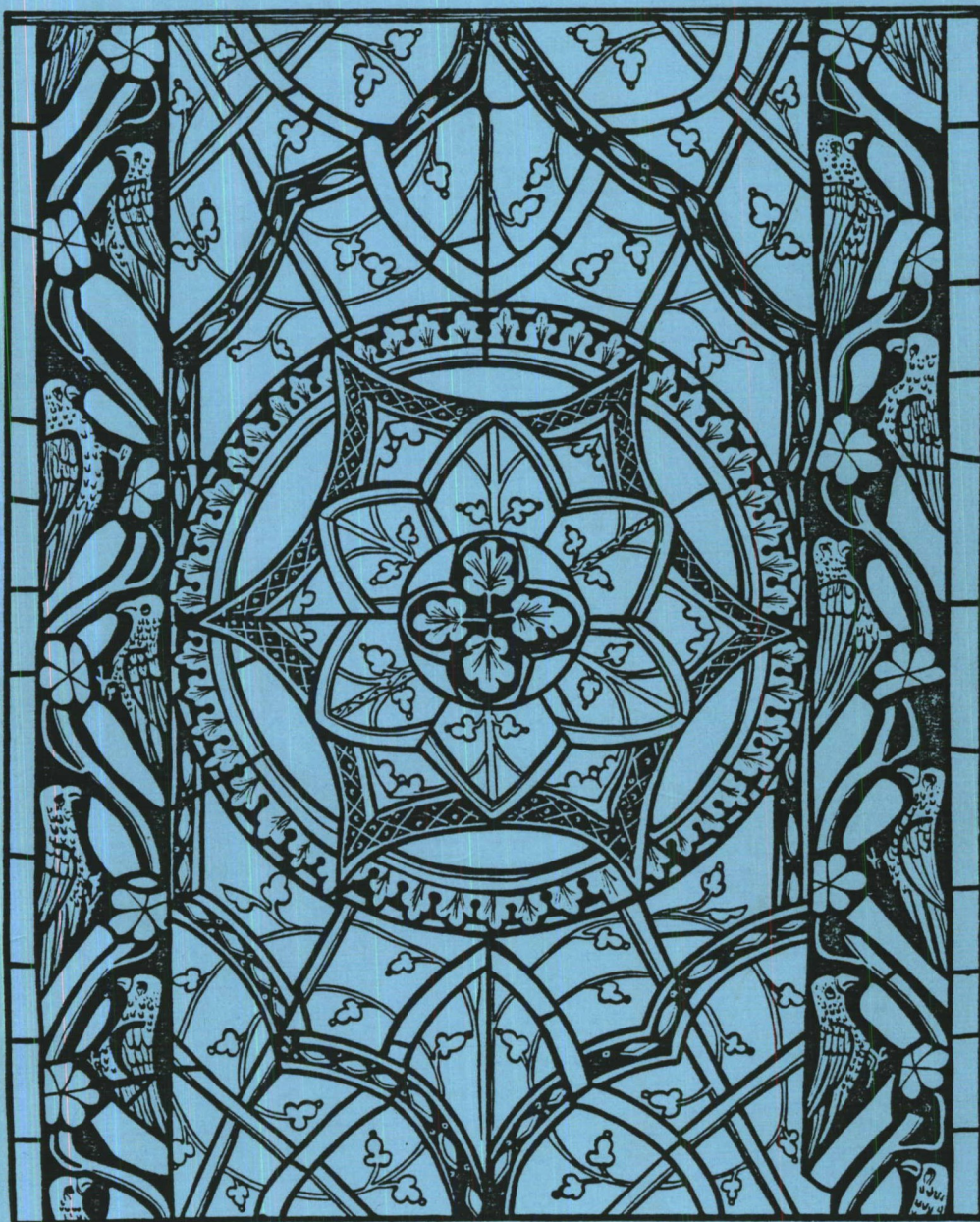


SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

**16
1986**



**CBA
GROUP
9**

SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

The Newsletter of the Council for British Archaeology Regional
Group 9 (Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire)

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Missenden Abbey, from an early 19th-century watercolour, depicting an imaginative reconstruction of the Tudor or 17th-century country house and the ruins of the church. The Abbey was to have been the venue for the Group's A.G.M., but was sadly destroyed by fire (see p.38)

C O N T E N T S

Editorial	1
Secretary's Report	2
Bedfordshire	3
Buckinghamshire	36
Northamptonshire	73
Oxfordshire	87

Page

EDITORIAL

Another year has passed - one of considerable archaeological activity in our four counties. In two counties we saw the end of an era: at Grove Priory, Bedfordshire, the excavations which seem to have lasted for as long as the Archers, finally came to a conclusion. And in Oxford, Tom Hassall left the Unit to become Secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). In wishing him well in his new post, we thank him for all he has done for Group 9 - as Chairman, Committee member, Conference Organiser and contributor to this Journal - and hope he maintains his links with us. At the same time we welcome his successor at Oxford, Dr. Ian Burrow, formerly with Somerset County Council.

One or two people have written to the Editor about the quality of reproduction of South Midlands Archaeology. It is good to know that subscribers do actually read the Journal! We use xerography to print it which is, as far as we know, the only way we can comfortably keep costs within three figures. If we move into more "up-market" methods then the price will be much more than we can afford with our very limited budget. Even a glossy cover is a luxury beyond our means. Mind you, if we doubled or trebled our circulation (but that's another story).

The arrangement is as in previous years.

Can I please have your contributions for the 1987 issue by 31st January, 1987? Articles from some of our smaller member societies would be especially welcome!

Andrew Pike

April 1986

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last edition of S.M.A. the Executive Committee, and those members who attended the A.G.M, have focussed attention on the role of CBA 1X in its area. Two new strands of thought have come from these meetings: that we should be in more regular contact with our membership through a newsletter designed to give information about the activities of our member groups, and individuals, and perhaps to give the regional import of some of the national issues faced by CBA. Secondly, a series of 'technical' seminars has been considered, where aspects of recording and analysis can be explained, practised and developed. During this coming year we hope to have tried out both these innovations. However, without the support of the membership, they will be still born.

The A.G.M. was held at Bradwell Abbey in Milton Keynes, the original venue, Missenden Abbey, having been destroyed by fire. The official business was followed by a joint meeting with the Milton Keynes Archaeological Society for a talk on and site visit to, Bancroft conducted by Bob Williams and Bob Zeepvat. The business meeting was marred by the very patchy representation from our member groups, even though the importance of the meeting was stressed, but in spite of this we were able to get a full committee elected. The thanks of the Executive go to the members of the Milton Keynes Unit for their organisational efforts.

The two 'mainstays' of our year, S.M.A. and the Spring Conference remain solid. Thanks to the editorial skills of Andrew Pike, and the financial wizardry of Dr. Bob Hagerty, S.M.A. remains lucid and solvent. The success of the Conferences of 1984 and 1985 have ensured that our connections with the Oxford University Department of External Studies are not embarrassing for both parties, and the Oxford venue is secure for the foreseeable future. We owe a great deal to the help from Trevor Rowley and Shirley Hermon at O.U.D.E.S. for the organisation of each conference, and we are most grateful for this.

C.B.A. 1X is an important communicator in its region, and this year will see this role enhanced by new ventures. If it is to fulfil this expanded role, it will need not only the support of the officers of its member groups, but their determined efforts to see the information get to the individual members of each society. I do not have a copyright on this report and I will be very happy if you photocopy it and give it to your membership so that they are aware of our activities. Hopefully they all get access to S.M.A., in time!

Tim Copeland
Secretary

BEDFORDSHIRE

Recent work on the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery found at Kempston 3-14

Introduction

The Anglo-Saxon cemetery found at Kempston, Bedfordshire, has long been recognised as one of the largest and most important sites discovered in the course of the nineteenth century.¹ Some comparisons of its size can be made with other sites in the C.B.A. group 9 region and Cambridgeshire:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Inhumations</u>	<u>Cremations</u>	<u>Total</u>
Abingdon, Oxon.	121	82	203
Long Wittenham, Oxon.	188	46	234
Brightampton, Oxon.	58+	11	69+
Nassington, Northants.	65	3	68
East Shefford, Berks.	73+	?	73+
Barrington B, Cambs.	114+	unknown	114+
Linton Heath, Cambs.	104	?	104
Little Wilbraham, Cambs.	199+	135+	334+
St. Johns College Cricket Field, Cambridge, Cambs.	50+	700+	750+
Kettering, Northants.	10+	116+	126+
Kempston, Beds.	129+	51+	180+

Perhaps an equally valid comparison is to take those sites of which the author has detailed knowledge:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Inhumations</u>	<u>Non-ceramic objects</u>
East Shefford, Berks.	73+	198
St. Johns, Cambridge	50+	71
Kempston, Beds.	129+	440

The instinctive comparisons can be made. The Kempston cemetery is comparable in size to that portion of the Abingdon cemetery excavated by E.T. Leeds or the portion of the cemetery at Long Wittenham investigated by J.Y. Akerman. Indeed the comparison with Long Wittenham is a valid one. The main body of finds at Kempston was made in 1863 to 1865; the excavations at Long Wittenham were conducted in 1859 and 1860. J.Y. Akerman published an account of the Oxfordshire site in Archaeologia volumes 38 (1860) 327-352 and 39 (1861) 135-142. The Kempston discoveries were published as a diary by the Rev. S.E. Fitch in the Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers volume 7 (1864) 269-299. Sites of approximately equal size occupy roughly comparable numbers of pages in contemporary learned publications. Both publications have illustrations of some of the objects. They are of a comparable standard of record. What complicates all work on the Kempston cemetery is that between discovery and acquisition by a museum the material became disorganised.

The idea of working towards a re-publication of the Kempston cemetery was first conceived about twenty years ago, laid on one side for a while; but between 1966 and 1968 sufficient work was done to establish a basic catalogue of grave groups with those identifications to individual graves which can be made; a catalogue with illustrations of all the objects; and discussion of the items then thought to be significant.

In the ten years after 1968, some revisions to the basic corpus were attempted. The work of the present writer has concentrated on three areas: ceramics, a weakness in the original account; male graves, weapons and social structure; and on seventh-century material.

More recently a more systematic attempt has been made to re-examine the material from the cemetery. This has certain defined aims. It has initially concentrated on individual studies of significant material in advance of the full publication of the complete corpus. This has become a deliberate policy to allow a form of full publication to emerge which will command respect in its methodology. It is almost certain that when the cemetery is published in depth this will take the form of a catalogue of the graves, with a catalogue of the objects, and only a minimal discussion. This policy is governed both by finance and by considerations that more of what is written as discussion has only a limited life span. It has yet to be decided exactly what will be included in the discursive items of the final publication.

Work done in the last four years concentrated on three areas. Most recently the earliest objects buried at Kempston have been re-drawn with a view to suggesting some thoughts as to the origins of the cemetery. Allied to this has been a new look at the date of the material buried at Kempston. Finally some further work has been done on the question of social structure, both male and female.

Cemetery Origins

The most recent work has re-drawn the objects from grave 14, one of those recorded as found on 15 June 1863. These comprise five insignificant looking pieces of metal and some knife fragments which cannot now be identified. The five pieces of metal are: two sections of bronze edging from a sword scabbard, one without decoration, the other ornamented in a style well-known from the tubular fittings found in the grave of a German at Dorchester-on-Thames; a bronze ring of stepped

hemispherical cross-section with an attached plate; two strap ends. The ornamented scabbard fitting may be paralleled in a Kriegergrab (soldier's grave) found at Mainz, Greiffenklaustrasse grave 2.² This grave also contains a plain fragment of a scabbard fitting. The earliest male grave found at Kempston is to be given detailed publication in the last issue of the Bedfordshire Archaeology³.

The comparison has been mentioned of this grave with that of the German at Dorchester-on-Thames⁴. There is a second grave from Dorchester-on-Thames which contains an early cruciform brooch⁵. There is a comparable brooch from Kempston. Fritz Roeder's dating of this brooch to before 425 has much to commend itself⁶.

The same scholar is one of many to consider the short-armed brooch and the equal-armed brooch, two other well-known early pieces from amongst the unassociated material at Kempston. The stuzarmfibel (short-armed brooch) from Kempston was suggested by Roeder as dating to around 425; that from Luton he thought may date to about 400. The equal-armed brooch is probably later but how much later in the fifth century is an area on which it would be unwise to be too definite.

What has emerged from the most recent thoughts and reconsiderations is that there is material at Kempston whose deposition dates to the first generation of the fifth century. This material can now be shown to be from both male and female graves. The significance of this should not be overlooked. When only unassociated brooches are being considered there is always the possibility that they are heirlooms. The survival of part of the material from a contemporary male grave, albeit one probably robbed in antiquity otherwise a sword would have been found, suggests contemporaneity of burial and hence infers origins for the cemetery in the early part of the fifth century.

A working hypothesis that these origins belong to the latest depositions of the late Roman army may be suggested. It is postulated that perhaps the beginnings of the Kempston cemetery represent the burial ground of a detachment of German mercenaries, with their wives, whose task was to guard the ford which later became formalised as Bedford.

The date of the Kempston Cemetery

The earliest material found at Kempston gives a suitable introduction to the problems of the dating of the finds from the grave at Kempston. Ignoring those problems connected with correlating the written record with the material remains and concentrating simply on the stylistic dating of individual objects, it is possible to suggest three distinct horizons and indications of a fourth. The term horizon is used advisedly. Period strikes one as too definite a concept to use in relation to material which despite being recorded cannot now be easily reconstructed as associated groups. Moreover, much of the material is not easily dated. A broad outline is the only indicator which exists for the date of individual artefacts.

The Fifth Century.

Mention has already been made of the Kriegergrab of the earliest years of the fifth century and also of the three early brooches. There are a number of other pieces which should be considered as belonging to the first two generations of the fifth century. Chronologically this may be

seen as material deposited before 470/500. Among other jewellery there is a Klappersmuck pin, used to fasten hair rather than a dress; a five-coil spiral saucer brooch; and an iron inlaid buckle. Much of the pottery used as cremation containers belongs in this time. Among the pots recorded by nineteenth-century illustrations only are three Buckelurnen, one of which is represented by the only sherd (as opposed to complete pot) known in the Kempston finds. There are also three extant Buckelurnen and the curious window urn with fluted sides.

It is not a great deal which can be placed here. In summary it is one male grave, a maximum of four but more probably fewer female graves, and perhaps seven cremations.

The Early Sixth Century.

If the fifth century is marked by a paucity of items and hence of definite graves, the early sixth century can be characterised by the difficulty of establishing material which must date to within the range 470/500 to around 550/570.

The usual indicator of the general date of a cemetery is by comparing the brooches of female graves with one another and using the best furnished women's graves to compare with those elsewhere, and ultimately with a grave with a coin which provides a terminus post quem. The parameters within which one works were well set out by the late John Morris on more than one occasion.⁷ And using these parameters, John Morris suggested that there was no material which must date to between 470/500 and 550/570. He did not say that there was not any material from Kempston of this date only that incontrovertible evidence was lacking.

On this basis a whole hypothesis has been built up of a cemetery abandoned in the early sixth century and subsequently reoccupied. However, it is not clear that the hypothesis itself is well-founded.

One may begin with the ceramics. There is one pot with bosses separated by three vertical grooves lined by vertical rows of finger dimples. Another of the pots has three wide-spaced horizontal shoulder grooves and among the vessels now lost is one with four shoulder grooves and single line chevrons on the body. Also among the lost pots is one with looped bosses below an elaborate arrangement of horizontal grooves interspersed with stamps and diagonal grooves. I offer these as evidence for the continuing practice of cremation at the Kempston cemetery in the first half of the sixth century.

Like the fifth century, it is not a great deal but then the question may legitimately be posed, how much pottery must date to the early sixth century?

Similarly, it is difficult to identify any ironwork which must date to the first half of the sixth century.

There are, however, just a few brooches which do seem to have a dating in this area. There are five cruciform brooches from Kempston. One is among the earliest of all such brooches in England. The other four are one of Aberg's group II; a near pair with half-round knobs and a spade-shaped foot (not an animal head for a foot); and a most peculiar piece with half-round side knobs, a flattened top knob that has indications of a protruding excrescence and a foot which gives every indication of having been broken off and filed to a rounded end. The

last may be like the brooches from Islip, Northants., broken in antiquity and repaired before burial; or like the florid cruciform brooches from Brooke, Norfolk, or Saltburn, Cleveland, broken and buried in the half extant state. The Kempston brooch may well be an early example of Aberg's group III, which are generally thought to date to the early sixth century. The period between 470/500 and 550/570 is the usual date range ascribed to Aberg's group II, of which there is a fine example from Kempston. The near pair of brooches with the spade-shaped foot apart from the foot look like respectable examples of Aberg's group II. The termination may confirm their position as part of the development which lead from the mainstream of cruciform brooches to the cheaper and less elaborate small-long brooches.

The small-long brooches, of which there are thirty-two from Kempston, have been variously dated to a range extending from about 470/500 to as late as 600/620. The dating evidence is limited and difficult to refine. Some of those at Kempston do date to the first half of the sixth century; others to later in the same century. It would be unwise to press too close a dating for any individual brooch of this type.

Work on the cast saucer brooches labours under the problem that although fourteen were accessioned by various museums, only four now exist. Photographs provide working data for the other ten. Some are types which can confidently be suggested as late in the sixth century but others may be given no finer ascription than the sixth century in general. The same is true of the disc brooches, of which there are six, the two penannular brooches, and the three annular brooches.

The definite evidence for the first half of the sixth century is four cremations, as represented by the four pots, and three female inhumations, as represented by the pair of cruciform brooches and the two individual cruciform brooches. The indefinite evidence is wider.

The context of this evidence is worth an aside. Producing distribution maps of the brooches, as was in fact done in 1968, suggests that the Kempston cemetery belongs to a milieu which extends to Cambridgeshire and to a much lesser extent to Northamptonshire. There is a complete divorce of cultural analogies between the Kempston brooches and those found at Argyll Avenue, Luton. Contact as revealed in the distribution of individual brooch types between the Kempston cemetery and those known in the Upper Thames region is limited.

It is the same milieu which is evident for the most noticeable late sixth-century brooch type.

The Late Sixth Century.

The late sixth century at Kempston has always been recognised as a distinct period, phase, horizon (the terminology is irrelevant). There are a number of objects which can certainly be ascribed to within the period 550/570 to 600/620 (perhaps a little later, depending on one's preference for the beginning of the final phase),

There are seven cremation urns: four of panel style with the panels formed by multiple line chevrons filled with stamps; two vessels with horizontal rows of stamps separated by horizontal grooves; and a single pot in the long boss style.

There are two graves with swords, to be dated by associated objects. Grave 75, found 2 February 1864, has a bucket whose ornament is a degenerate

form of Salin's style I. Grave 152, recorded in manuscript on 17 January 1865, included a buckle of meerscham with a plate on the tongue with good, not degenerate, animal ornament of Salin's style I. There is at least one grave with an elaborate shield: grave 52, found 11 December 1863, which included the fish-shaped applique among its ornament.

Then there are the brooches. Some, perhaps even a majority, of the the small-long brooches, the annular brooches, the penannular brooches and the disc brooches date to the second half of the sixth century.

The cast saucer brooches include certain types whose elaboration marks them as late in the developmental sequence. These are the presumed pair of face centre brooches, the button brooch with a face as its ornament, the presumed pair of small brooches with a wheel design as small as button brooches, the pair of brooches with wedges in the design and the pair and odd single brooch whose design is divided into six. That is ten out of the fourteen. Of these, the analogies are with brooches found in sites west of Kempston but not always to the south-west. The strongest correlations are with the cemeteries of the Warwickshire Avon.

There are two forms of face plate which are recognisable late sixth century among the applied saucer brooches found at Kempston. There are a pair of brooches with a design of six faces and four pairs of brooches with four faces set between a disjointed leg ornament and in the case of three of the pairs within ornamented borders. The latter are known as the "Kempston type" of applied brooch. The dating to the latter part of the sixth century has long been recognised; the distribution is mainly to the east. In all there are twenty-one from various sites in Cambridgeshire. To the south-west are a pair from Frilford, Oxon., and two pairs from Winterbourne Gunner, Wilts.⁹

There are two late great square-headed brooches. One is fragmentary, a bow and part of the footplate from an example of Leeds' class B8, a Cambridgeshire type. The other is a brooch with a cruciform foot, of the East Midland type, found in Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and East Anglia. The Kempston example is highly individualistic, having analogies also with contemporary brooches in Kent.

There are a number of comments which seem pertinent. Material of the late sixth century, being artistically developed, is easy to recognise. There is rather a lot of it, in general terms throughout England, particularly brooches from female graves. This suggests two developments. A growing artistic development, with a tendency to increasing size and elaboration in brooch design, is accompanied by a tendency for more women to be buried with jewellery. The Kempstone cemetery is not one on which it is possible to conduct a good analysis of this development. It requires more work and work on a wider range of sites than has so far been the case; it also needs to be conducted on sites with much better established grave groups (in terms of securely recognisable material remains) than is the case at Kempston.

The Seventh Century

Most Anglo-Saxon cemeteries which begin in the fifth century continue until late in the sixth century. There may be an isolated grave of the last phase of burials with grave goods, those of the final phase, dating to the seventh century, but there is rarely more than one of these graves in a cemetery of any length of time for its use.

The Kempston cemetery is different. Graves of the final phase were collected in a paper in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 8 (1973).¹⁰ Listed there are nine graves of this period, together with a series of objects. For the latter no grave ascriptions are possible.

Graves and Social Structure

The last comment encapsulates the problems of the Kempston cemetery. For many of the 489 objects, I have no idea in which grave they were found. In total a minimum of eighty-eight brooches are recorded in at least thirty-three graves (some of which are records of more than one grave). The various museums holding Kempston objects have a minimum of ninety-three brooches. Of these a grave number can be confidently given to a pair of disc brooches, a pair of cast saucer brooches, and two pairs of small-long brooches. The total of eight is less than a tenth of the known brooches.

With the beads, there is almost no correlation possible. A few comments can be made about crystal beads. Minor female objects can be identified only for one grave, grave 107, found 19th March 1864. This purely seems to be because the material was kept together between its discovery and its acquisition by the British Museum in 1891.

Study of social structure at Kempston is hampered by the lack of correlation between material remains and the original records. This is the case with both sexes, although it seems less so with the males.

The Male Graves

All systems of discerning social structure depend on preconditions set by the investigator. This is no less true of those based on the study of grave goods. However, male graves do seem susceptible to a status hierarchy based on possessions. The particular model suggested is given below, together with the number of each type of grave at Kempston:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Artefacts</u>	<u>Graves at Kempston</u>
A	Spear	13
B	Spear, shield	5
C	Spear, shield, sword	1
D	Spear, shield, sword, vessel	1
E	Spear, shield, sword, 2 vessels	0
F	Spear, shield, sword, 3 or more vessels	0
U	Record of weapons, details unknown/stray finds	5

A word may be said about this. Group F is nationally a very small number of graves. The grave from Taplow is the lesser of the two obvious examples; the other is Sutton Hoo. A third is the ill-recorded rich grave from Broomfield, Essex. Group E is also small: a forthcoming paper records six graves with two vessels from the area between the Thames and the Trent.¹¹ There are examples in Kent which were not investigated for that paper. Only two of those noted were from large cemeteries: Little Wilbraham grave 42 in Cambridgeshire and Sleaford grave 200 in Lincolnshire.

Graves with a single vessel are not uncommon; they are found with both sexes and with many different vessel forms. In constructing hierarchies of social structure based on graves, the presence of a vessel is a link between male and female graves. Rather more will be offered on this when considering the female graves at Kempston.

The Female Graves

Some of the problems relating to the female graves at Kempston have already been touched upon. These include the limited number of securely identifiable grave groups: it is obvious the artefacts recorded survive but the actual artefacts found together cannot now be reassembled as individual grave groups. Beyond that there are very few artefacts and hence few grave groups which have secure and close dating. There is the third problem that the majority of the brooches with elaborate ornament have that rich ornament because they have become larger in size.

As has been said, Kempston is not a cemetery for which it is possible to elaborate a status/social structure system. One group, however, can be picked out. These are the graves with a vessel. The vessel can be of glass; it could be of bronze; it may be of wood bound with bronze; it might be of wood bound with iron; a pot is a fifth possibility. There are two such graves at Kempston.

Grave 32 is not recorded as a securely attributable single association. It seems not unlikely that this is one of the many graves at Kempston where the record is of an earlier grave disturbed in the making of a later one. There are cases of cremations being disturbed by later inhumations. Such cases have been called a group, and more strictly speaking one should consider group 32. One is particularly concerned about this record because Fitch stated the material was "lately found", not that it was found that day. In group 32 was found a necklace of 120 beads, beads near the left wrist; a toilet set of an ear-pick and a tooth-pick; the ring and handle from a wooden object; a pear-shaped gold casing with a garnet setting; and the Kempston glass cone beaker. Of these objects, the gold pendant with a garnet setting seems intrusive: there are good seventh-century parallels to this in pieces like the Desborough necklace from Northamptonshire. Indeed, the inserted piece in that necklace is one of the closest parallels to the actual pendant at Kempston.

If one accepts the dating proffered for the deposition of the Desborough necklace as late in the seventh century, and perhaps beyond 700, and then applies this to the single pendant at Kempston, one is faced with a suggested dating for the burial of the glass beaker at Kempston much later than is usually accepted for both manufacture and deposition. There are sixth-century graves with analagous glasses: Alfriston grave 43 in Sussex includes brooches which one would not like to date too early in the sixth century. The association at Howletts, Kent, are not secure, but

neither find of a cone beaker is from a grave which need be dated earlier than the middle years of the sixth century and may be as late as around 600. Within the south Midlands, there are also a number of other glasses of this type. One of the two at East Shefford, Berks., is unassociated. The other comes from grave 24 in the 1912 excavations, the brooches from which have been claimed as fifth century in date, but one from Little Wilbraham grave 158, Cambs., has associations which suggest deposition as late as the second half of the sixth century. (The point needs to be made that this brooch is the one from the grave not figured by Neville on plate 2 of Saxon Obsequies Illustrated; the applied brooches in the grave are not a pair).¹² The one from Cassington, Oxon., was found in a grave with a shield and a bronze-bound bucket without vertical strips: the latter is suggested as infrequent after the early fifth century.

Dating is not the only concern which needs to be discussed about grave 32 at Kempston. The record has a necklace, female items, a vessel and what might be best interpreted as the metal handle of a wooden weaving batten, but no brooches. Unless, of course, it is a seventh-century grave and the single cabachon garnet is the only jewellery.

The other grave with a vessel at Kempston, presents no such problems. Grave 53 was found on 14 December 1863. It contained a pierced coin; a bronze hook; two saucer brooches; two small-long brooches; a bronze ring (function unknown); and fragments of iron probably from the binding of a bucket. The last-named can be identified and the interpretation confirmed. Indeed, at some point it is hoped to be able to suggest a reconstruction of the original iron-bound bucket.

Grave 53, while no identification of the brooches can be given, offers comparison in the remainder of its contents with the three women's graves at Linton Heath, Cambs., with buckets: graves 9, 72 and 76.

It could be argued that the women's graves at Kempston present a comparable series to the Cambridgeshire site and that the same phenomenon is evident at both cemeteries. At Linton Heath, it is clear that there is a small number of very rich graves and a large number of poorly-furnished graves. The same seems true of Kempston.

Perhaps the time has come to try to achieve a deeper understanding of the true social structure of early Anglo-Saxon England. The preserved law codes reveal a wide range of what the Book of Common Prayer calls "all sorts and conditions of men" and one might add, women. The same appears to be the kind of conclusions evident from a study of the cemeteries.

David H. Kennett.

APPENDIX I

KEMPSTON: PUBLICATION OF INDIVIDUAL ARTEFACTS

<u>Object</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Museum Reference</u>
A: Fifth-Century Material.		
Grave 14:		
Scabbard Binding	365	Bedford, 3845
Scabbard Binding	366	Bedford, 3846
Strap End	420	Bedford, 3854/ii
Strap End	485	Bedford, 3854/iv
Belt Fitting with ring (found 15 June 1863)	437	Bedford, 3854/iii <u>Beds. Archaeol.</u> 16, 1983, 88-91
Short-armed brooch	212	British Museum, 1891, 6-24, 212 Aberg, 1926, fig. 11.
Equal -armed brooch	348	British Museum, 1876, 2-12, 18 <u>V.C.H. Beds. I</u> , 1904, col.plate.
Early cruciform brooch	429	Bedford, 3859 <u>Antiq. J.</u> , 13, 1933, pl. 33b.
Klappersmuck pin	144	British Museum, 1891, 6-24, 144 unpublished.
5-coil spiral saucer brooch	245	British Museum, 1891, 6-24, 245 <u>V.C.H. Beds. I</u> , (1904) col. plate
Inlaid iron buckle	118	British Museum, 1891, 6-24, 118 <u>Antiq. J.</u> 35, 1955, 36 with pl.3f.
Buckelurne group V	24	British Museum, 1891, 6-24, 24 Myres, 1977, 241, fig.191, 1983
Buckelurne group V	459	Bedford, B.M. 115 Myres, 1977, 242, fig. 193, 2954
Buckelurne, small pot	378	Bedford, 3778 Myres, 1977, 233, fig. 181, 383
Buckelurne, found 1888 (not surviving)	470	not extant; Watercolour in manuscript notebook Bedford Museum
Buckelurne, vertical bosses	471	not extant; Fitch, 1864, pl. 3, upper pot
Buckelurne, vertical and circular bosses	474	whole pot not extant (see 389) Fitch, 1864, pl. 4, third row right
Sherd from Buckelurne	389	Bedford, unnumbered part of Fitch, 1864, pl. 4, third row right (= 474)
Corrugated vessel with sharp carination, glass in base	407	Bedford, B.M. 113 Myres, 1977, 290, fig. 261, 2953.

<u>Object</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Museum Reference</u>
B: Early-Sixth Century Material		
Cruciform brooch	213	British Museum, 1891, 6-24, 213 V.C.H. Beds. I, 1904, col. pl.
Cruciform brooch, spade foot	347	British Museum, 1876, 2-12, 17 Aberg, 1926, fig. 95
Cruciform brooch, spade foot	427	Bedford, 3857 unpublished
Cruciform brooch, foot broken	211	British Museum, 1891, 6-24, 211 unpublished
Pot, vertical decoration	56	British Museum, 1891, 6-24, 56 Myres, 1977, 269, fig. 230, 381
Pot, horizontal grooves on shoulder	31	British Museum, 1891, 6-24, 31 Myres, 1977, 170, fig. 90, 1978
Pot, shoulder grooves, single line chevrons	475	not extant Fitch, 1864, pl.6, top row left
Pot, looped bosses below horizontal decoration	476	not extant Fitch, 1864, pl.6, second row left

APPENDIX I: References

Aberg, 1926	N. Aberg, <u>The Anglo-Saxons in England.</u> (uppsala, 1926)
Fitch, 1864	S.E. Fitch, 'Discovery of Saxon Remains at Kempston', <u>Associated Architectural Societies Reports and Papers</u> , 7 (1863-4), 269-299.
Myres, 1977	J.N.L. Myres, <u>A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period</u> , (Cambridge, 1977)
Number	Number given in list of objects from Kempston in D.H. Kennett, 'The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery found at Kempston, Bedfordshire: a reconsideration' (typescript, 1968) see note 1.

NOTES:

- 1 This paper was given as a lecture to C.B.A. Group 9 Reports Conference, March 1983. For individual objects from Kempston see the appendix. For a summary account see D.H. Kennett, 'The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery from Kempston, Bedfordshire: a reconsideration' (typescript 1968). The latter is available Bedfordshire County Record Office, Bedford, and Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, British Museum, London.

- 2 G. Behrens, Das Fruhchristliche und Merowingische Mainz (Mainz, 1950), 18, abb. 34. The ornamented scabbard fitting is item no. 3.

- 3 D.H. Kennett, 'The Earliest Male Grave at Kempston', Beds. Archaeol., 16 (1983), 88-91

- 4 S.C. Hawkes and G.C. Dunning, 'Soldiers and Settlers ..', Med. Arch. 5 (1961), fig. 1, 1-13, with catalogue entry, page 59. no. 2.

- 5 Hawkes and Dunning, 1961, fig. 1, 14-16; catalogue entry, page 47 no. 5.

- 6 F. Roeder, 'Typologisch-Chronologische studien zu Mitelsasch der Volkerwanderungszeit', Jahrbuch des Provinzal Museums Hannover 5 (1930)

- 7 Accessibly, J. Morris, 'The Anglo-Saxons in Bedfordshire', Beds. Arch. J., 1 (1962), 58-78.

- 8 Morris, 1962, 60.

- 9 D.H. Kennett, 'Applied Brooches of the Kempston type from St. John's', Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc., 63 (1971), 27-29.

- 10 D.H. Kennett, 'Seventh-Century Cemeteries in the Ouse Valley', Beds. Arch. J., 8 (1973), 99-108, esp. 99-101.

- 11 D.H. Kennett, 'Graves with Two Vessels: Death and Status in Middle Anglia', Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc. forthcoming

- 12 This point was made by J. Morris, 'The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Mitcham', Surrey Arch. Colln., 56 (1959), 115; it is ignored V.I. Evison, 'Glass Cone Beakers of the Kempston type', J. Glass Stud., 14 (1972).

Bedfordshire County Planning Department 1985

General

Basic programmes of work for the Conservation Section and Archaeological Field Team continued in 1985 much as reported for 1984. Some trends and new elements can be highlighted.

The pressure of development control casework on historic buildings is continuing to increase largely as a consequence of the listed building resurvey programme; it is having the effect of crowding out other historic built environment conservation work such as the review of Conservation Areas and the development of policies for their improvement, and an ordered approach to the problem of historic buildings threatened by decay or neglect. Detailed recording of historic buildings recedes still further down the list of priorities which existing resources can tackle.

On the archaeological side, life without an MSC scheme seems strange (see below). It emphasises two contrasting points: firstly, major long term fieldwork simply cannot be done without such assistance; secondly, under the rules of selection currently applying, it is a very slow and cost-inefficient way of getting work done when compared with the product of a small professional team. In Bedfordshire we are now in the classic situation of having demonstrated to MSC the need for permanent field technician jobs which are beyond the current financial provision by the county.

With the end of the main parish survey programme and the implementation of an improved development monitoring system, there are other changes in the pattern of work. Development affecting known sites and sensitive locations is being watched on a systematic basis, and some of the results are recounted below. The workloads created are themselves being monitored to try and determine the possible general level of detection and response to threats within current resources, and what return of information is provided.

The development of preservation fieldwork following on from the completion of the parish survey programme has been held back by the demands of two finite pieces of work, the computerisation of the Sites and Monuments Record, and the preparation of the Bedfordshire part of the National Excavations Index for RCHME's NMR, by Stephen Coleman. When these are completed it should also be possible to spend more time on the identification of unscheduled sites and historic landscape features for local protection as well as on the preparation of management plans generally.

Historic Buildings.

In addition to the usual casework undertaken by Liz Marten, David Baker and Alan Cox, certain items of particular interest stand out. Following on from the 1984 report, the Secretary of State gave permission for the demolition and re-erection on another site of the late 16th century aisled barn at Tempsford (SMR 5974), in a decision which does not bode well as a precedent in dealing with the growing problem of historic barns. However the Secretary of State refused permission for Toddington Town Hall (SMR 2435) to be demolished, after a Public Inquiry at which CBA Group 9 was represented.

16, 17
Wall paintings have figured in two cases. Demolition consent was given for 20 High Street, North Dunstable (Charlie Cole's Cycle Shop) (SMR 4325) notable for the c. 1600 wall painting of a hunting scene on a first floor wall. (Fig. 1). Investigation showed this to be the most substantial survival from the original timber framed building, the front having been replaced in the 19th century. As part of the planning consent for redevelopment, the front elevation has been rebuilt in replica to retain the 19th century character in this rather battered part of the Conservation Area, and the wall paintings were carefully removed by experts, conserved, and will be displayed in the new premises which are to be occupied by a Building Society. At all Saints Church, Chalgrave (SMR 946) the County Council funded the first phase of conservation on the extensive series of wall paintings which cover most of the nave and aisles. Work was concentrated upon the west end of the south aisle, and a notable result was the cleaning of the St. Martin figure over the south door, showing there to be two distinct horses, one painted over the other.

Another case, as yet unresolved, concerns Stotfold Mill (SMR 2612) where there are proposals to convert the extensive complex of 17th-19th century buildings to residential use. The Mill contains good late 19th century machinery and there are attempts to ensure that the conversion is not so intensive that it requires its removal. This raises again the vexed question of how to protect machinery within wind and watermills, both legally and in practical terms.

The listed building resurvey for Bedfordshire was completed during 1985, when Maxine Partridge finished the last of 10 units of work in the accelerated programme funded by DOE. The final lists have still to be processed and signed by government but it is gratifying to see the end of a task that began locally in the mid 1970s. Between 1980 and the bringing into force of the remaining lists it is estimated that the number of listed buildings in Bedfordshire will have increased by 98%.

In April 1985, the Chairman of English Heritage, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, formally opened HBMCE's new guardianship site at Bushmead Priory. English Heritage provided a medieval buffet luncheon and the Commission's new presentation staff were much in evidence. Afterwards, Lord Montagu inspected the post-excavation headquarters at Bedford Museum and the Grove Priory site.

At Chicksands Priory, advantage was taken of the extensive weatherproofing and dry rot eradication programme by PSA to persuade the Cambridge office of RCHME to record the building and especially its fine late medieval timber roof structure.

Publications.

16, 18
Several are mentioned below in the relevant sections of this report, but two are of general interest. Alan Cox's Odd and Unusual Bedfordshire has now sold out its first printing of 5,000, demonstrating the popularity of well illustrated booklets of an anecdotal kind. David Baker, Evelyn Baker and Andrew Pinder joined forces to write The Beginnings of Bedford, (a popular version of the earlier booklet by Jane Hassall and David Baker, Bedford Town Origins and Development) also incorporating the results from the large monograph report on 'Excavations in Bedford 1967-77' (Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 13 1979). A deliberately simple text was attempted, and the illustrations included many reconstructions and cartoons, with the deliberate intention of presenting a clear visual story. (Figs. 2, 8). Published with the booklet and used as its cover, was an

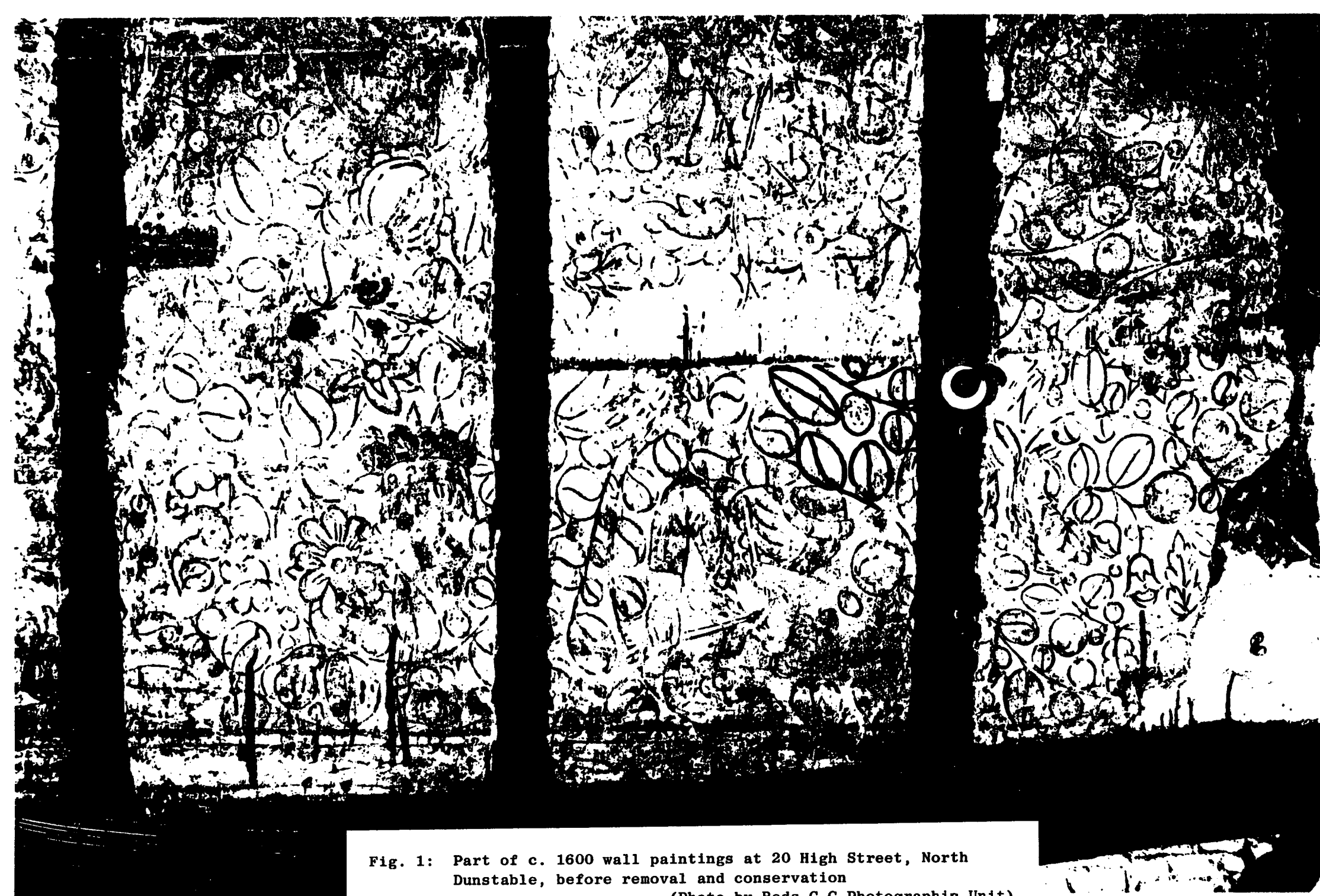


Fig. 1: Part of c. 1600 wall paintings at 20 High Street, North Dunstable, before removal and conservation
(Photo by Beds C.C. Photographic Unit)

A2 sized coloured map by Evelyn Baker, reconstructing the town in bird's eye view as it might have appeared in the early 13th century before the great siege of Bedford Castle. This was extrapolated backwards in time from Speed's map of 1610 and some 13th - 16th century documentation. While little more than the basic street plan and the position of the churches is certain, the public response to the imaginative reconstruction and the knock-on interest in archaeology's less spectacular activities has been very gratifying. Booklet and poster are available at £2.25 and £1.00 respectively (p & p included) from the Planning Department, County Hall, Bedford, MK42 9AP.

David Baker



Fig. 2: In 1137 Miles de Beauchamp "gathered into the castle everything that met his eyes" (Cartoon by Andrew Pinder)

Sites and Monuments Record.

Early in the year a revised version of the SMR computerised database was provided by Jonathan Moffatt of the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, along with a batch-editing procedure. Checking back of the computerised data against the original manual system was completed up to Primary Record Number 2150 by the end of September, when the computerisation assistant moved to another job. Work was then interrupted temporarily until the beginning of 1986, when a new assistant was appointed.

Parish Survey.

Surveys were carried out by In-Service Students from the OUDES Training Scheme on the parishes of Biggleswade and Houghton Conquest (Paul Jarvis), Campton, Chicksands and Shefford (Phil Carstairs) and Goldington (Grace Scrimgeour).

There have been three further publications in the Bedfordshire Historic Landscape and Archaeology series. Cardington & Eastcotts and Caddington & Kensworth are each available at £4.75 plus £1.00 postage. An accompanying volume is the Glossary of Terms which includes many of the historical terms likely to be encountered by any student of the historic landscape in the South Midlands region (£1.75, plus 25p postage). The publications are available from County Planning Department, County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK41 6EJ.

Site Survey.

Newnham Priory Fishponds, Bedford (TL 067493) (Fig. 3)

A small area comprising the only surviving earthwork remains of Newnham Priory, east of Bedford, is being incorporated into the Priory Marina

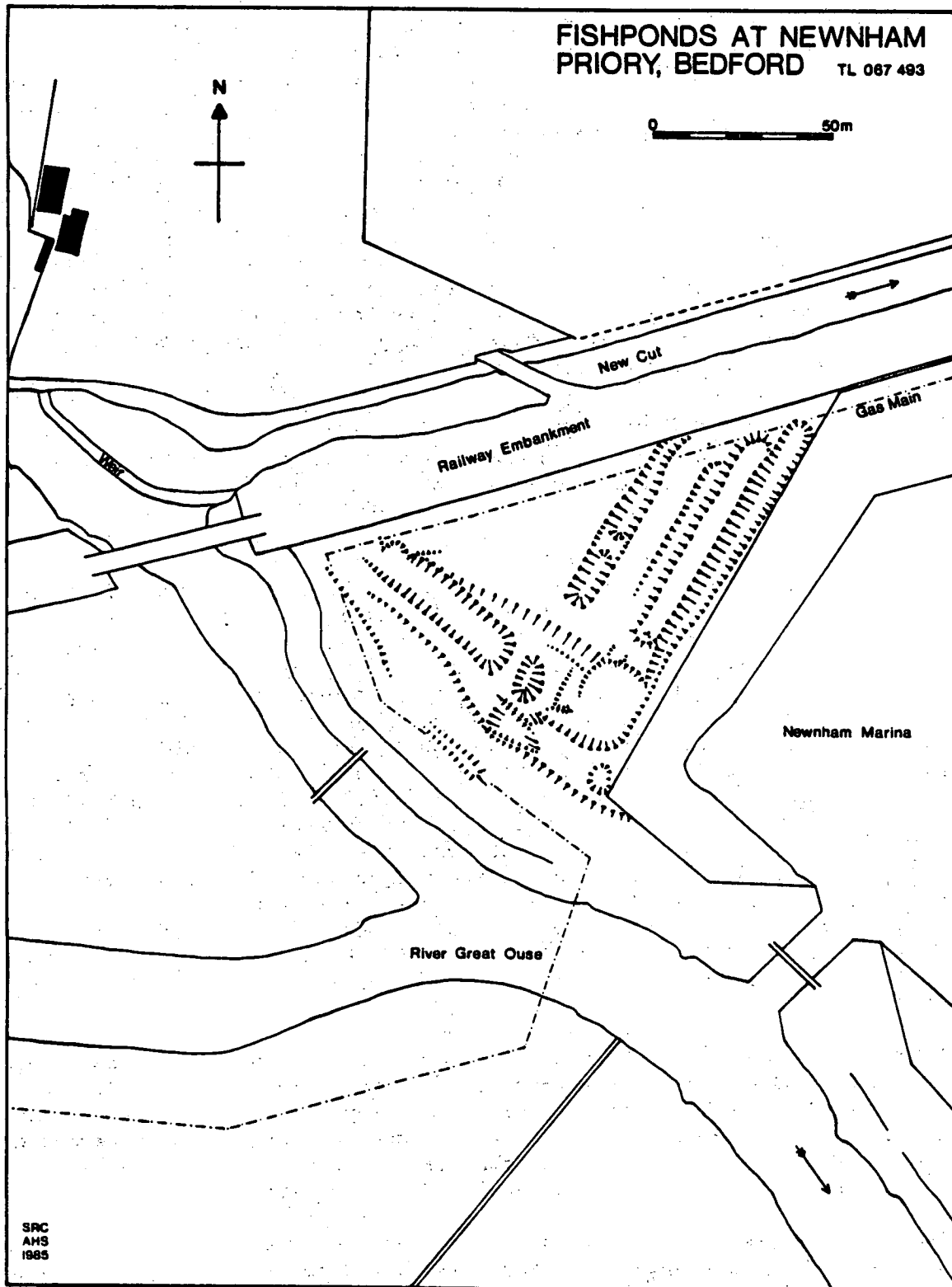


Fig. 3

Country Park, administered by North Bedfordshire Borough Council. It is intended to manage the site as an open area of potential wildlife interest, related to its low-lying wet nature. In the meantime though there have been problems of unauthorised use for motor-cycle scrambling. The earthworks were surveyed in June 1985.

