

C B A 9

NEWSLETTER 5 1975



A REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY

in Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire
Northamptonshire & Oxfordshire

**Cover drawing: a cast bronze lion's head mount from
the 4th century AD Smithy's building, Barton Court Farm,
Oxfordshire (by courtesy of Mr D. Miles)**

Property of CBA South Midlands.

**COUNCIL FOR
BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY**

Regional Group 9

(Bedfordshire Berkshire Buckinghamshire Northamptonshire Oxfordshire)

Convenor: Professor B.W. Cunliffe

Hon. Sec.: W.J. Fowler
25 High Street
Watlington
Oxford OX9 5PZ
Tel. Watlington 2734

NEWSLETTER No. 5 1975

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

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University of Oxford

Department for External Studies

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Oxford OX1 2JA

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Editorial Notes

PRIORITIES

1974 has again been a year of remarkable archaeological activity in our region, both on the ground and in the committee room. Gradually the regional archaeological organisation has begun to take a recognisable shape. We now appear to be moving towards county based organisations with a looser inter-county federation. It is to be hoped that the regional organisations will not be too loose and that there will be realistic cooperation between counties.

Inflation has hit archaeology as everything else, and as archaeological grants are assessed a year or even two years in advance there probably has been a real cutback in the amount of professional archaeological activity in the last year. Nevertheless, considerable sums of money are now being spent in our region and it brings us back to a point that we have raised in previous editorials, that of choice of sites and themes for investigation. Now in a period of imminent austerity, more than ever we should be certain of the basis on which we choose our sites for excavation. Too often, it seems to us, we are digging emotionally, that is choosing and excavating sites simply because they, and as it happens the money, are there. The broader question of their significance both nationally and chronologically is rarely asked, or if asked, is waved aside for local reasons. Very often these local reasons may be extremely pressing but it is time to stand back and look at the whole situation in order to formulate a rational policy of research on a rescue basis. The national committees, proposed by the Department of the Environment, and the development of county surveys, in this respect, are major steps forward. The latter will enable us, at least, to know of all sites which can be identified from surface indications. One of the beauties of survey work is that it provides the amateur with a valuable role in British archaeology. This approach is admirably demonstrated in several papers in this newsletter.

Unfortunately, in the area of aerial photography the situation is still totally unsatisfactory. 1974 was a particularly good year for aerial photography, but there is already an enormous backlog in the transference of information from existing photographs to plans and then making them available for planners, archaeologists and developers. How long will it be before the current harvest of new sites finds its way on to these maps, 1980 or 1984? We really must be in a position where we have marshalled all the available information at our disposal, take a long hard look at it against the probable programme of redevelopment and then work out a research-based programme of excavation and fieldwork. For instance, it might be necessary to sacrifice 90% of the archaeology in some small towns in order to concentrate efforts on the others. Similarly it might be inevitable that a large number of rural sites are left to be destroyed so that large scale investigation may take place in a particularly profitable area. How often, for instance, do we think of, say, the environmental evidence as a major factor in choosing a site? Are we always certain that we have adequate back-up facilities? In other words, are we taking a professional approach to the subject and to the

spending of public funds? Archaeology really must come of age, the evangelical era is over, we have won the rescue argument. It is necessary now to make sure that those very considerable sums of public money and sympathy are spent in the most effective way, locally, regionally and nationally, or if the economic climate deteriorates further, unless we are seen to be responsible and meaningful then both funds and sympathy are likely to dry up very quickly.

Aerial photography

James Pickering's report on Aerial Reconnaissance in 1974 raises three significant points for the editors. First is the warning from one of its leading practitioners, that 'our knowledge of cropmarks at best is superficial and in general is based on misconceptions'. This should be said of every approach to the study of the material remains of the past, and we are perhaps beginning to appreciate in particular that it should be applied to excavation. It is therefore disappointing that the writer should go on to say that archaeologists look to aerial photography primarily to identify 'sites suitable for excavation'. Surely the gospel of survey is sufficiently spread for this to be recognised as the main aim of archaeology in the field today, and aerial photographic results as a basic element.

Thirdly, aerial photography evidence from the East Midlands, of field systems superimposed on and adapted to earlier kinds of land use, emphasises the importance of the whole archaeological context of any site, and its changing use, and one must thoroughly endorse the writer's suggestion that 'the continuity of land use in these areas is perhaps further back in time than is at present accepted' and extend it to many other areas.

This proper interest in all those who have ever been on a site — from prehistoric man to 'Dad's Army' and even more recent users — is responsible, together with the emphasis on survey before so much evidence is destroyed, for an editorial difficulty.

The Newsletter

For the earlier numbers of this newsletter it was possible to arrange most of the material under the traditional period headings. This is increasingly difficult, and even a report on a predominantly Romano-British site will now refer to earlier occupation and give later Anglo-Saxon or medieval evidence. All sites are multi-period and surveys obviously so.

One way to help overcome this difficulty is to look to the archaeologists who do the work, and thus we have reports from groups, notably in CBA 9 from the Oxfordshire Unit, but also from societies. Inevitably increasing professionalism should be welcomed, much more work is being done more quickly in a rescue situation, but the role of the part-timer is if anything more important. The reports on Northamptonshire villages and on South Oxfordshire show this, as do the Dunstable excavations and the work done at Abingdon and Berinsfield. Doubtless there are many other examples of which we have no report.

Which leads to a final plea, put more strongly than in last year's editorial note. We would welcome for the next newsletter reports from societies on their general activities, as well as reports from directors of excavations and surveys. Also, a steady flow of news from members through the year might enable the Group Secretary to act more effectively as a liaison officer between societies, institutions and individual members throughout the region.

As usual there has been a last minute scramble to collect information for this newsletter. It would greatly assist the editors if contributors could send in material throughout the year. The deadline for material for Newsletter no. 6 is November 30 1975.

Treasure hunters and grid references

Increasing activity by treasure seekers using metal detectors in our region has forced us reluctantly to omit all grid references from reports in this newsletter.

TREVOR ROWLEY
BILL FOWLER

CBA AND CBA9

By the time this appears the Council for British Archaeology at its January meeting will have considered three major matters which have greatly concerned its executive and many others during 1974. It is hoped first that there will be a full discussion on 'Archaeology and Government', the joint CBA/RESCUE statement in June which 'proposes a new structure for British archaeology...designed to reform the structure for the future so that it can adequately meet the challenge of the remainder of the twentieth century'.¹ Although this has not had the initial impact hoped for, it should be the basis for development in the immediate future since it rests on a fundamental reassessment of the present evolving situation.

Secondly, recommended proposals for Group reorganisation, a matter discussed for years, would bring CBA regions geographically into line with those of the DoE Archaeological Advisory Committees announced in May, themselves largely based on the CBA regions. With these proposals go suggestions for Group functions and organisation designed 'to provide an essential link between rescue archaeology ... and archaeology in the region as represented by the activities and interest of many constituent organisations and individuals'.² The effect of reorganisation on Group 9 will be the loss of Berkshire to Group 12 (Dorset, Hants, Isle of Wight, Wiltshire) but it must be noted that this decision was made freely by the Berkshire Archaeological Council. Already the Berkshire Archaeological Committee has with DoE support established a small unit and its representatives sit on the Wessex committee. Proposed changes in CBA membership and subscription rules would make all organisations and institutions mem-

bers of both the national CBA and of one or two Groups, and we thus hope to continue to enjoy the participation in CBA9 of old friends from south of the Thames.

The third and probably the most controversial matter concerns the proposed establishment of a British Archaeological Institution. Intensive work by a steering committee, which included Professor Frere and three members of CBA9 executive, has produced a report which includes proposals for the foundation of such an institution by some 25 senior professional archaeologists, suggested criteria for founder associates and future members, and recommendations for an ultimate full examination structure. It is stressed that the aim is an independent BAI, for the foundation of which the CBA cannot undertake direct responsibility, but it was hoped that the first step might have been taken in January 1975. It is already clear from initial reactions that this would be premature. While it is difficult to deny the need for training and a recognised qualification for field archaeologists, it is not generally accepted that an all embracing professional organisation covering the whole spectrum is needed. Why not a British Institution of Field Archaeologists? Why not simply a training scheme? What about the 'amateur'? These are some of the questions raised which will be fully discussed in January.

Apart from these three issues the CBA officers and executive have been continually occupied with relationships with DoE. Following the ministerial statement of 23 May 1974 announcing increased financial support and the formation of thirteen regional advisory committees for rescue archaeology, a series of questions was put and formal and informal meetings held. What is not clear particularly is the relationship between the new committees and already established county and regional committees and other organisations with or without archaeological units. In our own region the new DoE Advisory Committee is in process of formation under Professor Cunliffe, who was chairman of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee, which remains independent of the new structure and has strong county and district council representation. The South Midlands Archaeological Advisory Committee, which has not really found a role, has changed its name to the South Midlands Archaeological Working Party and sees itself as primarily the regional professional organisation. In Bedfordshire the County Council maintains an archaeological unit as part of the department of the Conservation Officer, formerly the Archaeological Officer. The Berkshire Archaeological Committee has been already mentioned. In Bucks there are tentative moves towards a unit, while in the north of the county the Milton Keynes Development Corporation maintains a strong unit within its area. In Northants the former Federation has now become the county society, the Northampton Development Corporation has established a strong unit for its area, and some interests have links with the Peterborough organisation.

Amidst all this it is difficult to see what has happened to the CBA insistence that the basic unit of organisation should be the region, and to define the role of CBA9 in particular. Two years ago the Group's first function was seen as

the dissemination of information and the Newsletter and the Report Conference at Oxford as the main means for this. Newsletter 4 appeared and over 100 attended the conference. Far fewer took the opportunity to meet Henry Cleere, the new CBA Director, at the AGM in May. A second function was seen as the establishment of two-way channels of communication between CBA HQ and executive and the Group. This has not been fully developed, although there has been a CBA9 presence at every executive meeting and our views, as far as known, have been put forward. The Group executive has met three times, once specially to consider 'Archaeology and Government'. Brian Hastings has replaced J. Hollowell as a Northamptonshire member and Clive Hart has filled the Oxfordshire vacancy caused by Professor Cunliffe becoming convenor. Much of the field formerly covered has now been taken over by more recently formed committees and organisations, so that at times it may seem difficult to see the purpose of CBA9. But it must be said that members of the Group executive are very active in all the committees and other organisations mentioned and are conscious of their CBA loyalties, and especially of the CBA as standing for the 'amateur' as well as the professional. Our first task now is to promote that liaison between the 'grass roots', the Group and London referred to in the following extract from the recommendation on reorganisation made by the President, Hon. Secretary and Director: "The CBA is a democratic institution and for it to flourish as such and to carry weight in its increasing responsibilities at national and regional levels, a two-way flow of information and informed comment is absolutely essential".

Another potential role has already been indicated in the second paragraph above, and in general the challenge is such that we hope that we can subscribe to the wish expressed in the Annual Report 1973-4³: 'The coming year will be a crucial one for the CBA Groups: it is certain that they will emerge at the end of it greatly strengthened and with an even more important role to play in British archaeology'. It may be added that a CBA Group is more independent than many other archaeological organisations and can make representations to all kinds of authorities. We must also keep to the forefront the CBA-and now apparently the DoE-concept of the region as a unit, for CBA 9 spans four counties, and do something to combat the dangers of fragmentation since much of the work in the field is being done by units based on smaller areas. There must be a regional policy, particularly on excavation, as is expressed elsewhere, otherwise we may find work being done primarily because archaeologists and sites are available.

To return to the national CBA in conclusion, reference to the Annual Report³ will immediately correct any impression from the earlier part of this paper that the CBA 1974 obsession has been with politics and administration. The real work of archaeology has continued and expanded, notably under the auspices of the Research Committees — Churches, Industrial, Scientific, Urban — soon to be joined by one for the Countryside. Publications are flourishing too, and one of the resolutions of Groups, including CBA 9, could be to make

these more readily available to individuals.

W.J. FOWLER, Hon. Sec. CBA 9

References

- 1 *Archaeology and Government*, CBA/RESCUE 25p
- 2 Executive paper
- 3 *Archaeology in Britain 1973-4*, CBA 50p post free.

A list of CBA publications is given towards the end of the Newsletter.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT FOR EXTERNAL STUDIES

Oxford University organises archaeology courses in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. These include regular classes on all aspects of archaeology, certificate classes in British Archaeology, a wide range of day and weekend schools, seminars and conferences. The Department also runs an annual archaeological training school at Middleton Stoney.

Future Courses

The Archaeology and History of the European Town (organised with CBA)	6 — 12 April 1975
A Seminar on the English Village	25 — 27 April 1975
The Medieval English Market Town 2	— 4 May 1975
Middleton Stoney Training School	19 July — 9 August 1975
Oxford Archaeological Summer School based on New College, Oxford	27 July — 17 August 1975.
A Weekend Conference on Oppida and Urban Origins	10 — 12 October, 1975
A Weekend School on The Archaeology of Monasteries	12 — 14 December 1975
Oxford Professional Seminars	The Department organises a series of seminars on aspects of current archaeological work at 5pm on the last Tuesday of the month during term-time at Rewley House.
CBA Group 9 Weekend, Oxford	28 — 29 February 1976

Further details of these and other archaeological courses may be obtained from the Director, Oxford University, Department for External Studies, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.

APPOINTMENTS

In Berkshire Jill Greenaway and Ann Ellison have left Reading Museum and Mr L. Cram has been appointed archaeologist with the Museum. The Berkshire Archaeological Committee has appointed Mr T. Gates, Mr P. Garlake and Mr D. Stuart as field officers. John Hinchliffe has left the Oxfordshire Unit for the Inner London Unit, James Bond joined the Field Department of the Oxford City and County Museum.

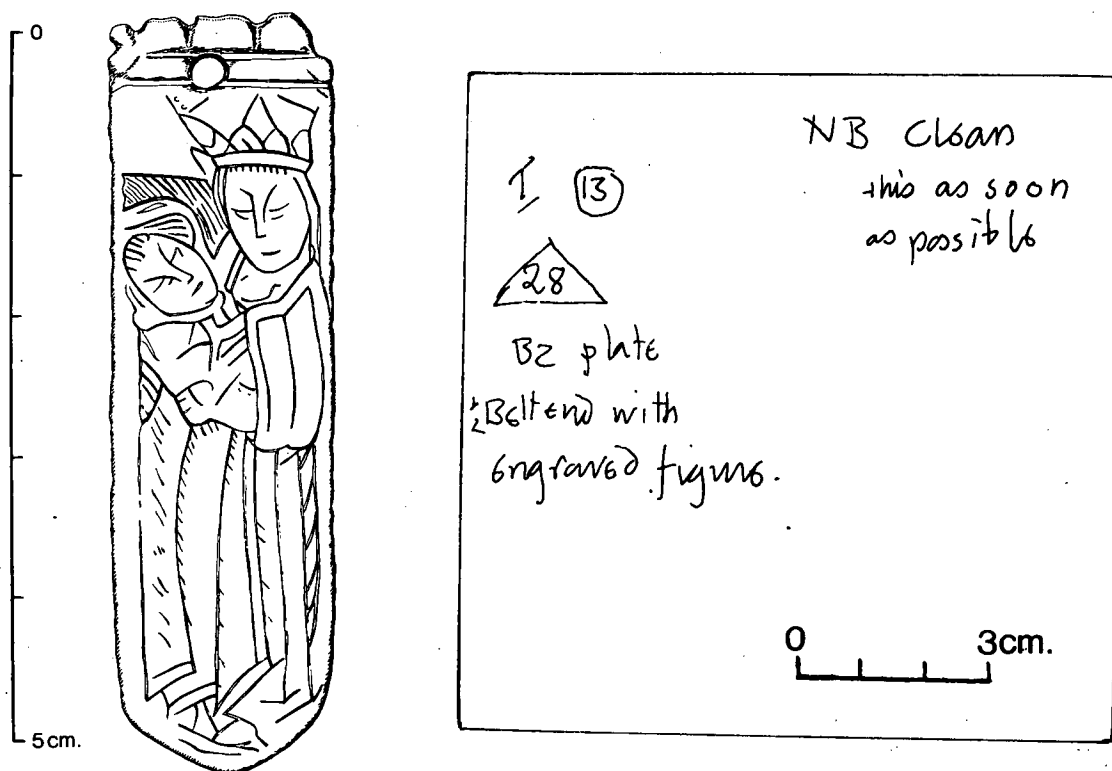


Figure 1 Drawn by Mrs June Strong

WANTED (OR UNWANTED?)

Figure 1 illustrates a front plate from a belt-chape with incised figures, probably depicting a Virgin and Child. The plate is of bronze. The front face is possibly gilded; the reverse is leaded. There is a small perforation in the top of the plate, presumably for a rivet. The piece is possibly of C15.

This plate was found in a small brown envelope, c. 4in (c. 10 cms) square, in the Oxfordshire Museum Field Department in summer 1973. The envelope is annotated with excavation data but unfortunately no site or excavator's name! All persons known to have been conducting excavations in the county 1972-73 have been approached, but no claimant has yet come forward. Any suggestions on provenance will be gratefully received, but anonymous letters will not be welcome! The excavator will be glad to know that the plate has now been cleaned!

DON BENSON

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCES 1974

Interim report on cereal cropmarks

An eight-week flying programme commenced at the beginning of July. Amongst its purposes was a study of changes of cropmarks in different geologies. The first stage of the programme was a week of intensive coverage of limited areas around each of the following airfields:-

- 1 Shawbury (Shropshire)
- 2 Leconfield (South Wolds of Yorkshire)
- 3 Benson (Thames Valley & Vale of White Horse)

During the next two weeks a number of longer ranging flights (some of them with Arnold Baker) were made from Leicester, mainly in continuation of regular annual checks of areas, but some new areas were added. These flights also provided a second look at Shawbury and Benson at a phased interval after the earlier intensive cover. The Trent valley was covered from Alrewas to Cromwell and additionally west towards Stoke-on-Trent. The Wenlock edge area again proved interesting and a number of new sites and features were recorded around Ludlow. South of Ludlow to Ross on Wye provided little new, but an area of ground to the west of Malvern produced several interesting sites including a large group of small barrows. Gloucester to Stratford produced a rash of RB farmsteads, one group being along a road that

seems to line up with the existing road from Evesham to Winchcombe. At the end of July, cropmarks in the Northampton area were poor and only a few new sites were recorded there. The Trent Valley around Alrewas and between Nottingham and Cromwell showed cropmarks of sites for several weeks, but the nearby Witham valley was virtually blank. The northern edge of the Cotswolds had some unusual and interesting sites showing but the northern edge of the Lambourn Downs overlooking the Vale of White Horse was devoid of indications of sites. The Yorkshire moors and north of these to Newcastle on Tyne was uninteresting this year.

Three more weeks of intensive flying were carried out from the beginning of August.

- 1 Bicester (Cherwell Valley)
- 2 Cottesmore (Nene Valley & East Leicestershire)
- 3 Leconfield (Yorkshire S. Wolds)

This programme was devised to carry out a number of experiments and areas selected for intensive flying and the time when the flying was carried out over them was carefully calculated. Combined with the longer ranging surveys, the programme made it possible to check the state of cropmarks in a variety of geologies and in similar geologies both in the same week and after an interval.

The programme and its timing was based on earlier reconnaissances in May and June. Rainfall and cool weather at the beginning of July lengthened the time of growth before crop maturity in some areas and the final week in Leconfield proved to be the best recording week. This was four weeks after the normally best recording week in the Thames Valley.

Areas in which cropmarks develop in any year have a direct relation to the spring and summer rainfall in the area, but the relation is not a simple one. Rainfall statistics provide some guidance, but it is easier to predict areas where cropmarks are unlikely to develop than areas where cropmarks will develop with a good contrast.

Even a 'conventional' cropmark of green growth persisting over soil of higher moisture content is more complicated than was previously thought. The three main constituents of a cereal plant are 1) the base foliage, 2) the straw stalks and 3) the ears. A colour difference can develop between any two of these and a colour difference can be created not only from soil moisture differences but from rainfall and dew. At an early stage of growth in June, when the cereal plant was mainly base foliage, rainfall produced growth variations in a few hours. Far from 'washing out' variations in growth, rain accelerated the growth plants, and after a dry spell, the acceleration of growth of plants over moister soils was greater than that of plants whose growth had been retarded by dry soil.

Whether the growth differences are reflected in foliage, straw or ear colour has some bearing on whether the cropmarks are clearest from an oblique angle or from above. On the South Wolds of Yorkshire, many fields of cereals produced what it has been conventional to describe as 'reversal'

cropmarks. These occur at full plant maturity and after the ears have bent over and turned downwards. These marks are usually almost invisible from above and are best visible from a limited oblique angle and limited sector of an orbit. An analysis of some photographs shows that the best angle for photographing is not constant throughout the day, nor is it at a constant angle to the sun. Possibly wind direction may swing round the inverted plant head.

Both these marks, and marks produced by rainfall in a few hours, are not easy to pick up during normal observations. Many of them would be totally missed on vertical cover, even if this was done on the days of their maximum contrast. It became obvious during the weekly periods of intensive flying in limited areas that more sites were noticed after a few days than had been seen on the first day and this experience was repeated at each of the areas. The term 'reversal' to describe some of these marks can be misunderstood as many of them develop towards full crop maturity without there having been an earlier stage when the site produced a darker cropmark. Also, in some areas, early cropmarks did not persist through to 'reversals' at crop maturity and the marks either partially or totally disappeared or became 'negative' marks (intaglio in the crop) or maintained a height differential instead of a colour differential.

The large number of factors that determine whether cropmarks will develop and what type of cropmark will develop makes close prediction of their occurrence more difficult than has perhaps been realised. At the moment, it is less urgent to try and predict than to realise that knowledge of cropmarks at best is superficial and in general is based on misconceptions. Interest in the information they provide has preceded an understanding of the processes that produce the evidence.

Some 2000 colour transparencies and 500 black and white photographs were taken in the course of the above reconnaissances. Some areas that normally produce cropmarks were totally devoid of any evidence of previous land use. Some cropmarks seem to develop over some sites every year that cereals are planted regardless of the weather. In one area I have flown over for nearly 20 years some sites have only been visible once, for a few days only, and these sites have not all been visible in the same year. Every time a cropmark develops, there will be details in it that are different from its other appearances.

Whilst the interest of archaeologists in the results of aerial archaeology tends to be towards sites in their areas that are suitable for excavation, there is increasing evidence of a type that cannot be obtained from excavations. As an example, several areas under annual surveillance are producing evidence of large areas of graticular field systems, laid out mainly without regard to contours. These contrast with field systems determined by terrain. The relationship between these different field systems and the domestic sites associated with them requires investigation. Some field systems in East Leicestershire seem to be orientated on and to include elements of earlier features of, in some cases, linear earthworks,

up to 1km long or in other cases parallel earthworks c.500m long to 200m apart. Many of the ridges and furrows in these systems have been developed within earlier baulks. The continuity of land use in these areas is perhaps farther back in time than is at present accepted.

The experience of this year's varied reconnaissances indicates that there is still a vast amount of as yet undiscovered information available in cropmarks for aerial archaeology to tackle, but that it will take many more years of more painstaking application than are necessary to record the easily seen sites and features.

Two further reconnaissances were carried out in the Trent Valley on 14 and 15 September. About 15% of cereals were still uncut because of recent heavy rainfall. A few 'reversal' marks were still visible in uncut fields, that had been recorded in the green stage of growth as early as 19 May. The persistence of these marks when others can be almost ephemeral requires understanding.

The area was devoid of any cropmarks in sugar beet although in some years sugar beet has provided better evidence than cereals.

Until the end of October I shall be engaged on a different type of 'retrieval' in Cyprus, so this year's reconnaissances are now ended.

JAMES PICKERING

HARTWELL, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE —

A parish survey

The complete survey of this parish was made in 1974. A Neolithic polished axe and other worked flints have been found at the S end of Hartwell Park. (See figure 2 site 1). Bordering part of the E parish boundary in Salcey Forest is an irregular enclosure, with a ditch and rampart still well preserved site 2. This is probably of Iron-Age date, and suggests the forest is not primeval, as has been found with medieval woods in Northants. Also in Hartwell Park are a few RB sherds around the village site no. 7.

The Saxon/medieval settlement pattern is very unusual for Northamptonshire. There are no less than six separate DMV sites (sites 3 — 6). It is not certain whether the present village has medieval origins or not. Site no. 3, Chapel Farm, is likely to be the oldest, because here was formerly the Norman chapel moved stone by stone to the present village in 1851. The earthworks are fairly well preserved and these are good tracts of hollow way. Site no. 4, at the Elms Farm, has well preserved earthworks. Part of it is ploughed and has produced C13 and C14 pottery sherds originating from local kilns. Site 5 consists of unspoiled earthworks. Site 6, Park Farm, was the lodge house of the C16 park: C13 and sherds and building stone have been ploughed up N of the farm. A sunken road from here towards Ashton (adjacent) has re-

cently been filled with rubble. Sites nos. 7 and 8 are in the S end of the park and ploughed area. There is an abundance of C13 pottery and building stone. A baking area has been exposed at site 7.

This remarkable fragmented settlement pattern is most unusual for Northamptonshire, but is very characteristic of the claylands of adjacent N. Bucks.

The whole parish was cultivated except the very E part which is still part of Salcey Forest. The furlong names (see below) towards the E have 'stockin' names, showing they were cut out of a once greater tract of woodland.

The park (furlongs 75 — 82) was made in about 1520, and is clearly postmedieval because it cuts across several furlongs, e.g. 30 / 79, 37 / 88, 86 and 95.

The present parish boundaries cannot be exactly the same as ancient ones, because to the N the present boundary cuts across furlong 57. In 1727 (Northants Record Office map G360) the whole of the park was considered in Hartwell (furlongs 89 and 90 and site 7 are now supposed to be in Buckinghamshire) and furlong 108 was not.

The parish documentation is quite good, but not yet studied in depth. The open field information of 1727 shows there were three fields, although *town field* was divided into two parts. It is not clear whether a three-or four-field system was worked. The postmedieval organisation must have been quite different from earlier times when the park was part of the cultivated area.

