
**SOUTH
MIDLANDS
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**21
1991**



**CBA
SOUTH MIDLANDS GROUP
(9)**

SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

NUMBER 21, 1991

CONTENTS	Page
Spring Conference 1991	1
Bedfordshire	2
Buckinghamshire	39
Northamptonshire	58
Oxfordshire	79
Index	124

EDITOR: Andrew Pike
Bucks County Museum
Technical Centre, Tring Road,
Halton, Aylesbury, HP22 5PJ

CHAIRMAN: Dr Richard Ivens
Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit
16 Erica Road
Stacey Bushes
Milton Keynes
MK12 6PA

HON SEC: Stephen Coleman
County Planning Dept,
Bedfordshire County Council
County Hall,
Bedford.
MK42 9AP

TREASURER: Barry Horne
'Beaumont',
Church End,
Edlesborough,
Dunstable, Beds.
LU6 2EP

CBA South Midlands

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Turning back through past issues of our journal I find a recurrent editorial theme is the parlous financial state of CBA IX and the likelihood that SMA would have to cease publication. Previous committees battled on and continued to produce this valuable series. It is therefore gratifying to note that SMA has been singled out as a model example in CBA's Report of the Structure and Policy Review Working Party.

It is also most pleasing to be able to report that SMA is at last on an even financial keel. A position largely due to our Treasurer, Barry Horne, whose hard work and expertise has kept printing costs to a minimum.

This happy position means that the improvements which your editor and committee have been endeavouring to introduce are at last beginning to see the light of day. This 21st edition is marked by an improved cover and the first individual volume index. The cumulative index to the first twenty volumes will be on sale very shortly. It is hoped that these improved standards can be maintained and even raised over the next few years.

SMA can only continue in its present format if it has a sound circulation, and this can best be ensured by CBA South Midlands having a large membership. You can help by joining yourself (SMA is free to members of CBA South Midlands) and by contributing articles or reports on any archaeological activity in your area.

A large membership also strengthens the position of your committee when approaching statutory authorities over planning and other matters of archaeological concern.

The two major events of CBA IX's year were the AGM and Spring Conference, both of which were very successful. Last year's A.G.M. hosted the Beatrice de Cardi lecture and the speaker, Derek Riley, gave a lucid account of his pioneering work in the field of aerial archaeology. CBA's President, Professor Rosemary Cramp, and Director, Henry Cleere also attended. As many of you will know Henry Cleere retires this year so I would like to take this opportunity of wishing him well for the future and to thank him for his many years of service. Prof. Cramp also addressed the meeting on the proposals for the new integrated structure for CBA. A revised and very detailed report on these proposals has now been published as The Report of the Structure and Policy Review Working Party, and your committee will welcome any comments. The Spring Conference took waterlogged remains as its theme and I am sure many were surprised at the amount and quality of the information that can be obtained even in this rather dry area of the country.

On a rather sadder note this volume contains the last fieldwork report from the Milton Keynes Unit. Over the past twenty-one years this Unit has contributed to every issue of our journal. At a time when the protection and recording of Milton Keynes archaeology must inevitably fall back on the amateur it is with great concern that we note the closure of the Milton Keynes Archaeology Society. Make no mistake there is still a great deal of unrecorded archaeology in Milton Keynes and development will continue despite the current recession.

Finally I would like to thank my predecessor, Tim Allen, for his past efforts, continued work as a representative for Oxfordshire, and in particular for ensuring the completion of the index.

RJI

CBA GROUP 9 SPRING CONFERENCE 1991 AT NORTHAMPTON

Linda Babb

Summary

Dr Mark Robinson opened with a review of the environmental archaeology in Beds., Bucks., Northants, and Oxon. The only Wetland/Fenland sites in our area are in valleys of the limestone hills, where peat slowly accumulated, and disused river channels, which usually contain only about fifty years' worth of deposits. Permanent waterlogging inhibits decay and lignin, cellulose, kytin, leather, pollen grains, seeds and insect exoskeletons all survive.

Evidence from Upper Nene and Thames sites has established the woodland sequence, subsequent Neolithic clearances and possible management in the late Bronze Age. Upper Thames Iron Age sites suggest seasonal pastoralism. Roman wells contain evidence for a wide variety of edible, medicinal and horticultural plants and pests. Saxon and medieval sites imply the rise of many seasonally managed hay meadows and flax as a major industry. Finally, a latrine chamber in Oriel College, Oxford, provided an intimate glimpse of late seventeenth century diet.

Peter Busby described sites in Milton Keynes. The North Furzton ring-ditch complex produced many dung insects, suggesting stock enclosures. The large pit at Wavendon Gate contained Romano-British weather boards, a writing tablet, leather saddle, the Taranis wheel and garden plants. A sump at Westbury DMV contained two ladders, stake and hurdle revetting and flax seeds, i.e. a retting pit.

Anthony Maul described the Warren Villas Quarry site, settled from the late Bronze Age. Spelt wheat was cropped in the Romano-British period, then the area was flooded and abandoned until the twelfth century. Bone assemblages, fish or eel traps, domestic material and flax retting pits have been recovered. Dendrochronological dates give 1084-5 AD/1125-6 AD.

Dave Warren's site at Bidwell was an interesting example of an unexpectedly waterlogged site on high ground. A rectangular Roman building on gault clay adjacent to a spring rise collapsed on its SW side. The desire to retain the original site led to the insertion of oak stakes beneath the

flint wall and replacement of clay roof tiles with thatch to lighten the load. A religious use for the building was postulated.

George Lambrick reviewed waterlogged remains from Thames Valley sites, ranging from the late Bronze Age eyot at Wallingford with structures built from coppiced timbers, to the Romano-British bridge foundations on the River Rea at Otmoor and piled road at Ducklington; to the timber bridge at Abingdon built in 1507. Iron Age and Roman farming organisation were also described. Warning was given to the draw down of water tables and consequent loss of environmental evidence in the ground by historic land clearance, modern gravel quarrying and dewatering next to archaeological sites.

Stanley Cauvain conducted a rescue excavation next to the Emmanuel Church, Chesham, and recovered part of the brick-built kilns of the late sixteenth-early seventeenth centuries. A great variety of leadglazed wares were made, including water pots, bed warmers and chickfeeders. Roofing tiles were also found, but not their kiln.

Bob Zeepvat gave a resume of twenty years excavation by the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit, including the Ousel watermill, Caldecott, The Shenleys, Tattenhoe, Fenny Stratford and Wavendon Gate.

Brian Dix talked about the formal gardens at Kirby, near Corby, Northants, once the country seat of the Hatton family. During the seventeenth century seven hundred feet of formal gardens were laid out. Excavation has revealed a first phase of arcaded walls with espalier trees interspersed with statues, arbors and seats. In the 1680s-90s a major remodelling swept away the walls, banks and borders and reduced the terrace. Architectural features were re-located, canals dug around the garden and the axis switched south to north to view a new 'Wilderness' and the open country beyond. A lost service wing of the house was also located.

Roy Friendship-Taylor described the long-running excavation at Piddington. The late Iron Age estate acquired a Villa early in the first century AD which has produced a wealth of finds and evidence of military occupation. Tiles were made on site; one tegula is stamped 'Tiberius Claudius Severus', perhaps a local tribal chief at the time of the Conquest who changed his name and became Romanized? By the 380s it had ceased to be a great villa and was inhabited by squatters living in family units.

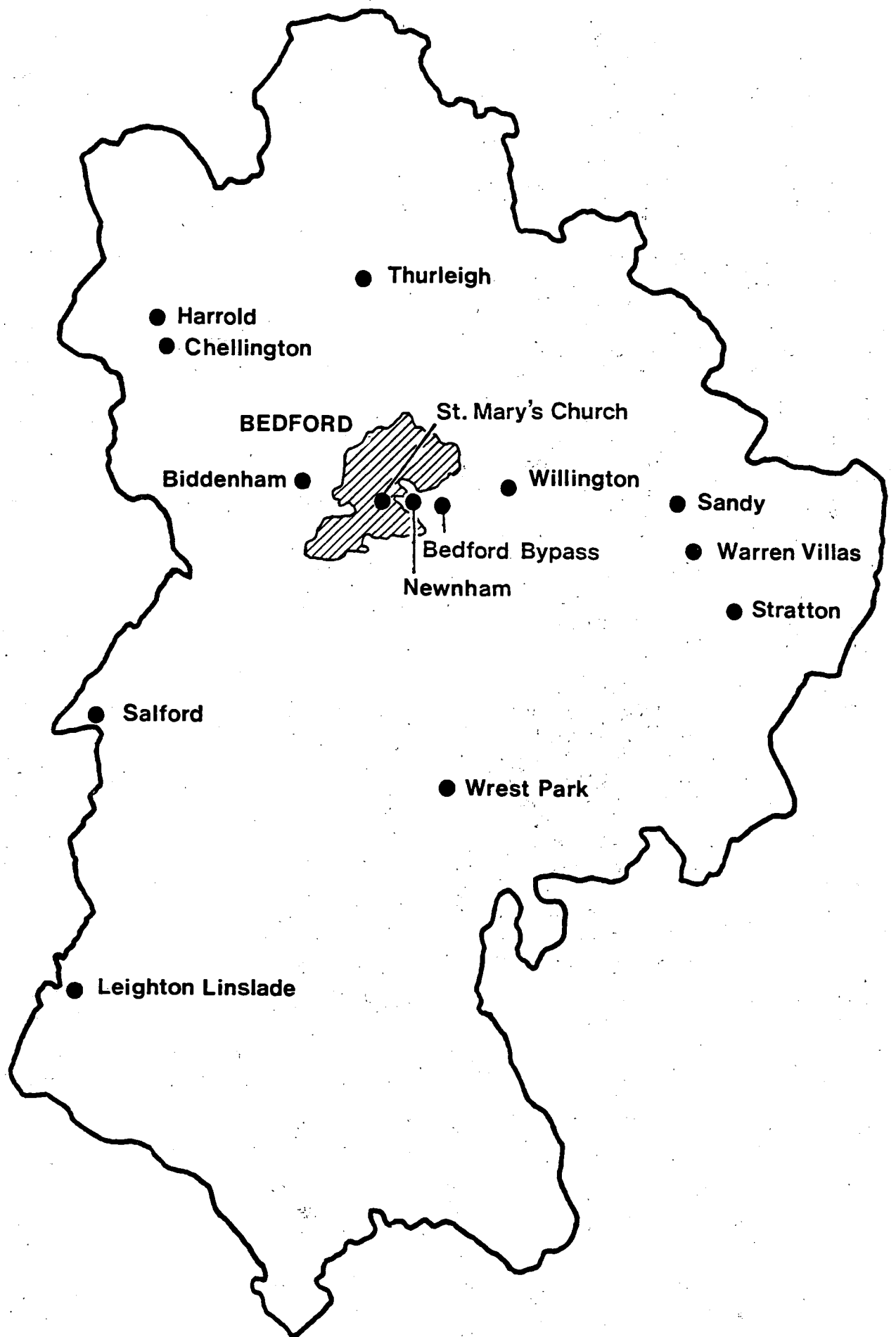


Fig. 1. Site locations in Bedfordshire.

BEDFORDSHIRE

The Work of Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Conservation and Archaeology Section in 1990

GENERAL INTRODUCTION David Baker

The new decade began well for the Bedfordshire service, with consolidation and expansion in most aspects of its work. The reduction of 1980 in staffing provision for work on the historic built environment was at last recouped with the appointment of Ruth Gibson to the new post of Assistant Conservation Officer: this will allow us to move back into several areas of work neglected during the later 80s due to the steady rise in casework demands. The archaeological staffing provision now includes a core of 10, and during 1990 up to 35 short-term temporary project staff. Sue Hedley has joined us in the new post of Archaeology Assistant, dividing herself between archaeological administrative support and assistance with post-excavation work. Several elements have helped to consolidate the Archaeology Service, not least the overdue and welcome move to new premises, which is described below. The Excavation and Post-Excavation staff are truly grateful to the County Council for its imaginative provision of St Mary's. Another factor has been the influence of the DOE Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 on Archaeology and Planning, which, though not formally issued until the end of the year, cast a helpful shadow before it. Negotiations with developers have been eased by this valuable support, which has stimulated a much greater appreciation of archaeological objectives and its potential community value.

Curating contractors

The wisdom of dividing the Archaeology Service into two parallel arms back in 1986, dealing with planning /preservation /SMBR and excavation /post-excavation respectively, was highlighted by nationwide anxieties about so-called 'curator - contractor' relationships, probably at their height during 1990. That functional division continues, associated with a conscious effort to ensure that all the available period and site-type expertise is brought to bear on the tasks of the Service. In seeking to undertake developer-funded rescue fieldwork required by the planning process, we have found little difficulty in explaining to developers that we handle our dual role within a strong presumption in favour of preservation in situ, and that our accumulating local expertise places us in a favourable position to achieve cost-effective results.

Research continuity

The suite of major projects reported below are not just isolated rescue threats; they are also part of long-term area-based research projects which have been developing since the 1970s, especially in the area around Bedford and in the Ivel valley near Biggleswade and Sandy. The value

of these projects is enhanced by continuity of staff with period specialisms. Furthermore, the greatly improved accommodation in St Mary's will accelerate the process, already begun, of developing county-wide data systems for artefacts and structures, in conjunction with active local societies and the two Museums. The potential of such systems for streamlining and increasing the potential of post-excavation analysis and reporting cannot be over-emphasised.

ST MARY'S CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY CENTRE, BEDFORD David Baker

On 12 February 1991, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Chairman of English Heritage, formally opened new headquarters for the Excavation Division of the Bedfordshire County Planning Department's Archaeology Service. Those who gathered for the occasion in St Mary's Church included local archaeologists from the county and the wider CBA 9 Region. The formal ceremony was the culmination of a long process that had gone down many byways of historical conservation during the previous three years.

The old base - growing problems

Since its creation in 1972, the Bedfordshire 'Unit' had gratefully occupied premises at 2a Castle Lane Bedford, originally an outstation and store for the then Bedford Borough Council's Museum, itself based in a converted garage on the Embankment. This accommodation was provided in a fine example of cooperation across departments and tiers of local government from the Curators of Bedford Museum, initially the late F W Kuhlicke, and from the mid 1970s, John Turner, who had recognised the value of close links between field and museum curatorial aspects of the archaeological process. The facilities were provided on what amounted to a grace-and-favour basis, which was invaluable during the difficult unit-building decades of the 1970s and 1980s.

During the 1980s Bedford Museum moved from the Embankment to new premises in the Castle Hill Brewery, which was adapted in phases. It became clear that sooner or later the accommodation at the rear of the Brewery would be needed for the Museum's own storage and educational needs. In 1986, the Archaeology Service was formally divided into two arms, (the Planning and Preservation Division with the SMBR continued as before to be located in County Hall); this coincided with the beginning of a period of significant expansion in the work of the Excavation Division, despite the abandonment of MSC schemes in 1985. A core staff with the basic set of skills required by a county field Unit was consolidated, and that in turn placed increasing pressure upon the existing accommodation. By 1988 the cramped working conditions were seriously affecting output and efficiency.

