

COUNCIL
FOR
BRITISH
ARCHAEOLOGY
GROUP 9

NEWSLETTER 3 1973

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**COUNCIL FOR
BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY**

Regional Group 9

NEWSLETTER No. 3 1973

Editors: **R.T. ROWLEY
 W.J. FOWLER**

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EDITORIAL

In Newsletter No. 3 our basic concern is still with the retrieval of archaeological evidence before it is destroyed by redevelopment. There is now a much greater awareness of the problem both among archaeologists and the public at large. Substantially larger government grants means that a far more effective local response can be made by archaeologists. In this Newsletter we include short accounts of the work of two admirable rescue organizations in our Region: the Manshead Society, which has been carrying out rescue work on a part-time basis for 21 years, and the much younger, fully professional Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee.

As local archaeologists become more efficiently organized to deal with the situation, there is an increasing need to develop rational policies towards threatened sites. Until quite recently the confused and often hectic situation has meant that there has been little time for discrimination in the choice of sites to be excavated: the need has simply been to rescue information. We now need reasoned policies designed to obtain the maximum amount of relevant evidence from the rescue situation. It is quite true that one can never accurately predict the information available from any particular site, and there will always be a place for salvage operations as the unexpected arises. However, we now have to make some difficult decisions as to archaeological priorities. We feel that this will best be done on a regional basis and that this publication might be able to help in a modest way. Accordingly, we are broadening the scope of the Newsletter to include short notes and papers which may help to establish some regional priorities and to synthesize recent work.

One obvious aid to the development of regional policies would be the extension of fieldwork carried out well in advance of redevelopment projects. In this issue we include a paper on fieldwork techniques, and examples of the extremely valuable work of David Hall in Northamptonshire and of Mick Aston in Oxfordshire. Effective excavation techniques are becoming increasingly sophisticated and expensive, and in the present 'rescue' situation leisurely work on unthreatened sites can be a luxury while urgent excavation demands intensive effort. It would therefore seem that local societies could well devote their main efforts to non-excavational fieldwork. One forgoes the chance of the superficially exciting 'find', but the results to be obtained from judicious fieldwork are often impressive and archaeologically far more important than those to be obtained from yet more random sections across known sites!

TREVOR ROWLEY
BILL FOWLER

Contributors to Newsletter No. 4 are reminded in advance that contributions should be with the editors by 30 November 1973.

Copies of Newsletters No. 1 (10p) and No. 2 (35p) are still available from the Oxford University Department for External Studies, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford (postage and packing 5p).

THE C.B.A. AND C.B.A. GROUP 9 (Beds, Berks, Bucks, Northants, and Oxon)

The Council for British Archaeology was established in 1944 to represent the interests of archaeology at the national level and to provide means to inform, aid and coordinate the work of societies and institutions throughout Great Britain. The Council consists entirely of corporate members: national, regional, area and local societies; museums, institutes, universities and a wide range of educational establishments; local government departments and indeed any organization with archaeological interests. Subscriptions are an essential source of income, which otherwise derives mainly from a government grant.

From the beginning the existence of regional groups has been fundamental to the CBA structure. Each group consists of more societies and institutions within the region than are members of the central council, and some admit individual personal members as well, a practice revived in Group 9 in 1972. Each group is 'an autonomous body free to pursue the archaeological requirements of its particular region' and to set up its own structure.

The CBA Council, consisting of one representative of each member, with the council officers, normally meets twice a year, and the executive committee four times. The latter is made up of the officers, one representative of each of the fifteen regional groups, and seven co-opted members. The council is served by three full-time salaried officers and a varying number of temporary and part-time assistants. Much of its work is done through committees, of which those concerned with urban, church and industrial archaeology have been notably active during the last year.

A full report is published each year and the latest has a new format and title. *Archaeology in Britain 1971-2* covers in 100 pages CBA activities both central and regional. From a wide range of activities attention is drawn here especially to the Urban Research Committee's conference and report on 'The erosion of history'; to continuing concern with forthcoming antiquities legislation and with the activities of 'treasure hunters'; to support for such enterprises as the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery Research Project and the York Inner Ring Road Survey; to grants for publication, and to the CBA's own publications. The insurance scheme, facilities for purchasing secondhand equipment, and the current discussion on the standardization of metric measuring scales are among matters of more immediate concern to field archaeologists.

Within Group 9 changing circumstances have led to a reappraisal of structure and function, since the Research Committee Panels set up in 1965 no longer adequately meet the demands of the present situation. The Buildings, Records and Industrial Archaeology Panel dissolved itself in 1971, as its work in the first two fields is now covered by other organizations, but its Industrial Archaeology Subpanel continues as a group committee. The work of the Field Archaeology Panel is now largely carried out by such bodies as the Upper Thames

Archaeological Committee, originally set up by Group 9, and the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies, by university extra-mural departments, and by the happily increasing number of full-time archaeologists appointed by museums, development corporations, excavation committees, and one county council planning department. In any case it has never been Group policy to seek to take over matters which can well be dealt with locally.

A report to be presented to the 1973 Group AGM by the Holding Executive Committee, established by resolution of the 1972 meeting, will suggest that the Group organization can fulfil three valuable functions:

- (i) through this annual Newsletter, a programme of AGM in May, an autumn one-day meeting, and the weekend report conference in February, it can provide means of liaison and information and opportunities for all kinds of workers to meet;
- (ii) through its representation on the central executive and through improved communications, e.g. more frequent circulars to members, it can provide a two-way channel between the centre and the region;
- (iii) in particular cases the Group can support, stimulate and if necessary coordinate necessary action.

Two matters, within the region but with implications beyond, with which we are at the moment concerned are the archaeological effects of the Thames Conservancy Ground Water Scheme stage 1 (Berkshire Downs) and the present and impending threats to the archaeological features of that unique Saxon town Wallingford.

W.J.F.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPOINTMENTS IN GROUP 9

We would like to welcome the following new faces to the Region:

Professor Barry Cunliffe took up the Chair of European Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology at Oxford in the autumn.

Mr David Miles was appointed as its director by the newly established Abingdon Excavation Committee in the spring.

Miss Jane Hassall was appointed as archaeological assistant to Bedford Borough Council in September.

We are sorry to have lost Bob Rutland, from Reading Museum and a former hon. secretary of Group 9, to Leicester Museum, and we wish him the very best of luck in his new job.

SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 1973

3 March	RESCUE AG M London University Senate House
17 "	Bedfordshire Archaeological Council rescue meeting
13-15 April	CBA Conference on Churches, Norwich
4-6 May	Medieval Town Defences: weekend school at Rewley House, Oxford
12 May	CBA Group 9: AGM and address by Professor B. Cunliffe in Oxford
26 May	Day School on Medieval tiles. Rewley House
7-22 July	Training school at Middleton Stoney. Details from Rewley House, Oxford
12-14 Oct.	Anglo-Saxon weekend, Rewley House
1-2 Dec.	Archaeological reconstruction weekend. Rewley House

THE MANSHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF DUNSTABLE

The Manshead Society celebrated its 21st birthday last year. It was formed in 1951 primarily to carry out observation and rescue excavation at the chalk quarries which were biting into the Chilterns of South Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire with increasing appetite.

The group had in fact been in existence for many years before this date. It really began when the present site director was leading a Rover Scout crew in archaeological fieldwork from the early 1930s until the war intervened. After the interruption the same group of friends, too old to be scouts, continued to work with increasing numbers as others became interested.

During 1951 a rescue excavation was begun on Puddlehill, a chalk down north of Dunstable which was being quarried away. This 'dig' was scheduled to last three weeks—it became three months and then six—and finally lasted seventeen years, with work every evening during the summer and every weekend during the winter.

With this excavation the original group was outnumbered by other volunteers and the Society was formed, taking its name from the local Saxon hundred.

To help members to understand the work, winter courses were arranged through the WEA. We studied first under Dr Isobel Smith and later for many years under Dr John Morris of London University. Summer field courses were held on site under Dr J. Alexander, although by this time every member had a trowel callous in the middle of his right hand. Members attended the training excavation at Great Casterton and also helped at Verulamium to gain experience.

The Dunstable area before the formation of the Society was virtually an archaeological desert but as a result of its work settlement sites and/or cemeteries from every period between Neolithic and Medieval have been recorded.

The Society meets three evenings a week during the winter in a headquarters provided free by the Dunstable Urban Council. This is derelict property scheduled for demolition so that every two or three years sees the Society moving house. During these meetings an annual Journal is produced and full archaeological reports are prepared for publication. A new venture this year is a series of lectures or seminars illustrated by our own slides and films, and intended both for beginners and as a refresher course for long-established members.

Every Sunday morning during the winter some 20-30 members meet for field walking or scrub cutting on Totternhoe Knolls, a fine Norman motte and bailey which has been lost to view under impenetrable hawthorn.

The Society has about 90 members, most of whom are very active, and this is probably due to the emphasis put on social activities. We have indeed been labelled as too social, and it is true that if anyone visits the thatched pub at Totternhoe on a Sunday morning in winter with snow on the ground and an icy wind blowing they will probably find it full of Manshead people. But these same members will have been on top of the hill cutting scrub or excavating an Iron Age storage pit on the edge of the quarry when most people are looking out at the weather from a warm house.

The Manshead Society is still a 'rescue' society. It is not very academic, avoids archaeological politics, makes many mistakes: but its driving force is: 'If we don't record it, who will?'. And we enjoy it!

C.L. MATTHEWS, Field Director

THE OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION COMMITTEE

The history of early Oxford lies underneath the whole of the city. In Oxford many of the buildings are of such high architectural and historical merit that they will probably never be replaced and therefore excavation is out of the question. Approximately two thirds of the archaeology of the city is sealed in this way. The remaining western third of the city, between Cornmarket Street and St Aldates on the east, and the station on the west, has few buildings of high merit and is, and has always been, the commercial area of Oxford, i.e. the town rather than the gown. It is in this area that massive redevelopment is currently taking place.

The redevelopment is having a devastating effect on the archaeology of Oxford. Whereas in the university-dominated parts of the city much of the archaeology is set beneath buildings, in the redevelopment area the new buildings are totally destroying the archaeological remains. This destruction means that by the early 1980s little will remain of the accessible

archaeology of the city. But the redevelopment presents a once and for all chance to recover historical information before it is lost.

The Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee was founded in 1967 to cope with this archaeological challenge. This short paper is intended to indicate the range of activities undertaken over the last five years by the committee. The excavations are essentially a team project and the Excavation Committee is indebted to all those people who have taken part in the excavations. Above all the committee is grateful to those who have provided the financial backing.

With only one exception all the sites excavated since 1967 have been what are termed 'rescue excavations', i.e. the excavations have taken place because the particular sites would otherwise have been destroyed by modern developments. This means the sites are chosen for the archaeologists rather than vice versa. Once the director of excavations becomes aware of impending development his first task is to attempt to assess the site for any archaeological potential. The preliminary assessment does not involve excavation at all, but all known evidence relating to the site is examined.

This preliminary examination involves consulting record maps on which all archaeological finds known within the city are plotted. The documentary evidence for the site is also examined. For the medieval heart of Oxford the documentary evidence is extremely good and the histories of all properties within the town can be traced back to the 13th century. Old maps can also provide clues; the earliest map of Oxford dates from 1578.

If a site looks as if it has archaeological potential, then the developer is approached to see if an archaeological investigation can be fitted into the new building programme. Contrary to the popular belief, the archaeologist can *never* hold up either the start of building work or construction once it is in progress. It is therefore essential that the investigations start at an early stage so that if excavation is feasible it can begin as soon as the site becomes available.

Sites can be broadly classified into two types:

- a) Sites where there is plenty of time to excavate before building work begins because of the size of the project: e.g. the Westgate Centre, St Ebbe's or the Bridewell Square development, St Aldates;
- b) Sites where there is no time for prior excavation because buildings are already in existence. Once these buildings have been demolished, the new buildings are constructed at once: e.g. Gordon Thoday's (*ex Cadena Cafe*), Cornmarket Street. In the latter kind of site, constant observation is maintained. Indeed an attempt is made to monitor most of the developments in the city, for *every* new building is likely to destroy archaeological material.

The next step is to carry out a further preliminary site survey. On a site like the Roman Kiln site at the Churchill Hospital a geophysical survey with a proton magneto-meter can be carried out. But on most urban sites such a machine cannot be used because of the existence of large numbers of nails and

other metal objects which interfere with it. The existence of these objects also prevents the use of metal detectors. In most cases there is no alternative but to carry out trial excavation, sometimes by hand but more often by machinery which is required to shift the rubble and debris on the site.

If the trial excavation confirms the potential of the site, the excavations proper can begin. Again it is necessary to decide how the excavations are to be tackled. Some sites such as those concerned with dating the city wall need only be narrow trenches dug against the feature being examined. Generally, however, it is preferable to carry out 'open area' excavations in which as large an area as possible is cleared and excavated archaeologically. It is only in this way that sense could be made of sites like the Greyfriars or the medieval tenements on the north side of Church Street.

Once the decision to begin excavation has been made the work can begin in earnest. It is probably only at this stage that the general public become aware of the excavation. Since time is always short, as much use is made as possible of mechanical equipment. Sites are normally cleared by bulldozers or back-acting hydraulic machines. Once the machine has finished, the site is cleared by hand, using picks and shovels at first. Later the work will become more delicate and trowels and brushes are used. The object of the excavation is to peel off the accumulated layers in order to reconstruct the nature of the site from the evidence showing in the soil. Inevitably this process involves the gradual destruction of the site but this is justified because the sites are going to be destroyed anyway.

Excavation produces a great deal of surplus earth. On town sites it is often necessary to take the earth right away because 'spoil' heaps would restrict the area available for excavation. Again, machinery is used for this and the Excavation Committee's elevator and dumper trucks are a familiar part of the St Ebbe's scene. The excavations can also go very deep where rubbish pits and wells are being examined and sometimes pumps are required where the site is below the modern water level. The depth of the excavation is often limited by the depth of the foundations of the new building since excavations cannot go deeper without entailing the cost of reinstatement.

All archaeology is destruction and therefore a scrupulous record of the site under excavation is made. Each excavator, often a volunteer, is responsible to a supervisor who is in turn responsible to the director. Each supervisor may have up to ten volunteers working under him. He will have a notebook in which a complete record is made of the part of the site for which he is responsible. Each feature under excavation is numbered and all plans and photographs of the feature or finds from it will carry that number. The feature is also labelled in the ground: hence the labels all over the sites which so fascinate the general public. Apart from the written record of the site, it will be fully planned, surveyed and photographed. The plans consist of horizontal plans and vertical sections; as many of both these types of plan are made as is required to retain a complete record of the site. An overall site survey is

made and a constant check is kept on the relative levels of features. A full photographic record in both black and white and colour is retained, all photographs having scales on them.

Very rarely is the archaeologist able to tell the exact age of a site or the features found in it. Sometimes he is lucky and will find coins which carry their own date on them which give an indication of age. But usually the archaeologist works on the theory that any man-made objects which have been produced in quantity will be subject to changes due to improved technology or mere fashion. The archaeologist therefore attempts to construct a typological sequence of pottery or perhaps some kind of weapon or dress ornament. Once a typological sequence has been established, it may be possible to date the sequence by comparing associated material like coins so that a chronology can be built up. The dated typological sequence can then be used to date associated objects in their turn. In Oxford the typological sequence of pottery is well known and it is possible for much of the medieval period to date a site to within c. 50 years.

TOM HASSALL, Director

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES: THEORIES AND FACTS

by TANIA M. DICKINSON

Two well-known aspects of the early history of Dorchester have stimulated theories about the nature of Anglo-Saxon settlement in both the Upper Thames valley and in the country as a whole. First, Dorchester appears to have functioned as the principal settlement of the area in both the Roman and early Saxon periods: as a small Roman town, it was presumably the administrative and economic focus of the southern part of the Upper Thames valley (the propinquity of the Oxford pottery industry being a significant element), and about 635 AD it was chosen as the first bishopric of the kingdom of Wessex, and as such must have served as some sort of political and administrative centre. Mr Martin Biddle has pointed to this apparent continuity of function, and has suggested, though without offering any evidence, that Dorchester was a royal centre before it became an ecclesiastical one.¹ Second, three burials of the very early 5th century at Dorchester, of a man and two women, have provided the most significant evidence for the theory that Germanic soldiers could have been established in some sort of 'foederati' status, as a garrison of the Roman town.² Dr Myres has suggested that many of the Thames-side settlements may have owed their origin to a deliberate settlement of Saxons under Romano-British direction, and that they may have been dependent on Dorchester.³ One

1 M. Biddle, 'Archaeology and the beginnings of English society' in *England before the Conquest* ed. Clemons and Hughes (1971) 393-96.

2 *Oxoniensia* XVII/XVIII (1952-3) 63-76; *Medieval Archaeology* V (1961) 2-7.

3 J.N.L. Myres, *Anglo-Saxon Pottery and the Settlement of England* (1969) 89.

of the implications of this theory is that Saxons first gained political control and power through the agency of local Roman leaders, as seems to have been the case with Hengist and the Kentish royal family, and thus offers an explanation of how centres of government persisted.

Little effort has so far been made to try to fill the gap in evidence between the late or sub-Roman period and the 7th century. In fact, there is good evidence at Dorchester for a fairly substantial Saxon occupation during the 6th century, if not before, which by the 7th century supported an extremely wealthy, possibly royal, community. Although much of this still awaits publication, a brief enumeration will be useful; this will make it possible to clothe the theories with some flesh, and, when thoroughly considered, will permit far more firmly based interpretations to be propounded.

1 c.400AD *Dyke Hills*: burials of a male with late Roman army belt-equipment, and a female with a British version of the military buckle and two brooches, one a very early form of the north Germanic cruciform brooch, the other the back-plate of an applied brooch.

Minchin Recreation Ground: burial of a woman with a pair of applied brooches of continental Saxon origin, as well as a bronze Roman key and a collection of bracelets and rings (a very late Roman custom).

2 Occupation of the Roman town continued into the 5th century.¹ In 1972 a triangular-backed comb, common in Roman and Germanic contexts c. 350-450, was excavated in an uncertain context near the eastern perimeter of the town. There is little else of definite 5th-century date. Most of the pottery is extremely difficult to distinguish chronologically, since it is all very well made and appears to change little in fabric from the late Roman through to the late Saxon periods, contrasting strongly to the general run of early Saxon wares. This apparent continuity of the late Roman potting tradition obviously has important implications.²

3 Excavation has now produced evidence of Saxon grubenhäuser in three parts of the former Roman town, which suggests a fairly extensive occupation of the town. No close dating is available, but it seems most reasonable to place them in the 6th century.³

4 There are a number of extra-mural cemeteries:

Burcot: about 1 mile NNW of the town, possibly representing a separate village. In 1947 Professor R.J.C. Atkinson dug nine inhumations set into a prehistoric barrow, which can be generally dated to the 6th century.⁴ In 1863, a male burial provided with a spearhead had been found not far from this site, possibly belonging to the same cemetery; the spearhead was unusual,

being common to Kent in the late 6th and 7th centuries.¹

Bishop's Court: immediately NW of the town, probably two distinct cemeteries. One, of probably 6th-century date, can be deduced from a number of chance finds made close to Bishop's Court House, which included at least five inhumations and a tiny pottery accessory vessel.² Unstratified material from the Guildhall Museum possibly came from here,³ and so, most probably, did the fine pair of large saucer brooches now in Reading Museum, datable to c. 600.⁴ Further west, Mr Jeffrey May excavated in 1958 seven inhumations of 7th-century date, as well as some ditches of uncertain purpose.⁵

5 From unknown sites in Dorchester come a number of remarkable gold finds: two solidi and an Anglo-Saxon thrymma may represent remnants of hoards or grave-finds; another possible grave-find is the gold and garnet pyramidal sword stud, probably manufactured in the 'Sutton Hoo' workshop, which suggests the presence of a man of at least 'princely' status at Dorchester. Together these finds indicate a community considerably more wealthy than any other known in the Upper Thames valley, and fit well with what can be inferred from documentary evidence of the possible royal connections of early 7th-century Dorchester.⁶

1 *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.* 2nd series II (1863) 209.

2 *BBOAJ* IV (1898) 78; Manning MSS (Ashmolean Museum).

3 *VCH Oxon* I 351.

4 *Archaeologia* XXXVIII (1858) 334.

5 *Oxoniensia* XXIII (1958) 131.

6 These objects are given extensive discussion in my forthcoming article, 'Two "princely" sites in Wessex: Cuddesdon and Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire', *Archaeology into History* II.

Review

D.W. HARDING, *THE IRON AGE IN THE UPPER THAMES BASIN*. OUP 1972. £10.

This monograph represents the first attempt to synthesize the material and settlement evidence for Iron Age occupation within a region extending from north Oxfordshire to the Berkshire Downs and along the Thames basin from Lechlade to Wallingford. The importance of this area, as Dr Harding points out, is that it can form a chronological and cultural bridge between separate groups over a much wider range. As a result, his account has much to tell us of the Iron Age chronology of Wessex and southeast England.

The book is divided into two sections, the first outlining the settlement archaeology of the upper Thames gravels, and the second establishing a regional ceramic sequence. This arrangement has the merit of rapidly introducing the sites which are to be used in discussion, but does mean that part of the analysis involves questions of date for which the evidence has yet to be reviewed. It is perhaps the second section of this study which will be of the greatest utility, providing as it does a viable general sequence for future excavations. It was unlucky

1 S.S. Frere, 'The end of towns in Roman Britain' in *The Civitas Capitals of Roman Britain* ed. Wachter (1966) 93.

2 I am very grateful to Miss Freda Berisford for allowing me to quote some of her opinions about the pottery prior to her own publication.

3 Excavations directed by Trevor Rowley and Richard Bradley for the Upper Thames Archaeological Committee (see below).

4 *Archaeological Newsletter* I (1948) 5.

that the extensive planned settlement excavations upon which discussion might best be based had hardly been undertaken when the book was written. This first section is perforce based upon field evidence which is frequently unsatisfactory.

Dr Harding begins his ceramic sequence with a group of rather nondescript wares which may belong to an ultimate Bronze Age and which include likely skeuomorphs of cauldrons for which firmer dates may be argued. Similar material has come to light in surrounding areas since the book was written, and his arguments are already proving to have a predictive value.

His second ceramic group links convincingly with the established sequence in Wessex, where it takes support from the radiocarbon date for similar material at Cow Down and from possible associations with the latest Bronze Age metalwork at All Cannings Cross. He interprets this material in terms of Hallstatt immigration, a view which may well be justified but still requires argument. The same qualification has to be applied to his Angular Horizon, which incorporates much of the material once placed at the head of the local sequence. This material is of especial value, not only as a convincing chronological horizon but also for its possible, if unproven, links with finds of La Tène I daggers from the Thames basin. Further links are suggested with La Tène Ia fibulae, though here we must await the publication of current research by Miss Ann Wardman. Dr Harding makes a bold attempt to join this material to the earliest La Tène settlement of Yorkshire on the basis of one brooch from Cowlam, but this view too seems to be supported by work undertaken since the book was written. The one possible La Tène cemetery at Hagbourne Hill receives a judicious discussion and the impending destruction of the site by the Abingdon bypass adds urgency to his case for further excavation. Equally balanced is his discussion of the less obscure ceramic traditions which follow to the Roman conquest.

On settlement archaeology Dr Harding's scope is restricted by the limited range of evidence that excavators have chosen to recover or to publish. His environmental reconstruction, for example, is founded entirely on charcoal samples since pollen analysis has simply not been used. Since the Ouman introduction of certain types of wood into settlements imposes its own bias, a programme of pollen and molluscan analysis to check this outline is an urgent need. The same must apply to Dr Harding's attempt to derive patterns of land use from settlement location in the Stanton Harcourt area. Particularly convincing here are his attempts to determine land boundaries in this area and more work on this problem might well be rewarding. This general layout he associates quite plausibly with a pattern of single enclosed hut compounds forming a continuum of sites which he refers to as 'multiple settlements'. Less certain is his claim for a group of larger defensive enclosures, typified by Allen's Pit. Here, though he may well be correct, the meagre evidence is perhaps too hard pressed.

In his discussion of house forms he presents a useful corpus of information, not all of it yet published. His arguments for

the use of rectangular houses by his Marnian immigrants may seem to some readers a little overstated, but here again events are on the author's side and rectangular houses are increasingly being found, although a number at least must belong to an earlier phase. He equally distinguishes two groups of round houses on the basis of floor area and argues that the smaller group might represent a continuing indigenous tradition. This may be correct, but must now be read alongside architectural reconstructions of Bronze Age houses which infer the presence of an impermanent outer wall and which would increase their floor area to that of the other group. This could mean that the real difference might be structural rather than social or cultural.

More important, the rarity in these houses of the recut wall posts that we find so commonly on the chalk might in turn imply a pattern of 'settlement drift' or even of partially shifting arable cultivation. This might well explain the long diffuse clusters of pits visible from the air and would in turn have a bearing on our understanding of the 'multiple settlements'. One wonders, for example, if those elongated pit groups at Stanton Harcourt (plate 29) might retain any kind of horizontal stratigraphy. It is interesting too that Dr Harding's useful account makes the points that the 'storage' pits found on the gravels are smaller than those on the chalk and that other material equipment associated with intensive chalkland agriculture is rare or absent here. By contrast he draws together interesting evidence for stock raising in this region, including the presence of pigs, which would require pannage. The evidence for horsemanship, apart from warfare, might also link with a rather more mobile economy. Equally the siting of pit groups outside the ditched hut compounds contrasts with the downland pattern again and might be compatible with the corralling of livestock there. On the other hand, his suggestions of autumn slaughter may not accord with recent osteological research. The fact that the pit clusters do not sometimes seem to be specific to individual huts, as, for instance, at Hod Hill, could mean that they were communally controlled. If so, analysis of their distribution and density might be useful in assessing larger units of settlement organization.

