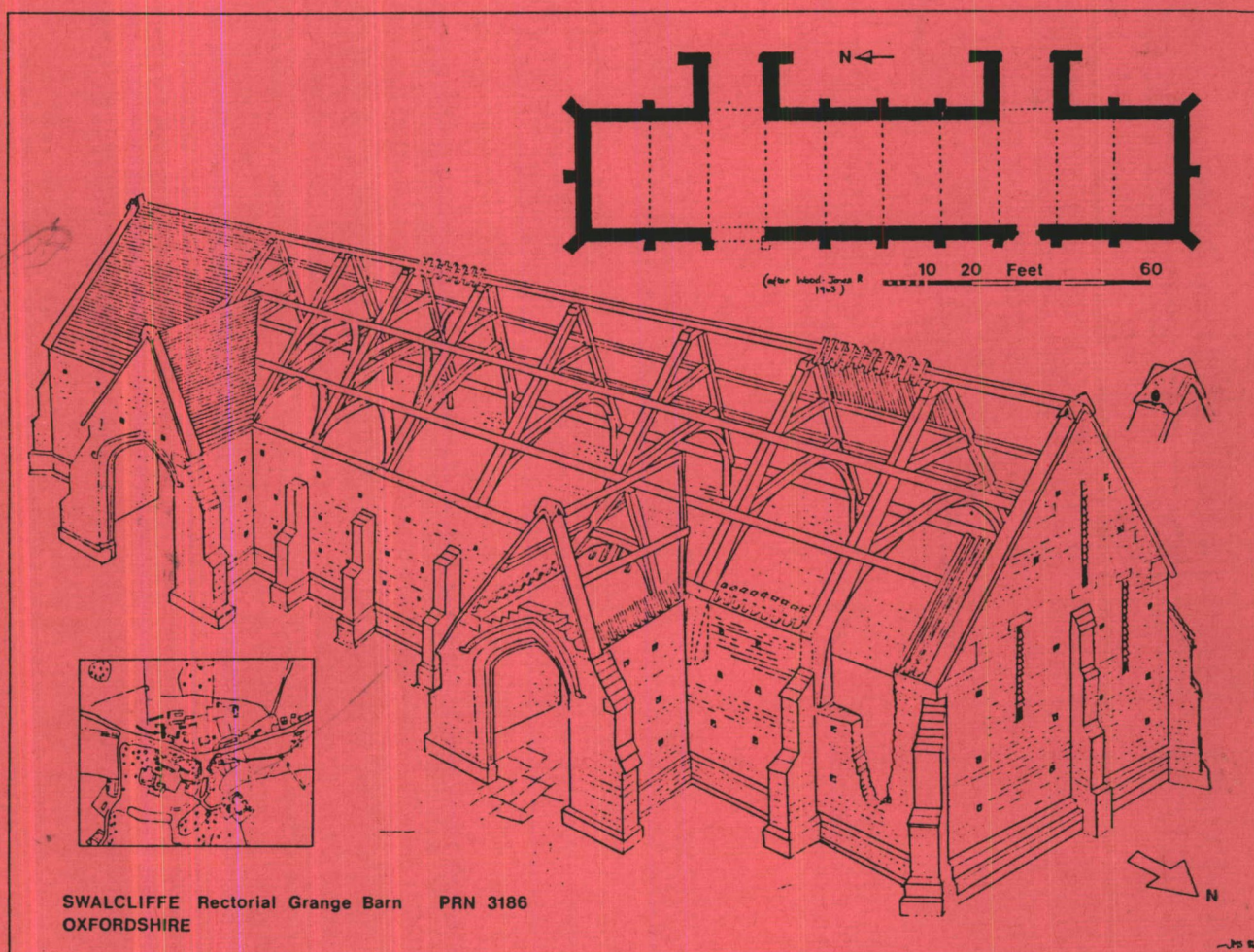


SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

17
1987



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SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

NUMBER 17, 1987

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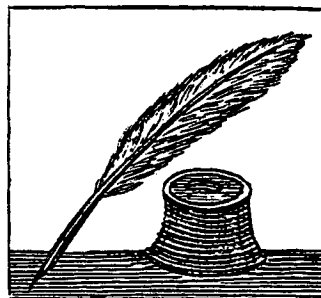
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EDITORIAL



This year's volume of South Midlands Archaeology is, I regret later than ever. It seems that a deadline for contributions from the units and societies in the early spring is no longer feasible. Even now, some units have been unable to provide material for this issue. Still, we do appear within the year of publication, as shown on the cover and title-page!

Financially we are still holding our heads above water - just. Your committee would still welcome suggestions for improving South Midlands Archaeology and would like ideas on holding other events like the successful seminar on Recording Historic Buildings, held by the Group earlier this year.

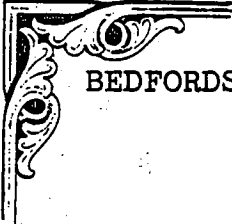
There have been suggestions that we try to publish an index for the first fifteen issues of the Newsletter/South Midlands Archaeology. If anyone knows of someone who might be prepared to undertake this, would they let the Editor know?

Please try to sell copies of this issue to your friends, other societies, local libraries etc. The Treasurer will supply further copies on request.

Please could I have your contributions for the 1988 issue by 1 February 1988? Articles from our smaller member societies will, as always, be particularly welcome. If you want to contribute something but cannot make the deadline on 1 February, please let me know so that I have some idea of how many articles to expect and can draw up some sort of timetable.

Andrew Pike

September 1987



BEDFORDSHIRE

Bedfordshire County Planning Department 1986

The report on 1986 has to be somewhat abbreviated due to a combination of staff illness and major field projects at the critical deadline for copy. It is hoped to include more material on general matters, historic buildings, and excavation and post-excavation work in the report on 1987.

David Baker

Preservation, Survey and SMBR

Bridges

Repair programmes undertaken by the County Surveyor's Department continued at Bromham and Great Barford bridges, whilst new projects were begun at Bedford, Harrold and Sutton packhorse bridge. Detailed recording has been carried out by Peter McKeague on the fabric of these Scheduled Ancient Monuments, with grant aid from HBMC, and with the help of photogrammetric surveys commissioned by the County Surveyor.

At Sutton excavation of the bridge foundations revealed that the super-structure rested upon a timber raft set into the stream bed. Samples have been submitted for radiocarbon dating. Work at Harrold bridge showed that the surviving foot causeway formed the earliest structure south of the main river bridge. Originally vehicular traffic had to cross the broad flood plain at ground level, only climbing on to the bridge at the river abutment. At Bromham, a series of limestone inverts under the flood arches was recorded prior to their repair and consolidation.

Bedfordshire Excavation Index

The compilation of the Excavation Index for Bedfordshire was completed in the Spring by Stephen Coleman on behalf of RCHME. Records of 228 excavations on 197 sites were compiled, giving details of location, type and period of each site, excavator and date, funding, nature and location of site archives, location of finds and bibliographic information. Some of the general points to come out of this survey are summarised below.

The earliest investigation of archaeological sites in Bedfordshire which can be described as excavations date from the 1820s-1840s: Thomas Inskip investigated several sites in the area around Shefford. During the second half of the 19th century several more antiquaries (chiefly drawn from the landed gentry or the church) undertook brief investigations on several sites scattered across the county. There was a bias towards Roman sites and a concentration on the maximum recovery of objects rather than detailed stratigraphic recording.

There was more scientific approach from the beginning of the present century, including the work of W.G. Smith and F.G. Gurney in the Dunstable/Luton/Leighton Buzzard area. Smith's most outstanding contribution was the excavation and recording of the Palaeolithic flint-working site at Caddington,

a site of national, if not international, importance. In parts of north and mid-Bedfordshire around Bedford F.W. Kuhlicke and the Bedford Modern School Field Club were soon active.

The number of excavations in the county increased tremendously after the Second World War. In particular many were carried out by or with the assistance of newly established local archaeological societies. Since the early 1970s most of the excavation in Bedfordshire has been carried out by professional bodies, chiefly the County Council's Archaeological Field Team, in response to specific threats to sites.

The distribution of sites excavated in Bedfordshire during the present century is not the distribution of archaeologically significant sites in the county; it reflects the locations of active individuals or societies and their particular interests. There is a concentration of excavated sites, especially of the prehistoric period, in south Bedfordshire. This is chiefly the result of the work of James Dyer (Luton Grammar School/South Bedfordshire Archaeological Society) in the Luton/Streatley/Barton area, and of Les Matthews with the Manshead Archaeological Society in the Dunstable/Houghton Regis/Totternhoe area. The Manshead Archaeological Society has mainly been involved in responding to threats from quarrying and urban development.

Apart from the work of Kevan Fadden with the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society, and one or two individuals, few sites have been excavated in mid-Bedfordshire. However, to the north-east there is a concentration in and around Sandy (including several by David Johnston on Roman sites in the 1950s), whilst C.F. Tebbutt was active in the Cambridgeshire/Bedfordshire border area a little earlier.

In the later 1960s and early 1970s large scale redevelopment in Bedford led to the excavation of many medieval and post-medieval sites in the town (D. Baker et al) whilst in the same period there was a concentration of excavation activity in north-west Bedfordshire, especially on prehistoric and Roman sites (Dring, Hall, Hutchings, Tilson, North Bedfordshire Archaeological Society, etc).

Since the early 1970s the emphasis has been on rescue excavation: this has resulted in a bias towards the excavation of river valley sites in advance of gravel extraction, especially along the Great Ouse throughout north Bedfordshire.

Very few Bedfordshire excavations have been carried out by individuals or bodies from outside the county. A notable exception was Sir Mortimer Wheeler's excavation of one of the Five Knolls barrows near Dunstable in the 1920s. The finds from Bedfordshire excavations are chiefly in Bedford and Luton Museums or still in the excavators' possession. The Cambridge University Museum also has the finds from several significant sites. Very little excavated material seems to have left or strayed far from the county. A more major problem is the site archives: these are mostly still in the hands of individuals or societies, with the exception of the more recent professionally dug sites.

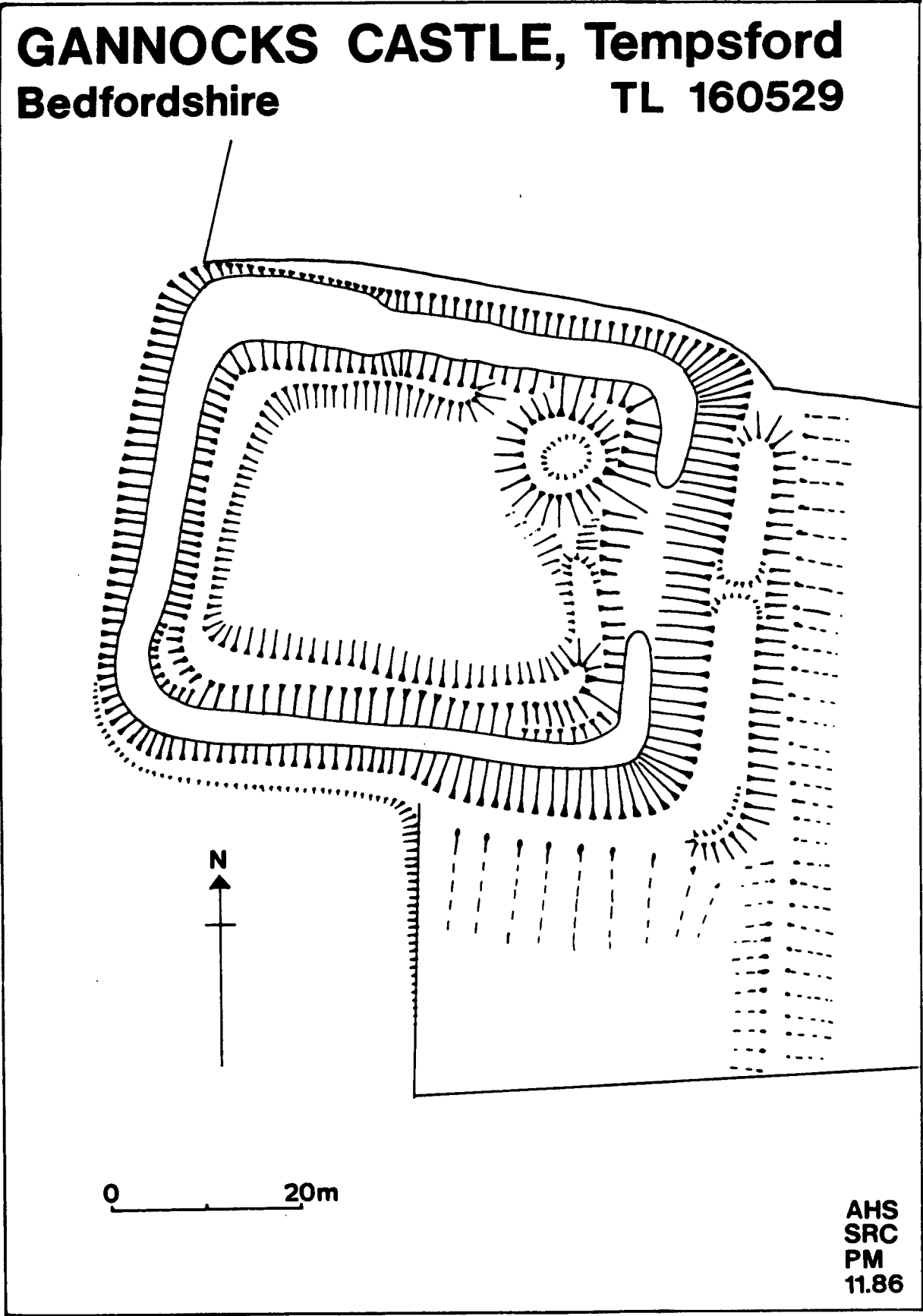
Parish Survey

The latest publication in the 'Bedfordshire Parish Surveys: Historic Landscape and Archaeology' is of Chalgrave, near Toddington. It is available for £5.25 (including postage) from County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP.

Field-Walking

An area south of Biddenham, confined by a large loop of the River Ouse, west

FIG. 1



of Bedford, has long been known to produce Roman finds. Field-walking in the spring enabled an area of occupation to be defined, including a few flue-tile fragments.

At Colmworth, a field-walking grid was laid out for a local farmer on another Roman site. He has since surveyed it in detail with fellow-members of an archaeology evening class.

Earthworks Survey

Overgrown earthworks off Foster Hill Road, on the northern outskirts of Bedford, were first noted in Beds Arch J 7, 1972, 89-90, and identified as of possible Iron Age date. A measured survey established that they were hill-side terraces which formed part of an undocumented 19th century garden.

Gannock's Castle, Tempsford, is a medieval moated site in the ownership of Bedfordshire County Council. A scrub clearance scheme enabled a detailed survey to be undertaken (fig.1)

Sites Monuments and Buildings Record

Checking of data in the computerised index has been completed, and the final version of the software, designed by Jonathan Moffett who is now at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, is being tested. Accessioned items now stand at nearly 15000.

Angela Simco.

Excavation and Post-Excavation

General

In previous years resources have been mainly centred on the task of getting the field part of the Grove Priory Project completed. Post excavation work was carried on in tandem, but the Post Excavation Research Design for Grove was not completed until the end of the excavation when the full implications could be considered. It will form the main part of our work up till about 1991.

Given the huge record the excavation has generated, it was necessary to get the systems right before embarking upon more than basic ordering and processing. After such a prolonged period with most effort centred on excavation, this was clearly the time to take a long hard look at our current systems and methods in order to start out with the best and most appropriate methodology. We have been (and still are) looking at other people's tried and proven methods rather than working in isolation.

For finds of all sorts we are concentrating on Countywide Typologies that can be used for all sites, expanding and developing as time goes on. Patricia Walsh and Holly Burton Duncan are liaising with Carolyn Wingfield of Bedford Museum and Stuart Davison of Luton Museum in order to get a comprehensive and uniform system which will facilitate research and allow interchange between the archaeological unit and the museums. At least in Bedfordshire we will be using a common terminology. The Typologies are designed primarily as a tool for researchers, and with an eye to the Grove and subsequent finds reports. As such it is organised for machine storage and based on function and form primarily rather than on material. We hope

to make the various General Categories such as Agricultural Implements, or specific items such as bells or lace tags available as they are worked through, updating them as necessary.

Georgina Brine (now Pinder) completed a draft Pottery Manual before leaving with Andrew Pinder for a new life in Spain. This is now being considered by her replacement (from West Yorkshire), Anna Slowikowski. Mike Dawson from the Chelmsford Archaeological Trust has joined us as a Field Officer.

Bob Mustoe, with his years of experience at Grove has interspersed analysis of the site record with assisting with a series of pro-formae designed both to simplify and to get the best information out of the complex structural record in a way that gives necessary standardization without straight-jacketing. The forms are designed around structures and follow buildings and parts of buildings in terms of time and function. Finds and structural evidence may have to be worked separately, but are seen as an integrated whole, and close liaison between the two arms of work together with documentation and various specialists is essential at all stages. The forms partly replace often very lengthy Level III essays and make extracting essential information very much easier without necessarily losing descriptive text where it is essential to understanding. We are extending the use of this system to other sites where appropriate.

Excavation

St. Paul's Square, Bedford (TL 051 496: SMR 14448)

The main field project was the excavation in the heart of Bedford town centre. It was a rescue excavation upgraded from a watching brief to an extensive and very popular dig which produced valuable archaeological evidence while being an invaluable public relations exercise. Building on the long term partnership with Bedford Museum, the excavation has led to both a prolonged and intense interest from local people and to a recognition in the Borough that archaeological interests are a valid factor that must not only be built into projects at the initial planning stages but be costed in alongside all the usual factors considered in development.

North Bedfordshire Borough Council is undertaking an ambitious series of town centre improvements. One of the first of these was the refurbishing and repaving of St. Paul's Square. The repaving necessitated the removal of only 50 cm depth of deposits; it did not need planning permission. The area is archaeologically sensitive because of its prime position on the first high ground next to the river crossing; it is within the northern Saxon burgh and immediately opposite the barbican of Bedford Castle.

It is believed that there has been a church on or near St. Paul's since the 7th or 8th century. Missionaries were attracted to the settlement growing up around the ford, and a monastery there served the surrounding countryside. There have been at least six successive churches here, the later ones playing a significant role in the turbulent life of the Castle. In 1216 Faulkes de Breauté pulled down St. Paul's for stone to fortify his stronghold. When in 1224 the Castle fell after a dramatic and well documented siege, Henry III gave back stone to the townsfolk so that they could rebuild their church.

The earliest map of Bedford was drawn in 1610 by John Speed, and shows the Church and the remains of the Castle. At this date the Church is shown on an island together with buildings, surrounded by streets relating to the grid pattern of the Saxon town. Then as now, the north side of the churchyard has a substantial part carved out of it. This led the Field Team to

warn the Borough Engineer of the possibility of burials; his trial pits produced a human skull just inches below the modern tarmac. The North Bedfordshire Borough Councillors rose to the occasion and immediately funded a limited excavation on the north side with a specific brief to excavate and remove the human remains in a decent manner. The excellent case made by Ann Stirland for their proper excavation played an important role at this stage. When this excavation proved to be so productive and with the sort of popular support that led people to queue in scores (in the snow), NBBC generously funded the archaeological clearance of the eastern site also.

Possibly the most surprising aspect of the excavation was the shallow overburden of modern accumulation before coming down onto relatively undisturbed medieval and post medieval deposits. The repaving, slight as it was in terms of ground disturbance, would have undoubtedly destroyed most of the archaeology. On the north side there was a risk that the massive Corn Exchange, demolished at the turn of the century, would have obliterated most of the remains. Instead the building mainly sat on great rafts of agglomerate that sealed the medieval and post medieval shambles or butchers shops known from documentary evidence to have been there from at least the 15th century. These took the form of two parallel buildings, one in wood and the other in stone. The stone structure was divided into a number of small rooms with different floor materials, and it would appear to have lost its western end in the medieval period. There were indications that some burying took place after the west end had been demolished. Both buildings sealed copious burials. A cobbled roadway, Butchers Lane, ran between the two rows of shops. Several periods of roadway or courtyard have helped to distinguish different periods of burial. Doubtless the churchyard limits have been more than usually flexible due to its proximity to the Castle. The wooden shambles not only cut into burials but also sealed a stone cellar which had been reused as some sort of furnace. This might be interpreted as evidence of siege activity, since 13th century pottery was recognised in its fill, as well as a partly articulated skeleton.

The east side of the Square was equally fruitful. This time we were dealing with the fish market, Fish Row, with its two rows of shops. The last building to remain on the Square, Browns the Fishmonger's, was knocked down early this century. He had reused a stone lined cess pit as his rubbish pit, and Bedford Museum can now bring the archaeological records up to the 20th century with all manner of delights, including bone toothbrushes. There were relatively few modern features apart from service trenches, and most of the buildings known to be there from map evidence may have been swept away. One of note was a twenty foot deep well, still open and full of water, somewhat inadequately capped by a single stone.

Again, the surprising aspect was how near to the surface the intact archaeological surfaces lay. One row of medieval fish shops lay partly under the churchyard wall while another fronted the High Street. The latter were exceptionally well preserved with dwarf stone walls, floor levels and nests of baking ovens. There appeared to be quite an intensive take-away industry here, succeeded recently by MacDonalds on the other side of the main road.

Underlying the shops were large pits, mostly either for cess or for quarrying out the underlying gravel. On the northern part of the east side were very substantial burning spreads with slag, associated with stone and timber features which must have been for iron working. One of these features produced a coin of Alfred minted in London. The other Saxon find of special interest was a copper alloy strap end inlaid with niello with an intertwined animal motif.

Bedford Museum and the County Council organised a second Open Day - a full weekend in May. Even though we avoided the Bank Holiday and had every available member of archaeological staff on site, the numbers coming to see their dig was overwhelming. Numerous school and private parties had already been touring the excavations. This time 2,000 people visited the site and the displays of finds in the Museum.

The Harpur Trust gave generously to encourage the educational aspect. English Heritage are funding the post excavation work, and Anthony Maull who supervised the excavation assisted by Terry Jackman will both be working towards the final report in 1987/88. It is hoped that a popular booklet backed by a video of the site, together with Museum displays will satisfy the public's still evident demand for information on the archaeology of St. Paul's Square.

Willington Manor (TL 105499 : SMR 5411)

Willington Manor is a complex building incorporating remains of a 16th century house built by Sir John Gostwick. The original structure was much more extensive, and parts of the buried building have been revealed during landscaping activities and the cutting of service trenches.

A single wall, with no apparent associated floor levels has been interpreted as a post medieval garden feature. It was "levelled up" with 14th century line impressed floor tiles. These were mostly very worn, but a number of designs have been identified. Without further excavation it is not possible to speculate on whether they belonged to the medieval manor, the nearby church which has the remnants of similar paving, or to Warden Abbey which was purchased by the Gostwick family at the dissolution.

Bromham By-pass

The construction of the A428 Bromham by-pass just W. of Bedford revealed a circular ditched enclosure with a diameter of 16m. The ditch produced a few sherds of pottery which are probably of Iron Age date.

20 Silver Street, Bedford (TL 049498 : SMR 10530)

Silver Street is an EW road within the N. burgh, forming part of the presumed late Saxon grid of streets. The construction works for an extension to the rear of the building gave the opportunity to examine occupation behind the street frontage.

The earliest activity revealed by the builders' trenches was a pit containing Saxo Norman pottery. This was stratified beneath a stone structure represented by two limestone walls, 11th to 13th century pottery, in the form of a few sherds of Olney Hyde type ware, was associated with the structure. Limestone rubble, presumably from the destruction of the building, filled the space between the two walls, which was then sealed by a thick layer of ash debris.

Bletsoe Castle (TL 025584 : SMR 308)

A replacement extension to the truncated remains of the 16th or 17th century mansion gave the opportunity to examine the interior of the moated enclosure. Documentary evidence for the castle is sparse. Hugh de Beauchamp held it at

Domesday, and in 1327 John de Patshull obtained the king's licence for embattling his manor. There were traces of earlier building plainly visible near the present house in 1813, but no one thought to record them.

The footings trenches, which were open for only a few hours, showed no substantial build up of soils, and the site may have been levelled. Of the features recorded, three are of note.

1. A post, or late medieval wall which appears to predate the present house.
2. A substantial ditch some 3m wide which appeared to run parallel to the line of the moat on the NW side.
3. A substantial L-shaped robber trench full of large limestone blocks and coarse yellow mortar. The SW length was 2m wide and had some dressed stone at its base. The NW length was only half the width, but was an outside rather than partition wall.

A single sherd of medieval pottery came from the junction of walls forming the robber trench. The substantial nature of the building make it a candidate for a masonry structure.

Post Excavation

A Motte and Bailey Castle at Chalgrave (TL 008274 : SMR 721)

Brian Davison undertook rescue excavations on this site on behalf of DoE in 1970. Through him, HBMC commissioned the Archaeological Field Team to complete the post excavation analysis and produce a report for publication. This was undertaken by Andrew Pinder supported by Georgina Brine (pottery), Stephen Coleman (documentation and historic landscape) and Holly Burton Duncan (finds). It is hoped that the full report will appear in the next volume of Bedfordshire Archaeology (Volume 18), but a brief note may be of interest here.

The results of the excavation were somewhat inconclusive, especially for the early period. This was due to two principal factors: shortage of time during excavation and poor survival of evidence.

The castle lay in the NW corner of the demesne, and is thought to be the early medieval manor house for the Manor of Chalgrave. This manor was held by the Loring family from before the Norman Conquest until 1386 when it was divided. Buildings described in a 14th century survey almost certainly relate to the later manor house in another part of the demesne. The earlier, excavated, site is thought to have been abandoned at or around 1185 when Roger Loring granted the church and adjoining land to Dunstable Priory.

Only a small area of pre-motte ground surface was examined, but it did show indications of a dismantled timber building and gullies.

The motte itself was rather low and squat, containing a square trampled feature in its centre. It is not clear as to whether this feature post dated the earthwork, and it could be interpreted as the remains of a floor surface. There were other features cut into the then surface of the motte, but no trace of a perimeter fence was located. There was evidence that the mound may have had timber revetting.

The motte was subsequently extended, and a few ambiguous features represent activity of some sort. Some time later, a new set of buildings was erected on the top of the motte. These appear to represent a central long building with lean-to buildings on either side. This complex was surrounded by a gravel path and possibly a perimeter wall.

Some examination of the bailey ditch was undertaken, but there was no opportunity to examine the interior of the bailey itself.

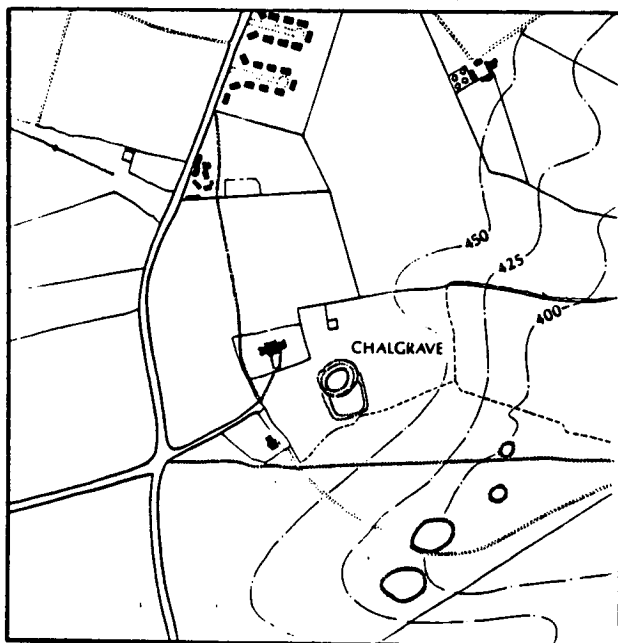
It is hoped that the pottery sequence as discussed by George Brine will assist with defining the larger Grove Priory assemblage which appears to be in the same ceramic tradition rather than the different though more worked out series in the north of the county.

Among the finds, one is especially worthy of note. Made of bone, it is a tubular fitting in the form of a beast's head with open jaws. The underside of the back of the head shows a T-shaped recess with a circular perforation on either side of the T. Holly Burton Duncan has suggested a date in the late 11th century, but its context was unhelpful.

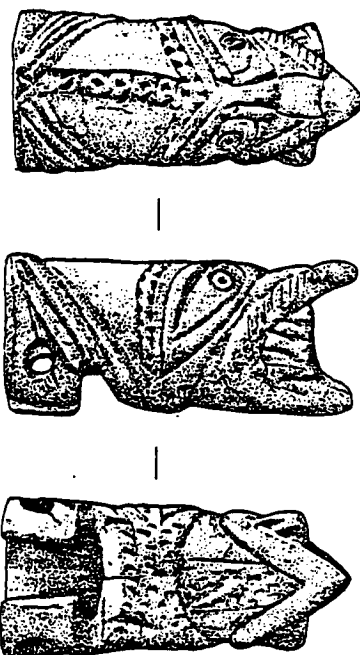
Evelyn Baker.

FIG. 3

FIG. 2



Chalgrave: location plan for the church & two manor sites (reduced to 1/4)



Chalgrave 70 1/4
 1/4
 1/4
 1/4

11th. century bone fitting (reduced to 1/2)

Manshead Archaeological Society

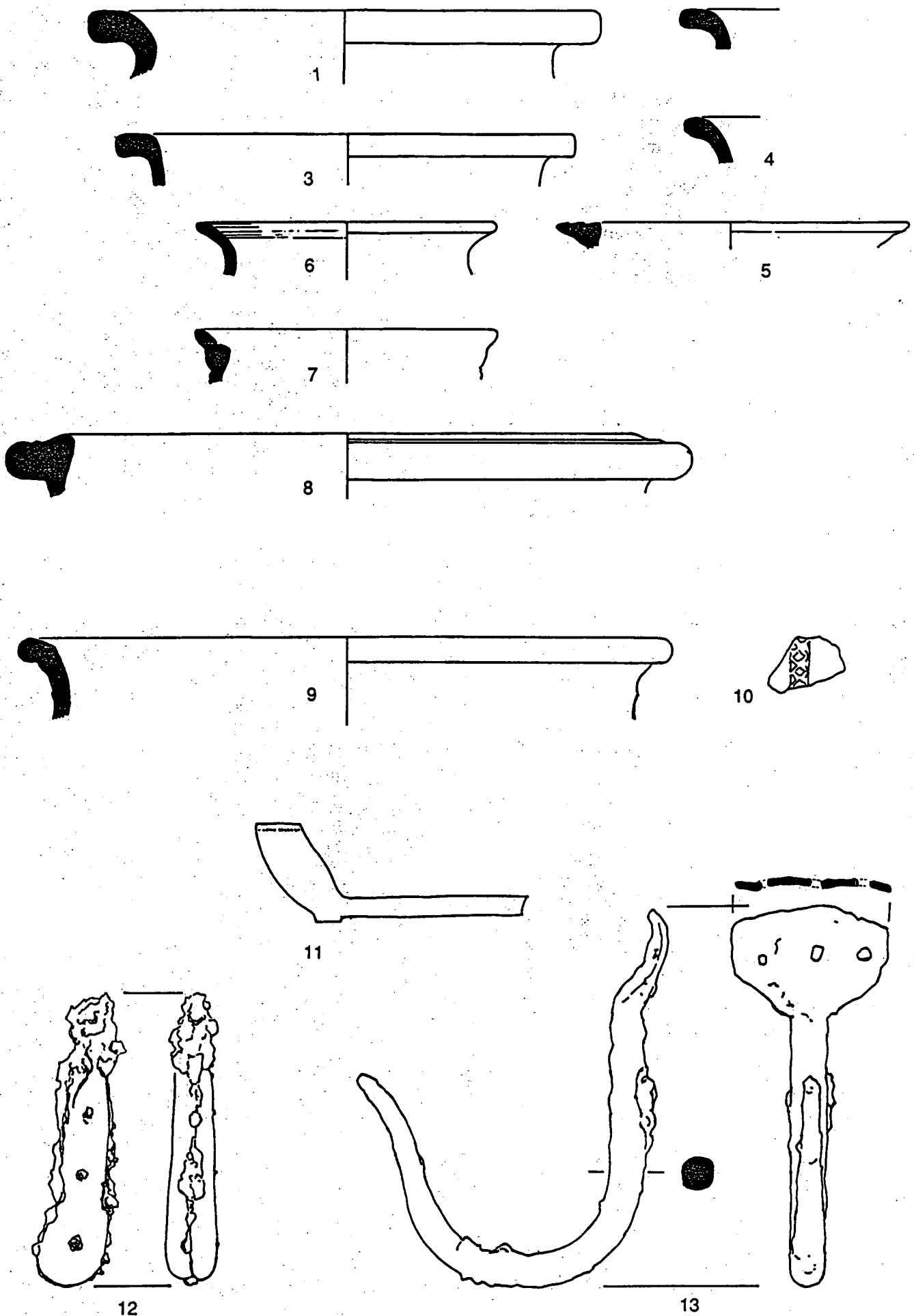
A small excavation on the site of the Augustinian Priory by the Manshead Archaeological Society to remove the roots of a hedgerow, with HBMC permission, on behalf of the Town Council. Situated on the boundary between the formal gardens of Priory House and the meadow south of the Church the site probably coincides with the division between the ecclesiastic and secular part of the monastery.

The northermost cuts revealed metalling at a depth of 1.5m lying on rotten natural chalk. Made of pebbles, pegtile and Totternhoe stone it was higher and thicker to the west but no boundary was found in any direction. The bulk of the fill over this 'floor' was a very fine dense marl the compactness of which suggest deposition as a liquid slurry. The few dateable finds, which include an intact pipe bowl, indicate a date no earlier than circa 1700 for deposition of this material. A wrought iron bale hook was found with the upper bone layer in this deposit.

Evidence of an exceptionally large probably medieval, well was found. Due to constraints imposed on the excavation it was not possible to ascertain dimensions but the shaft diameter is at least 2m. The primary fill contained a mixture of Roman and medieval pottery sherds with pegtile. The well fill collapsed and the 5m plus wide cone-shaped hollow thus formed was filled with Totternhoe stone rubble. This in turn dropped, leaving a thin layer on the sides of the cone. The bulk of the stone is stuck in the shaft but the loose soil around this plug suggests the well is still highly dangerous. It had looked like a possible hole in the roof of a tunnel but two small deep sondages confirmed it was a well and that natural chalk at about 2m deep was covered by a black old land surface. Pottery indicates this soil existed at least back to Roman times. A small segment of the top of the well, where it cut vertically through the old ground level and the chalk, suggested a possible diameter up to 4m but this probably includes a shelf for the stone lining. Besides serving the Priory it has been mooted that this may have been the town well, said to have been near the crossroads.

An inconclusive dig, the surprise feature of which is an apparently natural gully some 2m deep below the modern ground level. The metalling found lining the bottom of the gully in the northern cuts was possibly the worn remains of a broad path. It has been proposed that the last time (circa 1700) it was scoured of the mud which probably accumulated at its lowest point, rather than repair the path the gully was filled to near the present ground level and a new surface laid on top. Supporting this idea a flint and rubble layer was found above the fill lying on the original floor. Also a plan by W G Smith in ('Dunstable; Its History and Surroundings' page 101) shows just such a path in this area.

FIG. 4 (Manshead Archaeological Society)

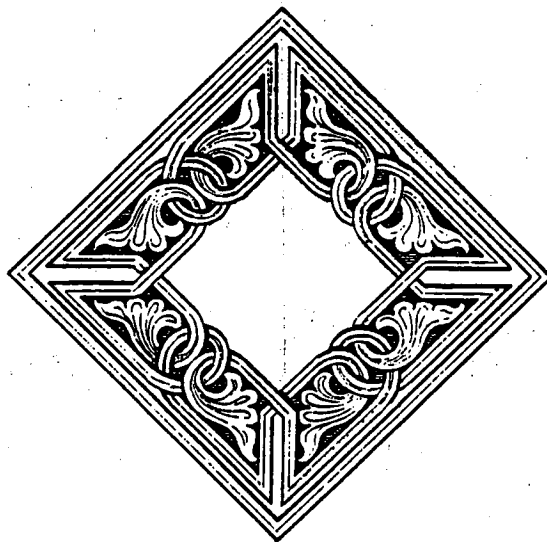


The finds. Scale 1:2

The excavation is fully reported in the Society's latest journal.

The Society has also been investigating an Iron Age enclosure roughly 'D' shaped some 38m by 45m. Bounded by an approximately 1m wide ditch with internal bank it has an entrance on the shorter southern side. The site is on the crown of the hill just to the west of the cutting north of Dunstable. Pottery is sparse but appears to show some affinities with the west country. Further work is anticipated in 1987.