In November 1988, Michael Gwilliam, the newly appointed County Planning Officer, combined an inspection tour of his departmental outpost on the other side of the Ouse from County Hall with a look at some of Bedford's major

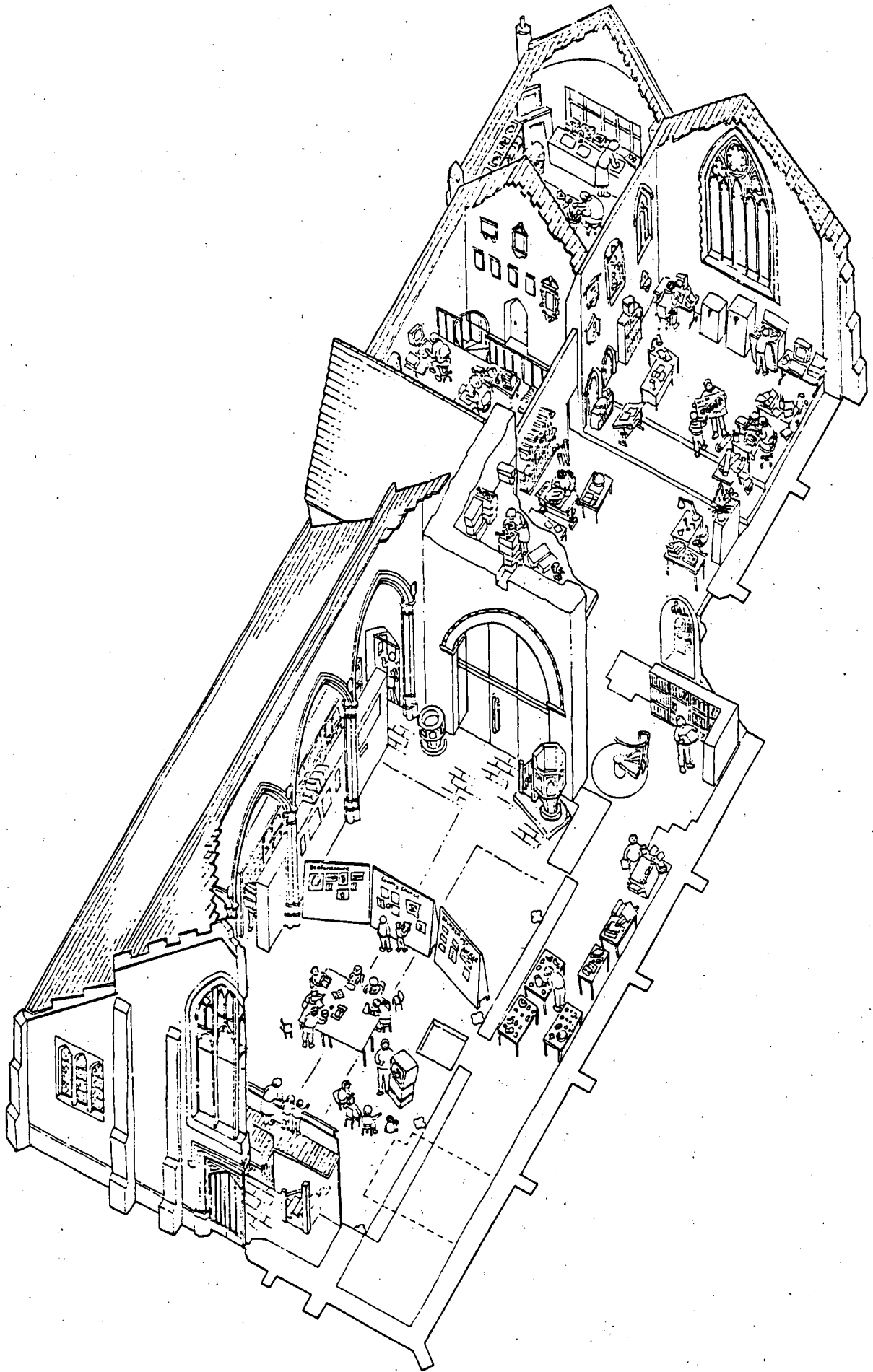


Fig. 2. St. Mary's Church Archaeology Centre.

conservation problems. From this came the proposal to use the redundant church of St Mary as the new base for the excavation part of the Archaeology Service.

The story of St Mary's

St Mary's was the primary church site in south Bedford, the first building presumably dating from Edward the Elder's defensive construction of the King's Ditch around the southern burh when he retook the town from the Danes in AD 915-916. It stands on the north-east corner of the cross-roads formed in the middle of the D-shaped enclosed area by the diversion of routes that had formerly run directly to the ford.

The oldest parts of the present building, dating from the mid 11th century, are the middle part of the tower and the south transept. There is little evidence for the rest of the contemporary building, but any nave west of the tower may have been narrower and on a slightly different axis from its successors. Substantial 12th century rebuilding altered the south transept, and may have provided the existing nave in its aisleless form, together with a chancel whose exact dimensions were obscured by extension in the 14th century eastwards and on the north side. The top of the tower is a late medieval remodelling. In the mid 16th century a north aisle was added to the nave, about the time that the church of St Peter de Dunstable on the opposite side of St Mary's Street, was demolished.

Major alterations occurred in the 19th century. In the 1840s the nave north aisle was rebuilt, with a low squat piers replaced by a slender neo-Gothic arcade. In the 1850s, a south aisle was added in the same style. Other major work included the addition of a western gallery, substantial rebuilding of the chancel, the addition of a sacristy and organ chamber, and the rebuilding of the vestry in the first decade of this century. With the completion of this work, the dominant interior impression was of a well-proportioned 19th century town church.

The last service was held at St Mary's in 1975. Following a comprehensive study of the provision for worship in Bedford in the light of changing patterns of population, a number of churches had been identified for redundancy under the Pastoral Measure.

As a consequence, redundancy procedures for St Mary's were carried through. Demolition was out of the question, and the Grade I listing of the church ensured that it went to the care of the Church Commissioners' Redundant Churches Fund, even though that had not been the original intention. During the 1980s that body carried out substantial repairs, including major re-roofing, full timber treatment and parapet rebuilding.

Negotiations

Two years separated the decision to seek use of St Mary's Church as an Archaeology Centre from the day the excavation and post-excavation staff took up occupation.

Three-quarters of that time was spent in discussions and negotiations about what proved to be a complicated and often contentious issue: the actual adaptations were relatively straightforward.

For the proposal to proceed, the Church Commissioners, having taken the advice of their Advisory Board, had to agree to the divesting of St Mary's from the Redundant Churches Fund through an Order in Privy Council, and its appropriation to the new use. The Department of the Environment, having taken the advice of English Heritage, had to concur on account of the public funds spent on repairs. Fortunately, after detailed discussions and negotiations, a scheme was agreed which English Heritage felt able to commend for listed building consent; the Church Commissioners, having carefully weighed all the factors, decided to agree to the proposal.

Funding

Final approval could only be given when it was demonstrated that the real cost of the scheme could be met by available finance. The County Council's contribution was fixed, and insufficient by itself for the scheme as originally devised, so there were only two ways of making ends meet. Items had to be deleted or deferred: these included the substitution of fixed wooden storage racks for roller racking, deferring operational car-parking, simplifying the heating system, deferring medium priority repairs to the tower, and the choice of the cheaper and less satisfactory of two redecoration schemes acceptable in conservation terms. Grants and sponsorship also had to be obtained. This was a frustrating process. Specialised funds were most helpful, with the Pilgrim Trust grant-aiding fabric repairs, and the local Harpur Trust funding the provision of educational facilities and equipment. English Heritage, however, was caught at the wrong moment: when the scheme was first mooted, grant-aid for repairs seemed likely as with other churches; however, its (wholly commendable) policy of targeting grants towards buildings in need and at risk was introduced during the protracted discussions about the principle of the scheme, and St Mary's was felt to be safe. Local businesses and local branches of national businesses either declined or gave nominal donations. The situation was only saved at the 11th hour by a generous offer from Ian Skipper of Jorvik Centre fame, who happens to live in Bedfordshire.

The Adaptation Scheme

The primary function of the building was to provide accommodation for the ten core staff of the Archaeology Service's Excavation Division, together with varying numbers of temporary staff. This meant office work stations, simple conservation facilities, and storage for material undergoing post-excavation analysis. In addition, it was intended to consolidate the successful work of the Division in educational matters by making provision for some facilities for school groups, though not on the scale of the York ARC. Finally, it was important to give the church back to the people of Bedford by reinstituting some degree of

public access to see the building and its new use, but not so that the work itself was disrupted.

The church was divided into two main parts on the line of the western tower arch, with the central inserted glazed doors and screen maintaining the long views up and down the length of the church between east and west ends. Work stations are arranged more or less symmetrically around the edges of the chancel, running round into the north transept which houses the Finds and Ceramics Officers. The Library is in the south transept and a spiral stair gives access into an ossuary formed as a long-term store in the first stage of the tower. The former sacristy and organ chamber on the north side of the chancel had a floor inserted in order to provide toilet and tea/coffee brewing facilities, with master office accommodation over, accessed by a spiral staircase. The vestry, east of the sacristy, was adapted as a first aid conservation laboratory and finds processing area.

West of the main division, the north nave aisle is devoted to storage. The south aisle, with the best light in the building, provides space for laying out finds. The nave itself normally has two functions: the eastern two thirds provides overflow working space on large tables, and the western bay is screened off as a screen-based display area. The western two bays can be used for educational purposes, or on occasion the whole nave could be cleared for a large meeting, though the acoustics are poor due to the high ceiling.

The staff entrance is on the north side, adjacent to the vestry. The public entrance is at the west end, which gives access to the screen based displays at the west end of the nave, and to the west gallery which provides a view across the building. The lighting scheme is designed to be simple and architectural. Up-lighters show the form and quality of the interior, gaining extra reflective power from the white painted walls, and providing adequate general background illumination. Task lights on each desk provide the needed localised boost without overbalancing the general effect. Heating is by gas-fired water radiator system, with convector fans to boost the system in the nave. There are problems to be overcome about insulation of windows and heat loss into high ceilings. Flooring material is quarry tiles in the pew positions on the nave, and hard-wearing coir matting in the chancel and transepts.

Doing the work

The adaptation of the building took only six months, and gave rise to several unforeseeable problems. When the pews were removed from the nave it became clear that the ground underneath was extremely soft and would have to be removed before the under-slab for the new tiles was laid. This led to a greater degree of archaeological excavation than had been anticipated. No clear evidence for pre-Norman structures was found, but the footings for the later Norman nave were seen with the later arcade piers lying on them, and the site of the former south door clearly visible. Another unwelcome discovery was that the storm water drainage system was not just in need of repair, but had to be completely replaced: the insertion of the new system, and

foul drainage, together with the difficulties of connecting up to existing ancient town sewers, added to the bill and increased the amount of archaeological recording required.

Perhaps the best discovery was the fragment of wall painting on the east wall of the south transept. Some indications had already been visible, but when specialist conservators Perry Lithgow were called in, they revealed an unusual 14th or 15th century urban townscape, with part of an apparently upside-down figure in one corner. The painting and its backing was in such poor condition that it had to be removed and then replaced on the wall. Another discovery was a unique 14th century floor tile with line-impressed decoration and hand-incised lines. The church must have been elaborately and expensively furnished.

After the adaptations were completed, the Unit move took place. Nearly 18 years of cramped compression had to be unpicked from the old Castle Lane base and transferred into about double the amount of space. Fortunately, the Finds Officer had already suffered the traumas of moving another Unit headquarters, and was able to bring her experience to bear; also temporary staff employment was at a reasonable level so many hands were available. Transfer was accomplished in two days, hardly disrupting Bedford's notorious one-way traffic system.

To complete the project, a formal opening was arranged for February 1991. In his speech, Lord Montagu praised the County Council for this latest example of forward thinking on matters to do with historical conservation. The Chairman of the County Council presented him with a maiolica-type commemorative plate, commissioned from Andrew MacDonald of Lincoln, with St Mary's Church on the front, and the motifs of English Heritage and the Archaeology Centre on the underside.

PRESERVATION, FIELD SURVEY AND PLANNING ADVICE

Angela Simco and Stephen Coleman

The summer of 1990 proved to be an excellent year for aerial photography. Two flights in an airship, developed locally by Airship Industries, were undertaken from RAF Cardington. The stationary platform which this provided, combined with its tight manoeuvrability, were a very suitable medium. The Ouse and Ivel valleys produced a number of new cropmark sites, and additional information on others previously recorded (see article below by Bob Bewley).

Work has begun on updating the planning constraints maps. These register the existence of scheduled ancient monuments and other areas of archaeological sensitivity. They are used primarily by the planning staff of the County and District Councils when making a preliminary assessment of the implications of development proposals, and are the means of initiating consultations of the specialist archaeological staff. Those for North Bedfordshire Borough Council have been completed.

During the year, the Nature Conservancy Council issued a county list of Prime Sites of Nature Conservation Importance. This is a category of sites which do not qualify for designation as Sites of Special Scientific Importance, but which are worthy of consideration in planning decisions. Comparison of these Prime Sites with areas of archaeological or historical interest has indicated a high degree of correlation, particularly as regards areas of pasture or historic woodland.

Further input has been made to English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme. Desk evaluations have included some prehistoric cropmark categories, and medieval religious houses.

The provision of information within the County Council has continued, to information leaflets produced by the Leisure Services Department, and to farm and woodland management plans designed by the Environment and Trees & Woodland sections.

Airship Archaeology

Bob Bewley

In the first week of July 1990, the County Archaeologist for Bedfordshire, David Baker, rang me to see if I was interested in a trip in an airship to evaluate its potential for aerial photography for archaeology. Potential or not, I was interested, but at £650 per hour I know that the (archaeological) potential might be limited. The real reason for asking me was for sprat to catch mackerel; if RCHME could offer to assist in funding a flight then other potential sponsors might pay for the rest of the flight. Given that it was a good crop-mark season and a rare opportunity to fly in an airship, RCHME agreed to help towards the cost and the other sponsors duly signed up.

The airship can take eleven passengers, with two crew. We were scheduled for an evening flight of one-and-a-half hours around Bedford and the Ouse gravels. The whole experience was memorable, especially the take-off which was more akin to a rocket launch than the usual rumble along a runway and gentle lift. The two Porsche Turbo engines, which produce 230 bhp each, were wound up to full speed and the bevy of hangers-on (literally) let go of the ropes and we shot up at an almost vertical angle. Having reached 1,000 ft in no time the ship levelled off and floated calmly, and quietly, at a leisurely 30-40 knots. The maximum speed is 50 knots, and as we were in a 25 knot headwind, the crew were concerned about keeping both engines going, as one engine would only just have held us against the wind.

This cruising speed is ideal for archaeological and architectural aerial photography. The airship provides a steady platform on which to walk about; the gondola hanging beneath the ship has a corridor between the seats and opening windows on both sides. The airship can stay airborne for 8-10 hours, which at 50 knots means a large area can be surveyed. No refreshments were available but there was a toilet. One particular advantage for reconnaissance was the time available for really looking at what was being

photographed; at 40 knots it was possible to obtain a clear appreciation of the subject. Turning and orbiting the airship was no problem, even if the turns were slightly wider than the more usual Cessna 150/172 turns.

The disadvantages stem from the cost of the craft itself, for the Airship 600 about 5.5 million dollars. The company which operated it, Airship Industries, has now ceased flying, and may even have ceased trading. The operating costs are very low once airborne as the engines use very little fuel, but the launching and landing are expensive as there have to be about 10 people on hand to grab the ropes and steady the ship.

In terms of any future potential for archaeology, there are three areas which I can suggest: (i) as a training vehicle for all those involved in or interested in aerial photography. The advantage of having ten students at a time being taught what the landscape, urban and rural, looks like from 1,500 ft, taking photographs and map reading, would be a boost for archaeological education. (ii) as a means of recording buildings and urban landscapes for projects like that on mills which RCHME has recently completed. It could even be used to show interested parties the devastated urban and rural industrial landscapes of Britain. (iii) archaeological tourism is known to be a threat to sites, so why not put tourists in an airship to view the prehistoric areas of Stonehenge and Avebury, or to travel along Hadrian's Wall, to name but a few possibilities out of hundreds of areas?

