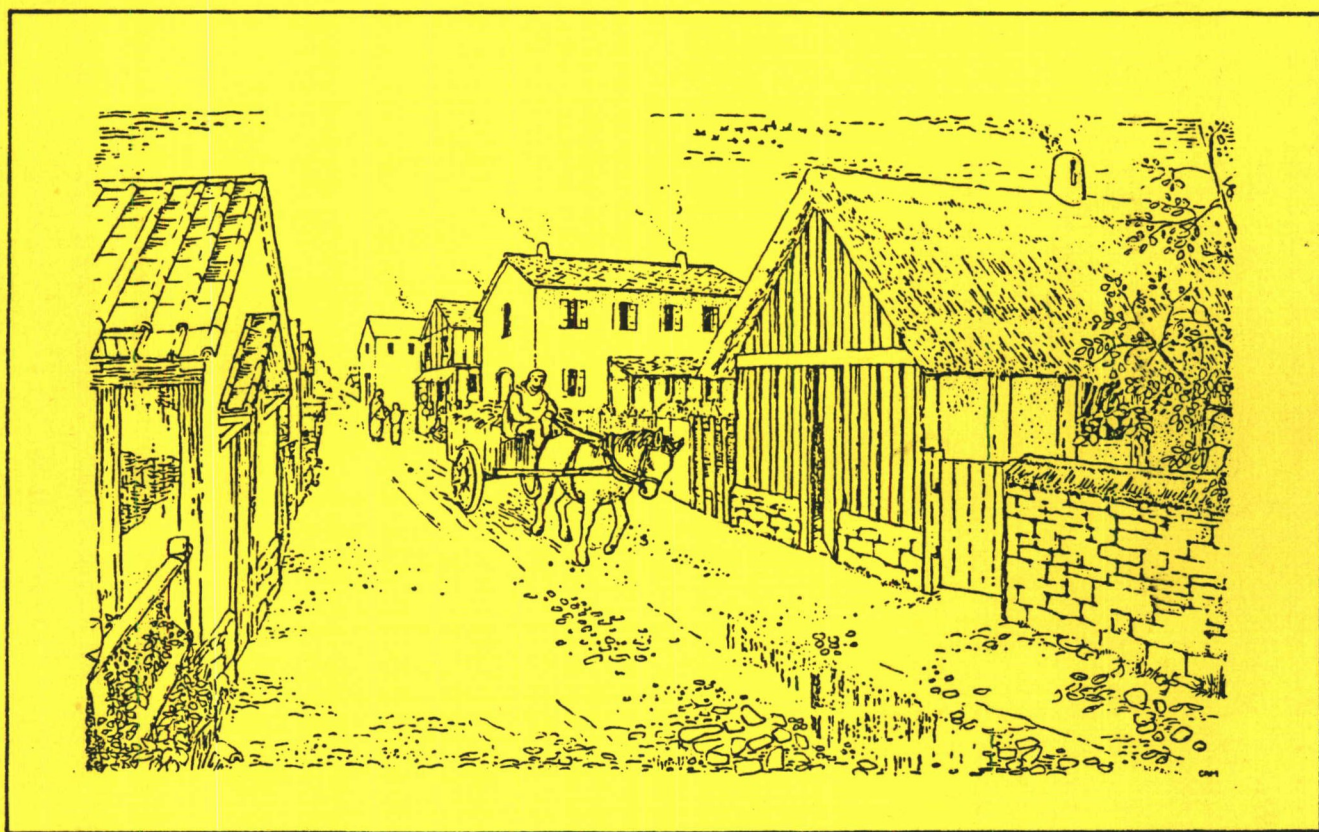


SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

**18
1988**



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GROUP
9**

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SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

NUMBER 18, 1988

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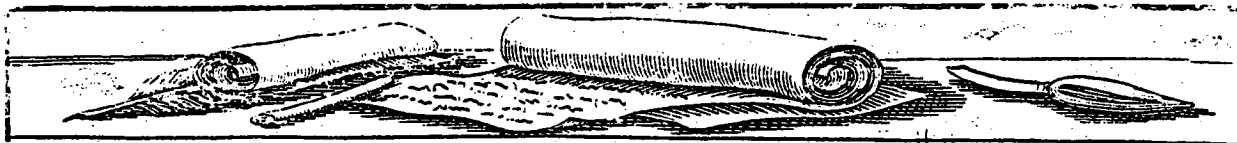
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EDITORIAL



Attempts to bring forward the publication date of South Midland Archaeology to an earlier date were again frustrated this year. Some contributions did arrive late - and just when we were almost ready to go to press, a postal strike in Aylesbury caused further delays. But we are earlier than last year so perhaps things are improving!

Things have been busy in the region - as can be seen by the many and varied contributions in this year's issue. In Group 9 itself a very successful conference was held at Cogges in April. The thanks of all there who attended are due to our former secretary Tim Copeland and to our treasurer Carol Anderson for organising the event - the first conference in which we had departed from Oxford.

Further to my plea in the last Editorial, an index to the first fifteen issues of the journal is being prepared by Trevor Reynolds.

As always, please publicise the journal as widely as possible. Insist that all your friends and colleagues buy copies as well as your local libraries and museum.

Finally, I would be grateful for your contributions for the 1989 issue by 1 February 1989.

Andrew Pike
July 1988

RCHME Excavations Index

Since 1978, the National Monuments Record of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England has been compiling an index of all Excavations that have taken place within the country, on a county by county basis. It has four principal aims:

- 1) To compile a definitive list of all excavation in England.
- 2) To indicate excavations for which reports have been published.
- 3) To locate the finds from each excavation.
- 4) To locate the original archive, documentary and visual, from each act of excavation.

The first two aims are fairly straightforward, nor are they an especially urgent concern, since the list can be added to indefinitely while publications do not simply disappear. It is the last two aims which are considered most important.

It is a popular misconception, or perhaps even conceit, of modern archaeology that holds that old or amateur excavations are of limited value because their standards of recording fail to match those of today's professionals. In fact many achieve a basic standard that can still be useful. Moreover, the archaeological record is no infinite resource, hence the concerns of the 1960's and 1970's about "Rescue Archaeology". Therefore it is necessary to conserve and exploit the efforts of earlier generations lest we allow not just the archaeological heritage to slip away, but also the heritage of archaeology itself.

While the Royal Commission lacks facilities for the storage of finds, it can either act as a repository for excavation archives or can arrange for these to be copied onto micro-fiche and stored as part of the National Archaeological Record. The original archive could then be returned to the owner or to a museum of his or her choice, preferably that where the finds are to be stored. In this way valuable archaeological information need not be lost, but survives and is accessible for others to study in the future.

Over the last year the index for the counties of Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire has been compiled. To this end the counties museums, libraries and units have been searched for excavation archives and finds. The earliest archival material yet found is a plan and some notes by Dryden in his papers at Northampton Library, dated 1839, of the Foxcote Roman Villa in Buckinghamshire excavated by the Marquis of Chandos. The finds on the other hand are distributed between the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, Buckinghamshire County Museum in Aylesbury, while a mosaic from the site is at Stowe School. This gives an idea not only of the disparate and dispersed fate of some excavations and their records, but also of the accidental means by which a record survives.

A better example of the latter can be found amongst the prolific work of Thomas McKenny Hughes, Woodwardian professor of Geology at Cambridge in the later nineteenth and earlier twentieth centuries. Virtually all his archaeological notes appear to have been lost. However, his geological field notebooks are preserved in the Sedgwick Museum of

Geology in Cambridge, and in one kept on the geology of Cambridgeshire and East Anglia survive some sketch plans and sections of four of the Hare Park Tumuli, including that on Allington Hill (Reports of Cambridge Antiquarian Society 36 1876, 26). There are, as well, some notes and a section of the Roman Lime (?) kiln and burials in the Fulbourn Station railway cutting discovered by J. Clark in 1874 (Camb. Antiq. Soc. Communications, 3, 1874, 313-5) and visited by Hughes on 5 March 1875. It is ironic that Hughes made provision for his geological notes in his will, bequeathing them to the Sedgwick Museum, but apparently none for his purely archaeological archive (unless someone reading this knows better, in which case The Royal Commission would be grateful for further information)

Many who have excavated in Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Northants will by now have been contacted. Some have guaranteed themselves a peaceful future by responding positively to enquiries. The Royal Commission would be grateful if those who have not, do so, and also excavators who may not have known about the project to get in touch.

The final result of the work will consist of some 370 excavation records for Cambridgeshire, 310 for Northamptonshire and 250 for Buckinghamshire. These will be stored on computer at the National Monuments Record in Fortress House, London along with records from other areas of the country (an estimated national total of c. 30,000 excavations). It can be consulted free of charge via a computer terminal and print-outs in the public library of the National Monuments Record in Fortress House or alternatively by postal enquiries to the archaeology section address given below. In addition a print-out of the Excavations Index for Buckinghamshire will be deposited with the Sites and Monuments Register in the County Museum Aylesbury and with the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit; a print-out of the Excavations Index for Cambridgeshire with the Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Register, and a print-out of the Excavations Index for Northamptonshire with the Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Register and the County Archaeological Archive (Northampton Museum).

Finally, it remains only to thank all the individuals and organisations who have co-operated freely and willingly, who have made the task much easier than it might otherwise have been.

Anyone with further information about excavations (undertaken either by themselves or even their grandparents), or who requires further information on the Excavations Index or microfilming can get in touch at the address below:

Archaeological Section
National Monuments Record
RCHME
Fortress House
23 Savile Row
London W1X 1AB

Tel: 01 734-6010



B E D F O R D S H I R E

Bedfordshire County Planning Dept., Conservation and Archaeology Section

Preservation, Survey and SMR

Sites and Monuments Record

Apart from routine accessioning, little development work has taken place on the Sites and Monuments Record, due to lack of staff resources.

Aerial photographs

Grant aid from RCHME enabled considerable updating of the aerial photographic information in the Record. The existing collection has been brought up to date, including much useful information for north and east Bedfordshire obtained from the National Monuments Record's Air Photography Unit and the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography. The accessioning of a large number of photographs taken in 1984 and 1986 by Glenn Foard of Northamptonshire County Council and by Ken Field has also been completed. Of greatest interest has been the discovery of many new sites showing as cropmarks on boulder clay right across Bedfordshire. Amongst these is a particular concentration in Dean & Shelton and Melchbourne & Yelden parishes, where several rows of single enclosures, sometimes linked by trackways, have been recorded; these are all orientated south-west/north-east due to their alignment along the tops of ridges.

New archaeological and historic landscape information has been plotted from the photographs on to A4 O.S. map extracts at a scale of 1:10000. Complete indexes of aerial photographs of Bedfordshire taken by CUCAP, NMR, Northamptonshire County Council and Ken Field have been cross-referenced with the SMR.

Kempston slaughterhouse

During the autumn of 1987 we were informed of the imminent demolition prior to redevelopment of a slaughter house built early this century to the rear of 93 High Street, Kempston (a former butcher's shop).

The main feature of this brick slaughterhouse was a heavily built timber frame constructed in the roof to support carcasses. These were drawn up by a large wooden pulley wheel and then placed on hooked runners which could be moved along the beams to assist dressing. Other features included white-glazed bricks used on the lower half of the interior walls, wooden louver windows and high level ventilators.

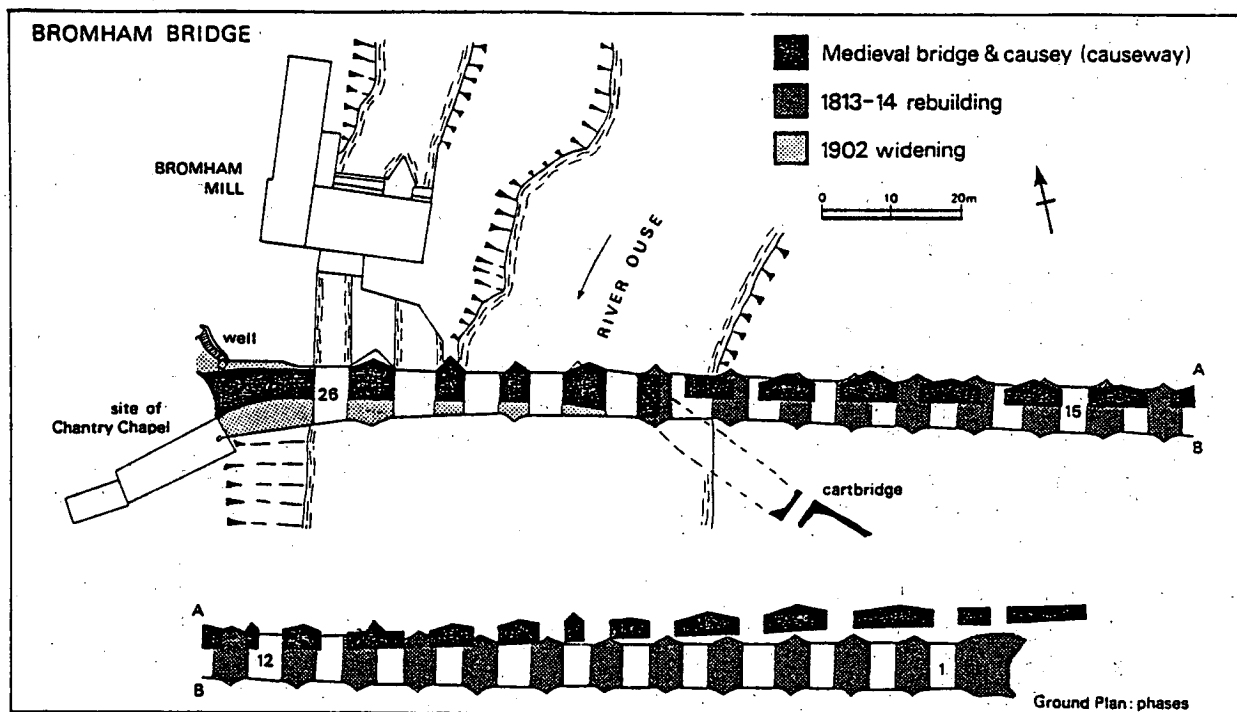
The building was recorded photographically but the roof structure with its pulley wheel was thought worthy of preservation. Its size ruled out accommodation in Bedford Museum, but an approach to Chiltern Open Air Museum proved successful: during February 1988 the building was recorded, labelled, carefully dismantled and removed to the Museum at Chalfont St. Giles where it will be reconstructed.

The developers, Wm. J. Bushby Ltd., of Kempston, were most helpful throughout, generously donating the building to the Museum and assisting with its transportation.

Bridges

The County Surveyor's bridge repair programme has continued with major stone repair schemes at Bromham and Great Barford bridges. Documentary research on all the scheduled and listed road bridges in the county has now been

completed. Detailed recording and analysis of Blunham river and navigation bridges and a preliminary assessment of Turvey bridge were carried out. Preparation of archives for each bridge and a full report on Sutton Packhorse Bridge (Bedfordshire Archaeology forthcoming) continued. The first two articles of a short series about the county's historic bridges were published in Bedfordshire Magazine.



Surveys

Earthworks surveys were carried out on a number of sites, mainly in response to development threats or management problems.

At Palaceyard Wood, Roxton, a substantial circular moat with associated enclosures lies within an area of woodland for which a management scheme is in progress.

At Skimpot between Luton and Dunstable, a number of hollow ways have recently been clipped by the construction of the new A505 Luton-Dunstable relief road. These were artificially constructed, not simply the product of erosion, and have a pronounced V-profile. They were probably the means of controlling the movement of sheep from medieval Dunstable to the pastures on the higher ground at Caddington.

At Overend Green, Heath & Reach, near Leighton Buzzard, an area of earthworks is due to be taken into an extension of the neighbouring sand quarry. The area affected contains well-preserved ridge and furrow which was modified by incorporation into closes associated with the medieval development of Overend Green. Settlement earthworks lie in areas of pasture close by, and it is hoped to survey these in the near future. While there is no direct dating evidence for the medieval settlement, the form of the earthworks, with house platforms and closes overlying former fields, suggests this is another example of the 12th century reorganisation recognised elsewhere in Bedfordshire by A. E. Brown and C. C. Taylor (Beds Archaeol forthcoming).

At Chalgrave Manor, a pair of hitherto unrecorded fishponds was recorded prior to their destruction for a new fishery lake. The ponds were related to nearby water features, forming the much-scoured remains of a medieval fishery.

Amphill Castle is the site of a 15th century mansion which became part of the Honour of Amphill, and is famed as the residence of Katherine of Aragón in the period prior to her divorce from Henry VIII. A survey of the ruinous buildings, c. 1567, has been published in The History of the King's Works volume 4. The site lies in Amphill Park, and is marked by a commemorative cross erected in the 18th century. This stands on a marked platform on the edge of the greensand escarpment, with a steep drop to the north. The platform has been surveyed, and the layout of the earthworks appears to fit very closely with the 16th century ground plan.

Parish Survey

Detailed historic map transcripts have been prepared by students on the Oxford In-Service Training Scheme for Haynes, and Bedford north of the Ouse. The latter maps, which include a transcript of the town in 1796 on to a 1:2500 base, may form the basis for an educational package.

British Gas Pipeline

A 16 inch feeder pipe, from Kimbolton to the Southern Feeder line at Steppingley, was planned, designed and constructed in 1987. Rescue recording was carried out by Phil Catheral, the British Gas archaeologist, and a number of new areas of Iron Age/Roman occupation were identified. Earlier prehistoric material was very sparse, even where the line crossed the Ouse valley gravels east of Bedford. This may be a result of the minimal survey it was possible to carry out in advance in the time allowed, as well as the nature of the construction.

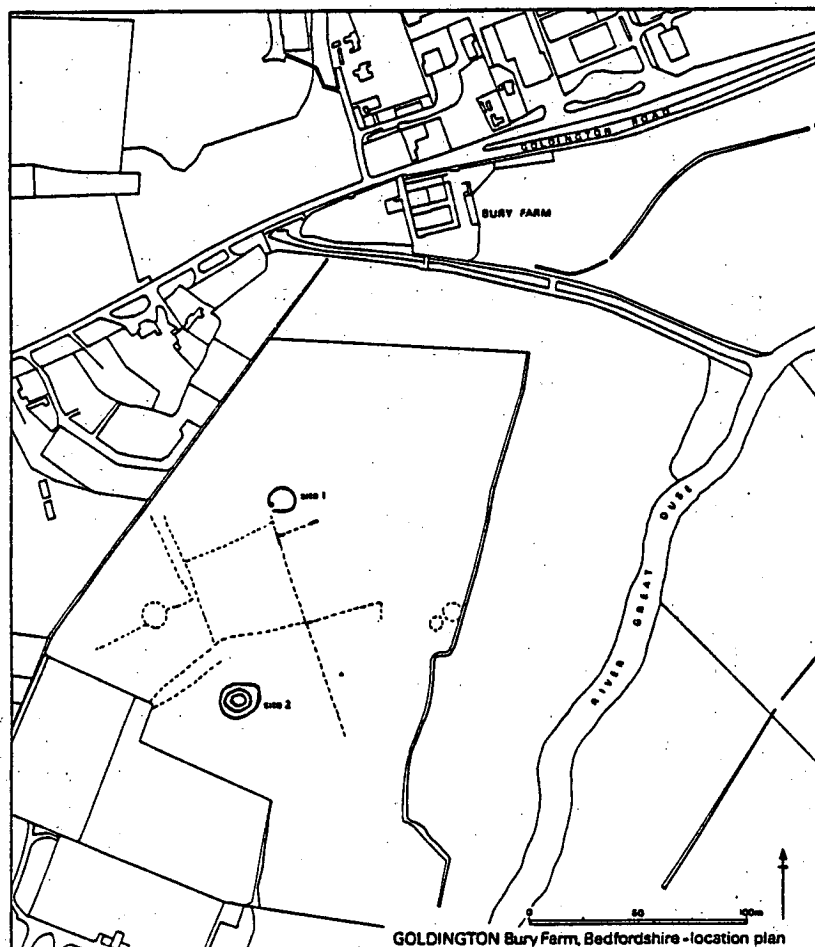
E. Baker & R. Mustoe

Goldington Bury Farm, Bedford, Bedfordshire

TL 0784 5044 TL 0784 5023

Bury Farm is one of a concentration of cropmark sites in the Ouse Valley east of Bedford. Aerial photography revealed a number of ring ditch sites associated with a field system of square enclosures and possible drove ways which were to be developed by large scale housing and a superstore. Additional information gathered by fieldwalking by S. Coleman and A. Simco suggested the familiar Ouse Valley pattern of Bronze Age ring ditches succeeded by Iron Age and Roman farming, together with a headland and indications of medieval ridge and furrow. Excavation revealed neolithic ritual sites exceptionally well preserved by windblown material which were respected by Bronze Age agricultural activities and re-used for cremation purposes.

The planned small scale watching brief was organised by E. Baker and undertaken by R. Mustoe and was funded by the developers, Tesco Food Stores Limited, Galliford Sears, Ideal Homes Limited and Taylor Woodrow. On clarification of the scale and nature of the evidence, the project was expanded to a rescue excavation, with increased funding from the developers, together with support from HBMC and an MSC Community Programme scheme. This enabled Site 1 to be characterised as a Class 1 henge and Site 2 as a possible second Class 1 henge succeeded by a multi-phase ring ditch monument associated with a natural ridge of gravel, enhanced as a headland in the medieval period. The ditch boundaries for the field system were associated with Bronze Age detritus.



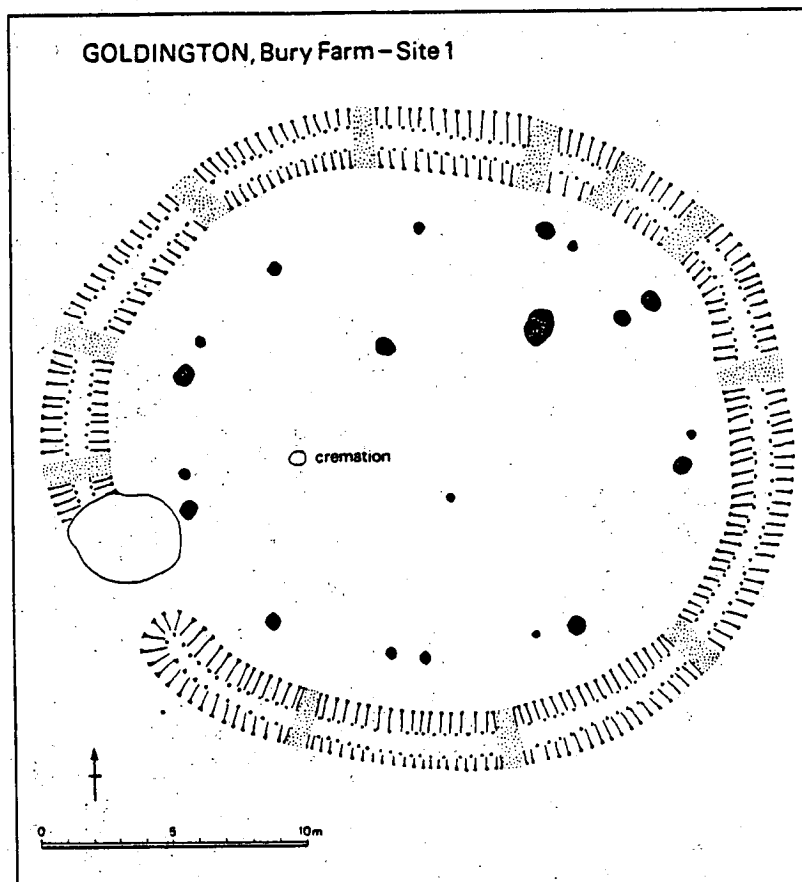
Site 1

A single ditch 2.00m deep and 2.47m wide enclosed a circular area approximately 25m in diameter which lay to the north of the natural ridge. It had a single entrance which was situated to the south west. The ditch showed evidence of lying open for a period of time in a water filled condition before its internal bank was deliberately backfilled. There was no evidence of an external bank. Part of an antler tool was found on the floor of the ditch.

Subsequently, the ditch was recut and again backfilled, perhaps repeating ritual activity. The refill contained pottery, flint and hazel nuts.

Within the ditched enclosure, and probably broadly contemporary with the first ditch cut, were seven pairs of post pits approximately 0.64m deep and 0.60m in diameter, regularly spaced around the circumference. A single cremation was found off-centre.

Re-use of the site for burial in the Bronze Age is attested by a cremation pit cut through the wind blown deposits sealing the site. The pit showed signs of burning and contained large fragments of burnt bone packed around an inverted collared urn dating to the early Bronze Age, itself containing further cremated material.

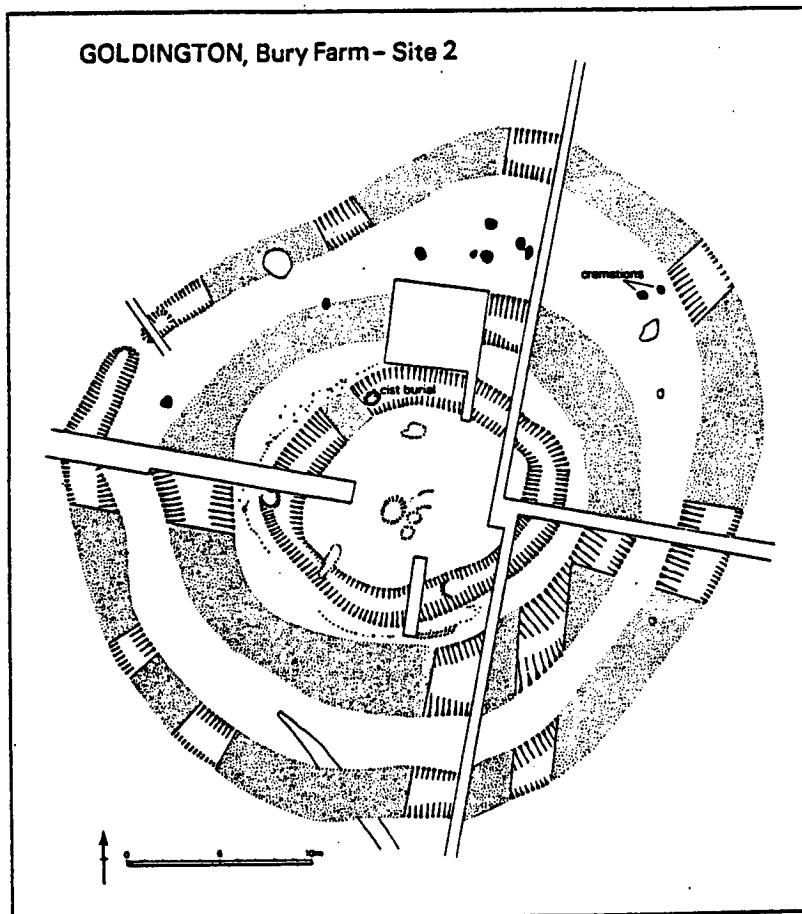


Site 2

Aerial photography showed this to be a double ring, and fieldwalking before excavation showed an extant mound clearly visible at the end of the natural ridge crossing the field. Excavation demonstrated considerable complexity, including two phases of barrow and three ditches. Stratigraphical problems preclude defining a secure sequence at this stage, principally through lack of connecting horizons for the outer ditch which could come at the beginning or end. The preferred sequence which is outlined below is based on relationships of old ground surfaces, and may have to be revised in the light of finds analysis and independent dating. It is likely that most events followed in rapid succession, some being broadly contemporary.

1. An irregular, sub-circular (outer) ditch approximately 2.50m wide and 0.80m deep with a single narrow entrance on the north side, enclosing an area between 34.0m and 40.0m diameter. The circumference of the enclosure contained a number of small pits. Three of these contained cremated bone and showed a consistent method of fill. The remaining pits contained deposits of hazel nuts, pottery fragments, ground stones and a broken polished flint axe. The exact stratigraphic relationship of the pits is uncertain, but may be clarified by radio carbon dating.
2. Two pits were dug in the centre of the enclosure, each containing a crouched child burial. One was accompanied by a small pottery vessel, flints and a spherical stone.
- 2a A nearby post pit probably acted as a marker and the burial areas was defined by a circle of stake holes.
- 2b This fence was shortly succeeded by a low turf mound 0.4m high and 14m in diameter derived from stripping the immediately adjacent areas.

GOLDINGTON, Bury Farm - Site 2



2c The mound was further enhanced by the cutting of a circular ditch (inner) 2.00m wide and 0.94m deep through the tail of the mound closely following the original fence line. There is some evidence to show that spoil from the ditch heightened the barrow. Several substantial sherds of decorated Mildenhall pottery came from the base of the ditch fill.

3. A fragment of saddle quern was placed at a narrowing of the ditch on the south west side and backfilled, possibly forming a temporary causeway. The rest of the ditch was filled in, probably quite soon after excavation.

4. Two cist burials were cut through the backfilled ditch. These were probably contemporary since fitting fragments from saddle querns were found in each grave. The principal structural material for the cists was saddle quern with rubbing stones, and a minimum count gives 29 and 6 of each category.

A third inhumation should be considered with this group. It was inserted onto the top of the ditch where a temporary entrance may have been located, and lay directly above another quern stone deposits.

5. Three further inhumations were inserted into the surface of the mound; these were two child burials in a single grave and a separate adult burial.

5a A second (middle) ditch was cut which was significantly more imposing than the first, measuring 1.24m deep by 3.70m wide. The spoil from the ditch was thrown onto the earlier mound, enlarging it to approximately 24m in diameter but of uncertain height. The barrow was supported by

stake revetting situated on the inner lip of the ditch, but only part of this stake hole line was surviving.

6. As with the first site described, the burial monument was re-used in the Bronze Age. An inverted collared urn provisionally dated to 1700-1200 BC was located on the berm between the outer and middle ditches in the south east quadrant. No stratigraphical relationship could be established between it and the other features described above. The lower parts of the site were all sealed by a thick (0.44m) deposit of wind blown material.

The Field System

Only limited work was possible, but the relationships of some of the field boundaries to the ritual sites was established and their nature characterised.

On site 2 a length of ditch was seen to cross over one of the outer ditch terminals belonging to the original henge or outer boundary. The dearth of Romano British material and the generous quantities of Bronze Age finds in both later plough soil and the sealing wind blown soils point to a Bronze Age date for the system. It should be noted however that one such boundary was also seen to be cut by the Site 2 henge ditch, thus inferring a second and also earlier system obscured by later activity. A combination of excavation evidence and cropmarks on aerial photographs point strongly to a pattern of small square fields and droveways which generally respected the neolithic sites.

The natural ridge of gravel, almost certainly enhanced in the prehistoric period, was probably enlarged further when utilised as a medieval headland. Several shallow furrows were seen crossing Site 1 and appear to fit in with known ridge and furrow systems.

Preliminary processing and analysis of the excavated materials and records is in progress.

Ursula Taylor School, Clapham.

TL OS SW 033 523

Rescue excavations in advance of building works at Ursula Taylor School revealed the remains of medieval structures. A severely truncated rectangular post hole building was tentatively dated to the 13th-14th century, a date which is generally in accord with the results of Tilson's, unpublished excavation of the Clapham Manor site. (cf. *Medieval Archaeol.*, XIX, (1975) 249, XX (1976) 193). Adjacent cobbled areas were discovered, the remains possibly of an outer court to the south of the manor.

In addition to the medieval remains an extensive system of Iron Age enclosures covered the site, including one small roundhouse. Of particular interest was the pottery recovered, the majority of which was discovered deposited in two of the boundary ditches on the east side of the site. Furthermore a small Mesolithic flint assemblage and three small, possibly quarry, pits were evidence of temporary Mesolithic occupation.

The site will be published in volume 18 of *Beds. Archaeol. J.*

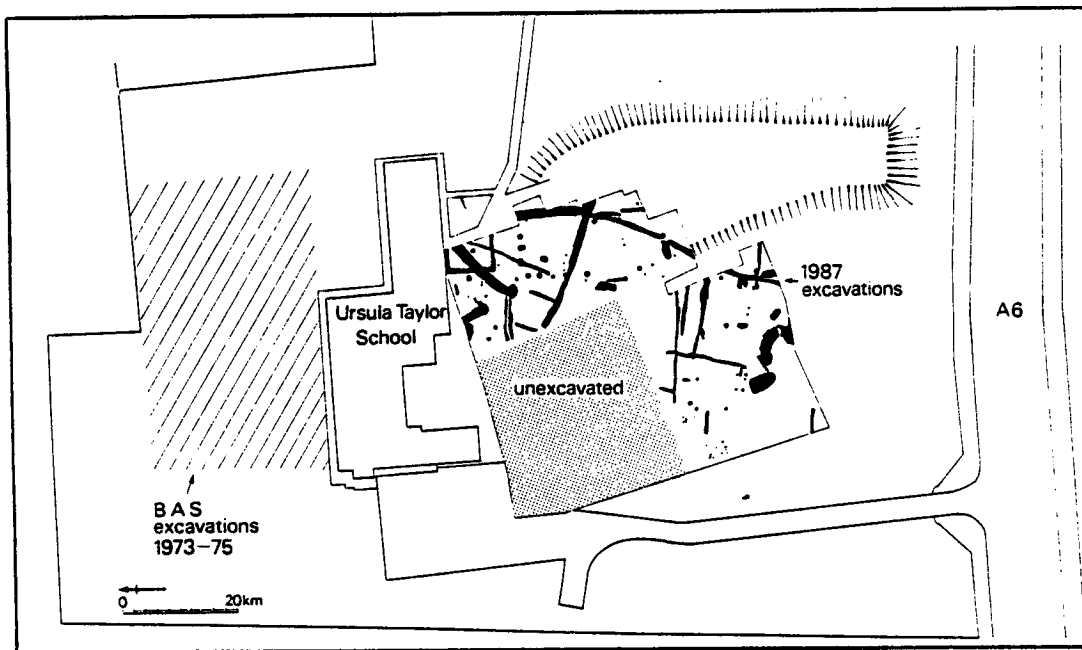


Fig. 1 Location & all features

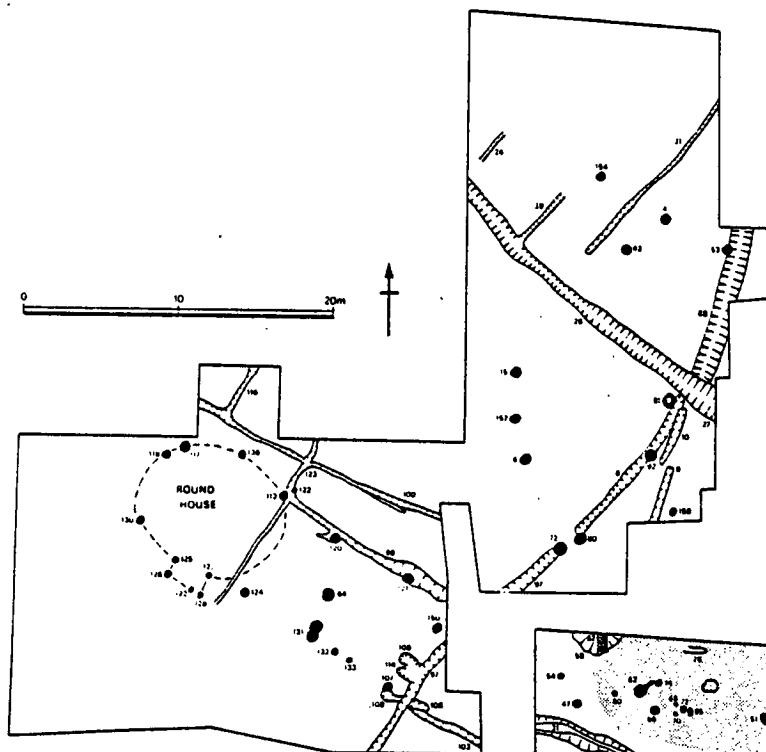


Fig.2.1 Iron Age features

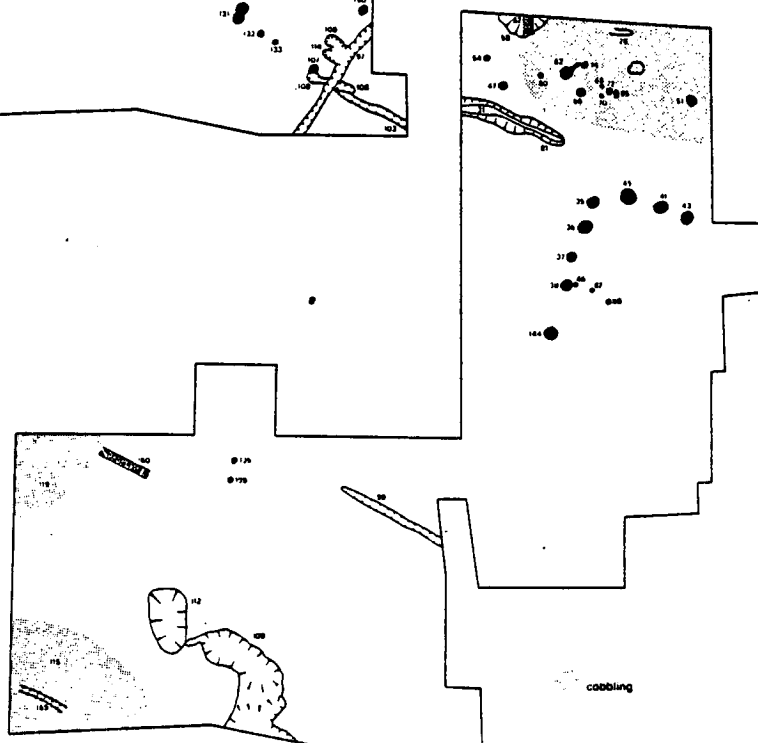


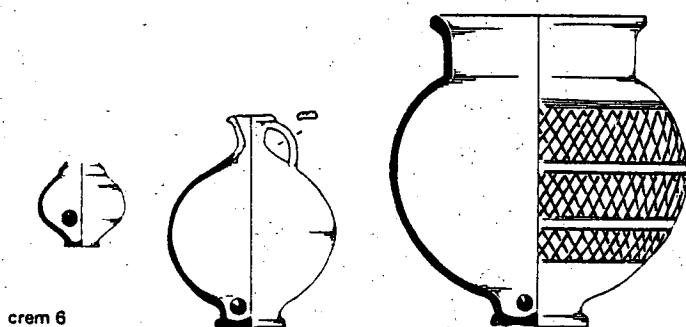
Fig.2.2 Medieval features

Deepdale, Potton, Bedfordshire

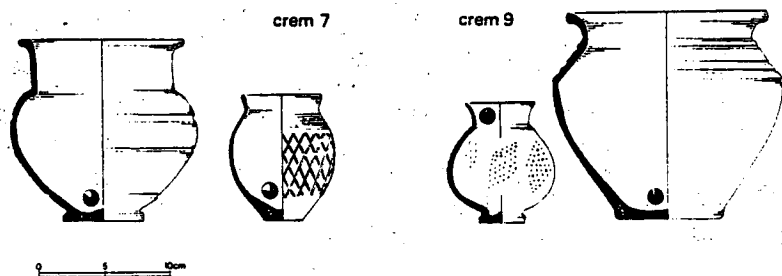
A Romano-British cremation cemetery

TL 24 NW 206 487

The Deepdale cemetery was first discovered in May and June 1985, when during the laying out of a new greenhouse, six cremations were discovered some 70cm below topsoil. The first three were recovered by the landowner Mr. Pitts and three more were excavated by Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Field Team. Subsequently the digging of drains in the summer of 1986 and spring 1987 revealed a further five burials and in November 1987 three more. In addition to the recovered cremations, a ditch running N to S, apparently bordering the cemetery to the W, was discovered by Mr. Pitts. The pots and cremations have been donated to the Bedford Museum.



Cremations with accessory vessels



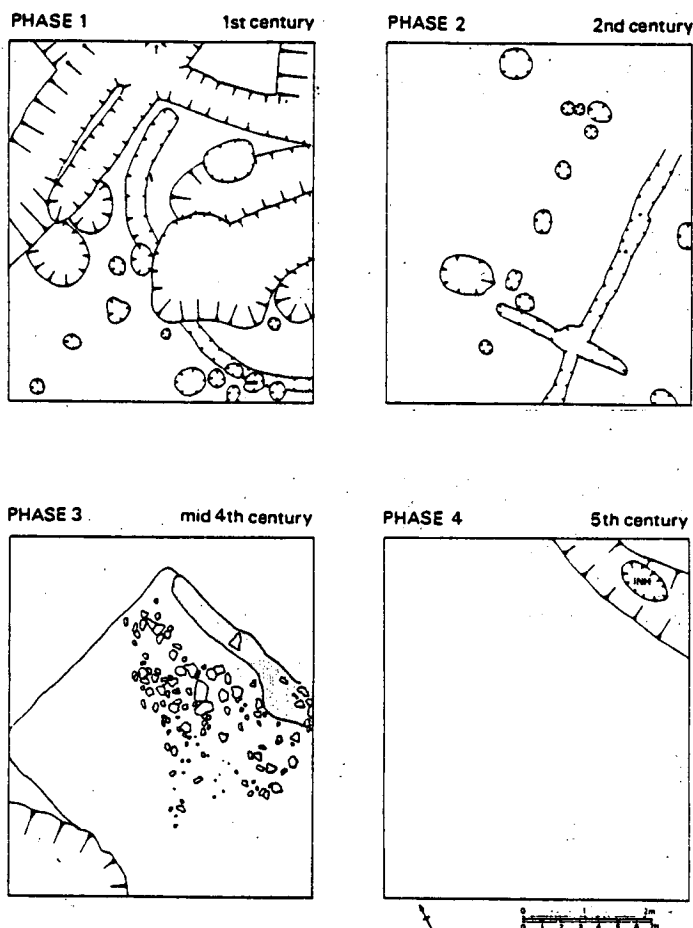
Deepdale cemetery comprised 14 inurned cremations, several with accessory vessels arranged around or placed inside the primary urn. There was no indication of a more elaborate ceremonial, nor any surviving evidence of gravemarkers, although simple gravegoods, like an iron knife, were occasionally present. The Deepdale cemetery has provided no evidence of inhumations and the coherence of the date range of the dating evidence from pottery and ironwork clearly indicates use throughout the late 1st and into the 2nd century AD. The cemetery thus represents the simplest form of early Roman burial practice in a cemetery adjacent to a small agricultural settlement.

The cemetery appears, even from such a small sample, to reflect the tradition first identified at Kempston, where the association of cremation in calcite gritted or sandy jars was apparent. The Kempston cemetery also yielded sherds of the poppy-head beaker form. The site will be published in volume 18 of Beds Archaeol. J.

Sandy, Bedfordshire

TL 14 NE 179 437

In November 1987 a skull was discovered during modern gravedigging in an area of Sandy that has long been the source of Roman artefacts and a focus of antiquarian interest. Because of Home Office requirements for the recovery of human bone and the possibility that they were the remains of a Roman burial, Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Field Team was asked to conduct trial excavations. Subsequently a small trench, 6 x 5 m, was excavated which revealed at least four phases of occupation, from the 1st to the 4th century and part of a possible post Roman cemetery.



Newnham Priory, Bedford.

TL 04 NE 066 494

In about 1166 AD Simon de Beachamp founded Newnham Priory for the Augustinian canons of St. Paul's Church, Bedford, who had used this church since the 10th century. The move, to just over the parish boundary, into Goldington took place in 1178-81.

The published cartulary provides a good documentary background to the history and possessions of the house, but contains little information about the site and its buildings.

Historically some detail is clear: the priory received stone from the destruction of Bedford Castle in 1224-25 and the Black Death claimed the

prior in 1348. The community was criticised for the laxity of its discipline in the 1440's (the canons kept dogs). In the 1530's there were 18 canons and in 1540, shortly before dissolution its net income was £284.

Sir John Gostwick, one of Henry VIII's Commissioners for the dissolution, may have acquired the right to the stone from Newnham for use in his new buildings at Willington although a mansion succeeded or was adapted from the Priory, by the mid 16th century it was the residence of Sir Robert Catlin, Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, who died in 1574. The house may not have survived long after 1700: an illustration, by the Buck brothers, entitled Newnham is in fact the Greyfriars of Bedford. Subsequently no illustrations came from the prolific early 19th century antiquarians such as Thomas Fisher, and Lysons noted only a few brick walls.

In 1969 the site of the priory was unremarkable except for the survival of three stretches of, possibly late Tudor, brick walling amidst a council works depot, a stretch of brick wall, adjacent to the now Newnham Priory marina, and several earthworks. The site was scheduled in recognition of its potential importance and possible survival beneath the rising ground at the East end of the depot.

The intention to change the use of the depot brought to a head the long recognised need for an evaluation of the site. A small excavation of a mound on the northern boundary in advance of road widening in 1971 was inconclusive; work in 1973 had dated a North-South ditch to the 13-14th century but no other archaeological work had been done on the site.

In the autumn of 1987 a series of trenches, designed to locate the major claustral buildings as well as other adjacent structures, were cut across the site. Principal results were the location of the priory church, the probable south cloister and associated ranges of buildings and adjacent structures to the west. As well as the monastic ranges sufficient later structures were identified to postulate the position of the post monastic house.

Additional trial trenches were excavated to the west of the scheduled area, in what must have been the outer court of the Priory where visitors from Bedford would have arrived: here there was good survival of stone building foundations.

To the East clear evidence of gravel quarrying was found for the majority of the area of Brown's Close allotments.

Apart from the technical report to be presented to the North Bedfordshire Borough Council the detailed archaeological report will be published in volume 19 of Beds Archaeol. J.

Odell.

A group of medieval pits at Odell.

SP 95 NE 964 577

The village of Odell lies on the bank of the river Great Ouse on a boulder clay terrace north of the river in the north of Bedfordshire.

In August 1985 ground clearance prior to a housing development revealed a group of archaeological features. All the features were exposed by machining and largely removed by it, although it was possible to determine their approximate size and to recover sufficient evidence to suggest a date range

for their use. The position of the features suggests an association with an adjacent road frontage site.

Of the seven features exposed four were of medieval date (fig. 1:1,2,3,7.), two 19th century (fig. 1.5.) and one probably modern. Of the medieval features three (fig. 1:1,2,3.) were refuse pits, c 1.5m dia., which lay close to the modern road. All three contained a variety of pottery (Beds. Fabric type series B 5, Baker et al. 'Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977' Beds. Archaeol. J. 13 1979) comparable to material found at the possible kiln site of Harrold (Hall, D.N. 'A Thirteenth century pottery kiln site at Harrold, Beds' M.K.J. 1972 23-32.). Forms consisted of jugs, 1% of total, (Hall, J. 1-3, 10-36), bowls, 5% of total, (Hall, B 1-5, 8, 9) and jars, 49% of the total (Hall, C 1-8, 4-7), with jars predominating. Unidentified body sherds of the Harrold fabric made up 85% of the total. Decoration includes herring bone slashing and thumb bases on jugs. All are represented at Harrold and are dated to the early 13th century. Vessels illustrated in fig. 2 are not represented in the Harrold report. The jug base, fig. 2.3, is sooted externally with a sharp dividing line between the sooted and unsoted area, indicating that it was heated on charcoal.

From pit 2 came a buckle plate (fig. 2) made of a single sheet of cu alloy folded in half lengthways and rivetted. There are traces of a double line of incised decoration along one outer edge. Buckle plates of this type were mainly used with cast buckle frames and date to the 13th & 14th centuries (Goodall, A.R. 'The medieval bronzesmith and his products. Personal fittings' in Medieval Industry ed. Crossley, D.W., 1981. p67-69 fig. 66, no. 5).

To the rear of the site a large pit, fig. 1:7, contained pottery similar to that in fig. 2 and this is probably contemporary.

A square stone-lined soakaway or pit roughly 1m square and 1m deep contained china and glass of the 19th century. A dry limestone wall most likely of the same date lay behind the present stone boundary between the road and the building plots.

The lack of any structural evidence suggests that the pits lay between the road and buildings further back, or between flanking structures. The absence of road metalling on the site suggests the present course of the road, first recorded in the 18th & 19th centuries, is the same as the medieval.

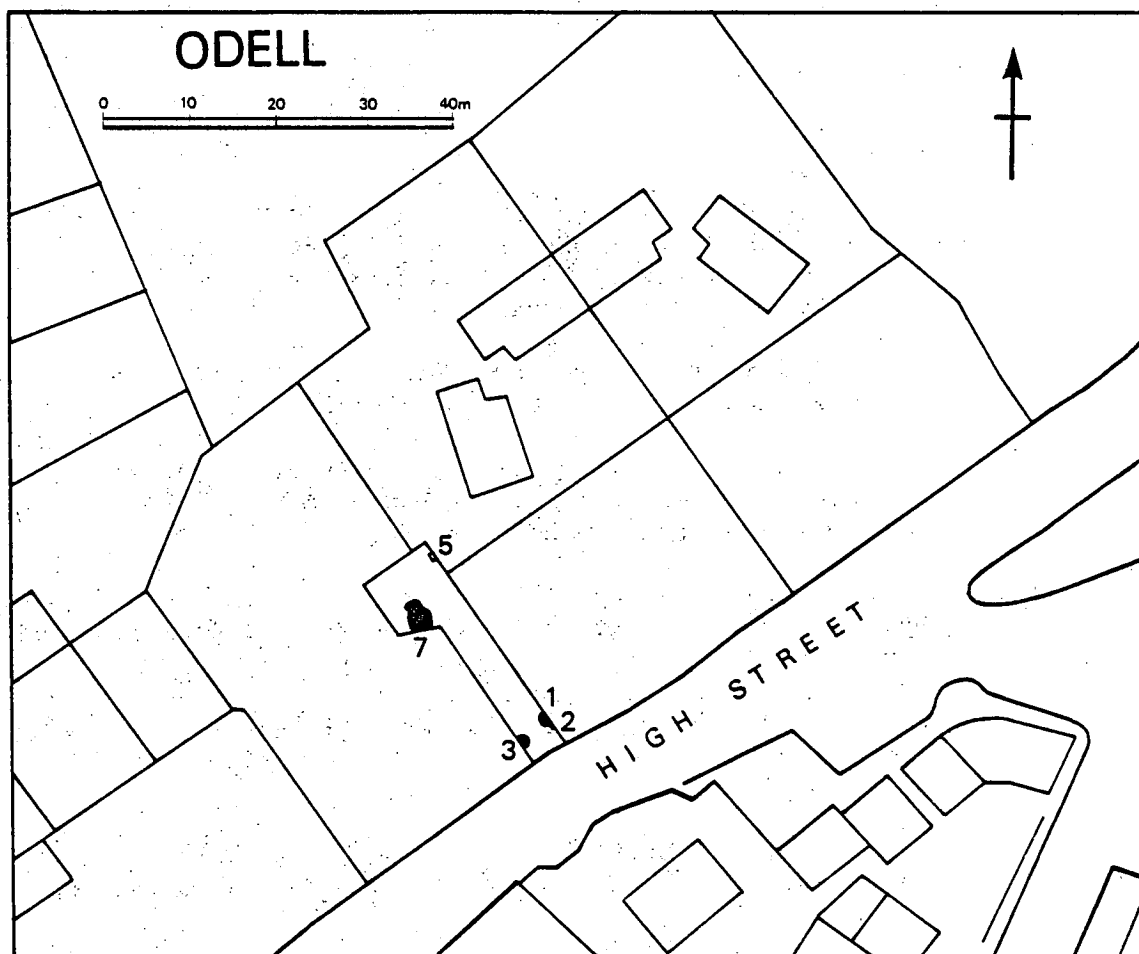


Figure 1

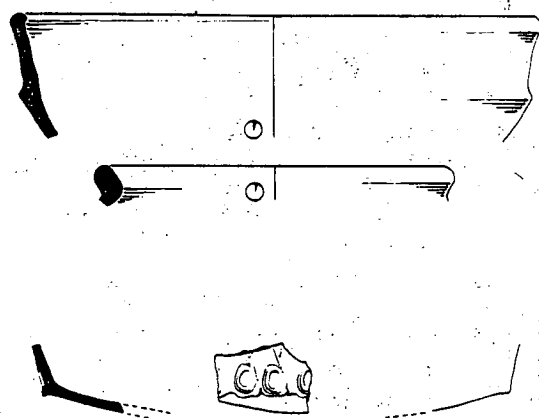
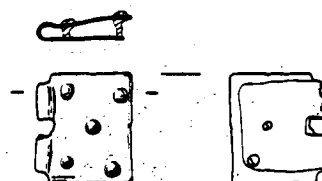


Figure 2 1:4



1:2

Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable

Leighton Gap

The exact site is 40 metres east of Leighton Gap proper at 142, West St. (Now Carlow Court). An old entrance to the sports field which lies west of the old windmill tower was being levelled in late February 1987 at the start of development.

A tracked JCB was taking the ground, which rises about 3 metres by the time it reaches the field, down to pavement level. Some 40 metres from the pavement a patch of loam with a few Roman sherds showing at the edge of the topsoil heap was investigated and found to be a pit. Oval, with vertical sides, about 2.5 metres x 3 metres, its east end just disappeared under the fence of No. 140 West St.

Approximately 30cm of the top of the chalk and at least as much of the pit had gone but the next half a metre of brown loam produced at least one representative sherd of practically every type of fabric, finish and general form known in Roman ceramics. Fabrics include samian, shell grits, sandy and grey wares, through grey, white, orange and black ones. Finishes range from various metallic colourcoats, white or red painted, to burnished and coarse.

Forms encompass all the utilitarian types:- jars, bowls, "dog dishes" etc. as well as mortaria and a number of very fine jars in the metallic finishes.

As each vessel was present mostly as a single fragment, it would seem that the top fill of the pit was a capping layer of soil which, prior to this use, had gradually accumulated its assortment of late Roman material elsewhere. The deepest point reached in our excavation was the top of a grey loam fill laced with white specks which were probably fungal, suggesting cessfill.

The general tenor of the material, which also included a worked antler tip and a curious carved burnt chalk? object, indicates that it came from a relatively well-to-do household. It is unlikely anyone would trouble to move soil very far just to fill a cesspit, so it is likely it lay close by. If so, then it perhaps betokens ribbon development westwards out of the town along the Romanised Icknield Way that is now West Street.

The Body

A grave was found 44.6 metres from pavement 4-6 metres from east side of site. Bearing E-W 080 degree - 260 degree MAG. depth below surface (DBS) to chalk 30-35 cm; to bottom of grave 90cm. Width at shoulder 56cm and 30cm at foot with rounded ends. Fill loam and chalk, some rotten chalk at foot of grave was possibly another feature.

Male aged 30-35 years, height 184 cm (6ft $\frac{1}{2}$ in) position: supine, head to west; arms in front of body but hands between, if not behind mid thighs. Scapulae hunched forward trapping mandible. Head rotated backwards and somewhat to left; face and maxilla destroyed by JCB. The bones appeared quite fresh and in good condition when first found but on closer inspection were seen to have suffered localised decay. Some of the minor bones of hands and feet had disappeared as had the sternum

and much of the ribs. Of the vertebrae only the three lower lumbar ones survived, all the thoracic and cervical ones had left no trace whatsoever. The highest surviving lumbar surface however showed no special sign of erosion.