A map of 1768 (Northants Record Office map G440) shows there was a lot of early inclosure by that time. The remainder of the parish was inclosed in 1828.

FURLONG NAMES IN 1727

The first number refers to site 1, and the second in brackets is that used on the 1727 plan. Some variant spellings are recorded on a plan of 1818 showing a few furlongs only. (Plans at Northants Record Office).

Town Field (East)

- | | | |
|----|------|---|
| 1 | (1) | Tom Stockin |
| 2 | (2) | Lye Stockin |
| 3 | (3) | Whitsun Stile furlong (Whetstone 1818) |
| 4 | (4) | Fladry furlong (1818) |
| 5 | (5) | Hawkey piece |
| 6 | (2) | Sand Pits furlong (1818) |
| 7 | (7) | Box furlong (1818) |
| 8 | (8) | Wong furlong (1818) |
| 9 | (6) | Nunn Layes |
| 10 | (10) | Gores Craft furlong (1818) |
| 11 | (11) | Hartly End furlong (Hart End Corner 1818) |
| 12 | (12) | New Close |
| 13 | (13) | Newland furlong |
| 14 | (14) | — — |
| 15 | (15) | Bottom Stockin |
| 16 | (16) | Grove furlong |

West

- | | | |
|----|-----|------------|
| 17 | (2) | Whitehills |
|----|-----|------------|

- 18 (3) Clay Crabtree
- 19 (6) Windmill hill furlong
- 20 (7) Longland
- 21 (8) Towns end pieces
- 22 (8) (as above)
- 23 (9) Turveys piece
- 24 (10) Panters
- 25 (11) Towns end furlong
- 26 (12) (as above)
- 27 — —
- 28 (13) Stony craft
- 29 (14) The furlong next to the park side
- 30 (15, 16) Nuttage
- 31 (18) Bear Hill
- 32 (19-21) Second Bare Hill
- 33 (22) Old Orchard furlong
- 34 (23) Ox leys (Lammas leys)
- 35 (25) Moor leys

Brookfield

- 36 (1) Grate furlong
- 37 (2) Hangore piece
- 38 (3, 4) Well head
- 39 (5-7) Dames piece
- 40 (8) Charley piece
- 41 (8) Shar ditch furlong
- 42 (9) Berrystead furlong
- 43 — —

Whalliss Field

- 44 (1) Little Stockin
- 45 (2) Great Stockin
- 46 (3) Long Rigby and Cobley piece
- 47 (4) Long Street gate
- 48 (5) Pickley furlong
- 49 (6) — —
- 50 (7) Grove furlong
- 51 (8) Adington corner
- 52 (10) Short dagnell furlong
- 53 (11) Long dagnell furlong
- 54 (12) Oxon iron furlong
- 55 (13) Chappel field
- 56 (14) Second chappel field furlong

Old Inclosure

57 - 74 (Belonging to the Grafton Estate)

Hartwell Park (inclosed)

75 - 92

Open fields west of the park

93 - 99 Hartwell piece (1768)

Other furlongs next to Salcey Forest

100 - 107

DAVID HALL

Higham Ferrars Hundred Archaeological Society

PREHISTORIC NOTES

A MESOLITHIC SITE NR. KINTBURY, BERKS. WAWCOTT XXX

This was the second season of excavation at this site. A further area, contiguous with that examined last year, of approximately 50 square yards was examined. The site is situated towards the middle of the floodplain of the river Kennet. It is likely that peat was stripped from this area during C18-19. Consequently the site is now very shallow and undergoing extensive damage due to agricultural operations. The objective was to recover as much information as possible before destruction became total.

This year slightly more of the area examined yielded the Mesolithic horizon largely intact, in some instances sealed beneath marl. A number of marked concentrations of flint knapping waste were uncovered in these areas. Although the lithic remains have not been examined in detail yet, first indications are that relatively few finished farms are present. A few simple obliquely blunted microliths were noted during excavation; also scrapers and, possibly, rather more graters. The waste, as last year, consists of flakes, usually thin and well struck, often large; together with simple cores, often two platforms, and core rejuvenation flakes. The general character of the industry is that of an early Mesolithic phase.

A further quantity of faunal remains were recovered. The identifications for both seasons work are available; the following are present: Wild Cattle; Elk; Red Deer; Pig; Roe Deer.

Both the flints and the bones gave the impression of occurring in small separate scatters — although flints at least could become quite concentrated within a scatter. Several separate occupations would seem to be indicated. There was very little evidence of fire at the site, certainly no proper hearth was located.

At the present moment no further work is contemplated at the site. The remaining areas are probably very badly disturbed. It is likely that this site is one of several of similar character in the immediate area, some of which remain to be located, being more deeply buried and probably therefore more completely preserved.

The excavation was carried out by members of St Bartholomew's Grammar School Archaeological Society, Newbury, supported by Reading Museum and The British Museum.

F.R. FROM

WORKED FLINTS FROM CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

In central Northamptonshire there are a number of parishes with exceptionally light soils based on gravel, sand, and ironstone. In some cases nearly 90% of the total parish area consists of this well-drained easily-worked land. The villages concerned run in a crescent around N Northampton, from Earls Barton in the E to Harleston in the W, and including partic-

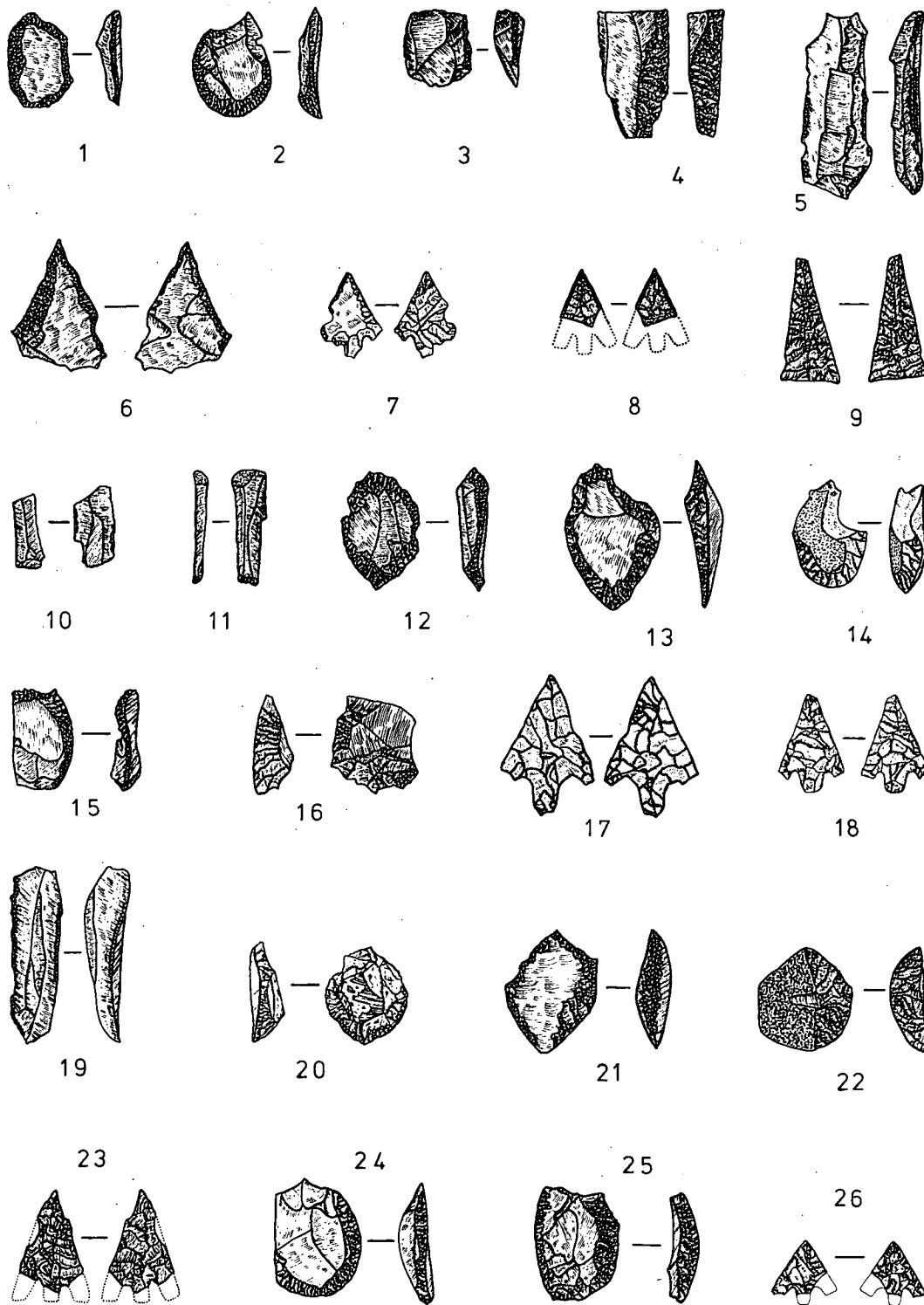


Figure 3

ularly Brixworth, Spratton, and Church and Chapel Brampton.

These last three parishes have been surveyed for ridge and furrow and premedieval sites. At a casual sighting the area is not particularly rich; at Brixworth for instance there were known to be two RB sites and three early Saxon cemeteries, all found by ironstone quarrying (c.1870 -c.1960), and no new sites were found. In Northampton Museum there are Neolithic and Bronze Age urns collected in the late C19 from Brixworth, unprovenanced but almost certainly discovered by the quarrying activities. Aerial photographs showed the area to be rich in cropmarks, especially the Bramptons, where there are recognisable village complexes with roads and abutting houses and enclosures.

It therefore seemed worthwhile to make a much more thorough examination of these parishes, especially in areas of known cropmarks. Fields were walked in strips of about 10 yards width; where there was a concentration of flints careful searches were made, so that about an hour was spent on each acre.

A site at Overstone (OVI) was first studied in a field revealing linear crop marks and two ring ditches. In one area consisting of about an acre there was a remarkable concentration of flint tools, worked flakes, and pieces of core etc. Some of the more interesting ones are illustrated on the figure 3. It was remarkable that as soon as the main area was left the number of flints discoverable fell to near zero. Similarly a site with a ring ditch cropmark at Chapel Brampton (CB5) yielded a good collection of flints from a limited area.

A programme of very careful searching of all the light-soil fields has now begun. Most of them produce at least a few flints, especially microliths, suggesting quite extensive early agriculture. Many new concentrations of flints, undoubtedly representing occupation sites, have been found in fields not yet known to reveal cropmarks. Similar searches of clayland fields have failed to find any flint concentrations. An analysis of some of the collections is given below.

The collections of flints in the table will be biased towards the numbers of well-defined and easily-recognisable tools. Unworked flakes in plough soil are apt to be meaningless because it is impossible to tell if they originate from a working site, or are produced by the action of weather and machinery.

Figure 3 illustrates some of the flints from a few of the sites. No detailed measurement analysis has been attempted to obtain histograms of axial ratios etc, but from the very characteristic barbed-and-tanged arrowheads and round finely worked scrapers it seems clear that most of the groups are Bronze Age.

Figure 3

Overstone

- 1 - 3 Scrapers
- 4, 5 Typical blades

Chapel Brampton

- 6 Scraper from a ring ditch site

Brixworth

Upper Park

- 7, 8 Tanged and barbed arrowheads, bifacially flaked
- 9 Probably part of a tanged arrowhead bifacially flaked
- 10, 11 Samples of the many microliths from this site.
- 12 - 16 Various scrapers

Lynch Field

- 17, 18 Two fine tanged and barbed arrowheads, bifacially flaked

Brittlewell

- 19 A blade

First Scottle

- 20, 21 Scrapers

Footway

- 22 Scraper

Spratton

Big Slade

- 23 Barbed and tanged arrowhead
- 24, 25 Scrapers

Paston, near Peterborough

- 26 Unusually blunt barbed and tanged arrowhead, bifacially flaked, from a ring ditch site in the far E of the county.

Provisional conclusions from this work are that Bronze Age occupation sites in central Northamptonshire are limited to light soils, easily utilised by primitive agriculture. At the same time the remaining land was quite familiar, even if it was substantially the much-written-about impossible-to-find primeval forest, for worked flints are found in small quantities

Site	Total	Arrowheads		Scrapers	Blades	Microliths	Utilized flakes	Cores	Others
		Tanged	Tanged and barbed						
Overstone (OV1)	92	0	0	13	14	0	14	7	44
Brixworth									
Upper Park	241	2	2	36	66	65	23	0	47
Spratton									
Big Slade	102	0	1	29	24	4	7	6	22

on clayland in the county. The Bronze Age people also had a remarkable ability to find light soils; an occupation site with a great flint concentration has been found recently in the W of the county at Astwell, on a pocket of gravel about 30 acres in extent in otherwise extensive clayland which once supported the early medieval Whittlebury forest. Could the primitive people know this area was gravel if it really was covered with a dense tangle of forest?

Although not discussed in this note a number of new early Saxon sites are also being discovered on the light soils. This should throw some light on the difficult problem of early Saxon settlement patterns, and will be reported in a future note when the results are more conclusive.

P.W. MARTIN and D.N. HALL
Higham Ferrers Hundred Arch. Soc.

STACEY BUSHES, WOLVERTON, BUCKS.

Partial excavation of a site discovered during construction work revealed traces of a settlement site of late Neolithic date. Structures discovered included borrow trenches dug into Jurassic (Blisworth) clay, most probably to provide material for houses of wattle and daub or cob construction; also arc-shaped gullies, probably for drainage around houses, dug into cornbrash limestone. Finds included a flint industry of Mesolithic aspect. Plain Neolithic (Grimston style) and 'Rinyo-Clacton' pottery occurred in direct association in the deliberate infill of one of the borrow trenches. The excavated features showed a consistent fill of reddish-brown soil typical of some archaeological sites of Sub-Boreal date located on subsoils of, or containing, limestone.

Interim report to be published as a Milton Keynes Development Corporation Monograph, available Dec. 1974.
H.S. GREEN for
Milton Keynes Development Corporation/DOE

ROXTON, BEDS.

The last two of five ring ditches at the junction of the Ouse and Ivel were excavated before destruction by gravel quarrying. Both had been heavily eroded by ploughing and there was no buried ground surface. Both had been cut by the river Ouse. One ring ditch had an external diameter of 28m. The central pit contained an upright collared urn with a cremation and a smaller identical vessel lying on its side. Parts of the ditch had been refilled very soon after construction.

The second ring ditch had an external diameter of 30m. The central burial consisted of two conjoining pits filled with top soil containing burnt fragments of a collared urn and much cremated bones. The lower half of an inverted urn covered by a crude cairn of stones was found cut into the primary ditch fill. There was a flexed beaker-type burial in a pit just outside the ring ditch and a Roman burial with an iron knife had been laid on the filled-in ditch.

Earlier occupation of both sites was represented by post-holes sealed beneath the mounds, and large quantities of flint flakes and tools of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age type. Iron Age and Roman ploughing in the field completed the filling of the ring ditches.

ALISON TAYLOR and PETER WOODWARD for
Bedfordshire County Council and DOE

HARTIGAN'S GRAVEL PIT, MILTON KEYNES, BUCKS.

An area 150x15m was stripped and excavated in advance of gravel quarrying, in order that a number of linear ditches showing up on the aerial survey could be excavated. These features proved to be shallow boundary ditches yielding Iron Age pottery. In addition, a large Iron Age rubbish pit, 3m in diameter and 2m deep, was excavated which contained an important pottery group including one complete Hunsbury bowl as well as a large amount of timber and environmental evidence. A Saxon pit, 2mx1.75m deep, yielded remains of a wattle lining.

Interim report to be published as a Milton Keynes Development Corporation Monograph, available December 1974.

R.T. SCHADLA-HALL for the
Milton Keynes Development Corporation/DOE

DANESHOLME, CORBY, NORTHANTS

Rescue excavation during housing development. Two Iron Age sites were located about 650m apart, both on Boulder Clay. On site 1 limited excavation revealed a series of enclosure ditches that date to the C2-3 BC. On site 2, further ditches were located that probably date to the C5 BC or before.

D.A. JACKSON
for the DOE

GRENDON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Excavations of a cropmark site on the south floodplain of the river Nene were undertaken in advance of gravel extraction. Some 11,000sq.m were stripped mechanically, exposing a comprehensive spectrum of features and periods for examination.

The ring ditches: Seven ring ditches were investigated, ranging in size from 18m diameter to 42m diameter, and including two double-ditched examples, one of which had causeways on the inner and outer ditch. Three of the monuments produced unaccompanied inhumations; secondary cremations were found in the area between these three closely situated features. Severe flooding in a pre-Belgic context resulted in the erosion of mound and ancient soil on all but one of the barrows; severe flooding during excavation hampered examination of this. The presence of protected gravel subsoils panned heavily with manganese oxide inside



Figure 4 Roxton two Bronze Age ring ditches under excavation, view facing W.

the other ring ditches suggest original turf mounds. The number and condition of artefacts from the barrows reflect the severity of the erosion. A few flints and fragments of soft pottery were found, the exception to this being a 'clutch' of urns over a cremation, including a small, 20cm tall, biconical urn.

The pits: An approximately circular array, 20m diameter, of fifty round (1.5m diameter) and six rectangular pits (approximately 2x3m), the former varying in depth from 10cm to 1m, the latter not exceeding 30cm in depth. Numerous ditches cross the area from E to W. The pits pre-date these Belgic and later ditches. However, one ditch with the appearance of a palisade trench was cut by a number of the pits. The pits showed at least two phases with shallow round pits cutting rectangular and deeper round pits. Sections indicate deliberate backfilling. The area was almost devoid of artefacts, the major finds being crouched inhumations of an adult and child in one pit, and dog skull with severed cervical vertebra in another, both deposits being carefully and centrally placed in the fill.

The enclosure: A ditched trapezoid enclosure, 80m long E-W and 60m wide at the wider E end. An entrance was seen centrally along the E end as a bifurcation of the boundary ditch flanked by two large post pits. In the centre of the enclosure is the drip gully of a round house, approximately 13m diameter, with an E facing entrance; at least three recuts are present. Determination of any structural evidence is confused by the presence over the whole field of small circular, soil-filled pipes in the gravel, having the expected dimensions of postholes. A N-S trench with a causeway divides the enclosure W of the house circle. The W end of the enclosure cuts into one of the ring ditches. No pits were found. Pottery from the single phase boundary ditch, hand-made, shell grit, slightly burnished black ware, suggests occupation towards the end of the pre-Belgic Iron Age.

Belgic and Romano-British enclosures: The extensive enclosures seen on the aerial photograph and thought to be R-B on field walking were not investigated, except where they impinged on areas containing other features. Thus, an early R-B kiln accompanied one of the barrows, and a line of stone-lined postholes another. No barrow was free from the interference of Belgic and R-B ditches, suggesting that they were not upstanding even 2,000 years ago.

A.G. McCORMICK

ROMANO-BRITISH

BRADWELL ROMAN VILLA, MILTON KEYNES, WOLVERTON, BUCKS.

An area of 500sq.m. was opened. A corridor, with red-on-white swastika-pattern mosaic is known to be at least 10m in length. Two rooms with mosaics were revealed; one had

a central panel guilloche pattern in fine tesserae which had been largely destroyed by the insertion of a hearth; the other room, at least 9m square, has a compass-drawn stylized flor-eate red-on-white pattern, and there is a central inserted limestone-flagged hearth. Walls survive to the height of five courses. Macroscopic examination of some of the stone roofing materials points to Charnwood Forest and Collyweston or Stonesfield as sources of supply.

Interim report to be published as monograph by Milton Keynes Development Corporation, available January 1975.

H.S. GREEN and M.J. GREEN
Bradwell Abbey Field Centre, Abbey Road,
Bradwell, Milton Keynes, MK 13 9AP.
Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

FLITWICK MANOR WAY — BEDFORDSHIRE

During the winter of 1973/74, a square cropmark shown on an aerial photograph taken in 1970 by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments was investigated. The site, open agricultural land until 1974, is now designated as a housing estate.

The cropmark was found to be caused by a regular square ditched enclosure 41m across. Three sides of the square were single ditches approximately 4.5m. wide and 1.25m. deep, while the fourth was a double ditch of similar proportions with signs of a palisade. Sections through the ditches revealed C2-4 Romano-British pottery, cattle bones, flue and roof tiles. In the centre of the enclosure the foundations of a 'T'-shaped corn-drying oven were found. The fire box was constructed of sandstone in a sand mortar matrix with a thick covering of gault clay. The flues were formed in the clay which baked hard in use. The drying chamber was round with wattle and daub walls and a centrally supported roof. Native R-B pottery found in the fire box and flues suggest a C2 date for this structure.

K.J. FADDEN for the
Amphill and District
Arch. and Local History Society

PEACHCROFT FARM, RADLEY, OXFORDSHIRE

This site has been dug by Radley College Archaeological Society since 1968, initially to investigate cropmarks which were first noticed by Haverfield¹ and are recorded in aerial photographs.

Excavation has shown that these are caused by trenches cut into the gravel². It has not yet been possible to be sure of the exact purpose of these trenches; they contain no lines of postholes in the bottom. In view of their size and the irregular shape of the areas bounded, the trenches probably represent enclosures, and may have been cut for hedges, since the topsoil in the period when they were dug was shallow and

¹ Haverfield, *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* 2nd series xviii (1899-1901) 15.

² For previous notice of excavation see: *Berkshire Archaeol. J.* 65 (1970) 57; *Oxoniensia* 35 (1970) 104.

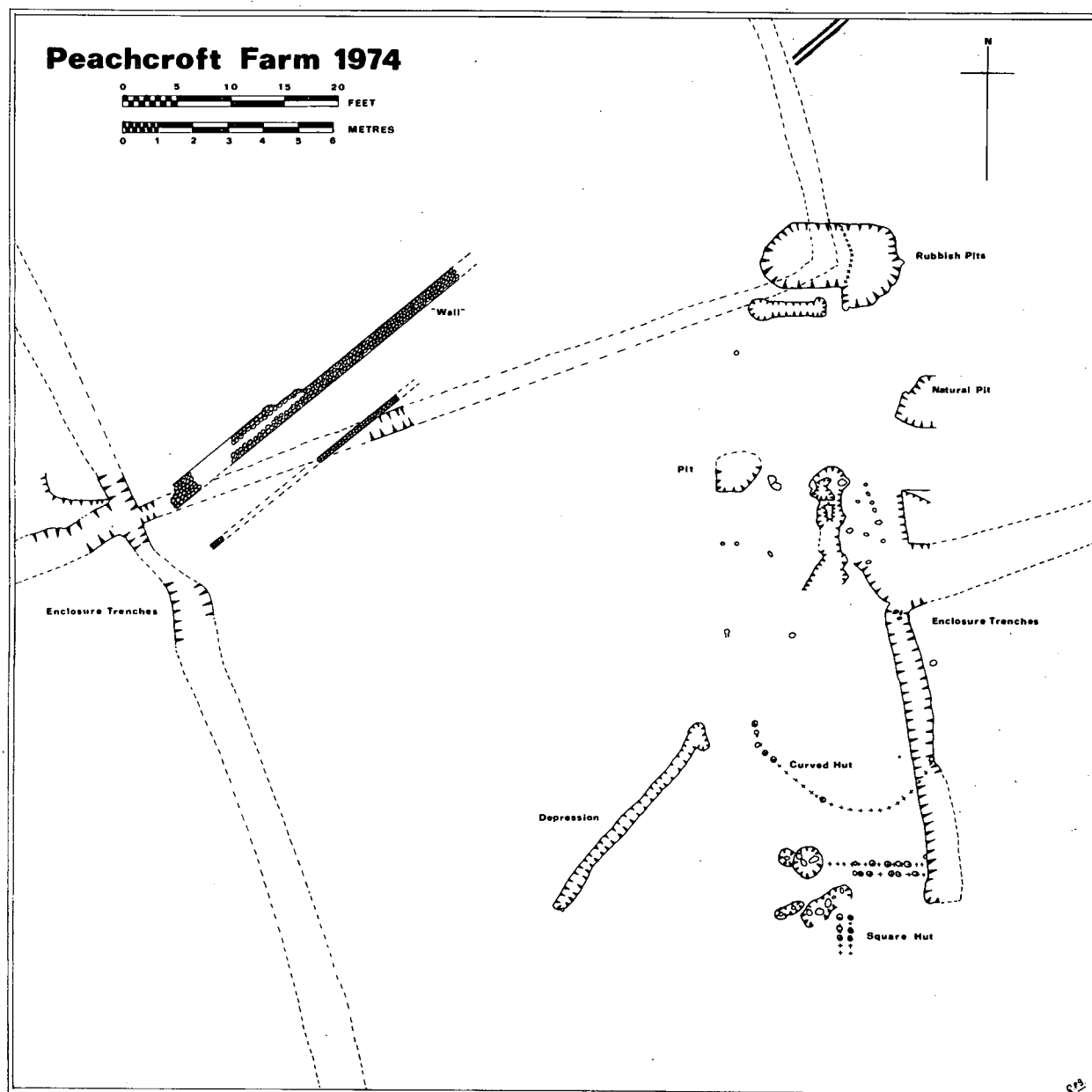


Figure 5

would have been unlikely to sustain an effective hedge.

It seems that these trenches were cut sometime between the C1 BC and the end of the C1 AD. No later pottery was found in the fill, and there is no evidence of recutting. Two rubbish pits cut into the trench system at one point, and the earlier one contained some fragments of early Samian ware, thus suggesting an early date for at least that part of the trench system, since there is no evidence that all the trenches are contemporary.

The soil overlying the gravel varies between 11 and 20 inches, with the result that, except in isolated areas, all strati-

fication above the gravel has been destroyed by subsequent ploughing. Thus the evidence of building on the site is limited to a number of postholes in the gravel, which however do not form readily identifiable patterns. There was probably at least one circular hut, and the postholes suggest a number of other buildings at different periods in the same area. The only evidence found in the fill of postholes suggests that of a rectangular structure belonging to the later Roman period. Of uncertain date is a feature which was initially identified as a wall, which consists of packed stones, with fragments of brick and tile embedded in it. It has been traced for 40ft and

appears on another part of the site, although in a much attenuated form, giving a total length of about 75 ft. Its purpose is unknown, but it is of a later date than the trench system which it overlies in one place.

