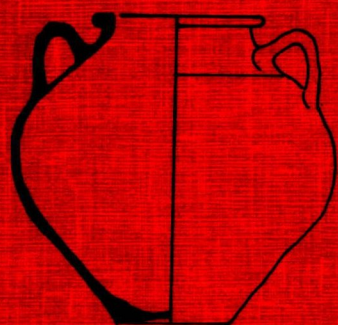


C B A
GROUP 9
NEWSLETTER 7 1977



A REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY

in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire
Northamptonshire & Oxfordshire

Property of CBA South Midlands

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

Regional Group 9

(Bedfordshire Buckinghamshire
Northamptonshire Oxfordshire)

NEWSLETTER No. 7 1977

CONTENTS

<i>Editors:</i> D.N. Hall W.J. Fowler	EDITORIAL	2
<i>Chairman:</i> John Williams Northampton Development Corporation	CBA and CBA 9	2
<i>Hon. Sec.:</i> D.C. Mynard Bradwell Abbey Field Centre	ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERIES	4
<i>Acting</i> W.J. Fowler	PREHISTORIC	8
<i>Hon. Treas.:</i> 25 High Street, Watlington, Oxford, OX9 5PZ. Tel. Watlington 2734	ROMANO-BRITISH and ANGLO-SAXON	12
	MEDIEVAL and LATER	16
	SURVEYS	23
	COUNTIES and UNITS	40
	PUBLICATIONS	99
	MEMBERSHIP CBA 9	101

Book No.: J. SBN. 0 903736 04 7

Oxford University Department for
External Studies,
Rewley House,
3-7 Wellington Square,
Oxford, OX1 2JA.

Editorial

The first part of this Newsletter has been produced in the traditional format i.e. a summary of work arranged in chronological sequence. However, the reports of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit and of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation are printed as entities for off-print purposes, while surveys and reports from counties are arranged on a geographical rather than a chronological basis. The arrangement by periods is becoming more difficult and less appropriate with the appreciation that all sites can be multi-period, and with emphasis on survey rather than excavation.

Grid references have normally been included this year, except for particularly vulnerable sites. This is a reversal of recent policy but most of those attending the AGM felt that the inconvenience caused by omission was not commensurate with any possible protection. This can be well illustrated if the difficulties encountered in identifying sites mentioned by C18th writers are recalled.

We have been asked at times to justify the publication of this substantial Newsletter, but your Editors and the Group Executive have no doubts about its importance. Perhaps the use of the term Newsletter is somewhat inappropriate but a change of title would cause confusion and we remain true to the original objective of providing a survey of recent and current work over the region. In recent years the Newsletter has provided virtually the only medium in the region for the speedy publication of preliminary and interim reports.

In the past the Newsletter has included some longer pieces of wider interest and it has been suggested that its value would be enhanced by regional reviews of the state of knowledge and research in particular fields. James Dyer's contribution last year (No. 6 pp. 5-8) could perhaps be seen as the first of these. Such articles cannot be written at short notice and the Editors would welcome any suggestions and offers for such contributions for the 1978 issue. Additionally we again appeal for more reports from societies and institutions and for contributions for next year in good time. The deadline for Newsletter No. 8 is 30 November 1977.

Finally we pay a tribute to the work of Trevor Rowley and the secretarial staff at Rewley House, without whose efforts this issue could not have been produced in the usual substantial format despite inflation.

David Hall

Bill Fowler

CBA and CBA9 - W.J. Fowler

The range of national CBA activities is as usual fully reported in the Annual Report. As in more recent years it is the committees which have promoted the most valuable archaeological work in their various fields. This is not to belittle the vital work of the officers, headquarters staff and the executive in promoting the role of the CBA as the premier national archaeological organisation. The great and continual problem this year, as for all similar bodies in these times, has been finance, which has enforced a preoc-

cupation with means of reducing expenditure and increasing revenue. Arising from this and more cheering is the news of the expanded publication programme being developed with the support of the Department of the Environment.

Unobtrusively the individual associateship with a newsletter has come into existence. The first number of the latter appeared as a supplement to the Calendar of Excavations in April 1976. In July the Council approved a new two tier subscription scheme. The basic subscriber will receive the Calendar/Newsletter and the Annual Report for £3.50 p.a. The consolidated subscriber will receive as at present the Calendar/Newsletter, Annual Report, Current Offprints and Archaeological Bibliography for £7.50 p.a. "It should be reiterated that these new proposals are not seen by the Council as a mere revenue-earning exercise: they are designed principally to increase the participation of all British archaeologists in its work...it is hoped that...subscribers will interpret their subscription to the new scheme as increasing their involvement in the work of the CBA - their views will always be welcomed by the officers" (CBA Newsletter August 1976). Individuals are urged to take out a basic subscription: the newsletter should help to bridge that gap between the individual member of a society which itself is a member of CBA and the CBA headquarters in London.

The Group Executive held its two regular meetings. The Wallingford Castle public inquiry in April was remarkable in that it was the first time that a local authority based its refusal to allow proposed developments on archaeological grounds, and was supported by a host of archaeological witnesses. The result, published later in the year, upheld the refusal and should ensure that the castle site, and the quarter of the Saxon town which lies beneath it, are preserved for the future.

The Report Conference in February attracted its usual hundred supporters and two changes met with general approval. There were rather fewer speakers, thus allowing more time for questions and discussion. Instead of a guest speaker on the Saturday evening there was a showing - after some of those difficulties which seem to attend the use of mechanical contrivances - of a French film on aerial photography, followed by an informal session in the Rewley House Common Room.

The second of the revived Autumn meetings, including the AGM, was held on October 16 in Aylesbury Museum, through the efforts of Mike Farley and Max Davies. The "faithful dozen" at the 1975 AGM has become a score for that of 1976, and more came in for an entertaining talk by John Evans on "Environment in Prehistoric Art".

Professor Barry Cunliffe succeeded Nicholas Thomas as President of the CBA at the July Council meeting, and completed his term as Convenor (now Chairman) of CBA9, in October. He is succeeded in CBA9 by John Williams Archaeologist to the Northampton Development Corporation, and Dennis Mynard of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation has become Honorary Secretary to the Group.

Our congratulations go to Clive Hart and David Hall, eminent part-timers, who have become archaeological officers in Derbyshire and Cambridgeshire respectively. Clive has of necessity left the district but David will still be living at Rushden and tells us that he retains his amateur status in CBA, as witness his assumption of the part-editorship of the Newsletter.

I will end on a personal note and record my thanks to the many people whom I have met and who have helped during my five years as Hon. Secretary. My

regret is that I have not done what ought to have been done, particularly in establishing better communications within the Group. For a year I shall remain in the Group Executive, acting as Hon. Treasurer, a function previously not separate from the Secretaryship. It would lighten my task of bringing subscriptions up to date - and save postage - if those due on 1 April and those in arrears could be sent to me without reminders. (The rate from 1976-7 is £1.50 including the Newsletter £1.00 1976).

ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERIES: Some Problems of Republication

- David H. Kennett

Individual items from many cemeteries are well-known, but the complete cemeteries from which these finds came remain unknown, except to a few specialists. The problem is one of lack of adequate publication, not just of recent finds, but also of finds made in the late C19 and the first half of the C20. For these the county periodical is an ideal vehicle for articles on individual cemeteries, and on groups of material distinguished by type, e.g. shield fittings, florid brooches and pottery corpora. However, this type of work, for which the local archaeological society and the extra-mural class is admirably suited, raises problems of methodology, rarely discussed. These require elucidation before any such publication, particularly on a large scale as with the cemeteries from Kempston, Beds., or East Shefford, Berks., could be contemplated. These problems concern: the background of the excavation and of the excavator or recorder; the text of the reports, both printed and mss.; the possibilities of establishing grave-groups; the objects, their museum history, and present condition; the potentialities for re-publication.

A person seeking to re-examine any Anglo-Saxon cemetery should bear in mind that neither the improved techniques nor the sophisticated concepts of today should be expected of the mid-C19. The intellectual climate there was very different; the thought processes by which men reasoned about the past equally have changed in the last 150 years.

Most of the known Saxon cemeteries were found last century. That at Kempston was 'dug-up' in the mid-C19. The first find was made in 1846, the last in 1913, with a major period of discoveries in the mid-1860s and other finds in the mid-1880s.

In Northamptonshire, finds were made in many parishes: Brixworth, two cemeteries before 1902 (exact date unknown); Burton Latimer, between 1880 and 1885; Duston, about 1903; Marston St. Lawrence in 1843; Northampton, St. Andrew's Hospital in 1836; Newnham in 1829; Desborough, the major find in 1876, but at least one other cemetery in 1865; Pitsford in 1882. Elsewhere the story is the same: E. Shefford the first discoveries were made in 1890.

The circumstances of discovery are equally significant. At Kempston, it was gravel digging which also brought to light the two cemeteries at Brixworth and those at Duston and Holdenby, although ironstone digging is more often the cause of discovery in Northamptonshire, as at Desborough, Islip, Burton Latimer and Thorpe Malsor. There are urns from a sand pit at Milton Malsor, and a stone quarry at Badby brought another cemetery to light. The building of a

railway at E. Shefford cut across an A.S. cemetery. Even cemeteries subsequently examined as archaeological excavations, e.g. Abingdon, began as chance discoveries, in this case housebuilding, which also has produced Kettering Stamford Road and Luton Argyle Avenue.

The background to the majority of A.S. cemeteries is therefore not a deliberate excavation. This generally means that if recorded at all it was by a local interested person rather than by a competent antiquary.

Kempston was noted by two people, the local curate and doctor, the Rev. Samuel Edward Fitch, M.D., and James Wyatt, a local antiquary and geologist. Their methods require appreciation. Fitch went daily to the gravel diggings to enquire what finds there were, collecting them and recording the comments of the workmen. He was not present all the time that gravel digging took place. Wyatt's visits to the site were less frequent. More than once he specifically says he obtained his information from Fitch. (Similarly the Rev. Robert Sibley Baker was rarely present when the important discoveries he recorded were made, and he relied on information given to him by the workmen). Some were more assiduous. William Palmer was present at the railway cutting at E. Shefford as often as his commitments as a doctor permitted.

Of all these men, Palmer was the only one to draw a plan, and from this, the only contemporary record of the E. Shefford Saxon finds of 1890 come the early reports and the comments in the British Museum register, but this plan has yet to be located. Kempston has no plan, but there is a long and detailed record by Fitch in the form of a 'Journal of Discoveries', of which the original is now lost but printed versions exist. Wyatt's record is also important, as is the mss. Minute Book of the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society, now in Bedfordshire County Record Office, a mine of information about archaeological discoveries in the county between 1847 and 1873. For the Kempston cemetery it has the preliminary version of Fitch's diary, and records of finds made after Fitch left the parish.

For any cemetery it may be necessary to examine a diversity of textual sources. The first definite record of a Saxon find at Kempston appeared in the local newspaper, the Bedford Times, of Saturday 28 February 1846. This item, and some subsequent finds, formed the basis of a short note by James Wyatt in Collectanea Antiqua IV of 1856. Burials between then and March 1863 were noted by Fitch, some of which produced finds traceable by labels written on objects in Bedford Museum: e.g. cremation urn with "Kempston Up End, 17 March 1862". From March 1863 to July 1864 the site was under observation by Fitch, who between October 1863 and July 1864 kept a daily diary. From May 1863, Fitch made exhibitions of material at the monthly committee meeting of the A.A.S. recorded in ten reports. On 23 June 1864, Fitch gave a paper to the A.A.S. which was printed in the local newspaper, and a copy pasted into the society's minute book. With a complete version of Fitch's journal this was printed as Bedfordshire's contribution to the Associated Architectural Societies Reports and Papers for 1864. A much abbreviated version was reprinted in Collectanea Antiqua VI 1868. In the same volume, an account of some of the finds, the more spectacular discoveries mainly, was contributed by Wyatt. Other finds, made after Fitch had left the district, were later exhibited to the A.A.S., and recorded in their minute book. The next record is a label on the back of a brooch noting it was found in 1884. Later in 1888-89, finds made in Bedford and Kempston were recorded in some detail by T. Gwyn Elger whose watercolour notebook in Bedford Museum contains illustrations of B.A. finds and Roman, and A.S.

It cannot be emphasised too strongly that the evidence of grave associations is an absolute necessity for any worthwhile sense to be made of a cemetery. Both Fitch and Wyatt did this at Kempston, but they do not always agree. Extra objects need to be treated with caution (see below for an example), even when the contrast is between the brief account (Wyatt) and the comprehensive one (Fitch), and it is probable that the latter is the more correct record.

Two accounts are rare; full accounts are few. Often there is little in the way of contemporary documentation. Most reports are deficient on skeletal information, surprisingly because many casual observers of cemeteries were doctors, e.g. Palmer at E. Shefford and Fitch at Kempston; and frequently no osteological remains survive.

Archaeological artifacts may be widely distributed. The Kempston finds are split: British Museum, London, 355 objects; Bedford Museum, 109; Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 5; National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, 3; Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, 1. Bedford Museum's collections can be divided into two groups. The first is the items salvaged from the collections of the A.A.S., for many years kept in the basement of Bedford town hall, but known not to now be complete. Most were acquired by the Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School in 1926. In 1923, the same museum had acquired the collections of Mrs. Charles-Williamson, sometime of Kempston Grange, and thus occupant of the house in which the finds were stored after their initial discovery. Beyond this other material was presented by a Mr. Lack and by Miss Thornton, niece of Henry Littledale, occupant of Kempston Grange and owner of the land from which gravel was being dug in 1863-65.

The majority of the finds are in the basement of the British Museum. Littledale died in 1866, but his nephew and niece, Harry Thornton and Miss Thornton, continued to act as guardians of the material. Harry Thornton, their legal owner, died in 1885, but before this Miss Thornton had removed to her London residence, no. 79 Chester Square. A very substantial part of the finds were transferred there at a date unknown and in the course of the years were reboxed. In 1876, Miss Thornton was joined by a companion, a Miss Anne Scott, who had joined the A.A.S. in 1868, and shared her employer's interest in antiquities. In 1891, Miss Scott calmly walked into the British Museum and in exchange for a hundred pounds deposited the finds with the Keeper of the Department of Antiquities. Other pieces from the cemetery from various sources are also in the British Museum.

This diversity of present location is very common with objects from Saxon cemeteries: those from E. Shefford mainly in the British Museum but also in the Ashmolean, Reading and Newbury Museums. Fourteen pots, two knives and a silver armlet from Sandy are in four museums: the British Museum, the Ashmolean, the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology Cambridge, and Bedford Museum. Even a site with as few as five objects, such as Souldern, Oxon., can end up with three pots in Cambridge, a bucket in Oxford, and the ear-rings lost.

These problems may be illustrated finally by an example. The Kempston cone beaker has been described as "the finest piece of Dark Age glass in W. Europe", yet its associations are vague. Two accounts survive, neither is completely satisfactory. Fitch in a long entry covering items found in the three months before 20 October 1863 recorded a glass cone beaker, 120 beads (including 7 large ones of crystal, and beads from near the left wrist), a toilet set with ear-pick and tooth pick, a ring and handle of bronze from a wooden object, and a pear-shaped gold casing with a garnet setting. Wyatt in contrast noted only the cone beaker and 120 beads. Thus only the 120 beads are a certain association for the glass.

It is probable that the garnet pendant is from a grave dug into the other grave. Fitch records graves cutting into one another which show C7th objects in the latest graves overlying ones with C5/6th pieces. With experience Fitch had learned to recognise the phenomenon we can now date.

Theoretical grave groups for Kempston are given in the primary reports: the problems begin with assigning objects to these. This can only be done if these have been adequately marked or kept in storage conditions sufficient to prevent mixing. Ultimately the individual status of the surviving items will determine the quality of the re-examination which may be presented. Limited textual, or museum survival, evidence for grave associations will detract from the primary duty to establish grave groups. Those at Kempston will be theoretical with few correlations to actual objects, although most of these objects are among the pieces surviving in museums. The nadir of reports is reached with those which can only list objects and discuss their status, due to the lack of documentation.

The ideal reconsideration would be a report which measures to present day standards of recording, with only a small list at the end of objects of unknown provenience. However, where the evidence is partial, or incomplete, that ideal is impossible and each investigator may ultimately have to think out his own solution. This note is offered as one student's working solution to the basic problems of A.S. cemetery re-publication.¹

REFERENCE

- 1 This note is a much abbreviated version of a lecture given to the March 1974 report conference of CBA 9. For bibliographical details of the cemeteries cited see A.L. Meaney, A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites (1964); and for a summary of recent work by the present author see Newsletter 6 (1976).
-

PREHISTORIC

STANFORD IN THE VALE, Oxfordshire - Nancy Stebbing, Assistant Keeper, Wantage Museum

Groups of flints collected over a period of time are not always useful as indications of sites, but from Woodside, Gainfield, near Stanford in the Vale, such a small collection has been given to Wantage Museum (Acc. No. 75. 227). The flints have been collected from the same field in the donor's market garden, a strawberry field on the sand of the Corallian series which forms the North Berkshire Ridge in the Vale of White Horse.

Of the collection, about 40 have been examined by Richard Bradley of Reading University. There are 6 distinctive items: 4 scrapers, 2 of which are Mesolithic and 2 which could be either Mesolithic or Neolithic; 1 good micro-lith which is Mesolithic; and 1 leaf-shaped arrowhead, which is probably Neolithic although the form goes on into the Early B.A. The rest of the collection consists of waste flakes, some blades with evidence of retouch, small blades and points (1.6 cm. - 4 cm.) and 1 core. All are only generally datable to the Mesolithic.

The location of a Mesolithic site in the Vale is of interest in view of the number of flint collections in the Ashmolean and Reading Museums only generally provenanced to Vale parishes. Except for the study by H. Case (Oxon. XVII/XVIII), Mesolithic activity in the upper Thames valley is much less well known than that on the Kennet, for instance, to the S.

BRIAR HILL, HARDINGSTONE, Northamptonshire - H.M. Bamford, Archaeology Unit, Northampton Development Corporation.

An area of approximately 5450 m. has now been investigated in the NE quadrant of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure, including some 1764 m. of the interior.

Neolithic: During the past season a further 65 m. of the inner ditch and 54 m. of the outer ditch of the causewayed camp have been traced and largely sectioned. The inner ditch continues to differ slightly from the outer in that the component segments are more closely spaced and vary much more in length, between 4 and 15 m.

The inner ditch has yielded more evidence of recutting and, in one segment, a cremation deposited in the fill at a depth of 0.50 m. Although no trace of any bank survives, the fill sequence in several segments of both main ditch circuits suggests the possible collapse of bank material from the inner edges.

Branching from the main inner ditch a series of closely spaced pits 2 m. - 4 m. across and 0.50 m. - 0.75 m. in depth defines the N. end of a circular inner enclosure. These pits contained flint implements and flint working debris, and sherds of undecorated, round-based Neolithic bowls. Within the enclosure no structures of Neolithic date have yet been discovered.

Iron Age: Several pits containing I.A. pottery have now been found on the S. and E. sides of the site, and an E - W pit alignment just N. of the outer ditch of the Neolithic enclosure may be of I.A. date also.

Roman: Cutting the pit alignment and the line of the Neolithic outer ditch is a cluster of overlapping pits, some of them very large and deep, which produced sherds of Roman pottery.

WEEKLEY, Northamptonshire - D.A. Jackson, *for Northamptonshire County Council and the Department of the Environment.*

Excavation has continued on a series of I.A. and early R.B. enclosures that extend for 500 m. along the edge of an ironstone quarry. Notable amongst the finds in the past year have been an abnormal amount of curvilinear decorated pottery, including at least one sherd of Cornish "Gabro" ware.

A Roman stone lined well, dug 25ft. deep through boulder clay, was exposed in the quarry face. Several complete pots were found at the bottom of the shaft. No other Roman features are known in the vicinity of the well.

GEDDINGTON, OAKLEY and WELDON, Northamptonshire

Early I.A. pottery has been found in each of the above 3 parishes, after the top soil had been removed before ironstone quarrying. It is hoped that further investigation will determine the nature of any surviving features.

EXCAVATIONS AT ODELL, Bedfordshire: A Progress Report - Brian Dix, *for Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment.*

The continued excavation of the cropmark site in the SW corner of Odell parish in N. Bedfordshire, made necessary since 1974 by the extension into it of commercial gravel extraction, has confirmed the initial interpretation of the features as basically those of a late I.A. farm which underwent considerable modification in the Roman period (Newsletter No. 6, 1976, 16). However, whilst a complicated and much superimposed sequence of structural development has been observed, its precise chronology must await a review of the total excavated evidence combining a detailed study of the artefactual material with an assessment of the relative chronology suggested by the stratigraphic record. Indeed, the paucity of well-stratified and securely dated groups of pottery of the period within the Bedford region together with the often different chronologies of pottery in adjacent areas invalidate any comparative studies undertaken merely for dating purposes and urge that the coarse pottery sequences, like the final suggested chronology, should be founded upon such internal data as the stratigraphic relationship between features and also upon a judicious use of the metalwork and fine pottery evidence. Accordingly, the following sequence which has been detected in the area of just over 5 ha. so far investigated is no more than an indication of the general trends in the structural development of the farm during the 400 or so years it was perhaps occupied, with somewhat arbitrary periods defined for convenience of understanding.

I The late I.A. and the succeeding transition to the early Roman period:
probably late C1st BC to c.70 AD. Agricultural activity was established at the site with an inhabited unit formed by several circular post-built huts enclosed within a sub-rectangular compound approximately 40 m. in diameter. Its initial timber palisade was replaced by a sequence of open ditches. The enclosure was situated in the SW corner of a large rectangular field area within which contemporary post-pits may evidence tethering, whilst to the W. a series of smaller rectangular enclosures was perhaps established in the early C1st AD. Also lying outside the main living area were several timber-lined wells, numerous quarry pits and two cremation cemeteries of early-mid C1st AD date. Inhumation perhaps became the main burial rite towards the end of this period.

II The early Roman period : c. 70-150 AD. Towards the end of the C1st AD the earlier system was replaced by one in which the main inhabited area was contained within a trapezoidal enclosure with a series of fields on its eastern side. As previously the perimeter ditches were often re-cut and subsequent modification to the farm layout led to an expansion of the field area across that of the main enclosure in the middle of the C2nd. Whilst the largest field was some 0.5 ha. in areal extent, the majority were much smaller units which frequently contained a point of water supply such as a well or pond occupying the bottom of a disused quarry pit. Preliminary results of analysis by Miss M.A. Girling, DoE Ancient Monuments Laboratory, of a large environmental sample from one such feature show it to contain a very rich, but somewhat fragmented beetle fauna. Of the several thousand individuals so far recovered most are ground-living species although leaf-feeding species and water beetles are also present in numbers. Whilst dung beetles of the genera Aphodius and Onthophagus indicate herbivorous mammals in the vicinity, their relatively low numbers would suggest that the well was not situated immediately adjacent to a grazing or stalling area. Analysis will be undertaken on further samples with a view to determining the original use of the fields.

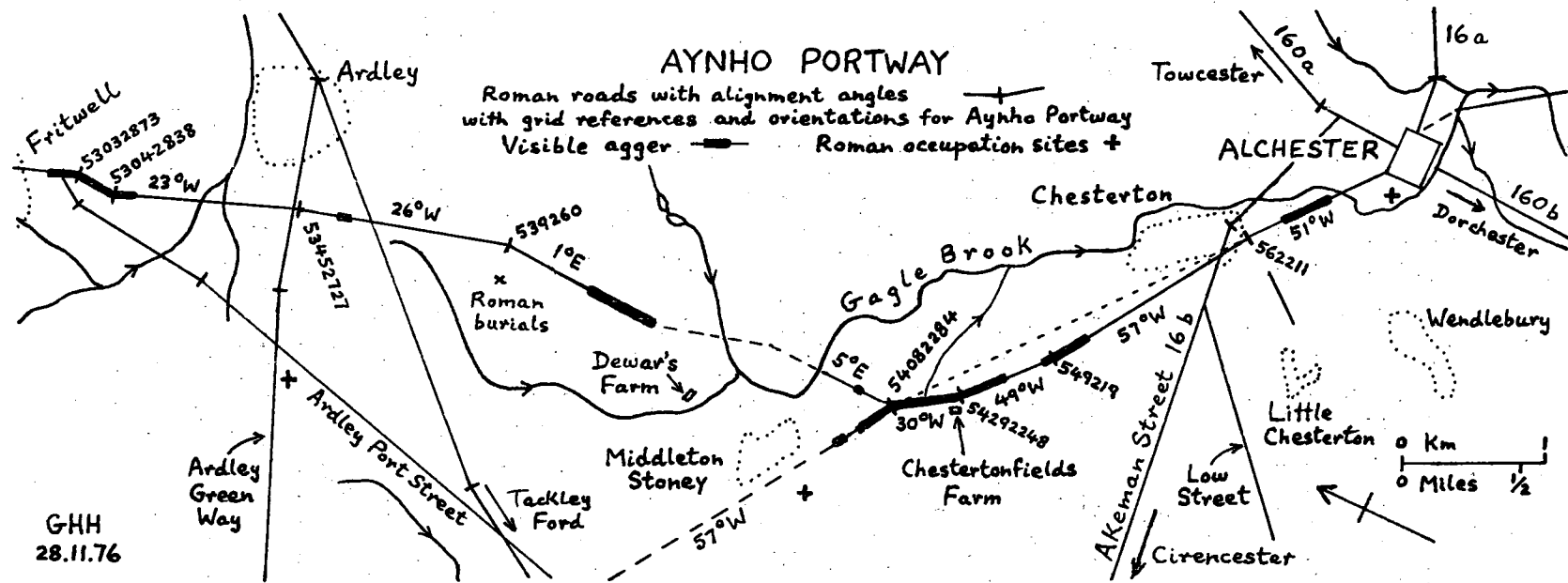
III The middle Roman period : c. 150-300 AD. The field system established by the middle of the C2nd continued in use for perhaps another 100 to 150 years during the course of which its main boundary ditches were several times re-cut and alterations were made to its layout. Cut twigs and small branches occurring within the infilling of the main ditch cuts may attest the former presence of live hedges which could have perpetuated some of the field boundaries after the ditches themselves had finally filled. Whereas numerous pits appear to have been dug as quarries at this time, no major structural evidence of the period has yet been recorded.

IV The late Roman period : c. 300 AD onwards. That activity at the site continued into the late Roman period is evidenced by the discovery of various features of C4th date which include several large pits sited along the course of infilled earlier ditches. However, the latest phases in the history of the farm remain imperfectly understood and it is to be hoped that future work will reveal the nature of development at this time. Structural evidence of the period has perhaps been revealed during current investigation of an area where formerly a stone scatter was visible at the surface.

In addition to the features relating to the farm which occupied the site in the Roman period, traces of both earlier and later activities continue to be recorded, and include a further Saxon timber-lined well. Like the two examples previously excavated it comprised a roughly circular pit within which a wattle framework of withies woven around a series of uprights formed an oval lining some 1.70 x 1.00 m. in size. Whilst some residual Roman pottery sherds were found within the infilling, most of the ceramic material is similar to that found in the other wells for which one radiocarbon date of ad 720 $\pm$ 70 is so far available (HAR - 1038). Further dates are awaited.

Work is likely to continue at the site until early 1978.

Fig. 1



GHH
28.11.76

ROMANO-BRITISH AND ANGLO-SAXON

AYNHO PORTWAY, Oxfordshire - G.H. Hargreaves, R.P.F. Parker and A.W.F. Boarder

Newsletter 4 refers to a Roman road through Aynho whose origin is probably Alchester, and details of its course through Fritwell are given in Newsletter 5, where it is designated the Aynho Portway. Search for its route S. from Fritwell has shown that its course approaching Alchester is that of the road running NW from Chesterton referred to in Newsletter 3 (see Fig. 1). The first three alignments of this road out from Alchester there reported involve a reversed change of direction, and it was at first thought this must be to avoid a pre-existing building. It has now been found that the surveyor sighted the first alignment from Alchester to Chestertonfields, and that the diversion represented by the next three alignments is to make use of slightly higher ground and to pass the head of a small stream. At the Chestertonfields sighting point the road forks to give a W. branch through Middleton Stoney on a bearing slightly different from that previously indicated, and passing closer to the Roman building there.

Between the fork and Fritwell visible signs of the Aynho Portway have largely disappeared and it has not yet been possible to establish its precise course throughout because of the unusual propensity for local improvisation shown by the surveyor, exemplified at Chestertonfields and Fritwell. However, its general course is fixed by an agger at Dewar's Farm, where the road metalling is about 33 ft. wide, comparing well with 34 ft. at the second alignment angle out from Alchester as already reported.

The surveyor's choice of a route for the Aynho Portway S. of the Gagle Brook rather than a more direct one between Fritwell and Alchester, and the precise location of the fork at Chestertonfields, suggest that the two roads from the fork were planned simultaneously and of comparable importance. The road at Chestertonfields Farm has an impressive agger whose survival is due to its use as part of the highway from Chesterton to Middleton Stoney until the C18th. This agger is visible from A4095. The fork location indicates a Cherwell crossing between Rousham and Upper Heyford for the road from the W. branch, and it could be the same as that for the Ardley Green Way suggested in Newsletter 6.

TOWCESTER, Northamptonshire - A.E. Brown, *University of Leicester*

A further 600 sq. m. of this site were stripped, W. of the area examined in 1975 and immediately N. of the Towcester-Alchester road. The three successive side ditches of the road were revealed; upon these, following silting and leveling up with stones, the stone floor of a workshop had been laid. This had been very severely damaged by ploughing but in all probability had been rectangular, some 7 m. x 6 m. Within was the base of a furnace of stone; again there was evidence for the working of lead. Away from the road, the area to the N. of the workshop had been drained during the Roman period. That part of it immediately N. of the workshop formed a yard defined by ditches and containing upwards of thirty small rubbish pits. To the E. a triangle of ground lying between the road and a marshy area known to have existed in the Roman period N. of it, had been extensively dug for clay. All this industrial activity belonged to the mid C4th AD.

QUINTON, Northamptonshire - R.M. Friendship-Taylor, *Upper Nene Archaeological Society*

Work continued in Great Holt field on site 'B'. The principle feature was a rectangular building, 18.76 m. by 4.57 m., with pitched stone footings and a verandah supported on posts at approximately 1.52 m. intervals: this ran along the S. wall of the building. Two possible doorways were situated in the SE and SW corners of the building; about 1.40 m. from the E. doorway was a stone well, set within a rectangular well pit, 2.74 by 2.28 m., which yielded a coin of Tetricus. The lining continued to a depth of 2.74 m., where solid limestone was encountered and a bowl shaped reservoir 1 m. deep, had been cut. The well contained 39 coins which were found evenly scattered throughout the fill, and also around the W. lip: they were dated between 330 and 380 AD. Much bone, including horse, ox skulls, and antler offcuts, mainly of red deer, presumably represented the residue of a manufacturing process. A good group of C4th pottery was found, including examples of both Nene valley and Oxford wares.

South of the building, were 2 intersecting ditches; one 60 cm. wide and 30 cm. deep ran N - S and was cut by building IV; it contained late C1st - early C2nd filling. The second, 90 cm. wide and up to 40 cm. deep ran E - W and contained C3rd material.

The earliest feature on the site was a sub-rectangular pit containing much iron slag, burnt clay lining and mid to late C1st pottery.

DUNSTABLE, Bedfordshire - *Manshead Archaeological Society*

In recent years excavations here in advance of threatened "development" have uncovered human remains from 50 individuals of apparently late Roman date, but only a few were in specially dug graves. Twenty seven of them lay in already existing ditches, usually widened or deepened to take the body. Their positions often suggest unceremonious dumping. Later burials, including those of 3 horses, have disturbed earlier ones; in 3 cases only a pair of feet remained. A number of bodies had been mutilated before burial, heads and/or legs being chopped off and placed in the grave. There were only 2 children among the burials. Jewellery found on one girl's skeleton - rings, bracelets and a necklace - have been dated to the late Roman period. Apart from this, R.B. pottery, a bone pin and, in 2 cases, boot-nails, are the only dating evidence.

Ten skeletons lay in graves near the ditches; 7 more were in the tops of disused wells, and near one of these there were bracelets similar to those on the girl's skeleton. The remaining individuals were represented by disturbed bones found in later features. No regular rows of burials have been found and this does not seem to be an orderly cemetery. It suggests rather an area on the outskirts of the town where persons of little consequence - some, perhaps, executed criminals - were disposed of.

Ditches, wells, rubbish pits and corn-drying kilns of the Roman period have been found in this area, but so far no foundations or tesserae suggesting substantial buildings.

DUSTON AND DISCONTINUITY - David H. Kennett

Discussion of the discontinuity or otherwise from Roman Britain to Saxon England in the CBA 9 region has been largely centred on the town of Dorchester-

on-Thames:¹ rural sites have received little attention. Yet there are many parishes with both Roman remains, often of C19th discovery, and a Saxon cemetery, known before 1914. Duston, near Northampton, is one such. Samuel Sharp investigated the discovery of Roman remains in the 1860s,² and a small but ill-recorded Saxon cemetery was found in 1902-4³. Such may seem a typical case of the possibility of continuous occupation but the opposite can equally be argued.

The R. catalogue of finds is impressive: a group of ten pewter dishes, bronze spoons, bronze spurs, a belt plate of a buckle of Hawkes and Dunning type I A/B and a fragmentary buckle loop of their type II. The coin series, with emperors as late as Honorius represented, similarly testifies to C4 occupation. Yet it is possible that the ten pewter dishes were from a well: their associated mud makes it clear they had once been in extremely wet conditions. It has been argued these were thrown away by labourers in the peasants' revolt of 409, recorded by the Greek historian, Zosimos. Late R. military equipment like spurs and belt plates might argue an intrusive element in the population against whom the revolt could be directed. If the pewter was disposed of as an act of revenge it would suggest that here at least the revolt was partially successful.