There was a good deal of loam in the chalky fill perhaps accounting for the patchy occurrence of decay. The more extensive loss in the chest region might suggest liming of the torso but the upper arm bones which lay closely over the area were not affected.

The position of the shoulders and hands indicates that the body was very tightly wrapped in a shroud and/or, crammed into what looked like a very narrow close-fitting grave for such a big man. Certainly it could not have contained a coffin.

Dating the Burial

On the evidence available no certain or even probable date as to a period can be given. The best the author can offer is a feeling based on certain considerations. The only hard evidence is two fingernail sized sherds of medieval pottery but, as both are quite small enough to be taken down by worm action, not to be relied on. The size of the grave in relation to the size of the man is mean in the extreme, he would almost have had to have been trodden in. The Romans in the Friary field cemetery generally seem to have been more generous with elbow room.

At 6ft $\frac{1}{2}$ in he was 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (6cm) taller than the tallest Roman-British male yet found in Dunstable and 6in above the average. This proves nothing of course, there being no law against extra-tall Romans. No burials of known medieval date have been excavated locally and it would be interesting to know how exceptional he would have been then.

W. G. Smith in his book 'Dunstable ; Its History and Surroundings', page 165, talking of suicides states one place of burial was 'at the cross roads at the end of West St.'. Was this once considered to be Leighton Gap the one time town boundary? Lambourn in his Dunstablelogia says that bodies have been found here but on very dubious grounds ascribes them to a battle between Saxons and Romans which the latter lost. However, the man's stature is in line with the strapping fix footers Saxons are commonly described as being. Compare with Marina Drive where the range was 5ft 7in to 6ft 1in (average 5ft 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

One specific suicide is recorded as having occurred about 1220 AD of someone associated with the then windmill which may have been on or near the site of the present remains, i.e. 100 metres NE. However since Vivienne Evans was unable to provide a personal description it is only mentioned in passing.

Since W.G.S. and Lambourn both mention burials in the plural, if this one is associated with either of their references it is at least the third. Its apparently solitary nature however might argue more in favour of W.G.S. as his would have been of an intermittent nature and thus less likely to produce a concentration of graves. We should expect the reverse should Lambourn be correct. This last would also tend to be the case if the area had been any sort of extra-mural Roman Cemetery.

One could argue indefinitely but on the whole (if put to it) the author feels happiest with Worthington Smith's idea. That is to say that the body is Medieval and since, it is neither in nor near consecrated ground, a suicide and not perhaps buried during the time of King John's excommunication?

Other Features

1. A small round bottomed ditch 17-19 metres from and parallel to West St. could be seen with sections on both sides of the site. No datable material.
2. A loam-filled feature just north of 1 (2-4 metres) with a stepped bottom again no datable material. Neither this nor (1), gave any impression of great antiquity although they can be assumed to predate the existing houses. Not repeated on west side and probably a pit.
3. At the north end of the site a large loam filled feature at least 2 metres wide and going right across the site proved on research to be a field boundary ditch shown on a map of 1840. The gardens of the houses to the west went over and beyond this ditch.

1 Pottery Descriptions

1. Burnished black outer body; edge of flange and top of rim, grey fabric. Ver. fig. 132. No. 1101. 270-360+ AD.
2. Shell grit grey exterior buff inside; possibly sooted, grey fabric.
3. Smoothed medium grey on lighter grey fabric.
4. Smooth black inside and out with burnished line decoration on exterior grey fabric. Ver. fig. 104.2492. 4th C.
5. Dog dish smooth black inside and over rim with burnished lines on exterior wall and underside against grey background fabric red subsurface grey core.
6. Finish similar to 5 except colour is orange buff. Grey fabric.
7. Similar to 5.
8. Dog dish black burnished grey fabric burnished groove on underside parallel to angle. 275-340 AD.
9. Dog dish black burnished all over, dark grey fabric, outside worn.
10. Dog dish burnished shiney black all over, grey fabric.
11. Dark grey dogdish grey fabric.
12. Mortaria in orange/buff buff/very pale grey fabric pink-white grits. Larger of 2 sherds burnt dirty grey; grey inside.
13. Burnished dark grey bands, unburnished medium grey mid-sherd, brown subsurface grey core.

14. Dark grey bronze colour coat, light grey fabric.
15. Medium dark grey lighter grey fabric.
16. Body sherd; medium grey either side of band; - band and lower middle darker grey; lower section medium brown.
17. Brown sandy ware, grey core.
18. Flagon neck in patchy yellow/buff, grey creamy off white fabric. Rim and single handle missing.
19. Black or very dark brown colourcoat, white over painted decoration. Red brown spots painted over white; orange fabric.
20. Jar, same finish and fabric as 18. Both have occasional red specks in fabric. Sooted rim.
21. Burnished dark grey on body and over rim (not neck) brown subsurface on grey core.
22. Shell grit dark grey fabric.
23. Burnished dark grey on exterior and over rim. Brown subsurface on grey core.
24. Pale brown burnished over red subsurface, grey core.
25. Medium grey on grey fabric.
26. Similar finish and fabric to 18 and 20. Sooted outside.
27. Grey smoothed exterior and rim. Grey fabric.
28. Black burnished bottom of neck and over rim. Neck dark grey black, dark grey fabric.
29. Dark grey/black, grey core.
30. Pale buff/grey. Top of rim burnished grey, grey fabric.
31. Medieval sandy brown grey fabric; from disturbed surface of pit.
32. Grey burnished banding over grey fabric.
33. Shell grit jar fused brown on grey core. Fine horizontal rilling on outside. Interior below rim damaged possibly by ladling. Oxford M20 type. 240-300 AD.

Bone report by Dr. V. Jones

Well preserved skeleton of a male aged, by teeth, from 29 to 35 years. The skeleton was intact except for frontal bone, most of spine and small hand and foot bones.

Sex deduced from size, sciatic notch and skull. Age was from molar teeth on left of mandible as right had irregular wear. The degree of arthritis and the open sutures of skull agreed with this age determination.

The shape of the remaining parts of the skull suggested a round head.

Measurements made where possible were as follows:

Max Breadth	151 mm
Basi-bregmatic	219
Parietal arc	125
Occipital arc	120
Parietal Chord	114
Occipital Chord	98
Foraminal L.	38.2
Foraminal Br.	35
Mental Foramen Br.	48
Min. Ramus Br.	33(L), 32.8(R)
Symphyseal Ht.	33
Coronoid Ht.	78
Femur (FeL1)	501/505
Tibia (TiL1)	420
Humerus (HuL1)	371
Radius (RaL1)	272
Ulna (UL1)	300

Indices

Cephalic	Not possible
Platymeria	89 (Eurymeria)
Platycnemia	80

Height

184cm (average of 6 calculations)

Dental

(Mandible only present)

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 X 7 8
c

Pathology

Arthritis early osteoarthritis in the wrist bones and in left hip where Poirier's Facet was present. Lumbar spine was free from arthritis.

Tumour - Ivory Osteoma of left parietal of no clinical significance.

Injury - Small indentation of right parietal could be construed as indentation of outer table of bone by blunt instrument though indentations have been known to occur in this area naturally.

Left shoulder had been dislocated anteriorly for a long time as a false joint had formed with secondary osteoarthritis of humeral head and flattening of part of head. Thus there was some movement present but it was considerably restricted. Replacing dislocated shoulders has been known since ancient times especially anteriorly displaced ones but it had obviously failed. It must have occurred in early youth or at birth.

Non-Metrical Analysis

The only findings were parietal foramina, Poirier's facet on left, ant. calcaneal facet double on both sides, accessory sacral facet on left.

Conclusion

Single skeleton of male aged 29-35. Height 184 cm (6ft 1/2in). Head: round, with round chin. Left arm, though functional, could only be lifted to horizontal.

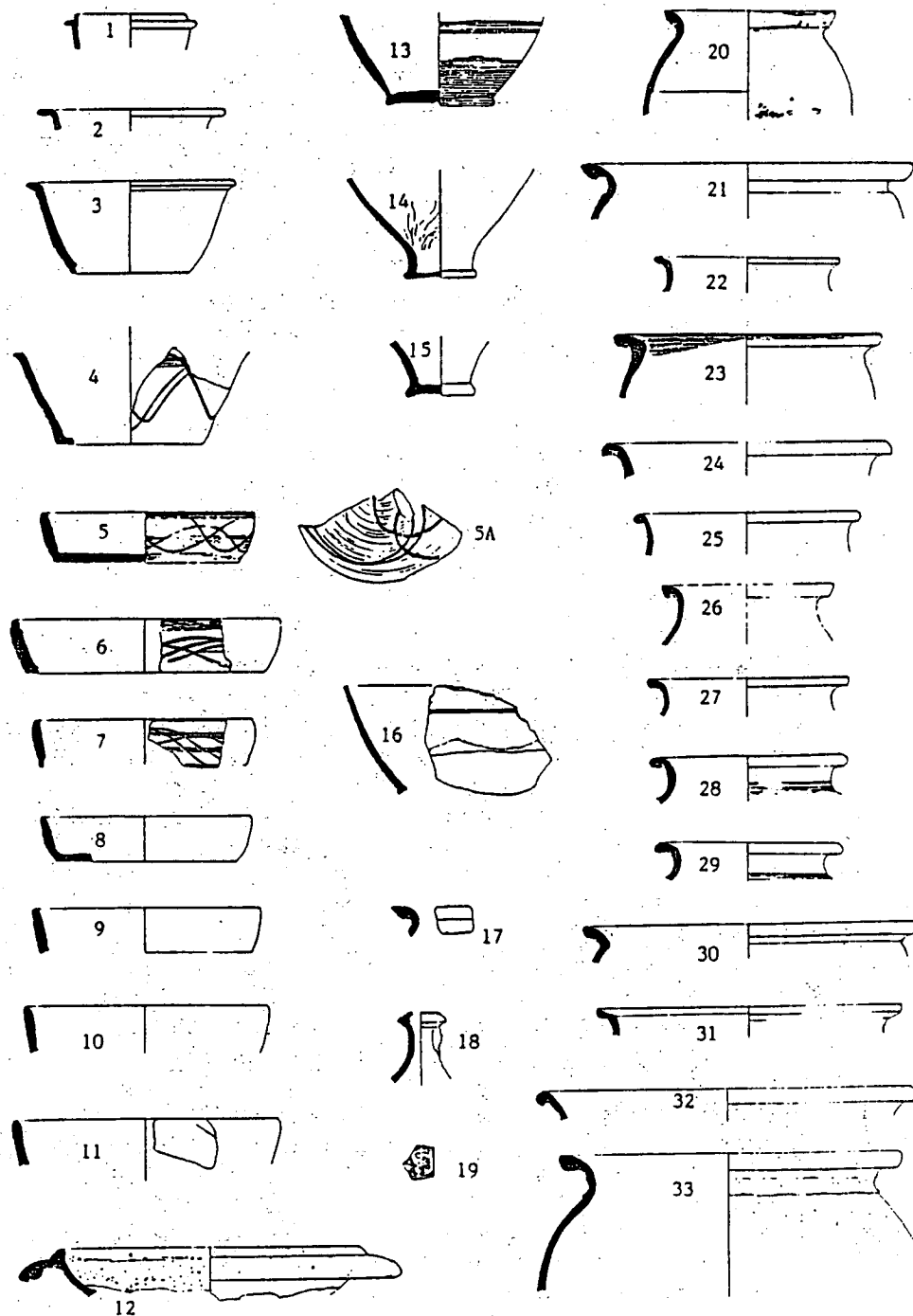


Fig. 1 Leighton Gap Pottery

David M. Kennett

Recent Work on Fifteenth-Century Memorials

INTRODUCTION

These notes seek to record on-going research into aspects of fifteenth-century England, mainly concentrated on Bedfordshire, but often with a wider context. Much of the work is on aspects of brasses and effigies, but other areas arise from attempts to correlate the evidence of the dead with the evidence of the living.

Particular styles found on male (and some female) brasses and effigies are livery collars. Concerned solely with women's brasses is the study of the butterfly headdresses. Correlating effigies and brasses with houses highlights continuing contrasts in death as in life.

LIVERY COLLARS

Fifteenth-century England had a number of livery collars: Some of these represent different branches of the Plantagenet family who governed England between 1399 and 1509.

The earliest collars are the so-called 'SS' collars, awarded to followers of Henry IV (1399-1413) and to those of his son, Henry V (1413-1422), and particularly by the latter to those who fought with him at the Battle of Agincourt (1415). His son, Henry VI (1422-1461), also awarded this device. It went into abeyance until revived by Henry VII (1485-1509) and use was retained by his son Henry VIII (1509-1547).

Bedfordshire has three memorials with an 'SS' collar. Thomas Wydeville of Bromham (died 1435) has a brass later appropriated by Sir Lewis Dyve (died 1535). Both men had two wives, so the presence of a second female presented no problem in the re-use of the plate. It is not as yet known whether Sir Lewis Dyve had the right to wear an 'SS' collar. There is a brass in Aspley Guise church, thought to be that of Sir John Guise (died 1501); he is shown with the collar. The effigy of Sir John Mordaunt of Turvey (died 1510) is also shown wearing the collar.

Elsewhere in the south midlands, I know of no examples of the 'SS' collar in Buckinghamshire, but there are at least six in Oxfordshire: three brasses and three effigies. Northamptonshire effigies were listed as long ago as 1882 in a paper by A. Hartshorne in Archaeological Journal 39. The same author contributed an illustrated study of the effigies to volume I of the Victoria County History of Northamptonshire.

In the reigns of Edward IV (1461-1483), his son Edward V (1483), and his brother Richard III (1483-1485), a different collar was in use. The 'suns and roses' collar uses devices which also appear on the stone work of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Many fewer of these are known. I know of none in Bedfordshire or Northamptonshire. There is one in Lillingstone Lovell, Bucks., on the brass of Thomas Clarell (died 1471), and one on the effigy of Sir Thomas Wykeham of Broughton, Oxon; he died in 1470.

National lists of both types of collars are being compiled. Additional examples would be welcomed. Final publication is not anticipated to be in preparation before 1990.

BUTTERFLY HEADDRESS

The butterfly headdress was in vogue in the court of Edward IV: it first appears in the picture made of the making of Knights of the Bath at his coronation. It ceased to be in vogue after the victory of Henry VII at the Battle of Bosworth (22 August 1485), although there are a few examples dating to the late 1480s and early 1490s.

The style is found only on brasses. It is particularly found in Norfolk and Suffolk. Seven examples are known to the present writer from the south midlands. In Buckinghamshire, three are known: Alice Saunders (died 1462), a small brass in the church of the Assumption at Stowe; the daughters of Robert Ingylton (he died 1472) at Thornton; and Margaret Dayrell (died 1491) at Lillingstone Dayrell. In Oxfordshire, two daughters of John Criston of Swinbrook (he died 1470) have the style and an unknown lady whose indent is in the chapel of Burford church appropriated by Sir Lionel Tanfield for his seventeenth-century effigy. The style is so distinctive as to leave a recognisable indent if the metal has been lost as it has at Cople, Beds. Also in Bedfordshire is the brass of a wife of the Cockayne family, usually thought to be Lady Ida Cockayne (died 1426) but of different size to the male brass of that date. More probably this brass commemorates Elizabeth Brefeld, wife of John Cockayne (he died 1492).

A national list is in preparation; publication plans are undecided although a preliminary survey of the examples from Norfolk and Suffolk is to be submitted to Yarmouth Archaeology in 1989. A note arguing the revised attribution of the Cockayne brass is in preparation for Bedfordshire Archaeology.

MEMORIALS AND HOUSES

From a list prepared of all fifteenth-century memorials in Bedfordshire, an attempt has been made to correlate the people commemorated with the houses where they lived. This has been more successful for those who are buried in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Luton, than for elsewhere in the county. At the time of writing (October 1987) the following correlations have been made:

Thomas Wydeville Bromham	died 1435	Bromham Hall	15 hearths
John Peddar Salford	died 1505	Salford Manor	10 hearths
Sir Thomas Waunton Eaton Socon	died c.1450	Basmead Manor (extended in C.16)	14 hearths
Roger Hunt	died 1449	Palace Yard, Chawston	9 hearths
Isabella Conquest with husband and son Richard Conquest Houghton Conquest	died 1493 died 1500	Houghton Manor	13 hearths
Sir John Cockayne Reginald Cockayne Elizabeth Brefeld, wife of John Cockayne	died 1429 died 1433 he died 1492	Cockayne Hatley Manor	10 hearths

Edmund Cockayne	died 1515		
William Cockayne	died 1527		
Cockayne Hatley			
John Spitele, priest Luton	died 1416	Spittelsey Farm (parents' house)	4 hearths
John Hay Luton	died 1455	Great Haynes Manor, Stopsley	8 hearths
John Acworth Luton	died 1513	Biscot Manor (now Biscot Moat House)	7 hearths
John Sylam Luton	died 1513	Great Bramingham Farm (extended after 1578)	11 hearths

These various persons might be described as gentry. Wydeville, Peddar, Waunton, the Conquests, the Cockaynes and the various people at Luton have a brass; Roger Hunt has a tomb chest without an effigy. The surviving houses are mostly timber-framed: Salford Manor, Basmead Manor, Biscot Moat House and Great Bramingham Farm (last now encased in brick). Bromham Hall is stone-built.

A contrasting group are known among magnates:

John Lord Wenlock chapel at Luton	died 1471	Somerries Castle	23 hearths
Sir John Gostwick chapel/church ? at Willington	died 1545	Willington Manor	18 hearths
Grey family mausoleum at Flitton	various dates from 1545	Wrest Park, Silsoe (C.16 house replacing earlier one)	52 hearths
Sir John Mordaunt chapel at Turvey	died 1510	Turvey Hall	demolished 1671
Lord Bray Eaton Bray	died 1539	Park House, Eaton Bray	32 hearths

These had much larger houses, as measured in the hearth tax; at Somerries Castle, Willington Manor and Wrest Park these dwellings were also built of a much more expensive material: brick. A contrast in incomes may serve. The grandfather of the first (Grey) Earl of Kent, has a declared taxable income of £693 in 1436; in the same year, Roger Hunt said his income was £68.

This research began as a demonstration as the wealth of brick builders and has developed into a study of 'Contrasts in Death and Life: Magnate and Gentry in Fifteenth-Century Bedfordshire', a paper currently being prepared for Bedfordshire Archaeology, 20, 1989. Research on the economic background, including burial practice, of brick builders is being collected for a paper on 'The Wealth of the Builders', whose place of publication has yet to be decided. Some preliminary comments also appear in chapter twelve of D.H. Kennett, A View into Bedfordshire, 1938, wherein also are illustrations of the contrasts, both of memorial and of house.

Michael Farley

Buckinghamshire County Museum

The year proved to be an extremely busy one for the Museum's archaeologists. Priority was given to attacking the post-excavation backlog which despite an apparently satisfactory record, continues to make substantial demands on resources.

Early in the year it became possible to again fill the post of Assistant Field Archaeologist, and we were pleased to welcome Mark Collard to this position. Shortly afterwards he undertook an evaluation excavation at Desborough Castle, High Wycombe for HBMC and Wycombe District Council (see report following) and then moved on to examine an extra-mural area of Magiovinium, Buckinghamshire's only Roman town. Weather conditions matched those previously experienced by David Neal working earlier in the town but the excavation was successfully concluded in October.

Meanwhile the writer dealt with a typical Buckinghamshire back-garden kiln find at Ley Hill, Latimer, new territory for kiln discoveries. This one proved to be a fifteenth century tile kiln modified for use as a pottery kiln (see on). At Bledlow cum Saunderton, with the help of Simon Smithson, Mark Collard next recorded part of a small Late Iron Age/Early Roman cemetery discovered whilst digging a garden pond. In all of these undertakings the assistance of the County Museum's Archaeological Group proved of immense importance.

The Aylesbury Past Project, The Museum's MSC funded team, under the direction of Hal Dalwood assisted by Jane Evans, Alison Hawkins and later Andy Platell, excavated a further area of Walton, locating the manor boundary ditch. The team unexpectedly had to deal with further evidence for Saxon Walton at Croft Road (see on). At a new development just north of the town, the team's expertise proved helpful in excavating substantial parts of a Pliosaur discovered during excavation of a lake. A winter fieldwalking project by the Project led to the discovery of several new sites including two threatened by development. The Project also published an entertaining booklet, 'Aylesbury Remembered', containing extracts from interviews carried out by Project members with local residents.

Post-excavation work concentrated on sites excavated by Peter Yeoman, in particular the 1983 Brill kilns which will be published during 1988, as will his work at the Weston Turville motte; progress was made with reports on Missenden Abbey and Mantles Green Farm Amersham. Much time was also spent on the Denham Kiln report and on the 1985 Prebendal, Aylesbury excavations. Simon Smithson and Barbara Hurman contributed substantially to work on the latter, a fascinating multi-period site containing among other features of interest an apparently unique 'ritual' deposit of animal and human bones. Published during the year in Records of Bucks was an eighteenth century kiln recorded in house footings at Brill in 1977, prepared for publication by Wayne Cocroft, and the Ivinghoe Late Bronze Age hoard, published by Hal Dalwood in the Oxford Journal of Archaeology.

Planning matters proved increasingly time consuming, a large number of applications being screened by Andrew Pike who provided also oversight to the programme of computerisation of the S.M.R. This is being ably undertaken by Grace Scrimgeour and was the first year of a three year HBMC funded project. Prior to commencing this work Grace was responsible for preparing a report on the environs of the well known Taplow burial, for the British Museum/University of Birmingham, prior to republication

of the nineteenth century excavation. On the planning front there has been a general improvement in the recognition of archaeology amongst the District Councils but there is still a long way to go.

No further sites were protected by scheduling during 1987. After a small flurry of activity during 1986 when a few were dealt with from the backlog list, this is discouraging. Although much is promised for the future from the Monuments Enhancement Programme of HBMC it would be helpful if more of those long ago recommended for attention could receive protection. During the year it has been necessary to vigorously defend at least two existing Scheduled Ancient Monuments under attack from predator developers.

The County Museum's Archaeological Group meeting on Tuesday during the year continued to make a substantial contribution to all aspects of the programme. Work was completed on cataloguing all the ironwork from the Hambleton Villa excavation and this should be published during 1988; other projects completed by the Group include the plotting of all the Museum's collection of aerial photograph runs, and good progress was made on the never ending Museum's topographical photographic collection and a number of other ongoing projects. Grateful thanks to all those involved.

Mark Collard

Desborough Castle, High Wycombe

(SU 847 933)

Desborough Castle is a particularly well-preserved medieval ringwork situated on a prominent spur of the Chilterns with commanding views along the Wye valley. Parallel to the Castle defences, c. 50m away, a lynchet runs around the contour of the hill. Excavations in 1968 by C. Sanders showed the lynchet to be the ploughed out remains of a rampart and ditch. Although no direct dating was recovered, it has been presumed that they were the defences of a late prehistoric hillfort or of an outer bailey for the medieval castle. Much of the enclosed area was covered by a housing estate in the 1930s, but the Castle itself and the remaining surrounding open space bounded by the lynchet were scheduled. A proposal by Wycombe District Council to build on part of the enclosure immediately outside the Castle led to an evaluation excavation carried out by the Museum for HBMC and funded by Wycombe District Council.

Five areas were excavated, approximately 5% of the proposed development area.

The excavation demonstrated the existence of further substantial and unsuspected medieval features. One a defensive hornwork, protected the eastern entrance to the Castle. Further south a massive feature was excavated, c. 12m wide and more than 2.50m deep. It seems most likely this was a further defensive ditch, cutting off the spur of the hill to form an outer bailey.

The earliest pottery in both features dated to the early 12th century - later than one would expect if they were contemporary with the construction of the Castle. It seems more likely that they were secondary defensive measures, a response to troubles of the 12th century.

It is recorded that King Stephen was "apud Wycumbam in obsidione" during this period. The medieval occupation apparently continued until the mid 13th century.

The hillfort's existence remains unproved - a section across the lynchet showed a large build-up of ploughsoil but only a small trace of possible clay rampart tail remained, the deposits truncated by road building. Pollen analysis currently in progress may give some clues. A scatter of LBA flintwork, mostly waste flakes was found, but no features of prehistoric date.

Some residual Roman material was found in the medieval ditch fills, including a penannular brooch and an iron lamp swivel.

Scheduled Monument consent for the proposed development was subsequently refused.

Mark Collard

Magiovinium Roman Town, Bow Brickhill

(SP 894 334)

Excavation of part of the southern suburb of the small town of Magiovinium took place between July and October, in advance of a petrol station and restaurant development. Funding was provided by the developer, Norfolk House London Ltd.

The site lay between the new A5(D) and Watling Street, close to David Neal's excavations of the late 1970s, and offered an opportunity to investigate close to the Watling Street frontage. Unfortunately an 18th/19th century roadside ditch had removed any direct relationship between the site and Watling Street.

As mentioned earlier, weather conditions and local groundwater levels made excavation difficult and almost 30% of the allotted time was lost. It was possible however to fully excavate an area of c. 350 m² and to record the later structures on a further 200 m².

The stratigraphical sequence was broadly similar to that of D. Neal. The earliest occupation on the site was a series of interesting drainage gullies, dating to the mid and late 1st century AD. Stretches of curvilinear gullies within this complex may represent the remains of roundhouses. In the late 1st century, and into the 2nd, the growth of the town stimulated the growth of the area as an industrial suburb, c. ½m from the town centre. A total of 20 hearths were excavated, mostly bowl-furnaces of similar construction - a clay-lined pit, c. 0.50m in diameter and 0.50m deep, packed with stones or broken tiles, capped with clay and burning on top. Several had a shallow shaft filled with rough stones radiating from the bowl. Other hearths were smaller, being simply squares of clay, baked hard by the heat. The function of all the hearths is uncertain - there was very little ore or slag, but samples taken from the burnt material will aid identification.

Late in the 2nd century the whole area was levelled with a deposit of sand and loam up to 0.30m thick, a phenomenon also seen over a wide area by David Neal. It seems that a large-scale "slum clearance" programme was undertaken, which must have been the result of an official initiative, and the whole of the southern approach to the town along Watling Street

was tidied up.

Early in the 3rd century the site was reoccupied - a series of well-laid metalled trackways leading at right angles from Watling Street, were constructed, with cobbled yards each side. The buildings associated with these tracks and yards were ephemeral, but two certain structures were identified. One, a small rectangular workshop contained a hearth, possibly for smithing, and a stone working platform. Large numbers of stakeholes around the hearth were probably bellows supports. The second building was a larger, rectangular structure with stone sleeper foundations, incorporating many fragments of quernstones.

Occupation continued into the late 4th century - although activity was apparently on a reduced scale - only occasional pits and ditches were dug in the later period.

Notable among the finds was a complete triangular loomweight of fired clay, its sides c. 16 cm long, with a single hole through, close to one corner.

Michael Farley

A Late Medieval Kiln at Ley Hill, Latimer, Bucks.

A footings trench for a new bungalow at 1, Joiners Close, Ley Hill, SP 9868 0226 cut through the corner of a kiln. The discovery was brought to the attention of Marion Wells of the County Museum's Archaeological Group. After preliminary recording the owners kindly agreed to the excavation of the remainder of the kiln and this was carried out with the help of CMAG during a week in June.

There proved to have been at least three phases of adaption to the structure. The initial kiln was a rectangular tile kiln, 4.10m x 1.65m internally, its floor being 1.65m below modern ground level. It was built of peghole roof tile. The kiln had a central spine with evidence for arch springing at intervals. Subsequently it was shortened, and at a later date a sub-rectangular pottery kiln was inserted into the further end and utilising the preceding structure. This also had a central spine. One of eight floor support arches survived, as did the 1.20m long flue although this had collapsed at the firing end. The chamber incorporated some brick in its structure.

The Liberty Trust kindly funded archaeomagnetic dating, which was carried out by Dr. A. J. Clark. He reports that the final firing took place 'within the date bracket of cal. AD 1460-1510 at the 68% confidence level'.

The ceramic from the kiln has not yet been examined, but the impression gained during the excavation was that the products represented a typical range of late medieval/Tudor bowls, jugs, with a very few cups and other forms. The use of a tile kiln for producing pottery was recorded by P. Yeoman during excavation of a kiln discovered in 1983 at Brill, but this is the first time that a direct structural conversion has been observed in the County.

The importance of the County Museum Archaeological Group's contribution in bringing the exercise to a successful conclusion cannot be over-emphasised.

Mark Collard

Lodge Hill Farm, Bledlow-cum-Saunderton

(SU 795 990)

A rescue excavation was mounted in November in response to the discovery of human bones by contractors excavating a pond with a JCB at Lodge Hill Farm. An area of c. 150 m² had been stripped of topsoil, and half of that then remained to a depth of 1m into the chalk.

Four inhumations were excavated in the remaining area. One, partially disturbed by the JCB, was a complete adult skeleton with a small bone comb buried at its waist. The other three were a child, a baby (only fragments surviving) and a grave containing an adult skull, a femur and a small amount of unarticulated bone. The last burial did not appear to have been disturbed in modern times. All the graves were aligned east-west with the head at the east end.

Close to one of the graves was a cremation burial of two Belgic pots set in a small pit, one containing cremated bone and a single melted turquoise glass bead. Other Belgic pots were found by the contractors prior to the uncovering of the skeleton, and fortunately they had kept them. A further five almost complete pots were identified, all Belgic in form. An iron brooch and a stone pendant were recovered from the contents of two, suggesting that they originally formed part of the same group of burials.

The dating of the cremation is secure - the pottery is Belgic in form and fabric. What is uncertain is the relationship to the inhumations - no dating evidence, beyond the comb, came from the graves. The inhumations may be connected with the Roman villa which lies c.150m away from the site, on the opposite face of the shallow valley. Two small Roman field ditches were found in the excavated area, the fill of one containing Roman grey ware sherds.



INTRODUCTION

My preliminary visit to the site in late October 1987 found the site dry (marshy in places) and under pasture but as indicated by the farmer of the land, Peter Johnson, a great deal of dumping had occurred and the southern and northern ditches were greatly obscured. It seems likely that Mr. Johnson will continue to fill in the ditches. The hedge running along the western limit of the site has been quite severely cleared since the aerial photograph was taken. A fence line has appeared more or less dissecting the northern ditch, this not present on first edition 6 inch O.S. map.

SURVEY

A survey of the site is printed on the 1:2500 OS map (conducted by the Ordnance Survey) but it was decided to do a hatcher survey of the site to enhance the Museum's record and retrieve as complete a plan and profile as possible before further damage was done.

The survey was conducted at scale 1:200 from a base line set up using ranging poles and 30m tape between strategic field corners and would enable the survey to be located on the O.S. map.

Measurements were made off this base line (XY) with the assistance of an optical square.

The profile included at the bottom of the survey was produced using a dumpy level taking readings at suitable points along the line A-B marked.

LOCATION

The moated site is situated south east of Addingle Grove Farm and centred at NGR SP6666 1104. This is on the northern side of a distinctive kink in the B4011 present Oakley to Long Crendon Road which also forms the parish boundary at this point. A spot level (from the O.S. 150,000 map) located at this point on the road gives a height of 74mm above sea level. The moat site on the western bank of a southerly flowing stream originating from a spring approximately 500m north of the site.

GEOLOGY

The moat is within the geological region of Kimmeridge Clays which form the basis of the Vale of Aylesbury. Michael Read* describes these as being "just as heavy as the Oxford ones but considerably softer and so when exposed at the surface they form a low lying level landscape". The location and geology would suggest an ideal situation for a moat.

BACKGROUND

The first visit to the site by a member of the County Museum archaeological staff was made in 1973. It was allocated a unique CAS

(County Antiquities Survey) number (CAS 1555) and included in the Buckinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record. A brief description and references were included on the CAS card, notably that the farmer was dumping in the ditches of the moat.

ADDINGROVE MANOR

At this point in time the only evidence for there once being a manor at Addingrove is documentary. Unfortunately there is no firm association between the manorial seat and the moated site though it is the only one (surviving) within the area around the present Addingrove Farm.

DESCENT OF ADDINGROVE MANOR

The Victoria County History (VCH) provides a line of descent for Addingrove Manor. The earliest Lord (on record) being Viward a man of Queen Edith in the time of Edward the Confessor (1004-1066).

The VCH also states that Addingrove descended with the manor of Boarstall from 1346.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE FOR ADDINGROVE MANOR

The surviving documents tell us that Addingrove was a manor (but secondary to Oakley) at the time of Domesday and furthermore that a chapel existed here in 1142. It is included in reference to the mother church at Oakley and the other associated chapels at Brill and Boarstall. When they are again mentioned in 1343 Addingrove is excluded. Also Sheahan states that a chapel site was known only by a tradition of the foundations of walls discovered south of Brill on the verge of Oakley.

PLACE NAME EVIDENCE

This unfortunately does little but enhance the documentary evidence and nothing conclusive can be gained. In old documents Addingrove appears spelt in a variety of ways - Addengrave, Eddingrave, Arnegrove. Lipscomb subjectively suggests: "It seems probable the Queen Edith's name however varied in orthography or pronunciation gave appellation to this place".

FIELD NAMES

These are included on Appendix.

Discussion with Peter Johnson of Addingrove Farm revealed a couple of fieldnames unrecorded on the old maps (main source for those known).

TROY TOWN

This label he attached to the field in which the moat lies. There was no explanation from Mr. Johnson. Could it perhaps suggest previous unresidual 'archaeological' investigation and finds in this area or perhaps a suggestion of the quality of the moated site before modern

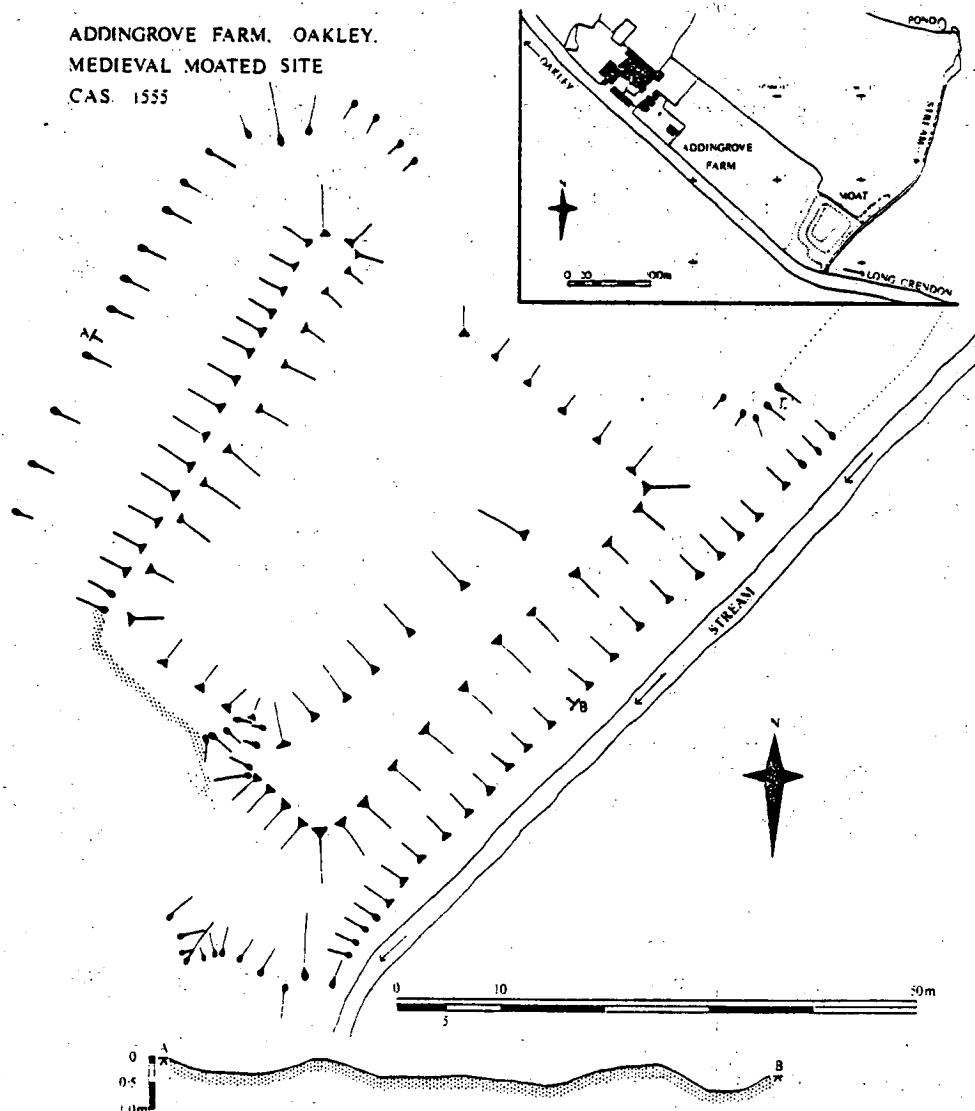
agricultural methods intervened. However beyond this wild injecture it adds nothing to the archaeological record.

COTTAGES

A field lying to the north of the present Addingrove Farm on the Parish Boundary with Brill. It may perhaps be explained by association with the now ruined Little Addingrove Farm and ancillary buildings.

CONCLUSION

The prospect of surveying the moated site at Addingrove naturally presented the problem of explaining its intended use. Unfortunately no evidence for a building has been retrieved from within the moated enclosure (nil pottery) and other possibilities should be considered e.g. fishpond. It is undoubtedly a part of the historical landscape associated with Addingrove Manor (manor house associated hamlet and chapel) and only through investigation of the other archaeological remains around the present Addingrove Farm may this be further explained.



Hal Dalwood and Andy Platell

THE AYLESBURY PAST PROJECT, 1987-88.

The Aylesbury Past Project continued to be funded by the M.S.C. Community Programme through 1987, and is due to terminate in March 1988. In 1987 three excavations were undertaken, and the field-walking programme continued. The Project also carried out an Oral History programme, interviewing older residents of the town, which culminated in a publication (Aylesbury Past Project 1987); and in June 1987 Project members excavated a Jurassic Pliosaur (Liopleurodon macromerus) at the Watermead development site north of Aylesbury, with Kate Rowland (Bucks County Museum) and Dr. Michael Oates.

Archaeological Fieldwork

1. Watermead Roundabout, near Aylesbury (SP 8178 1541)

In January 1987 works for a new roundabout on the A413 north of Aylesbury exposed a rectangular ditched enclosure, c.25m wide and more than 29m long. The shallow ditches contained Roman pottery of the late second to early third centuries A.D. (information Stephen Benfield). The low-lying position of the enclosure, in the former watermeadows of the River Thames, suggested that the enclosure related to stock control and the use of the watermeadows in the Roman period (Hawkins and Dalwood forthcoming).

2. Croft Road, Walton, Aylesbury (SP 8248 1342)

A watching brief at a new development site in April 1987 by A. Hawkins revealed a number of archaeological features, and a short salvage excavation was carried out. As well as some evidence of Late Iron Age occupation, a large linear Roman ditch was discovered. Early and Late Saxon ditches and gullies were excavated, as well as a two-post sunken-floored building. The Late Saxon ditches and gullies were markedly rectilinear and relate to the present day street pattern and property boundaries. A number of medieval pits and ditches were also excavated.

3. Police Houses, Walton Street (SP 8221 1329)

The site was excavated in advance of redevelopment, and was designed to follow on from the excavation in Walton in 1985-6 (Dalwood et al. forthcoming) and M.E. Farley's earlier excavations (Farley 1976)). The northern boundary ditch of the manorial enclosure at Walton Manor House was excavated, together with other medieval features. A linear tenth-century boundary was also excavated, which clearly relates to Late Saxon boundaries found in 1973-4 and at Croft Road. These boundaries seem to indicate a reorganisation of the settlement at Walton in the Late Saxon period, and perhaps the planned creation of the 'village' at a period contemporary with many other settlements. The excavated area was not occupied in the Early to Middle Saxon period, nor in earlier periods.

The Croft Road and Police Houses sites will be published together in Records of Bucks (Dalwood and Hawkins forthcoming).

4. Aylesbury Field Survey

The fieldwalking programme was carried out over the winters of 1986/7 and 1987/8. As explained previously (Dalwood and Kain 1987), this work was

undertaken primarily to assess the archaeological potential of land threatened by development, the extent of which has now been published (AVDC 1987). An area of c. 250 ha has now been walked (Fig. 1). Each field was grided and walked in the manner previously described, each field being recorded with a 30m² grid (not 3m² as previously stated: Dalwood and Kain 1987).

Several new surface sites were located: Late Iron Age - Roman sites at Bishopstone (CAS 5553/5554) and Stone (CAS 5626) and a Saxon site at Coldharbour Farm (CAS 5625). The precise locations of a previously identified Late Iron Age - Roman and Saxon site to the northeast of the town (CAS 4694) and a Roman site to the south of Aylesbury (CAS 5495) were also determined. Two Neolithic flint axes were discovered as isolated finds unassociated with other artefactual material (Dalwood forthcoming).

Bishopstone Roman site (CAS 5553/5554)

A total area of 72 ha was walked in the vicinity of the Bishopstone Roman site, depending on availability of ploughed fields (Fig. 2). The core area of 2.5 ha produced 71 sherds of Roman pottery and beyond this there was a scatter of c. 1.5 sherds per ha to 0.75 km, after which there was virtually no Roman pottery. This may mark the boundary between arable fields, into which pottery had been introduced incorporated in manure, and pasture. An area immediately to the north of the site contained virtually no Roman pottery. At Maddie Farm (Berkshire), similar low sherd densities were found in areas close to the settlement (Gaffney and Tingle 1985), which were explained as being due to the location of pastures close to the settlement to allow efficient collection of manure. Since the low sherd density area around the Bishopstone site lies close to a brook and must have been subject to flooding, this seems a likely explanation for this scatter distribution.

Coldharbour Farm Saxon site (CAS 5625)

The Saxon site at Coldharbour Farm was initially located by the recovery of just three sherds of Saxon pottery. It has been found elsewhere that even such a low density can indicate presence of a Saxon site (Foard 1978, 364) and therefore part of the field was rewalked in 10m² squares, with each square walked by four people and a total walking time six times longer than usual. Finds recovery was much greater: 25 times the total quantity of finds from the same area. This was partly due to greater weathering of the surface at the time of the second fieldwalk; also, the fieldwalkers were aware of the significance of the second fieldwalk and their perceptions probably had an influence on the quantity of material recovered. A total of 37 sherds of Saxon pottery were found, mostly distributed in two broad linear scatters (c. 120m by 30m) running in an east-west direction (Fig. 2). In addition 120 sherds of medieval pottery were found in a similarly aligned band. The Saxon and Medieval scatters do not coincide, so this distribution can not readily be interpreted as due to the east-west ridge and furrow recorded on APs and it may be due to sub-soil geological features such as a gravel terrace or islet associated with the nearby Bear Brook.

It is unclear how the Saxon pottery distribution relates to underlying Saxon features. At Odell (Beds.) Saxon pottery scatters recovered by fieldwalking were subsequently excavated (Dix 1980) but although pottery did occur in the vicinity of features, there was no direct correlation between the pottery distribution in the ploughsoil and the underlying features (B. Dix pers. comm.) Only excavation would reveal whether a similar situation applies at Coldharbour Farm, or whether the recovered scatter indicates concentration of Saxon features.

The 'background' artefact scatter

As well as the pottery concentration described above, there was a general background scatter of Roman and Medieval pottery and of lithic material across the whole area surveyed. Typically this scatter consisted of 1-2 sherds of Roman and medieval pottery and a similar number of lithics in each field. Occasionally single prehistoric or Saxon sherds were recovered. This background scatter is usually explained as being the result of manuring, and the incorporation of domestic rubbish in farmyard middens (Foard 1978; Haselgrove 1985). The low density of prehistoric and Saxon sherds can be accounted for by post-deposition processes, the friability of the material, and the generally lower intensity of pottery production during these periods. The appearance of lithics in the scatter might suggest that manuring began at an early date, although an alternative interpretation of such lithic scatters is that the use and discard of lithic artefacts took place across the whole landscape rather than just at discrete 'sites' (Holgate 1985).

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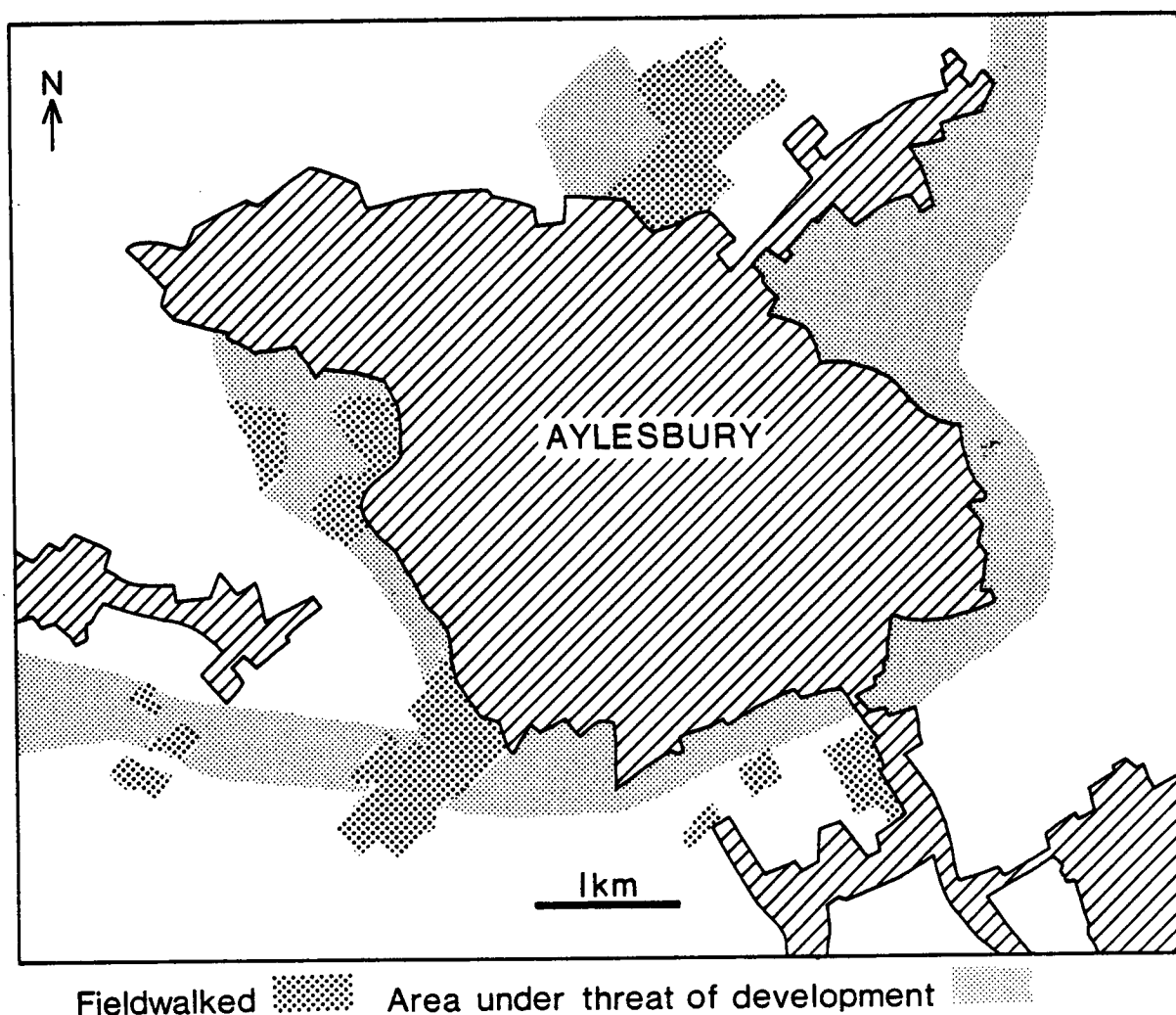
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Fieldwalked Area under threat of development

Fig. 1 Aylesbury Field Survey: areas fieldwalked

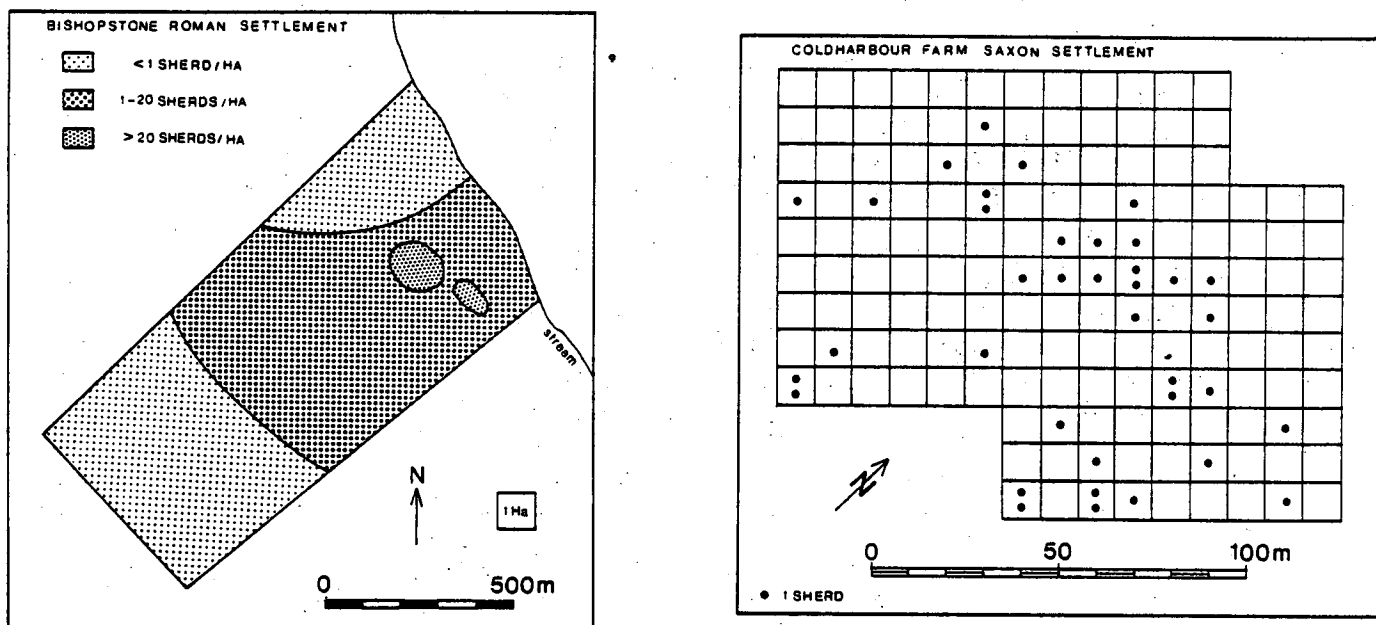
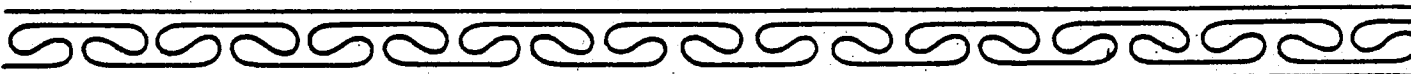


Fig. 2 Aylesbury Field Survey: newly located settlement sites



Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society

Bambi Stainton (Field Officer)

The Field Group of the Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society has been undergoing reorganisation in the past year.

Our major activity, field walking, will be resumed and courses are being started for members in the drawing of archaeological finds (pottery, flints etc.) and in the drawing of plans and sections on archaeological excavations.

We continue the annual publication of our Journal which gives reports on the work of both the Field and Records Groups, reports on the national archaeological scene and articles of related interest.



Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit 1987

Introduction

The major fieldwork project during 1987 was at Furzton where over a period of four months Bob Williams excavated a late Iron Age settlement.

The Development Corporation proposed to develop Bradwell Abbey as an Education and Leisure Resource for the City. Their proposals involved extensive rebuilding and conversion of existing buildings, the provision of car parks and landscaping of the grounds. Naturally all of this required detailed consultation between HBMC (since the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument), the Development Corporation and the Archaeology Unit.

The Unit spent some time preparing detailed evaluation and excavation plans for the areas involved and prepared estimates for this work. In the event the proposals were delayed due to financial reasons and the only work carried out during the year was evaluation in advance of the construction of new access roads and car parks.

The first major publication of the Units work appeared in print early in the year. Entitled "Roman Milton Keynes" it dealt with excavations and fieldwork on Roman sites during the period 1972-82.

Initial proposals for the development of two extensive medieval village sites were prepared by the Development Corporation during the year.

The first of these, Tattenhoe, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and discussions have already taken place with HBMC which will probably recommend that the Secretary of State grant approval for an evaluation of the site.

The second is the medieval village of Westbury which lies between the present villages of Shenley Brook End and Church End. This site was put forward for scheduling in the early 1970's but subsequently was withdrawn by DoE on condition that the Development Corporation allowed and financed adequate excavation in advance of development.

Martin Petchey led an MSC team which excavated two house platforms at this site in 1985-87. These excavations were however very limited and it is now proposed to carry out an extensive evaluation of the site in 1988 prior to large scale excavation if necessary.

At the time of writing this report (May 1988) the Development Corporation have approved the appointment of an archaeologist, within the unit, for a period of three years. Dr. Richard Ivens has been appointed to this post and during 1988 he will carry out the evaluation of both Tattenhoe and Westbury.

The proposed removal of the Unit from Bradwell Abbey took place during the year and we are now established in our new headquarters. The Development Corporation decided to rehouse us in a modern factory unit. This was modified and improved to accomodate us and we now have better working environment than we had at Bradwell Abbey.

The Unit includes space for all our equipment, site caravans etc. and all of our finds - which for the first time are stored in near ideal conditions.

The permanent members of staff have individual offices and there are workshop facilities for contract staff and volunteers.

Another area of improvement is the laboratory which is larger and better equipped than the one at Bradwell Abbey. The new base is better in many respects and is in the end a much more practical and suitable working environment.

Preparing for the move took a great deal of time since we planned our new accomodation supervised the conversion and packed everything ourselves. In all we were totally disrupted for a period of three months, which as you can imagine disrupted all our work schedules.

This disruption has continued into 1988 with the Development Corporation carrying out major improvements to the front entrance and reception area of the factory unit.

North Furzton Iron Age Settlement

(SP 8476 3522)

R. J. Williams

Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit carried out a four month season of excavation, in the summer of 1987, on a Late Iron Age settlement at North Furzton near Bletchley, under the direction of R. J. Williams and funded by Milton Keynes Development Corporation and Buckinghamshire County Council.

The site was first noticed by Andrew Pike of Bucks County Museum, as a cropmark on a 1946 R.A.F. 1:10,000 vertical aerial photograph. In October 1985 a series of machine dug trial trenches confirmed the existence and Iron Age date of the cropmarks. In 1986 whilst watching topsoil stripping of the adjacent Furzton balancing lake another Iron Age site consisting of at least two enclosures was located some 400 metres to the north east of the first site. These enclosures and associated features were rapidly examined by means of further machine cut trenches. Since the enclosures within the lake area would be destroyed by late 1987 and the cropmark site would be engulfed by roads and residential housing in 1988 the rescue excavation was mounted between June and September 1987.

