

GROUP 9

Newsletter No.2 1972

A review of field archaeology in
Bedfordshire Berkshire Buckinghamshire
Northamptonshire & Oxfordshire

Council for British Archaeology

35p

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**COUNCIL FOR
BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY**

Regional Group 9

NEWSLETTER No. 2 1972

Editor: R.T. ROWLEY

Assistant Editor: W.J. FOWLER

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EDITORIAL

1971 was another archaeologically active year in the region. As in the first Newsletter, this issue contains accounts of excavation and fieldwork carried out principally ahead of redevelopment in one form or another. The pressures of urban redevelopment, motorway and road building schemes, sand and gravel working and deep ploughing are stretching the limited archaeological resources of this region to the full. Many known archaeological sites and areas in the region are under siege, and redevelopment is constantly bringing new sites to light.

RESCUE is now one year old and rescue archaeology is now becoming quite respectable. Although the problems have not yet been solved, at least some aspects of the situation are a little clearer. It is becoming increasingly obvious that locally we simply don't have the 'intelligence' and manpower to make an adequate archaeological response to the situation. More money and more personnel are required urgently. More people are needed whose sole concern is with collecting full information in order that the right archaeological priorities are decided upon.

The point is sometimes made that the present situation is providing an opportunity for archaeologists, by supplying much more information. An opportunity it may be, but it is an embarrassing one, for we are totally unequipped to deal with the rational process of survey, excavation and publication, not to mention the conservation, storage and retrieval of new information and excavated material.

Although it is up to archaeologists to put their case forcibly, the ultimate decisions lie with the Government, local authorities and the developers; the ultimate decisions and therefore the ultimate responsibility is common to us all. This responsibility is basically to see that archaeology is automatically built into the planning and redevelopment process, together with the realization by all concerned that almost any form of redevelopment will result in the destruction of archaeological evidence. And secondly that there is an adequate organization to ensure effective archaeological response to the destruction of sites on a regional basis.

There are some encouraging signs in our own region. More money is being spent on survey and excavation and more full-time archaeologists are being employed in the area. However, in my opinion we have only just begun to scratch the surface. If we are really concerned to retrieve even a representative sample of the archaeological evidence which is currently being destroyed, with all the implications which that involves, a radical reorganization of regional archaeology, both full- and part-time, must be undertaken as soon as possible.

It is hoped that the new formula for the Newsletter will be appreciated. It is still CBA Group 9 policy that the Newsletter is in no way intended as an alternative to full publication in county or national journals. The Newsletter is essentially intended for progress reports, and for material, particularly of a

regional nature, that may find no other home. Contributions for next year's Newsletter will be welcome at any time, but should be with me by 31 December 1972.

TREVOR ROWLEY

ASPECTS OF RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY

It is not generally realized that work undertaken by Statutory Authorities often leads to the destruction of archaeological material. The information below is an extract, provided by Bob Rutland from Reading Museum, concerning the archaeological implications of the Thames Conservancy Ground Water Development No. 1. This is a partial list of sites threatened by pipes, bore holes and access. It does not include the sites threatened by the laying of 'electric lines, wires, posts, conductors, and other apparatus for the purpose of transmitting electricity and of establishing telegraphic, telephonic and other electrical communications between the said works and their offices'.

28SE

Bore hole 57 (SU281816) is adjacent to St Hubert's chapel, the possible line of Park Pale and Celtic fields.

Bore hole 59 (SU295832) is in Celtic fields.

Access road 59A passes through Celtic fields, but is on an existing track.

37NW

Pipe line 120 starts at bore hole 5 (SU311779) near the site of the discovery of an Iron Age brooch, and in an area of Celtic fields.

Pipe line 117 in Lambourn follows the line of Wantage Road and Mill Lane. It passes near the earthworks at North Farm at (SU330792) and these are within the limits of deviation.

Pipe line 121 largely follows the line of the railway. It passes near the DMV of Bockhampton, and over the 'site of Church' at (SU333781) (the latter is on the line of the railway).

Bore holes 69 (SU333780) and 6 (SU335779) could well reveal more of the DMV.

48NW

Pipe line 131 cuts the line of Grims Ditch at SU450855.

48SE

Pipe line 131 skirts the Knollend Down field system.

Pipe line 131 crosses boundary mounds at (SU485818). It then runs through an area of earthworks east of this and on Sheep Down. It passes close to tumuli at (SU496825).

Bore hole 21 (SU495825) is in an area of earthworks.

Bore hole 92 (SU487818) is in earthworks.

Bore hole 89 (SU472844) is on the Ridgeway in the area of a possible Bronze Age enclosure where unrecorded earthworks are known to exist.

Bore hole 94 (SU489840) abuts on Grims Ditch.

57SE

Access road 108A passes through Yattendon Park where Bronze Age urns have been found.

66NE

Bore hole 90 (SU691653) is in an area of pronounced crop-marks.

57NW

Pipe line 135 follows the line of the railway down the west side of a field to the west of St Mary and St Nicholas church, Compton. This field is the site of a DMV and earthworks are prominent. Pipe and wash-out work 160 (SU525796) are on the line in this area.

Pipe line 135 runs between the find spot of a 13th-century jar at SU529763 and an earthwork in Park Wood which may extend further than is shown on the map.

Outfall work 162 (SU537751) is across the Pang from the sites of three known Roman buildings on the west of the Pang. South of the outfall work 162 pipeline 135 runs down the east side of the Pang. It is very likely that more Roman sites will be found here.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN C.B.A. GROUP 9

There has been an encouraging increase in the number of permanent archaeological appointments in CBA Region 9 during the past year. Mr David Baker has been appointed as an archaeologist to the Planning Department of Bedfordshire County Council. Milton Keynes Development Corporation has appointed two archaeologists, Mr Stephen Green and Mr Dennis Mynard, and are planning to start a field centre for the New Town area.

At the Buckinghamshire County Museum, Mr Michael Farley has replaced Miss Ros Dunnnett as field officer. Mr John Williams has replaced Mr Mynard as the archaeologist attached to Northampton Development Corporation.

NOTE: Copies of Newsletter No. 1 are still available from the Secretary, CBA Group 9, 25 High Street, Watlington, Oxon, price 15p including postage.

PREHISTORIC
CADDINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE

Six principal sites, the main one at TL055190 (approximately). Research excavation June 20-August 28 1971, directed by Garth Sampson (Oregon University) and Derek Roe (Oxford University).

Aim: to locate and examine remnants of undisturbed Lower Palaeolithic 'floors' observed in brickearth by Worthington G. Smith of Dunstable from 1889. Trenches located close to estimated positions of Smith's principal finds. Mechanical

diggers used to open large areas and remove sterile upper levels consisting mainly of reworked Tertiary (Reading Beds) material.

No floors found; only very few Palaeolithic artefacts recovered, including a typical but broken and abraded Levalloisian flake. Stratification found to be extremely variable and brickearth very localized. Surface of underlying chalk had numerous deep solution hollows and channels. Report on Pleistocene geology in preparation (C. Turner and M.P. Kerney).

Stratum rich in Pleistocene mammal bones found at extreme end of season. Detailed report not yet available, but elephant and deer species apparently included. Smith found no definite faunal remains at Caddington, so this find is important if future work can relate it to the Palaeolithic occupation. A few mechanically fractured flints found in same level, but no definite artefacts yet. Stratum clearly continues beyond excavated area: further work thought worth while, and will take place if funds available.

Numerous pollen and deposit samples being studied. Traverse of borings tested area adjacent to main site. Concurrently with field work, principal extant collections of several thousand Caddington artefacts were studied, and large selection drawn.

Work is first part of large research project on British Acheulian, involving several other sites, for the National Science Foundation of America.

DEREK ROE

MOOR FARM, HOLYPORT, BERKSHIRE SU892790

This Mesolithic site, discovered by members of a Maidenhead archaeology class, lies on the line of a feeder road for the M4 and was revealed when the Cut, a local stream, was diverted. Flints, largely but not exclusively of Mesolithic type, were found in large numbers, particularly in the newly-cut stream bank. A small excavation directed by myself took place over the Easter weekend, labour being provided by members of the class and the Maidenhead and District Archaeological and Historical Society. Four 5ft boxes, spanning a length of almost 200ft of the narrow strip between the road and the stream, were opened. Beneath the disturbed topsoil there were layers of loam varying in colour from sandy brown to bluish-grey. Most of the flints came from the loam but no man-made features were encountered and it was not possible to detect a working floor.

Approximately 2000 pieces of flint, including some of the pre-excavation surface material, have been examined. The industry has Maglemosean affinities and includes 17 microliths, all of which are varieties of the obliquely-blunted point. Tranchet axes are represented by one sharpening flake and there are a few other implement types and some 90 cores, of which most are single-platformed (Fig. 1).

The importance of this site is that it is the first to be excavated in east Berkshire. Our knowledge of the Mesolithic in this county has come almost entirely from the Kennet valley (Newsletter no. 1 pp. 2-3) and sites of this period are few and far between in the group's stretch of the Thames valley (cf Humphrey Case, 'Mesolithic finds in the Oxford area', *Oxoniensia* xvii/xviii (1952 & 1953) 1-13).

R.A. RUTLAND
READING MUSEUM

Microoliths (1-5,7-13) nos.2 and 9 have inverse retouch.

Worked flake? (6)

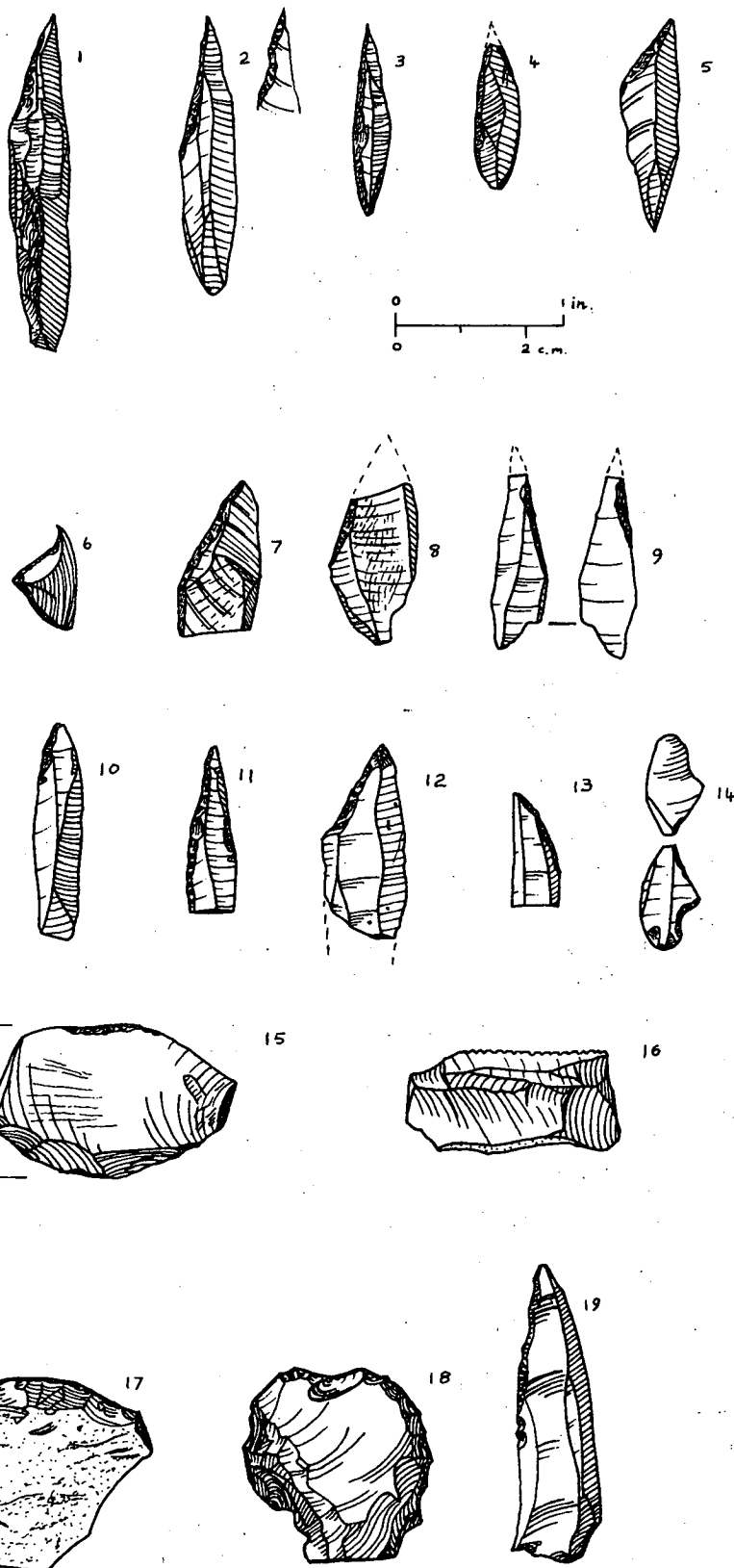
Microburin (14). In microlith production the blade is notched and snapped to remove the bulbar end, which is termed a microburin. This is a misnomer since burins are chisel-like tools and the microburin is merely a waste product. In this case the original blade had been notched twice, presumably because the first notch was in the wrong place. There is the usual discrepancy between the numbers of microliths and microburins (17:1).

Axe-sharpening flake (15). This has been removed across the line of the blade by the characteristic tranchet blow.

Saw (16)

Scrapers (17 + 18)

Worked blade (19)



THE MESOLITHIC AROUND HUNGERFORD, BERKS Wawcott XXIII SU410674

The previous seasons of excavations at the nearby site of Wawcott III (see Newsletter no. 1) produced a large assemblage of worked flints, possibly in a stratified succession. There is no other dating evidence as the charcoal is probably insufficient for a C14 date. From an earlier test it was believed that Wawcott XXIII not only contained a flint industry closely related to that of Wawcott III but may also have been occupied. It was thought best to carry out an excavation at Wawcott XXIII, and to evaluate more or less simultaneously the two sites.

The site, on the south edge of the Kennet flood plain, has rarely been ploughed. In the principal trench, 10 by 4yds, the stratification was briefly as follows. Below the plough soil the first coherent ancient layer was a fine grained marl, in some areas clearly divided by a thin black peaty layer into an upper white and a lower grey marl, the latter probably not continuous over the whole site. Then came a second black peaty soil, with more loam - and more worked flints - towards the bottom. Stratified in this layer were also bone and wood fragments. Below this was an ochreous sandy silt, the surface of which contained numerous worked flints and pieces of charcoal. The exact horizon of occupation is likely to have been at the interface of the two layers, which interface may however prove to be more apparent than real.

The site seems to represent a single phase or industrial tradition if not a single occupation. No very significant features were identified save a 3 ft pit dug into the ochreous silt, similar to pits noted at Wawcott III.

The flints have not yet been subjected to detailed analysis, but the following points have been noted. The microliths are often very small, less than 30mm long, and the commonest form is the scalene triangle. Obliquely blunted points are very rare, Horsham points appear to be absent, but other 'evolved' forms are present, e.g. types C (Prof. Clark's classification) and crescents and rods. Blades are rare although blade covers were found; very few finished forms were recovered except one or two gravens and a heavy pick: as yet not a single scraper has been identified. In all there are probably 5000 to 10,000 pieces of worked flint.

E.R. FROM for
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
and THE BRITISH MUSEUM

WAULUD'S BANK, LEAGRAVE, BEDFORDSHIRE

TL062247

Rescue excavation prior to construction of dual carriageway.

A D-shaped bank and wide, external ditch enclose an area of 18 acres. The straight side of the earthwork is additionally protected by the river Lea and extensive marches. In 1953 excavation showed that the earthwork was of Neolithic construction, and produced Rinyo-Clacton ware and flint work (*Beds. Arch. J.* ii (1964) 1ff.).

The 1971 excavation confirmed that the whole earthwork was Neolithic in date. Its ditch, 6 feet deep and 30 feet wide,

was flat-bottomed. The material excavated from it had been piled up to form a bank, the front of which was revetted with turves. There were no indications of retaining posts (though one hole was found in 1953). Sealed below the bank were pieces of Windmill Hill pottery, including a lug, other decorated Neolithic sherds, a selection of flint work (including a leaf-shaped arrowhead), and many domestic and wild animal bones.

Previous finds of many arrowheads, and the closeness of the marshes, suggest a hunting economy, supplemented by animal husbandry and agriculture. The site, with its continuous Neolithic ditch, is unique as a domestic monument. Its position beside a river resembles a number of henge-monuments, but its internal bank creates a problem. No original entrance has been found: that suggested in 1953 has since been shown to be modern.

Part of the site had been utilized during the late Iron Age, perhaps in conjunction with a known, nearby open site.

The majority of the site is preserved as a public open space and adventure playground. Only a small section of the ditch on the southern side of the earthwork will be destroyed.

JAMES DYER for
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE: Bronze Age barrow

TL003222

A cropmark observed from the air in growing corn revealed a ring ditch on land scheduled for building, and an excavation was carried out during the summer of 1971. The ditch proved to be an uninterrupted circle approximately 84 ft in diameter and of Bronze Age date (Figs. 2 and 3).

The original ditch had a flat bottom some 2 ft wide but at a later date it had been widened considerably around two thirds of the circumference.

No mound remained within the ring and no evidence of primary burials was found, all probably removed by ploughing.

At one point the ditch cut through the floor of an earlier, probably Neolithic, hut site with hearth.

When the secondary ditch had almost completely silted up, an unenclosed cremation had been placed in it.

Other finds from the ditch included fragments of calcined bones, sherds of small collared urns, a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead, a broken axe of polished greenstone and two mace heads. One of these, although bruised at each end with use, was unfinished. Hourglass perforations from each side did not penetrate the stone completely. The other, broken, had a very smoothly drilled cylindrical hole through the stone.

MANSHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF DUNSTABLE

ROUND BARROW AT ALDBANKS, DUNSTABLE. 1971

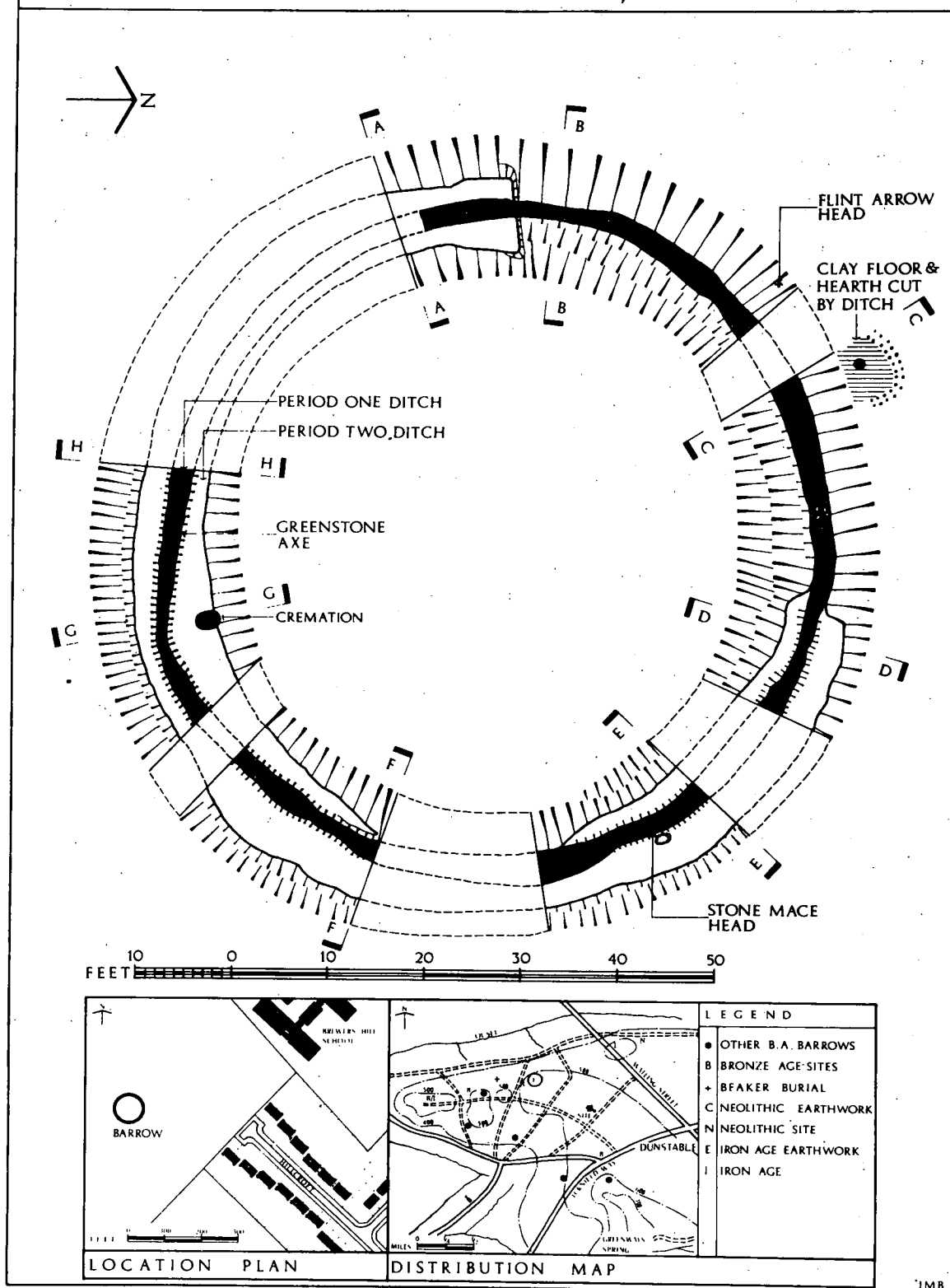
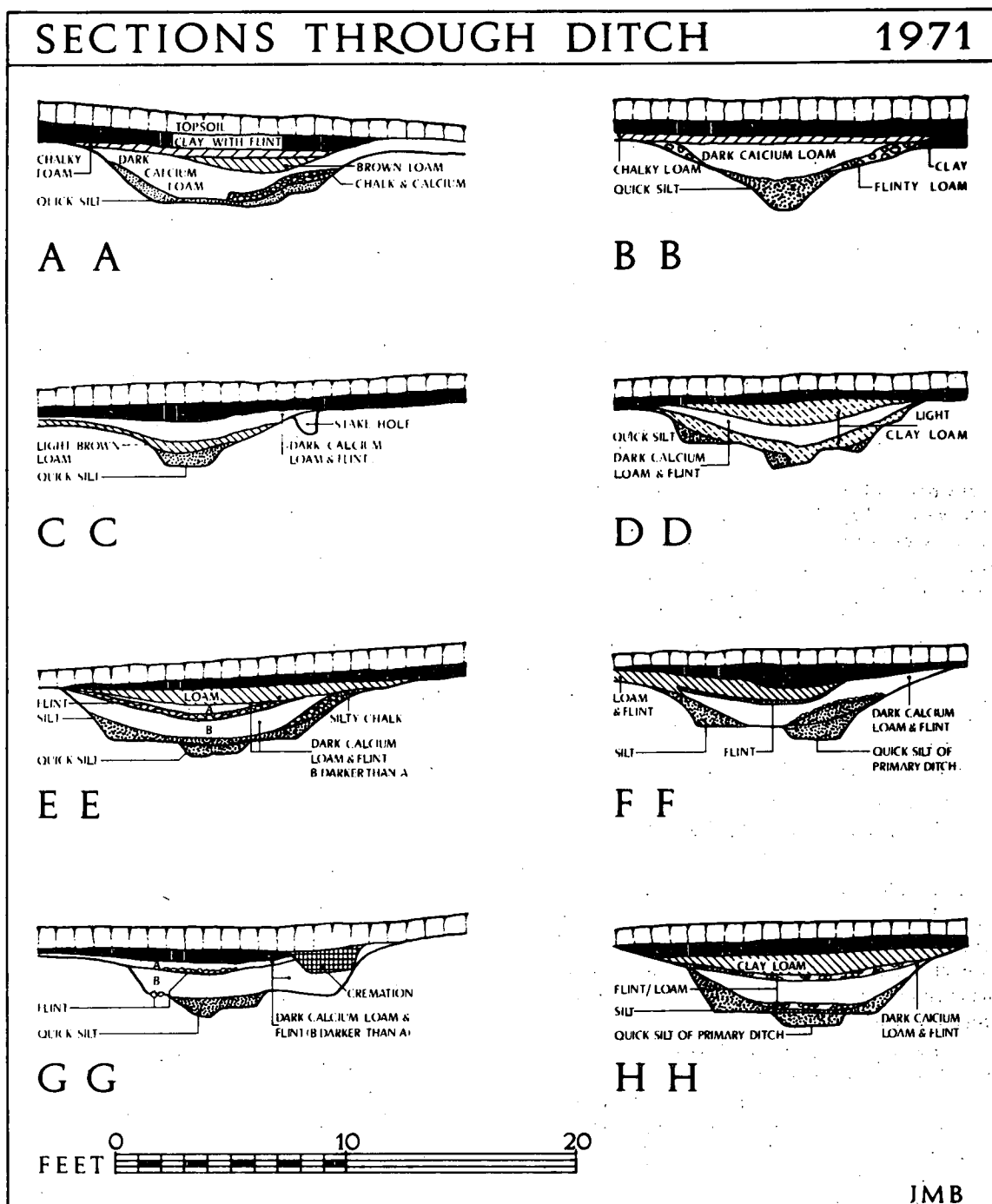


FIGURE 3



MILTON KEYNES: Ring ditch and enclosure SP 886408

The sites were discovered from an air photograph taken by the National Monuments Record and were excavated in advance of destruction. Total excavation was not possible. The ring ditch proved to be a ploughed-out barrow with a primary Beaker burial. A Bronze Age urn with cremation was also found. Other finds comprise a quantity of flint flakes and a flint axe.

The enclosure had three sides formed by a ditch, which varied between 1½ to 3 metres wide and 1 to 2 metres deep. Two inner ditches, one L-shaped, were found and ten post holes located which did not, however, suggest an obvious plan of a structure. Finds included a child cremation, and the pottery dates from the pre-Roman Iron Age c. 150 to 100 B.C. through to the 3rd century A.D.

MRS R. NIBLETT and MRS A. THOMAS for the
MILTON KEYNES RESEARCH COMMITTEE
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

WARD'S COOMBE, IVINGHOE; Enclosure and cemetery SP972156

The site is in woodland and comprises a well preserved and prominent horseshoe-shaped bank with internal ditch, enclosing an area of about 20 x 40 metres. The open side is to the south, and no other entrances were recognized. Finds from the ditch indicate a long period of occupation, as they range from early pre-Roman Iron Age sherds, possibly as early as 200 B.C., to 'Oxford ware' sherds of later 4th-century date.

The area excavated was very restricted by the rows of saplings, but three cremation burials were recovered, two of Belgic date c. 30-40 A.D. accompanied by eight pots and two iron objects, and one of early Roman date (late 1st-century A.D.), accompanied by an incomplete jar.

MRS R. NIBLETT for the
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

ALDWINCLE, NORTHANTS SP995803 to TL002805

Rescue work in advance of gravel quarrying included the completion of the excavation, begun in 1969, of an Iron Age rectangular enclosure, 230 ft by 135 ft. Two hut gullies brought the total of huts found within the enclosure to 5, while 29 pits were excavated.

The ring ditch was 5 ft deep, and enclosed a platform 76 ft in diameter. There was no evidence that it was ever a barrow but there were some indication that it may have had an external bank. The platform was crossed by a Roman road and by later ridge and furrow cultivation. Nothing was found inside the ring ditch, but a human skull was found in a small pit dug into the side of the ditch, and other human bones were found in the ditch filling.

A pit alignment was traced and limited excavation carried out. The upper edges of the pits were eroded, but a clear rectangular shape, on average 6 ft by 4 ft, was apparent at gravel level, some 3 ft below the modern surface. A late Iron Age date is suggested by pottery fragments found in primary

positions. The alignment was proved to be earlier than a Roman road it intersected.

WEEKLEY-GEDDINGTON SP885818

A late Iron Age D-shaped enclosure was excavated ahead of ironstone quarrying. The straight side, which was 110 ft long, followed the line of an earlier ditch. A single hut was the only internal feature found likely to be contemporary with the ditch, but a number of pits were situated outside the enclosure.

D.A. JACKSON for the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

NORTHAMPTON: MOULTON PARK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE SP776447

A small ditch revealed by mechanical scraping in October 1970 produced one Belgic sherd and, in advance of building, an excavation was carried out in April 1971.

Two hut circles and an enclosure ditch were located north of the ditch. The latter is V-shaped in section, 3m wide and 1.5m deep, and contained wheel-turned Belgic pottery of the early 1st century A.D., and in plan indicates an oval or circular enclosure. The huts are c. 10m and 7m in diameter respectively, and the larger had no internal features but its ditch contained wheel-turned pottery. The smaller had a hearth and seven post-holes and its ditch produced a quantity of handmade IA'B' pottery, some of Hunsbury type.

From the pottery evidence the larger hut and the enclosure ditch appear to be contemporary, and the smaller hut ditch was certainly filled in before wheel-turned pottery was in common use here.

Opportunity will be taken as the site is developed to complete the enclosure plan and to record any further huts. If the enclosure is circular, its diameter is c. 82m with the larger hut almost at the centre and the smaller halfway between it and the 3m-wide entrance on the east.

D.C. MYNARD for the
NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

DRAY'S DITCHES, LUTON, BEDFORDSHIRE TL078266 to TL088264

Rescue excavation prior to housing estate and bypass road..

Interest was first aroused in the linear dyke known as Dray's Ditches after the excavations of 1959 (*Ant. J.* xli (1961) 32ff) suggested that they were part of a series of Iron Age territorial boundaries.

In 1971 fourteen sections were cut across the earthworks, and a large area was stripped at the point where the Icknield Way was believed to cross the dykes.

The excavations confirmed the presence of three V-shaped ditches averaging 6 ft deep and 15 ft wide. Between the southern and central ditches was a massive stockade of wooden posts, spaced lineally at 2-foot intervals, with a second line about 4 feet behind. These did not follow a straight course

but staggered drunkenly between the ditches, suggesting only a rudimentary knowledge of stockade construction. There was considerable similarity in layout between this stockade and the ramparts of Ivinghoe (Cotton and Frere, *Records of Bucks* xviii (1968) 187ff). Pottery from the ditch was sparse, but a rim sherd of collared urn suggests an early Iron Age date.

Examination of the area where the 1961 report suggested that the prehistoric Icknield Way crossed through the dyke showed that at that point the ditches were in fact continuous. The Icknield Way must therefore have followed a different course, probably under a medieval road to the east.

By Roman times the ditches had silted up, and the Roman Icknield Way *did* cross at the expected point, metal cart tyres having cut a hollow-way some 3 feet into the chalk at this point. Wheel ruts were very pronounced and a 10-ft section of the Icknield Way produced seven horseshoes, an oxshoe, and a coin of Vespasian or Titus. (Dr Manning of Cardiff is at present working on the horseshoes.) The clay-filling of the Iron Age ditches at this point probably caused carts to get bogged down in the winter and the horses pulling them to cast their shoes.

Whilst about half this site is being destroyed by housing and the bypass road, a quarter remains under a golf course, and a quarter, as yet unscheduled, in fields west of the A6 roadway.

JAMES DYER for the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

FROM THE THAMES AT HENLEY, OXON:

Sword and scabbard of the early Iron Age

On October 31 1971 Mr F.R. Clark of the Reading branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club recovered an iron sword in a decorated bronze scabbard from the Thames at Henley. The purpose of this note is merely to call attention to this important new piece, which is now being conserved in Reading Museum's laboratory before going on display. The scabbard belongs to Piggott's Class II (*PPS* 1950) and has a decorated chape. Its date is approximately 1st century B.C. It is hoped to display it before both the Society of Antiquaries and the CBA in January and further details will be available at our spring meeting. It will be published by Mansel Spratling.

R.A. RUTLAND
READING MUSEUM

century the ditch was filled in to provide the base for a 12 ft thick stone wall. There were two further ditches outside this line, which went out of use in or after the 4th century. Inside the defences the plan of a 22 ft-diameter circular structure was recovered and it was possible to trace a series of small ditches, dated from pre-Roman times to the 2nd century, which may indicate the continuity through the conquest of some property boundaries.

(2) A further area outside and to the north of the defences showed evidence of occupation and the west part of the area was occupied by a cobbled surface, perhaps a street, bounded by a shallow ditch and laid after the middle 2nd-century sealing gullies and small pits. To the east lay rubbish pits and a 9 ft cesspit linked by gullies with other pits, cutting the cobbled surface and containing 4th-century pottery.

(3) In an area of 550 square yards in the centre of the town, not recently scraped, earlier levelling and ploughing had destroyed most stratification, but many pits, gullies and ditches of various periods were traced and a stone-lined well, filled in late in the Roman period, was excavated to a depth of 24 feet. Large numbers of small stakeholes and a few postholes were found but in only one case did a fragment of building survive. Here were patches of mortar floor and sleeper beam slots of at least two timber-framed houses on the same site but on different alignments. The later building had at least one room decorated with pinkish plaster imitating marble.

No traces of stone buildings were found either in the excavations or by careful inspection in the bulldozed areas, and it may be that most of the Bannaventa buildings were constructed in the way indicated by the surviving fragment; and these can disappear leaving little trace.

Most of the coins were small 4th-century issues—there was one British coin, a pre-Tasciovanus of a rare Essex-Hertfordshire group—and generally there were surprisingly few small personal items, and among the pottery little figured Samian. Indeed the impression—insofar as one is justified in forming an impression on such slight evidence—is of a relatively poor community with a continuity of occupation from pre-Roman times. It is impossible to say much about the type of building or to estimate the relative density of occupation, but it could be that considerable areas within the defences were used as 'accommodation land' for animals and vehicles halting overnight, or were cultivated as gardens.

STEVEN J. TAYLOR for the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT and
RUGBY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ROMANO-BRITISH

BANNAVENTA, WHILTON LODGE, NORTHANTS

SP613647

As it was impossible to investigate the entire area from which the topsoil had recently been removed by bulldozing, three areas were selected for excavation.

(1) A section across the town defences showed these to have consisted of a ditch 25 ft wide and 10 ft deep, backed after the 1st century by a clay and turf rampart. Early in the 4th

BRIXWORTH ROMAN VILLA, NORTHANTS SP756712

This site lies half a mile north of the village, separated by two fields from the well-known Saxon church of All Saints. Excavation has been in progress since 1965 and Part I of a report has been published recently.*

* Excavations at Brixworth, Northants, 1965-1970. Part I: The Roman coarse pottery and decorated Samian ware, by P.J. Woods. Privately printed. 75p (85p by post) from the author c/o 7 Stone Close, Wollaston, Wellingborough, Northants.

Deep ploughing was damaging the upper layers and the work was undertaken with two main purposes, the first of which was to ascertain whether the 'Roman bricks' incorporated in the Saxon church came from this, the nearest proven Roman site. Much more important is the extended research programme on the Roman coarse pottery of the upper Nene valley, on which little work had been done. The report mentioned above is a detailed description and analysis of the pottery found during the first five years, an exceptionally high proportion of which occurred in well stratified deposits. 'It is hoped that this paper will... serve to illustrate the wealth of material available for study in the Upper Nene valley and the accomplishments of the potters who made it' (op. cit. p. 5).

The summary of chronological phases which follows is derived from the introduction to this report.

Prehistoric. Numerous worked flints take the occupation of the site back into the 4th millennium B.C. Cores, flakes and waste show that flint working took place here.

The early farmstead. Although there is little evidence to suggest pre-Roman occupation, ditches and remains of a hut are probably part of a farmstead predating the period I building.

I - A.D. 70-100. The cottage house. The first masonry building which, like Lockleys I, consisted of a range of five rooms, north-south, with a timber verandah on the west.

II - late 2nd-early 3rd centuries. A major reconstruction at the north end of the building and erection of an outbuilding, 9 by 5m, some 20m to the south, which continued in use till near the end of the century and among the debris of which were the remains of three crucibles and numerous bronze off-cuts, while there was a hearth southeast of this building.

III - c. 235-300 A.D. No major restoration or additions are datable to this period and there seems to have been a temporary decline in the fortunes of the occupants.

IV - early 4th century. A stone-built corridor on the east and a bath wing almost doubled the area of the villa. There is some doubt whether the bath block was ever used as such: for example there was a total absence of ash and charcoal in the hypocaust furnace and of any sign of scorching on the exposed stonework.

Despite later disturbance, surface finds indicate occupation lasting to the late 4th if not the early 5th centuries.

V - 5th-6th centuries? This is an unrelated Saxon phase, possibly the temporary reoccupation of a deserted ruin. Ten post-holes cut through all the surviving floor levels in one room and two early Anglo-Saxon sherds were found in the packing.

A detailed account of the excavations will appear in Part II of the report, and work on the early Romano-British farmstead and the Saxon remains is continuing.

P.J. WOODS for the
BRIXWORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

THENFORD, NORTHANTS

SP525415

The Roman villa at Thenford has been known since the early 18th century but no proper excavations had been carried out on the site before this season's work. The aim of the excavation was to determine the nature of the building which contained the hypocaust and mosaic unearthed by a local enthusiast earlier in the year.

The excavation revealed five possible phases of occupation.

Phase I was late Iron Age occupation represented by four ditches, probably comprising an enclosure or field system.

Phase II was the erection of a small stone building of which part was revealed at the southern end of the site.

Phase III was the erection of the main building probably in the first quarter of the 4th century. It is possible that Phase II and III are contemporary.