D A Warren
Site Director



David H. Kennett

Socketed Axes and Late Bronze Age Hoards:
an economic perspective

INTRODUCTION

Bedfordshire has one major Late Bronze Age hoard consisting entirely of socketed axes.¹ It was found at Manor Farm, Wymington, sometime before 1881 and probably between 1857 and 1877. The hoard comprised "some sixty celts" of which fifty were traced in 1969 for publication in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal, 10 (1975).² That paper examined the local context of the hoard, noting hoards and finds of the Late Bronze Age from Bedfordshire and including reference to other counties of C.B.A. Group 9 together with those to the east and north.

By concentrating solely on hoards, irrespective of size, which contain socketed axes, the present paper seeks to locate a more specific temporal context for the deposition of hoards with socketed axes. In so doing, it may be able to add credence to the notion of a technological and hence an economic revolution in the closing years of the eighth century B.C.

THE HOARDS

Hoards with socketed axes may be divided into two groups with the basis of the classification being the total size of the deposit. The majority of hoards of the Late Bronze Age, or for that matter of any time in the second and early first millennia B.C., are small in their total quantity of objects. The hoards with a total size of sixty objects such as the Wymington hoard are themselves unusual, let alone the content of a hoard to consist solely of axes.

A theme which runs throughout the hoards of the late second and early first millennia B.C. is that many hoards can be described almost as the personal possessions of an individual.

Among the smaller hoards from C.B.A.9 area is that from Akeley, Buckinghamshire, with two spearheads and a small socketed axe which may represent a man's personal possessions, perhaps in this case to be dated to around 700 B.C.³ The small size and varied nature of the Beacon Hill, Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire, hoard may equally indicate an origin as the personal possessions of a single individual. There was a socketed axe, a socketed gouge, two spearheads and an armlet.⁴ The metal types suggest a dating in the ninth or eighth centuries B.C.

A second group of small hoards are those which contain either broken pieces of objects or founder's metal; many hoards of the Late Bronze Age, both large and small, contain both. The group of material once housed at Ickwell Bury, Bedfordshire, and thought to be of local origin, is a case in point. There were two pieces of founder's metal, a broken palstave, a broken socketed axe (lacking the cutting edge) and a complete socketed axe.⁵ The hoard from Cottesmore, Rutland, (now Leicestershire), contained several fragmentary or broken items: two cutting edges from socketed axes, a

socketed spearhead without its mouth, and a sword blade fragment. The cutting edges of the three socketed gouges all showed signs of wear and sharpening as did those of the socketed chisel and the two complete socketed chisels.⁶ There was a lump of founder's metal in the more recent discovery at Ketton, also in the old county of Rutland. The sixteen socketed axes, however, show little signs of damage, beyond those caused by use: no examples are fragmentary or crushed. The socketed knife is also complete. The Ketton hoard is one to which this paper will return.

Another hoard, similarly of mainly undamaged pieces but more diverse in content, is that from Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire. Here five socketed axes were found in association with three socketed gouges, three socketed chisels and a socketed munt.⁸ No pieces of metal cake were found with the Husbands Bosworth hoard. Nineteen pieces of founder's metal were among the contents of a hoard from Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. The remaining contents of this hoard were seven socketed axes, all of which would have been serviceable if resharpened, two fragmentary winged axes and a heavy, late, looped palstave.⁹ The hoard from New Bradwell, in North Buckinghamshire, contained both fragmentary and complete pieces. The sword was broken in four pieces; both spearheads are represented by the tips only; and three of the remaining ten socketed axes are fragmentary. The other seven known socketed axes retain cutting edges which could have been resharpened to produce serviceable tools.¹⁰ Another Buckinghamshire find is the hoard of five socketed axes from Waddesdon.¹¹

The inference from these hoards, particularly those from Husbands Bosworth,⁵ Ketton,⁴ Cottesmore,³ New Bradwell¹⁰ and Aylesbury is of the deliberate secretion of material which would have made perfectly serviceable tools if the cutting edges of the axes had been resharpened. What strikes one about these small hoards is the comparative lack of unusable objects; only one axe at Ketton,⁴ the spearheads and three axes at New Bradwell,¹⁰ the winged axes at Aylesbury.

The larger hoards present a contrast.

Among the fifty known axes from the Wymington hoard,² no fewer than sixteen were damaged. From a hoard found at Stuntney Fen, Cambs., fifty-one of the seventy-two axes were complete.¹² The proportion of fragmentary axes is not dissimilar to that of the Wymington hoard.

Of twenty-two axes found at Cassiobridge Farm, Watford, Herts., nine are damaged or fragmentary. Of the six tools, three were incomplete. Both complete swords were broken and there were fragments from others. Of the eleven spearheads, five were damaged; and all three razors were broken.¹³

The larger hoards herein noted all have a high percentage of fragmentary socketed axes and other items in the hoard are equally not serviceable.

HOARDS AND INLAND TRADE

Hoards have been acquired by someone and deliberately buried by the same person. One view of the exchange mechanisms involved in the trade in bronzes suggests that worn out goods were sold to the bronze-smith and then the artisan purchased new artifacts in exchange for the broken ones he had

traded in and that the profit accruing to the bronze-smith was taken in excess bronze: England in the early first millenium B.C. was a society without money. The hoards found in the last two hundred years represent the shedding of the load by a travelling workman who have acquired too great a load of scrap bronzes to carry on his back or his mule.

Such may well be the case with some of the large hoards, of varied composition and including much founder's metal. The broken nature of many of the items in the Watford hoard¹³ suggests that they were part of a bronze-smith's stock temporarily deposited and not recovered.

This was a hoard of varied composition and with founder's metal, unlike the Wymington hoard.² But of the known pieces a third were damaged.

But the explanation of hoards as stock not recovered and the lack of contemporary recovery being purely accidental starts to seem suspect when the smaller hoards, almost totally comprised of axes are examined. The items in these hoards are largely reusable; they are not useless fragments from old axes. Other suggestions for their deposition require investigation.

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION

In the closing years of the eighth century B.C. technological change happened with a speed now only becoming apparent. Even twenty years ago, the change from bronze technology to iron technology was thought to be gradual. More recent explanations of the end of the Late Bronze Age¹⁴ suggest a rapid change-over, perhaps not more than a decade in its passing.

The idea is not far-fetched. Iron is cheaper than bronze; the raw material is more readily available; the techniques for working iron are more simple than those for working bronze and far less specialised.

To seek a parallel with the twentieth century may be inappropriate. One change, however, is instructive. In 1900, the streets of towns echoed to the sound of horses' hooves; by 1914, the urban horse had ceased to dominate commercial and personal transport. Even the backward town of Luton acquired electric trams on 21 February 1908.¹⁵

Some businesses managed to adapt quickly to the new mode of transport in the early twentieth century. Many of the coach-building firms of the late nineteenth century continued in business. They switched from making horse-drawn vehicles to the craftsman-built coachwork of the motor cars of the rich. This was particularly true of well-established coach-builders. Many a rich man in 1905 owned a Bentley with coachwork by Mulliners; his father in 1885 owned a landau built by Mulliners.

The demise of the urban horse was sudden and very rapid. A similar rapid change from bronze to iron is now envisaged as having taken place around 700 B.C. The explanation, first¹⁶ proposed independently by scholars like Colin Burgess and Tim Champion, has gained more considerable favour in the decade since it was first postulated. Essentially it proposes that the hoards with large numbers of socketed axes in good condition and requiring only resharpening to make them serviceable belong to the period of rapid demise of bronze-smithing in England.

The hoards noted in this paper, could be said to bear this out. The Ketton hoard has only one broken axe. The Husbands Bosworth hoard appears to have been of complete pieces and containing items which could have been reused if resharpened. The publication of the hoard from Aylesbury was emphatic on the essentially usable nature of its artifacts, particularly the socketed axes. The photograph of the complete socketed axe in the now lost hoard which used to be kept at Ickwell Bury suggests an object which required no great attention to make it serviceable.

The idea of the demise of the manufacture of the general purpose tool, the socketed axe, because it ceased to be saleable may equally apply to more specialised tools in these hoards. The illustration of the Husbands Bosworth hoard suggests its chisels and gouges needed only resharpening to allow them to continue to be used for woodworking. One of the three gouges from the Cottessmore hoard was cracked and its edge required attention as did the cutting edge of another gouge. All three were essentially serviceable as was the socketed chisel or engraving tool. The Ketton hoard had a socketed knife which needed only a little attention to make it serviceable.

The tools in hoards suggest that not only did the ubiquitous bronze socketed axe cease to be the general purpose tool, the woodworking tools which were clearly part of the bronze-smith's repertoire also ceased to be made. This is perhaps not surprising. Iron tools are harder, better for woodworking than their bronze equivalents.

Bronze socket sickles of the Late Bronze Age also tend to be usable items. There is a bronze socketed sickle in the hoard from Llyn Fawr, Glamorgan. This hoard included also an imported iron sword, an imported iron socketed spearhead, and various continental bronzes such as harness mounts, and razors. Included also inside a massive sheet bronze cauldron were other native pieces: a bronze socketed axe, a bronze socketed chisel and an iron socketed sickle. Clearly the sharpened cut, the longer life of the tool, its cheapness and greater availability meant that cutting the corn was a job transferred from bronze tools to iron tools.

As with early iron socketed axes, the form of the iron socketed sickle closely imitates its bronze cousin. That the Llyn Fawr iron socketed sickle was native-made may also provide a clue to the fate of the bronze-smiths. It is perhaps not unlikely that those who once worked exclusively in bronze continued to do so for prestige items, but that their everyday trade was now in making iron goods. General purpose axes, woodworking tools, farming implements all suggest that there was no lack of a market.

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NOTES

1. This paper is a shortened version of a lecture given to the Annual General Meeting of C.B.A. Group 9 in Bedford on 13 November 1982. The lecture included reference also to hoards in Norfolk, which have been omitted from the printed text.
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David H. Kennett

Greens, Moats and the Great House:
aspects of the Bedfordshire landscape
in the seventeenth century

INTRODUCTION

This paper¹ arises from an attempt to produce an account of the Bedfordshire landscape as it would have appeared on 30 November 1628, the day on which John Bunyan was baptised at St. Helen's church, Elstow. The paper anticipates the opening chapter of a projected book on Seventeenth-Century Bedfordshire²

The paper, however, is only a partial account of the landscape on that day. It has been restricted to three settlement forms:

- a: greens;
- b: moats, moated sites and isolated farmhouses;
- c: the great house.

GREENS AND PARISHES

John Bunyan was a native of Elstow, a village which bears description for its constituent elements have many of the individual characteristics of Bedfordshire parishes.³

Elstow is a characteristic street village. Houses, mostly timber-framed and almost all standing in 1628, line the main street on both sides for 500 metres. Perhaps the one difference in the houses between 1628 and 1987 is that the timber-framing has been exposed. Even in 1968, many of the houses were pebble-dashed to preserve the timbers. The parish church of St. Helen is to the west of the village street, approached from the road by a green on which stands the timber-framed moot hall.

John Bunyan was born in a house outside the core of the village. He was born in a cottage on the outlying edge of the parish near to the boundary with Cardington, the parish to the east, at a place known in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as Bonyon's End. The land was south of Cardington Brook and just north of a minor stream which bisects Elstow parish (approx. nat. grid ref. TL/055473).

Two elements from Elstow are common in the topography of Bedfordshire parishes. Most of the main roads have street villages. Like Elstow on the road from Bedford to Luton is Silsoe. Like Elstow, Silsoe is external to a major medieval building. In Elstow's case, the parish church of St. Helen was formerly a Benedictine nunnery; at Silsoe, Wrest Park was the seat of the Grey family from the thirteenth century. In 1465, Sir Edmund Grey became the Earl of Kent, a title retained to 1740.

Watling Street (the modern A5) has Markyate, also known as Markyate Street, and Hockliffe;⁴ in Buckinghamshire the origins of Little Brickhill and Stony Stratford are akin.

20-1
Street villages also occur in parishes without a main road, although it is true that Great Barford led to Barford Bridge, built before 1447, and in the east of the county Sutton approached the packhorse bridge beside the ford. Here, the suspicion is that the Duchy of Lancaster or the Enderbys, predecessors of the Burgoynes in the manors, wished to concentrate all the houses in the centre of the parish.

Similar considerations may underlie the origins of the topography of Henlow and Arlesey, in the south-east of the county, and Little Staughton, in the north-east. However, Keysoe Row appears reminiscent of row villages in Cambridgeshire like Bourn, Boxworth and Grantchester.⁵

John Bunyan's childhood home was at Bonyon's End. In Bedfordshire, ends have more than one house and these houses are of differing sizes. The ends are in various parts of a parish. Typical are parishes like Thurleigh, Cranfield and Houghton Conquest.⁶

At Thurleigh, there is one group of houses around the church, appropriately called Church End; another group is strung out along a road including a school founded in 1618 and called Scald End; and at a cross roads in the east of the parish is Cross End. There are isolated farms at Robin's Folly, Romp Hall, Blackburn Hall, Manor Farm, Whitwick Green (anciently Whitock End) and Backnoe End.⁷

Among the ends of Cranfield are Wood End, Wharley End (sometime Wallend), Bourne End, Broad End and East End. Chapel End and How End are among the elements which make up the topography of Houghton Conquest. The parishes just noted are in the north and centre of the county. There are ends in the south. Luton has Scourge End, Ramridge End, New Mill End and Thrales End. However, parishes in east Bedfordshire - the areas once designated Wixamtree, Clifton and Biggleswade Hundreds - do have many fewer hamlets called ends. The few ends found here are on the western margin of the area, in parishes like Shillington, Cardington and Cople.

Street village, end and now green; elements of the topography of Elstow. However, the green at Elstow is not what I mean by green as in the title of this paper. John Bunyan played at tipcat on Elstow green; there is a moot hall on the green. To imitate modern planning jargon, Elstow green could be termed a seventeenth-century organised recreational area. Similar considerations apply to one of the other typical village greens of the county, at Houghton Regis. It is the local cricket field; much as over the county boundary is the green at Pitstone.⁸

These are not what is meant by the greens of the title. However, on occasion the green I am discussing does serve the play function as at Goldington Green and, with both cricket field and maypole, Ickwell Green at Northill. Greens as considered herein have economic functions, as pasture land, as the source of fuel, gravel and other necessities of life.⁹ They could be considered as commons, except that vast areas such as Stopsley Common, Luton, are not included. Greens in seventeenth-century Bedfordshire are small, under a hectare, have sharply defined edges and are generally long and thin with a characteristic broadening at the centre. The other shape which is found is the long, narrow triangle. Green End, Arlesey was like this; it is now completely built over. Both Green End, Great Barford, at the opposite end of the long village street to Barford Bridge, and Green End, Little Staughton, were once roughly triangular. However, both have two tracks entering the apex.

Including the green ends, there are perhaps thirty such greens in Bedfordshire. Some parishes have a single green in their topographical mix: Eaton Green at Eaton Bray, Thorn Green at Houghton Regis, Nobbins Green at Toddington, West End Green at Stagsden. Wootton has two such greens: Keeling Green and Bot End Green; as does Bromham with Town Green and Vicarage Green.

Much of the knowledge of greens in Bedfordshire comes from Thomas Jeffreys' map of 1765.¹⁰ The west Bedfordshire parish of Salford has no greens according to Jefferys, but maps drawn in 1596 by Thomas Langdon for All Souls' College, Oxford, show the unenclosed parish. Salford in 1596, a generation before John Bunyan's birth, had two greens. West End Green was a triangular open space separated from the church green (shown but not named by Langdon) by four islands with houses and gardens. Prof. M.W. Beresford argued that once these islands were within the green and represented encroachments on the green which originally stretched from north of St. Mary's church for 500 metres to the west and was perhaps half as broad. This former large green had become a loop road by 1765 with a short piece of road at the west end suggesting one limit; this loop road, with the church on the south-east corner, can be traced today as can the west land, but nothing to suggest that this was once an extensive green.¹¹

In 1628, the situation mapped thirty-two years earlier doubtless applied. But the maps of Salford do make one wonder how many other greens might have existed, and what stage their break up had reached in the seventeenth century.

Certainly if one is looking for greens as a settlement feature, west Bedfordshire parishes like Salford, Cranfield, Wootton and Stagsden could prove instructive. Jeffreys' map is suggestive of greens at Kempston West End and Kempston Wood End.

Two Bedfordshire parishes have several greens. In the north-east of the county is Eaton Socon (now Staploe parish). Here there was The Green at Begwary, Goodwick Green, Fisher's Green, Howcott's Green and Upper Staploe Green. Most of these are now represented only by farms. Maltman's Green, which had Duloe Brook on its southern edge, remained until obliterated by housing development in the 1970s.

The other parish with multiple greens is Luton, the medieval (and seventeenth-century) parish which included the modern borough and the parish of Hyde to the south. Luton had no fewer than eight greens and possibly there were others which have yet to be detected. Now under the M1 is Farley Green: it is well documented on Thomas Jeffreys' map of 1765 and as elsewhere in the borough the modern houses on one side are set back as though respecting the edge of the green. Little remains of Freeman's Green on the road between the hamlet of West Hyde and the East Lodge of Luton Hoo Park. There are extensive remains of six other greens in the parish.

Two may have ceased as greens in the economic sense by the mid eighteenth century. Now covered by asphalt and lacking the charm of the cherry tree outside the local hostelry it retained until 1969 is Round Green. Obliterated by roundabout and dual carriageway is Stopsley Green. Yet

until 1956, there were no fewer than three farmhouses of pre-1628 date at its eastern end. Until 1956, one was a working farm and cows crossed the green going from milking to pasture as they would have done in the seventeenth century.

North of Stopsley Green is Butterfield Green, a triangular expanse which in the eighteenth century was called White Hills. Elsewhere in Stopsley Hamlet are Crawley Green and Eaton Green, both of which have one edge delimited by the houses being set back as though on the edge of the road. Those on the northern edge of Crawley Green were built in 1954; Eaton Green has suffered successive twentieth-century encroachments.

One final green has to be mentioned. Chiltern Green was an expanse well over two kilometres (1½ miles) long on the county boundary. Both position and name suggest that this could have been a green once on the edge of the territory of the Cilternserna, the tribe recorded in the Tribal Hidage. Chiltern Green also gave its name to the station opened on the Midland Railway for Luton Hoo.

The great medieval parish of Luton lies adjacent to an area of north-east Hertfordshire which has a large number of greens. Reading northwards we have Peter's Green, Wandon Green, Breachwood Green, Tea Green, Cockernhoe Green, and Mangrove Green. Going east, towards Stevenage, in St. Paul's Walden there are Shilley Green and Rush Green and Couch Green at Codicote. East of these is Datchworth, a parish with no fewer than six greens.

Seen from a perspective of 1987, it is difficult to recall that as late as 1936, housing development in Luton was exceptionally confined.¹² The great medieval parish still retained hamlets with the farmhouses, perhaps rebuilt, farm buildings and a few labourers' cottages. In Stopsley there remained Crawley Green, Nether Crawley, Someries, Wigmore Hall, Butterfield Green. The hamlet pattern of Biscot, Little Bramingham, Great Bramingham and Leagrave Marsh in Limbury was no less pronounced.

In the south of the county, there seems to be a correspondence of Bedfordshire with the pattern of Hertfordshire. Greens are part of the small hamlets which characterise settlement. Elsewhere, the correlations are more difficult. The only suggestion that the present writer can offer is to see the greens of central and north Bedfordshire as an extension of High Suffolk, that area of Suffolk and southern Norfolk where the settlement pattern is very much focused on greens, moats and isolated farmsteads.

MOATS AND ISOLATED FARMSTEADS

A list published a decade ago suggested that there were some 206 moats in Bedfordshire.¹³ A glance at the same list suggests that Bedfordshire is part of a group of counties with a high concentration of moated sites: Suffolk (507 sites), Essex (548 sites), Cambridgeshire (270 sites), Huntingdonshire (134 sites), Hertfordshire (187 sites) and

perhaps Buckinghamshire (164 sites). In contrast the two other counties of C.B.A. 9 region have many fewer moats: Northamptonshire (49 sites) and Oxfordshire (100 sites).

This differentiation between the easternmost county of C.B.A. 9 region and the other three counties is a matter for further comment (see below).

Bedfordshire moats have a variety of plan forms: rectangular, circular, irregular, with fishponds adjacent and part of the complex of earthworks. They are found on all soils and at all altitudes in the county. However, there does seem to be one major area without any great number of sites. This is the chalk of the Chilterns. Within the former parish of Luton (as defined above), only three are shown on a map published in 1978. There are Someries (nat. grid ref. TL/119201), Moat House, Biscot (nat. grid ref. TL/078240) and the earthworks at Little Bramingham Farm (nat. grid ref. TL/073255). Equally there are very few moats in Caddington, Kensworth, Whipsnade, Totternhoe, Studham and Eaton Bray.

In the case of Luton, there may have been some destruction since the middle ages. The early-twentieth-century farmhouse at Crawley Green was set within an ha-ha which might be a former moat? A stage of Luton Hoo before the eighteenth century might have been moated, but significantly the fifteenth-century brick house at Someries Castle was set outside the moated enclosure. One possible site is the house at Faulkner's Hall, demolished in the nineteenth century.

Without examining the reasons for the construction of moats - which reasons were undoubtedly various, including prestige - I wish to offer one brief comment based on three north Bedfordshire parishes. In Bolnhurst, a parish with isolated farmhouses and possibly an ancient street village, the largest farmhouses are those which occupy moated sites. In the west of the parish, Greensbury Farm and Mavourn Farm occupy moated sites; in 1671, Gilbert Tompkins and Richard Parker lived in houses with seven and eleven hearths respectively.¹⁴ Their neighbours - William Lavender, William Cobb and Alexander Newham - had houses with five and four hearths at Brook End Farm, Crowhill Farm and Blacklands Farm. None of the houses in the eastern part of the parish had more than four hearths.

To the west of Bolnhurst is Thurleigh where the individual tenurial history is much less known than they are in Bolnhurst or Great Barford, or one might add the township of Luton, which is copyhold.¹⁵

South-west of Bolnhurst and separated from it by Wilden is Great Barford. Great Barford had four manors. Of these, two have surviving moated sites - Creakers and Birchfields - and the other two - Veseys and Netherbury - have not but earthworks are suspected round Green End Farm and Bridge Farm. Great Barford has been mentioned as a street village; significantly this is confined to land which was part of Veseys and Netherbury Manors, mostly the former. It is also these two manors only which were open field in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, until the land exchanges preceding the enclosure act of 1820 and the award of 1824. Both Creakers and Birchfields were enclosed areas with the farmhouse at the centre of the fields.

Great Barford has four holdings in Domesday Book; Bolnhurst has five.

It is possible to offer identifications. The largest holding, 2.1/4 hides, was held by Thorney Abbey, and comprised the eastern half of the parish. It was still held by Thorney Abbey at the Dissolution. This area was open field to 1777 and had a street village on what became the Bedford to Kimbolton road. The western half of the parish, also 2.1/4 hides, was held by four men. The Bishop of Countances had three virgates which became Greensbury Farm. There were three holdings each of half a hide. Two freemen had one of the holdings; they had held it in 1066, when they were not sub-tenants of the Bishop of Bayeaux. Sixteenth-century documents make it clear that Mavourn Farm and Blacklands Farm were a joint property although their lands by the seventeenth century were distinct. The other half hide of the Bishop of Bayeaux was held by Tovi the Priest; lands which became Crowhill Farm, in the seventeenth century called Moore's Farm. The final half hide was held by one Hugh of Countess Judith; it became Brook End Farm.¹⁶

All of the isolated farms - except Greensbury which has a brick nineteenth-century house - have houses standing in 1688, when John Bunyan died, if not in 1628, when he was born. Mavourn Farm was replaced after a fire, sometime after 1671.¹⁷ But the point needs emphasis. The pattern of isolated farmhouses, whether moated or not, is much older than the seventeenth century. At Bolnhurst and Great Barford certainly, it goes back to Domesday Book and beyond. Already in 1628 this landscape pattern was almost six hundred years old.

I wish to offer some speculations. High Suffolk - which is most of Suffolk, excluding the sandlings to the east, and Breckland in the north-west, plus southern Norfolk - is within Oliver Rackham's zone of Ancient Countryside¹⁸ which also includes Essex, and Hertfordshire and the Chiltern part of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. High Suffolk is also an area of greens, moats and isolated farmsteads.

There are bits of Bedfordshire in 1986 which suggest themselves as retaining elements of this same landscape pattern. Parishes like Cranfield with two greens, eleven ends, several farms which are moated, or Thurleigh with its various ends, isolated farms, or Bolnhurst with its long-standing division into open field, monastic owned east and ancient enclosure to the west.

If one includes Luton¹⁹ in the calculations, twenty-five Bedfordshire parishes have no enclosure act or award; a fifth of the county. Of the parishes which have an award, ten cover less than one-third of the land in the parish, and another twenty-nine concern between half and a third of the land. At the other end of the scale there are five rural parishes plus Bedford where the enclosure award covers all the land and a further nineteen where the award deals with over four-fifths of the land. In another twenty-two parishes it is more than two-thirds of the land; and in nine parishes it is over half the land.²⁰

Less than half the county is covered by an enclosure award and so would qualify as planned countryside.

In considering the appearance of Bedfordshire on 30 November 1628, the limited impact of the eighteenth-century enclosure movement needs to be recalled. In attempting to offer a picture of the landscape, the later layers have to be scraped away very much as the excavator of a Roman site (particularly an urban one) has first to examine post-medieval,

medieval and Saxon layers.

Since 1628, there have been essentially three major changes to the countryside: first the creation and expansion of parks, mostly in the first half of the eighteenth century - those that exist are shown on Thomas Jeffreys' map of 1765; second, enclosure of open fields by Act of Parliament between 1742 and 1891; third, modern housing and farming practices, a faster change than before.

When the later changes have been removed, the way to examine the seventeenth-century landscape is on an individual parish basis, just as the best way to look at the gentry is on the basis of individual families.²¹

THE GREAT HOUSE

Unlike the two earlier sections of this paper, the final portion on the great house will draw upon a wider group of sources and discuss the subject from a slightly different standpoint in time, rather nearer to 1670 than as of 30 November 1628. Sources for the great house and its occupants are plentiful for Bedfordshire in about 1670.²² Mostly, these concern the occupiers of great houses rather than the houses themselves. Earliest in time is a list made by Sir Robert Charnocke on 14 February 1668.²³ After listing 104 "gentlemen who had sold their estates and quite gone out of Bedfordshire" he notes the names of 65 "gentlemen remaining". Secondly, there is the visitation by the heralds in 1669.²⁴ Thirdly, there is the published hearth tax relating to the tax paid in 1671, and graduated according to the number of hearths in each house. It was paid by the occupier, not by the owner, except in the case of empty houses.²⁵

Bedfordshire has a grand total of some 125 great houses, that is houses occupied by people who could be called gentry. These houses vary enormously in size. At the upper end of the scale is Woburn Abbey, with 82 hearths, larger than almost any other house in England known to me.²⁶ For comparison, Burghley, the largest house in Northamptonshire has 70 hearths and the two next largest - Althorp and Castle Ashby - each have 64 hearths;²⁷ Cornbury, the largest house in Oxfordshire has a mere 43 hearths.²⁸ Northamptonshire has nine houses of more than forty hearths, Oxfordshire three and Bedfordshire no fewer than five such houses. Apart from Woburn Abbey, these are Luton Hoo (60 hearths), Houghton House (55 hearths), Wrest Park (52 hearths) and Toddington Manor (45 hearths).

At the lower end of the scale there are some very small houses. The medieval parish of Luton will suffice to provide examples. Sir Samuel Starling of Stopsley inhabited a house of 8 hearths; Thomas Cheney at Little Bramingham had a somewhat larger property, with 11 hearths, while in the centre of the town John Rotherham lived in Langley Mansion, a house with 8 hearths. There were two houses in their own grounds on the side of the route later chosen for the Luton to Dunstable road: both were houses with 9 hearths, John Coppin at Bury Park, William Bryer at Maidenhall. There are houses with a similar number of hearths in villages: William Alston, 8 hearths, at Pavenham, and Robert Barnardiston, 11 hearths, the house known as Ickwell Bury, at Northill.

All these men were designated by the title "esquire", a rank above that of gentleman, if below that of knight, and while it is not the purpose of this paper to examine the gradations of seventeenth-century social structure a note may usefully be inserted. Two examples will suffice: one from north Bedfordshire, the other from the central part of the county. William Dyer lived in Comworth Manor, a house of 20 hearths. His father, Richard Dyer, was the brother of a baronet, Sir Ludowick Dyer. William

inherited Sir Ludowick's estates in 1669 as the latter's only son. Henry, had died an infant. William's mother, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Sir Robert Charnocke; her brother, Sir St John Charnocke, was made a baronet on 21 May 1661; and her mother, Agnes, was the fourth daughter of the first Earl of Bolingbroke. It is worth remarking also that Richard Dyer's sister, Ann, married William Gery of nearby Bushmead Priory. The second example concerns Humphrey Monoux, who lived at Wootton Manor, a house of 12 hearths, who by licence dated 6 July 1666 married Alice Cotton, the daughter of Sir Thomas and Dame Alice Cotton sometime of Stratton Park, near Biggleswade. When the Cottons wed in 1639, both were widowed. Dame Alice had previously been married to Edmund Anderson, high sheriff of the county in 1631, son of Sir Francis Anderson, grandson of the Elizabethan Lord Chief Justice, Sir Edmund Anderson, of Eyeworth Manor. Within the owners of the great houses, family ties were close and although research is incomplete in this area, marriages were endogamous to the county community, and only rarely exogamous. Equally, distinctions between peer, knight and esquire are to a certain extent meaningless.²⁹

In one aspect these distinctions have some meaning. The peers lived in the largest houses. The four largest houses have been mentioned. The other resident peer, the Earl of Bolingbroke, had two houses: Bletsoe Castle with 38 hearths, Melchbourne Park with 32 hearths. It was at the former that his ancestor had entertained King James VI and I.

Although there were knights who lived in very small houses, by 1671, one of these Sir St John Charnocke was retired from active participation in county affairs and from direction of the family estates. He left such matters to his son, Villiers Charnocke, of Hulcote Manor, an Elizabethan house of 17 hearths. Sir St John lived in the smaller of the family's two houses: Salford Manor (10 hearths). Sir George Blundell had two houses, both of 9 hearths, one of which, Cardington Manor, had been built as early as the 1540s; his other house, at Fenlake, is so far unidentified. In general the knights and baronets lived in houses of between 12 and 25 hearths.

In contrast to five peers and nineteen knights, there are fifty men called "esquire" in the hearth tax. Twelve of them lived in houses of above 15 hearths. James Beverley, of Cainhoe, until recently had lived in a house in Clophill parish of 15 hearths. In 1671 this house was recorded as "Earl of Ailesbury: empty house". In contrast to the knights the majority of esquires lived in houses of 10 to 14 hearths, and a considerable number lived in houses of 9 hearths or less.

Only nineteen men are distinguished as "gent" or "Mr.", the two usual designations of the parish gentry. Their houses ranged between 7 and 14 hearths, but with one larger, Francis Winton on the main street of Leighton Buzzard, and one smaller, Henry Whitbread of Cardington, in a house of 5 hearths. A century later, his descendant, Samuel Whitbread, had bought Southill Park and was creating the second largest estate in the county. But the eighteenth century is very different to its predecessor, particularly in respect of the great estates, and the great house at the centre of such estates.

Of the 125 houses of 1671, there are 61 about which nothing can at present be said. Another seventeen have been demolished without replacement and twenty-three have been demolished and replaced.

Of the twenty-four survivors, four are ruins: Houghton House (55 hearths), Someries Castle (23 hearths), Warden Abbey (20 hearths), and the Hillersden Mansion at Elstow (17 hearths). Two of the others survive only in part: a wing of Toddington Manor (originally 45 hearths) and the Elizabethan range from Bletsoe Castle (38 hearths). The eighteen survivors cluster very much in the range 10 to 14 hearths. Four only are

larger: Melchbourne Park (32 hearths), Chicksands Priory (23 hearths), Colmworth Manor (20 hearths), and Bromham Hall (15 hearths). Typical of the survivors are the small timber-framed gentry houses, mostly built in the sixteenth century. Surviving examples include Harlington Manor (12 hearths), Wootton Manor (12 hearths), Campton Manor (11 hearths), Husbourne Crawley Manor (11 hearths).

Of the 64 houses about which something is known, 24 have brick as the main building material, 18 are stone-built, and 14 are timber-framed.

With the brick houses, it is possible to compare Bedfordshire with Oxfordshire. Of the fourteen largest houses of Oxfordshire, those with 27 or more hearths, six are brick-built, eight are stone-built houses. There are four other substantial brick-built houses in Oxfordshire: two of 19 hearths, one of 16 hearths, and one of 14 hearths, respectively Ewelme Manor, Mapledurham Manor, Hardwick House at Whitchurch and Pyrton Manor house.³⁰

Of the sixteen houses in Bedfordshire with 20 or more hearths, two have been demolished completely - Park House, Eaton Bray (32 hearths) and Wood End, Cople (27 hearths) - and two others have yet to be identified, if this could be done: both of 22 hearths, Samuel Cater at Kempston, Richard Browne at Arlesey. Of the others, three are of stone: Woburn Abbey (82 hearths), Bletsoe Castle (38 hearths) and Chicksands Priory (23 hearths). All except one of the others are brick-built houses, although by 1705, when it was engraved by Kip, Wrest Park had a stone facing to the south front.³¹ The exception was Colmworth Manor (20 hearths), a timber-framed house, refurbished in 1609 - for which there is a dated beam - following a fire at the other house of Sir William Dyer, Place House, Great Staughton, just over the county boundary in Huntingdonshire.

A fair number of the smaller houses were also built of brick including Willington Manor (18 hearths) where the surviving agricultural buildings are of stone. However, a provisional conclusion is that among houses of 18 hearths or less, the choice of building material depended on what was locally most available.

This point can be illustrated by a group of houses built between 1590 and 1625. Hillersden Mansion, Elstow (17 hearths) was stone, built out of the debris of a former nunnery, the church of which it in fact adjoins. Similarly the new house of the 1630s at Odell Castle was stone, a parish in the limestone area of Bedfordshire, and Harrold Hall (15 hearths), built in 1608³² was also stone.

A further analysis can be made of the age of the great houses. By 1628 there were very few great houses of the fifteenth century still being inhabited. One great house of that century had been pulled down within the previous decade. Ampthill Castle, a stone house, had been built by Lord Fanhope in the 1430s, came into royal hands in 1508, used as a residence for Catherine of Aragon in the 1530s and then allowed to decay.³³

The one definite survival from before 1470 still inhabited was Someries Castle (23 hearths), with 26 rooms mentioned in an inventory of 1606. This had been built by John, Lord Wenlock, between 1448 and 1471,³⁴ sold by the crown on the forfeiture of Wenlock's estates to Thomas Rotherham, then Bishop of Lincoln, who used the house to establish his brother as the progenitor of a landed family in Bedfordshire. In 1629, Sir John Rotherham sold the house to Francis Crawley, his son-in-law and one of the judges in John Hampden's case. Although established gentry, the Rotherhams in the sixteenth century never had sufficient spare cash to build a new house and in the 1620s, the Crawleys were a yeoman family who

had sent a son to the Inns of Court, established him as a lawyer and were awaiting the profits of his practice.

Lack of surplus capital also seems to account for the late medieval house of the Dyve family at Bromham Hall (15 hearths), the Squire family at the timber-framed Basmead Manor (14 hearths), the Ray family at Fenlake Barns (13 hearths), and the junior branch of the Tyringham family at Hinwick Hall (8 hearths). All of these are houses which still survive.

Even houses built in the reign of Henry VIII (i.e. 1509-1547) were uncommon. They divide into early conversions of monastic property and others. Former monasteries which were turned into houses very quickly include Chicksands Priory (23 hearths) and Old Warden Abbey (20 hearths). Other early sixteenth-century houses are Cardington Manor of the 1540s (9 hearths), Sutton Park of the 1530s (20 hearths) and Willington Manor, completed before 1541 (18 hearths).

It is difficult to think of any Bedfordshire great house built in the years between the death of Henry VIII (1547) and the accession of Elizabeth I (1558). Even Elizabethan houses are comparatively few. One great courtier's house is definitely known, Toddington Manor (45 hearths), built before 1581, by the first, and only, Baron Cheney. The balance of probability suggests that Wrest Park, a courtyard house of 52 hearths, was rebuilt after 1573 rather than before 1524: the Grey family did not use their title, Earl of Kent, between these dates, due to their impoverishment.

There is a group of houses built in the 1570s and 1580s of which Husbourne Crawley Manor (11 hearths) is one of the few survivors. In 1765³⁴ it was described as having:

On the ground floor, a large hall, two parlours, a drawing room, a good kitchen and servants' hall, with many other convenient places and two large cellars.