In this context, the dating of the Saxon finds becomes of paramount importance. Much is reliably to be placed in the C6th: great square-headed brooch of Leeds' class B4 (the commonest Northants. type), florid cruciform brooch of the East Midland variety, applied saucer brooches with developed animal ornament, cast saucer brooches with six-triangles decoration, cast saucer brooches of Kentish derivation. There is nothing which need be earlier than the 570s, and all may be as late as the early C7th.

With these late C6th pieces there is a cast saucer brooch with five-coil spiral decoration. It should be C5th, but the edges to the spirals are softened, and perhaps this is a little later. Among the pots only a rather well-made pedestal-foot pot with shoulder bosses might suggest an early C6th date. For the rest plain, rather formless accessory vessels may be early or late in the period of accompanied graves, and a pot with shoulder bosses is probably C6th.

The undatable objects include also a range of small long brooches, of a variety of types. The simplest forms of trefoil brooch are well-represented but there are more developed forms of this and other sub-types. Swastika brooches also have few firm guides to their date.

The Saxon cemetery is often marked on maps of those of the C5th, but the evidence seems to be scanty for this early beginning. One five-coil spiral saucer brooch, with softened profiles, seems not to be conclusive. It may be a piece in a jewel box, a grandmother's trinket buried on her death at an advanced age, or an heirloom.

Thus C5th Duston could well represent a blank in the archaeological record, between a well-attested C4th Roman site, and a Saxon cemetery of the C6th. Whatever the precise nature of the Roman site it does have a phase as late as c.400. Rigour needs to be applied in assessing continuity and the evidence can just as easily point to discontinuity. It may be chance that C4th Roman and C6th Saxon sites have been located in the same parish.

1 Newsletter, 3 (1973), 5-6; Arch. J., 119 (1962), 114-149

2 Archaeologia, 43 (1870), 118-130

3 Proc. Soc. Ant., 19 (1903), 310-314

4 Newsletter, 6 (1976), 19;

WRAYSBURY MANOR FARM, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Berkshire (formerly Buckinghamshire) - Victor Marchant *for Wrayisbury History Group*

The excavation is at an early stage and still has enigmatic features. The site slopes gently away from the Parish Church of St. Andrews, which marks the highest point in this low-lying area, close to Runnymede.

From cropmarks and surface finds it seems likely that the present permitted zone of excavation (local authority owned) is on the outskirts of an occupation area surrounding that where the church now stands.

There are flint artefacts, mostly unrolled, apparently of Neolithic and earlier date, but the majority of the finds from the excavation area and the surrounds of the church are pot sherds of late Roman, Saxon and later date. Iron slag has been found in some quantity, and there are many animal bones, apparently domestic refuse. There is much early grass-tempered Saxon ware and the small finds include iron knife blades (C5/6th), one clay and two lead loom weights, a bone spindle whorl, a blue glass bead, and bone comb fragments. A copper or bronze coin, minted at Arles in S. France, is that of Valens (Valens-Valentian 364-378 AD), and a silver Saxon sceatta of about 700 AD appears to be Stuart Rigold's type BII.

Traces of structures in the area so far excavated are ephemeral, but two circular features made of pebbles are probably post bases. One can be dated as late Roman. However other finds, e.g. pieces of roofing tiles, suggest the possibility of a substantial Roman building in the vicinity, perhaps on the S. facing slope of the present churchyard area. The present church is dated to the C13th, but one is reminded of Rivenhall, Essex (Rodwell 1973 quoted in *Antiquity* 1975).

Excavation continues.

HARWELL, Oxfordshire - David Brown, *Department of Antiquity, Ashmolean Museum*

Two further graves were excavated in the known A.S. cemetery at Harwell. Grave 8, a woman's grave contained a pair of disk brooches and a few beads. Grave 9, a man's grave, contained a sword and bronze bound wooden bucket.

The finds have been placed in the Ashmolean Museum where they are now undergoing treatment.

A report will be published in *Oxoniensia*.

FINEDON BRIDGE, Northamptonshire - David H. Kennett

In September 1926, work on road widening at Finedon County Bridge, Northamptonshire revealed a group of finds, some 2 - 2.5 m. below the present surface. These were two vertebrae (pig), a spearhead, a single-edged knife, and a stirrup. The last is inlaid and has been X-rayed. The finds, presumably from a single burial add to the scant number of Viking burials in S. England. In the region these include those at Sonning, Berkshire, at Reading, and at Harrold, Bedfordshire, grave 3. Chance finds have been noted from Oxford rivers and a pin from Castor, Northamptonshire.

MEDIEVAL AND LATER

NORTHAMPTON CASTLE, St. Peters, Northampton - John Williams, *Archaeologist, Northampton Development Corporation.*

Excavations commenced on an area 40 x 20m. on the line of the inner bailey bank of Northampton Castle and immediately S. of the area excavated by Dr. J. Alexander (*Medieval Archaeol.* 6-7 (1962-3), 322f; 8 (1964), 275f; 9 (1965), 191. The main object was to examine Middle/Late Saxon levels sealed by the bailey bank in respect of the development of the Saxon town.

Work is continuing but the following phases can be preliminarily identified:

1. Prehistoric activity is represented by a flint scatter of Mesolithic and later date.
2. Early and Middle Saxon levels have not been closely examined but a large quantity of hand-made black gritty pottery, including a few stamped sherds, has been recovered.
3. Saxon-Norman features include a yard area, a post built structure of hall type at least one grubenhaus and many pits. It seems possible that functional areas can be distinguished.
4. Both the inner and outer bailey ditches were located in several places and a robber trench at the N. end of the site was presumably associated with the internal castle building.

PRESTON DEANERY, Northampton - D.E. Friendship-Taylor, *Upper Nene Archaeological Society.*

The village is the subject of a long-term research project, begun in response to a threat to a number of fine earthworks, with the aim of publishing a complete field and documentary survey and history of the parish. Documentary research is proceeding alongside work in the field. The latter includes field walking for surface finds, surveying earthworks, photographic recording, plans, elevations and other recording of the church, including a churchyard survey and a study of standing buildings in the parish.

A coherent and complex medieval street pattern is emerging, in association with a pronounced area of intensive settlement to the S. of the church, dating, on pottery evidence, to the C14th. On the opposite side of the modern road through the village is a probable mill, an elaborate drainage system, further house platforms, of C12th - C14th and ridge-and-furrow. A little R.B. pottery was scattered over a small area, and a possible C17th - C18th brick kiln was located. The possible N. boundary/pale to Preston Park may be perpetuated by a long low-lying bank, running parallel to the B526, and further defined, until recently, by a row of elm trees.

The site of the documented adjoining-hamlet of Alcot has been perpetuated by the name of the field in which it is situated; stone platforms of cottages, with associated C12th pottery, have been located here. According to John Bridges (*History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire*, 1791) the hamlet was

still in evidence in c. 1720.

There is no evidence for a church before the C12th, the date of part of the existing fabric, but, incorporated into each side of the chancel arch, facing the nave and continuing around the insides of the arch, are decorated horizontal string-courses of local limestone, obliterated by centuries of whitewash and paint. Removal of these revealed, on the S. side, the carving of a snake, with protruding tongue and dots along its body, in a figure of eight shape. To its S. are three criss-cross motifs, disappearing into the wall. The N. side of the arch bears a more intricate design, of two birds with large wings and a rather confused animal motif. Also on the N. are three criss-cross motifs. These two fragments, bearing the main designs, appear to have been split from an earlier piece of stonework, to judge from the rough-hewn nature of their top edges. The motifs are purely Viking, characteristic of the Mammen style, belonging to the C11th or possibly C10th. These fragments may represent a cross - an earlier focal point in the vicinity of the present church. The frieze had been completed by the addition of further lengths of limestone, shaped to match and decorated with Norman chevrons.

Work is currently continuing on all aspects of this study.

18-24 ST. JOHN'S STREET, Bedford Town, Bedford - *The results of this and other Bedford excavations are to be published in a monograph written jointly by Jane Hassall, David and Evelyn Baker, and Angela Simco.*

Rescue excavations were carried out by Jane Hassall in advance of destruction by redevelopment on this urban site. St. John's Street marks the alignment of the main N-S. street of the S burh of Bedford, and the proposed development of Nos. 1824 allowed, for the first time, the opportunity of investigating a street front site in the E. area of the Saxon town. It was hoped that excavations would reveal whether or not this was a 'built-up area' in Saxon times, and the extent to which it was occupied in the Medieval period.

In addition, the site stretched back into the vicinity of the C14th St. John's Hospital, immediately N. of St. John's Church. A second trench was opened here and was dug by hand.

The street-front site yielded at least 2 phases of a Saxo-Norman timber building, in the form of beam-slots and post-holes. A considerable number of stake holes was associated with the building, and many inter-cutting rubbish pits were uncovered running back from the street front. Considerable amounts of St. Neots type ware were recovered from these, and other Early Medieval wares were also found.

One feature was of particular interest, being a C12th - C13th well-house, consisting of a flight of seven stone steps, walled round on three sides with limestone blocks, and leading down to a well-head laid out in well-preserved timbers. This was at a depth of approx. 1 m. 50 below the medieval ground surface.

The St. John's Hospital site produced evidence of Medieval occupation although no structures were found. The main feature was a curving Medieval boundary ditch in which the articulated skeleton of a horse, with its legs missing, was found.

PEAR TREE FARM, Elstow, Bedfordshire - Peter J. Woodward, *for Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment.*

Trial excavations on cropmarks in advance of proposed construction of Bedford Southern Orbital Sewer.

A complex series of cropmarks revealed by aerial photograph to the S. of Elstow Abbey were examined in September/October 1976.

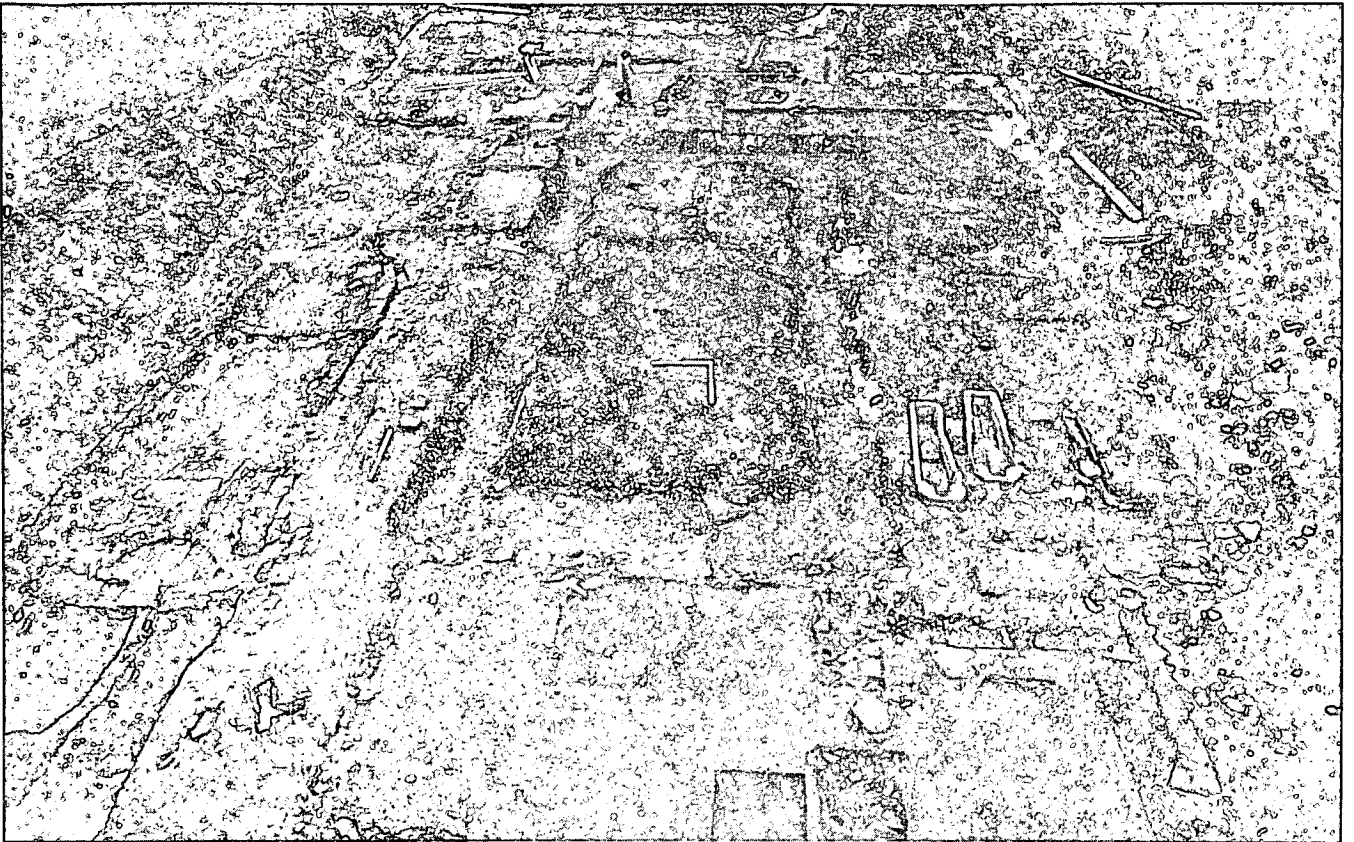
The densest area covered about 2 ha., adjacent to and bounded by the A6 to the E. and the Abbey boundary to the N. They appeared to represent a series of rectilinear closes laid off the A6, peppered with spots possibly representing pits or sunken huts. They included discontinuous linear ditches and rings, with discrete rectilinear enclosures to the W. of these overlaid with rings and spots. A 'droveway' cropmark ran across the area. There were also some ditches turning sharply and regularly at right angles, which may have been First World War military practice trenches, examples of which are already known in the locality. An initial interpretation of these features suggested medieval close boundaries adjacent to the A6, overlying earlier features with I.A. enclosures to the W. Saxon Grubenhauser might have been represented by some of the spots.

The excavations largely confirmed this picture. The enclosure discretely separate to the W. of the site was recut several times in the later I.A. and cut an earlier palisade ring structure with surrounding external drip gully. Domestic refuse of various kinds were found in these ditches. The pit cropmarks and discontinuous ditches and gullies to the E. of this were of the C11th/C12th, from the pottery, and represent a complex of industrial (slaking and gravel pits) and farming (cattle penning) activity before the closes were laid down off the A6. A barn building contemporary with these was evidenced by a beam slot to the N. of an examined close boundary. A single grubenhaus feature was partially uncovered in the dense medieval 'pit' area and could be firmly placed in the Saxon period by the pottery recovered from it.

When considered with the results from other cropmark excavations, this exercise clearly demonstrated that cropmarks can be roughly assigned to a given period before excavation; that they often only represent in-field boundaries and pits, and not often buildings (especially medieval timber ones); that buildings, if they are going to appear with these 'in-field' cropmarks, will most probably occur in the blank areas adjacent to them or even away from them. This last point was brought out by the unannounced survival of the grubenhaus in the middle of a later medieval pit complex and by the medieval beam slot outside the area of a visible close. A detailed recovery of surface finds prior to excavation (not possible here) might amplify the initial interpretation of a site rather than a study of cropmarks alone, and especially might shed light on parts of a field where cropmarks did not occur.

GROVE PRIORY, Bedfordshire (SP 923226) - Evelyn Baker, David Devereux and Dominic Powlesland, *for Bedfordshire County Council.*

Excavation in advance of sand quarrying on this alien priory of the Order of Fontevrault (mid. C12th - c.1414) under the coordination of Evelyn Baker (Fig. 2). Dominic Powlesland continued work on the claustral area begun in 1975, which produced further evidence of underlying Saxon occupation. Part of a courtyard with S. side 15 m. was seen, with several resurfacings, an elaborate tile lined drain, a large C13th pit and a stone lined water butt. To the S. of the courtyard was a major building measuring about 15 m. by 7.5 m., in



GROVE PRIORY during excavation, seen from the West. Photo: D. Powlesland.

Fig. 2

continuous occupation from C12th to the early C18th. It had doorways to the N. and W. and possibly had a major E. window. To the N. of this building, projecting into the courtyard, but sealed by its later surfacing, was a small room about 4.5 by 3 m. with a probable C13th life, and decorated with red, black and white wall plaster. To the E. of the courtyard the S. end of a range of small rooms was exposed, each about 2 by 3.5 m. adjacent to the boundary bank for the whole claustral platform. The range had two periods and was associated with a stone lined well and a pit. The W. boundary to the courtyard was formed by a structure with an E. wall of 1 m. thickness having an elaborate fireplace set into it: this was apparently unconnected with the major S. building in its final phase, and extended both S. and W. out of the area under examination. In the angle S. of the major building and W. of the last-mentioned structure, human and animal remains were found in a shallow pit. The area is to be completed in 1977.

David Devereux has begun the examination of a plateau to the N. of the claustral area, defined by banks and ditches: preliminary results suggest that its S. part was used for storage or stock-keeping rather than curtaining buildings.

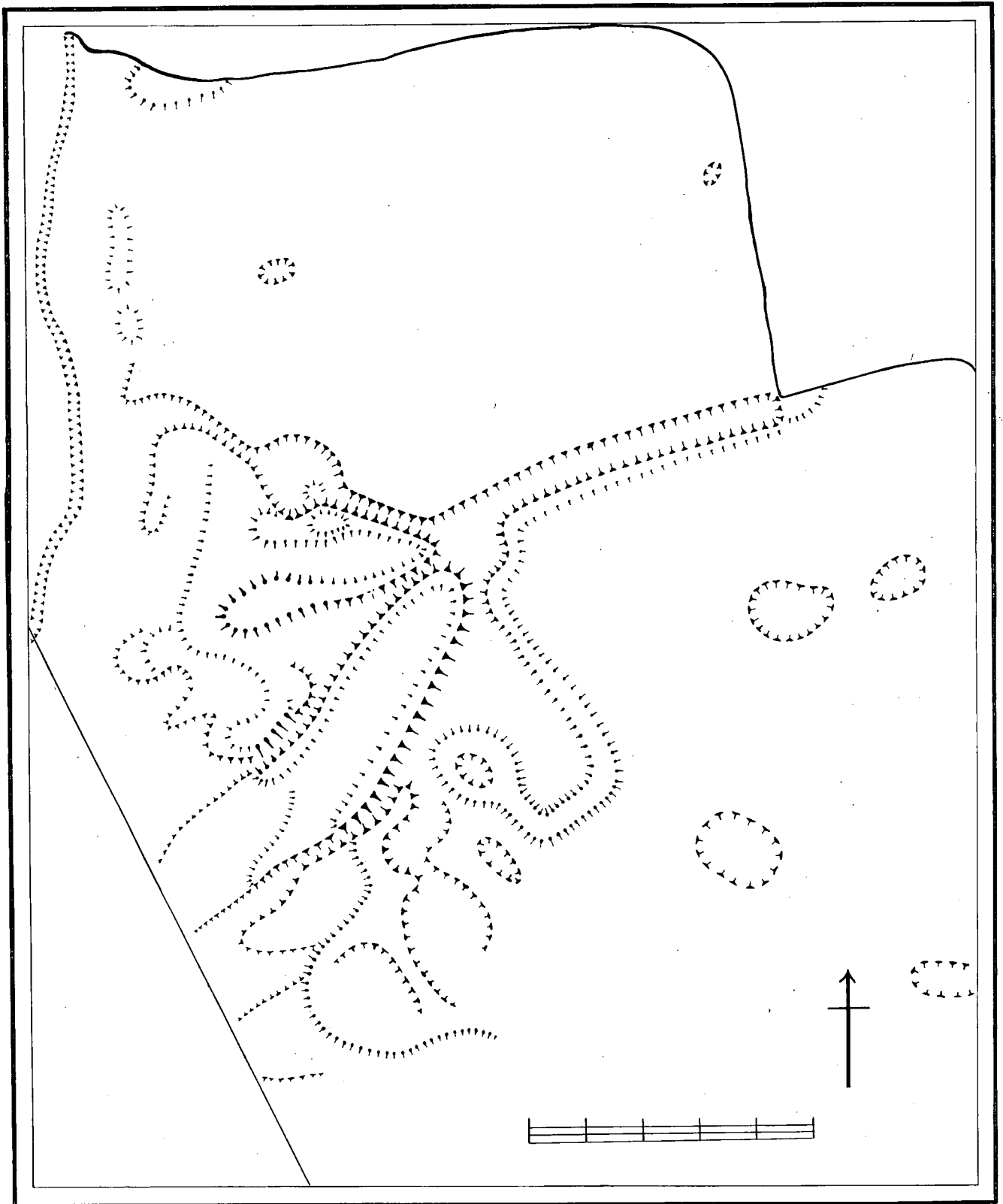
THURLEIGH CASTLE, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire (TL 052584) - Evelyn Baker and Angela Simco, for Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment.

Thurleigh Castle is in the centre of the main village, on high ground overlooking a stream to the W. The area of the castle lies mostly to the S. of the EW High Street, though this has a sharp double bend suggesting that it was diverted to run into the main entrance of the castle, probably lying beneath the present track to Bury Farm. The lack of documentary evidence for the castle may mean that it was built during the reign of Stephen (1135 - 1154).

A sketch plan of the earthworks was published in the Victoria County History (VCH I, 1904, 288) and the site was scheduled as an Ancient Monument in 1957 with the exception of a small area of earthworks in the NE corner in the ground of the old Vicarage. Housing development was due to begin on this area in August 1976. Though the earthworks had deteriorated slightly since the publication of the VCH plan, surface remains suggested the junction of the inner and outer baileys, with a possible minor entrance to the outer bailey surviving as a hollow-way. In difficult conditions caused by the effects of the drought on the subsoil of boulder clay, work was concentrated on three main areas: a trench 65 m. long by 1.80 m. wide running approximately N. - S. across the major earthworks; an area 24 m. by 14 m. to investigate the possible entrance; and an area 15 m. by 21 m. to identify any features in the outer bailey and any pre-castle occupation. Topsoil was removed mechanically.

Very little medieval material was recovered from the banks and ditches, and no evidence of stone or timber fortification, suggesting that this section of the castle earthworks was never adequately defended. Most of the ditches silted up gradually throughout the post-medieval period, though one stretch was recut and enlarged, perhaps as a fishpond or ornamental garden feature. No structures were identified though an area of large stone rubble about 5 m. by 5 m. outside the NE corner of the outer ditch may have originated from a stone structure. The possible entrance proved to be post-medieval in date, as the hollow-way was surfaced with cobbles which ran over the top of the silted up ditch.

Beneath the castle earthworks approximately 327 sq. m. of the previous



CHANDLINGS FARM

Fig. 3

ground surface was examined, though the time factor meant that many features cut into natural subsoil were planned and only sampled. The existence of at least one underlying phase of occupation was indicated by the large amount of Roman pottery in the medieval banks. The Roman features identified consisted mainly of substantial ditches, probably field boundaries. More problematical were several gullies and pits and many postholes. These produced coarse hand made pottery, of both sand and shell temper, showing both Saxon and I.A. characteristics. There were no unambiguous intersections to establish a stratigraphical relationship with the Roman features. The number of postholes and the character of some of the gullies indicate the existence of timber buildings, but ground plans either could not be established in the areas available for excavation, or were partially destroyed by medieval and later activity on the site.

CHANDLINGS FARM, Sunningwell, Oxfordshire (SP 508113) - Alison Tasker, *for the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society.*

A grass field adjacent to the farm is notable for its man-made features. It is roughly rectangular in shape and slopes gently from the N. to both SE and SW, dropping only 10 m. in about 300 m. in both directions.

A field survey in the Autumn and Winter of 1975-6 showed the following:

1. Ridge and furrow in the N. half, running SW, and in the E. part running SE. The respective distances between troughs were 10 m. and 12 - 15 m.
2. A gully of even 15 m. width running from the E. boundary to approximately the field centre, separating the two ridge-and-furrow areas, and broadening into a rough circle.
3. Three further gullies leading from this circle, to the W., SW and S. respectively. Trial trenches across the first and third of these showed that the S. bank of the one had been strengthened by a revetment of laid stones for a short distance and that under the E. bank of the third was only the ridge-and-furrow. This gully led to a roughly triangular enclosure. All three ended in confused earthworks.
4. Earthworks of no coherent pattern, including saucer shaped depressions of from 3 - 12 m. diam. which also occur among the ridge-and-furrow to the W. of these gullies.

It is suggested that the earthworks are due to clay digging, the gullies being tracks for haulage, with broadenings for cart turning circles and the stone revetment for loading. The randomly scattered depressions could be caused by trial excavations and the other earthworks could be spoil heaps.

Dating evidence hardly exists, except that of a few medieval sherds from the trial trenches and that the earthworks were made in previously ploughed land. If clay was dug here it was taken elsewhere to be fired, possibly after puddling on site, and this field might have been used over a long period - since no effort appears to have been made to reclaim it - as a secondary source of material, for the workings are neither elaborate nor extensive.

(There may be documentary evidence for this field. ED.)

SURVEYS

FLINT DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS, RING DITCHES, AND BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN THE GREAT OUSE VALLEY, Bedfordshire. Some preliminary results - Peter J. Woodward *for the DoE and Bedfordshire County Council*

During the winter and spring of 1975/76 some work has been carried out as part of a B.A. settlement study for the Great Ouse Valley, outlined in: Newsletter 6, 1976, pp 14/15. This has initially concentrated on obtaining a flint distribution pattern to see in what ways this could amplify and to an extent solve the problems posed by our current B.A. settlement model based on the distribution of ring ditches from aerial photography, their excavation, and the occurrence of stray finds; and to assess the value of fieldwalking as a tool for problem solving in the context of landscape archaeology and settlement studies.

The fieldwalking programme and technique used to obtain the flint distribution pattern was not aimed at finding more 'sites' to add to our already over-worked distribution maps, but to record systematically the 'what', 'where' and 'how many' of flint artefacts in the plough soil, which are here considered as 'stratified' finds within the context of the single site of the Great Ouse Valley.

The areas for study initially selected were an 'extended' (three distinct groups) ring ditch site on the gravel terrace at Biddenham, and a traverse across the river valley at Roxton, relative to an excavated and discrete ring ditch group and an isolated unexcavated ring ditch, on to the glacial clay deposits above the river valley.

A systematic fieldwalking technique had to be specially designed for this programme in order to obtain the required qualitative and quantitative result. This was based on a grid system, with a systematic recording of field conditions, and an even and consistent scanning of study areas, in which the distribution pattern of different types of flint material in different areas could be meaningfully compared.

The grid was directly related to the National Grid, so that widely dispersed material of different types, sometimes from collection areas miles apart, could be easily compared, catalogued and retrieved. In order to offset any statistical aberration as a result of differential field conditions, the varying field conditions were recorded on a three point system of decreasing visual response based on an assessment of the nature of the plough soil, lighting and the weather (wet/dry...) conditions. An even and consistent scanning was achieved by keeping the speed of area coverage, scanned area and individual recognition of material, by a knowledgeable unvarying team, constant.

Although only two main areas have so far been covered, some preliminary interpretation of the fieldwalking programme, in conjunction with other evidence, can be made at this stage.

By a comparison with the excavated material from the Roxton ring ditches, the majority of the field material can be identified as being contemporary with B.A. ring ditch structures. It is suggested that the areas where different types of collected material concentrate can be identified as contemporary habitation foci. The flint distribution showed that these foci were adjacent to but not directly associated with the ring ditch structures whose primary function seems to be that of burial. The main habitation focus at Roxton was seen at the junction of the gravel terrace with the glacial clays well above the present flood plain of the river. Flints were found on the clays at Roxton, but these were in relatively

small quantities with an absence of tools. On the gravel terrace at Biddenham several foci could be identified away from the ring ditch groups, the scrapers forming one main focus next to the river. The source of the raw flint was probably local in the form of nodules, occurring frequently both in the gravels and the glacial clay deposits.

All this tends to suggest that the ring ditches, for burials, were an integral part of a complex settlement focus, rather than monuments thrown up by a transhumant population. It seems likely that these were erected on the gravels, at some distance away from the main settlement focus, perhaps because this would be land liable to seasonal flooding and therefore of marginal and limited use. It is suggested that the location of the focus of settlement at Roxton, at the junction of the gravel terrace with the glacial clays, was because of its preferred position with immediate access to two environmentally different areas. It is clear from the flint distribution that the clays were indeed used and it seems likely that the knapped flint material recovered from these areas could well be due to 'manuring'. It is fairly certain that the majority of the field material must be of local origin, but it is unlikely that it was mined in one specific area, since an erratic glacial material is unlikely to be concentrated and therefore its recovery by mining cannot be guaranteed. When a ring ditch was built suitable nodules would no doubt be used rather than thrown away into the bulk of the ring ditches structure. Large flint nodules would probably be obtained from the land surface, and this would have the added advantage of removing objects which would otherwise contribute to the frequent breakage of primitive ploughs.

The flint distributions at Biddenham and Roxton have clearly demonstrated a method for expanding our knowledge of B.A. settlement in and around the Great Ouse valley, and in doing so, the potential of fieldwalking in landscape archaeology can be clearly recognised. Future work is needed to amplify the present preliminary results and perhaps priority given to those areas where an imminent change of landscape by e.g. quarrying and changing arable to pasture, would destroy or conceal this sort of settlement evidence. It is important to recognise that this sort of evidence exists in all areas, even if it is of a 'negative' kind, and not just in areas where there are visibly identifiable archaeological sites. In some ways there is no such thing as a site in total landscape archaeology for it is the total area which is of interest to us, cropmarks, earthworks, artefact distributions being only elements of it.

If we are to develop fieldwalking as an archaeological field survey tool, then it will have implications for the majority of our present Sites and Monuments Records which are based on a unique numbering system for 'sites' loosely located in the National Grid with its inherent disadvantages of not regarding significant 'negative site areas'. If a Sites and Monuments Record is to be more than a basic index of archaeological information then it is suggested that a S.M.R. system with site reference numbers directly related to the National Grid reference would be more able to cope with this type of information, which is necessary if we wish to retrieve total information and project 'real' solutions to our archaeological problems, directly from the Sites and Monuments Record (A system of this type is being set up for the Cambridgeshire County Council).

As well as expanding our flint distribution patterns, it is hoped that in the next year we will be able to increase the scope of the survey programme by concentrating on a more detailed analysis of present aerial cover and an analysis of the relationship of later use and change of use of different areas of the

river valley in order to ascertain to what extent this could, when considered with other evidence, reflect earlier B.A. settlement patterns, e.g. the location and movement of villages.

AERIAL SURVEY 1976, Northamptonshire - J. Pickering

Further regular air cover was provided in N. Northamptonshire in late June and early July. In general, cropmarks were reduced by a short period of heavy rain in Spring, but many sites were visible to the W. of Northampton. Although a few of them have been recorded in the past, new features emerge almost every year and on every visit and the idea that there is a single peak period or exceptional year in which most of the archaeological potential can be recorded in a single flight is completely untenable.

The main bulk of the archaeological information from air photography has been built up slowly throughout the country in the past 30 years. Very little of this was visible this year and much of the material recorded was quite new. Parching produced new features and details in some known sites that had previously only produced cropmarks, but one of the enigmas of aerial archaeology is that many known sites never seem to produce crop, soil or parch marks.

The exceptional weather permutations in 1976 contributed a substantial number of sites in the clay soils between Northampton and Melton Mowbray, although much of this evidence was only visible for two or three days and was totally erased by a light rain shower. These were mainly rectangular enclosures of I.A./R.B. (?) date. They are below the soil levels disturbed to construct the extensive ridge and furrow field systems in this area. Present knowledge could not define whether these enclosures are in forest clearings or in open farmland, nor whether they can be related to any of the anomalous baulks or banks within the ridge and furrow complexes. Further aerial study, combined with field walking and a few selected excavations for the ecological context of these enclosures could produce data applicable to large areas of clay and its prehistoric and R.B. foliage.

GREAT DODDINGTON, Northamptonshire - G.R. Foard

Saxon Settlement

A programme of fieldwalking has been underway in Great Doddington for three years, but during the 1975/76 season the use of intensive systematic techniques on 500 of the total 600 acres led to the recovery of some 200 Pagan and Middle Saxon sherds, whereas only about 6 sherds had been recovered from the parish in previous years. Six separate locations have each produced concentrations of about 10 to 50 sherds, while further isolated sherds were scattered between these concentrations. The evidence suggests a pattern of dispersed hamlets or farmsteads, some occupied (?) continuously from the Roman period, with a density of up to five sites per square mile. Although it will be extremely difficult to prove, one might suggest that the nucleated village only came into existence in the Middle or Late Saxon period when these other sites were deserted, with the fully nucleated pattern being completed in the Post Medieval period when the 'Thorpe' was deserted.

The implications of such a development pattern, if corroborated by evidence from similar surveys in other parishes, are obviously far reaching, necessitating

not only the rejection of many discussions of placename evidence, but also the reconsideration of the whole idea of 'primary Saxon settlements' which established 'daughter settlements' in response to population increase - our evidence suggests a totally opposite sequence.

(This research was carried out for an MA dissertation presented at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London in 1976.)

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PARISH SURVEY - D.N. Hall, P.W. Martin, et al, *Higham Ferrers Hundred Archaeological Society*

The County parish survey continues following the schemes discussed previously (Newsletter 4 1974).

The 1975-6 season was very productive. An unusually large area was covered partly because of administrative help and partly because of the extraordinary winter. The dry weather helped significantly because so much greater an area could be covered without fatigue; dust on the ploughed fields in January was quite unbelievable. Administrative help was given by C. Burch, Northamptonshire Assistant Archivist, who provided relevant estate and pre-inclosure maps, and arranged permission to walk with all the landowners and tenants.

A total of 13 parishes were completed, covering about 25,000 acres. In all 76 parishes in the county have now been studied.

The same kind of settlement pattern was noted as discussed last year (Newsletter 6 1976, 27). Particularly interesting was the number of Saxon sites being discovered in the Peterborough region.