Over 10,000m² of the cropmark site (Site A) was stripped of topsoil by heavy plant and subsequently excavated by a team of 15 excavators and a Supervisor (Peter Hart) whose post was funded by English Heritage. The site was located on a slight S.E. facing slope overlooking a small brook. The subsoil ranged between very heavy boulder clay and Oxford clay giving way to a superficial orange sandy alluvium closer to the brook. The combination of an intractable impervious clay subsoil and one of the wettest summers on record made work heavy going and a considerable amount of time was lost due to regular severe flooding. Furthermore, despite extensive precautions, the site offices were vandalised four times.

AREA 'A'

The Enclosures

The excavation revealed a very substantial rectangular ditched 'stock' enclosure (enclosure 3), 52 x 45 metres across; the ditch having a steep 'V' shaped profile well over 2 metres deep on the eastern side. With limited resources for such a large area, it was only possible to excavate three hand dug and one machine section. These produced a small number of semi-complete pottery vessels of late Iron Age form and two substantial fragments of red deer antler. The enclosure's entrance on the eastern side had been redug and

overcut leaving only a narrow clay causeway, to the side of which a stone causeway had been formed over the silted up earlier phase ditch. At this point the ditch was at its deepest, up to 2.40 metres below topsoil, and contained an organic layer which produced a metre-long sharpened wooden stake.

Careful examination of the interior of the enclosure failed to locate any significant features. Taking into account the level of survival elsewhere on the site it must be concluded that this enclosure was unlikely ever to have contained any major structures, confirming the hypothesis of its use mainly as a stockade for animals.

To the north and north east of the main enclosure three less substantial 'enclosures' were located and excavated. The most northerly (15) had an irregular reversed 'D' shape 50 metres long and up to 30 metres wide. At no point was the ditch more than 0.80 metres deep, although its width tended to vary somewhat. No entrance could be found but the existence of substantial medieval furrows dissecting the ditch may have masked a narrow causeway. In a similar manner to enclosure 3, internal features were only notable by their absence apart from an irregular fire reddened hollow dug into the yellow clay interpreted as some form of domestic oven, since no industrial or ceramic wastes were found in the fill.

Between enclosures 3 and 15 two even smaller enclosures were found. Enclosure 242 was approximately subrectangular but no trace of its northern side could be located, despite considerable efforts, including thorough hoeing and the removal - by JCB - of a furrow in the vicinity. However, the enclosure was located very late in the excavation and, allowing for the difficult soil conditions, there may remain some doubt that the return ditch on the north eastern side could have been missed.

The smallest of the enclosures (151) was also subrectangular enclosing an internal area of only 21 x 16 metres across. The ditch averaged only 0.70 metres deep and 1.10 metres wide and two opposed entrances 3.5 metres in width were located in the north-east and south-west corners.

As with all the other enclosures careful examination of the interior failed to reveal any features or structures. The placing of opposed entrances in the corners of enclosures has been recognised as being advantageous in the controlling and herding of stock. In this particular instance, however, the enclosure and its ditch would seem to have been too small to have been of much use. It is quite conceivable that since structural post holes were not found on the site even within the recognisable penannular drainage gullies this 'squarer' enclosure may in its own right have contained and acted as a drainage ditch around a substantial building. The north west corner was very rounded and could easily have been contiguous with a circular building.

To a greater or lesser degree all the enclosures had interconnecting ditches between them presumably aiding the drainage and movement of water on what must have always been a wet site.

The Buildings

The remains of two penannular ditches and a semicircular gully were also located to the east and west of enclosure 151. Penannular ditch 133 was the most substantial with an internal diameter of 15 metres and consisted of a 'V' shaped ditch 0.60 metres deep and 1.10 metres wide with a 4.60 metres wide entrance on the east side. A pair of substantial postholes 2.30 metres apart were located immediately within the entrance and are all that remained of the internal structure. Work elsewhere in the country has shown that the

entrance post holes were often more substantial to help support a porch and more importantly strengthen the weakest point in the ring beam roof construction. Traces of a much smaller gully with a projected diameter of only 9 metres were located within 133 but were not concentric to it and might have been part of a separate phase of building.

Penannular ditch 36 was not as substantial as 133 but more so than the latter's smaller internal gully. With an internal diameter of 11.50 m and consisting of a ditch 0.25 metres deep and 0.50 metres wide with a 4 metre wide entrance on the east side it conformed more closely to those excavated elsewhere in Milton Keynes. To the immediate north of this penannular ditch was a semi-circular length of ditch with two clear cut butt-ends. No trace of an opposing ditch, which would have been located within penannular ditch 36, could be located and it must be assumed that this is the remains of the more unusual class of late Iron Age semicircular ditches around buildings.

Apart from a single small pit in the south-east corner of the site, several clay lined 'boiling pits' and two very narrow linear gullies, few other recognisable features were either located or excavated on the site. A series of machine dug trial trenches were excavated in a radiating pattern for up to 60 metres away from the edge of the excavation but failed to locate any further significant features. From this it would seem to be safe to assume that the settlement was excavated in its near entirety. The simplicity of the visible surviving features with few recuts and very little overlapping of features/structures would also seem to indicate that the settlement was relatively short lived. The paucity of non-ceramic cultural objects might also be an indication of the degree of impoverishment although of course other less tangible factors might be involved.

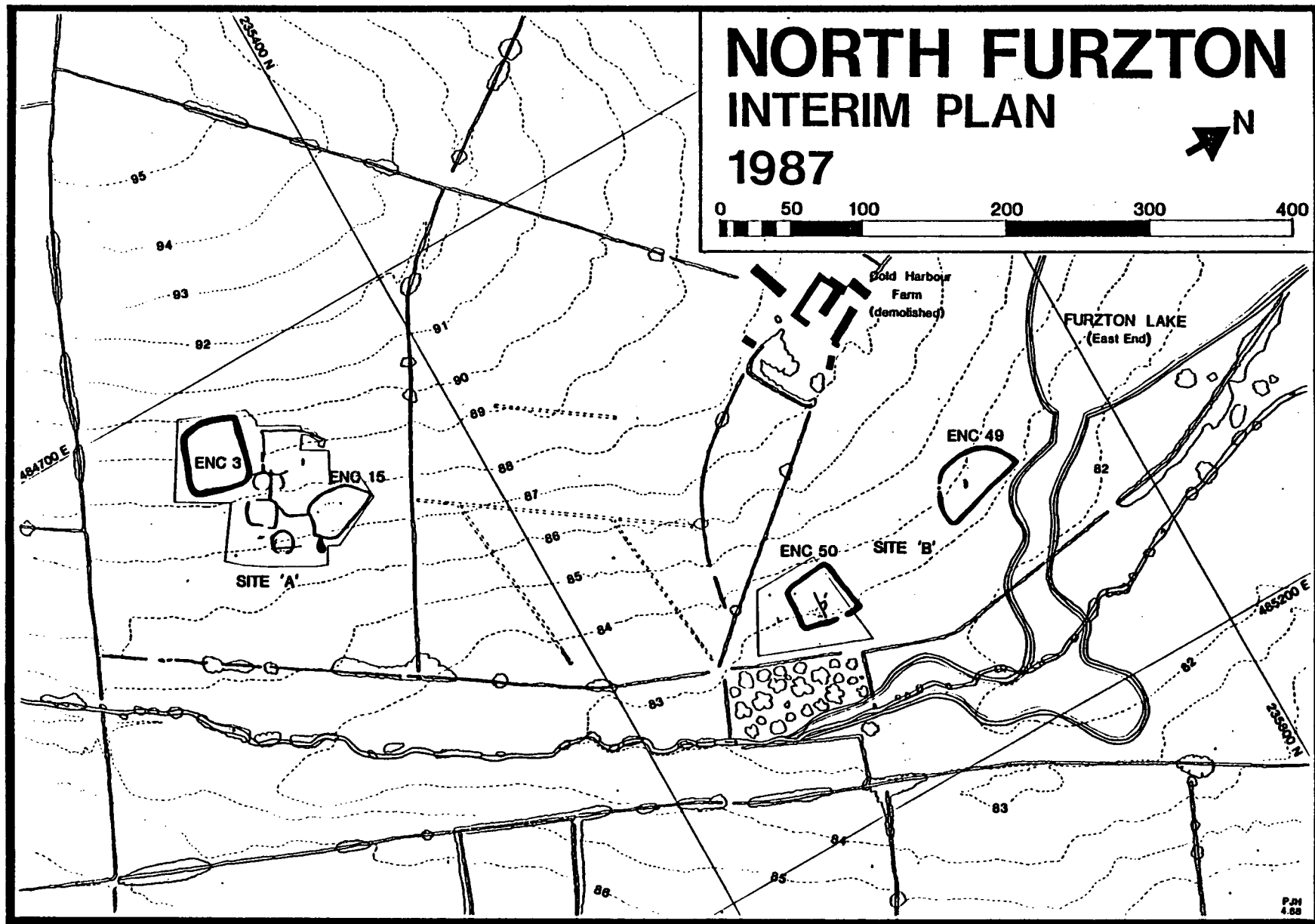
The almost total absence of pits on the site which are usually such a ubiquitous and inherent feature on Iron Age settlements elsewhere in Milton Keynes must be accounted for by the intractability of the clay subsoil. This gave rise to a very high watertable ensuring that any hole dug in the ground at almost any time of year would have rapidly filled with water.

AREA B

Towards the end of the excavation season efforts were redirected towards Area B and enclosure 50, 400 metres to the north east of the main site and within the boundary of the balancing lake. Since much of the site had already been destroyed only limited time and resources could be justified in the excavation of this area.

Enclosure 50 which had previously been recorded as of 'squarish shape 35 x 37 metres across was partially excavated by hand, and was found to be less substantial than enclosure 3 in area A. Some internal features had been previously recorded in 1936 and several more were located but the combination of machine damage and medieval furrows made it difficult to assess their true significance.

The limited nature of the evidence obtained from area B will undoubtedly make interpretation more difficult but the major problem must be to decide the relationship between what appear to be two entirely separate settlements. This observation was confirmed in 1986 when the intervening field was machine trenched with no significant results.



PJM
4.65

(44)

Interpretation

Clearly any major interpretation must await analysis of the ceramic assemblage and more detailed structural analysis, but at present it is felt that the northern settlement (area B) may have been the earlier. Its close proximity to the flood level of the adjacent brook was admirably demonstrated during the excavation. It is quite conceivable that occasional or even annual inundation by flooding prompted the Iron Age occupants to abandon the first settlement (area B) and resite it at area A, at a higher contour level. Of course other factors may equally have been involved but as with most archaeological observations one can only formulate a model which can rarely if ever be tested empirically.

Furthermore the excavation on its own merit, of a relatively complete late Iron Age settlement at North Furzton, although of considerable relevance to Iron Age studies in general must be put into perspective. Three other major Iron Age settlements (M.K. Village, Pennyland and Bancroft) have now been extensively excavated in Milton Keynes. Only when the results of the Furzton excavation are added to the accumulated knowledge gained from these sites and from extensive fieldwork, can more plausible models of Iron Age settlement patterns and cultural trends be put forward.

Following the completion of the excavation English Heritage have agreed to fund one years post excavation during which it is anticipated that the writing up will be completed. It is intended that the site will be published together with the M.K. Village and Pennyland reports which are now in an advanced stage of completion and will form a forthcoming monograph of Records of Bucks.

Bradwell Abbey

(SP 8273 3958)

R. J. Zeepvat & P. J. Hart.

In 1986, Milton Keynes Development Corporation made proposals to develop Bradwell Abbey as a centre for environmental education, to be known as the "City Discovery Centre". Later that year, a geophysical survey was carried out by a team from Bradford University and in April 1987 - Scheduled Monument Consent having been granted - trial trenching was carried out over a three week period on an area to be affected by a new car park and access road.

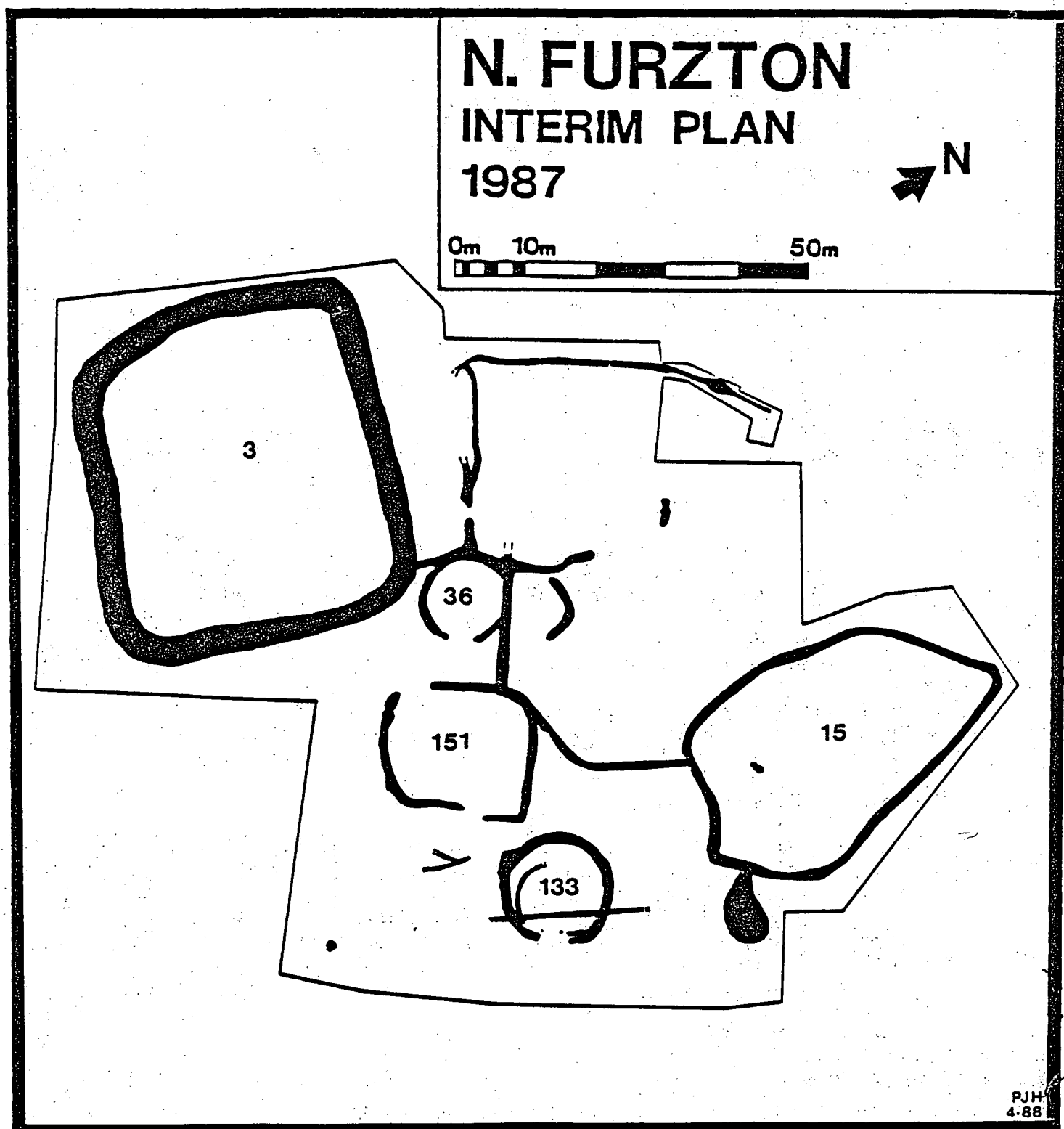
Approximately 900m of 1.5m wide trenches were cut, but the bulk of the features noted were demonstrably modern; they either contained post-medieval finds or could be identified on the c1910 map of the Abbey Farm.

Two major features were noted:

- i) A metalled trackway aligned NNW-SSE, following the present western boundary of the site. It followed a linear feature noted on a 1976 earthwork survey and corresponded to an area of high resistance on the geophysical survey. It averaged 5m in width and its well defined edges were covered by silt spreads extending up to 2m beyond the metalling. The materials used in the metalling varied from coarse gravel and glacial pebbles to limestone rubble, sometimes mixed with tile. The surface was loose and not heavily worn. Removal of the silt deposits and trowelling of the surface produced quantities of medieval/post medieval tile, clay pipe fragments, two post-medieval horse shoes, three musket balls and a very worn sestertius of Antonius Pius. Although this trackway does not appear on any plans or

documents relating to the area, it appears to have formed part of the medieval route from Wolverton to Loughton. The finds from its surface suggest that it was in use until the eighteenth century.

ii) A shallow bank 8 to 10m wide on the eastern side of the trackway and turning north-east. It was composed of redeposited subsoil - an orangey-brown clay loam - mixed with fragments of cornbrash limestone. This feature produced no finds and the most likely interpretation is that it formed the western and northern boundaries of the medieval priory precincts.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT: REPORT FOR 1987

Reports to CBA Group 9 by the Unit in previous years have been either sparse or non-existent, and have thus failed to reflect the level and quality of fieldwork in progress in the county. I am indebted on this occasion to Brian Dix who has compiled and edited the contributions by staff in the Unit and by others in the county to produce a comprehensive account of the year's activities.

Alan Hannan

THE YEAR'S WORK

In late April 1987 the Archaeology Unit exchanged the cramped quarters of part of the old county gaol and its occupancy of the attics and basements of County Hall for a suite of portakabins on Northampton's southern outskirts at 2 Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park, Mere Way. The surroundings are almost rural, apart from the proximity of a major ring-road, neighbouring stations of the emergency services, and the presence of the county police headquarters. The move has provided sorely needed office accommodation and storage space, and staff enjoy the benefit of a single working place.

Despite the stresses of removal, not the least of which was the fearsome sight of heavily laden pantechicon-vans slipping on the hillside beside the Queen Eleanor's Cross at Hardingstone (SP 754582), the year's programme suffered minimum dislocation. The Unit is still mainly concerned with rescue-work funded primarily by HBMC grants, but increasingly complemented by developer-funding and supplemented by MSC work-schemes.

At present much of this work is within the Raunds Area Project, but evaluation and small scale rescue-excavation continue to be undertaken elsewhere in the county. Among new, longer term projects is the series of excavations which English Heritage has commissioned at the Guardianship site of Kirby Hall, near Corby, as part of a scheme to enhance the presentation of the monument. In addition to such fieldwork, post-excavation remains an important activity and several reports have been drafted during the year, while others completed previously have now been published.

The county Sites and Monuments Record continues to be up-dated with information, including the results from the annual flying programme, and the data forms the basis for comment on planning and conservation proposals. The Unit has been closely involved in the initial stages of planning a 35 acre Heritage Park to be located near Stanwick. It is hoped that a permanent recreation, tourist and education resource, based on reconstructions of buildings discovered during excavations

within the Raunds project-area, will have been established there by the mid-1990s. The proposal was warmly received by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Chairman of English Heritage, at a special presentation in September and a full feasibility study is now being undertaken.

Other promotional activities during the year have included lectures and talks by members of the Unit to a wide range of societies, professional bodies, and other organisations, together with the staging of a one-day conference on the Raunds Area Project which was attended by approximately 180 people. An important initiative is also being undertaken to make archaeology more accessible for schools. By developing all such contacts, it is hoped to achieve wider public appreciation of the county's historic landscape.

THE RAUNDS AREA PROJECT

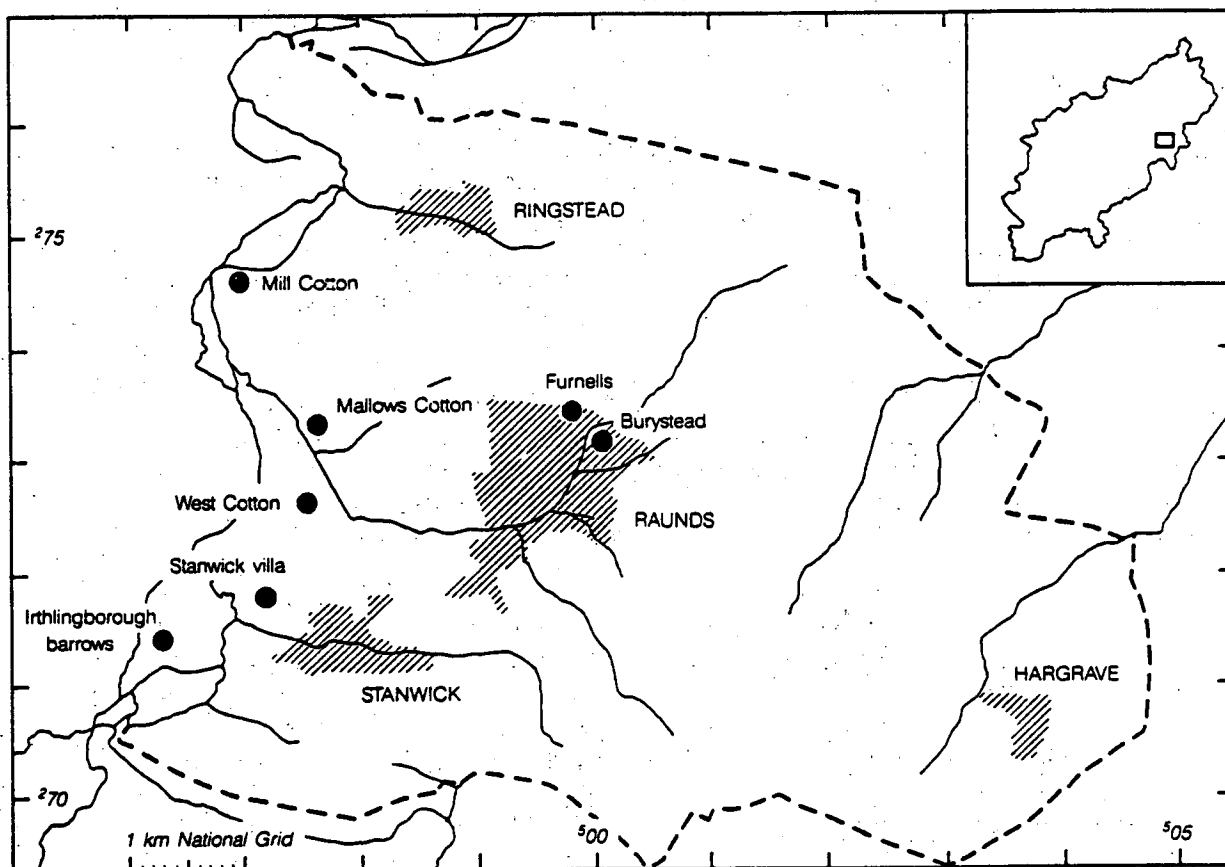
The Raunds Area Project combines large scale rescue-excavation with field survey and environmental and documentary research, in an examination of the evolution of the landscape in an area of 40 square kilometres of the Nene Valley in Northamptonshire. The study area comprises the Medieval parishes of Raunds, Ringstead, Hargrave and Stanwick which, in the Saxon period, may have comprised a single estate. The area stretches from floodplain meadows, through terrace gravels and the mainly permeable geologies of the valley sides, up onto the boulder clay plateau which was part of the Saxon 'forest' of Bromswold. In the medieval period Raunds lay within a typical Midland open-field landscape with nucleated villages and occasional hamlets. The project is examining whether the origins of that type of landscape lie only in the later Saxon period, or if its distinctive character has roots earlier in the Saxon, Roman, or even Iron Age periods.

A general introduction to the project together with a preliminary discussion of the Saxon and Medieval pottery sequences has been published in Northamptonshire Archaeology 20 (1985), pp 3-21 and is available as a separate offprint from the county Archaeology Unit, price £1.50 inclusive of postage. Further reports on the progress of the project will be included in subsequent volumes of the journal series, the next to be issued in summer 1988. Various forms of popular publication will supplement the interim record and already include an initial summary of results which was published in Current Archaeology no 106 (vol IX.11 - September 1987).

The Raunds Area Project is a joint venture between the Northamptonshire County Council and English Heritage (HBMCE), with the support of the Manpower Services Commission and the Amey Roadstone Corporation. The Central Excavation Unit of English Heritage is involved in the excavation of prehistoric and Roman sites within the gravel-extraction area around Stanwick, with the county unit undertaking the responsibilities of fieldwork elsewhere in the study area. The main projects currently in progress or in post-excavation are

- 1 Fieldwalking survey of the entire project-area.
- 2 Excavation of sixth- to fifteenth-century occupation on Furnells Manor in Raunds village.
- 3 Excavation of sixth- to seventh-century and late Saxon to post-medieval activity at Langham Road in Raunds village.
- 4 Excavation of occupation from the sixth century to post-medieval on Burystead Manor and the tenements fronting onto

- 5 Midland Road in Raunds village.
Excavation on the deserted medieval hamlet of West Cotton in Raunds parish.



Key sites in the Raunds Area.

In 1987 work was undertaken as follows:

Field Survey - S Parry

An intensive programme of field survey began in November 1985 in order to investigate patterns of settlement and land-use within the overall project-area. The basis of the survey is a reconnaissance by fieldwalking of the available arable land, using 15m spaced transects divided into 20m lengths. More detailed collection of material, geophysical prospection, and excavation is undertaken in key areas defined by the reconnaissance. By the end of 1987 some 1363 ha had been examined, leading to the identification of sites of all periods and the recognition of 'non-site' patterning.

Detailed consideration of the lithic assemblage has yet to be undertaken, but in simple quantitative terms there is a decline in the density of material between the lighter permeable soils of the valley side and the boulder clay plateau. Within the variable geology of the valley side there appears to be a preference for areas with an ironstone bedrock.

Iron Age settlement is widespread on both permeable soils and boulder

clay. Aerial photography has located an extensive system of linear enclosures on the clayland which fieldwalking has dated to the Iron Age. Roman settlement appears to follow a similar distribution; some sites coincide with the occurrence of earlier Iron Age material, but others appear to have been newly established. Most sites continued in use throughout the Roman period, though their form and function may have altered considerably.

Early Saxon material is well represented, with over 600 sherds from twelve locations. There is a coincidence of Roman and early Saxon material at three locations in the Nene Valley, but elsewhere the sites are found on permeable soils of the Oolitic series and Oxford Clay. A possible pattern is emerging of settlements arranged in pairs with sites located at either side of tributary streams of the Nene and Til.

Only twelve mid-Saxon sherds have been found on three early Saxon sites. This decline in quantity is also recognised from the major excavations in Raunds village and may be linked to a restricted use of pottery; however, the significance of this distribution must await the more intensive collection of material from both early and late Saxon sites.

Late Saxon and Medieval concentrations of material have been located at the peripheries of the present villages where they probably represent slight shifts in settlement. Fieldwalking has also been undertaken over parts of the deserted hamlets in the Nene Valley where similar concentrations of material have been recorded.

Raunds Village

Burystead (TL 007732) - M Audouy

Excavation was undertaken between April and November 1987 prior to housing development on a site which was considered to be the location of the Burystead Manor, lying immediately to the north of the parish church of St Peter. The affected area of c 0.6 ha had lain fallow since the last of the farm buildings to have stood there was demolished in the nineteenth century.

The commencement of occupation in the sixth to seventh centuries AD is attested by the presence of a large quantity of pottery throughout the site, both in the fillings of contemporary postholes and from later levels. Unfortunately, the morphology of the associated settlement cannot be easily identified from the scatter of its few surviving features. Similarly, though the residual occurrence of eighth-century pottery, including imported Ipswich ware, suggests the proximity of some form of occupation at that time, no middle Saxon features were recognised.

In the late Saxon period, between the ninth to eleventh centuries, a loose network of long, narrow ditches was established, running at right-angles to each other in a series of north-south and east-west alignments. The existence of similar arrangements of ditches elsewhere in Raunds at this period shows the pattern to have been widespread and it may be suggested that it represents the forerunner of the Medieval tenement system with its rows of individual rectangular plots. The earlier system of organisation appears to have

been contemporary with the establishment of the manor and church at the Furnells site, but, unlike there and on the adjacent site at Langham Road, the Burystead plots do not seem to have contained timber buildings of any significance. It is of interest, however, that stone-quarrying probably began in the village at about that time.

Throughout the Middle Ages, activity at Burystead seems to have been primarily agricultural, on the basis of the scarcity of features (cattle burial) and the poor, residual assemblage of medieval pottery. It is only during the post-medieval period that we can trace a more intensive domestic occupation, attested by the remains of a dovecote, a drying oven, and several stone floors. All, however, had been extensively robbed-out by the time that the site was abandoned in the early nineteenth century.

Whilst the Burystead Manor continues to elude discovery, the recent excavations have nevertheless provided important information about the origins of Raunds village and the impact which the establishment of the manor had on its morphology. The completion of the Burystead excavation marks the close of the recent series of large scale excavations in the village and the commencement of a further stage in the analysis of the wealth of accumulated data.

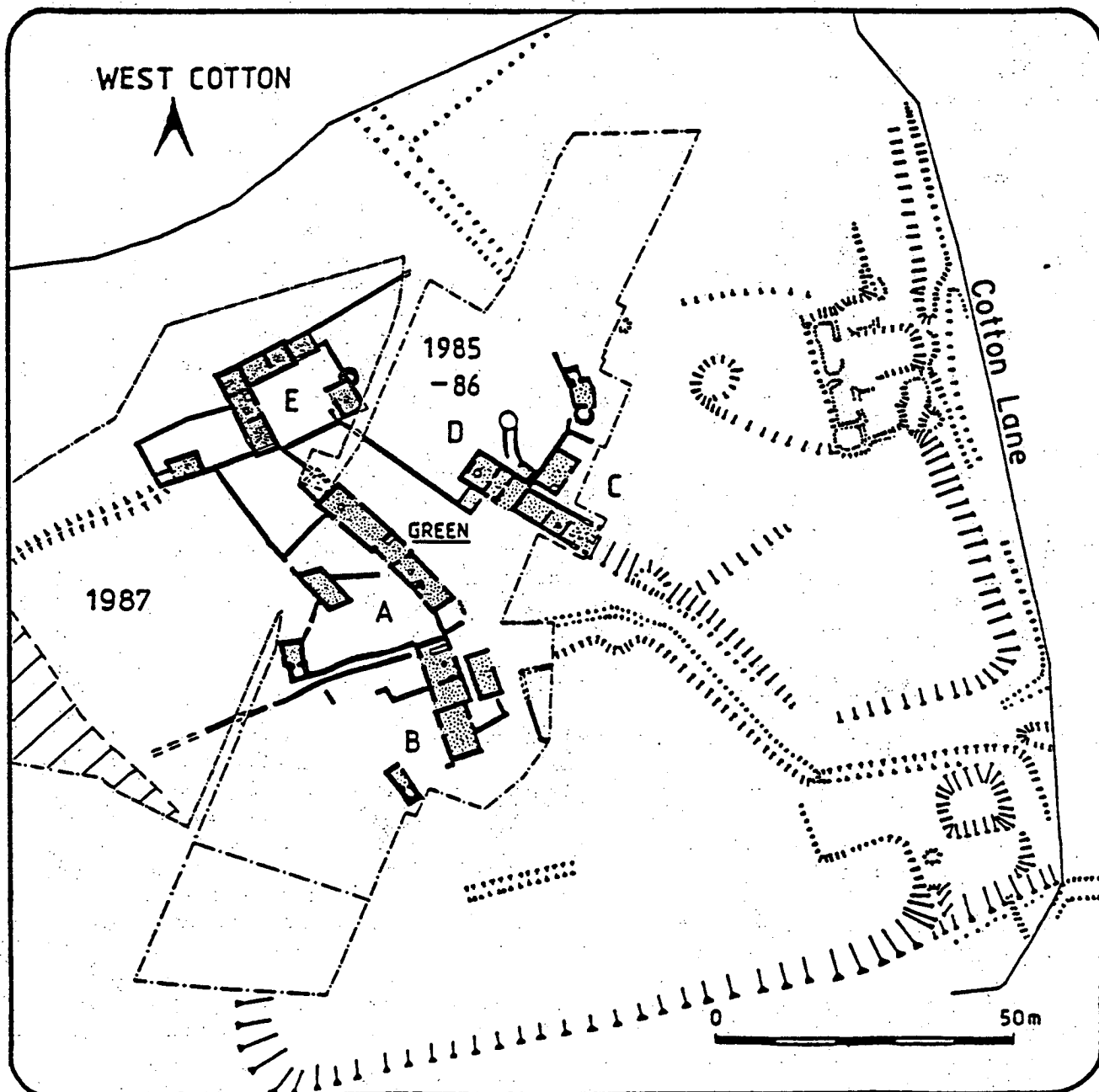
Furnells post-excavation - G Cadman

Post-excavation analysis continued throughout the year on the large body of data recorded at the site of Raunds, Furnells where an extensive area of Anglo-Saxon settlement and medieval manorial complex was excavated between 1977-84 (see S Midlands Archaeol, 14 (1984), pp 29-33). The first part of the report, concerned with the site's late Saxon church and cemetery, awaits final editing prior to publication; the second part, dealing with the remainder of the site-sequence stretching from the sixth to the fifteenth centuries, should be completed in draft form during 1988.

Both parts of the report are intended to take the form of site-based report-digests, with more widely ranging discussion being undertaken in later Raunds Area Project publications or in selected specialist publications as appropriate. Andy Boddington, the excavator of the church and cemetery, has recently completed several such papers. 'Raunds, Northamptonshire: analysis of a country churchyard' was published in the World Archaeology volume devoted to 'Archaeology and the Christian Church' (vol 18 (1987), pp 412-25) and dealt primarily with the graveyard's internal structure and the methodology behind its analysis. Two further papers by the same author in the book Death, Decay and Reconstruction (eds A Boddington, A N Garland, and R C Janaway), published in 1987 by the Manchester University Press, have tackled respectively aspects of bone distribution and displacement within graves (pp 27-42) and the inherent problems of determining population structures from skeletal remains (pp 180-97).

West Cotton (SP 976725) - D Windell

Excavation at West Cotton forms an integral part of the Raunds Area Project. Initially the site was recognised as a deserted medieval hamlet from earthwork survey and the original proposal was to excavate the area of about 5,500 sq m which was threatened by the construction of the A45/A605 New Road. This investigation was completed between



West Cotton: excavations and surviving earthworks.

March 1985 and November 1986. At that time, however, it became evident that the entire area of the hamlet to the west of the road-line (approximately a further 7,000 sq m) was threatened by gravel extraction. Commencement of excavation of this western area was made in April 1987 and should be completed by December 1988. By then, about 11,000 sq m will have been excavated in detail backed by trial-trenching, watching brief, and salvage over a large area to the north, west, and south.

The excavation has received financial support from the Manpower Services Commission, Northamptonshire County Council, and English Heritage and much help from ARC (Southern) Limited. I am indebted to

all those organisations and to the many people who have assisted the project.

In summary, the site has provided over 50% of a well-preserved medieval hamlet, evidence of late Saxon occupation, Pagan Saxon activity, and a remarkable late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age ritual focus.

Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age

An area of over 5,000 sq m has so far been fully excavated to prehistoric levels, with watching brief and salvage in the area being quarried. Simultaneously, Claire Halpin of the Central Excavation Unit has undertaken large-scale reconnaissance by trial-trenching and area-stripping of an extensive area to the south of West Cotton. In total this work by NCC and CEU has revealed a complex of ten late Neolithic/early Bronze Age monuments comprising four round barrows, two long mounds, a turf mound, a causewayed ring ditch, a Long Enclosure, and another ditched enclosure in an apparently linear arrangement along the valley. None of these sites was known previously because of the depth of alluvium in the area. Cropmarks, however, denote the existence of two further ring ditches c 150m north of West Cotton and a probable henge some 400m to the east.

Long Enclosure

Orientated south-west to north-east and 120m long by 20m wide, the Long Enclosure was defined by a single ditch. The northern third lay within the area of total excavation and the remainder was defined by trial-trenching beneath a 2m depth of alluvium. There were no features internal to the enclosure and though there were no standing remains, the ditch sections suggested the presence of internal banks along the long sides. No evidence of this was apparent along the shorter side. Finds were few, comprising c 50 pieces of struck flint but none diagnostic, a red deer antler rake, and two pieces of bone suitable for radiocarbon assay (no dates have yet been established).

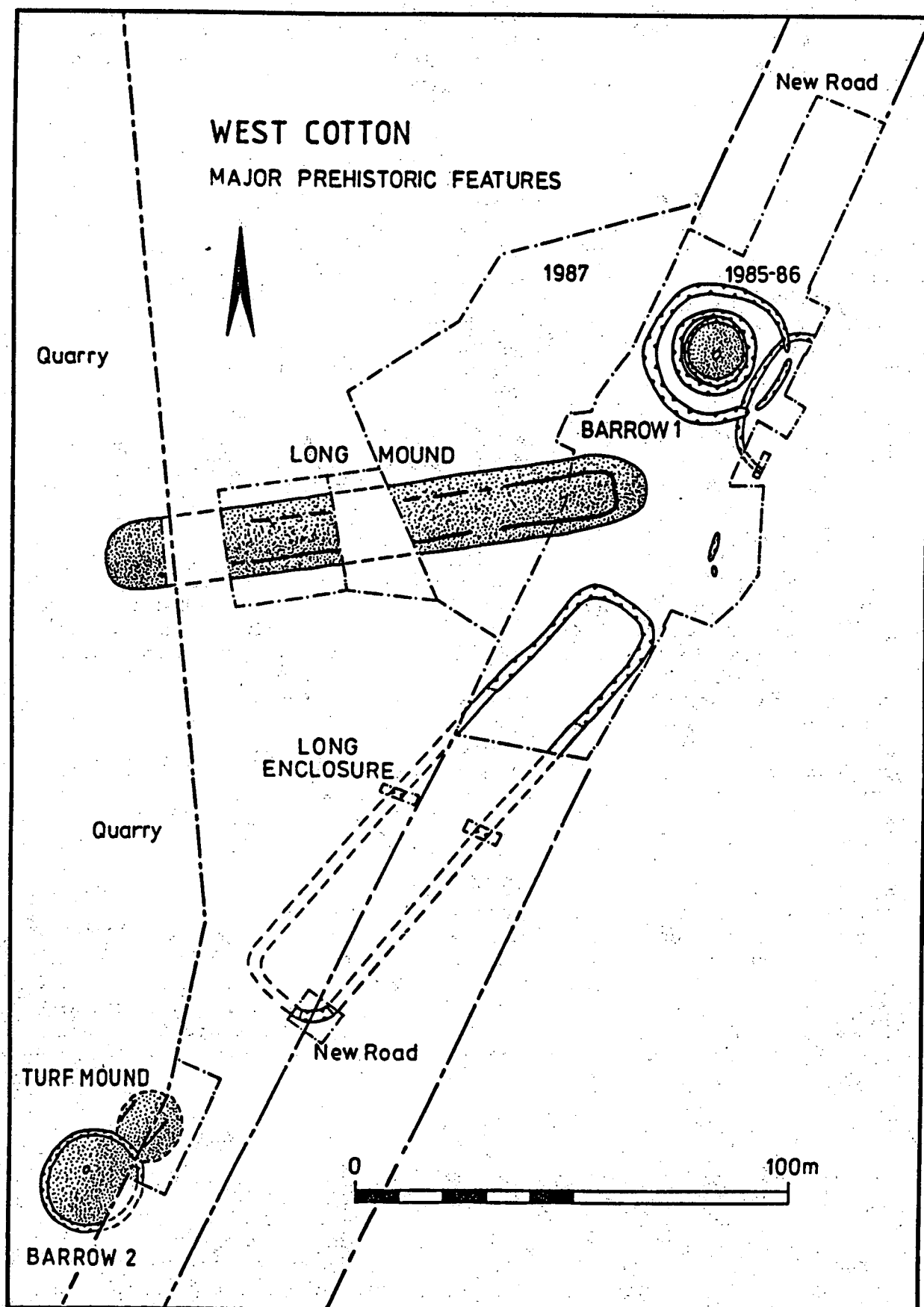
Ditched Enclosure

An arc of ditch located 45m north-east of the Long Enclosure pre-dated the latest, outermost ditch of Barrow 1. It seems most likely to have formed an enclosure of c 33m by 20m (if symmetrical). The interruption of the later barrow ditch suggests the presence of an internal bank within the enclosure. No diagnostic dating evidence was retrieved, nor were any features revealed in the small part of the interior available for excavation. Its position and probable form suggests a small enclosure associated with the Long Enclosure and on a similar alignment.

Barrow 1

Beside the ditched enclosure a multi-phase ditched round barrow overlay a Beaker burial.

The first phase consisted of a small ditch enclosing an almost circular area, c 14.50m in diameter. At the centre a grave contained an adult male in flexed position, lying on his left side and orientated south-west to north-east. In a group by the feet were a



long-necked beaker, a conical V-perforated button of jet 48mm in diameter, a notched and tanged flint dagger 170mm long, a large flint flake, and a small lump of chalk with grooves (?natural). Beside the hands was a small flint knife. Beneath the burial a shallow pit contained disarticulated bone of another individual. These deposits had been covered by a turf mound still standing to 0.30m maximum.

Erosion of the turf mound rapidly filled the original ditch and a new ditch was cut, in Phase II, to an 18m diameter, the resulting gravel being cast up onto the turf mound. Probably associated with this phase was a pot of food-vessel type within the fill of the original ditch.

Following the silting of the Phase II ditch, a new outer ditch was dug to form a circle of 30m diameter (Phase III). The gravel was again upcast to enlarge the mound but leaving a berm between mound and ditch. This new ditch cut through the ditched enclosure.

A cremation covered by a miniature urn was inserted into the fills of the Phase III ditch and probably at this time a cremation with a small ceramic button in a collared urn was inserted in a shallow depression in the berm.

Barrow 2

Some 70m to the south-west of the Long Enclosure a second round barrow was revealed in salvage work during gravel-extraction. It consisted of a simple turf mound surrounded by a ditch forming a near-circle of c 21m diameter. Under the mound an eccentrically placed 'grave' pit revealed a poorly preserved red deer antler over a dark stain, which may represent a body stain.

Turf Mound

To the immediate north of Barrow 2, and cut by its ditch, was an unditched mound of turf. Roughly circular in plan and c 19m in diameter, it stood to a height of 0.50m at the centre. The western half was revealed by watching brief in the quarry, and was followed by a set-piece excavation of the eastern half. There was no evidence of either a burial or a grave-pit, hence the avoidance of the term 'barrow'.

On top of the mound two parallel lengths of gully, 10m apart and aligned south-west to north-east, were traced for a maximum distance of 10.50m. The fills revealed much burnt debris and some evidence of upright stakes. Finds from the gullies were entirely prehistoric and the coincidence of their alignment with that of the Long Enclosure suggests the presence of a timber structure of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date on top of this mound. Unfortunately the conditions of salvage within the quarry precluded a revelation of the complete plan of the gullies or sufficient work on the western member.

Long Mound

Across the western part of the site a Long Mound of turf has been revealed, 135m long and between 18m - 20m wide. Work is still continuing on this monument, but by the end of 1987 the easternmost 20m had been fully excavated, the westernmost 25m recorded in watching

brief, and a start made on excavation of the central portion. The mound was unditched and stood to a maximum height of 0.80m at the eastern end. So far no features have been revealed beneath it. On the denuded surface of the mound a shallow gully has been found which follows the outlines of the mound forming two parallel sides c 10m apart, and enclosed at the eastern end. Though traced for over 100m the western ends of the gullies were lost in the quarrying. Their fills contained intermittent burnt debris and in places evidence of upright stakes. Artefactual dating evidence from the gully was poor, comprising undiagnostic flint tools and a few small sherds of prehistoric pottery. The uppermost, subsidence fillings contained a few abraded early Saxon sherds which initially led to the view that the gully may have been an early Saxon feature. Though the evidence remains inconclusive, the present interpretation is that the gully represents a prehistoric timberwork enclosure on top of the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age long mound; in some ways similar to, though much larger than that on the turf mound to the south.

Environmental Work and Finds

Throughout the work on these monuments, considerable emphasis has been placed on the environmental potential. Unfortunately this is limited within the excavation to the recovery of carbonised remains which are subject to contamination from later levels. However, a system of palaeochannels of the River Nene has been revealed by modern quarrying and Dr M Robinson and Dr A Brown have obtained samples of well-preserved organics of prehistoric date from these channels. As yet, no analytical results have been obtained but the close conjunction of the monuments, carbonised debris within them, and organics from the nearby palaeochannels seems very promising.

As well as the finds already mentioned, all the monuments have produced quantities of flintwork (c 6,000 pieces to date) and a scatter of prehistoric sherds. Also, each monument has provided material for radiocarbon assay though no dates are available yet.

Saxon and Medieval Occupation

Early Saxon

Following the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity, the area of West Cotton reverted to agricultural use until the early Saxon period. A small area of Pagan Saxon activity has been located on top of the Long Mound. It consists of two postholes within a shallow depression associated with a group of Saxon sherds, a loomweight, and spindle whorls. Though considered likely to have been a 'sunken-featured building', the posts were evidently not structural. A few other early Saxon sherds have been located in the subsidence fillings of the gully on the Long Mound and at the western end of the Mound.

After this brief episode, a further hiatus occurred in activity until the late Saxon period.

Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman

In the late 9th or early 10th centuries the area which later became the village was divided by a series of ditches. The initial division seems to have formed a row of plots aligned roughly east to west with

a consistent width of 4 rods (c 19.50m). This pattern developed with the cutting of gullies aligned north to south, initially perpendicular to the alignment of the early gullies but encroaching over time to a position creating the outlines of the green seen in the medieval period.

No major buildings of late Saxon date have yet been revealed, and so far only a small entrance-way structure, fence lines of posts, and shallow sub-division gullies have been found within the plots defined by the ditches. However, the large quantities of domestic refuse, pottery, bone, coins, and metal objects retrieved suggest the presence of substantial buildings nearby.

Medieval Occupation

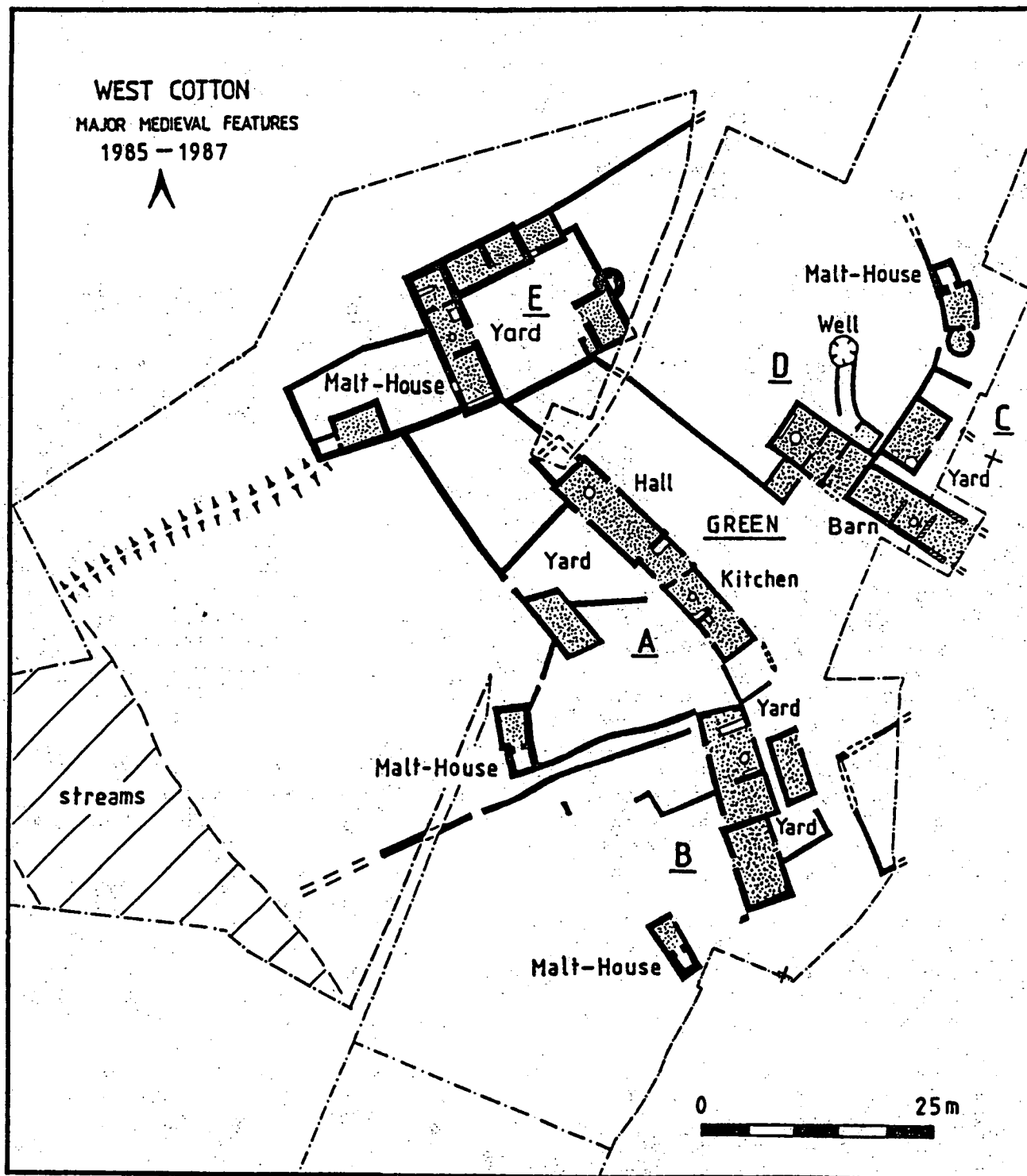
In the period of approximately 1200 - 1250 the hamlet was reorganised with the laying out of stone buildings fronting up to the central green. The earliest phases of stone buildings have been disturbed by the later and so are difficult of interpretation. Within the 1985-6 area their layout was directly under the later phases, and some of the earliest walls were maintained in the later buildings. Internally the earliest buildings were characterised by small ovens, hearths, and stone-lined pits of uncertain function. In the area under excavation in 1987 there are suggestions of large early phase buildings which are not directly beneath the later phases, but more excavation is needed in 1988 to define these.

The main period of stone buildings dated from c 1250 to c 1400' - 1450. The buildings were exceptionally well-preserved, some walls standing up to 1m high and with all internal floors, hearths, and other features still intact. Within the excavated area five separate plots or tenements can be described.

Tenement A, immediately south-west of the green, yielded a range of domestic buildings fronting onto the green and totalling 31m long. This range was formed by a small chamber, a hall, a cross-passage room, a 'kitchen', and an ancillary room which contained the stone base of a probable timber stairway. Behind this frontage was a trapezoidal structure of 6.50m x 3m and slightly further back was a separate malt-house. Four of the five excavated tenements have yielded structures interpreted as malt-houses - each of very similar design with a square oven attached to a small rectangular room, and closely paralleled at Furnells Manor in Raunds and elsewhere in the Northamptonshire area. Tenement A was divided from Tenement B to the south by a narrow passageway defined by two walls.

Tenement B yielded two main structures of cross-passage design, the southern measuring 8m x 4.40m and the north-western 7m x 4.50m, with a large hearth and stone-lined pit or trough bearing marked staining similar to that in Tenement E. These two buildings were later joined to provide a small room between. In front of this short row was a further building with a baking oven in its earliest phase. Evidence of encroachment onto the green was found here and the final boundary had progressed c 5m beyond the original medieval frontage. At the back of Tenement B was a malt-house similar to that in Tenement A.

To the north of these tenements was the green, represented by a badly worn, limestone rubble surface which had been covered, after the



cessation of occupation, by up to 1m of clay probably from flooding or deliberate empondment.

To the north-east of the green Tenement C included a large barn. If symmetrical about the barn door it would have been c 24m x 4m wide. In the later medieval period the door had been partially blocked to form a standard 1m doorway and the internal area had been subdivided into smaller domestic rooms. Connected to the barn by a yard surface was another building possibly associated with cereal-processing and beyond it lay a large malt-house. This differed from other malt-houses at the site in having a circular wall-footing at one end, interpreted variously as a vat-enclosure wall or the unfired base of a large oven.

North-west of this range a further structure has been defined as Tenement D. In its earliest phase it comprised a cross-passage building containing a baking oven. Later, the room was rebuilt and divided into three, with a small domestic room at the west end and a byre at the east. A small room was butted onto the front of the structure, and a small sunken chamber to the rear was connected by a walled passageway to a well.

At the north-west end of the green was Tenement E, where excavation has been in progress since 1987. Three structures of several rooms were arranged around a courtyard which originally gave access onto the green but was later blocked. The south-western structure was c 16m long and contained three rooms comprising a central kitchen flanked by rooms with flagstone floors; the northernmost room contained a stone-lined pit or trough with heavy (?chemical) staining similar to that in Tenement B. Abutting this building to the north was another structure also of three rooms, totalling 12m in length; its northern room had a slightly sunken pitched limestone floor. This, in turn, was connected by a boundary wall to a further structure at the east. It measured 4.60m x 3.40m and had a floor partially of stone and partially of earth, with a doorway of unusual width (2.20m). At the northern corner a circular structure of c 3.20m external diameter with a step within the room has been interpreted as the base of a stairway. On the courtyard at the side of this room was a small chamber with a floor of flagstones.

To the west of this range of buildings a large walled enclosure contained in its south-west corner another malt-house of similar design to those in the other tenements.

The buildings of all the tenements went through many phases of alterations and changes in use but the layout of the hamlet seems to have remained fairly stable from c 1250 until desertion sometime between 1400 - 1450. There is evidence of some tertiary use of the buildings, but final desertion had certainly come by the end of the fifteenth century. However, the boundaries between tenements and the green were maintained into the eighteenth century, despite the whole area being turned over to pasture.

Environmental Evidence and Palaeochannels

Considerable emphasis has been placed on the recovery of environmental data, particularly by flotation of carbonised debris. As yet no detailed analysis is available, though a high arable orientation to

the economy is already evident.

Work has also been carried out in the palaeochannels of the River Nene nearby. Watching brief to the west has revealed several channels with small timber and limestone structures (?fish-weirs) within them. Bore-holes followed by archaeological trenching have revealed a full section of the channel which forms the northern limit of the hamlet. Within this was found timberwork and organic deposits containing debris from flax-retting.

To the south and west the hamlet was bounded by a stream which fed into the main palaeochannel to the north. Excavation evidence shows that this stream was partially 'canalised' in the medieval period and finally embanked to create a stream at a higher level than the surrounding land. The rationale of this late stream-embankment is unknown; generation of water-power or flood-control seems likely. It is hoped to investigate these aspects further, along with the problems of alluviation of the valley, during 1988.

It is anticipated that excavation will continue until December 1988 by which time nearly 12,000 sq m will have been investigated in detail, representing over 50% of the known area of the hamlet.

OTHER FIELDWORK AND OBSERVATIONS

Barton Seagrave, St Botolph's Church (SP 888771) - B Dix

Examination was made between 3 - 7 August 1987 of alterations within the church interior for lowering the floor levels of the congregational seating area and chancel. Medieval work was exposed and subsequently preserved in both areas, but the depth of modern excavation barely penetrated such earlier floor levels as had survived extensive Victorian remodelling. The principal remains comprised parts of the south wall of the twelfth-century nave and the broad limestone foundation of the fourteenth-century aisle with a series of undated burials alongside.

