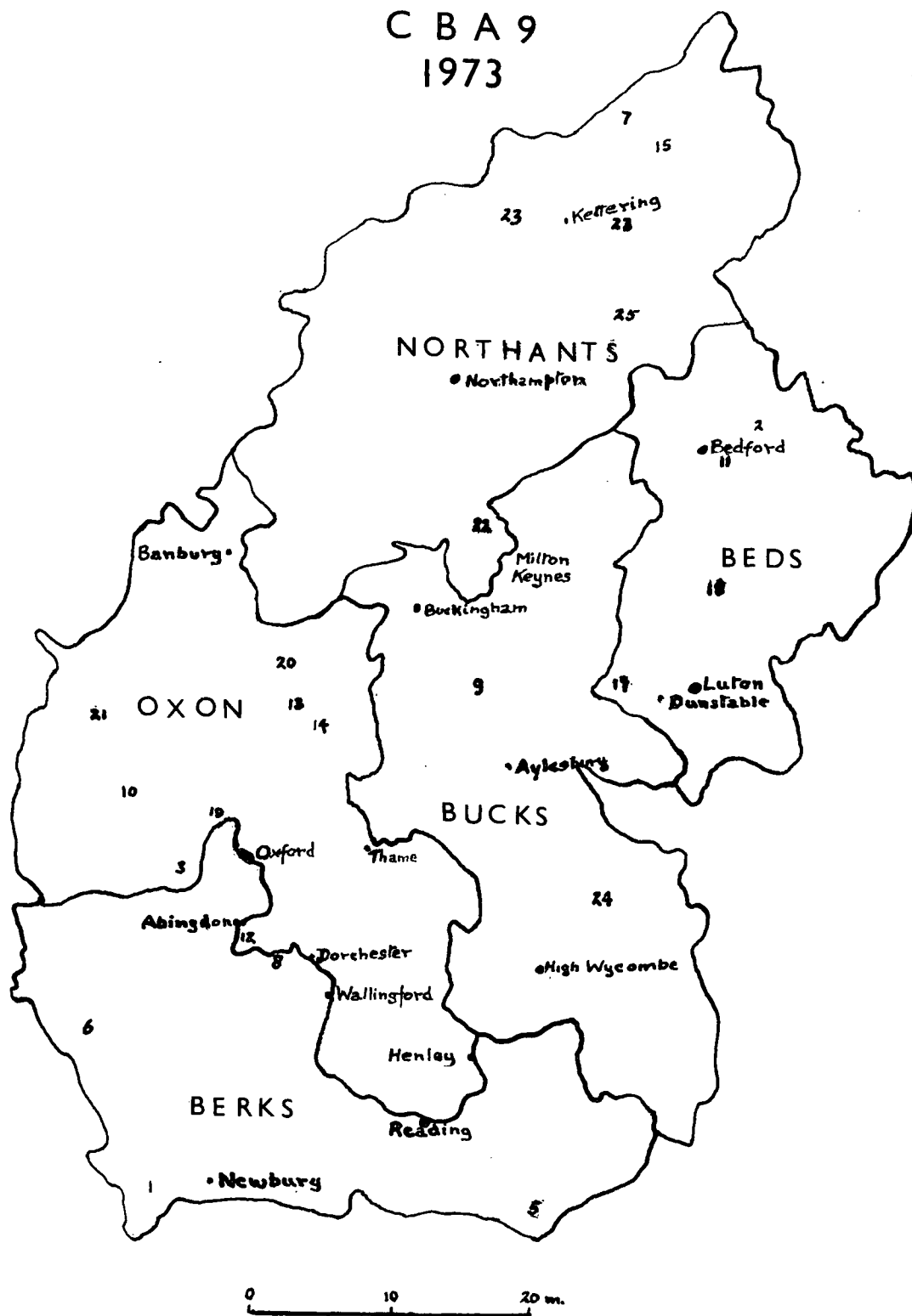


COUNCIL
FOR
BRITISH
ARCHAEOLOGY
GROUP 9

NEWSLETTER 4 1974

C B A 9
1973



Figures on map above correspond with those in report headings and indicate location of sites or areas where place not shown above.

Property of CBA South Midlands

**COUNCIL FOR
BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY**

Regional Group 9

(Bedfordshire Berkshire Buckinghamshire Northamptonshire Oxfordshire)

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NEWSLETTER No. 4 1974

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

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Editorial note

This Newsletter is late because its publication is timed to coincide with the Report Conference and this had to be in March instead of February this year. Secondly printing has been held up by the three-day week.

Contributors to Newsletter 5 are reminded in advance that material should be with the editors by 30 November 1974.

This edition is notably lacking in information on forthcoming activities and we should welcome news in this field, particularly from local societies, and indeed of their activities generally. The present difficulty caused by the existence of two separate affiliations, to the CBA and to the CBA Regional Group, is one of the matters on which the new Director of the CBA will report and make recommendations to the May meeting of the CBA executive.

EDITORIAL

As the contents of this Newsletter show, the main preoccupation of archaeologists in our region remains with rescue work. Many of our sites are thus chosen for us on non-archaeological grounds, that is we have to dig where redevelopment takes place. But it must be remembered that the results still have to be incorporated into wider fields and it is clear from many of the reports published here that light is being shed on research problems already in hand. If field-work, be it survey or excavation, is to be fruitful its results must be analysed and published and its material conserved. It is a hopeful sign that these parts of the archaeological process are at last being taken into consideration when estimates are being discussed and programmes drawn up.

There is another aspect of our association with rescue work which should be noted. It is that archaeologists tend often to be identified with those conservationists who wish to preserve anything of antiquity. However, as archaeologists we must be aware that change is inevitable and that it is impossible impracticable and indeed undesirable for our landscape to be fossilized at one particular stage of its development. On the other hand it is true that redevelopment at the moment removes so much so quickly that we must be vigilant to conserve those aspects of the landscape which are of particular merit or illustrate particular features of our history, but ubiquitous preservation is as sterile as ubiquitous destruction. Constructive planning is imperative today to cope with landscape change on an unprecedented scale, and if not influenced by aesthetic, historic and humane considerations it will unknowingly destroy what we have inherited. Archaeologists have a role to play in this planning process.

We must not just have a narrow vision solely concerned with the underground aspects of archaeology but join ourselves with those who see our total landscape as much a

result of art as of nature and seek to conserve and develop it as a pleasing and economic environment for our successors. It is particularly encouraging to note that many of the papers included in this Newsletter are concerned with just these wider aspects of landscape archaeology.

R.T. ROWLEY

W. FOWLER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNITS

1973 was the year of the units, or at least it would have been. Following a meeting called by the Department of the Environment in February it seemed that the country was rapidly going to be divided up into fifteen multi-county units, each with a director, a number of field archaeologists with budgets, which in the light of recent archaeological spending in this country, seemed astronomical. Throughout the spring and summer the argument for and against units was waged. Eventually in the autumn an announcement that government expenditure on archaeology was to be increased to just under £1 million for 1973-4, but this of course was well short of the global sum required for the establishment of the fifteen proposed regional units. Gradually as discussions between the CBA, the DOE, local authorities and museum authorities progressed the vision of an archaeological Camelot receded. We were left with a more mundane if more immediately practical scheme involving a series of county archaeological units. At the time of writing (January 1974) the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit is the only independent county organization in existence. In the present economic climate, it is not likely either that there is going to be any further substantial increase in DOE money or that there is going to be much local authority financial support for the establishment of new units. So some twelve months after the heralding of the dawn we already seem to be approaching dusk.

In our own CBA region the major advance was the establishment of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee with its own unit. This brought together the various grant-receiving bodies in Oxfordshire and put them together under one roof. Tom Hassall, formerly director of the Oxford Excavation Committee, was appointed its director and David Miles was appointed as the senior field officer with responsibility for the gravel sites, John Hinchliffe was appointed to look after road schemes, Mrs Kirsty Rodwell was appointed to look after small towns while Brian Durham took over from Tom Hassall in Oxford and Mike Parrington replaced David Miles in Abingdon. All in all things look set for a brighter archaeological future in Oxfordshire at least. On another front the counties of Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire are consulting about the establishment of an advisory committee which would try to rationalize archaeological resources in the South Midlands. Although discussions are at a relatively early stage it is hoped that a committee can be formed which will help to coordinate the

rescue work in the region. Berkshire has been absorbed into a similar organisation which includes Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset.

R.T. ROWLEY

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

We are sorry to be losing Mick Aston from the Oxford City and County Museum. We would like to thank him for his support for the Newsletter, and wish him good luck with his work as county archaeologist for Somerset.

David Hinton left the Ashmolean Museum for Southampton University and Martin Welch has taken over responsibility for the Medieval collection. In Northamptonshire Paul Everson has been appointed as a field officer by the county council.

THE ROMAN TOWN DEFENCES AT DORCHESTER, OXON. — AN INTERIM ASSESSMENT

In 1935, acting on a letter written by the Rev. Thomas Barns in 1882,¹ C.E. Stevens and G.S. Keeney attempted to trace the defences of Roman Dorchester. Their ideas, with a map, were first published in a short interim report² and then in a full article.³ This second article described excavations carried out on the western defences as well as giving a full description of the authors' reasons for placing the eastern defences where they did on the map published. In 1962 Professor Sheppard Frere, excavating on behalf of the Dorchester Excavation Committee, examined an area in the southwest corner of the town and also cut sections across the western defences and the southern defences.⁴ Since 1935 there has been no reappraisal of the town defences and the shape of the town continues to be thought of as a regular rectangular (playing-card-shaped) area.

In 1970 as part of a general survey of the known archaeological monuments at Dorchester⁵ a map of all the breaks of slope and changes in level was constructed on a 25" base plan (Fig.1). This seemed to indicate that although the present centre of the village occupies a flat area there are considerable changes of level on the southwest, south and southeast sides and also north of the abbey itself. Considerable

changes were however engineered at the southeast corner of the village with the construction of a new bridge, causeway and approach roads in 1813-15⁶. The abbey church stands on a low knoll which is the highest ground in the immediate environment of the village.

The western rampart was clear in 1935, as it still is today, and was proved by the excavations in 1935-36 and 1962. The southern rampart is still plain to see and its existence was also proved in 1962. For reasons stated in 1937,⁷ Hogg and Stevens decided that the eastern defences ran approximately through the centre of the modern village and excluded the site of the abbey from the circuit of the defences. However, it was recognised even in 1935⁸ that 'there was some evidence that both north and south ditches ran on beyond the line of the east rampart' (as suggested then) 'to join the Thame', and this observation was reiterated in 1937⁹.

This northern ditch running across to the Thame could have been associated, possibly, with the abbey, but it would seem unlikely that the buildings north of the abbey church (barns and stables demolished some time ago¹⁰) would have been separated by a wide ditch from the main abbey conventual buildings. There remains the probable alternative that this northern ditch was a definite part of the defences of the Roman town running along the northern side of a defensive bank to the river Thame. This would have brought the river into the scheme of defence, a factor unlikely to have been overlooked as a useful stratagem for the eastern side of the town. A wide hollow half a metre deep south of the school marks this ditch and all along the northeast side it is backed by breaks of slope and changes of level of a half-metre to one metre in height.

The present abbey church is of Norman origin and by tradition occupies the site of a Roman building.¹¹ The church stands on the highest area of the village marked by significant slopes (half-metre to one metre in height) to the south and west. It would seem unlikely and indeed strategically improbable that the Roman builders of the town defences would have deliberately excluded the highest part of the immediate environment from their defended area for the sake of a regular rectilinear town plan when, by including the abbey area, they could also utilise the river as a defence. The breaks of slope cited seem to have demarcated the abbey precinct within the northeast corner of the town and there is no evidence at all of an eastern ditch within the village area. It is unlikely that the Saxon minster established at Dorchester in the 7th century would have been

1 Printed as an appendix to J.H. Parker, *History of Dorchester, Oxfordshire* (1882).
 2 *Antiquity* IX no. 34 (June 1935) 217-129.
 3 A.H.A. Hogg and C.E. Stevens, 'The Defences of Roman Dorchester', *Oxoniensia* II (1937) 41-73.
 4 S. Frere, 'Excavations at Dorchester-on-Thames, 1962', *Archaeological Journal* CXIX (1964) 114-119.
 5 Carried out by the Field Department, Oxford City and County Museum, for a Conservation Study of the village undertaken by the Architects Department, Oxfordshire County Council.

6 *VCH Oxon* VII (1962) 40 (Dorchester Hundred).

7 *Oxoniensia* op. cit. 44.

8 *Antiquity* op. cit. 219.

9 *Oxoniensia* op. cit. 42 (south ditch), 44 (north ditch).

10 *VCH Oxon*. VII (1962), 42 (Dorchester Hundred).

11 OS Record Card no. SU 59 SE1 Dorchester Abbey

outside the earlier defences;¹² there are many examples of cathedrals and abbeys being established within the defences of earlier Roman towns.¹³ It is highly likely that the present abbey church stands on or near the site of this Saxon minster¹⁴ and it is perhaps significant that the conventual buildings (now demolished) lay *north* of the church, the irregular arrangement often suggesting that a church's foundation predates the regularisation of monastic plans introduced with the Norman conquest. If the abbey had been a new foundation on this spot in the 11 or 12C. it would surely have been placed further north with its conventual buildings to the south facing the sun and better positioned for the elaborate water system arrangements needed in a monastery of its size. The present position of the abbey thus argues for an early (i.e. pre-conquest) foundation date and it would indeed be exceptional if this had not been within the Roman defences.

The town plan shown below is rather irregular and certainly more irregular than that produced on the 1935 plan; however there are now plenty of examples of rather odd-shaped small Roman towns.¹⁵ It could be therefore that at Dorchester there is a Roman defensive system which is irregular in plan and that far from excluding the area now occupied by the abbey it includes it as an important part of the defences on the eastern side. These defences were probably demolished in the 11 or 12C.¹⁶ and they only remain therefore as slight earthworks marked by breaks of slope and changes in level.

APPENDIX

Since this account was written attention has been drawn to work carried out by Professor Hawkes in Dorchester in about 1961.¹⁷ A pipe-trench up to 6ft deep and 4ft wide was dug along the main street in Dorchester. At a point southwest of the abbey, almost exactly on the line of the eastern defences put forward by Hogg and Stevens, a large stone wall 8ft wide and still remaining to 3ft in height was encountered running in a north-south direction. It appeared to be backed by a rampart similar to that encountered in the earlier excavations. This discovery would tend to eliminate any suggestion made above that the abbey area was originally within the town defences, as indeed would the work of Banks and Cunningham within the abbey claustral buildings. They found a 3 to 5ft makeup of material in their trenches — enough to significantly alter the minor local topography.¹⁸

12 If it was this near the town at all. Dr St Joseph in *Uses of Air Photography* suggests that a site at Warborough (SU 589945) may have been one of the early monastic sites.

13 London, York, Gloucester, Chester, Cirencester, Exeter.

14 c.f. Winchester with 7th-century features adjacent to the Norman and medieval cathedral.

15 c.f. Brough-on-Humber, Worcester, Godmanchester, East Bridgford.

16 *Oxoniensia* op. cit. 47.

17 I am grateful to Professor Frere and David Hinton for drawing my attention to the work of Professor Hawkes in Dorchester and for allowing me to borrow the manuscript plans.

18 C.J.J. Cunningham and J.W. Banks, 'Excavations at Dorchester Abbey, Oxon,' *Oxoniensia* XXXVII (1972) 158-164.

However, in 1973 Trevor Rowley carried out a detailed contour survey of the village of Dorchester and his initial conclusion is that, if anything, the defences of Dorchester surrounded an even larger area than that suggested here, taking in a formerly open part of the village to the north of the school and manor house.¹⁹

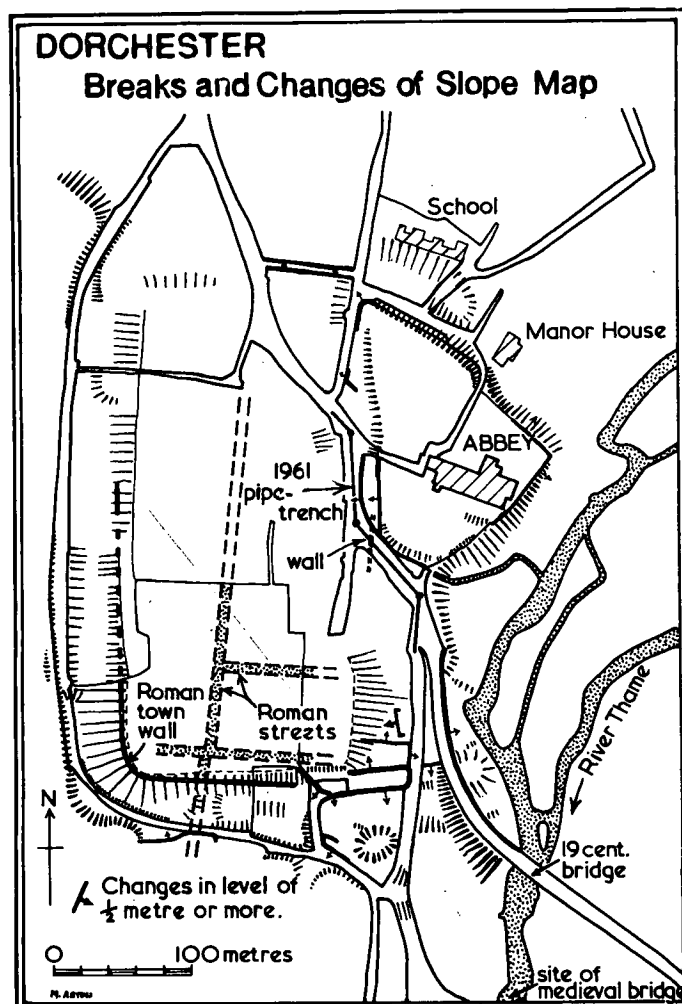
It will be seen therefore that the course of the defences of Roman Dorchester is as yet by no means proven. The use of sketch planning to produce a breaks of slope map represents only the most basic technique that can be employed in an attempt to trace such a line.²⁰ No doubt excavation is the only method that can be used to prove these defences one way or the other.

19 Personal communication

20 M. Aston, C.J. Bond, 'Sketch Planning — an introduction' *CBA 9 Newsletter* 3 (1973) 8.

M. ASTON

FIGURE 1



AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NETHERLANDS

This report is based upon observations made during an exchange visit to Leiden by four archaeologists from the Oxford area. In the time available we were able to see only a limited amount of the archaeological work in the country, and therefore it may contain some major misconceptions. However, some general points did emerge.