Degradation of the site by many agencies over the last century (the construction of a railway and artificial arm of the River Ouse in particular) make it difficult to interpret the surviving earthworks. One large sub-rectangular pond survives, of characteristic fishpond shape, but adjacent hollows appear to have been altered in post-medieval times. Parallel banks and ditches running at right angles to the line of the river are probably boundary earthworks (maybe representing an early boundary to the priory precinct) rather than fishponds.

20, 21, 22 Mowsbury Hill, Ravensden. TL 066532 (Fig. 4).

The earthworks on Mowsbury Hill were surveyed in February 1985, to assist the preparation of a nature conservation management plan by North Bedfordshire Borough Council.

Mowsbury Hill is the end of a long spur of chalky boulder clay, running north-west/south-east, with the spur end to the south-east overlooking the Ouse valley. The earthworks fall into two phases. The Iron Age fortifications are much eroded, but are probably near their original form, except on the north-east side. To the east and the south-west (and almost certainly to the north-east as well) the defensive work comprised a marked steepening of the top of the natural slope. Excavation evidence (1) has suggested the presence of a timber-laced rampart which was destroyed by fire; the earthworks do not confirm the existence of a rampart, but only of an outward facing scarp. There is a ramp built up against the middle of the eastward scarp presumably to facilitate access in more recent times. On the north-west side, where there is no natural slope, a bank cuts off the neck of the promontory. It begins abruptly and does not merge with the defensive scarp slope, and has the appearance of being something of an after-thought. It is slightly curved in plan, and the north-western corner of the Iron Age defences may have been more rounded than the rectangular mediaeval earthworks superimposed on them at this point.

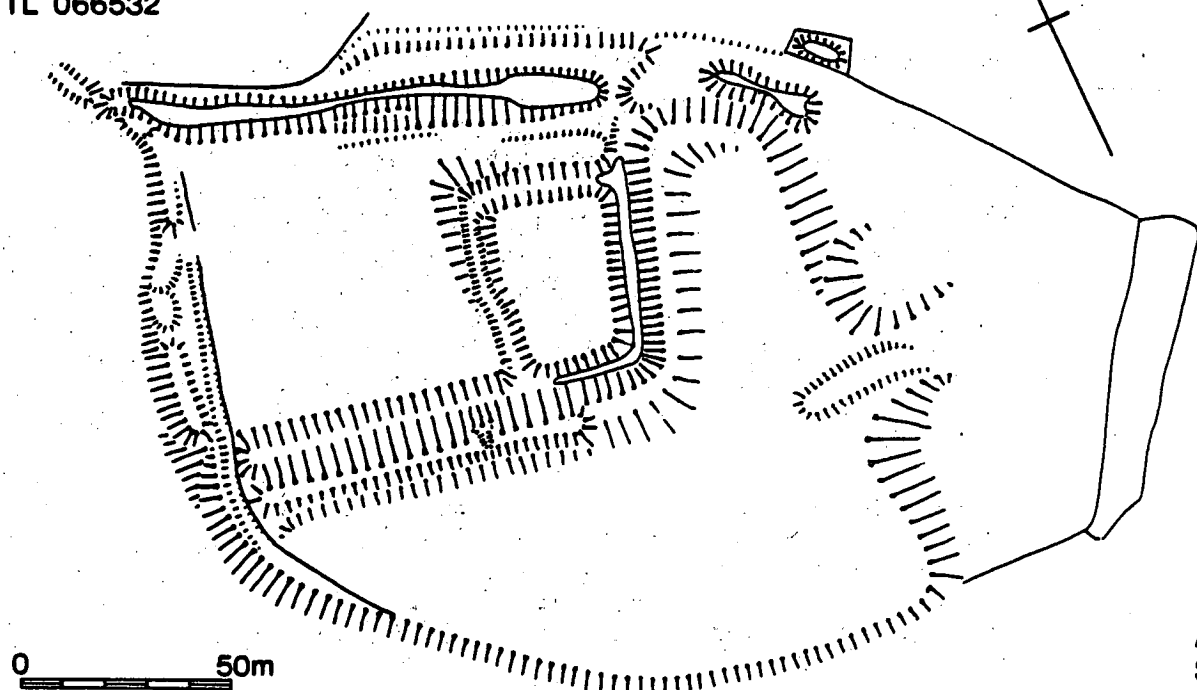
Rabbit burrows display clear evidence of the heavy burning of the defences on the east and south-west scarps, and the north-west bank, in the form of burnt clay; this tends to confirm the contemporaneity of the earthworks and the suggestion of timber-lacing. No such burning has been detected along the north-eastern edge, but the existence of a deep water filled ditch has tended to discourage rabbits from burrowing.

The second phase of the earthworks is a mediaeval manorial site. It consists of a rectangular enclosure within the north-western corner of the Iron Age earthworks, which in turn has a smaller, slightly irregular rectangular enclosure at its south-eastern corner. The moat of the larger enclosure is very substantial; along most of the south-western side is a large external bank, which continues in much slighter form round the south-eastern side. The central platform and the larger manorial enclosure contain no internal earthworks.

The relationship between the mediaeval and the Iron Age defences is difficult to determine along the north-eastern edge of the site. The line of the Iron Age scarp as it turns north-west at the north end of the

MOWSBURY HILL, Ravensden, Bedfordshire

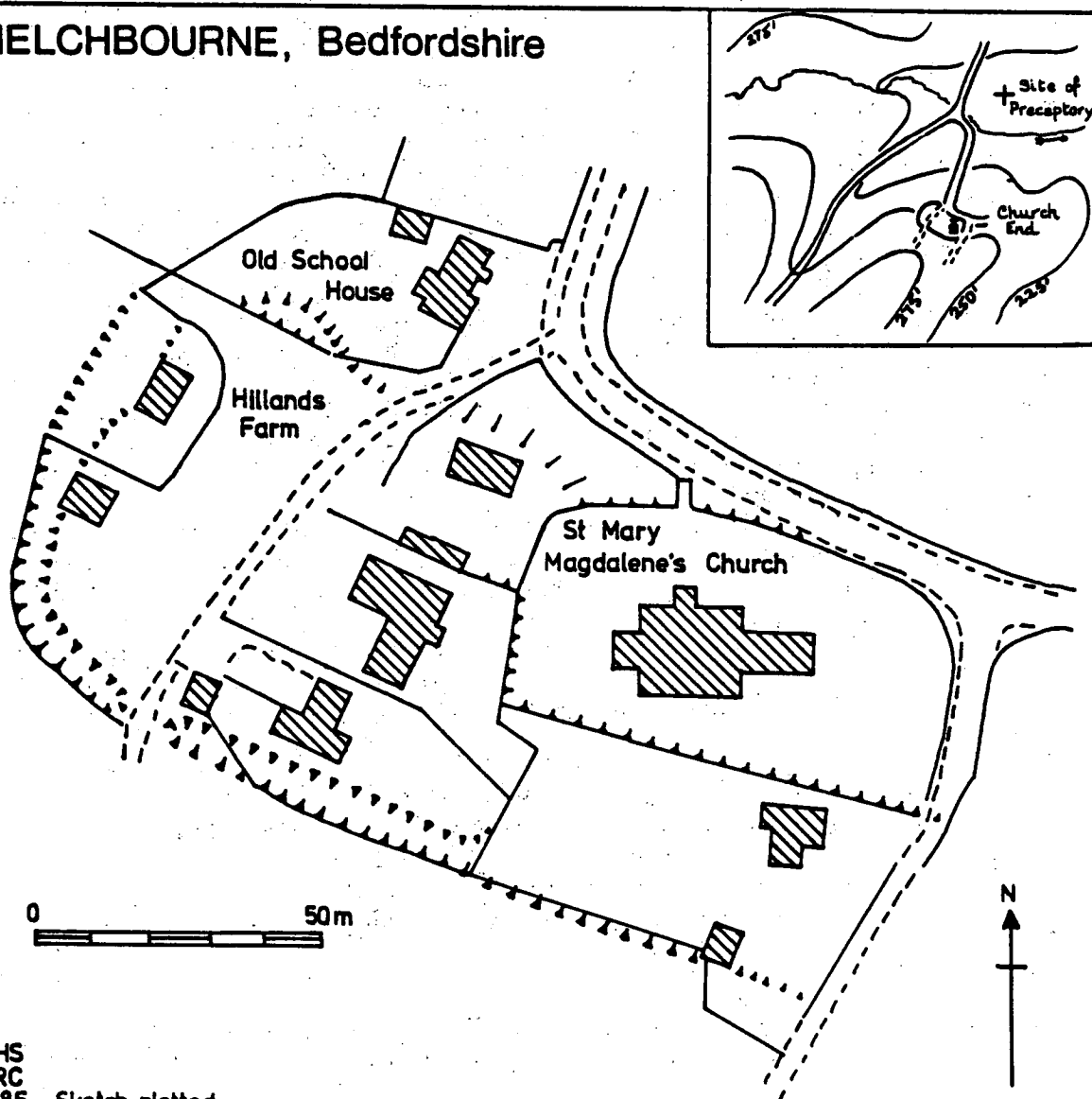
TL 066532



AHS
SRC
2-85

Fig. 4

MELCHBOURNE, Bedfordshire



AHS
SRC
1985 - Sketch plotted

Fig. 5

eastern side suggests that it continues on a line now marked by the inner face of the mediaeval moat. If this is the case, then the mediaeval defensive work has made use of and enhanced the Iron Age defence with the addition of an external ditch. Moreover the slightly sinuous nature of the north-eastern edge of this ditch hints at the possibility that in the mediaeval re-ordering of the site, the Iron Age earthwork, which probably originally curved westwards to join up with the bank on the north-west side, was extended north-westwards to form a sharp angle at the corner. A broad outer bank runs along the part of the length of this north-western ditch; the slight ditch beyond this bank is of modern origin. An abrupt south-eastern end to this bank suggests that an entrance, perhaps secondary, was formed at the north-eastern angle of the mediaeval enclosures.

There are traces of what appears at first sight to be ridge and furrow within the 'L'-shaped plot outside the mediaeval moat. However, orchard trees of some age have been planted along the tops of the ridges which were almost certainly thrown up specifically for this purpose. The ridges, especially in the north arm of the 'L' are far too short to have derived from arable cultivation.

(1) Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 7, 1972, 95.

21 22-3
Melchbourne. TL 028654. (Fig. 5)

On a site visit to a proposed infill plot at Melchbourne Church End (south-west of Hillands Farm) a substantial, though much back-filled, moat-like depression was identified, running round two sides of the plot. The feature was traced in both directions running through private gardens. The occupier of Hillands Farm described serious drainage problems to the north-west of the house, consistent with a large back-filled ditch. The line of the ditch in the area of the Old School House could not be easily identified; there is no sign of it continuing along the rear property boundary, as might be expected. The ground slopes away generally in this direction, and slight changes in the slope may be all that survives of the earthwork. South of St. Mary Magdalene's Church, the earthwork changes character, appearing to open out into a wide terraced area. The outer scarp of the ditch continues eastwards, to fade out as it reaches a track of some antiquity. The churchyard is terraced into the hillside, and its southern boundary seems to have been altered and straightened at some time.

Church End is situated at the end of a ridge of boulder clay, just below the highest point of the ridge. It is on a north-east facing slope. The morphology of the surviving earthwork, and its relationship to the churchyard, is capable of two interpretations. It could either comprise a single large enclosure, within which the church has subsequently been located; or a later enclosure appended to a pre-existing churchyard. Historic map evidence sheds no light on the earlier morphology of the settlement layout.

Melchbourne was always a single manor parish, and passed to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in the early 12th century. The Knights' Preceptory is known to have been located about 500 metres to the north in the valley bottom. The earthwork at Church End is probably therefore an earlier manifestation of the manorial centre of Melchbourne.

Kempston Bury. TL 014473

Roman pottery had been reported by Mr. Eric Compton from a ridge overlooking the Ouse valley, adjacent to Kempston Bury (a 19th century building

on an earlier site). A pottery scatter was identified by field-walking in November 1985, and surface finds collected using a five metre square grid. A total area of 3050 square metres was covered. Pottery dating throughout the Roman period was represented, though there was little good quality material. There was also a large proportion of medieval pottery, particularly at the Bury end of the site, confirming the medieval origin of the occupation there. The Bury probably marks the location of the medieval manor of Kempston Brucebury. This coincidence of Roman and medieval occupation is one which is commonly identified in Bedfordshire.

Historic Bridge Repairs.

Repair schemes by the County Surveyor's Department have continued during 1985 on several of the county's historic bridges. These have involved the preparation of a series of photogrammetric drawings, and recording work during and after the repairs. Work has been undertaken on the medieval bridges of Bromham and Great Barford (both scheduled ancient monuments), the 19th century limestone bridge at Radwell, Hinwick bridge (1779) and Smeaton's bridge at Cardington (1778).

Angela Simco, Stephen Coleman.

Excavation and Post-Excavation - General

Pat Walsh (Finds Assistant) returned on a half time basis after maternity leave (a boy, David), and the other half of this post has been filled by Holly Duncan, who has considerable finds research experience, previously with West Yorkshire County Council and SDC. This post and those of Andrew Pinder (Archaeological Assistant) and Georgie Brine (Pottery Assistant) were put on a permanent contract basis at the beginning of the financial year. The Excavation arm of the Field Team now has a total of six staff with this status (Evelyn Baker, Georgie Brine, Holly Duncan, Bob Mustoe, Andrew Pinder and Pat Walsh), supplemented by a fluctuating number of short term or temporary contract staff.

A long series of MSC schemes almost continuously since April 1976 came to an end in July 1985 with the final push at Grove Priory, where most of the MSC input had been concentrated, MSC was very generous in the last year at Grove: while insisting that such consistent use of MSC labour had proved a permanent need for staff the Council should meet henceforth, they nonetheless made available sufficient full-time labour to complete this very large site. What saved the day at Grove Priory and enabled us to reconcile the need for speed with the inexperience of the MSC recruits was a stalwart core of highly proficient staff, including the final MSC supervisors, Amanda Ellerby and Grace Scrimgeour. A professional team was also employed for the last year on a special extension to the HBMCE grant to supplement our permanent staff, notably Steve Tucker, Anthony Maull, Nicholas Elsdon, Charlie Morris, David Lakin, Carole Rowe,

Robin Davies, Mike Cook, William Wall and Keith Emeric.

23, 24, 27

Excavation - Grove Priory. (Fig.6)

The Grove Priory excavation has finally finished in the field. In 1973 we started on what we thought was a tiny alien Priory. Trial work suggested that a couple of seasons work would be sufficient to strip the site and reveal what might be an unusual plan of a short-lived house. Over the years the site grew and grew. It was insensitive to remote sensing techniques such as magnetometer and resistivity survey, with the boulder clay and ironstone combining to baffle the instrumentation. In 1985 we ended up with not only a simple alien Priory but in addition the largest most completely excavated manorial site in the country. Just to add a little piquancy, its function alternated as a Royal Manor with extraordinarily good documentation, and the occupation ranged from an extensive mesolithic flint-working area, through neolithic and beaker activity, possible Iron Age, a smattering of Roman, 6th century Saxon, later Saxon and medieval occupation through to the 17th or 18th centuries.

Apart from observations on the final quarry topsoil stripping operations, about 18,500 sq. metres have been excavated in detail almost entirely using untrained MSC labour. Nearly 100 structures, widely ranging in period have been recovered. Although damaged through constant rebuilding and robbing, a great deal of detail has survived. Perhaps of particular interest are the agricultural buildings ranging round the east and south parts of the great outer court (Illn. 7). They provided details of internal arrangements that do not often survive.

There is now an enormous mountain of post excavation analysis awaiting us. The size of the finds assemblages match the site, and also appears to live up to its high status. Important questions which have arisen during the years need existing provisional answers verified or otherwise as the evidence requires after systematic study.

- Is Grove the administrative centre of a vast Saxon estate straddling both sides of the present county boundary, with Wing as the ecclesiastical centre?
- Is the main buildings site also the site of the Domesday Royal Manor?
- Did the monks of Fontevrault adapt buildings of an existing Royal Manor, or did they effect a new monastic implantation?
- Can we follow the changes through function of buildings and type and quality of artefact to show changes in status and activity?
- Can the suspected different ceramic tradition in the area be ascribed to geological position, Royal status, both or neither?
- How far will it prove possible to match ground evidence with structures described in the documents?

Readers of South Midlands Archaeology over the years will know that we have views on these matters already, but it will be interesting to see whether a detailed and rigorous assessment of stratigraphical relationships and finds evidence will continue to support old ideas or whether they will alter the picture significantly: exploration does not end with excavation.

Watching Briefs & Salvage Excavations.

Nearly 50 sites have been covered in the last year under the newly established monitoring system, and although a number were inevitably negative, the results are generally encouraging.

Dunstable, 48-54 High Street North. (TL 018219)

This large site on the edge of Watling Street in the historic core of Dunstable was covered with the assistance of Dave Warren, the Manshead Society's Excavations Director. There was no Roman evidence but walls, a hearth and a well of probable medieval date were found.

Luton, Waulud's Bank. SMR 820. (TL 061246)

Developments on the margins of this major prehistoric scheduled ancient monument have been monitored, and a ditch section was recorded.

Silsoe, Park Road. (TL 082358)

A large housing development just outside the gates of Wrest Park produced a number of straight and curved gullies, dark spreads and possible postholes. No finds were recovered in the time available and their absence might suggest an early date.

Totternhoe, St. Giles Church. SMR 1143. (SP 98842089)

Structural repairs to stonework, eradication of dry rot inside and the provision of a French drain required an archaeological response. Along the north aisle a stone coffin was found together with the partial remains of an adult skeleton. It appears that the original adult occupant was mostly removed and the body of a child inserted. A stone vault was located, probably of late medieval date, and cut through the original floor. The modern floor had been levelled up with Brickhill type medieval floor tiles, mostly in very good condition. More tile fragments were found in the rubble under the recent chancel floor. A clunch block floor, very worn, was seen at the east end, and stripping operations revealed a blocked window in the south wall. Repair work to the south chancel door produced some fine, probably secondary pieces of elaborately carved clunch, possibly dating to the 14th century. A further collection of floor tiles, from a different provenance, was produced by a parishioner.

Odell, adjacent to 82 High Street. (SP 965577)

A village infill plot west of the Castle site showed a pattern of rubbish pits on the street frontage, one having a good stone lining. These produced mainly 13th century finds while the rear of the plot produced only post-medieval material. The medieval building may have been to one side, also on the street front.

Bedford.

Several sites were examined. Of those producing negative evidence the most significant was the new Town Hall extension on the river edge behind the south-west corner of St. Paul's Square: this site had clearly been sloping muddy river bank until 19th century development. At the time of writing work is in progress on St. Paul's Square in advance of repaving by North Bedfordshire Borough Council. A specially fenced off area on the north side of the Square is being excavated archaeologically down to the level from which the new surface will be constructed. Engineers' boreholes had showed that skeletons would be encountered within this depth, belonging to a larger and earlier St. Paul's churchyard. A disappointment was the

draining of the Ouse through the town by the Anglian Water Authority; this was not taken low enough to see whether any evidence survived for earlier bridges of water management structures related to Bedford Castle.

Woburn Abbey. SMR 40 (SP 96483255)

Service trenches dug between the main house and the stable block revealed no monastic evidence but gave some insight into the sequence and method of landscaping. Massive earthmoving had taken place, and the dumping sequence showed clearly. The latest deposits at the foot of the slope contained a large number of wine bottles dating from the late 17th to late 18th centuries. Some constructional details relating to the buildings were noted.

Clophill, Cainhoe Castle. SMR 225. (TL 09793742)

The long heralded road improvement scheme, in advance of which Alison Taylor and Peter Woodward excavated in 1973, was finally carried out on a slightly different alignment. The only extra evidence observed was a small ditch containing medieval pottery.

Leighton-Linslade by-pass: Yttingaford. SMR 18 (SP 91392341)(Fig.7)

The line of the bypass was walked. The only find of significance was a neolithic flint scatter. The road is going to destroy part of the ancient track called Thiodweg which runs from the Icknield Way and Drays Ditches across to Wing. It also affects the crossing at Yttingaford. Here Edward the Elder made peace with the Danes; it is also mentioned in a charter of AD 966. A number of people have tried to locate the exact spot. The Victoria County History placed it too far north, with the preferred line showing no sign of a ford, though there has been canal work very close. In 1919 F.G. Gurney thought he could trace the trackway to the one possible crossing place. Fieldwork has found this crossing, still known to be a ford in living memory, though it is a few hundred yards further south-east and closer therefore to Grove Priory. The line of the Thiodweg runs across the top of Grovebury Farm and could quite easily go to the present ford. The boundary which marks the line on the Bucks side of the border is quite positive and would mean returning along the side of the river in order to get back on route. Whatever the answer, Gurney's ford is still as he described it, "an artificial gravel-made ford still used by hunting men, although the canal on the Linslade side has made it otherwise disused and useless".

Kempston, King William's Close. (TL 025476)

This housing development site lies between the Manor and the medieval mill, on a raised platform only a mile or so from the Kempston. Footings, trenches in stripped ground revealed dense occupation in the form of ditches, gullies and post pits. The finds ranged from a palaeolithic hand axe in alluvial deposits and neolithic flints through to Roman, possible Romano-Saxon and early medieval wares.

Post-Excavation.

Warden Abbey has had to take a back seat in favour of the final stages of Grove Priory, but some progress has been made in pulling together the antiquarian evidence. There are major problems in making sense of this together with the data from all the varied excavations, but a draft report awaits refinement when time permits.

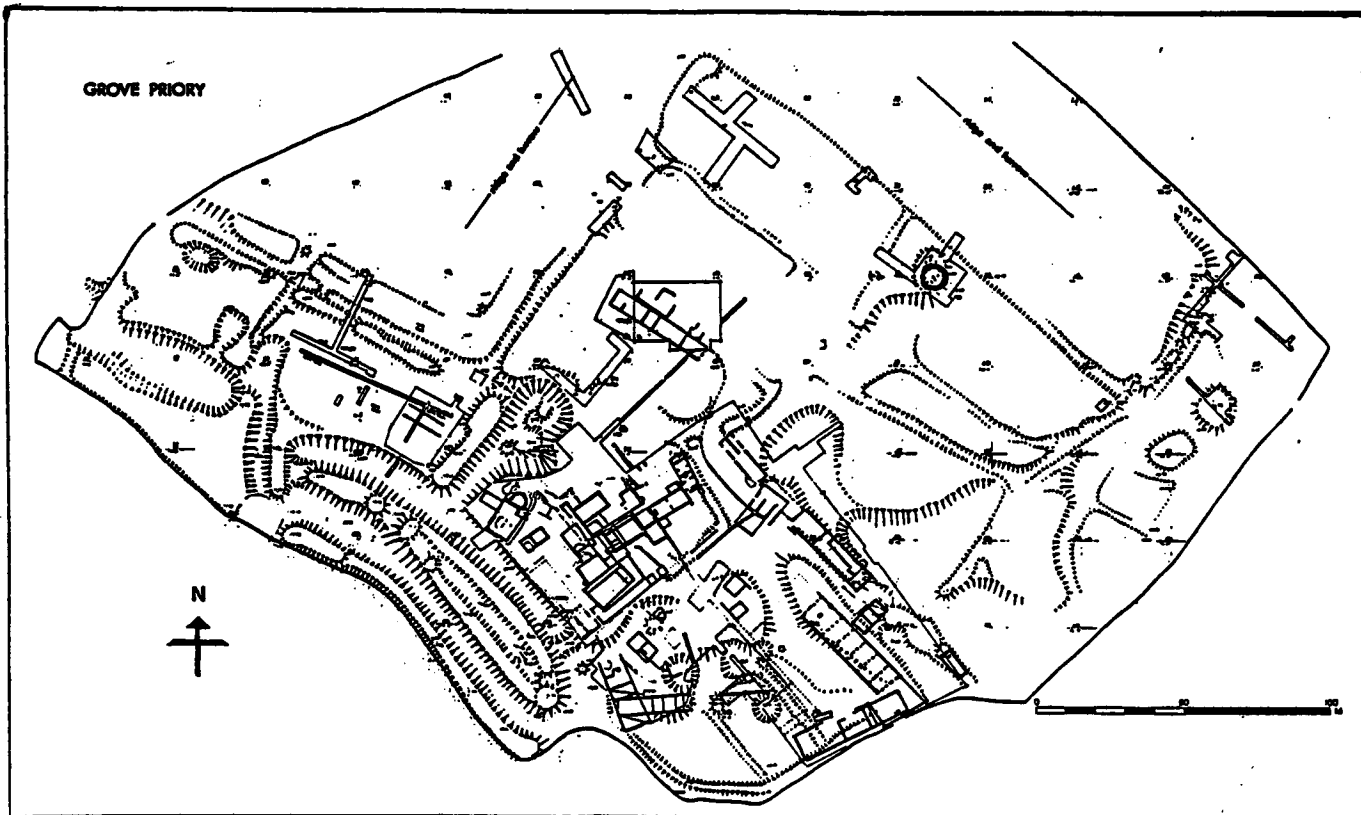


Fig. 6: Plan of the earthworks and buildings of Grove Priory alias the Royal Manor of Leighton.



Fig. 7: Pencil drawing of Yttingaford by F.G.Gurney 1919 (Beds. County Record Office CRO X 325/146/93).

Grove Priory

12 years fieldwork will require at least 3 - 5 years and a major concentration of resources. First tasks have included completing the security copying of the large record, the validation of clerical tasks done by untrained MSC personnel, and the production of the first version of the Post Excavation Research Design. The Ancient Monuments Laboratory have removed into their care the hundreds of objects needing X-ray or conservation. Interim reports on the post-excavation results will appear in later issues of South Midlands Archaeology, including a provisional overall summary of results.

Chalgrave.

A small motte and bailey castle site was excavated by Brian Davison in advance of ploughing in 1970. Andrew Pinder has been preparing the report for publication assisted by Holly Duncan and Georgie Brine.

Bedford.

Three small sites, Liberal Club Midland Road, Bennett's Works Bedford Castle and Duck Mill Lane, will be published in Volume 17 of Bedfordshire Archaeology, together with a number of specialist environmental reports.

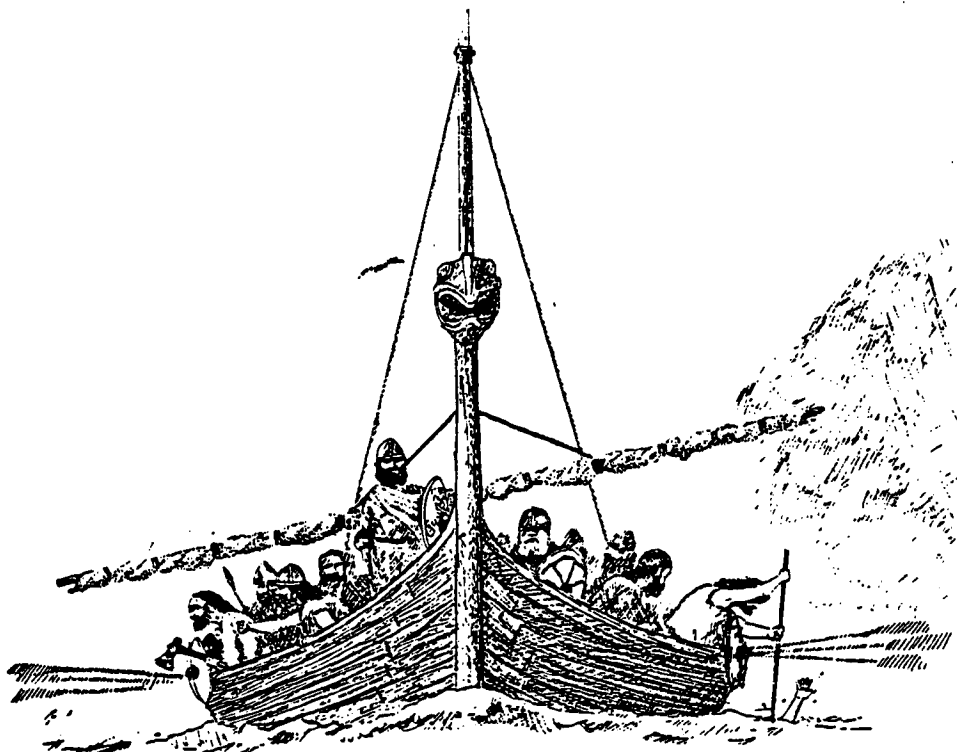
Willington Plantation.

Volume 17 of Bedfordshire Archaeology will contain a report by Andrew Pinder on a number of HBMCE funded sites of Bronze Age and Iron Age date.

Felmersham, Radwell Quarry.

Andrew Pinder's report on the salvage excavation of a battered funerary monument dating to the Bronze Age will appear in the same volume.

Evelyn Baker.



In 1009-10 the Danes came "along the Ouse until they reached Bedford and so on as far as Tempsford, and ever they burnt as they went" (Reconstruction by Andrew Pinder)

Fig. 8

Possible Late Roman Temple, Bidwell, Nr Dunstable, South Bedfordshire.
Grid. Ref. TL 016254

EXCAVATED BY THE MANSHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF DUNSTABLE

The site lies 3.5 kilometres to the north of Dunstable below the chalk plateau that projects from the main Chiltern range of hills. It lies in the centre of a valley surrounded on three sides by rising ground, at the head of the Vale of Aylesbury where spring rises form the River Ouzel, one of the tributaries of the Great Ouse.

Prior to land drainage and the deepening of the Ouzel channels, probably carried out during the Middle Ages, the land was a swamp. In the eighteenth century the area was uncultivated and known as Crixsey Common. Today the site can quickly become water-logged in wet weather and the water table is less than one metre below the field surface. The sub-soil is a sticky white gault clay.

The site was discovered as a localised spread of Roman building material during field walking by the Society. It was decided to carry out a limited excavation to determine the nature of the site as its situation was on the line of a possible extension to an already planned roadway from Leighton Buzzard to the Watling Street. The Watling Street lies 2.2 km to the west of the site.

The excavation revealed an isolated building constructed with materials robbed from a substantial Roman house. These included pilae from a hypocaust, box tiles and voussoir tiles, roofing tiles, painted and moulded wall plaster and fragments of window glass. The possible source of this material is unknown but many late Roman coins have been found on higher ground in an adjacent field and although field walking in the area has taken place no further debris indicating a Roman structure has been found. Nothing later than the Roman period was discovered on the excavated site.

Although the excavation was limited to the spread of material exposed on the field it would appear that we revealed a complete and isolated structure. Resistivity survey and probing in the immediate area failed to reveal the footings of any other structure or adjacent buildings. It was also probably surrounded by a causewayed ditch system. Part of this can be seen on the plan (Fig.9). It was also built alongside a spring rise. A small cut was made that showed a deep layer of peat underlying a gault clay layer. The peat contained bent hazel wands probably part of wickerwork and through this peat layer, water bubbled up from a natural spring.

The Building

This was 8 metres long and 6.3m wide and had been erected across the middle of the swamp, the ends roughly North/South. After its final destruction it had been extensively robbed out but the lowest course of the outer walls remained. These were constructed with well laid flint nodules, the interiors being filled with thinly mortared building rubble. The walls were 110cm. thick. In the north-west wall was a course of sandstone blocks (1) which suggests that a doorway may have existed here or some decorative structure built into the end wall.

The main entrance to the building was on the south-east side and may have been a timbered porched entrance. Heavy burning in two areas (shown hatched on the plan) suggest that large timber beams had been placed here on the natural clay ground surface. The final destruction of the building had been by fire and the position of the entrance doorway could be deduced by the intensive burning which had penetrated the remains of the walls.

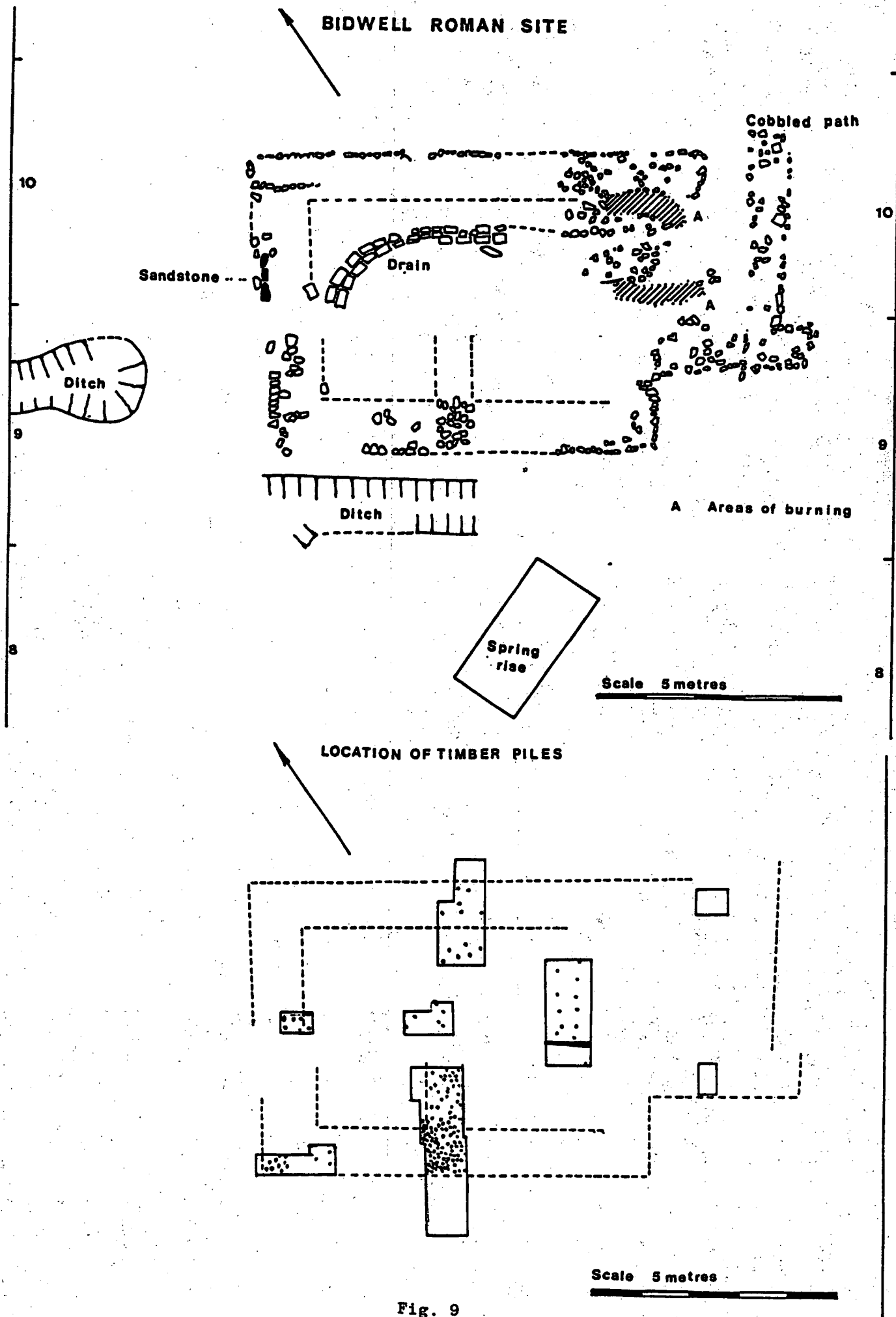


Fig. 9

The floors of the structure were made up with compacted building rubble laid onto the natural clay, (the same material used for the infill of the walls) but the uneven-ness of this fill and large areas showing signs of burning suggests that the floors had been made with timber planking. One distinct layer of burning at the entrance may have been the remains from a floor plank.

In the northern half of the building a curving drain had been made in the floor constructed with building tile. This channel was dug into the natural clay, the bottom unlined, the sides constructed with building tile set on edge and capped by a layer of similar tiles. This drain served no practical drainage purpose. It was apparently quite level and starting near the northwest end wall finished beneath the floor at the entrance. In places it was partially blocked with the floor building rubble.

The roof was tiled with tegulae and imbrex. Several complete tegula were found within the ditch at the western end of the building, some of them unusual in being smaller than the normal standard size and four were found with squared peg holes.(2) All of the imbrex had a multiple wavy line decoration at the bottom end.(3)

Method of construction

Under no circumstances could a building of such weight have stood in a swamp. To overcome this, all of the walls had been carried on oak piles. These had pointed ends and had been driven more than a metre deep into the clay. Hundreds of piles had been used to support the walls. Beneath a one metre length of the south-west external wall approximately 65 piles had been used. These were made from timbers measuring 10cm x 10cm. The use of the piles was apparently restricted to the exact width of the wall they were to carry (Fig 9).

The building had probably been divided across the centre by a substantial wall. The base of this could not be recognised as the infill consisted of the same rubble that made up the floor of the building and it was only recognised by well defined and massed piles similar to those that carried the outer walls. These were only discovered when a section of wall and floor were totally demolished.

Along the centre of the building, following the line of the ridge were more oak piles, fewer and more widely spaced, probably indicating a lighter partition dividing the building into three or four separate areas.

At the eastern end of the building was a pathway made up with the same reused building rubble that made the floor and walls. This was a thin layer placed onto the natural clay. A small section was removed but no timber piles were found below this deposit. It either represents the pathway used for the final robbing of the site or the path to a timber stepped entrance to the building.

The Pottery

The pottery is still under analysis but the following indicates the predominance of shell grit wares. These shelly wares were found mainly around the walls on the old land surface and in the upper levels of the ditches. It is likely that this pottery was the main type in use at the time of the buildings final destruction. The few fragments of Samian ware and other sherds of 3/4th century coarse wares could be residual, coming in with the building materials.

Typical Roman coarse wares.	No. sherds	31
	Weight	125gms
	Est. No. Pots.	23
Shell-Grit wares	No. sherds	86
	Weight	800gms
	Est. No. Pots	34

Roof Tiles

Tegulae. Two different marks were found on the tiles. One a double wavy line down the centre made with two finger tips. The other an apparent Chi Rho symbol made with a single finger tip.

Four tiles were found with square peg holes placed in the centre of the tile 3.5mm from the widest edge. Most of the tiles were much smaller than normal, probably a special order for a specific building. The usual lengths for these tiles is approximately 42cms.

The following are measurements of six tiles.

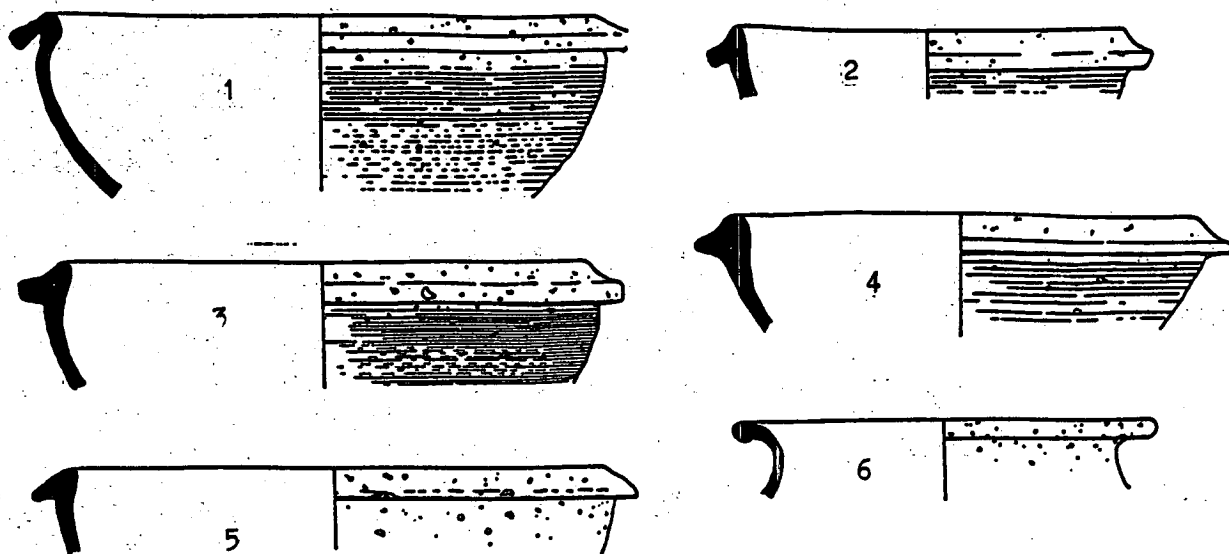
<u>Length.</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Notes</u>
30.5cm	Double finger tip	
30.5cm	" " "	With peg hole
31cm	" " "	With peg hole
34cm	Chi Rho symbol	
34cm	" " "	
34cm	" " "	

Imbrices.

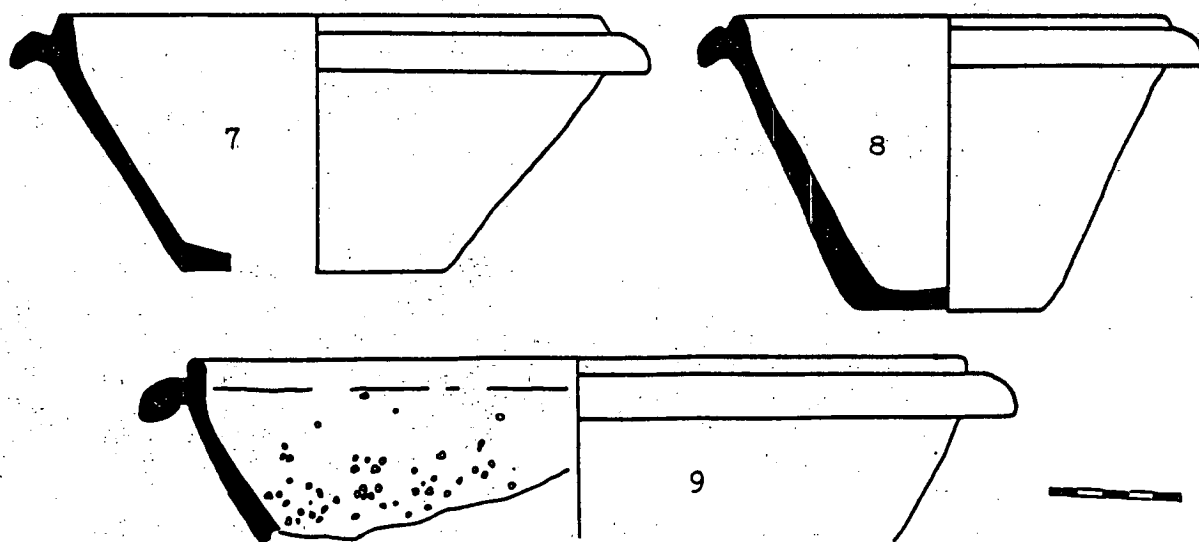
All of these were decorated on the exterior of the wide end with zig-zag lines made with a four pronged tool. The lengths of two were available for measurement. They were 33 and 35cms long. (3)

The Finds

One of the most notable features of the site was the scantiness of pottery and small finds. Only one small illegible Roman coin, probably 4th century was found 60cm deep in the ditch associated with a 1st century bow brooch. (4) The same ditch produced the Nene colour coat vessels (Fig.10) datable to the late 4th century.



No's 1 to 6. Shelly wares. Tempered with finely crushed shell grits. Fired black to buff with soapy texture. Faint combing on exteriors probably made by wiping the pot with a coarse cloth in the leather stage of manufacture. Scale in centimetres.



No's 7 and 8. Nene Valley pottery, 4th. century.

No. 7 Orange/brown colour coat applied inside and out on a white fabric.

No. 8 Grey colour coat on white fabric. The slip is weak and blotchy.

No. 9 White ware mortarium. Probably from the Oxford kilns.

Dated 240 - 300 AD. BAR No.43. Phase 4A.

Scale in centimetres.

Fig. 10

Box Tiles

Three different sizes are recognised, all patterned with keying furrows, the most common being a Union Jack pattern made with a toothed comb.

No. 1	Height 29cms	Width 17cms	Square hole in centre
No. 2	" 34cms	" 10.5cms	Shows join of former in centre
No..3	" 15cms	" 11cms	Square hole in centre

Many of these tiles still carried cement on exterior surfaces.

Voussoirs

Length 24cms	Height 11 x 9.2cms	Union Jack pattern. 6 tooth comb. Cement on all surfaces.
" 25cms	" 11.2 x 9.5cms	Pattern triple crosses made with an eight tooth comb.
" 19cms	" 14 x 10.5cms	Pattern seven tooth Union Jack.

Floor and Building tile

These varied in thickness from 3 to 6.5 cms. Only one complete tile was recovered. This measured 21 x 21cm square and 3cms thick. It showed signs of heat and was probably part of a pila. It had cement residue on both sides.

One fragment of tile contained the impressions of a piece of cloth left in the clay before firing.

Bone Remains

A few disjointed human long bones were found deep in the ditch. These probably from a single skeleton disturbed when the ditch was originally dug. The ditch also produced a few animal bone fragments and an ox skull was found pressed into the gault clay near the west wall of the building.