Phase IV was the addition of rooms on the east side, one of which, at the southeast corner, contained the mosaic which is comprised of a central medallion showing a girl, with geometric panels above and below. (Nearest parallel is the Ceres Mosaic at Winterton, Lincs, c. 340 A.D.) Other rooms were added at the south and a slighter building on the west, made with stone footings for timbers. It is at this period that the Phase II building seems to have been razed, and, after a pit had been dug through, a courtyard was laid. On top of this yard a coin scatter was found containing coins of Arcadius. Thus the villa lasted into the 5th century before its eventual decay and abandonment as represented by *Phase V*, a ditch, as yet undated, running across the villa.

It is hoped that next summer a six-week excavation will continue the work at Thenford. This will have a dual aim: firstly to ascertain the extent of plough damage—for much of the area excavated had been extensively disturbed—and secondly to open up more of the site to be preserved for public display.

I.F. SANDERS for the
OXFORD UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

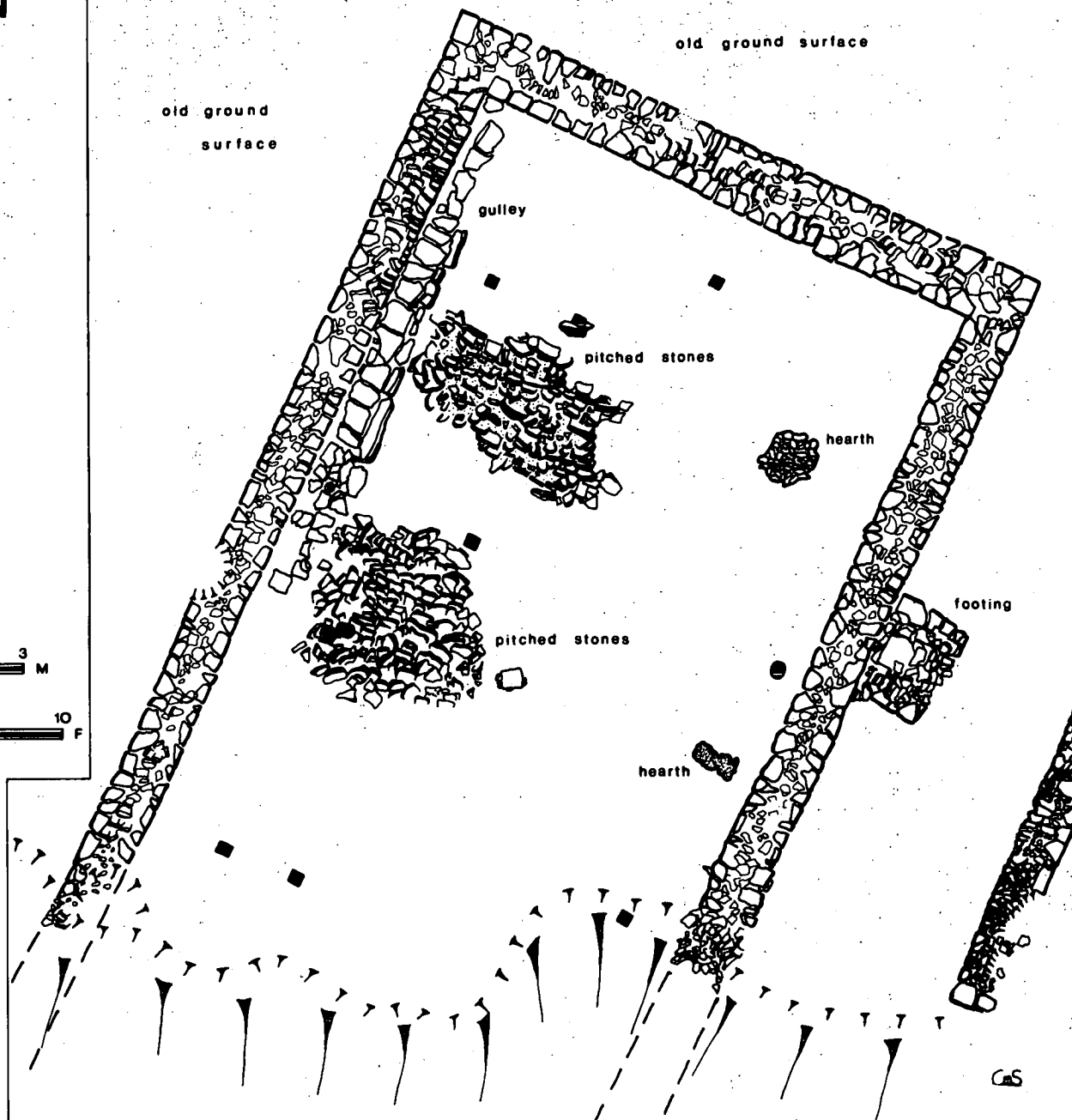
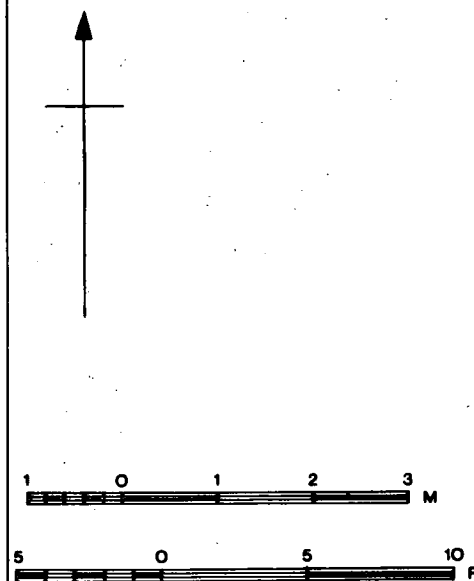
MIDDLETON STONEY CASTLE, OXFORDSHIRE

SP534233

The section across the bailey ditch started in 1970 was completed. The ditch was found to be 5m wide, but only 1.50m deep, and was cut into the natural limestone. The section revealed that the ditch had been backfilled with stone rubble, the pottery evidence suggests that this had been achieved by 1300. Subsequently there appears to have been periodic robbing of the remaining stone structures of the castle. There were a series of intervening turf levels. On the edge of the bailey the footings of a medieval stone wall were found. The original wall had been robbed out and had been later replaced by a more flimsy wall, probably dating from a rebuilding of the manor house after the castle had been demolished.

The absence of later medieval pottery from the ditch appears to confirm the documentary evidence, which records that King John ordered Middleton Castle to be destroyed in 1216. The site of the bailey, however, continued to be occupied by the manor house up until the 18th century.

FIGURE 4
MIDDLETON
STONE



In the eastern enclosure the stone footings of a 2nd-century Romano-British farmstead were recovered (Fig. 4). This structure, 7.80m wide and 15m (estimated) long, was divided lengthways between animal and occupation areas. This building has survived, largely intact, within a few inches of the ground surface, despite the subsequent building of the motte only a few feet away. The southern end of the farmstead with the associated collapsed rubble had been apparently robbed away during the Middle Ages. Ruts caused by the carts taking the material away had been impressed into the remaining rubble. There was no post-Roman occupation on this part of the site.

TREVOR ROWLEY for the
OXFORD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT
FOR EXTERNAL STUDIES

CLAPHAM KILN SITE, BEDFORDSHIRE TL027523

Work continued throughout 1971 on the kiln site at Clapham with an extensive excavation to the west of the site which uncovered a large and well-preserved corn-drying kiln, probably of 2nd-century date. This was partly enclosed by a V-shaped ditch containing a large amount of pottery, bone and charcoal. The charcoal formed a thick compressed layer of seemingly burnt straw, in which pieces of burnt clay with corn impressions were found. The large Belgic ditch running the length of the site continued to produce quantities of fine pottery and the discovery of two parallel ditches near the corn oven mill will need more study next year.

Among some of this season's more important finds were the upper stones of two corn-grinding wheels, 2ft in diameter, from the fill of the stokehole. They are of a high standard of workmanship made from millstone grit and were probably mechanically rather than hand operated.

Work next year will be concentrated on an area adjacent to the corn oven in the hope of finding buildings and living quarters related to it.

To the south of the site a new area was cleared of topsoil ready for gravel extraction and so far two pits about 3ft deep have been found. One, a 'meat pit', contained bone, pottery and a clay loom weight and the other was filled with burning and cobbles. Both were covered with large black stones and are of Iron Age B date. It is possible that other features will come to light in the near future as the gravel extraction continues.

Work will continue at Clapham throughout 1972. An interim report is forthcoming.

P.G. TILSON for the
BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
and CHARLES WELLS LTD

HARROLD, BEDFORDSHIRE SP933553

During the third and final season of excavations at this pottery and tile manufacturing site three areas with a total area of 140 square metres were opened up following a gradiometer survey. The work disclosed a well-preserved horizontal draught kiln

of the 4th century; this had been partially cut into a deep pit also of the 4th century, and had also severely mutilated an earlier kiln of unknown date. A third well-preserved up-draught of drystone construction belonged to the 2nd century. The usual range of deep pits was also encountered. The products were mainly cooking pots and bowls and a wide variety of tiles, all in a buff calcite gritted fabric.

A.E. BROWN

BRAY ROMAN CEMETERY, BERKSHIRE SU918781

Work has been in progress on this site since March 1969, mostly in an area of approximately 320 square meters forming a depression cut into a gravel terrace, in places to a depth of 3m. The site, the earliest phase of which dates from c. 325 A.D., may have been in use until 470-520 A.D. (Fig. 5).

Five phases of use may be summarized as follows:

- I Postholes represent the remains of a timber structure, possibly a jetty over a tributary of the nearby Thames. Four burials occurred, one skeleton being accompanied by two mortaria, broken and then burnt before being scattered.
- II Seven rectangular pits in which bodies had been cremated. Two of the pits had more than one use; one was surrounded by animal bones and contained a cremation in a pot.
- III A layer of gravel was spread over the area, the surface of which was well worn, indicating considerable use. Later part of the floor was removed and burials took place immediately beneath it. Pottery dates this layer c. 420-450 A.D.
- IV This is a layer 500mm thick containing early 5th-century mortaria fragments.
- V This is associated with the working of lead, copper, bronze and iron. A pit containing slag, and crucible fragments, were located. Pottery dates from c. 470-520 A.D.

Twenty miles west of the main site a ditch feature has been found in 1971 which seems from the pottery to date from c. 350-400 A.D. Work on this site may continue in 1972.

CHRISTOPHER STANLEY for the
MIDDLE THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

MILTON COMMON, OXFORDSHIRE SP645037

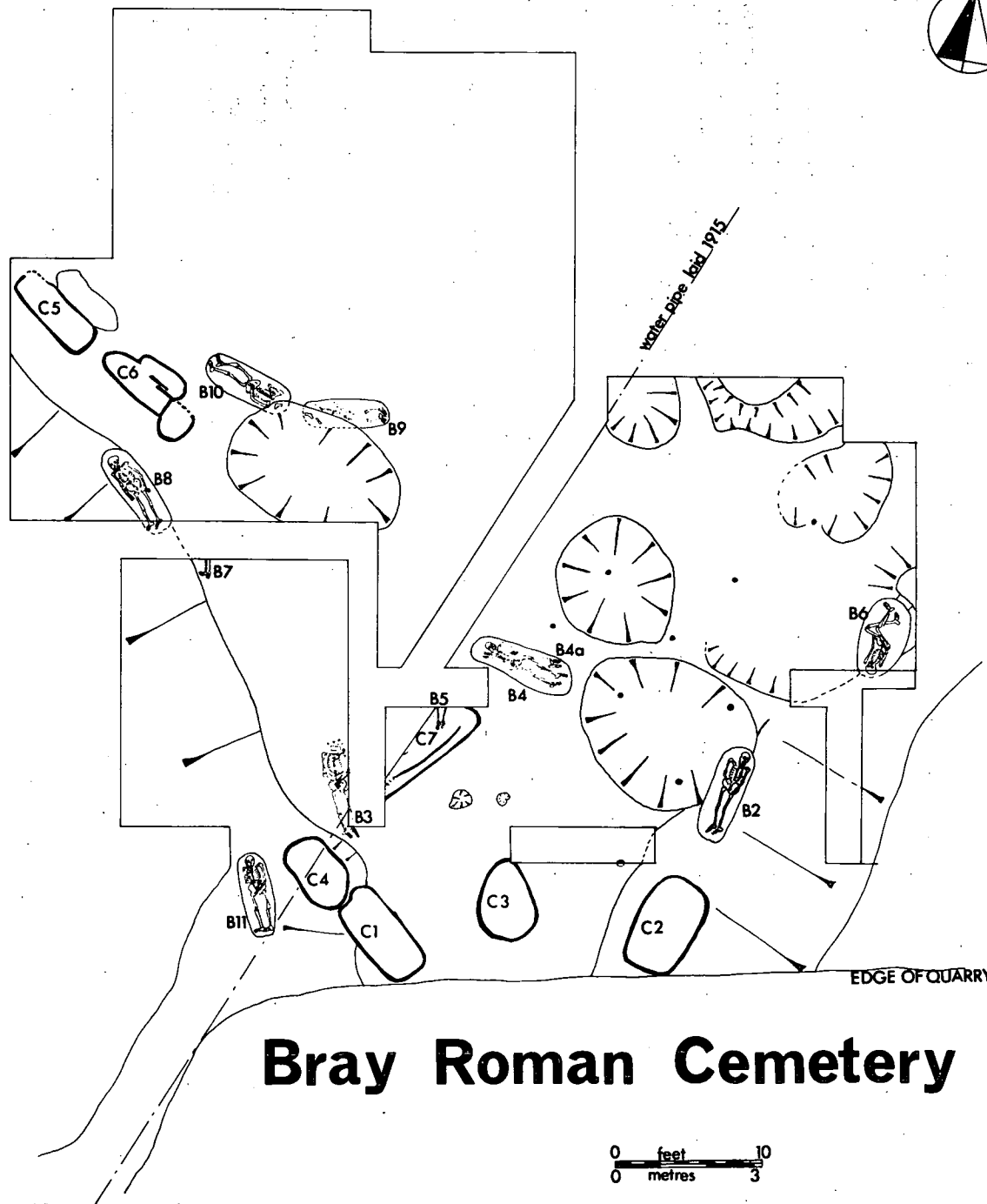
Aerial photographs showed intensive cropmarks on the projected line of the M40 and trial trenches following surface finds indicated Romano-British and possibly Anglo-Saxon occupation. Two areas, respectively in 'Long Ground' and 'Camp Common Ground', were mechanically stripped of topsoil and some 'subsoil'. The natural horizon proved to be very variable, but, on cleaning, soilmarks showed overlapping features containing RB pottery in the top layers. Excavation of these features, at least for the winter, was stopped after heavy rain led to extensive flooding.

Long Ground showed only a possible road, with no dating evidence; a late Roman ditch and many stone-lined and ceramic land drains of various dates. Possibly it was the presence

Bray - Phase 1-3.

C - Cremation Pits
B - Burials - Inhumation

FIGURE 5



Bray Roman Cemetery

CCS
& PM 1971 ©

of so many drains and differing geological conditions which produced the cropmarks.

Camp Common Ground contained the following main features:

Two north-south ditches containing in the top layers 3rd-4th-century sherds and RB building material.

Two east-west ditches cutting the first two, with clean silty fillings containing worn late RB sherds. These could be post-Roman drainage ditches.

Two subrectangular features, contemporary with or earlier than the first ditches, and having flues of reused dressed stone leading to a central hearth. One was of wattle and daub and the other had postholes. These may have been forges: there were many small iron objects and late-3rd-century coins in association.

Between these features was an area of trodden clay with clay-packed postholes which may represent huts. Elsewhere there were oval patches of soil staining.

Two more ditches containing late RB sherds at right angles at the east end.

A complex of iron-working features at the north end of the site, continuing beyond the excavation, containing also 3rd-4th-century sherds and iron objects.

None of these features could be completely excavated owing to the flooding of the whole site following the first heavy winter rain.

It would seem that the area includes the edge of a late Roman settlement where iron working had been a major concern. Later the fields may have been cultivated, hence the drainage ditches, but there was no sign of a rectangular furrow pattern, although the neighbouring fields show ridge and furrow in the aerial photographs.

MARGARET GRAY and NICHOLAS CLAYTON for the
M40 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

WOLLASTON, NORTHANTS SP913624

Building work revealed a small Romano-British site-pottery from the 2nd century A.D. recovered, but having as its chief feature a penannular hut circle 40ft in diameter with a 13ft entrance, off-centre posthole and near central hearth of brick and tile. The late use of this roundhouse would suggest a British survival after the Roman conquest.

DAVID HALL for the
HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED ARCH. SOCIETY

THORPLANDS FARM, MOULTON, NORTHAMPTON SP789650

This site was first discovered from a dense scatter of worked flints and Roman pottery over an area of about an acre in 1970. Trial trenches located two concentrated stony patches on the Roman ground level, and the topsoil was removed from these mechanically. Altogether some 837 square metres were uncovered, about a third of the site, but 203m of trial trenches machine excavated in addition make it unlikely that any

buildings were missed. One stony area was apparently a cattle yard, dated to the 3rd century by pottery, small iron and bronze objects and three coins.

The other area contained the destruction level of a circular limestone building of internal dimensions 5.8m by 5.37m, dated to the 3rd-4th centuries, with a flagstone floor and a hearth, and a compacted yard surface to the south. Small finds suggest that the use of the building was purely domestic, the home of a small farmer perhaps.

Several hundred flints indicate a Bronze Age date of c.1000 to 800 B.C. for an earlier prehistoric occupation of the site.

D.C. MYNARD for the
NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ALDWINCLE TL002805

A Roman road was plotted and sectioned during gravel quarrying. The limestone and gravel construction, where it survived, was 10ft wide and set between side ditches which were 4ft deep and 30ft apart. Where the road crossed an earlier ring ditch, cart tracks could clearly be seen. The road also crossed a pit alignment.

KETTERING SP874803

Excavation during housing development revealed numerous large pits but no buildings. The pits, which were dug into the Northampton sand and ironstone, initially were probably quarries, but their infilling contained much domestic refuse of mainly late 1st-century A.D. date. The limestone surfaces found nearby may represent threshing floors.

RINGSTEAD SP976748

Part of a Roman villa has been revealed by gravel quarrying. The remains of several small rooms and part of a circular building have so far been excavated. Work is continuing.

D.A. JACKSON for the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

BRADWELL ABBEY: Romano-British settlement SP818392

The site, first excavated in 1958, is on an exposed hilltop about a quarter of a mile north of Watling Street, and consists of a large oval enclosure covering the hilltop only. It was defended by a strong timber palisade comprising massive wooden posts embedded in a trench packed with limestone blocks. There was a narrow entrance on the east side, and to the north a steep-sided ditch provided an extra defence.