1 The Netherlands has a state archaeological service (ROB) which has developed through, and now works closely with, the archaeological museums and university institutes.

2 In the past almost all archaeological excavation has been carried out by professionals and there is accordingly a very rigid division between professionals and amateurs which has not up to now been apparent in British archaeological activity.

3 It does not appear that redevelopment, mineral extraction or other forces of archaeological destruction are as active in the Netherlands as in Britain at the present time. Most of the ancient towns were redeveloped after the last war and many of the motorways were built between the wars or immediately after. Also most of the new suburban redevelopment is in the western part of the country which, superficially at least, appears to be less archaeologically interesting. (However, the Dutch are now finding this not to be the case, and field working is producing traces of intensive occupation in these areas as well.)

4 As a result of these factors quite apart from the size of the country there is proportionally less archaeological activity both professional and amateur than in Britain.

5 In the Zuyderzee reclamation project, authorities have been set up with various responsibilities: including the Yssel Polders Development Authority which prepares the new land for agricultural and urban purposes. This authority has an archaeological division which is given five years, in which time marine archaeological research of the new land can be undertaken. As is to be expected many shipwrecks are discovered (319 to date) in this shallow sea area.

These are investigated using a quadrant system of excavation and if the find is of interest it is transported to the ship museum laboratory at Ketelhaven for conservation.

Other finds which are at present beyond the financial capabilities of the division are reburied where they can be investigated again at a later date.

The Yssel Polders Development Authority is often asked by the ROB to assist ship excavations in other parts of the Netherlands. Recently several Roman ships were discovered at Zwammerdam and initially investigated by Professor Glasbergen of Amsterdam University.

AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGY

Although local groups are now developing throughout the country, amateur archaeology appears to be still largely con-

cerned with individual finds or groups of finds. Indeed we found this emphasis on finds something of a contrast with the present situation in Britain. There is an amateur journal called *Westerheim* to which groups and individuals contribute short papers; there is also a monthly newsletter for recording finds.

As far as we can see there is no network of local groups and societies and therefore no real counterpart to the CBA. Similarly there is no well-defined system of adult education as found in Britain, and therefore an almost complete absence of archaeological groups sponsored by such bodies as the extra-mural departments of EAs and LEAs. It is significant that the stimulus to form a group in Leiden came from the organisation of a simple lecture course by the people's university (the nearest equivalent to a university extra-mural department) by professionals explaining their work.

Apparently most of the groups in existence exist simply to attend lectures and discussions and do not ever perform the publishing function of our county societies, which would be their rough counterpart. Almost all our factual information concerning amateur groups was obtained from a visit to a well-established (sixteen years) organisation in Haarlem which could well serve as a model for newly formed working groups such as that at Leiden. The Haarlem group was concerned with rescue archaeology on sites which the professionals did not have the time, resources or interest to excavate. They did however work with the sanction of the ROB and had a licence to excavate which theoretically at least is required by all non-professionals. The group had no lack of volunteers although it must be pointed out that on average it only required one half day a week work from its members. Much of the work appeared to fall on a small dedicated group of directors, who put in much longer hours including many evenings.

The group tended to concentrate on known sites which were about to be destroyed or sites which were identified during redevelopment. The group was not concerned with prior fieldwork ahead of redevelopment, or in the identification of new sites.

The group operated from extremely spacious quarters in the middle of Haarlem, where they had a large number of rooms for working on material (accommodation which would be much envied by many professional organisations in this country). This was provided free of charge by the local authority. The local authority also made a grant of approximately £300 a year for the group's work.

After excavation the group analyse the pottery and finds and write the report before carrying out any further work in the field. The group directors produced reports on their work in cyclostyled form; these were simply a statement of the excavated results with little or no attempt to synthesise the information. A copy of this report is deposited with the ROB and a shortened version is published in the amateur journal. A larger excavation might be published by the ROB itself. We noticed that this approach, which concentrated on the production of the basic data without synthesis, was a

fairly common one, even with professional publication.

In conclusion it would be fair to say that the success of such groups must, as in Britain, depend upon the dedication and application of a comparatively small number of part-time archaeologists. However, in the Netherlands they are working in much more of a vacuum than in Britain. Although the professionals are now trying to help to establish such groups they are apparently not willing to help with the training and directing of amateur archaeological excavations.

CLIVE HART
RON HENDERSON
TREVOR ROWLEY
BIRGEETA SPEAKE

PREHISTORIC NOTES

A MESOLITHIC SITE Nr. KINTBURY, BERKS. WAWCOTT
XXX (1) SU413676

This typical Mesolithic site on the flood plain of the river Kennet between Hungerford and Newbury was first recognised from surface indications several years ago; it was tested by excavation in 1972. As a result it was shown to be in immediate danger of being entirely ploughed out. This season an area 10 yards x 9 yards was excavated. In this area several small concentrations of worked flints were found within a general background matter. Fragments of bone were quite common, some were large and will be identified in due course. Parts of the area excavated had already been disturbed by agricultural operations. Where the stratigraphy was more preserved it appeared that occupation had taken place on a thin marshland soil developing on the gravel and marl deposits of the flood plain. At a later date marl was deposited over part of the site; later still it would seem likely that the whole area was enveloped by peat, this was removed in historical times.

The assemblage of flints is not large and has yet to be examined in detail. However a number of features are apparent. Several axes have been recognised. The microliths are largely simple obliquely blunted points, but two fairly large isosceles triangles are present. Gravers are well represented and there are scrapers also. The industry as a whole is generally larger than many found locally; an early date seems likely. Some bone has been submitted for a possible radiocarbon date, while soil samples will be examined by the Geography Department, Reading University.

F.R. FROM for
St. BARTHOLEMEW'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
NEWBURY, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, READING
AND THE BRITISH MUSEUMS

THRUPP FARM ABINGDON — MESOLITHIC SITE

SU520971

The excavation of an IA hut circle (Newsletter 3, p.14) produced a quantity of worked flint, which included a number

of microliths. These have been identified as Mesolithic. Since then, regular field walking on the site has revealed a scatter of flint covering an area about 60m across. These include: long blades and blade segments; backed blades; microliths; a fine tanged transverse arrowhead; a shouldered point; about 40 microcores; 2 prismatic cores; burins and end scrapers. A number of Neolithic pieces were also found. In all, about 1500 flints have been recovered.

The site has been damaged by deep ploughing, and is now threatened by gravel workings. An excavation is planned for 1974.

BILL SKELLINGTON for
ABINGDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ROXTON, BEDFORDSHIRE (2)

TL 158535

Five ring ditches and later prehistoric field boundaries revealed by cropmarks from aerial photography are in the process of destruction by gravel extraction. One ring ditch has been partially examined and subsequently destroyed, and two others are in process of examination. The ring ditch mostly examined in 1973 was 38.0m in diameter externally, with its ditch approximately 4.5m wide and 2.0 deep. The ditch seems to have silted up naturally without recutting or cleaning and iron age and Roman pottery was found in higher levels. The material from the ditch made a shallow mound in the middle, the lower part of which survives. Iron Age field boundary ditches, recut in the Roman period, cut across the filled up ring ditch. Various other features were observed but not understood in the process of commercial grading.

A. TAYLOR and P. WOODWARD for
BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL and DOE

A BRONZE HOARD FROM AYLESBURY

SP827146

A late Bronze Age hoard was discovered in April 1973 by Mr D. Ottridge whilst putting in footings in his garden in Manor Drive, Aylesbury. He has deposited it on loan in the County Museum.

The hoard is of the Carp's Tongue Complex of the C7 BC. It consists of seven socketed axes, two 'winged' axes, one palstave, and several lumps of bronze. All of the axes have ribbed decoration, save one which has wing decoration. Both of the 'winged' axes are broken, as is common with this type of hoard. The area around the find was excavated by the County Museum Archaeological Group, but it turned out that the original finder had himself cleared the area thoroughly in his search for further material. Although a number of isolated bronzes have been found in Bucks, this is only the fifth recorded instance where more than three objects have been found together, and the first Carp's Tongue hoard.

MICHAEL FARLEY for
BUCKS COUNTY MUSEUM

DEVILS QUOITS, STANTON HARCOURT, OXON (3)
SP411047

Work on the interior of the Class II Henge Monument, on the butt ends of the ditches and on the entrance areas was completed. (See Newsletter 3 (1973) p.13 for work on the ditch sections, and dimensions of the site.)

The complete excavation of the available two thirds of the interior, though complicated by many geological disturbances, revealed the secret of the missing standing stones, three only of which have been recorded in recent times as standing within or near the monument. The smaller stones had been lifted out of their stone-holes and removed from the site or thrown into the butt ends of the ditches. When the stones were too large for this operation they were either broken off at ground level, or were levered into pits which were dug close to their original position, and buried. One of these had been broken up in a pit by the fire and water method. As at Avebury, the destruction of the stones had probably taken place in medieval times, either from iconoclastic reasons or to clear the land for medieval cultivation. Sherds of medieval pottery were found in the pit used for burning the stone, and the site was overlaid with the furrows of medieval cultivation.

The stone-holes were irregularly positioned at an average distance of c.7m, and followed the line of the ditch.

When no stone-holes were evident in their assumed positions it was observed that in these areas there was always a hard, impenetrable, conglomerate bedrock. It was therefore presumed that it had not been possible to construct so deep a stone-hole, or else that the weight of the stones and the action of the weather had enlarged the holes constructed in the gravels, whereas stones on the bedrock had been able to support their weight on a solid foundation, which had left little trace when the surrounding soils had been eroded. Including these presumed stones, the total number of stones in the area excavated should therefore total 24; to these should be added those stones and stone-holes which still lie under the concrete runways, if a complete number is to be obtained. Both within the interior and outside the ditches the bedrock showed signs of quarrying and it is possible that the standing stones were obtained very locally.

The paucity of finds in the early levels, apart from large quantities of animal bone, especially at the ditch terminals, indicate that the monument was deliberately kept clean. Each terminal had a hearth above the primary silt; in one of these small fragments of burnt pottery were found. The ditches had been continually cleaned when the soft sand and gravel sides had slipped in; this activity had considerably altered the original shape of the ditch, and had made it variable in depth and width. The ditch terminals, which may originally have been square-ended, had become very irregular in shape. In the SW terminal, which had suffered less from erosion and cleaning out, there was evidence for two large marking posts, beneath one of which was found an antler pick.

A detailed analysis is being made of the molluscs and the animal bone, and a C14 date is awaited on the latter.

MARGARET GRAY for
UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

RADWELL, BEDFORDSHIRE (4) TL010575

Continued gravel extraction has revealed two more ring ditches. The first was circular, 34ft diameter, with a ditch 7ft wide and 4ft deep. Just off-centre was a cremation buried in an inverted collared urn with a plough-damaged base. Amongst the bones was a small bronze (toilet?) article similar to an awl, a few small bone objects, and beads of jet and orange glass with at least two spacers. A date of about 1500BC is suggested.

A large oval 'ring' ditch of axes 84 by 96ft yielded no finds except a posthole 9in diameter containing some cremated bone.

Between the ring ditches was an Early Iron Age hut. The palisade gully, 18in wide and 20in deep, encompassed an arc completing a semicircle of radius 34ft. Along the diameter was a slightly off-centre posthole 14in wide and 16in deep. There were three hearths made of burnt pebbles set in clay. Outside the hut was a rubbish pit which yielded a good group of pottery.

D.N. HALL AND J.B. HUTCHINGS,
HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

HEATHERWOOD HOSPITAL, ASCOT (5) SU914687

Excavation took place in the summer and autumn of 1973 upon a previously unrecorded bell barrow amidst the hospital buildings. The aim of the work was to establish the nature of the mound in advance of threatened redevelopment which is, temporarily, in abeyance. In the light of the excavation, it is now to be recommended for scheduling.

The barrow was 16m in overall diameter and stood to a maximum height of 1.9m. The surrounding ditch, which was sectioned at two points, was only 2m wide and 1m deep and was separated from the mound by a berm 6m wide. An attempt to rob the barrow in the last century had resulted in a deep disturbance at its centre, but this did not reach the buried land surface. The mound was of two phases, the first a substantial stack of inverted sods, and the second a series of tips of sandy clay derived from the ditch and added mainly to the edge of the original mound. There is pollen evidence for a brief interval between these periods of construction.

In the quadrant excavated there was no evidence of a grave and the only intrusive feature in the buried soil was a single posthole. The turf line itself sealed a series of shallow and ill defined furrows in the leached surface of the buried soil.

Decisive environmental evidence is still lacking, but these furrows are tentatively viewed as parallel spade furrows from a short-lived phase of cultivation. Preliminary accounts of the associated pollen suggest that the barrow had been built in a

recently cleared area of relatively light woodland. Dating evidence is limited to a pressure flaked knife of the early Bronze Age from the turf stack, and a charcoal sample from the surface of the buried soil is to be submitted for radiocarbon dating.

C.F. SLADE for READING UNIVERSITY and the
BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE
By R. BRADLEY IN BERKS. ARCHAEOLOGICAL
JOURNAL (forthcoming)

RAMS HILL, KINGSTON LISLE, BERKSHIRE (6)

SU316864

A second season of excavation took place upon the Bronze and Iron Age enclosures originally examined in 1938 and 1939. It is now possible to refine the sequence suggested in 1972 and to suggest some outline chronology. The first occupation of the site possibly took place within a forest clearing on the crest of the hill and was perhaps directly replaced by a substantial Early Bronze Age enclosure. This possessed a considerable flat-bottomed ditch with an internal rampart, perhaps faced by a stone wall. At least four entrances are now known. No evidence for internal structures has come from the quadrant excavated. It is roughly dated by a collared urn found in 1939 and by a sherd of 'Wessex biconical urn'. The ditch was once recut before the bank was largely levelled and the earlier earthwork was replaced by a substantial stone packed palisade. A roughly circular post structure by one entrance to this palisade probably belongs to this phase. On radiocarbon evidence this enclosure may be placed in the C2BC. It was soon replaced by a second palisade, set into a continuous trench and accompanied by the postholes of a possible fighting platform. Two entrances to this enclosure have now been examined. The southern entrance incorporated a dog burial, and the west entrance was of at least two constructional phases. No internal structures are known and a carbon date in the C2BC again seems appropriate. This was replaced in turn by a slighter double palisaded enclosure of comparable date, but of a type more common in northern Britain in the mid first millennium BC. The southern entrance showed at least three phases of construction, one of which incorporated two more animal burials. On pottery evidence it seems that two round houses, one a considerable porched structure, belong to this phase together with a road linking the two excavated entrances and flanked by parallel clusters of postholes. These included at least seven 'four posters'. The line of the successive enclosures was then reused as a plough headland and cultivation about the earlier earthwork had lasted for some time before the area reverted to grassland and a larger, Early Iron Age, fort was built over the fields.

There were no internal features in the areas excavated. This site may have been superseded by Uffington Castle and by the Late Iron Age ploughing had resumed both inside and outside the hill fort defences. Within the Bronze Age enclosure traces of a ditch system of this date were identified. There was little trace of Roman activity until the C4, when a square enclosure was butted onto the fort rampart. This possibly

served as a rural shrine. The remainder of the site may be too badly damaged by ploughing for a representative pattern to remain and work towards a final report is now in hand. The excavation was financed by the British Academy, the Prehistoric Society, Reading Museum and the Berkshire Archaeological Society.

RICHARD BRADLEY and
ANN ELLISON

WAKERLEY (7)

SP940983

Excavation of this important Iron Age settlement has continued in 1973 (see Newsletter 3 p.14).

The settlement consists of a double enclosure, of which some 10,000 square metres has so far been excavated. The arrangement of circular huts within one of the enclosures is of special interest, as is the gateway, and a possible lookout tower in one corner of the enclosure. Numerous iron smelting furnaces and associated features have been identified. There is evidence that iron working began on the site before the Roman period and continued over a long period of time. Three pottery kilns dating to the C3 AD and many Roman ovens have also been found. Work on the site is continuing.

D.A. JACKSON for the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

APPLEFORD, BERKS (8)

SU523936

Excavation in advance of gravel extraction revealed the pits and ditches of part of an Iron Age and Romano - British settlement.

The Iron Age occupation was represented by a series of ditched enclosures, the earliest being roughly circular with an internal diameter of c. 13m. On to the NE side of this enclosure two successive enclosures had been added, and the whole complex surrounded by a timber fence, through to the east of the principal enclosures ran a trackway aligned roughly north - south, and defined by small ditches on either side. Associated with the enclosures were a number of small circular pits.

Superimposed on these features were the ditches of a RB trackway, aligned NE - SW, on either side of which were a number of enclosures. The trackway ditches and the ditch defining the eastern side of the enclosures had all been recut several times, the latter ditch silting up finally in the middle of the C2AD, whilst the trackway ditches were kept open into the C4.

A small cemetery to the NE of the principal areas of excavation was also uncovered during stripping by draglines, and eight east - west extended inhumations excavated, two of which had small iron knives.

The line of the RB trackway, if projected, would meet the Thames at the point where the Didcot - Oxford railway line crosses the river. Field-walking by members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society established there was a spread of Roman pottery along this line, and diving

by members of the British Sub - Aqua Club located timber piles in the river bed at this point, suggesting that this had been a crossing place before the construction of the railway.

JOHN HINCHLIFFE for the
OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

ROMANO-BRITISH

A ROMAN CIST BURIAL AT NORTH MARSTON, BUCKS (9) SP758230

On 9 March, whilst field drains were being laid at North Marston, a limestone structure was cut through. Some associated bone was discovered and a few fragments of pottery. Subsequent excavation by the County Museum Archaeological Group showed the trench to have cut through the north end of a rectangular stone cist, composed of a number of horizontally laid limestone slabs with uprights around. The average size of these slabs was 0.30 x 0.20 x 0.06m. The surviving structure measured approximately 1.20 x 1.40m, and as at least ten slabs had been disturbed by the mechanical excavator, it seems likely that the cist may originally have been 1.20 x 1.50m, with the longer axis north-south.

Only one third of the contents remained to be excavated. In fact this disturbance turned out to be the second occasion that the cist had been touched, for its contents, which consisted of parts of three late C1 bowls and a bronze 'spring', were found broken and irregularly dispersed in the fill. None of the bone recovered was longer than 15mm and most of it less than 4mm. Only three fragments were cremated, and such of the remainder as can certainly be identified appears to be animal. The brooch 'spring', whilst superficially of common C1 type, on subsequent examination by Mr M.R. Hull turns out to be totally non-functional and of its kind apparently unique.