CONCLUSION

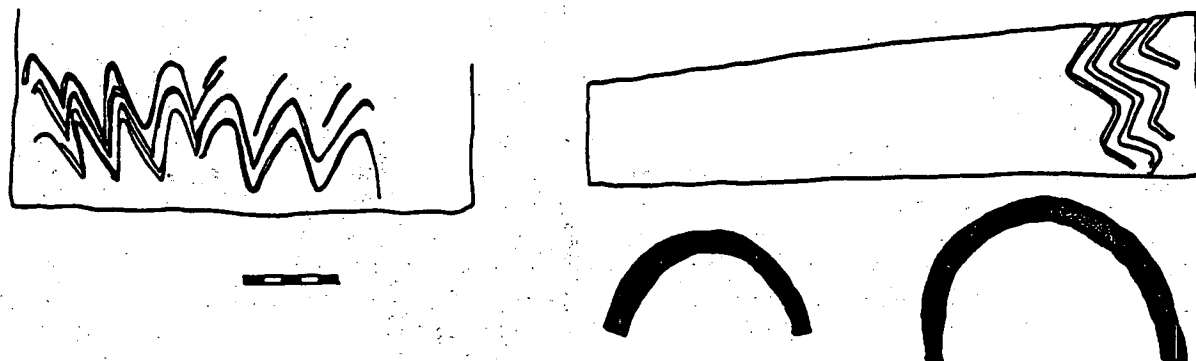
The site is in the parish of Houghton Regis near the Hamlet of Bidwell. The name Budewelle is first mentioned in 1228 in the Feet of Fines for Bedfordshire and is probably derived from a holy well associated with St. Brigid or St. Bride. It is tempting to read in the modern name a survival from this Roman structure which was probably a shrine to a water nymph or Goddess. We found no evidence to prove that the site was a shrine but the lack of finds, its situation in the middle of a swamp, the apparently purposeless drain all point to a religious structure built in the late Roman era, using materials from a once prosperous Roman house. Not a single artifact was found during the whole of the excavation that could date later than the Roman period.

The site has been systematically robbed for its building material and short of total destruction to uncover the pattern of timber piles beneath the walls it will be difficult to produce a satisfactory plan of the building. Should further work be undertaken by the Society it will be concentrated on the adjacent spring rise to discover the extent of the wicker work which was found within the peat of the spring.

FOOTNOTES

1. Further sandstone blocks were found as tumble beyond the building in this area.
2. In Current Archaeology No. 94 Edmund Stacey states that Roman tegulae lacked nail holes. The nail holes in the Bidwell tiles may have been made as a special order for a particular building. This perhaps also explains why there are so many rather small tiles.

In Current Archaeology No. 89 Gerald Brodribb in a discussion on tegula says "the sheer weight of the tiles was sufficient to hold them in position, though sometimes the bottom course may have been nailed".
3. Part Street Roman Villa. Hasprint No. 2. Mrs. H. O'Neil.
Part of an imbrex with this type of decoration was found during this excavation. The author suggests that it may have been a cement keying but the Bidwell tiles show beyond doubt that it was purely decorative. The pattern was applied with the imbrex as a flat slab of clay. The ball of the workmans thumb bruised the pattern when the tile was curved over a former. The tiles in the leather stage were stood upright to dry on the wide end. This caused a slight burring of the edge.
4. Bronze Bow brooch exactly paralleled in the Verulamium Report. Vol. 1. p114, No. 8 and dated AD 60 to 75.



Imbrex showing pattern and size.
Scale in centimetres.

Fig. 11

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

I. Buckinghamshire County Museum

Two excavations were carried out during the year; one at Weston Turville, the other at the Prebendal, Aylesbury. Accounts of both appear elsewhere in this issue. The Prebendal excavation was notable in that four-fifth of the excavation costs were generously contributed by the developer, Estates & General Investments Plc.

For the first time the Museum has ventured into the world of MSC sponsored excavation projects and the 'Aylesbury Past Project' directed by Hal Dalwood commenced in October at Walton, near the Saxon settlement investigated in 1973-4. Initial results are encouraging.

At Missenden Abbey, when the watching brief accompanying refurbishment was nearly complete, the interior of the Abbey and its roof were destroyed by fire. Subsequent recording has involved further work by Peter Yeoman in conjunction with English Heritage, and also RCHM (England) who carried out a photogrammetric survey. The interesting data recorded as an indirect result of this sad loss has added significantly to the post-excavation programme.

On other fronts, post-excavation work has continued satisfactorily. The year saw final reports on the following appear in Records of Bucks; George Street, Aylesbury; Potter Row; and the Princes Risborough burial. A note on the Cheddington hillfort was published in Records and on the Ellesborough razor in Ant. J. The following have been submitted to editors; Bierton (David Allen), Long Crendon (Philip Carstairs) and the Chalfont St. Giles 'burnt mounds' (Simon Smithson).

We were very pleased to have the assistance of Nigel Jones, Neville Hall and Simon Smithson of the Oxford In-Service Training Scheme during the year.

On the preservation and recording side there have been a number of consultations with planning and other authorities. Data from the SMR is slowly, through Andrew Pike's efforts, being fed to the County's mainframe computer but the total task is a daunting one and extra resources will be necessary if the project is to be completed in the foreseeable future. Apart from the usual day to day enquiries the staff also gave a number of individual lectures and lecture classes during the year.

Finally, the impossibility of getting any monument in the County protected by scheduling within a reasonable time scale remains a major problem for Buckinghamshire, but there seem little prospect that matters will improve.

Michael Farley.

Excavations at the Prebendal Court Aylesbury 1985

Observation by P. Yeoman of a substantial defensive ditch in a developer's trial trench led to a fourteen week excavation at Prebendal Court, Aylesbury, which finished in July 1985. The work was funded by Estates & General Investments plc with HBMC and directed by M. Farley for Buckinghamshire County Museum. The site, formerly part of the garden of the Prebendal, Aylesbury (SP 8163 1394), lay just west of the church and is to be developed for offices with an underground car park.

The principal discovery was that the 2.25 m deep ditch, which proved to have been recut once, was the ditch of an Iron Age hillfort. A 15 m length was exposed in plan and two principal sections cut. The town lies on an outcrop of Portland limestone and it was anticipated that the ditch would follow the contour of the hill which curved across the site, but in fact its course continued in a northerly direction, presumably encompassing a subsidiary scarp. Its circuit would certainly have included the whole core of the historic town, an area of some 8 hectares. Previous Iron Age occupation has been seen on the north side of St. Mary's church and during an excavation in George Street in 1981. There seems little doubt that the 'bury' element in the place name, first recorded in AD 571, refers to the hillfort defence.

The site of the bank had been levelled and, during the eighteenth century, partially terraced. No trace of sub-rampart structure remained. Large post holes had they existed should nevertheless have survived and their absence argues against a substantial earth fast revetment. From the fill of the ditch came two clay slingshots, animal bone and fragmentary pottery in small quantities. Dating of the ditch will depend on further study of the ceramic and on radiocarbon dating but it is likely to be Early-Middle Iron Age.

On the floor of the first phase of the ditch lay a severed human head, a deliberate deposit packed around with limestone blocks.

The interior had been badly disturbed by post-Iron Age activities but two pits survived and an extremely interesting deposit of human and animal bone of Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age date. A dark topsoil/subsoil over 0.5 m deep containing relatively little structural evidence covered the whole of the site resting directly on the Portland bedrock, however in the centre of the excavation beneath the subsoil a light brown calcareous soil comparable to the fill of the ditch, was contained within a rectangular depressed area. At the eastern end of this lay a circular area of burning, giving an apsidal appearance to the whole. The brown soil covered and included a large deposit of animal bone both individual and articulated. On the western margin lay parts of four human skeletons variously orientated, two of which had been buried accompanied by articulated sheep/goat skeletons. All of the human skeletons were extended and lay on their backs; one, that of a child had knees flexed and its surviving hand was also flexed. Individual human bones occurred also amongst the general animal bone deposit. Although none of the bone has yet been studied young sheep appear to be a dominant element in the assemblage. Some fragmentary ceramic was included and also a fragment of a bone weaving comb. There seems little doubt that the whole must be regarded as a 'ritual' deposit and despite the absence of post holes to indicate the form of the superstructure, it may provisionally be regarded as a shrine of early Iron Age date.

No evidence for Late Iron Age activity was present by Romano-British sherds from the ditch and fragments of roof tile indicate renewed occupation in the area at that period.

In the Middle Saxon period, at a time when it has been postulated that a Minster church was founded in Aylesbury, a ditch was dug into the fill of the Iron Age ditch demonstrating that although already infilled, its course remained apparent. This ditch contained quantities of well preserved animal bone but the ceramic present was fragmentary with the exception of a large sherd of Ipswich ware. From the fill also came a sceat and a well-preserved handled comb. Although the pottery present has not yet been studied in detail, the virtual absence of 'grass-tempered' wares - which on the evidence of nearby Walton were apparently ubiquitous locally in the sixth and seventh centuries - coupled with the absence of St. Neots-type wares common at Walton from the tenth century onwards, suggests the possibility that there could be an aceramic phase in the town during the eighth - ninth centuries. It was thought that the Middle-Late Saxon cemetery previously identified in the vicinity of St. Mary's might extend as far as the site, but no burials of this period were discovered. Residual human bone occurred in many medieval and later pits but in view of the presence of Iron Age burials on the site, the date of this material is at present uncertain.

From the later twelfth century until the fourteenth century many pits and wells were dug on the site and traces of two buildings belong to this period. The presence of limestone roofing slates is of interest. Several of the medieval pits produced good ceramic assemblages and articulated animal skeletons.

Renewed activity in the later sixteenth-seventeenth centuries is likely to be in part due to the rise of the Prebendal as a significant town house. A length of substantial ditch crossing the site and turning through a right angle downhill is provisionally interpreted as part of a Civil War defence of the town. During the eighteenth century two cellared brick buildings on the northern edge of the site were demolished. This may have been due to the expansion of the Prebendal grounds during the tenancy of John Wilkes, M.P. for Buckinghamshire. The cellars contained considerable quantities of both bottle and window glass. A flimsy circular post hole structure may be an eighteenth century garden folly. Landscape alterations continued in the late eighteenth - early nineteenth century with the construction of two rectangular clay-lined ponds, a driveway and paths.

Post-excavation work on this interesting multi-period site will clearly take some time. It is hoped that opportunities may occur in the future to further locate the circuits of both the Iron Age and of the Middle Saxon ditches.

Missenden Abbey (SP 897070)

The recording of the standing building, reported in SMA 1984 continued this year and was concluded in late May. The existing house was known to contain the claustral range of this Augustinian Abbey founded in 1133, and the opportunity to investigate the structure arose during a major refurbishment executed by Bucks County Council. Very sadly, much of the fabric was destroyed by a catastrophic fire in early July, which prompted

another programme of recording.

Before the fire a number of important discoveries were made both inside and outside the Abbey. Plaster stripping in the east range first floor landing revealed partial remains of three large medieval windows which originally looked down onto the garth from the dormer. There was a distance of 4.5m between each window, the best preserved of which was located at the south end of the corridor. Internally, only the pointed arched top of the window survived, consisting of a number of large voussoirs with chamfered bottom edges. The opening was 1.6m wide, although further details of the internal facings were obscured by the inserted ceiling of a lower room. Externally the complete opening, apart from the arched top, had been utilised as a cupboard, behind the boarding of which the clunch facings substantially survived. The only attempt at decoration was a simple concave strip on the angle of the blocks. Here the opening measured 1.35m wide by 1.9m high below the springing of the arch. The splayed reveals between the internal and external facings were of plastered rubble, with a total wall thickness of 95cm. It is presumed that these windows were originally fitted with shutters, and they were substantial enough to have had window seats.

Pipe trenches dug in the south-east area of the conventual church observed in 1984, revealed how well preserved the buried remains were with wall bases standing to a height of 1m. A further trench was dug this year diagonally across the area of the chancel and east wall of the church. The trench, 9m in length, cut through over 1m of previously undisturbed medieval stratified features, the earliest of which was a very thick wall footing which was sealed by later church floor levels. This wall may have been the east end wall of the first church on the site, and was replaced by an even more substantial wall which was found 3m to the east. The lowest course of faced, very hard siliceous sandstone survived on top of a broad footing raft 80cm in height. At sometime during the 18th century, this wall was used as the footing for the existing stables.

Floor levels, 25cm thick were found sealing the primary wall, the latest of which was a hard mortar floor which would originally have been tiled. What was found resting on this surface brings crashing home the reality of the dissolution of this abbey in 1538. The floor was found to be completely covered in a fine layer of smashed window glass, originating presumably from the destruction of an east end window. It is possible that this trench cut through part of a chapel to the north of the chancel. The window was in turn sealed by the complete, collapsed ceiling vault, apparently purposefully demolished to quickly remove part of the holiest area of the church. The section was packed solid with complete voussoirs from the large-scale, rib-vault, dated to the second half of the fourteenth century. Between these were lines of collapsed faced chalk blocks which had been used as webbing between the ribs. Should there be a subsequent threat to this area, then it is hoped to carry out a larger scale excavation.

The refurbishment of the house and therefore the opportunity to investigate the building was nearing completion in June 1985. Long elevation drawings were done to link the various newly discovered features of all dates, concluding the archaeological work.

Shortly after this in early July the Abbey was gutted by fire which swept through the tinder-dry structure destroying the medieval roofs, all ceilings and floors and much in the way of decoration and fittings. The

early nineteenth century imitation Gothic plaster vaulting, heads and friezes on the ground floor were severely damaged. The building shell was filled with rubble in places 3-4m thick. A new programme of archaeological work was started, the first phase of which was to work alongside the demolition contractors sifting the rubble and retrieving anything of archaeological or historical interest. The most significant items recovered were approximately fifty pieces of architectural stone, in limestone and clunch, medieval and Tudor in date; mainly parts of windows, arches and columns. Some of these had been in situ behind later work while others had been reused as rubble in later building works.

Almost half the stone work had simple uniform bolection mouldings dated to the years around 1600, forming parts of square headed doorways and windows. The latter were transomed and mullioned, two surviving examples already having been discovered and recorded in the north wall of the south range (SMA 15, 1984, p.28). One of these was totally destroyed in the fire. At the west end of this wall the previously reported doorway is now also known to be dated c.1600. The fire exposed almost all of this which was found to have two waist-level broaches and a considerable amount of original red paintwork.

Some of these late Tudor fragments had come from oriel or bay windows, and the quantity and uniformity would suggest that the first major post-dissolution remodelling occurred at this time. The second phase of post-fire recording involved the photography of parts of the building super-structure which had to be quickly demolished in the interest of safety.

Disastrous as the fire was, it did facilitate the discovery of many more blocked openings and areas of original medieval walling, although the overall interpretation of the building remains unaltered. Most of the early windows had been partially blocked with brick and sash windows, inserted during the past 250 years. In the south range, which probably contained a first floor frater with an undercroft below, a very large splayed opening was found in the upper part of the west end. Three smaller blocked medieval windows were found in the south wall of this range, being the modern garden front. In all these cases splayed reveals of dressed clunch were found keyed into areas of flint rubble walling with no traces of brick. Similar openings were found elsewhere, including one in the east wall of the east range, matching the windows in the dorter west wall described above.

The third phase of recording consisted of a blanket photogrammetric survey commissioned by RCHME and executed by The Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, York. Following this the first stage of major structural repair began, the intention being to rebuild the Abbey from the standing shell with an inserted steel frame. This work has necessitated the removal of existing floor surfaces, which are mainly of eighteenth and nineteenth century flags, allowing the contemporary under-floor heating system to be observed. In the south-west corner of the building, within what was the drawing room, a planked floor was lifted to reveal an extensive area of tiled pavement. The tiles, measuring 20cm square, were laid diagonally to the existing walls, which they abutted. Originally the pavement consisted of plain mottled green glaze and plain yellow glazed tiles, laid alternately. Only a few of these glazed tiles survived against the walls where they had been protected by wall benches or cupboards, whereas elsewhere the pavement had been subjected to such heavy wear as to remove the glaze. This floor ended to the west on the line of a room partition, on the other side of which slightly larger

tiles formed a pavement laid parallel to the walls. This floor continued to run through the blocked square headed doorway described above. These two features were clearly in use at the same time; a suggestion reinforced by the discovery of a token dated 1580-1610, found in the mortar bedding of the east pavement.

All these phases of recording were completed by December 1985, at which time the structural repair work began. The building programme and attendant disturbance will be concluded in 1987, before which it is hoped that further investigations of this important site will be possible. A comprehensive display of discoveries at Missenden Abbey is on show in the Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury

Excavations at The Manor House, Weston Turville

Summary Report

A three week rescue excavation was commissioned by the HBMC and executed by P.A. Yeoman, Bucks County Museum, as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent in advance of works affecting the south-western part of the motte (S.A.M. no. 61 (Bucks)). The proposed swimming pool development will destroy part of the motte base and back-filled ditch, and with this in mind a small area was selected for investigation. A trench 9 m. long by 3 m. wide, aligned NE-SW, was opened by machine.

Pre-motte The natural clay at the N.E. end of the trench had been cut by two parallel features, aligned NW-SE just over 2 m. apart. The western feature was a shallow gully which had been truncated by the cutting of the motte ditch. By comparison the feature to the E. of this was much more substantial, presumably one side of a larger gully or ditch.

Motte: ditch and mound The castle mound is in a good state of preservation, and stands to a height of 4 m. with a circular summit 23 m. in diameter. This is an artificial mound constructed by heaping-up material quarried from the ditch. The ditch described above had been infilled with mound make-up of clay and flints tipping down from south to north, the lowest layer of which contained some possible turves.

Two large post holes were found cutting natural at the base of the mound, 1 m. west of the ditch edge. These may represent part of a base revetment, or palisade, or alternatively part of a bridge abutment.

The motte ditch was found cutting the natural gault clay to a depth of almost 2 m. curving around the base of the mound. The west side had a slope of 45° over a horizontal length of 2.4 m. and was stepped near the base. It had a dished base also 2.4 m. wide, and a much broader, shallower east slope, the top of which was outside the excavated area. The reconstructed width is approximately 9 m., although it is possible that this point marks the western junction of the motte ditch with the bailey ditch.

The water-table was encountered 60 cm above the ditch bottom, preserving organic material in the earliest fills. These were thin layers of washed in clay sediments which contained large amounts of preserved wood fragments some of which were shaped timbers. An unexpected discovery in this layer were two blocks of dressed masonry which may have come from an

arch within a stone building of 12th century date.

Above this level only three much thicker filling layers were identified, possibly representing purposeful backfilling. These layers produced a good pottery sequence, from which it is possible to suggest that the ditch was infilled to a depth of over 1 m. in the latter part of the 12th century.

Post-motte After the final infilling of the ditch a mortared stone rubble wall footing was built. This survived in a 2 m. length, three courses high aligned NE-SW running along the southern baulk with a corner at its east end. Its original length is unknown as it was destroyed to the west by a modern man-hole.

Conclusion It seems likely that this motte and bailey was built in the 11th century shortly after the conquest as the centre of the original manor of Weston. The Romanesque masonry found in the bottom of the ditch would suggest that the castle possessed a stone building somewhere within the enceinte, either atop the motte or else a hall or chapel within the bailey. If this were from a chapel, it would predate the existing medieval parish church.

The ceramic evidence and the nature of the ditch infilling agrees with the documentary evidence for the slighting of the defences in 1173/74 by command of Henry II (Pipe Roll B.M. Harl. MS3688 f.59).

The later wall footing probably dates from the 14th-16th centuries, and was built to support a timber-framed superstructure. This was probably an outbuilding associated with one of the later manor houses, built on the site of the existing house.

P.A. Yeoman.

Buckinghamshire County Museum Archaeological Group

As usual the group has contributed substantially to the work of the County Museum both in the field and in various aspects of post-excavation work. The three month excavation at the Prebendal was strongly supported, and the group played a vital part in the final two week extension when an important Iron Age ritual deposit was being examined. Poor weather and other circumstances meant that only one fieldwalk took place during the year but help was given to several in-service students on fieldwork projects. Mounds of pottery and animal bone from Amersham, Brill and the Prebendal were washed and sorted and many hours spent feeding data on the products of the Denham kilns into the Museum's micro. A number of long-term projects continued including work on aerial photographs, cataloguing Museum photographs, a study of turnpike roads in the County, and cataloguing ironwork from the Hambleden villa. A search of occupational records with archaeological significance was also initiated.

The tenth anniversary of the 'Tuesday Group's' existence has passed and it continues to thrive.

M.E. Farley.

ANNUAL REPORT 1985 : D.C. MYNARD

INTRODUCTION

Excavations at Bancroft continued on the outbuildings to the north and east of the villa, under the direction of Bob Zeepvat, a final season in 1986 is planned to excavate the building in the valley bottom.

Excavation of the areas around the mausoleum on the high spur of land overlooking the villa was concluded under the direction of Bob Williams.

Trial excavation of the area between the Mausoleum and the main villa building, by Bob Williams in advance of the construction of a local community centre, revealed only a few roman drainage or boundary ditches, the presence of which had been indicated by a magnetometer survey. Further excavation of this area was not necessary.

At Shenley Church End, the MSC scheme excavation under the direction of Martin Petchey is currently completing the excavation of a second house platform. The scheme which ends in July 1986 has provided useful information about the nature and survival of the archaeological evidence on this site.

Trial excavation took place under the direction of Bob Williams on an Iron Age - Roman site at Furzton, known only from air photographs. The site which will be developed for housing in 1987, at the earliest, has now been programmed for excavation in April 1987.

No significant Prehistoric or Roman sites were found in fieldwork this year and our future rescue programme is small over the next two - three years.

The only excavation planned next year is the completion of the streamside area to the east of the Bancroft Villa, therefore the main emphasis of the unit's work will be on post excavation.

EXCAVATIONS

1 : Bancroft 'Mausoleum' : R.J.Williams

The third and final season of excavation on the hilltop to the north west of the Bancroft villa took place between April and June 1985. An area of 7,000m² was stripped

by heavy plant making a totally excavated area for the three seasons work of just over 13,000m².

Excavations concentrated on the features to the north and east of the previously recorded Late Bronze Age circular building and to the east and south of the large trapezoidal shaped Iron Age enclosure. No further Bronze Age features or finds were discovered and the earliest excavated features were a group of five penannular drainage ditches of Iron Age date associated with small enclosed yards some 50 metres to the north of the circular Bronze Age building.

Iron Age Building:-

The five circular buildings ranged from 9.40m to 11m internal diameter and were arranged in a broadly linear fashion running in a north west to south east direction. Only two of the houses could be shown to have had any internal features or to be more than one phase. In the most northerly example the entrances had originally been located on the north west side but had at a later date been replaced by another entrance in the more common south east side. This has resulted in the surrounding drainage ditch being a complete circle although the butt ends of the two entrances could be clearly seen. Just inside the south-eastern entrance were a pair of substantial post holes 2 metres apart and presumed to be door supports. Their large size resulted from the extra stability required in the alteration of the structure at the later date. Inside the building were three clay lined pits filled with quantities of burnt pot boilers.

Although all five penannular ditches were discrete it is unlikely that they were all contemporary. The two most northerly buildings had a small ditch linking them and a very ephemeral shallow ditch enclosed an area approximately 10m x 15m to the east. These two buildings may have been contemporary with the small ditch delineating a small enclosed yard in an area of particularly badly drained clay making it likely that all habitation/working areas would have required draining.

To the south of this pair of buildings were a further three penannular drainage ditches associated with a small ditched enclosure 20m x 17m across. The most south westerly of this group would appear to have been a single building with no associated internal features. The other two may also have been an interlinked pair with a small enclosed yard on the north east side with a wide entrance at the north end and another adjacent to the doorway of the most southerly house. Unfortunately the south west side of this house and enclosing ditch had been later disturbed by the corner of the post Roman ditch.

The southern edge of the site adjacent to the Late Iron Age cremation cemetery was examined for traces of more burials with no success whatsoever, and it would now appear that the whole cemetery was fully excavated in the 1984 season. One poorly preserved example of an Iron Age penannular house ditch and several clay lined pits were however found.

This most southerly of the structures gives a minimum of fifteen Iron Age circular buildings on the site (not including recuts) aligned in a broadly linear pattern running across the crest of the spur. It would appear that most of the buildings are not contemporary but may have been paired. Allowing for the non discovery of the less well preserved examples, they may represent rebuilding and resiting of the houses of a relatively small community spanning the whole of the Iron Age period.

Iron Age Well:-

Cut through the penannular gulley of the most south westerly group of five buildings was a small Iron Age well which showed on the surface as a dark circular pit 2.20m across. A half section across this feature revealed it to have been square in plan before weathering, with a shaft width of 650mm. The well was only 1.35m deep and the square shape of the silted up shaft was only apparent in the bottom half of the section. Above this the layering was more consistent with deliberate backfill of a partially silted up feature. The square shape almost certainly resulted from a well constructed timber lining but no trace of this or of any organic remains survived.

'Belgic' Boundary Ditches:-

Cutting across the northerly group of buildings and running in a north west to south east direction were two very contrasting types of boundary ditch. The earlier of the two was a substantial ditch 800mm deep and 1m wide, running across the slope away from the north east corner of the Iron Age Enclosure ditch. It ran for a distance of 80m in a very irregular fashion with many pronounced deviations before finally turning more sharply to the west. At least three ditches joined this boundary at right angles on its north east side as if delineating small enclosures. Unfortunately all these ditches disappeared into the unexcavated field making definitive interpretation difficult. The main length of the ditch particularly towards its north western end contained in its lower/middle fills large quantities of broken fragments of 'Belgic' pottery. These were not odd abraded sherds but represented an horizon of deliberate disposal of broken pottery vessels several of which were near complete. The function

of this ditch with large quantities of domestic refuse in the apparent absence of any contemporary structures remains speculative.

The second ditch, although running roughly parallel for much of its length with the larger ditch, was remarkable for its straightness. It only averaged 350mm wide and 200mm deep but was traced for a distance of 102m running from the north western end of the site and petering out at its south eastern end. Stratigraphically it appeared to be slightly later than the 'Belgic' ditch but contained little in the way of dateable finds.

'Belgic' Clay Pits:-

To the east and south-east of the Iron Age enclosure two large irregular shaped pits were located. The most northerly was ovoid in shape 11m long and 5m wide and up to 300mm deep. The second one, 20m to the south, had an altogether more irregular outline and was approximately 7 metres across and 300mm deep. Both had extremely irregular bases cut into good quality yellow clay. They had been filled with a very dark soil containing a high proportion of 'Belgic' domestic refuse suggesting dumping and accumulation in a disused pit. From their irregularity and location in good quality clay they are most likely to have been clay pits either for pottery manufacture or more likely for lining the walls of timber buildings.

Running in an east-west direction between the two clay pits was a substantial 'V' shaped ditch nearly one metre deep containing quantities of 1st cent AD pottery. This was almost certainly a continuation of a ditch first found in 1981 during the construction of the H2 grid road to the east, and a ditch excavated in 1984 running away from the south east corner of the Iron Age enclosure ditch.

Iron Age Enclosure Ditch/Romano British Stone Causeway:-

One further very large section was carefully excavated across the northern side of the Iron Age enclosure ditch at the point of intersection with the 5th-6th century 'boundary' ditch. The purpose of this section was to illustrate in detail the relationship of the two ditches, reveal more of the stone causeway (related to the adjacent stone shrine) running across the partially silted up enclosure ditch and to produce a detailed dated stratigraphy for the enclosure ditch which owing to its immense size probably spanned 4-500 years.

All these objectives were attained in the hand dug 2m deep 'V' shaped section, although drainage problems made the work very time consuming and labour intensive. Detailed analysis must await the pottery report but it is clear that the ditch silted up naturally until the end of the Iron Age before having layers of Roman domestic refuse dumped into the ditch to be finally levelled up with a stone causeway maintaining access between the stone Shrine and Mausoleum.

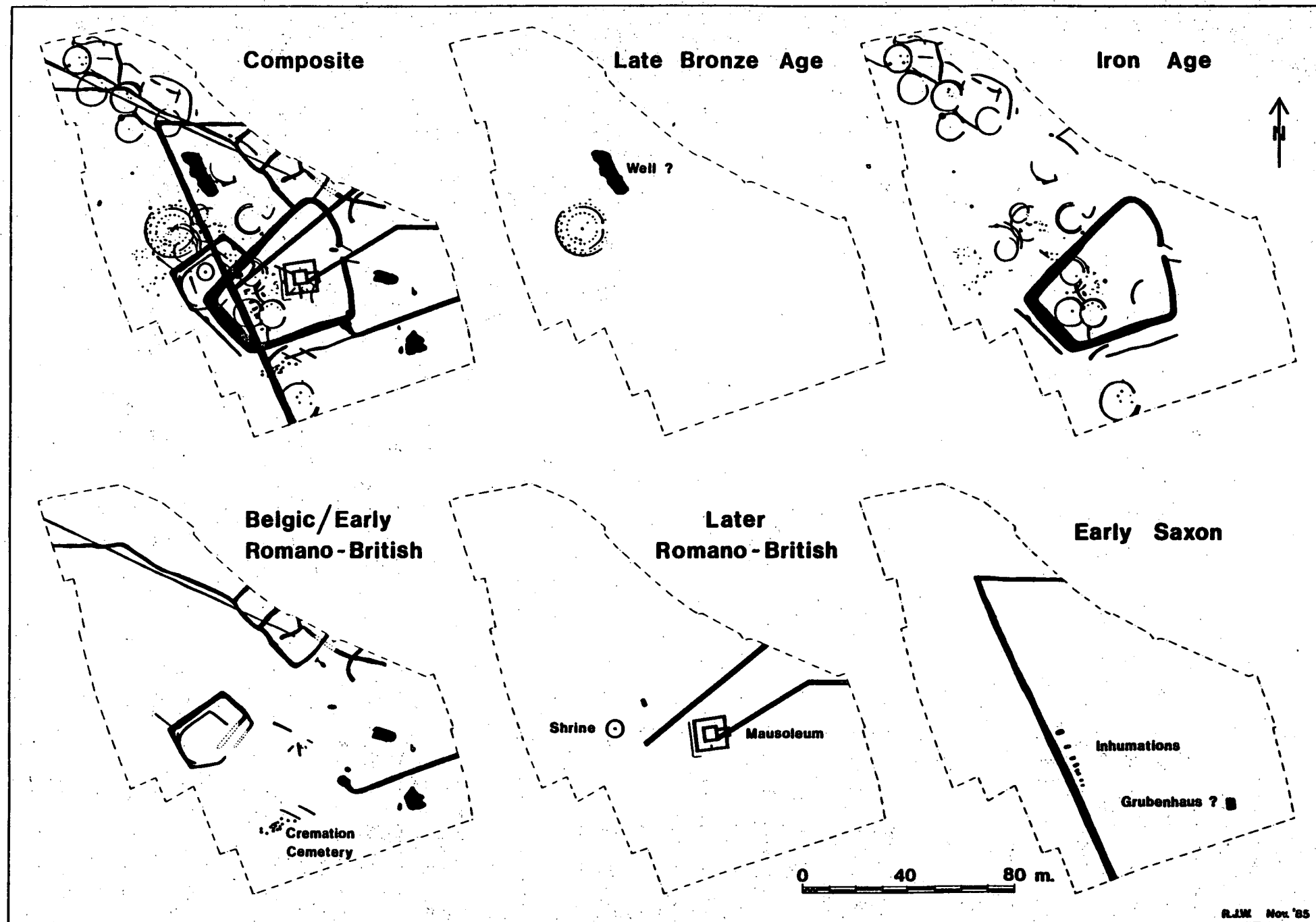
Post-Roman Boundary Ditch:-

The northern end and eastern extension of the 5th-6th cent AD boundary was uncovered in full and two further sections were excavated but once again no dateable finds were made. Trial trenches have previously revealed the line of the eastern arm which runs down the slope for several hundred metres.

Early Saxon Sunken Featured Building:-

Certainly the most important discovery of the seasons work was a small early Saxon sunken featured building located 40 metres to the south east of the earlier stone Mausoleum. The building had been cut through the south western corner of the most southerly of the two 'Belgic' clay pits, making the distinction of the two fills very difficult. Only the southern and western sides of the Saxon building were discrete and could be traced with any certainty. The building had been rectangular in shape 3.80m x 3.20m and up to 300mm deep aligned north-south. The sides sloped in gently to a rather undulating base with a slight 'furrow' running down the centre and four shallow post holes forming no perceivable arrangement. No trace of gable post holes were found, as is common in most sunken featured buildings, or evidence of any surrounding timber structure. Although there had been some contamination of finds most of the pottery from the building is of very early Saxon date and even possibly 5th century.

This is the first Saxon building to have been excavated on either of the Bancroft sites and must merit as a very significant discovery. Small amounts of Saxon pottery from the upper levels of the Bancroft villa had suggested continued activity on the site into the 5th century and the inhumations had reinforced this view. The discovery of this building has now undoubtedly extended the length of settled occupation on the site right into the 5th century at least.



BANCROFT 'MAUSOLEUM' EXCAVATION 1983-85

INTERIM PHASE PLAN

The three seasons work on the 'Mausoleum' site overlooking the Bancroft Roman villa has comprehensively illustrated how the villa, founded in the late 1st cent AD in the lower valley, was not an isolated implant into the 'empty' landscape of the Loughton Brook Valley but one continuing element in the human occupation and utilization of the area spanning the period from the Late Bronze Age to Early Saxon periods.

Although this was the final season of work on the site the future development of the surrounding area will be monitored and carefully watched for further signs of any features. In particular a Romano-British cemetery has yet to be located but which must undoubtedly have existed for the lengthy occupation of the adjacent villa, and more evidence of Saxon occupation may yet come to light strengthening the view that occupation in the area continued well beyond the end of the Roman empire and the 'decline' of the villa system.

Work will now concentrate on the preparation of the final report for integration with the villa report in a forthcoming monograph on the Bancroft excavations.

2 : Bancroft Villa : R.J.Zeevat

Excavations continued at Bancroft villa from July to December, attention was focussed this year on areas to the east and north of the 1984 excavations, the intention being to complete examination of the villa field, so that landscaping for the park in which the site is situated could begin. The area examined was similar in size to the 1984 excavation, covering about 3,800 square metres.

The eastern part of the site covered about 1,600 square metres, to the east and north of Building 9. Part of this area was covered by the metalled surface of a trackway, 7-8 metres wide, running alongside Building 9 on a NNE-SSW alignment. This trackway, first identified in 1984, has now been traced from a point 10 metres north-east of Building 9 to some 40 metres south of Building 1, a distance of 150 metres. It appears to date from the late first-second century AD, and provided the main access to the site, probably from Watling Street. It also appears to have continued northwards, perhaps to the extensive villa site at Stanton Low, on the river Ouse, a distance of 3km.

To the east of the trackway, as well as cutting its surface, was a maze of ditches and gullies, most of which remained waterlogged throughout the excavation, owing to the abnormally wet summer. In most of these features the fill was a very dark grey-brown alluvial soil making difficult any determination of relationships from excavation

alone. However, the earliest feature appears to have been a ditch parallel to - and predating - the trackway, at a distance of 2 metres. To the east of this was a narrow dry-stone wall forming the west side of a rectilinear sunken area measuring at least 26 x 10 metres, possibly a pond. This, like the trackway and adjacent areas, was covered in the late third/early fourth century by a layer of black soil up to 300mm thick, into which were tipped quantities of domestic debris and building rubble, the latter probably from the fourth century alterations to Building 1. Cut into the underlying features, and presumably also into this black layer, were a number of drainage ditches, also of fourth century date.

To the north of Building 9 the trackway was joined by an extensive area of limestone cobbling spreading down the slope from Buildings 3 & 4, covering some 600 square metres. This too was covered by fourth century alluvial deposits, which had protected it to some extent from damage by later ploughing. This surface, like the trackway, consisted predominantly of limestone rubble, and was laid directly on the subsoil, covering very few earlier features.

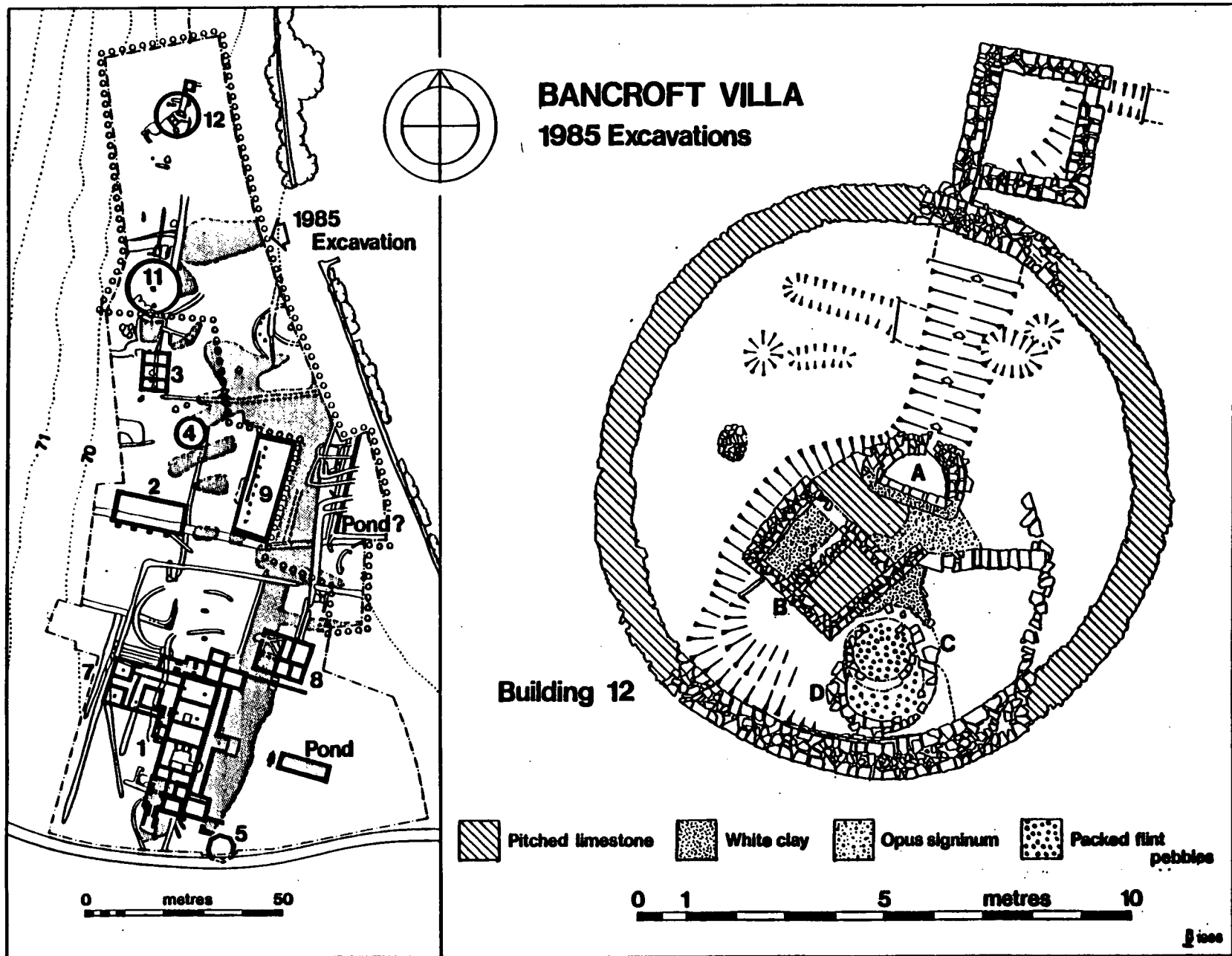
To the north of this cobbled area were found a group of gullies containing quantities of charcoal and burnt clay, associated with a hearth, suggesting the presence of a circular timber-framed structure and possible industrial activity.

Moving on to the northern part of the site, this contained two circular stone structures, Buildings 11 and 12, and a further area of extensive fourth century black soil deposits, in this instance some 500mm deep. This latter area, to the east of Building 11, was found to be a broad natural depression containing a cobbled track leading down from Building 11 towards the main trackway.

Building 11 measured 14 metres in diameter, with substantial footings of pitched limestone, except at one point where an earlier underlying ditch necessitated the construction of a 10 metre length of wall in coursed limestone. The interior of the building had a clay floor, with a central hearth; the only other feature was a 1 metre square block of limestone rubble masonry, the function of which is unclear. Despite the size of the building, there was no trace of any internal roof supports, and its resemblance to the two circular stone structures excavated at the nearby Stantonbury villa (MK301) in 1982 was noted. Finds from Building 11 suggested a second century date.

To the north of Building 11 were a number of ditches and gullies, the earliest being a broad, deep ditch aligned east-west, from the bottom of which was recovered a complete Belgic jar. This feature ran into the depression mentioned above, and probably

Fig. 13



continuing eastwards beneath the track. Between this ditch and Building 11 was a sunken paved area 3 metres square, postdating the ditch, and apparently contemporary with the building. Like the other sunken paved areas found at Bancroft, its function remains uncertain.

Thirty metres north of Building 11 was found Building 12. This was first located as a parch mark on an aerial photograph of the site, and trial-trenched in 1984. Removal of the topsoil - which proved unusually shallow, about 250mm - revealed a substantial circular structure 12 metres in diameter, with walls of both coursed and pitched limestone. On its north side was butted a well - built structure 3 metres square, with a drain leading from its north-east corner. The only internal features noted at this phase were a stone packed pit or posthole and a shallow gully filled with black loamy soil running north-south across the centre of the building. While the floor in the north-western part of the building was of natural clay and head deposits, the south-eastern part appeared to have been built up with a layer of mixed brown sandy material and grey Oxford clay. This was removed to reveal a layer of burnt material and building debris, which in turn covered a group of structures built on a level platform cut into the hillside.

The first of these was a semi-circular plunge bath (A), 1.4 metres in diameter, constructed of limestone mortared with opus signinum, draining into a ditch running northwards. The floor of the bath was a single limestone slab; unusually, no tile was used in its construction.

To the south of the plunge bath was a rectilinear stone structure (B) approximately 2.5 metres square, aligned NW-SE. Its interior was bisected by a wall aligned NE-SW, the west half being covered by a deposit of off-white clay, the east by pitched limestone. The walls were faced internally with opus signinum. Between this structure and the plunge bath was an area of opus signinum flooring on a pitched limestone footing.

To the south-east of the rectangular structure were two circular hearth/oven bases (C & D). The later of these (C) was the best-preserved, consisting of a wall of heavily burnt limestone 1.1 metres in diameter, encompassing a floor of closely packed glacial pebbles, over which was a layer of yellow sandy material. Structure D was larger, with a diameter of 1.5 metres, though similarly constructed. Neither structure appeared to have a stokehole, and their function and means of operation remains unclear. Between C and the south-west wall of B was an area surfaced with hard white clay on a rubble footing.

From the east corner of B ran a narrow wall, unusually constructed of limestone slabs covering its full width, giving the appearance of a stone-capped drain. This joined a more fragmentary wall, running north-south, disappearing beneath the wall of Building 12.

From the available evidence, it seems reasonable to suggest that this group of structures predates Building 12. The latter, like Building 11, has been provisionally dated to the second century, whilst the ash layer sealing structures A - D contained first century pottery and a coin of Trajan, suggesting a late first-early second century demolition date.

A far greater problem remains, however, in determining the function of these structures. 'A' is obviously a plunge bath, though none of the other structures resemble elements of a typical Roman bath suite. The interior arrangements of 'B' are similarly puzzling; from a surviving fragment of quarter moulding in the north corner the original floor in the west half can be seen to have been lower than the surviving top of the pitched stone footing in the east half of the structure. Furthermore, it is possible that the western floor was laid in opus spicatum (herringbone) as several of the small bricks used in this type of flooring were found in the overlying burnt layers. This leads one to suggest that the division in B represents a tiled floor (west) with adjacent bench (east), though for what purpose remains unknown. Finally, the two structures C & D do not fit into any common category of hearth or oven base known in this period. A search for parallels to these structures is currently under way, and the writer would welcome any constructive help in interpretation.

On completion of the excavation the site was backfilled and levelled. The 1986 excavations - the final season planned for Bancroft - will concentrate on the area to the east of the site (NE of Building 9) with the intention of examining Building 10, a substantial structure located in 1984 in the waterlogged area adjacent to the brook, and determining its relationship to the rest of the site. This year should also see the beginning of landscaping work on the site to make the villa complex accessible to the public.

Finally, the writer would like to express his thanks to the West Bletchley Metal Detector Club, who have been of great assistance, both in surveying areas on site prior to excavation, and in the recovery of finds from the site spoil tips.

3 : D.M.V. at Shenley Brook End : P. Sewter and M.R. Petchey

Excavation of the earthworks of the deserted medieval village of Westbury in Shenley Brook End continued throughout 1985, again funded by the Manpower Services Commission as a Community Programme project. Site 1 (reported on in South Midland Archaeology, 15, 1985, 45-8) was completed and Site 2 started. The latter, 200m to the east of Site 1, seems to be somewhat earlier in date. This chronological progression east to west along the ridge also emerges from analysis of the pottery from field-walking in 1984 to the north of the village street.

There are four main periods of activity:

PERIOD 1 : Early Medieval occupation and field systems

PERIOD 2 : Main Medieval occupation

PERIOD 3 : Medieval recession

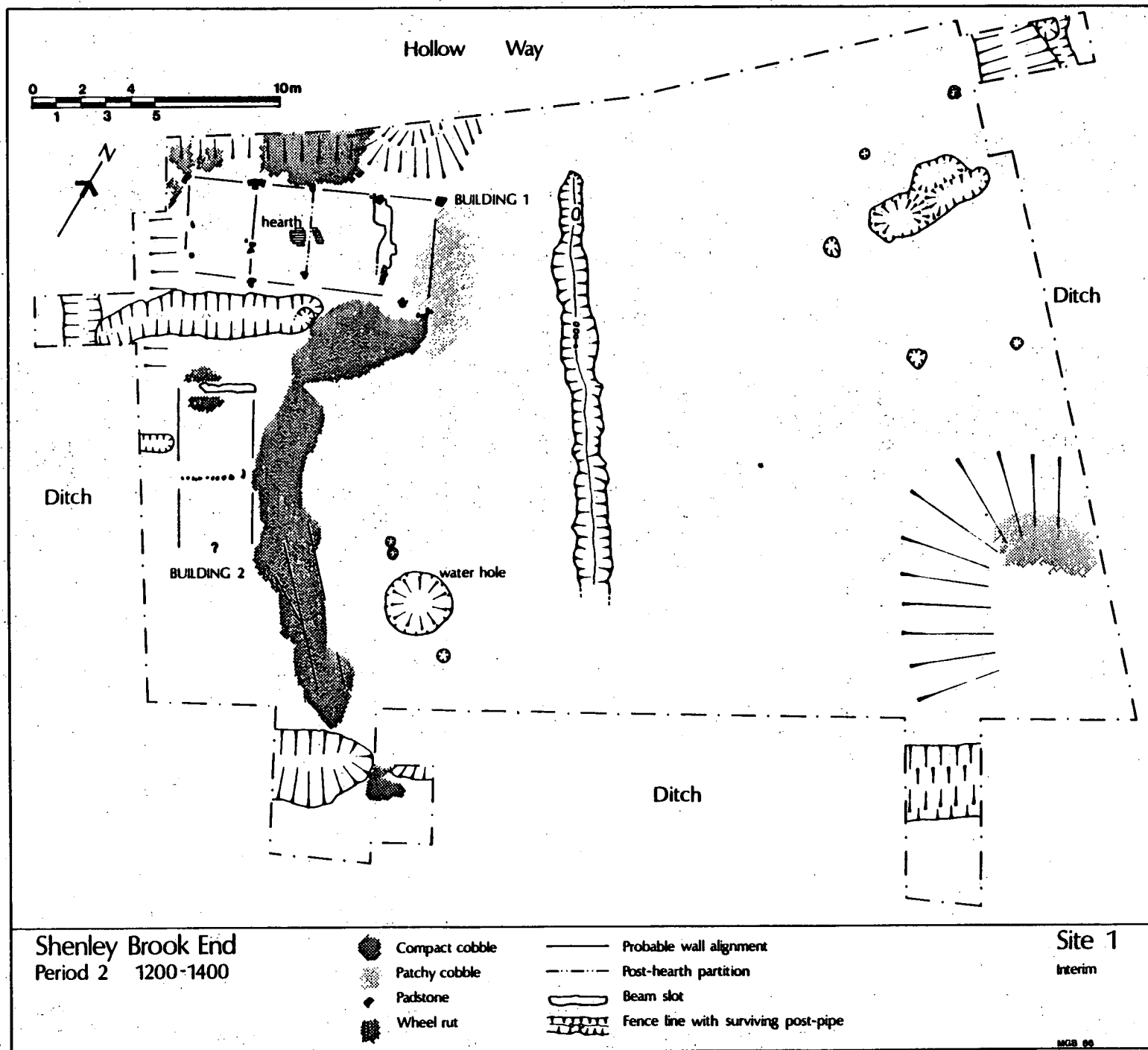
PERIOD 4 : Post-medieval and recent activity

In PERIOD 1, the area of Site 1 was beneath field systems. Three long, straight ditches, containing no finds, were located. The latest of these must have been a landscape feature at the time of the toft's construction, for its upper fill did contain a little medieval pottery. On Site 2 a small enclosure was succeeded by the construction of a platform c15m x 18m, on which was erected a building 9m x 4.5m, whose substantial earth-fast posts lay between sill-beams.

