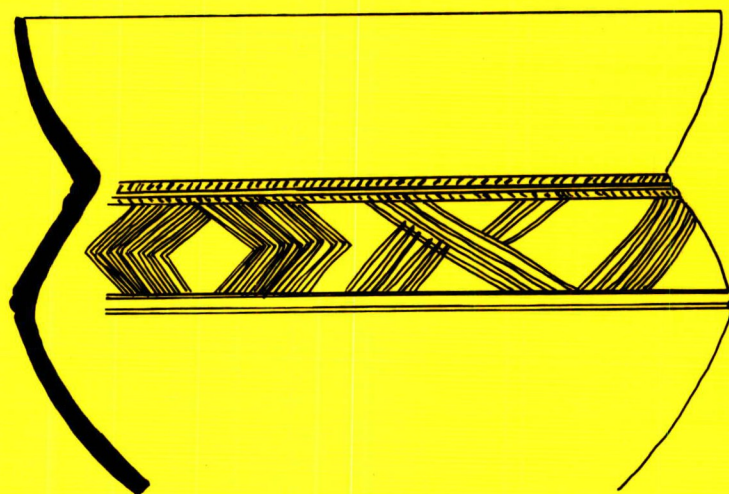
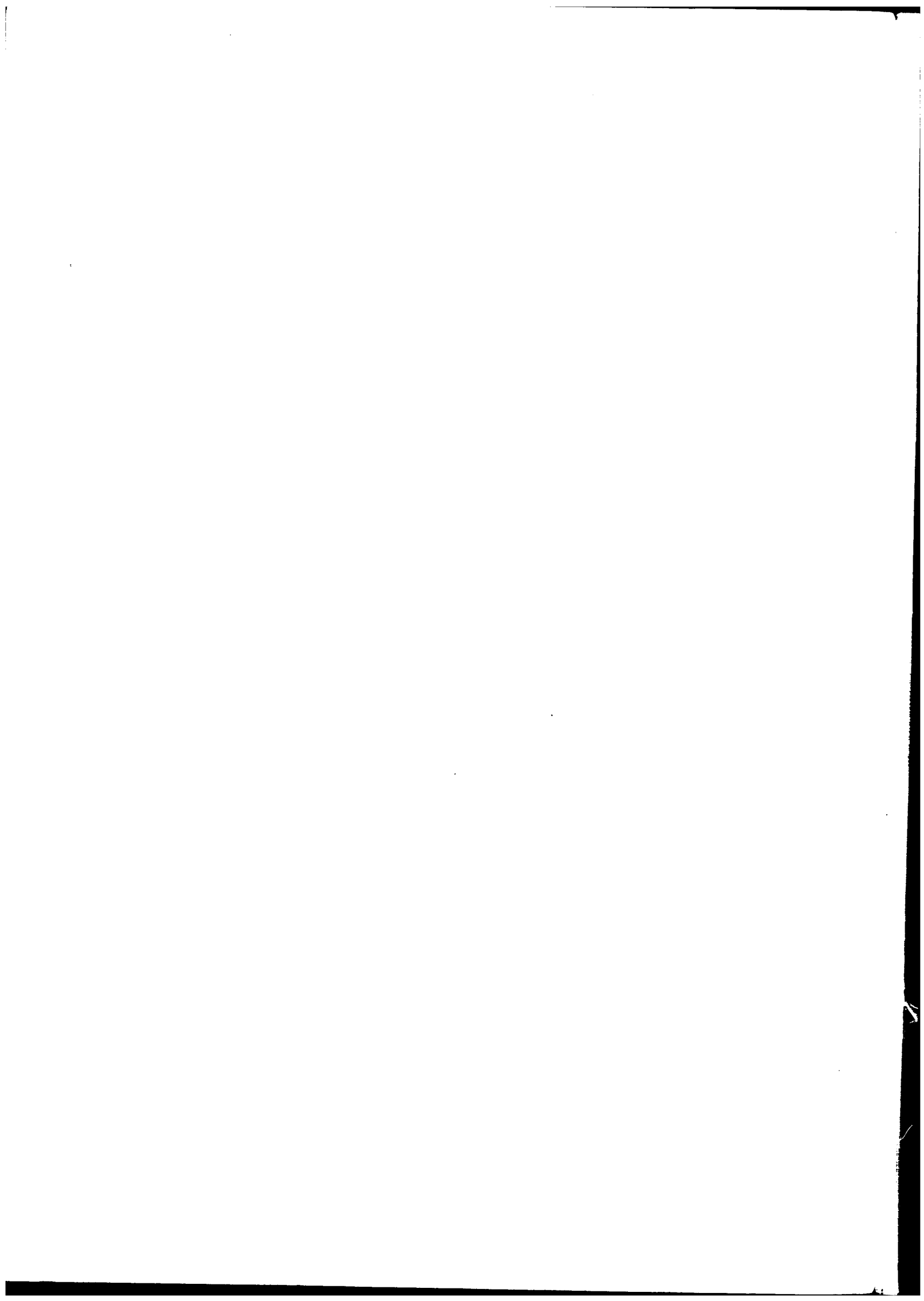


C B A
GROUP 9
NEWSLETTER 12 1982



A REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY

in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire
Northamptonshire & Oxfordshire



Property of CBA South Midlands

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

REGIONAL GROUP 9

(Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire)

NEWSLETTER No. 12 1982

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to another edition of the Newsletter. As many of you will know, unless there is a marked improvement of sales, it is unlikely that finances will run to another volume. So please give all your friends copies for Easter (do not wait until Christmas).

The Newsletter gives the usual summary accounts of the large quantity of varied archaeological and historical work going on in the region. Without such a report it would be very tedious to find out what is happening.

Again this year the response from part timers was very disappointing, although the length of a few of the articles received prevented their inclusion. Do let us know what you are doing.

Many Units are being affected severely by the cutbacks, and there are likely to be more redundancies this year. There is, therefore, even more essential rescue work for local teams to tackle.

However in spite of these difficulties let us keep the work going. We have one of the most interesting regions of the country, varying from fen to chalk, and sand to clay, possessing a complex settlement and landscape history. If any sensible interpretation of it is to be made then detailed local studies must continue.

David Hall

BEDFORDSHIRE

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TEAM 1981 - David Baker

There is little to report of a general nature beyond what is covered in the separate items which follow. We have continued to live off our long standing main excavation project at Grove Priory and the parish survey programme, together with the post-excavation backlog from the more hectic 70s. Little new grant-aidable work is on the immediate horizon, and the size of the permanent Field Team seems likely to shrink in the next few years. MSC projects continue to be an essential part of our ability to operate effectively in the field.

Serious consideration is being given to the computerisation of the index to the Sites and Monuments Record, which includes historic buildings. It may however take some time to devise a satisfactory programme for use with the County Council's computer, and accessing even our relatively well-ordered material will be a major work-load.

Alan Cox's volume on 'Brickmaking', the first in the projected 'Survey of Bedfordshire' with RCHM(E) continues to attract favourable comment. Other volumes are close to printing or in active preparation, but staff reductions have caused a major deceleration.

Work has continued at Grove Priory (Evelyn Baker) throughout the year as the only excavation. Post-excavation work on Odell (Brian Dix) is drawing to a conclusion; that on Sharpenhoe (Brian Dix) has been completed. Progress has been made with Newnham Marina (Angela Simco) and Warden Abbey (Evelyn Baker).

During 1981 we said goodbye to Robert White who has moved to North Yorkshire, and had been engaged on the parish survey programme for many years. He has been replaced by John Wood, formerly on the Oxford University/DoE In-Service Training Course. Richard Barcham and Martin Fowkes, supervisors on the MSC YOP scheme at Grove Priory, have also left, the former to direct work at Brackley in Northants. He was replaced by Angus Stephenson. Terry Jackman has been working as a temporary Finds Assistant, replacing Pat Aird who left to work for Northamptonshire County Council.

PARISH SURVEY AND WATCHING BRIEF

In the Parish Survey Programme 92 historic parishes have been completed, out of a total of 132. It is expected that the programme will be completed within the next two years. While general conclusions are best left until the end of the project, there has been considerable success in re-constructing the medieval landscape, allowing individual sites to be set in a wider historical context. It has also proved useful in enabling earlier features to be considered in relation to subsequent land exploitation and settlement locations. (See Leighton Buzzard for some examples.)

Of several watching briefs conducted during the year, two have been particularly useful. The Saxo-Norman tower of St Thomas's Church, Clapham (Angela Simco) is being repaired and re-pointed, and the raking out of decayed mortar has revealed the original system of putlog holes. Measured drawings by Michael Hare, and the analysis of some timber frames in the tower windows, will, it is hoped, add considerably to our under-

standing of what is the oldest standing structure in Bedfordshire. Gravel extraction near the Roman settlement of Sandy has produced the material which is consistent with the periphery of an area of occupation. Most of the finds recovered were at the bottom of a marshy deposit, and probably derived from rubbish dumping. Many coins and other metal objects were initially collected by members of the St Neots and District Artefact Club, and have been retained in private hands. As the quarrying activity has moved away from the vicinity of the settlement area, across what has been meadow land in modern times, the waterlogged nature of the fluvial deposits and the presence of old water courses has suggested that the Roman settlement was confined to the slightly higher terrace to the west. Some lengths of Roman ditch have been identified, and it is hoped that the overall pattern will eventually be re-constructed (Angela Simco). A group of 2nd Century AD pottery was recovered from a building site north of Sandy by Brian Dix and Pat Aird (Beds Arch J forthcoming)

Once again in 1981, the Knuston field survey course under the direction of Christopher Taylor and Tony Brown produced analytical drawings of several Bedfordshire earthwork sites. This session included village earthworks at Scald End Thurleigh, and moats at Birchfield Great Barford and Palace Yard Wood Roxton. This assistance with our survey programmes continues to be most helpful and welcome.

Some earthwork survey work has also been done by volunteer members of the MSC YOP scheme working at weekends with Bob Mustoe, Stephen Coleman and John Wood, mainly at Mill Farm, Salford.

THE LEIGHTON BUZZARD SURVEY: EGGINGTON-WITH-CLIPSTONE - Stephen Coleman
for Bedfordshire County Council

Several hundred archaeological sites and historic-landscape features have been recorded and investigated, by documentary research and field-work, on a group of modern parishes focused on Leighton Buzzard. Prior to the late 19th Century five of these parishes formed the single large parish of Leighton Buzzard, most of which was the medieval Royal Manor of Leighton. One of the former constituent hamlets of Leighton Buzzard parish was the modern parish of Eggington-with-Clipstone, where the development of settlement and associated features is now better understood as a result of the parish survey approach. This has elucidated various relationships within the parish, and has also allowed the importance and potential of each individual site or feature to be better assessed.

Two settlements exist today in Eggington-with-Clipstone, the village of Eggington, flanking each side of the road close to the southern parish boundary, and the small hamlet at Clipstone in the parish centre. The latter occupies a small rounded knoll near the confluence of, and between the two branches of, Clipstone Brook, and is surrounded by a flattish area of gault clays with spreads of gravels near the streams. Most of Eggington is aligned along the southern foot of an ENE-WSW gault spur, or ridge, crossing the southern part of the parish. Springs issue from this ridge which is thickly capped by chalky boulder clay, and, in parts, by glacial sands.

Particularly striking is the odd pattern that the roads create in the modern landscape at Eggington (Figure 1A). In particular, the main road through the village curves sharply northwards, at either end of the settlement to link with the modern A4012, rather than continuing on an east-west alignment parallel to that road, as might be expected in such

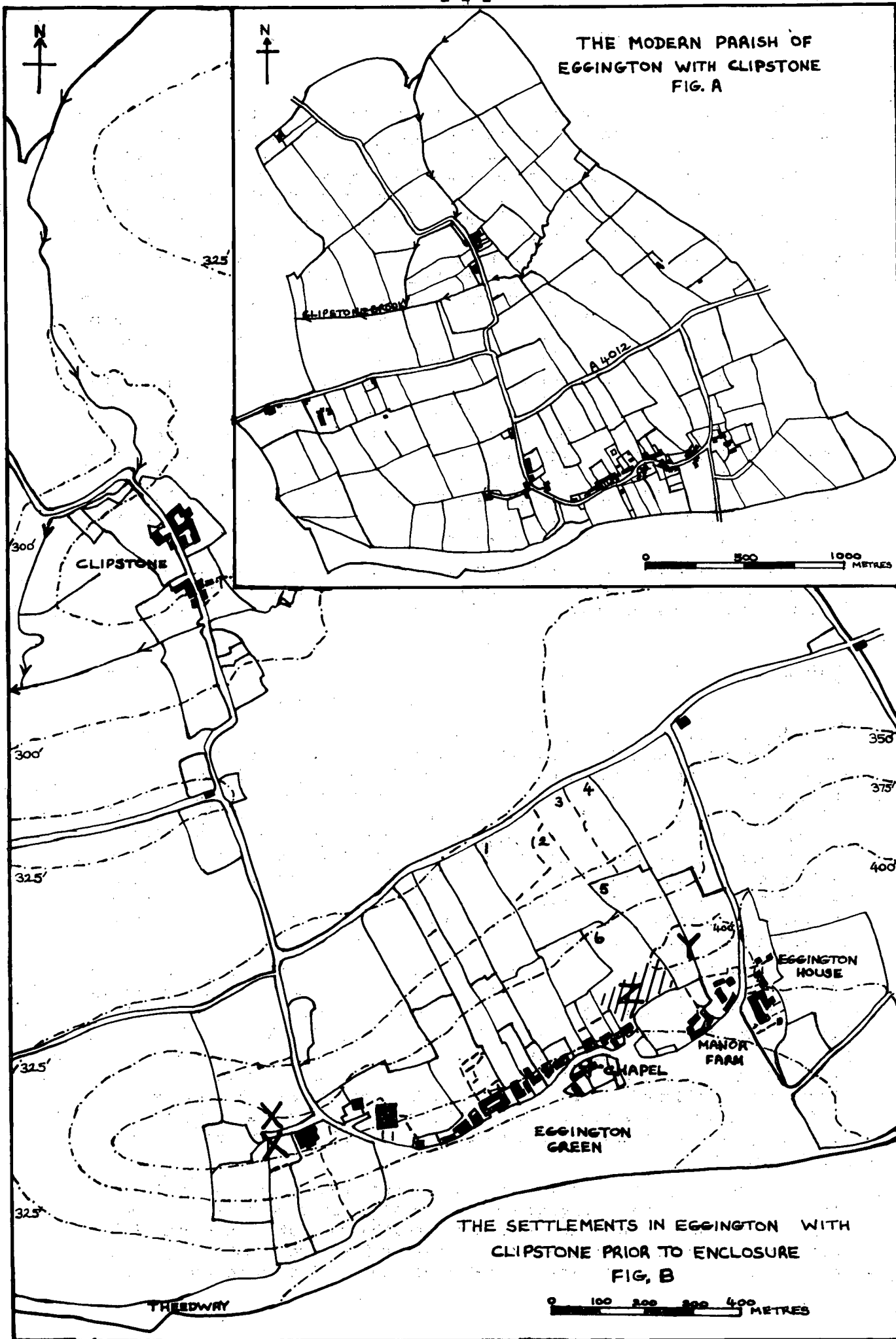


FIGURE 1

a linear village. Reconstruction of the pre-enclosure landscape from maps and other documents shows however that a road, Theedway or Edeway, once did continue directly east and west just to the south of the village. However for a stretch it abruptly widened considerably into a broad and long green, along whose northern edge only the majority of Eggington village was aligned before 1840 (Figure 1B).

Though both the green and Theedway disappeared at enclosure the latter had existed in the landscape for some considerable time, and may even be of prehistoric origin. It certainly existed in the 10th Century according to Saxon boundary charters for Chalgrave, Beds and Linslade (formerly Bucks), and its course can be traced from the Icknield Way south of Streatley, Beds westwards and into Bucks just south of Linslade. Various historic names along and near its course would seem to indicate that it was a Salt Way in the early medieval period. That Theedway was a landscape feature of early date is demonstrated by the fact that several hamlet or parish boundaries in Bedfordshire were laid out along it, including the southern boundary of Eggington-with-Clipstone. Settlements along its twelve mile known course are, however, an unusual feature, Eggington and Wingfield being the only two. The fact that the settlement at Eggington lay at the hamlet edge, and took the regular green edge form it did, rather than being the result of gradual organic roadside accretion along both sides of a narrow road as Theedway must originally have been here, is also interesting. Also of note is the fact that the settlement lay only along the northern side of the broad green and not along its southern side which would have been in neighbouring parish of Stanbridge. Clearly a pre-existing hamlet boundary was respected by both the green and the settlement and all the indications are that the green was a planned feature post-dating the laying out of the hamlet boundaries.

The pre-enclosure pattern of settlement and closes in Eggington is divisible into two main parts. To the west was a small ridge-top agglomeration surrounded by an irregular arrangement of closes. However, the majority of the settlement lay quite separate at the southern foot of the ridge as a single straight building row fronting on the green and backed by a regular arrangement of linear closes or crofts running up and over the ridge. To the east of the chapel the divergence of the green edge southwards away from the building row is noteworthy. Moreover, in the area (Z in Figure 1B) behind Manor Farm there exist rectilinear toft-and-croft settlement earthworks, which indicate that the pattern of the straight building row and regular crofts once extended much farther east than is apparent today, or was the case in the post-medieval period. As a frontage on to a green had important rights attached to it, it is likely that the part of the original settlement now represented by earthworks also fronted on the green in the medieval period.

Manor Farm would seem to have been an encroachment on what was formerly the north east corner of the original green whose northern edge must have continued directly north eastwards to the east of the chapel, rather than curving away south and then east as it did in the post-medieval period. Encroachment on a green was an offence regularly dealt with in medieval manorial courts, and considerable influence was required to make any encroachment permanent. It is therefore not surprising that Manor Farm was a manor house built in the late 15th Century by a family who were in possession of a property in Eggington that had achieved sub-manorial status during the medieval period, under the overlordship of the main Leighton Buzzard manor.

How the building of the manor house related to the desertion of part of the settlement is uncertain. Desertion probably took place before or at the same time as the manor house was built, and certainly had taken place by the early 17th Century. At that time the close in which the earthworks survive can be identified (from documents) as being included in the group of closes (1-6 on Figure 1B) to the rear of the manor house, which belonged to and were farmed as demesne lands by the sub-manor. The regular rectangular arrangement of boundaries associated with the deserted part of the settlement had been altered and replaced by the rather less regular arrangement of boundaries and closes, which differed from the pattern to the west.

In the early medieval period the northern edge of Eggington's green had been very much straighter, and the single building row ran along most of its length towards Eggington House, which building complex and its associated closes was wholly a post-medieval development. The regular crofts behind the building row were crossed by a back lane surviving partly as earthworks and partly in boundaries. Overall the evidence is that this part of the settlement with its crofts or closes, and the green at the ridge foot, were quite deliberately laid out beside Theedway very early in the medieval period. It was quite possibly a planned addition to an earlier form of the small ridge top settlement. The relationship between the two parts of the settlement is however unclear. Excavations in the 1960s on the ridge (at X on Figure 1B) recovered evidence for occupation in the Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon periods and also possibly in the 12th, and certainly in the 13th and 14th Centuries, but could not prove continuous occupation in between and at the time when the main part of the settlement must have been created.

The locational distinction between the settlement of prehistoric and Romano-British date and that of medieval origins at Eggington is further emphasised by the existence of another occupation site that has produced Iron Age, Romano-British and early Saxon material, atop the eastern end of the ridge (Y on Figure 1B). Romano-British material is said to have been found all along the top of the ridge, above the medieval settlement at Eggington but not below. This typifies all the known Romano-British occupation and main burial sites throughout the Leighton Buzzard district, which besides Eggington-with-Clipstone, includes Billington, Heath and Reach, Stanbridge, Leighton Buzzard itself, and Linslade. Settlement was clearly influenced by the topography as all the Romano-British sites, such as the two in Stanbridge and that in Billington, occupied spring-side locations on the tops or slopes of the district's various SW-NE trending ridges or hills. These were separated by generally flattish stream-bearing tracts of gault on which no evidence for Romano-British occupation has been discovered. This would seem to be a reasonably true reflection of the real distribution of Romano-British sites in the Leighton Buzzard district and is not a pattern resulting from a lack of fieldwork, or any other bias factor, in the low lying areas. By way of contrast most of the medieval settlements, like those at Eggington and Stanbridge, and the main element of the historic settlement at Billington, predominate in the lower lying areas, especially in hill (or ridge) foot locations. Clearly a radical change in the factors that governed settlement location in the Leighton Buzzard district occurred between the prehistoric/Romano-British periods and the medieval period.

The apparent planned expansion of the settlement at Eggington is probably related to Clipstone in the primary location at the centre of the hamlet area. As a settlement Clipstone would appear to be of ancient

origin and at least Saxon in date. The documentation and the, now largely ploughed out, earthworks in the closes, demonstrate that Clipstone was a considerably larger settlement in the medieval period than later. Clipstone was as big, or only slightly smaller, and just as important as Eggington in the first half of the medieval period, when each of the settlements was regarded as a separate community, according to the medieval taxations and local manorial documents. Each possessed its own separate open-field system which dominated the great majority of the hamlet area with its own chapel-of-ease. The chapel at Clipstone was still standing in 1545 but seems to have been demolished during the following century which accords with the general picture, apparent in the documents, that Clipstone had been a declining settlement since the late and possibly the mid-medieval period. As a result there was a breakdown of the distinctions between the two communities as Eggington, with its chapel and sub-manor, came to dominate the declining Clipstone. The documents indicate that the two settlements came to function as a single community in terms of agriculture, religion, and village affairs, during the post-medieval and later periods.

The evolution of medieval settlement in Eggington-with-Clipstone hamlet is thus of considerable interest. By very early medieval times Clipstone appears as the main settlement in the centre of the hamlet though there may have been a small ridge-top settlement at Eggington. However at about the same time the attractions of commercial traffic passing along Theedway, or possibly the greater opportunities for settlement expansion that were possible at the ridge foot in Eggington, led to the planning and laying out of the green and single row village beside Theedway and at the hamlet edge. Limitations were imposed on expansion at Clipstone by the topography, for much of the land was subject to periodic flooding. It is noticeable that the regular arrangement of the settlement and closes at Eggington contrasts with that of other settlements in the area, including Clipstone. In the latter the irregular arrangement of closes etc. denotes organic rather than planned development. From the late medieval period, and continuing during the 19th Century, Clipstone declined as a settlement, Eggington becoming predominant. Theedway also declined in the later medieval period, and during the post-medieval period fell out of use as a major through route. This meant that Eggington was forced to relate more and more to the road to the north (the present A4012) and to the roads leading to it, hence the odd arrangement of Eggington in the landscape today. The history of Eggington's development was then further obscured by the enclosure of the green in 1840 and the ensuing infilling and developments upon its former parts.

GROVE PRIORY AND THE ROYAL MANOR, LEIGHTON - AN INTERIM REPORT ON THE
EXCAVATION FROM 1973-1981 - Evelyn Baker *for Bedfordshire County Council*
and the Department of the Environment

The excavation began in 1973 with long narrow trial trenches testing the site, which had recently been brought to the attention of the newly appointed County Archaeological Officer. Permission had already been granted for sand extraction which would effectively destroy the whole priory site, and it was decided to strip as much as possible as quickly as possible of this (probably) small and unusually planned monastery. The trial trenches did not show a great depth of stratigraphy, and two areas were opened up with the idea of dealing with the archaeology in record time.

In the 1980s we know how deceptive trial trenches can be. The stratigraphy, though not deep, was highly complex, the building sequence was one of rebuilding, alteration destruction and robbing throughout six centuries, and the subsoil the most difficult form of boulder clay. The policy for digging the site changed from one of using volunteers on a seasonal basis, sometimes importing directors such as Dominic Powlesland and Humphrey Woods who excavated trenches in the main buildings area, to using our own permanent supervisors with a Manpower Services Commission force. Richard Thomas and David Devereux both worked through bleak winters on the site, methodically stripping large areas. The current Supervisor Bob Mustoe is working his fourth winter on the site. During the last 15 months he has been co-ordinating a Youth Opportunities Scheme of up to ten youngsters, a driver, and two supervisors, who have been working on various areas including the main buildings and the remnants of a dove-cote. With him have been, at various times, Richard Barcham, Martin Fowkes and Angus Stephenson.

During this period Stephen Coleman has been concentrating on the Royal Manor of Leighton parishes doing a more than usually detailed parish survey as an essential part of the history of the site (see previous article). He has confirmed the growing theory that Grove and the Royal Manor are synonymous, certainly after the foundation of the Priory, though whether there was another early manor site in a different position is still uncertain. The site is very fortunate in having a great deal of documentation, and although this has been treated as independently as possible from the excavation, the two do dovetail remarkably well.

The documents and excavation combine to tell a fascinating story, and Grove is clearly an important site for a number of reasons. It is one of only six alien priories of the Order of Fontevrault in England. It was founded on a grant of the Royal Manor of Leighton, already ancient at Domesday. Considerable rebuilding by the Constable of England is inferred by an 1155 Extent of the Manor. In 1164 Henry II granted the Manor to the Benedictine Abbey of Fontevrault (Anjou) in place of most of the money grant made by Henry I in 1129. The Priory was probably founded soon after the land grant; the first mention of a "Prior de Lechton" occurs in 1194. Some of the Constable's building has been tentatively identified in excavation (Figure 2, period 2) and it is likely that the monks would have adapted existing buildings rather than start afresh. With the withdrawal of the major part of the annual cash grant, there would be great need to exploit the Leighton land to maximum effect, and with minimum expense, in order to send as much profit as possible to the mother house. That the monks did indeed exploit their acquisition is amply illustrated by the Prior being arraigned in 1194 for demanding eight times his due in ploughing and causing the cattle to die.

Although the property was no longer in the hands of the king, he used it just as though it were a royal residence. There is no indication of any other royal house on an alternative site within the manor.

Grove belongs to a small class of alien houses, having neither a full claustral plan, albeit in miniature, as at Stoke Goldington, nor opting out of providing ecclesiastic buildings by using an adapted local facility as at Cogges. The priory buildings did expand during the 13th Century (period 3), but did not conform to any normal conventual plan. As a monastic establishment Grove finishes unusually early at the turn of the century; the last mention of a monastic presence was of William de Lyencourt, Prior to Grava in 1297, who was Proctor General for Fontevrault in England.

GROVE PRIORY

Main Buildings

Provisional period plan

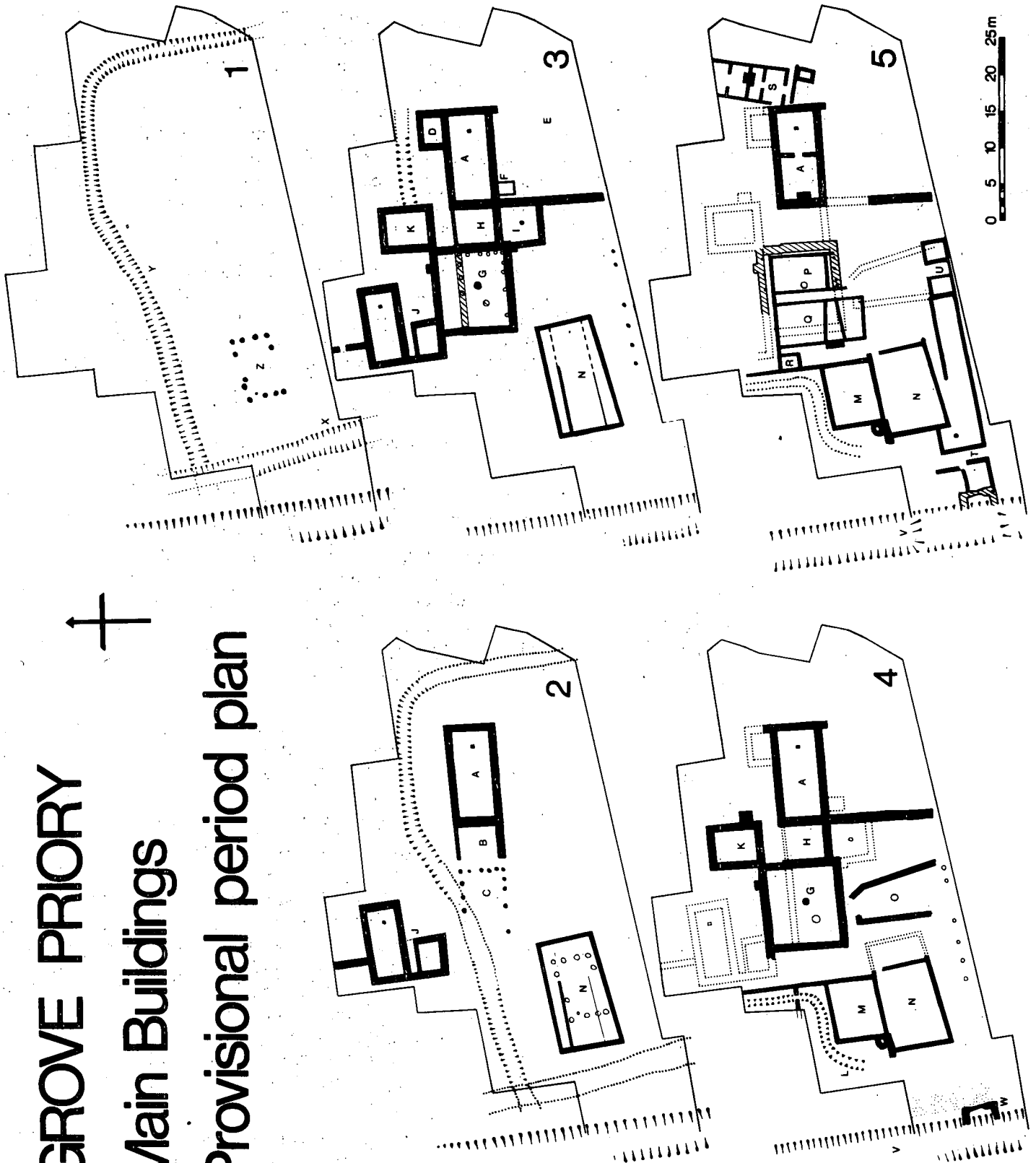


FIGURE 2

Grove Priory, provisional main period plan. Period 1: Saxon timber hall and ditches. Period 2: 12th Century structures. Period 3: buildings standing in the main priory period, 13th Century. Period 4: 14th Century manor buildings. Period 5: 15th Century manor buildings.

During the 14th Century (period 4) the house "reverts" to being a Royal Manor. The property was confiscated by the king during the time of the wars with France, but whereas the other Fontevrault priories were returned to the mother house, Grove remained in the hands of the king. By 1305 Edward I had granted the manor to his daughter, Mary of Woodstock. We have no record of her being at Grove, but it was likely that some of the visits by Edward I and II at this period were to visit her. She was herself a nun at Amesbury, another daughter house of Fontevrault, but travelled freely and with more pomp than her royal sisters. She was an extravagant woman, frequently in debt, with a penchant for gambling. As Lady of the Manor she paid rent to Fontevrault. At her death, the manor "stayed in the family" by being granted to her cousin Maud of Lancaster (whose sister was Prioress of Amesbury). The alterations and additions to the buildings during the 14th Century show an increase in domestic comfort, and may reflect the change of ownership and status of the property. The royal visits would have entailed the accommodation of many people at one time, and excavation evidence confirms that Grove was both comfortable and extensive.

Fontevrault regained the manor in 1361 after it had again been in the king's hands. It was let to various tenants, some of whom attempted to buy the property, known variously as "du prieuré de la Grave" and "le manoir de la Grave". In the 15th Century (period 5) it came into the hands of the Dukes of Suffolk and was granted by them to Eton College. Towards the end of the century it was conveyed to the College of Windsor, but they granted part of the manor, known as Grovebury, to Cecily Neville, the mother of Edward IV, thus separating the site from the rest of the manor lands. The physical changes again reflect the documentation. There is rebuilding, but although comfortable and well appointed, the structures are more modest in scale: timber framed buildings replaced older, more substantial structures.

By the 1580s the role of the main house was taken over by a set of buildings on another part of the site. Some of the older structures remained in use, but their status was clearly reduced. By the end of the 17th Century very little remained of what was by now a simple farmhouse. Both sites were so thoroughly robbed that no upstanding buildings remained.

Apart from consolidating the historical background, and setting the site firmly within its landscape through Stephen Coleman's parish survey, there have been major advances in understanding the plan and economy of the site. A Saxon timber building has been located beneath building N, with the ditch shown on period 1 of the 1982 provisional plan (Figure 2), continuing westwards, until it was cut by another ditch containing hand-made Saxon pottery running NS, forming three sides of a contemporary enclosure. The two rooms marked J, together with a larger version of building N, have now been dated earlier than before, probably to the mid 12th Century. With the other buildings making up period 2, they have been tentatively identified as being possibly some of the buildings mentioned in the extent of 1155.

It is now unlikely that the main buildings area was surrounded by a moat at any period, since excavation has so far failed to produce the feature resembling a moat that showed in aerial photographs of 1976. The main buildings are more extensive than originally thought, and the current excavation (January 1982) is showing buildings to the N of J and K which are producing pottery dating to the 13th and 14th Centuries in their destruction rubble.

Systematic investigation of the relationships and development of close boundaries is being continued in order to construct a development sequence (CBA Newsletter 8, 1978, p16). A circular mound thought at one time to be a windmill has proved to be a dovecote (east of area D). The windmill was almost certainly within the area already taken by the quarry, and showed in earlier photographs, before the site was identified. The dovecote may be the 'pigeon cote' featuring in a set of Bailiffs Accounts for the Manor for 1341/42 when it produced 180 pigeons. It is currently being excavated under the supervision of Angus Stephenson and would appear to be built in two phases with a revetting wall. The first phase was circular, and was built in carstone with a stone floor. The second phase may be a repair after collapse, and the revetting wall a preventative action against the heavy structure slipping on the clay subsoil into the ditch to the N of the close. Work will continue on this and on the main buildings during 1982.

WARDEN ABBEY FLOOR TILES - Evelyn Baker *for Bedfordshire County Council*

Post excavation work on the fine assemblage of floor tiles is proving to be a mammoth task. This has been shared by Patricia Aird and Krysia Bilikowski, and is now being undertaken by Teresa Jackman. Some 7,000 tiles are being examined to form a type series, which, because of its richness, will probably form the core of the Bedfordshire contribution to the Medieval Tile Census. The Census is being co-ordinated by Elizabeth Eames, and most of the rest of the county is being covered by John Bailey. Tiles from the excavation by G Rudd and B West, now at Longsands School and Bedford Museum have been incorporated into the study which consists of three areas of in situ tiles and a mass of loose material. The series is proving to be more varied and complex than was originally estimated, and even when the special picture mosaic tiles are excluded, is proving to be possibly the most important excavated tile assemblage in the country.

Because of the variety of types (now in excess of 400), their excellent condition and the fortunate fact that they are not obscured by mortar as at so many sites, there is the opportunity to extract a good deal of information about the tiles. This, and the chance to compare two superficially contrasting areas of in situ paving is allowing us to gain considerable insight into tile manufacture and the manner in which the tilers have made maximum use of their material to form different arrangements.

A large proportion of the tiles are of the line impressed variety belonging to the East Anglian series. Many of them bear on their surfaces not only line stamp impressions, but a series of "scored" patterns. This has the effect of making a large geometric tile appear to be made up of several smaller tiles - pseudo mosaic. We believe that the "scoring" was made by rocking a blade on the surface of the tile rather than pulling it through the clay. These tiles can be broken along the "scored" lines thus producing smaller component shapes which can be used as genuine small mosaic tiles, forming complex arrangements on a more delicate scale than when the complete "parent" tile is used.

The Type Series consist of these complete "parent" or "manufactured" tiles. To become eligible, they have to have a unique combination of shape, stamp and scoring pattern. Other techniques such as relief tiles and two colour tiles are of course included.

A method has been devised whereby almost every tile fragment can be pin-pointed to its "parent" or "manufactured" type, or at worst to a

combination of two or three possible parents instead of 400. This is achieved by examining the edges of the tiles to see whether they are real, manufactured edges as produced in the kiln, or scored edges. The latter can be related to a particular part of the "parent" tile by comparing the resultant element with those appearing on a particular scoring pattern on a specific shape.

This is allowing a much more accurate quantitative analysis and a more meaningful comparison of the two main pavement areas. It has already been possible to establish that they are made up partially of identical tile types and must be contemporary. One pavement (Abbots Lodging) is made principally from "parent" or manufactured 14th Century types. The church paving achieves its appearance of 13th Century window design partly by using tiny complex individual mosaic shapes, and partly by using deliberately separated elements of manufactured types.

There is still a great deal of work to be done. There are many other factors which are being taken into account, such as slips, glazes, weight and distribution. The volume of data is so great that a computer is being used to manipulate it; I am very grateful to Richard Goodband and John Hutchings for guidance on this.

The many technical aspects of the tiles are also receiving attention: Krysia Bilikowski has done some work on the fabrics by making thin sections, John Hutchings is looking at the colour values and Leo Biek is working on the physical constituents of the slips and glazes in the Ancient Monuments Laboratory. However, there are many questions that may only be answered by trying to achieve some of the observed detail by making tiles ourselves, using what we believe were the 14th Century techniques.

BEDFORDSHIRE 500-1500: UNCHARTED SEAS AND NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES - David H. Kennett

Bedfordshire is a small county but one with a large archaeological potential not all of which has been fully exploited. This paper, originally delivered at the 1980 Bedfordshire Archaeological Conference in the Lecture Theatre of Luton Central Library, tries to look at areas where archaeological effort has been less than it has elsewhere. Eight areas can be summarised.

(1) The Anglo-Saxons

Work on the Anglo-Saxons and particularly on the settlement period has been hampered by the lack of new material. The last Anglo-Saxon cemetery to be discovered in the county was that found at Marina Drive, Totternhoe, in 1957 and published in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 1 (1962). Previous to that a cemetery was discovered at Chamberlain's Barn, Leighton Buzzard, in 1932 but it had to wait 30 years before it was published (in Archaeological Journal 120, (1963)). Scattered burials were found around the former Biscot Mill, then on the outskirts of Luton, in 1923, and later, but their nature as another of the cemeteries of the final phase, dating to the 7th Century, was not recognised until 1971 when the eleven graves were published in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 6. Until then these burials had been thought to be an extension of the cemetery recorded on Argyll Avenue, Luton in 1925 and 1926 and first published in Antiquaries Journal 8 (1928).

The Luton cemetery, a discovery of over half a century ago, is the only major collection of 5th and 6th Century graves to be found in the

county in the 20th Century. Previous large cemeteries found in the county are those discovered at Kempston between 1845 and 1913, mainly in 1863-65; at Sandy at various dates in the 18th and 19th Centuries, and at more than one site in Toddington in the 19th Century. A cemetery was found at Sheepwalk Hill at various dates between 1844 and 1885 and another at Warmark in 1819; Anglo-Saxon cremation urns were found at Fancot at an unknown date before 1925 and various finds have Toddington as their provenance but their relationship to known cemeteries is imprecise.

In studying the Anglo-Saxons, workers in Bedfordshire and from elsewhere have largely concentrated on selective republication of items from the Luton and Kempston cemeteries. The pots and other finds from Sandy were reviewed in Medieval Archaeology 14 (1970) but the only other site to actually be republished is a small collection of finds made at Astwick before 1886 and reconsidered in a short paper in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 7 (1972). Various delays and procrastinations on the part of the present writer have kept a study of the Kempston cemetery in typescript although this is publicly available in the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, the British Museum, London and in Bedfordshire County Record Office, Bedford.

Artefacts considered by students of the formative centuries have ranged widely: glass cone beakers in Journal of Glass Studies 14 (1972); shield bosses in Antiquaries Journal 43 (1963); spearheads in The Spearheads of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements (1973) and A Corpus of Pagan Anglo-Saxon Spear-types (1974); shield fittings in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 9 (1974). Each is a paper which reflects a growing awareness of the importance of the county's material. Bedfordshire has figured tangentially in a study of sword fittings and wealthy graves in Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 63 (1971), and a further paper on wealthy graves to be published in the same Proceedings. Similarly late 6th Century brooch types occurring in the county have been the subject of papers in Journal of Northampton Museums 10 (June 1974) and Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 63 (1971). Forthcoming studies to be published in the Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society and Norfolk Archaeology respectively collect together examples of imported items and of ivory rings. Two of the latter were recorded at Kempston, while among other imports there is a bird brooch from Luton.

Following a number of German studies, most notably that of H.W. Bohme, 5th Century brooches have been examined by a number of scholars. Those from Bedfordshire are well known but their consideration should not be allowed to dominate our perspective of the county. Early Anglo-Saxon applied disc brooches are examined in Antiquaries Journal 58 (1978) and equal-armed and short-arm brooches in a contribution to Studien zur Sachsenforschung (1977). Disc brooches are the subject of an essay in British Archaeological Reports 57 (1979).

Pottery has been of the utmost importance in the view of scholars working both from within and without the county. Studies of individual types include the large bossed pots of the Buckelurne type considered in Antiquaries Journal 34 (1954) and vessels with panel style decoration examined in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 7 (1972).

Isolated omissions of a single vessels from Bedfordshire occur in J.N.L. Myres, A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period but this is not the case with adjacent counties, notably Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Bedfordshire pots are well represented in two other books: J.N.L. Myres, Anglo-Saxon Pottery and the Settlement of England

(1969) includes twelve pots from Bedfordshire; D.H. Kennett, Anglo-Saxon Pottery (1978) has a greater bias towards the county incorporating drawings of 26 pots from Bedfordshire. Those from Luton were examined in a paper in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 8 (1973).

Reviewing the work which has been done in the past ten years, certain conclusions are very apparent. With the exception of a general review of the cemeteries of the 7th Century in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 8 (1973) and more general considerations of the 5th to 7th Centuries in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 1 (1962) and 14 (1980), the work which has been done has been concerned essentially with artefacts, but it has been very selective. Doubtless the pressures of time, journal space, and personal inclination will mean that the trend will continue.

The next ten years, however, do have certain priorities. First and foremost, the study of Anglo-Saxon Bedfordshire, particularly of the 5th to 7th Centuries, demands that the largest of the cemeteries known from the county, that found at Kempston, be published in full. At the most basic a catalogue of the graves, the known reconstructable grave groups, and the artefacts would be of great value.

There is a case for nothing more complex than this, and the arguments are not merely financial; an essential consideration in the ultimate form of the publication of the Kempston cemetery is the rapidity with which views become obsolete. Clarity may demand no more than a catalogue.

A catalogue is required also of the various finds from Toddington. There are not many of these but they are scattered. St. Albans Museum has produced a catalogue of the material in their possession; a brooch in Northampton Museum has been published in Medieval Archaeology 13 (1969); and Luton Museum have pots and other objects. Two cemeteries at least are known, probably three at Luton. The Toddington finds would be a good second priority in the study of the Anglo-Saxons in Bedfordshire. They could be tackled by an undergraduate or by a student working towards a GCE 'A' level in archaeology, an examination which requires a dissertation.

The Luton cemetery was by the standards of the time adequately published when found in 1925; a modern republication would be useful, but not a matter to which one would necessarily give a high priority. Useful also would be to collect the scattered evidence of other burials from the area of the modern Borough of Luton (less than the old medieval parish of Luton). In part this is in progress in an attempt to relate burial places to parish boundaries, or in Luton's case the hamlet boundaries.

These remarks have concentrated on cemeteries, not on settlement sites. Much higher priority ought to be given to settlement sites but these must first be excavated. Those which have been discovered have been published. Most discoveries have been made in the Ouse Valley; at Harrold, considered in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 5 (1970); at Odell, of which an interim report appeared in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 14 (1980) and the full report will form volume 16 (1982) of the same periodical; and at Felmersham upon which a brief note is to be found in Antiquaries Journal 31 (1951). Are there no settlements east of Bedford?

In the south of the county, only a settlement site at Puddlehill has been reported in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 1 (1962). It had a small adjacent cemetery.

(2) Later Anglo-Saxon Period

Work on the later first millenium in Bedfordshire has concentrated on the 5th to 7th Centuries rather than on the 8th Century and beyond. There is one exception. Various earthworks have been suggested as dating to the Danish invasions of the 9th and 10th and early 11th Centuries. Following an article in Bedfordshire Magazine (1962), a more detailed study appeared as a contribution to Archaeology in the Landscape (1972) but this has not met with universal approval.

(3) Urban Origins

Partly covering the late Saxon period but including also the period after 1066, the origins of Bedford have been considered in the light of excavations partly conducted to elucidate those origins. Excavations at Bedford have been well published in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 5 (1970), 9 (1974) and 13 (1979). Different suggestions concerning the origins and layout of the town appear in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 5 (1970) and 15 (1981).

Bedford, however, is the only town in the county to have been the subject of extensive archaeological examination, directed primarily at the medieval period. Work in Dunstable has been concentrated on the Roman period or on examination of monastic buildings. There has, for example, been only limited effort in the town of Luton, and this is a pity for Luton (including its hamlets) was counted as the 30th largest place in England as measured in the tax assessments of 1334. It could be argued that this is a lesser place than the town would have occupied if the year for the comparative evaluation had been taken nearer to 1300. Luton is the only one of the major towns of the county to show a decline in tax assessment between 1297 and 1309, although each of Bedford, Luton, Leighton Buzzard and Biggleswade show a decline between 1309 and 1332. That Luton sank to comparative insignificance after 1350 should not detract from its earlier importance. There was a major fire in 1336 which certainly destroyed much of the town, the street plan reveals anomalies which suggest disasters had occurred: the tax collectors who came in 1340 reported 200 houses not yet rebuilt. Plague followed in 1349 and 1361. Parts of the old town had not been rebuilt in the 1470s when the Guild of the Holy Trinity was founded: its guildhall, on the site of the present 'White Hart' public house, was built on a vacant plot, and what is now the 'Nickel Bag' public house, formerly the 'Crown' and before that the 'Rose and Crown', was standing by 1517 but again on a plot which had been unoccupied for some time.

Much, at present unpublished, work has been done attempting to elucidate the early town plan of Luton based on evidence from documents, field-work, and the examination of buildings. There have been opportunities for excavation in Luton. First in 1958 when the Luton College of Higher Education was built on the site of the old Luton Technical College which itself had been built in 1904 as Luton Modern School, on the site of the White House. This house, built by a brewer, Edmund Humphries, in 1767, on the site of a much older house. In the 17th Century, the old house had been the Luton town house of the Cheyne family of Great Bramingham: in 1671, it is recorded as having six hearths. In the 15th Century it was David Ashby's house, the site of a significant, if minor, manor house, then on a corner plot. Various apparently 15th and 16th Century buildings are known to have faced Church Street. Their sites also could have been investigated in 1958.

The demolition of the northern side of Park Square in the early 1970s in advance of the building of the Luton Arndale Centre would have provided a splendid opportunity to examine a series of sites, although many of the buildings did date to the last, basically late 19th Century, rebuilding of the area and some had cellars. Others did not; neither did the buildings on the College of Higher Education site opposite.

Two more recent rebuildings in the same area could have been used as opportunities for archaeological investigation. The house built by a linen draper, Francis Harrison in 1804, became a furniture store in the mid 20th Century. It was demolished in 1978. Similarly the area behind on the site of the former Langley Mansion, has recently been rebuilt by Whitbread Breweries as offices. No attempt was made to conduct excavations. The area to the NW on Castle Street is much rebuilt, but the topographical indications are that the street originated as a lane between two properties which has been widened, but not greatly so. It would be valuable to conduct excavations here.

Much of the lower end of Park Street has been completely rebuilt without any consideration of archaeological needs. Again the laying out of St George's Square in 1976 did not allow for archaeological investigation of sites on the south side of Manchester Street: an elaborately carved beam was discovered in a shoe shop suggesting an early 16th Century date for this house. Other buildings may have been of similar date, but the evidence has now gone.

For the future, Luton has left only a small area of the west side of Park Street and two isolated buildings on the south west side of George Street. Luton is probably the greatest neglected opportunity; it remains an uncharted sea.

Another uncharted sea is Biggleswade. There has been rebuilding and a new shopping precinct has been erected but without archaeological enquiry. Similarly the new shopping centre at Leighton Buzzard was built without any consideration of the site's archaeological potential.

Apart from Bedford, only in Dunstable of the county's five largest towns has much archaeological effort been concentrated. As yet work on the north east and south west quadrants of the town centre remains unpublished. The contrast between Dunstable and elsewhere is that there is an active archaeological society committed to excavation as a first priority and without the local effort sustained archaeological investigation is going to be difficult.

(4) Monastic Sites

There has been a considerable body of work done on monastic sites. An early excavation at Old Warden Abbey was published in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 2 (1964); subsequent excavations and considerations of the tile pavements there are available at present only in summary form. There have been interim reports on the excavations at Elstow Abbey in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 3 (1966), 4 (1969), and 6 (1971): a final report is eagerly awaited. Summary reports only have appeared on the excavations at Grove Priory, near Leighton Buzzard, and similarly of the Dominican Friary in Dunstable.

Monastic sites represent a deliberate policy of investigation on the part of the excavators. All scholars, whatever their field, primarily look at areas which interest them the most and the study of monastic sites in Bedfordshire is a sustained programme of work, not relying on local

effort but centrally directed, which has been a successful piece of research.

(5) Castles

As with monastic sites, castles have been fairly systematically investigated. A report on excavations at Bedford Castle has appeared in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 13 (1979); while excavations at Cainhoe Castle, Clophill, are reported in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 10 (1975). Excavations at Thurleigh Castle have yet to be published in depth.

Fieldwork could have a more important role to play in the investigation of castles in Bedfordshire. An enterprising group could undertake a survey of sites like Yilden Castle and the motte beside the bend in the road near to Someries Castle: the building is a brick house of the mid 15th Century. Publication of this type of fieldwork would be complementary to the excavations which have been conducted.

(6) Moated Sites

One moated site has been the subject of partial investigation, that at Willington Docks, reported in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 10 (1975), but essentially minor medieval sites have not attracted a great deal of attention. There have been excavations at Stotfold and at Elstow, reported in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 11 (1976) and 12 (1977) respectively and excavations on the site of Clapham Manor House remain unpublished. One fieldwork survey of moated sites in south east Bedfordshire awaits publication.

Similar surveys could be conducted for other parts of the county. Published with the Willington report was a map showing moated sites in north east Bedfordshire. Plans of the 40 and more sites north of the River Great Ouse would make a valuable project for an interested student or local archaeological society.

(7) Villages

Villages have not been much studied in the past decade. Vernacular buildings in Thurleigh, Elstow, and Eaton Socon have been examined as a group, and some work has been done on buildings in other villages. However little attempt has been made to relate the buildings to either the development of the plan of the village or to the known tenurial history of the settlement. An exception is the work on Crowhill Farm, Bolnhurst, published in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 12 (1977). Deserted settlements have received little attention, with the exception of the earthworks around Cainhoe Castle of which a plan was published in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 10 (1975), and the site at Millow, near Dunton, at present unpublished.

There are a variety of areas where archaeological, topographical and historical research can combine in the study of villages. Some work on the shape of village plans appears in G.H. Dury's East Midlands and the Peak (1963) and this could be used as a useful starting point for a more thorough topographical examination of Bedfordshire villages. Plan forms do vary. There are street (or row) villages. Bolnhurst, Keysoe Row and Great Barford are essentially of this kind. There are a number of loop villages: Barton-in-the-Clay, Shillington and Wootton are three examples, Harlington is possibly another. There are twined villages: the parts of Dean, Upper Dean and Nether Dean, form an obvious example and the development Keysoe from Keysoe Row and Keysoe Brook End might be a second. More

characteristic are the Bedfordshire ends villages: Eversholt, Haynes, Renhold and Cranfield are all places without an obvious single medieval centre.

In studying villages there is one primary consideration. No two villages are alike. Each has its own history dependent on geographical factors like the quality of the soil and the availability of water and influenced to no small degree by the structure of land holding in the parish. Village plans do not happen by accident. Recent, i.e. 20th Century, changes are obvious; those created by an enclosure act (between 1742 and 1891, mostly 1780 to 1825) can be seen when maps accompany the award following the granting of the individual act. A pre-enclosure plan is not difficult to evolve, even if isolated details of land-ownership may be obscure.

Two examples may suffice. Sutton was enclosed early, in 1742: the area considered was the whole parish. New farms created have names reflecting the engagements of the War of Austrian Succession: Portobello Farm, Havannah. With the exception of Standalone Farm they are still the only houses away from the village street. Great Barford was a comparatively late enclosure, in 1824. There were already two outlying settlements, unaffected by the award at Birchfields and Creakers. Other outlying farms were created at Northfield Farm and Brewer's Hall Farm, the last named after the owners, Whitbread's Brewery. The process may be traced in a series of maps detailing exchanges between the principal land owners of the parish prior to the enactment of the enclosure.

Just taking these two examples, it is not difficult to see why Sutton is essentially a single street as the whole parish was owned by the Burgoyne family from the mid 16th Century onwards. It had not suffered fragmentation of ownership, either before or afterwards. Equally Great Barford is an exceptionally compact village. There are houses along a main street and a short back lane. The modern Bedford to St. Neots road (the A428) has had little influence: it is an artificial route created by the turnpike commissioners in 1814; an earlier and equally artificial route of 1772 crossed Barford bridge and went along the road beside the Highlands. The orientation of Great Barford is north west to south west aligned on the bridge. As with Sutton, land-ownership in the village was stable. The two separate areas, Creakers and Birchfields, were separate manors in the Middle Ages but compact ones which suggests their deliberate creation at some stage, possibly from a waste area. The rest of the parish was essentially divided between three owners: Trinity College, Cambridge, who held the advowson and the rectorial tithes, the Francklin family from 1632 at Veseys Manor and the Metcalfe family in the early 19th Century succeeding other families at Netherbury Manor.

Sutton and Great Barford are both villages with stable and fragmented land ownership and Bolnhurst has a much less unified plan. Over half the parish was owned by Thorney Abbey before the 1530s and this was open field until the enclosure of 1777. The other portion of the parish had various owners. Greensbury Farm and its moated site was one manor; Mavourn Farm and its moated site had a different owner, the Chantry of Pleshey in Essex, who also owned Blacklands Farm; the medieval owners of Crowhill Farm, and Brook End Farm are unknown. Each of these was a compact holding well before 1550: the surviving houses at Blacklands Farm and Crowhill Farm date to around 1500, Greensbury Farm as a 19th Century brick structure occupying the moated site and there is a late 17th Century timber-framed house built for a Francklin tenant at Mavourn Farm but still set on the moated enclosure. Two alternative explanations can be offered for the

plan of Bolnhurst. The first is that the eastern half of the parish (the main village along the B660 road) is a street village laid out north and south of Manor Farm, which is a moated site, and that the western half of the parish is a group of individual farms carved out of the waste at a very early date, certainly prior to the siting of St Dunstan's Church in the geographical centre of the parish. Alternatively Bolnhurst was a series of dispersed farms arbitrarily grouped together as a village but that before the 10th Century those presented to Thorney Abbey had been amalgamated into a single ownership and that this was then made into an open field parish. One explanation which has been rejected is that the present road village migrated there from a site around the parish church. It is clear from Domesday Book that the holdings of west Bolnhurst existed long before 1066.

(8) The Medieval Economy

This paper has said little about churches. Apart from those of Anglo-Saxon date reviewed in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 3 (1966) and 6 (1971) archaeological work has concentrated on investigations inside churches. The excavations at Ravensden Church were published in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 6 (1971); those inside Thurleigh Church in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 14 (1980).

Churches reflect more than one aspect of the medieval economy. Two are obvious: the building trade and bell-making.

Little work has been done on medieval agriculture with the exception of an unpublished paper on the environmental archaeology of Flitwick Moor. Food consumption has been examined in Bedford and at Willington but only in the light of meat eating: the conditions were not advantageous to the preservation of vegetable remains. In 1969, maps were published showing economic aspects of Domesday Book - woodland and water mills (J. Godber, History of Bedfordshire). A useful exercise in defining the later medieval economy would be to collect references from the 13th and 14th Centuries to mills, both wind and water. Venison was noted among the meats at Willington and again deer parks could be mapped, their boundaries planned and an assessment of their importance made.

Surprisingly little work has been done on housing with the exception of Bedford. Structures in excavations have otherwise been fairly limited. Partly this is due to the lack of excavation and indeed of fieldwork in respect of deserted villages. Even the work which has been done on vernacular buildings has not greatly deepened our knowledge of the ordinary man's house. To take an example from each of Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 10 (1975), 12 (1977) and 14 (1980), Calcutt Farm, Houghton Regis, Crowhill Farm, Bolnhurst, and the house on Sundon Road, Harlington, each represents a yeoman's house: in the case of Crowhill Farm, it was occupied by a man who aspired to gentry status and his children were given that status in class-conscious Tudor England.

Almost nothing has been done on clothing. Bedfordshire is not famed for sheep, nor noted as a textile producing area. Again conditions have not allowed fragments of cloth to be preserved.

Pottery, because of the durability of fired clay, is of major interest to archaeologists in Bedfordshire. Of considerable importance is the systematisation of the pottery found during the excavation in Bedford (see Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 13 (1979) for details). Medieval pottery kiln sites have been found at Everton and Flitwick and published in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 11 (1976) and 15 (1981) respectively.

Hanold and the deserted village of Santon were 13th Century pottery-making centres.

(9) Bedfordshire, 500-1500: Future Concerns

More than once this paper has suggested areas where more research might be done. Others might have different ideas about the priorities suggested and about those which have been adopted. All scholars work from their own inclinations and it is no criticism of my colleagues to suggest that therein lies the concentration of effort on Bedford and monastic sites: it is certainly behind the effort which has been put into the study of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries.

Some priorities within the last-named have already been suggested: they are not exhaustive. Similarly the concerns which might occupy the next ten years are those which one man has thought of as possibly important. The smaller towns have been omitted: Ampthill, Potton and Woburn all have much archaeological potential but possibly a low degree of threat. But taking Luton and Bedford as towns of the first rank, one can see, either by accident or by choice, Bedford has had the major input of archaeological work; among towns of the second rank - Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable and Biggleswade - only Dunstable has had any archaeology done in it; the smallest towns have been lacking in investigation. In the next ten years it would be useful to see work done on either Leighton Buzzard or Biggleswade; if the opportunity arises, it should not be allowed to slip away unused. Similarly more attention could be paid to the smallest towns.

Apart from Bedford, the past ten years have seen excavation concentrated on monastic sites and castles. There is not a good deserted village site in the county and there would be a case for leaving a site of the first rank of preservation for at least another century prior to its investigation. This is not a case for not conducting a survey designed to suggest which sites might be worth the expense of excavation, if threats to the stratigraphy ever arose.

Fieldwork will play an increasing role in the 1980s, perhaps even a dominating role. A lot of fieldwork, however, could be wasted if it goes no further than the rapid initial survey such as has been conducted for much of the county and published for NW Bedfordshire and adjacent parts of Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 3 (1966) and 7 (1972). This is only a first stage. Bedfordshire could benefit from more of the intensive research which has produced medieval field maps for Milton Ernest and Farndish, published in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 4 (1969) and 11 (1976) respectively. In progress are similar surveys for Sundon and Barton-in-the-Clay.

All these suggestions derive essentially from considerations limited by the pre-occupations of the existing group of people who work on medieval Bedfordshire. Turning back the pages of Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 3 (1966) there are papers on aspects of fieldwork, medieval pottery, a monastic site and an early brick building: they were written by scholars who were then aged between 21 and 25. Apart from the change of pre-occupation of one of the four from medieval pottery to Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and their artefacts, these four scholars are still writing on the same subjects as they considered fourteen years ago when they published their first papers. They may now write about other matters also: the scholar who has published a few papers about the Anglo-Saxons has also written on Roman bronze, glass and pewter vessels and on Bronze Age artefacts but the latter was a passing interest only, as indeed was maritime affairs of the 18th Century.

The point is not without its importance for the study of Bedfordshire in the Middle Ages. New ideas about what is worth studying may indeed only come from scholars much younger than those whose papers have formed the backbone of Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal for the past decade. What is required for the 1980s is another quartet of persistent scholars prepared to spend the decade studying facets of the county: they would find it rewarding.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP - Michael Farley

During 1981 the Group assisted on excavations at George Street, Aylesbury and also at Iver. Three fieldwalks took place in Dinton, Little Missenden and Great Missenden, the former producing a new Romano-British site and the latter two the familiar sparse scatters of flint waste and tools. The volume of fieldwalking undertaken by the Group over the past seven years is beginning to throw up significant differences between pre-historic and Romano-British utilisation of the Vale of Aylesbury when compared with that of the Chilterns.

Meetings continued to be held on Tuesdays in the day and evening and a considerable number of projects are carried on during these sessions. A number of recently acquired runs of aerial photographs have been plotted, field names continue to be collected and transcribed, and a start has recently been made on gathering together information published in the Records of Bucks concerning standing buildings. The watermills project, which seeks to provide a total list of all watermills formerly existing in the county, is nearing completion. Work continues on some excavation backlog material and much assistance has been given in processing finds from the recent excavation at George Street.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM - Michael Farley

Two excavations were carried out by D. Allen for the County Museum in conjunction with the DoE and accounts of these are given below. Several watching briefs also took place.

Post-excavation work has proceeded well on a number of sites and reports should shortly be finalised on the Late Iron Age and Romano-British site at Bierton, excavated in 1975 and 1979, and on the La Tène III mirror burial at Dorton. During the year a short paper on the Middle Saxon occupation at Chicheley was also completed. The 1979 volume of the Records of Bucks which was published during the year included the following reports contributed by Museum staff or by attached in-service students.

'A Medieval Homestead at Park Wood, Bradenham' - A. Cookson

'The Remains of a 17th Century Clay Pipe Kiln at Castle Street, Aylesbury' - John Moore

'An Early Romano-British Inhumation Cemetery at West Wycombe' - R. Wright and M.E. Farley

'Burials in Aylesbury and the early history of the town' -

M.E. Farley

'A bell-pit or chalk well at Lane End' - M.E. Farley

A note on 'A jewelled brooch from Ivinghoe' was published in Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History 2 (1981).

These are all available as offprints from the Publications Secretary, Bucks Archaeological Society, c/o The County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP.

The Sites and Monuments Record continues to be enhanced under the care of Andrew Pike and a start has been made, in conjunction with archaeologists of the Milton Keynes Unit, on effecting a sound integration between their records and those of the County. The SMR has been of particular importance for planning purposes during the year and a number of road proposals and District and Local plans have received input from the Record. Microfilms of a number of first edition Ordnance Survey maps have been purchased for day-to-day use in conjunction with the Sites and Monuments Record. A duplicate set is held in the County Record Office.

The Museum has greatly benefited by the presence of OUDES in-service students during the year, namely Chris Unwin, Eleanor Forfang, Pam Lowther and Simon O'Connor Thompson who have respectively contributed parish surveys of Wing, Hardwick and Weedon, Soulbury and Little Missenden as well as assisting in other ways. In addition Trevor Pearson, Melanie Steiner, Barbara Hurman and Celia Taylor have assisted the post-excavation programme for various periods throughout the year. Each of the archaeological staff of the Museum contributed to a successful programme of lunch-time lectures held in Aylesbury and High Wycombe during the summer.

A single flight was arranged during the year and a new round barrow located near Saunderton. Liaison continues with metal detector users, both those in clubs and without, in an attempt to record the rising tide of assorted metal objects of all periods which would otherwise be unprovenanced. It is, however, unfortunate that some detector users still fail to gain permission from landowners before operating on their land.

EXCAVATIONS IN GEORGE STREET, AYLESBURY (SP 818 139) - David Allen
for Buckinghamshire County Museum

In June and July 1981 excavations took place in advance of redevelopment in George Street, Aylesbury, with the intention of discovering more about the early history of the town. In particular, it was hoped to prove the existence of an extensive inhumation cemetery, the presence of which had been suggested by numerous finds of human bone in this locality.

The excavations covered an area of c400 sq m, and revealed a complex picture of varied land-use over the past two millennia, which can be divided into four main periods of activity.

(1) Middle Iron Age

Three features of definite Iron Age date were noted, although all had suffered later disturbance. They consisted of a small 'V' shaped ditch, and two sub-circular pits. All contained numerous sherds of pottery and the ditch produced a large quantity of animal bone. It also contained two fragments of human skull, and a human femur. The pits yielded fragments of saddle quern, and a pebble 'pounder'. In addition

to these features a number of postholes of probable Iron Age date were also recorded.

These discoveries clearly represent part of a settlement site, and need not be viewed in isolation, as Iron Age pottery had previously been discovered in the town, some 120 m to the north. Indeed, their presence adds weight to the theory that Aylesbury occupies the site of an Iron Age hillfort.

(2) The Cemetery (?Late Saxon/Early Medieval), Figures 3 and 4

The excavations proved the existence of an inhumation cemetery and suggested that it originally occupied all of the area investigated, for although only fifteen graves were located, the distribution of large quantities of human bone across the site indicated the presence of many other graves which had been totally destroyed. Estimates based upon the spacing of those remaining intact suggest there may have been over one hundred burials in the area examined.

The best surviving group of burials was a 'row' of six graves orientated NW-SE. Two of these had been 'recut' for the insertion of later burials, but differences in the orientation suggest that this was not an intentional use of the same plot. No trace of a coffin was discovered in any of the graves, nor were there any indisputable 'grave-goods'. This makes the dating of the burials problematic, however two factors are relevant.

- (i) The graves appear to be part of a large, presumably Christian, cemetery, which extended south from the locality of St Mary's Church (150 m distant).
- (ii) Many graves were cut by pits of 13th Century date, showing that any sanctity attached to them had been forgotten or ignored by that time.

The most likely period for the cemetery to have reached the area under discussion is therefore the 10th and 11th Centuries, and it is hoped that C14 determinations will reinforce this support.