Ailsworth. At TF 124020 there is a scatter of Neolithic flints, and an R.B. settlement with 3 identifiable buildings, one with hypocaust tiles. A group of B.A. flints was recovered from TL 107985. Three iron-smelting sites represent clearance of early medieval woodland. The parish was inclosed in 1898 which allowed the furlong boundaries to be piled several feet high. The huge 'aggers' of the Roman road, Ermine Street, consists principally of medieval ploughsoil. The S. part of Ailsworth Heath contains ridge-and-furrow.

Barnack. Neolithic flints were found at TF 061042 and TF 059038. The latter produced polished axes and B.A. flints also. I.A. and R.B. occupation debris occurs at TF 060037. There are 7 iron bloomery sites. Known cropmarks at TF 084066 were shown to belong mainly to an R.B. settlement. A mound at TF 0840664 has a ring ditch cropmark surrounding it. Another R.B. site occurs at TF 063055.

Castor. This village contains the enormous complex of R.B. industrial suburbs and villas belonging to the town of Durobrivae. A new B.A. site was formed on river gravel at TL 133968. I.A. pottery occurs in quantity at TL 129997 just W. of a cropmark inclosure. I.A. and R.B. sherds lie near a hut-circle cropmark at TL 135993. Three R.B. buildings are identifiable from stone and sherd scatters at TF 139015. A remarkable Saxon village of some 30 acres is sited at TL 137999.

Five iron slag sites were found. The monastic grange of Belsize has earthworks surrounded by a rampart. The adjacent furlong pattern suggests it was once a unit agriculturally independent of Castor.

The country house of Milton stands on the site of a village but no traces of it are visible.

Draughton. Three areas of late Neolithic/Early B.A. flints are at SP 766772, SP 768780 and SP 768778, all on ironstone. The furlong pattern recorded should be identifiable in detail from two lengthy early C15th terriers. A windmill mound is largely made up of stone - perhaps the site of a cap mill?

Etton. An I.A. site occurs at TF 137042, and mixed I.A. and R.B. sites at TF 139063 and TF 144062. The last also yielded 10 Saxon sherds. The heavy clay at the S. end of the parish has an R.B. site at TF 137037. A Saxon village of about 5 acres lies on the gravel terraces at TF 132066.

The DMV of Woodcroft lies mostly W. of Woodcroft Castle. There are the usual earthworks, hollow ways and an abundance of sherds where part of the settlement area is ploughed.

Kings Cliffe. This forest village produced a B.A. site at TL 018965 and 3 R.B. sites at TL 017992, TL 021968 and TL 010990. Two of the sites are within the area of actual forest until it was cleared c.1850, showing the post-Roman origin of the woodland. Ten iron bloomery sites have been identified. To the east of the parish was Cliffe Park which contains some ridge-and-furrow. The village fish ponds are preserved, a little medieval ridge-and-furrow, and some excellent examples of Victorian steam plough ridges.

Marholm. A lead seal marked with a chi-rho on one side and a Roman eagle on the other was found on a known R.B. site at TF 150026. A cropmark site near Burmer Wood had dark occupation areas with R.B. sherds (TF 142014). There are village earthworks to the W. and a manorial rampart around the present Manor Farm.

Sutton. Neolithic sites occur at TL 099990 (many flints including transverse arrowheads), and B.A. material was discovered at TL 103985. An R.B. site at TL 094985, yielded building stone and roofing tile.

Like Castor and Ailsworth the furlong boundaries are high because of the late Inclosure. Sutton Heath contains ridge-and-furrow, but not Sutton Wood, which is ramparted in the manor of medieval woods. Adjacent to the village are fields of earthworks, a sunken road and possible fish ponds.

Upton. Two Neolithic sites lie at TF 106013 and TF 108007, the latter yielding a leaf-shaped arrowhead. Early I.A. sherds were found at TL 106995. A small R.B. site occurs at TF 093005; the known site, at TF 108014, is very extensive and yielded a lot of building debris and some window lead. A small Saxon site with several acres of sherds was identified at TF 106000.

Slag patches were found in 10 different places. The Roman road, King Street, is visible as a slight gravel-covered agger (not a furlong boundary) east of the village. The village is very shrunken and has a hollow way with some adjacent earthworks. The furlong pattern was difficult to recover because Inclosure took place early (before c.1685).

Yelvertoft. Romano-British sherds occur at SP 595745. This village is typical of the NW with rolling acres of ridge-and-furrow and extensive village earthworks. The manor site (Hall Yard) is adjacent to a fishpond and watermill complex. The mill has a long race which is mentioned in C13th documents. There are the usual hollow ways and a very pronounced windmill mound. The history is being studied in depth by E. Timmins of Rugby.

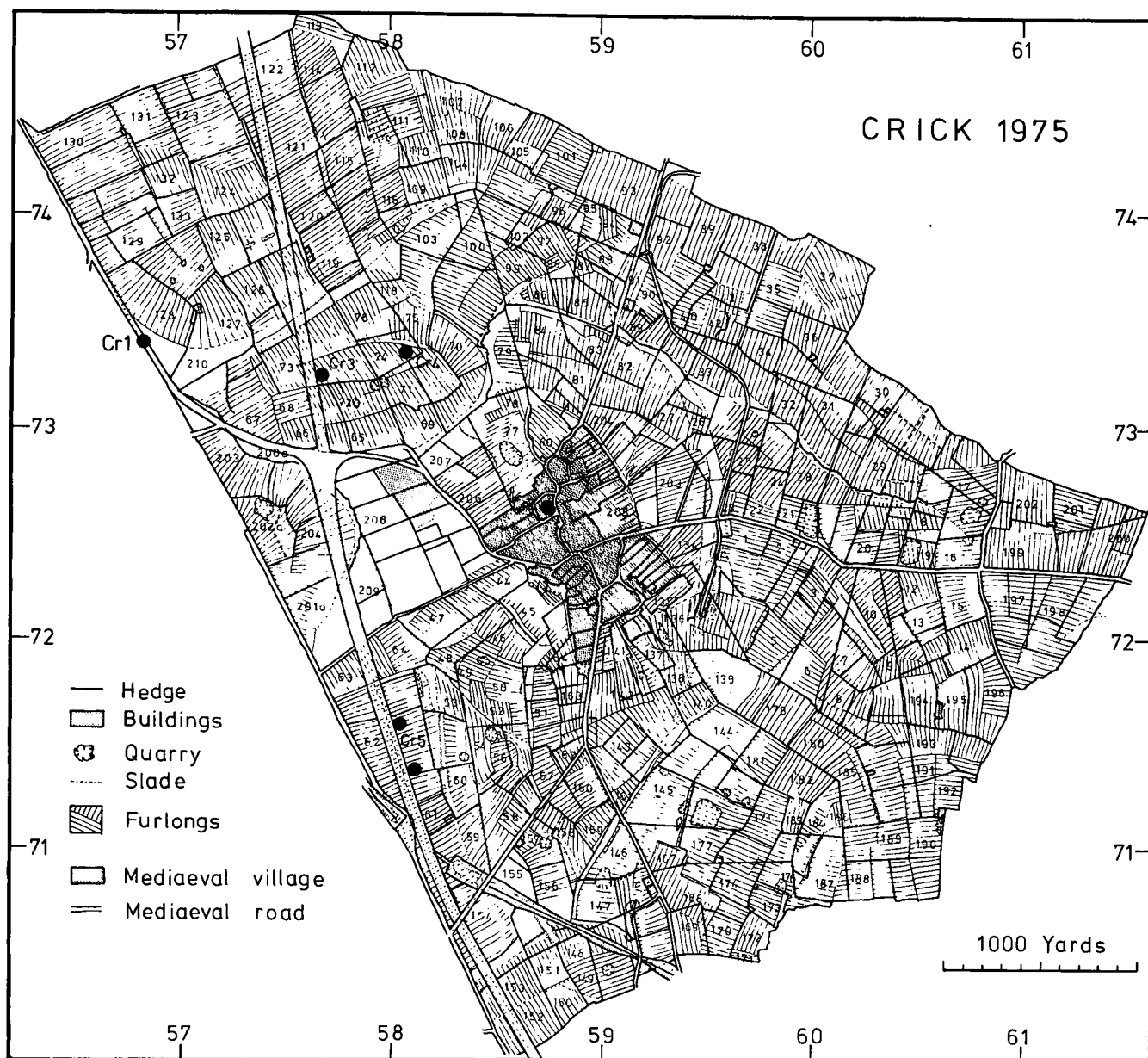


Fig. 4

We wish to thank C.E.C. Burch, E. Timmins, D. Steele, the Rev. Canon, P. M.J. Bryan and E. Westaway for help with these surveys.

CRICK PARISH SURVEY, SP 589723 - David Hall and Ruth Harding

A brief account of the parish survey was given in Newsletter No. 6 1976, 28. We present here the open field plan in Fig. 4. Pre-medieval sites are represented by the solid circles, they are tabulated below:

Cr. 1	SP 568734	Saxon burial discovered by roadworks
Cr. 2	SP 580725	R.B. pottery found in the village
Cr. 3	SP 577733	R.B. pottery and building stone on edge of M.1 cutting
Cr. 4	SP 581734	R.B. sherds
Cr. 5	SP 581714	Early I.A. site with dark soil, burnt pebbles and sherds

The fishponds mentioned previously are NW of furlong 137, as noticed in several other cases two ridge-and-furrow in them. The windmill mound lies between furlongs 137 and 142. From the furlong names other mills stood near the Yelvertoft boundary in the area of furlong 38 and 39.

Village earthworks are preserved E. of the present settlement. They appear to have spread on the earlier ridge-and-furrow (furlong 205). The manor house stood at the SW near furlong 43.

Many of the quarries are referred to in the earliest glebe terrier of 1632. On furlong 146 the Gostill Pits can still be seen. Furlong 49 has been partly quarried and then ridge-and-furrow ploughed into it again. Lime pits are mentioned in some documents which was baffling in a stoneland part until a revisit to furlong 106 revealed chalky nodules in the clay.

The furlong pattern is normal for this region of Northamptonshire; it is too much influenced by the undulating terrain and water courses to detect any directional reclamation of land from a particular centre. Many exceptionally fine unploughed fields remain. Furlongs 79, 81 and 84 have double headlands and joints caused by leaving grass and forming new turning places for the plough. Furlong 111 is unique in being ploughed in two directions to try and overcome drainage problems. The modern field E. of furlong 149 is C19th steam ploughed ridge-and-furrow which goes over a 1812 canal earthwork.

The furlong names have been worked out from the modern field names collected in 1932 and 1975; the glebe terriers, particularly the earliest of 1632; and from the Enclosure Commissioners Quality Book of c.1775, they are tabulated below.

We are grateful to all the farmers of Crick for readily allowing access to their fields; and are particularly indebted to Jim Morgan, John Mason and Peter Cooling for their hospitality and interest.

FURLONG NAMES

HAIN FIELD

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Breach furlong | 7. Goblin furlong |
| 2. Breach furlong | 8. Leys or Lands at Churchway |
| 3. Lower Fern Hill | 9. - |
| 4. Fulhall | 10. Upper Goblin furlong |
| 5. Upper Fern Hill | 11. Before Haddon Hill |
| 6. Hollow Hill | 12. Top of Haddon Hill |

13. Harborough furlong
14. Far furlong
15. The Furlong shooting to the Wold
16. Lot Grass at Foxholes
17. Foxholes furlong
18. Short Stanhill
19. Top of Haddon Hill
20. Before Haddon Hill
21. Upper Winwick Way
22. Lower Winwick Way
23. Water Furrows
24. Oat Hill furlong
25. Oat Hill furlong
26. Warmbrook Leys
27. Green Hill
28. Long Stanhill
29. Wakerley furlong
30. Heath furlong
31. Bullock Leys
32. Butchill Brook
33. Brimswell furlong
34. Broken Back
35. Long furlong
36. High Crick
37. Behind Craxhill
38. The Meere
39. Longlands
40. Harp Leys
41. Side of Craxill
42. Before Craxill
43. Well Hill

HALL FIELD

44. Horse Croft
45. Well Hill
46. Dunstill furlong
47. Homeward Meadow Hades
48. Under Hanging
49. Hanging furlong
50. Golding furlong
51. Ashby Way furlong
52. South of Hanging Piece
53. Golding Plank furlong
54. Plowmans furlong
55. Golding Pits furlong
56. Rid Hill furlong
57. Further Ashby Way furlong
58. Batcher Gap
59. Under Rid Hill furlong
60. Gallows Bank furlong
61. Oat Hill furlong
62. Oat Hill furlong
63. Far Meadow Hades
64. Aytchmoor furlong

NORTH FIELD

65. Meadow Hades furlong
66. Crow furlong Lots
67. Nether Crow furlong
68. Upper Crow furlong
69. Hood Hill Leys
70. North Hill End
71. Hood Hill furlong
72. -
73. Long Bean furlong
74. Short Bean furlong
75. North Hill End
76. -
77. Barley Croft Plain
78. Barley Croft
79. Barley Croft Plain
80. Townsen furlong
81. -
82. Green Hill
83. Hogs Leare furlong
84. Stanford Way furlong
85. Stones furlong
86. Edmonds Stone Pit furlong
87. Eleven
88. Bean Hill
89. Brimswell Leys
90. Craxill furlong
91. -
92. Furlong shooting to Fishers Headland
93. The Mere
94. Before Dundike
95. Top of Dundike
96. Bantham furlong
97. Cross Dockham
98. -
99. Before Dockham
100. Middle Dockham
101. Gutthorn furlong
102. -
103. Behind Dockham
104. Barkham Sitch furlong
105. Furlong Before Whitland
106. Whitland
107. Limepitts
108. Limepitts furlong
109. Ashwells Piece
110. -
111. -
112. Awnor
113. Awnor
114. Top of Awnor
115. -

- 116. Crooked Hades furlong
- 117. Pistol End furlong
- 118. Judkins Piece
- 119. Leys at top of Judkins Piece
- 120. Lilburn
- 121. -
- 122. Behind Awnor
- 123. Plowmans Leys
- 124. Robinsons Leys
- 125. Hall Ground Leys
- 126. Hall Ground Leys
- 127. Ford Way
- 128. Wold furlong
- 129. Wold furlong
- 130. Wold furlong
- 131. -
- 132. Whitmills piece
- 133. Parnels Furze

MILL FIELD

- 134. -
- 135. -
- 136. Fulhall
- 137. Leys at top of Dr.'s Close
- 138. -
- 139. Shoulbread furlong
- 140. Churn furlong
- 141. Townsend Leys
- 142. Mill Leys
- 143. Stanhill Land furlong
- 144. Clarks Hade furlong
- 145. Furlong before Bin furlong
- 146. Furlong over Watford Way
- 147. Gost Hill
- 148. Furlong before Showell Hill
- 149. Behind Showell Hill
- 150. Kersey Cutts
- 151. Kersey furlong
- 152. Kersey furlong
- 153. Cross Kersey
- 154. Street furlong
- 155. Hawk Ley Hill
- 156. Stanhill furlong
- 157. Batcher Gap
- 158. Plowmans furlong
- 159. Whitmills Piece
- 160. Whitmills Close
- 161. Cross
- 162. Ashby Way furlong
- 163. Lark Ley Hill
- 164. High Leys
- 165. Under Watford Way

- 166. Edmonds Piece
- 167. Cracksley Land furlong
- 168. -
- 169. Leys at top of Watford Way
- 170. Highdon Corner
- 171. Highdon Corner Headpiece
- 172. Highdon Corner
- 173. Blakemoor furlong
- 174. Highdon Corner furlong
- 175. Blakemoor furlong
- 176. Blakemoor Goggs
- 177. Behind Bin furlong
- 178. Portlow
- 179. Portlow Leys
- 180. Portlow
- 181. Pipsom
- 182. Pipsom furlong
- 183. Short Hoo
- 184. Short Hoo
- 185. Short Hoo
- 186. Short Hoo
- 187. Long Hoo
- 188. Naseborough
- 189. Naseborough
- 190. Butts behind the Hadland
- 191. Church Hadland
- 192. Silsworth Corner
- 193. Three Lows furlong
- 194. Church Way furlong
- 195. High Thorn furlong
- 196. Furlong shooting to Abbots
Bridle Gate
- 197. The Wolds
- 198. The Wolds
- 199. The Great Pen
- 200. The Great Pen
- 201. The Great Pen
- 202. The Great Pen
- 203. The March
- 204. -
- 200a Broad Hooks
- 201a Rudd Hill
- 202a The Gravel Pitts at Rudd Hill
- 203a From the Street Road to the
Turnpike Road
- 204a Rudd Hill
- 205 -
- 206. Kings Stile
- 207. Little Meadow
- 208. Great Meadow
- 209. Aytchmoor Meadow
- 210. Hollow Croft

CHURCHYARD SURVEYS: A Comment - David H. Kennett

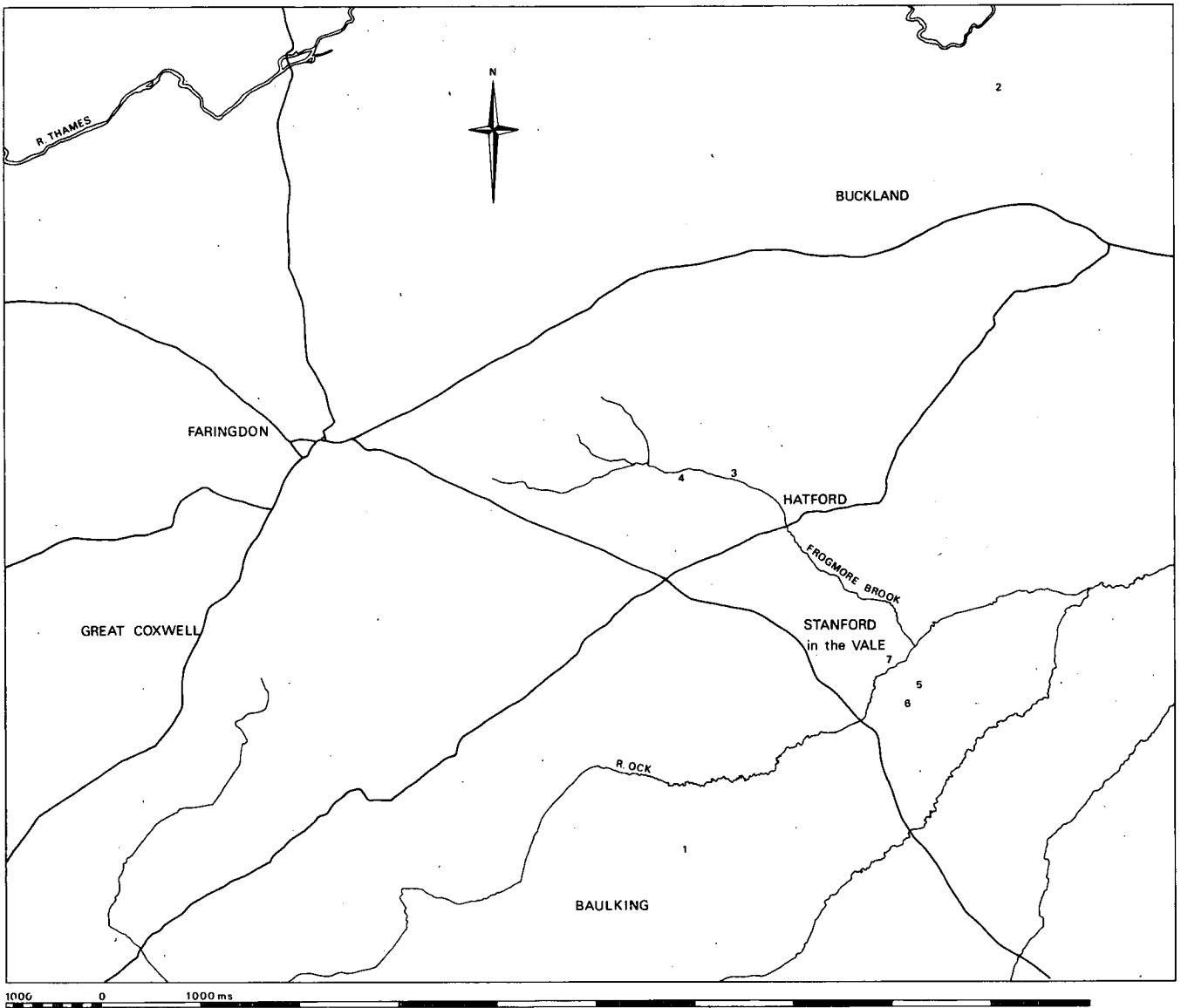
In Newsletter No. 6, 8-10, was a report on 'A Survey of the Memorials in the Churchyard of All Saints Church, Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire', by Fran Stewart for the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society. Its detail is impressive, and it raises some interesting general problems. Work on the churchyard of the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Luton in 1974 shows that town burial grounds may yield equally informative results. Closed except for additional burials in existing graves, in 1854, all the surviving memorials date to burials made after 1770: only 89 of the 165 could be read and only 5 of these included burials before 1800, 3 on stones with later graves. Used as supplement evidence for solving the historical problem of Luton before the hat trade, the social fabric of a rural town, the gravestones of the parish church provide first an important indication of religious affiliation, second a date of death - and more rarely of birth, which is not usually given in parish registers before 1812, and third some demographic answers to queries raised by documentary sources.

The last may be illustrated by the Burrs, a brewing family, who sold out in 1857. Their two altar tombs outside the W. door show how all the children of William and Elizabeth Burr died in infancy, thus leaving the two other brothers, Frederick and Charles, neither of whom had surviving issue sufficiently interested to continue the business, perhaps little alternative but to put the brewery and its tied houses up for sale.

The first comment, allied to the study of wills, and their probate values, suggests that whatever impression may be gained of Victorian money being non-conformist in Luton, the early C19th was distinctly dominated by a combination of farming, malting and brewing interests and their affiliation was Anglican.

The value of a tombstone survey lies in the rapid accumulation of factual information, which may be difficult to trace otherwise. But in a town, a man buried in a churchyard is likely to be a practising member of the congregation and demographic records might thus be available. Ages are usually given on memorials and this does save laborious searching, which may be fruitless if the man or his wife came from outside the town. Infant mortalities do show up in parish registers; marriages certainly do and here a tombstone is unlikely to be of value. Forenames might be better traced from baptismal registers (and birth registers from 1837 onwards): it would give a truer picture because it would take into account children who died young. However, tombstones are also valuable for the sentiments expressed: a closed group, 1800-1854, still reveals a changing fashion in these matters. This, in an age before newspapers in small towns, enables a fragment of social history to be revealed which might otherwise be closed. Incidentally a Victorian town cemetery might extend this aspect of fieldwork. The churchyard fieldwork reveals also the scale of what has been lost. Edmund Cresy, in a report to the General Board of Health, in 1850 noted 2187 interments in 21 years, or 104 per annum. The surviving tombstones (total 165) are a year and a half at that level, or three per annum. About 15/20 years ago there were perhaps 300 stones surviving and engravings by Thomas Fisher of 1827 make it clear that the churchyard studied was very much more crowded than this. Ultimately the value of such a survey may lie more in the sidelights it provides, in this case on Luton as a rural town. The best and most durable stone - a superb piece of granite - belongs not to the richest man buried, but to a stonemason, Thomas Haselgrove, whose son continued the business.

"How to record graveyards" by Jeremy Jones (75p CBA and RESCUE is commended to all interested in this work. ED.)



FIELDWORK IN THE FARINGDON AREA

Fig. 5

FIELDWORK IN THE FARINGDON AREA - *Faringdon Archaeological Study Group*.

The local archaeology group at Faringdon, initiated by the Oxford Department for External Studies has located and examined a number of sites in the area. These are listed below (see Fig. 5 for site numbers).

1. Baulking

SU 326914

Large curvi-linear features can be seen as soil marks on RAF photograph (f21/0202) around the W. side of Baulking Hill. These may be geological features rather than ditches (see D. Wilson, ed. Aerial Reconnaissance for Archaeology 1975, 63, Fig. 4), but subsequent fieldwalking produced large quantities of C1st A.D. pottery including Samian.

2. Buckland

SU 357991

It has been suggested that the site of Newton Deserted Medieval Village lies at SU 360980 (Berks. Archaeol. J. 60, (1962), 92). John Rocque records no buildings on this site in 1761. Examination of Lower Newton Farm (Newton Farm on Rocque's map) shows there to be fishponds, a dovecote reused as a cattle shed, remains of a ?manor house, and earthworks, and it seems possible that this is the site of the original village. Further survey will be conducted here.

The area alongside Frogmore Brook is proving to be an archaeologically interesting area. Hatford village, as its name implies, lies on a promontory of land at a crossing of the brook. It is already well known as a site of pre-historic and R.B. occupation and Riley recorded cropmarks on the opposite side of the brook. The fields alongside Frogmore Brook are all known as 'The Common' in the 1846 Tithe Award, and although traditionally an area of pasture, several fields here have been ploughed in recent years.

3. Hatford

SU 331952

Fieldwalking on the area of recently located cropmarks (see p.58) produced R.B. pottery and some stone.

4. Stanford-in-the-Vale

SU 325951

Ploughing here has revealed R.B. building material including tiles, coral ragstone, and a large block of dressed oolitic limestone with a mortared surface. Distinct building platforms can still be seen and the lines of walls run across the field in several directions. The site was surveyed and systematically fieldwalked in 10 m. strips. A large quantity of C2 - C4th R.B. pottery was found on the site and also an amber bead, probably of Saxon date. It seems likely that a villa stood here, in a situation not unlike that of Shakenoak, alongside the Frogmore Brook, and possibly on both sides of it. The main building platforms are on a slightly higher terrace of Corallian sand overlooking the brook to the N. Elsewhere along the valley the terrace edge is quite pronounced, but here has been smoothed out, possibly as a result of the R.B. occupation. The existence of upstanding earthworks suggests that the stratigraphy within the structures may well be intact. Continued ploughing will certainly rapidly destroy this. Some 800 R.B. coins have been found to the SE (PRN 9237, 7061, 7570). V.C.H. Berkshire I, 214; IV, 478.

5. Stanford-in-the-Vale

SU 32809505 - SU 32949515

Patches of stone and a thin scatter of R.B. pottery occur along the S.

side of Frogmore Brook towards Hatford. Between these points a distinct line of stone can be seen in the plough soil running at right angles to the brook for approximately 200 m. R.B. pottery including Samian was found among the stone. The stone probably represents the foundation of a R.B. field wall, perhaps enclosing grazing land by the stream.

6. Stanford-in-the-Vale

SU 348932

Six long narrow fields approximately 350 m. x 70 m. known as Wick Closes. Species counting produced averages of 4.3 and 7 species for two of the hedges (ivy and blackberry present but not counted). References to Thomas atte Wyke as a free tenant of Stanford in 1274 (PRO Ref. C. 133/128 and in 1489). 'John Peny's ditch as Wykeclosende is a nuisance' (B.M. Add Roll 492, 97) suggest that these fields seem to represent early enclosure associated with dairy farming.

7. Stanford-in-the-Vale

SU 347928

A scatter of stones and shallow earthworks produced C12th pottery. This is a possible farmstead associated with Wick Closes (6.). It is worth noting though, that Garfield Hundred (in which Stanford lies) has a lost Domesday settlement known as Liercote (Margaret Gelling, The Place-Names of Berkshire 1974, Part 2, 386, suggests this may be at Barcote).

8. Stanford-in-the-Vale

SU 345932

Coarse R.B. pottery (mainly C2 - C3rd A.D.) has been found over an area of approximately 6 hectares; also a coin (copy of a follis 330-40). R.B. pot has previously been found at the Manor House approximately 300 m. NE of this. It seems likely that Stanford is the site of an extensive R.B. settlement.

9. Great Faringdon

SU 29353060

C12 - C13th pottery found over 0.2 hectares at Sudbury House.

10. Buscot

SU 227981

Earthworks and hollow-ways between the isolated church and the present village of Buscot have produced medieval pottery of C14 - C15th date. The fabrics are similar to Mouny (Wilts.), Gloucester and Oxford types. There are several C19th sherds amongst the material and some R.B. coarse wares. The field adjoining the church is the site of "Buscot Old House" (T.A. 1839) demolished by 1860 (estate map), earthworks are visible.

11. Buscot

SU 218988, PRN 1831-4

Triple concentric circle. Farmer reports that circles could be clearly seen in grassland during 1976 drought. Fieldwalked after ploughing; no finds.

12. Buscot

SU 217982, PRN 1410

Sub-rectangular enclosure. Earthwork still partially visible in plough-land; a wide shallow ditch c.300 m. circumference, 6 - 8 m. wide, 1 m. maximum depth. No central mound. No finds.

OXFORDSHIRE MONASTIC SITES



Fig. 6

A SURVEY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF MONASTIC SITES IN OXFORDSHIRE -
Patricia Smyth

The object of this was to determine the extent of knowledge of pre-1540 monastic sites in Oxfordshire. The O.S. Monastic Britain S. Sheet, 2nd edit. 1954 provided the basis, and documentary and architectural evidence as well as field investigation, and records of any observations and excavations, were all used.

The survey deals with 89 sites as recorded on the map and these can be categorised as follows:

- 29 including 15 Oxford colleges, medieval secular foundations, and 9 scheduled or listed buildings, retain their structures more or less intact.
- 21 including 3 camerae of the Knights Hospitallers and Templars, and 2 of 4 granges are generally located from documentary evidence or local tradition but the exact sites remain undiscovered.
- 18 have post-medieval buildings on known sites.
- 4 have exactly known sites but no visible remains either in isolation or incorporated into later structures.
- 17 remain unlocated.

Benedictine and Augustinian foundations were most important, and no Carthusian, Premonstratensian or Cluniac houses are recorded in the county. Most work has been done on the first two kinds of houses named. Abingdon in 1922, Bicester 1819, 1962-3, 1968, Dorchester 1972, Eynsham 1971, Osney 1951, Wroxton 1966 have all been excavated to some extent. Thame has not been looked at but some of its structures are known to be incorporated in modern buildings. Only 5 sites outside Oxford have had field investigations since 1971, namely Abingdon, Cold Norton, Godstow, Ewelme and Sibford.

Oxford should be considered separately. The situation here is now more stabilised as in most cases the evidence is either sealed beneath listed buildings or has been destroyed, after investigation, by recent construction work. None of the 6 regular monastic colleges have been excavated to any extent except St. Frideswide's, and only 6 of the 15 secular have been investigated below ground level. Two sites in the grounds of New College, those of the Crutched Friars and St. Peter's Hospital, said by Wood to have been demolished when New College was built, remain undiscovered but 2 of the 7 Oxford foundations of the Friars - the Blackfriars and the Greyfriars - have been reasonably extensively excavated recently before the building of the new Westgate complex.

The most critical situation is in the remoter parts of the county where there is a lack of knowledge, and where deep ploughing is often obliterating buried evidence. A few final examples will illustrate better, than generalisations. The 13th collegiate church in the outer bailey of Wallingford Castle needs a preservation order or excavation before it goes - part of the S. wall alone stands. Earthworks at Sandford of one of the largest foundations of the Knights Templars outside London have only been looked at from the air, while the sites of the 2 nunneries of St. John of Jerusalem at Gosford and Clanfield have not been looked at all. The 3 cistercian sites at Bruern, Otley and Faringdon have not been clearly determined, and, apart from Abingdon and Oxford very little work has been done on the pre-Reformation hospitals, including the Gilbertine Priory of Clattercote, a leper hospital until 1250.

MOOR COURT, LEWKNOR, OXON.

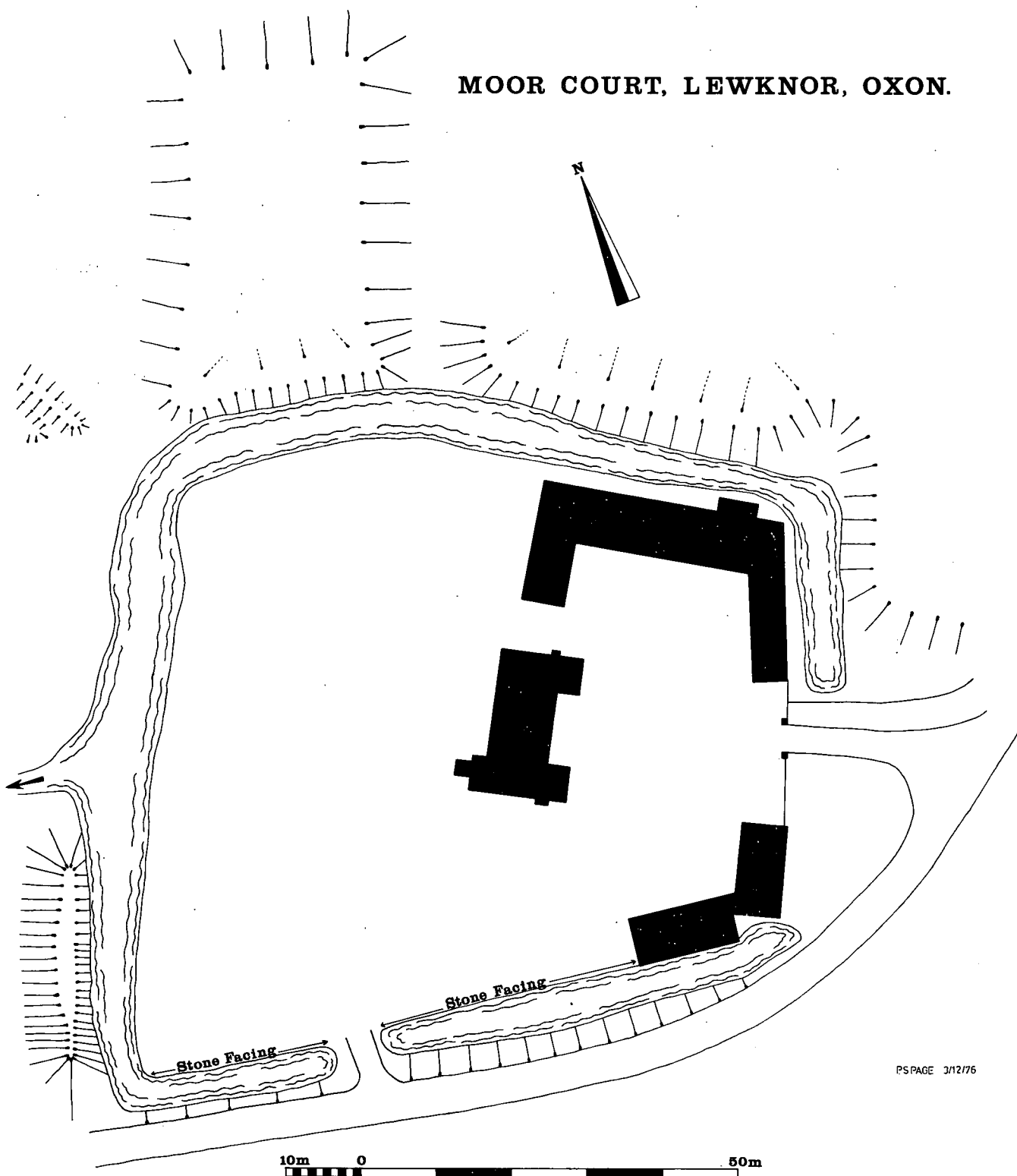


Fig. 7

A MOATED SITE AT MOOR COURT, LEWKNOR, Oxfordshire - P.S. Page and D. Gadd

The following brief note accompanies a survey of the moat at Moor Court, Lewknor, Oxfordshire, that was undertaken during November 1976. It is intended that further documentary and fieldwork will take place during 1977.