In conclusion, despite lack of definite human remains and the rarity of cist burials in the Home Counties, it seems likely that the structure was a cremation burial of the C1AD. On the conclusion of the excavation the cist was back-filled with sand.

MICHAEL FARLEY for
BUCKS COUNTY MUSEUM

SHAKENOAK EXCAVATIONS 1974 (10)

The excavations at Shakenoak Farm, near Wilcote, Oxfordshire (SP374138) have continued the process of total excavation of this predominantly Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon site. Two new features were examined in 1973:

1 Site K, the waterlogged valley-bottom which bisects the Roman farmstead, contains the largest of the three fishponds at Shakenoak. This structure, which measures 22m by at least 70m, was filled c.AD200 and Building K was constructed above it. This building was circular, diam. 10m, with coursed stone walls to at least 0.3m above ground level

and a pitched stone floor. The roof was supported by four timber posts placed centrally in a square array 3.2, apart. The entrance was on the east side, with a porch supported by oak posts. The structure very closely resembled a late Iron Age house in plan.

2 Site E was investigated, lying some 200m south of the Roman farm. This shallow, circular mound some 1.3m high at the centre and 40m in diameter proved to be a much-robbled barrow, probably of Bronze Age date. A disturbed cremation burial lay at the centre, with no grave-goods.

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

NEWNHAM, BEDFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE (11) TL075492

Work was concentrated on the settlement area of a possible villa. Preservation of structural remains is limited and the stratigraphy is shallow, but two building plans have been so far recovered. The earlier consists of the NW angle of a building at least 10m by 10m. The angle encloses an area of mortar floor, and the fragmentary remains of 4 mortar and stone channels sloping towards a depression in the centre. The second building which is 5.6m wide and at least 10m long has a hypocaust construction. No structural evidence of the furnace remains, but a large area of burning was associated with a flue channel at the west of the building. The destruction debris filling the hypocaust has produced much late Roman fine ware, a coin of C4 date and a body sherd of a Saxon urn with a stamped decoration. A courtyard area to the south, of which 10m by 15m has been so far identified, was covered with rough limestone paving sealing occupation deposits including C1 and C2 pottery, as well as a fine stone lined well. Several early ditches have been identified, one producing Iron Age pottery.

MISS A. SIMCO for
BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

LOVE LANE, SHAW

SU473684

During observation in September on the new link road Roman brickwork which had been subjected to considerable heat was discovered in a new cable trench and roof tiles in another trench nearby. A rescue operation was launched to clarify the nature of the site.

A team directed by Mrs Jill Greenaway uncovered and sectioned two circular kilns 1.6m and 1.9m in diameter. The southern kiln and the stokehole of the northern kiln were cut into a large feature filled with fired and unfired clay. The northern kiln contained pottery dating from late C1 or early C2 AD. The local team examined another area consisting mainly of badly fired wasters and unfired clay which had been dumped in a blackened hollow which is probably the stoke-hole for another kiln.

Fragments of the usual types of tiles were recovered including box tiles with impressed decoration.

It is perhaps no coincidence that Roman tiles were observed in the structure of the old Shaw church 250 yards away, demolished last century.

The site will not be destroyed but partly buried under an earth bank. Part extends under the gardens of the adjacent housing estate.

S.D. FORD for the
NEWBURY MUSEUM HISTORICAL GROUP

HARRINGWORTH

SP934980

A Roman building, probably a barn, which measured 30m x 14m externally has been excavated in advance of ironstone quarrying. There was evidence of internal partition walls, and remains of a pitched stone floor. A number of ovens or corn drying kilns were revealed by the quarrying nearby.

The barn partly overlay some earlier buildings, but the plan of these was not fully recovered.

D.A. JACKSON for the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

SUTTON COURTENAY PEEP O'DAY LANE (12)

SU497956

A further 16 acres has been demarcated for gravel extraction south of Corporation Farm site (Newsletter 3 p.40), and with the cooperation of the owners, J. Curtis and Sons Ltd, the opportunity is being taken to investigate the area.

The southern end of the RB enclosure ditch was planned and sectioned in two places, when it was seen that the enclosure was in two phases. The ditch running to the east of the enclosure was also planned and sectioned, and a small quantity of pottery recovered shows it to be contemporary with the C2AD enclosure.

Inside the enclosure the RB well was excavated. One side of the well was revetted with timber, probably oak, which had survived in the waterlogged conditions. Two shallow ditches to the S of the site were examined, being also of RB date; nearby a pit x, some 1.50m deep, contained some stamped Saxon pottery.

The Saxon feature, partly overlying the RB enclosure, contained a hearth which at first was simply a hollow in the gravel, but was later lined with stone. The associated post-holes belong to a lean-to rather than a hut.

The first Saxon hut, with a single posthole at each end, was replaced on a slightly different alignment by a 6 post Saxon hut. Stamped pottery from about 5 vessels suggests a date in the latter part of the C5.

A small quantity of unstratified Bronze Age pottery was found, and a few flints collected during the topsoil clearance included four scrapers and a transverse arrowhead.

The site will be kept under observation.

MICHAEL PARRINGTON and R.P. HENDERSON for the
ABINGDON EXCAVATION COMMITTEE and the
ABINGDON and DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

AVES DITCH (13)

Aves Ditch has been identified at various times as a Roman road or a Saxon boundary earthwork. Margary designates it as Road 161 on the basis of the appearance of its southern section and its alignment on the Akeman Street crossing of the Cherwell. The difficulty in accepting it as a Roman road is that it does not display the characteristic long-distance economy of line which would accord with any conceivable objective. Investigation has now shown that Aves Ditch is a complex association of three Roman roads and a droveway; see figure 2.

The southern section is part of a Roman road evidently to connect Cirencester with Towcester via Akeman Street, and of which three alignments have now been recognised:

- A1 Tackley Ford SP492201 to near Port Way 501216, 32°E of N.
- A2 501216 to The Heath 523255, 30½° E of N.
- A3 523255 to Ardley 545274, 45°E of N.

These show the skill of the surveyor in avoiding wet ground.

The mid-section is the Portstraete of the Ardley Saxon charter: it has a metalled width of 17.7ft, at 528287, is directed on an area of Roman finds near Croughton, and is thought to come from Woodeaton on the following alignments:

- B1 Woodeaton 523123 to S of Islip ford 529137, 15°W of N.
- B2 529137 to by Grove Farm 522176, 11°W of N.
- B3 522176 to NE of Slade Farm 514223, 8°W of N.
- B4 514223 to SE of Fritwell 528285, 13°E of N.
- B5 528285 through N of Fritwell 531307, 8°E of N.

A third Roman road whose apparent objective is Blacklands, N of King's Sutton, and whose origin is probably Alchester, has alignments as follows:

- C1 SE of Fritwell 531283 to SW of Ploughley Hill 526307, 10°W of N.
- C2 526307 to Ockley Brook 522323, 15½°W of N.
- C3 522323 to NE of Aynho 515338, 22°W of N.
- C4 515338 to Walton Grounds 509347, 36½°W of N.

The Green Way of the Ardley Saxon charter is part of a Roman road of which two alignments have been recognised, with an alignment angle at a high point:

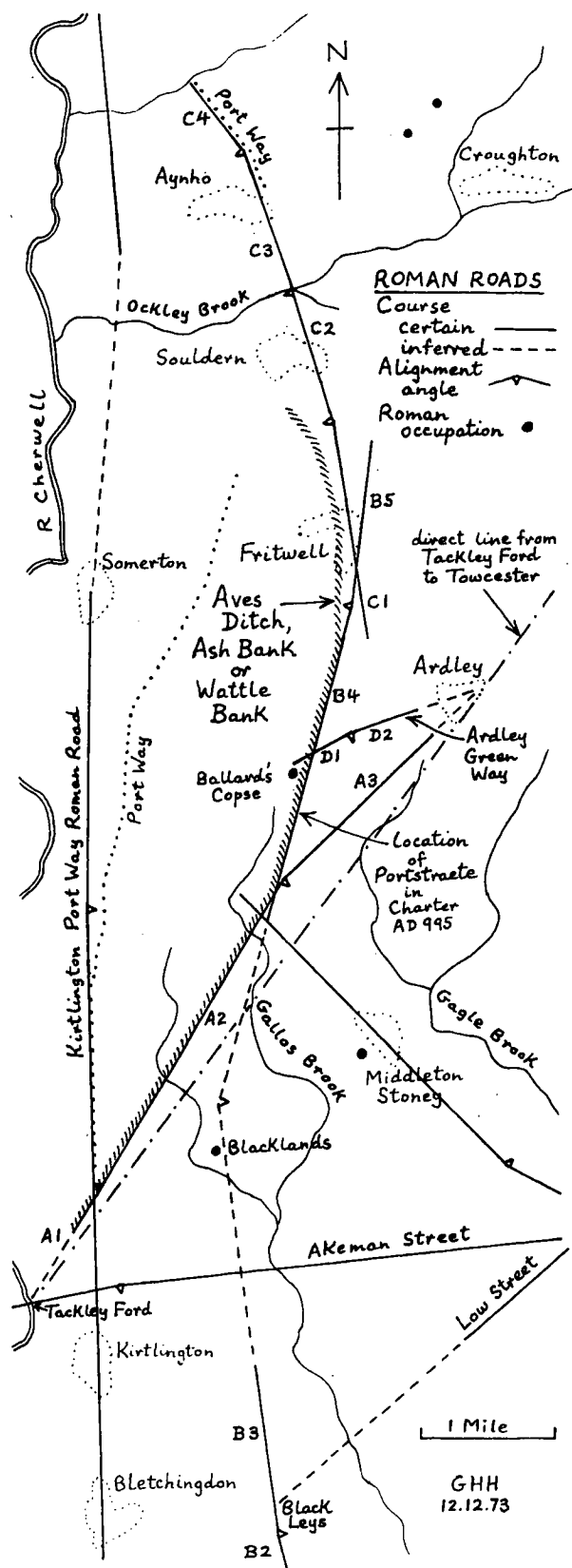
- A1 Ballard's Copse 523269 to near Hall's Barn 529271, 16°N of E.
- D2 529271 through Ardley, 13°N of E.

The droveway associated with Aves Ditch is seen well alongside alignment A2 but further N is obscured by an airfield and modern roads, including roads both N and S of Fritwell which are shown on maps as Aves Ditch and are taken to be the droveway line where this departs from the Roman alignments.

An explanation of the whole line of Aves Ditch is thus afforded.

G.H. HARGREAVES, R.P.F. PARKER and
A.W.F. BOARDER

FIGURE 2



KIDLINGTON

It is encouraging to see evidence forthcoming for a Roman road through Kidlington (Newsletter 2 1972), particularly as the line postulated passes Stratfield Farm (SP496124) and Stratfield Brake — both significant names. More Roman roads, I am sure, await discovery in this area, judging from the placename evidence. The road between Kidlington and Shipton-on-Cherwell was *The Street* in AD 1005. Langford has now become recognised as a significant Roman road placename. The road between SP468147 and 482150 was Longford Lane in 1822, and Langford-pits were in this area in 1676.

K.E. JERMY

MIDDLETON STONEY, OXON (14)

SP534233

The excavation of the RB farmhouse contained within the eastern castle enclosure was completed. This confirmed that it was a two phase building abandoned in the early C3 when it appears to have been systematically levelled. Work on the castle mound revealed that there were substantial stone buildings of pre-castle date sealed beneath the mound and that much of the mound consisted of collapsed stone from a large central tower. A stone lined shaft reaching from the top of the mound below the original ground surface was identified but not fully excavated. A series of pre-castle stone structures was also identified underneath the rampart of the second bailey.

R.T. ROWLEY

A ROUND MOUND AT GREAT CHESTERTON

A road-widening scheme threatened to truncate a mound of unknown date. A threatened quadrant of the mound was excavated down to natural firestone bedrock. No inhumations or other structures were identified. The mound contained a number of well-worn RB sherds, but no other dating evidence. On the basis of this excavation the mound appears to be quite recent.

V. GREGORY and R.T. ROWLEY for the
OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

ANGLO-SAXON, MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL

NEW WINTLES, EYNHAM, OXON

SP428109

Stripping of the field to the W of the area reported on in *Newsletter 3* (1973) p.18 revealed no archaeological features of any kind. It is therefore presumed that the limits of the Saxon settlement in this direction have been reached. The ridge and furrow was planned before its destruction by gravel quarrying.

M. GRAY for the
UPPER THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

WALTON, AYLESBURY

SP822132

Some 1800 sq.m. inside an earthwork known since the C19 were stripped. The earliest occupation was represented by a scatter of RB pottery, though no structures of the period were found. Two Saxon grubenhauser were located, the better preserved containing grass-tempered and fine decorated sherds; the other, of which only 10cm in depth survived, contained two bone combs, one single- and one double-sided. A palisade trench of late Saxon date, containing St Neot's type forms, was excavated. Although no other structures proved certainly of this date, it seems possible that Walton may have been occupied continuously from early to late Saxon times.

In the C12AD, a mound at least 50m long and ditched on both sides was constructed and is interpreted as a pillow mound or rabbit warren. Construction of this destroyed part of one grubenhaus. In the C13 the main earthwork was thrown up, a substantial enclosure bounded by a V-shaped ditch, 2m deep. The NW quadrant of this enclosure was levelled some years ago and the S extent has not yet been determined. The whole is thought to be an adjunct to the manor of Walton. The only contemporary structure found in the excavated portion of the enclosure was a small timber outbuilding, in part constructed on top of the bank, and it is considered that the main domestic structure lay either east or south of the site currently being excavated. Inside the enclosure was a substantial area of sand-pits and two large stone-cut storage pits. Considerable adaptation of the main V-shaped ditch took place during the C13.

The Saxon occupation of this site is of particular interest in view of the place name, Walton, which is occasionally derived from the Old English weala-tun = ? British tun Ekwall. Moreover the discovery of early Saxon occupation here makes more urgent location of the contemporary settlement in nearby Aylesbury, named in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in AD 571.

M.E. FARLEY for
BUCKS COUNTY MUSEUM and the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

PILTON, LYVEDEN

SP984861

The area excavated in 1972, 138ft x 72ft, was extended to the south and the west, on the apparent western edge of the deserted medieval village, and the whole area was investigated, including the earlier levels. It was confirmed that in the latest occupation of the second half of the C15, the area was divided between a tiler's property on the west and a farmer's property on the east. Both these complexes overlay areas which produced ample evidence of an earlier potting industry and both faced onto a paved road running east-west along the bottom of the valley to the south of the area. Signs of this included an apsidal ended, double-flued pottery kiln of the Lyveden type, unfortunately almost completely ploughed away. The pot bank to the south produced a typical range of handmade Lyveden wares, but also included a number of new

forms such as shallow bowls, lug-handled storage jars, deep straight-sided bowls rouletted externally, and basket-handled bowls. Four stone-lined clay puddling pits were found let into the yard surfaces. A rectangular building aligned north-south was found on the northern edge of the excavated area near the bank of the stream. It was apparently contemporary with the potting industry, and the floor, apart from a small area of pitched limestone, was composed entirely of end set kiln bars covered with a thick layer of potsherds, all of typical Lyveden form and fabric. It is provisionally interpreted as an open-sided drying shed. Further groups of handmade Lyveden wares were recovered from numerous pits dug into natural cornbrash in the area excavated. To the south of the kiln a rectangular shaped limestone floor, leading south from which into the roadway was a stone-lined and capped drain. Large quantities of iron slag and waste, traces of a hearth and numerous iron objects suggested that this building was a smithy. The pottery from all these early levels was of the early handmade Lyveden type.

Work on the C15 upper levels was continued, and unfortunately it was found that the structures associated with the tile kiln were largely ploughed out. Further investigation of the kiln stokepit revealed large quantities of pottery of the sandy oxidised fabric which included thrown jugs, cook pots, and deep shallow flanged and internally glazed bowls. Several probable wasters suggested that these were being made together: floor, roof and ridge tiles in the one kiln.

In the farming property to the east, which consisted of a long house, barn and paved yard, three circular ovens, one built into the west wall of the living end of the house and two lying to the north of the house, were found. The barn was approached by a cobbled driveway which had been laid on top of a wall which bounded a potter's yard.

The pottery from these later levels was of three main types. (A) Hard wheel thrown fabric with very fine shell/limestone tempering. This occurred as jugs, often rilled below the neck, with green glaze over white slip, and internally glazed bowls in a similar fabric but with thicker walls. (B) Hard wheel thrown grey sandy reduced fabric. This occurred chiefly as bowls with simple rolled on flanged rims and jugs with rilling below the neck and simple channelled handles. All forms were unglazed. (C) Fine orange hard sandy fabric (as found in the stokepit of the kiln). Coin and small find evidence pointed to a date in the second half of the fifteenth century. The lack of evidence for a period of desertion between the potting activity and this later occupation suggests that the production of handmade coarse Lyveden wares went on much later than was previously thought; at least into the latter part of the C14.

The boundaries of the properties excavated were the stream to the north and the route of a paved hollow road to the south. Extensive rutting was noticed in the limestone paved surface. An area to the south of the road revealed long stretches of substantial walling bounding large paved areas. The course of the earlier road was immediately to the south of the tile yard and the farm had been apparently replaced by a

route on the slightly higher ground to the south. The later route ran over the walling and yard and deep ruts were found cut into their surfaces. Traces of building further up the hill to the south of the yards were found to be largely ploughed out.

Among the *small finds* made of iron were several horse-shoes with the fullered edge characteristic of a late medieval date, several iron pivots for window shutters, two spade edges from the well pit (these were slotted to take the wooden blade of the spade), a spoon-shaped bit from a wood-working tool, a small ring brooch, a large harness buckle, two cylindrical barrel padlock cases and two sets of springs, a crescent-shaped arrow head, a spur rowel, two barrel padlock keys and large door key. Bronze finds included belt plates and strap end and belt buckles, a gilt bronze belt mount and two rings. Lead objects included part of an ornamental brooch and a tube of uncertain use. A post-medieval musket ball was also found. Stone objects included three pivot stones, two of door size and a third which looked like a bearing stone and several whetstones of mica schist. At the bottom of the well was found the sole of a leather shoe of C14 date (J.T. Thornton, Northampton College of Technology) and several pieces of well preserved wood and nuts. A large slab of timber survived in the water logged conditions at the bottom of the stokepit of the tile kiln.

Analysis of the bone material from the 1972 excavations of site J has revealed interesting differences from the material recovered from the C13 - 14 industrial site of site D. Deer bone had dropped from 23% to 8%, which was not unexpected if bone tool manufacture was not taking place to any significant extent at the former site. There were higher percentages of dog and horse found at the farmer's toft site, no doubt representing animals used for herding and guarding and traction. The livestock economy was based on cattle, sheep and pigs, and occasional hunting for deer and bird was practised.

