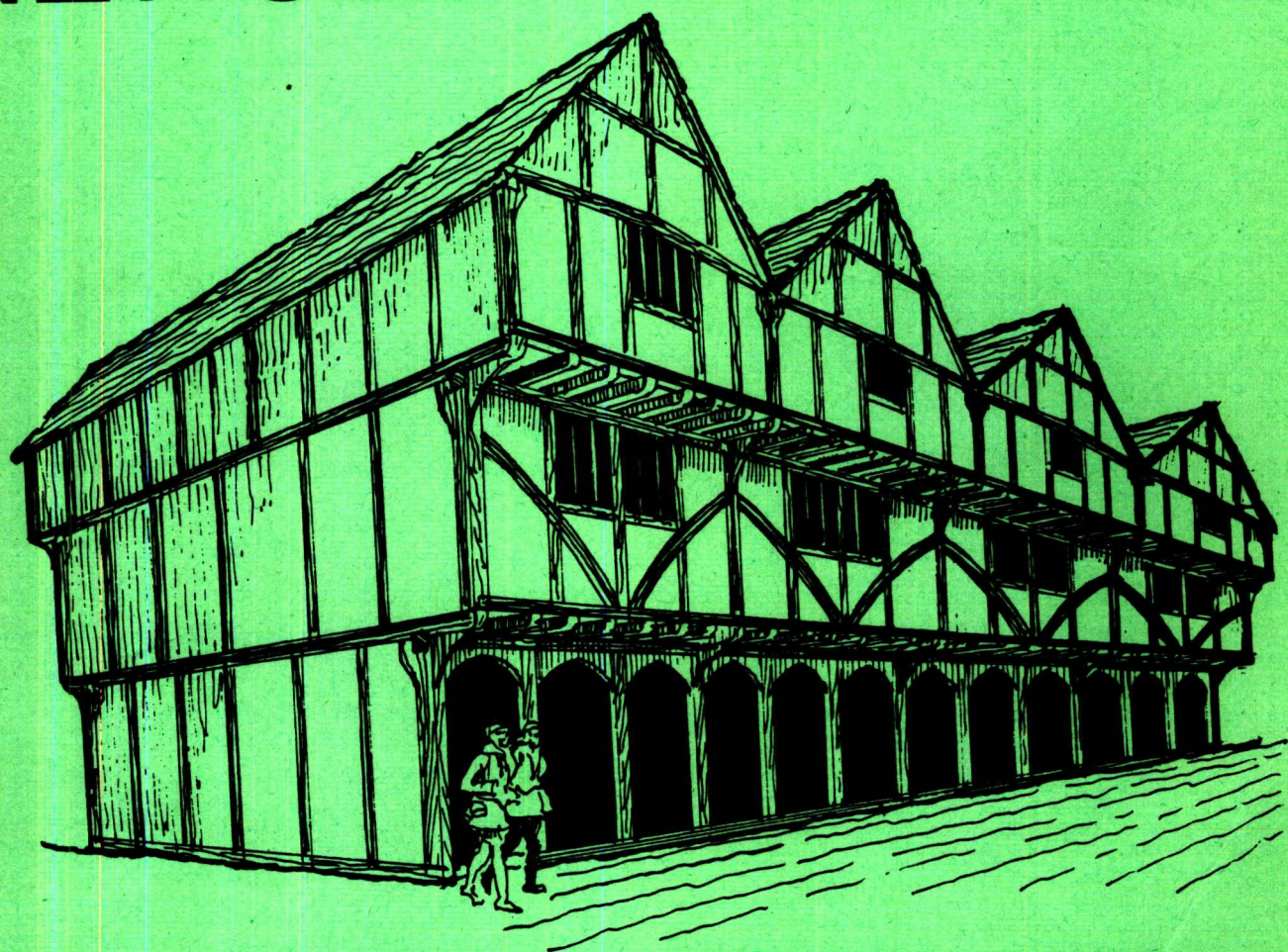


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NEWSLETTER 10 1980



A REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY

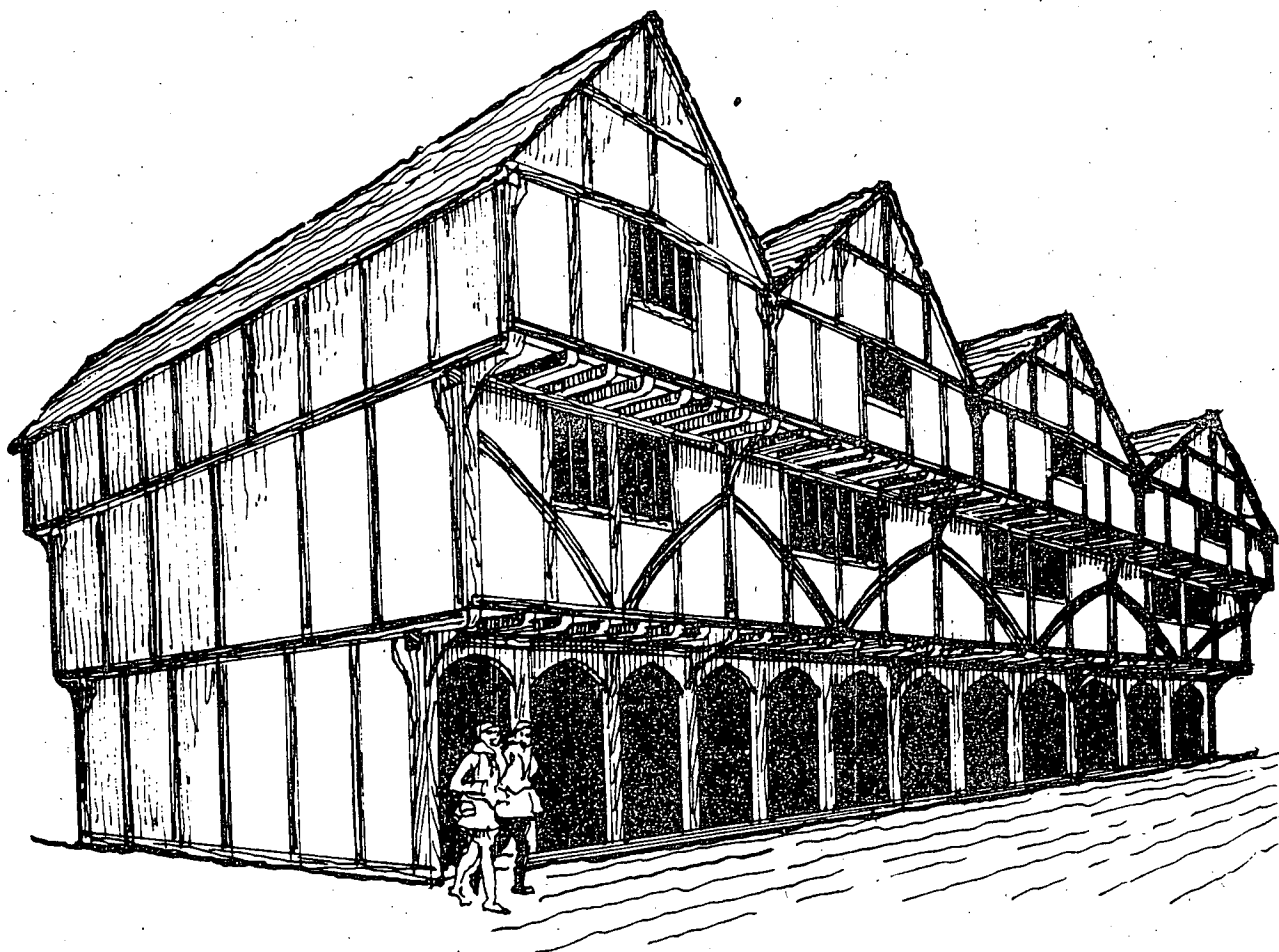
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NEWSLETTER 10 1980



A REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY

in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire
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narrow flat-topped 'entrance'. In section the sides were rather steep, rounding towards the bottom.

A remarkably close parallel can be found in the causewayed cremation-cemetery, Site V, of Atkinson, Piggott and Sandars, Excavations at Dorchester, Oxon., 1951, pp. 43-50. The Stanton Harcourt site, however, yielded no cremation remains, only three small deposits of charcoal. No other direct dateable evidence was found.

42. THAME by-pass

The construction of the Thame by-pass went ahead rapidly in 1979. The Thame Historical Society kept a watch on the earthmoving operations during the summer and autumn but no archaeological material was recovered.

43. THAME, 4-5 High Street

Foundation work for the new Boots branch store revealed a build-up of Post-Medieval soils. No trace of any Medieval occupation was observed.

44. WALLINGFORD, 5-7 Castle Street

Following the demolition of nos 5-7 situated on the west side of Castle Street, the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society excavated a trial trench to examine the quality and depth of archaeological stratification from the Medieval and late Saxon town. Most of the ground had been deeply disturbed during the Post-Medieval period although cleaning two foundation trenches both dug to a depth of 1.2 m along the present frontage revealed deep and relatively undisturbed stratification extending beneath the pavement at a depth of about 1 m. Pottery suggested a 12th - 13th century date range for the uppermost levels. This would, if correct, fit in with the diversion of the road running northwards out of Wallingford to its present position along Castle Street (PRN 12,117 and 12,118).

45. WALLINGFORD, Former Usher Brewery Site, Goldsmith's Lane

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society has maintained a watching brief on this site which lies at the junction between High Street and Goldsmith's Lane. Extensive alteration work on the old brewery buildings involves little groundwork but some useful sections were seen which may indicate the archaeology underlying this site will be exposed in 1980.

46. WALLINGFORD, Laundry Site, Goldsmith's Lane

Several trial holes were dug prior to the redevelopment of the laundry site which is located in the south-western part of the town enclosed by the line of the late Saxon defences. Five trial pits dug for the architects to examine the subsoil showed that the ground was either recently made-up or disturbed to a depth of 2 m by Post-Medieval rubbish pits. No Medieval or earlier pottery was seen.

47. WALLINGFORD, Market Place, St Martin's Street and St Mary's Street

Sewer trenches 0.6 m wide dug through the Market Place and down both St Martin's and St Mary's Streets revealed a Post-Medieval build-up of surfaces ranging in total depth from 0.5 m to 1.0 m from the present surface. Although the trench along St Martin's Street was shallow, the trench along St Mary's Street was deeper at approximately 1.5 m, and revealed that the Post-Medieval levels sealed deep, soft greenish-grey soils containing much animal bone and three sherds of Medieval pottery (PRN 11,864 and 12,121). No surfaces were recognised. This general, thick soil spread appeared to be a build-up of Medieval rubbish in the Market Place. The full depth of this accumulation is not known.

A broad spread of large flint rubble averaging 0.3 m in thickness was seen extending in both trench sections for 4 m opposite the junction between Lloyd's Bank and the Corn Exchange. This rubble which cut into the Medieval soils had been sealed by the Post-Medieval resurfacings. In section the rubble resembled a hard standing rather than a wall foundation.

48. WALLINGFORD, 9-10 St Martin's Street (former Regal Cinema) -
Brian Durham

Various development proposals for this key site were discussed during 1979. It was considered desirable to assess the archaeological potential of the site and accordingly two exploratory machine trenches were dug in the forecourt. Unfortunately it turned out that exceptionally deep modern cellars had destroyed the frontage, but stratified medieval pottery was recovered from what were presumably yard surfaces to the rear. The sequence of stratification continued down to a late Saxon pit at a depth of 2.20 m. It may be useful to re-excavate this area when the developers' programme is settled.

49. WITNEY, 27 Market Square

Following the proposal to demolish the former Crown Hotel (no 27 Market Square) to make way for a new road, two exploratory trenches were dug by the OAU in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The first trench was placed inside the main

Property of CBA South Midlands.

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

REGIONAL GROUP 9

(Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire)

NEWSLETTER No. 10 1980

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EDITORIAL

In spite of all the problems of production and costs, we have a journal again! It has been possible to achieve this by asking the major contributors to have their material presented ready typed and with line drawings already reduced to A4. This means that most of the Journal has not been edited to the usual 'house style', but we hope that any differences of presentation or format will not be too jarring on the reader. The Executive are very grateful to the Units and Museums for undertaking this work.

It did not seem appropriate to arrange a chronological format for the whole region so I have organized it by counties.

One suspects that the trend feared in previous years - that the societies and part-timers are finding less time to do work than they used to - is true. We have certainly had fewer contributions, and this year the Annual Reports Conference will only occupy one day. Surely there is more going on in the region than can be adequately discussed in one day? Do please let us know about your work.

Archaeology will need part time support much more in the immediate future. There is likely to be less money for units to maintain their projects and even wholesale reorganization (with risks of staff pruning).

The quality of the contributions reflects some of the excellent work being done in the region. For instance, the medieval mosaic tiles from Old Warden, Bedfordshire now have an international importance, and the recording of buildings by John Bailey's group continues unabated.

I should like to thank the staff of Oxford University Department for External Studies for all their help, seen and unseen, in the preparation and production of this Newsletter.

David Hall

BEDFORDSHIRE

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DEPARTMENT CONSERVATION SECTION
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TEAM - David Baker

During 1979, survey work has continued on all fronts. The archaeological parish programme is detailed separately, and has now covered 71 parishes. Some analytical earthwork survey and drawing has been carried out on selected sites. Listed building resurvey in North Bedfordshire is continuing slowly, and acceleration is still prevented by the pressure of casework. The DoE has now issued the revised List for the former Sandy Urban District, and that for the former South Bedfordshire Rural District is imminent.

Excavation has taken place on three sites. Grove Priory has continued more or less without interruption, except by winter weather and other small projects. A site in Midland Road, Bedford was briefly examined in August, and a trial trench excavated at Sharpenhoe Clappers in October.

It has been a good year for post-excavation and publication. After several years' preparation, the monograph on 'Excavations in Bedford 1967-77' has been published, eliminating the whole of the county town backlog in one sweep up to 1977. The first volume in the projected 'Survey of Bedfordshire', in co-operation with the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) was also produced, in December. It is a subject volume, 'Brickmaking, a History and Gazetteer', by Alan Cox. Post-excavation work on Odell is continuing steadily, and the completion of the Level III report is in sight. Post-excavation work on the 1974 Warden Abbey excavations has also thrown new light on the floor tiles: Evelyn Baker read a paper on some preliminary observations at the Rotterdam Conference in October. The Limoges medieval travelling pricket candlestick from Grove Priory was exhibited at the winter CBA Council meeting in London.

Sites and Monuments Record development continues, with 10,100 items now accessed.

There have been several staff changes. The Manpower Services Commission's STEP schemes were in operation throughout the year. Richard Thomas and Alison Alden have left for Devon and Robert White began a year's secondment on the Oxford University/DoE In-Service Training Scheme. Our colleague in Bedford Museum, Jane Hassall, left to become Curator of Ancient House Museum in Thetford. Stephen Coleman has joined us on parish survey from the Trent Valley, as well as Alison Bennet from Trondheim as a temporary replacement for Robert White. Sally Tabrett has joined the permanent Field Team as Finds Assistant, and Bob Mustoe as Field Supervisor, both on completion of STEP employment. Penny Spencer is the new Archaeological Officer in North Bedfordshire Borough Council's Museum.

BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH SURVEY - Angela Simco, Robert White, Stephen Coleman, Alison Bennett and others, *Bedfordshire County Council and DoE*

The Bedfordshire parish survey programme, begun in 1975, involves checking basic documentary sources, carrying out fieldwork, updating the Bedfordshire Sites and Monuments Record, and preparing a summary essay with maps. The aim is:

- (i) to identify new sites and features;
- (ii) to check the condition of known sites;
- (iii) to rationalise information already in the Sites and Monuments Record, and
- (iv) to provide a general background history for each parish and its landscape. As the bulk of the source material is documentary, and detailed fieldwalking is not undertaken, the survey is of necessity biased towards the medieval and post-medieval periods.

At the end of 1979, 71 modern parishes had been covered, out of a county total of 124. Work has concentrated on rural parishes, beginning in the north of the county. Most of the area of North Bedfordshire Borough has been covered, with a large part of Mid Bedfordshire District. Parishes in South Bedfordshire District will be started soon. The twelve historic towns, of which the basic historical development was studied by Annette Edwards in 1974, will be dealt with towards the end of the survey programme.

SHARPENHOE CLAPPERS, STREATLEY, Bedfordshire (TL 066 302) - Brian Dix, *Bedfordshire County Council and DoE*

Sharpenhoe Clappers occupies a north-facing promontory of the Chilterns, and today consists of a beech plantation which is also a nature reserve and recreation area in the ownership of the National Trust. Both promontory and plantation are delimited on the south by a bank which runs across the neck of land, with a break along its middle course. This has traditionally been taken as evidence that the site was an Iron Age hillfort. The trees were first planted in the early 19th Century and make the site a prominent and attractive landmark, so the National Trust is embarking upon a replanting programme. In view of this it seemed desirable to establish whether the site in fact was that of a hillfort, and, if so, to determine the degree of preservation which might be expected within its interior. A trial trench excavated through the bank revealed the remains of a medieval rabbit warren which had been built over an Iron Age palisade trench and other possibly contemporary remains. Some geophysical work will be carried out in an attempt to resolve some of the problems raised by the excavation results and to assist the determination of further policy.

LIBERAL CLUB, MIDLAND ROAD, BEDFORD (TL 048 498) - David Baker, *Bedfordshire County Council and DoE*

Small scale trial excavations were carried out by Robert White and Richard Thomas in August 1979 in advance of development. Failure to

find the course of the Saffron Ditch clarified documentary evidence, later confirmed in work by County Record Office staff, that it ran on two sides of this site rather than across it. This would suggest a re-interpretation of a feature found further south, in the 1977 excavations by Jané Hassall and Peter Woodward, as a possible gravel extraction west of the Ditch rather than as the Ditch itself. A small area excavation on the street frontage showed that in the early medieval period the ground had been marshy. No structural evidence for this period was seen, and the earliest pottery, of Middle Saxon date, was residual.

GROVE PRIORY, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, Bedfordshire - Evelyn Baker, Bedfordshire County Council and DoE

This is an alien priory of the Abbey of Fontevrault founded after 1164, and which changes its status to that of a manor after c.1300.

Work has been concentrated on completing the large area excavation previously reported, and has involved extending the trench west to the lip of the fishponds with the intention of exposing the west part of the range of buildings containing ovens (period 5) already located.

The graveyard proved very difficult to excavate since many of the grave cuts were nearly invisible in the boulder clay. R. Thomas and S. Quin managed to locate more than twenty individuals within the working area. Although dating is a problem, it may be that all the skeletons belong either to the brethren or possibly brethren and the chaplains who replaced them. Of the bones that survived there appear to be no babies, children or positively identifiable women, (though detailed pathology is yet to be done) so the manor folk of the later period do not seem to have been buried here.

The boundary ditch in period 2 apparently went underneath the timber hall and is continuing west, possibly under the line of the 'rere dorter' drain of period 5. This makes it difficult to ascertain the direction of the drain flow due to slumping in the ditch. The answer lies further north. The drain can now be seen turning south, respecting the 13th - 14th Century masonry building containing a complicated sequence of hearths and ovens (Plate 1). This bake or brew house is raised above the general level of surrounding contemporary ground surfaces; as we have seen in the wet season, this brings the floors safely above modern floor level.

To the south is another building, probably slightly earlier, with dwarf stone wall footings and post pads. It appears to have had a complicated history, beginning as a large aisled structure containing hearths of minor industrial function. This was shortened by removing the east end and reflooring with earth; this probably entailed losing its south aisle and having a new domestic tile hearth placed centrally between the north aisle wall and the south wall. Dense burning, probably throw out from the early industrial activity was seen to the south and west.

Overlying the burning is a clay deposit, probably from cleaning out or widening the fishpond further west. A heavy cobbled surface ran parallel between the buildings and the fishpond which may have originated as a natural water course. Contemporary with the cobbled road or path is a



Plate 1

GROVE PRIORY. The bake or brew house, facing west. Photograph Beds CC
Photographic Unit. Scale in half metres.

rough stone structure straddling the lip of the pond, which would appear to be the remains of a bridge abutment. This structure was replaced by a dumped mass of clay forming a ford or way across to the west.

The earlier portion of the period 7 southern range, built in two stages, seems to have been jointed into the remains of the abutment. A further room came north built partially over the cobbles and forming a complex with a lean-to structure containing central supporting post, attached to the west end of the aisled building.

Cobbled areas, then gravel surfaces were laid over the remains of the buildings, but post medieval activity at this western end of the site appears to be slight.

R. Mustoe is now the site supervisor, assisted by N. James. Excavation is continuing, and both dating and interpretation must still be considered provisional.

WARDEN ABBEY, OLD WARDEN, Bedfordshire - Evelyn Baker, Bedfordshire County Council and DoE

Post excavation report on the medieval tile pavements

Rescue excavations at this Cistercian monastery took place in 1974. Work was limited mainly to the ground work necessary to rehabilitate a Grade 1 listed building, the restoration being undertaken by the Landmark Trust. Two tile pavements of major importance were located and subsequently removed to Bedford Museum where they have been cleaned and conserved.

The first pavement, located probably in the south aisle of the church, near the crossing, was discovered in 1961 by Rudd and West, (Beds. Arch. J. Vol. 11, 1964). It is an extremely fine small scale mosaic pavement akin to those in the great Yorkshire houses. Its line impressed decoration would probably bring it into the first part of the 14th Century, whereas the scale of the tiny individual mosaics together with the intricacy of the panels could belong to the 13th Century. Several different designs are present, including elaborate roundels, which rely mainly upon white-on-black and black-on-white reverse pattern contrast. They are extremely sophisticated, and display great skill in design, fabrication and laying. Each tile would need to be individually hand finished to ensure exact shape and fit to avoid compound error which would make the successful laying of such complex patterns impossible. The designs appear to be unique to Warden. Unfortunately, almost all the slip and glaze has been worn away, but it is hoped to be able to reconstruct the colour sequence from glaze still adhering to the sides.

The second pavement, 14th Century in date, was located almost by accident during clearance of an area whose level was to be reduced as part of groundworks around the surviving upstanding structure. A possible late robber trench was sectioned revealing an area of brightly coloured medieval pavement. The extent of the room was established and the pavement uncovered. While it had been partially damaged in the 16th Century by being shovelled up during building activities, most of the pavement was in situ. Unlike pavement 1, this floor retained nearly all its glaze, slip and line impressed decoration. It is not very often that

one gets a glimpse of the vibrancy of fluctuating colour that was a principal characteristic of medieval pavements.

The central panels were made of geometric patterns very similar to those in Prior Crauden's Chapel at Ely. These are much larger coarser elements than those constituting the first pavement. It is the fragmentary borders together with tiles found loose in the room fill that are causing great excitement.

Now that the post excavation programme is underway, some of the potential of a rare type of paving is being understood. What appears to have survived here are fragments of several naturalistic pictures made up from specially shaped mosaic tiles just like the "Adam and Eve" or "Fall" picture mosaic in front of the altar in Prior Crauden's Chapel, (Figure 1). Indeed, four tiles on the jumbled border at Warden exactly match four tiles in the Ely "Fall", and were beyond doubt made from the same template. They are Satan's face, hair and wing, together with part of the Tree of Knowledge. In contrast to the Ely tiles, the Warden ones have retained their full colour and other surface decoration. Thus the Ely pavement allows us to reconstruct one of the designs at Warden, while the better preserved decoration on the Warden tiles gives an insight into how the Ely pavement once looked, Figure 2 (1) and (4).

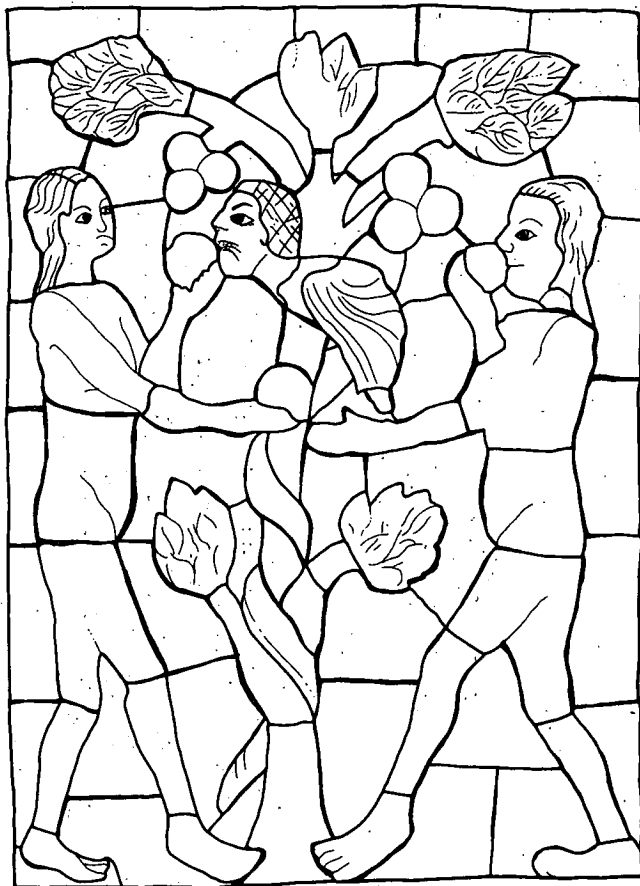


Figure 1
Warden Abbey Mosaic

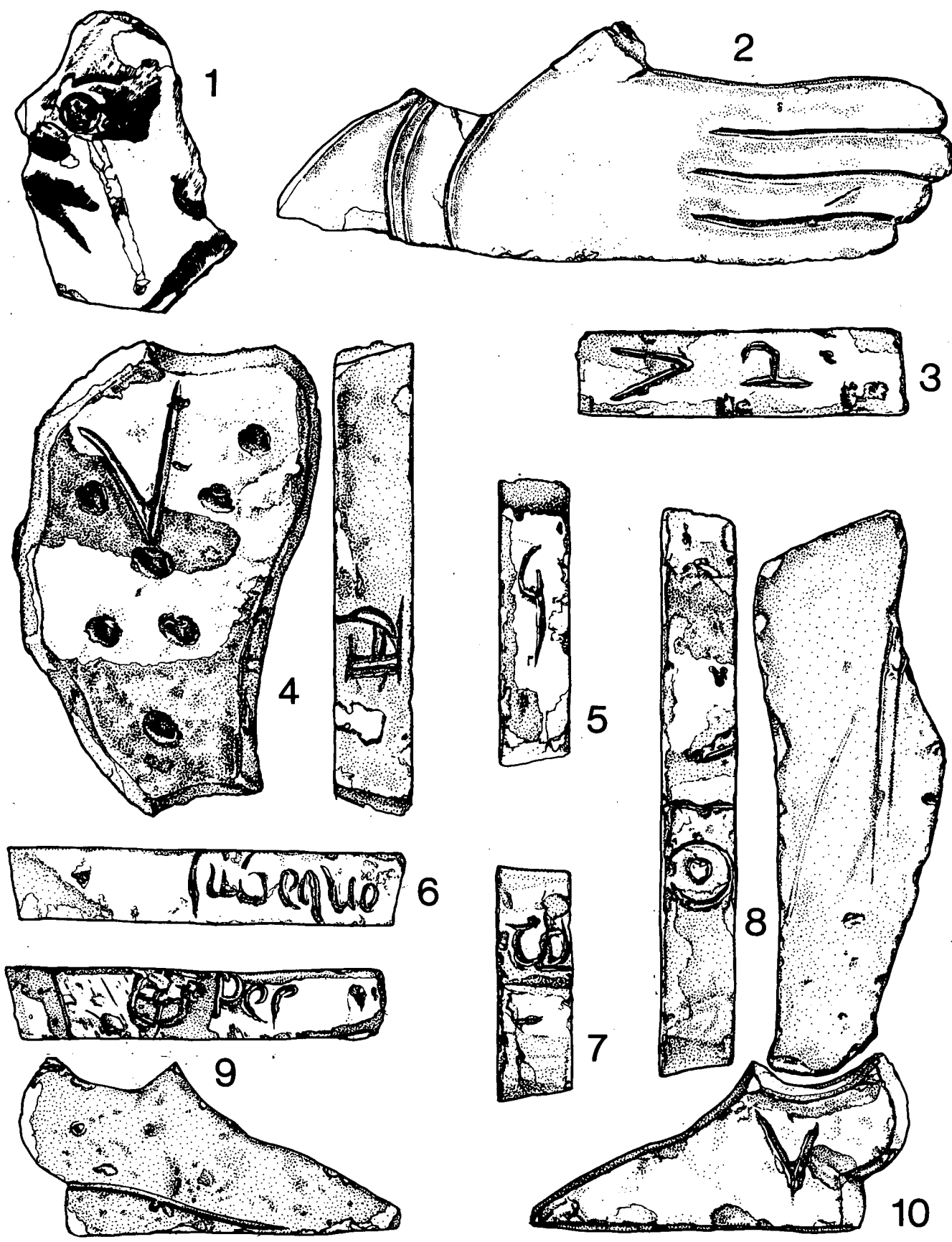


Figure 2
Warden Abbey Tiles

Other pictures indicated at Warden are lions passant (they are present at Ely also); male secular figures dressed in hose and shoes; a horse and a man in armour which could combine to make a mounted knight; Samson grappling with a lion (surviving only as a drawing by Bradford Rudge, 1835); small scale drapery which may not belong to any of the above; a life size figure (possibly two) dressed in ecclesiastical vestments.

The way the tiles have been designed is strongly reminiscent of the art of painted windows. The cartoon for the "Adam and Eve" panel for instance, would need little modification to make it workable for glass. It is not difficult theoretically to substitute glass quarries for tile pavours, and lead came for interstices filled with mortar. There are other similarities: inlaid and painted eyes, and the possibility that one of the figures was set beneath a canopy just like a saint in a window panel. There is a strong possibility that several panels may have been designed to produce the sort of hierarchical effect achieved by displaying an iconographical sequence. Laurence Keen has suggested an iconographical sequence for Ely. (The 14th Century tile pavements in Prior Crauden's Chapel and in the south transept, JBAA 1979.)

These tiles had a spectacular appearance. Different sized people and animals coloured yellow, rust, green and brown were set against rich black backgrounds. The surface interest and texture was enhanced by hand-drawn detail and painting. The standard of craftsmanship is highly accomplished.

However, the interest of the tiles does not end with their remarkable finished appearance. The backs and sides of the majority of the tiles (more than 200 either whole or fragmentary) display a quantity of graffiti, a complicated series of symbols, numbers and words which act as laying instructions. On the backs of many tiles, almost invariably, is a letter V, sometimes with additional strokes, (Figure 2 (4) and (10)). On the sides are three major series of marks. One set is based on a circle, and like the V is akin to the symbols with which carpenters marked timbers for prefabricated buildings (Figure 2 (8) and (9)). Another group is a near complete set of Arabic numerals which compare well with those found on 14th Century English manuscripts, (Figure 2 (3) and (5)). Arabic numerals were introduced into England in the 12th Century, but they were by no means common at this date. The last type takes the form of Latin inscriptions such as pes foot, stola ecclesiastical stole, sub equo under the horse, clearly giving directions as to what the tile was representing or where in the picture it should go (Figure 2 (6) and (9)).

At Warden we have fragments of several jigsaws. The next task is to see whether there are sufficient pieces from the pictures to decode the cipher used. What is already apparent is that Warden Abbey possessed tiles that were extraordinarily expensive and luxurious. They were made by literate and numerate artist craftsmen with an inferred status well above that of the usual tiler-cum-labourer. There are only three find spots in Europe as yet for these special mosaic tiles, the third being Norton Priory in Cheshire. The Norton tiles are not exactly similar, but are definitely of the same family. Further work is envisaged with Patrick Greene, Elizabeth Eanes and Laurence Keen to see how these remarkable pavements inter-relate. A preliminary paper "Craftsmanship

and Design in Floors for the Wealthy: Some Implications of the Warden Abbey Tile Pavements" is forthcoming in Rotterdam Papers III edited by J. Renaud.

Key to Figures 1 and 2

Figure 1 The "Adam and Eve" or "Fall" picture mosaic panel in Prior Crauden's Chapel, Ely. Warden Abbey has the face, hair, wing and part of the tree. Details from these tiles have been added to the Ely panel.

- Figure 2
1. Satan's painted face (as in the "Fall").
 2. Life sized hand showing a tightly fitting sleeve cuff or the wrist band of a glove.
 3. The side of a tile showing the letter V or Roman 5 with an Arabic 2.
 4. The back and side of Satan's wing (as I) showing keying, V, and a Lombardic A (for Adam?).
 5. The side of a tile showing an Arabic 5.
 6. The side of a tile inscribed with sub equo (under the horse).
 7. The side of a tile marked S.
 8. One of the leg tiles. This one is complete, facing left, and though it is the same size as the "Fall" limbs, is clothed in rust coloured hose. The side shows a ? 'carpenter's' mark and concentric circles.
 9. The front of a shoe facing right. The 'heel' must either be a patten or part of the background, since 14th century shoes did not have heels. The side is inscribed pes (foot) and has a 'carpenter's' mark.
 10. The back of 9 showing the letter or number V, and placed to demonstrate that the legs and foot are part of the same design.

All the tiles are from Warden Abbey, scale 1 : 2.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM - Mike Farley

The main excavation of the year was carried out by David Allen at Bierton and an interim report on the result appears elsewhere in the Newsletter. Watching briefs resulted in the discovery of two Iron Age sites on the Newport Pagnell By-Pass and a small mid-late Saxon site. These discoveries confirmed that although thorough fieldwalking is essential in the face of linear threats, the earthmoving process cannot be neglected, since none of these sites had been previously recorded. Elsewhere a small Roman site, which probably fronted Akeman Street, was recorded in Aylesbury. At Bourton near Buckingham, medieval occupation was recorded during construction of a new road and in Aylesbury traces of a clay pipe

kiln came to light and a small excavation carried out by John Moore. Fieldwalking by the County Museum Archaeological Group resulted in the discovery of further sites. An overall list for the county is published each year in the Records of Bucks.

Work on the Sites and Monuments Record has progressed well, Andrew Pike having now covered four out of the five District Council areas. Particular attention has been paid this year to integration of information held within museum records into the system and this process is practically complete. There have as usual been a number of enquiries, particularly from students. The employment of Denise Allen under a STEP project enabled all of Buckinghamshire's cropmark sites to be plotted at a scale of 1:2,500. This work was a very important addition to the SMR. A number of additional photographs were at the same time kindly supplied by private fliers in the county.

As in previous years, resources have only permitted attention being paid to major planning issues including minerals, new roads, and district plans. Some time was spent on assessing the impact of the two proposed airport sites that affected Buckinghamshire - Yardley Chase and Hoggston - but this particular threat has fortunately been averted. The new Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, when it is implemented, will have considerable importance for archaeology as a whole, but at the moment delay in the implementation appears to have frozen all scheduling activity in Buckinghamshire. Many sites have been awaiting scheduling for over a year. This is partly attributable to cuts within the Inspectorate but it is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. One site in particular, whose future is still in some doubt, is that of Moat Farm, Hedgerley, part of which has recently been sold by the DoE to a private owner. The site was probably the site of a Knights Templar manor. Trial excavations by Mr. C. Stanley and Mrs. B. Stainton confirmed the archaeological potential of the site.

Post-excavation work continued on a number of fronts and several short reports appeared in print during the year (see elsewhere in the Newsletter). Other reports completed and with editors are on two cremation burials at Great Brickhill and an Iron Age site at Woodham; also, work by in-service students Ron Cowell and John Moore has resulted in final reports on an Iron Age site at Long Crendon and a clay pipe kiln in Aylesbury, respectively. A survey of Littlecote DMV by Paul Herbert appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Finally, much gratitude is due to the many members of the County Museum Archaeological Group who have given so much help to the various projects which the Museum has been involved with during the year.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP - Mike Farley

The Group continued to meet each week in the day-time and evening at the Museum. Much assistance was given with processing finds from this year's excavations, and a start made at tackling unpublished material from old excavations. Work continued on a number of individual projects including watermills, parks, boundaries, ridge-and-furrow, and flint and stone axes. Two articles prepared by the Group have now been accepted for publication, one on Buckinghamshire windmills, the other on

a post-medieval pottery industry at Potter Row. The Group's assistance with the location of a considerable number of recently acquired photographs was particularly useful.

In the field members helped at all the excavations with which the Museum was involved, in particular at Bierton, near Aylesbury, and gave much help at short notice with the small Roman site that came to light during redevelopment at Aylesbury. The fieldwalking programme was hampered by last year's wet spring, but some progress was made with Great Missenden parish. Here, working on the clay with flints, sparsely scattered flint waste was found, two scrapers and a transverse arrowhead, suggesting utilisation of the area in the later Neolithic. At Haddenham, another small Romano-British site was found, together with further flint waste, and a barb-and-tang arrowhead. A number of other sites and finds were brought to notice by individual members.

BIERTON, Buckinghamshire (SP 836 152) - David Allen, *Buckinghamshire County Museum*

Bierton is a linear village situated on a low limestone ridge one mile east of Aylesbury, which has produced numerous casual finds of pre-historic, Roman and medieval date over the years. The majority of these have centred upon the area of the Church and Vicarage Garden, and when a plan was put forward to develop the latter, in 1975, the County Museum undertook a trial excavation which proved the existence of intensive Iron Age occupation on the site.

The summer of 1979 was the final opportunity to examine more of the threatened area, and with DoE assistance the County Museum organised a fourteen-week dig to investigate some 1,200 m². More than 600 archaeological features were identified and examined, and the complex history of settlement which they represent is summarised below.

Iron Age (Belgic)

Occupation began in the last century BC or first century AD. Numerous postholes, pits and gullies survive from this period to provide the plans of domestic structures, principal among which was a roundhouse of c.12.0 m. diameter, which were enclosed by a complex system of banks and ditches. The excavated area revealed only a fraction of this settlement pattern, but it did show that at least three phases of activity were present. Finds included hand-made and wheel-thrown pottery, bronze and iron brooches, and a British potin coin of the early 1st Century AD.

Roman

Traces of rectangular buildings of timber and stone were discovered, as well as lengths of enclosure wall and palisade. These structures were not the source, however, of the large quantities of painted wall-plaster and substantial number of tesserae found. These, and the general abundance of Roman material suggest that a major building existed in the immediate vicinity. Finds included a fragment of pipe-clay figurine, and a sherd of coarse pottery bearing the name MARINVS.

Saxon

No structural features of Dark Age date were found, although fragments of loom-weight and grass-tempered pottery suggest the existence of Saxon settlement not far from the site.

Medieval

Several medieval boundary ditches cross the site. One produced much of a 13th Century cooking-pot, another the dismembered skeleton of a cow. Other features include pits, waterholes or wells, and large outdoor hearths. A large circular structure (0.8 m. diameter) also of this period, may have been a dovecote.

Post-Medieval

The remains of a substantial building encroached upon the northern part of the site, and the evidence suggests that this dated from the Tudor period. The original building was probably of stone, later re-fashioned in brick, and to the south existed an extensive cobbled area. Finds from this locality included pottery, spurs, buckles, knives and coins. The area then became the site of several large pits whose purpose seems to have been the quarrying of the limestone subsoil. This activity, falling in the 18th Century, probably represents the quarrying of marl for agricultural use.

In its final form the building housed a large cellar, and bottles from the fill suggest a mid-18th Century date for demolition. This is confirmed by the fact that it does not appear on a detailed Enclosure map of Bierton dated 1780.

Almost 100 people assisted on the excavation, the majority in a voluntary capacity, and the success of the operation owed much to this support. The task of processing the countless finds is well advanced, and work on a detailed report has begun.

LITTLECOTE, Buckinghamshire (SP 832 242, Figure 3) - Paul Herbert

A hamlet on the south-west side of the parish of Stewkley, in the Cottesloe Hundred, 'Litecota' was surveyed separately after the Conquest wherein it was described as having been, and still remaining, under three Landowners.

An extent of 'Lidcote' was taken in 1323 which showed a normal arable village maintaining 140 acres of arable, with a manor house and fruit garden; 15 free tenants were on the rent roll.

In the report upon inclosures of 1517, 'Litilcote' was said to have been enclosed by Thomas Pigott in 1494, at which time he held the manor; he was accused of displacing 24 persons. In 1507 William Sheppard enclosed the final 100 acres of the Manor and evicted eight persons, bringing the total to 84, and totally destroying the village.

The manor house was pulled down in the 17th Century and some out offices were converted into a farm residence.

A chapel dedicated to St. Giles was founded prior to 1266 by Hugh de Dunster and was probably pulled down in the late 16th Century.

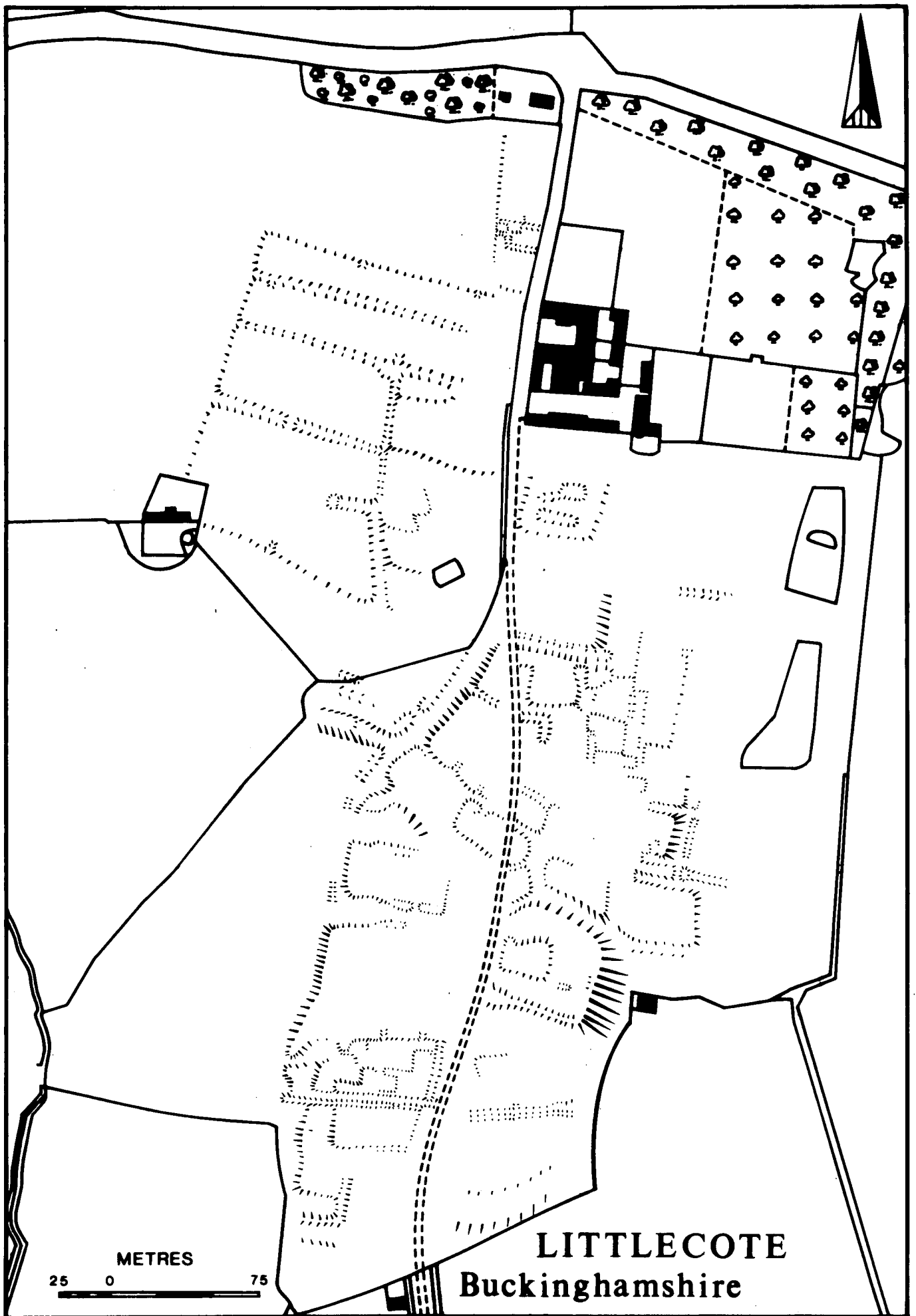


Figure 3
- 14 -

About the middle of the 18th Century the remains of the chapel were only just visible and no reference was made as to their exact whereabouts. But the site is fixed by tradition to where three fir trees grew. These have, for many years been uprooted, but are known to have stood immediately to the south of the farm buildings. The three-sided rectangular earthwork in this position may therefore be interpreted as this chapel.

All of the earthworks seem to be contemporary. The alignment of the village is dictated by the natural topography, as is specifically apparent by the different alignment of the earthworks in the centre of the village. Having dictated natural boundaries between the northern, central and southern portions of the village, the topography may then have been the significant factor in determining the three areas of land which were under different ownership.

The Victoria County History: Buckinghamshire refers to a 'mill in Littlecote' in 1249. A windmill is also shown on two maps of Buckinghamshire, in 1690 and 1767, but no relevant earthwork can be sited, either in or around the village. The ponds are extant.

Littlecote is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

With reference to the hachuring on this plan, the actual contour of the land has been indicated by showing the hachures pointing in the direction of dip, instead of at right angles from the top of the slope. This takes nothing away from the drawing as the shortest distance from top to bottom can still be ascertained, but adds a further dimension in showing the direction which water would flow, if the surface was on a slope, without having to resort to sections.

This seems both logical and necessary in enabling a visual interpretation, although it is realised that it affects a break with tradition. Therefore any comments are welcomed with reference to this subject.

GERRARDS CROSS, Romano-British Pottery Kiln (SU 99238750), Bambi Stainton, *Secretary, Chess Valley Archaeological & Historical Society*, Christopher Stanley, *Field Officer, Middle Thames Archaeological Society*

The pottery kiln was discovered during landscaping above a south-facing hill slope in the garden of 'Springwood', Hedgerley Lane, Gerrards Cross, along an outcrop of the Reading Beds. The daughter of the owner, Miss Katharine Barb, reported finding Roman pottery to the local paper in November 1979, and this information was followed up by members of the Gerrards Cross Historical Society, the CVAHS and the Middle Thames Archaeological Society.

Mrs. Stainton and Mr. Stanley visited the site where it was evident that landscaping was at an advanced stage and was continuing. Blackened earth with sherds was spread over a wide area and kiln debris was seen in the spoil heaps from tree planting. Permission was given for them to carry out a proton-magnetometer survey, assisted by Mr. Ron Hall, of the limited area available between the plantings, and a number of very well marked magnetic anomalies was located.

Because of the close proximity of one of these to a newly planted tree, further permission was very kindly given to carry out a limited

ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY KILN, Gerrards Cross

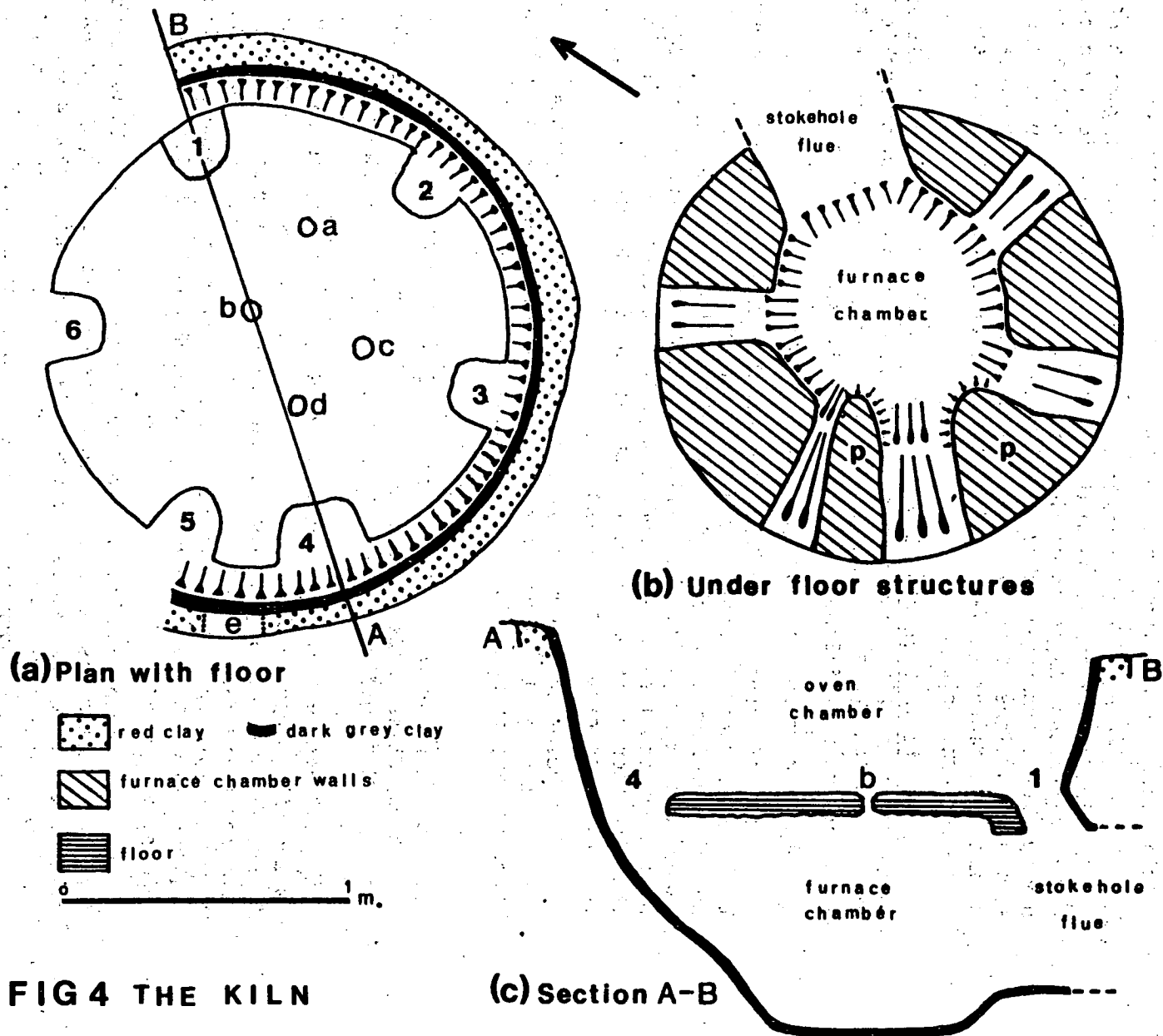


FIG 4 THE KILN

(c) Section A-B

excavation as tree roots would soon destroy any archaeological evidence.

A trench was opened up, ultimately 1.20 x 1.90 m; some 10 - 20 cm below the present surface a kiln was revealed and the interior excavated as fully as time and its proximity to the tree hole allowed.

The kiln, which had been fired, was cut into the gravelly subsoil (inside diameter of oven chamber 1.40 m) and lined with clay some 10 cm thick. This was baked red in colour with the inner 'rind' c. 3 cms, a dark grey. The kiln was an up-draught type with a permanent vented floor 60 cm below the present ground surface (Figure 4a). It was without a central support but had two pilasters projecting in from the wall (Figure 4b, P and P). Additional draught was provided by a small upward sloping vent in the kiln wall above Vent 4 (Figure 4a, e).

The floor was of baked clay, 10 cm thick, which had originally been supported on wooden poles 20 - 25 mm diameter and 7 - 8 cm apart, judging by imprints remaining in the underside of the oven floor.

Six large vents (Figure 4a, 1-6) were spaced systematically around the circumference of the floor and 4 small vents were located in its centre. It is presumed that others which could not be reached would complete a more regular pattern than that shown in Figure 4a, a, b, c and d.

The bowl-like furnace chamber below was approximately circular, average diameter 70 cm, curving to a maximum depth of 63 cms, and the hot gases entered from a large flue in the northwest side of the chamber (Figure 4b). This arch, with curved roof and vertical sides, 45 cm wide by 45 cm high, entered c. 10 cm above the bottom of the floor and vent hole 1 opened into the top of this arch (Figure 4c). Vents 2, 3 and 6 had flues opening from the upper half of the chamber wall while 4 and 5 had deep sloping flues beside the pilasters running almost to the chamber floor. There was not time to excavate the stoke hole flue, which was filled with earth and reddish clay. or to locate the position of the stoke hole.

There was very little ash in the furnace chamber, which was only partly filled with completely dry earth containing some sherds and pieces of charcoal and was hollow above this.

Many pottery sherds (69 lbs) were recovered from the kiln with no unbroken pots. Large pieces formed almost a layer on the chamber floor and wedged in the side vents, and smaller sherds occurred in the general infill of the oven chamber.

Part of the curved dome of the roof survived around the northeast edge of the oven chamber, which appeared to have slid down inside almost to floor level above the layer of large sherds, and more of it formed a shattered layer across the whole centre. When part of this was removed, a bar of baked clay, 30 cm long with rectangular section 5 by 8 cm, was seen to be attached to the kiln wall. The rest of the oven chamber was filled up with black clay loam which would appear to include the rake-out from a kiln or kilns nearby. Fragments of baked clay with grass and twig impressions were also found.

The pottery has only been briefly examined but the description given by P. Corder (Records of Bucks 1943) of the pottery of the Hedgerley and Fulmer kilns is equally accurate for this. The Hedgerley and Fulmer kilns are dated to the early 2nd Century though Hedgerley pottery has been found at the Latimer Roman Villa in a late 2nd Century context.

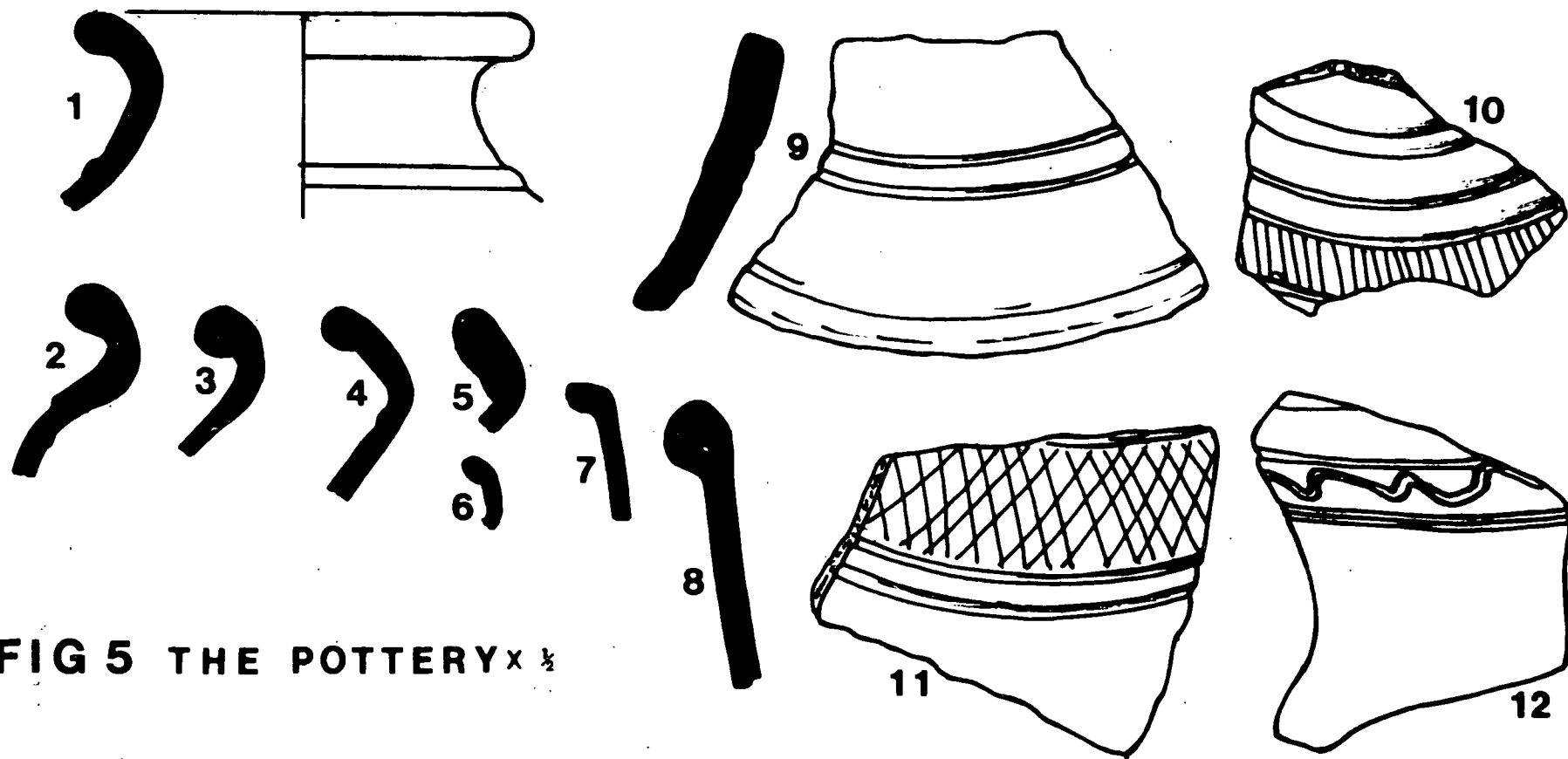


FIG 5 THE POTTERY x ½

It appears to be all coarse ware, mostly sandy, pale and dark grey through to brown in colour, sometimes soft and often gritty to the touch. There are rims from large jars (Figure 5), 1) and a number of other everted rim sherds, some with grooves or cordons paralleled at the other local kilns (2 - 6). Two rims are illustrated from straight-sided dishes, one whose bead rim has been rolled from the flat side resulting in a hollow core (7 - 8), and No. 9 is part of a lid, with decorative grooving on the inside.

Most sherds are without decoration but examples are shown of faint burnished lines between triple cordons and groove on a shoulder sherd (10), slightly incised acute lattice between grooves (11) and impressed wavy line decoration between single and double grooves (12).

The other published R/B kilns in this area are of the central support type and roughly made. This kiln is very well constructed and of a more developed design, and one must consider whether this indicates a slightly later date in spite of the similarity of the pottery types.

Wasters and pottery were found in the garden adjacent to 'Springwood' and it is hoped to do a magnetometer survey of the whole area in the coming year and reveal the extent of this kiln group.

MOAT FARM, HEDGERLEY (SU 97738830), Bambi Stainton, *Secretary, Chess Valley Archaeological & Historical Society*, and Christopher Stanley, *Field Officer, Middle Thames Archaeological Society*

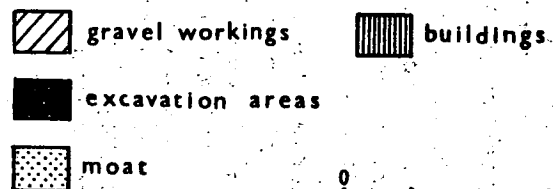
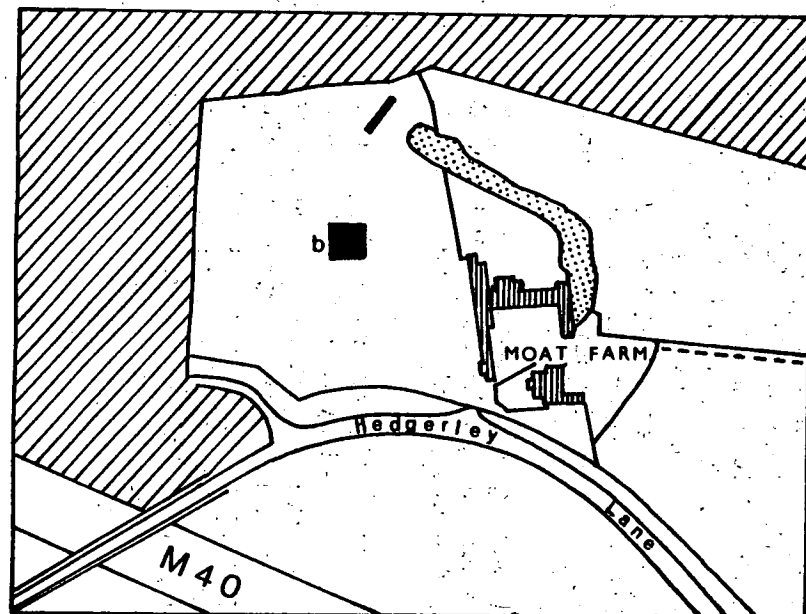
An excavation was carried out at Moat Farm this summer by the Hedgerley Historical Society, assisted by members of the CVAJS, the Gerrards Cross Historical Society and the Middle Thames Archaeological Society. It was directed by Mr. Christopher Stanley and Mrs. Bambi Stainton.

This history of the farm is linked with that of the Bulstrode Estate and therefore possibly with the Order of the Knights Templars. Its moat is generally considered to be that of a medieval homestead, though the Ordnance Survey Records suggest that this may have utilised the remains of the ditch of an Iron Age plateau fort. This hypothesis cannot now be easily checked as most of it has been destroyed by gravel workings and the construction of the M40 Motorway. With the threat of further gravel extraction, the Beaconsfield District Council was anxious to have concrete dating evidence of the site.

A section was cut through a dry portion of the moat, revealing the line of the ditch and its subsequent infilling but found no dating evidence earlier than a 16th Century sherd of lead-glazed ware at the bottom of the ditch.