Dr Harding's account of the region's hill forts is a useful one, particularly since they have not been well served in all recent accounts. His discussion is perforce restricted to the morphology and sequence of defences and it may be for this reason that he seems to overemphasize their military role. Especially interesting is his reinterpretation of Blewburton, although he is not correct in inferring a similar early stockaded enclosure at Rams Hill. Once again recent work has added weight to his suggestion that some local hill forts may be unusually early and his 5th-century date for Rainsborough will surely need revision. His later group of 'Belgic' defensive sites suggests some spacing out of communal centres and may be part of a tendency towards increasingly large territories which we also see on the chalk. Unfortunately Dr Harding's dating evidence is of poor quality. His interpretation of the north Oxfordshire Grims Ditch complex is a convincing one and his suggestion of a chevaux de frise is most attractive. So too is his suggestion

of a continuing nucleation of settlement culminating in the great Roman villa estates of this region. A similar continuity of social and religious significance is well established by his work at Frilford and here he also raises the interesting possibility that the apparent siting of Roman temples on civitas boundaries might conceivably follow an Iron Age precedent.

These are only some of the useful points which the book raises. Differences of emphasis in this review are only possible because of its impeccable and objective documentation. That so much can be made from such ragged evidence is a tribute to the author's industry. That so many of his ideas are already supported by new work augurs well for his other conclusions. The book is well written and very well illustrated. Only the price fails to carry conviction.

RICHARD BRADLEY

SKETCH PLANNING: AN INTRODUCTION

by MICK ASTON, Oxford City and County Museum
and JAMES BOND, Worcestershire County Museum

The destruction of archaeological sites, both known and unknown, is increasing at such an alarming rate that even recording, let alone excavation, has not kept pace with the losses. Fieldwork has never been so urgent; yet it is small achievement to discover, for example, a new Deserted Medieval Village site one week, only to see it disappear under a housing estate without record the week after. Earthwork sites such as DMVs are particularly vulnerable at present; for not only do they face destruction by the usual encroachment of buildings, roads, etc, but they are also continually threatened by agricultural activities. It is clear that the painstaking surveying techniques which have been used in the past are simply not adequate to cope with the present need.

In the current crisis fieldwork without recording is as pointless, if not as destructive, as excavation without recording; yet few fieldworkers can afford to spend a week on every site they encounter, surveying it by conventional means. There has thus been a great need for a method by which the essential features of an earthwork site can be recorded with a maximum of detail in a minimum of time.

Over the last few years the authors have developed a technique of sketch-mapping which, they believe, could go a long way towards bridging the gap. It was developed on systematic lines as a means of rapidly recording DMV earthworks: by this method it was found possible to survey as many as eight DMVs a day (including travelling time), as opposed to the time taken to survey an average DMV by conventional means, which has rarely been less than a couple of days. The method has been successfully extended to cover abbey precincts, moats, fishponds, castles, hill forts and many other earthwork sites, and has proved equally applicable to buildings and to soil marks.

A successful technique can only be developed from practical experience, but a few general points can be made. For earthworks a conventional hachuring technique is used, with heavy,

closely-packed hachures for steep slopes, light, widely-spaced ones for gentle slopes, and the length of the hachure proportionate to the length of the slope. One pitfall is too great a concentration on detail at the outset, which may cause grave distortion in the final plan. It has been found advisable first to walk over the site completely, to see what is there; then to walk over a second time, sketching in the main banks and ditches in their correct scale and location; then to add smaller detail where necessary; and then a final check for corrections. Care should be taken to maintain the highest possible accuracy at all stages: the fact that the finished product remains no more than a sketch map is no excuse for slapdash work. Every effort should be made to relate the earthworks to their surroundings so that the finished result can be plotted into the framework of field boundaries provided by the Ordnance Survey maps. After the initial plan has been drawn up in fair copy, it has been found extremely useful to revisit the site with it, to make final corrections.

The speed with which a sketch plan can be made makes it an ideal field reconnaissance tool. An average English county may contain several thousand archaeological earthworks of all periods: accurate surveying of all these represents several lifetimes' work and this amount of grace is simply not available. In all too many cases then a sketch plan is the only record which ever will be made before the site concerned has been utterly destroyed.

It may be useful to outline the main advantages of sketch planning before describing a detailed example.

1 In the context of the current necessary emphasis on rescue work rather than research, sketch planning has the supreme advantage of speed.

2 It also has the advantage of requiring little equipment (drawing board, paper, pencils, rubber, constituting all that is necessary); this, combined with its speed, reduces cost in both materials and man-hours to negligible proportions.

3 Some classes of earthworks, Iron Age hill forts for example, are fairly easily recognizable as a class at first sight. Most, however, are not so well defined or so easy to interpret. The fields of low, rounded, indeterminate humps and hollows which are so typical of sites in the Midlands, may represent almost anything from a Deserted Medieval Village to an abandoned drainage or irrigation system or group of shallow, worked-out marlpits; and without some sort of plan it is not always easy to distinguish between the various alternatives. A rapid sketch plan will usually reveal the clues necessary for interpretation (in the same way that an air photograph will often show some pattern in a group of earthworks which seem to make no sense from a rapid ground-level inspection).

4 Apart from summarizing the broad outlines of, and relationships within, any individual site, sketch surveying is an important tool in extensive field reconnaissance over a wide area, whereby a whole corpus of plans of a large number of sites can be rapidly assembled, thus providing a basis for assessment and comparison.

The basic method can be outlined as follows:

1 A walk over all parts of the site to see how extensive it is, what features are contained within it, and which of these seem to be the most important or prominent.

2 The drawing of the major features, those large in size, particularly well defined, or of high relief, should be completed first. The temptation to concentrate firstly in great detail on one particular part of the site must be resisted.

3 As drawing progresses, notes or sketches should continually be made relating parts of the site to their surroundings, so that the end product can readily be related to the framework of field boundaries and buildings shown on the 6-inch or larger-scale OS maps.

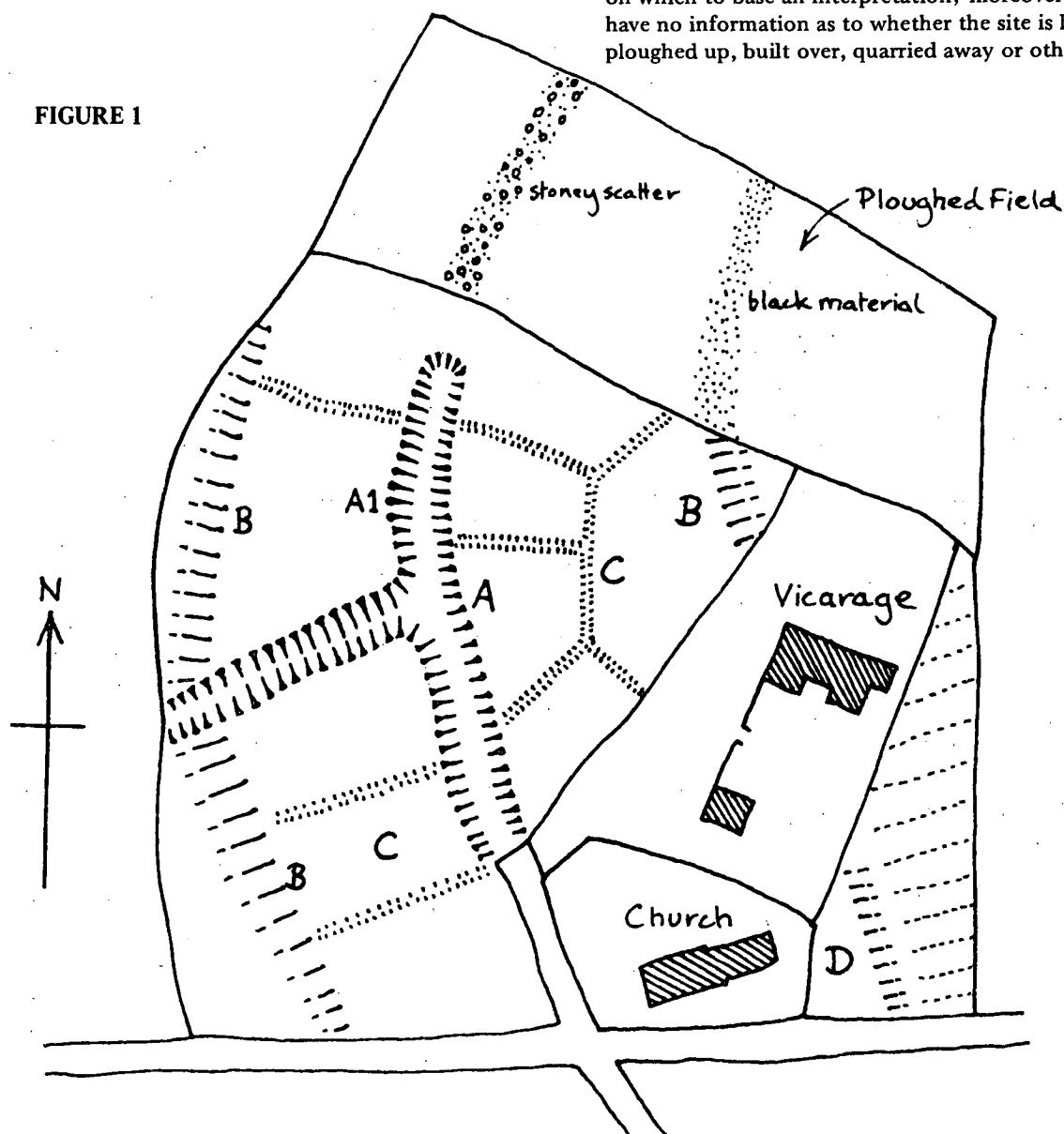
4 Only when the main features have been drawn in and the relationships between them rendered as correctly as possible, should the more minor details be added.

5 A final walk over the site with the completed plan, to check and make any final corrections.

6 Drawing up of the plan in fair copy using hachures to depict changes of slope, graded in size to show features of differing prominence.

Let us take, as an example, a field of earthworks of low relief which a hypothetical field worker notes as he visits a parish church (fig. 1). As far as he knows these have not been recognized previously or recorded in any way. Even if a previous survey has been made, this does not matter greatly, for a more recent plan may be of considerable value, both in showing potential changes on the site, and in being compiled under different conditions which may produce fresh evidence. He may know very little of the history or archaeology of the area and have no information other than the earthworks themselves on which to base an interpretation; moreover he will probably have no information as to whether the site is likely to be ploughed up, built over, quarried away or otherwise destroyed

FIGURE 1



in the near future. He may have only an hour to spare. Under these circumstances his obvious course of action is to attempt a sketch plan, even if he only has the back of an envelope on which to work.

The first task, having obtained the farmer's permission, would be to walk all over the site up to the field boundaries, continually looking at it from different angles, to assess the approximate extent, shape and main features of the area. This reconnaissance should aim to determine whether the site stretches beyond the present field boundaries; in our hypothetical case (fig. 1) the field to the north has been ploughed but there are surface patches of stone and black humic material whose distribution will need to be noted.

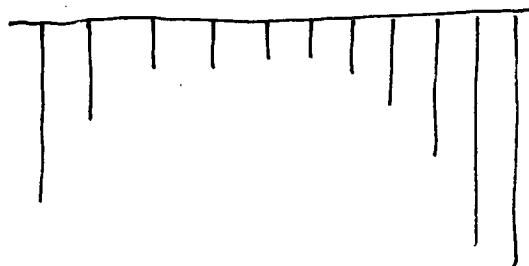
At the same time he should be giving close attention to the boundaries of the field and adjacent properties. The fact that the modern road ends abruptly on the southeast side of the field, and that the field itself is a rather curious shape, should be noted. Having carried out his preliminary reconnaissance, familiarized himself with the layout, and ascertained the main features, the field worker can now begin his sketch map.

The most prominent features are seen to be two large trenches (A) meeting near the centre of the site and reaching the field boundaries at two points. The plotting of these should be the first operation, as once they are on paper all subsequent plotting will be made much easier. It will be noted that one of the trenches runs from the present road's abrupt termination, in a direction aiming towards a point about 1/3 of the way eastwards along the northern boundary of the field, with a course apparently slightly arced rather than straight. This should be drawn. Closer examination will reveal that there is a distinct bend in the main trench at A1, and that it does not quite reach the northern field boundary; thus the arc-like feature drawn at first will have to be slightly amended. The position of the other trench can now be put in relation to the first one, since it meets it about half-way along, and in line between the northeast corner of the field and a point just over half-way down the western field boundary. The minor changes in width and depth of these features can be sketched in at this point.

Throughout this stage the field worker should always be moving all over the site so that each feature being examined can always be seen in its complete context. If all the plotting is carried out from one spot or from one side of the site alone, the result is inevitably distorted.

FIGURE 2: 'SHORTHAND' HACHURES

(cf. hachures on final drawing fig. 3)

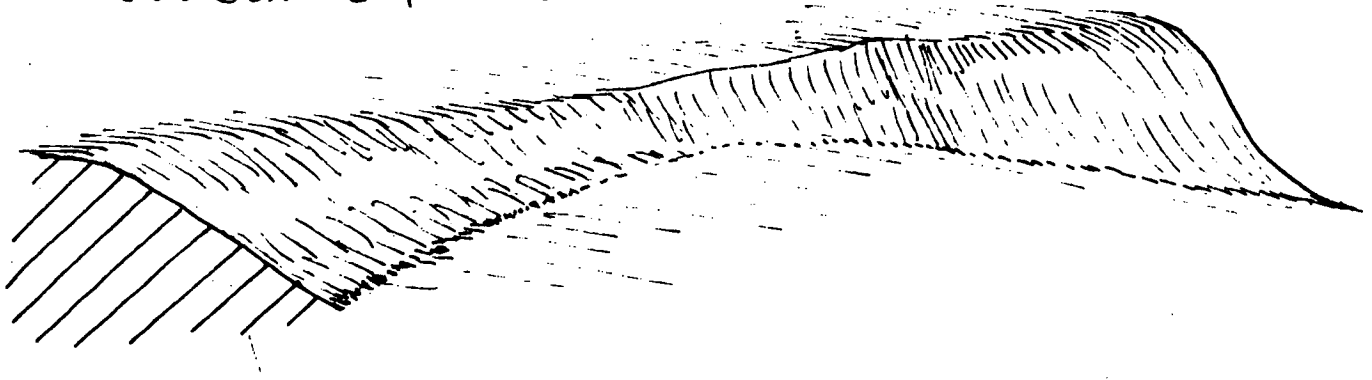


Features of smaller magnitude such as the changes of slope at B can be sketched on in just the same fashion, and then the areas of minor features (C), plotted with a good degree of accuracy within the larger features already positioned, much as one would plot such features within the grid or triangulation of an orthodox survey. Throughout this operation the neighbouring buildings (church and vicarage) as well as field boundaries and field corners can be used as reference points.

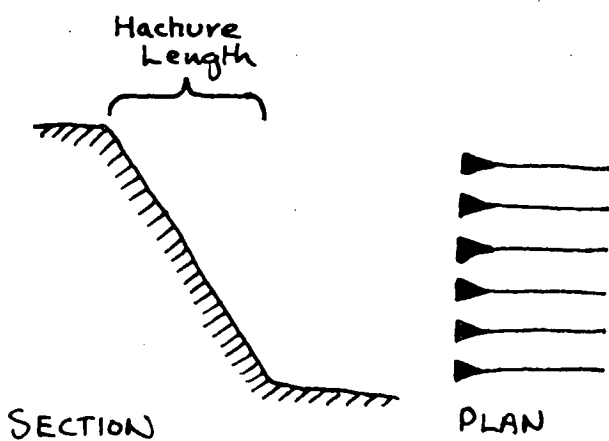
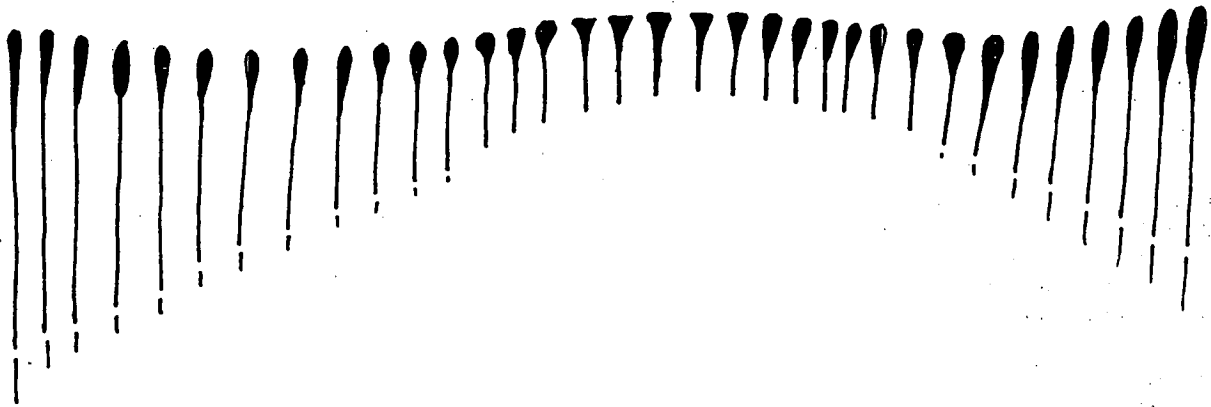
Having produced a rough sketch map, which at this stage will consist of a number of lines or 'shorthand hachures' (fig. 2) and a mass of notes with approximate estimated height and length measurements (the latter best expressed in relative rather than absolute terms, e.g. 'about 1/2-way along field boundary' rather than 'about 30 feet from corner'), the surrounding fields should then be examined in case any features within them amplify the understanding of the earthworks within the area he has already sketched. In our hypothetical case the features in the ploughed field to the north can be seen to mirror the banks and ditches within the earthworks in the first field, and this correlation may help with interpretation. Similarly in the field D south-east of the church and vicarage, a minor earthwork might be noted which, in isolation, might signify little, but which is seen to fit into the general pattern of earthworks over a wider area.

The technique used to depict relief on the field plan may vary. At its most simple it may consist of parallel and perimeter lines with the words 'bank', 'ditch', 'mound' or 'hollow' written in. This system, however, lacks flexibility, and it is usually preferable to produce a shorthand version of the hachures which will go on the final drawn-up plan, and which are capable of equal variation (fig. 2). If the field worker chooses the former alternative, generally the sooner the final plan is drawn up the better, while the memory is still fresh.

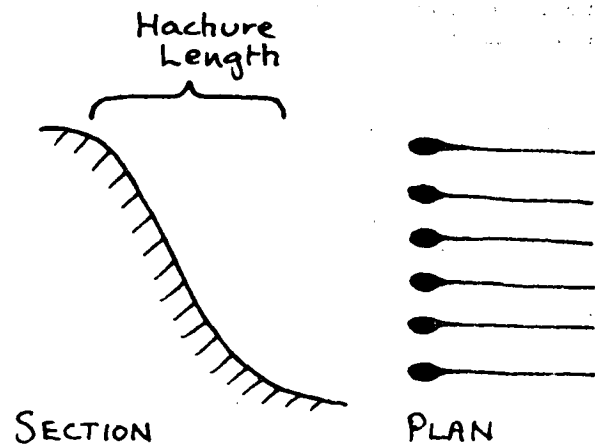
In the final plan hachures will almost invariably be used to depict relief features. These represent an alternative to the production of close contours, which are much more objective, but which involve much more sophisticated instrumental techniques and which take correspondingly much more time to prepare. About the only hachuring convention universally applied is that the head of the hachure always represents the *top* of the slope while the tail points downhill. However, further conventions may usefully be introduced. Variation in the shape of the head may be used to indicate variation in the abruptness of the break of slope—a rounded head ('Tadpole') showing a gradual change and an angular flat-topped head



Hachured Sketch Plan.



Sharp, breaks of slope
Square heads to hachures



Rounded, changes of slope
Rounded heads to hachures

('Tintack') representing a sharply-defined break. Hachures close together represent a steep slope, hachures further apart a more gentle one. In general the more heavily the hachures are drawn, the more impressive the feature on the ground (fig. 3).

A few further general points concerning sketch plans may be made:

1 In contrast to full contoured surveys, sketch plans inevitably reflect a subjective appraisal by an individual field-worker of the features on the ground. The hachuring should reflect the magnitude of the various ground features in such a way that on any individual plan the closest concentration of hachures should reflect the most prominent slopes on the ground. Any sketch plan should by this token be correct in its relationships *within itself*. However, in the absence of a definitive convention, the appearance of one person's plan may display distinct differences from another person's plan of the same site, and there will be differences even in two plans of the same site made by the same field worker at different dates. These differences, however, are not fundamentally important. What matters are the general relationships over the site as a whole, which will never significantly alter in any plan, rather than the specific measurements of any one part of the site.

2 The most important aspect is to sort out the man-made slope features from the natural slope of the ground. Often, because of geological variations, this in itself may be difficult; however, the attempt must be made. If the general slope of the ground on which a site lies is steep, any attempt to show this by means of hachures would only serve to confuse the plan. Natural slopes are better indicated by some other technique, e.g. an arrow (labelled to indicate its purpose) pointing downslope, or a few sketched contour or form lines. When plotting man-made features it is best to consider the natural ground surface as theoretically *flat* (not level), and to show any man-made features as projecting from this plane surface or dug into it.

3 The hachure *length* is always related to the length of the slope *in plan* (fig. 3) and *not* to the length at an angle down the slope on the ground, *nor* in any way to the steepness of the slope.

4 The drawing of hachures may be achieved by a wide variety of instruments, rapidograph, brush, quill pen or even biro; but the best results seem to come from an ordinary cheap mapping pen. By variations in pressure and length of stroke a tremendous variety of effects can be achieved and a whole range of different slope-types expressed.

The authors hope sincerely that these notes with a specific, if theoretical, example, will help people to produce plans of any earthworks they see. It is a technique much easier to put into practice than to describe or teach. The most difficult step is to get into the field and put pencil to paper for the first time. Once this first psychological resistance is overcome, there is no reason why anyone, whether or not they think they can draw, should not be able with practice to produce an adequate sketch plan.

PREHISTORIC NOTES

MESOLITHIC SITES NEAR KINTBURY, BERKS (1)*

Two excavations have been carried out during the season, both small and exploratory. During the Easter holiday two small sites were tested, Wawcott XXIX, SU 414676, and Wawcott XXX, SU 413676. The former proved to be of little interest, being very much disturbed by modern agriculture. Wawcott XXX also proved to be somewhat disturbed, but in one area there appears to be a knapping floor just under the plough layer. Here there appears to be a considerable quantity of material *in situ*. It is hoped to clear this in the near future before it is destroyed by deep cultivation. The small quantity of worked flint recovered from the trials suggests an early industry; the microliths are mainly simple obliquely blunted points; the blades and blade cores are quite large and well struck, as are the waste flakes. A large quantity of bone was also found.

The summer excavation was intended to examine the area around an SEB sub-station, Avington VI, SU 377972, during the construction of which, in 1964, a quantity of worked flint and two long blades came to light. The great majority of the trials revealed nothing, except very sticky clay. One trial, however, eventually produced what appeared to be the edge of a knapping floor, probably only a few metres across. Here were found long blades, their cores and associated waste flakes, also three obliquely blunted microliths. This site is deep enough to escape damage and will be fully excavated sometime in the future. No charcoal or any organic remains were noted.

During the summer term the society successfully produced a full-sized replica of an excavation, complete with a knapping floor sealed under multiple flood plain deposits. This was part of the major exhibition mounted in the school hall, which was itself part of the school's preparation for the visit by Her Majesty the Queen. The exhibition afterwards went on view to the public and received much favourable comment.

In the laboratory the processing of the finds from previous excavations continues. The accumulated finds from Wawcott III, SU 400679, numbering approximately 100,000 pieces of worked flint, are being formulated into a definitive report.

F.R. FROMM for
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, NEWBURY, BERKS

BRAYWICK MESOLITHIC SITE, BERKS SU920790

The excavations on the Mesolithic site at Braywick near Holyport, Maidenhead, continued for the second season. To date more than 10,000 worked flints have been found. A complete range of Mesolithic implements has been found stratified, including two tranche axes, hundreds of cores, numerous saws, scrapers and in the region of 100 microliths. The industry is of the so-called Maglemosian type. Geometrics are absent with one notable exception, a very fine Horsham Point. Examination

*Figures and letters in brackets refer to the map on the back cover.

and comparison suggest a period following that known from Thatcham.

Notable surface finds include a beautifully worked transverse arrowhead which would appear to be the furthest E location of one of these types. A large laurel leaf point of the Neolithic Age has also occurred.

The investigation of the Mesolithic industry has revealed a large area of former swamp or backwater, now a peaty level, some 2m. below the present surface, which has preserved large quantities of wood accompanied by hazelnut shells. A pattern of pointed stakes occurs at 1.50m. intervals driven into the peat level and sealed under blue clay. Masses of animal bones exist in the peat. Bone, wood, flint, pottery of different periods, and nut shells present a formidable task in interpretation. An assessment of the animal bones to date reveals the remains of one large horse, one pony sized horse, numerous young cattle, sheep, and piglets. The sternum of a chicken and the femur and tibia of a cat complete the picture.

Palaeobotanical and radio carbon analysis is awaited to give some date reference.