Finds of late Roman pottery were very numerous all over the site, and the quantity of finds suggests that several families occupied the enclosure. Occupation dates from a fairly limited period in the 4th century A.D. The Roman deposits are shallow and years of ploughing seem to have removed all traces of buildings. It is expected that further work will be done on the site.

MRS R. NIBLETT for the
MILTON KEYNES RESEARCH COMMITTEE
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

WINDMILL HILL, BLETCHLEY: Romano-British farmstead
SP844338

Three ditched enclosures, two pits and a timber building containing a T-shaped corn-drying oven were located. The finds suggest that occupation dated from the 1st to 4th century A.D. A cremation, probably dating from the second half of the 1st century A.D., was also found.

MRS R. NIBLETT for the
MILTON KEYNES RESEARCH COMMITTEE
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

KIRTLINGTON PORT WAY ROMAN ROAD

In the course of a survey on Roman roads throughout Oxfordshire, investigation has been made of the Port Way, which runs northwards from Akeman Street near Kirtlington and is included by Margary in *Roman Roads in Britain* as Road 161A. The form of this ancient way is not typical of Roman work, there being no topographical reason for its frequent change of line (Fig. 6).

The results of fieldwork and study of air photographs and documents indicate that the straight southern section of this Port Way is part of a Roman road directed south from the Blacklands settlement near King's Sutton, on carefully planned alignments, namely

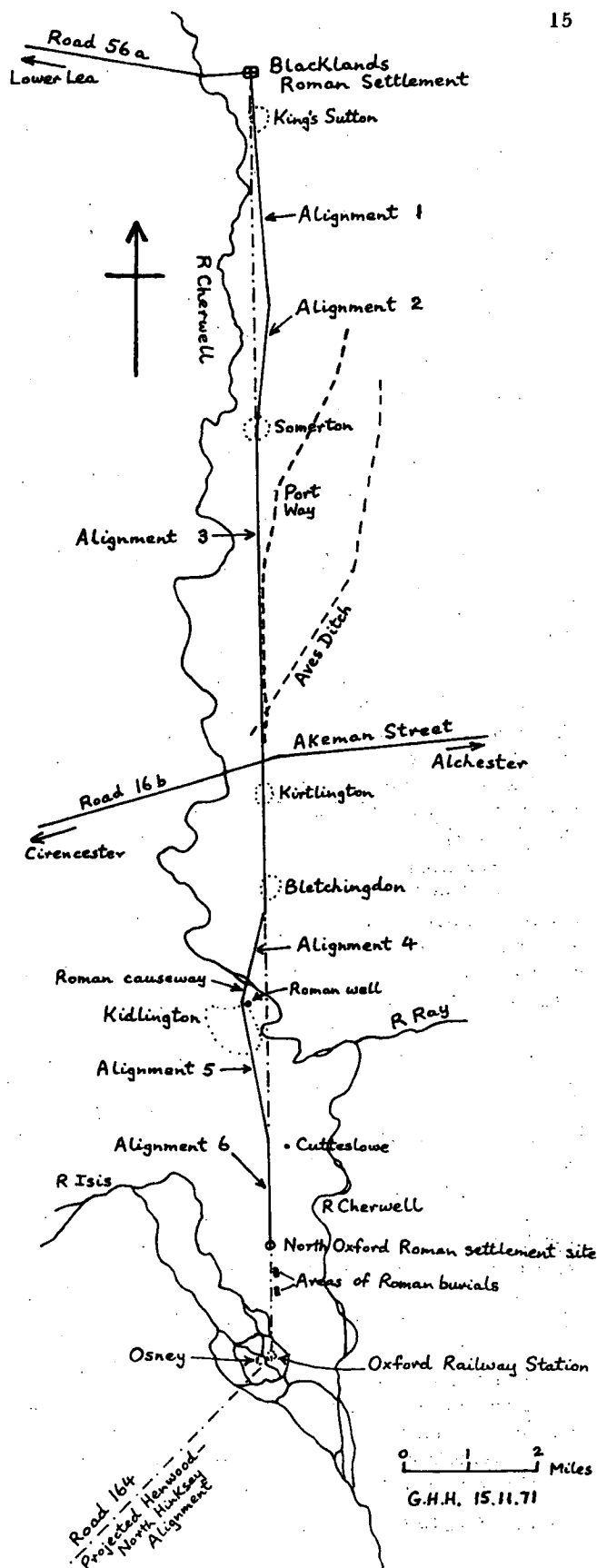
- 1 Blacklands SP496374 to Aynho railway viaduct 500325, 5° E of S, 5500 yards
- 2 500325 to Somerton 498287, 30° W of S, 4400 yards
- 3 498287 to Bletchington 502177, 10° E of S, 11000 yards
- 4 502177 to Kidlington church 497148, 60° W of S, 3300 yards
- 5 497148 to Cutteslowe 503115, 110° E of S, 4800 yards
- 6 503115 through Roman settlement site at North Oxford, 10° E of S

The road crosses the Cherwell flood-plain on a massive stone causeway 21ft wide. As indicated on the accompanying sketch map, the alignments show a military precision and form an axis represented by alignments 3 and 6 with two divergences to avoid more than one Cherwell crossing. The axis is aligned exactly on Blacklands and is expected to be aligned on a southern objective. South of the North Oxford site alignment 6 passes alongside two areas of Roman burials and intersects with a projection of the Henwood-North Hinksey alignment of Roman Road 164 from Wantage at Oxford railway station. This suggests the southern objective is located on the island there, close to the ancient ford at Osney which gave Oxford its name, and not on the gravel terrace where it has hitherto been supposed all early Oxford settlement sites are.

G.H. HARGREAVES and
R.P.F. PARKER

FIGURE 6

KIRTLINGTON PORT WAY ROMAN ROAD



ANGLO-SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

As part of a programme of research into the gold contents of Anglo-Saxon jewellery, analysis of all the Ashmolean's 6th- and 7th-century gold objects has been undertaken at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art by Dr Francis Schweizer. In addition to the newly acquired gold pendants from Standlake and Ducklington, local objects analysed are the gold binding of the Chadlington bead, the gold filigree of the Milton (Berks) brooch, and the famous Oxford bracteate from St Giles. Results of these analyses will be published in a forthcoming volume of *Archaeometry*.

David Brown for the Ashmolean Museum is preparing a catalogue of the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in the upper Thames valley. His work has been aided by a grant of £500 from the British Academy to enable the drawings to be completed, and to provide for a specialist to make an examination of the skeletal material: it is planned that the first volume of this catalogue—the cemeteries between the source and Oxford—will be completed and ready for press about the middle of this year.

SHAKENOAK FARM, OXFORDSHIRE SP374138

The excavation of the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon sites at Shakenoak Farm has been in continuous progress since 1960, and is being described in a series of reports, three of which are already published (*Part I* 1968; *Part II* 1971; *Part III* 1972)*.

The major Roman features of the site were three buildings with stone foundations (A, B and C) which formed a villa complex on both sides of a small stream. In addition, an enclosure wall, a late 4th-century enclosure ditch (F), an access road and 2nd-century fishponds have been excavated.

Deposits of the early 5th century from Building A, of the second half of the 5th century from the enclosure ditch, and of uncertain date above Building C have all produced bronze belt-fittings of the type associated with late Roman auxiliary forces. The enclosure ditch has also produced a mid-5th-century small-long brooch of Scandinavian or North German origin, from a deposit containing much handmade pottery of characteristically early Saxon type as well as many fragments of pottery of a single wheel-made fabric. Later deposits in the ditch contained large numbers of Anglo-Saxon objects associated with animal husbandry, weaving, and iron-smelting and -working, mostly dating from the 7th or early 8th century. The ecological and agricultural changes which took place between the 1st and 8th centuries are being studied.

The latest datable finds are three silver pennies of c. 720-750 A.D. from Sites B, C and F, although a post-Roman cemetery containing 23 inhumations unaccompanied by grave-goods may also date from this period. These are probably the burials referred to in a charter of 1044 A.D.

* available from Dr A.R. Hands, Exeter College, Oxford

The excavators intend to complete the total excavation of the central area of the villa complex and of the entire enclosure ditch, and to examine other features of archaeological interest nearby.

A.C.C. BRODRIBB, A.R. HANDS, D.R. WALKER

NEW WINTLES, EYNSHAM, OXFORDSHIRE SP432108

Excavation of the southeast corner of this site took place for three weeks during October 1970. It was undertaken to follow 'palisade trenches' which had been trial trenched during the 1968 excavation of the Saxon settlement site.

In this area it was possible to test the relationship of the medieval field system, which had elsewhere overlain the Saxon features, with these 'palisade trenches' and in several places it could be seen that these cut through the medieval furrows.

Five trenches were found running north to south and one east to west. One of these contained ceramic drainage pipes, a second one, which was beneath a large lynchet formed by continuous ploughing, was stone-filled, and the three others were vertical sided and flat bottomed, width c. 30cm and depth c. 40cm below the surface of gravel or clay.

In one of these, 16th-17th-century pottery was found beneath a layer of re-deposited hard-packed natural gravel. This suggests that these may have been drainage ditches of the type which use brushwood in their lower filling and may have been dug along the gravel near its junction with the clay. All the trenches, with the exception of the stone-filled one, were emptied and no other finds were encountered within the trenches.

The only other find of note was a pit at the southern extremity of the site which contained two sherds of what are likely to be imported Bii amphorae, possibly 5th century.

MARGARET GRAY for the
UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

CUDDESDON, OXFORDSHIRE SP600031

Mrs Tania M. Dickinson (formerly Miss Briscoe) is working on a DPhil thesis entitled 'The Anglo-Saxon burial sites of the Upper Thames region, and their bearing on the history of Wessex c. 400 to 700'. The area dealt with incorporates the Reading basin to the Cotswold scarp and the Kennet valley to the Thames/Ouse watershed. Nearly all the material from this area has now been recorded and the long task of processing results is in hand.

In October 1970 she directed small-scale trial trenching at the Bishop's House, Cuddesdon, to discover whether anything remained of the rich 7th-century Anglo-Saxon finds made there in 1847. No undisturbed levels were found in the area excavated, but in the upper fill of a 19th-century sewage trench a pile of disarticulated human bones was found. These are, in all probability, the remnants of the skeletons uncovered in 1847. In the same area a probable Anglo-Saxon bronze lace-tag was found. An account of the excavation and a re-interpretation of the site as a whole is in an advanced state of preparation. The finds have been given to the Ashmolean Museum.

DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE

TL018216

Excavation has continued on the large timber buildings reported in Newsletter no. 1. Outside of the north wall a parallel trench 6ft 6in wide has been found which has what appears to be the foundations of buttresses projecting from it. These are 2ft square and are set at 2ft intervals along the trench. This feature is using the same unique building technique as the crosses and the trench was probably left open to allow air to circulate around the stress beams that held the buttresses in position. There is no trace of masonry and it is assumed that the whole structure was of timber.

No date has yet been established for these buildings but two silver pennies of Henry I were found above the fill of one of the great cross-shaped postholes.

MANSHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF DUNSTABLE

NORTHAMPTON: THE SAXON TOWN DEFENCES

Demolition of houses between Bearward Street and Silver Street enabled trial excavations to be carried out in January 1971. The natural sandstone occurs at 2.8m below the present ground level with a 1.2m layer of buff-brown sandy soil above it. A large ditch or pit had been dug through this layer and into the sandstone to 4.8m below the present ground surface, and it would have been about 13m wide. It had been filled in with brown sandy soil and contained one 12th-13th-century shelly jug sherd.

The similarity of these results to those of John Alexander's excavation in 1961 between Bath Street and Scarletwell Street suggests that the Saxon town was surrounded by a wide shallow ditch and that this was deliberately filled in after the Conquest when the town was enlarged.

D.C. MYNARD for the
NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ALDWINCLE, NORTHANTS

TL001805

After 4ft 6in of overburden had been removed by quarry machinery, a timber structure was revealed which subsequent excavation showed to be an Anglo-Saxon well or water hole. The 'well', which was roughly oval in shape, had an average diameter of 3ft and was 3ft deep in the gravel. It was constructed of wattlework interlaced round crude vertical planks. This was set in a larger pit, one side being filled with stones which alternated with horizontal planks. It seems likely that this arrangement supported a series of steps giving access to the water.

D.A. JACKSON for the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

TETSWORTH, OXFORDSHIRE

SU685015

Between June and August 1971 a seven-week excavation was carried out in advance of the M40 in the southwest corner of a 200m by 100m rectangular ditched enclosure, presumed to be the boundary of the original village. The following phases of occupation were identified:

I A shallow gully, a small cobbled and two burnt areas, with abraded RB sherds.

II The enclosure ditch was 1.8m deep with the inside bank standing to ½m. One sherd of Stamford ware sealed within indicates an 11th-century date.

III A group of 12th-century cesspits, a hearth, a sunken floored rectangular hut and a trackway all indicate the beginning of intensive occupation.

IV A clay-floored hollow, 7m across, sealed phase III. Much carbonized grain and a large burned area suggest a threshing floor and a corn-drying kiln.

V Above IV were sleeper beam footings for the walls of two 13th-century houses. After demolition the site was used as a rubbish dump before reverting to agricultural use.

It is hoped to cut some more sections by machine across the curious bank and ditch when the motorway contractors take over the site.

MARK ROBINSON with the
OXFORD UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
for the M40 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

LYVEDEN, NORTHANTS

SP948861

The sixth season of excavation on this DMV and industrial site took place in August 1971 in the toft west of the 1968-70 excavations.

Clay banks 5ft 6in wide with quarried limestone rubble cores and top layers of heavily abraded stone formed the boundaries on the east, south and west with the stream on the north. Similar banks apparently existed on the east between the two tofts, and also further west.

In the southwest corner was a double-flue horseshoe shaped pot kiln, 14ft by 11ft 6in, the pottery from which has been tentatively placed in the late 13th century between the products of two kilns found earlier. The pot bank extended to the east while most of the wasters had been dumped to the west.

In the northwest quarter two occupation levels were distinguished. The earlier preceded the pottery making period and was associated with St Neots and Stamford wares. A 20ft by 11ft rectangular sunken patch of greasy soil was interpreted as a peasant hut, with a limestone rubble wall footing and three other cob walls, and in association a byre floor cut into the cornbrash and two rubbish pits.

The second level was associated with pottery making and sealed the earlier hut, gullies and pits. The bases of six stone-packed post settings and six stone-lined pits survived. The latter were sealed with yellow clay and were probably used for preparing pot material. As in other pits near kilns, whole pots were found inverted in the top fill.

In the northwest corner were a stone-lined cistern, 22ft across and 4ft 6in deep, an omega-shaped structure and pits. The cistern contained smashed kiln bars, much pottery and about 90 small timber pieces, some with the bark intact, preserved by waterlogging. These, with charcoal found elsewhere, have been sent for scientific identification. The plan of the

omega-shaped structure suggests a small mill (cf. Cheddar) or a dovecot, or less likely a kiln.

Small finds included bronze buckles, brooches and a late-12th-century finger ring; ironwork, worked bone and stone and two coins, one a Henry III cut farthing 1218-42.

Further work on the late Anglo-Saxon-early Norman levels of the 1968-70 site showed a second iron smelting furnace with associated early St Neots and Stamford pottery. It also yielded the finest piece to date at Lyveden: a bronze belt buckle with boars head terminals and a cast stylized horse's head on the plate, probably 12th century (cf. zoomorphic decoration in Kilpeck church, Hereford).

Ref: Northampton Museum and Art Gallery Journals 5 (April 1971) and 8 (forthcoming)

G.F. BRYANT and J.M. STEANE for
KETTERING G.S. LOCAL HIST. & ARCH. SOCIETY
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

BRIXWORTH, NORTHANTS: CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS SP747712

Features noted during a fresh examination of the fabric suggest a different approach to the early Anglo-Saxon building sequence. It may be worth while to test these new theories, summarized below and not mutually exclusive, in future excavations.

Remnant wall. The west walls of the tower and nave, neither fully in bond with north and south walls nor at 90° to the church axis, may represent the remains of a previous corridor-like building, running north to south.

'Individual porticus'. These, known to have clustered round the nave, may, from indications at the southwest corner, have been individual north-south buildings instead of subdivided longitudinal aisles.

Perimeter wall. It could be that the earliest phase was an enclosing wall round an open space, into which other walls and features were then fitted, with the present fabric the result of a rebuilding. A variation of this is that of a *rebuilt nave*, the evidence for which is complex and depends on a full analysis of the distribution of various building stones. A recent excavation has shown a north extension of the tower west wall, which could be part of the original perimeter.

D. PARSONS
LEICESTER EXTRA-MURAL DEPARTMENT

EYNHAM ABBEY, OXFORDSHIRE SP434091

To find the limits of the Benedictine abbey, three trial trenches were opened in Nursey Field, east of St Leonard's church, during May and June 1971, following a threat of building on a market garden. The topsoil and post-medieval levels were removed by machine.

Only one trench, 18.5 by 2m, southeast of the church, was excavated down to natural gravel and here were intersecting Christian burials of men, women and children without coffins, although several had stones carefully placed around the heads.

The pottery was prehistoric, Roman, Saxon grass tempered and Saxo-Norman. Six large vertical pits cut through the burials, filled with alternate layers of clean gravel and dirty soil and containing some glazed pottery above early medieval ware. These pits could be gravel pits for the 11th-century monastic buildings and were certainly dug after the existence of the cemetery had been forgotten. The cemetery is likely to be that of an earlier-possibly minster-church underlying the present building, outside the boundary of the Benedictine abbey.

A 102 by 2m trench parallel to the present churchyard wall uncovered at the north end substantial remains of buildings which may be from the destruction levels of the abbey. Further south other buildings were of a different stone, and massive stone foundations are encountered in the adjacent churchyard. There were possible boundary ditches at both ends of the trench and fishponds beyond the south end ditch.

The third trench was at right angles to the second but produced no clear results. A magnetometer survey showed that structures may extend over much of this area, while much prehistoric, Roman and Saxon pottery indicates also an even earlier occupation. The main abbey buildings apparently lie under the present churchyard but also extend east into Nursey Field.

MARGARET GRAY and NICHOLAS CLAYTON
for the OXFORD CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM

NEWNHAM PRIORY, BEDFORD TL069495

Rescue excavation in advance of road widening was carried out. An earthwork near the northern limit within the precinct of Newnham Priory, founded c. 1166, was probably originally circular, but elongated on a north-south axis by recent dumping. Little dating or constructional evidence was recovered: the mound was probably the last visible part, north of the river Ouse New Cut, of the monastic complex of ditches, banks, mounds and fishponds which appear on early maps of the area. A report appears in *Beds Arch. J.* vi (1971).

W. ANNAN and D. BAKER
for BEDFORD CORPORATION

NEWTON WILLOWS, NORTHANTS SP886835

The barn at Manor Farm is the traditional site of St Leonard's church, Great Newton, abandoned after 1449. It is hoped to establish the complete plan of the church before the whole area is covered with concrete.