The Period 1 ditches were succeeded at Site 1 in PERIOD 2 by the making of a platform covering 925m². Its main building, building 1, was a four-bay house with at least two rooms. A small stone-lined gulley ran out through a possible threshold into the yard. At right angles to it was building 2, a barn or waggon-shed, 3m x 6m, of which only a central partition laid on re-used limestone roof flags and a shallow, irregular depression marking the north wall survive. Wheel-ruts in the cobbled yard led from it and building 1 to a causeway across the southern ditch. On the far side of the yard was a water-hole 1.1m deep. The platform was divided exactly in half by a substantial fence, buildings and yard to the west, stock-yard and some enigmatic pits to the east. In phase B, the toft declined in status to become an ancillary yard to another holding. Building 1 became a barn; the internal partition was moved one bay to the east, cutting the former hearth. A new partition created stalls at the east end.

The toft was finally abandoned by the early fifteenth century (PERIOD 3). Several of the deeper features on the platform have deposits of burnt material, charcoal and stone in their upper fills.

Fig. 14



Detailed planning of over 11ha of ridge-and-furrow to the south of the site is revealing the boundaries shown in a survey of 1698 (PERIOD 4).

The Pottery by Sue Degnan

The bulk of the pottery retrieved from Site 1 came from the yard layers. Consequently over 90% of the sample are small abraded body sherds.

63% of the sherds were of the MS6 fabric (in the Milton Keynes type series) attributed to the Potterspurys kilns and dated 1275 to 1400. Approximately a quarter of the total sample consisted of a reduced sandy fabric (MS3) of which the precise source is unknown.

During the earliest phase of Site 1 the local shelly fabric (MC3), similar to Olney Hyde "A" ware, is more significant, while not displacing MS6 (Potterspurys) as the most prominent fabric. Its presence, however, suggests a terminus post quem for the site.

Brill/Oxford fabrics comprise less than 2% of the pottery found at Shenley; they seem to be exotic imports.

Indeed, there is very little decorated pottery at all from the site. The rounded Potterspurys jugs have partial green glaze, generally over the shoulder of the vessel, and occasionally an incised wavy line or straight groove. Their strap handles have diagonal knife-slashing. Potterspurys cooking-pots and bowls, and all vessels in the reduced sandy ware (MS3) are plain and unglazed. The mostly plain shelly ware has occasional but very subtle rouletting or thumbing.

Both Potterspurys and Olney Hyde are within 10 miles of the site; a localised trading pattern is indicated.

The pottery from the 1985 excavations is only now being processed as the winter weather begins to bite. Initial impressions suggest that Site 2 is slightly earlier than Site 1. The shelly fabric (MC3) makes up about 1/3 of the sample so far examined. There is also a high proportion of a sandy and calcite fabric which is similar in form and appearance (buff exterior and reduced core) to Potterspurys but coarser. It is considered earlier than Potterspurys but must have some relationship to the products of that site.

4 : North Furzton Cropmark - Trial Trenches : R.J.Williams

A group of cropmarks was first noticed on a 1947 R.A.F. vertical photograph of the area to the north west of Bletchley at (SP 84763522) by Andrew Pike of Buckinghamshire County Museum who brought the discovery to the notice of the writer. The site is situated on a gently sloping S.E.E. facing slope just below the crest of a low ridge with a small brook to the south east. The centre of the site is at 90 metres O.D. on heavy boulder clay containing numerous periglacial hollows and partially overlain by alluvium near the brook to the south east.

Fieldwalking in 1984 produced only one Iron Age sherd and a worked flint together with a spread of burnt quartzite pebbles although conditions at the time were far from ideal.

Two principle threats to this site initially existed; It was threatened by the working area for the North Furzton Balancing Lake to be excavated in 1986-87 and then by housing development planned for 1987-88. The first threat has now been avoided but it was felt that with its future destruction assured limited trial trenching would provide valuable additional information to allow the full potential of the site to be assessed and a rational excavation policy to be determined.

The area of cropmarks was accordingly gridded and using a Massey Ferguson with a 4' ditching bucket a series of trenches to a total length of 575 feet were dug. The visible features were defined by hand, planned and where possible excavated before backfilling.

The most substantial feature was a rectangular ditched enclosure aligned east to west with internal dimensions 43 by 35 metres clearly visible as a cropmark. Two sections were excavated by machine revealing the ditch to be at least 2 metres deep with a steep 'V' shaped profile 3.5 metres wide at the top. The interior of the enclosure appeared to be almost totally devoid of features.

Approximately 15 - 20 metres to the north east was a less substantial semi-circular cropmark 34 metres across with a possible pit near the centre. Again this ditch was located in two crossing trenches as a less substantial smaller flat bottomed 'V' shaped ditch one metre wide and only 0.5 metres deep. No trace of the 'missing' side could be found and the central pit turned out to be a periglacial feature.

Immediately to the north, again in two cross trenches, four lengths of ditch of similar proportions and fill approximately 1 metre wide and 600mm deep with a 'U' shaped profile were interpreted as forming a sub-rectangular enclosure 24 by 20 metres.

Such types of trial trenches are not conducive to the recognition of smaller features but a number of smaller ditches were found together with a well preserved pot boiler-filled clay lined boiling pit and a number of post holes up to 400mm deep. The absence of small features within the large enclosure was initially thought to have resulted from destruction by later ploughing but the excellent preservation of the more ephemeral features elsewhere on the site would seem to preclude this hypothesis, and suggest it is more a result of intra-site functional variability than simply later erosion.

To the west of the enclosures a 'dog-leg' cropmark crossed by a pair of parallel ditches failed to appear in the trial trenches although a low ploughed out medieval headland was found to cover the area in question.

The finds from the trenches mainly consisted of pottery and animal bone. The pottery is currently under analysis but is of Iron Age type and since no wheel turned or early forms are present would appear to be of Middle Iron Age date.

From the careful observations of the trial trenches and the limited excavation it is clear that this is the site of a relatively large Iron Age settlement located just above the flood level of the adjacent brook. The site would seem to spread across the hillside for a distance of at least 150 metres and the domestic features seemed to be more concentrated to the south east of the main enclosure. The alluvium and indeed the headland to the north may afford the opportunity to excavate better preserved levels.

The importance of this site lies in its date in relation to the numerous early Roman and Late Iron Age settlements located around Bletchley many through the outstanding work of Richard Griffiths in the 1960's. This is the first substantial settlement of this date in the immediate area and it is interesting to note its geology and topography. Its location on a heavy clay soil and on a lower hillslope is very different to other sites of similar date excavated elsewhere in the area.

If funding is available full excavation of this site should take place in the spring and summer of 1987.

Woughton-on the-Green

The village of Woughton-on the-Green (SP 875 375), which contains one of the largest areas of medieval village earthworks in Buckinghamshire is currently undergoing considerable development primarily for housing and for the site of a marina. As a result of this a detailed reassessment of the village earthworks was undertaken by R.A.Croft and D.C.Mynard.

It is clear from this that the village was not originally a 'green' village but a linear village with its main axis running E. to W. At the W. end of the village are the fragmentary remains of a partly silted up moat which contains within it a substantial brick and stone built rectory dating from the 17th century. Just over 100m to the E. of the moated site are a group of buildings known as The Manor. The main farmhouse which is built of limestone dating from c.1600 and was subsequently refronted in the 17th or early 18th century. The identification of this parcel of land with that of a medieval manor has yet to be confirmed by documentary evidence. Mid-way between the moat and the manor lies Peartree Farm. The canal now divides the moat from the rest of the village and gives the Green a foreshortened appearance in comparison with its late medieval and pre-canal extent.

It would appear that the Rectory, Peartree Farm and The Manor were all newly built or had been re-built by c.1700. This group of buildings formed an important focus for the western end of the village with the church and manor house at the eastern end. A detailed investigation of the 1881 OS map 1:2500 reveals that the boundaries of the three main land holdings at the western end of the village can be split into two main parcels. The Rectory and Peartree Farm sit within a large enclosure 200m x 160m whereas The Manor is within an enclosure 80m x 90m.

The accuracy of the first edition 1:2500 scale map is usually taken for granted particularly where placenames are concerned, but the cartographers made an error when completing the Woughton sheet. The 1:10560 map clearly marks the building within the moated enclosure as 'Old Rectory' whereas the 1:2500 map marks it as 'Old Brewery', a slip up which highlights the need to check all early maps against other documentary material.

The earthworks on the Green are thought to represent the positions of tofts and crofts and minor trackways which were deserted in the 17th and 18th centuries and there is some documentary evidence to confirm this. Desertion of this central part of the village may not have been completed until well into the 18th century.

The placename of Woughton has changed through time, it was 'Vlchetone' in 1086 and 'Woketon' in the 13th century. It did not adopt the appellation term 'on the Green' until the 17th century, presumably at a time when the green became a distinctive feature of the village plan.

Today, much of the green is overgrown, particularly at the eastern end opposite the church, which makes recognition and interpretation of the earthworks very difficult. There is no evidence to suggest that this part of the green has ever been ploughed and the survival of the trackways and the tofts and crofts makes it one of the best preserved sites in Milton Keynes.

It is upon this part of the village earthworks that it is proposed to construct a cricket pitch.

On the east side of the N-S road from Newport Pagnell to Fenny Stratford lies the parish church of St. Mary and the mid-Victorian Manor House, now called Woughton House Hotel. East of Woughton House are a number of impressive house platforms and a very well preserved sunken road, called Meadows Lane c.1790, which crossed the Ouzel linking Woughton and Milton Keynes parishes.

This part of the site falls within the Ouzel valley Linear Park, giving it some degree of protection, but it is still threatened with minor development in the form of cycleways, footbridges and associated works.

Tattenhoe - Water Spinney

The earthworks around Water Spinney in tattenhoe parish (SP 8333 333) were first noted in 1981 (CBA 9 Newsletter 1981, 71) recent investigations suggested that they represented the remains of a medieval fishpond. The site was visited by David Hall who confirmed our identification and an application has been made to HBMC that the site should be considered for scheduling.

The pond is situated at the southern end of the deserted village of Tattenhoe and is the only example of this type of medieval water management to be found in Milton Keynes.

A similar dam and fishpond survives at Silverstone (Northants) (RCHM Northants Vol. IV 1982, 133). A detailed earthwork survey of the site will be made in the spring of 1986.

The western half of the pond is currently threatened by the construction of one of the city grid roads.

Bradwell Abbey

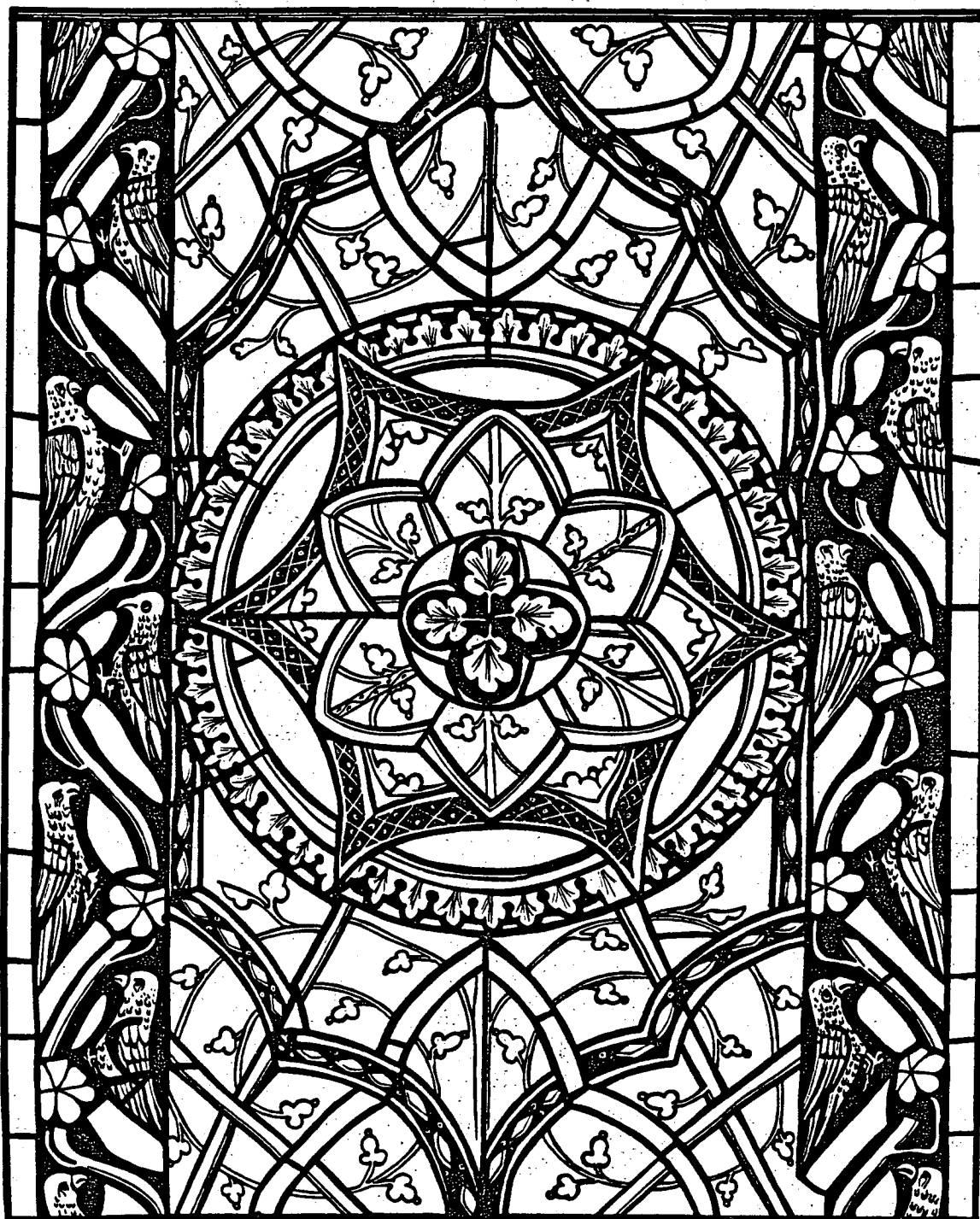
There is unlikely to be any further excavation at Bradwell Abbey in the foreseeable future and effort has concentrated upon preparing a report on all the earlier excavations, to be published in the Milton Keynes Monograph Series. This will include notes on the buildings - the wall painting restoration by M. Katkov and C. Oldenbourg and a full report on the excavation and reconstruction of the leaded window panel with a specialist report on its art historical importance by Jill Kerr. An interim report on the window should appear in the next Notes and News sections of Medieval Archaeology. A reconstruction of the panel is shown in Fig.15.

The conservation of the window was carried out by Susan Marshall and all the glass was drawn by June Burbidge. The reconstruction of the panel would not have been possible without the enthusiasm of Dennis Mynard and the help of other members of the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit.

As part of the interpretation and display of the site to the general public the plans of the walls of part of the priory church, chapter house and cloister have been laid out in gravel. This work has been carried out by the National Elfrida Rathbone Society, under the direction of the Unit. The dimensions of the church and chapter house have been laid out according to the details given in the post suppression survey. Visitors to the site can now appreciate the original size of the church and its relationship to the pilgrimage chapel.

POST EXCAVATION : D.C.Mynard

The monograph covering the Roman sites excavated 1972-1982 is currently being typeset and will hopefully be published during the summer of 1986. Work is well advanced on the reports on the multi period sites at Caldecotte and the Roman Pottery of the Milton Keynes area, it is anticipated that these will be completed in March and June respectively.



0 400mm

Fig. 15: Reconstruction drawing of medieval window panel from Bradwell Priory

Three medieval monographs are now in preparation. The first a detailed parish study of Great Linford, combines the results of documentary research, landscape survey and excavation.

The second covers the documentary research and landscape survey of the whole city area.

The third will publish the results of all the other medieval excavations that we have undertaken.

The Great Linford and Landscape volumes are programmed for completion by March 1987.

Work has now commenced on the analysis of the medieval pottery from the numerous excavations which we have undertaken since 1972. Our pottery type series which is based on the one that I established at Northampton in 1970 has been kept up to date and regularly checked against those of neighbouring units.

During 1986 Bob Williams will concentrate on the Pennyland excavation report which will also incorporate the Iron Age sites excavated by Stephen Green and Tim Schadla-Hall in the gravel pit at Milton Keynes villages in 1973-74.

Once the Bancroft excavations are completed, Bob Zeepvat and Bob Williams will be preparing the final report on this major Roman and multi-period excavation.

A major achievement during 1985 was the reconstruction of the design of the thirteenth century window from Bradwell Priory, see Fig.15 .

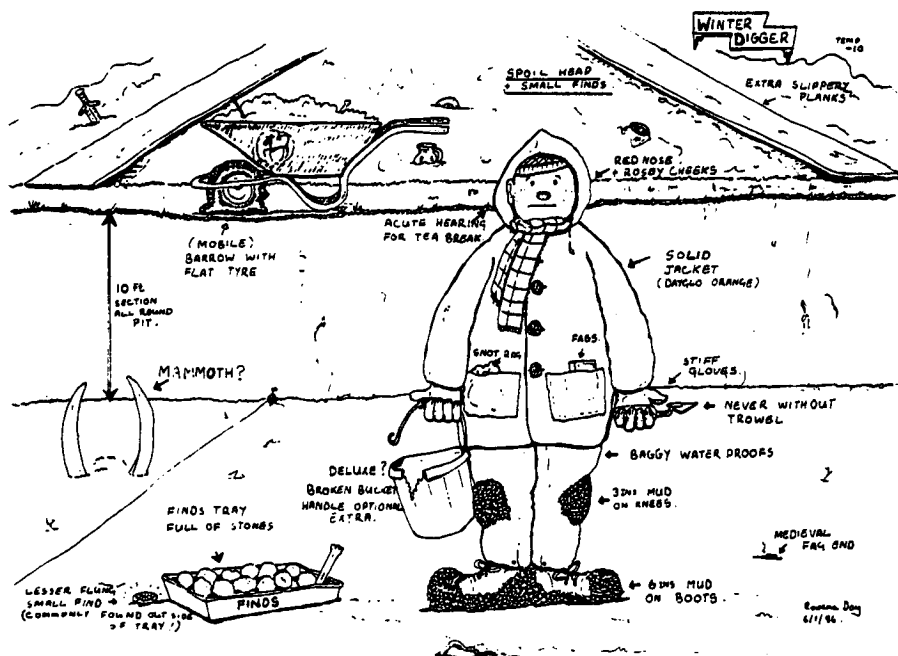


Fig. 16: Excavations at Walton Lodge, Aylesbury (cartoon by Rowena Day, Aylesbury Past Project)

Aylesbury Past Project

Walton Lodge, Walton Street, Aylesbury.

In October 1985 a small excavation was begun at this site, lying nearly opposite the early Saxon site at Walton Vicarage in Walton Street (excavated by Michael Farley in 1973-1974). The excavation is entirely funded by the MSC as the first in a series to be carried out by Aylesbury Past Project.

In the medieval period the site lay within the village of Walton, which was only incorporated into the town of Aylesbury in the 19th century. The excavation revealed a medieval stone oven and a scatter of small features, and the site undoubtedly lay near a house at this time. The site was also occupied in the middle to late Saxon period although no buildings have been positively identified at the time of writing.

The middle Saxon pottery includes a few sherds of Ipswich ware, and a local middle Saxon ware which has been recognised for the first time at this site. It is hoped that the present excavation will clarify local ceramic developments as well as contribute to the understanding of the settlement archaeology of Walton and Aylesbury.

Unexpectedly, the site has produced a few sherds of Bronze Age pottery but no Bronze Age features have been found so far.

Hal Dalwood.

Restoration Work at Burnham Abbey, 1985

Introduction

The east wall of the main abbey buildings on the north side of the chapter house (now chapel) was rebuilt as part of the restoration in the early part of this century. Investigation has revealed that the wall was erected alongside the base of the medieval wall without sufficient foundations being constructed. The remedial work involved the insertion of a concrete foundation for which there was the excavation of a trench 1.75 metres deep along the length of the wall. The trench revealed the outer face of the medieval foundations which went deeper than the trench. Unfortunately during the investigation, probably due to heavy rain, supports for the wall collapsed and the area was declared dangerous so that final inspection was not considered safe but although a final check was not possible all measurements are believed to be correct.

Foundations of the main abbey range

The face of the foundations consisted of chalk blocks of uniform size and shape (approximately that of modern bricks) accurately laid in courses.

Passage to the infirmary

On the north side of the site of the slype the trench cut the base of

a wall running towards the infirmary. This foundation consisted of well laid rubble chalk blocks, a construction similar to that uncovered at the foundation of the infirmary chapel. Except for very shallow hollows chipped into the main wall chalk blocks this wall was not keyed in. Although the trench extended to the north wall of the chapter house no second wall was revealed suggesting that the roof over the corridor to the infirmary was supported on one side by the wall and the other by posts or columns. The alignment of the wall was revealed when a soak away was dug and also by the somewhat disturbed upper layers adjacent to the infirmary which were exposed previously when the shallower trench, in connection with the drainage installation was dug. At that time evidence was found that the floor of the passage was puddled or tamped chalk.

Fireplace of the Warming Room.

It appears Brakspear made the fire place too large on his plan and seemingly the wrong shape, although it is useful to see where it began at the north end in relation to the post reformation wall. The recent work revealed that the fireplace jutted out at a right angle to the wall and it only went 70 cm. to the south of the post reformation wall. This means that the outside length of the fireplace was 2.6 to 2.75 metres.

Part of the surviving base of the warming room fireplace was exposed at the end of the trench and the upper surface as far as the post reformation wall was also uncovered.

The southern exterior face had, beneath 5 cm. of rubble, slabs of Reigate sandstone 10 cm. thick which continued across the top of the surviving medieval wall for 23 cm. Since the stone had been disturbed during the laying of the present floor in 1914 it is possible that the fireplace was at least partly built of sandstone. Below the sandstone were five courses of floor tiles with a depth of 13 cm. and under the tiles flint for at least 18 cm.

When the sandstone was removed it was shown that the space behind the tiles was filled with a mixture of roof tiles, sandstone and mortar for 18 cm. and beyond with flint and mortar plus a little sandstone.

Area to the south of the site of the church.

Restoration work has also been required for the east wall of the present kitchen involving another trench (the area to the south of the site of the medieval church).

The excavation exposed four E-W orientated burials and if the trench had been extended it is likely that more would have been revealed, indicating a burial ground to the south of the church. Earlier building work had revealed a lead coffin also to the south of the church.

Don & Dorothy Miller.

The Chantry House, 11-13 Watling Street, Fenny Stratford.

In last year's issue of the CBA 9 journal reference was made to the medieval Gild Buildings of St. Margaret's and St. Katherine's at Fenny Stratford which were undergoing conversion from a sugar refining factory to modern offices. Now known as "The Chantry House", the buildings have undergone a considerable change and form an attractive suite of offices in a small industrial estate adjacent to the canal. Regrettably some of the exposed timber framing of the buildings was in such a poor condition that it had to be rendered over during the conversion; this was however balanced by the exposure of previously hidden parts of the framework and the reconstruction of the jettying at the front of the building.

The conversion works took approximately six months and the writer periodically visited the site to record any new features revealed by the works and gradually was able to record parts of the fabric which previously had been hidden. In view of the limitations of time particular attention was given to the section of the building fronting Watling Street which had the best survival of medieval timber framing.

One of the unfortunate effects of the much needed repair and alteration is to give the impression that the observer is looking at a single large building of one phase. In reality there are five fabrics of different periods forming a north-south oriented building with wings at each end. These are illustrated on the accompanying diagram and will be referred to in future as buildings 1 to 5. In brief these five fabrics can be described as follows:

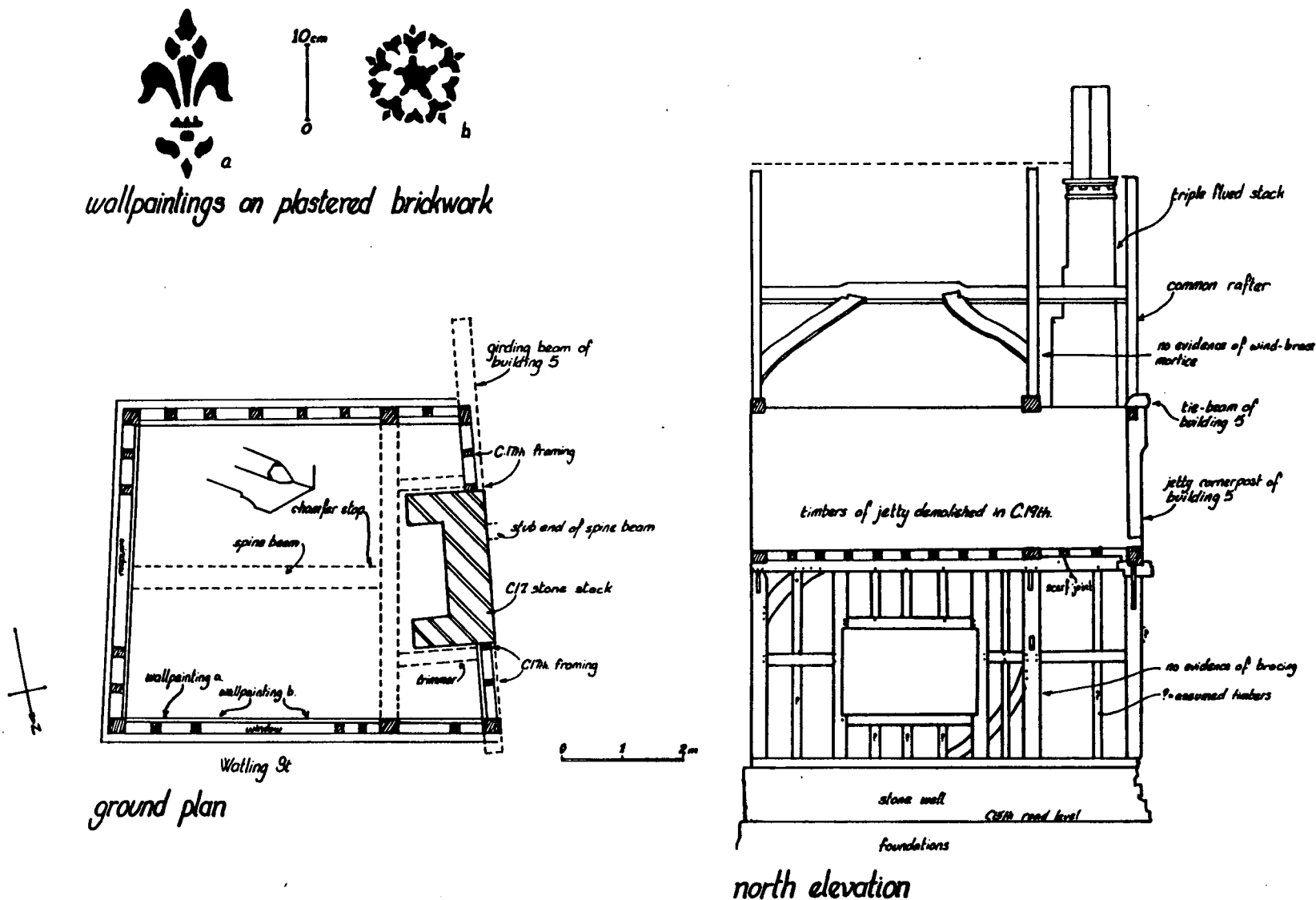
Building 1 - Two bays of a two storey timber framed building with a queen-post roof and jettying on the north and east sides. It was formerly four bays in length and of some status as it possessed dragon beams and moulded posts. Nothing of the ground floor remains and lack of mortices under the tie-beams suggests that the upper floor had a room at least three bays long.

Building 2 - This is a seven bay timber framed building of two storeys which is jettied on the west side. At ground floor level the rear wall and parts of the north wall survive. The upper floor is divided into two rooms, one of three bays with queen-post trusses and the other of two bays with a hammer beam truss. Original window openings occur on the first floor on the west side but none on the north side. Eaves detailing suggests that the building was intended to be thatched.

It is probable that this is the Gild or Brotherhood House for the Guild of St. Margaret & St. Katherine which was established in 1493. This building was constructed against building 1 and therefore post-dates it. Much later than the original construction were the wallpaintings of a Cat & Fiddle and some birds which survived until 1913 in the smaller chamber.

Building 3 - A two storey timber framed extension to building 4. It comprises of two bays with queen-post trusses, one of which abuts building 2. Only the wall plates of the framing survive and again there were no mortices under the tie-beams of the trusses to suggest that the upper floor was divided into separate rooms.

Building 4 - A two storey timber framed building of one-and-a-quarter bays that was jettied on the north side where it abuts Watling Street. The framing of the ground floor is nearly complete but the jetty was demolished when the building was extended northwards in the nineteenth century.



Chantry House, 11-13 Watling St, Fenny Stratford ~ building 4.

Building 5 - A two bay, two storey timber framed wing built at right angles to building 4. The upper floor was a single room with a hammer beam roof similar to that constructed in the smaller chamber of building 3. At one time it formed the gatehouse to the Bull Inn and was demolished in 1939 when the Bull Inn was rebuilt. Only fragments of the east wall of this building now survives.

As a result of the alterations it has been possible for building 4 to be examined in some detail. In particular the demolition of the nineteenth century extension on the north side revealed the framing that fronted Watling Street and showed that the building extended further to the east. Details of the framework are illustrated on the accompanying drawings showing the front elevation and an isometric reconstruction of buildings 4 & 5 viewed from the south-east.

The rear frame of the surviving bay of building 4 is of two storeys with close studding and large curved hidden braces on each floor going from the main posts to the cill/girder. It is probable that the wall plate and south-east corner post were renewed when building 3 was constructed. The east elevation is again close studded and is dominated by a large window opening on the ground floor and a smaller opening above. A stone sill remained insitu within the upper window and indicates that at one time it was stone mullioned. Of the front elevation only the ground floor framing survives which is dominated by a large window opening which had no mortices to indicate any mullions. The window is not central in the bay and so has affected the symmetry of the studding. Similarly the size and position of the window necessitated the construction of a brace of concave rather than convex form, running from the main upright of bay 1 to the cill.

Of the second ground floor bay only 1.5 m. survives but this shows a radical change in the frame. The panels produced by the studding are approximately 900 mm wide compared to an average of 400 mm for the framing of the first bay. In addition there is no balancing brace to the concave brace previously mentioned. Similar irregularities occur in the roof and the construction of the first floor.

The first floor is supported on a beam between the main uprights of the first bay and a spine beam running from this beam to the east gable. These timbers are of large scantling and are chamfered and stopped. From the spine are joists 120 mm x 150 mm at 480 mm centres which rest on the bressemer at the front and a girding beam at the rear. The base of the ceiling is about 3.2 m. above the sill of the building which is more than would be expected in a domestic property of fifteenth century. In addition, a cellar adjacent to the building showed that the sill stands on a dwarf wall of coursed stonework 900 mm high and that the foundations are at least 400 mm. deep. From this it would appear that the original room height was approximately 4 m.

The spine beam supporting the floor of the first bay does not continue into the second. In what remains of this bay is a stack of the Jacobean period which has trimmers on each side to support the joists. There is no indication of how the floor of the second bay was supported or where the stair to this floor was located. The main post dividing the two bays on the north side is recessed for a door at first floor level but it is uncertain whether this is an alteration to structure following the construction of building 3 or indicates an entrance approached from an external stair. It is assumed that the second bay was floored over as the arch braced roof truss dividing the two bays has no mortices to suggest

a wall in this position at first floor level. Curiously the truss above the cranked tie beam had wattle and daub panels but not above the collar which clasped the purlins. At this level the principal rafters were reduced.

As would be expected there are a set of windbraces from the principal rafters to the purlins. On the north side the purlin increases in height between the windbraces and is chamfered. This suggests that this is a deliberate decorative feature but it is not repeated on the south side. As below these features are not continued through to the second bay, i.e. there is no evidence for windbraces on the west side of the truss.

The fact that the close studding, spine beam and windbraces of the first bay do not continue through to what remains of the second bay is not reconciled by the lack of partitions at ground and first floor levels which indicates that the rooms were at least two bays long. Is building 4 then the fragment of a much larger building which only had braces etc. in the end bays or could it be that building 4 was built as an extension to building 5 and not vice versa? Of the two I would favour the building 4 as being the earlier as it possesses the very large bracing which should be earlier than the hammer-beam roof of building 5. I would therefore suggest that building 4 originally extended much further westwards and that it was partially demolished and a new wing of two bays, (building 5), constructed against it.

It is likely that these buildings plus the Brotherhood house and other two buildings were incorporated into the Bull Inn during the seventeenth century and formed part of the Inn until 1800. The conversion of the buildings to the Bull Inn necessitated some improvements one of which was to provide the upper and lower rooms of building 4 and the upper floor of building 5 with brick fireplaces. This was obtained by constructing a stone stack with three diagonal brick chimneys within the remains of the second bay of building 4. At this time the ground floor of the building 5 was converted into a gateway to give access to The Bull yard and the ground floor of building 4 was turned into a parlour. The recent building works have revealed that the parlour was decorated by stencilling designs in red paint directly onto the plaster of the brick panels which had replaced the wattle and daub. The designs chosen were the fleur-de-lys and a stylised rose.

The use of the "Chantry House" buildings before they were incorporated into the Inn cannot readily be identified despite a relatively good survival of timber. From the structural evidence it is possible to say that building 4 had a ground floor shop and that all the buildings had large unheated upper chambers which do not appear to be domestic. In building 2 the arrangement and construction of the chambers is characteristic of a Guildhall and in building 5 there was also a chamber of some status. To understand the site fully it is necessary for there to be adequate documentation in the form of terriers etc. Regretfully the documentation is only sufficient to deduce that the Gild building of St. Margaret & St. Katherine was probably on the site and that it was probably building 2. No documentation survives to deduce how the Gild used these chambers or to what use the ground floor was put.

Despite very limited knowledge about these medieval buildings they are the major surviving medieval urban element of the small market town of Fenny Stratford. From the jettying of building 1 it is apparent that it was built with open space to the north and west and that part of this space

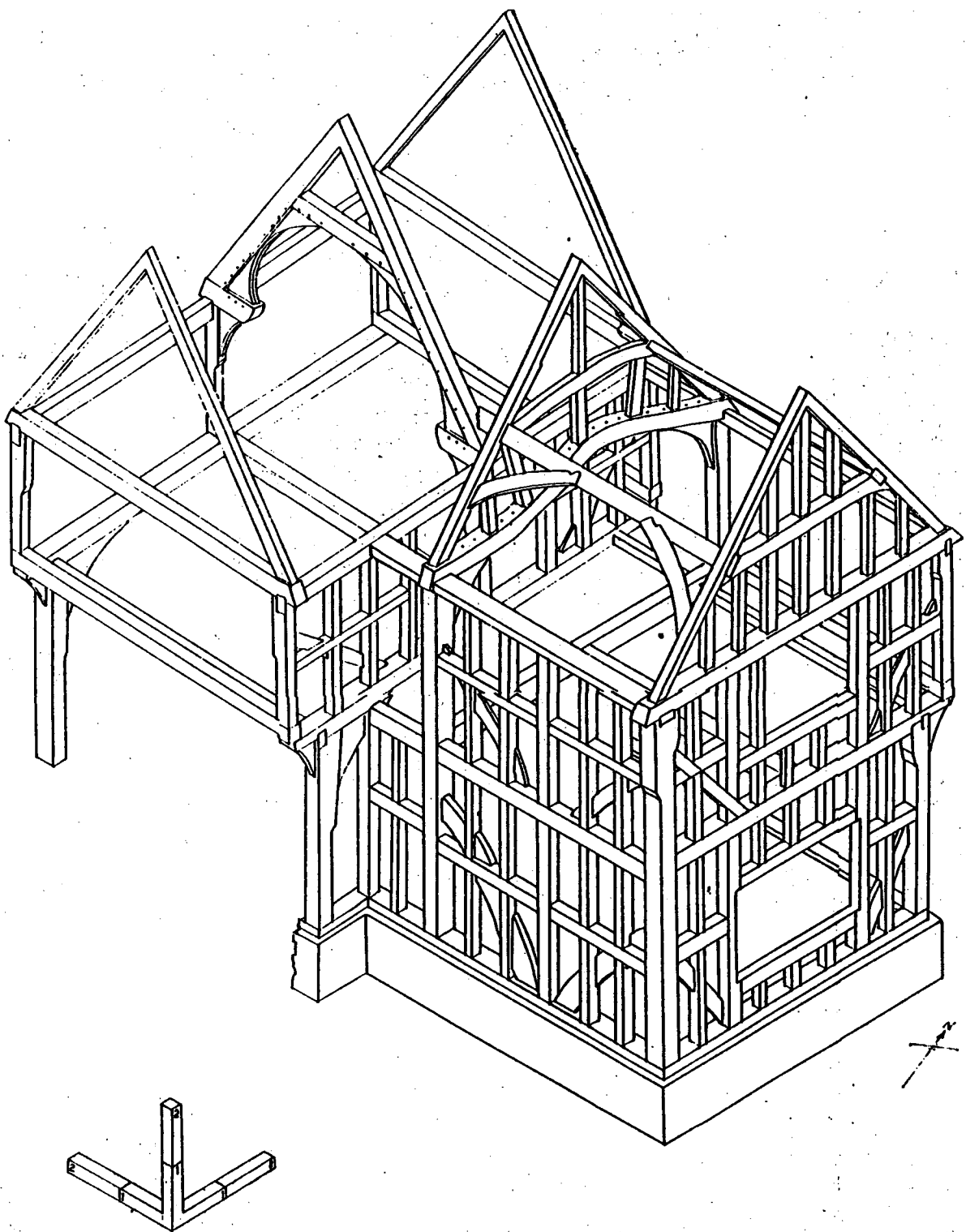


Fig. 18: Isometric drawings of Buildings 4 & 5, Chantry House,
Fenny Stratford

was later used to construct the Brotherhood house at a later date. This coupled with the proximity of the crossroads and the site of the medieval chapel suggests that the buildings may have formed the south boundary of the medieval market square which has subsequently been infilled (see accompanying diagram). If this was the market square then it would be the ideal location for the Brotherhood House and would account for the position of the shop in building 4.

My thanks go to Alder Mill Design & Construction Ltd. of Coventry for allowing me access to the building and the workmen on the site for their assistance whilst the survey was in progress. I should also like to thank Milton Keynes Development Corporation for time to carry out part of the survey.

Brian L. Giggins.

CHANTRY HOUSE
11-13 WATLING ST
FENNY STRATFORD

Outline Plan

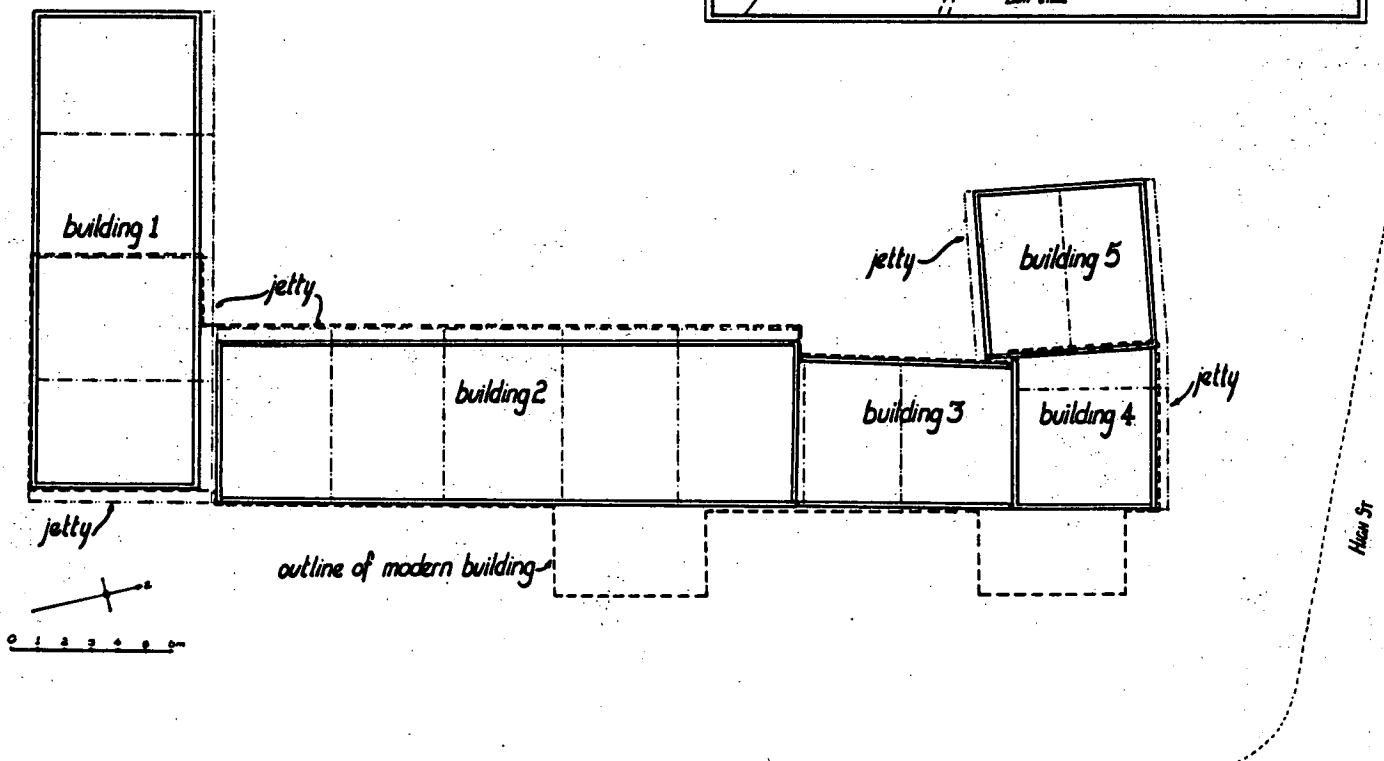
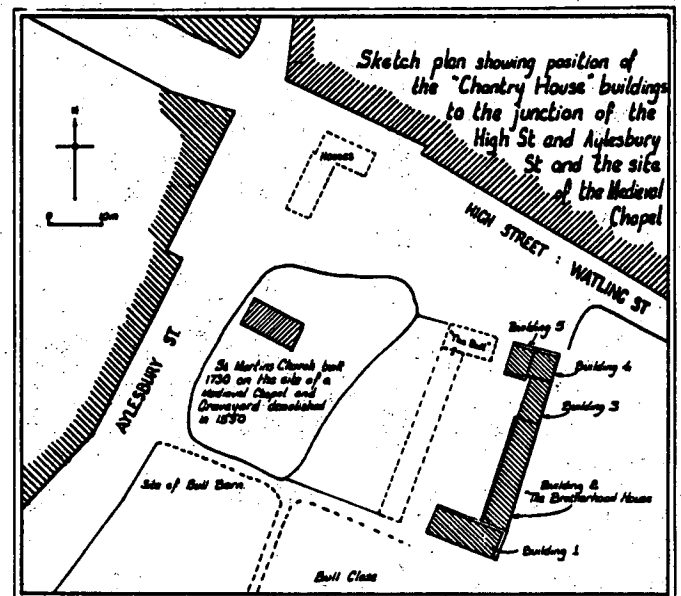


Fig. 19

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

1. Upper Nene Archaeological Society

Piddington: a late Iron Age settlement and Romano-British villa site.

The site was first discovered in 1781, during limestone quarrying. Several sources claim that a large mosaic pavement was discovered. In his 'History of Northamptonshire', Whellan (1874) states: "in 1781 at Stone Pits at the south-west end of Piddington close to Preston Wood a beautiful tessellated pavement about 50 ft. sq., was cleared and found perfect". V.C.H. Northamptonshire (1902), states that the mosaic was chiefly black and white, but a Mr. Parkins, of Hackleton, writing to the historian, Baker, in 1826, repeated the discoverer's description, that it was "like a carpet". (Parkins, 1826). A skeleton, with a spear and a nearby gold ring were also found. Unfortunately, the mosaic was destroyed except for a very small fragment, other parts of the building damaged and the finds disposed of.

In 1978, the 18th century quarries were levelled and the field ploughed for the first time in many years. Surface finds, indicative of a large Roman building, extending over 3 - 4 acres, became apparent and walling was exposed at the quarry edge.

The site was faced with several threats: continuous ploughing would have seriously eroded the villa within a few years, assisted by natural erosion, accelerated by the natural slope of the field and by the fact that four centuries of building and rebuilding on the site and deliberate terracing into the hillside had created a 'tell' - like profile, enhancing the villa's vulnerability to erosion. In addition, a large pipeline trench was due to cross the field, with the possibility of any structures or features detached from the main villa building being affected. (In the event, the pipeline trench, 150 m. to the W of the main building, did not disturb any archaeological evidence).