An interesting point of detail is that one of the occupants of the graves apparently met a violent end, in the form of a massive sword slash to the frontal part of the skull.

(3) Medieval

The main activity on the site in the medieval period appears to have been the digging of pits for the disposal of refuse. The pits varied considerably in size, and although a number occurred singly, the majority were clustered in a wide band, concentrated immediately adjacent to George Street itself. This rules out any likelihood that George Street was part of the original medieval street plan - or at least had any medieval structures built on its northern side.

The pits contained large quantities of pottery - notably jugs from the Brill and/or Boarstall kilns - and large quantities of animal bone. Some of the latter came to light as complete skeletons and among these may be numbered dogs (3), cats (2) and a pony. A number of smaller items were found, including a stone spindle whorl, perforated bone toggle and 13th Century 'long-cross' pennies.

?LATE SAXON

George Street, Aylesbury

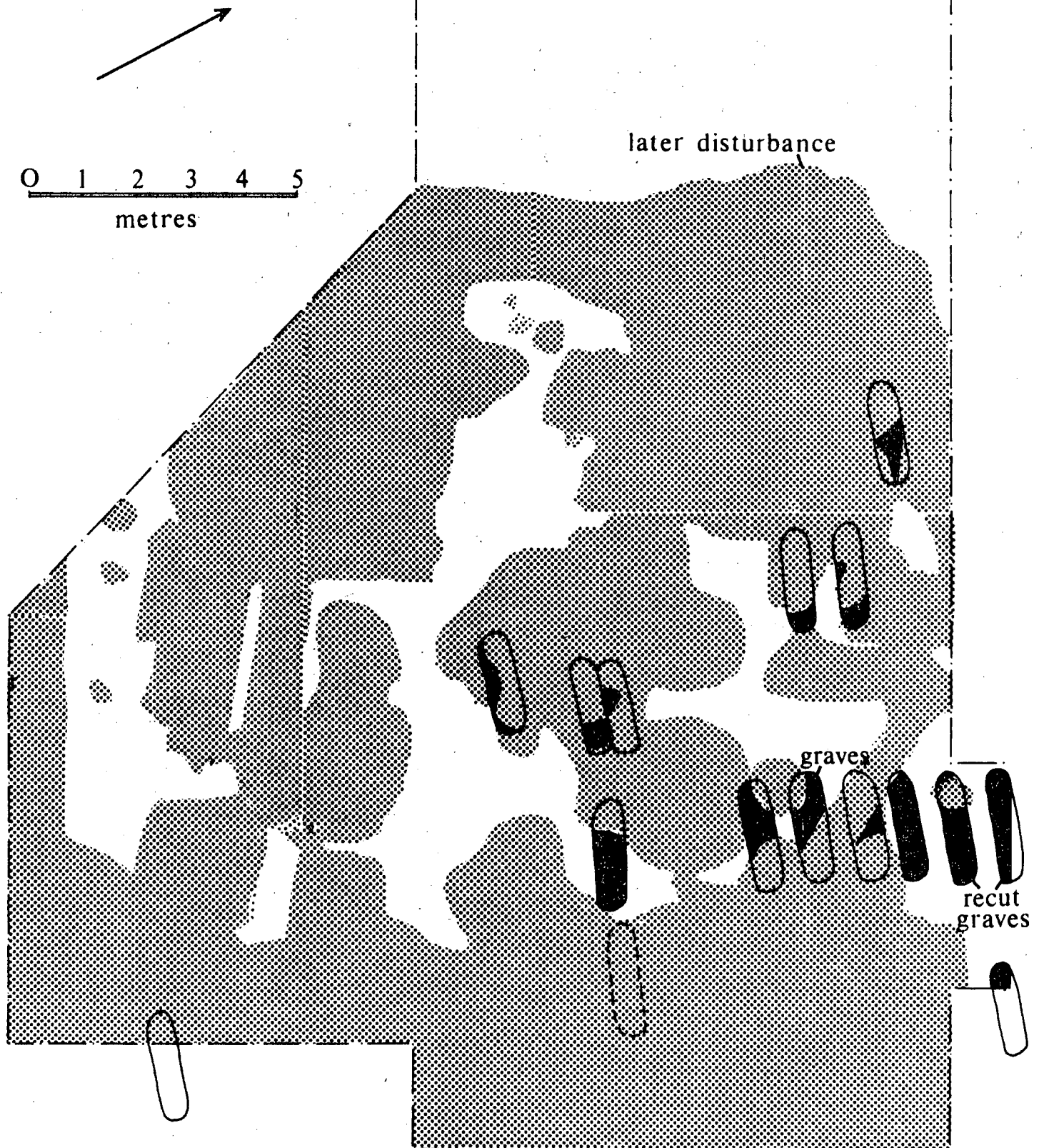


FIGURE 3

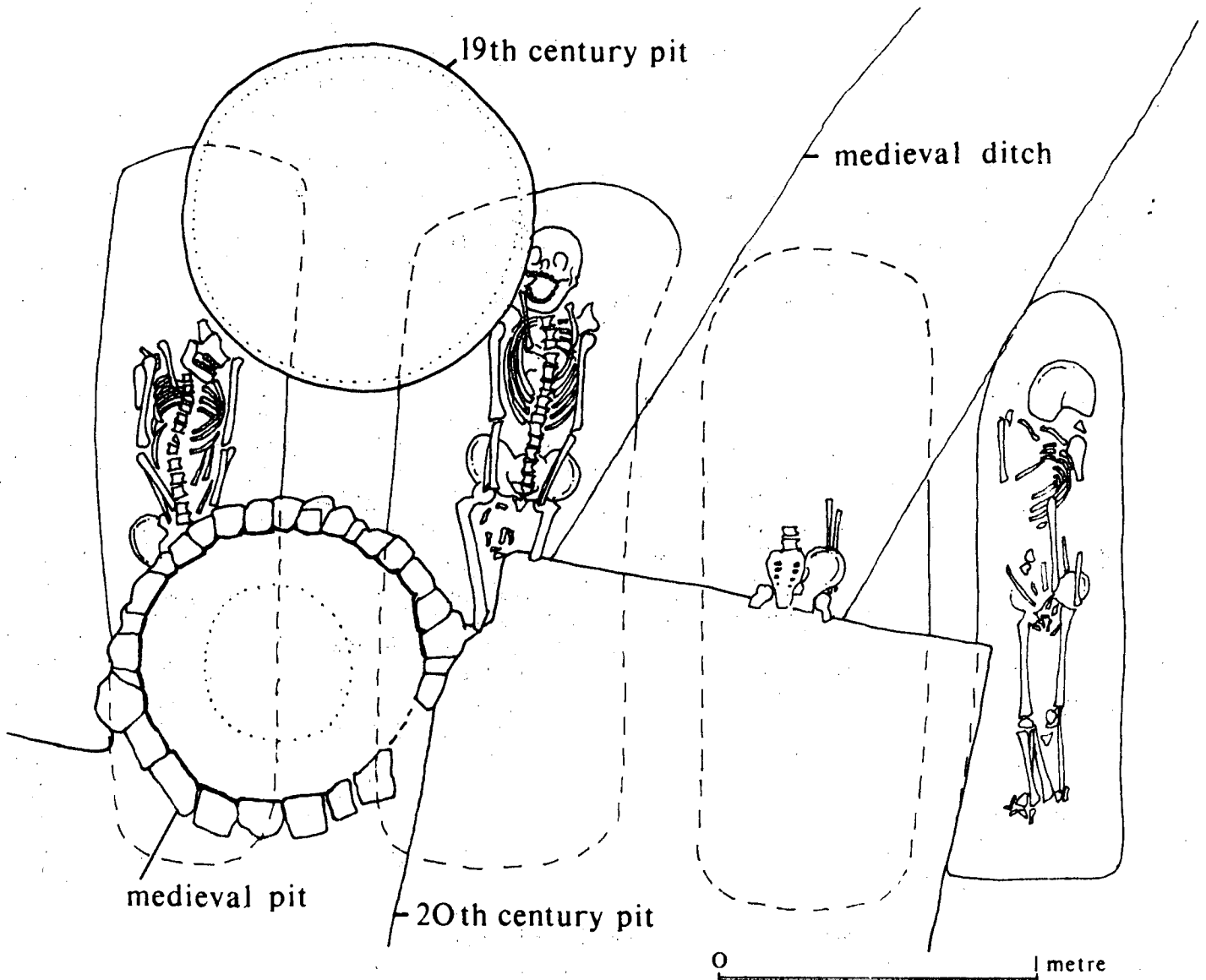


FIGURE 4

Detailed plan of four of the graves, and the medieval and later features which had disturbed them.

(4) Post-Medieval

Pit-digging continued in the post-medieval period, and again the main reason for this activity seems to have been the disposal of rubbish, including the complete carcase of a calf. Another large pit contained the jumbled remains of six or seven human skeletons, and must represent their reburial, following a presumably unintentional discovery in the late 17th Century. Eventually - probably in the late 18th Century - houses founded upon brick and limestone footings were constructed along the northern side of George Street. Some of these buildings contained small cellars, and one of these had been refilled with a rich rubbish deposit, which contained numerous fragmentary and complete bottles, pottery vessels, clay pipes and leather shoes.

Illustrated Interim Report

An illustrated interim report of the excavations is available from Buckinghamshire County Museum, price 30p including postage.

IVER (MANSFIELD FARM) EXCAVATION (TQ 040 834) - David Allen, for
Bedfordshire County Council

A trial excavation in advance of a probable road construction scheme took place at Mansfield Farm, Iver during August. The purpose of the excavation was to establish the extent of the Mesolithic horizon noted in 1955 by Lacaille (A.D. Lacaille, 'Mesolithic Industries ...', Recs. Bucks Vol. 17, pp143-181) in the former gravel pit 400 m to the east. It was also hoped to encounter a peat deposit which would allow a full environmental sampling programme to be implemented.

A consolidated area of 75 m² was examined and proved to contain the elements noted by Lacaille. Of particular interest was a 'shore-line' deposit of a calcareous nature. However, the total depth of deposit was not more than 0.30 m and had suffered plough damage and worm and root disturbance. It was thus considered unsuitable for sampling purposes. Nevertheless the area did contain a number of worked flints of distinctive Mesolithic type, including retouched blades and flakes, a core, a scraper, and a tranchet axe sharpening flake.

A further small trench was excavated closer to the adjacent stream in the hope of finding material suitable for environmental sampling. However, although a thick deposit of peat was revealed, currently in a waterlogged condition it transpired that this material had at some stage dried out - thus negating its preservative properties.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

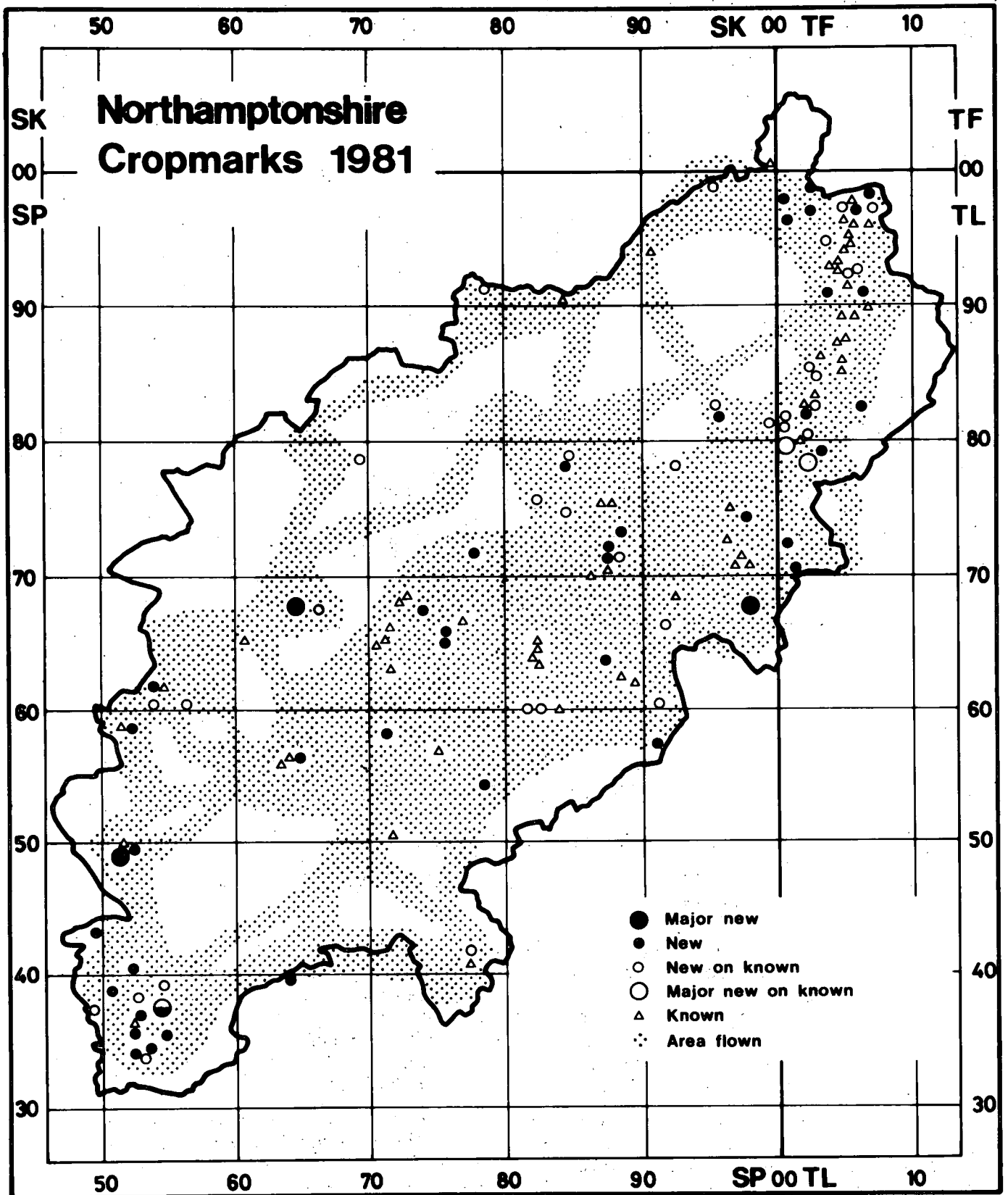
AIR PHOTOGRAPHY - 1981 - G. Foard, for *Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit*

Cropmarks

In 1981 aerial surveillance for cropmarks was limited to 20 hours, mainly in late July and early August, the cropmarks being concentrated particularly on limestone. A total of 160 separate cropmark 'sites' were recorded, ranging in size from single ditches to major complex sites. Of this total 14 minor features, and 57 significant sites were completely new, while 32 known sites produced some new information (Figure 5).

Soilmarks

In autumn-winter 1981, as in 1980, the number of settlement sites recorded by soilmark photography was very low. Minor new information was recovered on two of the four medieval sites photographed, but more promising was the recovery of information on Roman stone buildings. Of the six sites recorded, one was completely new, while four others yielded some new information on size and layout, and in one case (Easton Neston) suggested the need for reclassification as a villa. The recording of substantial stone scatters also, of course, implies the sites (in one case a scheduled villa) are being actively eroded by continuing cultivation. At Bulwick a new area of ditches and enclosures peripheral to the main area of Roman industrial activity was recorded, but the best results were from a site in Brigstock which had previously only been known from faint earthworks (Figure 6).



10 km National Grid

FIGURE 5

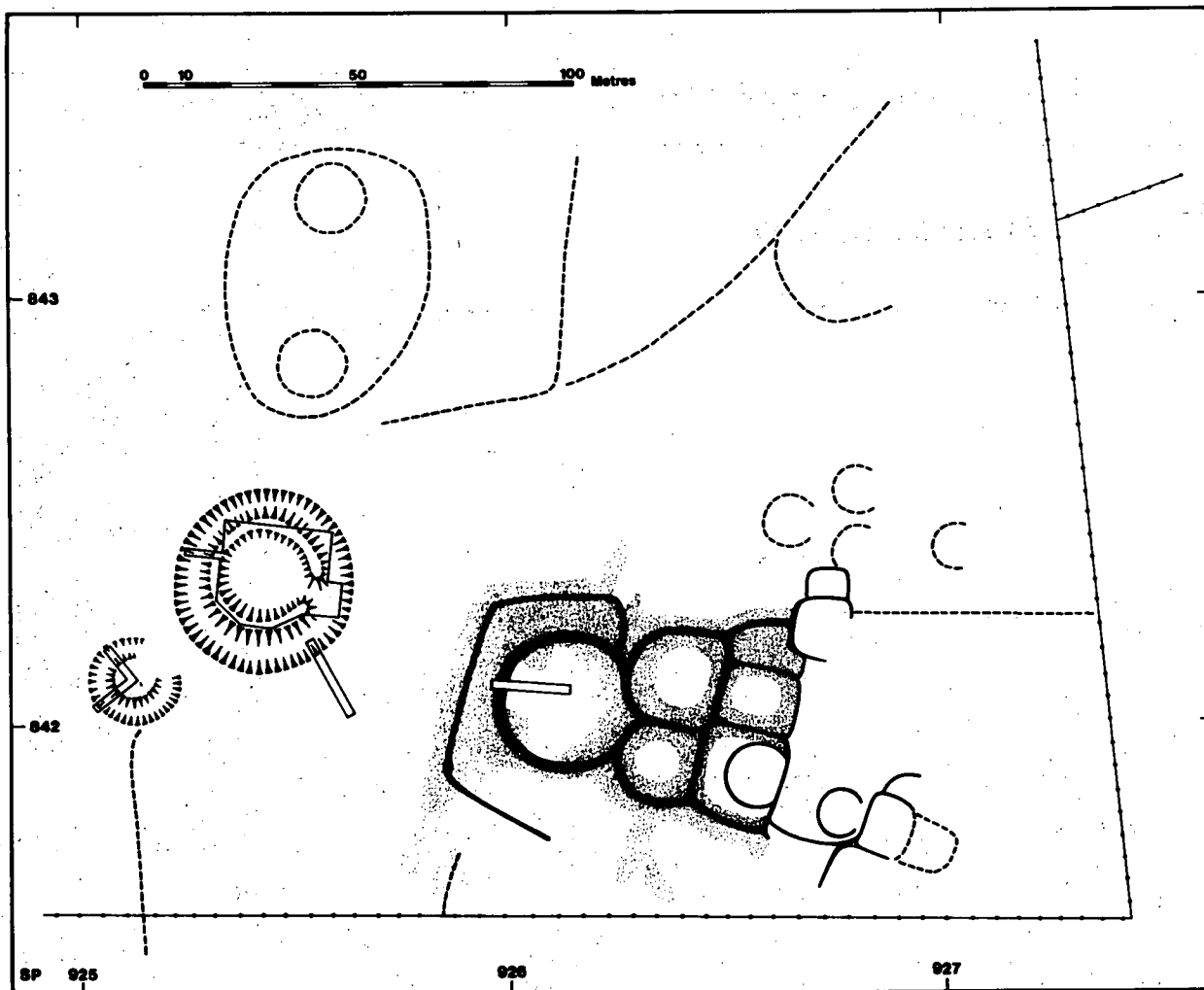
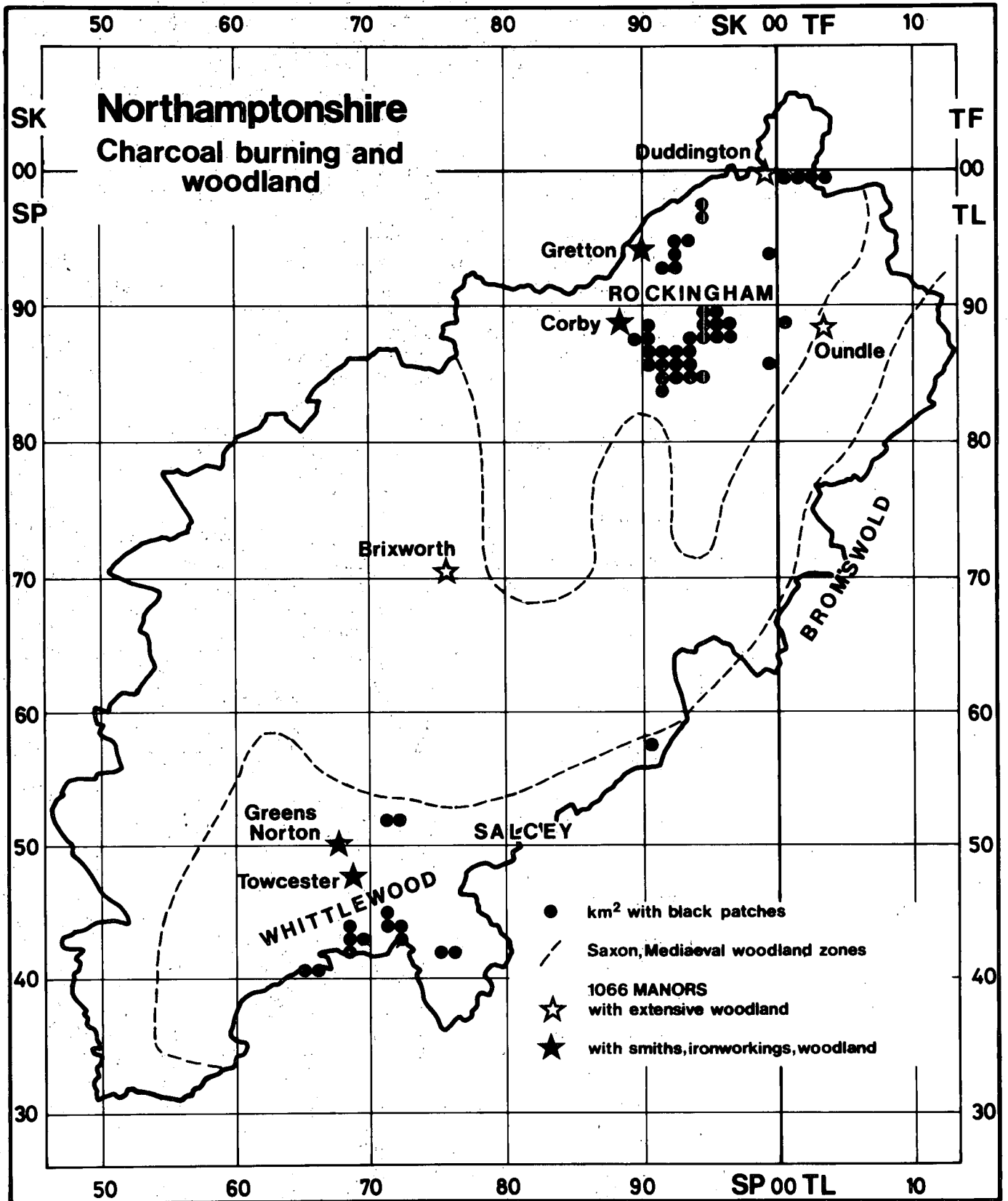


FIGURE 6
Soilmarks at Brigstock

CHARCOAL BURNING AND IRON PRODUCTION IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - SOILMARK EVIDENCE - G. Foard

In 1981 work continued on the recording of the evidence for charcoal burning noted in 1980. These 'black patches', often associated with slag patches, have been reported in the past by fieldworkers, mainly in Rockingham Forest but with minor groupings elsewhere such as in Bozeat (SP 9057). In addition to the evidence from Rockingham Forest, this year's air photography has also revealed a major concentration of 'black patches' in Whittlewood Forest, with outliers north of Towcester.

The distribution seen in Figure 7 is the result of only two seasons' photography, and may be significantly widened by further survey. However, significant gaps in the distribution will remain as a result of the extensive quarried and urban areas around Corby and Gretton, and the large areas of woodland and pasture which still remain in Whittlewood, Salcey, and Rockingham Forests. One reason for the more intensive distribution in Rockingham Forest may be that unlike Whittlewood, large tracts of land have



10 km National Grid

FIGURE 7

been turned over to arable cultivation in the last 30 years. Whether in other formerly wooded areas where cultivation has been more continuous and intensive the soilmark evidence has been totally dispersed, is at present unclear, but this could explain the apparent lack of soilmark evidence in the Brixworth woodland and Bromswold; equally, however, there may never have been a large scale charcoal burning industry in such areas because of, for example, the absence of suitable iron ores for smelting.

It can be seen from Figure 7, which is a preliminary attempt to define the main zones of Saxon and medieval woodland, that our present evidence for charcoal burning is related mainly to the core areas of the two royal forests of Whittlewood and Rockingham.¹ In 1066 much of this woodland had pertained to four royal manors: Towcester, Greens Norton, Corby, and Gretton (which included Duddington as a member), and it is stated that in 1066 these manors had a substantial income from "smiths" or "ironworkings". Undoubtedly a major element in the recorded payments would have been for the right to cut large quantities of timber to produce charcoal as fuel for ironsmelting, for although charcoal was employed in various other industrial processes, the demand for production on the vast scale which is implied by the recorded payments (see below), and as revealed by the soilmark evidence, could only have been generated by the iron industry. Hence it seems likely that the majority of these "black patches" are of late Saxon and Medieval date. However, the possibility that some are of earlier periods should not be discounted, for the distribution of the iron smelting furnaces of the Iron Age and Roman periods recorded in the north of the county, mainly by D Jackson, implies in some areas a broadly similar distribution of woodland in the Iron Age and Roman as in the Saxon and medieval periods.² It is significant that in Domesday, mention is only made of ironworkings or smiths where by 1086 the income from these no longer pertained to the manor. In Towcester it is said that "the smiths paid 100/-; now nothing", at Greens Norton "the smiths paid £7 before 1066", while at Gretton, "very much is lacking from this manor which belonged to it before 1066, both in woodland and iron-workings and in other payments", and the same is recorded for Corby, whereas at Duddington the statement is more vague, for it is said to lack "woodland and other things".

The explanation for this is probably not, as has previously been suggested, that these smiths and ironworkings no longer existed in 1086. If one examines the Brixworth entry an alternative idea can be considered for there it is stated that "to this manor belongs one woodland which paid 100/- a year; it is now in the King's Forest". Undoubtedly those "things" which were lacking from the other four royal manors had also been transferred into the King's forest, for in medieval and later documents we see extensive tracts of the forest lying within the parishes of these manors. Moreover, it could also mean that if in 1086 smiths were still paying to a manor as they had before 1066 then there would have been no need to mention them, and their payments may well have been silently included in the total value of the manor. This could explain the absence of any reference in 1086 to smiths or ironworkings in Brigstock, Kings Cliffe, and other manors with extensive evidence of charcoal burning. That the industry did continue well into the medieval period is confirmed by various documentary references, for example, the mention of a certain "Henry the charcoal burner of Abthorpe" near Towcester in 1260-80.³

Distinct soil marks, like cropmarks in any season are often very short lived and so if a comprehensive distribution pattern of charcoal burning evidence is to be built up, it requires the examination and re-examination of every field a number of times in different years. As

continued cultivation can rapidly disperse such soilmarks it is important that they are recorded in the near future. This can only be efficiently carried out on a large scale by aerial photography which therefore has an important role to play in the investigation of the iron industry in Northamptonshire. However, only when the results are combined with those from fieldwalking, documentary research, the survey of woodland for surviving earthworks, and both rescue and research excavation, together with detailed information on past land use in each area, will the scale, distribution, and nature of the industry be more fully understood.

Notes

1. Sources for woodland distribution:

Gover et al (Ed), 1975, The placenames of Northamptonshire

Thorn, F., and C., (Eds), 1979, Domesday Book; Northamptonshire

Pettit, P.A.J., 1968, The Royal Forests of Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire County Council Sites & Monuments Record -
fieldnames

2. Northamptonshire Archaeology Vols. 1 to 14

3. G.R. Elvey (Ed), 1968, Luffield Priory Charters

BRACKLEY - CASTLE CLOSE EXCAVATIONS - R. Barcham, *for Northamptonshire
Archaeology Unit*

Castle Close (SP 583 364) is in the extreme south of Brackley parish, 400m south of the Town Hall. The close lies east of Castle Hill which by general agreement marks the site of a Norman construction of the late 11th - early 12th Century. Nothing remains of this except a diminished mound on which a modern barn has been built. The close is defined on the south by a tributary of the Great Ouse which once supplied the castle mill, moat and fishponds. The northern boundary of the close is Castle Lane which is recorded at various times between the 13th and the 19th Centuries, although its exact location is no longer clear.

Documentary sources for the Hospital of St John in Brackley, founded by the Earl of Leicester in 1150, suggest that at least ten or a dozen tenements were situated next to Castle Lane in the mid 13th Century. If these could be located and shown to be contemporary with the period of construction or subsequent occupation of the castle, this would be significant evidence in considering the origins of the new town of Brackley, at one time the wealthiest town in the county after Northampton. Despite this, there has been no systematic investigations of medieval sites in Brackley, while the only recorded casual find from the Castle area is an Anglo-Saxon spearhead found in the stream on the south.

By 1980 Castle Close had been used as a garden for some years and an application to develop the close for the construction of factory units was approved that year. In March and April, 1981, a preliminary investigation of the site was carried out by the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit. This confirmed the existence of medieval deposits and full-scale excavations began in August, 1981 under the direction of R. Barcham. These are funded by the Department of the Environment and the Manpower Services Commission as part of the Community Enterprise Programme and are receiving the full support of the developer and landowner, Mr. B.P.C. Sheppard.

The primary aim of these excavations was to define several tenements in terms of their space, date and function, and in particular to relate them to the castle outworks. The area of excavation is approximately 875 sq m and is designed to include the frontage on to Castle Lane.

Virtually nothing is known of post-medieval activity in Castle Close and the survival of stratified material across the site is far from uniform. Overall the evidence for a number of tenements aligned N-S on to Castle Lane is so far disappointingly limited. Instead of a neatly defined row of tenements there is, in the west of the site, nearest to Castle Hill, a complex of adjoining limestone wall footings which would appear to represent in plan a single large building (measuring 8.5 x 5 m, though not yet fully defined) and contiguous ancillary buildings. South of these there are two finely constructed stone-lined cellars with steps leading down to them. Both buildings and cellars contained abundant pottery which is mainly 12th/13th Century in date. In the east of the site, there is little substantive evidence of buildings. The surviving area is open and cut by a number of 12th/13th Century features, including two shallow slab-lined pits.

The placing of the medieval deposits on site has perforce to be restricted until further excavation of the major buildings has taken place. Maureen Durham of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit has examined the pottery and has commented on some similarities between this assemblage and material found at Banbury and Deddington, but feels that much of the pottery may have been made quite locally. The northeast corner of the site is yielding a growing assemblage of shell-tempered and very coarse fabrics. The balance of opinion is that these represent both later prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon wares.

At present, the site cannot be regarded as a classic urban setting of neatly defined tenements. The period of occupation and the demise of the castle are shadowy episodes and it is probably more useful to see the settlement activity in Castle Close as successive to, not contemporary with, the use of the castle.

In 1982 work on the site will incorporate part of the area to the north and south of the present excavations to expand our knowledge of the general settlement plan. It is thought that the castle gateway is situated in the north west of the area available for excavation and this will also be examined.

IRCHESTER ROMAN TOWN - David Windell, *for Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit*

Rescue excavation is being carried out at Irchester Roman Town in advance of, and alongside, the widening of the A45 to a dual carriageway. The alignment of the road was adjusted to minimise the impact on the archaeological remains and work is being concentrated on the extra-mural development east and south of the walled area.

At the time of writing a large number of trial trenches have been dug through the threatened area demonstrating that settlement in the extra-mural area is sparse and that settlement distribution may be related to the poorly understood Roman road pattern.

A small area at the eastern edge of the known occupied area has been topsoil-stripped revealing a large stone built structure of the 2nd and 3rd Centuries AD. This overlays agricultural features and is overlaid by late Roman rubble platforms and ditches.

Elsewhere work will continue as salvage and watching-brief with the objective of understanding the development of the extra-mural settlement in terms of date and lay-out, and to review the possible early defensive system at the south-western corner of the walled area.

The Unit is indebted to the County Surveyor for funding the rescue work and to Mr. R. Partington the Resident Engineer and his staff for their co-operation.

BRIXWORTH ALL SAINTS CHURCH - M. Audouy, for Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit

Excavation commenced in September 1981 at Brixworth Church in conjunction with a scheme to improve the drainage along the north side of the church. An existing drain pipe had to be renewed and this required the digging of a trench along the north side of the choir and nave and around the west end of tower and turret.

The digging of the drainage trench as part of an archaeological project allowed an opportunity for the exposure and recording of the foundations of the church and porticus chambers, and associated stratification. The project has been carried out by the Archaeology Unit under the general guidance of the Brixworth Archaeological Research Committee, which has also sponsored the excavation of a porticus chamber, to be completed after the excavation of the trench.

Features exposed are summarised as follows:

- (a) Choir foundations. These were more heavily constructed than foundations exposed elsewhere and were "stepped" out into the construction trench. It is thought that they represent part of the complete re-build of this section of wall by Rev. Watkins in the 19th Century.
- (b) Ambulatory foundations. Two different constructions were visible: the foundations for the Victorian parapet wall overlay the remains of the original ambulatory wall as recorded by Rev. Watkins.
- (c) Piers of the north wall. Each "pier" shows a similar sequence: brick work, rising to become part of what would appear to be the main wall. The lower section of "pier" in each case is hidden behind Victorian facing, which in turn is set upon the remains of an earlier wall facing.
- (d) Foundations of nave, porticus, narthex and turret. Nave and porticus foundations consist of a matrix of ironstone rubble in lime mortar, in an almost vertical-sided construction trench, c.70 m deep. The material appears to have been laid either in a near-liquid state, or rammed. Opposite the stone bonding in the north face of the "piers", foundations of a composition almost identical to that of the nave were exposed, the first indication of the character of the porticus foundations. Within the narthex area the foundations again were similar in character to those of nave and porticus. The turret, however, rests on a massive, square platform of coursed limestone blocks, including a section of pitched stonework.

Stratification

The main units of stratification observed include:

- (i) a layer of reddish gravelly material, probably derived from the Northampton Sand, containing many small fragments of charred wood, and a pre-Church level.

- (ii) a layer of mortary silt, overlying the foundations and representing a change from foundation to wall coursing.

As a result of the examination of the structures exposed by the trench it would appear that the porticus chambers were built at the same time as the nave and that the present recesses for window openings between the piers on the north side have resulted from the widening of smaller openings in the wall.

Excavations are continuing.

RAUNDS - 1981 - G. Cadman, *for Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit*

The 1981 season, which commenced in May, has revealed intensive medieval and Saxon activity to the west of the previous seasons' excavations. This includes a second manor house pre-dating that excavated during 1979, and a late Saxon enclosure and associated structures. The excavated area is now one hectare in extent and it is expected that work on this site will be completed during 1982. Although the extent of the medieval occupation is fairly well defined, that of the Saxon is still unclear and awaits further excavation prior to, or during, the housing development work scheduled for the area.

A revised though tentative outline of the site chronology can be advanced on the basis of the 1981 excavations. Dates remain provisional and, like the chronology, are subject to change pending a full assessment of the excavation level and record.

Period I

The main features of this period comprise buildings A and B, and a ditched enclosure (Figure 8). Pottery indicates a Middle Saxon date at earliest for the features, although whether buildings are contemporary with the enclosure has yet to be proven.

Building A is 19 m long and bow sided, with a maximum width of 6.80 m in the centre. The width across the ends of the building is c 1 m less than at the centre. The walls are formed by a series of trenches, the deepest of which is 0.5 m. Within the best preserved of the surviving trenches on the eastern side of the building is a series of stone post settings, arranged at c 0.3 m intervals. Building A thus appears to be of the "post-in-trench" type. None of the timber work has survived nor do any internal features except for four post holes. There is evidence for an entrance, slightly off centre, in the eastern side of the structure.

Building B is of post construction; 13 m long by 6.80 m wide (external). The post holes are all rock cut (as are the trenches in the northern half of Building A). The north and south sides comprise eight regularly spaced, double post-pits each containing stone post packing. The 2 post-pits midway along each side are considerably larger than their neighbours (being over 1 m sq in area) and probably represent the entrances. Set between these entrances and almost in the middle of the building are four post holes thought to form a hearth or fire canopy base arrangement.

Parallel to the end walls but set c 1.0 m from the west end, and 2.0 m from the east end are three double post holes located within the building. This arrangement suggests that a hipped roof was in use and also that there may have been a chamber at the eastern end of the building,

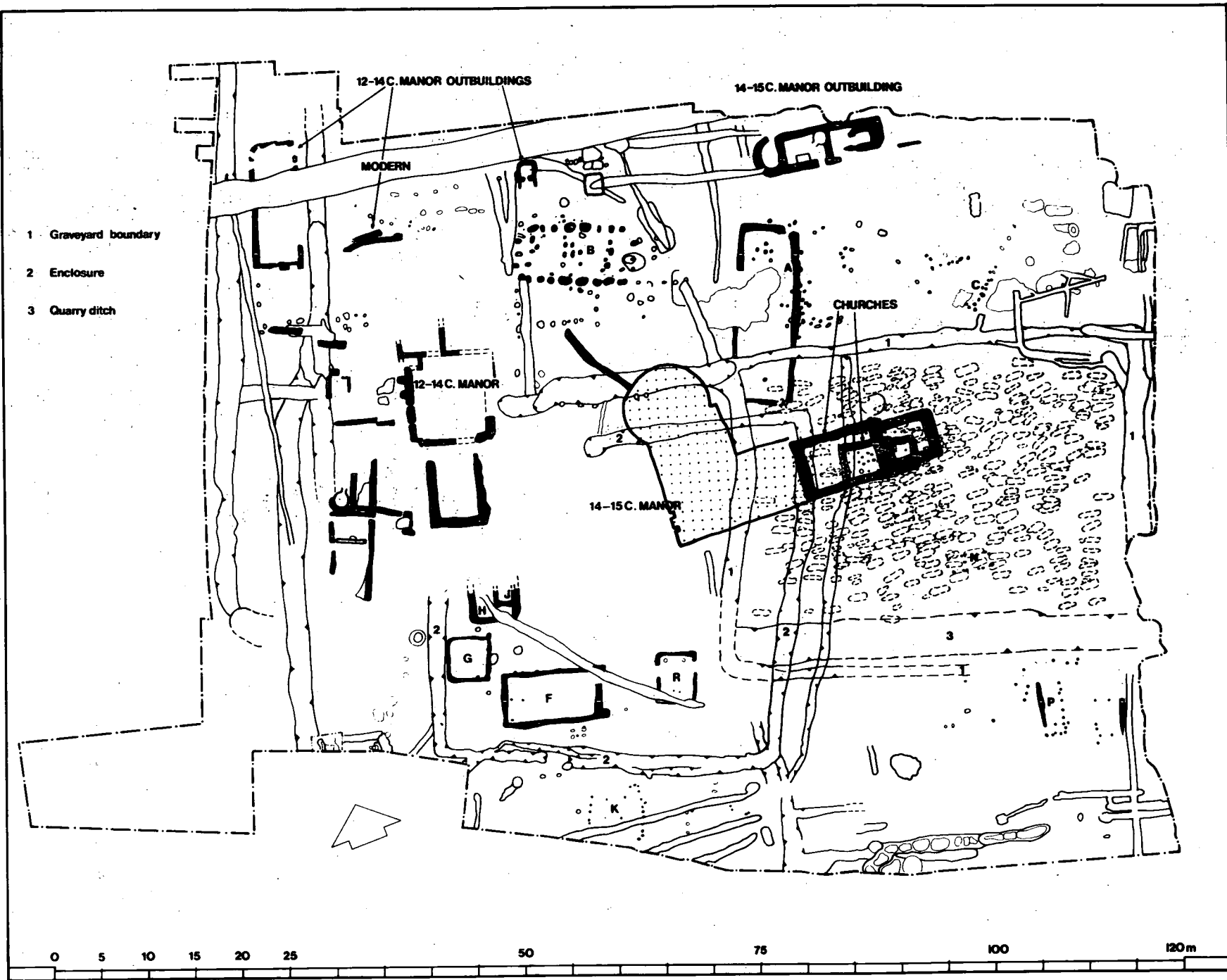


FIGURE 8

separated from the hall (with its central hearth) by the three post screen arrangement.

The double post hole arrangements in the construction would seem to represent a strengthening of all main upright posts rather than evidence of crucks or buttressing.

To date only one phase of occupation can be suggested with certainty for the building. It was clearly a substantial and imposing structure and the internal arrangements suggest that it was a dwelling. It is not yet clear what relationship, if any, existed between this building and that to the east, Building A.

To the west and east of Buildings A and B are indications of other much less substantial and, almost certainly contemporary, Saxon structures. Such traces also occur within the area, later to become the graveyard, and to the south of the ditched enclosure, but the enclosure itself (c35 m sq) appears to be devoid of buildings of this period. This could be explained by the enclosure having served as a stock control compound. Two entrances have been located: one on the north side, and a multi-phased one with a "gate" arrangement on the south. The latter may be associated with other features yet to be excavated. The addition of a second ditch on the eastern side of the enclosure indicates a strengthening along this boundary. Further interpretation of the function and inter-relationships between enclosure and surrounding buildings awaits further excavation. It would appear, on the current evidence, that the focus of the Middle Saxon settlement is with Buildings A and B, and the ditched enclosure. The extent of occupation to the east and north has been defined but it is still not clear whether settlement extends south or west to any large extent. Thus it is not yet possible to judge the full extent of the Middle and Late Saxon occupation and what part of it has been exposed by excavation. An opportunity to resolve this may be provided as housing development proceeds to the south and west of the excavation.

Periods II and III

These periods broadly cover the activity of 10th and 11th Centuries and include the construction of the two churches. The latter have been described recently elsewhere (BAR 1981). During 1981 a group of buildings have been investigated and these are believed to be contemporary with the later church. For convenience these are designated as Buildings F, G, H, J and R.

The establishment of the early church during the mid to late 10th Century accompanied a change of form of the whole settlement. What was originally an outlying area of the settlement was utilized to site a church and its graveyard. Buildings A and B and the enclosure were no longer in use and were probably deliberately demolished and backfilled respectively. Traces of timber buildings were found in the northern part of the enclosure but in turn were replaced by structures including Buildings F, G, H, J and R. It seems likely that these structures were contemporary with the later, larger church during the 11th Century. Whilst they appear to respect the enclosure it has been demonstrated that Building G cut the backfill of the enclosure ditch; it seemed that the ditch still formed a recognisable limit to this particular phase of building.

All structures so far revealed are of a similar construction type. Continuous trenches contained upright posts, the slight impressions of

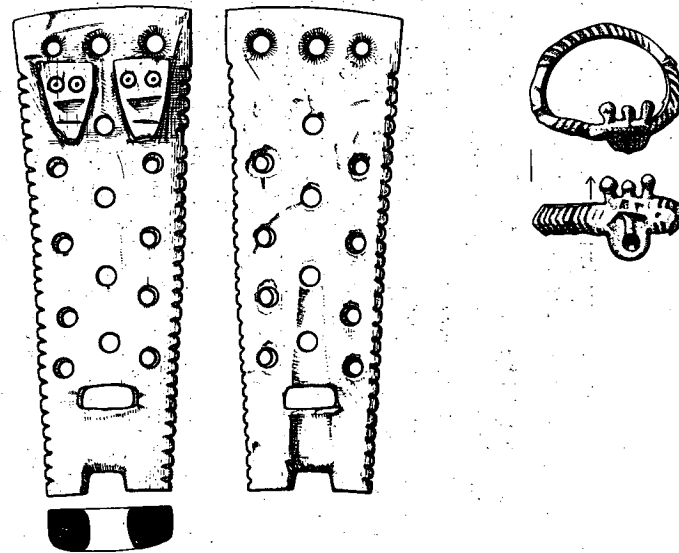


FIGURE 9

RAUNDS Finds 1:1 Carved bone; part of a musical instrument. Date 12th/13th Century
 Pewter ring; dated 13th Century

which still remain although it is not certain whether sleeper beams were incorporated in the construction. Internal features could not be identified, except for the occasional post hole. Entrances are represented by deeper post hole or slot arrangements within the main wall trench. Building F measures 10.62 m x 5.7 m (external); with a wall slot $\approx$ 0.50 m wide and with a maximum depth of 0.40 m, while Buildings G and R are 4.6 m x 4.9 m and 5.3 m and 4.5 m respectively.

Buildings J and H await further excavation and there are almost certainly more buildings of this period to be excavated.

These structures appear to be confined within an area immediately west of the western graveyard boundary. Their construction and layout, together with that of the churches, suggest a replanning of the settlement during the 10th Century. An appraisal of some documentary sources has raised the possibility of this site being a Late Saxon estate centre and associated, through a complex administrative arrangement, with a contemporary estate centre at Burystead, adjacent to the present parish church of St Peter's.

Period IV

During the mid to late 12th Century another major change in layout occurs and may be linked to changes in tenure.

Shortly before the partial demolition of the later stone church a stone manor house was constructed in the area previously occupied by the structures of periods II and III. This manor house, currently under excavation, is believed to continue in use until approximately 1300 with some additions and modification. The size of the building, and a growing number of finds, including a gold brooch, several rings, a rowel with spur, arrowheads, all point to a manor house of importance and influence. This is also the earliest manor house so far identified on the site. Its construction was accompanied by the digging of a large enclosing ditch and bank separating manor house buildings from the open fields. It should however be noted that evidence is now emerging to suggest that some slightly more easterly set ditches may represent an earlier version of this manorial enclosure boundary, perhaps dating back to the 10th Century replanning or even earlier. What is certain however is that by the late 12th Century a substantial manor house had been erected and was the focus of activity on the site. A series of pits in the extreme south of the site may have served as a source of building material as well as being associated with an industrial process as yet unidentified.

The shell of the by now abandoned church was re-used, serving, together with several structures in the north-east corner of the site, for agricultural purposes.

Period V

The early 14th Century saw the abandonment and dismantling of the period IV structures except for the surviving fragment of the later church. This was used as the starting point for the construction of another stone manor house (BAR 1981). This manor house was of a more modest scale than its predecessor. The centre of occupation had moved eastwards and the surrounding manorial ditch was backfilled. By the 16th Century the entire site had been abandoned and became pasture.

Postscript

Excavation will continue until April 1982 by which time the majority of structures within the enclosure will have been exposed and recorded. It is intended that small scale archaeological work should continue, to identify the extent of settlement evidence beyond the enclosure so as to be able to respond adequately in the event of continued development.

NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT - J. Williams

1981 has been a busy year with progress made both on excavation and publication. On the excavation front work has again concentrated on the development of Saxon Northampton (see St Peters Gardens and St James Square below); excavations will continue in 1982 in the St Peters Street area in an attempt to build up as comprehensive picture as possible. A radio-carbon date which has been received for an oriented burial found in the 1978-9 Gregory Street excavations suggests a date for the burial in the 7th Century AD. Was there another Middle Saxon church in Northampton in addition to the St Peters minster church? Further examples will be submitted from Gregory Street and it is hoped that the report on the excavations will be completed in 1982.

The Saxon excavations in Chalk Lane were published in Northamptonshire Archaeology 16 and a general survey of Saxon Northampton appeared in Current Archaeology 79. The joint survey with the RCHM of Greater Northampton, volume 5 of the Commission's Survey of Northamptonshire, is nearing completion.

Mary Gryspeerdt our pottery researcher departed in September to undertake the Leicester University certificate in Museum Studies and Mrs Varian Denham has taken her place.

WOOTTON HILL FARM, WOOTTON, NORTHAMPTON (SP 736582) - J. Williams and M. Shaw, *for Northampton Development Corporation*

A training excavation was again undertaken on the site of the Hunsbury Roman villa in July 1981, the first fortnight for Northamptonshire sixth-form students, the second fortnight for students from Leicester University Extra-Mural Department's Certificate in Archaeology and other interested adults. Work was again concentrated on the main villa range which originated as a simple rectangular block 13m x 8m, subsequently extended to 17.5 m. This later became the east wing of a more substantial structure 26 m x 17.5 m with a bath-suite forming the west wing. A preliminary analysis of the pottery suggests that the villa was in use from the 2nd-4th Centuries AD and it is hoped that a more detailed analysis will give a closer date for the various phases. Boundary ditches and a pit, partially overlaid by the villa levels and dated to the 1st Century AD, can be added to the timber features seen immediately to the north during road construction in 1979, as evidence for pre-villa occupation while the total of 98 worked flints, including a leaf-shaped arrowhead and scrapers, attests a prehistoric presence in the area of the site.

ST PETERS GARDENS, NORTHAMPTON (SP 75016037) - J. Williams and M. Shaw,
for Northampton Development Corporation

Excavations were commenced in November 1980 to the east of St Peters Church in an area where the remains of a 7th-8th Century stone (?) church had been discovered in 1976. The intention was to investigate further the nature of the Middle Saxon nucleus from which the town of Northampton seems subsequently to have grown. The area was, as expected, badly disturbed by medieval pits and also by post-medieval cellars. Sufficient survived, however, to give a reasonably coherent plan of the Middle Saxon features in the area; indeed the medieval pit-diggers appeared at times to have avoided the more substantial Middle Saxon structures. A further stone structure, measuring 10.5 m north-south, which was extensively robbed in the Late Saxon period, seems to have been in use at the same time as the (?) church. Two mortar mixers, similar to those previously discovered in the St Peters Street excavations, lay immediately to the north of the stone structures and are likely to have been used in their construction. In the levels below the stone structures the foundation trench, 0.75 m deep, of a substantial timber building, possibly c16 m x 8 m, was uncovered, and a sunken-featured building discovered at the extreme north end of the site also probably pre-dated the stone phase.

The present evidence suggests several phases of Saxon occupation; the earlier timber phases included a substantial building and were succeeded by the stone structures of a possible ecclesiastical complex. An area of some 300 sq m has been excavated so far and work is to continue into 1982 to uncover areas to the south and to the east.

ST JAMES SQUARE (SP 75276027) - J. Williams and D. Farwell, *for*
Northampton Development Corporation

The site lay on lias clay at the south-east of the presumed area of the Saxon town. A north-south trench was cut in the hope of locating the southern defences of the town. These were not discovered but Late Saxon deposits c1 m deep were found. They comprised a series of timber-lined pits, metallised surfaces and occupation debris including a large quantity of animal bones. The site lay on the valley bottom at the foot of a fairly steep slope and the water-logged nature of the ground, which had preserved the pits' timber lining, suggests that the ground between the site and the river may well have been marshy in Saxon times. Above the Late Saxon levels was about a metre of medieval and later deposits.

COLLINGTREE - M. Shaw, *for Northampton Development Corporation*

Five fields were walked in 1980 (NDC F162 centre point at SP 75715564, NDC F167 SP 75335515, NDC F168 SP 7555518, NDC F173 SP 74985610, NDC F174 74855610). Small amounts of worked flints were found in all five fields, though nowhere in significant concentrations. Two Early-Middle Saxon potsherds were recovered from F162 in the first walk, and a second more intensive walk produced a further 11 definite and seven possible non-abraded Early-Middle Saxon sherds in the north-west corner of the field; the evidence is thus sufficient to suggest an Early-Middle Saxon site in the area around SP 75645575 (NDC AS 28). One Iron Age Belgic potsherd and one of Iron Age/Early-Middle Saxon date were recovered from F173 and two Early-Middle Saxon sherds from F174-5, but neither field was walked a second time. All fields produced plentiful medieval and post-medieval sherds but no Roman or Late Saxon ones.

DALLINGTON (SP 73606196; 73456205) - M. Shaw, *for Northampton Development Corporation*

Two ponds in the grounds of Dallington Lawn Tennis Club, marked as fishponds on early editions of the OS 6" map, were visited in 1980. A further large pond, now dry, some 1.35 hectares in area with a height of c3 m from the bottom of the pond to the top of the dam, was noted to the north-west (SP 73256215). The three ponds were fed by a series of leats from Dallington Brook which lies immediately south-east of them. They resemble medieval fishponds rather than later ornamental ponds and were certainly in existence in 1725 for they appear on a map of this date (NRO Map 2884), the pond to the north-west being shown as already dry and divided into two ponds named ?Upper Fish Dam and Nether Fish Dam while the other two ponds were called Middle and Lower Ponds.

OXFORDSHIRE

COAT DMV SURVEY (PRN 955; SP 355213) - James Bond, *for Oxford University Department for External Studies*

The earthworks of the hamlet of Coat were recorded in February 1981 as part of a weekend course on surveying arranged by Oxford University Department for External Studies and directed by James Bond, Richard Chambers and Trevor Rowley, in advance of an anticipated change of land use from rough grazing to arable cultivation (Figure 10).

The documentary evidence indicates that the settlement was a hamlet of Charlbury, which had passed into the hands of the Abbey of Eynsham in 1094. Coat is first recorded by name in 1268. Tax returns and rentals at various dates between 1279 and 1347 suggest that the hamlet contained between eleven and thirteen holdings. The Black Death appears to have been a crisis from which Coat did not recover. The Abbot received no rents from it in 1350, and in 1360 was excused payment of tax from Coat as he no longer had lands or tenements there. There are no later records which suggest any nucleus of population surviving. In the later Middle Ages the land seems to have been divided up and let out on short leases to tenants living at Charlbury and elsewhere. Although some cultivation continued, the greater part of the land seems to have gone down to pasture. By 1598 it was wholly enclosed.

The settlement earthworks cover an area of about four hectares, on a sloping site with a north-westerly aspect on the side of the valley of a small tributary of the River Evenlode. The altitude of the site rises from about 116 m to 125 m OD. Geologically it spans the junction between the Clypeus Grit series of the Inferior Oolite and the underlying Upper Lias Clay. This creates a well-marked spring-line all along the valley side. A couple of strong springs rise within the lower end of the village site itself.

The line of the main village street seems to be represented by an axial hollow-way descending the hill towards the springs. A couple of subsidiary hollow-ways enter this feature from the south, though neither can be traced outside the bounds of the village itself. The original

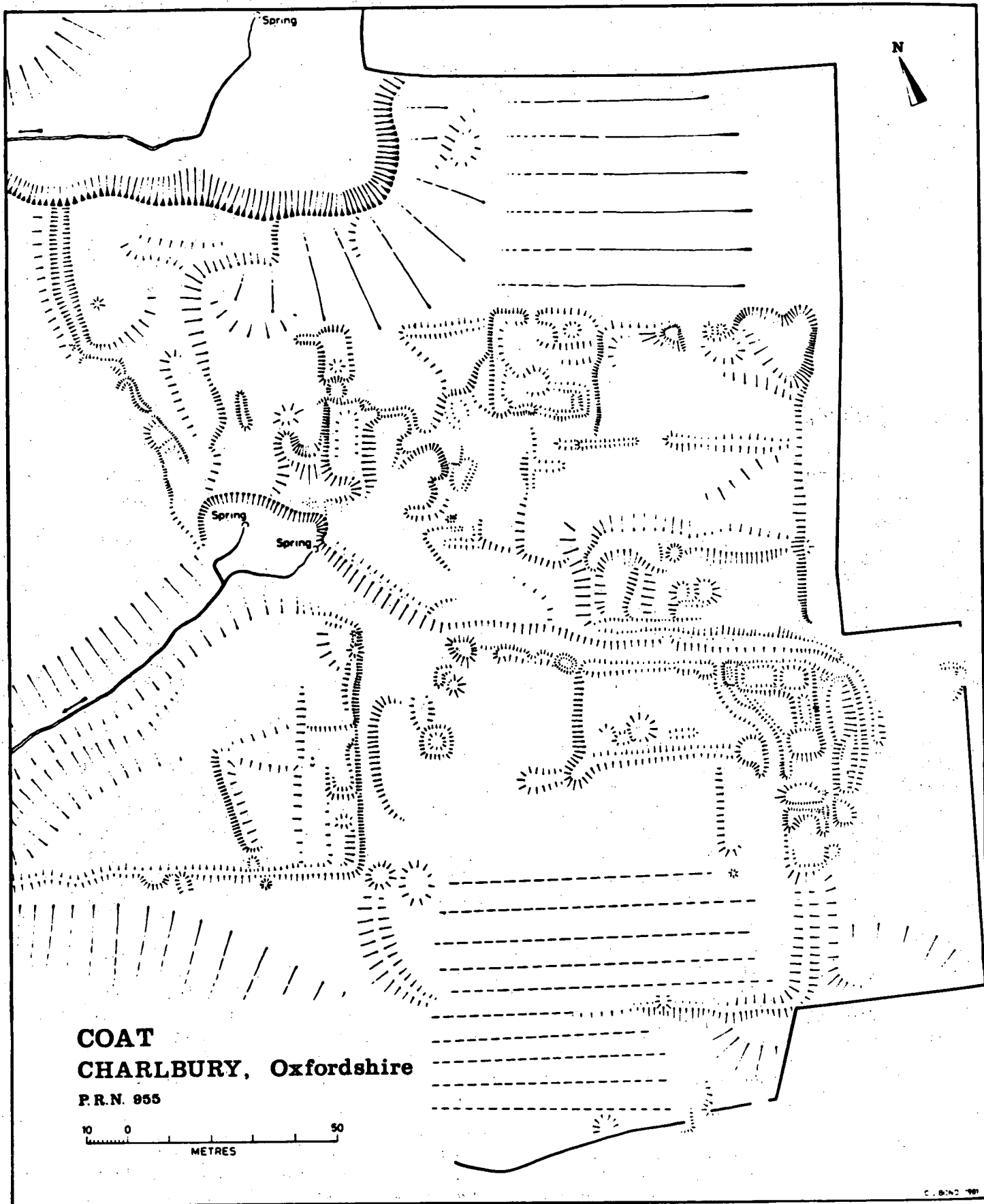


FIGURE 10

course of the easternmost of these two hollow-ways appears to have been blocked and slightly diverted by a complex of later medieval buildings. Platforms and stone foundations of about a dozen buildings can be identified with some confidence; but it is unlikely that all of these were occupied as dwellings. Some, by reason of their small size or their juxtaposition in farmyard-like patterns with other buildings, would seem to represent subsidiary or agricultural structures. The number of identifiable houses therefore, falls a little short of the number which might have been expected from the documentary evidence, and it is not easy to see where the extrabuildings may have been accommodated. The pattern of croft boundaries is confused, but there seems to be one regular series of four parallel crofts at the top of the site whose long axes run parallel with the main hollow-way, three on the north side and one on the south. Traces of a village boundary bank can be discerned in fragmentary form on the north side, and rather more coherently but in two different alignments, on the south. The southern boundary is particularly well-marked at its western end the eastern end either projects out over, or has possibly been overploughed by, a small area of ridge-and-furrow; unfortunately it is very difficult to determine the relative chronology of the bank and the ridge-and-furrow from the surface evidence alone because both features are orientated in almost the same direction. Prominent hollows cut into the lower part of the site are probably primarily the result of spring-sapping, but may have been further emphasised by small-scale stone-quarrying. A further small stone-pit which looks as if it post-dates the desertion of the settlement now forms a grassy hollow in its upper north-eastern corner.

After the completion of the survey the hedgerows were grubbed out and the surrounding fields and parts of the margins of the settlement itself were ploughed. This operation was watched by Tim Copeland, who collected a quantity of pottery predominantly of mid 13th - mid 14th Century character, with a few 15th-18th Century sherds. Unfortunately, because of the highly disturbed nature of their contexts, it was not feasible to record find-spots in detail.

Thanks must be expressed to the landowner, Miss C.M.H. Wills, for permission to carry out the survey.

ROMAN ROADS AT BROUGHTON AND BLOXHAM - G.H. Hargreaves and A.W.F. Boarder

Newsletter 11 gives the course of Margary's Road 56a from Epwell to Fulling Mill Farm, Broughton. Its course from here to Twyford has now been established (see Figure 11), and is very different from an approximate course previously suggested for it through Broughton to Bodicote.

The road is represented by 14 alignments, for which there is evidence visible on the ground in all instances except a few where alignment location is made plain by topography. From the west the road arrives at the Fulling Mill ford by two short alignments additional to those previously reported. Ascent from the ford to the top of a hill close to the north-west corner of Broughton Park is followed by descent to a ford in open country at Broughton and ascent to a prominent high point at Rectory Farm. The way to Bodicote on high ground is made easy by a slanted crossing of a valley at Wykham, and a final alignment from Bodicote through Bushy Furze Barn includes a steady descent to an existing ford in the Cherwell for access to the Blacklands Romano-British settlement.

ROMAN ROADS AT BROUGHTON AND BLOXHAM

- Alignment angles with grid references
- - - Sighting Lines
- + Roman occupation

0 500 Metres
0 500 Yards
Heights in ft
GHH 1.1.82

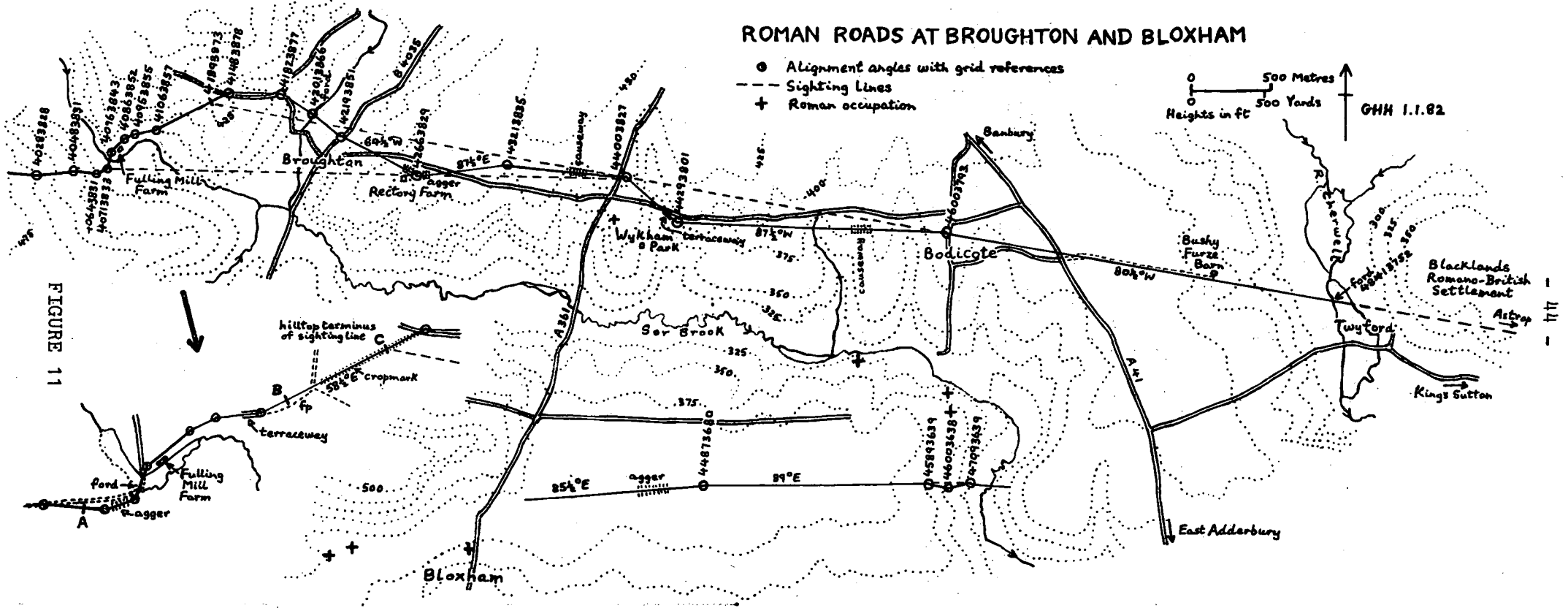


FIGURE 11

At location A west of the Fulling Mill ford the width of the metal-led road is only 3 m, and at B on the ascent from the ford it is 2.5 m but the road which is laid on clay abuts on a natural horizontal limestone surface which was used to increase its effective width to at least 3.5 m. At the hilltop C it has widened to 5 m and shows two different laterally adjacent forms of construction, indicating a doubling of its original width.

The evidence of planning provided by the alignments is instructive of Roman methods. The main sighting line from which the surveyor constructed his alignments runs from the hilltop C to the Cherwell ford: as these are not visible from one another or from any intermediate point, the surveyor appears to have used high ground near Astrop as the eastern terminus of his sighting line to fix intermediate high points through which the road runs. One of these at Wykham was then used as the terminus of a secondary sighting line to Fulling Mill Ford, on which a further intermediate sighting point at Rectory Farm was established. This point is at an alignment angle under a large tree from which an agger can be seen running on both sides; its use involves a topographically unnecessary diversion, which indicates that the surveyor at first intended to shorten the route westwards to the ford, and then after detailed survey of it changed his mind to go back to the main sighting line, but was already committed to the Rectory Farm diversion. The tree-fellers must have been operating hard on his heels, a practice evidence for which has already been noted in connection with Road 160c (see Newsletter 11). In any case detailed survey and construction must have proceeded from east to west, for the road would not have diverged to Rectory Farm if operations had been in the reverse direction.

South of the Sor Brook there is substantial Roman settlement at Bloxham. Part of a Roman road serving this settlement from the east has been identified (see Figure) but it has not been possible to trace its line in East Adderbury parish, and it does not appear to have continued westwards from the Bloxham settlement.

CHURCH DOOR HINGES IN SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE - II - Cynthia A. Graham Kerr

Introduction

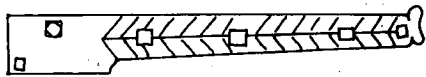
In last years' newsletter, a selection of the hinges on Church doors from Norman to Victorian times was discussed, with illustrations showing how they grew from simple strap-hinges, to elaborate curlieues. They were all taken from churches north of the Thames (ie. 'old' Oxfordshire), this time there are a few examples from 'new' Oxfordshire, (such as Moul-sford) included.

It is most difficult to suggest dates as one cannot judge by the state of the door - more than once old hinges have been found on what appears to be a new, or restored door - often Victorian.