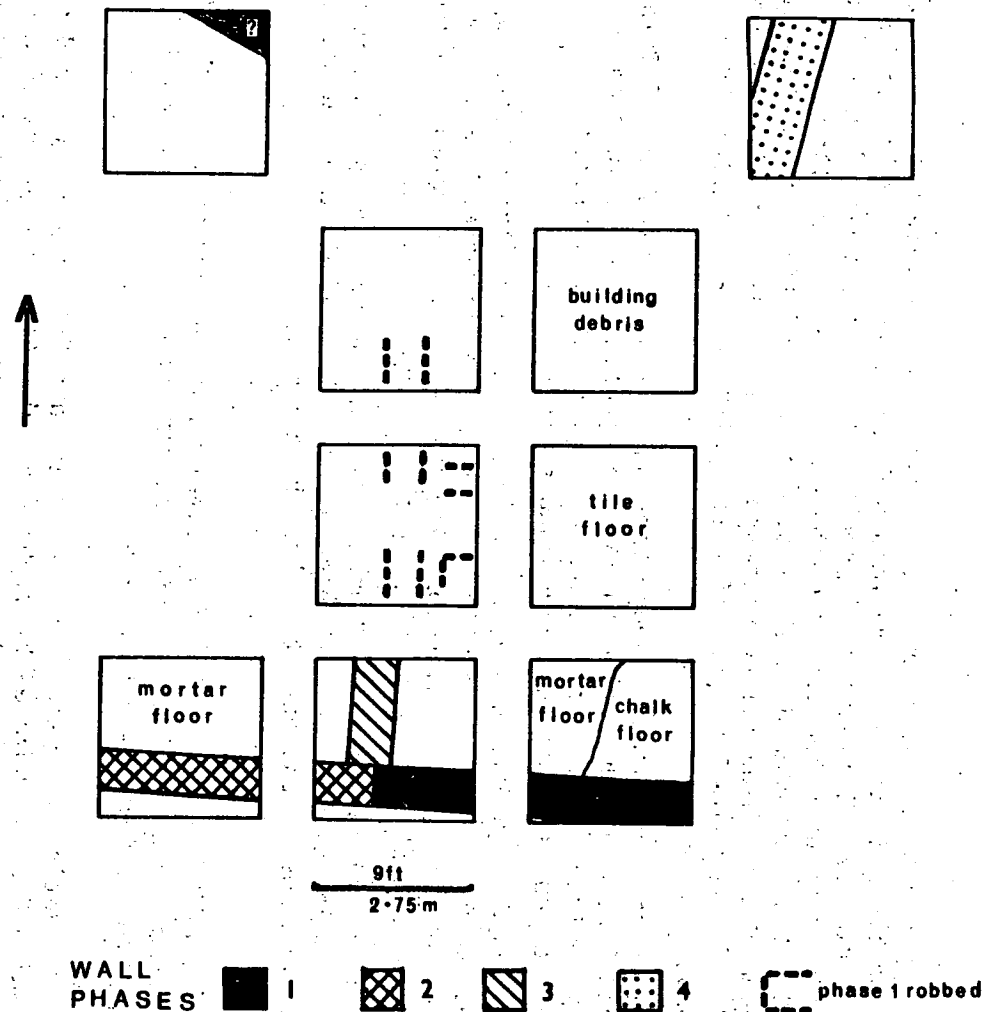
A survey was carried out on the ground with a proton-magnetometer and from the air with an infra-red pyrometer. Both these indicated a large area of anomalies. A grid was laid down and an exploratory trench opened which immediately revealed a dense layer of building debris only 20 cm below the present ground surface. The site was also under the further threat of being sold, and any change from pasture to arable use would destroy the archaeological layers; so the excavation was extended to record as much as possible before the sale.

MOAT FARM, Hedgerley



0 500 ft

Fig 6 (a) Moat Farm area



(b) Plan of excavation area with principle structures

In all, nine trenches were opened and substantial flint wall foundations were discovered with traces of tile and mortar floors and large spreads of building debris (flint nodules, chalk blocks and tiles), Figure 6. One corner of a building was examined and revealed several phases of construction; floors overlaid earlier ones or were cut into by a later wall, and the walls showed different techniques of construction.

The finds were remarkably few: some bones, oyster shells, a few iron nails, two iron knives and a bronze spoon, and a small amount of pottery, dated to the early 14th Century. This appeared to be related to the destruction levels.

It was evident that the building was much larger and more substantial than a simple farm, and the surveys indicated that the structures extended far beyond the excavation in all directions.

Taken with the extensive documentary researches of Dame Audrey Baker, there is every indication that this is a building associated with the Knights Templars. At the time of the sale this portion of the field was withdrawn, and thanks to this evidence, it is now in the process of being scheduled.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT - John Williams

Although there has not been so much activity on the excavation front this year, 1979 has nevertheless been busy. The St. Peter's Street excavations were finally published in monograph form and can be obtained from the Development Corporation (352 pages x A4 hardback, price £12). This volume covers our most important excavations to date on the Saxon and Medieval town.

Other final reports published in Northants Archaeology 14 (1979) were (a) the Camp Hill kilns by M. Shaw et al, dealing with a small group of Romano-British kilns just to the south of Northampton, and (b) the Marefair Excavations by F. Williams, which considered a small multi-period site within the town, of main interest for the Saxon and Medieval periods. This latter is notable as our first excursion into the split level 3/level 4 report, the level 3 being contained on microfiche in the back of every journal. The idea is obviously still experimental and may well have to be modified.

In the summer we held a major exhibition "Northampton, the first 6000 years" summarising how the work of the Development Corporation's Archaeological Unit has altered established views of Northampton's past. The exhibition was opened by Andrew Saunders, Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments. After a stay in the Development Corporation's offices it was taken to Northampton Show before a lengthy sojourn in Northampton Museum. Finally in January, to coincide with the opening of a new Inter-City train service between Northampton and London it resided on Euston Station Concourse for 10 days. The exhibition was well attended and seems to have

been of particular value to school parties. A small booklet, again with the title "Northampton, the first 6000 years" has also been produced and is available from the Development Corporation (price 75p).

In addition to the two excavations described below minor work has been undertaken both inside and outside Northampton and numerous watching briefs have been held.

WOOTTON HILL FARM, NORTHAMPTON (SP 736 582) - J.H. Williams and M. Shaw,
Northampton Development Corporation

The bath suite of a Romano-British villa was excavated in December 1979 during the construction of the Hunsbury Hill spine road. The bath suite measured 14 x 7 m and comprised a series of 3 rooms of increasing hotness and a cold plunge. The tepidarium and caldarium also possibly has their own plunge baths. A large quantity of tile was recovered including hollow voussoirs. There were a few fragments of a grey tessellated pavement and also a very small piece of a 3 coloured mosaic - part of a guilloche border. A large quantity of decorated wall plaster survived, the finest piece depicting part of a female human head.

The main villa range which incorporated the bath suite measure at least 25 x 14 m and to the west was a probable aisled barn c. 20 x 10 m. A very simple trough lined with tiles was used for mixing mortar, by hand. The site was occupied from the 1st to 4th Century, probably initially a timber structure replaced by a stone one which subsequently expanded. The bath suite probably dates to the 4th Century.

Work is continuing in 1980.

GREGORY STREET, NORTHAMPTON (SP 751 603) - J.H. and F. Williams, *Northampton Development Corporation*

Excavations were carried out on the south side of Gregory Street, Northampton between December 1978 and July 1979. The site was L-shaped with a northern frontage onto the street of c. 26 m and an east frontage also on to the street of c. 28 m. A stone building with crucks stood on the corner until only a few years ago, the rest of the site being occupied by Victorian brick or ironstone cottages. The site of the crucked building had contained structures with stone walls covering approximately the same area from perhaps the 13th Century. It is not yet completely certain when the crucks were inserted but it probably occurred in the post-medieval period. Other buildings were excavated dating to both the medieval and post-medieval periods and there is a good series of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Underneath were two Late Saxon rectangular post-built timber structures aligned north-south and fronting on to a metalled area. They measured 3 by at least 10 m and 4½ x at least 10 m. This latter building had been re-built several times and burnt floor levels survived. Slag and hammerscale showed that metal-working had been practiced.

Four graves were aligned east-west at the north end of the site, one of which was almost certainly earlier than the metalling associated with the Late Saxon timber buildings. St. Gregory's Church was situated just

across Gregory Street to the north. It is first recorded in the 12th Century but the parish was incorporated into All Saints parish in the 16th Century and the church itself converted into a free-school. The free-school was largely demolished in the 19th Century when warehouses were built. St Gregory's as previously suspected can now almost certainly be shown to have its origins in the Saxon period.

BRIGSTOCK, Iron Age Earthwork - D.A. Jackson, Northamptonshire County Council

A rescue excavation was undertaken in the autumn of 1979 on a circular earthwork under plough threat, one of several located 1½ miles south-west of Brigstock on a spur of high ground in an area of chalky, boulder clay.

Although a small amount of Iron Age pottery had been found in the area, the precise date and function of the earthworks was not known prior to the excavation; one low mound had been recorded as a barrow. The field in which the earthworks occur was formerly part of a medieval park and it was hoped that the plough damage was only a recent phenomenon.

The eastern half of the enclosure was excavated revealing a continuous ditch two m deep, enclosing an internal area c. 30 m in diameter; there was also evidence for a wide internal bank. Within the enclosed area a single round hut, 7 m in diameter was found close to the bank on the south side. The outer wall of the hut was outlined by a narrow wall slot with substantial post holes at the entrance. The hut was encircled by a drainage gully which in its earliest phase was continuous, deviating at the entrance to enclose a possible porch. In a later phase the gully was interrupted by a stone path, 2 m. wide which extended eastwards from the entrance of the hut to a gap in the bank, and presumably to a bridge across the ditch. The dating of the features was to the late pre-Belgic Iron Age.

A number of Iron Age features was uncovered that pre-dated the enclosure, whilst evidence of earlier prehistoric occupation was suggested by the recovery of worked flints, including a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead. This may indicate a relatively lengthy period of prehistoric occupation on the Boulder Clay in this area.

A45 NEW ROAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT - D. Windell, Northamptonshire County Council

Introduction

The principal object of the archaeological project was to locate, identify and record sites which were threatened by the construction of the A45 New Road. Preliminary surveys from the air and on the ground identified a number of sites of different periods which were threatened. Those of the west of Ecton were, however, to be preserved under the embanked sections of the road whilst those to the east would be destroyed by cuttings. Extensive geophysical survey, using a magnetometer, indicated that three major sites were to be affected by road construction. These were an Iron Age enclosure, part of very extensive settlement remains at Clay Lane (south west of Earls Barton), a DMV at Barton Thorpe (south east of Earls Barton) and another Iron Age enclosure in the parish

of Great Doddington. Therefore, an attempt has been made to excavate and record the threatened parts of these sites while a watching brief was maintained along the rest of the new road to identify previously unknown sites as they appeared during earthmoving. The work was carried out by Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Unit with finance provided from the road construction grant and by Manpower Services Commission.

Iron Age Enclosure at Clay Lane, Earls Barton (with A.E. Johnson)

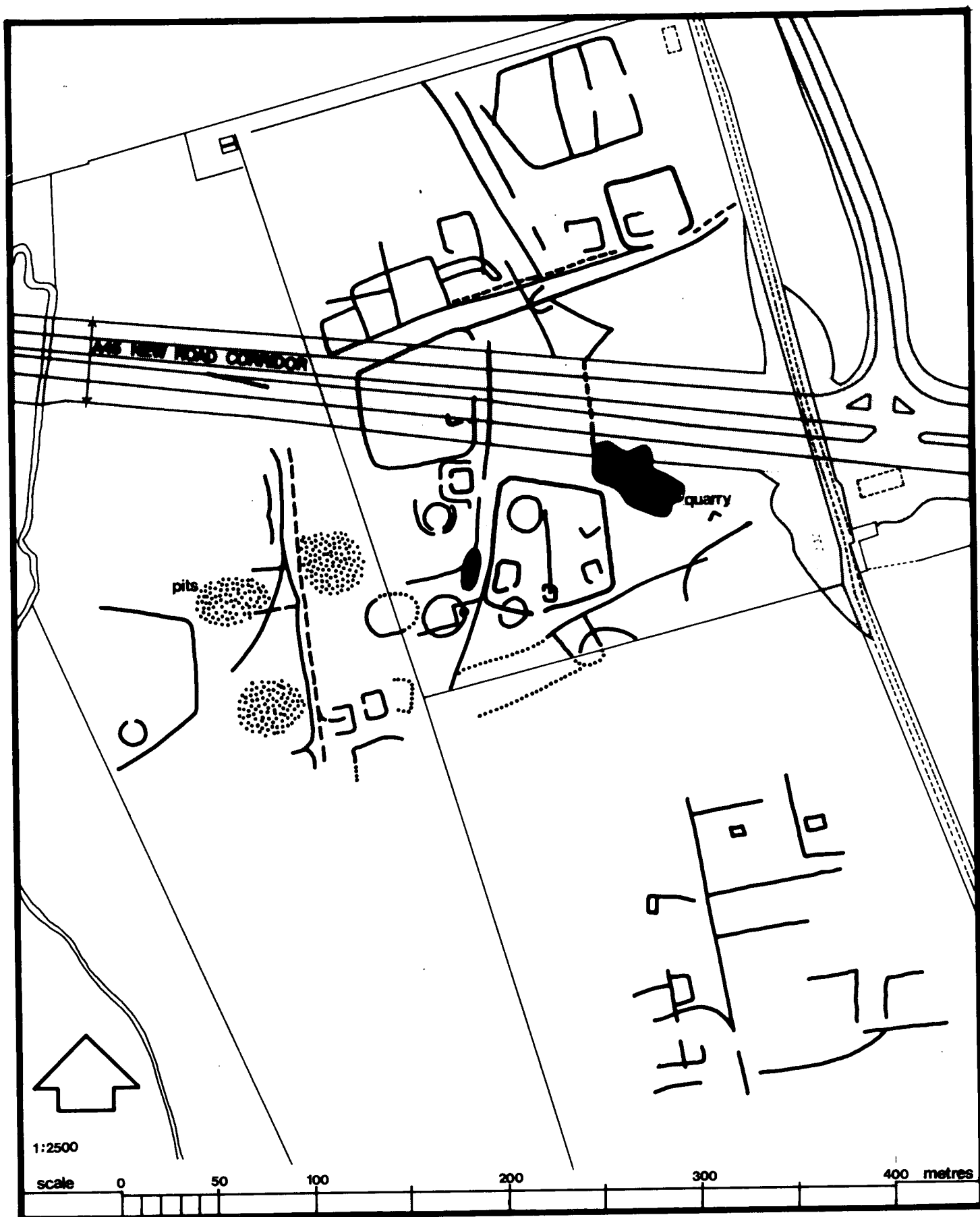
An area within the parishes of Ecton and Earls Barton has been proposed as a "priority area" for archaeological work, being one of the few ironstone-based zones of Northamptonshire in which the historic landscape is, as yet, largely untouched by modern development and within which there is a high probability of research leading to an adequate understanding of the landscape development.

Adjoining Clay Lane is a complex of cropmarks representing numerous enclosures, ditch systems and pit alignments covering four fields with a total area of c. 18 hectares (45 acres). The A45 New Road passes through the centre of this complex and a plan of the cropmark using the results of photography in 1979 with the road superimposed is shown (Figure 7). Geophysical survey showed that one large enclosure was to be totally destroyed together with parts of adjoining features. It was decided to excavate this area completely involving the area-excavation of c.3000 sq m. This was carried out between October 1978 and September 1979 by A. Johnson.

The main enclosure ditches located precisely by the magnetometer survey were excavated by hand. At the same time a small area of the interior was cleaned revealing numerous pits and gullies. It became clear that the enclosure ditches had been recut on several occasions. No evidence for an internal bank was found, for the internal feature continued to the very edge of the ditches. The enclosure was dominated by a circular hut, 5m in diameter. The screen wall of this building had been replaced on several occasions. In its final phase the floor consisted of rammed gravel. No major postholes were associated with the structure.

Two gateways provided access to the enclosure, with narrow causeways flanked by substantial postholes. Although many pits were found within the interior, most were isolated, and very few of them could be linked stratigraphically and, with few exceptions, were unproductive of pottery or other artefacts. The infill of the enclosure ditches was relatively productive, and total excavation made it possible to extract a sequence of material for the various recutting phases which reflected the development of the site through to its final development in the later Iron Age. Finds from the ditches included mid to late Iron Age sherds, a large quantity of animal bone, with complete skulls of several horses and cattle, antler, and also the contracted inhumation of a child. From the interior of the enclosure came a bronze fibula, fragments of several clay loom weights and spindle whorls with a variety of later Iron Age pottery and many fragments of industrial waste, mostly identified as bronze working slag.

At least four phases of recutting of the ditches were detected. Associated with one was a fence or screen arrangement. On one side the enclosure abutted a ditched driveway, although entrance to the enclosure from it was not direct, but through a small annexe, connected to the drove-



Clay Lane (Earls Barton) Cropmarks of Iron Age settlement

way by means of a wide causeway (not excavated but revealed by magnetometer survey). In its final phase of occupation the enclosure was incorporated into a much larger unit and two sides of the original ditched area recut to a depth of 2m.

Several other minor sites were observed and recorded during the course of road construction. Excavation work is now complete and the report under preparation.

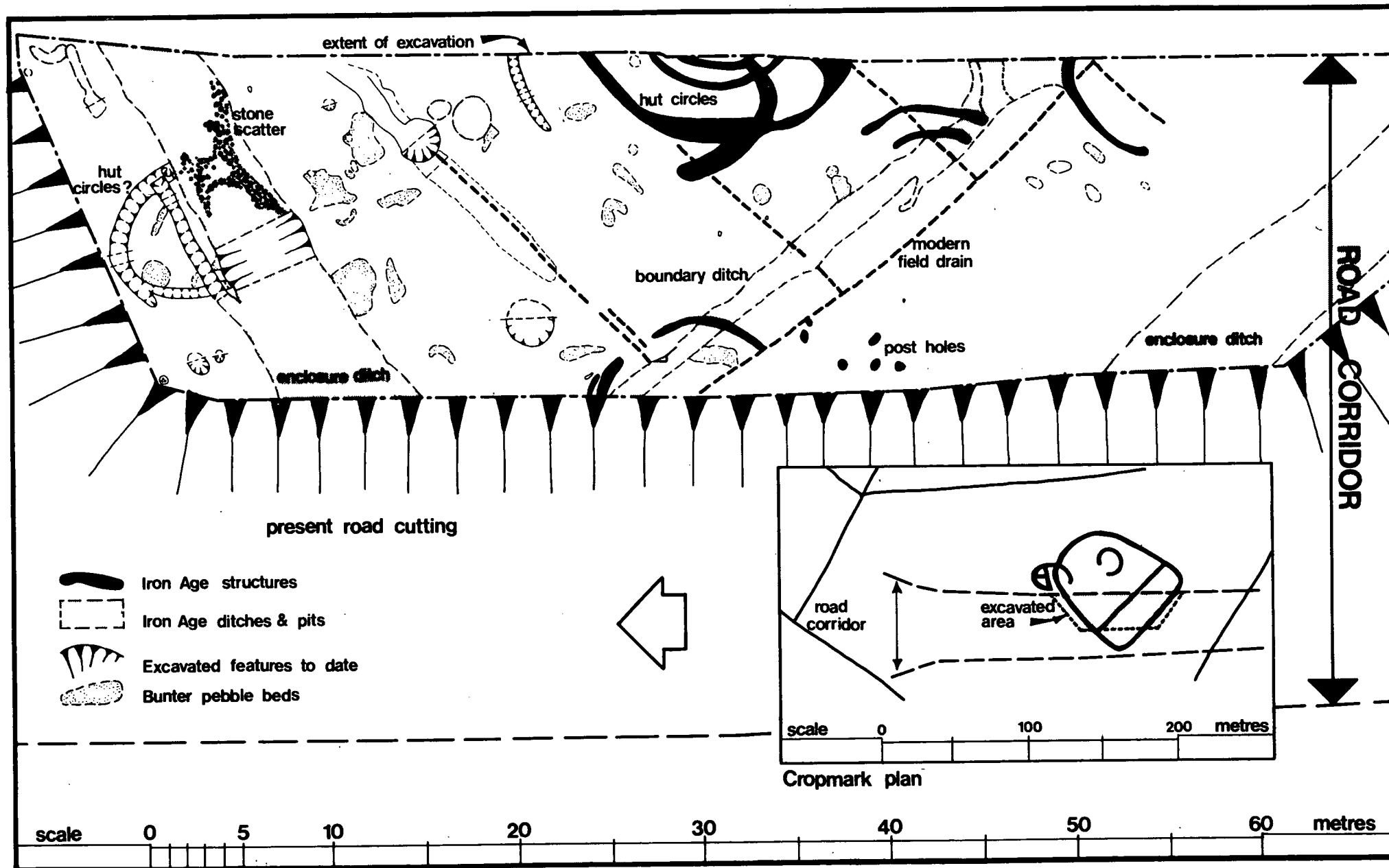
Deserted Medieval Village of Thorpe, Earls Barton

This settlement lies on gravel on the edge of the river Nene about one mile southeast of Earls Barton. It has been assumed that this is the site of Widthorpe as recorded in Domesday Book, but recent documentary work (see references) has cast doubt on this association. Therefore, beyond the fact that the earthworks are of a 'DMV' little is known of the site. The remains of the site lie on either side of a lane leading down to the river. This lane was the main street of the village and a series of rectangular earthworks, assumed to be building platforms, abut this lane.

The site was not within the road corridor itself, but was to be affected by the cutting of a large pipe-trench to take water from the road drainage ditches to the river. Under the guidance of Claire Halpin the corridor of this pipe trench was machine scraped then excavated by hand to record the uppermost levels prior to protecting them from disturbance by machinery and to yield some evidence about the nature of the site. Although the width of the pipe trench corridor (10m) prevented the recovery of a complete ground plan of any structure, parts of house frontages, yard surfaces and an oven were exposed. The pottery has been analysed with the aid of the Northampton Development Corporation series (from Northampton sites) and was found to consist of two main fabrics, Lyveden and Potterspury. Unfortunately both these kiln sites have a long period of production (Lyveden c.1100 to 1400, Potterspury c.1250 - 1500 AD) and due to the limited amount of stratified deposits which were excavated this yields little clearly datable information. However, with the co-operation of the contractor the fundamental objective of minimising the destruction of structures within the site has been achieved by manoeuvring the pipe-trench to avoid any house-platforms or deeply stratified areas.

Iron Age Enclosure, Great Doddington (Figure 8)

This site was first identified from aerial photographs a decade ago and appeared as a large ditch enclosing c. 1 hectare (2.4 acres) around one ring ditch and overlaying another. The site is situated on the spur of the limestone ridge to the north of Doddington village. The road line cuts away almost half the occupied area as known from the air. Magnetometer survey was attempted, but was unsuccessful. On the gravel areas to the west the results had been very accurate in predicting the presence and even depth of features, but at Doddington magnetometer prospecting failed even to identify the large ditch known from the air. The reason for this is in doubt - different solid geology may have been responsible though it may have been due simply to a malfunction of the machine. It was decided to remove the overburden by machine in the area to be destroyed by the road and having recorded the site in plan and assessed the



Great Doddington: Iron Age enclosure. Dec. 1979

Figure 8

archaeological significance to undertake selective excavation, this being done between September and December 1979 by D. Windell. The top soil removal revealed many more features than appeared from the air, both inside and outside the enclosing ditch, but the whole site had already been badly eroded by the plough. The features excavated included traces of four hut circles, storage pits and an internal ditch. Though the analysis of the material has only just started it appears that the site has two phases. The first, in the middle Iron Age, has a small group of hut circles which appear to have no enclosing ditch. This was followed by the cutting of a large ditch 3m deep by 5m wide with a presumed internal bank enclosing part of the original area of inhabitation and grouping the hut circles within it. This continues well into the late Iron Age and 1st Century Romano-British pottery was found in the back-fill of the excavated section of the enclosing ditch. At present, it is thought that Great Doddington in its final stage represents an isolated but heavily defended site typical of those excavated by Dennis Jackson in Northamptonshire, whilst Clay Lane represents a sprawling settlement related to the gravel terrace.

The Next Stage

Fieldwork within the corridor of the A45 New Road is now complete and final results of this are being prepared for publication. However, a new threat linked with the road has arisen to the archaeological remains of the Clay Lane site, that of gravel extraction for base aggregate for the road.

This will destroy all the remains to the south of the New A45, an area of 30 acres of complex cropmarks of which the excavated area is but a small part. Realising that total excavation of this area is beyond the resources of the Unit but that this site is of great importance the Unit is now defining a sampling system so that the requirements of research into this type of site can be fully met under such extreme "rescue" conditions. This involves the use of a hierarchy of objectives linked to the types of feature within the settlement.

Acknowledgements

The Unit is indebted to Manpower Services Commission for sponsorship of a scheme to assist the project. For advice and assistance we are grateful to the contractors Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son (Southern) Limited, especially their site agent Mr. J. Jones, and to the County Surveyor, in particular Mr. F. Eveleigh the Resident Engineer, and his staff.

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RAUNDS SAXON CHURCH - G. Cadman, *Northamptonshire County Council*

The excavation of the two late Saxon churches, their associated graveyard and a medieval manor house at Brick Kiln Road has continued during 1979 with support from the Manpower Services Commission and the Department of the Environment. The site closed temporarily in late

November 1979 and is expected to re-open for a final season during the Spring of 1980.

Work on the main manor complex commenced in 1977, has been completed with the excavation of the dovecote and service wing. This leaves but one part of the manor house still to be investigated. Lying some 25m to the north of the main range is a c. 4m x 10 m oolite limestone constructed building whose function as yet is unknown. Evidence suggests that it went out of use at the same time as the main manor (c.1300).

Investigation of the pre-manor features and in particular the two Saxon churches has continued. It is now known that the earlier of the churches initially comprised a single cell building some 4.5m x 3.0m to which was added a small chancel. Under the rough stone floor of the nave was found a complete pot - a deliberate placement. The significance of this is not at present fully understood though it seems possible that it fulfilled some role in the dedication of the church. Dated to the 10th Century this church was constructed with walls of rough hewn oolite limestone fragments cemented with a ginger mortar. It was replaced in the early 11th Century by a larger church constructed of a similar material though lacking the ginger mortar as a bonding agent. This later church was in turn replaced and partially re-used in the construction of the manor house in the early 12th Century.

The cemetery adjoining the churches had by November 1979, revealed 279 inhumations and it is estimated that a maximum of 100 remain to be investigated during 1980. Work on the ageing, sexing and pathology is now underway.

The graveyard layout cannot be fully understood until the excavation is complete. To date work has concentrated on the graveyard to the south, east and north of the churches (see Figure 9, graveyard plan). The area to the west of the 11th Century church has yet to be explored though four infants have been discovered to the west of the earlier church building. All the burials are supine and are orientated east-west and it is apparent that during at least one phase those graves to the south of the church were laid out in fairly regular north-south rows.

With 60% of the graves stone has been utilized either before or after interment to support or cover the burial or to line the grave. There are many different types of stone arrangement and further work is needed before these can be fully understood.

Besides completing excavation of the graveyard and the churches during 1980 it is hoped to investigate the boundaries associated with the ecclesiastical and secular usage of the site.

Copies of the Raunds booklet can be obtained from Northants County Council, Archaeology Unit, County Hall, Northampton. Price 40p including p&p.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, EARLS BARTON, Northamptonshire - M. Audouy, Northamptonshire County Council

The south west corner of the south aisle of All Saints Church in Earls Barton (Northamptonshire) was subject to subsidence necessitating the underpinning of its foundation by means of horizontal concrete beams.



Raunds: Anglo-Saxon Churches, with cemetery (September 1979)

Figure 9

OS grid north

In view of the archaeological importance of the site, Mr. V. Farrar, Diocesan Architect, and the Reverend R. Baker, vicar of the church, agreed to a rescue excavation to be carried out by the Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeology Unit before the underpinning. The aim of the operation was to record the archaeological stratification which, otherwise, would have been dug away by the contractors. The trench could also provide information on the structural problems affecting the aisle. The excavation started in April 1979 and was completed, after a five month interruption, between 5th November 1979 and 18th January 1980.

Two trenches, 1.50m wide, were opened against the walls of the aisle; the first one (5.27m long) along the whole length of the west wall; the second (3.80m long) running from the south west corner of the aisle to the west wall of the 19th Century porch.

The structures revealed were:

(a) the foundations of the Saxon tower near its south east corner to a width of 1.10m. The foundation courses, below the plinth, were 0.20m to 0.25m deep and were set in loose sandy earth derived from the ironstone. It consisted of limestone rubble supporting the long rectangular stones of unequal thickness, (0.32m to 0.20m) part of the plinth of the tower. It was surprising that the foundation course was so slight and that it did not rest on ironstone bedrock;

(b) a massive, roughly rectangular structure set in the north east corner of the first trench. Its major part was engaged under the wall of the aisle. To the north, it abutted the foundations of the Saxon tower. To the south, it was abutted by the foundations of the aisle. It was about 1.30m wide and 1.50m deep with an offset of about 0.40m. It consisted of courses of large pitched slabs of limestone, set on top of each other, embedded in earth and crowned by flat slabs;

The structure could have been the footing of a buttress predating the Early English aisle and postdating the tower. A portion of quoin left in the masonry of the aisle above the feature in question, would complete the picture of buttresses reinforcing the southwest corner of the Norman nave;

(c) the foundations of the south aisle. These were made almost entirely of limestone. Both trenches revealed a similar arrangement of coursed, medium sized, roughly rectangular blocks of limestone c.1.20m in depth. The south west corner on both sides, was reinforced by larger slabs of limestone (up to 0.80m x 0.20m) and irregular large blocks of sandstone. The foundations were distinguished from the standing wall by an offset of about 0.10m to 0.20m;

(d) the foundations of the western wall of the 19th Century porch. These were revealed over a width of 1.36m and were about 1m deep, consisting of a course of large blocks of limestone (0.50 x 0.30m) at bedrock level supporting five courses of medium size rectangular blocks of ironstone.

Within the trench the stratigraphy related to these structures consisted of successive burials; a group cut by the aisle foundations and possibly of the late Anglo-Saxon period, together with a succession extending down to the last Century. The earlier group of seven were in anthropomorphic graves orientated west-east, cut into the ironstone bedrock and arranged in a north-south line. In spite of some differences in level between each other, all of these burials seemed to belong to the

same phase and could be of the late Anglo-Saxon period. Most of the group appeared to be either contemporary or later than the tower; one however was probably earlier. No finds were associated with this earlier group.

Above this first series of graves, the medieval graveyard had been thoroughly disturbed by later burials (probably 18th and 19th Century) still in-situ and with traces of wooden coffins, bearing metal fittings.

The results of the excavation are currently under study and a more detailed report is in preparation.

GRAFTON REGIS - A. Hannan and K. Brown, *Northamptonshire County Council*

A group of earthworks lie along a hollow way to the south east of the village and these comprise areas of uneven ground, assumed to be sites of houses. These earthworks were to be cut by the line of the Deanshanger-Salcey AWA pipeline.

Within a 20m wide fenced corridor, turf and top soil was removed by machine prior to trenching. The scraping exposed stone footings on either side of the hollow way, together with small quantities of medieval pottery. The more substantial house remains lay on the west side of the hollow way (SP 7608 4686). One stone footing followed the line of the way and was intersected by other footings at right angles. In one of the quadrants created by these walls, stones had been laid to form a pavement and the majority of the pottery was found on this surface. Forward of the main stone footing, and following the slope into the sunken road was a spread of tumble, possibly associated with the collapse of the front wall of the building.

The cutting of the pipe trench, of average width 1.50m, along the centre of the scraped area provided a section through house plots and hollow way. Several pits were sealed by floor or yard surfaces on the east side. Two very wide (?) ditches were sectioned well to the rear of the house sites and one of these may have been the ditch of part of the deer park boundary shown on a map of 1720. The rear of the westerly house plot was marked by a wall footing and beyond this another very wide shallow ditch was recognized in the cutting.

The Pottery

Associated with these exposed house sites were 284 sherds of unstratified pottery representing a number of different fabrics. The majority were sherds of Potterspury Ware and a Potterspury Type fabric, which may have its centre of production at Yardley Gobion. Other fabrics present include a calcite-gritted pottery of Lyveden type and a group of sherds in a sandy fabric with sparse calcite tempering close in appearance to Potterspury Ware. Regional imports include Midlands White Ware, Brill Ware and a sandy grey/black fabric with an East Midlands distribution.

A small number of rim and base sherds were recovered showing a range of cooking pot, jug and bowl forms. Decoration was restricted to glazes in a variety of colours (from green to yellow and red) found especially on Potterspury ware sherds, although the few sherds of Midland White Ware bore applied strips and rouletting. There was one two-strap handle in Potterspury Ware with slashed diagonal and vertical lines.

The general date range of the pottery was across the whole of the medieval period (1100-1500). However, one sherd from a cooking pot which has a hard smooth grey fabric has been tentatively identified as Northampton Ware (8500-1100); but since the pottery is unstratified it is of little value in elucidating the general history of the site.

YARDLEY HASTINGS (SP 8633 5683) - K. Brown and G. Foard, Northamptonshire County Council

Salvage excavations during housing development in April 1979, by Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit revealed a medieval pottery kiln and associated pot dump. Top-soil stripping exposed a wide scatter of pottery wasters and stone-settings. Further investigation led to the discovery of a rectangular kiln, 3.20m in length and tapering in width from 0.82m in the west to 0.63m in the east internally, Figure 10. In its final phase of use the kiln was constructed of well-shaped limestone blocks laid in regular courses; the side walls were pitched and everted in order to provide support for the large D-shaped kiln bars which had laid across the top of the kiln.

However, as excavated the kiln provided evidence of at least three phases of construction. During the first phase it became necessary to replace the stonework at the mouth of the kiln with medium-large limestone slabs, laid flat and in irregular courses, this may have been necessitated by the decay of the stones through intense heat. In a third phase of reconstruction the western terminal wall was raised 0.20m to counteract the build-up of material inside the kiln and maintain the gentle west-east slope on which the structure was set.

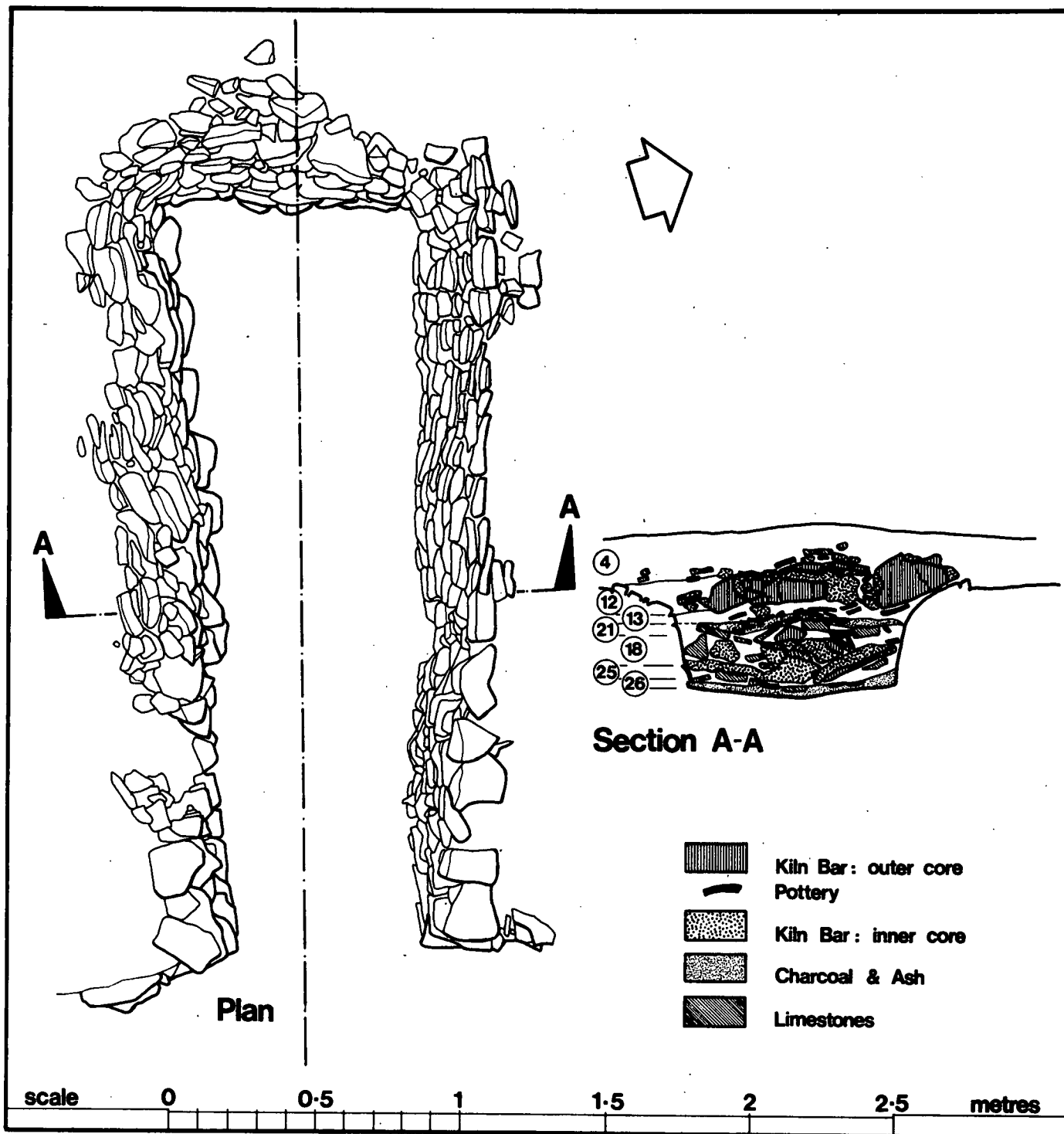
Excavation inside the kiln uncovered pottery and debris from two firings during the final phases of construction. It seems clear that a period of disuse separated these two firings, for debris from one of them was left in the bottom of the kiln, and the kiln-bars broken-up and thrown on top. This was followed by a levelling of the surface with stone and the raising of the west end in preparation for another firing; debris from this survived as a layer of mixed charcoal, ash and blackened pottery fragments, but no further firings appear to have taken place. Large sherds and complete pots were thrown into the kiln and covered with broken kiln-bars, and the site was finally abandoned.

Analysis of the pottery is underway. At the present time it appears that there is one main, shelly, fabric amongst the material. Open bowls and jugs figure chiefly amongst the forms, although cooking pots are represented. A preliminary dating would suggest manufacture during the late 13th Century to early 14th Century.

OXFORDSHIRE

MIDDLETON PARK ICE-HOUSE (Figure 11, PRN 537) - Elizabeth Leggatt

During February 1979 the ice-house in Home Wood, Middleton Park, Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire (SP 5237 2354), was recorded by a measured survey of the accessible parts. Home Wood was once a deciduous wood, on the site of the medieval deerpark authorized by King John in 1201. It is now planted with beech and fir and although the ice-house is still respected it is becoming overgrown by stray saplings colonising the mound.



Yardley Hastings 1979: Kiln Structure

Figure 10

It stands in a small clearing just off one of the main rides, and is approached from the north. It is approximately a third of a mile from the lake and it is said that the ice was brought across in winter by estate wagons. It is nearly a sixth of a mile from the mansion, so presumably it was mainly used as a 'deep freeze', blocks of ice being taken to an ice-box in the kitchen when needed for domestic purposes.

Middleton Park was the former seat of the Earls of Jersey but most of the parkland is now owned and administered by the Manor Charitable Trust. The main building periods were the early 18th Century when the first mansion was built at the southern end of Home Wood, the mid 18th Century when the mansion was entirely rebuilt following a fire, and the early 19th Century when there were extensive alterations to the second mansion which was eventually demolished in 1938 to be replaced by the present Lutyens house. It is hoped that further research into the Jersey papers may reveal the date and plans of the ice-house, which, from the appearance of the facade may be 18th or early 19th Century. The only mention found so far occurs in the Park accounts for January 1828, when H. Williams sent in a bill for £0.15s.11¹/₂d 'as per bill for Ice house'. It is also shown on the 1882 copy of the 1842 Tithe Apportionment map.

The structure consists of a stone-built, pedimented facade fronting a short passage or entrance porch, succeeded by a longer, narrower passage leading to a domed brick-built ice-chamber. The passages are walled with coursed limestone and roofed with brick barrel-vaults. Both the passages and the ice-chamber are entirely covered by a large mound of earth and stones, rising to a height of about three metres at the rear end. Only the facade stands free of the mound and faces slightly west of north, the rest of the structure lying on the same axis. There is a step down at the entrance and at the edge of the ice-chamber, as seen in the diagrams. The passage roofs and arches are of descending heights, the last and lowest archway being a curious funnel shape, as it is cut into the curve of the brick dome of the ice-chamber. The weight of the vaults and earth mound is supported by these arches which are reinforced with relieving arches. Doors were originally fastened at the ends of the passages as witnessed by rusty remains of bolts and hinges at the rear of the first arch and the front of the second. The passages are floored with paving slabs which are just visible beneath the accumulated dust. It has not been possible to ascertain whether the main chamber is much deeper than the present floor surface which is composed of loose earth and rubbish. The appearance suggests that it is not egg-shaped like some ice-houses (e.g. Wroxton, Oxfordshire), but is of inverted cup-shape with vertical sides. There is a small space in the brickwork (a-b on Figure 11 plan 2) which extends for a further 20 cm. (approx.) into the earth and stone mound and a nail has been driven into the wall above, but the purpose of this hole is not known. The ice-house may have been used for other purposes after its original function ceased and it was said by one of the estate employees that ferrets were once put in after the rabbits.

It is not possible to determine how the inner chamber was drained without excavation of the contents, or discovery of the building plans if such existed. It should be noted however that Middleton Stoney lies on an outlying ridge of oolitic limestone, with much of the parish situated on an outcrop of lower cornbrash which drains readily, so that

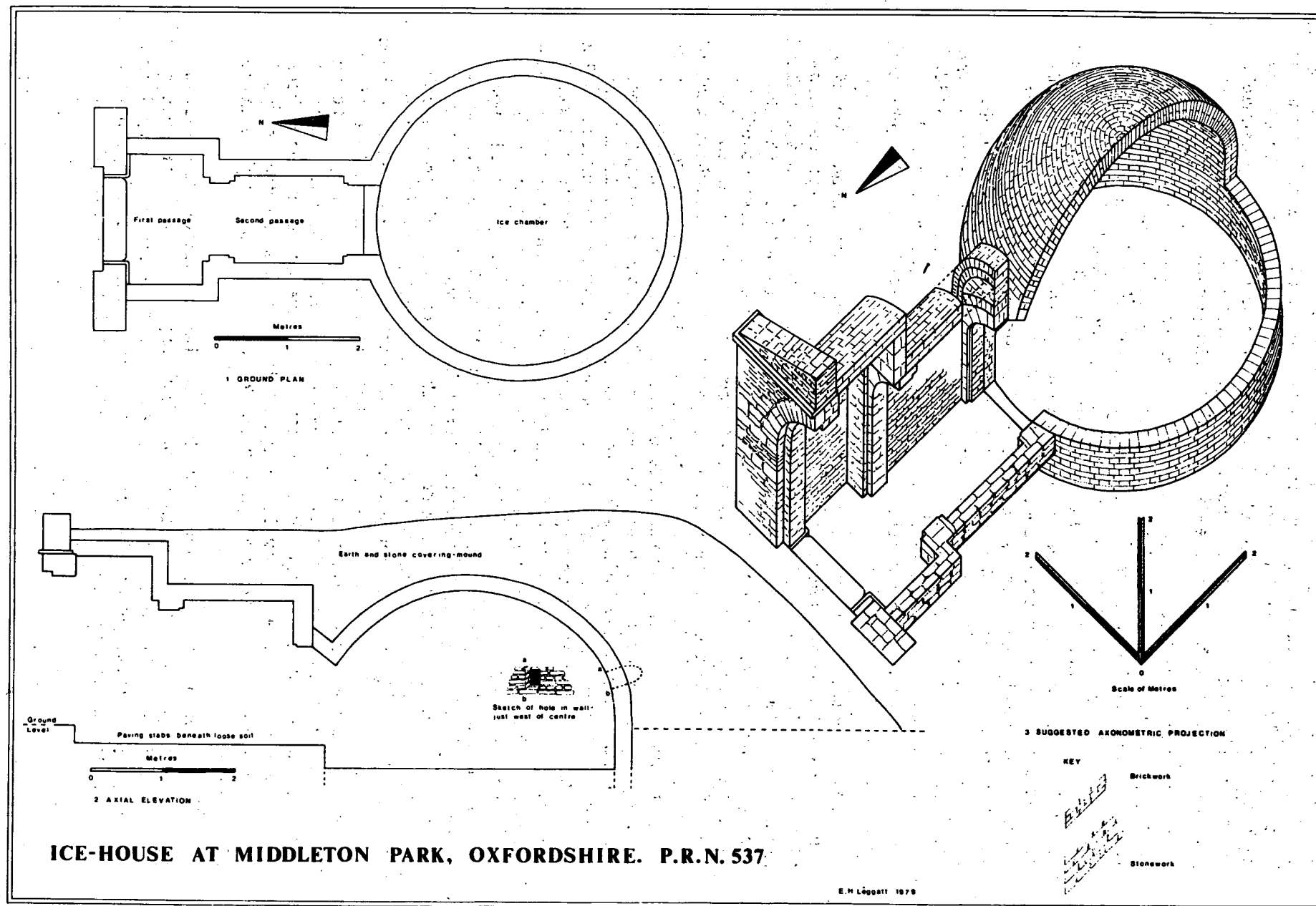


Figure 11

a simple sump would probably have served the purpose.

The interior brick and stonework of the building is in fairly good condition and has been repaired in the past with cement rendering in places. The facade is now crumbling in parts however and will become ruinous unless protected. Maintenance obviously ceased many years ago, although cramps were inserted into the facade arches at some time previously. Fallen stone slabs and parts of ball finials lie around the entrance and in the interior, confirming that the pediment was once protected by these pieces of masonry, which must also have given it a somewhat classical appearance. It seems likely that the structure became neglected during the second world war, as Middleton Park became a military hospital at this time and the Jerseys sold the estate soon afterwards.

I am grateful to the Manor Charitable Trustees for giving me access to the ice-house and to Mr. Jeffs, Gamekeeper, for his co-operation and interest.

The plans of the ice-house have been deposited in the Field Section, Sites and Monuments Record, OCC Department of Museum Services, Woodstock, Oxon.

SURVEY

BEDFORDSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC BUILDING
RESEARCH GROUP - John Bailey

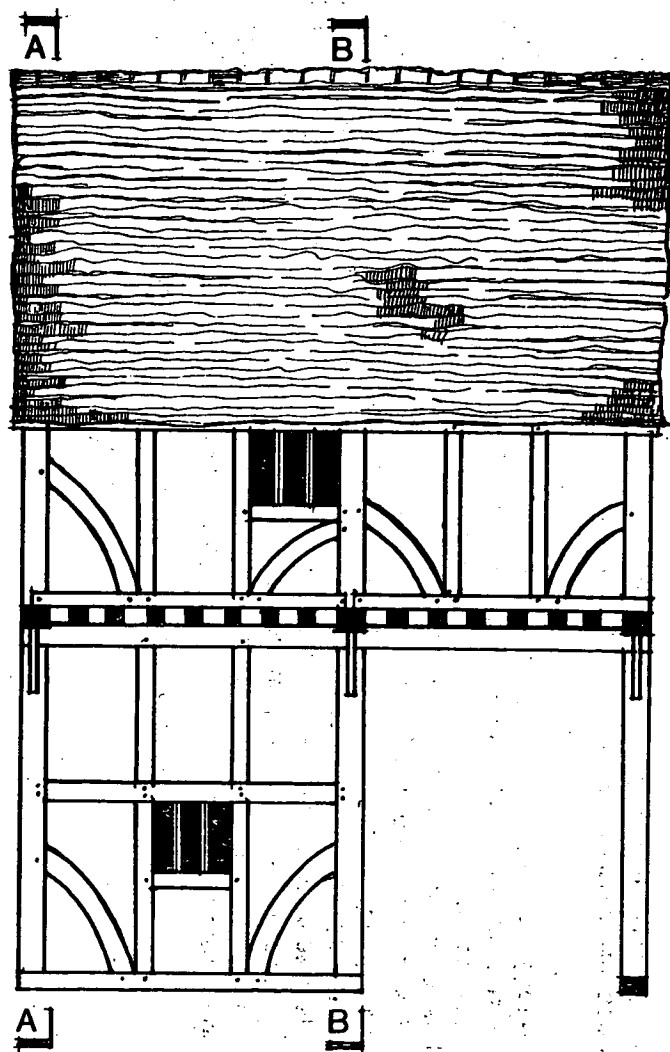
During 1979 the Group changed its name from The Dunstable Historic Building Study Group in order that it should be clear which are the groups main areas of research.

The group continued to actively record buildings in the region, in particular those that were threatened.

Buckinghamshire Surveys

Selected medieval timber framed buildings throughout Buckinghamshire were surveyed in detail and reconstructions of their original form made on paper. This has allowed valuable comparative material to be gathered on form and method of construction of some of the early buildings in the County. Examples of some of the main buildings surveyed in detail are:

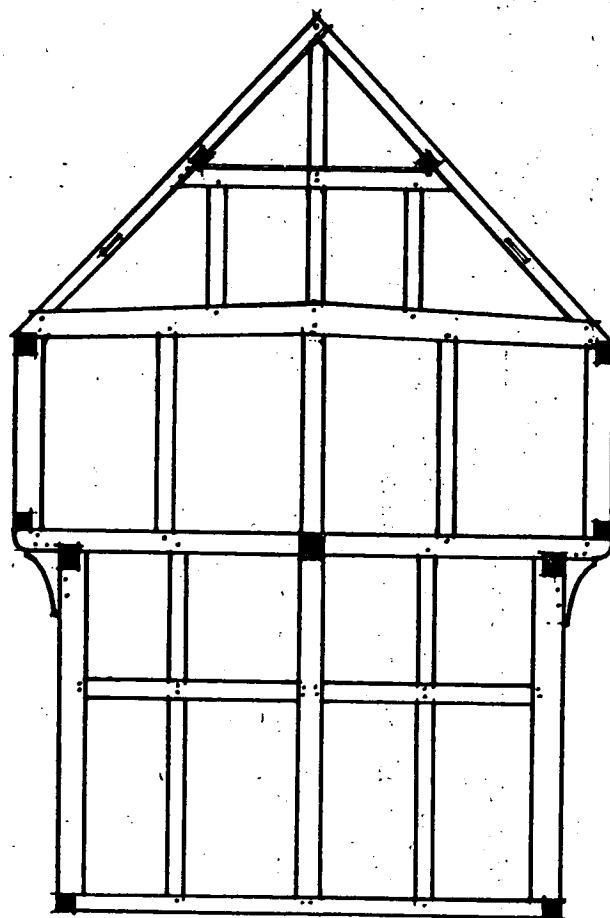
The Church Loft, West Wycombe
Blackwell Farm, Chesham
Church Farm, Aisled Barn, Edlesborough
Cruck Barn, Meadle
Capel House, Beaconsfield
Rectory Cottages, Bletchley
Loughton Manor, Loughton
The Savoy, Denham
Stonewell Farm, Chalfont St. Giles
Chesham buildings (Figures 12 and 13)
Long Crendon Manor



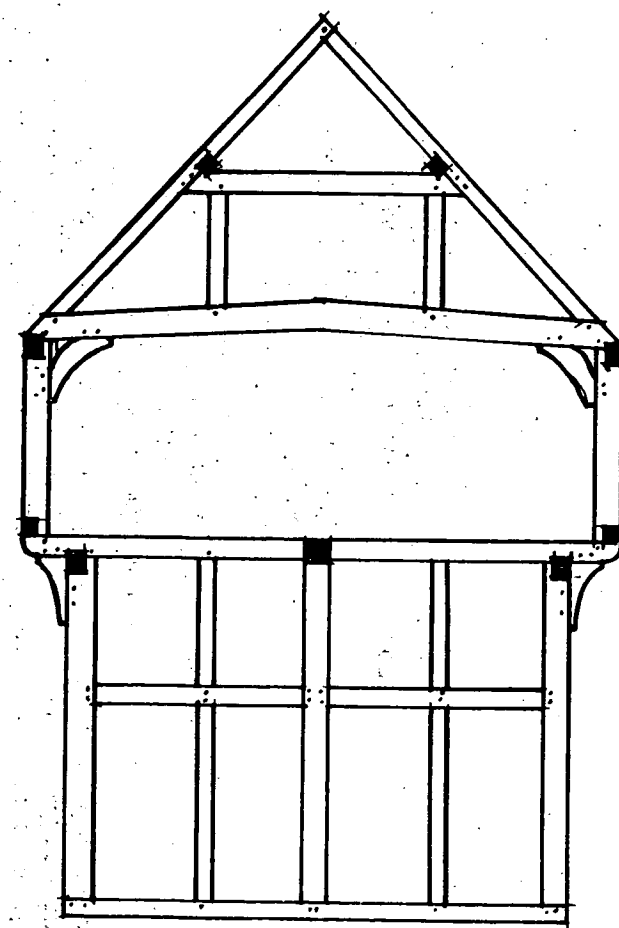
REAR ELEVATION

GATEHOUSE, BLUCHER STREET, CHESHAM.

Figure 12

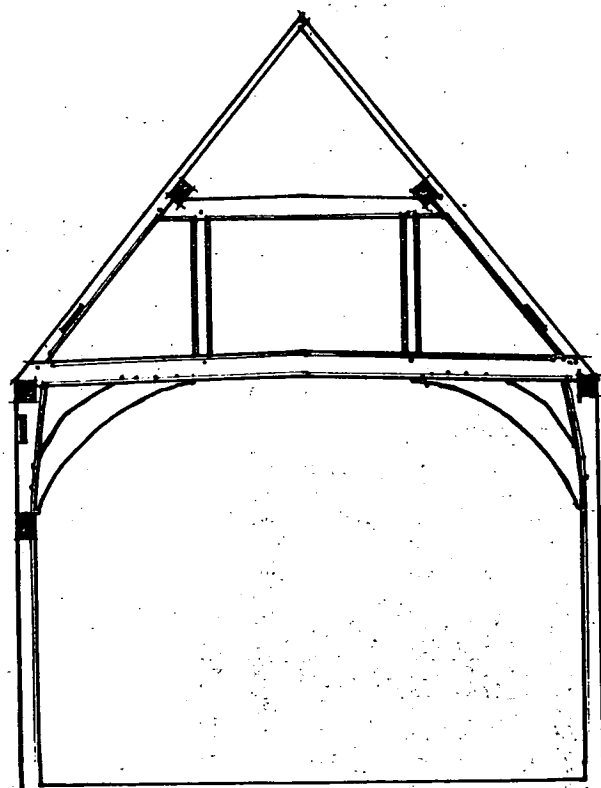


SECTION A A



SECTION B B

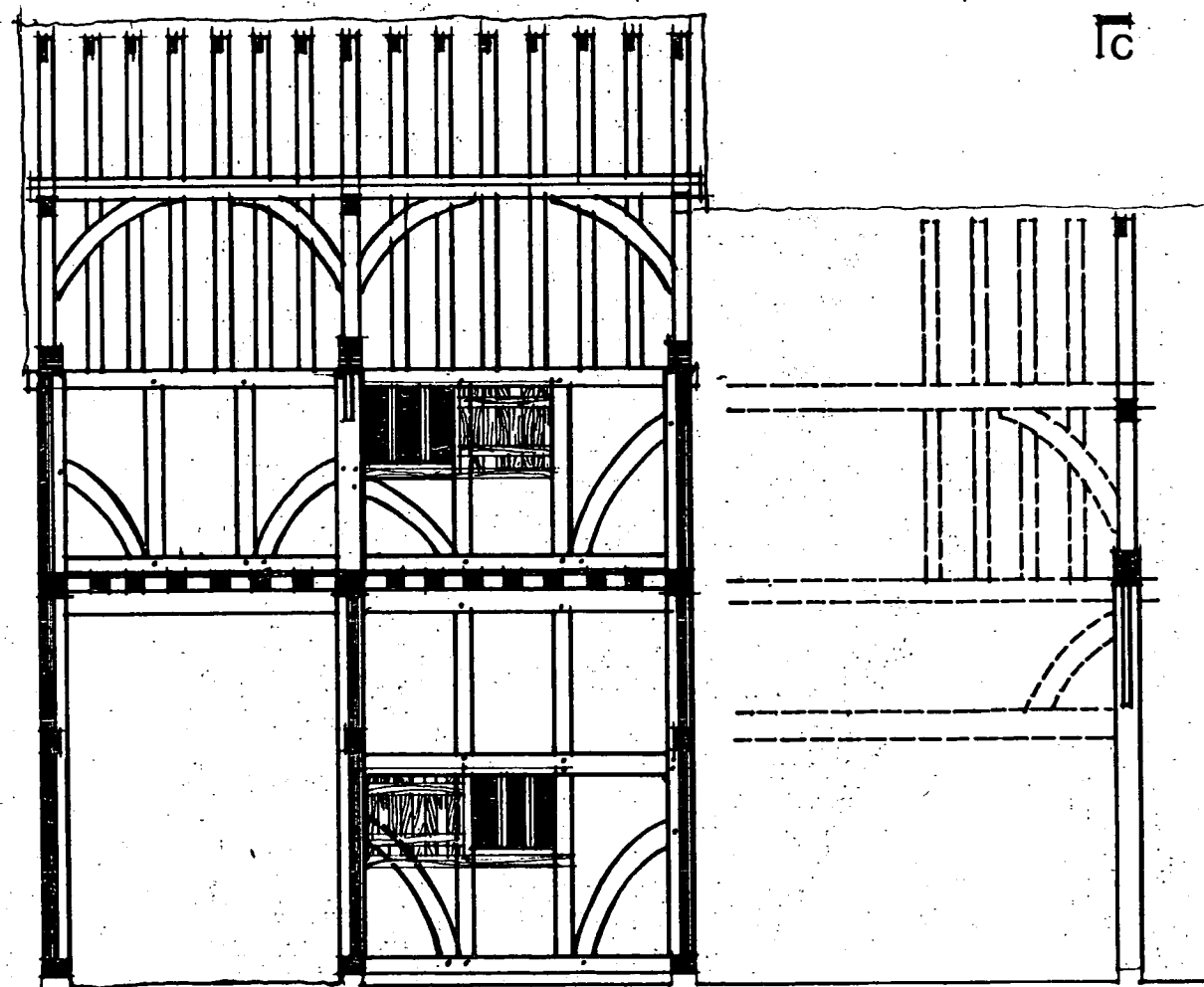
john bailey



SECTION C C

GATEHOUSE. BLUCHER STREET, CHESHAM.

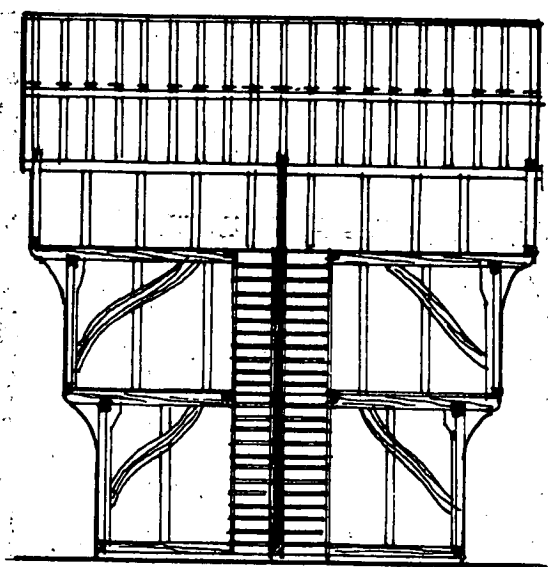
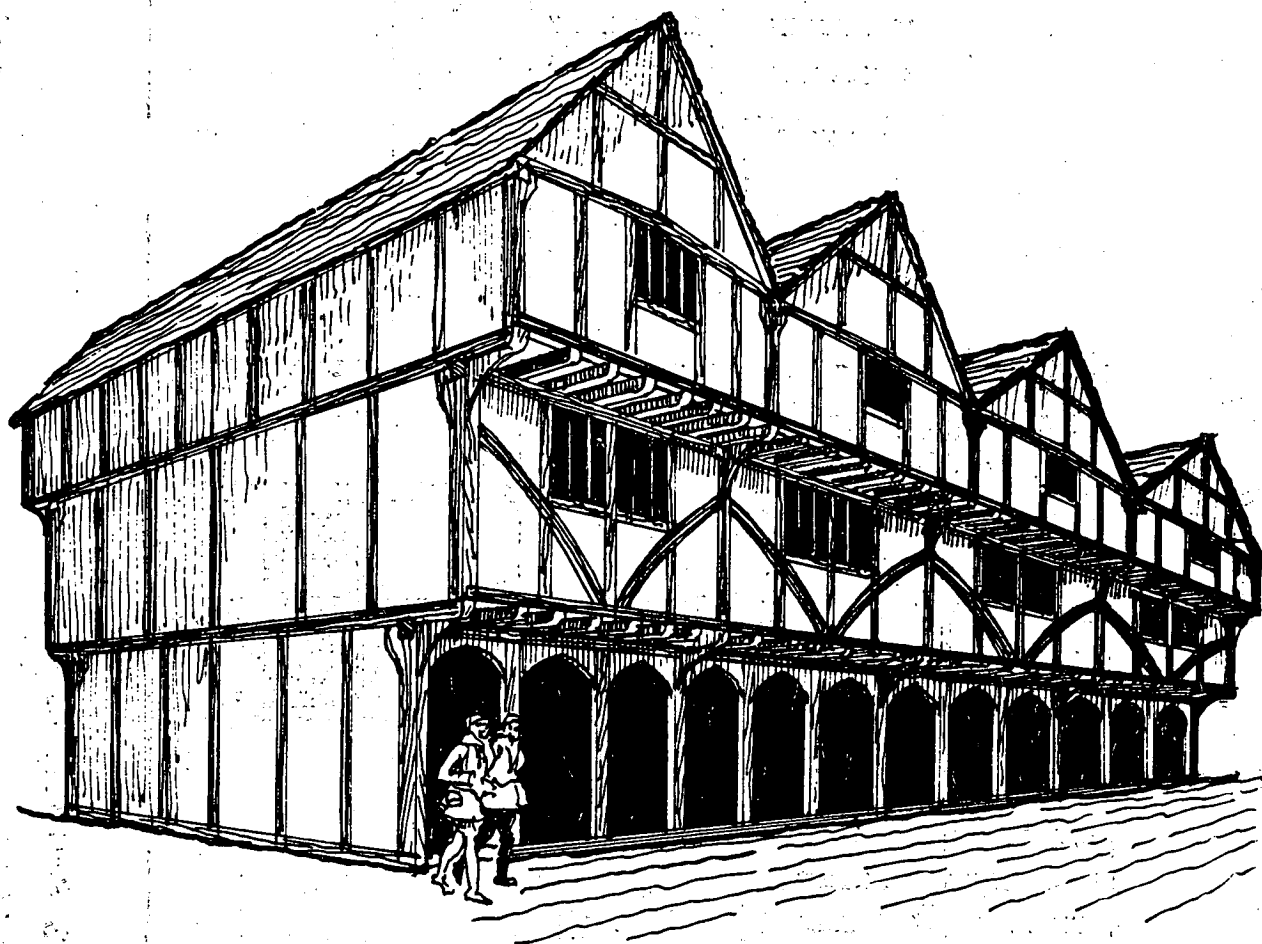
Figure 13



LONG SECTION TO REAR

john bailey

MIDDLE ROW, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE. 1979.



cross section

RECONSTRUCTION OF A
ROW OF MEDIEVAL
BACK TO BACK SHOPS.