A very real threat came too from treasure hunters, both local and not so local, who had discovered the location and were making regular visits.

Aerial photographs, field walking and resistivity surveying have indicated a substantial courtyard villa, approximately 72m. square, with one side extended to include a possible bathhouse, at a stage in the site's development.

Occupation is on the side of a shallow valley, sloping to the east, with a water course flowing along the valley bottom, straddled by the above - mentioned bathhouse, which suggests that the water course was in a similar position to the present one. The two main wings of the developed courtyard villa, at right angles to each other, would have sheltered the courtyard from the prevailing westerly wind. The subsoil a sand, overlying limestone, provides good drainage.

Excavation, by the Upper Nene Archaeological Society, from 1979, of an area representing approximately ten per cent of the known occupied area, has shown that the site was in use pre-Conquest.

The earliest structure, to date, is a pre-Conquest circular building, with associated ditch systems. A rectangular building, aligned NW/SE, of timber, wattle and daub, 7.5m x unknown length (part excavated), dates to the Trajanic period.

The first stone building, aligned N-S, of unknown length, but of at least 5 rooms, 8m. wide and at least 24m. in length, was constructed from about the Hadrianic period, a corridor being added to the E side shortly afterwards. The corridor, facing into the courtyard, along the whole length of the wing, was given a succession of mortar floors, finally floored in herringbone tiles, opus spicatum. The corridor wall was low, topped by a dwarf colonnade, supporting a lean-to roof. The wall was externally faced with plaster and painted a plum red. Evidence for the columns comes from curved and moulded plaster, painted in plum red, purple brown and white, with painted imitation egg and dart moulding. Since the local limestone is not suitable for turning, the columns were built up of roughly cut limestone drums, which were then plastered over; some fragments of these have been found on the site.

In the Antonine period (2nd century), a range of rooms was gradually added to the N end of the Hadrianic building, later to be modified to create a room heated by a channelled hypocaust, stoked from a stoking room on the W side.

A major refurbishment in the mid- late 3rd century added a rear range of rooms on the W side of the villa (along the entire length of the building so far excavated). At the same time, the NW corner was again modified, by removal of 5 partition walls, to create one large room, 9m x 10m. The hypocaust was extended and vents inserted to connect the old system with the new. The stoke room was re-positioned in the NW corner of the room. The first hypocaust had been fuelled with timber, the new, with coal. Into this new room was laid the mosaic destroyed in 1781, when most of the hypocaust superstructure was also damaged or destroyed. Surviving evidence for the mosaic indicates that it had a wide border of coarse red tesserae, with a central square or rectangular panel. One small fragment depicts a heart-shaped leaf, with a stalk, set in the corner of a narrow border, in 5 colours.

During this late phase of refurbishment, an apse was added to the N end of the corridor and a NE wing.

It would appear that the 3rd/early 4th century improvements were never fully completed, as there were two piles of unused tesserae, on the W side and SE corner of the villa, respectively.

In the 18th century destruction material overlying the channelled hypocaust were large quantities of painted wallplaster, depicting geometric designs and naturalistic scenes, in a wide range of colours. From here and elsewhere on the site, wallplaster was painted with the rare pigment, cinnabar (mercury sulphide), an exceptionally bright pink/red in colour, otherwise recognised in Britain at only four other, all major urban, sites (Ling, 1985)

By AD 340 - 50, the villa was in ruins, inhabited by a self-sufficient community, living in reconstructed rooms. However, the huge quantity of oyster shells associated with this phase indicates that this trade,

which had begun at the Conquest, was able to continue. A corn-drying kiln (closely paralleled at the villa at Great Casterton, Rutland (Corder, 1961) produced charred peas and grain. This phase is well dated by pottery and other finds to c. A.D. 350 - 380/390.

Apart from the 1781 report of the skeleton buried with a spear, which could possibly be a Saxon burial, there is no evidence of Saxon occupation or use of the site.

The Society is in the process of preparing interim reports on various aspects of the finds etc. (e.g. important groups of pottery) for workers in the respective fields.

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Northamptonshire Buildings - Two crucks

Each year there are several previously unknown small medieval buildings identified in the County. Invariably they are raised crucks, otherwise known as short principal crucks, set in stone walling and have evidence of soot staining on the rafters. The status of the buildings in which they occur varies and this is illustrated by the occurrence of ornamental features on some of the cruck blades and braced collars. At the lower end of the social scale there are crucks lacking arch bracing, windbracing and "yolks" joining the cruck blades, instead the blades are halved over each other and recessed to take the ridge piece. The fact that these buildings have stone walls rather than timber framed side walls have caused some investigators to consider whether the buildings were originally built as timber framed buildings with the framing later replaced with stone when it became plentiful. The crucial evidence would be to discover a cruck building with remains of "cruck spurs" i.e. the short timbers that run from the cruck blade to the top of the framework of the side walls.

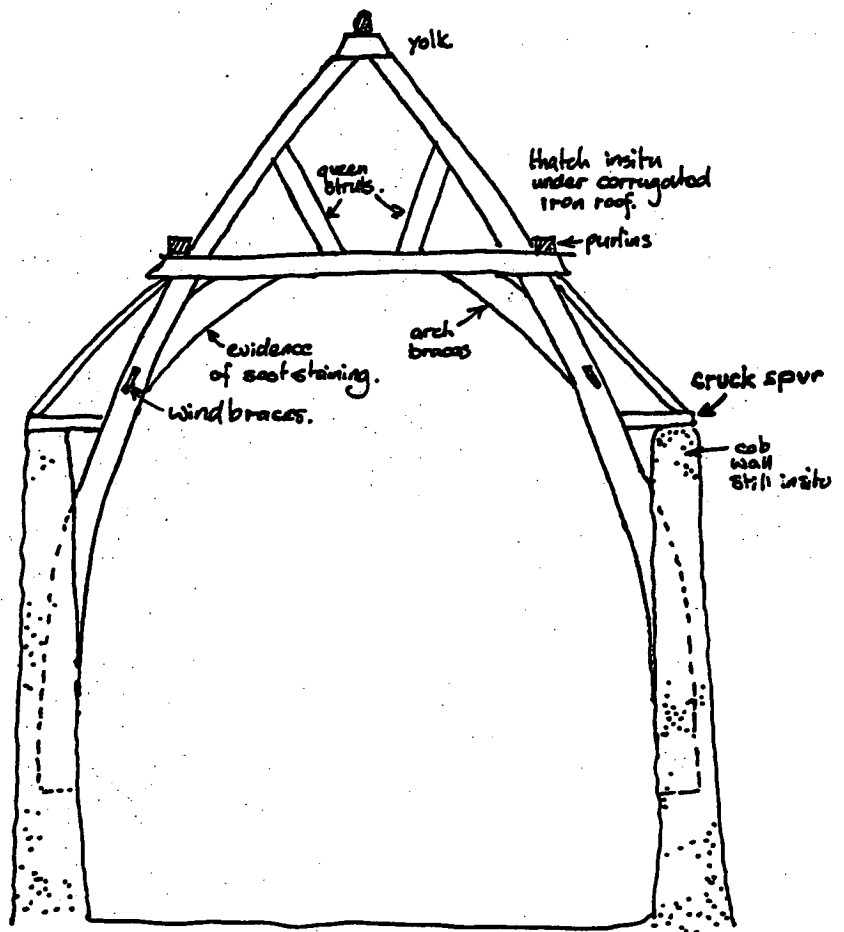
Last year a building with cruck spurs was found in Long Buckby. It comprised a three bay building fronting Harbidges Lane with a two storey side wing of two or three bays at the north end. The elevations of the building were a glorious mixture of sixteenth century stonework, local eighteenth century bricks and modern flettons. In the wing and at the rear were traces of cob - a material extensively used for barns in the village.

The ground floor had a wide flagstoned through-passage and an inglenock fireplace with a circular stone stair against it giving access to the first floor. This last feature made it impossible to get furniture and coffins up or down from this floor and so necessitated the construction of a trap door in the kitchen ceiling. An inspection of the first floor rooms showed that these features were secondary. The roof structure was supported by full crucks with soot stained braced collars and windbraces indicating the building had an open hall of two bays which did not respect the through passage underneath. At eaves level there were the cruck spurs but these rested on cob walls showing that cob was the original building material and that the stone and the brickwork of the elevations were refacing and rebuilding materials.

The queen-struts going from the collar to the cruck blades immediately suggested a fifteenth century date. At that date the "village" of Long Buckby had a market and was a small town prospering from the wool trade. In the latter period it was well known as a centre of Woolcombing. This building in Harbidges Lane is large and certainly not a low status building of the medieval town. No details of its status has been obtained from documentation but it would not be unreasonable to consider it to be the dwelling of a mercer or wool factor. The fact that they used cob to build the house is a considerable surprise as it is generally considered to be an inferior building material. Regrettably there are no other medieval vernacular buildings in the present village of this date to see if this is an isolated example of the use of cob. By the late sixteenth century stone was the predominant building material in the town and cob was reserved for barns and garden walls.

As well as being unusual in having "cruck spurs" this building is also notable as it has full crucks. Although there are several stone buildings in the county with full crucks they are not common. One is at Station Road, Gretton, which was surveyed some years ago. This is a much lower status building which had the hall turned into a one up one down cottage. The end bay appears to have been converted into another

10 & 12 HARBIDGES LANE
LONG BUCKBY



sketch reconstruction of cruck truss.
inspected Aug. 1985

Fig. 20

16 Station Road, Gretton.

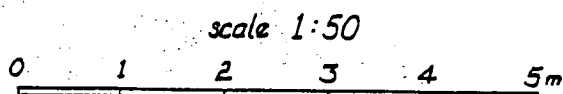
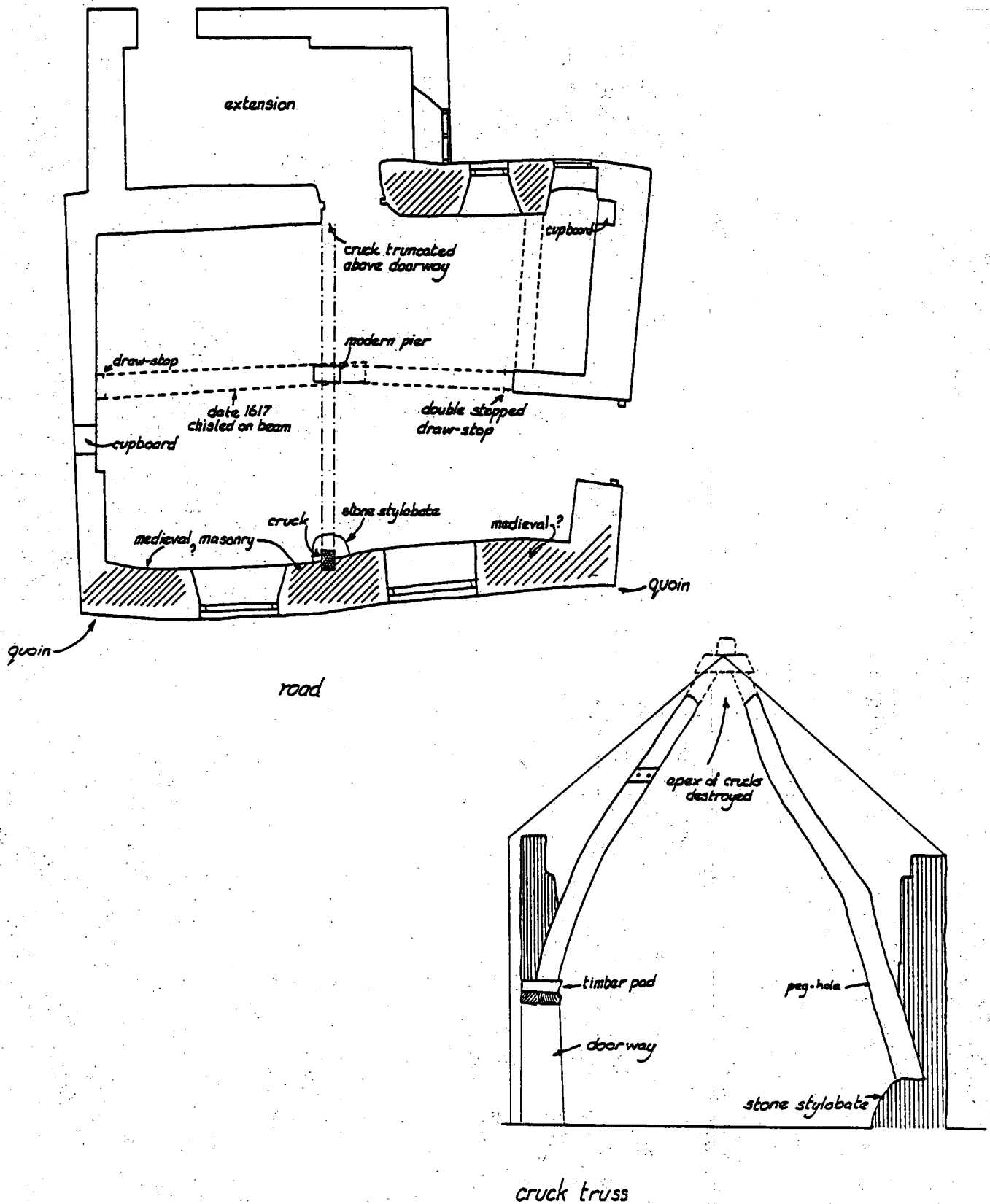


Fig. 21

surveyed June 1978
B.L. Giggins

cottage which has been demolished.

Although the apex of the cruck had been destroyed and part of the building rebuilt, it was possible to see that the base of one of the cruck blades rested on top of a large stone stylobate built into the side wall. The cruck blade was inspected in some detail and no evidence of any contemporary cruck spurs was found nor of any windbraces. Characteristically of other local medieval buildings the stone walls were in excess of 600 mm wide, had a battered internal face and were exceedingly irregular. As the roof had been destroyed apart from the truss it was impossible to find traces of soot staining. However a date carved on a spine beam did show that part of the hall had been floored over in 1617.

There is little doubt that the Gretton building was built in stone from the start as it lacked cruck spurs and also the windbraces which the builders of timber framed buildings considered essential to restrain the trusses. Many raised cruck buildings of low status similarly lack braces; presumably the stone walls were considered adequate to prevent movement to the trusses. What then of the possibilities of cruck framed buildings with timber framed walls in the County? As the only example of a cruck with cruck spurs turns out to be a cob building it would appear that the text book examples of timber framed cruck buildings have probably not occurred in the county unless they have "escaped" from Leicestershire. This then begs the question as to whether Northamptonshire (apart from a few parishes on the periphery of the County) had a rural tradition of timber framing or was there a direct transition from earth-fast post construction to stone and cob construction in the early medieval period?

Brian L. Giggins.

Barnwell Castle Survey 1980-85

Barnwell Manor in Northamptonshire is probably best known as the home of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. Less well known are the remains of a thirteenth century castle that stands within the Manor Grounds. This castle, together with the castle at Rockingham are the only castles in the County which still retain substantial proportions of masonry. Of the two, Barnwell retains the most complete plan and has best survival of medieval features. The medieval masonry at Barnwell is still standing over 7m. high and has original slits, embrasures, vaulting etc. surviving.

In 1980 Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology unit undertook a rescue excavation of the interiors of two turrets at Barnwell which were likely to be disturbed during a scheme of consolidation works to the masonry. The writer was invited to comment on the construction and development of the two turrets that were being excavated and soon discovered that the castle had a more complicated phasing than had previously been identified. With the kind permission of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the writer with the assistance of Mr. Geoff Pitcher, have continued to research both the evidence for the development and history of the castle using the structural remains and the documentary evidence. This survey is now nearing completion and a detailed report is being prepared.

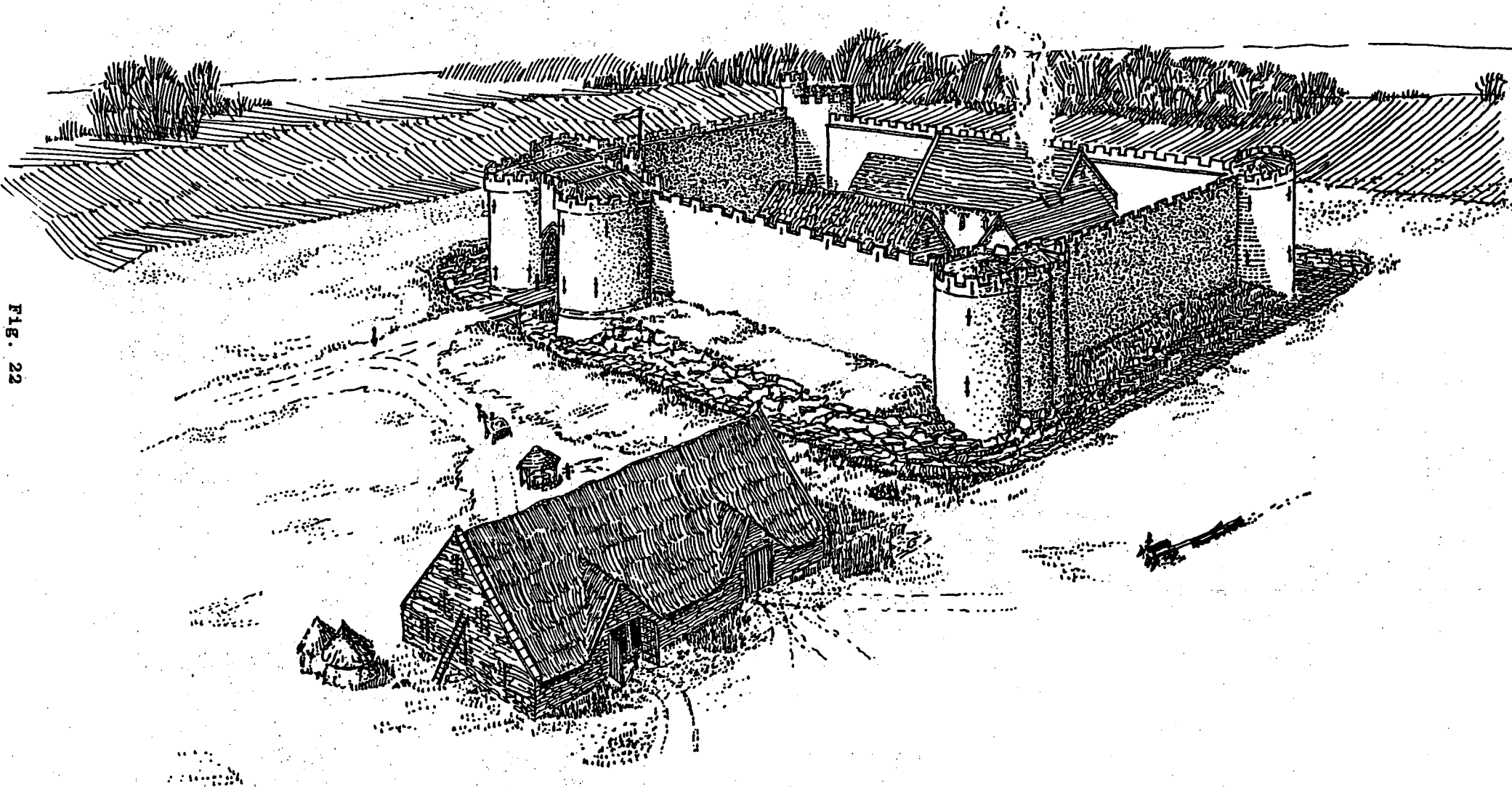


Fig. 22

Barnwell Castle – reconstruction circa 1275

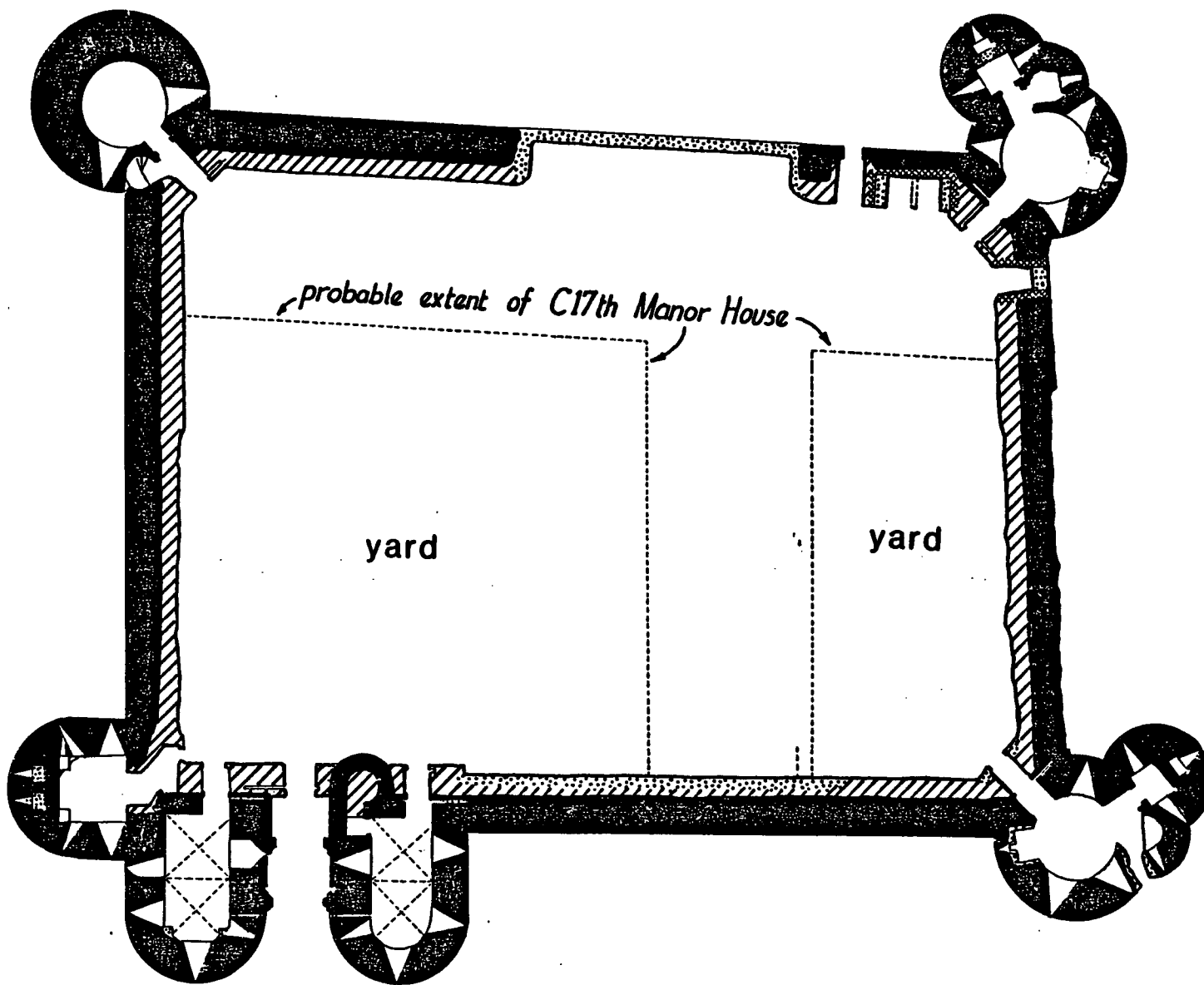
Barnwell Castle is known to have been built around 1266 at the closing stages of the civil war, otherwise known as the Baron's Revolt, which commenced in 1264. The builder was Berengar Le Moyne, a supporter of the Royalist cause and the tenant of staunchly loyal Ramsey Abbey from whom he held an inheritable estate. After the cessation of hostilities he obtained a market charter for Barnwell with the aim of developing the village into a town. However it would appear that he ran into financial difficulties and in 1276 sold his estates to Ramsey Abbey who then became the freeholder in possession at Barnwell. After a mere ten years as a military stronghold the castle became a "grange" for the Abbey.

At the dissolution of the Abbey in 1540 the manor and castle were purchased by Sir Edward Montague of Boughton in Northamptonshire, who according to Camden, writing in 1586, had both repaired the castle and adorned it with new buildings. Modern historians have assumed that this referred to the construction of the present Manor House. However the structural evidence points to major alterations within the curtain walls of the castle during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and it seems likely that Montague constructed a cadet manor house within the old castle ruins.

The Manor House within the castle survived until the 1680's when it was demolished by Ralph Montague and the stones used for repairing roads and neighbouring churches. During the period of occupation by the Montagues and their relatives the grounds around the castle were landscaped and some water gardens constructed. After demolition of the house, the curtain walls and corner turrets were left as a ruin and an outbuilding, which possibly started as a porter's lodge, was extended and for a while was used as the residence of the local rector. Later this building was further enlarged and became known as the Manor House. The castle ruin in the meantime was used as a walled orchard and today is used to house a tennis court.

Fortunately the alterations of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries did not radically alter the ground floor plan of the thirteenth century castle's inner bailey defences which still survive in a surprisingly complete state. The gatehouse retains two vaulted guardchambers, most of the loops and embrasures on the ground floor are intact and three turrets have remains of their garderobe systems.

The survey of the structure has enabled the phases of the ruin to be identified and also revealed several interesting features of the medieval inner bailey. Of considerable surprise was the survival of fragments of unrecorded wallpaintings dating from the fourteenth century on the walls and ceiling of the north guardroom in the gatehouse. Despite the small size of the surviving wallpainting fragments there were sufficient to show that the room was painted to appear to be constructed of ashlar stonework, had a waist high frieze, patterned vaulting and four figures, one of which was bearded, had a nimbus and held an object which had a nimbus. The paintings were clearly of a religious nature and suggest that the chamber was converted into a chapel during the period that it was held by Ramsey Abbey. Possibly contemporary with this alteration was the thickening of the curtain walls by approximately 1m. on the inside face. The thickening was carried across the entrances of the turrets and necessitated the construction of entrance lobbies in front of the original two-centred doorways. Instead of constructing similar two-centred doorways the mason opted to construct doorways of the outdated round-headed form with hood moulds.



- circa 1266*
- circa 1300 ?*
- circa 1600*
- C18th to modern*

scale
0
5
10m.

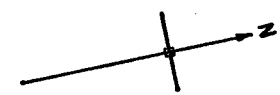


Fig. 23

Why the walls were thickened in this way is not understood as there does not appear to have been structural problems nor the need to increase defences. In carrying out this work they also constructed a rear doorway for the gatehouse passage which reduced the access of passageway to the extent that it was no longer possible to get a cart into the inner courtyard. Clearly a change of use is indicated by these alterations and if it had not been for the mask terminals of the hood moulds a sixteenth century date would be postulated. Another alteration that took place was the blocking of the entrance to the stone spiral staircase in the north guardchamber giving access to the first floor and providing a new entrance to the staircase from the courtyard.

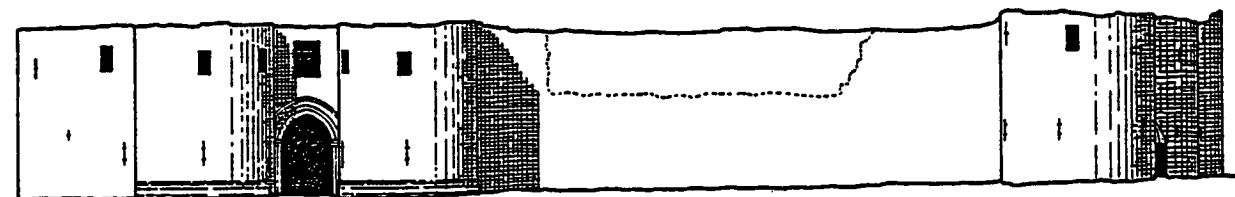
The survey has also been able to identify the arrangement of the garderobes plus the variations of the slit and embrasure forms to meet differing defence requirements of castle design, particularly for the gatehouse. It is apparent from the form of the embrasures that they were designed to be stood up in when fired from. However the height of the embrasures were too short to use a longbow and the width too narrow to use a large crossbow. From this it must be concluded that a crossbow with a small bow was used. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the slits and embrasures of the upper floors were enlarged to take stone mullioned and wood casement windows. Other alterations to the first floor rooms during this period such as the provision of fireplaces and demolition of some of the ground floor stone vaulted ceilings indicate that an extensive refurbishment of the medieval accommodation was undertaken. These alterations were probably commenced by Sir Edward Montague and continued by subsequent residents of the castle. They provided additional accommodation to the new buildings erected in the courtyard by Sir Edward and which were commented on by Camden. The only section of the new courtyard buildings to survive the demolition ordered by Ralph Montague are a "cellar" constructed within the curtain wall adjacent to postern and a small section of wall projecting from the internal face of the east curtain wall.

As well as looking at the castle the survey has also included the out-buildings of the manor. The Castle Barn which was considered to be Jacobean was discovered to incorporate the remains of an aisled barn with notched lap joints dating from the thirteenth century. Whether the barn is contemporary with the construction of the castle or dates from the period when Ramsey Abbey took the estate over in 1276 cannot be ascertained. It does, however, indicate that the castle had an outer ward or bailey on the east side which is the location of the lawn between the gatehouse and the Manor House. Shallow trenches put through the lawn in 1984 during the installation of a security system showed that the area had a rubble spread over it and revealed a finely constructed stone-on-edge roadway with curbing, leading to the gatehouse. The rubble found under the lawn contained some seventeenth century sherds and suggests that it may have come from Ralph Montague's demolition of Edward Montague's Manor House and was used to level the courtyard.

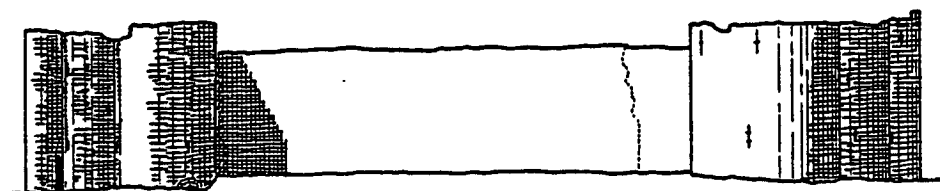
In concluding this brief article on some of the results of the survey I would like to stress that the Castle is on private property and is not generally accessible to the public. No attempt should be made to trespass on the site as it is protected by security systems. However the grounds of the Manor House are sometimes open to the public under the National Gardens Scheme at which times the ruins can usually be inspected. I would like to thank their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alice for allowing the survey to be undertaken and the staff

at Barnwell Manor for all the assistance they have given. Particular thanks has to be given to the Historic Buildings and Monument Commission who have allowed the writer to make use of the Photogrammetric Survey carried out by the York Photogrammetric Unit in 1980 which produced very accurate outline plans and elevations of the castle. In addition I would like to thank Michael Audouy and Glenn Foard of Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit for all their assistance and Geoff Pitcher for his invaluable help in carrying out the survey.

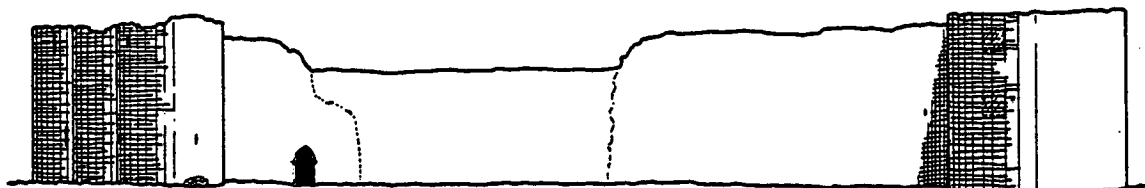
Brian L. Giggins.



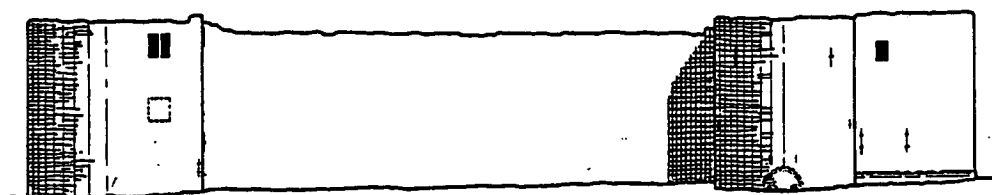
East elevation



North elevation.



West elevation.



South elevation

scale 0 5 10m.

Fig. 24

3. Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit.

Rescue Archaeology in Northamptonshire 1985

Throughout 1985 archaeological rescue excavation and associated post-excavation work was carried out by the Archaeology Unit.

At Raunds the Archaeology Unit, in collaboration with the Central Excavation Unit, commenced the Raunds Area Project. The Project is intended as a study of a Midland landscape from pre-historic to modern times. It has its origins in the excavations carried out by David Hall in Raunds village in 1975 when a Saxon cemetery and church were unexpectedly discovered. The Archaeology Unit of the County Council followed up Hall's work in 1977 and it was from this that the Furnell's project developed. The results of the main excavation, allied with the growing awareness of the potential of the site and its surroundings led to the realisation that Raunds offered the opportunity to study not just one site but groups of sites of the same and of successive periods.

The Project is a joint venture between Northamptonshire County Council and HBMC with excavation being conducted by both organisations and a detailed survey to investigate and record the archaeology of the whole area.

In 1985 the individual projects undertaken included:

The Barrow Cemetery - evaluation of this site was carried out by Paul Garwood to test the environmental and archaeological potential of the barrows and the land around them.

The Villa - the first season of major excavation by David Neal concentrated on the outbuilding area to the north of the villa proper. A group of stone buildings on an alignment similar to that of the villa first exposed in 1984, included remains of circular and rectilinear structures, overlying an earlier group of timber buildings.

Burystead - A preliminary excavation by Michel Audouy determined the extent of the archaeology and the intensity of destruction of the site from earlier quarrying. Excavation then commenced at the Midland Road frontage; beneath the remains of recently demolished buildings was found traces of successive medieval buildings. Below these, postholes and ditches representing middle and late Saxon activity had survived.

Langham Road - excavations in 1984 had indicated that a middle Saxon complex was sited on the land adjacent to the modern estate. Excavation resumed in late 1985 to attempt to define the character of the settlement, its outer limits, and its relationship to Furnell's, 100 metres to the north.

West Cotton - excavation on this abandoned medieval settlement, a dependency of the Raunds manors in medieval times, took place under the direction of David Windell. The site, about 1.5 kilometers to the west of Raunds, lies on the floodplain of the valley. The proposed A605/A45 New Road will pass through the site in 1986. The site is thought to comprise four farmsteads built around a green - three of the farms lie wholly or partly within the land take of the proposed road and two of these were comprehensively excavated in 1985. Beneath the medieval structures were ditches of Saxon date; by December it appeared that these in turn had been built into the mounds of a group of barrows.

Fieldwalking - the programme of survey of the area was begun by Steve Parry in November, the emphasis being on fieldwalking the line of the proposed road through the Raunds area.

The Project is funded by HBMC, the County Council and Manpower Services Commission, with support from ARC.

Amongst many smaller excavations carried out in Northamptonshire in 1985 several should be noted:

Towcester - trenching was carried out in the TMT yard in Towcester ahead of development. The aim was to establish whether the defences of the Roman town extended east-west across the site and if there was surviving evidence of urban occupation. There was no evidence of the defences nor was it possible to identify any coherent pattern in the various small ditches crossing the site.

Laxton - During road works for the straightening of the A43 an ironworking site of Roman date was uncovered. The evidence was salvaged by Dennis Jackson, with support from the County Surveyor and with the co-operation of the contractor. At least two metres of slag had accumulated along a stream bed and, set at various levels within this, were the remains of the furnaces responsible for this mass of residue. Southwards from the furnaces were the remains of buildings and beyond those lay part of a cemetery cut by the roadworks; up to 70 graves were uncovered and eventually removed.

Post-excavation - The preparation of reports on previous fieldwork continued, the main projects being:

Raunds, Furnell's (G. Cadman and A. Boddington)

Ashton Roman Town (B. Dix)

Weekly (D. Jackson)

Northampton, Ghe Green and Blacklion Hill (M. Shaw)

Brackley Castle Lane (R. Barcham)

Together with a group of backlog sites: Weldon Villa, Ashley, Banaventa Kettering (B. Dix in liaison with D. Smith and S. Taylor respectively).

Northampton Castle (A. Chapman)

Pottery Reports on Badby, Stoke Goldington, Bury-St-Edmunds (T. Pearson).

Archaeology Unit,
County Hall,
Northampton.

OXFORDSHIRE

1. The Bampton Minster Research Project

Bampton, in West Oxfordshire, is a classic case of an Anglo-Saxon 'central place': royal vill, minster church, and small market town. The church in particular is richly documented: a community of priests is mentioned in the mid 10th century, there was a local saint's cult (St. Beornwald), and later medieval links between the mother church and its many chapels throw light on the development of parochial organisation.¹ Secular minsters are crucial but little-studied institutions of Anglo-Saxon local society, and Bampton seems a promising choice for a detailed case-study.

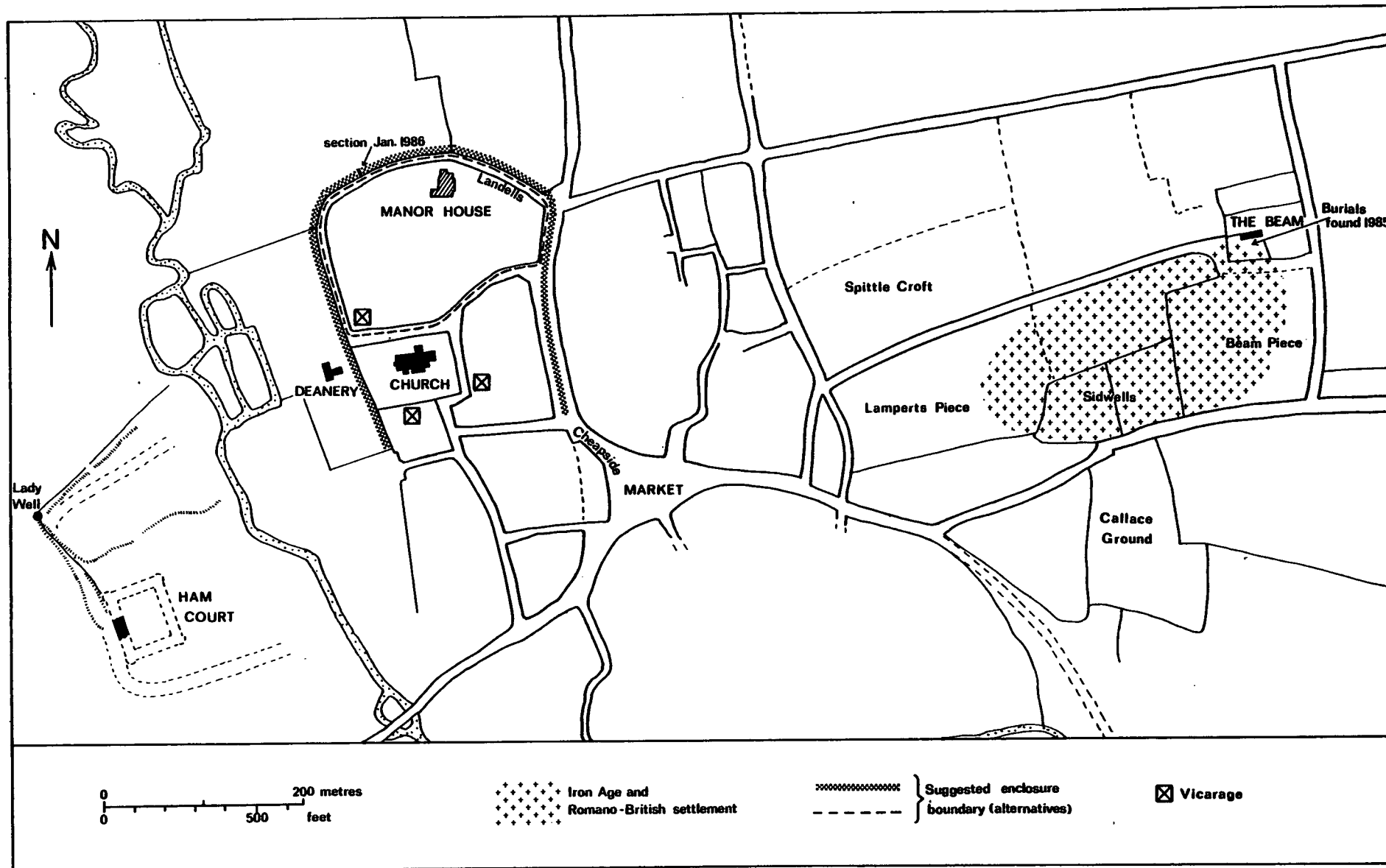
An important part of this project is to study the context and local environs of the minster church through fieldwork and excavation. Work hitherto has concentrated on (i) a possible earlier focus at 'the Beam'; (ii) a possible minster precinct boundary, reflected in the road-pattern around the church; (iii) the church building itself; and (iv) the buildings of the 'Deanery' and the three portionary vicarages which succeeded the minster community.

'The Beam': an earlier religious focus?

It has long been recognised that the name Bampton (Bemtune in 1069) comprises the elements beam and tun. The Place-Names of Oxfordshire interprets it as "either 'tun made of beams' or 'tun by a prominent tree'", but other possible meanings of beam are 'cross', 'column', 'pillar'.² A place of such importance seems most likely to have been named after some major local landmark.

'The Beam' (Beam Cottage on O.S. maps, SP 3210 0343) lies 0.9 km. east of Bampton church, separated from it by a rectilinear and perhaps ancient road-pattern (Fig.25). The name might be dismissed as an antiquarian bank-formation; but the cottage is labelled 'the Beam' on a map of 1767, and 'Hermitage or Beam' on another of 1818.³ Furthermore, an early 14th-century survey mentions rectory manor land 'beside Beme', and states that the mother church receives half the oblations 'from St. Andrew's chapel of Beme'.⁴ The cottage is a west-east range, 18th-century in its present form but built on older foundations; a fine early 12th-century column-base was extracted from one of its walls in 1985. It seems a fair conclusion that this was St. Andrew's chapel, and that its site was the same beam which gave Bampton its name.

The special significance of this is that 'the Beam' adjoins what seems to be an extensive Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and burial site. Several burials - some crouched, some extended, and one accompanied by an Anglo-Saxon bronze pin - were found here in the 1880s;⁵ west-east inhumations were excavated south of the cottage in 1985 (by R.A. Chambers of the Oxford Archaeological Unit).⁶ If the royal vill and minster church were originally named by reference to some landmark on this Roman site, later occupied by a chapel and with burials of various dates, the implications of the relationship are intriguing. The possibility must be considered that this was an earlier religious centre which survived into the Anglo-Saxon period but was later superseded by the minster church. If so, the eponymous beam was perhaps a timber cross or obelisk.



Bampton and the Beam. Sites and buildings in relation to the main road-pattern as existing in the late 18th century, reconstructed from maps of 1767 (Brit. Lib. MS Add. 31323-III) and 1789 (Exeter Cathedral MS M1).

The core area of the town: a possible early enclosure.

Surrounding the church, vicarages and manor-house is what may tentatively be interpreted as the ghost of a large sub-oval enclosure (Fig. 1). The main north-south street bounds it on the east, the long, straight wall between the churchyard and the 'Deanery' on the west, and the curving road called Landells on the north. It is hoped to explore, through strategic sectioning, the possibility that this represents an important Anglo-Saxon boundary defining the monastic precinct, the royal vill or both. The first trench, dug in January 1986 on the north side of Landells, found not only a possible early boundary but also an unexpected series of later medieval defences (see section, Fig. 26).

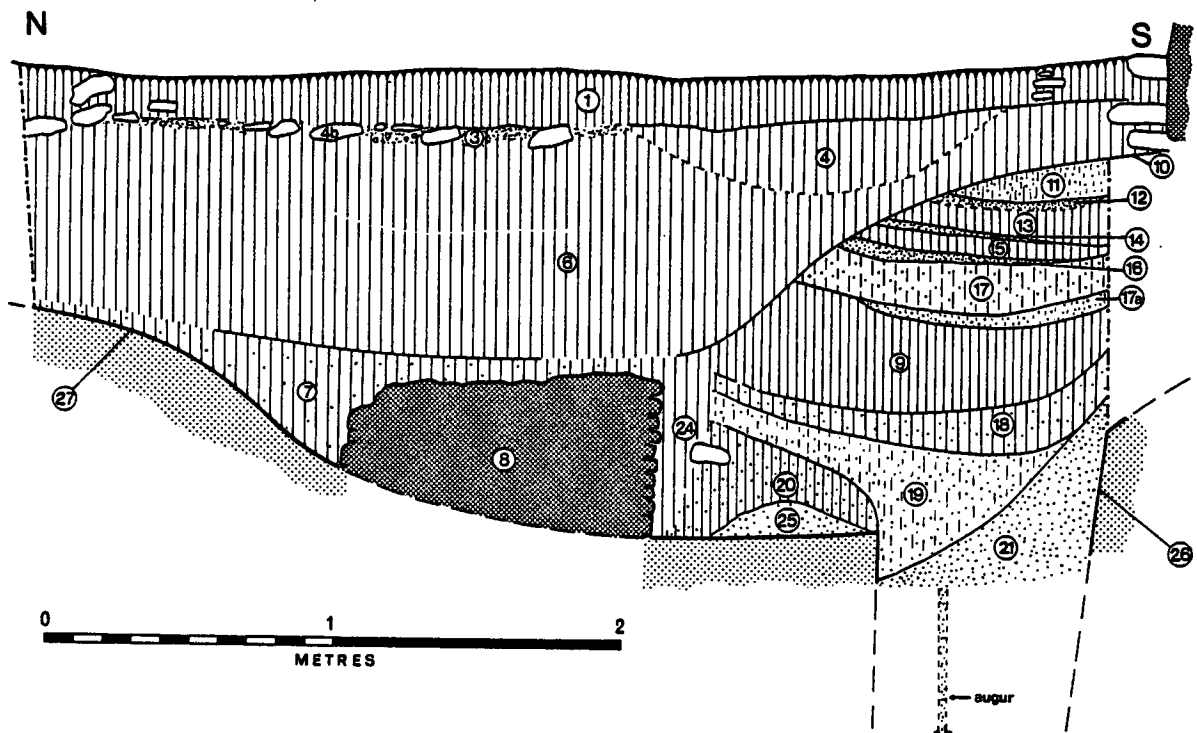
The earliest feature was a flat-bottomed ditch of unknown date, probably much scoured and degraded. Cutting this, slightly in-set from its south edge, was the post-trench of a substantial palisade, apparently with a gravel bank behind it; the pottery seems to indicate that this was built no earlier than the 13th century. Later, but probably still in the 13th century, the palisade was replaced by a 110 cm.-thick stone wall with gravel yard-surfaces on its south (i.e. inner) side. This in turn was removed to make way for a much shallower ditch, itself back-filled in the later middle ages.