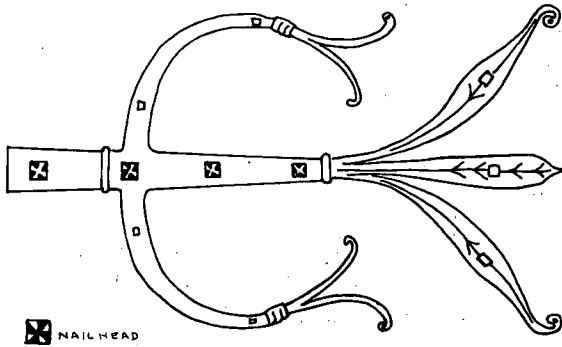
The older metalwork has a 'look' about it, and it is not very difficult to distinguish hand-beaten work, but with some of the later work and good Victorian copies, it is not so easy. Certainly the strapping becomes more uniform in width and thickness, and the ends and curls are not beaten-out, or made by splitting; also some of the nastier Victorian ones almost look stamped out.

There is remarkably little literature on this subject, apart from the odd note on one or two of the more complicated designs; and any additional information would be welcome. It seems likely that most of the

ST. LEONARDS, CROWMARSH GIFFORD. (No.1)



ST. LEONARDS, DRAYTON ST LEONARD. (No.2)

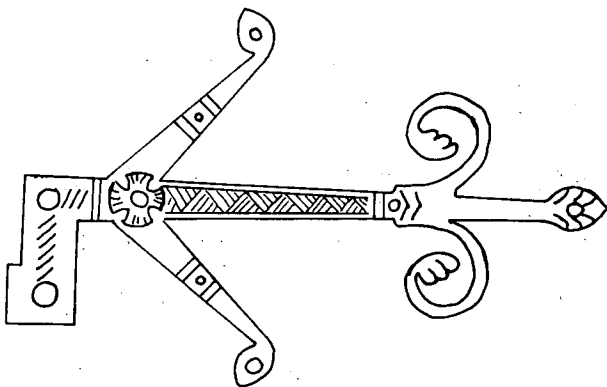


ST. JOHN the BAPTIST, MOULSFORD. (No.3)

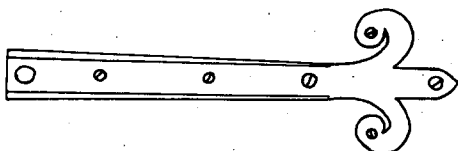


NB. Scale 10cm

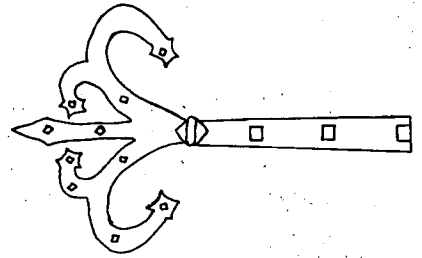
ST. JAMES'S, SOTWELL. (No.7)



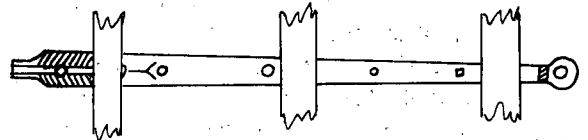
ST. MARY'S, CHOLSEY. (No.8)



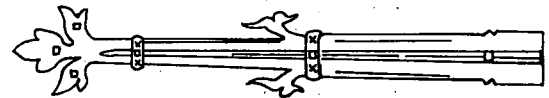
ST. BOTOLPHS, SWYNCOMBE (No.4.)



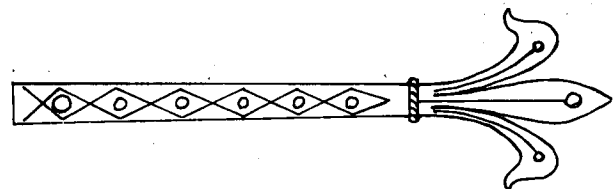
ST. MICHAELS, ASTON TYROLD. (No.5)



ALL SAINTS, ASTON UPTHORPE (No.6)



ST. LAWRENCES, TOOT BALDON. (No.9)



THE ABBEY OF STs. PETER & PAUL, DORCHESTER. (No.10)

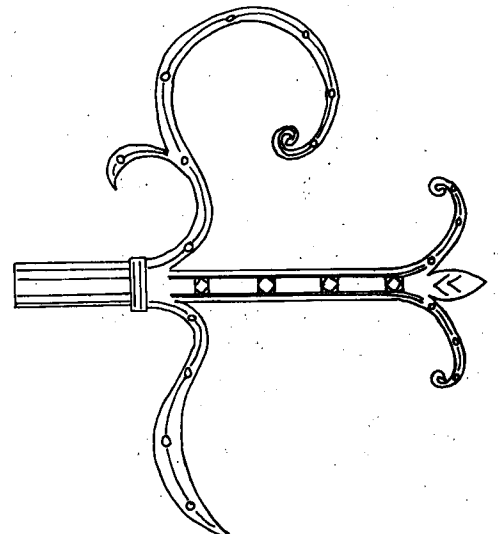


FIGURE 12

hinges were made locally, by the village blacksmith, perhaps as his contribution to the village church. It is rare indeed to find hinges mentioned in the history of a church, and it would be regrettable if these beautiful examples of the smiths' work went unnoticed and unrecorded.

Types

Church-door hinges can be roughly divided into two types - plain strap and curlicue; but having said that one can immediately divide them into innumerable types such as flat strapwork, incised; simple, split or triple finials, curlicue from base, secondary branding use of staples and extra straps, and finally the type that covers the whole door. Even so, no two designs seem to be alike, and often the top hinge varies considerably from that at the base of the door.

The nails also offer clues: the older ones being hand made, are very variable, both in size and shape; whereas later hinges have neat, mass-produced nails with chamfered heads, and sometimes quite modern screws have been used without any thought of incorporating them in the design, as the older smiths often did.

Straps across the hinge, like huge staples, hold some in place (see Drayton St. Leonard) and nails, often vary considerably in sizes to suit the width of the strap and its position.

The illustrations were again drawn at the sites on graph-paper, and notes of the main characteristics made.

Notes on the Illustrations

St. Leonards, Crowmarsh Gifford (Figure 12 No. 1)

This small church is said to have been kept for the use of Lepers, and still retains Norman features, the hinge being a typical strap-hinge with a rudimentary finial, first cut and slightly beaten out. The hinge has herringbone incisions right along, with the base and last two bolts being 1.5 cm and the others 2 cm diameter.

St. Leonards, Drayton St. Leonards (Figure 12 No. 2)

These fine handmade hinges are of the St. Clement design (C shaped) with split ends forged into small curlicues and an extra small plate at the base of the split. The bolts are neatly chamfered to give a maltese-cross look. The main finial consists of three finely tapered and veined leaves, the side ones curled like tendrils at the ends, the whole being split from a single strap and beaten out into the leaf-shapes. Two neat staples hold the hinge behind the branches, and the whole thing is a most elegant example of the smiths' work.

St. John the Baptist, Moulsoford (Figure 12 No. 3)

This is a very large 'wrapped' hinge going right round the door and the inner strap has a smaller finial. Quite a delicate design, with unusual scalloped edges, and the 1.5 cm bolts chamfered, whilst those on the finial, which has trefoil ends, one 1 cm diameter. The church dates from the 17th Century with a substantial oak door and large lock-case inside.

St. Botolph, Swyncombe (Figure 12 No. 4)

It was surprising to find a somewhat Victorian looking hinge on the door of this lovely little Norman church. It was 'restored' in 1850 by Ferry - who built the south porch where the hinge was located. This hinge is unusually short, being only 53 cm long and has small square finials (quite unlike the usual trefoils or leaves), and a staple with a small plate slipped under, at the base of the finial. The hinge is a 'false' one and purely ornamental, another suspiciously Victorian feature.

St. Michaels', Aston Tyrold (Figure 12 No. 5)

In a village of many old houses the church is said to be the oldest building; although the porch is an extraordinary hotchpotch of two odd 14th - 15th Century screens, some medieval glazed bricks, pebbledash, and a door that might be 14th Century, with tracery cutting across the plain strap-hinges. There is a small amount of incising at the base and it is fixed with handmade nails.

The church dates from 1080, but the porch is possibly early 19th Century. The hinge is a genuine one and set in behind a wooden lintel.

All Saints, Aston Upthorpe (Figure 12 No. 6)

A small interesting Norman church, restored here and there, including possibly the door, which does not appear to be particularly old, nor the hinge; but it is an interesting one, having an extra strap running right down the centre, but strapping at the lintel where the rest of the hinge continues round onto the gudgeon. It also has two 'staples' - one at the neck of the finial and the other below the tiny branches with crosses incised there, and square chamfered bolts.

St. James', Sotwell (Figure 12 No. 7)

This hinge provided several unusual features, with its dropped base, added Maltèse cross embellishment and curved leaf finials, with veins in the head ones and complicated incising on the strap. The secondary ones were rounded and paw-like, and the finial of the small straight branch turned back awkwardly. There has been a church on the site for 700 years.

St. Marys', Cholsey (Figure 12 No. 8)

The square doors (which appear to be new, inside), are set in a fine Norman doorway. This may be another case of old hinges on a new door as the hinge is beaten, with unusual chamfered sides, and a plain trefoil finial. It is held by a round bolt at the base and large screws of 2 cm diameter down the strap. The church is said to have been sacked by the Danes and has several interesting features.

St. Lawrence, Toot Baldon (Figure 12 No. 9)

Hidden down a long track into the fields, the epitome of a country church, St. Lawrence's hinge has a medieval flavour in its fleur-de-lys finial. A curled notice, about postcard size, written in faded red ink and pinned to the porch gives its history briefly:

"St. Lawrence, Toot Baldon

Wooden church about AD700

Stone about 1200

Restored E end 1872"

The handbeaten strap hinge, with its carefully shaped fleur-de-lys, held with domed nails, has a pleasing 'rope' staple at its neck, and neat incisions diamonding each nail along the strap with a final large bolt before turning into the hinge itself.

The Abbey of Sts Peter & Paul, Dorchester (Figure 12 No. 10)

This, not surprisingly would make a study on its own. There were five doors to choose from, the west door was chosen as being the most different from the other churches considered.

Instead of both branches being similar, the bottom one is a simple elongated leaf-shape, whilst the top one circles round into a tight curlicue end, a very small leaf sprouting near the junction.

A ridged staple lies just below the junction, and the strap widens here from 4 - 6 cm. The finial ends in a fat leaf, veined and curlicue branch each side, chamfered bolts hold it at close intervals and lines are incised throughout.

NOTICE! SOME UNUSUAL AND AMUSING NOTICES IN SOAG AREA - Cynthia A.
Graham Kerr

Our language is a thing that grows and changes as fast as ourselves, but, even so, one is suprised to find that the phrases and expressions of our grandparents seemextraordinarily archaic and even funny.

With this in mind, the words of a few Public Notices were collected - some still on display - to demonstrate how soon an everyday object becomes an 'interesting artefact'.

Our most famous one is the Toll Bridge Charges at Whitchurch on Thames. There is now an up-to-date one, with the unpleasing decimal 'p' taking over from the old 'd'. I enquired for the old board, and was told rather sourly it was lost; but luckily I was able to take Tolls in pence from the book of my old friend John Baker, 'Whitchurch on Thames' - they are as follows:

For every person on foot	½d
For every horse, mare, guelding or mule, laden or unladen, not drawing	2d
For every ass laden or unladen, drawing or not drawing	1½d
For every bull, ox, cow, steer, heifer, calf ...	2d
For evéry sheep or lamb	½d
For every boar, sow or pig	½d
For every horse, mare, guelding, mule or other beast, except asses, drawing any carriage	2d for each and every wheel

Persons on foot, and bicycles are now free, but motor bikes are 2p, and cars 4p. but not, fortunately per wheel!

If we cross into Pangbourne to visit the United Reform Church Hall, we shall find, just inside the door, the following injunction:

In case of fire call The Fire Brigade	(!!)
Send runner to the Fire Station	(where else?)
The Brigade should be called to any Outbreak However Small	

A most interesting Notice is to be found, sideways, on the shed door of Mr. Bill Fidler, of Whitchurch Hill. This was a most important affair, affecting the whole village just 100 years ago in the 1880s. To appreciate its significance it must be explained that the only supply of water for the whole village was the very deep well, and the Reservoir, both organised by Squire Gardiner. This Reservoir, situated in Hill Bottom, was 15 ft deep, with access by an iron cover immediately behind a corrugated iron hut, built to accommodate the pump. On payment of 1d old Lewenden the postman, would bring the key from April Cottage, where he lived, opposite the Reservoir and allow one to draw two bucketfuls per day only. About 1908 the mains came, so it fell into disuse and Bill Fidler now lives in the adjoining bungalow. He said the shed door was too narrow to get bikes in, and the Notice-board was 'just handy and the right size', - so its turned round and hinges put on and the bikes went in. It was just possible to decipher the rapidly fading lettering which had been creosoted over and Bill also allowed it to be photographed. The Notice read as follows:

NOTICE

THIS water is for drinking purposes only
The allowance must not exceed 2 gallons a Head
- Per Day -
A(ny)one wasting the Water or taking more than
this quantity will Forfeit the right to make
use of the Supply
The Caretaker is authorised to stop the Supply
to anyone abusing these Priviledges
And those using the water are Specially asked
to assist the Caretaker in his Duties and
in the Interests of All to see there is no Waste
And that these (R)ules (are) not Departed from
(1)880 C.L.W. GARDINER ESQ.

- all in beautiful Copperplate! If this supply dried up in hot weather, the water-cart had to go nearly 2 miles downhill and up again, to the Thames, to get supplies. How spoilt we are now, with taps!

For the next notice we again cross the Thames, and into Streatley. High on the wall of the Parish Hall is a large board, with the charges of the ferry between Streatley and Goring before the present bridge was built. This is an even older notice than our Toll and it is very praiseworthy that it has been so well cared for since.

An Account of the

PRICES to be taken at Streatley Ferry

By Virtue of

Letters patent under the Great Seal of England
Bearing Date of the Eight Day of April in the 5th
year of the Reign of King George the 1st and in the
year of our Lord 1719.

s d

For every Waggon or Cart and Horse loaded	1 . 0
For every Waggon or Cart and Horse not loaded ..	6
For every Coach, Chariot or Chase with 4 wheels .	1 . 0
For every Coach, Chariot or Chase with 2 wheels .	6
For every Horse or Mare with his Burden	2
For every Horse	1

	s	d
For every Person	1	
For every 20 Sheep	1	
For every Cow, Ox or Bull	2	
For every Ton or Reputed load of goods	6	
For every Hog or Pig	1	
For every Person with 1 pack	2	

A pennworth of ferrying with 20 fidgety sheep seems most reasonable, but the expense of a 4-wheeled Chariot !!

The water supply for this area consisted of wells and rainwater cisterns, until the turn of the century when a grand new reservoir was built on the highest point at Woodcote. On the high surrounding wall is an oblong plaque (like a memorial on a church wall) made of not very good stone as it is now almost unreadable; with suitable scrolls top and bottom. In the centre recess is the following, with the date 1906 over the top:

Sir T. Herman Hodge, Bart.
opened (this) Reservoir
Mrs. Henry J. Robus
unveiled this stone
July 13 1907

Directors

Henry J. Robus Esq. Chairman
Fred E. Bodkin Esq. Vice-Chairman
Lieut. Col. J. Elyard JP
Augustus Hutter Esq.
Stephen A. Child Esq.

Opposite, on a red brick house, the waterworks office, was the following information on a squarish cast-iron plate, freshly painted in white, with black lettering:

1904

Thames Valley and Goring
Water and Gas Company
Limited

Directors

H.J. Robus Esq. Chairman
F.E. Bodkin Esq.
Lieut. Col. J. Elyard JP

C.H. Robus
Engineer
London EC

Water and gas is an interesting mixture (did they make soda-water??).

[Editorial Note: the company would have made water gas by passing steam over red-hot coke, which gives a mixture of hydrogen and carbon-monoxide] A friendly official explained that this building is now the Thames Water Authority, but the Reservoir opposite belongs to the Lamborne Water people, and is now nothing to do with the red brick office. Alas, what would Chairman Robus think?

It is of some interest to note that all these notices have to do with water - a thing we usually take for granted, but a commodity our grand-parents were obliged to use with some care and thought.

SURVEY

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PARISH SURVEY - David Hall and Paul Martin

Last season (the winter of 1980-81) saw the surveys of the townships of Brackley, Braybrooke, Brington, Brockhall, Kislingbury, Muscott, Thorpe Achurch, and Yardley Hastings, a total of 17,000 acres. The area investigated was slightly less than usual because of a rapid growth of winter-sown corn which obscured the ground surface earlier than usual in the spring.

A wide range of sites was again discovered, the most interesting being those of the early prehistoric and Saxon periods. A previously unidentified deserted medieval village of Costow was recognised in Marston St Lawrence parish.

The parishes studied were largely determined by research needs, on the one hand much more information is required on the extensive prehistory of Northamptonshire that is now being recognised, and for medieval estate studies, it is essential to have a field book (a survey of each individual strip holding), and back up with medieval documents.

Muscott and Brockhall are fine examples of such villages with field books of 1433 and 1609 respectively. Muscott is the only Northamptonshire village that we know with a good documentation.

Again this year we have not included a detailed gazetteer of all our discoveries - these being reserved for a future publication, but give examples of the prehistoric material discovered at Welford, and the field systems of Rothersthorpe (see below).

Another activity this year has been the spreading of the word with a visit to America, and a visit to the Northamptonshire countryside by various American and European scholars.

ROTHERSTHORPE FIELD SURVEY - David Hall and Paul Martin

Rothersthorpe (SP 7156) lies south of Northampton forming a compact village in the middle of its 1213 acres of land. The soil consists of various Jurassic strata overlain with glacial till and river gravels.

The village and parish were surveyed in 1977 following the well established techniques ie searching every field in strips of about 50 yards width to identify worked flints and ancient pottery sherds. Sites discovered were then walked more closely. The earthworks left by medieval fields are here particularly well preserved because of the intensive agriculture on the fertile soils, and because of the late enclosure,

The following pre-medieval sites were discovered (Figure 13) (1810).

<u>Site</u>	<u>Grid Ref</u>	<u>Geology</u>	<u>Notes</u>
RT 1	SP 713562	Sand and gravel	Roman sherds in considerable quantity, with other occupation debris
RT 2	SP 715564	Sand	Iron Age sherds etc.
RT 3	SP 719566	Gravel	Saxon sherds (10) including 2 rims and 1 decorated body sherd
RT 4	SP 724564	Gravel	Cropmark site yielding a few worked flints and 5 Roman sherds.

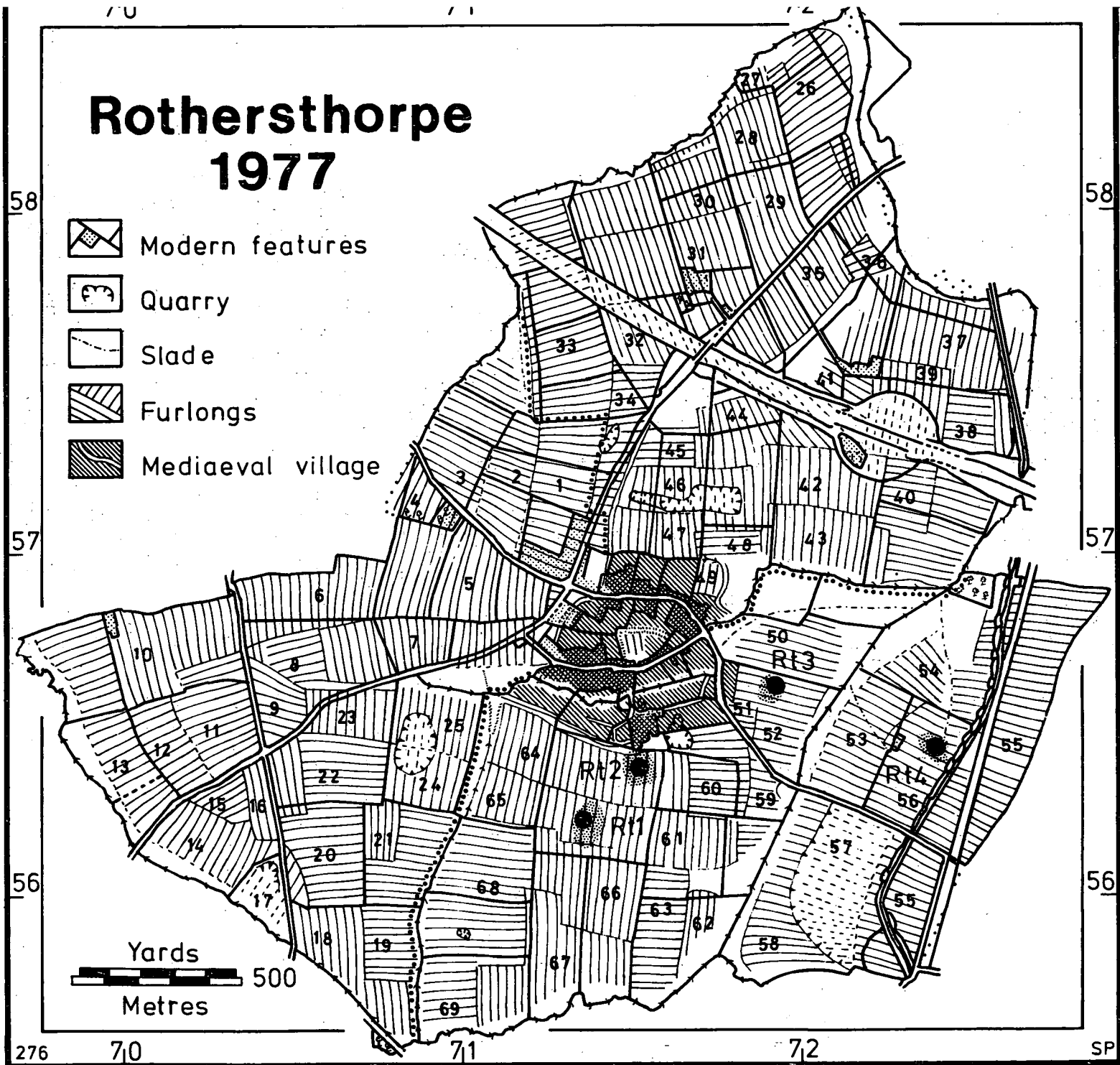


FIGURE 13

Post-medieval sherds were found in the 'windmill field' at SP705564, which probably represent the site of a mill.

Medieval

The present village is not mentioned until Domesday (1086) although the Saxon site shows it had much earlier origins (before about 850). The village is both shrunken and slightly shifted, leaving many fields of earthworks and hollow ways representing the positions of former house plots and roadways. Some of the shrinkage is relatively recent, as many of the abandoned roads were still in use in 1810 (map 2872). The most striking earthwork is the Bury, which is an irregular moated area with some evidence of a motte in the north west angle. It probably dates from the 12th Century.

The manorial history begins at Domesday when there were three holdings. The main manor belonged to Gunfrid de Chocques and consisted of $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides: there were 7 ploughlands of which 2 were in demesne. In 1209 the property passed to the Pateshull family and so remained until the death of William Pateshull in 1359. The manor passed via heiresses to the families of Fauconberg (1358) and Strangeways (1490).

It was conveyanced to Elizabeth Englefield in 1541 and sold by her descendant Sir Francis Englefield in 1639, to satisfy 28 creditors whom he owed £3850 (Clayton 176). The Andrews family were the next possessors until 1743, when it passed to P.J. Fremeaux. With Sussana Fremeaux it went by marriage to the Thornton family of nearby Brockhall in 1798. Thomas Reeve Thornton sold Rothersthorpe to Abraham Caldecott in 1806 for £26,430 (Box 1914). The new owner enclosed the parish in 1810.

A small Domesday estate of $\frac{1}{2}$ hide became the property of St John's Hospital, Northampton by 1138. It consisted of 8 virgates in 1295. At the Dissolution of the monasteries in 1535 it became the property of James Strangeways and so joined the main manor. Another $\frac{1}{2}$ hide estate is mentioned in 1086 but disappears later. The church and rectory were given to St James Abbey Northampton in 1209. After the Dissolution it became the property of Francis Samwell having had some intermediary possessors. This family retained the inappropriate rectory until after the enclosure. They lived at neighbouring Upton.

The estate records of Rothersthorpe are not very good, probably because of a multiplicity of owners in recent centuries, many of whom leased the property out frequently. An inquisition made after the death of John Englefield in 1567 showed the manor to consist of 9 messuages; 8 cottages; various small tofts, gardens, and pieces of meadows; and 501 acres of land, or about 28 yardlands (taking 18 acres to the yardland, implied in the document). (Clayton 162)

A lease of the manor in 1654 by Sir William Andrews refers to the manor house and $21\frac{1}{2}$ yardlands, along with other smaller properties. From the acreages given it is evident that a yardland was computed at an average of 19.3 acres (Th 899).

A few late court rolls survive. That of Francis Fremeaux in 1778 confirms the existing open field orders, and states that the stint per yardland should be $1\frac{1}{2}$ cows, 1 horse, 16 sheep in summer and 18 sheep in winter (S(G)499). T.R. Thornton held another court in 1801 (probably the first one after 1778). The orders of 1778 were re-affirmed, but the rate per yardland was reduced to $1\frac{1}{4}$ cows and 14 sheep summer and winter (Kilsby 97).

A lease of 1803 accounts for three large holdings of 98, 98, and 147 acres (Box 1914). They respectively had $8\frac{1}{2}$, $8\frac{1}{2}$, and $13\frac{1}{2}$ cow commons.

Using the values for stinting, given in the Thornton court roll, these holdings would appear to correspond to 7, 7 and 10½ yardlands. Each farm has a detailed terrier from which it is possible to locate most of the furlongs (see below).

The enclosure award of 1810 gives the total of yardlands as 64 (Enrollment Book Vol N P296). The Domesday demesne of 2 out of 7 ploughlands represents $2/7 \times \frac{2.5}{3.5}$ of the total (the Domesday estates were $2\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ hides). This is equal to 0.204. In yardlands, the demesne would therefore be $64 \times 0.204 = 13$, if there was continuity over such a long period of time. A deed of 1694 duly records a mortgage of the manor and its 13 yardlands. Such amazing continuity is similar to that found in other parishes, and suggests that by 1086 the landscape and open-field holdings had already been laid out and assessed fiscally, ie that the Domesday figures do relate to measurement on the ground, but in terms of yardlands (small virgates) not acres.

The whole of the parish was utilised as open field except the flooding meadows, as is common with central Northamptonshire parishes. A wood is referred to in Domesday. This was almost certainly that mentioned in 1295 as being in Salcey forest. The inquisition of 1567 describes Thorpe Wood as lying in two coppices in the parish of Roade (about miles distant). A detached piece of woodland is quite common in this region, compare, for instance, Little Houghton and Wootton, which have similar coppices in Salcey forest.

No terriers survive for the medieval period. The arrangement of the open fields in 1803 is shown on Figure 13. There were three fields called Bridge Field, Spout Field, and Garberd Field. The names were worked out using a modern field-name map of 1932, and from various abbutals and orientations given in the three 1803 terriers. The names are listed on Table 1.

Note: the manorial descent is taken from the standard county histories by Baker and Bridges. The other references are to manuscript sources in the Northamptonshire Record Office.

Table 1 Rothersthorpe furlong names 1803

Garberd Field		Spout Field	
No. on Fig. 13	Name		
1	Fullwell	50	Mead furlong
2-4	-	51-52	-
5	Gayton lane end	53	Wallop furlong
6	Kislingbury hedge	54	Inmead lower furlong
7	Clay pit furlong	55	Oxford way furlong
8	Lake hedge furlong	56	Inmead upper leys
9	Olling furlong	57	Chiswell furlong
10-13	-	58-59	-
14	Garberd	60	Furze leys
15		61-63	-
16	Banbury way?	64	Townsend furlong
17	Banbury way?	65	Upper ballons
18	Pocket furlong	66	Middle ballons
19	Banbury way	67	Gayton Field furlong
20	Walland furlong	68	Longland furlong
21-22	-	69	Pocket furlong
23	Windmill hill		
24-25	-		

Bridge Field

26	Bridge leys
27-32	-
33	Blackwell leys
34	Fullwell?
35-36	-
37	Broadmead furlong
38	Whiteland furlong
39-42	-
43	Little meadow haes
44-49	-

WHELFORD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT PATTERNS - P.W. Martin

Fieldwork in the winter of 1979-80 revealed extensive Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement throughout Northamptonshire. Evidence for pre-Iron Age settlement is still confined to well drained soils (ironstone, sandstone, limestone and gravel). Welford may be taken as a typical example (Figure 14).

The geology ranges from an extensive tract of boulder clay in the centre and south (with the odd outcrop of ironstone), to a large deposit of glacial gravel at the north. The river Avon forms the parish boundary here and the settlement is clearly influenced by it.

Field-by-field survey was carried out over the whole parish; sites discovered were plotted and the material associated with them collected and subsequently analysed.

Nineteen individual small settlements of the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods were discovered on the glacial deposit with a 20th located on a small gravel outcrop to the south. Cropmarks of two ring ditches (previously known at SP 63138140 and SP 62758107) also lay on the gravel near to the sites; whether or not these are contemporary cannot be determined without excavation.

Analysis of the flint assemblages from the 20 sites (Table 2) revealed a mixed period of occupation ranging from the early Neolithic to the early Bronze Age. Blade cores which generally indicate an early to middle Neolithic context, were found in association with characteristic flints of these periods. Secondary Neolithic and Early Bronze Age sites tended to have rougher waste material, eg rough cores and squat flakes. Burnt flints, indicative of hearths, were found on 13 of the 20 sites, and from this it is likely that there was permanent settlement. Two plano-convex knives were found on sites nos. 9 and 15, these are usually attributed to the Secondary Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period, which is also indicated by the rest of these two assemblages.

It would be difficult to ascribe a single-phase date to any of the sites, except perhaps for No. 15 which is probably early Bronze Age. Site No. 7 is by far the largest settlement in the parish and has continuity from the early Neolithic (blade cores, leaf arrowhead, and fairly large scrapers) through to the early Bronze Age (thumb scrapers and rough cores).

In conclusion it is clear from the map (Figure 14) that settlements are closely orientated to running water and that they are always situated on light, well-drained soils. Prehistoric man could easily survive on spring water away from rivers and brooks, but domesticated animals need

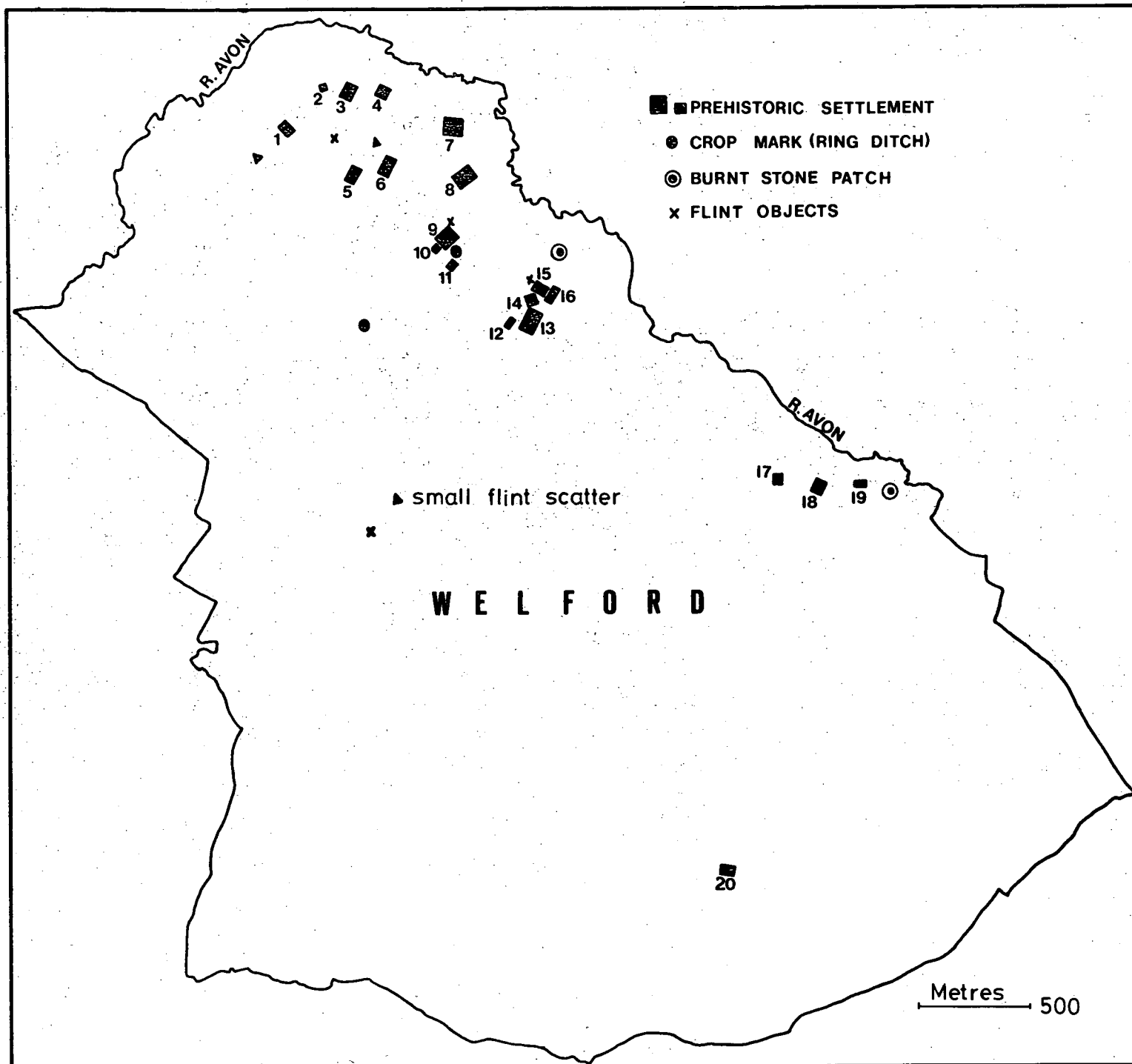


FIGURE 14

SITE NO.	Blade Cores Patinated a	Non Patinated b	Rough Cores Patinated a	Non Patinated b	Waste Flakes Patinated a	Non Patinated b	Waste Blades Patinated a	Non Patinated b	Utilized Flakes/ Blades Patinated a	Non Patinated b	Reworked Material	Burnt Flint	Burnt Stone	Hammerstones Patinated a	Non Patinated b	Pottery (flint grit)	Polished Flint Fragment	Flint Axe Fragment	Fabricator Patinated a	Non Patinated b	Laurel Leaf Print	Scrapers Patinated a	Non Patinated b	Disc OBJ	Bifacial Tools	Leaf Arrowhead	Tanced & Barbed	Backed Blades	Plano Convex	
1		3		8		33				21	4	1											2	1					73	
2	1	9		3		23	2			11												1					2		52	
3		5			2	11	1			7	1	1				1		1											30	
4		12		18	1	85	6	3		34	2	4			2								9		1				117	
5		4		9		29		2		9	2												4						59	
6		2		6		18		1		4	1	1			1								2				3		39	
7	1	30		21	2	148	4	17	1	54	2	7	1	1	1	1				2		1	20			1			315	
8	2	3		3		19				17	2												4			1			52	
9		9		3		35				17		3											5					1	73	
10		4		5		23		1		8		1											3						45	
11		2		5		25				9													1						42	
12		6		3		7		3		12	3	1		1									4						40	
13	1	5		15		62				27	2	3	1	1					1				5						124	
14		1		8		41				23		2											5						80	
15				10		27				7		3																1	48	
16		1		17		70				18		2		2									3		1				114	
17		4		3		3				8													1						19	
18	1	1		1		19			8			1	4										3		1				39	
19		1		7	1	19				7													1						36	
20				4		8				9				1									2						24	
TOTAL	6	102		149	6	705	13	27	9	302	20	33	2	6	5	1	1	1	1	2		1	75	1	3	1	1	5	2	1480

TABLE 2

large quantities of water each day. Animals using a spring would soon foul it, so hence the necessity of keeping them near a source yielding water in quantity. It would therefore seem that animals, as well as men, determine the location of settlements for communities whose economy is based on mixed farming or grazing.

REGIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CBA GROUP 9 INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee meets regularly twice a year and its members consult by telephone, should any matter of great urgency arise. The present Chairman is Dr Peter Jarvis and the Secretary is Mr Kenneth Major.

The Sub-Committee now sends a representative to Group 9 Executive Committees and the Group Secretary is invited to Sub-Committee Meetings.

The rest of this report is confined to a brief summary, county by county of some of the matters which have been brought to the attention of the Sub-Committee.

Bedfordshire

- (a) Electrification of the former Midland main-line railway between Bedford and London St Pancras have led to the demolition of a number of typical Midland signal boxes and of the old Bedford Midland Road Station opened in 1859 and modified in 1868. This included Listed Building Consent being granted for the demolition of the cast-iron and glass canopies, although some parts are to be re-erected on a preserved line in Derbyshire while other parts are to be used by British Rail for their station at Lewes in Sussex.
- (b) Coronation Brickworks, Stewartby, is the first of the major Fletton brickworks to be demolished and a full photographic survey was made by the County Council before demolition.
- (c) Bromham Watermill just west of Bedford on the A428. The County Council has restored the waterwheel and main milling machinery. It is hoped to open the mill to the public next year.

Buckinghamshire

- (a) The Stacey Hill Collection is to take over the whole of the buildings at Stacey Hill Farm Wolverton. Regular open days continue to be held.
- (b) Lacey Green Windmill. The sails have now been put on and it is hoped to have the mill working by the end of the year.
- (c) Members of the Industrial Archaeology Sub-Committee have been assisting the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit over the interpretation of a watermill site excavated at Caldecott.

Northamptonshire

- (a) The Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group (NIAG) which has been active for many years, has now adopted a more formal constitution and is issuing an excellent newsletter to members.

- (b) NIAG has been researching into Northamptonshire iron foundries and a cast-iron exhibition opened at Abington Museum, Abington Park, Northampton in late September.
- (c) The Group has a leather industry study group, which at present is recording local tanneries which are fast closing down.

Oxfordshire

- (a) A length of broad gauge railway track has now been laid at the Didcot Steam Centre.
- (b) Concern was expressed about the state of North Leigh Windmill.
- (c) The Sub-Committee has been worried about the absence for some years of any County representative from Oxfordshire but we are hopeful that this problem has now been resolved.

BEDFORDSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC BUILDING RESEARCH GROUP - J.M. Bailey

The Group has, this year, made detailed surveys of a large number of buildings.

Bedfordshire

The main parishes in which buildings have been investigated are: Blunham, Cardington, Shillington, Eggington, Sharnbrook, Maulden, Toddington, Thurleigh, Riseley, Pertenhall.

At Blunham Manor House, during extensive repairs following a fire, the frame of a surviving cross wing to the Medieval Hall was exposed. The form of this wing was established and is shown in the reconstruction drawing (Figure 15).

Various barns were investigated in the Cardington region and two more medieval aisled-barns were identified.

Several late 16th/early 17th Century buildings were studied including The Five Bells and other properties in Shillington. Further information was obtained from Green End Farm Pertenhall during re-rendering of the external walls.

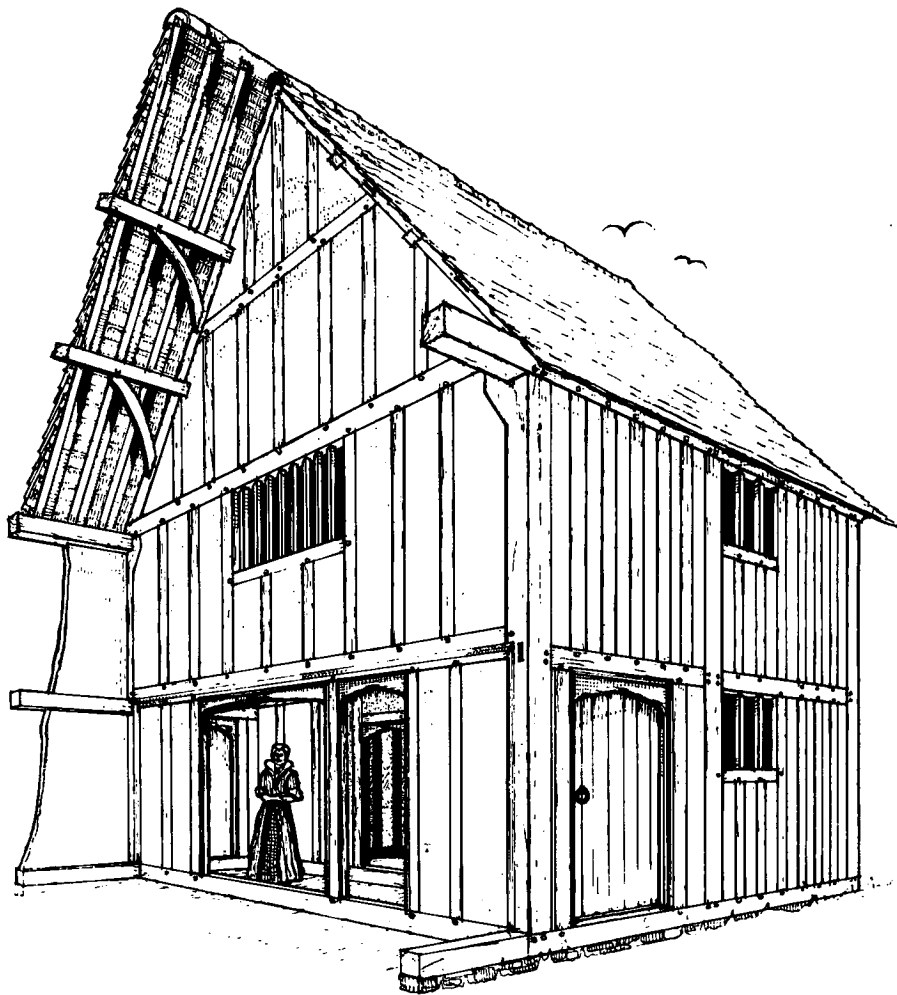
A most interesting roof at Manor Farm, Eggington, was surveyed. Although most of this building has long since been destroyed almost the complete medieval roof survives. This is illustrated in Figure 16. A survey was made of the surviving elements of the medieval bell cage at Sundon Church.

Further work was carried out on the early medieval Aisled Hall at Thurleigh during retiling. Evidence of the framing for the louvre was discovered. The aisles of this building were removed in antiquity but the roof and aisle plates and certain aisle posts survive. A conjectural reconstruction is shown in Figure 17.

Buckinghamshire

Further work was carried out in Long Crendon, in particular making detailed drawings of the Cruck framed buildings. Work in other parishes continues.

BLUNNHAM MANOR. BEDS.



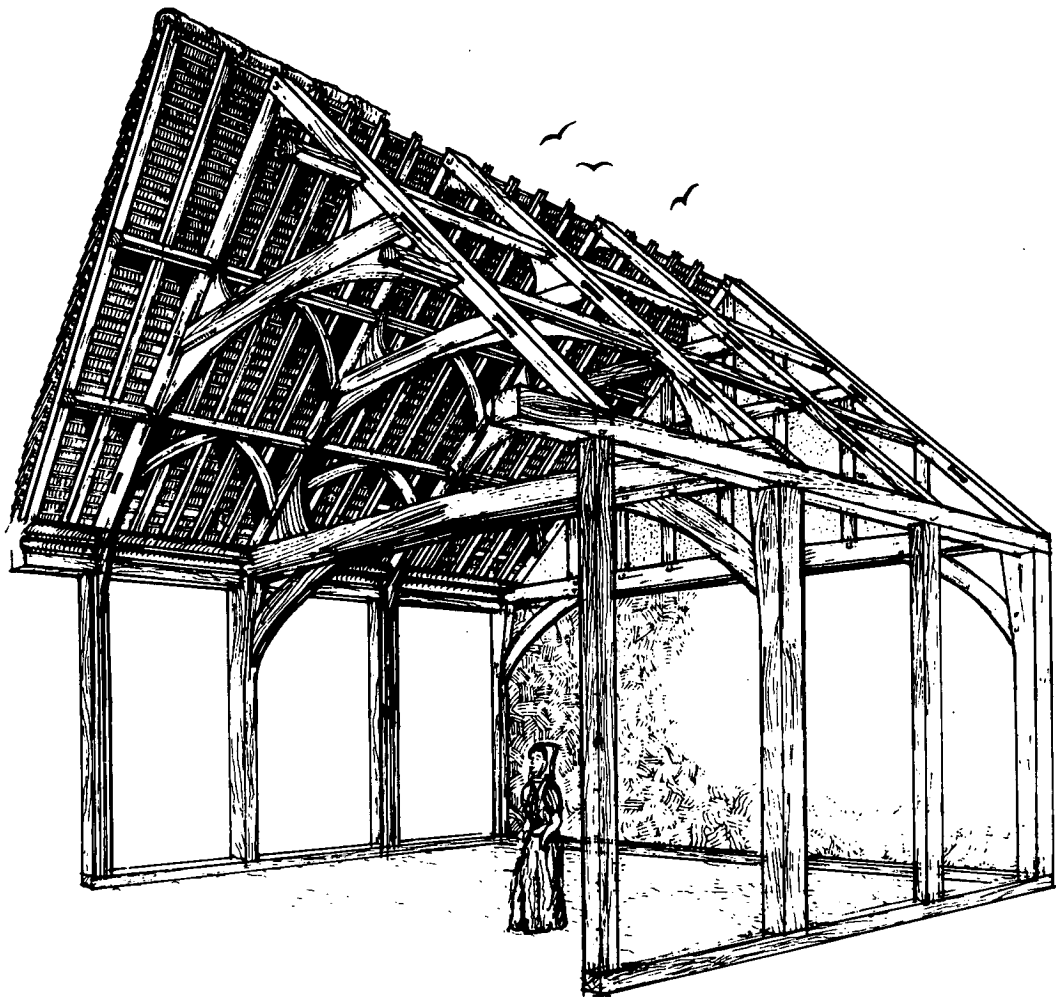
VIEW ON TO FRONT OF WING AND CROSS PASSAGE.

RECONSTRUCTION BASED ON MEASURED SURVEY. JOHN BAILEY, 1900.

FIGURE 15

MANOR FARM,
BEDFORDSHIRE.

EGGINGTON,

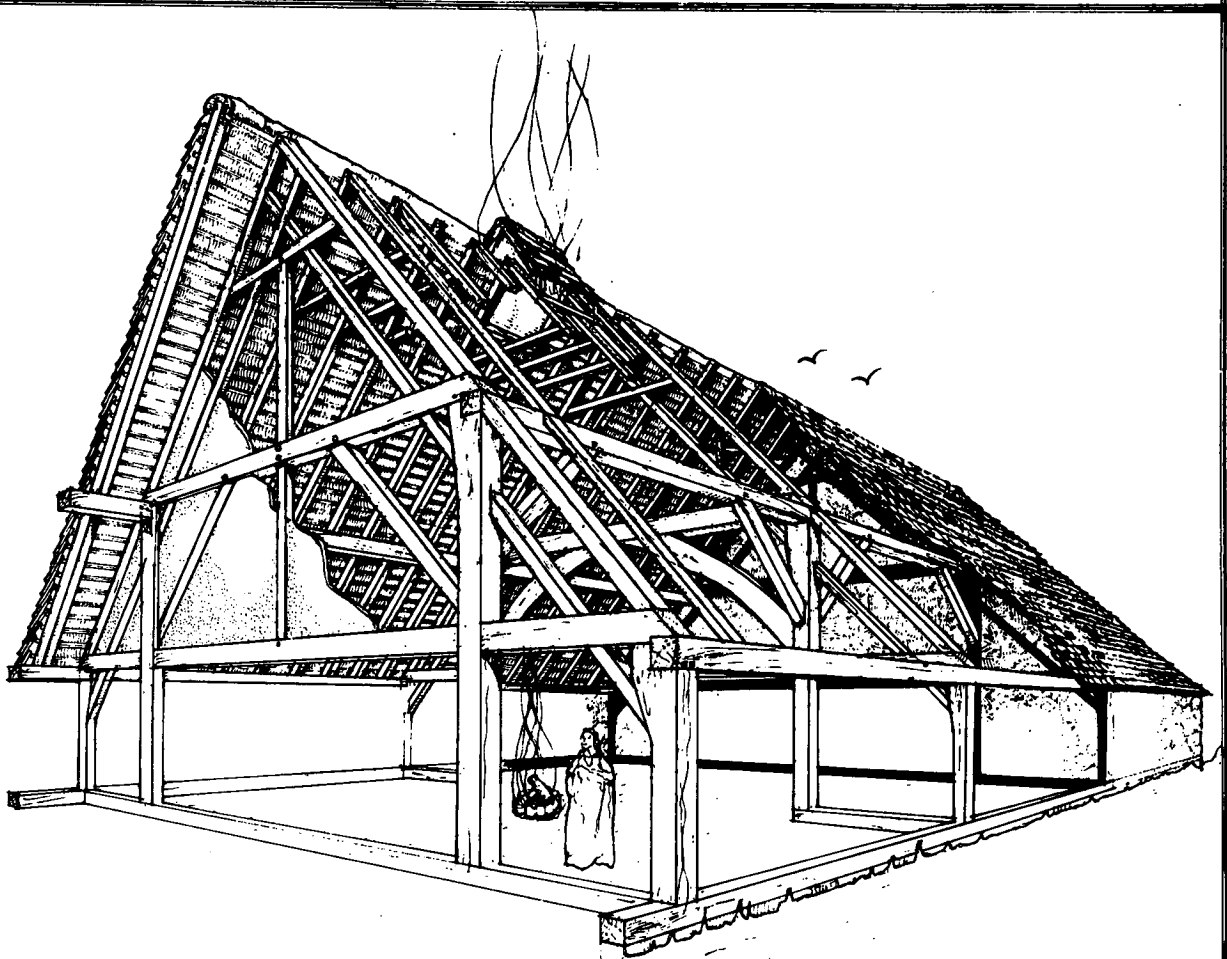


SURVIVING ROOF TO MEDIEVAL HALL.
JOHN P. HENRY, M.A. ET ALII.

1881

FIGURE 16

BLACKBURN HALL, BEDS.



RECONSTRUCTION FROM LOW END
The Aisles, which are destroyed, are shown conjecturally

JOHN RAINY M.A. S. ET AL.

FIGURE 17

Oxfordshire

The Group was invited to make a detailed historical survey of the Chantry House at Henley-on-Thames. A survey is also being carried out of The Birdcage at Thame.

Cambridgeshire

Various buildings have been surveyed.

Hertfordshire

Further work has been carried out in Hitchin.

Dendrochronology

A range of buildings in the region were examined to check the suitability of the timbers for a dendrochronology investigation. Over large areas of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, it was found that the buildings examined had timbers that had been grown in 'good' conditions which gave wide and evenly spaced rings unsuitable for dating purposes. Similar results had been found in Northamptonshire where timber had been grown on clay soils. Certain suitable buildings were found, however, in Thurleigh, Long Crendon, Leighton Buzzard, Shillington and Dunstable among others from which, it is hoped, results will be obtained.

1982

During 1982 it is hoped to reduce the backlog of buildings scheduled to be investigated. It is also planned that many more of the buildings we have surveyed in detail will be published.

OBITUARY: MISS CICELY BAKER

Cicely Baker, who died in September 1980, was brought up in Ceely House, Aylesbury, which she sold on generous terms to the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society in 1944 so that it could provide a much-needed extension to the Museum. She was Honorary Curator of the Museum from 1941 to 1946 and also served the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society as Secretary, Librarian and Archivist for some sixty years. Her great knowledge of Aylesbury was always made readily available and she was in numerous ways a great support to the Museum during her lifetime and a willing help for its staff. She was a personal member of CBA 9 for many years.

MILTON KEYNES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGY 1981 - D. C. Mynard.

INTRODUCTION

The past year has been one of steady progress on a number of post-excavation projects which will come to fruition in publications during the coming year or so. Some old excavation projects have ended their field phase, such as Pennyland and another, the long-term programme to expose and conserve the remains of Bradwell Abbey, has started.

All our activities are regularly reported to the people of Milton Keynes through our free bi-monthly newsletter Milton Keynes Archaeology News.

The public also learn of our work through exhibitions: the shop window in Deer Walk, Central Milton Keynes, has carried displays on medieval floor tiles, Pennyland, Bancroft Villa, and local maps and documents, all of which were seen by many thousands of shoppers in the new shopping centre. A travelling exhibition toured local schools and libraries with information about 1980's excavations. The Sunday afternoon 'Walks in the Park' continued to contain walks of archaeological interest.

Schools continue to call on the resources of the unit, both as a source for pupils and teachers on the local history of the area, and as an aid in teaching archaeology in the classroom.

EXCAVATION

BRADWELL ABBEY (SP 826 396) - R.A. Croft

The aim of the excavation this season was to excavate the area of the western end of the Priory church, in order to confirm the layout of the Priory plan as deduced from the results of the 1968-73 excavations.

This is part of a programme of excavation planned over the next few years to consolidate and display the remains of the Priory to the general public, thus increasing interest in the Abbey site.

Excavations this season examined an area of 240m². In view of the fact that it had been extensively ploughed in this century the upper 0.15m of topsoil was mechanically removed by a Massey Ferguson MF50B, using a toothless ditching bucket.

The trial trenches of the 1969 excavation were not immediately visible after the topsoil had been removed; only after the excavation of the lower plough-disturbed base of the topsoil did they become clear. Their location and re-excavation gave a useful preview of the underlying stratigraphy.

The most recent features discovered on the site were a number of small stake holes, several containing their original stakes. These had been pushed into the underlying layers rather than dug in. The evidence for this was particularly clear on the eastern edge of the site where the stakes were at a variety of angles after being forced through a patch of limestone rubble.

As might be expected, the archaeological evidence for agricultural and garden activity during the nineteenth century was considerable. A number of post holes and small pits were discovered confirming the existence of two fence lines adjacent to the chapel. One fence line ran due east from the south-east corner of the chapel and one fence ran due south from the same corner.

Fragmentary evidence for a post-dissolution building on the site was recovered; it was probably a fairly substantial structure with timber framework set upon brick supports. A total of five supports were recorded suggesting a building at least 4.6m north to south by 4.2m east to west though it is uncertain at this stage that the full extent of the building has been defined. The bricks were all of a standard size (220mm x 110mm) and were set upon a thin bed of lime-based mortar. The building dates from the nineteenth century. No distinctive floor layers or yard surfaces were directly associated with it. A fragmentary layer of pebbles and gravel extended for 6m to the west of the brick supports, but its relationship with the building was unclear. Stratigraphically the levels were very similar.

Below the brick-based building was a thick layer of brown sandy loam (layer 14) which extended from the line of the north wall of the church and covered most of its internal area. The layer contained few stones larger than 0.10m.

The north wall of the church was exposed for a length of 12m east of the chapel, surviving to a height of approximately 0.75m above the church floor level. The upper courses had been disturbed by modern ploughing which meant that the exact stratigraphic relationship of the wall and the upper layers of the site could not be determined.

The deposition of layer 14 could be interpreted as a deliberate attempt to level up the site and to landscape the remaining walls into a positive garden feature. The almost total absence of large pieces of stone might suggest that the layer had been deliberately sorted or it had been redeposited from some other area in the vicinity of the church. Activities which would produce this amount of soil are few. The most likely explanation of the removal and redeposition of soil on such a large scale is the digging of such features as ponds or substantial ditches. Two fishponds at Bradwell Abbey are thought to be post-medieval in date, in particular the pond 35m to the north west of the chapel. However, the extremely sandy nature of this deposit suggests that it came in part from decayed mortar from the Priory buildings.

The artefacts associated with layer 14 would suggest that it accumulated in a short period of time. Much of the material was residual tile fragments, oyster shells, lead cames, mortar and plaster lumps, and medieval window glass.

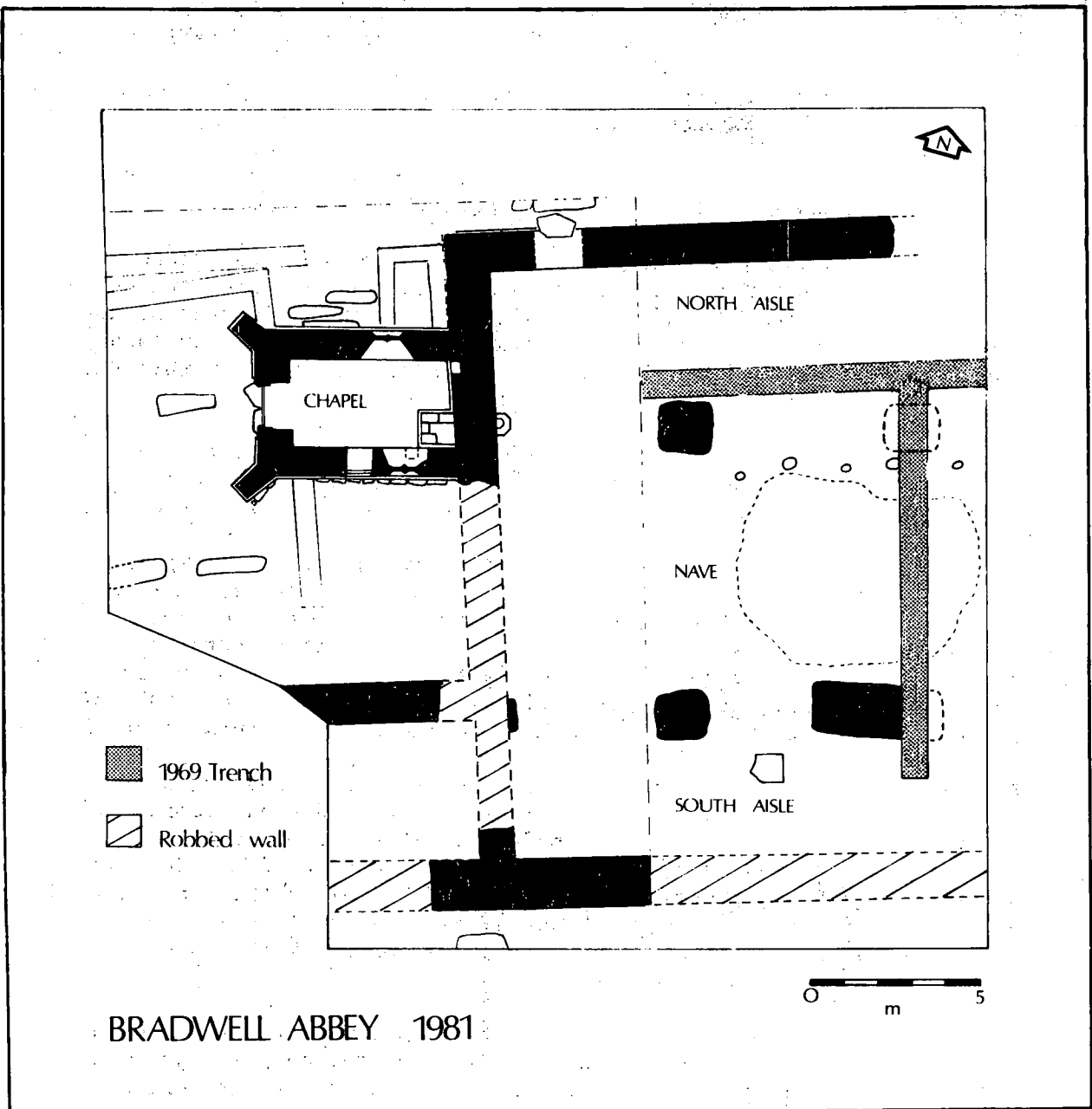


FIGURE 18

Bradwell Abbey: west end of priory church

The layers below context 14 were largely of a similar nature being mainly sandy brown loam, the colour somewhere in the region of 10YR.5/8, but soil colour varied considerably over a very small area.

Features visible below layer 14 were fragmentary. No single layer could be followed throughout the interior of the church. Patches of lime based mortar may have indicated areas of flooring, but were more likely to have been areas of redeposited mortar, because they were within a mixed matrix of clayey loam with tile fragments.

A solid clay floor 0.10m thick was visible within the trial trench of the 1969 excavations. No traces of a mortar bed or tile impressions were noticed on this floor, which was central to the main area of the nave. In this position it may have represented a deliberately laid clay floor perhaps marking the position of a central aisle within the nave. Further excavation may clarify this.

The destruction of the church was evidenced by large quantities of melted lead and window comes found above the clay floor. Several large fragments of painted window glass were associated with the lead.

Several features could be shown to be stratigraphically contemporary with the layer containing the melted lead and window comes. A large pit 1.60m wide and 0.34m deep contained several fragments of post-medieval pottery and a sixteenth century token. This feature was interpreted as the robbed out remains of the westernmost column base of the south arcade, its position being 4.5m east of the west wall of the church. The column base would have rested on the natural bedrock.

At a distance of 6.0m (centre to centre) east of this feature was a large pit 3.5m east to west, 1.5m north to south and 0.94m deep, slightly cutting into the natural bedrock. It had been partially sectioned by the 1969 trial trench and was not excavated any further. The trial trench was completely re-excavated revealing the section and filling of this feature which was a fairly stone free light-brown loamy soil. Presumably the robbing pit of another column base it clearly cut through the central clay floor.

The discovery of a column base pit to correspond with the fourteenth century respond visible on the east end wall of the chapel confirmed the position of the north arcade of the nave. This pit was full of an homogenous light-brown soil suggesting that the upper layers filling the church were contemporary with the robbing of the columns. The homogenous nature of the light brown sandy soil within the church and in the features made the latter less easy to define. Traces of a similar depression or shallow pit were visible within the 1969 trial trench some 5.0m east of context. This feature was not excavated. A large slab of limestone 1.00m x 0.80m laid on, or contemporary with the patchy mortar floor, was discovered 7.0m east of the west wall of the church. This may represent a grave marker in situ in the south aisle of the Priory church, but awaits next year's excavation.

One aim of this year's season was to excavate and interpret the latest phase plan of the priory church. With the exception of several homogenous layers or lenses of possible mortar floor, no features other than those already described were associated with the last stage of the priory church.

The southern arm of the 1969 trial trench revealed the position of the limestone bedrock and showed up traces of a possible wall running east to west within the trench. With only a short length of wall exposed it was impossible to attempt to interpret the feature in relation to the exposed priory plan. It is assumed that it is a wall from an earlier phase of the priory church. Further excavation within the nave of the church will confirm its alignment.

The south wall of the church had been extensively robbed. Its position and alignment has been shown by earlier excavations. The line of a robber trench of this wall was just visible after weathering of the site.

One feature 1.20m east-west and 0.30m north-south was discovered on the southern side of the site. It was composed of a thick layer of lime mortar which appeared to have set in situ within a hole in the ground. It was post-medieval in date and is tentatively interpreted as the remains of a lime mortar mixing pit. The feature continued southwards into the baulk.

Artefacts recovered from the excavation this year were fairly few in number. A large amount of roof tile fragments were recorded by weight per context. The fragments were not kept because of storage problems.

A number of medieval floor-tile fragments of Little Brickhill and Penn types were recovered. These tiles match the general patterns known in earlier excavations and which survive in situ in the chapel.

One of the most common finds this year was window glass, both painted and unpainted, which when measured represented a window area of 0.157m². A particularly interesting fragment of window glass was painted with an inscription which probably read JESUS NA(ZARENUS REX JUDE) ORUM. (The part discovered is within the brackets).

Numerous small bronze objects such as pins and thimbles and a large quantity of lead window cames formed the basis of the small finds. Coin finds were few with two medieval pennies and one early seventeenth century token. The find of the token was particularly significant because it was stratified within the upper fill of the robbing pit of the south aisle. Pottery finds on the site were very slight. A number of post-medieval sherds were recovered from the upper layers of the site, but residual medieval sherds were few in number.

One object of particular local interest was a small silver gilt object 16mm long in the form of a crowned lombardic T of a fourteenth century type, discovered in the backfilling of the 1969 trial trench. It has been provisionally interpreted as a small pilgrim badge.

CALDECOTTE WATER MILL (SP 8904 3499) - M.R. Petchey.

It was obvious from last year's excavation of Caldecotte water mill that it would not be complete without an examination of the landward part of the structure, which would have contained the miller's house. It proved to be of two phases, just as the wheel structure excavated last year. The second phase was a major rebuild of the first on approximately the same lines, once again as had been the case with the second phase of the wheel structure.

It is therefore safe to equate the two phases in the two structures, despite the fact that there was no stratigraphical connection, the two parts being separated by the bank of the stream.

The ground floor level of the landward part of the mill was approximately 2m above water level, and was presumably carried on over the stream as the first floor of the wheel structure, the level of the mill machinery.

The buildings continued the line of the stub walls leading west from the wheel structure, to form a building 8.5m by 5.5m. The first building had ironstone footings in a shallow construction trench, with a cross-wall 1.5m from the west end. On the south side was a pebble yard, and finds from this suggest a date of the last half, probably the last quarter, of the seventeenth century for the first phase (previously undated).

Every other facet of this phase had been destroyed by the construction of the second. The footing trenches for the walls were even robbed of almost all their stone - only a few remained to indicate what had gone. The re-used oak timbers in the second-phase wheel structure may be from this earlier building, but that cannot be proved, of course.

The robbed footing trenches were filled with, and the entire area of the building covered by, a layer containing much brick and mortar rubble. It was this layer that enables us to define the area of the second phase, for twentieth century ploughing had cut across and destroyed three-quarters of the building, which survived to floor level only in the unploughed headland at the edge of the field. Here it was clear that timber sill beams at ground level had rested on rubble along the line of the former footing trench. Inside was the mortar bed for a tile floor, the tiles leaving clear impressions.