G.F. BRYANT and J.M. STEANE for
KETTERING GRAMMAR SCHOOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY and the DOE

A full report of site J is forthcoming in *Northampton Museums and Art Gallery Journal* 1975.

WILLINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE (16) TL113502

Rescue excavations were undertaken on part of this moated site known as the Danish Docks and thought locally to be associated with Danish activity in the Ouse valley during the C10.

The site lies close to the river Ouse and consists of a large rectangular moated platform with a complex of smaller earthworks and enclosures to the east. Two outer earthworks run down to the river, enclosing an area which is roughly D-shaped. Two trenches were excavated in this area. Part of a large medieval structure was uncovered in Trench I, and several building periods were indicated from the stone wall footings and large timber postholes excavated. A pitched

tile hearth was also found. Trench II revealed part of a bank and ditch which dropped away to the river, and several pieces of water-logged timber were found in the ditch, including a well-shaped stake driven into the river-bank. All the wood was found in a thick layer of silty clay, and was sealed beneath an occupation layer which produced St Neots ware probably of C12 - 13 date.

On the main plateau site a section was taken through what remained of the internal bank, down on to gravelly subsoil, and was projected across the ditch and up the opposite bank. This revealed the level of the medieval ground surface and two periods of turf and gravel bank construction. Pottery finds from this section were of early medieval date and contemporary with material associated with a timber building, traces of which were found nearby on the plateau. All the evidence would suggest an early medieval rather than a Danish occupation of this site.

JANE HASSALL for
BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL and
DOE

GROVE PRIORY, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE SP923227

Rescue excavations in advance of sand quarrying were commenced upon the alien cell of Fontevrault, which existed from the mid C12 to the early C15.

A full survey of extensive earthworks was carried out, and preliminary excavations located two building complexes. One consisted of insubstantial lines of dry stone footings and postholes which may have been barns. The other consisted of several periods of stone footings; while these were not identifiable from their plan form, they may represent the main monastic buildings.

D.B. BAKER and E. BAKER for
BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL and
DOE

DOMINICAN FRIARY, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE TL019216

Trenches across the E end of the presumed friary precinct revealed friary levels surviving to a depth of 1m although extensive post-dissolution features had disturbed the area. These features covered a cemetery showing a remarkable concentration of superimposed graves. Fragments of probable C13 friary structures were examined. Exploratory trenches extended the known surviving length of the friary church to some 40m and small quantities of glazed floor tile and window glass were recovered. A fine oven some 2.5m in length and 1.7m in depth was recovered. Quantities of Roman material occurred in a light scatter of features beneath the medieval layers.

A.B. HAVERCROFT for
BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL and
DOE

CAINHOE CASTLE, CLOPHILL, BEDFORDSHIRE

TL093374

Trial excavations were carried out on a strip of land south of the motte-and-bailey castle, affected by a road widening scheme. A cobbled roadway with drainage ditches leading to a gap in the outer earthworks was seen at the west end of the strip. Two possible house platforms on the east side of the site produced no conclusive occupation evidence. In between, a marshy area contained parts of a possible collapsed fence and a number of stakes. In general the work confirmed that the deserted medieval village site lay as suggested by aerial photographs to the west of the castle and not at this spot.

A. TAYLOR and P. WOODWARD for
BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL and
DOE

CASSINGTON, OXON (19)

PRN3763

Attention was first drawn to the existence of a moated site at Cassington during a field survey by members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society. As part of a survey of moated sites in Oxfordshire in connection with the work of the Moated Sites Research Group a sketch was made of the earthworks at the site (figure 3).

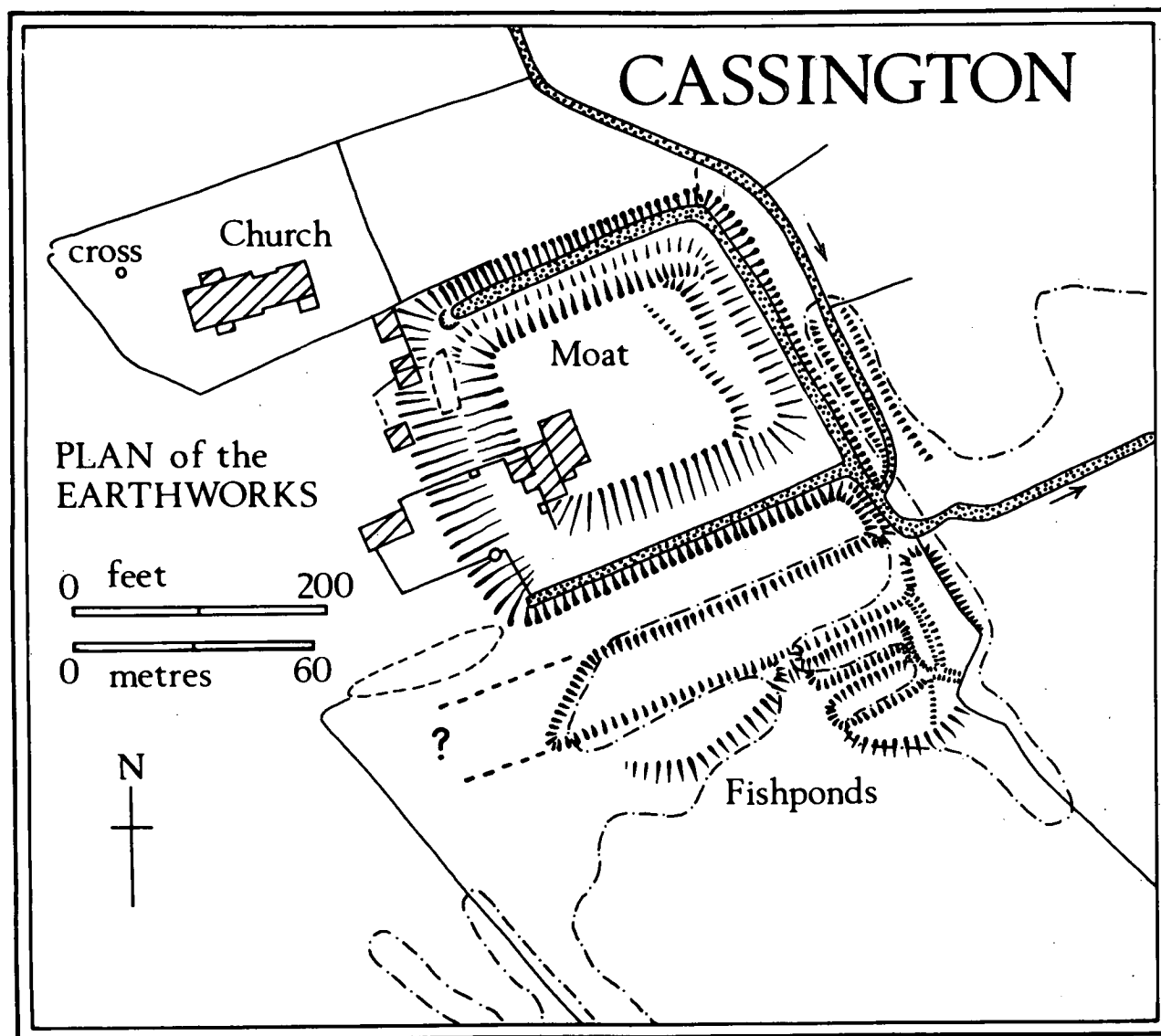
The site consists of a rectangular moated island about 60 by 40m surrounded by a wide ditch up to 30m wide. A house, Reynold's Farm, stands on the western edge of this area and there is a stone-built dovecote probably of medieval date to the west of this on the side of the moat. The east and south arms of the moat still have streams but the western arm has been largely infilled. The moated area was evidently formed by digging into the valley side on the north and piling up the excavated material in the form of an embankment on the south side. On the east the supplying stream has probably been diverted into a new channel.

Whilst visiting the site attention was drawn to a previously unnoticed group of fish ponds to the south of the moat. Local tradition ascribes the origin of these dry hollows to worked-out gravel pits; their existence is shown by the erratic course of the 200ft contour around the embankments. The largest pond 25m wide and up to 2m deep has evidently been partly infilled at the western end — it is now only 80 odd metres long. To the south east of this are two small tanks or fish-stews each 25m long and 5m wide. Some of the supply and drainage leats can still be seen.

This complex is evidently the 'castle' erected by Sir William de Montacute in 1318 as a result of a licence to crenellate obtained by him for his mansion house from Edward II. (I am grateful to Mr M. Wallace-Hadrill, the owner, for this reference.)

MICK ASTON
OCCM

FIGURE 3



SOMERTON, OXON (20)

SP496288 PRN2455

There are several references to a 'castle' at Somerton in North Oxfordshire. In *Oxoniensia* 17-18 (1952-3) p.218 it is stated that 'there is a tradition that the school stands on the site of the inner court of a castle', and in *VCH Oxon* Vol. 6 (1959) p.290 the 'site of the medieval castle of the de Greys in a field northeast of the church has mounds and fishponds'. In 1295 an extent mentions its court, dovecote, fishponds, curtilages and gardens.

Figure 4C shows the earthworks remaining around the school, north of the church; only the immediately adjacent earthworks and fishponds have been sketch planned but there are more earthworks of a large shrunken medieval village to the south and north. It will be seen that the construction of the railway in 1850 obscured the western part of the site and it is likely that medieval earthworks were buried then. The watermill site possibly from the C11 was certainly destroyed at that time.

The breaks of slope around the school seem to indicate a moated area around a central roughly rectangular platform. The ditch of the moat, which can never have been entirely water filled, is clearly marked on the southwest sides by an embankment 1-1.5m high. On the east side it is not so clear but the present road appears to follow its outer edge.

Details of the western side of the castle site are unknown; it could either have been a motte and bailey with the motte possibly buried under the railway embankment or it could have been a simple moated enclosure with the lower western moat lying parallel to the river Cherwell (fig. 4A & B).

MICK ASTON
OCCM

SOMERTON, OXON

SP497287

During the autumn of 1973, the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit kept a watching brief over the installation of main drainage in the village of Somerton. Continuous observation of the open trench sections provided material from the medieval village and enabled a reappraisal of the C16 cemetery at Castle Yard. The cemetery, which had served the Roman Catholic chapel, may in view of its apparent size have previously served the medieval castle chapel that is alleged to have stood in the vicinity.

Ref. *Oxoniensia* (1974)

R.A. CHAMBERS for the
OAU

THAME, OXON

SU710062

During June 1973, a group of three fishponds threatened by house building was excavated.

The ponds were located on low-lying meadow land to the N of the town and they were rectangular in design, a type which is not common in the Midlands, certainly not in Oxfordshire. Each pond measured approximately 48m x 18m and was 1.75m deep. They were arranged in parallel and

orientated N-S. A moated enclosure lay at the southern end of the group and a leat ran along the western side of the ponds and moat to carry away excess water. The excavation was confined to areas that were not to be used for building foundations and within these limits four trenches were dug. The first trench sectioned the leat and the second sectioned the ponds. The pond banks which stood to a height of approximately 1m above ground level were built of earth dug from the pond centres. The ponds had probably been cleaned regularly as no fish remains were found in the remaining shallow sediment. A third trench examined the area occupied by the sluice gate at the N end of the eastern pond, but all except the bottom 10cm of the sluice channel had been destroyed. The fourth trench examined a wooden feature in the centre pond. The contractors retrieved several large timbers from the central and W ponds, probably parts from the sluice gates.

Originally a medieval date had been ascribed to these ponds but recent documentary research indicated a post-medieval date. From archaeological evidence the ponds appear to have fallen into disuse in the C18 at the latest, giving a functioning life of 200 years or less. Although the ponds are to be destroyed, the moated enclosure of unknown date is to be preserved.

Ref. *Oxoniensia* 1974.

R.A. CHAMBERS
OCCM

READING ABBEY

SU721735

Excavation of part of the chancel and ambulatories of the abbey church was completed in spring 1973. Finds, especially those of floor tiles and building stone, and footings, added to the information gained during the more extensive excavations of 1972. The definitive plan of this part of the abbey church has been established and evidence, in one small area, of footings underlying those of the abbey is the first hint of pre-C12 building there. This area has been developed as a car-park, but adjoining undeveloped areas may be available for small-scale excavation.

The excavation report will be published in a future volume of the Berkshire Archaeological Journal.

C.F. SLADE for
READING MUSEUM and
DOE

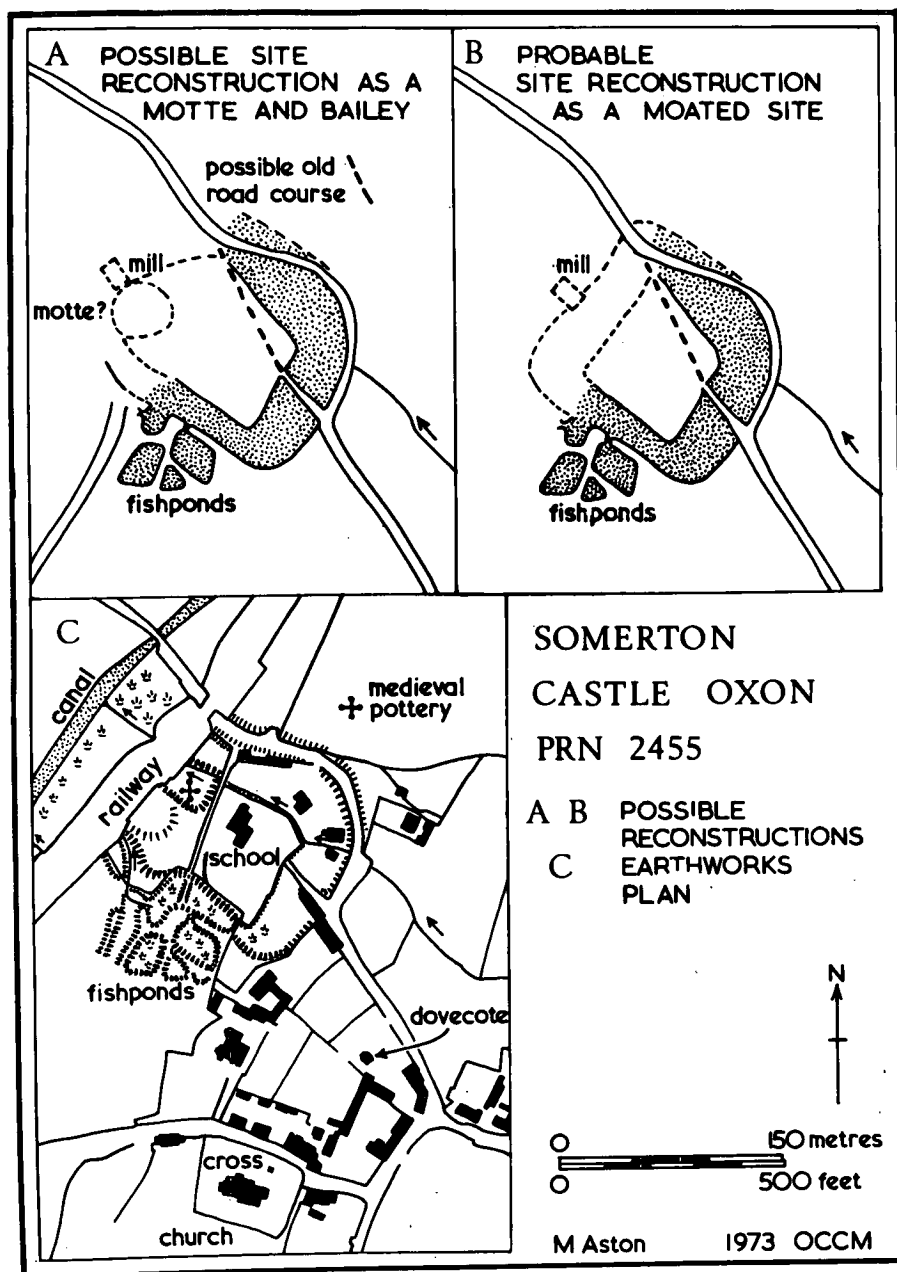
SALFORD, OXON (21)

SP285281 PRN5760

The study of C16 and C17 formal garden earthworks has hardly begun although recently a site at Lyveden in Northamptonshire has been published¹. Many must have been removed in later landscaping schemes; in Oxfordshire for example well over 30 parks were established in C18 and so far very few of the earlier gardens where they existed have been identified on the ground².

Adjacent to Salford church is a collection of earthworks which at first sight looks like the hollows and platforms of a

FIGURE 4



deserted medieval village. However, a sketch map (fig. 5) shows quite clearly that there are three distinct terraces linked by inclined planes. The site has been levelled up by cutting back into the hillside on the north side and embanking the platforms at the south end. Almost certainly these represent 3 levels of gardens such as would be found in front of a Tudor or Jacobean house, with walks and steps linking each level.