On the first floor are twelve good chambers with large closets and several good garrets. Outhouses, a brewhouse, wash-house, a laundry, a coach-house, two stables with stalls for fourteen horses; a large garden well-planted with fruit trees; two large fish-ponds and exceeding fine water.

Other houses of this date are Little Bramingham (11 hearths), Hulcote Manor (17 hearths) and perhaps Hawnes Grange (16 hearths).

There are houses of the 1590s. Campton Manor was built in 1591; this is a timber-framed house of 11 hearths. Much larger was Eyeworth Manor, built after the purchase of the manors by Sir Edmund Anderson, who was Elizabeth I's chief justice of common pleas. It was a large brick house, with 25 hearths, constructed between 1595 and 1605.

By far the largest number of identifiable great houses in Bedfordshire in 1628 had been built in the previous quarter century. Of the eight houses with more than thirty hearths the three largest and one other were built in the reigns of James I and Charles I. The story of the rebuilding of Woburn Abbey in the 1620s is well-known.³⁵ Luton Hoo was rebuilt by Sir Robert Napier from 1610 onwards, and Houghton House dates to 1615-1630.

In Elizabeth's reign, the St John family at Bletsoe had rebuilt the surviving wing. It was here that the fourth baron St John had entertained James I. In 1622, he became the Earl of Bolingbroke. By then the St John family had bought Melchbourne, where from 1610 onwards they proceeded to build a new house.

Among medium sized-houses a fair number were built in the first third of the seventeenth century. Colmworth Manor (20 hearths) was refurbished in 1609; Hillersden Mansion, Elstow (17 hearths) was built in 1616 onwards; and in the 1630s both Odell Castle (14 hearths) and Lidlington Manor (14 hearths)

It is possible also to analyse the great house in relation to other features of the settlement pattern. Even with their parks, Woburn Abbey, Wrest Park, Bletsoe Castle and Melchbourne House feel part of their village, although for the seventeenth-century situation this may be illusory in the case of Woburn Abbey. The park then stretched only as far north as the public road through the modern park and the entrance was 3 kilometres (2 miles) to the south of the town.

There is a whole group of houses which are manor house and church together. These include Eyeworth Manor, Colmworth Manor, Willington Manor, Hulcote Manor and the Hillersden Mansion at Elstow, from the houses with 17 to 25 hearths. There are also a number of smaller houses which are adjacent to or across the road from the church. Campton Manor (11 hearths), Harlington Manor (12 hearths), Higham Gobion Manor (7 hearths), Meppershal Manor (either 6 or 8 hearths), Southill Park (13 hearths), Tilsworth Manor (7 hearths).

But equally there are houses and parks on isolated sites: Among the largest houses these include Luton Hoo (60 hearths), Houghton House (55 hearths), Toddington Manor (45 hearths), Park House, Eaton Bray (32 hearths), and Wood End, Cople (27 hearths). Similarly placed are Someries Castle (23 hearths), Warden Abbey (20 hearths), Newberry, Silsoe (17 hearths) and Stratton Park (17 hearths). Smaller houses away from the village centre include Bushmead Priory (14 hearths), Basmead Manor (14 hearths), both of which are in Eaton Socon; and one might note also Cardington Manor (9 hearths).

Very few of the great houses were moated. Among the houses with more than thirty hearths, only Bletsoe Castle, originally a medieval house, and Park House, Eaton Bray, are moated. Wood End, Cople, the ninth largest house in the county (with 27 hearths) was also moated. The fifteenth-century Someries Castle is outside the moat of the earlier house there.

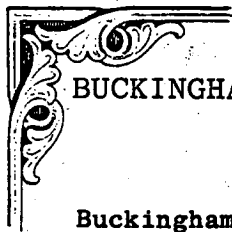
There are some smaller houses which are on moated sites: Cardington Manor (9 hearths), a house of the 1540s perhaps on an earlier site; Manor Farm, Marston Moretaine (perhaps 9 hearths), which is timber-framed and of cruck-construction;³⁶ Mavourn Manor, Bolnhurst (11 hearths); and the manor house at Tilsworth (7 hearths) of which the gatehouse, of fourteenth-century date, survives.

NOTES

1. This paper is an extended version of a lecture written to be delivered at C.B.A.9 Reports Conference, March 1986, but not delivered owing to sickness. I thank T.P. Smith for assistance with slides of greens in the parish of Luton.
2. It is not anticipated that this book will be completed much before 1995.
3. Probably the best description of Elstow in the seventeenth century is J. Brown, John Bunyan, (1885, fifth edition 1928), 16-33.
4. S.R. Coleman, Hockliffe, (1983 = Beds. Parish Surveys 1).

5. M. Spufford, Contrasting Communities, (1974), 7 with n.20.
6. S.R. Coleman, Cranfield, (1986 = Beds. Parish Surveys, 5). Neither of the two other parishes have yet been included in Bedfordshire Parish Surveys.
7. A.V. Rickards, 'Thurleigh', V.C.H. Beds., 3 (1912), 104-9, offers some suggestive ideas from the history of land-ownership in the parish which could suggest a background to the fragmented landscape.
8. B. Bailey, The English Village Green, (1985), 113-114 for Bedfordshire discusses the green as evidenced by Elstow green.
9. I am unaware of any study of the green as an economic resource; my own thoughts derive from residence in East Anglia, and for a preliminary survey see D.H. Kennett, The Making of East Anglia, (1987), chapter 3.
10. Published in facsimile by the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society, 1983.
11. M.W. Beresford, History on the Ground, (1957), 87-92 with pls.6-8.
12. The comments on Luton derive from fieldwork done at various dates 1955-1980; for the expansion of the urban area see a series of maps in Luton Central Library, drawn by D.H. Kennett (1976).
13. D.B. Baker, 'Bedfordshire Medieval Moated Sites' in F.A. Aberg (ed.), Medieval Moated Sites, (1978 = C.B.A. Research Report, 17), 61-63; F.A. Aberg, 'Introduction', ibid., 3, table 1.
14. L.M. Marshall, 'The Rural Population of Bedfordshire; 1671-1921', Publications of the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society, 16 (1934), 65-159 prints the Hearth Tax of 1671; Bolnhurst, ibid., 134-135. For the tenurial history of Bolnhurst farms see D.H. Kennett, 'The Francklins and Bolnhurst', 1974, typescript in Bedfordshire County Record Office, Bedford.
15. From the court books, B.C.R.O. documents x 312/1-3, it is possible to reconstruct the tenurial history of the tenements of the town of Luton from 1671 (the hearth tax) to 1842 (the tithe map). Unpublished card index in author's possession.
16. D.H. Kennett, 'A Bedfordshire Parish in Domesday Book: Bolnhurst, 1086-1986', Bedfordshire Magazine, forthcoming.
17. D.H. Kennett, A.H. Simco, T.P. Smith, 'The Moated Site and Timber-Framed Building at Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst', Beds Archaeol., 17 (1986), 77-85.
18. O. Rackham, Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape, (1976), 15-18 with fig. 1.
19. There is an enclosure award for Luton; it is concerned solely with the repair of the river bank of the River Lea within the town of Luton and not with the enclosure of open field anywhere in the ancient parish.
20. Summary list of awards, Guide of Bedfordshire County Record Office, (1957), 4-7; percentages from comparing acreages of land enclosed with parish area.

21. For some families see, D.H. Kennett, 'Sixteenth-Century County Families', and occasional series being contributed to Bedfordshire Magazine; to date articles of the Moores of Bolnhurst, the Francklins of Bolnhurst have appeared; articles on the Charnockes of Hulcote, the Fishers of Clifton, the Tyringhams of Hinwick, the Thomsons of Husbourne Crawley, the Andersons of Eyeworth, and the Dyers of Colmworth have been submitted and await publication.
22. Since this was written, I have come across a fourth list, made by Richard Blome in 1673, see R. Blome, Britannia, 1673, 348-349.
23. F.A. Blaydes in Bedfordshire Notes and Queries 1 (1886), 213-220.
24. F.A. Blaydes, Visitations of Bedfordshire (Harleian Soc., 19, 1884), summary list only.
25. L.M. Marshall, loc: cit. note 14; the rest of this paper is an analysis of the major houses in the hearth tax.
26. Hardwick Hall, Derbys., with 114 hearths is larger than any other house in a published hearth tax.
27. Summary list, L. and J.F. Stone, An Open Elite?, (1984), 554
28. M.B. Weinstock, 'The Oxfordshire Hearth Tax, 1665', Oxford Record Society, 21 (1940)
29. This paragraph derives from the author's unpublished researches on the Bedfordshire gentry; see note 21, with in addition D.H. Kennett, 'The Cottons in Bedfordshire', Records of Huntingdonshire, forthcoming; D.H. Kennett, 'The Dyers of Great Staughton', Records of Huntingdonshire forthcoming in two parts.
30. Oxfordshire assessments derived from Weinstock, op. cit. note 28; a full comparison of the two fully published hearth taxes from C.B.A. 9 area is in preparation.
31. Accessibly P. Bigmore, The Bedfordshire ... Landscape, (1978), pl.19; ibid., pl.20 shows the house in 1735, see the inset top left.
32. J. Weaver (ed.), 'The Building Accounts of Harrold Hall', Publn. Beds. Hist. Rec. Soc., 49 (1970), 56-80.
33. D.H. Kennett, Portrait of Bedfordshire, (1978), 125-127.
34. T.P. Smith, 'Somerles Castle', Beds. Arch. J., 3 (1966), 35-51; T.P. Smith, 'The Early Brickwork of Somerles Castle ...', J.B.A.A., 129 (1976), 42-58.
34. Sale catalogue printed in A.M.C. Smith, 'The Thomsons of Husbourne Crawley', Beds. N.Q., 2 (1890), 50-66, also cited in Kennett, forthcoming as in note 21.
35. Kennett, 1978, 133-134.
36. N.W. Alcock and P.J. Woodward, 'Cruck-Frame Buildings in Bedfordshire', Beds. Arch. J., 11 (1976), 51-68, esp. 51-58, with fig.2-8 and pl.1-4.



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Buckinghamshire County Museum

The year has principally been one of watching briefs and old-style traditional 'rescue', alongside post-excavation work. The Assistant Field Archaeologist, Peter Yeoman, departed north of the border and we have welcomed a number of contract staff including; Mary Evans, Phil Heathman, Simon Smithson, Grace Scrimgeour, Rowena Day, Phil Carstairs and always with us in spirit although intermittently in body, Barbara Hurman! Wayne Cocroft, an Oxford In-Service student, successfully completed a post-excavation project on an eighteenth century Brill kiln.

The Museum's 'Aylesbury Past Project', an MSC funded scheme, under the direction of Hal Dalwood, operated throughout the year and a separate report appears elsewhere. The discovery of a small Saxon hall at Walton adjacent to the known Saxon settlement was one of the highlights of the project.

The County Museum Archaeological Group again performed sterling service, meeting on Tuesdays, day and evening, and also assisting with excavations at High Wycombe, on the Amersham by-pass, at Amersham itself and Great Missenden. Apart from post-excavation the Group has been working on aerial photographs, turnpikes, early museum records, the Museum's photographic collection, and many other projects.

Missenden Abbey

Watching briefs by P. Yeoman, P. Heathman and J. Sharpe during reconstruction of the Abbey showed that substantial parts of the Abbey had been demolished in the Tudor period and in particular the west range which appears to have been completely robbed. The site of the eastern wall of the west range is probably represented by the west wall of the present building. An undercroft of late medieval/Tudor date was discovered in the south range. Various drainage trenches external to the present building exposed a sequence of buildings in the area of the church, floor levels probably associated with the west range, and on the south a floor of plain tiles, and also of decorated tiles although the latter may have been relaid. Much architectural masonry was also recovered.

Amersham By-Pass

During soil stripping a 'corn-drier' and Romano-British boundary ditch were recorded adjacent to the previous Mantles Green excavation, but on the opposite side of the present road. A substantial backfilled modern gravel pit may have destroyed other occupation in this area. Adjacent to this was discovered a copper-alloy sceptre head of ? Jupiter, the second to be found in the area, which will be the subject of a further report elsewhere.

49, High Street, Amersham

Prior to conversion to a museum, a small excavation was carried out inside this medieval building by J. Sharp on behalf of the Amersham Society and the County Museum. A tiled late medieval central hearth was discovered and associated floor levels. Presumably it was this hearth which was responsible for smoke-blackening of the roof. The

hall's cross-wing was investigated externally following a modern drainage cut and evidence was produced for a structure which preceded the cross-wing.

Desborough Road, High Wycombe

During construction of mini-roundabouts on Desborough Road human remains were brought to light. Subsequent investigation produced evidence of twelve skeletons, all aligned east-west without grave goods. Preservation was generally poor. Taken in conjunction with discoveries of remains made in the nineteenth century and a map of 1596, it is fairly clear that the cemetery was part of one attached to the medieval hospital of St. Margaret, which was Wycombe's leper hospital.

Magiovinium

A small excavation by D. Neal for the Central Excavation Unit, in advance of road works at Galley Lane crossroads, failed to locate the ditch of the presumed fort, which may lie further west. Several planning applications have been made for development of the area once occupied by the suburb of the Roman town fronting Watling Street, and appropriate responses have been made.

Desborough Castle, High Wycombe

The 'castle', a substantial medieval ringwork, is believed to be sited within an earlier enclosure. Proposals by Wycombe District Council to develop part of the latter site have led to an application for Scheduled Monument Consent to carry out an evaluation in this area. The application has yet to be finally determined, but is likely to be favourable to the Council in which case an excavation will take place here during 1987.

Dorney

Proposals by Thames Water for a substantial programme of works associated with a flood relief scheme for Maidenhead led to the commissioning of a survey which was carried out by P. Carstairs for the County Museum. This involved some fieldwork and re-examination and mapping of aerial photographs. The survey showed how important the area is in the Middle Thames region and drew attention in particular to a probable Neolithic interrupted-ditch enclosure at Dorney Reach, on a photograph taken by the NMR.

Post-excavation work

The principal effort during the year has been on the Denham medieval pottery kilns, now substantially complete, and on the early phases of work on the Prebendal, Aylesbury excavation. Published during the year in Records of Bucks 26 were the following:

Iron Age occupation at Long Crendon	-	P. Carstairs
The Burnt Mounds of Chalfont St. Giles	-	S. Smithson

An interim on the Prebendal site appeared in Current Archaeology.

With editors awaiting publication are: Bierton, by D. Allen and H. Dalwood; a report on a LBA hoard from Ivinghoe, by H. Dalwood; and on a post-medieval kiln at Brill, by W. Cocroft.

Other Matters

Computerisation of the Sites & Monuments Record is proceeding slowly, some thousand or so sites having been completed by the end of 1986. Application has been made to HBMC to fund a post from 1987 to work on computerisation of the Record: if successful the process will be greatly accelerated.

General Planning Matters

After considerable delay three of many sites submitted for scheduling over the years have now been scheduled - a cause for celebration, however despite signs of good intent - English Heritage's proposed 'Monument Protection Programme', the problem of preservation remains a major problem for Buckinghamshire until this comes into effect.

Michael Farley.



Aylesbury Past Project

Aylesbury Past Project, funded by the MSC Community Programme, has now entered its second year, and in 1987 will be carrying out excavations and field walking in the immediate area of Aylesbury. In 1986 two sites were excavated in Walton, Aylesbury (Fig. 1) and revealed further evidence for the development of this settlement which is separate from, but linked to, the town of Aylesbury.

1. Walton Lodge, Walton Street

As first reported in South Midlands Archaeology 16, this site lies only 100 m east of M. E. Farley's 1973-74 excavations of the Saxon site at Walton Vicarage (Farley 1976; Recs. Bucks 20). In 1985-86, after the excavation of medieval deposits, an area of Saxon occupation was examined, which contained small pits, gullies, and a rectangular post-built building (7m x 5m) with a probable gable-end entrance. Artefactual evidence was poor compared with the 1973-74 site: very little Saxon stamped pottery and no datable metalwork was found. However, the site produced two sherds of Ipswich Ware (which was also found at the Prebendal Grounds site in Aylesbury), and a few other sherds of Middle Saxon pottery. It is suggested that the excavated site forms part of the occupied area of Walton in the Middle Saxon period, the settlement focus having shifted eastwards from the area investigated in 1973-74. This was shown to be occupied in the early Saxon period, but produced no eighth or ninth century material.

Underlying the Saxon occupation was evidence of Bronze Age settlement, with numerous post-holes, which cannot readily be resolved into comprehensible structures, and a number of small pits. Full analysis of the pottery is not yet complete, but it clearly has affinities with Deverel-Rimbury and later Bronze Age undecorated pottery traditions.

2. Teachers Centre, Walton Road

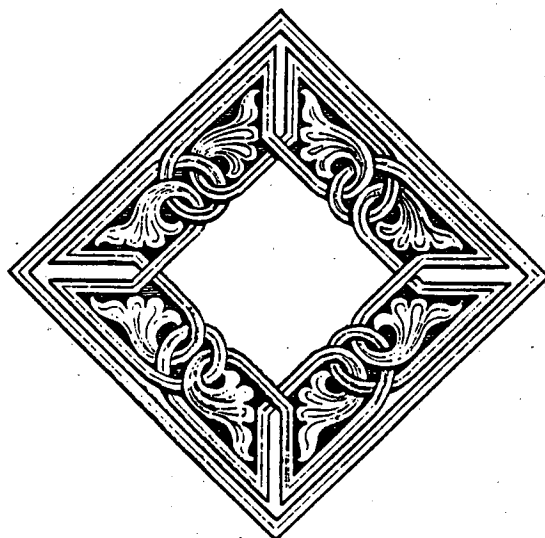
This site lies 200m north-east of Walton Lodge but produced very little Saxon or prehistoric material, although levelling in the post-medieval period may have removed all trace of archaeological deposits of these periods. A group of shallow pits and gullies have been dated to the twelfth - thirteenth century, and this site clearly lay within the medieval village of Walton.

3. Aylesbury Field Survey

Field walking began in November 1986, and is planned to continue until April 1987 and then resume in September 1987. The general aim is systematically to walk the area within a mile of the built-up limits of Aylesbury. Within this general aim there are two priorities: firstly, to assess the archaeological importance of areas in advance of major, imminent land development schemes, notably the bypass planned to go south of Stone, south and east of Aylesbury and south of Bierton. It is hoped that results from fieldwalking will enable us to assess the archaeological potential of the threatened areas. Secondly, to increase the SMR data for the area surrounding Aylesbury that is ripe for development, or that will soon become so because of the presence of the bypass, so that a more accurate assessment can be made of the effect of future planning proposals for the archaeology of Aylesbury.

The field walking method employed is to divide each field into a 3m₂ grid; each square is then walked by three walkers at 10 m intervals. Distribution plots of significant types of material found are then produced and a summary and interpretation of the finds is produced for the SMR. Work from November to January has been slow because of the small number of people on the scheme, but it is hoped that from mid-January a more rapid cover of fields will be possible.

Hal Dalwood and Alison Kain.



MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT: BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 1987: Dennis C Mynard

Introduction

During the year there have been considerable changes in the staffing of the Unit, with two posts becoming redundant and two other members of staff leaving.

The redundancies were requested by the Development Corporation which wished to reduce its staffing commitment to archaeology at a time when the programme of work was considered to be reducing.

Whilst the estimated rescue programme for 1986 onwards has been relatively small compared with earlier years, recent proposals by the Corporation for the development of several Scheduled Ancient Monument Sites could if allowed generate a considerable amount of work.

Fieldwork in the area has continued with several new sites being discovered, detailed field surveys being undertaken and close co-operation with local metal detector users continuing.

At Bancroft excavation of the area adjacent to the streamside in the valley bottom below the Villa has concluded the excavation of this site.

The excavations at Shenley Brook End, directed by Martin Petchey, who managed the M.S.C. project there, were concluded when the scheme ended in June. The results of this two year project have enabled us to formulate a policy for further excavation of this site in advance of development in 1988-89.

During the year a large number of the Units excavation archives have been microfilmed by National Monuments Record and further material is being prepared for this work.

The medieval window from Bradwell Abbey reported in South Midland Archaeology 16 1986 p 61, Fig 15 and front cover, has attracted a considerable amount of attention and a modern copy is to be made for display purposes. The copy will be as near to the original as possible and we are extremely grateful to the Worshipful Company of Glaziers of London for a grant towards this work. The new window and parts of the original will eventually form part of a display at Bradwell Abbey.

This will be the last report that I write in my office at Bradwell Abbey since during 1987 the Unit is being moved to a nearby factory unit. The removal of the Unit is necessary to allow the proposed development of Bradwell Abbey as the City Discovery Centre.

C.D.C. will become an educational centre, where the dissemination of information on the history and natural history of the area, the development of Milton Keynes and other allied subjects will, it is hoped, be of sufficient interest to generate adequate income to support the venture.

Whilst the staff of the Unit are not looking forward to the removal of seventeen years accumulated finds, archive etc we wish the new Centre every success.

Fieldwork in Milton Keynes

R J Williams

A number of new sites have come to light during the course of the year. Some are in areas where occupation was only to be expected, such as the centre of Stony Stratford, others in areas of established pasture, in particular on the western side of the New City, where it has always been impossible to carry out any thorough programme of investigative fieldwork.

An example of the latter was the recent discovery by Mr George Foster of Bletchley, of a new Romano-British site at Shenley Brook End SP 8203 3588 along the line of the new V2 grid road, to the west of Oakhill Woods. No obvious structural features were located, only ditches and pits, but it is likely that the site extends beyond the immediate confines of the stripped area. Future evaluation work is planned to establish the exact nature of this site in a part of Milton Keynes which is almost devoid of Romano-British sites.

Several new medieval occupation areas have also been discovered as a direct result of new development. At Shenley Brook End SP 8380 3566 Mr Foster and his colleagues from the West Bletchley Metal Detector Club located a scatter of pottery along the line of the advanced earthworks for the V3 grid road. Most of the pottery was of 12th-13th century date and further investigations revealed it had come from the remains of a small house platform. Cobbling and areas of silt were visible but insufficient time and resources were available to carry out further work.

Between Shenley Church End and Loughton, advance roadworks also revealed at least one further medieval house site and the remains of associated yard surfaces at SP 8333 3672. The finds included a group of 11th-12th century pottery and a large decorative bone spindle whorl/gaming piece. The area had previously been recorded as an area of low earthworks and previous drainage work in 1983 had revealed several 17th to 18th century structures (S.M.A. 1983 p 45).

The major fieldwork project of 1986 has been the construction/excavation of the North Furzton balancing lake, which although not as large as Caldecotte or Willen will have a capacity of 287,000m³ and cover an area of over 20 hectares. The main Iron Age cropmark site (S.M.A. 1986 p 57-58) had already been excluded from the Anglia Water Authority's working area at the request of the Archaeology Unit. During the topsoil stripping of

over 100 acres two more Iron Age ditched enclosures were located 400 metres north-east of the main cropmark. One enclosure was roughly square with an internal width of 35 metres the other was 'D' shaped 60 x 29m across internally and situated 80 metres further north. In the time available it was only possible to define the main features with the aid of hired plant and excavate several machine sections to obtain dating evidence.

Since the two main foci of the settlement appeared to be separated by over 400 metres, a series of machine trenches were excavated across the intervening field to determine if the two areas were interlinked. The relative absence of contemporary Iron Age features seemed to disprove this theory. Full excavation of this important and extensive site is planned to commence in spring/early summer 1987 with the housing development following close behind.

Two significant post medieval sites have also been the focus of watching briefs throughout the year. At Stony Stratford - a planned medieval 'new town' - a large corner plot at the south-eastern end of the High Street backing on to Russell Street has been redeveloped. A row of Victorian tenements had been demolished in the 1960's and the site had until recently been used as a temporary car park. The remains of the Victorian buildings and cellerage were apparent and large quantities of mid 19th century ceramics and glass were recovered from rubbish pits. Although the site was at the extreme rear of the medieval burgrave plots, Russell Street originated as a medieval backlane and some contemporary occupation/building evidence was anticipated. In the event no medieval evidence of any form was located. There was however a remarkable 2 to 3 metre deep deposit of disturbed soil containing 17th to 18th century pottery overlying the natural gravel terrace. It would seem likely that the extreme rear of the tenements had been used for quarrying sand and gravel in the 18th century destroying all trace of earlier activity.

Part of the plot had once been the graveyard of the adjacent Non Conformist Chapel built in 1823. A number of skeletons were disturbed during the work and a brick built burial vault underlying a 20 year old kitchen extension was slightly damaged causing some local press interest.

Woughton on the Green, a shrunken, but extensive medieval village is now almost entirely encompassed by new housing developments. Most recently, work on the north east side of the green revealed the remains of the 18th century Green Farm demolished, before adequate recording, under mysterious circumstances in 1970. The most interesting discoveries in the side of a sewer trench were parts of two wooden barrels, originally let into the clay to a depth of 3 feet. One was partially excavated and contained mid to late 18th century sherds but could not be removed. The other although badly damaged was removed and has been partially reconstructed after controlled air drying. The function of the barrel is uncertain but it was originally a butt with an estimated capacity of 108 gallons. Many of the oak staves had been reused and pegged. The hoops were made from split and pegged hazel. Finds of such utilitarian wooden 'vessels' from this period are remarkably rare.

At Great Linford the 18th century stone pavilions are currently being underpinned to prevent further cracking and subsidence. Both partially overlies the remains of the original medieval manor house excavated by R J Zeepvat in 1980 (C.B.A. 9 Newsletter 9 1981 pp 61-64). The interior of the south pavilion was fully investigated in 1980 but the floor of the north pavilion has recently been removed but failed to reveal any further structural evidence of the earlier building as was anticipated.

Two independent archaeological evaluation exercises have also been carried out during the year. At Tattenhoe, A.D.M.V. in the south west corner of the city, a detailed gridded field survey of the area to the west of the church and moat was undertaken by the author. The analysis of the extensive quantity and type of finds related to stone/tile scatters and a contour survey revealed a range of buildings from 13th to 17th century date. This site has previously produced medieval decorated floor tiles and it was hoped the survey would define the exact distribution of these. Over 60 fragments were collected but they do not correlate closely with the recognisable building locations. Further work will be required to decide whether the tiles are from the site of a manor house or an earlier church.

At Bradwell Abbey, the present headquarters of the Archaeology Unit, proposals for the development of the site as an environmental interpretation centre will inevitably lead to building alterations and development of the grounds. Evaluation work in preparation for this will be carried out by the Archaeology Unit in 1987. Most recently Bradford University completed a partial geophysical survey over a part of the site planned for a new access road and carpark. A number of anomalies were located and will be investigated with machine trial trenches in the spring.

Metal detecting and archaeology in Milton Keynes

R J Williams

Milton Keynes has in the past been referred to as "the largest building site in Europe". Considering the extensive disturbance of the ground it is not surprising that it has attracted perhaps more than its fair share of metal detector enthusiasts to 'work over' the development sites and spoilheaps. The presence of the Roman Watling Street has always been a draw, and when part of the Roman town of Magiovinium at the extreme south end of the city was affected by a major new road, the site and topsoil heaps were reported to be literally swarming with detector users.

Against this background of the increasing popularity of metal detecting and the apparent polarisation of the archaeological establishment and metal detector users, the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit has endeavoured to find a means of managing the activities of these enthusiasts whilst not being heavy handed and antagonistic.

The result of this in 1982 was the drawing up of a legal document in the form of a licence. This licence obviously contained a number of clauses, but in short it allowed the detector users to enter certain specific land on condition that all finds were reported and handed in to the Archaeology Unit. In practice most of the licenced areas have been development sites but some licences have been issued for agricultural land due for development. In the latter case although the metal detector by its very nature

discriminates against all other types of archaeological object they can be very helpful in identifying Roman - post medieval sites which can then be followed up with more detailed field survey.

The licences are only valid within the designated area of Milton Keynes (22,000 acres) which is an almost unique case in this respect since perhaps 95% of all developable land is owned by the Development Corporation. Clearly unlike many other rural areas this has allowed a certain degree of control over unauthorised entry onto land.

Clearly it is impossible to police this policy and it would be naive to believe unauthorised detecting does not occur, but there can be no doubt that the licencing policy has produced both interesting finds and revealed new archaeological sites whilst fostering relations between the archaeology unit and the detector users.

Furthermore, the licenced use of detectors has been used to the benefit of both parties on a number of excavations most notably at the Bancroft Villa and Mausoleum sites. Before excavation and topsoil stripping commenced at the Mausoleum site a metal detector survey closely defined a concentration of Romano-British coinage and small iron spearheads in the plough soil which conventional fieldwalking had missed. On excavation this scatter closely equated to a small late Roman shrine which produced few objects most of them having been disturbed by the plough.

At the Villa site the West Bletchley Metal Detector Club have for several seasons detected over the spoil heaps and the site at the end of each season, producing interesting finds which have been missed either thorough machine stripping or lack of resources to completely excavate the site. The old maxim that disturbed finds are of no interest is not valid in this respect. For example the number of metal detector coins is almost equal in number to those found during excavation and the balance of the total assemblage would appear biased if only the excavated samples were considered.

There have been problems in that finds have been made by detector users operating outside the Corporations licencing system and often tresspassing on Corporation land.

Some of these finds have been reported to us by a third party (Paul and Charmian Woodfield) to whom the finds have been taken for identification.

Several significant finds have been made by these people, in particular bronze objects from the Bancroft Villa excavation, a Saxon garnet inlaid sword stud from Bletchley, a Roman gold coin from Shenley Brook End and a post medieval enamelled knife handle from Loughton. The knowledge of these finds has created difficulties for all concerned, not least the Woodfields, who whilst wishing to record the finds rather than let the information be lost also need to inform the Unit but at the same time respect the finders wish for anonymity.

In the event the Corporation has decided to seek to recover the finds by rewarding the finders - but of course they will not be able to remain anonymous.

Furthermore, a much publicised problem occurred at Bancroft where in October 1985 an unauthorised detector user found an extremely rare gold solidus of Constantine. At the Coroners inquest in March 1986 the find was declared not treasure trove as was anticipated. Fortunately the Development Corporation had sought legal advice and was represented at the inquest by a well briefed solicitor. In what must be an extremely important precedent, instead of handing the coin back to the finder the coin was given to Milton Keynes Development Corporation who were the owners of the land. The coroners justification for this was that the object had been found without permission to enter the land and that the archaeology unit was actively engaged in excavating the site. Since the coin is one of only five known examples, it has been loaned to the British Museum. The finder was paid a small reward well below the true value of the find.

The licence was originally intended to be only issued to groups or clubs, but in practice this policy has been reviewed and licences are now issued to individuals. This has proved very successful and over the years a number of significant objects have been found and handed in to the archaeology unit, and will one day contribute to the displays of the proposed Milton Keynes Museum.

In 1986 the flow of finds from detector users has continued. These have included two lead ampullae found by Mr Tony Smith of Wolverton at Shenley Brook End. Found in separate locations both are of Spencers scallop shell type and after cleaning and conservation will be properly reported upon. These have doubled the number of ampullae from Milton Keynes, previous examples having been found at Gt Linford and Old Bradwell.

Mr Hinds, another detector user from Bedford has thoroughly covered a large pipeline at Walton adjacent to the S.M.V. Finds have included a small number of medieval silver hammered coins. He has also detected over an extensive area to the north of this site which is thought to contain a Romano-British site. The area is to be developed in the near future and could potentially be programmed for excavation. Since conventional fieldwalking had been relatively unproductive it was felt that a detector search ought to either confirm the existence and location or produce negative evidence. Only one Romano-British coin was recovered and on past experience of this type of site it is no longer considered sufficiently important to programme for excavation.

Perhaps the most significant discovery of the year in this category has also been made by Mr Smith of Wolverton.

In the late 18th century a very important Romano-British religious hoard, including a silver headdress now on display in the British Museum, was discovered in an area known as Windmill Field. It had always been thought to have come from the Old Stratford/Passenham area but the exact location had been lost. Whilst detecting on a large field in this area Mr Smith located a group of Romano-British brooches and coins. Further visits have produced over 300 coins and other finds. A rapid field fieldwalk by the writer and Glen Foard of the Northants Archaeology Unit only revealed a light scatter of pottery and stone. Without the benefit of the detector finds the site would almost certainly be dismissed as a small rural site of little significance. Since nearly half the coinage came from a concentrated area the most likely explanation is that they have been ploughed up from a shrine similar to the Bancroft example. It is also interesting to note that this

site is not far from the Deanshanger Roman Villa and there may be a direct relationship similar to that between the Bancroft Villa and Mausoleum/shrine. The massive concentration of 1st - 4th century coinage combined with the relative absence of the more normal domestic material makes it highly likely that Mr Smith has rediscovered the location of the religious hoard.

The site is within Northamptonshire and the Northants Unit hope to carry out a more detailed evaluation exercise in the autumn of 1987.

It is certainly hoped that the established relationship between the metal detector users and the Archaeology Unit will continue in 1987 and help breakdown the barriers and mistrust so often expressed through a misunderstanding of each others practices.

Bancroft Villa 1986

R J Zeepvat

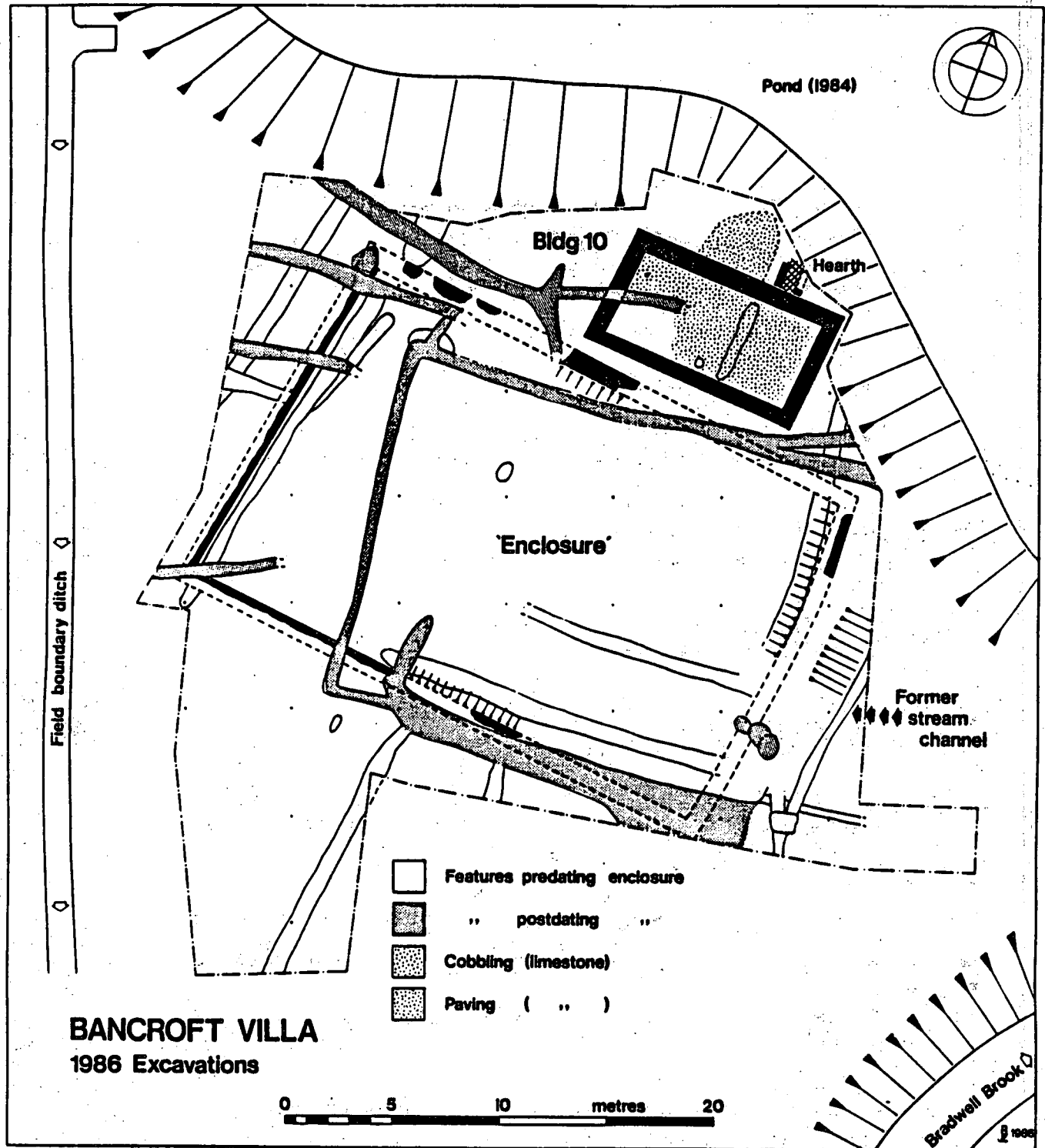
Excavations at Bancroft during the 1986 season were carried out on an area to the west of the farm buildings complex, close to Bradwell Brook. This area was chosen for study because construction of a large pond in it in 1984 by MKDC Landscape Unit revealed a number of Roman features, including a building, preserved in waterlogged conditions beneath a peaty layer over 1 metre thick, which had itself begun to be laid down during the Roman period.