J. MCGOVERN for the
MAIDENHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEVILS QUOITS, STANTON HARCOURT, OXON

SP411047

Two thirds of this Class II Henge Monument has been made available for excavation in advance of gravel extraction; one third of it is inaccessible under a runway. Shortly before the construction of this runway in 1940 Professor Grimes conducted an excavation, when one stone only was found within the ditch enclosure and two had been re-erected some distance away, but the bank stood two or three feet high.¹

The current excavation shows that the bank was levelled down, probably by pushing it back into the ditch, when the airfield was constructed, thus effectively destroying any hope of finds stratified beneath the bank. However, the situation is more hopeful within the ditch itself. Three 12m. wide sections have been cut through the ditch and they show a neat chronology through from modern to the Iron Age; beneath this there is a thick stone-free sandy clay which effectively seals the lower layers. In these there is a quantity of animal bone, the majority of which appear to be deer, including antlers and also an antler pick; to date no pottery earlier than Iron Age has been found on the site, though there are considerable quantities of burnt material in the ditch. At present the primary silting has contained no finds at all. The depth of the ditch from the present surface is 2.6m. and its width 9m. The interior features are at present unexcavated; some of these are geological, and the interior is covered by the furrow marks of medieval ploughing, which is absent over the levelled off ditch. The clearing of the topsoil from the area of the SW entrance has been undertaken by hand as it was thought that mechanical stripping might destroy the smaller features. When

this is completed excavation will start on the butt ends of the ditch and the entrance itself.

M. GRAY for the
UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

WOODLEY, BERKS, LODDON RIVER DIVERSION (2)

SU769719

This work in connection with the M4 link road prompted a search for evidence of Mesolithic occupation. A mixed collection of Mesolithic and Neolithic flints was found on top of river gravel, in which were found calcaneum red deer bones.

J. MCGOVERN for the
MIDDLE THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RAMS HILL, BERKS (4)

SU315864

A month's excavation was carried out on the entrance to this putative Early Bronze Age 'stock enclosure', previously examined in 1938 and 1939 by Professor Stuart Piggott. Work was planned principally to assess plough damage to the site and was carried out at his suggestion. The site, which is only visible from the air, lies within an earlier Iron Age hill fort just south of the Berkshire Ridgeway and east of Uffington Castle. It was found that the earliest feature on the site was a massive palisaded enclosure with a narrow entrance with large terminal posts closely paralleled in the Early Bronze Age at Mount Pleasant in Dorset. This was replaced by the ditched enclosure already sectioned before the war. At the entrance its dimensions were four times those found elsewhere and it is probable that it possessed a substantial internal rampart with a sarsen facing. The earliest timber entrance passage may belong to this phase. The ditch was once recut before the bank collapsed or was thrown back. The outer lip of the part-filled ditch was then screened by a substantial timber 'facade' linked to the posts at the old bank terminals and braced from behind by posts set obliquely in the collapsed rampart material. Subsequently this latter feature was removed and in the two final structural phases the entrance passage was twice renewed wholly or in part.

These developments all seem to have preceded the appearance on the site of 'Ultimate Bronze Age' pottery sealed below a 7C. Iron Age group in the top filling of the ditch. There was also evidence for cultivation on the site in 1C. and possibly 4C. AD. It is now hoped to extend excavation into the interior of the site and to carry out environmental studies elsewhere in the Lambourn valley. Dating evidence was limited and is being supplemented by a series of five radiocarbon dates financed by the Research Board of Reading University.

RICHARD BRADLEY and ANN ELLISON
for READING MUSEUM

ROXTON, BEDS

TL156534

The excavation is of one of a group of five ring ditches on the N bank of the river Great Ouse, threatened with total destruction by gravel extraction.

1 W.F. Grimes, *Excavations on Defence Sites 1939-1945. I. Mainly Neolithic-Bronze Age*. HMSO 1960.

This NW ring ditch was 30m. in diameter, with the ditch 1.5m. deep and 4m. wide, and constructed in one period, with the spoil used for low banks inside and outside it. Fragments of Bronze Age pottery, animal bones, charcoal, worked flints and grain were found in its fill. An earlier ditch crossed the site and contained many cow bones, including an articulated skull and neck. There were also signs of a possible earlier hut circle.

ALISON TAYLOR for the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
and BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

THRUPP, ABINGDON: IRON AGE HUT CIRCLE

SU520971

This site lies c. 1 mile E of Abingdon and 500 yds from the Thames, on a slight ridge, where 1-24' of good arable topsoil overlay gravel. The excavation was a rescue operation, carried out during the winter of 1971-72, after the topsoil had been stripped in preparation for extraction of the gravel. Aerial photographs had shown features in the field which proved to be medieval and post-medieval drainage ditches, but the circle did not become evident until the soil had been removed.

The circle consisted of an incomplete ring of post holes filled with dark soil giving a diameter of 29ft. It was impossible to estimate the original depth of the post holes as the hut floor had been scraped off with the topsoil, some 12-15" in all. Five almost circular holes of 4' diam., 16" deep, and 7' apart formed an almost perfect semi-circle in the S half but the N holes were more irregular in shape, size and spacing on either side of an apparent N entrance. Within the circle was a 2' sq. hole at the exact centre, and a roughly rectangular pit, 6' by 3'8" and 2'2" deep, in the SE sector. This contained a quantity of pottery including three complete pots, one with two holes bored in the base; a complete triangular loom weight and a piece of poorly inscribed bone. Three short and shallow interior ditches were apparently associated with the presumed entrance.

In addition to the pottery there was a considerable quantity of animal bones and a large number of Mesolithic microliths, to be reported later. Six minute sherds of Peterborough ware were found in the circle and more in a pit 62' S of it, while Belgic pottery occurred in a ditch W of the hut circle.

The remains of four pieces of timber were found across, or in one case alongside, post holes, generally orientated towards the centre of the circle.

LUCY HALE and BILL SKELLINGTON for the
ABINGDON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

GRETTON, NORTHANTS (6)

SP909946

During the excavation of a pit alignment a hoard of 48 sword-shaped currency bars were found between two pits; the largest hoard yet found in an archaeological context. The bars were directly beneath the modern plough soil, so it is possible some may have been scattered or destroyed and the number was originally higher. The bars were all neatly stacked with the

'handles' at one end, but there was no trace of a container or binding material.

The pit alignment began at a 1.5m. deep linear ditch and was planned running at right angles from this to the modern quarry edge, a distance of 120m. The pits were evenly spaced, and where excavated, were square to rectangular in shape with flat bottoms. They had been dug into limestone and clay, and were on average 1.2m. deep and 1.6m. in diameter. There was little evidence of erosion from the sides of the pits, and it seems that after a short period they were deliberately filled. The only pottery found in the pits was of early Iron Age date, but this may be residual.

Other features found in the area include a series of shallow ditches of indeterminable date, and evidence of iron working, which was possibly Roman.

D.A. JACKSON
for the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

WAKERLEY, NORTHANTS (7)

SP940983

The stripping of topsoil before ironstone quarrying has revealed an Iron Age settlement 130m. NE of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery discovered in 1968. As only a limited area has so far been exposed, the size and sequence of the enclosures is not yet clear. To date, five circular huts have been excavated which range from 9 to 14m. dia. They are defined by shallow gullies and have a consistent pattern of door and internal post holes. All have entrances 2.5m. wide, facing E. Abundant slag suggests local smelting was carried out, but furnaces of this period have not yet been located.

D.A. JACKSON
for the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

RAVENSBURGH CASTLE, HEXTON, BEDS TL100295

The largest hill fort in the Chilterns (6.5 hectares exclusive of defences), situated on the Bedfordshire-Hertfordshire borders, has been under excavation for a number of years now. Attention was concentrated this year on the SE gateway. The fort is of two major periods of construction: the first, dated to the early pre-Roman Iron Age, had a Hollingbury-type rampart and flat-bottomed ditch, with a single entrance at the NW corner. After a long period of neglect the hilltop was reoccupied and defended by a glacis rampart and V-shaped ditch. A second entrance, at the SE, was specially constructed at this time. At the time of writing it is not clear when this refortification took place, but it seems likely that this was in the mid-4C. BC. Pottery from this time is largely made up of fine decorated angular bowls. The most significant discovery made during 1972 was an eight-coil spring brooch beautifully decorated with incised dots and hatching on most surfaces. Of La Tène 1b type, it seems almost certainly to be of insular construction and datable to approximately 350 BC. The fort, which seems likely to have been the oppidum of Cassivellaunus, attacked by Caesar, is on strictly private land and may not be visited without special permission.

JAMES DYER
PUTTERIDGE BURY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

CAESAR'S CAMP, EASTHAMPSTEAD, BERKS (9)

SU865655

The laying of a water main gave some opportunity for observing the stratification of this unexcavated Iron Age hill fort. From several months' observation a complete section through the S ditch was made. The original ditch had been cut over 2m. into the gravels, and subsequently grey silt had accumulated, followed by a thick layer of black humus. The top level had been filled with bleached gravel when the existing public footpath was made. The water table was found 2m. below the original ditch bottom, which is on the 415' contour.

The only datable find in the ditch was a large piece of Roman tile in the black humus, possibly from the settlement at Wickham Bushes nearby.

J. MCGOVERN for the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
and READING MUSEUM

ROMANO-BRITISH NOTES

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES, OXON (D)

BEECH HOUSE HOTEL

SU587945

Excavations within the NW corner of the Roman town affirmed the siting of the western and northern town defences. A previously unidentified late 1C. defensive ditch was found aligned along the central N-S axis of the town. An area excavation (8M X 12M) revealed a 3C. Romano-British town-house covered by extensive evidence of late Roman industrial working in the form of a complex of kilns, ovens and hearths. Two early Saxon sunken huts dug into the Roman levels were excavated and three distinct phases of Anglo-Saxon flint and clay-walled buildings dating from the 6-9C. were also identified. There appears to have been little subsequent medieval occupation or disturbance, providing confirmatory evidence of the decline of Dorchester during the later Saxon period.

QUEENSFORD MILL CEMETERY

SU584949

During gravel working in an area half a mile to the NE of the Roman town at Dorchester, human skeletons were uncovered. A salvage excavation recovered 90 burials, mainly aligned E-W. A further 80 graves were identified but not excavated, and it is estimated that the cemetery contained almost 1000 inhumations. No grave goods or pottery were found in the graves, but some iron coffin fittings were recovered.

The cemetery boundaries were identified from cropmarks, and sections across these produced late Romano-British pottery. In the absence of any other evidence the cemetery was therefore identified as late Roman; a radio-carbon analysis of the bones confirms this with a date of 420 AD: ± 100 years.

TREVOR ROWLEY for the
UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

OLD CASTLE INN

SU578942

The excavation area lay astride the expected line of the E town defences but no signs were found of these and they must lie closer to the river. Some traces of 1C. military activity were recorded, sealed by a metre of clay make-up which supported a single timber building. For the remainder of the Roman occupation, from probably the 2C. onwards, the E part of the site was taken up by a street running N-S, perhaps behind the town rampart, and by a sequence of timber houses abutting out it. In one instance a substantial spread of painted wall plaster was recorded where it had fallen inwards. This activity, interrupted by sporadic pit digging, seems to have continued into the 4C. or later, when the whole area was covered by tips of rubbish and a series of pits were dug through the latest street metalling. Possibly of this phase or rather later were three much disturbed *gruben-häuser*, one of which included Saxon pottery. In a similar context, though not closely datable part of a rough grid of linear gullies was recorded, dividing up the whole site into a series of rectilinear plots and ignoring the site of the original street. These too appear to be of post-Roman date and are possiblycroft boundaries. All later layers had been disturbed completely since the 17C.

RICHARD BRADLEY and SUE SHERIDAN
for the UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

CORNHILL FARM ROMAN SITE, EAST CHALLOW,
WANTAGE, BERKS (WG)

SU375879

This site was excavated in 1876 by E.C. Davey, whose report contains a plan of a corridor type building c. 80' by 30'. In recent years ploughing has displaced increasing quantities of stone, pottery and some coins, and so a small exploratory excavation was carried out in the autumn of 1972.

Four 3m. boxes were opened where wall plaster had shown in the plough soil, and a rubble and flint floor was exposed, with some rotted walling. A further 3m. box nearby showed a chalk floor scored by ploughing, which if continued will eventually destroy it.

Two parallel trenches revealed a substantial wall with rounded corners and others at an acute angle to it. The 'boundary' wall was shown to be several feet deep, and to be built of large facing chalkstone blocks with smaller stones in the interior.

The Department of the Environment is examining the desirability of scheduling the site.

DENCHWORTH ROAD/MILL STREET, WANTAGE

Roman finds have been made in this area and it was possible to keep a watch while it was cleared for building. After mechanical removal of the topsoil, grey glazed and unglazed sherds were found scattered all over the site.

Four features were observed:

1 A well lined with unmortared, unshaped flattish pieces of sarsen, limestone and chalk in the upper 7', with some stones below. This was cleared to 11' and in the lowest 2' were the

skull and front legs of a horse, and below that half of a red painted bowl.

2 In a grave cut c. 3' into the solid chalk was a human skeleton, probably an adult male.

3 A brick-lined cesspit 2' below the surface contained a collection of intact stoneware and glass pots and bottles dated from 1860 to 1917.

4 Some courses of unmortared chalk blocks were seen in a building trench.

JEAN NAISH for the
WANTAGE AND DISTRICT FIELD CLUB
and WANTAGE MUSEUM COMMITTEE

SHAKENOAK FARM, OXON

SP374138

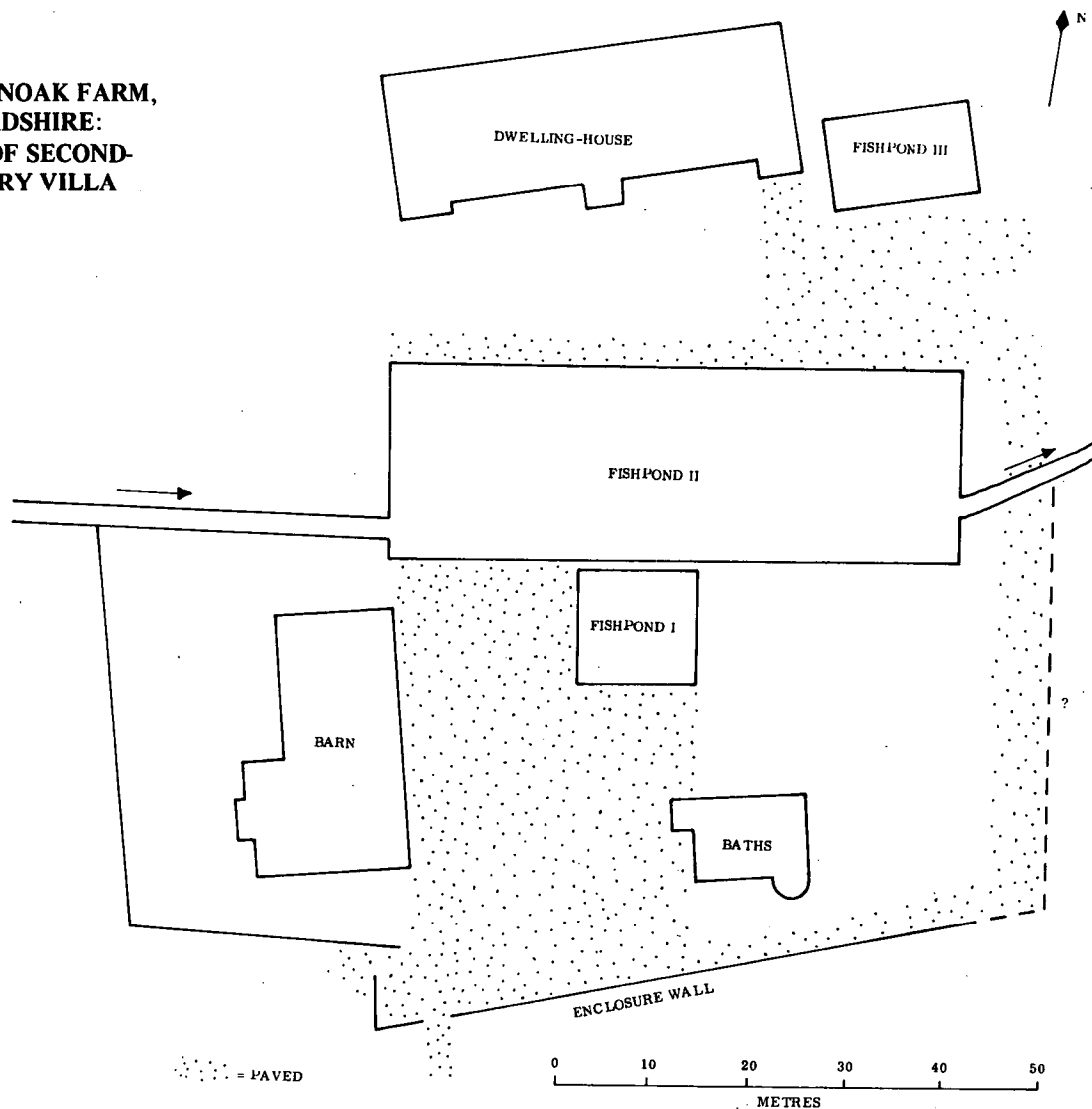
The results of the excavations carried out here since 1960 have been discussed in a series of reports, of which four have so far

been published: *Excavations at Shakenoak, Part I: Sites A and D* (1968), by A.C.C. Brodribb, A.R. Hands and D.R. Walker*; *Part II: Sites B and H* (1970); *Part III: Site F* (1971); *Part IV: Site C* (1973).

The current excavations are concerned with site K, a waterlogged area of the valley-bottom which lies at the centre of the villa. The most notable feature of this area is a system of fishponds, the full extent of which is not yet known. Three have so far been examined. They were constructed early in the 2C. and were deliberately back-filled before 200 AD. This systematic destruction and modern land drainage and ditching have destroyed some of the evidence for their mode of operation. Their construction involved the excavation of at least 1000 cu.m. (30,000 cu.ft.) of earth and stone, and it must be assumed that fish-farming was a significant source of income for the villa, since it represented too large a capital outlay to have been intended solely to provide food for the villa owner. The depths of water in the fishponds were probably in the range 0.3-0.8m., and would have been suitable for trout breeding.

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

SHAKENOAK FARM, OXFORDSHIRE: PLAN OF SECOND- CENTURY VILLA



MOUNTWOOD, CHESHAM, BUCKS (11) TQ025988

The site, which is being ploughed away, lies on a slope on the south side of the River Chess, opposite the Chenies villa site. A concentration of Belgic and Roman pottery was discovered during field walking by Mr W. Filby.

Trial trenches were cut in March 1972 and later widened where Roman levels showed. The east and west ends of the site were barren but the central 30'x50' area had originally been covered by a layer of gravel, mixed with humus. Three eroded small pits were found, probably the remains of a small hut. Widespread roofing tiles on the site with the absence of building stone or material indicated a timber building roofed with tiles.

In the gravel floor west of the hut was a tile-lined corn drying oven, with a long flue leading up to it and the remains of a raised floor over it. Immediately south of the oven was an infant burial.

Some mainly 3C. pottery was found and the coins were also of the later 3C., evidently the period of the most intense occupation. There was also a small quantity of Belgic material, including a bronze brooch, but no associated structure. A mid 1 C. Belgic site must have existed nearby.

Ploughing, combined with the natural slope of the hill, must have eroded away most of the occupation layers that once existed. The site was probably connected with the villa on the other side of the Chess, an outbuilding or bailiff's house. The numerous food bones, the pottery and small finds of rings, pins and coins all indicate domestic occupation, and the bronze rings and pins a moderate prosperity.

MRS ROSALIND NIBLETT and I.L. MARTIN for the
CHESS VALLEY HISTORICAL
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THORNBOROUGH BRIDGE, BUCKINGHAM, BUCKS (12)

SP729332

Excavations in Sept.-Oct. 1972 in advance of bridge building and road improvements, in the vicinity of two 2C. barrows and a previously excavated 3C. temple, have revealed two roads, roughly parallel. One, a hollow gravel trackway, is associated with several Romano-British building platforms; the second, a well preserved minor road, built on an agger of clay and limestone, dipping away towards the river, indicates the contours of a ford. Below the metalling of the ford was found a late 3C. coin, suggesting that the construction may be contemporary with the building of the temple.

Between the roads, below a heavy deposit of river silt, a sequence of ditches and gullies was revealed. The earlier gullies produced pottery of mid to late 1C. date. Two of the larger ditches enclosed a group of seven cremation burials, each containing a cinerary urn, with two or more accompanying vessels. A Samian dish Dr. 36 was common to all but two of the groups. Further excavation in the early spring is planned to locate the ford on the opposite bank of the river.

A.E. JOHNSON for the
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM, AYLESBURY
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

THENFORD, NORTHANTS (13)

SP525415

The second season (1972) somewhat altered previous conclusions and revealed the following phases of construction (cf. Newsletter no. 2 p. 10):

- I Iron Age ditches underlying the villa.
- II At the S end of the site a large stone building was found. This was later extended by the addition of a corner room and corridor and may have been the earlier villa.
- III The erection of the main building containing the mosaic, probably early in the 4C., and now to be considered as all of one construction. Initially it consisted of six geometrically arranged rooms, but was later extended S to abut the phase II building, while another room was added on the W and a bath suite to the N.
- IV Abandonment of the buildings, which were robbed, and the whole area used as a courtyard.
- V Medieval ridge and furrow.

It is hoped that a further four weeks excavation will take place in 1973.

I.F. SANDERS for the
OXFORD UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BROOKFIELD COTTAGE QUARRY, BULWICK,
NORTHANTS (7)

SP926936

Further evidence of iron smelting continues to be exposed by topsoil stripping. The date of the features is still not proved but they are comparable to Roman furnaces found on other sites in the area.

WAKERLEY, NORTHANTS (7)

SP940983

During the excavation of an Iron Age settlement, Roman activity was attested by two inhumation burials, a scatter of small pits and postholes, and a kiln for drying corn. There was also evidence of stone quarrying and iron working. Two iron smelting furnaces have been excavated, but subsequent topsoil stripping has shown they form part of a larger group.

Some 600m. to the SW, in Harringworth parish, two superimposed buildings are being excavated. They appear to have been for agricultural use.

D.A. JACKSON for the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

NEWNHAM, BEDFORD (B)

TL074494

Aerial photography by Dr J.K. St Joseph since the 1950s had shown complex crop marks in an area SE of Bedford, which is to be worked for mineral extraction and the construction of a marina in the next five years.

Trial rescue excavations revealed a series of closely spaced enclosure ditches and drainage gulleys adjacent to a yard area, with rough limestone surfacing and containing a stone-lined well. This evidence suggests an agricultural settlement of the early Roman period. Nearby the lowest courses of several hypocaust *pilae*, set on a mortar surface, were sealed by tile

and mortar rubble containing pottery and a 4C. coin.

It is hoped to investigate this part of the site further in the summer of 1973: it may be possible to devise a programme for the archaeological monitoring of the full 80 acres affected over the next five years.

ANGELA SIMCO
for the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
and BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

ROMAN ROAD SYSTEM AT ALCHESTER (14)

Apart from Road 160, the only known Roman road at Alchester is Akeman Street, whose main alignments bypass the town, with an eastern connection to it. A direct connection from the W has now been found (see figure) provided by a major road (34ft wide at SP549220) whose first three alignments are:

- 1 Alchester NW corner to Chesterton 564211, 51° W of N.
- 2 564211 to A4095 at 549219, 57° W of N.
- 3 549219 through Middleton Stoney, 45° W of N.

The destination of this road is expected to be Alchester. There is also evidence of a SE continuation from Alchester.

A fragment found of a 15ft wide road from Chesterton to Little Chesterton is exactly upon a projection of the Stowe alignment of Road 160, suggesting this alignment represents a military road to an early fort which Alchester superseded, requiring realignment of the road. Such a fort, which Richmond and Frere unsuccessfully sought at Chesterton in 1958, might be at Little Chesterton.

The evidence suggests for the road-building sequence at Alchester:

- a Military road to a fort on the Stowe alignment projection.
- b Road 160 through pre-existing town.
- c Middleton Stoney road.
- d Akeman Street and its E connection to Alchester.

A large road from 546201 to 555209 bearing 48° E of N and directed on Chesterton has also been found. It was apparently called Low Street in the 18C. to distinguish it from Akeman Street, which will have been the High Street. Chesterton was clearly an important Roman road centre.

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

ANGLO-SAXON AND MEDIEVAL NOTES

WALLINGFORD, BERKS (W)

Mrs Caroline Simpson is undertaking an archaeological survey of the area of the Saxon *burh* and her findings are to be published as a monograph in 1973.

WALLINGFORD CASTLE (W)

SU608896

Excavation was possible after the demolition of the 19C. house and before the building of an old people's home on the site of the castle bailey. The main aims of the work were to determine

the date of the earthworks which make up the outer defences of the motte and bailey built by William the Conqueror, and also to find what type of structures were erected in the outer bailey formed by these defences. The site was continuously occupied from the 11C. to the 17C., when the defences were slighted by the Parliamentarians. The outer bailey was built in two phases; the earliest is represented by a gravel bank retained by an internal timber facing inside a ditch. This dates from the mid 12C. Contemporary with this, though perhaps actually built before it, is the cob building which is the main interest of the excavation. This phase was succeeded by a raising of the ground level within the gravel bank. Some 1.80m. of soil was dumped and accounts for the unique preservation of the cob building. Sometime in the earlier 17C. the castle was re-defended by the building of a stone wall on top of the medieval bank, and it was this defence that suffered slighting during the Civil War.