Fawsley Hall (SP 560568) - M Whewell

Four mechanically cut trenches were dug in November 1987 in order to evaluate a site where the grant of planning permission might have resulted in damage to the remains of an eleventh-century royal estate centre. In the event, the stratification exposed was shallow, consisting of topsoil (up to 0.20m deep), a clay subsoil, and natural gravel. Despite very thorough examination, none of the trenches provided evidence of archaeological remains, indicating that Saxon and Medieval occupation did not extend into the area.

Fineshade Abbey (SP 973976) - A G Johnston

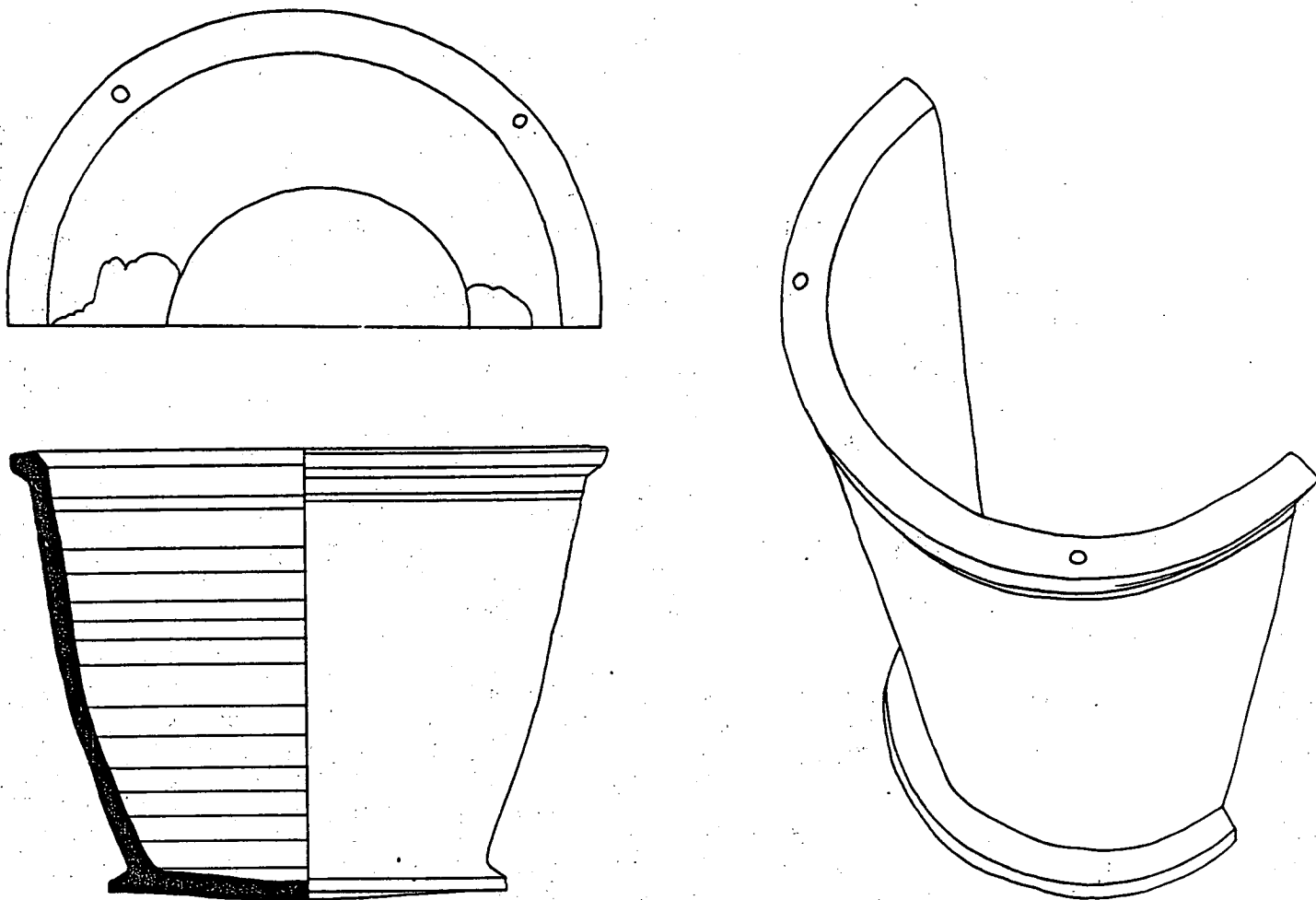
Fineshade has a complicated history, beginning in the twelfth century as a castle which was demolished in the reign of King John when an Augustinian priory was built. At the Dissolution, the land and buildings were granted to John, Lord Russel, and four years later passed to Sir Robert Kirkham who created a house in the conventual buildings. This was replaced by a new house built by the Hon John Monckton in 1770 which survived until 1956 when it was largely

demolished, so that today only a small part remains together with an adjacent stable-block erected in 1884.

Following an application to convert the stable-block into two dwellings, a series of evaluation trenches was cut by machine in April 1987, concentrating on the area bounded by the castle ramparts but also extending to the north in order to seek the site's limits in that direction. The north-east corner of the castle-rampart was identified, while occupation relating to the priory appears to have been centred on the northern part of the site where demolition rubble was found. In addition, an unsuspected Roman site was identified to the west of the stables where large quantities of roofing tiles, building stone, and plaster suggest the proximity of a major building.

Gretton, Kirby Hall (SP 925927) - B Dix

Excavation in progress since September 1987 is examining the evolution of the series of seventeenth-century formal gardens at Kirby prior to eventual restoration by English Heritage. To date investigation has



Kirby Hall: ornamental garden vessel, probably used against a facade. Sixteenth to seventeenth centuries. Scale approximately 1:4. Drawn by Elizabeth Ward.

concentrated upon revealing details of the Great Garden which appears to have been created by Sir Christopher Hatton III in c 1640, when an approximately rectangular parterre of c 115m (north-south) x 85m was constructed on previously sloping ground to the west of the house. The associated terrace-works and attendant drainage system testify to the complexity and immense scale of the undertaking which resulted in a major transformation of scene. Later modifications to the garden included the demolition of parts of its surrounding walls, the replacement of the West Terrace revetment by a grassed bank, and the relocation of architectural features. The changes had been accomplished by the end of the seventeenth century and were most likely ordered by Sir Christopher Hatton IV in the 1680s and '90s. Within the garden itself, excavation is beginning to reveal the outlines of borders and other features, suggesting that previous restoration in the 1930s is of doubtful accuracy.

Hardingstone, Northampton High School Site - M Shaw and A Williams

A watching brief during the levelling of the west end of the site in June 1987 revealed a series of intercutting, ?drainage/boundary ditches c 0.50m wide at SP 76055760, from which Iron Age pottery was recovered. Trial-trenching at the east end of the site in November 1987 at SP 76315747 revealed a single length of ditch c 0.50m wide but no pottery was recovered.

Hardingstone, The Warren (SP 76505743) - M Shaw and A Williams

A trial-trench excavated in October 1987 uncovered a 2m wide ditch which was the continuation of an enclosure ditch discovered at the Hardingstone Primary School site in 1967-8 (cf P J Woods, Excavations at Hardingstone, Northants, 1967-8 (1969), fig 2). A large number of other features, many of them filled with a reddish brown sandy clay, were also uncovered but no finds were recovered from them and many may be periglacial rather than archaeological features. The lack of finds suggests that the area was on the periphery of the settlement excavated previously.

Northampton - M Shaw

Three small excavations were undertaken in Northampton in 1987 at Woolmonger Street (SP 75286034), St James' Place (SP 75226027), and St Peter's Way (SP 74926030). Middle and late Saxon pottery and features were recorded at the two former sites, while at St Peter's Way the town's medieval defences were located, providing the first evidence for a wall on the south-west side of the town. The heavily robbed remains of a stone wall, 1.20m thick, were uncovered on the inner lip of a shallow, flat-bottomed ditch which was up to 13.40m wide. The wall may have gone out of use as early as the late thirteenth century when the area inside the ditch was given over to tanning. The ditch itself was apparently completely filled-in by the sixteenth century at latest. Certainly the town-defences in this area had completely disappeared by the time of the earliest map of Northampton by Speed in 1610.

Much energy has been expended in the town this year in attempting to ensure preservation of archaeological deposits. To this end development plans have been altered on sites at Gold Street and Marefair. Otherwise, work has been concentrated on evaluation

trenches on threatened sites, watching briefs, and producing archive-reports on past excavations. It is hoped that digest-reports on these excavations and any new work in the town over the next few years will form the basis of a new academic publication on Saxon and Medieval Northampton.

Sulgrave (SP 55604528) - C Addison-Jones

In response to an application for Scheduled Monument Consent to undertake building works on the site of Sulgrave castle, a small evaluation was carried out in late March 1987. An east-west trench, 20m long by 2m wide, revealed a succession of modern layers above natural marl. Although pieces of late Saxon and Medieval pottery were recovered, there was no evidence for the survival of associated stratigraphy.

Wellingborough, Stanwell Spinney (SP 870694) - D Jackson

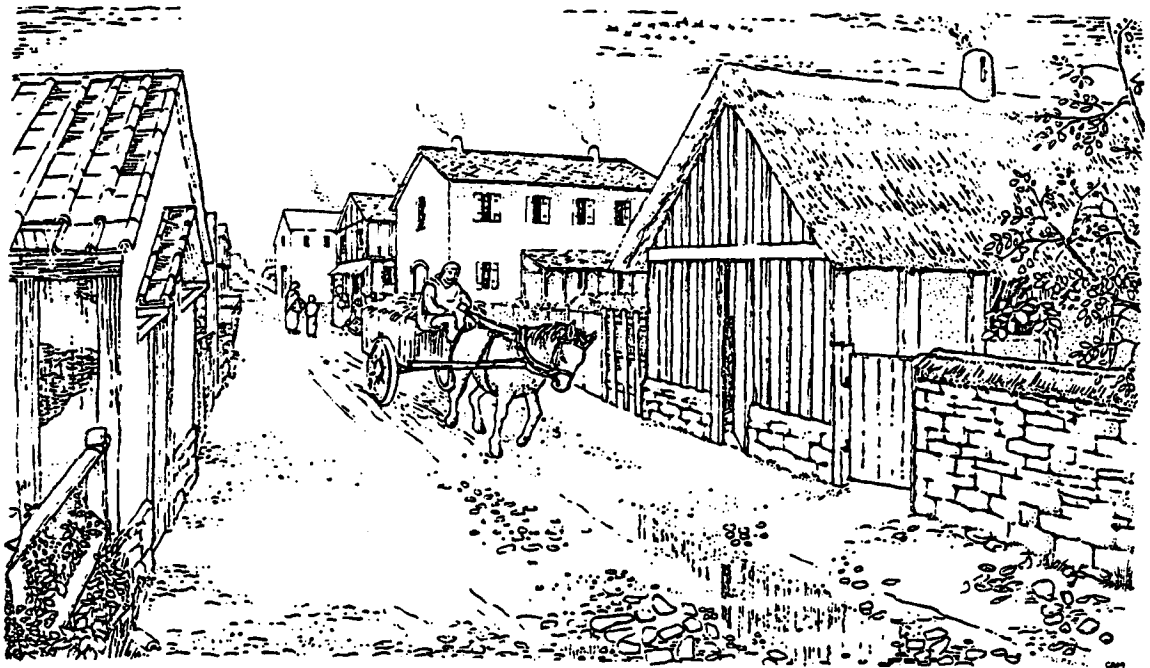
The construction of the Wellingborough north-west by-pass road in 1987 bisected an area of cropmarks denoting a series of enclosures at Stanwell Spinney. Limited excavation sponsored by the county Highways Department was carried out both before and during the road programme. The entrance to a roughly oval-shaped enclosure lay within the road-corridor. Excavation showed that the enclosure was well defended by a deep ditch and a complex gateway. A second enclosure, measuring only 10m x 7m internally, also lay on the line of the roadworks. It was D-shaped in plan and its 1m-deep ditch had been re-cut on several occasions. A possible third enclosure adjacent to Stanwell Spring could not be excavated.

Other features revealed in the road alignment included 37 pits, one of which contained a human burial lying face-down near the top of its infilling, and a possible lime-kiln of uncertain date.

The settlement appears to date to the middle Iron Age period. Its proximity to the well known Stanwell Spring may hint at the presence of a shrine in the locality.

POST-EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION

In addition to the individual post-excavation programmes relating to sites in Northampton and from the Raunds project-area, reports continue to be prepared on a number of other previous and recent excavations in the county. Among them, a draft report has been completed on the prehistoric evidence of two beaker graves, associated settlement, and a group of early Iron Age pottery from Ashton, where large scale rescue-excavation between 1982-5 dealt mainly with the remains of a Roman small town (cf Britannia, XIV (1983), pp 305-6 and references there cited). The publication of that information will incorporate the results from almost ten years' previous digging at the site and is currently approaching level 3 completion.



Ashton Roman Town: Reconstruction drawing by Cecily Marshall.

Post-excavation work also continues on Roman, Saxon, and Medieval sites examined respectively in Towcester, Oundle, and Brackley, while other reports have either been completed or are nearing finalisation on prehistoric and later features found during salvage-excavation in Grendon Quarry, pottery from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wakerley, excavations at Northampton Castle, and a medieval pottery kiln at Yardley Hastings. In addition, support and advice in the identification of finds continues to be given to fieldworkers in the area and occasional contract-work has been undertaken on groups of material from outside the county.

Reports currently awaiting publication in either local or national journals include those dealing with Iron Age enclosures at Weekley and Wootton Hill Farm, Northampton; a series relating to Roman sites at Bannaventa (Whilton Lodge), Kettering, Laxton, and Weldon; and the report of a group of early post-medieval tanning pits at The Green, Northampton.

As well as publications and other notices concerned with aspects of the Raunds Area Project, the following reports and articles have appeared during the year:

B Dix, 'Human burials at Church Barn, Fotheringhay', in Northamptonshire Archaeology, 20(1985), pp 139-41.

Abstract: Brief report on the salvage-recording of 26 human burials discovered in 1983 during building work to the west of Fotheringhay church. The burials were probably medieval and related to the former extent of the parish churchyard.

A M Gibson and A McCormick, 'Archaeology at Grendon Quarry, Northamptonshire Part I: Neolithic and Bronze Age sites excavated in 1974-5', in Northamptonshire Archaeology, 20 (1985), pp 23-66 with 49 pages of microfiche.

Abstract: Report of the excavation of a series of funerary monuments occupying a clearing in oak woodland formed by a gravel tongue beside the River Nene. The earliest monument, a rectangular or square barrow erected in the later part of the early Neolithic period, was associated with a Grimston Ware assemblage of about 37 vessels of excellent quality. The main phase of burial activity, however, seems to be centred around the beginning of the later half of the early Bronze Age and comprises six ring ditches or barrows and an unusual, ?contemporary pit complex.

D Jackson, 'Roman iron working at Laxton', in Northamptonshire History News, 69 (March 1987), pp 25-7.

Abstract: Interim account of a major Roman ironworks of the first to second centuries AD discovered during road-improvement on the A43 at Laxton Lodge, north of Bulwick. In addition to small furnaces typical of the period, a new type of iron bloomery furnace was represented by larger structures, c 1.35m in diameter with clay walls up to 0.30m thick. The magnitude of the industry was attested by a thick spread of slag and debris over an adjacent area of some 4,000 sq m. Other features exposed by the roadworks included an inhumation cemetery, possibly of 100+ graves, and the stone foundations of buildings, but neither could be fully investigated.

D Jackson and D Knight, 'An early Iron Age and Beaker site near Gretton, Northamptonshire', in Northamptonshire Archaeology, 20 (1985), pp 67-86 with 26 pages of microfiche.

Abstract: Rescue-excavation at Park Lodge Quarry, Gretton in 1978-9 revealed three Beaker pits and an early Iron Age ditched trackway or other linear boundary. An adjacent Iron Age settlement included an oval posthole ring and a rectangular four-post setting among other features. The trackway ditches produced a large and exceptionally rich assemblage of pottery associated with radiocarbon dates of the fifth to third centuries bc.

M Shaw, 'Early Post-Medieval Tanning in Northampton, England', in Archaeology, 40, no 2 (March/April 1987), pp 43-7. (Available from the Unit, price £0.65 including postage and packing)

Abstract: A review of the archaeological evidence for the organisation and techniques of the sixteenth- to seventeenth-century tanning industry of Northampton, which appears to have been located chiefly at the south-western edge of the town. The tanneries used the vegetable-tanning method to process predominantly cattle hides, but also used sheepskins and horse hides. Chemical analysis of samples from pits in a tanning complex excavated to the east of St Peter's church permits the recognition of the various

stages of leather-making which can be reconstructed in detail from other sources.

M Shaw, 'Excavations on a Saxon and Medieval site at Black Lion Hill, Northampton', in Northamptonshire Archaeology, 20 (1985), pp 113-38 with 94 pages of microfiche.

Abstract: Excavation in 1982 exposed remains of the middle Saxon period onwards. Apart from features probably connected with a nearby eighth- to ninth-century palace-complex and rubbish pits, the earliest structure was a posthole building of the eleventh to twelfth centuries. In the thirteenth century stone-founded buildings were erected. One was apparently rebuilt with a timber frame on a dwarf stone wall in the late fifteenth century; it survived until the first half of the sixteenth century. Animal bones provide evidence of skinning in the fifteenth century and of tanning or tawing in the eighteenth century.

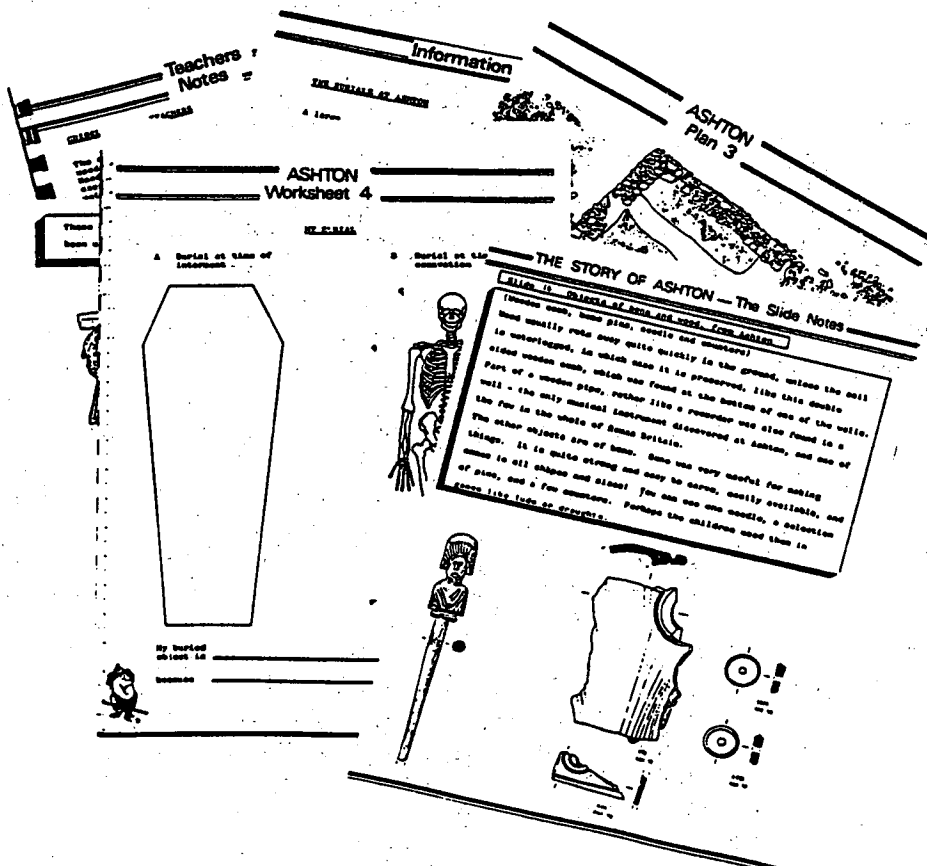
S Taylor and B Dix, 'Iron Age and Roman settlement at Ashley, Northants', in Northamptonshire Archaeology, 20 (1985), pp 87-111.

Abstract: 'Backlog' report of excavations in 1963, 1966, and 1970. A series of stone-based Roman agricultural buildings overlay an Iron Age settlement and culminated in the construction of a long barn which became disused during the late third century AD. An undated bronze-melting hearth had been set in the rubble of the dismantled structure. The main buildings of the site remain unlocated, but broken mosaics and other building materials from a nearby yard suggest they were being substantially modified in late Roman times. Finds include a fragment of fourth-century gold-glass in addition to querns, worked bones, coins, and pottery.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY IN EDUCATION

In the last year efforts to promote an understanding of the county's archaeological heritage have included the normal activities of site open-days and exhibitions, together with a new emphasis on developing contacts with schools. With the support of English Heritage and through the part-time appointment of an Education Officer, individual school-parties have been offered the opportunity to experience site-methods at first hand. Following a teaching session at Chichele College in Higham Ferrers, visits have been made to excavations in the Raunds area where it has been possible for groups to undertake simple excavation and recording tasks. Illustrated talks and finds' workshops are also available for the classroom and background-courses for teachers are being arranged.

In the attempt to make archaeology more accessible for schools a series of resource packs is also being published. The first of these, based on recent excavations at the Roman town and cemetery at Ashton, offers a variety of source material for use in individual, group, or class-work. The pack is self-contained and can be used either as a complete project in itself or as a basis of work on topics such as 'Archaeology', 'The Romans', 'Investigating the Past', etc. Its content includes a set of 24 colour slides with accompanying notes,



several wall-charts, pupils' information sheets, drawings and photographs, and a set of 12 worksheet mastercopies together with teacher's notes. The exercises were designed for 9-13 year olds, and it hoped that teachers of this age-group will find the problem-solving approach to material evidence useful in many areas of the curriculum. Copies of this resource pack may be obtained from Dr Michael Molyneaux, 'Ashton Pack', Nene College, Boughton Green Road, Northampton NN2 7AL at the following prices (cheques payable to 'Nene College'): complete packs (with slides and charts) £16.00, plus £2.00 for postage and packing outside Northamptonshire; supplementary packs (without slides and charts) £10.00, plus £1.50 for postage and packing outside Northamptonshire.



David H. Kennett

Ritual and Rite: The Older Discoveries of Early Anglo-Saxon
Cemeteries in Northamptonshire

Of the four counties of C.B.A.9 region, Northamptonshire is the one with the least-known collection of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and their artefacts. There are a number of reasons for this. Few of the cemeteries with fifth- and sixth-century graves were recorded in depth when they were discovered. Few have grave groups which are reliable associations. And while selection of artefacts have been published, few of the cemeteries have been published even on the level of a catalogue of material from the individual site concerned.

The modern county (excluding the Soke of Peterborough) has produced four cemeteries which are essentially cremation cemeteries and eleven sites which are basically inhumation cemeteries. These figures are for those sites which have some reasonably reliable record of the number of graves found. They include modern discoveries: Nassington in 1942,² Wakerley in 1968-70³ and, from the Soke Longthorpe in 1970.⁴ They exclude the two cemeteries recorded as found at Brixworth in 1900-1904 because no one kept any record of which material was found in which cemetery, let alone a record of the number of graves from each site. For the second reason the finds from Islip are omitted from the appendix.

Cemeteries with material of the fifth and sixth centuries can be divided into two groups. There are the cremation cemeteries: Burton Latimer, Longthorpe, Kettering Stamford Road, Newton-in-the-Willows and Pitsford. Excepting the last each of these has a few inhumation graves known or suspected from a collection of objects.

Of these five, none is known to have been completely excavated. Pitsford, from within a barrow, and thought to have been primary to the structure, might have been no more than the fourteen recorded urns, from which three survive in Northampton Museum. Arguments have been advanced before that the Burton Latimer finds might be only a fraction of the original discoveries.⁵ No detail has been preserved of the circumstances of the finding of the Newton-in-the-Willows objects and this site also might have been much larger than seven cremations and one, more probably two inhumations. The Kettering Stamford Road site is the largest cremation cemetery in the south midlands but by standards of elsewhere is small: it probably was larger.

The sites where the rite was predominantly inhumation almost all have a few, four or fewer, cremations. The rite was a minor one at sites like Marston St. Lawrence and Nassington of the well-recorded cemeteries and Rothwell and Duston of the less reliably recorded sites.

Irrespective of being predominantly cremation or inhumation cemeteries, nearly all of these sites have been indexed both by the Ordnance Survey and by Mrs. Meaney as mixed cemeteries. This classification is unhelpful.

It seems more valid to categorise these cemeteries by their predominant rite. On present evidence, none is genuinely a mixed cemetery where the lesser rite is more than ten percent of the burials.

On that definition there are mixed cemeteries from the region: Abingdon⁶ and Long Wittenham,⁷ Oxfordshire, and Kempston, Bedfordshire,⁸ are obvious ones to quote.

By dividing the cemeteries into their predominant rite, it is possible to see whether there are any specific areas where one rite was favoured. The predominantly cremation cemeteries are concentrated in the Ise valley: Kettering Stamford Road, Newton-in-the-Willows and Burton Latimer. But the same area has predominantly inhumation cemeteries at Rothwell, Desborough, and Thorpe Malsor. There are analogies suggesting a single potter's work between an accessory vessel from Thorpe Malsor and urns from Kettering Stamford Road and Newton-in-the-Willows.

These thoughts suggest a wider scenario. People from one community as represented by the cemeteries of each of these places intermarried with those from neighbouring communities. If this occurred, it may be the background to the tolerance of the less common rite.

A similar tolerance seems to exist around Peterborough. The Longthorpe cemetery was predominantly cremation; one of the two Woodstone cemeteries was exclusively inhumation, the other had a few cremations, but was predominantly an inhumation cemetery.

Only in south-west Northamptonshire does there seem to be a lack of predominantly cremation cemeteries. There were three definite cremation urns found at Marston St. Laurence and one at Thenford. In this part of the county there does appear to be a considerable emphasis on the rite of inhumation but this might be the present bias of the known discoveries. Over the Oxfordshire border, the burials from Souldern include three cremations.¹⁰

By isolating the major finds of cemeteries of the fifth and sixth centuries from Northamptonshire, it is possible to offer some parameters for their re-publication. Obviously this needs to take account of work done in the last twenty years. Of the sites listed in appendix I, excluding those discovered since 1940, three were published at the time of discovery: Marston St. Lawrence,¹¹ Holdenby¹² and, without grave ascriptions, Islip.¹³ What is recorded and the surviving artefacts have been collated for Pitsford¹⁴ and Northampton St. Andrews.¹⁵ An article was prepared and submitted to Journal of Northampton Museums and Art Gallery in February 1976 about 'Bronze Age Urns and Saxon Finds from Rothwell'.¹⁶ Given this, there is a case for publishing Kettering Stamford Road, Thorpe Malsor, Burton Latimer and Newton-in-the-Willows together.¹⁷ This is reinforced by the correspondences between the pots found at these sites.

The problem, as always, is time, especially for the "part-time archaeologist": the phrase was coined by J.N.L. Myres.¹⁸ Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, even ones found a long time ago, are expensive in the time they take to process for publication. These four sites have between them produced 140 pots and 50 other artefacts. The ceramics alone are twenty or more full-page figures, each of which takes two days to complete. Given periods when drawing is not done so that the draughtsman's eyes can recover and the quality of the drawings maintained, this is a project demanding twelve or fifteen weeks without other commitments.¹⁹

The stark reality is that no-one who is employed to do something other than archaeology - not even school teachers - enjoy that kind of leave provision in one year. It is, of course, one answer to falling school rolls to allow individuals a sabbatical term to pursue their own interests.²⁰

APPENDIX 1

Northamptonshire Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries

<u>Site</u>	<u>Date of Discovery</u>	<u>Inhumations</u>	<u>Cremations</u>	<u>Total</u>
Burton Latimer	1880-85	2+	15+	117+
Longthorpe	1970	2	22	24
Kettering, Stamford Road	1903 and 1929	10+	116+	126+
Newton-in-the-Willows	1928	1(?)2	7	8+
Pitsford	1882	?	14	14
Desborough	pre-1757	Unknown	2	?
Duston	Before 1903 and 1904	31+	2	33+
Holdenby	1864 and 1899 and 1909	29+	3?	32+
Marston St. Lawrence	1842 and 1843	33	3	36+
Nassington	1942	65	3	68
Newnham	1829	20+	?	20+
Northampton, St. Andrews	1836-37	10+	4	14+
Rothwell	1912-13	40+	2	42+
Thenford	before 1830	7+	1	8+
Thorpe Malsor	1916	5	?	5
Wakerley	1960-70	85	-	85

NOTES

- 1 For cemeteries see bibliographical entries in A.L. Meaney, A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites, 1964, 186-197. Only items published subsequently are noted.
- 2 E.T. Leeds and R.J.C. Atkinson, 'An Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Nassington, Northants.', Ant.J., 24, 1944, 100-128.
- 3 Summaries: Med.Arch., 13, 1969, 236; Med.Arch., 14, 1970, 162; Med.Arch., 15, 1971, 132. This is a different site to the seventh-century one published Britannia 9, 1978, 228-234.
- 4 J.N.L. Myres, 'The Anglo-Saxon Pottery [from Longthorpe]', Britannia, 5, 1974, 112-121.

- 5 D.H. Kennett, 'Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries and Nineteenth-Century Collecting: Discovery, Chance and Survival', C.B.A.9 Newsletter, 10, 1980, 42-48, esp. 45; the same paper has extended comments on the Kettering cemetery.
- 6 E.T. Leeds and D.B.Harden, The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon, Berkshire; 1936; local government re-organisation in 1974 transferred both Abingdon and Long Wittenham to Oxfordshire.
- 7 J.Y. Akerman in Archaeologia, 33, 1860, 327-352 and 39, 1861, 135-142.
- 8 D.H. Kennett, 'Recent Work on the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery found at Kempston', South Midlands Archaeology, 16, 1986, 3-14, with literature there cited.
- 9 R.A. Smith, 'Anglo-Saxon Remains', Victoria County History of Huntingdonshire, I, 1926, 272-276; also Meanev, 1964, 107 and 194-5, but note the finds are from the south side of the river, i.e. all are in the former county of Huntingdonshire.
- 10 D.H. Kennett, 'The Shouldern Burials', Oxoniensia, 40, 1975, 201-210.
- 11 Sir Henry Dryden, in Archaeologia, 48, 1882, 327-339.
- 12 E.T. Leeds, Northants.Nat.Hist.Soc., 15, 1909, 91-99
- 13 Proc. Soc. Ant., 30, 1918, 113-120. The objects were transferred, before 1976, from Drayton House, Lowick, to Kettering Museum.
- 14 D.H. Kennett, 'Anglo-Saxon Northamptonshire: some minor sites', J.Northampton Mus., 6, Dec.1969, 42-49, esp. 47-48 with fig.1, pots 4-6, and fig.3.b-e.
- 15 D.H. Kennett, 'Anglo-Saxon Finds from St. Andrews Hospital, Northampton', J.Northampton Mus., 10, June 1974, 13-17.
- 16 Since the 'Rothwell' paper was submitted only one further issue of J.Northampton Mus., 13, 1979 has appeared.
- 17 J.N.L. Myres, A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period, 1978, does not include all the pottery from these sites.
- 18 V.I. Evison, 'Preface', in V.J. Evison, (ed.), Angles, Saxons and Jutes: Essays presented to J.N.L. Myres, 1981, vi.
- 19 These comments are based on the experience of preparing the figures for D.H. Kennett, Anglo-Saxon Pottery, 1978; the 31 figures, including the map, were done in thirteen weeks between August and November 1977, at a time when the author did not have employment commitments.
- 20 Paper written 26 August 1986.

Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit

Excavations in Oxfordshire 1987

R. A. Chambers and J. Moore

Abingdon: Vineyard Redevelopment, Archaeological Assessment

(Site centred SU 4985 9730)

A programme of trial excavations, consisting of both machine and hand-dug trenches, have been completed in the Vineyard, Abingdon. 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 onto Stert Street. This area should be subject 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 these 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. Another trench was excavated on the site of the former GWR railway station. Here a lack of medieval remains was consistent with this site lying within the 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 stream course of the 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 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, unwalled 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.

R. A. Chambers and J. Blair

Bampton: The Beam

(Centred SP 3209 0345)

Several west-east inhumation burials discovered at 'The Beam' in 1985 have now been radio-carbon dated at Harwell to 930 ± 80 yrs and 1080 ± 70 yrs. 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.

Building work on the north-west side of the cottage has revealed more human burials and has provided further evidence for the extent of the late Anglo-Saxon cemetery around the chapel. A further few fragments of Romano-British pottery and a polished double-ended bone pin were recovered from disturbed levels.

R. A. Chambers

Bampton: Calais Farm Redevelopment

(Centred SP 3192 0327)

The demolition of the farm buildings belonging to Calais Farm situated on the north side of the Bampton-Aston road 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 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. The development of a medieval market town in the 13th century does not imply a continuity of function during the 800 years which intervened between the end of the Roman period and the growth of the medieval town. However the Anglo-Saxon pottery and a previously discovered burial dated from a cloak pin to the later 7th or early 8th century, indicates that settlement continued after the Roman period at least at a rural, self sufficient level.

Several sherds of later medieval pottery were also recovered from a trench at the northern extremity of the site beside the path leading into Bampton from 'The Beam'. At present little more can be said of this.

Martin Henig and David Miles

Bampton: The Weald

(Centred SP 314 026)

During ploughing, Mr. G. Read of Knapps Farm, Bampton discovered a Roman

altar of oolithic limestone 0.96m high.

The front has been scored by the plough but sufficient survives to show a female figure 0.45m high, seated on a bench within a round-headed niche. She holds a cornucopia in her left hand. The attribute which probably lay in her right hand is lost but this could have been a patera or offering dish.

The figure is probably Fortuna. A similar representation of Fortuna in the niche of an altar was found at the Shakenoak villa (Volume III, 36-37, fig. 12; 48) and is now in the Ashmolean.

Representations of deities within niches or aediculi are frequently encountered on Cotswold altar fronts, though no others are to Fortuna.

The altar was found on a prominent bench of gravel 250m south of Highmoor Brook. An extensive scatter of Romano-British pottery and building debris began 40m to the south and may indicate the site of a farmstead.

R. A. Chambers

Banbury: Sainsbury Redevelopment, Calthorpe Street

(Centred SP 4549 4040)

This extensive site lies between Marlborough Street and Calthorpe Street and until recently was occupied by a garage, a derelict printing works and housing. The northern end of the site impinges upon the historic core of the town and the southern end lies against and possibly included part of the medieval curtilage of Calthorpe House and manor. It is possible that Calthorpe Street (formerly Calthorpe Lane) formed part of an earlier settlement prior to the laying out of the medieval town in the 12th century. Any surviving archaeology is therefore of prime importance to the understanding of the historical development of the town.

In July 1984 an evaluation of the site was carried out by the Unit for J. Sainsbury Plc. The results of four machine and hand-dug trenches revealed that previous development had destroyed much of the archaeology. However the northern-most trench located to the rear of the properties fronting onto the High Street confirmed that the town had extended along the southern side of the High Street by the 13th century. The southern end of this trench revealed modern garden soils with residual medieval pottery, some of which was of a fabric (Banbury F1) manufactured during 11th-13th centuries. Towards the northern end of the trench lay a medieval pit with a filling of clay, ironstone rubble and domestic refuse. The pottery comprised Potters Pury and Brill wares of the 13th-14th century. There were no building remains. This trench appears to have lain at the rear end of a medieval burgrave plot established by the 13th century, and the area subsequently occupied until the later 20th century as would be expected of a prime trading position in this part of the town.

The development of this site will involve considerable earth moving and this will be watched for further archaeological material.

R. A. Chambers

Benson: Airfield

(Centred SU 634 913)

By arrangement with the Ministry of Defence the foundation pit for a new

Medieval
C13th

prehistoric
74-5

communications building was inspected for archaeological features in March and again in May. Several small silt-filled irregular depressions may have been the product of sapping along a former spring line. One depression contained charcoal flecks and eroded bone fragments whilst another yielded a waste flint flake. Any potential prehistoric activity in this area is of interest because of the possible relationship with the prehistoric monument complex that lies beneath the aerodrome.

R. A. Chambers

Charney Bassett: St. Peter's Church *medieval*

(Centred SP 381 944)

During the renewal of the floor on the north side of the nave, a rapid excavation revealed that the foundation of the former north wall of the nave had been robbed out, probably to recover building materials during the construction of the north aisle. The outline of the robbed foundation trench was clearly visible cutting through the earlier medieval earth floor.

R. A. Chambers and C. Parry

Chastleton: Lower Brookend Farm fishpond

(Centred SP 2305 3082)

A linear fishpond terraced into the side of a shallow valley has been discovered during woodland clearance adjacent to the site of Lower Brookend Farm, Chastleton. The pond which is nearly 200m long survives as a prominent earthwork.

A stream still flows through the pond in a deeply-cut channel before emptying into a second pond in the valley floor. Little is currently known about Lower Brookend Farm except that it was demolished 20 to 30 years ago. The building plan recorded on the 1885 edition OS 25" map suggests a farm house haphazardly extended with outhouses and barns over a period of several centuries. The pond may have been associated with an early phase of this farm but by 1842 the pond had been drained and the land converted to coppice.

The site is now part of Wells Folly Farm. The earthworks have been recorded by Mr. C. Parry.

R. A. Chambers

Dorchester: Martin's Lane Archaeological Assessment *Roman 75-6*

(Centred SU 5780 9438)

An archaeological assessment of a 0.3m 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 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 behind 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 quarry with 13th - 14th century AD pottery in its backfill lay at the edge of the southern trial trench.

Further visits were made to this site during April to inspect foundation trenches but little information was revealed except for an adult inhumation discovered by workmen. This north-south burial lay immediately above the gravel close to a similarly orientated child burial recorded during trial trenching in December last year. Both burials are likely to be later 4th or 5th century.

R. A. Chambers

Faringdon: Former Garage site in Church Street

(Centred SU 2895 9578)

This site bounded by Swan Lane to the south-east and Church Street to the north-west occupies high ground opposite the churchyard.

Site clearance and removal of up to 1.3m of black garden-type soil revealed an undated, circular drystone-lined well and two extensive limestone pavements which also remained undated. At the base of the deep post-medieval soils some patches of undisturbed medieval soil with pottery and animal bone survived. Of the medieval pottery recovered from the site, most belonged to the 12th-14th centuries with wares from Brill, Minety and a less well defined Wiltshire based ware (identified by M. Mellor). Two sherds may be Iron Age and one grass-tempered sherd was probably Anglo-Saxon.

R. A. Chambers

Fencott with Murcott: Roman Road

(Centred SP 571 161)

Since their 1st edition 25" map was published in the late 19th century,

the Ordnance Survey has shown the Dorchester-on-Thames to Alchester Roman road deviating to the west of Fencott from an otherwise straight line, to pass through a point where Roman pottery had previously been found. However the position of a late 1st century timber bridge (Oxoniensia LI (1986) pp. 31-6) recently discovered crossing the river Ray suggests that the road does not deviate to the west but continues in a straight line. During the installation of a sewerage scheme this autumn, the topsoil was stripped in advance of pipelaying on the southern side of the Fencott to Charlton-on-Otmoor road across both proposed Roman road positions. There was no trace either of metalling or of side ditches in either position although the side ditches may not have been visible in this particular clay subsoil. It was not possible to observe the pipe trench. No Roman period pottery was found.

Gerry Wait and David Miles

Frilford: Noah's Ark Inn

(Centred SU 439 973)

The Unit conducted a small assessment on the site of the well-known Romano-Celtic temple complex in advance of a proposed extension of the Noah's Ark Inn. Both the square and circular temples, whose exact positions were ambiguous (within an error of 10-15m) were located, and a series of trenches assessed the area of proposed development and an access route.

To the north of the temples archaeological layers have been disturbed by quarrying in relatively recent times, though a few features such as pits and ditches survive cut into the natural limestone and sand. Another trench failed to locate a large enclosure ditch visible on air photographs, indicating that the ditch must terminate before entering the area proposed for development.

T. G. Allen

Goring: Gatehampton Farm

(Centred SU 604 796)

In advance of pipe-laying by the Thames Water Authority on the north bank of the river Thames a strip 7m wide and 150m long has been cleared and excavated along the west side of the Goring-Reading railway. The excavated strip ran north at right-angles to the river, rising from the very edge of the gravel terrace and floodplain onto a plateau of sand. This is crossed by a wide silt-filled late glacial channel and gives way towards the north end to a silty clay subsoil.

A Bronze Age barrow cemetery was known from cropmark evidence in this field, and George Lambrick conducted an excavation in 1985 which demonstrated that one of the barrows had a surviving mound, and which recovered Bronze Age pottery from beneath alluvium at the river's edge (South Midlands Archaeology, 16, (1986), 100). The 1987 excavation was expected to clip the ditch of another of the barrows, and it was hoped that peripheral features would be found. In the event features of every period from Neolithic to Roman were discovered, providing a coherent picture of the history of land use.

On the terrace edge was a Neolithic settlement consisting of hearths, pits and tree-holes filled with pot-boilers, struck flints, animal bone

and a little pottery. Part of a flint axe was found in one of the tree-holes pits. The flints are almost all debitage, that is cores and flakes, and this was clearly a flint-knapping site. The assemblage is dominated by long blades, suggesting an early or middle Neolithic date. One circular pit over 4m in diameter may have been a flint quarry; seams of gravel flint like that from which some of the worked examples were made ran round its sides.

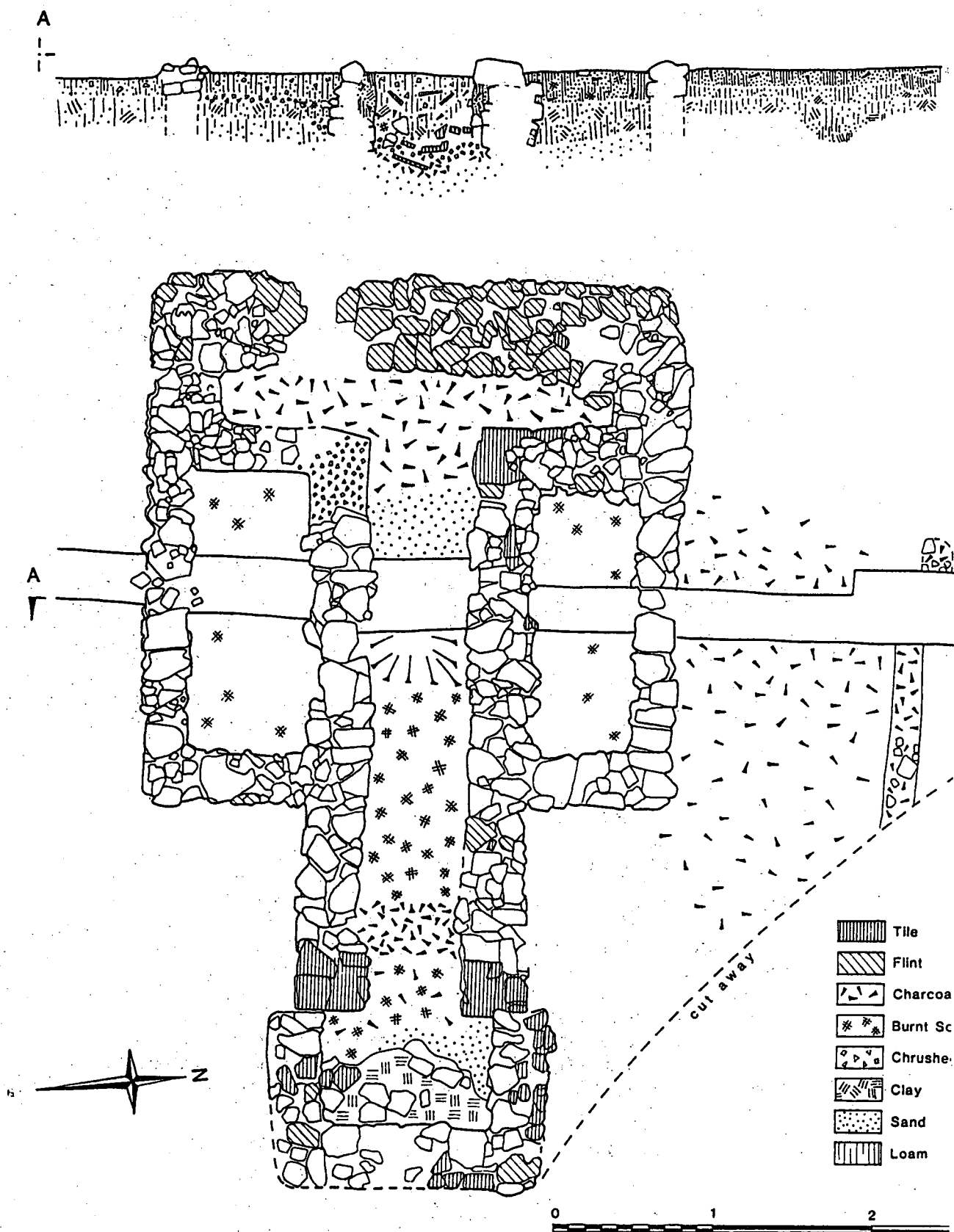
Some 30m further north a layer of buried topsoil 0.3m deep was found preserved in the top of a late-glacial stream channel. Flint debitage was abundant throughout, and towards the bottom was an area of burning containing a few sherds of pottery, probably of Neolithic date. Lumps of charcoal should enable the deposit to be radio-carbon dated; the character of the flintwork suggests that it may have been broadly contemporary with the settlement on the terrace edge.

The east side of one of the barrows lay within the trench, and part of the ditch was excavated, recovering pottery, bones and flints. The ditch was characteristically U-profiled, and survived nearly 1m deep; dug into sand and loose gravel, this appears to have filled in rapidly. The mound of this barrow had been completely ploughed out.

At the north end of the trench, cut into the silty clay, was a vertical-sided and flat-bottomed ditch 2.1m deep and 1.65m wide. This ran south-east, across the trench, and may have ended at an internal terminal seen in the east edge of the trench. Sherds of flint-tempered and shelly pottery came from the bottom, and the crouched burial of a juvenile halfway up the fill. The ditch is likely to be of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date, and may possibly be part of a defensive enclosure cutting off an area at the bend in the river, in effect a valley fort. There is no evidence for a bank alongside it; this was probably completely ploughed out. There were sherds of middle-late Iron Age pottery in the upper fills and Roman pottery in the very top. The largely infilled ditch seems to have acted as the boundary to a ploughed field to the north in the Roman period.

Further south a large corndrier built of tile, chalk and flint was constructed on the edge of the Neolithic mound, and Roman pits were dug inside the Bronze Age barrow. The 'corndrier' consisted of a deep central flue and narrow cross-channel in the usual T-shape, with an additional shallow chamber below the cross-bar of the T either side of the main flue, as at Atworth (see Fig. p. 79). This structure had survived up to the level at which the tiles of the flue arches began to step inwards. There were no surviving gaps to allow air from the main flue into the side chambers; if they were heated it must have been through gaps just below the floor. Along one side of the 'corndrier' was a dump of charcoally soil bounded by a timber-slot. On the edge of the gravel terrace the Neolithic settlement was cut through by the deep ditches of an early Roman enclosure. All of these Roman features were probably associated with an adjacent river-crossing; cropmarks show a trackway coming down to the river on the north side just opposite, and Roman buildings of an associated settlement were destroyed by the railway in the 19th century.

Most of an Anglo-Saxon grubenhaus also lay within the trench. This was sub-rectangular and c. 4.5m x 3m across, with a flat bottom and a large posthole at the west end. Pottery from it was largely residual Roman sherds, but there were also a few Saxon sherds. Around this was a scatter of possible postholes.



Goring : Gatehampton Farm
Roman 'corn drier'

The excavation has demonstrated that the area is of great archaeological significance, and we are very grateful to Thames Water for funding the work. A further season of excavation prior to pipe-laying is currently in progress.

R. A. Chambers

Great Haseley: Rycote Parva

(Centred SP 6610 0410)

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 tenorial survey of 1279 it 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 to 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 in the autumn. The Unit is grateful to Mr. M. Hedges of Rycotelane Farm for allowing access to the site.

R. A. Chambers and Michael Pinkney

Harwell: Loctons Farm

(Centred SU 491 890)

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. 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.

R. A. Chambers

Hook Norton: St. Peter's Church

(Centred SP 3550 3313)

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.

The need to lower the ground surface at the junction of the chancel and north transept, to reduce the problem of rising damp, resulted in a small archaeological excavation. The excavation demonstrates that the buttress on the east side of the north transept has reused part of the foundation of a small cell or annexe 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 alms'. 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 (north) 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 a 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. Work continues.

George Lambrick

Little Rollright: Rollright Stones, Kings Men Stone Circle

(Centred SP 295 308)

In October the stone which had been broken in 1986, and since repaired, was re-erected.

When the stump was excavated in 1986 it was shown to have been one of the stones re-erected in the restoration of 1882. Two original stone-holes were found beneath the 19th century setting. The stone was repositioned in one of the original holes (with a few 1987 coins to ensure no future confusion occurs!). The rather lower setting of the stone in the original hole actually makes it look rather more in keeping with the original stones of the circle.

R. A. Chambers

Mixbury: Fishpond

(Centred SP 6088 3434)

I doubt if anyone who drives into Mixbury from the north realises that the road passes across the bed of a massive medieval fishpond. A substantial bank crossing the valley floor to the east of the road is the remainder of a dam which retained a pond several acres in extent. The pond was probably contemporary with the castle begun by the d'Ivry family in the 12th century. The dam was later breached and the pond drained in favour of two smaller, more manageable ponds which are still in existence. The significance of the prominent roadside bank was only realised during field work for the OUDES Banbury summer evening class and is now entered on to the County Museum Sites and Monuments Record.

George Lambrick

Mongewell: Grim's Ditch

(Centred SU 612 882)

A single trench was dug across the line of the South Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch close to Carmel College in early May as an evaluation exercise for Oxfordshire County Council in conjunction with the proposed Wallingford by-pass.

A very substantial ditch, probably of similar dimensions to that found during road widening of the Crowmarsh-Goring road in 1974, was located. The remains of the bank are very spread and disturbed by later ploughing. They seal a prehistoric or Roman field boundary with associated ploughsoils. The remains of the bank seems to have been dug into on the south side, possibly to fill in the ditch, in the late 12th or early 13th century. A pit was also dug, and these deposits may represent the extension of a medieval backyard associated with Mongewell deserted medieval village. These deposits were later taken into cultivation again, and probably remained so until the 18th century when a belt of trees incorporating a shady path was created as part of the pleasure grounds of Mongewell House.

The excavation did not produce definitive evidence for the dating of Grim's Ditch, but demonstrated that probably enough dating evidence could be recovered to date the monument and these other phases of activity if a more extensive excavation was required by the building of the by-pass.

R. A. Chambers

Nettlebed: The Case of the Carved Skull

A human skull has been found in the grounds of the H.M. borstal at Huntercombe. The skull bore a carving of a lizard-like animal portrayed across the skull cap from the forehead to the back of the neck. The carved skull almost certainly belonged to a primitive tribal cult and was brought back to this country as a collector's item before being discarded and buried at Huntercombe. It is hoped that the skull will be given to the ethnographic collections at the University Museum.

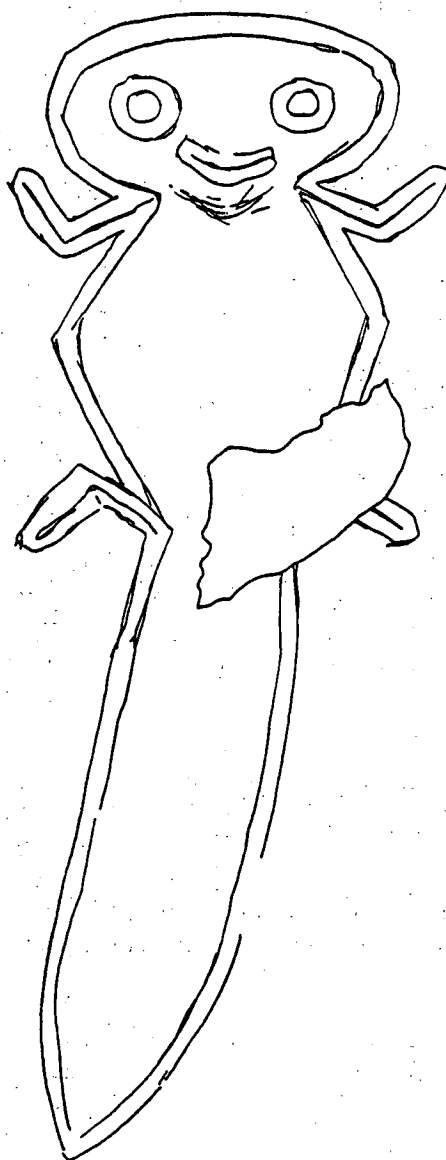


Fig. 2

Brian Durham

Oxford: Broad Street

(Centred SP 514 064)

At Heritage Project's new gallery at Broad Street/Ship Street, more of the City Wall has been exposed in the service basement. We have now seen part of the inside elevation of the postern which we described in our December 1986 Newsletter. It is 4' wide on this side, suggesting that within the thickness of the wall there must be a substantial rebate.

The postern must have provided a way out of the St. Michaels church enclosure into the town ditch. No burials were found at this end of the enclosure, and the Unit is proposing a survey of the standing buildings here to see whether they are perhaps built on a residential part of the churchyard, a rectory, vicarage or even premises for a small community of priests as suggested by the Domesday entry.

B. G. Durham

Oxford: Magdalen College

(Centred SP 522 061)

Excavation and salvage recording by B. G. Durham, G. H. Lambrick and M. Roberts of the Oxford Archaeological Unit have added significantly to the interpretation of the infirmary reported last year. The narrow arcaded building with a culvert proved to be only the east end of a much larger structure with three (or four) separate arcades. This complex building was all of one phase, its foundations having been built on the bed of the medieval River Cherwell, before the inside of the building was reinstated with gravel.

The new footings make most sense as the east end of an 18m wide infirmary of the twin-halled type recently excavated at Ospringe, Kent (G. Smith, Arch. Cantiana KCV (1979), 85). At Oxford however the east gable end of the twin halls was supported on three piers, and beyond it was an eastern annexe, i.e. the building previously described as a narrow north-south infirmary.

This eastern annexe was shown to have two pier bases, which presumably supported its roof structure. It is however not clear whether this represents the two easternmost bays of the main infirmary building which had reverted from a twin-halled to an aisled construction, or whether it was a three bay north-south arcade of an annexe whose specialised function justified roofing in an innovative way. Both options are illustrated in Figure 3.

Both would have been effective ways of stopping short the main central arcade of the twin halls, which would allow a central east window to be fitted.