Any potential has yet to be realised and until these wonderful flying machines are airborne again it is all fairly academic. However, if you do stumble across a chance to have a go, have a go! We went from Cardington near Bedford, where the hangars alone are worth visiting as monuments from the First World War and the beginning of airship development. I am eternally grateful to David Baker for his phone call and for arranging the flight, and to RCHME for providing a contribution towards getting this small project off the ground.

Bridge Recording

Martin Cook

Over the past eight years, the County Surveyor for Bedfordshire has been carrying out a programme of repair and restoration to the county's historic bridges. During 1990 two of these bridges, Harrold and Great Barford, underwent their final phases of repair. Staff from the Conservation and Archaeology Section were present during all periods of repair and excavation to record any features of historic interest.

At Great Barford the final repair phase comprised relaying of the modern deck material and repair of the late 19th century brick parapets; no new information on the development of the bridge came to light. More significant information was recorded at Harrold.

Harrold Bridge has two main components: the river arches and a foot causeway. The latter is the only example in

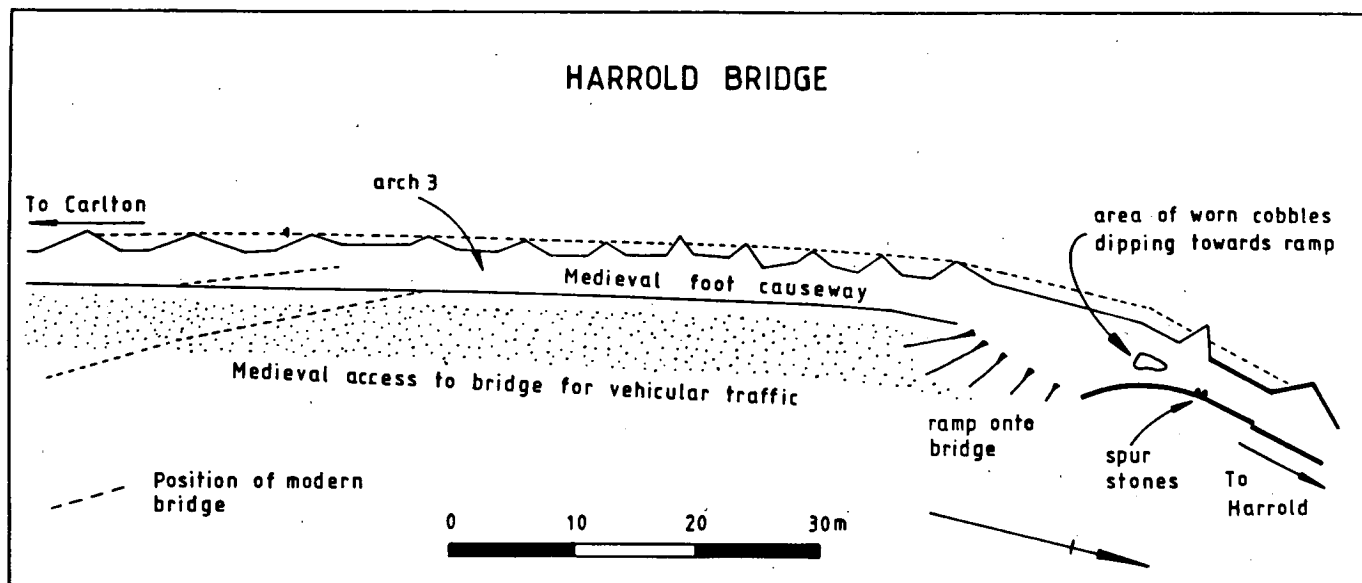


Fig. 3. Harrold Bridge.

Bedfordshire that survives complete from the medieval period. At this time vehicles crossed the flood plain at ground level, not climbing on to the river bridge until immediately before the bank, probably where there is now a passing bay. Pedestrians would have used the foot causeway. Subsequently the nine causeway arches nearest the river were widened to accommodate vehicular traffic. In 1857 a further widening took place on the upstream side of the bridge, and the a wooden railing was replaced by a stone parapet.

The alignment of the foot causeway had been difficult to understand, particularly at the junction of the old causeway and the widened flood arches. The cutting of a narrow trench for the repositioning of the traffic lights and the subsequent removal of the modern road surface provided an opportunity to examine this and other problems.

Under the modern surface adjacent to the layby was discovered a cobbled surface sloping down to meet the presumed former access ramp. In addition, in front of the parapet were found two large upstanding cobbles, probably 'spur stones', protecting the parapet against waggons turning sharply as they climbed up on to the bridge.

The remains of a low stone arch, and what appeared to be the lower courses of a former retaining wall, demonstrated that the eastern elevation of the causeway was originally continuous with the eastern edge of the present flood arches.

EXCAVATION AND POST-EXCAVATION

Evelyn Baker

General

During 1990 the increased pace of work noted in 1989 continued, with a temporary workforce of over 30 in place throughout the year and sometimes three major sites in progress at one time. The catastrophic situation in London was not repeated in Bedfordshire, and there appears to be a steady flow of substantial projects for the future.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the move of premises from 2a Castle Lane to the St Mary's Church Archaeology Centre. Any feelings of sentimentality at abandoning the home of over 15 years had been suppressed by the acute overcrowding resulting from the general increase in the level of work, though we were sad to have to place the river between us and our long-standing patient hosts in the Museum, John Turner and Carolyn Wingfield.

Short reports on the various excavation projects appear below. Post-excavation work has continued to be mostly dominated by the Grove Priory project. A two-volume format has been provisionally agreed with English Heritage as the best way of presenting 13 years' fieldwork, the first describing the various classes of evidence recovered, and the second a chronological synthesis of the story of the site's use.

Bedford Southern Bypass

Royston Clark

(TL 09 49, SMBR 1480 etc)

The proposed route of the Bedford Southern Bypass threatens to destroy or bury key areas of archaeological importance in the flood plain to the east of Bedford. These archaeological sites include a complex of neolithic and early Bronze Age ring ditches and large enclosures, thought to represent funerary or ceremonial activity. This group of monuments is known in the archaeological literature as the Cardington complex, and shares many affinities with similar sites such as West Cotton (Northants) and Dorchester-on-Thames (Oxon), e.g. Loveday 1989). An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by English Heritage in order to assess the nature and condition of surviving deposits, and provide evidence for the Public Inquiry into the route in April 1990.

The programme of evaluation work consisted of fieldwalking the whole route and the excavation of transects

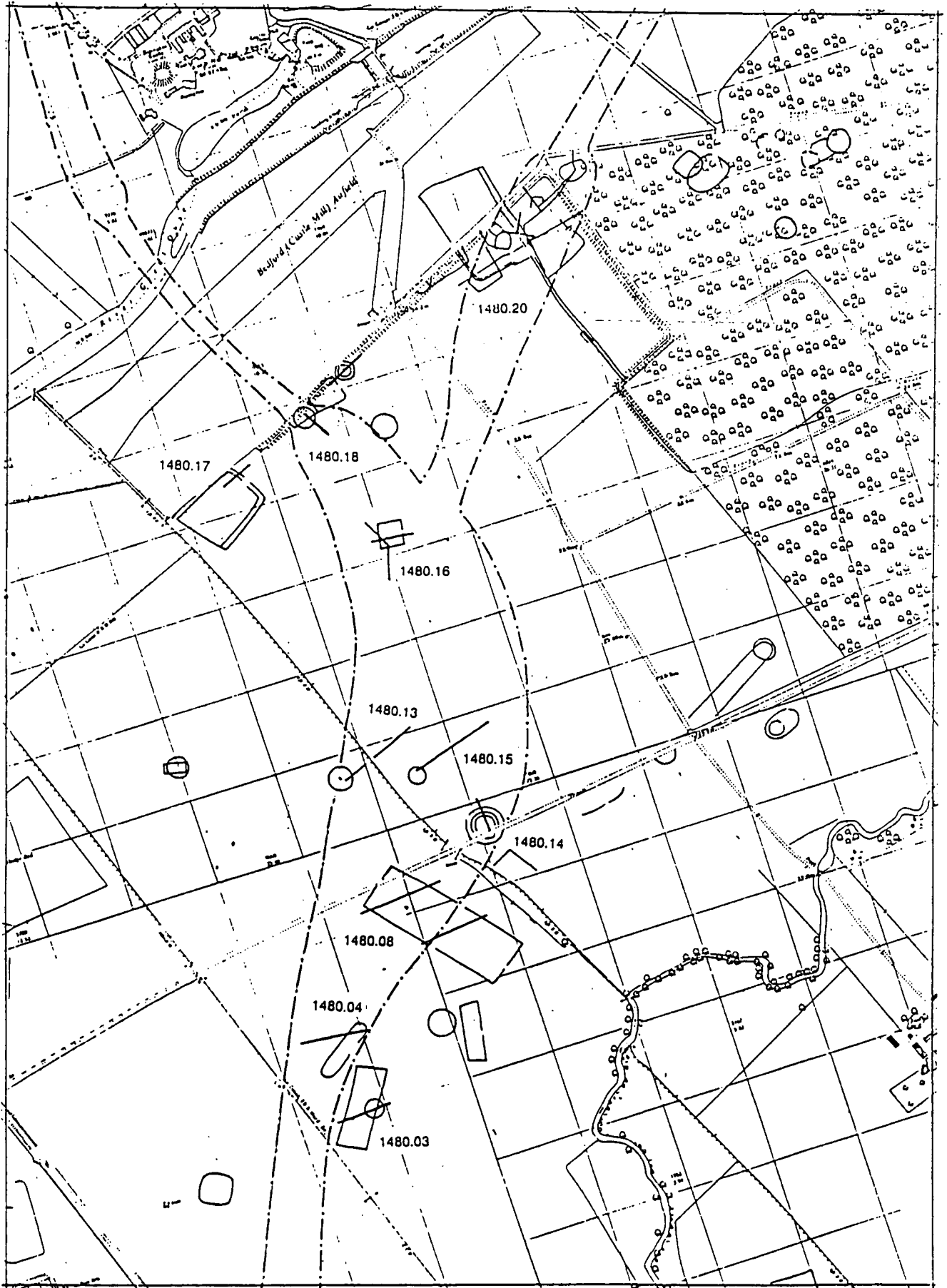


Fig. 4. Bedford Southern Bypass.

through sites located on aerial photographs. A few transects were also dug through apparently blank areas to act as controls and to determine whether there were further deposits not visible from aerial photographs. Geophysical Surveys of Bradford were consulted on appropriate remote sensing over the proposed route, with special reference to the field with the rectangular enclosures. Due to the preparation of the ground for potato cropping in 1990, the geophysical survey had to be postponed until Spring 1991. It produced evidence for further ring ditches, and for internal features such as elaborate entrance-ways and pits inside the large enclosures. The possibility of an internal bank within one large ring ditch suggests a 'henge' type monument within this ceremonial complex.

The main concentration of flint collected from the fieldwalking occurred south of the cropmarks and close to the Elstow brook. This evidence could be used to argue for domestic activity having been concentrated close to the fresh water. In addition the farmer has found at least three polished stone axes that are contemporary with the cropmark evidence.

Most of the deposits interpreted as prehistoric produced no artefacts and flint material was notably absent. This may be significant for the interpretation of the sites as ceremonial since domestic material like flint waste would have been incorporated into the archaeological deposits of habitation sites. In the search for dating evidence, fills from ditches and other contexts were both bulk sampled for wet sieving off-site and dry sieved on-site. The latter produced some ceramic material of early to middle neolithic date (Tomalin, *pers comm*).

Alluvial deposits covered large areas that were investigated. The limited width of the excavated transects prevented understanding these deposits. Periglacial features such as frost wedges and involution holes often hampered archaeological investigation: their regular patterns and colour of fills were sometimes easy to confuse with archaeological deposits and made testing of such anomalies imperative.

The results of fieldwork are summarised for the various landscape elements, using the reference numbers on fig. 1.

(1480.02,03): a ring ditch overlapping a rectangular enclosure. Although a greater density of flint material occurred in this, the south part of the field, very little could be directly related to the cropmarks. A transect was cut across both features, and the position of overlap examined. Two sections were dug through the ring ditch whose eastern ditch contained four separate fills, the upper including minute fragments of pottery, medium brown and black in colour, possibly a funerary vessel of some kind. Above this material a tip line of material seen in section may have represented mound material. No associated features were recorded within the ring ditch. The earlier rectangular enclosure produced no finds. It is possible the barrow was placed over an entrance into the rectangular enclosure. Another possible entrance way was also recorded at the

other end of the enclosure; to the west, a series of irregular shaped shallow pits or hollows contained grey brown silt fills.

(1480.04): a straight-sided enclosure with rounded ends. The entrance on the south side is much wider than on any of the other enclosures. Its alignment is similar to that of the cursus monument some 500m away to the east. Its overall dimensions are 75m. by 50m. Several linear ditches ran across it. Very little flint was found directly over the enclosure. A single transect was cut across the curved end of the enclosure, as well as across its N side where its relationship with the linear ditches could be established. The fill of the west ditch produced a rim sherd of probable earlier neolithic pottery, with fabric similar to Mildenhall ware, but without the normal decoration. Tiny fragments of similar fabric were also found in the dry sieving. The corresponding ditch excavated on the curved end of the enclosure might have been recut, although evidence is far from clear, and there might have been an external bank. The upper fill was cut by a later ditch, to the west, but approximately on the same orientation, probably relating to the field system recorded on the aerial photographs.

(1480.08): a large rectangular enclosure measuring 175m by 60m, orientated approximately NW-SE, with entrances in the middle of the longer sides. The northern tip of the enclosure has been clipped by the former Bedford - Cambridge railway line. Very little lithic material was recovered within the enclosure from a 10 x 10m gridded collection over the entire area. Distribution plots indicate a higher density of material outside the enclosure than inside, perhaps related to the restricted nature of activities within it. Two transects excavated across the enclosure located the ditches. The whole area had been badly scoured by periglacial activities such as frost wedges. The west ditch appeared to have been recut on two occasions, the earlier cuts on the same alignment, but larger. The east ditch appeared to have been recut only once. None of the sections excavated produced evidence for either outer or inner bank material. No finds at all were recorded from the fills.

(1480.13): a single ring ditch with a possible central pit. The field was unavailable for fieldwalking. The ring ditch was located, but no signs of bank or mound material was evident from the sections. No features were recorded either within or external to the ring ditch. One possible pit feature was partially exposed in the transect approximately 50m east of the ring ditch.

(1480.14): a triple ring ditch partially masked by the old Bedford to Cambridge railway line, which may have damaged it. One flint flake was found in the vicinity. Surface measurements indicate that earthworks still survive, either mound material or an old land surface that had been protected by it. The transect confirmed the presence of the three rings and that material still survived within the inner area of the mound. The inner ditch had at least two cuts. Both sections in the transect showed different fills in the inner ditch and there is a distinct possibility that a revetment of posts supported an almost vertically sided recut. No

evidence for burials was located.

(1480.15): a single ring, with no other features recorded in the vicinity. No flint material was found. The ditch measured approximately 1.70m in width and the depth was impossible to determine because of the high water table (0.20m below the top of the gravel subsoil). About 7m east of the ring ditch two shallow and irregular pits were excavated; it is unclear whether these features are archaeological or periglacial. To the east was clear evidence of plough marks made by ridge and furrow ploughing. These crossed the transect in the direction of a nearby headland.