The 12C. cob building is preserved to a height of 1.80m. and has external dimensions of 8.5m. by 12.5m. It is divided into three rooms, with an external door on the long side leading into an almost square central room which in turn leads to the two smaller rooms, both 3m. wide, which span the width of the house. Preservation is such that white lime plaster remains on two of the walls and timber impressions for door-jambs are to be found in the cob material. There is a large circular hearth in the central room, and a smaller stone-built hearth, probably heating an oven, in one of the smaller rooms. One notable feature is the absence of window spaces in the walls, and we must postulate that the light from the door was sufficient for the central room, while the end rooms were lit by apertures in the roof.

R. CARR
for the ARCHITECTS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

NEW WINTLES, EYNSHAM, OXON (15) SP428109

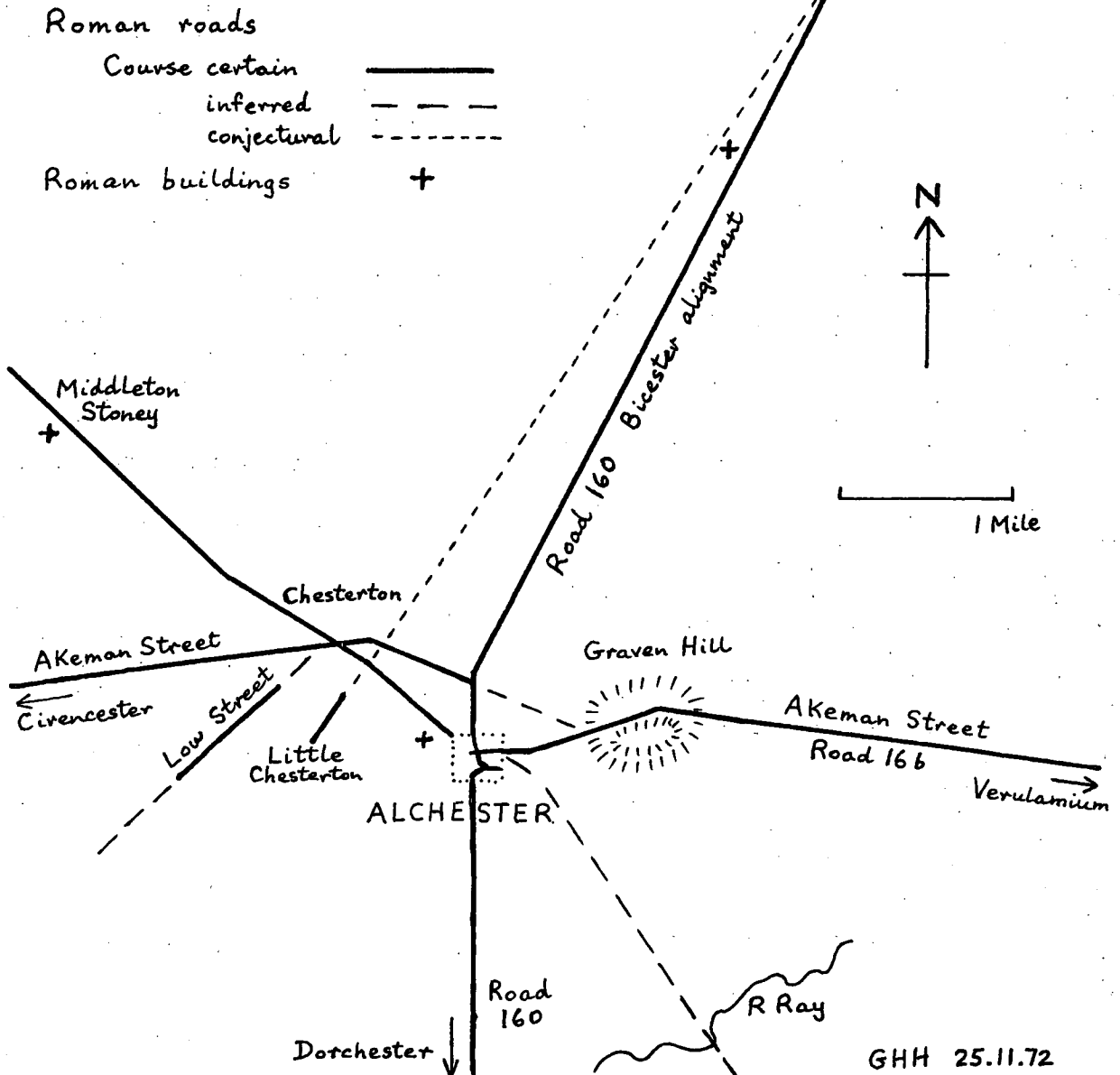
Excavation of the field to the W of the prehistoric and Saxon settlements discovered in 1968 and 1970, and to the NW of those found in 1971, had to be undertaken in the face of immediate destruction by gravel extraction.

The following features have been excavated:

One Saxon sunken hut, measuring 4m.x3m. with a depth of 80cm. from the surface of the gravel. Immediately to the W of this was an associated timber building with 21 posts, an entrance to the S and an internal pit. This structure measured 9m.x4m., but the posts at the western end had been destroyed by a medieval plough furrow. Everywhere on this site the furrows contained 16-17C. AD pottery and finds, and probably represent the latest ridge and furrow in this area. A further Saxon sunken feature, without posts internally but with a clay oven, lay within a ring-ditch. There were also several Saxon pits, and a Saxon well whose depth from the surface of the gravel was 2.53m.; this contained Saxon pottery and many animal bones, including complete skulls.

In addition to the Saxon features, the site produced 3

ALCHESTER ROMAN ROAD SYSTEM



ring-ditches, with 6 cremation pits and one crouched burial in the neighbourhood of the ditches. The most northerly of the ring-ditches contained Bronze Age pottery in the upper part of the filling and an antler pick in the primary silt. There was also in the upper part of the filling the deliberate burial of a lamb associated with the lower jaw-bone (possibly all that survived) of a baby. Another lamb was buried in a pit on the internal perimeter of the ditch. In the top filling there was also the skeleton of a cow with its calf. The most southerly of the ring-ditches contained the crouched burials of both a woman and a child; the most westerly also contained an inhumation within the ditch, lying on the primary silting. There were also Iron Age pits on the site.

MARGARET GRAY for the
UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

EYNHAM, OXON (15)

SP434100

A rescue excavation was carried out in July 1972 on the presumed site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wytham View, Eynham (PRN 1649), which was to be developed as a housing estate. Although significant finds were made in the 1950s on each side of this excavated site (inhumation burials, pottery, spearheads, knives and an iron shield boss), this large mechanically stripped area failed to reveal any graves. The only features recorded were four irregular pits which contained small pieces of coarse Saxon pottery and part of the trailwork of a ?Saxon glass beaker.

N. CLAYTON for the
OXFORD CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM and the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

SULGRAVE, NORTHANTS (13)

SP557453

The excavation of the Norman ringwork and underlying Saxon manor house (cf. *Med. Arch.* xiii (1969) 236) was resumed as a continuation of the research project into the origins of the castle in England. The plan of the early 11 C. kitchen which underlies the Norman rampart at the W side of the site was completed. The rampart of the Norman ringwork was also removed at the NE side to reveal the chamber block of the Saxon hall. This seems to have been originally c. 30'x23', but was partly destroyed by a re-cutting of the Norman ditch late in the 11 C. To the primary block a secondary range also (in part at least) stone-built was added early in the 11 C. The detached stone building lying N of the hall was further examined: this now appears to have been a domestic building 29'x16' rather than a tower. At the time of the Conquest it was buried in the Norman rampart, and apparently served as the basement for a small tower. A ditch and turf bank were found below the Norman rampart to N of this building: it is not yet clear whether this represents the Saxon perimeter.

BRIAN DAVISON for the
ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

BRIXWORTH, NORTHANTS (22)

SP747712

An area 26'x40' has been excavated W of the area investigated by Woods (see Newsletter no. 2 pp. 9-10).

The earliest phase was the Late Saxon cemetery, previously known, represented by 3 interments orientated E-W without grave goods. The second phase, which could be contemporary with the cemetery, consisted of 4 pits containing domestic refuse and building debris of tufa, 'Roman' red tile, and hard plaster, similar to the materials excavated on the N side of the church tower in 1971 (see Newsletter no. 2 p. 18). The presence of St Neots ware suggests a date about the 10-11 C. There were several stray Romano-British grey ware sherds in these pits.

The third stage was the building of a wall with a rubble foundation supporting pitched stone courses, cutting through two of the pits. An 11-12 C. date is probable.

The fourth and major occupation phase was the erection of a large building aligned N-S, at least 34'x14', divided into four rooms. The badly robbed walls were 40in. thick where intact. A 13 C. date is likely. This building seems to be the one responsible for the drying kiln and 13 C. pits found by Woods. The S room was later destroyed by a building with 2' thick walls set into the natural slope so that the N wall was 7' down. A small detached room was built by the W side of the main building. The whole complex was pulled down and the site levelled in the early 18 C., destroying all occupation layers and so preventing detailed interpretation. There were many 17 C. and 18 C. finds including two sixpences of William III in fine condition.

D.N. HALL for the
BRIXWORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

NEWTON WILLOWS, KETTERING, NORTHANTS (K)

SP880835

A field-by-field survey revealed an interesting site of several acres producing hand-made Middle Saxon pottery and iron slag at SP868845. It may relate to the nearby Early Saxon cemetery discovered by ironstone workings.

Continued excavation on the site of St Leonards church failed to locate the expected N and E walls because of extensive 18 C. levelling of the site. A further 3 graves were examined, including a priest with a dummy patten and chalice. Among the finds were stone roofing slates, plain white wall plaster, painted glass, and a 16 C. jetton.

NEWTON BROMSWOLD, NORTHANTS (16)

SP998658

The earthworks and adjacent medieval fields of this shrunken village were surveyed. Apart from some plough damage the earthworks are relatively well preserved. There are croft boundaries and sunken roads, but the house sites are not clear. The village lies on boulder clay and little stone can be detected by probing, suggesting that most buildings were of timber construction. There are traces of ridge and furrow in two plots, demonstrating the extension of the village onto former ploughlands. The two most interesting areas are a small motte-

like feature, 100' diam. measured across the ditch outside edges, and a small circular (30' diam.) earthwork with a central depression, which is almost certainly a dovecote.

A plan will be published in the 20th report of the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group (1973). Plans of the medieval fields have also been made for Finedon and Newton Willows.

EASTON MAUDIT, NORTHANTS (17) SP892582

Rescue excavation on a building site revealed part of the plan of a 13C. long house 14' wide and not less than 24' long. The walls, 18" thick, were constructed of limestone and pebbles. In and around the building were floors and yards of limestone and pebbles. The finds included sherds of pottery, animal bone, and a bronze ring.

D.N. HALL for the
NORTHAMPTON FIELD GROUP and
HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

GRETTON, COTTON, NORTHANTS (6) SP877926

Work with documents and maps, followed by fieldwork, enabled the site of the small settlement of Cotton in Gretton parish to be precisely located in low-lying land near the Well and (the suggestion in *The Deserted Villages of Northamptonshire* by K.J. Allison et al. p. 37 had been that the place lay on higher ground around SP890926). The site is marked today in ploughed land by a few platforms bounded by hollows running N-S, and a stone scatter. The earthworks and the documentary evidence combine to suggest that the site had always been a small one. A plan of the earthworks was made by students on a field archaeology course under A.E. Brown and C.C. Taylor; the sample of pottery collected is currently being studied by D.C. Mynard.

A.E. BROWN for the
DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION
LEICESTER UNIVERSITY

PILTON, LYVEDEN, NORTHANTS (18) SP984861

Further excavations at the Deserted Medieval Village of Lyveden took place in 1972. An area 138'x72' on the apparent western edge of the village was explored and indications are that the area was divided into a tiler's property on the W, and a peasant farmer's property to the E.

Included in the former area was a rectangular tile kiln, fired from two parallel flues on the E. The oven pit, 3' deep, had been dug into the natural clay, and the kiln was built of an outer wall of large limestone blocks faced with an inner wall of tiles. The kiln flue and oven arches were of tiles springing from the side walls and a central spine. The flue arches had largely collapsed but indications were that they were 3'4" long, 1'7" wide, and 1'9" high. The kiln facade of limestone blocks had fallen into the stoke pit. The kiln may be provisionally dated to the third quarter of the 15C.

To the E of the kiln there was a line of industrial features running N-S and built against the probable toft boundary. To the S there was a pavement of large flat limestones some 14' sq. which was covered with a thick layer of clay representing the tiler's claydump. N of this there were further signs of industrial buildings, a well, hearth, and various stretches of walling which require further investigation.

The E part of the excavated area was a farming property. Aligned N-S was a long house with hardstand yard to its W, and a barn laying at right angles to the E wall of the house. The long house, originally 62'x15' internally, was later shortened by the insertion of a new end wall some 8' to the S of the original N wall, merely reducing the size of the byre. This latter had a central paved drain and a series of apparently paired post holes indicated the position of the stalls to the E of the drain. A secondary cross wall may have replaced an earlier timber cross passage to the S of the byre.

The S part of the house was the living area and there were three central hearths of different dates, each having a wall on one side which joined the hearth to the long-house wall. One of the hearths was built of 15 floor tiles, 9" sq. and laid flat, and having a border of end set bricks. Slight evidence for a wall to the S of the hearths may indicate an inner room here. The S end wall of the house was missing, having apparently slipped down the slope to the S which may have run into a contemporary stream bed.

The barn was 34'x14' and, though much disturbed by ploughing, seemed to have stretches of walling along its W, N and E sides. The S wall, which included a paved entrance 7' wide, may have been partly open with wall post on stylobates and no infilling. Again a mid 15C. date for this complex is probable. The large group of small finds and pottery dated to the middle 15C. is of great interest and comparisons with the 13C. and 14C. groups from sites D and G at Lyveden will be important.

G.F. BRYANT and J.M. STEANE for the
KETTERING GRAMMAR SCHOOL LOCAL HISTORY
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

References:

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery Journal 9 (Lyveden 1969-70) pp. 3-94 with plans, 23 plates, 26 figs. 85p from the Headmaster, The Grammar School, Windmill Avenue, Kettering.
Bulletin of Northants Federation of Arch. Soc. (forthcoming no.)

MEDIEVAL SITE AT FULMER, BUCKS (19) SU994862

Excavations in advance of gravel extraction were carried out for six weeks at Low Farm, Fulmer, on the possible site of a medieval chapel, replaced in 1610 by the present church, which is 750m. further SE along the Alderbourne valley.

The plan of a large 13C. hall of three bays with flint footings and central pitched tile hearth was recovered. The hall was later extended at one end and a dividing wall inserted into the original hall. Traces of at least three other buildings were noted. The hall and other buildings had tile roofs, the relatively early use of tile here being due to the close proximity to the medieval

tile-producing areas of the Penn/Hedgerley/Chalfont region. Other finds included knives, a stone mortar and bronze buckles.

The site of the chapel was not located and is now believed to lie beneath the buildings of Low Farm. The site as a whole, however, is clearly that of the old village of Fulmer; migration to the present village seems on the basis of pottery evidence to have taken place by the 15C.

An unsuspected feature of the site was Mesolithic occupation represented by a number of cores, flakes and two tranchet axes.

M.E. FARLEY for the
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM, AYLESBURY
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

SLAPE COPSE, WOODSTOCK, OXON (20) SP426195

The existence of this assart farmstead site is first mentioned in 1225 and a John de Slape occupied it in 1300. The last John (Jack) Slape died in mid 19C. and part of his garden could still be seen in 1900. The site is now threatened by road improvements, which will destroy two thirds of the occupied area, and so in late 1971 a survey was made of the earthworks in the copse and two trial trenches were dug.

The survey shows the remains of at least four quite large rectangular stone buildings, the largest of which was c. 20m. long, possibly with wings and a central yard facing E, or it may consist of two separate buildings. Excavation showed that the W wall of the main building survives, in part at least, 80cm. wide and 50cm. wide, with six courses. While the N wall of the N 'wing' had been robbed in the 19C., the second trial trench showed the S wall of this 'wing' and what may well be a yard. Both yard and wall were covered with a demolition spread containing 14C. pottery, but the main building seems to be associated with 13C. pottery.

This site could provide the opportunity for the complete excavation of a small assart farmstead and the study of the development of woodland farm buildings from the 13C. to the 19C. As the site has never been ploughed, the stratigraphy is reasonably intact, disturbed only by tree roots.

P.J. FASHAM for the
OXFORD CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

MIDDLETON STONEY, OXON SP534233

Work continued on the site of the Romano-British farmstead, where the removal of interior stone features clearly demonstrated the two phases of construction. A series of post holes lay sealed below the pitched-stone flooring of the ultimate phase. Three underfloor foetal infant burials were recovered from the middle of the Roman building.

The cutting across the E enclosure bank was dated to the 12C. and it was found that stone structures with associated rubble spread lay underneath. These remain to be dated, but are of considerable interest.

In the autumn a cutting into the motte was made,

demonstrating, as thought, that there has been considerable slip. On the old ground surface below the mound a drystone structure was partially uncovered. Possibly this represents part of the motte structure, but it is more likely to be part of a pre-motte stone building. Traces of much weathered Romano-British masonry were also found.

The Training School will be held at Middleton Stoney from 7 July to 22 July 1973. Enquiries should be sent to the Director, Department for External Studies, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford.

TREVOR ROWLEY

SUTTON, STANTON HARCOURT, OXON (15) SP420061-2

1 As part of a renovation and modernization process at the farmhouse of Lower Farm, the floor of the kitchen was dug out to a depth of 1m. Beneath the stone flag floor, probably contemporary with the 17C. farmhouse, was a collection of medieval pot sherds dating from the late 12C. to the late 13C. together with a bone pin, a hone and a stone rubber. Associated with these there were hearths and beaten earth floors, at least one of which still had traces of rushes on its surface (PRN 5703).

During a field investigation two cottages were recorded:

2 Duck End Cottage. Two pairs of cruck frames survive in this cottage and there is evidence that there were formerly two more, making a three-bay house altogether. This building originally must have been open to the roof since some of the timbers are still smoke-blackened. Sometime later, probably in the 17C., a stone stack was added at the S end and the open hall divided with a first floor. The house still has a beaten earth floor in one part (PRN 3387).

3 Brigstow Cottage. There is evidence that this house began as a two-bay structure open to the roof, since fire-blackened timbers still remain in the roof space of the N end. In the 17C. a stack was added and a first floor inserted in this original section and a further two bays added to the S (PRN 5704).

CUDDESDON, OXON (0) SP601030-1

As part of an investigation into alterations being carried out at Dovehouse Farm, a survey was made of the farm buildings. A late medieval open hall was located at SP602031 (PRN 5445). It had been substantially altered and added to and at present it is in a dangerous condition; it probably represents part of the original farmhouse. Massive walls and buttresses remain of what was probably a large tithe barn to the SE of the hall (PRN 5446). This barn may have extended further N once but this too had been extensively altered. The whole complex may be the remains of a grange of the Abbot of Abingdon.

MICK ASTON
OXFORD CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM

BECKLEY PARK, OXON (21) SP577120

The outline history of Beckley Park and the royal hunting lodge has been fully documented.¹

1 *History of the King's Works* vol. 2 (1963) ed. H.M. Colvin;
VCH Oxon. vol. 5 (1957) pp. 57-58.

In October 1972 the owner of the site of the lodge moat (SP577120) informed the Field Department of the Oxford City and County Museum of his intention to clear out part of the moat on the W side which had become choked with weeds and silt.

Accordingly a sketch survey was made to show the present configuration of the site. From this the triple lines of the moats can be clearly seen, the inner one deeper and wider than the two outer ones. The site of the medieval buildings is now laid down to lawn and gardens and the present house on the site was built in about 1540. This is a large brick-built mansion erected on the wide area between the inner and middle moats with its drains and garderobes draining into the inner moat. The triple lines of moats and the general arrangement of the site, including its position on the edge of the marshy area of Otmoor, closely resemble that of the Pleasaunce at Kenilworth, built as a royal retreat in the early 15 C. (For sketch maps see pp. 24-25).

Nearby within the medieval park area the fishpond, mentioned in *VCH Oxon*, was located and a sketch survey produced (SP577115). The dam, at the E end, remains to a height of c. 2m. and there are bypass leats on the N and S sides. The pond site itself is dry and very overgrown, although there is a small pond in the NE corner.

MICK ASTON
OXFORD CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM

ELSTOW ABBEY, BEDS (B)

TL049474

The exploration of the monastic outbuildings was continued during this eighth year of excavation. Particular attention was paid to the extreme W and E limits of the range of buildings, perhaps forming part of an outer court, between the main cloistral area and the stream at the S of the site. The W end of the W building showed a complex history, with the latest building, a half-timbered structure with substantial stone footings, being propped up at one corner by a series of posts inserted at an angle into the ground. A succession of timber buildings predated this latest version. At the E end of the outbuildings the *farmery* was located, beginning as a double-aisled structure aligned N-S with at least four bays, and ending its life as a much smaller building contracted into its SW corner. Other features of the site were also explored.

The demands of rescue excavation elsewhere in the county will bring work on this site to a close, though some small scale training excavations may provide opportunities to add further details and resolve outstanding problems.

DAVID BAKER
for BEDFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
and BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

READING ABBEY, BERKS (R)

SU720736

Further work on the E end of the abbey church was intended to clarify and extend the plan recovered in the 1971 salvage operation and to look for surviving floor levels. These were found with extensive areas of floor tiles still *in situ*. The tiles

have been removed to Reading Museum for conservation and it should be possible to reconstruct the decorative scheme for this area of the church. Further work is tended to confirm the church plan and to test for floor levels elsewhere.

DR C.F. SLADE
for READING MUSEUM
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY

ABINGDON, BERKS (A)

LOMBARD STREET/WEST ST HELEN STREET SU497969

A trench 4x16m. was excavated on the site of the proposed new Salvation Army Citadel. The site had previously been occupied by 19C. cottages and the trench largely ran across what had been an area of gardens and back yards. Some 7' of overburden was found to have been laid down in the 18 C. and 19 C. Dating to this period was a cobbled roadway, a well in the rear of the cottages and a brick-built structure containing large quantities of lime. It was not possible to excavate the cottages themselves or the old street frontage as these are now under the recently widened West St Helen Street. Occupation on the site was from prehistoric times.

Iron Age. A large stone-packed post hole contained considerable quantities of crude, shell-gritted pottery with T-shaped rims typical of the Iron Age A period in the Upper Thames region. A bone 'weaving' comb was also found.

A large unusually shaped pit was dated to Iron Age C by Belgic-type pottery. This pit held two horse skulls placed centrally in the bottom, and can possibly be interpreted as being of a ritual nature.

Romano-British. Occupation in this period was especially concentrated in the 1 C. and 2 C. AD. A slot of this period with stake holes ran along the trench at right angles to the present street. This was possibly one side of a stake-built building, or, more likely, a palisade trench. It was dated by large quantities of pottery and a bronze brooch. A coin of Domitian was also found nearby.

The pottery suggested less concentrated activity in the 3 C. and 4 C., but there was no evidence for Saxon occupation.

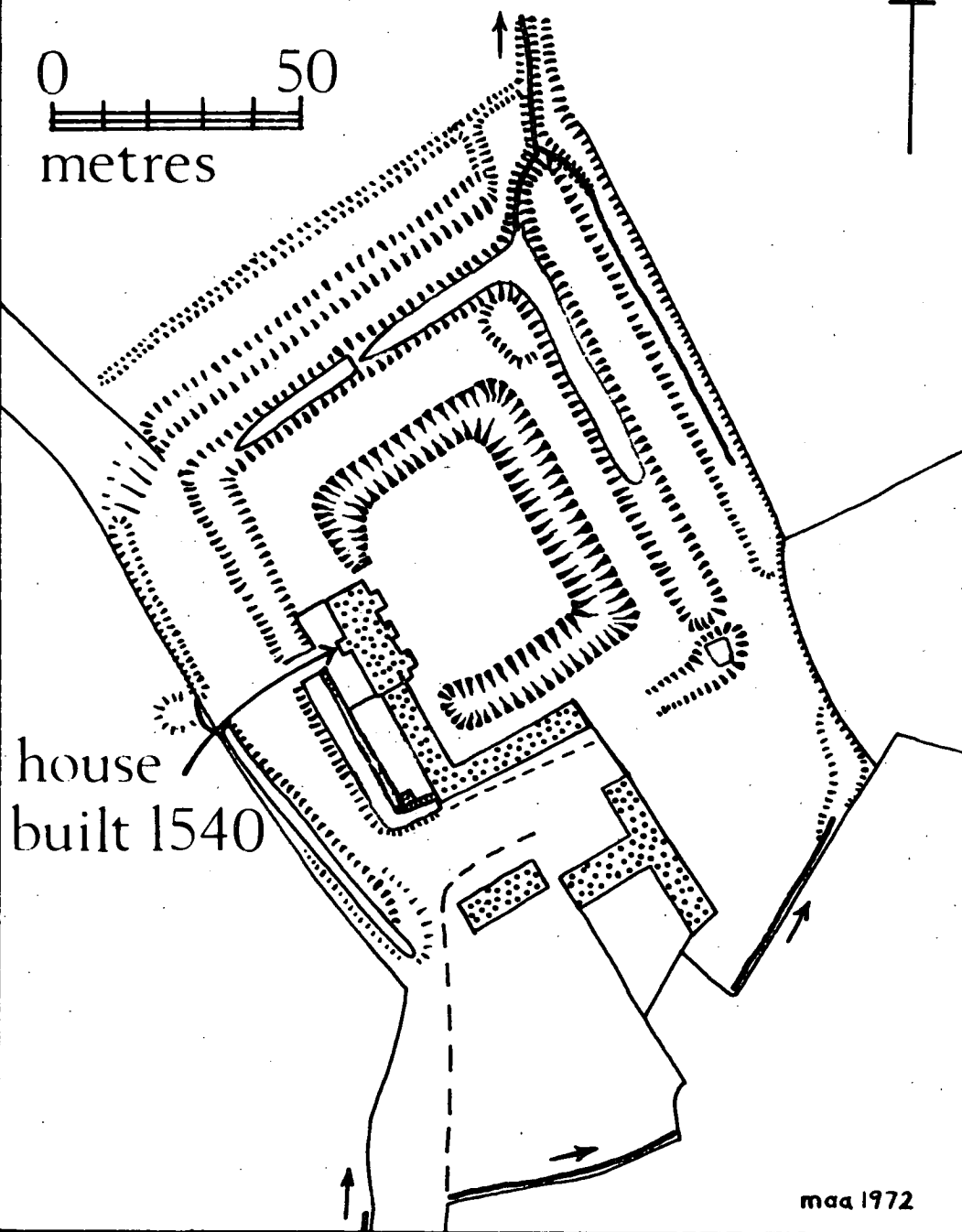
Medieval. The period was characterized by very dense concentrations of pits of the 12 C.-14 C. as much as 15' deep. Some of these were simply rubbish pits, which produced fine examples of glazed jugs and cooking pots, two tokens, carved stone and a piece of cloth. Two of the pits, though, were carefully lined with stone and one at least was obviously a cesspit.