Work to date has shown the barn to lie over the body of the church, of which the 12th-century south wall, 3ft 4in thick, and a southwest clasping buttress, strengthened in the 14th century, have been located. Seventy-six skeletons, many of them children and the earliest buried in cists, have also been uncovered.

THURLEIGH, BEDFORDSHIRE TL052585

Restoration work has allowed interior excavation and the uncovering of exceptionally well preserved medieval earthen and tile floors at the west end. The sequence of building has been

established as:

- I Early 12th-century building with walls 4½ to 5ft thick and dimensions of 50 by 22ft. (This is almost co-extensive with the present nave.) A bellfounders' pit was found at the west end.
- II In the late 12th century a north aisle was added, with an arcade of circular piers decorated with stiff leaf capitals of Tottenhoe clunch.
- III At the end of the 13th century the church was taken down and rebuilt with north and south aisles.
- IV In the 15th century the body was again demolished and the present arcades, aisles and clerestory, the last recently removed, built on a similar plan.

DAVID HALL for the
HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED ARCH. SOCIETY

NORTHAMPTON CASTLE

During January and February 1971 a watching brief was kept on the lowering of the St Andrew's Road wall and the battering back of the area behind it. Only where the wall runs through the site of the inner bailey of the castle were features of archaeological interest revealed, and these largely confirmed the results of Alexander's excavation in 1961, 1963 and 1964.

In all, the footings and/or lower courses of eleven walls were uncovered and recorded. Three were parts or continuations of Alexander's walls while four could be associated with buildings excavated by him, and one was part of the north gate. The other three were not related to hitherto known structures.

Two patches of burning between the walls could have been hearths but had no associated finds, and the top of a well noted by Alexander was partially demolished in the course of the work.

Four small collections of pottery were recovered. A St Neots rim came from the old soil level below one wall, 12th-13th-century sherds occurred in the rubble filling of another, and sherds of a 13th-14th-century Potterspury jug in the destruction layer of a third. Finally, late-19th-century pieces were found in the rubble fill behind the St Andrew's Road wall, erected c. 1880.

D.C. MYNARD for the
NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ELSTOW ABBEY, BEDFORDSHIRE TL049474

Excavations continued for the seventh year, mainly at Easter. The eastern arm of the abbey church remains a problem. The discovery of the footing for an eastern wall to a south transept highlights the unusual plan of the choir as indicated by the area excavated in 1968. It has been suggested that the main apse may belong to a secondary rather than to the primary period, though there is no means of confirming this at present.

Most work was done on the monastic outbuildings between the claustral complex and the stream. By the Dissolution in 1539 a block of buildings had accumulated for some 180ft

(55m) west from south of the 14th-century dorter, with gaps in only two places, thus almost creating a second court. In general, single buildings were modified rather than replaced: the earliest outbuilding, aisled on a north-south axis, was partly re-used and laterally extended in the final complex. Two adjacent rooms contained a central hearth and a regular chimney and hearth with deep footings built out from the northwest corner of the building. Three small chambers were attached to the south of the latter room, probably forming garderobes. Lengths of ground-level guttering had been laid externally in places.

Work will continue in 1972. A third interim report on excavations from 1968 to 1970 inclusive will appear in *Beds Arch. J.* vi (1971).

DAVID BAKER for the
BEDFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
and PORTSMOUTH POLYTECHNIC

READING ABBEY, BERKSHIRE SU720736

Reconstruction at Reading Prison enabled the east end of the abbey church, founded in 1121, to be examined. Work was carried out by staff of Reading Museum in consultation with the Department of the Environment and was largely a salvage operation. Results were therefore rather bitty and have yet to be fully assessed. However it is clear that an additional feature in the form of a chapel on the north side of the east end of the church has been discovered. Although virtually no floor levels survived, wall foundations of flint and mortar survived to a depth of 6ft or more. Encaustic tiles and fragments of masonry were recovered but very little pottery. At the moment an assessment is being made of to what extent our discoveries match earlier plans of this end of the church. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to examine this area further and also to look at the area of the abbey complex to the west of the church when the ring road is taken through the Forbury Gardens.

Earlier this year the museum was able to purchase a decorated Norman capital from the abbey to add to its already important collection of abbey capitals.

R.A. RUTLAND
READING MUSEUM

Bibliography: A history of the abbey is available from Reading Museum. It costs 15p plus postage.

NORTHAMPTON: ST ANDREW'S PRIORY SP751611

Clearance of houses in 1970 in advance of redevelopment in the east half of the priory area allowed a total length of 364m of 1m wide trial trenches to be opened, initially with an excavator. No evidence of buildings was found and this confirms the accuracy of a 1632 estate map which places the church and cloisters to the northwest in an area not yet available for excavation.

The site of the burial ground was found in the 19th century in the Priory Street / Harding Street area, and in the recent excavation twelve burials were uncovered, mostly in cists made

from reused stone from the priory. There were neither inscriptions nor remains of clothing, though contemporary reports of the earlier discoveries mention sandals, rough woven habits and hazel sticks accompanying some of the burials.

D.C. MYNARD for the
NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

LITTLE FILLINGTON WOOD, WEST WYCOMBE, BUCKS SP 798948

In 1966 a ditch with inner bank was noticed in this wood. Further investigation produced a number of weathered coarse sherds, lying in surface scatter. Small-scale excavations have been carried out since 1967. The area has been much disturbed by the plantation of trees and by roadworks; the former Oxford-High Wycombe road cuts across the northern half of what was apparently a ring ditch some 60yds in diameter. It will thus be obvious that features formerly existing in this northern sector, if any, will have been destroyed.

In the southern sector, work has been possible in places where no damage to standing timber was expected. Excavation has revealed one end of a building lying on an east-west axis and a rectangular structure which was evidently a kitchen, from the presence of a large, well-constructed hearth, with side ovens. A study of the pottery recovered and examination of the surviving walling suggests that the structures are of the 13th century and that the site was abandoned in the early 14th century. Although no further excavation is likely to be possible, fieldwork is continuing, in an attempt to relate the site to what is known of the West Wycombe manorial economy in the 13th century.

R.P.F. PARKER

RUXOX FARM, BEDFORDSHIRE TL051364

The medieval moated site of Ruxox Priory centres an area of some 50 acres where Romano-British artefacts have been turned up by the plough over many years. Limited excavations have been carried out since 1967 in various parts of the farm, the results of which suggest a rural settlement of small domestic buildings over the greater area, with a villa at the map reference shown. The exact site of the villa has not yet been established but ditches and working hollows believed to be associated with it have been excavated, producing glass, worked bone, iron nails, iron tools including a sickle, wall plaster, tessellae and considerable quantities of pottery.

Coins from 1st to late 4th century have been found which indicate a long occupation of the area and present many problems to be solved.

K.J. FADDEN for the
AMPTHILL AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL
AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Ashmolean Museum at Oxford has acquired three important local groups of Anglo-Saxon objects from excavations carried out many years ago.

Eynsham

Various Anglo-Saxon objects including a sword, two shield bosses and several brooches, recovered by Mr Whitlock from the site of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery during house building operations in the early 1950s have been given to the museum by Mrs Whitlock.

Summertown, Oxford

A shield boss, spearhead and knife from a man's grave found at Summerfields School, at the time of the building of the gymnasium in 1898, have been placed on loan to the museum by the governors of the school.

Standlake, Ducklington and Brighthampton

The missing objects from Stephen Stone's excavations in the late 1850s and early 1860s, which are described in various volumes of the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries* between those dates, but had not been seen since then, and had for long been thought lost, were recently brought into Colchester Museum for identification. They had, it seems, been carefully stored in an airing cupboard all these years, and had remained in good condition with the grave-groups intact, all the objects being sewn to cards in the way that Stephen Stone had exhibited them to the Antiquaries. Through the kindness of David Clarke of Colchester, and of Mr and Mrs Battersby, heirs to the collection, the Ashmolean was able to acquire them all, and so make complete the finds from Stone's other local excavations at Stanton Harcourt and at Yelford.

The collection includes: several groups from Brighthampton including two pairs of saucer brooches and a small long brooch; several groups from Standlake including one rich woman's grave with gold pendants and interlace patterned silver and iron cross; and one rich woman's grave from Ducklington with a gold pendant and a silver pendant, as well as a typologically late bone comb.

All these objects are now on display in the Ashmolean Museum.

POST-MEDIEVAL

NORTHAMPTON: WELL AT THORPLANDS SP792643

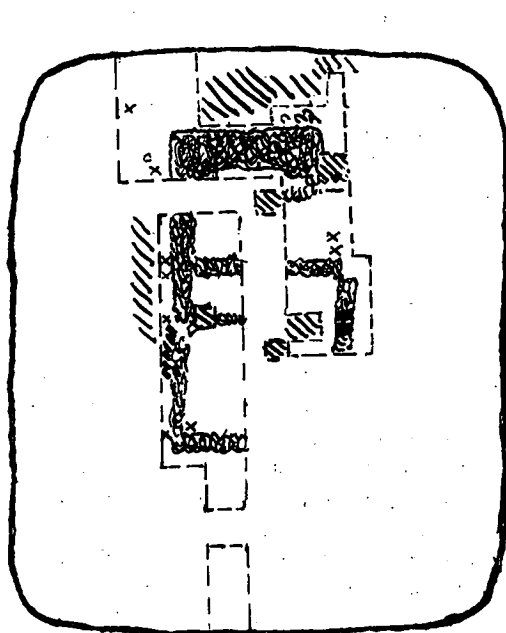
The top of this, covered by a large sandstone slab, occurred in a drainage ditch 80cm below the present ground level. Subsequent excavation showed it to have been bottle shaped, 80cm wide at the top and 1.55cm at the bottom, lined with at least 30 sandstone courses c.10cm thick, and dug through the sandstone into blue clay to 3.92m below the present surface. The water level was at 2.38m.

There is no evidence of any building in the field. Since the position is near the junction of four closes into which a 19th-century map shows the field to have been divided, the well is likely to have been dug as a water supply for animals.

A rough wooden pipe of 'pumpstick', made from a bored tree trunk, was standing in the well, and this was removed, cleaned and treated before being placed in the Abington Park Museum. It is considered to be of 18th- or 19th-century date, and is 3.25m long, 40cm at the base and 15cm at the top.

A hole 8cm in diameter had been bored down the centre of the trunk to act as a conduit up which the water had been drawn. The bottom end had been sawn to create a leg and the bottom end of the bored hole bunged with a piece of wood. Water was let into the centre channel by means of four small holes, 3 to 4cm in diameter, drilled in an upward direction. Over the end of each of these holes two nails had been partly hammered in, bent over and crossed to act as a filter.

D.C. MYNARD for the
NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Moat c. 4 m. wide

LILLEY FARM MOATED SITE, OXFORDSHIRE

SU678768

The nature and definite dating of the structure on this rectangular island, 15 by 13m, remain speculative, as work this year has been limited and possible documentary evidence has not been available.

However, extension of the first cuttings southwards has shown foundations more complex than the rectangular base originally envisaged. It is only on the west that the presumed external wall foundation is apparently continuous, and also three east-west lines have been partially cleared. Since these, and the presumed eastern and western external footings, are on a higher level and of far less solid construction than the north face, there could be two or more small linked structures on the site.

While the general inference is of a context of not more than 200 years ago for the final use and possible partial demolition of the structure(s), nine of the sixteen sherds found to date have been identified as belonging to the 16th and early 17th centuries, while three may be earlier - 13th century - and two could be Iron Age. These last, like the Roman coin found last year, are probably not significant for dating purposes.

Most of these sherds have been found outside or between the wall foundations and on or just below the surface of the clay mixtures which everywhere underlie some 20-30cm of leafmould and topsoil. They could thus belong to the material from which the island was constructed or which was packed round the foundations. To date, small finds other than pottery have also been few; this would indicate a use of the site other than for habitation.

At one point on the eastern side there are two tooled and probably reused sandstone blocks incorporated in the foundation wall. This is the first exception to the general use of large flints, with some bricks and chalk blocks.

W.J. FOWLER for the
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

LILLEY FARM MOATED SITE

SCALE: 0 5 m.

-  Wall foundations
-  Unexcavated owing to trees or large bushes
-  Sandstone blocks
-  Bricks
-  Excavation trenches
-  Pottery sherds
-  Coin (Allectus c.295 AD)

The area untouched so far also contains many trees and large bushes.

SURVEYS AND URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY

ABINGDON, BERKSHIRE

Much of the town centre has already been redeveloped and more is to follow: gravel extraction and road building threaten many sites in the country around. Such is the crisis that the Abingdon Excavation Committee has been formed and is making a public appeal to appoint a full-time archaeologist to coordinate and direct local efforts. An appeal for donations has been launched.

The following reports summarize work done during 1971 under various auspices. Mrs Caroline Simpson undertook an extensive survey of Abingdon and region for the Upper Thames Archaeological Committee in order to determine the scale of archaeological destruction in the next ten years.

105-109 OCK STREET SU495971

These five houses were surveyed before demolition and proved to be 17th-century timber framed with mud and rubble filling, and one interior wall of wattle and daub. There were some small 18th-century extensions, timber framed with brick filling, while all had been reroofed and enlarged in the 19th century.

WEST ST HELEN STREET SU497968

(see also excavation report below)

A small excavation showed no trace of the 1970 RB rubbish pit but uncovered part of a possible beam slot. Finds included RB grey ware, a coin of Cunobelinus (Mack no. 249) and one medieval sherd.

Another RB rubbish pit, 7ft diameter and depth, was cut by a sewage trench, while several later pits and ditches, and three stone-lined wells, have been noted in foundation ditches dug for new houses.

COSENNERS HOUSE SU501972

This could have been an original abbey outbuilding and is now part of a later complex by the mill stream. There is evidence, despite reconstruction, of a much older timber-framed building with dressed Oxfordshire limestone walls. The tunnel beneath shown on drawings is more likely to have been a fulling trough.

On an outhouse is timber balustrading known to have been on the nearby 'long gallery', an authenticated abbey property.

3 STERT STREET SU498972

A covered well under the garden was 11ft deep and built of local stone on an open square box of four timbers, 3ft long and 6in square section. A few 18th-century and later small finds were made, despite apparent earlier clearing.

CORPORATION FARM SU497957,497970

Aerial photographs by Allen in 1933 and the NMR in 1970 show circular and rectangular features and removal of topsoil before gravel extraction provides the opportunity to record and investigate these cropmarks. At the northwest corner about one third of a 120ft-diameter ring ditch has been

removed, but a section in the bank was cleared and recorded, and the rest of the circle and two others remain and will not be dug.

THRUPP FARM SU521971

Surface finds of IA pottery and bone have been made in an area stripped of topsoil before gravel working.

CULHAM BRICK WORKS SU511948

The existing kiln, chimney and clay pits have been surveyed and recorded.

ABINGDON BYPASS

Fieldwalking has begun on the nine-mile length and sites have been noted for further investigation. A record office, with maps and card index, has been set up at 52 Stert Street.

ABINGDON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WEST ST HELEN STREET SU497969

Excavation of a limited area of the west frontage, north from St Helen's churchyard, was undertaken in July 1971 before development. The following features were excavated.

- a Two pits, 2m by 1.5m deep, containing hard burnished IA ware, some with incised decoration.
- b A slot, 2m by 25cm, stepped and sloped from north to south to 30cm depth, containing 12th-century pottery.
- c A re-cut ditch, 10m excavated, cut through one of the IA pits with long narrow slots or steps along its gently sloping east side. It contained much medieval pottery including the sherds of one green glazed jug.
- d Post-medieval cellar with brick stairs and roughly dressed stone walls, the east wall trench cutting ditch c. Below the latest floor level was an empty stone-lined and capped well. Roman pottery, including Samian, was found generally distributed through the medieval and later levels, although there were no obvious RB features.

N.B. CLAYTON for the
UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

ABINGDON CEMETERY

Since the opening of this cemetery in 1940, on the highest point in Abingdon, many finds have been made, from Beaker ware with associated flints, early IA material, to a few medieval sherds, while a scatter of RB pottery has occurred throughout. Recently two adult skeletons were found lying close together on their sides in contracted positions.

Three graves dug since 1970 cut into an earlier ditch. In the first the ditch shelved down to c. 2ft 6in with nine or ten local rag stones c. 9in diameter at the bottom. The dark fill contained charcoal, broken animal bones, two worn RB sherds and a quantity of 6th-century grass tempered pottery. The second grave contained bone and four RB sherds, and the bottom of the ditch had 7in of undisturbed ash containing a few burnt bones and sherds, and a burnt deer antler.

The material in the third was similar, and included grass-tempered pottery.

In all, 103 sherds of this AS ware were recovered, including one piece decorated with lightly incised double parallel lines.

BILL SKELLINGTON

BEDFORD

TL 052497 and others

Ten sites in the town were explored during rescue excavations.

A section across the bank inside the Kings Ditch in the southeast part of the town indicated a primary Norman date rather than the traditional early 10th-century context of Edward the Elder's *burh* construction. It may have functioned as a flood-prevention earthwork, and was heightened several times in the medieval period.

The inner bailey ditch of the medieval castle was sectioned. It had been cut about 6m below present ground level and into bedrock. At a late stage it was recut and broadened to a width of about 12.5m between berms. The south side was stone-lined and the north turf revetted. The stonework may be connected with *fossata pavimentata* constructed by Falkes de Breauté between 1215 and 1224. A bridge abutment was seen on the south side, lining up with cobbled areas seen in the 1970 excavations. The ditch had been filled in part with material, probably resulting from the royal order to slight after the 1224 siege.

Part of a stone building of castle period was seen close to the probable site of the north curtain wall.

Three sites in Mill Street were explored. One, north of no. 21, confirmed Speed's 17th-century map which showed the area as fields. At 43, on the south side, a 15th-century house was the earliest identifiable structure, and no occupation was found on a site two houses further east.

South of the river, a site on the west side of St Mary's Street, next to the Anglers Inn, produced a complex series of hearths and ovens of the medieval period: work will continue here.

DAVID BAKER for the

BEDFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT BY BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

The Buckinghamshire County Museum was asked by the County Planning Officer to provide information about archaeological sites in the Vale of Aylesbury for a report which they were preparing on the Vale. A list of 91 sites was compiled and this involved the visiting of some previously unknown ones. It was considered that 65 of the sites should be recommended for conservation.

THE HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

GREAT ADDINGTON, NORTHANTS

A field-by-field survey to compile a plan of the medieval field system is now complete. In addition to the (Saxon?) sites previously known at SP956744 and SP966752 the following were noted:

A Romano-British villa at SP947755, recognized by the spread of building stone roofing tiles, and pottery from the 1st to the 4th century A.D.

Two early pre-Roman Iron Age sites (Iron B) were found at SP946741 and SP970756 with areas of dark occupation, burnt pebbles, and handmade shelly pottery.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH, NORTHANTS

Bronze Age round barrows lie in the river flood plain in a group at SP958712, 962713, 964715, 966714, and 966715. Two are ploughed over and three remain undisturbed.