Initially, an area approximately 30 metres square was stripped by machine, commencing in the area of the building located in 1984 (Bldg 10). This was subsequently extended by another 80 square metres to the south-east, in an attempt to get as close as possible to the previous excavations, though an actual physical link-up was not possible owing to the very wet nature of the intervening ditch and surrounding ground (Fig. 5).

Building 10, on the north side of the excavated area, was a small but substantial rectangular stone structure measuring 10.5 x 6m, built in mortared coursed limestone on a pitched rubble footing. Much of its interior was covered with a rough surface of limestone chippings. Its north wall had been built over the remains of a hearth/corn drier. Finds from the rubble overlying the building suggested that it became disused in the late second century, probably at the same time that the first house (Bldg 7) burnt down. There was no indication as to the function of Building 10.

To the south of Building 10 was roughly rectangular walled enclosure, measuring 18 x 26 metres approximately. The interior surface of this enclosure had been artificially lowered up to 400mm below the level of the gravel terrace underlying this part of the site. The enclosure appeared to be contemporary with Building 10. However, its function has not yet been determined; its shallow depth and relatively insubstantial construction rule out the possibility of it being a pond, and the lack of an entrance suggests it was not an enclosure for animals. A similar, though apparently larger enclosure was located to the south of this area in 1985, though detailed examination of it was prevented by persistently wet conditions.

FIG. 5



To the east of Building 10 and the enclosure was found the west side of a broad channel, aligned north-south. The alignment of this channel suggests that it was an artificial stream channel, cut to the west of the present brook in the first or early second century, perhaps as an attempt to improve the movement of flood water down the valley. The existence of this channel was first noted during the construction of the pond in 1984. This channel seems to have begun to silt up at the time when Building 10 was abandoned, leading to the disappearance of the adjacent enclosure under increasing deposits of silt and peat. By the fourth century, the appearance of a number of ditches cutting across the enclosure on an east-west alignment indicate attempts to drain what had obviously become a persistently wet area. Because of the waterlogged nature of the site, great emphasis was placed on the recovery of environmental evidence, and an on-site programme of flotation and wet-sieving was carried out on samples from all suitable contexts, with advice from Mark Robinson, environmentalist at the Oxford Arch. Unit. A number of wood and leather objects were also recovered from the site.

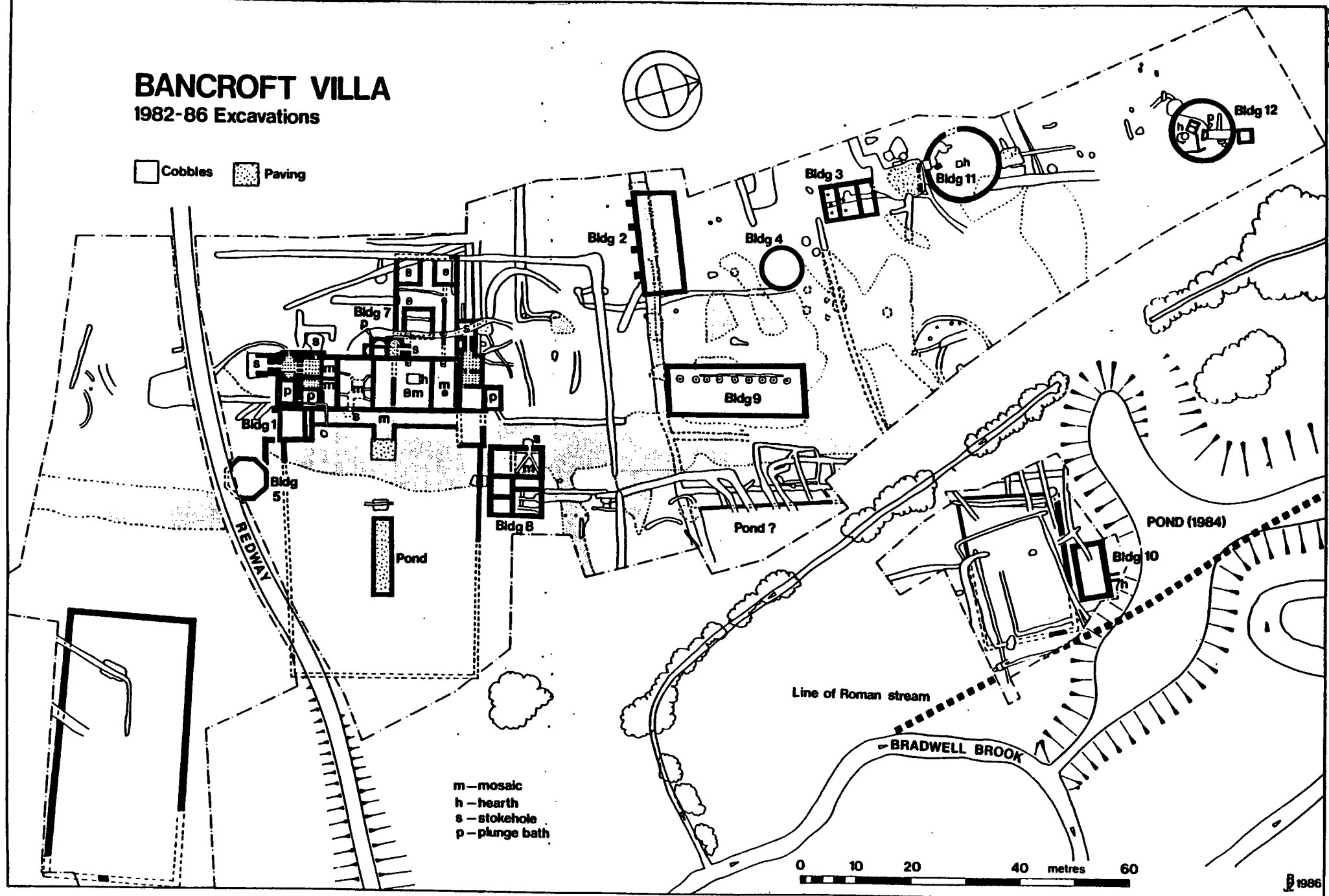
Now that excavations at Bancroft are completed, a better idea can be gained of the extent and development of this villa complex (Fig.6). Whilst there is evidence of activity on the site in the pre-Roman period, probably connected with the Bronze and Iron Age farmsteads discovered 300m to the north, on the Bancroft Mausoleum site, occupation begins with the construction of the aisled house (Bldg 7), the farm complex (Bldgs 2-4, 9-12) in the late 1st/early 2nd century AD. The now abandoned Bronze-Iron Age site becomes the cemetery for the villa. The farm evidently prospers during the second century, though the destruction of Bldg 7 by fire c AD 170 is reflected by contraction of the site, the more outlying buildings (10-12) falling out of use, and activity in areas close to the stream also ceases. A new house (Bldg 1) is constructed, and the farm continues in existence through the third century, but with little evidence of prosperity, so that by the early years of the fourth century the house is showing signs of neglect. However, in the mid fourth century the house is refurbished and extended, with new bath suites, a new frontage and mosaics in every room. A formal walled garden, with ornamental fishpond is laid out in front of the house, flanked by an octagonal gazebo (Bldg 5) and a cottage, presumably for a farm manager (Bldg 8). A large walled enclosure, possibly a kitchen garden or orchard, is also constructed to the south-east of the house. The mausoleum and associated shrine also date from this period. Whilst there are still signs of activity, the importance of the farmyard area appears to diminish at this time. Occupation continues on the site into the fifth century, though the final date of abandonment has not been established.

Following completion of the excavation, the site has been backfilled and returned to grass, as part of the city parks system. Some landscaping has been carried out to define the position of the main houses and formal garden, while the ornamental fishpond will be left open for public view. Information boards are currently being prepared for the site, and one of the mosaics from Bldg 1 (Room 9) is to be suitably mounted for public display in the City Centre. It is intended that the results from the villa and mausoleum excavation will appear as a combined report.

BANCROFT VILLA

1982-86 Excavations

□ Cobbles ■ Paving



Shenley Brook End Medieval Village

The excavation on the site of the medieval village was concluded in June when the MSC scheme came to an end. Reports on the previous two seasons work were published in South Midlands Archaeology, 15, 1986, 45-8 and 16, 1986, 54-56 and Fig. 14.

The excavation of Area 2 was completed and evidence of several medieval buildings obtained.

A trench cut across a third platform, area 3, produced no evidence of structures.

At the end of the scheme the supervisory staff assisted Martin Petchey with the post excavation work and a draft report was produced before Martin left the Unit in September.

The excavation has given a good indication of the quality of the surviving evidence on this site, in view of which it would not be worth excavating those areas of the site that have been ploughed. As far as the spatial and historic development of the site is concerned all we can say is that the core of the village dates from at least the twelfth century and that development expands to the west during the 13th and 14th centuries.

Further work is proposed in advance of development in 1988 or 1989.

Landscape Research

Bob Croft left the Unit at the end of August to take up a post of Field Archaeologist to Somerset County Council.

Bob's involvement with the Milton Keynes project should have culminated with the publication of a monograph volume dealing with the Landscape history of the area.

At the time of his leaving we estimated that there was still several months work required to finalise the text and complete all the illustrations, with Bob's help we hope to complete this work during the next year.

Post Excavation

It is becoming tiresome to repeat that the Roman Volume covering excavations undertaken 1972-82 is with the publishers. However, at the time of writing that is still the case, but we have finally found a satisfactory printer and publication should be in March 1987.

The text of the Monograph Volume dealing with the pottery from the above excavations is now completed and the initial stages of editing are underway.

Work proceeds on the results of the excavation at Gt Linford where large areas of village earthworks were excavated from 1973 onwards.

Now that the Bancroft excavation is completed work on the final report has commenced which together with the nearby Bronze Age to Iron Age occupation, Roman cemetery and adjacent Mausoleum will be published as a separate monograph.

The monograph dealing with the excavations at Milton Keynes (Village) Gravel pit and the Iron Age and Saxon settlement at Pennyland will, it is estimated, be completed during 1987.

A report on the excavation at Shenley Brook End, was completed, apart from the final discussion and the pottery report, at the end of the MSC scheme and will be included in a future monograph dealing with medieval excavations.

An almost final draft covering his various excavations at Caldecotte was produced by Martin Petchey before he left the Unit in September.

Educational Work

Ros Tyrrell

The Unit has continued this year to answer a large number of enquiries from teachers and members of the public. We have done our best to help children and adults alike to appreciate the range and wealth of knowledge available to them which illustrates the past of the Milton Keynes area. The most frequent question from teachers is "Do you know anything about the Romans in Milton Keynes?" and it is tempting to answer that we know more about our Roman ancestors than any similar district in the country.

Teachers undertaking studies of their local villages are surprised at the amount of information resulting from our various excavations in churches in the city. We also frequently talk to groups about how we do our work, and people are fascinated by the way we piece together the fragments of the puzzle to make a picture of the past.

Exhibitions were mounted on such varied topics as 'Bradwell Abbey's Medieval Window', 'Archaeology Under Cover' (on church excavations) and 'Bancroft Villa'.

Conservation

Sue Marshall

Since the end of September, work has progressed at a rate of 2 days per week, largely on Bancroft Villa finds. The last few fibulae have now been treated from both the villa and mausoleum sites and can now be sent off for reporting.

The backlog of 1986 MK105 coins have now been cleaned and identified and await completion of treatment.

In a next few weeks a new member of staff will be joining the Conservation laboratory to work another 2 days per week. This will help greatly with the backlog of finds awaiting treatment.

Environmental Records Section - John M. Steane and Mark K. Taylor,
Ival Hornbrook, Julia Green.

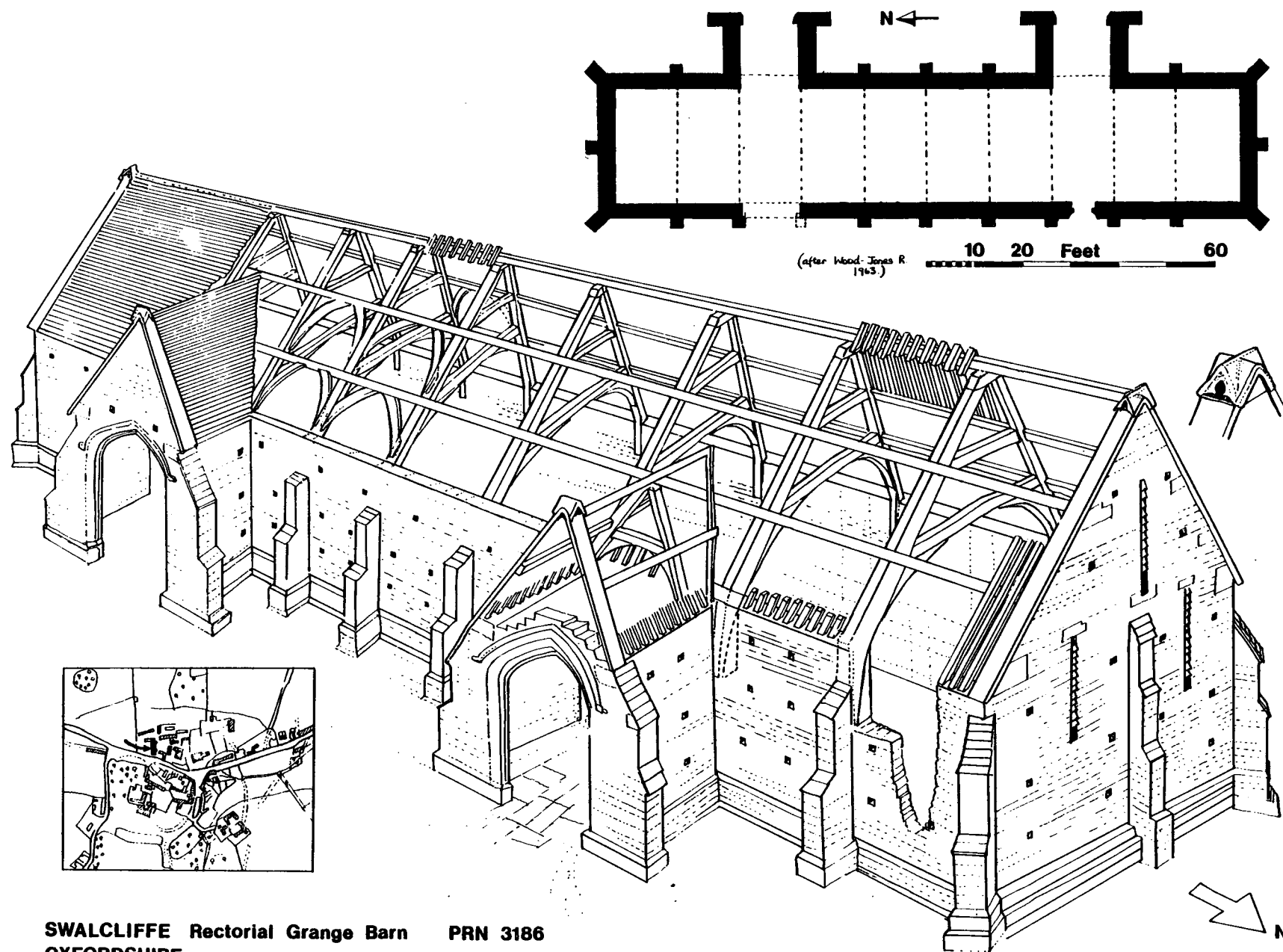
(1) Sites and Monuments Record

Information continues to accumulate within the County Sites and Monuments Record, the number of archaeological sites and buildings now recorded standing at just over 13,900. James Bond, Assistant Keeper, since 1974 left us in June 1986 for Somerset where he will be a part-time tutor for the University Department for Adult Education and freelancing in archaeology. We should like to record his twelve years of unstinting hard work, high standards of Scholarship, cheerfulness and efficiency which have distinguished his career with the County Museum Service and we wish him well. Mark Taylor has joined us in his place. Mark comes from the City and County Museum at Lincoln and his main task will be to supervise the computerisation of the Sites and Monuments Record during the next few years. In April 1987 we shall be joined by Julia Dawn Green as a Records Assistant. Her post is funded by HBMC and will be for one year in the first instance. We also welcome John Campbell who from April has become full time Assistant Keeper of Environmental Records with responsibility for running the Biological Recording Scheme.

The N. Yorks County Council archaeological input software has been ordered and the siting of the Environmental Records Section mainframe terminal has been confirmed. One terminal link has been located in the study room and one in M.K. Taylor's office. Ival Hornbrook has made progress in assimilating information from National Monuments Record Cards not previously recorded in the S.M.R. Also documentation from the Oxford Archaeological Unit with site specific information has been absorbed into the S.M.R. Work has continued in scanning the 1981 (Astral) Air Survey.

(2) Planning. Normal fortnightly meetings for monitoring all planning applications have continued between the new Director of the Oxford Archaeological Unit, Dr Ian Burrow and the Keeper. We welcome Dr Burrow into the region and hope that our relationship with the Unit will continue to be fruitfully co-operative. Comments on archaeological implications of quarry extensions in non-gravel bearing areas have been sent to the Department of Planning and Property Services. A review of future areas for sand/gravel extraction has been undertaken by the Minerals Working Party on which the Keeper sits. The County Council is in process of building stronger environmental and archaeological constraints on future minerals extraction. The Keeper attended a public enquiry into Mill Cottage, East Hendred and supported the view taken by the Vale of the White Horse District Council. The Vale's decision was upheld in this case. He also defended the setting of Great Coxwell Barn at a public enquiry held on 7 January 1987 but the result is not yet known. The Museum supported West Oxon D.C. in its successful campaign to buy the Witney Palace Site with the help of a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. It is hoped that the OAU will be able to mount further excavations. The Museum also supported the Unit in its bid to obtain finances to excavate the site of St John the Baptist's Hospital at Magdalen College.

FIG. 7



SWALCLIFFE Rectorial Grange Barn PRN 3186
OXFORDSHIRE

(3) Cogges. The Keeper gave the Museum Services' views on plans involving the possible privatisation of the Farm Museum to the County Council at meetings held in December and January 1987. The section has been busily involved in drafting a series of 20 panels for the Historical trail which have now been put in place in time for the opening of the Museum on 14 April, 1987.

(4) Council for British Archaeology. The Keeper has continued to Chair the School's Committee and this year has been spent in encouraging the growth of archaeology in schools, launching the GCSE examination in archaeology and revamping the Education Bulletin. The Keeper has also been invited to join the CBA National Committee for Interpreting the Monuments.

PUBLICATIONS

J.M. Steane

1. Multi media exhibition on "Barns" at County Museum, Woodstock July 1986, Vale and Downland Museum, October 1986 and Banbury January 1987.
2. "Commentary to accompany the distribution maps of Oxfordshire" in Biggs G. Cooke J. and Rowley T. "The Archaeology of the Oxford Region, OUDES, 1986".
3. Two articles "Experimental Archaeology in Schools" and "The work of the Schools Committee" in Cracknell S. and Corbishley M. "Presenting Archaeology to Young People", CBA Research Report No 64, 1986.

C.J. Bond

1. Review in Landscape History of Aston M. "Interpreting the Landscape" (Batsford, 1985).
2. "The Oxford Region in the Middle Ages", in Biggs G. Cooke J. and Rowley T. "The Archaeology of the Oxford Region"; OUDES, 1986.

A programme of repair work undertaken in July-August 1986 afforded an opportunity for the investigation of the architectural and archaeological history of the building by N.W. Jones and R.A. Chambers, with assistance from J.M. Steane. A record consisting of plans, drawings and photographs was made and is lodged in the County Museum.

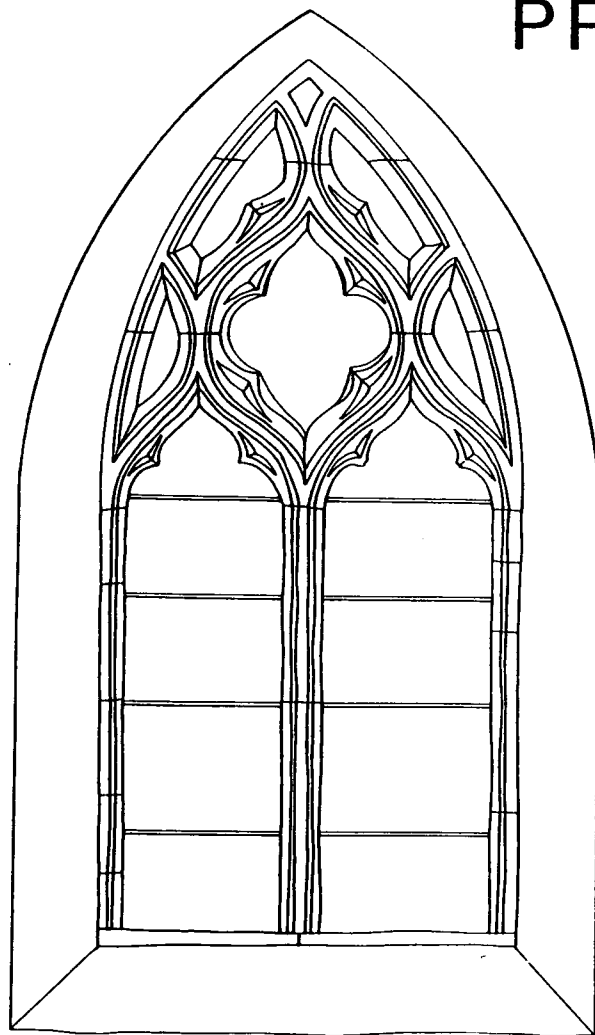
The chapel dedicated to St. Amand and St. John the Baptist was erected c. 1260 as a private domestic chapel. The rubble walls were built onto the bedrock with virtually no foundations, the stone coming from a quarry in the Lower Chalk. The original mortar appears to have been a mixture of lime and lias lime or hard chalk. The quoining in the SW corner indicates that the chapel may originally have been freestanding, and the core of the N and S walls appears original to a height of c. 3m in places. Four putlog holes were noticed in the S wall, one of which was filled with soil and another voided with traces of decayed wood inside. Both the NE and SE corners showed signs of subsidence and subsequent repair in a softer, lighter coloured chalk. The quoining consisted of large blocks of Glauconitic Marl, with some diagonal tooling, surviving to a height of no more than 3m on the SW corner and less elsewhere.

In the original phase the chapel was probably lit by single lancets to the N and S, both of 13th century Early English style with chamfered head and jambs and an internal splay, the base of which slopes down. The S lancet appears substantially original with the exception of the sill, and has a single line inscribed vertically on the W jamb, while the N lancet has been repaired with Oolitic Limestone, the original being Glauconitic Greensand in each case. Holes for dowelling were present in the corners of both lancets.

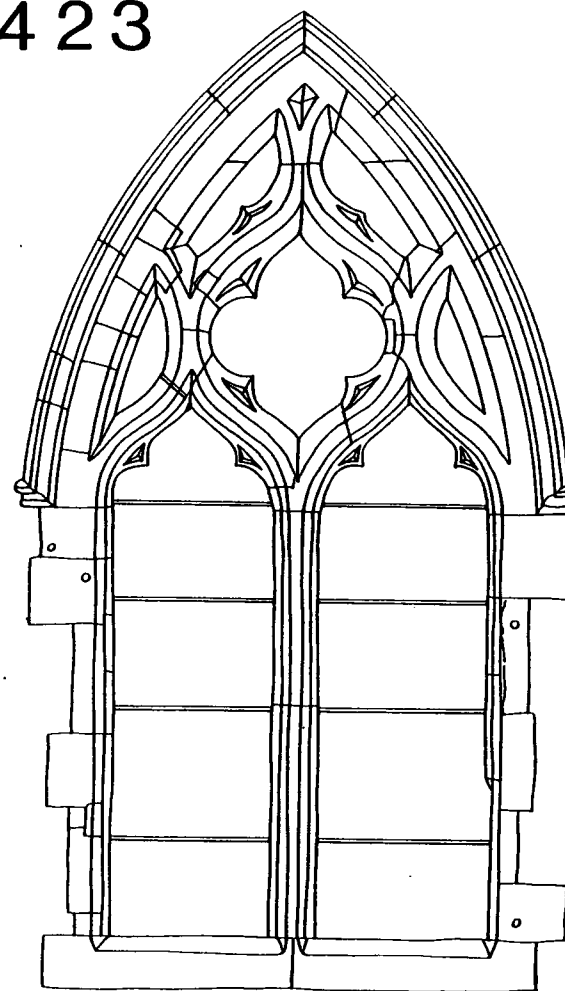
In the early 14th century the East window was inserted, consisting of two cusped lights with reticulated tracery above. The base of the internal splay had been blocked with brickwork, presumably in the Victorian period. Although the exterior had weathered badly and been substantially repaired, the interior appeared largely original. Prior to the restoration of the window a detailed 1:10 drawing (Fig.8) of the interior and exterior was produced and the stones numbered before removal.

It is possible that the walls were heightened or rebuilt in the late medieval period to incorporate the now blocked N and S rectangular windows, the northern one containing reused, dressed Oolitic limestone. This may also explain why the quoining does not continue to the roof, and the masonry coursing is of a higher quality in the upper walls. In the NE corner an unglazed mullioned oak window of three or more lights was inserted and later plastered over. This may belong with the insertion of the Tudor gallery, and possibly also the present wing of the house connecting with the chapel. Traces of an earlier rendering existed below this window as well as on the quoining. Analysis revealed that this was a hair bonded lias lime mortar, probably with limestone or hard chalk as an aggregate. The NW corner has been rebuilt in the upper part using small stones uncharacteristic of the rest of the masonry. The south door was probably added in the late 15th century, consisting of Oolitic limestone blocks, plain with a four centred head and no capitals.

HENDRED HOUSE : OXON. PRN 7423



East window : interior



East window : exterior

ST. AMAND'S CHAPEL



1 10

The chapel underwent considerable restoration in the 19th century, initially consisting of the encasement of the E wall in brick (222 x 60 x 109mm) with some vitrified headers. The bonding is English and the construction may be contemporary with the raising of the roof by four courses of brickwork. Later, diagonal buttresses were added to the NE and SE corners, with an additional buttress each on the N and S walls. The brick size (233 x 65 x 100mm), mortar thickness and bonding, which is Flemish, are different from the E wall encasement.

An oval window in the N wall was blocked with brick at this time, and a similar window in the S wall was blocked with a quatrefoil window being inserted. An earlier window at the top of the E wall was blocked and a trefoil window inserted. At the west end of the S wall three windows were inserted, two square headed two light windows in the upper part of the wall and one two headed two light windows in the lower part to the west of the door. All are surrounded by rebuilt walling containing some brick.

The S porch was added subsequently, partly obscuring the jambs of the inserted windows. It is of brick construction with a four centred doorway to echo the S door, a tiled offset above and a semi-circular niche. The N porch is similar but it has a semi-circular barrel vault. However, this porch is not only not bonded to the building but rests against a light timber frame that supports the lathe and plaster which at this point covers the walls.

The removal of the floor boards and joists revealed that the interior had been substantially lowered at some point, cutting into the bedrock. This effectively removed all traces of previous floor surfaces although it did demonstrate the lack of foundations for the walls. On the exterior the old ground surface had been removed by the construction of a drainage gully.

The removal of the rendering from the exterior wall surfaces has thus provided an unusual opportunity to examine and record the fabric of a 13th century domestic chapel. Although the chapel has been subject to much alteration it has been possible to identify and interpret the successive phases of development, and of particular interest was the recording of the East window enabling it to be restored with much of the original masonry intact.

Thanks are due to the following for their assistance and advice: Mr Eyston, the owner; Mr Buller-West, the architect; Mr Grant Audley-Miller of the Vale of the White Horse District Council; Mr G.C. Morgan of the University of Leicester, Dept of Archaeology for analysing the mortar; Mr H.P. Powell, Assistant Curator in Geology, University Museum, Oxford for identifying geological samples; J.M. Steane and R.A. Chambers.

An examination of the roof was made possible by the decision of the College to replace the Welsh slates by Cumberland grey slate in July 1986. The original chapel of Lincol College was situated in an upper room in the north-east wing of the front quadrangle. The new chapel was needed in the early 17th century because of the rising number of undergraduates in the college. There is a mention of a possible gift towards building a new chapel in the will of William Powdrell (1626) but the chapel was constructed at the expense of John Williams, bishop of Lincoln between 1629-31 and was consecrated by the bishop of Oxford under commission from bishop Williams on September 15, 1631. It is a splendid example of Jacobean Gothic. A description appears in R.C.H.M. City of Oxford, HMSO, 1939, 67-8.

The chapel roof consists of 38 trusses of coupled rafters spaced at 35 cms with upper and lower collars. There are no substantial longitudinal members which is surprising because this type of roof, already current in the 13th century (Blair J. and Steane J.M. *Investigations at Cogges Oxfordshire 1978-81*, *Oxoniensia* XLVII, 1982, 78) was subject to racking and distortion. A half hearted attempt is made to tie the roof structure into the inner surface of the rough, rubbly eastern gable wall by two sets of horizontal timbers; hardly to be dignified with the name of purlins, they are more like spars. Each truss comprises rafters (12 x 15 cms) two collars, ashlar. The lower collars are braced to the rafter couples by mortise and tenon joints each fixed with three tree nails, many of which protrude through on both sides and are thus easily removable. The upper collars are attached to the rafters by open notch-lap joints. There are a series of vertical posts connecting the upper and lower collars with notch-lapped joints. Many of the upper collars have failed and been replaced with more crudely jointed and bolted successors. The rafters spring from a wall plate (not measured) lying on the outer wall top and the diminutive ashlar, (only 66 cms long) similarly are jointed to another plate at the top of the inner side of the wall top. The rafters are pit sawn and the carpenters marks are chiselled in short decisive strokes on the couples at the centre and east end, and are scribed in long sprawling figures on the couples at the west end. The numbers are in pairs but in no particular order, eg. IIV, V, VI, XIII. Several of the lower collars at the west end have slots unrelated to the present structure and are apparently second hand. Among attempts to strengthen the roof are a series of galvanised steel strips binding the joints of the lower collar braces to the rafters. One collar has been bandaged using steel plates attached by a bolt to the upper collar. The external width of the chapel is 8.01 metres; the length of the block is 21.15 metres. The chapel roof with its ceiling only takes up 18.5 metres. The remaining trusses roof an attic space currently (1986) separated by a stud, lathe and plaster partition from the roof space above the chapel ceiling. A dormer has been cut on the south side through the rafters but the groove for the flashing shows that the roof originally extended over this space. The ceiling is made of boards nailed to battens suspended from the underside of the couples described. It is carved, painted and gilt, divided by double ribs into nine panels from North to South and twelve from east to west. Below is a heavily moulded cornice which runs round the west wall. The cornice has scrolled ends with cherub heads and pendants flanking the east window. A feature with swags is suspended from the centre of the north and south walls. The panels (except those against the walls are enriched with carvings of palms, swags, cherub heads, cartouches of the arms of Bishops Rotherham, Fleming, Williams, Beaufort, Corbet, Lord Crewe, Smith,

Beckington and Audley of Francis Babington, Rector (1560-63).

Our thanks to Dr P.W. Atkins, Bursar of Lincoln College and the Architect, Mr J.R. Allen of Messrs Howes and Allen Partnership, St Giles for arranging access.

OXFORD Golden Cross Cornmarket (PRN 689 SP 51340624) - John Steane

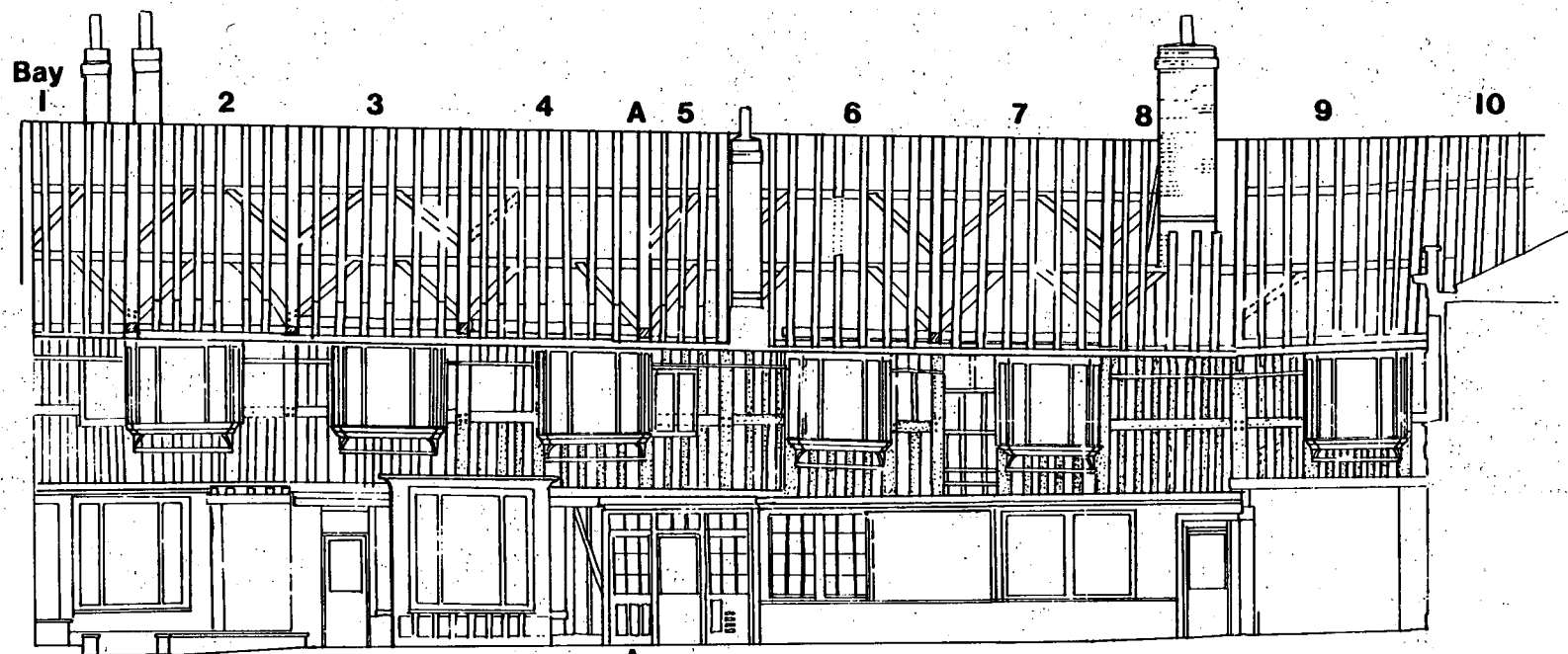
During most of 1986 and the first few months of 1987 an extensive programme of refurbishing and redevelopment has made possible a close examination of the fabric of the north range of this medieval courtyard inn. Our thanks are due to the owners, their architects, especially Mal P. Parker of Dunthorne Parker, the Clerk of Works, Mark Giltsoff, the contractors, John Ashdown, City Conservation Officer, for their ready co-operation in allowing access at all times during the building works.

The Golden Cross is the subject of thorough articles by W.A. Pantin in Oxoniensia XX, 1955, 46-83 and E.C. Rouse, *ibid*, 84-9 and the observations of 1986/7 have merely supplemented to some degree their previous work. These notes are divided into four (1) The basement (2) The external elevation (3) Internal features at ground and first floor (4) roof.

(1) The basement. Since the development proposed considerable alterations to the cellarge it seemed appropriate to look more closely at this part of the building. The basement under the north range of The Golden Cross has five bays, for purpose of recording numbered 1-5 from west to east. The room area is 17.25m long, 4m wide and 2.02m high. It is lined throughout with limestone rubble walling; brick partitions have subdivided it. In the south wall in bays two and three are two splayed openings blocked externally which must have once provided light and air from the courtyard. Remains of a brick lined oven are found in the south wall of the fourth bay. The floor above is supported on massive transverse beams which appear to be at least as old as the timber framed structure above since there is no way they could have been inserted after. In two places the joists appear to be coeval. Bay one has an off centre lateral beam with housings for joists; two of these in the north west corner seem to be coeval. Bay four has seven joists parallel with the side walls which appear to be of the same phase as the timber-framed building or earlier. The rest of the joists have been renewed by being slotted into lateral beams inserted into the main bridging beams. These have joist housings to take soffit haunch tenons. The great cellarge under the north range of the Golden Cross has now (November 1986) been divided up into a number of small compartments and most of the medieval features covered up. A cutting at the rear to fit in an additional staircase revealed 13th century pottery under the wall footing. Since the cellar does not fit the Cross Inn it seems reasonable to suppose that it pre-dates it.