The finds were poor, consisting mainly of fragments of coarse pottery, although some fragments of Samian were also found. The site has produced five coins, of late C3/early C4 AD dates. Large numbers of nails were found, and also the remains of some iron implements. Animal debris included bones of cows, pigs, dogs and sheep, some of which had been split, probably to obtain the marrow.

On the basis of the available evidence the site has been tentatively identified as that of a humble British farm. Haverfield³ certainly believed that the inhabitants were 'engaged in pastoral and possibly agricultural pursuits'. The finds suggest that it was occupied from the C1 BC until the middle of the C2 AD, and again in the late C3 until sometime in the C4 AD.

A full report must await further excavation.

G.P. SPICKETT for
Radley College Arch. Soc.

SHAKENOAK FARM, NORTH LEIGH, OXFORDSHIRE

Total excavation of Roman villa site, Saxon sites and nearby Bronze Age Sites.

Work has been concentrated on site K, which lies in the centre of the villa complex and is dominated by two fish-ponds. Clearance of the larger of these, which measures from 70-90ft by over 220ft, is yielding objects of wood, and leather boots, as well as a great deal of organic matter of all types.

It is hoped that the excavations at Shakenoak will be completed, with the entire area of about 2 acres completely excavated, in 1975 or 1976.

A.R. HANDS

WAKERLEY, NORTHANTS

Rescue excavation ahead of ironstone quarrying. (For earlier work see *Newsletters* 3 and 4)

Roman: Work continued in 1974 on this Iron Age settlement and Roman farm. Amongst the Roman features discovered was a timber aisled barn which is thought to be of C2 date. It was 11.5m wide and probably about 19.8m in length. (For a plan of the site see *Britannia* 1974.)

Anglo-Saxon: Nine Anglo-Saxon burials of possible C7 date have been found during the excavation of this Iron Age and Roman site. The burials were 250m NE of the basically C6 cemetery excavated during 1968-70,

D.A. JACKSON for DOE

³ Op. cit. 10.

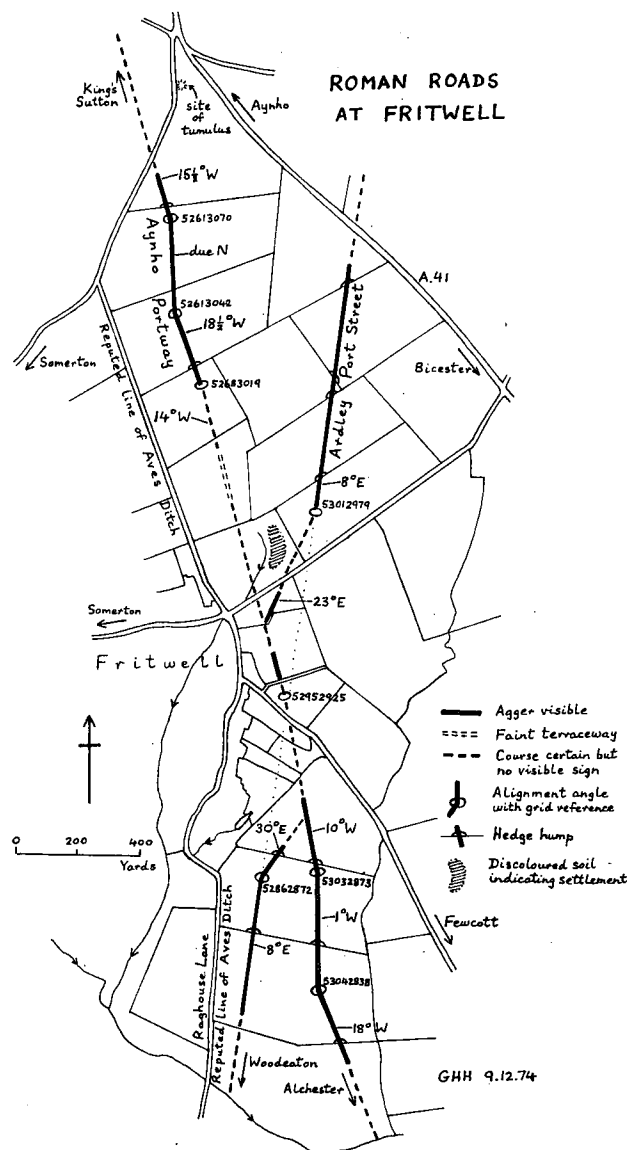


Figure 6

ROMAN ROADS AT FRITWELL, OXFORDSHIRE

The two Roman roads associated with the N section of Aves Ditch as described in *Newsletter* 4 have intersecting alignments whose detailed mapping shows them to be remarkable examples of Roman road planning; see Figure 6.

The larger road of the two, Aynho Portway, has an agger whose base at SP53042845 is 72ft wide. This road presents striking evidence that a major road can make repeated changes of line within a short distance to keep to higher ground for convenience and not of necessity, instead of rigidly adhering to a main alignment. In the course of one main alignment it has six alignment angles of which four are clearly visible on the ground, three being sharp realignments and one, the southernmost, appearing as a short but distinct curve. All

these alignment angles are typically located on high survey points. A short distance beyond the N alignment angle the road passes below the tumulus, now destroyed, that was the site of the Ploughley Hundred moot, and as a major line of communication in Saxon times plainly influenced choice of this site.

The second road, Ardley Port Street, has an alignment interrupted by two wide-angled diversions to take advantage of the course of the other road. This diverted course indicates it to be later in date. The southern of its two independent alignment angles is visible and is very sharp.

The two roads are independent of field boundaries throughout these alignments and show fine examples of humps in hedges intersecting with them. Both roads are well seen from the modern road at 525302.

An area of discoloured soil indicates a settlement site in the N road fork angle and alongside a spring which is apparently that which gave the name Fritwell to the village.

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

NEWNHAM, BEDFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE

Work was resumed in May on the Romano-British and pre-historic cropmark site at Newnham, SE of Bedford after a break caused by winter flooding.

A yard area was examined to the N of the hypocaust excavated in 1973, and produced evidence of domestic activity of the Roman period. A rubbish pit, 400x300cm, produced a considerable quantity of pottery. The presence of an oven was suggested by a feature of clay, 1.90x70m, with a stokehole on the long axis. The whole feature was filled with dark loam containing much ash and charcoal, as was another feature 2m to the E. This latter comprised a depression, 3.50cm in diameter, and up to .3m deep; three steep-sided gullies ran into it from the S, and the evidence of burning in them gave them the appearance of stokeholes. There was another, shallower, gully to the N. The fill of the depression contained pottery, bones and shell from domestic refuse, and a very few pieces of light, porous slag; there were also several pieces of unworked limestone, but no stone structure remained. A row of four postpits below the depression and filled with the same material, may represent a structure associated with it, but may be earlier. The feature is possibly connected with some kind of domestic industry. This yard area also contained several stone-packed postpits, some of which are aligned, but no building plan has yet been identified. An early Iron Age and a Belgic ditch are stratified beneath the Roman layers.

An area 40m to the SW, and 15m square, produced further evidence of the Roman building plan. Well-laid cobbled surfaces were defined by regularly aligned pitched limestone footings, 1m in width and 0.40m deep. Up to seven rooms were represented, but the limits of the building were not established, and it is possible that some areas of rougher cobble

were external surfaces. Two rooms were completely excavated, and were 6.50x2.50m and 6.50x6.50m. The floor of the largest room, at least 7.50x7.50m, had been renewed on two occasions, once with a similar cobbled surface, and later with a surface of small pebbles set in a hard mortar matrix.

The function of this range of rooms is not yet certain, though the cobbled floors suggest a utilitarian emphasis. The thin occupation layer was almost sterile, but a single Samian sherd on a related external cobbled surface in the trench now being excavated indicates use in C2. The floor make-up layers, up to 0.25m deep in places, produced no finds as a terminus post quem.

At some stage after this structure fell into disuse, a linear feature, nearly 3m wide, was cut through it. This produced pottery of no later than Roman date.

Excavation will continue with special attention being paid to establishing the limits of the buildings and investigating the rest of the main courtyard.

ANGELA SIMCO for
Bedfordshire County Council,
Bedford District Council and DOE

WOOD BURCOTE FARM, WOOD BURCOTE (near TOWCESTER), NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Threat of deep ploughing. Results of work: An extensive scatter of surface material indicates occupation lasting from C1-C4 AD. The building debris, which includes roofing, bridging (or bonding) and box-flue tiles, moulded stonework, painted wall plaster and tesserae from mosaic and tessellated pavements, suggests a villa site of some refinement.

Preliminary work has uncovered parts of two masonry structures—a detached outbuilding and what may prove to be an extremity of the main villa complex. Other features include four corn-drying ovens of elementary design, and drainage ditches and gullies, mostly of C1 and C2 date. A bronze scabbard-mount with Celtic decoration and associated with pottery of Neronian-Flavian date was found at the bottom of one of these ditches.

Pottery of Late Belgic type occurs in primary contexts on many parts of the site.

The results of the investigations at Wood Burcote Farm will be incorporated in a wider research programme directed toward a better understanding of the Late Belgic and R-B ceramic activity in the upper Nene valley. The work is expected to occupy several seasons.

P.J. WOODS, assisted by members of the South Northants Archaeological Society. The work is being undertaken by arrangement with the executors of the Dowager Lady Hesketh, the owners of the property.

QUINTON — site 'B', NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Work this year in Great Holt field was directed towards a late C2 to early C4 R-B farmyard and settlement site.

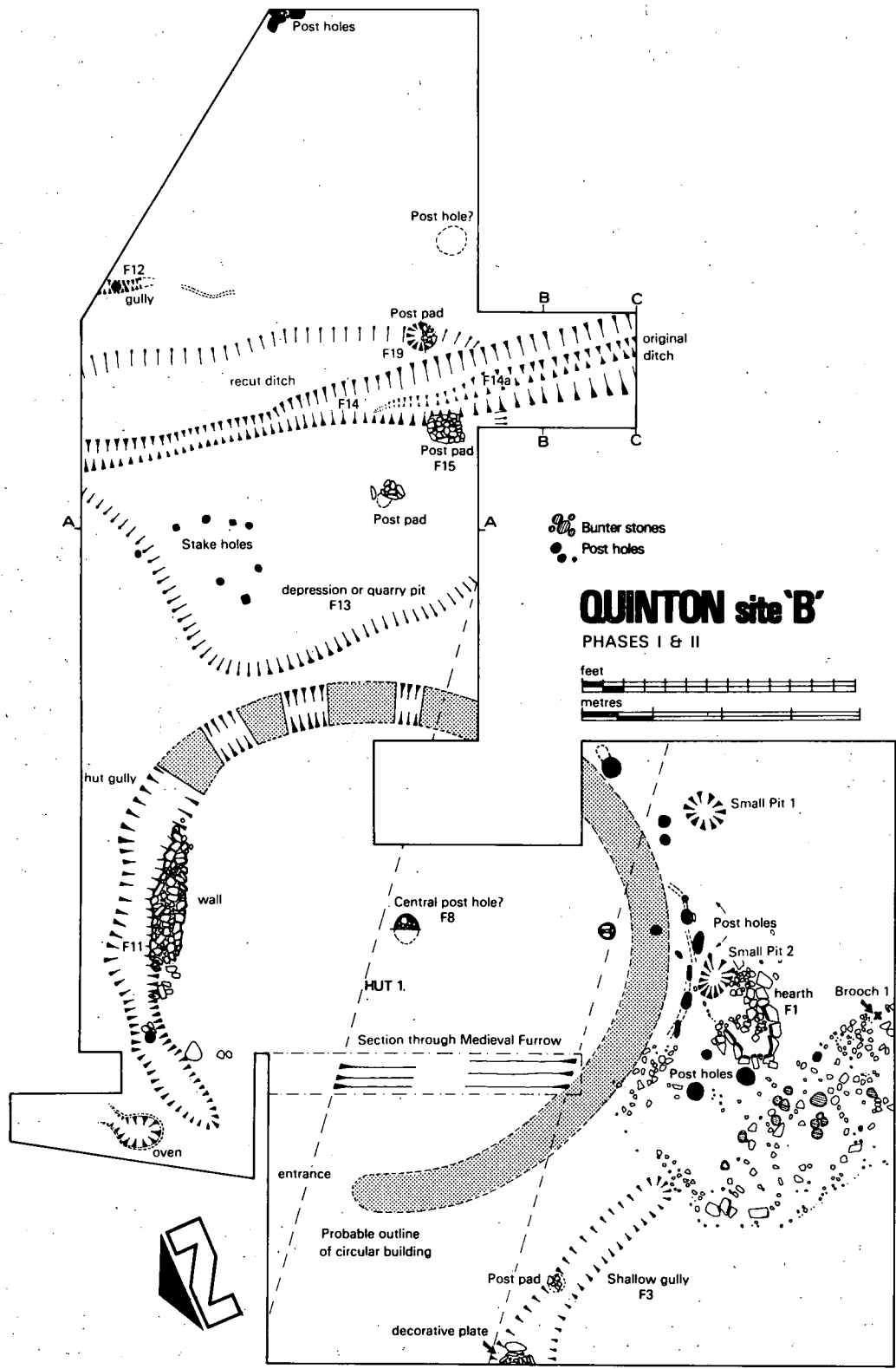


Figure 7

Excavation revealed a C3 single entrance circular house some 26ft in diameter of rather unusual type: it was part gully, and part timber-post construction. A short section of walling was also found indicating a possible rebuild or repair at a later date. The entrance was located on the W side of the building, and a small horseshoe-shaped oven was found adjacent to the entrance on its N side. In all, an area of 1672 sq.ft was stripped down to the subsoil by hand.

The earliest feature on the site was a ditch which had been recut once and dated from approximately the mid C1 AD. Also, in the same area was a large subrectangular depression 16x21ft which had cut into the ditch, this was dated to about the late C1 AD.

Later, in the mid C2, the depression or sandpit was levelled with large blocks of limestone, over which a layer of black loamy soil and much occupation debris had accumulated. By about the mid C3 another layer of limestone rubble was thrown down. In this layer, some 200 iron hob nails were found both used and unused, possibly indicating the presence of shoemaking activity.

Small finds: Three brooches were found. One was a mid C1 type similar to that found on site A at Quinton (*Journal of the N'pton Mus.* no. 11, 18, br6.) Also two late C2 brooches: a. flat brooch with 8 enamelled knobs and in the centre a prominent boss encircled by millifiori glass inlay in white, blue and red.

b. a plate brooch, in the form of a duck with blue and red glass wings on its back. The site produced eleven coins, ranging from a sestertius of Auralius to a 'Fallen Horseman' type of the mid C4. Iron knives and miscellaneous ironwork including an iron ox goad were also found, together with a large quantity of bone.

R.M. FRIENDSHIP-TAYLOR
Upper Nene Archaeological Society

ANGLO-SAXON, MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL

OXFORDSHIRE — A DISTRIBUTION MAP OF SAXON SITES

Figure 8, showing the distribution of Saxon sites in Oxfordshire, with particular emphasis on the contribution of aerial photography, was originally prepared for illustration during the Symposium on Aerial Reconnaissance for Archaeology held in London in April 1974. Because of its local interest it has been thought useful to reproduce it here, merely as a factual statement attempting to present a distribution of sites known up to summer 1974.

The impact of aerial reconnaissance along the Upper Thames Valley upon knowledge of Saxon settlements has been considerable¹. Not only are there many more sites than

1 D. Benson and D. Miles, *The Upper Thames Valley: An Archaeological Survey of the River Gravels* (Oxford 1974)

previously thought, but new contexts can now be provided for old isolated Saxon finds and features.² All these recent discoveries lie on the gravel terraces. The present settlement pattern in this area presents a more equitable distributional relationship with cemeteries than known hitherto. However, the pattern is locally still very uneven and in some cases new concentrations of settlements have appeared in areas of few known cemeteries. The vast majority of cemeteries themselves are known only as a result of salvage work and so far cemeteries have not been as susceptible to recognition from the air as have settlements. (With evidence from previous excavations however some Saxon cemeteries may be plausibly identified from cropmarks as at Standlake.³) There is also the problem that whilst many cemeteries have produced datable material, the majority of settlements now known to exist are entirely undated. All this serves to emphasise how little is known at present of the detailed locational relationship between these two types of Saxon site. The implications are that a much closer study needs to be made of the evidence available from old excavations in combination with existing air photographic evidence; and that some concentrated aerial reconnaissance needs to be undertaken in small areas and orientated towards solving specific problems posed by the present distributions (searching in a positive way for cemetery evidence to complement settlements and vice-versa). With the wealth of evidence available, excavations too, even in a rescue context, should not merely be selected on the basis of the intrinsic merits of a particular settlement or cemetery, but on how far the excavation of one of these types of site is likely to shed light on its relationship with the other.

Outside the area of the Thames valley, the lack of settlements in relation to cemeteries is even more marked. Although the known cemeteries in the upland areas of the county are generally of a later period than the valley sites, associated settlements with Grubenhäuser should still be in evidence. All such sites cannot have been obliterated by Saxon villages and their conspicuous absence emphasises the need for intensive aerial survey. Recent reconnaissance over the site of a Grubenhäuser discovered during trenching for a gas pipe line, near Wootton, Woodstock, revealed the existence of similar features in the immediate vicinity and demonstrated that such sites do betray themselves as cropmarks on the limestone uplands of the county.

DON BENSON

BRADWELL — MILTON KEYNES

Trial excavations of 'Bradwell Bury', a series of earthworks associated with the moated manor site, produced evidence of late Saxon occupation.

Two phases of Saxon ditches: the first on average 2.5m

2 Examples in D. Benson 'The use of air photographs' in *Aerial Reconnaissance for Archaeology* ed. D. Wilson, forthcoming.

3 D. Benson & D. Miles, op.cit.p.46; Map 21, 3803

4 SP44581887; PRN5548

Thanks are due to Mrs June Strong for drawing Figure 8

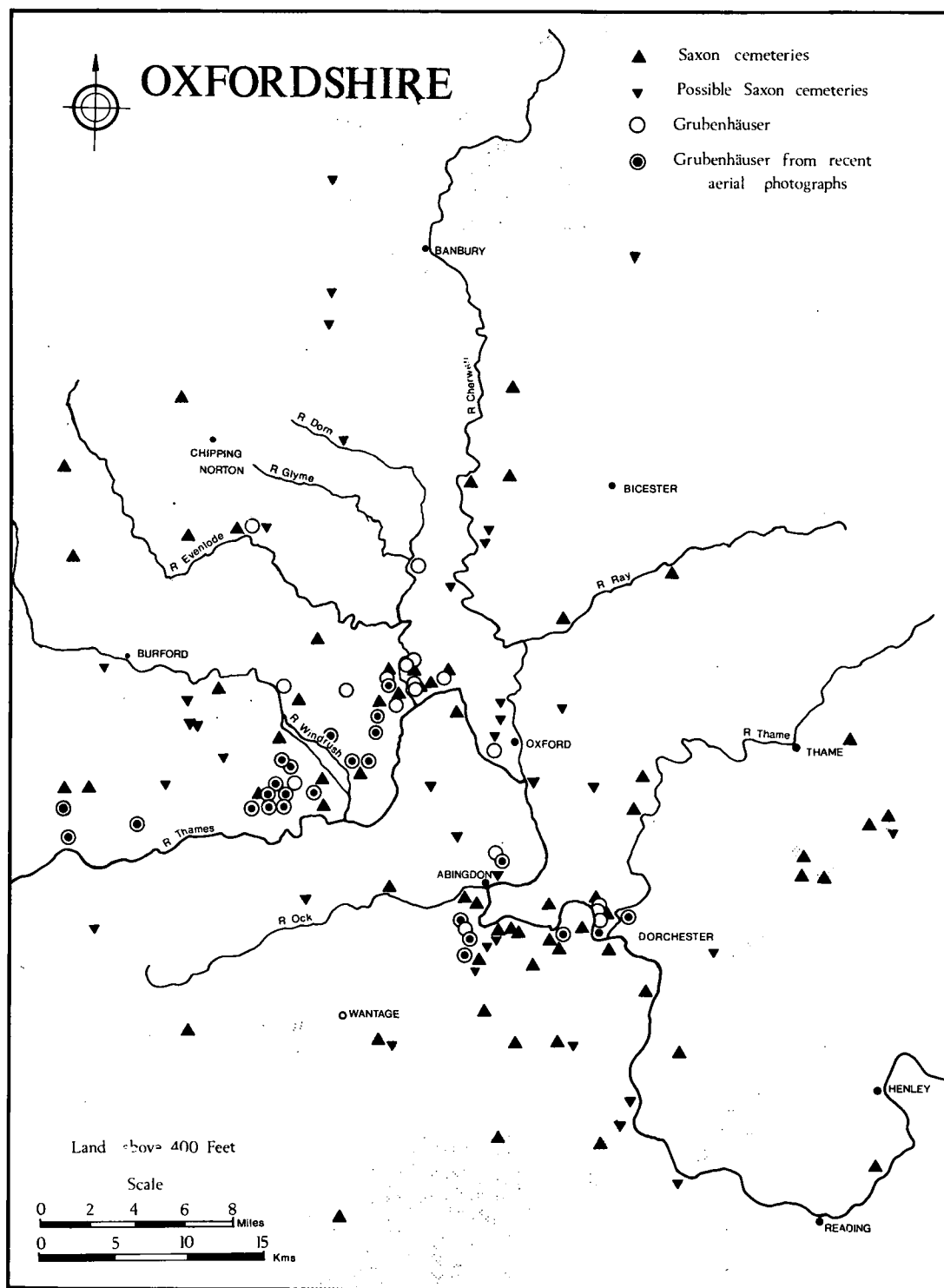


Figure 8

wide and 1.5m deep; the second 4m wide and 2m deep, dated by St Neots ware, were partly sealed by a bank of medieval date. These ditches enclose an area of uncertain size, only the N and W sides being at present located.

Within this area there is evidence of three phases of occupation:

1 Late Saxon, dated by St Neots ware.

A row of three shallow stone-filled post settings represent part of a timber building aligned E-W, of uncertain length. The post settings were 3.5m apart, so one can postulate a building of four bays, probably 14m in length.

2 Late Saxon, dated by St Neots ware.

A second row of four shallow stone-filled post settings again 3.5m apart. These were adjacent to, but not quite parallel with, those in phase 1. They suggest a rebuilding on the same site; the new building being of six bays and approximately 21m in length. The floor level associated with this building was considerably burnt and contained sherds of St Neots ware.

3 Later than 1 and 2, probably Early Medieval.

A stone building on the same site and alignment; the wall footings were approximately 1m thick, the building was 7m wide internally and at least 9m in length. This building continued in use into the postmedieval period.

Excavation will continue throughout the winter.

D.C. MYNARD
Bradwell Abbey Field Centre
Milton Keynes Development Corporation

WALTON, AYLESBURY, BUCKS

Further work at Walton was carried out adjacent to last year's site, following demolition of the Vicarage before re-development. The vicarage site, which lies inside the main earthwork excavated last year, was found to be subdivided internally by a rock cut V-shaped ditch. The whole of this area of Walton adjacent to the manor house now appears to have been laid out in large rectangular plots in C13. No major structure of the period was located.

Preceding activity was indicated by a spread of C12 and Saxon-Norman material, and a deep curving ditch belongs to this period, along with a number of gullies.

Early-Middle-Saxon occupation noted last year was here represented by two further grubenhäuser orientated E-W, also three pits, one of which contained much of a quern. Finds included loom weights, a double-sided bone comb, a small square head brooch and much decorated pottery. A scatter of Roman material was also present.

This years excavation was again conducted by Buckinghamshire County Museum with the DOE.

M.E. FARLEY
Buckinghamshire County Museum

BRILL, BUCKS

A multi-flued brick pottery kiln was discovered in Windmill Street, Brill, during installation of a septic tank and the County Museum conducted a brief excavation by kind permission of Mr and Mrs J. Prosser. Less than half of the kiln was available for investigation, the remainder lying beneath a fuel tank. Half of this available area had been destroyed by Victorian rubbish pits and the walls of this sector robbed. The base of the structure had been of brick; one flue was accessible and a second could be seen but not excavated.

The base of the kiln had penetrated to natural sand which had been burnt bright red. A quantity of saggars lay directly on this base and there was no trace of any other floor.

From the kiln itself saggars outnumbered products but a first impression is that the main products were large dishes and probably cups, although few examples of the latter were represented. A date in the middle C17 seems possible for the structure and the whole will probably be published in *Records of Bucks* for 1975.

Although only partial excavation was possible the kiln is of particular interest as few multi-flued brick kilns of the period have been excavated. Moreover the importance of Brill as a pottery centre in the post-medieval period has been overshadowed by its well known medieval prominence.

M.E. FARLEY
Buckinghamshire County Museum

QUINTON MOATED MANOR, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Northamptonshire Arch. 9 (1974) p.109. Work during 1974 has been concentrated in the W of the C14 kitchen area excavated in 1972/73. Further walls have been located but have not yet formed a coherent plan, the excavation is still in progress.

A piece of sculpture which promises to be quite unique was found in this new area. It comprises of what appears to be a whiskered monkey banging a drum and holding a key. A death mask is carved on one side of the monkey's head. Also found nearby was a personal seal bearing an inscription and a coat of arms; we might have here the de Quentone coat of arms-until this can be verified by experts this must remain conjecture; situated close by a large iron key was also found. In association with the above finds were two almost complete jugs, one of which is probably from the kilns at Brill (Bucks). The other is a small ballaster jug in Potterspury type fabric (Northants). All these items are provisionally dated to the C14.

R.M. FRIENDSHIP-TAYLOR
Upper Nene Archaeological Society

GREAT LINFORD, MILTON KEYNES, BUCKS.