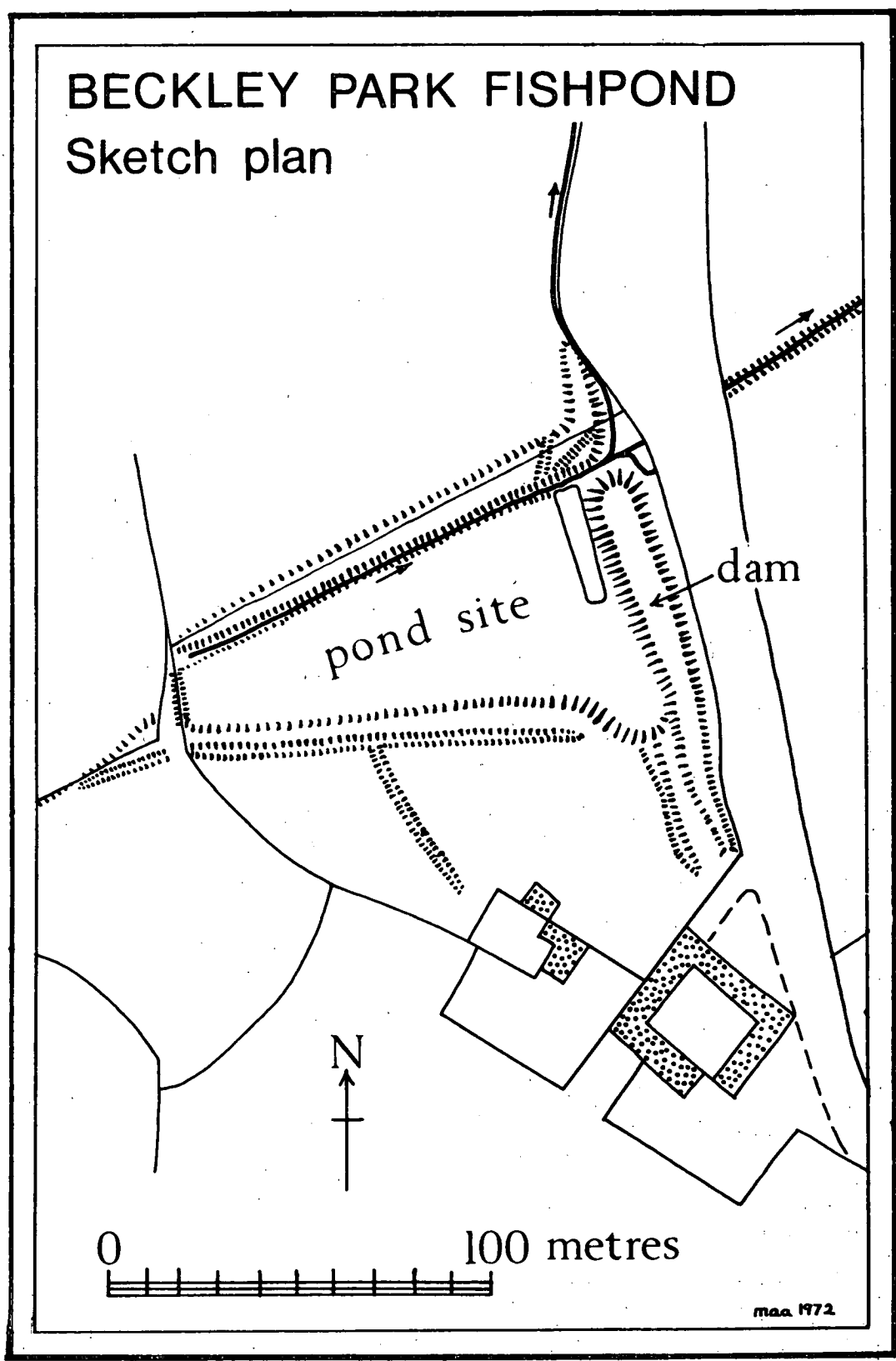
Because of the disturbance by medieval and post-medieval pits, dating was difficult, but a timber building seemed to belong to late 12 C./13 C. and was replaced about 1300 by a building with stone footings. As with the Romano-British trench, both these structures were aligned at right angles to the present street.

BECKLEY PARK MOAT

Sketch plan

0 50
metres





ABINGDON: MARKET PLACE

SU498971

The opportunity was taken to excavate a small trench (8.5m. x 4m.) on a vacant site belonging to the National Westminster Bank, on the side of the Market Place. The site had previously been occupied by a 17C. building with large cellars. At the rear end of the site was an area undisturbed by cellaring. This produced much Romano-British pottery but no stratified deposits. All Roman levels had been completely disturbed by a great concentration of medieval rubbish pits. Over some of these ran a 14C. cobbled roadway which had sunk into the pits and been resurfaced. A sondage 1m. sq. was sunk through the cellar floor and revealed a very damp 13C. deposit some 1.5m. thick which produced large quantities of cooking and green glazed pottery.

BARTON COURT FARM

SU510977

An area of some 110 acres is to be developed for residential accommodation in 1973 and contains considerable numbers of cropmarks. The most prominent of these is a quadrilateral enclosure.

The site chosen for excavation was the SW quarter of this enclosure, an area of some 80x30m. The principal enclosure ditch was 2m. wide and up to 2m. deep. No entrance was located. On pottery evidence it probably dated to the 1C. BC. There were considerable amounts of Iron Age A pottery in the ditch though, and there may have perhaps been an unenclosed settlement of this date, of which Building I may be part.

Inside the enclosure ditch were large numbers of Iron Age post holes and pits, the latter tending to be grouped together in the NE quarter of the trench. Alongside these was a trench representing a possible sub-rectangular enclosure or building, with an entrance on the E side and a cremation in the interior. The burials of six neo-natal humans and one infant were found either in shallow graves, inside the main enclosure, or in the main ditch itself. The stratification showed them to have been buried at various periods within the Iron Age, and suggest either a high infant mortality or possibly the practice of infanticide. Odd adult human long-bones were also found in the ditch, along with the remains of cattle, horse, sheep, dog, pig and deer, spindle whorls and other domestic articles.

The Period I enclosure was overlain by another Iron Age enclosure on a more N-S axis. This produced pottery of the early 1C. AD, with Romanized fabrics in the top level.

A third ditch system enclosed a Romano-British stone building of the 3-4C. AD, lying on a N-S axis. The building lay opposite a narrow entrance through the ditch, and outside this entrance were post holes, tentatively interpreted as two buildings of six posts each.

The main building has been thoroughly robbed for its stone, but lengths of massive herring-bone foundation could be traced. The structure so far consists of a rectangular plan with a corridor or verandah to the E and internal divisions, but stone spreads to the N suggest it will prove to be more extensive. The coin evidence is principally Constantinian but with one Neronian coin and, at the opposite end of the time scale, a fine silver coin of Valens. Other features of the Romano-British period

include a complex of large rubbish pits and a long rectangular paddock, of palisade construction.

In the rubble of this probable villa was a grave aligned N-S of an adult man buried with a dagger—probably a Saxon inhumation. A coin, possibly Tetricus I, on the edge of the grave may be fortuitous. More substantial evidence for Saxon settlement is in the form of a *grubenhäus* in the SW angle of the Iron Age Period I enclosure.

In the W side of the trench a ditch running NW/SE can be dated to the medieval period by a silver coin of Henry VIII in the latest silt, and probably represents a field boundary.

This site can potentially provide us with a complete sequence of occupation from the Early Iron Age to the Saxon period.

GOOSE ACRE FARM

SU522986

Romano-British ditch and pottery in trench cut by Oxfordshire and District Water Board.

SU525985

As above. Probable site of native settlement shown on National Monument Record aerial photographs.

ST HELEN'S WHARF

SU496967

Deep pipe trench cut along SE side of the road revealed foundations of the Anchor Inn, but no evidence of earlier occupation or the almshouses mentioned in Amyce's survey of 1554.

ABINGDON BYPASS A34

SP516027

Romano-British features noted.

SP515010

Ditches of Iron Age C with large quantities of Belgic pottery.

SP514006

No trace of Sugworth Manor was located in the roadworks, but earthworks to the E were surveyed.

SP509004

Possible cremation pits. Undated.

SU487983

Linear earthwork with flint scatter.

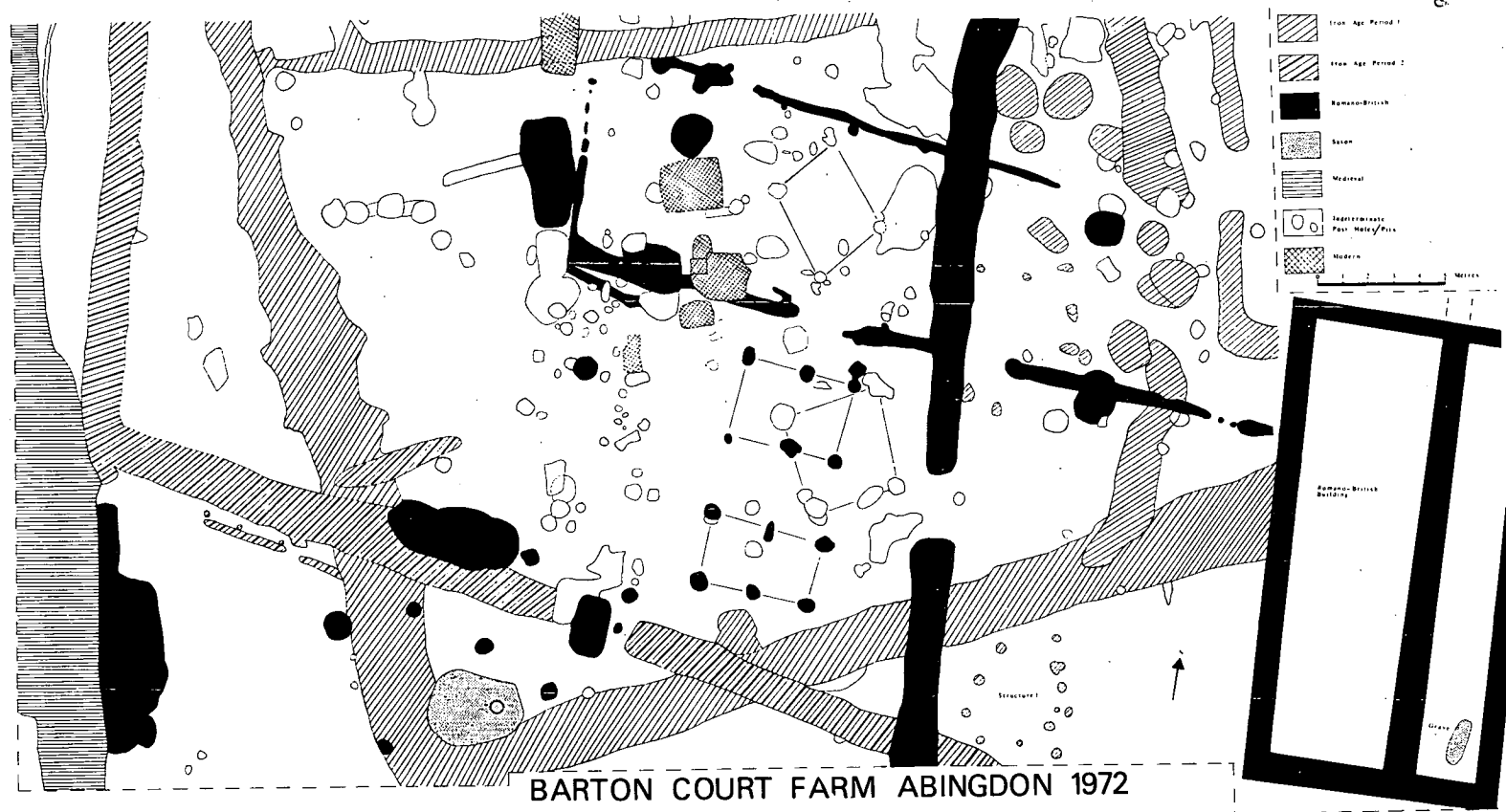
SU477973

As above.

SU477969-475963

Aerial photographs showed a complex of ring ditches on Abingdon Common. Ditch sections observed a Romano-British rubbish pit, flint scatter and Early Bronze Age cremation in a cordoned urn.

DAVID MILES for the
ABINGDON EXCAVATION COMMITTEE



BANBURY, OXON 1972 (BY)

Excavations on the site of the castle have taken place in advance of redevelopment. Two main sites have been excavated, two small trial trenches have been cut and a watching brief was kept on a sewer trench which cut through the castle's W defences.

27 CORNHILL

Late Saxon gullies, possibly property boundaries, and a late 11 C. pit were found. These were cut by a stone-lined pit with battered sides of probable 13-14 C. date.

CAR PARK

Excavation between Castle Gardens car park and Castle Street East in advance of a pedestrian subway revealed a complex story of the development of a small part of the central ward of the castle. Late Saxon activity was also recorded.

Stone buildings of the 12 C. castle were located. These had been demolished and then buried by about 1m. of river gravel deliberately dumped on the site about 1300. On top of the gravel dump were five phases of stone and timber buildings. The final phase is represented by four burials of the 17 C.

FACTORY STREET

A trial trench on the SE side of the junction between Factory Street and Market Approach revealed a slight earthen bank of the 12 C. and enlarged in the 17 C. Its function is unknown, but it perhaps formed a part of the barbican.

CASTLE STREET SEWER TRENCH

Revealed in this sewer trench were three large ditches, varying in width between 8m. and 15m., and all at least 4m. deep from present ground surface. They belong to the W defences of the castle. The nature of the machine excavations did not allow for their satisfactory recording.

P.J.FASHAM for OXFORD CITY & COUNTY MUSEUM
and BANBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

BEDFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE (B) centre TL050500

Rescue excavations were organized in advance of urban redevelopment on six sites.

The major discoveries related to Bedford Castle, founded shortly after the Norman Conquest and rendered indefensible on royal orders after a siege in 1224. The main motte of the castle, known as Castle Hill, probably had a ditch all around it, and this was sectioned on the W side, showing stone lining on the inner bank. In use it had been water filled, and in the bottom were several mangonel shots which must have been used in the final attack. The stages by which the mound was subsequently reduced in height could be detected. The inner bailey ditch, sectioned in 1971, was traced further E towards the motte, but its exact relationship was obscured by probable gravel digging disturbances. On the old County Library site part of a gate or wall tower was found, inserted into an earlier wall which was probably the fragment of S curtain walls represented on Speed's Map in 1610. Part of this gate probably extended under the new garden area fronting the Embankment. Further indications

were found of several massive buildings near the N curtain wall site, N of the Golden Eagle public house, near Rose Yard. Part of a circular stone-lined pit was found, which may have been a large lime kiln.

S of the river, two major sites were explored. Excavation of the highly complicated medieval occupation sequence next to the Anglers Inn, commenced in 1971, was completed. There were few spectacular individual finds, but the general impression was confirmed that St Mary's Street on its W side had an important settlement and light industrial area in the 12-15 C. The site of 17/19 St Mary's Street was excavated, and a picture was obtained less disrupted by modern service trenches. The 16 C. or 17 C. timber-framed buildings, whose demolition had been observed in February 1972, represented the latest archaeological features. Under them was a long sequence of medieval occupation evidence, the earliest of which included some large pits containing important groups of material, and some evidence for timber buildings, represented by post holes cut into natural clay. On neither St Mary's Street site was there any significant evidence of Saxon occupation.

DAVID BAKER for BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL,
BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL,
BEDFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY and the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

NEWBURY, BERKS (NY)

SU471670

Work has continued on the Bartholomew Street site throughout 1972. The 10'x50' trench across the building line has proved successful in revealing a sequence of buildings from what is probably the start of the medieval town in the 12 C. The first phase, of small huts built with light poles, was followed by a larger more substantial building. Both were apparently burned down. The third phase, which seems to have been a small hip-roofed cruck house, had a chalk floor and a hearth set on it at one end. In the late 13-14 C. a much larger building with 2' thick flint and mortar walls was built and was followed in Tudor times with a timber-framed building. The last phase of the late 17 C. had been much altered in recent times, much of its timber framing being encased in 19 C. brickwork.

Pottery from all phases has been recovered including Oxford ware, Reading/Oxford painted ware, Saintange and Tudor green wares. Glazed and stamped tiles together with large bricks measuring 10"x7" were recovered from a tile-built gully.

Pre-medieval phases include two ditches possibly indicating an earlier road alignment. One sherd from a small samian cup and a piece of box tile were found in peaty loam overlying a sandy clay silt which yielded Mesolithic flints including conical cores, blades and some calcined nodules.

S.D. FORD for the
NEWBURY MUSEUM HISTORICAL GROUP

NORTHAMPTON: NEW TOWN AREA (N)*Survey of excavations 1972***ECTON**

SP830618

An area c. 15m. sq. was stripped in conjunction with Northampton Museum ahead of gravel quarrying. Approximately 200 sherds of pottery of Neolithic date and 200 worked flint flakes were recovered. The only structures were a bowl-shaped hearth and two possible post holes.

BLACKTHORN

SP806641

An enclosure (internal area c. ¼ acre) defined by two concentric ditches separated by a 2-3m. wide berm was completely stripped. A quantity of burnt stones in the inner ditch terminals together with further stones on the lip of the ditch suggest the possibility of a bank or wall. (Post holes, possibly for the gate, were set off the line of the ditch terminals indicating a curving entrance passage.) This multi-phase site incorporates numerous pits and other signs of domestic activity including pottery of Iron Age B type. Noteworthy are sherds of the Hinksey curvilinear decorated type. Work is continuing on the site.

MOULTON PARK

SP777648

A ditch, 2½-3½m. wide and c. 1¼m. deep, and forming the W boundary of an enclosure excavated by D. Mynard in 1971, was located. The enclosure was thus delimited as roughly circular with an internal diam. of c. 50m. Two sections of the ditch were excavated, both showing two phases; little pottery was recovered but all was of Belgic date.

Approximately 5m. to the N of this first enclosure an area of c. 80m.xc.30m. was completely stripped after trial trenching had revealed soil marks consistent with those exposed by scraping for a road to the E. A ditch c. 2m. wide and c. 1m. deep ran N-S for c. 80m. to be joined c. 10m. from its S extremity by a similar ditch which ran E. The two ditches apparently formed two sides of an enclosure. One portion of the ditch had been realigned and in another place a causeway c. 5m. wide, formed of ironstone and limestone set in clay and with revetments of flat stones laid in herringbone fashion, had been built across the ditch. The ditches were filled with brown black soil containing much charcoal and pottery all of Belgic date.

Within the enclosure were traces of possibly four hut circles, the largest of which was c. 10m. in diam. and the smallest c. 6m. in diam. A further possible hut lay outside the enclosure. The circles were represented solely by a shallow gully, there being no evidence of post holes apart from two apparently forming the entrance for the large hut circle. Whether the gullies were structural or for drainage purposes is uncertain.

OVERSTONE

SP804646

Excavations uncovered the remains of a probable Roman farm complex (at least 100m.x30m.) arranged around a stone cobbled yard. Three main constructional phases were identified, the first two of timber and the last of stone; in one case three circular buildings c. 12½m. in diam. were superimposed. Although extensive, the buildings were of inferior construction. Pottery and other finds of 1-4C. date were recovered.

HORSEMARKET

SP752606

A probable kiln group of cooking pots, wheel turned and well finished in a hard sandy fabric similar to that of unglazed Stafford ware, was discovered in Horsemarket in Northampton. The group would appear to be Saxo-Norman.

WESTON FAVELL

SP791619

Foundations for a private house uncovered ditches and walls of a medieval building. Subsequent trial excavation revealed a stone yard surface and traces of walls but no firm plan could be recovered. The earliest medieval pottery on the site was of Saxo-Norman date.

GREYFRIARS, NORTHAMPTON

SP755607

Excavations on the site of the Franciscan friary of Northampton uncovered part of the church and one of the N-S ranges, possibly the *dorter*.

An area c.30m.x7m. within the church was excavated. Extensive robbing had occurred but at least three building phases were identified. The latest phase had been floored with glazed tiles, many of which were decorated set on a mortar base. Many burials, closely packed, were located within the church; one vault had been re-used twice. A furnace cut through the friary floor was probably constructed for remelting the lead from the roof and windows at the time of the dissolution.

The N-S range had at least two periods. In its latter phase it extended for at least 54m., was c. 8m. wide and of double-vaulted constructure, the W half being floored with glazed tiles set on a mortar base and the E half with a simple earth floor. At its S end was a variation of plan and a change to the use of decorated tile for flooring; perhaps the chapter house is indicated. The first phase was c. 17m. long and of uncertain width. The plan is difficult to interpret although several large foundations were revealed.

Little earlier occupation on the site was detectable except in one limited area where one large pit. c. 3m. deep, and several small ones were excavated. Building work commenced on the friary c. 1250 AD and demolition was carried out soon after the dissolution c. 1540 AD.

WHITEFRIARS

SP757608

A contractor's pipe trench along the N side of Ladys Lane uncovered a wall running parallel to the street with probably three walls at approximately right angles. These walls are interpreted as the precinct walls of Whitefriars.

THE CASTLE

SP749604

A watching brief was kept on road widening at Black Lion Hill. A section was cut through a man-made bank - showing various dumps and one pit.

MAYORHOLD

SP752607

Several pipe trenches off the Mayorhold revealed walls and quarry pits of medieval date.

ST JOHNS

SP754602

A trial trench was dug ahead of a new road scheme at the

Plough junction. Three levels of metallurgy, probably associated with the earlier phases of St Johns hospital (12-13 C.), lay on top of a river flood deposit containing bone and charcoal. The date of this flooding is as yet uncertain.

JOHN WILLIAMS, Archaeological Officer,
for NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
and the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

References:

The excavations at Moulton Park and Greyfriars will be published by the Corporation in 1973.

OXFORD 1971-1972

Fourteen rescue and salvage excavations were undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee from autumn 1971 to autumn 1972. An exhibition entitled 'How old is Oxford?', held jointly with the Oxford City and County Museum, attracted nearly 8000 visitors during July and August while a booklet entitled *Oxford, the city beneath your feet* (35p) was published in July. This booklet summarizes the results of the excavations in Oxford from 1967-1972. It can be obtained by post, together with a companion volume by D.A. Hinton, *Oxford buildings, medieval to modern* (80p), from the Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee, 1 Cambridge Terrace, Oxford.

The following sites have been arranged on an approximate period basis:

CHURCHILL HOSPITAL

SP546058

Rescue excavations on the Roman kiln site before the hospital extension. Last year's excavation was extended to the S to reveal a second circular workshop building and parts of a complex drainage ditch system of the late 3 C. (see Newsletter No. 2 pp. 33-34). To the W a kiln of the same type as last year's 4 C. one was found. This second kiln was in a good state of preservation with the floor of the pottery chamber nearly intact.

A new area was opened up in the SW part of the area under threat and evidence for pottery-making activity was also found. This new area produced the most notable find of the year, a large kiln of which both the floor and the lower part of the walls of the pottery chamber survived. The evidence suggested that the floor had partially collapsed during firing and a large quantity of pottery from this last firing was removed. The kiln was of 4 C. date.

A small trench between the two main areas uncovered two more kilns and the edge of the stokehole of a third, showing that activity had covered most of the available site. A further feature of this year's excavation was the discovery of ditches of the late 1 C. and 2 C. AD, showing that the site had been occupied in some way before its use as a kiln site.

A third season in 1973 may be possible, but this will be followed by total destruction.

ST LUKE'S ROAD, COWLEY

SP544040

Observation during the construction of a new telephone exchange on the known Roman kiln site. A quantity of pottery was recovered from 2 C. and 4 C. features, including one mortarium stamp hitherto unknown. Features observed consisted of one probable kiln stokehole and several pits.

This site will be virtually destroyed by foundations and cable chamber.

LINACRE COLLEGE / ST ALDATE'S SITES

SP514058

Trial excavation adjacent to the street frontage to confirm findings of Middle Saxon occupation at 79/80 St Aldate's and to test the site in view of proposals to extend the college buildings.