The site itself lies less than a quarter mile NW of Lewknor village and about half a mile from the parish church. It is one of the three manors in the parish of Lewknor all of which lay outside of the village, the others being Lewknor Manor and Nethercote Manor, the latter also was moated.

Moor Court¹ was originally a holding of an ancestor of the De Wheatfield family but after 1279 no more is heard of their tenancy in Lewknor. By 1300, it seems that Ralph son of Sir Geoffrey de Lewknor held the estate known as 'Moor'. By the late C14th it was held by Sir Robert Symeon and continued in the hands of this family up to the C16th when it became part of the estate of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. In 1545, it was sold to Christopher Edmonds and Sir Richard Long, and was given to Edmond's stepfather Sir John Williams. Williams' widow remained and the estate descended to a certain Edward Wray, who sold it to a Reading clothier, William Kendrick, who in turn sold it to Richard Winlow in 1698. Winlow had no male heirs and Moor Court eventually descended to his grandson Francis Bernard who sold it in 1742 and 1744 to the Warden and Fellows of All Souls College, Oxford, who are the present owners.

Moor Court is one of a group of moated sites in Oxfordshire which lie along the foot of the Chilterns between the chalk of the hills and the upper green sand and gault clay of the vale, taking advantage of the spring line. It would seem to conform to the general pattern of moats in Oxfordshire being one of the 41 definite manorial moated sites and one of the 106 single island moated sites out of the county's total of 111 positively identified sites. The number of manorial moated sites is almost certainly higher than the above figure as there are a further 21 probable sites. It is unusual as a seignorial site in the distance it lies from the parish church and village. At least 68% of the moated manors in Oxfordshire lie in the village and close to the church, and although Lewknor is a shrunken village there is no evidence to suggest the village extended either in the direction or as far as Moor Court.

The moat itself is trapezoidal in shape, one of only two so far identified in the county, and encloses an island that is approximately 5,120 square m. or just over half a hectare. The main entrance is in the SE arm and there is another probably more recent one to the S. The condition of the moat is generally good except to the SW of the main entrance where either deliberate back filling or silting has taken place and there is now a gap of nearly 30 m. between the two arms of the moat. In width it varies from a minimum of just under 5 m. to a maximum of just over 10 m. where the water flows out to the NW. There are still traces of bank extract on the outside of the NW and NE arms. The best preserved outer bank is to the NW and stands to a height of approximately 1.5 m. in an orchard which is divided from the field adjoining the majority of the moat by the stream which flows out of the moat. The remains of the bank on the NE are smaller, not much more than 0.5 m. A road runs by the SW arms of the moat, with a gentle slope down from this to the lip. On the opposite side the remains of stone facing can be seen forming the edge of the moat and this is carried on into the brick footings of one of the farm buildings at the SE end of this arm.

In the field to the NE of the moat are some earthworks which consist of fair shallow ditches or gulleys which radiate outwards from the moat to the

boundary of the field. The one radiating from the NW corner of the moat also has a slight parallel bank. It was suggested that these might represent the remains of a floated water meadow, like that found adjoining Blenheim Park, but there is no evidence to support this and it seems more likely they were drainage channels. The slightly raised platform adjoining the moat may represent some form of enclosure or buildings.

The N. most building on the island is a barn which has a small N. extension with doors opening out onto the moat. It is not inconceivable that prior to its being piped, the stream which now flows out of the moat, and whose old course can still be seen in the orchard.

As yet no firm dating evidence has been found for the moat itself and more documentary research is necessary, but it is possible that the moat is post medieval as it does not appear on a map of the C16th.

1. The documentary account is based upon that in V.C.H. Oxon VIII (1907)

COUNTIES AND UNITS

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - David Baker, *Planning Department Section and Field Archaeological Team.*

Survey

The programme of rapid parish survey is continuing, with over 40 parishes now completed or in progress of survey. Students from the Oxford University/DoE In-Service Course have played a major part in this work. Routine vertical aerial photographic coverage of the entire county was obtained for planning purposes, but arrangements were made for the flights to take place in late June/early July: consequently a massive amount of new information is available from cropmark evidence. Surveys of historic buildings for listing purposes have been completed for S. Bedfordshire district, and are now moving into Sandy and Biggleswade.

Post-Excavation

Reports on rescue excavations at Cainhoe Castle and Willington have recently been published (Beds. Archae. J. 10 1975). Preparation of the report on the Roxton site is nearing completion. Preparation of a monograph covering the excavations in Bedford from 1967 to 1976 (including Bedford Castle) is in progress.

Sites and Monuments Record

Items accessed now total over 7,750. A series of county topic maps are being prepared, covering such as R.B. Bedfordshire, Castles and Abbeys, Moats etc. A series of maps is also being produced in the course of intensive work on the Industrial Archaeology of the County.

General

Pressure on resources continues in an age of inflation. The pace of the field programme and the effort in survey and post-excavation has been maintained and extended thanks to the Job Creation Programme. Two projects have been approved, involving a total of 20 people, mostly unemployed school leavers: their contribution has enabled work to be done which would have had to have been sacrificed in the face of rising costs, as well as additional work not otherwise possible.

(Reports elsewhere in this number illustrate the work done by the Field Archaeological Team. ED.)

RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORDSHIRE 1972-76

A review taken from a guide and a supplement to a travelling exhibition which toured Bedfordshire libraries and museums during late 1976 and early 1977.

1. Archaeology aims to reconstruct the human past by discovering and studying material remains which have survived until today. These are all around us, visible and invisible, on and below the surface of the ground. Inevitably they are affected by the ground disturbance which is made by the needs of modern society, such as housing development, road construction, mineral extraction and mechanised agriculture. The aim of rescue archaeology is to make a record of historic sites and buildings when it is not possible to hand them on in the flesh to future generations. Preservation is always the preferable alternative, but the opportunity to add to our knowledge must not be lost when this is impracticable.

In nearly five years since 1972, the rescue archaeology service in Bedfordshire has developed through a combination of public and private effort, from within and without the county.

The County Planning Department has a Field Archaeological Team attached to its Conservation Section. This is largely funded by grants from the DoE. Contributions towards running costs are made by the County Council, some District Councils, and on occasions by private concerns. North Bedfordshire Borough Council's Museum acts as the base and repository for excavated material, though finds from within the collecting area of Luton Museum will ultimately be deposited there.

Local archaeological societies, meeting together in the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council, take part in the rescue archaeology programme, and some receive grant aid through the County Council. The BAC also publishes the Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal, which is the main academic outlet for research results.

2. How are various parts of the Bedfordshire heritage affected by the destructive aspects of modern development?

2.1 The historic plans of our towns and villages, perhaps like Bedford dating back to medieval and Saxon times, will be altered and expanded by development which has been accelerating from the mid C19th.

2.2 Individual historic buildings may be renovated, altered, disfigured or demolished. Their replacement with new basement buildings can also destroy evidence of earlier buildings on the same site.

2.3 Expanding villages; deep ploughing; mineral extraction for sand, and for gravel in particular; roads; and public utility pipelines; all constitute threats and even excessive public pressure can have its dangers. Vandalism, metal detectors and the trampling of too many feet can all damage sites and monuments.

3. In theory, there is a well-regulated system for detecting and dealing with rescue situations in Bedfordshire. The accumulated state of knowledge on the location of sites, supplemented by a current parish field survey programme, is registered on the Bedfordshire Sites and Monuments Record, which provides the information against which planning applications can be checked. If a conflict of interest between the preservation of an archaeological site and some form of development is detected, and a planning decision is made in favour of development, then the value of the site has to be assessed, and a rescue excavation or some form of surveillance organised accordingly. The result will be published in academic and popular form, for display in museums and for use in schools.

In practice, many of the sites in the programme of the last five years were threatened through planning consents given before the County Council acquired professional archaeological advice. Also, one of the major forms of ground disturbance, normal agricultural operations, is outside planning control: it is extremely difficult to keep a check on the impact of farming upon archaeological sites.

The Bedfordshire Sites and Monuments Record is a planning information system, an index for academic research, a resource for educational purposes, and, parallel with the County Record Office and Local History Libraries, a means of answering and assisting everyday public queries.

Based on that initiated at Woodstock for Oxfordshire, it consists of 4 main elements - Primary Record Cards, Record Maps, other information including photographs, and an information retrieval system based on optical coincidence cards.

4. In Bedfordshire there are few visible remains from earlier periods than the Neolithic (c. 3,000 - 1,800 B.C.) and B.A. (c. 1,800 - 750 B.C.). Most examples from these times are found on the chalk downs in the south of the county, and along the gravels of the Great Ouse river system.

Along the river valleys, the light soils, good drainage and the river for transport favoured early settlement whose traces can still be seen in cropmarks caused by differential growth reflecting the buried ditches and pits cut into the gravel subsoil. That most frequently associated with the B.A. is the ring or circle, and a group of 5 of these were detected at Roxton through aerial photography, on a site due to be worked for gravel extraction.

These ring cropmarks generally indicate a burial made for certain members of society in the early B.A. The burial was cut into or placed on the ground surface and covered by a mound constructed from the material thrown out of a circular quarry ditch cut around it. Sometimes surrounding banks were also constructed, but these, and the mounds, have been subsequently ploughed flat.

Rescue excavations at the Roxton ring-ditches were able to show through carbon dating of the two surviving central burials that they were constructed in the early B.A. (c. 1700 B.C.). (Newsletter 5,12, 6.16)

5. Mineral extraction has also prompted excavation at two other sites in the Ouse Valley which, like Roxton, were first known through aerial photography.

At Odell the method of quarrying affords a rare opportunity to investigate a complete settlement site and to examine its landscape context (Newsletter 6, 16 and above).

At Newnham, substantial stone buildings formed the nucleus of the farming unit. As at Odell, late Iron age use of the site preceded the more substantial Roman occupation (Newsletter 5, 17; 6, 17).

6. Several of the religious houses which existed in medieval Bedfordshire have been the subject of various threats in recent years including Dunstable Friary from urban redevelopment, Newnham Priory from gravel extraction, Warden Abbey (ironically) from necessary ground work associated with a restoration programme, and Grove Priory from sand extraction.

Warden Abbey, a large and important Cistercian house, founded in 1135, survives today only as earthworks and a small building, recently restored by the Landmark Trust. This was originally part of the abbots' lodgings, and was incorporated in the mansion which replaced the abbey after the Dissolution, to survive a second time when the rest of the mansion was demolished in its turn.

The restoration in 1974-75 involved ground disturbance around the building. The existence of a mosaic tile pavement in the area of the church had been known since 1962, and this was re-excavated and taken to Bedford Museum for conservation and will eventually be displayed. An unexpected discovery was a second pavement, better preserved, in a demolished part of the lodgings building itself, just outside the building that survives today. Tiles included examples with lionsheads, and parts of garments and limbs, all individually shaped. Several had graffiti on their sides and backs, giving in words and symbols the instructions for laying. Both pavements probably date from the early C14th, and together represent a major artistic discovery.

Grove Priory, near Leighton Buzzard, belonged to the Order of Fontevrault, and was founded in the middle of the C12th by Henry II (Newsletter 6, 21-2 and 7).

7. Bedford is the county town and has the longest history of continuous urban settlement in Bedfordshire. It probably began as a nucleus of early Saxon occupation near a convenient river crossing and certainly had significance by the Danish and late Saxon periods. Edward the Elder took the town from the Danes in 915-916: he may have been responsible for the street grid plan N. of the river, and probably arranged the defence of the S. bridgehead by constructing the Kingsditch to enclose a 'D' shaped area with the river. The town was dominated by a royal castle, probably founded shortly after the Norman Conquest, and ending with the spectacular siege of 1224 when Henry III took it back from the rebel de Breauté. Available maps suggest that the town remained relatively small until the historic core was rapidly expanded by peripheral development in the first part of the C19th.

Some 30 sites have been excavated in Bedford between 1969 and 1976, taking advantage of clearance for redevelopment purposes. A large number have been concentrated upon the castle site: notable discoveries have included stone-lined ditches around the main motte, as well as one also separating the main courtyards, and a huge lime kiln.

Sites excavated on both sides of the river are helping to piece together a picture of everyday life in the town. Traces have been discovered of timber buildings, through the stains left in the ground by their sill beams. Some of

these, excavated along St. John's Street, St. Mary's Street and Midland Road, may date from the Saxo-Norman period. It is proving possible to add to the picture of the development of Bedford by studying the different sorts of pottery discovered. These have been excavated from the large numbers of rubbish pits found in the backyard areas behind street-frontage buildings, and provide an essential framework in dating for any archaeological investigations.

8. Archaeology does not stop at ground level. Historic buildings can be analysed to see the various stages of their construction and the materials used. Those that are to be demolished need to have the story they can tell rescued in the same way as the evidence from an archaeological site. Ironically, the best time to record a building is during major renovation or demolition, when details normally covered by wallpaper and floorboards are visible.

Apart from some stone built parish churches, the oldest buildings in the county are generally of timber framed construction. Few survive from earlier than the C15th.

Buildings can be recorded in various ways. The basic characteristics can be noted on a simple checklist, without extensive analysis. A more detailed record can be made, with photographs and measured drawings.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT CONSERVATION SECTION,
COUNTY HALL, BEDFORD MK42 9AP

'Bedfordshire Historic Environment' Series:

1. Bedfordshire Historic Buildings, the Heritage and its Problems Today
2. Bedford: Town Origins and Development

Sets of 35mm. colour slides with explanatory leaflet on aspects of rescue archaeology in Bedfordshire also available from autumn of 1976.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP: Work in 1976 - Michael
Farley

The main emphasis of the Group's work this year has been coverage of the natural gas pipeline, some 20 miles of which bisect the county. By March four groups had completed a preliminary check of the line and when topsoiling commenced in August further groups went out three times a week, accompanied by the British Gas Corporation's archaeologist. Although only half of the topsoiling and pipelaying has been done discoveries so far include a middle/late I.A. site with ditches at Shabbington, ?Neolithic flint scatter at Dorton and small R.B. sites at Waddesdon, Wotton Underwood and a larger one at Quainton.

The line of the proposed Newport Pagnell by-pass was also checked, the most significant finds being a scatter of Neolithic - B.A. flints including a broken barb and tang arrowhead.

Following discovery of medieval pottery at Pitstone a few of the Group carried out systematic collection in one field using a 30 m. grid in order to provide more accurate locational detail. Other members surveyed recently located medieval pottery scatters at Boarstall preparatory to eventual publication. A start was also made on survey of four new parishes, Haddenham, Cuddington, Stone and Aston Sandford.

Apart from outside work which has absorbed a larger amount of time than usual this year, a wide range of projects continue during Tuesday, day and evening at the museum. Particular projects undertaken this year included re-organising and mounting the collections of air photographs, drawing stone axes for CBA petrology cards, abstracting information on parks and windmills in the county, listing available pre 1800 maps parish by parish and processing the continuing stream of new material.

A start has been made on preparing for publication a late Tudor pottery kiln site at Great Missenden discovered by members of the Group last year.

Much of this work was illustrated in a display mounted by the Group for the 'History on the Ground' exhibition arranged by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM - Michael Farley

(a) Bierton. Trial excavations reported in last year's Newsletter were completed in January and confirmed the presence of an extensive Belgic site with enclosure ditch and at least one circular house in the small area excavated. Preliminary work on the pottery suggests that the settlement did not last long into the Roman period. A few sherds of early Saxon pottery along with a piece of loomweight hint at a Saxon presence known from earlier finds in the village. Planning permission has now been granted for development on the site and it is hoped that resources may be available for a larger scale excavation in 1977.

(b) Other finds. Lack of staff has prevented much extra-mural work this year, but members of the County Museum Archaeological Group have given considerable assistance in following up reported finds, and have also contributed substantially to the 70 or so new sites and finds which have been recorded during the year, and details of which will appear in the annual notes in the Records of Bucks. The particular contribution of the Group is reported above.

The presence of Oxford In-Service Training students has meant that it has been possible to record other sites which would otherwise have been destroyed without record.

Important finds which have been followed up by the Museum include the discovery of half of an L.B.A. leaf-shaped sword at Ivinghoe and a new Saxon cemetery in the Chilterns.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT - Alan Hannan

Following the re-appointment by Northamptonshire County Council of an Archaeologist in August 1976, the DoE has appointed two archaeological assistants, Mr. Glenn Foard for Sites and Monuments and Miss Lynn Dyson-Bruce for Post Excavation. The Unit is at present based at Wootton, but will shortly take up accommodation at County Hall, Northampton.

The aims of the Unit will be to:

1. develop a comprehensive record of archaeological features in the county;
2. monitor all forms of development activity and comment on their archaeological implications;

3. categorize sites with accompanying recommendations for preservation, large-scale excavation or limited examination and to integrate information relating to sites into the forward planning work of the County Council and other land users;
4. conduct intensive survey in those areas where destruction through quarrying and other forms of land-use change are already consented, to enable long-term planning of excavations;
5. prepare for publication the results of earlier fieldwork, in particular, excavation.

The Unit seeks to work closely with, and to support, the local societies in the County. A Newsletter is circulated and there will be a series of mobile exhibitions in 1977.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM SERVICES

FIELD SECTION - John Steane and James Bond

Following the departure of Don Benson in July 1975, the Field Section continued to operate without a Keeper throughout the first eight months of 1976. Inevitably this long interregnum has seen an enforced curtailment of Field Section activities, and a number of projects have had to be shelved. However, with the arrival of John Steane, formerly Headmaster of Kettering Grammar School, on September 1st, 1976, the Section is now back to its former strength, and can begin once again to pursue a more active role.

FIELD SURVEY

The combination of staff shortage within the Section and inescapable administrative responsibilities, has severely restricted the opportunities for fieldwork during the greater part of the year. A number of ad hoc field inspections in response to specific demands have been carried out, but the amount of planned intensive field survey which it has been possible to achieve is extremely limited.

1. Earthworks

A field inspection of the multivallate pre-Roman I.A. vale fortress of Cherbury (P.R.N. 4943) showed that considerable damage had been done to the earthworks through archaeological excavation in the period before World War II, no attempt having been made to backfill or restore the earthwork to its previous contours. Rabbits had riddled the inner ramparts on the E. side, and a badger sett had badly damaged the ramparts on the SW corner. The latest (1975) aerial photographs available at the National Monuments Record show the presence of structures outside the earthwork on the E. side. The marshy woodland adjoining Cherbury to the W. may well represent a surviving part of the I.A. environment. Steps have been taken, with the co-operation of the landowner, to schedule this important site.

A number of medieval earthwork sites have been inspected with particular attention being paid to deserted villages and moated sites. A previously unknown deserted hamlet or farmstead was discovered in the parish of Chilson by John Campbell (P.R.N. 10,927). Upon inspection it was found to include at least three or four clear building sites, hollow ways, enclosure banks and ditches, and

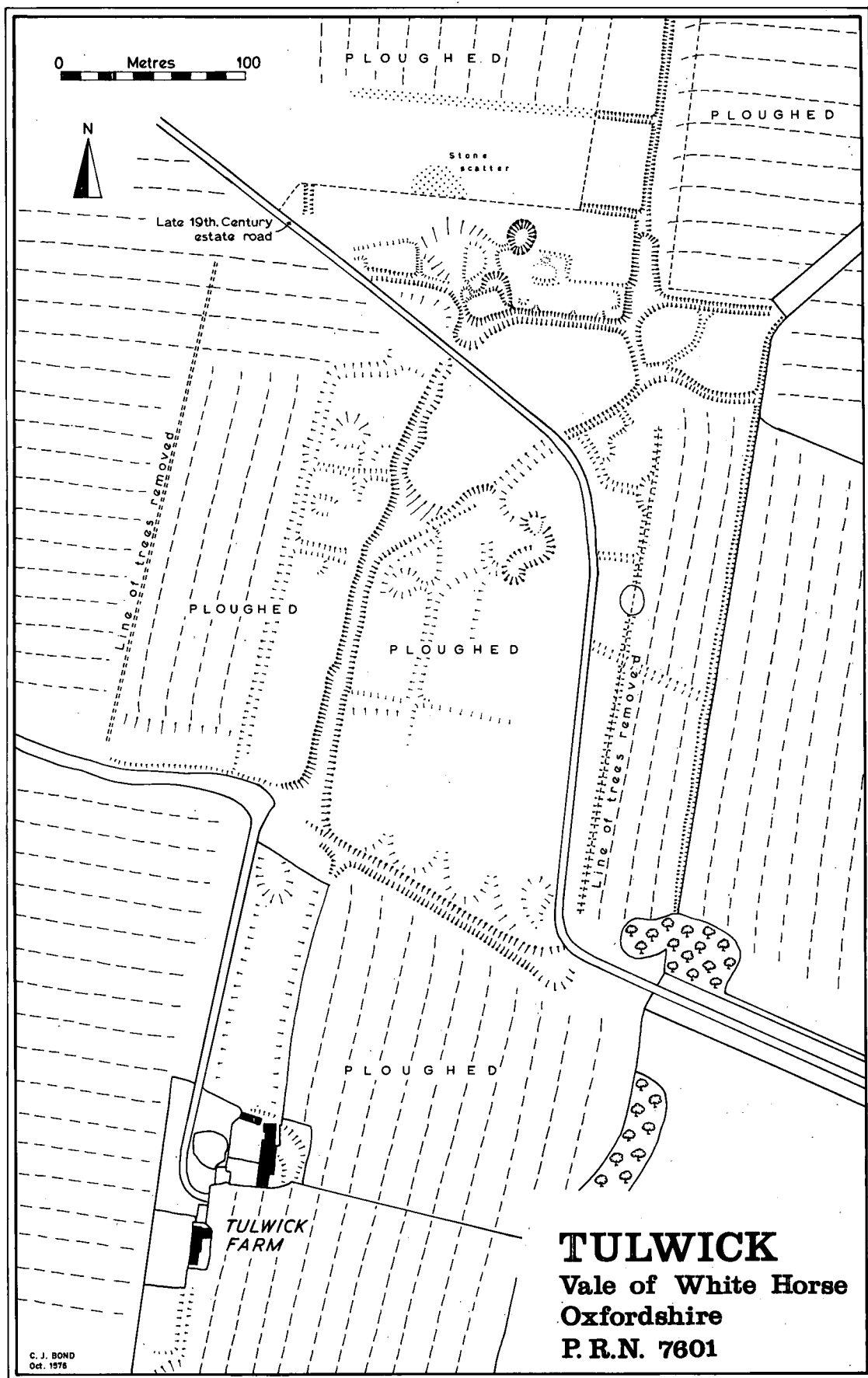


Fig. 8

drainage gulleys. No documentary evidence for the site has yet been traced. A sketch plan of the shrunken village earthworks at Baulking (P.R.N. 9493) was prepared in connection with the County Council's case at a Public Inquiry in March and has been published elsewhere (Medieval Village Research Group Report No. 23, 1975 p.8). A sketch plan of the deserted village of Tulwick (P.R.N. 7601) was prepared for the current re-display at Wantage Museum.

A moated site at Chalgrove (P.R.N. 4486), discovered from the air during the summer of 1976 by R.A. Chambers, was fully surveyed in advance of the levelling of the land for a playing-field. It consisted of two islands, that to the W. rectangular, measuring some 30 m. x 45 m., with a slight internal bank but no other internal features, and with the stub of a possible bridge abutment in the SE corner. To the E. a larger, roughly triangular island, about 125 m. x 75 m. x 95 m., contained a number of interior earthworks, including a platform in its NE corner. Evidence of limestone below the topsoil at this point may represent building foundations or dumped rubble. There is clear evidence of stream diversion around the site. Further work here is projected. At Moat Cottage, Kidlington (P.R.N. 9219), which is to be developed for housing, a sketch survey (Moated Site Research Group Report No. 3, 1976) was prepared before excavation by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, and a full measured survey is in progress at the time of writing. The moat at Clattercote (P.R.N. 5031) was also examined, with the associated deserted village site (P.R.N. 953) and Gilbertine priory remains (P.R.N. 1758). Since September, Philip Page, an In-Service Trainee from the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, has discovered several new moated sites from aerial photographs.

During the drought of August 1976 a number of features were revealed in the Blenheim Park lake, particularly amongst the islets near the Fishery Cottage, where considerable evidence of stone revetting and the outline of a large, rectangular stone building came to light. On the W. bank of the lake nearly a series of parch marks and slight earthworks appear to represent the remains of a water-mill (P.R.N. 10,923), which is not shown on any of the series of estate plans which begin in the early C18th. In 1334 there is documentary evidence of a mill in Woodstock Park being moved to a new site, and it is possible that this was the site concerned.

2. Buildings

Two medieval cruck-framed buildings apparently previously unrecorded have been identified during the year. Fragmentary remains of cruck blades exposed in a gable were noted at Blackhorse Cottage, Chapel Street, Watlington (P.R.N. 10,615); while Keith Lawrence discovered four massive cruck-trusses within the undistinguished exterior of a barn at Rectory Farm, Northmoor (P.R.N. 10,757).

Adnam's Farmhouse, Harwell (P.R.N. 10,769) was examined with the help of Christopher Currie. It was found to be originally a four-bay single-range medieval house, probably the earliest box-framed single-range open-hall house yet recorded in this area of the Oxford region. The screens partition had survived and is unusual, though one was found in a cruck house at Lower Radley, (now demolished). The combination of lobby entrance and cross passage which existed at Adnams after the chimney was built is paralleled at Church Street Cottages, East Hendred and at the Priory, Marcham. The roof of the range has clasped purlins, principals with expanded feet, and common rafters laid flat. There is no ridge; there are four surviving trusses; III is an open arch-braced collar beam truss; II was apparently open to the hall above the collar; I has tie, collar, central stud and curved raking struts from tie to principal. The date of the original structure is within 50 years either way of 1500 A.D. The N - S range and SE wing are timber-framed and tiled, but partly rebuilt or nogged in

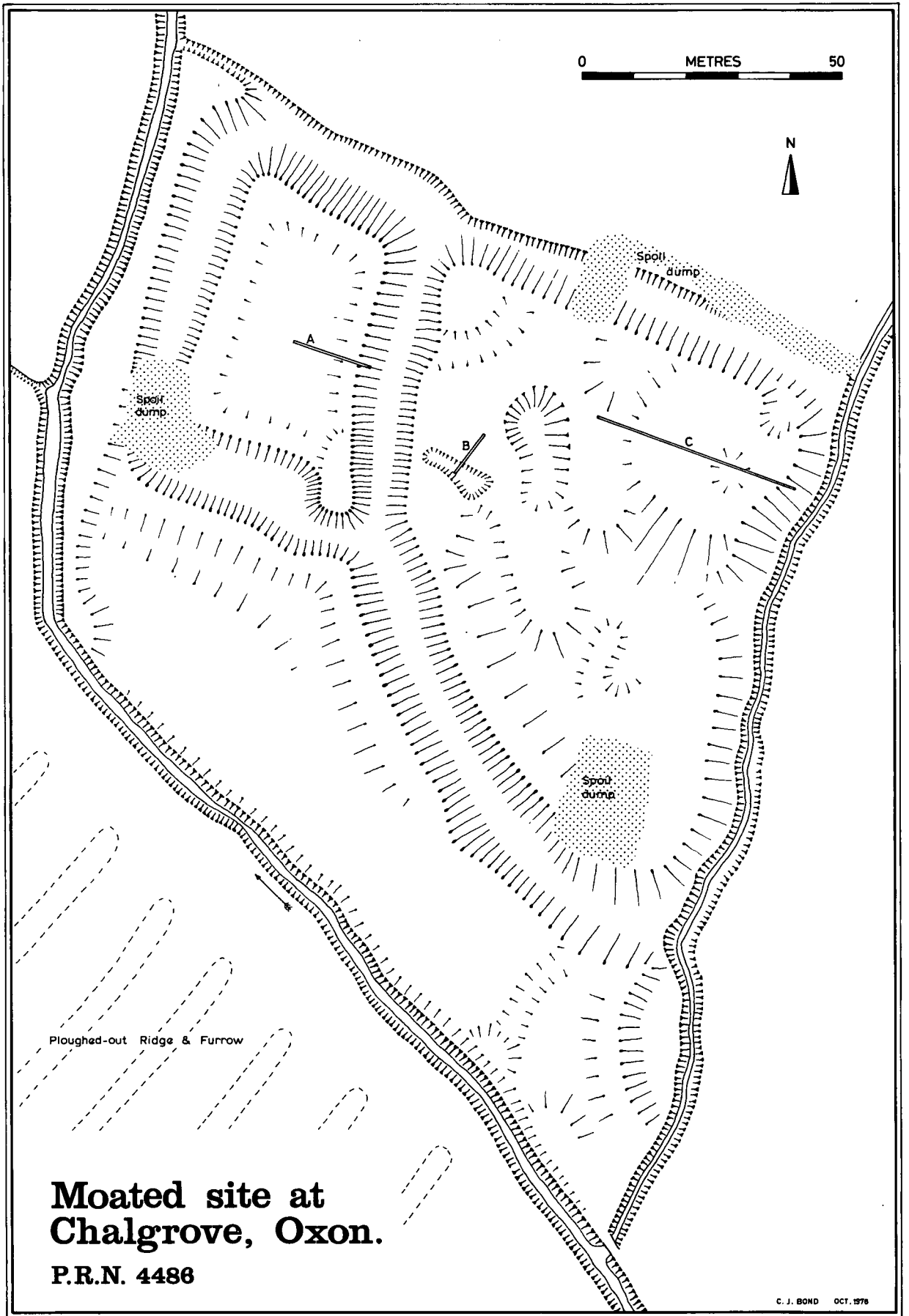


Fig. 9

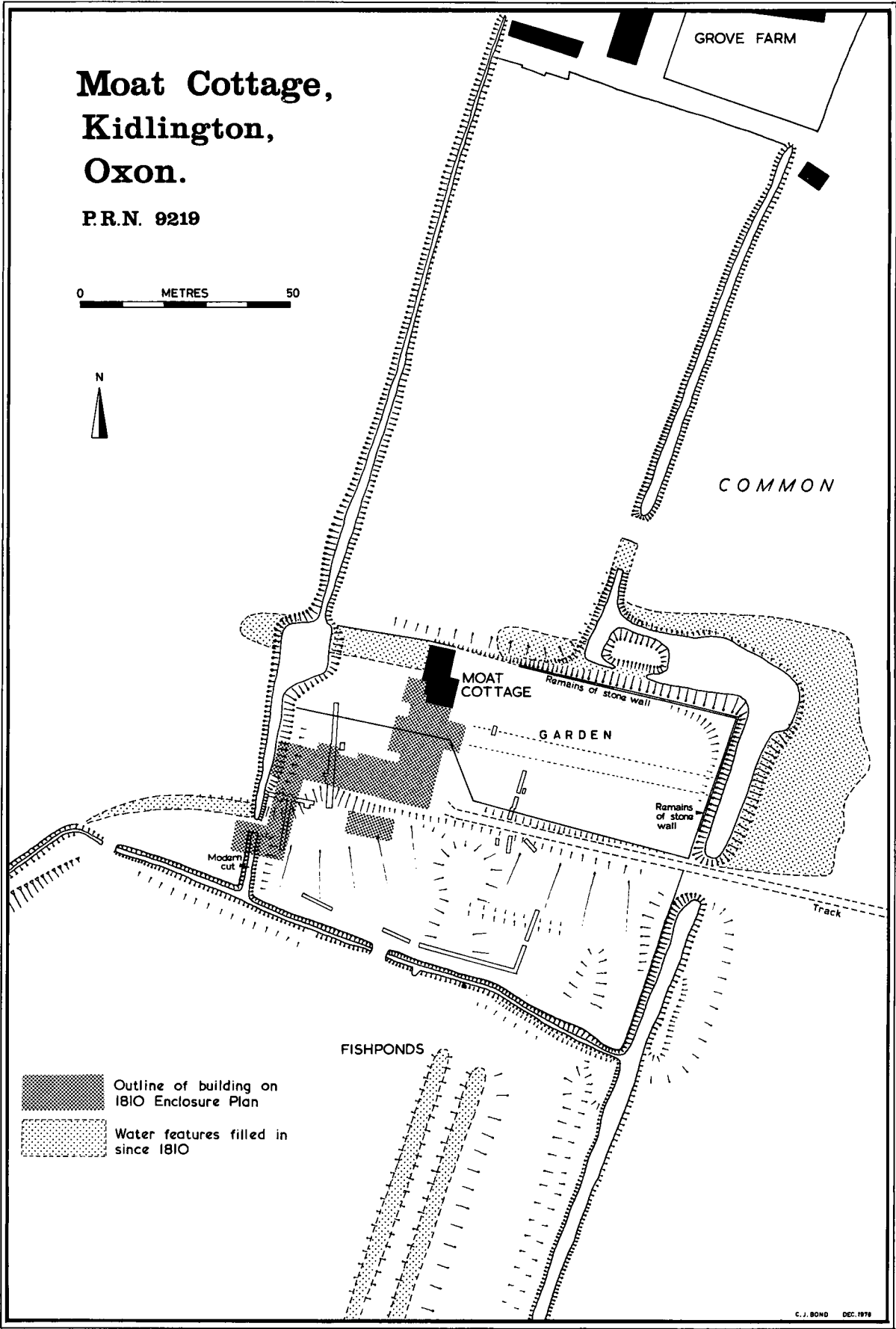


Fig. 10

brick; the NE wing has slight framing and brick nogging. The roof structure of the SE wing is c.1600: the NE wing may be C18th.