John Bailey.

Figure 14

In addition buildings within specific villages or towns are being systematically investigated. At Long Crendon for example the many cruck buildings are being surveyed in detail.

Particular forms of buildings are being investigated. The known "Wealden" houses in Buckinghamshire have been measured. The details of these buildings when related to the information obtained from the work on the "Wealden" houses in Bedfordshire has provided valuable comparative material on the development of this form of building. Two further "Wealdens" were noted in West Wycombe.

Bedfordshire Surveys

The majority of the work of the group was outside Bedfordshire during 1979; but several buildings were investigated in this County.

Perhaps the most exciting discovery was at Dunstable where evidence of a terrace of three storey jettied shops was found at Middle Row. This is a unique example of four terraced units each with shops facing to front and rear (Figure 14).

An unusual stone cruciform plan structure at Bletsoe of 17th Century date was surveyed. This is believed to be a former hunting lodge.

The Group's most important discovery was made at Blackburn Hall, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, where an early aisled hall has been identified.

The roof is of scissor brace construction and shows all the characteristic details that one would expect in a building of the 13th Century. The framing is joined by notched lap joints and the scarf joints are stop splayed with sallied butts. Both of these features are associated generally with buildings of this date. Both aisles have been destroyed; but the aisle plates survive and these show that straight arch braces rose from the aisle roofs to the plates. Two bays of the hall survive each being approximately 16 feet in length with a dimension between aisle plates also of 16 feet. The aisle plate continues some six feet beyond the end of one of the bays to butt onto a later cross wing. Parallels to the roof type and construction of this building may be seen in The Barley Barn, Cressing Temple, Essex, which Hewitt dates at c. 1200.

This must be one of the earliest vernacular buildings discovered in Bedfordshire. A short paper on this building will be published in a future volume of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal.

Hertfordshire Surveys

Work on related buildings in North Hertfordshire has been carried out. Certain threatened buildings have been surveyed including the now derelict cruck barn at Great Gaddesden. One of the most important buildings in the region, its future is now uncertain.

A survey of the Timber Framed buildings in Hitchin is to be carried out. A start has been made and it is expected that it will take two or three years to complete.

Several buildings in Royston have been surveyed.

1980 Programme

A survey programme has been planned which will include buildings in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and West Cambridgeshire.

General research work on building plans and the development of medieval and later carpentry in the region will continue.

Publications

Towards the end of 1979 John Bailey published "Timber Framed Buildings" which is an authoritative handbook on the development, construction and typology of timber framed buildings in the region. The booklet is illustrated with examples of some of the buildings that have been surveyed in Beds, Bucks, Cambs and Herts and summarises some of the results of the groups work. Copies of the Book can be obtained from: 27 Langdale Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, £1.50 post paid. Cheques payable to Miss M.L. Miller.

Future Publications

It is hoped that a further book entitled "The Timber Framed Buildings of Buckinghamshire" will be published in 1980 or 1981.

Interim results of work on particular cruck buildings in Buckinghamshire is being prepared for publication; this includes some of the Long Crendon examples.

ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERIES and 19th Century Collecting: Discovery, Chance and Survival - David H. Kennett

The Cemeteries

The publication of finds and other evidence from discoveries made in the 19th Century and earlier is among the primary duties of the student of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. Without full catalogues of the available material, the conclusions drawn from the evidence will, of necessity, be less valid than would otherwise be the case. Such conclusions, however, may be misleading if insufficient regard is paid to the quality of the evidence for individual Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. This paper seeks to examine the material available for four cemeteries found in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. In so doing, some general conclusions will be drawn about the information which can usefully be extracted from the study of any one cemetery. The sites chosen include examples of the different rites and date ranges represented in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. Kettering is a cremation cemetery with pots dating to the 5th and 6th Centuries. Burton Latimer is a mixed inhumation and cremation cemetery of the same date range. The Kempston cemetery has both inhumation and cremation burials and includes finds of the 5th to 7th Centuries. The Desborough finds represent an inhumation cemetery of the final phase of the 7th Century.

BURTON LATIMER, Northamptonshire

In March 1891, the British Museum purchased from J.F. Nurman of West Street, Oundle, Northamptonshire, a group of 14 pots, a shield boss with a decorated top and some other finds found "some years before on the boundary of Barton Seagrave and Burton Latimer parishes". Subsequently in

April 1936, a Miss Newman of Eastbourne, Sussex, presented to the British Museum two further pots. From her it was learnt that these were found between 1880 and 1885 with the items which the museum already had in its possession. It was also discovered that although most of the finds were made in Burton Latimer parish the site extended across the parish boundary into Barton Seagrave, and the latter name has previously been used for this site. Examination by the author of the ironstone workings suggests that the majority of the site was in Burton Latimer parish and to avoid confusion this name will be used henceforth; a more exact location for the discoveries cannot now be advanced than about TL 892764. At the time of discovery no records were kept of the Burton Latimer finds and no subsequent catalogue has been published; with the exception of some of the pots, one of the brooches and the shield boss, they have not been illustrated.

DESBOROUGH, Northamptonshire

The well-known Desborough necklace and a second well-furnished female grave were discovered in 1876, reported to an interested local antiquary, the Rev. Robert Sibley Baker, Rector of Hargrave, and these objects were subsequently exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries of London and acquired by the British Museum. Baker commendably published an account of both graves, remarking that about sixty inhumations had been found, but that few grave goods had been noted. It is worth remembering that Baker was not present when the discoveries were made, although he did see a third grave, without accoutrements, being unearthed.

KEMPSTON, Bedfordshire

First discoveries of Anglo-Saxon finds at Kempston were made in 1846; the last in 1913. The majority of the finds were made in 1863 to 1865 and were recorded by the local curate (and doctor) the Rev. S.E. Fitch MD; James Wyatt, a local newspaper owner and antiquary, made a few, independent observations. In 1891, the majority, but not all, of the finds were acquired by the British Museum from the companion of their owner, Miss Thornton. The latter was the daughter of the man in whose safe keeping they had been entrusted in the 1860s. Bedford Museum acquired items from the site at various dates, including contributions to the former Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School and pieces once stored in the basement of Bedford Town Hall. Reporting of the Kempston cemetery, if not as full as one would like, was of a high quality for its date: Fitch published a diary of discoveries from June 1863 to July 1864 and supplementary to this is an account in the Minute Book of the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society which includes some grave goods from the period after Fitch left Kempston.

KETTERING, Northamptonshire

Finds were made during housebuilding on Stamford Road, Kettering, in 1903. The Northamptonshire Exploration Society investigated part of the area completely and part only as the builder's trenches permitted. A summary report was published soon after but no complete account of the pottery has ever been prepared. The pots and other finds made in 1903 were given to Northampton Museum. Further investigations followed in 1929, but again no thorough publication was contemplated. This material is now

in Kettering Museum. A selection of the better preserved or better restored vessels appears in J.N.L. Myres, A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period, but this omits over half the vessels known from the site. These have all been drawn by the author with a view to the complete publication of the cemetery's pottery. The latter will include all of the complete, or near complete, vessels in Northampton Museum which are unprovenanced but probably from the Kettering cemetery rather than from any other in the county.

Victorian Records

Viewing the group above, only the Kempston cemetery has even an account. Among major cemeteries of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, it is not unique: good contemporary records were made by W.K. Foster at Barrington B and by R.C. Neville at Little Wilbraham and Linton Heath, all Cambridgeshire; H. Dryden kept fair records of his discoveries at Marston St. Lawrence, Northamptonshire, in 1843. But no one could doubt the list of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries found in Northamptonshire without any account being taken of the circumstances of their discovery or the association between objects. This list includes the finds from the two cemeteries at Brixworth, and those found at Duston, Newnham (or Badby), Pitsford, Rothwell, and Thorpe Malsor, besides that found at Burton Latimer. Even the discovery of the major cremation cemetery at Kettering, Stamford Road, was only summarily noted.

Collecting Policies

The five sites chosen for discussion have very differing amounts of material surviving from them. In a descending order of reliability for completeness they are Kempston, Desborough, Kettering and Burton Latimer. There are known to be pieces from Kempston which are not now in a museum. James Wyatt has a salutary tale of pots broken by workmen to get at the one which was always filled with gold. It required financial recompense to ensure the practice ceased. There are items illustrated in lithographs by Bradford Rudge which have not survived; these include pots and metalwork.

The Desborough finds may be the two best furnished graves from the cemetery. At Burwell, Cambridgeshire, T.C. Lethbridge excavated 125 graves from a 7th Century cemetery. Of these four were well-furnished. Two graves from 60 at Desborough is an equivalent proportion for the ratio of nil to poorly furnished. But the modern archaeologist would like to know what was in the unfurnished or the poorly equipped graves. Of the 69 graves with grave goods at Burwell, 23 had only a knife and four were like grave 84, a young child with a single bead at its neck. Even the typical grave 34 at Burwell with only an iron knife and a bronze buckle may well have been missed by the archaeologically untrained workmen who discovered the Desborough cemetery. On the other hand it would be hardly possible to miss the gold and garnet-set necklace of grave A or the bronze skilnet, glass cups, silver hinge, scale pan fragments, and silver spoon of grave B.

It is impossible to be certain how much of the Kettering cemetery is extant in Kettering Museum and Northampton Museum. It was incompletely explored. There is doubt about the provenance of part of Northampton Museum's collections although most of the county-provenanced pottery may

be from Kettering, but the large collection of ill-provenanced ironwork is more likely to come from Brixworth or Duston.

At Burton Latimer, the surviving pots and other items look extremely like one man's share or the loot from the ironstone diggings. It is known for instance that an interested person collected finds from the ironstone diggings at Rothwell but that his collection of Anglo-Saxon (and other) items is incomplete. Mr. Nurman and Miss Newman who gave the Burton Latimer finds to the British Museum are probably father and daughter. Their collection has cremation urns and accessory vessels, to judge from the smaller pots, and the female jewellery makes it clear that inhumations were present at the Burton Latimer cemetery.

It can be suggested that these items - a cruciform brooch, a pair of small-long brooches, a girdle-hanger and its attachment, a pair of plain sleeve clasps and a small string of beads presumably once worn at the wrist - are one woman's jewellery. A variety of graves have similar assemblages: a grave from Holdenby contained a large great square-headed brooch, a pair of saucer brooches, multiple strings of beads, a bronze tube (? brushholder), and sleeve clasps; excluding the sleeve clasps, which indicate only a dress fastened at the wrist, the great square-headed brooch from Luton was associated with the same array of objects; among the finds from St. John's College Cricket Field, Cambridge, is a grave-group with a group IV cruciform brooch, a pair of small-long brooches, a pair of sleeve clasps, beads and bronze spacer beads.

The other piece from Burton Latimer is the shield boss. The boss has a top ornament with a chip-carved gilt bronze stud. If it were not for this it would have seemed unremarkable; no other ironwork is extant from Burton Latimer. If it were not for the stud, it would not have been retained. The idea that it is impossible to miss, advanced for the Desborough necklace, reappears.

If the shield boss is too obvious to be thrown away and the other metalwork is a single grave group, are these and the pots the finds of a single day's digging? The question cannot be answered, but the suspicion is there. This paper is not designed to provide detailed discussion of the individual objects from Burton Latimer. Consideration in depth of the pottery would be premature in view of the work presently being done on the finds from the Kettering, Stamford Road, cemetery: the correlations are too close. Two examples may suffice.

The first vessel has been illustrated as a parallel to a late Buckelurne from Kettering. The latter has two lines of stamps on the neck: one is the long 'S' stamp found on the Burton Latimer pot. On the Kettering pot there are four vertical bosses and four slashed diagonal bosses with the interspaces completely filled with stamps; the long 'S' stamp already mentioned and a concentric circle stamp which is also found on the Burton Latimer pot. The Kettering pot also has a square stamp with a diagonally placed cross. J.N.L. Myres has assumed the same potter was responsible for the two vessels.

The second vessel has stamps shown to correlate first to a sherd from Islip and through this to a group of pots found at Kettering and possibly to one found at Holdenby.

The plain urns have parallels in other Northamptonshire cemeteries: Kettering, Newton-in-the-Willows and Brixworth; but the shapes are not

locally distinctive and parallels for both could be found among the surviving pots from Kempston.

The metalwork other than the shield boss belongs to the familiar series of female accoutrements of Northamptonshire cemeteries but these are very different to those found in 6th Century graves from Bedfordshire. The sleeve clasps indicate a dress with closed sleeves: the form of ornament is unknown from Kempston and Luton. No girdle-hangers have been discovered in Bedfordshire and the developed form of cruciform brooch is later than those from Kempston; there is one of Aberg's group IV from Toddington. The only parallel known to the two small-long brooches is a single brooch from Churchover, Warws., now in the Ashmolean Museum, who also have a Fen type florid cruciform brooch and a florid wrist clasp from the site. One is tempted to suggest these could have been a grave group but as with the Burton Latimer finds the lack of documentary evidence taken at the time of discovery precludes the definite assertion of this inference.

BEDFORDSHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A Contrast in Settlement

The mere survival of the Burton Latimer finds suggests that close to the large cremation cemetery at Kettering, Stamford Road, there may have been another large Anglo-Saxon cemetery, of mixed rite, as opposed to one purely of cremation burials. Even a cursory glance at a map of Anglo-Saxon burials from Northamptonshire suggests a closeness of large or potentially large cemeteries. Two cemeteries, broadly contemporary in their date, have been found at Brixworth; their material is now mixed and elucidation of individual grave groups is totally impossible. Around Kettering, there are ill-recorded and unpublished 5th - 6th Century cemeteries at Desborough, Newton-in-the-Willows, Islip, Burton Latimer, Thorpe Malsor, and Rothwell. There are also isolated finds, suggesting burials, from Sudborough, Great Addington, Cranford and Twywell.

Around the Kempston cemetery there is no similar concentration. An isolated cremation urn at Moggerhanger, and some cremations at Sandy, are more than 10 km to the east. A group of domestic finds from Harrold are a similar distance to the north-west, and the Newport Pagnell, Bucks., cemetery, largely of 6th Century date, is again over 10 km away. The cemeteries of south Bedfordshire are distant by 20 km and more. Going due north and north-east from Kempston the first sign of other Anglo-Saxon cemeteries is not reached until the Northamptonshire boundary has been crossed; nor are there any major cemeteries in Huntingdonshire except in the environs of Peterborough.

Contrasting Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, the position of the Kempston cemetery looks more and more isolated. Of all the aspects of the Kempston cemetery it is the most puzzling and least easily explained. The riches of the cemetery at Kempston are well-known: a major collection of 5th Century finds, even if grave groups cannot now be elucidated, much material belonging to a broadly 6th Century context, and a series of important 7th Century (or final phase) graves and finds, all supposedly within the same cemetery. But there seems to be no concentration of other Anglo-Saxon cemeteries within a day's walk.

Between Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire there is difference in 6th Century female graves. In Bedfordshire many of the women have two circular brooches, or two small-long brooches; they rarely have a third large brooch: there is one great square-headed brooch from Toddington (the Warmark site), one from Luton and one and the fragment of a second from Kempston. At Kempston there are many small-long brooches but reading Fitch's diary of discoveries no richness of accoutrements can be sensed. And despite the lavishness of the ornament on the larger saucer brooches, the same degree of poverty seems apparent at Luton. In contrast, while much of the collections of the Anglo-Saxon collections of Northampton Museum consists of unassociated pieces, the very lavishness of some of these pieces does suggest access to a somewhat richer artistic tradition than was available in Bedfordshire.

The same comparison may be made with Cambridgeshire. Despite the paucity of the surviving inhumation grave goods from St. John's College Cricket Field, the site has a number of associated groups containing three brooches, which invite comparison with the well-recorded rich graves at Little Wilbraham and Barrington B or with those of Holywell Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk.

There is a cultural contrast too: apart from the Toddington brooch there are no examples of cruciform brooches of Aberg's groups III and IV from Bedfordshire and the single known florid brooch is of the square-headed variety. Female fashions in the 6th Century may reflect no more than pedlars' territories or a workshop's market but even this may be governed by political factors. Yet the distribution of any form of brooch should argue against simplistic interpretations of the evidence. In the most advanced forms cruciform brooches show regional patterns. The large florid brooch in the East Midland Art style from Kempston is well-known: it has a rectangular headplate, a rounded bow, bifurcated lappets with animal ornament and an ornamented panel between them, a stylised human face and a triangular panel at the foot. Comparable brooches are known from Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and East Anglia. The equivalent cruciform headed brooch while mostly distributed in the Midlands includes one example from North Yorkshire, found at Saltburn, and two from Norfolk: Bergh Apton and Brooke.

The lack of both East Midland and East Anglian florid cruciform brooches from Bedfordshire represents the most visible sign of cultural contrasts with Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire respectively. In comparison to both the east and the north there does seem greater poverty and for the Kempston cemetery, a splendid isolation.

Each seems to be a point to which research might usefully be directed.

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THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SURVEY - David Hall and Paul Martin

The season of 1978-9 was fraught with weather unsuitable for field-work. A dry autumn caused a late start and there was much loss of time because of frost and snow. Therefore the equivalent of only 7 parishes was surveyed; Ashby St. Ledgers, Geddington, Grafton Underwood, Warkton, Weekley, Welton and parts of Little Oakley, Stanion and West Haddon.

Archaeological results were consistent with previous conclusions. The boulder clays of Rockingham Forest were rich in Iron Age and Roman remains but the north-west parishes were almost devoid of pre-medieval settlement. Welton differs from the north-west trend in having a known Saxon cemetery and a Roman villa (newly discovered). Here there was stone building material, various kinds of tile and slate and painted architectural fragments of tufa.

Perhaps the most important discoveries were the earthwork sites found in the woods, most of them likely to be prehistoric. The finest earthwork was found in Grafton Park Wood. It would seem to be a typical Iron Age farmstead in a roughly circular enclosure about 50 m diameter, consisting of a bank and ditch. The bank stands about 1½m high. Parts of square enclosures were found in Geddington Chase and Castor Hanglands - both medieval. Grafton Park also contains Iron Age earthworks (partly excavated by D. Jackson see above).

These earthworks are similar to the one discovered in Salcey Forest on the boundary of Hartwell parish (this Journal 1975). It is clear that in areas of medieval woodland and parkland, where there are many thousands of acres never subjected to ploughing since at least Roman times, there is great potential for the survival of early earthworks.

The woods also contained an abundance of medieval ramparts, especially the parks. Thus Grafton Park Wood, Boughton Wood and Brigstock Park are enclosed, but Geddington Chase is not. The old ridings of the latter did have low ramparts and formed wide curving tracks quite unlike the straight 'modern' ones. Many parts of these woods were shown to be post-medieval with ridge-and-furrow in them.

NASEBY PARISH SURVEY 1976 - David Hall, Ruth Harding and Paul Martin

The survey followed the techniques described in previous Newsletters. Naseby contains 3324 acres and lies on one of the highest parts of the Northamptonshire Uplands; most of the parish is above 500 feet OD and about a third is well over 600 feet. Both the Avon and the Nene rise here.

The geology consists mainly of boulder-clay drift-deposits with areas of gravel, especially to the south. Some of the highest hills, including

the village plateau, have exposures of ironstone and sand.

The village is most famous for the Battle of Naseby which occurred to the north of the village on 14th June 1645. In spite of having two printed histories the parish is very poorly recorded, little manorial or open-field evidence having survived (1,2).

Naseby is first mentioned in Domesday (1086) as Navesberrie, and is thus not a Scandinavian name ending in -by but is of Saxon origin Hnaefes-burh (3), incorporating the early Saxon name Hnaef. Burh need not imply a fortified place, as it is a common topographical name for a hill in north west Northamptonshire (eg. Brixworth, East Haddon and Long Buckby).

At the time of Domesday the parish was in the hands of William Peveril, and in the 12th Century passed to the family of Laval. The family of Lacey held the manor during part of the 13th Century when it became the property of the de Clares, later elevated to Earls of Gloucester. The family of Stafford acquired Naseby by marriage to Margaret de Clare. The Staffords became Dukes of Buckingham and held the manor until 1521 when it was granted to Sir William Fitzwilliam. Since that time until early this century Naseby changed hands very many times. It was probably these transfers that caused loss of detailed estate papers (4).

From its foundation in 1155 the adjacent Sulby Abbey acquired about one third of Naseby. At the dissolution this was given to Sir Christopher Hatton and then passed to the Shuckburgh family descending to the Ashbys in the 18th Century.

The parish was surveyed by the usual method of visiting every field, recording the occurrence of flints or premedieval pottery, and noting the existence of earthworks and the linear banks of soil that represent the headlands of the open-field system.

The following pre-medieval sites were recorded:

- Ny 1 SP 690 791 Ironstone gravel. Cropmarks of enclosures and linear ditches. A fragment of a Longdale axe and a few bronze Age flints were recovered, including a plano-convex knife. Six Saxon sherds.
- Ny 2 SP 676 770 Gravel. Cropmarks of rectangular enclosure. A quantity of Bronze Age flints.

The following find spots produced small quantities of material, in all cases the soil was glacial gravel unless stated otherwise.

- f 1 SP 696 765 and f 2 SP 697 778. A few worked flints on ironstone outcrop,
- f 3 SP 683 771. A few Bronze Age worked flints, 1 Roman and 1 Saxon sherd.
- f 4 SP 684 766. A few worked flints including an unpolished Neolithic flint axe.
- f 6 SP 697 793. Two Saxon sherds.

Cropmarks have been observed at SP 674 788 (possible enclosure and SP 694 789 (subrectangular enclosure) (5).

In the 19th Century a socketed axe was found near Naseby Woolleys (6) and an unprovenanced hoard contained 38 silver denarii from the reigns of Vespasian to Marcus Aurelius (7).

Apart from the sherds mentioned above the only Saxon material from the parish is a trefoil-headed brooch now in the British Museum (8). If the village does have origins as far back as the Middle Saxon period then the most likely site is the area of ironstone soil underlying the present settlement.

Another possible prehistoric or Saxon site is the cemetery mentioned by Mastin (p10). He refers to skeletons being discovered when a windmill was erected in about 1730. He assumed that it must be a chapel site although none of the county historians mentions a chapel or other ecclesiastical house at Naseby. It is not clear from Mastin's account where the windmill was; two mounds are possible candidates, one at SP 6852 7932 and a particularly fine one in a field of ridge-and-furrow off the Thornby Road (SP 6862 7716). Since the field adjacent to the latter mound is called Chapel Field it seems likely that it is Mastin's mill (the name being a back formation because of his interpretation).

Mastin mentions how he was unable to find any footings or gravestones (which would certainly be expected from a medieval building), and it seems likely that the site is a prehistoric barrow or a Saxon cemetery.

The village of Naseby appears to be a double settlement in that the southern end is called Nutcote. There is no evidence that Nutcote ever had any independent existence in terms of manorial rights or a separate open-field system; the name is not recorded until 1630 (9).

The settlements are considerably shrunken, especially Nutcote, where there are the usual house platforms, hollow ways, property boundaries, and fishponds (SP 6845 7786 and SP 685 778). The earthworks correspond closely with features marked on a map of 1630 and have been treated in detail elsewhere (10). The area of ancient inclosure in 1630 includes ridge-and-furrow at the north and east of the village, showing the usual medieval expansion on to former ploughland. The Hall manor stood at the north end.

The open-field system was recoverable with moderate ease: difficulties were encountered in places because of 19th Century steam-plough ridge-and-furrow which had obliterated the medieval (a good example of steam ploughing is at SP 688 787). Parts of the southern end of the parish could not be mapped adequately, but from the documentation it is clear that the area had been ploughed.

The pattern as a whole is typical of Northamptonshire, i.e. a completely ploughed landscape apart from meadow and marshy areas which were left for pasture (Figure 15). The surviving ridge-and-furrow shows the usual post-medieval modifications, i.e. there are green ends to the lands (double heaps of soil left by the plough), rick places (flattened areas for corn stacks (SP 692 776), and green furrows (alternate wide and narrow lands). The furlong pattern is a logical division of the landscape.

Most of the furlongs are identifiable because the 19th Century post-inclosure field names(11) contain a high proportion of names identifiable on the 1630 map and in a series of early Sulby charters at the British Library (12). They are listed in Table 1, and prove to be a most interesting set.

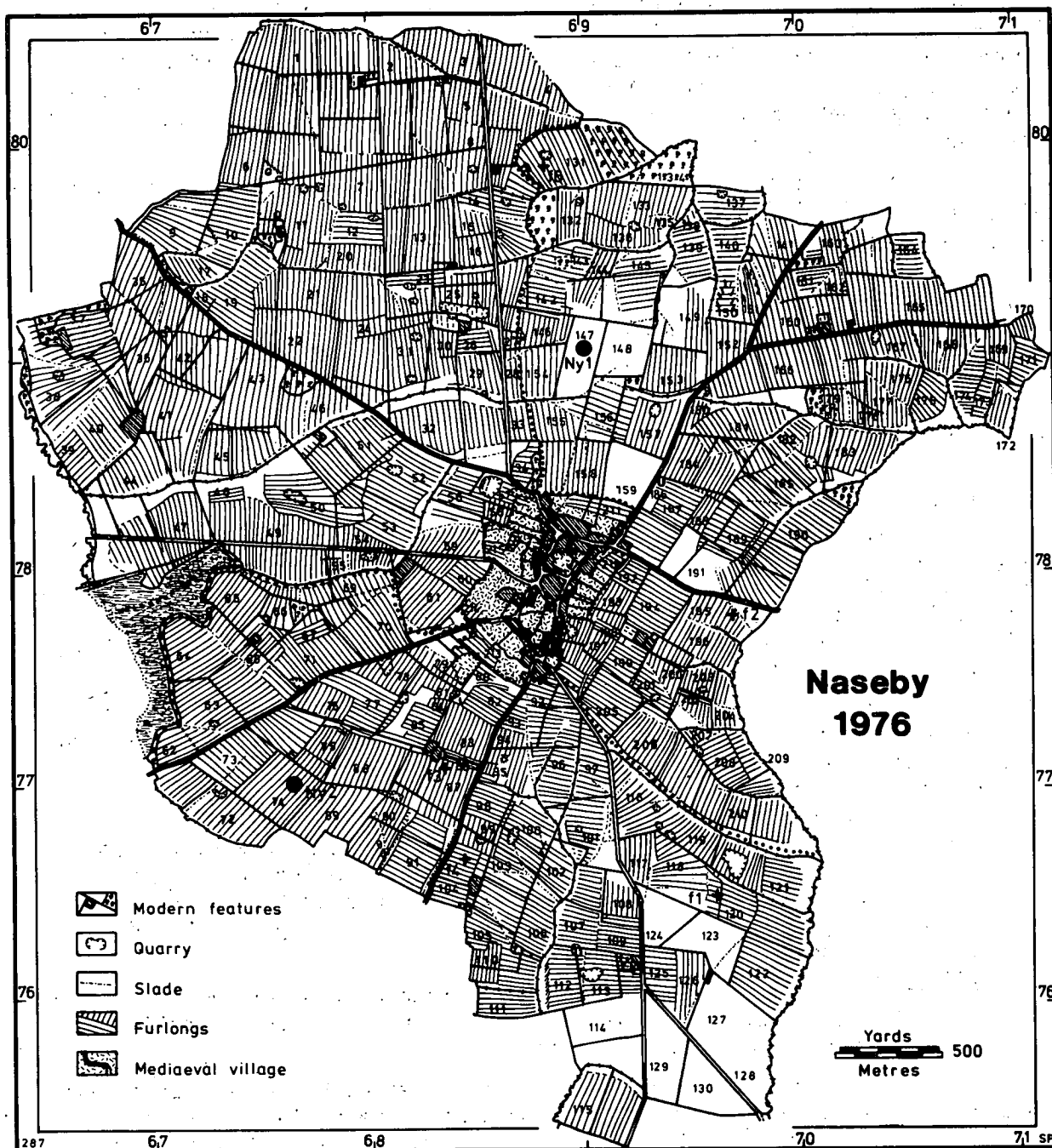


Figure 15

There is very little evidence of Norse influence (eg. Radpistendale and possibly winekeswong) and a marked Saxon element with seven personal names, and early forms such as burne for brook (rather than Middle English broc) and low for hill (from hlaw) and den for valley. The furlong names therefore support the place-name evidence that Naseby is not really a Scandinavian settlement.

As usual the names are predominantly topographical with willow valley, sheep nook, adder hill, mole land and foul spring etc. The names wode and wode way show there had once been some woodland.

A terrier of the late 13th Century divides the furlongs into East, West, and South fields. These seem to correspond closely with the fields marked on the 1630 map and the 1822 inclosure map. It is clear therefore that the landscape had been completely opened up by the 13th Century, and divided into three fields which remained essentially unchanged for five and a half centuries. The forms of the names suggest that some of them were already old, especially the pleonastic, longelangelond and shepaxhox; it would seem then that the furlongs date from the Saxon period.

There are no details about the early land holding, but many of the grantors of the charters held large units rather than individual strips. On several occasions whole furlongs were being given (to the neighbouring Sulby Abbey (13)). It may be possible that these were parcels of demesne, because in contrast a grant of a virgate by William son of Symon (c1290) refers to 48 lands, mostly half an acre each, on 48 different furlongs, i.e. the kind of distribution met in later terriers (14).

A charter of the early 13th Century grants 'the mill below the village of Naseby and one headland which lies by the mill towards the way to Ashby and two furlongs of land on either side of the mill ... one at banelond and ... at winekeswang'. This may refer to a watermill on the Avon, or just possibly to the windmill mentioned above. A field name near the windmill is bollands which would be a normal modern form of banelond (beanland). The windmill is actually near to the Thornby road, although it is not much farther to Cold Asby via Thornby than by the direct route. If the windmill is intended then it is a very early example with a documentary reference.

In addition to the windmills already mentioned the 1630 map marks one along the Clipston road at SP 6935 7843 where there is now an obelisk (in the wrong position) to commemorate the battle.

The 1630 map classifies some of the holdings as being Hall land (i.e. land belonging to the Hall manor) and bord land (belonging to the bordars or villeins). Presumably this is distinguishing what was demesne and what was held by tenants (whose ancestors would have been villeins).

The only other open-field information is from a very late series of court rolls (1803-25) which refer to some typical manorial orders (15). The orders regulate the number of animals allowed for each yardland, when gleaning could begin and when the common herd could be let out etc.

Mastin gives some detail of the crops grown and the animals reared in the late 18th Century. Oats were sown after rye and beans after wheat and barley (p16). He refers to the extremities of the fields being set down to grass in 1733.

In the 17th Century there was a rabbit warren to the north at SP 6874 7988, now the site of a more recent building. An area of decayed cobb is still visible. It belonged to Edward Shuckborough in 1636 (16).

The Battle of Naseby has left no visible remains; the graves mentioned by Bridges are no longer visible in this parish, but there is a large mound in Sulby. A local farmer possesses a large lead (musket) shot found on the battle field.

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 13. Add. Ch. 22325, 22330.
 14. Add. Ch. 22331 (Ed.1); 18 lands (8 acres) in East field, 15 lands (7a) in South field and 15 lands (7½a) in West field.
 15. N.R.O. YZ74034
 16. N.R.O. 1L966
- N.R.O. - Northamptonshire Record Office.

TABLE 1

Naseby open-field names

Early names are dated, the remainder are from 19th Century and later post inclosure names which are likely to be the names of furlongs. The meanings are given in brackets, the numbers refer to Figure 15.

West Field c.1290, Turmoore Field 1630, Spinney Field 1822; 1-61.

1. Longbrodes.1.13th, lanford 1630 (long broad lands).
2. Closterwell 1630.
3. Billesbrech e.13th, brademore 1.13th, under billsbith in broadmoor 1630, (pers. name and broad moor).
4. -
5. Lotchmeare 1630.
6. -
7. Closter 1630.
8. East closterwell.
- 9-10. Sulebihul, e.13th, Sulby hill 1630.
11. Red hill.
12. Stondelf 1.13th, top stanidon (stone hill, or quarry).
- 13-16. -
17. Lower Sulbihul e.13th, south Sulby hill.
18. Nether wrotpit 1.13th, rut pit, (snout pit).
19. Rut pit.
20. Stanidon.
21. Blindewelle 1.13th, blunwell (blind spring).
22. Fennislade 1.13th, fenny hill (muddy valley, hill).
- 23-24. -
25. Gaweland 1630.
26. Semansike 1.13th, symons siche 1630 (pers. name, ditch).
- 27-29. -
30. Flexlond 1.13th, flaxlands 1630 (flax land)
31. -
32. Gruneshul, 13th, green hill.
33. Fullin butts 1630.
34. Clot hill.
35. Hakenhul 1.13th, hacknell.
26. Greenbows.
- 37-38. -
39. Sulby meare 1630.
40. Wode (ley) 1.13th, woolly 1630 (wood ley).
- 41-42. -
43. Turmoar 1630.
- 44-46. -
47. Chess fallow.
48. Fennislade 1.13th, fennel slade 1630 (muddy valley).
49. Folewelle 1.13th, fulbrok 1630.
50. Gordboard (gore broad).
51. Fennihill slade 1630.
52. Smaledoles in grenehul 1.13th, smaridoles, (small doles).
53. Ston nyneroods 1630.
- 54-60. -
61. Jane leys.

Unlocated names: (13th) schiteburne (dirty stream), wichiled, nether long friday, galenholme (gall island).

South Field c.1290, Chapel Field 1822; 62-130.

- 62. Priest's meadow 1.13th, priest meadow.
- 63. Stubb.
- 64. Essebimere 1.13th, Ashby meare 1630.
- 65. Short heath 1630.
- 66. Wynnislade 1.13th, whynyleyes 1630 (pers. name).
- 67-68. -
- 69. Fullbrook
- 70. White thorn 1630
- 71. Way to Assebi 1.13th, Ashby way 1630.
- 72. Black pits 1630.
- 73. -
- 74. Longestodfold 1.13th, stratfold (long studfold).
- 75-76. -
- 77. Long rush hill.
- 78. Plain.
- 79. -
- 80. Washbrook.
- 81. Gooses playne 1630.
- 82. Over rushill 1630.
- 83-84. -
- 85. Short rush hill.
- 86-87. -
- 88. Landledge.
- 89. March.
- 90. -
- 91. Baneland 1.13th, bollands (bean land).
- 92. Nutcote leyes 1630.
- 93. Chappel leyes 1630.
- 94. Mill.
- 95. Chapel (furlong).
- 96. Bennihul 1.13th, bin hill (bean hill?).
- 97. Long bin hill.
- 98-99. -
- 100. Rowdike.
- 101. Kalkehul 1.13th, chalchull, 1.13th, choke hill.
- 102-106. -
- 107. Garborough hill.
- 108-110. -
- 111. Ley croft.
- 112. Suthholm 1.13th, southam (south holme).
- 113-114. -
- 115. Slivers hill.
- 116. Portweye mid.13th, portway (way to market).
- 117. Foxley.
- 118. -
- 119. Beggars bush.
- 120. Middelanlond, 1.13th, east longlands.
- 121. Crooks heath.
- 122. Longelongelond 1.13th, long lands.
- 123. Northampton way 1.13th and modern
- 124-127. -
- 128. Cotesbrocmere 1.13th, Cottesbrook near.
- 129. Witemor. 1.13th, Whitmore (white moor).
- 130. -

Unlocated names (13th) wartedelond, salues (foals), schortelanlond,
Thurneby wele, wanlond pit.

East Field c.1290, Shepshoks Field 1630, Old Mill Field 1822;
131-210.

- 131. Sheddou hill.
- 132. -
- 133. Longe peasenell 1630.
- 134. Schorte pesenhul 1.13th, short paynele (short pease hill).
- 135. -
- 136. Paisnell.
- 137. Thornehill 1630.
- 138. -
- 139. Nether hill.
- 140-141. -
- 142. Worsley Hill.
- 143-144. -
- 145. Tithwell.
- 146-147. -
- 148. Gibbs hill.
- 149. Linchbanks.
- 150. Stonlowe 1.13th, stanlow (stone hill).
- 151-153. -
- 154. Wines hill.
- 155. Fullin butts.
- 156. Little hill.
- 157. Gallows.
- 158. Hall leys.
- 159. Plain.
- 160-162. -
- 163. Screikeshul mid.13th, scrawgehill.
- 164. -
- 165. Theevholes 1630.
- 166. Twinsome pit 1630.
- 167. Burloe pit 1630.
- 168-169. -
- 170. Kelmarsh mear 1630.
- 171-173. -
- 174. Fernhill.
- 175. -
- 176. Finalle slade.
- 177. Wronglands.
- 178. -
- 179. Shepax hox 1.13th, sheephook 1630 (sheep corners).
- 180. -
- 181. Over grunhill 1630.
- 182. Copped grunhills 1630.
- 183. Bordland 1630.
- 184. Goshomes.
- 185-186. -
- 187. Townsend.
- 188. -
- 189. Stanlowe 1.13th, low.
- 190. -
- 191. Haselbech way.

- 192. Hensons piece.
- 193. -
- 194. Cricks pit.
- 195. Crookworth 1630.
- 196. Branks leys.
- 197-200. -
- 201. Aster hill 1630.
- 202. -
- 203. Potters.
- 204. Rad pristendale, 1.13th, preston dale.
- 205. Barley dikes.
- 206-207. -
- 208. Pubblestones 1.13th, pebble stones.
- 209. -
- 210. Wiliden mid.13th, willedon, (willow hill).

Unlocated 13th: bruwoldesdic (pers. name), wodenhul (woad hill), nadeshul (adder hill), mill, wodewey, karnhul, smaleslades, fletenhul, benilondikes, marl pit.

Unlocated in any field 13th: winekeswang, langediche, stone pit, godwinesmor, welleheved, hecemere, trunkelond, bilewenhul, hostorkesheg, lilinecroft.

Inclosed by 1630, 211-214.

MILTON KEYNES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGY 1979

INTRODUCTION - D. C. Mynard

One year ago MKAN, our main link with those interested in the work and progress of the Unit, changed its format to an attractive A5 booklet with a topical cover for each issue. All of the three local archaeological societies now use it as their own Newsletter, and distribute it to their members. As a consequence MKAN has grown in circulation during the last year and we have received requests for copies from far and wide. Its often trenchant editorials have always stimulated discussion, and occasionally controversy, which has spilled over into the pages of the local press.

The Unit has also reached the public by means of a travelling exhibition of the results of recent excavations, which visited local libraries and culminated with a month at the County Museum in June and July where, with the advantage of better security, it was augmented with finds.

1979 has been a year of change and certainly this is true of our archaeological programme. Halfway through the year, just as our major excavations were getting under way, a new site was discovered when the contractors began stripping the Pennylands housing development. Initially seen as a largely destroyed Iron Age site, the site rapidly showed its potential when two dark patches were identified as Saxon grubenhauser. Limited work was carried out on the area already under construction and through the co-operation and goodwill of the Corporation architect, John Seed, and Messrs. Mowlems, we got as much information as was possible in the circumstances. Armed with the knowledge that the site extended to the south and east, we were able to take advantage of early site stripping in those areas and adjust our programme and labour force to enable us to excavate the site to a reasonable standard.

Pennylands was certainly our best site last year and accordingly was chosen for our Open Weekend, (as soon as site security allowed). The bleak November weather meant that fewer people visited than in previous years, but those who did found their keenness well rewarded.

The local press and our local radio station all showed particular interest in the site and we are grateful to them for holding back the news of its discovery until much of it had been excavated. This was necessary since the contractor would not have welcomed large numbers of visitors and we were apprehensive about unofficial visits by treasure hunters.

Some members of the public have been introduced to archaeology through the conducted walks around the villages and ancient monuments of the linear parks in Milton Keynes arranged as part of the series of Sunday afternoon walks advertised as 'A Walk in the Park'.

Obviously, every Unit must inform and teach the public about its activities, for they are our paymasters, but it must also, in co-operation with other units, disseminate at a more academic level the results of its investigations. In February 1979, in conjunction with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of Oxford University, the Unit organised a one-day conference at Stantonbury Campus on Anglo-Saxon pottery in the South Midlands, at which every unit in the region spoke on and presented their pottery of that period. It was a highly instructive exercise.

Visits to the Abbey and excavations by local and regional groups and societies have continued throughout the year, with reciprocal visits by a member of the Unit to talk on their particular aspect of our work. During the summer months, the Abbey has again been open to visitors on Sunday afternoons, manned by members of the Unit, the Ecology staff and the Trust. Access to the Chapel has been limited by the restoration work on the pavement and wall paintings, which is almost complete, and so business should be as usual by the spring.

EXCAVATION

CALDECOTTE, BOW BRICKHILL - M.R. Petchey

Last season at Caldecotte we examined an area to the north of that excavated in 1978, north of the medieval moat.

The area was dominated by more ditches of the rectangular field system of first and second century date located last year. At the end of the site nearest the river, these ditches were stratified below river flood levels, suggesting, as at Stanton Low (excavated 1956-7 by Mrs M.U. Jones), that the water level of the Ouse and its tributaries rose in the late Roman period, in common with many other rivers at that time.

In the centre of one of the enclosures was a rectangular arrangement of shallow ditches containing pottery in the local pre-Roman Iron Age fabrics, presumably part of an earlier field system, and significantly on the same alignment as the later.

Of the Roman settlement two semi-circular gullies 10m in diameter defined the areas of two huts, of which they drained the up-slope side. No internal features of these buildings were noted, nor was there any evidence of the structure associated with a large hearth to the south-east of the huts. Also in this area a shallow structure of fired clay may, on the evidence of associated slag, be a smelting hearth.

An enigmatic feature was a vertical sided, shallow, circular depression in the gravel with a slightly raised centre. On one side, 0.75m apart, were two post-holes in which the post was clearly inclined towards the centre of the feature. No explanation has yet been satisfactorily advanced for this feature.

An area in Moat Field, close to the main Saxon occupation in the next field to the north, located a number of features containing hand-made pottery of Saxon type, together with a post-build building. Two bays were 2m long and 4m wide, the last 3m long by the same width and, assuming a bay outside the excavation, the building was therefore 9m x 4m.

Comparing the results in this area with those of a trial trench dug seven years previously showed that ploughing had gravely damaged the site, removing features visible at the earlier date.

Next year, we move into the unploughed field north of Moat Field, and also look at the mill site on the Ouzel.

WYMBUSH ROMAN FARMSTEAD - R.J. Zeepvat

The site, situated at NGR SP 8285 3893, to the west of Bradwell Brook between Bradwell Abbey and Loughton, was discovered in 1973 when Dennis Mynard, and Paul and Charmian Woodfield, noted an extensive scatter of limestone and roof tile after ploughing. Trial trenching took place on the site in 1975, but served only to confirm the presence of a stone structure dating from the third century AD, reinforcing evidence from further fieldwalking and aerial photographs.

After several false starts caused by bad weather, excavation commenced in late April 1979 in response to the threat of construction work on the site scheduled to begin in late August 1979.

The building was situated on an east-facing slope, about 150 metres west of Bradwell Brook, at a height of 75m OD. Geologically the site rested totally on Boulder clay, which seemed to manifest itself in only two forms: an extremely wet sticky morass, or a substance akin to concrete, thus contributing to the difficulties of excavation. Topsoil covering the site was no more than 30cm in depth and contained large quantities of limestone rubble and tile. The field in which the site lay appeared to have been under continuous cultivation since the medieval period, and on completion of topsoil removal it was apparent that this process had cut deeply into the archaeological levels.

In the rectangle stripped, an area 40 x 45 metres, the remains of a ridge and furrow system was noted running down the hill slope. In the centre of each furrow was a land drain, apparently inserted prior to the ploughing out of the ridge and furrow.

Roman features

Building 1 (Fig.16)

This was a very substantial structure measuring 22 x 11 metres, aligned east-west, constructed on a levelled area cut slightly back into the slope of the hill to the west, and banked up at the east end of the building. The west and north walls had been almost completely destroyed by stone robbing, whilst land drains and furrows had caused more superficial damage, unfortunately, to a number of wall junctions. The earliest part of the structure appeared to consist of a rectangle 17 x 8 metres, the walls of which were very well constructed, with foundations cut 80 cm below internal floor level. Ploughing had removed most internal details, though there were signs of two internal partitions, giving a large central room with two slightly smaller rooms to the west and east. Traces of opus signinum flooring remained in the central room.

Subsequent additions to this structure consisted of a corridor 2 metres wide along the north side, and an eastward extension measuring 5 x 11 metres, separated into two rooms. Both of these extensions were less well built than the original structure, with shallow foundations and external buttressing. The later east wall, 90cm in width, was much wider than all the others, suggesting the possibility of a second storey, though it is difficult to see how this could have fitted in with the rest of the structure.

The rubble overlying Building 1 yielded quantities of tegulae and imbrices, indicating that the structure had a completely tiled roof. A large amount of painted wall plaster, albeit in very small fragments owing to plough damage, indicated that the interior of the structure was decorated in at least six different colours.

Building 2

This very fragmentary structure was situated to the north of Building 1. It appeared to have been 6 metres wide, and at least 13 metres long. The only surviving structural remains were part of the west wall, the north wall having been completely robbed away. There was no trace of the north or east walls- absence of the latter suggested an open-fronted barn. The internal floor was of packed limestone rubble, partly pitched. A stone structure 1 metre wide built up against the west wall probably formed the support for a bench or manger.

To the east of Building 2 were traces of a gravel surface forming a yard, partly enclosed by the two buildings.

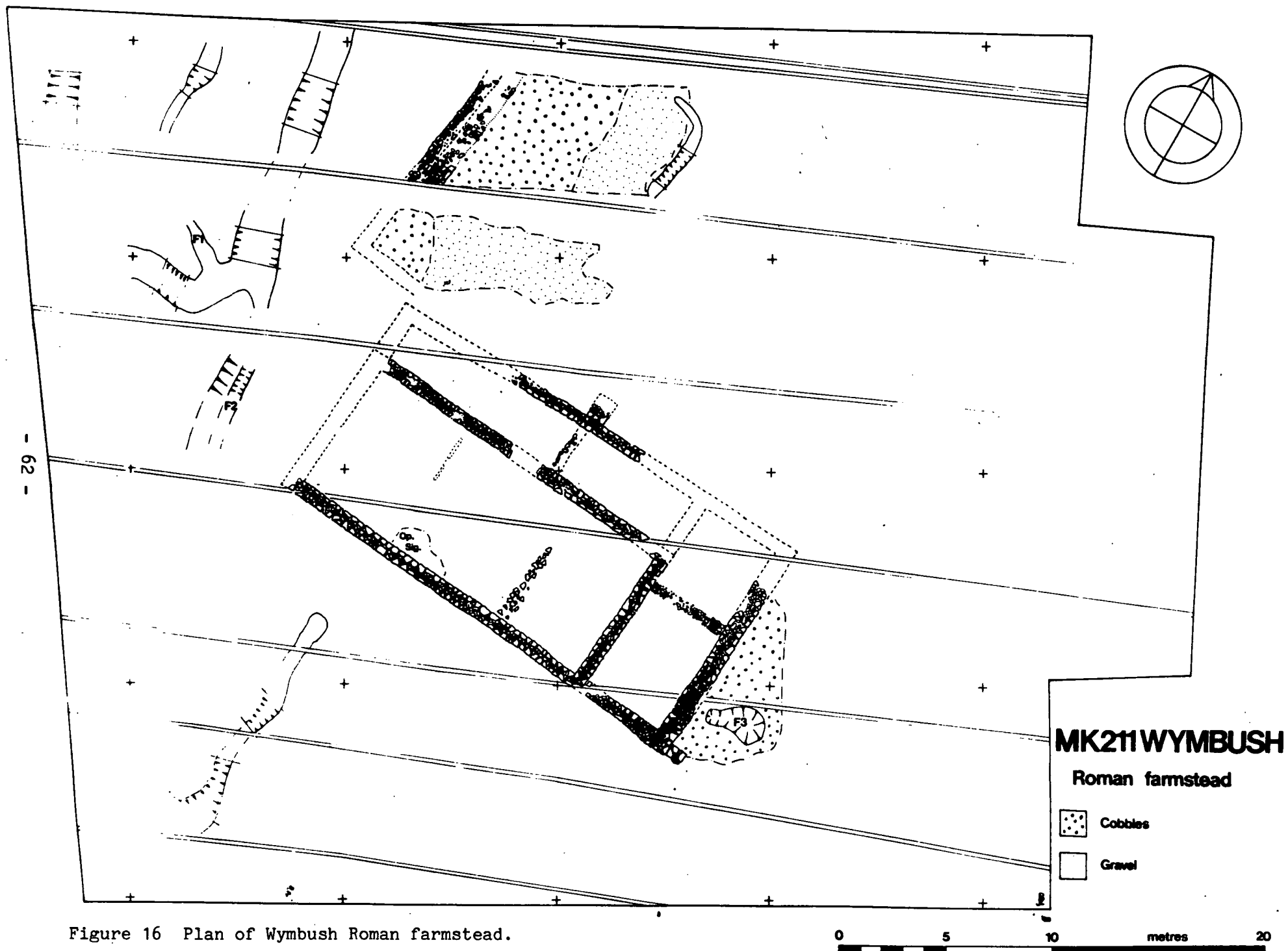


Figure 16 Plan of Wymbush Roman farmstead.

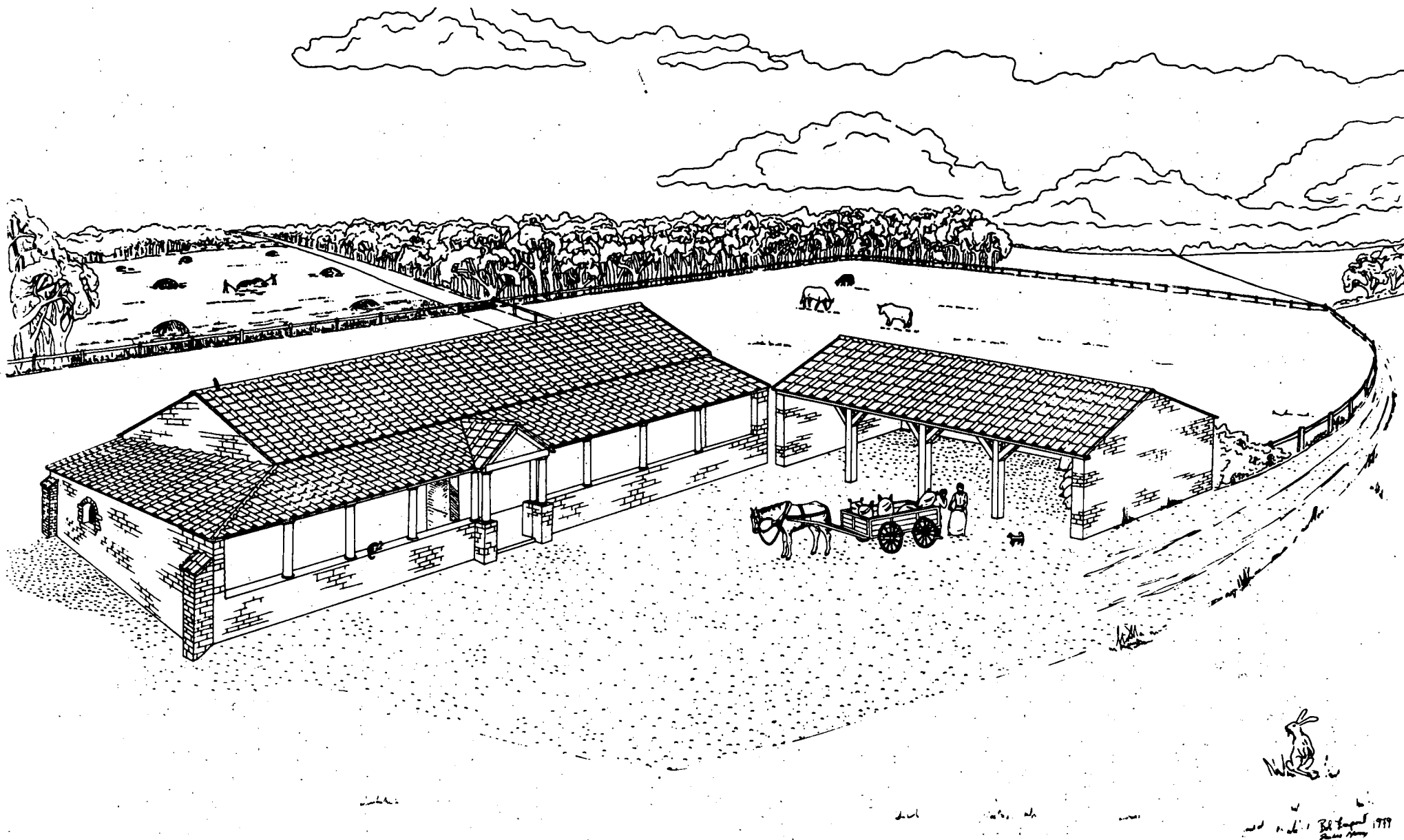


Figure 17 Artist's impression of Wimbush Roman farmstead

Other features

To the west of the two buildings a number of ditches were found, running for the most part along the hill slope, in a north-south alignment. These were, for the most part, shallow, and contained much of the pottery found on the excavation. One of the smaller ditches (F1) contained a hoard of 21 bronze coins, with a date range of AD 330-349.

Part of the terrace that had been cut into the slope to accommodate Building 1 was also examined. Only the central part survived, the north and south ends having been cut into by plough furrows. The terrace was 5.5 metres wide, with a steep bank 60cm high on its west side. Along the foot of the bank a gully (F2) had been cut to aid drainage. The terrace appeared to have served as a rubbish tip during the occupation of the site, as it yielded quantities of domestic refuse. Some attempt had been made to contain this by the construction of a rough dry-stone wall, behind which a quantity of hillwash material had subsequently accumulated, burying the domestic refuse.

In the area immediately east of Building 1, part of which was surfaced with limestone cobbling, was found a keyhole-shaped pit, 2.8 metres in length, and 40cm in depth (F3). The fill was of organic material, containing much bone and tile fragments. Although the shape of the feature was reminiscent of an oven, there was no burning either in the fill or in the limestone rubble lining, so its function is indeterminate.

Conclusions

The site appears to represent a farmstead of the third-fourth century AD with a substantial house, built in the Roman fashion, and at least one outbuilding. As the site lies nearly 2km south of Bancroft Roman Villa, excavated by the Unit between 1974-78, it may be that the farm at Wymbush was constructed and occupied by a well-to-do native tenant of the owners of the Villa. It is probable that similar sites exist in the area, notably at Stantonbury, about 3km to the north-east of Wymbush.

A drawing showing my idea of what the building may have looked like is shown in Fig. .

PENNYLANDS IRON AGE/SAXON SITE - R.J. Williams

Observation of construction work on the Pennylands grid square in May resulted in the discovery of an unknown Iron Age and Saxon settlement at SP 862 411. Aerial reconnaissance and previous fieldwalking had not indicated the presence of any archaeological remains in the area; almost certainly a result of the abnormal depth of topsoil (over a metre deep in places) preventing root penetration

and ploughing from reaching the archaeological features. The site, lying on a slight gravel spur at 80m ASL overlooking the Ouzel valley, between the villages of Gt. Linford and Willen, was clearly chosen for its light free-draining soils in preference to the surrounding boulder and Oxford clays.

The northern part of the site, see Fig. 18, was mainly recorded whilst housing development was under way, resulting in an incomplete plan, although the developers (J. Mowlems) were most co-operative in allowing the disturbance of their work schedules. Over 20,000m² of the southern and eastern part of the site was stripped by large earthmoving machines, as part of an advance topsoil stripping contract, of which over 12,000m² was subsequently cleared by a JD410 and 3-ton dumper under archaeological supervision.

Limited rescue excavation of the cleared area from August to November has revealed that an Early to Middle Saxon village, containing at least 15 sunken-featured structures and possible post-built structures, overlay an extensive Middle Iron Age settlement, consisting of at least two ditched enclosures associated with six round-houses and a large group of storage pits.

The Iron Age settlement

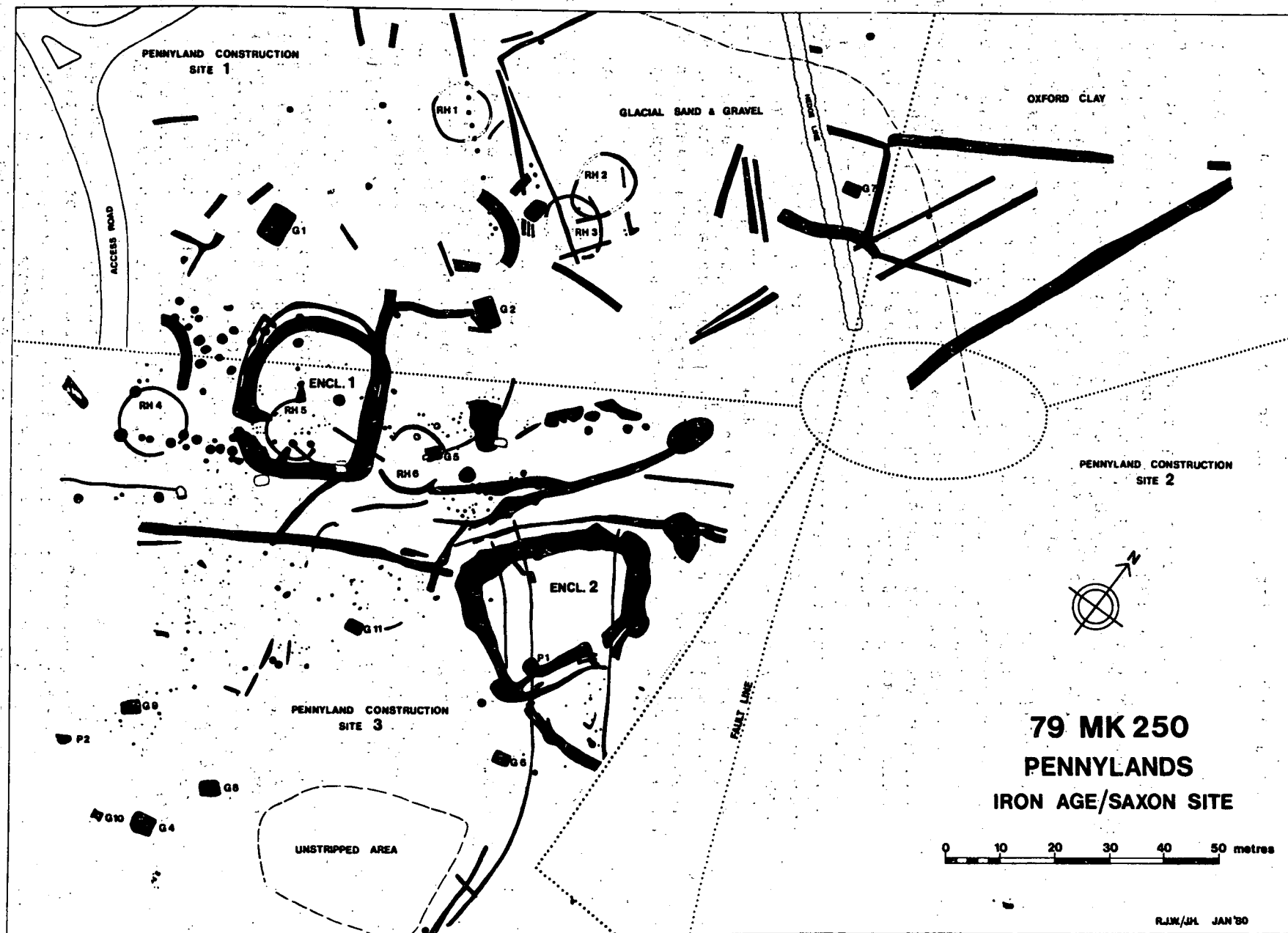
Enclosure 1

The enclosure is sub-rectangular, approximately 24 x 28 metres across with a single narrow entrance near the south-west corner. On excavation it proved to be considerably more complex than can be shown on plan (Fig. 18), having been recut at least three times at the entrance and showing signs of a single recut on an external line all round its circumference. At the entrance the ditches overlapped and became progressively deeper towards the inside, reaching a maximum of 1.60m deep. This frequent recutting, although partly a result of rapid silting under the soil conditions, must testify to a lengthy period of use. No sign of an internal or external bank was found and the restricted internal area makes it unlikely that one ever existed. No associated features were found with the exception of roundhouse No. 5 which must be of a different phase, due to its position in front of the enclosure's only entrance. The lack of contemporary features suggests that this small enclosure's function was primarily for stock-rearing. No horizontal stratigraphy existed between the two enclosures, making it impossible to ascertain their relationship. The complicated northern end of the enclosure was difficult to interpret under the mounting development pressure, but seems likely to have been connected with one of the later recuts.