(1480.16): a square enclosure with an apparent entrance on the east ditch, and no internal features evident from the aerial photographs; scarcely any lithic material was collected in the adjacent area. The excavated transects confirmed that the north and south ditches were approximately 27m long and the east and west ones were 25m long. The ditches varied in width and depth and it was unclear whether this was the result of plough damage or the way they had been originally dug. The single fill was consistent throughout the ditch and there was no evidence in any of the sections for either an external or internal bank or a mound. More detailed examination of the east ditch suggested the enclosure consisted of a series of interrupted ditch segments. One of at least two gaps was possibly the entrance way visible on the aerial photographs. Only one definite post hole was found on the interior, although a series of possible examples were also recorded.

(1480.17): an apparently sub-rectangular enclosure with no visible internal features. The north, east and south ditches were a double system orientated on parallel alignments. The west side of the enclosure consisted of a single ditch that connected with both internal and external south ditches, but appeared to connect only with the internal north ditch. It is possible that upcast from the adjacent modern drainage channel obscured the continuation of the west ditch through to the outer ditch. A break in both the inner and outer east-facing ditches indicates an entrance way of some kind. A transect was cut through the north-east part of the east facing ditch. The ditches were located below 0.75m of sealing material. The larger outer ditch contained three fills, but there was no evidence to suggest any major bank material on the inner or outer sides of the ditch. The internal ditch was significantly smaller and contained one fill. The absence of finds, together with the similarity of the fills to those of other definitely prehistoric sites in the area, suggests that this enclosure predated the Iron Age.

(1480.18): a series of circular ditches, a penannular enclosure with at least two compounds, and large pits were visible as cropmarks. Preliminary interpretations suggest the presence of one single and one double ring ditch, presumably of late neolithic or Bronze Age date. These appear to be sealed by a later Iron Age enclosure. The ring ditch was located 9m south of the penannular enclosure and had a single cut with two ditch fills, the upper containing Iron Age domestic pottery, probably derived from the nearby Iron Age occupation. Three ditches located on the

same alignment represent a series of recuts of the penannular enclosure, the original one largely destroyed by the two later. Within the area of both the ring ditch and the enclosure two circular pits approximately 1.20m in diameter were excavated, the lower fill of one containing fragments of late Iron Age pottery. The second transect was excavated to locate the double ring ditch and to provide further information regarding the enclosure. A series of three ditches together with post holes and pits were excavated, corresponding to the inner and outer ditch of a ring and part of the enclosure ditch to its west. East of the enclosure the transect exposed the double ring ditch. This consisted of an outer ditch and a smaller internal ditch divided by a 3m wide berm. 29 postholes were also located. Their even distribution across the site, except in a 5m band outside the outer ring ditch, could suggest an external bank to the double ring ditch which had survived into the Iron Age. In the area between the inner and outer ditch, a pit was just visible, with two very sandy fills, the lower and blacker producing residues of charred wheat.

(1480.20): a series of cropmarks identified as an Iron Age or Roman enclosure or settlement that could be related to the nearby cropmark complex 1480.18. The two transects revealed a complex series of archaeological deposits that consisted of numerous ditches recut on many occasions. Some features might have been pits, or alternatively, butt ends to ditches. The interpretation of the deposits was hampered by the narrow transects and the high water table. The cropmark would suggest a series of enclosures, possibly for livestock, and the ditches would have helped keep the land drained. Pottery consisted of domestic material dating to either the very late Iron Age or early Roman period (C Goeing *pers comm.*): it included one sherd of Samian Ware imported from Gaul. Animal bone consisted mainly of cattle bones and was in good general condition. There is little doubt that a well preserved late Iron Age/early Romano British rural site survives.

The fieldwork reported above has helped to add to our knowledge of the Cardington ceremonial complex and to date much of the complicated activity to the period prior to the late neolithic/early Bronze Age burials known along large stretches of the river Ouse in Bedfordshire.

References:

- Loveday, R 1989. The Barford ritual complex: further excavations (1972) and a regional perspective. In Gibson A (ed) *Midlands Prehistory* BAR British Series 204.
Woodward, P 1978. Flint distribution, ring ditches and Bronze Age settlement patterns in the Great Ouse: the problem of field survey techniques and some preliminary results. *Archaeological Journal*, 1978

Willington Quarry

Royston Clark
(TL 09 50, SMBR 1478)

Recent excavations at Willington Quarry, close to SMBR 1480.20 described above, have produced additional

evidence for the extensive nature of prehistoric burial and ritual activity along the southern bank of the river Ouse just east of Bedford. Evidence relating to Iron Age enclosures was also investigated.

Two ring ditches believed to date to the late neolithic or early Bronze Age were excavated. The first produced no clear evidence for activity within the central area. Some evidence for internal post holes was investigated, but the results were inconclusive. The ring ditch measured c.27m in diameter and the ditch varied in depth between 40 and 60cm. The secondary fill produced clear evidence for a human cremation unaccompanied by a funerary urn or grave goods.

The second ring ditch measured approximately 25m in diameter and varied in depth between 80cm and 1m. A central pit (2.5m in diameter and 1m in depth) was the only feature that appeared to be associated with the ring ditch. The pit produced no human remains; fragments of pig skull and teeth were recorded, together with sherds of a late neolithic/early Bronze Age pot. Flint flakes were also recovered from the fill. There was no direct evidence to indicate that the second ring ditch enclosed a mound. However, the proximity of a later enclosure just overlapping into the interior of the ring might be more than coincidental. The physical presence of a mound would have limited the eastern extent of the enclosure.

At some stage after the abandonment of Ring ditch 2, the rectangular enclosure dating to the later Iron Age was formed, partially overlapped the earlier ring ditch. The enclosure measured approximately 35m in length and 24m in width. The depth of the ditch varied between 40cm and 90cm. The enclosure ditch had three breaks which could be interpreted as entrance ways. All were approximately 10m wide and occurred on three sides of the enclosure. Post holes in two of the entrances might indicate evidence of doorways. Two internal slots suggest that the interior was in some way divided and that the two main entrances allowed for access into both sides of the partition. The width of the entrances and size of the large enclosure suggests that it might have functioned as a domestic animal stall rather than a domestic dwelling.

A third area approximately 50m north-west of the large enclosure produced two horse-shoe shaped enclosures with openings facing south. These enclosures measured 12m and 20m in diameter and contained no internal features. Pottery from all three enclosures was datable to the later Iron Age and it can be considered that they were more or less contemporary in date.

The larger of the latter two enclosures was adjacent to 22 post holes running in a north south line. The average diameter of the post holes was 1m and their depth was approximately 70cm. None produced datable artefacts and no stratigraphical relationship could be established with the enclosure running across the alignment. There were insufficient resources for further mechanical excavation to determine how far the posts ran towards the first ring ditch, where they were not seen. The next phase of excavation to

the west of the post line may produce further information on the line of posts.

Gold Lane Biddenham

Michael Dawson

(TL 020 503, SMBR 8677)

The middle Iron Age site at Gold Lane was first recognised from aerial photographs. Cropmarks showed one part of a rectangular enclosure and two further ditches which appeared to cut its north west corner. The site occupied an area of about three acres. Topographically the site occupies slightly rising ground formed of predominantly glacial gravel above the river Ouse.

An assessment of the archaeology was funded by Twigden Homes. Excavation began with seven trenches, each 20m x 2m, designed to intersect the cropmarks and test the quality of survival of the deposits. Excavation began in extremely dry weather conditions and although major features were visible a much larger area was stripped of topsoil to aid interpretation.

The excavation revealed the remains of an Iron Age settlement. It comprised a rectangular enclosure with a surrounding ditch and possibly an internal bank. The ditch, although over a metre deep was probably only effective against wild animals. Within its perimeter settlement evidence had been badly truncated by modern ploughing: postholes survived, but the old ground surface had been entirely eroded. Burnt stones in the fill of the ditches were found as packing in some postholes. The stones were from shallow scooped hearths, of which only one possible example had survived. In one part of the site a deep pit had been filled, probably with domestic refuse: some broken pottery survived, but no bones due to the acidity of the soil.

The site was probably a rural farming settlement. In the surrounding area, some evidence of tree clearance was evident from crescentic shaped pits containing loam and small amounts of charcoal.

Pottery was found in small quantities, some quartz tempered with coarse fabric. All the pot was hand made. Even though only a small proportion of the site was excavated, the results were able to contribute significantly to understanding of the evolution of the later prehistoric landscape. The type of surrounding enclosure is not characteristic of middle Iron Age sites dating to the general period of 400-550 BC: the aerial photographs had initially suggested field boundaries forming part of a Roman farm. Yet occupation was sufficiently early for flint implements to be common because many waste flakes were found in the silted up ditches and in the postholes. Evidence for tree removal and the lack of evidence for earlier, Bronze age, activity suggests Iron age land clearance, part of the increasingly intense use of the landscape in the first millennium BC. After probable abandonment of the site for two centuries, occupation continued in the Roman period, with the site in agricultural use, probably related to a Roman villa built 300 yards to the north. Later settlement was to concentrate in the area of the

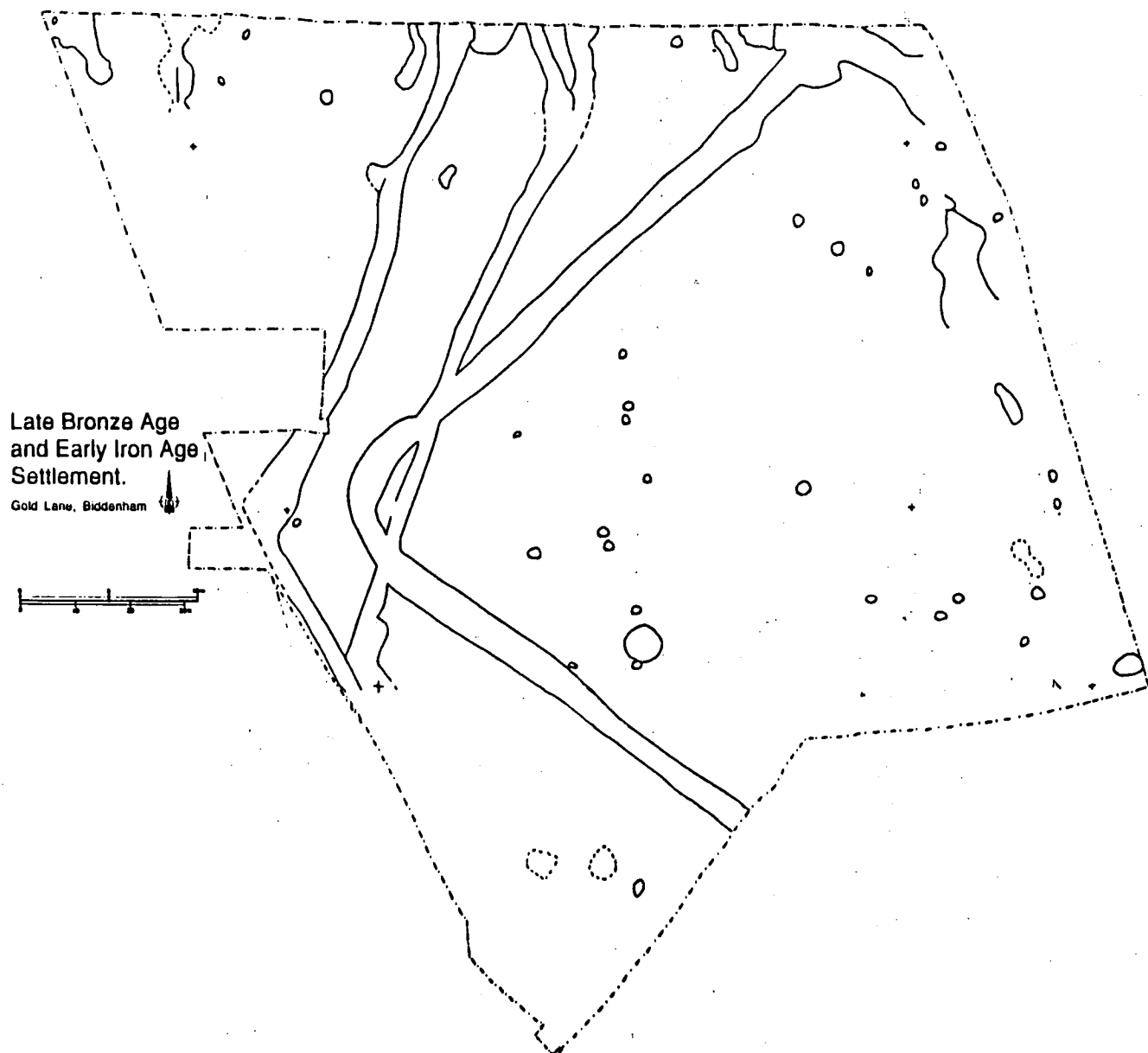


Fig. 5. Gold Lane, Biddenham.

present Biddenham village and across the river at Bromham.

Salford Quarry Excavations

Royston Clark

(TL 020 503, SMBR 8677) (SP 927 403, SMBR 15146)

In SMA20 the results of the first phase of excavation at Salford Quarry were presented, in the form of late neolithic and Bronze Age material. This report described the results of work on an adjacent area containing a well preserved Iron Age settlement. During a 12 month excavation campaign a total of about 21 hut circles were found. A series of cremations were excavated in the northern end of the site close to a double ditch system that represented the northern limit of the settlement. Waterlogged deposits in the south part of the site produced timbers and a good range of environmental indicators, such as seeds, pollen and insect remains. The possibility of tanning activity adds an interesting dimension to the limited industrial activity known to have taken place at Salford and fits in well with

the current interpretation of large scale cattle farming thought to have taken place on the site.

The use of the site began with two large ditched enclosures pre-dating the main construction phase of the Iron Age settlement. These were probably used for stalling animals such as cattle. At this stage we have no clear evidence for associated houses. These might, however, relate to smaller hut circles excavated in an adjacent area of the quarry in 1988.