The annexe is provisionally interpreted as an infirmary chapel in the typical 13th century position, with the north door leading to a vestry. The water supply is incongruous however, unless it is seen as an integral part of the healing process in this hospital dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

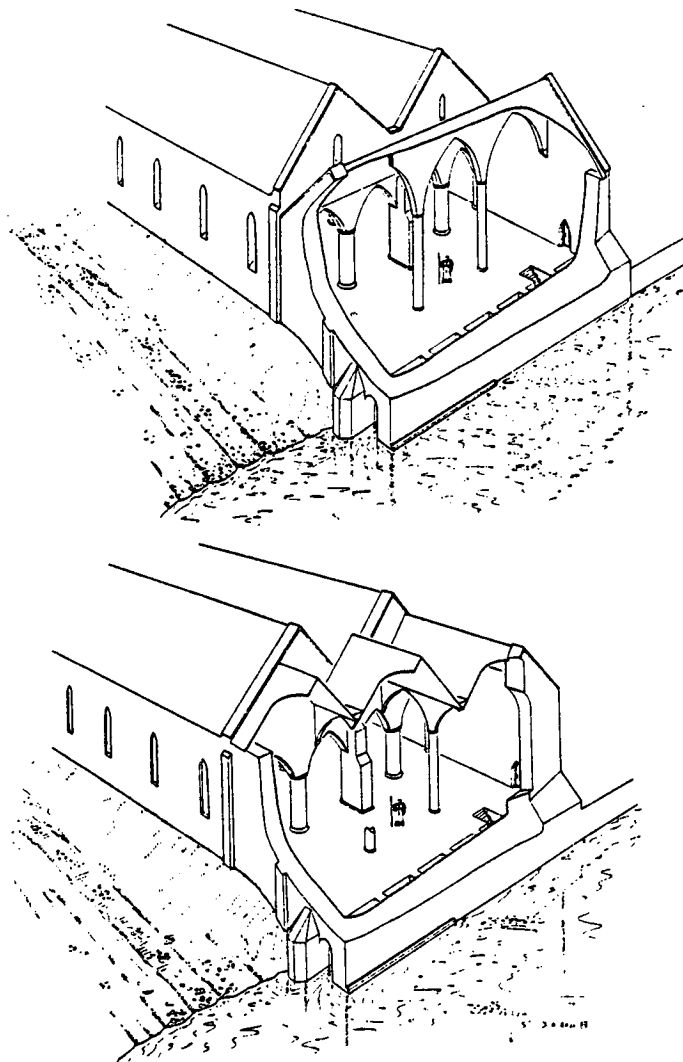


Fig. 3 Oxford, Magdalen College St. John's Hospital. Two alternative reconstructions of the east end of infirmary

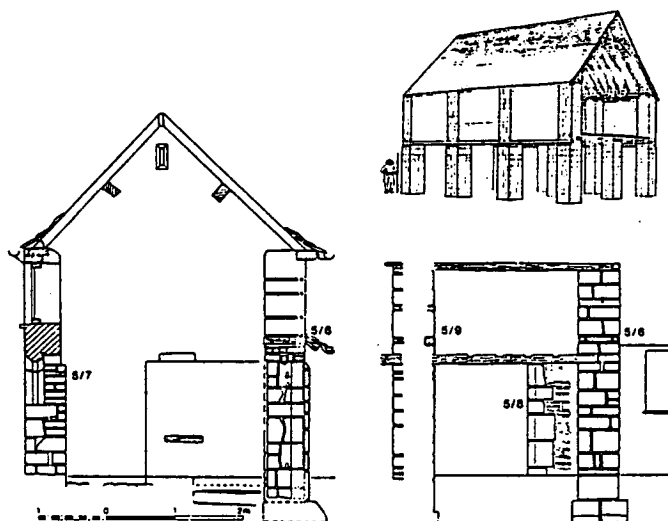


Fig. 4 Shipton-under-Wychwood: Prebendal House. The 'Romanesque' building; left, internal elevation of north wall; right external elevation of north wall; above, a reconstruction of the early 13th century granary

Brian Durham

Oxford: St. Aldates Police Station and land adjoining

(Centred SP 515 057)

The Unit excavated these sites for English Heritage as part of its continuing study of the Thames Crossing. The Oxen Ford lies underneath the front of the Crown Courts opposite, but when the ford was replaced by a Norman stone bridge (Grandpoint), this arm of the river began to choke up, and it is the silting of this Saxon channel which was being studied.

There were signs that parts of the old channel had been split into separate plots, perhaps the backyards of houses on the bridge. The new tenants drove great stakes into the river bed, and dug pits which were ultimately infilled with rubbish, leather shoes, lots of plum stones and pottery of the 12th and 13th centuries.

In the Police Station yard two trial trenches and an area excavation exposed the 12th century north edge of the channel. The alignment had been predicted as approximately east-west, but at this point it was curving back to the north-east.

The cut had been revetted with stakes with about 20 years growth, and other plank-shaped timbers. First impressions suggest that there was originally a single line, with a break at the outfall of a minor ditch. The planks seemed to be forming a sluice across this outfall. Elsewhere the main revetment had been reinforced by driving extra timbers.

The curving shape of the revetment mirrors something seen to the west of the bridgehead in 1982(?), and it is suggested that the bridgehead had been isolated by cutting back the bank both upstream and downstream, to help in defending it.

B. G. Durham

Shipton-under-Wychwood: Prebendal House

(Centred SP 2795 1805)

The complex of 17th century house and 14th century barn form the medieval centre of a prebend of Salisbury cathedral. An archaeological survey was made by Brian Durham of the Oxford Archaeological Unit, with the Wychwoods Local History Society, on behalf of Messrs. Mitrecroft Ltd., during redevelopment of the buildings as a retirement complex (B. Durham Wychwoods History 4, (1988) 50-60 forthcoming).

Graves have been recorded previously over much of the south lawn, and their distribution now suggests that half the present curtilage was taken out of the churchyard when the house was established. The date may coincide with the erection of the prebend in c. 1100-1116. The lack of earthworks on this valuable manor suggests a post-Anarchy date however, and the obvious historical alternative is 1227 when the presentation of the first vicar may have coincided with the building of a new house for the prebendary, leaving the previous defended house 150m to the south for the vicarage.

Excavation showed that the present 'hall' range is an extension of a hall or chamber block 10.6m x 7.9m, including the known window in the

west gable overlooking the church.

A small building in the present north range embodied two originally freestanding piers in its barnyard elevation (Fig. 4). The piers have timber elements at two levels and in two axes, which are suggested as the floor timbers of a first floor granary raised to a height of 2.1m. The only datable features are the shallow pilasters on the outer face of each pier, which are assumed to be Romanesque rather than Gothic in inspiration, and are therefore unlikely to be much later than the putative establishment of the house on this site by 1227.

R. A. Chambers

Stanford-in-the-Vale: Bowling Green Farm

(Centred SU 312 952)

Field survey on the Corallian limestone along the southern edge of the Upper Thames valley has located some 12 ha of an extensive Romano-British settlement. The bulk of the remains lie on an east-west ridge of sand and limestone between two streams which merge close to an extensive surface spread of building debris marking a villa or bathhouse. Miniature bronzes suggest a shrine or temple whilst millstones indicate a watermill along the southern edge of the settlement. Excavation, funded by Hills Aggregates Ltd., of 1.25 ha of the western edge of the settlement in advance of quarrying has revealed well preserved late 3rd and 4th century settlement remains over late Iron Age - early Romano-British farm steadings. About 1500 low denomination coins recovered as a surface scatter over the western part of this settlement belonged to the 3rd and 4th century.

Excavation revealed that part of the settlement within the perimeter of the quarry area had been subjected to little if any cultivation over the last 1600 years, and the area was never included in the medieval open field system. Immediately beneath the topsoil spreads of dark soil concealed undisturbed cobbled surfaces, paths, ovens, kilns and building foundations. Much of the settlement pattern is recoverable in 1988 given further resources. Building evidence ranges from 'shadows' where buildings protected the ground from the effects of weather and rubbish deposition, to rectangular stone founded structures. All of the buildings must have been built chiefly of timber and only occasionally were the timber frames erected on stone sills. Some structures are detectable only from stone-packed postholes whilst other buildings were sufficiently large for their roofs to need additional support from aisle posts and several lines of possible post-pads have been recorded.

The internal settlement pattern had altered by the later 4th century. To the north and west 4th century roadways through the settlement are marked by substantial accumulations of dark soil rich in discarded domestic rubbish and which overlies previous building remains and associated fragmentary cobbled surfaces.

The extensive nature, internal structure, unusually large number of kilns and hearths of all sizes and descriptions and buildings of varied construction, function and status, and a substantial coin loss over a wide area suggests the presence of craftsmen and general trades people normally associated with the functions of a small market town serving the surrounding countryside.

R. A. Chambers

Steeple Barton:

(Centred SP 4492 2492)

A complex of stone foundations centred some 100m. south of the parish church was revealed during the recent reinstatement of a field briefly used as a temporary pond. The foundations were cleared and planned by members of the Bartons history group. A series of buildings were represented with the surrounding soil yielding both medieval and post-medieval pottery. A tithe barn is thought to have occupied part of the site. Other remains may represent part of the deserted medieval settlement.

R. A. Chambers

Thomley: Deserted Medieval Village

(Centred SP 632 088)

At the request of the farmer, Mr. Peter Rousell, a further visit was made to this deserted medieval settlement site. In a 6 ha. field under cultivation since the late 1960's and thought to contain the core of the medieval settlement, fresh ploughing has revealed stone and cob spreads. In places these spreads mark the outlines of buildings and intervening roads exceptionally clearly. On a subsequent visit, Dr. John Blair recognised an area in the centre of the settlement which appeared to be clear of buildings and suggest a village green. A bronze strip from a 16th century purse bearing the inscription LANS TIBI SOLI was found in an adjacent field.

R. A. Chambers

Wytham: Seacourt Deserted Village

(Centred SP 483 075)

A land drainage scheme has been completed on that part of the site which lies to the west of the dual carriageway. The work consisted of mole drains at 3m intervals leading into plastic land drains backfilled with gravel. The work revealed that the part of the scheduled area to the west of the dual carriageway contained substantial remains of the medieval settlement, including spreads of dark soil and building rubble associated with medieval pottery in the vicinity of two hollow ways.



The Bampton Research Project: Second Report, 1986-8

The aim of the Bampton Project is to investigate the local context of an important early medieval minster church, and to define its role in the formation of a small market town and in the development of landscape, society and parochial organisation within its territory. The first report (South Midlands Archaeology 16 (1986), 87-92) described (i) an earlier religious focus at 'the Beam'; (ii) the Anglo-Saxon and Romanesque phases of the parish church; and (iii) the first investigations of a large ditched enclosure which forms the nucleus of the town, surrounding the church and its tenements. During 1986-8 this enclosure was further defined by excavation, and full surveys were made of two important buildings: the rectory house or 'Deanery', which lies immediately outside this enclosure, and the huge 14th-century castle on the W. side of the town.

The church enclosure (Figs. 1-2)

The earliest phase was evidently the large, sub-oval enclosure indicated by the stippled line on Fig. 1. Where sectioned on its W. side (section A) it proved to be 4m. wide and c. 1.5m deep; there was at least one re-cut. The pottery in the fill layers indicates a terminus post quem of between c. 1070 and c. 1140 for the back-filling of this section of the ditch but includes some residual earlier sherds (information from Maureen Mellor). It is assumed that the ditch ran northwards, directly under the present road and determining its course around the NW. and N. sides of the enclosure. On the SW. side, the ditch probably ran across the corner of the present churchyard, its line being perhaps indicated by a curved section in the S. churchyard wall. The rest of the line remains to be established, probably by resistivity survey.

The section excavated through the boundary on its N. side (section B) showed a very different picture: a complex series of linear features including a massive 13th-century timber palisade (described South Midlands Archaeology 16 (1986), 89). The best explanation for the discrepancy between sections A and B is that the enclosure was enlarged on its W. side when the Deanery was built c. 1100 (dotted line on Fig. 1); thus the ditch was back-filled at section A, but re-fortified at section B to form part of the new circuit. A smaller N. - S. ditch along the E. boundary of the Deanery garden (examined at sections C and D) may have been abandoned at the same time.

A large pre-Conquest enclosure around the minster church should be no surprise, but it is mysterious that the precinct remained fortified until such a late date. This arrangement, which could not have been predicted from any documentary source, emphasises how little is still known about the character of minster churches in the 11th and 12th centuries.

The Deanery (Figs 3-4)

The large and complex house immediately W. of the church was occupied during the middle ages by the prebendaries and farmers of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, proprietors of the rectory manor. There is evidence for five medieval phases (Fig. 3); three of them before 1200:

Phase I (late 11th or early 12th cent.): A two-storey range running W. -E., axially aligned with the parish church. In its E. wall at

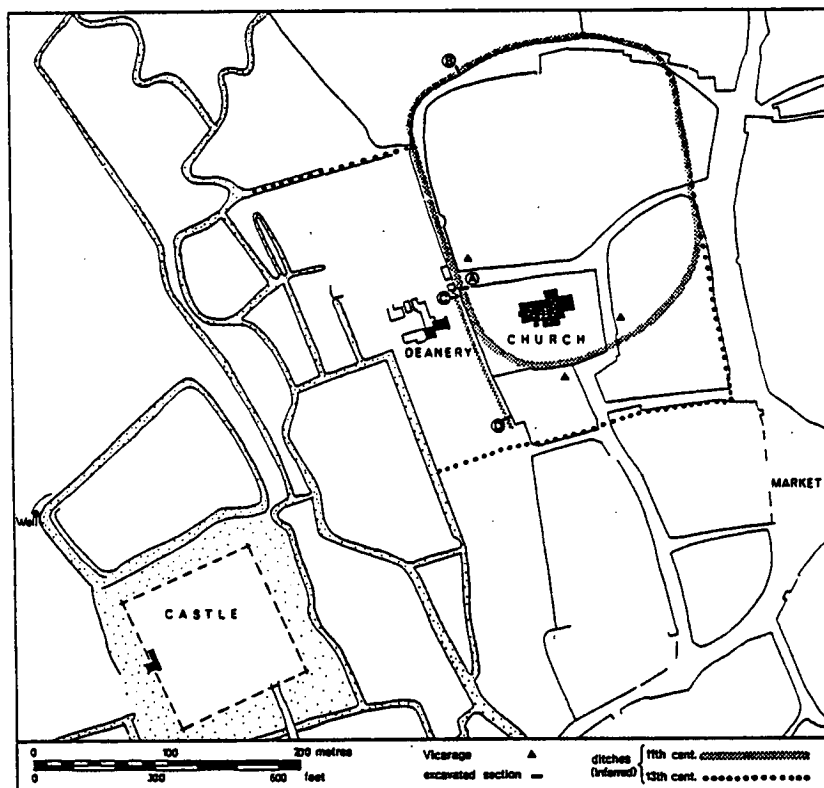


Fig. 1: Bampton Church, Deanery and Castle, showing the inferred two phases of the precinct boundary. For sections A and B see Fig. 2.

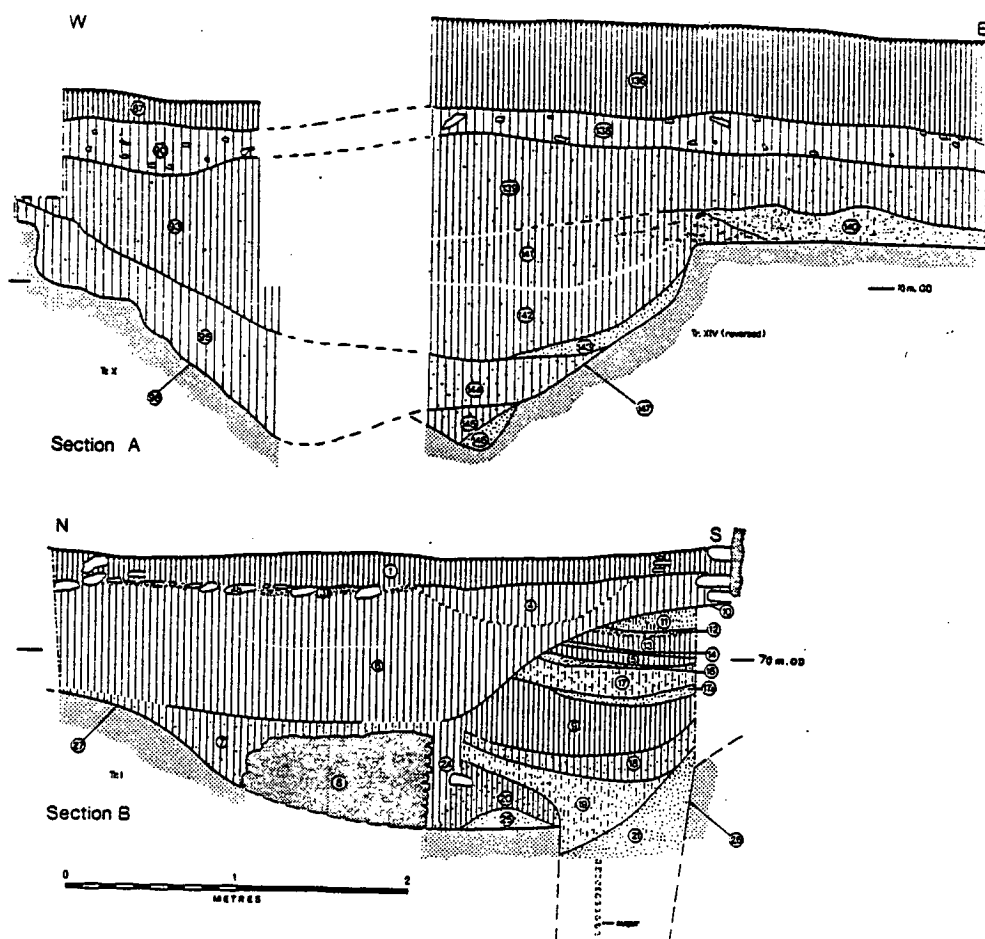


Fig. 2: The boundary of the precinct enclosure at Bampton, showing the 11th-century ditch (section A) and its re-fortification in the 13th century with a timber palisade (section B). For locations see Fig. 1.

basement level are the remains of three round-headed loop-lights (Fig. 4). This arrangement has an ecclesiastical appearance, and a reference to a 'chapel with a lower chamber' in a survey of 1317 strengthens the possibility that the range was originally a 'double chapel'. The 1086 tenant of Bampton minster was Robert of Lorraine, bishop of Hereford, who built a well-known double chapel in his palace grounds; the possibility that he also built this one, for his priests at Bampton, deserves consideration.

Phase II (mid 12th cent.): A two-storey chamber-block, aligned W. -E. and tacked onto the original range in such a way as to block one of its basement windows. It retains original window-splays and a small cupboard at basement level, and traces of two windows for the upper chamber.

Phase III (late 12th cent.): The W. end wall of the Phase II chamber-block was rebuilt, to provide an entry at its N.W. corner and a communicating doorway between the two basements. A tall lancet window in this wall (Fig. 4) is probably of the same date.

Phase IV (early 13th cent.): The outer openings of the basement windows in the Phase II chamber-block were renewed, and buttresses were added to its E. angles.

Phase V (later medieval): The Phase I basement was remodelled to create two service rooms and a cross-passage.

Bampton Castle (Figs. 5-6)

In 1249 Henry III gave the ancient royal manor of Bampton to William de Valence. In 1315 William's son Aymer de Valence obtained licence to crenellate his house in Bampton, and this undoubtedly refers to the great castle of which fragments remain. It is unknown whether or not Aymer's castle was built on the site of the old royal manor-house.

The standing remains (Fig. 5) consist of the W. gatehouse, a small attached chamber-block, and a short length of curtain wall. The gate-passage, which has arches at either end, is vaulted in two bays with foliage bosses. The chamber-block has an original window and fireplace on the first floor, and the curtain wall contains two deep embrasures for arrow-slits. All details are consistent with an early 14th-century date.

A sketch made by Anthony Wood in 1664 (illustr. Wood's Life and Times, ed. A. Clark, ii (1892), opp. p.20) shows that this gatehouse is a mere fragment of a palatial facade some 100 m. long. Wood's statement that the castle was 'built quadrangular' is confirmed by a map of 1827 and surviving earthwork evidence, which define a square moated area with a secondary ditched enclosure on its N. side (Fig. 6). The castle foreshadows symmetrically-fronted fortified houses of the later 14th century, but it is remarkable both for its early date and for its enormous size, being in area one of the biggest of all English castles. Its scale suggests that Aymer may have intended it as the centre of his barony, an intention which became redundant on the division of his lands after his death.

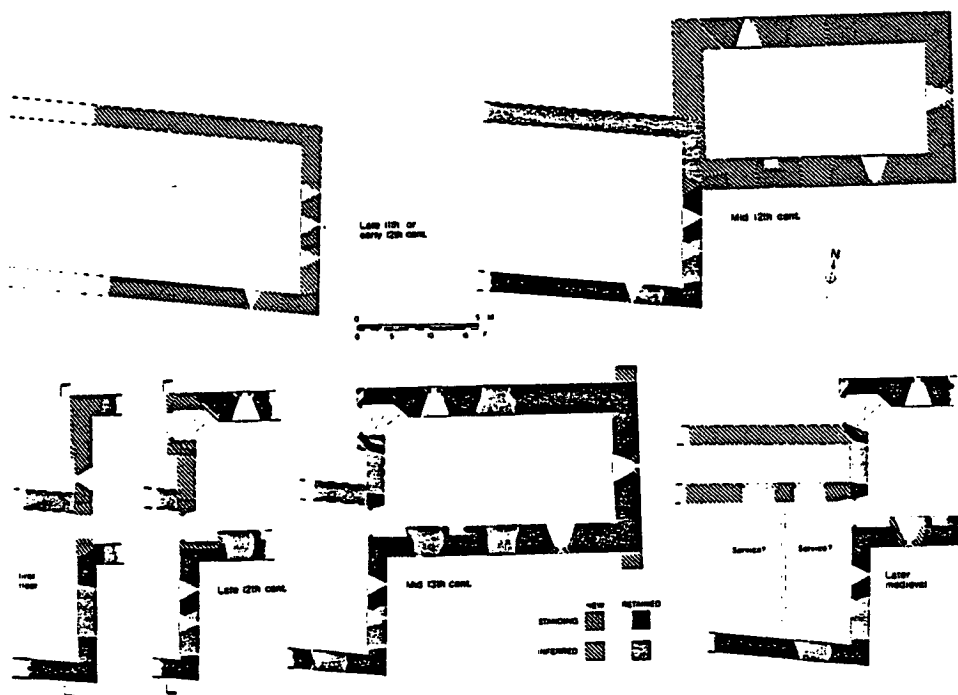


Fig. 3: Bampton Deanery: phase-plans. For section line see Fig. 4.

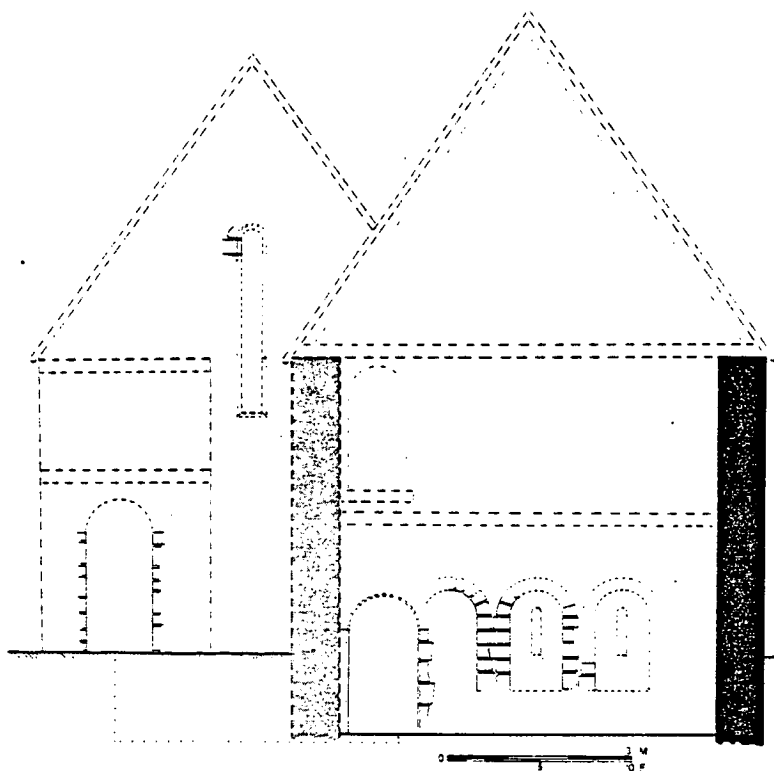


Fig. 4: Bampton Deanery: section through Phase I 'double chapel', looking E. towards W. end of Phase II chamber-block.

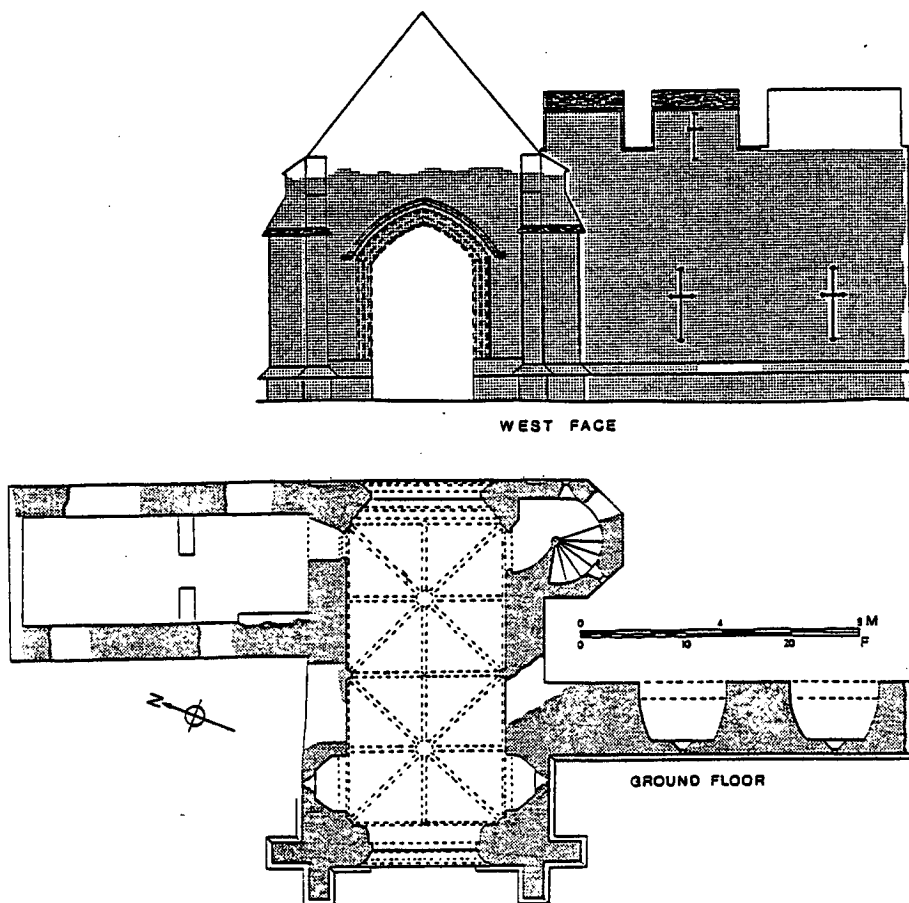


Fig. 5: Bampton Castle: plan and W. elevation of surviving remains (later features omitted).

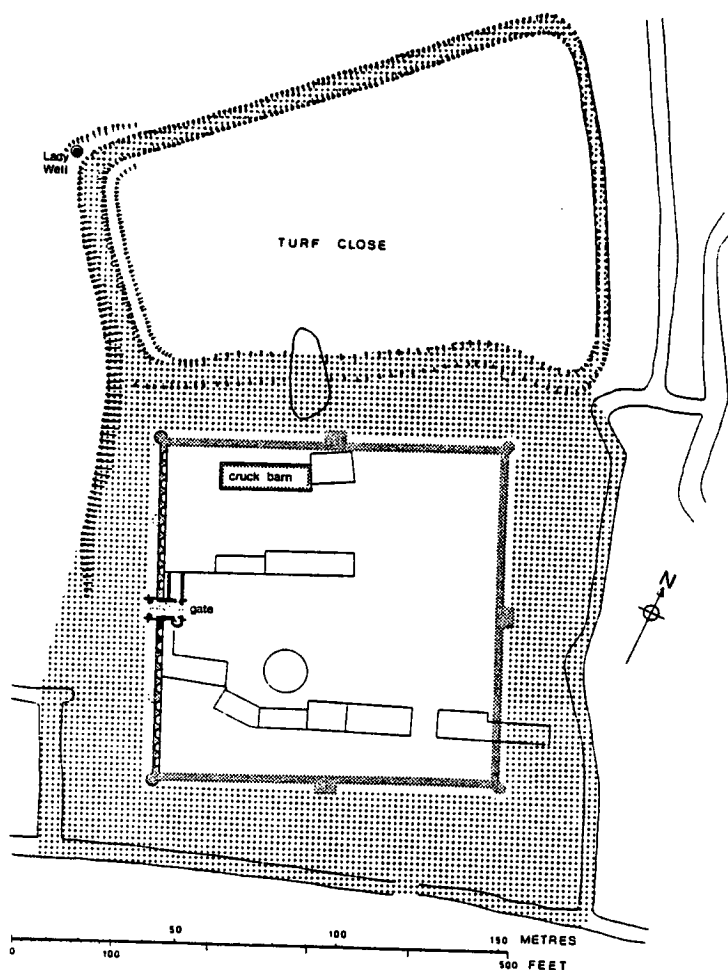


Fig. 6: Bampton Castle: reconstruction of the early 14th-century plan, based on surviving remains and earthworks, Wood's 1664 sketch, and 1827 inclosure map.

R. Ainslie

Oxford University Archaeological Society

BLADON ROUND CASTLE 1987

Grid reference SP 45701399

Tree felling and planting on this hill fort which is now largely tree-covered revealed much burnt clay in the disturbed areas of the rampart, this having extended for at least 100m around the south-east quadrant of the hillfort. Tim Allen of the Oxford Archaeological Unit then obtained the consent of the Blenheim Estate to carry out limited work to investigate these disturbances. The OUAS and members of the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society assisted him in this work.

The fort is on a hill which is approximately 35 metres higher than the surrounding area and is of Oxford clay with a thin gravel capping. On the southern and western sides there is a double bank whilst on the north eastern side only a single bank and ditch were located.

A drainage ditch had been cut through the rampart on this north eastern side and the side of this was cleaned to give a section through the rampart.

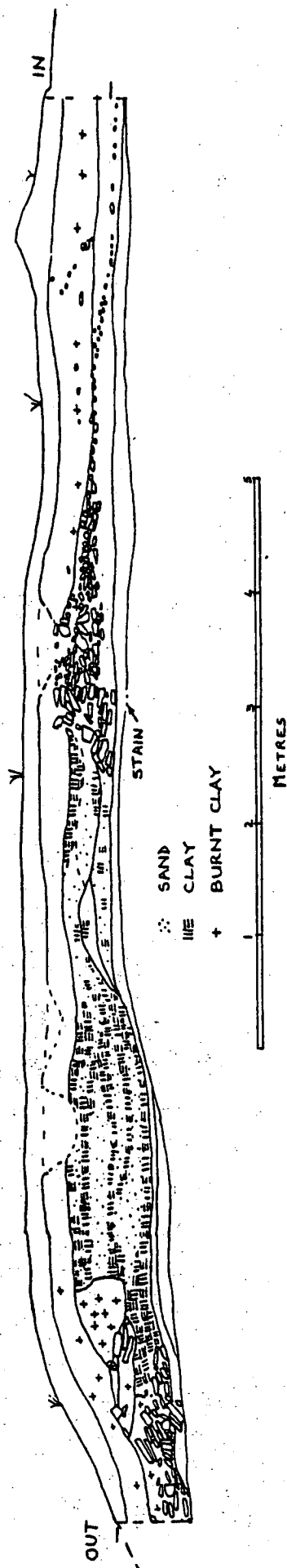
This showed that the rampart was mainly of clay with dump lines of sand. This was faced by thin stone walls some 6 metres apart. The front revetment had fallen into the ditch but the rear one may still be some 45 cms high. Burning had reddened and hardened the clay at the front of the rampart. At the rear the rampart had collapsed, sealing some 20cms of soil and two successive pebbled surfaces which abutted it. From the soil came Iron Age pottery. Debbi Duncan of the Unit has had a preliminary look at this pottery which with its inclusions of grog, flint, quartz and organic matter could well be Early Iron Age. The sample was however too small for any reliable conclusion to be reached.

Further work will be required to ascertain whether the rampart was faced by stone walls or had timber revetment with stone infilling. The very extensive burning should also be investigated to ascertain whether it was deliberate. It would also be useful to investigate the interior of the site despite tree root damage. The finds and records are with the Oxford Archaeological Unit.

EXCAVATION AT HYTHE BRIDGE STREET, OXFORD 1987

Grid reference SP 50880636

Excavations were carried out in Worcester College under the direction of Andrew Millard and assisted by the Society's President Christine Peters under the guidance of Brian Durham of the Oxford Archaeological Unit. This was in advance of the



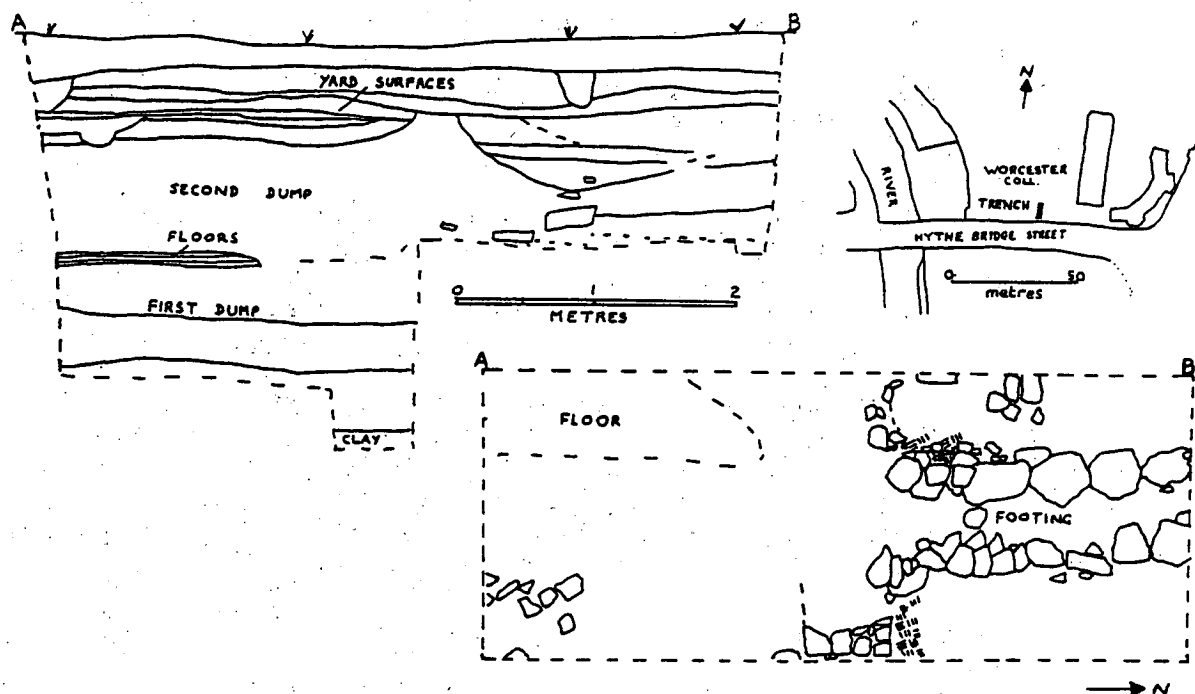
development of new college buildings and was designed to ascertain when the Hythe Bridge Street route from Oxford was first developed. Unfortunately the excavation was frequently flooded but the waterlogging was not sufficient to preserve organic material.

It recovered a sequence which commenced with the dumping of refuse into a marshy area adjoining a channel of the Thames in the mid 12th century. At the end of that century stone footings for buildings, presumably timber framed and fronting Hythe Bridge Street, were put down. Although remains of floor layers were found these were not hard packed and the main occupation may have taken place on the floor above which would have had a more convenient access to the street.

These footings were sealed beneath a second layer of dumping which contained pottery ranging from the mid to late 13th century. This layer was overlain by soil containing 17th century material and 19th century yard surfaces and a gully formed the final phase of occupation.

Some 34 sherds of pottery (7 glazed) were found beneath the footings and 270 (96 glazed) were from the second phase of dumping which also produced fragments of a crucible containing possible gold droplets. A jetton was found in soil which had been removed by machine.

Maureen Mellor has kindly had a preliminary look at the pottery and the finds and records are with the Oxford Archaeological Unit as it may soon have an opportunity to investigate other sites in the vicinity.



South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group

Cynthia A. Graham Kerr

The Forged Gates of Bozedown Estate

Introduction

Bozedown House lies on the spur of the Chilterns at the southernmost part of Oxfordshire, in the Parish of Goring Heath, and is attached to the village of Whitchurch Hill by its long, tree-lined drives. The house itself was rebuilt in 1906 by Mr. C.H. Palmer (of Huntley & Palmers' biscuits fame), after a disastrous fire, and the grounds are emparked up to the village with park railings and forged gates. It was in the course of fieldwalking that I noticed that all the gates were of different designs, - and also that several are falling to pieces. I thought, therefore, to record them before they disappear completely.

I found each gate to be of a unique design, purpose made to suit the field it enclosed. The gate adjoining the House-drive, for instance, is much grander than the others, with a most complicated push-latch - fit for ladies to open it without soiling their gloves!

Approach & Method

The whole perimeter was walked, and all land areas enclosed by park-railing examined for gates. The gates were sketched roughly with as many useful measurements as possible written in, together with any necessary notes.

A fair drawing was then made for each of the gates, using a scale of 1" to 1'10". This enabled all details of latches, hinges and ironwork to be shown - some of which is quite intricate (see Fig. 6).

There are also four kiss-gates and two small gates, but they did not have any features of interest, and were similar, so I kept to field-gates only.

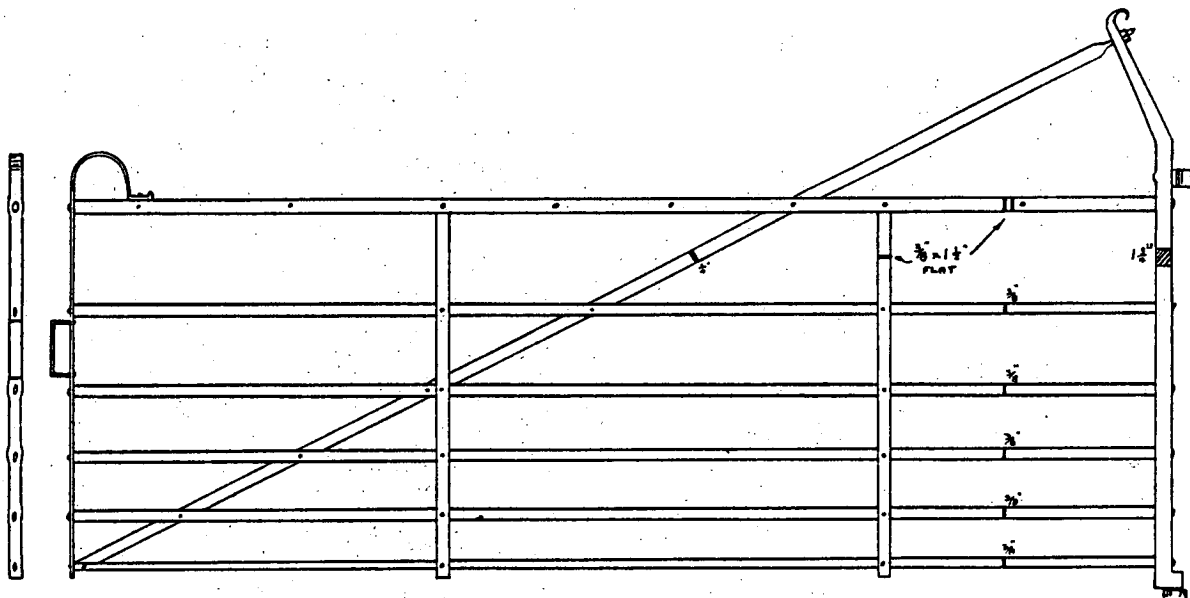
The material used was that usually found in a forge: strap-iron, angle-iron, and solid rods, square and round, in a variety of sizes. All the curlicues and parts of latches, bolts, etc., had been hand-forged, so each gate is quite a work of art, although for the purely functional job of closing a field-entrance.

The gateposts, too, varied; (Some are illustrated) - being round or several-sided, with knobs or shaped tops. Many of the gates were overgrown, hidden in hedges, held up with string, or falling apart, so that photographs would have been inadequate. All showed the touch of the master blacksmith. I have named them after the field or wood to which they give access, or their general location.

Historical Background

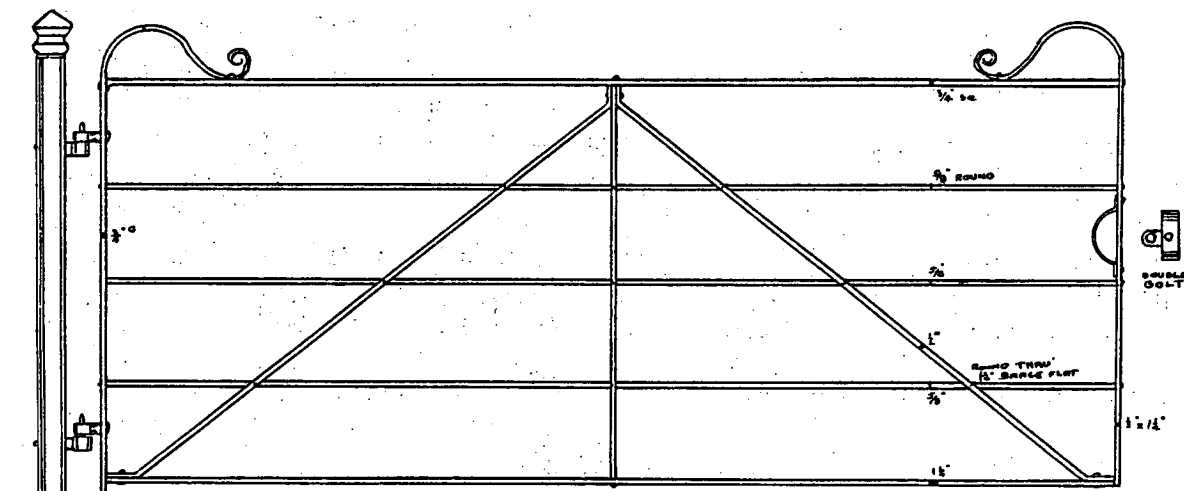
The local Blacksmith remembered they came from a firm in the midlands, costing a few pounds per gate, and the typical park-railing that went with them, enclosing the estate, cost 5/= per yard. This used to be painted, by a local man from Cherry Common for 1d per yard (1930's): he boiled up the tar on the spot. I wondered how many yards he did per day?

Although the bars of the railings are badly broken in places, such as



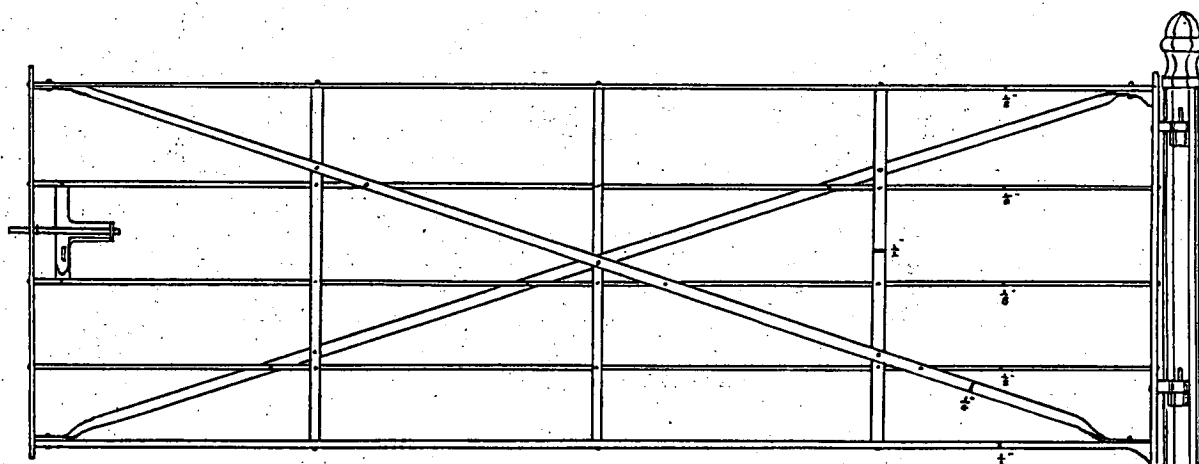
THE THATCHED COTTAGE
Fig 1

SCALE
1 FT.



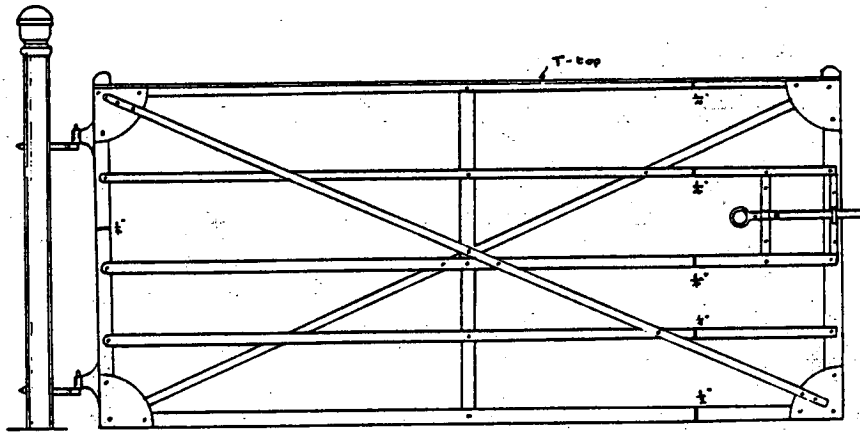
NORTH SOZEDOWN PADDOCK
Fig 2

SCALE
1 FT.



THE SKIPPETTS
Fig 3

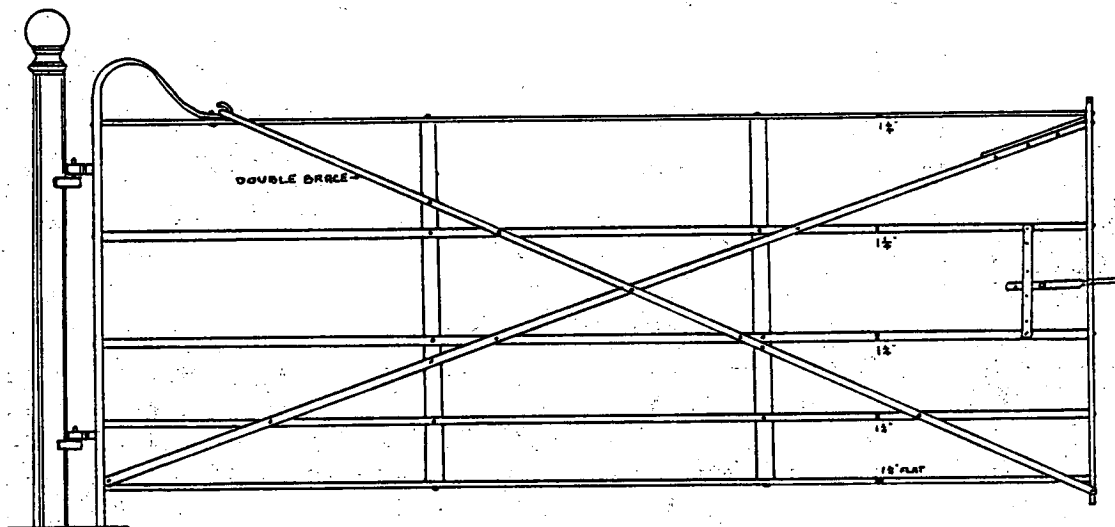
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HOME GROUND

Fig 4

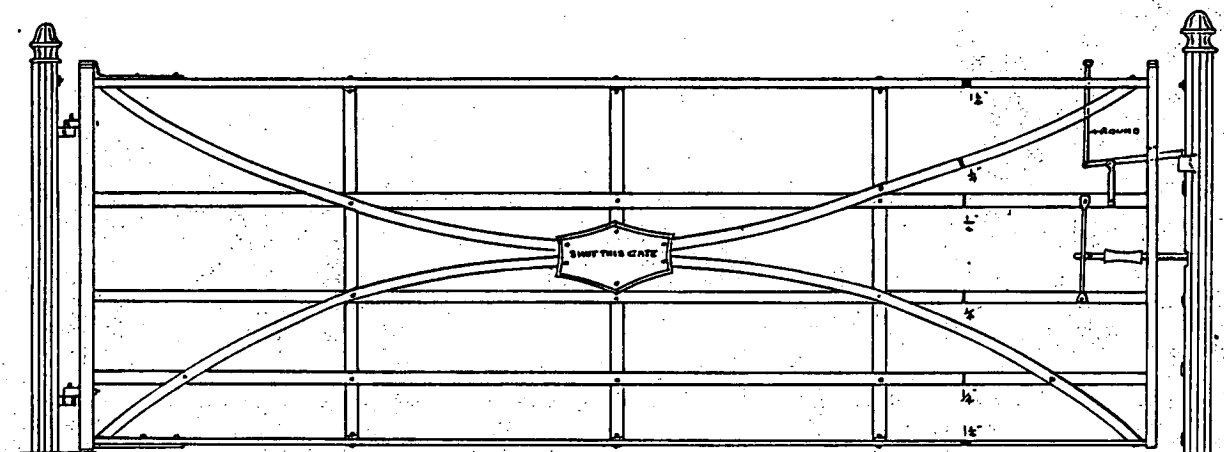
SCALE
1 FT.



ADJOINING BOZEDOWN CAMP

Fig 5

SCALE
1 FT.



WEST DRIVE

Fig 6

SCALE
1 FT.

by falling trees, most of it survives, but could well do with its pennyworth of tar.

It was erected at the turn of the century, similar to that of its neighbour Coombe Park; as from the 1880's it became the fashion to empark gentlemen's estates thus.

Few pause to notice these elegant gates, so much more interesting than the plain and noisy tubular ones enclosing many fields today.

Notes on the Figures

Figure 1

The gate into the Thatched Cottage has a unique raised back stile, supporting the curlicued end of the extended diagonal brace. The base of the back stile has a heel pivot in a turning cup. The oak gateposts (not shown) are 9" square with a pyramid top. There is a dog-bar, and the gate has a hook-on latch, which is mounted on the post.

Figure 2

North Bozedown Paddock is smaller and lighter, with a large curlicue at each end of the top bar. The braces meet at a single upright in the centre. The journals are alike, and the pillars round. The latch has two bolts, and there is no dog-bar.

Figure 3

The Skippetts is a tangly wood, so its gate was drawn from outside - It is one of the longest of the gates, being 10' 0" long (to allow for tree-carting?). It has a cross-brace and three uprights and sexagonal pillars: the hinges are outside the wood, to allow the gate to swing right back.

Figure 4

In contrast to Fig. 3 the little gate into Home Ground is only 6' 7" long and opens into the North drive, near Bozedown house itself. This gate has quarter circular plates reinforcing the top and heel bars. The tails of the journals are bolted through the round pillar.

Figure 5

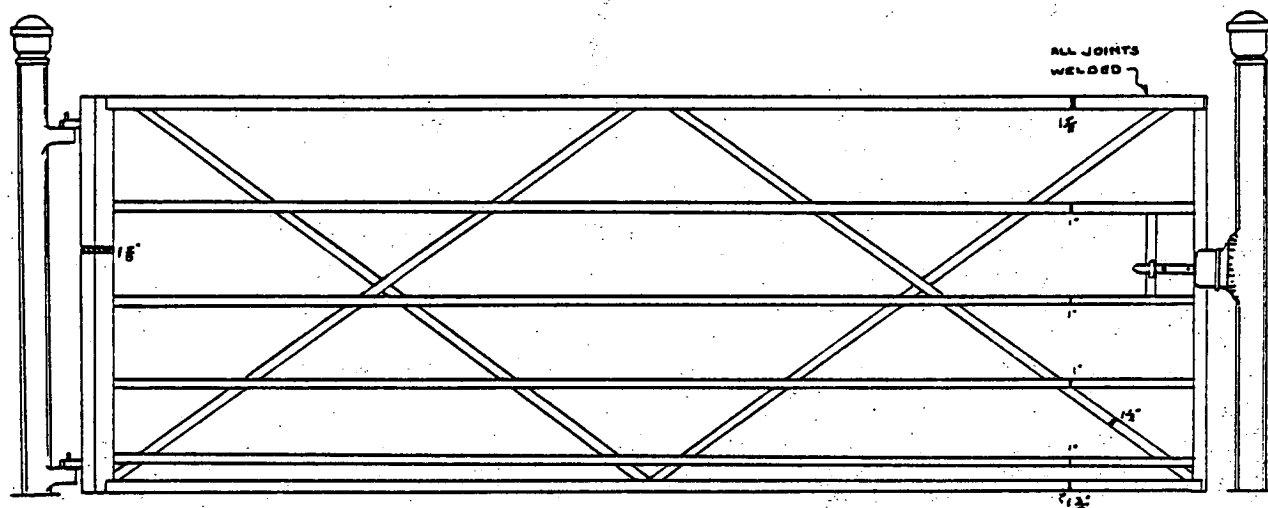
The gate adjoining Bozedown Camp has round pillars with welded journals. The back stile finishes in a curve onto the top bar, where the brace, which is double, is held together by a piece of round rod, and cleverly hooked over the curlicue of the curve. It is riveted to the two central bars, as is the single brace from the top of the toe bar or front stile, down to the base of the back stile.

Figure 6

The splendid gate in the West Drive is near the main entrance to Bozedown House, so its braces are elegantly curved, with a fancy plate requesting SHUT THIS GATE cast on it. The pillars are slimly octagonal, with matching tops, the latch a most complicated push-down affair, nicely balanced, with an additional bar-push bolt below, with a flanged central finger-piece.

Figure 7

Lower Hitch gate has been adapted to the original round pillars, and it appears, on inspection, not to be as old as the others. It has no curlicues, all joints are welded, not riveted, and is altogether plainer and simpler in design. The braces are quite different, being a double X, meeting at the centre of the bars. It is the next field to No. 6 and contrasted strongly with the elaborate furnishings of that gate.



LOWER HITCH

Fig 7

SCALE
1 FT.