Enclosure 2

This enclosure is also sub-rectangular, 30 x 21 metres

Figure 18 Pennylands: site plan



R.J.M./J.M. JAN '80

across with a single entrance 2.30 metres wide on the south-east side. A single major recut, again on an external line, was found along its north-west side and the double-ditched entrance on the south-east side, although badly affected by overstripping, may relate to this recut. Again, no Iron Age features of any kind were found within the enclosure although this may equally be a result of overstripping by the developers. The absence of any substantial internal features again suggests that the enclosure's function was for stock rearing rather than for domestic habitation. A large pit containing quantities of pottery in a charcoal matrix was found to have been cut by the main ditch and will provide a 'terminus post quem' for the enclosure which produced few ceramic and faunal remains.

Along the south-west and north-west sides, where the ditch was best preserved, a narrow slot 50 cms wide and 70 cms deep was found on the external lip of the ditch. No trace of post settings was found but this may have held a simple palisade which, in conjunction with the 'V'-shaped ditch up to 1.65m deep, would have been a formidable barrier to wild animals and intruders.

A length of medium-sized 'V'-shaped ditch continuing the line of the south-west side of the enclosure and running in an easterly direction, showed signs of a collapsed internal bank. The function and relationship of this ditch to the enclosure should be clarified by next season's excavation.

Roundhouses 1, 2 and 3

All three roundhouses were recorded under difficult development conditions. Each consisted of a roughly circular 'U'-shaped gully of varying depths and from 10 to 12 metres diameter. No internal features were apparent. As the circles were fragmentary it was impossible to ascertain the positions of the entrances although they seem likely to have been in the south-east side.

Roundhouse 4

This was of regular pennanular form, 12 metres in diameter with a single entrance 3 metres wide in the south-east side. The single 'U'-shaped gully 40 cms deep by 40cms wide showed no sign of post-holes or packing but probably functioned as a shallow wall trench. No internal features were located, suggesting that only the very base of the structure had survived.

Roundhouse 5

Very similar in form to RH4, although slightly smaller with a diameter of 10 metres. The gully again showed no evidence of posts and was very shallow, having almost disappeared on the north-east side. No meaningful internal post structure was recognizable.

Roundhouse 6

This structure is of a more unusual form with two opposed crescentic gulleys, 12 metres in diameter with large gaps 5 metres wide in the east and west sides. Both 'U' shaped gulleys, 1 metre deep by 1.10 metres wide, sloped up towards their ends and showed signs of a single recut. The most likely explanation is that they served as drip gulleys for the eaves of an internal roundhouse although no post holes or slots were found. The close proximity, however, of two clay-lined boiling pits, only surviving to 15cms deep, whereas elsewhere on the site and on other sites they are usually 50 to 60cms deep, indicates the degree of disturbance to the subsoil and less substantial features.

The Storage Pits

Over thirty-five storage pits clustered around the western side of Enclosure 1 were found, of which it was only possible to excavate a small proportion. There was a great diversity in size, ranging from 1.00 to 1.70 metres deep and up to 2.00 metres in diameter. Most were of the common 'beehive' shape cut into the extremely soft sands and gravels. No evidence of lining, as perhaps was expected, or carbonized grain, was found. Pottery evidence was poor although bone preservation was good and several of the larger pits contained quantities of partially articulated animal bone.

Discussion

The phasing of the settlement is in a very early stage. Most of the pottery seems to fall into the non-distinctive Middle Iron Age period. The earliest phase on the site is represented by the storage pits, although it is difficult to find any other contemporary domestic features. At no point was it possible to work out the relationship of the enclosures to one another or to the roundhouses. Roundhouses 4, 5 and 6 are approximately equidistant from each other and in line with a medium-size ditch running in an east-west direction across the site, possibly representing a contemporary boundary ditch for this particular phase of the settlement. Traces of a rectangular field system are present to the north and north-east of the site.

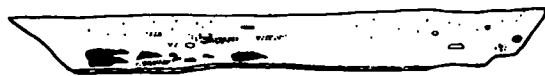
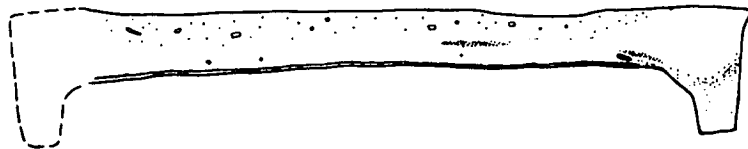
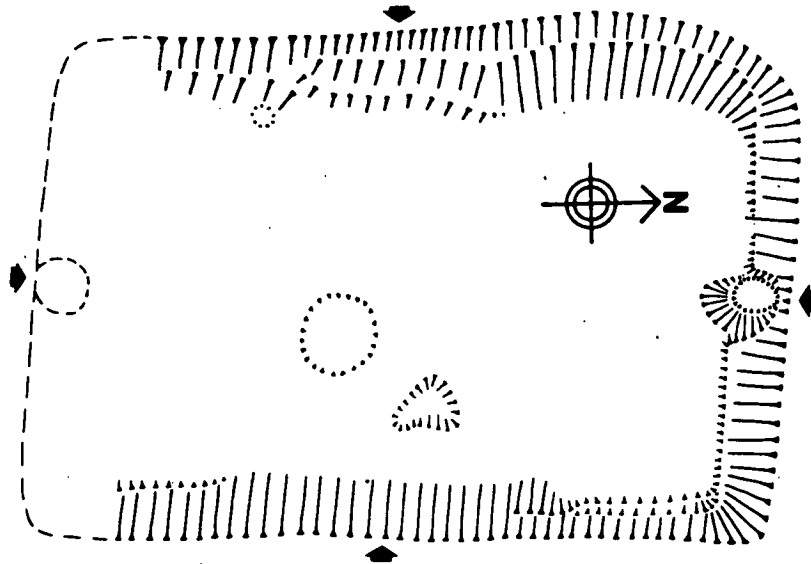
The Saxon Village

Grubenhous 1, 6.50m x 4.40m (Fig. 19)

This very large grubenhous surviving to a depth of 55cms was very well preserved, although the southern end and post-hole had been destroyed by a concrete house footing. The surviving post-holes, minimum diameter of 30cms, probably represent the actual size of the post which had been let into

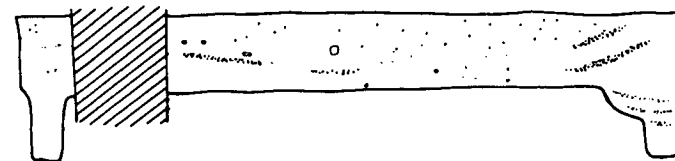
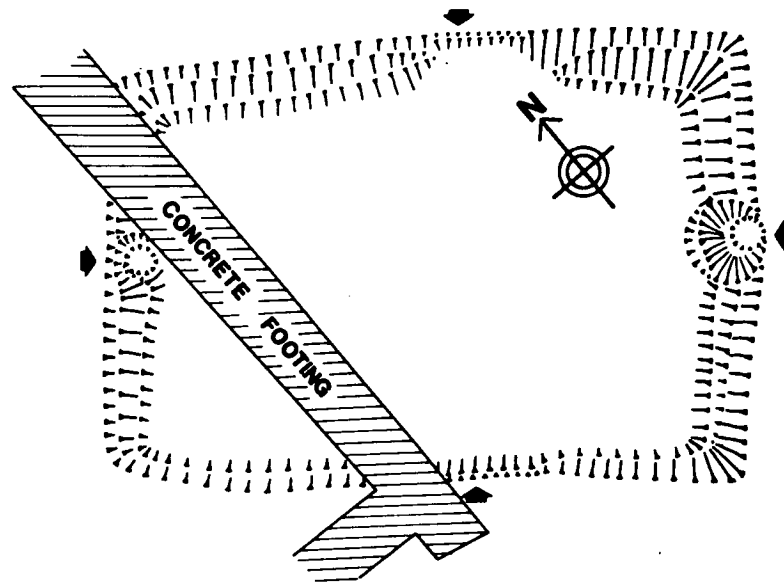
Figure 19 Pennylands: Grubenhauser 1 and 2

- 69 -



G1

**79 MK 250 PENNYLANDS
SAXON GRUBENHAÜSER**



G2

- CHARCOAL
- GRAVEL
- ASH
- CLAY LOOMWEIGHT
- IRON PAN

0 1 2 3 m
RAJN Dec '70

the ground over 1 metre. A shallow ledge was found to extend along the sides and end. A single small post hole and a small beehive-shaped pit were the only other internal features. No occupation level was encountered although some stratigraphy was present.

Grubenhaus 2, 5.70m x 3.80m (Fig.19)

Very similar in form to G1 with two large, deep, gable post-holes. Although distinct layers of burnt material were present, no occupation levels were distinguishable. No internal features with the exception of very pronounced ledges were found. These ledges seem to perform no structural function and almost certainly result from the wear of the soft sandy base. This phenomenon only seems to be present in the larger grubenhauser.

Grubenhaus 3, 5.10m x 3.70m (Fig.20)

Grubenhaus 4, 4.40m x 3.40m (Fig.20)

Both grubenhauser showed signs of extra supports. G4 had a shallow post setting in the middle of the southern side, possibly used as a door support, and G3 had a large post hole just off centre which may have held an extra post to support a sagging roof. Again, no traces of occupation levels or floors were encountered.

Grubenhaus 5, 3.50m x 2.80m (Fig.20)

Grubenhaus 6, 3.20m x 2.30m

Grubenhaus 7, 3.20m x 2.35m

All three grubenhauser were of similar size and form with no associated features except for a shallow hollow in G7 containing a small, badly corroded iron spearhead. G5 produced a fine stamped clay spindle whorl.

Grubenhaus 8, 3.80m x 3.10m (Fig.21)

This irregular sunken feature had no internal or external stakes or posts. The above-ground structure may have been of sill-beam construction, possibly accounting for the apparent absence of identifiable timber halls elsewhere on the site.

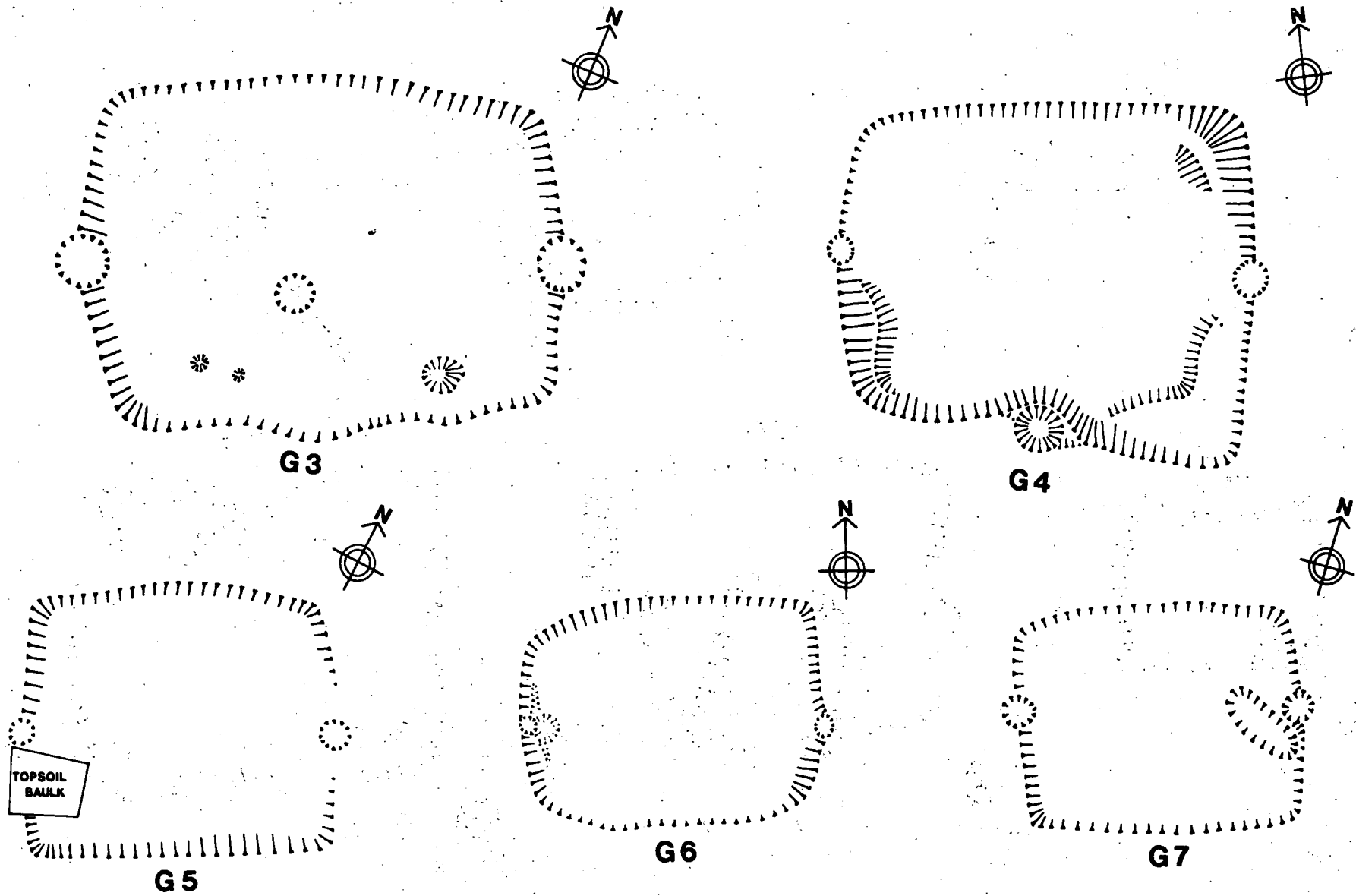
Grubenhaus 9, 3.10m x 2.60m (Fig.21)

Both gable posts had been replaced or strengthened on the outside of the building, possibly resulting from extra stress from the interior four post sunken structure, although their contemporaneity was never proven.

Grubenhaus 10, 2.20m x 1.60m (Fig.21)

This four-post sunken structure similar to that within G9 seems too small to be assigned a true grubenhaus, and the small sunken area and deep substantial posts seem incongruous if a storage function is considered.

Figure 20 Pennylands: Grubenhauser 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7



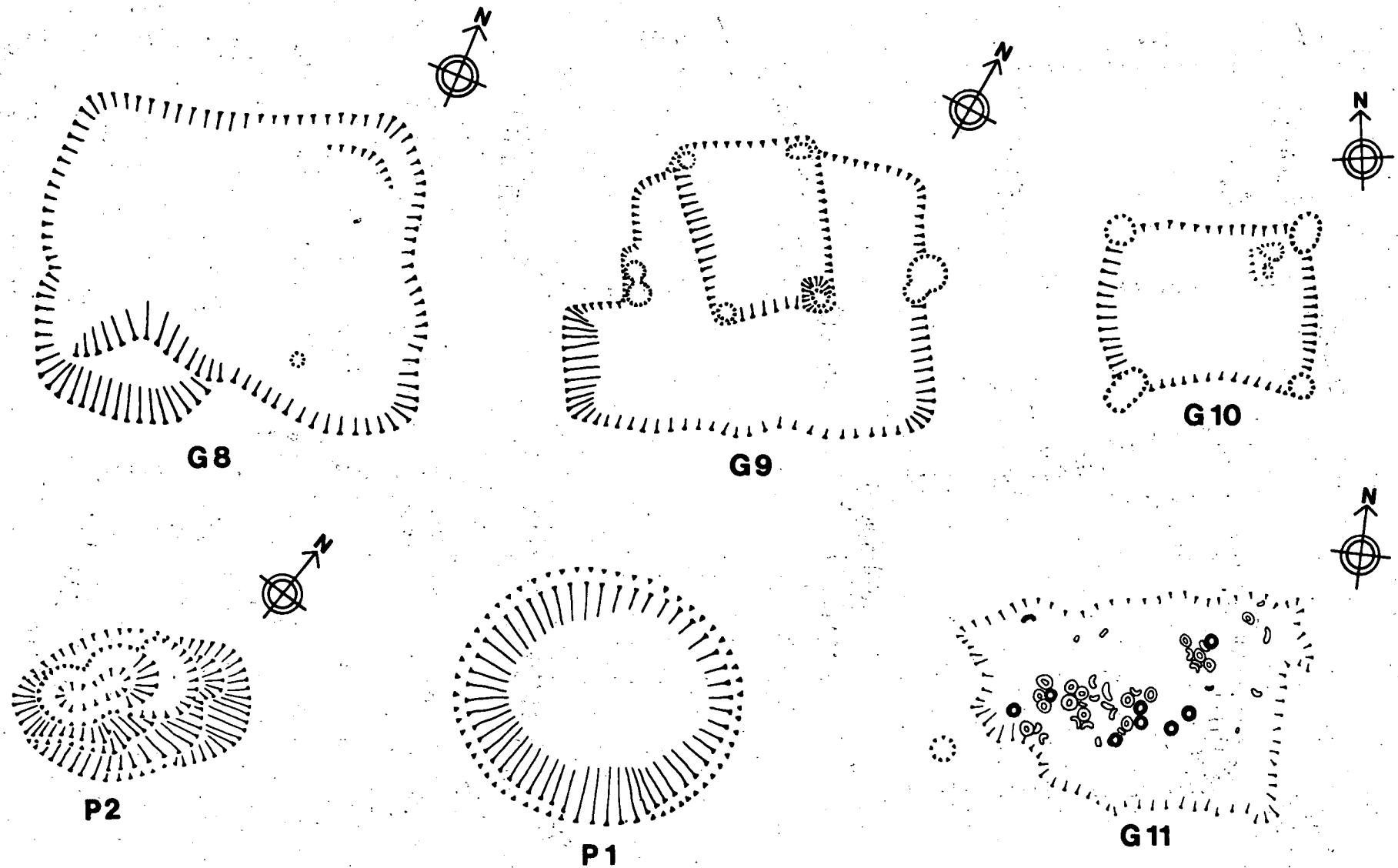
79MK250 PENNYLANDS

SAXON GRUBENHÄUSER

0 1 2 3 m

JH/RJM Dec 79

Figure 21 Pennylands: Grubenhauser 8, 9, 10 and 11 and pits 1 and 2.



79MK 250 PENNYLANDS

SAXON FEATURES



JH/RJM Dec '79

Grubenhäus 11, 4.00m x 2.40m (Fig.21)

Over thirty fired and unfired annular clay loomweights were found lying just above the base of this very shallow irregular structure.

Pit 2, (Fig.21)

This deep, irregular, pit was unusual for the site inasmuch as it contained large pockets of ash and charcoal, one of which contained part of a small open bowl with three pierced lugs as well as a number of other decorated sherds.

Discussion

Apart from the structures described above, few other Saxon features have been identified. The most obvious are the three shallow 'U' shaped gulleys running roughly parallel with each other in a north-west/south-east direction across enclosure 2. Interpretation as part of a driveway is made difficult by the fact that two of them cross.

All the gruben Häuser lie on an approximate east-west alignment with the exception of G1 and G2 which, with their large size and internal ledges, suggest a different phase and, possibly, function.

Only limited excavation of post-holes was possible in the time allowed. Small Saxon post holes were present, as were several possible shallow timber slots, although no definite timber halls are discernible. The dispersed pattern of the sunken-featured structures spread over several acres and stretching over 200 metres does suggest that larger, more substantial buildings were once present.

Saxon finds from the site include the usual proportions of spinning and weaving equipment, as well as a number of stamped sherds and grass-tempered sherds suggesting a sixth to seventh century date for the settlement.

Although it cannot be certain that under the conditions of development a substantial segment of the Saxon site has not been overlooked, the general impression given by the plans is of a small, dispersed, short-lived pagan Saxon village occupying a gravelly spur overlooking the Ouzel valley. No standard form or nucleus for the settlement can be traced. Without an extensive environmental study it is impossible to ascertain what form the surrounding landscape would have taken, although careful consideration of the faunal evidence may indicate what farming and husbandry practices were undertaken. No evidence whatsoever is forthcoming from the site as to the reason for the discontinuity of occupation in the Middle Saxon period.

Development in early 1980 will destroy what remains of the excavated site. It is planned to excavate the adjacent area to the south-east in the 1980 excavation season to complete the site plan.

LITTLE WOOLSTONE; HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - R.A. Croft

Excavations inside Holy Trinity Church, Little Woolstone. (SP 875 393), took place in March and April 1979.

The simplified block phase plan (Fig.22) outlines the main stages in the development of the church. This interpretation is as yet provisional and may well be subject to re-interpretation as the final report is produced.

Phase 1 - Pre-Norman?

This simple single cell, 6.7m east-west x 3.8m north-south internally, represents the earliest stone-built church on the site. The foundations of this church cut into substantial occupation deposits which in turn sealed a Roman ditch. The foundations consist of one course of rough limestone blocks forming the base overlain by large pebbles set in a sandy orange matrix.

Phase 2 - Norman 1?

A chancel some 3.0 east-west and at least 4.0m north-south was added at some point. The chancel did not have a limestone foundation, and the east end wall consisted of large pebbles in a sandy orange matrix similar to that of the nave.

Phase 3 - Norman 2?

An extension was added to the west end of the two cell church. The function of the break in the north side of this foundation trench is unclear and may possibly represent a doorway.

This entire church was then demolished although a fine stone font of the 12th or 13th century and a fragment of a chevron arch survived in the church.

Phase 4 - Medieval (13th-14th century)

The chancel arch is perhaps the earliest detail of this phase which survives. The walls of the nave are likely to be 13th or 14th century. A small chapel or transept was open on the north side. The internal width of the chancel was confirmed during the excavation, but the length east-west has been taken as being the same as the existing chancel. There was no evidence for it being shorter. A stone coffin with scratched gaming boards on its surface was discovered buried in the nave.

Phase 5 - Late Medieval (15th-17th century)

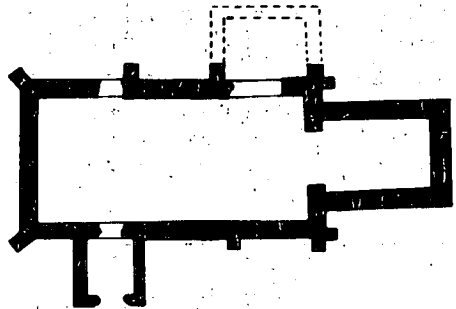
The north chapel was demolished during the medieval period but it is as yet uncertain when this occurred. A porch was added on the south side. The north door of the church was still open.

Figure 22 Church of the Holy Trinity, Little Woolstone: development plan

LITTLE WOOLSTONE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



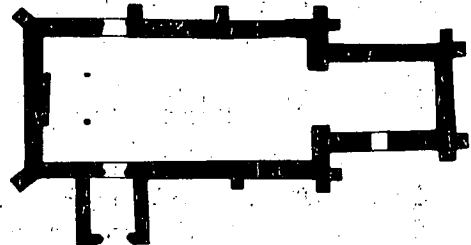
1 Pre Norman?



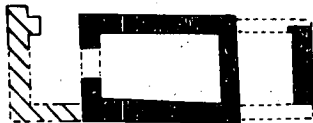
5 16th C



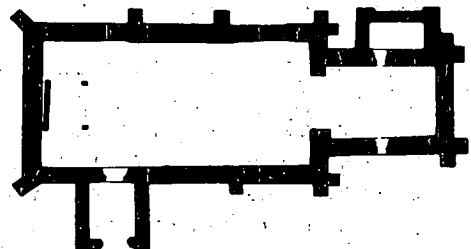
2 Norman 1?



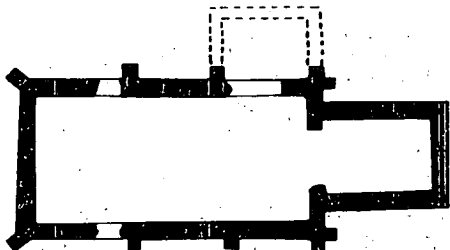
6 18th C



3 Norman 2?



7 Post 1861



4 13th-14th C

INTERIM PHASE PLANS

Conjectural
Robbed Foundations
Solid Foundations



The timber bell tower was probably constructed to house the three bells which were cast in 1662.

Phase 6 - 18th century to 1860

The medieval chancel was demolished and a new one was built in 1861. The roof lines of two earlier chancels can be seen on the east face of the chancel arch wall. There are documentary references to repairs to the church in 1837 and 1854. The north door was blocked in with bricks probably during the 17th or 18th century.

Phase 7 - 1861 to present day

A vestry was added in 1864 and the church remained the same in plan up to the present day. A further restoration was made in 1866.

The excavation is now virtually complete, although there are still a few problems which remain unresolved. The final report on the finds from the church and the preparation of a level III archive will soon be completed.

FIELDWORK - R.J. Williams

Although perhaps 90% of fieldwork visits to construction sites of various types are unproductive, with the exception of the odd medieval sherd, post-medieval sherd or clay pipe stem, this has, on the whole, been a successful year with the discovery of a corn-drying oven on Heelands and the important Iron Age and Saxon settlement on Pennylands. The discovery of the Pennylands site is particularly rewarding as previous aerial reconnaissance and fieldwalking of ploughed land had failed to find even the slightest trace of such an extensive site.

Several other minor finds are worthy of mention:

Two small developments on the periphery of Gt. Linford village uncovered late medieval stone scatters, one of which had survived as a slight platform. The lack of finds and any substantial structures suggests that they were only out-buildings or barns. The re-sewering of Gt. Linford, although dug along the main street and manor grounds, did not produce any recognisable medieval layers. A fragment of decorated floor tile and a post medieval stone-lined drain were found near the manor house.

Housing development in Milton Keynes village produced a substantial fragment of a large 13th century sandy ware cooking vessel from a shallow ditch seen in a house footing section.

Dredging of the River Ouzel has continued along the Water Eaton stretch and from Little Woolstone to Walton. Quantities of Roman material were dredged up from the river adjacent to

the Roman town of Magiovinium. A number of medieval stone fish basket weights were found just downstream from Little Woolstone fishponds, and other medieval material was recovered where the ploughed-out medieval crofts backed onto the river.

Gravel extraction has continued at Broughton and Milton Keynes pits with a new pit open at Old Stratford. Frequent visits have not been very promising as only a single undated flint was found at Milton Keynes village and several undated flints including a small scraper at Old Stratford. Work at Broughton pit has now completely destroyed the Roman field system recorded by M.R. Petchey (Records of Bucks, forthcoming).

Several visits to Little Woolstone Roman site (SP 8665 3945) have established the exact location of this Roman stone building.

Fieldwalking of undeveloped land to the south of Little Woolstone village has confirmed the presence of a number of medieval ploughed-out house platforms, as well as traces of Roman and possible Saxon occupation, and a small scatter of worked flints including a number of punch-struck blades and a single blade core.

Intensive fieldwork in the Bow Brickhill/Caldecotte area was severely curtailed by bad weather in the spring, although the results were promising. Discoveries included a fragment of medieval stone mortar at SP 9008 3521 and a scatter of worked flints including two microliths and an end-scraper on a large blade centred at SP 8989 3515.

Preliminary investigation of the Kent's Hill area failed to locate a previously reported Roman site at SP 894 377.

Fieldwalking to the west of Tattenhoe church produced a number of decorated glazed medieval floor tiles in two distinct groups, possibly representing the site of the Manor house.

Fieldwalking will resume in the Bow Brickhill/Wavendon area and a new programme of work is to be initiated in the Milton Keynes/Walton area in advance of development within several years.

HEELANDS CORN DRYER - R.J. Williams

Routine fieldwork on Heelands grid square in March resulted in the discovery of a Roman corn drying oven at SP 8429 3990. No associated features were located although the oven is only several hundred metres from a small Roman farmstead at Wood Corner (SP 845 397) excavated in 1977 by Roy Adkins. With the aid of R.J. Zeepvat and P. Lennox the oven was rapidly excavated before being destroyed by large earthmoving machinery constructing a raised recreation area.

The corn dryer was built of flat limestone slabs surviving to a height of four courses, had been constructed in a carefully excavated hollow and was of the common 'T'-shaped form, with very close parallels to those excavated at Windmill Hill near Bletchley in 1971 by Richard Griffiths. A small stoking hollow had been dug into the boulder clay at the south-west end and a large square fire-reddened stone slab had been set into the base at the opening to the main channel which measured 2.80m long by 0.55m wide. Two stone pilae laid centrally along its axis and a triangular slab at the junction with the cross flue, which channelled the smoke to twin chimneys and provided the draught, probably helped support the above-ground structure, of which no trace was found. The few finds from the oven broadly suggest a 3rd-4th century date.

VILLAGE SURVEY - R. A. Croft

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

During 1979 considerable progress has been made with the survey of the post-Roman landscape of Milton Keynes. The work has greatly benefitted from an MSC sponsored STEP scheme employing J.A. Barnbrook, T.A. Lancashire and J.P. Sharpe to help with the survey.

A large amount of historical material has been investigated in the course of the survey. The record offices at Aylesbury, Bedford and Northampton have been examined and a chronological index to these repositories has been assembled for each of the eighteen parishes in Milton Keynes. The survey has been of the 'rapid type' initiated by David Baker in Bedfordshire, and this has resulted in the formation of an archive of material for the New City, thus providing a data bank of the historic past.

Due largely to the high cost of excavation and the processing of a report, excavation is carried out in association with local or regional research strategies. In order to assess priorities and to decide what should be excavated, the more information assembled on one particular site, the better the chances of deciding upon an excavation strategy should the site ever be destroyed.

Different aspects of medieval life are recorded in a wide variety of documents. One of the aims of this survey has been to compile an index of the range and type of documentary record which survives for the City. The original intention of investigating all parishes in detail has had to be modified as the survey has progressed. The parishes of Wolverton, Bradwell, Great Linford, Little Woolstone, Bow Brickhill, Shenley and Newton Longville illustrate different geographical areas and each parish has a good selection of documents surviving. Attention will be concentrated on these villages in the hope that an understanding of their development will give a clearer

view of the development of the whole area within its historic and spatial context.

The Radcliffe deeds at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, provide a wide variety of information on the history of the manor of Wolverton. One item of particular interest is the account book for the re-building of Old Wolverton Church between the years 1809 and 1815. The document describes part of the medieval church to be incorporated into the later re-build. Another item of interest is the record of more than £100 being paid for the filling in of the motte ditch at Old Wolverton in 1814, a very high sum when compared with the cost of other work in rebuilding the church. This might suggest that the ditch around the motte might have been quite an obvious feature at this time.

The history of the village of Newton Longville is particularly well recorded largely due to the fact that it was at one time owned by New College, Oxford, whose records still survive. Detailed demesne terriers of 1594, 1623 and 1720 used in conjunction with a map dated 1779 now held by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, has enabled a fairly accurate reconstruction to be made of the village's field system.

CARTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Tracings of the following maps and plans have been added to the survey archive:

<u>Parish and Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Provenance</u>
Bow Brickhill	1791	Bedford Record Office R/2.
Bow Brickhill	1791?	Bucks. Record Office
Bletchley	1813	Aylesbury, Bucks.Arch.Soc.
Wolverton, St.George's Parish	1867	Wolverton, St. George's Parish chest.
Woughton, St.Mary's Church	1891	Woughton, St.Mary's Parish chest.
Wolverton	1804	Bucks. Record Office
Stony Stratford High Street	Early 19th century.	Bucks. Record Office

Electric photostats of the first edition 1:2500 O.S. maps for all villages have been obtained from the British Library.

Whenever copies of documents are obtained from record offices, the order is usually placed for a microfilm copy, both for ease of storage and cost. Microfilming, if done

for a reasonable group of documents, is cheaper than Xerox copying. All the glebe terriers for the Milton Keynes area at Aylesbury Record Office have been microfilmed.

FIELDWORK

The production of 1:5000 ridge and furrow maps of the parishes within Milton Keynes is now almost complete. Much of this work has been carefully checked by J.A. Barnbrook and T.A. Lancashire using vertical aerial photographs from 1969, 1976 and 1977. Whenever problems have been encountered, then ground level observation has usually clarified the direction of the strips if not the actual number. The ridge and furrow in several areas has been completely destroyed and examination of 1947 RAF verticals at the County Museum, Aylesbury, may enable several of the gaps to be filled. It is only at Newton Longville that the historical material is available to back up this work. It is hoped that further research will provide such information for other parishes.

General 1:25,000 distribution maps of most medieval landscape features have been produced for the City.

Attention has been concentrated upon locating the exact positions of both wind and watermills and their relationships to the surrounding landscape. Investigations at the following sites have all produced possible mill sites:

Stantonbury, Stanton Low - SP 835 427

Dredging of the mill stream and associated earthmoving disturbed an earthwork/platform. Three large fragments of lava quern were discovered in association with tile and limestone walling.

Woughton on the Green - SP 8829 3779

1 fragment of gritstone quern in association with possible mill leat.

Wolverton - SP 8067 4196

In the field called 'The Grange' J.J. Sheahan reported in 1860 that a mill once stood in this field which once belonged to Chicksand Abbey. 1 fragment of gritstone quern was found.

Loughton - SP 8288 3807

The possible windmill mound has now been identified at this grid reference. The earliest documentary reference for a windmill in the parish is 1361.

1 small fragment of gritstone, possibly quern or glacial erratic, was found in Windmill Hill Field at SP 829 378.

It is possible that this site will be excavated in 1980.

POST-EXCAVATION

CONSERVATION - Sue Marshall

Approximately 300 finds or groups of finds were treated in 1979. The Unit's excavations did not, in general produce the same problems this year as last, but the consolidation of the unfired loom weights from Pennylands was not without its tricky moments. At Little Woolstone Church, a cast of the incised lid of a stone coffin was taken using latex. The church also produced, as might have been expected, both plain and painted window glass and wall plaster. Treatment of finds from the 1978 Bancroft Villa excavations continued, mostly glass, bronze and wall plaster in quantity, and material of all sorts continued to arrive from Caldecotte.

The fragile iron chest from Bancroft villa needed, for its best preservation, to be kept in an environment with a low relative humidity. The Unit specially designed a showcase, sealed from the outside environment, containing a concealed drawer holding trays of silica gel, a drying agent, which keeps the relative humidity stable at 30-40%.

SCHOOLS LIAISON - Ros Tyrrell

We have helped a number of teachers with a variety of different types of archaeology projects. For instance, Falconhurst School did a study of Little Woolstone Village, where we had an excavation. They tackled an impressive selection of creative aspects as well as careful observation and recording. They also helped us wash some of the finds from the excavation they visited. Some students from Stantonbury were interested in the methods we used in archaeology, so we went out and looked at the various sites being dug and the different ways of treating them. A class of six-year-olds were reading 'Stig of the Dump' and their teacher asked me to show them some real flint tools. They were really impressed with the sharpness of the flint. In fact, several teachers have asked me to take finds to show their classes.

On a different level we are helping two students from Ousedale School who are doing 'A' level local history projects on an aspect of Great Linford's history, and on the Romans in Milton Keynes.

PUBLICATION

During the year further steps were taken towards the preparation of the reports of excavation by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation's Unit in Milton Keynes in a monograph series. The first of these monographs, which will contain reports on excavations of Roman sites in the north of the designated area, including the villa in Bancroft grid square, and other settlements at Wymbush, Wood Corner and Stantonbury, is scheduled to be available in the spring or summer of 1981.

The following articles containing work by the Unit or its members were published during the year, or are soon to be forthcoming:

- D.C. Mynard and C. Woodfield : 'A Roman site at Walton, Milton Keynes'
Records of Bucks. 20.3 (for 1977).
- R.A. Adkins : 'Salvage excavation at Danstead Way, Milton Keynes'
Records of Bucks. 20.3 (for 1977).
- R. Griffiths et al : 'Rescue excavation of a medieval manor house at Whaddon, Buckinghamshire'
Records of Bucks. 21
- D.C. Mynard and R.A. Adkins : 'Neolithic Axes from the Milton Keynes area of the Upper Ouse Valley'
Records of Bucks. 21
- D.C. Mynard : 'Medieval Fishing Basket Weights from the Ouse and Nene'
Records of Bucks. 21
- M. Petchey : 'A Roman patera from Olney'
Records of Bucks.
- D.C. Mynard, M. Petchey and P. Tilson : 'A medieval pottery at Church End, Flitwick'
Beds. Archaeol.J.15.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM SERVICES

FIELD SECTION - John M. Steane and James Bond

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

New material continues to be collected within the County Sites and Monuments Record, which now includes information on some 12,300 archaeological sites and buildings in Oxfordshire.

The purchase of a collection of vertical air photographs of the southern part of South Oxfordshire District, taken by Fairey Surveys Ltd. during April-May 1971 and printed at a scale of 1:10,000, has meant that at last vertical coverage of the whole county is now available within the Record, for some areas of more than one date.

Other significant acquisitions to the Record have included a series of plans of ancient Oxfordshire bridges received from the County Surveyor's Department. The County Record Office have also kindly deposited xerox copies of Mrs. Davenport's sketches of Oxfordshire bridges in the 19th century.

Richard Hingley has continued to work through the 1961 and 1969 vertical air photograph cover for the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, and has identified and indexed approximately 150 previously unrecorded sites, including a significant number on the oolitic limestone uplands which have previously appeared relatively barren for crop-marks. A fair proportion of the new sites appear to be of Iron Age date, and include several banjo-type enclosures.

Elizabeth Leggatt has continued to comb systematically through published and other sources for the City of Oxford and is processing this material into the Record. A valuable aid has been the loan of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit's site notebooks by Brian Durham. A study of Langdon's map of 1605 (Corpus Christi Coll., Oxford) showing the Hockmore Street and St. Bartholomew's areas of Cowley has been carried out. It was possible to relate the 1605 field and village plan to the present layout, and to appreciate the more gradual effect on the landscape by piecemeal development compared with the drastic destruction caused by the building of shopping precincts and industrial complexes. A recent acquisition to the Record has highlighted the degree of change in Oxford since the First World War. A School of Military Aeronautics for officers of the Royal Flying Corps was established at the University Museum between 1916-1919, and a most interesting collection of air photographs dating from this period has been donated to the Record. This comprises some 44 views of Oxford, mainly vertical, which have been identified with the aid of the 1919 revision of the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560.

Lisa Brown is currently working through the Sites and Monuments Record in order to abstract an index of excavations on behalf of the National Monuments Record.

The number of enquiries received by the Record during 1979 has exceeded all previous annual totals. 700 visitors have used the Record in the Field Section, an increase of 100 over the previous year, while the number of queries answered by post and telephone rose sharply to nearly 1500.

PLANNING ASPECTS

The Field Section has continued to provide a variety of services to the County and District Planning authorities in collaboration with the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. In addition to the routine scanning of weekly schedules of planning applications and comments on mineral applications and road study corridors, the Museum has contributed to Local Plans for Abingdon, Banbury, Cassington/Yarnton, Eynsham, Faringdon, Lewknor, Thame, Wallingford and Witney, and has also provided advice on proposed Conservation Areas at Balscott, Benson and Bletchington and has commented on proposed extensions to existing Conservation Areas at Eynsham, Henley-on-Thames, Thame and Witney.

The Field Section provided proof of evidence at the Public Enquiry concerning proposed housing development involving the demolition of a listed wall at the Tchure, Deddington. The Secretary of State decided to oppose the demolition. The section was also represented at the Public Enquiry into the proposed housing development north of the scheduled ancient monument of Deddington Castle. Again the Secretary of State refused permission. This is significant because clearly the Department of the Environment regard the setting of an ancient monument as of importance.

CROP MARKS

In addition to the crop-mark sites identified by Richard Hingley during his systematic scanning of the 1961 and 1969 air photographs, noted above, several new sites have also come to light accidentally during the use of the photographs for other purposes during the course of the Museum's own work. These include the following:-

CHADLINGTON (PRN's 12, 205-6) (SP/320243, 317237): Two complexes of irregular and sub-rectangular enclosures and a sinuous pair of parallel ditches near Lowland Barn.

CHILSON (PRN.12,410) (SP/300205): Roughly rectangular enclosure with internal pits w. of Pudlicote Lane.

HAILEY (PRN's 10,513-4) (SP/37111428, 37081426): Pair of ring-ditches NE of Shakenoak Farm.

HORTON-CUM-STUDLEY (PRN.11,983) (SP/598125): Two large sub-rectangular enclosures apparently enclosed by double ditches with intervening banks on either side of a central trackway, running obliquely beneath the medieval crofts of Studley.

SPELSBURY (PRN. 10,954) (SP/367233): Oval and rectangular enclosures in Tollhouse Field.

WESTCOT BARTON (PRN's 12,203-4) (SP/42902555, 43202450): Rectangular enclosure SW of Park Farm, and large sub-rectangular enclosure with its NW side slightly bowed outwards N. of Glympton Heath.

HORTON (PRN. 12,209) (SP/42703055): Sub-rectangular enclosure occupying S-facing slope of Hawk Hill.

EARTHWORKS

DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGES - James Bond

A list of surveys of deserted and shrunken village earthworks in Oxfordshire has been compiled for the Medieval Village Research Group. Of some 195 deserted and shrunken village sites known in the county, it is believed that about 130 are still represented in the landscape by surviving earthworks. Only 15 of these sites have been the subjects of measured surveys. Reasonably reliable sketch surveys are available for another 16 sites, and some work has been done on a further five sites.

ASTERLEIGH (PRN 853) (SP/400222) - James Bond

This village site has suffered some considerable damage since 1948, when early 12th century pottery, stonework and stone roofing slates were recorded from the face of a small quarry at its SW corner. Bulldozing N. of the quarry in 1959 revealed part of the S. porch of the church, which had been abandoned in the 16th century. Since 1953, when the village earthworks were photographed from the air by Prof. St. Joseph, its E. end has been partly destroyed by new farm buildings, while the central part had come under the plough by 1972, when it was photographed by Mick Aston. Recently part of the W. end, which remains under pasture, has been affected by tree planting. A measured survey of the remaining earthworks was carried out by John Steane, James Bond and Elizabeth Leggatt. The most prominent feature remaining on the site is the complex of mounds at its W. end which is identifiable as the church and churchyard. The line of the village street shows up as a hollow-way running from S. of the church eastwards towards the present farm. Several stone buildings can be identified in the ploughed part of the site on either side of the street. Nearly 180 sherds were collected from this area, of which 1% were Romano-British, 69% 12th-14th century, 9% 15th-16th century, 6% 17th-18th century and 11% 19th to 20th century.

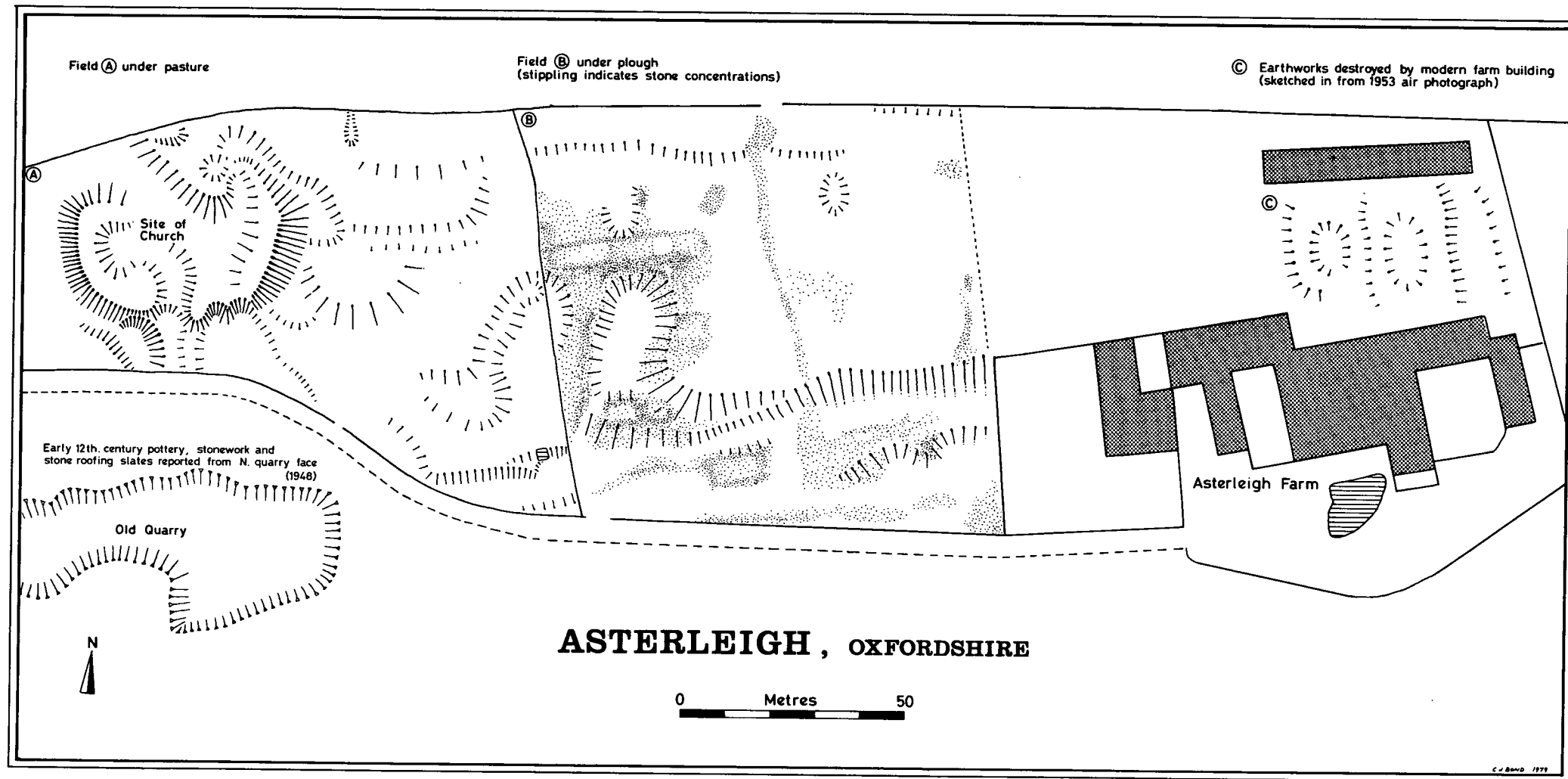


Figure 23
- 86 -

CUTTESLOWE (PRN 1094) (SP505113) - John Hazleden and John Steane

An investigation of the soils around the site of Cutteslowe Deserted Village was made by John Hazleden of the Soil Survey of Great Britain. A series of borings were made in the fields to the west of St. Frideswides Farm. In each case there were similar results, solifluctional drift on top of Oxford clay. The Oxford clay came very close to the surface and caused surface cracking. The site of the village itself was found to be disturbed clay rather than disturbed gravel. These soils must have produced a very heavy damp cold ploughsoil.

SOUTH LAWN, SWINBROOK (PRN 11,151) (SP/284142) - James Bond and John Campbell

A newly-discovered area of embanked enclosures, terraces and building platforms at Seven Springs near South Lawn was investigated by James Bond and John Campbell. The settlement earthworks are cut by a prominent bank and ditch, whose sinuous course appears to correspond with the boundary of a wood called Gunsgrove shown on the 1815 plan of Wychwood. Documentary research by Beryl Schumer has suggested that this site might represent the 'decayed grange of Deerhurst Priory' mentioned in the 1609 Survey of Wychwood, rather than a hamlet site as was first thought.

IDBURY (PRN 11,750) (SP23481937) - James Bond and John Campbell

A mound overlying ridge and furrow discovered by James Bond and John Campbell may represent a windmill site.

WOLVERCOTE - RIDGE AND FURROW NEAR PEAR TREE ROUNDABOUT (PRN 9955) (SP 49651060) - Elizabeth Leggatt and John Steane

Following an application to build a supermarket on this well-preserved ridge and furrow field which is visible from the Woodstock Road just south of the Pear Tree Roundabout some research was done by Mrs. Leggatt into the history of this area. It is the only remaining part of the medieval cultivation fields of Upper Wolvercote. These strips in Blindwell Field remained unenclosed until 1834. It is clearly shown on the Davies map of 1797 and in 1636 was part of one of the four open fields in Wolvercote. If a supermarket is built on the proposed site it would destroy the remaining traces of Short Clay furlong, already partly obliterated by the Park and Ride Car Park.

BUILDINGS

(1) Domestic Buildings

OLD PREBENDAL HOUSE, SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD (PRN 11,755) SP27991803) - James Bond

A tall blocked pointed window at the west gable end suggests that this building incorporated part of a medieval open-roofed hall. The remainder of the house appears to be of predominantly 17th Century date, with square-hooded mullioned windows. A three-storeyed gabled cross-wing is a later edition.

It has been reported that the adjacent chapel (PRN 11,756) was demolished in 1900, but all that seems to have happened then is that its N. wall was removed to convert it into a bull-pen. The roof and a 14th century doorway and window appear to survive in situ.

CHURCHILL (PRN 11,855) (SP28342416) - James Bond and R.A. Chambers

A 14th century roll-moulded arch with stops was noted at the rear of an ostensibly 18th century cottage adjacent to Warren Hastings' birthplace by Mr. Bromwich.

YELFORD MANOR (PRN 11,977) (SP/35950480) - John Steane

At the invitation of the owners Mr. and Mrs. Babington-Smith "the best, and certainly the most picturesque, large timber framed house in the county" (Pevsner) was examined. It consists of central hall, flanked by solar and service wings with bedrooms above. Each of the three blocks is of 3 bays and consists of 4 trusses of half timbered work on a stone plinth. The blocks are not structurally tied into one another. The main phases of the building are (1) 15th century. Hall and two wings with central cross passage to left of hall to service wing which was to the west of this. Open fireplace in middle of hall c. 1450 A.D. (2) 16th century. The fireplace was moved to its present position and a chimney was built. A bay window was inserted above the central cross passage. The staircase wing was added and the hall divided by the introduction of a first floor chamber. This necessitated the addition of a door (in place of a window) leading from the staircase wing into the service wing. The chimney was enlarged and fireplaces put in both hall and chamber above. This work was done probably before 1540 (initials of John Hastings carved in spandrel). (3) 17th century. The parlour end was panelled and carved overmantel remains. Dated by John Hastings and Mary Hastings initials to 1624. (4) 18th century. Some rebuilding of wing walls in stone. Panelling moved and higher doors added. The upper floor layout was changed. The house was divided into 3 cottages one or two Georgian windows dated 1764. (5) The Babington-Smiths who bought the house in 1952 have made an admirable series of record photographs and have recorded their renovations meticulously. An interesting drawing by J.C. Buckler appears in Bodleian Library MS Top Oxon a 69 No 643.

COGGES MANOR FARM (PRN 4601) (SP/36190965) - Chris Page and John Steane

Among features recorded this year included a newly discovered circular brick bread oven 135 x 168 cms with iron door, to the left of the main fireplace in the back kitchen. When the early 20th century range was removed from the main kitchen the sawn off ends of the massive timber lintel of the 16th century fireplace were found. This originally measured 3M 80 cm across, was chamfered and fitted into chamfered stone jambs. It was completely removed and replaced. Advantage was taken of the raising of the floorboards to investigate the extent of woodworm and dry rot to make a joist-plan at first floor level.

Among interesting features noted was the extensive use of second-hand material including a painted beam which appeared to have formed the upper part of a screen with slots for studs; it was painted yellow and had scrolly decoration in brown. The flooring was investigated over the hall and it was noticed that the walls at first floor level narrowed by six inches. The joists here fit into beams which run parallel along the edges of the North-South walls. The boards are exceptionally wide 35 - 39 cms and 22 cms thick. Beneath them about 30 brass pins, a brass thimble, a spoon-shaped piece of lead, 3 glass beads and a quantity of walnut shells were found.

CHURCH FARM, HAMPTON POYLE (PRN 11,971) (SP/5001555) - Ival Hornbrook
and John Steane

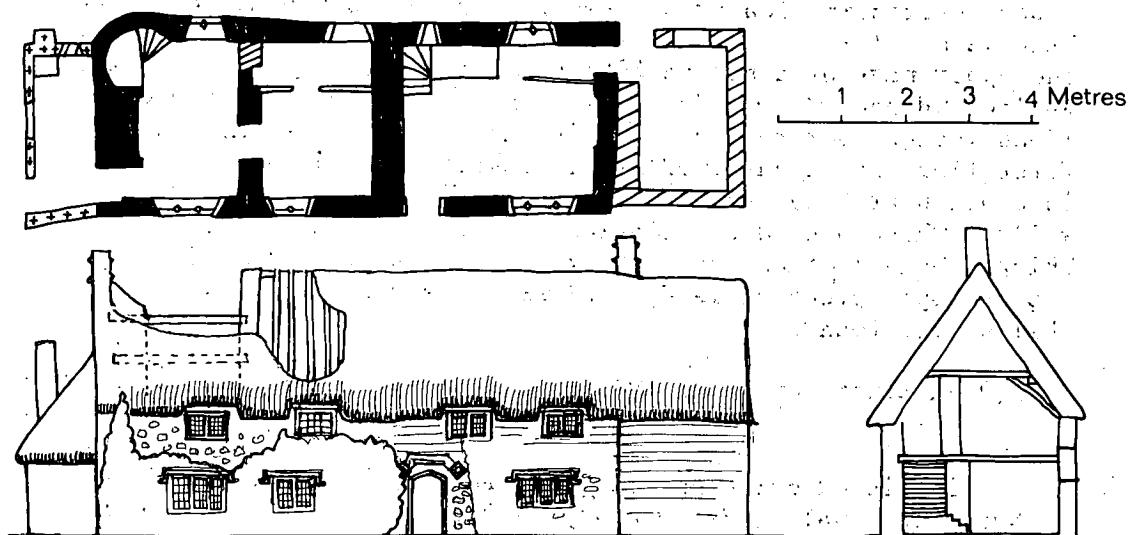
This listed building is a farmhouse of three bays. It is probably originally 18th century in date and figures on the 1797 enclosure map but it has been much repaired and the front facade is a good deal rebuilt with ashlar quoins brought in from elsewhere. It is of two storeys, 3 19th-century stone framed and mullioned windows with metal casements. There are gable-end projecting stone chimney stacks. The rest of the farm buildings include a barn which has been largely rebuilt and a small stone stable with pitched cobbling floor, manger and tethering places for 3 horses and an upper loft for hay approached by means of an external staircase. This is butted up against the building with a dog kennel underneath it, cf. Cogges Manor Farm Stable PRN 4601. Our thanks to Mr. H. Webster for inviting us to see the house.

17 HIGH STREET, SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD (PRN 11,884) (SP/27681720) - John Steane

Following a small excavation made in his front garden by Mr. Allard, a survey was made of the foundations of a gable ended building, probably of late medieval date. A number of sherds of Tudor Green pottery were found in association. A stone lined drain cut across the lower end and another ran parallel and outside it. There was a pitched-stone yard surface adjoining the foundations on two sides between it and the house. The house is a small one bay 16th century building with stone mullioned windows, 3 light, (mullions are ovolo sectioned) on the first floor and a 4 light window on the ground floor. The timber lintelled fireplace on the ground floor may be secondary since it appears to conflict with the siting of a blocked door on the right.

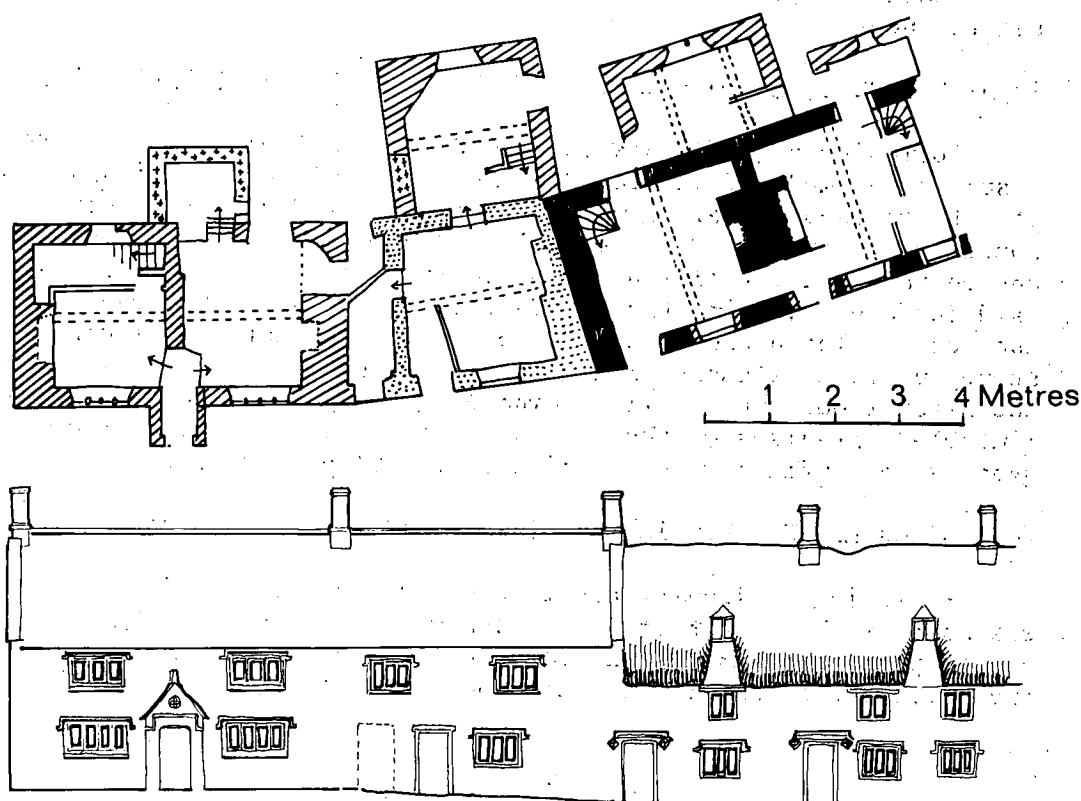
44 - 47 GREAT TEW (PRN 12,367) (SP/39562932) - John Steane

Following a planning application to renovate and infill a survey was made of these cottages. A masonry charge suggests that Nos 43, 44 and 45 with rubbly random masonry and smaller stones are earlier. They are a terrace of small cottages, two and a half stories high and thatched.



GREAT TEW NOS 36-7 PRN 12368

JMS



GREAT TEW 44-47 PRN 12367

JMS

Figure 24

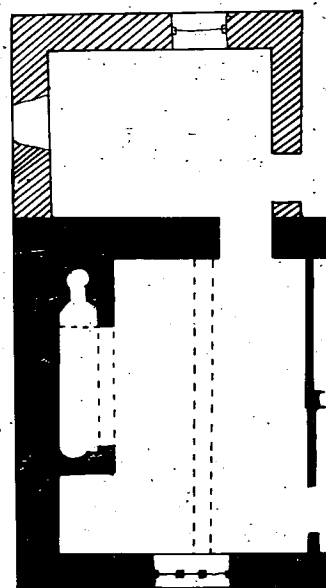
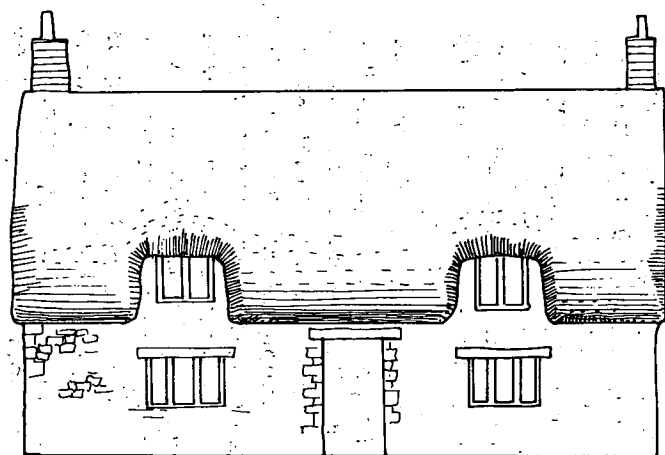
The doorways have elliptical heads and lozenge shaped stops on the labels. These features are typical of early 19th century restoration noticed in other houses at Great Tew. The windows have all been renewed. The doorway to No 45 has been blocked up and there is a through passage to the rear which is also blocked up. The fireplace to No 45 at ground floor had been blocked up leaving a small grate but originally it was large and open with a timber lintel. The axial chimney stack is massive and tapered. What little could be seen of the roof construction suggested that it consisted of principal rafters sawn flat with poles serving as through purlins. In No 44 the purlins are embedded in the gable-end walls and there are small poles acting as rafters. There is no sign that such a roof structure would have been strong enough to take Stonesfield slates. The long slated outshut has good squared masonry contrasting with that of the main walls of the house.

No. 46 is of ironstone ashlar and has a Stonesfield slate roof. Its gable end chimney of limestone is similar in design to many in the village. The position of the door has been altered. Originally it was at the left hand side and entered a through passage which also opens onto the rear of the house. The doorway has been replaced by a more centrally placed one which leads into a lobby, this cutting a piece out of the ground floor sitting room. The date is probably early 19th century.