There must have been a substantial mansion between these earthworks and the church on an area now very level with occasional buried foundations. The nearby name of Great House Barn and the C18 and C19 field names provide further

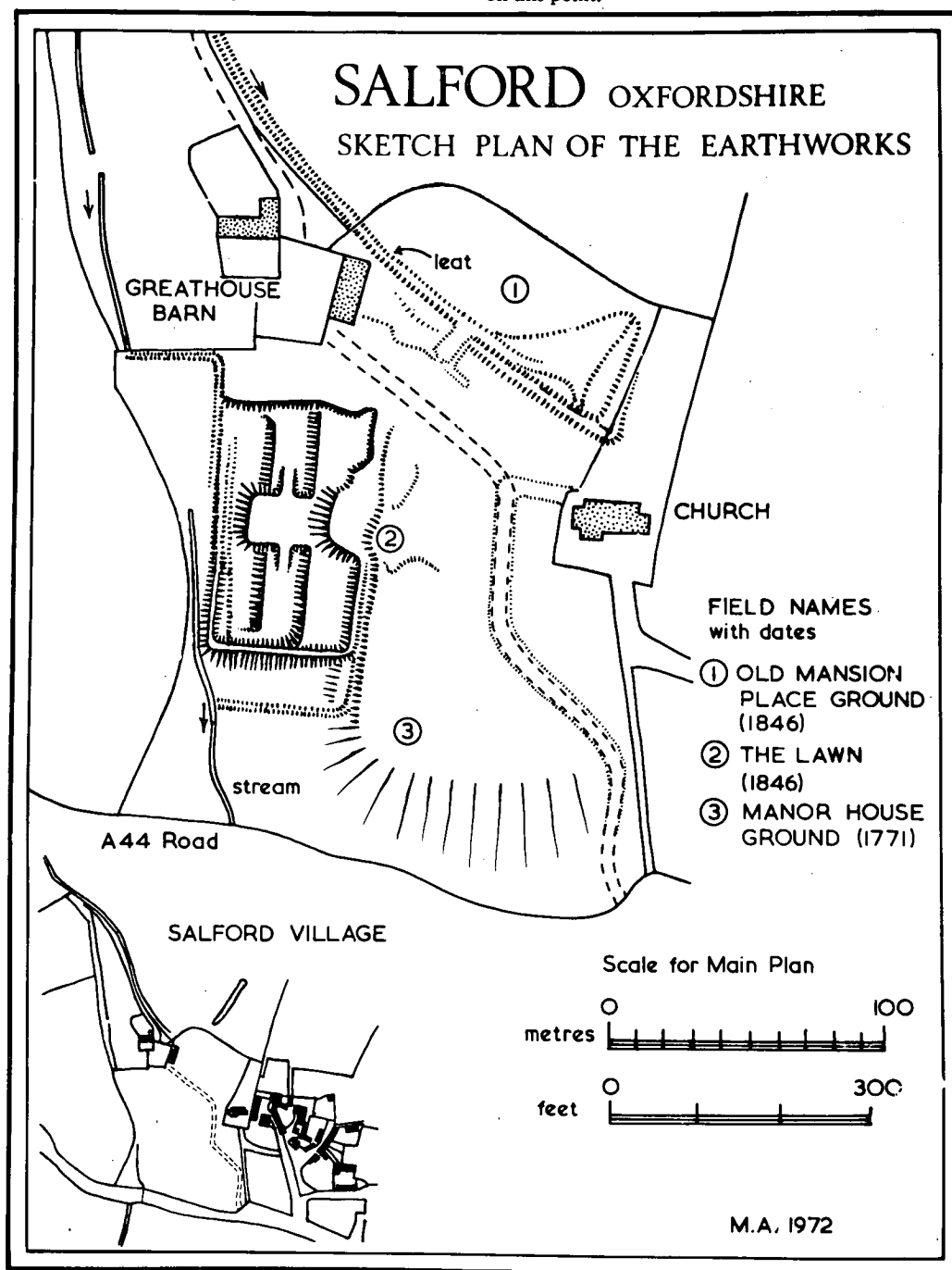
evidence but the exact nature and ownership of the house as yet remains to be worked out.

To the north of the church is a leat and dry pond mixed up with earthworks probably representing the foundations of a boundary wall and gate-house providing an entrance from the north to the main house.

MICK ASTON, OCCM

- 1 A.E. Brown and C.C. Taylor, 'The Gardens at Lyveden, Northamptonshire' *Archaeological Journal* 129 (1972) p.154
- 2 Swinbrook, Tackley, Ascott in Stadhampton, Walcot near Charlbury. I am grateful to Mr Frank Woodward for his help on this point.

FIGURE 5



QUINTON, NORTANTS, MOATED MANOR SP776542

Work was concentrated in the 1972/3 seasons on the kitchen area partly excavated in 1971. A C14 kitchen extension was found to the S of the previous season's work — see BNFAS 7 (1972). Robber trenches were found on all four sides of the kitchen, leaving two stub walls projecting into the room between two intact ovens sited in the SW and SE corners of the room. At the N end of the room are a large open hearth some six feet square, and a small triangular structure, stone-lined, with a pitched stone flooring.

An extension to the kitchen wall, partly robbed, was found running in a NW direction. Near to this wall was a well-constructed large circular kiln or oven stone 11ft in diameter and 3ft 6in deep, with a barrel-vaulted vent on its NE side. It was first thought that this was a lime kiln but there was a virtual absence of lime in the immediate vicinity of the kiln. No dateable evidence was found in this feature.

Small finds: an iron flesh hook; bronze pins; two decorated bronze strap ends, one of which still retained fabric adhering to the bronze; a silver penny of King David II of Scotland; a gold and silver plated staff tip (dated by the BM to the early C15); fragments of two glass goblets; two strips of lead sheeting with the stamped impressions of a silver penny, probably of Edward II, showing the obverse and reverse; a good group of C14 pottery; and bronze shoe tags.

R.M. TAYLOR
UPPER NENE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

KEY TO FEATURE NUMBERS ON MOATED MANOR PLAN (Fig.6)

- F1 Workshop wall. F1a Charcoal spread
- F2 Staircase base still showing three steps
- F3 Remains of a collapsed wall
- F4 Two small alcoves under a probable work bench
- F5 Small portico either side of doorway into small flagged room marked 'B'
- F6 Narrow passage
- F7 Small fragment of wall, much robbed. Possibly a stone support to a wooden staircase
- F8 Robbed wall F8a Small stub wall forming a narrow doorway
- F9 Stone lined drain
- F10 Garderobe
- F11 Additional wall to workshop room
- F12 Robbed wall
- F13 Charcoal spread
- F14 —
- F15 Robbed wall
- F16 —
- F17 Pitched stone hearth
- F18 Robbed foundations of a wall
- F19 —
- F20 —
- F21 A possible ale-mashing oven
- F22 —
- F23 Small rectangular corn-drying oven
- F24 —
- F25 Large pitched stone hearth

- F26 —
- F27 Early C13 wall on a slightly different alignment to the general site axis
- F28 —
- F29 Stone wall with inset hearth
- F30 Stone wall of C14 with C13 wall underneath
- F31 C13 wall edging much robbed
- F32 Stone wall adjoining robbed S of the C14 kitchen
- F33 Oven located in the SE corner of the kitchen
- F34/5 Two stub walls adjoining the inner surface of the S wall of the kitchen
- F36 Oven located in the SW corner of the kitchen
- F37 —
- F38/9 Two rectangular post holes set some 12in into the subsoil
- F40 Robbed walls of the C14 kitchen
- F41 Clay lined filling of earlier drainage gully. Much C14 kitchen waste above clay lining was found
- F42 Area of pitched stone
- R1 Robber trench seen in section and contained C18 clay pipe stems and pottery
- D1 Late C12 early C13 ditch
- D2 Sump into which drainage gully flowed

URBAN

ABINGDON 1972

The excavation of the Bank Site in the Market Place, Abingdon (*Newsletter* 3 p.26) was primarily a training 'dig' for members of the Society under the direction of David Miles. The Society is currently undertaking a detailed examination of the pottery in order to establish a series of type fabrics for the Roman and medieval periods. This is a new venture, both for the Society and for Abingdon, since this type of work has not been done previously in the town. The Society has been fortunate in obtaining permission from their local council to use the basement of the county hall on two evenings a week for this work, and is also engaged on projects relating to the history, archaeology and industrial archaeology of Abingdon.

J.B. CARTER for the
ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

EXCAVATIONS IN ABINGDON 1973

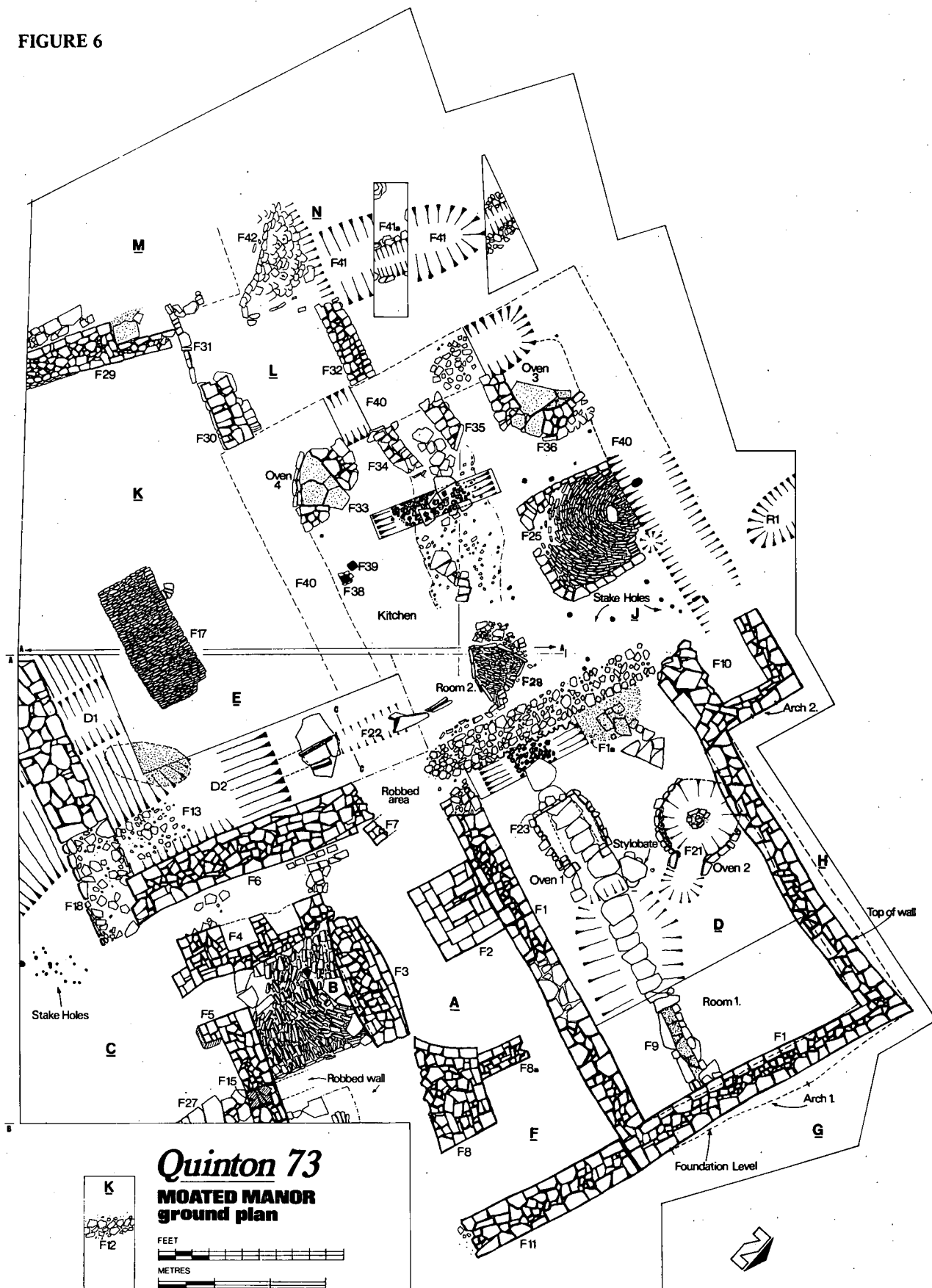
A small excavation took place at East St Helen Street, SU 498968, in advance of the construction of a swimming pool. One early Roman pit and several medieval pits were excavated. Traces of a medieval lane were discovered and the foundations of at least two post-medieval buildings.

Three trenches were excavated in the North Broad Street area SU497973 — in advance of redevelopment. Three phases of occupation were identified:

Roman

Roman activity was represented by five ditches of varying

FIGURE 6



date, the earliest of C2 date and the latest of early C5 date. Roman destruction material was recovered from the later ditches and from later medieval pits, indicating a Roman building in the vicinity.

Medieval

The stone walls of a much robbed medieval building aligned on Broad Street, but set back about 60m north of Broad Street, were discovered. Associated medieval rubbish pits of C13, C14 and C15 date were excavated.

Post-medieval

The site ceased to be occupied in the late medieval period and assumed an agricultural use until the C18, when a malt-house and granary were constructed there. This industrial use of the area is documented in a lease of 1726.

Observation of the site will take place during redevelopment and should enable us to recover more information about the area. Excavation of two trenches on the site of the Old Gaol SU499970 has just been completed. In Trench I a great deal of post-medieval disturbance associated with the construction of the gaol in the early C19 was encountered. Despite these disturbances, medieval and post-medieval rubbish pits were excavated and one Roman pit was examined.

In Trench II a buildup of garden soil about 1m 20cm thick had to be removed before archaeological levels were reached. Below this garden soil layer the beam slots of a timber wharf of C18 date were located. The foundations of a medieval stone wall 1m 50cm wide was excavated. The function of this wall was difficult to establish because, due to flooding, excavation of the trench was abandoned before completion.

Observation of this site will take place during redevelopment, which is due to start on 10 January 1974.

A large amount of pottery was recovered from a Roman ditch of C1 - C2 date to the rear of West St Helen Street SU497968. The remains of two skeletons of unknown date were recovered from a building site at 'Clevelands' SU503981.

Sherds of 'Oxfordshire ware' were recovered from a ditch near the southern bypass at SP506043.

MIKE PARRINGTON and CHRIS BALKWILL
for the ABINGDON EXCAVATION COMMITTEE

BANBURY MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT 1973

An exhibition of local archaeological material was held in March and April, including material from Ian Saunders' excavation at Thenford Roman villa, loaned by Sir Spencer Summers; Peter Fasham's excavation at Banbury Castle; sites at Brackley and Evenley found by Mr R. Isham; and material loaned by the Ashmolean Museum, including some from Rainsborough Camp.

Some fieldwalking on fields chosen at random in the area has shown that there is much potential in fieldwalking in this area, which has been somewhat neglected in this respect. The finds are housed in Banbury Museum and in the Oxford City and County Museum, Woodstock, and consist

mainly of flints and a little pottery.

M. ELSOM

BANBURY CASTLE

Before its redevelopment as a shopping centre the site of Banbury Castle (SP457407) was investigated

The S third of the castle was available for excavation. Structures within the outer bailey were examined and both inner and outer defensive ditches were located. They were about 17m wide and conformed to the concentric plan suggested for them on the evidence of the street pattern and an estate map of 1685. Neither was fully excavated, but the outer ditch is known from a borehole survey to be nearly 7m deep.

The site does not appear to have been intensively occupied before the construction of the castle. A buried soil containing sporadic RB sherds and worked flints was the earliest layer encountered. In the vicinity of the gate this was overlaid by a succession of layers and structures relating to the castle, the earliest being a layer of gravel metalling.

In the SW angle of the outer bailey a rectangular stone building 6m wide and 4m long was discovered. This appears to have been buried in the rampart and the walls were consequently preserved to a height of 1m. The building had suffered a severe fire and subsequent alterations. A partition wall was inserted and a small room was built onto the west side. The dressed stone jambs of the doorway connecting the two rooms were also added or replaced after the fire. Subsequently the doorway was blocked. A firm date cannot yet be assigned to this building.

K. RODWELL for the
OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

BEDFORD

TL050500

An early medieval lime kiln was discovered in Castle Lane, about 100yds from Bedford Castle mound, within the bailey area, and it was probably a contemporary feature. Rescue excavations revealed that the kiln was circular in plan, 5½m in diameter and 3m deep. The walls, built of well-mortared limestone blocks, tapered to the base, where a cruciform pattern of gullies was found, leading to two arched flues. There was much lime of varying consistency in the gullies, and the remains of the final firing made up a large part of the fill of the kiln. The rest consisted of medieval rubbish, including a large amount of St Neots ware.

Excavations were also carried out S of the river in Cauldwell Street, after the demolition of St Mary's rectory. Much post-medieval material was recovered from some large rubbish pits found along the street frontage. Traces of medieval occupation, in the form of postholes and rubbish pits, were discovered beyond this, running back from the street.

On the corner of St Mary's Street and Cauldwell Street, a small rescue trench was dug on the site of the cemetery of St Peter de Dunstable, a church that was demolished during

the 16C. Parts of at least 40 medieval skeletons were recovered, and coffin stains were recorded in some cases. Skeletons of at least 3 children were found, and all burials appeared to have been disturbed in antiquity.

A site along Midland Road was also excavated and proved to be much disturbed by sewer pipes and other service trenches. Some medieval features also occurred, including a C15 cobbled pathway, running at right angles to Midland Road.

JANE HASSALL with EVELYN BAKER and
ANDREW COOPER for
BOROUGH OF BEDFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
DOE

NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Northampton Development Corporation's Archaeological Unit continued its programme of excavation and field work ahead of development in and around Northampton in 1973. The work was supported by the DOE, and in the case of St Peters Street also by the County Borough of Northampton, and was directed by J. Williams.

1 *Briar Hill*

SP735594

An air photograph by Mr J. Pickering in 1972 revealed an elliptical double ditched enclosure in excess of 200m across. A considerable flint scatter in the area had previously been noted. The ditches were possibly interrupted but the crop-marks were rather vague. A flux-cape gradiometer survey was carried out by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory and trial trenches were cut across the enclosure ditches, but no datable finds came from the fill. An internal area with a substantial anomaly was also stripped. Several ditches, including one containing a burnt deposit, were found. Finds included at least three Neolithic rim sherds and two well made leaf shaped arrowheads, and pottery of the pre-Belgic Iron Age was also recovered. It is clear that there was some form of Neolithic occupation on the site and the possibility that there was a 'causewayed camp' here cannot be discounted. Further work is envisaged.

2 *Briar Hill*

SP738588

Several sections were cut across both ditches of the square double-ditched enclosure photographed by Hollowell and St Joseph. No datable finds were recovered.

3 *Wootton Hill*

SP737582

Field walking by D. Hall had produced Roman pottery, tegulae, tesserae and building stone. A trial excavation was undertaken to ascertain the quality of the surviving remains. Floor levels had been badly damaged by ploughing and walls seldom survived above one course in height. Part of a bath suite with tile pilae and plastered walls was revealed. The remains probably represent a small villa.

4 *Upton*

SP737582

Earthworks forming apparent house platforms, toft boundaries and a sunken-way were recognised and recorded. These

presumably belong to the deserted medieval village at Upton known from documentary sources and previously assumed to be under the park to the north

5 *Northampton (St Peters Street)*

SP750604

At the time of writing (December 1973) excavations began in summer 1973 are still in progress. The summary of findings below must therefore be regarded as a preliminary assessment and subject to alteration. The site lies immediately to the east of St Peters Church. The north frontage of St Peters Street (c.55m long) turning into Freeschool Street (c.20m long) was stripped initially. Beneath the Victorian and C20 levels there were signs of little occupation later than the early C16, when a stone terrace, substantially built of ironstone ashlar, ran along St Peters Street and up Freeschool Street. Up to 8 houses were recognised, typically 8m x 4m with the long side facing on to the street. A division into 2 rooms seemed a standard feature. The whole terrace was apparently burnt down in a single fire dated archaeologically to c. AD 1500. Documentary sources record a large fire in 1516. Further buildings apparently of the same date are currently being excavated to the south of St Peters Street. Beneath these later buildings were traces of earlier stone and timber buildings going back to before the Norman Conquest. In places at least 6 buildings lay on top of one another. At the W end of the site a ditch running N-S c.4m x 1.5m deep was cut into the natural ironstone. The ditch fill was sterile but from the level sealing the ditch came a 'sceatta' of C8 date and a silver penny of Berhtwulf (AD 839-852). There is no firm archaeological evidence for the date of the ditch but it is tempting to argue for some form of C9 settlement perhaps surrounded by a ditch. It is hoped the excavation of further lengths of the ditch will help resolve this problem.