Large-scale excavations of village earthworks in advance of development have been concentrated on two areas at the

end of the village around the former village green. An estate map shows houses in 1641 but these were gone by 1678 when a second map was produced. Documentary evidence confirms enclosure in 1658.

Area 1

Road construction revealed both medieval and C17 levels. Limited excavation located three stone buildings: a rectangular two-bay stone building 9.5x5m dated late C12. Above this was a C13 building 5.5m wide and of uncertain length. To the E of these part of a substantial C17 house was located and will be fully excavated in 1975.

Area 2

An unploughed pasture of 3.5 hectares with about 10 house platforms, several hollow ways and lesser earthworks. Three platforms have been excavated:

- i On the N edge of the medieval green, contained no building evidence but produced stock compounds and a post-medieval road.
- ii This contained a two-bay house 10x5m of C13 and C14 date, which was replaced in the C17 by a two-bay house 15.5x5.5m.
- iii This contained a three-bay C17 house 16.7x5.7m. This had originally been of two bays only and the third bay contained a large hearth and was a kitchen or of an 'industrial' nature.

All of the buildings appear to have been of timber construction with dwarf stone walls apart from the substantial C17 building in Area 1. Around each building are well laid cobble and limestone yards.

Finds include large groups of medieval and C17 pottery and ironwork.

D.C. MYNARD
Bradwell Abbey Field Centre
Milton Keynes Development Corporation

CLAPHAM MANOR HOUSE, BEDS

Work has continued throughout the year on the excavation of Clapham manor house. Twenty rooms have now been uncovered and a plan of the Elizabethan manor house is becoming clear. It had become apparent, through excavation, that a substantial proportion of the Elizabethan manor, and earlier manors, were destroyed by the new school building and so it is possible that the southernmost part of the site cannot be traced.

One of the new rooms had a very fine Tudor fireplace, of which a large proportion remains, and traces of the original tiled floor can be seen. Most of these early tiles are of the 'Penn' variety. The full extent of the courtyard has now been excavated and it seems to form part of an internal cobbled area with a large central drainage sump. This sump was 15ft deep and had been filled with household refuse and building masonry when it finally went out of use around 1750. The internal yard was probably used for grooming horses, which were stabled to the west. Leading from this area to the sump was a deep gutter taking surplus water from

the interior of the stables, which probably also housed a 'washing-down' room for the coaches.

Large quantities of pottery and animal bones were among the many finds this year. The floor levels continued to produce coins, bronze objects and the usual large number of pins. Of particular note was a piece of strip bronze thickly plated with gold and incised with a line decoration.

P. TILSON
Bedford Archaeological Society

GROVE PRIORY, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDS

Excavations were continued on the area containing barns and outbuildings associated with the priory. Beneath the medieval occupation, and on top of the natural boulder clay, lay several groups of slots and postholes, and a group of large pits with associated postholes. The latter produced pottery provisionally dated to the mid-late Saxon period.

The barn provisionally identified in 1973 was further explored. It was at least 34m long and 7m wide, with rubble footings and clay packed post pits set into and along the sides of walls. There were at least 3 cross walls. The barn was modified twice and was associated with a cobbled yard. Finally it seems to have been deliberately dismantled.

Other structures in the area included a series of postpits and fragmentary remains of at least two more buildings with sleeper footings of stone and pebble.

EVELYN BAKER for
Bedfordshire County Council and DOE

WARDEN ABBEY, OLD WARDEN, BEDS

Rescue excavations were occasioned by the groundworks associated with the restoration of the ruined late-monastic and post-monastic mansion fragment on the site.

The tile mosaic pavement uncovered by Rudd and West in 1962 was reexcavated for further study: it was not possible to locate it within the monastic ground plan, though the limited evidence suggests the area of the crossing and south transept in the C14 extension to the church. Another large area of mosaic tile pavement was found N of the ruin, possibly in a late abbot's house: this was in much better condition, with slip and glaze largely intact. Tiles included examples with lions heads, parts of garments and background fillers, all individually shaped: several had graffiti on their sides and backs, both words and symbols. Both pavements, which are provisionally dated by Mrs Elizabeth Eames to the early C14 have been lifted and given to Bedford Museum on permanent loan by the Southill Estate.

Two other small fragments of pavement were found in other groundwork trenches around the building. Other discoveries included medieval and post medieval footings and other features, though the limited scope of these excavations has made it difficult to understand their full significance.

EVELYN BAKER for
Bedfordshire County Council and DOE



Figure 9

MIDDLETON STONEY, OXON

Excavations continued on the site of the castle area on top of the mound. An area 20x15m was opened up and a 2m section cut into the western side of the mound. The mound was found to be made up of a stone tower with considerable quantities of rubble. The shaft found in 1973 was excavated to bedrock level and identified as a garderobe. It continued large quantities of bone and other environmental evidence. Outside the tower a staircase had been constructed based on a

clay foundation. These stairs had apparently been covered by some type of canopy as they were not bonded in any way. At the foot of the mound a robber trench 1m wide was found abutting the foot of the stairs. The tower and stairs appear to have been abandoned at the same time and both were covered with a layer of destruction debris, the archaeological evidence further supporting the documentary reference to the destruction of Middleton Castle in the first half of C13.

TREVOR ROWLEY

URBAN

BEDFORD MIDLAND RD 1974, SITE I

With an area of some 3½ acres threatened with total destruction within the historic core of Bedford, negotiations were undertaken with the landowners to allow for some archaeological investigation of the site. Consequently an area was made available for excavation, and arrangements were made to carry out a watching brief when redevelopment began.

A trench was opened along the Midland Road street frontage in order to establish the extent of medieval occupation in the area and to determine if any remains of Saxon settlement were extant. The trench, c.120sq.m, was dug entirely by hand. Below the top 70-80m of modern and postmedieval build-up a medieval layer was found, which covered most of the area of the trench.

This medieval occupation material was found to be overlying a number of early medieval features that were cut into the natural yellow clay subsoil. Except when they had been destroyed by modern wall footings and service trenches, these medieval features were found all over the site. Part of a semicircular pitched tile hearth and a number of large rubbish pits were uncovered near the street front, and traces of timber buildings were found behind them, in the form of post-holes and two stretches of beam-slot trench.

A large amount of pottery, of late C11 to early C14 date, and animal bones were found during excavations, and evidence for some iron smelting on the site was also discovered.

SITE II

A trench was opened in August 1974 on the Midland Road frontage of the Bedford Modern School site. Its position was determined by the extent of destruction that had already taken place on this massive redevelopment site, and by the time available for excavation. The site was destroyed as soon as excavation was complete, at the end of August.

The trench was mechanically excavated to a depth of 1m, in an area lying immediately to the E of Site I. Several large rubbish pits were found, three of which had wood-lined bases and contained cess. There were large quantities of wood and other organic remains such as leaves and seeds from these pits, as well as much animal bone and St Neots type pottery. A medieval floor level was uncovered, consisting of compacted layers of wattle and straw some 30cm thick. Two beam slots and several postholes, all of early medieval date, were also found, indicating the position of timber buildings running parallel with, though set back from, the present line of Midland Road.

BEDFORD ST JOHNS 1974

Rescue excavations were undertaken during the summer in advance of destruction by redevelopment, on a site in south Bedford, opposite St John's church. This was just within the SW part of the Saxon town of Bedford, an area

bounded by the King's Ditch, supposedly built by Edward the Elder in the early C10.

Three large areas were mechanically stripped, the first of these running along the St John's Street frontage. Traces of at least two late Saxon timber buildings were uncovered, dated by pottery associations of St Neots, Stamford, and a local black gritty ware; and following the axis of St John's Street. A great many early medieval rubbish pits were found, and some lime and iron smelting pits.

Trench II was excavated immediately to the W of this, and more early medieval rubbish pits and postholes were found. A small stone-built bread oven, set in a paved hearth pit was uncovered just outside one timber building. To the NW of the timber structure the remains of a large circular kiln were found, with the last few courses of stonework still in situ. It was c. 8m in diameter with an opposing flue and stokehole. A great many sherds of late medieval pottery were found in the destruction layers which filled the kiln area.

Trench III was a U shaped area running westwards towards the Kingsway frontage. As might be expected, there were fewer medieval features at this end of the site. One or two rubbish pits were uncovered, but most of the features were of postmedieval date.

JANE HASSALL
Bedfordshire County Council

BUCKINGHAM, HUNTER STREET

Excavations, on a site fronting Hunter Street, Buckingham and presumed to be within the burh, have demonstrated that the area was first divided into tenements in the early C14. Earlier activity was attested by a late Saxon bronze pin and a handful of Saxo-Norman sherds. The N part of the site, on a heavy clay subsoil, remained unoccupied until modern times, medieval activity being confined to the S area which overlay a natural gravel.

A boundary ditch and part of a town house of the early C14 were excavated — the dating of these rests on both numismatic and ceramic evidence. The ditch extended the length of the site in an E - W direction, and yielded an extensive group of sheep bones, and pottery of the Brill kilns. The house, one bay deep, apparently extended parallel to the present street, and its southern limits, obscured by modern disturbance, may extend below houses still in occupation.

Ceramic evidence suggests that the site was permanently occupied until the C19, with major structural alterations in the late medieval period. These included the erection of what was probably an ancillary building behind the house, close to a stone-lined pit. The area between the house, which was presumably still occupied at this time, and the ancillary building, was terraced at approximately the same time. A postmedieval accumulation in this area produced a useful collection of ceramics.

To be reported in *Records of Bucks.*

R.A. HALL for
Buckinghamshire County Museum and DOE

DUNSTABLE, BEDS.

Examination of Roman and Medieval Dunstable before development of the area.

Roman Period.

A short length of a shallow ditch belonging to the late Roman period was excavated. This contained the skeletons of four humans and two horses. Work on this area is to be continued during 1975. Cesspits of the C2 and C4 have been excavated and these have produced an abundance of pottery.

Medieval Period

A large tile kiln of C13-14 date is under excavation. This survives with 2m high walls of tiles on edge and double flues. Its product was pegged roof tiles. A cesspit of the same date produced 2 glazed jugs which are kiln wasters, indicating that pottery was also manufactured on the site.

A malting kiln, the fourth to be found in the area, has also been excavated.

The tile kiln is a surprising discovery on the chalk land of Dunstable. It is sited alongside St Marys Street and perhaps explains the name of Skimpot (St Marys pottery) given to an area below the Downs whose crest is pockmarked with ancient clay pits.

C.L. MATTHEWS
Manshead Arch. Soc.

NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE

After a few weeks to complete work on the Bartholomew Street site, attention was turned to an adjacent site with frontage on to the Market Place.

A trench was opened across the building line at a point once occupied by the C16 Kings Head inn from which the team in 1973 had removed the remains of an interesting panelled ceiling.

No dramatic frontage changes took place after the late medieval/Tudor period but there are strong indications that this phase involved a shift forward of 5.5m to the opposite side of a road made up with very heavy gravel to a depth of up to 0.5m in the C13 or C14. On this gravel the earlier frontage, a flint and mortar wall, made an angle which was found later to correspond to that of the course of a small stream, almost certainly of natural origin, which after silting gradually found use as a road in spite of the small rubbish pits scattered over the area. A coin of Stephen virtually on the natural soil gives a credible date for the earliest medieval level, and odd fragments of Roman tiles and querns suggest that substantial RB buildings had existed not far away, the remains of which were perhaps being ploughed up in nearby fields.

Trial pits into the lower strata of buff silt, fresh-water shell marl, peat and dark grey silt once again revealed flints and bones of the Mesolithic period in the last of these.

The arrival of demolition contractors in November brought a rapid end to the excavation, which has provided useful information for the planning of future archaeological work in this part of the town.

S.D. FORD for
Newbury Museum Hist. Soc.

NORTHAMPTON, ST PETERS STREET

The excavations briefly reported in the previous volume at their mid stage were completed and a full summary is now given. St Peters Street lies parallel to and some 50m S of what is regarded as the main E-W axial street of the early town. The church of St Peter is immediately W of the site.

An area c.55m long by 30m wide, including the street itself and the frontages on both sides, which were largely uncellared, was completely stripped. A sequence of occupation from Saxon, possibly earlier, times was established. The chronology quoted cannot be regarded as definitive, being based purely on the preliminary examination of the artefacts.

At the W end of the site a ditch c.4m wide by 1.5m deep was cut into the natural ironstone bedrock. The ditch seemed to follow the natural contours of the land and probably defined a defensive enclosure on the promontory where St Peters church now stands. No datable material was recovered but a prehistoric or Saxon context is most probable.

A rectilinear timber building of post in slot and individual posts was erected over the infilling of the ditch and probably dated to the C9. Two other timber buildings a little to the E were probably roughly contemporary.

Sometime during the C9, probably the first half, three concrete mixers were constructed, again at the W end of the site. Circular bowls (two were 2m in diameter and one 3m) had been cut into the natural ironstone and lined with wattle work. Each bowl had a very substantial central post-hole. Layers of concrete and mortar had built up within two of the bowls and a preliminary examination indicates that burnt lime was one of the constituents. In one of the mixers, several grooves concentrically cut around the central posthole suggest rotary motion. From this and other evidence it seems clear that the central posthole was for a pivot probably supporting a beam from which paddles were suspended, the whole being capstan driven. All the recovered facts support some form of mechanised concrete mixer.

In addition to the purely technological interest of the concrete mixers the timber buildings and mixers are important in demonstrating a pre-Danish settlement at Northampton only previously hinted at. The mixing of large quantities of concrete and mortar seems to indicate a substantial stone

building nearby. Such structures are certainly uncommon at this period and it must be queried whether St Peters church, known to be of pre-Conquest origin, dates at least from this period.

At least two periods of timber buildings were laid out on top of the mortar mixers and underneath the later street line. At a similar date four sunken floor dwellings were constructed at the E end of the site.

These were simple rectangular structures the largest being approximately 4x3m. In each case a single posthole centrally placed at either end probably supported a ridge piece. The character of the occupation debris on two of the 'floors' strongly supports the idea that these were the actual floors rather than hollows below planked floors. The pottery and a coin of Aethelstan suggest an early C10 date.

These dwellings and all the other features previously described were randomly arranged and in no way respected the later street line.

Some time between 950 and 1100 (it is as yet impossible to be more precise) the site underwent a radical change. Timber dwellings were laid out parallel to and on either side of a street following roughly the line of the present street. The buildings were represented by a series of postholes and were rectangular with long sides on the street. They were c.4m wide but it was not possible to define the length of individual buildings. Certainly there appears to have been some major redevelopment of this part of the town at this time but is the aligning of the street parallel to the main E-W axis of the town attributable to deliberate town planning or purely accidental and part of normal organic growth? Furthermore should the development be assigned to the late Saxon period of economic expansion or the early Norman era, coinciding with the plantation of the castle and the 'novus burgus'? The timber buildings themselves continued in use for several centuries, being replaced or reconstructed as need arose.

Probably from some time in C13 some of the buildings were reconstructed in stone on the same lines as the preceding timber buildings. Finally, perhaps in C15, the whole street was lined with stone terraces on either side. Twelve houses were identified, typically 8m by 4m with long side on street. Floors were of clay and the houses divided into two roughly square rooms by a central screen. The walls themselves were substantially built of ironstone masonry and certainly the walls would have been carried up in stone at least one storey, but whether the upper storey was stone or timber is impossible to determine. Between two of the houses on the S side of the street were a pair of malt-roasting ovens well built in stone and sunk into the ground. The uniformity of the house plans and constructional details in their final form is most striking, perhaps even indicating a single building operation by a single landowner.

About 1500 the whole of the street was completely burnt down by a fire represented by a destruction level of ash and other burnt material covering the whole of the site. The N side of the street was converted to gardens, a use which continued until the C19, when houses and stables were erected.

The exact postmedieval history of the S side of the street is more difficult, but a tannery occupied approximately a 20m stretch: 8 clay-lined pits in which the hides would have been steeped produced C17 pottery. Houses and other buildings are known to have been built from the C18 onwards.

Marsham Warren Taylor (Architects) and Metropolitan Estates were extremely helpful during the excavation.

Horseshoe Street

Two excavations along the frontage of Horseshoe street failed to reveal any medieval or postmedieval structures fronting the street and it seems possible that such features are underneath the present road, which has been considerably widened.

Area A lay close to the junction of Marefair and Horseshoe Street and measured 11.40m N by 5.40m E. Below the C19 and C20 buildings were a series of simple burials orientated E-W. At the S end of the site below these burials were the remains of a stone building sunk below ground level and measuring 2.40m N by 4.80m E. The building showed signs of reconstruction with a fine limestone flagged floor in its second phase. Subsequent to the robbing of the walls the sunken area was used as a charnel pit but there was no attempt to arrange the disarticulated skeletons. It seems probable that the cemetery was already in use when the stone building was constructed but its original purpose is unclear. A few pits probably of C12 date are earlier than the cemetery and the stone building.

The cemetery was apparently previously unknown but would appear to belong to St Gregory's church, some 60m to the S-W. The church is known from soon after the Conquest but an earlier origin is possible. At the Reformation the church was converted into a free school. No remains of the church building are now visible.

Area B lay further S on Horseshoe Street and measured 13m N by 6m E. Under a deep deposit of garden soil was a series of pits and gullies, some containing Saxo-Norman pottery.

Whitefriars

Trial excavation on the site of Whitefriars located parts of the friary building but the deep Victorian cellars encountered suggests that most of the archaeological levels have already been destroyed.

Moulton

Further excavation took place on the Roman farm previously excavated by D Mynard (BN FAS 5 (1971) 22ff). The circular stone building (area 2/3) was removed to reveal a narrow circular gully which probably represents the foundation trench of an earlier round timber building. The two buildings were not directly superimposed. Two continuous straight gullies underlay the timber building. The pre-stone building phases certainly date to the C2 if not earlier.

All excavations were undertaken by Northampton Development Corporation with support from the Department of

the Environment and Northampton Borough Council.

JOHN WILLIAMS
Northampton Dev. Corp.

TOWCESTER, NORTHANTS

Trial trenching and the stripping of 600sq.m of an area scheduled for housing development SW of Towcester uncovered a Roman road of limestone cobble on a SSW-NNE alignment, probably the road to Alchester (Oxon). On the deliberately filled in side ditch S of the road had been constructed a circular turf-walled workshop defined by a ditch 1.8m wide on the SW and by a smaller gully on the SE. It contained two hearths and a furnace; the nature of the industrial activity was hinted at by the presence of large lumps of lead and a pewter dish. The SE of the two opposed entrances was approached by a cobbled path, which was continued by a well preserved timber corduroy to a series of ditches which had acted as a water supply. A well preserved wooden culvert continued the line of the perimeter ditch below the cobbled path. On the N side of the road opposite the workshop trial trenches located a stone building and a series of slight pebble floors. Abundant coins date the whole site to the middle years of the C4 AD.

A.E. BROWN

NEW ROAD, WALLINGFORD 1974

Excavation has been in progress at a site on New Road/Thames Street; Wallingford, since May 1974. The site is believed to be associated with the nearby church of St Michael (now redundant). There is a possible threat to the site owing to a development which has already received outline planning permission. The excavation is being carried out by members of the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society under the supervision of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. As this is the first dig to be undertaken by the newly formed society it has served as a training exercise as well as a rescue operation.

Two trenches of approximate dimensions 3x4m. each have been excavated down to the natural gravel. Both trenches reveal Christian burials which are thought to date from the C13. Two stone-lined graves have been found, one lined with mortared flints, the other lined and capped with chalkstone. Probably the most significant find thus far is a large basin-shaped pit beneath the level of the articulated burials in one trench. The pit is roughly circular in plan, approximately 3m. in diameter and is cut 2m. deep into the natural gravel. The sides are near vertical and the base is flat and horizontal. The fill of the pit is largely flint, ash and tile. Small quantities of mineralised copper have been found in the upper layers of the fill. The pit lining appears to be a clay soil which has been subjected to heat and partially fired. The base lining overlies the natural gravel directly whereas between the vertical lining and the natural gravel there is a fill of soil c.40m. in thickness.

Pottery sherds from this fill suggest that the construction date for the pit cannot be earlier than late C11. Apart from the nature of the lining and the small quantity of mineralised copper little else has been found to indicate the purpose of this pit. It is anticipated that excavation will be completed by early 1975.

Wallingford Archaeological and
Historical Society

SURVEYS

BEDFORDSHIRE SURVEY

Three survey programmes have been in progress during 1974, apart from routine development control and public queries.

1. *Listed buildings parish surveys.* These investigations are designed primarily to identify buildings of historical importance with a view to gaining statutory protection. Interior inspections are not always made. Riseley, Stevington, Shillington, Barton, Harrold, Turvey and Carlton have been covered.

2. *Historic Towns survey.* Annette Edwards has compiled the archaeological, historical and topographic evidence for Biggleswade, Harrold, Luton, Sandy Potton, Ampthill, Dunstable, Woburn, Shefford and Leighton Buzzard. This will provide a basis for the assessment of development proposals. Jane Hassall and David Baker have completed a similar survey for Bedford (forthcoming).

3. *Rural sites survey.* Angela Simco has commenced a pilot survey of sites and earthworks in seven representative parishes, with special reference to destructive agencies beyond planning control. The parishes are Cardington, Houghton Conquest, Milton Ernest, Stanbridge, Staploe, Steppingley and Streatley.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SURVEY AND RECORDING IN BEDFORDSHIRE

On 21 July 1974 an aerial survey was carried out over approximately 168 square miles of Bedfordshire by Hunting Surveys Limited for the National College of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe.

The main survey was in conventional black and white at a scale of 1:12000, each photograph overlapped to enable a stereoscope to be used. Simultaneously with this run a considerable part of the area was photographed within selected colour bands, i.e., infra red, red, orange and green. These were at a scale of 1:18000 printed together to facilitate easy cross reference.

The Ampthill Archaeological and Local History Society are very fortunate to be allowed to study these photographs in the laboratory of the college and are in the process of

recording all cropmarks on a card index. The information on this index will eventually be analysed and fed into the Bedfordshire Sites and Monuments Record. It will also form a basis for future field walking by the society.

The survey is of particular value to archaeology as it was taken at the end of a very dry spell of weather, and for the photographic techniques used. The results to date are very encouraging with a number of new sites and many crop marks requiring investigation.

K.J. FADDEN

Amphill and District Arch. & Local Hist. Soc.

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PARISH SURVEY

The parish survey of the county continues according to the scheme mentioned previously (*Newsletter* no. 4 (1974) 26).

Ten parishes totalling 16,000 acres have been covered in the centre and W of the county, and 4000 acres of Greater Peterborough, some of which is in the former Huntingdonshire. Brief notes are given below along with a fuller account of Hartwell. Plans showing ancient sites and medieval field systems have been made for each settlement. Supporting historical studies are in progress.

The pre-medieval settlement pattern seems similar in the 'new' parishes to those previously studied. Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement occurs almost exclusively on gravel and light soils, and later periods had settlements ubiquitously on all types of soil. Only two parishes contained the remnants of medieval woodland (Hartwell and Wadenhoe); all the remaining area was covered with ridge and furrow open fields, except for small areas of flooding meadow.

Greater Peterborough

Peterborough is now apparently considered to be in the new Cambridgeshire, but formerly was always part of Northamptonshire. The large-scale new town works have taken in many thousands of acres of the surrounding parishes, including some in the former county of Huntingdonshire. The following new sites, not mentioned in the survey published by the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments, have been discovered.

Longthorpe: W of the village there are several acres of scattered building stone and R-B pottery.

Orton Longville: N of the village is a large regular mound rising above the floodplain of the Nene in a permanent grass field. This could be an undisturbed barrow. To the NE are two small DMVs with well defined earthworks and hollow ways.

Paston and Gunthorpe: E and NE of the villages are two extensive R-B sites, and a small detached medieval settlement with C13 pottery and building stone in the ploughsoil.

Werrington: Sites nos. 1 and 2 of the Royal Commission Survey (ring ditches) have yielded many Bronze Age flints including a barbed and tanged arrowhead.

All the development areas except the extension W of Castor have been mapped for medieval field systems.

Stoke Doyle

Three R-B sites are known in this parish.

A few middle Saxon sherds were found E of the vill.

There are earthworks on the SE side towards the manor house. The whole parish, except the meadows near the river, was ploughed in medieval times, even though the high ground on the W was considered part of Rockingham Forest. A sunken and partly ploughed out road to Lyveden and Brigstock was traced.

Weedon Lois and Weston

Two R-B sites have so far been discovered. S of Millthorpe there were some sherds of Middle Saxon pottery.

The parish contains three medieval settlements; Weedon Lois, the primary one, Weston, the secondary, and Millthorpe (middlethorpe), the latest and smallest. At Weedon are some fine fishponds and vague earthworks of the former monastic settlement of Beauvais. Near the church is the well-preserved low motte and bailey rampart of one of the Pinkney manors, now covered by trees and wild gardens. The monastery and manor occupied almost half of the village area.

There are good village earthworks and sunken roads at Weston. E of Weston is a very fine ditched windmill mound, cut out of earlier furlongs which are then appropriately modified. As usual the open field system covered all the parish except the flooding meadows. There are some very fine net-works of furlongs surviving. The 1593 map at All Souls College, Oxford, has been shown to be substantially accurate. There are some postmedieval modifications, such as the ploughing of two furlongs into one. The peripheral areas far distant from the settlements were already enclosed by 1593, but do contain ridge and furrow.

There is one modern field containing steam-ploughed postmedieval ridge and furrow.

Wadenhoe

A few flints were found near the village. Three R-B sites have been found so far, one with early or middle Saxon sherds also scattered on it, suggesting some continuity.

The village is slightly shrunken; to the W near the isolated church is an exceptionally fine ringwork on a very prominent defensible spur overlooking the river Nene. Near this, beyond the church, is a windmill mound. Ridge and furrow covers most of the parish, but has not been observed in Lilford Wood, which is probably the one mentioned in *Domesday*, *temp* Henry III, and subsequently. Good examples of furlongs survive N of the vill.

Canons Ashby

No premedieval sites have yet been identified.

The village is very shrunken and is surrounded by well-

preserved earthworks. The monastic fishponds are quite clear, although the monastery site itself is not noteworthy.