The crypt of the Queen's College chapel (P.R.N. 3478) in Oxford was examined when it was opened briefly in April 1976. Its main axis was N - S, with a bay extension on the E. It contained 7 coffins and chests of Provosts of the C18th and early C19th.

Building alterations at 57 East St. Helen's Street, Abingdon (P.R.N. 10,769) have shown that, behind the five-bay facade of this fine, apparently early Georgian house, dated 1732, there is a complex of earlier timber-framed structures dating back at least to the C17th.

A vernacular building survey of the historic core of Bicester has commenced. Students from the Oxford University Department for External Studies have instituted a house-to-house survey of King's End, Bicester, and have backed it up by a documentary search in the National Monuments Record, the Bodleian Library and the County Record Office. Old photographs, pre-enclosure maps, census returns, property deeds and directories are all being examined in an attempt to reconstruct the history of each property.

Mr. and Mrs. Eustace have begun a survey of Oxfordshire Nonconformist Chapels. A Victorian church at Asthall Leigh (P.R.N. 4148) and a C19th school at Milton-under-Wychwood (P.R.N. 4031) have been examined by Philip Page.

The workhouse at Witney (P.R.N. 837) was photographed during the first stages of demolition early in the year.

In connection with the County Council's investigations into the possibilities of opening the water-mill at Charney Bassett (P.R.N. 7078), the mill buildings have been measured and drawn up to supplement the drawings of the mill machinery already made by Wilf Foreman.

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

The number of sites now represented in the Record stands at 10,900. The intake of new sites has been somewhat less this year than previously, partly because the time spent on fieldwork has been so limited, partly because the mounting processing backlog has necessitated diverting more attention to overhauling the problem areas.

Enquiries addressed to the Record have averaged about 40 per week. Because of the difficulties encountered this year, it has been found necessary to close the Record to enquiries on Fridays in order to create time for essential maintenance and processing. Users of the Record are asked to note that from December 1976, the Oxfordshire County Museum will be changing its opening hours and will be closed to the public on Mondays. To conform with this, the closing-day of the Sites and Monuments Record will now be transferred to Mondays, and the Record will again be available on Fridays.

Valuable contributions to the Record have been made by Elizabeth Leggatt, who has been working on the City of Oxford, and by Jean Loudon, who has contributed information on the Wantage area. Four trainees from the Oxford University Department for External Studies Archaeology In-Service Training Scheme also worked on the Record in the early part of the year.

A useful addition to the air photograph collection has been the partial coverage of Oxfordshire taken in 1947 by the R.A.F.

PLANNING ASPECTS

The Department continues to be involved in various areas of planning liaison in collaboration with the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, including development control, local plans, conservation areas, mineral applications and highway schemes. The Department has presented evidence for Oxfordshire County Council at two Public Inquiries during the year, the Inquiry into an application to extract Fuller's Earth at Baulking, and the Inquiry into the gravel application at Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham. Written evidence was also submitted to the Wallingford Castle Inquiry and to the Inquiry concerning the closure of part of the Berkshire Ridgeway to traffic.

MUSEUM STUDY GROUP

It is with great regret that we record the death on 17th December 1975 of Frank Woodward, for many years one of the keenest members of the Study Group. Frank's work on Oxfordshire parks was well advanced, and it is intended to edit his notes for publication. The Study Group continues to meet at Woodstock on Tuesday evenings, and new members would be welcome.

OXFORDSHIRE FIELD-NAMES SURVEY

The Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes have continued to collect information on field-names in Oxfordshire from both local inquiry and documentary sources. During the year work has been completed in South Stoke, Hethe, Tadmarton, Charney Bassett, Shiplake and Ascott-under-Wychwood, and is continuing in several other parishes. The completed surveys are being plotted on to transparent overlays to the Record Maps of the Sites and Monuments Record.

ANTIQUITIES SECTION - John Rhodes

The final phase of the re-display of the galleries at the Oxfordshire County Museum, Woodstock is now under construction. With the galleries already opened to the public, the new exhibition will act as an introduction to the development of the county from the earliest times to the present day, and deals specifically with the prehistoric and Roman periods. In addition to special sections on the Pleistocene, flint technology and prehistoric farming, the displays will contain one of the two pairs of cists from the Ascott-under-Wychwood long barrow, excavated 1966-1971, together with many of the finds, and one of the Roman pottery kilns from the Churchill Hospital excavations 1971.

The displays will provide the first opportunity since the foundation of the museum for the public to see a coherent exposition of the earlier history of the area, and especially the finds and results from more recent excavations in the county.

The new galleries are expected to be completed and open to the public by early Spring 1977.

BRANCH MUSEUMS SECTION - Crispin Paine

Since the financial cuts have meant that we can no longer produce regular temporary exhibitions, the Field, Antiquities, Education and Branch Museums sections have agreed to undertake jointly a programme of research into 'working-class conditions and housing'. This is envisaged as looking at both urban and

rural working-class houses in Oxfordshire in the past hundred years, and asking how they were built, bought and let, how they were used and furnished, and how they varied by district, by class and by time. At the moment we are discussing with Oxford Polytechnic and other local bodies and groups possible ways of co-operating.

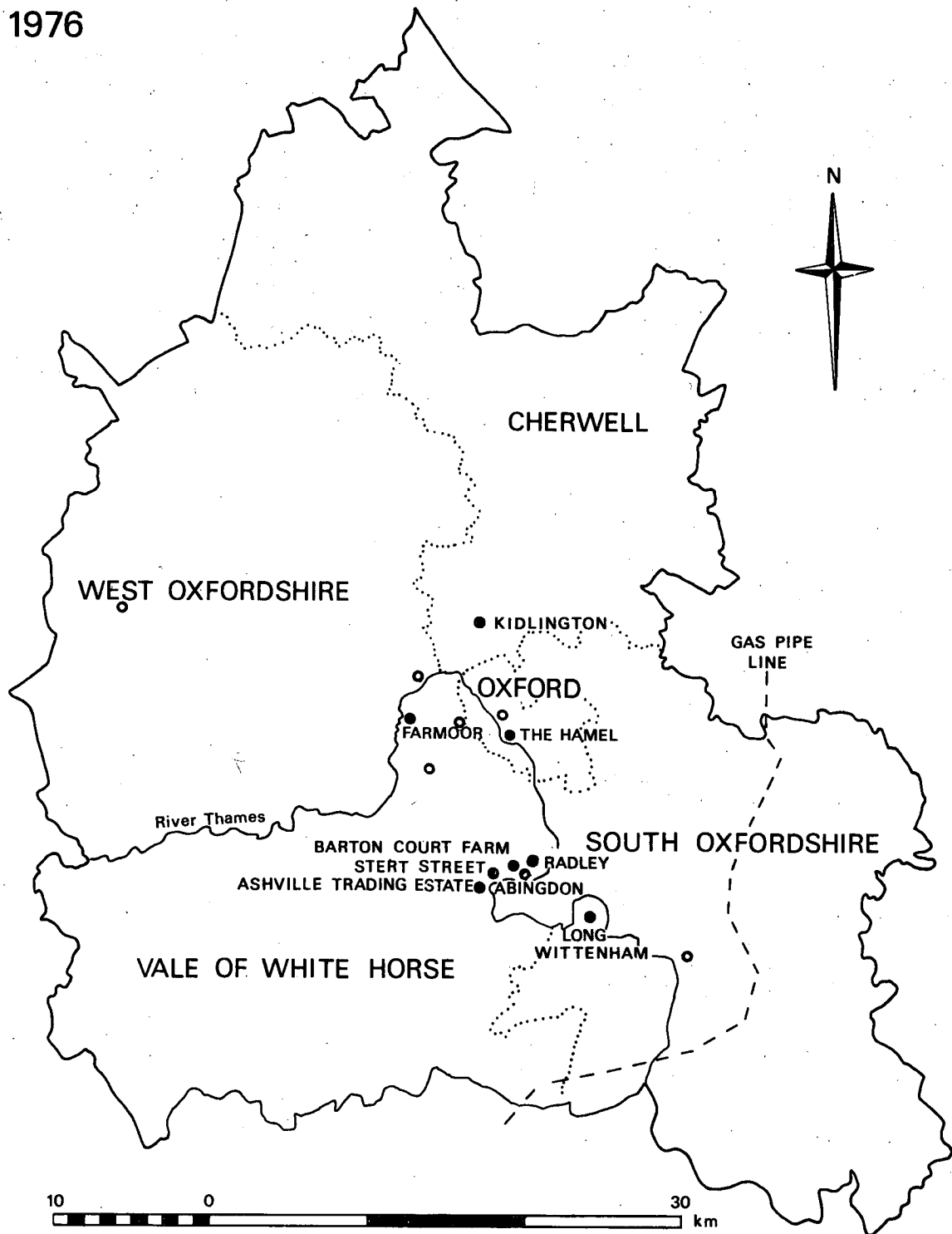
We are also considering various ways in which we can help the organisers of local history exhibitions. Please could anyone with suggestions or requests contact Crispin Paine at Oxfordshire County Museum.

At Banbury Museum the main gallery is to be re-displayed on the theme of "A Changing Landscape - Banbury and the Cherwell Valley". The new display covers all periods in five main subject areas: The Land (geology), Countryside, Towns, Men and their Gods and Travellers. The background work on the exhibition has involved a search of all the national collections for local objects, and much, especially archaeological material, has been loaned.

The exhibition will be completed in February 1977.

Abingdon Museum is putting on display for the first time some of the remarkable finds from recent excavations in the town.

OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT 1976



- Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit Main Excavations
- Other Sites excluding Oxford

....District Boundaries

Fig. 11

THE OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT 1976 - Tom Hassall, *Director*.

The economic difficulties foreshadowed in last year's report have continued in 1976 to provide the ever present backcloth to the activities of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee and its executive arm, the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. It was symptomatic of the difficulties which will face the Committee in 1977 that it was only half-way through the current financial year that sufficient income had been raised to ensure that there would be no enforced staff redundancies. Such redundancies were only avoided by the Unit 'contracting out' an excavation outside Oxfordshire (at Towcester in Northamptonshire) on behalf of the Department of the Environment and Northamptonshire County Council. This is a trend which may well develop in the future.

The Unit, in conjunction with the Field Section of the Oxfordshire Department of Museum Services, has continued to monitor planning applications which affect known archaeological sites throughout the County. A number of requests have been made to the County and District Councils that archaeological conditions should be imposed on planning consents. The preparation of Development Control sheets for individual Districts showing the location of archaeologically important sites has continued, but progress has been slower than anticipated and the first sets will not be deposited until 1977. As indicated in last year's report there is a growing awareness in the County of the importance of stressing preservation as opposed to the excavation of sites. Development control is an important tool in this respect, but if an archaeological site is suggested for preservation then it is necessary to be prepared to justify that view at an Appeal against a refusal of planning permission. Two such Appeals took place in 1976. The first concerned Wallingford Castle. The background to the calling-in of the planning application by the Architects Benevolent Society in respect of the Outer Bailey of the Castle was outlined in last year's report. The actual enquiry was held in April and the Director gave the archaeological evidence on behalf of the District Council. The national archaeological importance of the site was underlined by archaeologists representing the Society of Antiquaries, the Society for Medieval Archaeology, the C.B.A., and concerned local organisations, including the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society and The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society. The archaeology of the site has two main aspects: the late Saxon remains sealed beneath the Castle, which by analogy with other sites must constitute the largest sealed deposit of late Saxon urban remains in the country; superimposed above the late Saxon deposits is the Castle, although today only its earthworks survive. Its history is one of continuity through the Middle Ages. The archaeologists stated that the site should be preserved as an educational resource and amenity for future generations. This view was also that of the Inspector and the Secretary of State when, in October, it was announced that he recommended that permission to build should be refused.

At the second Inquiry concerning gravel extraction at Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham, John Steane of the Department of Museum Services, as the advisor to the County Council, presented the local archaeological case. The results of this Inquiry are not yet known. Another possible way in which archaeological sites can be preserved for the future is currently being explored at the Country-side Commission's Demonstration Farm project at Kingstonhill Farm at Kingston Bagpuize. This experiment is described below by David Miles.

Apart from dealing with specific planning applications the Unit's general survey programme has continued. *Historic Towns in Oxfordshire* has almost sold out, while a complimentary copy was presented by Mr. Robert Weir, the Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council, to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh during the royal visit to Oxford in March 1976. Meanwhile the preparation of the text of George Lambrick's survey on the effect of agriculture, especially ploughing, on archaeo-

logical sites has continued. The main work has been finishing the explanatory guide to modern ploughing (see last year's report) which, apart from the technical aspects, incorporates some consideration of the problems of assessing damage. It is hoped that this will provide useful background for the wider national consideration which the subject is now receiving; it is due to be published with the C.B.A. in February 1977. In addition observation has continued on a variety of cases of potential plough-damage including Wilcote (first ploughing of medieval earthworks), Long Wittenham (subsoiling, see Long Wittenham report), and Barrow Hills, Radley (deeper conventional ploughing, see Radley, Barrow Hills report).

The ploughing survey will be the last of the current series of published surveys by the Unit; however, other survey projects are in hand. During the year Gustav Milne, an in-service trainee seconded from the Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London, produced a non-intensive survey of the ironstone areas of North Oxfordshire. This survey demonstrated that outstanding planning permission for mineral extraction covers over 2,500 acres around Wroxton and Shennington where comparatively little fieldwork has been done. In order to rectify this blank the Unit has commissioned David Hall to carry out an intensive survey.

On a more general level the Oxfordshire Parish Survey has continued to operate throughout the year. Richard Chambers has been given the responsibility of coordinating the fieldwork involved in identifying new archaeological sites by surface indications, such as pottery scatters and earthworks, while several groups have also begun hedgerow counts. Graveyard surveys are currently being carried out by the Chinnor Society and Burford School. A rapid survey of the Baptist graveyard at Chipping Norton has recently been undertaken prior to a further planned clearance of memorial stones. Some groups are also pursuing documentary and topographical village studies. The Unit has expanded its monthly newsletter to include parish survey news which will replace the occasional newsletters mentioned in C.B.A.9 Newsletter No.5, 1975, p.32, and of which only one was ever published.

The Unit has also conducted some limited aerial reconnaissance in the County and a separate account of the results by David Miles is given below.

Excavations have continued in the County throughout the greater part of the year (Fig.11). At Abingdon it eventually proved possible to extend the excavations at the Ashville Trading Estate on the western side of the town while in the town itself the excavations at Stert Street have been concluded. On the E. side of Abingdon the excavations at Barton Court Farm have also come to an end after an extensive last season, as also has the excavation at Farmoor. Trial excavations were carried out at Moat Cottage, Kidlington, and Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham. In Oxford the excavations have been concluded at The Hamel. At Radley part of the famous Barrow Hills linear barrow cemetery was examined. Outside the County an excavation was conducted at Towcester, Northamptonshire. Other sites recorded in 1976 included Mill Lane, Benson; Cassington; Cumnor Hill by-pass; a number of sites in Oxford including the Black and Greyfriars and St. Mary's College; Shipton Barrow; the Southern feeder gas pipeline, and Thrupp.

The publication programme is advancing satisfactorily. Major progress with the backlog of Oxford sites has been made with the completion of the reports on the Blackfriars and the Castle; work is now continuing on 79-80 St. Aldates, the Greyfriars and The Hamel. The report on the Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon has been delayed by the new discoveries, but it is now nearing completion. The report on Farmoor should be ready for press by the Spring of 1977. Work is also in progress on Barton Court Farm, Barrow Hills, Radley and Towcester.

The work of the Unit continues to receive notice in the press and on the radio. There have also been a number of exhibitions illustrating the Unit's

work, including a long-running exhibition of The Hamel excavations in the Ashmolean Museum and a travelling exhibition arranged by the Department of Museum Services entitled *The Buried Past Today*. Temporary exhibitions were arranged for the Queen's visit to Oxford in March and for an archaeological weekend at Farmoor. A successful open day was held at Barton Court Farm. The Unit's monthly *Newsletter* has continued to appear regularly.

There have been few staff changes during the year. Annie Lipson has taken over the role of the Unit's Secretary and Administrative Assistant. Philip Page has begun the in-service training scheme organised by the Oxford University Department for External Studies and the Department of the Environment. One of the major events of the year, so far as Unit staff were concerned, was the move to a permanent home at 46 Hythe Bridge Street. 3-5 Luther Terrace, the Unit's former headquarters, are being retained for accommodation of excavators and storage.

The staff of the Unit are once again grateful for the help of all those people who make its work possible. The Committee has continued to give the Unit full support. It is with great regret, however, that we record the death of Peter Spokes, who had served as Chairman of the Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee and was that Committee's representative on the County Committee. His place has been taken by Michael Maclagan. Trevor Rowley has continued as Chairman and David Brown as Hon. Secretary. The new County Treasurer, Bernard Harty, has agreed to act as the Unit's Hon. Treasurer on the retirement of Bill Davison. The Treasurer's staff, particularly Barry Philips and Lloyd Adams, have continued to provide financial servicing. Constance Preston continued to serve as Hon. Assistant Secretary to the Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee.

The Unit also relies on the help of its professional and part-time colleagues. The main changes here have been the arrival of John Steane as Keeper of the Field Section of the Oxfordshire County Council Department of Museum Services, and the departure of Clive Hart of the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group to take up a full-time archaeological post in Derbyshire.

The Unit itself can only operate with the continued support of its financial donors, notably the Department of the Environment, the County Council, the Oxford City Council, the Vale of White Horse District Council, the South Oxfordshire District Council, the West Oxfordshire District Council, also the Amey Roadstone Corporation and the British Academy.

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE IN OXFORDSHIRE - David Miles

The dry summer of 1975 was to a large extent a lost opportunity for aerial archaeologists in Britain, with many cropmarks appearing and disappearing unobserved and unphotographed. The unprecedented aridity of 1976 gave us a landscape more akin to S. Europe and a second chance to look at many sites. Again the archaeological response was limited, and in many parts of the country such an opportunity to record the desiccated skeleton of the English landscape may not arise again for many years.

The conditions in the summer of 1976 were not uniformly ideal; many well known sites were not at their best: Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham, and Barrow Hills, Radley, for example. It was in areas of pasture that the great revelations were to be seen, rather than in traditionally reliable cereals. Scorched grasslands produced cropmarks in an unprecedented quantity, where moisture was retained in silted up archaeological features. Port Meadow, The University Parks, Oxford City football ground and Marston playing fields served as a reminder that the site of Oxford is older than the Saxons, and that at least archaeology will be preserved under these ritual sites when all else has gone.

Because of the dry conditions, emphasis was placed on the low-lying land by the Thames and Ock. Other areas were flown in response to particular rescue problems; the Faringdon By-Pass, and the Southern Feeder Gas Pipeline across the Chilterns to the Berkshire Downs. The central/N. area was looked at to compensate for its previous neglect. The Corallian Ridge around Frilford and Kingston Bagpuize is an area essential to our understanding of the settlement pattern of the S. Midlands, and has received relatively little attention. Large cropmark complexes were seen in Frilford and Fyfield parishes but these marks were unfortunately very transient. Cropmarks near Hatford emphasise the importance of this area of the Vale both as an agricultural zone and, as suggested by Humphrey Case, a routeway. The higher ground N. of Dorchester was observed in an attempt to examine settlements at right-angles to the river instead of simply along it.

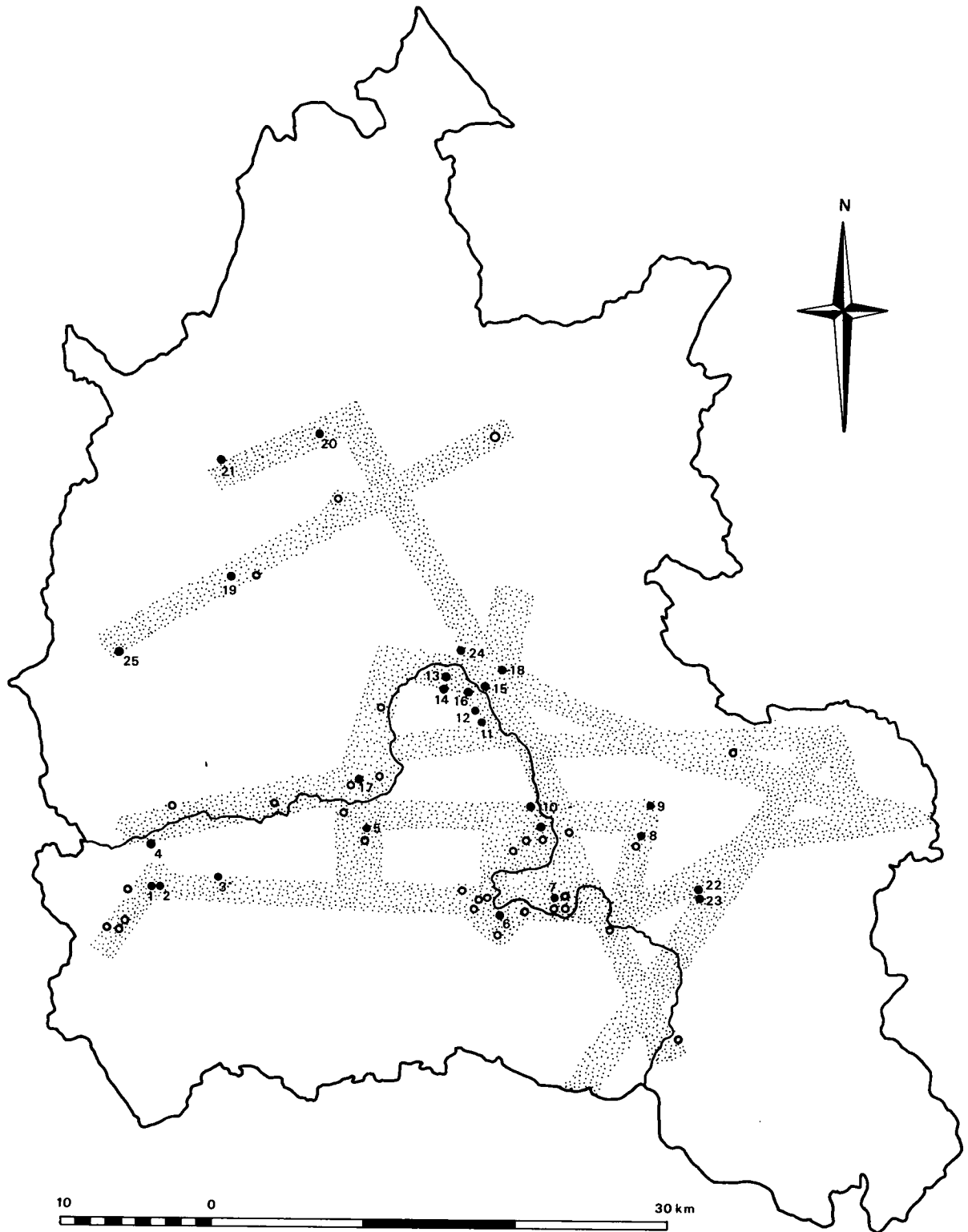
The map of flight paths (Fig. 12) emphasises the lack of activity at the edges of the county, particularly on the W. and N. margins. Distance, increasing flight costs, and lack of time, combine to encourage their continuing neglect. In future it is hoped that a systematic attempt can be made to cover these areas.

The flights recorded are those made by members of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit; Michael Parrington, Tom Hassall, George Lambrick, Richard Chambers, Trevor Rowley, and David Miles have all taken photographs. The National Monuments Record, Air Photography Division, and Cambridge University Department of Aerial Photography have also photographed sites in the county. Their flights are not included on Fig. 12. These organisations have achieved superb results, with new sites recorded south of Long Wittenham (pit-alignment, Romano-British settlement/trackway and possible Saxon timber buildings) and around the Frilford temple site. It is unfortunate that limited resources hamper the dissemination of their data.

Gazetteer

Open circles represent known sites photographed in 1976. Black circles indicate sites discovered and/or photographed for the first time by the Unit. It is possible that photographs of some of the latter already exist in N.M.R. or Cambridge archives. Numbers refer to the new sites only. All photographs and inventories will be deposited with the Field Department of the Oxfordshire County Department of Museum Services.

1. Stanford-in-the-Vale (SU 309 953). Faint pattern of linear features. Immediately W. of recorded findspot of Roman coins and other material (PRN 9237). There may be confusion here with finds from Chinham Farm area (PRN 7061) to the E.
2. Hatford (SU 327 954). Rectangular enclosures and linear features alongside and to the N. of Frogmore Brook; R.B. pottery and stone found on the site (see Fieldwork in the Faringdon Area, p. 34).
3. Buckland (SU 346 983). Pattern of ploughed-out furlongs immediately NW. of the village and park of Buckland.
4. Littleworth, Smokedown Farm (SU 296 985). Earthworks and ridge-and-furrow around the farmhouse.
5. Fyfield and Tubney (SU 423 977). Extensive settlement complex, enclosures, and trackways, N. and S. of the Frilford-Kingston Bagpuize road, stretching into Frilford parish.
6. Sutton Courtenay (SU 508 935). Rectangular enclosure with entrance centrally placed in the long axis on the E. side. Faint marks show to the N. and E.
7. Clifton Hampden (SU 535 952). Dense settlement complex of trackways and regular enclosures between Fullamoor Farm and the known site at Lower Town Farm



AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE IN OXFORDSHIRE 1976

Flight paths stippled; open circles represent known sites; black circles indicate sites discovered and/or photographed for the first time by the Unit.

Fig. 12

(SU 540 952; PRN 8523 Map 35 in Benson and Miles, 1974).

8. Chislehampton (SU 583 985). Extensive but faint marks of trackways, enclosures and pits.
9. Stadhampton/Cuddesdon, Hill Farm (SU 589 002-591 006). Enclosures, circle linear features, ridge-and-furrow and periglacial features.
10. Radley (SP 526 004). Linear features and block marks on very oblique photograph. R.B. findspot.
11. South Hinksey (SP 512 039 - SP 511 038). Five ring ditches in a line running N.E. to S.W.
12. South Hinksey (SP 500 049). One ring ditch.
13. Wytham (SP 477 100). University Field Station. Ring ditch.
14. Wytham (SP 472 095). University Field Station. Linear features and ridge-and-furrow.
15. Oxford (SP 514 073). University Parks. Complex area of cropmarks including ring ditches (? linear barrows), irregular and rectangular enclosures and trackways.
16. Binsey (SP 4895 0814 - SP 4883 0812). Pit alignment, 45 pits visible running E. to W. at right angles to the river which is 220m to the E. The pits seem to be circular and run between two ring ditches. To the N.W. are a number of enclosures and linear features.
17. Standlake (SP 403 033). Trackways and linear features in pasture known as Rack End, on N.W. margin of Standlake village.
18. Marston (SP 5223 0776). Ring ditch. Late B.A. spearhead found at SP 523 082 (PRN 9166).
19. Wilcote (SP 375 155). Earthworks of D.M.V. and foundations of rectangular buildings visible.
20. Kiddington with Asterleigh (SP 427 247). Circular enclosure with radiating linear features; rectangular enclosure; circular mark.
21. Enstone (SP 347 264). Broadstone Hill. Irregular and sub-rectangular enclosures.
22. Chalgrove (SU 633 971). Sub-rectangular and linear cropmarks. R.B. pottery found by fieldwalking.
23. Chalgrove (SU 636 967). Rectangular earthwork - medieval moated site since surveyed (see O.C.C. Department of Museum Services report).
24. Yarnton (SP 486 116). Linear feature associated with trackway. Two small sub-rectangular enclosures; ridge-and-furrow.
25. Asthall (SP 290 112). Roman road (Akeman Street) associated with rectangular enclosures alongside.

MAIN EXCAVATIONS

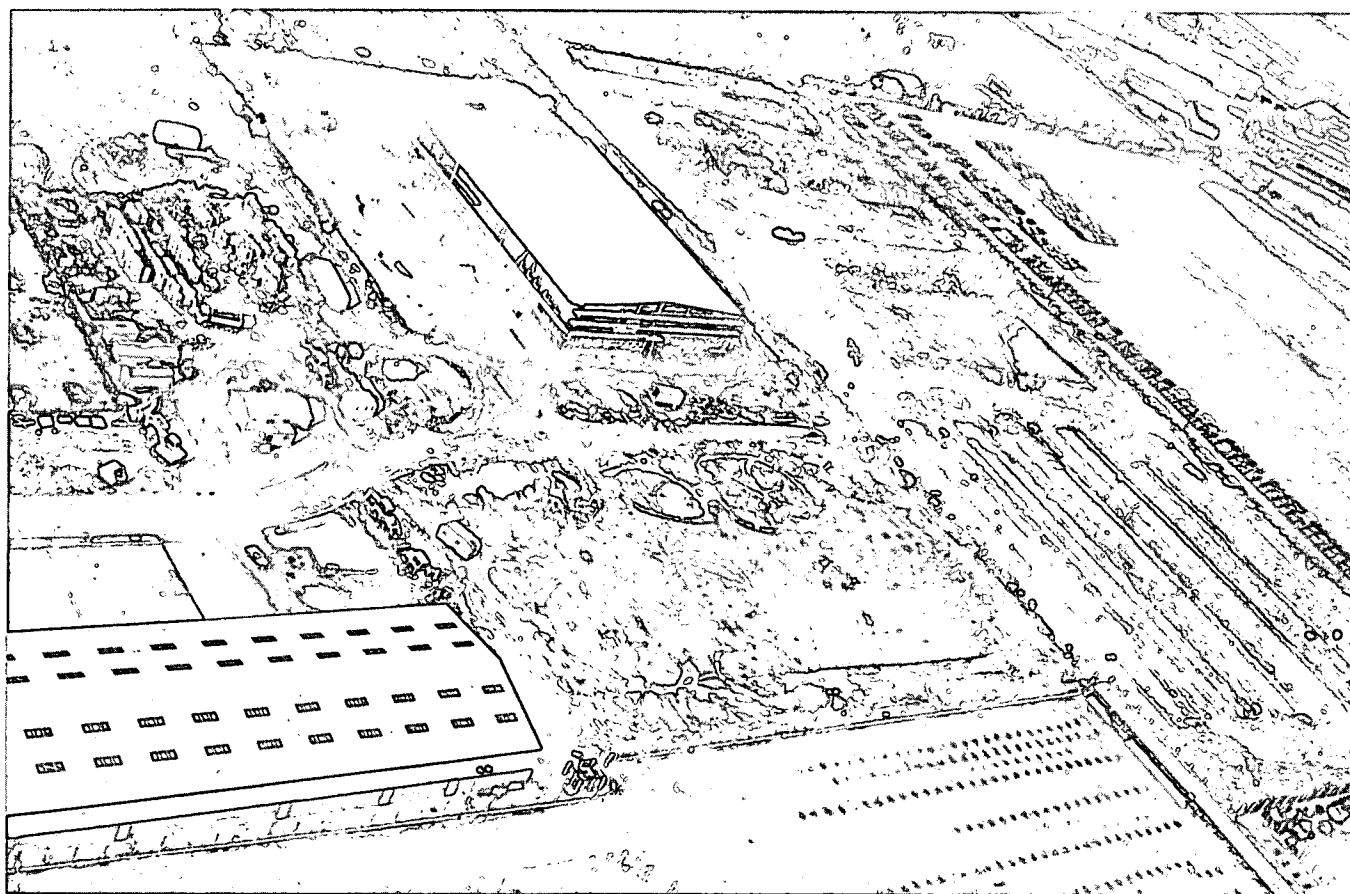
ABINGDON, Ashville Trading Estate, 1974-6 - Michael Parrington

The excavations on this site were previously summarised in CBA 9 Newsletter 5, p.37 when the site was interpreted as that of an I.A. farmstead. Since this interpretation was put forward further excavations took place in 1976 over another 3,500 sq. m. of the site, and the previous explanation of the function and scale of the I.A. features requires some revision.



ABINGDON, ASHVILLE TRADING ESTATE, 1974-6

Fig. 13



Aerial view of the Ashville site during the 1976 excavation. The B.A. ring ditches in the centre of the photograph and the circular I.A. ditches below them show up as soil marks in the gravel.

Fig. 14

During the 1976 excavation two B.A. ring ditches, eleven circular penannular I.A. ditches, an extension of the late I.A. linear ditch system recorded in 1974, and a further ditch system of R.B. date was excavated (Fig. 13/14). Only a short time was available for the examination of these new features before the re-development commenced, and the contractors' stripping of the area had removed the upper fills of most of the new pits and ditches exposed on the site. Despite these difficulties a great deal of valuable new information was added to that recovered in 1974.

The two B.A. ring ditches varied in size and shape. The E. ring ditch was c. 20.5 m in diameter and circular with one flattened side. The central cremation contained grave goods consisting of amber, bone and jet or lignite beads, and a model axe-pendant, also of jet or lignite. A secondary cremation was cut into the fill of the ring ditch and was associated with two bucket urns. The W. ring ditch was oval with dimensions of 19 m x 13.5 m. Inside the ring ditch were two cremations, one associated with a biconical urn, the other with a ring-headed bone pin. Several small pits containing pyre material, and two with collared urns, were located in the vicinity of the cremations. Carbonised seeds and edible roots were found with the cremations and one cremation also had unburnt animal bones interred with it.