Cynthia A Graham Kerr

New flint working sites in South Oxfordshire

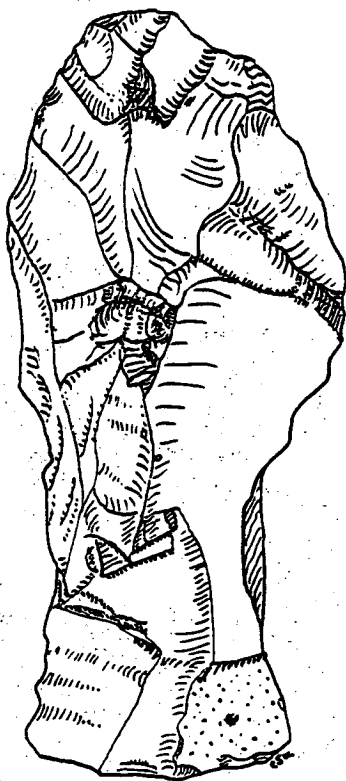


Fig 1

1 cm

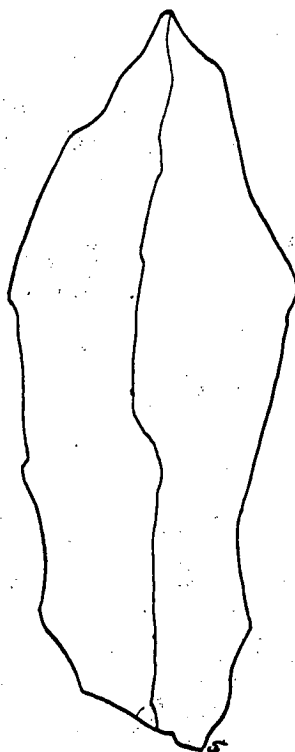


Fig 1a



Fig 2

1 cm

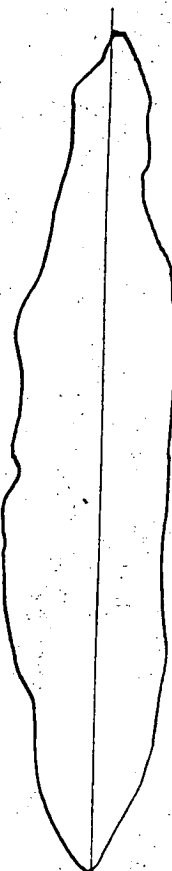


Fig 2a

CGK

New flint working sites in South Oxfordshire.

Interim Report

Beginning with the Acheulian handaxes found at Whitchurch (S.M.A. CBA 9, 1987 pp. 78) several different flint-working sites have now been found near Whitchurch and Goring. These sites have been prolific in flakes, but not many tools were found, until our latest ones (Sites 9 & 13). A preliminary examination of the Hardwick flints by Dr. Derek Roe (Donald Baden-Powell Quarternary Research Centre, Pitt-Rivers Museum, Oxford) suggests that these represent late Neolithic/Bronze Age working areas. This is particularly interesting as few sites of these periods were known until now in the South Oxon area.

WHITCHURCH

Site 1. Hardwick

The field at the corner of Hardwick Road and the road to Path Hill, formerly pasture, was ploughed and sown for cereal in the autumn of 1986. Only the perimeter of this field, to about 3m from the hedges, was walked to avoid trampling the crop. There was a thick scatter of flakes, some blades, a possible hammer-stone and one or two cores. Large waste flakes showed that suitable flint was abundant and had been used unsparingly. The paucity of tools and the numerous flakes suggested this was a working area only; but the presence of some potboilers indicated that there may have been a short-term encampment. The north edge of the field immediately to the south, (across the road) yielded a similar assemblage. There was very little pottery, none of it obviously contemporary with the flints.

WHITCHURCH HILL

Site 2. Late Mary Winfield

The field of this name lies north of the fields at Hardwick, near the Iron Age camp at Bozdown. The perimeter of this field was also walked; and again, showed a thick scatter of flakes.

Site 3. Lower Hitch

This pasture, which showed ridge and furrow, was ploughed for resowing, and the central furrow was still visible, with darker soil, so, assuming that things would tend to wash down into this, it was walked first. About halfway along a tanged Late Neolithic/Beaker arrowhead was found with several other flints, including two possible blades and a core. It was noted that this furrow lay on a terrace, and more flints were found downhill. The field was then systematically fieldwalked in 20m transects, running north to south along the line of the ridge and furrow. Few flints were found at the top of the field but there was a fairly dense scatter on the terrace, and soil creep had provided a thinner scatter towards the bottom of the field to the south. A dark roundish patch of soil just north of a stand of trees seemed to have a slightly heavier scatter.

Site 4. 'Oakdene'

Two struck flakes had been found in a small area (about 1m square) whilst preparing the ground for a rockery. This area was then sieved and some

160 flints were recovered. It is worth noting that in 1943 a cremation pit and a piece of pottery dated c. 1500 BC by the Reading Museum, were found close by, and may be associated with this site.

Site 5. Bozedown Camp

Struck flints were noticed in the lower field, known as the Basin or Hammersleys', so permission was obtained to walk it.

The field was laid out in 20m transects. Flints and potboilers were more numerous towards the eastern end of the field and a number of tools, and some early gritted pottery were found. Most finds lay consistently along the plateau gravel ridge towards the south, in heavy scatters.

We also noticed heavy scatters in the other two fields (Great & Little Binditch), in the interior of the camp, and will be walking these in the future. It is interesting to note that the NE perimeter field abuts Late Mary Winfield field (Site 2), although Peter Wood dug in Bozedown Camp in 1953 this appears to be the first record of worked flints in this area. We are now processing the finds.

It may be noted here that the flints of this area (including Hardwick) were mainly black and clear colours, whereas many of those down at Gatehampton Farm (Site 7) had a white patina, which suggests that they had been exposed, but the Hardwick ones had stayed underground, having remained under pasture.

MOULESFORD

Site 6. Moulesford Down

Some earthworks (bank and ditch) were noted in a pasture on Moulesford Down, and one or two flakes were found in mole-hills.

GORING

Site 7. Gatehampton Farm

The dig at Gatehampton Farm (directed by Tim Allen, Oxford Archaeological Unit) yielded vast quantities of flints and a 'Neolithic Quarry'. (See Tim Allen, this volume). As members of SOAG were able to work continuously on the site, we worked several features (mainly the Roman grain-dryer) which contained flints, and so saw the whole range of flints being recovered. One member found the 'Thames axe' in a pit (See Fig. 1) ¹⁰⁰ and this compares interestingly with the similar one from Site 8 (Fig. 2). ¹⁰²

Site 8. Brunel Bridge Meadow

A Mesolithic 'Thames axe' was found in a drainage ditch in this field, by Mr. Gutheridge, who brought it (and others) to show workers at the Gatehampton Farm dig, since it came from the adjoining field, next to the river (Fig. 2). It was not unlike the axe found by SOAG member Jean Allen in the dig itself (Site 7).

The Water Board have continued their work along the river and so including a section of the drainage ditch. We fieldwalked this and found a few flints and potboilers within 2-3 metres of the ditch.

Site 9. Gatehampton: Water Meadow

Following on Site 8 the Water Board have continued their wide trench

westwards, running parallel to the river, and round by a track to the end of Manor Road. We walked this and found a scrape where the bulldozer has exposed a broad line about 1-2 ft wide, of flints and chalk (at least the depth of a trowel) running diagonally across the trench for some 30 metres. In this, we found a large number of tiles, a few struck flints and a rim sherd, probably medieval. This was, perhaps, a patch across the alluvial floodplain. There were also struck flints and potboilers in the spoil-heap where the trench turns, by the track. We are keeping a watching brief.

Site 10. Gatehampton Farm area

In addition to the finds at Gatehampton Farm dig, a member informed us that his son had found many flints here some years previously; and he kindly allowed us to record and photograph them. They included 3½ Thames axes around 12-14 cm long and an enormous one 25 cm x 7 cm; also an interesting collection of cores, blades and various tools. The Oxford Unit has been offered access to these, and we may possibly resume work at the site in the future.

NOTE

The whole area covered by Sites 7-10 is within a huge curve of the river, so, although found separately, the sites are related, and show continuous settlement along the alluvial plain of the river.

All material recovered by SOAG at Goring has been deposited with Tim Allen, of the O.A.U. for analysis, along with the finds from the excavation (Site 8).

IPSDEN

Site 11. Wick's Wood

An earthwork discovered by S.O.A.G. some 15 years ago has just been re-examined; and a rough sketch made of as much as we could (a length of about 332m.) before dark. Along this stretch we noticed a number of potboilers, and found about 8 struck flakes in the upper bank, which was about ½m. high. The outer-bank sloped more and dropped another ½m. to a downhill slope. The soil was chalk with sandy gravel and flints.

MAPLEDURHAM

Site 12. North of Sandhill Plantation

Walking along the path in this field west to east, 3 potboilers and 6 flakes were found, mainly to the east. Four of the flakes looked retouched and there was also a possible core.

Site 13. North of Park Wood

Starting from the lane to the north of the field, a line north-south was taken down to Park Wood itself. Along this line 5 flakes, a potboiler and 2 probable post-medieval sherds were found. Three of the flakes looked rather fresh, but the other flake and a small blade were less black and more patinated

OXFORDSDHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM SERVICES

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

- (1) Sites and Monuments Record. The last year has seen a substantial start made to the computerisation of the Sites and Monuments Record. In this we have been aided by the hard work and efficiency of Julia Green who spent ten months from April 1987 to February 1988 with us. Julia has now gone on to the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust and we hope to appoint in April two Records Assistants both funded by H.B.M.C. to take her place. In the meantime we have agreed to take part in a survey of crop-marked sites in the Thames valley organised by R.C.H.M. and we are also actively involved in preparing for the Monument Protection Programme. Since it is anticipated that H.B.M.C.'s funding programme will terminate in 1990 it has been decided to establish priorities in the recasting of the SMR records to achieve a fully retrievable database of sites suitable for inclusion in the Monument Protection Programme by the end of the decade. Efforts will mainly be concentrated on "below ground archaeology", earthwork sites and finds, relegating the recasting of most buildings, post-medieval linear sites such as turnpike roads, canals, and railways to the lower end of the scale of priorities. Major excavation sites will continue to be recast using the format encouraged by the N. Yorkshire system. Although time consuming, the result should be an archaeological database which can cope with retrieving artefact evidence from isolated casual finds or from an excavation context with equal conviction.
- (2) Planning. Normal fortnightly meeting for monitoring all planning applications have continued between the Director of the Oxford Archaeological Unit, Dr Ian Burrow and the Keeper. The Keeper has continued to attend meetings of the County Minerals Working Party which considers all applications for minerals extraction. It is pleasing to note that considerably stronger archaeological constraints have been built into the draft proposals of alterations to the minerals policies in the structure plan. In particular Policy M/5 "where archaeological and historical remains do not need to be preserved, adequate provision must be made for the recovery and recording of the remains before extraction takes place". The County Council will continue to resist mineral working on sites which would damage monuments or buildings of such archaeological or historical merit that they should be permanently preserved. Also the County Council considers that there are sites of local and regional importance (in addition to Scheduled Ancient Monuments) which are worthy of preservation.

There have been a number of planning enquiries in which the section has been involved. The appeal by the developer against the decision of the Vale of the White Horse District Council's refusal to grant planning permission at the site of the Mulberries, East Hanney was upheld. The museum was involved because there was a medieval fishpond site in the area near the proposed building. This is to be fenced off and will not be built on but unfortunately the Inspector did not consider that a legal agreement to safeguard this was necessary. In the week preceding the High Court Action, *Backhouse v Oxfordshire County Council*, a most satisfactory solution was worked out. The former undertook to reinstate the Fairmile in Aston Tirald Parish (he had been cultivating about three quarters of its width since 1979) and to re-seed after the crop had been taken off in Autumn 1988. The museum and the Oxford Archaeological Unit were involved in preparing the County Council's case and used historical documents, maps, air photos, and excavations to demonstrate the ancient and extensive highway use of the Fairmile.

The museum has recently been involved in resisting housing development in a field to the north of shrunken village earthworks and moated site at Ardley and attended a public enquiry in February, the outcome of which is yet to be decided.

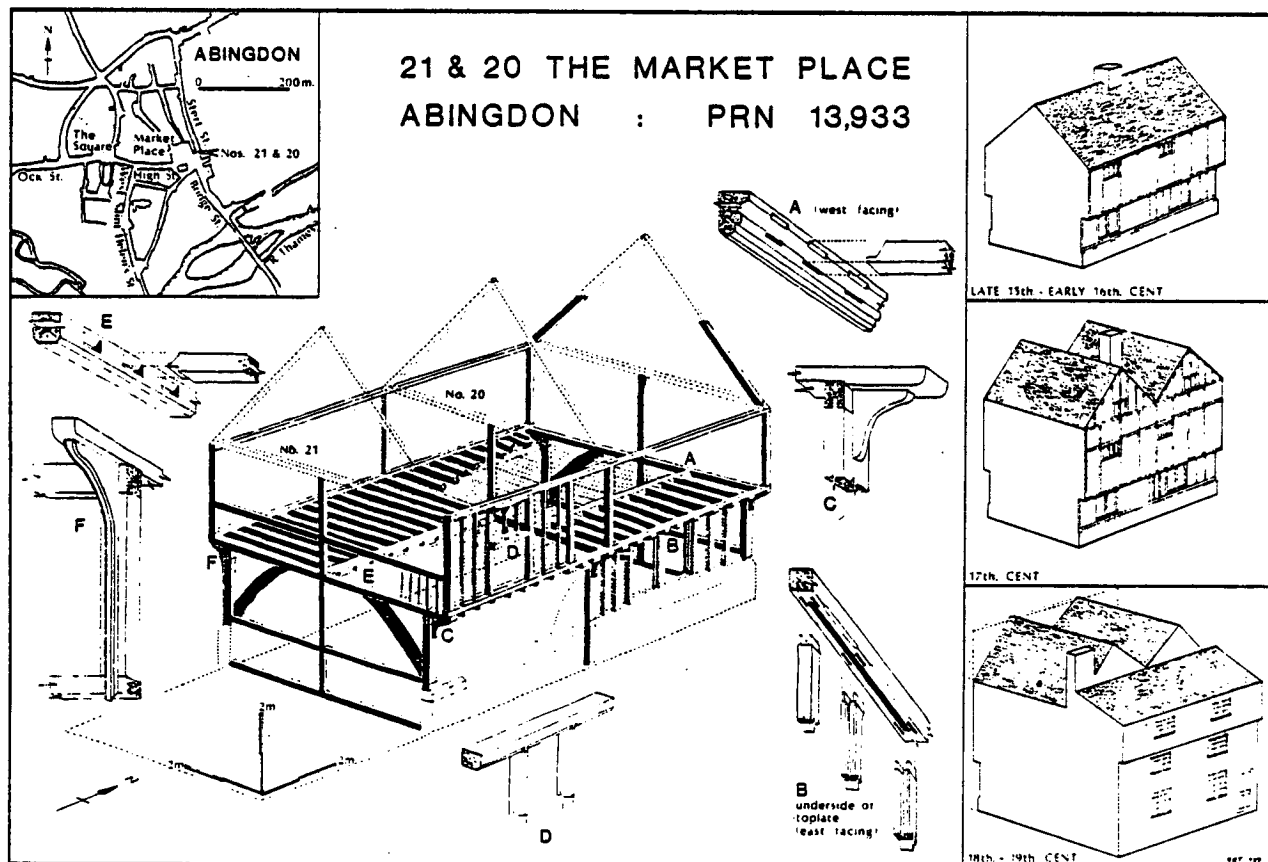
The setting of the Great Coxwell Barn was successfully defended early in 1987 and the Inspector dismissed the appeal of the developer because he considered that the houses proposed "would seriously detract from the present detached setting and general surroundings of the historic barn" and mentioned the "long standing commitment to the protection of our heritage of historic buildings and rural landscape".

- (3) Cogges. The section completed drafting a series of 20 interpretative panels for the Historical trail which were in place for the opening of the museum on 14 April 1987. An excavation by the Oxford Archaeological Unit took place in July 1987 and two areas, one to the west of the house and one to the west of the churchyard were opened up and medieval structures located. In February the section has dug 15 apple tree holes in the orchard. Flint implements, medieval and post medieval pottery have been recovered. The Research Committee commissioned the University of Bradford to continue resistivity surveys of the area around and to the south of the house and a report has been received. Dr W.J. Blair, Secretary of the Research Committee has written a draft of the Cogges section for the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire.
- (4) Council for British Archaeology. The Keeper resigned the Chairmanship of the Schools Committee at the end of his three years in office but has continued to edit Education Bulletin. He has also attended meetings of the CBA National Committee for interpreting the Monuments.

(5) Publications.

J.M. Steane

1. "Where Four Shires Meet" Country Life January 15, 1988.
2. Article on Fotheringhay in Landscape, March 1988.
3. "The Royal Fishponds of Medieval England", Aston M. (Ed) Medieval Fish, Fisheries and Fishponds in England, BAR, British Series 182, 1988, 39-68.
4. With M. Foreman "Medieval Fishing Tackle" Aston M. (Ed) Ibid 137-186.
5. Review on 'Archaeology in Britain since 1945' Medieval Archaeology XXXI, 1987, 222.
6. Articles on "Archaeology and Education - a unit view" (CBA Education Bulletin No 3 June 1987) and Jorvik (CBA Education Bulletin No 4 Jan 1988)



ABINGDON - 20 and 21 THE MARKET PLACE - (PRN 13,933 SU49819708) - M. K. Taylor

Location

Nos 20 and 21 are situated on the east side of the Market Place, Abingdon. Almost square in plan, and traditionally known as The Bury, the Market Place appears to have been in existence at least from the 11th. century. Close by, on the south side and overlooking Nos 20 and 21 stands the magnificent 17th. century Shire Hall. In February 1987, a programme of work involving extensive refurbishment of the building prior to reinstatement as shop/office units permitted inspection of details of the timber framed structure. In February, this involved stripping portions of the rough cast rendering covering the timber framing externally, and internally pine board or panelling, probably of 19th. century date was also removed. Sufficient evidence was available at this early stage to establish phases of construction, but further details of the building did not appear until more work was carried out in June of the same year.

(1) PHASE 1 LATE 15TH. - EARLY 16TH. CENTURY.

It is likely that the east side of the Bury and the southern portion of Stert St. began as a series of mediaeval shops replacing less durable stalls and booths. (The history and development of the town is best summarised in K. Rodwell ed. 'Historic Towns in Oxfordshire' 1975.) The property boundary of the present building may in effect conform to those of earlier mediaeval shops and merchants' houses - the existing cellars perhaps a survival from a yet earlier phase (but impossible to date with precision).

The present timber framed structure suggests a construction date sometime in the late 15th. century or early 16th. century consisting from the first of a two bay range (probably two separate premises). Until 1888 a further single bay timber framed building existed to the south of Nos. 20 and 21, last known as the Star Inn, but was demolished at that time to improve traffic flow at the constricted southern end of Stert St.

Early investigations suggested, at first sight, that the building may have been, three bays in length. Firstly, the limestone plinth or stub wall upon which the timber framing of the Phase 1 building rests appeared to be truncated; the end of the stub wall covered in rough cast rendering seemingly hacked through with no suggestion of deliberate finishing. The capping stone of the plinth is dressed limestone with a chamfer at 45 degrees which surmounts coursed limestone rubble. Where the stub wall survives on the Stert St. elevation, there is no sign of a capping stone with chamfered right angle return which might be expected if a two bay building had an exposed gable wall here. It is possible, of course that the capping stone here was cut through vertically to accommodate the timber framing of the 'Star Inn' when butted up against the south gable end of the building, and there are slots in the upright at the south east corner of No. 21 which may support this theory.

M.J. Thomas - 'Abingdon in Camera' 1979, (published by Abingdon area Archaeological and Historical Society) contains three plates which show the former Star Tavern, nos. 11, 28, and 84. The photographs show a jettied two storeyed building with first floor level at the same height as 20 and 21 adjoining. Also visible, was a two storied timber framed

extension eastwards into Stert St. reflecting the later three storey extension added to 20 and 21 (see below), but with the floor level at the same height as the first phase of building in the 'Star Tavern' indicating that the 'Star Inn' was in fact a separate property not coeval with Nos. 20 and 21.

20 and 21 were jettied on both Market Place and Stert St. elevations at first floor level during phase 1, but in terms of attention to detail and decoration in the timbering, the Market Place elevation exhibits much more fine moulding and carpentry as befits the elevation facing the prestigious commercial focus of the town. For example, the remains of the brackets supporting the first floor jetties have cavetto moulded chamfers, there is a bressumer or jetty fascia, itself richly moulded, to conceal the ends of the substantial joists of the floor, and the wall plate sitting immediately above the bressumer is also well moulded, (see drawing of west elevation detail F).

In addition, the timber framework above first floor level on the market frontage has elaborate S - shaped and curved braces to the uprights, the infilling between being brick nogging, patterned sometimes with herringbone, sometimes into diagonals and elsewhere laid in regular courses. The brick nogging poses a question. Is it an original feature or a secondary infilling replacing wattle and daub as the use of brick became fashionable? J. McCann's article on the use of brick nogging in the 15th. and 16th. centuries, (Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society, Vol. 31., 1987, pp.106 - 133) suggests that it is perhaps less uncommon than first thought to find it as a filling material between timber framing this early, but unfortunately the timber uprights in the areas where brick nogging was missing did not indicate recesses in the studs to key in the mortar and so reduces the likelihood of it being a primary feature in this example.

Further evidence of elaboration on the features of the building visible from the Market Place is provided by the bridging beam in the ground floor room of No. 20. The beam is not central but set back from the W. elevation, perhaps to create a large room with passage behind partitioned off (but there is no evidence visible for partition as the underside of the beam has been covered with boxing for pipes and any sockets to locate studs could not be seen.) The decoration on the beam consisted of roll moulding and a chamfer with stopped ends, but on one side only, probably to save unnecessary expense on the face of the timber which would have been hidden from view (see illustration A on the drawing showing the three dimensional view from the south east). The combination of setting the beam off centre, the weakness inherent in the tenon joint in comparison with the massive size and weight of the joists, and the modest proportions of the carved bridging beam itself has resulted in the carved beam splitting and sagging at its north end and the joists located in the east or Stert St. side of the beam have dipped steeply.

At ground floor level, the use of plate glass shop windows in the 19th. century and the consequent need to support the west elevation above by means of a steel RSJ has effectively removed any evidence for early window openings, at ground floor level, but on the other side of the building there is evidence for an early window on the underside of the wall plate in the ground floor Phase 1 Stert St. elevation (see illustration B *ibid.*). The chamfered edge to the external face of the wall plate and sockets for tenons cut in the underside suggest a square

headed two light window with a timber mullion slotted to accommodate glazing.

At first floor level, however, refurbishment revealed an original in situ three light square headed, timber mullioned window with chamfered mullions and frame (see illustration D *ibid.*). There were no signs of glazing bars, hinge pins for shutters or slots for glazing, and, unfortunately, no evidence of further window openings of similar type and date was present because of subsequent phases of alteration.

On the opposite (Market Square) side of the building at first floor level there is a suggestion of two large square headed windows, one placed centrally in each bay from Phase 1 onwards. At present, the refitting has replaced the former windows with square headed casements, of the same pattern as the replacements, but photographic evidence showing this side of the building in the 19th. century records that there were French windows opening onto a balcony supported on slender cast iron columns. The French windows were inserted between upright studs of the timber framing in each bay of the building and may have framed window openings from Phase 1 onwards. There are curveto chamfer mouldings to the uprights and underside of the wallplate. Also evident on the underside of the wallplate were sockets for tenons and peg holes, but these do not immediately help with interpretation of the style of the former window and are rather more suggestive of arch braces for framing. Oriel windows overlooking the Market Place is an attractive conjecture, but there is no evidence to support this or pretend that the first floor chambers were meant for more than basic living/sleeping quarters.

While the prestigious Market Place frontage was favoured with brick nogging (possibly original - see above), the rear of the building backing onto Stert St. was given wattle and daub infilling to the timber framing. This was probably limewashed - in the N.E. corner of the bay of No. 21 at ground floor level, a portion of what appeared to be an arch brace below the toplate was revealed with a small area of limewashed daub infilling. This feature was visible above a later door opening punched through into the Phase 1 building when the extension into Stert St. was added, but it is unlikely that there were any door openings in the Stert St. elevation of Phase 1, since a building of single bay thickness would be entered from the Market Place.

During the first phase of the building's history, the roof level was lower than the present gabled roof indicates and the roof line ran parallel to Stert St., rising from the wall plate of the second storey. The only remaining evidence of the structure are two principal rafters at the N. end of No. 20 which escaped being torn out completely in the later addition of attics but suffered the upper ends being sawn off. On the upper surface of the wall plate above the first floor window on the E. side of No. 21 there are signs of shallow housings cut to locate the rafters of the Phase 1 roof.

There was no evidence of fireplaces or flues associated with the first phase and the flues that have survived are late features probably for stoves. Some form of heating for warmth and cooking seems probable - perhaps with a timber and plaster smoke hood (see PRN 13,591 in Oxfordshire S.M.R. for an example of timber smoke hoods in the Abingdon area, reported in South Midlands Archaeology 17, 1987, p.76.) but no evidence was found. Comparative studies of other timber framed buildings in Abingdon in the future may provide the answer.

(2) PHASE 2 ?17TH. CENTURY.

The Phase 1 roof is removed and attics are inserted to provide a second floor level with more accommodation (probably bedrooms). As a result the roof is now constructed with gables to each bay overlooking the Market Place and Stert St. and the roof ridges run on an east - west alignment. Square headed window openings in each gable seem likely from the start, but all have been replaced at a later date. On the first floor elevation to the Market Place, there are the remains of rendering applied directly on top of the Phase 1 timber framing and brick nogging infill at the S.W. corner of the building. This render or stucco has a stippled effect with quoins incised to resemble stone (see drawing of west elevation). Other examples of incised stucco in Oxfordshire (for instance Cogges Manor Farm) have been dated to the late 17th. century.

(3) PHASE 3 - 4. 18TH. - 19TH. CENTURY

The roof level of the attics was heightened further still to provide more headroom and the pitch of the gable roof ridges altered to allow sufficient headroom below the valley. At the same time or perhaps slightly later, a rather poor quality timber framed three storey outshut was added to the Stert St. elevation using much second hand timber. The roof slope of this outshut rises up against the E. face of the heightened attics. The poor nature of the accommodation offered by this outshut may suggest servants' quarters or a change of use to a tavern requiring beds for travellers.

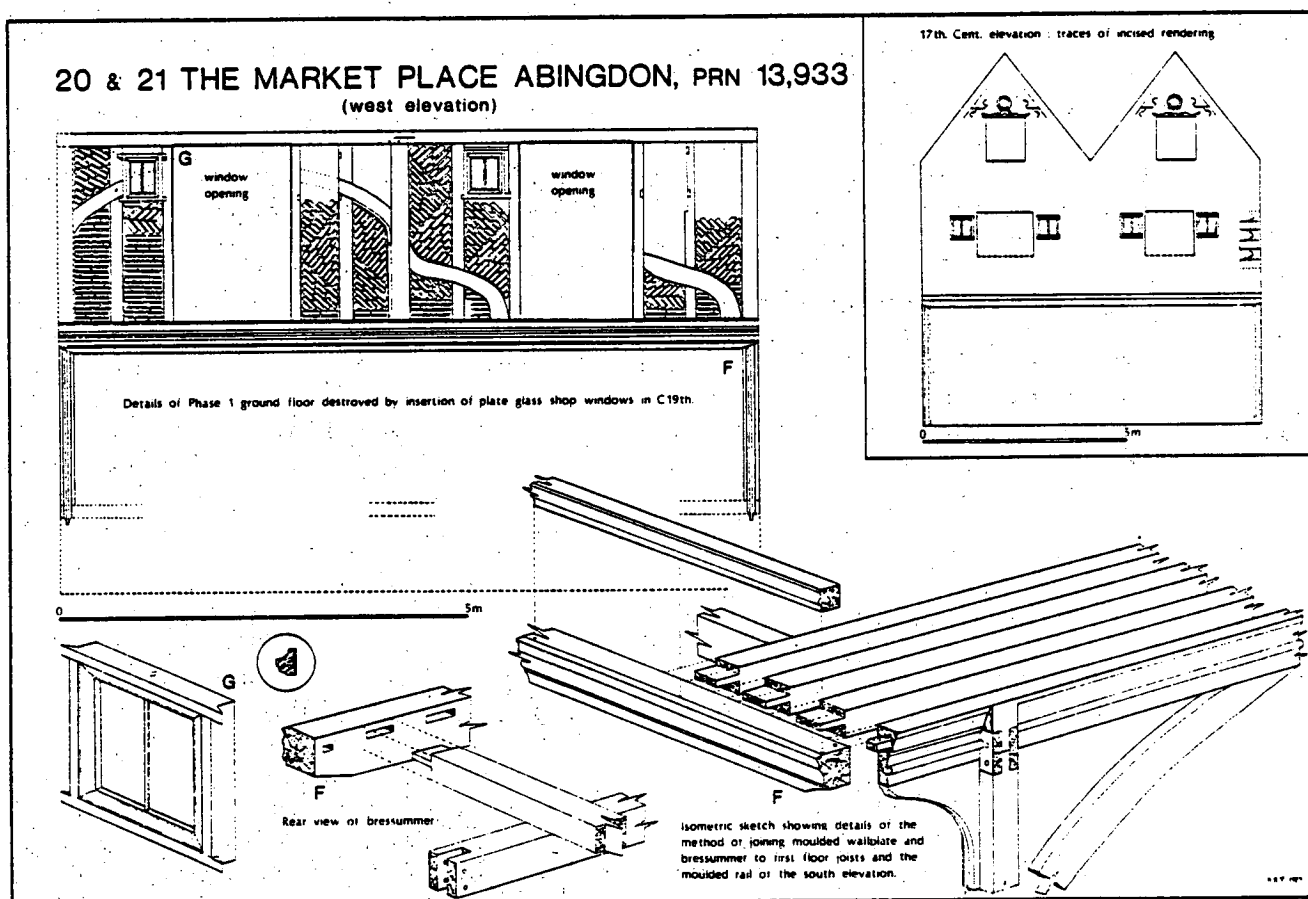
In the early 19th. century, however, regardless of the shoddy appearance of the rear of the building, the market elevation mirrored changing fashion by adopting a 'Georgian' style facade with pilasters. This consisted of stucco applied to laths nailed on to a wooden framework, itself nailed to the timber framing of the first phase building. This stucco facade in turn taking the place of the incised stucco added in the 17th. century (see above). French windows were added with canopies above giving on to a balcony with a railing supported on cast iron columns. There is an excellent photograph showing this face of the building at the turn of the century when the Market Place was decorated for the coronation of Edward VII in 1902 (see Abingdon in Camera pl. 22)

In the late 19th. century, the narrowness at the southern end of Stert St. caused by the extensions at the back of both 20 and 21 and more particularly the Star Tavern resulted in so much congestion of traffic attempting to round the corner into the Market Place that the tavern was demolished in 1888 (see above), and the S. gable end of 20 and 21 was rendered over. Whereas Nos. 20 and 21 appear to have been in joint ownership for some time (perhaps from the beginning?), the Star Tavern was separately owned to judge by its more down at heel appearance at the end of the 19th. century. The ground floor of the tavern was built of brick (possibly encasing earlier timber framing) with a first and second floor jettied onto the Market Place timber framed with stucco on lath rendering and lit by square headed Georgian style sash windows. (Abingdon in Camera pl. 11)

Brick flues were inserted into 20 and 21 in this latter phase, probably for stoves or small cast iron fireplaces. One rose from the S.W. corner of the Phase 3 timber outshut of No. 21 through the jetty of the first floor of the S.E. corner of the phase 1 building onto Stert St. Immediately to the S. of the base of this flue were the remains of

the stub wall carrying the timber framing, but its insertion had removed any traces of the wall further N. on the Stert St. elevation of 21 and 20. Another flue was placed above the Phase 1 east wall fed by flues presumably from the first floor of 20 and 21 but refitting and subsequent 20th. century alterations had removed evidence of stoves or fireplaces.

The general appearance of the building in the 20th. century has altered little to judge from photographs taken at the turn of the last, and it is only in the process of the refurbishment undertaken in 1987 that the building's history has come to light. The Department of Museum Services is greatly indebted to: Mr. Grant Audley-Miller, Vale of the White Horse district Conservation Officer, the co-operation of the contractors B.G.D. Building Ltd. (and principally Mr. Dominic) and the architects for allowing access at all stages of the work.



Wykham Shrunken Mediaeval Village (PRN 1,1000 centred SP 438378) - Simon Crutchley, Mark Taylor and Ival Hornbrook.

Location

The site of the former mediaeval village of Wykham is about two miles to the south of Banbury and lies in a field to the west of Tudor Hall Girls School. It is situated at a height of about 122m. O.D. on the southern slope of an east-west ridge of middle lias clay and marlstone rock bed. To the south the fields slope down to the Sor Brook at the foot of the valley. The manor house at Wykham lay further to the east along the ridge in the grounds of the school.

Roman remains at Wykham were known from the middle of the last century. In 1851, evidence of walls, a coarse tessellated floor, an oven and a possible remnant of hypocaust were found at SP 439379 to the north west of Wykham park suggesting a Romano-British house or a small villa. A circular well 28 inches in diameter and 48 feet deep containing much pottery and seventeen bronze Roman coins from Claudius II to Valens and a silver coin of Trebonianus Gallus was found on the site of the kitchen garden. Discovered at the same time was a 'large vault' filled with black earth, seven or eight skeletons and many animal bones (see PRN 1713).

(1) The tenurial history and descent of the manor has been dealt with fully by the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire, Vol. X. Documentary evidence for the village itself is slight, but it merits an entry in Domesday which reports four serfs and five villeins with one and a half ploughs. A mill is mentioned in Domesday, probably the ancestor of the building described as Wykham Mill on the O.S. 1:10,560 on the Sor Brook. Later documentary references to Wykham are found in the village subsidy of 1306 which notes nine people paying nine shillings and a penny; and of 1327 in which eight people paid thirty six shillings and a penny and the settlement itself is referred to as a hamlet. In 1334 the village as a whole paid fifty nine shillings and seven pence but there is no record of how many people contributed. In the last quarter of the 14th century for the poll tax of 1377 twenty nine people were assessed. If the negative evidence of Wykham's non-appearance on the 1428 listings of those villages exempt from paying tax on account of their population falling below ten households can be relied upon, the village appears to flourish into the 15th century. However, by 1524 the assessment for the new Henrician subsidy found only three people able to pay, one person on goods and two people on wages.

(2) By 1688 there is cartographic evidence for the situation at Wykham in the form of "The Map of Wickam" surveyed by Edward Grantham in August and September 1688, (the original map in the form of an oil painting on canvas hangs in Tudor Hall Girls School). This shows no evidence of a village to the west of Wickham Park and all that apparently remains is one small cottage in the north west corner of the area fieldwalked. Parish registers, wills and inventories suggest declining population but do not provide conclusive evidence on the basis of the quantity of family names. However, in default of decisive documentary evidence, the results of the fieldwalking survey carried out by the Dept. of Museum Services may help towards establishing a timescale for desertion.

(3) Deep ploughing carried out in 1986 by Mr. Colegrave the farmer of Wykham Park Farm revealed a well covered with a large capping stone. In advance of further ploughing in August 1987, Mr. and Mrs. Colegrave contacted the dept. of Museum Services and the site was visited by the Keeper and Assistant Keeper. The well was located at SP 43863788 and consisted of curved ironstone blocks with no evidence of mortar bonding. In its present condition the well was some 10.9m. deep and 60cum. in diameter, in other words very similar to the discovery of 1851, but the 1851 account states that the well was close by (i.e. to Wykham Park) on the site of the kitchen garden. The well discovered in 1986 in the field to the west of Wykham Park is some distance from the present walled garden, and the map of 1688 (see below) indicates that the house and garden in the late 17th century occupied much the same position. Perhaps by analogy with the 1851 finds, the well seen recently is another Roman well continuing in use into the Middle Ages. Mr. Colegrave stated that the field concerned had first been ploughed in his father's time shortly after the Second World War. Heavy earth moving machinery was brought in to carry out the work, and in the process walls were uncovered, some lying on their sides as if flattened or collapsed. Mr. Colegrave remembers playing in the humps and hollows of the earthworks as a boy which were then quite substantial. In view of the fact that ploughing was to take place in September, O.C.C.D.M.S. decided to undertake a fieldwalking survey to determine whether any further archaeological features or settlement evidence could be retrieved.

The field to the west of Tudor Hall Girls School was divided into an intersecting grid of thirty metre squares with a base line adjacent to the north - south alignment of the boundary wall between the field and Wykham Park (see plan). Because of pressures of time and resources, (the survey was undertaken by two people in two days), efforts were concentrated on the northern half of the field, but it is hoped to return to the southern half at a later date to confirm the results obtained. Nevertheless, positive results were obtained from the exercise, and quantities of pottery, bone building material and some small finds were cleaned and analysed.

(4) Pottery. The pottery was initially divided into Roman, Mediaeval and Post-Mediaeval. When plotted on an overlay of the area fieldwalked, concentrations revealed a predominantly Roman area to the south east of the field and a Mediaeval block to the west (see accompanying plan and overlays). Roman finds were anticipated because of earlier finds, but were not examined in detail to establish a more specific dating. The Post-Mediaeval pottery appeared to be scattered randomly over the field with no specific concentration apart from an area close to the eastern boundary of the field with Wykham Park. This probably reflects an accumulation of domestic rubbish associated with the house.

The Mediaeval pottery was examined in more detail by Maureen Mellor of the Oxford Archaeological Unit. She noted a preponderance of three main fabric types. Most common was Potterspury ware originating in Northamptonshire and dating from the mid 13th - 15th centuries. Next most common was a relatively coarse fabric of local manufacture originating from the Banbury and Brackley area dating from the late 12th century. Brill ware from the 13th and 14th centuries is also evident closely followed by the sandy Oxford Mediaeval ware. The remainder consists of an insignificant proportion of as yet unidentified wares, but even these do not conflict with the general date range stylistically, which appears to finish in the

early 15th century with the exception of an area in the north west of the field where some late Potterspury ware and a Brill rim and sherd were found. The Brill ware sherds suggest a date no earlier than the second half of the 15th century and are more likely to be 16th century.

(5) Animal Bone. All bone finds (exclusively the remains of animals) were weighed and plotted but showed no concentration. They were briefly examined by Jill Jones who found about 75% of them diagnostic and divided them by species, looking for any significant features. By species, 45% were from cattle, 34% sheep/goat, 10% pig and horse and a single dog tooth was found.

(6) Building Material. The majority of the pieces of building material recovered from the site were of Roman date. The south east corner of the field which produced dense concentrations of Roman pottery also provided some small fragments of roof tile (imbrex), a possible flue tile with surface scoring and some small cuboid sandstone blocks diagnosed as tesserae; the largest some 25mm. overall, and the others of roughly the same size varying in shape from cuboid to oblong. There was no sign of obvious wear on any particular surface, but this does not necessarily preclude their use as tesserae since, as sandstone is not available locally they would have to have been imported to the site. The area to the west produced some fragmentary tegulae as well as some undatable brick fragments and possible stone tiles. The distribution of the majority of building material which is of Roman date does not overlap with the supposed area of the mediaeval village as pointed out by Mr. Colegrave and suggested by faint soilmarks on the aerial photographs.

(7) Small Finds. Finds from the modern period included 19th century clay pipe fragments, a George V penny, and a 20th century harrow blade. A couple of clay pipe bowls suggested a 17th century origin from their small size and their shape. Two whetstones were found, one square in section and made of sandstone, the other mica-schist and well worn which could be dated anywhere between the 12th and 15th centuries. Two pieces of slag were found, one of iron, the other apparently lead. Horseshoes were found (to corroborate the finds of horse bone) dating from the 12th century to the post-Mediaeval period. The 12th century find was in fact half a horseshoe with countersunk holes for fiddle key nails, a wavy edge and generally slender appearance to the body and calkin which bore a close resemblance to an example found in excavations in the Hamel, Oxford (Oxoniensia, 1980, No. 59). There was also an example of a successor to this form with straight edges but without countersunk nail holes and still of slender appearance. The most impressive find was a small copper alloy single sided trapedzoidal buckle. This had a round face and flattened back, the clasp held between the two prongs of its shorter side. Dimensions: width 20mm., length 33mm. It is strikingly similar to, although a little larger in size than, two buckles found at Southampton and dated circa 1375 - 1425.

Conclusion

Documentary evidence borne out by the results of the fieldwalking survey seems to suggest desertion of the site by the late 16th century. All the small finds are considerably earlier than this and the majority of the pottery ends early in the 15th century. The only area where 16th century

ware was found coincides remarkably closely with the site of the single cottage shown on the map of 1688 by Edward Grantham. Animal bone finds with a large proportion of cattle and sheep bear out the use of the site for pasture, and it may be that desertion took place as a result of pressure for increased pasture with the rise of wool prices or that some other phenomenon was at work. Wykham may simply be another of the unexplained desertions common in the 15th and 16th centuries.

There is no archaeological evidence to support continuity of occupation from Roman times. The earliest post Roman finds are a couple of St. Neots type rim sherds which cannot be placed earlier than the 10th century. No Saxon wares were found and although their chances of survival are low because of their vulnerability to abrasion, the survey was thorough if swift. There is likely to have some form of pre-Conquest settlement, however, in the Domesday entry "Wicham" alone of the 'manor' of Banbury receives mention by name and although at 100 shillings it is valued lower than other estates, it is not a Norman creation since it was worth 60 shillings in Edward the Confessor's time. *Saxon*

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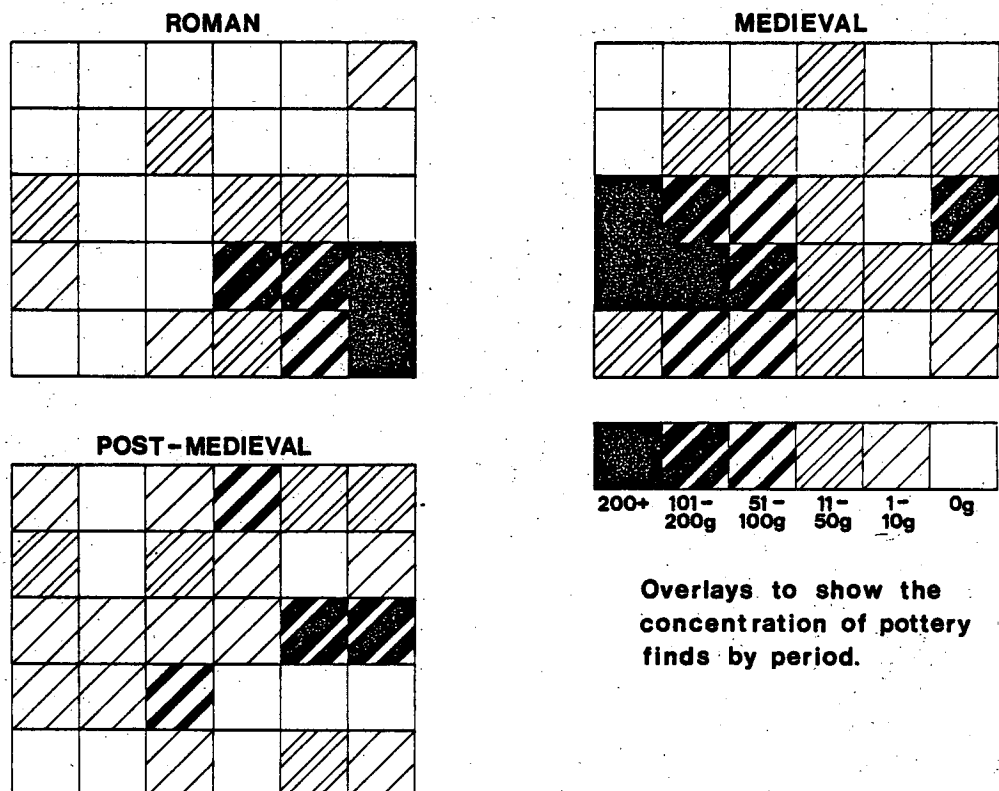
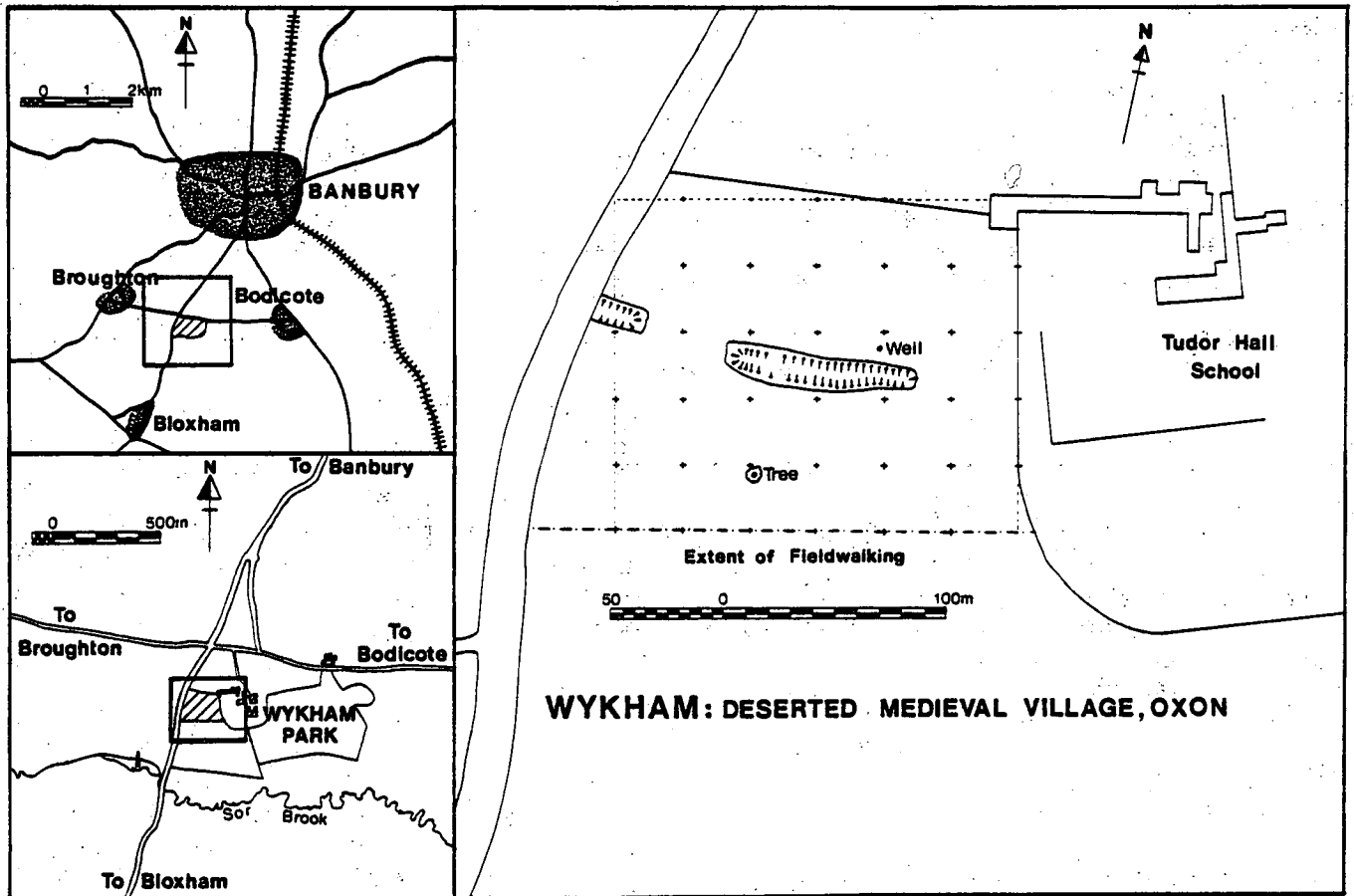
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THE LION PUBLIC HOUSE, 15, HIGH ST. ABINGDON, SU 49719707, PRN 12,914
M.K. Taylor

In response to initial notification from Grant Audley-Miller, the Vale of the White Horse District Council Conservation Officer, the Keeper J. Steane, Assistant Keeper M. Taylor, and in-service trainee S. Crutchley investigated the Lion public house in October 1987 in advance of stripping out the building prior to refurbishment for commercial use.

Location and History

The Lion is situated on the north side of the High St. which leads westwards from the large quadrangular Market Place, traditionally known as the Bury. In the 19th century, the Lion Hotel, marked on the 1874 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:500 map as the Red Lion Hotel, but described in Kelly's 1891 directory as the Lion commercial hotel, occupied a range of buildings as far west as the junction of West Saint Helen's St. with the High St. On the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 edition of 1973 there are three property boundaries on the north side of High St. all numbered 15, but only the easternmost of these is designated "PH" or public house on the map. Photographs published in "Abingdon in Camera", by M.J. Thomas, Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society 1979, nos. 55, 56 and 105, taken from the turn of the century to 1918, indicate that the Lion occupied further buildings to the west of the present pub. Immediately west there used to be a large carriageway entrance leading to a yard behind with a range of buildings probably used for stabling and storing hay. Above the carriageway was a large Victorian bay window supported on brackets lighting a sizeable first floor chamber (possibly a dining room). This two storeyed building with carriageway beneath had a gabled roof (gable end on to High St.), the whole building giving the impression from the photographs that it was of 19th century date. To the west of this entrance way was a three storeyed, jettied four bay range building with four gables facing on to High St and passageway to the west leading to a small yard at the rear. It was lit by sash windows on the ground and first floors and casement windows on the jettied second floor. Although three storeyed, the height of the gables of this range was lower than the gable of the two storeyed building with carriageway to the east. This range has the appearance of a timber framed building, potentially of 16th century date. The High St. elevation appears to have been brick on the ground floor with render and stucco covering timber framing on the first and second floors. It seems probable that this range provided bedroom accommodation for the hotel. The High St. elevation of the present pub depicted in the early photographs shows a ground floor with brick front and two 19th century style sash windows and the first floor slightly jettied and stucco over timber framing exactly as it appears today. The window frames are also as shown in the photographs from the early 20th century. At some point the ground floor High St. frontage was altered to provide a central doorway, access formerly may have been by the passage or entry to the east of the present building and a side door. The Kelly's directories of the late 1930s give a clue to the fate of the range of buildings to the west which used to comprise the Lion Hotel. It appears that when street numbering was introduced to Abingdon sometime in the 19th century, possibly post 1874 as no individual property numbers appear on the 1st edition 1:500 map, the Lion Hotel although occupying three separate property boundaries was numbered 15, High St. The Kelly's directory for 1938 still refers to the Lion Hotel only at

number 15 High St. but the edition for 1939 lists F. W. Woolworth Ltd. bazaar, also at number 15, suggesting that the three storey timber range to the west had been demolished to make way for the department store just before the Second World War. The refashioning of the ground floor frontage of the remaining element of the Lion Hotel may also date from this time.

(1) Phase 1 (14th - 15th century)

The Lion Hotel today consists of a two storey timber framed building of two parallel ranges. The west range is wider and has a taller pitched roof. The western range has a crown post roof with a chamfered collar purlin, with tie beam, collar, arch braces and crown posts at the gable ends. The roof has three bays in all with a crown post between the second and third bays from the High St. gable end. There is a crown post at the N. gable (facing away from the High St.) and the crown post of the south gable is present, but less visible since it has been covered in plaster from a suspended ceiling inserted at a later stage (see below). The top of this crown post is, however, visible above the plaster, and a pair of augur holes in the collar purlin indicate the former position of the brace for the crown post. Logically in a roof of this nature a crown post would be expected between the first and second bays of the roof, but this truss has an elaborate scissors brace instead (see below). A stone chimney stack against the west wall seems to have been an original feature of the first phase building (there are no signs of smoke blackening of timbers) since the fifth and sixth rafters of the crown post roof where the stack rises through the first bay of the roof rest against a timber baulk located laterally against the stack. With regard to dating crown post roofs in the (historic) North Berkshire region, J.M. Fletcher and P.S. Spokes in an article entitled "The origin and development of crown post roofs" in Mediaeval Archaeology Vol. 8, pp. 152-183, come to the conclusion that roofs of this type were going out of fashion even in vernacular contexts by the beginning of the 15th century.

At first floor level in the Phase 1 building there would have been an impressive three bay chamber open to the crown post roof (the detailed carving on the crown posts was meant to be seen from below) and probably with a crown post between the first and second bays. The timber framing of the first floor jettied out on to the High St. has substantial timber uprights, that of the south west angle measuring 36cms. across and no doubt itself resting on an equally solid bressumer. The upright at the south east angle of the west range is not shared by the timber framing of the east range, in effect there is another upright in the south west angle of the east range separated by a narrow gap which supports the wall plate of the east range west wall and the tie beam of the gable facing on to the High St. In addition, the wall plates of the first floor chambers of both ranges are at different levels, (there is a gap between the two separate rows of timber uprights replaced in the 19th century, which support them) the wall plate of the west wall of the east range some 40 cms. above the wall plate of the east wall of the west range. Consequently the upright in the south west angle of the east range must also be higher. This indicates that the east range was a different phase of construction from the west range and on the basis of the evidence of the roof timbering suggests a construction date in the 15th century. The floor of the building also bears out the theory of separate phases of construction. In the west range the floor consists principally of a central bridging beam running north - south with joists either side lying east - west. The alignment of the

joists near the High St. end of the west range is however north-south because of the presence of a dragon beam in the south west angle of the west range to give added strength to the framework. There is no evidence for a dragon beam in the south east angle of the west range floor. This might suggest that the dragon beam in the south west angle was inserted to strengthen a corner of the building which did not have the support of adjoining buildings. In other words, the west elevation of the west range was probably a free standing exterior wall at the time of construction. The presence of a large carriageway entrance in the 19th. century adjoining this west wall, borne out by photographs and the 1874 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:500 suggests that whatever was constructed further west from Phase 1 onwards was definitely on a separate property boundary and a different building.

(2) Phase 2 (15th. century) East Range

As suggested by the evidence above, the east range of the present public house appears to have been constructed after the west range. The roof consists of three bays with principal rafters and single purlins clasped by cambered collars. Each truss of the principal rafters and cambered collar beams is strengthened by curved windbraces to the purlins which are chamfered. The common rafters are mortised and tenoned at the apex. The first floor joists of the east range also indicate a separate construction phase. Where the division occurs between east and west ranges is a massive beam on a north - south axis which does not serve as a bridging beam in the manner of the beam running centrally north - south in the west range. If anything it gives the impression of serving as a wall plate for the east wall of the Phase 1 west range. As this beam was unfortunately still clad in pine boarding at the time of investigation it was not possible to establish whether there were slots to locate timber uprights on the underside, but a subsequent visit should confirm this. The significance of this beam is that it seems to mark the division between Phase 1 and 2 in the present building. The joists of the east range first floor do not locate themselves in this beam but run parallel to it and are tenoned in to a bridging beam on an east - west alignment centrally located in the east range. In this fashion, a new building constructed immediately abutting the east elevation of the west range could perhaps take advantage of the wall plate of the existing Phase 1 west range to attach a bridging beam for floor joists and perhaps support an upright for the east range first floor elevation on to High St. at the south west angle. (See above details of the two adjoining uprights with intervening gap). When viewed from across the High St. the first floor elevation of the east range projects slightly forward of the west range by about 15 - 20 cm. at this point.