W of the village are four very large ornamental ponds associated with the great house. Along Eydon road is a particularly fine windmill mound.

Chapel Brampton

Prehistoric sites and cropmarks abound in this parish, some being previously described (Hollowell, *Bulletin Northants Federation of Arch. Soc.* 6(1971) 5). For flints recently found see the accompanying report.

The medieval furlongs cover most of the parish, although none have definitely been seen in the S part, marked as heath on the 1584 map (Northants Record Office). This map marks the village and gives the great field names, but no furlongs.

Farthinghoe

This village lies on a high spur over 500ft high, consisting of light soils. Four separate sites yielded Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flints. There are three R-B settlements, two situated at vantage points overlooking extensive tracts of countryside.

NE of Manor farm there are good earthworks and a very large windmill mound — almost of motte proportions. Below the mill are three large fishponds, now drained. The furlongs of the open field system should be identifiable from an early C16 terrier.

Holcot

To the SW of the village there is an Iron Age enclosure, revealed by aerial photography, from which some potsherds have been collected. Elsewhere in the parish there are other unidentified crop-marks. Several parts of the village itself have yielded R-B sherds during building works.

Some medieval village earthworks survive to the W and E. There are some fine fishponds, and a drained millpond with rubble and millstone fragments nearby.

N of the vill is a mutilated windmill mound.

The furlongs cover nearly all the parish, but leave quite an area for meadow and pasture along the brooks and streams. Near the village is a large elongated mound which is not windmill-looking nor merely produced by ancient ploughing, — it may just be a plough-eroded barrow.

Morton Pinkney

No pre-medieval sites have yet been identified.

The village is shrunken and there are good croft and toft earthworks and fishponds. W of the present settlement is a detached extensive area of village-type earthworks, presumably the result of a wholesale migration or a previously unrecorded DMV. There are several areas of well-preserved ridge and furrow, and sunken roads.

The documentation is good, but has not yet been studied.

Roads

No prehistoric sites have yet been found in this parish, which is rather surprising in view of a considerable area of light soils. There are a few areas with burnt pebbles, but no identifying sherds.

Due to appreciable building no medieval earthworks survive in the village itself. To the W is a farm and ruined C13 dovecote known as the Hyde. From the earthworks it appears to be a small DMV, quite well preserved. It is first mentioned in the C12 (Bridges, *History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire*, 1792) as belonging to St James Abbey, Northampton. There is no evidence that it was ever a monastic settlement.

The open-field system has been recorded, although it is nearly all ploughed out with very little actual ridge-and-furrow surviving. There is a partial open field map of 1768 (Northants Record Office) which along with the draft enclosure map (early C19) gives most of the furlong names.

S of the village is a large windmill mound.

Hartwell

See further note and open-field plan of this interesting parish on pages 7-9.

DAVID HALL
Higham Ferrars Arch. Soc.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

In March, 1973 the Oxfordshire County Council received permission to go ahead with compulsory land purchase for the new line of the A4155 (Henley-Reading) road.

The proposed route was walked several times under varying conditions, but few surface finds were made. The Fairey Aerial Survey photographs showed nothing new, but my own, taken during a sortie in the late summer of 1974, revealed three new sites.

Road construction, planned for late 1974, has now been further postponed.

Summary of sites located (AS = aerial survey 1974)

Homestead Farm — name from apportionment of rents 1840. Traces of buildings under pasture

Poolgate Mead — ring ditch on gravel ridge (AS)

Great Hill (now Span Hill) — suspected sites of causewayed enclosure and a circular dark area in plough soil (AS). Causewayed enclosure sectioned with negative results by OAU in 1974

Near Shiplake — two ring ditches and linear enclosure (AS)

Shiplake Row brick, tile and pipe works — site now used by SODC for dump

High Wood — circular mound 1.2m high, 5.5m diam, covering Roman tiled floor

Harpsden Roman villa

PROPOSED ROUTE

A4155

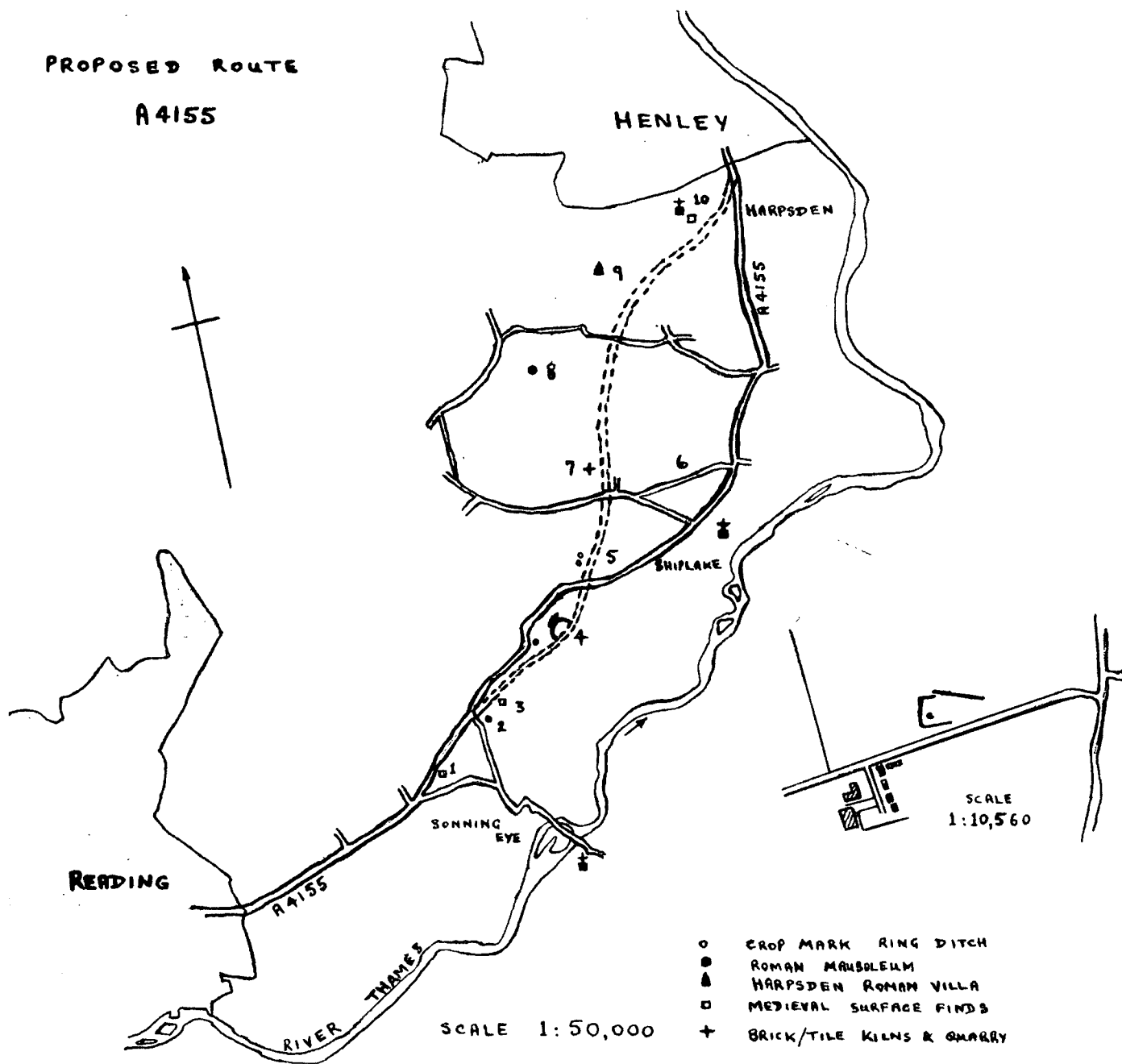


Figure 10

Harpsden Court — hollow ways and cultivation terraces.

C.R. HART
South Oxfordshire Arch. Group

RECENT AERIAL DISCOVERIES IN NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

The sites listed below were discovered and photographed from the air by J. Pickering and A. Baker (JP/AB) 20 July 1974; by D. Benson and T. Rowley (DB/TR) 25 July 1974; and by J. Pickering (JP) 31 July 1974. Additional discoveries were made by D. Benson 21 and 22 July 1974 but the photographs are unfortunately not yet available.

The surprising number of new sites discovered during these very short reconnaissances in the area between Chip-ping Norton and Kidlington and in the Bicester area emphasise the need for more intensive surveys. Relatively little attention has been paid to cropmarks in this part of the county since the work of Major Allen in the 1930s.

Cropmark differentiation was difficult by the time of J. Pickering's reconnaissance in late August, and photographic results correspondingly difficult to interpret. Some indistinct sites have however been noted here in anticipation of the possibility of clearer patterns emerging in future years.

Enstone:

Indistinct cropmarks NE of Leys Farm indicate a double-ditched trackway, a possible enclosure, pit, linear ditch and small enclosure (PRNs 9198, 9200). DB/TR.
NB. Large quantities of R-B pottery (PRN 5426) found in this area. Also, a 'Neolithic flint implement' (PRN 5596).
Cropmarks indicating trackway and irregular enclosures (PRN 9197). DB/TR.
Cropmarks — subrectangular enclosure with entrance on E side (PRN 9199). DB/TR.

Fringford:

Cropmarks — indistinct rectilinear features (PRN 9407). JP.
Cropmarks SE of Glebe Farm. Irregular ? enclosure (PRN 9408). JP.

Islip:

Indistinct cropmarks including one possible circular enclosure (PRN 9406). JP.

Kiddington with Asterleigh:

Cropmark complex indicating extensive settlement sites S, of Brooklands Copse, including trackway, rectangular, rectilinear and irregular enclosures and pits (PRN 9196) JP/AB, DB/TR.

Kidlington:

Cropmarks of rectangular enclosures and including negative cropmarks indicating a range of stone buildings, almost certainly a villa (PRN 9413). The site is on the NW edge of Oxford Airport! DB/TR.
Large quantities of RB pottery and building material subsequently found on ploughed surface by Tom Hassall.

Lower Heyford:

Indistinct cropmarks E of village. (PRN 9411). JP.
Cropmarks showing single-ditched rectangular enclosure of IA type, with entrance on SE side (PRN 9410). JP.

Oddington:

Cropmarks NW of Brookfurlong Farm. Oval enclosure (PRN 9403) and trackway (PRN 9404) which partly follows NW side of enclosure. Series of contiguous sub-rectangular enclosures to NW (PRN 9405). Whole site overlain by cropmarked ridge and furrow. JP.
Other indistinct cropmarks which may be extension of sites listed above. JP.

Over Norton:

Cropmarks (Over Norton Park) include subrectangular enclosure and linear features. To S, possible trackway, aligned SW - NE centred SP 3205 2810. PRN 9414. JP/AB.

Rollright:

Cropmarks W of Mill Barn showing rectilinear enclosure (PRN 9412). JP/AB.

Stoke Lyne:

Cropmarks NE of Bainton include indistinct sub-rectangular enclosure (PRN 9409). JP.

DON BENSON
JAMES BOND

BOROUGH OF ABINGDON

In order to increase the detailed knowledge of the local history of Abingdon an "Old Photographs" project was commenced in June 1974. Old photographs are first of all located, the owners interviewed, the details recorded and if practicable a copy made of the photograph or if permission is given the actual print is stored.

The amount of destruction of buildings and parts of Abingdon in the past few years has been considerable and this project is an attempt to try and locate some of them which have already gone and to be ready when future demolition takes place. In addition there will be a record of "Abingdonions" which will be a new addition to the archives.

All photographs are being recorded and researched upon to locate where they were taken and to date them wherever possible.

When the project is completed it should add a new dimension to the local archives and be a useful record for future local researchers.

To date 176 photographs have been received of which 100 have been copies. The work will continue until we have exhausted the supply of photographs. The records will be kept in the Abingdon Archaeological Society's archives in the basement of the County Hall, Abingdon.

This project is being carried out on behalf of the Abingdon Archaeological Society by

R. JAMES
15 Borough Walk, Abingdon.

THE OXFORDSHIRE PARISH SURVEY

Earlier this year it was decided to initiate a field survey of all parishes in the new county of Oxfordshire under the auspices of the Oxford University Department for External Studies and the Oxfordshire Unit. An inaugural meeting was addressed by Professor Charles Thomas and a large number of groups and individuals throughout the county offered assistance. The principal aim of the survey is to identify archaeological sites through surface indications, such as pottery scatters and earthworks.

A briefing meeting was held at Lady Spencer Churchill College, Wheatley, on 20 October when Trevor Rowley (OUDES) and James Bond (OCCM Woodstock) outlined the principles of field walking and surveying, and basic instructions were issued to all taking part.

Clive Hart (SOAG, 2 Goddard Close, Shinfield, Reading) has undertaken to act as liaison officer for the survey and to assist any individual or group needing guidance in field walking.

The recently formed Lewknor Group has identified what appears to be a new prehistoric site from surface finds near

Adwell Cop. Further field walking by this group has led to the identification and sketch planning of the shrunken medieval village of Adwell (figure 11). E from S. Weston a complex of ancient field boundaries was noted in association with the moated site of Moor Court (VCH Oxon viii 101-2), with a hollow way running from Moor Court to the DMV adjacent to the present village.

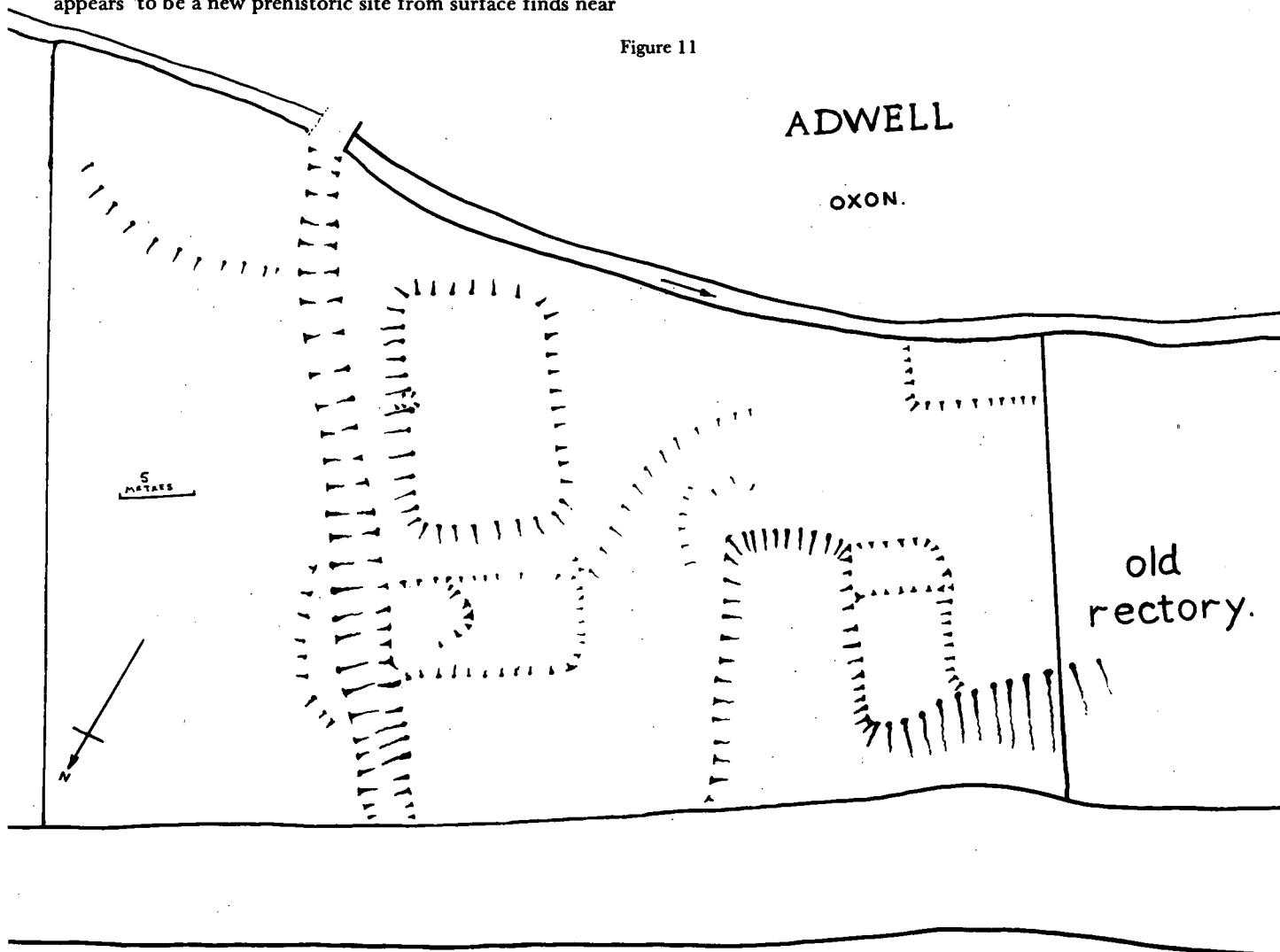
A group from Finstock and Standlake met for an introductory field walk at Ducklington. Medieval pottery was found at Cokethorpe DMV.

Members of the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group have been taking part in field walks for the past four years, and many sites have been identified. Those not previously recorded have been plotted on to 6in OS maps. Recently some members have made a detailed survey of a late RB pottery kiln site near Nuneham Courtenay.

The first of a series of occasional newsletters for those taking part in the survey was issued in November 1974, and a booklet outlining the principles was published in December.

C.R. HART

Figure 11



EXCAVATIONS IN OXFORDSHIRE 1974

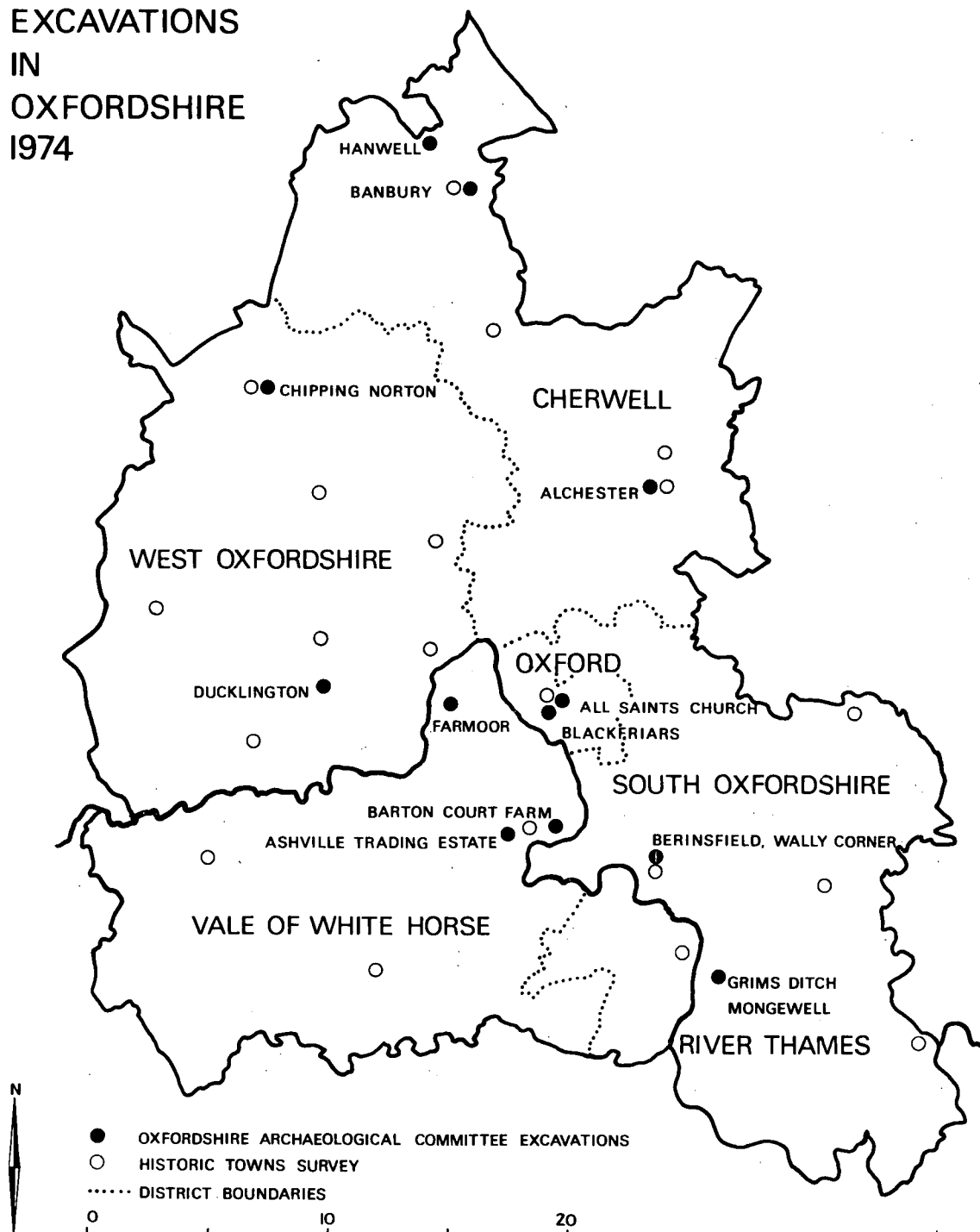


Figure 12

THE OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE IN 1974

1974 was the first full year of operation for the Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee. The Committee is composed of representatives of all the excavation committees and groups which previously operated in the area now covered by the new county of Oxfordshire and were in receipt of Department of the Environment or local authority funds. The genesis of the Committee has recently been described in an article in *Antiquity*. In the city of Oxford the Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee still has sole responsibility for archaeology, but its funds are channelled through the main Committee, likewise with the Abingdon Excavation Committee. In addition there are three advisory committees: an editorial committee, the M40 Committee and a South Oxfordshire Committee.

The Committee established the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit in 1973 as its executive in the county. During 1974 the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit has been responsible for a programme of survey, excavation and publication. Most of the Unit's work is instigated by the necessity for rescue excavation; however the structure of the Unit is such that current projects are becoming increasingly research- and problem-orientated within the rescue situation. The Unit's funds are limited so that it has to be absolutely certain that in all its operations its priorities reflect genuine academic needs and not simply an emotional reflex to the destruction of sites.

In order to assess archaeological priorities in Oxfordshire the Unit has embarked upon a series of major surveys. The survey of cropmark sites in the county (D. Benson and D. Miles *The Upper Thames Valley: an archaeological survey of the river gravels*) was published earlier in the year and was hailed as a model of its kind. A second survey, by Mrs K. Rodwell, of all the county's 20 historic towns is now nearing completion and should be with the printers by the end of the year for publication in the spring of 1975 (Architectural Heritage Year). The next survey, by G. Lambrick, will be of the relationship between archaeology and agriculture as a destructive agency. During January and February 1975 a feasibility study of the problems and methods will be carried out. It is hoped that the initial study will lay down guidelines for a comprehensive survey of the problem.

A further survey project is the Oxfordshire Parish Survey, which is jointly sponsored by the Oxford University Department for External Studies, the Oxford City and County Museum and the Unit. R.T. Rowley and C. Hart are the coordinators. The success of this project will depend entirely on the enthusiasm and dedication of the county's part-time archaeologists.

In addition to these widely-based projects, three specifically rescue-orientated surveys have been undertaken of two road schemes: the Cumnor bypass and the 35-mile long route corridor of the proposed M40 extension and a small detailed survey of 13 acres of the suburbs of the Roman town

of Alchester, for submission at a planning appeal enquiry. J. Hinchliffe's report on the preliminary archaeological survey of the M40 route corridor was submitted to the Eastern Road Construction Unit in August as part of the public consultation process. The survey has also been circulated to other interested parties and deposited in the local museums and libraries. No preference as to a route was expressed, although the so-called Buchanan route, which passes close to Alchester, is the least preferred route from the archaeological point of view.

During the year the procedures of liaison on planning matters between the Oxford City and County Museum and the Unit, on the one hand, and the planning authorities, on the other, were laid down. Apart from day-to-day comments on planning applications, the Museum and Unit are cooperating on the archaeological content of the County Structure Plan; however, it is at Local Plan level that our views will be felt most effectively. An immediate necessity will be to transfer information from the Museum's Sites and Monuments Record on to development control maps.

One notable success in planning matters was the Secretary of State's refusal to allow the appeal on the site of part of Eynsham Abbey. The Unit presented evidence at the appeal in October 1973. The Secretary of State accepted the principle of the importance of a complete site and not just its more significant elements. This judgement will have far-reaching implications for future planning appeals in the county.

Excavations have continued non-stop throughout the year, one of the Unit's field officers usually being in the field at any one time. The excavations are described below and will be seen to have included a wide range of periods and types of site. There has been a strong concentration on Iron Age sites, including a section of the south Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch at Mongewell and settlement sites at Abingdon and Farmoor. The excavation of the Roman villa at Barton Court Farm, Abingdon, was continued, salvage excavation took place at the presumed villa site at Ducklington, and the defences of Roman Alchester were sectioned. A large pagan Saxon cemetery was uncovered at Berinsfield. Part of a shrunken medieval village site was examined at Hanwell and excavations were completed at Banbury Castle and All Saints Church in Oxford. Further excavations were carried out at the Blackfriars in Oxford. A small site in the centre of Chipping Norton was examined.

Apart from the formal excavations, Unit staff have been involved with a variety of surveys, site visits for observation purposes and trial excavations. Prehistoric sites included a site at Queen Street, Abingdon; the suggested causewayed camp at Dunsden, where J. Jefferies showed that the cropmark was misleading; the north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch at Ditchley; a barrow at Drayton and part of the Stanton Harcourt complex of sites. Roman sites included Barton Lane, Abingdon, the villa at Chilson, a settlement site at Didcot and a ford over the Thames at Canning Crescent, Oxford. Medieval finds were recovered at Ock Street, Abingdon. At

Kidlington the floor of St Mary's Church was examined and also the floor of St Peter's Church, Wallingford. In Oxford observation work was carried out in Christ Church, Blue Boar Street, 4-5 High Street and New Inn Hall Street.