To the south the earlier phase yard had been repaired and a new surface of large pebbles laid. On the north side was a brick wall, revetting the end of a ditch which ran off north, perhaps a drain leading into the mill pond.

In neither phase therefore is the building a complex one, in keeping with the simple wheel structure we discovered last year, and not essentially very different from the reconstruction published last year (Milton Keynes Archaeology News, February 1981).

It is hoped to publish a final report on the site in Post Medieval Archaeology.

LITTLE WOOLSTONE (SP8665 3945) - R.J. Zeepvat.

This site is located in the area of the future City Park to the north of Childs Way (H6), overlooking the Grand Union Canal. It was trial trenched by machine in June 1981; excavations proper followed in August. It was first identified in 1967 by R.W. Griffiths as an extensive scatter of Roman pottery and tiles. More recent field-walking by R.J. Williams helped to define the extent of the scatter. The site is at present partly under plough, partly pasture, the latter having existed on a few years. The site has been under plough since

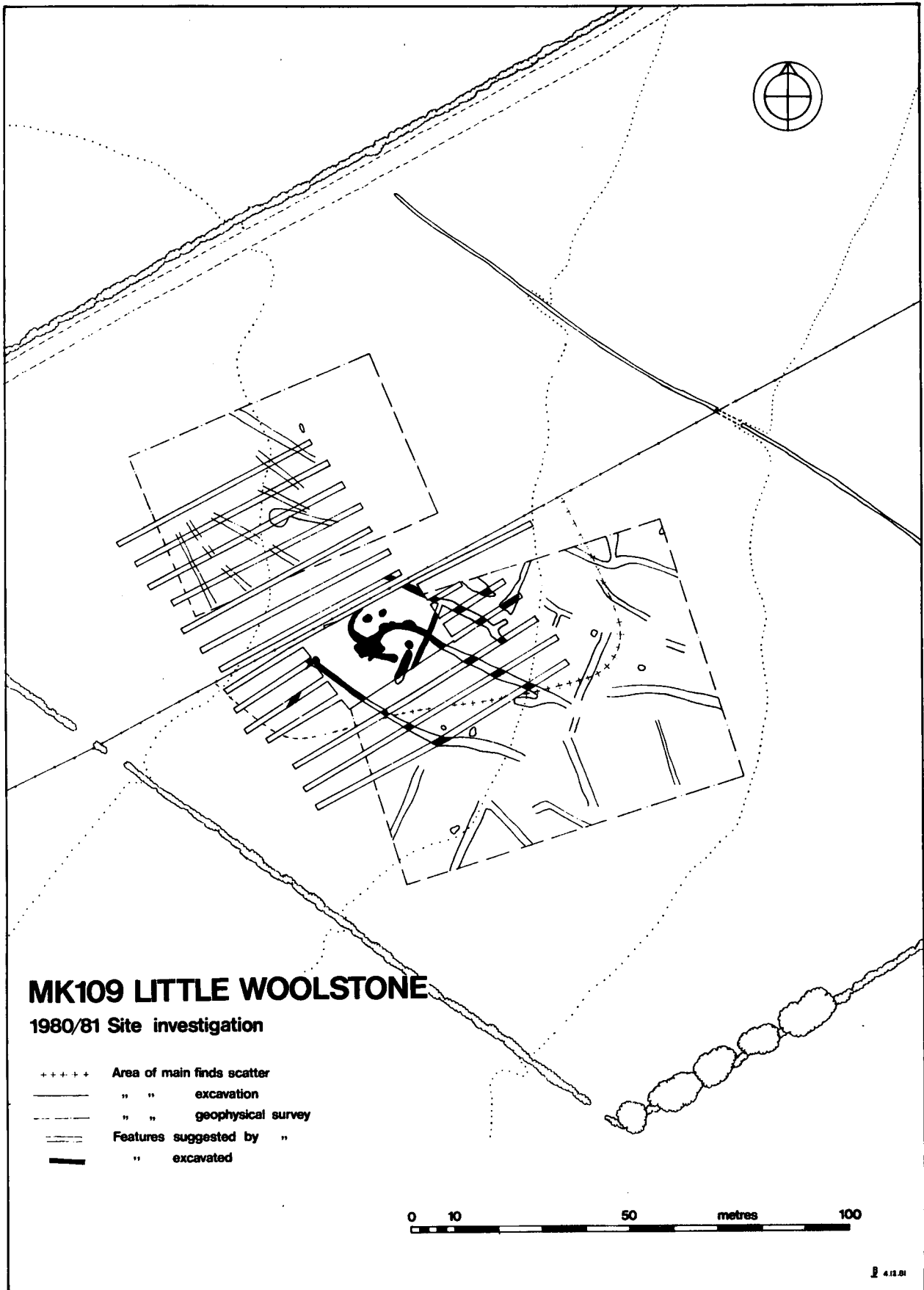


FIGURE 19
Little Woolstone: investigations 1980-81

the medieval period, and traces of ridge and furrow can still be seen running down the slope on a north-west south-east alignment.

In 1980 a geophysical survey of the site was undertaken by Ian McIntyre, a postgraduate student from Bradford University, using both magnetometer and resistivity techniques. Analysis of the survey results suggested a number of pronounced linear features running NW-SE, plus a few features aligned NE-SW, and some possible pits or similar features. There was also some suggestion of a rubble scatter such as one might expect from a plough-damaged stone structure. Indications from the survey and results of fieldwalking were thus that excavation might reveal the remains of a stone structure with associated field boundaries, and perhaps outbuildings, as well as providing data to assist in the development of geophysical survey techniques.

Because of the extent of the site, machine trial trenching was initially undertaken in the surveyed areas, in order to locate any structures before topsoil stripping took place. Using an MF50B excavator with a toothless bucket a series of trenches were cut at four to five metre intervals, aligned ENE-WSW across the two geophysically surveyed areas, covering a total area of some 60m x 80m, split equally between pasture and ploughed areas. In the former areas, the only features noted, except in the southernmost trench, proved to be medieval plough furrows. Finds were also very sparse in this area.

In contrast to this, trenches cut in the ploughed area produced quantities of pottery spanning the full extent of the Roman period, as well as tile and a coin of Constantine (317-24). A number of features were noted, concentrated in an area close to the boundary between grass and ploughed fields, as well as continuations of the medieval furrows mentioned above.

Accordingly, an area of about 20m x 30m was stripped to reveal the group of features which evidently lay at the centre of the finds scatter. Excavation of this area was almost total, and a number of features in adjacent trenches were also excavated. On completion of the excavations, the site was backfilled to allow cultivation to be resumed.

The earliest features uncovered by the excavation were a group of four early first century pits, each about 1.25m in diameter, and varying in depth from 200-550mm. Each contained a dark organic fill, and almost complete examples of Belgic pots were found in two of them. One shallow ditch aligned NW-SE across the SW corner of the site, was also of early first century date.

Superimposed on these were a number of ditches, aligned mainly NE-SW, and also NW-SE, containing pottery of a predominantly late first-second century date, with some residual material. The first phase of activity on the site was marked by a large amorphous pit in the centre of the site, and a ditch leading from its east side, then coming southwards down the slope. Both features produced a quantity of animal bone and predominantly fourth century pottery. In the pit, which was waterlogged during much of the excavation, and retained a 100mm depth of water after excavation, was found a coin of Constantine I (317-24). Despite the presence of possible Saxon pottery

in fieldwalking finds from the site, activity seems to have ceased between the end of the Roman period and the appearance of ridge and furrow ploughing in the medieval period.

The pattern which therefore presents itself at Woolstone is one of a hillslope covered with a rectilinear network of ditches, probably forming a sequence of field boundaries which remained in use from before the Conquest to the end of the Roman period. Despite the abundant occupation refuse recovered from the excavation, no trace of structural evidence was recovered, though the concentration of finds in the excavated area suggests the immediate presence of a settlement. It is interesting to note the close correspondence between Roman and medieval field alignments, though this could be accounted for by the topography, and not by any continued use of land boundaries.

Finally, one of the most interesting aspects of the work at Woolstone has been the opportunity to compare both destructive and non-destructive methods of site examination. The features recorded by the geophysical survey corresponded very closely with those excavated, though certain geological features, such as the Boulder Clay subsoil, can be seen as being responsible for apparent anomalies on the survey. From our experience at Woolstone, it would seem that extensive geophysical surveying and gridded fieldwalking coupled with limited excavation could be of value on similar sites - an interesting and potentially useful consideration in these days of financial stringency.

PENNYLAND (SP862 411) - R.J. Williams

The third and final excavation season on the Pennyland Iron Age and Saxon settlements took place over a period of three months from April to June. Despite several initial setbacks from inclement weather conditions (at one time almost half of the site was flooded), over 8,000m² were stripped of topsoil by a combination of contractor's and hired plant. A further 1,500m² were stripped but unexcavated.

The total site area now excavated is approximately 20,000m² (2 hectares) and the total observed stripped area about 65,000m² (6.5 hectares).

The major objective of the 1981 season, linked to the start of the new housing development on the remaining part of the site, was the definition of the easterly limit of both Iron Age and Saxon settlements.

This was accomplished with a good deal of success, although over much of the area a clayey subsoil was encountered with an irregular spread of periglacial features, making the definition and excavation of the more ephemeral features difficult.

The previous two years' work was summarized in CBA9 Newsletter 10, p.64-73 and 11, p.52-6, and is included in the plan.

Iron Age

Iron Age occupation evidence, as expected, extended across the eastern part of the area. The density of features decreased markedly as the ground dropped away to the east at the edge of the low spur overlooking the Ouzel valley. The change of topography also coincides with the

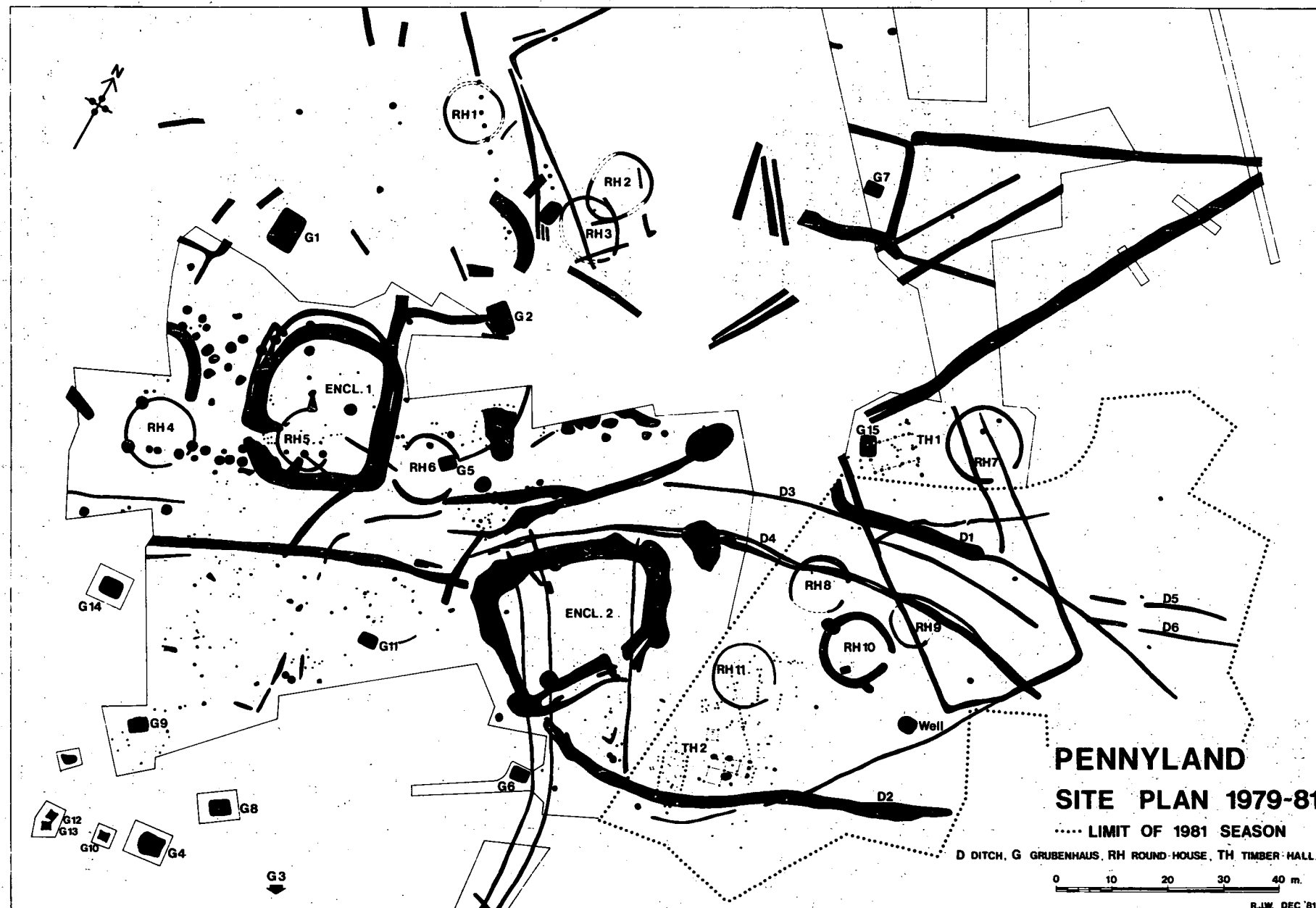


FIGURE 20

change from gravel and head deposits to a clayier subsoil.

Clearly the topography and geology, as would be expected, are significant factors in defining the area suitable for human settlement at both periods.

Four further pennanular house drainage gullies were excavated, none of which contained any surviving internal structures.

Roundhouse 8 had an internal diameter of 9.50m-10.00m and an entrance 3.40m wide on the east side. The depth of the gully varied considerably from 0.60m at its deepest on the north side but petered out completely on its southern side.

The relationship to the recut ditch D4 cutting across the northern part of the building was never established, although an absence of a greater density of finds in the ditches within the structure may suggest they were secondary.

Roundhouse 9 only survived as a short arc with a projected internal diameter of 7.50m-8.00m and bore a similar relationship to Ditch 4 as Roundhouse 8.

Roundhouse 10 had an internal diameter of 10.50m but differed from all the other excavated examples in its unusual depth, having survived in places to 0.85m deep. Large drainage gullies can often be accounted for by frequent recutting, although in this case only one partial recut was visible.

The base of the gully had been dug into the impermeable clay beneath the gravel and was found to hold water throughout the summer. The only internal feature was a rectangular clay lined pit 1.60m x 1.10m and 0.50m deep, which contained layers of potboilers and had been relined several times. The primary deposit contained three articulated horse legs. Contemporaneity or otherwise with the enclosing building is difficult to establish although at the time of writing the pit is felt to be later.

Roundhouse 11 had an internal diameter of 10.50m and although complete was relatively shallow. A number of internal post-holes were excavated, most of which are thought to be of Saxon date.

This group of four roundhouses and possibly also number seven, forms a distinct group broadly clustered around number 10. An assessment of the relationship other than in spatial terms is difficult. Some element of social status may be implied by the size and depth of its surrounding ditch with the four 'satellite' buildings grouped around this central focus.

The four buildings were not enclosed, although two medium sized 'V' shaped ditches D1 and D2 to the north and south of the group may have acted as a barrier to wandering stock. Both ditches terminated to the east leaving an unenclosed strip 45m wide which may have been filled with a thorn hedge.

Ditches D3 and D4 ranged from 8m to 16m apart and may represent a ditched driveway funnelling into the centre of the Iron Age settlement from the east.

Three four-post Iron Age structures were recognised amongst the mass of Saxon post holes to the south of Roundhouse 11. Three small grain storage pits were also excavated in the immediate area. The bulk of the storage pits had previously been found clustered around the entrance to Enclosure 1. The absence of any numbers of them in an area of the site where the water table is considerably higher may support the theory that the four post settings were the bases of above-ground granaries, since winter seed grain storage is an unavoidable circumstance of a subsistence economy.

The only other excavated Iron Age feature of consequence was a large pit c.4m across dug into solid clay which may have been a watering hole for stock outside the settlement. The pit was located 50m to the north-west of Roundhouse 10.

Saxon

Twelve grubenhauser and three four-post sunken structures had previously been excavated in the 1979-80 seasons. No further examples were found on the eastern side of the settlement. The most plausible explanation is that an impermeable clay is unsuitable for below-ground activity.

The post-built structure TH1 was found to have been enclosed within a rectangular ditched enclosure 25m x 48m +, the north-west end not having been found.

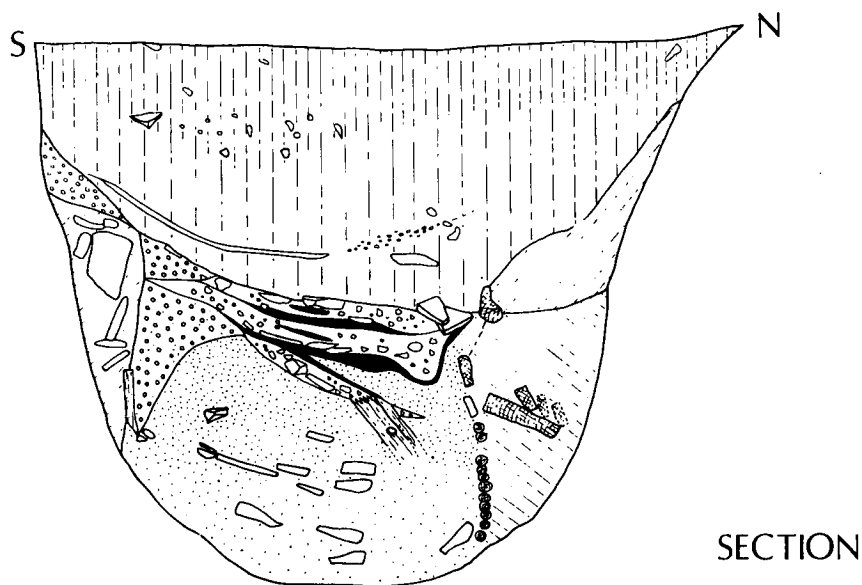
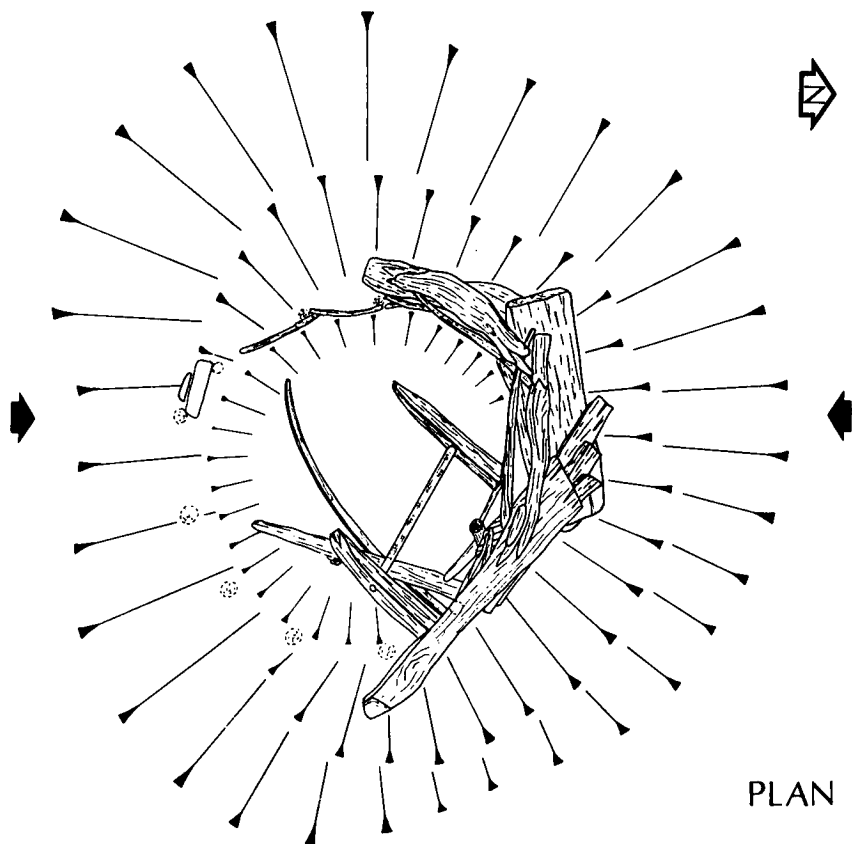
The most significant and indeed time-consuming Saxon discovery was a waterlogged wattle and timber-lined well. Two other possible wells have previously been located but circumstances precluded proper excavation.

The well was relatively shallow, only 1.90m deep, the top having formed a weathering cone 2.80m across, much of the clay from the sides having slumped along fissure planes in the subsoil. The original circular well shaft 1.40m diameter had been constructed of sharpened upright stakes driven in at c.0.60m intervals with simple interwoven wattle between them. This had survived to a height of 0.50m on the north-west side. Only the bases of the upright stakes had been preserved on the southern side. The well shaft had not been constructed centrally within the pit but was some distance off centre to the south. The intervening area on the north side had been patched and strengthened with large, mainly reused, baulks of timber and planking. This may have formed a narrow platform two-thirds of the way down the well, although the implications of this interpretation are still being considered.

Finds from the well silt were minimal even though the whole deposit was wet sieved and partially floated. The most unexpected find was the base of a wooden ladder, leaning away from the well lining. Unfortunately only one rung had survived. The staves had been squared and the holes for the rung bored. The rung width of 0.50m was very wide for its size and the survival of the bark indicates very little, if any, use, having been beneath the water level.

All the timbers were carefully recorded and lifted and are now held in store for future conservation. Work is in progress on their identification, most of the larger timbers having been recognised as

PENNYLAND ~ SAXON WELL



R.J.W. DEC. '81

FIGURE 21: Pennyland: plan and setion of Saxon well

oak. Carbon-14 and dendrochronological determinations are to be made and extensive flotation samples should provide considerable botanical information.

Wells of this type and construction are not uncommon in the Saxon period. Another ladder of Saxon date was found in a similar seventh-century well at Odell, Beds.

The location of the well some distance from any buildings and the focus of the settlement is not surprising when the geology is taken into consideration. Had the well been sited much further west it would have had to have been much deeper to tap the groundwater in the sand and gravels.

Several hundred post-holes were excavated in the south-western part of the site, only a small percentage of which contained diagnostic pottery, but most of which are considered to be of Saxon date. The plan of one definite post-built structure was discernible and a 17m length of post-built fence roughly parallel with the rectangular ditched enclosure was also located.

The dimensions of the building are c.9.00m+ by 4.50m. The southern end was difficult to determine as it had been dug into an Iron Age ditch. Very shallow internal posts may represent a single partition and simple ridge props. Two post-holes contained the shadows of double plank uprights which would have clasped horizontal wall timbers.

A shallow ditched driveway c.4m wide and traced for a distance of 27m was found running towards the settlement from the east. The relationship of this to the rectangular enclosure was not determined and no break for an entrance was located.

The Iron Age ceramics are of one cultural tradition, but whether of Early or Middle Iron Age date has yet to be determined as there is a lack of closely dated analogies in the area.

Preliminary analysis of the finds from the grubenhauser indicate that several may be of very early Saxon date. The carbon-14 determinations should clarify the matter. Only a tiny percentage of what may be termed Middle Saxon wares were found, although pottery associated with the first post-built structure, TH1 (fig.21) shows a distinct trend towards Middle Saxon forms.

All specialist reports are now under way and the botanical and faunal reports should add immensely to the study of the little-known Saxon economy in particular in the region. There are over 14,000 bone fragments.

STANTONBURY (SP844 413) - R.J. Zeepvat

Excavation continued at Stantonbury in June/August 1981 on the site discovered in 1975 (CBA9 Newsletter 6, 1976 p.41 and 11, 1981, p.16). The work was undertaken as a joint project between the Unit and the schools of Stantonbury Campus, involving this year a group of fourth-formers, for whom the excavation was a part of their history syllabus.

Following the results of the 1980 excavations an area approximately

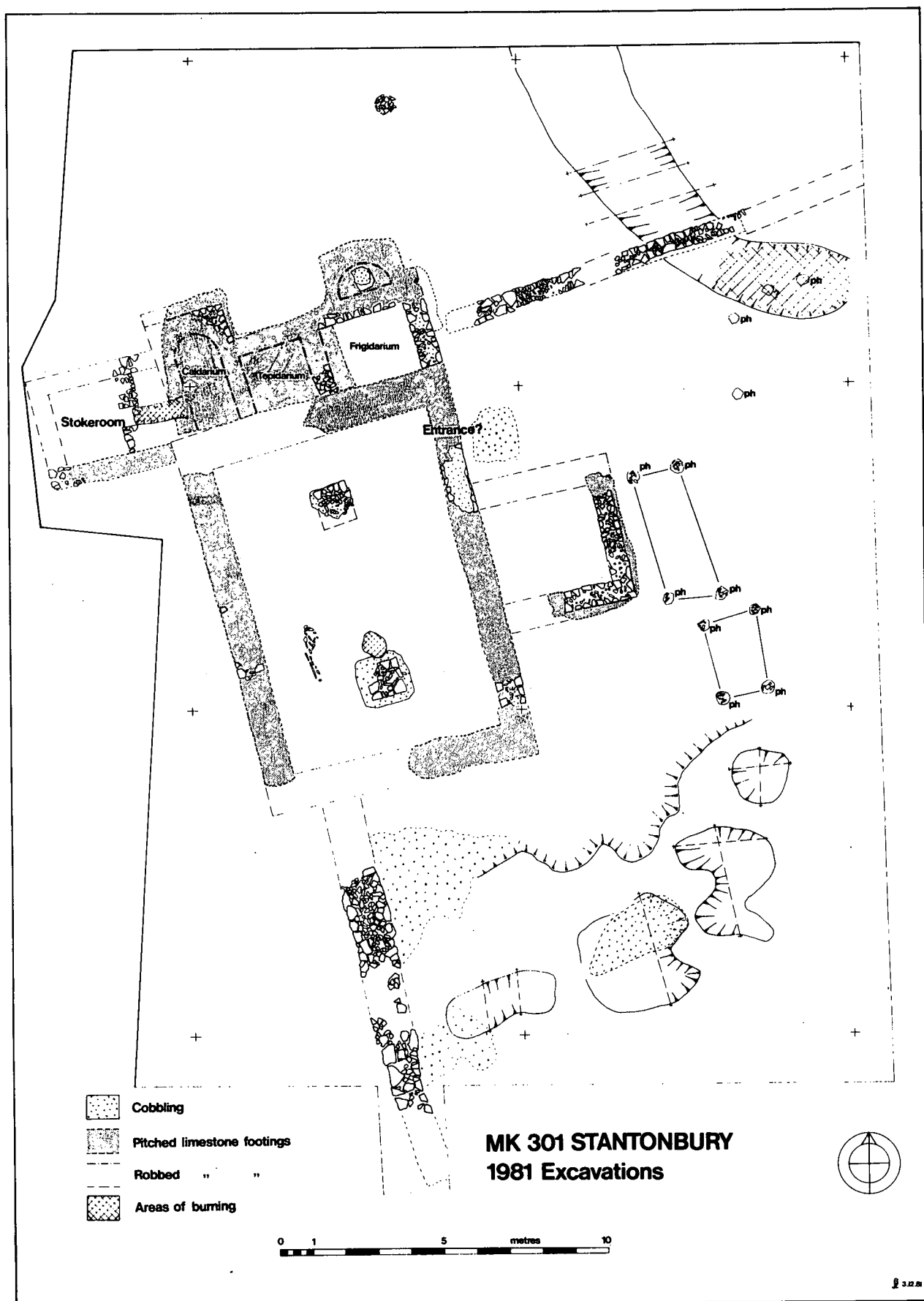


FIGURE 22: Stantonbury: plan of Roman building

24m x 32m was cleared of backfill from the 1975/80 excavations, using a Massey Ferguson MF50B and dumpers. The primary objective for the following two weeks was to establish the plan of any surviving structures. Detailed excavation of the bath house was also commenced by the students. For the next five weeks, regular volunteers took over and examination of features outside the stone structures was initiated. By the end of the excavation the area opened was almost totally excavated.

A single stone structure measuring 16m x 11.5m overall was uncovered. This had been heavily damaged by stone robbing, ploughing, and the site stripping activities that led to its discovery in 1975, so that little more than the foundations survived. These were however sufficient to show that the structure consisted of three main elements; a central core, possibly the original structure, and two extensions, one being the bath suite previously mentioned.

The original structure on the site consisted of a simple rectangle measuring 6.5m x 10m internally, aligned N-S. The walls of this structure were massive, consisting of mortared limestone 800mm wide on a pitched limestone footing, suggesting the existence of two stories. Internally, no traces of floor survived. Two masonry piers, each 1m square, situated on the N-S axis of the building, 1.5m from the end walls, have not yet been successfully explained. A spread of mortar covering much of the internal area, including the southern pier, contained much evidence of burning, including some slag, suggesting an industrial function for the building in the late fourth-early fifth century.

The first of the two additions to the structure consisted of a single room extension 3m x 3.5m added to the east side of the original building, aligned with the internal piers. The walls of this room, founded on packed limestone footings, were 600mm in width, suggesting a single storey. Internally, no evidence of flooring survived.

The second extension to the building was the bath suite, identified in 1980. This measured 8m x 4m overall, with a stoker room 2.5m x 3m added to its west end. The frigidarium measured 2.5m x 3m with a cold bath about 1.6m in diameter on its north side. The area occupied by the tepidarium and caldarium survived as an L-shaped 'raft' of pitched stone and mortar, which served as a base for the hypocaust system as well as the walls, all of which had been robbed completely.

Outside the building, much of the surviving archaeological evidence was confined to an area south and east of the structure by two stone boundary walls. The first of these, starting from the east end of the bath suite, ran eastwards for a distance of at least 18m and consisted of alternative courses of pitched stone and slabs. The second, starting 2m from the south-west corner of the main structure, was traced 8.5m southwards. This latter wall was constructed of dry stone coursing, and was exceptionally wide, measuring 1.2m.

Within the limits set by these walls were two distinct groups of features. To the south of the building were a number of amorphous shallow depressions cut in the clay subsoil. These had apparently been allowed to silt up, after which the area was surfaced with rubble, and a few patches of pitched limestone, forming a rough yard surface.

The area to the east of the building, by contrast, was relatively free of stone, except for a rectangular patch of packed rubble adjacent to the east wall, probably marking the entrance. A number of post holes were found in this area, though these did not form any really convincing alignment.

One more definite feature, a ditch, was noted, cutting across the north-east corner of the site. This was about 2m in width, and had a maximum depth of 500mm, with a shallow 'V' cross-section. This predated one of the boundary walls, which was built across it, and dated to the first-second centuries AD.

From the above evidence, it seems reasonable to suppose that this structure and associated features formed the nucleus of a Romanised native farm. What is however less certain is the form that such a structure would have taken: whilst the bath suite and east extension present no problems, the substantially built rectangular core, with its internal piers, is as yet without parallel in Roman Britain, though further researches may suggest a function for the pier bases.

Pottery evidence from the site suggests that the house was built in the late second century. Finds from the surrounding pits and post holes were also second century, but earlier, while material from the remaining destruction layers was mainly post-350 AD. This is similar to the occupation dates obtained for the nearby Romanised farmstead at Wymbush excavated in 1979.

Excavation is programmed to continue at Stantonbury in 1982, concentrating on areas to the south and east of the site described above, where it is likely that there may be further outbuildings and other external features. The future of the site is also at present under consideration. The site is not threatened with development, though the Campus would like to see this part of their grounds, derelict since 1975, cleared up and made usable. A scheme to reconstruct the walls of the building to a height of about 300mm above ground level and landscape the surrounding area is at present under consideration.

FIELDWORK - R.J. Williams

Fieldwork this year has been shared with an increased excavation and post-excavation commitment. The decimation of the rental housing programme has meant that fewer extensive areas are opened up for investigation and the proliferation of very small developments by their very nature rarely produces meaningful archaeological information other than stray finds. A number of minor finds have been made throughout the year, only a few of which are worthy of reporting. Fieldwork in the latter part of the year has been dominated by the start of a two-year construction project on a balancing lake covering over 50 hectares at Caldecotte in the south-east part of the city.

Perhaps the most significant finds of the year have been a number of hitherto unrecorded coin types in the area. In March, Arthur Eisner of the Bedfordshire Historical Search Society (a metal detector club), detecting with Development Corporation permission on the Downs Barn grid square, discovered a gold quarter-stater of Cunobelin. The coin is the relatively common type depicting an ear of wheat on the obverse and a rampant horse on the reverse. Only two other Belgic

coins, both bronze quarter-staters of Tasciovanus and minted at Verulamium, have previously been found in Milton Keynes, both on the sites of Roman buildings, at Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, and Bancroft Villa, respectively. Several other coins of Tasciovanus have been reported from Haversham and Olney and a hoard of uninscribed gold staters was found in 1849 on Whaddon Chase. Another metal detector find of equal importance is that of a silver-coated bronze contemporary forgery of a silver styca, issued in the first half of the 8th century and inscribed 'WIGRAED' in runic script. The coin was found by John Adams at Old Wolverton and is the first coin of the Saxon period from Milton Keynes.

Even more recently a hammer cross type silver penny of Edward the Confessor, minted at Hastings, was found by B.M. Beharell in Linford Wood. A number of other coins and metal objects including several medieval silver pennies have also been donated to the museum collection by local metal detector users.

A slightly more intriguing discovery is that of a complete bellarmine jug reported from Bletchley found in a back garden whilst digging a shallow trench. A visit to the find spot failed to locate any associated material.

The extensive topsoil stripping work on the Caldecotte Lake project, although not completed - the wet weather has held up work for the winter - has produced a number of worked flints, which were only to be expected on the riverside gravels. A number of medieval and post-medieval earthworks have been obliterated including several fish ponds and rabbit warrens. Unfortunately the size of the machinery used makes anything other than very basic recording impossible.

The most important discovery as a result of the lake has been a small late Iron Age, Roman and Early Saxon site near Simpson, SP8843 3569, adjacent to the medieval manor earthworks. Work on this site has taken two distinct forms.

Only a very small part of the site has been adequately stripped revealing a complex of archaeological features, but most of the surrounding area retained a spread of topsoil. It was decided to implement the Corporation's new policy on metal detecting on its land and the Newport Pagnell group was invited to detect over the suspected area of the site. All finds were three dimensionally recorded even though most, if not all, were considered to be from the plough-disturbed horizon. They include fifteen Roman bronze coins ranging from 1st to 4th century date, an early bronze fibula and numerous other iron and lead objects. Two bronze crotals (horse harness bells) with the initials AG cast on the base and probably of 17th or 18th century date were also found nearby. Certainly the most significant single find was the head of a small bronze Early Saxon longbrooch of a known East Midlands type in a cruciform style,

The discovery of the brooch along with the identification of a number of Saxon post holes nearby was considered cause enough to investigate the site further before it was destroyed and more of the area has been cleared of its topsoil. Work is currently in progress (December 1981) on excavating and recording the features which are mostly of the ultimate pre-Roman Iron Age to early Roman date. Although more Saxon

post holes were uncovered and the presence of a post built structure is likely no firm plan is yet discernible.

The site, though not of major significance, has played an important part in fostering and developing the relationship between the metal detector user and the archaeologist.

Even before work actually began on the Caldecotte Lake project, Alan Cox of Digby Woods Consulting Engineers reported having seen a number of waterlogged timbers in the bank of the river Ouzel opposite the scheduled ancient monument at Simpson. Closer inspection revealed two brick-built piers and a number of large oak timbers protruding from the river bank at SP8850 3596. Limited cleaning of the brick structure has shown it to be either the base of a bridge or a small riverside wharf of probable 18th century date related to the now demolished Simpson Manor House. The nearby larger oak timbers relate to a former silted up leet leading from the main river channel to a smaller secondary water course to the east. The form and position of the preserved visible timbers suggests the presence of a collapsed sluice gate with the sill structure still intact. The most feasible explanation for such a structure is that it was used to control the flow of water to a nearby water mill which is known to have existed in the area. Dating of the sluice gate is purely hypothetical but is perhaps most likely to be of 16th to 18th century date. No written or cartographic evidence has been found for either structure. The future of both are in some doubt as the new river channel for the balancing lake passes dangerously close and some damage may be unavoidable.

The above discussion clearly indicates how much of a part the non-professional, and the metal detector users in particular, have played in the year's work. Certainly some may see the use of the latter as somewhat contentious and indeed a denial of archaeological values. The evidence must speak for itself.

It can only be hoped that in a time of financial stringency amateur involvement will increase and that metal detector users can, with professional supervision, be steered towards aiding archaeologists where appropriate, particularly in rescue and salvage situations.

VILLAGE SURVEY - R.A. Croft

The examination and copying of all large-scale pre-ordnance survey maps of the city area has been one of the main avenues of historical research this year. A number of recently discovered maps have been copied or traced and added to the cartographic archive.

Full cover of the city area at 1:2500 scale of the first edition ordnance survey has been obtained from the British Library.

The following maps have been added to the archive:

<u>Parish name and date of map</u>	<u>Provenance</u>
Little Linford Manor 1761	Bucks R.O.
Bradwell Abbey Farm c.1910 reconstructed layout	B.A.F.C.
Shenley Manor 1903	Private
Shenley 1875	Private

Parish name and date of map - continued

Provenance

Part of Whaddon Hall Estate 1919
Milton Keynes 1685 - Part of Meadows
Newport Pagnell Meadows 1690

Private
Leicester R.O. DG/7/2/51
Bucks Arch.Soc.BAS 63
50

Documentary research has continued in 1981 but fewer new documents were examined than in previous years. This has largely been due to the synthesis and indexing of the assembled information. Several sites have been examined in detail and a number of documents referring to the construction and repair of watermills have been transcribed. This information is particularly useful for the interpretation of the recently excavated watermill at Caldecotte (SP8904 3499). Documentary evidence for the Ouzel valley watermills may give details of the continuity or discontinuity of building methods and traditions.

A number of documents relating to the history of Woughton-on-the-Green were examined in the private collection of Mr Wilfred Shirley of Castle Ashby. The documents contained many references to the purchase and sale of land during the eighteenth century. Documents relating to Peartree Farm and to a number of field names were particularly useful.

The Archaeological Unit would be pleased to hear from any other private individual who holds historical material relating to Milton Keynes.

POST-EXCAVATION

CONSERVATION - Sue Marshall

About 300 finds or groups of finds have been treated in the conservation laboratory during 1981. Every excavation produced finds of all sorts needing treatment, but in particular 1981 was the year of the window glass. Not only was there some remaining from the 1980 work at St Andrew's Church, Great Linford, but the excavation of the west end of Bradwell Abbey produced large quantities, some painted, and forming part of an inscription. All glass sherds were mechanically cleaned and then coated with PVA in acetone and IMS.

The Roman building at Stantonbury produced the usual crop of bronze finds including coins, all mechanically cleaned and then treated with benzotriazole and Incralac.

Fewer excavations meant that some of the back-log of iron-work from earlier years could be treated, starting with that from Wood Corner.

Any other spare time there might have been was taken up with conserving the increased flow of finds from metal detectors following the new agreement reached with some societies toward the end of the year.

The delicate task of conserving the chalice and paten from St Andrew's, Great Linford was completed during this year. In complete contrast a number of pottery vessels for display were restored using plaster of paris.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications by members of the Unit, or containing substantial contributions from them, which appeared during the year include:

- D.C. Mynard : 'Stone weights from the rivers Great Ouse, Ouzel, Nene and Tove', Rec. Buckinghamshire 21, 1979, 11-28.
- M.R. Petchey : 'A Roman patera from Olney', Rec. Buckinghamshire 21, 1979, 35-39.
- R. Griffiths et al: 'Rescue excavation of a medieval house at Whaddon', Rec. Buckinghamshire 21, 1979, 40-76.
- In addition, a book by a former Milton Keynes artist-in-residence was published, containing not only a series of sketches of the New City area, but much historical material obtained from the unit:
- Eugene Fisk : Milton Keynes: a personal view, Milton Keynes 1981.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM SERVICES

(1) FIELD SECTION - John M. Steane and James Bond

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

The collection and processing of material into the Sites and Monuments Record has continued, and the number of archaeological sites and buildings now indexed stands at just over 13,000. In addition to the collection of information on individual sites, work has also proceeded on the examination of broader aspects of the landscape. Various special projects have also continued, such as the Oxfordshire Field-Names Survey, for which contributions from Emmington, Forest Hill, Kingston Bagpuize and Sydenham have been received during the year.

A little over 560 visitors have made direct use of the Sites and Monuments Record at Woodstock during 1981, a slight increase on last year's total. An estimated 1,800 queries by post and telephone have also been dealt with, the highest total yet recorded in any single calendar year.

PLANNING MATTERS

Fortnightly meetings have continued to be held throughout the year between the Keeper and the Director of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit to monitor all planning applications. Among plans which have received an archaeological input have been the Witney Central Town Scheme, the Kidlington Local Plan, the Oxford Local Plan and the Oxford Fringe Plan. The section has also contributed information and illustrations to a fresh series of Circular Walk leaflets which the County Planning Department are proposing to publish in 1982. The Museum has noted with regret the rejection by the Secretary of State of the Minerals Amendment to the County's Structure Plan which involved a good measure of protection for archaeological interests.

STAFFING

The section has continued to benefit from the part-time work of Elizabeth Leggatt who has been engaged in cataloguing and indexing the Wikham-Steed MSS. During the year we have welcomed Kevin Camidge and Howard Leach who have each spent three months in the Museum as part of the O.U.D.E.S. Archaeological In-Service Training Scheme.

(2) PREHISTORIC FINDS

ASTON TIRROLD. (PRN 12964 SU 54308380) - Louise Armstrong, John Steane.

On the hillside to the east of Middle Warren Wood and about 300 metres from the large round bell barrow (Scheduled Ancient Monument 116) a scatter of flint implements and waste material was

located. They included three blunt nosed scrapers, one discoidal scraper and two borers. In addition four fragments of Romano-British pottery were picked up including a sherd of red ware mortarium and a heavy everted rim of a cook pot or storage jar.

COGGES. (PRN 5932 SP 36070962) - John Steane and John Blair.

A number of struck and worked flints were recovered during excavations at Cogges Priory in 1979-80 and at Cogges Manor Farm in 1978. These have been studied by Julie P. Gardiner of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Reading, a summary of whose report is attached. Visually the flint material (49 from Cogges Priory and 64 from Cogges Manor Farm) is basically homogeneous and there is no reason to treat it as two separate assemblages, the sites being only c 100 metres apart. The use of small nodules of locally derived river gravel flint is common to both, and the size and shape of flakes produced is evidently directly related to the size and quality in the raw material. The generally low quality of the material can readily be seen in the pitted and deep cortex, the large number of flaws, cracks and mineral inclusions in the flint and also in the quality of the workmanship. A large number of flakes are snapped or exhibit hinge fractures : numerous pieces have partly detached scales and several others, including one core, have multifaceted platforms where repeated efforts have been needed to detach flakes. The dating is difficult but one implement which in shape and size is similar to a sickle blade from the southern circle at Durrington Walls and to another from Hurst Fen could be firmly placed in the Neolithic. The two scrapers from the orchard site and the Priory are also very similar in size and shape to the majority of scrapers from the late Neolithic industry at Rackham in Sussex. A full report will appear in Oxoniensia (Steane J. M. and Blair J. Forthcoming).

(3) EARTHWORKS

HARDWELL CAMP. (PRN 7320 SU 28758670) - John Steane.

A visit was made at the request of the Vale of the White Horse district and the Compton Beauchamp estates to inspect the impact of a tree felling and planting scheme on the Iron Age camp. Hardwell camp is situated on the 600 ft. contour on a steep slope above Compton Beauchamp village at the junction of the Lower Chalk and Combe deposits. It is set on a promontory between two steep combs cut into the chalk and sloping steeply towards the north. The main entrance is to the north from the Downs. Here is a horn work protecting the gateway with a double rampart and ditches in front of the main univallate circuit. The path into the fort as it goes over the berm in front of the entrance and over the main circuit itself has sarsen stones appearing in its rutting. Whether these are part of the structure or represent hard-core put down by farmers is uncertain. Sarsens certainly were collected from the surface of the downs (during field

clearance ?) and were used in revetting banks of Uffington Castle and Alfred's Castle, two other prehistoric camps on the downs nearby. The main camp at Hardwell is sexagonal in shape and the circuit has been artificially scarped following the contours of the promontory on all sides except the north where a deep bank and ditch have been cut across it with a combined depth of about seven metres. The name according to Gelling (Place Names of Berkshire, Cambridge, 1976, II, 361) means "Treasure spring or stream" but the camp was formerly referred to as "telles byrg" or "Tell's fort" (Gelling, op cit 361). Until recently the earthworks and interior were covered with impenetrable vegetation and a plantation of conifers, beech and other trees and bushes and the wood was used by the Astor estates, the owners, for shooting. In Spring 1981, most of the trees in the centre of the camp and on the western side of the site were felled. It is to be hoped that future management will take the archaeology of the monument into consideration; in the museum's view the best solution would be for the interior and banks to be laid down to grass and then grazed.

CHIPPING NORTON, GLYME FARM. (PRN 12,773 SP 329261) - James Bond

A previously unrecorded group of strip lynchets was the most important of several new sites identified during an excursion of the Oxford University Department for External Studies Field Archaeology and Certificate classes conducted by Trevor Rowley and James Bond in March. The site lay at the junction of two headstreams of the River Glyme. Four terraces ran along the eastern side of the valley running south from Glyme Farm itself. Within the angle of the two streams one lynchet on the western side of the same valley was met at right-angles by a further series of 5-6 lynchets running along the northern side of the valley coming down from Oldner House.

HANWELL CASTLE. FISHPONDS (PRN 4815 SP 44004360) - John Steane

A field investigation of the fishponds was made at the invitation of previous owner, Mrs. Buxton in February 1981. A further visit was made at the request of the present owner, Mr. R. Patey. The grounds are mentioned as covering 17½ acres in 1904 with fishponds and woods (Sale Catalogue in Bodleian Library G A Oxon 691 (2)).

They were more elaborate in the 17th century when the royalist Sir Anthony Cope (d. 1675) was living at Hanwell. R. Plot in Natural History of Oxfordshire 235-6, said there were waterworks in a "House of Diversion", built on an island in one of the fishponds to the north of the house. There was a ball tossed by a column of water and an artificial shower. (1) Fishpond 1. There seems little doubt that the westernmost pond which is full of water and still has an island in it, is the one mentioned by R. Plot. The pond is roughly trapezoidal in shape and is 1.7 acres in area. It is separated from the second

pond by a bank which is about 13 metres high. It has a breach in the centre in which are some worked stones probably part of the sluice or revetment. There is an overflow channel which leaves the north east corner of the pond.

(2) Fishpond 2. This is an irregular shape which resembles a dog-leg. It is part of a steep valley and has a dam 12 metres across at the base separating it from the third pond. The water supply comes from two sources. A spring to the south produces one stream. There is also the overflow from pond 1. It is 3 acres in area.

(3) Fishpond 3. This is another trapezoidal shaped pond. The stream runs through the centre with one right-angled corner.

(4) Fishpond 4. This is separated from 3 by a dam 30 metres across at the base and 12 metres across at the top. The original course of the stream was to the south. This is now a dry bed choked with leaves and the stream has taken a more northerly route where it has breached the dam.

(5) Fishpond 5. Separated from 4 by a bank 10 metres across at the base and 6 metres across at the top. The largest of the five ponds. A considerable bank, 3 metres across at the top and 12 metres across at the base encloses it from the south.

Mrs. Buxton reckons that they must be at least 18th century in date since there is no folk memory in the village which can recollect that they were being used as fishponds in the Victorian period.

R. Plot also described the mill erected in the park by the ingenious Sir Anthony which was a "wonderful contrivance" and not only ground the corn for the house but also turned a very large engine for cutting the hardest stone after the manner of lapidaries and another engine for boring guns.

LONGCOT SHRUNKEN VILLAGE (PRN 12786 SU 27059075) - John Steane

At the request of the owner, Mr. Powers, a field investigation was carried out on his house. The siting is of interest. It is situated about 300 metres to the west of the present High Street along a churned up and muddy lane. This, according to Mr. Powers, was "the original High Street" of Longcote and was known as "The Dash". On checking the Rocque Map of Berkshire, 1761 it is indeed shown as a road connecting with the High Street and a field lane and circling round to join the present Longcote-Shrivenham road. Fourteen buildings are drawn lining both sides of the road. Clearly between 1761 and the present day half the village has been lost or resited.

(4) BUILDINGS

(a) Medieval Domestic Buildings

COGGES PRIORY. (PRN 5932 SP 36070962) - John Steane and John Blair.

Brief accounts of the medieval buildings and excavations of the alien priory appear in CBA Group 9 Newsletter 9, 1979, pp. 105-7 and 11, 1981 pp. 81-2. Further excavations in the garden and investigations of the standing buildings have been carried out. The sequence now seems to be as follows:

Phase 1 mid 10th to mid 11th century and earlier: A scatter of post-holes and post-trenches produced numerous sherds of c 950-1050 AD, a bone comb and a small bronze bell. Earlier occupation is represented by a gulley with Neolithic flint work (see above) and residual Romano-British and early to mid Saxon pottery. In the light of a statement in the foundation charter that the lay lord 'gave his house of Cogges' to build the Priory, this may be interpreted as the late Saxon and early Norman manor-house site.

Phase 2 (late 11th or early 12th century ?): Small sections of footings located by limited excavations pre-dated the late 12th and 13th century phases : they suggest a rectilinear walled enclosure, apparently with a substantial building adjoining it on the south-east side. On the available evidence it is unclear whether this was a defence around the early Norman manor-house, an unusually strong precinct boundary, or the remains of monastic buildings grouped around a courtyard.

Phase 3 (c 1150-80 AD). Fragmentary footings and one standing wall are interpreted as a two storey chamber-block of conventional type, dated by associated pottery. The ground floor was apparently divided into two rooms and an internal buttress may have supported a first floor fireplace (cf. Wharram Percy). This range was built within the Phase 2 enclosure, abutting one of its walls. There is documentary evidence that the Priory was neglected and ruinous during the Anarchy of Stephen's reign (a letter published in Epistulae Fiscannenses ed J. Laporte, Revue Mabillon xliii (1953) 29-31). Phase 3 may represent a rebuilding, perhaps on a reduced scale after 1154.

Phase 4 (c 1230-50). Substantial remains still stand in the present vicarage of the following, probably contemporaneous, additions : a service block in series with the Phase 3 range : a small open hall abutting the service-block at right-angles : and a small room of uncertain purpose adjoining the hall on its north-east side. Two doorways, leading from the Phase 3 range into the service-block and subsidiary room, have hollow-chamfered jambs with pyramidal stops. The hall retains two original windows, one a lancet on the south side and the other a blocked ? two light on the east, and the original coupled-rafter roof with collars and soulaces, assembled with open notched-lap joints. At the lower end of the hall, fragments remain of an open timber screen and associated framing for a floor over the service block. These enlargements are perhaps to be associated with Prior Hilary (1238-51), an influential royal servant and subsequently Abbot of Pershore.

Phase 5 (c 1600-20). After the Dissolution the building seems to have suffered long neglect. An extensive early 17th century reconstruction included the truncation and re-roofing of the service-block, the flooring-in of the hall, and the demolition of most of the Phase 3 range. A detached kitchen probably dates from this period.

Phase 6 (late 17th-19th century). Subsequent occupation was represented by a lean-to open sided shed which utilised one of the walls of the phase 3 buildings, a bottle shaped dry-stone lined well with the base for a barrel or trough nearby and two areas of pitched stone, one a hardstand by the well and the paving for a long shelter shed. The well was blocked by a capstone in the mid 19th century and the area converted into a kitchen garden. During Phases 5 and 6 the Priory buildings were owned by Eton College and used as a farm by a succession of tenant farmers.

OXFORD CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE. KITCHEN. (PRN 3598 SP 51630605) -

John Steane

At the invitation of the Bursar, Dr. D.G. Wild, and with the kind assistance of Mr. Geoffrey Beard of the Oxford Architects Partnership an investigation was made of the roof of the kitchen at Corpus Christi College before and after alterations. It is thought that the kitchen "must stand partly or wholly on the site of Urban Hall or its garden" (Milne J.G. The Early History of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Oxford, 1946, p. 12) and it has even been claimed that the college kitchen was older than any of the work of Bishop Fox, possibly influenced by the theory that it was originally the refectory of Urban Hall (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England, City of Oxford, London, 1939, 48). Recent alterations allowed a closer inspection of the roof and some dendrochronological sampling was carried out. The width of the wall top on the south side was 2m 90. The wall plate has been cut through by the windows which have been enlarged. The roof consists of four bays with four pairs of principal rafters, resting on the wall plate, tied by morticed collars and halved and pegged at the apex. The cambered collars are archbraced, the archbraces are chamfered and fit with upright posts onto corbels from which they spring from corbels set half way up from the floor. Two pairs of purlins per bay are butt jointed into the principal rafters. There are two pairs of windbraces which meet centrally and are set crosswise in each bay. There are six common rafters per bay each is supported by soulaces. The size of the timbers is as follows : Purlins 18 x 12 x 25.5 cms collar 21 x 21 cms x 3.10 m; principal rafters 23 x 22 cms; windbraces 22 x 5 x 1.57 at longest part. The length of each bay is 2.57 and the height from the apex of the principal rafter to the collar 1.38 and from the apex to the wall plate 3.75 m. The roof timbers, both principal and the common rafters, were covered with a black pitchy deposit indicating some centuries of smoke blackening. Samples taken from the timber in the East wall of the hall in 1981 and from rafters replaced in 1968 were dated by Dr. J.M. Fletcher of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, Oxford University.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE OXFORD

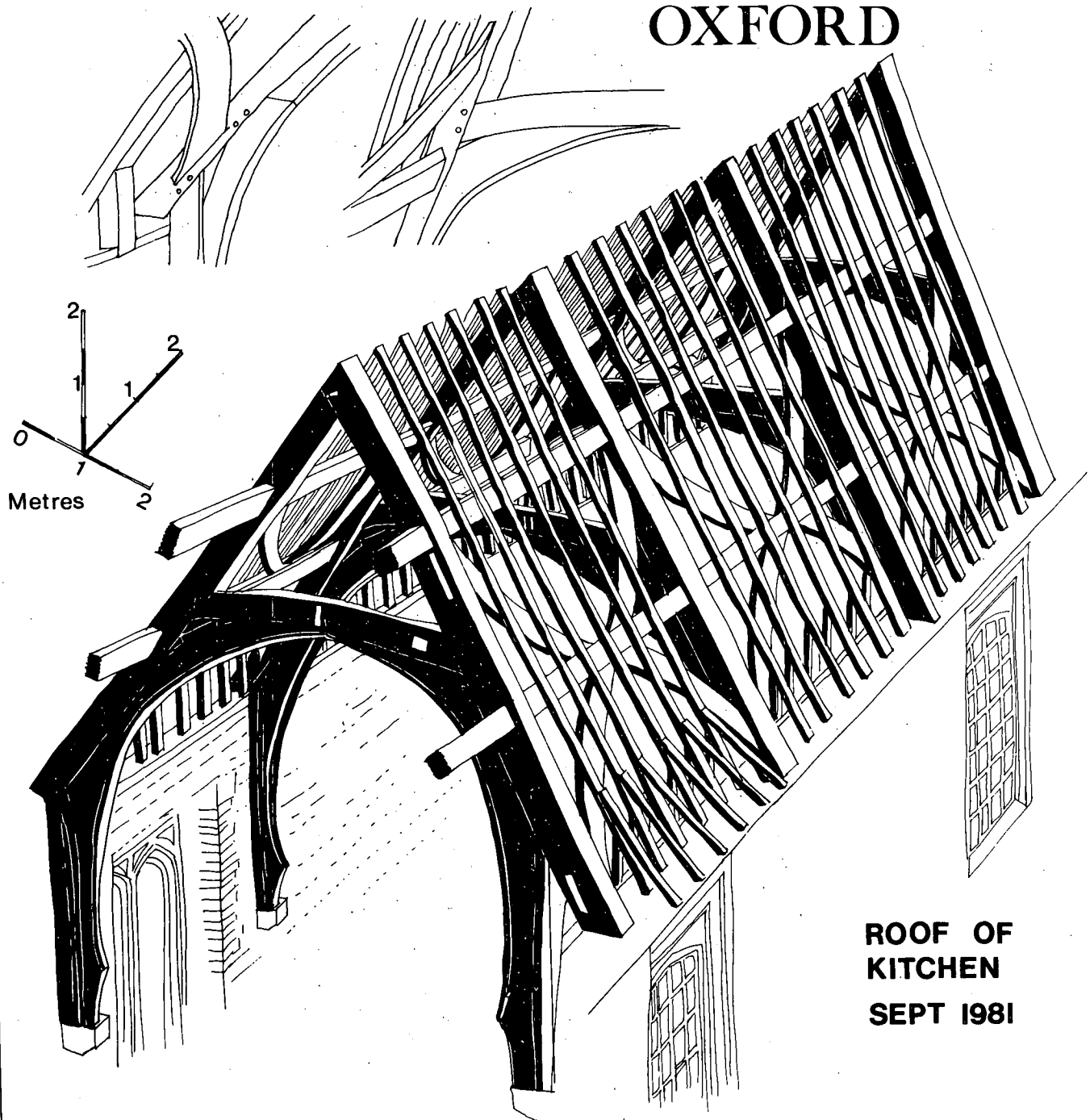


FIGURE 23

He reports the trees concerned were sessile oak (Quercus petraea) and were felled in or very near to the period 1500-1505 AD. As the timber was used green, ie. within less than a year from felling, the same period covers the construction date. Sessile oak grew in Bagley Wood and the timber may have come from there (letter to Dr. D.G. Wild Corpus Christi College dated 18/12/81). Milne's disbelief that such a structure would have formed part of the premises of Urban Hall, either as a refectory or for any other purpose, seems well founded. If we accept the view expressed in M. E. Wood "The English Medieval House" pp. 252-4 the siting of the kitchen, far from being awkwardly placed, is in fact, sited very conveniently at right angles to the cross passage and adjacent to the buttery. This represented, according to Wood, the latest in kitchen planning of the early 16th century.

OXFORD. NEW COLLEGE. LONG ROOM (PRN 3524 SP 51740641) - John Steane
and Cynthia Bradford

During the summer of 1981 the Museum put on an exhibition entitled "At your earliest convenience". While collecting information on medieval sanitary arrangements the Long Room (or 'necessarium') was visited by kind permission of the Bursar. It lies to the south of the Garden Quadrangle, adjoining Queen's Lane and was originally connected to the rest of the college by an L shaped passage. The roof of this appears in Loggan's engraving 1675. There is a drawing by J. C. Buckler (British Library Add MSS 36436 f 655) which shows that the building has not substantially altered since the 19th century. It dates from the late 14th century (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, The City of Oxford, London, 1939, p. 91) and served as the common latrine for the college. The building consists of a long rectangular block, two storeys high, 27.1 m long, 6.05 m wide and 6.8 m to eaves level. According to the Victoria County History "originally the lower storey had no openings". Agas' map however shows two doorways at ground floor level (Oxford Historical Society, Old Plans of Oxford 1884 map VI.) It was a huge cess pool which was traditionally cleaned out every fifty years. In 1880 the lower floor was opened up and earth closets placed in it (Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, III, 1954, 149). In 1903 bathrooms were installed in the upper floor and water closets on the ground floor. Doors and windows were inserted in the ground floor. The upper floor was originally approached by a 4 centred headed doorway at the west end. Access is now by an external staircase at the north eastern end. The side walls have each five small square headed loop lights. The roof is of seven bays and retains most of its original timbers. The cambered tie beams rest on double wall plates. King post trusses rise from each tie beam and are strutted longitudinally to a centre purlin by curved braces. The common rafters are attached to the wall plate by ashlar. There is no ridge pole.

STANDLAKE RECTORY (PRN 2152 SP 39880349) - John Steane

A brief account of this medieval house appeared in CBA Group 9 Newsletter, 11, 1981, p. 81. At the suggestion of Mr. and Mrs. Claridge, the owners, a further investigation was made of recent alterations. Some of the voussoirs of the internal splay of the head of 13th century window, mentioned before, were now visible in the attic. More interestingly a large portion of late 16th or early 17th century wall painting had been revealed at the west end of an upstairs room above the hall on the first floor. The west wall was built of limestone rubble half way up to the ceiling. This walling contained a four centred arched fireplace with half round mouldings and ogee shaped stops. Above it the wall consisted of half timbered work with plastered panels. The main horizontal timber had been cut to allow the fireplace to be slotted in. A decorative scheme was applied at the same time on the plastered wall and probably the ceiling. They were covered with a thin wash of ochre and bands of white were painted and green applied on top of this. There were faint traces that bands of ? ermine type decoration had been applied onto the green bands. Above the fireplace within a black lined green frame was an elaborate piece of strapwork with white under painting, filled in with green and outlined in black. It consisted of two large ionic scrolls or volutes with foliage burgeoning from the lower part of the scroll, topped by ball finials and pinnacles. A centre piece was between them consisting of an oval mandorla with scrolls at each corner topped by a rectangle, circle and pinnacle. Such strapwork is characteristic of early Jacobean decorative schemes. Wadham College chapel screen c 1613 has several similar motifs (volutes, and pinnacles) in a more elaborate piece of pierced cresting. (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, City of Oxford, London, 1939 plate 196).

(b) Post Medieval Domestic Buildings

ASHBURY. ROSE COTTAGE. (PRN 12788 SU 26408512) - John Steane

At the invitation of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Speller, a visit was made to investigate features which had appeared during alterations. The house is four bays long, one and a half storeys and may have been longer. It lies north east - south west, gable end onto the village street. It is built on a foundation course of sarsen stones, of chalk blocks with red brick jambs to windows and doors. The first bay on the east side seems to have been a hall with fireplace and later brick bread oven backing onto the central cross passage. The remains of the original fireplace with moulded timber lintel and moulded stone jamb, suggests a late 15th to early 16th century date. The staircase to the right of the chimney stack has a curving splay which suggests that formerly the stairway was more curved. The rest of the second bay is taken up by the cross passage. The northern doorway is blocked but the stone jambs remain on either side. The third bay is a shortish room with a blocked splayed window to the north. The fourth bay extends a little way to the north and contains a timber lintelled fireplace. It has a brick bread oven added. The roof is of interest as it is supported on three mid crucks ending in saddles at the apex and ridge pole above. There are 9 renewed common rafters between each set of crucks.

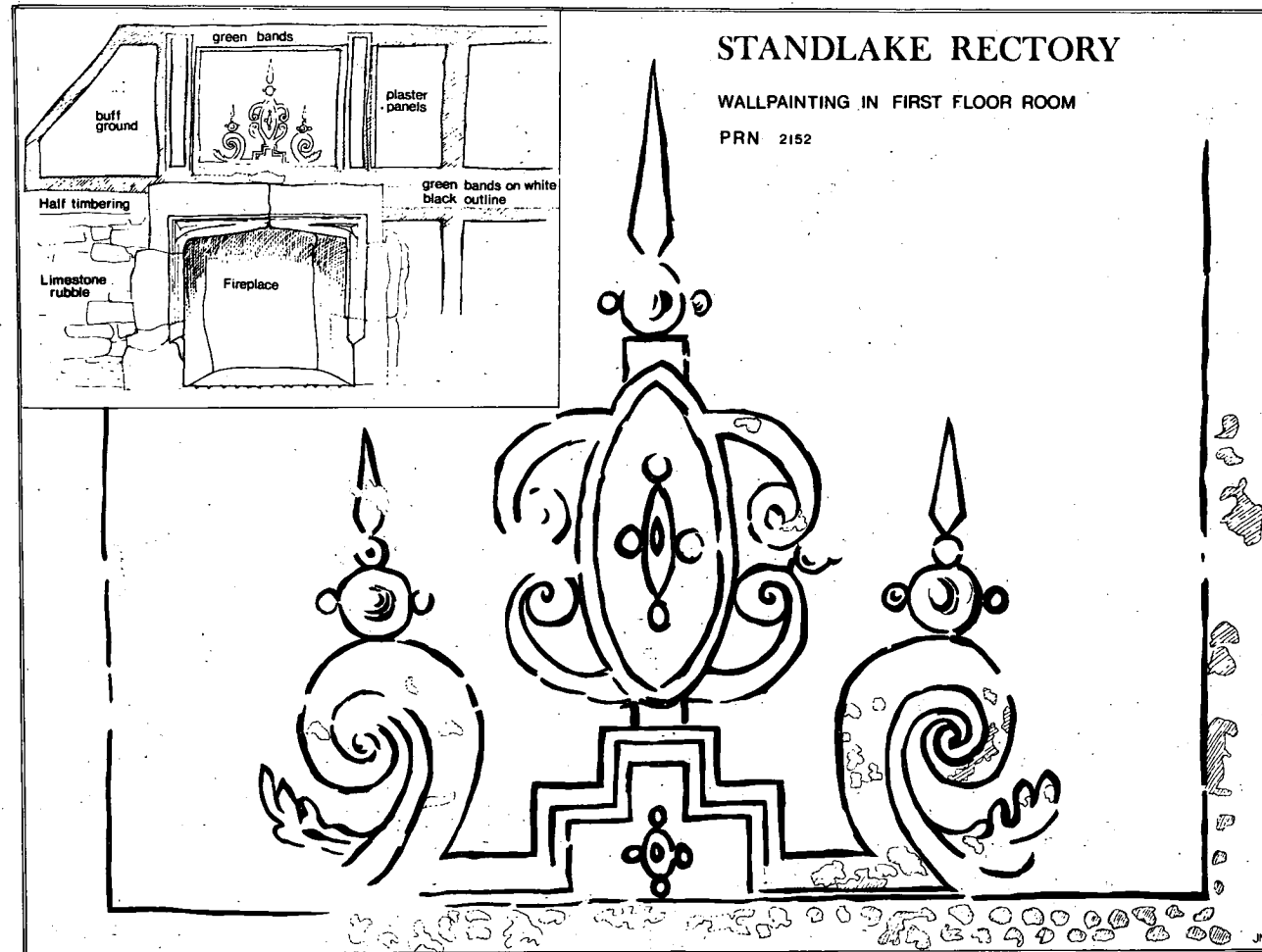


FIGURE 24

There are two pairs of purlins on the rear part of the roof and one pair in front. The stack is central, built of narrow bricks and has been heightened. The size and date suggest a substantial yeoman's dwelling of the late 15th/early 16th century. It has been divided at some point. The original kitchen was probably in the 4th bay on the west. A doorway was cut through the gable end facing onto the road and subsequently blocked. At the time of the division of the house (into two labourer's cottages ?) a bread oven was added in brick to the fireplace which originally heated the hall. The hall was converted into a kitchen and a floor inserted.