(3) Phase 3 (16th. century)

The archaeology suggests that by the 16th. century both east and west ranges have been acquired in single ownership. Indeed, the construction of the east range may have been a planned extension of the accommodation provided by the west range or the replacement of an earlier building on the site. To bring the internal arrangements up to date, two vaulted suspended ceilings are added in the first two bays of each range to create two impressive first floor chambers. To achieve this, the crown post between the first and second bay of the west range roof is removed and replaced by an elaborate scissor brace with a roll moulding carved on the underside of

the brace intended to stand proud of the plaster of the 'vaulted' ceiling and be seen from below. Either side of this brace, in the two lower arms of the scissor, a narrow groove has been rebated in to locate the ends of the laths for the plaster ceiling. Some mortar or plaster was still found adhering in the grooves. The collar purlin of the first phase crown post roof is lowered at this stage to attach the curved ribs or battens supporting the arched or 'vaulted' ceiling at its apex, the tenons sawn through to detach it from the rest of the roof frame and subsequently re-attached with angled iron plates and nails. The curved ribs of the arched ceiling appear to have rested on the upper surface of the wall plates either side, nailed to the underside of the common rafters. Evidence of the suspended ceiling in the west range is provided by the curved profile of the ceiling in the first floor room facing onto High St. where it begins to arch over from the tops of the wall plates. In the roof void above the 19th. century ceiling (which obscures the profile of the 16th. century ceiling) there is a ridge of plaster on a partition between the second and third bays of the roof which outlines the arched profile of the ceiling. This partition of studs, flat boards and battens covered with plaster only survives as a section east of the crown post and is in effect the remains of the vertical partition wall at the north end of the former first floor chamber. At the southern end opposite there is still plaster covering and disguising the Phase 1 crown post of the south gable. Evidence for the curved ribs which supported the suspended ceiling is present in the first bay of the west range but a skylight added to the second bay of the roof in the 19th. century removed the ribs and also the section of the collar purlin in this bay. The curved brace of the crown post between second and third bays which otherwise would have projected into the north end of the chamber was removed when the ceiling was created and the resulting slot left in the crown post was filled in. The pointed apex of the ceiling's curved profile can also be seen as a chisel mark on the carved capital of the crown post. Traces of paint with red pigmentation were visible beneath layers of later whitewash and distemper here.

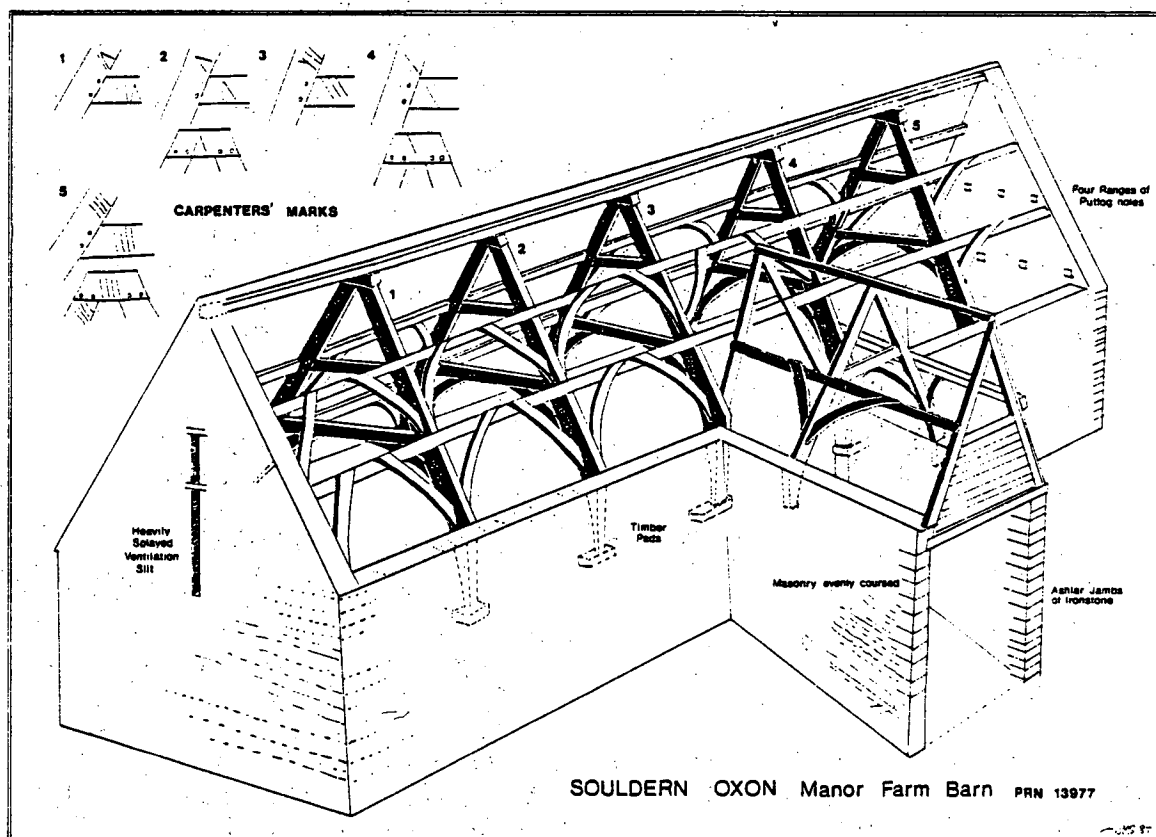
In the east range the suspended ceiling survives intact in spite of partitions added in the 19th. century. A collar purlin was inserted specially to attach the curved wooden ribs supporting the laths, and was trenced into the soffit of the cambered collar beams.

(4) Phase 4 (?18th, 19th. and 20th. centuries)

The rear elevation (west range) has a sash window with thick glazing bars consistent with an 18th. century date. Similar window frames may have replaced earlier phase window frames, but if so they have been replaced in turn by 19th. century sash windows. Flues were inserted to the rear of the building to provide extra heating (or more convenient facilities for cooking), one in the north end of the west range and another against the west wall of the west range in the third bay. A skylight was inserted in the second bay of the west range roof removing its section of collar purlin and the curved ribs of the former suspended ceiling in this bay. Partitions are added and a flat ceiling inserted to create a smaller first floor room in the west range. At some point (after the 1874 O.S. 1:500) possibly early in the 20th. century, the present building was extended to the rear replacing what appears to be a small lean to building and a set of steps descending from the north west corner of the rear of the east range. A single storey building is added initially and then in the mid 20th.

century a two storey flat roofed extension is built to provide a first floor kitchen to the rear of the west range.

In general terms the Lion Hotel undergoes a significant alteration in size and character in the 20th. century. The large commercial hotel of the 19th. century has become no more than a public house by 1939, losing its three storey range of accommodation to the west as a result no doubt of declining trade and a tempting offer for redevelopment by F. W. Woolworth and Co. The building over the carriageway, sandwiched between the present public house and the three storey jettied range, which had a large bay window on brackets also disappears in the pre war development, perhaps after a relatively short lifespan from the 19th. century appearance this building gives in the photographs. The present fate of the "Lion Hotel" remains undecided, but future commercial development does not favour the building reopening as a public house, which means the loss of another of Abingdon's historic hostelries.



A field investigation of this farm was made on 30.10.87 by J.M. Steane and S. Stradling at the invitation of Mr and Mrs Deeley. S. Stradling had noticed while taking part in the listed buildings re-survey that there was an important medieval barn here. The barn is aligned north-south and covers the whole side of a yard up the slope to the west of the present farmhouse. It is of six bays with a waggon porch of two bays to the east. The walls are of flaggy limestone rubble with a few ironstone ashlar blocks. The porch has ashlar limestone blocks serving as the jambs, and the masonry of the porch is more regular. This is possibly because the porch is on a slope rather than that it has been added later since the carpentry of the roof suggests that it is contemporary with the main roof. There are large squared blocks of ironstone in the quoins. Other noteworthy features are four ranges of four put-log holes in the gable end facing the farmyard. There is a single long ventilation slit in other gable with two transoms of flaggy limestone. There are a number of secondary openings in the walls.

The roof is a remarkable survival of late medieval date in the North Oxfordshire tradition as exemplified by the barns at Swalcliffe Manor (see cover to South Midlands Archaeology 1987). It has five complete cruck trusses similar to Swalcliffe; the upper and lower collars are arch-braced. The upper and lower purlins are trencled into the backs of the crucks. The crucks spring from the middle of the walls and are prevented from damaging these by the insertion of timber pads embedded in the walls. They taper towards the top and are joined near the apex by saddles. There is a well preserved and original, ridge pole supported on the saddles. There are two ranges of curved windbraces. Carpenters marks are seen on the trusses and upper collars (see figure). The waggon porch also has a 2 bay roof supported on raised crucks, with purlins trencled into the backs of the trusses with one range of curved wind braces and a single collar which is arch braced. According to Mr Deeley the barn was formerly lofted at one end and was also thatched. It is roofed now in corrugated iron.

Corble Farm. Piddington. - M.K. Taylor & J.M. Steane - SP 63731597
PRN 13,959

Following up a planning application for the demolition of Corble Farm, two visits were made by J.M. Steane and M.K. Taylor in August 1987 for Oxfordshire County Council, Department of Museum Services. The second involved a site meeting with the owner, his structural engineer, the architect and the structural engineer of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

The site of this farmhouse is on the northern slope of the ridge of high ground on the Oxfordshire-Buckinghamshire border north of Brill and Oakley. It lies on a north/south alignment. It consists of three parts, a central 3 bay 2 storey range, a 1 bay 2 storey wing on the east and an additional 1 bay single storey wing on the west. It was built in three main phases.

Phase 1 c. 1600. The building was originally a three celled probably 2 lobby entrance house (see E. Mercer, English Vernacular Houses HMSO 1975 p. 62 fig. 43). "By the beginning of the 17th century the lobby entrance plan had proliferated in south eastern England". Corble farmhouse in its first phase consisted of three bays : one long one - then a chimney bay and another long one. The footings are of blocks of greensand and ironstone and set into these is box frame timber framing. Most of the walling has survived well with jowelled posts at the corners of the trusses and large framing (see Mercer E. 115 and Fig. 74). This feature remained common in the second half of the 15th century and throughout much of the 16th century. The braces are present at the northern end both in the gable and in the W. wall but are obscured on the outside by brickwork. The walling material is brick but was probably wattle and daub in the first place. This is indicated by two features. In the northern gable the shape of the bracing which must have originally appeared on the outside is indicated by the presence of bricks laid flat on edge. Also on two of the studs of the east wing there are grooves to receive wattle panels and on the soffit of the wall plate are several augur holes bored to take the panels. The roof structure consists of three bays of principal rafters, tie beams, clasped purlins. Both the northern and southern roof bays have windbraces at the gable ends, the northern bay has two straight braces to the purlin to provide additional support for the roof where the chimney stacks emerge.

Four windows can be traced on the west side two under the eaves, one on the ground floor to the N of the original lobby entrance and one at 1st floor level obscured by the W wing serving as the kitchen : all are small and all are blocked. Heating was provided by a single central stack of reddish bricks with smoke blackening. There is a projecting band of brick at the top. The fireplaces have been much tampered with. The kitchen fireplace which is likely to have been at the south end has brick jambs, a charred timber lintel and an inglenook. The parlour fireplace has been blocked and a small Victorian grate inserted. Access in the first phase is not certain but the wall thicknesses suggest a door from the west side opposite the stack. The staircase is tucked into the side of the chimney is narrow, twisting and made of planks.

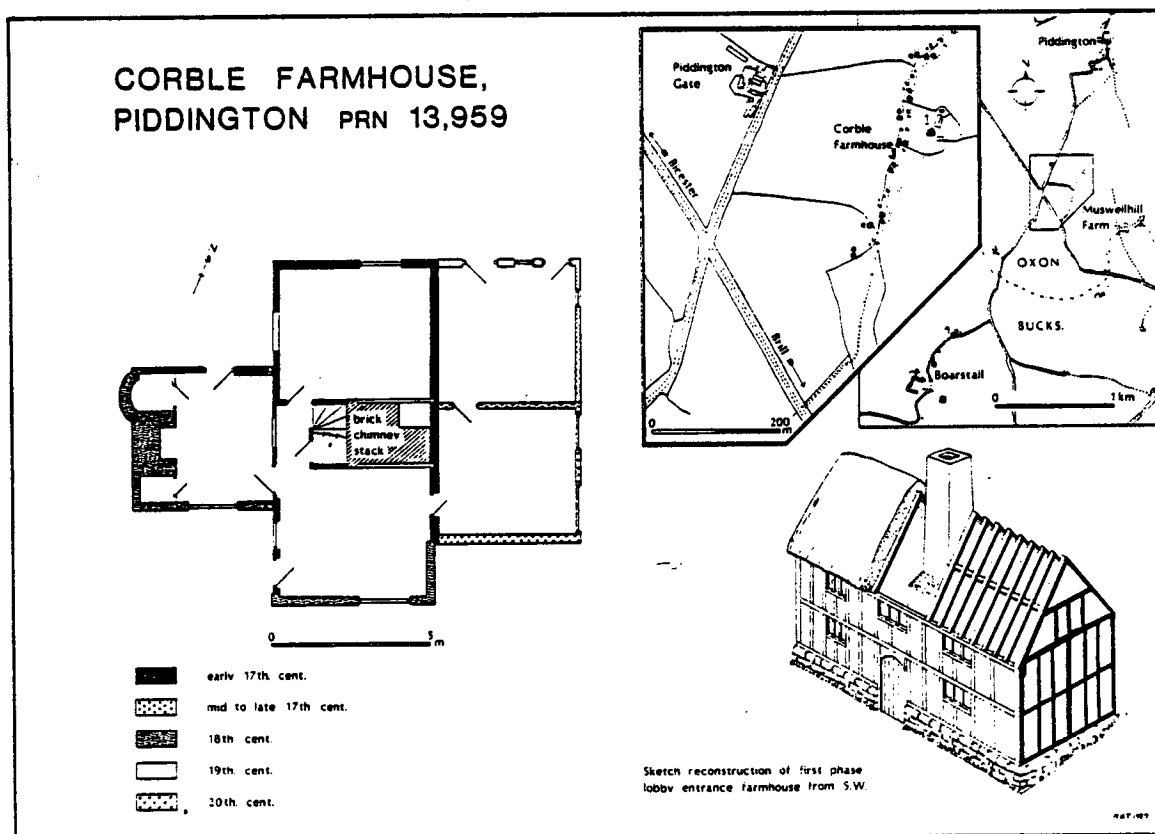
1b Mid 17th century. The wattle and daub panels were replaced with brick nogging. The bricks used in this phase are 22 cms x 55 cms x 11 cms - of salmon pink and orange. Many have signs of straw impressions where they have been placed upright in the hacksteads to dry before firing. A number have sand creases. An interesting and somewhat odd feature is the presence of a frieze of projecting moulded bricks which remains intact inside the building where it has been protected by the kitchen wing but has been chopped flush with the wall externally to accommodate battens for hung tiles on the walls.

Another feature which may well date from this period are the ceilings supported by lateral beams resting on moulded corbels. It seems likely that in the first phase these upper rooms were open to the rafters.

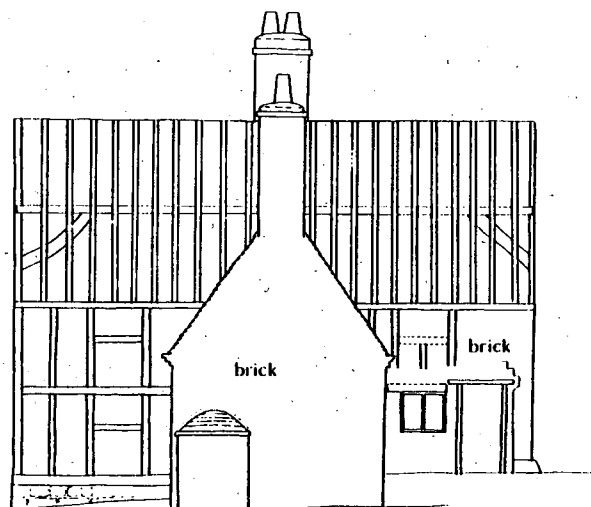
2. Mid 17th century. A 2 storey timber framed wing was added on the east side of the main range. This was in similar carpentry tradition. It appeared to be an addition because the rafters of the main range were complete and had not been adjusted to receive the timbers of an additional wing from the start. The timbers remained only in the upper part of one lateral wall because of demolition of an extension, that facing east and, has already been noticed contained evidence for the former existence of wattle and daub. There was close studding which apparently had replaced the wattle and daub and brick had been used in the gable end wall as the main walling material.

3. 18th century. A single bay wing containing a large fireplace and a semi circular bake oven was added on the west side of the house. This blocked the old entrance door and it was necessary to make a new one. There had evidently been trouble with the south west corner of the house. This was now completely encased in brick and the lateral wall thickened at the corner. A new entrance was made at the corner.

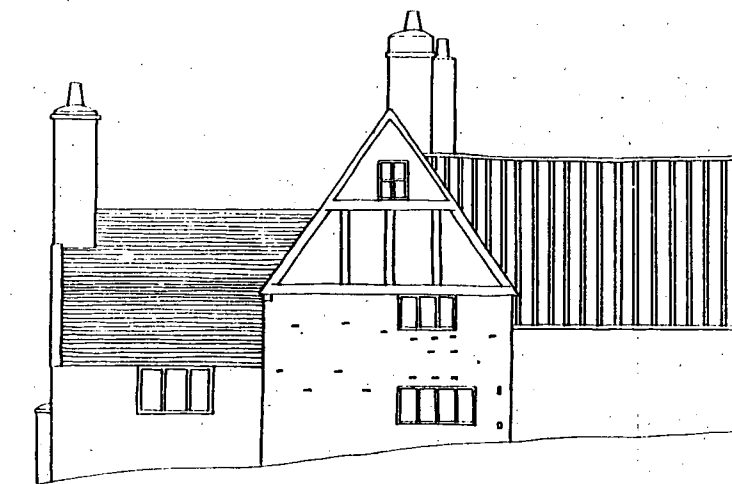
4. 19th-20th century. The bricks were restored at various places in the fabric including the upper part of the gable at the south end. Also the timber framing was totally masked by a skin of bricks in the west wall of the south wing. An additional chimney leading to a Victorian fireplace in one of the bedrooms was added, curiously using the same thin orange bricks which were used in the panels mentioned in phase 1b. The walls were encased with timber battens and tiles hung over the gables and west side.



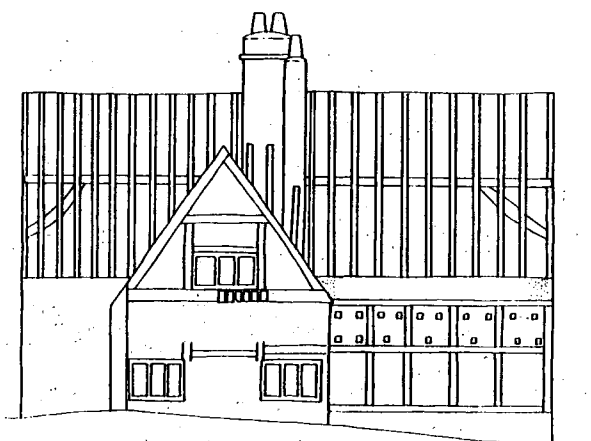
CORBLE FARMHOUSE PIDDINGTON, PRN 13,959



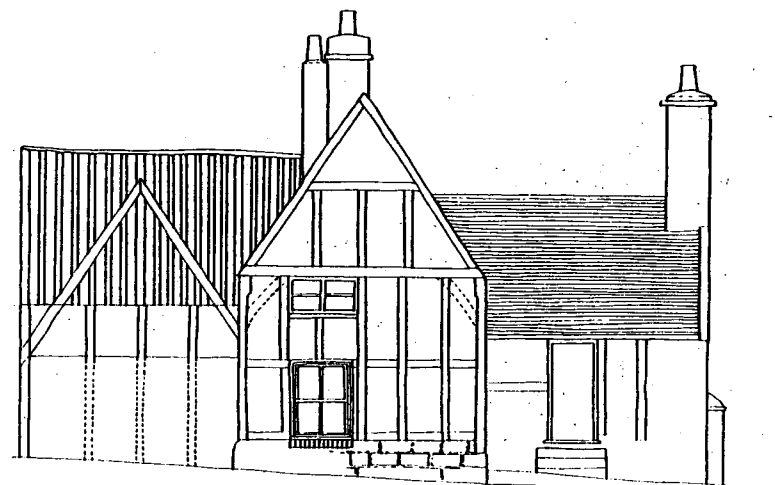
WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

0 5m

'Priory House' or 'Old Priory' Bicester. S. Crutchley.

'Priory House' or the 'Old Priory' [PRN 10,612 SP 58422212] as it was variously known was for many years believed to have been the 'Guest House' as part of the complex of the Priory of St. Edburg, founded c 1182 and dissolved in 1536.

In 1816 (1) John Dunkin referred to it as "the only part now remaining" of the Priory and said that "from the situation of the building it is not unlikely it was the lodge or house appropriated to the lodging and entertainment of travellers". He did, however, qualify his statement by adding that "it has undergone many alterations". J.C. Blomfield in 1884 (2) repeated Dunkin's assertion giving the measurements of the building, and describing its approach through an arched gateway. The early beginnings of the house ascribed to it through its medieval features, particularly the windows, continued to be reported through various sources up to the V.C.H. which suggests a late 15th century date, accepting its status, as a Guest House (3).

This view of its ancient date was first challenged by David Hinton in his work prior to excavations on the site of the nearby Priory Church (4). He examined the medieval features and proposed that these were second hand and probably came from the Priory, and an examination of the roof gave a 17th century date confirming the suspicion of re-use of older materials.

SURVEY

This view of the re-use of salvaged masonry gains substantial support from the measured survey carried out on 17.11.87 and 18.11.87 by J.M Steane and S. Crutchley.

PHASE 1 1700 CENTURY

In its original form the house would appear to have been a two cell two and a half storey block, built of coursed limestone with occasional courses of larger blocks. Much of the exterior of the house is obscured by later extensions, and other alterations make the formation of a view of its original appearance somewhat complex. The north face contains a total of three doorways, two now blocked, both square, and a double splayed pointed arch which now leads into the outshut. There is evidence for stops having been cut into the wall-plate which is visible in the interior of the north wall along the length of the building.

This might suggest an original doorway but the picture is complicated by the fact that the eastern jamb is straight jointed in. Apart from these doors there is a fine, chamfered pointed arch gateway leading into the garden through the wall which extends from the east gable.

Inside, leaving aside for one moment the problem of the doorways there were two cells of uneven size, the larger to the west including a large, 205 x 137 x 87 cm fireplace against the west gable with inglenook, ashlar masonry jambs and a heavily charred beam. There are large beams in the ceiling but these show signs of re-use particularly as they include one resting on the end of another which stands vertically like a support. The joist themselves also appear rather too substantial.

The more obviously medieval features are to be found on the first floor where there are a selection of windows, including in the east gable a twin light, square headed window with a square hood moulding. Evidence of the cutting back of the mullion on the inside suggests that this is

'in situ'.

In the south face is a single light window with cusped tracery and again a square hood moulding. The right hand jamb has evidence of holes for bars but the fact that these point outwards rather than across the face of the window and the absence of corresponding holes on the other side suggest re-used material.

The north face is pierced by three windows the two to the east being twin light square headed and with cusped tracery. They also have square hood mouldings and did have diamond mullions though these have been removed with the insertion of modern windows. The jambs of these windows unlike their tracery consist of huge ironstone blocks. The westernmost window shows signs of major alterations. It would appear to have begun as a twin light arched window but has been truncated by the imposition of a square hood moulding.

Of the original plan of the first floor little can be learnt due to extensive modernisation which has created a bathroom and set of stairs to the loft. Apart from the windows already mentioned there is a window space capable of accommodating a similar window in the south wall which now looks into the stairwell.

Moving up to the roof we find it in agreement with Hinton, a four bay, three truss, butt-purlin construction with straight tie beams and collars. There are irregularly spaced concave windbraces although some of these may be hidden by a plasterboard partition, as Hinton describes them all as present. There is no evidence for gable trusses and indeed there are carpenter's marks chiselled into collar and rafter numbering I to III in Roman numerals from the west.

PHASE 2 : 1900 CENTURY

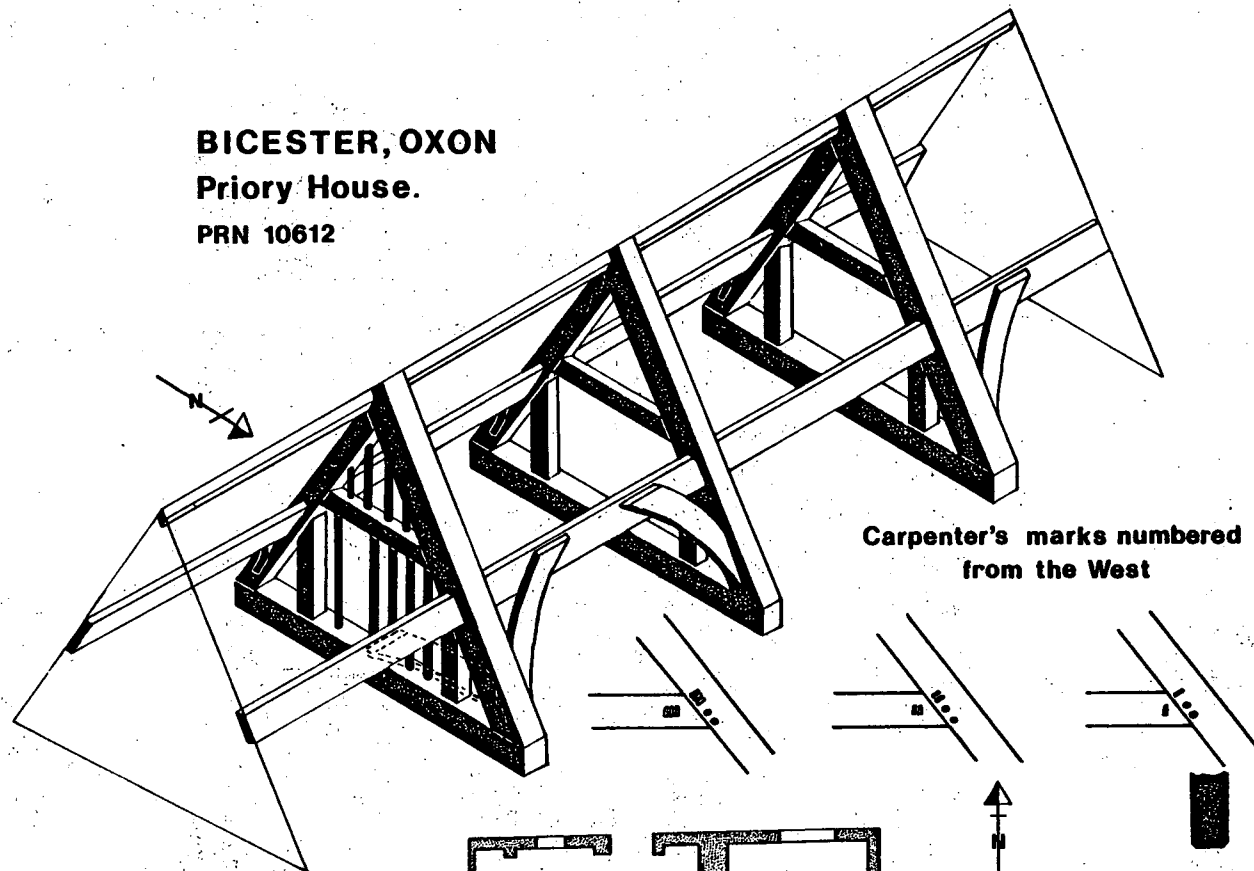
In the second phase a third room was added to the west end at ground floor and first floor level, the ground floor being entered through a low doorway knocked through beside the fireplace. The extent of alterations to the west gable is difficult to ascertain but there is an odd slant to the east wall backing onto the fireplace. At both levels the rooms have a small Victorian style fireplace in the north wall and large c 1.5m window openings, though with modern windows in the west. The roof construction is unknown but the profile is lower than that of the main building.

PHASE 3 20TH CENTURY

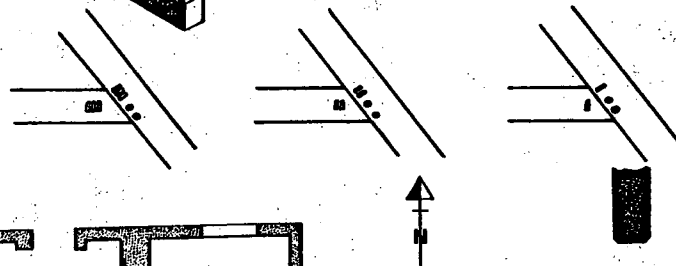
Major alterations were carried out on the north wall at some point but whether in phase 3 or earlier is not clear. In the eastern room the north wall seems to have been narrowed down to make a gentle curve and in the west, apart from the large blocked doorway, something strange has been done to the wall beside the fireplace. It has either had part of it narrowed out by a 30cm and had a small window niche replaced or a section over 1.5m long has been knocked out and then replaced with a narrower wall. The purpose of any of these alterations is hard to ascertain as is their date.

The more obvious alterations of phase 3 consist of the addition in stages, of outshuts to the north and a southern stair turret and the knocking through of certain features. In the south wall there is a doorway by the fireplace and in the other room a set of French windows. In the east gable there is a twin light, square frame window with cavetto mullion which has been inserted on the ground floor.

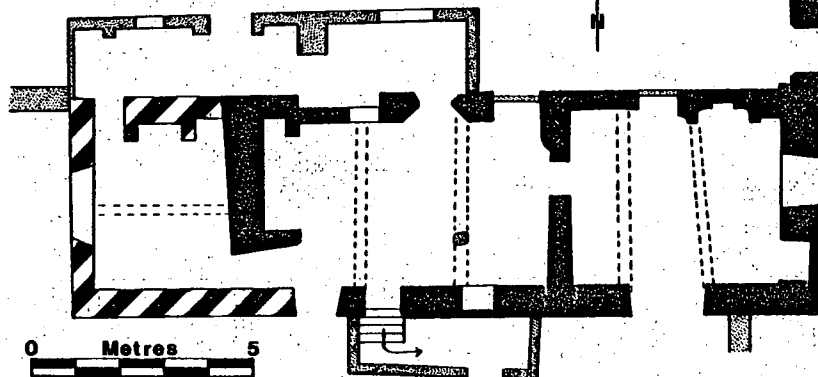
BICESTER, OXON
Priory House.
PRN 10612



Carpenter's marks numbered
from the West



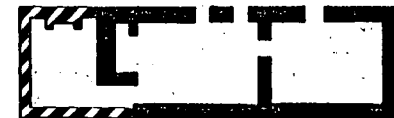
- 17th century
- ▨ 19th century
- ▩ 20th century



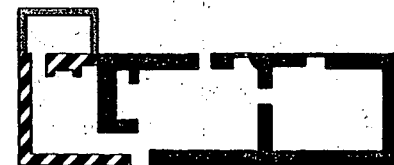
SCHEMATIC PHASING



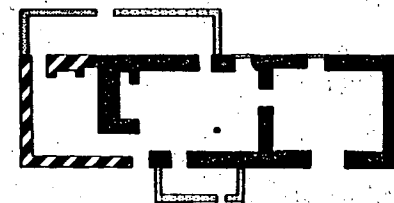
Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3a



Phase 3b



DISCUSSION

Three main questions about the form of the original building have been raised by this survey, but unfortunately they do not have easy answers.

First is the problem of access. Where was/were the original doorway/s ? With the arched gate leading to it, the door must lie in the north wall, but we have three possibilities and none fit Hinton's "four-centred doorway" which would be perfect (5). Perhaps this was to be found in the now enlarged doorway which would explain both the stops in the beam and the straight jointed jamb. Probably we need the opportunity of even closer examination of the fabric, and must leave this puzzle unsolved.

The second question that of light for the downstairs is again speculative but perhaps somewhat more amenable to a logical answer. The ground floor window in the east gable would appear to be a modern insertion, in that it does not appear on an early 19th century etching of the house in Dunkin (6). Although this is an inaccurate drawing as it depicts an impossibly uneven height to the walls, and drop to the roof, it seems unlikely that he could omit a window. He might however omit a blocked window which would allow this to be an original space, blocked and then reopened with a new window. Alternatively the window could have been in the space now occupied by the French window which has obliterated any trace of a previous opening. For the Western room there is a cupboard set deep in the south wall and blocked by the stair turret. It is not splayed but with its end now cut off it could certainly have run right through the wall.

The third query relates to access to the upper floor. At present this is reached by means of a stairway in the outshut to the south but the original arrangements are unclear. There is a gap in the ceiling joist roughly in the middle of the larger room, opposite the fireplace, but doubts have already been raised about the antiquity of said joists.

Unfortunately with regard to these and other questions about the form of the early house we must accept that the criticism first voiced by Dunkin when he examined it in 1816 has continued "it has undergone many alterations".

However putting aside questions of detail we can attempt to assign a date. The construction of the roof and its carpenter's marks which are chiselled rather than scratched, suggest a date early 17th century. Since there is no evidence of major rebuilding work to imply an earlier date for the main fabric of the building it would appear that the windows and other features which can be dated to the 15th and 16th centuries do indeed come from parts of the Priory and were no doubt collected from the ruins long after the dissolution and re-used.

NOTES

1. Dunkin J. "History and Antiquities of Bicester" p. 81-2 London 1816.
2. Blomfield J.C. "History of the Deanery of Bicester" 11 p. 111 Bicester 1884.
3. VCH Oxon VI 16.
4. Hinton D. "Bicester Priory" Oxoniensia XXXIII 1968, p. 26-7.
5. Hinton op. cit.
6. Drawing by A.J. Kempe from Dunkin, op. cit.

A field investigation was made of this building at the request of the Vale of the White Horse District Council.

- (1) Location. Wytham Abbey, as it is now known, was for centuries the residence of the Lords Norreys and the Earls of Abingdon. It adjoins on the west the church of All Saints. To the south is a substantial park.
- (2) Architectural description. Wytham Abbey was designed on the quadrangular plan but it was so refashioned in the eighteenth and nineteenth century that little except the gatehouse is in its original state (E.T. Long "Medieval Domestic Architecture in Berkshire" Berkshire Archaeological Journal, 45, part 1, 1941, 28, 29). The gatehouse is distinctly collegiate in appearance built of limestone rubble, is 3 storied and battlemented with diagonal buttresses with 3 offsets and a plinth course. It is divided into stages by bold string courses. Entrance is by a 4 centred moulded doorway. The building is lit by two projecting oriels on the front and one at the rear. The upper oriel merges with the string course, below the battlementing. The lower is on a projecting moulded bracket with a stone bird carved on the centre of the window sill. Each oriel is lit by 3 single cusped lights. The lower has embattling over the window. Access to the two upper storeys is by means of newel staircases in two rear octagonal turrets.

These figure on the earliest representation of the house, the early 18th century Kip engraving, and appear to be original features. The upper part of the newel staircases judging from the degree of wear is likely to be original.

The house at the beginning of the 18th century is shown in Kip's engraving (MS Top Berks c57, 419). This indicates that the main front was from the east. The castellated gatehouse is in the centre of a largely symmetrical facade which masks two courtyards. The gatehouse provides an entrance into the southerly one. Its embattlemented turrets are flanked by two crowstepped gables, each with a square headed 3 light window. The eastern range is lit by square headed 2, 3 light and 4 light windows. Those on either side of the gatehouse are mullioned and transomed. Below, lighting the ground floor are shorter 4 light windows. A projecting bay, 5th along from the south end adds a note of assymetry to the front. The south, end of the east range appears to project into the garden and behind is a balustrated tower with a louvre or bell turret. In the northern part of the east range are 3 dormer windows and above them clustered chimneys. The east side of the west range faces into the double quadrangular courtyard and has a stepped gable with clusters of chimneys on either side. Below the roof level at the north side there are two dormers.

When one compares the buildings shown in the Kip engraving with the plans and elevations on the same scale showing the house in 1811, (MS Top Berks c57, 212-213, 427-9), it is clear that much rebuilding and reconstruction had taken place during the latter part of the 18th century. In particular the southern end of the east range had been rebuilt and provided a large dining room on the first floor, castellated and provided with octagonal angle turrets. The windows were now 3 light square headed on ground and first floors. The northern end of the east range was still largely as it had been in the Kip drawing. The projection already mentioned was apparently a larder attached to a pantry. The interior of the house had also undergone extensive remodelling. The gatehouse now opened into an octagonal hall lit by a louvre from above. Doors from this area led into a water closet, an anti passage and other small areas leading eventually into kitchens. A "gothick" doorway led into the rest of the former courtyard area which had been roofed in and now housed the principal staircase. The south range had also assumed a "gothick" appearance, with octagonal castellated turrets at the corners and 2 ranges of 3 light square head windows below castellated parapets. (MS Top Berks c51, 250).

It is difficult to know how far the west front was shaped during this period because we do not have architects drawings. From the plan (MS Top Berks c57, 212-213) however it seems that a breakfast parlour drawing room and library with large bay windows had been added. Further rooms at ground floor level are named, glass closet, plate room, cellar and wine cellar. It is clear from the plan that the service accommodation was ranged round the northern of the two quadrangles "Servant's Hall", "Housekeeper's room", "Steward's office", "Coal Yard", "Scullery", "Pantry", are all mentioned, as well as "Housekeeper's store room" and "kitchen".

The south range was again remodelled in the 19th century and lost its largely regular and symmetrical features. It has battlemented parapets and heraldic shield shaped plaques on each gable. Between the two wings a 19th century porch has been added with a glass roof supporting a terrace above. The parapet of this terrace is also battlemented. The windows in the south elevation are tall square headed with stone mullions and transoms. The gables are finished off with a projecting moulding ending in finials. The chimneys are octagonal, battlemented and moulded.

The west range appears in Henry Hurst's sketch in Bodleian Library (Percy Manning Collection, MS Top Berks a 1, f. 70) a drawing dating from c. 1900. By then it had gained three projecting wings which now figure on the present facade. The south western of these has a small staircase tower. There are heraldic shield plaques to the gables as on the south front. The plinth course at ground level is similarly consistent with that of the south range but changes profile at the staircase tower projecting at the north west corner into a more pronounced chamfered plinth. Beyond the staircase tower in the centre of the west elevation is a 3 bay range with bay window in the centre. It is possible that some of the windows have been re-set from older work. The doorway at the ground level in the north west staircase turret may also be original with a moulded label above.

(b) Gardens. Assuming that the Kip engraving can be relied on, Wytham was surrounded at the beginning of the 18th century with an impressively regular and comprehensive formal garden layout. This included the following features:-

1. A canalised stream surrounded the house on 2 sides. This flowed under a bridge which the visitor needed to cross before entering the gatehouse. This feature evidently survived at least until 1804 because it appears in J.C. Natte's drawing "Lord Abingdon's seat at Wytham July 1804" (MS Top Oxon 11 3).
2. There were two storied pavilions built east west flanking a rectangular area which was surrounded by a castellated wall and two gate pillars in the centre. These buildings similar to those at Water Eaton House, Oxon were provided with crow stepped gables.
3. To the south of the house were two large rectangular gardens surrounded by borders with ornamental trees or topiary. These were overlooked by a long raised terrace.
4. To the west was a series of long hedges (?) each divided by paths and then an area of pleached alleys and kitchen gardens.
5. To the west again was an orchard and flanking it further pleached valleys and an avenue of trees on either side of a road.

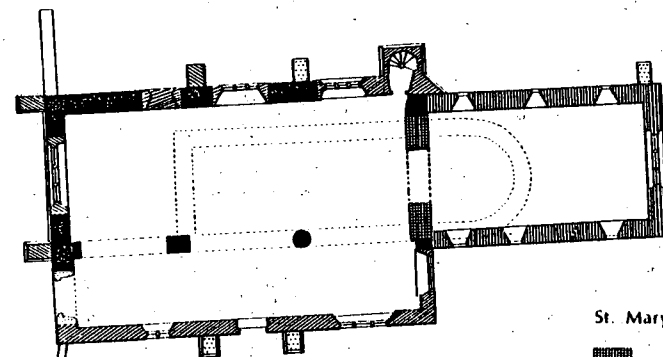
Very little of this formal scheme remains. Air photographs [Fairey Surveys Berks County Council 1:10,000 March 1969, 5128] indicate that part of the northern avenue seemed to be in place and a double straight line might be a remnant of the canalised stream. Clearly the whole lot had been swept away during the vogue for romanticised natural landscape in the 19th century. Irregular clumps of trees had replaced the rigidly straight orchard layout.

Waterperry House - M.K. Taylor and J.M. Steane - SP 62950640 PRN 3071

Location - Waterperry House is surrounded by a garden and parkland and is situated on the south-east edge of the village of Waterperry. The House is only 15 metres to the south of the parish church of St Mary which contains Saxon elements. This close juxtaposition suggests that the church may have served as a manorial chapel to the medieval manor house. Subsequently the development of the house and the enlargement of the park in the eighteenth century promoted a shift in the village settlement pattern which concentrated the nucleus of the village further to the north-west. Field investigations and a study of air photographs have not so far given an indication that the manorial site was moated.

During Winter 1987 considerable internal alterations were carried out in the house following an invitation from the Estate Manager. J.M. Steane and M.K. Taylor undertook a field investigation of the house in Spring 1987.

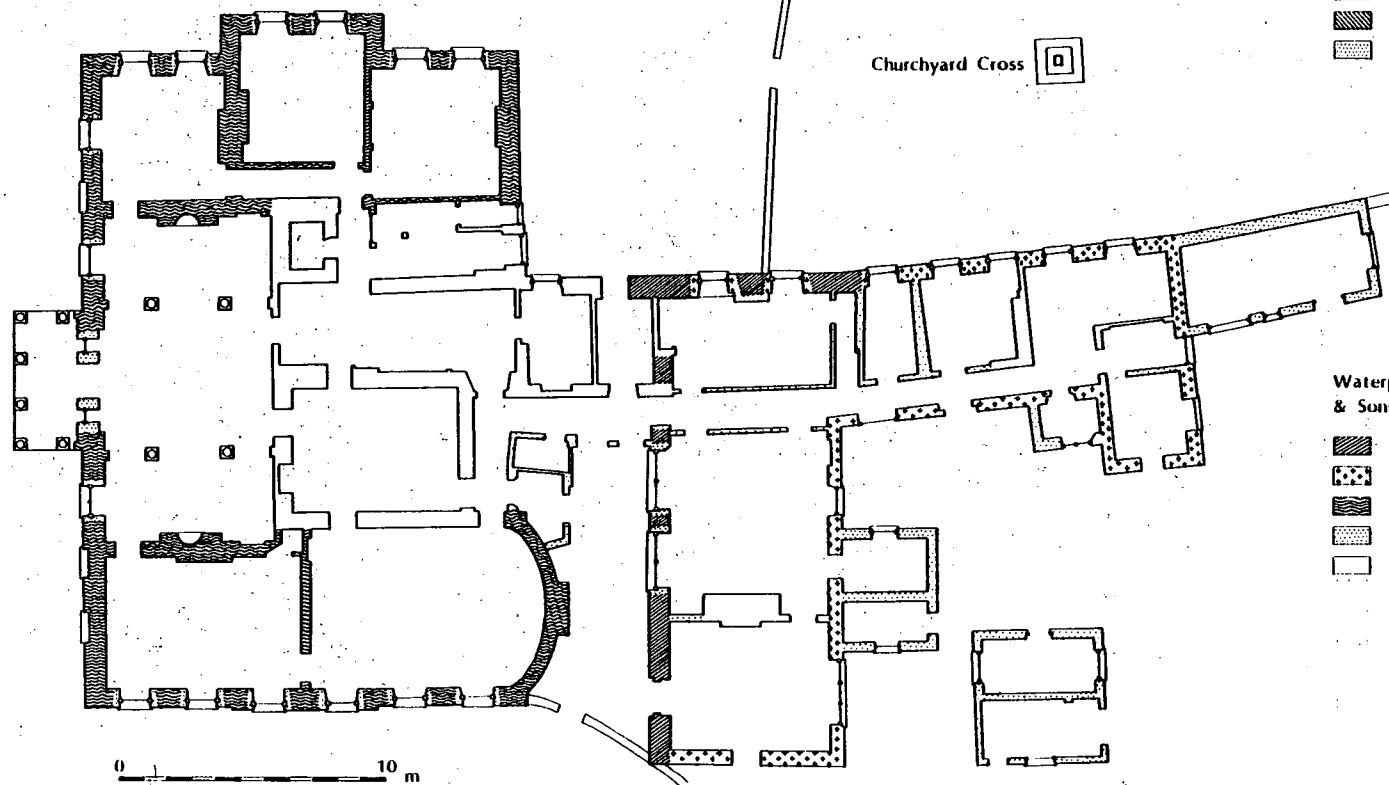
WATERPERRY HOUSE, ST. MARY'S CHURCH PRNs 3071 and 984



St. Mary's Church (after V.C.H.)

- Pre - Conquest
- 12th. Century
- 13th. Century
- 14th. Century
- 15th. Century
- 19th. Century

Churchyard Cross



Waterperry House (after Donaldson
& Sons, Chartered Surveyors, 1971)

- 14th. Century
- 17th. Century
- 18th. Century
- 19th. Century
- Uncertain

0 10 m

(1) Phase 1 late 13th-14th century.

The present arrangements suggest that the first phase house (or first known phase of the house) consisted of a rectangular block aligned NNE - SSW behind the present main house. Three features lend support to this: firstly, the wall thickness of the west wall of the block (now comprising the kitchen and scullery) - about 80cms, secondly the junction of this wall with the north wall of the kitchen block indicates that this range was attached to another on an east west alignment (see plan). Finally, the doorway at the south end of the west wall appears to be early 14th century and "in situ". Much of the walling stone in the rebuilt elements of this range may well be re-used medieval stone.

(2) Phase 2. late 17th century.

The house was enlarged and the NE range parallel to the church was built. The plan of the house at this phase was a block on an East West alignment parallel to the church with two wings projecting southwards at the east and west ends of the block. The west wing (and perhaps the west end of the main East West block incorporated features of the earlier medieval manor. A single bay wing was added at the SE corner and also the upper part of the west wall of the Phase 1 south wing was rebuilt and bears an oval stucco plaque with the date 1705 between four Fleur de Lys. The east side of the Phase 1 medieval block was replaced with a less substantial wall.

The roof structure of the late 17th century Phase 2 wing is of tie beam, collar, and butt purlin through the principal rafters construction. The attic spaces are sealed with riven oak lathes and plaster. The small single bay south wing of Phase 2 has a roof of softwood with butt purlins through the principal rafters and tie beams.

The north facing elevation of the 17th century Phase 2 wing viewed from the churchyard presents a 2 storeyed range of 7 bays, with a hipped roof at the east end. Windows are two light timber framed thick mullion and transoms with leaded casements and certain amount of old glass (see above). The wall elevation is of coursed and squared limestone rubble with ashlar quoins, tiled roof, brick chimneys - rebuilt tops. At the W end of this north facing elevation separated from the two storey range by a straight joint is a three storey gable with central brick chimney with rebuilt top. There are 2 (smaller) windows at attic level, otherwise it has 2 windows similar to those of the 2 storey north elevation with thick mullions and transoms. Stucco covered in hard grey cement render. Datable features of this elevation suggest a date somewhere in the region of c. 1680-1700.

(3) Phase 3 early 18th century.

At the western end, the earlier manor house with seventeenth century wing was updated with the construction of an imposing mansion with frontage facing west and masking the earlier buildings behind when viewed from this aspect. The southernmost extent of the Phase 1 S wing may have been truncated in this period to avoid cluttering the new fashionable west front. The core of this work attributed to c. 1713 for Sir John Curson may in effect incorporate or overlie the west wing of the Phase 1 manor house. The wall alignment hints at continuity here, but without positive evidence

it is extremely difficult to determine the point of departure for the new work.

(4) Phase 4 19th century.

Remodelling carried out for the Henley family c. 1820 probably is reflected in the stucco, window openings, and Ionic porch. A low pitched roof covered with Welsh slates was added to the north-south range at the rear of the main house. Some brick was used in the structural work on this range during this period, and the S end of the roof of the south wing was replaced with slate.

Park and Garden

The park and garden in front of the house has some fine trees; a range of oaks, two Spanish chestnuts and a Wellingtonia which must be nearly 200 years old. Also a mighty beech is evidence of ornamental planting. A wet ditch (when visited February - March 1987) bounds the park/garden to the west. There was a suggestion of ridge and furrow, and a depression in grass - perhaps a fallen tree.

To the east of the house lies a brick walled garden with pilasters in the walls at intervals, contemporary with the main refashioning of the early 19th century house. There are a series of greenhouses. The oldest are probably the outshut - leanto type with large bricks, some vitrified headers and roof supported on girders, Victorian cast iron supports with floriated pattern. There is a cast brass nameplate with "Foster and Pearson Ltd., Beeston, Notts" on the door latch. A huge hole has been knocked in the north-east corner of the walled garden. The wall at this corner is of stone rubble with a brick inner skin and bonding courses of brick in the outer face. The considerable moat here has been filled in by a causeway. This is spanned by a small bridge with four Doric pilasters, a frieze with metopes; 2 semi circular niches, and a central, semi-circular arch leading to a barrel-vaulted tunnel all in limestone ashlar. The outer faces of the bridge are leaning alarmingly. Clearly the bridge was meant to be seen from the side which could be seen from the house. The rusticated ashlar is in fact only a thin skin or a brick-vaulted structure domed in brick.

Agricultural Buildings

There is an interesting set of late 18th and 19th century farm buildings. These include (1) A Hay barn situated 100 metres north-east of Waterperry House. This has dwarf walls of brick and opposed doors; the door facing the house has been blocked with modern brick. The posts are jowled with adzed tie beams strutted to the principal posts, curved principals setting on the tie beams, slender principal rafters with slots for missing wind braces. The lower purlins are clasped between the principal rafters and curved principals. The upper purlins are clasped between the collar and principal rafters. The building is half-hipped at both ends. In the gable end is a filled-in pitching hole. The walls are weatherboarded. There is a tiled roof, earth floor and end-set limestone cobbling around the doorway.

- (2) There is a half-hipped range of single storey farm buildings further to the north-east. These are set on dwarf stone walls with brick top courses. The structure is timber-framed with tie beams with cambered collars and queen posts. The principal posts are jowled and braced. The walling is weatherboarded and much cut about for its adaptation to a workshop. The date is the same as the haybarn - mid to late 18th century.
- (3) The Granary is situated about 90m to the north of the house. This is entirely timber-framed. It is arcaded with two aisles, and is 6 bays in length. The posts rest on saddle stones and the struts are curved. The bins are situated on the first floor, and are boarded with a central gangway. There has been much chopping about of the upper floor but the slots are an indication of the former position of more bins. There are two louvres. The roof is of Welsh slate, hipped and the outside of the granary is coated with pitch. The granary seems to be 18th century in construction with a Victorian re-roofing.
- (4) The Stable is a two storeyed Victorian building of limestone, consisting of two parallel ranges. The roof is half-hipped with a covering of blue slate and loading doors for hay. The semi-circular arched entry at either end with half doors, is lofty enough to admit a horse and rider on the north front are timber lintels over small paved windows with mullions and transoms.

A number of visits were made during 1987 followign on an extensive refurbishing scheme. Our thanks are due to Dr Malcolm Airts of South Oxon District Council, Messrs Earlcroft of Aylesbury, the owners and Dr. E. Clive Rouse.

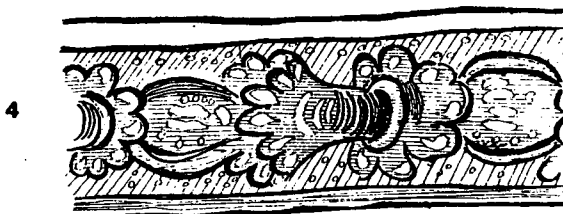
The Swan Hotel is an ancient inn situated on the north east side of the bishop of Lincoln's planned medieval town of Thame. Recent excavations by the Oxford Archaeological Unit have revealed evidence for medieval occupation at the rear of the site which is being currently developed as a shopping/pedestrian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

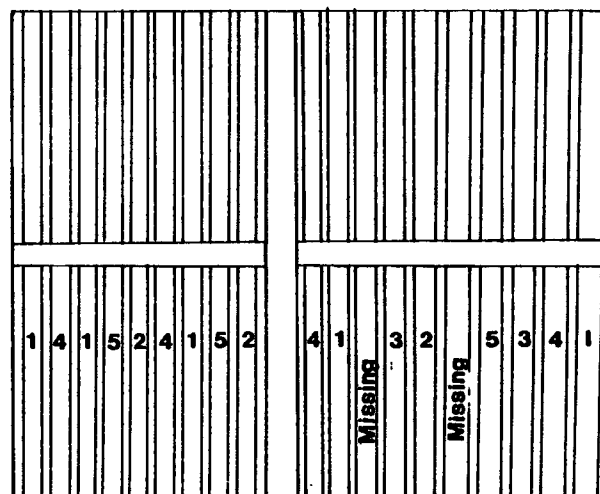
The roof structure of the L shaped phase one building is particularly impressive. The range facing the High Street has two bays of excellent quality carpentry, tie beams, principal rafters, 2 ranges of purlins clasped between the double collars and the principal rafters. The lower and upper collars are 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.

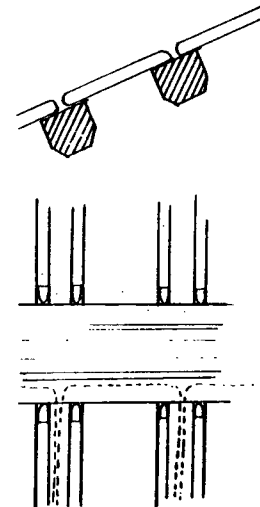
The boards completely cover the spaces between the 21 joists on the south side of the building. They have been entirely removed from the north side but a number of fragments survive, found stacked resting in the joists in the roof space. The painted decoration is characterised [by E. Clive Rouse] as "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 brio 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.