The Unit was particularly grateful for help received on watching briefs from C. Hart, of SOAG, in south Oxfordshire, and G. Williams, of the Witney Archaeological Group, in west Oxfordshire. Both have shown what a vital role the dedicated part-timer can play in the successful operation of the Unit. Unit staff have acted as advisers to the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society's excavation at the site of St Michael's Church, New Road, Wallingford, and the Witney Archaeological Group's site on the Hardwick bypass. The excavations at the Ashville Trading Estate, Marcham Road, Abingdon, and at Farmoor have demonstrated co-operation on a much larger scale, with the Abingdon and District Archaeological Society and the Oxford University Archaeological Society. The latter society is currently working on sites in Hertford and Wadham Colleges. Thus, relations with the county's part-time archaeologists have been very fruitful, certainly when viewed from the Unit's point of view. Relations with each society or group have been formalised by the appointment of liaison officers to deal directly with the Unit.

Post-excavation and publication work remains a cornerstone of the Committee's work. The Unit has 'inherited' a backlog of publication from the old committees operating in the county. But, so far as excavations carried out directly by the Unit are concerned, the situation is much healthier and the publication programme is progressing satisfactorily. No great backlog has been created and field officers are expected to complete the publication of their last excavation before starting another site. One of the advantages of the Unit structure is that it is possible to group comparable sites for publication. It is hoped to group some of the Iron Age sites in this way so that, for instance, the various pottery reports can be standardised and rationalised. In Oxford the preparation of the text of the St Aldate's site is nearing completion. An important aspect of this work has been the preparation, by Regina Haldon, of a complete fabric type series for Oxford's middle and late Saxon and medieval pottery.

One important aspect of the post-excavation work on the Iron Age sites is that a research project in the environment of the Upper Thames in the Iron Age is being undertaken. The excavation at the first gravel terrace site at Farmoor was specifically chosen because of the good state of preservation of water-logged botanical remains at the site. At the Ashville Trading Estate site, on the second gravel terrace, a large number of carbonised grains has been recovered. Two specialists, M. Robinson and M. Jones, are now engaged on working on this material. The Unit also has the services of a third environmentalist, R. Wilson, working on domestic animal remains.

The work of the Unit in the county and of the OAEC in the city has aroused much public interest, which has been demonstrated by the large numbers of people who have atten-

ded the open days at Banbury, Mongewell, Berinsfield and Abingdon (Ashville site). The largest attendance was over 3000. In Oxford an exhibition in the Bodleian, entitled 'The Coming of the Friars', included a section on the excavation of the Greyfriars and the Blackfriars. Unit staff have also given many lectures, illustrating the scope of the Unit's activities. The local and national press, both specialist and nonspecialist, have also featured Oxfordshire excavations.

During the year John Hinchliffe left the Unit to become the director of the Inner London (North) Archaeological Unit and Maureen Mellor left to take up a post with the Norfolk Unit, but she has now returned to another job in Oxford. Regina Haldon has joined WEMRAC at Stretton on the Fosse. Veronica Ashcroft became the Unit's new administrative assistant and George Lambrick has become an assistant field officer. Many of the full-time 'volunteers' have now been put on short-term contracts. The total staff of the Unit is now fifteen. This number of staff emphasises the importance of teamwork in a project of this nature.

Apart from the Unit's own staff, the Unit owes a great debt to all those people who assist in its work; especially the Committee, particularly the chairman, Professor Barry Cunliffe, the secretary, Trevor Rowley, and the honorary treasurer, Mr W.H.P. Davison and his staff at the County Treasurer's department. OAEC is also very grateful for the help of Miss Constance Preston, who is that Committee's assistant secretary. The Unit also relies heavily on professional colleagues at a national level at the Department of the Environment, particularly Brian Davison and Tony Fleming, and locally at the City and County Museum: the director, Richard Foster and his staff, especially Don Benson, John Rhodes and Ahmed Shishtawi, also the staff of the Ashmolean Museum.

The Committee is also grateful to its financial supporters, notably the Department of the Environment, the County Council, the Oxford District Council, the Vale of the White Horse District Council, the South Oxfordshire District Council, the West Oxfordshire District Council and the Cherwell District Council, also the Amey Roadstone Corporation, the British Academy and the Society of Antiquaries. Without their continued support the success of the Unit cannot be assured.

TOM HASSALL

Director Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit

If you wish to keep in touch with the Unit's activities a newsletter is published at approximately monthly intervals. A year's subscription is £1.

Abbreviations used in the following short reports.

AEC	Abingdon Excavation Committee
IAM	Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment
OAEC	Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee
OAU	Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit
OUAS	Oxford University Archaeological Society
OUDES	Oxford University Department for External Studies.



Figure 13 Ashville Trading Estate; Iron Age hut circle with entrance
fence in foreground and annexe to the right of the hut

GRIM'S DITCH, MONGEWELL

Roadwidening of the A4074 at Ice House Hill, Mongewell, involved the destruction of a 10m length of the south Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch. Before destruction, excavation was conducted to ascertain, if possible, the date of the earth-work's construction.

The bank survived to a height of 0.70m below the base of the modern topsoil; beneath the bank was a preconstruction ground surface with no turf line, 0.20m thick. The bank was constructed of old topsoil, covered by upcast chalk rubble from the ditch.

The ditch was much disturbed by later quarrying. The base of the ditch lay 2.10m below the present ground surface. The original width was impossible to ascertain. The fill of the ditch consisted of slow silts, succeeded by a thick layer of loose chalk rubble and then more slow silt.

To the rear of the bank was a roughly circular pit, c.2m in diameter. The relationship between the pit and the bank and ditch could not be determined because of later disturbances.

Within the body of the bank there were three inhumations. The pottery recovered from the original ground surface, the bank and ditch was Iron Age, but the presence of the pit, which was certainly of Iron Age date, throws some doubt on whether the bank and ditch is of that date also. Radiocarbon and thermoluminescent dating can probably settle this point.

JOHN HINCHLIFFE
OAU

EXCAVATIONS AT ASHVILLE TRADING ESTATE,
MARCHAM ROAD, ABINGDON

Excavations took place on this site from March to November 1974, with the help of the Abingdon and District Archaeological Society, other local societies and Unit volunteers. Initially trial trenching was carried out and later an area of c. 1500 sq.m was mechanically stripped onto the natural gravel.

The majority of the features on the site were Iron Age in date, with a principal phase of activity dating from the C3 BC until the beginning of the Roman period. A few features were earlier than their main phase, dating from the C6/5 BC. No structures associated with this early activity, which is represented by a few pits, were identified.

In the 3C BC a circular wooden building, c. 14m in diameter, was erected on the site (figure 13). The walls of the building stood in a construction trench up to 50cm deep and c. 80cm wide. The structure was rebuilt on two occasions, each time on a slightly different alignment. In the two later phases the hut had an entrance on the E side, represented by a causeway. The entrance area was surrounded by a fence with an entrance gap on the S side. This fence may have served as a windbreak and as a minor defensive measure. The hut had an annexe to the N, defined by a shallow ditch.

A four-post structure was located inside the annexe. At a later date, probably concurrent with one of the hut rebuilding phases, the annexe was enlarged and enclosed an area of c.300 sq.m. This annexe was again defined by a ditch, slightly more substantial than the first, and had an entrance gap on the NW side.

A roughly circular enclosure, defined by a ditch c.20m in diameter, was located to the NW of the hut. The enclosure had three phases of use, the ditch being recut on two occasions after the primary ditch was dug. In the two later phases the enclosure had an entrance on the SE side, opposite the hut, and may be contemporary with it. A later hut circle, comparable in size and design to the first, was cut through the enclosure ditches. Only one phase of building was recognised for this hut.

In the C1 BC a substantial enclosure ditch, up to 1m 80cm deep and c.2½m wide, was dug on the site. The ditch was on an EW alignment and had an entrance gap c.10m wide. Two sides of a less substantial enclosure ditch of c.early C1 AD date were excavated. The ditch had two entrance gaps, one by the E side of the trench and one on the SW corner of the enclosure. Several semi-complete 'Belgic' pots were recovered from the top fill of the NS leg of the ditch and sherds of imported Gaulish pottery were recovered from the EW leg of the ditch.

Over a hundred pits were excavated, most of which yielded considerable amounts of pottery and bone. Large quantities of carbonised grain were recovered by sieving soil samples from the pits. One of the pits had a clay lining and may have been used for water storage. Two other pits had extensive traces of burning in them and may have been kilns. The remaining pits had, for the most part, been used to dispose of domestic rubbish, but the large quantities of carbonised grain recovered on the site in general would seem to imply that the primary purpose in digging them was for grain storage.

The site is provisionally interpreted as an Iron Age farm, occupied during the C3/2 BC. The final assessment of the farm's economy must wait until the analysis of the carbonised grain and animal bones has been completed. The quantity of grain recovered from the site may indicate a bias towards crop growing rather than animal husbandry. Small finds of weaving equipment and quantities of slag recovered from the pits and ditches point to textile production and metal working, as additional factors in the farm's economy. The enclosure ditches cutting across the site indicate a changing pattern of land use in the first century BC.

Roman features on the site comprised two stone-lined wells and a small number of pits, all of C4 date. In addition to these features, a salvage excavation, carried out c.100m to the S of the excavation, located a small Roman cemetery. Eleven inhumations were recorded, eight on an EW alignment and three NS. Fragments of Roman roof tile from one of the wells and the presence of the cemetery is indicative of a Roman building in the vicinity of the site.

MICHAEL PARRINGTON, AEC & OAU

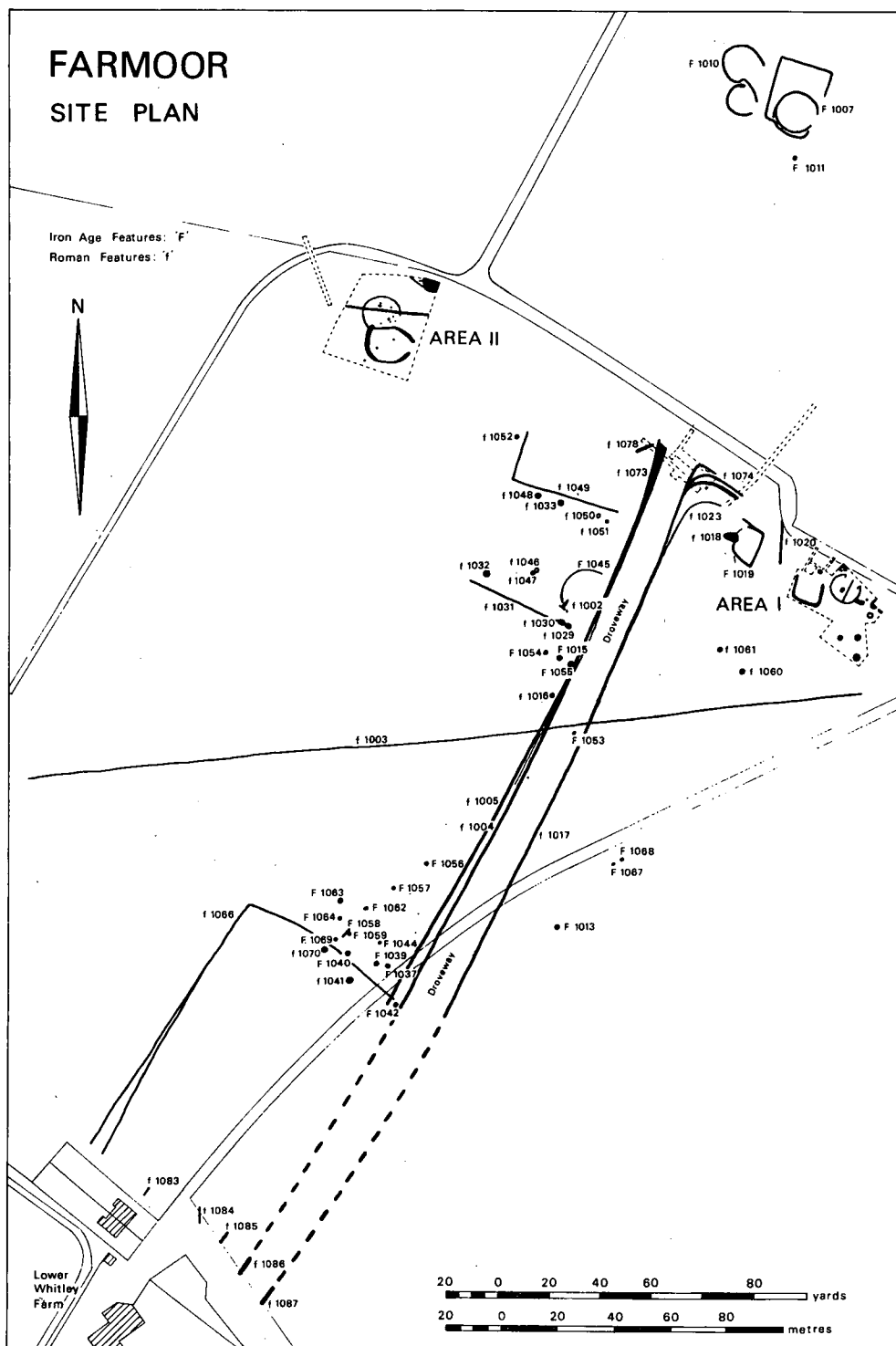


Figure 14

FARMOOR

The Oxford University Archaeological Society conducted an excavation for the Thames Water Authority, financed by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, on the site of the new Farmoor Reservoir. Late pre-Belgic Iron Age settlement and C1-2 and C4 Roman occupation were found. Some of the evidence was recovered by salvage work which still continues.

The Iron Age features included a horseshoe-shaped enclosure (15m long) with a circular annexe (13m diameter) enclosing a possibly semicircular hut. Salvage work revealed a small farmstead consisting of enclosures for a circular hut with a subrectangular yard with two circular pens attached. Also two further small enclosures were found, one three-sided, the other roughly D-shaped. Several shallow Iron Age pits were found but were not clearly associated with any enclosures. There was no evidence for any field system in this period.

The early Roman period was represented by a small hut or enclosure (10m diameter) formed by a circular gully with a wide entrance to the NE, and a partition dividing the hut diametrically from the middle of the entrance. Possibly associated with this was a pit burial containing two horses with their forequarters missing. These features were superseded by several pits and later by C4 occupation represented by a stonelined well, two large pits and thick occupation layers, though no structure. Salvage work also revealed something of a field system based on the line of a droveway which ran across the site and possibly crossed an old river bed to reach open meadows. The field system consisted of several shallow ditches, associated pits, two stone-lined wells and two corndryers.

Much organic material was recovered from waterlogged features, and it should be possible to establish the nature of the ancient environment.

GEORGE LAMBRICK
OUAS and OAU

ABINGDON/RADLEY, BARTON COURT 1974

Work continued on the site of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon settlement and a further 2160sq.m. was excavated, making a total area of 5738 sq.m.

The excavation of the S area of the villa enclosure ditch showed that the palisade surrounding the villa enclosed an area of 39x35m. This ditch cut through a corndrying oven dating to the early C4, sheltered by a timber structure. It appears that the villa layout was reorganised in the mid C4 to include the enclosure ditch and paddock boundary ditches, perhaps suggesting a change of emphasis in the economy of the villa towards livestock management. This was supported by the excavation of four paddocks, which appeared to be an addition to the original villa layout. In one of these was located the much damaged remains of a small C4 building with stone footings, containing two rooms, one with an oven, the other floored with plaster. This building appeared

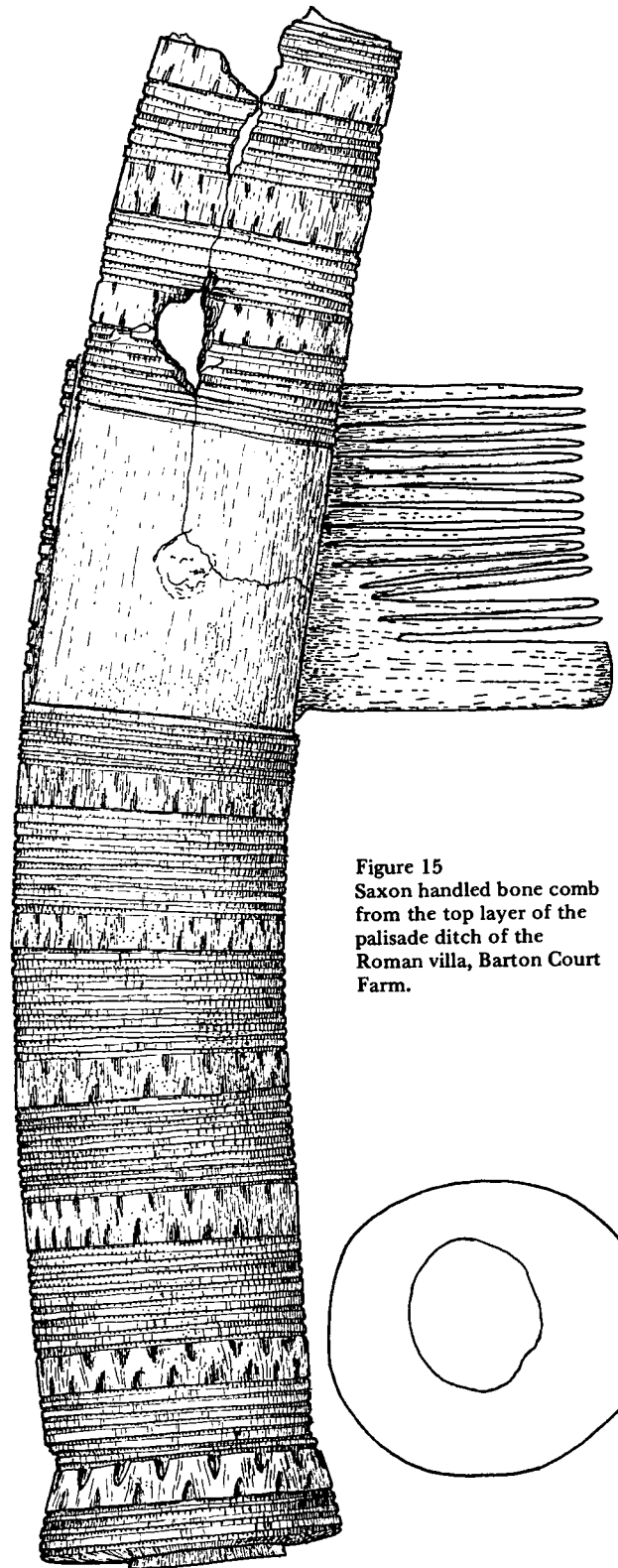


Figure 15
Saxon handled bone comb
from the top layer of the
palisade ditch of the
Roman villa, Barton Court
Farm.

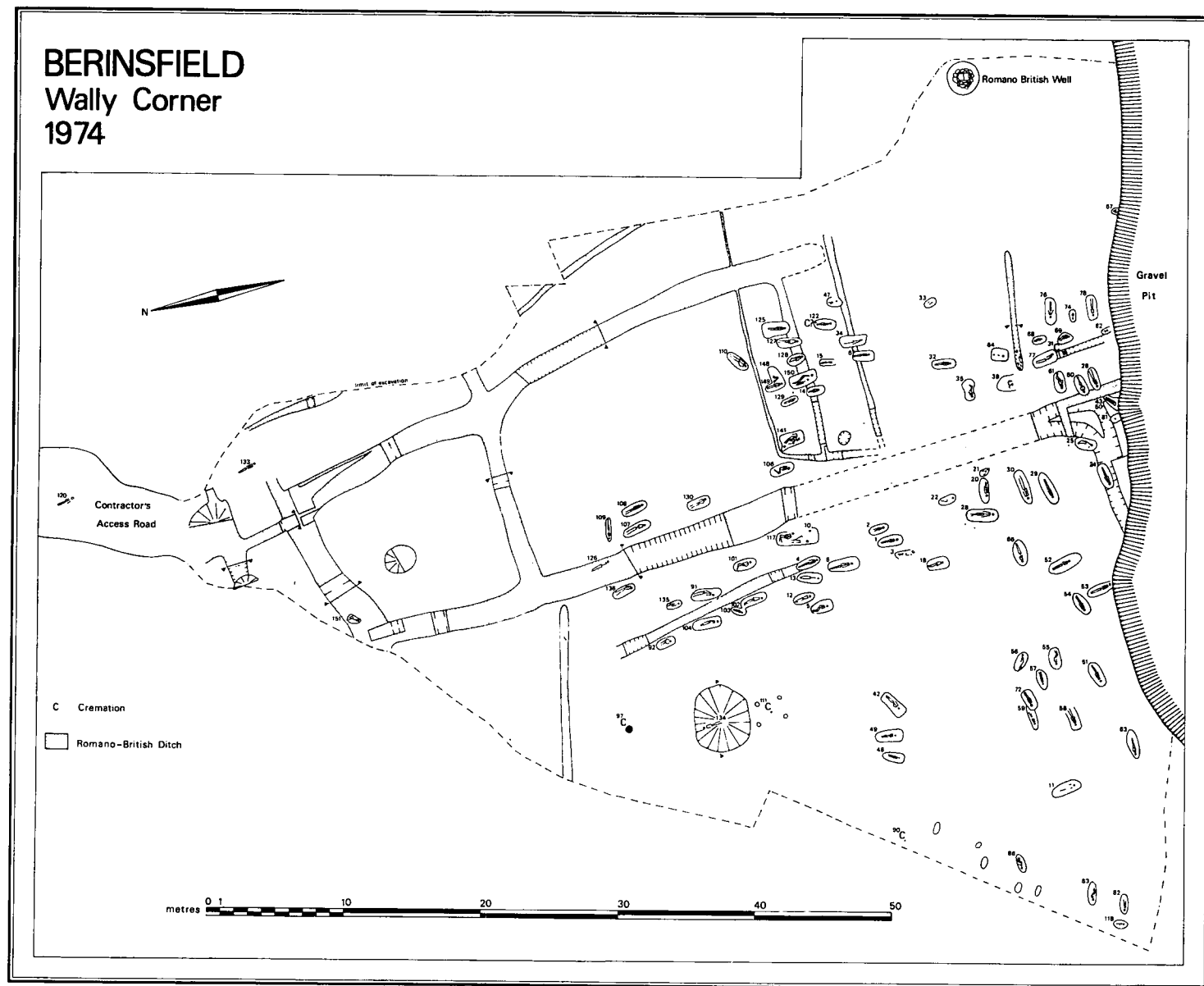


Figure 16

to function as a smithy and was 37m E of the main villa building. Nearby was a complex collection of postholes, possibly representing several phases of a rectangular timber building. The paddocks were divided by ditches c.2m wide and up to 0.8m deep, and in one case by a fence represented by postholes 1m apart. The whole paddock complex was bounded by a droveway c.3.5m wide. In the destruction layers of the smithy were Saxon graves — a rich female grave, including gilded saucer brooches and two gold and silver belt fittings with stylised animal ornament of c. mid C6. The second grave contained a woman with grave goods, and a newborn baby.

Large quantities of Saxon material were found in the upper-most layer of the villa boundary ditch, including fragments of four bone combs and many fish and bird bones (see figure 15). To the SW of the villa was a large timber structure, possibly up to 18m long and 6m wide. The dating evidence for this building is inconclusive but it may possibly belong to the Saxon period. Further traces of Iron Age and early RB settlement were also located.

DAVID MILES
OAU

EXCAVATIONS AT ALCHESTER 1974

Two 20m trenches were put through the eastern defences of the Roman town of Alchester on behalf of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit and the Department for External Studies of Oxford University. The excavation was initiated to determine the extent of plough damage to the scheduled Ancient Monument (Oxfordshire no. 18), the S trench (I) being in permanent pasture, the N (II) being in arable.

The sequence of occupation was the same in both trenches. The earliest features, consisting of two ditches running from N to S and of a number of pits, were of early Roman date. After the ditches had partially silted a series of occupation layers and gravel spreads were deposited on the W side of them. Overlying these two ditches were the defences of the Roman town. These consisted of a stone wall facing a dump rampart of sand and gravel tips. The wall had been robbed and only its pitched stone footings survived. In front of the wall was a wide berm and a wide shallow ditch, recut once. Finds from the rampart dated the defences to the late C2. Evidence of recent damage was apparent in trench II, where up to 30cms of soil had been eroded from the top of the rampart. So far this has only affected post Roman build-up of soil but continued ploughing will cause damage to the rampart itself.

CHRIS YOUNG
IAM, OUDES and OAU

DUCKLINGTON BYPASS 1974

During November and December 1974 the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit conducted a programme of rescue excavation on a large cropmark site previously interpreted as a

RB villa, near Red Lodge, at the SE end of the Ducklington bypass.

Preliminary work had been conducted by Mr G. Williams and the Witney Archaeological Group the year before, when field walking and a small trial trench revealed intensive occupation and a wide surface scatter of pottery.

Mechanical trial trenching by the Unit revealed many ditches, pits and postholes, and evidence of occupation from C1 or early C2 to C5. Stripping of the site for further excavation was prevented by a combination of the weather and the contractors. During the course of earthmoving a Roman stone-lined well was partially excavated down to the level of the new road. Finds from this included late Roman pottery and various iron objects, including a key, a knife and a pair of shears.

An isolated C7 pagan Saxon group burial was uncovered within the line of the roadway, 200m SW of Red Lodge. The grave pit, which measured approximately 1.30x1.9m, was very shallow and the inhumations lay immediately beneath the modern ploughsoil. It contained two adult inhumations and one child, all laid supine and orientated, SN, heads to the N. The remains of two bronze bound buckets, a double-ended bore point, a silver ring, a glass bead necklace, a gold ferrule and a spindle whorl were recovered.

R.A. CHAMBERS
OAU

BERINSFIELD, WALLY CORNER

A Saxon cemetery was discovered during observation of gravel extraction 1.2m N of the Roman town of Dorchester.

Approximately 91 inhumations were located and four cremations (one probably Bronze Age) contained within a late RB system of enclosure ditches and fences. As many as two dozen graves may have been destroyed by gravel extraction before the discovery of the cemetery, and further graves probably extend under a metalled area to the W of the site.