Excavations in the front garden adjacent to the proposed extension to the college confirmed that the stratification on this site was well preserved, as on the other side of the road at 79/80 St Aldate's. The sequence extended back into the Saxon period and underlying the whole site was the same clay bank found last year. Thermoluminescent dating now indicates that the earliest pottery dates from around 780 AD and this date has been confirmed by radio-carbon at Harwell. The Harwell dates for the wattle fences found in 1971 give a date of 830 AD. The dates are of course subject to wide ranges on either side, but there seems no reason to doubt that the St Aldate's sequence begins in the late 8 C. Observation of building work in Bridewell Square failed to produce any significant further evidence for the St Aldate's sites.

The development plans for Linacre College have been temporarily shelved. The site is therefore temporarily free from threat.

CHRIST CHURCH

SP515060

Observation during re-laying of surface water drainage in Tom Quad. Two charcoal burials of a type thought to be Danish were uncovered outside the original W end of St Frideswide's. AERE Harwell are dating charcoal samples from the site.

The quad is free from any foreseeable threat.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

SP516060

Salvage excavations before the repair of the front quadrangle. The excavation had hoped to throw light on the original plan of the late Saxon town by proving or disproving the theory of a line of a rampart between the sites of bastions 8 and 21.

A rapid and narrow mechanical trench indicated the presence of a silt-filled gully or possible ditch, running at an oblique angle from NE-SW across the quadrangle. No natural gravel was encountered nor was any dating evidence retrieved. The excavation did not disprove the theory that Oxford was a rectangular burh in the early 10 C., but it is not possible to say that the apparent ditch found in 1972 is in reality part of a defensive system. The excavation emphasized that St Frideswide's minster probably stood on a promontory of gravel.

The site is now completely paved and unlikely to be available for further investigation.

OXFORD: 1-4 CASTLE STREET

SP512061

Salvage excavations to find domestic occupation during Selfridge's Phase II development. Eighty-five pits have been identified and material recovered from each, including one virtually complete tripod pitcher. Late Saxon pits were present on the Castle Street frontage and a longitudinal section was recorded showing a build-up of 20 street surfaces.

This site will have been totally destroyed by Christmas 1972.

13 HIGH STREET

SP514062

Salvage excavations to uncover domestic occupation during relaying of rear basement floor. The tops of several late Saxon pits were planned and small quantities of pottery recovered.

Further excavation is unlikely to occur in this area.

THE CASTLE MOUND

SP510062

Observation and salvage excavations, during the replacement of a new retaining wall of the Castle Mound on the New Road frontage, to attempt to recover stratified late Saxon deposits. Owing to extensive post-medieval disturbances, practically nothing of the pre-mound ground surface survived. Parts of two late Saxon pits were excavated and a small quantity of material was recovered. Observation was continued until the work was completed.

40-41 CASTLE STREET and 8-10 NEW ROAD

SP511061

Rescue excavations before the beginning of Oxfordshire County Council's phase II development on the NE side of the castle bailey and the castle ditch. Extensive post-medieval disturbances on the site have virtually destroyed all the stratified deposits with the exception of parts of three pits presumably dating from before the castle. Future prospects: continued rescue excavation followed by salvage work and observation.

20-27 ST EBBE'S STREET and
16-19 LITTLE GATE STREET

SP512059

Rescue excavations on the site of the Littlegate and city wall before new office and shop development. Excavations on the site of the Littlegate were concluded. The sequence uncovered is now as follows:

- a) Prehistoric occupation (1 pit).
- b) Late Saxon occupation (1 pit on the line of the presumed Saxon defences).
- c) Early 13C. domestic occupation including stratified floor levels and a shallow cellar and an oven.
- d) The W side of the Littlegate (constructed by 1244).
- e) A wall running S from the gate, presumably the wall begun by the Greyfriars in 1244 and intended to surround the precinct.
- f) The wall repaired and/or constructed in 1248 linking the Littlegate with the E end of the Greyfriars church.
- g) Large pier bases next to the wall possibly belonging to some structure built by the Greyfriars abutting the wall.

The Department of the Environment has now sanctioned the demolition of the wall with the exception of the gate, and salvage work will be resumed when construction commences.

EAST SIDE ALBERT STREET (NORTH)

SP513058

Rescue excavations on the site of the Blackfriars before Corporation development on the site.

Excavations have begun to elucidate some of the problems of the cloisters. A large part of the E range has been uncovered and the chapter house identified. An outstanding find was a gold and sapphire ecclesiastical ring, which was the subject of a treasure trove inquest and the ring was declared not to be treasure trove. A ditch system and wattle fences were found underlying the site and their dates are being investigated by the radio-carbon laboratory at Harwell.

Excavations are continuing and in 1973 excavations are likely on the W side of the street.

NEW INN COURT

SP513061

Trial trenching and rescue excavations were carried out on the site of Hinkey Hall before the Oxford and Swindon Co-operative Society's redevelopment.

A massive post-medieval build-up of about 2m. posed enormous practical problems and the area under investigation was strictly limited. Traces of a building dating from the 16C. or earlier was found. The evidence for this building rested on well preserved floor levels which were slightly dug into the top of the natural. No major structural remains were found defining the building but the floor level must have been contained within timber-framed walls. The building may have been earlier than the pottery suggests since the floor levels seem to have sunk into the ground rather than risen. There were few pits on the site examined, but one, of late Saxon date, seems to have some form of timbering. Much of the buried soil survived as well as the natural gravel and into this were dug a complex of post holes presumably of many periods, but some seem certain to be prehistoric.

Rescue excavations have been concluded, although the late Saxon timber-lined feature requires further examination, if practicable. Salvage and observation work will be continued on the start of construction.

28-31 ST EBBE'S STREET

SP512061

Observation and salvage excavation during the construction of Fenwick's store on the old Cape's site. Extensive cellaring had destroyed most medieval features. One stone-lined 14C. pit produced some glass. This site is now totally destroyed.

126 HIGH STREET

SP514062

Observation of below-ground domestic features during major reconstruction. Mr Julian Mumby recorded the above-ground structure and painted wall plaster of the mid 16C. rear wing destroyed on this site and also recorded the features described below. The mid 16C. structure had a well-constructed stone garderobe. The late medieval structure replaced an earlier building with a semi-basement with a partially tiled floor, possibly dating from the 14C. There were several earlier rubbish pits. Observation work is continuing.

TOM HASSALL for the

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION COMMITTEE

REPORTS: SURVEYS, AREAS, MULTI-PERIOD, LINEAR, SOCIETIES, COUNTIES

BOZEAT, NORTHANTS (17)

SP905592

A field-by-field survey to record the medieval fields and earlier sites is now complete (next page). The ancient sites (coded B1-16) are discussed elsewhere (*Beds. Arch. J.* 3 (1966) 1-6, and 7 (1972) forthcoming) and include Early Iron Age, Belgic, R-B, and Early Saxon settlements; the detailed techniques for surveying ploughed-out medieval fields are given in *Beds. Arch. J.* 7 (1972 forthcoming). The furlong pattern shown on the figure shows the orientation of the strips schematically: there are actually 3-4 times the number drawn. All the furlong boundaries are plain to see on the ground, and the strips have been seen either as soil marks or crop marks except in furlongs 30,33,36,37,38,44a,50,66,88,91, and 112. There are still problem areas N of furlongs 74 and 75; between furlongs 3 and 19; and NE of furlong 89. In the last two it is possible that the strips lie at right angles to the direction shown.

The whole area was ploughed except the flooding meadows; there was no medieval woodland. The ploughlands covered 2113-2136 acres, the village 50-73 acres and the meadow 145 acres. There are about 129 furlongs of average area 16 acres. The two small furlongs N of nos. 42 and 23 demonstrate the need for land in the early 14C., by which time the system was complete.

Furlongs 71,74,75,83,84,85,86, and 87 were emparked in the 17C., and it is quite remarkable that the furlongs and strips can still be seen after emparkment, disemparkment, and modern agriculture.

The land was cultivated in a three-field system in the 17C.: the names were Sandywell field, Dytches field, and Wood field. The medieval roads are fairly clear except for the S extent of the Wollaston to Harrold road by furlongs 17,40, 42 etc. The E boundary of furlongs 51,64 and 67 may represent the continued course of this road.

The modern village does not exactly correspond to the medieval, and there are still some modern fields of good earthworks, especially on the W (SE of furlong 103) at Bury Yard.

D.N. HALL for the
NORTHAMPTON FIELD GROUP and the
HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED ARCH. SOCIETY

BRIXWORTH, NORTHANTS (22)

SP748710

The parish has been surveyed for medieval fields and pre-medieval sites.

There are three Romano-British sites, one partly destroyed by quarrying at SP774699, a villa excavated by Woods at SP747718 (*J. Northampton Mus. Art Gall.* 1 (1969), 8 (1972)), and a third site at SP743701. This last has been previously reported only as a Saxon cremation cemetery.

The medieval fields cover all the parish except the flooding meadows and the park of Wolfage Manor, which is detached

from the village. The earthworks and fishponds of the manor house are well preserved. On the W side of the village there is one field of medieval earthworks. An unusual feature is the occurrence of flattened areas of strips about 20x20yds; these are identifiable as the 'rick-places' marked on the 1688 map—and are therefore presumably where stacks were built in the open fields. Other interesting features were three low mounds, one circular (33' diam.) and two elongated (53'x30'), in a grass meadow at SP735693. A local farmer explained that some 80 years ago rough grass and anthills used to be collected in the meadows and placed in heaps to rot down. The mounds are to be destroyed in 1973 and an excavation of the circular one was carried out in case it might be a barrow. It was indeed found to be constructed of turf; there was no burial, subsoil upcast, or ditch, as would be expected with a barrow. Caution should obviously be exercised before declaring such a grass mound to be a barrow.

D.N. HALL for the
BRIXWORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

GREAT HOUGHTON, NORTHANTS (17)

SP974590

A survey of the medieval fields was made in advance of destruction by Greater Northampton. To the NE of the village there is a field with earthworks of the shrunken settlement. Many fields remain ridge and furrow and these were surveyed in detail, plotting each strip on the 1:2500 scale.

It is hoped to complete the whole area to be engulfed by Northampton.

D.N. HALL for the
NORTHAMPTON FIELD GROUP

FINEDON, NORTHANTS (17)

SP915720

A field-by-field survey, in advance of the Wellingborough expansion scheme, revealed four new sites. There is an Early Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at SP924712 with areas of stone and pebbles probably representing house sites. At SP927718, SP924705, SP930730 there are Romano-British occupation remains with the usual coarse, grey, and colour-coated wares, and spreads of stone and pebbles.

D.N. HALL for the
NORTHAMPTON FIELD GROUP and
HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED ARCH. SOCIETY

RADWELL, BEDS (B)

TL010575

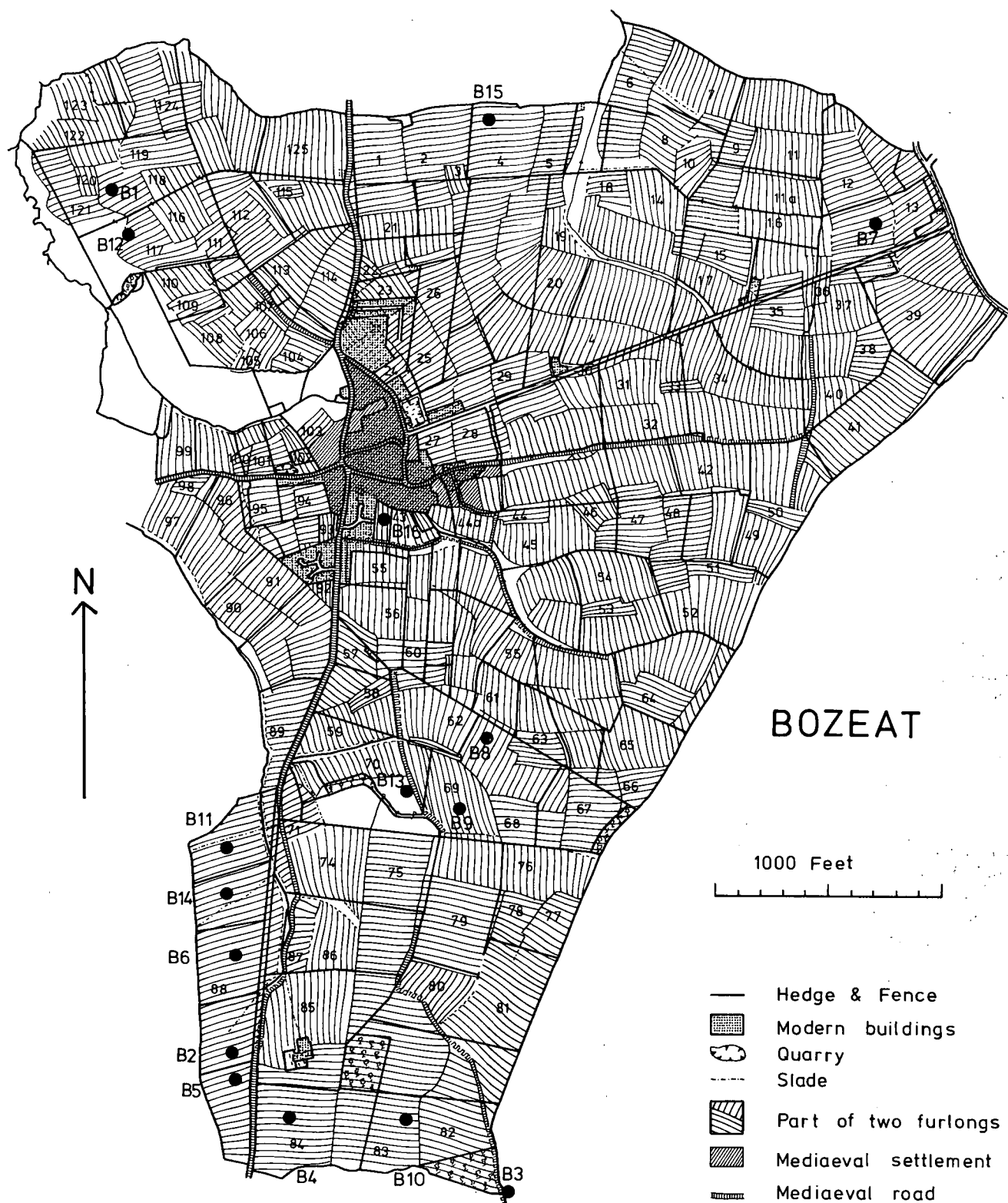
Removal of topsoil for gravel extraction over an area of ten acres revealed a complex of occupations. The oldest feature identified was a Neolithic ring ditch, 4' deep and enclosing an area 164' diam. Domestic refuse in the ditch and traces of occupation in the centre suggest a domestic site.

An enclosure ditch yielded some fine mid-Belgic sherds, and to the W of this there was a small Belgic cemetery with two cremations and four inhumations, three of which were buried in coffins.

The whole site was overlaid by a late Romano-British farm

PLAN OF THE OPEN FIELD SYSTEM
AT BOZEAT, NORTHANTS

33



complex, coins of the late 3C. and early 4C. being associated with large groups of pottery. A network of small enclosure ditches was related to a large timber building. The plentiful quantities of tegulae and imbreces in all the features suggest the buildings had tiled roofs.

The site will be continually watched while the overburden is being stripped.

D.N. HALL for the
HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED ARCH. SOCIETY

AIR SURVEY IN BERKSHIRE

Work is just beginning in plotting all items of archaeological significance on Berkshire air photographs. While a useful adjunct to research on settlement archaeology, this is intended principally as a basis for a programme of planned rescue excavation in future years. At present the group is self-financing (!) and offers of help would be very welcome from intending participants. Would they please contact the secretary of the group, Miss E. Grant, at 65a Redcliffe Gardens, London SW10.

RICHARD BRADLEY
READING UNIVERSITY

RECENT DISCOVERIES BY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN OXFORDSHIRE

Despite the work of Major Allen and Flight Lt Riley in the 1930s and 1940s, much more work has been carried out recently and many new sites are emerging each year. The following are some of the more spectacular sites recently recorded on air photographs taken by Dr J.K.S. St Joseph (of the Committee for Aerial Photography at Cambridge) and the National Monuments Record, Air Photograph Unit (pictures mainly by J. Hampton and A. Baker).

CLANFIELD

Site 1. Three concentric interrupted circles, outer diam. 180 m. revealed as cropmarks on the NE side of the Broadwell Brook about 2km. W of Clanfield village (SP26450183). The E side of the site is not revealed as cropmarks and the subsoil therefore is probably clay. Without excavation this site should probably be considered a Neolithic enclosure in view of the interrupted ditch system evident on the air photographs. During the winter of 1972-73 Mr Caspar Fleming of New College, Oxford, intends to carry out fieldwalking over this and other sites in the Upper Thames valley.

Site 2. Sections of a large circular (?) feature with an outer diam. of 300m. have been revealed as dark cropmarks, rather patchily, on a level plateau of gravel 1½km. W of Clanfield village (SP27100185). The very clear break, with rounded ends to what are evidently ditches on the NW side of the site, together with the clear curve on the NE side, probably provide sufficient evidence for this site to be considered a henge monument of the single entrance type. However it should be pointed out that there are only vague traces of the SW and

SE parts and that there are no earthwork indications on the site at all.

It may be significant that these sites occur close together since it has recently been argued that Neolithic causewayed enclosures and henges often lie close to each other and that the henges probably replace the enclosures as ritual centres.¹

Site 3. This site manifests itself as a series of rectangular enclosures of various sizes. The overall area covered is roughly rectangular 80x180m. aligned NE SW and situated in a bend of the Broadwell Brook 2km. W of Clanfield (SP26150195). To the S and SE there are no cropmarks visible and it would seem that the subsoil here is clay rather than gravel. The site seems to represent a completely ploughed out deserted medieval village although there is some indication of Iron Age occupation as well.

The Deserted Villages of Oxfordshire by Allison, Beresford and Hurst demonstrates that there were at least three other settlements in Clanfield parish in the Middle Ages beside the village of Clanfield itself. The site of Benneye has been tentatively identified (SP273015) and Alwoldesberie was possibly at SP308003 but the site of Puttes is completely unknown. Although it was suggested that it may lie in the S or SW part of the parish, it is possible that this site in the W of the parish could be Puttes hamlet.

ASTON BAMPTON

This site lies 2¼km. S of Aston Bampton village (SP34850070). It is only ½km. N of the river Thames and since only approximately half of the site is visible as cropmarks, it may be that the W side of the site has a clay subsoil. Its appearance is similar to Clanfield 1 and it can probably best be interpreted as a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. In this case there are two definite lines of interrupted ditches with only the vaguest traces of a third and outer line (at the NE corner) (PRN 5580).

ISLIP

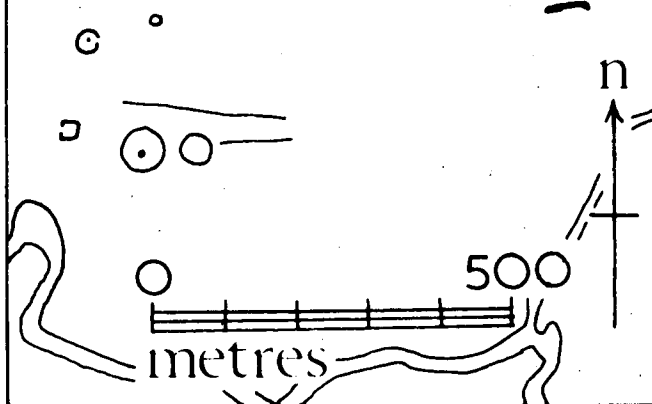
The cropmarks of this site centred at SP53251345 have been observed on the N side of the B4027 road ½km. SE of Islip. The area is generally level but there are steep falls to the N and NW and extensive views over Otmoor to the N. Excavations carried out in 1962 by Dr M.J. Aitken as a result of a vague crop marking identified a Romano-British structure here. But a recent air photograph (No. BCJ17) by Dr J.K.S. St Joseph shows that the site is in fact a large villa enclosure with outer enclosures and buildings. These all surround a winged villa building similar to Ditchley (in Oxon). Traces of a possible Roman road to the W were observed in the 1930s by O.G.S. Crawford.

MICK ASTON
OXFORD CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM

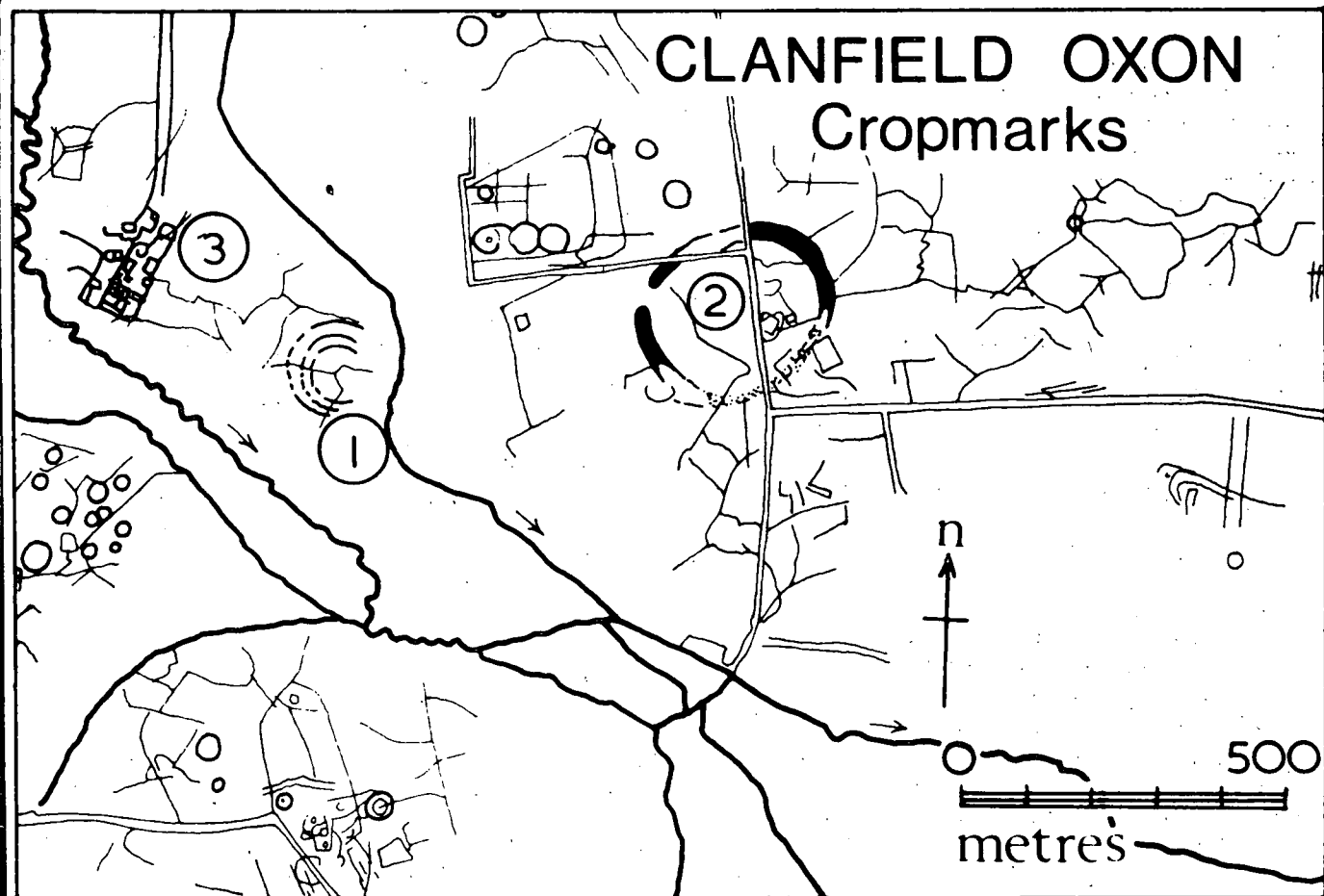
¹ James Dyer, *Current Archaeology* no. 30.

ISLIP Cropmarks

ASTON BAMPTON Cropmarks



CLANFIELD OXON Cropmarks



MILTON KEYNES, BUCKS**BRADWELL, PRIORY OF ST MARY**

SP827396

The proposed restoration of the chapel of St Mary necessitated excavation in order to ascertain the original floor and external ground levels.

Internal. A pavement of Little Brickhill tiles (Hohler type LB23), covering two thirds of the floor from the W end, was found beneath a succession of brick, cobble and earth floors.

External. The E wall of the chapel was found to be the W wall of a substantial building of the second half of the 13C. This building is probably the priory church, onto which the chapel was added in the mid 14C. A half column and the springing of an arch on the E wall of the chapel is now seen as the beginning of the N aisle.

The NW corner and the N wall of the church survived just below ground level, and now that an area around the chapel has been excavated down to the 16C. ground level, they stand almost 1m. high.

The S wall of another medieval building was found on the N side of the chapel.

Several graves were noticed cut through the 16C. ground surface, one of these on the W side of the chapel covered with a re-used coffin lid of Purbeck marble. No graves were excavated.

That the church wall was deliberately levelled and a post socket cut into it suggests some late conversion. Further evidence of this is a garderobe built into the angle of the chapel and church wall on the N side of the chapel. This garderobe contained a group of late 17-18C. glass, porcelain and delft. No late floor levels survived within the small area of the church that was excavated.

CALDECOTTE, SHRUNKEN MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

SP891355

Trial trenches dug in 1967 produced evidence of Belgic, Roman and Saxon occupation; in particular a quantity of handmade sherds in a black gritty ware of Middle Saxon date. Limited excavation was undertaken to locate definite Saxon occupation levels.