6 *Northampton (The Mounts)*

At the corner of the Mounts and Overstone Road a section was cut across the line of the town defences. A heavy concentration of ironstone rubble, lying beneath the cellar floors fronting the Mounts, was presumably the foundation of the town wall. To the N a shallow ditch c.7m wide had been recut.

JOHN WILLIAMS

BARTHOLOMEW STREET, NEWBURY

SU471671

The second year on this site has provided good back-up to last year's results. The crafts of leather and metal working have both been confirmed. One trench provided evidence of iron smelting from the C13 through to the late C16. On another part of the site tools suitable for leatherworking have been found and a quantity of leather articles and off-cuts were recovered from a well filled in during the C16. Some interesting pieces of pottery have been added to our collection which we hope will be enlarged still further when we examine our fourth well discovered at the termination of this season's work.

S.D. FORD for the
NEWBURY MUSEUM HISTORICAL GROUP

OXFORD 1973

THE OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION COMMITTEE

BLACKFRIARS

SP513057

Excavations on the eastern range of the main cloisters were concluded and the walking place of the church identified. Contractors, trial pits on the site of the western range have also uncovered further walls. GPO work in Albert Street South has shown that there were further domestic buildings, probably a little cloister, to the south. Much of these buildings must underlie the SEB transformer and telephone exchange in Speedwell Street.

T.G. HASSALL and C. LAMBRICK

GREYFRIARS

SP511059

Salvage excavations took place on the site of the multi-storey car-park. The domestic buildings of the Greyfriars Priory were found to extend as far as the Trill Mill Stream and westwards as far as Paradise Square. The plan of the buildings was difficult to interpret, but a large culvert was a particularly noteworthy feature. The Trill Mill Stream was found to have originally extended across the whole site.

T.G. HASSALL and P.J. FASHAM

CITY WALL, LITTLE GATE

SP512059

Observation was maintained during the demolition of the city wall at Little Gate, thus completing the archaeological work on this site. The western side of the gate has been preserved, but the treatment of the line of the wall is still under discussion.

T.G. HASSALL

PEMBROKE COLLEGE

SP513059

Observation of trial pits and the bulk excavation on the site of the new library uncovered what appeared to be the front of a turf rampart preceeding the surviving stone wall.

T.G. HASSALL

THE REFORM CLUB

SP512063

The front of bastion no. 2 was exposed during the underpinning of 32 St Michael Street. During the contractor's bulk excavation information was also obtained on the barn and the city ditch.

T.G. HASSALL

CASTLE BAILEY

SP511061

Following trial excavation in 1970, excavation and observation on Oxfordshire County Council's Phase II development produced extremely useful evidence for the moat, the bailey and in particular on late Saxon occupation pre-dating the Castle. No trace of the bailey bank or curtain wall survived but below where these features would have been a deposit of late Saxon material was uncovered. It seems that this site

lies on the south side of the east-west road continuing the line of the present Queen Street. The road was diverted when the Castle was built c.1071. It was impossible to recover very detailed information, but a late Saxon sunken hut was excavated — the first of its type from Oxford. A series of sealed pit groups were uncovered — one produced a silver halfpenny of Eadred (949-952) in association with St Neots type pottery. A single sherd of pottery apparently of tripod pitcher type was recovered in one of the sealed pits. This sherd has important implications for the dating of this type pottery. It is probable that any redevelopment of the prison site should produce a long stretch of late Saxon street frontage. The moat contained large quantities of C16 and C17 leather.

T.G. HASSALL

NEW INN COURT

SP513061

Excavations were concluded on the site of Hinxe Hall. A series of postholes were excavated in the old topsoil and in the gravel. Some of the postholes appeared to relate and to form a late Saxon rectangular hut. The late Saxon feature, discovered last year and thought to be a well, was excavated by M. Robinson during August and was found to be a rubbish pit of usual tupe. Observation on the site will continue once construction begins.

T.G. HASSALL

ST MICHAEL AT THE NORTH GATE

SP514063

Observation of the new underground vestry to the north and east of the chancel has uncovered a complicated sequence of defences. The late Saxon defences consisted of a turf (?) rampart with a stone revetment. It is not clear whether this revetment was a primary or secondary feature. In front of the rampart was a narrow barn and a ditch. This ditch in its final form must have been comparable in size to the later town ditch which replaced it. The relationship between the tower of St Michael's and the defences was not clear but more turves were observed north of the tower and these may have related to a defended causeway carrying the modern Cornmarket Street across the Saxon ditch. The late Saxon defences were abandoned on this site either by the C13 when the chancel of the church was built or possibly as late as the C14 when the north chapel and transept were built. The latter stand on the former ditch and were built on construction arches. The diverted medieval wall was of two phases: first a narrow wall which collapsed and was replaced by a second well built wall also on construction arches.

T.G. HASSALL

CHURCHILL HOSPITAL

SP544057

A third and final season of excavation served to link up the sites dug in previous years. New evidence of the pottery industry was restricted to a relatively small part of the site and consisted of two successive workshops with associated ancillary structures and of one more kiln, the tenth found

in the present excavation. South of the workshop found last year there was little trace of pottery manufacture and the principal discovery here was of a C1, probably pre-Roman, occupation site. The main feature of this was part of an enclosure ditch, two possible ovens and a well.

C.J. YOUNG

Ref. Newsletter 3 p.30

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

SP514062

Approximately one sixth of the area within the walls of the redundant church was excavated down to the original topsoil. At least five clearly defined structural phases were identified in the development of the C17 church from the earliest, presumably Norman, stone building. There is evidence that at a late phase the main altar was moved from the original chancel to a more substantial north chancel. The earliest church walls respected a large backfilled cess-pit which had originated as a redundant and partially backfilled cellar. The main elements of the cellar structure were established from postholes and timber voids. Ceramic and numismatic evidence suggested that this phase was of the late C10 or early C11. The cellar pit had cut through a sandwich of earlier layers most of which were probably yard surfaces. On one such level it was possible to trace a charred wattle fence for 7m. At the earliest level were six large postholes on a similar alignment. On the original ground surface was a heap of charred grain. The pottery from these levels was undistinguished and it is hoped to date the phases by radiocarbon analysis.

T.G. HASSALL

SURVEY

CENSUS OF MEDIEVAL FLOOR TILES

As part of the National Census of Medieval Floor Tiles, a group was formed under the guidance of David Hinton (Ashmolean) in June 1973 to record the tiles of Oxfordshire.

The county has been divided into sections and a person or group allocated to each section in order to carry out a systematic search of the whole area. Where tiles are found, and this is mainly in churches, a tracing is made of each different design and a record card filled in. Some sections have already been covered, principally South Oxfordshire, but there still remains much to do. The group meets from time to time and help is given by Mick Aston (Oxford City and County Museum) and Martin Welch (Ashmolean). Any enquiries should be made to the group's secretary, Debby Hemmings, Oxford City and County Museum, Woodstock.

SOME MEDIEVAL PARKS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (23)

Grafton Park. An attempt was made to trace the bounds of

this park which is mentioned in *Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1348-50 p.57 'Licence for Simon Simeon to impark his wood at Grafton which is within the metes of the forest of Rockingham, provided that he made no deer leap therein'. A century later Henry Grene Esq. was granted licence 'to impark the said woods and fields and hold the same as a park' (*Cal. Charter Rolls* 1427-1516 p.113). Grafton Park wood is a mile to the NE of Grafton village and there is an embanked linear earthwork at SP932813, with ash, oak and conifers planted in it. The parish boundary with Brigstock defines its NE edge and it is possible that the SE extension marks the extension 'Grafton Woodys' and 'Grafton Feldys' mentioned in the C15 document.

Brigstock Great and Little Parks. The earliest reference to a park at Brigstock is in *Cal. Close Rolls* 1227-31 p.15, when oaks were granted by the king to William d'Aubigny 'extra parcum de geytinton et parcum de Brikestoc'. There was evidently an extension made in the C14 when Edward III granted licence for Queen Philippa to make a park in the bailiwick of Brigstock within the forest (*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1348-50 p.552). Walter de Wyght, yeoman, keeper of the park, was given the job to have the enclosure finished, make dykes there and deer leaps (*saltus*) and lodges (*lugeas*) and to have the palings of the park repaired with timber from the park. William Brasier's map of 1728 (NRO maps) shows the boundaries of the park. A walk round these shows in places substantial traces of earthworks. They include a long linear mound in Splash Meadow which runs parallel with the hedge-line marking the bounds of the park. (East of Park Farm, at SP929847.) The next field was called 'The Lawn' in the Brasier map and the next to the South Ald dykes. Here is a well-preserved linear mound and slight traces of an internal ditch. The road between Brigstock and Grafton seems to divide the Great from the Little parks. On the E edge of Park Gate Close and Saw Tree Coppice are massive banks. The SE and SW limits of the park run along the parish boundaries and border on two other medieval parks, Drayton and Grafton. The W boundary of the Great Park runs N from Old Mead Wood towards Geddington Chase and is marked by a long linear bank and internal ditch with a number of ancient oaks growing on the mound at SP912830.

Moulton Park. The Kings Park at Northampton was identified 60 years ago by E.F. Leach in a paper in *The Northamptonshire Natural History Society & Field Club* XIV, no. 114 (June 1908) pp. 217-226. The site is rapidly being covered by the expansion of Northampton, but fragments of the drystone limestone wall surrounding the park were noticed in a recent circumambulation, notably along the B road running NW from Buttocks Booth (modern euphemism Boothville!) to Boughton. The park follows the parish boundary for ½-mile and then curves round just inside the road down towards the site of Moulton Park House, now the Northampton College of Education. There is a long stretch of newish wall with two carved stones embedded in the inner side. These were not noticed by Leach in his article. One in Roman type lettering has HAY inscribed on it and the

FORD

other near the entrance to the college is inscribed ROT;

TRIO

possibly Rothersthorpe is referred to. In 1549 Simon Mallory gave evidence 'That he hath redde the names of many townes engraven upon the stones of the walls of the said parke ... the same townes engraven upon the same stones have payde their yerely rent towards the mending of the same walls'. The S boundary of Moulton Park ran due E from Moulton Park house and the wall was traced under thick undergrowth. In two places, SP768642, the wall footings are clearly visible in section. The ground drops rapidly into a disused quarry to the south. No sign of the inscribed stones mentioned by Leach are visible in this stretch now.

Fotheringhay Park. The earliest reference to a park at Fotheringhay is in *Cal. Close Rolls* 1227-31 p.284, when Henry III granted to John Count of Huntingdon the privilege of making two deerleaps for his park at Fotheringhay (*Duo saltatoria ad parcum suum de Foderingeya*). Bridges mentions in the 11th year of Edward IV that Mountjoy Earl of Newport claimed to hold the castle and 'the great park and little park, with a deerleap in the great park' (Bridges II 453). The park is bounded by the Willow Brook on the south and a complete perambulation can be made, starting from Walcot Lodge (TL052937). A green lane goes north to Nassington. The park boundary is marked by a long linear earthwork a mile long and 30ft across, with a ditch on either side enclosed in 'Park Spinney'. This is also the parish boundary between Nassington and Fotheringhay. In several places fragments of limestone rubble appear in the boundary bank and at TL057947 there is an inner ditch only. At TL061951 the boundary mound runs east and joins the Fotheringhay-Nassington road, whence it turns south. There is a kink in the road at TL065939 which may be a deerleap. The bank is picked up here and survives a few feet to the west and parallel with the road. The southern boundary seems to be the Willow Brook.

Drayton Old Park. The modern Drayton Park surrounds Drayton House. Half a mile to the north lies the site of the medieval park at Drayton. Its origin is in 1328 when Simon de Drayton was given licence by the crown 'to crenellate his dwellinghouse of Drayton, and to impark 30 acres in the manor of Drayton and to hold the premises in fee simple' (*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1327-30 p.319). Two early C18 maps in the Northampton Record Office (maps 1402-1403) show Drayton Old Park and a circular enclosure within it marked *Round Lownd Woods*. Dr G.F. Peterken of Monks Wood Nature Conservancy Station has suggested that this may be the original enclosure of Simon de Drayton's first park. Tracing the boundaries of Round Lownd Wood (modern spelling), one notices at SP955815 a linear mound with external and internal ditch running round the western side of the wood. The Lowick-Sudborough parish boundary follows this side of the wood. It seems to have been enlarged a little to the north and the east, since its present edges are outside the double ditch marked on the NRO map. Simon enlarged his park since he was given licence to impark 'three plots in Rock-

ingham forest called Eldesale, Newesale, and Lappe, containing 62 acres, and another plot of 20 acres called Wynestros without the forest continuous to the said plots. The said plots extend from Plumwell to La Snape and from Gotesle to Lound' (*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1327-30 p.530). Again referring to the NRO map, this extension can be traced on the ground. A fine stretch of about 500 yards of park boundary bank runs parallel with the Slipton-Sudborough road. The boundary follows the road north to SP960816 and then turns NE. The field here has been ploughed since the 1940s and the bank has been levelled completely. Its course, however, can be traced as a broad yellow clay band in the brown plough soil at SP959816. The boundary runs straight across the neck where Snapes Wood now adjoins Long Lown Wood, and it meets an old cattle drove road known as Meer Lane at SP947820. It then continues along the western edge of Long Lown Wood and turns the corner at the moated site known as the Nunnery (SP950812). This appears to be a deer enclosure and its west and south banks form the corner of Drayton Park. It is along this side that a late C15 lord of Drayton, Sir Thomas Cheyne, was accused of shooting at the king's deer in Brigstock Little Park (NRO Stopford Sackville mss 3241). A further addition was made to the park, probably later in the middle ages, when Snapes Wood was enclosed. A boundary bank running across the later (probably C18 or C19) rides is noticeable at SP950826 and it turns south at SP949827 to run about 150 yards within the present boundary of Snapes Wood before meeting the Meer Lane. The N.R.O. map does not, however, show this particular extension.

SOME MOATED SITES IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Barton Seagrave. Surveys were made of the two moated sites at SP887772 and SP887769 called 'Castle Earthworks' on the OS map. The more southerly of the two sites is situated on the 225ft contour line below the village of Barton Seagrave overlooking the valley of the river Ise. It consists of a rectangular platform 210ft long N-S and 125ft long E-W. Part of the platform has been dug out at the S-W corner. A moat of varying width 50-70ft wide completely surrounds the platform except for one narrow causeway on the E side facing the present village. The moat was clearly meant to hold water. There is a spring on the S side and a stream trickles down the hill towards the river. Substantial artificial banks ring in the moat on the W (208ft long) and N (165ft long) sides. An elderly inhabitant of Barton remembers stone being taken from the site early in the century to build stables at Barton Hall. Irregular bumps in the field between this and the more northerly earthwork may indicate formercroft boundaries.

The second site (SP887772) lies between the 225ft and the 220ft contour line. It is on the same alignment as the first and consists of a roughly square platform 125ft long W-E (at its S end) tapering to 85ft W-E at the N end and 125

ft long N-S. Again considerable trouble has been taken to ensure a wet moat. A stream flows past the earthwork on the N side and is diverted into the moat which retains it by means of a large bank 130ft long and with a westerly right-angled extension of 80ft. The central platform is cut into by three excavations, two 52ft x 20ft, one 20ft x 20ft. In a previous report it has been suggested that these are breeding tanks for a fishpond. Certainly they are similar to those on islands on the fishpond complex at Braybrooke. It is possible, however, that they may be stone pits cut at a later date.

Higham Ferrers. Park and Moat. The history of the park belonging to the lords of Higham Ferrers and situated three miles to the S-E of the castle has been dealt with by M.W. Beresford (*History on the Ground* (London 1957) pp.217-8). It appears to date from the C12. Near the N-W corner of the park stands a C16-17 house known as Higham Park, below which lies a moated site, SP982642. It consists of a rectangular enclosure 395ft SW-NE and 230ft SE-NW with a moat varying from 30ft on the E & W sides but only 12ft on the N & S sides. It was evidently a wet moat with streams feeding in on the south side and draining into fishponds on the north side. It differs from the normal homestead moat, being rather larger, and seems to be more like a stock enclosure. A similar site exists at one corner of Drayton Old Park.

Beresford noticed that the park pale is visible on the SE side. A long linear bank 30ft across and 4ft high with internal and external ditches curves along the north side of West Wood. It then strides across fields at SP998632-3 and here is a conspicuous element in the landscape. There is a suggestion of an entrance, possibly a deer leap, in the kink in the bank and ditches at SP998638. This SW boundary is coterminous with the county boundary, and indeed has been clearly instrumental in extending a tongue of Northamptonshire into Bedfordshire for about a mile.

Slipton Lodge. A survey was made of a moated earthwork at SP950813 a few hundred yards N-W of the farm at Slipton Lodge. The site is roughly wedge shaped and consists of a bank enclosed by a ditch. The northern bank is 355ft from E to W. The bank at the wide end of the enclosure is 210ft N to S, and the southern bank is 335ft from E to W. At the funnelled end is a causewayed entrance. The moat is embanked on both sides on the N side and clearly is meant to hold water, since the eastern end is flooded and the run-off goes into a stream which goes in a southerly direction. There is a slight bank and ditch 60ft from the W end which seems to be the corner of the King's Little Park of Brigstock. The moat is shown on C18 maps in the Northampton Record Office (maps 1402-3) as being at the S-W corner of Drayton Old Park. It seems to be a stock enclosure rather than a homestead moat and in size and positioning is comparable with the moat in Higham Park.

SP840719. Wythemail. A survey was made of the remains of the moat at Wythemail Park Farm. Only the S-W corner and west side remain. Thick tree cover made survey difficult but there remains a moat with water fill 304ft long and 36ft wide

at its widest part, curving round and enclosing an island on the east side of which the present farm buildings stand. There is a causeway facing west, away from the (deserted) village and a further stretch of double-ditched moat 152ft long and the inner one 36ft wide and the outer 16ft wide. A small patch of wood covers the N-W part of the site and immediately to the north of this were found a large number of pieces of green glazed Lyveden type C13-14 ridge tile, indicating the former presence of a considerable building. The eastern side of the moat is filled in and is apparently under modern farm buildings. Bridges states that when Wythemail Park was made in 1614, the 300 acres enclosed were taken out of the common fields. He adds that the land was disparked in 1657, but the name has survived. Wythemail alias Wilmer Park is mentioned frequently in the C19.