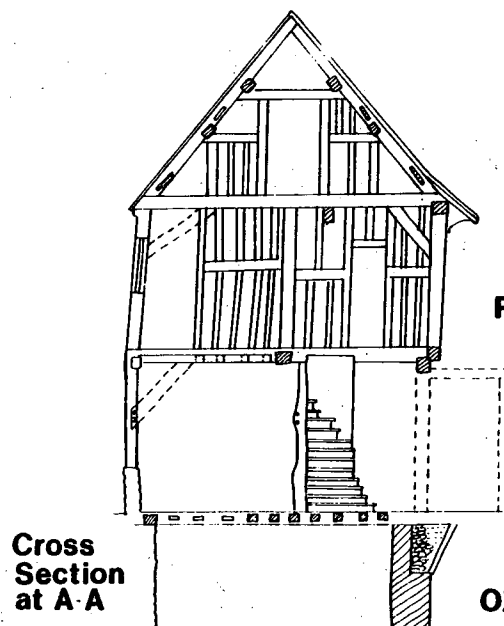
(2) The external elevation. Plaster stripping before re-rendering revealed the quality of the late 15th century timberwork which had survived substantially intact above the first floor. The close studding and six projecting canted bay windows each with 3 main lights and 2 side lights divided by moulded transoms supported on curved brackets were seen to be indisputably part of the original carpentry structure.

FIG. 9



North wing South front

5 10m



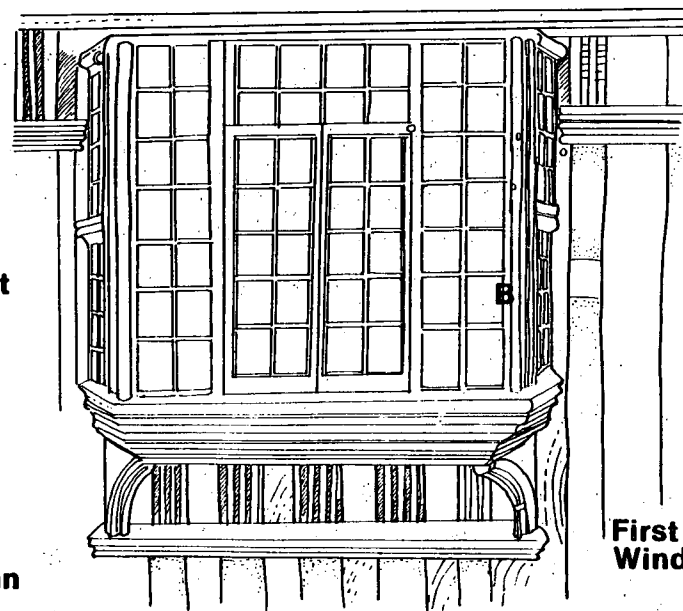
Cross Section at A-A

Parlour: lateral beam

Parlour: Moulding of east window jamb

First floor window at B

OXFORD Golden Cross Inn
P.R.N. 689



First floor Window

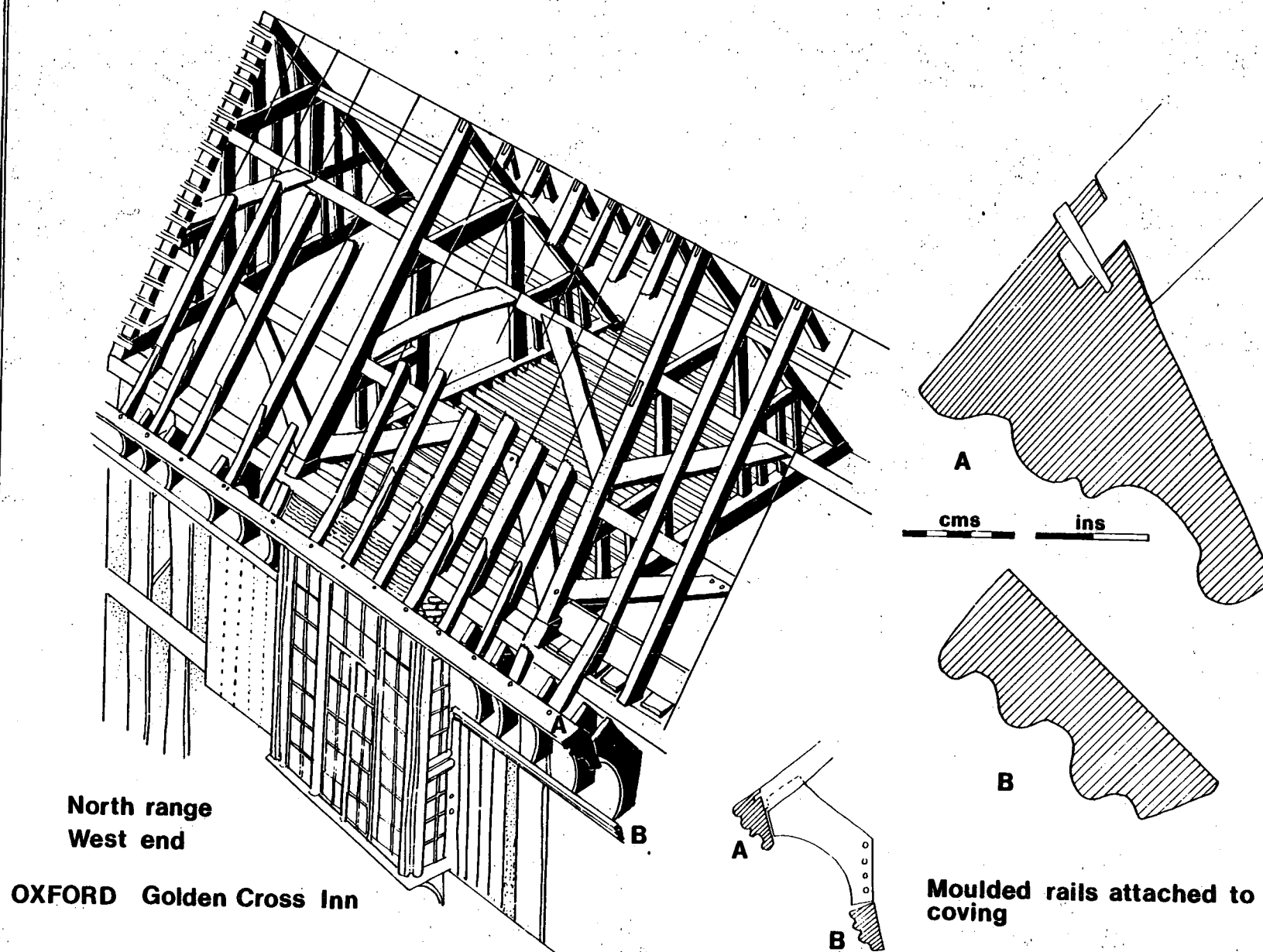
The first floor was originally jettied out from the ground floor, the wall plate being masked by a moulded bressumer. This is seen in J. Buckler's drawing in the Bodleian library, dated 1824. Small parts have survived between the inserted ground floor bay window and the modern door towards the south-west corner of the north range. A number of temporary windows, now blocked had been made in the south elevation.

(3) Internal Features. Longitudinal elevation drawings were made at a scale of 1:50 of both the north and south walls at ground and first floor levels recording many features previously covered with plaster, and wall paper.

(a) Ground floor. In bay one at the south west corner were the remains of a door frame. The lintel had been rebated to take the doorhead for which slots were cut in the timber uprights. These suggest that the head was originally 4 centred and provided a secondary entrance into the building from the courtyard. Both walls had been very much altered and cut about. Parts of the sole plate had survived on a stone foundation in the north wall but the studs had all been replaced except for two in bay 6. The transverse bracing had been mostly removed from the principal posts but the surviving slots showed that it is likely to have been continuous throughout the building. The timber framing of the south wall had almost entirely been removed when a series of large bay windows were added slightly enlarging the ground floor in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The nature of the medieval walling, however, can be reconstructed from the stud slots in the soffit of the wall plate in bays 7 and 8. One interesting observation shed light on the former use of the ground floor. The tie beams in bays 1-5 are richly moulded, indicating a high-status use for chambers in this part of the ground floor. No such moulding decorated the east side of the tie beam of the sixth truss and the rest were simply chamfered. This probably defines the service area of the medieval inn. The fireplaces on the main chamber at ground floor appeared to be late 16th century or even early 17th century in date and are likely to be replacements of earlier outworn or smaller versions. The hearths were 1m and 1m 25 in width. The larger one towards the centre of the building has stone jambs with a modern replacement timber lintel. Both chimney bases are built of brick, English bond, with timber strapping and iron ties. It is clear that they are secondary to the main structure because the mouldings on the tie beams about the chimney projections which have been inserted up against them. There is also a chamfered edge with auger holes at top and bottom indicating the former presence of a window behind the western of the two chimneys.

(b) First Floor. The south side and the main trusses of the Golden Cross at first floor level present an uncommonly well preserved large scale timber framed interior of the late 15th-early 16th century. It consists of ten bays of framing and at the time of the investigation minor partitions visible on Pantin's plan of 1955 (Oxoniensia *ibid* Fig 16) had been removed leaving three rooms, which diminish in size as one moves eastwards. The westernmost chamber which is the largest of the three was a high status area as the treatment of the fenestration and the considerable remains of wall painted decoration suggest. It is lit by three bay windows each projecting on brackets and provided internally with an arched oak frame, its jambs moulded and with sunk spandrels. The wall paintings are described by E.C. Rouse in Oxoniensia

FIG. 10



XX, 1955, 84-9 and do not appear to have suffered unduly from their recent ordeal. Further portions of painting on the eastern side of the western of the two chimney stacks, have been revealed. The second of the two spaces to the east of the staircase was reached by means of a corridor supported by timber uprights tenoned into lateral beams. This corridor is clearly an afterthought because it cuts through one of the braces of the main tie beams. The wall plate along the north side has been cut in several places, but is intact on the side. In bay eight on the north side interesting remains of the original walling and the frame of one of the associated windows were uncovered. The wall plate peters out in the middle of bay 10 indicating that at least one of the medieval roof trusses is missing. The medieval attic floor has also been broken off at this point leaving a neat row of slots cut to take soffit haunch tenons. The chimney in bay 9 has a small stone fireplace of late 15th century date.

(c) The roof. The timber framing of the roof consists of ten trusses of principal rafters, tie beams, collar beams with queenposts. These are linked by horizontal struts to the principal rafters. The two ranges of purlins per bay are clasped between the lower struts and the collars and the principal rafters. The common rafters are mortised and tenoned. There are two ranges of straight wind braces per bay cut into somewhat by former attic window openings and even more by modern dormers. There are two features of interest at eaves level. Wedge shaped projections from the foot of the common rafters support a heavy moulding which is attached by brackets at intervals to the studs. There are also a series of thick planks which are propped against the foot of the common rafters on the inside of the roof and which from their position must be coeval with the roof structure. The chimney between trusses 8 and 9 appears to be original because the purlins are embedded in the brick upper courses. The chimney between trusses 6 and 7 however is an insertion since the wind braces have been cut to receive it.

Finds (1) 13th century pottery from under wall of eastern cellar wall.

- (2) A former roof covering was of Cotswold type stone slates, a number of different sizes of which were picked out under the eaves.
- (3) A piece of wood 17cms x 5cms notched at both ends possibly used to wind packthread or string was found in the eaves space.
- (4) A pill box probably 19th century and two clay tobacco pipes also were found under floor boards at roof level.
- (5) Most interesting was the discovery of a small vellum bound copy of a book written by a French Benedictine monk called Claude de Viexmont and published under the title of Brevis institutio de salutari poenitentia peccatoris, a new edition of Paraenesis Antwerp 1586. The book was found stuffed behind the brick chimney in bay eight and has been badly chewed by rodents. It was submitted to the Conservation Dept of the Bodelian Library and fumigated. Dr Roger Highfield, Librarian of Merton College provided some useful information about the Robert Russell who left his signature on the title page and who made comments in the margins throughout the book. He supplicated for BA, 23 Feb and was admitted 18 Feb 1576. He took his MA in 1579; BD, 1600; was licensed to preach 1606. Wood states he was vicar of St Thomas, Oxford and died 23 Nov, 1616. Clearly a catholic book but this should not have prevented an Anglican from owning it.

- (6) There were also a number of loose leaves from sheet D of Ovid, Metamorphosis, translated by G. Sandys, 3rd edition, imprinted for W.B. (arrett) 1623.

Our thanks are due to David Vaizey, Bodleys Librarian, C. Clarkson, Conservation Department, Bodleian Library and S. Edwards, Special Collections, Dept. of Printed Books.

FIG.11



Lincoln College
Chapel Roof
Summer 1986
(see p.55)

During the Spring of 1986 a programme of renovation works brought to light a painted scheme of decoration in a ground floor room in the south east corner of Durham quad. Thanks are due to Dr. Brian Ward-Perkins for providing an opportunity to study the painting. This part of the college is the surviving east range of the medieval quadrangle with the library on the first floor and was built in 1417-21 [R.C.H.M. City of Oxford, H.M.S.O. 1939, 108]. The college had originally served as the Oxford base for the Benedictine monks of Durham and for a time as the Benedictine College for the province of York. Durham College was suppressed in 1544 and Trinity College was founded in 1555-6 by Sir Thomas Pope.

The room in question is divided into two by a transverse timber-framed and planked partition. Its walls had been covered with white painted panelling probably in the 18th century which obscured the painted decoration and it was used until recently as college offices. It is lit by a single and a double light square headed window with segmental headed splays in the west side (looking into the quadrangle) and by a single light square headed window in the east wall. The north, east and west walls are covered with plaster which provides the ground for the wall paintings. The north wall has been cut through, probably in the 18th century by two doors with timber lintels which are associated with the panelling. The east wall has had a blocked fireplace and chimney inserted in the thickness of the wall in the 20th century which has caused further damage to the painted scheme. The timber partition is apparently coeval with the floor which bears the library above. The carpentry is crude but robust and consists of a frame with verticals jointed into the bridging beam and into a sole plate. Horizontal rails are tenoned into the uprights on one side and are nailed fast into open notches on the other. The vertical planks which have been pit sawn and are approximately 47cms wide abut one another with tongue and groove joints and are slotted into the horizontal beams at ground and ceiling level. An original doorway with timber threshold, its segmental head cut into one piece of timber, is placed off centre. Two secondary square headed doorways have been cut through the partition severing the lower rail in two places. There are a number of notches cut in the timber framing to take the panelling. The whole of the partition has been primed with white-wash as have the other walls.

The painted scheme has survived almost in its entirety on the ceiling beams and only slightly less completely on the partition; only fragments have so far been exposed on the walls and windows but enough survives to show that a similar background design was used round the whole room. At the top was a frieze of debased acanthus scroll its foliage painted with a yellow ground outlined in black. Emerging from the scalloped edged foliage are a series of cylindrical objects which are reminiscent of fasces, bundles of faggots, painted white with grey stripes. They fit into a background of red clouds. Below this frieze the planks are painted in broad stripes alternately pibky orange (25 yr 4/4) and grey (25 yr 4/0). Over this is superimposed a freehand dark red (25 yr 3/6) reticulated pattern of debased ogee shapes in the centre of each of which is a large flower, red on orange and white on grey. In the middle of each flower is an oval shaped white and buff seed head with a yellow knob surrounded by dark green (5G412) holly leaves. In the centre of the upper register of the partition is painted a large white garter with black edges. Within this on a blue

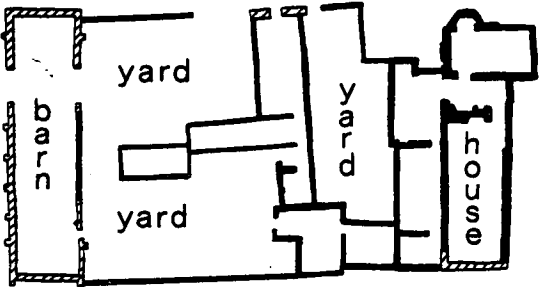
ground covered with a sinuous foliage pattern punctuated by 6 leaved grey flowers with orange centres are three large black letter initials, IHS, [Iesus, Hemispheris Salvator] in pink orange, outlined in black and embossed with orange dots. The joists and intervening under sides of the planking of the library floor and similarly covered with white primer on which are painted a running vine scroll in green with bunches of red grapes.

There are three approaches to the problem of dating the painted scheme; the technique, the subject matter and the structure of the building. There seems no reason to doubt that the floor above is contemporary with the early 15th century library. It is difficult to see how the plank and muntin partition could have been fitted in after the floor since the uprights slot into the soleplate and are tenoned into the bridging beam. The quality of the carpentry however is hardly what one would expect of the 15th century, its roughness suggests haste in execution. The technique of the painting involves the use of tempera on a dry 9mm thick surface of plaster or whitewashed timber surface. Considerable care has been taken in drawing the outline of the garter central motif which has afterwards been filled in with black paint. This outline seems to have been done freehand. There are no holes in the surface suggesting the use of a cartoon nor has a stencil been used in the repeating reticulated and rose pattern. The pigments, white, black (used in outlining) yellow, green (used sparsely and only in the top register) orange-red, dark red/mauve, grey, blue (used for the background of the IHS insignia) have been applied using a brush about 2cms wide. The subject matter, consists of three themes. The acanthus frieze shows evident signs of Renaissance classicism. The red and white roses suggests the royal heraldry; the IHS insignia, Roman Catholicism. The ground on which the letter stand is paralleled in many initial letters of MSS of the late middle ages. Clive Rouse suggested a mid 16th century date and the evidence does not conflict with a possible refurbishment of the lodgings during the first years of the re-foundation of the college by Sir Thomas Pope in 1555-6. If so the painted room provides a vivid illustration of the "right about turn" (Bindoffs' phrase) of the short-lived period of the Marian reaction.

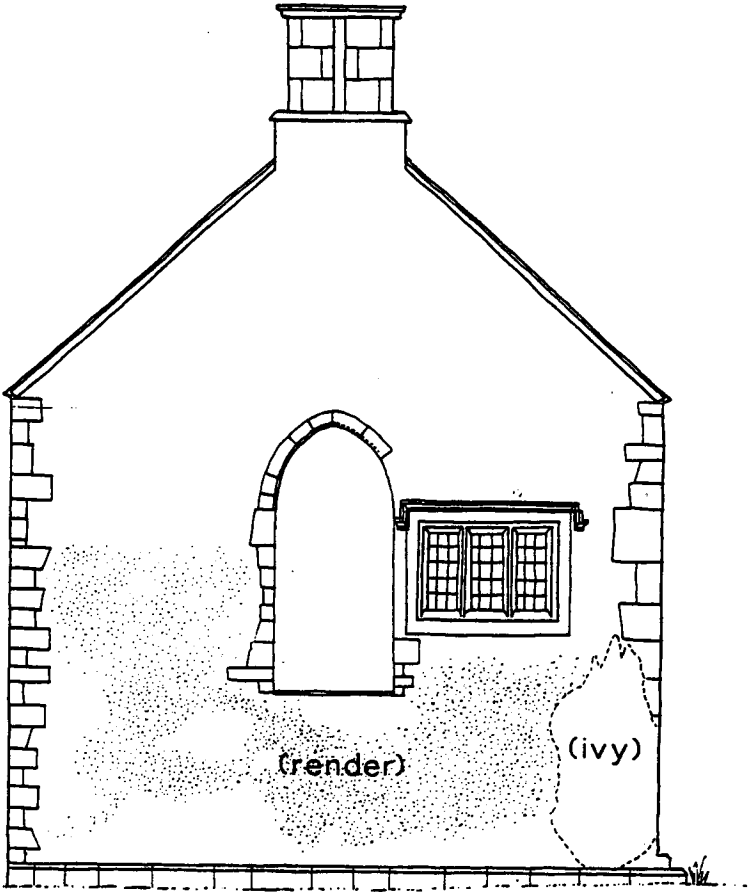
Paint samples were submitted to Dr Ashok Roy of the Scientific Department, The National Gallery, who reported in a letter dated 31.10.86. Among the many interesting matters which it is proposed will be fully published in a future issue of *Oxoniensia*, Dr Roy points out that only the dark greenish blue sample was painted directly onto the wooden support, the remainder of the paint layers were applied to an untinted lime plaster ground. The identity of the black pigment is uncertain [it is unlikely to be either wood charcoal or bone black]. The red earth pigment, red ochre, is extensively used. The orange pigment is pure red lead pigment (minium) which had a proportion of tin. The grey is a mixture of the black/brownish pigment in a white crystalline matrix, the bulk of which was calcium carbonate. The dark bluish paint was derived from the deep blue dyestuff, indigo. Natural earth pigment (yellow ochre) provided the yellow. A few grains of vermilion (mercuric sulphide) were present in one of the upper (red lead) layers. It is worth noting that in the samples of 15th century paint from beams in Ducklington Rectory submitted some years ago red lead (with a proportion of tin) and indigo were found present in the pigments. Dr Roy considers that the colours are absolutely consistent with what would have been available in the 16th century or earlier.

FIG. 12

PRN 11,755



▨ (mediaeval)



SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD
Prebendal House (west elevation)

M.K.T.

THE PREBENDAL HOUSE (SP 27991803 PRN 11,755) AND "TITHE BARN"
(SP 27961807 PRN 11,757) SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD - M.K. Taylor

The church of "Scipeston" was granted to the Cathedral of Salisbury by a charter of Henry 1 c. 1128. For a time, Shipston and Brickleworth are one 'prebend'. The term prebend refers to the portion of the revenues of a cathedral or collegiate church given to a canon or member of the chapter as his stipend. Normally a prebendal house consists of a residence (a hall) with farm buildings attached which formed the administrative centre (focal point) from which the adjoining estate would be run. Consequently, the barn in Shipton's complex of farm buildings derives its 'tithe barn' status from the tithe stored there which formed part of the revenues from the estate.

Of the prebendaries who enjoyed Shipton some achieved national fame. Thomas Bouchier was the most renowned, he was afterwards chancellor of Oxford University, Bishop of Worcester 1434, and Ely 1443, Archbishop of Canterbury 1454, and Lord Chancellor 1455-6; he was nominated Cardinal in 1467. Another prebendary, Roger Lupton, was Provost of Eton in 1500, while yet another, John London, gained notoriety rather than fame as one of Henry VIII's henchmen employed in suppressing monasteries. John Fox the martyrologist held the prebend in 1563 but probably did not actually write his Book of Martyrs there, only working on a later draft while at Shipton (1).

From an early date the prebend was apparently in the gift of the Crown - a number of royal servants enjoyed its revenues. From 1617, however, James 1 bestowed the prebend upon the post of Regius Professor of Civil Law at Oxford to be enjoyed as an added privilege. (Original grant in University Archives.)

HOUSE (SP 27991803 PRN 11,755)

Siting: The house stands north east of the church. The 1843 tithe map (Oxfordshire County Record Office) and the 25 inch to one mile OS maps suggest that the rectangular block of land bounded by the river to the north east and by roads to the north west, west and south may have begun life as an enclosure (the "sheep tun"?). The churchyard and Prebendal occupy the south east corner. The maps suggest that the Prebendal may have been laid out in the eastern part of the churchyard which possibly was subdivided to accommodate it. As P.J. Drury's report on the Tithe Barn observes, the North wall of the barn defines the whole length of the North West boundary of the original plot since there are no early openings on this face, even ventilation slits. The 1880 map indicates that formerly the farm complex around the prebendal was more extensive and the house itself a third smaller in area.

Phase I. late 12th-13th cent. The first building on the site was probably an open hall house form with a central hearth, originally lit by tall pointed windows. The only surviving element of this early building is the west gable which is constructed of coursed limestone rubble with large dressed quoins and tall pointed Gothic window, blocked during Phase II reconstruction. Traces of rendering adhere to the lower portions of the west gable but notably not the blocking of the Gothic window. To what extent the original north wall of the hall survives where it makes a right angle return with the west gable is impossible to determine with the present internal plaster covering. However, a chamfered base plinth in close jointed limestone blocks

is a feature of the early building visible in the west gable which continues as a double plinth in the south wall but is lost further eastwards owing to a combination of modern drains, flower borders and a large Wisteria covering most of the south face. The roof pitch of the original building would probably have been steeper than the existing pitch of the 18th century re-roofing, but the medieval roof could have survived well into the 18th century before needing replacement and need not have been replaced at the time of the Phase II rebuilding.

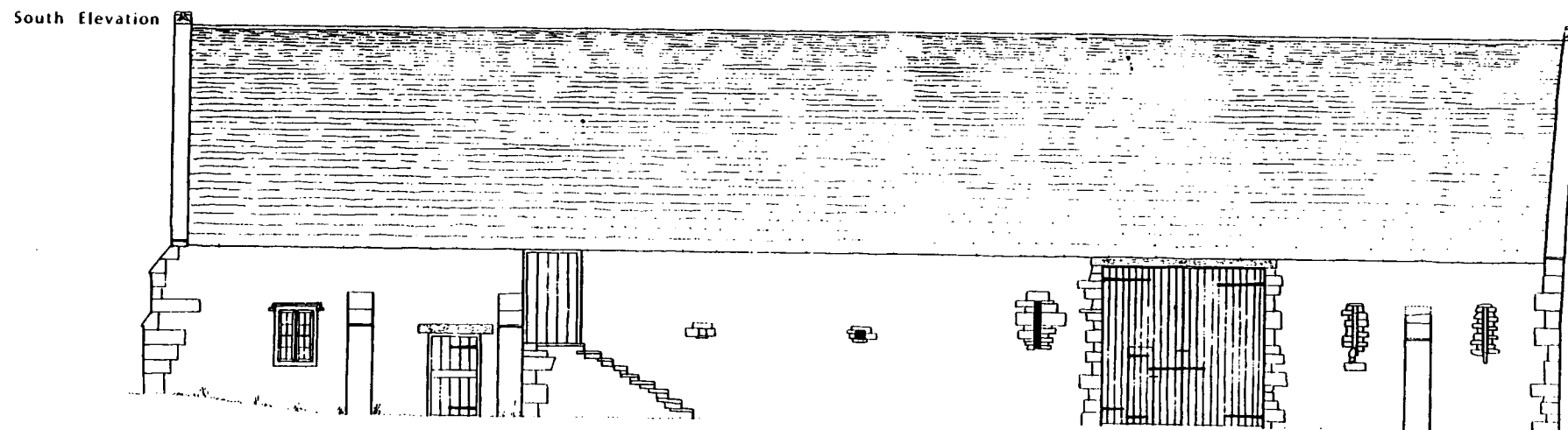
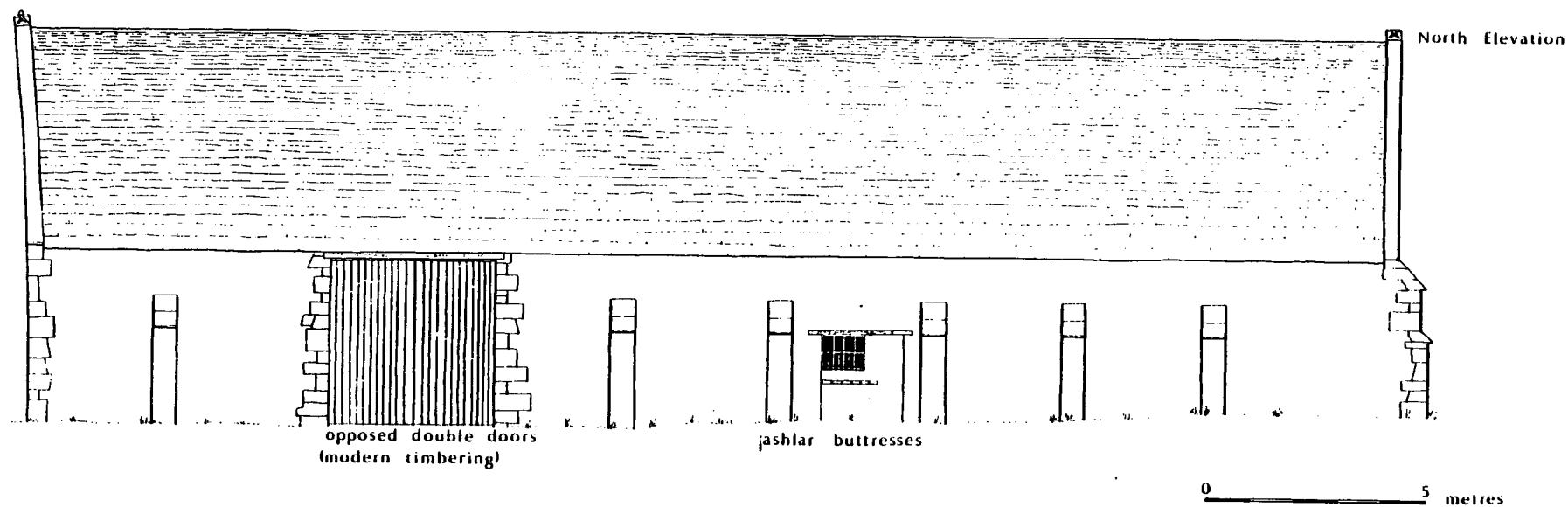
Phase II. 16th cent. The house was extended towards the east, floors were inserted creating two stories and an attic, fireplaces added, the surviving medieval window in the W gable blocked and the building re-fenestrated. The distinguishing features of this phase are the two ranges of five four light windows on the south front, each with substantial square headed hood moulds and cavetto mullions. These were inserted when the whole of the south wall of the building was rebuilt eastwards of a point two metres from the south west corner of the house. Internal features from this phase include at ground floor level good rectangular stone fireplaces with a moulded and stopped surround in situ. On the evidence of the 19th century maps, the east wall of the house at this phase seems to have been located roughly half way across the present east wing. This would provide a substantial kitchen at ground floor level heated by the massive but plainer in situ fireplace which dwarfs the present "lobby" of the 20th century renewal. The floor beams supporting the floor above this Phase II kitchen are undecorated in contrast with the chamfered joists with ogee stops and the chamfered bridging beams of the floor above the main downstairs chamber. This last room possesses a good moulded fireplace with an impressive lintel: a single stone measuring 2.53 metres by .39 metres which has a stopped moulding (but no spandrels).

A staircase wing with a separate gable was added off centre on the north side of the building and access to the building during this phase was probably from the north side. (The present doorway in the south wall may be a reconstruction; it seems very broad in relation to its design and the opening may have been enlarged by the removal of the inner frame, arch and spandrels leaving only the outer square headed frame). Above the south doorway are two egg shaped niches but these cannot be positively identified as old features. Access to the upper floors in Phase II was achieved by the added staircase wing on the north, mentioned above; the only features of architectural interest on the first floor are two in situ fireplaces. One of these, built across the north east angle is square (1.35 by 1.30 metres), the fireplace in the second room from the west gable is of a slightly more old fashioned design with four centred head and spandrels within a square headed frame.

Parch marks in the lawn to the south of the house suggest that a walled garden may have been attached to the house at this time.

Phase III. 18th cent. The upper part of the house was restructured at this time with a low pitched roof of elm, attics and dormer windows, presumably to accommodate an enlarged household with servants. The roof has five bays of principal rafters .25 by .13m and two sets of butt purlins per bay. The collars are slightly cambered. The trusses have been designed to house the range of dormers facing south, but they have been cut about and boxed in to allow the extension of attics to the north

FIG. 13



SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD : PREBENDAL BARN PRN 11,757

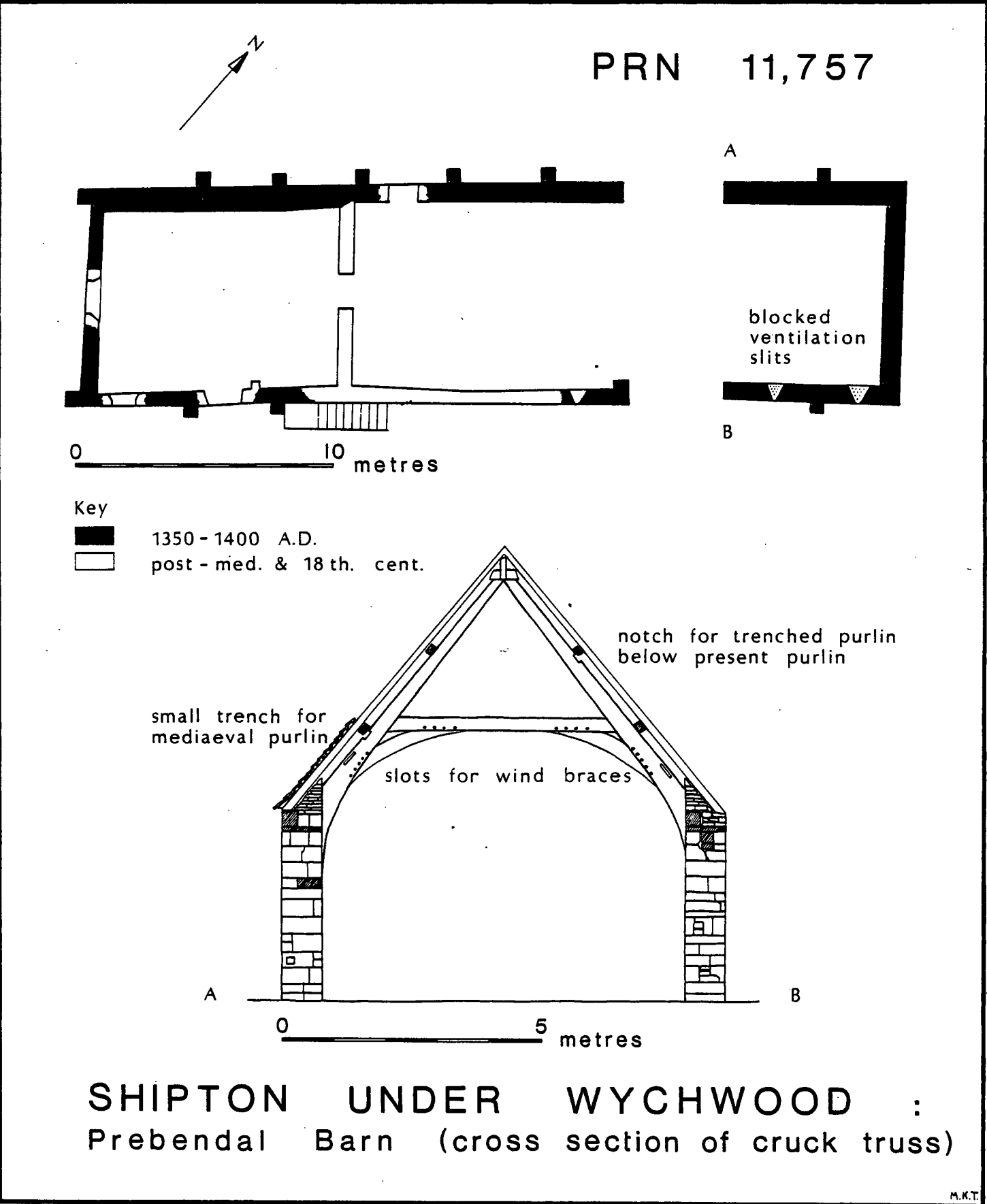
Phase IV. early c.20. Considerable alterations were carried out in the 'Neo Cotswold' style which so faithfully reproduced the style of the C.17 masons that it is impossible to see where the one ends and the other begins after several years weathering. Most of the restructuring concentrated on the east end where a new wing with bay windows was superimposed on the Phase II kitchen and east end (see c.19th maps) truncating the former kitchen into a "lobby" area. The distinguishing architectural features of this phase are square headed windows without hood moulds, casements slightly wider than those of the c.17 (.43metres as opposed to .36 metres), relieving arches over the windows and mortar joints slightly wider than those used in the older building. Also added at this time was the northern wing abutting the north west corner of the old house containing kitchen offices and servants staircase. The outbuildings were remodelled and architectural elements (i.e. windows and doors) of earlier buildings appear to be reset.

PREBENDAL BARN (SP 27961807 PRN 11,757)

The "tithe" barn is aligned WSW-ENE and is constructed of limestone rubble with ashlar blocks providing the jambs for the main opposed entrances, the quoins and the buttresses. The early mortar is sandy and orange coloured and on visual examination is suspiciously like clay with a minimum admixture of lime. It has been overlain for the most part with a lime mortar. The medieval building was in its primary phase a unitary structure but it was divided by an inserted partition wall when a considerable proportion of the south wall was rebuilt and the roof, apart from two trusses was reconstructed in the 18th century. At the same time a loft was inserted at the west end approached by an outside flight of steps.