Area 1. This produced a row of post holes, a cobble surface and a ditch of medieval date.

Area 2. It was expected that this area would intersect a Roman ditch containing Saxon sherds in the upper fill as seen in the 1967 excavation. The 1967 trenches were not planned at a scale sufficient to allow accurate location and the ditch was not found. Several gulleys and a beam slot were of Belgic-Roman date.

Area 3. The lowest excavated level was of Flavian date. Above this an intermittent cobble surface contained pottery ranging from Antonine to mid 4C. This cobble surface was cut by a 13C. medieval pit and levelling of the surface with clay patches also produced 13C. sherds. At this level were found several small sherds of Saxon pottery similar to that found in 1967.

A fragment of a medieval building jutted into the W side of the area. It had a rough stone floor and was of timber construction. This was presumably contemporary with the levelling of the area and the 13C. rubbish pit.

SIMPSON

SP883363

Excavation on site of Rectory Farm yard and tithe barn. The tithe barn of 17C. date was dismantled before the excavation. The first occupation on the site was represented by several 13C. and 14C. pits, one of which, 4m. in diam. and 1.5m. deep, contained some wattle work and may have been used for the storage of fish.

The tithe barn was of two periods of construction.

1. **Late medieval.** Barn of five bays, 23x7m., of timber construction with the N and E walls on limestone footings owing to the proximity of a pond.
2. **Post medieval.** The barn was rebuilt one bay to the W, the new W bay being over a filled-in medieval pit. The new barn was of five bays, being 21x7m. in size, and was of timber construction with the N and E walls on stone footings as before. A small barn 4.5m. sq. was built against the W end. A late 17C. Terrier describes a 'barn of 5 bays with a small barn adjoining'.

WALTON, ROMAN OCCUPATION SITE

SP887367

An area 20x8m. stripped during the excavation of the Shrunk Medieval Village produced a Roman yard surface dating from the 2C. to the 4C. The large amount of roof tile found suggests a nearby building.

WALTON, SHRUNKEN MEDIEVAL VILLAGESP889366
centre

The earthworks of this Shrunk Medieval Village were planned at 1.500 scale.

Five areas were excavated in advance of development. The main occupation of the site was during the 12,13 and 14C.

Two building plans were recorded:

1. An L-shaped 14C building of timber construction on limestone sill walls on pebble footings. The longest range was 12m.x4m. with an entrance on the E side. The L was made up by a room 4m.sq. on the W side at the N end of the building.
2. A rectangular late 13-14C. building 18m. x 6.5m., aligned E-W with an entrance on the S side. Timber construction of limestone sill walls with an upper storey was suggested by a possible external stairbase at the E end of the S side.

GREAT LINFORD

SP854417

WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN

SP876376

The earthworks of these Shrunk Medieval Villages were planned at 1.500 scale.

WILLEN MOAT

SP881408

A trial trench across the W side of the moat showed that it was originally 6.5m.wide and 2m.deep. No dating evidence was found. Further excavation is planned in 1973.

DENNIS MYNARD for the
MILTON KEYNES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CHARLBURY-ARNCOTT (OXON) GAS PIPELINE 1972 (23)

During trench digging for an 8" gas pipeline over the 10km. from Sturdy's Castle Inn, Tackley, to Charlbury in July and August 1972 several sites were encountered:

1 Medieval pottery found on the surface and pits visible in the side of the trench at SP457190 probably indicate the ephemeral remains of one of the medieval farmsteads of Weaveley known to have existed in this area (PRN 1107).

2 At SP453189 the pipeline cut a stone-lined pit 2x2m. and 1½m. deep situated between two irregular pits. The stone-lined pit was probably secondarily a cesspit and it contained Romano-British pottery; the other two pits contained charcoal layers, several inhumation burials and much Romano-British pottery.

3 Below this site in a small valley to the W the pipeline cut the substantial stone walls of a previously unknown Roman villa at SP452188. At least three rooms were identified including one with painted wall plaster, red painted concrete floor and red quarter round moulding or fillet around the walls, also in plaster. An outer building to the E had a pitched stone floor. Pottery, coins and bronze implements were found indicating that the site had a life from the late 1 C. to the 4 C. (PRN 1263).

4 A probable sunken hut was observed some 80m. W of Akeman Street Roman road at SP445187. Some early Anglo-Saxon pot sherds together with Roman sherds were recovered (PRN 5548-9).

5 A pit containing Romano-British pottery was cut at SP426188 (PRN 5550).

6 The north Oxfordshire Grims Ditch was cut at SP 422188. A section was recorded which bore similarities to sections recorded in the 1930s for the dyke in this area. (PRN 4716).

7 Ditches and banks surrounding Wootton Wood were cut at SP417187 and SP406185. There were no finds but the earthworks were probably enclosure banks of the medieval period.

MICK ASTON and DON BENSON
OXFORD CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM

THE M40 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Since early 1971 this group has carried out fifteen excavations along the line of the M40 in Oxfordshire. These are shown on the map on the next page. Of these, five have yielded information of major importance to an understanding of the settlement patterns of an area hitherto considered archaeologically barren. This information relates to the Iron Age, Roman occupation, early migration, and medieval periods.

The earth-moving phase of the motorway construction has now been completed and all the sites have been obliterated.

Iron Age

HEATH FARM, site 3 on the map
Director: R.T. Rowley. April 1972.

SP648036

Soil marks during earth moving led to the detection of an Iron Age settlement in the plateau gravels seven miles E of Oxford. One hut was excavated showing three phases of occupation apparently dating from the 2 C. BC to 1 C. AD—a lengthy occupation confirmed by a very fine collection of pottery from the ditch fill. Slag indicated iron working and there was a linear ditch contemporary with the hut. There were also four other huts and a substantial ditch to the E of the excavated hut. Indications of Iron Age occupation were distinguishable over an area stretching some 500m. E of the excavation.

HAILEY WOOD, site 14

SU738967

Director: R.A. Chambers. August 1972.

A semi-circular ring work, diam. about 40m., on the Chiltern crest was flanked to the S by a linear ditch and contained near its centre a massive sarsen which may have been exposed when the site was in use. A small amount of early Iron Age pottery was found near the sarsen. Stake holes indicated a possible hut. There were no finds in the ditch fill but a pit within the ditch yielded early Iron Age pottery.

Roman occupation period

LEWKINOR, site 11

SU716982

Director: P.J. Fasham. May 1972.

Cropmarks and pottery finds suggesting a considerable Romano-British settlement in a field immediately to the S of the motorway route some 500m. W of Lewknor had been noted earlier. Soil indications in the motorway drainage ditches led to the excavation of a large field boundary ditch associated with other linear features. Pottery dated from 1 C. to 5 C. AD. Slag indicated metal working as at Camp Corner (reported in Newsletter No. 2 pp. 12-13). It was concluded that here, as at Camp Corner, the edge of an agricultural settlement was being excavated, the bulk of which lies to the S of the motorway.

BEACON HILL CEMETERY, site 12

SU723973

Director: R.A. Chambers. May/June 1972.

Thirty-four graves were found dug into the chalk about one third of the way up the Chiltern scarp. They were up to 80cm. below the original ground level, oriented E/W approximately along the present line of the Upper Icknield Way. Two inhumations at least occurred within the modern line of the Way. Residual pottery, in the absence of grave goods, gave a probable late Roman or immediately post-Roman date.

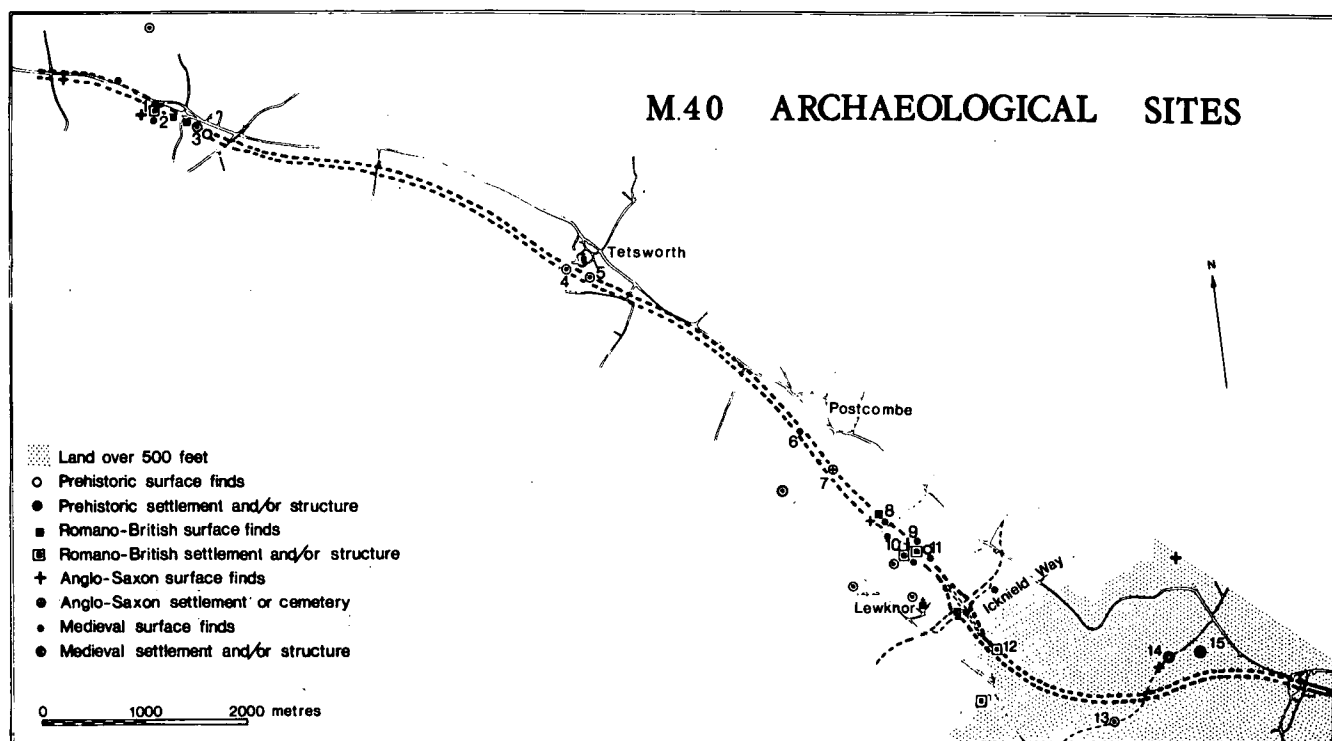
Early migration period

ADWELL COP, site 7

SU707994

Director: David A. Hinton. June 1972.

A small cemetery of three burials, one of a child, of the 7 C. were excavated. A bronze buckle was the only datable evidence among the few finds. Nothing more was observed when the area was mechanically stripped and it appears that these were the only graves.



Medieval period

TETSWORTH, site 4

SP683015

Director: Mark Robinson. July 1972.

A further week's excavation was carried out on this 12-13C. shrunken village without adding substantially to the conclusions reported in Newsletter No. 2 p. 17.

SADLER'S WOOD, site 13

SU735963

Director: R.A. Chambers. July-September 1972.

Woodland clearance on the Chiltern crest at c. 800' exposed the S edge of a complex of buildings, with footings of well mortared, knapped flints. This was interpreted as an assart farmstead, of which records do not survive, with four phases of occupation between c. 1250 and c. 1400 AD.

The settlement was surrounded by a ditch, recut and widened when the buildings of the last and most elaborate phase, which partly overlay the silted original ditch, were erected in the early 14C. The most notable features of this phase were the excellent flintwork, the use of limestone blocks at wall junctions and corners, and the fine tiled archways in the foundations through which ran the rainwater drains to the catchment ditch and possible cisterns.

The roofing was predominantly of red tile, with some limestone, for the ditch sections preserved the results of the final roof collapse: broken tiles half on edge over the berm and down the ditch slope into the bottom. This collapse must have occurred soon after the abandonment of the site c.1400, for reasons which excavation could not reveal.

M.E. DAVIES, Hon. Secretary
M40 ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

An interim report on the M40 Group's operations, 40pp, 2 maps and 19 illustrations, is available from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford. Price 25p plus 7p postage and packing. (Envelope endorsed M40 Report)

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP (24 H-R)

Fieldwork

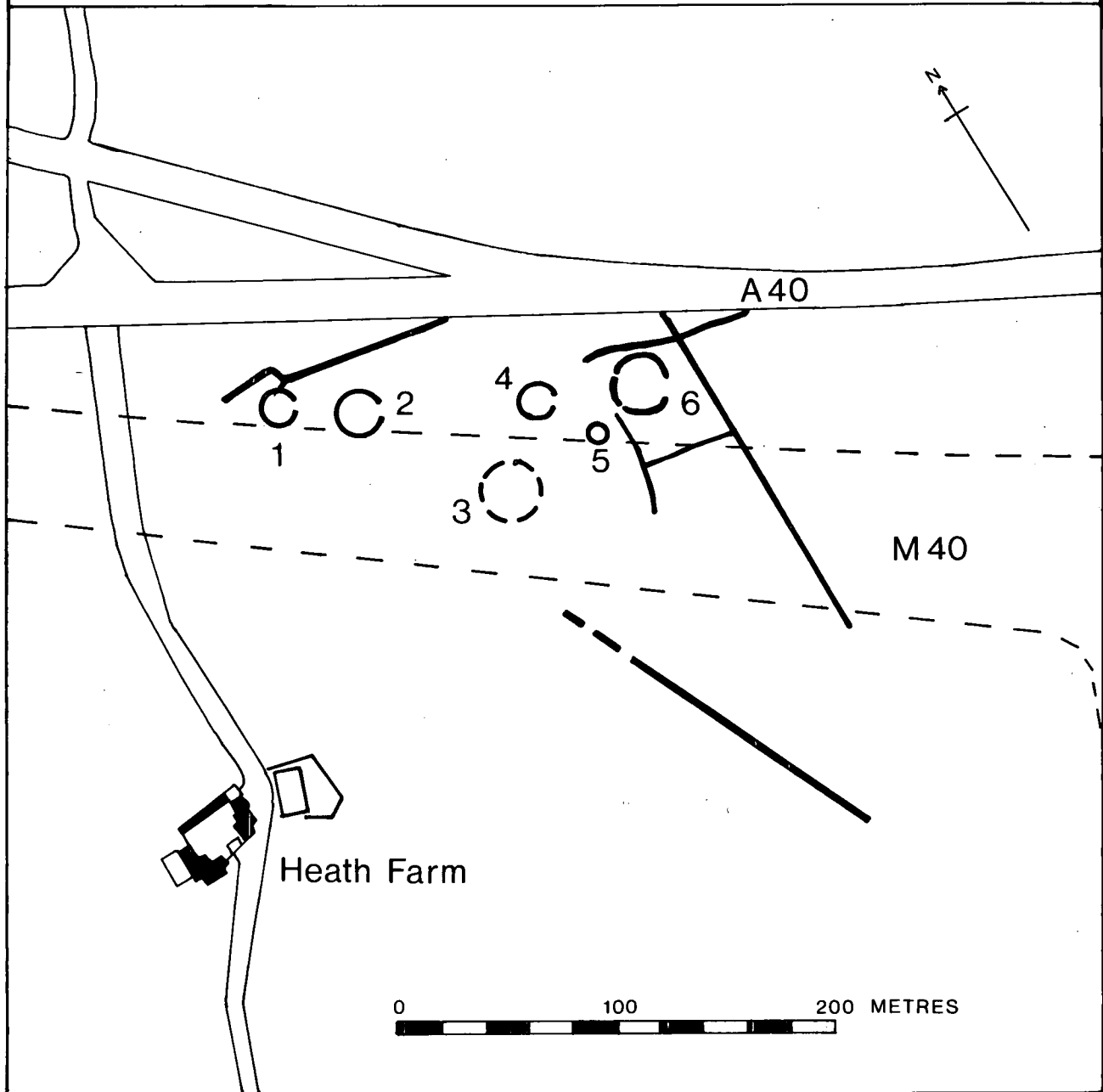
The programme begun in 1971 (Newsletter No. 2 p. 33) has been continued, concentrating on areas of proposed road improvements and housing schemes.

Surveys alongside the Henley-Reading road (A4115) have produced medieval pottery at SU749769, and in Highwood, Harpsden (SU751796) an odd angular deflection in an enclosure bank and ditch led to a circular mound of clay and gravel, 5.5m. diam. and rising to 1.2m. above ground level. Beneath the beech and bramble which covered it, the surface was scattered with minute tile fragments, which included two larger pieces of Roman *tegulae* and one of *imbrex*. There is a villa site ½ mile NE (VCH Oxon. I p. 33). In Swan Wood, Highmoor (SU695856), surface finds of masses of Roman sherds and fragments of burnt clay could indicate a pottery kiln.

Throughout the wooded areas of South Oxfordshire a great number of rectangular pits have been noted, always in beechwoods and always with the spoil thrown up on one side. Their average size is 4.5m. x 2.5m., with depth c. 1m. A fine example at Goring Heath (SU647804) (24) has a beech tree growing out of the N pit slope and one of 60cm. diam. on the spoil heap,

HEATH FARM

Features identified during construction of M40



alongside a rotted sawn stump of the same size; thus giving some indication of age. Recent local information supports the view that these were dug by sawyers, who felled the trees and then cut the trunks up in slices over the pit.

C.R. HART

LILLEY FARM MOATED SITE (24) SU678768

Work here has been limited this year but most of the ground plan of the structures on the island has now been uncovered.

There are two contrasted foundations. The N structure is a solid almost rectangular platform, 4m.x1.5m. and 60cm. deep, constructed of two layers of chalk blocks, topped by 4/5 layers of mortared flints with some bricks. Below some 15cm. of topsoil and chalky clay it is set in yellow clay, the bottom of which has not been reached.

The S structure is marked by wall foundations only, predominantly of flint but incorporating chalk and re-used sandstone blocks in some lengths, and varying in width and depth so that it is difficult to envisage any substantial superstructure. The only evidence of a wall is on the W, where a metre length of three courses of bricks has apparently slid outwards off the flints. There would seem to have been a rectangular structure, 4.5x4m., divided unequally by an internal wall. The surface within and outside, below the topsoil, is a hard, compacted chalky clay.

Finds, all from the topsoil or the top of the clay mixture, are meagre and provide no clear evidence of use, and certainly none of habitation. A few more sherds, a 17/18C. key and an 18/19C. candle holder, a small cache of oyster shells, have been added to an assemblage which is puzzling and seems haphazard.

A tentative conclusion is that the structures were of late 18/early 19C. construction, and that they were demolished, and useful material probably removed, certainly long enough ago for substantial trees to grow over and within them.

It is hoped in 1973 to complete the clearing of the foundations and possibly find evidence of a moat crossing. If the season is dry it may be possible to section the moat, which probings of the sludge indicate may have a flat bottom.

W.J. FOWLER

References: Newsletters No. 1 p. 21 and No. 2 p. 25.

ABINGDON

CORPORATION FARM (A) SU497957, 497970

Work has continued in advance of gravel extraction.

West side. A probable farm enclosure with a rectangular enlargement was sectioned and recorded together with a scatter of pits and post holes. At K71DL there was a badly damaged double inhumation of a woman about 30 years old and a boy about 9 years old. Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from one pit, but the dating of the enclosure awaits the detailed assessment of the finds. Nearer the road only short lengths of a RB ditch remained, with part of a circular (?) feature with no dating evidence.

East side. A Neolithic 'henge' type enclosure with two entrances may be associated with a small circular ditch overlaid by the large Bronze Age ring ditch. Part of a RB enclosure ditch with an entrance on the E side was dated to the mid 2C. Later Saxon occupation in this area gave part of a faceted carinated bowl of the early 5C., near to a small *grubenhäus*. Another large *grubenhäus* probably of 6C. overlay a part of the large ring ditch. Only the post holes remained of a further *grubenhäus* at J71BJ; two pits at J71HK and J71HL had been dug below water level and contained clay. Both produced wood and J71HL contained 5C. Saxon pottery.

A small number of microliths have been recovered during topsoil clearance.

BUILDINGS SURVEY: 26-28 STERT STREET

A complete survey before conversion of what had been shops until recently has shown two 16C. timber-framed buildings within an existing 18C. casing, and a lower occupation level some 8' below the present ground level and just above the river Stert water level. Unfortunately no datable finds were found.

There is also a Victorian bakehouse in the rear of the premises. Two ovens, a side flue Scotch type and an early example of a steam-pipe baking oven, together with the working equipment and tools, have been surveyed and recorded.

THE ABINGDON AND DISTRICT ARCH. SOCIETY

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DEPARTMENT: REPORT OF WORK IN 1972

Since taking up his duties on 1 January 1972, the Archaeological Liaison Officer has been mainly concentrating upon the following activities:

- 1 The compilation of the Bedfordshire Sites and Monuments Record has proceeded as time has allowed, and some 3250 cards are now completed. A small proportion of these involve listed buildings. Maps at various scales, including a set used by development control officers, have been prepared from these cards. The system is generally modelled upon that in use at the Oxford City and County Museum.
- 2 Lectures, talks and courses have been given throughout the year amounting to over 30 separate talks to a variety of audiences from schools to preservation societies and professional associations of mineral extractors.
- 3 Training and rescue excavations (mainly the latter) have been directed or managed at a number of sites. These are itemized in the general list of reports in this Newsletter.
- 4 The preparation of an Aspect Report on the Historical Environment for the County Structure Plan has been almost completed. Whilst neither Archaeological Officer nor sites and monuments record have been in existence long enough to permit a definitive and detailed survey of the entire archaeology of the county, it has been possible to identify the main areas of concern and discuss the problem of archaeological and historical architectural monitoring in relation to the planning process. It is hoped that the public consultation copies of this report will be available in the first quarter of 1973.