SP724803. Walgrave. A survey plan and sections was made of the moated site to the north of the village which abuts on to the village playing field. An excellently preserved homestead moat, practically square in plan with a deep and wide moat. The sides of the platform are 96ft E-W and 104ft N-S. The moat averages 56ft wide and is from 8 to 10ft deep. In one place the middle of the southern side appears to be damaged by some infilling on the outer side. The causeway is 8ft wide and is in the middle of the W side. No indication on the surface gave any clue as to the age of the moat. The VCH Northants IV p.217 refers to it as the probable site of the 'Northall' mentioned in certain documents, unfortunately uncited.

KETTERING GRAMMAR SCHOOL LOCAL HISTORY
and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (25)

The destruction of ancient sites and earthworks in Northamptonshire continues unabated. In order to try and cope with the problem a few active archaeologists formed the committee of the Northamptonshire Field Group. The objectives are to set up a countywide network of people who will check building sites and quarries in their area for archaeological material. It is not likely that many sites reported would be excavated, but at least there would not be unrecorded destruction. In practice the response from the public, in the form of really useful members, has been very much less than hoped, and, with a few exceptions, the committee still has to cover large areas of the county itself. However, even if each village is visited once in six months this is very much better than not at all.

The Higham Ferrers Hundred Group has expanded its village survey activities over a wider area, doing parishes wherever introductions to landowners can be effected. During an active season's fieldwork in the winter 1972-73 some 18,000 acres were surveyed field-by-field, comprising the parishes noted below. In spite of this good coverage it will take 27 years to map the whole county, unless some members become professional, by which time it will be too late to record many parishes. Therefore, as far as is known, settlements in greatest danger are being done first. In order

to record the extent of earthworks in those places which will not be surveyed for some years, visits are being made to all villages and the extent of the surrounding earthworks sketched upon 1:2500 scale maps, which takes 1 or 2 hours only. From this information it will at least be possible to know the maximum size of the medieval vill even if the earthworks subsequently get destroyed.

HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED GROUP WORK

Cottesbrooke SP710735

Two pre-medieval sites were found in addition to the enclosure discovered by aerial photography. At SP703759 some Early Iron Age sherds were scattered on a dark occupation area. Several acres of Roman sherds and building stone occurred at SP700755. The enclosure yielded some Roman sherds and a lot of crude pottery, probably sub-Roman (SP727751).

The village is shrunken with some medieval earthworks west of the church and east of the present houses. There is some very good ridge and furrow to the SW. At the west end of the parish (SP690746) are the undisturbed earthworks of a small monastic cell dating from the early C15.

Cranford SP925773

This double parish, of St Andrew and St John, yielded two RB sites at SP926773 and SP915764.

There are a few medieval earthworks to the north of the village. The parish is much damaged by ironstone quarrying but most of the field pattern in these regions was recovered from an openfield map of 1748. At that time the N-W half of St Andrew was already enclosed, but the present survey showed that all the old closes contained ridge and furrow. The two sources of evidence, the map and the survey, are here very complementary.

Little Houghton SP804596

The pre-medieval sites are discussed by Hollowell (*Bull. Northants. Fed. Arch. Soc.* 6 (1971)).

There are two motte structures at SP806606 and SP803595, and a fishpond at SP806602. The village is shrunken with earthworks on the northwest and north. Fine sunken roads and ridge and furrow survive to southwest. Nearly all the furlong names are identified from the early C19 Draft Inclosure Award.

Paulerspury SP716455

There are two Early Iron Age sites at SP713442 and SP707468; four RB sites at SP713444, SP711441, SP722469, and SP717477, and a possible Saxon cemetery at SP712462.

The very well-preserved medieval earthworks include manorial ramparts, sunken roads, and three large fishponds. There were two medieval deer parks, one being enlarged in 1409 and cutting across several furlongs, so proving that the open field system here dates from at least that time.

Hardingstone SP765588

No new pre-medieval sites were discovered.

All the parish is to be destroyed by Greater Northampton. North and northeast of the village a quantity of well-preserved ridge and furrow survives, which has been plotted on the 1:2500 scale.

Helmdon SP587437

No pre-medieval sites have yet been discovered, but most of the area was under grass or thriving corn.

There are several areas of shrunken village earthworks, especially around Manor Farm with good manorial ramparts and fishponds as well as the manor site itself (SP590430). The Stockings, a detached part of the parish, was once entirely ridge and furrow ploughed. Documentary evidence from charters of the early C14 will enable all the furlongs to be named and identified.

Radston SP588405

One mile to the east of the present village is an area of large fishponds and village earthworks, identified as the site of the deserted vill of *Nether Radston*. This is mentioned by Bridges (J. Bridges, *History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire* (1791)) and marked on an undated late C16 map in possession of Merton College, Oxford. At SP595397 is a ploughed-over windmill mound.

Wootton SP762575

A large RB villa stood at SP736582 where there is debris of building stone, hypocaust tiles, sherds, and tesserae. There was a small Roman site at SP749569.

To the SE of the village are some earthworks, including a motte-like structure off Berry Lane (SP759562). C17 modifications to the open field system are preserved in a large field of ridge and furrow south of the village. There is a possible windmill mound at SP746572.

D.N. HALL

NEWTON WILLOWS, NORTHANTS SP880835

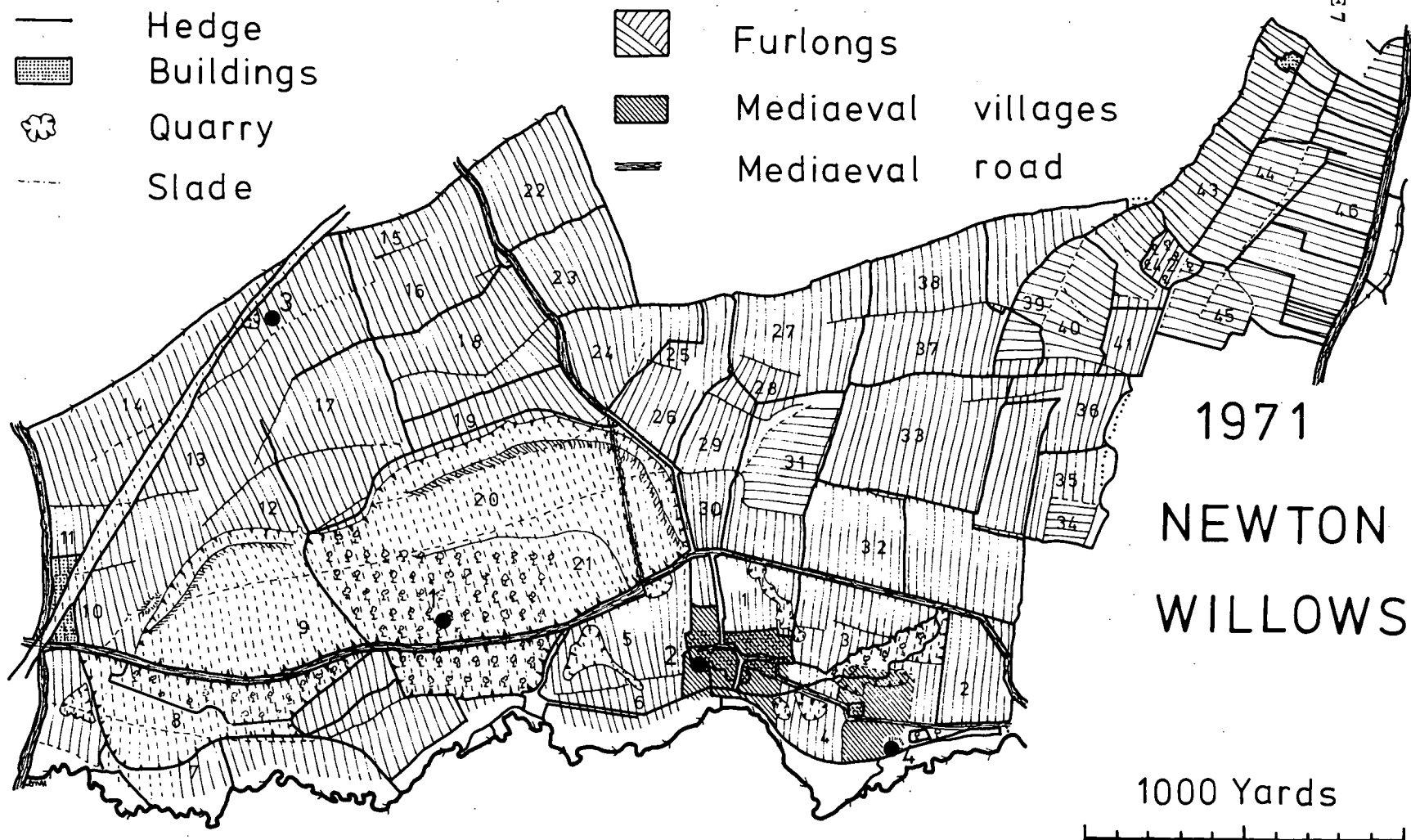
The parish has now been completely surveyed field-by-field for ancient sites and medieval fields. A plan of the results is given in fig.7.

There are four pre-medieval sites.

- 1 SP873835. Early Saxon cemetery with grave goods, found by ironstone workings.
- 2 SP1880834. RB sherds found at the site of St Leonards church, Great Newton. All features destroyed by the graveyard.
- 3 SP868845. Several acres of hand-made Middle Saxon pottery and iron slag. May relate to the cemetery.
- 4 SP885833. A scheduled earthwork, possibly Iron Age.

In medieval times the whole parish contained the two settlements of Great and Little Newton. Now, Little Newton consists only of a derelict church and dovecote, and Great Newton survives as a shrunken vill without a church. The site of this church, which was left to fall into decay in the

FIGURE 7



C15 (J. Bridges, *History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire* (1791) ii 322), has been totally excavated. Neither settlement has much in the way of earthworks because of extensive plough and quarry damage. The manor of Little Newton, to the east, became the Great House of the Tresham family in the C15; it was destroyed in the C18. Part of the ploughed-out garden earthworks are still visible and correspond to the early C18 plan (a copy at the Northants Record Office).

The whole parish, except a small area of water meadow near the river Ise, was ploughed in medieval times, including the Middle Saxon village site (which cannot with certainty be said to be the predecessor of Newton because it is equally near to Great Oakley).

Although inclosed as early as 1612 there are many documents with open field information in the Buccleuch Collection (Northants Record Office), dating from the C14 onwards. However, quite an effort will be required to distinguish from the names of Geddington (in which parish Newton is, the churches being chapels-of-ease), because the documentation is so intimately mixed.

The original 1612 hedges were set along furlong boundaries or down furrows between the strips. A few additions were made during the C18; several hedges have been removed during the last 20 years.

On the 1717 map (copy at the Northamptonshire Record Office) a few closes, now part of Geddington, are included in Newton lordship.

The ironstone-damaged areas of the present plan have been reconstructed using the hedgerow lines of the 1717 map.

Copies of the plan are deposited at the Northampton Record Office, and there is also additional information on the modern crops.

The following names have been gleaned from a charter of 1383: Wodefild, Fouldyke, Ryshyne, Wrongland, Wrounihil, Lyngwade, Westwelle.

D.N. HALL

for the Higham Ferrers Archaeological Society

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

The major reconstruction of the A4155 Reading — Henley road has again been delayed by Oxfordshire County Council. Field walking of the areas affected has been completed with no further features being discovered, (*Newsletter* 3 p.38).

Other development schemes have been watched as follows:-

- 1 The new sewage at South Stoke revealed nothing of note.
- 2 New house building in the older part of Woodcote village — likewise negative.
- 3 The new sewage at Sonning Eye and Dunsden Green was watched, with particular attention paid to the areas alongside the Thames, where many old brick wall foundations were seen. Also a section of a 'V' ditch, running N-S behind the cottages at SU75257590, produced only late Victorian pottery and bottle glass. The fill was that of fine, flood alluvium.

- 4 The woodland enclosure banks and ditches running parallel to the old B479 from Exlade Street to Cane End were noted before destruction by road widening.
- 5 An oil pipe line trench was followed for 6 miles, from Woodcote to Benson. This cut through the South Oxon Grims Ditch at SU63598758. But the shallow section through gravels was confused by earlier mains excavations and disturbances (R. Bradley, *Oxoniensia* 33 (1968)).
- 6 The Oxfordshire County Council Highways Dept. has started the improvement scheme which cuts through Grims Ditch at Mongewell (SU61708795). During the first week of tree felling, skeletal remains of one individual were exposed. Regrettably the bulldozer disturbed the remains completely and all that can be said is that it lay, just under the turf, but immediately on the weathered chalk upcast of the rampart. A single weathered potsherd was found in close association. The siting of this skeleton in the rampart is identical to those still remaining at SU62038708 (Bradley) (Reading Museum, noted as SU62078784?). The Mongewell Farm Ice house, on the road junction B4009 and B479, SU61688778, will be demolished with this improvement scheme, but it is hoped that it will be possible to record it fully before it goes.

Newly discovered moated sites

- 1 Digberry Farm, Swyncombe. The field adjacent to Crawford's Moated Site SU69058815 (*Antiquity* V (1931)) was ploughed again in January 1973 and revealed a yellow stony rampart spread, extending away to form a second rectangular moat, enclosing some 150m x 100m.
- 2 Horsalls Wood, Checkendon SU 67158270. The site is on the edge of woodland and comprises a well preserved and prominent horseshoe shaped ditch and rampart enclosing an area of about 100m x 50m. The open side is to the north and is regularly under cultivation.
- 3 Checkendon Court SU66188303. A rectangular platform and many humps and depressions have recently been found in the pasture adjacent to Checkendon church. It is hoped that the group will be able to make a survey of these in 1974.

Survey work is proceeding in the parishes of North and South Stoke, recording the medieval fields and earlier sites. Many of the early enclosures visible in the low winter sunshine are confirming the maps of the late C18 and early C19.

A round barrow is being ploughed out rapidly at SU6103-8538.

South Oxfordshire was one of the many sources of beechwood connected with the famous chair centre of High Wycombe. The chair bodger and his art are dead, with little or no trace remaining, but at Stoke Row SU68458437, an old pole lathe, unused for over 30 years, remains forgotten and buried, under the cobwebs.

C.R. HART for the

South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group

SOCIETIES

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD RESEARCH GROUP

After a series of lectures, members of the group undertook a number of projects. Two members — Talbot Green and Tony Grubb — have been watching construction work on the A329M and have recorded a well and a burnt flint area, the interpretation of which is somewhat problematical. About a dozen members have been carrying out preliminary fieldwork along the proposed line of the Drayton-Chilton section of the A34. The line of the road has been flown and an overlapping series of photographs taken. This has been followed by field walking. It is hoped that by the middle of February the whole route will have been thoroughly examined. So far, most fields have produced a scatter of pottery of all periods but no significant concentrations have been detected. Two members are examining an area of downland to check on the state of known sites and to see how many new sites can be revealed by intensive year-round fieldwork. Other members have undertaken small town and village studies — notably of Newbury, Hungerford, Pangbourne, Finchampstead and Sulhampstead. Finally, three members have continued their survey of Roman roads in west Berkshire. The excavation carried out by members of the group on the Roman kilns at Newbury with the Newbury Museum group is recorded under Newbury.

Work on the projects will continue in 1974. Anyone interested in joining should contact the Hon. Secretary, Mrs J.A. Greenaway, at Reading Museum.

J.A. GREENAWAY

EXCAVATIONS IN DUNSTABLE 1973

This year for the first time the Manshead Archaeological Society received financial aid from outside. The imminent redevelopment of Dunstable's town centre made archaeological investigation an urgent matter. The sympathy of Dunstable Corporation provided £500 for excavation and the recording of its results, so that for the first time the Society paid members for their week-day labours. In the evenings and on Sundays digging continued as a voluntary activity, as it has always done in the Society in previous years.

Some uneasiness had been felt by members at the intrusion of monetary reward into our activities, but it would not have been possible to carry out the extensive and thorough investigation that has been made of the SW Quadrant site in Dunstable this year if members had been able to work only a few hours a week in their spare time.

Over 50 separate features were excavated, rather more than half of them dating to the RB period. They included two RB wells (time and resources did not permit their complete excavation) and a number of rubbish pits or cess pits, up to 18ft deep and 3 or 4ft in diameter. Very similar pits were found filled with medieval rubbish. The site director finds the use of the same land for waste disposal in the RB and the medieval town very interesting, and believes it was determined by the distance away from Watling Street and the Icknield Way —

near enough to the houses to be convenient, but far enough not to be offensive.

There were four ovens or kilns dating to the medieval period. At least one of these appears to be a malt-drying kiln with flue arch and stokehole, neatly built and well-preserved.

Among individual finds may be mentioned the skeleton of a barbary ape, found 5ft deep in a RB pit, and large fragments of an elegant Roman glass bowl. An unusually large number of complete or nearly complete pots was found in the RB pits.

Dating from a more recent period was a C17 trading token of Daniel Fossey of Dunstable.

It is hoped to carry out further work in the spring when an area nearer to the crossing of the Watling Street and the Icknield Way will be cleared of existing buildings.

C.L. MATTHEWS for the Manshead Arch. Soc.

BURY FARM, AMERSHAM, BUCKS.

The site, in the valley bottom, was earlier recorded by D. Humphreys (*Record of Bucks* XIX no.1, 1972). The area was badly eroded by plough and water action. Wall foundation packing remained only where softer ground had resulted in local subsidence; unstratified remains included floor and roofing tiles, painted plaster, walling brick, glass, tesserae, charcoal, animal bones. A thin scatter of Belgic pottery indicated C1 occupation with Samian and C3 RB types. A domestic site is probable but the degree of the material scatter and of erosion suggests, at this point, further excavation is not justified.

Directed by J.L. MARTIN for the Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society and the Chorleywood Field Centre

WALLINGFORD HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

We owe our existence to alchemy. The catalyst was Caroline Simpson's study, *Wallingford: the Archaeological Implications of Development*, published by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, and Bryan Myatt, Mayor of Wallingford, was the alchemist who followed up the considerable local interest aroused by Mrs Simpson's booklet by calling a public meeting in Wallingford in November 1973. By January the result was a society whose aims are to 'research, record, preserve and make public all aspects of the past in Wallingford and its district.'