Phase I. c.1350-1400 A.D. Most of the present north west and east walls and about half the south walls survive from the medieval building. The barn is stabilised by the presence of six buttresses of ashlar masonry with an offset plinth course on the north side. A similar range of buttresses was originally built on the south but three have been removed. The western gable end has two buttresses aligned with the lateral walls and each with a single offset. The jointing of the massive stones at the sloping head of each buttress suggests that the buttresses were the work of the first build. The jambs of both entrances are massive in stone size and are built up like pillars on the north side. Each entrance is lintelled with timber beams. The eastern gable end is not buttressed and its upper face is perilously leaning outward. The gable is lit by a single slit window with a lozenge shaped head. Both north and south gables are capped with cruciform shaped limestone coping stones with cusping in each face. Each has a gable end made of thick stone slabs. There are three ventilation slits at the east end of the south wall; two are now blocked. They are heavily splayed and the inner lintels are of timber. There are two original roof trusses one on either side of the main opposed entrances; they consist of raised crucks, arch braced collars and two ranges of purlins. Scars for the seating of a third truss are seen midway between the entrance and the east gable.

FIG. 14



M.K.T.

Phase II. The 18th century. The barn seems to have been in a bad state of disrepair. The south wall was partially taken down and the buttresses removed. The ashlar masonry was redistributed in the construction of the external loft staircase and at random in the rebuilt wall. All the medieval roof trusses except two were replaced with A frames consisting of lower tie beams, principal rafters, two pairs of butt purlins per bay, collars and queen posts, short lengths of upper ties brace the queen posts. A partition wall was inserted dividing the barn into two unequal areas. The shorter western third was equipped with an inserted hay store floor with slots above feeding racks along the northern edge. This hay store is approached by means of an external stone stair on the south side. The lower space was converted to a stable. The position of the feeding racks and mangers is seen as scars on the north wall; here are a series of tethering rings. More light was shed on both spaces by the piercing of the west gable wall in two places for the insertion of square headed timber framed windows; in the gable end at first floor level and in the south west corner at ground level. At least two ventilation holes were provided, one of which remains open. Two more doorways were cut in the barn, one in the north wall between buttresses 3 and 4 counting from the west and one in the eastern gable; both have timber lintels, both are blocked, and both have housed windows which have subsequently been blocked.

Additional interesting features are:

- a) The lower faces of western gable end buttress facing the churchyard is peppered with shallow holes; it appears to have been the target for village musket practice.
- b) There are signs of the former existence of a lean-to building at right angles to the south east end. The presence of the sloping roof of this has necessitated the slicing away of the top coping of the buttress capping.

- (1) Murial Groves History of Shipton under Wychwood, London 1934.
- (2) John Blair report on possible survival of C12 "camera". (pers. comm. March 1985).

THE SWAN HOTEL, THAME - John Steane, Brian Gilmour . PRN 13,912.

Following an extensive programme of renovation and the construction of a pedestrian shopping precinct in the backland, a discovery of a painted ceiling board decoration was made by workmen at the Swan Hotel. Our thanks are due to Messrs Earlcroft (Mr Richardson and Mr Tompkins) the owners, Dr Malcolm Airs of South Oxfordshire District Council for alerting us to the find and E.C. Rouse, MBE,FSA,D.Litt. for kindly coming at short notice to comment on the painting.

The Swan Hotel is an ancient inn situated on the north east side of the bishop of Lincoln's planned medieval town of Thame. Recent excavations by the Oxford Archaeological Unit have revealed evidence for medieval occupation at the rear of the site which is being currently developed as a shopping/pedestrian precinct.

The present building, despite its Georgian brick facade facing onto the High Street, is a fine example of a timber framed inn of c. 1600 with a two bay 2 storey range at the west end facing parallel with the street, linked to a 3 bay 3 storey cross wing at right angles. In the ground floor of this wings is an archway leading to the courtyard at the back. A third unit is of late 17th century date of stone, brick and timber and single bay in length also facing onto the High Street.

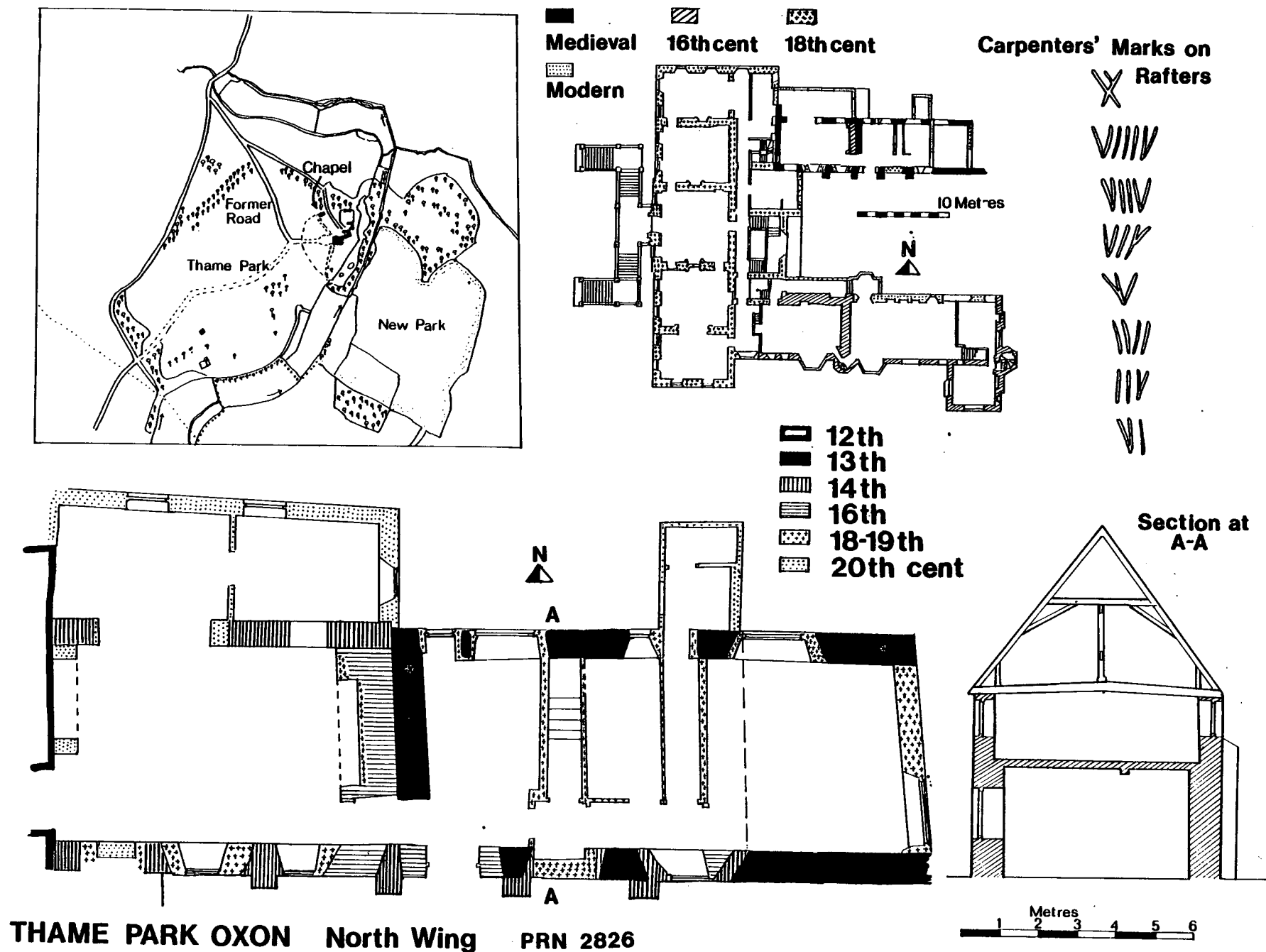
The roof structure of the L shaped phase one building is particularly impressive. The range facing the High Street has two bays of excellent quality carpentry, tie beams, principal rafters, 2 ranges of purlins clasped between the double collars and the principal rafters. The lower and upper collars are tied together with three vertical struts. The roof has been designed from the first to take a boarded ceiling. This is suspended from a through purlin moulded on its soffit which is lodged between a stubby kingpost which sits on the tie beam of the central truss and the lower collar.

Jointed into the purlin in a way which makes it impossible to see them as a secondary feature are 21 pairs of joists, chamfered and stopped, sloping from the moulded purlin down to the eaves. The boards, between 10-12cms in width, and 2cms thick lie on top of the joists.

The boards completely cover the spaces between the 21 joists on the south side of the building. They have been entirely removed from the north side but a number of fragments survive, found stacked resting in the joists in the roof space. The painted decoration is characterised [by E. Clive Rouse] as "vigorous, competent stuff". There are six repeating designs which are repeated in no particular order running along the whole length of the boards. These include a running acanthus scroll; a string of cones on circular bases decorated with scalloping connected with oval shaped objects; a coarse acanthus with broad floppy leaves, a running trellis with oval seed pods; a thick stem pierced through a leaf pattern; a thin leafed scrolly patten. Each is executed with a broad brush at least 2cms thick. The medium is size - made from boiled leather pieces - the colours brown (yellow-ochre mixed with black) black (charcoal/soot) and white (lime). The designs are painted freehand with considerable brío and complete understanding of classical motifs. The use of white, to suggest highlights and black, to suggest shadows give an element of trompe d'oeil to the work. The painted surface is stable and the surface appears to have protected it from worm infestation. The rest of the timber boards which are probably of elm are extremely spongy and will need consolidation if they are to be replaced. The date (E. Clive Rouse) 1590-1610AD.

FIG. 15

It is hoped that the company will seek to conserve the boards in situ and would restore the north side of the roof with plain boards.



During October-November 1986 works were begun to upgrade the residential staff accommodation at Thame Park. At the invitation of the architect, Mr Crocker of Peter Luck Associates and with the ready co-operation of Mr McNaughton, Estate Manager, and Mr Hill of Messrs Symms, Oxford J.M. Steane and M. Taylor carried out a field investigation of the remains of the abbey. Our thanks are due to the owners, Industrial Aragon S.A. for allowing the museum staff access to the site. It is hoped to incorporate the architectural features found in the restored building.

Brief histories of this important Cistercian abbey have already appeared in Victoria County History, Oxon, Vols II, 85 and VII, 168-9. The Cistercian monks of Otteley in the parish of Oddington moved to Thame in about 1139 when they were granted the manor and park of Thame by the munificent Alexander, bishop of Lincoln. The buildings (and the morals of the monks) were in a bad state of repair early in the 16th century "in ruins" according to bishop Longland (V.CH Oxon, II, 85) and on the dissolution the greater part including the abbey church was pulled down or used as farm buildings. The chapel at the gate of the abbey survived however and was neo-gothicized in the Victorian period. It seems likely that the site of the church was to the north of the present house because c. 1840 the site was examined by William Twopenny who made drawings and calculated that the church had been 230 ft long x 70 ft and that it had a Lady Chapel extending a further 45 ft at the east end. He also noticed bases of 14 piers of the nave 7 on each side and there were traces of a detached rectangular building on the south which he interpreted as the chapter house (F.G. Lee Building News, 30 March, 1888, 455). The Abbots Lodging, called the Abbots' Parlour rebuilt and luxuriously refurbished by the last two abbots of Thame Abbey, John Warren and Robert King, remains intact and is now referred to as the south wing. It was exhaustively described and illustrated by W.H. Godfrey in Archaeological Journal LXXXVI, 2nd ser. 1929, 59-68. The so-called north wing has not been described in detail except that an unsatisfactory plan appears in V.CH VII, 168. It has had a complicated building history and, in the absence of archaeological excavation any inferences drawn from the present observations must be considered provisional. It appears to have gone through six main phases of construction:-

(1) Phase 1. ? twelfth century. The west wall of the north wing has been revealed by plaster-stripping to have belonged to an earlier freestanding range which is now embedded in the present main 18th century block. It is constructed of squared limestone blocks irregularly coursed and its north-eastern corner, made of large quoin stones (including 31 x 48 cms, 36 x 31 cms), appears to have extended upwards about 3.5 metres. An opening with plain square jambs on either side, 1.75 m wide, is visible inside the north wing towards the south end. The arched head has been removed but the blocking suggests that it may have been semi-circular in shape.

(2) Phase 2. Late 14th century. The north wing is a fragment of additional building undertaken in the high middle ages. Judging from the plan it is in two parts which were subsequently linked to the phase 1 building. The present range is 21.8 m x 4.75 m (internal measurements).

The eastern block which originally ended at the central partition wall was longer in its earlier state, extending a further 4.28 metres to the east. The walling is of roughly squared and regularly coursed limestone blocks. The most interesting feature is a series of five blocked segmental arches separated by four buttresses, with single offsets at the top, in the south wall and one blocked arch in the north wall. These arches have long been visible on the outside. The blocking obscures the original form of the openings of all but the third arch from the west, which has been used as a recent door opening. Here the mouldings are seen in their entirety. On the inside plaster stripping has revealed [October 1986] the remains of four inner arches complete with semi-circular capitals and attached columns. They match up with the four western arches in the south face. The eastern most external arch is a blocked doorway 2.25 m wide whose internal splays, simple single filleted jambs and chamfered segmental head survive on the inner face.

That the building in which these arches were set was two storied is clear. It was lit at first floor level in the south face by square headed 2 light with chamfered mullions and single light windows. Two such windows have been recently uncovered in the north wall of the present kitchen. They had been blocked when the outshut (phase 5) was added. These windows at the east end lit two small chambers. The construction of the floors of these rooms involve girding beams resting along the inner sides of the wall tops into which are jointed the joists. The joists themselves are massive in scantling, 23 x 12 cms, and are only 23 cms apart. There is a weathering line made of long thin stones built into the wall surface of a single storied structure built up against the north wing at its eastern end.

(3) Phase 3. 16th century. The north wing underwent a remodelling. The arches in the south wall were blocked and a massive central stack built of limestone was set against the western side of the wall which has been described in phase 2 as an end wall and then subsequently as a partition wall. This resulted in turning the western half of the wing into a kitchen. The fireplace which heated the room has a four-centred arch with tapered limestone voussoirs and a relieving arch above the jambs. These are 1.67 m high and the height at the centre is 2.19 m : width of fireplace 2.79. The triple chimneys to this fireplace are lozenge shaped and built of thin bricks 22 x 4 x 9.5 cms, laid stretcher bond.

(4) Phase 4. 17th century. The floor at the western end was removed and two large four light square headed windows with cavetto moulded mullions were inserted in the upper stage of the south wall. They would have provided ample light to a chamber on the first floor and on the removal of the floor would have given the same service to the ground floor kitchen.

(5) Phase 5. late 18th - early 19th century. The building seems to have undergone considerable repairs and remodelling using red brick and second hand timber for lintels. Features from this phase include the ground floor windows pierced in the blocking of the phase 2 arches and their splays lined with red brick. The fireplace was reduced in size and provided with a brick arch supported on an iron strip and a brick jamb on the north side. The accompanying range had already been removed before the investigation was made. A second and similar fireplace was added at the west end. In addition two partitions and a staircase were inserted.

A 3 light square headed window with a timber lintel and a door were put into the western of the three small ground floor rooms created by the partitions. Finally the north wing was truncated at the east end and new corners built up in brick on both sides.

(6) Phase 6. 20th century. An outshut with catslide roof was added at the north-western corner. This is lit by two dormers. A small gabled room was built on at right angles at the north-eastern corner. This had already been removed in November 1986.

DISCUSSION

There seems little doubt that the north wing represents a substantial piece of the monastic building but discussion centres on the identification of its function at this stage and its subsequent changing uses. Godfrey apart from sketchily and inaccurately plotting its plan (Arch J. LXXXXVI, 1929, p.61, fig 1) dismissed it as "a thirteenth century range to the north, which perhaps connected the dorter with the reredorter". He also considered the main part of the present house as representing the dorter and noted that it incorporated walls of an earlier building (op cit p. 60). The five blocked arches were unnoticed by Godfrey and therefore remained unexplained. The discovery in 1986 of the internal arches emphasizes their importance. The possibility which seems to fit most of the observed facts is that here is part of the north cloister range. The weathering line above the blocked unmoulded arch at the east end has perhaps been cut by the truncation of the building at this point. Alternatively it may be the marks of a penthouse roof to the east cloister range. The fact that the abbots' house now straddles the area where one would expect the south cloister range may be an indication of the ruinous state of the abbey at this late phase mentioned by bishop Longland. Possibly the cloisters were pulled down and their materials re-used to build a luxurious abbots' house.

The subsequent use of the building involved the creation of a number of smaller chambers lit by 2 and 3 light square headed windows. The insertion of the massive chimney created a large room which could have been used as a kitchen. This proved dark until the removal of a floor and the insertion of 2, 4 light windows. Later use of the building involved the subdivision into small unheated rooms which could have been used for servants and grooms quarters.

Since writing the above a further visit (J.M. Steane, J. Munby and M. Henig) has resulted in the roof space above the north wing being seen and recorded. It is a crown post roof with cambered tie beams on, in the middle of which are posts with chamfered bases strutted to a through purlin. The soulaces are tenoned into the collars and there are a series of ashlar at the foot of the rafter trusses. A trait de Jupiter joint in the scarf of the through purlin was identified by J. Munby and it is thought that the roof is unlikely to have been built later than c. 1290.

On discussing the building with J. & B. Cherry, M. Henig, J. Munby and others the consensus is now that it is unlikely to be a cloister range although a cloister is not ruled out for the penthouse roof noticed in the walling and described above. Instead it is a medieval two storied range of unknown function.

Abingdon Area Archaeological & Historical Society

A Timber-framed House and Bronze Age Barrow at 82-4 Lower Radley, Oxon

SU5344 9877

The House

Reconstruction work by the owner, Mr. Hinde, revealed the timber frame of this building, and his request for advice led to the survey, made by Roger Ainslie and Julian Mumby.

82-4 Lower Radley is a pair of cottages, of interest for their relatively simple construction. The west end is of one bay, with two storeys and attic, and a newel stair next to the stack in the east wall. The stack is timber-framed, except for the fireplaces (the lower one has an oven) and the brick top. The wall framing has middle rails, straight bracing, and full storey posts; the first floor is lodged externally, and the roof has clasped purlins. The east end was built against the other part, and has a stone stack covering rendering on the western stack. The timber framing is of small scantlings, in two bays with storey posts, and straight tension braces at the corners. The first floor is at the level of the middle rail, and is lit by roof dormers. The roof has clasped purlins, king-struts and a ridge-piece. (see Fig. 16)

There are few features which allow any certainty with dating, but the west end is perhaps 17th century and the east end 18th.

The Barrow

Members of the Abingdon Archaeological and Historical Society also investigated foundation trenches for a new garage to the east of this house. This located the ditch of a barrow the main body of which is in a field immediately to the north. The ditch as excavated was some 2m across and 1.1m deep, it may however have originally been some 3.5m across and 1.7m deep. A flint scraper, flakes, and sherds of pottery with a beaded decoration were found in the small area investigated. This would confirm that the mound here is a Bronze Age barrow and the curvature of the ditch indicates that it must have had an internal diameter of some 44.5m to the centre of the ditch. This corresponds with the surface evidence that this is an unusually large monument of its kind.

The finds and archive material have been deposited with Oxfordshire County Council's Department of Museum Services.

Roger Ainslie.

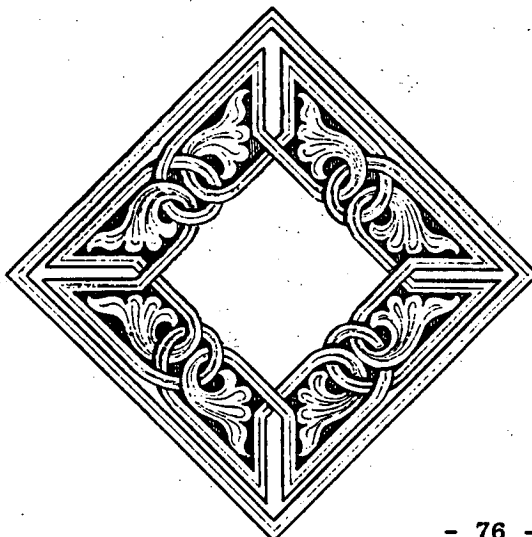
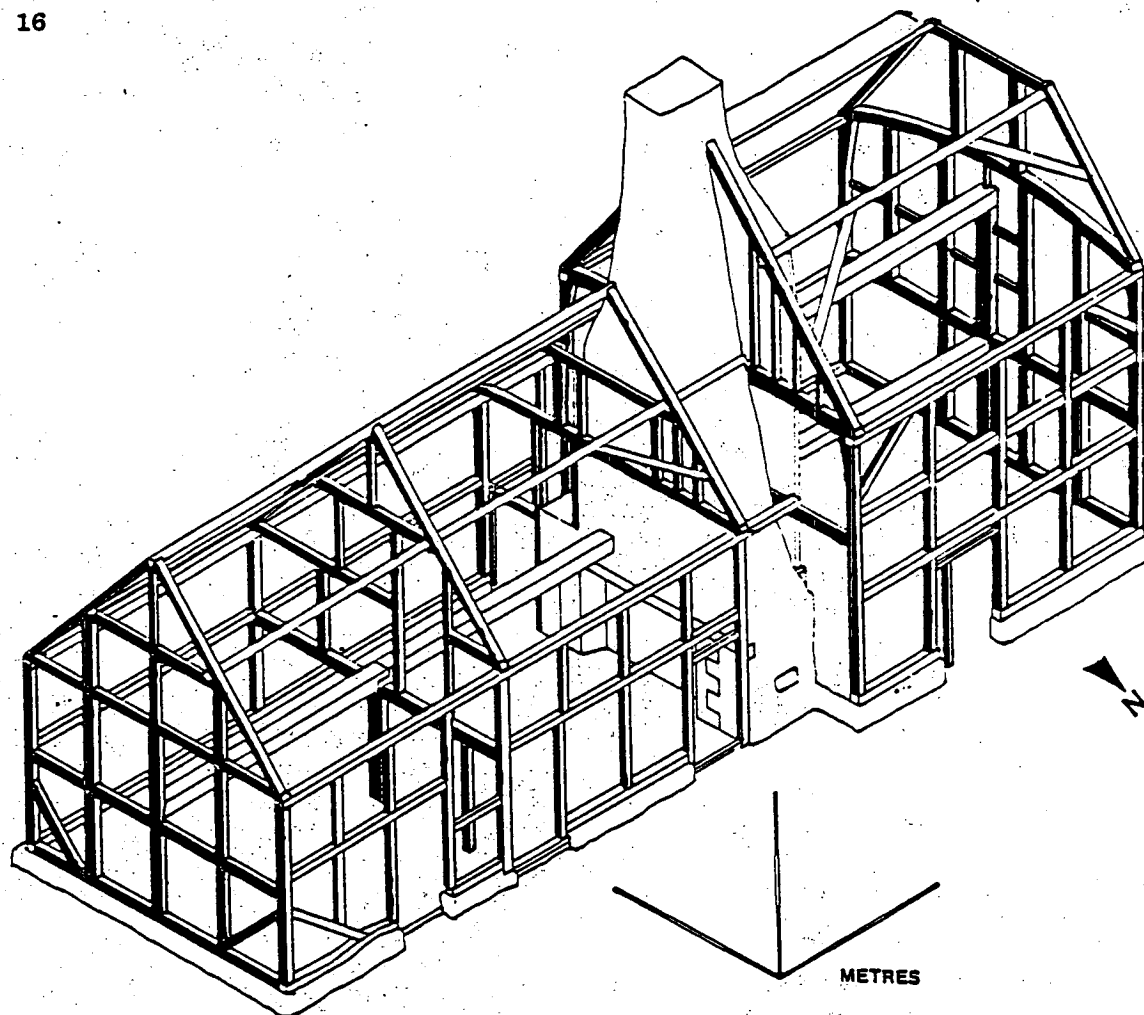


FIG. 16



82-4 Lower Radley, Oxon. (see n.76)

FIG. 17



Acheulian handaxes from Whitchurch-on-Thames: finished axe (left) and roughout (right). (see n.78)

Drawn by Cynthia Graham Kerr

South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group

Acheulian handaxes from Whitchurch-on-Thames (see Fig. 17)

In October 1985 a small Palaeolithic handaxe was found in a garden at Swanston Field, Whitchurch-on-Thames (SU 637774). Although only about three inches long, this pear-shaped tool had been well made and is typical of its kind. A few weeks later a second handaxe, a larger but unfinished roughout this time, was found in the same garden.

Both tools have been examined by Dr Derek Roe of the Quaternary Research Centre (Pitt Rivers Museum) in Oxford. They are both later Lower Palaeolithic or Acheulian handaxes, with an approximate date of 250,000-150,000 BP. Acheulian handaxes are associated with the Middle Gravel deposits of Ice Age Swanscombe and Hoxne. Secure Hoxnian datings from the Upper Thames region are very rare, but these tools were probably made and used in the Hoxnian interglacial and subsequent warm phases in the following glacial period.

The finished handaxe is of white flint, patinated with lines of iron stain which is typical of a surface find in a chalky area. Some of the flaking was carried out using a 'soft' hammer, which has resulted in flat, shallow flake scars. The larger roughout has also been weathered in chalk and is similarly iron-stained; it shows evidence of the use of a hard hammer only. Both are made of local flint.

The design of the handaxe gives it a sharp cutting edge and a heavy butt. They are generally regarded as butchery tools: only three handaxes from this country have been examined for traces of wear, but all show evidence of having been used to cut meat. However, they were probably general purpose tools.

One other handaxe has been recorded previously from Whitchurch-on-Thames and this is described as 'a white ovate handaxe from Binditch Camp, Whitchurch, with flecky iron stains, very worn, and with thermal damage'. This specimen, which seems to be similar to the two reported here, is now in the British Museum.

These latest Palaeolithic finds from Whitchurch have been entered in the county sites and monuments record at Woodstock Museum.

Janet Ridout Sharpe

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

OXFORDSHIRE

Abingdon: New Printing Works - R A Chambers and J Wallis

A watch maintained over the extension of the Burgess Printing Works (centred SU 5000 9726) revealed an extensive modern rubbish dump. Any earlier remains had been dug away previously. Trial trenching in the adjacent railway station coalyard site suggested that this development is either on or just beyond the periphery of the Romano-British settlement known to lie beneath Abingdon.

Abingdon: Vineyard Redevelopment, Archaeological Assessment -

R A Chambers and J Moore

A programme of trial excavations, consisting of both machine and hand-dug trenches, have been completed in the Vineyard, Abingdon (centred SU 499 977). The results will be used to formulate a future excavation policy to record the complex archaeology of this part of the town in advance of redevelopment.

Trial trenches were excavated in five principle areas. A single trench within the Vineyard car park revealed a series of medieval rubbish-filled pits at the rear of properties fronting on to Stert Street. This area should be subjected to more extensive excavation to examine the buildings that line this street, to date the expansion of the town in this direction and to understand something of the occupations of the former residents. As the buildings fronted on to the main road to Oxford, it is possible that the later medieval buildings lie above earlier urban development. A lack of medieval urban remains in a trench on the site of the GWR railway station is consistent with the station lying within the former medieval abbey precinct.

That part of the town's population either employed by the abbey or otherwise within its jurisdiction, was buried in the lay cemetery to the north-west of the abbey church. A trench in the Council nursery revealed intensive inhumation burial interrupted by a thick deposit of medieval building rubble and painted wall plaster presumably dumped during a phase of rebuilding within the abbey. The size of the cemetery remains unknown but if properly excavated would provide a wealth of information on the medieval population of the town.

Extensive trenching on the site of the railway sidings and a further trench behind the Guide Hut confirmed the former course of the river Stert which is still reflected in the topography of the area. Several sherds of 10th and 11th century pottery from beneath the railway sidings suggests nearby late Anglo-Saxon domestic activity. The sherds occurred in horizons either affected by or comprising deliberately dumped soil. The source of this soil is not yet known.

Roman pottery was recovered from every trench excavated during the assessment but the overall impression was that settlement activity was less intensive beneath and north of the railway sidings than to the south and south-east. However the forthcoming redevelopment will provide an unparalleled opportunity to examine the character of settlement around the edge of a minor, unwallled Roman town. It will be important to establish the relationship of the settlement to surrounding land use. Early - mid Iron Age

pottery from beneath the GWR station suggests that sufficient remains may survive to demonstrate the development of the landscape in the centuries preceding the growth of the Roman settlement.

The one area which was not subjected to trial trenching was the cattle market which remains in use. A trench immediately to the north revealed 2m. of archaeological deposits. The cattle market covers a substantial area of archaeological material from both the medieval abbey and the Roman settlement.

Aston: Housing Estate - R A Chambers

An intermittent watching brief over the ground work for the first of fifty houses at Aston, (site centred SP 3442 0290), in Oxfordshire did not reveal any archaeological material.

Bampton: The Beam - R A Chambers and J Blair

Several west-east inhumation burials discovered at 'The Beam' in 1985 (NGR SP 3210 0345) have now been radio-carbon dated at Harwell to 930 ± 80 years; 1060 ± 80 years and 1080 ± 70 years. These raw, uncorrected carbon dates suggest the burial ground surrounding this former chapel originated in the late Anglo-Saxon period. This suggests that the present cottage may stand, in part, on the site of a pre-Conquest chapel or church and appears to confirm that 'The Beam' was in existence sufficiently early to have provided the later town with its distinctive name.

Bampton: Calais Farm Redevelopment - R A Chambers

The demolition of farm buildings on the northern side of the Bampton-Aston road (centred SP 3191 0324) has provided an important opportunity to further examine the extensive underlying Iron Age and Romano-British settlements already known to be present in the area. It is thought that Bampton marks the site of an extensive, unwallled Roman period settlement or small town. Up to the present, information about the nature and extent of this settlement has been gathered in a piecemeal manner. Although much of the Calais Farm site has been lost to farm building construction and gravel quarrying, trenches along the northern and eastern extremities of the site revealed intensive Roman settlement activity and early Iron Age settlement debris.

More importantly, the present excavation has recovered early Anglo-Saxon pottery including grass-tempered wares indicating nearby domestic occupation sometime between the 5th and 8th centuries AD.

Several sherds of later medieval pottery were recovered from a trench at the northern extremity of the site beside the path leading into Bampton from 'The Beam'. However, this pottery post-dates the development of the medieval market town in the 13th century.

Bicester: Queens Avenue Housing Development - R A Chambers

This site, (site centred SP 5820 2261) laid down to trees and grass in the 1960's, contained a continuation of the medieval settlement recorded to the east during the development of Hanover Gardens in 1979. The earthworks on

this present site were recorded in 1983 and a plan published in CBA Group 9 Newsletter 14 (1984), 99-101. In particular, the earthwork remains of a substantial building apparently arranged around three sides of a yard may represent the remains of the Nuns of Markyates manor house, a building traditionally located about 100 yards. to the south in the grounds of Bicester House.

Building work on the site confirmed parts of the earthwork survey revealing the lines of several ditches, yard areas and domestic debris including medieval pottery. The medieval quarries exposed during the development of Lower Home Close encroached on to the site for some 30m. The often incomplete removal of topsoil from the site and poor weather handicapped the archaeological recording. The Unit is grateful to Bovis Homes for allowing free access to the site during development.

Charlbury: Human Remains at Queen's Own - R A Chambers

Parts of a human pelvis and thigh bone have been discovered by workmen repairing a drain at the rear of a property in Church Lane, immediately north of the Churchyard (SP 355 194). The bones may belong to a person who did not qualify for burial within the limits of the churchyard and may, therefore, be medieval or early post-medieval assuming the ground north of the churchyard was unoccupied and available for burial at that time.

However, undated human remains were found close by when a sewer was inserted into Church Lane some years ago and the presence of a Roman brooch south of the church suggests Roman period settlement. The human remains beneath Church Lane are more likely to be Romano-British or early Anglo-Saxon as Church Lane presumably came into existence during the medieval period.

Churchill: The medieval parish church - R A Chambers

All Saints parish church was rebuilt in 1826 on a new site at the top of the village at the expense of James Langstone. This unusually fine early Victorian church was the product of an architect, James Plowman, who incorporated architectural features from several Oxford Colleges.

The previous parish church which had provided a focus for the medieval village stood at the bottom of Hastings Hill (SP 280 242). In 1825 the nave and aisles were demolished and the chancel remodelled as a mortuary chapel. Little is known of the medieval building.

In 1985 the chapel was made redundant with a proposal to demolish. Following the launch of an appeal to restore this last upstanding fragment of the medieval village, essential drainage work has been undertaken with the help of the Manpower Services Commission. The construction of soak-a-ways either side of the chancel has revealed the inside south-east corner of the south aisle and the north-east corner of a presumed north aisle.

A vault occupied the south-east corner of the south aisle. Roofed with undressed limestone bonded with the local subsoil, the vault was accidentally breached during the excavation of the southern soak-a-way. Still intact, with the remains of seven or eight lead bound coffins, the vault has been resealed with concrete. Initials on a coffin suggest that this is the family vault of the Walter family resident in the village during the 17th and 18th centuries and who are recorded as buried in the south aisle.

The north-east inside corner of the north aisle continues below ground level for more than 1.5m. and is of a similar stonework to that present in

the vault in the south aisle. This suggests that there was an opposing burial vault incorporated in the north aisle and later filled with debris from the demolition of the church.

The central tower indicated in Skelton's drawing of 1825 suggests that the church either developed from a late Anglo-Saxon or Norman cruciform plan or that the tower and later church was built onto the west end of an early, small nave, itself later rebuilt as the medieval chancel. This site would merit further archaeological examination if the opportunity arose, particularly to establish the form and date of the earliest church.

Churchill: Parsonage Gardens - R A Chambers

Early post-medieval garden earthworks have been tentatively identified to the south and west of the graveyard at the bottom of Hastings Hill (Site centred SP 280 241). The graveyard surrounds the site of the medieval parish church (see above) and a previous parsonage. A small, possibly 18th century monumental arch from the entrance to the parsonage garden survives to the south-east of the present redundant chapel.

Crowmarsh: Queens Head - R A Chambers

Foundation trenches for an extension at the rear of the public house have not revealed anything of archaeological importance. Garden soil up to 1m. deep decreased in depth towards the rear of the original building where the bottoms of undated cess pits survived beneath a late 19th or early 20th century brick built extension. There was no pottery. There was nothing to suggest that the present building was not the first structure to occupy this site.

Cumnor: Dean Court - T G Allen

In March and April 1986 a further season of excavation was carried out by the Cumnor Bypass on the site of the Early Grange in advance of pipe-laying by Thames Water, who generously funded the work. This greatly clarified the layout and development of the early grange, uncovering the east end of the second storey stone building, Building II, the full length of a third parallel to it, and excavating a complicated series of ditches that both underlay and respected the domestic Building I.

Building II proved to be 18m long and 5m wide with an external drain and buttress around the east end. Running beneath it and up to it was a succession of ditches which proved that Building II was secondary to Building I. The ditches contemporary with Building II contained very little pottery, suggesting that unlike I Building II was not domestic.

South of Building II a very complicated succession of ditches ran up to, and in some cases beneath, Building I. It appeared that the site had been divided up by narrow ditches at right-angles into plots before the first stone buildings were built, probably in the mid-late 12th century. When Building I was constructed at around 1200 AD a whole series of ditches surrounded first it alone and then both Buildings I and II. From some of these ditches carbonised samples were recovered, as well as large numbers of wide shallow bowls suggesting an emphasis upon dairying. Eventually these ditches were filled in and Building III, parallel to and of almost exactly

the same dimensions as Building II, was built over the top, probably c. 1260-70 AD. Only a very small area of floor survived inside Building III, but the paucity of finds around it suggest that it too was not domestic. The site seems to have been abandoned c. 1300 AD.

Post Excavation. The matrix and overall site phasing has been completed and the basis for computerisation of the record sorted out. Data is now being fed in.

The Medieval Pottery, Tile and Small Finds Reports have been done, and the finds drawn for publication. Processing of the Animal Bone and other environmental samples is nearly completed. Half the Plans and Sections are completed, others are being worked upon at present. An account of the Later Grange is in draft. Work will resume in the autumn, to be completed by April 1988.

Deddington: Water mill site at Ilbury - R A Chambers

The outstanding earthwork remains of a water mill and associated leat and fishpond were surveyed as part of the OUDES weekend course in surveying for certificate students under the supervision of James Bond and R A Chambers.

The mill site, centred SP 436 300, lies c. 0.4km west of Ilbury bridge and south of the South brook. The medieval village of Ilbury, now deserted, lay a similar distance to the north-east of the mill site on the opposite bank of the South brook. A water mill at Ilbury formed part of the manorial estate in the 16th century, and was leased to the Lyne family. The mill may not have been constructed until after 1279 as it is not mentioned in a survey of that date. The water mill is depicted on an estate plan of 1619 as Yelburie Mill (sic.) and drew its water from a leat which ran east from Worton brook which has since been diverted and enters the South brook further to the west.