The Iron Age settlement comprised a large area of occupational material associated with the 21 hut circles, and was so well preserved below the plough soil that it merited detailed examination. In normal circumstances modern ploughing tends to destroy such sub-soil archaeological deposits, but a medieval headland formed across the main settlement area had protected the site from excessive plough damage. The occupational soil was very black in colour and reminiscent of urban dark earths. It contained abundant

THE IRON AGE SETTLEMENT AT SALFORD QUARRY : 1990

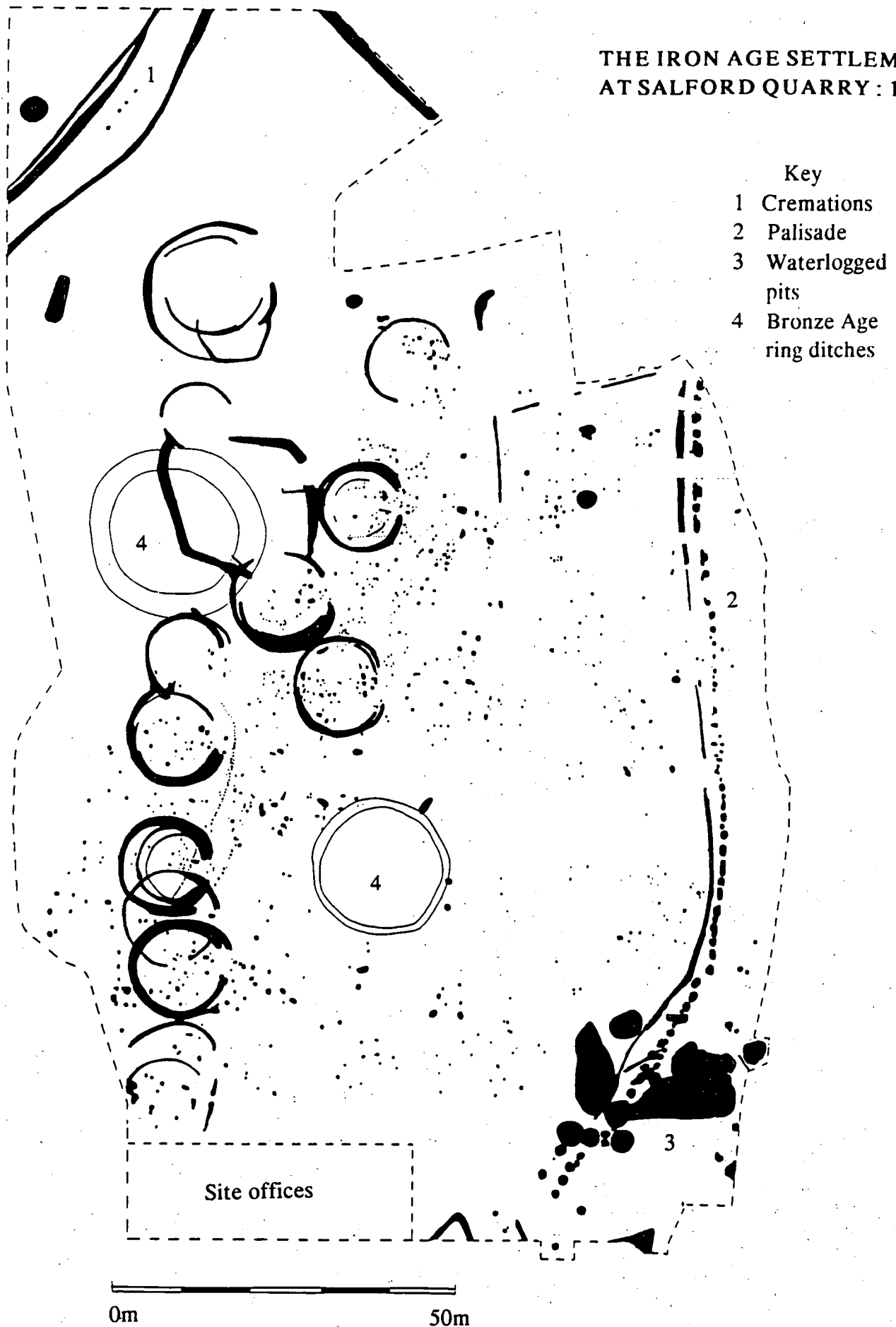


Fig. 6. Iron Age settlement. Salford Quarry.

organic remains as well as fragments of pottery and flint.

The excavation sampled a large area of this occupational material by taking out metre-square units and processing the soil for finds in cement mixers, using large quantities of water from the quarry and heavy duty sieves. This time consuming process will facilitate spatial analysis of archaeological finds. Material extracted included pottery, bone, daub, flint, iron slag, seeds and charcoal. Initial observations indicate concentrations of slag material, possibly the result of iron smelting activities. Concentrations of flint material might represent further industrial activity. This information from the occupational layer is important because no analogous archaeological features associated with such industrial activity were recorded.

The main settlement phase consisted of about 21 round houses. In many instances they were sealed by the occupational material which allowed for a good level of structural preservation. Drip gullies, posts holes relating to porches and doorways have provided architectural details concerning the construction of the buildings. Some evidence for floor surfaces within the huts was also found. In one hut evidence for doorway sills was clearly visible. Soil micromorphological samples were taken from key areas in the drip gullies with the hope that they might provide detail concerning building materials. At this stage it is unclear whether turf material or wattle and daub was used for the walls of the houses.

It is likely that there were at least two main building phases associated with the round houses. Further analysis will undoubtedly confirm a more detailed occupational history. The eastern part of the settlement appears to have been "defended" by a palisade made of large posts. The perimeter of the site were poorly preserved compared to the hut circle area as it was not protected by the headland. At this stage it is impossible to suggest whether there is a corresponding series of constructional phases that relate to the round house phases. Pottery analysis should help resolve this question.

Five cremations in a satellite cemetery were located between two ditches apparently defining the northern limit of the settlement. The ditches might also have marked a drove way to nearby fields. The pots dated to the late first century BC / early first century AD, so the cremations were later than the main settlement. The accompanying brooches of late La Tene type were similar to those from Aylesford in Kent. Minute fragments of copper alloy chain and possible food residues were also found accompanying the cremations.

The southern area of the site, which gradually falls downslope, produced a concentration of pits and work hollows containing waterlogged wood. One feature has tentatively been interpreted as a well, with preserved timbers functioning as a lining. Other features might have acted as cattle water holes. Some form of animal processing such as slaughtering might also have taken place here. Cattle skulls and feet bones, usually regarded as butchery waste or evidence for tanning, were found in significant quantities.

PH testing of the soil produced an interesting pattern that showed high alkaline readings, sometimes indicative of tanning activity when chalk was used as a material in the processing of animal hides. Environmental sampling was also conducted for both seed and insect remains and for pollen analysis.

Prior to more detailed post-excavation analysis, it is uncertain how closely the waterlogged area relates in date to the main settlement. A small amount of pottery from the upper layers of one feature is early Saxon and it is therefore likely that some of these features are much later in date. Plum stones, normally associated with post-Iron Age deposits were also recorded. Iron Age pottery, however, was found in all of the contexts.

The majority of the finds consisted of pottery and bone. The date range of the pottery appears to extend throughout the Iron Age and will help provide a phasing framework for the settlement as a whole. There is also Saxon pottery in the later deposits of the site. The faunal remains suggest that cattle were the most important animal kept. Sheep, horse and pig were also evident in the assemblage. The faunal remains should help make significant interpretations regarding the economy at Salford. Animal bone was found in features across the whole of the site. It should therefore be possible to study the distribution of different bone types to the extent that areas producing certain types of bone can be regarded as butchery areas and others as consumption areas. The processing of the soil from the occupational layer covering the site should also provide finds indicative of the various activity areas across the site.

Leighton-Linslade Bypass (SP 92 [centre])

Construction of this 14 km southern bypass started in April 1990. Mike Luke was seconded to the project until September in the dual capacity of archaeologist and assistant engineer: these notes are taken from his report. The arrangement proved an effective way of maintaining an archaeological presence on a road line where preliminary reconnaissance through the SMBR and fieldwalking had produced few indications. It was also useful experience in developing the role of the 'resident archaeologist' which ought to be incorporated into projects of this nature in addition to any site-specific fieldwork planned into the construction programme.

The archaeological results were not much greater than expected, but it was useful to have confirmation of the apparent relative barrenness of this part of the county. Ploughed-out ridge and furrow was seen at several locations along the route after top-soil had been stripped. The postulated ford of the river Ouzel by the Theodweg (Theedway) did not show despite many good sections being cut during the road construction. Ditches and pits were found at various points along the route, some sealed by alluvium, and some, notably between the Ouzel brook and the A5, with Iron Age pottery, probably cremation vessels.

As part of the project, Mike Luke has prepared a report on the insights provided by his dual role. This covers the actual processes of road construction, the relationships between the contractor and the resident engineer's staff, and the implications of sudden major discoveries - which did not occur on this particular bypass. The report can be consulted at the St Mary's Church Archaeology Centre in Bedford.

The Hemel-Humber Petrofina Pipeline Royston Clark

During the summer of 1990 watching brief and small scale excavations were carried out along the route of the Petrofina pipeline. The route of the line crossed Bedfordshire roughly from north to south, entering the county near Shelton and leaving close to Shillington. As a result the pipeline cut a transect through the varied geology of Bedfordshire, crossing the heavy clays in the north, through the extensive gravel deposits and onto the chalks of the north Chilterns. It therefore offered an opportunity to study human settlement in relation to these different deposits.

A total of 21 areas containing archaeological deposits were investigated. In most cases recording of the pipe trench section was all that was necessary. In other instances, where wider areas of archaeology were in danger, more comprehensive excavation was conducted.

The highest proportion of sites consisted of small-scale late Iron Age deposits such as isolated farmsteads. One area produced the possibility of more extensive Iron Age settlement close to the village of Thurleigh.

The most important and hitherto unknown site was a Roman villa near the village of Meppershall, in the south of the county. The pipeline trench clipped the edge of a winged building and showed indications that terracing of the landscape was included in the construction of the building.

Perhaps the most significant general result to come out of this transect across Bedfordshire was further confirmation that by the Iron Age practically the whole of the county area was populated by relatively small scale settlement. No evidence for earlier occupation was found. Intensive agricultural use of the landscape continued throughout the Roman occupation, and yet evidence for the later periods was elusive. No structures relating to the medieval period were recorded and finds were limited to post-medieval roof tile.

Sandy Municipal Cemetery: 1990 Michael Dawson (TL 179 487, SMBR 11313)

The 1990 season of excavations immediately west of the area examined in 1989 again showed how the site of Roman Sandy had been protected by a deep horizon of colluvium accumulated from ploughing over some 1500 years. The gravel road found in 1989 continued east-west across the area: later drainage and boundary ditches had been cut into its surface as it became derelict, probably during the 5th

century.

A different architectural tradition was found in the building remains of the late Roman settlement, comprising timber framed houses on stone footings. They were spaced far apart, separated by garden areas characterised by a black soil horizon. These buildings had stood adjacent to the craft quarter with its hearths and ash tip, discovered in the 1989 season.

Under these later structures was the earliest phase of buildings at Sandy, domestic dwellings with abundant refuse pits. Their wooden frames, supported on posts rather than on stone foundations, were similar to the structures ranged along the early trackway discovered in 1989, and confirmed the prevalence of that technique in the early period.

Almost immediately adjacent to the gravel road was evidence of probably 4th century burial in the latest period of occupation. Several child burials were distributed across the entire excavation area. A further eight adult burials were located.

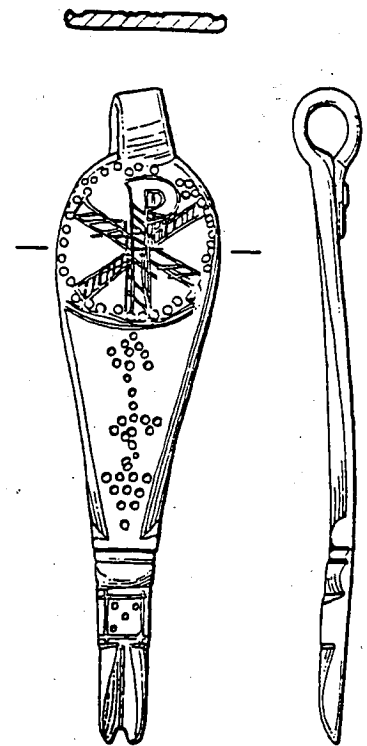
The cemetery at Sandy can be related to a wider pattern of burial practice known from the Roman province. Traditionally it occurred alongside the roads outside small towns, generally in individual graves, and, amongst a variety of 4th century traditions, coffins or stone lining. Yet Sandy also has burials which do not readily conform to this pattern; two instances of crouched inhumations seemingly refer back to an earlier, possibly indigenous, tradition. The multiple burial found in 1989 was one such occurrence. The second was the distorted burial found at the roadside in 1990; whilst this skeleton was still articulated the body was awkwardly compressed into the grave which also contained a single pot.

Structural and environmental evidence are complementary. That for early use of the site includes indications of ground clearance, the burning of turf grasses rather than the occupation of ploughed or temporarily fallow land. Evidence relating to the later occupation helped clarify the distinctions between the 'craft' area excavated during 1989 and 'gardens' of 1990. In the latter, a greater variety of mineralised cess, seeds and vegetative plant matter were recovered, emphasising its domestic character.

Material evidence, ceramics, worked stone objects such as querns, copper alloy, iron, and worked bone, are all helping to characterise the site and its occupants.

After two main seasons, the site is conforming to the pattern of Roman small town development with the processes of structural and economic growth clearly visible. As analysis progresses, more detail about those processes will be recovered. It is however a town whose development was dependent upon a variety of attributes. Its roadside site, and any related geopolitical situation are particularly significant; the probability of a nearby mansio as well as its fertile river valley site with a river-crossing are further confirmation of the complex factors that must have influenced the growth of settlement.

1 Chi Rho inscribed cosmetic
implement, possibly a nail
cleaner. It probably dates
to the 4th c.



2 Large sandstone relief dating to the 3rd c.
The figures probably represent local deities.

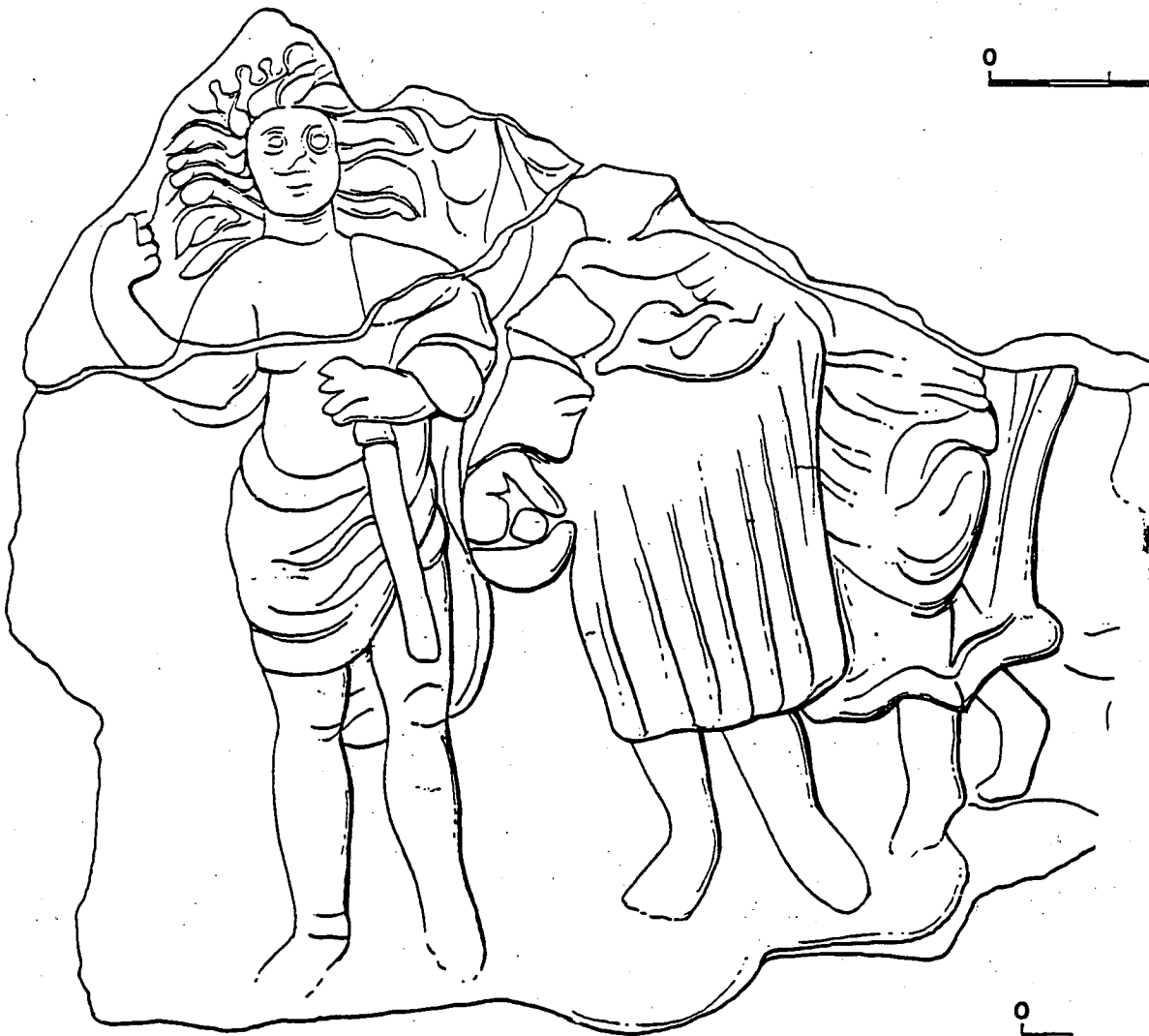


Fig. 7. Roman finds from Sandy Cemetery excavations 1989-90.