Whether or not the primary ditch began as the minster precinct boundary, it seems unlikely that this would still have been enclosed, let alone fortified, as late as the 13th century. A possible explanation is that the area between the churchyard and Landells (essentially the grounds of the manor-house and north vicarage) was the site of the royal manor-house, granted by Henry III to the de Valence family in 1249. The new owners could have fortified it, re-using an ancient boundary, but then abandoned it when Aymer de Valence built a sumptuous new castle (now Ham Court) on the western edge of Bampton, for which licence to crenellate was granted in 1314. Further excavations are now needed to determine whether the sequence of boundaries ran on south of the church, and, if not, where the south boundary of the defended circuit lay.

The church building.

The earliest structure is the eastern part of the original nave, 6.7m. wide internally. The complex sequence of phases revealed on the east face of the chancel-arch wall (Fig. 27) includes the re-entrant quoins of a chancel, 3.55 m. wide, integral with the nave. The jambs of the chancel arch are contemporary, but the arch itself was inserted in the 12th century. Traces of original rubble voussoirs suggest a double opening, analogous to the early Kentish churches and almost exactly paralleled at Bradwell-on-Sea.⁷ If this reconstruction is valid, the first stone church must be mid- or late-Saxon. Whether or not there were north and south porticus is uncertain. The *Gesta Stephani* says that in 1142 Queen Matilda fortified the church tower, 'built in ancient times to a wonderful design';⁸ this suggests a great late-Saxon tower, perhaps with stripwork decoration, which may have been over the later crossing.

At some date in the 12th century the church was partly ruined, and the walls rebuilt and heightened with herringbone masonry (Fig. 3); it is tempting to connect this with reconstruction after Stephen besieged Matilda on the church tower. During c. 1170-1200 the church was lavishly remodelled, with a new crossing-tower, chancel, and transepts with eastern apses. A gallery overlooking the north transept, reached by a wall-passage, is best interpreted as a 'watching-chamber' over the shrine of St. Beornwald.



Bampton Cemetery Extension, January 1986: east section of trench against the north side of Landells. The early ditch (F27) was cut by the palisade-trench (F26), itself subsequently filled by collapsed bank material (L21). The palisade was replaced by a thick boundary wall (F8), demolished to make way for a later and shallower ditch (F10).

Fig. 26

The 'Deanery' and vicarages.

In about 1220 the endowments of Bampton church were split into four portions: one appropriated to the patrons (the Dean and Chapter of Exeter) and the others assigned to the three portionary vicars.⁹ The vicarages are north, south and east of the church; the 'Deanery' (the chief house of the Exeter portion) lies westwards, outside the suggested early enclosure.

An early 14th-century inventory shows that the 'Deanery' had a manorial curia with the full range of domestic and farm buildings.¹⁰ A survey in 1985 revealed a substantial stone-built range with an undercroft, roughly aligned on the church; this is interpreted as a chamber-block or possibly a chapel, and dated to the late 12th or 13th century. At right-angles to it is a later north-south range, possibly the hall known to have been built here in 1383.

The north and south vicarages are apparently post-medieval; the east vicarage, a west-east range with thick stone walls, awaits investigation.

John Blair.

NOTES

1. See J. Blair, 'St. Beornwald of Bampton', Oxoniensia, xlix (1984), 47-55; J. Blair, 'Parish versus Village: the Bampton-Standlake Tithe Conflict of 1317-19', Oxfordshire Local History, ii.2 (1985), 34-47.
2. The Place-Names of Oxfordshire, ii (1954), 304; J. Bosworth and J.N. Toller, An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary (1898), s.v. beam.
3. British Library, MS Add. 31323-III; Exeter Cathedral, MSS 13/74369a and M1.
4. Exeter Cathedral, MS 2931.
5. References in Oxfordshire County Museum S.M.R.; see especially F. Ellis in The Antiquary, xxiii (1891), 155-8.
6. Oxford Unit Newsletter, xii (2), June 1985.
7. The received reconstruction at Bradwell (a triple chancel-arch) has been re-interpreted by Miss Jane Wadham as a pair of doorways with solid walling between, essentially as proposed for Bampton (ex inf. W. Rodwell).
8. Gesta Stephani, ed. K.R. Potter (1955), 91-2.
9. A. Hamilton Thompson in Trans. Bristol & Glos. Arch. Soc. liii (1931), 41-3.
10. Exeter Cathedral MS 2931.

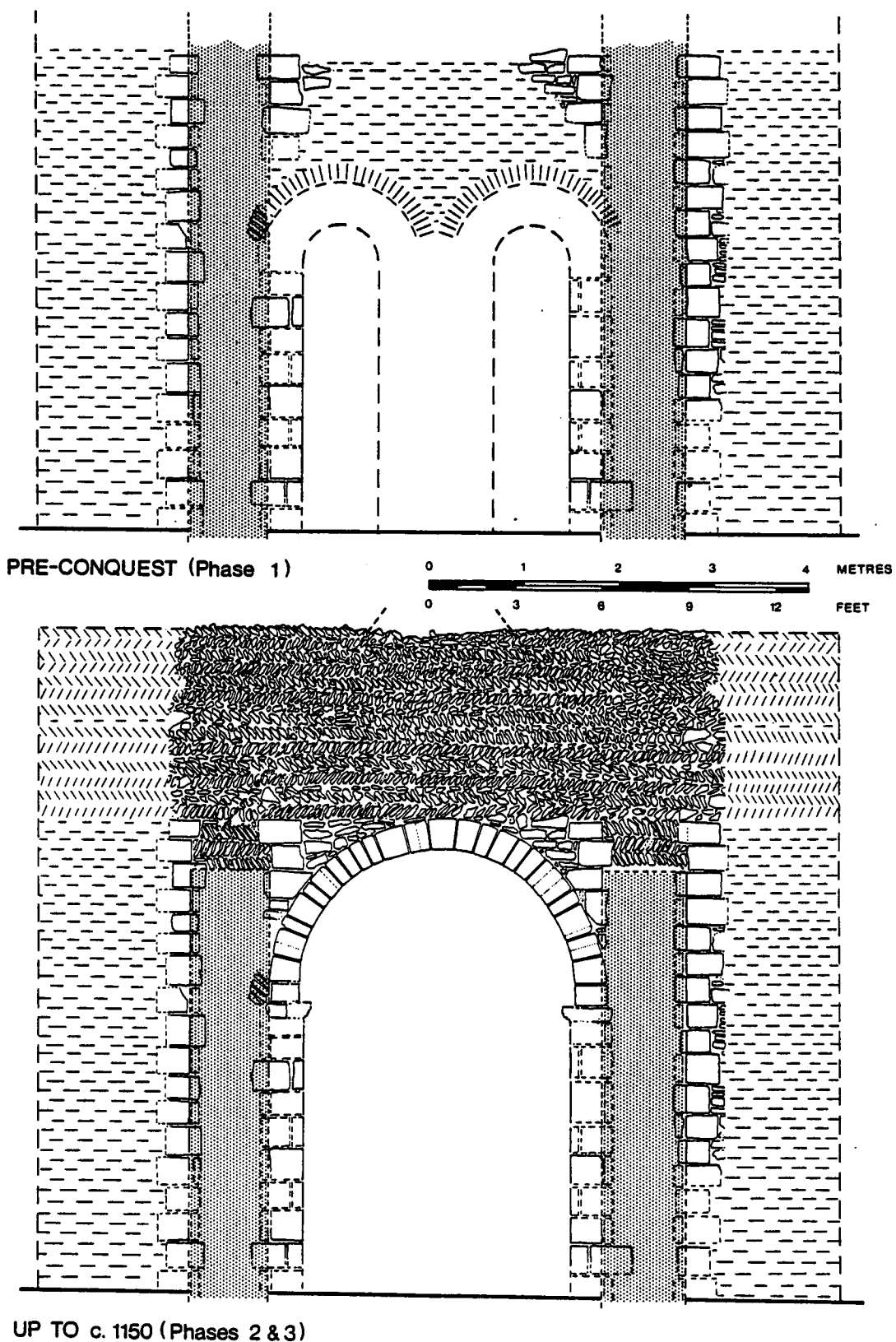


Fig.27 Bampton parish church: interpretation of east wall of nave, viewed from the east. The original double opening (above) was replaced in the 12th century by a conventional chancel arch (below); at about the same time the walls were reduced, possibly in King Stephen's seige, and then raised again with herringbone masonry. (Based on a drawing by Tim Morgan.)

Oxford Archaeological Unit 1985

ABINGDON: Ashville Trading Estate - R A Chambers
(Centred SU 484973; PRN 13,016-7)

Building work on the site of the former M.G. car factory has revealed human remains from the car park site which was subjected to trial trenching by Claire Halpin early in 1985. (OAU Newsletter vol xii, No. 1, (1985), 1). The trial excavation revealed that beneath the car park lay a continuation of the early-mid Iron Age settlement and a Neolithic pit. However, the human remains are probably connected with the possible Romano-British cemetery found at the time of the major excavation in 1975-6 (M. Parrington 1978 The Excavation at the Ashville Trading Estate (Fig. 2) to the south of the present site revealed Romano-British settlement remains above the core of the Iron Age settlement.

ABINGDON: Bridge Street - R A Chambers

Fragments of a human skeleton were found by workmen during building work at the rear of the Crown and Thistle hotel in Bridge Street. The burial, which could not be dated, may belong to the extensive Romano-British settlement beneath Abingdon, remains of which have been found nearby.

ABINGDON: Faringdon Road - R A Chambers and Bill Fuller

At the beginning of 1985 building work revealed another burial in the vicinity of the medieval cemetery at the junction between Spring Road and Faringdon Road. However, this inhumation was buried prone with its head to the north-west. This method of burial contrasts with the supine west-east inhumations in the cemetery immediately to the west and may not be associated with the cemetery (Oxoniensia, xlvii (1981), 56-61). The house on the site has suffered slight damage from subsidence. It is possible that the house was built over a ditch, either a boundary ditch enclosing the cemetery to the west or possibly a prehistoric barrow ditch.

ABINGDON: Faringdon Road - R A Chambers

At the beginning of 1985 building work revealed more burials on the site of the medieval cemetery at the junction between Spring Road and Faringdon Road.

ABINGDON: 57-59 Stert Street - R A Chambers

Redevelopment of this site should have revealed the line of the western boundary of the medieval abbey. However, medieval and post-medieval rubbish pits extended up to and beneath the road to the east suggesting that this land had always lain entirely outside the abbey grounds. However, this conflicts with later property boundaries which presumably are, in part, relicts of earlier, medieval ownership.

The future development of the disused railway station will provide a crucial opportunity to establish the bounds of the abbey.

BAMPTON: The Beam - R A Chambers and John Blair
(Central SP 3210 0343; PRN 13,710)

The remains of several shallow east-west supine inhumation burials have been recovered from the garden on the south side of Beam Cottage, Bampton. The cottage lies some 60m. to the east of the centre of Bampton, in the centre of an area currently being developed for housing. Romano-British settlement remains have previously been found in the area between Beam Cottage and Bampton. At the time of the discovery the inhumations were thought to be part of a small cemetery on the eastern edge of the Roman settlement.

Dr. John Blair has shown that the present cottage still called 'The Beam' and labelled 'Hermitage or Beam' on a map of 1818 is on the site of the chapel of St. Andrew 'capelle Sancti Andree de Beme' which was already in existence by the early 14th century. It is a fair conclusion that this unusually-named find spot was the same beam which gave Bampton its name.

If Bampton, a royal vill and minster church, was originally identified by reference to some landmark on a nearby Roman site later occupied by a medieval chapel, the possible implications of this relationship are clearly important. It is hoped to submit the east-west burials so far found for radiocarbon dating to establish whether they are Romano-British, or medieval. Since the mother church (Bampton) exercised a strict monopoly of burial, medieval internments at 'The Beam' are unlikely in theory but would be very interesting if proved.

Interest in this site has been further fuelled by the discovery of re-used dressed stonework in the fabric of the present cottage and the base of a shaft presumably at the side of a doorway, c. 110-40, has been removed from beneath the eaves during a recent re-roofing.

The cottage stands on unusual projecting foundations built of large stone blocks which were observed by the owner, Mr. Steven Butts during building work. These could be interpreted as the footings of earlier, thicker walls from which the present house was built up. Any earlier west-east range on the site could well be identified as St. Andrew's chapel. It is hoped to undertake further work on this site during 1986 to clarify some of the above points.

BAMPTON: The New Vicarage - R A Chambers

The construction of a new vicarage on a piece of vacant ground some 70m. north-east of St. Mary's Church offered the possibility of investigating a part of the late Saxon settlement and one or more of the vicarages which served the minster church from the late Saxon period onwards. Unfortunately, the site comprised a series of large post-medieval soakaways and pipe trenches cutting into soft gravel and running sand. None of the artifacts discovered pre-dated the 16th century except for one sherd of medieval pottery. Any medieval or earlier structures had been obliterated by post-medieval development.

BEGBROKE: St. Michael's Church - Jonathan Sharpe
(SP 468139)

Observations and structural studies were made at this 12th century site on behalf of H.B.M.C. during external renovation works. The results provided evidence for the historic finishes applied to the fabric and demonstrated a complex structural sequence of previous rebuilding.

The earliest historic finish was shown by the reduced areas of dressings by the mid-12th century south door, implying the use of external plastering over the split-rubble nave walls. Surviving external plaster, dating from no later than the 14th century, was recorded between the west nave wall and an abutted tower. No conclusive evidence of medieval plaster was seen elsewhere but documentary and structural analysis showed that post-medieval works, including an extensive 19th century reconstruction, would have removed such surfaces. The extant render removed in 1985 was applied in the late 19th century.

The surface only of the external fabric was exposed for study. The extent and nature of the reconstruction between 1820-1830 was fully elucidated using documentary and structural evidence. Analysis showed that there had been several earlier phases of rebuilding, conforming to the present plan of the church, probably during the 16th and 17th centuries. Prior to these, it can be demonstrated that both the tower and the upstanding chancel are 13th-14th century additions to a 12th century fabric. Fragmentary and chronologically inconclusive data suggests that the 12th century church may itself have been a reconstruction and elaboration of an earlier building.

BICESTER: Queen's Avenue Housing Development - R A Chambers

This site covers some 2 ha immediately south of the river Bure between Queen's Avenue and Lower Home Close. There is a local tradition that Bicester House, which lies immediately to the south, marks the site of the medieval manor house owned until the Reformation by the Nuns of Markyates in Bedfordshire. An earthwork survey and trial trenching undertaken in 1983 (CBA 9 Newsletter 14 (1984), 101, Fig. 3) revealed extensive building remains. A watch maintained over ground-work for house building during the autumn of 1985 revealed spreads of medieval pottery and associated domestic and building debris. The western extent of the medieval stone quarries recorded in 1980 (CBA 9 Newsletter 10 (1980), 170, Fig. 46) was revealed. Although the south-west corner of the site lies close to the proposed late Anglo-Saxon settlement nucleus at King's End (K. Rodwell, *Historic Towns in Oxfordshire* (1975), 61-7) no Anglo-Saxon material was recovered. However, building work on this part of the site did not provide a clear archaeological view.

**CHOLSEY: Whitecross Farm - Wallingford by-pass - George Lambrick
(SU 607881; PRN 2482-4)**

Trial trenches were excavated to establish the extent and character of a late Bronze Age occupation layer visible in the bank of the Thames about half a mile below Wallingford Bridge. The site lies exactly on the line of the southern route of the proposed Wallingford by-pass. The excavation showed that the Bronze Age material extends c. 17m. back from the river bank before merging with the upper silting of a major river channel no longer visible but running parallel to the modern river. The layer seems to have been eroded as the channel filled up resulting in a spread of occupation material mainly in the upper silts. The layer dips down into the modern river channel suggesting that originally the late Bronze Age activity was probably on an island. The layer extends about 120m. parallel to the river so it appears that the island was a long thin eyot between two channels.

The silted channel on the landward side of the site is c. 3m. deep and two oak piles were located suggesting some sort of waterfront or other structure. Much charred and cut wood was also found in the early channel

silts together with animal bones, carbonized grain, and a sherd of possibly Iron Age pottery. These waterlogged deposits were sampled and should provide much valuable environmental evidence.

It is hoped that it will be possible to carry out further work in 1986 to assess more fully the character of the timber structures and clarify in more detail the extent of the site and its relationship to the river channels. At present it seems to be a relatively high status site (past excavations have produced a certain amount of metalwork as well as much pottery and bone etc., and this work produced a bronze ring and a (?)glass bead). At Runymede site near there was a major settlement on the drier ground back from the river. This could also be the case here and a further task is to try to locate such a site.

CUMNOR: Dean Court, Excavations in 1984-5 - Tim Allen
(SP 475060; PRN 10,795-7, 12983)

An account of the excavations of the late 12th century grange on Site A and contemporary occupation on Site B, together with those of a later medieval agricultural building on Site B and the peasant toft on Site C, has already been published in the Annual Report for 1984.

Site A. A further area was opened up in advance of landscaping and of pipe-laying by the Thames Water Authority. This included part of Building III, which had substantial north and west walls, but a much slighter south wall. A cobbled floor survived at the west end, slumped into the top of an earlier ditch. The building overlay several large ditches, one of which had been lined with large stones and capped with very large slabs for part of its length. This was probably the same ditch that was excavated alongside Building I, which also had large stones along one side, suggesting that Building III was added to I and II in the early 13th century when the ditch between Buildings I and II was filled in and cobbled over.

The rest of the area was criss-crossed by ditches, most of which appear to be earlier than the stone buildings. Occupation as far back as the mid-12th century seems likely.

A trench running north along the hedge uncovered more of Building II, and what seems to be cobbling overlying another large ditch outside this. Further ditches were found extending right up to the edge of the hollow-way. A scatter of Romano-British pottery from ditches around the buildings suggests that there was a settlement nearby, possibly further up the hill.

Site D. Excavation has so far uncovered parts of four buildings, in addition to the surviving medieval block, Building X. Dr. John Blair had suggested that Building X, a 2-storey building with two light-arched windows on both floors, was the 'solar' or private chamber block. Stripping of the interior for renovation has demonstrated that the blocked windows are indeed in situ, and that there are further windows in the east and in the south wall. Examination of footing trenches has shown that the farmhouse is built on top of earlier and more massive walls, against which the chamber block has been built. This earlier building, probably the hall, was divided by a north-south cross-wall at an early stage. West of the cross-wall floors of mortar or clay were covered by thick black occupation deposits, whereas those in the smaller room to the east had little occupation upon them.

Patches of burning in the middle of the successive floors suggest that the hall had a central hearth. Fish bones from one occupation deposit included both salt and freshwater species. The sea fish were probably dried, but the freshwater species may have come from ponds at Dean Court. North of the hall was Building IX. Its walls survived between 0.5 and 1.00m. high,

DEAN COURT

Medieval Settlement

Site E
Busby's Farm

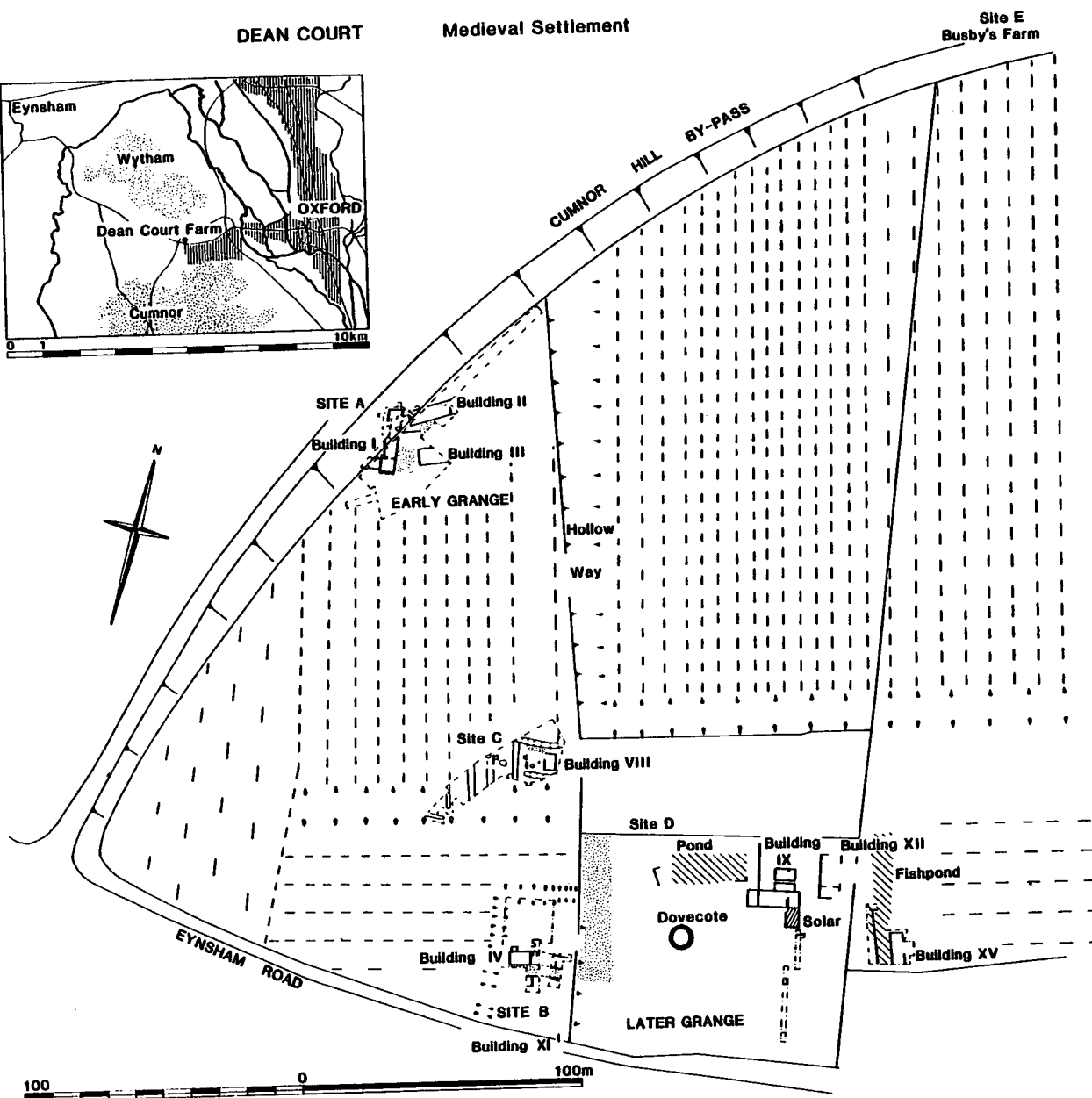
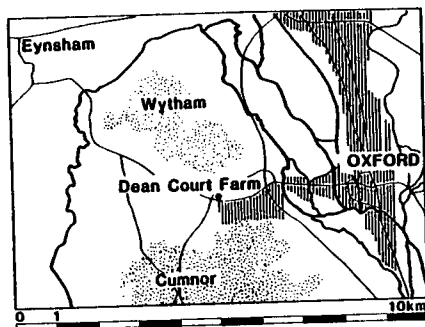


Fig. 28

and its internal furnishings were very well preserved. Circular ovens were built into the north-east corner, and up against the central part of the north wall was a stone fireplace, highly burnt.

Running across the middle of the building were two stone tanks, constructed of very large smoothly-dressed blocks.

A cross-wall was built on the north side of these tanks, and east of the stone tanks this wall formed the north side of a third and much larger tank lined with roughly-dressed limestones like those in the outside walls of the building. This third tank had a drain outlet running under the east wall. The east wall continued south and abutted the north wall of the hall. From the bottom of the drain came early 14th century pottery, suggesting that this building is of similar date to the chamber block.

Down the outside of the west wall a V-profiled channel, made of two rows of large flat slabs, carried water from yet another stone-lined tank outside at the north-west corner into the tanks inside. Shallow channels and lips had been made in the west ends of both the tanks inside, allowing a gentle flow of water from one to the next. Between these and the larger third tank was a deeper overflow channel with a slot for a sluice-gate.

The fireplace was re-surfaced several times, and at the west end a large shallow pit was cut through the earliest floor layers. Later, both circular ovens were replaced by one rectangular one, whose side walls stepped outwards as they rose up. This type of oven is commonly used as a malting kiln. At about this time the large third tank was filled in and cobbled over, and a small drain built to take away the flow from the other two tanks. The area south of the stone tanks had a succession of cobbled surfaces upon it.

The malting kiln suggests that this was a bake-and-brewhouse. Possibly the tanks were used to soak the grain to make it sprout prior to roasting; the large pit at the west end may even once have held a vat!

Highly-burnt areas on the outside face of the north wall of the hall show that there were further hearths up against it, and probably the bake-and-brewhouse was only one half of a square kitchen up against the hall. Carbonised seeds and small bones from burnt deposits on the kitchen floor show that wheat, oats, barley and beans were eaten, and that herring, whiting and pike were also prepared here.

To the east of Building IX small-scale trenching established the limits of Building XII, 15m. x 7m., aligned north-south with a cross-wall towards the south end. The walls were substantially deeper towards this end. It was first built in the 14th century, when it had an open ditch down its east side. The cross-wall represents the original southern limit of Building XII, but in the early post-medieval period, it was rebuilt and extended further south. At this stage a cobbled floor was also laid.

South-west of the farmhouse a circular dovecote was found some 8m. in diameter externally, with walls 1.5m. thick. The walls were later thickened on the inside to a total thickness of 2.1m., and a new floor was laid at the same time. The later floor sealed pottery of the late 14th/early 15th centuries. Both phases had cobbled floors with a central flat slab, probably the base for a central supporting post to which a ladder could be attached. The dovecote had gone out of use by the time the estate map of 1810 was drawn up.

West of the dovecote was a large open yard with a cobbled surface, and the hollow way had a limestone cobbled surface in this area as well. A short length of wall, perhaps connected with a deep pond north of the dovecote, was also seen, but this is undated.

In the new housing development east of the farm large silt-filled channels were discovered. The silts contained early 14th century pottery and aquatic molluscs, and our environmentalist believes that these indicate large ponds or stream-fed channels, probably Medieval fishponds. Similar long narrow fishponds have been found at Bicester (J. Steane pers comm.). The

long massive wall across one of these is a later Medieval addition, as is Building XV, possibly a small barn.

Future work.

One further season of excavation is planned for Site A, part of which the Thames Water authority have very generously agreed to fund. It is hoped that this will find the east end of Building II and recover a sequence of pottery from the early ditches beneath Buildings I and II.

Preparation of the full report will start in the financial year 1986/7. A booklet tracing the development of the settlement, illustrated with photographs, plans and finds drawings and with a reconstruction drawing on the cover has just been produced, and can be obtained from the Oxford Unit.

CURBRIDGE: Coral Springs - R A Chambers
(Centred SU 337 089; PRN 8880-1)

The still expanding Burwell Farm housing estate has now encroached upon the northern side of the area occupied by the Roman period settlement and cemetery excavated in 1974. Future development now threatens to destroy the remainder of this site.

The difficulty of recording the nature and character of a site during building operations suggests that this may become yet another example that demonstrates that the excavation and recording of a major site is often more effectively undertaken during road construction than during subsequent adjacent development.

DRAYTON: Pyrton Glebe Field, Drayton Cursus - John Moore
(SU 490945; PRN 5882 8468)

Following excavations by the Abingdon Archaeological Society on the eastern side of the cursus in 1981 (see CBA IX Newsletter 12, 184-90), an area covering the west ditch of the cursus over a length of 270m. and extending c. 90m. outside it was examined in March-April 1985, again prior to gravel extraction. Funding was provided by H.B.M.C. and MSC. The topsoil had been stripped by the gravel company, J. Curtis and Sons Ltd.

The cursus ditch varied in width from 1.60m. to 2.60m. and its depth from 0.47m. to 0.72m. This stretch of ditch fell into three lengths with an interruption and a causeway. The interruption was not a complete break between lengths but is presumed to represent the meeting point of two gangs of workmen. The causeway was 21.25m. wide. The filling of the northern and southern parts of the ditch suggests a bank on the inside of the cursus as would be expected. In the middle section the position of the bank is less certain. There had been a shallow clearing out of the ditch late in its life. No finds of note were recovered from the ditch of which just over 20% was excavated. However radiocarbon dates of c. 2,700 bc and 2,900 bc have been obtained for bones from the primary silts of the eastern ditch.

Just outside the cursus, there were various pits and the occasional post pit. These fell into two groups. One group of fourteen features lay between 12 and 22m. away from the cursus, the other (twelve features) between 31 and 55m. A cluster of five pits in the inner group produced a small collection of flint tools. Very little debitage was present. Two large near-circular, but shallow features were found: one with a diameter of 2.80 to 2.90m. and a depth of 0.40m., the other 4.05 to 4.50m. with a depth of 0.60m. The former had a central posthole and two further ones on the edge forming a line bisecting the feature. The finds only suggest a pre-Iron Age date for the latter feature.

A late Neolithic grave without the skeleton was excavated. An all-over corded beaker and two groups of flint flakes were found on the bottom of the feature as if on either side of a body.

A Roman ditch running parallel and internal to the cursus ditch yielded no finds. A post built building and part of another were examined. The complete building measured 7.00m. north-south by 3.50m. with an entrance on the east side. At each end appeared to be a lean-to structure or wind break extending the line of the west wall and curving towards the north-east and south-east respectively. There was no dating evidence from this structure.

The other building survived as two alignments of postholes at right angles to each other. A few sherds of Iron Age pottery were found but these probably belong to the clearance of a tree at this point. The excavation will continue in 1986.

FARMOOR - Swindon water pipe line - R A Chambers

Summer 1985 saw the commencement of a year long contract to lay a large link main between Farmoor reservoir (Oxon.) and Swindon (Wilts.). The chosen route follows the higher ground along the edge of the Thames Valley before rising up into the Cotswolds. This has presented a rare opportunity to view a major transect across the higher ground to the south of the Thames Valley and its associated gravel terraces. With permission from the Thames Water Authority, field walking the length of the pipe line by Jeff Wallis and Roger Ainslie has revealed a series of new prehistoric sites. Fieldwalking will continue into 1986.

GORING: Gatehampton Farm - George Lambrick (SU 602796)

Trial trenching prior to the construction of a Thames Water pipeline was carried out on the floodplain of the river just south of Goring, next to a Bronze Age barrow cemetery on the first gravel terrace. One barrow extends onto the edge of the floodplain. This proved to be quite well preserved, with a clay core, possibly derived from an old river channel, forming the central part of the mound. This had been covered with gravel and soil from the substantial ditch and from a flat berm between it and the mound from which the topsoil had been stripped. A sherd of Beaker pottery came from the old ground surface. A certain amount of late Neolithic or Bronze Age flintwork (almost entirely waste flakes) was recovered. No burials were found, but the centre of the barrow lies under a modern field boundary.

Trenches excavated out onto the floodplain revealed the odd scatter of waste flint flakes, and a few other finds, including a sherd of late Bronze Age pottery beneath the alluvium. There was also evidence of Roman ploughsoils extending underneath the alluvium. No waterlogged deposits were found even in the deep barrow ditch 2m. below the present ground surface.

HENLEY: Henley Rectory (Post Excavation) - Brian Durham (SU 763826)

Peter McKeague has virtually completed the interpretation of the limited structural evidence for the rectory, and is compiling the finds reports,

including the particularly interesting pit group associated with a 14th century gold charm brooch. The report will include a survey of two arches of the adjacent medieval Thames bridge, identified as 12th century by Paul Drury, and a brief account of a trench at 12-16 Market Place, which had stratigraphy extending back to the 13th century.

HENLEY: St. Anne's Bridge - Brian Durham
(SU 764826)

The Unit, on behalf of H.B.M.C., surveyed two arches of the former bridge, one having been newly discovered in redevelopment for the Regatta Headquarters. The semicircular, possibly segmental, arches are of two orders of diagonally tooled ashlar, the inner order recessed by 0.75m. The vaults are of flint rubble. Paul Drury identified the ashlar as Barnack, and the arches as part of a 12th-century bridge serving the newly planted town, perhaps c. 1179.

KIDLINGTON: Moat Cottage - R A Chambers
(SP 488 137; PRN 9219)

After 10 years of archaeological investigation the work programme on this site has finally drawn to a close (CBA 9 Newsletter 7 (1977), 15-16; 8 (1978), 19-21; 10 (1980), 177-9; 11 (1981), 30-32; 13 (1983) 131). Moat Cottage is the surviving part of a large country house almost completely demolished in the 19th century. This house had replaced a medieval manor house and both establishments appear to have been moated. Moat Cottage is now surrounded by a housing estate. Extensions have been built onto both the east and west sides of the cottage. A substantial rubble stone footing has been uncovered in what is now the front garden on the north side of the cottage. The style of construction and the materials used suggest the footing to a causeway across the post-medieval moat.

At the end of 1985 the upper half of the broad chimney on the west side of the cottage was demolished and rebuilt to a more narrow design. Demolition of the original stack revealed several fragments of moulded ashlar from medieval door or window surrounds. The edges of several more fragments remain as quoin work lower down the stack and on the south-west corner of the cottage. Presumably these came from the previous manor house and their presence agrees with the archaeological record in that the manor house was a substantial, stone built structure.

Inside Moat Cottage the ground floor fireplace had been exposed beneath 20th century wall plaster. This showed that the house had undergone two major alterations since the house was built in the 16th or 17th century. Little survived of the original fireplace initially some nine feet long and six feet high. The original fireplace had been replaced with a new inglenook in thin red brick in the 17th or early 18th century. A later brick fire back was inserted when the ground floor was raised 1 ft. probably sometime after the mid 19th century.

MARSH BALDON: St. Peter's Church - Jonathan Sharpe
(SU 562991)

Observations were made for H.B.M.C. during structural works at this site, which it is believed on historical grounds originated as a dependent Saxon chapel of Dorchester Abbey.

No evidence was seen of masonry using Saxon techniques of construction or dressing. The western part of the nave was found to be structurally contiguous, from the foundations, with the 14th century octagonal tower, appearing thus to confirm the historical tradition that Peter-de-la-More rebuilt this church in 1341. The south side of the nave and the chancel had been subjected to 17th and 18th century reconstruction but the surviving medieval fabric did not suggest that a date earlier than the 14th century need be assumed for the original fabric. Drawings show a cross-aisle, perhaps of 13th or 14th century date, on the north side of the church, which was destroyed in the late 19th century when a parallel aisle was built.

The external render finish extant in 1985 was of 19th century date but traces of earlier finishes survived. Convincing evidence for putatively medieval external plaster was recorded on the west nave wall.

M40 EXTENSION: Birmingham to Waterstock - R A Chambers

The projected M40 route will run northwards through 25 miles of Oxfordshire. The route crosses an area of the county which, having not previously been subject to detailed survey, remains archaeologically blank. The motorway will provide a unique opportunity to help redress the balance of our knowledge of the Oxford Region. Of special importance is the opportunity to examine the Cherwell Valley and the North Oxfordshire Uplands east and north of Banbury.

Between the unusually late harvest and the growth of the new corn crop, D. Elliot and L. Turner undertook a six-week programme of fieldwalking for the O.A.U. Nine of the 20 miles of the approved route between Wendlebury and Mollington crossed non-arable land and was not ideal for fieldwalking. The remaining 11 miles of motorway corridor was observed by field walkers spaced 20m. apart. Only one major new site was located, a scatter of flint artifacts in Aynho parish. These results appear to follow the pattern observed on previous road schemes. Only when the top soil has been removed is fieldwalking relatively successful. At that stage of construction one new major archaeological site may be expected for every half mile of road. A second programme of fieldwalking will be instituted for the newly announced, approved route south from Wendlebury to Waterstock after the results of the public enquiry have been published, possibly later in 1986.

OXFORD: Christ Church, Cathedral Cloister - Christopher Scull and Brian Durham (SP 515059)

Part of the eastern half of the cloister was excavated on behalf of the college, to investigate stone footings prior to landscaping. The lightweight rectangular footing with large clasping buttresses is suggested as the base of a detached timber belfry constructed after Cardinal Wolsey's disgrace in 1529, when it seems likely that the college was without a belfry. The ground plan is similar to the 15th-century timber belfry of the priory church of Blackmore, Essex, which incidentally was dissolved to endow Wolsey's college.

The excavation also identified 18 burials presumed to be of the Saxon minster church. Radiocarbon dates are awaited for the earlier group, which included two graves lined with charcoal. Three of the latest burials were in mortared stone cists set in the backfill of a very large 12th century pit. The pit is assumed to be a quarry for gravel required in the rebuilding of the minster as an Augustinian priory, but its location suggests it must predate the building of the cloister.

OXFORD: 26 Cornmarket Street, Zacharias - Brian Durham

The premises known formerly as 'Zacharias' have recently been shown by Julian Munby to be one corner of a late 14th-century courtyard inn. The jettied north range was recorded by J. C. Buckler in the 19th century, and Julian has recognised an added west gallery with a crown-post roof. Jesus College was persuaded to consult F. W. B. Charles, who has produced a scheme for the complete reconstruction of the timber frame. The Unit was asked by HBMC to survey the stone structure to complement the timber survey, and this has been largely completed by Frances Peters and Peter Beard.

A wealth of new structural detail has come from the survey, but the most interesting is that it has exposed the entry to the courtyard, coming in from Ship Street beneath the jettied north range. The entry was clearly relocated at an early stage, possibly when the gallery was built. It has been possible to record sections through below-ground deposits in both the range and the entry, and a trench by Peter McKeague in the courtyard produced pottery which generally supported the late 14th-century construction date.

The two 15th-century timber-framed shops which form the Cornmarket Street frontage of the premises are built on stone cellars, and have a two storey stone wall against the courtyard to the rear. The wall is leaning heavily towards the street owing to the insertion of fireplace and chimneys on all floors on this side. Its face to the courtyard survives, however, with beautifully coursed stonework with horizontally lined pointing, and its relationship to the inn buildings suggests that it predates them. There is a blocked first-floor doorway from the gallery to one of the 15th-century shops, or to a building which predated them. There are indeed indications that one jamb of the doorway is original to the wall, which would be the only surviving detail of what must have been a major Cornmarket Street building of the 14th century.

The Unit has been asked to provide a watching brief during the redevelopment. Peter McKeague was able to record a section through the courtyard entry which suggested that there was an early timber-lined cellar in this area. He was also able to expose a well-made cobbled surface at a depth of 0.0m. beneath the 1390's courtyard, and a small stone-lined furnace at an even deeper level. Pottery suggest this activity all lay within the 14th century.

It is possible that the main north-south wall was built against this earlier courtyard, and that the windows in its second storey faced onto this courtyard, and onto the entry before any range had been put over it. Such a traditional siting for the entry would explain why the stratigraphy under the Ship Street range did not extend into this area. It would also explain why such an awkward entry was incorporated in the 1390's inn, when the low floor and inevitable post supports of the gallery must have rendered it almost useless. It is possible that the date of the great wall can therefore be deduced from the pottery in its construction trench, in the early courtyard and the furnace, and this will largely complete the story of a building first studied by J. C. Buckler in the 19th century.

OXFORD: 7-8 Queen Street - Brian Durham
(SP 512061)

The Unit carried out a four-week investigation of two cellars belonging to Prudential Pensions, on behalf of HBMC. Most of the south side of this main street, from No. 19 down to No. 9, has been progressively redeveloped over several years, and as the process continues towards Carfax so the deposit-survival improves. The cellar of No. 8 produced mainly 13th-century

cellar fill, but No. 7 showed good domestic floors of the later 11th and 12th centuries. The floors were best preserved where they had subsided into a large pit, evidently a backfilled cellar of the first half of the 11th century, like those excavated at Clarendon Hotel, Queen Street and All Saints, Oxford. No cellar structure could be demonstrated within the depth restrictions.

The cellar indicates a Late Saxon frontage line no more than 3m. behind the modern line. It was cut into compacted gravel surfaces 0.7m. deep, also of the late Saxon date. These must be successive remetallings of a market area extending at least a further 5m. This is a comparable shift of street frontage to that reported by Sturdy for the east side of Cornmarket Street, but it is the first time such a depth of metalling has been found in the city.

OXFORD: 89 St. Aldates (Trill Mill Stream) - Brian Durham
(SP 514058)

A survey of the 17th century building was carried out by the Unit under the guidance of Julian Munby, and following demolition two trenches were dug to continue the investigation of the mill stream channel.

The middle of the 50m. wide infilled channel seemed to be 10th century flooding deposits overlying a Roman ground surface, identical to the north edge seen in 1981. The Roman surface was, however, found to be cut away to the south, giving the impression of an artificially dug watercourse sealed by the 10th-century marsh. Provisional dating suggests this could be of the 9th century or earlier, and it may be significant that the upcast from this cut would have been a blue buttery clay. Identical material formed an adjacent embankment which is assumed to be a Thames causeway of the reign of Offa. The mill stream may, therefore, have originated as a defensive ditch on the riverward side of a settlement associated with a new Mercian crossing, frontier works paralleling the bridge at Cambridge.

It seems likely that an extensive marsh was created by the raising of water level in the original ditch, and the crossing must have been raised in step. Beneath a series of street frontage buildings beginning in the 12th century was a platform of gravel at least 0.4. deep. The gravel was revetted with stone, and this is seen as part of a late Saxon causeway by which the crossing negotiated the marsh.

OXFORD: St. Michael at the Northgate Tower - Brian Durham
(SP 513064)

Timothy Morgan and Brian Durham have begun a survey of the late Saxon tower prior to alterations to give public access. All the known unrestored openings, including doorways, windows and belfry opening, are shown to have distinctive non-radial arches which must be original. A newly discovered large blocked doorway on the first floor south side, known previously only from 19th century drawings, is similar.

The original ground floor north window means that the tower can no longer be regarded as a gate-tower, and must post-date the rerouting of the city wall which provided the church with its cemetery. A logical explanation is that the tower was built at the same time as this rerouting, in the late 11th or early 12th century, and that the ground floor west doorway was provided for the gate keeper; the large first floor south doorway opened to a gallery in the existing church, and the second floor north door communicated with the new wall walk. This model has the merit of indicating a very plausible location for the church before the rerouting of the defences, when

most of the site would have been occupied by an earth rampart.

OXFORD: 24a St. Michaels Street, Saxon Defences - Brian Durham
(SP 512065)

In the latest volume of *Oxoniensia* the Unit published a report on several excavations on the 'Northern Defences'. It served to show that, while we can be fairly certain what the 13th century and later defences were like, we know painfully little about the system of earth ramparts which enclosed the town for the first three centuries of its existence. The most positive piece of evidence was Professor Jope's recognition that strips of land immediately inside the wall line were the ground area of the banks. What was needed was a chance to study a property on this line. The redevelopment of Mallams, the auctioneers on St. Michaels Street, was the perfect opportunity. It fronts onto the intra-mural street and extends out over part of the ditch, so straddling the defence line. Moreover it seemed to have been relatively untouched by buildings in the past. Such good auguries would normally be a recipe for an archaeological disaster, but this time the fates were with us. Mallams had agreed to an eight-week pause between demolition and building. The mechanical clearance showed immediately that there was a 1.7m. depth of redeposited gravel and topsoil, the remains of the rampart.

The original scale of the embankment can only be estimated, but there was plenty of evidence as to how it was constructed. First there must have been a timber palisade with earth-fast posts and lacing to the rear. There is some doubt as to whether the posts were really the front face of the defence, since some of the embankment material had bulged out in front of them, but there seems no other rational explanation at the moment. The fill of the rampart included gravel from the digging of the ditch, together with local reddish loam topsoil and a distinctive greenish brown silty loam. The latter was perhaps brought from the floodplain about 300m. away at Hythe Bridge. The Oxford bank is unusual amongst burghal defences in being built by tipping from behind. It must mean that openings were left in the palisade for cartloads of fill to be brought from the ditch excavations through to the intra-mural street and thence to where it was needed. It must then have been heaped into the bays between the lacing timbers coming to rest against the front planks. It was noticeable that the loamy material was concentrated at the front, but there was certainly no turf wall to back up the timberwork. Perhaps the loam was intended to perform the function of turves as a strong secondary face, but it was inconsistent, with gravel reaching the front in one area.

The general impression of Oxford's first defence is that it was an organised project which was weakened by the use of comparatively lightweight timbers, and a poor apology for turf which was used in an undisciplined way. In the absence of datable finds, these tenuous impressions may be all we have to distinguish between the obvious dates, ie. Alfred c. AD 880-90, or Edward the Elder c. 911-12. The writer feels it is a bit 'shoddy' for an Alfredian burh in what was traditionally Mercia, but might well fit with a fortress of Edward's on his way to establish similar burhs at Buckingham and Bedford.

A second impression is that the bank could only have lasted ten to twenty years as an effective defence, before needing refacing. The new front was massively built with a ragstone wall 1.5. thick in front of the old timber. The implication is that here, and probably elsewhere, the medieval city wall stood on 10th century footings.

The first excavation across Oxford's rampart has therefore given a lot of comparative detail. Beneath the bank was a plough soil, the first real evidence of agriculture beneath the city, with mainly Roman pottery. Beneath

that again was the distinctive profile of a Bronze Age ring ditch, to add to those of the Science Area and Logic Lane.

NORTHMOOR: Watkins Farm - Tim Allen
(SP 426036; PRN 13,360; 13,361)

Salvage work was carried out during 1985 on both Sites A and B. On Site A more Iron Age ditches were found north of the main enclosure. On Site B the enclosure and boundary ditches excavated in previous seasons were traced for another 30m. westwards. Attached to one of these ditches was a small gated oval enclosure, probably domestic, with an annexe and another shallow well adjacent. A Medieval 12th century pit was also excavated.

Post-excavation is now well-advanced. The Iron Age pottery has a wide variety of fabrics and a fairly high proportion of decorated and burnished sherds (22% burnishing), unlike other low-lying settlements excavated in the Upper Thames. There is also a high percentage of briquetage from the Droitwich saltworkings. Whether these differences can be attributed to chronology will depend upon the results of C14 dating, which are not yet available.

From the environmental evidence the economy seems to have been entirely pastoral with a possible emphasis on horse-breeding. A buried stream-course just south of the site has recently been identified on aerial photographs; it is possible that this was active in the Iron Age and Roman periods and influenced the choice of site.

In the Roman period the economy remained much the same. Site B contained the only likely house-enclosures, and possibly Site A was subsidiary to it, though neither produced large quantities of domestic occupation material. Flax was apparently cultivated nearby.

The area did not flood until the late Roman period, by which time finds are very scarce, perhaps suggesting only seasonal exploitation.