The mill comprised three buildings whose positions illustrated on the 1619 plan can still be located from the surviving earthwork platforms beside the leat and tail race. The water wheel mounted at the end of a two-storey building appears to be an undershot wheel but given the limited flow of water and the earthwork evidence, in reality it was almost certainly a breast wheel. The mill survived in 1721 but by 1777 the field in which it had stood was called Burnt House Close; later it was called Mill Ham (VCH Oxon, XI, 107-8).

The survey will be published in a forthcoming BAR volume on Aspects of Water Management edited by M Aston.

Dorchester: Martin's Lane Archaeological Assessment - R A Chambers

An archaeological assessment of a 0.3 ha field east of Belcher's Court, on the north side of Martin's Lane has provided more information on the extent and nature of the Roman town. The assessment was funded by the developers, Beechcroft Developments Ltd.

The site is centred some 200m. north of the walled area of the Roman town (SU 578 945) and lies within the fork between the principle Roman road leading out of the town to the north and the minor road leading to one of the major cemeteries serving the late Roman urban population.

A series of linked trial trenches 1.6m. wide revealed a complex of intercutting features, chiefly boundary ditches and pits which represented development and redevelopment of the area from the late 1st/early 2nd century

- 4th century AD.

At least one substantial stone-founded building stood on the site, although the majority of the buildings would probably have been timber framed. Although heavily disturbed by ploughing during the later medieval period, traces of cobbled yard surfaces, lumps of stone and roof tile (tegula) from a substantial building were revealed at the bottom of the accumulated ploughsoil 0.6m. - 0.8m. beneath the field surface.

The presumed decline of the market and administrative functions of the town in the 5th century may have led to a decline in the urban population and a contraction of suburban settlement. There was no evidence from the trial trenches to suggest otherwise. However such evidence is generally less obvious than that left by Roman settlements and late medieval ploughing may have destroyed any traces of early Anglo-Saxon settlement.

The much decayed upper leg bones from a child burial lay amongst the building rubble in the northern trench. Certainly pre-medieval, such burials appear characteristic of the declining years of suburban occupation around other late Roman towns.

A medieval gravel quarry with 13th - 14th century AD pottery in its backfill lay at the edge of the southern trial trench.

A watch is currently being kept over the development of this site.

Dorchester: 11 Queen Street - R A Chambers

Excavation by the Oxford Archaeological Unit has now been completed on this site. A watching brief will be maintained during house building. The excavation was undertaken for the HBMC using labour supplied by the Manpower Services Commission and supervised by John Moore.

The site, centred SU 5783 9439, lies within the scheduled area east of the High Street where nothing is known of the limits of the Roman town, of the subsequent Anglo-Saxon occupation or of the medieval abbey precinct.

The excavation was divided into two phases. Trial trenching along the frontages of 11 Queen Street and the adjacent property to the north was followed by limited area excavation.

The excavations revealed that all the remains predating the post-medieval period had been truncated at a point a little below the Roman period topsoil. The earliest recognisable features were early Roman and comprised several shallow pits and two parallel ditches. Although parallel, the ditches were dissimilar in size and may not have been contemporary. The larger ditch presented a V-profile some 2m deep as excavated. The smaller U-shaped ditch cut 0.5m into the gravel subsoil. Both ditches appear to have silted up rapidly. The only domestic debris present in the ditches occurred in the upper levels. The two parallel ditches suggest a substantial land boundary with the shallower ditch on the northern side delimiting a trackway. If this track continued in the direction suggested by the excavation it would appear to lead either towards or a little to the east of the point where the north wall of the town cuts the present High Street. Presuming that 11 Queen Street lies beyond the walled area of the Roman town the evidence suggests that this area may have been open farm land until at least the 1st century AD.

The site had been heavily disturbed by post-medieval occupation culminating in a range of wells, cess pits, soak-a-ways, drains and other service trenches which served the former school. All of the evidence for post-Roman land use on this site had been lost to this legacy of 19th and 20th century development, the extent of which was only revealed by

excavation.

The excavation did not throw any light on the extent of the medieval abbey precinct.

Drayton: Cursus - G H Lambrick and J Moore

Excavations have resumed on the low-lying northern section of the Drayton Cursus, near Abingdon (SU 490 945) (see Fig.18). An area c. 40 x 60m. where the monument is sealed by alluvium has been very carefully stripped by the gravel company, J. Curtis Ltd. Salvage observation of the gravel extraction also continues. The site lies on the west side of the Cursus, immediately adjacent to the area excavated on its east side by the Abingdon Archaeological Society a few years ago. Unfortunately the western ditch of the cursus stops short of the area sealed by alluvium. This suggests the longest of several gaps in the cursus ditches known from earlier observations where they cross drier land to the north. The eastern ditch shows that the cursus did extend this far however, and further trenches on the east side show that the ditch there simply ends before reaching a stream running across its line. There is no evidence that the ditch turned west to form a terminal. The stream may have acted as a terminal, but it is possible the cursus continued on the other side to join up with the southern section of the cursus known from cropmarks and excavations by Leeds, on the second gravel terrace. The Abingdon Society found no evidence of the eastern ditch south of the stream, but in view of the long gap in the western ditch this need not indicate that the monument did not continue.

The advantage of having the area sealed by alluvium is that the original ground surface is relatively intact. Small post-holes and patches of soil with charcoal are apparently associated with somewhat denser concentrations of flintwork and bones, suggesting domestic activity. The most distinct features of this kind were a pair of pits in a spread of charcoal and burnt quartzite pebbles, but apart from a curious fired clay lump there were few finds. It is not yet clear how far this represents activity associated with the cursus itself.

The general distribution of flintwork and other finds has been plotted, and finds include a fine earlier neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead and a greenstone axe fragment.

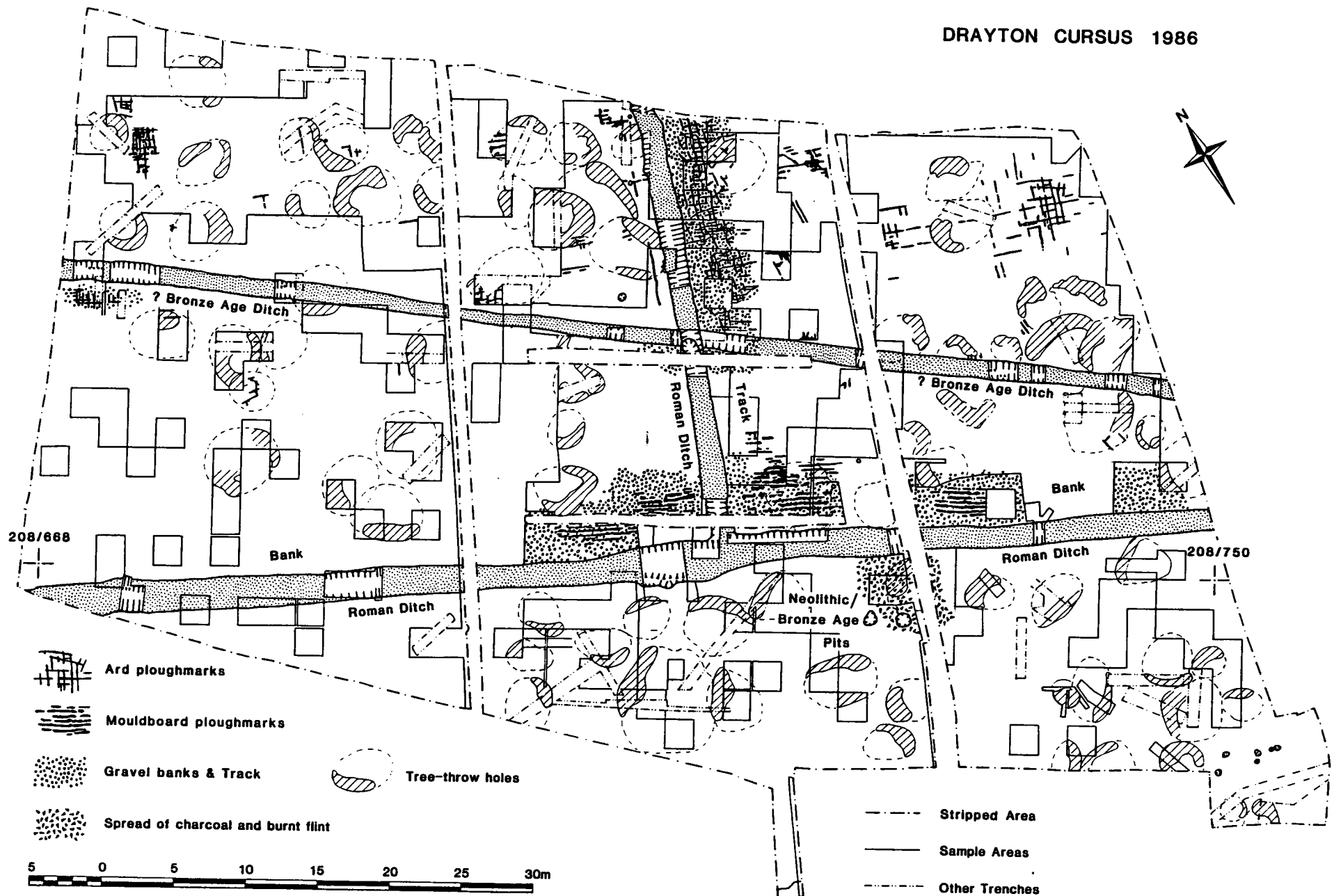
Numerous tree-throw pits were excavated and finds recovered indicated that tree clearance (by man or natural forces) was occurring in the Neolithic, Beaker and Roman periods. The large number of finds of the earlier two periods around some of these features suggest that fallen trees became the temporary focus of domestic activity. One such feature was found beneath the re-excavated eastern bank of the cursus. Rather more flintwork and pottery was found outside the area of the cursus than within it. Some Neolithic flintwork was recovered from two small trial trenches c. 150m. west of the line of the cursus. It is hoped that some salvage work may take place when the rest of the field is stripped.

Later features include a small ditch running across the line of the cursus which may be Bronze Age, acting as some sort of boundary. Relatively little flintwork etc. was found south of this ditch. A Roman field system was stratified within the alluvium overlying the cursus, and following its line where it was still visible as an earthwork. The field system was delimited by a boundary running parallel to the edge of the floodplain. A 10cm ploughsoil respecting this boundary sealed and marks in the gravel subsoil at the higher end of the site and alluvium at the edge of the

DRAYTON CURSUS 1986

FIG. 18

- 86 -



floodplain. The boundary running parallel to the floodplain was maintained after those following the line of the cursus ceased to exist. Subsequently, after further alluviation, the upcast bank from this ditch was mouldboard ploughed just once - probably to break up the compacted gravel bank to enable the grass to grow better. Pastoral land use is indicated from waterlogged samples taken from the ditch by the Abingdon Society in 1981. The whole sequence was covered by further alluvium.

Drayton is most unusual for the region in having presented this opportunity of relating a full depth of Roman ploughsoil with underlying ploughmarks to a sequence of associated field boundaries and subsequent land use. The most significant point perhaps is that the sequence demonstrates that arable land was so scarce that ploughing was not only taking place on gravelly eminences in the floodplain but that it was actually extending onto land subject to contemporary flooding.

East Hendred: St. Amand's Chapel - N W Jones and R A Chambers

The present manor house, NGR SU 460 885, is arranged around three sides of a square courtyard, open on the east side. The south wing contains a medieval chapel. The chapel, dedicated to St. Amand and St. John the Baptist was erected c. 1260 as a private domestic chapel for the manor house. Although such chapels were quite common at that period, very few examples have survived to the present day. St. Amand's is one of these rare survivals. During August, major repair work to the walls, windows and floor afforded an opportunity to record the architecture and archaeology of the building.

The removal of the floor revealed that the chapel had virtually no depth of foundation and the walls lay directly on the Greensand bedrock. The floor level had been lowered during the Victorian restoration of 1866 with the consequent loss of the medieval floor levels.

Removal of the external rendering allowed a close inspection of the fabric of the building. The walls were originally of chalk rubble and lime mortar. The core of the north and south walls appear to be original to a height of c. 3m. in places. The quoining in the south-west corner indicates that the building may have originally been freestanding. Several putlog holes which anchored the wooden scaffolding used during the construction of the chapel, were seen in the south wall. In one hole the remains of the sawn-off scaffold pole survived in a much decayed state. The rest of the chapel has been rebuilt over the last four centuries.

Both the north-east and south-east corners show evidence of subsidence and subsequent repair with softer, lighter coloured chalk. Of the windows, the south lancet is substantially original while the north lancet has been much repaired, the original stone-work being in local Greensand.

It is possible that the walls were heightened to incorporate the now blocked rectangular north and south windows. In the north-west corner an unglazed mullioned oak window was inserted and later plastered over. The window may belong with the insertion of the Tudor gallery and possibly the construction of that wing of the house which connects with the chapel.

The east wall of the chapel had been encased in brick probably during the 18th century, whereas the brick buttresses are later. The substantial restoration of 1866 included the insertion of three windows in the south wall, the insertion of a quatrefoil window in the blocked south oval window, the blocking of a similar window in the north wall and the insertion of a trefoil window in the upper east wall to replace an earlier window.

Faringdon: Camden Farm - R A Chambers

Fieldwalking by members of the Faringdon History Group has revealed a ribbon of Romano-British occupation along the south side of the river Thames north of Radcot Bridge (centred SU 987 298). Both this and a similar line of medieval settlement from Eaton Hastings eastwards appears to follow the slightly higher ground along the edge of the valley gravels. This ground is high enough to alleviate all but the worst flooding in years with extreme weather but allows easy access to clean well water from the gravel terrace. Amongst the medieval material so far recovered are several pieces of decorated ridge tile with vents suggesting a building of manorial or similar status.

A trial trench has also been excavated to record the precise nature and extent of an earthwork thought by the writer to be the outline of a post-medieval building, but shown to be the result of open-field cultivation over Romano-British settlement features. The Faringdon History Group and the Oxford Archaeological Unit are extremely grateful to Mr and Mrs Haskings for allowing access to their land and for their enthusiasm and help. Work will continue next year.

Farmoor - Swindon: Water Main - R A Chambers

Jeff Wallis and Roger Ainslie have continued to walk parts of this pipeline when weather permitted and several new sites have been found. This fieldwork has brought them into contact with local landowners and has led to further discoveries away from the route of the pipeline. It is hoped that Thames Water will fund the publication of the material recovered from the pipeline route.

Fawler: Bury Close - T G Allen

Observation of the Thames Water pipeline across the Evenlode valley led to the discovery of a Romano-British building, probably a bath-house, on the north bank of the river within the Scheduled Area of the Fawler Villa. The placename 'Fawler' means 'coloured floor' in Old English, showing that mosaics were known to the Anglo-Saxon inhabitants. Mosaics were again uncovered during construction of the railway in the 19th century, and one was destroyed by it.

A three week excavation was carried out on the line of the pipe-trench and the working strip in advance of pipe laying in June 1986.

The area within the pipeline strip close to the river's edge was covered with large amounts of building debris including half-box tiles, painted plaster and sawn tufa blocks. This overlay a succession of limestone and gravel yard surfaces with ditches and small pits dug into them. On the very edge of the river bank the yard surfaces abutted a deep excavation with vertical sides and flat bottom, which contained masonry tumble and foundations, more building debris and some loose tesserae. The excavation appears to have been Roman, but what was its purpose?

The parish boundary has followed the course of the Evenlode across the valley since before the railway was built. Where the railway crosses the river the course of the river and parish boundary diverge, and it seems clear that the river was diverted here to create a shorter span for the railway bridge. Since the railway is embanked across the rest of the valley here,

this is the only point at which excavation for the railway in the 19th century is likely to have uncovered and destroyed a Roman building and its mosaic, and what was excavated in the pipeline strip was probably the very edge of this building, most of which has been removed.

Its situation on low-lying ground by the river suggests that this was a bath-house, as do the half-box tiles and the tufa ceiling blocks. Both the half-box tiles and pottery from the earliest yard surfaces suggest a 2nd century origin for this building, with some evidence of use in the 3rd and possibly the 4th centuries.

Some 200m from the river an area of large Roman pits was recovered, and between the two was a scatter of occupation material, but no further buildings.

Great Faringdon: Sandpit Extension - R A Chambers

An assessment of the archaeological potential within the proposed extension to the existing sand quarry, (site centred SU 296 955), has been undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit at the request of Hills Aggregates Ltd. Circular crop marks recorded on an aerial photograph were investigated as part of an extensive series of both hand and machine dug trial trenches backed up by field walking. The cropmarks proved to have a natural origin. No other archaeological features were found.

Great Haseley: Rycote Parva - R A Chambers

Today Rycote is well known in the county for the 15th century chapel with its exceptional 17th century interior. Little remains of the great house to which the chapel belonged and much of the surrounding park is now farm land. Few people who visit Rycote chapel, some 10 miles east of Oxford and 2.5 miles west-south-west of Thame, realise that to the east of the present buildings lies the deserted site of the medieval village of Rycote Magna. By the 13th century a subsidiary settlement of Rycote Parva had developed. First mentioned in Edward I's tenurial survey of 1279 Rycote Parva was recorded with 13 tenants. By the early 15th century it appears to have been in decline and tax returns were incorporated with Rycote Magna.

The site of Rycote Parva remained unknown until February this year when earthworks were spotted in the north of Rycotelane Farm by neighbouring farmer, Mrs Thomas. Until two years ago part of the village had lain beneath permanent pasture. Recent shallow ploughing has so far done little damage to the earthworks but has brought some pottery (dating evidence) and building stone to the surface. Field walking has shown that the village stops abruptly against the present parish boundary which is marked by a narrow band of woodland called Cottage Brake.

It is hoped to undertake further recording on this site, centred SP 6610 0410, in the autumn. The Unit is grateful to Mr M Hedges of Rycotelane Farm for allowing access to the site.

Harwell: Lockton's Farm - R A Chambers and M Pinkney

The Unit has excavated the floor in the remaining bay of a cruck built structure incorporated into a later barn at the former Lockton's Farm, Harwell (SU 492 890). Interest in this structure was heightened by a

suggestion that it might represent the remains of a late medieval detached kitchen. Excavation revealed that this bay most probably belonged to a domestic structure with the floor level cut down into the Greensand bedrock perhaps some 30 cm. below the outside ground surface. This bay appears never to have possessed a hearth.

Hook Norton: St. Peter's Church - R A Chambers

Recently, major repair work to the north transept has revealed that St. Peter's church originated in the late Anglo-Saxon period and is perhaps a century older than the early-mid 12th century Norman architecture previously led people to believe.

The distinctive long and short quoin work recently revealed beneath external Victorian rendering at the junction between the chancel and the north transept survives to a height of some 4m. and represents the north-east corner of the original nave. Close examination of a narrow gap in the render at the junction of the chancel and south aisle shows corresponding long and short work standing to just over a metre above foundation level.

The need to lower the ground surface at the junction of the chancel and north transept in order to reduce the problem of rising damp, has resulted in a small archaeological excavation. The excavation has shown that the buttress on the east side of the north transept has reused part of the foundations of a small cell or annex in the angle between the north transept and the north wall of the chancel. This foundation of local ironstone rubble was laid after the arch in the north transept east wall had been blocked. Presumably the door through the north wall of the chancel provided access. In 1982 the discovery of painted wall plaster showed this doorway had been blocked before the end of the medieval period and presumably the room beyond demolished.

In 1180, Oseney Abbey acquired two acres of land at Hook Norton which 'the Inglise of Hokenorton unto his death held in almys'. This suggests that at that time there was a man living in a building or cell annexed to the church, with a door or opening allowing his participation in services and a view of the altar. It is just possible that the rough ironstone foundation represents the remains of this cell. A grave-shaped west-east pit cut into the floor of the cell immediately in front of the chancel door is revetted along one side with a rough ironstone rubble wall similar to the cell foundation. This pit was filled with soil in Victorian times and may be a stone-capped grave damaged and infilled during Victorian renovation work.

The unusually high ground surface along the northern side of the chancel marks a dump of building refuse at least partly from Victorian refurbishment of the church. The majority of the waste is from the medieval fabric of the church and includes lime mortar and plaster, inlaid floor tile fragments from the 13th or earlier 14th century, limestone roof tile and decorated clay ridge tile. The latter suggests that at least part of the church was formerly roofed with stone peg tiles and a tiled ridge.

In c.1128 the church was given to the newly founded Augustinian Abbey at Oseney (near Oxford). Many of the surviving Norman features discovered in the chancel in 1982 may have been inserted at this time for the convenience of visiting canons from the abbey. The abbey was also almost certainly responsible for the floor tiles which were manufactured in the east of the county or in Buckinghamshire, and which contrast with the products of Gloucestershire Cotswolds tileries which would normally be expected in this area. Excavation will be completed in 1987.

Kidlington: Parish Church - R A Chambers

Building work on the north side of the nave has disturbed a large number of interments but no new archaeological information about either the churchyard or the church building was seen.

Oxford: 6 Broad Street/4A Ship Street (SP 513 063) - B G Durham

Brian Durham and Mark Collard carried out excavations and survey adjacent to Oxford's Bastion 4 on behalf of Heritage Projects in advance of their conversion of the adjoining warehouse for their 'Oxford Story' exhibition. The bastion was shown to be oblique to the city wall line. It therefore seems likely that it was the corner tower of the walled enclosure added to the town in the 11th century to provide a churchyard for St. Michael's at the Northgate (see below, St. Michaels). The east wall of the enclosure survives as a 1.5m. thick basement wall, with a postern in the angle where it meets the main wall. The stonework is assumed to be 12th or early 13th century, replacing the original ragstone wall of the enclosure, itself dated by the 11th-century church tower. The three above-ground storeys of the bastion are thin-walled with domestic windows and fireplaces, suggesting medieval and later alterations.

Oxford: Cathedralcloister, Christ Church (SP 515 059) - B G Durham

The excavations by Christopher Scull and Brian Durham, and survey by Julian Munby over two years have cast light on the history of Oxford's minster church. In the first season Christopher Scull found 18 burials in the cloister, mostly predating a large infilled 12th-century pit or quarry (see CBA 9 Newsletter 15 (1985)). Two of the earliest were stratigraphically related and gave radiocarbon dates which calibrated to the range AD 735-825 at the 68% confidence level (HAR 6817, HAR 6820). With two later dated burials, they give considerable support to the view that this was indeed the site of Oxford's minster church, which legend tells was founded by St. Frideswide before AD 727.

The early burials had no datable grave furniture, but later examples had stone 'ear-muffs', and the 12th-century burials were in mortared stone cists familiar elsewhere in Oxford at this time. Two graves had beds of charcoal.

The latest of the burials perhaps belong to the period when the minster had been refounded as an Augustinian priory in 1122, and indeed the end of regular burial may only have come when this area was subsequently enclosed by a cloister before 1190. This was the year of a major fire which left its mark on the chapter house, and on the plain Romanesque doorway of a night-stair at the north end of the east range. The inside elevation of the doorway was surveyed by Julian Munby during alteration to the choir practice rooms. The tiled landing inside the door formed part of the stairway rising 2m. to the dormer above a rubble-vaulted undercroft; the Romanesque door was blocked and replaced in the 15th century when the cloister was rebuilt. The early 13th-century rafter roof of the Chapter House was also investigated as part of a survey project of the Cathedral roofs.

Oxford: St. Michael's at the Northgate (SP 512 063) - B G Durham

Brian Durham, Tim Morgan and Leigh Turner made an external and internal survey of the Romanesque tower during alterations to provide public access. The tower with all its windows, double belfry openings and its three doorways was shown to be of a single build, including the ground and first floor windows facing the town ditch. These low windows mean that it was not part of the defences, and must postdate the known diversion of the town wall which provided the church with its churchyard. The tower is therefore suggested as one part of a collaborative reorganisation by which the church gained a cemetery and the town defenders gained a lookout, possibly accessed by an external stair to the unexplained second-floor north doorway.

A new and larger upper doorway was exposed at first-floor level in the south wall, here suggested as communicating with a gallery in a pre-existing church to the south, the only flat ground on this site while the rampart still stood. A single port-hole window with basket-work centering was reopened above one jamb of the upper north belfry opening, balanced on the other side by a 'mock-window' formed by a ring of stones on the exterior and a fossil ammonite on the interior. This feature is apparently unique in Romanesque architecture.

The tower has been dated architecturally to the mid-late 11th century, and considering the crudeness of its construction in this prominent location, this date seems acceptable.

Oxford: 24 St. Michaels Street - B G Durham

The report has been completed with further comparative analysis of the structure of the Saxon rampart. Radiocarbon dates from the Oxford Acceleration Laboratory were disappointing, and the date of refacing of the rampart in stone will need to be deduced indirectly from the structure. Fieldwork elsewhere in Oxford shows that the local Ragstone used at St. Michaels Street was widely available in the second half of the 11th century, and its identification as the predominant late-Saxon building stone therefore promises to be a useful tool in mapping areas of Saxon facing surviving in the medieval defences.

Oxford: 89 St. Aldates (SP 513 059) - B G Durham

A detailed study of the pottery fabrics showed that there was a hiatus in the stratigraphic sequence of the street frontage trench during the 11th-12th centuries. This means that the series of buildings founded on stubby timber piles were in fact 10th century, and were possibly preserved as a result of the raising of the water level which at the same time was causing the abandonment of the extensive marshy foreshore.

The pottery report and principal finds reports have been completed by Maureen Mellor, Ian and Alison Goodall and Nicky Rogers. The main interpretative section is well under way.

Oxford: Land Adjoining St. Aldates Police Station - B G Durham

The site lies across the line of the Shire Lake channel, which was the medieval county boundary and closest natural branch of the Thames to Oxford.

The site included the land of Thorold, which appears to have belonged to St. Frideswides priory by 1139. The excavation was designed to establish how much of the site had been reclaimed by this date, bearing in mind that it was river channel before c. 1190.

A trench 8m square showed evidence of a boundary between pits (assumed to be quarries for clay daub) on one side and a hard-standing on the other. All were cut into the top of a deposit of alluvial clay which must have accumulated after the channel was blocked by the stone bridge of c. 1190. A good sequence of 12th-century pottery was recovered which should give a chronological framework for the consolidation of this back-yard area. There was also some pottery from layers in the silting sequence which may be refuse from houses originally built on stilts when the bridge was very new.

Oxford: Rewley Abbey (Cistercian) (SP 506 064) - B G Durham

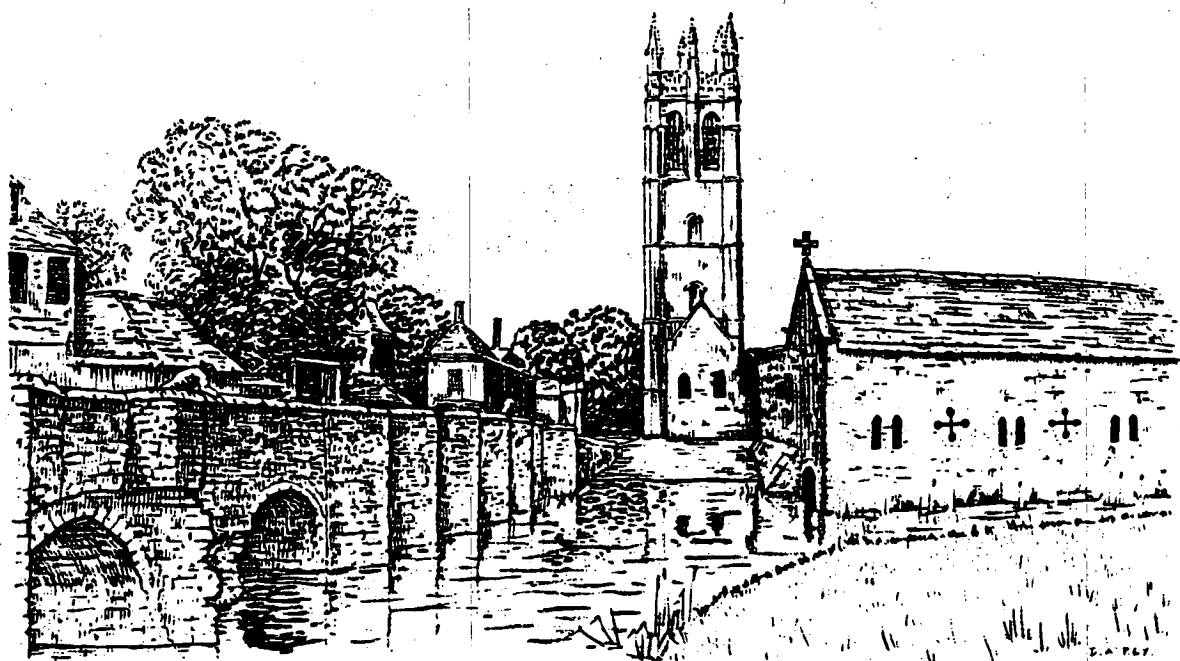
An assessment of the recently enlarged scheduled area was carried out by Brian Durham for British Rail and Oxford City Council in advance of comprehensive redevelopment. The courtyard demolished in 1850 was shown to be a small monastic cloister, undershot in its east range and with a well preserved larger building at the south-west corner. Further trenching suggested that this cloister was offset to the north-west of the abbey church, and, based on an 18th century reference to a 'chapel' in its north range, it is conjectured that this cloister was the 'house of studies' specified by the founder in 1281. This would make it the earliest formal plan of an educational building known anywhere in Oxford.

The church was shown to have been built with symmetrical aisles in what was presumably the nave, although the crossing was not seen. There were a modest number of internal burials. The area trenched to the south was too disturbed to show claustral buildings in any conventional relation to the church, which would in any case be largely outside the development area. The assessment confirmed that extensive excavation would be required before redevelopment.

Oxford: Magdalen College (SP 522 061) - B G Durham

Excavations in advance of proposed college kitchens were carried out by Brian Durham and Dr. Gerald Waite for H.B.M.C. and Magdalen College. The existing kitchen had been recognised as a building surviving from the medieval Hospital of St. John the Baptist, re-founded by Henry III in 1231 and suppressed in favour of the college in 1458 (see Fig. 19). The excavation showed a massive wall which continued the kitchen alignment 20m. south, forming the river wall of an arcaded range alongside the Cherwell. The position of the single excavated pier base suggested that the arcade may have been central within the range. Along the inside of the river wall was an ashlar lined culvert reminiscent of that found beneath the Common Hall at Ospringe in Kent, a hospital apparently founded by the king within three years of St. Johns. The Oxford culvert survived much better, with four courses of ashlar, and evidence of ashlar arches at 2.91m (9 feet 6 inches) spacing, presumably taking the weight of wall shafts opposite each arcade pier. The culvert is assumed to have distributed water brought by an aqueduct (1246) from a spring 400m away, keeping it separate from the river. A similar culvert was found beneath an outshot latrine in the north range of the college in the 19th century, assumed then to be a hospital feature. The

FIG. 19



St Johns Hospital Infirmary circa 1500?

newly excavated culvert was presumably not a latrine however, since it had a flight of steps for access within the building.

The south gable of the excavated range suggested that it was an addition to a pre-existing structure, perhaps a range fronting the street leading to Magdalen Bridge. This helps to visualise a large, slightly irregular courtyard of buildings, including a chapel and range to the south, infirmary hall against the river to the east, and perhaps private chambers in the north range.

Radley: Barrow Hills 1986-7 - Post-excavation - R A Chambers and C Halpin

Post excavation analysis and report writing has continued during 1987. The Oxford Committee for Archaeology has agreed in principle to publish the Barrow Hills report subject to a substantial HBMC grant. The report will be published as two volumes: Vol. I will report on the prehistoric burials with Claire Halpin as principle author; Vol. II will deal with subsequent land use, the Romano-British burials and the Anglo-Saxon settlement. Vol. II will also carry the site concordances. Vol. II will be submitted for publication by the end of this financial year subject to funds becoming available for final completion and editing which was previously underestimated. Vol. I should be ready for submission for publication in 1989-90 subject to funds

for drawing.

Volume I: The Prehistoric. Excavation of the prehistoric features was undertaken principally by Claire Halpin who is now employed by the Central Excavation Unit. By agreement with John Hinchliffe, Claire has retained responsibility for compiling the publication and remains the principal author.

Specialist reports have all been paid for but some find reports are still awaited. The flintwork remains to be analysed by Claire. Radiocarbon dating has been undertaken by the British Museum. The human remains have been examined by Mary Harman but the AM laboratory has not yet processed the animal bone. This will be undertaken for the lab. by Bruce Leviton at Oxford. Although some of the pottery has been drawn, the remaining pottery and the flintwork will require drawing during 1988-89. Claire has requested that the OAU undertake the drawing to ensure continuity of style.

Volume II: The Roman and Anglo-Saxon. Processing for publication is well advanced. All external specialist reports are complete. The principle reports on the human remains and the animal bone have been written. That concerning the animal bone has been circulated for comment and is undergoing final compilation.

The human bone report awaits one small specialist comment on several pathological items but is otherwise complete. The bulk of the excavation report on the Roman burials has been written. The Anglo-Saxon environmental reports are complete as are the Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery reports. The contexts, concordance and finds catalogue are computed. Texts have been word processed from the outlet. Drawing and paging-up is well advanced leaving little except final interpretive drawings to be completed. The final writing, compilation and editing will take six months.

Radley: 82-4 Lower Radley - R A Chambers and R Ainslie

The restoration of the pair of timber-framed c. 17th century cottages adjacent to Radley Barrow, (SU 534 988), has revealed that the cottages are built almost entirely of re-used timbers from earlier timber-framed buildings. There are also repairs and alterations of many periods. Because of the vernacular nature of the building methods, of the local materials used and of the extensive re-use of earlier timber-framing it is difficult to date the cottages or to date the majority of the subsequent alterations and repairs.

The older of the two buildings has an unusual, large stone chimney built of re-used limestone, incorporating some originally well dressed limestone heavily weathered before its re-use in the present chimney stack. The older building is of especial note because of the surviving wattle and daub fire-hood and chimney on the first floor.

Excavation of about 0.3m (1ft) of soil beneath the brick-on-earth floors in both cottages revealed a series of earlier hearths each respecting the stone chimney stack. The cottages appear to have been treated as one building fairly soon after erection and the floor levels raised throughout with soil containing unweathered late 12th - early 13th century medieval pottery.

Presumably the materials for both cottages were obtained locally. If this was the case there was at least one building in the medieval settlement with some dressed stonework on the exterior. Such expense suggests a building of manorial or similar status. Some timber work may have come from the same building. There is a smoke blackened purlin re-used in the roof of

the later cottage.

The foundation trenches for an extension to the rear of the cottages lay against the edge of the mound known as Radley Barrow, a monument of unproven date. The trenches cut some 1-3m into the subsoil but only revealed two periglacial features, one of which was cut by a post-medieval pit.

Foundation trenches to the east of the cottages have revealed an irregular prehistoric ditch, possibly belonging to the barrow which stands as a large mound to the north-east of the cottages.

The Rollright Stones - G H Lambrick

In September 1986 a small trench was excavated at the Rollright Stone Circle (SP 296 308) for English Heritage. The need to excavate arose from an act of vandalism earlier in the summer when one of the Stones was broken. It had to be excavated prior to repair. The stone was one which antiquarian drawings indicate was re-erected along with many of the others in 1882. This was confirmed by the excavation which showed that the shallow hole for the stone cut two earlier ones beneath. The discovery of two closely spaced original stone holes supports another theory, that originally the Circle would have formed a continuous wall of vertical stones except for a portalled entrance on the south-east side. Stone circles of this type occur mainly in Cumbria and in northern and eastern Ireland.

The excavation also revealed that the very slight bank on which the Circle stands may partly be of Roman origin, and was probably made by scraping soil up from the centre of the circle. Perhaps this prehistoric monument was reused as some sort of small arena in the Roman period, as (on a much larger scale) with Maumbury Rings.

Standlake: Eagle Farm - T G Allen and J Moore

An area 60m x 30m was opened up in this large Romano-British cropmark site threatened by gravel extraction to assess the date and character of occupation and the potential for waterlogged and other environmental remains. The excavation was carried out entirely by the MSC team supervised by John Moore.

The cropmark consists of a series of trackways flanked by large and small enclosures situated on low-lying ground between the two arms of the river Windrush, immediately north of their junction at Rack End and just east of Standlake. The threatened field contains one large rectangular enclosure with a series of small rectangular or oval enclosures both inside and outside it, all lying alongside a trackway. There are ditches of smaller fields or enclosures criss-crossing the area, which were thought to be earlier.