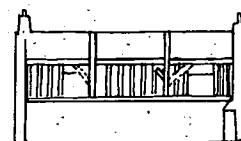
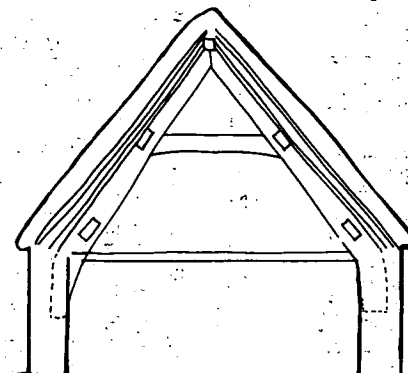
No. 47 is a symmetrical, two stories with attic, two bay house. Ironstone ashlar masonry. Stonesfield slate roof. Lit in upper storey by two, three light square headed windows with labels and simple splayed stone mullions. Similar windows but 4 light, on the ground floor. There is a porch with a quatrefoil in the pediment and a finial above. The chimneys are at both gable ends. At the rear there is a straight joint between this house and the next suggesting that No 46 may be slightly earlier than 47 which is probably early to mid 19th century in date.

Nos 36 -37 GREAT TEW (PRN 12368) (SP/ 39732952) - John Steane & Daphne Aylwin

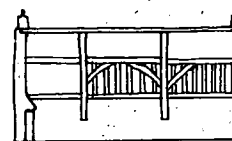
Following an application to restore these ruinous cottages a survey was made. It appeared that in the 17th century there was a one and a half storey farm house (no 37) with a gable end entrance and a single large fireplace and chimney built into the gable wall. To the right of this and in the same building (random rubble) was a single storey agricultural building. In the 18th century a decision was taken to divide the two buildings and make separate dwellings. This involved adding a chimney onto the right hand one (No 36). A further single storied building or outhouse was added in small well coursed ironstone masonry. The mid 18th century map (Bodleian MSS Top Oxon c 113-4) shows it already as two dwellings. In the 19th century both houses were refurbished. No 36 was raised by adding a storey of well cut coursed limestone to both the house and its extension. Wooden framed windows with metal casements were added at first floor level and mullioned windows and a new doorway with lozenge shaped stops were inserted. Finally a lean-to was added with copper and store to the left hand building.



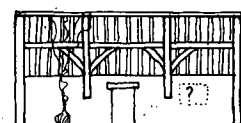
Metres
1 2 3 4 5



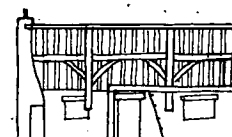
Front



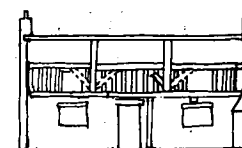
Rear



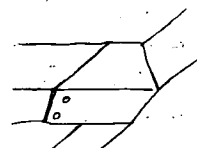
Phase 1



Phase 2
Rear



Phase 3
Front



Scarf Joint

NOKE ORCHARD COTTAGE PRN 9987

JMS

ORCHARD COTTAGE, NOKE (PRN 9987) (SP/54821285) - John Steane & Ival Hornbrook

This four-roomed cottage with a one-bay outshut has a roof with a raised cruck construction. Smoke blackening suggested that the first phase of the building was an open hall c. 1550-1600. A floor was inserted at the eastern end and a chimney built at the western gable end c. 1600-1650. A floor was added with the main beam lying transversely over the tops of the front window, dormers were put in cutting away the windbraces at the front of the house. Windbraces survive on two bays at the rear. The addition of the outshut as a dairy, resulted in the blocking of a secondary window which had been partly used for the door into the outshut. The cottage had been thatched and two layers with two sets of rafters remained. Our thanks to Mr. Foddy the owner for inviting us to investigate.

FERN HOUSE, SHRIVENHAM (PRN 9947) (SP/24008900) - John Steane

Situated behind the school Fern House was originally a large farm with barns and yards to the north. A seven bay house of red brick and vitrified headers. One original leaded window is in the rear of the house now lighting the bathroom. Outshuts of different dates are behind. There were originally three main chambers on the ground floor. The lobby entrance opens onto an axially placed stack with one timber lintelled fireplace in situ. There are good iron fittings and original doors on the first floor. All the windows except the one mentioned have been renewed. Date 1690-1720. Our thanks to the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edwards for inviting us to investigate.

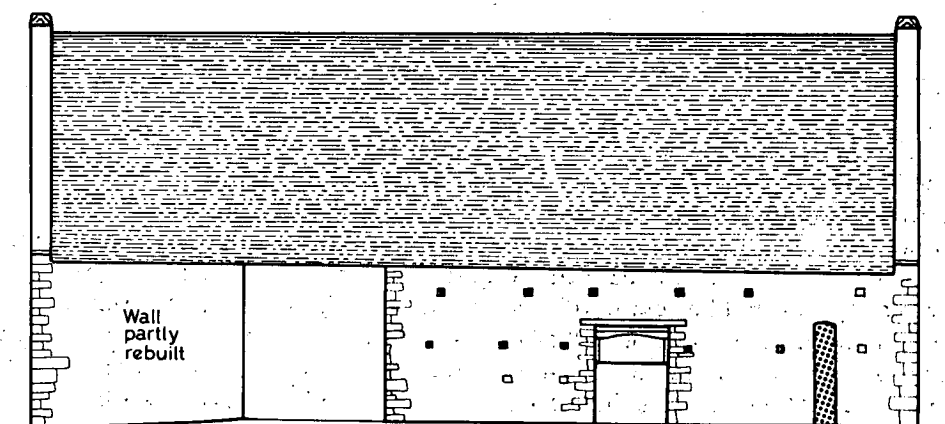
(2) Agricultural and Industrial Buildings

CALCOTTS BARN, SHIPPON NEAR ABINGDON (PRN 9333) (SU. 485980) - James Bond

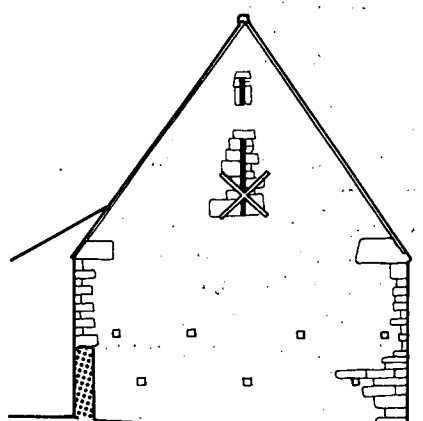
Drawings of this barn were made prior to its conversion to a sports hall for the school which now occupies the adjacent house. The barn is listed in a mid-17th century survey of the buildings of Calcotts Manor, and appears to date from the 15th century. At this time the manor of Shippon belonged to Abingdon Abbey but was leased out to lay tenants. The barn is stone-built, of five bays, with a raised-cruck roof with two sets of purlins and wind-braces.

PREBENDAL BARN, SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD (PRN 11,757) (SP/27961807) - James Bond

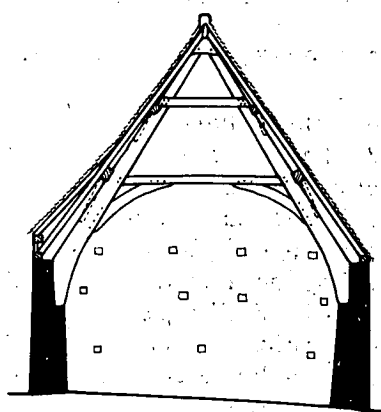
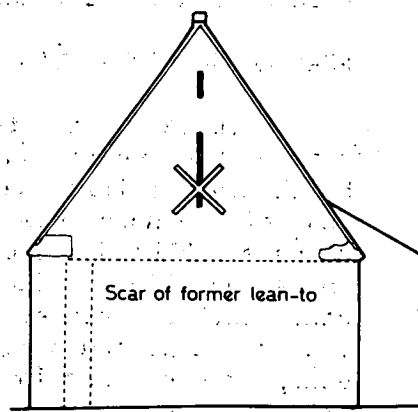
A large rubble barn with a stone slate roof was found to contain two raised-cruck trusses probably of fifteenth-century date on either side of the entry. The remaining trusses are later replacements.



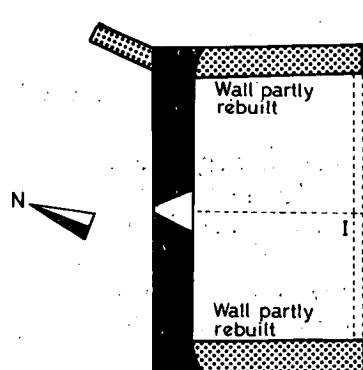
1. SOUTH-WEST ELEVATION



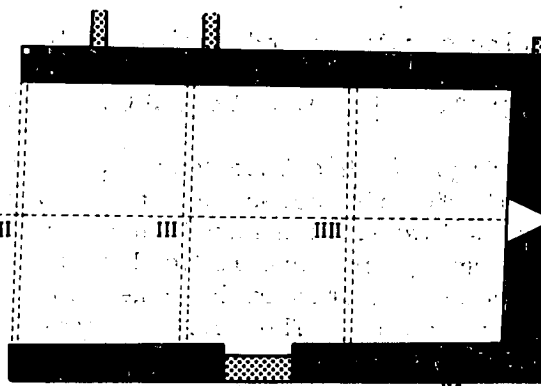
2. NORTH-WEST ELEVATION

3. TRUSS No. II
(from north-west)

4. SOUTH-EAST ELEVATION



5. PLAN



6. INTERIOR ELEVATION (North-east wall)

0 Metres 5

CALCOTT'S BARN, SHIPPON, Berks.

Figure 26

SYDENHAM BURROWS FARM BARN (PRN 11,885) (SP/3150187) - John Steane, Brian Dix

Following an invitation from the Chinnor Archaeological Society a survey was made of this barn which stands on one side of the farmyard at Burrows Farm. It is of four bays, stands on dwarf limestone/chalk walls with a timber-framed, weather-boarded superstructure. The present roof covering is corrugated iron. The building is entered through one pair of opposed doors, timber framed and planked occupying the second bay from the south. The roof seems to be made entirely of second-hand material, since there are a large number of slots from earlier uses. The principal tie beams are supported by corner braces; there is cross-bracing in the walls at irregular intervals instead of wind braces. A suggested date is 18th century. It is very similar in construction to West Farm, Eaton, (PRN 11489).

WITNEY 59 WOODGREEN GRANARY (PRN 12369) (SP/36081040) - John Steane,
Daphne Aylwin

A survey was made of a small detached granary in the garden at the back of 59 Woodgreen at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. T.T. Hodge. It is rectangular, is 5 x 4 metres and is timber framed with brick nogging, standing on nine mushroom headed staddle stones. The roof is tiled and half hipped. There are opposed doors with vertical posts at intervals across a central gangway indicating the former position of bins for grain. Date likely to be 18th century.

WATLINGTON GLEBE FARM SHELTER SHED (PRN 12287) (SU. 67829511) - Nancy
Stebbing, John Steane

A survey was made of this five bay open-sided shelter shed, which faces south east. It lies south of a barn and is in the open country. The rear wall is of brick, chalk and flint. The front is supported by a row of whole tree trunks. The roof is the most interesting feature, consisting of cross beams, resting horizontally on the wall plate and the rear wall; at the western end hurdles have been laid over the cross beams; over the hurdles is a single layer of brushwood and piled on top of these is a prismatic heap of straw bundles, thatched in the usual manner. For another example (at Cogges Manor Farm) see PRN 4601. Also J.E.C. Peters 'The Solid Thatch Roof', Vernacular Architecture.

COGGES, MANOR FARM STABLE (PRN 4601) (SP/36190965) - John Blair, John Steane

An investigation was made after a measured survey by the County Architect to trace the historical evolution of the building before restoration planned to take place early in 1980. Phase I = The evidence suggests that the building was once longer and lower and was entered from the south by two waggon doors, each with timber lintels.

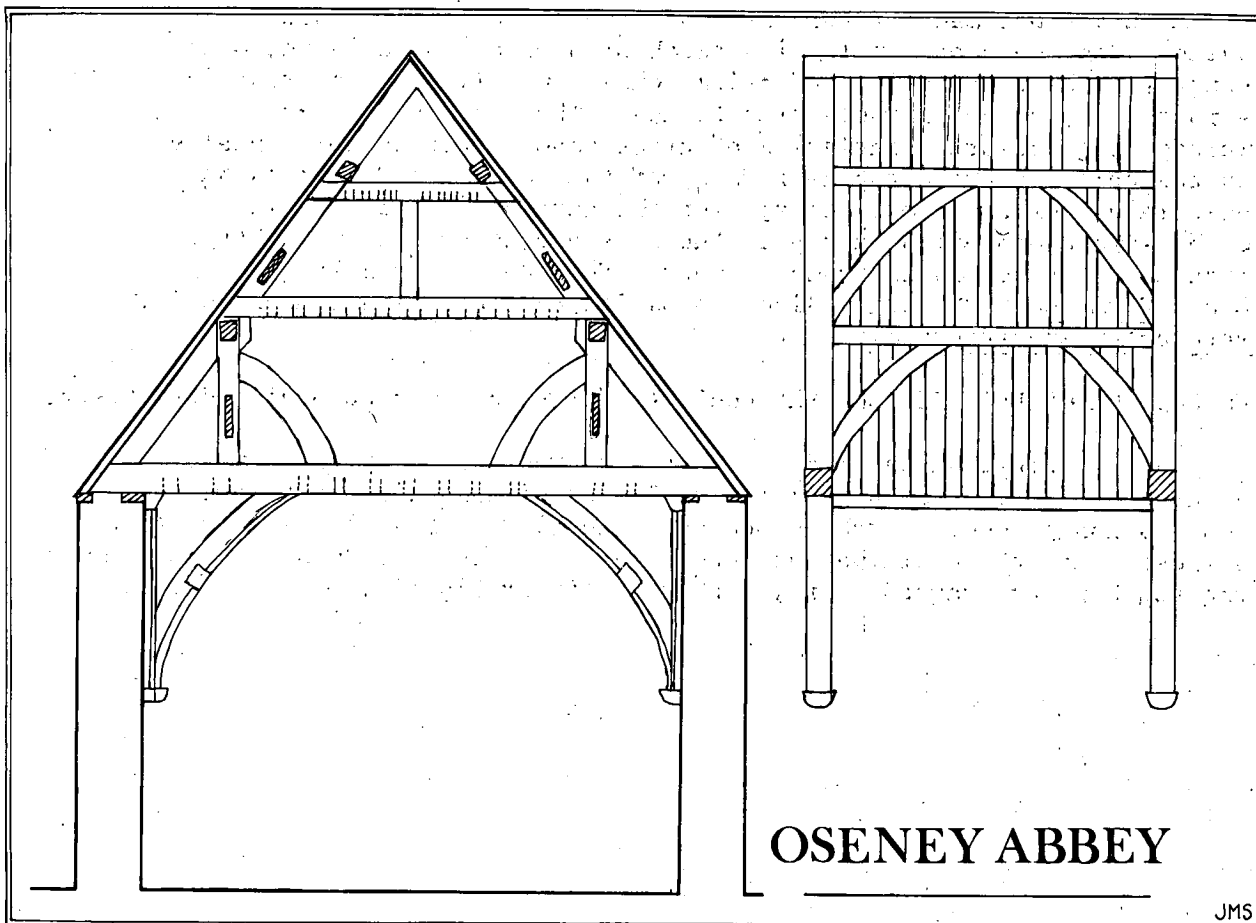
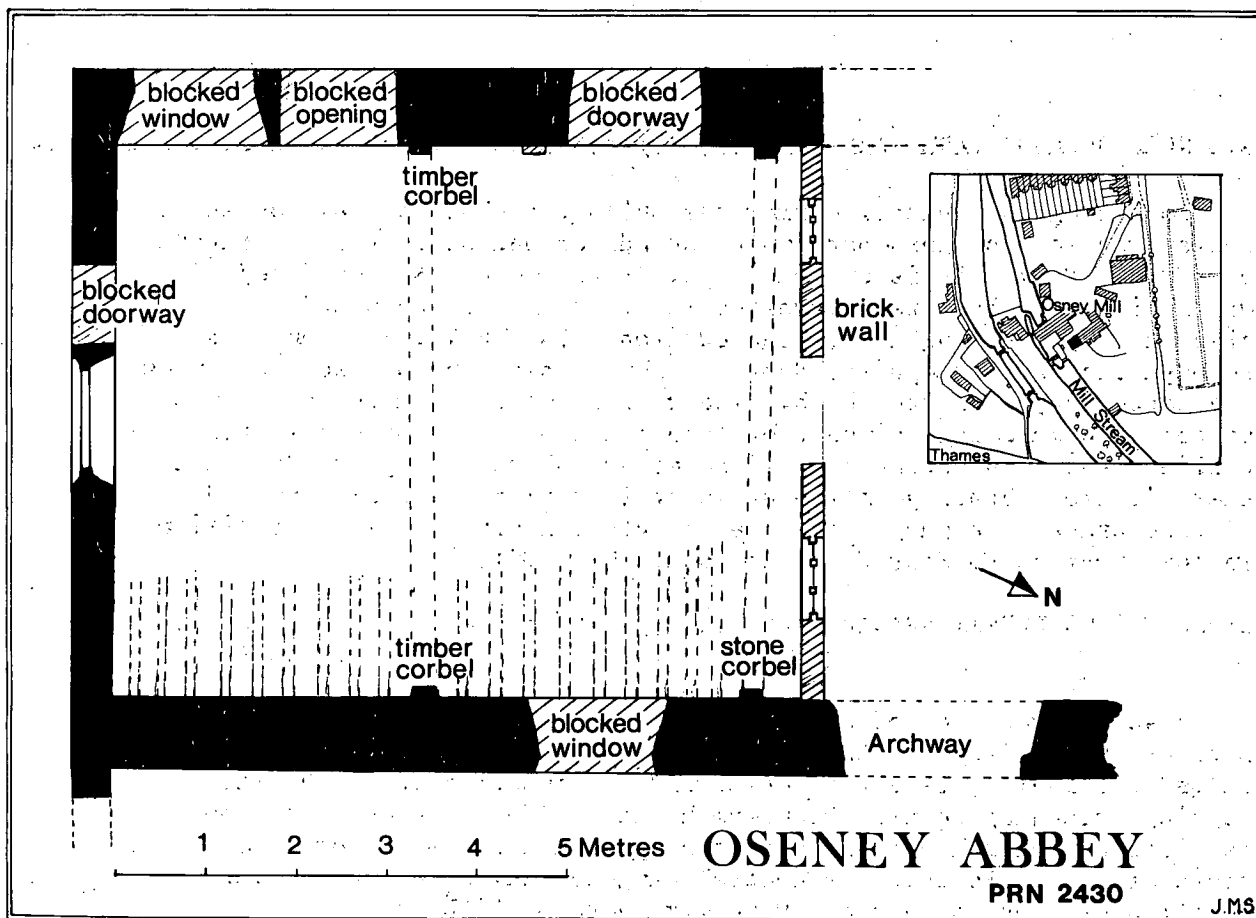


Figure 27

Its western limit is not known, but the fact that the masonry of the so-called trap house south wall is similar in style and thickness makes it likely that it extended at least as far as the end of the trap house. The original height of the building was about 2 ft. lower than the present eaves level as shown by the masonry change and the siting of the tie beams which seem to be in their original positions at the western end of the building. The sawn-off timber may be a stump of one of the former tie beams at the eastern end of the building. The waggon doors and the two pairs of windows in the opposite wall which could have provided the necessary through draught while threshing, indicate that the building at this stage was used as a barn. A suggested date is late 17th century. Phase 2 = The barn was shortened at the western end. It may well have become ruinous. This meant that a gable end was built up the middle of the western waggon entrance. The straight joints of the gable-end wall shows that some time elapsed before Phase 3 alterations were made and during this time entrance to the building was possible from this end. Phase 3 = The barn was changed into stables. A wall was inserted dividing it unequally into two, working house and hunter stables. The waggon entrances were both blocked. Two doors were added in the south wall at ground floor level one for each stable. A door was also added in the north wall to allow access into the walled yard at the rear. A loft approached by an external staircase (with a dog kennel under) was added. To provide more roof space for the loft the roof was raised about 2 ft.

(3) Religious Buildings

OSNEY MILL. SURVIVING PART OF OSNEY ABBEY (PRN 2340) (SP/50400588) - John Steane, Paul Gosling

A survey and section drawing was made of the fragment of the 15th century building, a survivor of the monastic buildings of Osney Abbey. In the east wall is a blocked window of two trefoil headed lights. Other windows and doors are blocked. The roof is of queen post type. A short length of wall runs from the north-east angle of the building and there is a ? medieval arch with moulded jambs and a four centred head. There is no evidence for the original use of the building because the main claustral complex stood to the east. The roof seems too fine for an agricultural use.

(4) Miscellaneous Buildings

HEYFORD BRIDGE (PRN 2412) (SP/483247) - Elizabeth Leggatt, Lisa Brown, John Steane.

A measured survey was made of this medieval bridge of four arches. The chamfered vaulting ribs and gothic arches at the eastern end date from the 13th century. There are 19th century additions on the north side.

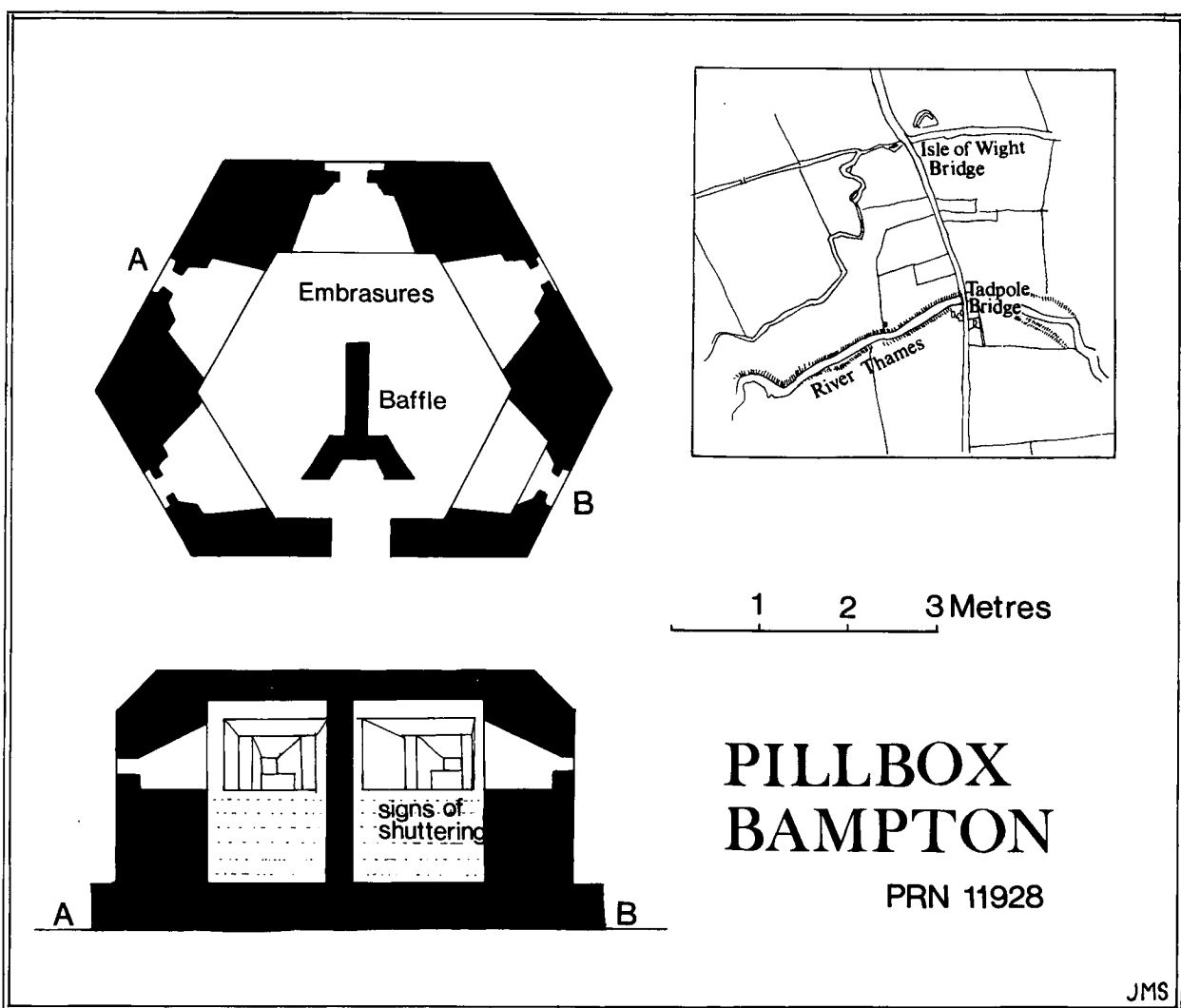
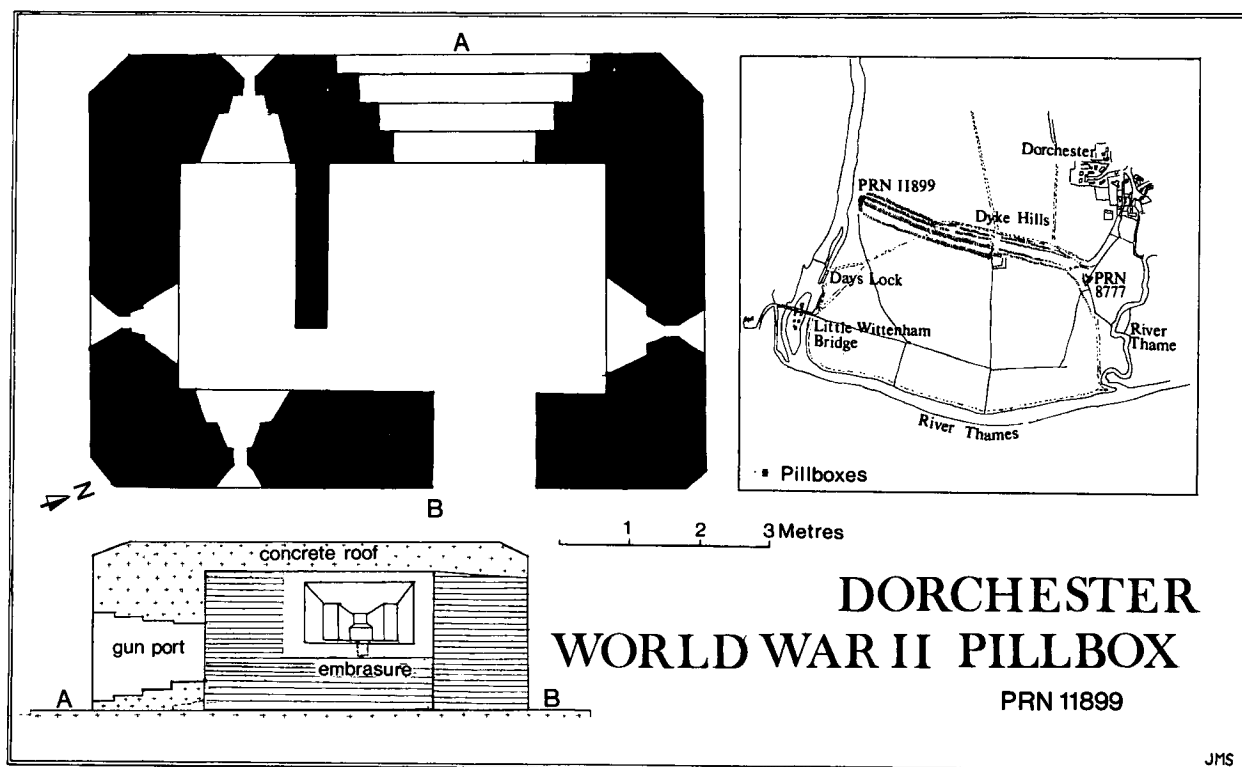


Figure 28

The bridge figures in the 1606 plan made by Thomas Langdon (Corpus Christi College) Maps 912 La Vol. B1 and shows 4 stone built arches by the river and four more widely spaced arches to deal with the flood water in the valley. We acknowledge the gift of a number of photographs taken by Mr. J. Andrew of County Surveyors Department.

RADCOT BRIDGE (PRN 2646) (SU. 28559940) - Brendan Grimley, John Steane

A measured survey was made of this bridge probably 14th century, and reputedly the oldest bridge over the Thames (Toynbee M.R. Oxoniensia XIV (1949) 46-52. The 2 outer arches are sharply pointed; there are signs that the central arch, 4-centred, is a later alteration.

ABINGDON OCK BRIDGE (PRN 2661) (SU. 48839691)

A measured survey was made of this bridge by John Steane and the 6th form of John Masons School Abingdon while it was under reconstruction. The bridge is apparently of at least five building phases. The second arch from the south on the east side is semi-circular and has a barrel vault with thick mortar and flaggy masonry. J. Blair of Brasenose College compares it with Norman masonry at Frewin Hall, Oxford (Oxoniensia, XLIII, 1978 p. 50) It is possible that this arch was part of the bridge that Abbot Faritius walked over on his appointment to the abbey (Chronicon Monasteria de Abingdon, Roll Series, 1858, II 286). Five of the other arches are later medieval in date. The centre one has groined vaulting ribs. The bridge was enlarged in the 18th century with semi-circular arches on the west and again in 1979-80. Care has been taken to match the old and new work.

LONG WITTENHAM PILLBOX (PRN 11899) (SU 57019382) and BAMPTON PILLBOX (PRN 11928) (SP/33250031) - Lisa Brown, John Steane

Surveys were made of two types of pillboxes, erected in 1940 along the GHQ stop line which ran along the Thames through Oxfordshire. The Long Wittenham one is a concrete and brick anti-tank gun emplacement with rifle slits in the inner room. It faces west over the river Thames and like its companion (PRN 8777) sits on the Iron Age promontory fortress of Dyke Hills. The Bampton pillbox lies to the north of the Thames. It is of a small hexagonal plan and controls the Tadpole Bridge and Bampton-Buckland Road (see P.R.O. W.O. 199,36, 1779).

MUSEUM RESEARCH PROJECT

BRICK AND POTTERY MANUFACTURE

Investigation of the post-medieval pottery and brick industry of Oxfordshire has continued. Detailed work on maps, directories, census returns, wills and other sources by Sarah Gosling, Dan Chadwick, Christine Bloxham, Nancy Stebbing and John Rhodes has resulted in a considerable increase in the number of brickworks identified within Oxfordshire. A new county gazetteer based on this work is being co-ordinated by James Bond. Some idea of the progress now achieved can be obtained from the following figures:-

	Cherwell	DISTRICTS				COUNTY TOTAL
		Oxford	S.Oxon	Vale W.H.	W.Oxon	
No. of brickworks known July 1978	17	3	19	4	17	60
No. of brickworks known Jan. 1980	36	9	42(a) 15(b)	28(a) 17(b)	24(a) 11(b)	139(a) 43(b)
(a) = exact location known. (b) = locations uncertain.						

The pottery aspect of the project was intended primarily as an attempt to identify local kilns and their products in the post-medieval period. The kilns at Leafield and Nettlebed, operating until the early 20th century, were already known about, though a good deal of documentary and other evidence for their functioning has been collected, and other centres have been identified at Banbury, Barford St. Michael and Stoke Row. Field and documentary work at Marsh Baldon, where pottery manufacture had ceased by the mid-17th century, has also been carried out by Maureen Mellor of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. Wares potentially from some of these sites are being drawn and analysed to establish a local type and fabric series for post-medieval wares. The work on pottery is being prepared for publication in mid-1980, together with a companion booklet on the brick and tile industries of the county, to coincide with an exhibition on the Oxfordshire clay industries at the County Museum in July and August of this year.

BRICKWORKS IN THE VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE - Nancy Stebbing, John Steane

While collecting material for the gazeteer of Oxfordshire brickwork and post medieval pottery sites a number were visited. Since they will be published more fully in Oxoniensia only brief notes are appended. The Uffington brick and tile Co. at Baulking (PRN 9945, SU 313904) has pits, engine shed and remains of other buildings. Good documentary evidence c. 1905-6 has survived and Mr. K.J. Wheeler, whose father used to manage these works, was interviewed by N. Stebbing. At Lockinge Kiln Farm (PRN 9720 SU 423834) was the centre of a brickworks of the Wantage estate - late 19th century. Kilns lie under concreted surfaces at farm; clay pits out on down are everted mushroom shaped water filled pits. At Lattin Down PRN 11,586, SU 415836 were a series of tree filled hollows and a scatter of broken brick, tile, vitrified brick and furnace linings. No coal or coke was seen. What fuel was used? At Marcham the names Kiln Copse and Old Clay Pit (PRN 11516, SU 449966) suggest the site of a brickworks pit, now filled in and wooded. At Stanford-in-the-Vale, Bow Brickworks (PRN 11,530 SU 344943) consisted of clay pit, two rows of cottages, two large bottle shaped kilns (now destroyed) and Bow Horse.

A further brickworks in Newington Parish (PRN 5982 SU 636950) was visited. Here the kiln, claypits and drying sheds are all intact. The kiln was last fired in 1947 and still has half a load of unfired bricks. Barrows and moulds were photographed and various buildings surveyed.

STONOR HOUSE (PRN 2095) (SU 74258923) - James Bond and John Steane

Further progress was made in examining the brickwork of different periods at Stonor Park. Samples were taken from brickwork at different points for analysis by the Oxford University Laboratory for Archaeology and Fine Art. The house was extensively photographed, including insides of roofs. 61 tiles were examined which came from the parlour/buttery and the chapel. They included several with roundels and quatrefoils and fleur de lys between. This design has been found at Chalgrove moated manor site (PRN 4486) and there are a number at Mapledurham church in the Bardolf aisle (PRN 12400). Others have roundels within which is a quatrefoil in a blaze of glory. Several heraldic tiles include emblems of a cross and an upside down fleur de lys. Two tiles have letters printed on them, one has a lombardic letter A. These are all 14th century. Several, probably 15th century in date, have the design printed on with the pipe clay on the stamp itself. These are of inferior workmanship.

EWELME SCHOOL HOUSE (PRNs 606) (SU 64609135) AND ALMSHOUSES (PRN 5993) (SU 64639138) - John Steane and James Bond.

Measured drawings were made of the facades of the school and almshouses, both foundations of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk (1437-1450) and built mainly of brick. Among features of interest noted were the use of at least 22 different types of moulded bricks, a cusped Gothic arch in brickwork in the inner almshouse porch, brick corbelling in the chimneys, diaper-work, decorative brick-nogging and half-timber work and carved bargeboards in the almshouse, and brick fireplaces and niches in the master's lodging. A full report is in preparation for the Journal of the British Archaeological Association.

OXFORDSHIRE FIELD-NAMES SURVEY - James Bond

Progress with the survey of Oxfordshire field-names, organised jointly by the Museum's Field Section and the Oxfordshire Federation of Womens Institutes has continued, with important contributions also coming in from local groups and individuals. During the year completed surveys have been deposited for the parishes of Chinnor, Emmington, Eynsham, Garsington, Hinton Waldrist, Longworth, Mapledurham, Radley and part of Sydenham, in addition to smaller areas of several other parishes. 72 completed parish field-name surveys have now been incorporated into the Sites and Monuments Record, together with 31 partial surveys.

BLOXHAM, OXFORDSHIRE: VILLAGE SURVEY - James Bond

Village: Bloxham

Civil Parish: Bloxham

District: Cherwell

Former District: Banbury Rural

Hundred: Bloxham

O.S. 1:10,000: SP.43.NW

O.S. 1:2500: County Series: Oxfordshire IX.7, IX.8

New Series: SP.4235-4235, SP.4236-4336

Note: To avoid immoderate length, the survey of this large and complex village is here given in summary form only. Much further information has been incorporated directly into the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record, whence it can be retrieved through the P.R.N. references indicated.

PHYSICAL SETTING

1. Geology

Village stands mainly on Middle Liassic Marlstone or Ironstone. Middle Liassic Clays outcrop in valley bottom in centre of village, and Upper Liassic Clays cap the plateaux immediately to N. and S. The same strata outcrop over the greater part of the parish. The highest point, Hobb Hill, 700m. to NW., is capped by Northampton Sand, while the valleys of the Sor Brook and its main tributary forming the N., E. and SE. boundaries of the parish are cut into Lower Lias Clay and floored with alluvium.

2. Soils

Brown Earths of Banbury and Hornton Series cover valley slopes above and below village and the lower plateau to the E. Clay soils of the Milcombe Series cover the ill-drained clays on the plateaux to N. and S. of the village. Brown Earths of the Tadmarton and Wigginton Series cover the higher slopes of Hobb Hill. The soils are generally fertile, the land to N., E., S. and SW. of the village being mostly Grade 2 agricultural land. Only to the W. are there significant areas of Grade 3 and 4 land, the largest area of Grade 4 land on Hobb Hill.

3. Water-Supply

A tributary of the Sor Brook flows through the middle of the village from W. to E., dividing it into two parts. There is a well-marked spring-line along the lower slopes of its valley at the junction of the Marlstone and Middle Lias Clay. Several house-names, e.g. Ashwell, Godswell, Old Wells, commemorate springs rising in the village.

BLOXHAM PLAN ELEMENTS

-  Primary village nuclei
-  North High Street plan-unit
-  Remainder of built-up area, c.1800
-  Probable areas of encroachment
-  Main areas of 20th. century development
-  New roads, late 18th. & 19th. centuries
-  Roads lost since 19th. century

0 Metres 100

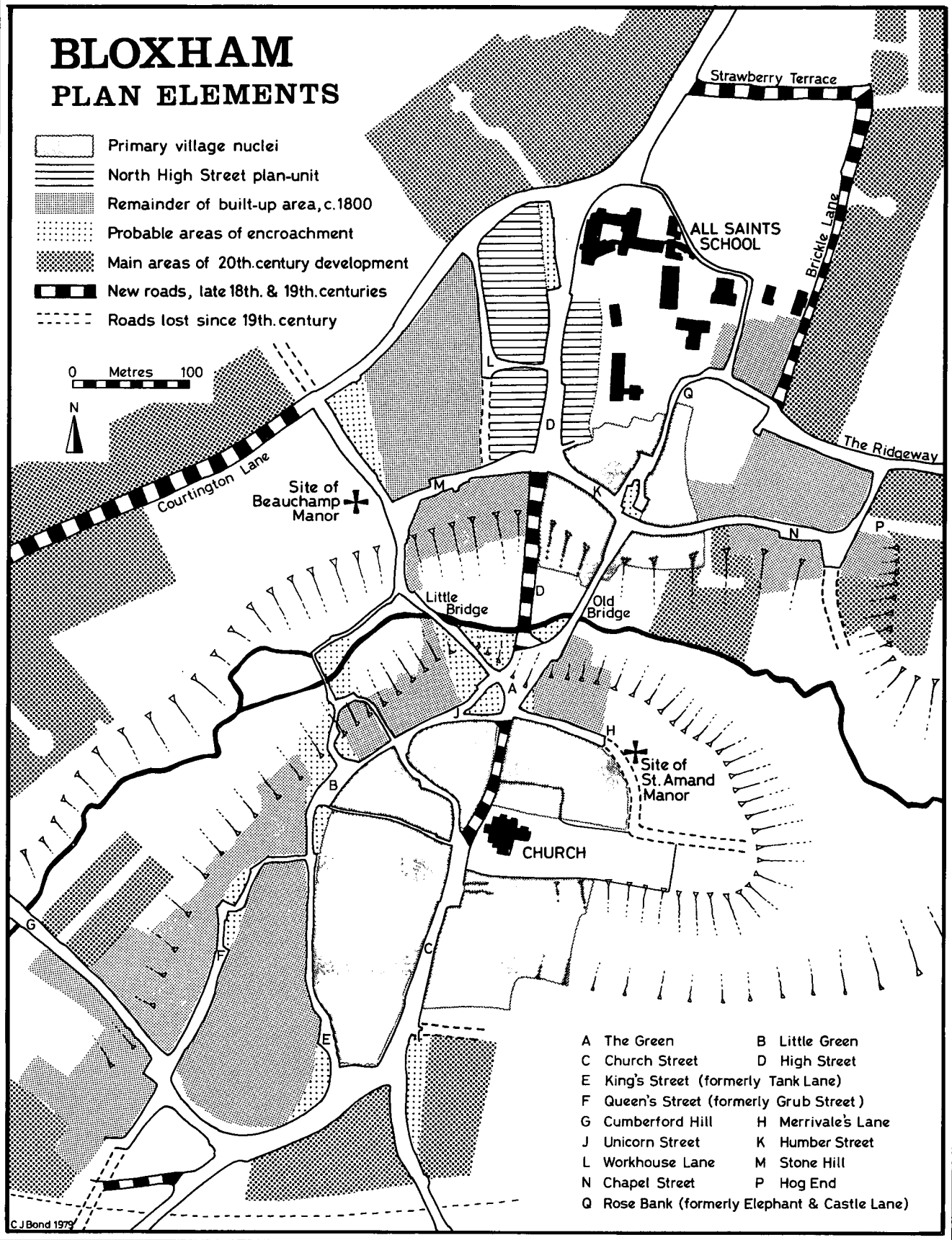


Figure 29

4. Relief

The parish straddles a dissected plateau on the dip-slope of the North Oxfordshire uplands. The highest point, Hobb Hill rises to just over 500 ft. (c. 150 m.) O.D. while to the E. of the parish the bottom of the Sor Brook valley falls below 300 ft. (c. 90 m.) O.D. The village itself lies in an area of broken topography, falling into two main parts climbing either side of a steep valley onto the plateau from c. 360-400 ft. (c. 110.120 m) O.D. The church is in the S. part of the village, on top of a spur just below 400 ft. which is separated from the main plateau by a small dry valley.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

A single Neolithic polished axe has been found E. of the village near Coates's Spinney (PRN. 5335), and Iron Age pottery has been found near Bloxham Grove (PRN. 2333). These are the only prehistoric items recorded from the parish.

Several Romano-British settlements have been recorded within Bloxham parish:

(1) The largest, centred c. 800 m. W. of the present village on the Tadmarton road, has produced evidence of occupation from the 1st to 5th centuries, and includes a cemetery of at least 30 inhumations. (PRN. 1712, PRN. 4984).

(2) Another rural settlement of some size is known in the NE corner of the parish near Bloxham Grove (PRN. 2332).

(3) Further Romano-British finds are recorded nearby, near Upper Grove Mill (PRN 1767).

(4) A corn-drying oven and Roman coins are recorded c. 800 m. S. of Bloxham on the South Newington road (PRN. 1731).

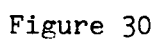
(5) A small inhumation cemetery associated with pottery of 2nd - 4th centuries found 800 m. SSE of the village on the Milcombe boundary (PRN. 2343).

(6) Pottery, querns and other finds are recorded from the claypit immediately north of the village (PRN. 9948).

No evidence of early Saxon settlement is known within the parish at present.

The early medieval parish was larger than the modern civil parish, including the whole of Milcombe township, which was separated as a distinct parish in 1854. Despite this, Bloxham is still amongst the larger parishes in north Oxfordshire, comprising some 3,124 acres (1264 ha.). Since early medieval times Bloxham village has been the only nucleated settlement within the parish. Apart from water-mills, the only isolated building of any antiquity is Bloxham Grove in the NE (PRN. 11,121), a 19th century house incorporating remains of a 17th century predecessor, and probably on or near the site of the Lodge leased with the warren in 1528.

0 Metres 100



Nearby, close to Upper Grove Mill, is an unexcavated and undated earthwork referred to as a 'Castle' by the O.S. (PRN. 5425), which may be an alternative site for the 16th century Lodge, or may represent the dwelling of Osbert de la Grave who owned a mill in Bloxham in 1238. All other isolated farms and houses in the parish post-date the enclosure of 1802.

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

The place-name 'Blochesham' is first recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086, and is interpreted as meaning the 'village or estate belonging to Blocc', a personal name also occurring 16 miles (26 km). to the W. at Blockley, Glos. The Domesday entry for Bloxham excludes Milcombe, but is linked with the entry for an estate in Adderbury, and it is therefore impossible to separate out any statistics for Bloxham itself. The description does, however, imply that it was a place of considerable importance. It was in the hands of the king in 1086, having previously belonged to Earl Edwin of Mercia, and, before him, to Earl Tostig of Northumbria. A mural mansion in Oxford pertained to the manor. The soke of two hundreds belonged to it, and Bloxham remained the centre of a hundred in subsequent centuries. A large population of 72 villeins, 16 bordars and 27 serfs is recorded on the dual estate.

Apart from a brief intermission in the mid-12th century, Bloxham remained in royal hands until 1156, when it was divided into two manors. The smaller part, described as a third of Bloxham in 1285, descended with the Verdun family and their successors, the St. Amands, along with Bloxham Hundred and one of the Adderbury manors. This was sold in 1418 to Sir Thomas Wykeham and from him came to the barony of Saye and Sele. The larger part, after passing through possession of several owners, returned to royal hands between 1269 and 1319, and then in 1343 came to the Beauchamps of Ditchley. In 1545 this manor was purchased by Richard Fiennes, Lord Saye and Sele, and the two parts of Bloxham were reunited. The lordship of the manor has remained with the same family ever since.

Smaller properties in Bloxham held under a variety of tenures belonged to Cirencester Abbey, Eynsham Abbey and the Hospital of St. John the Baptist in Oxford. The Rectory estate was granted first in 1067 to Westminster Abbey and then, c. 1180, to Godstow Abbey, passing after the Dissolution to Eton College. From the 17th century onwards much land in Bloxham was sold off or leased to the Cartwrights of Aynho and other families. There were no long-standing resident landowners, and the community became dominated by yeomen freeholders and copyhold tenants.

Medieval population figures are difficult to establish. In 1285-6 there were at least 33 tenants on the St. Amand estate alone, and in 1316 on the same manor 23 tenants were assessed for tax. The first complete medieval tax list covering the whole village is the Lay Subsidy return of 1327, which records 70 contributors. In 1377 325 people in Bloxham were assessed for the Poll Tax.

The 1523 Subsidy illustrates the emergence of the yeomen farmer. The principal tenant was William Councer, who paid £60. Fourteen more contributors were assessed for between £25 and £10. Out of a total of 81 contributors there were 32 labourers assessed at the lowest rate of 4d.

During the Civil War the Royalist army is recorded as having built small fortifications at Bloxham in June 1643 (PRN. 9307). No remains of these have yet been identified on the ground.

Secker's Visitation records c. 60 communicants in Bloxham in 1738. The Census returns indicate a rise from 1,157 in 1801 to 1,343 in 1831, a slight decline in the following decade, then a rise to a peak of 1,538 in 1881. At the end of the century the population was 1,340.

VILLAGE ECONOMY AND FIELD SYSTEM

Bloxham is only 3 miles from Banbury, and a survey carried out in 1966 showed that 51 percent of its working inhabitants then commuted to that town, while only 29 percent worked in Bloxham itself. Before the present century, however, the economic base of the village was primarily agricultural, with a smaller but significant element of employment in local industries.

The historical development of the agricultural topography of the parish is of considerable interest, but it cannot be followed in detail here, except to note the presence of the following components:

Open-field Arable:

The joint Domesday entry for the royal Bloxham/Adderbury estates records that there were 48 ploughs there in the time of Edward the Confessor. The food renders formerly paid to the king had been commuted for a large annual corn rent. There are indications from later manorial extents that arable land comprised the dominant element in the parish throughout the middle ages. There is some evidence to suggest that a two-field system was operating, and the lands of the parish are physically divided into two by the Sor Brook tributary which passes through the village; but the lands to the N. of the brook are twice the extent of those to the S.

In the early 16th century Bloxham's fields were re-organised and a system of convertible husbandry allowing for leys alongside arable strips was introduced. Before 1542 the S.Field had been re-organised into four Quarters and the N.Field into at least seven Quarters. Davis's map shows most of the parish still under open-field cultivation in 1797, and out of a total parish area of 3,124 acres (1264 ha) no less than 2,773 acres (1122 ha) remained to be enclosed under the Award of 1802. Extensive areas of ridge and furrow still remain under the present system of hedged fields.

Pasture and Meadow

Domesday Book records extents of both meadow and pasture on the joint manor, and receipts from wool and cheeses. Small acreages of meadow, which was probably restricted to the narrow valley-bottoms of the Sor Brook and its tributary, and therefore highly valued, are recorded in extents in the 13th and 14th centuries. Purchases of 250 sheep in 1180-1 and 300 sheep in 1194 suggest that pasture was more readily available, probably on Hobb Hill, which is shown as pasture by Davis in 1797, and which is largely, though not entirely, devoid of ridge and furrow.

Enclosures

Open-field farming in Bloxham remained conservative in its practices, and there is little indication of significant consolidation of strips in the 14th century. The main area of ancient enclosure is around The Grove in the NE corner of the parish, where over 200 acres (80.9 ha) of pasture and meadow were hedged some time between 1421 and 1592. No enclosures were reported to the 1517 Inquiry. Apart from the Grove, Davis shows only a small block of enclosures immediately NW of the village and a narrow band of enclosed meadows above Wickham Mill in the Sor Brook valley in 1797. The remainder of the parish was enclosed by an Award of 1802, and it is from this period that the present system of rectangular hedged fields dates. Arthur Young visited Bloxham a decade after enclosure, and comments on the progress made by two Bloxham farmers in particular, who had greatly increased production using new techniques and machinery and were experimenting with a much greater range of crops.

Woodland

The Domesday survey records an extent of woodland belonging to the joint manor, together with receipts from pannage and swine. All the later evidence points to a conspicuous lack of woodland in Bloxham parish itself. It is almost certain that the Domesday entry refers to two woods in Wychwood Forest, now represented by King's Wood in Stonesfield and Sheer's Copse in Spelsbury, which were attached to Bloxham manor in the later middle ages.

Warren

A rabbit-warren is mentioned in leases of Bloxham Beauchamp manor from 1431 onwards. The warren was in the Grove, as is recorded in 1556 when Richard Fiennes was sued in Chancery by Anthony Councer and other tenants complaining of the havoc wreaked by rabbits from the warren in their corn. In 1569 Fiennes agreed to confine his rabbits to a limited area of the Grove enclosed by walls. Remains of this enclosed warren are conceivably represented by a large square ditched enclosure (PRN. 11,825) NE of Bloxham Grove.

INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

Apart from the water-mills on the Sor Brook, the only known evidence of medieval industry at Bloxham is in the records of Bicester Priory, where in 1296 fine stone quarried at Bloxham was used for the church seats.

From the 17th century onwards there are records of an increasing range of local crafts and industries. In 1678 hemp was being bought to provide work for the poor, and a rope and twine maker was still operating in 1864. There was a woollen manufacture in 1768, and shag- and plush-weaving were important in the 19th century. The building trade provided employment for brickmakers, stonemasons, slatters, thatchers, carpenters and plasterers, and there were several marble and monumental masons in the 19th century. There was the usual range of small-scale trades serving local needs, e.g. bakehouses and smithies.

Ironstone mining began in the 19th century, but did not begin to operate on a large scale until after 1917. A carpet-mill was established here in 1947 and a firm making prefabricated concrete structures in the 1950's.

PLAN ELEMENTS

Bloxham is a very large village, consisting of two separate nucleated settlements facing each other across the valley of the Sor Brook tributary. It resembles several nearby 'double' settlements, such as E. and W. Adderbury or Barford St. John and Barford St. Michael. Like them its two constituent parts have been distinguished by separate nomenclature in the past - 'le Crowehead Ville' and 'le Downe End' in the medieval period, 'Bloxham North' and 'Bloxham South' in the 17th century. Their individuality was reflected in their separate overseers, constables and highway surveyors during the 17th and 18th centuries. Although the physical distinction remains, the separate identity of the two parts has receded, and the entire settlement is now known simply as Bloxham.

The two settlements were linked by two bridges across the stream which were apparently of medieval origin: the Great Bridge (now the Old Bridge) and the Little Bridge upstream to the W. The feoffees of the town estate were responsible for their upkeep and repair under their 1627 constitution. A third crossing-point was at Cumberford on the Tadmarton road leading out of the village to the NW. The present main road bridge is part of a 19th century road realignment, discussed further below.

The street-plan of both parts of Bloxham appears very irregular, the first impression being of an incoherent maze of winding lanes and alleys climbing up the valley sides to the plateau top. Some elements of the plan appear to be influenced by the physical constrictions of the site, for example the curving line of Queen's Street, Little Green and Merrivale's Lane, which runs parallel to and just above the principal break of slope on the southern side of the valley.

Many of the existing lanes are documented by name from an early date. Church Street, Great (now Old) Bridge Street and Little Bridge Street occur in medieval court rolls. Tank Lane (renamed King's Street in 1935) and Humber Lane are recorded in the 16th century. Other lanes not identifiable by name in the documentary record were clearly in existence by the same period, from evidence of frontages of surviving buildings of that date.

The larger part of the settlement is Bloxham South, which contains the church standing on its knoll of high ground. The church is roughly in the middle of an ovoid area whose perimeter is defined by Merrivale's Lane and Little Green on the N. side following the break of slope, and then by King's Street on the W. This alignment looks suspiciously like the circuit of an early village boundary bank. Church Street and the former Church Green form the central axis of this nucleus. More extensive areas of green lie immediately beyond its margins, especially on the N. and NW. (see below). Old and Little Bridge Streets both converge on a single entry through this perimeter on the N. Queen's Street seems to represent early ribbon development along the original principal entry route from the SW. with a relatively late secondary nucleus developing around the Cumberford crossroads.

In so far as any particular focus can be distinguished in Bloxham North, the main early centre seems to have been the slightly skewed crossroads by the Elephant and Castle, approached via the Old Bridge Road. The Little Bridge Road gave access to a second and probably later nucleus around a small green near the site of the Beauchamp manor-house. Between these two foci the broad northern end of High Street, with its parallel back lane, Workhouse Lane, comes as close as any part of Bloxham to resembling a medieval planned development. The main evidence to support the suggestion that this is a relatively late intrusive element is (i) its unusual width, (ii) it does not give direct access at its S. end to one of the original bridges, and (iii) its N. end is not in direct alignment with the main Banbury road. On the other hand the property pattern here is not conspicuously regular, and it must be admitted that the evidence is far from conclusive.

The densely-packed but irregular pattern of building reflects the character of the typical 'open' village, and there are clear signs of encroachment over streets and greens in many parts of the village, indicated by irregular frontages and 'islands' of building.

From before 1514 to the 1802 enclosure the main streets were all barred by gates at their entry to the village.

The internal street-plan of Bloxham has undergone some significant changes since the late 18th century:-

(1) The most important change was the construction of a new High Street through the middle of the village in the early 19th century by the Banbury and Chipping Norton Turnpike Trustees.

The original main road, depicted on the Davis map of 1797 and the Enclosure map of 1801, followed a tortuous course around the present Church Street, Unicorn Street, Old Bridge Road and Humber Lane. The line of the new road across the valley existed only as a footpath in 1801, and the High Street south of The Green terminated at the churchyard. The link S. from this part of High Street through to Church Street had been opened up by 1833, when it is clearly marked on the 1st edn. 1" O.S. The central section of High Street with its new bridge is not shown in 1833, but must have been completed very shortly afterwards judging by the appearance of the new Red Lion Inn which fronts it. Several cottages near the brook shown on the 1801 map were purchased by the Turnpike Trust and demolished to accommodate this realignment.

The Davis map of 1797 is not entirely trustworthy for internal detail, but it does indicate several roads leading into the village which have subsequently been lost or considerably altered:-

(2) The N. part of Little Bridge Road (called Townsend Road in 1801) originally continued NW beyond Courtington Lane towards Broughton. It survives as a footpath.

(3) The road from the Ridgeway at Hog End appears originally to have run directly NE across the open fields to Bloxham Grove and Grove Hill. This was diverted to its present course at the time of enclosure.

(4) Davis shows a short lane leading S. to the meadows alongside the stream from Hog End. This had already been blocked off by 1801, and survives only in vestigial form as an open space S. of the bend in Chapel Street.

(5) Both Davis and the 1801 map show another short lane leading into the fields E. from the Green. This also survives in vestigial form as Merrivale's Lane, but it has been curtailed by the laying-out of the grounds of Godswell.

The O.S. 1st edn. 1" shows that all four lanes listed above had ceased to exist by 1833. The village plan itself also suggests further losses which must have occurred before the end of the 18th century, but cannot be precisely dated:

(6) Workhouse Lane now ends in a cul-de-sac, but the building and property lines strongly suggest that it once continued S. through to Stone Hill.

(7) The continuation of Queen's Street S. which until recently ended in a cul-de-sac near the station, has now been extended into a new housing estate. At an earlier period this looks as if it was the principal entry route to the village from the SW. The present main road from S. Newington heads straight for it up to a point 200 m. to the SW beyond the recreation ground, where it takes a sharp deflection E. to enter the head of Church Street. The date of this diversion predates the railway, as it clearly follows its present course on the Davis map.

Expansion beyond the medieval village had begun well before the 19th century with the first post-medieval peripheral accretions at Hog End and at Cumberford. Between 1797 and 1801 two new streets had come into existence in addition to the High Street realignment discussed above:-

(8) Brickle Lane and Strawberry Terrace were laid out at the NE end of the village, though not yet built up.

(9) Courtington Lane was established as a sort of NW bypass.

The station approach was added in 1887.

The first council estate was built off Courtington Lane in 1919, and extended in 1936 and 1961. Another council estate was begun in Brickle Lane in 1951. Extensive post-war developments have taken place along the Tadmarton Road and Courtington Lane, the most recent additions being Greenhills Park off Cumberford Hill, near the old station and beyond the railway. There has been a limited amount of redevelopment within the old village, notably at Hog End and Little Bridge Road, and a limited amount of piecemeal infill.

BUILDINGS

Church

The oldest surviving building is the parish church of St. Mary (PRN 4066), which is architecturally one of the finest churches in the county. Built mainly of Hornton stone, it occupies a prominent site on the E. side of the present main road through Bloxham South.

Bloxham church is first recorded in 1067, when it was granted to Westminster Abbey. Almost certainly it is, however, of much earlier origin. Nothing is known of the first church on the site, but it appears to have been substantially rebuilt in the mid 12th century, as architectural fragments of this date have been incorporated into the present building, notably in the S. doorway, the vestry entrance, the chancel-arch responds and the rere-arches of the chancel windows.

Another major rebuilding occurred in the 13th century, when aisles were added to the nave, perhaps for the first time. The four-bay arcades survive, the cylindrical piers on the N. side suggesting a slightly earlier addition than the S. aisle with its clustered piers and stiff-leaf capitals.

The dominant character of the church is, however, derived from the extensive enrichment carried out in the early 14th century. The well-proportioned W. tower and spire, the N. porch, the N. transept, and the S. porch with its room above, were all built between c. 1300 and 1340, and the chancel was rebuilt and the aisles widened at the same time. The hands of the N. Oxfordshire school of masons whose work appears at Adderbury, Hanwell and Alkerton and is characterised by lively friezes of grotesques can be recognised here also.

The last major extension to the church was the magnificent perpendicular Milcombe Chapel, added S. of the S.Aisle in the early 15th century. Neither the patron nor the master-mason are known, though there are similarities to the work carried out on the Adderbury chancel by Richard Winchcombe in 1418. Large E. windows were inserted in both aisles and the nave clerestorey added about the same time. Other 15th century work was restricted to new furnishings and fittings: a new font, a rood screen and a series of wall paintings.

Apart from repairs and maintenance little new work was carried out from the 16th to 18th centuries. However in 1864-6 a major restoration was carried out by G.E. Street, when the pulpit, reredos, piscina, sedilia, E.window, choir stalls and vestry were added. There is some stained glass of 1868-9 by Morris and Burne-Jones.

The church is a very large one, the floor area of the nave and S.aisle both being 132.5 sq.m., the N.aisle 77.6 sq.m., the N.transept 34.2 sq.m., and the Milcombe chapel 57.6 sq.m.

The churchyard in 1801 was a compact rectangular area with the church itself towards its W.end. Since then a small area in the NW corner has been lost when the new High Street link was driven through; but this has been compensated for by the extension of the churchyard N. over the site of the almshouses demolished in the mid-19th century, and a further extension to the E.

All Saints School:

The dominant building complex in Bloxham North is the school (PRN. 4727), originally founded in 1853 by Rev. J.W. Hewitt in a farmhouse which still forms the core of the present complex. He commissioned plans for an ambitious collegiate layout from G.E. Street, but of this scheme only part of the N.wing was built before the project foundered. The site was purchased in 1859 and refounded under its present name by Rev. Philip Egerton as a 'Middle-class school for boys, especially intended to give a sound general education in the distinctive principles of the English church'. Street's original plan was abandoned, and new buildings have been added piecemeal by him and other architects as they were needed. A preparatory school for boys under 10 was added to the original foundation in 1871. The impact of the school on the village has been considerable.

Other Public Buildings:

Nonconformity is well-documented in Bloxham from the late 17th century, but perhaps surprisingly in view of the size of the village, there are only two chapels today, both of fairly late origin. The Baptist Chapel (PRN.4734) was built in 1862 in Hawke Lane to accommodate 200 people, replacing earlier meeting-houses of 1808 and 1812. The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (PRN. 4733), which gives its name to Chapel Street, was built around 1868 to accommodate 150, replacing an earlier meeting-house registered in 1821. Both chapels are plain buildings of red brick with stone dressings and windows. The Roman Catholic church of St. Peter was built in 1938.

The most important group of public buildings, not all of which have survived, surrounded the church. The Court House (PRN. 11,761) on the SW corner of the churchyard is a two-storeyed building of coursed ironstone rubble with a thatched roof. It was rebuilt in the 1680's and repaired again in 1885-6, but it retains some recognisable medieval features, a 14th century N. doorway and window on the E. gable. The building housed the parish fire-engine from 1875 to 1938, and after 1888 was used as a clubhouse and reading-room. Immediately E. of the Court House stood the Old Grammar School (PRN. 11,770), built in 1610 under the endowment of William and Mary Hartley, closed and demolished except for its doorway in the late 18th century. Further E. again stood another ancient building of unknown function (PRN. 11,781). A drawing by J.C. Buckler made in 1823 shows a timber-studded first storey supported by a row of stone corbels which still survive in the churchyard wall. For a time the building was used by the Presbyterians. It was demolished before the middle of the 19th century.