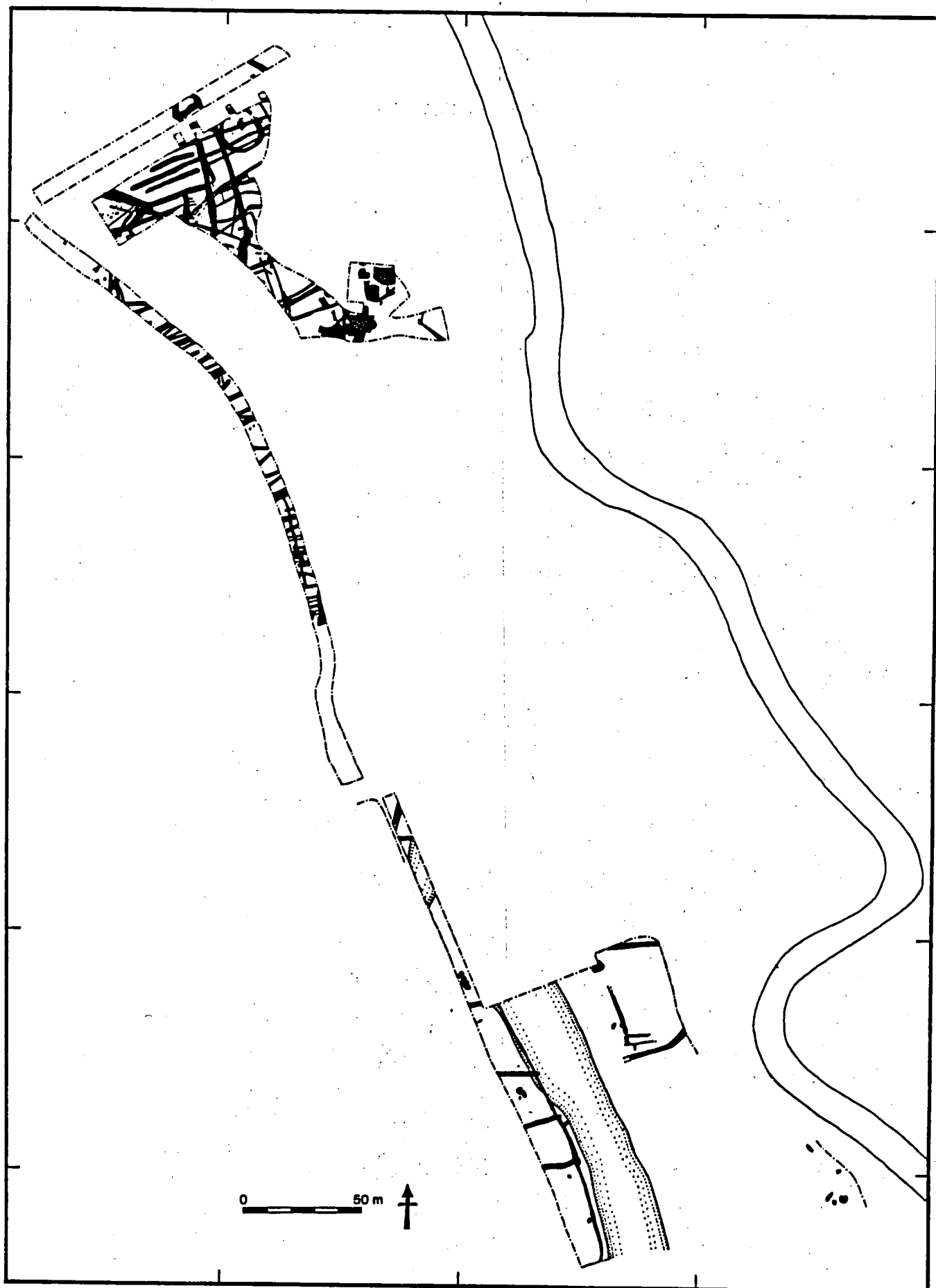


Fig. 8. Warren Villas Quarry 1990-91.

Warren Villas Quarry
Michael Dawson
(TL 180 473, SMBR 3527)

Excavations at Warren Villas quarry near Sandy which began in 1989 were concluded in January 1991 under the supervision of Anthony Maull. The project in the Ivel valley encompassed an area of landscape which contained evidence of occupation from prehistory to the post mediaeval period. This report is based on the preliminary results obtained in the course of preparing the post-excavation assessment.

Attention was originally directed to waterlogged wood remains discovered during a routine watching brief. The wood was identified as the lining of flax retting pits which had silted up or been filled with refuse. This refuse included the remains of shoes, fish traps and other artefacts as well as extensive waterlogged faunal remains.

The prehistoric environment of Warren Villas is being examined through several discrete assemblages. In the earliest period periglacial features were seen in the gravels, the leached remains of early soil formation constituting a distinct area in one portion of the site. Elsewhere, a small glacial hollow, originally water filled, was gradually replaced by peat. This process of peat formation seems to have continued into the Roman period.

Prehistoric occupation of the Ivel valley site was evident from a pit of uncertain use which yielded cord-impressed Neolithic pottery; a nearby small annular ditch may have dated to the same period. Possibly associated with this use of the landscape was a scatter of flints found beneath and mixed with a plough soil horizon of the Iron Age.

A series of ditches cut during the middle Iron age indicate a possibly more intense exploitation of the landscape although their precise use will remain uncertain until full environmental analysis has taken place.

Later Iron age exploitation of the landscape was represented by a series of plough marks cutting an horizon of silty loam which had formed above the middle Iron age ditches. The ploughmarks were associated with several deep ditches used for drainage. Preliminary pottery spot-dating of this phase indicates that this process took place in the early Roman period. The importance of precise dating for this activity lies in the form of the plough marks, which had an uneven V shaped profile, with one side ragged the other smooth. This shape may be characteristic of the mould board plough and its discovery at Warren at an early date is significant. The use of such a plough indicates the level of agricultural equipment available to the late Iron age population.

In the Roman period the area was subject to further hydrological changes. Possibly as early as the beginning of the fourth century the water table in this part of the Ivel valley began to rise and peat formed in the upper fills of the ditches.

The high water table remained, possibly until the 19th century. Its duration was sufficient to form a peat horizon across much of the area east of the gravel terrace. A soil horizon then formed above it, to become the modern ploughsoil.

At the southern end of the excavation the area of waterlogged wood occurred within the horizon of peat formation. The wood itself survived as several panels of hurdling supported on uprights. These panels reinforced the sides of hollows dug into the gravels. The assemblage of pits and channels was constructed on the bank of a now dry river course. From the silts of this river artefacts as early as the Roman period had been recovered, indicating that the watercourse had a considerable antiquity.

The date of the lined pits was confirmed as 11th to 13th century by dendrochronological analysis of the supporting uprights. Their use for flax retting was derived from the discovery of flax seeds in their silts. Their design, allowing the control of water flow into them, lent weight to this hypothesis as did circumstantial evidence from place name study which showed a proliferation of the use of the name 'blue field' in the area.

Fish traps from the silt of the tanks and fishnet weights from the river course show the multiplicity of uses to which a favourable area of river bank might be put at all periods.

Stratton Deserted Medieval Village
Michael Dawson and Evelyn Baker
(TL 205 440, SMBR 518)

The general layout and possible extent of the deserted medieval village of Stratton have been known for some time from aerial photographs, map evidence and observations from field walking. The Domesday Survey entry points to a manor of Stratton, presumably with some form of settlement or occupation functioning in the late 11th century. In 1987-88 land including the site was earmarked for housing development; the ploughed state of the site and the lack of extant earthworks led to a planning decision that it was not reasonable to refuse development on archaeological grounds if appropriate arrangements were made for recording.

Evidence for the boundaries of individual closes was fairly clear for the north part of the village. Most of the building debris, stone and tile was also seen in the north, on the east side of an extant track. This track runs through the whole length of the site, and may echo the long vanished central road of the linear medieval village with its house plots running off from either side. In the south part of the site the road continues as a farm track going south to Dunton Lane. A scatter of pottery was found on the surface on the east side, but the west side was almost devoid of finds. Two moated sites are associated with the deserted medieval village. To the south, and outside the development area, is a well preserved earthwork site which is a scheduled ancient monument. To the north-east is a second, ploughed out, site known principally from map evidence.

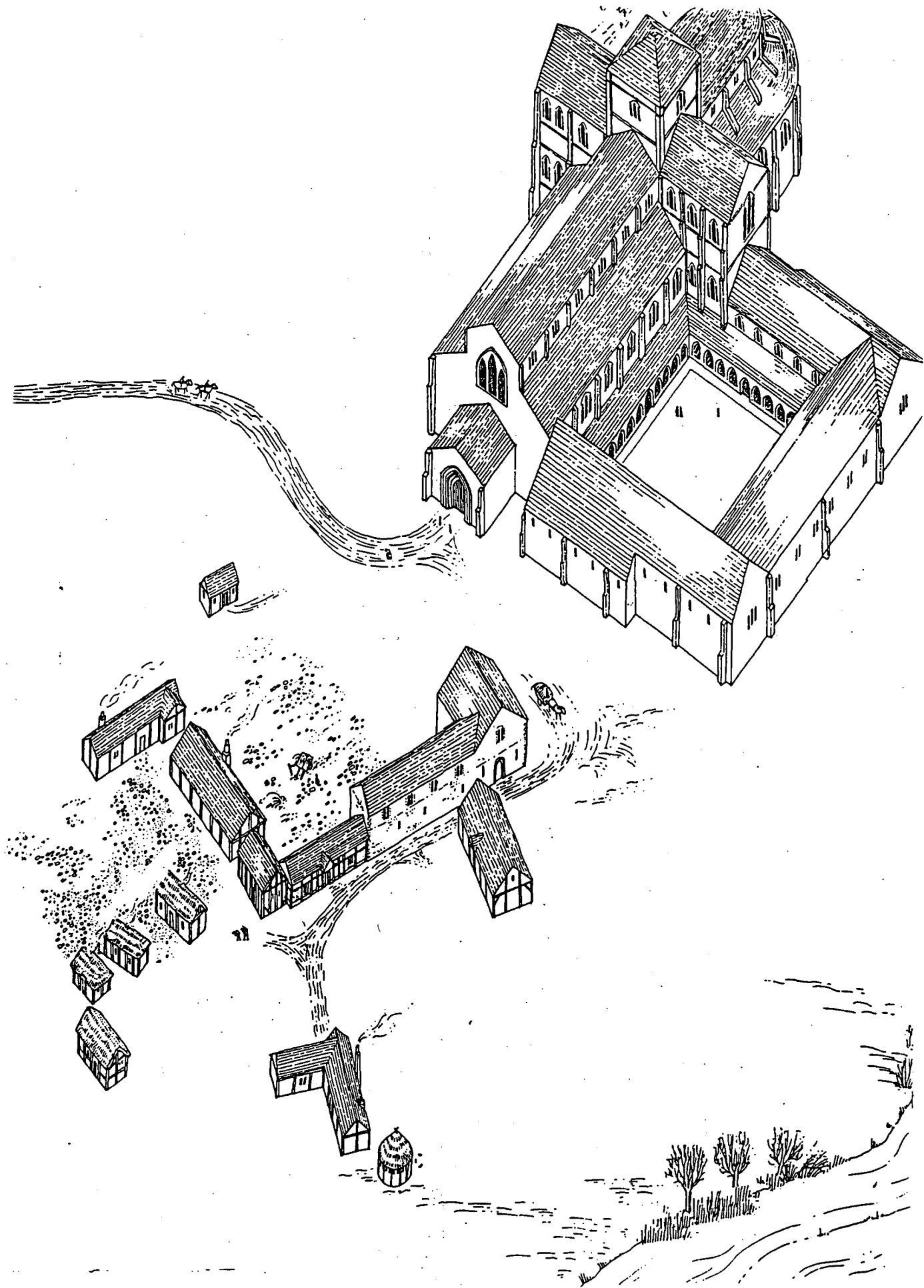


Fig. 9. Newnham Priory (Reconstruction).

An evaluation was conducted in summer 1990, designed with 1,500 metres of 2 metre wide transects; these were mechanically excavated down on to the top of archaeological deposits. It began on the southern part of the site where least was known: it was halted in order to conserve resources once it had been demonstrated that settlement evidence also existed there. Archaeological deposits were found to have been truncated by ploughing but sufficient survives to provide good evidence of feature type, and to supply reliable dating evidence. A substantial portion of the moated site survives, and contains waterlogged deposits. A complex of features of more than one period was seen to cut the interior platform, and a roadway or track was detected on the outside of the moat.

The archaeological features seen in the transects appear to demonstrate a pattern of timber buildings and associated ditches which represent peasant homes and their land boundaries. Slots, postholes and posts in slots were seen, but no stonework, together with laid gravel spreads and some hearths which had survived the ploughing. There is some evidence that individual structures were rebuilt on a different axis, or even that the settlement layout was replanned. The remains of the village roadway were seen as a cobbled track. Enough survives to enable the identification of separate households and the way they were organized within the settlement. In the south-west corner of the site late medieval housing appears to overlie further 10th and 11th century occupation.

Spot dating of the pottery indicates a 10th to 11th century date with a probable 11th century centre-point for the majority of dated features within the settlement. This would fit well with a timber village of Saxo-Norman date. Waterlogged material in some of the ditches on the east side may allow comparisons with the deposits in the moated site to examine complementary cultural aspects of a peasant community.

A working hypothesis sees 10th and 11th century Stratton as a village of timber houses set either side of a winding cobbled track. Some of the houses were repaired or rebuilt, and there seems to have been a major rebuilding, possibly to a new and different plan: the village focus may have shifted north, perhaps in the 13th century. The early houses were abandoned and fell into decay, eventually reverting to farmland used by their successors.

It is likely that most villages known today originated in the later part of the Saxon period (800 - 1000 AD), for which the detailed documentary record is extremely sparse, and silent on the issue of the complex changes of village creation and early development. Excavations of deserted medieval village sites to date have tended to be either on too small or too wide a scale for any overall pattern to be elucidated; attention has been distracted from questions of settlement form in order to follow wider issues such as social structure, marketing function, and agricultural background. It must be remembered that for most villages the exploration of settlement form has been vitiated by constant rebuilding which has systematically destroyed most of the evidence

which here seems to lack such encumbrances.

Stratton thus provides a rare and important opportunity to address basic unanswered questions of settlement history by means of excavation on an appropriate scale. Extensive investigation ought to focus upon the location of the earliest part of the village and the date at which it was established, its expansion and contraction, and the date and reason for its abandonment.

Relatively little is known about the north part of the site which will be developed later. The south-west corner appears to be agricultural rather than habitational in function. Black soils to the north may however indicate occupation evidence through the constant application of organic material in the area. On the east side of the road has been found rather more positive evidence of buildings in the form of later medieval building detritus. One basic question as yet unanswered is whether any later village was on the east side of the street only, or whether it was also on the W side, but punctuated by possible agricultural 'blank' zones. Further evaluation could go some way to answering these questions. If the full picture is to be obtained, a sample of the agricultural system is an integral part of the whole.