CLANFIELD. THE FIRS. (PRN 12856 SP 28500195)- John Steane.

At the invitation of Mr. C. Fowler, the owner, a field investigation was made of this house which is situated in the centre of the village at the north east end of the village street. It does not figure on the Davies map of Oxfordshire (1797) where the house plot is shown vacant. The plan is L shaped, five bays facing the road (three windows but the roof has five bays) and 2 storied with 1½ storied extension at rear. Also an outshut runs along rest of house at rear. Attached to it on north side is a cow house of 1½ storeys. The materials are coursed limestone rubble with ashlar quoins. Stonesfield slate roof. Formerly timber lintelled windows. Iron porch with fleur de lys battlementing. Windows longer than height. Sash with thin glazing bars. Interior features include an interesting fireplace in left hand room consisting of a timber lintel, a re-used beam with slots for joists on ashlar pillars, one block is chamfered. At rear two niches and a vent leading ? to smoke chamber. Also on either side inglenooks with elbow rests and right hand one has remains of plank seat. There is a niche for candles. Roof. Five bays. Principal rafters, tie beams, collars, 2 sets of butt purlins. Date. It must be later than 1797 assuming the accuracy of Davies map. Probably early 19th century.

CLANFIELD. NORTHCOURT COTTAGE. (PRN 12963 SP 28780214) - John Steane

At the invitation of Mr. C. Fowler, the owner, a field investigation was made of this house. It probably began as a 17th century three bay farmhouse with double gables facing on to the road and central cross passage. Built of coursed limestone rubble. Wooden framed casement windows one with ovolo mullions. The roof has been raised, the gables absorbed into the top floor and the roof reconstructed probably in the 18th century. A cottage was added to the right hand and a barn and open sided cow shed to this in the late 18th-19th centuries.

CLANFIELD. POUND COTTAGES. (PRN 13059 SP 28320205) - John Steane

At the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Nichols an investigation was made of a pair of cottages in Pound Lane to the south of the church. From the outside the windows suggest a 19th century date but inside several features indicate that the house is a good deal older, (probably 17th century). Of this building there survive the plan,

up to the right hand chimney, the remains of a timber lintelled fireplace, much cut about and refurbished with brick, and a piece of panelling now running down the kitchen wall obviously from another building. Also a laterally placed beam, chamfered with stops. The front of the house was refenestrated in early 19th century-gothic timber porches were added in the late Victorian period.

GREAT TEW. OLD ROAD. Nos (5-18 PRN 13061 SP 3961 2917) - Daphne Aylwin and John Steane

Several cottages in this village have already been surveyed and published in CBA Group IX Newsletter 10, 1980, 89-91, 11, 1981, 86-88. A further group Nos 15-18 are to be restored during the coming year. D. Aylwin undertook measured drawings on which the illustration are based. So much rebuilding and reconstruction has taken place that it is very difficult to sort out a suggested interpretation. No 1 may have been attached at an earlier stage to the house to the South. The position of the chimney and the straight joint to the north indicate that 2 is an infill. This is confirmed by the straight joint between the north and south parts of 2. Evidently the north part of the cottage was originally joined to 3. It is possible that there is a blocked fireplace in the northern side of the stack. No 3 possibly started as a 3 bay house and has subsequently been divided to make 2 larger. Finally 4 has been tacked on to the northern end of 3. All windows and doors have been renewed so it is difficult to suggest dates. The walling of cottage 1 may be 17th century. Also the plan and walling of 3 and the north end of 2 may be of this date. The doorways with depressed 4 centre heads and square labels with lozenge stops are one distinctive feature of this village and date to the early 19th century. The cottages nos 3-4 were originally thatched but the roofs have fallen in.

GROVE. FARMHOUSE. (PRN 13062 SU 40679026) - Ahmed Shishtawi & John Steane

At the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Ripley a field investigation was made of this house. An L shaped house. The wing facing the farm road seems to be the older and is probably 17th century in date. Two storeys with 2, 3 light windows in the upper storey. The walls are brick (Flemish bond) on a limestone dwarf wall base. The front wing was added in the late 17th century (datestone in gable GFS 1684). It is of red and blue chequer brickwork on a dwarf stone base course. The front is unsymmetrical of 3 bays, 3 storeys with large 3 light casement windows with two thick mullions and transoms, gauged brick voussoirs and moulded brick stringcourse. Porch is bracketed with panelled door. The front room has simple panelling round doors; a brick fireplace with a moulded timber frame. There is a nice staircase with twisted balusters. At the rear the long room in the early 17th century part has a massive timber lintel to the fireplace and long beams with simple stops. The roof in this part of the

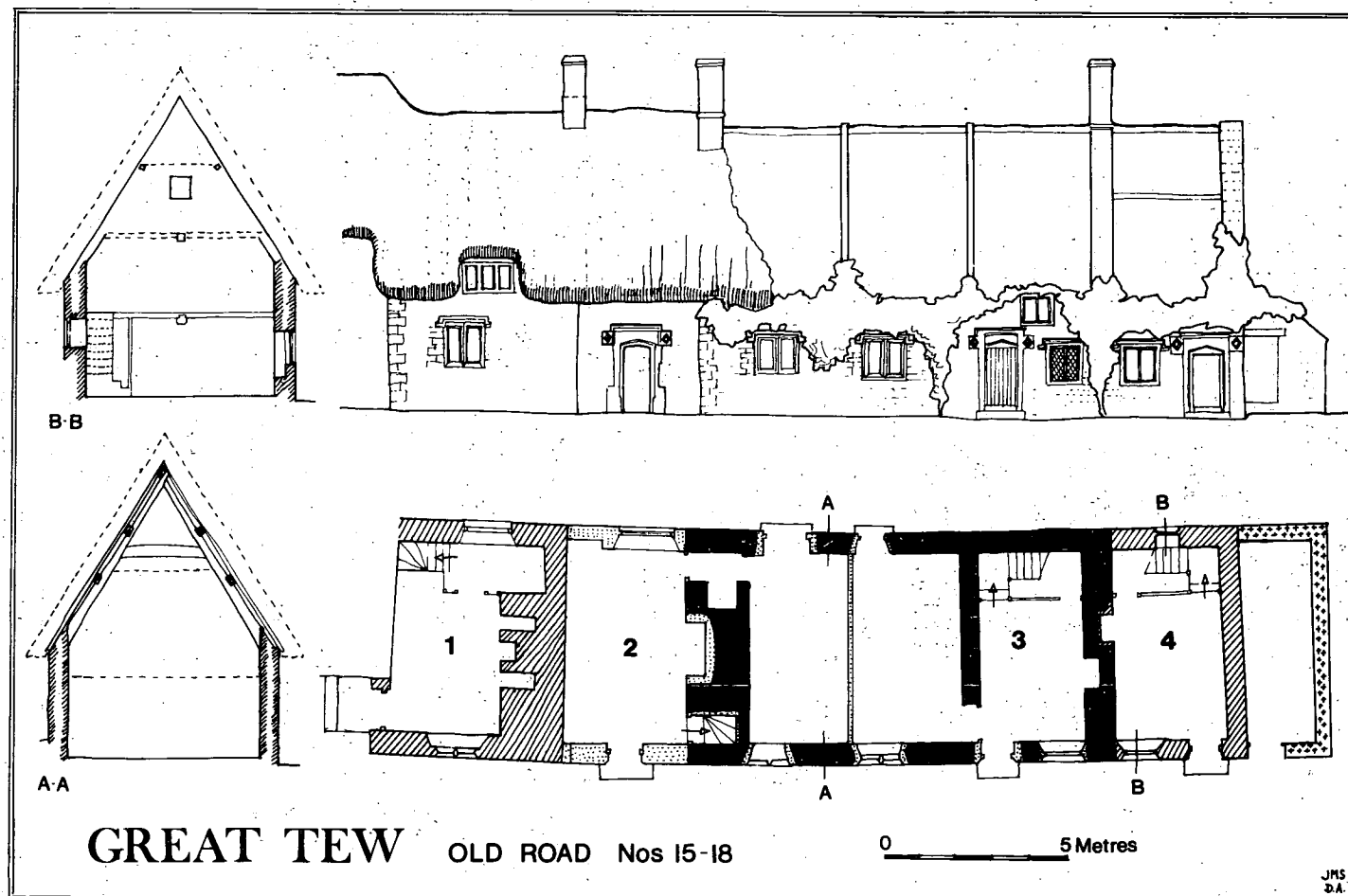


FIGURE 25

building is of two bays with principal rafters, collars, tie beams, 2 sets of butt purlins and one pair of windbraces for each bay.

Inside the principal feature of interest is the evidence of half timbered and plastered wattle and daub partitioning with extensive remains of wall painting. Also inscriptions on friezes above the doors and windows of the bathroom in black letter.

HAMPTON GAY. MANOR HOUSE. (PRN 5403 SP 4831647) - John Steane & Kevin Camidge

Following a recent change in ownership the Department of the Environment requested a measured survey of this ruined stone built Elizabethan mansion. This was carried out by Kevin Camidge, archaeological in-service trainee, between October-December 1981. The house was erected by the Barry family in the second half of the 16th century (Victoria County History, Oxfordshire 6, 1959, 153). The house retained its plan and features almost unaltered up to the destruction of its roofs and interior by fire in 1887. The plan is E shaped with two 3 storied gabled wings and faces south. The south west gabled wing has a plinth course. It is lit on the ground floor by a 3 light window with square label; the mullions have disappeared and there is a bad crack down the centre of the upper part of the wall above the window. The first floor window has three lights with ovolo mullions. There are iron bars strengthening these. Above it is a 3 light square headed window with ovolo mullions in good order. There are projecting moulded kneelers at the base of the gables and a stump of a finial at the gable end. Inside there were 3 rooms. In the ground floor there is a fireplace with a segmental brick head, representing a partial blocking of a larger fireplace which had a timber lintel. The door at the rear led into the hall. A row of joist holes, indicates the floor level of the first floor room; heating was supplied by a 4 centred headed fireplace with signs of a partial brick blocking. Above it is a timber slotted into the wall. There are blocked windows to the east and west. The second floor room has a four centred arch with remains of a slate fireplace. There are holes at intervals - presumably for panelling in the stone surround. Above is a well preserved double chimney in ashlar masonry with a projecting cornice. The south front, west side was of two storeys. The upper one is ruined but the sill of a large five light window remains. The ground floor room was lit by 2 windows which are both relatively well preserved. The more westerly one is a two light with mullions and transoms and next to it is a magnificent 8 light window with ovolo moulded mullions and transoms, with a square label. There is one iron framed casement in place and iron frame bars. The window is badly weathered in places. Below is a moulded plinth and the basement is lit by a 4 light window with simple chamfered mullions. The central projecting porch is 2 stories and battlemented. The doorway has moulded jambs with stops and a four centred arch with blank shields in the spandrels. Above the string course is a 3 light square headed window with ovolo mullions. Inside the porch is a plain plastered room with the surface grooved to suggest ashlar masonry. The inner doorway into the house has collapsed; the remains of two spandrels lie strewn on the ground. The door frame has vanished except for a portion of the plain chamfered jamb on the east side.

The chamber above the entrance was originally lit by 3 windows. It may have served as an oriel to the hall. The windows have timber lintels and are blocked to the east and west.

The south front, east side has a six light window with ovolo transoms and mullions and a square dripstone. Underneath, lighting the basement, is a 4 light window with chamfered mullions. To the east butting up against the east wing is a two light window which has been converted into a doorway and then the lower half blocked. The south east gabled wing is a good deal more ruined than the west. Originally of three stories (see drawing by J. C. Buckler from Bodleian Library MS Top Oxon a 67 No 289). It was lit by 3 light windows; the ground floor one has fallen out and only the jambs remain. The middle one has one light left and is in a parlous condition. An odd feature is that the string course above the ground floor window is raised 6 inches at the west end. The ground floor room has put-log holes around the interior walls and was originally lit in the south, east and west walls. The west window is blocked. The other two lack mullions and transoms. Much rubble is heaped up in the interior. The building was cellared throughout its length up to but probably not including the east wing. The great hall was lit at the west end by a two storeyed five sided oriel window (shown well in the Buckler drawing). The jambs on the external sides survive with holes for the window bars. Beam slots with charred stumps of timber are visible at floor level. The interior window-lintels are of timber. There are further timbers in slots at floor level and in the interior wall faces at intervals? For fixing panelling. There are no signs of the principal fireplace; it probably is represented by a great gap in the masonry between the hall and the north west wing which was probably caused by the collapse of the chimneys seen in the Buckler drawing. On the north side of the hall is a doorway opposite the porch to which it was probably connected by a cross passage. Owing to the collapse of the floors into the cellar, this is no longer visible. The jambs and voussoirs of the doorway have gone but it had apparently a 4 centred head. At the cellar level to the east is a large elliptical headed brick fire-place with iron bars. There is a smaller fireplace above at ground level. Outside the north front there are signs of a corridor at first floor level. Possibly access to this was by way of an external staircase. The north eastern wing projects further than the more westerly. At ground floor level there is a doorway. In the east wall are remains of three windows, the more northerly has been adapted as a doorway and a second has been blocked. A third one near the NE corner has lost its mullions and is broken at the bottom. The field evidence makes it clear that the house during its last phase was divided into two. We are told "the house was subdivided into two tenements jointly occupied by a farmer and Messrs. J. & B. New, paper manufacturers" (Victoria County History, Oxon 6, 1959, p. 153). The north west wing is entered by a four-centred headed doorway with square label and blank shields in the spandrels. The function of the wing is not clear but it was possibly built to take the staircase. At ground floor level there is a chimney

with a brick flue. In the north wall is a 3 light window which has lost its mullions and a single square headed light.

LONGCOT. HOLLY COTTAGE. (PRN 12787 SU 27189191) - John Steane

The house itself (PRN 12787) is 3 bays and is now of 2 storeys. It is built with Sarsen boulders in the foundation with walls of greensand rubble and chalk block. It is thatched. The whole of the front has been recently rebuilt. The only external features of interest are some engravings in chalk of a cross and the initials VEE and two branches; Mr. Powers considers that this is a war memorial to a soldier killed in World War I. The house is L shaped and has a small outshot added to the wing. It was apparently originally 2 bays in length and has been lengthened on the western side. Inside the roof timbers are of interest being of mid cruck construction with collars. The main cruck frames are bedded into the wall top and the purlins are butt jointed. There is a fireplace made of chalk blocks with a timber lintel dated 1670. The panelling attached to the staircase is also 17th century.

NETHER WORTON HOUSE. (PRN 4739 SP 42543008) - Daphne Aylwin & John Steane

At the invitation of Colonel Schuster, the owner and with the co-operation of the architect Mr. G. Beard, a field investigation was made of this house. The accompanying illustration is based on a plan by Mr. Beard with historical annotations added. It is suggested that it began as a simple hall probably with cross passage, pantry and buttery. The only surviving part of this building is the south-east corner which has very large quoins and which is older than the south-east wing up against which it abuts. (Phase one early medieval). Next a chamber block was added to the east of this hall. The evidence of this is stubs of walls on the north and south faces which show up as straight joints. This would produce a T shaped plan (phase 2, later medieval). In the 16th century the two ends of the chamber block were removed and square headed windows, four lights on the ground floor, three on the second and two in the gable were added. A further wing was added on the west end and this made the composition symmetrical. The two wings project slightly on the north front with the hall between. The roofs of both are two bay mid cruck construction with trencled purlins. (Phase III). In the late 17th century the hall was completely reconstructed. Most of the south wall was taken down and refenestrated. A great central chimney was inserted. The roof was raised and rebuilt. The trusses are five bays of principal rafters and either butt jointed or trencled purlins and collars. The attic storeys were occupied since some of the timbers are slotted for partitions. The windows with their transoms and mullions are typical late 17th century design and there is one fireplace on the first floor which is mid to late 17th century in date. (Phase IV). In the 1920s very considerable works were

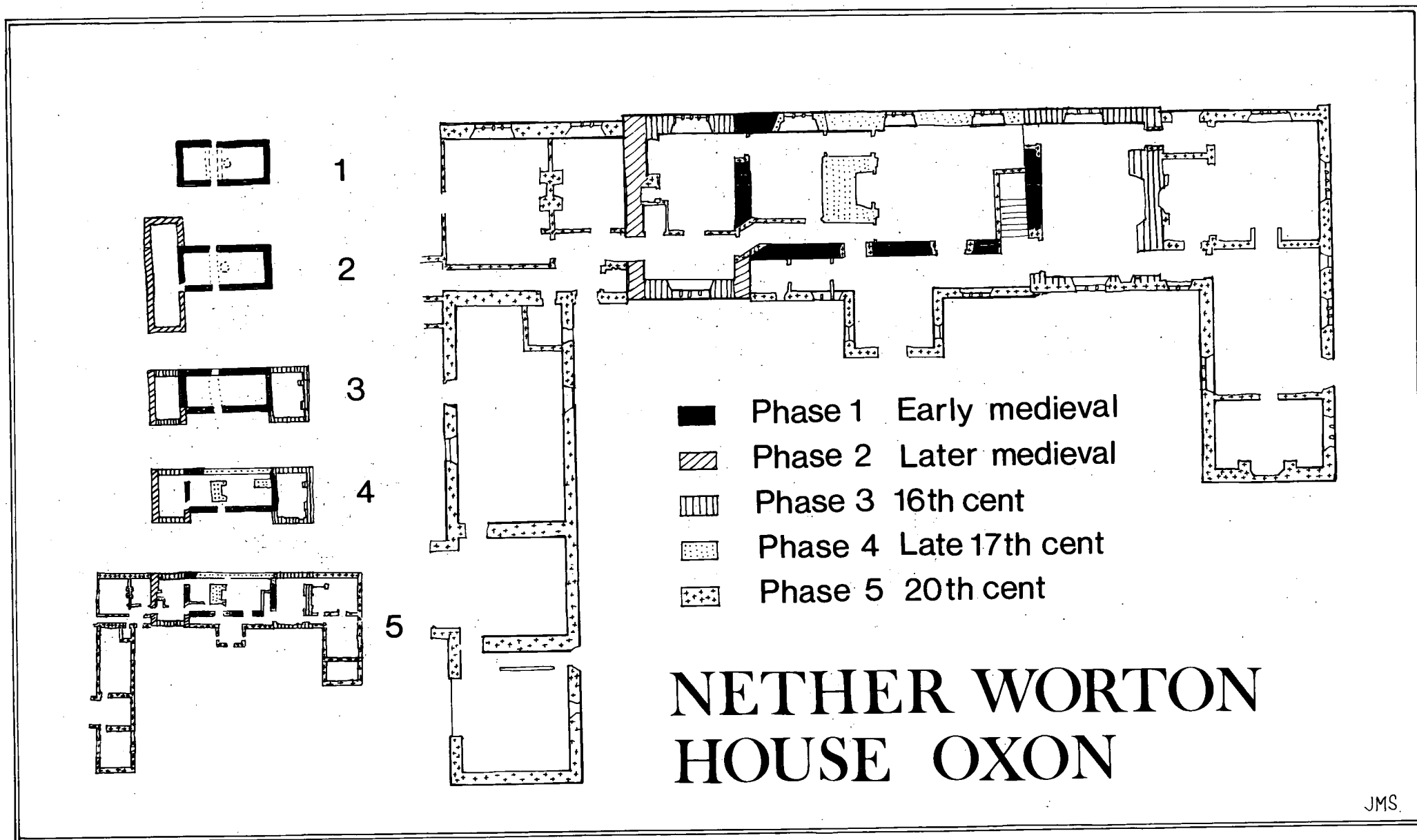


FIGURE 26

undertaken here. A single storey corridor and porch were added on the north side and extensive wings were added 1923-1928, on the east and west fronts. Major Schuster suggests that part of the wings are 17th century work. Further work will need to be done in 1982.

(C) Industrial and Farm Buildings

KIDLINGTON. DOVECOTE AT OLD RECTORY (PRN 5457 SP 49731446) - James Bond

Measured drawings were made of a circular dovecote in the grounds of the Old Rectory by kind permission of Dr. H. C. Burbidge. The building was of limestone rubble, its internal diameter averaging 5.6 m, its walls 1.3 m thick and 5 m high. It contained a total of some 440 nestholes, arranged in 13 rows grouped into tiers of 3 interspersed with 5 perching-ledges - the topmost row having its own ledge. The lowest 9 rows are arranged in a regular pattern, staggered so that the nesthole entries and intervening solid blocks of stone do not coincide in the rows immediately above and below, but recur in the same position in each alternate row. The uppermost tier of three rows and the top row above the final perching-ledge follow the same pattern but, having a slightly greater number of nestholes incorporated into the circumference, are more tightly-packed. The entrance is by a simple rectangular doorway 1.45 m high x 1.1 m wide, which interrupts the circuit of the lowest two rows of nestholes. The remains of a floor immediately above the third perching-ledge is clearly a late insertion. The conical stone slate roof capped by a small slate-roofed wooden lantern is largely a product of restoration in the present century. The dovecote is of medieval type, but is not closely dateable as the same pattern of building appears to have lingered on in Oxfordshire as late as the 17th century.

LETCOMBE BASSETT. RECTORY BARN. (PRN 9332 SU 375850) - John Steane.

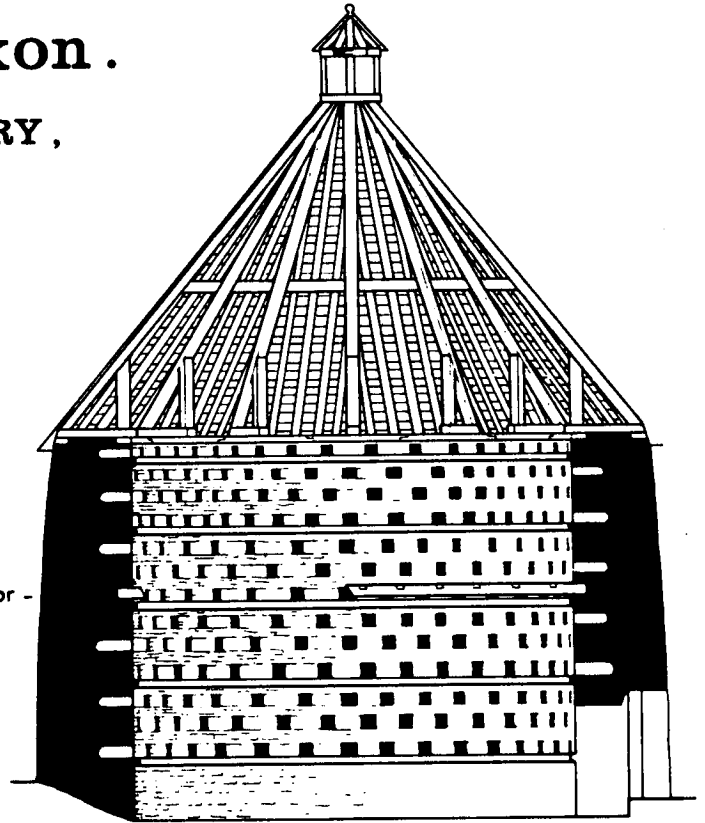
A field investigation of this barn which lies to the east of the church revealed a medieval building with four base cruck bays to the west and four later (probably 18th century) bays to the east with a two bay wing making it L shaped. The cruck blades rest either on pads of stone or on sills lying on low dwarf walls of sarsen and brick. They are tied by collars morticed to the blades supported by multi pegged arch braces. There are three sets of purlins. The central one is original and is trenched into the blades. There are through-splayed scarf joints (see Fletcher J.M *Oxoniensia* XXXI 1968, pp. 77, 80). The yokes are solid triangular pieces. The windbraces do not meet. Entrance is through massive hinged doors from the north. Originally there was an opposed door in the south but excavation (for chalk ?) has caused this to be blocked. The timber frame is covered with pitched weatherboarding and the barn is thatched, being half-hipped at the west end. The east end consists of four bays of timber framed construction with principal rafters and tie beams, strutted to the posts with aisles. There are queen posts in one bay. This end is braced with two sets of purlins but no windbraces. The date of the medieval part in Dr. Fletcher's opinion is likely to be "in the first half of the 14th century". It is possibly referred to in an

KIDLINGTON, Oxon.

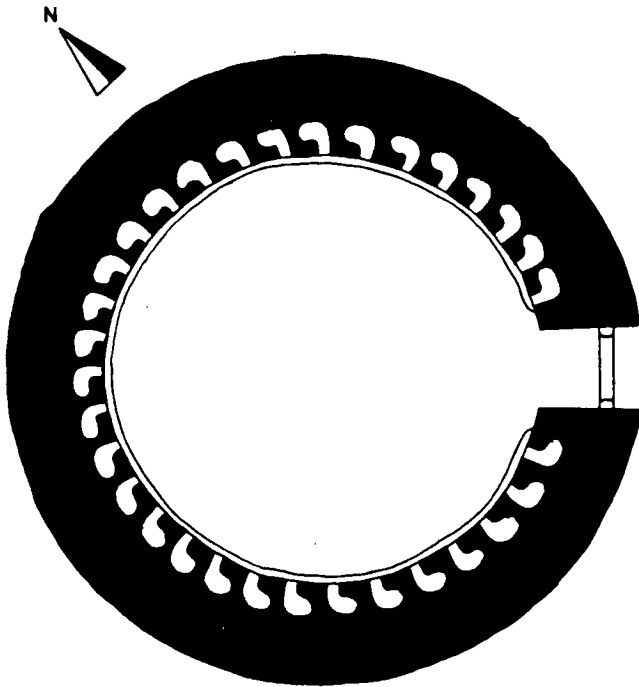
DOVECOTE AT OLD RECTORY,
MILL STREET

P.R.N. 5457

Level of inserted upper floor -

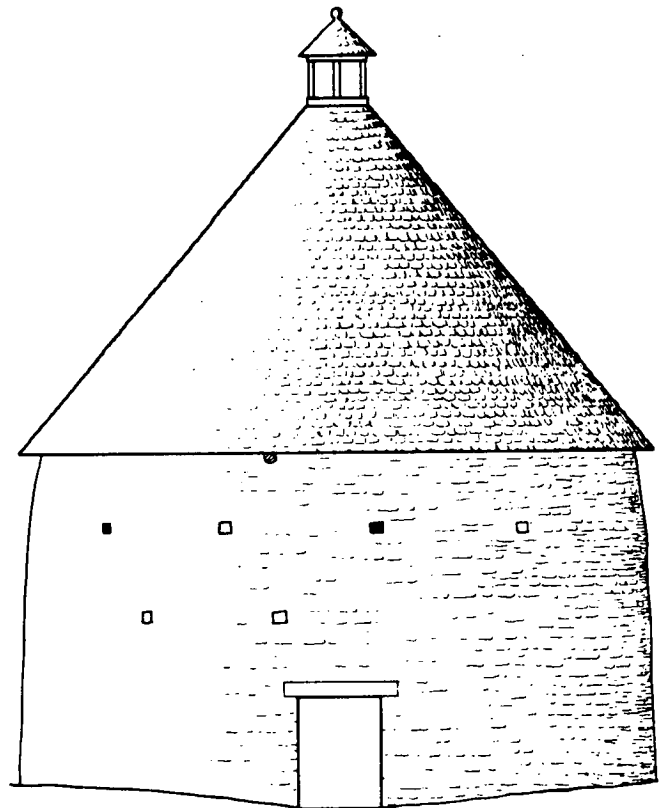


1. INTERIOR ELEVATION

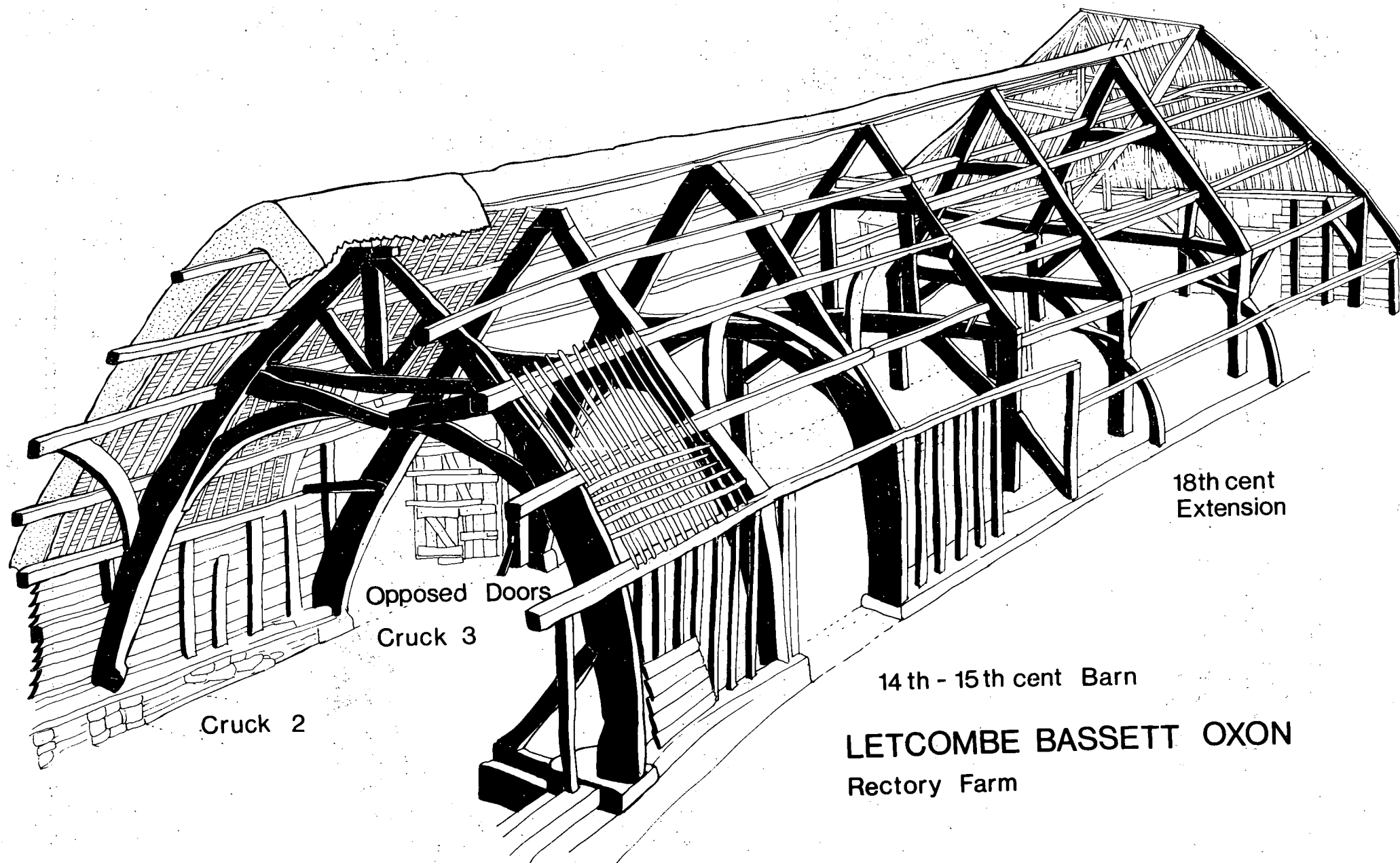


2. PLAN

0 Metres 5



3. EXTERIOR ELEVATION (FROM SOUTH-EAST)



LETCOMBE BASSETT OXON
Rectory Farm

FIGURE 28

Inquisition dated 3rd April 1506 (Queens College document, 1453) into the "causes of the decay of the lordship of Letcombe Bassett". The first of the complaints is that "half the barn is fallen down".

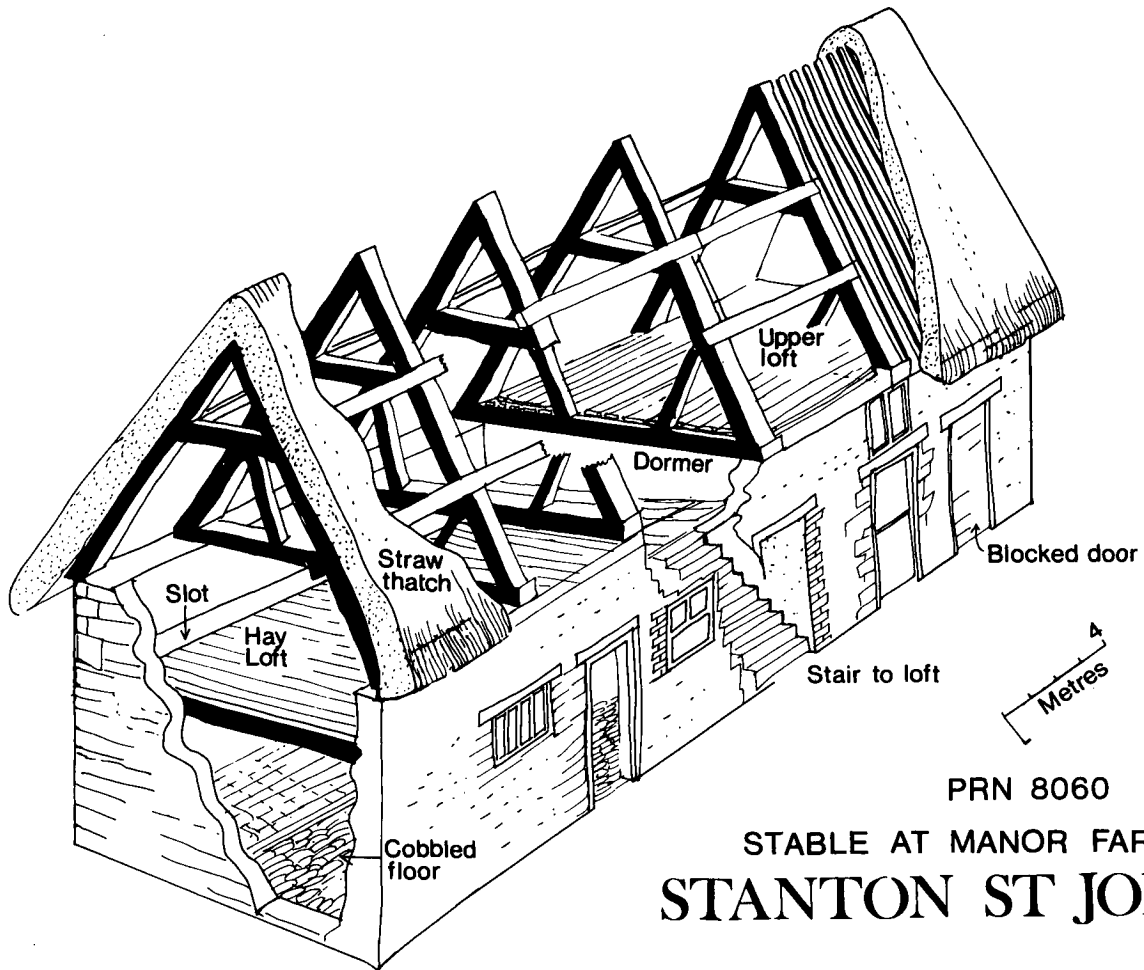
STANTON ST. JOHN. MANOR FARM STABLE. (PRN 8060) AND IMPLEMENT SHED. (PRN 12926 SP 57750941) MANOR FARM - Cynthia Bradford and John Steane.

These two buildings range round the south and east sides of the former farmyard which is now grassed over. The stable appears to be an adaptation of an older building, possibly a barn which may be late medieval judging from two large stepped buttresses on the south side with weathered heads and projecting bases. In its subsequent stages it was clearly a stable with a loft at two levels on the first floor. It is entered from the farmyard through a series of 3 doors - the centre one leading to a stair and giving access to the loft. The other two lead into two parts of the stable. The left hand side room has a cobbled floor with central drain and feeding rack. There are two well preserved harness gallows which originally pivoted into beams by the staircase. On the right is the higher stable possibly designed for hunters, and the upper loft has a feeding slot at the east end. The form of the roof is principal rafters with collar beams and Queen struts. There are two sets of purlins which rest on top of the principal rafters. The loft was apparently put in during the 18th century because the jambs of the central door and one of the windows are in red brick. The building may well have been ruinous at this time because there are traces of a rebuilding and heightening of the north wall.

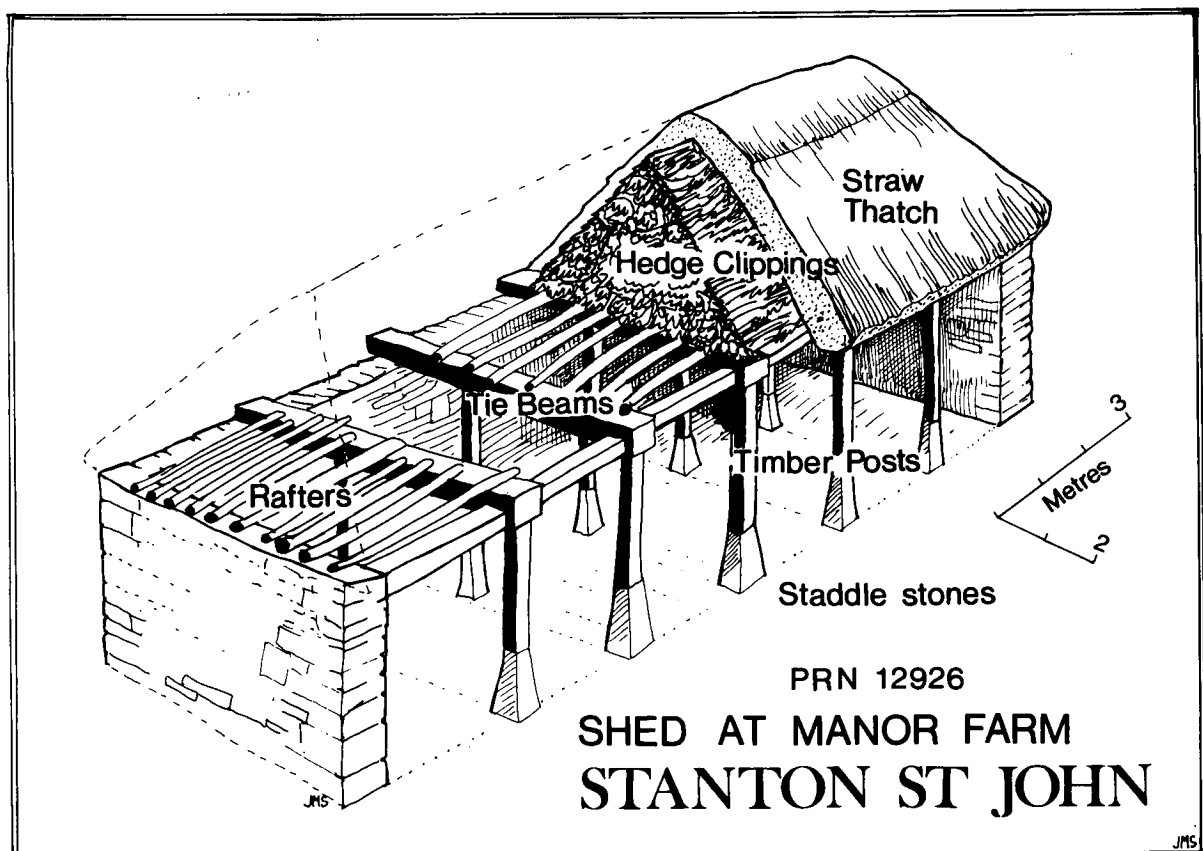
The implement or shelter shed is a six bay open sided building with gable end and rear walls of limestone rubble. The back wall faces onto the village street. The side facing the farmyard consists of a row of five timber posts on staddle stones. There is a second row of timber posts supporting the centres of the tie beams. The roof structure is of interest. It is extremely simple and consists of simply a pyramidal heap of hedge clippings thatched in straw. The shape of the roof is half hipped. Similarly constructed sheds are to be seen at Watlington, Glebe Farm, (PRN 12287) and Cogges Manor Farm (PRN 4601).

TAYNTON UPPER FARM BARN WITH GRANARY (PRN 12946) STABLE (PRN 12945 SP 23161388) - Daphne Aylwin and John Steane.

On the north western side of the village, Upper Farm has an extensive but ruinous set of farm buildings. Most noteworthy are a rectangular five bay limestone barn with waggon, porches, threshing floor and granary on first floor at one end. Access to the granary was by means of an external staircase. It is ventilated by triangular apertures and the granary itself has planked-lined bins. The roof consists of principal rafters, tie beams, collars and struts from ties to lower set of pairs of purlins in each bay. Described by



JMS



JMS

FIGURE 29

Minister of Housing and Local Government list as being early 19th century in date. The rectangular 7 bay stable block is divided into two parts. The 2 bays on the north side are lofted with access from door in gable end. The southern side has a loft with access by external staircase. The walling is limestone rubble. The roof timbers are principal rafters, butt purlins and asbestos covering.

(5) OTHER STRUCTURES AND SITES

MIDDLETON STONEY - Elizabeth Leggatt and James Bond.

Field work during the course of a parish survey this year resulted in the discovery of what appears to be a medieval cross lying by a barn wall in the field known as The Slade, formerly part of Lammas Hill, north of the Bicester road (PRN 8014 SP 536236). Two parts of an octagonal shaft were enmeshed in the branches of an elder tree growing against the barn wall. There are terrier references to a furlong called Headless Cross Furlong adjoining the Chesterton Way, which can be located nearby to the south of the Bicester road, and this name clearly implies the former existence of another cross in the parish, in addition to the one still standing near the church.

In amidst some rubble lying within the former kitchen-garden of Middleton Park (PRN 10,528) were discovered the capitals from the Ionic portico added to the 18th century house by Thomas Cundy for the 5th Earl of Jersey in 1806-7 (SP 526235). The capitals are clearly shown in an early 19th century pen and wash drawing of the east front, which is dominated by the central portico. This house was demolished in 1938, to be replaced by the present Lutyens house.

OXFORD. FOLLY BRIDGE. (PRN 6358 SP 51450555) - Cynthia Bradford & John Steane

An opportunity arose to investigate parts of Folly Bridge during the repairs undertaken by the County Highways dept in summer 1981. Folly Bridge formed a continuation of the great causeway crossing the Thames valley on the south side of Oxford. This causeway can be seen as a long grass covered mound carrying the present Abingdon road from Brasenose College sports ground. It may have originated in the Anglo-Saxon period if the provisional identification of a clay bank immediately to the north of Folly Bridge as a 9th century causeway (T. G. Hassall. 'Excavations at Oxford' 1981, *Oxoniensia* xxxvii 143-7) is correct. The series of stone bridges known as Grand Pont was attributed by the Monks of Abingdon to Robert d'Oilly (d. 1091 or 1092). (Stevenson J. (Ed) *Chronicon Monasterii de Abingdon*, Rolls Series 1858, ii, 15, 25). The causeway is said to have contained more than 40 arches in the 16th century and stretched along a good deal of Abingdon road. Unfortunately both Agas' and Loggan's maps show birdseye views of Folly Bridge so that it is not possible to

pick out the arches but both show the medieval fortified gateway known as "Friar Bacon's Study". There was a drawbridge to the south of this until the 17th century. The engraving by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck of 1731 shows five further arches in the causeway to the south.

The underside of three of these arches were investigated by boat kindly lent by the County Surveyor's dept. The southernmost of the three proved to have four phases of construction. Starting on the east side at waterlevel there were four ashlar courses, then a slightly pointed arch of rubble. The width of the build was 2.03 m, this had been attached to a slightly narrower arch to the westward, semi-circular in shape with a roadway of 3.5 m width. Moving westwards were two further phases each slightly wider than the first two adding a further 2.05 m and 4 m respectively. The second arch was 30 metres to the north and again there were four builds visible from the underside each separated by straight joints. From the east, the first phase was of rubble 2 m high from waterlevel and added a width of 2.03 m to the causeway. The second was lower, only 1.36 m in height, of rubble and was 3.5 m wide. The third was of ashlar, 1.25 m 2.05 m wide, the fourth was 1.50 m high and 4 m wide. The third arch to the north was again of four builds. The first was three metres across and was built of ashlar; it was 1.84 m wide. It had been added to a narrow arch of corallian limestone rubble, 3.87 m wide. The third and fourth extensions were of ashlar masonry, and were 1.79 m and 3.48 m wide, and 3.50 m across.

A suggested interpretation is as follows. The original bridge consisted of semi-circular arches built of corallian limestone rubble 3.5 to 4 metres wide. This may attributed to Robert D'Oilly's construction of the late 11th century. It is likely that Phase 2 was to the west (upstream), assuming that greater strengthening to resist the waters coming down against the piers would be required. The two outer builds may be quite recent in date, 18th century or later. James Dredge's Descriptions of Thames Bridges, undated but c 1890 mentions that when Folly Bridge was taken down in 1825 it was found to be 204 ft long and the road varied from 16ft to 23 ft in width ; "on examining the foundations it appeared that the original roadway was very narrow; probably used only for packhorses, the then general mode of transit : the roadway had been much increased in width by various additions on each side. The construction was principally of rubble stone well grouted with lime and gravel" (p. 186). A photographic record has been made of Folly Bridge and lodged in the Field Section of the Museum.

SWINBROOK AND WIDFORD. SWINBROOK COTTAGE CISTERN (PRN 12962
SP 28050208) - John Steane

At the invitation of the owners, Mrs. Dower and Miss Baer Leim, an inspection was made of a small excavation by General J. Scott-Elliott in the cottage garden. The remains consisted of a rectangular stone lined pit or cistern, 1.7 m x 1.74 m. It is 1.47 m below present ground level and is lined with dry-stone walls 0.45 m thick and a pipe 0.1 m in diameter drains into it from the west side (direction of the house up the slope). The whole was

roofed in with six railway sleepers. Suggestions that it was a cess pit seem unlikely : there was no evil smelling deposit, no evidence for staining, and the pipe is too narrow; it is more likely that it was a cistern which took water from the gutters (cf Cogges Manor Farm PRN 4601).

SOUTH STOKE. CHURCHYARD SURVEY (PRN 2327 SU 59908358) - Mrs. Gatto et alia.

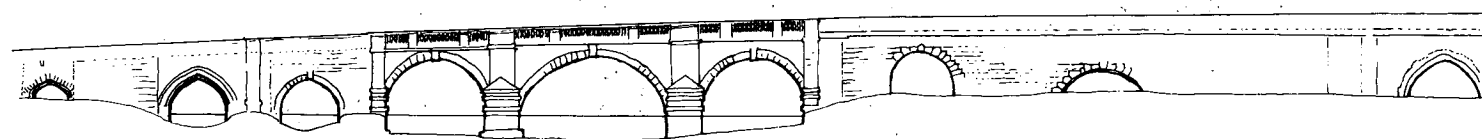
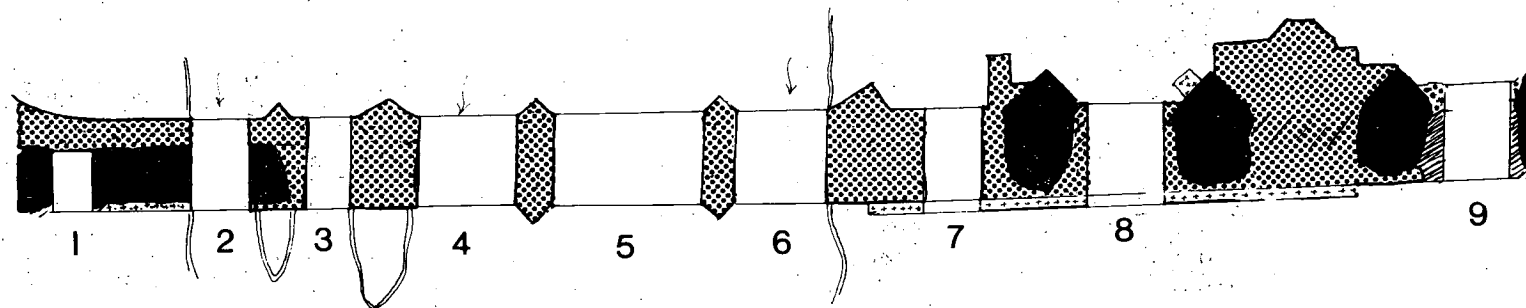
At the instance of Mrs. Gatto and a group of W.I. members a survey of the churchyard memorials of St. Andrew's Parish Church has been started. At present the whole of the churchyard has been surveyed with the help of the field section. Now all individual memorials are being recorded. It is hoped to complete the survey in 1982.

WALLINGFORD BRIDGE. (PRN 1250 SU 6100 8946).

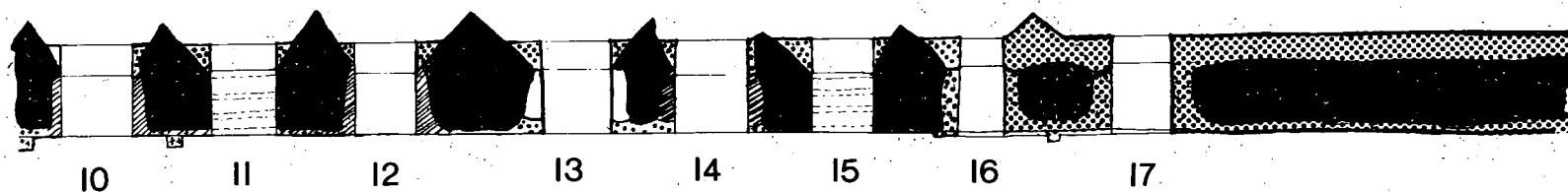
A field investigation was undertaken in spring 1981 following the museum's survey of Medieval bridges in Oxfordshire (see CBA Group 9 Newsletter 10, 1980, 97-99, 11, 1981, 93-95).

Phase 1. The most ancient portion of the bridge remaining appears to be the semicircular arch No. 13 (from the west bank). This has a rubble and flint barrel vault, is 2.2 m in height and 5.4 m in width. This would have given a rather wider roadway compared with the first phase of Folly Bridge, attributed to Robert D'Oilly c 1085. The construction of the arch and vault is very similar to the 12th century arch of Abingdon, Ock Bridge (see Steane J.M. Medieval Bridges of Oxfordshire, Woodstock, 1981, p.2). It is suggested that this arch dates from the 12th century. This agrees with the Victoria County History Berkshire, III, 522.

Phase 2. A major rebuild appears to have taken place in the 13th/14th centuries of which substantial parts still remain including arches, 1,2,11,15. Also the cutwaters between arches 7-8, 8-9, 9-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13, 13-14, 14-15, 15-16. Arch 1 is only visible from the south side because it was blocked on the north side in 1809 (V.C.H. 523). The moulded arch is 3.07 m wide, the vault is supported on two ribs and medieval stonework is visible for a width of 4.62 m before the blocking obscures it. Arch 2 is chamfered, with 3 rings of voussoirs and the roadway is supported on four ribs of cut stone : it was not possible to measure it without the use of a boat. Arch 11 is similar in design, chamfered 3.05 m high and the roadway is carried on a vault 5.48 m wide supported on 4 chamfered ribs all in ashlar. Arch 15 is again similar in design, with a chamfered arch, 2.8 m high. The roadway is slightly narrower, 4.92 m and is carried on a vault with 4 ribs all in ashlar masonry. The cutwaters are masked by the 19th century widening but are easily distinguished from the later work, being built of flint rubble with ashlar projections pointing upstream. The height of the one between arches 12 and 13 is 3.43 m. Apparently they formerly had refuges for foot passengers (V.C.H. Berks III, 522).



12th cent
 13th-14th cent
 16th cent
 18th 19th cent
 20th cent

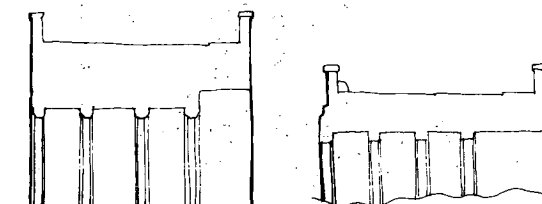


0 10 50ft

WALLINGFORD BRIDGE

FIGURE 30

PRN 1250



0 10 20ft

JMS
after HAWKINS

Phase 3. In 1429 the bridge was reported as being so ruinous that it was the cause of many accidents. Repairs were carried out in 1507 and again in 1528-30 when material of half the priory church then lately dissolved was purchased at the cost of £9 for the repair of the bridge (V.C.H. Berks III, 522). It is likely that arches 9, 10, 12, 14 were rebuilt during these repairs. Arch 9 is pointed with two rings of voussoirs, unchamfered (and thus distinguishable from the Phase 2 arches), 3.23 m high and carrying a roadway 5.61 m wide. There are pieces of diapered stonework in the crown of the arch, doubtless material from the dissolved priory, 12th century in date. Arch 10 is similar in design but slightly more depressed, only 2.76 m high and carrying a roadway 5.4 m in width. There are pieces of stone with chevron mouldings and 4 diapered stones built into the arch, again material from the Priory. The base of arch 12 is built of flint and may be late medieval. A brick vault has been added probably in the 18th century. Height 3.78 m and width of roadway at this point 5.22 m. Arch 14 is pointed, 2 rings of voussoirs 2.27 m high and the vault has a piece of diapered stonework embedded in it. The width is 4.75 m.

Phase 4. The bridge is comparatively well documented from the 17th century onwards. In 1633 the officers of the navy complained to the Lords of the Admiralty because barges, carrying ship timber from Shotover and Stowood, above 16 ft 4 inches in width, could not pass through Wallingford Bridge. In 1646 some of the arches were removed during the siege of the town by the parliamentary forces, and drawbridges were erected instead. In 1751, an agreement was made with Joseph Absolon of Wallingford, for "doing the four arches of the great bridge". A tablet, formerly existing on the eleventh arch from the east, recorded that "the four wooden arches in this bridge were taken up and cast with brick and stone in 1751". They are elsewhere described as four drawbridges. The bridge was partly widened in 1771 (Victoria County History, Berks, III, 522). In 1809 following extensive damage by floods an Act of Parliament was passed 'for partly rebuilding, widening and improving it'. The three arches across the main stream were entirely rebuilt and the whole was widened 7 ft at a cost of about £7,000.

It is suggested that the most likely place for the drawbridges and the "wooden arches" is arches 3,4,5,6 and 7. Arches 3 and 7 are similar in design, semicircular with projecting keystones, brick vaults, and have clearly been rebuilt before the general re-widening of 1809. Arches 16 and 17 similarly show signs of being rebuilt before the general rewidening. Arch 17 is segmental shaped and has a projecting keystone and brick vault. Arch 16 has two rings of voussoirs, and a brick vault. The two are structurally of one piece because there is a continuous string course binding them together. These are probably arches mentioned in the 1751 contract.

The work done in the 1809 reconstruction is clear. The three main navigation arches are semicircular, of ashlar masonry, with pyramidal shaped cutwaters on both sides and capped by a handsome balustrade. The vaults have some brick. The widening added on the north side was carried through in one style. The arches are semicircular, made of ashlar, and have projecting keystones with some iron cross-ties. The intervening masonry is coursed limestone rubble. The widened bridge varies from 7.18 m at arch 17, 7.28 m at arch 15, 7.91 m at arch 7.

There is one peculiarity which is so far unexplained. Between arches 8 and 9 is a massive projection, which is buttressed by medieval cutwaters on each side. Is this the site of the tollhouse ? (mentioned in V.C.H. Berks III, 522).

A certain amount of repairs were carried out in the 20th century including the addition of a battered masonry wall between arches 1 and 2 and between arches 6 and 9.

MUSEUM RESEARCH PROJECTS

BREWING AND MALTING

The project to examine the evolution of the brewing and malting industry in Oxfordshire from the Middle Ages to the present, which commenced last year, has continued. The initial checklist of 75 known brewery sites or documented references to unlocated brewers has now been increased to 92 examples, and 72 malthouses have now been catalogued. Further documentary work and field recording is in progress. An exhibition based upon this work will be opening at the Museum of Oxford in August 1982, and a booklet will be forthcoming.

PUBLICATIONS

The following publications resulting from the work carried out by Museum staff in Oxfordshire have been published during the year:-

ARTICLES

- M. R. AIRS & J. G. RHODES: Wall-Paintings from a House in Upper High Street, Thame. Oxoniensia Vol. XLV (1980) pp. 235-259.
- C. J. BOND: The Small Towns of Oxfordshire in the Nineteenth Century, in R. T. ROWLEY (ed.) The Oxford Region : Papers presented at a conference to commemorate the centenary of adult education in Oxfordshire, pp. 55-79; Oxford University Dept. for External Studies, 1980.
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OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT 1981

- Tom Hassall,
Director

In spite of the Unit's continued financial insecurity the number of projects undertaken was even greater than in previous years. Recently surveys have not featured largely in the Unit's programme, but this year the Thames Floodplain Survey (No.11) was continued and new projects were begun at Rollright (No. 12) and Harefield, Middlesex (No. 13). George Lambrick's work on the Floodplain, funded by the British Academy has also highlighted the importance of the interrelationship between archaeological sites and sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). A special study of these within the County (No. 8) has been completed by Duncan Brown with a view to maximising the benefits of management agreements. The work at Rollright, also carried out by George Lambrick, was specifically commissioned by the Department of the Environment (DoE) with a view to defining the area of interest around the Rollright Stones, the county's oldest Scheduled Ancient Monument. Although the techniques of this type of survey are familiar to the Unit, work of this sort on a Scheduled Ancient Monument is breaking new ground, since previously the DoE had commissioned non-local agencies to carry out work on local Guardianship or Scheduled sites for instance at Deddington and Northleigh. However a second survey of part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument was also carried out by Brian Durham and Duncan Brown at St George's Tower at Oxford Prison (No. 7). Claire Halpin's survey at Harefield, commissioned by the Greater London Council, was a project about as far afield as the Unit has ever ventured. Extra county excursions by the Unit have up to now been confined to Oxfordshire's neighbouring counties, however given the Unit's financial circumstances we are clearly prepared to work wherever our skills are in demand, provided that staff are available and the logistics can be overcome. Other surveys are discussed under the heading Survey Projects. Attention should be drawn to the vital role of the county's part-time archaeologists in this respect particularly Tim Copeland, around Charlbury (Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10) and Roger Thomas and Jeff Wallis and other members of the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) at Barrow Hills, Radley (Nos. 9 and 74).

It is excavation however, rather than surveys which the public mostly associates with the Unit. A total of forty separate sites are listed in the section dealing with Excavation Projects and Observations. Obviously these projects vary enormously in scope from the Unit's flagship project at Claydon Pike, Fairford/Lechlade (No.60) to very small watching briefs often carried out by part-time helpers such as Geoff Williams of Witney. Just as the size of the site varies so do the periods covered.

Comparatively few sites earlier than the Iron Age have had to be excavated in advance of development in this area, during the Unit's history. However 1981 saw the excavation

of a series of Neolithic sites. At Dorchester (No. 25) the construction of the by-pass has now obliterated a swathe running straight down the middle of the well known cursus including the eastern terminal. Richard Chambers with the help of labour provided through the Manpower Service Commission (MSC) Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) excavated the terminal together with two small henges and Bronze Age features. The site should provide useful radio-carbon dates. Just as interesting however has been the work of Roger Thomas and Jeff Wallis and other members of the AAAHS at Drayton (No. 74). Here constant vigilance of the Curtis gravel pit has rewarded the society with the discovery of the Drayton Cursus sealed beneath alluvium with the Neolithic ground surface undisturbed. This is a major find and an important project for the society to undertake. At both sites Richard Bradley of Reading University and a member of our Committee has provided invaluable advice.

The alluviation which sealed the cursus at Drayton is now seen by Mark Robinson to be a product of increased arable cultivation during the Iron Age. Mark Robinson's work on the problems of alluviation (No. 73) carried out as part of his research into the past environment of the Upper Thames has made use of the evidence of a number of the Unit's excavations and is an exciting spin-off from the Unit's work particularly on Iron Age sites. The largest site of this period currently being undertaken is the Claydon Pike project. The site continues to provide more evidence for the history of this Iron Age and Roman landscape. Phosphate sampling has joined the many techniques employed on this site. The work has been undertaken by Jeff Mees, one of the Oxford University Department for External Studies (OUDES) Archaeology Certificate course students, as part of his dissertation. Another familiar Iron Age site has also been the subject of further excavations this year. The former MG car factory, adjacent to the Ashville Trading Estate excavated by Michael Parrington in 1974-6, is now being developed by Standard Life Assurance who have contributed towards further excavations. The work (No. 14) has been directed by Claire Halpin. Other local societies have also been involved with further Iron Age sites: at Checkendon the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group have completed the work at the Devil's Churchyard, the Didcot and District Historical and Archaeological Society have located a site in Didcot (No. 23) while the AAAHS have continued to work at Thrupp, Radley (No. 74).

The most exotic Romano-British site of the year must undoubtedly be the discovery and trial excavation of an amphitheatre at Frilford (No. 32). This was the work of Richard Hingley as part of his post-graduate research at Southampton University. Work has begun on a large-scale on the Roman area at Claydon Pike where David Miles with the MSC YOP scheme supervised by Simon Palmer with Alan Hardy and Peter Rooke are now uncovering the Roman settlement area (No. 60). Nearby at Rough Ground Farm Lechlade, Tim Allen

with the Oxford University Archaeological Society (OUAS) have been clarifying some outstanding problems related to the villa excavated by Margaret Jones. It is good to see the OUAS in the field again after a rather quiet period. At Dorchester-on-Thames Richard Chambers has supervised the AAHS and the OUAS section the defences (No. 26). Richard Chambers has also uncovered more of one of the town's cemeteries as part of the Dorchester by-pass project (No. 25). More of one of the Cowley Kilns has been recorded by Brian Durham at Between Towns Road (No. 38).

In the late Saxon and medieval period the Unit's work is again dominated by excavations in Oxford. Brian Durham has uncovered part of one the fords linking Oxford with the south in St. Aldates (No. 45). It is tempting to think of this site as part of the 'Ox Ford' for which the City derives its name. The laying of new drains in the High Street (No. 41) and sewers in Christ Church Meadow (No. 39) have provided more information on the late Saxon town's topography. Work by Eleanor Forfang has raised the exciting possibility of part of one of the town's medieval gates surviving in Corpus Christi College (No. 40). John Blair's theories about Frewin Hall have been confirmed (No. 42). Finally Brian Durham has confirmed that if the Oxford Station site is developed, as seemed likely during the year, substantial remains are to be expected of Rewley Abbey (No. 44).

Outside Oxford there have been no major medieval excavations, Richard Chambers has however coordinated the work on a number of small site including the Launton History Society's watching brief in that village (No. 36) and the Witney and District Archaeological and Historical Society at Witney (No. 57).

Less obvious to the outside world than the excavations are the Post Excavation Projects. Amongst the projects nearing completion are George Lambrick's multi-period site at Mount Farm, Berinsfield (No. 74); Tim Allen and Mark Robinson's Iron Age site at Mingies Ditch, Hardwick (Nos. 73 and 74); Tim Allen and Sarah Green have worked on Margaret Jones' site at Rough Ground Farm, Lechlade (No. 71); the pagan Saxon cemetery at Wally Corner, Berinsfield, the weapons from which have been studied by Heinrich Härke (No. 62); the medieval moated manor house at Harding's Field Chalgrove which was excavated by Phillip Page (No. 63) and finally great progress has been made by Maureen Mellor with Claire Halpin, and John Wood helped by Pat Horsman, Barbara Howes, Sally Jones and Jean Mitchell on the St. Ebbe's, Oxford sites (No. 68). Susan Hockey of the University Computing Service has continued to help Maureen Mellor with the programming of the pottery from the Oxford sites. A number of other Unit staff are involved in these post excavation projects: Gwynne Oakley, the Unit's finds administrator helped on a voluntary basis by Mrs Caruthers, John Garlinge, Jane Gordon-Cummings, Michael Newman and Stephen Terry Barbara Howes; Wendy Page and Eleanor Beard in the drawing office and the Unit's long

suffering secretaries: Lindsay Donaghy who left during the year to have a baby and Jocelyn le Petit who took over. The typing of the reports would also not have been possible without the continued use of a golf-ball typewriter loaned by St. Cross College. Reports on the multi-period site at Appleford, excavated by John Hinchliff, Neil McGavin's report on the Roman cemetery at Stanton Harcourt cricket ground and Nicholas Palmer's excavation at the Hamel, Oxford were all published in Oxoniensia.

As last year the Environmental Projects have a section to themselves. Bob Wilson describes his work on animal bones (No. 72) and Mark Robinson on Waterlogged Plants and Invertebrates (No. 73). After very protracted negotiations these two have now left the formal employ of the Unit as part of the scheme by John Musty of DoE to transfer all DoE funded environmental work to University Departments. The University Museum has now become their official home, although their work continues to be dominated by Unit projects. Martin Jones, formerly of the Unit left the Department of Botany during the year to take up a post at Durham University, but he has continued to advise the Unit. Mary Harmon has continued as the Unit's freelance human bone specialist (Nos. 19 and 21).