On the N. side of the church stood a group of almshouses (PRN. 11,771), said in 1603 to have belonged to the village 'beyond the memory of man', and demolished in the mid-19th century. Poorhouses (PRN. 11,784) which formerly stood on The Green were swept away by the road alterations about the same time. The parish Workhouse (PRN. 11,806) a 17th century cottage now called Oriel Cottage in Workhouse Lane, receives frequent mention in the overseers' accounts from 1736 to 1834, when Bloxham was included in the Banbury Union. A house at the N. end of Workhouse Lane, now called the Old Jail (PRN. 11,782), was probably the prison of Bloxham Beauchamp manor. A Pesthouse (PRN. 11,783) opened in 1766 and still used in 1836 stood by the stream well outside the village, 500 m. W. of Cumberford; it was in decay in 1890, and the stone from it was sold off in the 1930's.

A mixed National School (PRN. 1054) was built in Church Street in 1864 by J. Livock of London for 300 children, superseding the earlier Boys' Free School and Girls' Church Day School. An infants school founded a couple of years later moved into a new adjoining classroom in 1875.

The first Village Hall built in Workhouse Lane by the Co-operative Society in 1899 still survives (PRN. 11,801). The Ex-Servicemens' Hall (PRN. 11,800) in High Street, Bloxham North, was opened after the First World War, and the Ellen Hinde Memorial Hall in Chapel Street (PRN. 11,793) in the 1930's.

Domestic Buildings:

One of Bloxham's greatest assets is the enormous wealth of smaller domestic buildings, representing a fine range of local vernacular architecture of the 16th and 17th centuries. Most are built of the local marlstone or ironstone, and many still have thatched roofs. It is impossible to describe all the individual buildings of interest here, but some of the salient features may be summarised.

Of the two principal medieval domestic buildings, the two manor-houses, nothing survives. Bloxham Beauchamp Manor House (PRN. 11,122) probably stood on or near the site of Park Close, within a large walled and hedged enclosure. In 1592 its gardens, orchards and park (PRN. 11,124) covered 24 acres (9.7 ha). The St. Amand manor house (PRN. 11,773) probably stood near the present Godswell. The prison for Bloxham Hundred appears to have been attached to it. In 1285-6 the St. Amand demesne farm included a dovecote (PRN. 11,827), which may have stood nearby. The house seems to have survived into the 18th century.

In almost every street there are further buildings which appear to be substantially or partly of 17th century date and would repay more detailed examination: in Bloxham North, in Little Bridge Road, Elscote (PRN. 11,821); in Workhouse Lane, Hill House (PRN. 11,760), Campbell Cottage (PRN. 11,804) and the cottages opposite (PRN's 11,803-6); in Stone Hill, Ashwell House (PRN. 11,803) and Park Farm (PRN. 11,778); in High Street, Hillside (PRN. 11,786) and the house on the corner of Stone Hill (PRN. 11,820); in Humber Street, Eton House (PRN. 11,802); in Elephant & Castle Lane, the Elephant & Castle itself (PRN. 11,765), Rose Bank (PRN. 11,798), Primrose Cottage (PRN. 11,797) and Ivy Cottage (PRN. 11,789); and in Chapel Street, the remodelled Manor House (PRN. 11,776), Rose Bank Cottage (PRN. 11,794), Old Wells (PRN. 11,791) and the now-demolished Yew Tree Farm (PRN. 11,792); similarly, in Bloxham South, in Church Street, Rectory Farm (PRN. 11,817), Manor Farm (PRN. 11,780), Greystones (PRN. 11,818) and the Cottage (PRN. 11,808); in King's Street, Greyroofs (PRN. 11,810); in Queen's Street (PRN's 11,822, 11,823); and Cumberford Cottage (PRN. 11,809).

The 18th century saw the refronting, alteration and enlargement of many older houses to achieve greater standards of dignity and comfort, e.g. the two-storey three-bay north front with its central stone porch with Tuscan columns grafted onto the 17th century Manor Farm (PRN. 11,780). Several large new residences and many smaller cottages were built. Ironstone ashlar was increasingly favoured for facades, though the traditional coursed rubble and thatch was still employed on many smaller houses. Symmetrical fronts with ornate doorways and sash or casement windows with keystoned architraves become common. The most impressive of the new 18th century buildings is Stonehill House (PRN. 11,759), of six bays and two storeys with attic dormers in a stone slate roof. The northern part of St. Mary's Lodge (PRN. 11,767) is late 18th century, and its stable carries a reset datestone, 1753. Cumberford House (PRN. 11,763) also bears a datestone, 1742, which relates to the extensive remodelling of an older core. Crossways (PRN. 11,813) is a smaller house of the same period. Manor Cottage (PRN. 11,790) on the Ridgeway bears a datestone 1773. Other significant small 18th century houses include the Old Smithy (PRN. 11,811), cottages in Unicorn Street (PRN. 11,824) and Stone Hill (PRN. 11,812), and a couple of cottage rows in Merrivale's Lane (PRN's 11,814, 11,815).

Apart from the school complex, the 19th century contribution to Bloxham is relatively low-key. Stone building continued right through the period, but red brick, which was being produced in Bloxham itself and also at Banbury, Adderbury, and Deddington, also begins to make its appearance along with imported Welsh slate for roofing. High House (PRN. 11,839), which belonged to Adkins the builder and monumental mason, is the most notable early 19th century house of brick. The new Vicarage (PRN. 11,758), designed by the Rev. George Bell before 1815, was built of stone by Ephraim Randle, another local builder; it was enlarged in 1858 to the design of G.E. Street.

It is probable that several substantial late medieval houses survive, disguised in part by later exteriors. The house formerly called Painter's Farm, Salmon Farm or Cheese House, now Manor House in Chapel Street, (PRN. 11,776) was largely remodelled in the 17th and 18th centuries, but retains a reset 14th century arched doorway, a 14th century trefoil-headed lancet in the cross-wing and parts of a medieval timber roof with exposed arch-braces. Station Road farmhouse (PRN. 11,777), a late 15th or 16th century open-hall house much altered in the mid-17th century, incorporates at the rear a re-used late 13th century window of two cusped lights with blocked plate tracery at its head. Other re-used medieval fragments include a 13th century doorway reputedly removed from the church during alterations in the 14th century and incorporated into a now-demolished cottage at the rear of the Joiners' Arms (PRN. 11,769), and a 14th century arched doorway incorporated in Wheatlands in King's Street (PRN. 11,807).

The least-altered surviving mid-16th century house is Seal Cottage, formerly known as Blue Gates (PRN. 9425), of ironstone and thatch, one and a half storeys with a raised-cruck roof, built on a three-unit plan with the hall fireplace backed onto the through-passage, flanked by a service room at the lower end and a parlour at the upper. Sycamore Terrace (PRN. 9426), a row of eight tenements under a single thatched roof, is partly 17th century, but incorporates a sub-medieval hall-house of three bays; one raised-cruck truss remains. The terrace was converted to weavers' cottages in the 19th century. The Joiners' Arms (PRN. 11,768) is of several builds, but remains substantially a mid-16th century yeoman's dwelling, with three ground floor rooms and a through-passage fronted by a large four-centred arched with quatrefoils and square moulded label. The roof has been renewed, but the feet of some of the original raised crucks remain in situ.

There is a particularly rich heritage of 17th century domestic buildings. The main building material continues to be coursed ironstone rubble, but stone slates begin to appear on the more pretentious houses as an alternative to thatch. Two storeys with attics become increasingly common. Stone-mullioned windows with square moulded labels represent the most distinctive architectural detail of the period, and examples are widespread.

The most substantial 17th century house in Bloxham was Park Close (PRN. 11,123), built in the first decade of the century by Sir Thomas Garway, merchant of the Staple, which was assessed on 13 hearths in 1665. Much of the 17th century work survives on the N. side, but the main S. front was remodelled in the 18th and 19th centuries. There are several good houses of c. 1640 built on the three-unit plan with ground-floor kitchen, hall, parlour and through-passage, e.g. Bennetts in Elephant and Castle Lane (PRN. 11,764) and the house immediately S. of the Court House (PRN. 11,816). Many smaller cottages of two-unit plan also remain, perhaps the best examples surviving from the early 17th century being Garden Lee Cottage (PRN. 11,796) and part of Sycamore Terrace (PRN. 9426).

A few substantial new detached stone houses in their own grounds appeared within the village, including Godswell (PRN. 11,774), Humber House (PRN. 11,776) and Sylphide Cottage, now The Paddocks. The new Red Lion (PRN. 11,772), a two-storey brick building with hipped Welsh Slate roof, was built in the 1830's to serve travellers on the re-routed High Street across the valley. The White Lion (PRN. 11,799), further N. along the High Street, is an early 19th century three-bay, two-storey building, rendered and now colour-washed in blue with smooth rusticated white quoins. The principal 19th century expansion outside the village was on the Banbury Road side. White Cottage (PRN. 11,788), on the corner of Strawberry Terrace, is of brick with a hipped Welsh slate roof and central brick stack, and bears a datestone 1853. There are some later 19th century artisan dwellings in Strawberry Terrace itself with Flemish Bond brickwork, and a more substantial brick terrace on the Banbury Road. There are many minor 19th century details throughout the village, amongst which the shallow iron-framed glass-roofed verandah at The Cottage in Church Street (PRN. 11,808) is worthy of some note.

OPEN SPACE

There are several small greens in the village. The largest, known simply as The Green, is an irregular quadrilateral open space descending the slope from Bloxham South to the bridges. It is now bisected by the new High Street, and is further reduced by probable encroachments on the N. and W. sides and by the island block SE of Unicorn Street. A second open space, the Little Green occupies a position on top of the slope a short distance to the SW. This too has been reduced by encroachment, notably by the building of Sylphide Cottage (now The Paddocks) after 1801. Of the block of buildings between The Gogs and Frog Lane, the W. part is almost certainly and the remainder quite possibly a further encroachment over the Little Green. Indeed, it is possible that the two greens were once connected, forming a large open common beyond the original perimeter of Bloxham South as postulated above.

The broadening of Church Street between Manor Farm and the churchyard formerly comprised the Church Green, and another small open space in Queen's Street once known as The Square has similarly been reduced by infill. There are further small greens formed at road junctions, in Bloxham South at the meeting of King's Street and Church Street, Cumberford Hill and Church Street and Cumberford Hill and Queen's Street, and in Bloxham North where Stone Hill joins Little Bridge Road. Most of the encroachments which can be recognised or postulated had already taken place before the availability of the first large-scale maps in the late 18th/early 19th centuries.

The school has a playing-field in Bloxham North which has been created by the removal of a few buildings and field-boundaries shown on the 1801 map. The village recreation ground lies to the S. of the former railway, and was presented by George Allen, a London solicitor, in 1910.

EARTHWORKS

Slight earthworks in the square paddock beyond the E. end of the churchyard conceivably represent one or two abandoned medieval house sites or part of the St. Amand manorial buildings. In addition to this the 1801 map shows small groups of buildings which have since disappeared on the N. side of Cumberford Hill and on the E. side of the Banbury Road under the school's playing-field. With these very minor exceptions there is no evidence that either part of Bloxham has suffered significant contraction on any front - indeed, continued growth has been the most dominant pattern of the village's history.

INDUSTRIAL FEATURES

Weaver's Cottages : Sycamore Terrace (PRN. 9426), converted to weaver's cottages in the 19th century, are the chief remaining monument to the plush and shag industry. Six four-storey weaving-shops with the looms on the top floor on the site of Burcot House in Queen's Street (PRN. 11,838) were demolished in the 1950's. Gulliver's wool warehouse on Stone Hill (PRN. 11,841) was burned down in 1850. The site of a further group of stone-built thatched weaving sheds is recorded in Church Passage (PRN. 11,834). The village sheepwash survives in greatly modified form as an ornamental garden pond (PRN. 11,840).

Brick, tile and drainpipe works : The brickworks (PRN. 125) immediately N. of the village is first recorded in 1815, when its products were ordered for the Methodist chapel in Banbury. There were two square kilns in 1881, which were still operating at the end of the century under William Adkins.

Sawmill and timberyard : Active through the later 19th century. There was a sawpit (PRN. 11,828) off Old Bridge Road in 1881. In 1900 Butler's sawmill and timberyard employed 40 men.

Ironstone quarrying : Ironstone was being mined on the edge of the village in the 19th century, from evidence of drifts and tunnels discovered near Queen's Street in the 1950's (PRN. 5621). Open-cast working began on a much larger scale after 1917 when the Bloxham & Whiston Iron Co. acquired nearly 200 acres (80 ha.) at Milton Pits near Oldbarn Farm 1.3 km. E. of the village (PRN. 2231). Closer to the village alongside the Tadmarton road the Bloxham Pits were later opened up by the Northamptonshire Ironstone Co. and worked by the Claycross Coal and Iron Co. from 1939 (PRN. 2232).

Most other trades were small-scale and served purely local needs. The Bloxham Gas Light and Coke Co. was started in 1870, and some of its buildings remain at the bottom of Cumberford Hill (PRN. 130), though the actual gasometer has gone. There were several bakeries, including one in High Street (PRN. 1219) now occupied by Fashion Fabrics, and Page's bakery (PRN. 11,765) at the Elephant & Castle. There were malhouses in Queen's Street (PRN. 131), behind the Hawk & Partridge (PRN. 11,833) and opposite All Saints School (PRN. 132). Three smithies are known in 1881 : Zachariah Print's Old Smithy (PRN. 11,811) next to Seal Cottage, another now incorporated into Barclay's Bank (PRN. 11,829) and one in High Street S. of the school (PRN. 11,830).

The Old Forge in Church Street (PRN.11,823), not shown in 1881, still stands.

Transport features : The main road through the village was part of the Banbury, Chipping Norton and Burford Turnpike (PRN. 8970). A turnpike tollhouse S. of the village (PRN. 10,234) has now gone, but a milestone at the N.end (PRN. 10,067) still retains its iron plate. The Banbury & Cheltenham line (PRN. 8992) of the G.W.R. opened in 1887 ran through Bloxham, and the village had a railway station (PRN. 1162). The station was closed for passenger traffic in 1950 and the line finally abandoned in 1964. The station buildings are now demolished and the whole area is being redeveloped for housing. One new pub was opened during the construction of the railway, the Railway Tavern in Queen's Street (PRN. 11,837), now a private house still known by the nickname given to it by the navvies, the Drum & Monkey.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The full extent of the two Romano-British settlements closest to the present village on the N. and W. sides (PRN's 9948 and 1712/4984) remains quite unknown, and it is possible that the fringes of the present settlement may have partly encroached over either or both. The historical link between the several Romano-British settlements in the parish and the single medieval village, and the location of the early Saxon settlement or settlements, represents one of the main unsolved problems in the local historical topography. The first extent of the early medieval village may be guessed from the position of the church and the ring of perimeter lanes discussed above. The modern village lies on top of the medieval settlement, and has not contracted within its medieval bounds, therefore no extensive area of abandoned medieval crofts or house sites is available for study.

There may be some archaeological potential within gardens and open spaces in the village, but (a) such plots are rarely likely to be available for excavation, (b) even when availability occurs, this may be difficult to forecast far enough in advance to organise any action, and (c) all such areas may be expected to contain considerable post-medieval disturbance.

LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the parish.

Most of the more important buildings in the village are now Listed as being of Architectural or Historic Importance under Section 54 of the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act. The church is Grade A. There are no Grade I buildings. 26 buildings are listed as Grade II, and there are a further 24 on the Supplementary List.

The village centre was designated in 1975 as a Conservation Area under the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Apart from the church, Bloxham possesses few individual buildings of outstanding architectural quality. Nonetheless its range of vernacular buildings is of very great interest, and the many attractive groupings of old houses and cottages using local materials on sloping sites within a pattern of lanes itself of considerable historic interest combine to make Bloxham visually a most attractive and interesting settlement.

It is clearly a village under great pressure through its proximity to Banbury. There has been extensive new building to the W. and smaller new developments to the NE., S. and SW., together with a limited amount of infill within the old village itself. On the whole the latter has been reasonably unobtrusive. Given the need to concentrate expansion in certain rural settlements, Bloxham, with its tradition as an 'open' village, has been able to absorb the pressure better than many, and can probably continue to do so without serious risk of damage to its historic core. The designation of the Conservation Area should ensure that any further redevelopment within the old village should not detract from its present attractive appearance. When the Department of Museum Services was invited to comment on the proposed designation in 1975, the boundary of the area was felt to be satisfactory, and no extensions have needed to be recommended.

There are no archaeological sites within or close to the village which are felt to be of sufficient value to warrant scheduling. On the other hand, the grading of Listed Buildings may well now warrant revision. A couple (PRN's 11,792 and 11,769) have now been demolished. Although a detailed survey has not been possible here, it is suspected that most of those on the Supplementary List and several not listed at all could well be upgraded to Grade II status.

The greatest pressure for further development will no doubt continue to be at the margins of the settlement. At present there are no known archaeological sites within the village or close to its periphery of such outstanding importance as to warrant permanent preservation or large-scale excavation; it has therefore not been felt necessary to indicate any areas of archaeological interest around Bloxham on the historical constraint maps provided to the District Council.

While the need for archaeological excavation is not felt to be a major priority, the following problems might repay investigation should opportunity arise at a time when resources are available:-

- (1) The extent of the Romano-British settlement on the Tadmarton road (PRN. 1712/4984)
- (2) The extent and nature of the Romano-British settlement N. of the village (PRN. 9948)
- (3) The sites of the dwellings, outbuildings and precincts of either of the two medieval manor-houses (PRN's 11,122 and 11,773)

(4) The testing of the suggestion that the King's Street-Little Green-Merrivale's Lane alignment represents the course of an early medieval village boundary.

While the value of small-scale archaeological excavations and watching briefs is invariably and inevitably limited, it is unrealistic under present circumstances to hope for anything more ambitious in Bloxham.

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LEWK NOR, OXFORDSHIRE : VILLAGE SURVEY - John Steane

Village: Lewknor

Civil Parish: Lewknor

District: South Oxfordshire

Former District: Bullingdon Rural

Hundred: Lewknor

O.S. 1:10,000: SU79NW

O.S. 1:2500 SU7097

Aerial Photographs. Fairey Air Surveys 11 May 1961.

1,184, 1,185, 1,186, 2,025, 2,026

LEWK NOR

1. The Hundred and the Parish

The hundred of this part of South East Oxfordshire takes its name from the village of Lewknor. The name means 'Leofeca's slope' and the hill now called 'The Knapp', just south of the village is a likely site for early meetings of the hundred. Remains of Early Iron Age settlement and of an Anglo Saxon cemetery have been found here. The village of Lewknor seems to be the earliest Saxon settlement in the area. South Weston clearly relates to it (The West Farm); also to the east is Aston Rowant (The East Farm). To the north is Nethercote which again may refer indirectly to the earlier settlement ('at the other cote'). The parish is a long narrow strip 2 miles broad at its widest and 5 miles in length from north-west to south-east. In the Chilterns there were formerly another 2,000 acres which were three detached portions of Lewknor parish, called Lewknor Uphill. In 1844 they went to Buckinghamshire.

2. Geology

The village lies near the junction of the Upper Greensand and the Lower Chalk. In the south east of the parish the ground rises steeply to the chiltern scarp and includes the middle and upper chalk, overlain in places by clay with flints. A spring of water fills a quarry like depression known in 1716 as Town Pond and hence a stream flows through Nethercote towards South Weston. It eventually joins the River Thames.

3. Route Pattern

Two prehistoric routes cross the parish from North-East to South-West. The Chiltern Ridgeway runs along the top of the chalk scarp. The Icknield Way makes its way along the foot keeping approximately to the 500 ft. contour. It takes the form of a multi-rutted green way and is thought to have been originally an alternative to the Ridgeway for use in the summer. There are also roads connecting Lewknor with the villages to the north east and south west, known in medieval times (and so referred to in the 1598 Langdon map) as the Aston and Watlington ways.

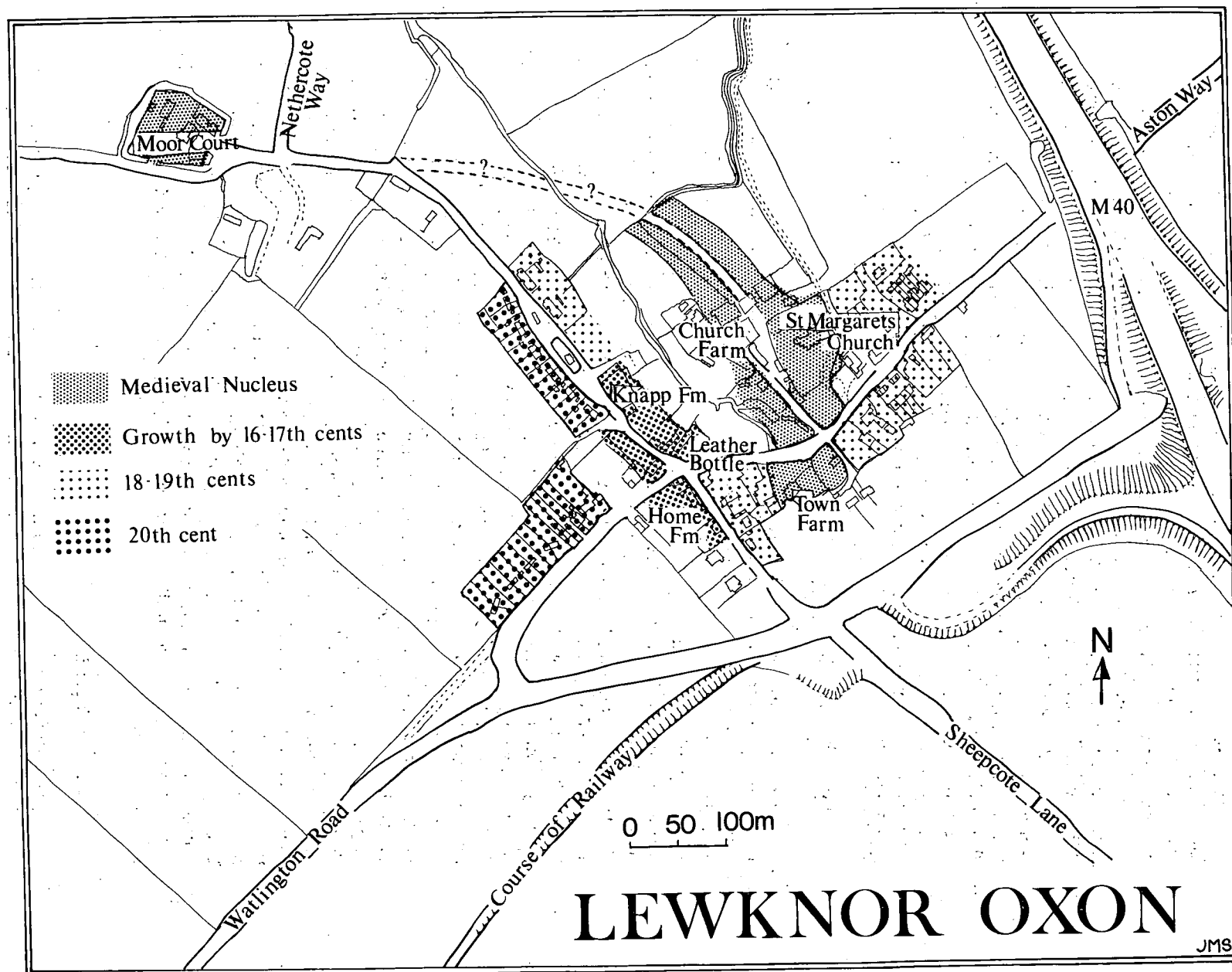


Figure 31

The Oxford-London road (PRN 8960) runs along the north-east parish boundary. On reaching the steep Chiltern rise the parish boundary drops back a little to the south of the present road. A cutting at this point indicates the original line of the ascent. Another road, once called the Weston Woodway comes to Lewknor from South Weston. At Moor Court it turns South. Near Manor House Barn a medieval road (now no longer in use) led directly to the village centre. The present road runs south and reaches the western end of the village before it begins the long ascent to the Chilterns as Sheepcote Lane. This was one of the ancient drove ways connecting villages in the Vale with the Chiltern sheep pastures. One more road joins the Oxford-London road with Moor Court. It is now called Nethercote Lane and was formerly Hackman Way. It used to lead towards Shirburn but this part is now disused. The M. 40 bisects the parish along the same line as the old Oxford-London road. The village lies beneath its massive embankment subjected to the unceasing roar of its traffic.

4. Documentary History

Leofeca, the Anglo Saxon owner gave the village his name. The earliest documentary reference to the village is in 990. The property came into the hands of Abingdon Abbey during the reign of Edward the Confessor and it was rated at 17 hides in 1086. The abbey gradually enlarged its holdings here but leased the manor throughout most of the middle ages. In 1541 after the dissolution of the monasteries it was granted to a court favourite, Sir John Williams, afterwards Lord Williams of Thame. Thereafter it was leased to the Edmonds family and in 1603 passed to the Rolles family with whom it stayed throughout the 17th century. The Jodnell family owned Lewknor between 1720 and 1890. The estates were sold to Major Timothy White and the White family in 1954 sold it for £18,000 to All Souls' College, Oxford. Other lesser manors were at Moor Court and Nethercote. Moor Court was in origin one hide held by the De Wheatfield family; by the 12th century the De Lewknor family had become possessed of this property and the moated farm lying at the junction of Weston Woodway with the Lower Icknield Way was their curia or manorial hall. The later history of Moor Court is associated with the Simeon, Suffolk and Williams families. Finally the Winlows who held it in the 18th century sold it to All Souls College in 1742. Nethercote Manor derives from the 2 hides held by Miles Crispin in 1086. The Morley family held it through most of the Middle Ages but by the 15th century it was part of the Fettiplace lands: Whittons and Deanes and Harrisons were lords during the 17th century. The Lentens sold it to the Jodrell family in the 18th and thenceforward Nethercote was united to Lewknor Manor.

5. Plan Elements

From evidence on the ground it seems that the village plan has undergone some alterations since the Middle Ages. This is confirmed by a series of maps, the earliest of which is a survey made by Thomas Langdon in 1598 which shows the main elements of the landscape 400 years ago. When this is studied with the 1779 Davies Map of Oxfordshire, the 1810 Inclosure Award, the 1833 O.S. and the 1881 2½" 1 mile O.S. maps, it is possible to piece together an analysis of the evolution of the village plan.

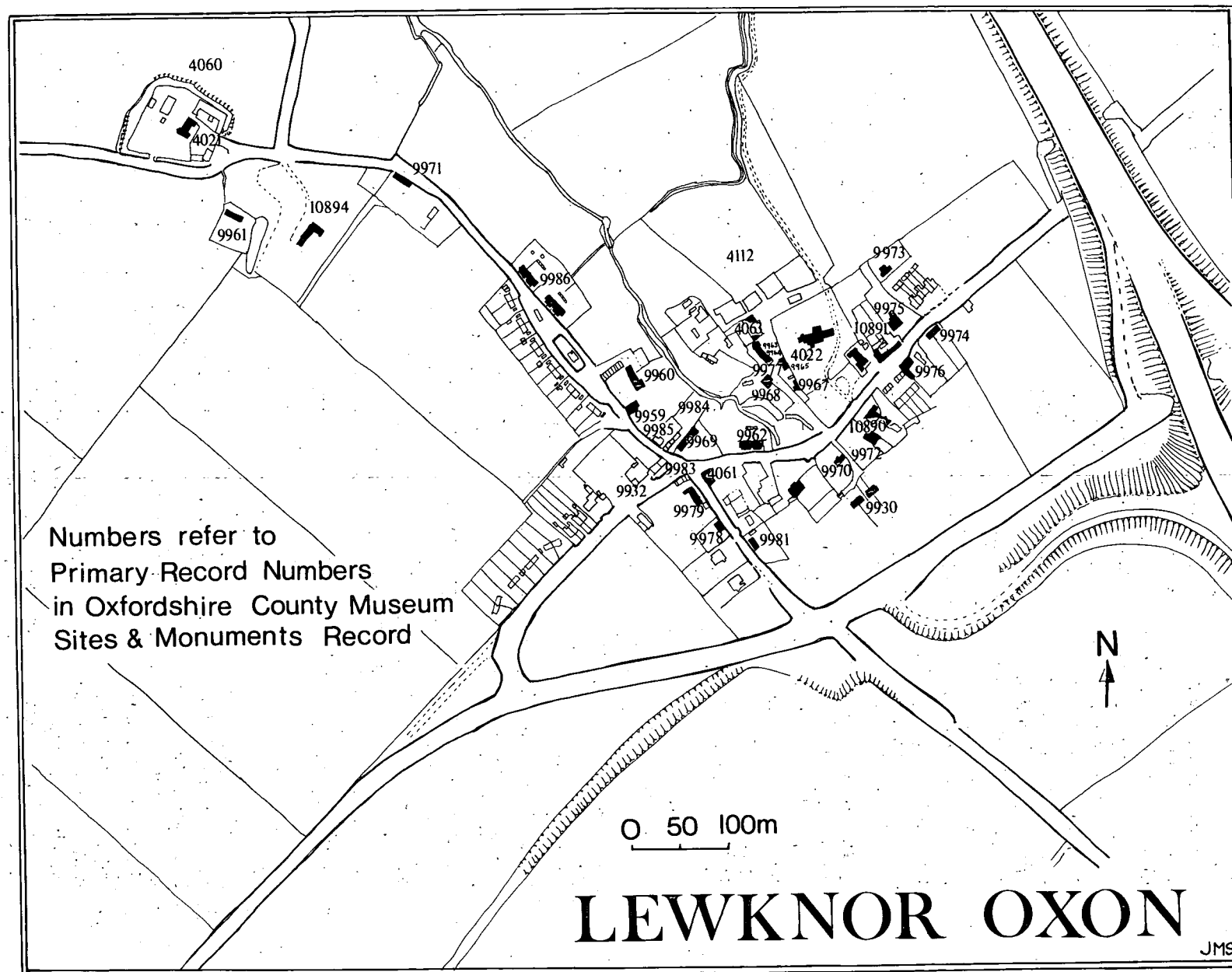


Figure 32

It is likely that the nucleus of the Saxon settlement lay around Church Farm, St. Margaret's Church and Town Farm. The place name 'Town Farm' itself implies considerable antiquity. The original siting was no doubt connected with the springs which rise at this end of the village and feed a brook which flows in a north-westerly direction. Church Lane lies to the north of this and may well have been the original High Street connecting Church Farm and Town Farm. Both retain medieval elements among their buildings. A hollow way on the same line as Church Lane continues across fields to the north of Church Farm in the direction of Moor Court. Earthworks suggesting house platforms and croft boundaries enclosed by a substantial linear boundary mound indicate the extent of the shrunken settlement. The whole centre of gravity of the village shifted to the west at a later date. The reason for this move seems to have been the attraction of the north south route represented by Sheepcote Lane and Weston Woodway. Traffic coming from South Weston and Moor Court could reach the Chiltern pastures using this route without going over the stream. It is noteworthy that there are three buildings dating to the 16th/17th centuries along this route, Knapp Farm, the Leather Bottle and Home Farm. Moor Court, a moated farmstead and Nethercote were separate manorial centres lying to the north of the village several fields away. In the 18th century the village seems to have spread along the north side of the Weston road and the Davies Map of 1797 shows eleven buildings to the north and west of the 'Leathern Bottle'. Shrinkage occurred here and the only houses along here now were built in the late 19th century. 'Humps and Bumps' in the field between these and Knapp Farm House indicate the presence of former buildings. Other housing was built in the early 19th century to the east of the village. The railway (PRN 8998) which was part of the Princes Risborough-Watlington line came in 1862. It is now abandoned but part of its earthworks were used by the feeder road to the M40. A row of houses was built along the Watlington road about 1911. Eight council houses were erected after the first World War. Twelve, constructed of grey concrete, were built along the southern part of the Weston road, after the second World War. The M40 has cut off the village from the east, blocking the Aston road. Feed roads further isolate it from the south. The village now cowers beneath these vast transportation works.

6. Buildings

(1) The oldest building in the village is the Church (PRN 4022). The original dedication was to St. Mary but this was changed to St. Margaret. Norman work is the earliest to be seen and shows that the church at that date consisted of nave, chancel and transeptal chapels. Of this there remain the chancel arch, pointed with chevron decoration and heavy string course, supporting columns and acanthus capitals. Externally a portion of the corbel table which took the Norman roof can be seen on the south side. The cylindrical font carved with a pattern of liked roundels also dates from the 12th century. The chancel was rebuilt on a larger scale in the 14th century, possibly in the time of John de Lewknor (fl. 1316-54).

Four new windows were also given decorated tracery, the adornment of the priest's doorway, sedilia and Easter sepulchre represent expensive investment. The South aisle and porch were also added in the 14th century and the battlemented west tower in the 15th century. The other chief features are memorials to the Jodrell family in the North chapel and the five alabaster tomb effigies of Sir Thomas and Lady Dorothy Fleetwood 1629 and Mr. William Deane and his wife of Nethercote (1640).

(2) Perhaps the most noteworthy recent discovery is that the Great Barn at Church Farm is a medieval timber framed building (PRN 4063). The hall is 34 ft long and is open from ground to roof, two bays divided by an open truss, an impressive and richly ornamented structure, hardly paralleled for size in English timber framed buildings, 29 ft in width. The date according to Fletcher is mid 14th century but Morney and Smith put it up to a century later.

(3) Town Farm (PRN 4040) incorporates a late medieval hall, originally 3 bays in length, timber framed with wattle and daub infill. Possibly in the 16th century a landing, staircase and gallery were put in within the north-west end of the hall and a floor at the south-east end. A possible garderobe was inserted at the end of the gallery on the first floor.

(4) Home Farm, Hill Road (PRN 9979) originated in the 16th century as a 2-storied, timber-framed building with brick nogging. A central section with 2-storeys and an attic were added in the 18th century and a single storey and attic were built on the southern end c. 1850 both in flint with brick quoins and window surrounds. The Farm is thatched.

(5) Ye Olde Leathern Bottle Public House (PRN 9969) has a 2-storey main building with much half timbering in the near elevation dating from the 17th century. The entrance is under a lean-to wing supported on posts and brackets with contemporary enclosed seating. There is original panelling inside. The building is surrounded by single storey brick outbuildings.

(6) Knapp Farm (PRN 9959) has a timber framed gable and the mainly 2-storey building of brick probably encases a timber framed structure. The irregular windows are of various dates, mostly 18th century.

(7) Moor Court (PRN 4021) is a moated manor house, 2-storey and H-plan with a front elevation of 5 bays in chequer brick. The flanking wings are gabled and on the south side is a large chimney stack the lower part brick with stone quoins and 2 octagonal ashlar shafts. 17th century in date.

(8) The Vicarage and Stables (PRN 10890) is a 17th century house much altered in the 18th century, 2 stories and attic, made of colourwashed brick. The central gable takes up 3 bays of the 5 bay front. The stables are L-shaped, of flint with brick dressings (PRN 9972).

(9) The Manor House (PRN 10894) has a small part of the 17th century building much altered in 1866. It is L-shaped with a front elevation of 4 bays. Roughcase hides the old brick. The initials ERJ 1866 are those of Sir Edward Repps Jodrell who inherited the estate in 1861 and died in 1882.

(10) There was extensive building and rebuilding of houses in the 18th and 19th centuries in Lewknor. Many of them share the same architectural features and these characteristics include the use of flint with brick dressings, quoins, window surrounds and string courses, hipped flattish slate roofs and smallish casement windows. Beginning at the east end of the village.

(a) Glebe Farmhouse (PRN 9973). Small detached farmhouse, 2-storey red brick. Must be post 1810 because it does not figure on the 1810 Inclosure Award.

(b) Wyckham House (PRN 9975). Detached 2-storied, 3-bay house, Welsh Slate hipped roof. Colour wash with stone quoins. Arrow head iron boundary railings.

(c) Nos. 20, 22 and 24 High Street (PRN 9976). A row of 3 cottages originally 4; 2-storied. Walls of flint with brick quoins and dressings to windows and doors; roof, hipped slate. Early 19th century in date.

(d) The Old Fox, 18 High Street (PRN 9976). Until 1970, The Fox public house and shop. Flint and brick dressings, shop section with bow window added in 19th century.

(e) Post Office and fine adjoining cottages (PRN 10891). Post-Office is colour-washed brick, the rest flint with brick dressings. All under hipped slate roof. Early 19th century.

(f) School and School House (PRN 2265). 2 school rooms with central school house, dated 1836. The school House is 2-storeys, flint with brick dressings and is flanked by school rooms, projecting wings with thatched roofs. Each gable end has one large window.

(g) 6 High Street (PRN 9970) is a small detached house of flint with brick dressings and a hipped slate roof with a date stone 1831 over the porch.

(h) New Way 8-14 High St. (PRN 9980) 2 pairs semi-detached cottages, 2 storeys, each cottage 2 bay with central door. Probably late 18th century in date.

(i) Hill Cottage, Hill Road (PRN 9981). Detached cottage, 2 storeys originally a pair. Flint walls with brick quoins, vertical dressings and window surrounds. Suggested date C. 1830-40.

(j) No. 4 Hill Road (PRN 9978). Detached cottage, once used as village bakery. 2 storey with single storey addition. Base course of flint, old red brick with semi-glazed headers.

(k) 14 and 16 Church Lane (PRN 9963). 2 small cottages in the centre of the row. Thatched. Possibly 17th century.

(l) Hamilton Cottage (PRN 9964). Large cottage, end of terrace 2 storey, colour washed, roof grey concrete tiles.

(m) No. 4 and No. 6 Church Lane (PRNs 9965, 9977). Semi detached cottage, 2 storeys, walls brick, colour washed. Early 19th century. Rear elevation of No. 6 has timber framing.

(n) Bank Cottage, 2 Church Lane (PRN 9967). Very small detached cottage, 2 storey, part timber framed single storey brick lean-to rear. Front elevation orange stretchers, vitrified headers.

(o) Bank Cottage (PRN 9968). Detached cottage, 2 storey much altered, flint with brick dressings; N.E. elevation rendered and colourwashed.

(p) Church End Cottage (PRN 9966). Possibly 17th century single storey and attic, walls rendered and colourwashed. Thatched: in poor condition (March 19/9).

(q) Nos. 3-9 High Street (PRN 9962). Row of four cottages, each L-shaped with projecting bay to front. Small lean-to extension at rear. Barge boarding to hipped and gable ends. Large stone with inscription 'W' in centre (refers to Major Timothy White who inherited Lewknor and Nethercote Manors in 1890).

(r) Nos. 2, 4 and 6 Tanyard Cottages now called Vernon Cottages. Row of 3 cottages now restored and turned into one. Date bricks on left hand quoin under eave WH 1812 and KING 1812. Flint with brick quoins, arched surrounds to ground floor windows and doors and chimney breast.

(s) No. 8 Weston Road (PRN 9985). 2 storey, 3-bay detached house. Lean to extension to right used to be butcher's shop and retains shop window. The walls of the front elevation are rendered and lined. The door is panelled under a small sloping hood and carved brackets.

(t) The Old Forge, High Street (PRN 4061). Detached house with angled front. Flint with brick dressings, slate roof. Date J.B. 1846. The Barney family were local smiths for several generations until 1965.

(u) No. 2 Watlington Road (PRN 9983). Semi-detached house, 2 storey, flint with brick quoins, vertical dressings and window surrounds. Gothic style decorations to upper panes of windows.

(v) "Crossways" Watlington Road (PRN 9982). Semi-detached house 2 storey: extension to left hand built in 1920's for use as village shop/Post Office walls, flint with brick dressings, originally thatched. Ground floor sash windows came from Thame Park and Haseley Manor.

(w) Barn Knapp Farm (PRN 9960). 7 bay brick base, weather-boarded barn. Fine contemporary iron hinges on boarded barn doors.

(x) Nos. 12-26 Weston Road (PRN 9986). 2 similar rows of 4 cottages, of similar design to those of Nos. 3-9 High Street. 2 storey, late 19th century. Each is L shaped with projecting bay to front. Carved stone plaque with initial W probably indicates that they were built for estate workers by Major Timothy White C. 1890.

(y) Manor Barn (PRN 9971). 8 bays in all, flint and brick. Early 18th century in date. Blocked windows, now serves as cattle shed.

(z) Moor Court Cottage (PRN 9961). 2 Storeyed detached cottages of flint with brick. Hipped roof, tiled with cedar shingles. Weatherboarded lean-to extension at each end. Late 18th century in date.

Earthworks

The most interesting earthwork is the trapezoidal shaped moat which is medieval and surrounds Moor Court (PRN 4060). A further area of earthworks is in the field north of the church and consists of a hollow way (a continuation of Church Lane) and 7 platforms surrounded by ditches, enclosed by a long boundary mound (PRN 4112). A further series of less well defined humps and bumps, the remains of buildings existing in the 18th century but now vanished along the north eastern side of Weston Road. The vastest earthwork is of course the embankment of the M40: but there is also the overgrown track of the dismantled railway.

Recommendations

If proposals are made in the future to conserve what is historically interesting in Lewknor the following points might be borne in mind.

(1) The present village plan has evolved over a thousand years and the centre of gravity has shifted (see plan elements). The area north of the church should not be developed without archaeological examination of the earthworks.

(2) Already the village has largely lost the institutions which served its self sufficient life. Included among these were the smithy (PRN 4061), the butcher's shop (PRN 9985) and two other shops (PRN 9982 and PRN 9976), and a public house (The Fox, PRN 9976) Its present comparative spaciousness is caused by the fact that a number of the buildings are substantial farms (PRNs 4040, 9979, 9959, 9960, 9971, 4021, 9973). There will doubtless be pressures to infill here in the future. It is hoped that such developments as Rectory Court - set back in an unseemly fashion from the village street will be resisted.

Materials such as flint with brick dressings should continue to be used in the old village centre.

(3) Any conservation area should include the houses and buildings mentioned under 'buildings' together with the earthworks.

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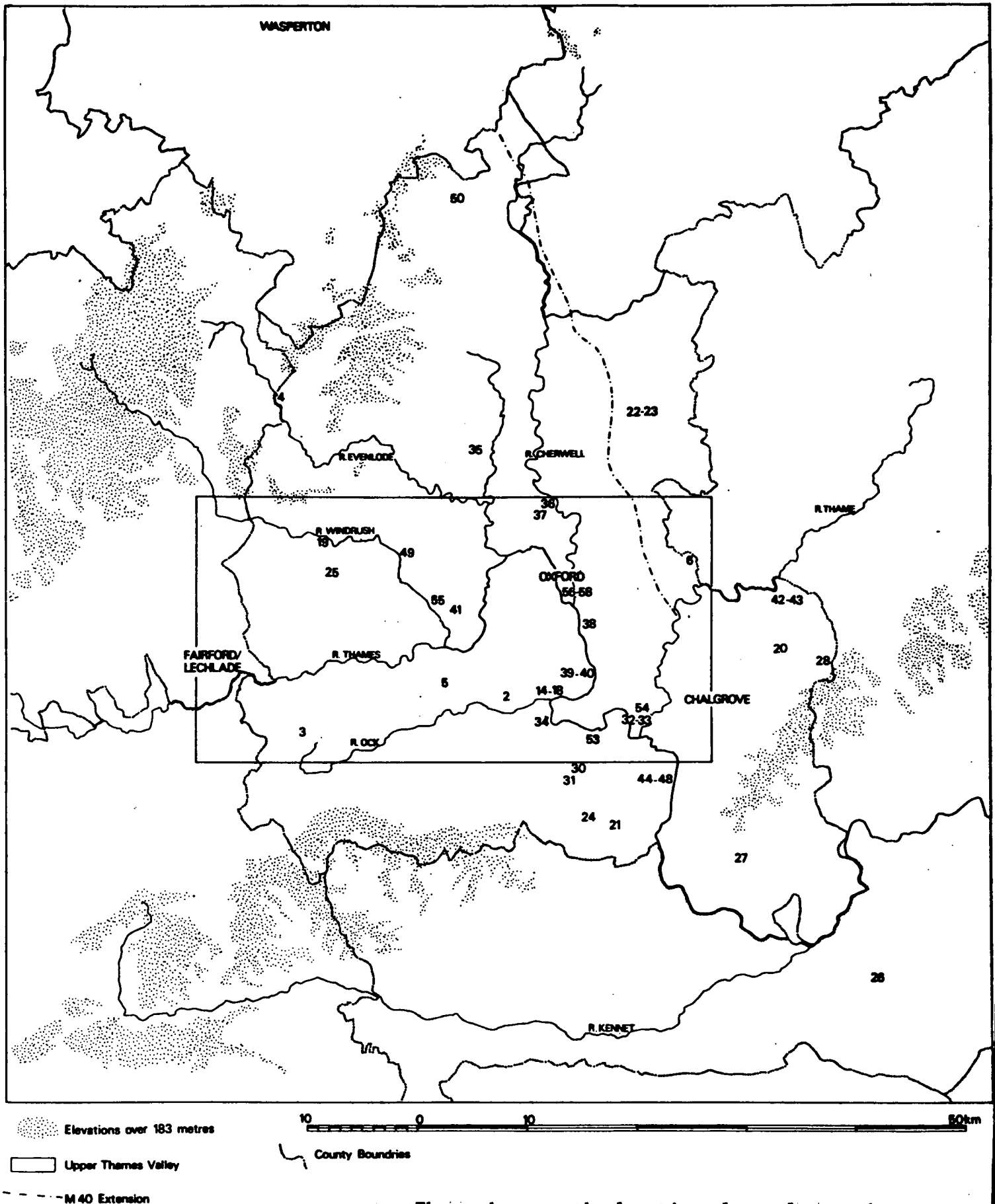
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Ordnance Survey Maps 1831 (1 inch to 1 mile), 1881 (25 inches to 1 mile).

R. Davies Map of Oxfordshire 1797.

Figure 33



The numbers on the location plan refer to the numbers of the summary reports with the exception of the main post-excavation projects.

THE OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT 1979 - Tom Hassall, *Director*

In spite of the gloomy outlook for the British economy 1979 witnessed a small building boom in Oxfordshire and in particular Oxford itself. Many construction projects which had been discussed for a long time began to actually take shape. Accordingly the number of rescue excavations either carried out by the Unit itself or in cooperation with local societies and individuals has had to match the work-load.

For the first half of the year the scale of operations was somewhat less than in the previous year. The reason for this reduction was that the Manpower Services Commission's Job Creation Programme project came to an end in December 1978, nor was there a suitable site for a major summer excavation using volunteers. However, the MSC approved a new scheme under the Special Temporary Employment Programme half-way through the year and since July up to 15 STEP employees have been employed by the Unit. This labour force will continue until July 1980. This further MSC grant has enabled the high level of excavation activity of the Unit to continue while allowing the Unit to liberate its resources to begin to catch up on outstanding post-excavation projects. After July 1980 the work-load is again bound to decline as costs continue to rise.

The financial position of the Unit since its first full year of operations is summarised in Fig 34. From this diagram the financial trends of the first five years show very clearly. Expenditure has risen dramatically largely because of inflation which particularly affects the salaries element of the Unit's budget. In addition the growth of this element is compounded by the young age of all the staff who are on incremental salary scales. The graph also shows the dramatic effect of the various MSC schemes on the overall expenditure. Noteworthy also is the virtually static size of the Department of the Environment's (DoE) grant to Oxfordshire. In real terms there has been a major annual cut-back which has only been partly offset by DoE grants for projects outside Oxfordshire.

The Unit's projects currently fall into three distinct categories so far as funding is concerned:

1. Major projects considered by the DoE to be of national importance either in Oxfordshire or in surrounding counties (Warwickshire and Gloucestershire in 1979). As mentioned above, during recent years the DoE grant for Oxfordshire has declined dramatically in real terms. The DoE grant alone is also insufficient to finance these projects in their entirety.

2. Larger projects of county-wide significance using finance raised from MSC and other local sources such as the Local Authorities and the Amey Roadstone Corporation. Often the importance of these projects has been subsequently recognised by DoE.

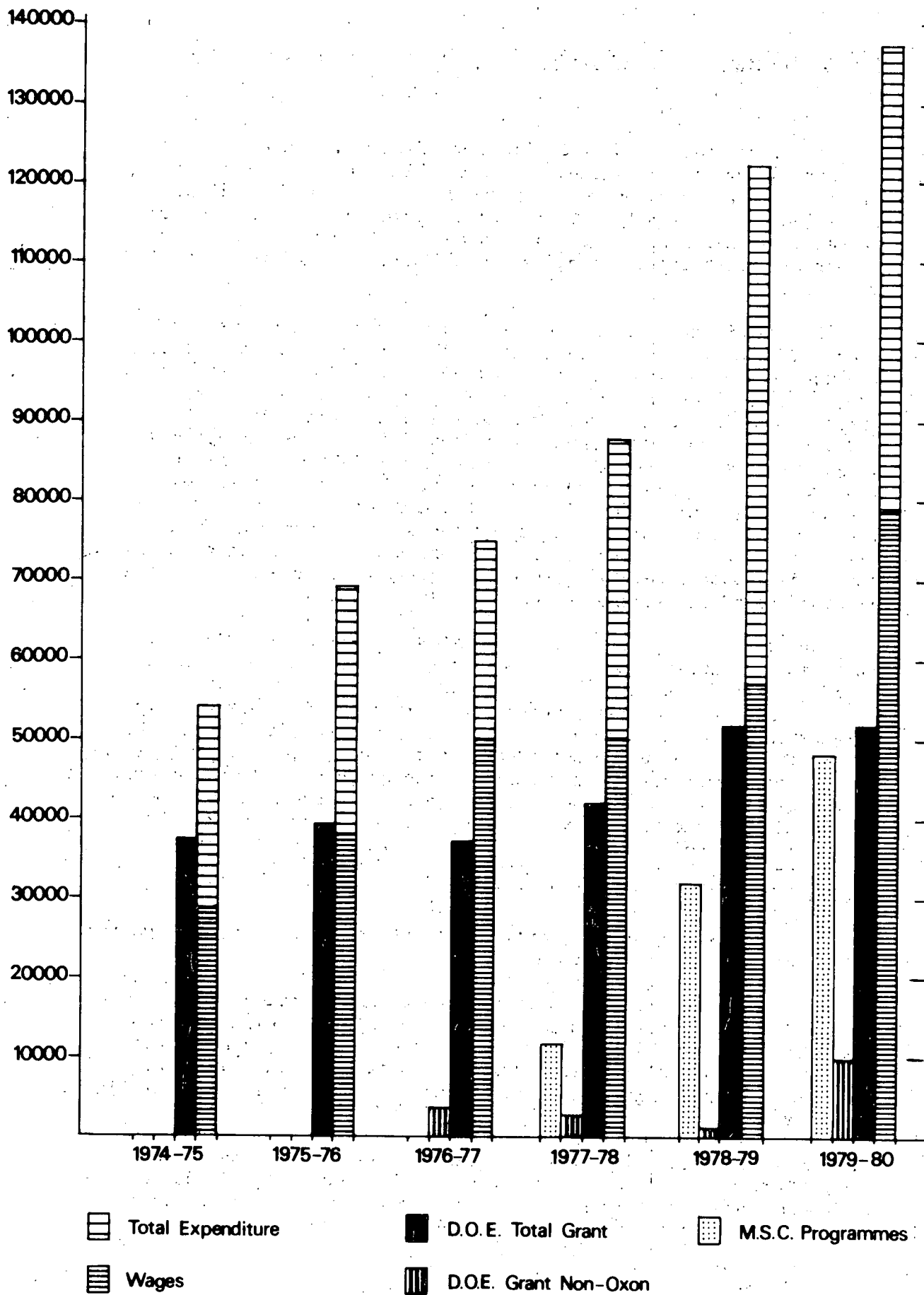


Figure 34

3. Smaller projects in which there is a high level of part-time assistance. The full-time support, when it is required, for these projects again comes from non-DoE sources.

In this way the Unit provides a Rescue Archaeological service to Oxfordshire while working outside the county if the need arises. The projects themselves divide as usual into three categories: (i) survey, (ii) excavation, and (iii) post-excavation. It is the first and second categories which are dealt with in interim form in this report. The excavations are divided into two sections: the main projects, ie the projects recognised by DoE as being of National Importance; and the smaller projects.

The largest single survey project has been a survey of the Upper Thames Valley funded by the British Academy and carried out by Richard Hingley. The Survey has produced notable results. As will be seen from the summary report between Oxford and Lechlade the number of known sites on the gravel soils has been increased by 30 percent while the North Oxfordshire limestone on the Corallian Ridge has begun to produce areas of comparable density. The Unit is encouraging extensive survey on the Corallian Ridge. Richard Hingley's survey of the Frilford/Garford/Marcham area in the Corallian Ridge was described in last year's Report. A further report is given below. Two further areas of the Corallian Ridge, Great Coxwell and Kingston Bagpuize, have also been the subjects of surveys by Ken Edwards and Ron Cowell with the assistance of David Miles in both cases. These surveys have been of a general nature and not specifically orientated towards Rescue Archaeology. Richard Chambers also continues to carry out more specific site surveys. Two such surveys are reported on: a moated site at Kingham and a Deserted Medieval Village at Thomley. A number of groups and individuals, notably at Benson, Faringdon, Launton, Middleton Stoney and Thame are also actively involved with field survey as part of the Oxfordshire Parish Survey. Richard Chambers continues to act as the liaison officer between the Unit and those taking part in the Survey. Training remains a problem which is in part solved by classes run by the Oxford University Department for External Studies. A day school in surveying was given by Richard Chambers to members of the Thame Historical Society and to pupils of Lord Williams's School, Thame.

1979 saw the start of work at the Coln Gravel Company's Claydon Pike pit situated between Lechlade and Fairford in Gloucestershire. David Miles who has been directing the excavation explains in his interim report the background to the work. The programme of excavations is very much an extension of the Unit's involvement in the Upper Thames Valley Gravel Fields. Iron Age sites on gravel sites still continue to dominate the Unit's rural work load. Indeed the Unit's expertise in this respect was also made use of by Warwickshire County Museum and the DoE when a small excavation was carried out at Wasperton to assess the potential of another large crop-mark complex of Iron Age date. This excavation was directed by Simon Palmer. In the future it is hoped to bring together some of the Unit's Iron Age research in some form of synthesis. It may also be academically desirable to place a greater emphasis on rural sites of other periods.

In Oxford Brian Durham has been very active in a whole range of sites, since a number of development projects matured during the year. Undoubtedly the most interesting site was 18-24 New Inn Hall Street where John Blair's examination of St. Mary's College was continued while the contractors' excavations allowed an examination of late Saxon deposits in the New Inn Hall Street and Shoe Lane frontages. In New Inn Hall Street the discovery of a penny of Edward the Elder on the lowest street surface lends support to the idea that Oxford's defences and intra-mural road were laid out by Edward following his annexation of Oxford in 911/912. At 65 St Aldate's, the former Morris Garages site, the tortuous negotiations to excavate were finally successful. However, the trial excavations showed that the only available part of the site was occupied by a medieval river channel. On the opposite side of the road at 33-40 St. Aldate's part of a medieval stone causeway was uncovered. To the west of these excavations in the precincts of the medieval Blackfriars, George Lambrick identified the south-western corner of the great cloister. Further work was also possible at the end of the year at 21 Longwall Street also a former Morris Garage. Here Brian Durham examined the outer city wall and ditch.

The largest excavation in Oxfordshire in 1978 was the continuation and completion of the excavation at Chalgrove of the Harding's Field moated manor house site. Once again the excavation was directed for the Unit by Phillip Page. As the report explains the site is now to be preserved by the County Council beneath the proposed playing field. As a result the excavations this year were aimed at understanding the phases thus far excavated leaving the earliest deposits intact. The excavation of such a large and important medieval rural site will help to complement the extensive urban excavations in Oxford and smaller medieval rural projects.

A large number of smaller excavations have taken place elsewhere in the county. Many of them have been conducted by local societies and individuals. Once again Richard Chambers has been coordinating this activity. The details are listed below. However, it is worth singling out the Oxford University Archaeological Society's excavation of a neolithic (?) ring-ditch at ARC's Dix pit at Stanton Harcourt under the direction of John Taylor; Ruth and Ernest Just's watching brief at Redlands gravel pit at Caversham; the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group's sections of the Iron Age earthwork known as the Devil's Churchyard at Checkendon; the impressive work on a ring ditch complete with Beaker and Iron Age site both at Radley by Godfrey Jones and Jeff Wallis with the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society; Peter Biebrach continues to produce Roman material from King's End Farm, Bicester. There have also been two excavations at Wallingford. Brian Durham discovered the first major late Saxon pit from the two at 9-10 St. Martin's Street. Richard Chambers assisted by the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society excavated at 5-7 Castle Street. Joyce Hall and the Didcot and District Archaeological and Historical Society continue to examine sites around the town. The Thame Historical Society have also been watching the Thame by-pass.

Richard Chambers has also recorded many sites on his own such as at Lower Home Close, Bicester and 27 Market Square, Witney. He also conducted further trial work at the deserted medieval hamlet of Slape in Glympton parish, and carried out further work at Moat Cottage, Kidlington with the Kidlington and District Historical Society.

Side by side with the excavation projects the writing up of reports remains a major activity of Unit staff. During the year George Lambrick has continued to analyse the multi-period material from ARC's Mount Farm pit at Berinsfield; John Hinchliffe, assisted by Roger Thomas, was given leave from the DoE Central Excavation Unit to virtually complete the report on his excavation of the Iron Age and Roman site at ARC's Appleford pits; Tim Allen and Mark Robinson, helped by Duncan Wilson, have begun work on the preparation of the report on the Iron Age site at ARC Hardwick pit. David Miles' report on the villa at Barton Court Farm, Abingdon took further steps towards completion. This report may break new ground for the Unit, since it is intended that much of the report will take the form of microfiche. Nicholas Palmer has continued to complete the report on the medieval tenements at the Hamel, Oxford, while Maureen Mellor has virtually finished the primary sorting of the backlog of medieval pottery from Oxford. Brian Durham has continued with his report on All Saints Church in the High Street. Wendy Page has continued as the Unit's draughtsperson. She drew Figures 34, 35, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44 and 45. Eleanor Beard has produced most of the drawings from the Oxford sites, including Figure 39 of this report. Figures 50 and 51 were drawn by Jeff Wallis. The remainder of the figures were drawn by Richard Chambers. Heather Bird drew Figure 47.

Actual reports on 'Roman Burials at Dorchester on Thames' by David Miles, George Lambrick and Trevor Rowley, and the Charlbury-Arncott Gas Pipeline by Richard Chambers appeared in Oxoniensia, XLIII, 1978. The main report to be published during the year was, however, George Lambrick and Mark Robinson's Iron Age and Roman riverside settlements at Farmoor, Oxfordshire, CBA Research Report 32, 1979.

The Farmoor report once again emphasises the importance of environmental archaeology to the Unit. Mark Robinson and Bob Wilson continue to work respectively on waterlogged beetle and plant remains and bones from the Unit's excavations. As foreshadowed in last year's report the DoE is anxious to see a separate Environmental Centre established at Oxford. As a first step the environmentalists are now separately costed within the Unit and financed out of a separate Ancient Monuments Laboratory grant. John Musty of DoE has also joined the Committee to represent the Laboratory interests. However, it is envisaged that the environmentalists will be established as a quite separate entity probably based in the University Museum.

The Unit continues to be involved with public education at a number of different levels. An open day was held at Chalgrove. Over 600 adults accompanied by numerous children attended. The success of the day owed much to the hard work of Anne Cookson, an in-service trainee with the Oxford University Department for External Studies. The Director and other members of the staff continued to lecture to various groups and societies both locally and nationally. David Miles

continues to write a fortnightly column for the Abingdon Herald. The Unit's Newsletter continues to be widely circulated although in 1980 it will only be produced every other month.

Unit staff also continue to work closely with the Oxford University Department for External Studies. Apart from providing tutors for evening classes, weekend schools and summer schools the Unit once again organised a training excavation for the Department. This year's excavation was at Chalgrove. During much of the year Trevor Rowley, the Staff Tutor, was on sabbatical and much of the day-to-day liaison, therefore, fell to his assistant Michael Aston and subsequently Kate Tiller. Shirley Hermon of the Department also provided an invaluable link between the Unit and the Department.

There have been various Committee and Unit staff changes during the year. David Brown retired as Secretary to the Committee and his place will be taken by Louise Armstrong. The Committee welcomed Mr John Musty, Mr R Bainton and Dr D Leigh to its membership. The Committee's Vale of the White Horse and South Oxfordshire Archaeological Advisory Committees met twice each during the year and a new Oxford Archaeological Advisory Committee once. Frances Cox who had been assisting Maureen Mellor with medieval pottery left the staff. So also did Martin Jones who has taken up a Science Research Council post at the Department of Botany. Much of his work will continue to be orientated towards the Unit's work and he has been actively involved with the Unit in spite of his change of employer. Gwynne Oakley joined the Unit to take over Finds Administration, in particular the organisation of past finds and their transfer to the appropriate museum.

1979 has been altogether a successful year, however, it is no time for complacency. 1980 will face the Unit with two major problems. First, the County Treasurer has indicated that he will no longer be able to serve as the Committee's Treasurer after March 1980. His retirement will be a sad loss to the Committee, since the Unit has always had a very special relationship with the County and with the Treasurer's Department in particular. The Committee will have to consider not only new financial arrangements, but also possibly the structure of the Unit. It is highly likely that the Unit will have to become a Limited Liability Company. The second problem relates to finance. With the end of the MSC STEP programme coupled with the ever shrinking purchasing power of the DoE's grant to the Unit even more ingenuity will have to be shown by the Unit if it is both to remain at anything like its present size in terms of staff and to carry out such a widespread programme of work. In this respect the Unit will have to exploit its past record and its situation in Oxford if it is to continue to attract more non-government sources of money and manpower. The role of local societies and volunteers will also continue to be fundamental in this respect.