An early Iron Age site with the usual spread of dark occupation, pebbles, and pottery was found at SP942694.

Romano-British sites with dark areas of occupation and building stone have been found at SP943694 and 945696. Lesser sites without stone are at SP940693 and 944715. A site of several acres in extent, naturally fortified by very steep slopes on two sides, has produced pottery of the Iron B, Belgic and Romano-British periods.

All of the parish, except the part now annexed to Wellingborough, has been surveyed for medieval fields.

WOODFORD, NORTHANTS

A plan of a medieval field system has been completed and it agrees with the pre-enclosure map of 1730.

Near the well-known barrows at SP962760 there is a Romano-British site with building stone and pottery and a dark area of occupation at SP963762. There is another ploughed-over barrow on the river gravel at SP974756, easily recognized by the characteristic pink colour of the mound rising above the level of the flood plain.

DAVID HALL

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES

1. Environment

The topography of the area consists of two river valleys, the Great Ouse and the Ouzel, both with extensive gravel deposits. The land away from the valleys consists mostly of boulder clay and Oxford clay.

2. The distribution of archaeological sites in Milton Keynes

Figures 7 and 8 depict the distribution of sites and finds in Milton Keynes.

Palaeolithic finds (exclusively handaxes) derive from the Pleistocene deposits of the Great Ouse and Ouzel valleys. These finds are listed in H.S. Green, 'A handaxe from Stanbury and further notes on handaxes from the valleys of the Ouse and Ouzel in North Bucks', *Records of Bucks* forthcoming.

cont.on p. 26

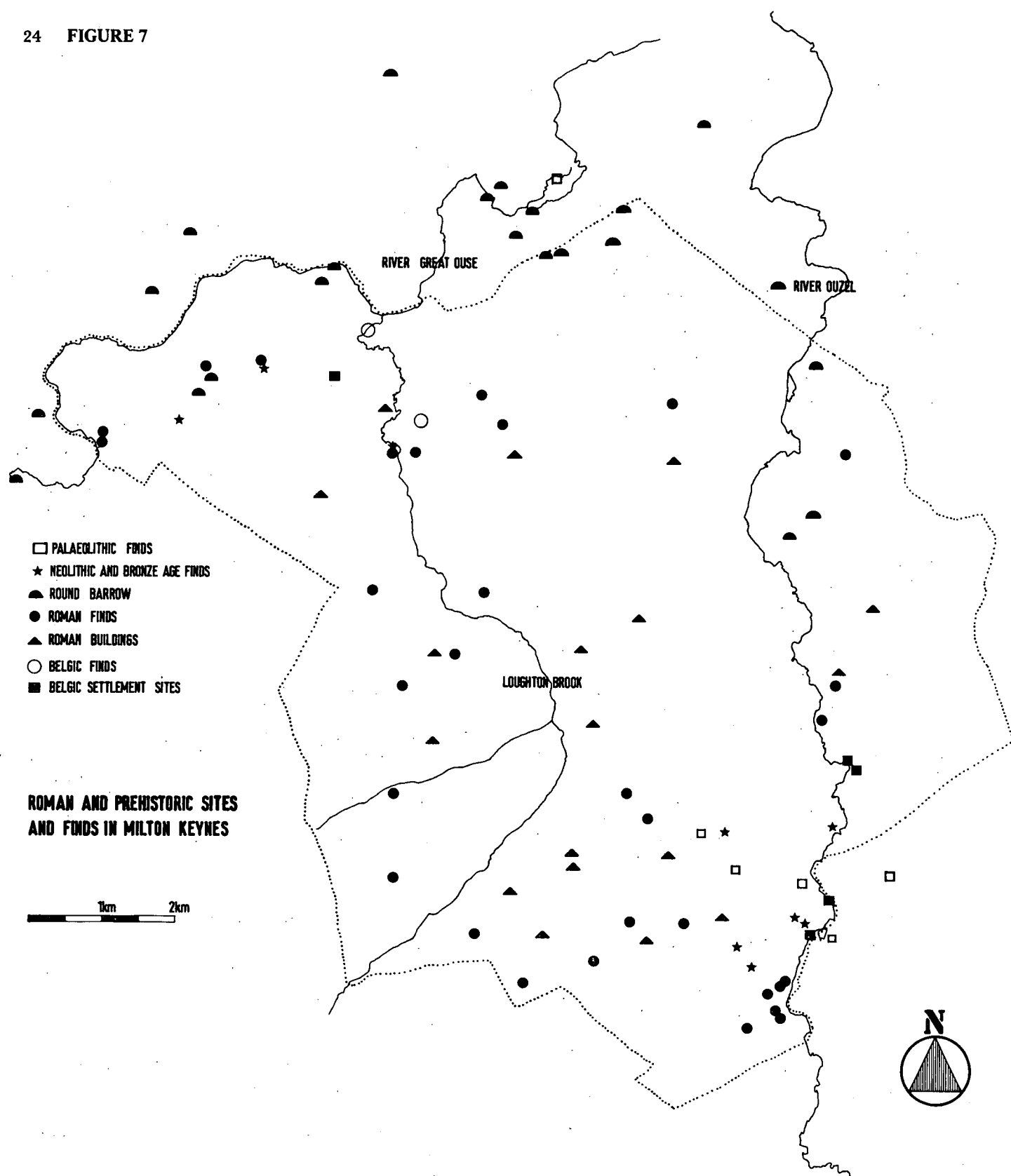
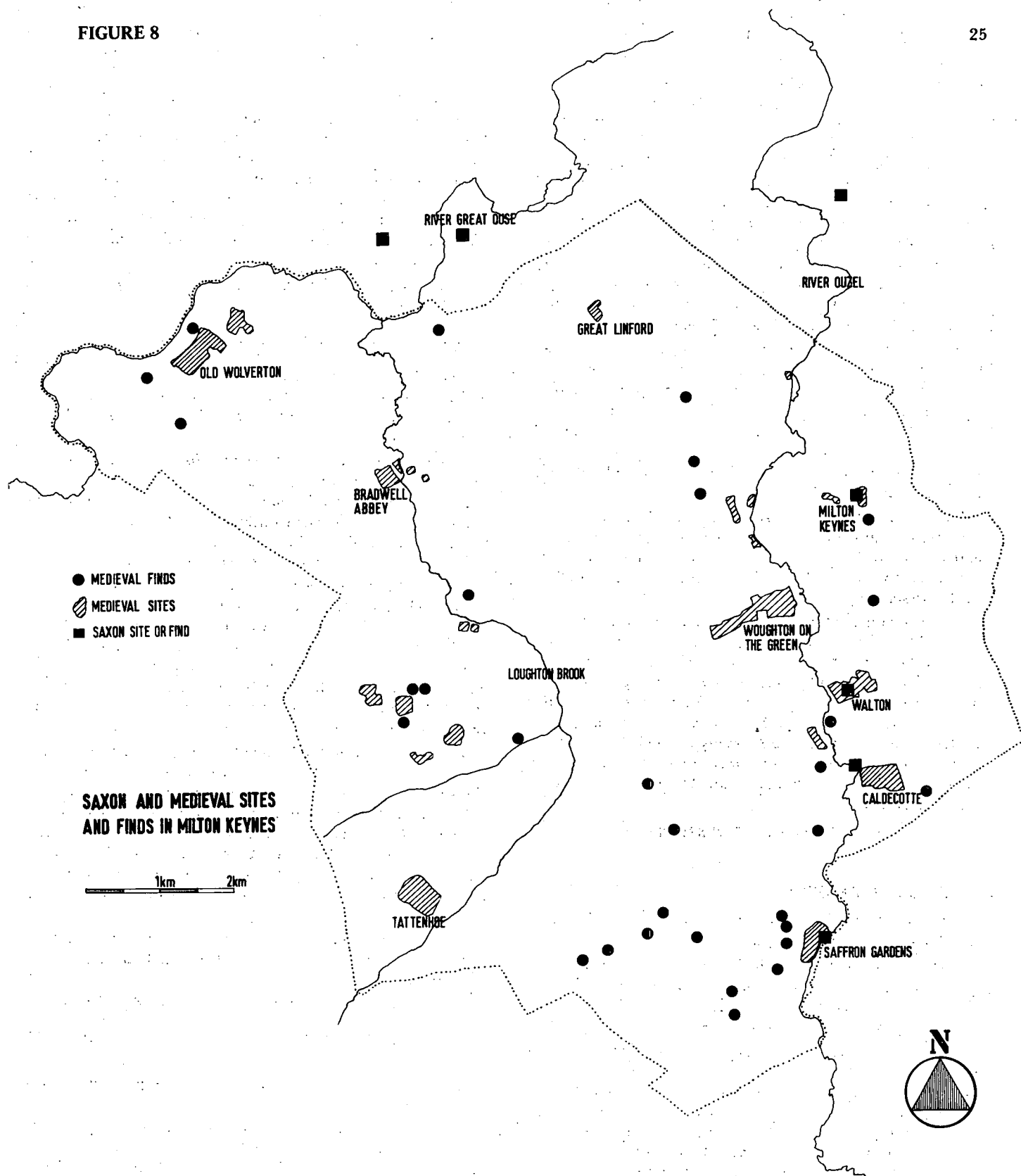


FIGURE 8



There are no certain Mesolithic or Neolithic finds.

The first major settlement of the area took place in the Bronze Age. The evidence comes from finds of flintwork (chiefly barbed and tanged arrowheads) and from round barrows, which are mostly either destroyed by gravel working or are ploughed out. Only two examples survive as mounds—both about 20m in diameter and 1m high. These barrows lie on the alluvium at Wolverton and it is of interest that approximately one kilometre due west a timber trackway found at the base of the alluvium (here 2m thick) running from SP8012 4221 to SP8013 4224 (SSW to NNE). The trackway was approximately 4 to 5 metres in width and consisted of loose stones on brushwood. A length of 27 metres was exposed by gravel quarrying in the late 1950s. I am indebted to Mr E. Cockerill of Wolverton for much information on this site.

On present evidence the Iron Age occupation of the area was restricted to the river valleys and associated gravel spreads, as was the Bronze Age settlement. The only pre-Belgic Iron Age site known consists of pottery from a recut of a probable barrow ditch at Wolverton excavated by Mr E. Cockerill (SP 8195 4084). It is possible that two small rectilinear enclosures near Milton Keynes village (SP8823 3888 and SP8822 3883) may also be of Iron Age date.

From Roman times onwards the pattern changes to one of total settlement of the area. Saxon sites, however, are rare and are confined to the river valleys. The even distribution of sites is repeated in Medieval times and has been maintained to the present day.

The area contains three mottes at Bradwell, Shenley Church End and Wolverton. There are exceptionally good medieval earthworks at Wolverton and Woughton on the Green, which are the two best shrunken Medieval Villages in the area. Most other villages have areas of medieval earthworks showing that they have either shrunk in size or moved from the original centre of settlement. There are many moated sites, the finest being at Shenley Church End. Most others have been partly filled in during the last decade or so. The area is also rich in ridge and furrow.

STEPHEN GREEN and DENNIS MYNARD

NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE

Work on the Romano-British site at Baydon ceased in August as M4 machines moved in again.

Members are carrying out field observation to try to trace the true line of the Silchester-Cirencester Roman road near Newbury. Main effort however is being devoted to a recently acquired site in the centre of Newbury (Fig. 9).

Demolition of buildings c. 1680 offered the possibility of an undisturbed site adjacent the main thoroughfare. At the time of writing, three in-line 10ft square boxes straddling the building line have been opened. The first two are occupied mainly by the c. 1680 brick structures, i.e. hearths and chimney bases and a series of clay floors apparently associated with three phases of hearth repair and modification. Box 2 has shown that below this is a medieval occupation level

yielding as yet no closely dateable material. Box 3 contains a gravelled surface and a flint-lined well, filled c. 1900 with building rubbish including window lead and diamond panes.

A large area to the rear, approximately 40 by 100ft, is available for investigation and a probable minimum time of two years. No systematic investigation has ever been carried out in Newbury before but casual finds, as recorded in Peake's *Archaeology of Berkshire*, hold out the hope of evidence of occupation through Roman into the prehistoric era. Documentary evidence of a scanty nature is available to the Norman Conquest but no evidence for the actual site is known.

S.D. FORD for the
NEWBURY MUSEUM HISTORICAL GROUP

NORTHAMPTON NEW TOWN AREA

A survey by fieldwork, aerial photography and of field names, and the making of a card index of all known finds, showed the area to be particularly rich archaeologically, with a good deal of destruction already in the past.

Very many worked flints have been found, including over a dozen polished axes from the town centre, while cropmark sites of prehistoric and Roman date are numerous. Major sites include the IA hill fort of Hunsbury, the Duston Belgic-Roman settlement (largely destroyed last century), a Saxon site at Upton and probably as many as five pagan Saxon cemeteries.

Apart from the new development area, there is the existing town, itself to be largely redeveloped. We have historical but little archaeological evidence for the Saxon town, despite nearly two centuries of building and rebuilding on the site. The same is largely true of the medieval town, in which two excavations are recorded, one of a monastic burial ground in the 1890s and the other by John Alexander in the 1960s (see report on Northampton Castle, p. 19 above).

With the present redevelopment plans a close watch is being kept in the town area as well as outside. Several large excavations have been undertaken and interim reports are given elsewhere in this Newsletter (see under Northampton in other sections). In addition a number of 'rescue digs', trial excavations and watching briefs have been carried out, while new sites are continually added to the record. Classified and graded schedules of sites are available from the Archaeological Officer.

This work, especially the excavations, has attracted much public and press interest and a number of talks have been given to local organizations.

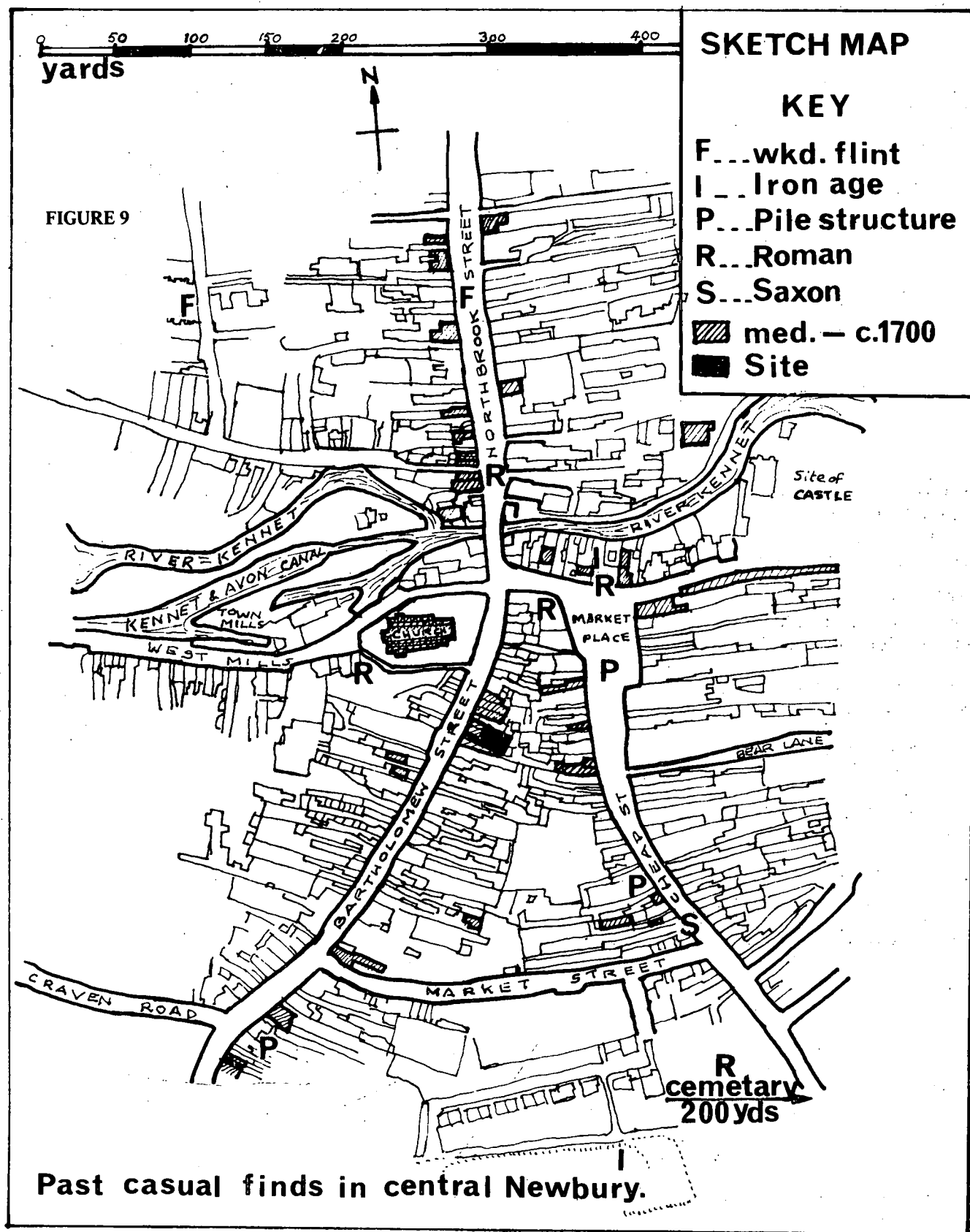
Brief reports on some of the work done in 1971 follow:

THE 'GREEN DRAGON' SITE

SP 752607

Six weeks excavation took place here on the east side of the Mayorhold, a possible medieval marketplace, just outside the area of the Saxon town.

13th-century occupation was represented by a fragment of a house, with a floor level only 40cm below the present ground surface, in association with a stone well and several rubbish pits. Other pits and a well date from the 14th to 16th centuries.



Two 18th-century and two 19th-century cellars, part of a 19th-century tannery and two modern wells were also excavated.

THE HORSEMARKET

SP 752607

A watching brief on an excavation 18 by 24m for the basement of a new hotel, on the east side of Horsemarket Street and within the Saxon town, showed that large areas had been quarried away during the 12th and 13th centuries. A few sherds of Stamford and St Neots ware were found but most finds were of 12th to 14th century. No medieval structures were found.

LITTLE BILLING

SP 803618

Trial trenches on part of the medieval village located 12th- and 13th-century walls and pits. More excavation would certainly produce house plans.