The Unit's work has continued to attract attention in the media including the visit by Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment to the excavation at Dorchester-on-Thames. The Unit's own exhibitions including one entitled 'Pungent Pipes and Potent Potions' on post medieval material; the Claydon Pike Project and 'Old Bones and Beasties' have greeted visitors to the Unit in our entrance. A special display arranged by Duncan Brown was put on at Thame Show to try to put over archaeology to the local farming community.

Apart from those whose names have already been mentioned it is a pleasure to thank all those who have helped the Unit in its work during the year. A special thanks should go to the young people on the MSC YOP Scheme. Other colleagues who have assisted the Unit during the year, have been Professor Shepherd Frere, The Chairman, and Louise Armstrong, the Secretary, and all the members of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee; Wally Castle, the Unit's Treasurer; Trevor Rowley and Shirley Hermon, his secretary of the University Department for External Studies; James Bond, Dan Chadwick, John Steane, Ahmed Shishtawi and John Rhodes of the Oxfordshire Department of Museum Services; David Brown, Arthur MacGregor, and Gwyn Miles of the Ashmolen Museum; John Ashdown and Malcolm Ains of Oxford City Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. Particular thanks must also go to our colleagues at DoE particularly Sarnia Butcher, Tony Fleming, John Musty, Steve Nelson and Geoffery Wainwright.

The Unit would like to acknowledge the generous support from all the organisations who by grant aiding the Unit have

made its 1981 programme possible. These organisations include, from Central Government: The Department of the Environment and the Manpower Services Commission; from Local Government: Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, the Vale of White Horse District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Abingdon Town Council and the following Parish Councils: Appleton with Eaton and Sutton Courtenay; from the University: The Department for External Studies and the following Colleges: St. Cross, St. John's, St. Peter's and Wadham. Special gifts were received from Mrs Elizabeth Payne of the Nag's Head Public House and members of the Smithsonian Seminar. The Unit is also grateful for the major covenanted grant from the Amey Roadstone Corporation and other substantial grants from the British Academy, the Oxford Preservation Trust and Standard Life Assurance. Without the continued support of all these donors the rescue archaeology programme of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit would not have been possible in 1981.

SURVEY PROJECTS

Oxfordshire

1. CHADLINGTON - Tim Copeland

A worked flint core and a flange of Oxfordshire white ware mortarium have been found in the ploughsoil at SP335213.

2. CHALGROVE - Richard Chambers (Fig.31)

A survey has been made of the earthworks in the paddock to the west of the Churchyard at Chalgrove (PRN 11,136; SUI6365 9655). The earthworks were prone to water-logging and have now been partially infilled with dredgings from the stream that borders the paddock to the west and south.

The survey revealed traces of linear boundaries of uncertain age but probably remnants of the medieval village. The boundary bank from a former road that survives in part as a pathway leading to the church, was seen to continue south-eastwards as shown on Davis's map of 1779. One boundary ditch turned to join one or possibly two heavily silted ponds A and B. Whether these ponds were entirely man-made or were remnants of a previous stream-bed was not clear. Several shallow meandering depressions suggested remnant stream courses within the field (C, D & E). The 1841 Tithe Award indicates osiers as having once been grown on part of this ground.

The Unit is extremely grateful to Mr Monck for permission to survey this site.

3. CHARLBURY: Banbury Hill - Tim Copeland

A pottery scatter of 90 sherds of R-B pottery over an area of 50m by 100m, overlooking the incised, dry valley of Clarkes Bottom (PRN 12,853; centred on SP 361203). It included fragments of Samian Ware, shell tempered ware with late rim forms, Black Burnished Ware, Oxfordshire white and red colour coated ware and a rim of Oxfordshire mortarium. These sherds date to the 3rd-4th centuries. The site lies alongside Hundley Way, a possibly trackway connecting the Meareway (which runs from beyond Churchill to Stonesfield) and the River Evenlode.

4. CHARLBURY WITH SHORTHAMPTON - Tim Copeland (Fig.32)

Intensive field work has been carried out over the last 18 months in fields either side of the section of the bridleway that connects Walcot and Shorthampton. The work has been concentrated in the fields either side of the Bridleway between S0352192 and SP334200, bounded to the south by Wychwood Forest and the north by the River Evenlode. The surface geology is riverine alluvial clay, and upslope, the Clypeus Grit of the Inferior Oolite. This section of bridleway is part of what appears to be a very ancient routeway from Wilcote, where it joins Akeman Street, to Ascott-U-Wychwood, and possibly further up the Evenlode Valley. Historic features are found along its length including Topples Wood D.M.V. (PRN 1208; centred on SP371165); a tumulus at SP356181; an earthwork and ditch (PRN 1290; SP35601795); a promontory fort (PRN2400; SP353188), the Walcot D.M.V. (PRN 1207; centred on SP348197) - see below No.5; Shorthampton Shrunk Village (SP328202) and a courtyard type Romano British villa (PRN 5655; SP3171913).

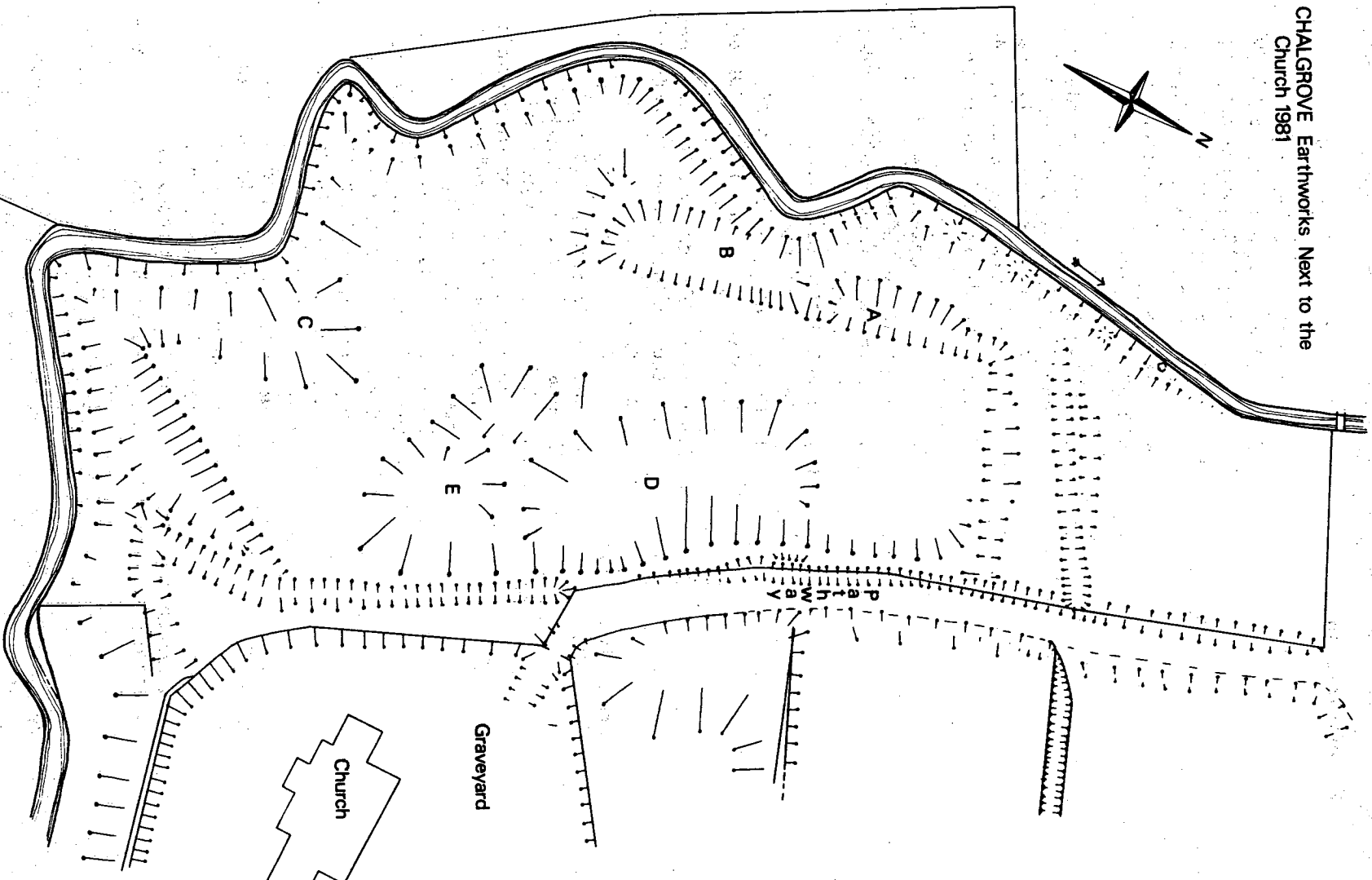
The finds that have been recorded are as follows:

Prehistoric:

Scatters of worked flint, probably Neolithic, have been found on either side of the routeway all along the length examined:

Moss Close:	3 scrapers centred on SP348191
Moss Close Field:	10 scrapers centred on SP347193
Walcot Field:	Barbed and tanged arrowhead SP34951945
Blue Gate Piece:	3 scrapers and arrowhead centred on SP347195
	1 scraper and 1 arrowhead had centred on SP338198
Beggars Piece and Fir Ground:	3 scrapers centred on SP338198
	6 scrapers centred on SP341200
	2 scrapers centred on SP336199

CHALGROVE Earthworks Next to the
Church 1981



0 10 100m

Fig.31

Romano-British:

Mossy Close:

A dense scatter of RB potsherds 200m x 100m(long axis being NE-SW) centred on SP348191, and occupying the shoulder of a spur of the R. Evenlode. 350 sherds recovered small decorate including the following fabrics:

- 1) Samian Ware, 4 body sherds, small decorated sherd with sherd with indistinct figures, base of plain form vessel. 4 body sherds of indeterminate form.
- ii) Red colour coated sherds of the Oxfordshire industry
- iii) Buff/orange fabric with darker inclusions.
- iv) Black Burnished Ware.
- v) Calcite gritted Ware
- vi) Grey fabric, micaceous with darker inclusions black coated

Majority of sherds were of iii) and vi). They appear to be of 2nd-4th centuries date.

**Area Centred on
SP335198:**

Scatter of 30 sherds includes flanged rim of Black Burnished ware bowl: two flanges from from segmental bowls of Oxfordshire oxidized ware; thick rolled rim of a redware bowl copying Dragendorf 27. Body sherds mainly of oxidized fabric. All sherds date from 2nd-4th centuries. The aerial photographs indicate a shadowy rectangular feature in the area of the pot scatter rim of red fabric flanged bowl copying Dragendorf. Rectangular whetstone of sandstone similar to one from Shakenoak No.41.

**Area Centred on
SP345197:**

**Area centred on
SP341196:**

- i) rim of necked bowl in micaceous, buff-fabric with out-turned rim;
- ii) body sherd similar in fabric to i);

**Area centred on
SP349196:**

Sherd of Samian Ware of uncertain form. There has been a marked absence of Roman building materials and these scatters probably represent native settlements

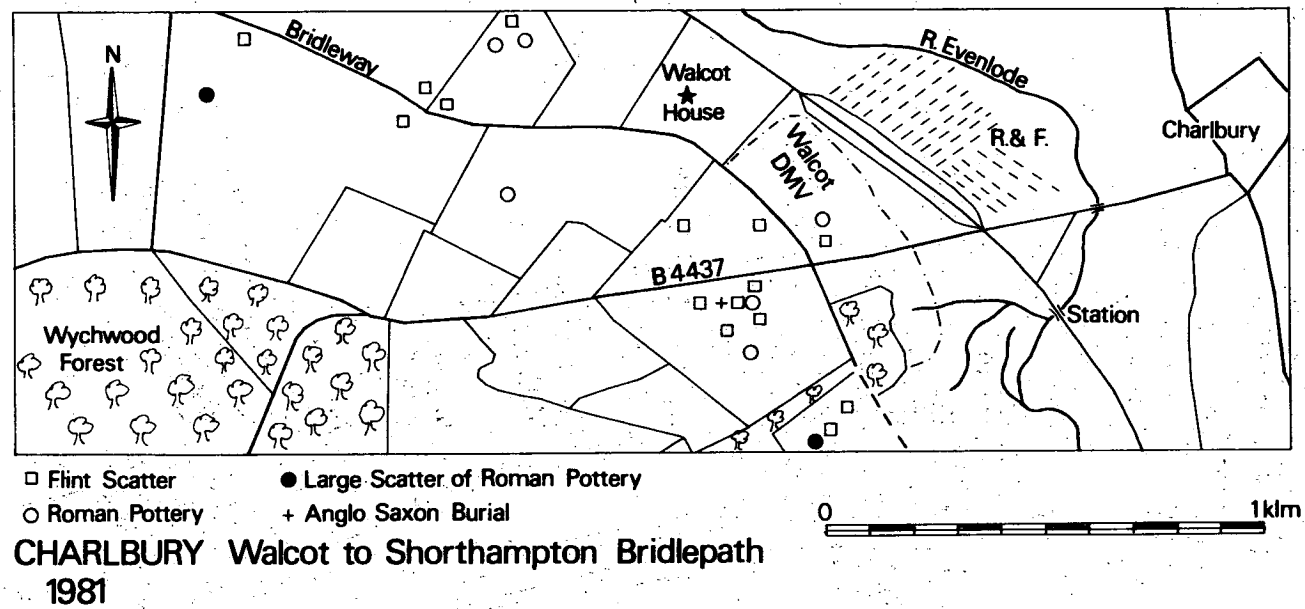
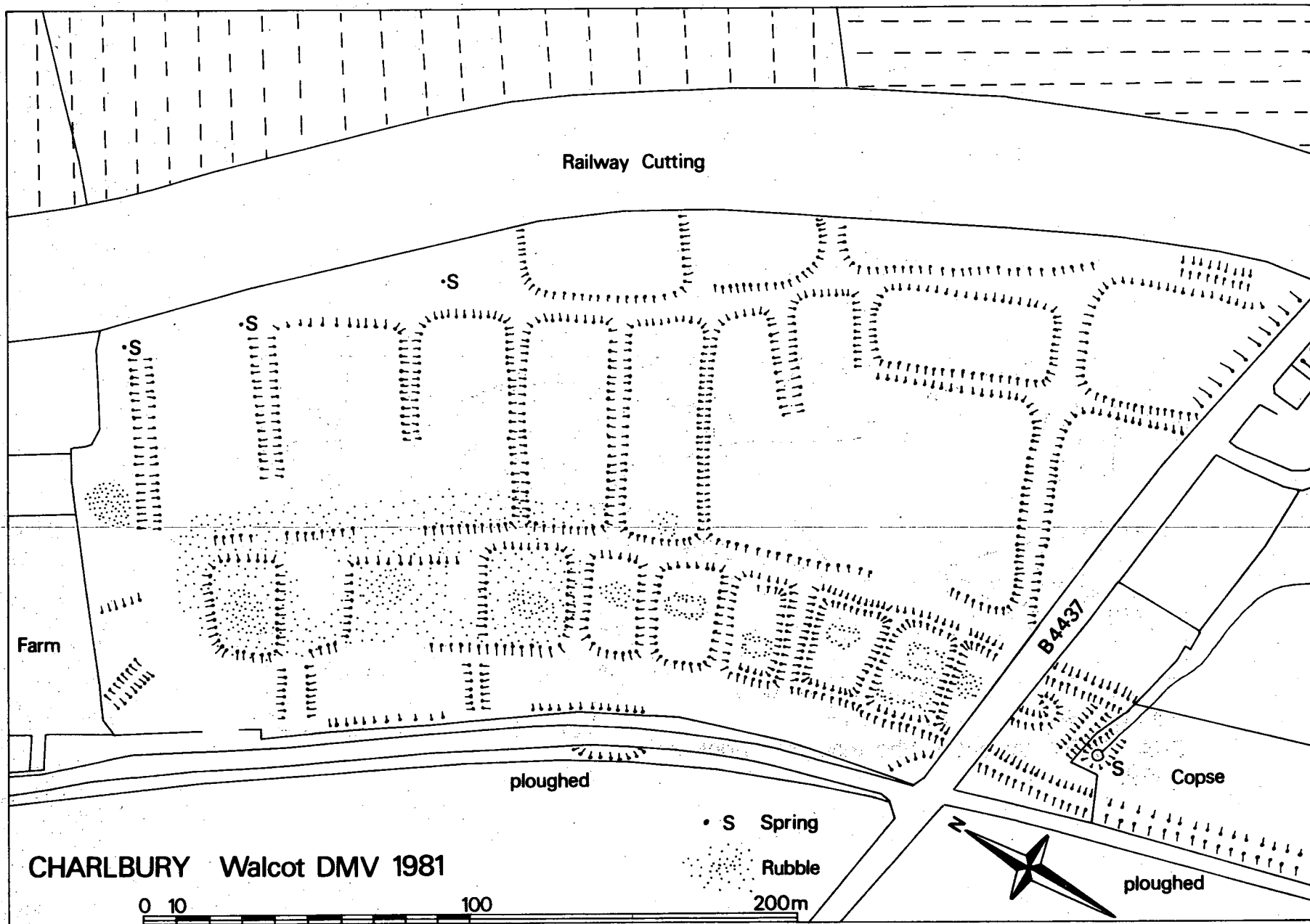


Fig. 32

Fig. 33



Saxon

Moss Close Field: Burial at SP347194 (PRN 12,876)
see below No.19).

Medieval:

The former Charlbury-Leafield roan (PRN 12854) was superseded by the present B4427 in 1835 when the O.W.W. Railway was built. The old line has been traced from SP354196 to SP349194.

Post Medieval:

Charlbury Gasworks (PRN270 centred on SP 3500 in 1945); Brick revetted springs from circular features connected with the water supply for this industrial site.

5. CHARLBURY: Walcot - Tim Copeland (Fig.33)

During 1979-81, when the ploughing further destroyed the earthworks of the village, the visible features and stone scatters were planned and photographed (PRN 1207, centred on SP248197). A series of c.10 tofts were identified over an area of 300m by 160m aligned roughly NW-SE with a hollow way bounding them on the NE. Beyond the hollow way were a series of possible paddocks. All these features have now been totally destroyed.

Documentary evidence is sparse but in the Hundred Rolls of 1279, 11 tenants were recorded, and in 1334 tax was paid by the tenants totalling 18 shillings. In 1377 the Poll Tax returns indicated 17 tenants, but by 1609 just one house remained, probably Walcot House, which was again enumerated in the Hearth Tax returns of 1665 with 15 hearths.

The village site was cut by the road which is now B4437 in 1835, and further untouched tofts, paddocks and hollow ways have been discovered and await planning, centred on SP350195.

400 sherds have been collected, from the site. The pottery sequence indicates that the village came to an end in the 14th century. The dominant fabric varies in surface colour from brick red to grey and black, the majority is a mottled buff brown. Texture in break is hackly, with inclusions of oolitic limestone detritus, occasional shell, quartz and gypsum plates. The surfaces are highly vesiculated and vary in hardness from soft to very hard. The pottery has all the characteristics of a small local production centre firing Evenlode river clay in unstable kiln or clamp environments. It bears great similarity to the collections from Ascott-under-Wychwood and Coat D.M.V. This fabric is classified as Oxford Fabric CX.

The Archaeology of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in
Oxfordshire

	Largest	Large	Small	Smallest	Totals
	200 ha (6 SSSI's)	50-200ha (20 SSSI's)	10-50ha (28 SSSI's)	10ha (29 SSSI's)	(83 SSSI's)
Extant	30 (on	25 (on	7 (on	-	62 (on
Earthwork	3 SSSI's)	9 SSSI's)	5 SSSI's)	-	17 SSSI's)
Crop/ parchmark	10 (on 2 SSSI's)	6 (on 5 SSSI's)	4 (on 3 SSSI's)	-	20 (on 10 SSSI's)
Destroyed sites	1 (on 1 SSSI)	2 (on 2 SSSI's)	1 (on 1 SSSI)	-	4 (on 4 SSSI's)
Other sites	7 (on 3 SSSI's)	3 (on 3 SSSI's)	5 (on 4 SSSI's)	1 (on 1 SSSI)	16 (on 11 SSSI's)
Find spots	10 (on 5 SSSI's)	14 (on 5 SSSI's)	12 (on 6 SSSI's)	1 (on 1 SSSI)	37 (on 17 SSSI's)
Miscell.	2 (on 2 SSSI's)	-	5 (on 2 SSSI's)	1 (on 1 SSSI)	8 (on 5 SSSI's)
Total No. Sites	61 (on 6 SSSI's)	50 (on 12 SSSI's)	34 (on 11 SSSI's)	3 (on 3 SSSI's)	148 (on 32 SSSI's)
Scheduled	121 (on 3 SSSI's)	7 (on 5 SSSI's)	1 (on 1 SSSI)	-	20 (on 9 SSSI's)
% SSSI's with Arch. sites	100%	60%	39%	10%	39%
Au. Sites per SSSI	10	4	3	1	5
% sites surviving	50%	50%	21%	-	42%
% sites scheduled	20%	14%	3%	-	14%
% earthwork scheduled	23%	28%	14%	-	27%

Table 1

6. FINSTOCK: Mount Pleasant - Tim Copeland

A probable moated site has been identified alongside the B4022 (PRN 12860; SP34951575). Earthworks are very distinct on NE with ditch c. 3m deep and c. 10m wide. The platform is c. 25m by 100m and is aligned NE-SW. Further earthworks are detectable on S. and E. outside the moated area.

7. OXFORD PRISON: St. George's Tower - Brian Durham

The Home Office is replacing the post-medieval timber ground floor of the eleventh century tower, and at the request of DoE a record of the structure was made by Duncan Brown as an in-service training project. An elaborate basement frame clearly supported some sort of machine which was driven through a vertical shaft from a capstan-like 'gin' on the floor above. Whatever or whoever pushed the gin round had worn three concentric grooves in the floorboards.

There is no reason why this machine should be any older than the rebuilding of the prison in 1786, and it is therefore most likely that it was a predecessor of the Victorian treadmill used to discipline the prisoners.

8. OXFORDSHIRE: The Archaeology of Sites of Special Scientific Interest - George Lambrick (Table 1)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are areas chosen as being of outstanding value for nature conservation by the Nature Conservancy Council. Such sites are of interest archaeologically because most areas are unaffected by modern agriculture and other destructive developments, and therefore contain well preserved archaeological sites, as well as being ideal for wildlife conservation. The statutory protection afforded to SSSIs is generally weaker than that given to ancient monuments, especially since the new Ancient Monuments Act of 1979 - the Wildlife and Countryside Act will by no means catch up with it in potential effectiveness of protection for nature reserves. In practice, however, the effectiveness of protection depends, both for nature conservation and archaeological sites, on ownership and the maintenance of specific management agreements.

On the whole the SSSIs vary much more in this respect than do archaeological sites, since their protection will vary from ownership and management by local Naturalist Trusts (in this case BBONT) to short-term agreements with farmers with little sympathy for restrictive management of large areas. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are seldom owned by bodies with specific archaeological interests, except those in DoE Guardianship (7 in Oxfordshire), excluding standing buildings and while they have better statutory protection and are smaller, enforcement and the maintenance of management agreements can still pose problems.

Given the obvious potential for mutually reinforcing these protection policies where archaeological and nature conservation interests coincide, the amount of direct contact between the two interests has in the past been insufficient to be of much help when the need has arisen. The most glaring example occurred in 1980 when permission was given for the reseedling of a Scheduled Ancient Monument on Lowbury Hill, an SSSI. This involved light cultivation of a previously unploughed site, and whatever the destruction to the archaeology (observation of the earthworks before and after suggested some definite damage), the botanical value of the SSSI was totally destroyed. This case demonstrates how the potential for secure preservation afforded by mutual archaeological and wildlife interests can be destroyed through one party's ignorance of the other's protection policies. This case and the general potential for mutual co-operation made an archaeological assessment of SSSIs seem highly desirable, and this study was carried out by Duncan Brown as a project for his in-service training course.

The objectives were mainly to ensure that both the archaeological and nature conservation bodies were aware of each others interests in these areas, but also to see whether the SSSIs were indeed particularly rich havens of well preserved archaeological sites, and if so whether these were adequately protected under archaeological legislation. Detailed lists and maps have been sent to the principal interested bodies (The Nature Conservancy Council, DoE, BBONT and ODMS) and the DoE's lists of scheduled Ancient Monuments. The overall results are shown in the Table, and this allows a preliminary assessment to be made.

It is clear from the very high proportion of sites surviving as earthworks that the SSSIs do act as havens for well preserved monuments, and the fairly high proportion of earthworks which are scheduled (27%) suggest that in general the sites most worthy of protection are often scheduled. These scheduled monuments account for 13% of the total in the county while the SSSIs account for only c. 1% of the county's total area, further indicating the value of the SSSIs as areas of good archaeological preservation. On the whole the two categories of larger SSSIs (over 50 hectares) appear to be most valuable archaeologically, as might be expected.

Although in many respects the position is encouraging, the ploughing of Lowbury Hill is a clear warning against lapsing into complacency and there is undoubtedly scope for extending ancient monument protection to some of the remaining three-quarters of extant earthworks. In some instances quite obvious omissions occur, such as around the limited scheduled areas on Port Meadow and a detailed review of sites worth putting forward for scheduling is still desirable.

It is hoped to extend the study to cover other protected areas, such as other BBONT Nature Reserves and perhaps National Trust properties.

9. RADLEY: Barrow Hills - see No.74

10. SPELSBURY: The Hawkstone - Tim Copeland

A light scatter of R-B pottery appeared in ploughsoil 10m east of the Hawkstone (PRN 12,852; SP 340235). Nine sherds recovered, including one fragment of red colour coated vessel similar to Young type C25.

11. THAMES FLOODPLAIN SURVEY - George Lambrick (Figs. 34 and 35 and Table 2)

This year's work is still in progress and is concentrating on consolidating background information for particular sites, and establishing the general pattern of changing land use. A large collection of air photographs of the Thames in flood has been examined at the Thames Water Authority's offices, and several of these provide excellent views of sites under floods - often with earthworks rising clear of the floods, or ditches just covered by water. Work has begun on producing accurate plans of some sites from the more conventional collections of air photographs, and the plan of Port Meadow is illustrated. The main elements of this major complex of sites are the Bronze Age Ring Ditches, the groups of small Iron Age enclosures, and the linear ditches, whose dating is uncertain in many cases. The three groups of Iron Age enclosures occupy slightly higher, drier areas in the meadow which, from the photographs, seem to have been surrounded by marshy areas. This arrangement is closely comparable to the Claydon Pike middle Iron Age Settlement (see below No.60) and the discovery there of the remains of paddocks or fields and other divisions in the landscape, divided up by linear ditches makes it likely that several of the port Meadow ditches are Iron Age. This particularly applies to the large rectangular enclosure at the northwest corner of the meadow, and the curving ditch running north from it, enclosing one of the groups of Iron Age enclosures. More than one phase of ditch is apparent from detailed examination of the photos, and a complex sequence of relationships with the small enclosures is evident at its north west corner. The existence of well preserved organic deposits has been demonstrated from the Iron Age ditches, and these will shortly be sampled by excavation. The Bronze Age ring ditches filled up under somewhat different conditions in which preservation was not good; this corresponds to the observations of other Bronze Age floodplain sites at the Hamel and King's Weir. An important part of the Survey's findings has been the establishment of the sequence and dating of alluviation on the floodplain which is outlined below by Mark Robinson (see below No.73). So far this has been based on accumulated observations from several different excavated sites, but a more detailed investigation of specific deposits is planned, and it is hoped that it will be possible to relate the developments in the sequence of alluviation to

the general pattern of human activity within the catchment area of the river.

Another part of the consolidation of background information has been the compilation of statistics on the survival of sites, and on the changing pattern of land use. The survival of sites was considered in terms of use and the type of evidence surviving (see the accompanying table) the dating being based on a preliminary assessment of last year's fieldwalking and the morphology of the sites themselves. Various problems of definition make the figures only approximate. Generally speaking the survival of sites on the floodplain is not obviously better than the county generally (though no exact figures are available). The four earthworks on arable land or reseeded pasture can be regarded as most seriously under threat of destruction by ploughing and include the important Iron Age fort at Burroway where burnt clay from the rampart structure is being ploughed up, and one of the "Highworth" type ring ditches, as well as two Bronze Age tumulus sites. The occurrence of sites buried under alluvium is rather a matter of chance discovery and those revealed by finds scatters are almost certainly considerably under-represented in the figures. The fairly even proportions of known sites of different periods (except for Neolithic and Saxon) is also probably misleading: the 53% of undated sites are mostly cropmarks which are much more likely to be Iron Age and Roman than most other periods, while more Neolithic sites also are likely to be found from further fieldwalking.

The present distribution of sites by land use category corresponds remarkably well with the actual proportion of the floodplain devoted to those types of land use (see the accompanying Figure). On the face of it, this would suggest that our current picture of floodplain settlement is not severely distorted by modern land use (though future fieldwork may bias it heavily towards the arable areas). In detail, however, biases are evident between the different periods: almost all the Roman sites are on arable while most of the medieval ones are either buried beneath Oxford or survive as earthworks. With such a high proportion of land now devoted to arable, however, further biases are likely to relate to the recoverability of different types of evidence from ploughed fields: flints survive well; prehistoric pottery does not, Roman and medieval pottery; also different periods are not equally well represented by cropmarks.

The cumulative changes in land use are shown in the accompanying figure. The evidence comes from a mixture of sources: mostly aerial photography for ridge and furrow and landuse of the last 30 years; Rocque's and Davis' maps of Berkshire and Oxfordshire for the extent of later 18th century arable; and modern fieldwork (partly by the Nature Conservancy Council) for current land use. None of this information is completely accurate - simply because of practical difficulties of interpretation - but the general

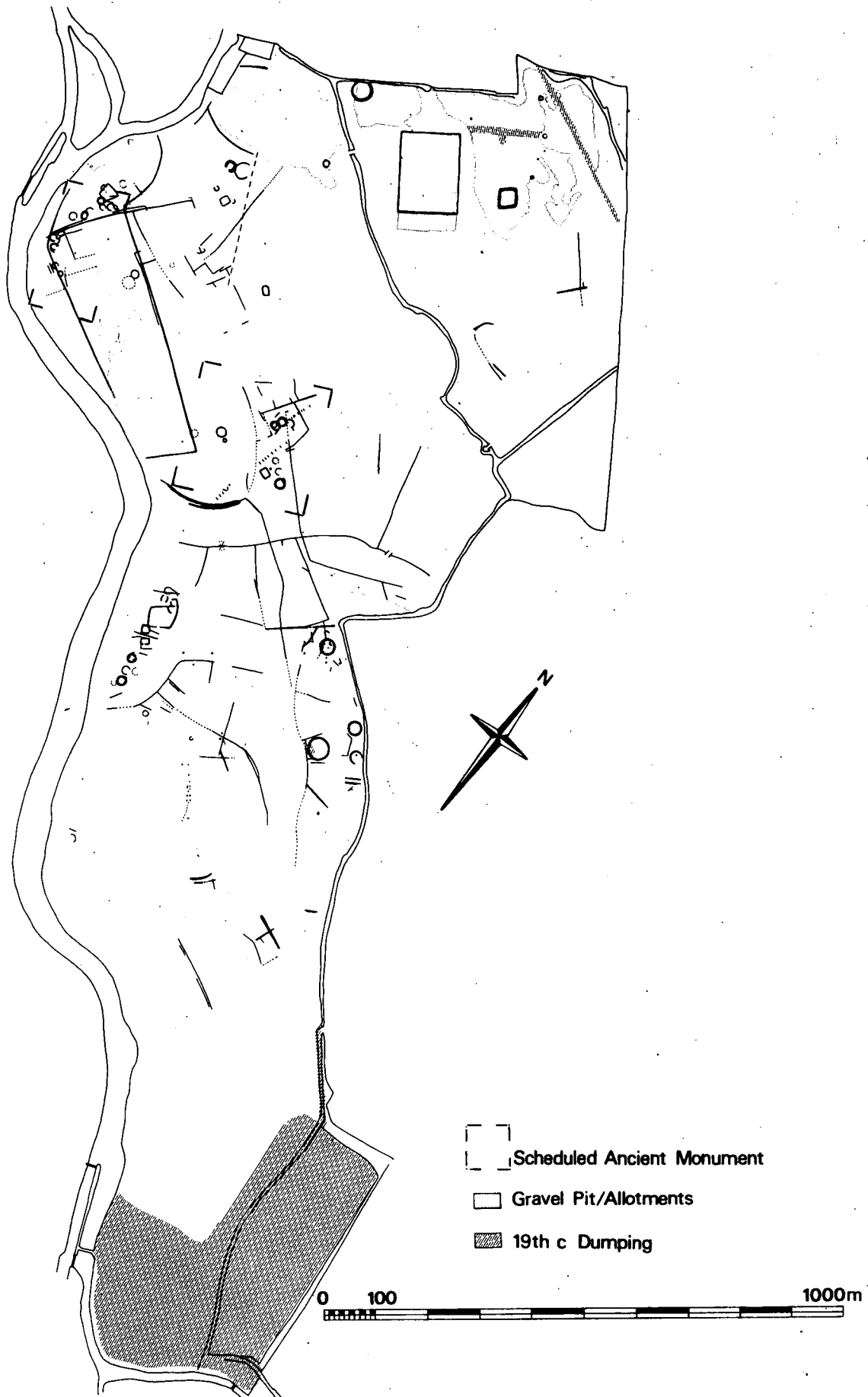


Fig. 34

Cropmarks on Port Meadow, Oxford

	Unploughed Undisturbed	Arable/ reseeded	Destroyed in Gravel pits etc.	Built Over/ Urban	All Conditions
Earthworks	• 6 □ 2 ○ 4 * 4 13%	• 1 □ 2 ○ 1 3%	○ 1 1%		• 7 □ 4 ○ 6 * 4 17%
Buried Deposits	Δ 2 2%	□ 1 + 2 2.5%	○ 1 1%	□ 1 * 6 6%	Δ 2 □ 2 ○ 1 + 2 * 6 12%
Cropmarks & Parchmarks	• 2 ○ 1 2.5%	• 52 Δ 1 □ 5 ○ 4 + 6 * 1 58%	• 3 □ 1 3%		• 57 Δ 1 □ 6 ○ 5 + 6 0 * 1 63%
Finds Scatters etc.		Δ 3 □ 1 + 5 * 1 8%		× 1	Δ 3 □ 1 + 5 × 1 * 1 9%
All types of evidence	• 8 Δ 2 □ 2 ○ 5 + 0 × 0 * 4 17%	• 53 Δ 4 □ 9 ○ 5 + 13 × 0 * 2 73%	• 3 Δ 0 □ 1 ○ 2 + 0 × 0 * 0 5%	• 0 Δ 0 □ 1 ○ 0 + 0 × 1 * 6 7%	• 64 Δ 6 □ 12 ○ 12 + 13 × 1 * 12 T2T 53% 5% 10% 10% 11% 1% 10%

undated •
neolithic Δ
bronze age □
iron age ○
roman +
saxon ×
medieval *

"sites" 1. include major complexes of cropmarks not their individual components, and whole suburbs of Oxford.

2. finds scatters only count where they suggest actual occupation or funerary deposits.

3. river crossings and roads have not been counted.

"undisturbed" includes sites only partly undisturbed.

Table 2

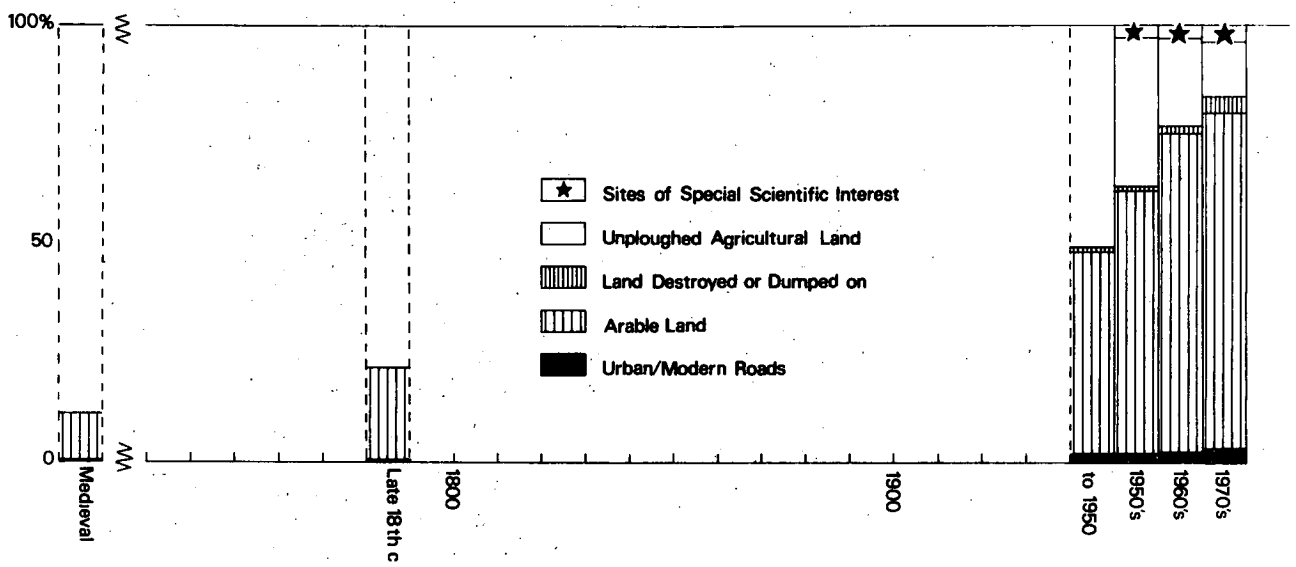


Fig. 35

Thames Floodplain Survey: Cumulative changes in land use

trends are probably reliable. The proportion of arable to unploughed land provides the main area of concern, and the massive increase of arable since the war is very striking. The percentages of unploughed land remaining which was lost in the three decades since 1950 were approximately 27% (1950-60) 35% (1960-70) and 22% (1970-80). The relative slowing down recently of new cultivation reflects how little remains to be ploughed up, and it is significant that 28% of the remaining areas are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, of which Port Meadow is the largest, and archaeologically by far the most valuable. The precise toll of archaeological sites in the modern extension of arable is uncertain, but there are records of sites near Northmoor, now revealed only by cropmarks, surviving as earthworks in the 1940's. A comparison with figures for other areas shows similar rates of loss of the Dorset heathland for example, whereas on the chalk the ploughing up of unploughed grassland has tended to be slower since the last War. The figures provided by this study seem to confirm greater emphasis recently on the conversion of poorly drained grassland to arable use, and reinforces the need for protection of sites still surviving in such areas. Another ominous trend, though it affects only a small percentage of the total area as yet, is the increased destruction of the floodplain by gravel quarrying. So far much of the area lost is accounted for by Farmoor Reservoir, but gravel extraction is increasing significantly as areas of adjacent gravel terrace are exhausted and this seems likely to be an increasing trend. Its effects on the archaeology of the floodplain is evident from the recent excavations at Mingies Ditch, Drayton and Claydon Pike. The value of such sites was clearly established at Farmoor, and all the subsequent excavations have confirmed the high priority that should be attached to threatened floodplain sites, not excluding those under new or continuing agricultural threat.

The survey is financed by a grant from the British Academy.

12. ROLLRIGHT: Rollright Stones- George Lambrick (Fig.36)

At the request of the DoE a small excavation was carried out in the hollow adjacent to the King Stone to see whether topsoil stripping and dumping of spoil from roadworks on the A34 had revealed any archaeological features or done any damage. No features of interest were seen, and little damage appeared to have been done. The hollow has usually been regarded as a 19th century quarry, but this was not entirely evident from the excavation. In one area there were layers of rubble and soil as might be expected of a disused quarry, but elsewhere a layer of largely stone free reddish loam overlay apparently undisturbed rock. Two pieces of china were recovered from the base of the topsoil (the hollow has been cultivated this century) but neither was properly stratified in the underlying deposits. The reddish loam may

well be soil which washed in from the side of the hollow before it was brought into cultivation rather than being the remains of an ancient ground surface. Antiquarian drawings of the site and contemporary descriptions by e.g. Stukely give no indication of the hollow existing before the nineteenth century. It therefore seems likely that it was a quarry.

The DoE also asked the Unit to carry out a survey of the area surrounding the stones to identify all evidence of archaeological sites along that part of the ridge, so that their scheduling policy might be reviewed. This work is currently in progress, with the documentary research and aerial photograph evidence largely completed and a detailed fieldwalking programme also nearing completion. Much of this work has been done by Shiela Girardon and John Margham. The figure shows the evidence of structural remains in the area, and the fieldwalking (so far in the fields either side of the King's Stone, south of the road) has produced several hundred flints and a moderate scatter of Roman pottery. Except for the Iron Age, for which there is no positive evidence of occupation in the area, there are traces of human activity throughout the period from the later Neolithic to early Saxon times. Absence of ridge and furrow or medieval pottery suggests that during the middle ages the area may have been turned over solely to grazing, and 18th century references indicate that it was still rough grazing then. Arable agriculture probably resumed with the enclosure of the area, perhaps for the first time since the Roman period (indicated by the thin scatter of Roman pottery over the fields). The prehistoric flintwork constitutes a large and useful collection from the Cotswolds, though its value is diminished in being a surface collection rather than from stratified deposits. Its distribution is fairly general with only slight concentrations other than a broad variation between areas of relatively high density and areas with rather little flintwork. The source material was evidently very poor, small nodules (probably all that was available locally) except for one large core, probably of chalk flint, which seems to have been lost early in its use. The high proportion of very small cores and the reuse of old implements, natural lumps and discarded cores as scrapers etc are good evidence of the poverty of the raw material. Implements form a fairly high proportion of the flints recovered and a wide range is present.

The overall impression from the distribution and make-up of the assemblage is one of occupation over a long period but never concentrated in a single locality, but rather spreading over much of the southern facing slope near the Stones. The relatively high proportion of implements to waste may indicate little permanent settlement, and taken together these characteristics could be regarded as being consistent with regular temporary occupation connected with the religious or ceremonial functions of the Stones themselves. It will be interesting to compare the results of this survey

Fig. 36

KEY

1. Roman pottery scatter.
- 2-5. Tumulus with remains of stonework various positions given by different authors, most reliably, No.5.
6. Round barrow.
7. Possible long barrow: excavations by Ravenhill 1925 suggested it is natural.
8. Cropmarks of Ring Ditches.
9. "Old stones" in hedgerow.
10. Cropmark of possible enclosure with internal features. Stukeley's "Druids courts or houses.... 100 cubits square."
11. Faint cropmarks of linear ditches and pit(s).
12. Finds of "Bones of men and horses".
13. Finds from part of Saxon burial ground.
14. Cropmark of Ring Ditch.
15. Cropmark of Trackway.
16. Finds of Saxon burial ground, including cremation urn and 12 skeletons with grave goods.
17. Find of human skeleton and 10ft. long stone.
18. Find of human cheekbone in Whispering Knights Chambered tomb.

A)
B)
C)
D)

Fields walked 1981 (to date) for collection of surface finds.

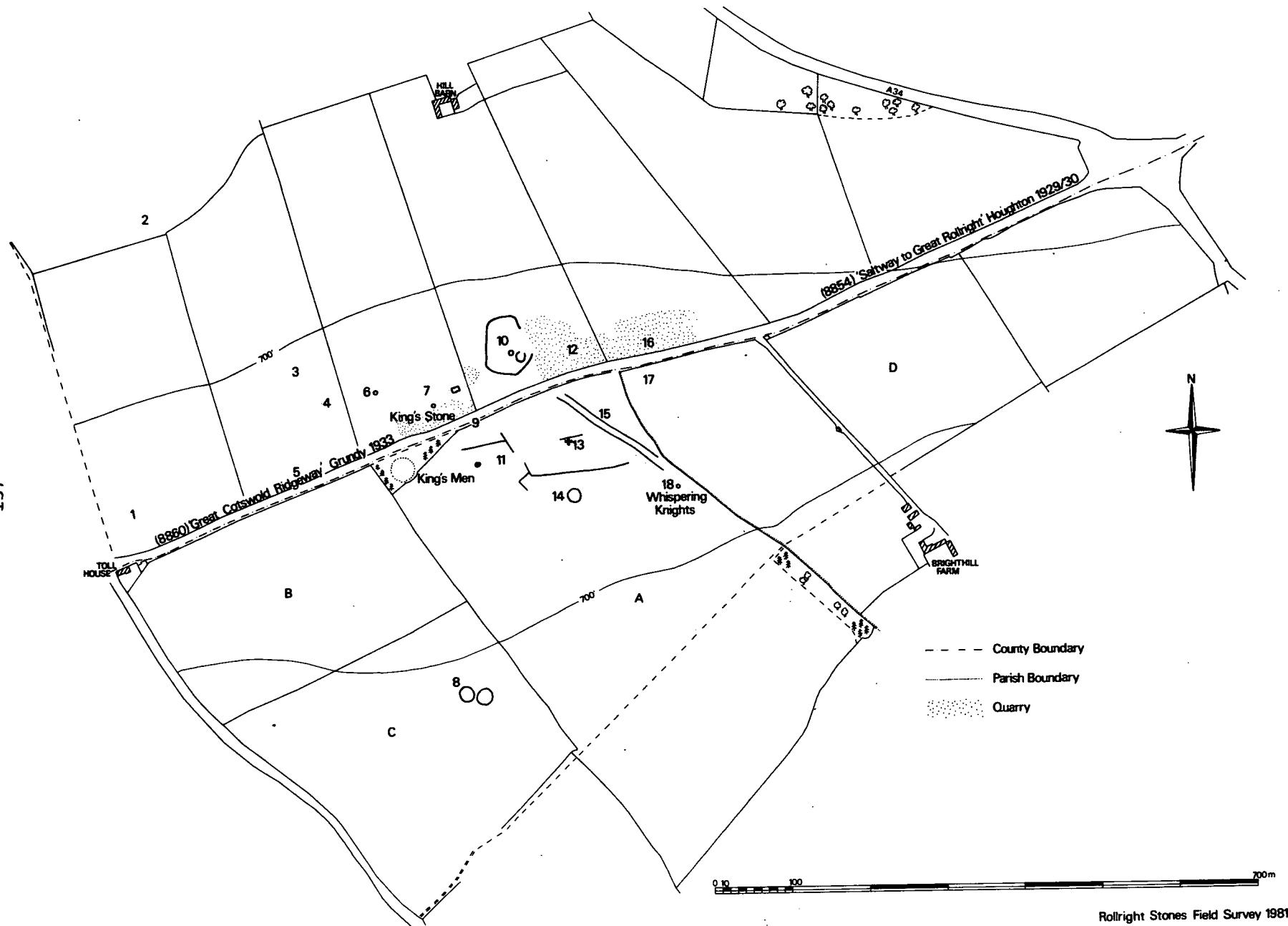


Fig. 36

with the similar exercise carried out by the Abingdon Society in the field adjacent to the Abingdon Causewayed Camp and the Barrow Hills Bronze Age cemetery (see below No.74).

Middlesex

13. HAREFIELD - Middlesex: Park Lodge Farm - Claire Halpin

In October the Unit, in conjunction with the West London Archaeological Group, conducted a parish survey of Harefield, Middlesex, for the Greater London Council. The G.L.C. owns large tracts of land around London as part of their Green Belt policy and hope to develop within these areas recreational and teaching centres to be visited in the main by children from London schools. Park Lodge Farm, within Harefield, has already been established as a visiting working farm, like Cogges at Witney. By commissioning an archaeo-historical survey of the parish the G.L.C. hopes to increase the educational aspects of the centre. The October survey simply covered written sources, but it is possible that it will be followed up by a field survey.

EXCAVATION PROJECTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Oxfordshire

14. ABINGDON: The Former MG Car Factory - Claire Halpin

A fortnight's excavation on the site of the old MG Car Factory, Abingdon, was undertaken during the summer, in anticipation of the large scale redevelopment of the site as factory and warehouse units. The site's prime importance lies in the fact that it is the southerly continuation of the site excavated by Michael Parrington at the Ashville Trading Estate, and now published as a C.B.A. Research Report No.28. The Ashville excavations of 1974-76 revealed Bronze Age ring ditches with associated cremations, two phases of Iron Age settlement, late Iron Age and Roman field ditches and two Roman wells indicating a settlement nearby. Clearly the primary aims of future archaeological work must be a) to define the southern and eastern limits of the Iron Age settlements and thereby allow some quantification of settlement size; b) to expand the known pattern of Iron Age and Roman field ditches and c) to locate and determine the nature of the Roman settlement. Further to this the very large scale of development allows investigation considerably beyond the normal confines of an excavation and therefore provides the opportunity to pick up satellite sites should they exist, and/or accurately define archaeologically sterile areas. With these aims in mind and given the detailed recording at Ashville as a working base, future investigation will be broadly based, encompassing the entire area and implementing sampling strategies where appropriate.

The entire area is covered with tarmac so usual methods of field survey are not applicable, although some experiments with a magnometer have been undertaken by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory. The main approach at present is to

mount a series of detailed watching briefs.

The trench excavated in the summer was 70m x 2m and ran due south from the 1974 Ashville excavations. The depth of soil removed before striking natural was a mere 0.5-0.6m. Within the trench an Iron Age ring ditch, recut four times, and cut through by a later Iron Age linear ditch, was partially revealed. It lay c. 10-15m south of the earlier excavation trenches. Some distance from Ashville, between c. 50-55m, a possible two post structure, recut three times, was uncovered. A scatter of pits and post holes were found, as well as further lengths of Iron Age and Roman field ditches, on similar alignments to those previously recorded. One ditch contained large quantities of Roman pottery and butchered bone, a coin was also recovered from this feature. The trench demonstrates that there is good preservation of archaeological material, provides further information to the Ashville excavation and increases the still tantalising evidence of a nearby Roman settlement.

15. ASTHALL - Richard Chambers (Fig.37)

Agricultural operations at Asthall have led to the discovery of the small, Roman bronze brooch illustrated in the figure (PRN 2255).

The brooch is finely cast with a recessed back. The motif depicts a bird of prey attacking a rabbit or hare. The bird is possibly an eagle. At present the brooch cannot be closely dated. An identical brooch in Norwich Castle Museum is unprovenanced. Several brooches with similar motifs housed in the Ashmolean Museum's collection are ascribed to the 2nd and 3rd centuries.

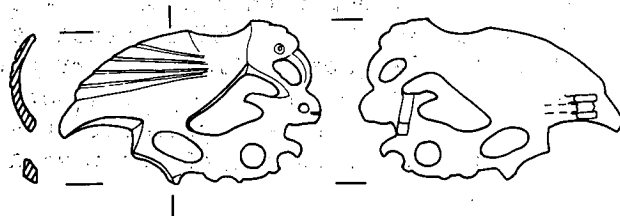


Fig. 37

Asthall: Roman brooch

16. BANBURY: 33-4 High Street - Richard Chambers

Nos. 33-4 High lie within the area occupied by the medieval town (PRN 13,021; site centred SP 4543 4542). A watching brief was maintained over building work at the rear of the premises. However after the contractors had cleared the site of modern rubbish it was apparent that little or nothing of any medieval stratigraphy remained. The garden at the rear of nos. 33-4 had been terraced into the hillside at an unknown date removing all medieval stratigraphy. Mechanically dug foundation trenches revealed undisturbed natural subsoil immediately below the surface.

17. BICESTER PRIORY - Humphrey Woods

During the winter of 1980-1 a gas pipe was laid across the western edge of the area formerly occupied by the medieval Augustinian Priory. The trenches were shallow and no medieval material was observed (area centred SP 5841 2217; PRN 1593).

18. BLADON - TACKLEY: T.W.A. Water Main - Richard Chambers

A trunk water main has been laid from the Thames Water Authority's pumping station in Tackley (near Weaveley Farm, Tackley) to Burleigh Lodge in Bladon (SP 4473 1368 to SP 4570 1600). The easement skirted the western edge of the Roman villa sited to the north-east of the Bladon roundabout, south of Woodstock in Kidlington Parish (PRN 13,022). Following topsoil removal the entire length of the easement was walked but no archaeological features were observed at that stage nor in the pipe trench.

19. CHARLBURY: Cornbury Park Estate - Brian Durham and
Mary Harman

At the invitation of the Estate office, George Lambrick and Brian Durham excavated a partially crouched burial with an iron spearhead and two knife blades. The provisional date is sixth-seventh century. There is no previous Saxon evidence from the immediate area, but within a few days of the Unit's visit Tim Copeland had found a child burial at a spot apparently very close to the first. Tim's report (copy at OAU) also shows that the estate workers suspected yet another burial although this could not be confirmed. His findings will be published in the 'Programme of the Charlbury Street Fair' 1982.

Mary Harman examined the skeleton, which was nearly complete, but was in poor condition, the bone being broken and eroded. The size of the bones and the conformation of the skull and pelvis suggest that the bones are those of a male, while wear on the teeth suggests an age of between thirty and forty years. The height, calculated from the length of the tibia, is about 5' 6½" (1.69m.).

On the whole dental health was good though the upper

first left molar was reduced to roots by caries, and there were abscesses associated with both this and the adjacent molar, which was lost *post mortem*. The less severe wear on the left teeth and heavy deposits of calculus even on the occlusal surfaces of the molars were probably connected with the pain from these abscesses: probably more chewing took place on the right side of the mouth. Slight hypoplasia suggests a period of illness or poor diet when the individual was between two and three years of age. Two mid thoracic vertebrae show slight signs of osteo-arthritis. The upper half of the right femur shaft has a twisted appearance and is narrow medio-laterally and wider than normal antero-posteriorly. It is not obviously different in length from the left femur but the two are not complete. There are at least six wormian bones in the lambdoid suture.

20. CHECKENDON: The Devil's Churchyard - Richard Chambers

During 1981 the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group continued work on this Iron Age earthwork enclosure with a level survey. This has provided topographical sections to compliment the earthworks survey (CBA 9, Newsletter 10 (1980), 172, Fig.47). The level survey concludes the field work programme on this site (PRN 9, 131; centred SU 65258400).

21. CHURCHILL: Churchill Grounds Farm - David Miles and Mary Harman

In July 1981 a stone coffin was discovered during ploughing of old pasture at Churchill Grounds Farm, 3km south-west of Chipping Norton. The grave was excavated by Duncan Brown and David Miles.

The plough had broken the lid into two parts. The lid was of rough cut limestone 2.04m long, 0.7m wide and 0.15m thick. The surface of the lid was only about 0.005m below the surface of a ridge in the ridge and furrow system which survived in the field.

The coffin was 0.36m deep and one long side was curved so that the whole had a flattened D shape. The coffin contained the body of an adult lying extended on its back with the head to the north-east.

No grave goods were found and the date of the burial is uncertain, however Roman pottery and building material including a possible tessera were found in the ploughsoil around the burial.

In December 1981 Churchill Grounds Farm was revisited after the farm manager had reported finding further Roman material in the field to the north-east of the burial during ploughing. He had dug two holes and located a Romano-British building including a wall of about four courses of limestone about 0.8m wide and pilae tiles *in situ* of an underfloor heating system.

The building, probably a villa, sits on a north-west facing slope on a band of lias clay. The ground rises behind it to the south east onto Clypeus grit and Chipping Norton limestone. There is a slight break of slope, creating a platform on which Romano-British debris has been found but the wall and *pilae* were just to the north-west of the edge of the platform.

Pottery from the area spanned the whole of the Romano-British period and suggested a settlement nucleus of about 0.5ha. Romano-British pottery was also found about 300m south of the building around a natural spring suggesting that this area was also utilised.

The skeleton which was virtually complete and in excellent condition was examined by Mary Harman. The large robust bones and conformation of the skull indicate that the individual was male. Wear on the teeth suggests an age of between twenty five and thirty years. The height was about 5' 5½" (1.67m.). The teeth were in good condition with no sign of caries, though there was an abscess associated with the upper left second molar which was lost *post mortem* and there were deposits of calculus on premolars and molars on that side, including the occlusal surfaces. All the third molars were still erupting, the upper two slightly malpositioned: had they erupted fully they would have protruded slightly laterally from the maxilla. There were very slight signs of osteo-arthritis in the lower thoracic vertebrae. There were, on the exterior surface of the maxilla just above the alveolus, small nodules of bone which were reminiscent of tori. The right humerus was 14mm. longer than the left, but the right lower arm bones were 1 and 2mm shorter.

22. DIDCOT: A4130 Link Road - Richard Chambers

The Didcot and District Historical and Archaeological Society have maintained a watching brief over the initial stages in the construction of the Didcot Link Road. Topsoil stripping revealed grey weathered sub-soil in which archaeological features were difficult to recognise. Field walking the topsoil strip produced occasional Romano-British and medieval pottery sherds. The roadside drainage gulleys provided almost continuous sections along the length of the new road. Several undated ditches and many periglacial features were noted. An area of cropmarks thought to represent an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement was buried beneath an embanked section of the road without having the topsoil removed or drainage gullies dug.

23. DIDCOT: The Rectory - Richard Chambers

Dr. Alan Briggs and members of the Didcot and District Historical and Archaeological Society have continued trial excavations in the grounds of the Victorian rectory (PRNs 12,391 & 13,018-19; SU 5195 9051). The redundant rectory with its garden and orchard occupies approximately 1.7 acres

(0.7ha) of land adjacent to the medieval parish church. The land already has outline planning permission and it is expected that building will commence in the near future.

A totally unexpected discovery has been the recovery of a quantity of early-mid Iron Age pottery sherds present in apparently undisturbed levels. The bulk of this pottery comprises coarse, hand made wares with the exception of one rim sherd from a straight sided vessel decorated with an incised herringbone pattern. The modern garden soil rests upon a weathered grey clayey subsoil in which archaeological features are difficult to see but several post holes have been recognised from their stone packings. The discovery of early Iron Age sites in this area is not common. The present site will help to provide background information against which the results of recent major excavations of other Iron Age settlements may be set.

24. DORCHESTER ABBEY - Richard Chambers

The removal of the organ from the Chapel of St. Birinus to the new organ loft has revealed a low masonry bench against the south wall of the Chapel. Although there is evidence for several alterations to the fabric of this part of the church there was no clue as to the date of the bench. The plaster covering the bench has been repaired (PRN 1930; SU 5792 9420).

25. DORCHESTER BY-PASS - Richard Chambers (Figs.38,39 and 40)

A series of excavations took place during the first half of 1981 in advance of the construction of the Dorchester by-pass (SU 569585 to SU 581481). Labour was supplied through the Youth Opportunities Programme. Members of the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society enabled excavation to continue seven days a week.

The prime aim of these excavations was to record a group of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments centred 1km to the north of Dorchester. Part of this prehistoric complex had been lost to gravel quarrying during the 1950's. As a result of Professor Atkinson's excavations in advance of this quarrying the Dorchester Neolithic complex has been recognised as being of national importance.

The largest monument in the Neolithic complex was the cursus. This consisted of two parallel, linear ditches set some 64m apart and with a known length of 1,620m. Although good cropmark evidence existed for the south-eastern terminal no details were known about the north-western end and this remains the case. In common with other British cursuses, both funerary and other monuments of similar age occurred in the vicinity.

Four separate sites were excavated in advance of the bypass sites 1-4 on the accompanying figure.

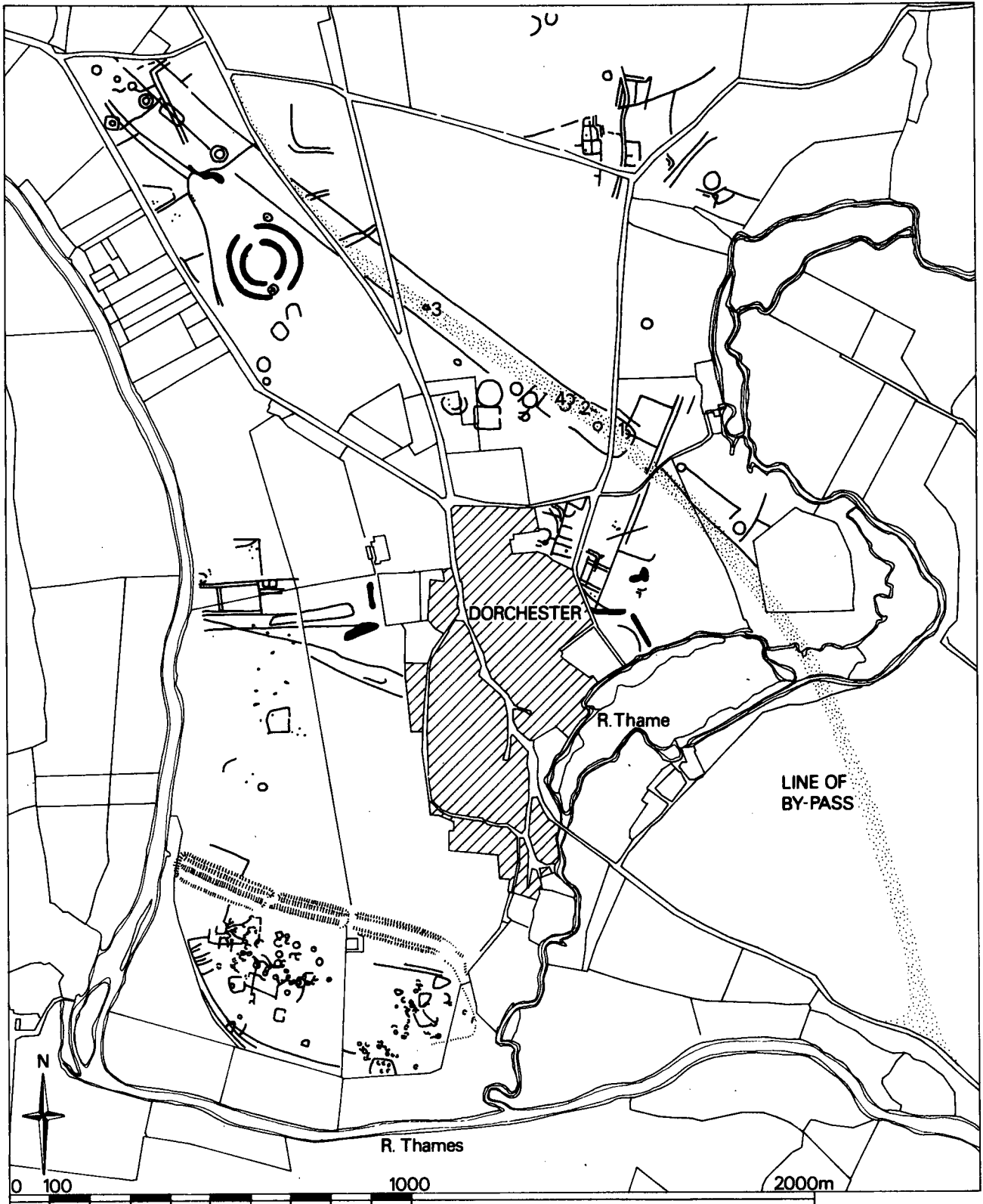
Site I examined the sub-rectangular south-eastern terminal of the cursus (see the accompanying figure). This comprised a shallow ditch averaging 1m wide by 0.4m deep. A late Neolithic oblique flint arrow head in the upper fill was the only dateable artifact. The terminal ditch was interrupted by a central entrance. A later trackway represented by two parallel ditches, was driven obliquely across the end of the cursus through the terminal entrance.

A small, penannular, henge-type enclosure ditch, sited off centre within the cursus terminal was excavated. An antler pick was discovered on top of the primary silting and it will provide a radio-carbon date. When the ditch had virtually silted up the surviving low central mound became the focus for a small cremation cemetery. A heavily burnt flint blade accompanied one of the cremations. Radio-carbon dating will be employed to date these burials accurately.

A much later feature on Site I was the southern edge of one of the main cemeteries to have served the Roman town. The original cemetery enclosure had been laid out on the west side of a Roman road leading out from Dorchester to the River Thame just north of Queenford Farm. An area in the northern part of this cemetery had been excavated in 1972 in advance of gravel extraction. In 1981 nearly eighty burials were excavated from the southern part of the cemetery and the outline of other graves planned. The boundary ditch had silted up before the cemetery went out of use and a small rectangular ditched enclosure surrounding two inhumations was found lying across the cemetery boundary. A composite bone comb was found with one of these inhumations. The comb suggests that burial took place sometime during the last half of the fourth century. The comb was the only grave good to have been found anywhere in the cemetery. The burial rite appears to have been exclusively inhumation. With the exception of one east-west burial all the bodies had been laid west-east (heads to the west). Only a few graves contained evidence of coffins having been included in the burial rite. As in the northern part of the cemetery the graves had been laid out in short, orderly rows. Graves placed in the same orderly fashion to the south of the cemetery enclosure alongside the Roman road appeared to represent a continual use of this area for burial after the cemetery enclosure was full.

Site 2 consisted of a pit cut by a later "interrupted" ditch which from cropmark evidence appears to have once formed a small rectangular causewayed enclosure. In the pit were several human tooth crowns, some small pieces of bone and a flint scraper. Although Romano-British pottery was found in the upper ditch filling, the lower filling was barren of finds and may be earlier.

Site 3 proved to be a Wood-Henge type monument. The cropmark showed a circle of large pits some 20m in diameter. Excavation disclosed that the pits, which varied in size, had



DORCHESTER By Pass 1981

Fig. 38

each held a wooden post. The monument appears to have ended its useful life when each of the posts was burnt *in situ*. In three cases (nos 2009; 2013-4 on the plan) the burning continued down into the pit leaving a clear ring of charcoal preserving the shape of the post. This showed that in each case a whole oak tree had been used. The charcoal will provide a series of radio-carbon dates.

Site 4 consisted of an early Bronze Age ring ditch, the ditch surrounded a mound erected over a cremation buried in a shallow, central pit beneath an inverted "collared urn". Immediately after this primary barrow had been constructed a circular annex was added. A single cremation was found within the annex.