Late in 1973, before the society had been properly formed, the committee distributed 600 copies of a questionnaire which was designed to discover in detail what interests potential members might like to pursue. From the replies — over 150 of them — has evolved the system of groups in which the society is now functioning.

There are a number of research groups, whose activities include: looking into the history of the borough; tracing archaeological and other finds already made; talking to old

inhabitants of the town; researching into local folklore; making detailed architectural studies; investigating industrial archaeology; locating all available maps; examining parish records and so on. To give technical support, we have a number of service groups — 'photography', 'artwork', and 'recording and indexing'. This last group is the hub of the whole system by which we shall be able to watch the jigsaw taking shape, and see where all the gaps are!

Two further groups which do not readily fit into either category are 'fieldwalking' and 'rescue'. Initially the role of the latter is to monitor local planning proposals, so that we can keep track of any development which might afford opportunities for rescue archaeology, and to act as a clearing house for reports of any trenches and holes in the road which might be of interest. We are also hoping to set up within this group a unit with the necessary equipment and knowledge to document any rescue sites which professional archaeologists are unable to visit.

Although the results of the questionnaire showed that a large number of people are keen to get their hands dirty, we are for the moment following the advice of Messrs Rowley and Fowler in *Newsletter* 3 that 'local societies could well devote their main efforts to non-excavational fieldwork.' Nevertheless, we hope to organize some training digs to enable us to make a fair attempt at those sites which would otherwise be lost.

The society will be brought together by a monthly programme of meetings of a general historical and archaeological nature, and by frequent information sheets. Finally, our long term ambitions include building a comprehensive library of reference works, establishing a permanent museum in Wallingford, and publication of our members' researches. So to all members of Group 9, the newcomers would like to say — we are delighted to be with you!

SOUTH NORTHANTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Although SNAS has been in existence for only two years, considerable progress has been made. Early in 1973, with the prospect of a major dig on a development site in Brackley before us, and with rising interest in that area, it was decided to initiate a second programme of lectures there in addition to the one already running in Towcester. The site, which our members had found, proved sufficiently important for the DOE to consider sponsoring a dig during the summer, but at the last moment the developers refused cooperation and our plans fell through.

In spite of this setback, the educational side of our activity has continued in Brackley and we now have a flourishing centre there, supported by a lecture course put on by the Department of Adult Education, Leicester University, which is also providing courses in Towcester.

It is hoped to initiate a dig in the Towcester area, where one of our members has found traces of a substantial Roman building on land which is scheduled for development. We hope to make this, as it were, a pre-rescue dig and so to avoid the disappointment and frustration experienced at Brackley.

B.C. HASTINGS

COUNTIES

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1 *Sites and Monuments Record*. Compilation of material has continued, with a greater emphasis on historic buildings. Mr Roger Palmer (formerly of the Aerial Photographic Section, National Monuments Record) was temporarily employed to sketch-plot the cropmark sites from the Cambridge and NMR county cover. Transfer of the map data at 6" scale to transparent base material has commenced: this facilitates taking copies, updating, and distributing loan copies to relevant institutions. Through the Association of County Archaeological Officers, discussions have commenced over the standardisation of some aspects of record systems, with particular reference to categories of site or building or object.

2 *Field survey*. A site verification programme has commenced. Fieldwork by Alison Taylor and Peter Woodward showed a predictable and depressing number of registered earthwork sites obliterated by one destruction agency or another, many of which did not require planning permission. A small amount of building measured drawing has been carried out, but the main emphasis of architectural survey at present is upon the identification of buildings for protection by planning controls.

3 The organisation of *rescue archaeology* in the county has been advanced by the formation of the Bedfordshire Steering Committee, consisting of officers of Bedfordshire County Council, Luton County Borough, Bedford Borough, two representatives of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council and the DOE area inspectors. This body collected together the archaeological information upon which the estimates for 1974/5 were based. The county council has been assisting local bodies and individuals with grants towards the execution and publication of rescue excavations, and in some cases has provided administrative facilities. The summer excavations in July and August were successfully run from a central hostel, with up to five sites within ten miles of Bedford (and including Bedford) being investigated.

4 *Local government reorganisation*. 1 April 1974 will see a change in the planning department's provision for archaeology and allied matters. A conservation section will be created in the implementation group, and will primarily be concerned with archaeological sites and historic buildings, working closely with the district authorities and private interests. The team will include a principal conservation officer (and county archaeological officer), an historic buildings officer, a field archaeologist, a conservation assistant, and a records, publication and administrative assistant; additionally there will be staff with temporary contracts and casual employees for particular projects.

BUCKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In addition to the *Records of Bucks*, vol. XIX pt.2 of which was published in June 1973 and the next volume of which will be published in May 1974, the Bucks Archaeological Society now publishes an annual archaeological newsletter for its members and those of the nine local archaeological and

historical societies in the county. The newsletter gives details of excavations and other archaeological activities in the county, and the hope is that it will encourage greater participation by members and others.

The next issue will appear in April 1974. Anyone wanting to go on the mailing list can send 10p to the Secretary, Bucks Archaeological Society, The Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury.

At Widmer End, near High Wycombe, a proposed building development may, if approved, threaten an unused two-bay cruck farmhouse probably of the C14, and the adjacent deserted medieval hamlet. The Society is taking steps to record these in advance of any rescue action that may become necessary.

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

This committee was established in February 1973 under the sponsorship of the Berkshire Archaeological Society, as a group which could focus effective action on problems arising from field archaeology and excavation, including rescue activities.

The membership is drawn from the society, and its Field Research Group, the University of Reading, Museums in Berkshire, CBA Group 9, the DOE, the Berkshire County Council (at officer level), the Thames Conservancy and other groups in Berkshire.

The committee has formally accepted membership of the Wessex Archaeological Committee, and, on a local basis, is appointing a director of excavations in threatened gravel sites. Field surveys are being undertaken by the Berkshire Archaeological Society Field Research Group.

T.L. Gwatkin

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The considerable work which has been carried out in the Milton Keynes area is reported separately in the Newsletter. Outside this area the main excavations carried out by the County Museum have been a second season at Thornborough, where a Roman road junction and ford were exposed, and two months work at Walton Street, Aylesbury, which is reported elsewhere.

Contractors in two instances made significant discoveries during the year — the first being a RB cist burial; the second, in Aylesbury, being the discovery of two medieval defensive ditches. The construction date of neither of these is certainly known, but one had been completely infilled by the late C12. A pit cut into the fill produced a good series of jugs, including parts of a tripod pitcher. This raises the whole question of possible fortification of the town, or part of it, for which there is no direct documentary evidence, although property names obliquely support the idea. An active group of volunteers, the County Museum Archaeological Group, is providing valuable assistance in processing finds from excavations within the county, as well as carrying out research tasks. During the year fieldwork has revealed a number of new sites, mainly Roman and medieval, two new villa sites have been

located (one in Milton Keynes) and several new moats. A list of the latter has recently been compiled by the County Museum Archaeological Group.

Liaison with the county planning and highways departments is improving and has resulted in early discussion concerning a number of road routes. The county's Sites and Finds Record has now been substantially updated and will provide a good basis for future development in this sphere. However, it is abundantly clear that far more detailed survey work remains to be carried out and a really effective service would depend on a more adequate staffing situation than exists at present.

During the year several unscheduled sites have been badly damaged, including the deserted medieval village of Hardmead and one of the Swanbourne 'tumps', which has been bulldozed flat.

Despite the considerable contribution made to Bucks archaeology by a few field workers, there are still enormous gaps, and the museum and field archaeologist would welcome contact with individuals who would like to carry out fieldwork, or to assist with processing of material at the Museum on tuesdays.

MICHAEL FARLEY Bucks County Museum

BUCKINGHAM EXCAVATION 23 March — 23 April

Trial excavation within the Saxon burh to be directed by Richard Hall for the Bucks County Museum and DOE. Apply: R. Hall, BA, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE IN 1973

Northamptonshire County Council began the employment of a full-time archaeology officer in May 1973, following the recommendations of the Walsh Commission's Report on the Protection of Field Monuments. A Sites and Monuments Index has been initiated on the pattern pioneered in Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire, both to act as a basic store of information on which to advise and inform internal departments of the county council and a wider public, and to be integrated into the local government planning process, to give notice of potential threats and to provide a basis for rationalising archaeological activity in the county.

Advice has been given at the feasibility stage on a series of major projects likely to affect the county's archaeology radically in the next ten years. These include the lines of a possible M1-A1 link, the end section of a Swindon-Milton Keynes route, and a large area of recreational development involving the Roman town at Irchester and its environs. Information has also been given and studies undertaken, in respect of the M40 alternative route E of Banbury, of two of the smaller medieval towns in the county, of a demolition scheme for Clay Coton church, and of a wide-ranging reassessment of the gravel resources in the county to which archaeological constraints might apply. The case for a co-ordinated programme of fieldwork and excavation on the

Northampton-Wellingborough A45 New Road (see Rescue Publication No. 2) has been further pressed. Arrangements have been made for a prolonged excavation project on the extensive and complex cropmark sites on the gravel terraces of the Nene at Grendon, which are threatened by current gravel extraction. Work will begin in March 1974.

PAUL EVERSON
Archaeological Assistant,
Northamptonshire County Council

MILTON KEYNES

BRADWELL ABBEY (SP827396)

Excavation which took place in advance of the laying of a new floor of the former bakehouse proved that it was of C14 date and was originally 9.6m long and 5m wide. The longest axis, N-S, was shortened by half a bay in the C18-C19.

STONY STRATFORD (SP78344075)

Trial excavations in the garden of the former Barley Mow situated at the north end of the town on the west side of the High Street (Watling Street) showed that medieval levels survived at a depth of approximately 1.5m. The walls of a C13-C14 building were located. The main buildup over the medieval levels was of C19 date.

RIDGE AND FURROW SURVEY

Several thousand acres have been surveyed at 1:5000 scale in advance of redevelopment. It is intended to produce a medieval field map for each parish.

WILLEN

SP881408

The moated site was totally excavated. The moat was originally 4m wide and 1.5m deep. The enclosure was 26m N-S and 20m E-W with traces of an internal bank on the west side 2.5m wide surviving to a height of 1½m. A Roman ditch in the late C3-C4 with Middle Saxon sherds in the upper fill was found in the old ground surface on which the moat was constructed, probably in the C14. Two nearby platforms on either side of a sunken road were partly excavated and produced evidence of C14 occupation.

WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

SP871373

The excavation of a large and well-defined platform 53 x 64m, at the western edge of the Green, has revealed a significant complex of buildings, represented by surviving wall footings, around a large cobbled area. The largest building is L-shaped comprising a north wing with internal dimensions of 12.6 x 5.1m and a west wing measuring 10 x 4.6m. The wall footings, much robbed, are primarily limestone. There is no trace of mortar. Portions of two other buildings, both of uncertain

dimensions, have been uncovered to the north and west, further enclosing the cobbled yard. A cobbled trackway or access from the village centre is in evidence. The exposed complex is tentatively dated to the C14 through well-associated finds of pottery and coins. The site has also produced knives, arrowheads, grinding stones and a door post stone.

D.C. MAYNARD for
Milton Keynes Devel. Corp.

THE BRADWELL ROMAN VILLA, WOLVERTON, MILTON KEYNES, BUCKS.

Excavation revealed the existence of a probable winged corridor villa. The uppermost levels only were examined and these proved to be of C4 date. The site appears to be of importance since two geometric mosaics were revealed in excavated rooms and a third mosaic, with red on white swastika pattern, was revealed in the corridor which may be 100m long. The most important find was a cockerel in Italian marble, almost certainly from a Mercury sculpture.

H.S. GREEN

RESCUE EXCAVATION IN BLETCHLEY PARK 1973

SP86543430

Excavations were undertaken on the site of a new road at Bletchley Park, Bletchley, in 1973. The site lay approximately 300m SW of the area excavated in Sherwood Drive by Mr R.W. Griffiths in 1972, with a spinney between the two sites. The area available for excavation was only that required for the road running parallel to the boundary fence of the spinney.

Towards the NW end of this roadway, a considerable dump of post-medieval tiles and bricks was observed, and in the absence of any complete bricks being found, coupled with the evidence of a section nearby, this was considered to be a demolition dump, perhaps emanating from the demolition of the house known as Water Hall, known to have existed in the area and built c.1700.

At the SE end where the new road joined an existing concrete road, a spread of Roman material was investigated. This resolved itself into an irregular stony spread of indeterminate character which would appear to be connected with the postulated agricultural establishment lying within the spinney to the northeast. No structures were encountered. Finds included a large number of patterned flue tiles, and several hold-fast nails, presumably indicating a heated room or bath-house nearby. Pottery and glass of apparently C4 date and coins of C3-C4 were also found.

As the flue tiles had been incorporated in the rather poor stony spread to form a hard standing, it can be concluded that whatever establishment exists in the area, it had probably fallen into ruin by the time this area was in use; the latest coin was dated AD 341-346, suggesting a late C4 for the occupation of this area and perhaps the terminal date for any establishment to be found within the spinney, where there are plentiful surface finds of Roman date.

M.J. DARLING

MILTON KEYNES IRON AGE/ROMAN SETTLEMENT, MILTON KEYNES, BUCKS.

The excavated site lay several hundred metres north of Iron Age features excavated in 1972. This latter site (MK23) has now produced a radiocarbon date of 840[±]70BC (HAR-399). Site MK19 produced the following features:

A series of palisade trenches, with posts spaced every 5m, and having entrances 7m or greater in width; a sub-rectangular enclosure 20m x 16m with deep ditches; two circular houses of 14m and 8m diameter; one working hollow replaced by a windbreak represented by an arc of posts; storage pits; fourpost structures.

Finds indicated a date in the C1 or C2 BC for the start of the settlement.

The Roman phase is represented by a square enclosure and by a probable votive pit. The pit recut an earlier Iron Age pit: a charred wooden stake had been driven into the Iron Age fill and a deposit of ox skulls lay upon the Roman pit floor. The charred stake produced a date of 400[±]70AD (HAR-345).

H.S. GREEN

WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN ROMAN SITE

Excavations by trial trenching in advance of the construction of Grid Road V7 revealed features which suggested extensive Iron Age (b)/RB occupation site.

When the area was stripped, most of the features located in the trial trenching were investigated more fully and were found to be a series of ditch enclosures of the C1/C2 date. The excavated area was traversed from north to south by a path-way which was in use well into the C4 when it had been re-surfaced, widened and its roadside ditches re-cut.

There were scanty remains of at least two timber-framed RB buildings which, in common with all the features in the path of the grid road, were destroyed so swiftly that it was impossible to investigate them fully, but from the signs associated with the buildings it can be suggested that they were in use until the C2 and C3. At the north end of the excavated area there were at least three Iron Age hut circles with a defence ditch of corresponding date to the west of them. Only part of this was revealed in the excavation. From the results of these investigations it can be suggested that these features were only part of a very large complex which may cover a considerable area of the summit of the ridge.

R.W. GRIFFITHS for Milton Keynes Devel. Corp.
Ref. MK Journal III/IV forthcoming

BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Southern England – An Archaeological Guide by James Dyer, published by Faber & Faber £1.95 (paperback).

Gazetteer of over 1000 archaeological sites in Southern Britain, most of them visited by the author.

Oxfordshire – A Handbook for Students of Local History, edited by D.M. Barratt and D.J. Vaisey, published by Basil Blackwell for the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. 50p.

An invaluable guide and handbook for students of local history in Oxfordshire.

Wallingford – The Archaeological Implications of Redevelopment by Caroline Simpson published by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee. 40p available from the Oxford University Department for External Studies, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford.

A review of a survey of archaeological work in Wallingford and an assessment of archaeological needs in the light of potential redevelopment.

Cuddesdon and Dorchester-on-Thames BAR 1, by Tania Dickinson, published by British Archaeological Reports, 122 Banbury Road, Oxford. 75p.

The Archaeology of the Upper Thames Valley by D. Benson and D. Miles, published by The Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee, available from the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, 3-5 Luther Terrace, Oxford. £2.50.

The Coritanii, by M. Todd. Duckworth.

PUBLICATION IN CBA 9 REGION

At the moment archaeological publication in the region is shared by a number of county journals most of which as a rule are published once a year. Most of the journals are published by the old county societies; only Northamptonshire does not possess a main-stream archaeological journal, although this is about to be remedied with the establishment of a new county society. Most of the journals are published by conventional letterpress techniques and therefore although many of them are very well produced they are also generally expensive. Many of the journals contain local historical material as well as excavation reports.

If there is a substantial increase in the amount of material requiring publication resulting from rescue excavation it seems likely that the older journals may not be capable of absorbing all the information. In anticipation of this there already have been moves for the establishment of a new national excavation report journal. In Oxford the British Archaeological Reports have already started to produce material (this incidentally arose from the authors who published their own excavation reports on the work at Shakenoak). Similarly publications such as the gravel survey and the survey of Wallingford are produced independently by the Oxfordshire Unit offset-litho, a quicker, cheaper if less versatile means of publication.

BEDFORDSHIRE

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal published by
Bedfordshire Archaeological Society

BERKSHIRE

The Berkshire Archaeological Journal published by the
Berkshire Archaeological Society
Transactions of the Newbury District Field Club

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The Buckinghamshire Record published by the Bucking-
hamshire Archaeological Society

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Milton Keynes Journal, published by the Wolverton
Society
*The Bulletin of the Federation of Northamptonshire
Archaeological Societies* published annually
The Journal of Northampton Museum and Art Gallery
Northamptonshire Past and Present published by the
Northamptonshire Record Society

OXFORDSHIRE

Oxoniensia published by the Oxford Architectural and
Historical Society
Top Oxon published by the Oxford City and County
Museum

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM READING
MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

G.C. Boon, with notes by Jillian Greenaway, *The Roman
Town Calleva Atrebatum at Silchester, Hampshire* (1972).
Revised edition. 15p

*Approaches to the Silchester Collection: A Guide for
Teachers*. 10p

Map of Roman Silchester. 1p

Brian R. Kemp, *An Introduction to the History of the
Abbey* (1968). Reading Abbey Guide No.2. 15p

H.H. Coghlan and George Parker, *A Report upon the Hoard
of Bronze Age Tools and Weapons from Yattendon, Near
Newbury, Berkshire*. (Newbury Museum 1970). 50p

C.F. Slade and W.J. Smith, *Reading Records (Berks. Arch.
Journal* 61 (1963-4) pp. 48-73). 8p

C.B.A. 9 MEMBERSHIP

*Societies (archaeological unless otherwise noted),
institutions and public authorities*
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