Summarized from reports for 1970 and 1971 by
D.C. MYNARD, Archaeological Officer,
NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
to 30.9.71

**OXFORD CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM
WOODSTOCK, OXFORDSHIRE**

Field Department

(Numbers are Primary Record Nos. of Field Department)

TOOT BALDON

SP 568009

In July 1970 an earthwork was ploughed here for the first time to eliminate weeds. A field survey was carried out which revealed a village boundary bank running around the north, east and south sides of the present village. Within this bank were several house platforms, some being particularly well marked on the south side of the present road into the village. From this evidence it would seem that the medieval settlement was somewhat larger than the present village. The surviving ridge and furrow of the medieval open fields beyond the boundary-bank were also recorded.
(PRN 1549)

BARFORD ST JOHN

SP 438331

A routine field inspection around this village revealed, besides the known moated site and large rectangular fishpond, south and southeast of the village, a previously unrecorded area of earthworks south of the church beyond the village street. House foundations, holloways and crofts both here and northwest of the village probably indicate a former larger medieval settlement.
(PRN 4120; moat PRN 1144; fishpond PRN 4118)

NEWTON PURCELL

SP 625307

A field survey of the moated site on the east side of the A421 road was carried out in advance of the earthworks being levelled with dumped soil and other materials. The moat has two separate enclosures. On the west side of the road a previously unidentified set of village earthworks was sketch

mapped. Part of the area had already been ploughed but house platforms, streets and back lanes could be recognized together with two or three good house sites.
See Fig. 10.

(PRN 4287, moat; PRN 4288, earthworks)

LEWKINOR

SU 715977

During routine air surveys by the M40 Research Group along the line of the future motorway, previously unrecorded earthworks were revealed north and northwest of Lewknor church. These seem to represent remains of the medieval village including a sunken street approaching from the northwest through an area of ridge and furrow, a village boundary bank around the field north of the church and, within this field, a widened street with possibly a village green and house platforms along each side.

(PRN 4112)

Earthworks have also been observed around the following settlements. In most cases they probably represent larger areas of nucleated settlement in the medieval period:

GARSINGTON

SP 583107

Holloways, crofts and house platforms. (PRN 4507)

LIDSTONE

SP 356247

Holloways and earthworks between and behind present village buildings. (PRN 3894)

CLANFIELD

SP 283021

Building platforms southwest and west of the church.
(PRN 4198)

MERTON

SP 577178

Earthworks north, northwest and west of the church; some house platforms, crofts and holloways on west side of site.
(PRN 4717)

NORTHLEIGH

SP 386107

Vague earthworks around the almost isolated medieval church.
(PRN 4044)

FULWELL

SP 377232

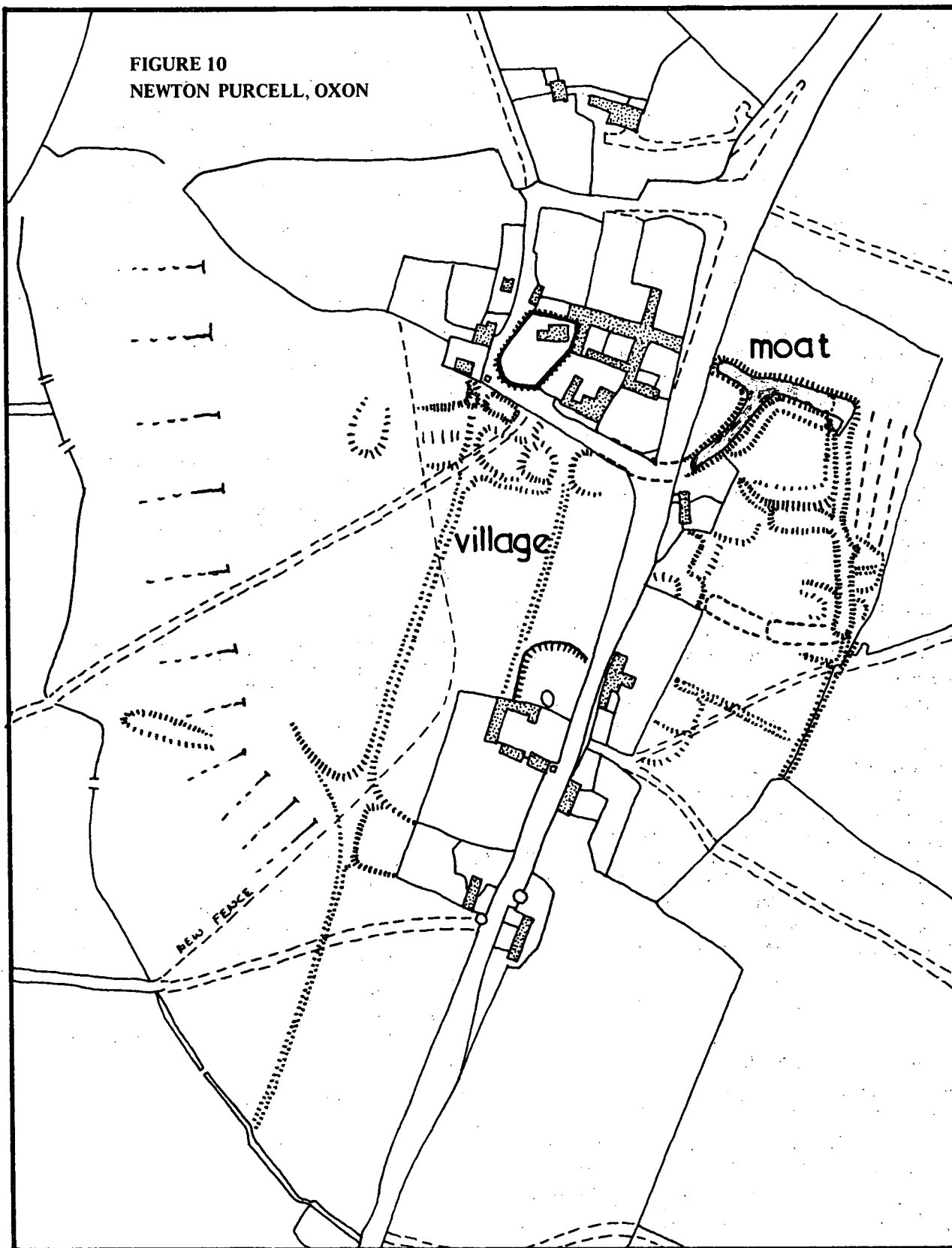
Earthworks southwest and southeast of present hamlet.
(PRN 4096)

CHURCHILL

SP 277244

Very clear earthworks of house sites and holloways can be seen west, southwest and south of the remains of the isolated medieval church a half mile northwest of the present Victorian church. These evidently represent a further area of medieval occupation no doubt connected with the field a medieval cistern when new bungalows were built on medieval house platforms southeast of the medieval church (see *Oxoniensis* 33 (1968)).
(PRN 4182)

FIGURE 10
NEWTON PURCELL, OXON



feet 0

300

ENGLISH FARM, STOKE ROW

SU677861

Earthworks of a previously unrecognized medieval settlement including two dry fishponds were noted by Don Benson. (PRN 3235)

MINSTER LOVELL

SP323114

Between the well-known ruins of the medieval hall of the Lovell family (with adjacent church, barn, dovecote and three fishponds) and the picturesque village of Minster Lovell, there is a field full of crofts and house platforms probably representing the site of the medieval village. This would have been closer to the medieval church and may mean that the present village is a post-medieval foundation (connected with park expansion?) on regularly planned lines.

(PRN 4755)

LOWER DORNFORD

SP450205

A sketch survey was carried out of the earthworks of this known DMV (Fig. 11).

(PRN 1059)

CHIPPING NORTON

SP309274

Below the earthworks of the fine Norman castle a dry medieval fishpond remains with its dam to the southwest. The field is now called Pool Meadow.

(PRN 4197)

BARFORD ST MICHAEL

SP432327

South of the known moated site around the manor house and marshy overgrown fishpond shown on the OS 6-inch maps, there is a further complex of fish stewes and a dam, west of the church. This area is very marshy and during the digging of a trench to facilitate drainage layers of yellow clay were observed (below the later silt) which probably represents puddling put down to make the ponds retain water.

(PRN 1154, moat, and PRN 4122, fishponds)

MOATED SITES IN OXFORDSHIRE

Previously unidentified moats have been noted by the Oxford University Archaeological Society during parish surveys at:

Bentley Park, Ducklington	SP348068	(PRN 3947)
Cassington	SP455105	(PRN 3763)
Cuttesslowe	SP508112	(no PRN as yet)
Water Eaton	SP515121	(no PRN as yet)

STANDLAKE

SP398038

A further examination of Major Allen's air photographs of this area revealed a previously unrecognized moated enclosure with attendant ditched enclosures to the southeast. A ground inspection revealed that the site was a rather irregular rectangle with a wide ditch c. 1 metre deep around it and an apparent causewayed entrance on the southeast side.

(PRN 4127)

MILTON COMMON

SP643043

The identification of a fine medieval fishpond here with its dam surviving c. 1.5 to 2m high at the north end was promptly followed by the farmer largely destroying the site in the construction of a modern fishpond on top.

(PRN 4627)

THAME

SP711062

In an area scheduled for housing development a moat has been noted with a fish stew within its northwest corner. To the north of this site there are three fine rectangular medieval fishponds with a dam and retaining banks on the north and northeast sides.

(PRN 5246, moat; PRN 5247, fishponds)

ASCOTT EARL

SP297184

This small earthen motte and bailey castle recently had a drainage ditch dug across the north side of the bailey revealing a rampart built up of deposits of yellow clay. Threats by the farmer to bulldoze and level the earthworks resulted in an emergency 'scheduling' of the site (Fig. 12).

(PRN 3190)

LEAFIELD POTTERIES

Leaffield village was an important centre for the production of rural red-earthen ware pottery in the 18th and 19th centuries. The site of the earliest pottery exists at Pot House (SP 321148, PRN 4756) and this was probably in production from the 18th to mid 19th century. After the disafforestation of Wychwood in the 1850s a second pottery was built at SP312155 (Crown Pottery, PRN 654) complete with kilns, pugmill (horse driven), claypits and workshops. Pottery was not produced after c. 1900.

M.A. ASTON

LOWER DORNFORD DMV, WOOTTON, OXON.

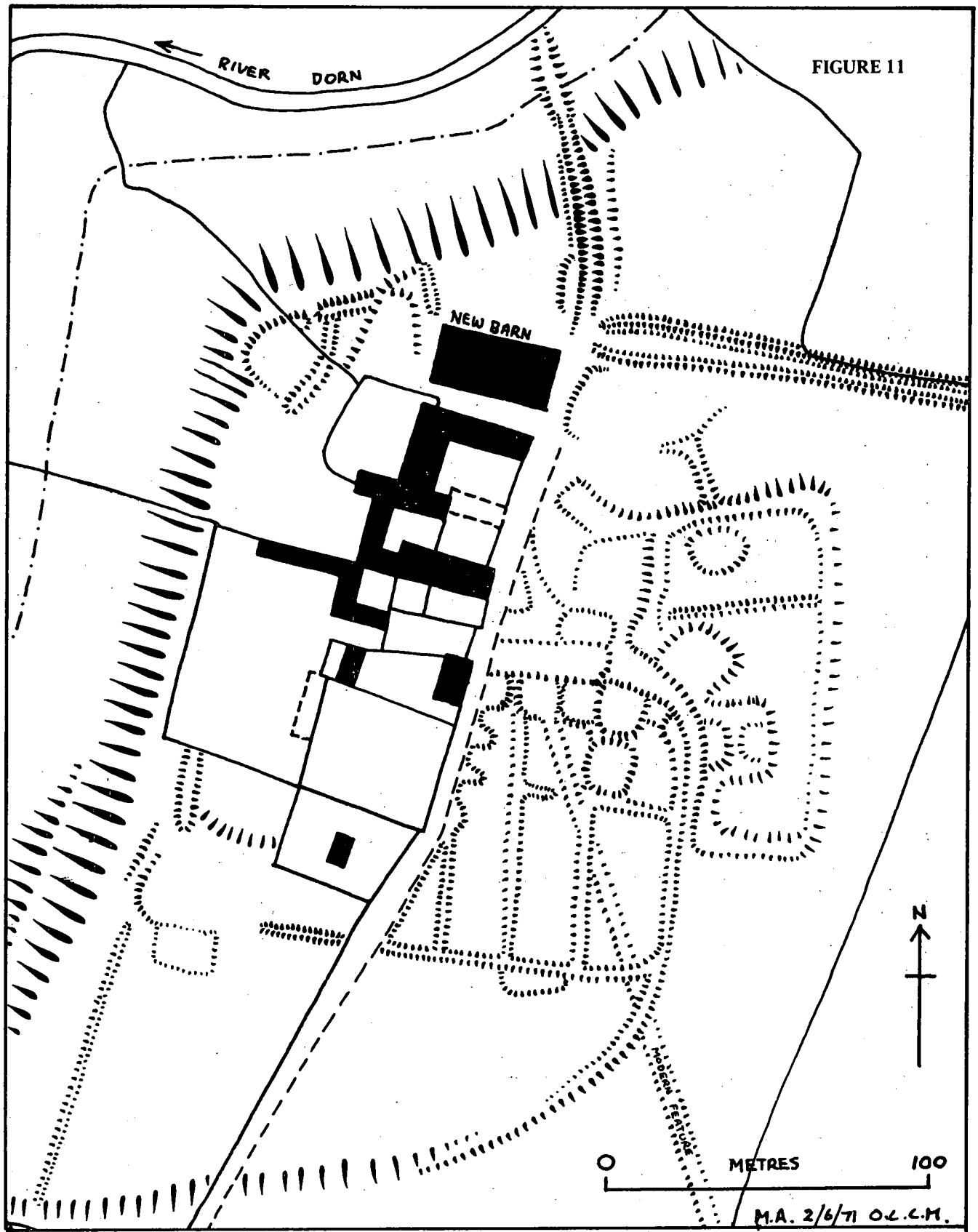
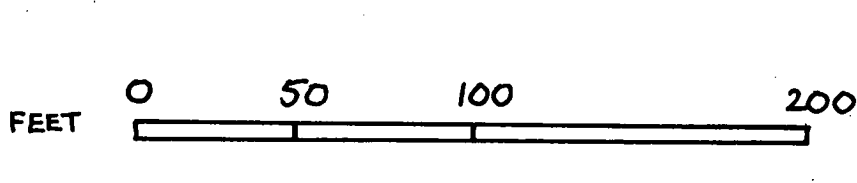
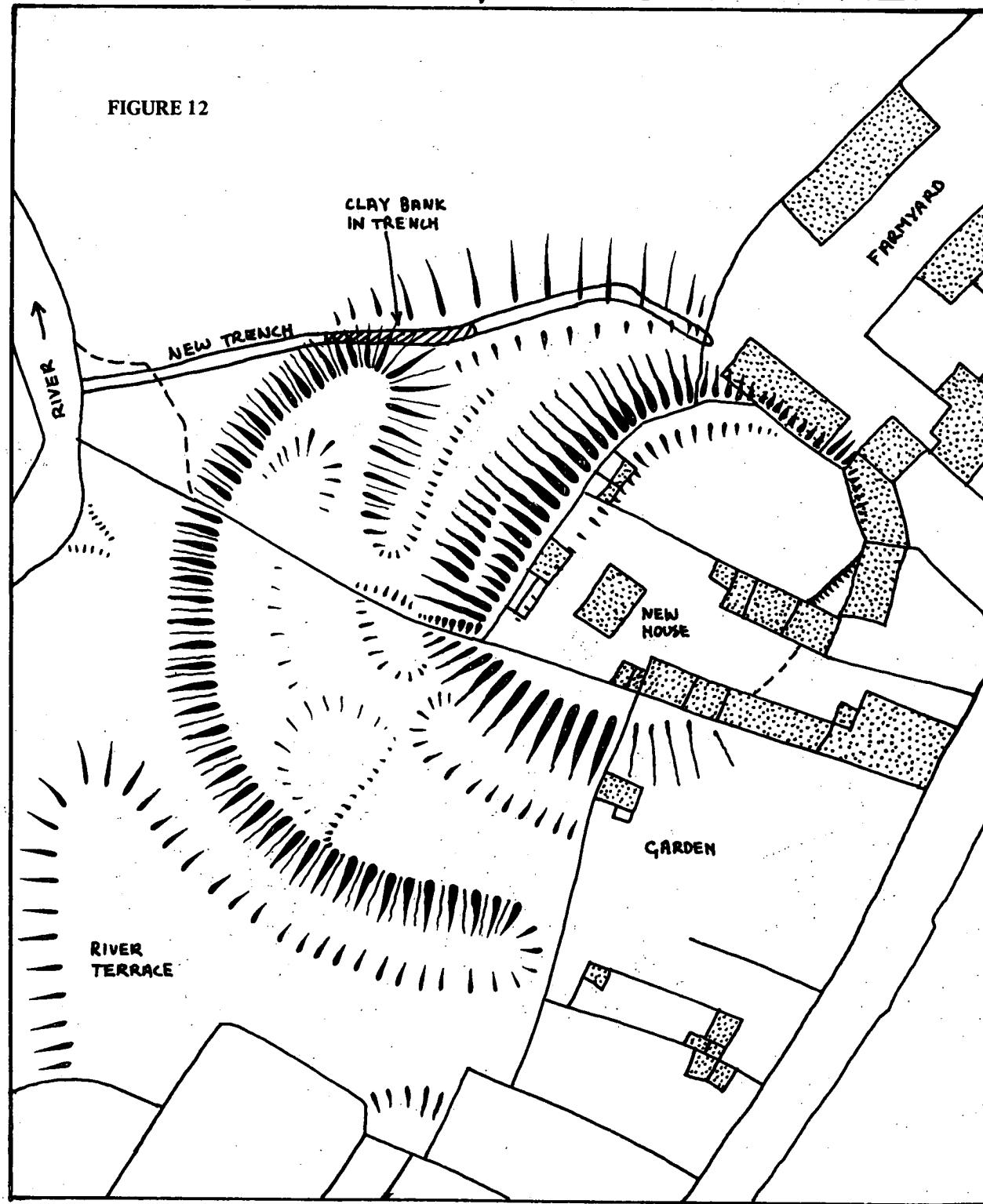


FIGURE 12



SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

A programme of fieldwork was begun in May 1971 which it hoped will eventually result in a survey of all the parishes from the Thames north to the Crowmarsh-Henley road (A4130 and A423).

To date significant traces of old roads and trackways, field boundaries and lynchets have been noted, as well as old gravel, clay and chalkpits. Every field, woodland and coppice in the parish of Goring Heath has been surveyed, and a moated site found at SU 64508065. Most of a 13th-14th-century cooking pot was recovered from pipeline trenching at SU 63657847.

Some work has been done and is continuing in the parishes of Whitchurch, Goring, Mapledurham, Kidmore End, South Stoke and Ipsden.

The results are going into the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record at the City and County Museum, Woodstock, and the Assistant Field Officer is giving considerable assistance with the project.

CLIVE HART for the

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

THE UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

Mr N. Clayton has undertaken a survey of all archaeological cropmarks on the Thames gravels between Oxford and Lechlade. It is hoped that this report will be published in the spring. A similar survey is planned between the Goring Gap and Oxford. Both these reports will contain detailed 6in plans of all cropmark sites and the information will be passed to the planning authorities and contractors. Copies of the report will be on sale from the Oxford City and County Museum, Woodstock.