The orientation of the graves varies from SN to WE and appears to be governed by the direction of the larger RB ditches which they seem to respect.

The graves contain skeletons of male and female adults and children, mostly with grave goods of the usual type; weapons, buckets, pot, beads, saucers, disc and equal armed brooches suggesting a mid C5, late C6 date. All graves were lacking coffins, but some were lined with charred logs and one skeleton lay on a bed of charred logs. The skeletons were mainly extended but some, noticeably lacking grave goods, were flexed.

The cremations were damaged by modern activity on the site, but one had a rectangular setting of four posts around it and immediately to the N was a large funnel-shaped pit, with a female inhumation in the top layer. The lower levels contained only fragments of antler.

DAVID MILES
OAU

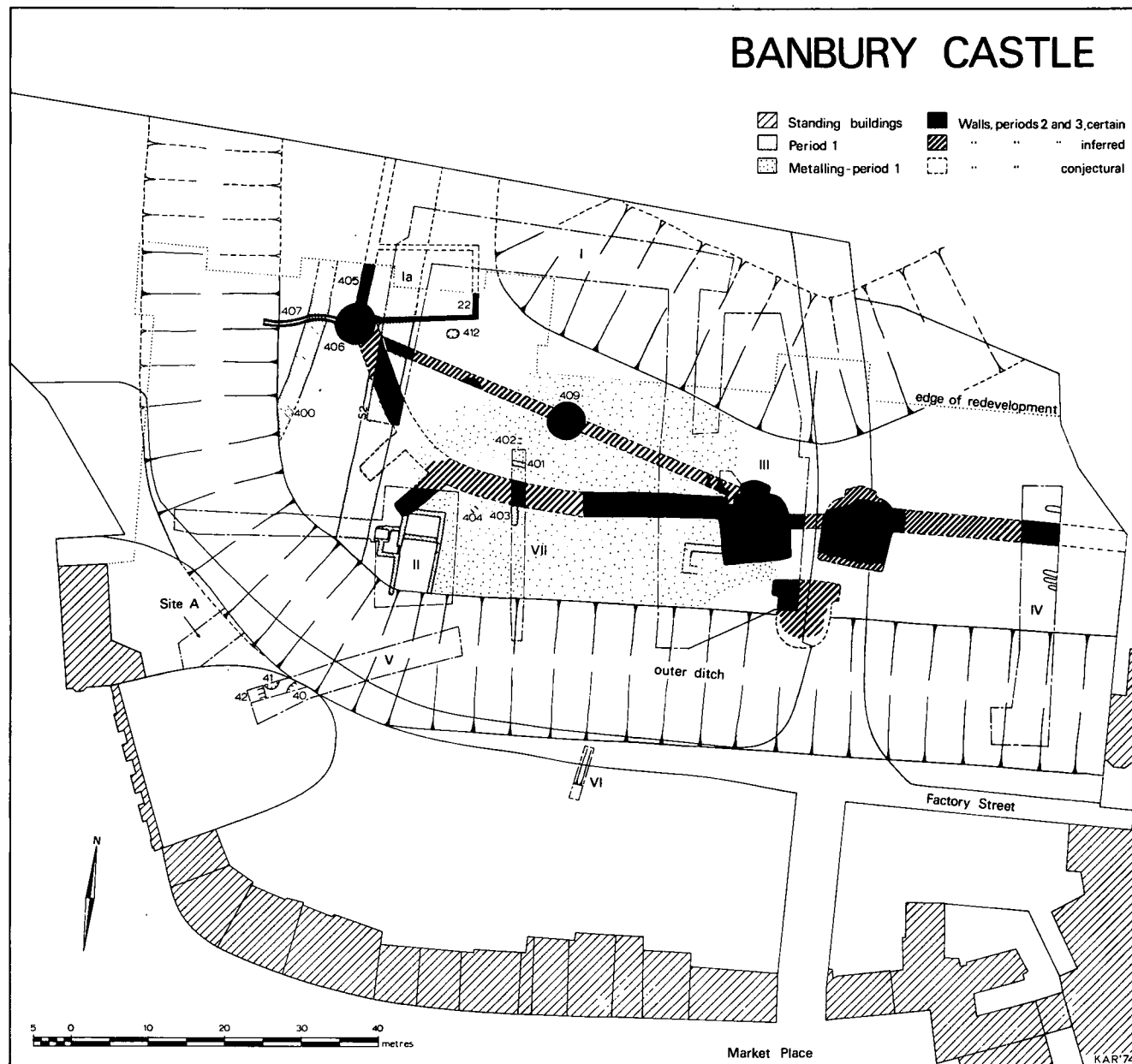


Figure 17

BANBURY CASTLE

The SW third of Banbury Castle was excavated during the winter of 1973/4 before the redevelopment of the site as a shopping centre. No trace of the castle survives above ground level and its structural history was elucidated for the first time. There were three main periods of development.

The castle was constructed on an open site in the second quarter of the C12 by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln. It was rectangular, defended by a wide curtain wall and a fairly slight ditch. The interior, much of which was metalled, was flat and the principal buildings seem to have stood in the centre of the enclosure. In the SW corner however a well-

preserved stone building was excavated. It was 4.6m wide by at least 10.7m long and underwent a series of alterations, including the addition of a garderobe chamber with a stone-lined pit. A doorway with dressed stone jambs surviving 1.2m high gave access to this room.

In the late C13 or early C14 the castle was completely remodelled on a concentric plan. There were two large defensive ditches, between which lay a bank and the new curtain wall, which had cylindrical corner and interval towers. The main gate was also located, though it was almost totally robbed, like all the other major walls. The internal ground level was raised with the spoil from the ditches but part of an internal building was excavated.

Extensive alterations took place after a siege in 1644; the S curtain wall was rebuilt much closer to the outer ditch, the gate was refronted and bulwarks were constructed. After the Civil War the castle was completely demolished.

The only outstanding find was a Civil War period cannon 3m long.

MRS KIRSTY RODWELL
OAU

EXCAVATIONS AT HANWELL, NEAR BANBURY, 1974

A deserted part of the shrunken medieval village of Hanwell was investigated by a rescue excavation during April 1974, before the development of the site for house building. The earthworks suggested several building platforms in the NW corner of the field with contiguous enclosures to the S and E, the whole separated from the open fields by a major linear boundary bank and ditch. Trenching and area excavation revealed several buildings, the earliest of which probably dated from the mid-medieval period. The land had been cleared of remaining standing structures and the site allowed to grass over in the late C17 or early C18. During the excavation several late Saxon pottery sherds were recovered, suggesting nearby Saxon occupation. The village is first recorded in the late Anglo-Saxon period.

R.A. CHAMBERS
OAU

MARKET STREET, CHIPPING NORTON

During December 1974 the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit conducted a single week of excavation to examine suspected medieval remains beneath demolished buildings on the corner of New Street and Market Street, Chipping Norton.

The western side of Market Street is thought to mark the edge of the original, medieval market place, possibly laid out in the C13. Air photographs of the now demolished buildings show clearly the preserved lines of the long, thin burgage tenements.

All that remained of the site to be excavated was a rectangular island of ground measuring approximately 8x6m, which filled in the corner between Market Street and New Street; the remainder of the site was taken up by cellars. Removal of demolition rubble and five shallow footings that once supported the floor revealed a thin layer of soil. This soil contained oyster shells and some residual medieval pottery. Postmedieval pottery from this soil layer and four coins suggested that the site was open in the early postmedieval period. Removal of this soil revealed several adjoining contemporary floor levels, one of clayey, brown subsoil and the next of rammed, soft oolitic limestone. Associated with these floor levels was a circular hearth of packed limestone and an 0.8m wide, unmortared coursed, rough limestone wall. The hearth was close to this wall line and a partition wall marked by the division line between two floors. This arrangement suggests a late medieval or early postmedieval

date. Cobbling runs up against the exterior of this wall on the Market Street side, indicating that this might be an early frontage onto the market place. Various postholes, a beam slot and a cesspit were also excavated.

R.A. CHAMBERS
OAU

OXFORD, BLACKFRIARS 1973-4

Extensive redevelopment plans for the W and S areas of the Blackfriars precinct prompted two rescue excavations and continuous salvage observations throughout the year. The main excavation was around the W end of the church, at its junction with the W range of the cloister. The nave and S aisle were shown to have been of one build, and it appears that initially the gable end of the cloister range had projected beyond the W end of the church, before the nave was extended to a second W end flush with the W wall of the range. The cloister alley was about 2m wide, with many inhumations, and a garth wall rather slighter than the load-bearing footings. A stone coffin had been built into the outer face of the S aisle wall, and in a grave beyond the later W end were a rather mutilated pewter chalice and communion patten. Parts of two free-standing buildings were seen to the W of the church. The salvage work gave information on the S range of the main cloister, and exposed massive robber trenches of buildings further S. From fragmentary evidence a tentative plan of these buildings was made. A single oblique trial trench in a carpark to the SW suggested that there might be another large, nonsymmetrical, cloister-type complex on the medieval river-frontage.

BRIAN DURHAM
with GEORGE LAMBRICK and H.M. WOODS
OAEC

OXFORD, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Following the controlled excavation of the central part of the church in 1973, salvage recording was carried out on the remainder during the construction of Lincoln College's new library (figure 18). The main footings of the E end of the medieval church were seen, together with three ashlar pilasters and arch springers of a vaulted crypt on the N side of the later medieval chancel. A well-constructed furnace was seen set into the footings of a wall which had previously been thought the W end of the embryo late Saxon church, and forced the conclusion that the church had developed from an C11 domestic stone building which had already seen various modifications.

A plausible sequence of structural development can now be written thus. An early C11 timber-lined cellar was back-filled, and a domestic stone building on massive footings was constructed beside it. This was later extended and had a furnace incorporated before being utilised as a church with a graveyard on the N side. A rather broader N aisle was added, perhaps in the C13, and later extended to form a 'college

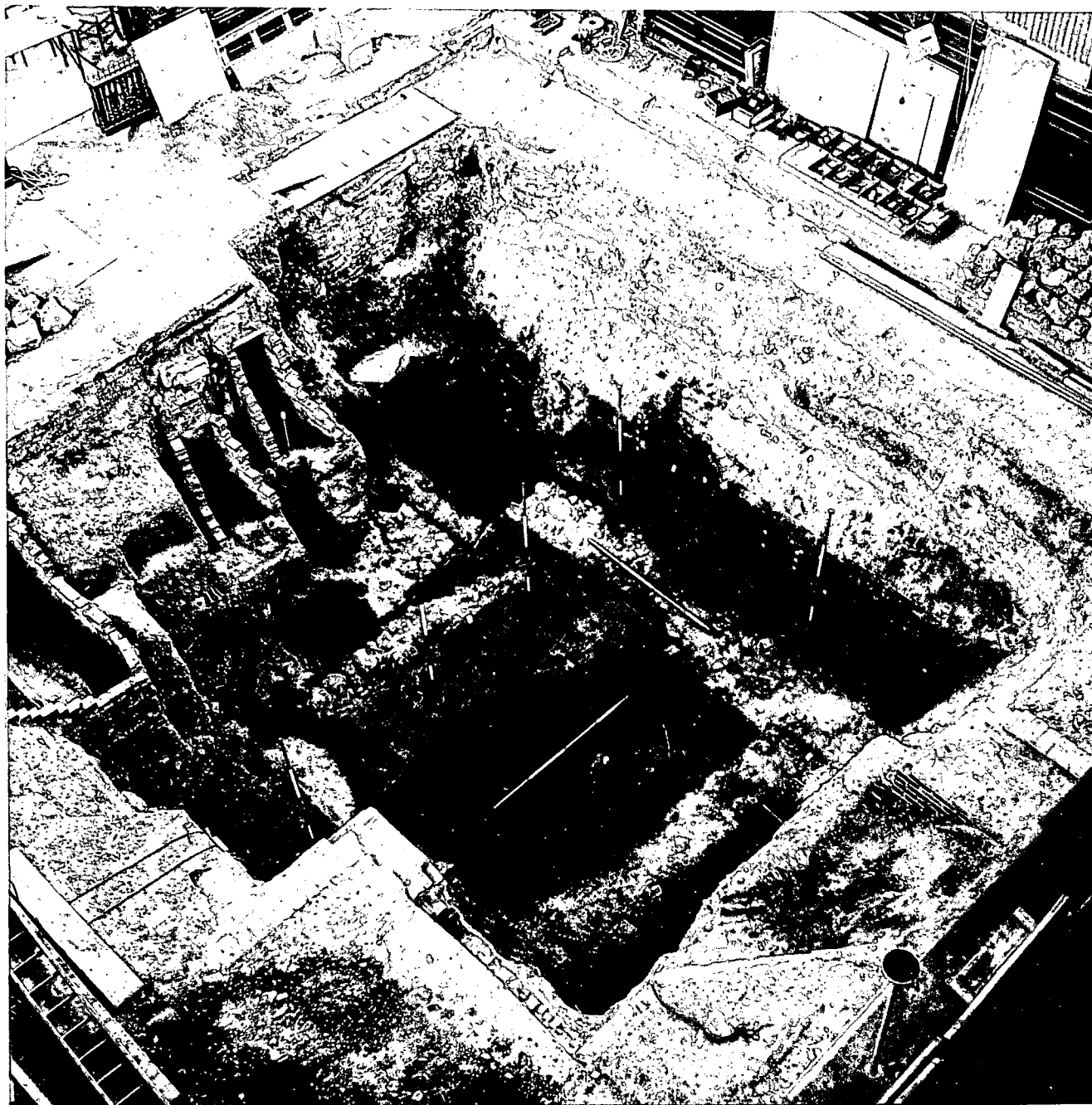


Figure 18

chancel'. It was probably at this point that the N additions assumed the function of nave and chancel, and the earlier church was relegated to S aisle and lady chapel. The crypt appears to have been beneath a chapel added to the N side

of the college chancel in the C14.

BRIAN DURHAM
OAEC

THE WALLINGFORD HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In *Newsletter 4* we indulged in a little crystal-ball gazing. Now that TWHAS is one year old here is a brief outline of what has come true. One of the most important achievements has been the setting up and running of our own dig, under the guidance of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit (the details are on page 27). In addition there are now several research and service groups holding regular meetings — the photographic group has started a survey of Wallingford; the social history group is collecting reminiscences from elderly inhabitants; the artefacts group is building up a systematic file of who's got what and where; the documents group is busily transcribing local manuscripts; the maps group is providing specially prepared maps for other groups; the recording and indexing group is knee-deep in sites and monuments records; the fieldwalkers are combing the local fields; the architecture and conservation group is working on a building survey of Wallingford, and regularly looks at and comments on local planning applications; the artwork group's first exhibition was a successful attraction on carnival day; and the fundraisers have lined the society's purse with remarkable success by means of a jumble sale and a carnival stall. Attendance at the monthly general lectures has remained high, and there have been five issues of our newsletter *'twhas now'*, plus a special annual edition. Do we sound pleased with the year's achievements? Well, perhaps — but we are at the same time only too conscious that we are now at a critical moment. After the first flood of enthusiasm has passed we have to prove that the 'Oh, it'll never last' cynics are wrong. If you'd like to help us do that, please drop us a line!

STUART J. DEWEY
38 Papist Way, Cholsey, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9QH

COUNTIES

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Conservation Section

General: The archaeological side of the section's activities, which also include historic buildings and conservation planning, has been improved as a result of local government reorganisation. The section provides a direct advice service to Bedfordshire's four district councils on all these matters, and continues to work closely with Bedford District Museum on rescue archaeology.

Staff: Angela Simco is field archaeological officer, Elizabeth Marten is historic buildings officer, Alan Cox runs the sites and monuments record and Stewart Cuff deals with conservation area work. The field team includes Alison Taylor

(to 30 November 1974), Peter Woodward, Brian Dix (from 1 September 1974) and Evelyn Baker as site directors with Jane Hassall, Bedford Museum's Archaeological Assistant, having particular responsibility in Bedford District. Corinne Renow worked as illustrator (to 30 November 1974). Between five and fifteen longterm field workers have been employed at various times.

While some excavations have been in progress throughout the year, three sites were again worked at once from common facilities in Bedford during the summer.

Finance: In 1974 the rescue programme was supported by the Department of the Environment, the county council, two district councils, the Harpur Trust, and the Landmark Trust. As the economic blizzard increases the advantages of direct local authority involvement became increasingly clear, with cash, services or overheads costs of about £25,000 being met in 1974-5.

Publication: Reports on the Roxton ring ditches and Cainhoe Castle are in preparation. Evelyn Baker and Jane Hassall are working on sites previously excavated in Bedford. David Baker has just completed a report on four 1971 Bedford sites.

Record: Accessioning items to the sites, monuments and buildings record continues. Recent work has mainly included buildings. The total is now 5250 cards.

DAVID BAKER

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

The group has carried out considerable fieldwork during the year as well as assisting on excavations and processing much material.

Four parishes in West Buckinghamshire, Shabbington, Oakley, Worminghall and Ickford, which had previously received little attention, were studied in detail and full ground surveys carried out. This resulted in discovery of several sites, including two Roman settlements.

Contemporary field names for the four parishes were collected and ridge and furrow mapped. A survey of the parish of Wendover is currently being undertaken. The year also saw publication in the *Records of Bucks* of the group's Moated Sites Gazetteer.

New members are always welcome and should contact the field archaeologist at Buckinghamshire County Museum.

M.E. FARLEY
Buckinghamshire County Museum

EXTRAMURAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The Department of Adult Education of Leicester University has been carrying out the functions of a university extra-

mural department in Northamptonshire since 1962 when Cambridge relinquished the provision of University classes in the area. On the archaeological side this has meant the provision of something like 85 classes of all kinds, including courses on industrial archaeology, during the period 1962-74. The usual range of extramural activities has appeared in this programme — both long and short evening classes, systematic courses leading to the award of a university certificate, day schools, weekend schools and longer residential courses.

Evening work in the county at large has its ups and downs but the overall policy has been to arrange courses in areas of archaeological need. At Oundle for example, at one time a blank on the distribution map of archaeological activity, a series of short courses helped in the foundation of the now active Mid Nene Archaeological Group; and linked with the foundation of the South Northants Archaeological Society has been a series of courses at Towcester and Brackley, which, with an eye to the M40 motorway, have included instruction on emergency recording and fieldwork.

On the excavation side, provision has been made for certificate students to attend a training component built into DOE financed excavations on a series of RB pottery kilns producing calcite-gritted ware at Harrold, Bedfordshire, and this summer at Towcester. Here a five-week excavation on a site due for housing development SW of the town uncovered a stretch of what was probably the Roman road from Alchester to Towcester. On the filled-in side ditch S of this had been built a circular turf-walled workshop, defined by a ditch and containing two hearths and a furnace. Large lumps of lead point to lead working and a pewter dish hint at possible pewter manufacture or repair. The waterlogged condition of the site meant that a timber corduroy leading to a water supply point was well preserved, as was the wooden culvert which continued the line of the perimeter ditch outside one of the workshop entrances. The site belonged to the mid C4 AD. Some of the finds are being worked upon by extramural students attending one of the components of the current Northampton certificate course, the aim of which is to give some idea of the processes involved in the preparation of material, excavated by the students themselves, for publication.

Much effort has been put into the promotion of extra mural work designed to promote and actually carry out field surveys, since it has long been my belief that it is in this field in particular that the local worker has much to offer. For some years a regular feature of the programme has been a week's residential course at Knuston Hall, which has concentrated on field survey techniques and interpretation; the sites surveyed (several DMVs, the garden earthworks at Lyveden and a set of very varied earthworks at Rockingham) have been published (*Archaeological Journal* 129 (1972), *Northamptonshire Archaeology* 9 (1974), and *Northamptonshire Past and Present* 5 (1975)). A detailed field survey embracing fieldwalking, earthwork surveying and air photographic examination has also been carried out of the parish of Daventry, the location of an expanding new town. Since

1972 work of this kind has been concentrated on a group of parishes in the NW of Northamptonshire, an area between Leicester and Northampton, which has no large centre of population and so is served by no local society and about which very little is known archaeologically. The area has been used as a training ground for any courses with a practical field archaeology component, whether based at Leicester or Northampton, in the hope that a concentrated effort in one place might prove archaeologically more rewarding than a series of isolated surveys, as well as useful from the teaching point of view. Fieldwalking is producing a scatter of Iron Age and Roman sites in such parishes as Marston Trussell, Elkington, Thornby, Guilsborough and Sibbertoft, and earthwork surveys of shrunk/deserted village sites at Stamford-on-Avon and Sulby suggest the deliberate and careful planning of the village layout. Other sites surveyed are the village earthworks at Little Creaton (a newly-recognised DMV), Kelmarsh and Elkington; moated sites and related earthworks at Thorpe Lubenham and Marston Trussell; and the site of Sulby Abbey. A series of draft ridge and furrow maps are being produced. In parallel with all this a small extramural group has been working at the Northamptonshire Record Office on maps and documents relating to the area. Fieldwork has been resumed this autumn, when fieldwalking will be concentrated in the parishes within the chosen area which are threatened by the proposed M1-A1 link road.

A.E. BROWN
Department of Adult Education
Leicester University

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1 *Sites and Monuments Index*. Work on the compilation and adequate documentation of a Sites and Monuments Index for the county has progressed steadily within the limits of staff time. Yet a whole range of important sources remains totally untapped, and no effective work has been possible on standing buildings.

Particular attention has been given to the best means of presenting the information within county and district planning processes, in order to provide a good advice service to the authorities and a reciprocal early warning system for rescue archaeological fieldwork.

2 *Field survey*. A programme of aerial reconnaissance has been carried out by Derek Cowley and Paul Everson, subject to the availability of aircraft. Attention was directed to those areas of the county which have hitherto yielded few results, i.e. broadly the NW, W, and SW. Several previously unrecorded sites were seen, and others already known further documented. Copies of all photographs are automatically supplied to the National Monuments Record. Watching briefs on county council development sites, extensions to mineral extractions, and certain other major projects have yielded little important evidence. Particularly disappointing was the massive central area redevelopment in Wellingborough: this is no doubt partly because of extensive 19th

century disturbance and partly of the speed and scale of site preparation works.

Salvage in Wellingborough central area and at Oundle's old workhouse contributed a series of recent items of local interest to the collections of Abington Park Museum, Northampton.

3 *Excavation.* This year saw a step towards the coordination of rescue excavation in the county when Northants County Council agreed to handle DOE grants for excavation and to administer the work. Three projects were initiated from this basis:

a) **MILL COTTON, RINGSTEAD** medieval moated site. Excavation was undertaken in March for a period of four weeks under the direct of R.A.H. Williams, following upon preliminary work on structures outside the moated enclosure by D.N. Hall. Work immediately preceded the total destruction of the site by gravel extraction. The moat was sectioned in three places, all producing environmental evidence in semi-waterlogged conditions. In one section a stone-built two-phase bridge abutment was discovered. Further work outside the moat added to Hall's evidence of subsidiary buildings and ovens. There was no opportunity to strip the interior of the moat.

A report is forthcoming in *Northamptonshire Archaeology*.

b) **TOWCESTER** St Lawrence Road, late Roman industrial suburb. A trial excavation on this site located by members of the South Northants Archaeological Society was directed by A.E. Brown and received active support from the members of that society (see p17).

c) **GRENDON.** Excavation of this multi-period cropmark site has been directed by D.D.A. Simpson and A.G. McCormick from March to December 1974 (see pp. 12-14).

4 *Grant aid.* In addition to administrative and practical support of the above work, Northamptonshire County Council gave a grant of £225 towards the cost of the first full journal of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The foundation of a new county archaeological society in this country is an unusual event in the 1970s. By the standards of most counties, Northamptonshire is 100 years behind the times. Nevertheless, the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society came formally into existence in May 1974 and became open to general membership in September, as a transmutation of the former Federation of Northants Archaeological Societies. It answered a series of generally-felt needs, most obviously (i) for a county-wide society which might attract the interest of the widest general public as individual members and can act as a focus and spokesman for the archaeological viewpoint in the county, and (ii) for a medium of publication for the important rescue excavations in the county.

The society was publicly launched at an inaugural meeting in October, at which the guest speaker was Professor Barry

Cunliffe. The remainder of the programme for 1974-5 consists of lectures by Mr P. Rahtz on the Saxon watermill at Tamworth, Mr C.C. Taylor on field archaeology in Northamptonshire, Mr P. Dixon on houses and society in the middle ages, and the regular feature of a 'Reports' meeting of brief illustrated talks on recent work in Northants, together with an exhibition of finds.

The society's annual journal is called *Northamptonshire Archaeology*. This year's (numbered 9 to maintain the series with the former *Bulletin*) contains not only the short notes which characterised the Bulletin, but also a number of important reports and articles. They include: D.A. Jackson Bronze Age burials at Weldon, D.A. Jackson 'Two new pit alignments and a hoard of currency bars from Northamptonshire', J.H. Williams 'A Saxo-Norman kiln group from Northampton', S.J. Taylor 'An excavation on the site of the Augustinian Priory, Canons Ashby', and A.E. Brown and C.C. Taylor 'The earthworks of Rockingham and its neighbourhood'.

Individual membership of the society is £2 per annum. Details about this can be obtained from the secretary, Paul Everson, 19 Amberley Road, Hartwell, Northants, and about the journal from the editor, Tony Brown, Department of Adult Education, University of Leicester.

OXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM SERVICES

Field Department

Mr James Bond, formerly of Worcestershire County Museum, took up an appointment as assistant keeper in July.

Survey

Shrunken village earthworks have been recorded at Tadmorton (PRN 9217), Sydenham (PRN 9218), Woolstone (PRN 9308) and Yarnton (PRN 9324). Quantities of coarse red-brown and grey-brown pottery of mid C13 and earlier date have been collected from the DMV at Astrop (PRN 854). Two previously unrecorded cruck cottages have been noted, Church Farm cottage at North Leigh (PRN 9228) and Woodleys cottage, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell (PRN 9236). A possible mill site has been discovered at Hordley near Wootton (PRN 9193) which might be equated with a fulling-mill recorded there in the time of James I. A much repaired but ruined cob and thatched wall of reputedly Anglo-Saxon or medieval date at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell (PRN 9235) was examined in some detail, and a terminus post quem was provided by a sherd of C18 pottery deeply embedded in what was recognisably the earliest surviving part of the wall.