In conclusion, it is a pleasure to thank once again all those people who assist the Unit both as professional and part-time colleagues. Many names have already been mentioned while others appear under the site reports. Sarah Richardson as the Unit Secretary/Administrative Assistant helped to act as the lynch pin of the Unit's organisation. The County Treasurer and particularly Barry Phillips and Russell Worsley handled the Unit's finances with the expertise

with which the Unit has grown accustomed. Dan Chadwick, John Steane, John Rhodes and Ahmed Shishtawi of the Department of Museum Services and David Brown, Andrew Sherratt and Arthur Macgregor of the Ashmolean have assisted where the Unit and the museums have interrelated. Brian Davison and Paul Gosling of the DoE continue to provide advice and encouragement. The Unit's work in the Upper Thames Valley gravel fields would not be possible without the major support from the Amey Roadstone Corporation. Gordon Plummer, Area Director of ARC Southern, and Douglas Rayner, Terry Jones and Graham Pollard, the unit managers at pits where excavations have taken place, have all provided invaluable assistance.

Finally the Unit is indebted to its financial backers, notably from Central Government: the DoE and the Manpower Services Commission; from Local Government: Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, the Vale of the White Horse District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Abingdon Town Council and the following parish councils: Appleton with Eaton, Cumnor, St. Helen Without, Sunningwell, Sutton Courtenay; from the University: the University Department for External Studies and St. Cross College together with the following colleges: St. John's, St. Peter's and Wadham. The Unit is also grateful for the major covenanted grant from the Amey Roadstone Corporation and other substantial grants from the British Academy and the Oxford Preservation Trust.

SURVEY PROJECTS

1. The Upper Thames Valley Survey - Richard Hingley

The need to update knowledge on the cropmarks of Oxfordshire for the post 1972 period has been recognised for some years. The two remarkably dry summers of 1975 and 1976 together with a general increase in the number of photographs taken each year necessitated a survey of new photographs. One hundred and fifty sites of varying date have been recognised during the survey and incorporated in the county Sites and Monuments Record.

The Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit has been forced by rescue considerations to concentrate resources on the sites situated in gravel. The opportunity of this survey has been taken to consider settlement on the limestone uplands north and south of the Thames.

Conclusions on the distribution of cropmarks are various. Some of the most important are as follows:

1. Gravel soils remain very productive in new data. In the Lechlade to Oxford area (Benson and Miles 1974, Section 1) c. 30% additional data has been forthcoming for the post 1972 period (Fig.35).
2. The Corallian Ridge south of the Thames and the limestone ridges of North Oxford here have begun to produce densities of sites comparable to the gravel areas.
3. Several areas have produced phenomenal concentrations of sites

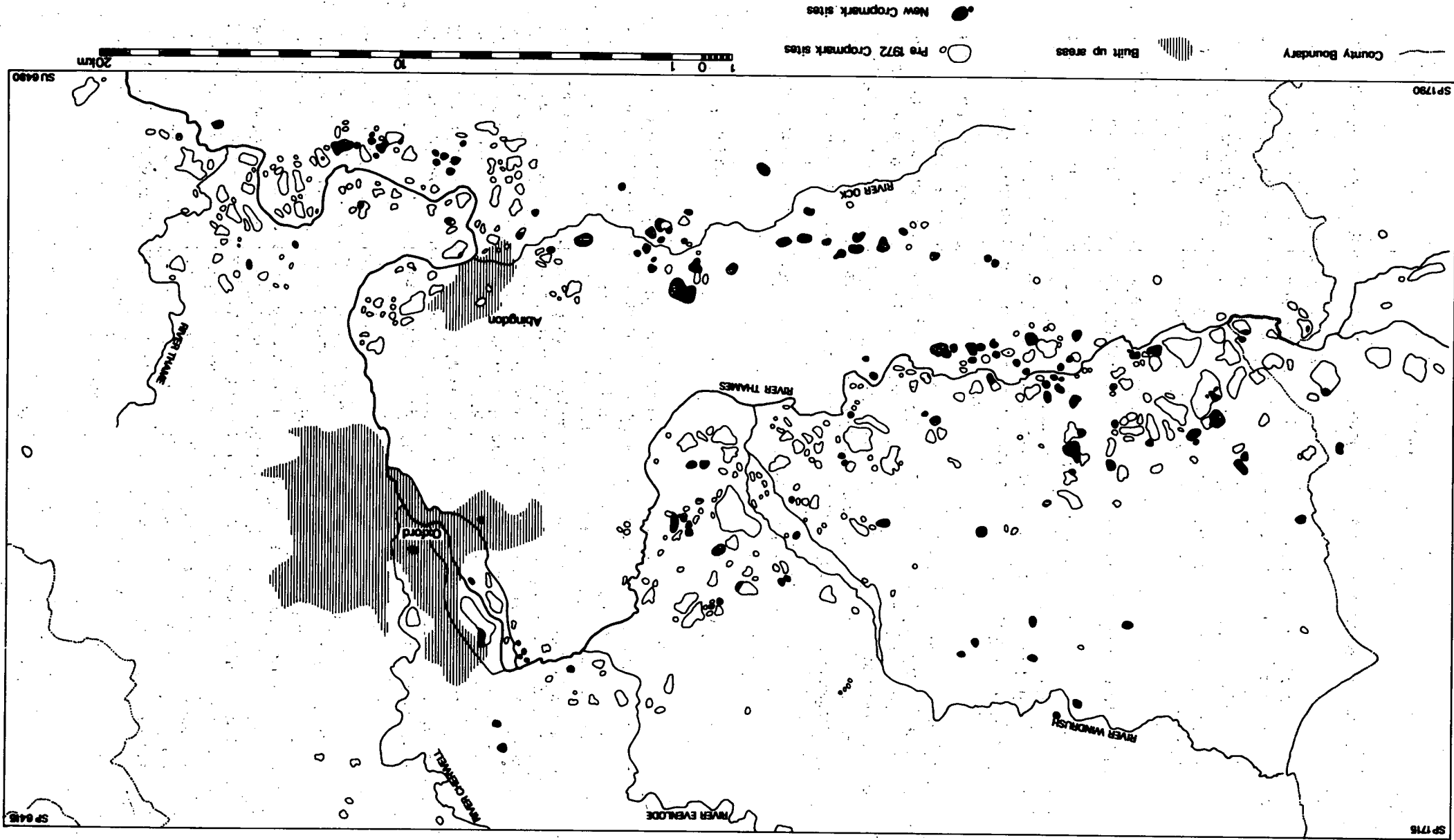


Figure 35

since 1972. The area of flood plain between Grafton/Radcot and Buckland is one such area, areas of Corallian Ridge around Frilford and Cherbury Camp are others.

The Survey stresses the importance of extending aerial coverage to areas of photographically productive soil not considered in detail previously.

The major purpose of the Survey was to examine Romano-British and Iron Age sites to allow the inference of general theories on the nature and distribution of these sites. For this purpose all sites have been drawn to a standard scale and theories concerning site typology and the spatial distribution of sites are being formulated.

2. The FRILFORD/GARFORD/MARCHAM Survey - Richard Hingley

The survey reported on in an interim fashion last year (CBA Group 9, Newsletter 9, 1978, 126-8) has been continued. Research was concentrated last year on the eastern half of the survey area. Fifty-five sites and eighteen isolated finds are now recorded in the 7 km square area, approximately half the survey area having been completed.

1. Neolithic: Four major flint scatters and a number of isolated finds have been recorded.

2. Bronze Age: Twenty-one ring ditches and one barrow are recorded from the survey area - a density of three ring ditches per square km. One concentration of 11 or 12 ring ditches in Garford parish is the largest 'cemetery' known on the Corallian Ridge. In addition seven flint scatters and five isolated finds have been discovered.

3. Iron Age: One large and as many as twelve small sites of Iron Age date have been recorded by aerial photography and field walking.

4. Romano-British: A 'small town' of c. 25 hectares has been field walked in detail. This large settlement consists of six major pottery scatters, the well known temple at the Noah's Ark and a largish late Roman cemetery. In addition, five areas of pottery scatter isolated from the small town perhaps represent small timber and thatch farmsteads. Two villas are recorded in the survey area. Both were probably corridor type buildings and had large field systems.

5. Saxon: Frilford is well known for its Saxon cemetery with apparent continued use of the Roman area for burial by the Saxon population. Two pottery scatters of early Saxon date have been discovered. Both are above Roman sites and were discovered during field work on the Roman sites. A spear head of early Saxon type discovered while field walking another Roman site could indicate a burial isolated from the main cemetery.

6. Medieval: Discoveries of medieval pottery in the area are scarce. No sites can really be defined from finds at present recorded. Medieval settlements may have been on the same sites as modern ones.

7. Post Medieval: Various sites have been examined including a tile kiln, an area of ridge and furrow, a causeway on the path between Garford and Frilford and a 'cuckoo-pen'.

3. GREAT COXWELL - Ken Edward, C Gould, David Miles and G Wright

1. Badbury Hillfort: Thirteen Iron Age sherds have been found on three disturbed areas of the south-west and south rampart. These include fine black, burnished wares, some carinated and one with a plain flaring rim. One sherd is decorated with incised triangles bordered by fine stab marks.

On the ridge immediately east of the hillfort vertical aerial photographs (Fairley Surveys) reveal two large ditched enclosures possibly associated with the hillfort.

2. Bury Hill (Area centred SU 268939): On a south-east facing slope of the Corallian Ridge, immediately across the stream west of the Great Barn, Romano-British pottery has been found densely scattered over an area of 1.5 hectares. The material includes Samian, an amphora handle, early Romano-British wares and some late Romano-British pottery including Oxford wares.

The site has also produced a scatter of flint, some of it probably Mesolithic.

3. On the west bank of the stream, 190 m west of St Giles church a single sherd of 4th century mortarium rim was found. The field was under crop.

4. Great Coxwell village: Three bronze Roman coins from a garden 40 m west of St Giles church and 10 m south of the village pump were found, as well as sherds of 1st century Romano-British pottery in the same garden, 50 m south of the coins.

Foxley: (previously the Royal Oak public house) 150 m west of St Giles church and overlooking the stream. In 1923 Iron Age sherds were found in a garden west of the house, now surfaced with concrete and inaccessible. These have been examined and included 6 sherds of haematite ware including part of a carinated vessel and a rim of a carinated and cordoned vessel decorated with incised slanting lines on the shoulder. 125 other sherds were mostly of a coarse shelly ware common in the Upper Thames region. Also 3 Romano-British greyware sherds.

The garden immediately west of the church has produced 12th to 14th century pottery, including South Oxfordshire, Kennet Valley, East Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire and Gloucestershire types.

5. Area Centred SO 267 929, on Corallian sand, cropmarks of enclosures, linear features and possible circles; from RAF verticals 1967.

The results from the survey of Great Coxwell, where three of the fieldworkers live within the village, contrast markedly with those from the survey of the other Corallian Ridge parish, Kingston Bagpuize. In the latter survey the fieldworkers had few connections in the village and as yet there is a paucity of early settlement material from the modern focal point of settlement.

4. KINGHAM, Manor Farm - Richard Chambers

A previously unknown moated site now under pasture (PRN 11,854; Centred SP 2590 2420) reported by Mr N Snell of Kingham Hill Trust Farms has been examined with the help of James Bond of Oxfordshire Department of Museum Services, and surveyed (Fig.36). The moat is three-sided with a rectangular interior raised about 1 m above the bottom of the ditch. The north-west side is demarcated by a hollow way. Differential grass growth in the interior may reflect building foundations. Beyond the north-east arm of the moat is a prominent external bank rising some 2 m above the bottom of the moat and forms the south-western side of a larger rectangular enclosure surrounded by smaller ditches, with a mound in the east corner. This enclosure suggests a garden area. If the main moat enclosed a Medieval manor house then this home appears to have been superseded by a later Medieval or very early Post-Medieval timber-framed manor house to the south-east which was demolished and rebuilt in 1922.

5. KINGSTON BAGPUIZE - Ron Cowell and David Miles

As part of the background work for the Countryside Commission's Demonstration Farm Project (CBA Group 9 Newsletter 6, 1977) centred on Kingstonhill Farm, Kingston Bagpuize a survey was carried out of the parish as a whole. A brief outline is presented here of the results of fieldwalking and analysis of the aerial photography for the prehistoric, Romano-British and Saxon periods only (Fig.37). A more thorough account, including documentary analysis is in the files of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. It should be stressed that much of the parish remains to be fieldwalked in freshly ploughed conditions.

The parish of Kingston Bagpuize lies 13 km south-west of Oxford. It is a classic strip parish running from the Thames in the north, across the Corallian Ridge, to the River Ock in the south. The parish is about 6 km long from north to south and averages about 0.8 km wide. Saxon charters of AD 956, 958, 959, 968 and 977 indicate that the parish boundary was well established by the later 10th century.

Mesolithic: Mesolithic activity is centred on two areas of fine sandy soil within the parish. Site 1 by Kingstonhill Farm is represented by a scatter of flint over 100 m with no obvious degree of clustering. Site 2 north-east of the village has produced casual finds of flint over several years.

Neolithic: There are two areas of known Neolithic activity represented by flint material. Site 3 is the more definable and produced the larger assemblage. Site 4 produced a more thinly

Kingham, Oxon. 1979
Moat at Manor Farm

P.R.N. 11,854

0 50 m



ridge and furrow

hollow way

pond

Manor
Farm

A

road

Figure 36

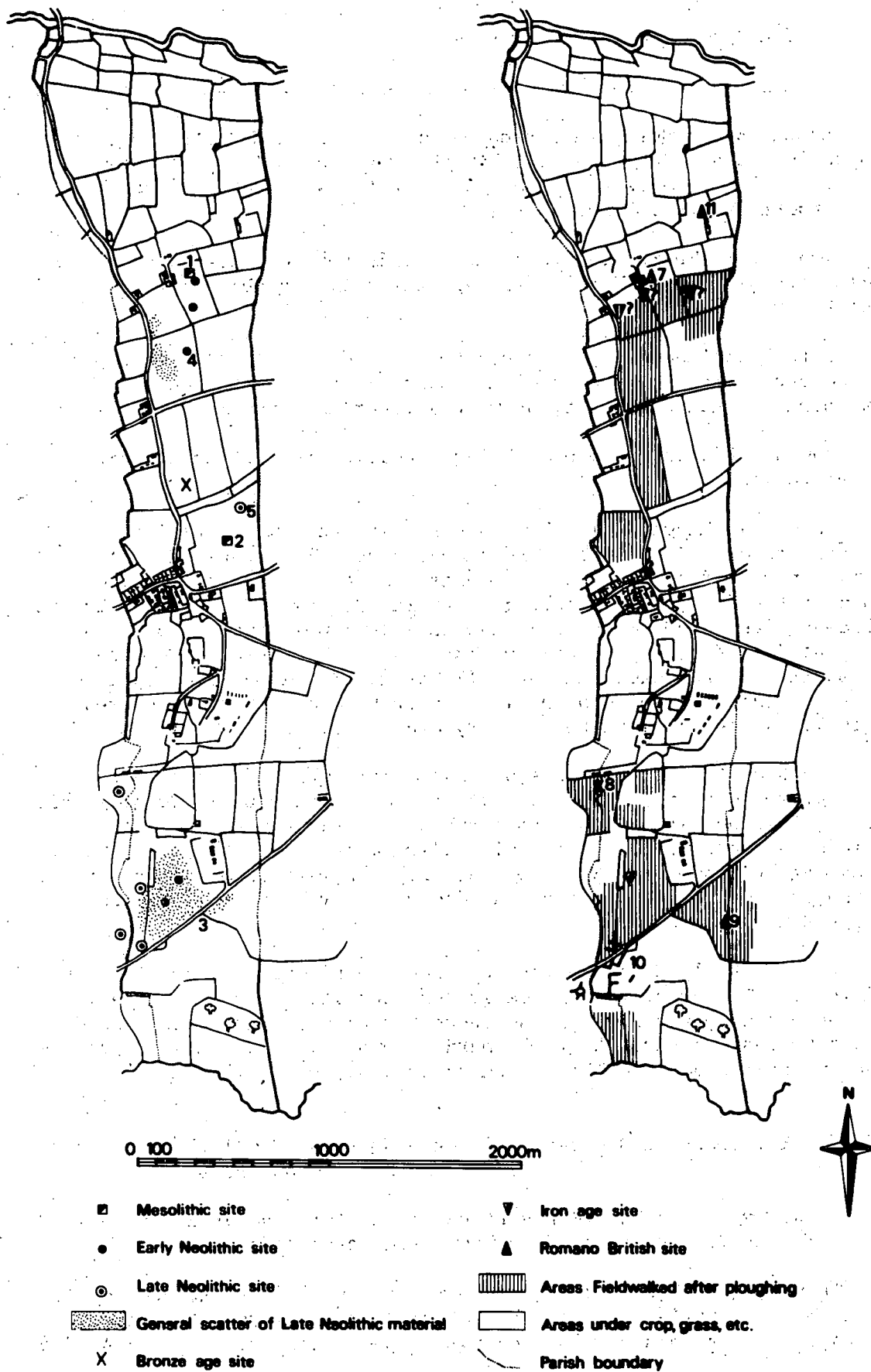


Figure 37

scattered collection of artefacts.

Site 5 is a chance find of a Late Neolithic handaxe.

Bronze Age: Differentiation between the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age is difficult and there may be overlap on the previous sites. A plano-convex knife was found in the area marked X on Fig. 37, 500 m north of the village.

Iron Age: There are two sites of this period. Site 3 contains a discrete scatter of Middle Iron Age pottery, possibly with an earlier Iron Age element.

Site 7 includes an uneven scatter of Middle Iron Age pottery spread over some 300 m south of Kingstonhill Farm. This may represent an extensive settlement or a manuring scatter.

Romano-British: There are five probable sites of this period in the parish.

Site 7 at Kingstonhill Farm has been tested by excavation (M. Parrington, 'Roman Finds and Animal Bones from Kingston Hill Farm, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxon', *Oxoniensia*, 41 (1976), 65-69) and is probably the site of a farmstead or villa occupied from the mid 1st to 4th centuries. The farmstead occupies light, well-drained soils at the junction of good potential pasture to the north and arable to the south. On the same belt of soil, at North Audley Farm 400 m to the north-east, there is probably another Romano-British settlement (Site 11) which has produced pottery and coins.

South of the village on sandy loam overlooking a stream Site 8 is represented by a scatter of pottery and a little building material. Site 9, also on sandy loam 1 km north of the River Ock, probably includes a Romanised building, with tile among the pottery. There is no dating evidence from Site 10, the only cropmark site in the parish, though the form of the enclosures suggests they belong to the Iron Age or Roman period.

Saxon: Early Saxon pottery has been found only at the Kingstonhill Farm site. The charter evidence is very detailed and mentions a heathen burial place near the north-west corner of the parish boundary. The north-eastern stretch of the parish boundary still survives as a bank and ditch and is called in the charters the 'old boundary'.

6. THOMLEY, Deserted Medieval Village - Heather Bird, John Moore and Richard Chambers

A survey of the existing earthworks was carried out in April 1979 by two in-service trainees, John Moore and Heather Bird.

Thomley (PRN 1,077) is first mentioned in 1086 in the Domesday Survey but the village ceases to feature in tax returns after 1377. The population census of 1841 records 13 people resident (K. J. Allison,

Thomley, Oxon.

Deserted village and field system
P.R.N. 1077

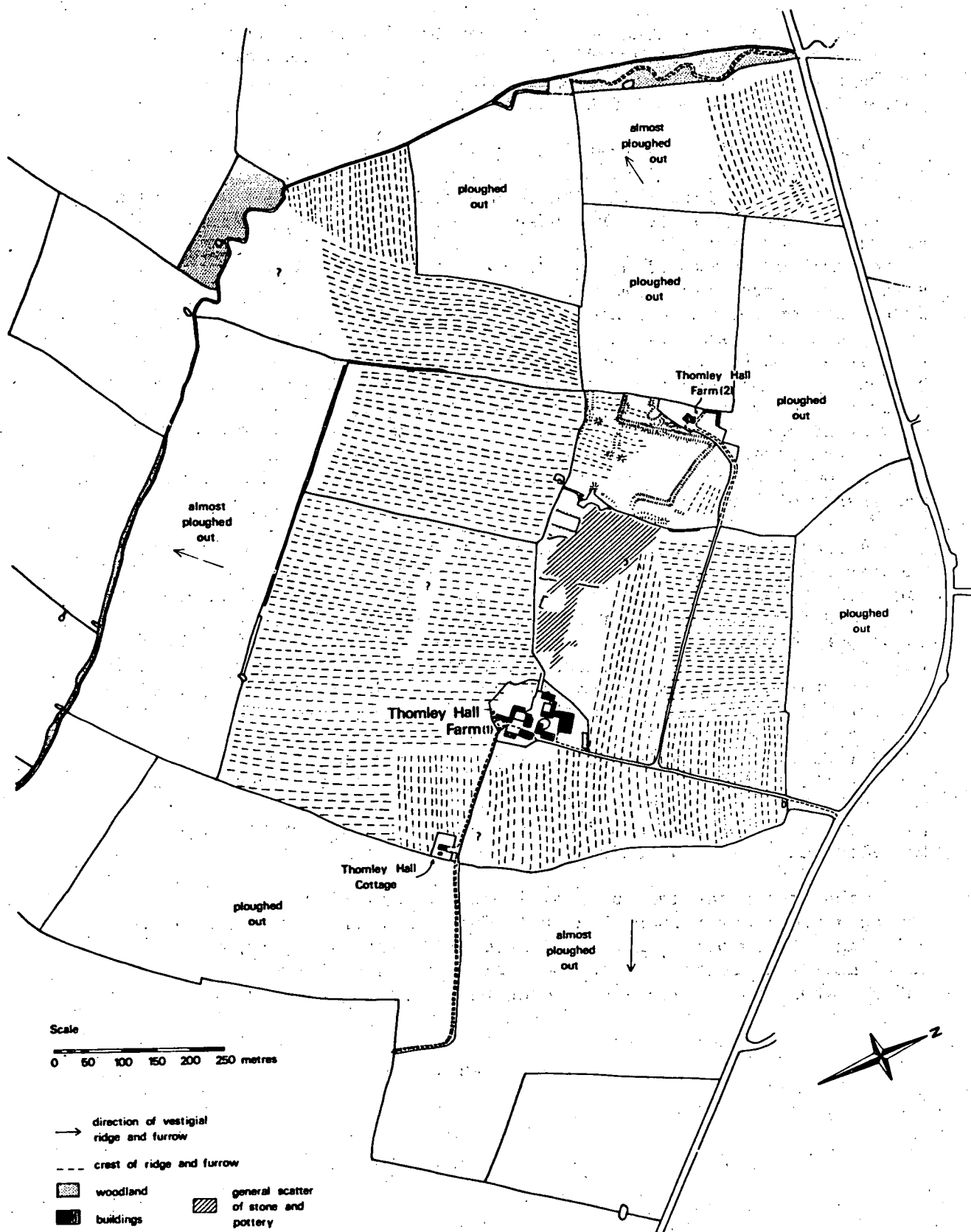


Figure 38

M. W. Beresford and J. G. Hurst, The Deserted Villages of Oxfordshire (1966), 44). Today a hall and cottage remain, Thomley Hall Farm (1) and recently a new cottage has been built, also called Thomley Hall Farm (2).

In 1979 the remaining earthworks of the deserted village were confined to one field centred on SP 629 093. Even these earthworks had been partly levelled during the last ten years by periodic rotovation and reseeding of the pasture.

The earthworks as surveyed in April 1979 comprised ridge and furrow from the pre-enclosure open field system. The ridging was only slight suggesting that either the strips had not remained in use for very long or that they had been reduced in height by later farming activity. Boundary ditches also survived forming three sides of a large enclosure from which two further ditches ran off westwards and eastwards. Three platforms which appear to post-date the ridge and furrow lie on the western side of the present field at SP 6285 0928. In the eastern corner of the field at SP 6298 0424 are another three platforms with building stone protruding through the turf. Several hollows which post-date the ridge and furrow were found in this field of which two or possibly three may have been quarries providing either clay or limestone. Two ponds lie along the south-eastern edge of the field, the larger pond is Y-shaped with pitched stone lining the bottom of the southern arm. In recent years periodic cleaning has changed the shapes of both ponds.

Aerial photographs of the land east from the ponds to the older Thomley Hall Farm (1) show that this area was also originally occupied by earthworks and bounded to the south-east and south-west by ridge and furrow. These earthworks which appear to represent the major part of the village were ploughed out in 1968. In 1969 after the earthworks had been ploughed for a second time John Brooks of Lady Spencer Churchill College recorded surface finds of stonework, pottery concentrations and remnant earthworks. From the survey made at that time it has been possible to locate two buildings at SP 6303 0920 and SP 6309 0908 and probable buildings to the south-west, south-east and east of the latter. The bulk of the Medieval pottery recovered dated to the 13th - 15th centuries with some earlier 11th - 12th century pottery also present. Much 2nd - 4th century Romano-British pottery was also recovered from this field.

John Brooks carried out a small-scale excavation in 1970 with students from Lady Spencer Churchill College to the north-east of the buildings at the old Thomley Hall Farm (1) where, it is reported, they found building foundations and both clay and pitched stone floors. Unfortunately the excavation records have since been mislaid.

MAIN EXCAVATIONS

Oxfordshire

7. CHALGROVE, Harding's Field - Phillip Page

Excavation of the moated site at Harding's Field, Chalgrove continued between July and November 1979.

Excavations in 1977-8 had revealed the presence, within the larger of two moated islands, of a manorial complex complete with farm buildings, which had fallen into disuse at the end of the 15th century. As the site was still under threat in 1979, excavations were continued. During the autumn the County Council, who own the field, agreed after negotiations with the DoE to preserve the site by burying it. Further excavation was then confined to elucidating the chronology of the latest phase of the site.

As a result of this season's excavation the 1978 interim phase plan has been updated (Fig.39). Excavations in 1977 had revealed the presence of a cob walled structure, P, beneath the main hall, A. During this season's work three other such structures, contemporary with P have been discovered. These are Q, R and S, and all appear to date from the late 12th to early 13th centuries.

In the late 13th to early 14th centuries, at the beginning of the second phase, the moats were dug and the upcast used to bury the buildings of the first phase. The rectangular stone hall (A) was constructed with kitchen building D and dovecote E to its north. Access to the site would have been over the bridge by the dovecote.

Not long after it was constructed the hall (A) was knocked through and extended to the west, and soon after this an extension was added to the new western end of the hall. At the eastern end of building A was a length of wall, whose function is as yet unclear. To the south of the domestic buildings lay the farmyard.

The third phase of building occurs not earlier than the second quarter of the 14th century, when a two storey cross-wing was added at the eastern end of building A, running northwards. A new kitchen to the east of the hall was linked to it by a corridor and was contemporary with the cross-wing. Enclosed by this kitchen, the cross-wing and the moat was building F, thought to be the bakehouse. A building, believed to be a chapel, was butted onto the south-east corner of the house, and to its south-east lay building B.

The alterations to the house were complemented by the reorganisation of the farmyard, which became a planned unit enclosing a courtyard.

In the fourth phase of the site, not earlier than the late 14th century, alterations were confined to the domestic structure. The westernmost extension was demolished, while the first extension to

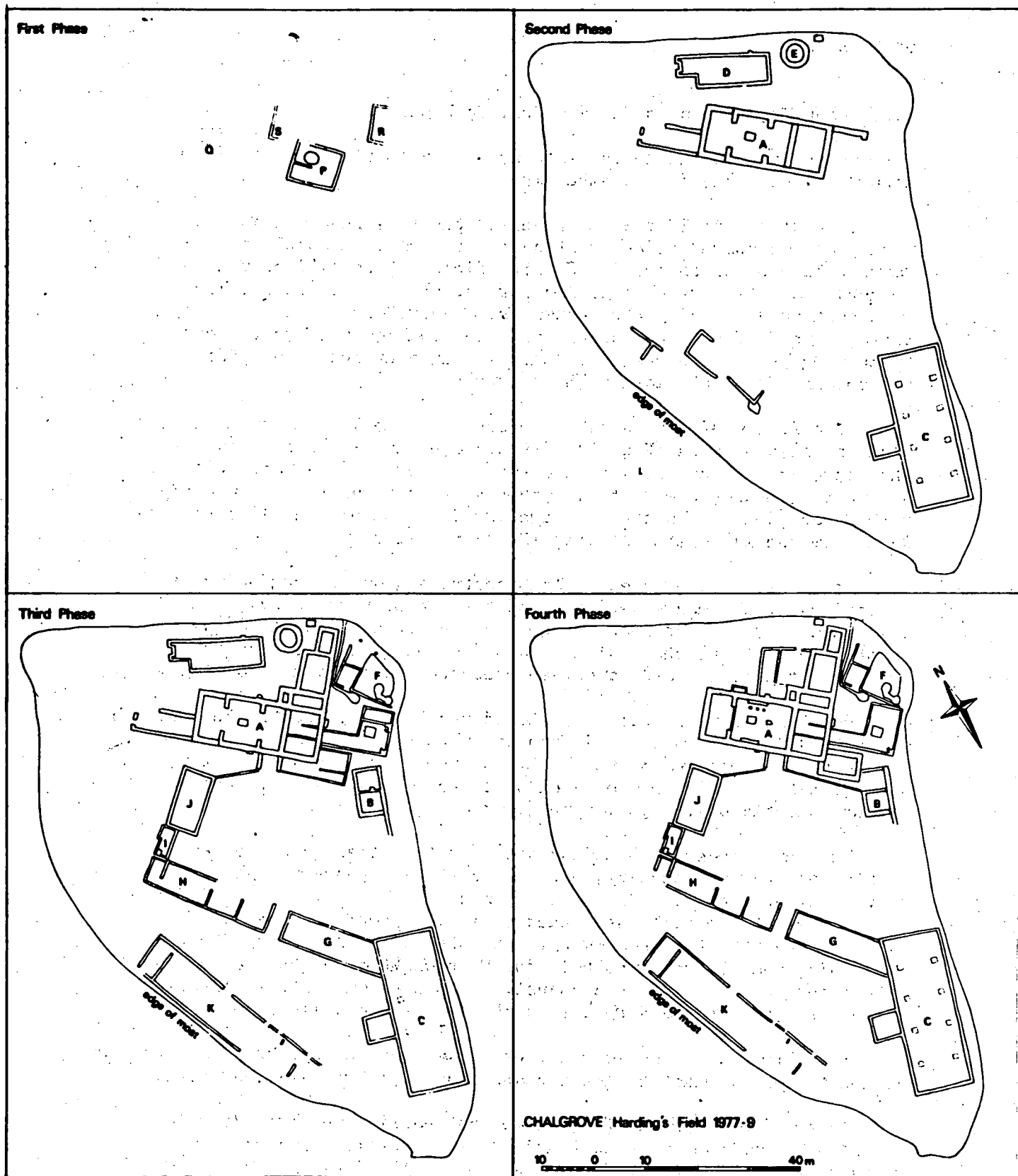


Figure 39

the west of the hall was redivided from the hall. Within the hall considerable changes were made, including the addition of stone benches and the flooring over of the cross passage.

Buildings D and E were demolished and a pentice built on the north of the hall. The 'chapel' was rebuilt as a two storey structure.

The Unit would like to thank the Chalgrove Local History Society for help throughout the excavations and especially during the Open Day.

8. OXFORD, Blackfriars - George Lambrick

Further excavations south of the Great Cloister of the Blackfriars Priory have revealed evidence of a reredorter and a subsidiary cloister. A large culvert discovered previously during excavation of the domestic buildings was located further north aligned on the back of the western range of the main cloister (Fig.40).

The reredorter was at the north end of a range of buildings running south from the south-west corner of the Great Cloister beside the culvert, into which a narrow, but deep stone-lined drain debouched. The range had been added to the original buildings early in the life of the priory: it overlay midden or garden soil containing 13th century domestic refuse sealed by a layer containing a penny of Henry III demonetized in 1247 (two years after the Friars are recorded as taking possession of their new priory). The reredorter had ceased to function in the 14th century when its drain was robbed and backfilled, and the outlet blocked by a new lining to the main culvert. A succession of floor and occupation layers some containing many fish bones (probably including sturgeon) indicated continued use of the building probably at least till the dissolution.

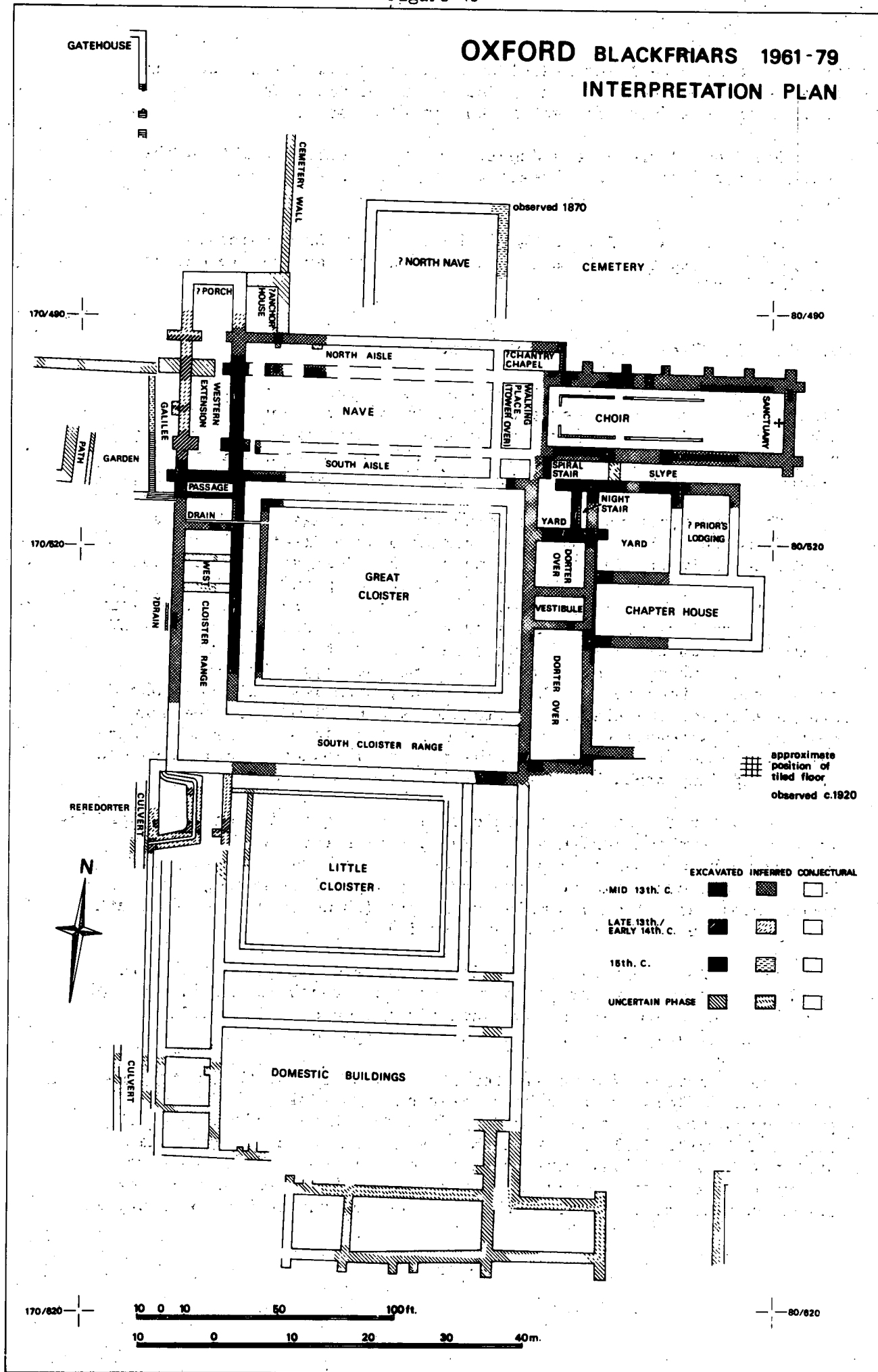
Against the east side of this range was a gravel path and beyond it an area of thick garden soil. The path was replaced by a wider covered walk joining an existing covered passage running along the back of the south cloister range, thereby apparently making a proper second cloister out of a simple quadrangle (though its east and south ranges have yet to be located for certain).

Finds from the culvert include a curious wooden disc with a hole in the middle and further holes and grooves through it and in the edge. Its function is unclear but somewhat similar objects in the Pitt Rivers Museum are connected with twisting ropes or cords.

The discovery of a reredorter at the west end of the south range of the Great Cloister is of some interest. This slightly unusual position cannot be explained simply in terms of the hydrology of the area since water could as easily be taken from the Mill Stream east of the main priory buildings as it could from the water courses to the west. The normal arrangement would be to have had the main reredorter conveniently placed at the south end of the friars dormitory in

Figure 40

OXFORD BLACKFRIARS 1961-79
INTERPRETATION PLAN



the east range. This interpretation was in fact suggested for foundations discovered there in 1973. This possibility is not invalidated if the new discovery was a subsidiary reredorter; in any case it did not last long as a reredorter and some other arrangement must have replaced it. The need for a reredorter at the west end of the south cloister range may indicate that there was a dormitory on the first floor of the range, as at Gloucester Blackfriars where study cubicles survive: for as large a house as Oxford it may well have been necessary to use more than one range for the dormitories. It would also have been convenient if the guest rooms were in the west range. It is not clear why this reredorter should have been abandoned and there remains the possibility that a new one was built using the same culvert, but that no trace of the buildings has yet been found.

The new evidence for the suspected Little Cloister helps to reinforce the belief that the priory had a high status among Dominican houses, though several apparently lesser ones also had subsidiary cloisters. Some of these such as Bristol (another big priory) did not have a complete quadrangle with covered walks and at Oxford it is clear that the covered walk east of the reredorter was added to one at the back of the main south range. There is no firm evidence yet that the cloister was in fact complete.

Although substantial evidence is lacking, the amount of refuse beneath the reredorter range may indicate that the kitchens and refectory were in the south range (the normal arrangement). The later fishbone deposits could also be connected with this.

It is hoped to conduct further excavation in the next year.

9. OXFORD, 21 Longwall Street, the Outer Town Wall - Brian Durham

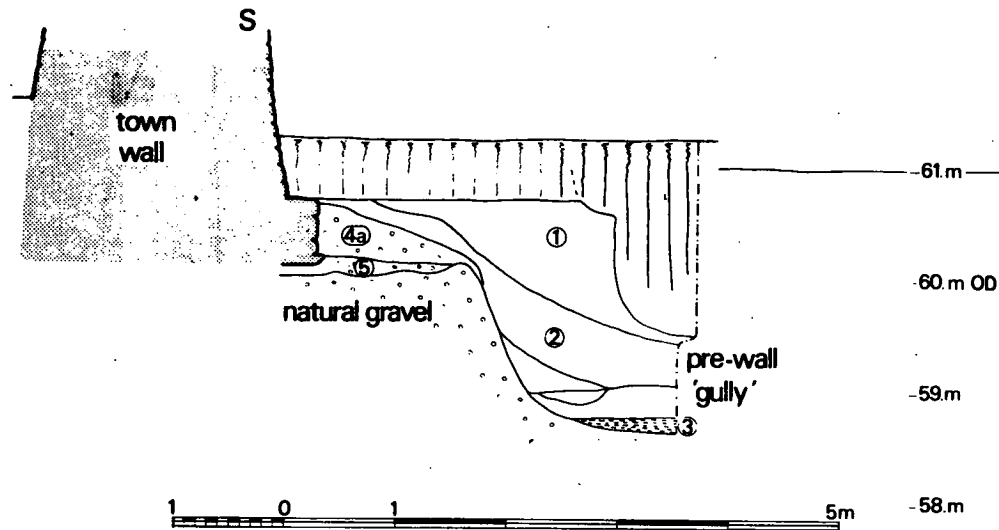
New College are converting William Morris's garage of 1910 into student accommodation, and very kindly arranged for early demolition of the workshop buildings to enable the Unit to investigate the outer town wall here. This feature is unique amongst English medieval town defences and has been excavated previously at St Helens Passage by the University Archaeological Society (see N. J. Palmer, 'Excavations on the Outer City Wall ...' *Oxoniensia* XLI (1976), 148-160).

The new excavation (Fig 41.) exposed the north face of the outer wall and part of the ditch. Despite a very deep recut of the ditch apparently no earlier than the seventeenth century (layer 8/2), a wedge of medieval layers survived against the wall overlying the foundation offset. The footing itself stood on a layer of firm sandy silt which produced no finds but which seemed to be the primary silting of the early ditch. This layer in turn overlay a layer of concreted gravel and the disturbed surface of the natural clay, presumably the original cut. In a second trench Nicholas Palmer and the Oxford University Archaeological Society exposed the curved

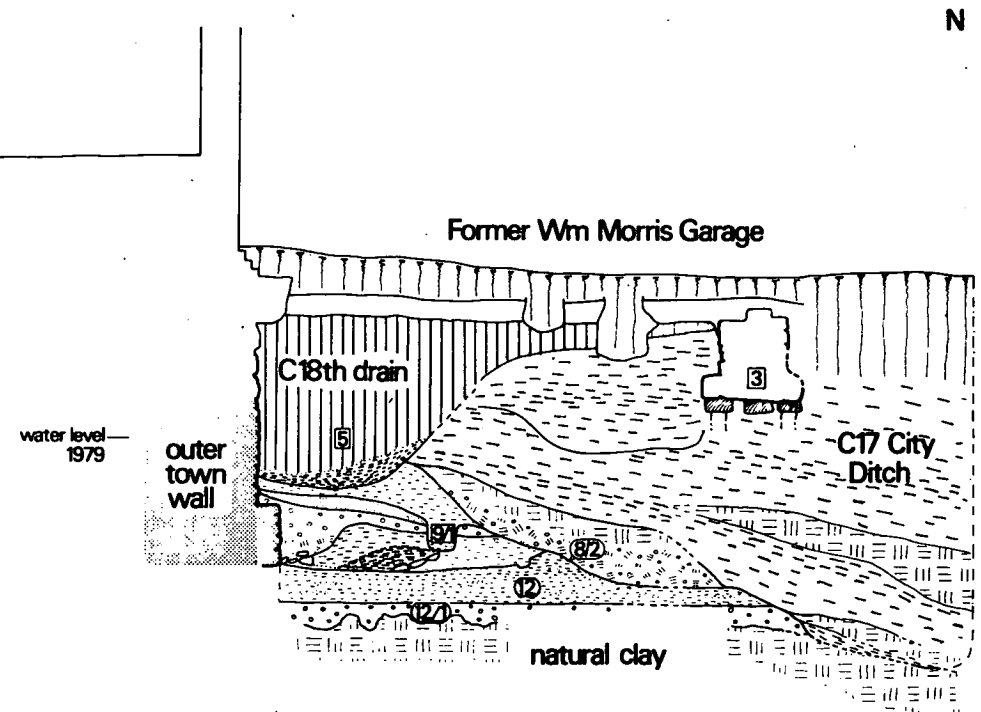
Figure 41

Oxford Medieval Northern Defences

HUNTER and JOPE 1949



21 LONGWALL ST 1979.



outline of an outer bastion, which was of similar construction to the outer wall, and presumably original.

Figure 41 shows the west section in relationship with that of Hunter and Jope's Trench I dug in 1949 on this line. There is now a discontinuous section over 17 m long from the town wall. The thickness of the outer wall is based on that at St Helens Passage, although an observation of 1910 suggests that it is only two feet thick here. Taken with Hunter and Jope's evidence that their 'gully' was infilled at the time of building of the town wall, it seems most probable that this gully was in reality the south edge of the town ditch, infilled to stabilise the new wall. Further, when the outer wall was constructed in the ditch it was possibly intended in part torevet this infilling. This work would have created a terrace which, fronted with bastions and a crenellated parapet, would have been an effective forward defence.

The material used to infill behind the outer wall is not described by Hunter and Jope, but a recent engineers' trial trench at St Helens Passage has raised the suggestion that at that point the red gravelly infill might have originated from the old rampart, which must have been disposed of when the stone wall was built. Taken with Hunter and Jope's dating therefore (see above) there is a suspicion that the outer wall may have been constructed at much the same time as the main wall.

In the later medieval period the outer wall seems to have been slowly obscured and fails to appear on maps dated before 1643. Surprisingly, however, it suddenly reappears on maps of 1660 and 1675 (for details see Palmer (1976) above). Anthony Wood writes in 1661-6 that the houses on the north side of the ditch had 'within these past thirty years began to be built'. There is reason, therefore, to think that the deep post-medieval ditch recut (Fig.41, layer 8/2) occurred during the royalist occupation of the city in 1642-6. This evidence is the first indication that the medieval ditches were extensively recut at this time.

To conclude, then, there may not be enough evidence to justify calling this a curtain wall like those of Constantinople and the later thirteenth century Welsh castles, as has recently been suggested. But even if it is only a defended terrace, however, it is still unique among English towns, and the possibility that the ditch was infilled with rampart material may be confirmed shortly in a new development in Hertford College.

10. OXFORD, 18-24 New Inn Hall Street - Brian Durham

This was a fairly large site on the corner of two minor streets, but standing buildings and protected trees and structures meant that prior excavation was impossible. However, in the circumstances salvage recording gave very useful results. At the north end a timber framed building is being preserved as a late addition to the medieval monastic

college of St Mary. The plan of a third bay of this structure, was recovered, with some stratified pottery which may further the understanding of precisely when it was erected. There was also evidence of one or more stone-based predecessors on very similar plans, one of them apparently enclosing a larger circular oven.

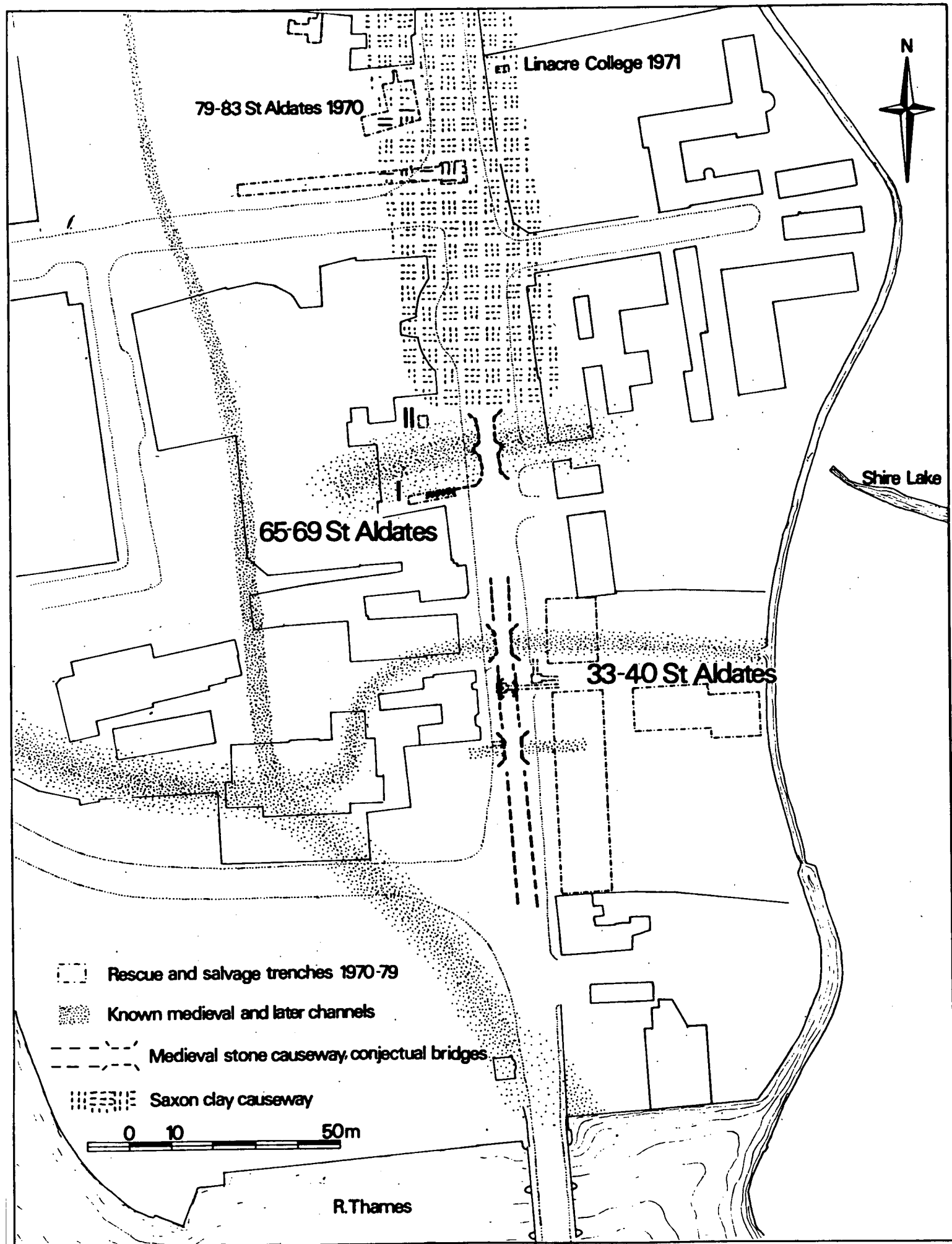
A contractors trench at the rear of the site gave a standing section through the floors of an eleventh - twelfth century building fronting onto Shoe Lane. No timber or stone walls were seen, and it is likely that two successive features of compacted loam were in fact 'cob' walls, set at a level slightly lower than the contemporary gravel surfaces of the lane.

The most interesting find on the site came unexpectedly as the contractors were putting in one of their last footings on the New Inn Hall Street frontage. They had stopped at an arbitrary level for the night, and a quick clean-up showed that they had been going through early surfaces of a slightly wider road. Just below where they had stopped were a layer of limestone cobbles set in the original red topsoil, and on one of these cobbles was a heavily corroded coin. This type of cobbling occurs as the earliest surface of each of the roads of the Saxon town so far identified, and it seemed likely that the coin would give a new insight as to where the street plan was laid out. It turned out to be a penny of Edward the Elder (899-924) who the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records as succeeding to Oxford and its lands in 911. It therefore appears that the western end of the town was laid out by Edward. However the exact nature of the settlement which went with the ninth century causeway to the south and St. Frideswide's church is still to be clarified.

11. OXFORD, 35-40 and 65 St Aldate's - Brian Durham

This has been a revealing year in more ways than one concerning Oxford's medieval south suburb (Fig 42). Excavations in the early 1970's gave tantalising signs of a Saxon Thames causeway, and after seven years negotiation for the 65 St Aldate's site it looked as if there might at last be a chance to confirm these findings. So it was a rude shock when the trial trench came down on a medieval river channel 50 m north of any known from documents or topography. A 17th-18th century building, possibly an inn was shown to be founded on a solid stone river wall in the position of a 'landstave wall' upstream of a bridge. A culvert debouching through this wall, possibly from a roadside ditch, provided a group of three wooden bowls with an oak tub in the river nearby. The channel seemed to have been filling up since the fourteenth century but would have been open to about 15 m width in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. A second small trial trench, dug through a backfilled basement and two feet of concrete, located the north bank of the stream with twelfth century wattle lacing presumably put in to stop erosion.

Figure 42



On the west side of the road, nearer to the existing river, the city is building flats at 33-40 St Aldates. The new buildings are founded on 1.50 m thick rafts of pulverised fly ash, the trenches for which gave useful standing sections. The key to understanding the site was, however, given by the sewer connection which sectioned a medieval causeway of solid ragstone rubble under the middle of the road. At 4.2 m wide and fully 2 m high it must have been a link section between bridge arches, and large timber piles beside it suggest that it was not the first bridge here. Stone-based houses were to be put against it, presumably with suspended floors at carriageway level. There was evidence of eleventh-twelfth century occupation here also, presumably relating to a previous bridge.

The emerging picture is, therefore, of a flood plain about 1 m below the contemporary occupation at 79-80 St Aldates with a roadway raised above it, possibly running continuously from 69 St Aldates to Folly Bridge and beyond. This is presumably Oxford's 'Grand-pont' in both its timber and stone versions. The most surprising aspect is that apparently continuous documentation exists for tenements over part of this stretch, taking no account of the channel at 65 St Aldates, and it remains to be seen whether a radical re-organisation is needed.

Gloucestershire

12. LECHLADE/FAIRFORD, Claydon Pike - David Miles

The Claydon Pike cropmark complex, covering about 100 hectares (SU 190 996), is the largest group of archaeological sites currently being removed by gravel extraction in the Thames Valley (Fig. 43). The sites occupy the first gravel terrace near to the confluence of the Rivers Colne and Thames, 3 km west of Lechlade.

The area consists of three principal settlement groups:

1. In the east a scatter of Iron Age enclosures (see excavation account below) each sitting on an 'island' of gravel defined by relict water courses which were marshy until twenty years ago.
2. A nucleated settlement, principally of the Romano-British period, of about 4 hectares, the focal point of trackways from the north, west and south. Lanes branching from the main trackway define platforms on which are stone buildings. This settlement is also closely defined by streams.
3. A 'native' settlement of cellular enclosures to the west of 2, possibly attached to a trackway linked to those of settlement 2.

The site provides the opportunity in the longer term (gravel extraction will be over about ten years) to examine the relationship



Figure 43

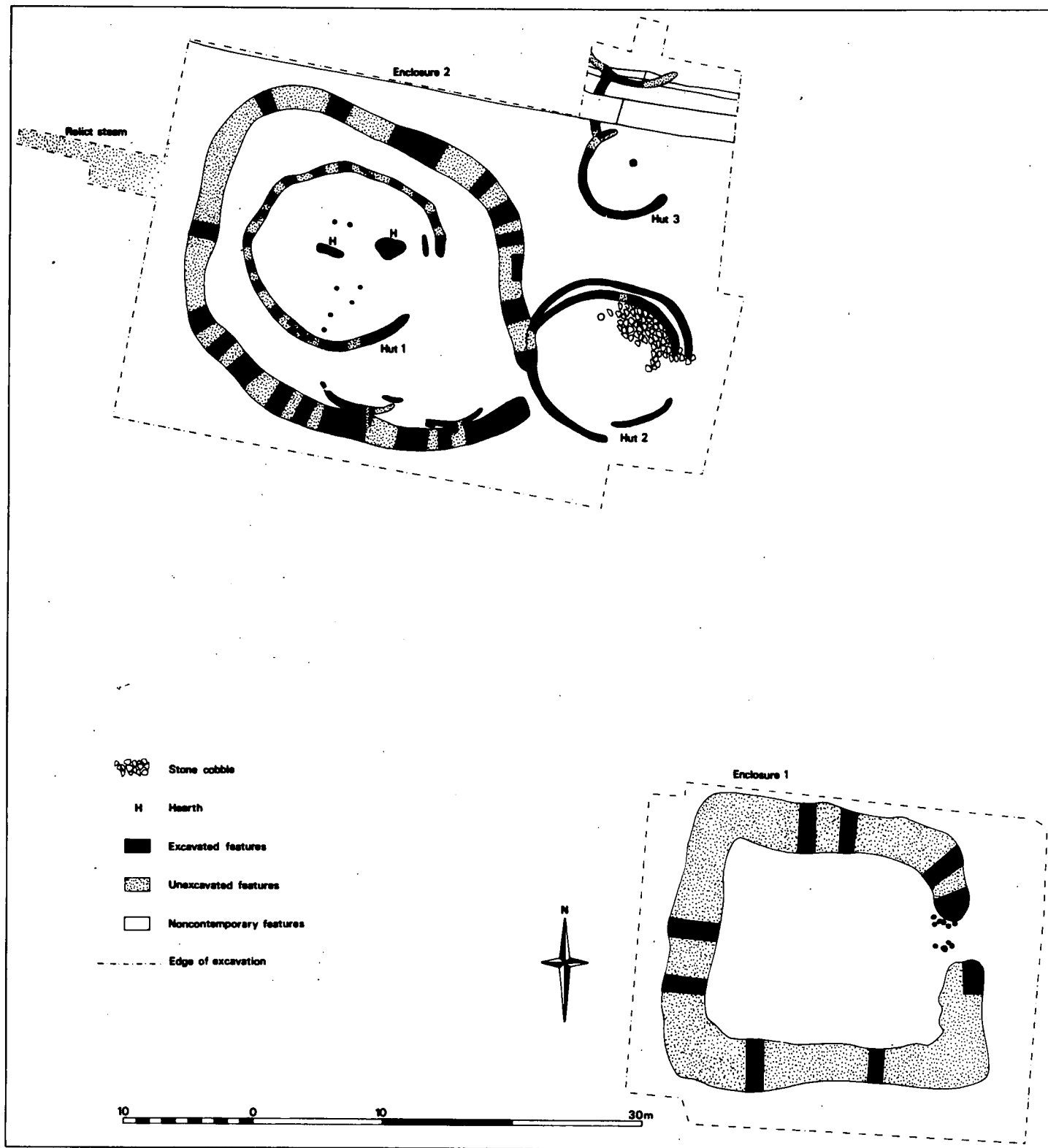


Figure 44

between a variety of Iron Age and Romano-British settlements of a type which have received little attention in the past.

The site's position at the junction of the Colne Valley so far as we know dominated by villa colonization (eg Chedworth) and the Thames, with its preponderance of native settlement makes it particularly attractive.

The method of analysis and excavation will be based on a well-defined sampling strategy which will aim to understand the landscape as a whole and not simply the settlement nuclei.

There were two seasons of excavation in 1979. The first was for three weeks in April/May; the second for seven weeks from November.

The initial work concentrated on defining the possibilities of the site for long term excavation. Trial trenching confirmed the Iron Age and Romano-British date of the main settlement complexes and the presence of water-logged conditions favourable for the preservation of organic material. A programme of field-walking, random top-soil sampling by excavation, phosphate sampling and geophysical survey was carried out.

Area 1: Two adjacent enclosures of early Iron Age date were stripped. Enclosure 1 was four-sided and irregular in shape, 25 m by 22 m with an eastern entrance 3 m wide (Fig. 44). The entrance was marked by two lines of limestone packed post-holes. The enclosure ditch was 3 m wide and 1 m deep. A ten per cent random sample of the ditch was excavated in addition to the terminals.

No features were found within the enclosure and there was very little cultural material within the ditch; except a small quantity of animal bone and coarse pottery - shell tempered wares with plain, flat rims. Low phosphate levels were recorded inside the enclosure but there were relatively high ones outside it, on the lee-side to the east.

Enclosure 2: 40 m north-west of enclosure 1, was oval in shape (maximum width 29 m) with a south-eastern entrance 2 m wide (Fig. 12). A 40 per cent random sample of the enclosure ditch was excavated. The ditch was 2 m wide and 0.8 m deep.

Hut 1: Inside enclosure 2 was a large circular hut gully, 14.5 m in diameter, with a south-east entrance 47 m wide. There were traces of voids and a continuous slot along the outside of the gully which might indicate its use as a wall foundation. Many limestone fragments had accumulated in the gully, particularly near the terminals. Within the area defined by the circular gully were two hearths and an irregular collection of post-holes.

The hut-circle was centrally placed within its enclosure except the outer ditch swelled out to the south-east leaving a potential working area in the lee of the hut. Within this space

were two short curved lengths of gully and several post-holes.

Hut 2: A second Iron Age hut circle was found east of enclosure 1 and cutting its upper fill. This later circle was 13 m in diameter with two entrances, on the south-east and south sides. The northern half of the hut was cobbled with limestone slabs and one entrance may have given access to the cobbled area specifically. Further gulleys have been located to the north of hut 2 but are as yet undefined. All the Iron Age features are associated with coarse, hand-made and mostly shell-tempered pottery. The forms are simple bucket shapes with plain, often squared off rims. There are a few sherds of finer, dark, burnished. Provisionally the ceramics fit best into an Early-Mid Iron Age context.

Area 2: A trial trench was cut across a building platform in the settlement nucleus 300 m west of area 1. This showed that the platform consisted of an accumulation of imported limestone, with evidence of walls and cobbled surfaces. A ditch enclosing the platform contained 1 century AD pottery. The platform itself had occupation material through to the 4 century AD.

Excavation will continue throughout 1980.

The Unit is particularly grateful to the help and cooperation given by the Amey Roadstone Corporation and the Colne Valley Gravel Company, in particular Mr Gordon Plummer and Mr Graham Poulter; also the tenant farmer Mr Vincent Gammond, and the Manpower Services Commission.

Warwickshire

13. WASPERTON - Simon Palmer

The Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit carried out a trial excavation on behalf of Warwick Museum during a three week period in March 1979. The site (SP 265 585) south of the village of Wasperton, lying on the second gravel terrace east of the Avon, was on the southern periphery of an extensive cropmark complex (Fig. 45). This complex appears to represent a nucleated settlement within a definable territory - the Avon to the west, Thelsford Brook to the east and pit alignments to the north and south.

The primary objectives of the work were to assess the archaeological and environmental potential of the complex and to suggest a strategy of work if and when planning permission for the extraction gravel is granted.