RADLEY: Barrow Hills - R A Chambers and Claire Halpin
(Centred SU 5135 9815; PRN 13,400)

This multiperiod site lies 1.3km. north-east of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and 1.5km. north of the River Thames on the second gravel terrace by the boundary between the parishes of Abingdon and Radley. The excavations, undertaken for HBMC in advance of house building, were concluded at Easter 1985, although excavation continued on a smaller scale to record the last few prehistoric burials. Since the excavation of this Neolithic and Bronze Age burial ground, Roman cemetery and early Anglo-Saxon settlement began in 1983 labour had been supplied through the Manpower Services Commission. The work would not have been completed in time except without the weekend volunteers from the Abingdon and Area Archaeological and Historical Society, and the excavation of three monuments in the summer of 1983 by Richard Bradley with students from Reading University Archaeological Department. The Unit is indebted to the land owner, Mr. W. P. Dockar-Drysdale for permission to excavate and along with Mr. B. Ford, for their help when most needed. The developers, Kibswell Builders Ltd., provided earthmoving machinery and direct financial help without which the excavations would not have been completed.

The analysis of the archaeological record has now begun and report writing is in progress. Some specialist reports have already been completed notably those on the human bones from the Romano-British burials and the early Saxon knives. The majority of the specialist work for the Saxon settlement will be completed by Easter 1986 but unavoidable delays have set back the publication schedule for the prehistoric burials. It is hoped that

the site will be published by the Oxford University Committee for Archaeology as a monograph in two volumes: Part I will record the prehistoric burials and Part II will record the Roman period burials and early Saxon settlement.

As a significant number of the prehistoric features had not been excavated at the time of writing the last annual report, a complete interim report on the prehistoric aspect of this site is reproduced below.

Prehistoric Features by Richard Bradley and Claire Halpin, with contributions by Ros Cleal (pottery), Mary Harman (human bone), Stuart Needham (metalwork) and Fiona Roe (axe fragments). Fig. 29 .

Introduction

The site lies immediately south of the Abingdon causewayed enclosure and at the south-east end of a Bronze Age cemetery. Barrows 2-7, 11 and 14-17 of the cemetery were excavated in the 1930s and 40s. In advance of the recent excavation the larger field was fieldwalked by members of the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society. No earthworks survived. The site is currently being developed for housing.

Neolithic Features

Before excavation the oval barrow showed as a rectangular cropmark enclosure made up of two parallel ditches. It was probably built in four stages. The ditches related to Stages 3 and 4 contained deliberate deposits of flint, antler and human skull fragments. Exactly similar deposits are recorded from the inner ditch of the adjacent causewayed enclosure. The central grave (F2127/F2128) contained two crouched burials: a female skeleton 25-30 years accompanied by a bifacially polished flint blade, and a male skeleton aged 25-30 years with a jet or shale belt slider at the hip. The grave was disturbed and a large leaf-shaped arrowhead had probably accompanied the male skeleton. The proximity of the oval barrow to the causewayed enclosure suggested that the two monuments might have been in use at the same time. The suggested date for the former is around the middle of the third millennium bc which would correspond to the later use of the causewayed enclosure.

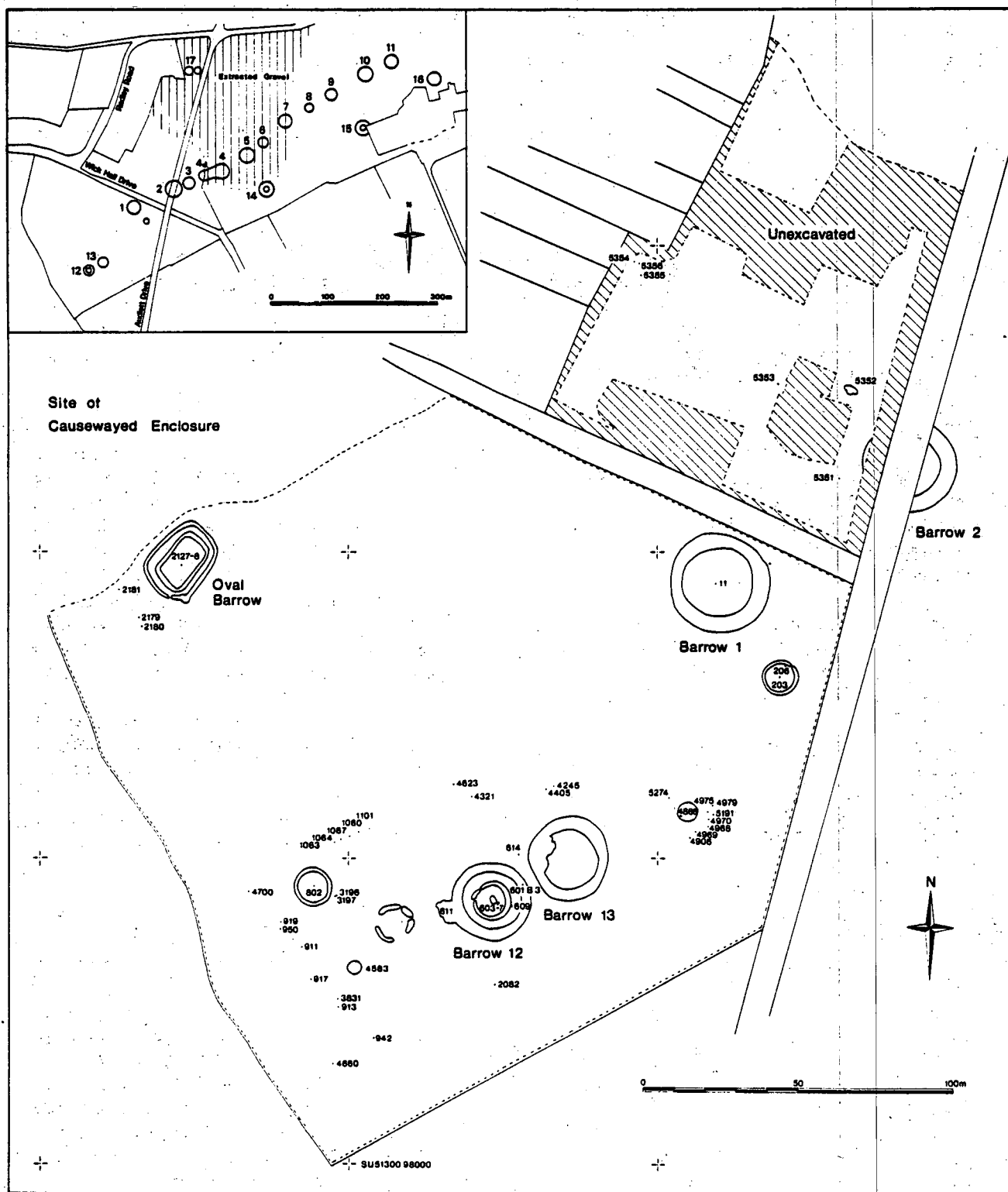


Fig.29 A plan showing the area of excavation and the principal prehistoric features. Inset, a plan of the Bronze Age barrow cemetery.

Prior to the excavation the oval barrow would normally be thought of as a free standing enclosure, however, there is little doubt that the monument had a mound in most, if not all, its phases of building.

The segmented ring ditch is interpreted as a round barrow rather than an embanked enclosure. Analogy with other sites suggests a later neolithic date. The central burial was probably removed by ploughing. A chisel transverse arrowhead was recovered from the ploughsoil of the interior.

Seven Grooved Ware pits (F911, F913, F917, F2082, F3196, F3197 and F3831) in the vicinity of the segmented ring ditch were excavated. The finds consist of flint knapping debris, pottery, animal bone and charcoal. A flint axe and a Cornish stone axe (Group I, identification by Fiona Roe) were also recovered. A large number of potsherds, representing 5(?) vessels were found in pit F3196. Two are particularly noteworthy. Ros Cleal reports: One is from an unusual vessel with lattice decoration. The vessel belongs to the Woodlands sub-style and a very similar vessel is represented by body sherds from Tolley's gravel pit, Cassington. The other sherd is also unusual. It has a fragmentary double-opposed spiral design. It is a thick-walled vessel probably tub-shaped with the decoration arranged in horizontal zones. Curvilinear motifs normally consisting of single units of concentric circles or spirals occur in the Durrington Walls sub-style, but both the probable form of the vessel and the decorative scheme of horizontal zones are alien to that style. No close parallels are known.

East of the segmented ring ditch a ring ditch of uncommon form was excavated (F611). It was cut by the outer ditch of Barrow 12. It was not causewayed. Antlers and articulated animal bone were ranged around the base. A fragmentary plain Neolithic bowl(?) and a Langdale axe fragment (Group VI), reused as a core, were found towards the base of the ditch. Fiona Roe notes that, the Langdale tuff is the dominant imported axe material in Oxfordshire, although the county is the southernmost part of the area to which it was traded'. F611 may have been overlain by a pond barrow; a fragmentary Bronze Age vessel containing cremated bone overlay the centre of F611 and articulated animal bone was found close by.

North of Wick Hall Drive a large grave containing three inhumations (articulated and disarticulated) was excavated (F5352). The grave overlay a large pit with an antler lying on the base of the pit. No trace of an accompanying long barrow was apparent.

Three inhumations (F5354-F5356) were found lying close together east of the causewayed enclosure. Their location outside the barrow cemetery suggests that they may date to the Neolithic period.

Beaker Features

F206 was a large rectangular beaker burial of unusual form. Two slots were cut at both ends of the grave. The southern slot contained an upright all-over corded beaker which had been damaged by animal burrowing. The burial (female?) was fragmentary with only a skull fragment and leg bone shafts present. The bones were also eroded. The form of the grave is remarkably similar to the Neolithic burial pit recorded at Four Crosses Site 5, Llandysilio, Powys, by Bill Britnell. Ros Cleal notes that, 'the form of the AOC beaker is uncommon, and no vessels of a similar form are illustrated by Clarke, nor does the vessel fit into the Step Scheme proposed by Lanting and van der Waals. The closest parallels appear to be the all-over decorated bottle-shaped beakers from the Limburg (van der Waals and Glasbergen). A bottle-shaped beaker was found at Little Rollright.

F206 was cut and enclosed by a small causewayed ring ditch (F201). The central burial of the ring ditch contained a male crouched inhumation, aged 20-25 years. The head was to the north. A large number of grave goods accompanied this individual including a long-necked beaker (Clarke S4 type, Lanting and van der Waals Step 7), and five finely flaked barbed and tanged

arrowheads probably representing the remains of a quiver of arrows deposited against the right side of the body. A barbed and tanged arrowhead with an impact fracture was found jutting from the lower spine and is the likely cause of death.

The primary burial of Barrow 12 (F607) was probably contemporary with the small inner ring ditch of Barrow 12. It is comparable to F203 and may date to the beaker period. The grave contained a male inhumation, aged 18-23 years, with the head to the north. A copper/bronze awl lay close to the left foot. Stuart Needham identifies the awl as Thomas's Type 1B, which is typically associated with beakers and food vessels. F607 was cut by F605 (a double burial associated with a food vessel) and F606 (an unaccompanied cremation).

Three flat beaker burials were discovered away from the barrows (F919, F950 and F4660). F919 contained a crouched inhumation of a 4-5 year old. A small very poorly executed barbed wire beaker and a W/MR beaker accompanied the burial. The disarticulated bones of a newborn baby were deposited in the latter beaker. Three copper/bronze rings were also found. Stuart Needham reports that, 'despite the common occurrence of ornaments in British early Bronze Age graves the metal rings are previously unknown in either graves or hoards. Such ornaments are well known in the Beaker Unetice and contemporary contexts across Europe. It is noteworthy that the three rings each employ a different technology'. A bone disc was also found.

Three remarkable grave goods were recovered from F4660, a grave containing a male crouched inhumation, aged 35-40 years. The first, an exceptionally fine beaker, accords with Clarke's European group and Lanting and van der Waals Step 2. The decoration is extremely unusual and no close parallels are known (Ros Cleal). The second was a bone pin with a 'winged' head. Stuart Needham suggests that this item is 'unique in Britain as yet. It is probably a distant derivative of the widespread hammer-head series of central and eastern Europe. A close parallel from Werla, North Germany, is known'. The third was a tanged knife in the tradition of the west European tanged copper dagger series. Diminutive examples such as these are unusual. European bell beaker contexts are typical (Stuart Needham). Two barbed and tanged arrowheads, two flint blades and an antler point also accompanied the burial.

Excavation of the area around the barrows led to the identification of a wide range of burial practices, for example, the crouched beaker burials described above, and disarticulated burials, for example, F942 and F4583. F4583 was a large pit 5m. in diameter. It contained a crouched burial of a 13-15 year old. A disarticulated burial was placed in the centre. It was the skeleton of a 40-50 year old man and consisted of the skull and partially articulated limbs. This deposit may have been bagged. Further excavation of the feature revealed a charcoal spread associated with the remaining bones of the male skeleton, again partially articulated. Animal bone, flintwork including a transverse arrowhead and a barbed and tanged arrowhead, and a beaker sherd were found in the pit fill. This unusual burial is comparable to that from Pit 1, Barrow 15.

Bronze Age Features

The scale of the excavation also contributed to the identification of previously unsuspected monuments, eg. the neolithic ring ditch and pond barrow(?) (F611), and a pond barrow with an arc of inhumations (F4866). Three graves associated with the latter pond barrow contained food vessels. In the interior of F4866 two unaccompanied cremations deposited in rough hollows were found. This monument may be compared with the pond barrow at Down Farm, Gussage St. Michael, Dorset, which was excavated by Martin Green in 1981-82. A food vessel in a primary context was found at the latter site. The Radley barrow remained open until the Saxon period and served as a focus

for burial (F5004).

In the north-east quadrant of the ditch of Barrow 12 a biconical derivative vessel (L601/B/3) containing cremated bone was found deposited above the primary silts. A miniature vessel lay inverted over the rim of the larger vessel. This was the only burial found in situ in the barrow ditches. Deverel Rimbury sherds were found in the ditch fill of Barrow 13. The ditches of Barrows 12 and 13 were totally excavated and approximately one third of the ditch of Barrow 1 was excavated.

The central burial of Barrow 1 (F11) contained a cremation and a large deposit of charcoal. A copper/bronze knife with organic remains of the hilt and sheath attached accompanied this burial. Traces of textile were also preserved on the knife. A pair of tweezers and a ring-headed pin were also found. The bone deposits point to a final early Bronze Age date (Wessex II) (Stuart Needham). Richard Bradley notes that the layout of the barrows in two parallel rows, the types and mound and even the grave goods (from F11) all reveal that Barrow Hills is a classic Wessex cemetery in exile. Its nearest counterpart geographically is the Lambourn Seven Barrows, but this cemetery has its closest links with those on Salisbury Plain. Its excavation helps to make up for our ignorance of cemetery layout in that area.

The central burial (F802) of the small ring ditch west of Barrow 12 contained a cremation. A bronze awl (Thomas's Type 2B which has an extremely long currency and is known on late Bronze Age settlements, Stuart Needham) and a clay(?) bead accompanied the cremation.

Pits F1064, F4245, F4321 and F4700 contained Bronze Age urns and cremations. Several unaccompanied cremations were excavated (F614, F4405, F4623 and F5351) and may be associated with either the Bronze Age or the Romano-British cemetery.

Such an extensive cemetery excavation, with its wide range of burials and structural features, is ideally suited to a large scale and carefully considered programme of radiocarbon dating and skeletal analysis. Using the facilities of the British Museum Research Laboratory it is hoped that a radiocarbon chronology for the site will be established.

The Roman period Burials - R A Chambers

These have been reported on previously (CBA 9 Newsletter 15 (1985), 104-5). The skeletons from the cemetery have been examined by Mary Harman who concludes that the remains may represent a complete community, which concurs with the excavation evidence.

The Anglo-Saxon Settlement - R A Chambers

This has also been reported on previously (CBA 9 Newsletter 15 (1985), 106-7). The remains of over 60 sunken featured buildings and post-built structures were finally recovered. The sunken featured building remains varied from irregular shallow scoops to pits over 1m. deep by 5m. long. In every case the pit appeared to have existed beneath a boarded floor. There was no indication of the superstructure to any of these huts but the negative evidence suggests that wall foundations were set well back from the pit edges and that none cut through the shallow topsoil into the gravel.

The rubbish deposits filling those sunken features not deliberately backfilled have provided good evidence of crafts including bone, antler and bone working as well as domestic, culinary and environmental carbonised remains.

More than ten post-built structures have so far been identified among the complex of post-holes.

RAMSDEN: Brize Lodge - R A Chambers

This farm was created in the 19th century when much of the remaining

woodland of Wychwood Forest was enclosed and cleared. Work during the last few years has revealed that the area was intensively occupied from the Bronze Age onwards. Within the bounds of the farm, a burial mound survives as an earthwork and cropmarks suggest an Iron Age - Romano-British settlement adjacent to Cornbury Park. The extensive remains of a villa lie close to the present farmhouse and spreads of black soil with Romano-British pottery fragments have been revealed by ploughing between the lane and the Ramsden-Leafield Road.

In 1985 a new water supply was installed and by courtesy of the farmer, Mr. Cashman, the opportunity was taken to view the trench sections. A ditch with probably 1st century AD pottery was seen north-east of the farmhouse and several shallow features also associated with Romano-British pottery were revealed between the farmhouse and the Ramsden-Leafield road. The pipe trench also revealed the ditch to a possible second Bronze Age barrow.

STANTON HARCOURT: Gravelly Guy - George Lambrick
(SP 403054; PRN 8281-6)

A third major season of excavation on this multiperiod cropmark site prior to gravel extraction was completed in 1985 with funding from English Heritage and the Manpower Services Commission and assistance from the gravel company, J. Smith and Sons of Bletchington. The core of the Iron Age settlement has now been totally excavated, together with scattered traces of late Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation and ceremonial activity. The Romano-British part of the site was also fully investigated. In all 2.01 Hectares have been excavated in controlled conditions and a further 4 Hectares have been covered by salvage observation.

Mr. R J Macrae has found several palaeolithic handaxes including both flint and quartzite examples from the gravel pit. The site is second terrace gravel which drops away sharply to the floodplain of the Windrush. Pre-Iron Age activity is represented by scattered late Neolithic pits (in one case comprising a group of seven such features); a small but deep, revetted hengiform ring ditch; a Beaker burial; and a penannular group of fairly large post holes forming a ring about 17m. across opening to the east, for which the only dating evidence, a single sherd from an expanded, finger impressed rim, suggests a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date. However, this was not sufficiently securely stratified to be certain of the association. The best parallel locally seems to be Standlake ring ditch 20.

During the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age the basic land divisions, which were to last well into the Roman period, were established. Parallel to the edge of the gravel terrace and about 150m. back from it a settlement was established which was confined to a narrow strip about 30m. wide and about 170m. long. Its boundaries remained very sharply defined and within this area about 600 pits were dug over the succeeding centuries up to the Roman conquest. Most are typical grain storage pits. Their distribution clearly respects the position of small penannular enclosures and open areas where houses, animal pens or other structures stood. Some of these opened to the north-east side of the settlement onto an area apparently devoid of contemporary features (except for two undated four-post structures). This was the area subject to most activity in the Roman period when a series of paddocks and other features were laid out, and the silty soil in the backfill of some of these suggests that the area had probably not been ploughed previously, and thus may have been used for grazing in the Iron Age. The land on the other side of the Iron Age settlement, towards the floodplain was probably arable: ploughsoil with Iron Age sherds was found in the upper fill of the hengiform ring ditch, and Iron Age ploughsoils were also found beneath the alluvium on the floodplain. A further string of storage pits had been

GRAVELLY GUY 83-86
GENERAL SITE PLAN



Fig. 30

found along the edge of the gravel terrace.

Within the settlement itself it is possible to distinguish transverse divisions forming square or rectangular blocks within the scatter of pits. At the north-west end of the site these divisions are particularly clear. It appears that there were five such divisions, and a major question for analysis in post excavation work is whether these can be shown to represent households, and if so whether there is any indication of social distinctions between them, and of the number of inhabitants represented in each.

The site is exceptional regionally not only for its completeness, and for the clarity of its structure and layout, but also for the range and quantity of finds. An extremely interesting and varied range of ritual animal burials has been recovered, while among the commoner classes of finds the pottery represents much the largest assemblage from a single site in the Upper Thames Valley. The stratigraphic sequences of pits and ditches should enable the region's pottery sequence to be refined. A large number of loom weights and quernstones was recovered together with smaller numbers of items such as bone tools, spindle-whorls and personal objects. Surprisingly little carbonized grain has been recovered despite very intensive sampling, but there is a large quantity of animal bone. These will provide useful evidence for the economic basis of the settlement, while it is hoped that samples of waterlogged deposits from the floodplain may provide some indication of its environment.

In the Roman period, in common with several other sites in the Thames valley, there seems to have been a shift in the area of activity. Nowhere has this been more clear than at Gravelly Guy. While in the Iron Age there were no features except the odd posthole beyond the north-east boundary of the settlement, in the Roman period the only features south-west of this same boundary were two graves. The exact date of this transition is as yet unclear: it is probably 1st century AD but it is not yet possible to say if it is pre- or post-Conquest. There is nothing at Gravelly Guy to suggest any general explanation of the precise nature of this small but very definite shift of the focus of activity within the existing pattern of land boundaries.

The Roman part of the site consists largely of a series of subdivided paddocks and enclosures which generally make up a coherent pattern. No definite building is known except perhaps for an irregular scatter of postholes surrounded to west and north by the curving end of one of the paddock boundaries. Various other ditches converge on this area. Amongst the smaller features are small deep grave-shaped pits (one over two metres deep), a few animal burials and one or two cases of buried pots and small clay filled pits. Also present are a number of enclosures with numerous recut ditches. In one case half way across the site near its north-east boundary the ditches were 1.5 to 2m. deep though it surrounded an area only 8 by 16m. Three ramped wells have now been found dug 2.5 to 3m. deep to below the water table. These very large open holes had small well shafts formed with slabs of gravel conglomerate at the bottom. Their ramps had trampled surfaces. One had a deliberately laid path of gravel and earth steps, another had stone steps. These features cut through earlier enclosures and are probably of 2nd century date.

The most remarkable features however were a series of "ramped hollows". The 1985 excavations have enabled the form of these features to be understood showing that three features of apparently rather different form excavated in the north corner of the site in 1983 are in fact examples of the same type of feature at different stages of development. These features start as fairly shallow sunken platforms (up to 0.5 or 0.8m. below the surface of the gravel). They are about 6m. across surrounded by an integral penannular ditch whose outer edge is the edge of the hollow. On one side there is a narrow ramped entrance, which in the smallest case is a causeway between the

ends of the ditch, but with the more developed examples has become a sunken ramp, usually with gateposts 1 to 1.5m. apart. In three cases these features develop into much larger hollows with an overall diameter of up to 13m. This largely occurs from recutting the ditch many times (at least fifteen times in two cases). Within the ditches which were often very deep with vertical sides, there were several cases of trampled surfaces. They were not palisade trenches. The backfill of earlier cuts and even of completely filled ditches when the hollows had become like large saucers, were sometimes heavily trampled. In two cases there were deliberately laid gravel surfaces which were trampled. The recutting of the ditches did not always work out from the centre and in three cases a noticeably polygonal shape was made. Two of the ramped hollows were eventually made much smaller when one side was dug out and a new ramp formed. In one of these spoil was thrown up to form a bank, which was revetted with stones near the entrance and probably with turf elsewhere.

The function of these hollows is obscure and parallels have not yet been found. The creation of a sunken platform involving the removal of many cubic metres of gravel seems unnecessary for most ordinary agricultural or domestic purposes. There are no finds to offer any hints - indeed if anything the absence of many finds may be significant. The most logical explanation at present seems to be that they are small arenas, but for what purpose or why there should be no less than four on this site is still a mystery.

The only Saxon feature found was a grubenhaus near the edge of the gravel terrace. The burrows of a ?badger's set which thoroughly disturbed much of the stratigraphy in one part of the Roman site might also belong to this period since the land has probably been in cultivation ever since the early middle ages.

WITNEY: Mount House (Post Excavation) - Brian Durham and Tim Allen
(SP 357093)

It is intended to publish the final report in an Oxoniensia monograph on Oxfordshire manorial sites coordinated by John Blair. Work on the east range and tower of the Bishop's Palace is well advanced, the story being more or less as predicted in the interim report. The pottery from the early phases is principally of local calcareous gravel wares, with imports from Minety, Winchester, Worcester, and wares known from Bath and Old Sarum. The dating accords well with the assumption that the embanking of the tower was c. 1137, and that it was demolished with the bishop's Hampshire castles in 1155. It has proved impossible to tie up the excavated plan precisely with the only surviving illustration of 1730, but it still seems reasonable that the building depicted is a later 12th century camera on the foundations of the tower. The 'noble' architecture is however contradicted by the contents of the latrine, where mineralised seeds suggested a very meagre diet compared with the 14th century garderobe of the west range (see below). Bob Wilson's provisional results on the animal bone show the same trend, with the higher proportion of deer bones coming from the apparently more lowly north range.

We have now been able to produce a detailed interpretation of the north range, and since this part of the site was underplayed in the interim report it is offered here in more detail as follows.

The North Range.

This area was originally an open cobbled yard enclosed by the curtain wall, which was fronted by a V-profiled ditch. Probably during the troubles of The Anarchy a deep moat was dug just in front of the ditch, with a bridge-abutment and gate-house midway along the north wall. There was evidence

that about 1m. of the moat was under water, but this was not really a wet moat.

The north range was not built until the later 12th century, around AD 1170. This was a long building, most of which had a solid mortar floor, but with a small room partitioned off at the west end whose floor was of clay. A wall-fireplace of this early date in the south wall of the main room suggests that this was an important building, and could imply that there was a first floor above. The entrance was at the south-east corner, with a stone threshold and a gully draining water away from the door outside.

Later the partition seems to have been removed, as a cobbled hearth was built across its line. Another such hearth was built set into the mortar floor right in the middle of the range close to the wall-fireplace. The use of these open hearths should indicate that any first floor was removed, but alternatively it may have been the attempt to use open fires while a first floor was in existence that caused the burning down of the range in about 1225 AD, when the floor and the bottom courses of the south wall were burnt bright pink. The range was repaired, and probably at this stage a cross-wall was built dividing off a small room at the east end.

The continued use of the open hearths suggests that a first floor was not rebuilt over the main part of the range, and the patchy character of the mortar resurfacing suggest that the status and function of this building had changed for the worse.

Throughout the life of the range the courtyard outside was resurfaced on several occasions around the south-east doorway; further west garden soil was allowed to develop. After 1250 AD no more rubbish built up in the courtyard, and the range was apparently abandoned, apart from the small room at the east end. Towards the end of the 13th century soil was dumped in the shell of the building. Soon after 1300 AD the curtain wall was thickened at both front and back, with a battered facing added to the outside. To make way for this thickening the range was demolished, with the exception of the room on the east, which was given a new pitched-stone floor and a hearth in the north-west corner.

The west range, only one corner of which was seen, continued in use, and a very fine 14th century jug and rich environmental samples have been recovered from a garderobe built into the curtain wall. The diet included figs, wild strawberries, and a wide variety of fish and small mammals.

Little later stratigraphy survived. Pottery from the silting of the moat shows that occupation continued right up until the second half of the 18th century, when the medieval palace was finally pulled down.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM SERVICES

(1) FIELD SECTION. JOHN M. STEANE AND JAMES BOND.

Staffing: The museum has continued to benefit from the great help given by Elizabeth Leggatt over the year. In-service trainees, Ralph Isserlin, Paul Jarvis, Simon Smithson, Beverley Garrett and Nigel Jones have also been welcomed. John Steane and James Bond have been elected Members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The Museum was well represented when the Oxford Archaeological Unit Management Committee gave a farewell party to Tom Hassall on 9 December 1985. We wish him well in his new appointment as Secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). We welcome his successor, Dr Ian Burrow, formerly County Archaeologist, Somerset, who took up his position on 1 March 1986.

Planning Matters: The field section has continued to monitor all planning applications for their archaeological/historic building implications with the Director, and, since January, with the Acting Director of the Oxford Archaeological Unit. Comments have been addressed to District and County Council and to the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission. The High Court Judge found in favour of West Oxfordshire District Council in the matter involving planning permission over the Witney Palace site and Messrs Pearce and Homes. West Oxfordshire is now negotiating to buy the site.

The Minister of Transport has decided to abandon the M40 route through Otmoor and Bernwood Forest. New draft orders will now be drawn up based on a more easterly route.

Sites and Monuments Record: Progress has been made towards the computerisation of the record and staff have made visits to Somerset, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire to compare systems. They have also discussed Oxfordshire's needs with Dr Fraser of HBMC. It is hoped to prepare a package during the next few months. The field section is most grateful for an important accession of 400 aerial photograph negatives taken by him in Summer 1961 from Mr Cossar of Oxford.

Derek Elliott and James Bond have worked on transferring OAU files to the SMR. A proposal has been put to the Oxford Archaeological Advisory Committee to set up an Oxford City buildings recording scheme. It is hoped that this will be supported by the Manpower Services Commission.

(2) EARTHWORKS Medieval

COGGES. Moated Site. (PRN 4601 SP 36190962) - John Blair, John Steane.

The south-western extension of Cogges parish churchyard, acquired for burials in the early 1970s, cuts a triangular wedge into the northern moated enclosure of 'Cogges Castle' (so-called by Anthony a Wood, the 17th century antiquary, see J.M. Steane (Ed) Cogges. A Museum of Farming in the Oxfordshire Countryside, Woodstock, 1980, 35-6). In November 1985, the vicar, the Revd. I. Holdsworth, reported 'a wall of good-sized dressed stones' at a depth of c. 60cm, found during the digging of one of the last remaining graves. It was agreed that the next grave-space to the south should be investigated archaeologically and an area 2.6m by 1m was excavated in January 1986. This duly found a dressed stone footing (F4/4a) representing the west-east wall of a substantial stone building, apparently with a mortar floor (F5) on its south side. The re-used materials in F4 suggest that this was not the first stone building on or near the site. The few potsherds are in coarse black shelly or gritty fabric and cursory examination suggests that none need be later than the 12th century. It is hoped that advantage will be taken of an opportunity to excavate a further trench when the parish moves a wall, railings, and gate back to the edge of the graveyard in summer 1986. A more detailed account and plans have been lodged in the County Sites and Monuments Record. Our thanks to the vicar and church wardens for their help.

THOMLEY. Shrunken Village. (PRN 1077 SP 631090) - John Steane.

In view of the fact that discussions are now taking place to explore the possibilities of an eastern route for the M40 extension, a visit was made in January 1986 to inspect the present state of this village. Our thanks to Mr Gray, farm manager and to Mr and Mrs Peter Rowsley for access to the site. A survey of the then-existing earthworks was made in April 1979. (CBA Group 9, Newsletter, 10, 1980, 148-150) which indicated that considerable damage had already been done to the site by ploughing. On our visit the field to the south of the scheduled area showed evidence of further destruction. Heaps of worked stone, some of them burned red and evidently pieces of hearths or kilns were heaped along the hedgerow running along the field edge. Undulations and even small water-holding hollows still remained, however on the field surface and may still merit recording. Pottery was picked up with a date range 12th-14th century including glazed Brill/Boarstall ware jugs, shelly and sandy grey wares. The scheduled area south of Thornley Farm comprises less than half the area of stone and pottery scatter. There is a pronounced hollow way, mounds which may be house platforms, and ponds. The village did not extend to the north west of Thornley Hall Farm judging from the extremely thin scatter of pottery and lack of stone rubble on the surface. A quantity of flint was noticed in the eastern corner but this may well have derived from pot-hole filling activities near the field gateway.

(3) BUILDINGS Medieval

HORTON-CUM-STUDLEY. The Old Weir House.

Following a suggestion by John Marshall, field worker for Historic Buildings resurvey, and at the invitation of Mr and Mrs Oleson, a field investigation was made of this timber framed medieval house during January 1986.

The Old Weir House is a small L-shaped medieval farmhouse situated lying 100 metres back on a slope to the east of Brill Road on the northern side of the straggling settlement of Studley. It is an unusually complete example of two phases of cruck construction and may be dated to the middle of the 14th century.

Phase 1 c. 1350 AD. A two bay, one storey, and attics, built aligned north west-south east, large parts of which survive. The construction was of three pairs of base crucks of which two pairs survive each consisting of five members, that is, blades, yokes, ridge-piece and collars. The yokes are attached to the blades by pegging. They are examples of type C "typologically an early form and may be the earliest" (Smith J.T.). "The problems of cruck construction and the evidence of distribution maps" in Alcock N.W. Cruck Construction, Council for British Archaeology research report 42, 8. The rafters are pegged into the single purlins which are trenched into wedge shaped pieces of timber sitting between the wall plates and the overlapping ends of the tie beams. The rafters and the ridge piece are heavily blackened throughout the bay at the south-eastern end. They are roughly carpentered with the bark left on in a number of instances. It would appear that in Phase 1 the house consisted of a single bay hall with an open hearth. The fact that the rafters in the second bay are not blackened suggests that this bay was lofted ab initio. There seems to be one piece of original walling left, on the south side now inside the enlarged house made of wide framing with (presumably) wattle, daub and plaster. The rest of the walling has been replaced with brick of at least two dates. The south-eastern gable has been largely renewed below tie beam level; the base half of the crucks have been chopped off and the walling is now supported by spindly timbers of slight scantling filled with panels of brick. There are 2 3 light casement windows one at ground floor and the other in the gable.

Phase 2a c. 1400 AD. A loftier two bay addition was joined on to the phase 1 house. This was of similar base cruck construction and again both pairs of crucks survive in good order. The roof of the phase 2 house flies over and encloses the roof of the phase 1 building and its ridge piece is attached by a species of king post to the ridge piece of the earlier house. The extension was evidently heated by a central hearth because again all timbers are heavily smoke blackened. Strength to the roof construction was provided by a pair of heavy curved windbraces. The partition of studs, wattle and mud is attached to the collar of the easternmost of the cruck trusses. The chamber formed out of the hall of the first house was floored with a large (37 x 26 cms) cross beam and heavy rectangular joists (10 x 15 cms) with bare-faced soffit tenons, an original sleeping loft. The collar has been removed from the western of the two cruck pairs but slots for braces, 55 x 4 cms long, suggest that this may have been the end of the building for a short time, short because the western sides of the crucks are unweathered.

Phase 2b c. 1400 AD. A further bay with a pair of base crucks was possibly added to contain a smoke lobby. The fact that the purlins have sloped down towards the western-most of the crucks is an indication that this bay may have been an addition. The cambered collar has survived and the external faces of the crucks are heavily weathered. A cradle to support a louvre is found pegged into the rafters. All are smoke blackened and suggest that this short bay contained a smoke lobby.

Phase 3. The floor in the front bay of the original house may have been inserted in the 16th century when the wall framing was renewed. It has a spine beam which projects on the gable and joists with soffit tenons with diminished haunches. There are signs that the original joists have been removed all along the west side and have been renewed with ill-fitting and smaller ones. The large limestone rubble stack was also inserted into the open hall of the main range; this was now divided but a floor with spine beam and stop chamfered joists pegged from above. This evidently would have rendered the smoke bay obsolete. An early 17th century date is suggested.

Phase 4. The house was enlarged in the post-medieval period at the north east end by the addition of an end outshut built in second hand timber, brick, and thatch. The upper part of the chimney has also been rebuilt in the 20th century. All the windows have been replaced, a new entrance made at the north east gable end, and various extensions at the rear of no special architectural interest.

At the suggestion of Dr Malcolm Airs, Conservation Officer of South Oxon and following an invitation from Mr and Mrs Jessup, a field investigation was made of this medieval house in October and November 1985. A ground plan, full photographic survey and sketch perspective were made during alterations and restoration which demonstrated a number of points of interest.

The site of Jasmine Cottage, formerly "Barker's Farm", "The Thatched Cottage", is at the western end of one of the straggling lanes which make up the rather loose morphology of this village. It is well to the south west of the nucleus round the church and manor which border the large green (V.C.H. Oxon VII, 81-2). The form of the house makes it clear that late medieval settlement had spread out as far as here.

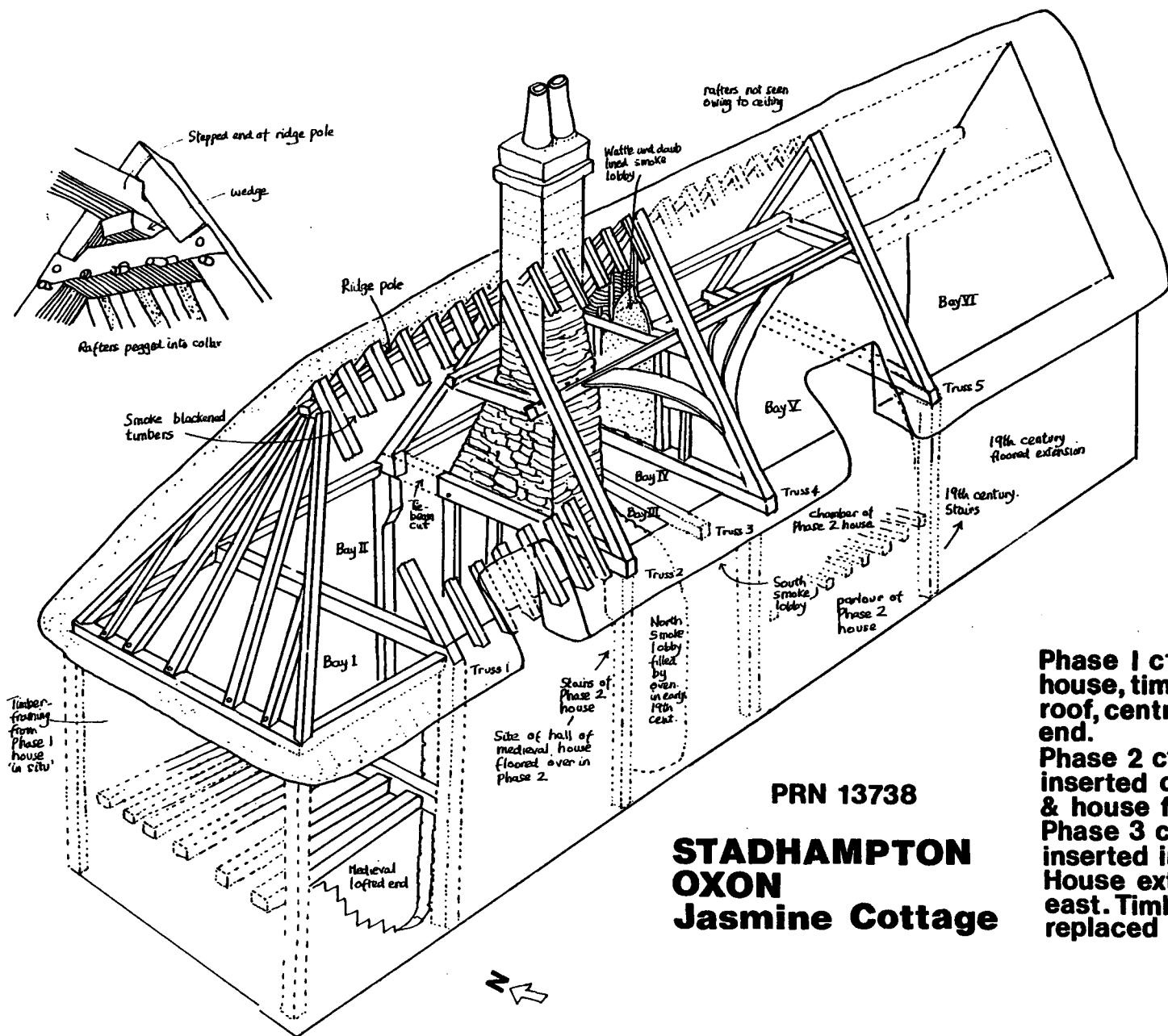
Phase 1 c. 1500. Late medieval hall-house, 3 or 4 bays in length of which there survive the western two bays, with a hipped roof, two trusses and smoke-blackened rafters, a lofted end and probably the main framing of the rear wall at least at the west end. The carpentry of the roof is crude but effective. The wall-plates and rear wall frame consist of roughly trimmed timbers; the rafters which vary from 9-14 cms in width are a series of split logs roughly flattened on the inner face with the bark still attached to the outer edges. The standard of carpentry improves at the west end where all structural timbers are squared off. The final truss before the rafters slope down to the end wall of the house is locked by a saddle with half-lapped joints to which the rafters are pegged; the ridge pole, 15 x 11 cms, is stepped under it. The end wall plate is a re-used piece. Samples of timber were submitted to Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew; Paula Rudall kindly commented that Poplar (Populus sp) or Willow, (Salix sp) had been used for the springy wattle from the west side of the partition between bays 2 and 3 above the collar. The battens which judging from the degree of smoke blackening may be original, are of riven oak.

Phase 2 c. 1600. A major reconstruction took place involving the replacement of the central hearth by a double smoke bay. This involved the reconstruction of the middle and eastern end of the house. The timber framing is of a higher quality of carpentry than that of the previous phase, all the main timbers being squared off. The principal posts are jowled with straight undercut edges; seated on them are tie beams from which spring the principal rafters and collars. The smoke bay is partitioned by means of a single tie beam. The next truss to the east has two pairs of curved windbraces lying on the backs of the single purlins.

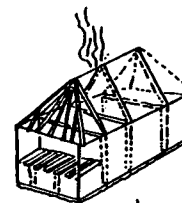
At the same time a further bay to the east was a replacement or an addition. This has been cut about, as have the other trusses, to incorporate doors and a corridor which now runs along the house on the north side at first floor level. A floor was inserted extending the medieval loft at the west end. A first floor chamber was also an integral part of the rebuilding of the centre and east end of the house. It rests on a central lateral beam with wide chamfering and simple stops.

Phase 3 c. 1820. Another improvement was made to the heating system by inserting a chimney with a tapering stone stack and massive timber lintelled fireplaces at ground floor into the western of the two smoke lobbies. At the same time a stone oven was added in the gap between the chimney and the south wall. From the space above the oven and the floor were recovered a pair of much worn leather shoes [dated by Miss J. Swann, Northampton Museum] a single shoe, 2 eye shields, 2 wooden pill boxes, a tanged knife blade, a bone domino, a rag-doll limb, a piece of curtain tape with rings, a lead weight, a wooden button, an eye piece from a pair of spectacles, 9 iron nails, a fragment of a newspaper dated 1814, some straw fragments, some in a bundle. This assemblage will be the subject of a future note when it has been drawn and studied. Two further additions were made to the house; a bay was added in stone at the east end and a stone front replaced the timber framing all along the south front. The timber-framed dairy now in separate ownership at the rear may well date from the 19th century but this was not investigated.

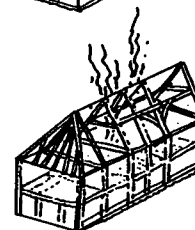
Our thanks to the owners Mr and Mrs Jessup for permission to carry out recording.



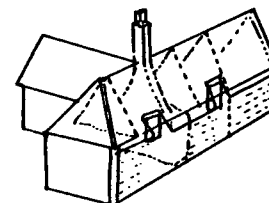
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PRN 13738

STADHAMPTON OXON Jasmine Cottage

Phase 1 c1500. Late medieval hall-house, timber-framed with hipped roof, central hearth, lofted at west end.

Phase 2 c1600. Double smoke bays inserted centrally. One bay added, & house floored throughout.

Phase 3 c1800-20. Chimney & oven inserted into western smoke bay. House extended by one bay to east. Timber framing in south wall replaced with stone. Dairy added.

CHECKENDON COURT. (PRN 2030 SU 66128310) - John Steane

A field investigation was made in October 1985 at the request of South Oxfordshire District Council.

(1) Location. Checkendon Court is situated a few hundred metres to the north west of the church which constitutes one node of the scattered forest edge settlement of Checkendon. It is surrounded by the remains of a once extensive park the boundaries of which are shown on an estate map hanging in the hall of the house. This was drawn in 1711 by William Burnham of Watlington and shows the extent of the estate of Anthony Lybbe. The lines of the park in the early 18th century appears to have enclosed the church, then proceeded north via Church Copse, went south of Lovicrofts Pond and then curved round to the west of the Checkendon Court. To the south of the church in 1711 were a series of small enclosures of irregular shape, doubtless won from the forest and waste. These were absorbed in the park when it was extended in the later 18th and 19th centuries and a narrow belt of woodland was planted along its edge.

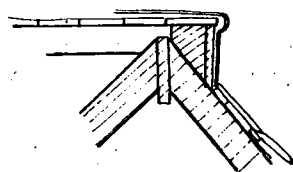
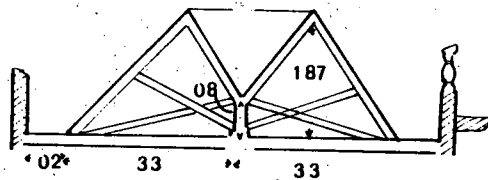
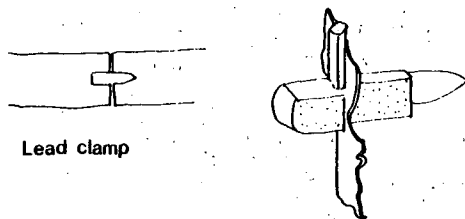
(2) The house is aligned south-east, north west with its main approach from the village to the south-east. It now consists of a main domestic range running approximately south-east-north-west, with a series of four short wings built at right angles to the south. There is an elaborate layout to the east, including a sunken garden, a pond and a pergola, extensive lawns to the south and further lawns and a bowling green to the north. The kitchen, staff quarters and workhouse are built round a court to the west. The main range consists of 3 gabled bays, is built of brick and is two full stories and attics in height. It appears from the drawing of the house in the right hand bottom corner of the 1711 estate map that the general design of the house at it has come down to us in 1985, dates from the late 17th century. The field archaeological evidence suggests however that it has been considerably altered and extended. It stands on a flint plinth topped by a triple brick coping. The north-west bay is faced in light pink brick and there is a straight joint between this and the central and north-east bays. The brick size is 23 x 6 x 11cms and the bricks are distinguished by their sandy creases. There is a platband, three bricks thick, running between the ground and first floors, a feature which appears on the 1711 survey. It would appear that the house has been extended at both ends judging from the fact that the gables on the north front in the early 18th century drawing seem to meet the gables at the ends of the house; whereas now there is an additional space which is utilised at the western end for the insertion of a window. The windows have all been renewed in the 20th century. They are timber framed with mullions and transoms and leaded lights. It is possible that the form of the square headed multiple lights in the northern gables is retained from the house as it was in the early 18th century. The chimneys on this range have been rebuilt but the area on the right (looking from the north) occupies the same position relative to the roofline. The visible roof timbers confirm this analysis. The central bay survives intact with principal rafters, collars, tie beams, one range of butt purlins, common rafters halved and pegged. The other two bays have been restructured to make more headroom by lifting the purlins, probably in the 20th century.