Excavation has sampled one oval and one rectangular small enclosure, the trackway and the big enclosure, plus many of the features inside it and outside to the south. The smaller fields are indeed earlier than both the small and large enclosures, which seem to be contemporary. The date of the occupation is Early Roman, beginning in the mid 1st century AD and continuing, at least until the end of the 2nd century AD.

The oval small enclosure produced little pottery and probably did not surround a house, but the ditches of the rectangular one are filled with burnt soil and pottery. There are as yet no traces of a building inside it, but elsewhere on the site there is one four-post structure, and other lines of postholes suggest fences alongside some of the ditches. Adjacent to this

enclosure was a large pit over 2m deep with a ramped entrance and gravel conglomerate lumps from a rough revetment round the edge. The bottom 0.5m of this was waterlogged, and it was probably a well. These tadpole-shaped wells are now common in the area; smaller ones have been excavated at Watkins Farm, Northmoor and Farmoor, and much larger ones at Gravelly Guy. This one contained part of a fish.

Other peat deposits have been found in the bottoms of ditches across the site, and it looks as if Eagle Farm will provide the environmental background that has been missing on other nearby sites of the same period, which have been drier. A few prehistoric sherds have been found, but so far in residual contexts; one possible prehistoric enclosure further down the field was investigated but proved to consist of Roman field ditches.

The evidence both from fieldwalking and excavation suggests that the late Roman settlement lies on the other side of the trackway. We are now awaiting topsoil stripping before we can salvage more of the settlement.

Stanton Harcourt: Gravelly Guy (SP 402 052) - G H Lambrick and J Moore

A three week season took place in August 1986. A barrow complex lying at the north-eastern end of the field was partially examined. The complex consisted of a ring ditch with a later annexe to the south and an earlier complex barrow which was eventually enlarged to cut the ring ditch. The only burials were associated with the original barrow.

The first phase of the barrow was a small turf-built platform or mound surrounded by a gully containing revetting posts. This in turn was surrounded by a ditch with a narrow gap in its north-west side. In the later phase a further ditch was dug and a mound built sealing the silting up of the inner ditch. There were three inhumations and two cremations in the centre burial pit. The primary burial did not survive other than one piece of skull recovered from the back fill of the secondary inhumation.

The secondary inhumation had been laid in a coffin formed by four planks laid in a rectangle, with a lid over the body. The crouched burial was accompanied by several grave goods. Placed beside the head was a copper alloy dagger with antler pommel with the badly decayed remains of a scabbard. Behind the back of the skeleton was a small fine late beaker (see Fig. 20) while by the feet, tucked in the corner of the coffin, were an antler rod, a flint scraper, a whetstone, a wrist guard, a copper alloy pin and two flint flakes.

The rather shallower tertiary inhumation was accompanied by a large handled Beaker pot (see Fig.) and a bronze pin while at a higher level two separate cremations had been inserted. These were not accompanied by vessels.

To the west of the barrow a suspected Iron Age pit scatter proved to be natural ice-wedge features providing useful (if negative) evidence with regard to interpreting the distribution of Iron Age features around the settlement from air photographs.

Part of the Roman area originally excavated in 1983-4 was finished. A complete sequence of enclosure recuts was sorted out and additional information was gained about one of the enigmatic arena-type features first identified at Gravelly Guy. In the assessment of the north-east half of the field, a suspected Roman ditch proved to be natural. A small trench across part of a large 'blob'-type cropmark however showed this to be yet another of the Roman 'arena' features bringing the total for the site to seven. The purpose of these features and the reason for there being so many remains unclear. It is possible (though not proved) that this example was later recut to form one of the ramped walls also characteristic of the site.

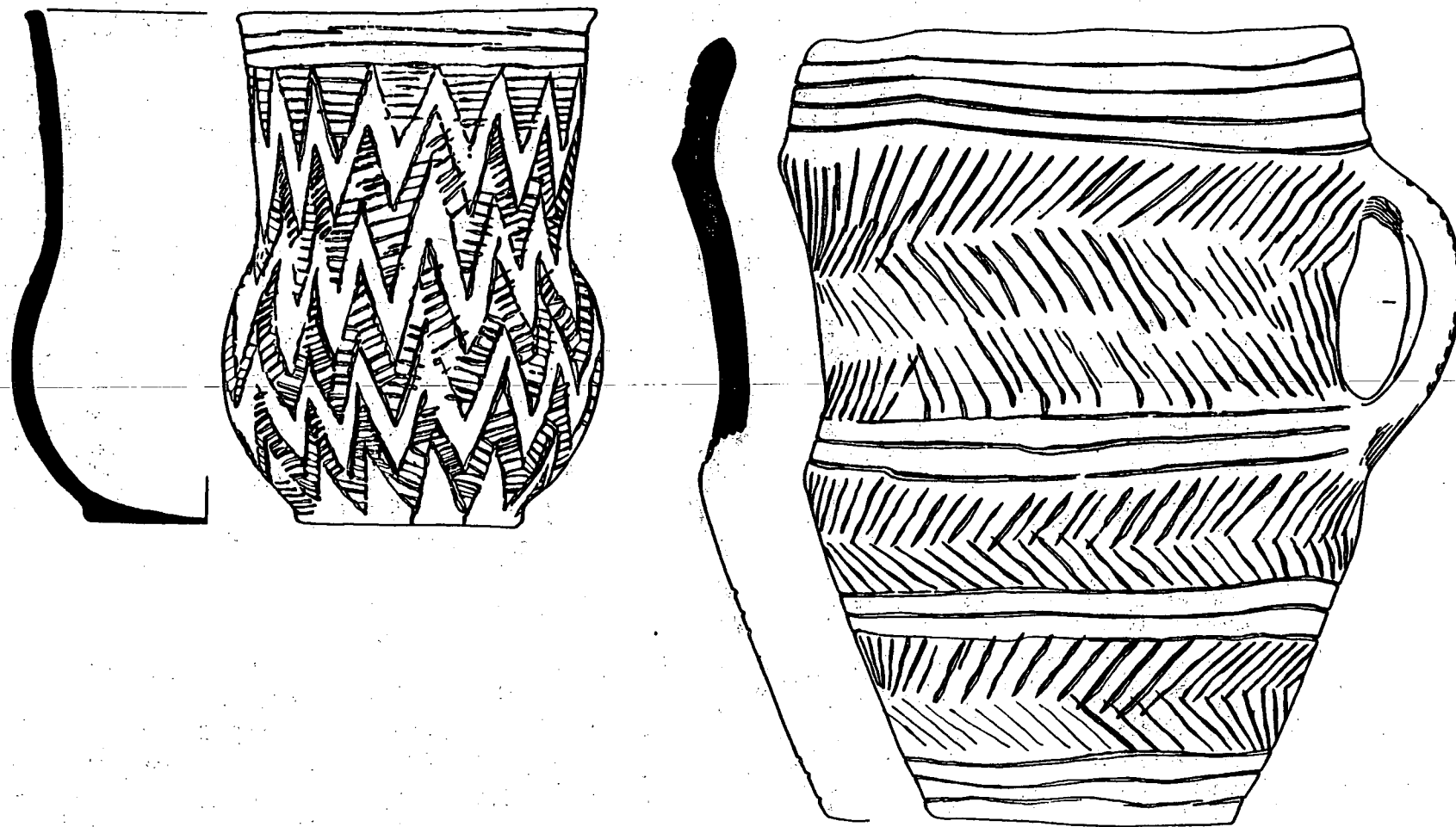


FIG. 20

Fig. Beakers from the lower (l.) and upper (r.) burials in the round barrow at Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt.

Approx. half scale.

Thame: Moated site at More End Lane - R A Chambers

This moat and three associated fishponds were partly excavated in 1973 (*Oxoniensia*, XL (1975) 238-46). Neither were firmly dated. Current research by the writer and others suggests that the ponds at least, were post-medieval. The moat (SP 7108 0625) now lies within a housing estate at the junction of 'Harrison Place', 'Cromwell Avenue' and 'The Moats'. Since 1973 the majority of trees and shrubs on the island have been removed and the ditch partly infilled including the loss of the north-east corner to building Cromwell Avenue.

In August, on behalf of English Heritage, the Unit kept a watching brief over the insertion of surface water drainage in the northern part of the moat and the pond included on the island. The connection trench to the mains sewer in Cromwell Avenue revealed modern made-up ground down to the natural clay. The drain trenches showed that since 1973 the moat had received some 0.4m of soil infilling to allow the whole site to be grassed over. The black, waterlogged, woody detritus at the bottom of the moat contained post-war rubbish showing that the moat was last cleared out sometime during the earlier part of this century. This is consistent with the island garden with its pond, summer house and shrubs which, in a decayed state, still occupied the site in 1973.

Wallingford: Castle, South Curtain Wall and St. Nicholas' College
(SU 609 896) - B G Durham

The upstanding stonework was surveyed by Mark Collard and the Oxford Archaeological Unit on behalf of Wallingford Town Council in advance of attempts to rectify a serious outward lean in one area. The castle was reputed to be one of the strongest in England, but now survives mainly as earthworks.

The standing medieval work of the curtain wall has eroded badly, leaving the mortar and pointing standing proud, and giving the impression of coursed rubble. Close inspection suggests however that the stone may originally have been squared and finished to an ashlar face. A 14th-15th-century window presumably lit a building of St. Nicholas' College (c. 1107), of which the first storey west elevation still survives.

Wallingford By-pass: Late Bronze Age settlement - G H Lambrick

A further small assessment excavation has been completed at the late Bronze Age site lying on the centre line of the preferred route for the proposed Wallingford By-pass where it crosses the Thames (SU 607 882).

Previous work by the Unit has shown that the site was probably on a long thin eyot in the river, its eastern side being the present river (possibly eroded away at its northern end), the western side being a buried channel in which timber piles were found last year. The current excavation successfully provided a section across the island and the buried channel. This included a larger area round the timber piles in the bottom of the channel.

A substantial ditch, along the middle of the island may substantially predate the late Bronze Age occupation as two post-holes were cut into its uppermost fill. The post-holes provided evidence that there were structures on the island, but the excavation was not sufficiently extensive to show what they were. The bank of the island alongside the buried channel had been

revetted by a continuous palisade of posts. In the bed of the channel 16 oak piles were located. It is likely that others may exist beyond the edge of the excavation. Their plan at present seems most likely to represent either a jetty about 1.8m. wide sticking out into the channel with narrow catwalks coming out at right angles, or two phases of a bridge, each of slightly different construction. A great deal of cut and charred oak timbers, coppice rods (mostly hazel/alder) and drift wood had accumulated around the piles. The beams and planks included pieces with notched joints at their ends. Axe marks occur also on the rods and driftwood. Domestic rubbish, including an almost complete pot and a bronze pin, was concentrated in the edge of the buried channel beside the island. Excellent carbonized and waterlogged biological samples were recovered. A magnetic dating and snail sample column was taken through the river silts and alluvium.

Wendlebury: Land north-east of Alchester - R A Chambers

On behalf of English Heritage, the Unit inspected the excavation of a new field drainage ditch across low-lying land (centred SP 5760 2045) to the north-east of the walled area of the Roman town at Alchester, Wendlebury. The section showed that during the Roman period the land was marshy and formed part of an extensive wet area which limited settlement to the east and north of the town. Traces of a cremation and a scatter of animal bones suggested that the edge of this wet area had been a useful dumping ground. However only a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered.

Wheatley: Castle Hill - R A Chambers

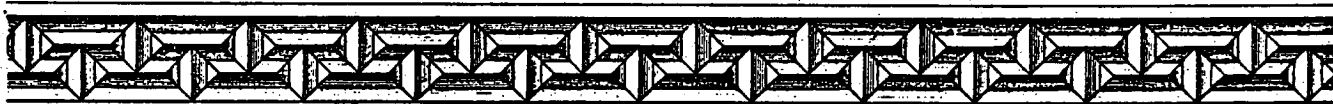
An undated skeleton has been unearthed on Castle Hill, Wheatley (SP 604 044). The skeleton, in a good state of preservation, was of a teenager or young adult. A lower jaw from an older individual was found on the surface nearby which suggested that this was the site of a cemetery. No grave goods accompanied the west-east supine inhumation. These remains lay immediately south of the Roman villa buildings unearthed in the 1840's but considering the hill top location the human remains are most likely to belong to either the Roman or an Anglo-Saxon settlement.

Wiggington: Roman Villa - J W Hedges

This villa complex, discovered in the early 19th century, was partly investigated by Ernest Greenfield for the Ministry of Works in 1965 and 1966. The excavations have remained unpublished since then and records were passed to the Oxford Archaeological Unit in the last financial year in order that a report could be drawn up.

Assessment showed that the site had been badly ploughed out; only part of it was examined; and early phases were not exhaustively investigated. Recording was poor. On the positive side, there is the clear plan of one wing of a rich 4th century villa, which contained quality mosaics and wall paintings, some naturalistic. There are also indications of settlement on the site for the whole of the preceding Roman period, and there is a reasonable assemblage of finds and pottery, most of which can be given a stratigraphic context - and which thereby make up for some of the deficiencies of excavation and recording.

The finds have all been catalogued and drawn; the excavations have been part described and the publication plans drawn up. Some aspects have been seconded to specialist attention - particularly the mosaics and plaster - and reports are expected soon. The report as a whole will be completed in this financial year.



SUMMER FIELDS SCHOOL, OXFORD

North of the village of Marcham, near Abingdon, is a low-lying field called Pizzeys Moor, across which for about 100 yards runs an apparently Roman road. The field is bounded on either side by a stream: on the west side the road reaches a bridge before losing itself in a public footpath and a cornfield; on the east side its course becomes unclear as it reaches the edge of a wood.

At the invitation of Mr. John Duffield, a group of young archaeologists paid four visits to Pizzeys Moor during the summer of 1986; and, by digging a trench 6m by 2m across the line of the road starting from the apparent crown and going well beyond where the bordering ditch must have been, they established:

1. The existence of the road: a rough surface of stones, with very little in the way of infrastructure.
2. That it appears to have been 16 feet wide.
3. That it evidently leads from the Noah's Ark site, where recent excavations give evidence of a large city; it presumably leads to Radley; but, as its course has not yet been established east of Pizzeys Moor, this is speculation.

Pizzeys Moor, being extremely damp for much of the year, cannot be used for crops, and so has not been ploughed. This accounts for the undisturbed state of the road compared with its indecipherability in the fields on either side.

Nicholas E Aldridge

In West Saxon and Mercian land charters dating from c.925 to c.1050 the boundary clauses often mention a wyrtruma (more often, but less correctly, wyrtruma) or wyrwala. Those terms do not occur in English Place-Name Elements¹, because neither of them has given rise to any place-name. Both seem to have fallen completely out of use, and their meaning has remained somewhat obscure.

In later Old English, wyrt is the most general word for 'plant, vegetable'; thus wyrtcynn is 'plant species', wyrtcynren is 'the vegetable world' and wyrtmete 'vegetable food'. Originally wyrt meant 'root', and it retained that sense in the archaic diction of poetry², but in prose, where the sense 'root' was required, its place was taken by one of the compounds now in question, either of which could be understood as 'plant-support'. Thus securis ad radicem arborum posita est 'the axe is laid to the root of the trees' is translated is seo ðex aset to ðæs treowes wyrtruman³, and in medicinal texts of the 10th century wyrtruma and wyrwala both gloss radix⁴. Both words were replaced in the early 12th century by rōt(e) 'root', borrowed from Old Norse rót. Wyrt, rót and radix are all from the same Indo-European root.

The last sentence illustrates how a word for 'root' can be used in transferred or analogical senses; thus Ælfric rendered radix omnium malorum est cupiditas 'avarice is a root (source, origin) of all kinds of evil' as seo grædignys is wyrtruma ðelces yfeles⁵.

The topographical use of these elements is clearly figurative. Sometimes the base of a hill extends into the surrounding plain in long low ridges after the fashion of tree-roots; hence 'the roots of the mountains' which seized the imagination of William Morris and Tolkien⁶. More prosaically, but quite naturally, Kemble⁷ supposed that in land charters, words which elsewhere meant 'root' denoted the 'root' or foot of a hill, forest, shelf of land or the like. Bosworth accepted this, and regarded the terms as the opposite of heafod or heafdu 'head(s)'⁸. Clark Hall⁹ took wyrwala as 'root, stock' in the Leechdoms but as 'base, lower part' in the charters. More recent editors of the standard Anglo-Saxon dictionaries (Toller, Campbell, Meritt) have not questioned these views, so that there is still a lexicographical consensus in favour of the sense 'foot, lower side' when these words were used topographically.

There seems, however, to be no instance where wyrtruma or wyrwala is actually contrasted with heafod; indeed heafod or its plural usually denotes the headland of a ploughed field without reference to elevation. Good examples occur in the bounds of Newnham (Northants)¹⁰:

andlang fyrh on þa heafda, andlang heafda on ðæne grenan
pæ ð, andlang papes eft on ða heafda ... andlang fyrh
on leofsunes heafod ðære

where the latter fyrh 'furrow, trench' has been identified with a shallow dry ditch with a double hedge, and Leofsunu's head-acre with an existing headland.

Certainly there are cases where a wyrtwala is at the foot of a slope; for example, in the bounds of Barkham (Berks):

*Fonne of cnottinga hamme forþ be wyrtwalan andlang slades
'thence from the river-meadow of *Cnotta's people, forth
by a wyrtwala along a valley'.*

But there are counter-examples where the sense 'foot of a slope' does not fit. In the two cases noted in Buckinghamshire (Chetwode-Hillesden¹² and Olney¹³) the feature described is on the height of land. There is therefore scope for an alternative approach to the two elements in question, without preconceptions. Napier and Campbell discussed their meaning in Crawford Charters¹⁴ and concluded that they were more or less synonymous; that the object which they described was of considerable dimensions; that it was associated with woodland; and that possibly it was an enclosed clearing in a wood. Of these findings, the last is questionable; lēah remained in living use in this sense¹⁵ until it was replaced by rod(u), ryde or rydding and later by stubbing. By the early 10th century the clearance of the Midland forests had proceeded so far that there could hardly have been many large clearings still surrounded by woods, but there were many large woodlands which were being actively managed and which needed protection from unwanted livestock and from marauders. It will be suggested that wyrttruma and wyrtwala both described specific man-made features on the edge, usually the external edge, of a forest or large wood; and that these arose when the need was felt to exploit the woodlands and therefore to keep people and stock away from the trees which King Alfred had legislated to protect¹⁶.

It can be accepted that the two terms, if not strictly synonymous, were so closely related as to be interchangeable in descriptions of an estate boundary. This was clearly the case at Witney (Oxon) where we have in 969¹⁷:

*and lang [suga] rode on huntena weg andlang weges
ƿæt hit sticad æt wic ham. ða non a be wvrt wale on
offlinc ðecer. ƿo non on ealdan weg and lang weges on
cvcgan stan.*

In 1044 this section of the boundary is thus described:¹⁸

*andlang surode innan huntenan weg; andlang huntenan
wege into Wicham; of Wicham a be ðare wyrtruman ðæt hit
cymd on sceapa weg; of scepa wege andlang rihtes
gemæres innan ðecenes feld; of ðecenes felda andlang
rihtes gemæres on kicgestan.*

Here a be wvrt wale (ǣ 'aye, ever') of the earlier charter corresponds to a be ðare wyrtruman of the later text. The insertion of the definite article may be significant, and the description of the following section has been modified and expanded.

Although the two words could thus be interchanged, a particular scriptor was likely to be consistent in his choice, so that wyrtwala and wyrttruma hardly ever occur in the same charter, the former being more frequent.

Several other texts imply that a wyrtruma or wyrtwala was a linear rather than an areal feature, or at least that its length was much greater than its breadth. This is well shown by the bounds of Evesty (Somerset) (ƿæt Geofanstige)¹⁹

of ƿam seade swa wyrtruma sceat oð Ramleah weg

'from that pit just as a wyrtruma shoots up to (or as far as) Ramleah way'. The primary sense of sceotan 'to shoot' related to the discharge of a missile, or to its trajectory; in charter bounds it would seem to indicate that the boundary so described was fairly straight, or followed a smooth curve, without sharp turns²⁰.

In the bounds of Long Sutton (Hants) there is a clear indication that the wyrtruma ran along the verge of a wood²¹:

of ƿan slade innan Witmundes lea, ƿanne be wurtruma
andlanges wudes to ƿære hwitan dic

'from that valley into Witmund's clearing, then by a wyrtruma beside a wood to the white ditch' (Dīc is taken as 'ditch' rather than 'dyke' as it is here feminine). The boundary is defined by the wyrtruma which itself runs by the side of a wood. The genitive construction suggests the meaning 'beside'; cf. 'along of' in modern dialects²².

In several charters the feature in question is said to belong to the wood of a named owner; thus in Gloucestershire we have Tatan grafes wurtwale and Dynningcgrafes wyrtruman²³ (grāf(a) 'grove'; Dynningc 'associated with Dynne'). In the first charter for Rimpton (Som) one section of the bounds is thus described²⁴:

on wiðig leas wyrtruman, ofer cattes fleet, on
eatan beares wyrtruman, ƿonon east oð Oslaces leas
eastende, norð be wyrtruman on ƿa eastlangan dicwale

Part of the wyrtruma appertained to a withy-bed, part to Eata's wood (bearu 'grove'), while part had some relation to a dicwale 'ditch-wale', a compound not noted elsewhere; it is declined feminine though wala is masculine.

The feature was not simply the edge of a wood; the usual term for this was efese 'eaves', and the edge is distinguished from an associated wyrtwala in several charters. At Water Newton (Hants) the boundary runs:²⁵

be wertwalan on ƿa efsan and ƿan on ƿone wiðig, and swa
be wirtwalan on ƿone mere ƿorn

The wyrtwala is something other than the eaves. Similarly at Ham (Wilts):²⁶

ƿonne west ut ƿurh henna leah, oð hit cumed to
ƿære efese; ƿonne a norð be wertwalan ƿæt on
even ƿone greatan ƿesc

The emphatic 'ever northwards' implies that the wyrtwala takes us a long way. Parallels include the two Witney charters already cited.

At Pishill (Oxon) the boundary of the detached woodland estate of Radenore (now Pyreton) runs a be wyrtwalan for about 500 yards along the perimeter track of Queen Wood.²⁷

Further, the feature was an artefact subject to decay through age, as at Fovant (Wilts):²⁸

of wulfhylle to wude, swa be ðan eald wyrtruma in on
Nodre

To be 'old' in 994 it must surely have been constructed at least half a century before.

To sum up: we have a linear feature of considerable extent, constructed to serve some purpose associated with the verge of woodland. The exact sense of the two compounds may help to define the aspect of this feature more closely.

The adjective trum means 'strong, firm, able to resist', so that truma is 'force, strength, support'. In the Alfredian translation of Orosius²⁹ it is applied to a force of soldiers:

He hæfde eahta ond hundeahtatig coortena, ðæt we
nu truman hataþ

'he had 88 cohorts, which we now call trumes'

The notion of bringing effective force to bear would lead naturally to the sense of order or array. In Middle English, down to the 14th Century, trume could mean either a body of troops in battle array or a crowd in a general sense. As a verb it meant 'to assemble in a troop'. The cognate Latin turma 'squadron of horse' was likewise generalised to mean 'crowd, throng'. Thus, if the first element in wyrtruma could still be taken as 'root' when the compound was formed, the meaning could be taken as 'root-strength' or 'root-support'; alternatively, it could be 'root-array' or 'plant-array' (cf. William Barnes' 'trees in rank along a ledge'³⁰). This would aptly describe the hedgebank at the edge of a wood, especially if it contained large trees, whose roots, viewed from the field side, would be seen to support or strengthen the bank. Its purpose would be to keep cattle out of the wood, and to prevent deer or other wild animals from leaving it³¹. At Chetwode (Bucks) the founder of the Chetwode family is said to have killed a great boar which came out of the forest³², and the enclosure map of Chetwode and its secondary settlement Barton Hartshorn³³ shows Wild Boar Pond on Barton Common near the edge of Tingewick Woods. This section of the bounds is thus described³⁴,

ðonan ðurh wippan hoh, ðæt swa be ðæm gretan
wyrtruman on ðone holan weg

'thence through Wippa's hoo (watershed) and so by the great wyrtruma to (and then on) the hollow way'. This describes some four miles of the northern boundary of the privileged Chetwode-Hillesden estate³⁵, but 'great' does not seem to refer to length in Old English; its primary sense was 'thick, stout' as opposed to slender'. The present remains of the bank and of the ditch in front of it do not suggest that the wyrtruma was exceptionally massive, but it could be called 'great' because of the exceptional width of a green path or ride inside the

hedgebank, with some indication of a further bank bounding the woodland proper. The surviving section of this ride has become somewhat overgrown in the past sixty years, but it is clearly shown on the six-inch Ordnance map of 1923 and the one-inch map of 1833. A survey of 1763³⁶ indicates that this composite verge extended eastwards along the estate boundary on the north side of what was then Hillesden Great Wood, and that it was of considerable width. Alternatively, and less probably, gretan could be an unrecorded adjective from greet 'grit, gravel' to indicate the mode of construction.

These suggestions are linked with the meaning of wyrtwala. The element wala (m) or walu (f) comes from a Common Germanic *waluz evidenced by Gothic walus 'rod'. The Sutton Hoo helmet has shown that the wala of Beowulf 1031³⁷ was a raised ridge which ran over the top of the helmet from front to back to protect the head from sword-cuts³⁸. In charters the sense 'ridge, bank of earth' seems appropriate for the rare simplex wala³⁹. However, the gloss waledra for striatarum (c. 1050)⁴⁰ indicates a broader sense 'stripe, not necessarily raised'. Eight centuries later Thomas Hardy used 'wale' in this sense in Tess⁴¹: 'The broad acreage ... beginning to be striped in wales of darker brown'. In modern English 'weal' and 'gunwale' both relate to a special form of raised line or strip, as do various specialised uses of 'wale' in dialect⁴², including 'a long ridge of fresh-cut hay' (the Dorset weāle ⁴³) and 'the pointed ridge on a spade', though 'a bright margin round the edge' requires the sense 'stripe (of colour)'. Another dialectal use of 'wale' as 'the edge or verge of a mountain' could fairly be cited as supporting the interpretation of wyrtwala as 'the foot of a slope', but it may rather be some form of physical boundary separating the crops and grass of the farm from the rough grazing on the hillside (cf ge on tune ge on dune in the Be gescedwisan gerefa⁴⁴): this would be in line with the other meanings.

It is therefore submitted that the fully developed forest verge would include a hedgebank, properly called the wyrttruma, usually with hedgerow timber and an outer ditch, together with a path or ride between the hedge and the wild-wood, properly called the wyrtwala, particularly if this path were slightly raised or at least gravelled. Usually, though not necessarily, all these would belong to the wood, so that those perambulating the boundary of an adjoining estate would have to keep outside, as at Newnham, where the boundary ran andlang stræt widutan ða wyrtwala⁴⁵ (presumably andlang takes the accusative because one is on the stræt 'highroad', not beside it). In contrast, if the estate under survey included the woodland verge, the reeve and villagers would use the perimeter track which they or their predecessors had made and which they maintained.

With the clearance of the ancient forests, or of land which had reverted to forest during the post-Roman relapse, a need would be felt for the effective enclosure and protection of the woods which remained, and by the early 10th century⁴⁶ this had led to an appropriate terminology. If boundary surveys were normally made by the estate reeve or geneat, to whom the woodwards reported, the use in charters of specialist terms with little general currency becomes intelligible. Most villagers would probably refer to the hedge, ditch or path as such, or simply to the eaves of the wood⁴⁷, but the foresters would speak of a wyrttruma to protect their woodlands or a wyrtwala to get round them quickly. The path would not be for general use, but after the estate had become a parish its use for Rogationtide perambulations would naturally give rise to a limited public right of way, which is still recognised in those parishes where the laudable practice of beating the bounds is maintained.

This right, however, is to be exercised only on formal occasions, under the direction of the parish officers⁴⁸. The custom of Rogationtide processions reached England in the 8th Century; the practice of reading the Gospels at selected landmarks is evidenced in the Badby (Northants) charter of 944.⁴⁹

on Fealuweslea, þær Ælfric biscop redan het

'to the fallow clearing (Fawsley) where Bishop Ælfric (the grantee) ordered reading to take place'. Gower, Mawer and Stenton⁵⁰ found this clause impossible to translate and postulated a corruption in the text. Sweet⁵¹ thought that rēdan was a derivative of rōd and meant 'to measure'. But the later charter bounds of Newnham begin at the point⁵²

on þa dic þe ælfric biscop let dician

'at the ditch which Bishop Ælfric caused to be dug'; and it seems likely that he prescribed a Gospel reading there. Rēdan can be for rēdan in the sense 'to read, especially to read in public' whence rēdere 'lector', rēding 'lection, passage read' and rēdingbōc 'lectionary'. In Luke 4:16 surrexit legere 'he stood up to read [the scroll of Isaiah]' is translated 'he aras to redanne' (for 'rēdanne'). It is therefore submitted that the clause means that the Bishop directed a regular observance here, to keep the site in mind.

In The Place-Names of Berkshire⁵³ Margaret Gelling discusses 74 Old English surveys, seven of which include a wyrtwala (in two the term occurs twice). In five instances the bounds run 'by' the wyrtwala, and the editor accepts that here, as in other counties, the term refers to a linear feature. The emphatic a be wyrtwalan 'ever by the wyrtwala' occurs three times; one of these⁵⁴ can be identified with the edge of Bagley Wood, and in the Brimpton charter⁵⁵ the bounds run

andlang herpæses to þære efisc, þonne eft on
wyrt walan to croh hamme

'beside a public path to the eaves (of a wood), then again on the wyrtwala (previously mentioned) to a saffron meadow'.

The term wyrttruma does not occur in Berkshire, and wyrtwala presumably took its place in describing the boundary hedgebank as well as the track. Adjoining parishioners might have to keep laboriously on the field side (on þa fleax ðcyres⁵⁶ or the like), not entering the wood, since it was not theirs.

Perhaps the most interesting case in Berkshire occurs at Blewbury, where the boundary ran⁵⁷

of sulgeate be wyrt walan to þon read leafan mapuldre

'from a plough-gate (a gate or gap where access was obtained from the wood to the ploughland) by a wyrtwala as far as the red-leaved maple-tree', as distinctive then as it would be now.

A free-standing hedgebank, separated by a path from the wood behind it, contributes greatly to the beauty of the countryside, especially in spring. Housman⁵⁸ noticed that the cherry 'stands about the woodland ride' rather than in the wood; it is not its habit to grow tall and branchless⁵⁹. The composite verge was constructed and maintained for practical reasons, but there may have been a deeper feeling that the

houseless wild-wood required a margin, even an elaborate border. The forest was ceasing to be the archetype of fear and danger, which men entered at their peril⁶⁰, but it was still numinous, something more than a mere economic resource.

Although the word wyrtwala did not last long enough to qualify for the Oxford English Dictionary in any sense found in Old English, it seems to have left a descendant. The Dictionary recognises this derivation of 'wartwale' or 'wurtewale', meaning 'skin at the base of the finger-nail'.⁶¹ (or, one might add, toenail). In several 16th-century glossaries⁶² 'growth of flesh over the nail', and it has survived in Oxfordshire dialect as 'wartywale'.⁶⁴ It would appear that the narrow band of skin around the nail was taken to correspond to a perimeter track or 'wale' between the field and the wood; if so, the specialised term used by verderers gave rise to this even more specialised analogical sense, which has maintained a fingerhold in the language, though its topographical origin has been totally forgotten.

References

1. This omission from A.H. Smith, English Place-Name Elements ii (1956) was noted by the same author in The Place-Names of Gloucestershire (1965) 190, where he gave 'root, root-stock' as the meaning of both elements.
2. eg Beowulf 2732, Daniel 499, Phoenix 172
3. Luke 3:9 (ed.W.W. Skeat, 1887)
4. In Cockayne, Leechdoms (1864) i.70 we have 'genim þere ylcan wyrt wyrtruman'. The 'wort' concerned is betony.
5. Homilies of Ælfric, ed B.Thorpe (1844-6) ii.40, quoting I Timothy 6:10.
6. J.R.R. Tolkien, Unfinished Tales (1982) 166.
7. J.M. Kemble, Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici iii, p xlii.
8. J.Bosworth, Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, 1290.
9. J.R. Clark Hall, Concise A-S.Dict. (4th edn, 1960) 428.
10. P.H. Sawyer, Anglo-Saxon Charters (R.Hist.Soc., 1968), no.977 (cited as S977); J.E.Gower, A.Mawer and F.M.Stenton, The Place-Names of Northamptonshire (1933) 26.
11. S559
12. S544; A.H.J. Baines, 'The Chetwode-Hillesden Charter of 949', Records of Bucks xxiv (1982) 1-33, at p.20
13. S834; A.H.J.Baines, 'The Olney Charter of 949', Recs.Bucks xxi (1979) 154-184, at p.174.
14. A.S.Napier and W.H.Stevenson, The Crawford Collection of Early Charters and Documents (1895) 68-70
15. English Place-Name Elements ii.18-22.
16. Laws of Alfred c.12, Strengthening Laws of Ine c.43.1

17. S771
18. S1001
19. S692 (dated 961, but with some features of Athelstan's time).
20. Recs. Bucks xxiv (1982) at p.26 and n.110
21. S835
22. A.H.J.Baines, 'The Boundaries of Monks Risborough', Recs. Bucks xxiii (1981) 76-101, at p.87
23. See note 1. On the view taken here, these elements cannot be regarded as giving rise to field-names.
24. S441, dated 938
25. S437, dated 937
26. S416, dated 931 (original)
27. S104. In another version of the bounds (S1568) the ā 'ever' is omitted; this seems to be one of several slight changes made c.1070 in the Worcester scriptorium to produce a rather more literary text for St. Wulfstan's scrutiny: A.H.J.Baines, 'Turville, Radenore and the Chiltern Feld', Recs. Bucks xxiii (1981), 4-22, at p.12.
28. S881
29. Orosius, ed H.Sweet (1883) 240
30. W.Barnes, 'Tokens' in Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect (1879) 396.
31. In the Monks Risborough charter of 903 (S367) a composite verge of the kind which would later have been called wyrtruma or wyrtwala is described as a rah-hege 'deer-fence'. The deer in the Hampden Woods had to be kept out of the grassland of Green Hailey.
32. Vict.C.Hist. Bucks (1927) iv.163-4
33. Enclosure map of 1813 in Bucks Record Office.
34. S544
35. Recs. Bucks xxiv (1982) at p.20
36. 'A Plan of the Parish and Manor of Hillesden ... in the Year of our Lord M.DCC.LXIII, by A.Fairchild Surveyor'.
37. Emended from walan of MS, as a nom. sg. is required.
38. R.H. Hodgkin, Hist.Anglo-Saxons (3rd edn, 1952) ii.707,752-4
39. English Place-Name Elements ii, 245.
40. T.Wright, A-S and O.E.Vocabularies, ed R.P.Wulcker (2nd edn, 1884) 416.

41. T.Hardy, Tess of the d'Urbervilles (1892), ch.xlvi
42. Oxf.Engl.Dict; Engl.Dialect Dict.(1905) vi.365 s.v. 'wale'.
43. Barnes, 'Hay-carren', op.cit., 52.
44. Anglia ix.259.
45. S977
46. One section of the bounds of Chertsey and Thorpe in S1165 (c.672-4) runs on gerigte a be wertuualen, but these bounds are a much later addition: Engl. Hist. Docs.I no.54, p.440. Kemble wrongly indexed Wertuual as a place-name.
47. In S914, a bilingual Risborough charter (dated 1006 but probably some 30 years later) be Cilternes efese is translated marginē luci Cilterni.
48. W.E.Tate, The Parish Chest (3rd edn, 1969) 74-5, citing Haddon's Overseer's Handbook (1920) 314-5.
49. S500
50. The Place-Names of Northamptonshire (1933) 12.
51. H.Sweet, Anglo-Saxon Reader (13th edn, 1954) 54.
52. The Place-Names of Northamptonshire, 26
53. M.Gelling, The Place-Names of Berkshire (1976) iii.633,792.
54. S567
55. S500
56. S607
57. S496
58. A.E.Housman, A Shropshire Lad (1896) no.2, line 3.
59. H.J.Massingham, Chiltern Country (1949) 55.
60. Laws of Ine (688-694) c.20; adopted in Kent by Laws of Wihtred (695) c.28.
61. Oxf.Engl.Dict. s.v. 'wartwale' (W123)
62. First in J.Stanbridge, Vocabula (Wynkyn de Worde, 1510) s.v. pterigium 'wartewale'.
63. C.Plinius Secundus, Naturalis Historia (four of the seven citations in Freund's Lexicon have this sense).
64. Engl.Dialect Dict. s.v. 'wartywell'.