Newnham Priory Bedford

Michael Dawson

(TL 065 494, SMBR 297)

This note describes work from November 1989 to September 1990, during the development of the site of Newnham Priory as a leisure centre. Of particular importance is the group of relatively well-preserved service structures in the monastic outer court, which will allow comparisons with arrangements at other major Bedfordshire sites such as Grove Priory and Elstow Abbey.

In about 1166 Simon de Beauchamp founded Newnham Priory for Augustinian canons who had been at St Paul's Church Bedford since before the Norman conquest. The first Priory church received a grant of stone from the destruction of Bedford castle in 1224-25. At the dissolution in 1540, the priory's income was put at 284; the number of canons was 13 in 1442, 18 in 1534 and 15 at the Dissolution.

Sir John Gostwick, one of Henry VIII's commissioners, may have acquired stone from Newnham for use in his new buildings at Willington. The monastic buildings and conventual church were stripped of their furnishings and fittings, whilst the bells and lead from the roof were taken down and sold. Dressed stone too was robbed from the buildings.

A house was built on the site, a mansion owned in the mid 16th century by Sir Robert Calin, Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, who died in 1574. The house may not have survived long after 1700, as 19th century antiquarians such as Thomas Fisher and Samuel Lysons noted only a few brick walls. However those surviving today are ample testimony to the existence of a large and probably mid 16th century walled garden in the area of what had once been the main

priory buildings.

In 1970 most of the precinct of Newnham Priory was scheduled as an ancient monument. The site was then in use as the Works Depot for (now) North Bedfordshire Borough Council, with allotment gardens on the eastern part. In 1987/8 an archaeological evaluation was commissioned by North Bedfordshire Borough Council to locate the main monastic buildings and assess the implications of their state of preservation for any development proposals. Ranges of buildings were tentatively identified as the priory church, the south cloister, a dormitory east range and possibly the cellarer's (west) range. Other less easily definable structures, a house and accompanying walled garden, probably related to the post-monastic use of the site.

The distribution of development on the site had largely been determined by the results of the archaeological assessment carried out in 1987, which also provided the basis for designing the archaeological recording work in advance of construction. Ground disturbance within the scheduled area was to be kept to a minimum, with the main development occurring west of it. As this would still be within the monastic precinct, it was agreed that a similar requirement for archaeological recording ought to be applied to both the scheduled and non-scheduled areas. The land occupied by the buildings of the Council Depot, where the bar, restaurant, cinema and bowl of the new development were to be located, demanded the most extensive investigation; this was the likely position for the outer western courtyard with its ranges of buildings such as barns, animal sheds, and perhaps the prior's residence and monastic hospital.

Extensive areas of excavation west of the priory church revealed the remains of at least two outer courtyards surrounded by buildings in timber or half-timber and stone. 23 buildings were identified, and one had probably stood two storeys high. The quality of survival was exceptionally good with intact floor levels and more than one period of construction visible. West of the priory church, the first (east) courtyard was flanked on two sides by stone buildings; on the north side, possibly close to a trackway leading to the west end of the church, was a wooden barn with a tile roof. The courtyard was occupied from the 12th century: its buildings were probably built at first of wood; later, perhaps as the priory became increasingly wealthy, they were replaced in stone. The period and nature of the courtyards' occupation was derived from finds, especially pottery, coins and copper alloy objects; industrial waste such as charcoal, slag and burnt clay, indicates some of the craft processes undertaken.

South of the first courtyard was a range of buildings facing south to the river with possibly another range running away north-south away from it. Their remains were damaged and only fragmentary. To the south a dovecote and kitchen overlooked the river, forming a range running north-south. They were built in the 13th century and probably not demolished until sometime after the Dissolution. These remains had been badly damaged by the later construction of the municipal swimming pool, but sufficient survived to

characterise their latest phase.

The west courtyard, was enclosed by a more diverse range of buildings. Investigation in detail was confined to those on the west side whose position coincided with the layout of the modern cinema. The first of perhaps three structural phases began in the early years of the priory and was completed in the 14th century by a building with stone footings and a timber superstructure: the elaborate pitched-tile hearth inside suggests it has a domestic function. The south walls of possibly four buildings which appeared to form the south side of the courtyard were partially examined in the foundation trenches for the modern bowling alley. Between this building and one to the south lay a ditch which probably drained the courtyards and the rainwater from the roofs of the buildings on the north and south sides. On the north side of this courtyard, between the east and west courtyards was a long, probably rectangular, building.

The south range of the west courtyard comprised a range of buildings only partially seen in the archaeological trenches. These appeared to face a large drainage ditch which probably drained the two major courtyards and then flowed west into the river. The meagre remains of these structures may represent the southern facades of a range of timber buildings. On the south side of the large drainage ditch was the remains of a single building which probably faced south towards the river.

The cemetery was found in the usual monastic location at the east end of the Priory church. The graves were orientated east-west with earlier burials often cut by later ones, though there was clear evidence that they had been laid out neatly in rows. So far, 31 individuals have been identified from 34 graves and a charnel pit.

St Peter's Church, Harrold

David Baker

(SP 954 567, SMBR 862)

A French drain was dug around most of this complicated church, providing significant new evidence for various stages of its evolution. Suggestions that the present east end had been truncated in the 16th century could not be confirmed from below-ground evidence in the area disturbed by the drain. It was however clear that a large chapel between chancel and south aisle had been removed.

St Nicholas' Church, Chellington

David Baker

(SP 961 563, SMBR 1036)

A French drain dug around the entire church gave an opportunity to record footings in relation to superstructural evidence. Nothing was seen which added significantly to the known phasing of the building.

Blackburn Hall, Thurleigh

Evelyn Baker

(TL 041 586, SMBR 309)

This moated site platform supports a timber-framed house

with elements that have been dated to the 13th century. Excavation of a small swimming pool to one side of the moated area of the site prompted a short watching brief. Four phases of late medieval and post medieval activity were recognised. Clay from the moat formed a floor level with areas of burning and a hearth; cut into it were two robber trenches, sealed by further clay in which was a line of worn cobbling. Over this was a post pit and tiledrain immediately under topsoil.

Wrest Park

Michael Dawson

(TL 095 365, SMBR 8755)

The restoration by English Heritage of the 17th and 18th century gardens at Wrest Park aims to recreate a garden of the 1730's. This process began with the publication of a consultation document produced on behalf of English Heritage by Land Use Consultants in 1983.

Archaeological involvement began in 1988 and has continued annually. The earlier seasons work has been reported upon in documents produced by Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeology Service as part of the overall project. A detailed report of the results of the work in 1990-91 is available from the Archaeological Service of the County Council.

Archaeological work at Wrest Park in 1988 and 1989 was largely reactive, dealing with problems generated by the restoration process. More recently, in the seasons 1989-1990 and 1991, specific research objectives were identified and fieldwork devised which influenced as well as flowed from the programme.

The principal aim of archaeological activity has been the rediscovery of early garden features relating to the intended period of restoration c1735-7, although earlier features have also been recorded. These have included paths, planting holes, hedge lines and drains.

An addition to the archaeological process in 1990-91 was the involvement of geophysical survey. This was seen as a cost-effective way of identifying elements of the older garden's structure under about 45 acres of modern lawn. In the 1990-91 season, the character of the paths has been further clarified through excavation. Many of the major ones on the west side of the garden were of sand whilst grass surfaces had predominated in the east. There may be ornamental reasons for this; a map by the Earl de Gray from the early 19th century is partially coloured, but the colours conflict with the ground evidence. An alternative hypothesis is that the path surfaces reflect the drainage of the garden. The water level falls from north-west to east and terracotta land drains found in the edge of the Long Canal seem to reflect this fall. The generally damp conditions in the west may have prompted the use of local sand as surfacing; in the east there were more mixed sand and loam paths, with sand occasionally used to fill damp hollows. The use of sand in this way is not incompatible with use of coloured paths in gardens of this date. Hoggin, discovered in 1990, used in the

area of the bridge at the east end of the Ladies Lake continues this theme. Hoggin was also used in the later roundel of the altars.

Further work was done on the West Exhedra and the Lady Duchess's square; the configuration of paths was clarified, as were those in the Dukes' Square. In both cases the configuration of squares was rediscovered by geophysical survey.

Geophysical survey was used to re-examine the site of the previous house. This confirmed the picture revealed by the parchmarks in 1990 and indicated that the house was a far more complex structure than it had been possible to derive previously from pictorial and map evidence alone.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS

David Baker

From the creation of the service in 1974, one of its central duties has been the provision of advice, mainly to District Planning Officers, on planning applications affecting historic buildings and Conservation Areas. This largely reactive work has had to take priority over potentially more positive and rewarding work on threatened buildings, enhancement schemes, Conservation Area review, publicity and education. However it has always been recognized as the main opportunity to prevent damage being done to historic buildings and areas, at the point where control by the planning system is possible.

During 1989 and 1990 a wide range of cases were covered by the Conservation Officers (currently David Bevan, Jonathan Edis and Ruth Gibson). The following notes give examples of some of the main types and problems.

Barn conversions have been some of the most controversial. Historic barns were generally under-listed during the earlier stages of the main resurvey which was completed in the mid 1980s. During the 1970s and earlier 1980s the idea developed that a good way to 'save' a redundant timber-framed or stone barn, or a range of brick 19th century model farm buildings, was to convert them into houses. This certainly gave them a new use which would ensure continuing maintenance and repair, but also had the effect of destroying much of their distinctive external character and internal spaces. Less demanding uses, moreover, were less profitable.

In the later 1980s, conservation opinion swung away from residential conversion as a preferable option, with the slogan 'houses into barns won't go'; a clear advisory note on the subject was produced by English Heritage, and the District Councils adopted policies ensuring that redundancy and convertibility were clearly demonstrated, and that farm buildings of special character would be protected. An example of a case which spanned this transitional period is the group of timber-framed and weather-boarded farm buildings at Duck End Farm, Wilstead (SMBR 3631). One of these (and the farmhouse) are listed. After considerable

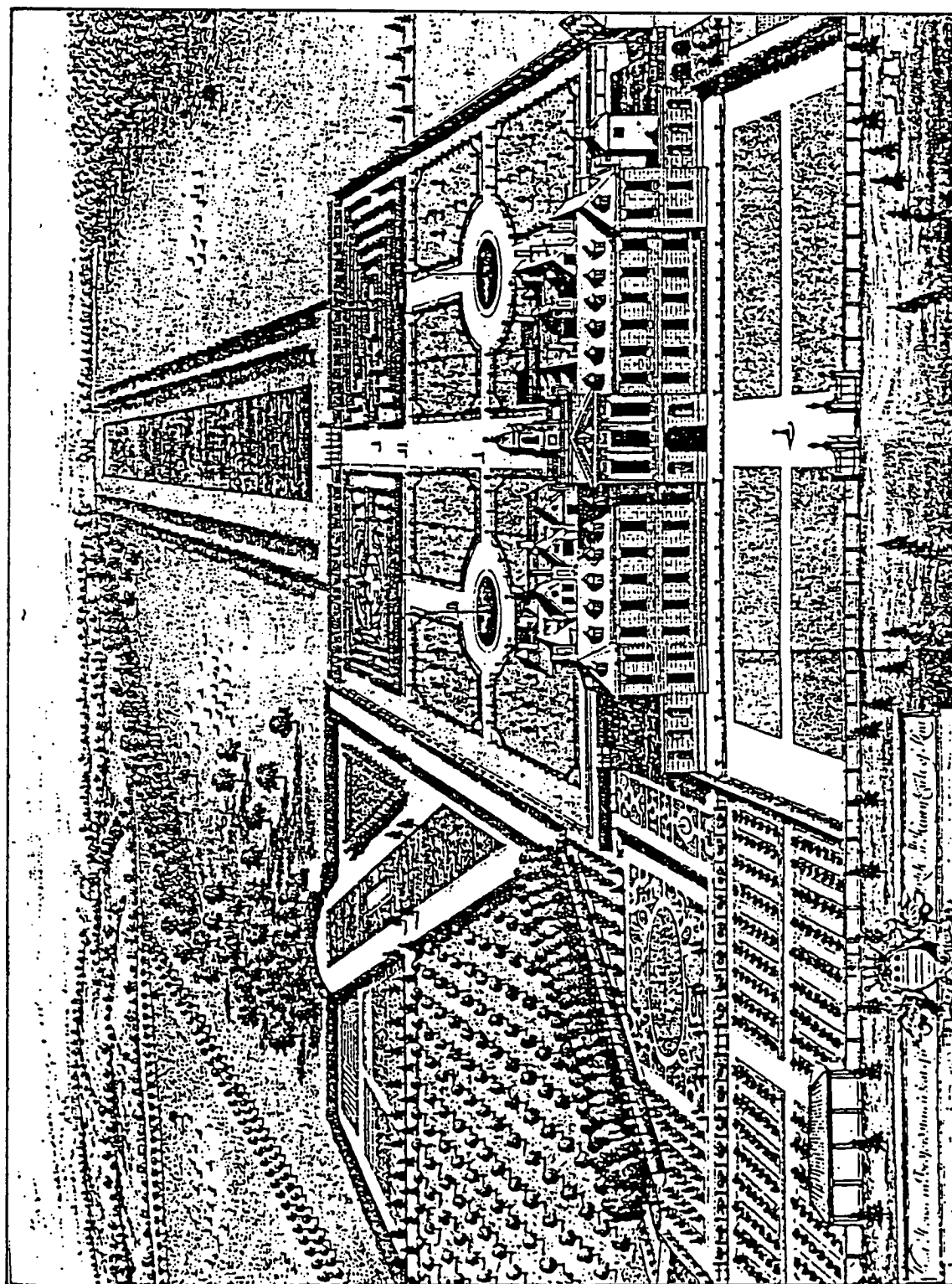


Fig. 10. Wrest House c 1705.

J. Kip Wrest House c.1705

negotiation, the listed barn is likely to be used virtually unaltered as a communal garage, and relatively light-handed conversions will be carried out on the other barns which form a group with it; plans will have to be prepared by the applicant providing a record of the timber-frame structure and the repairs and alterations to be made to it. The ideal solution was obtained in the case of a fine listed aisled barn at Streatleybury Farm (SMBR 14352), which is to become storage for crop-spraying machinery, a use that will require repair, but little alteration.

The gales experienced during 1989 and 1990 took their toll of Bedfordshire's historic timber-framed barns, especially those which had not been maintained due to disuse, and whose joints had failed. Major losses included two of the three at Grange Farm, Barton, (SMBR 10244) with the third seriously damaged, at Astwick (SMBR 2072), and at Shillington, (SMBR 15143) all listed or of listable quality.

Problems have been encountered with the usual list of buildings whose owners are unwilling or unable to repair them. Though the planning authorities have powers to enforce urgent repair of unoccupied listed buildings, or indeed more thorough repair perhaps ending in compulsory purchase, their exercise is a highly time-consuming process which can only be followed in a few cases at a time. Examples of problems that ran through 1989 and 1990 are: the Round House, Brogborough, (SMBR 5340) a dramatically sited 17th century house with Civil War associations near the M1 junction 13; 16-20 West Street, Dunstable (SMBR 6315), one of the relatively few surviving timber-framed buildings in the centre of the historic town; the 19th century Maulden Mausoleum, (SMBR 13778) in private ownership and prominently sited next to the parish church on the hill, continues to decay; Great Bramingham Farmhouse, (SMBR 6954) an empty large 16th or 17th century framed building with 18th and 19th century additions, suffered from its location on the northern fringes of Luton to the extent that the combined efforts of gypsies and local children managed to loot its interior and burn half of it down, despite genuine efforts on the part of the owner to secure a new use. Arson also damaged the redundant St Andrews School Biggleswade (SMBR 7171) while discussions on a new use was proceeding.