DAVID BAKER

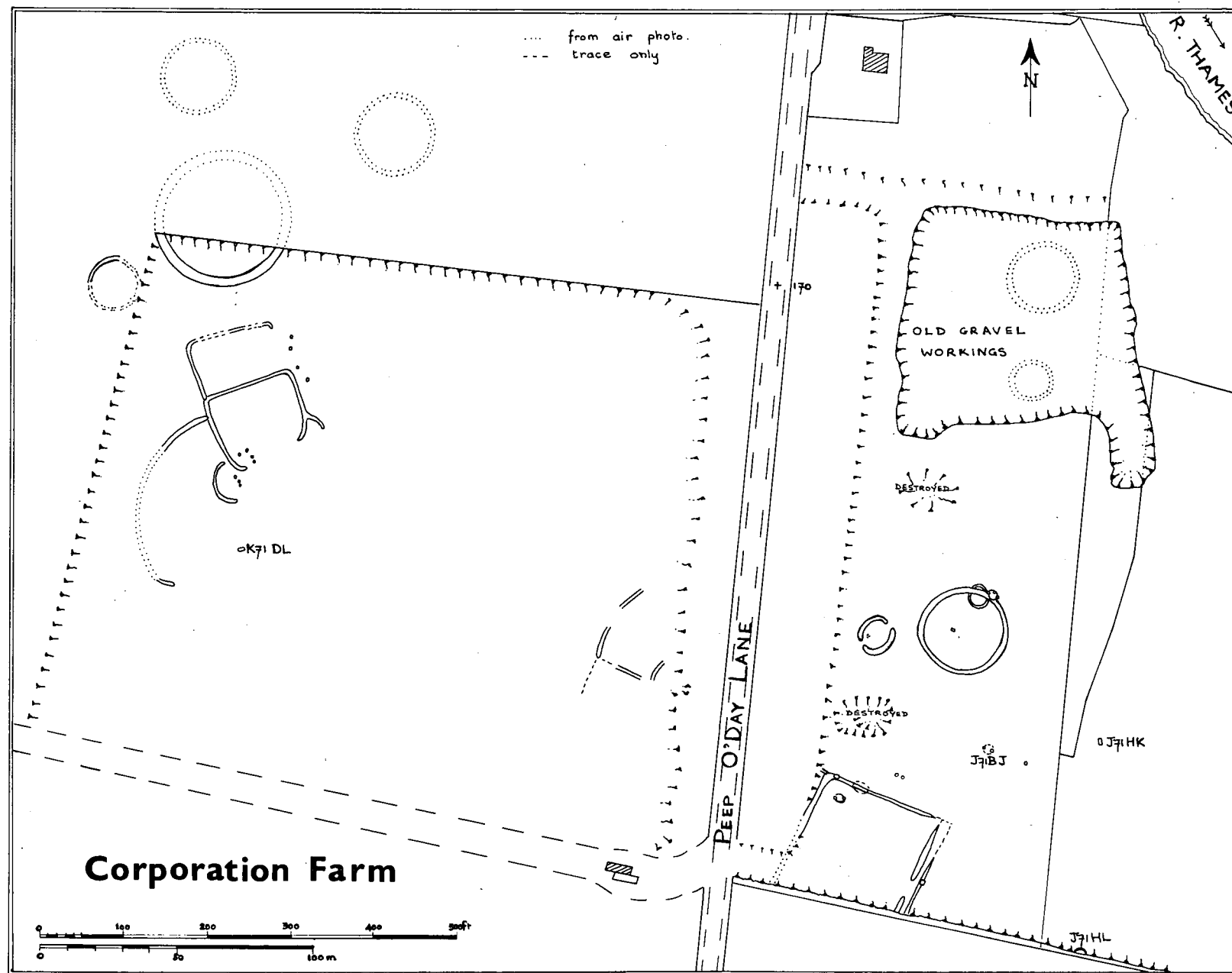


FIG. 1

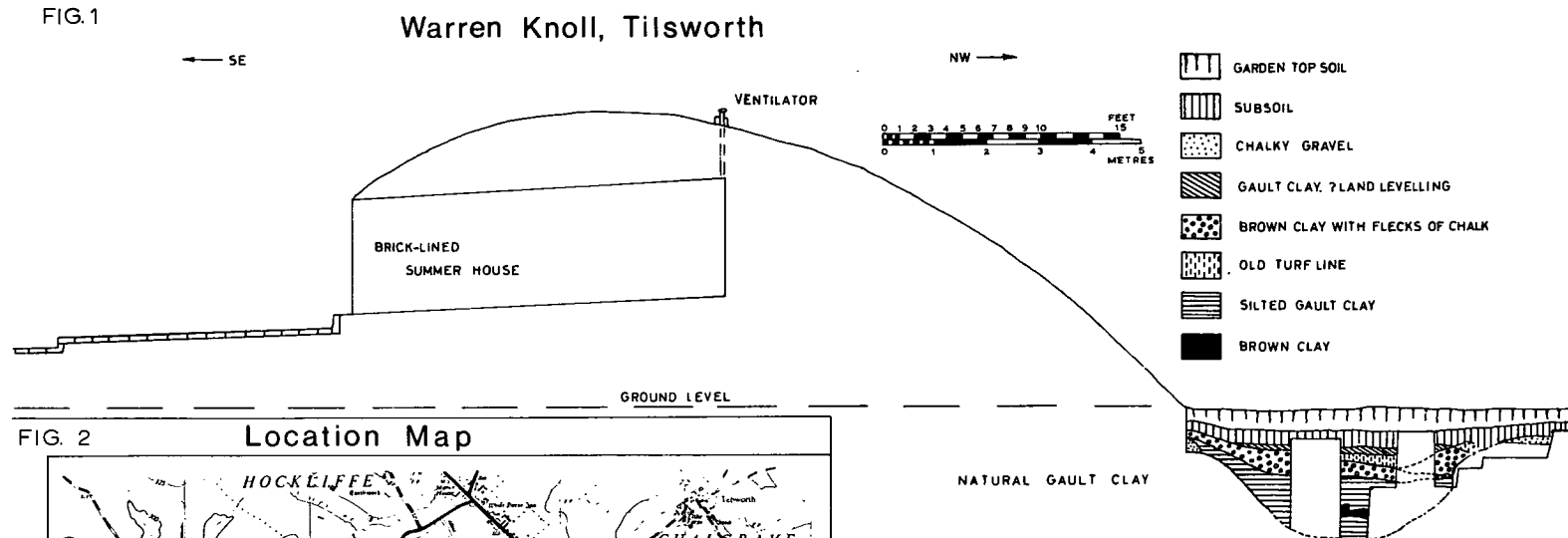
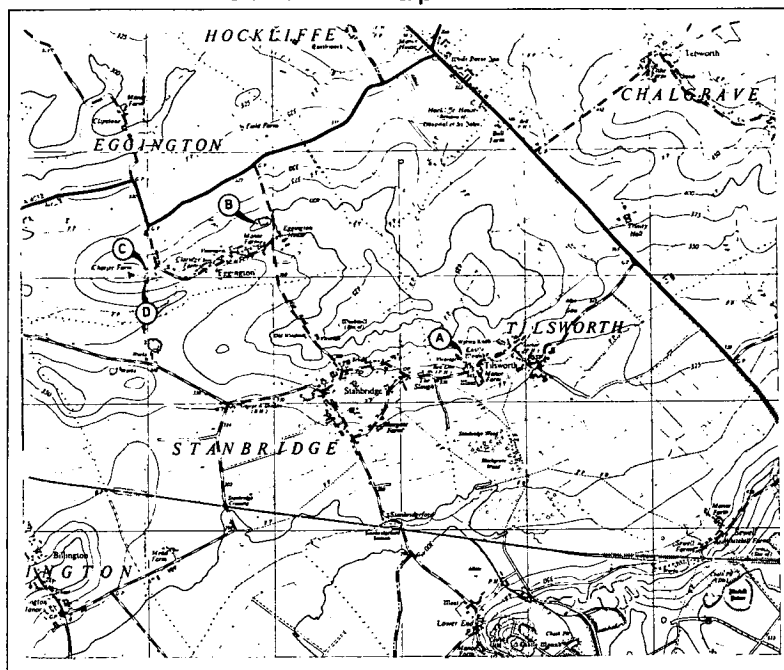


FIG. 2

Location Map

- (A) WARREN KNOLL EXCAVATION, 1972
- (B) EGGINTON EXCAVATION, 1972
- (C) EGGINTON EXCAVATIONS, 1959-1962
- (D) EGGINTON EXCAVATIONS, 1959-1962

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MANSHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (23)

SP959254

The Society carried out a small excavation at Eggington in Bedfordshire on a site which had produced in 1932 an Early Iron Age B inhumation, buried with pots (*Antiquaries Journal* vol. XX, 2 (1940)).

The current excavation shows a spread of Mesolithic material, Early Iron Age A sherds and a mixture of late Roman and hand-made Saxon wares. Very little disturbance of the pasture had taken place since Saxon times, probably only shallow ploughing, and little medieval material was found.

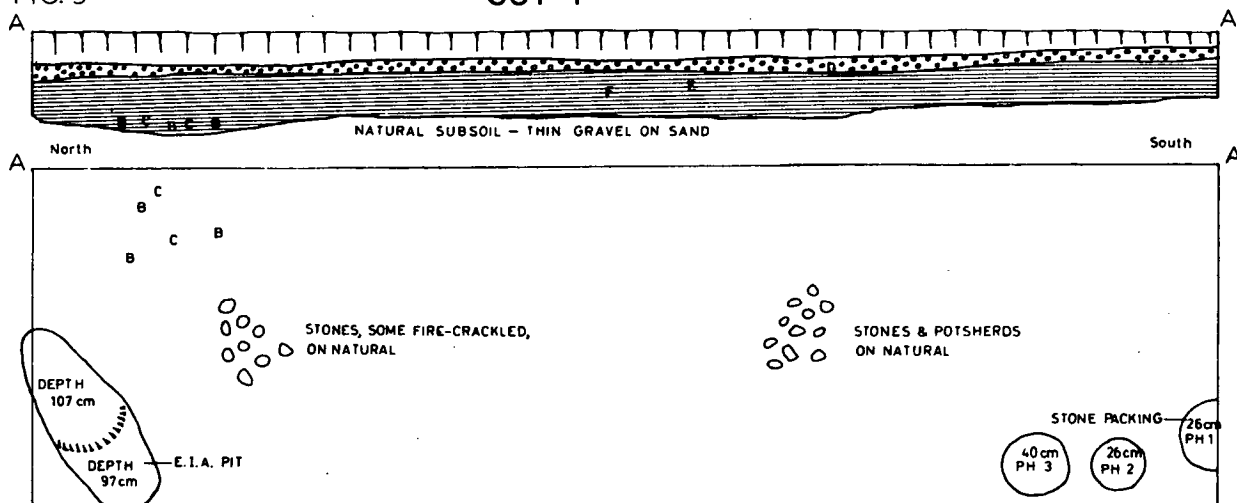
A knife and a spring lock may belong to this late period, but their association with so much hand-made Saxon pottery and late Roman material leads the excavators to think that they are of much earlier date. A patten was found just beneath the turf level.

SP972243

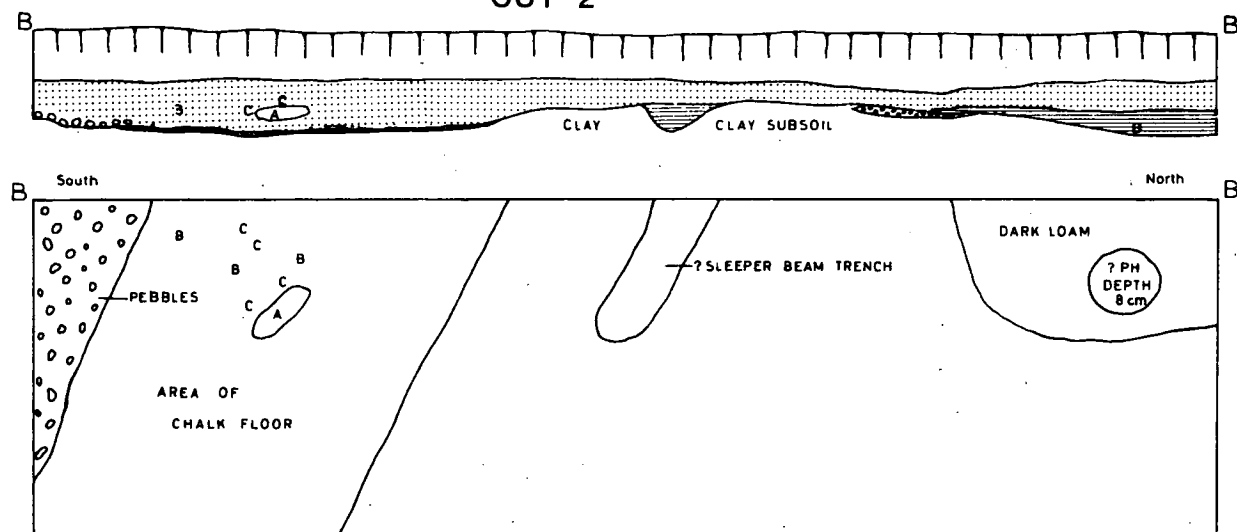
A small excavation was also undertaken at Tilsworth in Bedfordshire, adjacent to a mound, to establish whether this was a medieval motte or a windmill tump. The excavation proved that it was surrounded by a substantial ditch and that it is probably an early fortified site.

FIG. 3

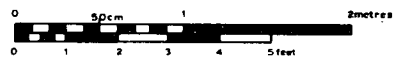
CUT 1



CUT 2



- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|
| TOPSOIL | GRAVEL | DARK LOAM | LIGHT LOAM | PACKED CHALK |
| A — HORSE SKULL | B — ROMANO-BRITISH SHERDS | C — SAXON SHERDS | | |
| D — IRON PATTEN | E — SPRING LOCK | F — IRON AND BRONZE KNIFE | | |



ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM 1972

Two rescue excavations have been arranged by the Museum during the year; one in advance of road construction near the well-known Romano-British religious complex at Thornborough, the other in advance of gravel extraction on the site of the migrated village of Fulmer (see p. 21 above). The Department of the Environment grant aided both, and the cooperation of the County Surveyor in the first instance and of Amey Gravel Ltd in the second is gratefully acknowledged.

More time has been spent in preventative work this year, and stronger links are being forged with the County Planning Department, resulting in cooperation with a regional study of the Vale of Aylesbury and with several 'Village Plans'. The Museum will also be contributing to the forthcoming County Structure Plan.

Further major road works are planned in the county and information has been supplied to the Eastern Road Construction Unit presenting the archaeological case for alignment of the A41(M) Aston Clinton bypass. At Magiovinium, however, extensive excavations will almost certainly become necessary, as the A5 diversion through Milton Keynes is likely to pass close to the Roman town. The Road Construction Unit recently proved most helpful in preserving a rectangular cropmark site (? fort) to the SE of the town.

A start has been made on restructuring the county's sites and finds records and in this connection a scheme known as the County Antiquities Survey has been inaugurated. Although still in its early stages, several societies and archaeological groups have expressed interest and are now assisting by compiling record cards from sites and finds in their own localities. The collection of data is based on both fieldwork and systematic records search. A central index will be housed at the County Museum, local groups or individuals holding copies of the record cards.

A number of new sites have been discovered in the county (apart from the intensive work being carried out in Milton Keynes), and many of these are in the Vale of Aylesbury and the result of active fieldwork by four individuals. Fieldwork in the south of the county is not strong at present, with one or two honourable exceptions, and it is hoped that the growth of archaeological evening classes may stimulate this important side of county archaeology. An account of new sites and finds appears annually in the *Records of Bucks*.

After a number of individuals had expressed interest in assisting with processing excavated material, a weekly group is now being held in Aylesbury on Tuesdays for this purpose and is doing most useful work. The Museum is always pleased to hear from people within the county interested in this activity or in helping with the County Antiquities Survey.

MIKE FARLEY

THE UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

This year has been one of the most active in the committee's history (founded in 1966). Close liaison has been maintained with the gravel companies, who have become increasingly generous in their material assistance.

The excavation programme (for fuller reports see above) consisted of almost continuous work at New Wintles Farm, Eynsham. The committee has been concerned with this site since 1966, and it represents the single gravel area in the whole Upper Thames region where a virtually complete record has been made of the archaeological evidence as it has been destroyed. The results of the interpretation of what may well be a complete early Saxon settlement at New Wintles Farm are likely to be of considerable significance.

The excavations of the late Romano-British cemetery site near Dorchester and the excavations within the Roman town at Dorchester were undertaken at short notice, but have added considerably to our knowledge of this vital area.

Work continues on the excavation of the Devils Quoits at Stanton Harcourt, and should be complete by the spring. The committee was originally formed to excavate this site, and it will be something of a relief to have achieved this daunting objective.

During the year work has continued on the cropmark survey and it is anticipated that the first section between Oxford and Lechlade will be published by the early summer. With the help of a British Academy grant, work continues on the analysis of aerial photographs between Oxford and the Goring Gap. It is hoped that this will be available by the end of the year.

UTAC is going fully professional in 1973 and is to appoint a Field Archaeologist to organize and direct a programme of excavations on the Thames gravels.

TREVOR ROWLEY, Hon. Secretary

UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN CBA9

The Industrial Archaeology Committee consists basically of one representative from each county and meets at least twice a year. The chairman is Dr P. Jarvis, 1 Wordsworth Drive, Bletchley, and the hon. secretary is J. Kenneth Major, BArch, RIBA, 2 Eldon Road, Reading RG1 4DH. 'The committee is intended to cover all the elements of industrial archaeology in the five counties; to ensure that industrial monuments receive the adequate listing and scheduling accorded to other historical monuments; to be available for emergency action if buildings are threatened'.

At its most recent meeting the committee noted such projects as the Stacy Hill Barn Museum, which is to house the material of the Agricultural Machinery Society, and the probable opening to the public of the Combe sawmill, Marlborough Estates, near year, and heard reports by Dr Jarvis on the Ouse flashlocks at Wroxton and Castle Mill Staunton, and by Mr Aston on his publications on Stonesfield slate and Leafeld

pottery. It was agreed to try to secure the rehabilitation instead of the destruction of the railway cottages at New Bradwell, and the preservation by framing and covering of the windmill graffiti on the outside of Tottenhoe church, Beds.

There are at least two active groups within the region. Members of the Berkshire Industrial Archaeological Group are engaged on surveys of such material as roadside milestones, signs and tollhouses, and breweries and maltings, while this year studies have been made of Ackerman's Wire Works, Reading, and of the Binfield Brick and Tile Works. Work has begun on dismantling a horse-operated pumping engine at Shabden Hospital, Croydon, for re-erection at Greys Court, Henley. The Northampton Industrial Archaeology Group is also active and its hon. secretary, Mr G. Starmer, contributed to the November conference in that town. This group helped in the emergency recording of Snorscomb mill and is currently involved in a canal survey.

Archaeological societies often too have interests in the industrial field. The Wolverton Society has a large collection of slides from contemporary photographs illustrating the social and economic life of that railway town in the late 19C. and early 20C. There is also a good deal of work going on in Oxfordshire, based on the Woodstock Museum.

Mr J. Kenneth Major represents the Group on the CBA national Industrial Archaeology Committee.

REVIEW

David Hinton and David Carpenter, *OXFORD BUILDINGS. FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN: EXTERIORS*. 1972. 75p.

This large-size guide booklet has a stiff card cover, enclosing 70 pages, and is illustrated with 79 black-and-white photographs and a plan. As a guide to standing buildings it represents an extremely enterprising venture for its sponsor, the Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee. An immediate reaction is, of course, another book on Oxford!

However, this one is aimed at the architecturally minded visitor and the reader of this Newsletter. It has a modern, rather trendy appearance, and while not cheap, neither is it expensive and is certainly value for money.

The plan of the booklet is clear, and as the subtitle suggests, is based on the chronological development of Oxford architecture from the Middle Ages to the present (from St Michaels tower to Woolworths). Exteriors only are illustrated and discussed. Each building or category of structure selected is illustrated with one or more of David Carpenter's photographs. Set alongside these, David Hinton's text dates, describes and places the buildings in their contexts. The choice is of course highly selective, and concentrates in the main on well-known monuments built in stone. To give an example, only six

timber-framed buildings are found among the 60 or so entries. This is not to suggest that vernacular building is omitted but does indicate that it is the tourist Oxford that is depicted. All the examples will be found within the limits of the modern city centre.

Many of the photographs were taken for the booklet during the first half of 1972 and capture rather too well the dull early summer, that no doubt some can still remember. They also bring out well the pace of change in Oxford; from the restorer's hand (the temporary Radcliffe 'box' is shown in place), illustrates the new stone-paved gravel surface of Corpus Quad; shows cars in Radcliffe Square; and records the sad fact that Benfield and Loxley 'builds' at 126 High Street. A predominant impression of Oxford's own brand of medieval and Tudor gothic also emerges combined with the effects of stone decayed and stone replaced. These pictures in fact make a useful comparison with those in the just pre-war Royal Commission volume.

I personally regret the authors' restriction to exteriors, for example the wonderful contrast between the elevation of the Abbey National shop, that we are shown here, and the hall and vault one knows is inside, is lost. This restriction to exteriors must ignore the understanding of layout planning that is so important for the Oxford visitor to grasp, be it in college or High Street. It is also true to note that the Victorians, while adding the larger monuments chosen here, did much more sympathetic work, and where is Keble chapel? This is perhaps unfair, in that such additions would require a larger work, that would detract from the purpose of this useful booklet as now produced.

JOHN ASHDOWN

SOME PUBLICATIONS

1. Within the Region

A.C.C. BRODRIBB, A.R. HANDS, D.R. WALKER <i>Excavations at Shakenoak I-IV</i>		from Dr A.R. Hands, Exeter College, Oxford
T.G. HASSALL <i>Oxford, the City beneath your Feet</i>	35p	from O.A.E.C., 1 Cambridge Terrace, Oxford
D.A. HINTON <i>Oxford Buildings, Medieval to Modern</i>	80p	as above
G.F. BRYANT and J.M. STEANE <i>Excavations at Lyveden DMV 1969-1970</i> (<i>Northampton Museums Journal</i> 9) plans, 23 plates, 26 figures	85p	from the Headmaster, The Grammar School, Kettering, Northants
R.T. ROWLEY and M. DAVIES, ed. <i>Archaeology and the M40 Motorway</i>		from Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford
CBA Newsletters no. 1 (10p), nos. 2 and 3 (35p each) plus 5p p&p		as above
C. SIBBIT <i>Bells, Blankets, Baskets and Boats</i> (Some Oxfordshire craft industries)	15p plus 2p p&p	from OCCM, Fletchers House, Woodstock, Oxford
Range of parish guides and histories		as above
M.A. ASTON <i>Stonesfield Slate</i> (forthcoming)		as above
K. BRANIGAN <i>Town and Country: Verulamium and the Roman Chilterns</i>		forthcoming from Spurbooks Ltd, 88 Blind Lane, Bourne End, Bucks
<i>Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal</i> vol. VII just published	£2.10	from Hon. Treasurer, Beds Arch. Council, 63 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedford
<i>Berkshire Archaeological Journal</i> no. 66 forthcoming	£1.50	from Hon. Sec., Berks Arch. Soc., Turstins, High Street, Upton, Didcot, Berks
<i>Records of Buckinghamshire</i> annually	£2.00	from Hon. Librarian, Bucks Arch. Soc., County Museum, Aylesbury, Bucks
<i>Bulletin of the Northants Federation of Archaeological Societies</i>		from A.E. Brown, Dept of Adult Education, Leicester University, Leicester LE1 7RH
<i>Oxoniensia</i> , the archaeological and historical journal for the Oxford region	£2.75	from Hon. Treas., OH&AS, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford OX1 2PH

2. Available from The Council for British Archaeology, 8 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LB

<i>A Survey and Policy of Field Research in the Archaeology of Great Britain. Part I</i> (1948)		price 28p post free	
<i>The Council for British Archaeology: The First Decade</i> by W.F. Grimes. Reprinted from the <i>Archaeological News Letter</i> 8-5 (January 1955)		price 7p post free	
<i>Archaeological Bulletins of the British Isles</i> (title changed to <i>Archaeological Bibliography</i> in 1954)			
1940-46 (1949)	price 20p post free	1947 (1949)	price 20p post free
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1950-51 (1954)	price 20p post free	1952-53 (1955)	price 40p post free
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1966 (1968)	price £1 post free	1967 (1969)	price £1 post free
1968 (1970)	price £1 post free	1969 (1971)	price £1.50 post free
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British Archaeological Abstracts: issued half-yearly. Annual subscription £5 for institutions, £2.50 for individuals.

Back numbers available from vol. I (1968) at same price

Archaeological Site Index to Radiocarbon Dates for Great Britain and Ireland. 1971, including supplement for 1972.

Gravel Sand and History (1951)

Memorandum on the Ancient Monuments Acts. 2nd edition (1954)

Current and Forthcoming Offprints on Archaeology in Great Britain and Ireland: issued half-yearly

Calendar of Excavations: issued monthly from March until September with January summary

***CBA Annual Reports**

CBA Research Report no. 6: Romano-British Coarse Pottery. A Student's Guide

CBA Research Report no. 7: Rural Settlement in Roman Britain, 2nd edition (1969)

CBA Research Report no. 8: A Gazetteer of British Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Sites by Derek A. Roe

CBA Research Report no. 9: The Iron Age in the Irish Sea Province (1972)

The Erosion of History: Archaeology and Planning in Towns

The Iron Age in Northern Britain. Edinburgh UP (1966)

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* *Archaeology in Britain 1971-1972* is the latest report, 100 pages, in new cover and format.

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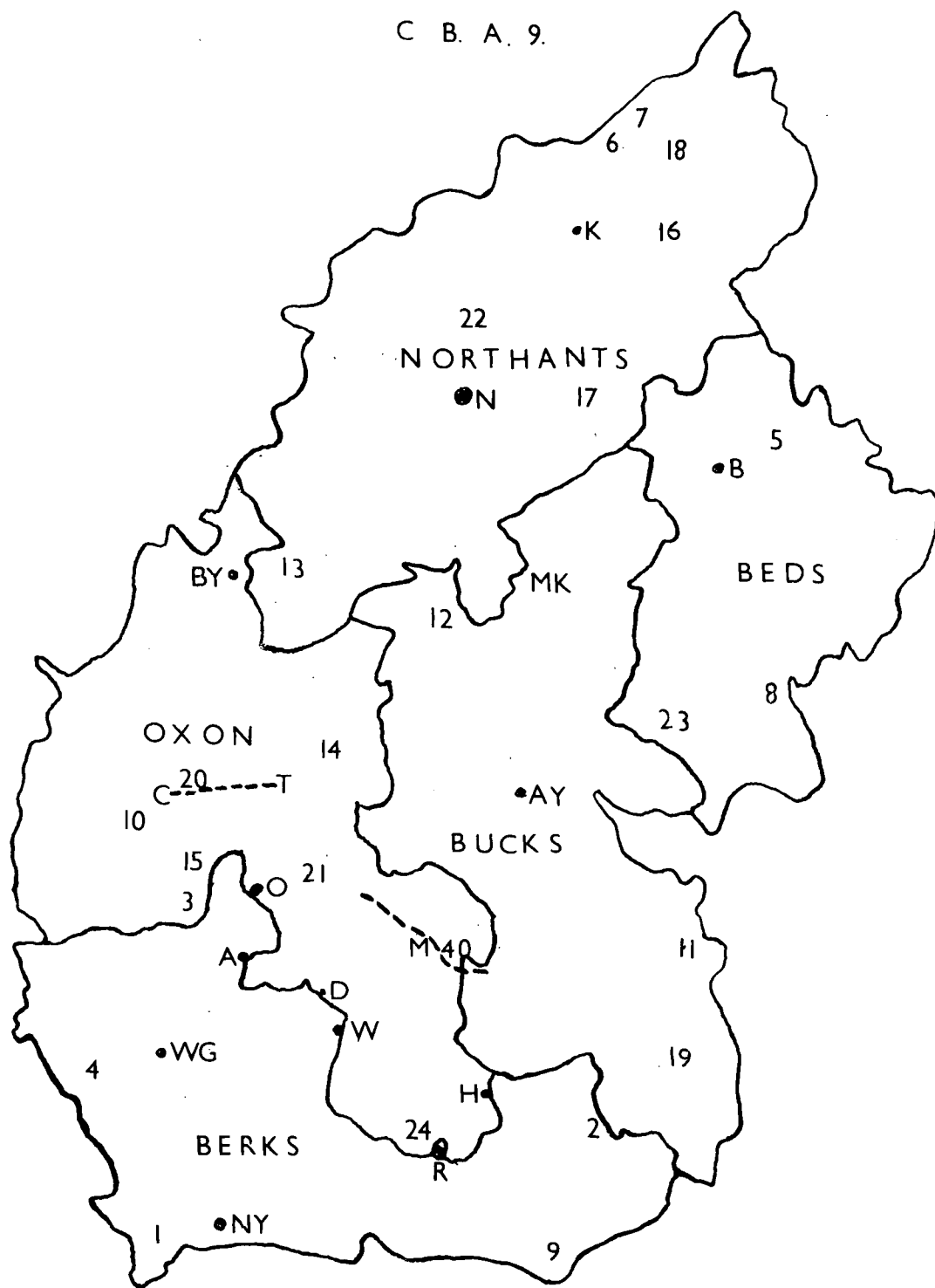
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