Following these excavations a continuous watch was maintained over the topsoil stripping along the line of the by-pass and also over the excavation of the roadside drainage gullies. The mechanical topsoil stripping was shallow and never penetrated through the subsoil to the underlying gravel. A concentration of worked flint was found in the area between the end of the cursus at Queenford Farm and the River Thames. This flint scatter contrasted with the area enclosed by the cursus to the north-west of Queenford Farm where very few flints had been recovered both before and after topsoil stripping had taken place. The only new feature recorded was an undated ditch half way between Queenford Farm and the River Thames.

The side ditches of the Roman road beside which the Roman cemetery enclosure had been laid out were also sectioned. The main Roman road which joined Dorchester to Alchester was cut by a drainage gully. The bridlepath to Berinsfield follows the previous road line exactly. Soil had been dumped to create the raised foundation for the road but none of the original road metalling had survived. The road remained a right-of-way since the end of the Roman period it was probably open and unfenced until the 19th century when hawthorn enclosure hedges were planted. The original roadside ditches had been recut at least once during the 19th century.

26. DORCHESTER: 51 High Street - Richard Chambers

Excavation has confirmed the line of the north wall of the Roman town (PRN 1984; SU 5733 9466). The work was undertaken by the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society and by the Oxford University Archaeological Society. A trench across the southern half of the property sectioned the line of the former town wall. The north wall had been constructed directly on the surface of the underlying gravel. The wall had been entirely robbed of its stone leaving only the impressions of foundation rubble in the gravel surface. This indicated a wall at least 1-8m. wide. Although one edge of the robber trench was clearly defined, protected by the soil from the rampart, the soil covering the

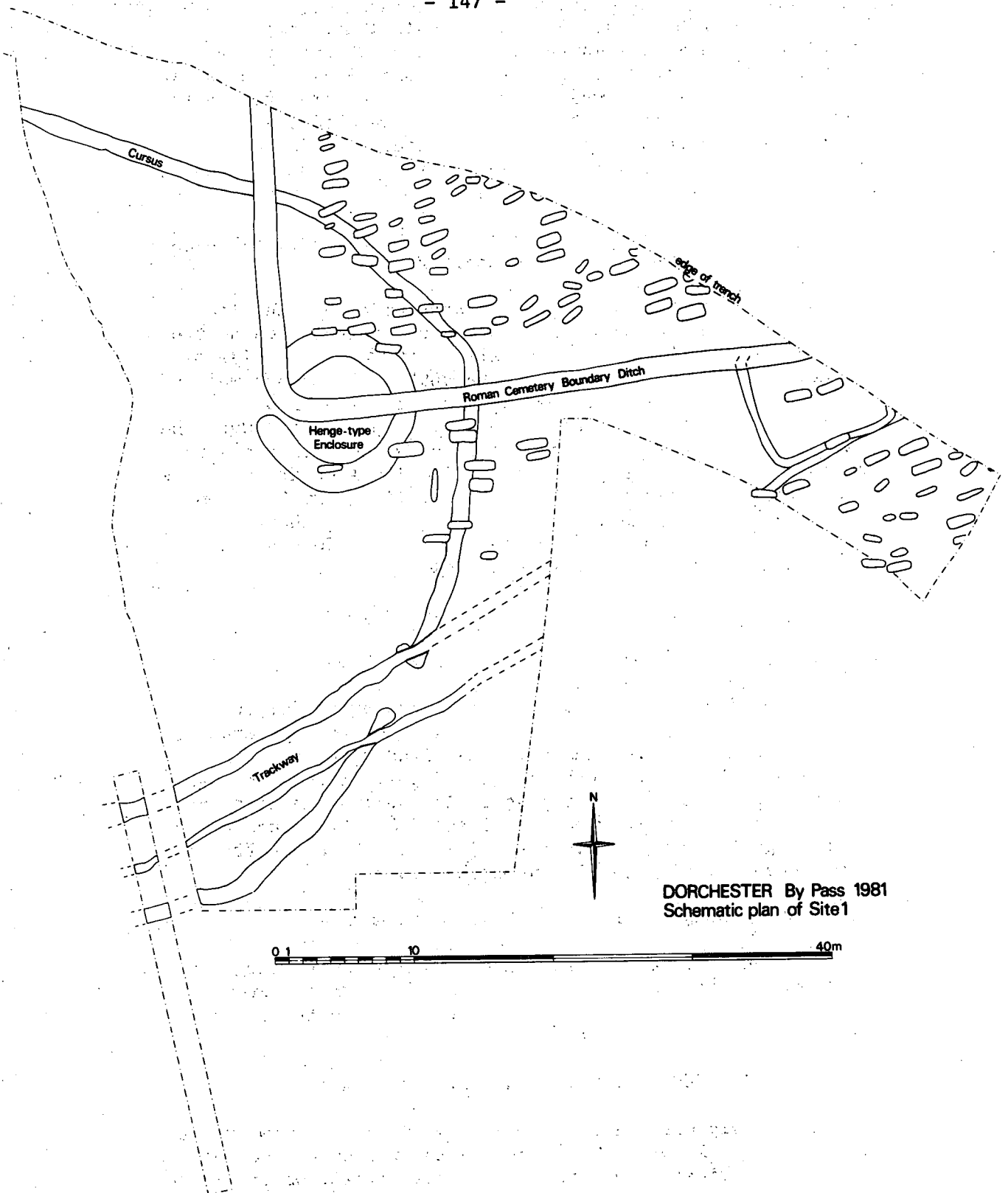


Fig. 39

berm had been heavily disturbed. A small inner ditch occupied the berm between the main town ditch and the wall. A similar ditch was discovered by Professor S.S. Frere in his excavations across the western defences. Two trenches on the north side of the former builder's yard revealed the inside lip of the main town ditch. No stratigraphic relationship survived between the wall, the inner ditch and the main town ditch.

27. DORCHESTER: Land Adjacent to No.4 Samian Way, Bridge End - Richard Chambers

A watch was kept over ground work for a new bungalow and garage to be built on the line of the rampart behind the assumed line of the Roman town wall on the southern side of the Roman town (PRN 12,397; SU 5786 9893). The south wall of the property was all that remained of a former row of cottages demolished soon after the First World War. Over the rest of the property the ground surface stood well above the levels of neighbouring properties. The level of the site was mechanically reduced by 1m-1.75m. Demolition rubble from the cottages incorporated much burnt material. Their foundations were found at a depth of 1m. The foundations were shallow and laid partly on topsoil.

28. DRAYTON - see No.74

29. DUCKLINGTON: Grain Store - Geoff Williams

A watching brief was kept during groundwork for the erection of a new grain storage depot. The area concerned lay between a backwater and a re-canalized channel of the River Windrush on the Southern edge of the village, and had obviously been used as a dump some time during the late 19th century. It was badly waterlogged and did not produce any archaeological features despite being only 250 metre from the known Romano-British settlement at Red Lodge.

30. DUCKLINGTON: Manor Farm - Geoff Williams

A watching brief is being kept on this new housing development which adjoins the Ducklington By-pass. From observations so far, it would appear that the South eastern part of the site is an infilled quarry.

31. FENCOTT & MURCOTT: Ivy Farm - Richard Chambers

The preliminary result from the wood sample submitted to A.E.R.E. Harwell for radio-carbon dating has confirmed the dendrochronological dates derived for two piles from the Roman timber bridge reported in last year's annual report (PRN 11,881; SP 5720 1688). Dr John Fletcher of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art at Oxford has calculated the felling dates for the oak trees from which the two piles were made as soon after 95 AD. A summary of recent advances in Roman and Saxon dendrochronological dating

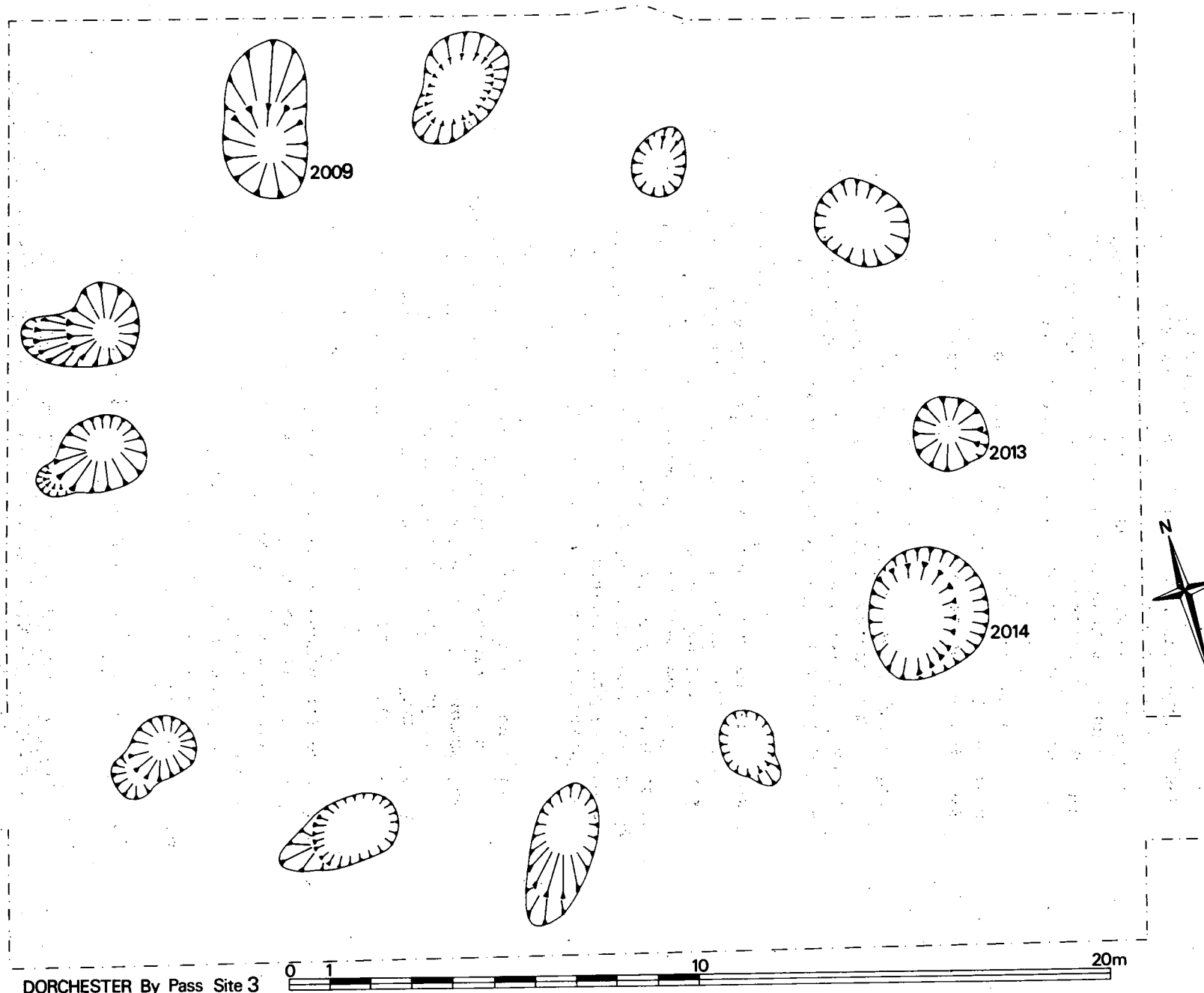


Fig. 40

technique which includes Dr Fletcher's work on the Otmoor bridge has been published in *Current Archaeology* no. 76, 150-2.

32. FRILFORD: Noah's Ark - Richard Hingley (Figs.41 and 42)

The site at the Noah's Ark, Frilford is well known. The site consists of an Iron Age/Roman temple and also of an extensive late Roman/early Saxon cemetery excavated by numerous individuals in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. In addition the site forms the point at which a Roman road crossed the river Ock. This road may originally have run to Alchester although the roads course has been lost over much of this route.

Detailed fieldwork undertaken by Richard Hingley over the past four years has produced evidence for a Roman "small town" of about 30 ha (72 acres) in the vicinity of the road/river crossing, temple and cemetery. Work during the survey has also led to the unexpected discovery of an amphitheatre. Trial excavations were carried out on this amphitheatre in August 1981.

The amphitheatre lies in a field called "trendles" (meaning "circle" or "ring") and the name presumably refers to the structure and must have originated at some time in the past when the earth work was more clearly defined than it is today. However the significance of the name was not realised until after an examination of air photographs and ground survey indicated the presence of an amphitheatre constructed into a dry valley which runs down to the river Ock to the east of the temple.

The amphitheatre is approximately circular with a total diameter of about 65m. The arena is about 45m in diameter and has been lowered in order to provide material for a surrounding bank 11 to 14m wide, on which wooden seats for spectators would have been located.

The air photographs indicate entrances on the west and possibly on the east of the structure. A small rectangular walled alcove is also clear in the bank on the south.

Excavation was intended to confirm the date of the structure and to examine its state of preservation. To this end one trial trench was cut across the bank and was excavated down into the arena. A second trial trench was excavated with the intention of locating the small rectangular chamber which was visible on aerial photographs to the south of the amphitheatre.

The first trench uncovered the bank of the amphitheatre which survived as only a slight earthwork. The bank was constructed of yellow clay with an admixture of white clay and rubble. No clear sign of revetting wall was found on the outer side of the bank. On the arena side a mortared stone

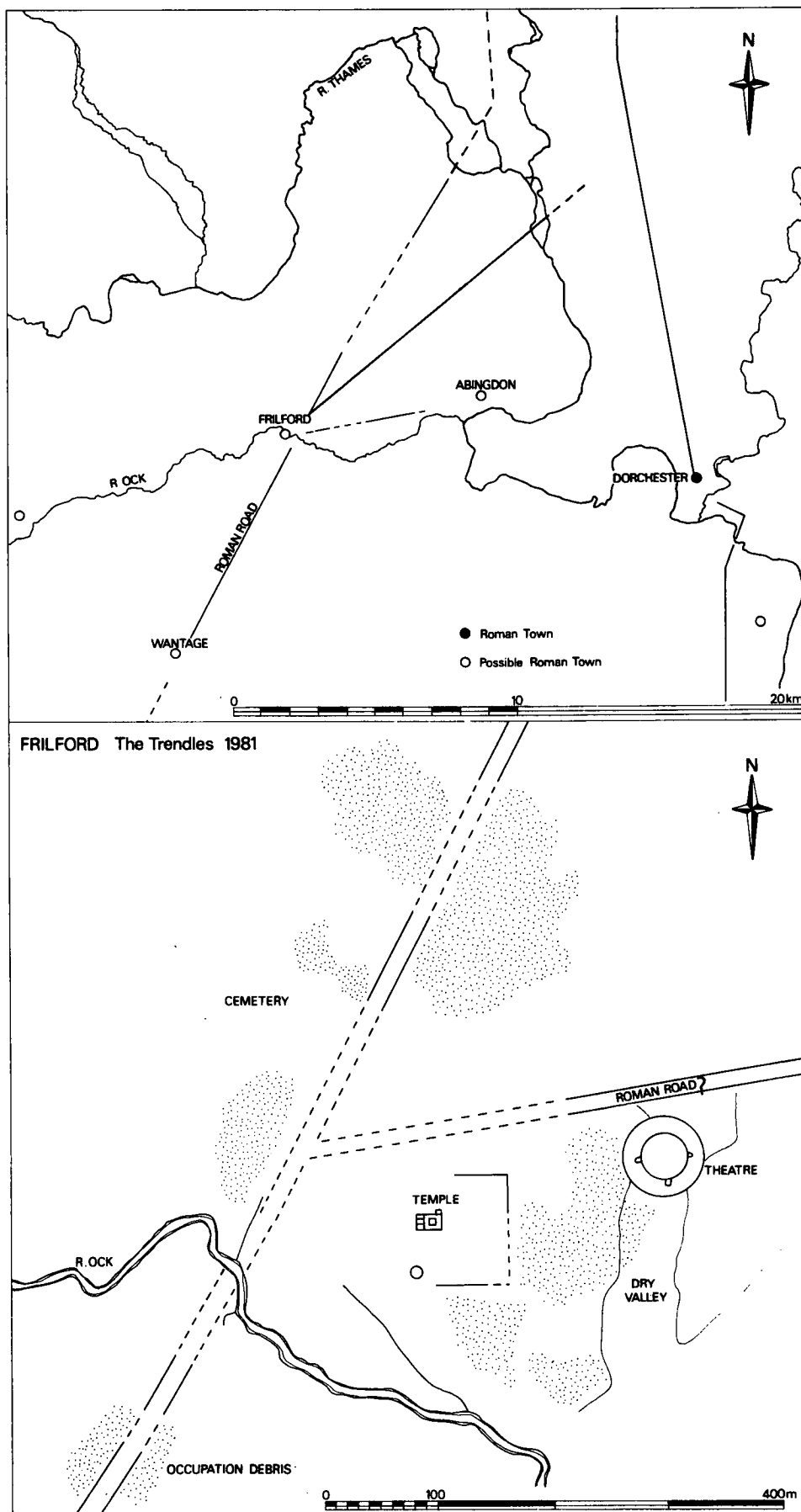


Fig. 41

wall was found and a possible floor level was found 1.5m below the ground level.

The second trench uncovered part of the rectangular chamber in the south of the bank of the amphitheatre. It may be part of an entrance or a spectator box and it can be paralleled at other amphitheatres in Britain.

The trenches produced some Roman pottery, animal bones and three late Roman coins, but close dating was not possible

Temples with associated theatres are a common occurrence in Gaul. In Britain temples associated with theatres are known at Gosbecks (Essex), Catterick (N.Yorks) and Verulamium (Herts). Possible amphitheatre-temple associations are less common. At Richborough (Kent) the amphitheatre is far closer to the temple site than to the fort with which it is sometimes thought to be associated. A further possible example is at Winterslow (Wilts).

It is assumed that such theatres would have been used for religious festivities of one form or another. Theatres had stages and as such would be ideal for religious acts and displays. Amphitheatres had large arenas and were primarily designed for fights of various forms, but they could also have been used in connection with religious ceremonies.

The presence of an amphitheatre at Frilford presumably indicates that the site was a major cult centre; the temple must have attracted worshippers from a wide area. It seems possible that some of the buildings traced via fieldwork in the area between the temple and amphitheatre were connected directly with the temple complex. Associated buildings are likely to have included a guest-house, bath-house and possibly a priests' house. This situation is paralleled on the continent and possibly at British temple sites such as Harlow and Gosbecks (Essex).

Religious centres are known to have attracted market functions in diverse cultural contexts and the existence of an extensive "small town" at the Noah's Ark Inn may also indicate that the site was a market centre of some form.

33. HANBOROUGH: Church Hanborough, The Cottage -
Richard Chambers

A one-metre square post pit dug to repair a horse shelter yielded several kilograms of Romano-British pottery (PRN 8797; SP 4257 1312). The pottery dated to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. It had come from a boundary ditch which ran in a NW direction.

The ditch was re-cut once and then backfilled with soil and domestic rubbish. The filling was subsequently roughly paved over with large, irregular pieces of limestone. Some of the stone was burnt and all had been re-used. A large storage jar was set into the paving to a depth of 0.45m.

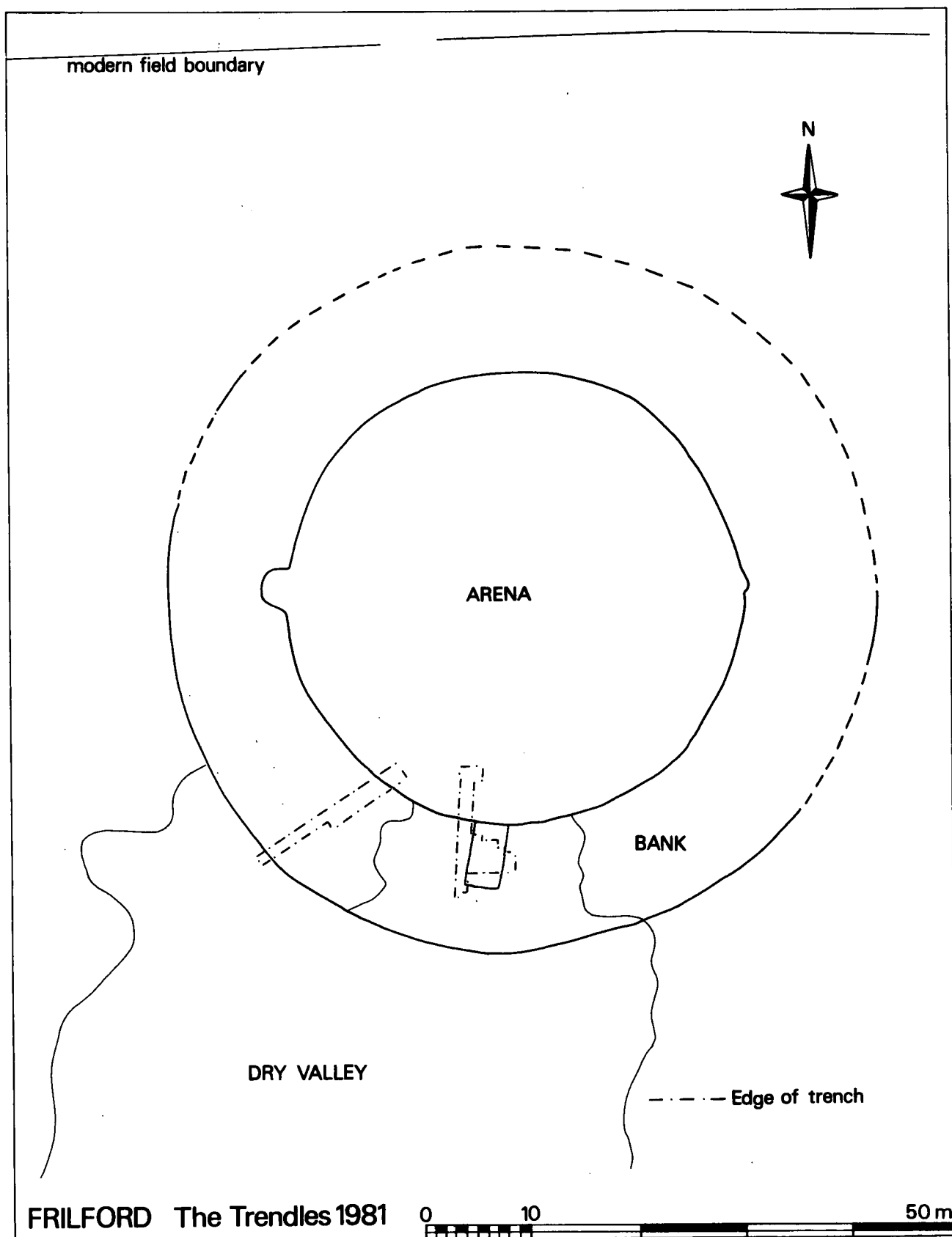


Fig. 42

The pit in which the vessel was set cut through the ditch into the natural gravel below. The base of the jar had been wrapped in yellow clay apparently to provide protection from the gravel. The mouth of the jar had originally stood 10-15cm. above the paving. There was no evidence as to the use of the vessel, although it may have been used for water storage. Several chance finds of Roman period material have been made in the immediate vicinity in previous years. Several linear cropmarks have been noted in the field to the north of the shelter.

34. HARDWICK: Manor Farm Cottage - Geoff Williams

Prior to alterations to the above premise, permission was received to excavate in the garden area to the south of the cottage and close to the Hardwick Bypass where an Iron age to Roman site was excavated in 1976.

The topsoil yielded a medium scatter of abraded 1st-4th century pottery contemporary with the previously excavated site. The only feature was a ring ditch, which (had it existed in its entirety) would have measured some 8 metres in diameter. It had been cut into the underlying gravel to a depth of 20cm., with an entrance on the west side. The feature contained no artefacts and it is presumed to date to the late Iron age.

35. KIDDINGTON: Tomlin's Gate - Richard Hingley (Fig.43)

Trial excavations were carried out on a rather irregular 'banjo' type enclosure in Kiddington parish. The site is known from aerial photography and lies on a slight north west facing slope just inside the north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch (a supposed "territorial oppidum" of late Iron Age date). Excavation was intended to locate and examine the ditch of the enclosure and provide stratified dating evidence for the site.

The ditch of the enclosure was located and appeared to contain a series of recuts. There were no finds and the site remains undated but it is presumably Iron age. However an intensive fieldwalking project carried out during the excavation produced some quantities of pottery from the surface of the field. This pottery clusters over the enclosure and appears to be of middle Iron Age date. In addition flint flakes, some possible daub and two Millstone grit rubbers were found.

36. LAUNTON: The Rectory - Richard Chambers

The Launton History Society has kept watch over building work in the grounds of the rectory at Launton next to the parish church. No material has been found, although a large spread of medieval pottery was recorded to the west during the insertion of land drains in 1980

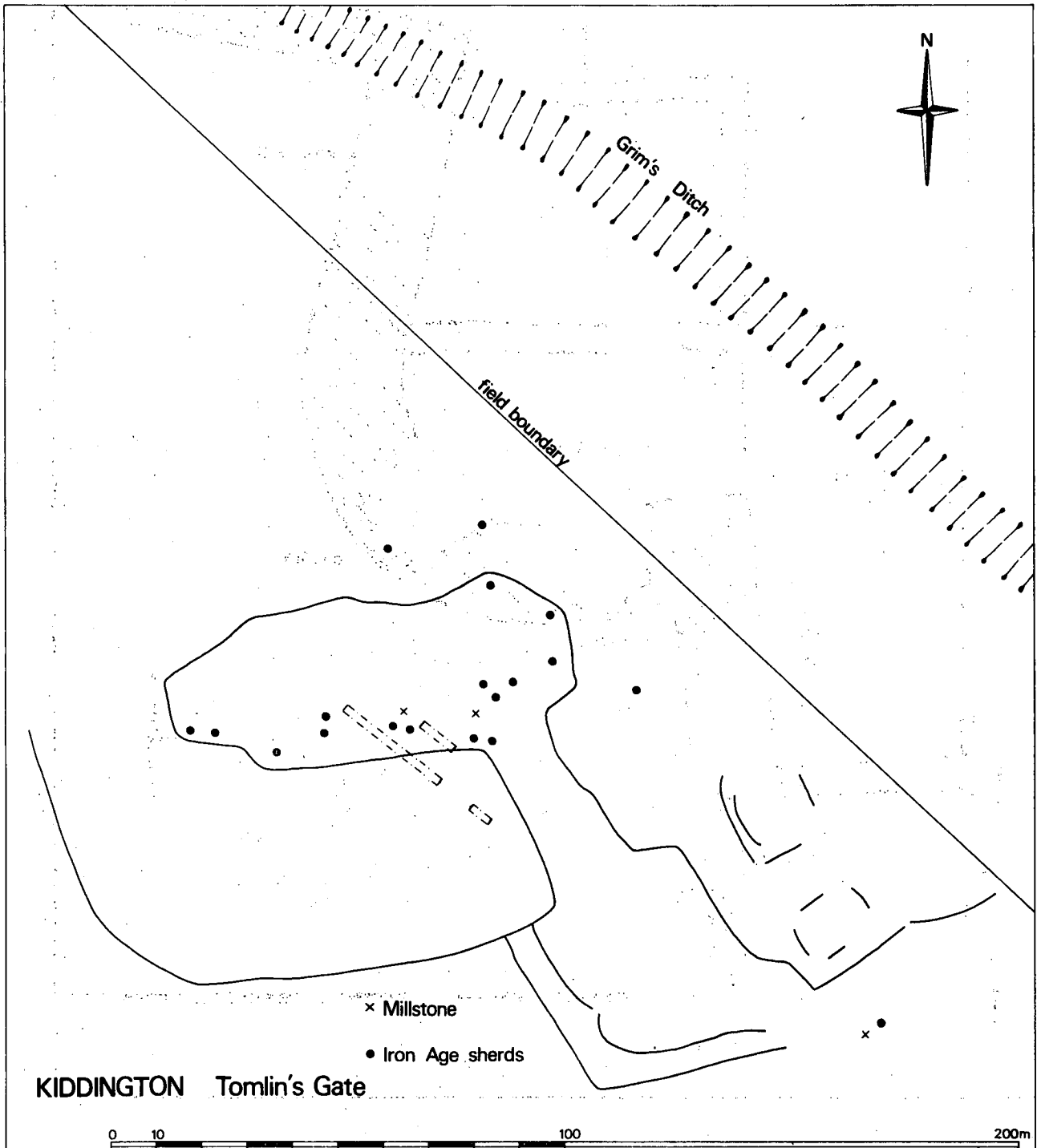


Fig. 43

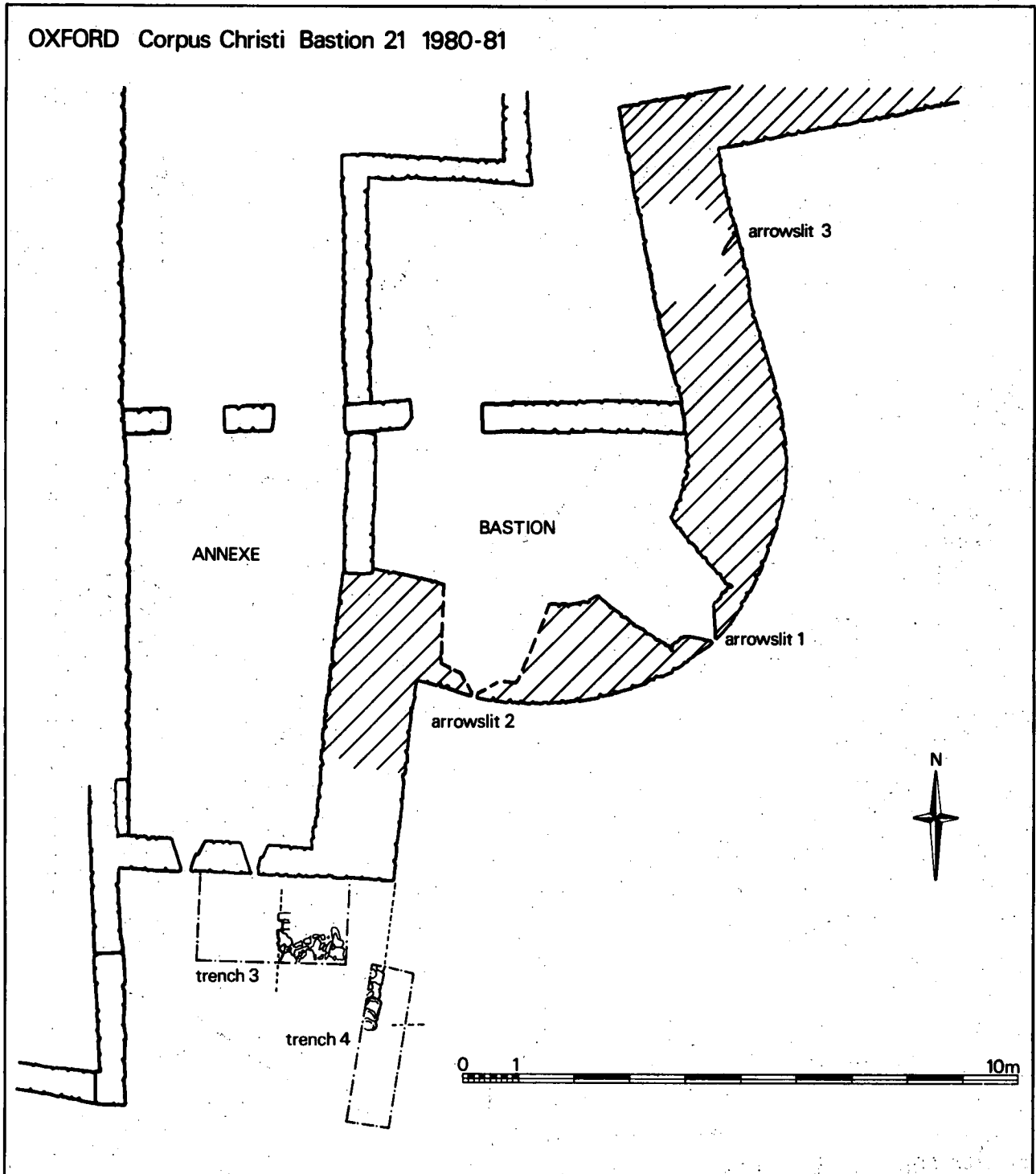


Fig. 44

37. LONG WITTENHAM: North Field Farm - Richard Chambers

In January 1980 trial excavation was undertaken to evaluate the likely effect of a proposed land drainage scheme on the scheduled cropmark site at Northfield Farm (centred SU 55999546; AM No. 180). The particular part of the site contained no cropmarks however the area was examined to confirm that the site would not be damaged. No features were found in four trenches and the absence of recognisable archaeological features was confirmed by an inspection of the land drainage trenches themselves.

38. OXFORD: Between Towns Road, Cowley - Brian Durham

The foundation grid of a large office development made it possible to plot the distribution of Roman features on this important kiln site first identified in 1936. The number of known features has now been doubled with large ditches, puddling platforms and pits. It has also been possible to confirm the location of a second century kiln just outside the new area. The latter evidence comes from a large stoke-hole, packed with mortaria with illiterate stamps, and surrounded by waster heaps which on three occasions have produced sherds stamped VOSSULOS or VASSULUS. The kiln itself must be beneath the new car park, and was presumably worked by Vossulus for a period, after which it was abandoned with the work of his illiterate successors.

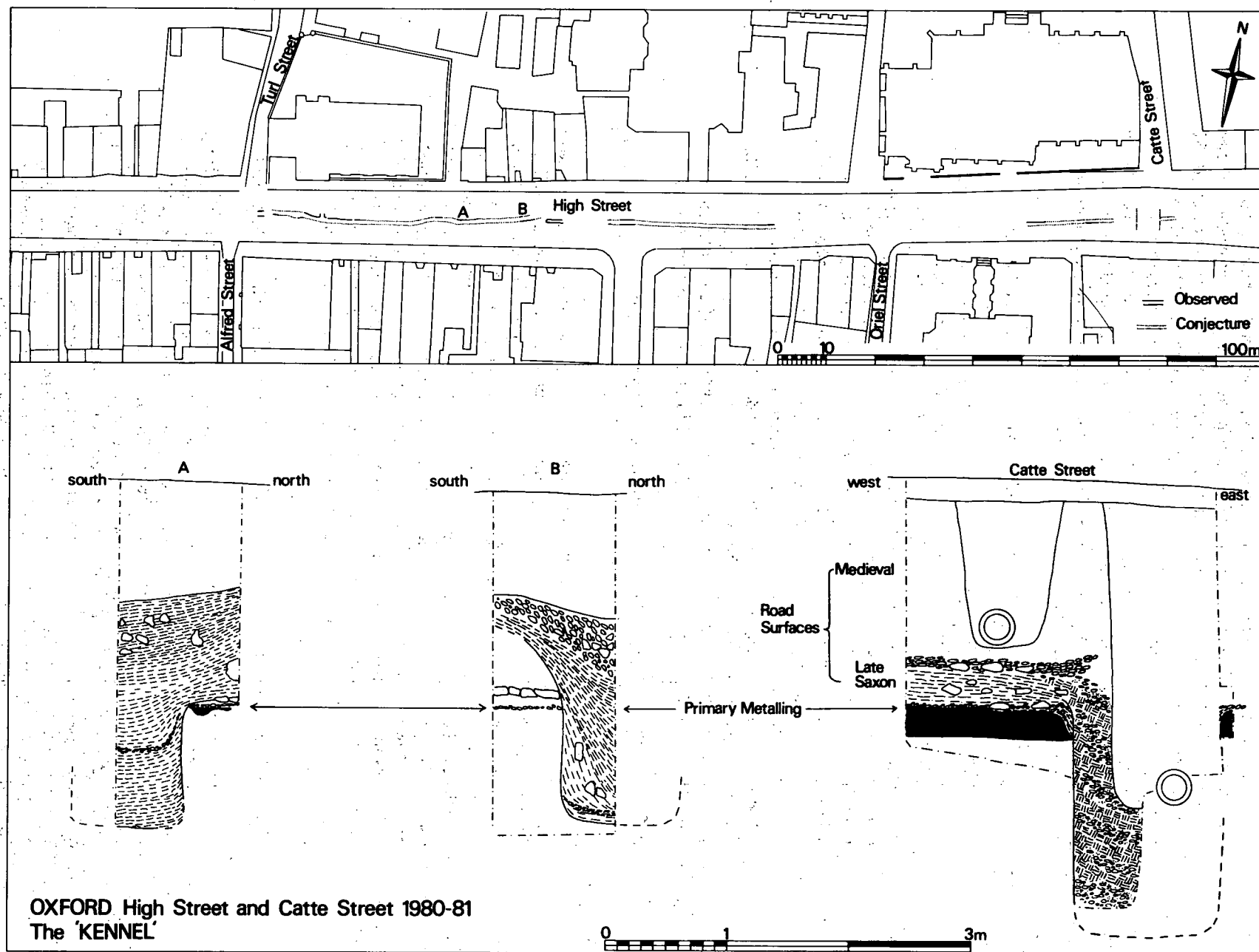
39. OXFORD: Christ Church Meadow & Floyd's Row -
Brian Durham

Contractor's excavations for the City's new trench sewer showed a major medieval river channel beneath the Broad Walk in Christ Church Meadow. This is possibly the channel shown on Agas's plan in 1578, and it increases the plethora of major watercourses on this side of the town. One channel which still survives as a topographical feature is the Trill Mill Stream on the east side of St. Aldates. A large manhole at the townward end of the new sewer gave a section across this channel which, as usual, turns out to have been very wide, with a sequence of three fragmentary stone river walls on its west bank, the earliest dating to the thirteenth century.

40. OXFORD, Corpus Christi College - Brian Durham (Fig.44)

As part of an in-service training scheme Eleanor Forfang excavated part of the interior of Bastion 21, surveyed the remainder of the medieval masonry, and then dug two small trenches in the adjoining Canon's Garden of Christ Church to investigate the wall line to the south. This Bastion is the largest surviving one at Oxford unique in English town defences because it is on an inside angle where the wall turns a right-angle to enclose the Cathedral precinct. The excavation of an embrasure left no doubt that the structure is medieval, but provided no reason why it should be so

Fig. 45



strongly fortified. The most likely explanation is that it was defending a gate or postern linking Shidyrd Street (now Oriel Street) with a ford below St Frideswide's mentioned in 1265. The arrow slits are sited to defend an east-facing gate just to the south, but there were no signs of jambs in the surviving masonry. There was however tenuous evidence of another flanking bastion to the south, heavily robbed, and unavailable for excavation since it lies beneath the canopy of a superb 17th century Oriental Plane tree.

41. OXFORD: High Street, - Brian Durham (Fig.45)

A watching brief during the laying of a new drain down the middle of the High Street produced evidence of 12th century pits, presumably used by market traders, and a well constructed "kennel" (central gutter) of a similar date. The contractor's work could normally only be watched from the top of the trench, with brief digging forays during work breaks. Dating evidence was therefore minimal, but features could be clearly recognised in section.

As the trench proceeded westwards, a broad ditch was seen opposite the end of Cattle Street, but even at six feet the contractor's trench was still not deep enough to be sure whether the gravel was cut by a Saxon defensive ditch opposite St Mary the Virgin. By this stage it was clear however that one of the 'pits' was unusual, being of indefinite length and full of soft silt. This was clearly an early surface water drain, or "kennel", and in two places the new trench was deep enough to give cross sections. Its walls were so straight that it must have been timber-lined to prevent weathering and erosion, though no timber survived. If it had been cleaned out, it must have been carefully done because there were no recuts, although it is possible that one butt-ended section was a kennel disused in the tenth century, replaced by a more northerly line outside our trench.

The City Engineer's trench was laser-straight, but the kennel clearly wandered. The most likely explanation is that it was respecting blocks of property which had encroached, such as the All Saints Church block. The twelfth century pottery from the fill of the kennel gives the date when the deep channel was abandoned. If its wanderings respected encroaching frontages then its line was presumably only established after there had been some urban growth. But the original street surfaces must have been drained somehow, as there has never been any sign of serious weather damage. The kennel compares so well with the Cattle Street ditch recorded last year they they must be treated as identical, and the latter seems to have been abandoned before the Conquest. So perhaps one should see the kennel as late Saxon defining the area of street which the individual householder was obliged to keep paved.

Unlike the Salisbury kennels and the Winchester brooks, Oxford's kennel would have had no source of flowing water. But it would still have been a hazard to unwary pedestrians, and it is possible that it was planked over. After the twelfth century it would have degenerated into a shallow ditch which may have been lined with chain stones, but if so they had been salvaged at each re-paving. See below No.74.

42. OXFORD: New Inn Hall Street, Frewin Hall - Brian Durham

A watching brief on the re-furbishing of the twelfth century undercroft provided an opportunity to dig a small hole down from the ground floor onto the top of Oxford's oldest surviving vault. There were about seven floor layers, presumably from the medieval life of the building, but yielding no dating evidence. However the deepest layer of fill, just above the vault, produced eleven sherds of twelfth century pottery, provisionally dating to about 1150. This is slightly later than the date of the vault from John Blair's architectural evidence.

43. OXFORD: Oriel College, the Provost's Lodging -
Brian Durham

Refurbishing work in the college exposed a long narrow chamber built ingeniously into the footings of an outside wall and chimney stack. There was evidence that it was a deliberate attempt at concealment during the decade before the Civil War. Its use as a cess pit is likely to have been secondary therefore, but for coprophiliacs it has some interesting aspects. Firstly, the 'tide line' was well above the floor level of the adjoining cellar and must have caused offensive seepage. Secondly the chamber had only one opening and all the stench would have been released into the house. Thirdly, Mark Robinson has shown that for every fruit seed that went down, a fly came up, to add to the noisome atmosphere of the seventeenth century Provost's household.

44. OXFORD: Rewley Abbey - Brian Durham

The site of this small Cistercian abbey came within the area of an ambitious commercial and residential development proposed by British Rail and associates. It offers the possibility of total excavation if funds are available. The trial trench dug this year was designed to locate the north wall of the chapel range and assess the condition of the structure and depth of overburden. It is clear that there will be far more post-dissolution modification than has been seen on other Oxford religious houses, but the main medieval wall was intact. A metre of Victorian rubbish has protected it from any ill effects of the current usage as a coal-yard.

45. OXFORD: 65 St Aldates and 92 St Aldates - Brian Durham

Oxford's main Thames crossing is still producing surprises, continuing the story outlined in our last two

annual reports. Thames Water Authority installed a new valve in an 18" water main opposite No. 92 for which they had to dig through solid mortared rubble. This seems likely to be a stone bridge of the 'Grandpont' type crossing the enlarged Trill Mill Stream just outside the south gate. More recently a brief rescue excavation at 65 St Aldates has now shown how the main Grandpont frontage to the south was developed on reclaimed land in the thirteenth century, and beneath this was a stone ford abandoned in the late 11th century.

The former Morris Garages premises are being refurbished as a complex of Crown and County Courts, and the generous cooperation of P.S.A. and George Wimpey Ltd has enabled the Unit to complete the study of the threatened part of the frontage. It seems originally to have been a flat-bottomed river channel across which a ford was constructed on 0.5m of stone rubble. This was ninth or tenth-century on the evidence of two sherds of coarse pottery, but there is little doubt that it had been widened, and its original course beneath the modern road may belong to the period of the Mercian clay causeway further north, i.e. c 800. However that may be, the surface finds from the ford were of the late 11th century, after which a metre thickness of fine silt accumulated over a period of about a century. Its abandonment would therefore agree well with the documented construction of Grandpont by 1092, and provides further circumstantial evidence for what is perhaps the earliest known medieval stone bridge in England. This causeway may be part of the earliest known medieval stone bridge in England. The silt accumulating on its upstream side would have gradually encouraged the idea of building houses against it to take advantage of passing trade, and this process began in the late 12th to early 13th century (provisional dating).

46. OXFORD: Turl Street, New Foul Sewer - Brian Durham

Sections were observed at four feet intervals as a hand-dug tunnel inched its way up Turl Street. The ubiquitous Late Saxon primary street metalling was recorded in many of the sections, and it can be shown that the street was then much straighter than it is now. It is assumed that the deflection was caused by the westward extension of All Saints Church.

47. RADLEY: Lower Farm - see below No.74

48. RADLEY: Thrupp Farm - see below No.74

49. SANDFORD-ON-THAMES: Village Hall - Richard Chambers

The new village hall occupies a position on the west side of the Sandford-Oxford road (PRN 11,588; SP 5335 0180). The area between the road and the Norman parish church was until recently covered by earthwork remains of the medieval village which were recorded in 1980. A substantial proportion of these earthworks were levelled to create the

present recreation ground. Construction work for the new village hall has now destroyed more of the earthworks and revealed medieval building and domestic debris. Fragments of 13th-15th century pottery, animal bone, shell, fire ash and trace of a cobbled surface were recorded.

50. STANTON HARCOURT: Brown's Pit - Geoff Williams

A watch was maintained during topsoil stripping prior to gravel extraction. No archaeological evidence was found.

51. STEVENTON: Manor Farm - Richard Chambers

The surface of a field centred 200 metres north of the medieval parish church at Steventon has been raised 0.6 - 0.9m. using soil surplus to the construction of the Didcot Link Road (PRN 13,023; Centred SU 46409126). The field lies on the eastern side of the causeway leading to the Mill Farm and formerly comprised permanent marshy pasture. The initial bulldozing of the topsoil did not reveal any archaeological material. The irregular surface of the field seems to have caused by periodic flooding leading to the erosion of natural surface drainage channels.

52. SUTTON COURTENAY: Amey Roadstone Gravel Pit -
Richard Chambers

A tooth and a four foot long section of a woolly mammoth's tusk and part of a tooth from a woolly rhinoceros have been recovered from the base of the gravel deposits.

53. THAME: 87 High Street - Richard Chambers

This building is a three bay cruck built house of the 14th century which appears to belong to the westward expansion of the new town (PRN 11,488; SP 7050 0606). Renovation work recently involved the excavation of several foundation trenches. One trench revealed that the central bay formerly contained a cellar walled with mortared limestone rubble. The cellar may have reached beneath the whole of the actual bay. However there was no evidence that the cellar was an original feature of the house. The cellar was filled in possibly during the second quarter of the 20th century and sealed with a two-layer concrete floor incorporating a damp proof paper membrane.

54. THOMLEY: Deserted Medieval Village - Richard Chambers

Excavation of a drainage ditch across the site of the medieval village has provided several sherds of medieval pottery and a possible boundary ditch from the former settlement (PRN 1077; SP 631090).

55. WALLINGFORD: Bridge House Old People's Home -
Richard Chambers

Bridge House is situated to the south of the medieval castle inside the late Anglo-Saxon town defences (PRN 12,395; SU 8942 6093). A substantial wall foundation of unknown date was revealed in a foundation trench for a laundry extension. The foundation lay at a depth of 0.6m from the present ground surface. It was 0.9m wide and was constructed of chalk and flint rubble set in lime mortar. Another mortared chalk rubble wall foundation, 0.45m wide, had been set on top of the first wall footing. This later footing only appeared in one side of the trench and appeared not to be directly related to the foundation beneath. An accumulation of occupation levels continued down beyond the deepest point reached by the foundation trench at 1.5m. No pottery was found.

56. WITNEY: Burwell Farm Estate - Geoff Williams

A watch is being kept on the extension to the above housing site, which lies some 200 metres north of the Roman cemetery excavated at Coral Springs, Curbridge in 1976. The previous site lay on the clay, but the area currently being developed is covered by a 20cm layer of cornbrash. There are no distinguishable archaeological features to date, but the topsoil has yielded several badly abraded coins, various fragments of bronze, and a few sherds, all of which are from the late 3rd Century AD.

57. WITNEY: 27 Market Square - Richard Chambers

The excavation of the medieval frontage is being undertaken by the Witney and District Archaeological and Historical Society (PRN 13,024; SP 3563 0958). A clay floor with a central open hearth as yet undated has been found. Only residual medieval pottery has been found.

58. WITNEY: Newland Mill - Geoff Williams

This site of a former blanket mill which was destroyed by fire in 1971 has been purchased for housing development. During the construction of cellars for the dwellings, a ditch, some 2 m wide and 12.8 m deep was observed running parallel with the scarp of the Windrush floodplain, and has so far been traced for a distance in excess of 100 m. Apart from a few sherds of Oxford and Gloucester ware dating from the 11th Century from the uppermost layers of the feature, the remainder of the observed sections have been devoid of dateable material. From its extreme length and topography, it is possible that the ditch forms the southern boundary of an Iron Age lowland hill fort. The nearest other known Iron Age site lies 1.2 kilometres to the southeast and consists of a similar length of ditch which possibly formed part of an enclosure.

59. WROXTON ST MARY: Barn Lodge - Richard Chambers

The reduction of the ground surface surrounding the former barn has now been completed. No further burials from the Romano-British cemetery were found (PRN 11,870; SP 4150 4185).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

60. FAIRFORD/LECHLADE: Claydon Pike - David Miles
(Figs.46,47,48 and 49)

In 1981 excavation at Claydon Pike has concentrated on two major areas: the first in Lechlade parish uncovered a Middle Iron Age settlement and associated fields, also Romano-British fields and a metalled road; the second in Fairford parish was within the nucleated Romano-British settlement.

The middle Iron Age settlement was the third gravel 'island' of middle Iron Age settlement to be excavated at Claydon Pike. The tongue shaped 'island' was surrounded by marshy deposits and subdivided across its central area by a series of straight middle Iron Age ditches. The resulting rectangular settlement area (60 x 40m) included ten round houses and a four-post structure. A pair of stone packed post-holes is thought to indicate the door of an eleventh house of which they are the only surviving trace. The houses belonged to several phases, with a maximum of four or five contemporary with each other.

The standard house as in the previous two settlement areas of this period was sited inside a circular drainage gully c. 10m in diameter with an entrance to the south-west. A pair of stone-packed post-holes c. 2m apart indicated the doorway. In one house the faint line of a stake built wall was traced forming a circle 8 m in diameter. Inside each house there was usually a clay-lined pit, full of burnt stones. The pits were possibly used as cooking pits or as water containers; burnt stone was ubiquitous and its purpose uncertain. Several houses showed evidence of rebuilding as much as three times with recut drainage gullies and replaced door posts.

Most houses seemed to be single units but one pair stood facing each other. The southerly house had a north-western entrance facing directly into the entrance of a second house, 5m away. The northerly structure was the only one of the two with a clay-lined pit and also to be rebuilt.

The most northerly house on the 'island' was of a different construction to the rest. It consisted of a circle (6.5m diameter) of post-holes and a projecting pair of door posts. The preserved line of the outer wall (8.5m diameter) was not traceable.

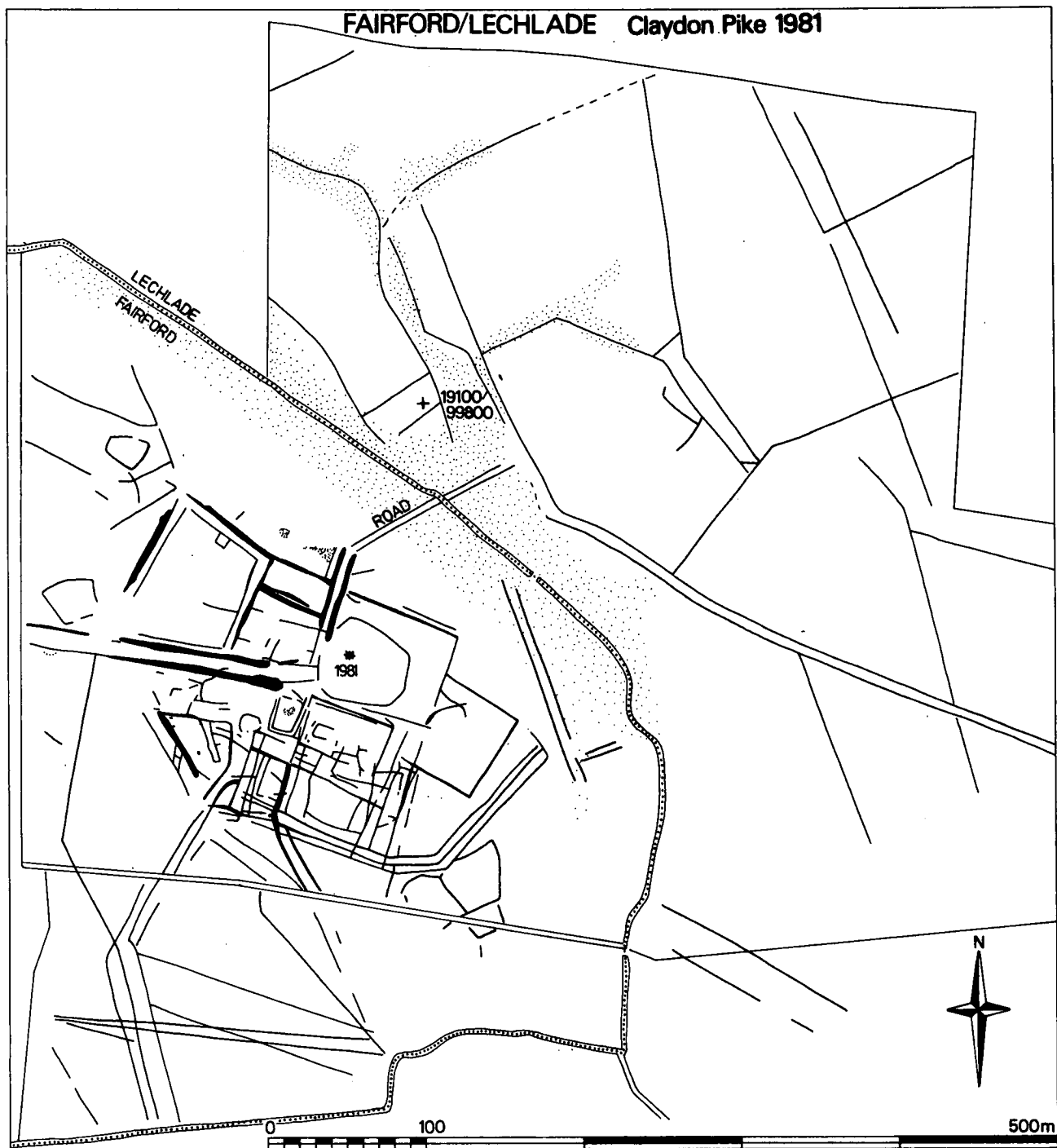


Fig. 46

The 'island' was surrounded by marshy areas. Sections through these revealed a basal layer of peat circa 0.7m thick. Tree stumps and roots were found growing into the peat all around the island. The upper layers of peat contained sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. Along the western side of the island the peat was sealed by a gravel bank thrown up in the Middle Iron Age. It appears that the peat stopped growing about that time - perhaps 300 B.C. The Iron Age bank was cut through by a series of Romano-British ditches. The latest ones showed evidence of post-Roman flooding. Alluvium filled the upper half of the ditches and was a maximum of 0.8m thick. The alluvium contained snails of fresh flowing water (see below No.73). If the alluvium dates to the immediately post-Roman period then it may be the result of the collapse of the local land drainage system, and possibly a more widespread deterioration in climate. The increasingly wet conditions may have influenced the Saxon settlement pattern with its local foci at Fairford and Lechlade and parish boundary through the middle of the Claydon Pike settlement complex.

Medieval and post-medieval documentary evidence points to the use of the area as pasture until the establishment of the first post-Roman settlements - two seventeenth century farms.

Middle Iron Age fields have been traced over 16ha. of the first gravel terrace orientated basically north-east - south-west. Most of the ditches were shallow and meandered slightly, often around the edges of the marshy deposits. They are barely visible on the aerial photographs and have mostly been traced by excavation and large scale topsoil stripping. The most substantial ditch, the only one to be recut in the Roman period, may have been the boundary between two 'islands' of Iron Age settlement.

In the Roman period fields were found over the same area, aligned basically north-west - south-east. The Romano-British field ditches only coincided with the prehistoric ones along the edges of the marshes with the exception of the largest 'boundary' ditch. The Romano-British ditches were larger than the prehistoric ditches and laid out in straight lines though forming irregularly shaped geometric blocks.

The parallel lines of Romano-British trackway ditches were traced for about 800m running north-west - south-east. Where the trackway met the relict channel of the present day parish boundary stream it turned sharply south-west towards the nucleated Romano-British settlement. In the marshy area the trackway was buried beneath 0.8m of post Roman alluvium. In this wet area the road was well constructed with a foundation of limestone blocks, covered by a layer of gravel and surfaced with small limestone cobbles. The cambered road was about 5m wide with 1.5m wide ditches on either side. How the stream passed under or through the road has not yet been

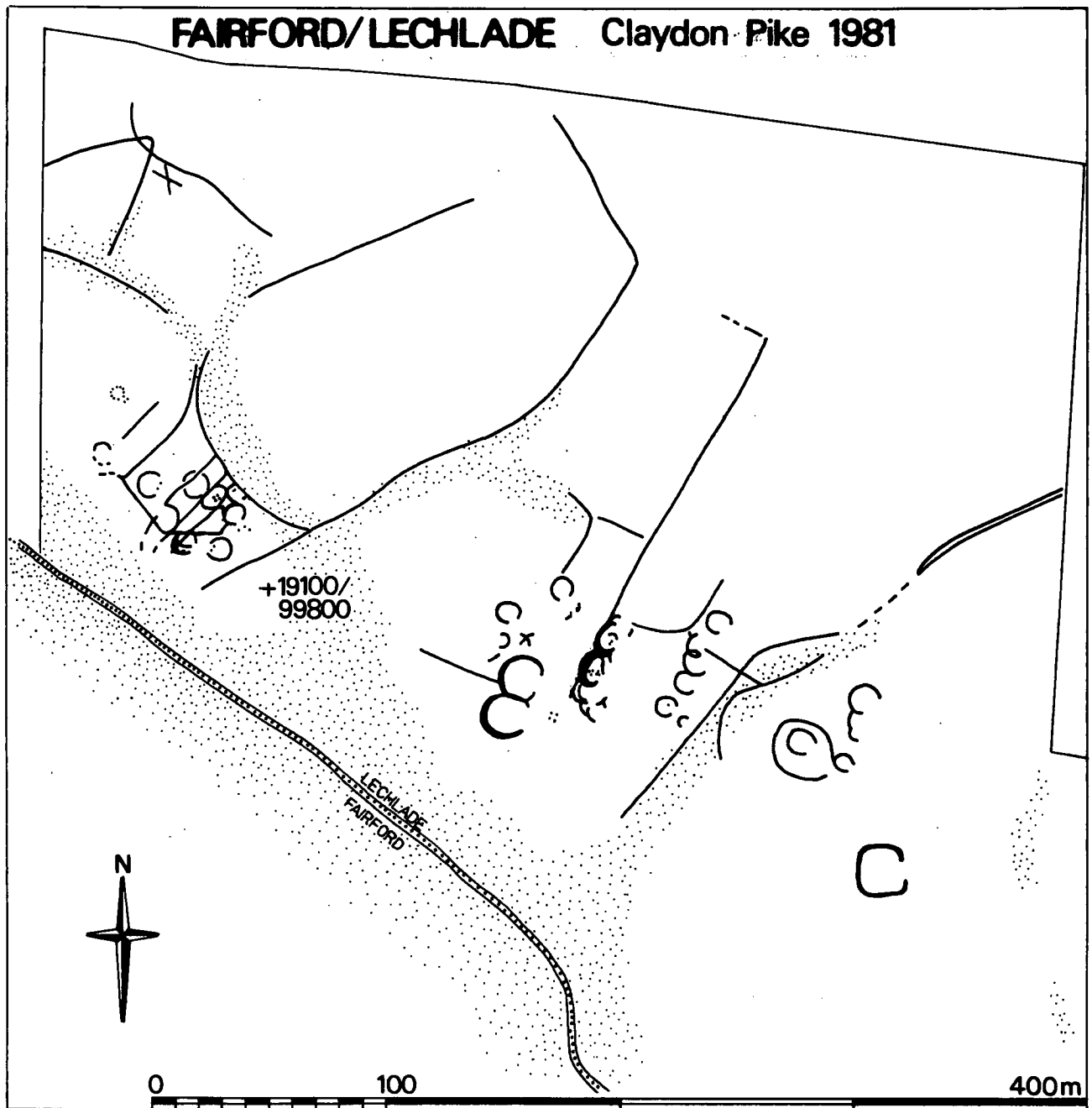


Fig. 47

Fairford/Lechlade: Claydon Pike - Middle Iron Age Settlement

discovered. There is no trace of a bridge, so conduits are a possibility.

The road ran into the Romano-British settlement and acted as its main street. Branching off from the street were side lanes, some of which were metalled where they crossed damp areas. Where the underlying surface was well-drained gravel neither the main street nor the side lanes had any trace of additional limestone metalling.

A trench of 0.8ha has been opened up at the centre of the settlement uncovering a large, platform (80 x 64m) and two smaller enclosures.

The laying out of the rectilinear settlement plan has been provisionally dated to the second half of the first century AD. Traces of late Iron Age settlement (first centuries BC/AD) have been found throughout the trench, emerging beneath the Romano-British levels. These gullies and ditches suggest that the settlement began prior to the Roman Conquest and was at least 0.8ha in size.

The large Romano-British platform has been uncovered but only partially excavated. It was surrounded by a ditch showing evidence of recutting and deliberate infilling. At the front of the platform, facing the main street were traces of domestic buildings with mortar floors. Behind them, to the east, a stone lined second/third century well was found in 1980. At the back of the platform was a stone based aisled building, probably a barn, (19 x 11.4m) with a central entrance on its long, southerly side.

The ditch at back of the platform was infilled by the later Romano-British period and replaced by a fence-line marked by stone packed post-holes. A pathway of angled stones was laid across the infilled ditch and through the fence.

In the late third/fourth century a ditch was dug around the front, that is western, part of the platform forming a D shaped enclosure (56m x 54m). In spite of this the Romano-British settlement seems to have remained basically constrained by its first century AD layout.

At the nucleus of the settlement was an open area, about 28m x 52m. This was infilled at an uncertain date in the Roman period. West of this nucleus was a small enclosure/platform (maximum dimensions 44 x 34m) with side lanes on its west and north side. Trace of a stone based building have been uncovered but not so far excavated. Finds this year include a nest of bronze bowls from the north side of the large toft or platform, third/fourth century coins, brooches, a stylus and cattle goad.

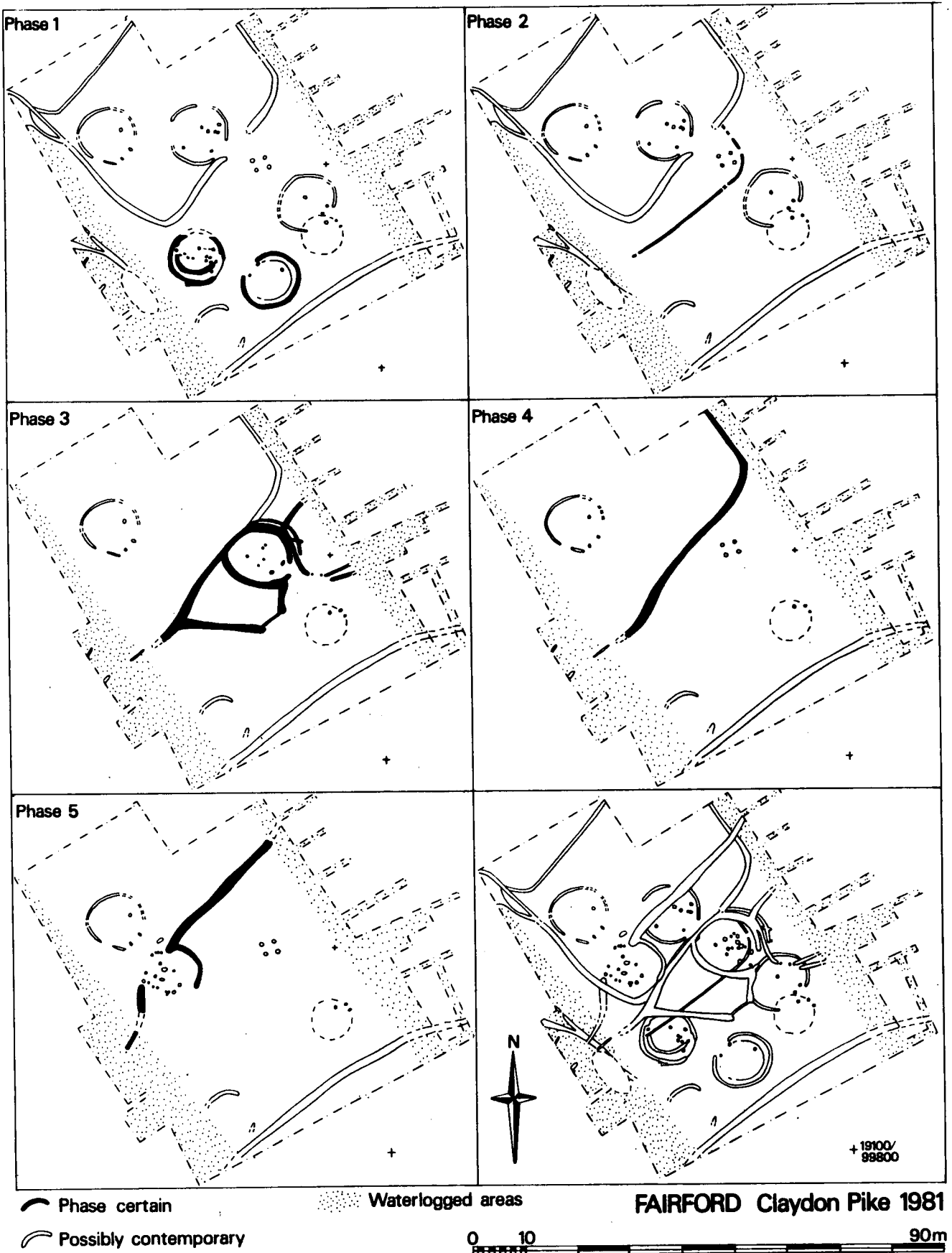


Fig. 48

Fairford/Lechlade: Claydon Pike - Middle Iron Age Settlement

Neolithic flint and a reworked polished stone axe have been found on the Romano-British settlement area.