This main range had one or two two-bay wings at the rear so the plan form was originally T-shaped. I suspect that the principal staircase was always in the western of these two rear wings. There is a good oak staircase, apparently 17th century, which may be original. The inside of the house has been so gutted and refurbished that almost every feature is suspect. The modern plaster ceilings, on the ground floor, for instance are a pastiche. The walling at the rear of the western of these two wings is of chequered brick, orange stretchers and blue headers. The two sash windows at first floor level are possibly mid 18th century in date, the frames are unpainted a device used to match the unpainted frames of the rest of the fenestration of the house. The 5 light square headed window in the gable is 17th century in form but has infact been renewed.

The rest of the house is modern. I suspect that the eastern side was remodelled in the early 20th century. When a stone colonnade was introduced to contain windows opening out on the garden. The gable at this point seems to follow the lines of the 17th century house. The "drawing-room" with oriel window, I should imagine was built within the last 5 years. The wing to the south of the "dining-room" is early to mid 20th century in date.

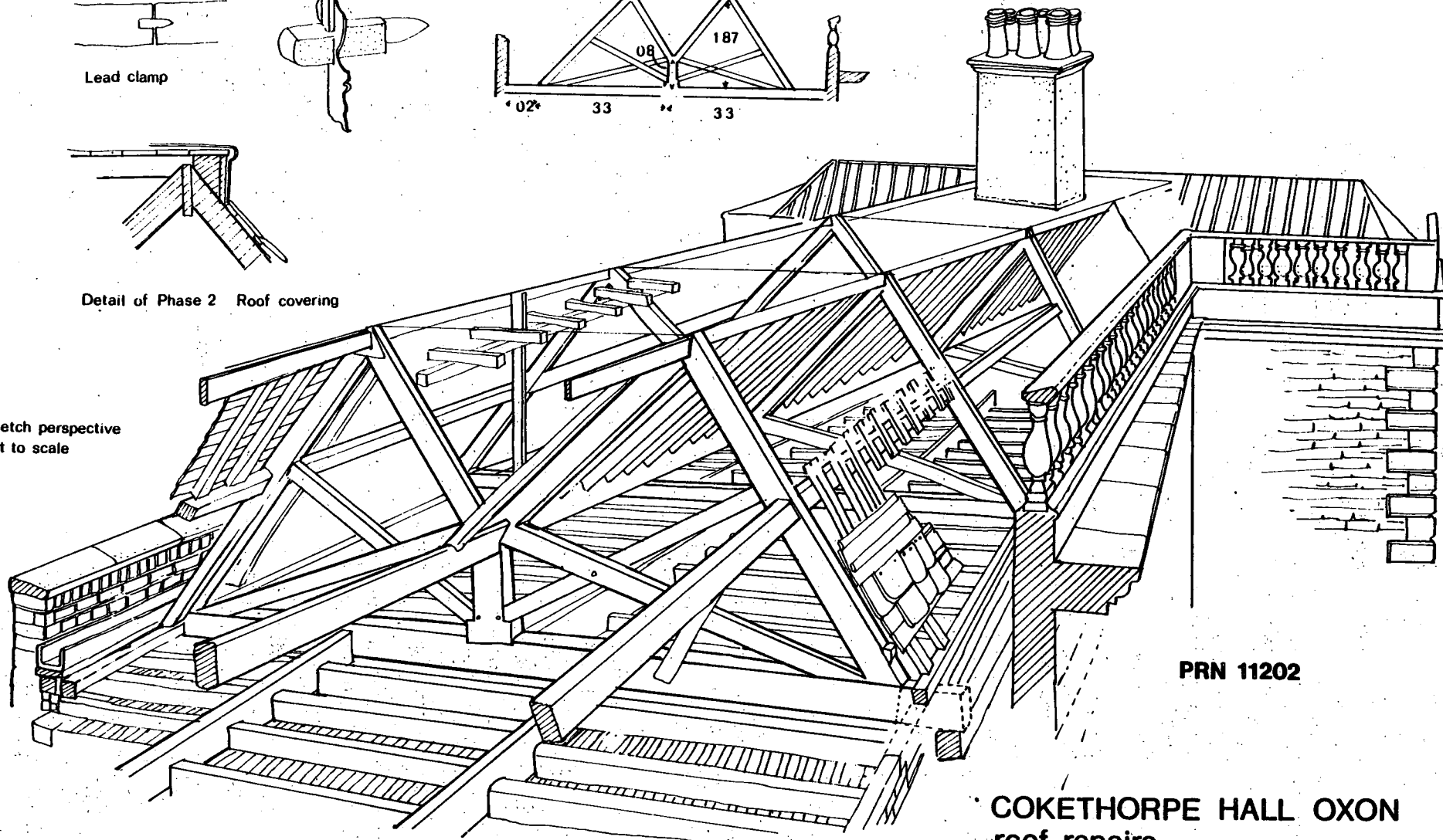
COKETHORPE PARK. (PRN 11202 SP 37100620) - John Steane.

During summer 1985 repairs were undertaken to this Grade II listed building, now a school. At the invitation of the Headmaster, and with the good offices of the Bursar and Mr Nightingale, an investigation of part of the roof structure was carried out. The mansion was begun in 1709 for Sir Simon Harcourt, but there seems some doubt as to how it acquired its present appearance (Sherwood J. and Pevsner N. The Buildings of England, Oxfordshire, Harmondsworth, 1979, 633-4). Sherwood considers that "the pedimented west front" is early 18th century in date. The roof of the north west wing was under scaffolding and investigated. It proved to have two phases of construction. The first phase roof consisted of tie beams set into the masonry walls; from the centre were strutted king-posts which supported a through purlin. The principal rafters, instead of rising in one sweep to the apex, doubled back and were jointed into the king posts, thus forming a roof, which was an inverted W in design. The common rafters were supported on single purlins. These were covered with deal boards to which the Cotswold slates were attached. Aesthetically this produced an efficient but low profile roof structure, largely masked from below by the balustrade. The second phase, probably 20th century in date, involved boarding over the centre valley; this then was covered in lead. One other structural detail of interest was noted; the use of lead clamps to hold the stones of the balustrade together. A photographic record, and one of the lead clamps, have been lodged in the County Museum.



Detail of Phase 2 Roof covering

Sketch perspective
not to scale



COKETHORPE HALL OXON
roof repairs

JMS 86

A field investigation of this house was carried out on 19 December 1985 by J.M. Steane and B. Gilmour at the request of West Oxfordshire District Council. A brief description of the exterior of the building appears in the addition to the provisional list of buildings of architectural or historic interest HB/5356/274 47 dated 22 January, 1985 but the investigator did not apparently penetrate into the interior. The basement proved to be of some interest.

The building lies back from Mill Street with a drive in and garden at the front. There is a large rectangular garden. It is clearly of three phases.

(1) Phase 1 c. 1705. A two storey building, one room deep on a high basement. The main range is of square limestone coursed rubble with ashlar dressings. There are 5 windows in two ranges, with projecting keystones and stone cills. The central bay is surmounted by a low pitched pedimented gable with a coping in the form of a raking cornice. The cornice continues along the front and round the sides of the phase 1 house. Access is up a flight of 12 steps flanked by simple iron railing. The date of this may well be c. 1810. The front door is 8 panelled, and there is a wooden hood supported by two cast iron brackets.

The basement is lit by similar window openings flat heads with projecting keystones and stone cills, with wooden framed 2 light windows - with iron casement windows and leaded lights; they appear to be original.

The rooms in the basement open from a stone flagged passage. The first to the right is long and narrow with shelving at waist level on two sides and at head level on other two sides. The ceiling is plastered. There are a series of hooks driven into the joists; it is ventilated by a splayed ventilation slit which originally opened north but now opens into the phase 3 coach house. The windows are furnished with wooden shutters. The room is likely to have been the dairy and/or larder with shelves for pans of milk and cream, and hooks for bacon. The room on the left hand side has blackened timbers, with original joists, no ceiling, lit by 2, 2 facing south light windows and 1, 3 light facing west with similar leaden lights to those in the dairy.

There is deal wainscot. The large fireplace in the north wall has been subsequently reduced in size and partly blocked. There are signs that a brick lined copper was inserted to the left of the fireplace but the upper part has been adapted as a cupboard. The wine cellar is the third room. This has a brick barrel vault, brick size 23 x 5 x 10 cms springing from low limestone rubble walls. There are slots for posts which may have support shelving. At the end of the cellar there are six brick niches, brick size 23 x 7 x 10cms. The depth of the niches is 82cms. It would seem that the phase one lateral racking arrangements were replaced by the insertion of the six niches using larger bricks. The stairs leading down into the basement have been inserted by cutting through one of the main beams holding the floor above and so are likely to be phase two in date.

(2) Phase 2. The house was doubled in size c. 1810 by the addition of a further unit one room in thickness, this extension is built in limestone rubble and is lit at the rear overlooking the garden by 16 pane sash windows, with thin glazing bars. The design which is not quite symmetrical is of two storeys on a continuation of the high basement. The roof is tall and hipped.

The basement of the rear extension has two large stone flagged rooms.

- (a) That facing west has a window with wooden frames and iron bars. There is a stone lined cistern, 1m 30cms x 90cms, with a depth of 90cms under the floor which is supported on shallow brick arches 30cms in thickness. There is a central stone slab with an iron ring. There is no clue as to the function of this room.
- (b) The second room facing east has a set of very deep wooden shelved cupboards with a grill allowing air to ventilate from the central passage. A cupboard made in the thickness of the partition faces out into the passage at shoulder level. Around two sides of the room are low stone platforms. There is a hook screwed into a joist in the ceiling. The walls are whitewashed. This is likely to have been the buttery or maybe still room where jars of pickled eggs, possibly pickled pork, jams, preserves were kept in the cupboards and maybe butts of ale on the low stone platforms.

(3) Phase 3. Mid 19th century. A coach house and offices were added with segmental headed windows and projecting keystones. The basement here has a high ceiling with flagged floor and a stone channel and drain along the south side. There is a battery of 3 ovens/coppers. In the right corner is the broken down remains of a large copper which has had the iron basin removed ruining the structure in the process. The central feature appears to have been a brick fireplace (brick size 23 x 7½ x 11cms) which has had a copper inserted in the centre but here again the lining of the copper has been removed. The circular wooden cover still remains. To the left is a bake oven of limestone rubble with curved corners and a red brick arch underneath. It is brick vaulted. The structure which shows signs of modern reconstruction is finished off with a coping of 2 projecting brick courses. There is a small stone trough on the right hand side under the window but no sign of a pump. There is an iron rail hanging from 4 iron hooks driven into the ceiling joists. The room appears to have been used as the laundry and bake oven but the water-source is not apparent. Maybe it was transported in pails through the doorway, now blocked in the east wall.

There is little of interest in the rooms at both 1st and 2nd storey levels. The roof structure of the phase 1 building is hipped, inverted W in section with coupled rafters, no principals and insubstantial purlins with collars at intervals. The Phase 2 building has butt purlins, principal rafters and is hipped. The Phase 3 building has machine sawn king post trusses.

A brief account of the architectural fragments from Eynsham Abbey is to be found appended to the listed building description.

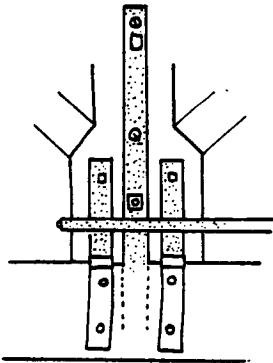
During summer 1985 the college decided to undertake repairs and refurbishing of the hall. Following a suggestion of Julian Munby and with the co-operation of the college bursar, the Museum arranged for two in-service students to record the hall roof in some detail. An account of the progress of the buildings appears in V.C.H. Oxon III, 1954, 283-8 when it is noted that the bulk of them, the front quadrangle, and chapel and library wings, date from the foundation period 1610-1613 and preserve a rare example of "the early 17th century idea of what a collegiate building should be, on a free site" (p.283). The rapid rate of building is partly explained by the city's insistence in selling the site that the college should be built within five years. Some of the timber came from Lord Norrey's estate at Cumnor and was worked up on site but some oak and elm boarding was bought as in 10-15 September, 1610. This emphasis on hurry meant that "very little attention was paid to the seasoning of the wood before fixing".

The hall roof, already described briefly in Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, City of Oxford, HMSO, 1939, 122, consists of six bays of hammer beam type. The chamfered hammer posts, curved and moulded braces and beams rest on stone corbels, enriched with moulding and an egg design. The side posts which support the lower collars have moulded bases and pierced bulbous pendants. There are pointed arched braces to the lower collars with pierced and pointed spandrels. The side posts are supported by curved lion headed struts with fleur-de-lys ornament projecting from their upper and lower faces. Pairs of moulded windbraces in each bay are pointed and support the lower moulded purlins. From their junction hang more bulbous, pierced pendants. Queen posts, supported by curved struts with grotesques and scrolls, spring from the lower to the upper collar, the upper purlin is moulded along two edges. There is a hexagonal louvre over the third bay from the south but the timber framing which is sitting on the upper purlins was not visible. The mullions and transoms are of timber (ovolo moulded), and the windows are filled with leaded lights. Three additional observations were made of some interest; the framing was in many cases loose and the timbers did not fit the joints. This appears to have been less the fault of inaccurate carpentry than the result of using unseasoned timber. Altogether 234 carpenters marks were recorded by rubbing; an analysis of these is in preparation and it is hoped to descry the hands of a number of carpenters who are mentioned in the building accounts. When the fillets were moved between the truss and the west wall a quantity of rubbish, slates and plaster were dislodged. In this material were dessicated pieces of lemon and a number of small leather-covered and string balls, varying in size from a ping-pong ball to a squash ball; doubtless they were thrown here during some college feast ! They have been submitted to the Wimbledon tennis museum for comment. Plans, section, photographs are lodged in the County Sites and Monuments record.

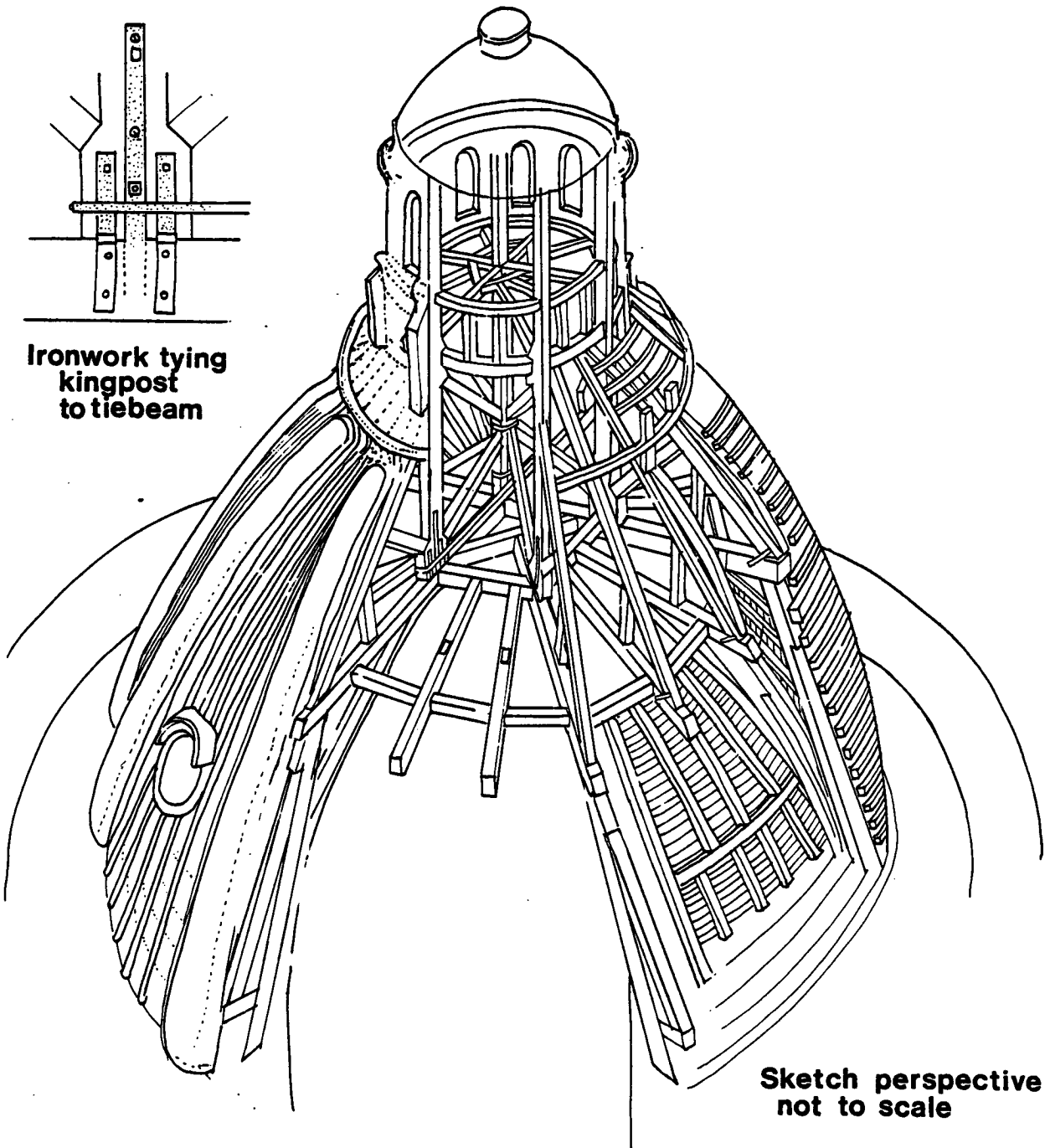
During Summer 1985 the University surveyor carried out his quinquennial inspection of the fabric and the dome was (fortunately for us) shrouded in scaffolding. Thanks to the kindness of the Curator of the Radcliffe Camera and the University surveyor, a visit was arranged for J. Ashdown, J. Munby, C. Hewett and J.M. Steane which led to a number of subsequent investigations when the timber framing between the plaster inner dome and the leaden outer covering was recorded. A photographic record, some measurements and a sketch perspective were made and lodged in the County Museum.

Detailed accounts of the building of the Radcliffe Camera have appeared already (S.G. Gillam 'The Radcliffe Library', V.C.H. Oxon III, 1954, 55-6; S.G. Gillam 'The Building Accounts of the Radcliffe Camera', Oxford Hist. Soc. NS XIII, 1958). Here it is interesting to compare the carpenters, and smiths, estimates with the work done. It seems that the plans for the roofing of the dome were changed at the last minute. Apparently it was originally designed to be stone-covered and the masons actually built 6ft of the ring. On 20 April Gibbs, the architect suggested that it would be more advisable to finish the dome in wood and lead since no dome of such a size had been built in England - (presumably with the exception of St Pauls which has an inner dome, a brick core and an outer timber framework covered with lead). He describes the construction as "all of Heart of Oak, being an excellent Piece of carpentry well considered and executed in the best Manner, the Ends of the Timbers being fixed in Shoes of Metal, to preserve them from any Damp that might affect them from the Stone". (Friedman T. James Gibbs, London, 1984 p. 250). John Phillips' proposal for the carpentry of the dome 'agreeable to the Second Modell' (presumably the timber and lead version) was delivered in March 1742 and he assured that the work would be completed within a year. By February 1743 he and Jeremiah Franklin had put up the necessary scaffolds for the plumber. Devall's estimate for covering the dome with 41 tons of the best Derbyshire lead came to £830 and the eventual bill came to £1,298, involving the use of 63 tons of lead. The dome was apparently completed by the end of March 1743 (Gillam 1958, XVI).

James Gibbs published an elaborate advertisement under the title Bibliotheca Radcliviana or A Short Description of the Radcliffe Library at Oxford, 1747, with plans, elevations, sections and ornamental details. This contains two cross sections, the first showing the dome in stone, the second with a timber framework and lead covering. The framing ultimately completed by the carpenter does not correspond to the section published by the architect in two particulars. There is, in fact, a central post, sitting at the junction of the two main tie-beams, which receives the struts from the series of eight king-posts carrying the framing of the cupola. This central post is missing from the architect's engraving. Secondly the timber framing is greatly strengthened by a series of iron ties. The king-posts are tied and bolted by right-angled cramps to the tie beams. There are also iron ties, 11ft 6½" long, running horizontally above the tie beams across the centre of the dome and attached to opposite pairs of king-posts. Minor iron strengthening ties are bolted across the junction of the principal rafters and the tie-beams. All this Smith's work is likely on archaeological grounds to be original. It is difficult to imagine how it could possibly be fitted unless the dome was taken to pieces but there are some additional steel braces and collars which are later; they are easily distinguishable by their surface smoothness from the 18th century wrought iron smith's work. An example is the collar round the central post.



**Ironwork tying
kingpost
to tiebeam**



**Sketch perspective
not to scale**

OXFORD RADCLIFFE CAMERA DOME August 1985

JMS 86

Fig. 33

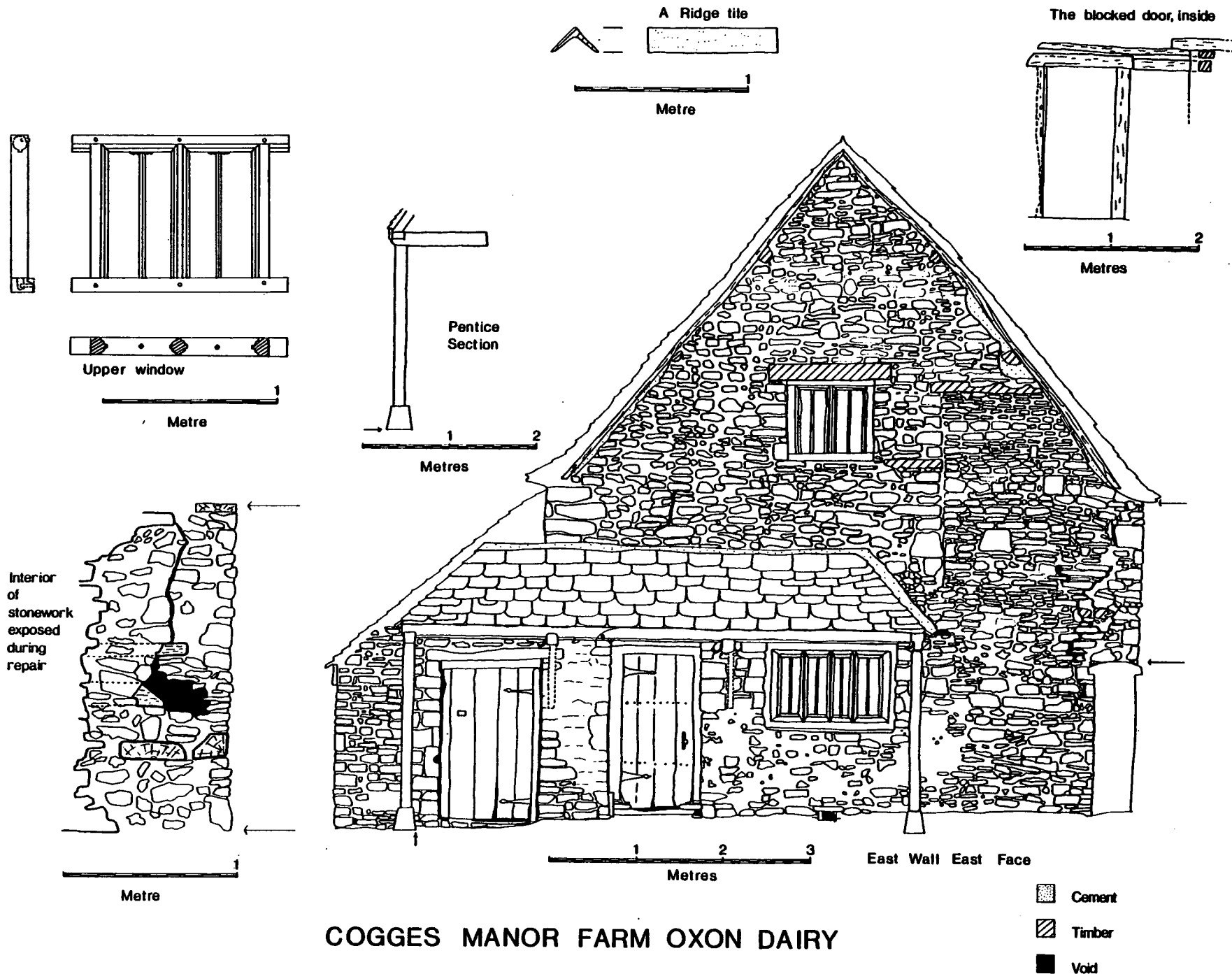
(5) AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS

COGGES MANOR FARM. Dairy. (PRN 4601). - John Steane, Leigh Turner, Simon Smithson, Beverley Garrett.

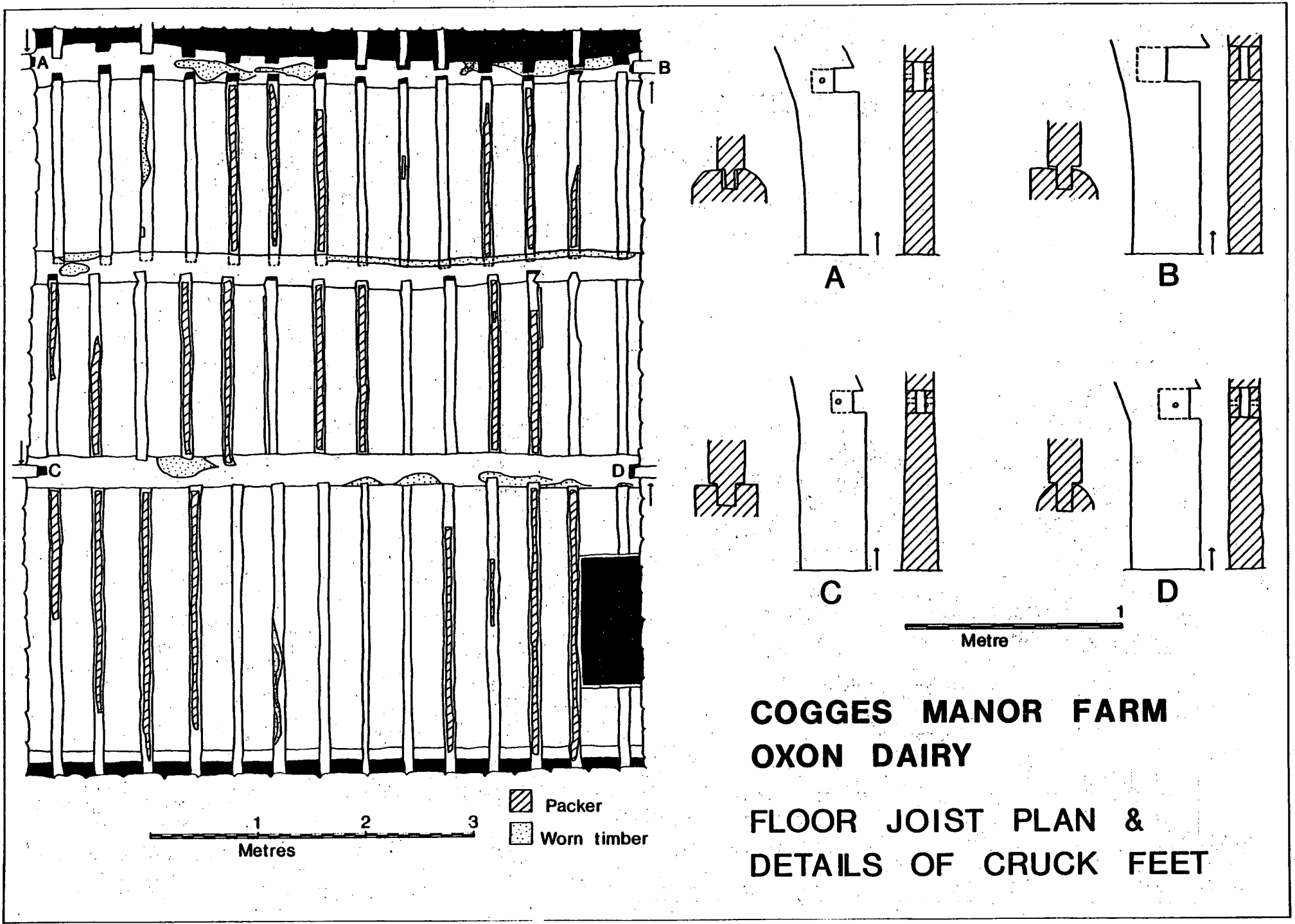
The dairy has now been restored and was re-opened to the public in the summer of 1985. Further detailed records were made by the museum in-service trainees during building works. These have included stone by stone surveys of the exterior walls as various alterations were made, a close study of the raised cruck roof structure, floor board and floor beam surveys. Each piece of structural timber was studied. Thanks are due to the considerable help given to the students by the architect Daryl Fowler.

In general the account given last year in South Midland Archaeology 15, 1985, 87-89, still stands. Among observations made during restoration (1) The raised cruck feet have been notched and slotted to take spurs which presumably supported wall plates. Since these appear to fit the present building so well it may be suggested that they were re-used from an earlier phase when, may be the building was wholly or partly timber-framed in construction. If the suggestion that the 'dairy' in its first phase was the kitchen then an upper timber framed storey would not be out of place. The obvious difficulty is the lack of smoke blackening on the timbers. Smoke blackening was noticed on the roof timbers of the kitchens at Corpus Christi College and Lincoln College despite the fact that those kitchens had laterally placed chimneys in the middle ages. (2) A number of second hand timbers had been built into the corners, lacing and strengthening them when 'the dairy' was shortened at both ends. These included joists which may have been removed from the floor of the building when it was truncated.

Fig. 34

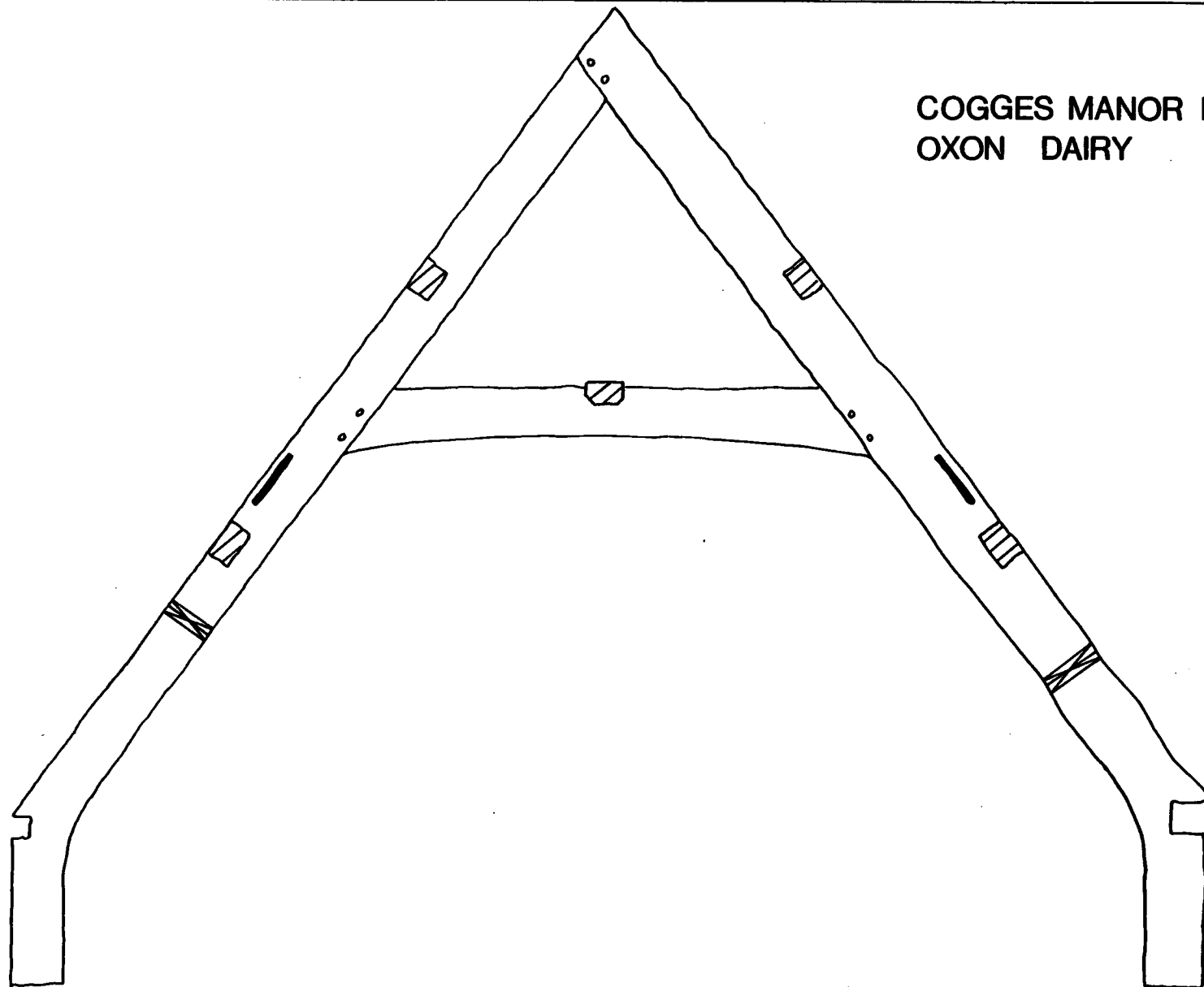


COGGES MANOR FARM OXON DAIRY



West Truss
East Face

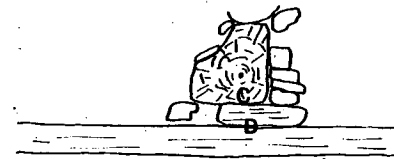
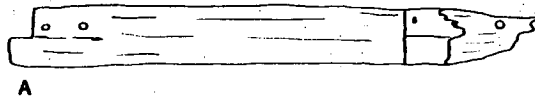
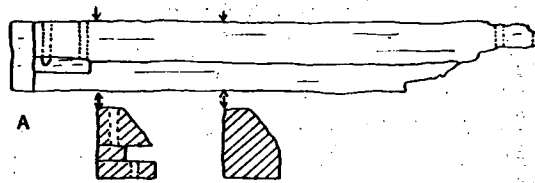
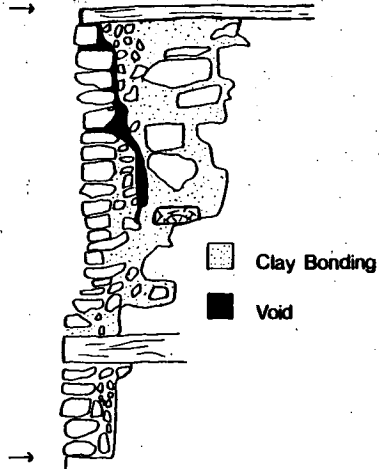
COGGES MANOR FARM
OXON DAIRY



 Timber: section

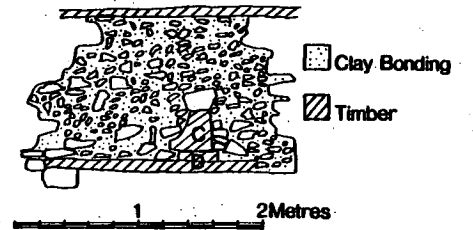
1 2 Metres

Interior exposed during repair



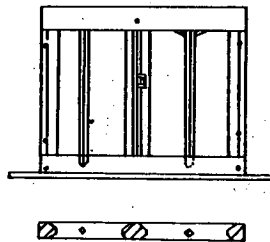
1Metre

Stonework above west window exposed during repair

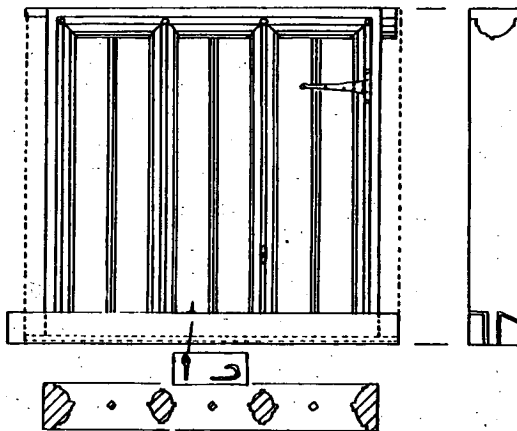


1 2Metres

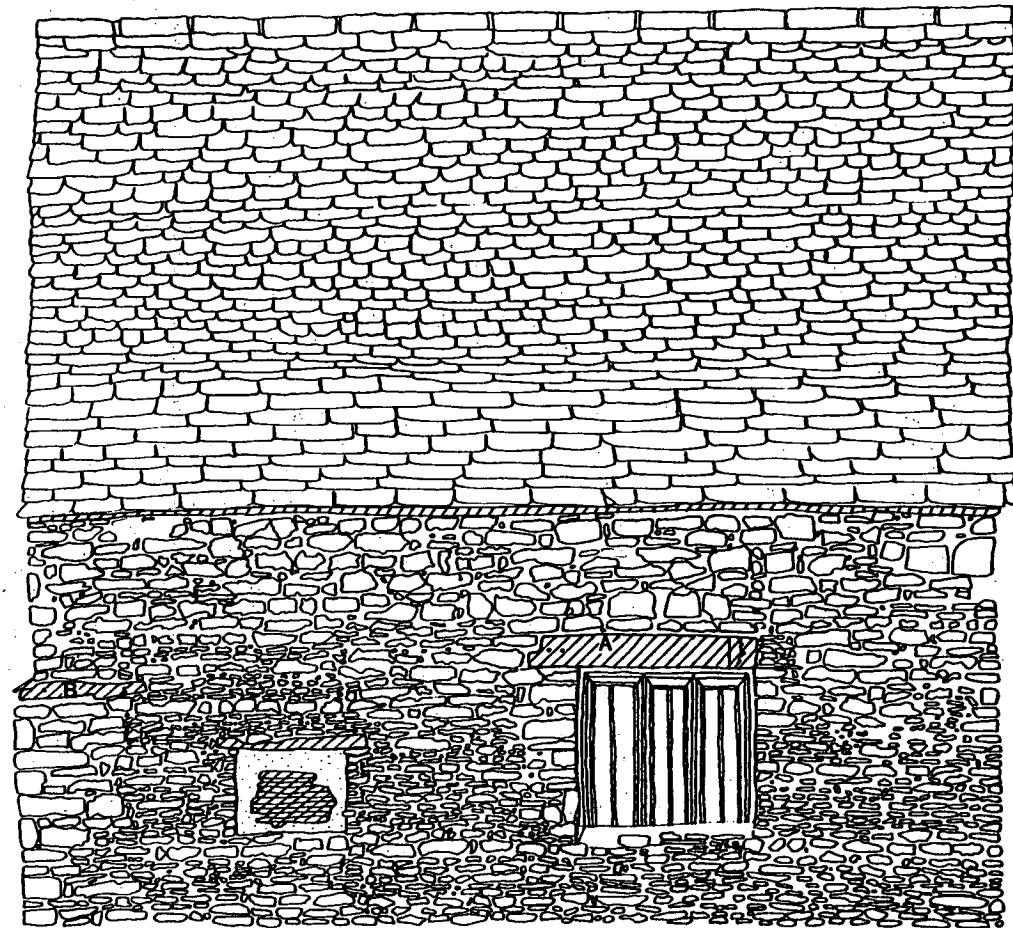
Interior of East Window



West Window



1Metre



North Wall North Face

1 2Metres

COGGES MANOR FARM OXON DAIRY

A field investigation was made in August 1985 by John Steane, Ralph Isserlin and Paul Jarvis. Ralph Isserlin wrote this report.

The Barn at Rectory Farm, Northmoor, Oxon is a seven bay structure, 11.97m (39ft 6in) long, and 7.22m (22ft 4in) wide. It is aligned EW, and lies immediately to the East of the churchyard of the Church of St Denys. It forms part of a complex of historic buildings of the present day farm. From the exterior it is of unremarkable appearance : its roof is clad in corrugated iron and its walls are timber weatherboarding.

Four massive medieval cruck trusses form part of the original structure, and help divide the interior into bays. The length of the bays is as follows: dimensions given for Northern end only: Bay 1 : 3.69m (12ft 1in). Bay 2 : 3.71m (12ft 2in). Bay 3 : 3.68m (12ft). Bay 4 : 3.40m (11ft 2in). Bay 5 : 3.57m (11ft 8in). Bay 6 : 3.60m (11ft 9in). Bay 7 : 3.60m (11ft 9in). Bay 4 with its opposing double doors, acted as a threshing-floor. Bay 1 has had its northern wall removed to permit the introduction of modern farm machinery. Ancient but now blocked, doorways are visible in the northern walls of bays 2 and 6, and one 2.20m (6ft 11in) and 2.50m (7ft 11in) high respectively. All the crucks now rest on the sill beams, with the exception of those on either side of bay 4, which rest on padstones including the upper rail, the total height of the northern wall is 2.58m (8ft 2in). Crucks and wall were articulated by means of spurs, which were lap-jointed to the crucks and pegged. The purlins for the roof are trussed into the back of the crucks, and secured thereto by windbraces. These survive intact on either side of the northern member of cruck 3; slots indicating their former presence can be seen on trusses 2 and 4. Scotchies for rearing up the completed trusses can be seen on crucks 3 and 4.

The crucks and panelling rest on top of dwarf walling 0.85m (2ft 9in) high, and 0.54m (1ft 9in) thick and are clad in weatherboarding. The crucks may be described as follows - Crucks 1-4 only are dealt with as being of real architectural relevance in detail.

<u>TRUSS 1</u>	<u>Apex</u>	blades held by a saddle (Alcock Type C.)
	<u>Blades</u>	straight, above a smoothly curving lower part (Alcock Type T).
	<u>Arch</u>	
	<u>braces</u>	straight collar with knee-braces chamfered flush with and tenoned into blades and collar, and pegged. Collar tenoned and pegged onto blade on one side only.

Total height of Truss: 6.88m (22ft 5in) to base of saddle.

Width of truss: 6.84m (22ft 3in) (internal measurement at base of cruck).

Width of collar: not recorded.

TRUSS 2 Apex blade probably held together diagonally as saddle missing. (Alcock Type E ?).

Blades single smooth curve (Alcock Type C).

Arch

brace straight collar; knee braces chamfered flush with blades and brace, but with gap at elbow, tenoned and pegged, central stop abutted by brace joints protrudes from base of collar. Collar tenoned and pegged into blades.

Total height of Truss: 7.57m (24ft 8in) to surviving apex.

Width of Truss: 6.85m (22ft 3in) internal measurement at base cruck.

Width of Collar: approx. 2.28m (7ft 6in).

TRUSS 3 Apex saddle missing (sawn off).

Blades elbowed (Alcock Type E).

Arch

brace straight collar, two brace - braces chamfered, tenoned and pegged flush with blades and brace. Collar tenoned, but not apparently pegged into blades. Two peg holes symmetrically placed about centre of collar. Purpose unclear : to support a king post, now vanished along with the saddle perhaps ?

Total height of Truss - 7.14m (23ft 6in) to surviving apex.

Width of Truss: 6.72m (22ft 0in) (internal measurement at base).

Width of Collar: 2.23m (7ft 9in).

TRUSS 4 Apex blades held by a saddle (Alcock Type C).

Blades single smooth curve (Alcock Type C).

Arch

brace straight collar; brace brass chamfered, tenoned and pegged into blade and knee. Collar tenoned and pegged on one side only.

Total Height of Truss: 7.82m (25ft 8in) to top of collar.

Total Width of Truss: 6.72m (22ft 0in) (internal measurement at base).

Width of Collar: 2.14m (7ft 0in).

THICKNESS OF CRUCKS - Trusses 1 and 2 are 0.2 x 34m (8in x 1ft 1in) (average).

 Trusses 3 and 4 are 0.22 x 38m (9in x 1ft 3in) (maximum) at base.

It is likely from the thickness of the crucks that trusses 3 and 4 are contemporary and that trusses 1 and 2 were contemporary. However, the very varied nature of details of the carpentry as a whole suggests that some material may have been re-used from elsewhere. Thus, in cruck 3, for example, the southern knee brace is secured to the blade by seven pegs, the northern end is not so secured. By contrast, the south knee brace in cruck 4 is secured by no pegs, while the northern end is secured by 4. In trusses 1 and 2 the distribution of pegs securing the knee brace is somewhat less capricious and argues for internal cohesion between the two couples as a pair. On Cruck 1 the knee braces are secured by four or five pegs to the blades, and in Cruck 2 there are no pegs at all. Moreover there are gaps at the elbow of the knee braces on Truss 2, which do not occur elsewhere. The profile of the blades themselves is consistent within each of the couples. Two of the saddles are missing too; in Crucks 1 and 4 where the saddle does survive, it is held in place by four pegs and is a feature common to both pairs.

That such a range of detail occurs within four trusses is remarkable, and against the normal tenets of the uniformity of medieval craftsmanship. The conclusion must be that (in the absence of more detailed analysis) not only was inferior workmanship being carried out, but that a variety of sources were used for the wood, some of which was re-used, other bits of which were designed specifically for the project. This would perhaps be consistent with a structure of such low status, where inferior material could be used, not in the public eye, and appropriate to a rural building.

Trusses 5, 6 and 7 are not crucks, but simple "post-and-truss" cross frames. Tie-beams, into which the principal rafters are tenoned, rest on the main posts, and so divide the western part of the barn into bays 5, 6 and 7. Internal coherence was promoted by the use of lengths of purlin, tenoned, not trenched, into the principal rafters at the back of the collar, which was also tenoned into the rafter. Rigidity was further achieved by lengths of windbraces connecting purlin and rafter, at the level of the collar, and also between it and the tie beam.

Apart from the blocking of doorways in bays 3 and 4, there are other indications of alterations to the structure. Tie-beams are missing from the end crucks, suggesting that there were two more bays originally, one at each end. Again, the remains of further purlins can be seen, notably on the east face of the northern cruck of truss 1.

The chronology of the development of the building may be reconstructed as follows:

Phase 1 (14th century)

A seven bay barn was constructed, with stone dwarf walls and timber superstructure. Crucks 1, 2, 3 and 4 date from the period, as do the (now vanished) East and West end walls, held together by tie beams. The sill beams also date from this period. Crucks 1 and 2 were purpose-built, but Crucks 3 and 4 may have been re-used from another building. Crucks 5, 6 and 7 no longer exist from this period.

Phase 2 (16th-17th century)

Alteration took place in the west part of the building, crucks 5, 6 and 7 and the upright immediately to the west of cruck 4 were added as replacements for their (now vanished) predecessors. The motivation for this is not known. The timber walling now standing was added and connected to the crucks by windbraces. The doorways seen in plan and elevation as blocked, eg. in Bays 2 and 4 were in use.

Phase 3 (? 19th century)

The end walls were removed and replaced. Weatherboarding was added to side walls, the doorways in the side walls were blocked and the present sets of opposing double doors in bay 4 were added.

Phase 4 (20th century)

The building was re-roofed in corrugated iron, and the north wall of Bay 1 demolished to permit the introduction of farm machinery.

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