In the I.A. three main periods of activity were identified. In Period 1 a number of pits were associated with a small penannular ditch 5.5 m in diameter. In Period 2 a total of sixteen penannular ditches, average diameter 13-14 m, were located on the site, and these two had associated pits. Some of the penannular ditches had post-circles within them and many of the ditches were recut, indicating several phases of use. In Period 3 a system of linear ditches was superimposed over the penannular ditches to form small enclosures or fields, and in the R.B. period another system of ditches was laid out on the W. part of the site on a similar alignment to the I.A. ditches.

The close juxtaposition of B.A. ring ditches and I.A. sites is uncommon in the Thames Valley. Although the location of the earliest Period 1 pits, well to the E. of the ring ditches, may indicate that some evidence of their presence existed in the early I.A., it seems likely that by the time the Period 2 features were laid out on the site, little trace of the ring-ditches remained. The evidence of carbonised food remains from the cremations is interesting and presumably indicates that food was burnt or buried with the cremations.

The features allocated to Period 1 represent the beginnings of the I.A. activity on the site, and the comparatively large number of pits associated with the one penannular ditch may indicate that further structures are located outside the excavated area. The Period 2 penannular ditches represent a small village-type settlement with several phases of use, as many of them cut earlier penannular ditches. The pottery evidence for the phasing of this period of I.A. occupation is inconclusive, but some element of planning may be discerned in the relative positions of some of the penannular ditches. Three of the ditches enclose circular post-hole structures but the remainder contain little evidence of what they enclosed. It seems possible, however, that most of the ditches enclosed structures which have not survived in the archaeological record, and that the ditches themselves served to drain away surface water from the huts they enclosed.

In the late I.A. the settlement discussed above was replaced by ditches defining fields or enclosures. Evidence of continuing domestic activity at this time is represented by a number of pits, but no structures of this period were identified. The R. field system, which follows a similar alignment to the I.A., may represent an element of continuity on the site.

Bob Wilson has been working on the animal bones from the site. The lack



Fig. 15

of published research on sampling variables in bone analysis again limited interpretation of differing bone distributions in the features. For instance, as at Appleford (C.B.A. 9 Newsletter, 1975), the proportions of sheep remains to those of other species is consistently lower in ditch than in pit samples. In the I.A., a domestic animal economy predominates with almost no indication of hunting activity, or of adjacent woodland. Sheep were abundant, comprising 65% of the minimum numbers total of the four main species, cattle 19%, pig 12%, and horse 4%. From comparison with Farmoor and Appleford samples it is possible that greater proportions of cattle were grazed on the wetter first gravel terrace and river flood plain, and that the sheep tended to be reared on the higher ground around the second terrace. Both I.A. cattle and sheep appear to have been slaughtered at younger ages than during R. times. Even with 9,600 bones to examine, sexually trimorphic bones (pelves, horn cores) are few, but castration does appear less common than at later periods at Barton Court Farm, Abingdon. So, possibly wool was less important than meat production in the I.A. economy.

One of the most interesting of the many finds from the site was a wooden object recovered from a Roman well on the site in 1974. This has now been identified as part of an ardshare, one of the few to be found in R.B. The many bone objects found indicate a bone working tradition on the site, and textile production and metal working was also carried out. Large quantities of pottery and carbonised seeds were also recovered on the site, and this material has been worked on by Dee De Roche and Martin Jones respectively. The integration and interpretation of all this material has now been carried out, and the publication of the site report with its important environmental information should take place in 1977.

ABINGDON/RADLEY, Barton Court Farm - David Miles

The excavation continued at Barton Court Farm from April to September 1976. Approximately 5,500 sq.m. were cleared (Fig. 15). Work was concentrated in the S.E. corner of the late R.B. paddock system with the aim of clarifying the function of various yards or closes of the farm. The ground S. of the main E.W. paddock boundary was cleared in order to study the effect of soil change on the settlement plan - for here the second gravel terrace peters out and Kimmeridge Clay is found near the surface. Consequently the soil is heavier, wetter, and more acidic. There is a tendency perhaps for archaeologists to overlook the considerable local variations of soil that occur on and between the gravel terraces of the Thames. These are vital to our understanding of ancient settlement.

The main findings can be summarised as follows:

1. Neolithic pit in the S.W. of the 1976 excavation.
2. A line of substantial and very regularly spaced post-holes running N.W.-S.E. between the C4th well and corndryer, turning at right angles towards the S.W. There is no direct dating evidence for these, though stratigraphically they are pre-C4th A.D. Their fill is light red sandy loam - characteristic of pre-R. features on the site.
3. S.E. area of the late R.B. closes.
 - i) An unusual well apparently utilising a pre-existing gravel quarry (Fig. 16). A square stone-built well-shaft was lined with timber planking, held in place by four uprights. The shaft was c. 1 m. deep but placed below ground level inside a 'well-house'. The well-house was 3 m. sq. with walls of Corallian Ragstone rising 1.30 m. to ground level. There seems to have been an entrance down into the well-house on the E. side. After construction of this building, the gravel quarry around it was backfilled.



ABINGDON, BARTON COURT FARM

Roman stone built well lined with timber planking.

Fig. 16

ii) 15 m. E. of the well was a corndryer oven. This was a common 'T'-shape type with its head to the S. The ash pit had a rough stone wall around it and a stone step down to the stoke hole. The wall may have acted as a baffle, to lessen the draught from strong N.-W. winds.

iii) The extreme S.E. corner of the farmstead enclosure was given over to a cemetery for new-born babies and infants. One of the skeletons was accompanied by a dog skull, a second by a sheep skull.

iv) The yards of the late R.B. farmstead were demarcated by a straight ditch c. 2 m. wide. This was traced from its junction with a trackway for 86 m. to the W., where it disappears in a C19th gravel pit. A small trench N.W. of this gravel quarry located a late R.B. ditch which is interpreted as the return of the main farmstead boundary. The E.W. ditch was recut several times in various places. The latest recut, probably in the early C5th, involved the construction of an irregular sub-rectangular enclosure (c. 37 x 40m.) to the S. There was a waterhole within the N. arm of this enclosure, with its sides battered on the S. side, indicating its use by animals within the latest paddock. The main E.-W. ditch may well have been accompanied by a bank demarcating the internal, crop processing areas to the N. from the animal paddock. This paddock contained a sheep burial and two pairs of shears, suggesting that it was used for a sheep pen for part of the year at least.

Adjoining this paddock to the W. was a shallow gulley, essentially acting as a drain on what was wet, clayey ground.

v) Further extensive remains of Saxon settlement were found. These included six sunken huts aligned E.-W. on the same axis as the R.B. ditches (but the same as the gravel terrace). All showed evidence of textile manufacture on the site and one contained a set of lead loom-weights along with a complete bossed urn, of possible mid-C5th date.

There were many post-holes contemporary with the Saxon occupation; one group formed a rectangular timber structure and parts of two other rectangular buildings were present. Other posts may indicate fences. Some of these post-holes were badly affected by modern ploughing.

The late R.B. ditches contained Saxon material. The W. arm of the latest paddock curves to the E. and at this point there is a sunken hut. This relationship of these two features is debatable, but the possibility should be considered that the sunken hut was in use when this ditch was dug. The same ditch (its E. arm) contained a Saxon well lined with hazel wattling. So-called lined pits on other sites, for example at Appleford, in some cases at least, should be seen as wells of this type.

It is apparent that most of the Saxon structures were confined to the area S. of the R.B. farmstead, but avoided the wetter soil. While much of the material is consistent with a mid-C5th date, intermittent Saxon occupation probably continued for some time.

The site subsequently came into the ownership of Abingdon Abbey probably at a very early date (?C7) and at Domesday was part of the Abbey demesne farm.

ABINGDON, 42-44 Stert Street - Michael Parrington

Excavations were carried out on the site of 42-44 Stert Street from Summer 1975 until Autumn 1976 with the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society. The stone foundations of several phases of medieval structures were located fronting on to Stert Street. Interpretation of the plan of these structures was difficult because of the limited area examined, and because of later disturbances. Medieval pits and a well associated with the structures

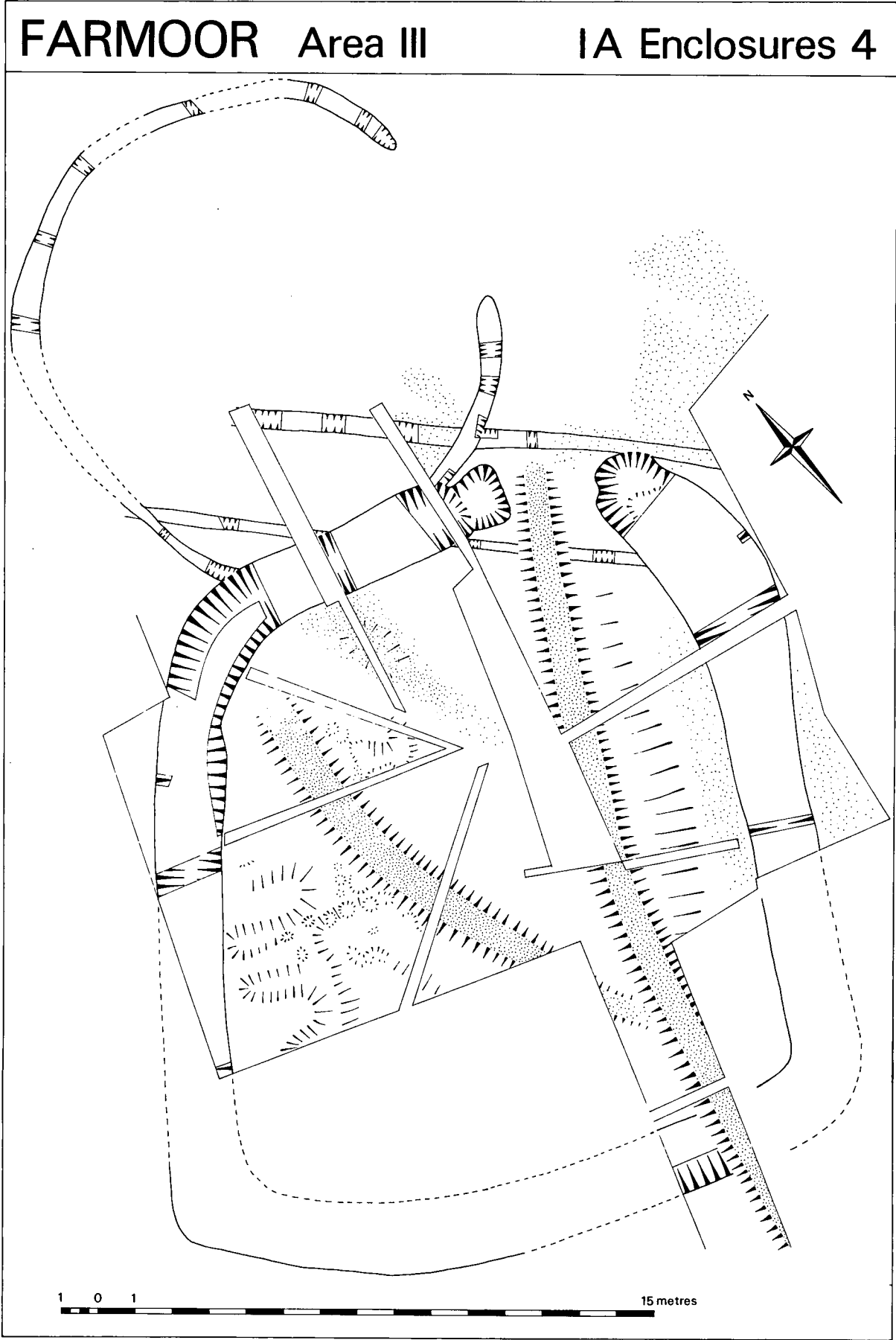


Fig. 17

were excavated. A considerable amount of environmental evidence in the form of fruit stones and pips and numerous fish bones was recovered from the medieval features. Evidence of pre-medieval activity was slight, consisting of unstratified R. pottery and a few coins.

FARMOOR - George Lambrick

The excavations on the new reservoir were completed in January 1976 with the discovery, in the last island of ground to be removed, of a further group of I.A. enclosures. A change in the method of removing the overburden meant that only half the complex had been destroyed and that there was time to excavate properly the other half, which was sealed by c. 75cm of natural alluvium.

Evidence for a round house from the usual type of penannular drainage gully was supplemented by the likelihood that it had had a cobbled floor, and that the turf had been stripped from a large area possibly to supply material for the walls of the house (Fig. 17). Unfortunately this could not be confirmed as the house enclosure had been stripped before the delay which allowed the further excavation. The other enclosure which was undisturbed had a larger ditch than the other Farmoor enclosures, but would still probably have required a fence to control the movement of animals. Its use for animals may have been limited because of the relatively undisturbed surfaces of the exposed gravel. Other interpretations are unlikely: biological evidence rules out the storage of timber or grain and makes hay storage unlikely, while the stratification excludes the existence of buildings or a garden. The biological evidence confirmed earlier evidence that the Farmoor floodplain enclosures were subject to flooding, and were therefore presumably used seasonally, and that they were used only for about five years (see C.B.A. Newsletter No.6).

After the enclosure had fallen into disuse, mud and filth seem to have accumulated more rapidly, and necessitated the construction of raised gravel paths to keep people out of the mire. Possibly one of these crossed the old river-bed at much the same point as where the later R. driveway met it (C.B.A. Newsletter No.5, Fig. 14).

Bob Wilson has been working on the small samples of bones which were obtained. Cattle seem more important than sheep. Tentative sexing of the metapodials indicates the presence of cows rather than of bulls or castrates in contrast to Ashville, where the latter seem more common. Differences in first and second terrace agricultural practices could produce this pattern, e.g. predominance of arable farming on the second, an emphasis on dairying on the first, or, as might be expected, a more complex seasonal use of the resources of the surrounding land may be involved.

KIDLINGTON, Moat Cottage - Richard Chambers

This is a moated site (PRN 9219) on the W. edge of the former cow common, one mile from the parish church and medieval village. The threat of future housing development prompted the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, assisted by the Kidlington Historical Society, to explore the site with a series of hand-dug trial-trenches. (See above Fig. 10 p. 50 for survey).

At the present time the site comprises a central enclosure, with a possible annex to the N., and two parallel fishponds to the S. Although shown on the ordnance survey map the fishponds are now filled in. Generally, the area is quite wet, and the winter water-table lies close to the surface. A small cottage, known as Moat Cottage, is the remaining fragment of a former larger house, demolished in 1810, and this occupies the S.W. corner of the present enclosure.

The remaining features at this level were natural, although a number of shallow parallel striations were found in the alluvium, which may represent ploughmarks. However, there was no contemporary ploughsoil, although the absence of occupation material, except in the burial pit, supports the proposition that this had been removed by erosion. These features were sealed by a second layer of alluvium, approximately 25 cm. thick, in which was discovered a fragment of decorated gold strip of the middle B.A.

The next phase of activity on the site was represented by a series of C12th drainage ditches. The first of these, recut once, ran approximately N. to S. across the site, being cut by the second, also recut, in the S.E. corner. This in turn was cut by a third ditch which ran N. to S. across the site, broken in the middle by a causeway of undisturbed ground. At the N. end there were two parallel ditches, which curiously appeared to be contemporary. The S. part of this ditch appeared to have been used as a waterhole, a ramp being cut in its E. side. A line of post-holes suggest the presence of a fence along its W. side. To the N. of the causeway, running E-W. was a slot which possibly carried another fence. Together these features must represent a fragment of field-system, which was filled in towards the end of the C12th to permit the construction of the buildings described in last year's Newsletter.

A small extension (not shown) to the N.E. of the main area produced a sequence of buildings corresponding to that in the main area. Among the finds from this extension were a large number of fragments of painted window glass, possibly from Oseney Abbey, found in a post-dissolution rubbish pit.

RADLEY, Barrow Hills - Michael Parrington

Excavations took place during October and early November on the route of the Abingdon peripheral relief road with the help of a small Anglo-American work force! The site under excavation was Barrow number 2, which was previously examined in 1944. An 11 m. wide trench through the centre of the barrow located traces of the pre-barrow ground surface. The remains of the barrow mound has also been located where it has been protected from plough damage by cultivation ridges on the N. and S. sides of the barrow. The central area of the barrow is ploughed right down to natural and little trace of the mound survives there.

Several earlier linear features underlying the barrow have been identified. These features are presumably Neolithic or early B.A. in date, although little dating evidence has been recovered from them so far. Very little in the way of finds has been recovered from the site. A few fragments of B.A. pottery were found in the pre-barrow ground surface, and the finds from the barrow ditches consist of a few sherds of R.B. pottery indicating that the ditches remained open into the R. period. A secondary burial with a small iron knife was recovered from the ditch silt, presumably R. in date.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - TOWCESTER, Park Street - George Lambrick

At the request of the Department of the Environment and with the co-operation of Northamptonshire County Council, the Unit undertook, for the first time, an excavation outside the county, in the R. town of Towcester. Apart from traces of possibly I.A. occupation the earliest features were a R. road with roadside ditches, and a stone building constructed askew to it, probably dating from the late C14th to early C2nd. The line of the road, which may be the one to Alchester, converges with Watling Street at a point possibly marking the S. gate of the earliest defended area, though this is as yet entirely speculative.

The first phase was succeeded by the filling of the ditches, the digging of

various pits, and then the construction of another building also askew to the road and impinging on its line, with an associated large, square, stone-lined well whose backfill produced an extremely good group of Samian and coarse wares of 150-180 A.D. Some of the coarse ware was very distinctive and may be of local origin.

The first structures aligned on the road were a building represented only by a row of eight large post settings along the edge of the road, and a later building with small stone footings. The date of these is uncertain.

No Saxon features were found despite the fact that Towcester was a burgh from 917 A.D., and in the medieval period only pits survived until the C15th when a number of ovens were constructed in an outbuilding in the E. half of the site. Apart from this no definitely medieval buildings were found even on the Park Street frontage, possibly indicating a late origin for the street.

The R. road survived as a property boundary and as an alley beside the "White Hart" until the present century, but it appears never to have formed part of the Saxon or medieval street pattern.

OTHER SITES RECORDED DURING 1976

BENSON, Mill Lane

Late I.A. pottery and a British coin of Addodomaros was recovered from this site and an I.A. (?) ditch was recorded by Michael Parrington during a small excavation (PRN 4468).

CASSINGTON

A semi-crouched pit-burial was recovered by Richard Chambers from gravel workings at the edge of the large I.A. enclosure at Cassington Mill. This burial may be another of the I.A. pit burials, a phenomenon confined chiefly to the Upper Thames Basin. (D.W. Harding, *The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Basin* (1972) 68-9).

The adult skeleton lay supine with the legs contracted and folded left over right. The arms were folded over the abdomen. Traces of a thin charcoal layer covered the feet and lower legs, and a small fragment of bronze wire came from the waist above the left hip. Two small broken flint blades, one with secondary working, lay beneath the abdomen. The body lay in an oval pit 1 m. deep below the present surface. The E. end had been dug away removing the skull which was retrieved by Mr. Partridge to whom the Unit is grateful for permission to excavate.

CUMNOR HILL BY-PASS

A small excavation was carried out by the Oxford University Archaeological Society with George Lambrick, at part of a small building complex just N. of Dean Court Farm. Stone footings with a ditch outside were excavated, and C14th pottery was recovered. Insufficient of the building was excavated to interpret it fully. Medieval pottery and evidence for a building were also recovered from a croft immediately W. of Dean Court Farm.

OXFORD, 6-7 Bear Lane

Following the survey of the buildings undertaken by Julian Munby last year, observation of the actual building work has continued through much of this year.

The ground to the E. of this house forms a low platform bounded by a stone wall to the N. and E. where it meets the moat.

Trenches on the site of the former house revealed substantial clay-bonded limestone-footings, the main floors appeared to have been floor boards laid on earth. The floor foundation material excavated produced nothing which could date the construction of the house, although two residual fragments of thin in-laid floor tile, probably dating to the first half of the C13th, and a fragment of glazed ridge tile which came from the topsoil, suggested previous building nearby.

To the E. and S.E. of this house, a series of small trenches uncovered a medieval ground surface and several buildings which may be late medieval. On the S. side of the present central enclosure trenches revealed some post-medieval structures and a cobbled yard area.

It appears that in the mid-C18th buildings E. of the main house were demolished, robbed of their stone, and the ground surface raised 0.5-0.8 m. to form the platform bounded by water to the N. and E. The soil used most probably came from the expansion of the moat and the digging of wide water channels bordering the common. Documentary evidence implies that these had been completed by 1759. At about this time soil was also spread over the S.E. quarter of the present central enclosure, burying the cobbled area.

The site does not appear to have ever been entirely enclosed by a moat. The narrow, ditched, S. boundary of the present enclosure is less than a century old and cuts through post-medieval material. The irregular arm to the W. of the house is the result of a partly filled-in ornamental moat abutting against the house-wall, and may or may not mark the alignment of an earlier moat. To the N. and E. the original moat was probably medieval, forming a boundary to the common land as well as assisting drainage and other ancilliary purposes. It owes its present shape to its enlargement in the mid-C18th although part has now been filled in.

LONG WITTENHAM, Northfield Farm - George Lambrick

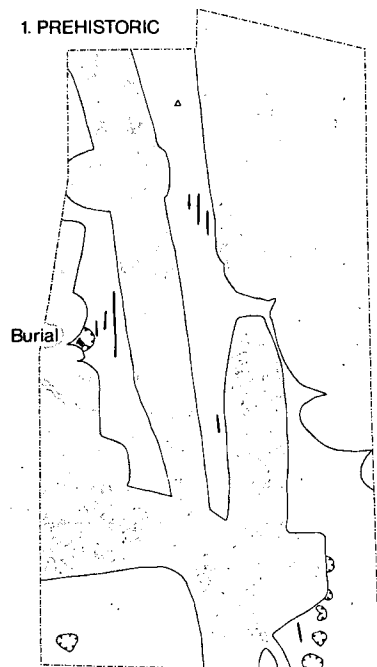
A machine trench was dug in an area of poor cropmarks to try to locate the main driveway of the extensive Roman field system on this site, and to assess the extent of damage caused by two subsoiling operations. Two ditches c. 70-80 cm. deep, probably those of the driveway, were located, but no dating evidence recovered. The subsoiling had penetrated to c. 70 cm. and was recognised below the topsoil from where the legs of the subsoiler had left vertical slits which had had different coloured natural soil driven up into them by the subsoiling shoes. There was no trace in the sandy silt natural of the lateral disturbance supposed to be caused by the operation: it is likely that the soil would have settled back to its original consistency.

OXFORD, The Hamel - Nicholas Palmer

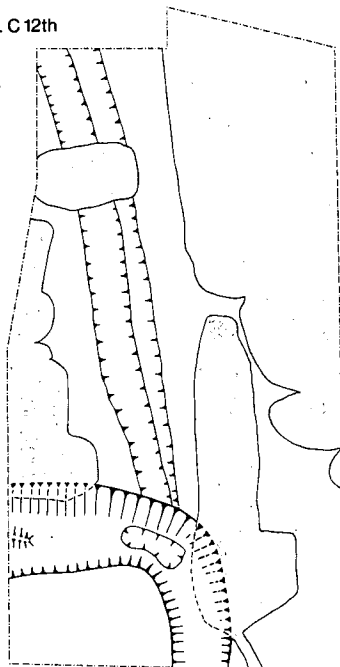
A second season of excavations on the site in The Hamel, in the Oxford suburb of St. Thomas (see Newsletter 1975), was undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee and the Oxford University Archaeological Society. This lasted four weeks in July and August, during which time the main area was totally excavated. The earliest feature (Fig.18) on the site was a late Beaker infant burial, cut into the 'old alluvium' covering the natural gravel. There were no grave goods, but the fill of the burial pit contained pottery, flint fragments, and animal bone, suggesting occupation of the site at this date.

Oxford, The Hamel

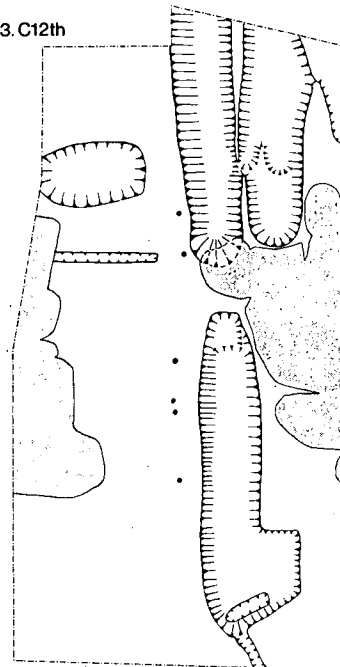
1. PREHISTORIC



2. C 12th



3. C12th



Later disturbance



Ploughmarks

△ Gold strip

1 0

10m

•• Postholes

Fig. 18

However, the new buildings have shallow foundations and no structures were uncovered.

OXFORD, Blackfriars

Observation by George Lambrick of building works for the new Church Army Hostel in Norfolk Street, confirmed the interpretations already made, adding only a little new information on the plan of the Dominican Priory in Oxford. A further massive buttress to the extended W. end of the church was noted, indicating that it may have been close to falling down rather than merely badly built. Further partition walls in the W. range were noted, but these had been inserted, suggesting that it had originally been a long undercroft probably used as a cellar or other store. The partitions may indicate the division of storage space, or alternatively, the conversion of this floor of the range to some other purpose.

OXFORD, Christ Church

Work has continued in the basements of Peckwater Quad. An apparently associated group of late medieval pottery was collected by workmen on the site, which included a virtually complete baluster jug.

OXFORD, Churchill Hospital

Building works have continued and a new R.B. kiln was located.

OXFORD, Greyfriars

Trial trenching in 1975 had shown structures in the same area where the E. range of the main cloister should have met the choir. In a small area excavation the Oxford University Archaeological Society, under the supervision of Tim Allen, was able to record the plan of the range and alley meeting an apparently reinforced section of the choir wall, assumed to be related to a bell tower. Cut by these structures, however, were parallel walls and robber trenches, with an associated rough cobbled floor, which appear to have been a primary cloister, replaced in the first half of the 14th. The mystifying aspect of this cloister is that it appeared to be founded on three parallel and roughly equidistant structural walls.

OXFORD, 5 High Street

The demolition of the building on the site was completed with the exception of the front facade. The basement of the building has virtually destroyed all the stratification down to the natural. One feature of interest was observed: a possible cobbled street surface on the frontage.

OXFORD, Magdalen College

Burials relating to the Hospital of St. John were recorded during the course of the College's renovation scheme.

OXFORD, 13-18 Queen Street

Following the excavation of 1972 and 1973 on the New Inn Court site, construction work has continued since last autumn. Apart from the area of New Inn Court virtually the whole site had been dug out to the level of natural by basements. Observation on the site was however maintained by Robert Bell, an in-service trainee working for the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. Although pits were located and recorded, little useful material was recovered in spite of the size of the site.

OXFORD, 33-34 St. Giles

Demolition and rebuilding on this site produced little of interest except a C12-13th ditch.

OXFORD, St. Mary's College, New Inn Hall Street - John Blair

The Frewin Hall site (between New Inn Hall Street and Cornmarket, Oxford) was occupied before the Dissolution by St. Mary's College of Austin Canons, founded in 1436. Investigations by the Oxford University Archaeological Society in 1975-6 into its development and plan have involved both excavation and the study of standing buildings (Fig. 19).

Of four trenches dug, one reached early medieval levels without producing any monastic features and two were stopped by drainage-pipes. The fourth has uncovered a small stone footing, and excavation proceeds.

A cellar and the remains of a vaulted gatehouse have long been recognised as relics of the College. Stripping of plaster has now revealed that 22-4 New Inn Hall Street, superficially C18th, incorporates two bays of an earlier range, almost certainly pre-Dissolution. This comprises three queen-strut trusses of a clasped purlin and windbrace roof, and a timber-framed rear wall containing a large barred window; on clear structural evidence the wall fronting the street was originally of stone construction, though now largely rebuilt with rubble. The building is probably a fragment of a long range, early C16th on the evidence of the roof structure, of which the gatehouse (and an adjoining length of wall containing a late medieval window) also formed part. Major rebuilding by St. Mary's in c. 1510-20 is hinted at by the chapel roof (now in the chapel of Brasenose College), probably the work of Henry VIII's carpenter, Humphrey Coke.

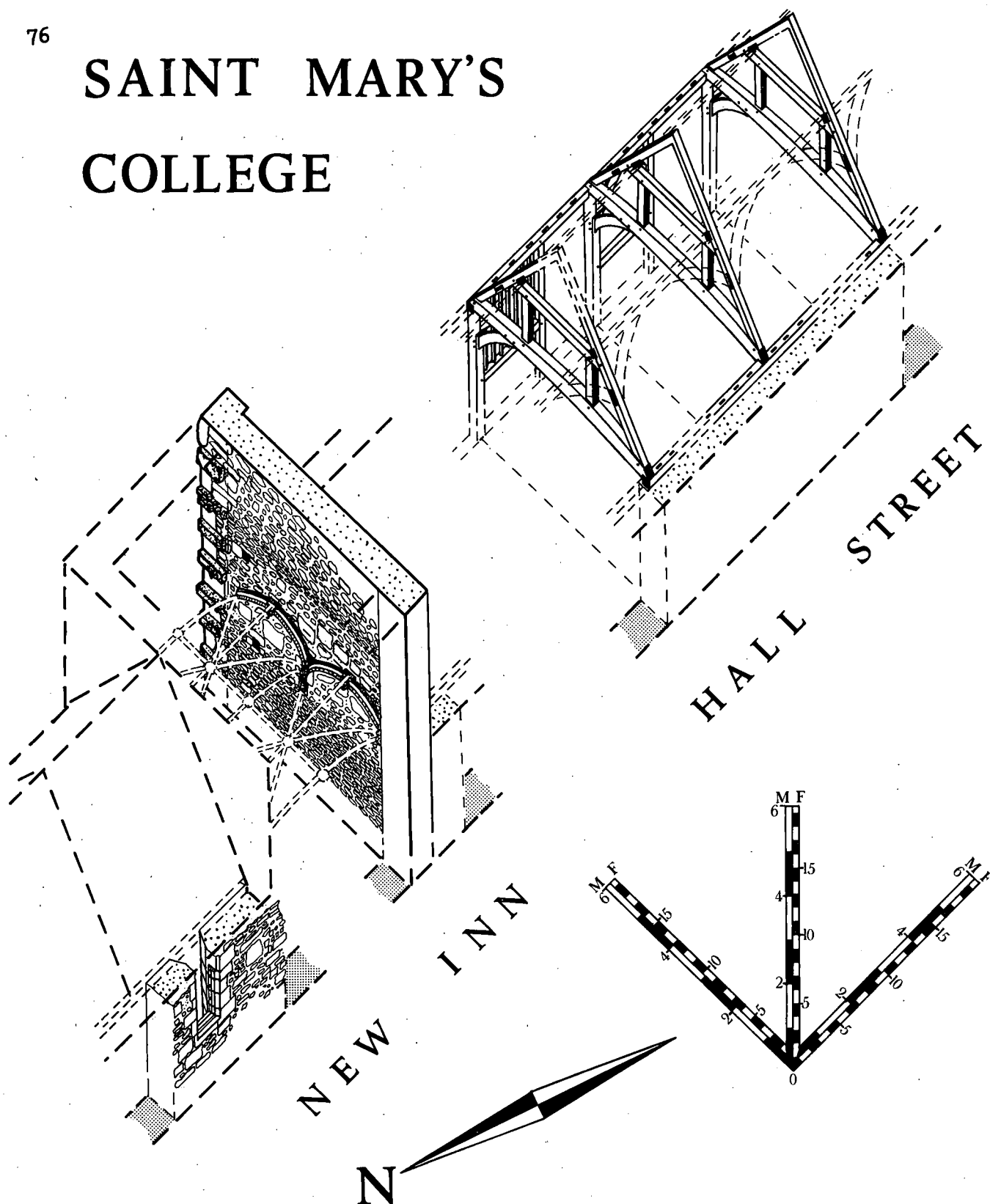
THRUPP

David Miles has partially excavated a neolithic ring ditch found by Bill Skellington of the Abingdon Society, and I.A. enclosures measuring 16 m. across S.E. entrance. These have revealed mainly Abingdon ware and some Peterborough ware. Flint arrow heads have also been found. Mark Robinson's study of samples taken from the ring ditch have shown that this was on dry land surrounded by marsh or flood plain on three sides. Features were similar to those found on the Causeway.

SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD

A grave inserted into Shipton Barrow (PRN 4448) was excavated by Richard Chambers to prevent further damage following its discovery and disturbance by two

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, OXFORD : probable fragments of early C16th west range, preserved in 34-6 and 22-4 New Inn Hall Street. Only original fabric is shown; broken outlines indicate lost and conjectural features. The distance between the two structures (here compressed to save space) is roughly equal to five roof-bays.

Fig. 19

anonymous persons. The grave contained two adult inhumations and a plain iron belt buckle.

Both skeletons lay N.-S. and supine in a shallow grave averaging 0.6 m. deep. The upper body had been laid directly upon the lower. The upper part of each torso had been destroyed by fox sets and the skulls were also disturbed and fragmentary. A large limestone slab lay over the stomach area of the upper skeleton and directly beneath this slab lay the buckle. The age of the burial remains unclear as this buckle was of a type normally associated with the late Anglo-Saxon period and later, although it could not be dated with confidence.

Several very late Saxon or early medieval burials of a similar character to the Shipton Barrow burial have been recorded in Wiltshire and Dorset although many secondary Pagan Saxon burials in prehistoric burial mounds are also well documented, along with an example from the nearby Lyneham long-barrow in Oxfordshire.

SOUTHERN FEEDER GAS PIPELINE

During the late summer and autumn a major new Gas Pipeline crossed the S.E. corner of the county passing E. of Rycote Park and running S. towards East Ilsley, just over the Berkshire border. Nationally, archaeological surveillance of the pipe trench was the responsibility of an archaeological liaison officer and two assistants employed by British Gas. Their principle purpose was to liaise with county and local archaeologists and accompany these people whenever they required access to the casement. In practice it often proved easier for these Gas Board representatives to record much of the material themselves.