THE M40 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

is jointly sponsored by the Oxford University Department for External Studies and the Oxford City and County Museum. The group has been in existence since November 1970 and is currently bracing itself for the strenuous months that will follow the start of road construction along the nine-mile stretch from Stokenchurch to Waterstock scheduled for end March/early April 1972.

Reconnaissance pinpointed three areas of major interest and several minor ones. The three majors were at **Lewknor** at the foot of the Chiltern scarp, where field walkers found large quantities of pottery and tile in several fields, from Romano-British to late Medieval, and where air photographs subsequently taken by the National Monuments Record showed extensive cropmarks. Trial trenches dug during the summer appear to confirm that most of these features lie off the motorway by a matter of yards. The area will be paid particular attention during the construction phase. A nearby area south of Postcombe was mechanically and manually excavated but proved sterile, and here again it would appear that the area of interest lies to the south of the route.

At **Tetworth**, earthworks indicated probable deserted medieval sites adjacent to the existing village. Trial trenches on a site south of the village confirmed the existence of the settlement, but placed it off the motorway route. West of the village, the site will be obliterated by the motorway and the Oxford University Archaeological Society excavated during July and August (see above p. 17).

At **Milton Common**, on the gravel plateau, including grass-tempered sherds, field finds and air photographs had raised thoughts of continued occupation from Romano-British times. Mrs Margaret Gray carried out a major excavation at the Camp Corner site here during September and October before being flooded off, just as an interesting complex seemed to be emerging (see above p. 12). It is hoped that further work can be carried out here this summer before the site is built over. From the work so far it seems that this area includes the edge of a late Roman settlement where iron working was a major concern.

The line of the northern extension of the M40 from Oxford to Birmingham is expected to be announced in the middle of the year and the Group, in association with the Birmingham Motorways Group, will survey the proposed route for archaeological sites.

MAX DAVIES, Secretary

OXFORD

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, RADCLIFFE LIBRARY EXTENSION

SP515 069

Nature and reason for work: Radcliffe Library extension.

Discoveries and conclusions to date: The site is a typical Thames gravel site and ditches, postholes, and burials in three large ditches, two certainly of Roman date, were observed. One of these ditches contained Romano-British burials. One further ditch may be the ditch of the Civil War defences of the city.

Future prospects for the site: Total destruction.

CHURCHILL HOSPITAL

SP546058

Nature and reason for work: Hospital extension.

Discoveries and conclusions to date: At Easter trial excavations relocated a kiln found in 1956 and discovered a hitherto unknown kiln. During a seven-week excavation in June and July an area of 2000 square metres around the trial trenches was stripped by mechanical excavator and investigated. Within this area were four kilns, a large T-shaped pottery dryer, a circular stone building containing two smaller dryers, a well and a square stone structure, probably of the late 3rd century. Drainage trenches of this phase were also found. In the late 4th century, after this workshop group had gone out of use the well was filled with rubbish, predominantly pottery, but also including a human skull and half a sheep, and a kiln was dug into one of the silted drainage ditches. The workshops which must have been associated with this

later kiln were not found in the excavated area. The earlier kilns produced mortaria and orange cooking pots, the later one mortaria and parchment wares. It is hoped to continue work on the site next year. One of the kilns has been moved to the Oxford City and County Museum.

Future prospects for the site: Probably second season in 1972 followed by total destruction.

79-80 ST ALDATE'S

SP514058

Nature and reason for work: Office and shop redevelopment.

Discoveries and conclusions to date: The series of medieval occupation levels reported last year were found to continue into the late Saxon period and finally rested on a man-made clay bank resting on the alluvium of the last gravel terrace. In association with the clay bank were a series of wattle fences preserved beneath the modern water level. The purpose of the bank is not clear: it might be the original causeway of St Aldate's or alternatively an artificial island constructed for a settlement site. The dating also poses difficulties, since the pottery found in association with the bank does not yet fall into a known typological sequence. The problem of the dating is being investigated by thermoluminescence and C14.

Future prospects for the site: No future excavation possible. Heavy piling on the site will destroy the latest levels, but the earliest levels although heavily perforated will be otherwise undisturbed.

20-27 ST EBBES STREET and

16-19 LITTLE GATE STREET

SP512059

Nature and reason for work: New office and shop development.

Discoveries and conclusions to date: The city wall has been exposed and can be shown to date from the 13th century.

The western side of the Little Gate has also been uncovered and was found to have been constructed in two phases of 13th and ?14th-century date. There is no sign so far of a late Saxon defence; instead domestic occupation has been found, including a shallow 13th/14th-century cellar. There is also an indication of a large 14th-century building on the site possibly belonging to the Greyfriars.

Future prospects for the site: Total destruction of the whole site except for the scheduled parts of the city wall.

GODSTOW ABBEY

SP484091

Nature and reason for work: Erosion and looting.

Discoveries and conclusions to date: A very small excavation was carried out here to rescue parts of a tiled pavement being exposed in the bank of the river Thames and subject to looting. It is clear that the site will continue to be eroded unless the bank is consolidated. Observation was maintained on thirteen sites during the year.

Future prospects for the site: Safe from any large-scale threat.

T.G. HASSALL, OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION COMMITTEE

REVIEWS

P.J. WOODS, *Excavations at Brixworth, Northants, 1965-1970*.

Part I: The Roman Coarse Pottery and Decorated Samian Ware. (102 pp, fold-out plan) (Privately printed, 75p or 85p by post from the author, c/o 7 Stone Close, Wollaston, Wellingborough, Northants)

Prefaced by a summary of the building phases on the site (see Brixworth in RB section), this consists of an analytical and descriptive catalogue of the considerable amount of pottery found, correlated with analogous material in Northampton Museum, hitherto unpublished. With over 300 illustrations in full profile, the publication is very good value and, for its region, will stand comparison with John Gillam's *Northern Types...*, the methods of which are followed.

Both detail and wider implications are fascinating. Microscopic examination of colour-coated wares from Brixworth and Duston/Weekley has shown the use of the same stamps for decoration and that all were derived from the same Samian type and came from the same workshop (pp. 39-44).

Of the mortaria only one—from Oxfordshire—did not originate from the Hartshill-Mancetter potteries, indicating the exceptional influence of the Midland potters. The complete absence of lower Nene ware could show a trade block (pp. 32-33).

Perhaps the main implication is that in pottery making there was much continuity. The earliest painted wares 'represent the natural extension of a technique introduced ... by the Belgae' (p. 36), while the discussion of the origins of the Nene industry (p. 7) stresses the previous existence not far upstream of an industry 'of great potential and no mean achievement', evidenced in particular by the richness of the Brixworth finds.

W.J.F.

KEITH BRANIGAN, *Latimer*. 201

Published by the Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society 1971. 201pp. £1.95.

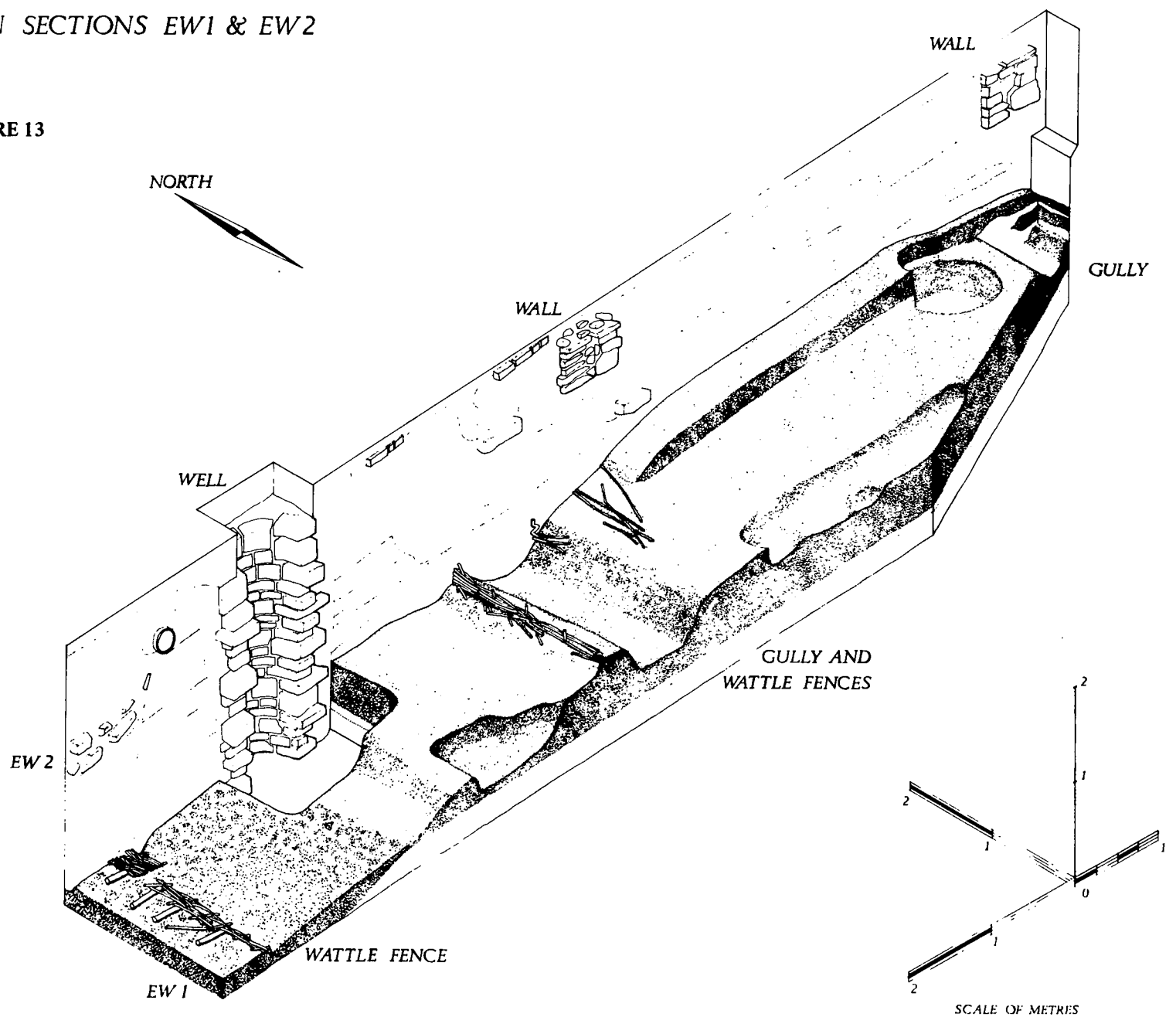
This finely produced volume consists of an account of the Chess Valley Society's excavations at Latimer Romano-British Villa, Bucks, carried out between 1964 and 1970. The occupation at Latimer began in the Belgic period and continued well into the sub-Roman 5th century, then after a considerable gap, late and post-Medieval material was found. The interpretation of the post-Roman building structures has already led to controversy, but it is particularly pleasing to see such a careful examination of this often neglected phase, concerning the end of the villa. Apart from the detailed excavation report, the book contains a reassessment of previous excavations, beginning in 1864, at Latimer. There are also two very useful chapters on the Latimer Villa in its regional context. The final chapter very properly traces the history of the Latimer estate up to the present day.

As this report was published in book form it should have included an index and a list of figures and photographs would also have been useful. The introduction is rather cursory and a more comprehensive survey together with more regional plans would have been helpful. As it is the lay reader might have some difficulty in finding his way around the book. Nevertheless this volume represents an extremely valuable addition to the published work in our region and the Chess Valley Society and Dr Branigan must be congratulated on their comprehensive study of this site.

R.T.R.

OXFORD 79-80 ST ALDATES
ISOMETRIC PROJECTION OF THE CLAY BANK
BETWEEN SECTIONS EW1 & EW2

FIGURE 13



USEFUL ADDRESSES

OFFICERS OF CBA

Headquarters	Miss B. de Cardi, FSA Council for British Archaeology 8 St Andrews Place LONDON NW1	01 486 1527
Secretary of Group Nine	W.J. Fowler Esq 25 High Street WATLINGTON Oxfordshire	Watlington 734
Convenor of Group Nine	James Dyer, FSA 6 Rogate Road Cassel Park LUTON, Beds	0592 24808

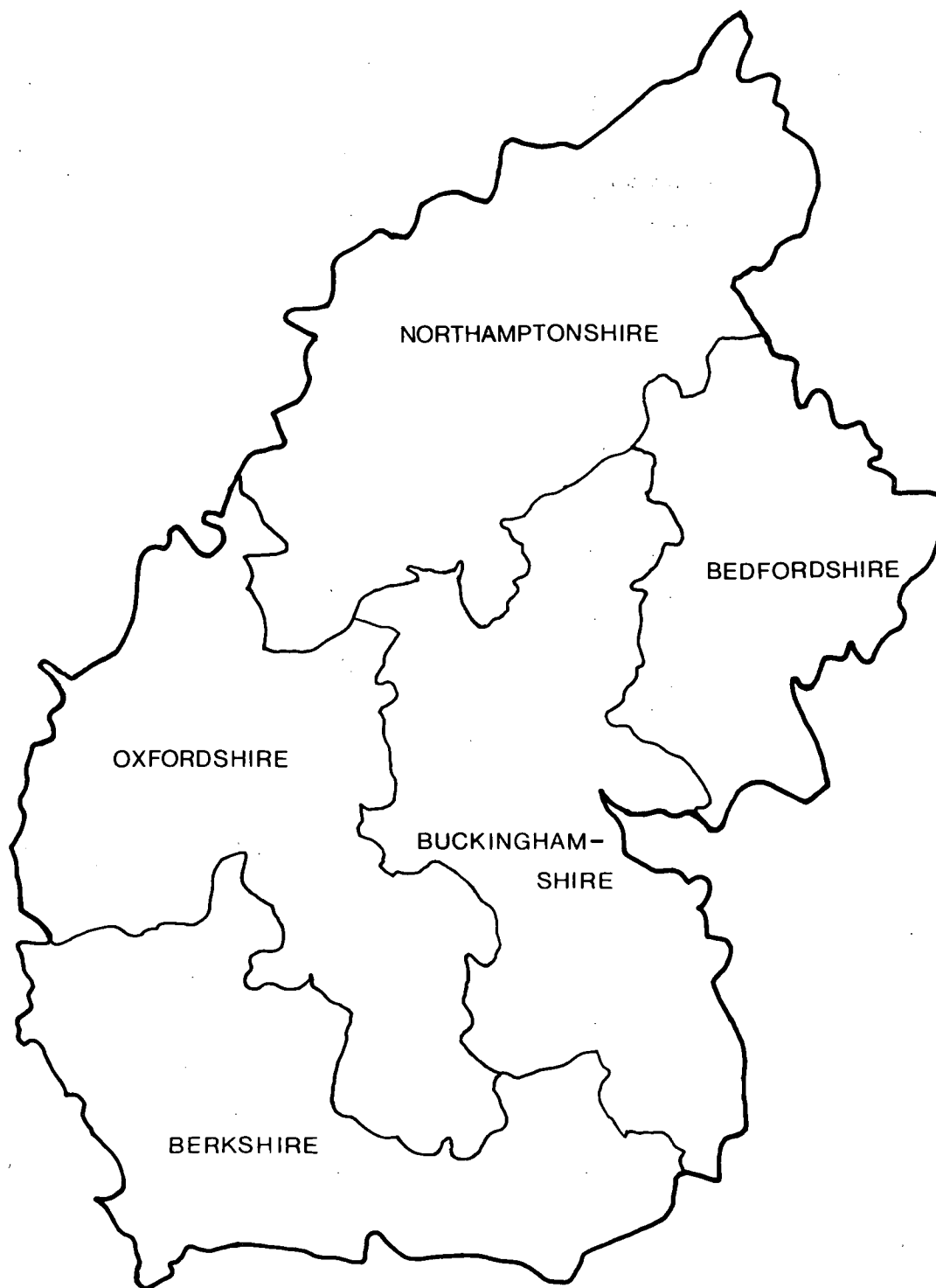
COUNTIES

Bedfordshire	Group Convenor (see above)	
Berkshire	Reading Museum and Art Gallery Town Hall READING RG1 1QN	0734 55911
Buckingham- shire	Buckinghamshire County Museum Aylesbury (see below)	
Northants	University of Leicester Department of Adult Education (see below)	
Oxfordshire	Department for External Studies Rewley House Wellington Square OXFORD	

MUSEUMS AND EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

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Aylesbury	C.N. Gowing, MA, FMA, and Michael Farley Buckinghamshire County Museum Church Street AYLESBURY, Bucks	0296 2158
Banbury	Miss C. Bloxham Public Library and Museum Marlborough Road BANBURY, Oxon	0295 2282
Bedford	F.W. Kuhlicke, BA, FSA The Bedford Museum The Embankment BEDFORD	0234 53323
	David Baker Planning Department Bedfordshire County Council County Hall BEDFORD	0234 63222
Kettering	F.V. Lyall, MA Westfield Museum West Street KETTERING, Northants	0536 2315
Leicester	A.E. Brown Department of Adult Education University of Leicester University Road LEICESTER LE1 7RH	0533 50000 extension 108

Luton	P. Smith, FGS Museum and Art Gallery Wardown Park LUTON, Beds	0582 21725
	Department of Archaeology and History Putteridge Bury College of Education (contact Convenor)	
Milton Keynes	Dennis Mynard and Stephen Green Milton Keynes Development Corporation Wavendon Tower Wavendon BLETCHLEY, Bucks	Bletchley 4000
Newbury	H.H. Coghlan, FSA The Borough Museum Wharf Street NEWBURY, Berks	Newbury 4000 extension 64
Northampton	W.N. Terry, FRGS, FRNS, and W.R. Moore Central Museum and Art Gallery Guildhall Road NORTHAMPTON	0604 34881 extension 391
	J. Williams Northampton Development Corporation Lumbertubs Lane NORTHAMPTON	0604 45811
Oxford	P.D.C. Brown and D. Hinton Ashmolean Museum Beaumont Street OXFORD	0865 75722
	Don Benson and Mick Aston Oxford City and County Museum Fletchers House WOODSTOCK, Oxon	Woodstock 811456
	Trevor Rowley Department for External Studies Rewley House Wellington Square OXFORD	0865 59588/ 57203
Home	96 High Street Wheatley, Oxon	Wheatley 339
	The Director Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art 6 Keble Road OXFORD	0865 55211
	T.G. Hassall, Director Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee 1 Cambridge Terrace OXFORD	0865 43888
	University of Oxford Institute of Archaeology 35 Beaumont Street OXFORD	0865 58850
Reading	Mrs J. Greenaway and R.A. Rutland Reading Museum	
Inspector of	Inspector of Ancient Monuments Department of the Environment Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street LONDON SW1	01 222 7790



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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SHIRE

BERKSHIRE