A small amount of excavation was undertaken on the immediately threatened part of the site. This involved investigating a small portion of the southern pit alignment at a point where it appeared

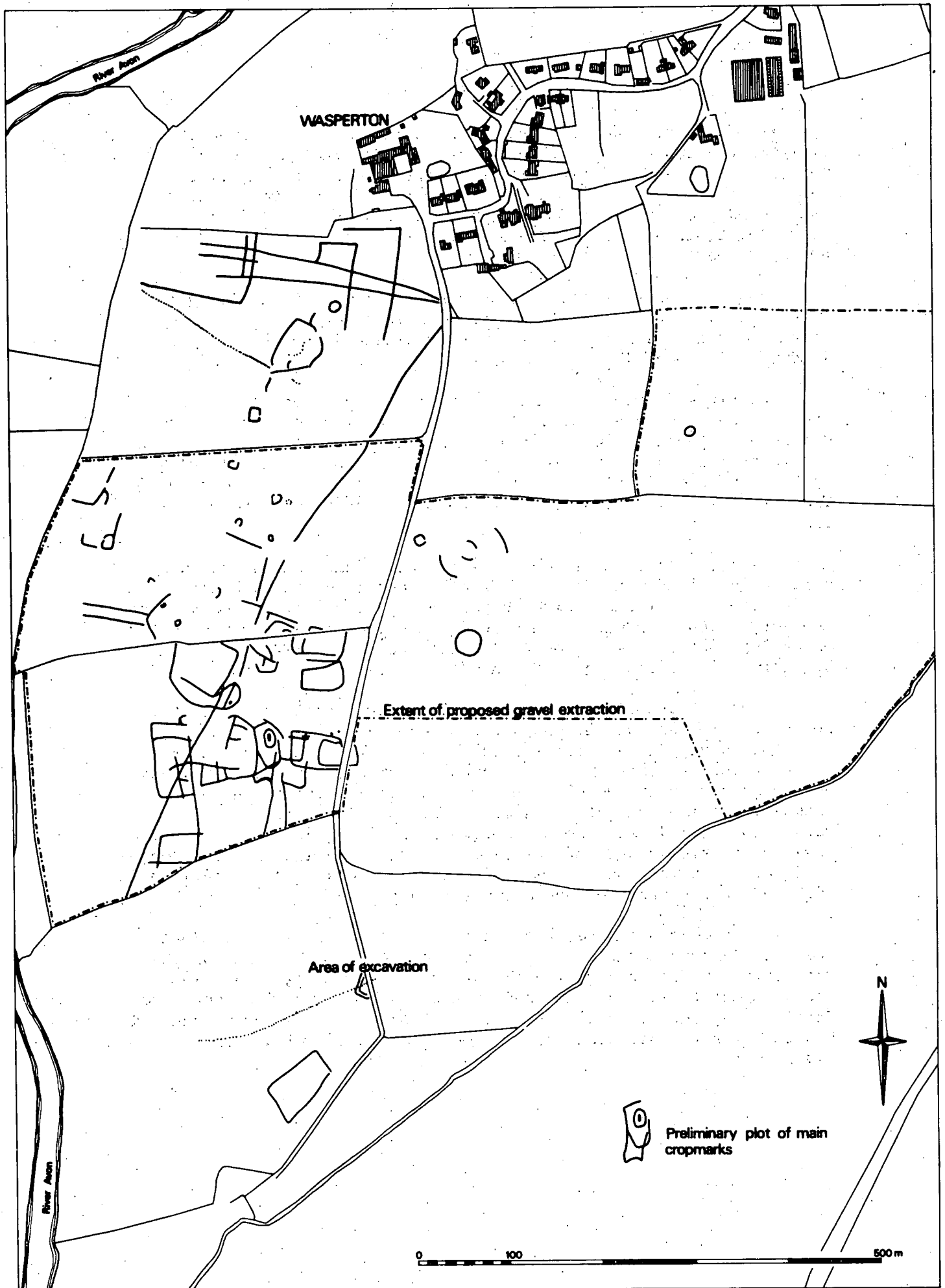


Figure 45

to cross a small double ditched enclosure.

The enclosure square in shape, measuring at its maximum 20 m by 24 m, was shown to be of three phases. The initial one was represented by a broad but shallow profiled gully, which for the most part had been destroyed by the cutting of the later ditches. The second phase represented the main inner ditch. It had a surviving depth of 0.60 m to 0.80 m and was less than 2 m wide. All sections showed evidence of a recut.

The third phase - the outer ditch - although of similar shape to the inner ditch enclosed a slightly greater area. It was also shown stratigraphically to post date the inner ditch which had been intentionally backfilled.

The pit alignment, of which four pits were investigated, was found to cut the inner ditch of the square enclosure. The general dimensions, profiles and fills of these pits were all similar. They were either circular or slightly angular in plan with a surviving depth of 0.70 m, width at top c. 1.70 m and width at bottom c. 0.70 m. The interval between centres of the pits appeared to be between 2.5 and 3 m.

The pits showed no evidence as to their function and had all apparently silted naturally. Virtually no occupation material was recovered from the whole excavation so dating is extremely loose. However, a few carbonised spelt seeds were recovered from the bottom of one pit, providing an uncertain terminus post quem of the beginning of the Iron Age for the pit alignment.

Several feasibility tests were also carried out, but only the southern periphery of the complex was accessible for sampling. Phosphate analysis sampling showed significant concentrations in a transect across dense and sparse cropmark areas, while a geophysical survey gave rather inconclusive results, but its use on the main occupation areas was not ruled out. The pH of the gravel was sufficient to indicate the unexceptional survival of bone. The sites position on the second terrace rules out the abundance of waterlogged material. However, samples showed the presence of carbonised material even on the periphery of the occupation area.

It was concluded that the sites importance derived principally from its interpretation as a complete land unit rather than on the archaeological and environmental survival. Accordingly, a brief research design was outlined and further work on the site suggested - initially by another small trial excavation concentrating on the main complex with further testing of pre-excavation techniques and sampling methods.

OTHER SITES RECORDED IN 1979

Unless otherwise stated the following reports are by Richard Chambers. The full records of each site described will be deposited under their individual Primary Record Number at the Oxfordshire Department of Museum Services.

14. ABINGDON, Box Hill - Duncan Wilson

Construction of a building in the garden of 47 Bowyer Road (OS SU 4990 7999) disturbed seven skeletons (PRN 12, 113) which cut through late Roman settlement features (PRN 12, 114). The three stratified skeletons were buried head to toe, on a north-south alignment, in a single grave. No dating evidence was associated with the burial, but a 4th century terminus postquem for the grave is provided by late Roman pottery and a 3rd century denarius fragment, from the gully which it cuts. Roman and early Saxon parallels exist for practice of laying stone slabs on the body, as noted at Box Hill.

15. ABINGDON, Nuffield Way Allotments

The Abingdon Archaeological and Historical Society is maintaining a watch for archaeological material whilst contractors lay services for the Vale of the White Horse District Council to the south of the M.G. works for the latest extension of the industrial estate. A Romano-British cemetery lies along the northern edge of the site and it is hoped that it will be possible to explore this early in 1980.

16. ABINGDON, Peachcroft Housing Estate

Several fragments of bronze metalwork including a Roman 2nd century AD enamelled brooch have been found during building operations on the Peachcroft Housing Estate which is sited on the northern edge of Abingdon parish (PRN 11,882; Centred SU 512 988).

17. ABINGDON, Abingdon School

Romano-British settlement features and domestic refuse were exposed during the building of the new school theatre. Romano-British material has been found close by on several previous occasions (PRN 12, 112; Centred SU 4945 9532).

18. ABINGDON, 60-64 West St. Helen's Street

Two sections were obtained by removing the cellar walls to properties nos 63 and 64 in order to obtain general information on the nature and extent of any pre-medieval occupation levels. As with

other sites in the vicinity no Anglo-Saxon period occupation was recognised. A little residual early Romano-British pottery (PRN 12, 381) and a little medieval pottery from the bottom of an undisturbed pit (PRN 11, 883) was recovered. The sections showed that there had been gross post-medieval disturbance of the top metre of soil. One section was obscured by a modern sewer pipe trench. Labour was provided by the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society.

19. ASTHALL, Foxhole Bottom

Excavation to repair a burst water main within the Romano-British villa enclosure at Foxhole Bottom (Worsham) exposed a soil and rubble filled feature cut into the underlying natural limestone. Although there was some wood charcoal and fire ash within the fill of this feature no dateable material could be found (PRN 11, 875; Grid Ref., SP 3030 1120).

20. ASTON ROWANT

Foundation trenches dug for the erection of a bungalow close to the moated manor in the deserted medieval village of Copcourt provided an opportunity to examine one of the ploughed out medieval house platforms (PRN 11, 874 and 11, 995; Grid Ref., SP 7070 0095). However, apart from several small fragments of medieval coarse pottery from the top soil the sections provided by the foundation and service trenches only confirmed the earthwork as a building platform constructed on the sloping hill side. Remnants of a chalk-founded floor covered part of this platform but lumps of coal and red brick gave this floor a post-medieval date.

21. ASTON TIRROLD, A417 Road Improvement

Three trial pits dug to gain geological information for a road improvement scheme on the A417 did not reveal any archaeological material.

22. BICESTER, King's End Farm

Some further evidence for the extensive Romano-British settlement 1.5 km west of Bicester has been recovered during the year (PRN 11, 204; Centred SP 573 227). Remnants of a dry-stone wall by which six 4th century coins were found suggesting a lost purse came from a sewer trench 100 m south-west of the previous finds (CBA 9 Newsletter No. 9, 123-5). There was no further domestic debris or other ground disturbance recognised in ground works further south-west which indicates that the south-western limit of the Romano-British settlement has been reached.

The recording of the settlement features as they are exposed during the building operations continues to be undertaken chiefly by Peter Biebrach assisted by local volunteers to whom the OAU would again like to extend its thanks.

23. BICESTER, Lower Home Close

Ground-work for a small housing estate in the centre of Bicester, occupying a field that extends between 90 - 230 m north of the parish church has exposed extensive medieval occupation. The site was first reported to the Unit by Humphrey Woods (PRN 11, 876; Centred SP 5833 2242).

The mechanical removal of 0.15 - 0.3 m of top soil exposed limestone rubble spreads from yard and floor surfaces and debris from drystone or soil bonded building foundations (Fig. 46). This rubble covered almost all of the site except for a slightly depressed area along the eastern edge of the site which is shown shaded on the plan (Fig. 46). This area which becomes boggy in wet weather was sectioned by a deep trench which exposed the edge of a channel for the River Bure. A close watch of the house foundations, service trenches and the roadway cutting revealed up to 0.3 m of stratified archaeological deposits remaining beneath the topsoil strip with post holes, pits and property boundary ditches occasionally seen in section.

All of the dateable features recorded on this site were medieval. The amount of post-medieval pottery recovered was almost as small as the quantity of residual Romano-British pottery. This lack of material indicated that in both periods although there must have been occupation close by there need not have been any occupation on the site itself. Several sherds of early Anglo-Saxon "grass tempered" fabrics and several coarse, indistinguishable Anglo-Saxon or Iron Age sherds were also recovered from the site.

Away from the deep silts of the old river channel the variable subsoil comprised light coloured clays, sometimes sandy, in between non-uniform beds and lenses of limestone of varying quality. A bed of better quality limestone occurred at the northern end of the site and this had been heavily quarried although possibly by the middle and certainly by the later medieval period the quarries had all been back-filled and built over.

Bicester developed from two separate manors, King's End and Market End, which always shared the parish church of St. Edburga. However, although a small amount of village settlement was suspected to have grown up around the church before the development of the market place and expansion of the town along Sheep Street, it is clear from this site that there was a fairly large agricultural village element surviving by the church on the western side of the River Bure until the beginning of the post-medieval period. Just how large this element was remains unclear. The future development of land adjoining this site may provide opportunities to explore the extent and date range of this occupation.

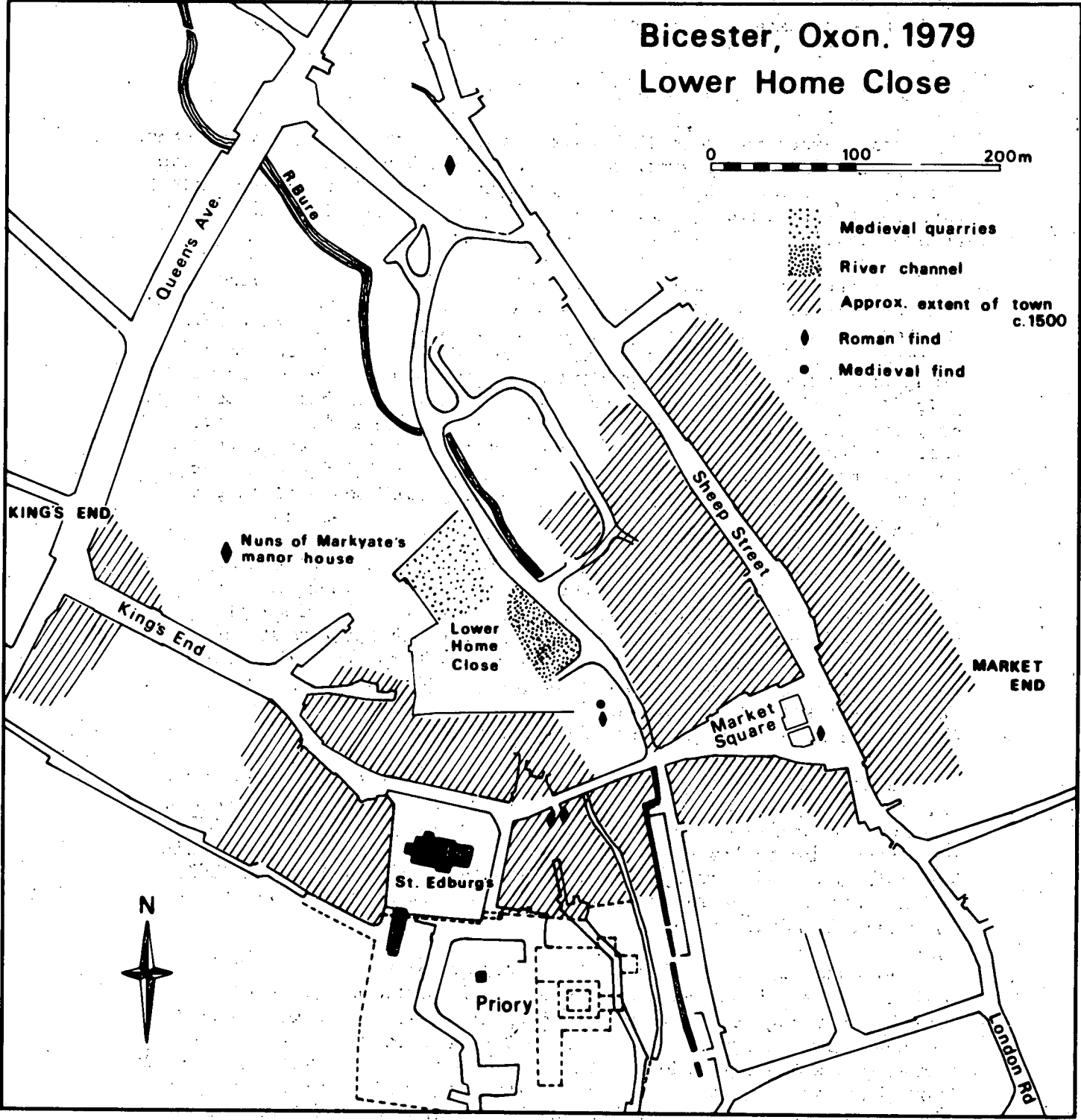


Figure 46

24. BLEWBURY, new vicarage

During the construction of the new vicarage at Blewbury, the contractor recovered fragments of five human skeletons, three adult, one immature adult and one infant. Three fragments of Medieval pottery collected from the site were identified by Maureen Mellor. Although the age of the skeletons remains unknown their presence does suggest that the eastern side of the churchyard may have contracted at some time in the past (PRN 11,993; Grid Ref SU 5319 8594).

25. BRIZE NORTON, Norton Ditch

Recutting the stream called Norton Ditch which forms the parish boundary between Brize Norton and Lew has sectioned a stone bottomed ford about one-third of a mile south of Abingdon Lane (PRN 11,879; SP 3067 0712). The site of this ford lay forgotten beneath some 0.6 m of black silt. Earthwork remains of the sunken entry to the ford survive on the south-eastern side but the north-western side has been obliterated.

26. CAVERSHAM

Extraction continues at the Redland's gravel pit. Ruth and Ernest Just are continuing to watch for any new archaeological material although so far nothing has been found.

27. CHECKENDON, The Devil's Churchyard

Woodland clearance prior to a tree replanting scheme has enabled the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit assisted by the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group to assess the archaeological value of an earthwork known as the Devil's Churchyard.

The site lies in a heavily wooded area of the Chilterns in Checkendon parish (PRN 9131; Centred SU 6525 8400). The enclosure lies on sloping ground facing south-west across a steep sided dry valley. Sited just above 150 m above sea level the subsoil is Plateau Drift comprising chiefly clay and flints over chalk.

The site was surveyed by two in-service trainees, Carlos Urrejola and Heather Bird (Fig. 47). An irregular ditched enclosure with remains of an inner and outer bank lies down-slope from a curvilinear ditch and bank at the top of the hill to the east and south of the enclosure. The quality of the earthwork remains varies considerably from point to point. The banks are very low with the exception of a length of the outer bank on the south-western side of the enclosure where there is a difference of some 1.5 m from the top of the bank to the bottom of the unexcavated ditch. A timber haulage track has levelled a portion of the bank on the south-western side of the enclosure creating the possibly false impression of an entrance

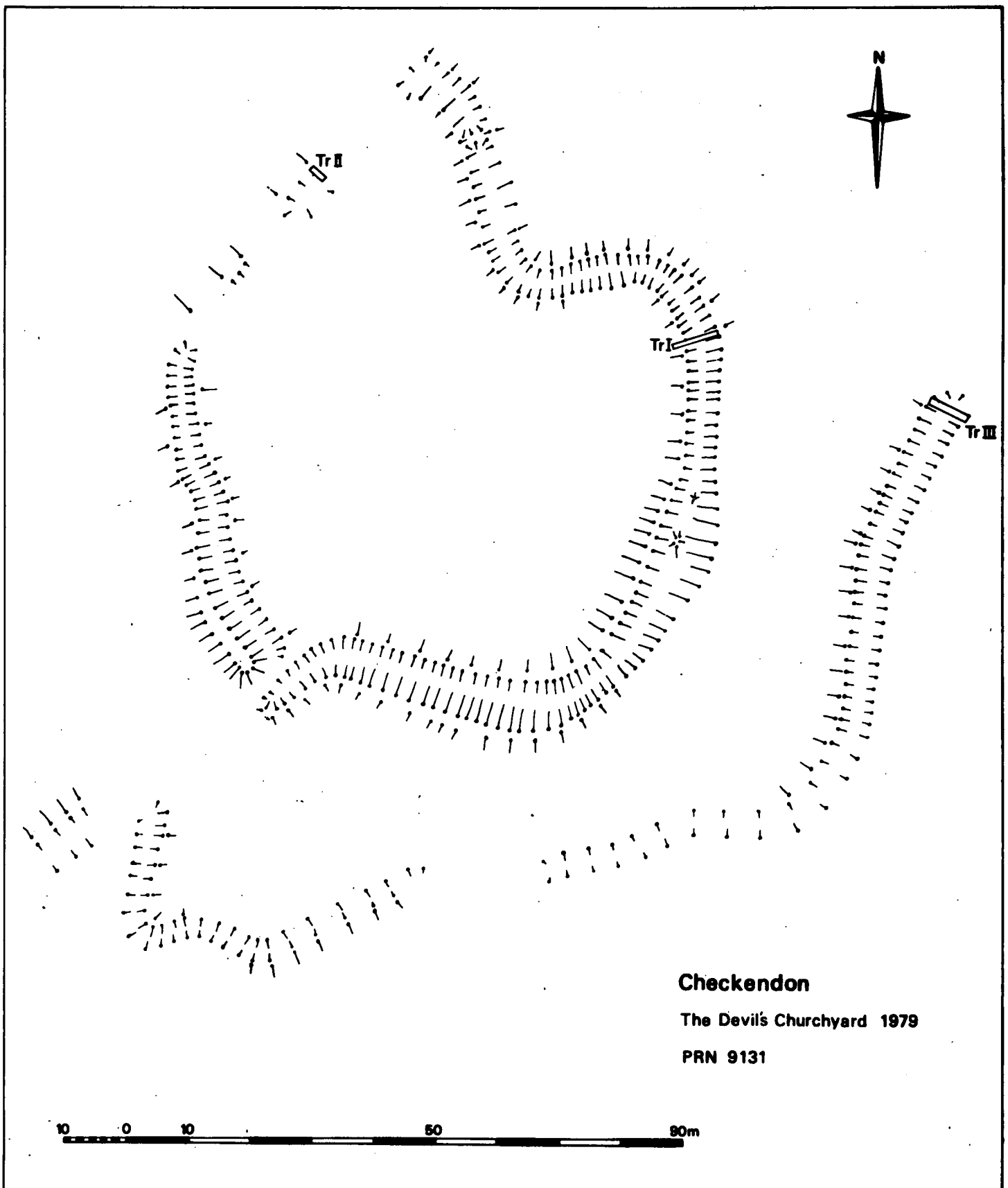


Figure 47

and similarly forest clearance for a new ash tree plantation has obliterated the enclosure on the north-west side.

Three trial sections are currently being excavated to examine the nature and date of this enclosure. The work is being supervised by Cynthia Graham-Kerr of the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group. Two sections have been cut across the enclosure ditch. One along the north-western side has shown that the enclosure ditch does continue even though there is very little surface evidence as shown on the plan. A second section has been cut across the north-eastern side of the enclosure. In both sections the ditch was some 3 m wide, 1.7 m deep and with a V-shaped profile cutting into the underlying chalk. In both trenches some animal bone, worked flint and from one trench fragments of Iron Age pottery have been recovered. A third trench confirmed the terminus of the north end of the curvilinear ditch and provided some similar pottery confirming that the two earthworks are related. The quality and quantity of the finds from the trenches do not imply whether the irregular shape of the enclosure is due to a later expansion of the enclosed area. The exploratory survey work on this site will be completed in 1980.

28. CHINNOR, Oakley Stores, Oakley Road

During the excavation of a vehicle inspection pit in a garage behind the Oakley Stores at Oakley, several pieces of pottery were recovered from a medieval rubbish pit (PRN 12,103; SP 7500 0041). Oakley, a hamlet, first mentioned in 1215, is sited just inside Chinnor parish boundary 0.8 km south of Chinnor village. Oakley has been much enlarged this century but a nucleus of 17th century houses remain in the vicinity of the find spot.

The majority of the pottery came from an undisturbed soil layer although soils directly above yielded a range of early to late medieval fabrics. Large portions of two vessels came from what appeared to be the top of a large pit. One of the vessels was a baggy pitcher of a type not previously recorded in Oxfordshire whilst the second vessel was a cooking pot which provided the first complete profile of a particular type of pottery first recognised during the M40 motorway excavations at Tetsworth in 1972.

29. CUMNOR, Henwood Farm

Cropmarks reported by the farmer, Mrs Carter, on newly acquired farm land at Cumnor were found not to have been caused by archaeological features but by leaching in a very porous soil. However, Romano-British pottery was found on the site indicating a nearby settlement (PRN 11,869; Centred SP4882 0343).

30. DIDCOT, Blagrove Farm

Members of the Didcot and District Archaeological and Historical Society maintained a watching brief during building work on the old caravan site at Blagrove Farm. Several pieces of pottery ranging from the Roman period to the present day were recovered but no deep stratification or other remains were observed (PRN 8035; Centred SU 5215 9051).

31. DIDCOT, Hospital Field

The Didcot and District Archaeological and Historical Society have excavated two sections across the boundary of the small, open, three field system first recorded in the 18th century. The line of the boundary ditch with its slight interior bank can still be traced on the ground for almost its entire length. The boundary ditch was demonstrated to have a V-shaped profile. Ceramic fragments from the lower fill showed that the boundary ditch was not dug until the 19th century (PRN 11,868; Centred SU 5122 8975).

32. DORCHESTER, 8 Bridge End

Excavation for a soak-a-way for a newly completed house uncovered more skeletons belonging to a large cemetery at the end of Rotten Row (PRN 11,844). Unlike several previous finds of human skeletal material beneath or immediately adjacent to several houses at the end of Rotten Row it proved possible to excavate these burials within the confines of the pit and to examine their stratigraphic relationships. There were several adult supine burials of which two were orientated west-east and one east-west, all without durable grave goods excepting two iron nails presumably from a coffin. The grave for the earliest of the burials examined cut through levels belonging to the Roman town and also some undated soil build-up above this. The presence of residual fragments of 4th century Roman period pottery (PRN 11,873) in the grave fills indicated that this cemetery probably belongs to the Anglo-Saxon or Medieval periods. The absence of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval pottery at all levels indicates that this site may have been reserved for burial throughout both periods.

33. DORCHESTER, White Hart Hotel, High Street

During alterations to the White Hart Hotel in the spring of 1979, two human burials were found beneath the floor of the earliest part of the hotel which dates to the early 17th century. Although it was clear that these two individuals were buried prior to the construction of the hotel a precise date could not be placed on their interment and they most probably belong to a period somewhere between the early 5th century collapse of the Roman town and the later Medieval period.

34. DRAYTON

A watching brief by Jeff Wallis of the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society has begun on land now being cleared of topsoil for gravel extraction. As yet no definite settlement features have been observed.

35. GLYMPTON, Slape Copse

Recently part of the Copse which covered the earthwork remains of a Medieval farmstead examined by Peter Fasham in 1971 was cleared and the ground tidied up by machine. In order to determine the amount of damage that this had inflicted on the remains with a view to determining how they might best be preserved R A Chambers undertook the excavation of a series of nine trial trenches. These excavations not only enabled the measurement of the degree of machine damage which proved to be mainly superficial, but also provided an opportunity to produce a comprehensive earthworks plan, to define the true extent of the site and to indicate archaeologically the period of occupation as at present the documentary evidence is unclear.

The earthwork remains of the farmstead lie on the western side of the Glyme Valley, on the brow of a north facing slope next to the A34 main road. Today the site (Fig. 48) is marked by a hollow track A leading up from the valley to what appears to be a yard area B and a cluster of earthworks adjacent to the A34 main road. Geological opinion considers the large terrace C running north-east to south-west across the hill slope to be natural land slip and this interpretation was born out by trench IV. From an earlier, incomplete survey undertaken in 1971 three buildings were identified from the earthworks at D, E and F. By excavation building D was found to survive with up to 0.7 m of drystone wall intact in places and the base of an oven retained at G. This building had been erected over earlier Medieval occupation and the building had been extended at least once. The site appears to have extended a little to the north of the hollow way A as trial trench III provided much domestic debris from an undisturbed Medieval soil. Although the ground surface suggested a possible building site at H two trenches VI and VII produced structural remains. A building at F was shown to have been built across what appears to be a hollow way J leading into the Medieval farm and this building was also built over earlier occupation features. The end of another hollowed roadway K is probably of more recent date leading to a filled-in stone quarry 100 m to the south-east. The deeply pronounced west end of hollow way J is probably the result of a trial pit as part of the later stone quarrying. Although trench III provided much domestic debris a geophysical survey of the site by magnetometer and resistivity meter produced no evidence for occupation in the adjacent pasture field to the north-west. The geophysical survey also covered the earthworks and the results corresponded with that found in the trial trenches with one anomaly, a circular patch approximately 5 m in diameter. A small trench IX dug into the centre confirmed a deep pit, over 1.3 m deep filled with building debris and some

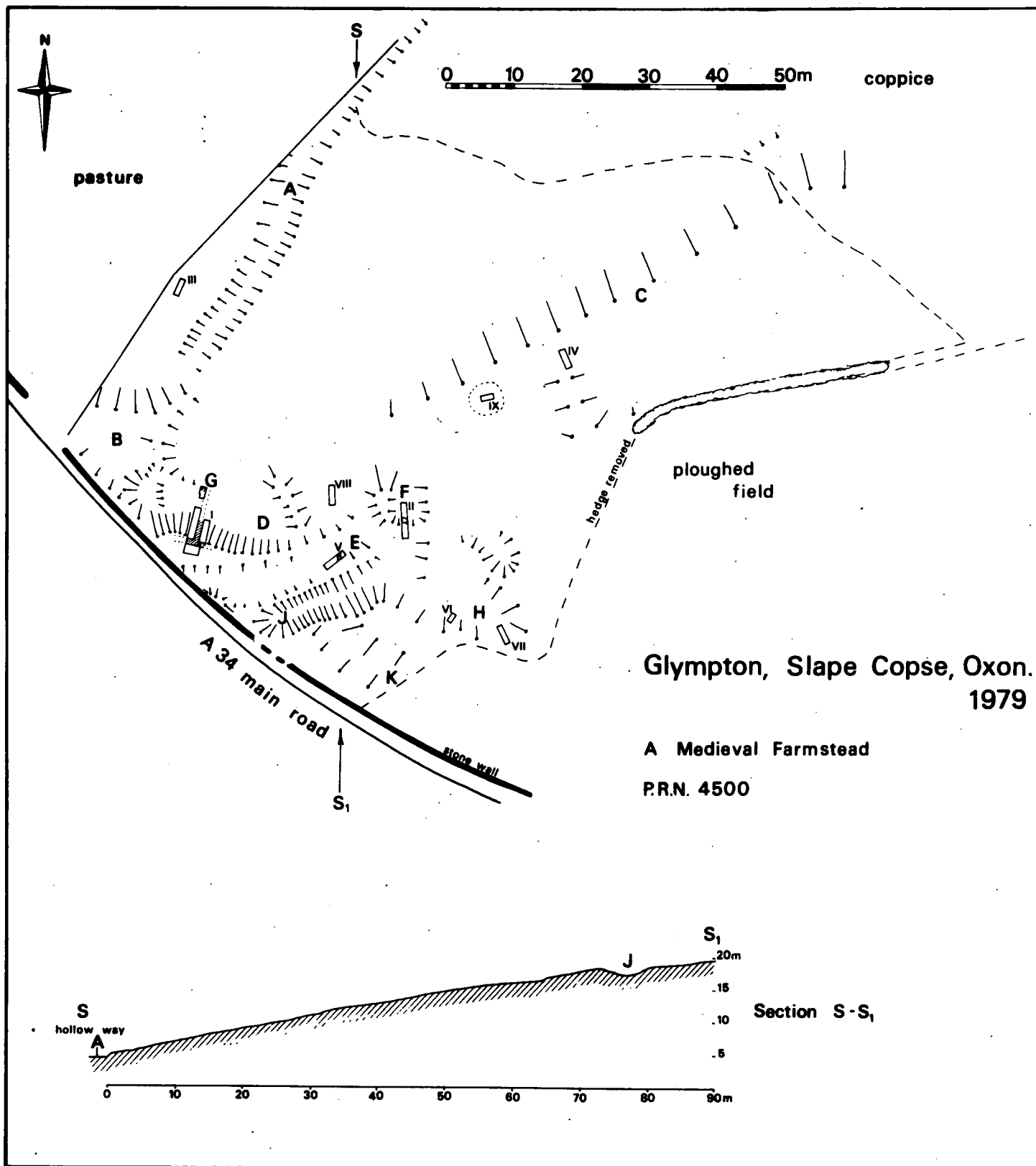


Figure 48

medieval domestic refuse.

The excavated evidence is supported by documents in the possession of Magdalen College. The evidence suggests that Slape was an assart in Wychwood Forest. Slape is first mentioned in 1220 when Ralph de Clinton granted two virgates of land in Slape near Wootton to Lady Letitia de Saucy, owner of Kiddington, the next manor, on the payment of twenty marks to himself and three to his wife. The house of John de Slape is first mentioned in 1227. In 1300 the Perambulation of Wychwood Forest mentions "the house of John de Slape in Wudestok Way". The land continued to be occupied by the Slape family for approximately five hundred years. When the site was finally deserted is unclear at present. Cartographic evidence indicates that the site was under pasture by 1809 and this is backed up by the lack of any quantity of Post-Medieval pottery on the site.

The Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit would like to acknowledge the site owner Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, for permission to examine the site and also to Dunns Soil Fertility Ltd., for providing accommodation. Beryl Schumer, Elizabeth Leggatt, Evelyn Brown-Grant and Jill Downer have all assisted with the documentary investigation.

36. KIDLINGTON, Churchyard extension

The enlargement of the parish churchyard on the northern side of the Medieval church required the complete removal of the topsoil. The work was watched by the Kidlington and District Historical Society.

The site was of two-fold interest as in 1840 a Roman well is reputed to have been found some 30 m to the east and also until very recently there survived several low platformms lying adjacent to the north wall of the churchyard, presumably part of the Medieval or early Post-Medieval village. Searching the site revealed only a light matter of Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery and one fragment of Medieval ridge tile (PRN 11,865).

37. KIDLINGTON, Moat Cottage

This summer saw a further three week excavation at Moat Cottage. The site lies at the edge of the former cow common (PRN 9219; Centred SP 488 137), one mile from the parish church and Medieval village centre. The site was first examined in 1976 when nineteen trial trenches were dug in an attempt to identify and assess the archaeological potential of these remains. Only the last of the trial trenches which lay a little to the east of Moat Cottage revealed a Medieval building (CBA 9 Newsletter No. 8, Fig. 35, p. 114-6).

The objectives of the 1979 excavations were aimed at obtaining a general understanding of the remainder of the site and to assess the extent, nature and date range of the Medieval buildings. To this end some twenty trial pits were hand dug under the supervision of

Moat Cottage, Kidlington, Oxon. 1979

P.R.N. 9219

10 0 10 20 30 40 m



Grove Farm

Moat Cottage

key:

-  water features filled in since 1810
-  outline of building on 1810 Enclosure Award Plan
-  the present building
-  stone wall

Ian Meadows by local volunteers in the garden (Fig. 49) on the eastern side of Moat Cottage. Many of the trial holes revealed a limestone rubble spread across the eastern half of the garden, but this gave way towards the cottage to much deeper stratification which at a depth of approximately 1.2 m revealed two Medieval coursed rubble wall foundations and associated gravelly clay floors which provided only mid-Medieval pottery. It is now clear that it is beneath the western half of the garden east of Moat Cottage that substantial Medieval buildings lie, sealed by dumped soil.

To the east of the present cottage the moat was clearly re-shaped during the laying-out of the 18th century walled garden. A large 2 m deep trench A against the north wall showed a substantial, heavily silted ditch, water logged at the bottom. The ditch silts produced domestic pottery from the early Post-Medieval period. The section showed that the ditch had been purposely filled in. A mechanically dug trench at B exposed the edge of a deep, silted ditch which is possibly the other edge of the ditch found in trench A.

Two similar trenches at E and F confirmed the existence of the moat and the pond as shown on the enclosure award, both of which were apparently constructed during the mid Post-Medieval landscaping. Both were filled by 19th and 20th century debris.

Several problems remain to be solved. It is now clear that the whole shape of the present landscape is the result of 18th century replanning. That there was a moat in the Medieval period seems likely but the evidence is not conclusive. The moat exposed in trench A was silting up during the later 16th - earlier 17th century and this may have been a Medieval moat that had been previously cleaned out. Whatever its date it does not adhere to the present day rectangular plan. The original shape of the moat remains to be discovered and also to see whether it connects with the two fishponds to the south, fishponds which may be dated in the light of our present limited knowledge to the end of the Medieval or early Post-Medieval period. A machine trench C across the fishponds did not provide any dating evidence. A further trench D showed that a suggested third fishpond did not exist.

More work clearly remains to be done at Moat Cottage to assess the nature and extent of what from material evidence must have been a Medieval manor house, the nature of further work depends on whether the housing development will provide sufficient opportunity to observe the archaeology. If necessary, some further excavation may be required to examine an area to the north of the walled garden where the presence of two completely buried north-south ditches have been revealed by geophysical survey.

38. IFFLEY, The Rectory - Brian Durham

A careful restoration is being carried out by the Landmark Trust, who kindly allowed some excavation in the north block to

THRUPP HOUSE FARM

Site C Plan

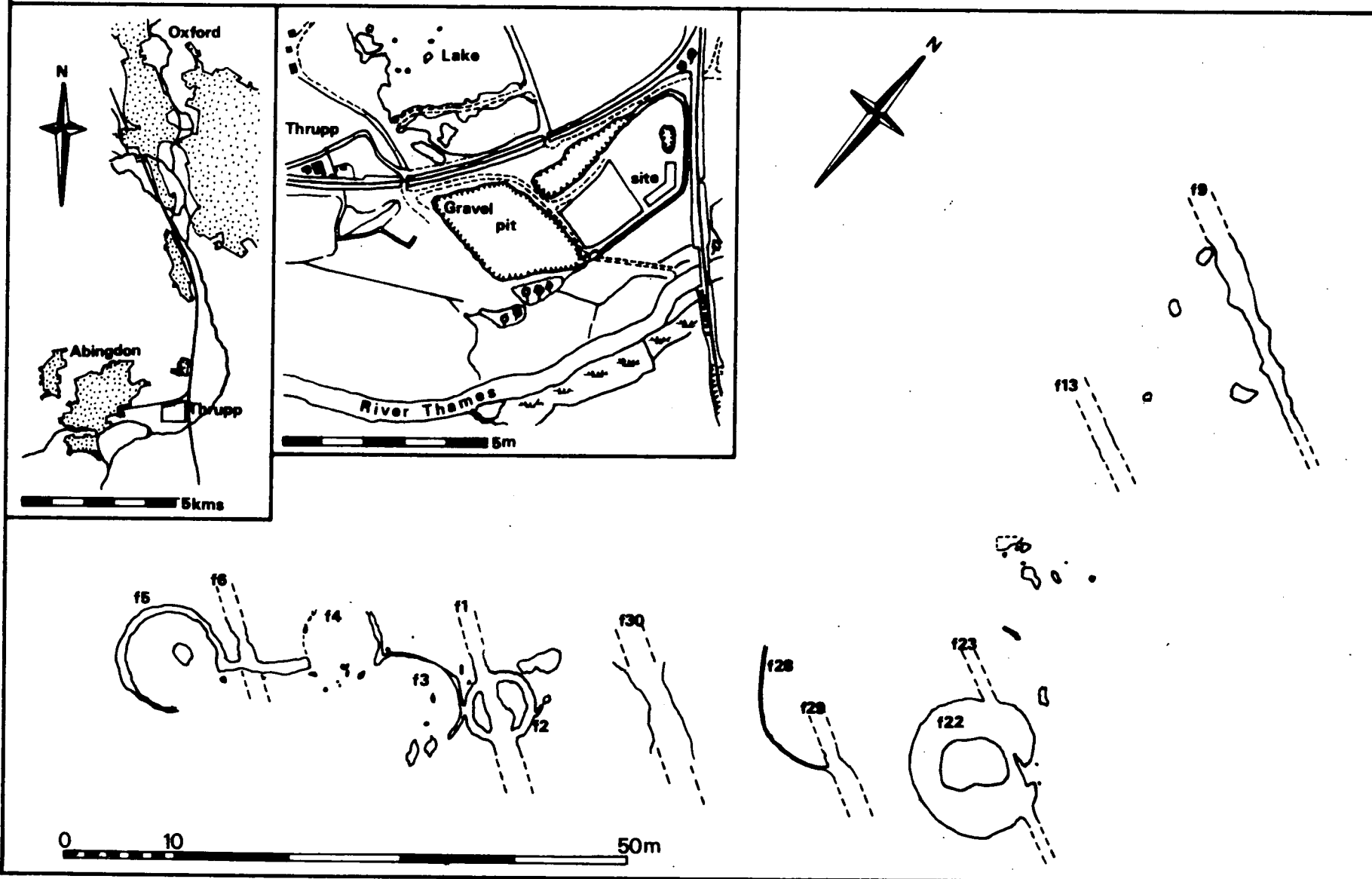


Figure 50

look for early floors. Medieval floors were indeed found, but seemed not to relate to the existing structure with its supposed twelfth century blocked arch, rather to a robber trench of an unsuspected building on an earlier alignment. Further work in 1980 may show how this new find relates to the thirteenth century features of the central block, but in the meantime it is clear that the 'twelfth century arch' should be regarded as a relieving arch for the fireplace.

39. RADLEY, Thrupp Farm - Godfrey Jones, Roger Thomas, Jeff Wallis, Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society

The work was undertaken on an area threatened by gravel extraction, to investigate a ring-ditch known from aerial photographs and a flint scatter located during field-walking (SU 525 872).

Features uncovered include (Fig. 50):

F05. Ring Ditch - recently exposed with a central feature. No dating evidence but regarded as contemporary with the other Iron Age features. 10 m dia.

F04. Gully - with a crouched child burial. The inhumation was recorded and raised - pelvis, femur, part of rib cage, 4 vertebrae, illium radius and phalanges. No skull. No grave goods.

F03. Circular Gully - 10 m dia. One posthole?

F02. Ring-Ditch - 7 m dia. Deeper than F05, F04 and F03, but with F01 linear feature cutting through the centre, destroying possible internal features. One posthole.

F22. Penannular Ditch - By far the largest feature on site. Apparent on aerial photographs and with at least three recuts and some gravel back-filling. Two postholes found at entrance and one large one in the terminal ditch.

Finds include: flint waste flakes (unpatinated); animal bone fragments; a bronze coin of Tasciovanus - 15BC/5AD struck at Camulodunum Mint; the pottery is ill-fired sand temper-ware (bead-rim bowls). The only decorated one so far had a slashed rim. Palaeolithic hand axe (probably mid-Achaean); a white patinated flint scraper (probably Neolithic); the most interesting find has been the handle end of an iron knife with rivet intact.

F23. Linear Feature - one of several regularly spaced, shallow ditches crossing the field - possibly medieval but of unknown function.

The site seems to represent a small late Iron Age settlement, one of a series of occupation sites in this immediate area, of the

same period and located on the gravel terraces bordering the alluvial flood-plain of the Thames.

Post-excavation work on material already excavated is now under way, and excavation will resume later in the year.

40. RADLEY, Tuckwell's Pit - Godfrey Jones, Roger Thomas, Jeff Wallis, Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society

A ring ditch known from aerial photographs was located after mechanical stripping of the topsoil prior to gravel extraction. Clearing showed the feature to be 10 m in diameter, with a central oval pit c. 2 m x 1.50 m. Excavation of this central pit produced a Beaker, but no traces of any accompanying skeleton (Fig. 50). Although not shown on plan, about one third of the surrounding ditch was excavated but only produced a flint arrowhead.

41. STANTON HARCOURT - J W Taylor, Oxford University Archaeological Society

In October 1979 the OUAS, at the request of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit began rescue work on a site in advance of its destruction by gravel extraction. This work was made possible through the cooperation of ARC. Work was carried out in a series of weekend excavations lasting until December 1979.

The site lies 865 m south-south-west of Stanton Harcourt Church, and 220 m directly north-west of "Devil's Quoits" henge monument. It lies in the north-west quadrant of a 168 hectare (416 acre) gravel quarry (SP 4129 0489). This area is bounded on the west by the B4449 road linking Stanton Harcourt with Standlake, on the east by the River Windrush and to the north by the Eynsham road.

The site lies on the second gravel terrace of the Thames at a height of 69.52 m O.D. The immediate area was levelled during the construction of a World War II airfield. In preparation for quarrying operations ARC mechanically removed the concrete runway revealing the outline of a ring ditch on the gravel surface beneath. This feature was not observable in the aerial photographic study of the area made by Major G W Allen in 1933, prior to runway construction.

Although the ring ditch yielded no finds, the information obtained on the structural nature of the feature is valuable. The ditch was roughly circular in plan with a diameter of just over 10 m. The ditch was not continuous in the traditional sense, but consisted of a series of adjacent 'bowl-shaped' pits, being roughly oval in plan. These pits were of varying depths separated by "causeways of undisturbed gravel". These causeways as found did not extend upward to the present ground level. Only in the south-west quadrant of the ring ditch did the causeway reach ground level to form a

TUCKWELL'S PIT RADLEY. Beaker Burial.

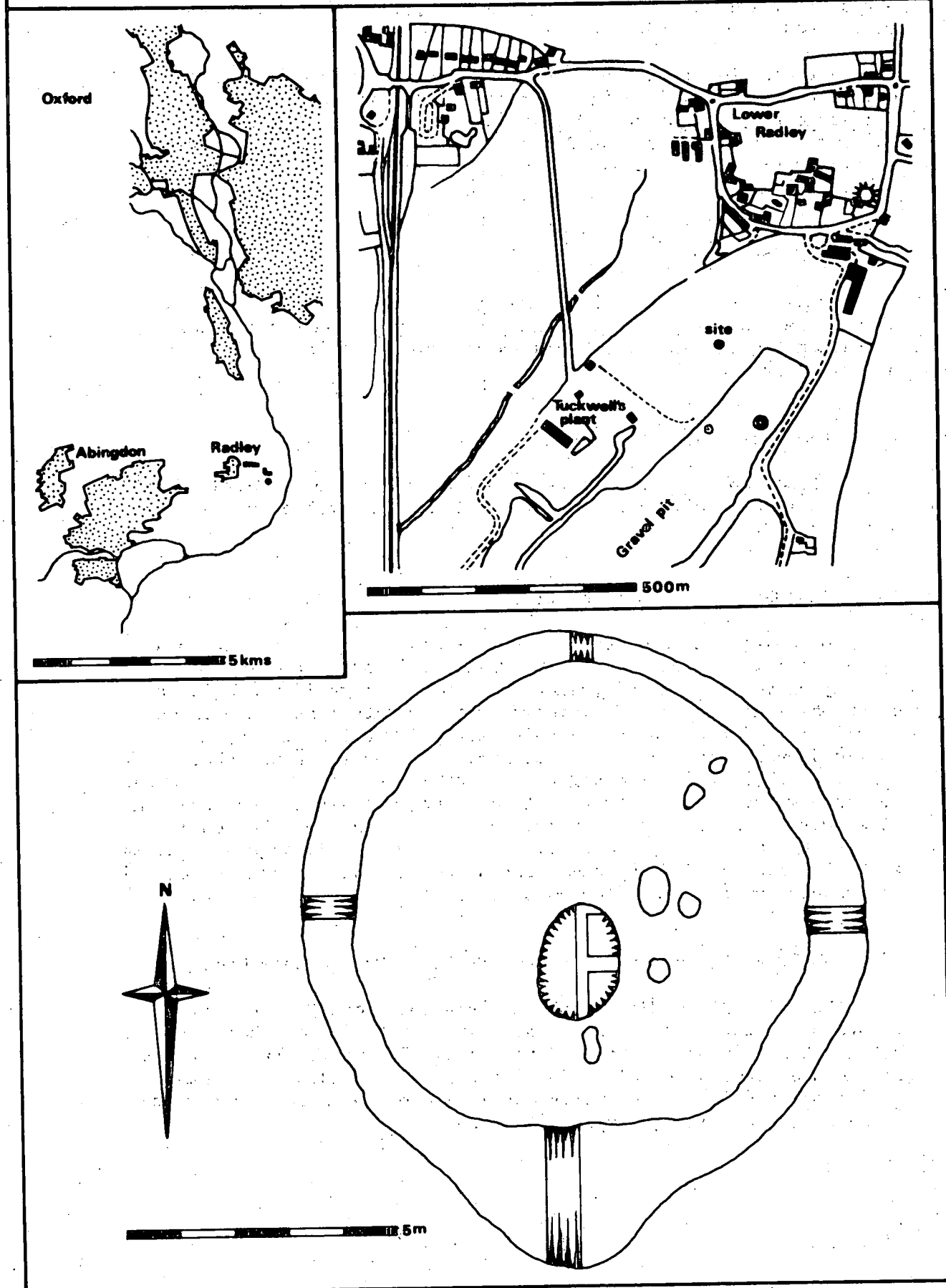


Figure 51

narrow flat-topped 'entrance'. In section the sides were rather steep, rounding towards the bottom.

A remarkably close parallel can be found in the causewayed cremation-cemetery, Site V, of Atkinson, Piggott and Sandars, Excavations at Dorchester, Oxon., 1951, pp. 43-50. The Stanton Harcourt site, however, yielded no cremation remains, only three small deposits of charcoal. No other direct dateable evidence was found.

42. THAME by-pass

The construction of the Thame by-pass went ahead rapidly in 1979. The Thame Historical Society kept a watch on the earthmoving operations during the summer and autumn but no archaeological material was recovered.

43. THAME, 4-5 High Street

Foundation work for the new Boots branch store revealed a build-up of Post-Medieval soils. No trace of any Medieval occupation was observed.

44. WALLINGFORD, 5-7 Castle Street

Following the demolition of nos 5-7 situated on the west side of Castle Street, the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society excavated a trial trench to examine the quality and depth of archaeological stratification from the Medieval and late Saxon town. Most of the ground had been deeply disturbed during the Post-Medieval period although cleaning two foundation trenches both dug to a depth of 1.2 m along the present frontage revealed deep and relatively undisturbed stratification extending beneath the pavement at a depth of about 1 m. Pottery suggested a 12th - 13th century date range for the uppermost levels. This would, if correct, fit in with the diversion of the road running northwards out of Wallingford to its present position along Castle Street (PRN 12,117 and 12, 118).

45. WALLINGFORD, Former Usher Brewery Site, Goldsmith's Lane

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society has maintained a watching brief on this site which lies at the junction between High Street and Goldsmith's Lane. Extensive alteration work on the old brewery buildings involves little groundwork but some useful sections were seen which may indicate the archaeology underlying this site will be exposed in 1980.

46. WALLINGFORD, Laundry Site, Goldsmith's Lane

Several trial holes were dug prior to the redevelopment of the laundry site which is located in the south-western part of the town enclosed by the line of the late Saxon defences. Five trial pits dug for the architects to examine the subsoil showed that the ground was either recently made-up or disturbed to a depth of 2 m by Post-Medieval rubbish pits. No Medieval or earlier pottery was seen.

47. WALLINGFORD, Market Place, St Martin's Street and St Mary's Street

Sewer trenches 0.6 m wide dug through the Market Place and down both St Martin's and St Mary's Streets revealed a Post-Medieval build-up of surfaces ranging in total depth from 0.5 m to 1.0 m from the present surface. Although the trench along St Martin's Street was shallow, the trench along St Mary's Street was deeper at approximately 1.5 m, and revealed that the Post-Medieval levels sealed deep, soft greenish-grey soils containing much animal bone and three sherds of Medieval pottery (PRN 11,864 and 12,121). No surfaces were recognised. This general, thick soil spread appeared to be a build-up of Medieval rubbish in the Market Place. The full depth of this accumulation is not known.

A broad spread of large flint rubble averaging 0.3 m in thickness was seen extending in both trench sections for 4 m opposite the junction between Lloyd's Bank and the Corn Exchange. This rubble which cut into the Medieval soils had been sealed by the Post-Medieval resurfacings. In section the rubble resembled a hard standing rather than a wall foundation.

48. WALLINGFORD, 9-10 St Martin's Street (former Regal Cinema) -
Brian Durham

Various development proposals for this key site were discussed during 1979. It was considered desirable to assess the archaeological potential of the site and accordingly two exploratory machine trenches were dug in the forecourt. Unfortunately it turned out that exceptionally deep modern cellars had destroyed the frontage, but stratified medieval pottery was recovered from what were presumably yard surfaces to the rear. The sequence of stratification continued down to a late Saxon pit at a depth of 2.20 m. It may be useful to re-excavate this area when the developers' programme is settled.

49. WITNEY, 27 Market Square

Following the proposal to demolish the former Crown Hotel (no 27 Market Square) to make way for a new road, two exploratory trenches were dug by the OAU in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The first trench was placed inside the main

entrance and exposed the remains of floor surfaces, the lowest of which was associated with a hearth and two fragments of Medieval course pottery. A second trench was dug at the rear of the premises and encountered recently disturbed ground down to the natural limestone.

From the first trial pit and investigation beneath floor boards inside the hotel the Medieval stratigraphy appears to be well preserved by accumulations of building debris and soil which has subsequently been sealed by a further deposit of building rubble, used to level up the site for the building of the Crown Hotel in the 18th century. Further excavations may take place on the site once the present buildings are demolished.

50. WROXTON

A collection of human bones representing a minimum of three persons as found scattered in the floor of a barn were excavated and examined at the request of the Banbury police. The skeletons, all of which were far from complete appeared to have been redeposited in the floor of the barn after having been disturbed and removed from their original burial place. Several of the bones bore marks of earlier damage which appeared to have occurred at the time the bones were first dug up. The presence of these bones suggests that an early cemetery other than that of the local parish church exists nearby.

51. X40 (Oxford to Birmingham New Road)

Engineers' test-pits along the preferred route of the proposed M40 extension to provide information for the road engineers were closely watched for any archaeological material that they may have disclosed. Several test pits were also put down to examine areas of known archaeological importance. The test pits provided little material from known sites and no new sites were recorded.

Anne Cookson, an Oxford University Department for External Studies in-Service Trainee carried out a general up-dating of information on sites culled from the Oxfordshire Department of Museum Services Sites and Monuments Record for the Midland Road Construction Unit.

The numbers on the location plan refer to the numbers of the summary reports with the exception of the main post-excavation projects. These projects are as follows: 52, Abingdon, Barton Court Farm villa; 53, Appleford, Iron Age and Roman site; 54, Berinsfield, Mount Farm multi-period site, 55; Hardwick, Iron Age site; 56, Oxford, the Hamel; 57, Oxford 31-34 Church Street; 58, Oxford, All Saints Church, High Street.

Alphabetical List of Projects: the numbers after each project relate to the Interim Notes and the location plan.

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 Abingdon, Box Hill, 14
 Abingdon, Nuffield Way Allotments, 15
 Abingdon, Peachcroft Housing Estate, 16
 Abingdon, School, 17
 Abingdon, 60-64 West St Helen's Street, 18
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PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS IN THE REGION

BEDFORDSHIRE

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal, the periodical covering all the work done in the county, is published annually by the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council, price £5.25 plus postage, subscription rate £4.00: available from Hon. Treasurer, 63 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedford. Volume 13, being D.B. Baker, E.M. Baker, J.M. Hassall, A.H. Simco, 'Excavations in Bedford, 1965-1976' appeared October 1979. Volume 14, 1980 is due out May 1980. Contents include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| B. Dix | 'Odell Excavations: an interim report' |
| D.N. Hall and
P. Martin | 'Flints and Prehistoric Agriculture' |
| K. Bilikowska | 'The Anglo-Saxon Settlement of Bedfordshire' |
| D.N. Hall and
J.B. Hutchings | 'Thurleigh Church Excavations' |
| P.G. Tilson | 'Excavations at Tythe Meadow, Stevington' |
| J.M. Bailey | 'Two Hall and Crosswing Buildings from East Bedfordshire' |
| " | 'Nos. 7 and 9 West Street, Dunstable' |
| A.H. Simco and
D. Sherlock | 'Bushmead Priory: Excavations and Medieval Alabaster' |

Volume 15 should be published in 1981. Editor: David H. Kennett, 497 Hitchin Road, Stopsley, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 7TT (telephone 0582-24654).

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| David Allen | The Ravenstone Burial, an interim report. 25p |
| David Allen | Bierton Excavations 1979, an interim report. 25p |
| Denise Allen | Bucks Archaeology from the Air. 60p |
| Michael Farley | A Carps-Tongue Hoard from Aylesbury (offprinted from BAR 67). 30p |
| " | A Small Late Bronze Age Hoard from Ellesborough. NA |

All publications are available from Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP, price includes p & p. Copies of the 1976 volume of *Records of Bucks* available from the same address, price £3.00.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| David Hall and
Paul Martin | Brixworth Northamptonshire - An Intensive Field Survey
<i>J.Brit. Archaeol. Ass.</i> CXXXII (1979). |
|-------------------------------|--|

See also under Northampton Development Corporation

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT FOR EXTERNAL STUDIES

CBA Group 9 Newsletters:	No. 2 (1972)	£0.40
	No. 3 (1973)	£0.45
	No. 4 (1974)	£0.50
	No. 6 (1976)	£1.20
	No. 7 (1977)	£1.20
	No. 8 (1978)	£1.20
	No. 9 (1979)	£2.20

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM CBA HEADQUARTERS

Newsletter and Calendar of Excavations: Monthly from March to September, plus November with summaries in the following January. Available only on annual subscription: UK & Europe £3.75; USA & Canada (surface mail) \$9.00; USA & Canada (airmail) \$13.00; Other countries (surface mail) £5.00; Other countries (airmail) £6.00.

British Archaeological Abstracts: This twice-yearly publication provides concise summaries of the most important articles published during the previous six months in over 200 periodicals, monographs and symposium volumes are also covered, together with selected books: Institutions £8.00; Individuals £16.00.

Current Archaeological Offprints and Reports: An annual catalogue of current offprints available from journals and archaeological reports £1.75

Archaeological Bibliography for Great Britain and Ireland 1975 £6.00
(details and prices of back numbers available on request)

Archaeology in Britain 1978 £2.50
(details and prices of back numbers available on request)

RR6, 3 edn, *Romano-British coarse pottery: a student's guide*
Webster (ed) £1.75

RR9, *The Iron Age in the Irish Sea province*, Thomas (ed) £3.00

RR11, *The effect of man on the landscape: the Highland Zone*,
Evans, Limbrey, Cleere (eds) £7.50

RR12, *Aerial reconnaissance for archaeology*, Wilson (ed) £9.50

RR13, *The archaeological study of churches*, Addyman & Morris (eds) £4.50

RR15, *Excavations at St. Mary's Church, Deerhurst, 1971-73*, Rahtz £4.00

RR17, *Medieval moated sites*, Aberg (ed) £6.00

RR18, *The Saxon shore*, Johnston (ed) £7.00

RR19, *Historic churches - a wasting asset*, Rodwell & Rodwell £5.00

RR20, *Gazetteer of Mesolithic sites in England and Wales*, Wymer
(ed) £12.00

RR21, *The effect of man on the landscape: the Lowland Zone*
Limbrey & Evans (eds) £10.00

RR22, <i>Burial in the Roman World</i> , Reece (ed)	£6.50
RR23, <i>Stone axe studies</i> , Clough & Cummins (eds)	£11.75
RR24, <i>Roman shipping and trade</i> , du Plat Taylor & Cleere (eds)	£7.00
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<i>After Rescue, What next?</i> Thomas	£0.60
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<i>Are we too loud?</i> Groenman-van Waateringe	£0.55

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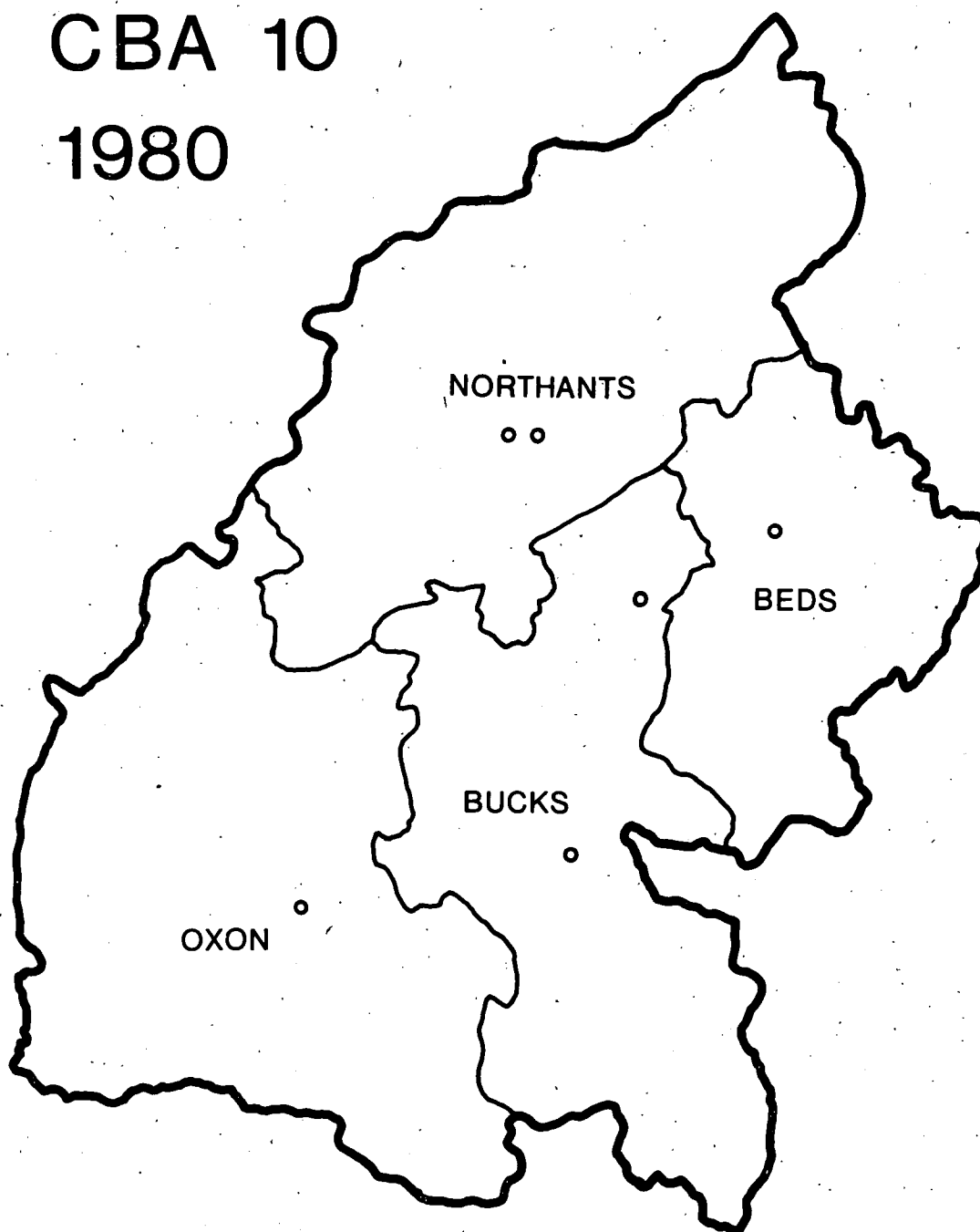
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