In Oxfordshire, pre-construction fieldwork provided a gazetteer of fifteen sites, both known and newly discovered, from fieldwork and aerial photographs compiled by Richard Chambers and Robert Browse, an in-service trainee. During construction the number of new sites found matched the high find rate now expected from archaeological surveillance of new motorway and roadway construction.

Sites were exposed both during the initial topsoil stripping stage, and, later on, in the sides of the trench itself. Pottery exposed by topsoil stripping was often the only dating material available for features later sectioned by the trench. Access into the trench was prohibited by the new Health and Safety at Work regulations which were strictly enforced. There was rarely any chance for excavation.

Unfortunately this was the first year that British Gas had employed archaeologists and it was soon apparent that the new appointments were too few in number to cover effectively all of the counties affected by the pipeline.

Gazetteer of known sites and find spots.

1) PRN 1072	Close to Warpsgrove D.M.V.	SU 651 983
2) PRN 2301	Cadwell D.M.V.	SU 645 957
3) PRN 2300	Roman settlement and possible cemetery	SU 649 957
4) PRN 8929	Icknield Way	SU 661 912
5) PRN 8900	Grim's Ditch	SU 651 873
6) PRN 9158	Rhineland quern fragment	SU 641 865
7) PRN 8929	Icknield Way	SU 630 861
8) PRN 3896	Cropmarks	SU 612 852
9) PRN 3897	Cropmarks	SU 610 852
10) PRN 2688	Cropmarks	SU 598 854
11) PRN 5884	? Roman road	SU 590 848
12) PRN 2869	Iron Age pottery	SU 570 849
13) PRN 2877	Cropmarks, barrow circles	SU 845 559

- 14) PRN 9113 ? Extension of Grim's Ditch
 15) PRN 9492 Ridgeway

SU 531 834
 SU 526 824

KINGSTONHILL FARM, Kingston Bagpuize, A Rural Experiment - David Miles

The Countryside Commission has recently selected Kingstonhill Farm, Kingston Bagpuize, to take part in its Demonstration Farm project. The aim of this scheme is to illustrate how an efficient, commercial farm can be run with a view to landscape enhancement and conservation of wildlife, plants, trees and historical features. The Council for British Archaeology's Countryside Committee was invited to participate in the project and agreeing with the Commission, that practice is more instructive than conferences, arranged representation on this and the other Demonstration Farms.

Kingstonhill Farm is an ideal choice from the point of view of the Oxfordshire landscape historian. Like the surrounding parishes, Fyfield, Kingston Bagpuize, Draycott Moor, Longworth and Hinton Waldrist, the farm reflects the essential needs of the farming communities along the Corallian ridgeway. Kingstonhill Farm has its feet firmly in the damp clay pasture alongside the Thames but runs up onto the dryer arable soils of the ridge. The study area occupies the N.E. quarter of Kingston Bagpuize parish and the western part of Fyfield.

The Corallian Ridge provides a natural routeway both N.S. and E.W. It is an important element for communication between the chalklands of S. England, the Thames Valley and the ironstone regions of the Midlands. The R. road through Grove and Frilford reflects a routeway of undoubtedly greater antiquity, albeit not necessarily on the same line. In spite of the archaeological productivity of Frilford, the Corallian ridge has not been subjected to intensive fieldwork or aerial photography. Results in 1975 and 1976 though, suggest that the land here is no less densely settled than the upper terraces of the Thames Valley. The N. flanks of the ridge, slope down to the Thames, but the alluvium and first gravel terrace alongside the river are relatively low lying and less prolific in crop-marks than the N. bank.

The project provides an incentive to look at an area which is locally typical rather than archaeologically exceptional. Results so far suggest that present day settlement and land utilisation reflect a pattern that was in existence as early as the R. period. The demonstration area contains Kingstonhill, N. Audley and Marsh farms, all on the crest of the N-ward facing Corallian slope, at the margin of arable and grazing land. The first two are certainly on sites occupied in R. times (see CBA 9 Newsletter No.6). The fourth farmhouse at Netherton is built, like Kingstonhill and Marsh farms, on an island of very dry Corallian sand. Pottery from close by suggests there may be a R.B. site here too.

The most distinctive archaeological feature on the farm is a hedge that is a Saxon estate boundary, probably ditched, in existence by the C10th. Its antiquity is not reflected in the number of species present. A hedgerow survey has been carried out over the whole farm, but few hedges are particularly rich. The woodland on the farm is of interest to both the naturalist and the archaeologist, and this aspect, along with the river margins, will be studied by the OCCM Field Department. The low ground is normally associated with pasture but at Kingstonhill ridge-and-furrow is preserved under present day grassland in a couple of fields. Elsewhere continuous ploughing has removed traces of earlier arable. Bringing us into the recent past the latest archaeological monument on the farm is a second world war bunker. The survey of the farm and Kingston Bagpuize parish is in its early stages, but it is hoped not only to place a useful piece in the jigsaw of the Oxfordshire Parish Survey, but also illustrate the historical interest of every farm to the people who live and work on them.

MILTON KEYNES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGY 1976 - D.C. Mynard

Introduction:

Responsibility for archaeology in Milton Keynes falls under the aegis of Dudley Leaker, the Director of South Milton Keynes Division, within whose department the archaeologists are employed. The Corporation's Buildings Conservation Officer, Paul Woodfield, handles administrative matters relating to the work of the Archaeology Unit. The Unit itself is directed by Dennis Mynard, who became Senior Archaeologist on the departure of Stephen Green in November, the responsibility having been previously shared.

Excavation during the year has been concentrated on two sites: the Bradwell Roman Villa, in an attempt to define the total extent of the site, and a further season's work has been carried out at the Great Linford Medieval Village.

Fieldwork has been successfully increased by the recruitment of new staff with the assistance of the Government's Job Creation Programme.

THE BRADWELL ROMAN VILLA (2nd Interim Report)

The discovery, in 1968, of sherds of R.B. pottery by Ray Bellchambers, revealed after heavy rainfall had caused erosion of the banks of the Loughton Brook, led to further examination of the site and the discovery of the nearby R.B. villa by Dennis Mynard in 1971. The building, which was located by the discovery of a dense scatter of R.B. building materials and pottery in plough-soil, is situated on the 230 ft. contour of the W. slope of the Loughton Brook valley; the brook being a tributary of the Great Ouse.

Threatened disturbance of the site in connection with construction of the Loughton Valley trunk foul sewer caused excavation to be undertaken in 1973 under the direction of Stephen Green, who also directed subsequent seasons of excavation in 1974, 1975 and 1976.

1973

A large area (approximately 60 m. x 40 m.) was stripped and several smaller trenches were cut using a Drott B100 with back-blade (Fig. 20). A site grid was set out and finds were recorded to the nearest 2 m. square. The rubble collapse was planned in detail at 1:20 at arbitrary 5 cm. levels. Temporary baulks were left to record sections of potential importance. Excavation into the villa did not go deeper than 15 cm.

The discovery of mosaic and tessellated floors revealed the presence of two rooms running approximately NW - SE and a corridor, at right angles to them, running approximately SW - NE for a distance of c. 5 m. (These mosaic floors are described in greater detail in the account of the 1974 season of excavation in The Bradwell Roman Villa, First Interim Report by Miranda J. Green, 1975).

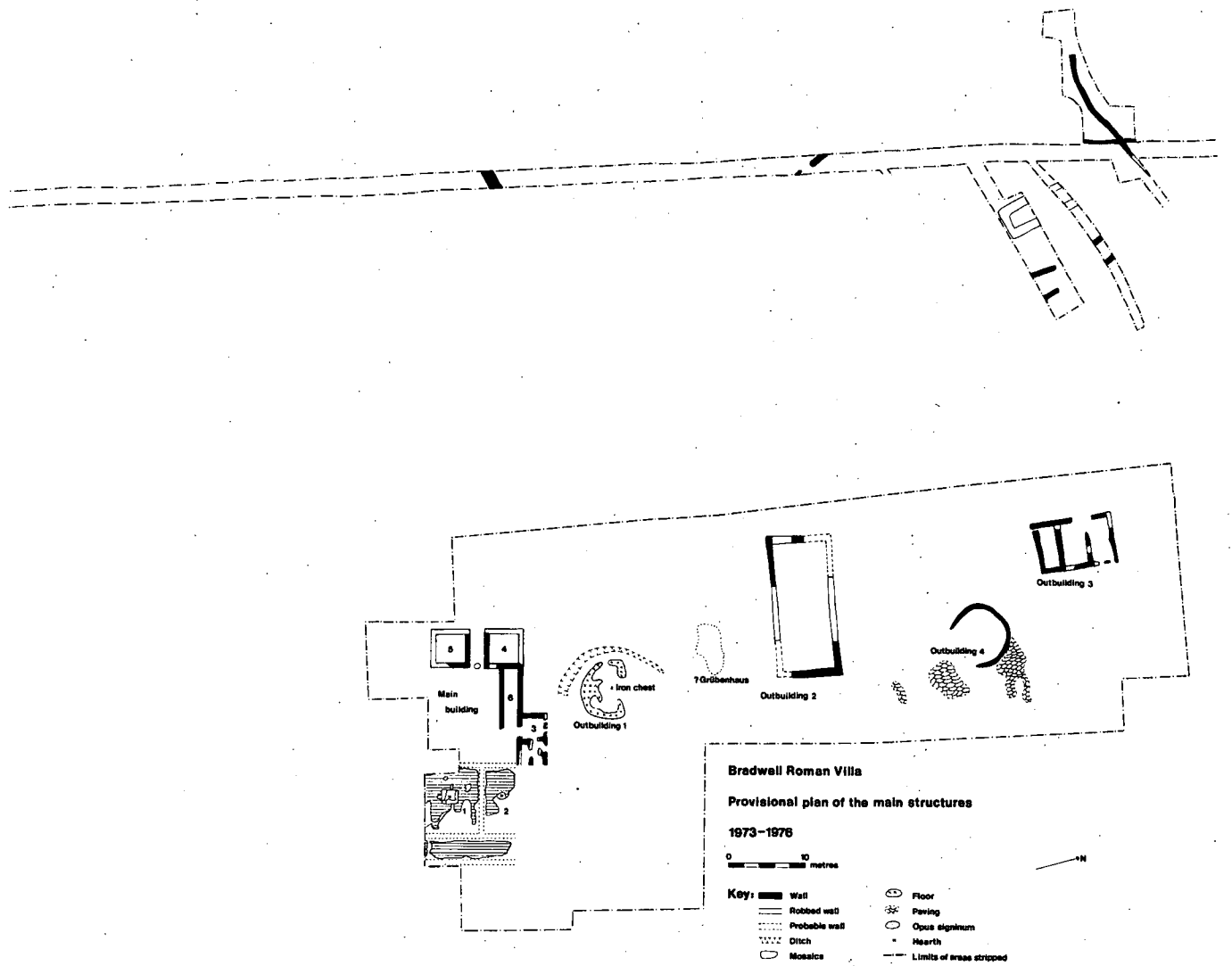


Fig. 20

Because of the limited depth of excavation, surviving lengths of wall were found only where they were several courses high, or where they projected above the rubble collapse.

All the walls found were considered to be related to the main building with tessellated floors, apart from two isolated wall fragments to the S.

It was clear from the 1973 excavations that the site contained a stone footed, tiled, R.B. building of some importance. The proposed sewer workings were therefore moved away from the villa and placed nearer the Loughton Brook. The main area of excavation was sealed with black plastic sheeting and it and the smaller trenches were backfilled.

1974

This season of excavation is described at some length in the First Interim Report, so only a brief summary will be given here.

An area 14 m. x 29 m., later extended S. by an area 4.5 m. x 12 m., was stripped by hand. It followed the line of a new grid set out along the main axis of the villa. Approximately half of this new area corresponded with the E. corner of the main 1973 area, including the mosaic floors. Here the backfill was removed to the level of the black plastic. The other half of the 1974 area had not been dug before, so, after removal of topsoil, progressive trowelling down and removal of temporary baulks in the 1973 area, produced a consistent level over the whole area. Finds were recorded by layer within 2 m. squares.

Removal of rubble over the mosaic floors revealed a floreate-patterned floor into which a limestone hearth had been inserted (Room I); a tessellated pavement with remains of a central, fine mosaic surrounding a hearth resting on the opus signinum used as mosaic bedding (Room II); and more of the corridor mosaic (11 m. still in situ), plus a possible further 10 m. to the NE removed by ploughing. A shallow pit in the W. end of the floor of Room I contained a human skull with the lower jaw missing. Other human bones were found nearby lying on a fine layer of earth above the mosaic, while others occurred higher up in the fill of a loose pit cut into the rubble. This pit seems to have dispersed two originally intact skeletons.

A small area to the W. of the mosaics was excavated to a depth of approx. 20 cm. below their level, and revealed the walls of a room, the dimensions of which were 3 x 4 m. Nothing remained of division walls between and around the three areas of mosaic flooring.

At the end of the season the mosaic floors and walls were covered with straw and earth and the whole area backfilled.

1975

Plans for large-scale excavation of the main villa building had to be abandoned because of the need to respond to threats in another area of the villa site, and elsewhere in the New City. The proposed re-routing of a sewer by the Anglian Water Authority caused attention to be concentrated on an area roughly 60 m. SE of the main building. The subsequent removal of this threat, and the need to direct effort to another threatened Roman site, rendered the villa excavations comparatively small scale.

The trenches cut to the SE contained the remains of limestone walling or foundations ranging in width from 1 m. to 1.5 m. These were presumably part of an outlying building but the restricted nature of the work precludes positive identification.

Other trenches, dug due S. of the main building, revealing post holes, a circular linear feature (possibly a drip gully), and a small circular oven, confirm the extensive nature of the site. The trenches were all backfilled at the end of the excavating season.

1976

Work took place from June to October. Initially two areas 10 m. x 10 m. were stripped by machine; one W. of the mosaic areas opened up in 1973 and 1974, and another to the N. Later these areas were thrown together and extended. Although, as a result of this stripping, a single large area was opened up (plus two or three small trenches to the SW not thus assimilated), progress of excavation throughout the area varied widely and only in the area of the main building was excavation undertaken in depth. The N. part of the site containing outbuildings 2, 3 and 4, was stripped of topsoil and only trowelled once. This was restricted to those parts where stone outbuildings occurred, these being immediately visible after removal of topsoil.

The Main Building

Rooms 1 and 2 and the Corridor. These have been dealt with in the 1974 Interim Report and thus will not be described further here.

Room 3. This contained a heavily burnt area and the columns associated with a stoke hole for a possible hypocaust system not yet examined in detail. A ditch running approximately N - S cut the long long walls of this room and the S. wall of Room 6.

Rooms 4 and 5. These two roughly equal rooms were separated by a narrow passage containing the remains of a pillar at its SE end. A late ditch had removed all traces of the end walls of these rooms.

Room 6 appeared to be a passageway, possibly covered, giving access from rooms 1 and 2 to rooms 4 and 5.

Extensive areas of burning in Room 4, and at the NW end of Room 6, suggests that this part of the building may have been destroyed by fire. Burnt Antonine Samian ware found in rubble collapse S. of Room 6 suggests the date of this destruction.

Outbuilding 1 consisted of a length of roughly circular ditch which may have contained posts enclosing the remains of a circular floor area. This overlay an early ditch, in the bottom of which, at a point roughly in the centre of the circular building, was found an iron-bound wooden chest whose dimensions were 44 x 34 x 34 cm. The wood only survived as an imprint in the corroding iron but the ironwork corner mounts, strapping, and hinges had survived almost intact. A DoE conservation team lifted the chest and contents whole and work is currently taking place on conservation and excavation at

their laboratories.

Outbuilding 2 possibly was a barn, 18.5 m. long and 8.5 m. wide with foundations up to 1 m. wide and 0.65 m. deep. More work is required to produce a complete plan.

Outbuilding 3 of uncertain use, was 10 m. long, 6.5 m. wide and had three bays.

Outbuilding 4 had a circular stone wall. Its internal diameter was approximately 7 m.

Three large areas of limestone E. of outbuildings 2 and 4 probably represented a paved yard cut by medieval furrows.

In an attempt to ascertain the furthest extent of the villa buildings a long trench, approximately two machine buckets wide, was dug across the field from the railing fence at the S. to the hedgerow in the N. (Trench 36) with a series of oblique SW - NE trenches of one bucket width running from this towards the stream.

The presence in the long trench of R.B. stone structures provided clear evidence that the limits of the villa had not yet been reached. At a point approximately 85 m. S. of the hedgerow was found a linear stone feature (from 0.50 m. to 0.75 m. wide) running roughly EW. Machine stripping of an area W. of this found a continuation of the feature along an irregular meandering line for a further 12 m. This feature was crossed by a narrower (c. 0.40 m. wide) but similar stone feature running approximately along the line of the long trench. The stonework of both features was poor and variable and the EW structure petered out at its W. end into loose rubble lying in a dark fill. It is not clear whether these structures were part of a field-wall system or were used for drainage.

Two other similar stone structures, 40 m. and 80 m. further S. along the long trench may have been associated with these features.

Two adjacent "oblique" trenches, contained stonework of a better quality, probably the remains of outbuildings. In one were found two lengths of pitched stone walling, an area of rubble and partially robbed walls, forming two sides and an end of a rectangular building. Traces of these walls were also found in the other trench.

Conclusions

The main building seems to be that of a winged corridor villa, though hardly enough has so far been recovered to enable a reasonably accurate reconstruction of the plan to be made. A reasonable degree of affluence may be postulated from the presence of mosaic and tessellated floors and part of a heating system, though the floors so far found have been far from the finest. Yet the villa has yielded one or two finds of intrinsic interest and great rarity - the marble cockerel from the first year's excavations and the iron chest from the 1976 season.

Dating evidence suggests activity on the site from the C1st - 6th A.D. A coin of Tasciovanus, dating from c.20 B.C. to 10 A.D., issued at Verulamium, is not, by itself, sufficient evidence of occupation at that date, but the

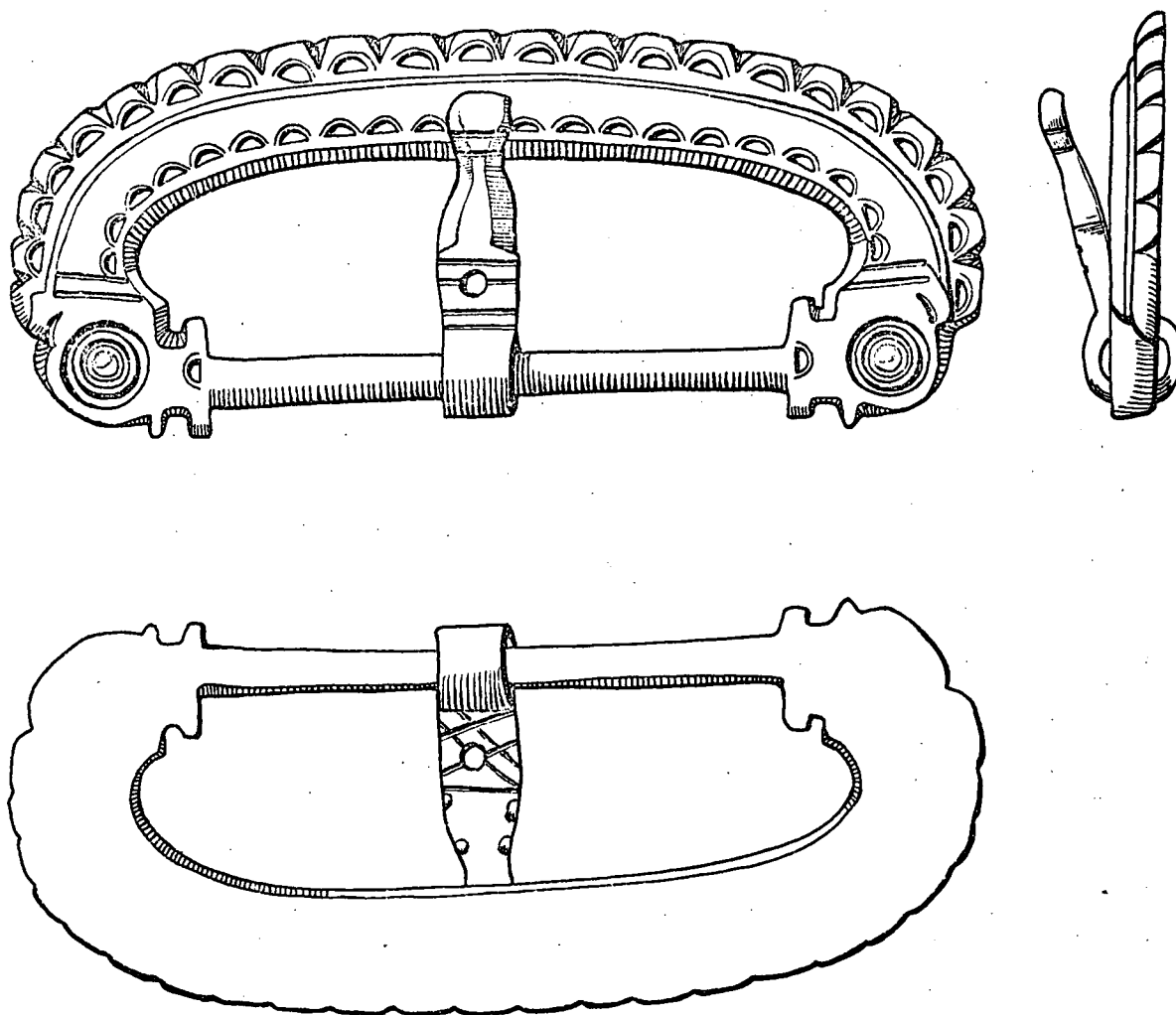


Fig. 21

pottery from the earliest ditch (a), may not have been much later.

Finds from the features in trenches 3, 5 and 6 of the 1975 excavations suggest a late C1st - 2nd A.D. date and the burnt Antonine Samian would, if its association with the burning down of the building were accepted, give a mid C2nd dating to at least part of the main villa structure.

Nearly all of the coins so far recovered from the villa date between c.260 and 390 A.D. and this C3rd - 4th dating is confirmed by the pottery. The use of the central mosaic areas of the two rooms so far excavated as hearths, (in one case on inserted limestone slabs, in the other upon the mosaic bedding remaining after most of the mosaic had been removed), suggests a sub-Roman use of the villa, culminating with the burials of two human corpses in shallow pits within the mosaic floor (probably by then obscured).

Saxon pottery is by no means confined to the area around the possible Grubenhaus, but has also occurred over a wide area of the site including the areas of rough stonework found in Trenches 36 and 46. A total of 54 sherds has been recovered during the 1976 season.

Detailed study and final analysis of the finds may well produce more evidence of the villa's later history. For example, the fine C5th buckle (Fig.21) was excavated in 1974 but only identified during Finds sorting in 1976.

It is clear that the main building will prove to be much smaller than had previously been supposed. That being so should not reduce the importance of the site, nor the value of its being excavated as nearly totally as possible. As the problem of dealing with the main building has diminished, so the possibility of excavating the subsidiary buildings has increased, and instead of being left with a splendid main building set in a vacuum, it is possible to obtain a much more complete and rounded picture of a medium-sized Roman country house seen as the focal point within the agricultural and industrial activity which served to maintain it. Already in the 1976 season, four out-buildings have been examined, and at least one, probably two more discovered.

Two factors make the Bradwell Roman Villa the most important R.B. site in Milton Keynes - the possibility of the site's continuity into the Saxon period and the opportunity to examine a Roman villa and its subsidiary structures as a single economic entity.

NOTE:

Since the preparation of this report the DoE have proposed that the site be scheduled as an Ancient Monument.

GREAT LINFORD MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

Excavations continued at Great Linford from April to November on a large area to the E. of the village green (Fig.22). This area, now one field of about 16.6 ha., contains the fields formerly known as Newman's Close and Taylor's Close at its E. and W. ends respectively. Initially a machine was used to trial trench the whole field, as well as parts of two adjacent fields where possible sites had been noted. Topsoil was then stripped from areas showing signs of occupation; in Newman's Close an area of 2600 sq. m. and in Taylor's Close, three areas totalling about 1500 sq. m. were opened.

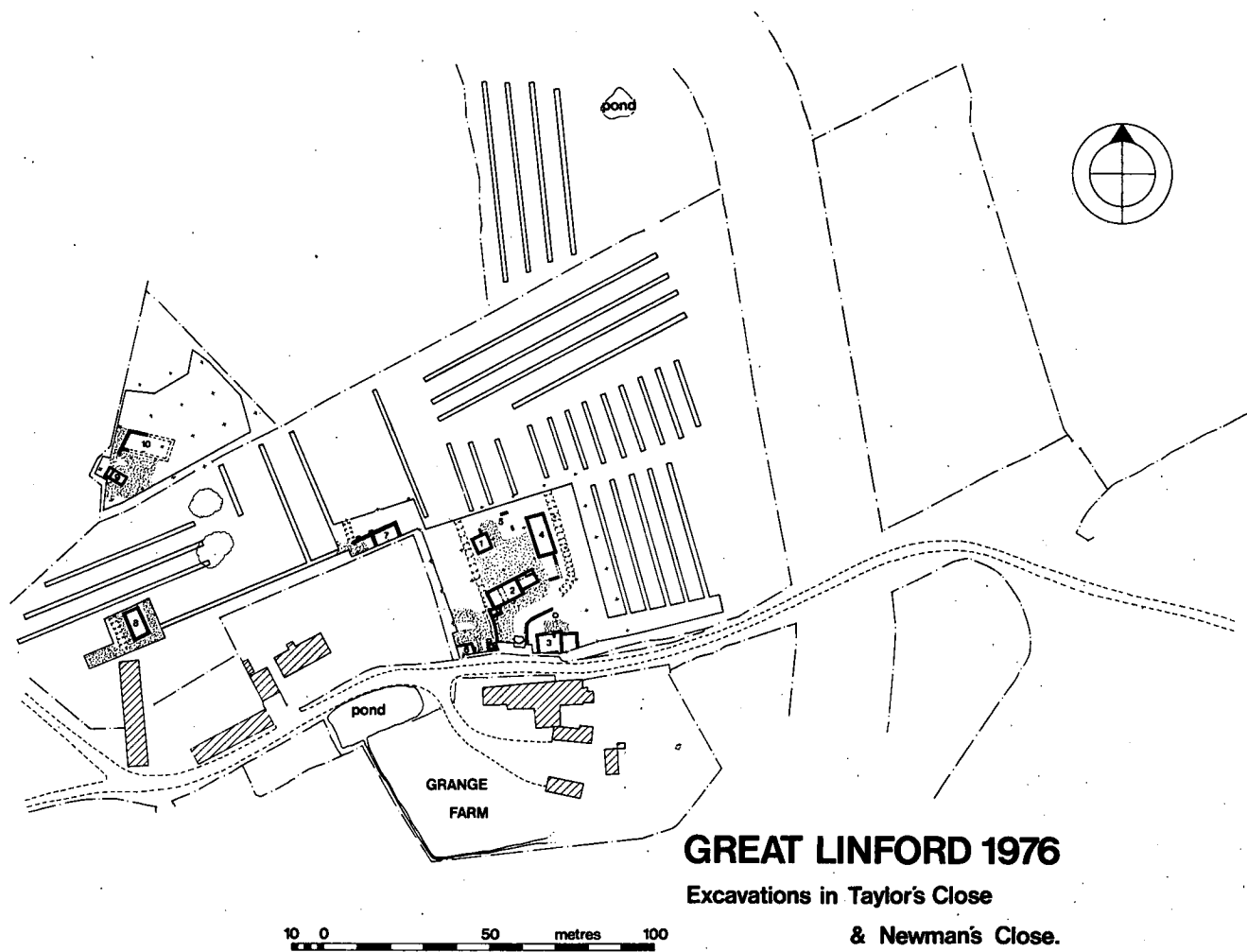


Fig. 22

NEWMAN'S CLOSE

Early features

The earliest finds from the site, from the area immediately to the E. of Building 2, were a number of sherds of R.B. pottery. These consisted of several sherds of coarse grey gritted ware - presumably from the same vessel - and one mortaria sherd of Oxford ware. These were not associated with any features.

The next period of occupation on the site appears to date from the C11th. This is represented by a number of shallow pits and ditches, aligned EW, running beneath Buildings 1, 4 and 5. From these, and from the surface of natural clay subsoil on the N. and E. sides of the site came an assemblage of pottery including a number of St. Neot's type inturned rims. Once again, however, the material was not associated with any identifiable structures.

The Buildings

The main period of occupation on Newman's Close was from the C12th to C14th, continuing on a smaller scale into the C15th. Into this period fall Buildings 1, 2 and 4; building 3 is of late C14th - 15th date. The main complex of buildings appears to represent a small farm, with farmhouse (Building 2), barn (Building 4), and a second farm building (Building 1), arranged round a farmyard from which a cobbled trackway led to the sunken lane running SE from the green. The farm complex was bounded to the E. and W. by ditches aligned NS, about 30 m. apart. To the E. of this croft, excavation failed to reveal any signs of occupation. To the W. lay a croft containing Buildings 6 and 7. Most of this croft remained unexcavated, being beyond the boundary of the site beneath a modern garden; only the N. and E. sides of it were examined. Occupation on this croft appeared to run from the C14th to the C17th.

Building 1

Situated by the NW corner of the farmyard, with its S. side fronting the yard, this building measured 5 x 5.5 m. There were no internal features, other than a possible entrance at the E. end of the S. wall. Externally, a wall running N. from the N. wall may represent part of a lean-to (Building 5). Alongside the W. wall ran a flagstone path, about 1 m. wide. The function of this building was not determined, though in view of its position, it was probably agricultural.

Building 2

From its internal layout and position in the complex, this building was probably the farmhouse. The original C12th structure appears to have been a three-bay building, 11 x 5.5 m. aligned EW on the S. side of the yard. The internal layout consisted of a cross-passage just W. of centre, 1.3 m. wide, with one bay 3 x 4.8 m. to the west, and a large bay, presumably the living area, 4.5 x 4.8 m. to the E. The floor of the W. bay was cut by a partly stone-lined drain, 40 cm. wide, running to a stone gully leading through the S. wall onto the yard. This bay seems, therefore, to have been used as a scullery.

The first alteration to the house appears to have been an extension 5 m. x 3.8 m. butted to the E. end. This was subsequently altered by the demolition of its N. wall, which was replaced with a wall immediately to the N. continuing the line of the house wall on that side. At the same time, probably in the late C13th, part of the E. wall of the house appears to have been removed. This suggests that the extension was originally separate from the house, probably serving some agricultural function, but was later taken over for domestic use and made accessible from the house. It appears to have had a door leading into the yard from its NE corner, this being indicated by a drop in the wall level, and a heavy patch of gravel in the yard outside. At this point the original N. wall of the extension has been retained, probably as support for a screen.

Alterations also appear to have been made to the SW corner of Building 2. The croft boundary ditch running S. from this point was replaced, probably in the C13th, by a stone wall built into the ditch, which was subsequently filled in on either side. In the corner formed by this wall and the S. wall of the house was inserted a small rectangular structure measuring 1.8 x 2.4 m. internally, which took the boundary and house walls for its W. and N. sides. At some point, probably in the late C13th early C14th it was rebuilt, the S. and E. walls of the structure levelled down to the yard surface, and new walls built replacing them inside the structure, giving internal dimensions of 1.3 x 1.8 m. The function of this structure remains uncertain: although in plan it is similar to a garderobe, its shallow internal depth (30 cm. below yard level) and its lack of characteristic garderobe fill, would seem to suggest a different function.

Building 3

Situated to the S. of Building 2, and separated from the farmyard by a boundary wall, this building does not appear to have been connected with the farm. Most of the finds from Building 3 are of late C14th - 15th date, which suggests that the house was constructed shortly after the farmyard fell into disuse, but was attached to the same croft as the farm.

The structure itself consists of two phases; firstly, a two-bay building, probably measuring 8 m. x 5.5 m. - the S. end fell beyond the site boundary - with a later, less well built extension approximately 7 m. square built onto its W. side. Whilst no internal features were noted in the original structure, the extension contained a hearth made of two large limestone slabs, and a doorway 1 m. wide in its N. wall, with a small screen wall immediately E. of it. This doorway led on to a small yard to the N. of the building, partly laid in pitched limestone and partly in cobbles. North of the yard was found a circular pit 1.3 m. diameter and 75 cm. deep, with a flagged limestone floor and lining 25 cm. thick of limestone rubble mortared with clay. This feature is believed to have been used for cold storage, in similar fashion to an ice-house.

Building 4

This building, which had been extensively destroyed by stone-robbing, measured 13 m. x 6 m., and was situated on the E. side of the farmyard. From its size, position, and lack of internal features - excepting a possible partition about 4 m. from the S. end - it has been identified as a barn. Two walls

S. of the main structure probably represent additional farm buildings, 8 m. x 4 m., butted onto the south end of the barn.

Building 5

Very little evidence remained of this building, which appears to have stood to the E. of Building 1, between it and Building 4. The small sections of wall which survive (see plan) and the surviving yard edges, seem to suggest a rough farm hovel, dated from the pottery found within to the C12 to C13th.

The Farmyard

The yards consisted of a mixture of limestone rubble and pink/brown crushed flint. All appear to have been lightly constructed, consisting only of a rubble makeup pressed into the clay subsoil, covered by a single surface layer. Areas such as the trackway to the E. and S. of Building 2, where traffic would have been more concentrated, were more firmly packed than the farmyard. Very little pottery was found on the yards which did, however, produce quantities of bone.

On the E. side of the trackway leading to the sunken lane, S. of Building 2, a large pit was found. It was roughly oval in shape, measuring 3 m. x 2 m., reaching a depth of 1.5 m. below the surrounding yard. A deposit of dark grey silty clay containing organic material covering the floor suggested that the pit had contained standing water for a period of time. It is possible, therefore, that it was used as a supply of water for livestock, the domestic supply coming from a spring about 150 m. E. of the farm.