Cogges, Witney

A major programme of field survey and documentary research has been commenced in the former parish of Cogges, near Witney, where Oxfordshire County Council has acquired 9 acres at Manor Farm which is to be developed as an agricultural branch and as a site museum. The position of Cogges and its relationship to Witney in the C13 is shown on

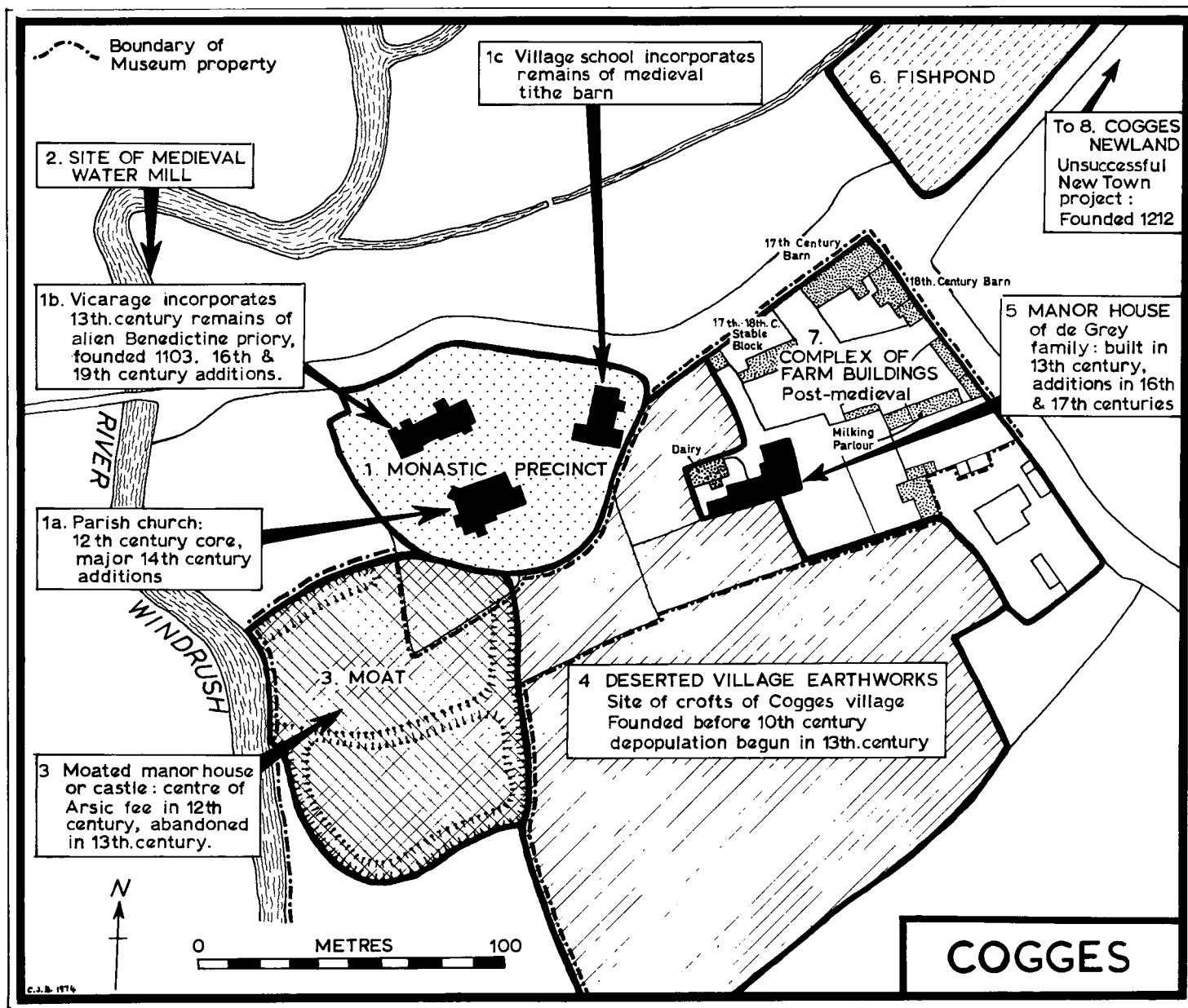


Figure 19

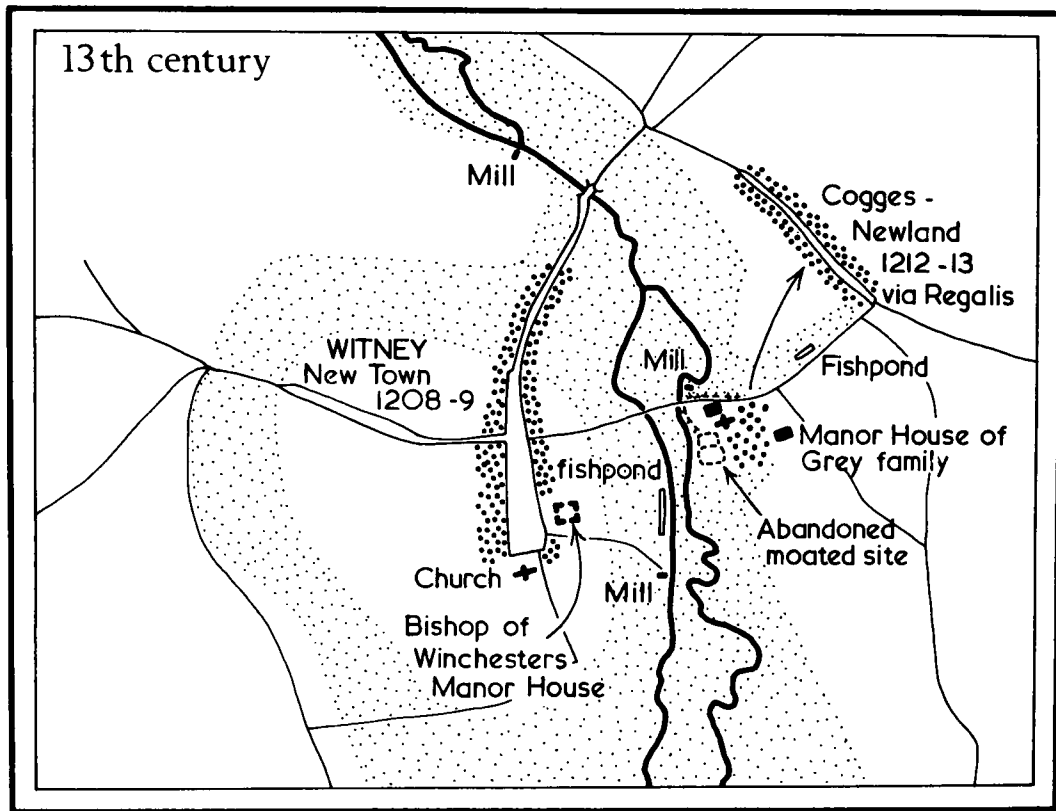


Figure 20

fig.20 prepared by Mick Aston. The various historic elements of the area are indicated by numbers on fig.19 prepared by James Bond. The museum area itself includes the manor house (5), built by the de Grey family in the mid C13 and still containing substantial fabric from that period, together with additions dating from the C16-19: a fine complex of C17-19 farm buildings (7); and a moated 'castle' site (3) which was the chief manor house of the Arsic family in the C12, and seems to have been superseded by the present manor house in the C13. Bordering the museum land is the precinct of a small alien Benedictine priory (1), founded by Manasser Arsic in 1103, which enclosed the C12-14 parish church (1a), the remains of a C13 structure built into the vicarage (1b) and a medieval tithe barn (1c) now incorporated into the village school. A ruined dovecote was recorded in the precinct in 1387, but no trace of this has remained above ground. Nearby is a fishpond (6) for which there is medieval documentation: the site of a medieval watermill (2) on the Windrush; and the earthworks of a deserted medieval village (4) which may have been abandoned at the time of the attempt to found a new town in the parish at Newland (8) in the early C13.

A detailed record of both the structure and the furnishings of the house has been made, sketch plans have been constructed of the moats, deserted village earthworks and

surrounding medieval field system preparatory to more accurate survey, and botanical investigation of the hedgerows of the parish has commenced. Mrs Mary Clapinson has been carrying out extensive documentary research on the post-medieval history of the Manor Farm and its surroundings.

Buildings Surveys

A detailed study of buildings in Witney is being undertaken by Mr R. Foster and Miss N. Leyland, involving internal as well as external examination. It is anticipated that this survey will be published in late 1975. A similar study is in progress in Wantage, where a small group of volunteers has been trained in the recording of internal features. Present recording is confined to the Grove Street area of the town, but it is anticipated that this will be extended to other areas, the results being successively published in a series of duplicated sheets.

Tackley Parish

As a part of a tutorial class on behalf of the Oxford University Department of External Studies, a comprehensive record and analysis of the topographical history of the parish is in progress.

Museum Study Group

Mr F. Woodward has completed a three-year initial survey of some 125 Oxfordshire parks. The survey ranges over

possible Anglo-Saxon hunting lodge sites, medieval deer parks, C17 topiary gardens, C18 landscape parks and Victorian parks. A gazetteer is being prepared for publication. Mr J. Arthur is continuing work on dovecotes. So far 110 surviving examples have been recorded. These are mostly of C17 date, but a possibly C15 example has been located at Kidlington. Mr C.J. Reeves is preparing a detailed study of crop-marks at Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham, whilst Mr B. Burnett is preparing a gazetteer of mill sites known from documentary sources. This will complement Mr W. Foreman's recording of more recent mills. Mr K. Lawrence has recorded and photographed a substantial number of milestones and tollhouses in the county and has begun a survey of farm buildings.

Sites and Monuments Record

Routine additions to the record have continued and the index now contains records of 9,400 sites. A major acquisition has been the collection of annotated field maps and notes, covering the area of Wychwood Forest and other parts of north Oxfordshire, compiled by the late Mrs Wickham-Steed. Cataloguing is in progress and an index will be produced. A system for computer indexing of sites and monuments data, and its integration with finds recording on excavations, is being worked out. Through the CBA Working Party on Archaeological Records, discussion is continuing on the relationship of regional and national records and on the classification of sites and finds.

Implement Petrology

A survey is being undertaken of stone implements as part of the CBA Implement Petrology Survey (Chairman: Dr W.A. Cummins, Department of Geology, University of Nottingham). Anyone knowing of Oxfordshire stone implements in private collections is asked to contact the museum. Petrological examination of implements from the old county area is being undertaken by Dr Cummins for the SE Midland region. Implements from the SW part of Oxfordshire (formerly north Berkshire) are unfortunately not being included in the midland area, and will continue to be dealt with by SW Group for Implement Petrology.

Planning Aspects

Following recommendations on management and structure of the new local authorities made in the Bains Report the county council has defined a number of programme areas, each with a number of objectives, together with a statement of committee and departmental responsibilities. As a result of this, the Department of Museum Services is now formally responsible for advising the relevant county council committees on aspects affecting the historical environment. In consultation with the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, the department is involved in aspects of the preparation of the county structure plan. A system of supplying information to district planning authorities and of dealing with referred applications affecting sites of historic and archaeological interest has been agreed and will be implemented during 1975. The department has contributed to conservation studies prepared by the West

Oxfordshire Planning Department.

Antiquities Department

Phase 1 of the complete re-display of Fletcher's House, Woodstock, has been completed and was opened to the public in December. This display covers the second half of the story of Oxfordshire from Saxon times to the present day. As a part of the survey work at Cogges, Miss C. Bloxham is collecting oral information on life in the hamlet over the last century.

Oxford City Branch

Work is progressing on the display construction in the old City Library premises in the Town Hall, St Aldates. The projected completion date is August 1975.

DON BENSON
JAMES BOND

PUBLICATION IN CBA 9 REGION

BEDFORDSHIRE

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal published annually by the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council, price £2.10. Editor, David H. Kennett, 55 Mount Grace Road, Stopsley, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 8EP (0582-24654).

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Record of Bucks 1973

Milton Keynes Journal 1973

W.H. Manning and C. Saunders, *Ant. J. LII* (1972), 276-292.

A Socketed Iron Axe from Maids Moreton, Buckinghamshire

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Northamptonshire Archaeology 9

Northants Past and Present vol. v 1 (1974) and 2 (1975)

Durobrivae 1 and 2

J.H. Williams ed. *Two Iron Age Sites in Northampton*.

Northampton Development Corporation Archaeological Monograph no. 1.

J.M. Steane *The Making of the English Landscape - Northamptonshire*

N. Pevsner and B. Cherry *Buildings of England - Northamptonshire* (revision and reprint)

OXFORDSHIRE

Oxoniensia vol. xxxviii (1973) (including the reports of work along the line of the M40)

N. Pevsner and J. Sherwood *The Buildings of England - Oxfordshire*

D. Benson and D. Miles *The Upper Thames Valley: an archaeological survey of the river gravels*

List of CBA Publications

A Survey and Policy of Field Research in the Archaeology of Great Britain, Part I (1948). Price 28p post free.

The Council for British Archaeology: The First Decade, by W F Grimes. Reprinted from *The Archaeological News Letter*, 8.5 (January, 1955). Price 7p post free.

Archaeological Bulletins of the British Isles (title changed to *Archaeological Bibliography* in 1954).

1940-46 (1949) Price 20p post free

1947 (1949) Price 20p post free

1948-49 (1952) Price 20p post free

Archaeological Bibliography for Great Britain and Ireland

1950-51 (1954) Price 20p post free

1952-53 (1955) Price 40p post free

1954 (1956) Price 40p post free

1957 (1958) Price 40p post free

1961 (1964) Price 70p post free

1967 (1969) Price £1 post free

1968 (1970) Price £1 post free

1969 (1971) Price £1.50 post free

1970 (1972) Price £1.50 post free

1971 (1973) Price £1.50 post free

1972 (1974) Price £1.50 post free

British Archaeological Abstracts: issued half-yearly: Annual subscription £7 for institutions, £3.50 for individuals. Back numbers available from Vol. 1 (1968) at £5 for institutions, £2.50 for individuals.

Archaeological Site Index to Radiocarbon Dates for Great Britain and Ireland: Price 35p

Supplement for 1972 (1973) Price 75p post free

Supplement for 1973 (1974) Price 75p post free

Memorandum on the Ancient Monuments Acts, 2nd Edition (1954). Price 4p post free. *Current and Forthcoming Offprints on Archaeology in Great Britain and Ireland*, issued yearly: Annual subscription 80p post free.

Calendar of Excavations, issued monthly from March until September, November, with January summary. Annual subscription £1.25 post free.

Archaeology in Britain. CBA Annual Report. Price 50p post free.

CBA Research Report No. 9, 'The Iron Age in the Irish Sea Province' (1972). Price £1.50 post free.

CBA Research Report No. 10, 'Current Research in Romano-British Coarse Pottery' (1973). Price £4 post free.

A Guide to British Topographical Collections (1974). Price £4 post free.

The Archaeology of Churches (1973). Price 35p post free.

The Erosion of History: Archaeology and Planning in Towns (1972). Price £1.25 post free.

Field Survey in British Archaeology (1972). Price £1 post free.

Responsibility and Safeguards in Archaeological Excavation (1972). Price 15p post free.

Handbook of Scientific Aids and Evidence for Archaeologists (1970). Price 35p post free.

Standard Record Cards (8 in x 5 in) 40p per 100 plus postage.

Industrial Record Cards. 40p per 100 plus postage.

CBA Group 9 Newsletters 2 (40p), 3 & 4 (45p) are available from Department of External Studies, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford.

C.B.A. 9 MEMBERSHIP 1974-5

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

Names and addresses are of hon. secretaries or correspondents.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Amphill & Dist. A. & Local History
K.J. Fadden, 7 Lea Road, Amphill

Bedford

Mrs G.O. Cameron, 15 Windrush Avenue, Brickhill, Bedford

Bedfordshire A. Council

Miss E.G. Cole, 21 Manor Drive, Kempston, Bedford

Manshead, Dunstable

Mrs M.H. Parry, 3 The Square, Hockliffe, Leighton Buzzard, Beds

North Bedfordshire

Miss E.G. Cole, 21 Manor Drive, Kempston, Bedford

Bedford Museum

The Curator, The Embankment, Bedford (0234 53323)

Luton Museum

The Curator, Wardown Park, Luton, Beds (0582 21725)

Putteridge Bury College of Education

J. Dyer, 6 Rogate Road, Cassels Park, Luton (0592 24808)

Bedfordshire County Council

D. Baker, Conservation Officer,
County Hall, Bedford (0234 63222 ext.22)

BERKSHIRE

Berkshire

F.M. Underhill, Turstins, High Street, Upton, Didcot

Maidenhead & Dist. A. & Hist.

Miss J. Lewis, 147 Colemans Moor Road, Woodley, Reading

Newbury & District Field Club

Mr & Mrs Kaines-Thomas, Donnington Dene, Donnington,
Newbury

Reading University

R. Bradley, Department of History, Whiteknights, Reading
RG6 2AA

School of Electronic Eng. REME, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9NH
Major R.P. Cottam

St Bartholomew's Grammar School, Newbury
F.R. Froom

Newbury Museum

The Curator, Wharf Street, Newbury

Reading Museum

T.L. Gwatkin, PO Box 17, Town Hall, Reading RG1 1QN
(0739 55911)

Middle Thames A. & Hist.

Mrs M.D. Scarr, 38 Elmwood Road, Slough SL2 5GG, Berks

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**Beaconsfield & Dist. Hist.**

Miss K. Day, 15 Ronald Road, Beaconsfield

Bletchley A. & Hist.

Mrs S. Jarvis, 1 Wordsworth Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes

Buckinghamshire

Elliott Viney, c/o The Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury

Chess Valley A. & Hist.

Mrs T. Stainton, Madeley, Penn Road, Beaconsfield

Cholesbury cum St Leonards Loc. Hist.

H.R. Brackley, Ivy House, Chivery, nr Tring, Herts

Pitstone Local Hist.

K. Saunders, 23 Marsworth Road, Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard

Wolverton & District

R.J. Ayers, 13 Vicarage Walk, Stony Stratford, Wolverton

County Museum

The Curator, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP (0296 2158)

Milton Keynes Development Corp.

D.C. Mynard & H.S. Green, Bradwell Abbey Field Centre,
Bradwell (Wolverton 2475)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**Corby Nat. Hist. & A.**

W. Mawdsley, 89 Steyning Close, Corby

Higham Ferrers Hundred

D.N. Hall, 322 Newton Road, Rusden

Northants Antiquarians

B.A. Bailey, 24 The Hall, Monks Hall Road, Northampton

Northants Nat. Hist & Field Club

The Humfrey Rooms, Castilian Terrace, Northampton NN1 1LD

Northants Society of Architects

K. Casson, 1 Isham Close, Boughton Green Road, Northampton

South Northants

B.C. Hastings, The Folly, Tiffield, Towcester

Upper Nene

Miss D. Friendship, Central Museum, Guildhall Road,
Northampton NN1 1DP

Wellingborough & District

Mrs M. Traxton, 26 Roberts Street, Wellingborough

Northampton Museum

The Curator, Guildhall Road, Northampton (0604 34881)

Westfield Museum, Kettering

The Curator, West Street, Kettering (0536 2315)

Northamptonshire County Council

P. Everson, County Architect's Dept, Bolton House,
Wooton Hall Park, Northampton NN4 9BQ

Northamptonshire Development Corp.

J. Williams, Arch. Officer, Northampton Development
Corporation, Lumbertubs Lane, Northampton NN3 1AQ
(0604 45811)

OXFORDSHIRE**Abingdon & District**

J.B. Carter, 63 The Motte, Abingdon

Banbury Hist.

Miss C. Bloxham, Borough Museum, Marlborough Road,
Banbury (0295 2282)

Enstone Local Hist.

Mrs E. Bendixson, Five Chimneys, Church Enstone, Oxford

Oxford Architectural & Hist.

Mrs N. Stebbings, c/o Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Oxford University

c/o Ashmolean Museum

South Oxfordshire A. Group

Mrs M. Fallowfield, 64 Woodcote Way, Caversham, Reading

Ashmolean Museum

P.D.C. Brown, Dept of Antiquities, Beaumont Street,
Oxford (0865 75722)

Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit

T.G. Hassall, 3-5 Luther Terrace, Oxford (0865 43888)

Oxford City and County Museum

D.G. Benson, Field Dept, Fletchers House, Woodstock,
Oxford (811456)

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

L.W. Wood, 20 Beaumont Street, Oxford

Oxford University Institute of Archaeology

Prof. B. Cunliffe, 35 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PG
(0865 58850)

**Oxford University Research Lab. for Archaeology
and History of Art**

The Director, 6 Keble Road, Oxford (0865 55211)

Oxford University Dept for External Studies

R.T. Rowley, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford
(0865 52901)

Wallingford Hist. & Arch.

Mrs J. Dewey, 38 Papist Way, Cholsey, Wallingford

Wantage & Dist Field Club

P.F. Peck, 76 Charlton Road, Wantage

EXTRA-REGION**North Herts**

Mrs D. Cadwallader, c/o Museum & Art Gallery, Broadway,
Letchworth, Herts

Letchworth Museum

The Curator as above

Leicester University Dept of Adult Education

A.E. Brown, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH
(0535 50000 ext. 108)

Wraybury Hist.

A.C.H. Walters, "Quarter Deck", Lammas Drive, Wraybury,
nr. Staines, Middx.

Individual members

Miss C. Baker, New Conkers, 176 Aylesbury Road, Bierton,
Aylesbury, Bucks

Miss J. Easton, Bentley, Perks Lane, Prestwood,
Great Missenden, Bucks

Mr J.W. Press, 193 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1UZ

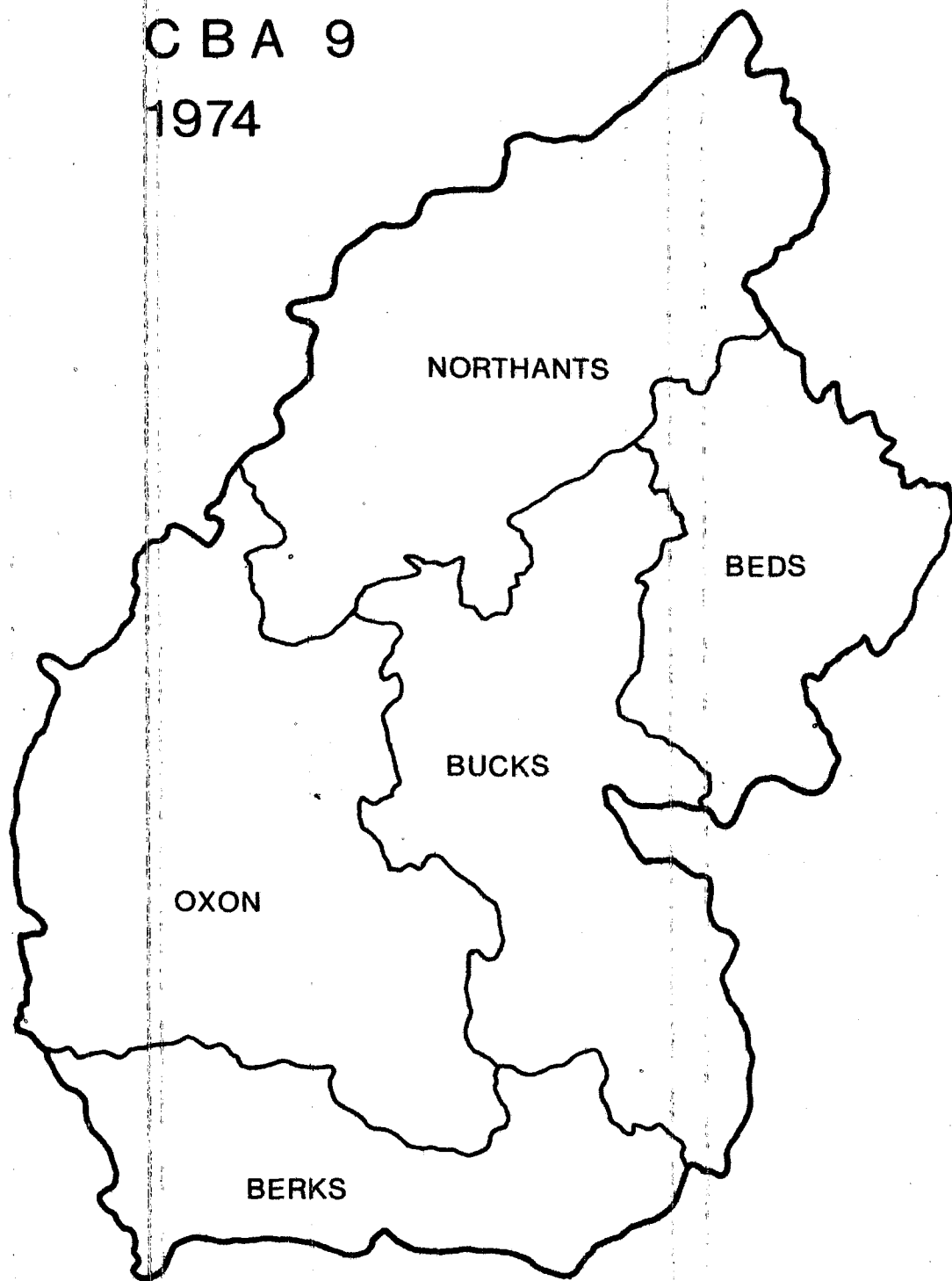
Mr B. Pullen, The White House, Marsworth, nr Tring, Herts

Mr R.A. Rutland, 23 Westminster Road, Leicester LE2 2EH

Mr P. Spokes, 59 Five Mile Drive, Oxford OX2 8HP

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CBA HEADQUARTERS

H.F. Cleere, Director
7 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 5HA
01 580 1116

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments
Department of the Environment
Fortress House
23 Savile Road
London W1X 2AA
01 734 6010