Cms 25

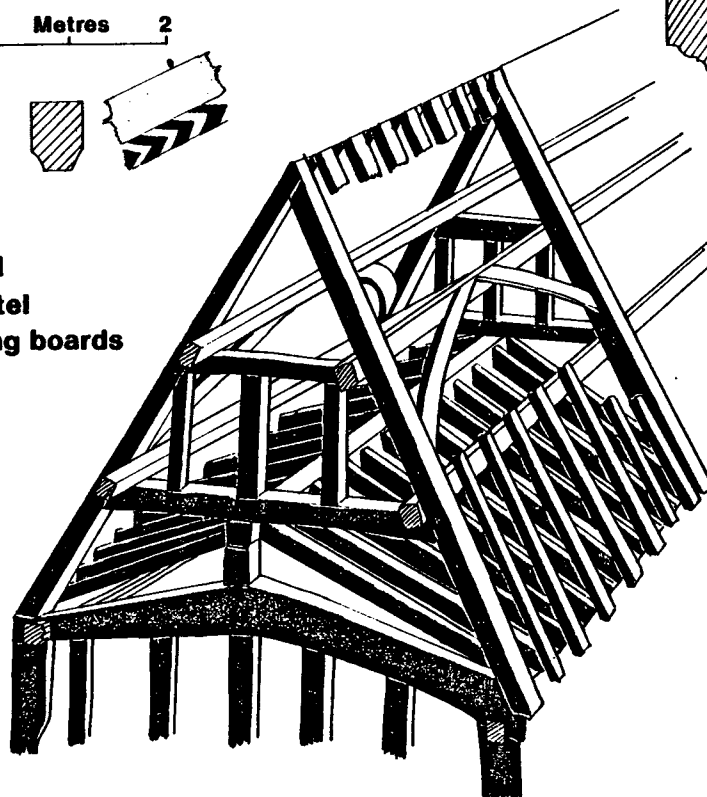


Metres 2



THAME OXON
The Swan Hotel
Painted ceiling boards

-  Brown
-  Grey
-  Black
-  White



Following a planning application to change the barns into offices a field investigation was carried out at the request of the Vale of the White Horse District Council.

Middle Farm, as Kings Manor was known until 10 years ago, which occupies a central position in the village of Harwell, was the capital messuage of half a knight's fee, some 200 acres and 30 shillings of rent. It was in the hands of the Bayllo family in the 13th century and the Brounz family in the late 14th and 15th century (see J.M. Fletcher, "Three Medieval Farmhouses in Harwell", Berks Arch J. 62, 1965-6, 45-70). The farmhouse itself is one of the most important medieval timber framed buildings in the Vale of the White Horse. It is considered in detail in Fletcher's article of 1965 (pp 47-51). The farm buildings, however deserve detailed notice: they consist of three, the cruck outhouse, the thatched outhouse (which is now called Cherry Barn) and the cruck barn (which is referred to as the Grove Road barn). The following description covers the first two only since they were the subject of the planning application.

(1) The cruck outhouse. This building now limited to two bays open to the rafters lies 15 feet from the east face of the farmhouse. The northerly of the two remaining cruck trusses (now the gable end truss) has purlins lying on its back supported by chock shaped blocks. The presence of mortices for windbraces on both sides of one of the blades (Fletcher's observation p. 52) points to the likelihood that there was another bay to the north. The blades have slots which took a tie beam; one of the spurs which originally supported the wall plate has survived on the north west side. The wall plate here itself is a replacement but on the other side, although split and distorted, it has remarkably survived with its slots for studs and groove to take panels of wattle and daub. It is important that this piece of timber be retained if at all possible. One further point of interest is that this cruck truss is unchamfered and is likely to have marked a partition between the (now vanished) northern bay and the central two bay unit. The shape of the central truss blades are shouldered, the collar is archbraced, the purlins trenched into the backs of the blades. Both the crucks themselves and the arch bracing are chamfered, to provide a slightly ogival shape the centre of the collar is cut into in between the two arch braces. This is an echo of the more pronounced ogival shape seen in the arched timbering of the porch attached to the house. The function of the cruck outhouse is not clear. Fletcher considers that it may have been a retainer's hall; but the lack of smoke blackening argues against this. It seems that some form of warehouse or granary is more likely. The date is likely to be in the mid 14th century. The date has been established by radio carbon 14 dating. Here a date of felling of the timbers is reckoned to be 1350 AD (C.R.J. Currie and J.M. Fletcher "Two early cruck houses in North Berkshire identified by radio carbon, Med. Arch. XV, 1972, 137).

(2) A thatched outhouse. (Cherry Barn) is situated some 20ft south west of the cruck outhouse and is now connected to it by 2½ bays of post medieval framing. The two end 12ft long bays end with a half hipped roof and have a form of framing current in the late medieval period, jowled posts, tie beams, upper and lower collars each below sets of butt jointed purlins. The principal rafters meet on either side of the ridge pole which they clasp between them. Horizontal stiffening is provided by two pairs of curved windbraces per bay. A good deal of the very substantial framing of the walling survives including two interesting features. There were at least two windows, one in each of the lateral walls, with timber mullions. The walling material was evidently wattle and daub panels because auger holes are to be seen under the soffits of the wall plates accompanied by grooves in the rails. The weatherboarding despite its considerable antiquity on the southern side (under the outshut facing the sunken yard) is clearly a secondary expediency for wall cladding. Fletcher considers (p. 54) a date in the middle to late 15th century. The function has to take into account the fact that the timbers are heavily smoke blackened in these two bays; it was perhaps used for brewing or malting but does not seem likely to have been a kitchen. It is joined by three trusses of late 17th-18th century framing with characteristic queenposts supporting single collars. There are horizontal timbers braced by slanting struts.

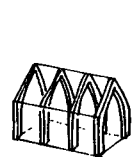
(3) The third main phase of building represented in the group of farm buildings which is the subject of the current application is in two parts. The 15th century brewhouse interpreted here as a brewhouse was linked to the 14th century cruck outhouse by two and a half bays of timber framing which include a double door opening onto a yard to the north. Also a three bay barn was added to the south of the cruck outhouse. I link these two additions because the carpentry is very similar in style and is characteristic of farm buildings of the mid 18th century in the Vale of the White Horse. The framing is mounted on dwarf walls of limestone rubble and consists of sole plates into which are tenoned principal posts consisting of roughly squared quarter or half trees. These are jowled in the case of the link building but not in the case of the 3 bay barn. The roof timbers are supported by Queen posts which in turn are braced by short horizontal timbers attached to the tie beam by struts. Again the link building has a slightly unusual feature of slanting struts. The walling apparently has always been weatherboarding attached to the posts and rails. There is one example of a window in the east wall of the 3 bay barn. It has five lights, timber mullions set lozenge wise and is only visible internally. It is noteworthy that remains of the original rafters are seen in the 3 bay barn above the upper range of purlins. There is a plank ridge piece. There are two doors in the 3 bay barn opening towards the drive way up to the house. Judging from the cobbled threshold the one further away from the house is an old one. Double doors open out from the central bay into the sunken yard on the other side. An extra bay resting on brick pillars weatherboarded like the rest has been added to the link building, I would guess in the 20th century.

It seems that there may have been a large open hall in the centre lit by a fireplace from the central stack now much altered which may have gone up to rafter level with two floor levels at either end. The tie beams have slots for joists indicating the position of attic floors. The roof covering is Stonesfield type slate on the south side and ceramic tiles on the north. There are stone ridge tiles and a ball finial with a spike at the street end.

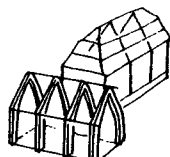
Access to the house appears to have been through the north door which faces onto the stack, making the house an example of the Lobby Entrance type. Lateral planned doorways lead to the rooms on either side (Mercer E. English Vernacular Houses, 1975, 61). Most of the windows have been renewed probably on several occasions. The north side of the house now has two gables, externally covered with plaster with large windows with leaded lights. They go with a romantic timber-framed and brick porch with brackets and probably date from c. 1910-20. There are large brick additions at the west end probably of the 18th or 19th centuries.

- (3) Stables. The building which is the subject of the present planning application is described as a "barn" but its position and fittings indicates that it is more likely to have been a stable. This is a four bay building. It is built of roughly course greensand rubble up to the plinth course and further stonework is visible on the interior. The upper part of the walls are built of brick, Flemish bond with some vitrified headers. There are 3, 2 light square headed windows with gauged brick heads and ovolo mullions. The brick size is 23 x 5 x 11cms. This part of the building seems to be late 17th century in date. The roof timber construction is principal rafters, clasped purlins, tie beams with queenposts supporting the upper purlins and queen struts supporting the lower purlins. There are signs of the former existence of an upper room at the south end of the roof space : battens, whitewash and fragments of plaster all suggest the presence of an ostler's or groom's room. In the rear of the building facing into the stone paved yard it is clear that there were formerly three doorways with timber lintels. Two are blocked. These suggest a stable. This conclusion is supported by the existence of a floor of moulded hard brick with bevelled edges, a ceramic equivalent of a pitched stone floor suitable for sweeping out a stable. The lofty space inside is also typical of a stable.

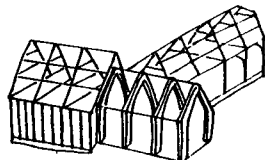
HARWELL OXON KINGS MANOR BARN AND OUTHOUSES



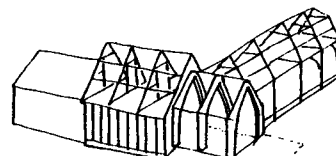
Phase 1
1350



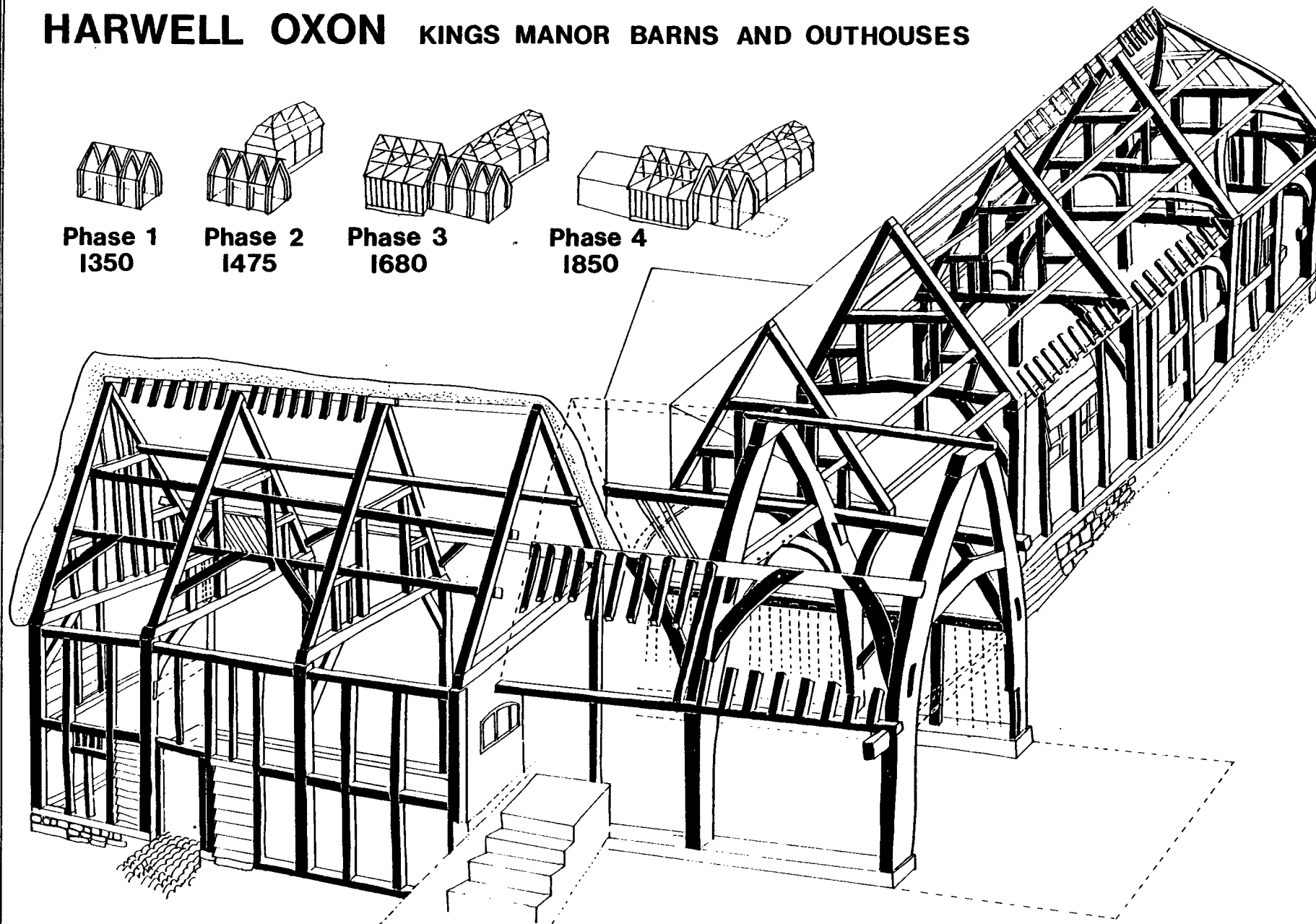
Phase 2
1475



Phase 3
1680



Phase 4
1850



(142)

A visit was undertaken in October 1987 at the request of the Vale of the White Horse District Council, in connection with a planning application to convert the barn into residential accommodation. Our thanks are due to Mr and Mrs J. Clements, the owners, for permission to view the barn and the house.

The history of the Kings Manor goes back to the 11th century (Victoria County History, Berkshire, IV, 296). The house and remains of former farm buildings occupy a prominent position on the road front in the centre of the village opposite the Jesus Chapel.

- (1) It consists of an early c. 16th century gatehouse at right angles to the east end of the house. This is of two storeys and is of rubble stone in two builds. The first metre or so from ground level is thin flaggy greensand rubble roughly coursed. Above is rubble made of chalk blocks and may represent a rebuild on old stone foundations. The quoins are built of brick and there are decorative small brick panels all over the building. These can be seen on the (now inside) wall facing onto the barn which indicates that the gatehouse predates these other outbuildings. Moulded bricks are used on the plinth course. The ground floor is lit by a 2 light square headed window with a hood mould and chamfered mullion. Also there is another 2 light square headed window with chamfered mullion in the gable. The upper part of the gable is decorated with cut tiles in a diaper pattern. The apex is covered with tiles. The stone gable ends in a cusped stone ridge tile which may formerly have had a ball finial.

The gatehouse was formerly blocked with a brick wall as is seen in a 19th century watercolour in the house. It is connected by a bridge to the house. A doorway with the inscription JAMQUE OPUS EXEGI leads out of the gatehouse to the north.

- (2) The Farmhouse is a listed Grade II building and is situated at right angles to the road. It is six bays, two storeys and attics. A good complete example of a building to be dated c 1550 with small framing where the frame is "divided into small squares ... by vertical and horizontal timbers" (Mercer E. English Vernacular Houses, HMSO, 1975, 114-5). There is a dwarf stone wall covered with a cement skin which conceals the type of stone. The walls are timber-framed with brick nogging. The brick size is 23 x 5 x 12cms. The four bays on the east side have straight braces and these are lacking in the two bays at the west end. There is no sign at roof level, however of the building being constructed in two phases. There are two original windows, both on the north side and now enveloped in additions and so no longer serving their original purpose. They are both 4 light, square headed with timber mullions set lozenge shaped. The main posts are jowled and support tie beams, collar beams, upper purlins clasped, lower purlins butt jointed. The upper floor levels appear to have been altered.



Sydney Temple

Some Notes on Discovering the Line of Streets in Dorchester-on-Thames

The streets of present day Dorchester-on-Thames in Oxfordshire are unrelated to those of the Roman walled town of the second century, as S. Frere showed in his excavations of 1962.¹ By excavating in the allotments which cover approximately the southern third of the Roman town, he was able to establish the line of a portion of the town wall and the lines of some of the streets (See Fig. 1). Though the present day High Street crosses the line of the north wall of the Roman town at approximately the presumed location of the Roman north gate, just below the present Chain Lane, the line of the High Street today has little relation to the line of streets in the Roman town.

Frere found that marks of timber buildings of the Saxon period were not aligned with the streets that he was able to trace within the Roman town. And in the Beech House and Castle Inn excavations, made by Trevor Rowley and others, evidence was found of other Saxon structures which were not related to the street plan of the Roman town.² (See Fig. 2) On the basis of this evidence Rowley was able to state, in his "Early Saxon Settlement in Dorchester-on-Thames", that "by the late Saxon period the Roman street pattern had definitely gone out of use".

The first permanent building in the present town location must have been the small Cathedral built for Bishop Birinus presumably near the Thame River location of his baptism of Bishop Cynegil in 635.⁴ It is evident that the present High Street is oriented to the location of Dorchester Abbey which was presumably built on the site of that first church building.

Rowley has suggested that the present line of the High Street was laid out when the Bishop of Lincoln made an attempt to establish a market town here after the See City of the diocese had been transferred to Lincoln. Of this he wrote, "It is more than probable that the basic modern road pattern was created in the early Middle Ages when an attempt may have been made to form a borough here. In the twelfth century Dorchester was part of the estate of the Bishop of Lincoln; in two other Oxfordshire manors, Thame and Banbury, new towns were created by the Bishop. It seems probable that a similar attempt was made at Dorchester to found a town outside the Abbey gates".⁵ On this basis he included a "Reconstruction of town plan of medieval Dorchester" as his Figure 5, which is included here as Figure 3.

The 1845 Tithe map of Dorchester showed Rotten Row as a continuation of High Street in a straight line. (See Fig. 4) Then Samian Way, to the south, is shown as nearly on a direct line of the continuation of High Street-Rotten Row. If this were a continued street to include High Street-Rotten Row-Samian Way it would follow the line suggested by Rowley in his reconstruction of the town plan of medieval Dorchester. Buildings of medieval or 16C/17C date are to be found from the northern part of High Street, on Rotten Row and on Samian Way, marking out the complete route of the early High Street in Dorchester. (See figs. 4 and 5). Terrace cottages on Bridge End Green of 16C/17C date mark the route taken by the road from the end of the High Street-Rotten Row-Samian Way to the old bridge.

Medieval buildings are identified as those which show proof that they once had been of Open Hall construction. Of such medieval Open Hall dwellings Malcolm Airs states in his Buildings of Britain, Tudor and Jacobean (1982): "At the beginning of the sixteenth century everybody who

was not of the gentry lived in a house dominated by a single room open to the roof and heated from an open fire placed in the middle of the floor ... a hall extended for the full height of the building ... flanked at either end by storeyed bays with specialized service and storage functions".⁶

The hall at the centre of the house was framed by cruck trusses which reached from the floor to the roof. (See Fig. 6A). It has been said that from philological evidence the technique may go back to the tenth century when furcae, or forks, are first mentioned in connection with building and that it may have earlier history as a variant of Saxon practice. The simplest cruck construction consists of two posts rising from the ground to form a triangle, linked at the ridgeline to another similar triangle. Curved timbers were usually selected from the forest to make a matching pair of cruck-blades.⁸ Two early cruck-framed houses in North Berkshire have been identified by radiocarbon dating as having been constructed before the end of the thirteenth century.⁹

A cruck-framed house at Lower Radley, Berkshire, has shown by pottery found in the excavation to have been built before the end of the fourteenth century. Because the house was condemned it was possible to take it apart, piece by piece, and by removing later additions it was possible to recognise the medieval house as it was before the sixteenth century fireplaces and extra floor levels were added. The central hearth was discovered in the excavation.¹⁰ (See Fig. 6A).

Medieval buildings that have been identified on Dorchester High Street begin at the north end with the Tudor Cottage, 76 High Street, and continue south with the Bull Inn, the Nook and adjoining cottage, the George Inn, three terrace cottages set back at 13 to 19 High Street to the Fleur de Lys Inn at the intersection with Rotten Row. On Rotten Row the series continues with the Pigeons cottage and the Old Cottage. Then on the previous continuation of the street the Croft Cottage on Samian Way shows evidence of once having been a cruck-framed building.

Next after Hall Houses came the 16C/17C Lobby entry houses. (See Fig. 6B). Of these Malcolm Airs has written in the same work: "Within the space of less than a hundred years the housing conditions ... had been strongly transformed", and "The agent was the enclosed fireplace to take the smoke away ... William Harrison wrote in 1577 of how men marvelled at 'the multitude of chimneys lately erected' in his own village, 'whereas in their younger days there were not so many as two or three, if so many ...'. The chimneystack brought the medieval house a new lease of life ... Not unexpectedly there was a variety of shortlived solutions, but by the early seventeenth century ... By far the most popular and the one with the widest distribution was the lobby-entry house. In its smallest form, the chimneystack was placed in the centre of the house with an entrance lobby to the front and staircase to the rear".¹¹

On the High Street--Rotten Row--Samian Way line the sixteenth and seventeenth century houses have been identified; starting with Old Forge cottage, 72 High Street, the 16C/17C buildings continue south with Willoughby House, 73 High Street, and the adjoining cottage at 63 High Street, The Crown Inn, 52 High Street, the terrace cottages next at 36-44 High Street, the building across the street at number 55, with a carpenter's mark of 1691 cut into a front timber, which may have been the last portion of The Bull Inn to be built, back on the east side of the street is Abbey Cottage, 30 High Street, and The White Hart Inn to the south on the same side of the street, then across the street again,

the cottage at 33-35 High Street. On down at the end of the previous extension of High Street, now a cul de sac, is Mayflower Cottage, 9 Rotten Row. Over at Bridge End Green is a set of Terrace cottages of 16C/17C date which mark the extension of the old route to the old bridge over the Thame River.

Two cottages which are not on the former High Street-Rotten Row-Samian Way have been identified as of 16C/17C date. They are the cottage at 8 Martin's Lane and that at 16 Malthouse Lane.

Contemporaneous evidence of the route of the former extension of High Street to the old bridge as evidenced by these medieval and 16C/17C buildings is to be found in a detail of Dorchester streets as shown on the strip map of 1675 by John Ogilby. An enlargement of two strips from the Ogilby book of strips is included as Figure 7 with a further enlargement of the Dorchester detail as Figure 8. It will be seen that on the 1675 map the north-south High Street passes in front of the Abbey, then leads directly to the old bridge after a swing to the east at its southern end. The road which turns to the south of the Abbey grounds does not extend to the old bridge on the Ogilby map but dies at the Thame River above the old bridge.

An eighteenth century county map of Oxfordshire, published by R. Davis in 1797 gives a more detailed picture of the streets from the old bridge to the Abbey area, though it omits some elements (Samian Way is not shown nor is the Bridge End Green). An enlargement of the Dorchester street plan from this map is included as Figure 9. A comparison of the two eighteenth century maps as the Dorchester streets are represented therein would suggest that sometime between 1675, the date of the Ogilby map, and 1797, the date of the Davis map, the route of High Street-Rotten Row-Samian Way was superseded by another route from the old bridge to the Abbey area.

The path of the new, and shorter, route from the old bridge appears to be marked by a cottage now numbered 12 Bridge End which is not aligned with the present street but angles slightly toward the point where High Street meets the Abbey grounds. It would have been aligned with the road that led up from the old bridge after the High Street-Rotten Row-Samian Way road was abandoned.

This cottage has the date 1715 with initials CL in a square panel over the front door. Though dating on a house cannot automatically be assumed to be authentic, if it were the correct date for the building of the cottage this would give some guidance for the dating of the institution of the new shorter route from the old bridge to the Abbey grounds. There are other eighteenth century dates on houses in Dorchester and nearby Overy which would tend to authenticate the dating of 12 Bridge End.

Mollymops, the cottage at the head of present Samian Way, has flint sections set into the brick exterior as does 12 Bridge End, suggesting that the two were built in the same period of house styles. This cottage has the date 1731 and initials PFE in the panel over the front door, like 12 Bridge End. The overdoor panel on Mollymops is similar to that over the door of the Manor House in Overy which is dated 1712 with initials DWH. The similarity of the eighteenth century dating of these three buildings is striking.

The cottage, Mollymops, was built in the middle of what would have been the old road, High Street-Rotten Row-Samian Way. When the old route was abandoned all traffic would have moved directly along the new shorter

route from the old bridge to High Street at the Abbey grounds. Since the road surfaces at that time were said to have been "comparable to that of the unmetalled farm tract"¹² it is not surprising to find that a cottage was built in the middle of a former road that had been abandoned. Two cottages, now joined as one and called Pilgrims, was built across the old route at the other end of the break, at the foot of the present Rotten Row, which is now a cul de sac leading from High Street.

Other buildings marked with an eighteenth century date give more evidence of the route of the 18th century roads as marked in Figure 10. The large house at the corner of Bridge End Road and Watling Lane has the date 1797 over the front door and the cottage at 2 Rotten Row, formerly the Farmer's Man Public House, has the date 1781 with the initials IC scratched in a brick near the front gate.

Among the buildings now destroyed which would mark the route of the roads in the eighteenth century is the old Castles Public House which was on the lane leading from Bridge End Road to Rotten Row. On what would have been a continuation of that lane, now marked by the much used footpath, a terrace of cottages remembered by present residents of the nearby area has disappeared. Extending from Mollymops to Bridge End Road a lane known as Albert Place is also marked by a footpath.

On the basis of the evidence presented in this paper it appears that it is now possible to determine the old line of streets in Dorchester-on-Thames. The cottages of medieval and 16C/17C dates which have been identified mark out the old north-south stretch of the High Street as shown in Rowley's hypothetical reconstruction of the town plan of medieval Dorchester. This has been shown to follow the route which would follow the link-up of the present High Street, down Rotten Row and across to connect with the present Samian Way. The old route to the then existing bridge would have turned east at the end of the old High Street (present Samian Way) passing by the Bridge End Green to the bridge entrance.

The route from the existing bridge to the Abbey grounds was then replaced by a more direct route toward the end of the seventeenth century as evidenced by contemporary maps. The increase in road traffic throughout the land after the time of the Highways Act of 1555 and the first Turnpike Act of 1663 influenced here, as elsewhere, the changes in road patterns in Dorchester-on-Thames. The Henley-Abingdon-Oxford Turnpike of 1736 which passed through Dorchester must have increased the traffic flow within the town. (See Fig. 11). This would account for the development of the shorter route from the existing bridge to the High Street at the Abbey grounds as witnessed by the angle of the cottage now numbered 12 Bridge End Road and shown in Figure 10.

Thus it has been seen that the cottages of Dorchester stand today to bear witness to the routes of the roads on which they have stood. From the medieval buildings and those of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, to cottages bearing eighteenth century dates the cottage evidence has borne out the record preserved in the early maps.

NOTES

1. "Excavations at Dorchester-on-Thames, 1962" by S. Frere in Archaeological Journal cxix (1962) 114-149. See also "Excavations at Dorchester on Thames, 1963" by S. Frere in Archaeological Journal cxli (1984) 91-174.
2. The Castle Inn excavation in "Rescue Operations in Dorchester-on-Thames, 1972" by R. Bradley, A. Grant and S. Sheridan in Oxoniensia 43 (1978) 17-39. "Excavations at Beech House Hatel, Dorchester-on-Thames, 1972" by T. Rowley and L. Brown in Oxoniensia 46 (1981) 1-55.
3. "Early Saxon Settlements in Dorchester-on-Thames" by T. Rowley in Anglo-Saxon Settlement and Landscape ed. T. Rowley B. A. R. 6 (1974) p. 46
4. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, The Parker Chronicle A635, The Laud Chronicle E635. Ecclesiastical History of the British Nation, Bede, chapter vii.
5. loc. cit.
6. op. cit., p. 88
7. The National Trust Book of the English House (1985) by C. Aslet and A. Poward, p. 27.
8. ibid, p. 88.
9. "Two Early Cruck Houses in North Berkshire Identified by Radiocarbon" by C. R. J. Currie and J. M. Fletcher in Medieval Archaeology 16 (1972) 136-142.
10. "A Cruck House in Lower Radley, Berks." by D. A. Hinton in Oxoniensia 32 (1967) 13-33.
11. op. cit. pp. 89-90
12. Turnpike Roads, Oxford Information Sheet 5

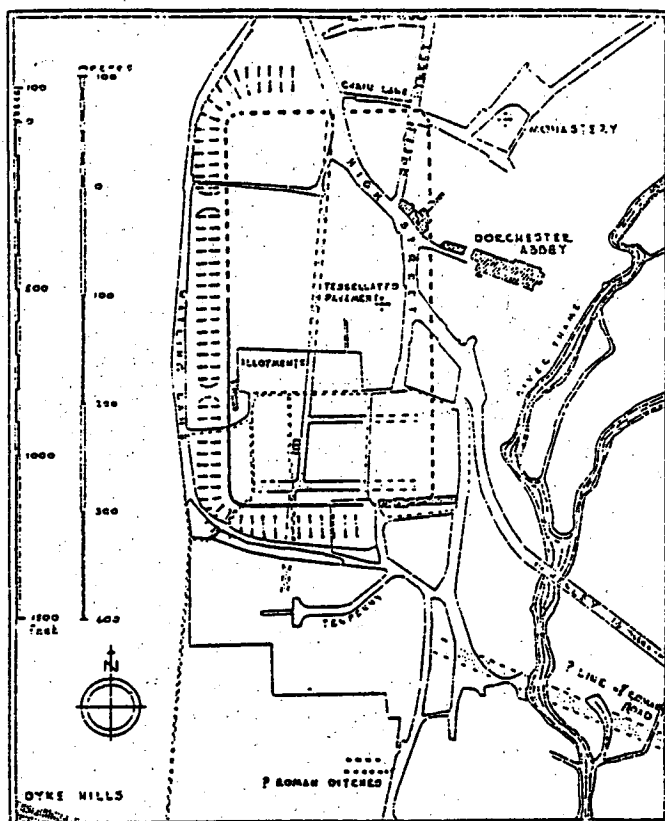


Fig. 1 **Dorchester-on-Thames**
general plan

(from "Excavations at Dorchester
on Thames, 1962" by S.Frere in
Archaeological Journal cxix
1962)

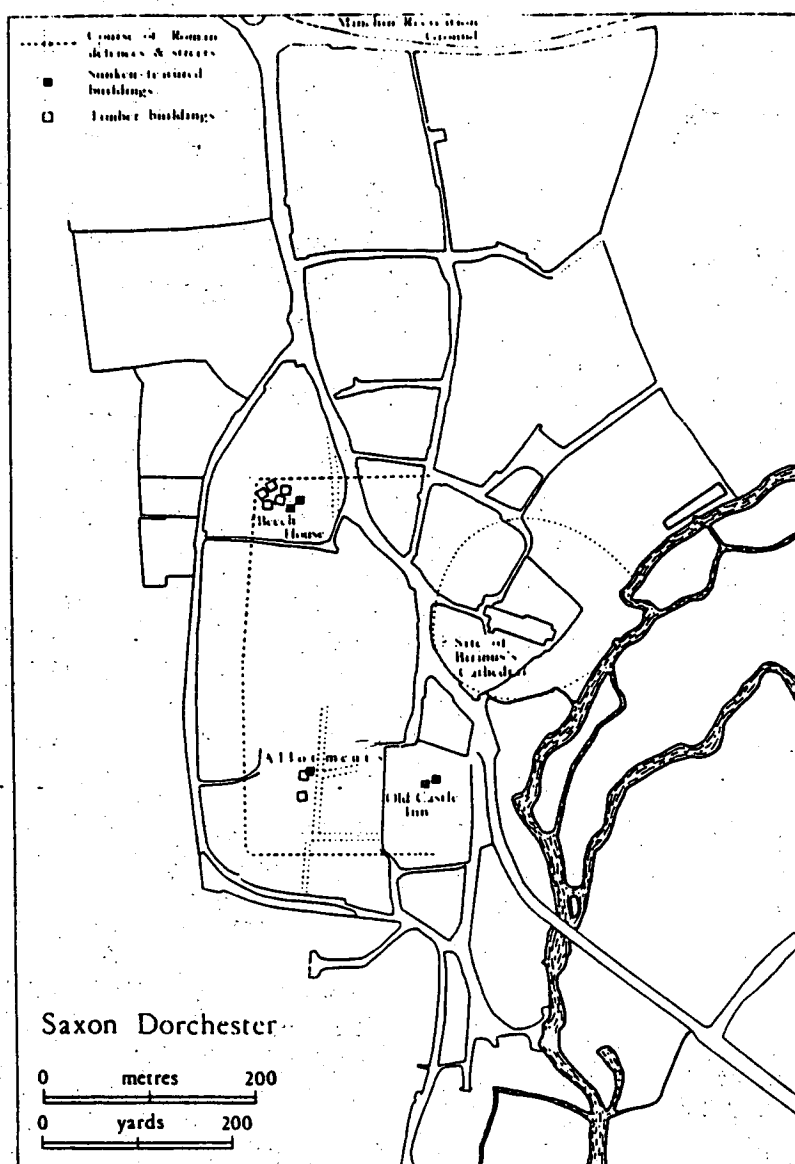


Fig. 2

(from "Early Saxon
Dorchester" by Jean Cook
in Dorchester through the
Ages 1985)

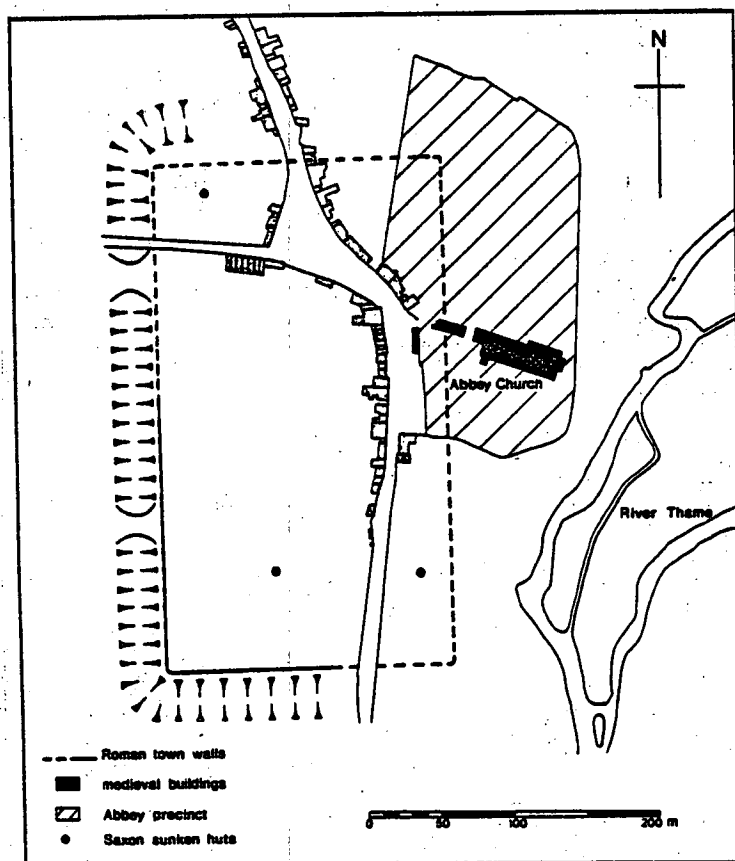


Fig. 3 Reconstruction of town plan of medieval Dorchester (from "Early Saxon Settlements in Dorchester" ed.T. Rowley, BAR 6, 1974)

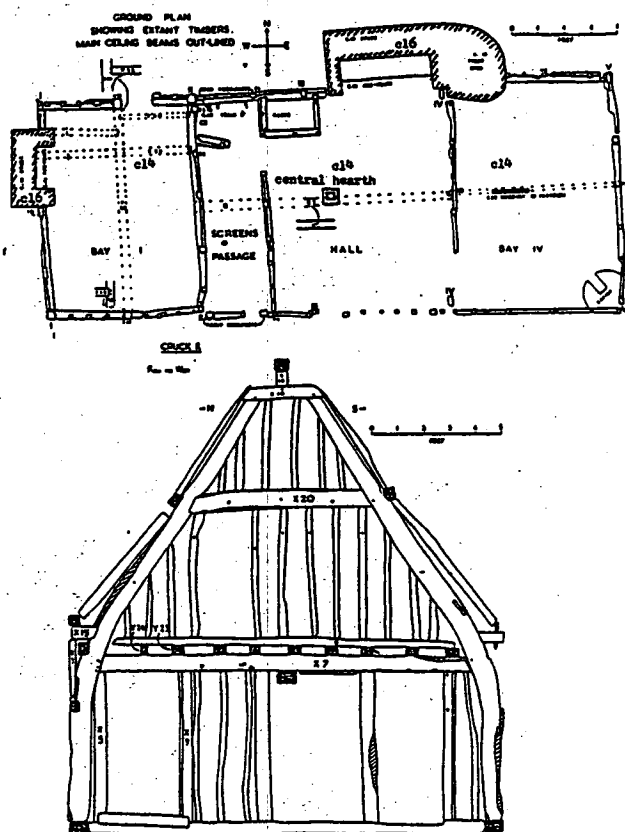


Fig. 6A from "A Cruck House at Lower Radley, Berks" by D.A.Hinton in Oxoniensia 32 (1967) showing plan of 14th.cent.cruck house with open hall & 16th.cent fireplaces & Cruck II

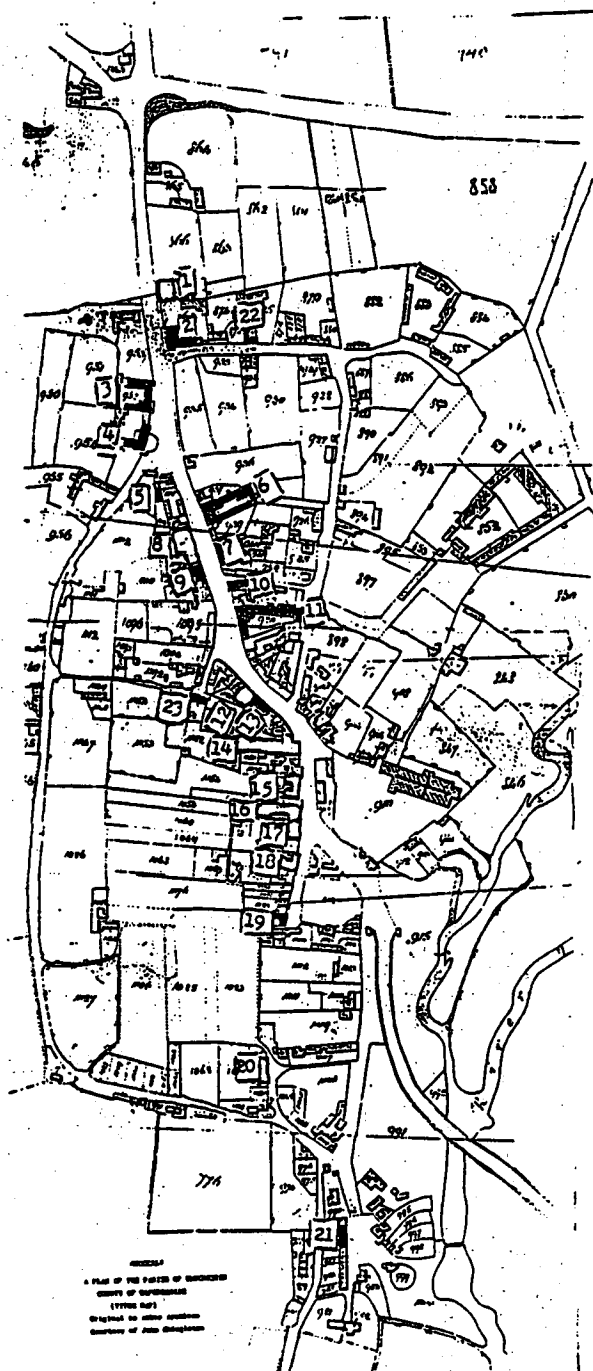


Fig. 4 Dated buildings in Dorchester Medieval 16/17cent 18/19cent see Fig.5 for identification

Lobby-entry plan. The typical post-medieval farmhouse plan in these areas of England and Wales with a prominent timber-framed tradition

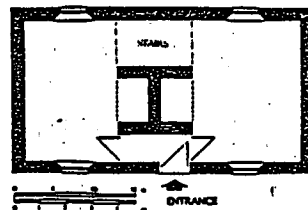


Fig. 6B from Buildings of Britain Tudor & Jacobean (1982) by Malcolm Airs

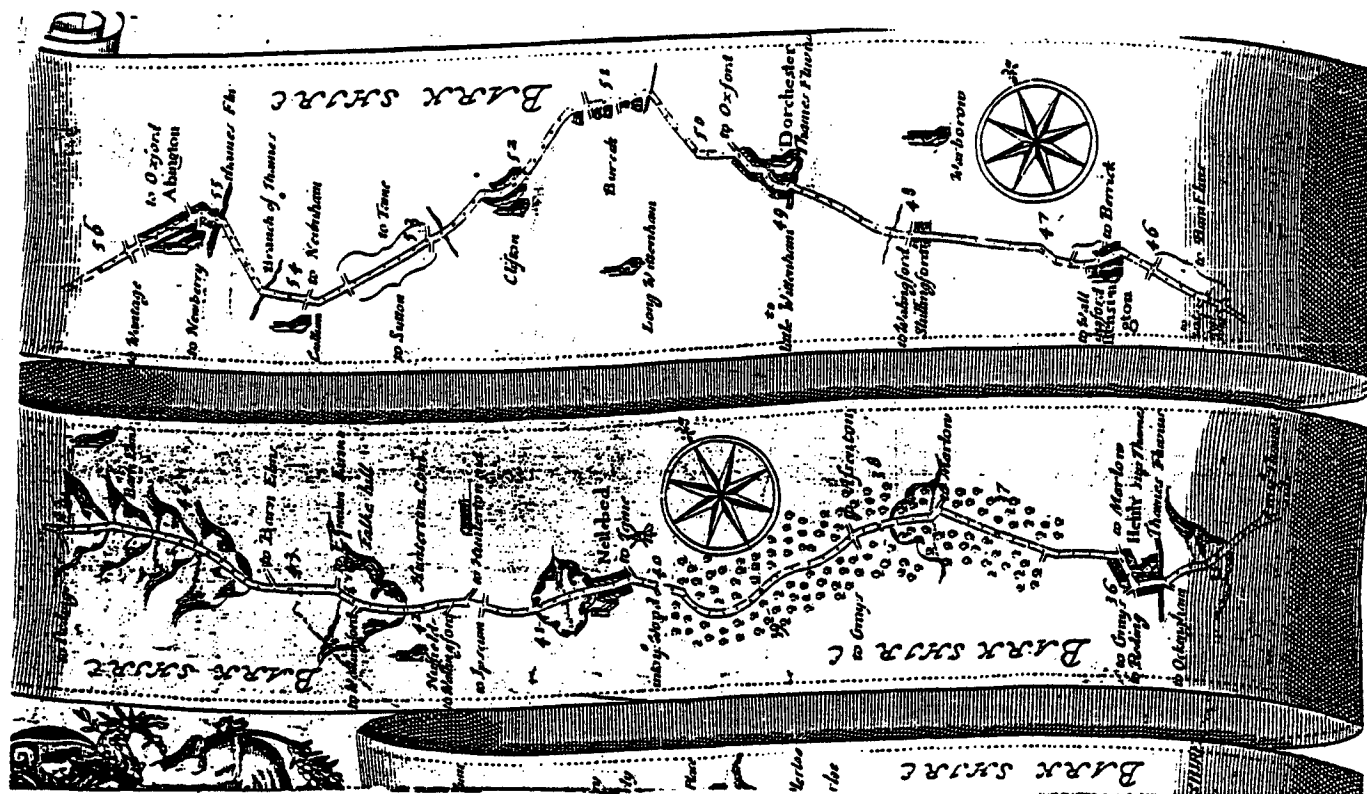
Dated buildings along the old route of the High Street

The building	The period	The evidence @
1. Tudor Cottage, 76 High Street	Medieval	Cruck framed
2. Old Forge Cottage, 72 High Street	16C/17C	Lobby entrance
3. Willoughby House, 73 High Street	16C/17C	Plan form and framework +
4. The cottage at 71 High Street	16C/17C	Plan form and framework
5. The cottage at 63 High Street	16C/17C	Lobby Entrance
6. The Crown Inn, 52 High Street	16C/17C	Timber framework
7. Terrace cottages at 36-44 High Street	16C/17C	Timber framework
8. The Bull Inn, 57-59 High Street	Medieval	Timber framework and gallery
9. Bull Inn, last part (?) 55 High Street	17C	Carpenter's date - 1610
10. Abbey Cottage, 30 High Street	16C/17C	Gable and jetty
11. The White Hart Inn	16C/17C	Timber framework
12. The Nook and cottage, 37-39 High Street	Medieval	Evidence of open hearth
13. The cottages at 33-35 High Street	16C/17C	Lobby entrances
14. The George Inn	Medieval	King strut braces
15. Three terrace cottages, 13-19 High St.	Medieval	Cruck framed
16. The Fleur de Lys Inn	Medieval	Cruck framed
17. The Pigeons cottage, 15 Rotten Row	Medieval	Cruck framed
18. The Old Cottage, 13 Rotten Row	Medieval	Evidence in open hall.
19. Mayflower Cottage, 9 Rotten Row	16C/17C	Lobby entrance
20. Croft Cottage, Samian Way	Medieval	Cruck framed
21. Terrace Cottages, Bridge End Green	16C/17C	Timber framework
Other dated buildings, off High Street		
22. Cottage at 9 Martin's Lane	16C/17C	Lobby entrance
23. Cottage at 16 Malthouse Lane	16C/17C	Timber framework

@ The evidence for Medieval and 16C/17C buildings, as given by Malcolm Airs for buildings personally examined by him. Others such as The Priory cottage, by the Lych Gate, now with Georgian additions, are of similar date but have not been personally examined.

+ The timber framework evidence is based on deductions from the nature of the visible framework, the type of roof trusses, and details of the joinings.

Figure 5



**Fig. 7 A Portion of the strip maps of John Ogilby, 1675
(courtesy: Map Room, Bodleian Library)**

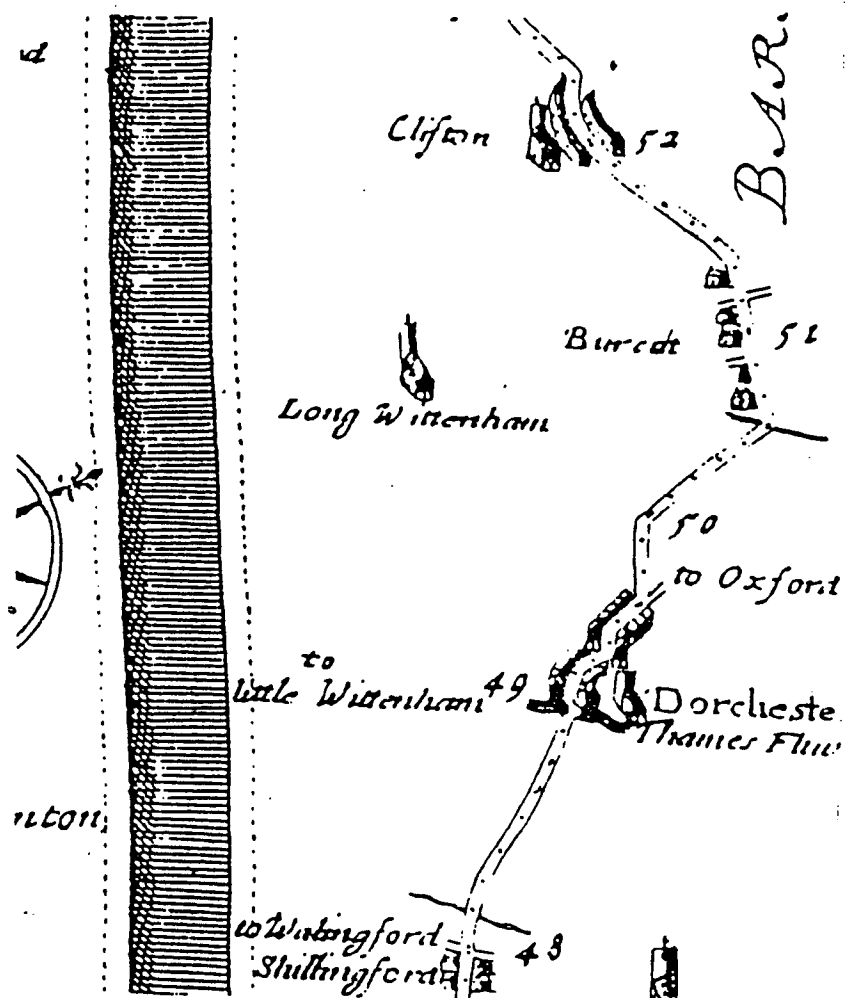
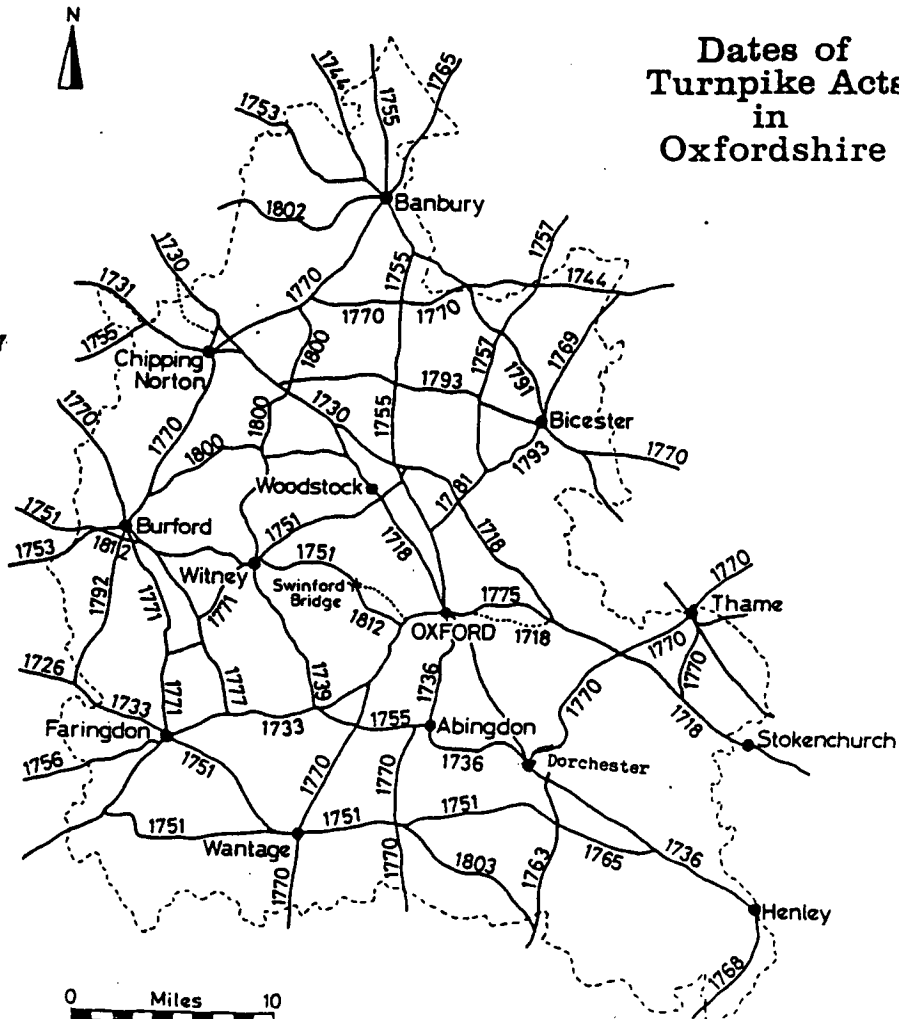


Fig. 8 Enlarged from strip
map by John Ogilby (1675)
(courtesy: Map Room,
Bodleian Library)

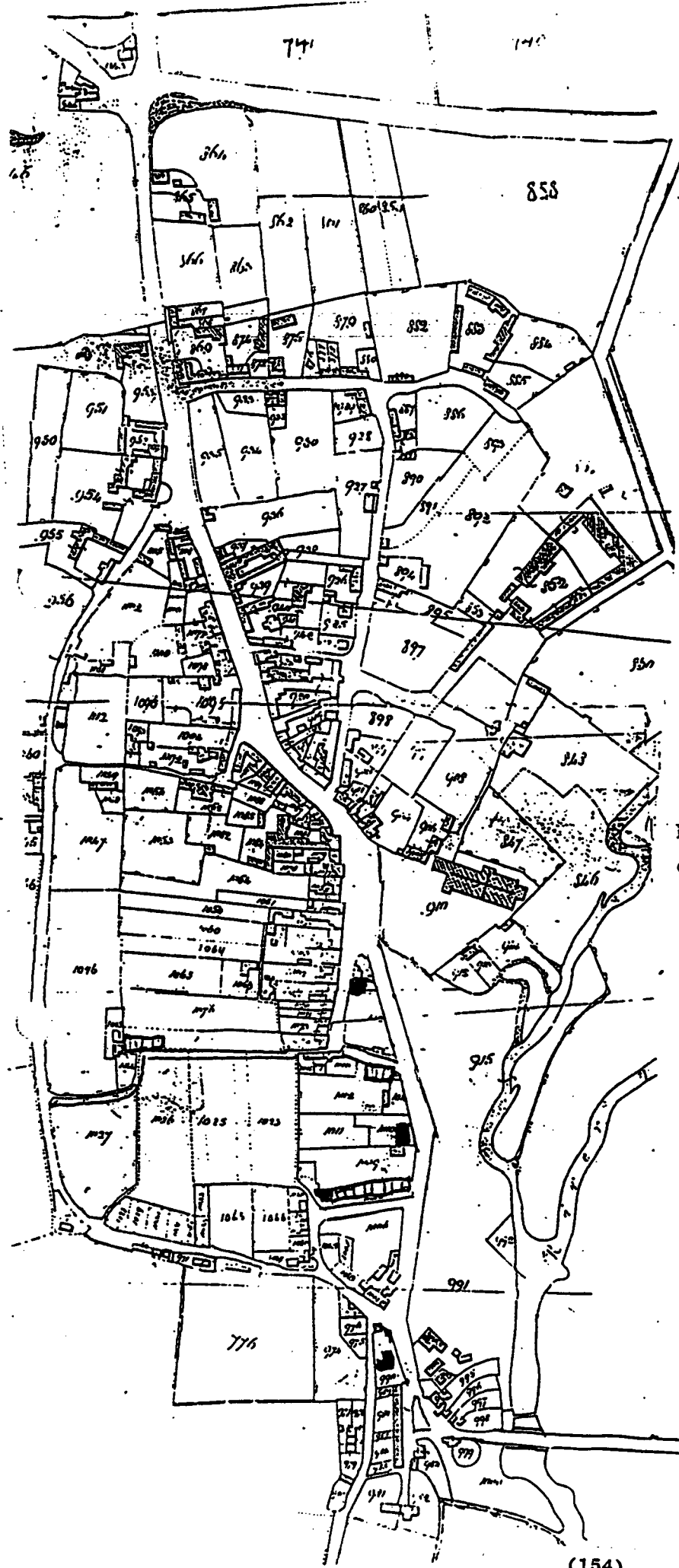


Fig. 9 Enlargement of section of the map published by R. Davis, 1 August 1797

Fig. 11 From Turnpike Roads in Oxfordshire Information Sheet 5, Oxfordshire Museum Service, Woodstock 1977



Dates of Turnpike Acts in Oxfordshire



Marked in the 18th century
CL 1715 12 Bridge End
angled to present street
PFE 1731 "Mollymops" on Samian Way
EC 1781 2 Rotten Row
formerly Farmers Man Pub
1797 24 Bridge End
corner of Watling Lane
Buildings now destroyed
Castle Pub in original location
between Rotten Row & Bridge End
Buildings on lane in allotments
betw. Rotten Row & Watling Lane
Terrace houses by Mollymops
from Samian Way to Bridge End.

Probable road patterns in Dorchester-on-Thames in the eighteenth century.

Buildings identified as
■ Marked with 18th century date
▨ Former buildings now destroyed

Figure 10