In the area between the trackway S. of Building 2 and the boundary wall associated with Building 3, seven ditches - each not more than 30 cm. wide or 15 cm. deep - were found, running parallel to the above wall. All contained C12th pottery, thus predating the wall, which stood on the fill of the southernmost ditch. Whilst some appeared to have been used for drainage, the function of the others remains uncertain. It is possible, however, that they represent trenches dug for cultivation of vegetables.

Building 6

This very fragmentary structure occupied the SW corner of the excavated area. Only two walls were found, the N. and E. with a clay floor internally and the remains of a possible hearth near the E. wall. Traces of a wall noted in the hedge bordering this part of the site may belong to this building, giving an overall width of about 5 m. The W. wall, however, lay under the adjoining garden, which covers over half of the croft on which Buildings 6 and 7 stood. Associated with this building was a well-laid flagged stone path, bordered on its N. side by a pitched stone edge and a shallow ditch, partly floored with pitched stone. This ran along the N. side of the building and connected with a pitched limestone path laid alongside the E. wall. All the above features, and Building 6, were dated to the C17th.

Between Building 6 and the croft boundary wall described above, and partly beneath the above pitched stone path, was found a circular stone-lined oven base 1.2 m. diameter, with a pitched limestone floor and part stone-lined stoke-hole, all set into the clay subsoil. Alongside the boundary wall beside this

was a rectangular stone-lined hearth/kiln base, 1 x 1.3 m. Adjoining this was a stone structure about 2 m. square enclosing a roughly circular stone lined pit. This measured about 1.4 m. in diameter, but belled out slightly towards the bottom. Its depth was 75 cm. The quality of the stonework lining it deteriorated towards the bottom of the pit. The function of this feature remains uncertain; it may have been a water tank connected with whatever process was taking place in the adjoining hearths.

TAYLOR'S CLOSE

Building 7

Situated in the same croft as Building 6, this structure was not completely excavated owing to its proximity to the boundary of the site. That part of the structure uncovered consisted of the N. and E. walls of a building at least 15 m. long, and 6 m. wide, with a N. - S. internal partition forming a room 6.6 m. long at the E. end of the building. The W. wall and part of the N. wall appeared to have been completely robbed out, and subsequently covered by a cobbled area on which was found a Charles II halfpenny of 1684. All the walls were at least 1 m. wide, and the N. wall, which showed signs of spreading, had been buttressed, suggesting that the structure was completely built in stone, unlike the other structures so far uncovered. No definite internal floors were found, but it is possible that gravel patches in the E. bay may represent the remains of a floor. The structure appears to be late C16th in date and to have at least partly fallen out of use by the late C17th.

Building 8

This building, 9.8 m. x 6 m., fronted onto the E. side of the village green. The original structure, dating from the early C17th, appeared to have been somewhat larger, about 11 x 7 m. Sometime in the C17th this building seems to have fallen into disuse and the W. and S. walls were completely removed, the robber trenches being used later for drainage. Alongside the W. wall of the building ran two rows of post-holes, set in four groups of two. These were cut into the clay subsoil and may have supported a lean-to or extension to the roof.

In its final phase, dated to the late C17th, the building consisted of a two bay structure with a doorway in the W. wall, a partition aligned NS, bisecting the S. end, and a rectangular brick hearth in the NE corner. The area outside the W. wall was roughly cobbled.

To the W. of Building 8 a large ditch was found running N. - S. about 2 m. from the W. wall. This ditch about 3 m. wide and at least 1.5 m. deep, appeared to have been cut originally in the C13th. and subsequently cleaned out on several occasions, the most recent being in the early C20th. Into it ran much of the drainage from the farmyard to the S. of the excavated area, hampering complete excavation of the ditch by continual flooding. In addition, two stone-lined drains dating from the C18th cut across the N. and E. sides of the site, partly removing the N. and E. walls of the later structure.

To the E. of Building 8 an area of cobbles containing wheelruts aligned N. - S. indicated the existence of a trackway running northwards towards buildings 9 and 10.

Buildings 9 and 10

The area containing these two buildings was examined principally because an estate map of Great Linford, dating from 1641, showed a dwelling and surrounding croft in the area of Building 10. It was hoped that, as with Newman's Close, the opportunity of examining a complete village croft, in this case of C17th date would arise.

Building 9, measuring 6.8 x 3.7 m., dated from the C17th and consisted of four roughly built external walls, composed mainly of large limestone blocks, containing a floor of crushed fossiliferous limestone cut by an internal partition similar in construction to the exterior walls. The quality of construction and the size of the building suggest that it served an agricultural function. To the S. was an area of well-laid pitched limestone, set out as if for a particular function, but not apparently associated with Building 9. This area had been covered by a spread of rough limestone cobbling containing large quantities of late C17th - early C18th pottery. Alongside the NE side of Building 9 ran a narrow stone-lined drain, which fed into a larger, very well constructed stone drain (similar to that N. of Building 8) running NS, immediately to the E. of Buildings 9 and 10. These drains appeared to be early C18th in date, though the larger one had been cleared in the late C19th.

Building 10, lying to the N. of Building 9, had been largely removed by stone robbing and its dimensions, 15 x 6.8 m. were estimated from the extent of rubble spread following the lines of the robbed out walls. From its size and lack of internal features it appears to have been a barn, and the finds from within suggest a C13th/14th date.

WATCHING BRIEF

Walton, St. Michael's Church (in the care of the Open University)

A watching brief was undertaken when paving flags were removed from the chancel and E. half of the nave, before reflooring. A Victorian heating flue lying EW in the nave and chancel had disturbed the earlier floors. Construction trenches against the C14th N. and S. walls of the nave produced C12 and C13th pottery, indicating an earlier date for these walls than the surviving architectural features suggest. The floor surfaces produced medieval painted window glass, Little Brickhill decorated floor tiles, numerous bronze pins, C17th trade tokens and coins.

In the chancel were two late C17th brick vaults which remain intact.

FIELDWORK AND SURVEY

A systematic programme of investigative fieldwork, which includes regular visits to all known sites and findspots, was commenced in November with the aid of temporary Job Creation staff. This has been extremely productive with several new sites being found and numerous finds being collected from others. In particular, one site known only by a sparse scatter of Roman sherds, has now been identified as a substantial Roman building.

The Ridge and Furrow survey has continued and is now almost completed for

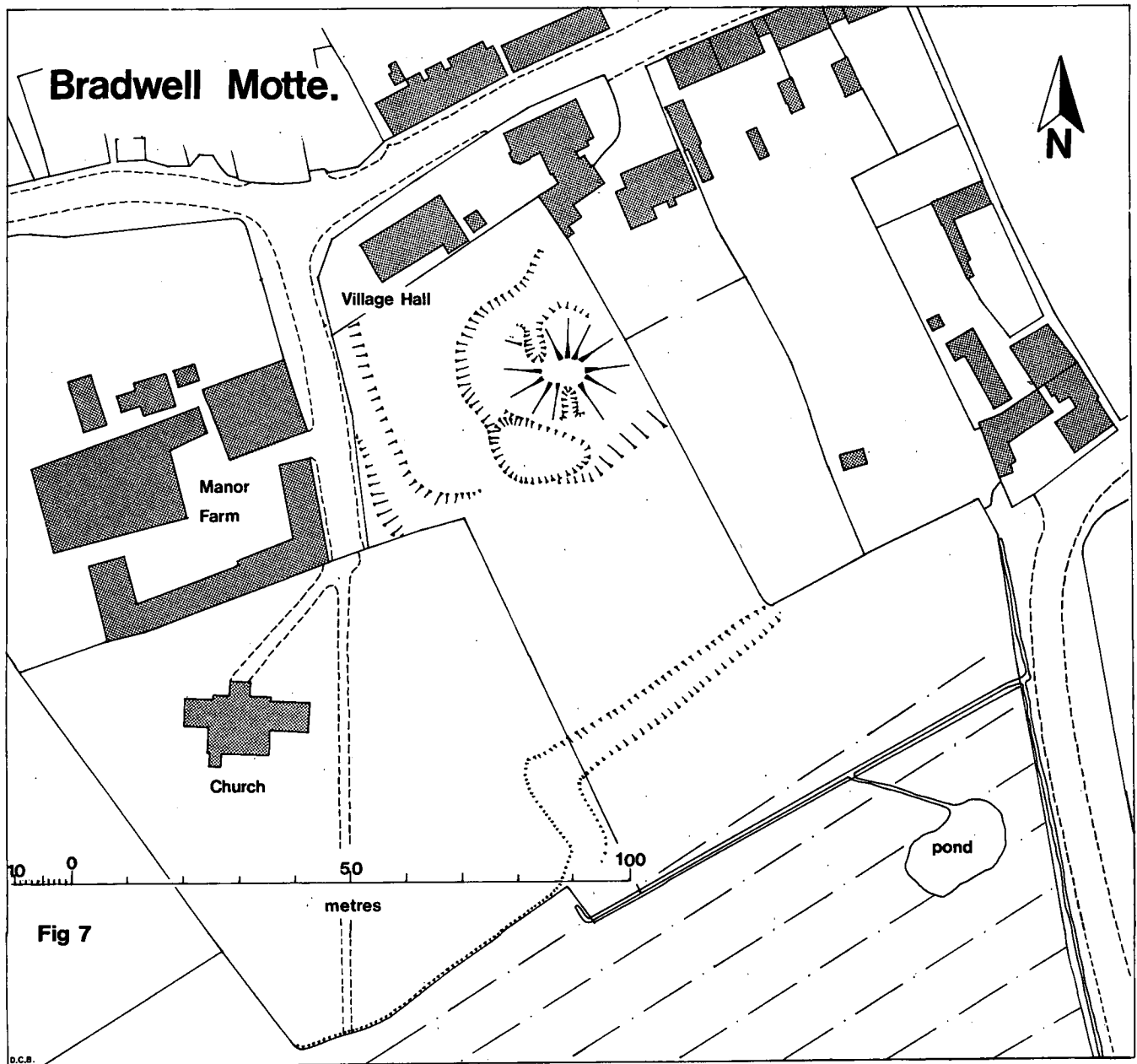


Fig. 23

the N. two-thirds of the City area. The remaining S. area may be completed during the next three months.

Two other temporary staff have been engaged on the earthwork survey since October. They have, in three months, completed surveys of the Bradwell Motte, Wolverton DMV, Loughton Village earthworks, Great and Little Woolstone moated sites and Milton Keynes (old village) moat, fishponds and associated earthworks. The Loughton and Woolstones sites are additional to the areas surveyed and reported in last year's Annual Report. Several of these surveys are illustrated and reported below.

Bradwell Motte (Fig.23)

This is site number M21 and is situated immediately to the E. of Manor Farm and NE of the Parish Church in Bradwell village. The site, a scheduled Ancient Monument, is presumed to be a C12th Adulterine Motte. There is no surviving historical evidence and the only archaeological evidence is in the form of C12/13th pottery sherds recovered from graves in the NE corner of the churchyard and the garden of the village hall.

The Motte consists of a small circular mound 22 m. in diameter, with steep sloping sides rising to a height of approximately 3 m. from surrounding ditch bottom. Depressions in the N. and S. sides of the mound are the result of abortive attempts to construct an air raid shelter in the mound during the second world war.

Traces of an outer bank, the top rising to a height of 1 m. from ditch bottom, survive on the W. side. This bank followed the line of the present road on the W. and N. sides of the Motte. This evidence was confirmed some years ago by residents who remembered the site before the erection of the village hall to the N. There are no traces of a bank and ditch in the gardens immediately E. of the Motte. To the S. the ditch shown is a medieval field-boundary beyond which ridge-and-furrow commences.

Great and Little Woolstone Moated Sites, M53 and M103 - D. Bent and T. Land

These two sites are situated to the N. of the area surveyed last year (Newsletter No. 6, Fig. 16).

M53

The NW corner only survives, the ditch is 15 m. wide and now 3 m. deep. The moat may have enclosed a building on the site of the present 'Cross Keys' public house which is of C17/18th construction (Fig.24).

To the S. of the Cross Keys, slight traces of a bank along the S. side of the garden immediately to the N. of Manor Farm may indicate the S. extent of the site. This suggests a rectangular moat, with its longest axis, approximately 150 m. aligned N. - S. There is no trace of the E. side at all. It may have run along the roadside and been filled in.

M103

This superb moat, situated on the W. bank of the Ouzel is one of the best preserved examples remaining in the city. It is rectangular in shape, with its

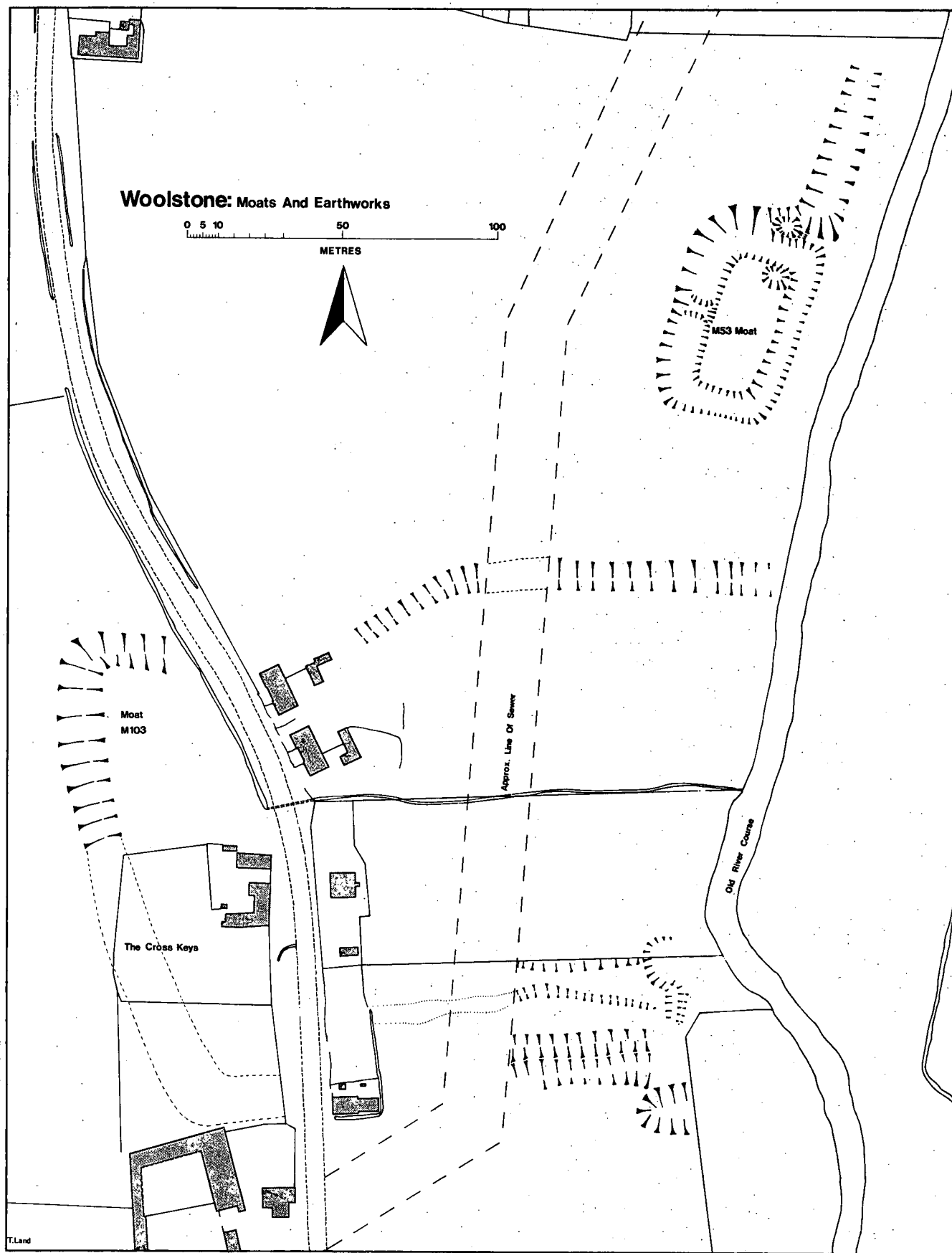


Fig. 24

longest axis again aligned N. - S. The enclosure is 20 x 44 m., the surrounding ditch varying from 8 - 15 m. in width and 2 - 4 m. deep, parts of which are still wet. The River Ouzel has now been diverted to a new channel but the old course is still visible and is shown on the survey.

Other surveys not illustrated here due to limitations of space (e.g. Wolverton DMV extends over 30 acres) will be dealt with in a proposed monograph publication on medieval sites and excavation in the City. These include Tattenhoe DMV survey completed December 1975, by P. Smith and J. Bradley; Caldecotte and Shenley Brook End DMV's surveys carried out by R. Browse, a member of the 'In-Service' training scheme assisted by a member of our contract staff.

POST EXCAVATION

Prehistoric

Work is in hand by H.S. Green and T. Schadla-Hall on the report of the excavation of an I.A. site at the Milton Keynes (old village) gravel pit in 1972-3.

The report on the excavation of an area of an I.A. site on clay in Woughton parish is being prepared by the site supervisor, J. Barnbrook.

Roman

A detailed interim report on the four seasons' work at the Bradwell Roman Villa has been prepared by J. Barnbrook, supervisor of part of the site. The report will be written after a final interpretative study of the site before major backfilling. The site is now in process of being scheduled as an ancient monument.

Saxon

An area of early Saxon occupation located at the Milton Keynes gravel pit during the excavation of an I.A. site in 1973 (see above) is being reported by H.S. Green.

Medieval

All finds from medieval excavations in the City 1972-5 are now drawn and work is in hand on the material from the current season's excavation at Great Linford. Reports are almost complete for Simpson, Walton and Wilson. It is intended to combine all medieval reports into a monograph which will include the final season's work at Great Linford in 1977 and will hopefully be ready by 1978.

DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

Work by Liz Baines on documentary history has continued throughout the year on several parishes, in particular:

Great Linford

Several of the house sites in the village can be traced in documents to the C15th and it may be possible to link some of these in to the archaeological sites. A report on the full history of medieval and early-modern Linford is partly written up. An exhibition was arranged during early 1976.

Woughton-on-the-Green

A map has been compiled from the Inclosure award of 1769 which has helped to position the householders.

General

Card index systems have now been made for each village for:

1. personal names
2. field names

as found in any documents. These cross-refer to the village files.

Assistance has been given to the Information Division of the Development Corporation regarding possible names for the new roads in the City.

Tracings have also been made by Miss Baines of maps relating to Milton Keynes villages, which are stored in the Bucks Record Office, the Muniments Room of the Bucks Archaeological Society in the County Museum at Aylesbury, and others in private ownership. Prints of these are now available for local reference at Bradwell Abbey. These maps are:

Bradwell	1839 Tithe award
"	1792 William Bailey estate
Bradwell Abbey	19c estate
" "	19c exchange of land on boundary
Great Linford	1641
" "	1678
Loughton	1769 Inclosure award working copy
"	1876 St. Charity estate
"	1901 Building land
Milton Keynes	1685
" "	1782
Shenley Brook End	1698
" Church "	1693
" " "	1693 (small version)
" " "	1818
" (both) "	1771
" Common	c1695
Simpson	1782 Hanmer estate
Tattenhoe 1801	1801
"	No date, possibly C19th

In addition to this work a card index of local historical sources, names,

places etc. mentioned in published sources is being compiled by Miss E.M. Keward who comes in to the Abbey two days a week. Most of the C19th sources have been dealt with and the index now comprises several thousand cards.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Groups of children from several local schools have assisted with excavation work, in particular the Earl Grey School at Denbigh and the Stantonbury Campus. Members of the Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society have excavated a trial trench on a Roman site near Fenny Stratford and have confirmed the presence of a ditch. Members of the Milton Keynes & District Archaeological Society have assisted on excavations particularly the watching brief at Walton Church.

During the year talks on the work of the archaeological unit have been given to eleven local organisations. In addition, there have been many evening trips to the Abbey, visitors have been shown exhibitions of our work, given guided tours of the Abbey site and refreshments have been served by staff members. Notable visitors were the Midland Association of the Institute of Civil Engineers, which held its Ladies Evening at the Abbey in January when an illustrated talk on archaeology in the City was followed by a cheese and wine party. Another notable visit took place in May when the Midlands Branch of the Concrete Society terminated a day visit to the City with a tour of the Great Linford excavation and the site of Bradwell Abbey followed by an excellent buffet supper.

Visits have also been made by several schools from the County and by the Newport Pagnell Branch of the W.E.A. In September the National Environmental Education Association held a weekend conference at the Wolverton College of Education. Both archaeology and conservation played a major part in this, visits being made to historic buildings undergoing restoration, and archaeological sites.

Weekend opening of the Field Centre has been successfully extended with the help of Job Creation staff. Previously a few stalwart volunteers from the Field Centre membership and the archaeological staff had managed to open the Centre on Sunday afternoons. With the aid of an Assistant Receptionist (Job Creation) the Abbey has been opened all day Saturday and Sunday with a resultant increase in visitors and public awareness of our work.

An exhibition covering the history of the Abbey has been arranged and this has also been of great interest to visitors.

BRADWELL ABBEY FIELD CENTRE TRUST

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT 1976 - A.W. Eley

Several watching briefs on scheduled archaeological sites in the area have been carried out on behalf of the Department of the Environment. These have included the installation of new electricity pylons at Hardmead Deserted Medieval Village, and the preliminary work in advance of a water main at the Deserted Medieval Village at Filgrave, where assistance was given by Mrs. D. Eley and Mrs. M. Hansford.

Fieldwork has been continued by members of the Archaeology group that meet at the Abbey on alternate Monday evenings. New sites have been located in the Olney/Lavendon area by P. Panter; at Haversham by D.C. Mynard and A. Kluz, and many new ring ditch sites have been located as a result of aerial reconnaissance by K. Field. A detailed survey of Chicheley parish has been carried out by D.C. Mynard and A. Kluz, which also has resulted in the discovery of several new sites and the precise location of earlier finds.

We have also carried out fieldwork on the line of the Newport Pagnell by-pass, north of Sherington.

The keen eye of our President, Sir Philip Duncombe, resulted in valuable information being recovered concerning the early history of the Roman settlement, Magiovinium. Sir Philip noticed that a service trench was being dug alongside Watling Street, running through part of the site. He immediately reported this to the Abbey and I was able to arrange for Mrs. C. Woodfield to carry out a watching brief on behalf of the Field Centre and the Department of the Environment. Mrs. Woodfield completed this work during a very cold and wet period, but she managed to recover evidence which appears to confirm the existence of an early military fort on the site. Examination of her finds suggests that she has also located pre-conquest levels. Thanks are due to several members of the Field Centre and the Bletchley Archaeological Society who gave assistance.

Enquiries from educational and other sources about local sites and finds have been dealt with.

The collection and cataloguing of archaeological finds from North Buckinghamshire has continued. This material is largely from the private collections of local people who deposit it here at the Abbey for safe keeping and (hopefully) to eventually form part of the City Museum collection. There is a wealth of material in the area which has remained in private hands owing to the lack of a local museum and the inaccessibility of the County Museum at Aylesbury to the average person relying on public transport. Much of the material which has been placed on loan at the Abbey is here on condition that it remains in the N. of the County.

Access to finds for research is normally possible during working hours, but it is preferable if previous notice is given.

Considerable interest was created by the opening of the Field Centre on Sunday afternoons last spring, followed later by opening all day Saturdays and Sundays until the end of September. This was made possible partly by volunteers from the Trust, and by the Corporation's Job Creation staff, Mrs. S. Spear and Miss M. Weatherall, to all of whom we are very grateful. This resulted in several members of the public bringing in finds - a practice also aided by the colourful MKDC posters. Notable finds brought in this year include a very fine

Saxon spearhead, Roman coins, medieval coins and horsebells. Visits have been made to several sites as a result of information received from visitors.

During the year D.C. Mynard talked to 15 groups about the work of the Bradwell Abbey Field Centre and gave guided tours of the site and Centre to a further 10, during which he was often assisted by M.D. Baines. These visits to the Field Centre, enjoyed by all, were made even more pleasant by the provision of tea and biscuits by A. Kluz and the back-up support of Mrs. D. Eley.

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM CBA HEADQUARTERS

Calendar of Excavations: Issued monthly from March to September, November, with a summary in the following January. Annual Subscription: UK & Europe £2.50; USA & Canada surface mail \$5; USA & Canada air mail \$8; outside Europe surface mail £2; outside Europe air mail £3.

Archaeological Bibliography for Great Britain and Ireland £5
(details of earlier issues available on request)

British Archaeological Abstracts: issued half-yearly.
Annual subscription: £9 for institutions, £4.50 for individuals.
Back numbers available at £7 for institutions, £3.50 for individuals.

Current and Forthcoming Offprints and Reports on Archaeology £1.25
Ann. Sub.

Archaeology in Britain: CBA Annual Report £2
(back numbers available on application)

CBA Research Report No. 6: Romano-British Coarse Pottery: a student's guide (Ed G. Webster) £1.25

CBA Research Report No. 9: The Iron Age in the Irish Sea Province (1972) £1.50

CBA Research Report No. 11: The Effect of Man on the Landscape: The Highland Zone (1975) £7.50

CBA Research Report No. 12: Aerial Reconnaissance for Archaeology (1976) £8

CBA Research Report No. 13: The Archaeological Study of Churches (Ed P.V. Addyman and R.K. Morris) £4.50

CBA Research Report No. 14: The Plans and Topography of Medieval Towns in England and Wales (1976) £4.50

CBA Research Report No. 15: Deerhurst Excavations 1971-3 by P.A. Rahtz £4

CBA Research Report No. 16: Iron Age Sites in Central Southern England by Barry Cunliffe (1976) £3.50

<i>Guide to British Topographical Collections</i> by M.W. Barley (1974)	£4
<i>British Archaeology: An introductory book list</i> (1976)	75p
<i>Archaeological Site Index to Radio-Carbon Dates for Great Britain & Ireland</i> Index (1971)	75p
First addenda (1972)	75p
Second addenda (1973)	75p
<i>The Erosion of History: Archaeology and Planning in Towns</i> (1972)	£1.25
<i>Responsibilities and Safeguards in Archaeological Excavations</i> (1972)	25p
<i>Archaeology and Government</i> (1974)	25p
<i>How to Record Graveyards</i> by Jeremy Jones (1976)	75p
<i>Record Cards</i> (a) Standard (b) Industrial	£1 per 100 plus postage
<i>Gravestone Record Cards</i>	£2 per 100 plus postage
<i>Archaeology in Schools</i> : a folder containing book and film lists together with a general guidance for those teaching the subject in schools	£1
<i>Archaeology and Agriculture</i>	£1.65
<i>Note: Basic and Consolidated Subscribers are entitled to purchase many of the above publications at a substantial discount. For details apply to CBA.</i>	

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR EXTERNAL STUDIES, OXFORD.

<i>CBA Group 9 Newsletters</i> No. 2	40p.
No. 3	45p
No. 4	50p
No. 6	£1.20

CBA HEADQUARTERS

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

Tel. 01 486 1527

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments,
Department of the Environment,
Fortress House,
23 Savile Row,
London, W1X 2AA.

Tel. 01 734 6010

C.B.A. 9 MEMBERSHIP 1976-7

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

Names and addresses are of hon. secretaries or correspondents.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Ampthill & Dist. A. & Local History

K.J. Fadden, 7 Lea Road, Ampthill

Bedford Arch. Soc.

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

Bedfordshire Arch. Council

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

Manshead Arch. Soc.

Mrs. F.E. Lavery, Seronera, Oldhill Wood, Studham, Dunstable, LU6 2NE

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)

South Bedfordshire A.

D.H. Kennett, 55 Mount Grace Road, Stopsley, Luton

Bedfordshire County Council

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

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Beaconsfield & Dist. Hist.

Miss K. Day, 15 Ronald Road, Beaconsfield

Bletchley A. & Hist.

C. Hoptroff, 20 Great Brickhill Lane, Little Brickhill, Milton Keynes, MK17 9NQ

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

Pitstone Local Hist.

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

Wolverton & District Arch. & Hist. Soc.

D.C. Mynard, Bradwell Abbey Field Centre, Bradwell, Milton Keynes MK13 9AP

County Museum

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

Milton Keynes Development Corp.

D.C. Mynard, Bradwell Abbey Field Centre, Bradwell (Milton Keynes 312475)

Milton Keynes & Dist. Arch. Soc.

M.E. Baines, c/o Bradwell Abbey Field Centre, Bradwell, Milton Keynes MK13 9AP

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Corby Nat. Hist. & A.

W. Mawdsley, 89 Steyning Close, Corby

Higham Ferrars Hundred

D.N. Hall, 322 Newton Road, Rushden

Middle Nene A. Group

J. Hadman, 25 Church Street, Warmington, Peterborough

Northamptonshire

Mrs. F. Williams, 41 Stannard Way, Brixworth

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

M. Hickling, 38 Kingsley Road, Northampton

South Northants

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

Upper Nene

Mrs. D. Friendship-Taylor, 8 Pinetree Close, Hackleton, Northants, NN7 2AQ

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

A. Hannan, Arch. Officer, County Offices, Wootton House, Northampton

Northampton Development Corporation

J. Williams, Arch. Officer, Northampton Dev. Corp., Cliftonville House, Bedford Road, Northampton, NN4 0AY (0604 34734)

OXFORDSHIRE

Abingdon & Area Arch. & Hist. Soc.

Mrs. J. Smith, 47 Bostock Road, Abingdon (Abingdon 21392)

Banbury Hist.

Miss C. Bloxham, Oxfordshire County Museum, Fletchers House, Woodstock
Enstone Local Hist.

Henley Arch. & Hist.

D. Humphries, Burnside, Satwell Close, Rotherfield Greys, Henley on Thames
Oxford Architectural & Hist.
Mrs. J. Young, 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 57522)

Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit

T.G. Hassall, 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford (0865 43888)

Oxfordshire County Museum

J. Steane, Field Dept., Fletchers House, Woodstock (Woodstock 811456)

Museum of Oxford

St. Aldate's, Oxford

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 Department 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 Department of Adult Education

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

Wraysbury Hist.

A.C.H. Walters, "Quarter Deck", Lammas Drive, Wraysbury, 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. W.J. Fowler, 25 High Street, Watlington, Oxford OX9 5PZ

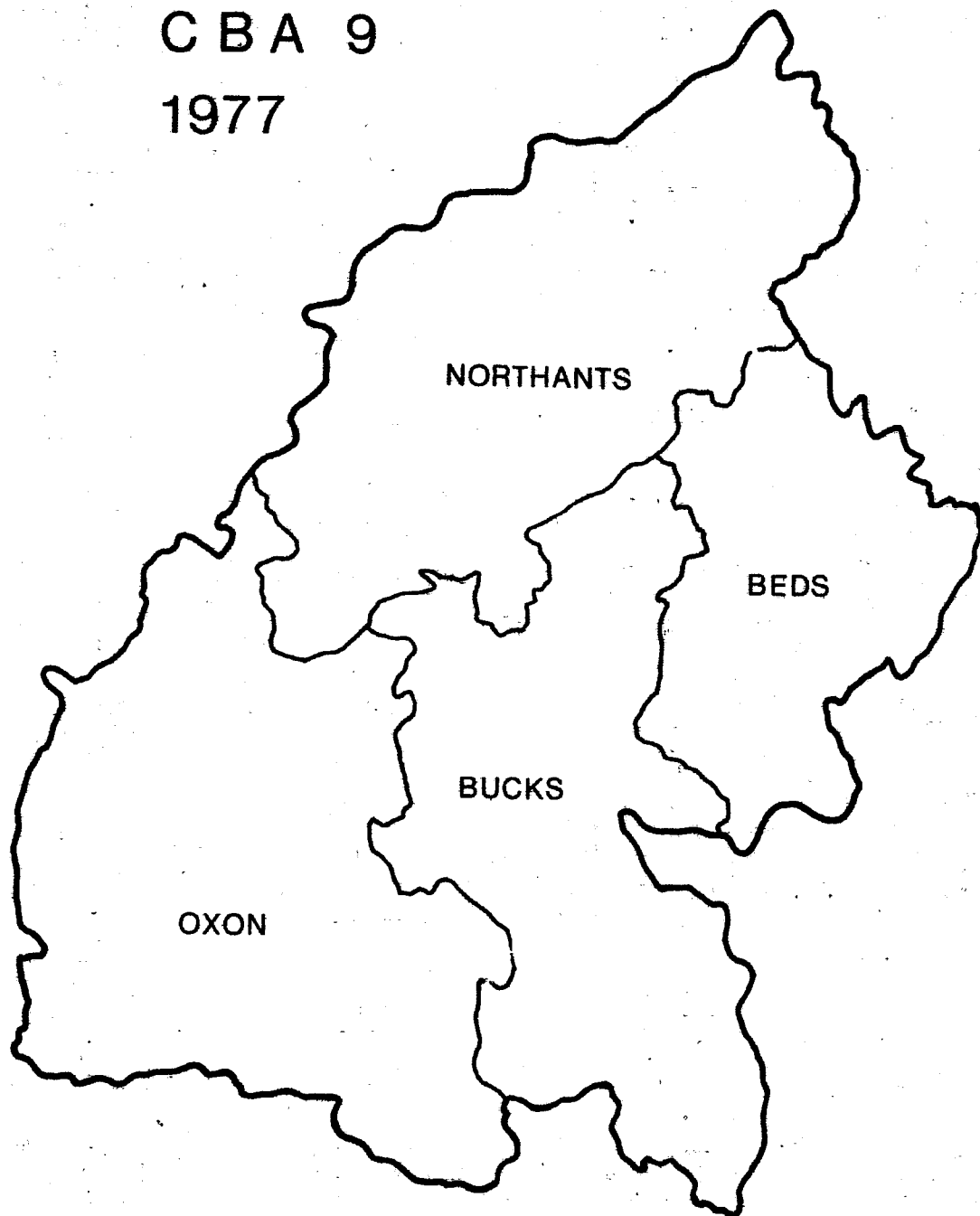
Mr. J.W. Press, 193 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 1UZ

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

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

C B A 9

1977



0 10 20 m