Extensive phosphate sampling by Jeff Mees has shown distinctive patterns of activity. An Iron Age house which did not show on aerial photographs was located from its high phosphate levels.

Elaine Morris's work on the Droitwich salt-containers and Malvernian pottery from the site has been included in her article 'Ceramic Exchange in Western Britain: A Preliminary View' printed in *Production and Distribution: A Ceramic Viewpoint*, eds. Hilary Howard and Elaine L. Morris (BAR 1981).

POST EXCAVATION PROJECTS

61. BERINSFIELD: Mount Farm - see below No.73.

62. BERINSFIELD: Wally Corner - Heinrich Härke

When the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wally Corner was excavated in 1974/75, weapons, or part of weapons, were found to be associated with 25 of 105 inhumations. Weapon types include shields, spears, knives, and one arrow. At first sight, Berinsfield does not appear to be a fascinating sample for weapon studies, lacking as it does swords, axes, and other more conspicuous arms. But closer analysis proves this cemetery to be an interesting case in its own right. A relatively large number of shields had been put into the graves, a total of 16. While this is not unusual as such, Berinsfield stands out by its surprising number of 'shield only' burials: seven shield burials out of 16 did not contain any other weapon, apart from a knife in some cases. This lack of complementary, offensive weapons has few parallels in Anglo-Saxon burial sites. Another uncommon observation is that men and women preferred different types of knives.

The detailed inspection of weapons, and their locations in the graves, produces a wealth of technical information. Most shields were just over 40cm (16") in diameter, and the boards were between 6 and 7mm thick. Two bosses show unambiguous traces of repair. Spear shafts were tapering from the spearhead socket to the butt; one spear was equipped with an iron shaft fitting. The correlation between weapon burial and anthropological data turns out to be another interesting field of study. The three smallest men, but also the three tallest men in the cemetery had been buried without weapons - in the latter cases quite contrary to what one would expect intuitively. All male adults between 20 and 30 years of age had weapons in their graves, but the likelihood of being buried with weapons seems to have decreased with increasing age. Sub-adults were not excluded from weapon burial: four children and one adolescent were accompanied by arms, among which figures the only arrowhead found at Berinsfield.

FAIRFORD/LECHLADE Claydon Pike 1981

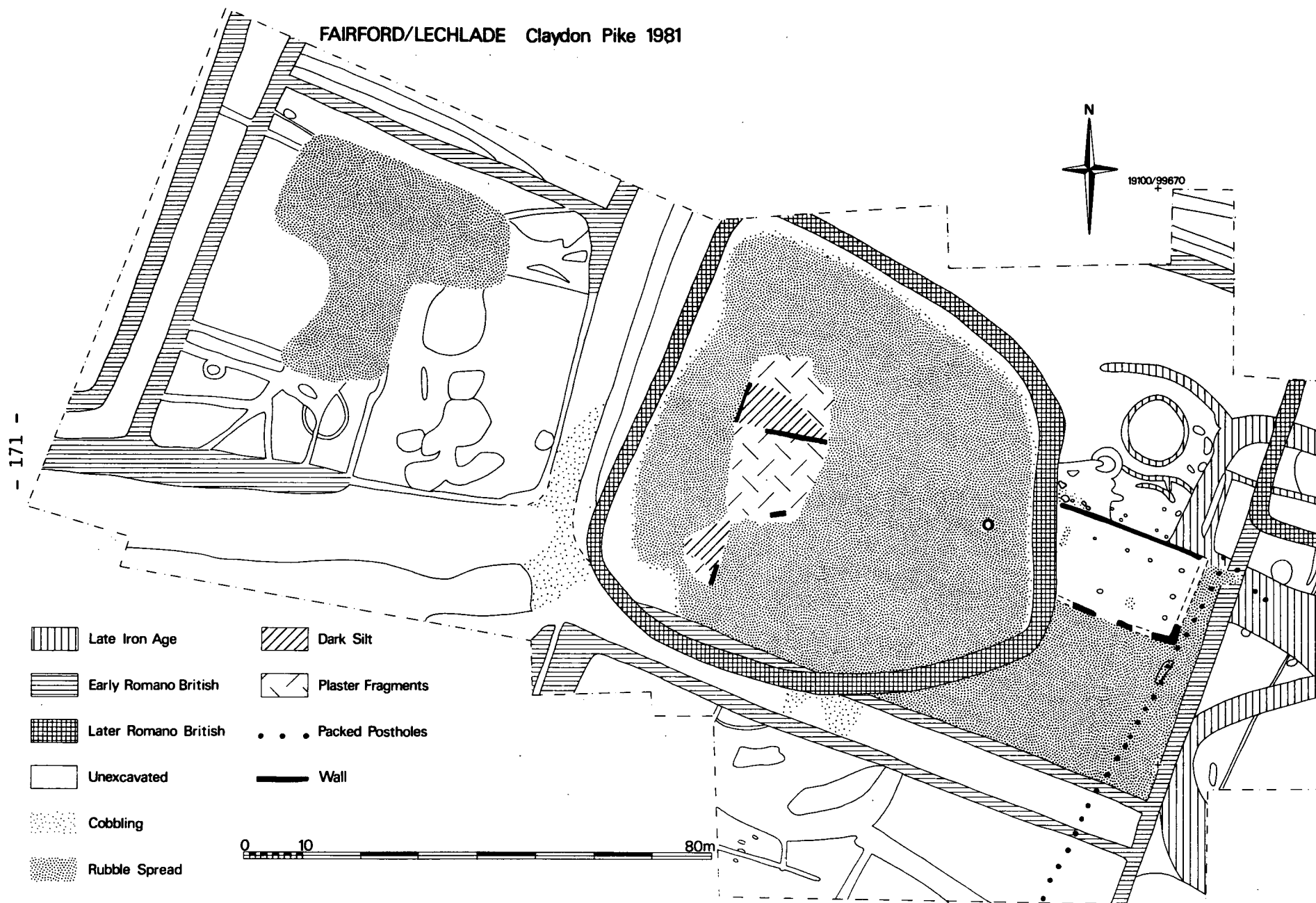


Fig. 49

63. CHALGROVE: Harding's Field - Phillip Page (Fig.50)

The report on the excavation of the medieval moated Manor House at Harding's Field, Chalgrove is now well under way. As a result of the detailed investigation of the site records some new interpretation of the structures has now emerged.

The interpretation of Phase 1 of the site remains the same. The major structure being a cobwalled building of late 13th century date, containing a large unmade hearth. Parts of other structures belonging to the same pre-moat phase were also located.

In the next phase, early 14th century, the moats were excavated. It is now thought that the moat which forms the south western side of the large island, and is common to both moated islands, represents the medieval course of the stream which today lies to the south. This stream was widened and possibly deepened to form part of the moat and it also fed the moats. When the moats went out of use and silted up the stream migrated 35-40 m south where it lies today. The buildings on the island consisted of a large rectangular hall. To its north was a kitchen and to the east of the kitchen was a circular dovecote. Access to the site was over a bridge by the dovecote. The fragmentary remains to the south represent the demesne farm buildings.

It now seems that the hall was a 3 bayed aisled building, each aisle being c. 6m.wide. The eastern end bay was divided from the great hall by a wall and this bay probably had a first floor. The great hall was divided into two bays by a pair of aisle posts, and there was a central hearth in the western bay. The extension added on to the hall to the west is believed to be a parlour.

The alterations of Phase 3 occurred in the second quarter of the 14th century. A stone cross-wing was added on the eastern end of the hall. This comprised on the ground floor, a buttery and pantry divided by a corridor, beyond them to the north was an undercroft, which was probably vaulted and tacked on to the undercroft there was a garderobe. The garderobe may have been a timber-framed structure in this phase. On the first floor of the cross wing above the buttery and pantry would have been the solar. This had a fireplace against its eastern wall, and the base of its chimney can be seen on the plan, looking like a large buttress. The room above the undercroft was entered from the solar. This room was either the lord's bedroom or the wardrobe. Access to the garderobe would have been from this chamber only.

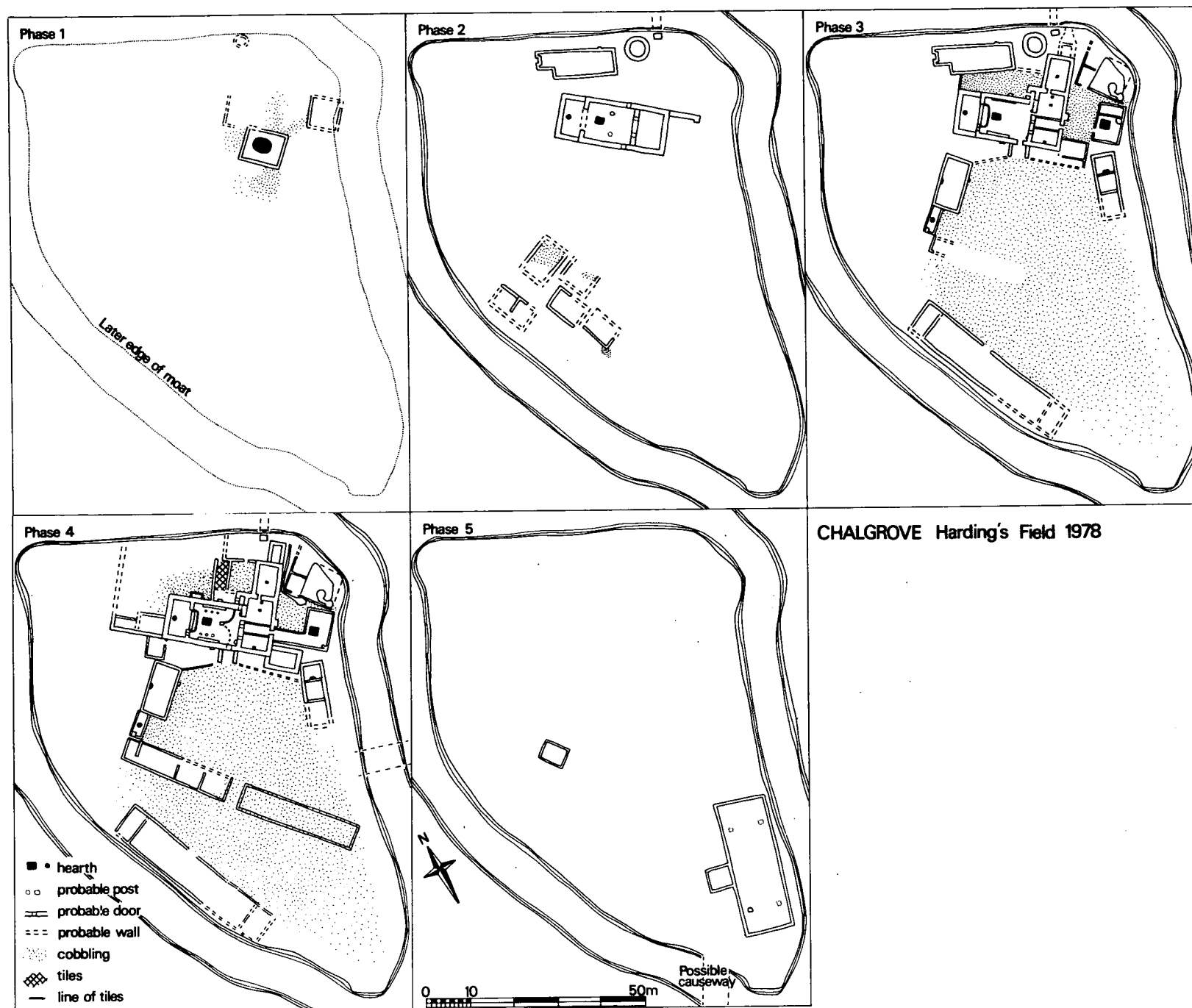


Fig. 50

In the angle between the hall and the cross wing was a small room which may have been an oriel chamber and might have contained a private stairway, giving access to the wardrobe/bedroom. Alternatively it could have had a doorway going out onto the courtyard between the hall and kitchen.

In the great hall stone benches were inserted against the side walls and across the west end. A dais was also made at that end indicating that it was the high end of the hall. The construction of the roof seems to have been improved for the aisle posts were removed, however two buttresses were added on the outside walls of the hall presumably to counter the extra thrust from the new roof supports.

The porch was added on the south side of the hall building and on the south east corner a timber-frame structure that may have been a chapel was built.

To the east of the hall a detached kitchen was constructed with an oven and a central hearth, north of this was the bakehouse. The old kitchen to the north of the hall was retained but presumably its use altered.

The farmyard was totally rearranged, the buildings of the second phase were demolished and a large flint and gravel courtyard laid, around which were constructed a number of buildings. The building just to the south of the new kitchen survived as a two-bayed structure, but was originally at least three-bayed. In the northern bay there was an oven. This may have been the accommodation for the *famuli*, the servants who lived on the manor. Opposite this across the courtyard was a large rectangular stone building. This may have been the lodgings for the lord's retainers or for visiting nobility. Attached to this building to the south-east was a small structure whose function remains unknown. The very long building situated on the edge of the moat most closely resembles a stable block. These almost certainly were not the only buildings associated with the courtyard but the others have left no trace.

The Phase 4 alterations take place round the first quarter of the 15th century. Both the chapel and garderobe were replaced by stone buildings and in the former a floor of decorated tiles was laid. The kitchen to the east of the hall was replaced with another of similar dimensions, but this time it was attached to the main building with a corridor. The lower end of the great hall was floored over. This floor was supported by a large central post. Leading out from this floor on the north-east side of the hall was a gallery supported by three posts.

The old kitchen and dovecote were demolished and over them a timber framed pentice was built attached to the north side of the hall. This had contained a decorated tile floor and probably gave access to a screens passage at the lower end of the great hall. On its east side was a small private

courtyard enclosed by buildings and on its north side by a wall. This wall is believed to be contemporary with that which abutts the parlour and encloses an area of possible garden to the west of the pentice. Constructed against this garden wall and the north west wall of the parlour was a small building whose function is unknown. Between the lodgings and this garden wall another structure was inserted but this may have been a pen rather than a building. The large courtyard was divided into two smaller ones by the construction of two long narrow buildings. These are both believed to be of agricultural use.

Phase 5 sees the demolition of the manor. A documentary reference tells us that the site went out of use and the buildings were pulled down in 1485. A large aisled barn with a wagon porch on its western side, and a small rectangular building post-date this demolition. These two buildings are believed to be a barn and culver house (dovecote) mentioned in a document of 1520.

The site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument and has been preserved beneath a cover of gravel and topsoil by the Department of the Environment.

- 64. COGGES, Manor Farm - see below No.72
- 65. HARDWICK WITH YELFORD, Mingies Ditch - see below Nos.72 and 73
- 66. OXFORD, All Saints - see below No.73
- 67. OXFORD, Churchill Hospital - see below No.74
- 68. OXFORD: St Ebbe's Sites (31-34 Church Street, Greyfriars, Littlegate, Selfridges & Westgate)
- Maureen Mellor

The post medieval project on the above sites has dominated the bulk of the work this year. Eleanor Beard has been responsible for the majority of the drawings and some 90 figures have been prepared for publication. Adrian Oswald has isolated four local types of tobacco clay pipe which were manufactured in the vicinity of Oxford from the late seventeenth to the early nineteenth centuries. John Woods, an in-service trainee spent three months collating much of the documentary evidence for the area. This enabled the individual pit groups to be related to specific tenements whose occupiers and occupation were sometimes known. This information has given a new and exciting dimension to the interpretation of the finds. A Public House, the Saracen's Head, hitherto unknown, was located and contemporary pits at the back of this tenement have been excavated (Westgate F45 etc). Some of the college servants also ran eating houses and taverns and had their names hand-painted on items of crockery at the production centres in 'The Potteries' Staffordshire.

The suburb was essentially poor but the presence of college servants within the area may account for the wealthier assemblages in some rubbish pits (Greyfriars VII F5).

Claire Halpin has latterly prepared the evidence plan for the two major sites (31-34 Church Street and Greyfriars) and the report should be submitted to the editor by the end of the year. See also below No.72.

69. STANTON HARCOURT - see below No.72

70. WALLINGFORD - see below No.72

Gloucestershire

71. LECHLADE: Rough Ground Farm - Tim Allen

Margaret Jones' 1957-65 excavations of the Roman villa and surrounding field system are currently being prepared for publication. This should provide a local pottery sequence and useful comparison for the current work at Claydon Pike.

Some small-scale trenching is being carried out with the help of the O.U.A.S. to investigate the areas south of two of the masonry buildings. The later of these, previously traced for 29m, has been found continuing 6m further south, and the channelled hypocaust that underlay two rooms down its west side clearly continued into a third. A trench dug 4m south of this did not find the building, but this may have hit later disturbance.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

72. ANIMAL BONES - Bob Wilson

The Iron Age site at Hardwick has attracted attention because it is an unusual opportunity to examine the distribution of bones across an almost totally excavated settlement. The enclosing ditches coherently define the limits of most occupational activity in a way that no other excavation has yet provided.

Chief interests have been (1) the effects of leaching and scavenging on the bone and (2) the reconstruction of site activities from the spatial spread of debris. Many bones were reduced to small unidentifiable fragments and to loose teeth. Nevertheless analysis shows that most debris, especially of sheep and other medium sized mammals, was concentrated at the centre of the site while fewer but larger fragments and bone of large animals were more evident toward the periphery.

Cultural relics such as pottery and burnt clay as well as charcoal and burnt bone are associated with hearths rather than the centres of buildings - only some of which had recognisable hearths or much bone debris. Most human

activity, probably including butchery of sheep, seems to have occurred centrally. This is confirmed by offcuts and other remnants of worked bone which however may be largely associated with the most central hut.

Perhaps the horse bones are from individuals slaughtered, or dying and decomposing on the periphery of the site. Also the few crania of dogs, as well as a puppy skeleton, tended to end up in outside features. This kind of evidence demonstrates that every part of a site must be sampled in order to obtain a reliable reconstruction of the animal husbandry.

Much of the year has been spent on the recording of the huge quantity of medieval bones from the centre of Oxford. Apart from the bird bones reports have been completed for the post medieval material from Church Street (Site A) and the Greyfriars (Site B). Unfortunately there are only hints at the environment of the tenements and require confirmation by documentary evidence: gardens (hedgehog and birds); pig sties (diseased skeleton of pig); and rubbish dumps (cat skeletons and black rat bones).

As dietary evidence, the remains include several innovations such as edible crab, and probably, turkey but in general the debris is unexceptional. Characteristic items are rabbit, domestic fowl, goose, oyster, mussel and cockle.

Nearly all debris appears to be domestic rubbish. However sheep head debris (Westgate W F22), horncores of long horned cattle (Greyfriars B I F27), and a high percentage of calf mandibles, all indicate specialist butchery or slaughterhouse activity in the area during the 18th or 19th century. Perhaps the horn cores came from the 17th-19th century tanneries adjacent to the Greyfriars.

From Greyfriars BIV F44 there are two metatarsi of domestic fowl which have the bone spurs sawn off. Almost certainly this occurred during the training of the birds for cock fighting. Long, curved metal spurs would have been bound to the legs about the stumps of the bone spurs. The bones date to the mid 18th or early 19th century. The aim is to produce basic reports although the usefully large sample sizes of some medieval data are unlikely to be duplicated by future excavations and deserve further discussion.

Other small collections have been written up: Cogges Priory near Witney, Stanton Harcourt and Thrupp, Wallingford.

Some general findings of the past few years were displayed to the public for two months. 'Old Bones and Beasties' featured wild animals, and extinctions, introductions and other changes in their regional ecology over the last 6000 years.

73. WATERLOGGED PLANTS AND INVERTEBRATES: Mount Farm, Berinsfield; The Cursus, Drayton; Claydon Pike, Fairford/Lechlade; Mingies Ditch, Hardwick with Yelford; All Saints, Oxford; Churchill Hospital, Oxford; Church Street, Oxford; High Street, Oxford; Oriel College, Oxford - Mark Robinson

While work in 1981 has mainly been concentrated on three major sites: Mingies Ditch, Claydon Pike and Mount Farm, various excavations within the City of Oxford have provided diversion ranging from curious to amusing. The Iron Age enclosure at Mingies Ditch seems to have been set in pastureland which graded into marsh along the banks of the River Windrush and on the bed of minor seasonal streams which traversed the floodplain. The landscape was relatively open, although there may have been willow swamp over some of the marshy areas and scrub or willows lining the banks of the water courses. The Iron Age enclosure itself was surrounded by scrub of a very mixed composition, with at least 11 species present. The scrub was probably in the form of hedges on the enclosure ditches and the presence of *Acer campestre* (common maple), which has very poor colonizing powers, suggests that either the hedges had been created by selective scrub/woodland clearance or mixed stock had been obtained from woodland. Carbonized cereal remains were present but Martin Jones suggests, on the basis of the weed species he identified, that the grain was brought to the site from elsewhere. There was evidence that the water table rose during the period of occupation of the Iron Age enclosure and this factor may eventually have been responsible for the abandonment of the site. However, there was no evidence of flooding until a very much later date.

One very important discovery from Mingies Ditch was the head of a worker honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) in a well stratified peatlayer. So far, this is the only Iron Age honey bee known from Britain, the next earliest record being several individuals from a Saxon well at Portchester Castle. Many archaeologists have assumed that the Neolithic inhabitants of Britain exploited the honey bee whereas entomologists have tended to regard it as an alien species introduced by the Romans, but neither side had any evidence to support their contention. Obviously the single find does not prove that the inhabitants of Mingies Ditch kept bees, but it does show that honey, wax and propolis (a resinous substance that can be used as a waterproof glue) were available in Iron Age Oxfordshire. Even if the bees were wild rather than domestic, it is probably that the right to exploit a particular "bee tree" was as jealously guarded as it was within historic times.

Work was begun with the assistance of Ann James examining a sample from the Roman well at Claydon Pike. So far, the results correspond reasonably closely to those from other Roman sites on the first gravel terrace but the identification of fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) was a not

unexpected addition to the culinary herbs/spices recorded from Roman sites in the region.

Yet another member of the Umbelliferae cultivated by the Romans was identified from a water hole/well at Mount Farm. It contained many thousands of seeds of celery (*Apium graveolens*). It is naturally a local species of wet or marshy ground, especially where conditions are saline. The other plant and insect remains from the deposit suggested the relatively dry conditions that would be expected on the third gravel terrace. Therefore it seems unlikely that celery would have grown wild at Mount Farm. Perhaps the site supplied Dorchester with market garden produce including celery seeds. Another Roman sample from Mount Farm contained flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) rippling (threshing) debris along with capsule fragments of gold of pleasure (*Camelina sp*), a weed very closely associated with flax growing. Possibly the ponds at Mount Farm were used for flax retting.

The first Oxford site investigated was the new trunk sewer in The High (see above No.41). The trench cut through a 19th century cast iron water main which was filled with a mass of shells of the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*). The zebra mussel has minute free-swimming larvae capable of passing through filter beds. These larvae would then attach themselves by byssal threads to the pipe side and metamorphose into small mussels. The mussels are very efficient filter-feeders and would have been able to feed on impurities in the water. Prior to the days of chlorinated water, these mussels were serious pests, either blocking water mains or polluting water supplies when individuals died.

A stone chamber within the Provost's lodging at Oriel College which had been used as a cess pit during the late seventeenth century provided an insight on the diet of an upper class household in Oxford their diet was exceptionally rich, including grapes/raisins, raspberries, black pepper strawberries, apples, plums, figs, mulberries and a walnut. All these remains had passed through the alimentary canal (apart from the walnut, which was entire!). There were a few beetles in the chamber, all species which would have been at home there, but the deposit also contained numerous puparia of sphaeroceridae (sewage flies). The flies suggest a squalid aspect to living conditions in the Provost's lodgings, because the only opening to the chamber was in the house. In the words of Brian Durham, who excavated the site 'there were sufficient fly puparia to say that for every seed that went down, one fly came up' (see above No.43).

The remaining three Oxford sites from which material was examined had all been excavated before the foundation of the OAU. Gorse (*Ulex sp*) was found preserved in the corrosion products on the exterior of a small 17th century brass box from Church Street. Like the discovery of a late medieval deposit of gorse at Bicester last year, it is an example of

gorse being brought into a town where it would not have been growing for an unknown purpose. A sample was investigated from a Roman well at the kiln site at the Churchill Hospital. Waterlogged remains were poorly preserved, although they included seeds of greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) and opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*). The deposit was, however, surprisingly rich in spelt wheat chaff.

Several Saxon samples were investigated from All Saints Church. With the help of Martin Jones, what proved to be a remarkably pure carbonized deposit of threshed bread/club wheat was examined. Out of a total of 4643 seeds, only 35 were weeds and a further 65 were barley grains. The last surviving remains of wood in the timber voids of the Saxon cellar showed it to have been constructed of oak. Finally, charcoal was examined from a charred fence. The upright posts were oak and the horizontal wattles hazel. The hazel showed much apparent evidence of woodworm damage. This was confirmed on splitting the charcoal open by the discovery not of the beetles but five individuals of *Theocolax formiciformis*, a minute hymenopteran parasite of *Anobium punctatum*. Until I saw these insects, I had not realised that preservation by charring could be so good.

The main sites sampled this year were Claydon Pike, Fairford/Lechlade, and the Drayton Cursus. At Claydon Pike a sequence of samples was obtained from a natural peat deposit on the edge of one of the "islands" of gravel terrace occupied during the Iron Age. Samples were taken from the Drayton Cursus ditch where it crossed the floodplain and also the alluvium covering it (within which Roman features were interstratified). In last year's Annual Report it was mentioned that much of the Upper Thames floodplain probably did not suffer flooding in the Bronze Age but that a rise in the water table and ultimately the deposition took place in the Iron Age. The evidence from Drayton has enabled a reappraisal to be made of the results from previous sections through the alluvium on the Thames floodplain.

In the Neolithic and Bronze Age, much of the floodplain did not flood and either had a true terrestrial soil covering with a high silt content (Drayton, King's Weir and the Hamel) or an ancient, earthworm-sorted alluvium (Mingies Ditch). By the middle of the Iron Age, there had been a rise in the water table (Mingies Ditch and Port Meadow) with an onset of flooding in some places (Farmoor). Before the end of the Iron Age significant quantities of clay alluvium were being deposited (Farmoor), and a further or continued rise in the water table occurred (Farmoor and Mingies Ditch). On some sites, the clay alluvium contained molluscs, at least 95% of them being aquatic individuals (Farmoor) on others, the alluvium had been de-calcified and molluscs were absent (Drayton). Alluvial deposition may have continued until the end of the Roman period. A second phase of alluvial deposition seems to have begun in the late Saxon period and continued perhaps up until the end of the 13th century

(Mingies Ditch, Farmoor, Drayton and Claydon Pike). Flooding was probably more extensive than during the earlier phase and the alluvium was of a different nature. On all these sites the alluvium had a much coarser particle size, being a silt to a silty loam, and was mollusc-rich, but only about 50% of the shells were from aquatic species.

The earlier phase of alluviation may have been related to a later Iron Age/Roman arable expansion on the Cotswolds while the later phase was perhaps the result of a later Saxon agricultural recovery followed by the well-documented great Medieval arable expansion prior to the Black Death. Excavations in Oxford at St. Aldates and on the Blackfriars Priory are due to take place soon and sections through the alluvium on these sites are avidly awaited.

ABINGDON AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

74. Recent work on Neolithic and early Bronze Age sites in the Abingdon Area - Roger Thomas and Jeff Wallis (Figs. 51 - 56)

The vicinity of Abingdon is well known for the variety of archaeological sites of all periods which it contains. Important among these is a number of monuments of the Neolithic and early Bronze Age (see accompanying figure). Some of these monuments had already been excavated before the 1970's - these included the Abingdon causewayed camp; the adjacent Barrow Hills Early Bronze Age cemetery; a ring-ditch to the south of Abingdon; and ring-ditches, late Neolithic pits and a part of the Drayton curses, encountered by T.E. Leeds in his excavation of the Saxon village near Sutton Courtenay.

More recent excavations, firstly by the Abingdon and District Archaeological Society and latterly by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, have examined a Neolithic henge, Bronze Age ring-ditches and a Middle Bronze Age farmstead at Corporation Farm, Abingdon; late Neolithic pits containing Grooved Ware, in the Ock Valley (Abingdon Bypass) and at Barton Court Farm; two ring-ditches enclosing Early Bronze Age cremations, at Ashville Trading Estate; and a Neolithic ring-ditch at Thrupp Farm.

Additionally, aerial photography has extended our knowledge of both the distribution of sites and the range of site-types represented. Recent discoveries have included a long-barrow near Drayton, a large number of ring-ditches and a possible Neolithic mortuary enclosure and post-circles henge at Barrow Hills, next to the causewayed camp.

Since 1977 members of the Abingdon and District Archaeological Society have been continuing a programme of work on prehistoric sites round Abingdon. This work comprises two main elements - rescue excavation on site threatened by gravel-digging, and an attempt to fieldwalk as much as possible of the surrounding landscape within which the excavated sites are contained. Work so far published include the excavation of a Beaker ring-ditch at Tuckwells pit, Radley (*Oxoniensia* 45 (1980), 306). What follows is an interim report on work currently in progress.

FIELDWALKING

Fieldwalking has so far concentrated on Radley parish. Several major flint scatters have been located.

Barrow Hills, Radley

A dense scatter of worked flint lies at the west end of the linear barrow cemetery, adjacent to the Neolithic causewayed enclosure. In anticipation of the redevelopment of this area, the field has been walked on a 10 metre grid. The flintwork seems to be concentrated in the western part of the site, close to the banks of the stream and area of marshy ground which separates this field from the causewayed enclosure. The material seems to be mainly later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. Types recovered include transept and barbed-and-tanged arrowheads, and horseshoe-shaped scrapers. A glass bead and a grass-tempered sherd presumably relate to the Saxon sunken huts visible on the aerial photograph. As an adjunct to the fieldwalking, the cropmarks visible from the ground were surveyed in the summer of 1980.

Lower Farm, Radley

This site lies on a ridge of gravel between the present Thames floodplain and what appears to be a former channel of the Thames, now filled with peat and alluvium. The scatter of worked flint is about 500m long and 100m wide. The flint work is not of a very high quality, but appears to include material of Neolithic date.

Thrupp Farm, Radley

Here a large flint scatter containing Neolithic and Early Bronze Age types lies within an area which is being quarried for gravel. Types found include leaf-shaped and barbed-and-tanged arrowheads, scrapers, blades and cores. The flint-scatter complements the Neolithic features discovered during the excavation of an Iron Age settlement at this site (see below). As at Lower Farm, the site is on the edge of a former channel of the Thames.

EXCAVATION

During 1981 excavation has been taking place on two

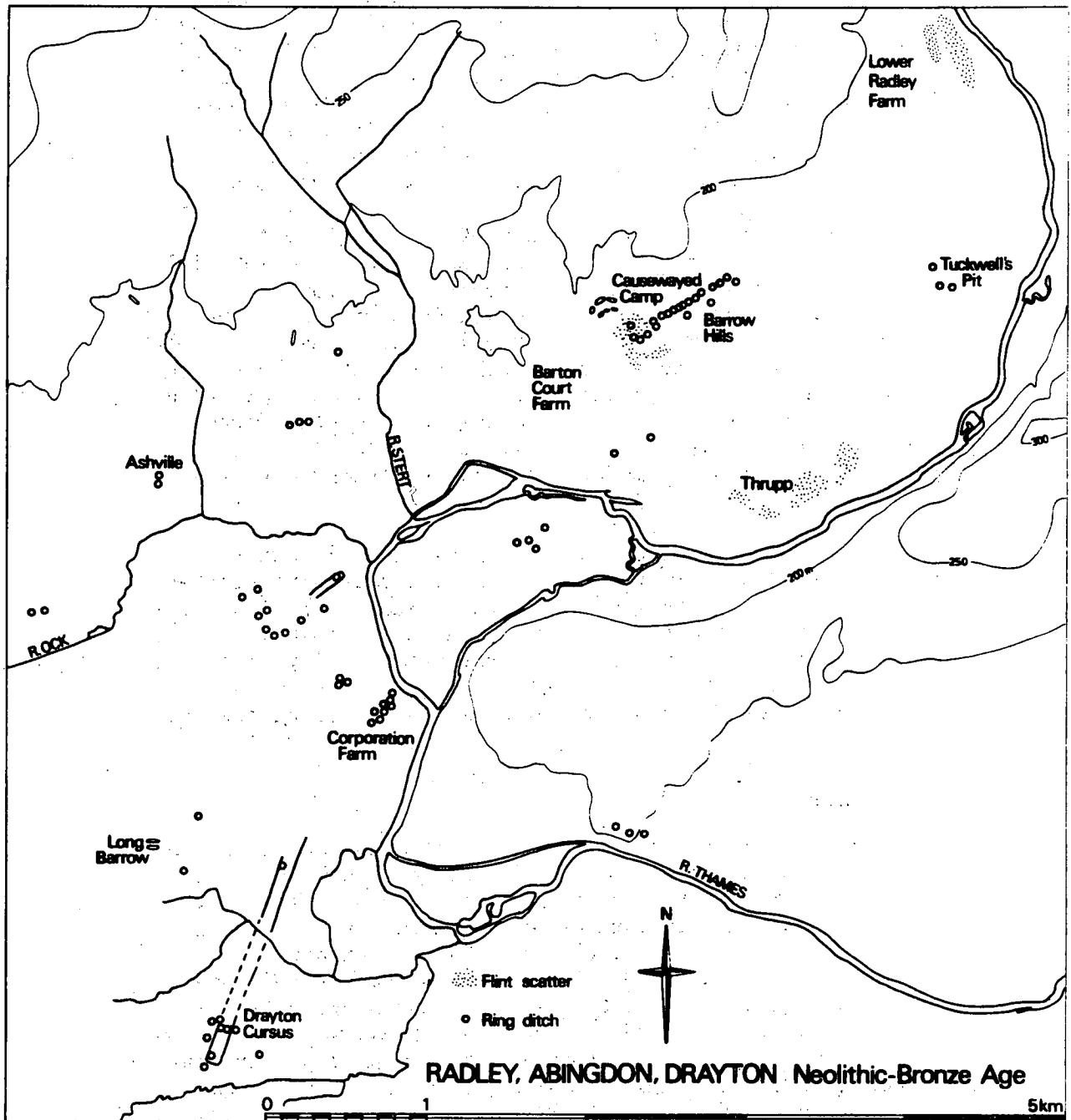


Fig. 51

sites, Thrupp Farm and the Drayton cursus

Thrupp Farm, Radley

This site has been investigated primarily from the point of view of its Iron Age settlement features (see CBA 9 Newsletter No.11 (1980), 28-41). However, during the course of this work a certain amount of earlier prehistoric material has come to light. A few sherds of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery have been found in topsoil stripping, in 1972 a Beaker was found here, and in 1976 the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit excavated a Neolithic penannular ditch. This feature was 15m in diameter. The filling of the ditch produced Abingdon Ware, and some flint and animal bone.

In 1980 during the excavation of Site C (Iron Age circular gullies), a pit containing late Neolithic material was found. The pit was 1.2m in diameter and 0.3m deep. It contained an assemblage of 40 Grooved Ware sherds in the Durrington Walls style (see figure) 14 flint flakes, a number of fragments of antler and the cutting edge of a ground stone axe of Whin Sill (Group XVIII) rock. A sample of carbonised material from this pit is being examined by Martin Jones. This isolated pit is similar to examples which have been excavated at Barton Court Farm and on the Abingdon Bypass.

These discoveries of earlier prehistoric material at Thrupp must be seen in the context of the extensive scatter of worked flint in the topsoil at this site. The flintwork include a wide range of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age types (see above for details). As at Lower Farm, Radley, the site lies on the first Gravel Terrace, adjacent to the now alluviated Thames flood-plain and beside a former channel of the Thames

The Drayton Cursus

Work in 1981 has concentrated on a feature which is now thought to be the northern part of the Drayton Cursus. This section is being destroyed by gravel-quarrying. The southern end of this presumably late Neolithic monument lies on the Second Gravel Terrace. It has been known from aerial photographs since the 1930's, and was located by E.T. Leeds in his excavations at the Sutton Courtenay Saxon village site. About 30 metres to the north of the known portion, on the First Gravel Terrace, cropmarks show a pair of parallel ditches running for about 600 metres, on the same alignment as the cursus. Recent work confirms the suggestion that these ditches are indeed a northerly continuation of the cursus. This would give a total length for the monument of at least 1700m (see accompanying figure). No northern terminal has been located; it may well already have been destroyed by gravel pits further to the north.

RADLEY Thrupp House Farm



Fig. 52

Neolithic Grooved Ware Pit Site C

RADLEY Thrupp House Farm

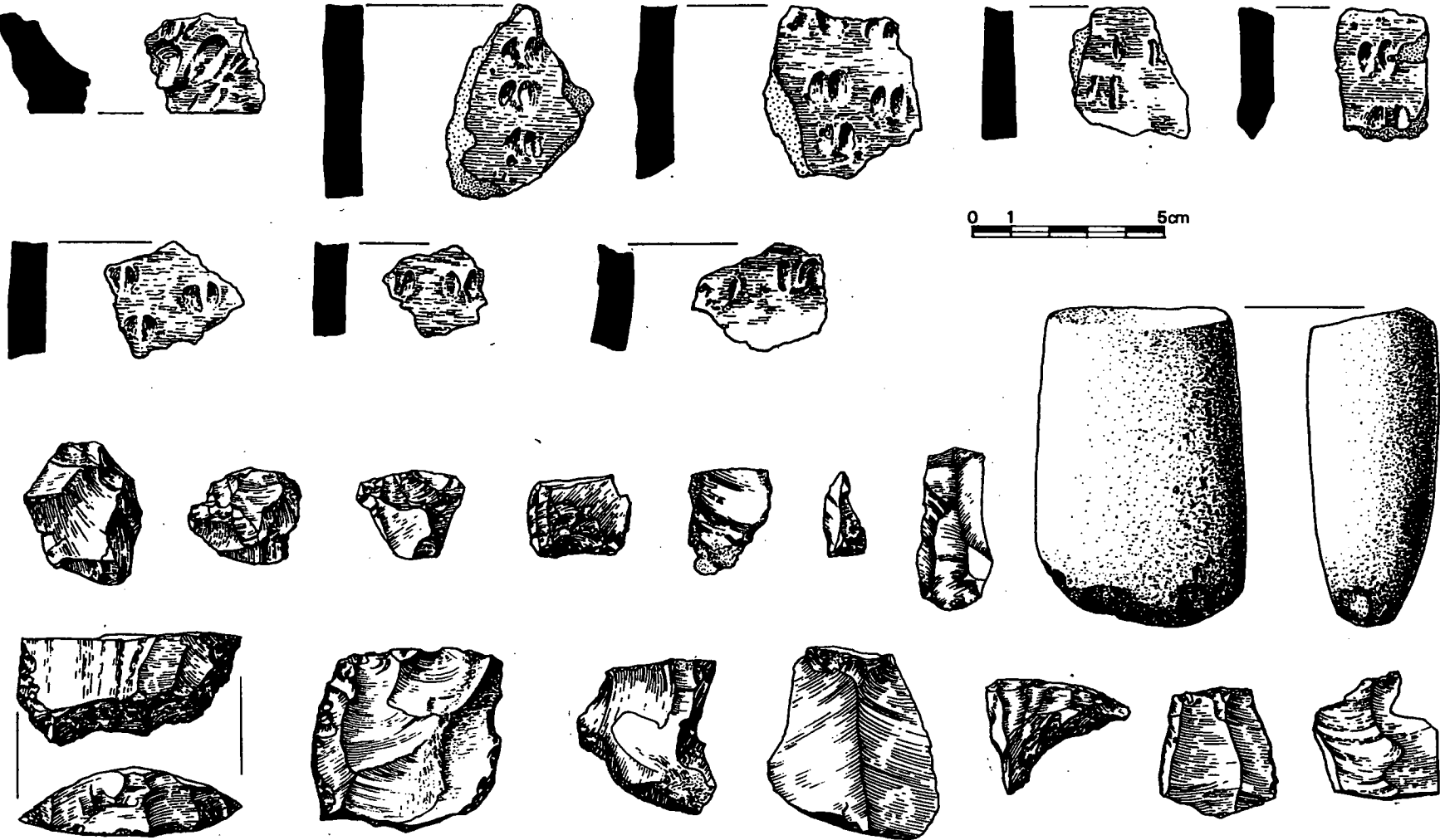


Fig. 53
Neolithic Grooved Ware Pit Site C

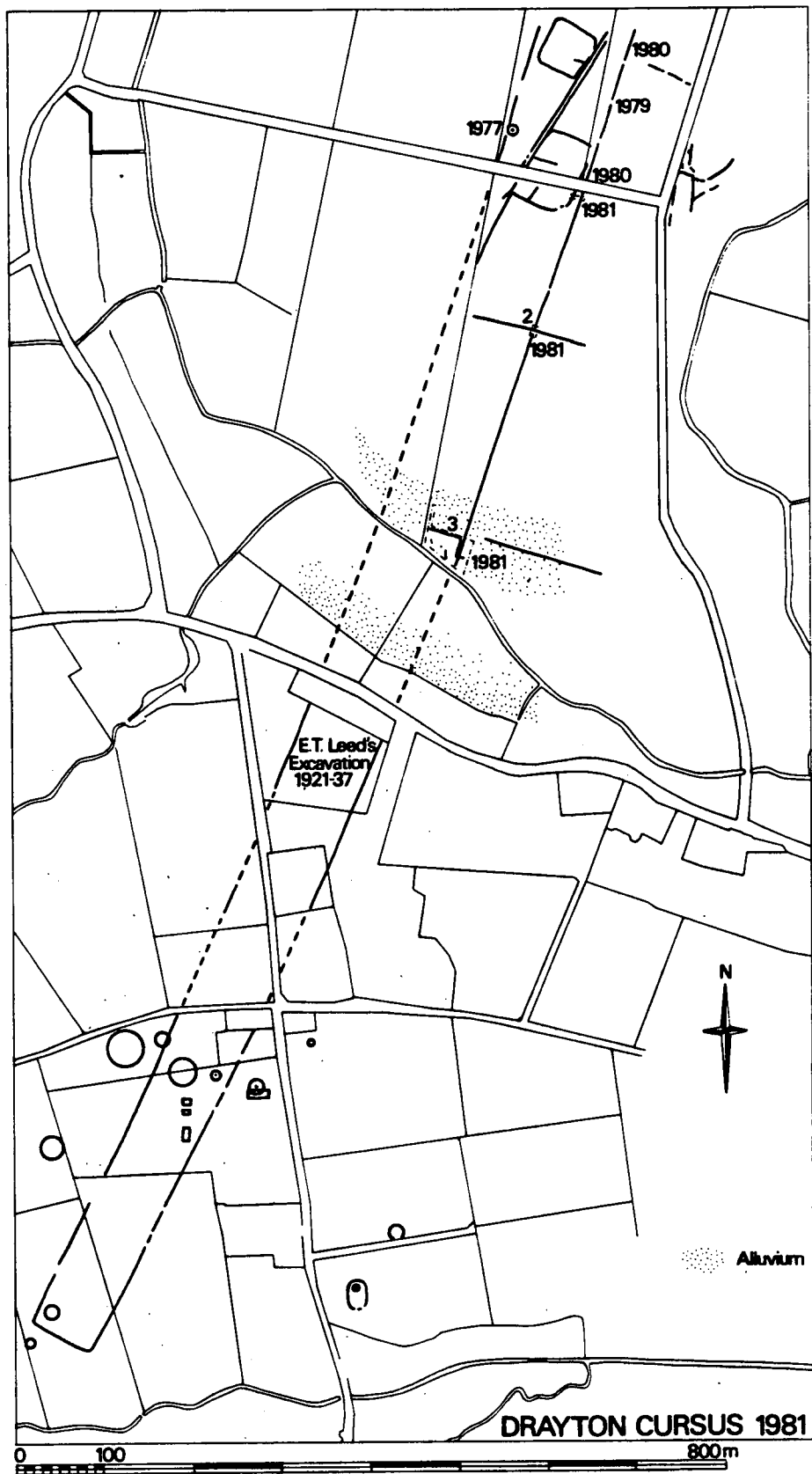


Fig. 54

In 1974 Mike Parrington excavated sections across a length of the western ditch which had been exposed by gravel-quarrying. No direct dating evidence was recovered, but the ditch was seen to be cut by a small, also undated, ring-ditch.

The Abingdon Society's work began in 1979 when a 200m long stretch of the eastern ditch to the north of Peep-o-Day Lane was stripped of topsoil prior to quarrying. The ditch was seen to be cut in segments of varying length, separated by causeways about 2m wide.

The extension of quarrying to the south of this area has enabled further work to take place on the eastern ditch. Several sections have been hand-dug prior to topsoil stripping, and another causeway has been located. A system of Roman ditches has also been exposed by the gravel-pit, and trenching has shown that one of these ditches cuts the cursus ditch.

Most recently, work has been taking place at the southern edge of the gravel-pit where the terrace gravel is buried under alluvium. No cropmarks are visible in this area but excavation has shown that the cursus continues beneath the alluvium, the ditch being sealed by alluvial clay. The bottom of the ditch is waterlogged here and contains some organic materials. The state of preservation is not particularly good, but some hazel nut shells have survived and it is also likely that pollen is preserved in this deposit. Samples for analysis have been taken by Mark Robinson.

At this point the internal bank of the ditch survives; it consists of gravel upcast from the ditch. The original land surface on which the bank is built is also preserved under the alluvium, and an area of this surface is currently being excavated. The surface has produced flint flakes and few sherds of Peterborough ware, from a point just beyond the outer lip of the cursus ditch. Several irregularly shaped pits, so far undated, have been found, cut through the old land surfaces. They lie both inside and outside the cursus.

The area that is being excavated also contains a Roman ditch, which runs parallel with the cursus ditch for part of its length. The gravel upcast from this Roman ditch sits in a hollow above the filling of the cursus ditch, sealing the lower filling of the ditch.

The Roman ditch is cut from a level within the alluvial clay, and is itself filled with and sealed by further alluvial clay. This suggests that there were two episodes of alluviation (for a general interpretation of the alluvial sequence in the Upper Thames Valley, see No.73 above).

Work on this site will continue as the gravel-quarrying progresses. The section of the cursus which is under the

DRAYTON CURSUS Area 3 Sections

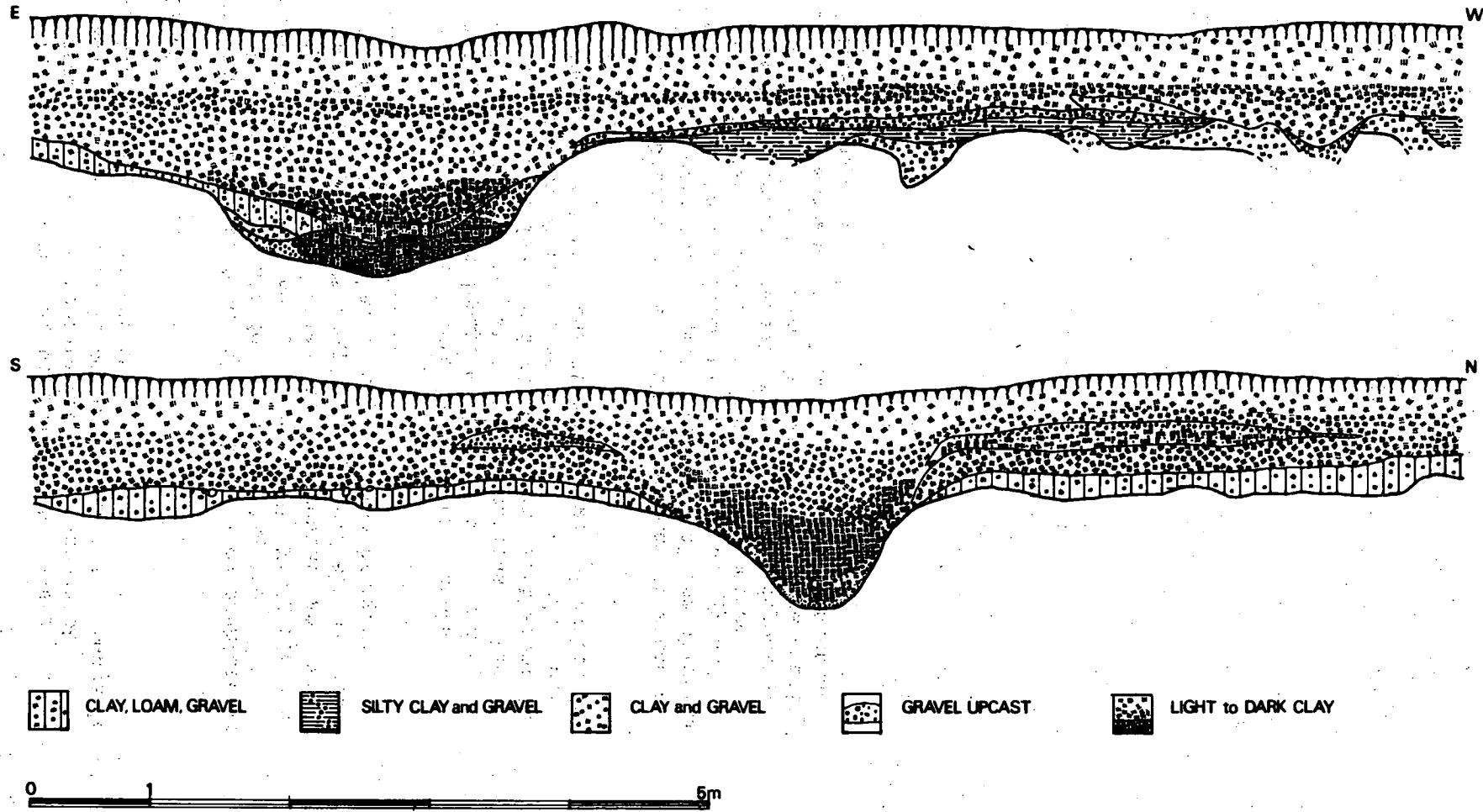


Fig. 55

Top: Section through Curcus (F4) and internal banks
Bottom: Section through Roman field boundary ditch (F11)

alluvium is of some importance, because of the unusual degree of the preservation of the feature and the presence of waterlogged deposits, and it is hoped that it may be possible to carry out further investigations here.

CONCLUSIONS

The work being carried out by the Society on prehistoric sites in the vicinity of Abingdon is confirming the importance of this area as one of considerable Neolithic and Bronze Age activity. This is seen in 'ceremonial' monuments such as the cursus while the programme of fieldwalking, along with chance finds such as that Thrupp, is also bringing to light evidence of domestic sites.

Of particular interest is the location of a number of flint-scatter sites on the lowlying First Gravel Terrace, with an apparent emphasis on river-side situations. This is a characteristic situation for Early Neolithic settlement in England. The margins of the river must have offered a very different environment before the floodplain was blanketed by clay alluvium.

The work at Drayton stresses the importance of areas of alluviation. The evidence suggests that much of the alluvium in the Upper Thames Valley dates to the late Iron Age and later. We may therefore expect to find well-preserved remains of earlier periods beneath these alluvial deposits, as has been shown to be the case at Drayton - but the opacity of the alluvium to archaeological survey makes the location of these sites a major problem.

DRAYTON CURSUS Area 3

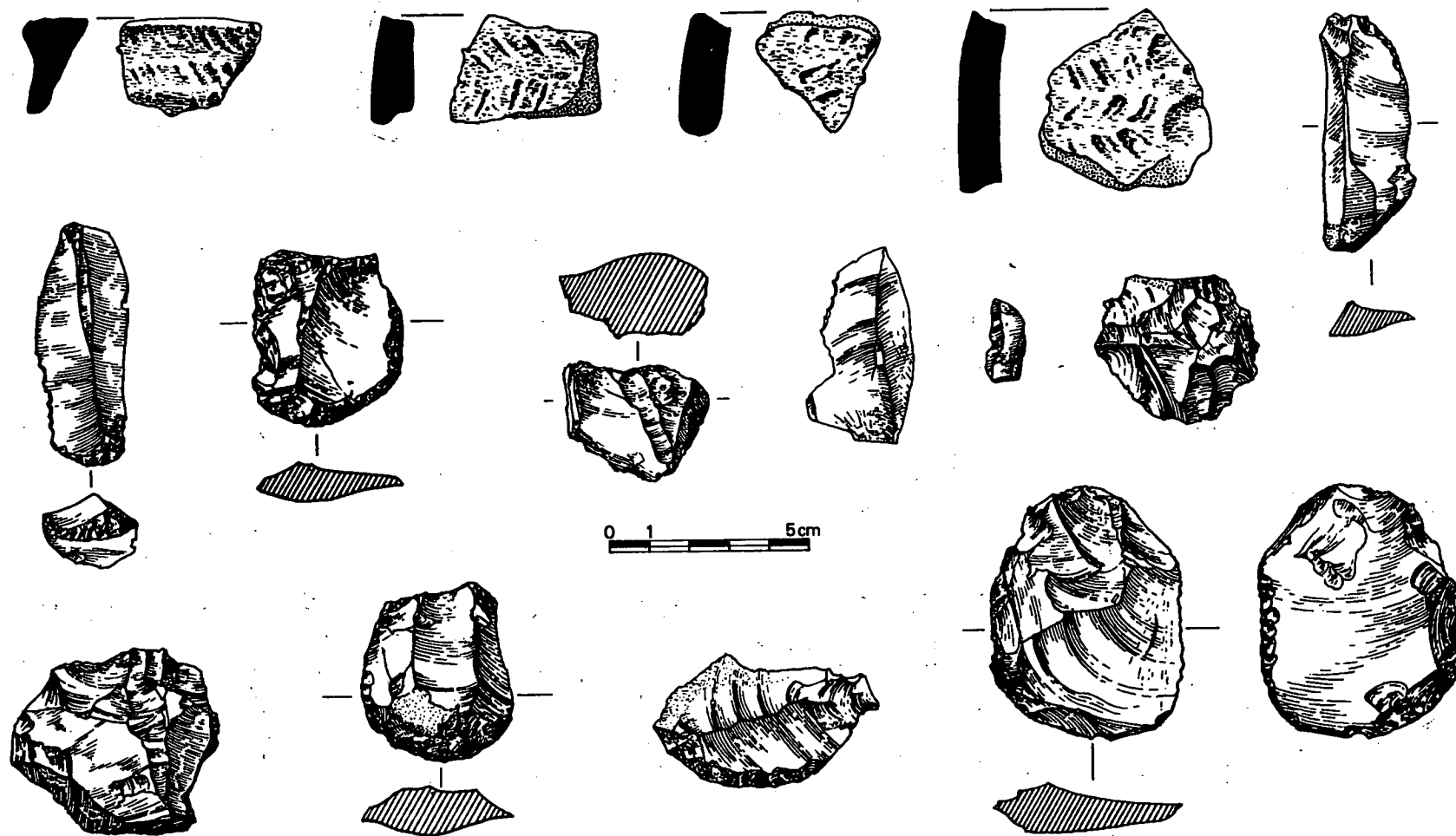


Fig. 56

Neolithic Peterborough Ware and flint finds

Key to Figure 57

SURVEY PROJECTS

Oxfordshire

1. Chadlington
2. Chalgrove
3. Charlbury, Banbury Hill
4. Charlbury to Shorthampton
5. Charlbury, Walcot
6. Finstock, Mount Pleasant
7. Oxford Prison
8. Oxfordshire sites of Special Scientific Interest
9. Radley, Barrow Hills
10. Spelsbury
11. Thames Floodplain Survey
12. Rollright

Middlesex

13. Harefield (not shown)

EXCAVATION PROJECTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Oxfordshire

14. Abingdon, former MG Car factory
15. Asthall
16. Banbury
17. Bicester Priory
18. Bladon - Tackley
19. Charlbury- Cornbury Park
20. Checkendon, Devil's Churchyard
21. Churchill
22. Didcot, A4130 Link Road
23. Didcot, the Rectory
24. Dorchester Abbey
25. Dorchester by-pass
26. Dorchester, 51 High Street
27. Dorchester, Samian Way
28. Drayton
29. Ducklington, grain store
30. Ducklington, Manor Farm
31. Fencott and Murcott
32. Frilford, Noah's Ark
33. Hanborough, Church Hanborough
34. Hardwick, Manor Farm
35. Kiddington with Asterleigh
36. Launton
37. Long Wittenham
38. Oxford, Between Towns Road
39. Oxford, Christ Church Meadow
40. Oxford, Corpus Christi College
41. Oxford, High Street
42. Oxford, New Inn Hall Street
43. Oxford, Oriel College
44. Oxford, Rewley Abbey
45. Oxford, 65 St. Aldates
46. Oxford, Turl Street
47. Radley, Lower Farm
48. Radley, Thrupp Farm
49. Sandford-on-Thames
50. Stanton Harcourt, Brown's Pit
51. Steventon, Manor Farm

52. Sutton Courtenay
53. Thame, 87 High Street
54. Thomley
55. Wallingford, Bridge House
56. Witney, Burwell Farm
57. Witney, 27 Market Square
58. Witney, Newland Mill
59. Wroxton, St Mary

Gloucestershire

60. Fairford/Lechlade

POST EXCAVATION PROJECTS

Oxfordshire

61. Berinsfield, Mount Farm
62. Berinsfield, Wally Corner
63. Chalgrove, Harding's Field
64. Cogges, Manor Farm
65. Hardwick with Yelford, Mingies Ditch
66. Oxford, All Saints
67. Oxford, Churchill Hospital
68. Oxford, St. Ebbes
69. Stanton Harcourt
70. Wallingford

Gloucestershire

71. Lechlade, Rough Ground Farm

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

72. Bones (not shown)
73. Waterlogged Plants and Invertebrates (not shown)
74. ABINGDON AREA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(not shown)

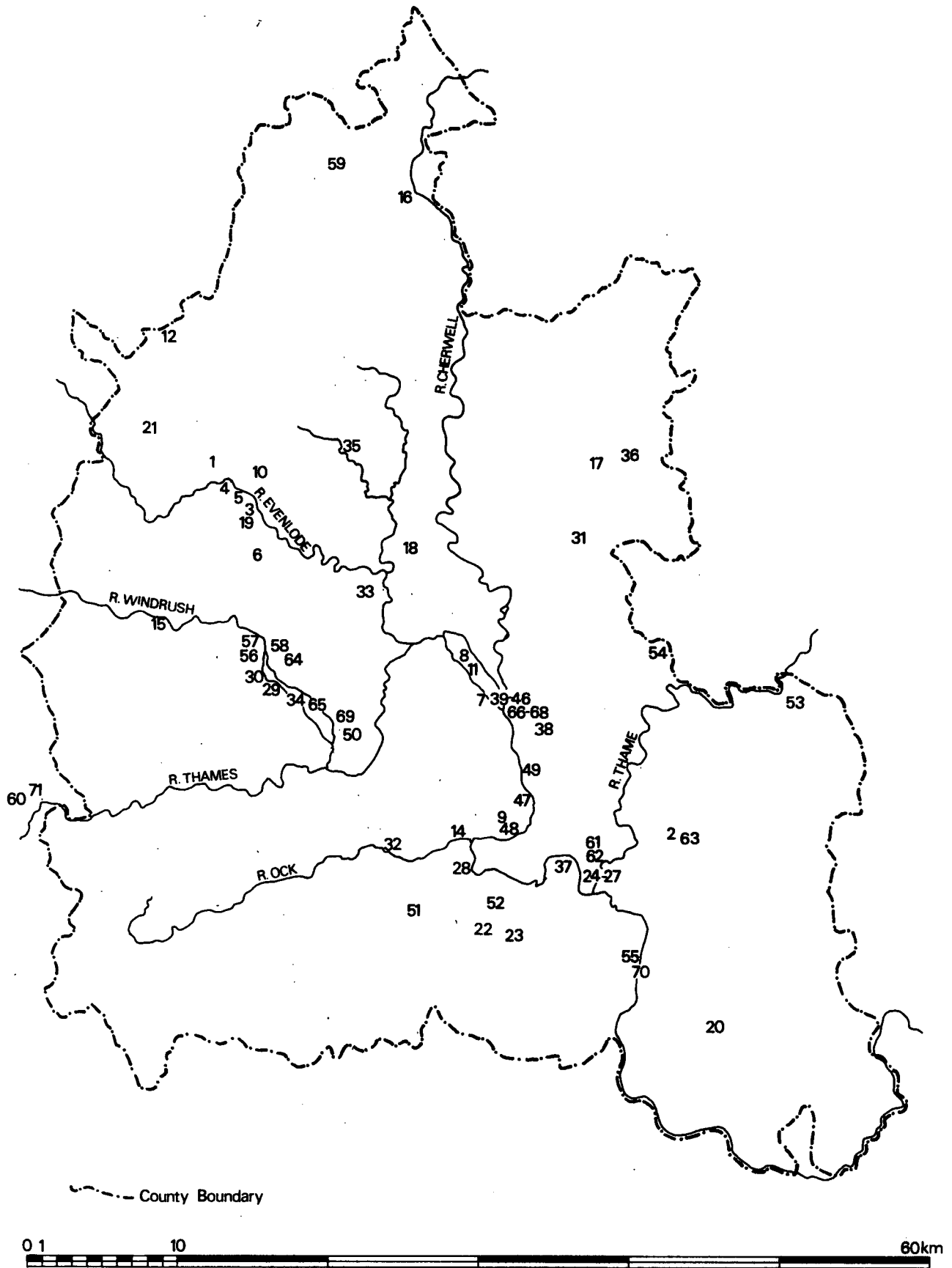


Fig. 57

Archaeological Projects in Oxfordshire 1981

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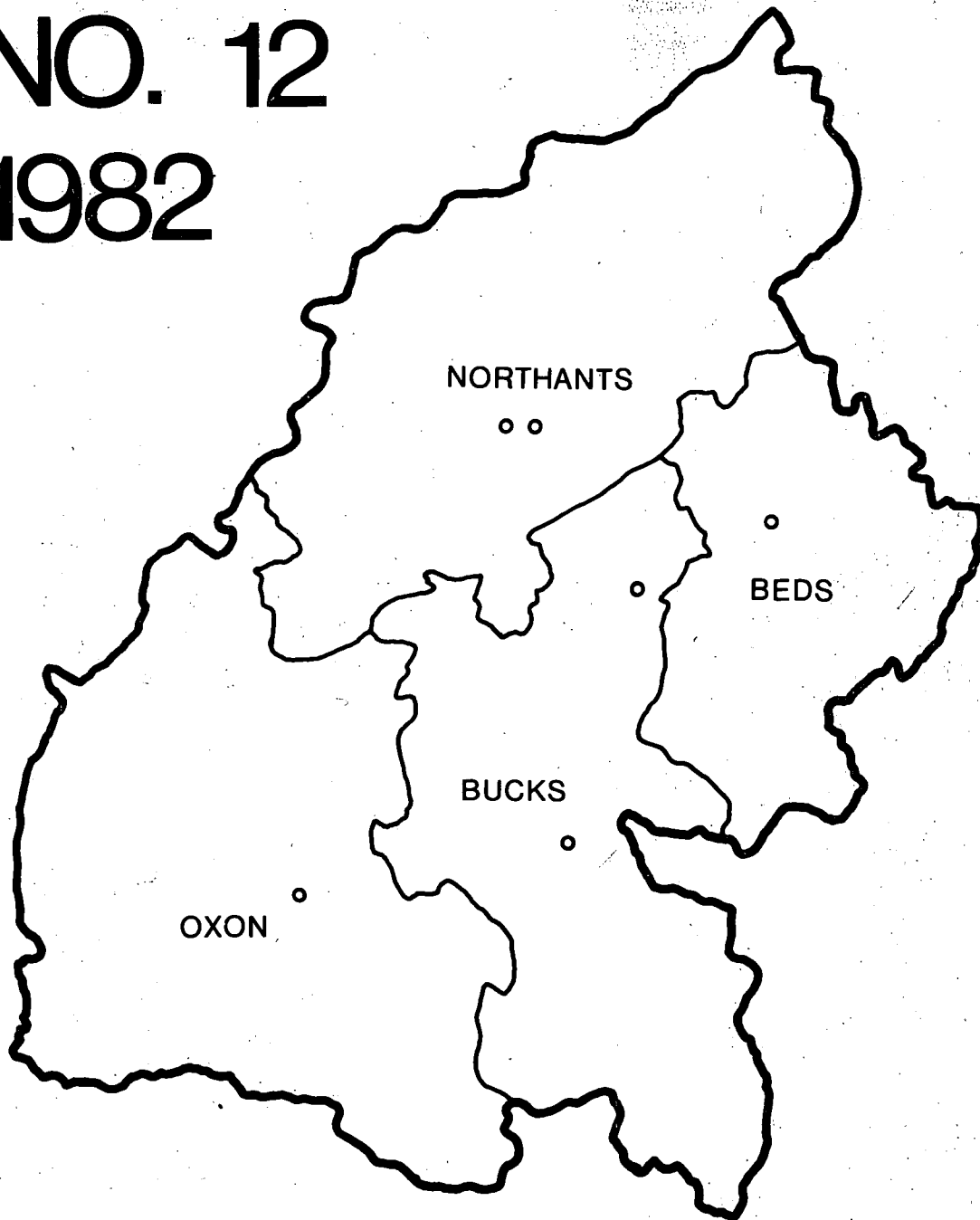
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