Several cases illustrated the problems of securing the appropriate level of repair. 2-4 Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard, (SMBR 4608) a large timber-framed house with 18th century refronting, required careful structural dialogue with its owners to ensure the maximum retention of timber frame in a scheme which has turned out successfully. Two major cases of excessive stripping out during renovation were at Spring Lane Yelden, (SMBR 4396) and Elm Farmhouse Beeston (SMBR 7565); in both cases the timber frames were reduced a skeleton, with all wattle-and-daub knocked out.

Watermills remain a problem. Stotfold Mill (SMBR 2612) has continued to deteriorate following the refusal of consent for residential conversion after a Public Inquiry in the mid 1980s; the machinery is in place but the roof and

weatherboarding are in poor condition, and one set of urgent compulsory repairs have already had to be carried out. The vulnerability of Barton Mill (SMBR 1015) to vandalism has been decreased with the construction of the Barton bypass which provides a fine view from it while obtruding rather drastically into its setting.

There is pressure to build in walled gardens attached to listed houses. This was resisted after a Public Inquiry at Wootton House (SMBR 9441), and a hotel extension at Flitwick Manor (SMBR 229) was scaled down to an acceptable level after negotiation. A single unit permitted at Pavenham, in the Walled Garden (SMBR 8120) that belonged to the now demolished Pavenham Bury, will hopefully provide an incentive for its future maintenance.

Non-conformist chapels have also been facing problems of redundancy and finding appropriate new uses. A frequent problem is the effect of residential conversion which often involves the insertion of a floor that cuts across full-length windows and completely alters the internal appearance. Galleries are also extremely vulnerable. The situation is exacerbated by the wish (and often duty) of the ecclesiastical owners to dispose of them at the best price, which prompts a dispiriting sequence of proposals for over-intensive residential conversion until the light is seen and the asking price drops to one which can embrace less destructive uses. The Methodist Chapels at Hockliffe (SMBR 6415) and Tebworth (SMBR 6774) have been going through this process with no solution yet in sight. A much better result is envisaged for Sharnbrook's fine Baptist Chapel (SMBR 1113) by John Usher, which seem set to become a book depository and distribution centre, a use that will require very few alterations.

Bedfordshire's major country houses have had their fair share of problems. Some years ago a scheme for office conversion and extension was successfully negotiated for Sir John Soane's Park House Moggerhanger (SMBR 1094), recently made redundant in its rather unsatisfactory use as a hospital. A proposal for an over-intensive flat conversion scheme that would have severely disrupted the Soanean internal spaces had previously been rejected. However, the recession had left the permitted scheme unimplemented by the end of 1990. At Houghton Regis Hall (SMBR 5687), a fine Queen Anne house with a mid 19th century extension by Clutton, an extension of indifferent design was permitted as part of a scheme for conversion to a high-grade hotel, but the building is back on the market, and has been empty for far too long. The problem of Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold (SMBR 659), about half-a-mile of Grade II listed purpose-built mental hospital, remains unsolved. 'Care in the Community' policies are emptying the building which the Health Authority is obliged to sell. A mix of residential and office-type uses seems practicable, but the extent of enabling development in the grounds needed to finance a conversion is causing difficulties in terms of planning policy over what might amount to virtually a new mini-village on some calculations that have been made.

The difficulty of securing a good standard of new-build

design in historic areas, mentioned in earlier reports, continues. Post-modernism is invading the larger towns, and, as with any 'style', some examples are better than others. New Bedford riverside buildings, extending and adjacent to the Town Hall, placed next to Waterhouse's Shire Hall have been variously described as imaginatively respectful of the classic riverside scene or as a failure of architectural nerve and a lost opportunity. To the dismay of South Bedfordshire District Council, and despite the famous 'Steinberg' precedent, an appeal was allowed on a site in Eggington for the erection of several over-scaled pastiche houses; the designs had little intrinsic merit and failed to respect either adjacent listed buildings or the character of the Conservation Area. On a happier note, the International Eco-Technology Building at Cranfield Institute of Technology won a prestigious Civic Trust Award in the 1990 competition.

This account concludes with one of Bedfordshire's prime heritage assets and attractions, Woburn Abbey (SMBR 4949). The major programme of repairs to the main Grade I listed house continues, aided by a supply of Totternhoe clunch for refacing, from reopened quarries. Controversy, as yet not fully resolved, has raged about the fate of Canova's Statue of the Three Graces (SMBR 4951), carved about 1817 for a specially converted Temple of the Graces in the Sculpture Gallery. The owners' wish to sell it raised the issue of whether listed building consent was required for its removal from the building. The Secretary of State's latest pronouncement on the matter, amending his original opinion, is thought by some to be challengeable, but the costs of High Court action are a major deterrent. Another controversial issue was the proposal for the development of a major Theme Park: this would have had the advantage of replacing the existing rather run-down Safari Park and been linked to a major long-term renovation of the historic parkland, but would also have greatly increased visitor pressure on Woburn Park, Woburn and the surrounding villages with their Conservation Areas.

LUTON MUSEUM SERVICE

Robin Holgate

Two small fieldwork projects were undertaken in Luton during 1990.

Gooseberry Hill

Gooseberry Hill was part of an extensive Romano-British settlement situated on the Icknield Way in north Luton. Human burials and other material were excavated here in 1956-7 by the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable (The Manshead Magazine 30 (1990) 20-8). A watching brief at the rear of 34 Gooseberry Hill (TL077249) was undertaken in February 1990, when the foundation trenches were being dug for two houses. No intact archaeological deposits were observed and only six Romano-British sherds and six neolithic-Bronze Age flint flakes were recovered. It is thus likely that twentieth century

housing development and horticultural activities have destroyed most traces of Romano-British occupation that once existed in and around Gooseberry Hill.

Whitehill Farm, Stopsley

A watching brief was carried out in April-May 1990 during and after topsoil stripping along the route of a water pipeline being laid by Lee Valley Water Company from Whitehill Farm, Stopsley to Lilley. Two flint scatters were discovered, both to the north of Whitehill Farm. The first, which produced 22 flakes, two blades, a flake core, three scrapers, a notched flake, a cutting flake and a miscellaneous retouched flake of neolithic-Bronze Age date, was centred on TL104254. The second, centred on TL105255, produced two bladelets, a bladelet core, a truncated blade and a burin dating to the mesolithic period; 18 flakes, a scraper and a cutting flake of neolithic-Bronze Age date; and two medieval 'sherds. Further fieldwalking of the cultivated fields at Whitehill Farm would be useful to define the extent of these two scatters.

MANSHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Excavations at Pond Cottage, Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable Renwick Hudspith

With the permission of the owner Mr Smart a rescue excavation was undertaken in the garden (TL 018215) prior to the construction of a swimming pool. The full excavation of the site was not completed due to time constraints (and the impossibility of removing a large tree on site) but a watching brief was carried out during trenching work by the contractors; with the various features they uncovered added to the overall excavation plan (fig.1)

Finds of residual Iron Age pottery during the course of the excavation suggests there may have been an Iron Age occupation site in this area of Dunstable. (Some pottery finds are illustrated in fig. 2). This occupation seems to have continued into the early Roman period as indicated by finds of Belgic pottery. The possible Romano-British features, pits (42), (34) and (16) contained a variety of Romano-British coarseware sherds; ox and sheep bones and evidence of ironworking on, or near, the site.

The buttress trench (40), the continuance of a feature identified during the Friary field excavations (along with its attendant ditches) was probably medieval in date. (See Manshead magazine No. 24). If this was the Friary boundary, then the triple ditches may be seen as successive property boundaries; with each new ditch representing encroachment and enclosure of neighbouring land. This sequence of boundaries can be seen to continue with ditch (21) and its proximity to the modern boundary. Behind ditch (21), a different system of land division can be discerned; as represented by the north-south ditch (13). This may be late medieval or post medieval in date.

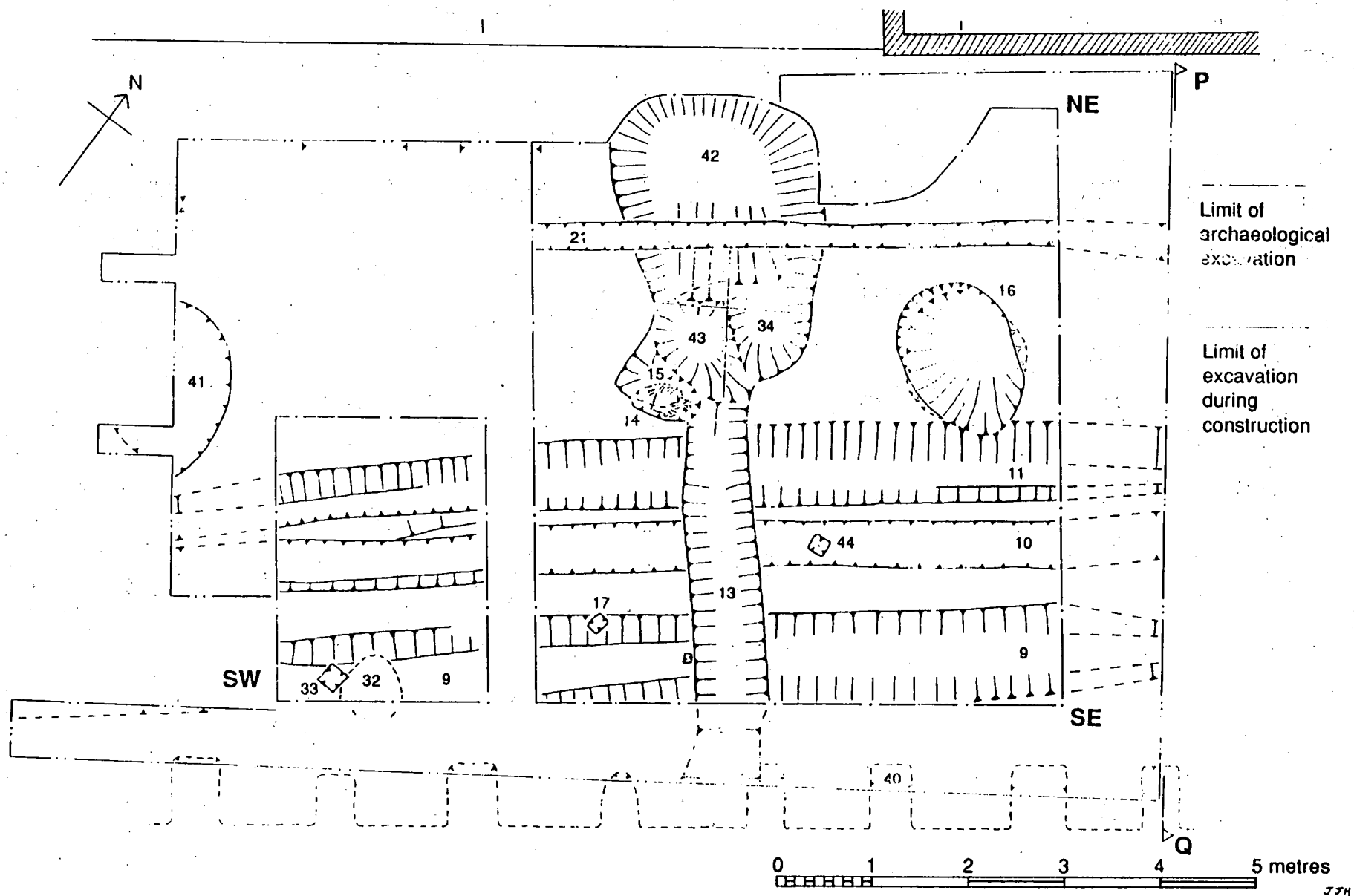


Fig. 1. Pond Cottage - plan of the excavation.

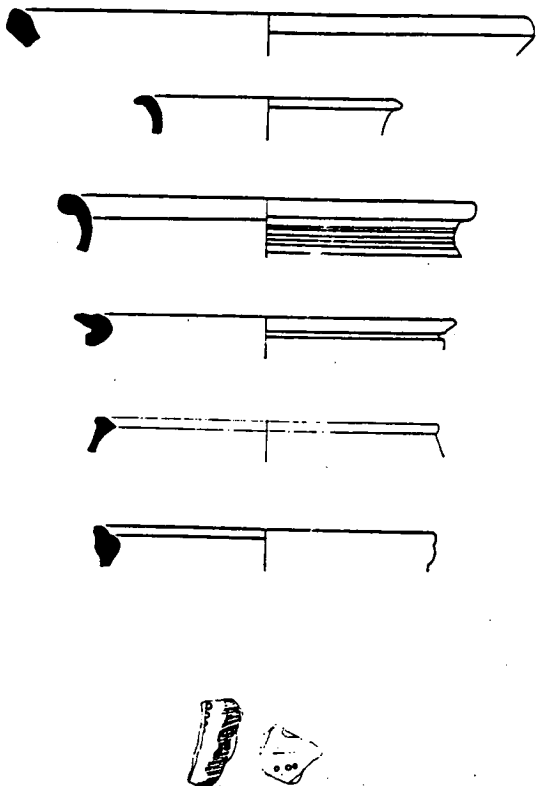


Fig. 2. Pottery from Pond Cottage.

The ditches appear to have been used as convenient rubbish dumps; with ditch (11) containing the greatest quantity of peg tile and animal bone.

Fieldwalking at Houghton Regis Renwick Hudspith

During 1989-90 members of the Society fieldwalked an area of about 5km² on the chalkland around Houghton Regis. The main features of the area are the Ouzel brook valley and associated ridge at Chalton. The Ouzel drains westward, other streams drain to the North from Chalton and south-east from Houghton Regis (Fig. 3). Many of the hedgerows have been removed from fields in this area, leaving very large tracts of arable land.

The method of survey was much the same as that employed at Caddington (see Manshead Journal 30), fieldwalking at set distances apart, then identifying, recording and mapping finds on site. Notes, and a discussion of finds, by period are given below.

Mesolithic and early neolithic

A large scatter of worked flints, identified as mesolithic in date, (R Holgate, *pers comm.*) was discovered on the ridgetop near Chalton (TL020260) (Fig. 3,1). The finds were mainly of broken blades, waste flakes and a few cores. This site probably represents a seasonal hunting encampment. Other smaller scatters and isolated finds, with features characteristic of mesolithic or perhaps early neolithic flintworking, occurred elsewhere along the ridge and along the valley floor.

Late Neolithic and Bronze Age Periods

The densest scatters of flintwork were found on the higher ground along the ridgeway (Edeway) near Chalton (Where a flake from a neolithic ground flint axe was found); in one area (Fig. 3,2), accompanied by finds of flint gritted pottery and burnt flints (perhaps late Bronze Age in date). These later flintworkers reused the waste flint (debatage) left from the mesolithic industries. Other scatters of worked flints occurred near the Ouzel brook (Grove Farm) and a barbed and tanged arrowhead was found near the Toddington road (TL010258).

Generally the quantity of flints found was quite low, in comparison to the Caddington area. This probably reflects a different, or lack of, land use. The lower lying areas may have remained forested and poorly drained; or perhaps were water meadows, with settlements further up the valley slopes.

Iron Age Period Scatters of late Iron Age pottery have been found along the course of the Ouzel brook (Fig. 3,3 etc.) and probably indicate an area of settlement. Scatters of Belgic potsherds around Grove Farm/Calcutt and near Wingfield (found with early Romano-British pottery) suggests Iron Age occupation sites may underlie the later Romano-British settlements. Other finds of Iron Age pottery came from alongside the Edeway. The evidence of valley floor and ridge top settlement sites (as indicated by sherd scatters) suggests the landscape may have been fully exploited by the late Iron Age period.

Romano-British period

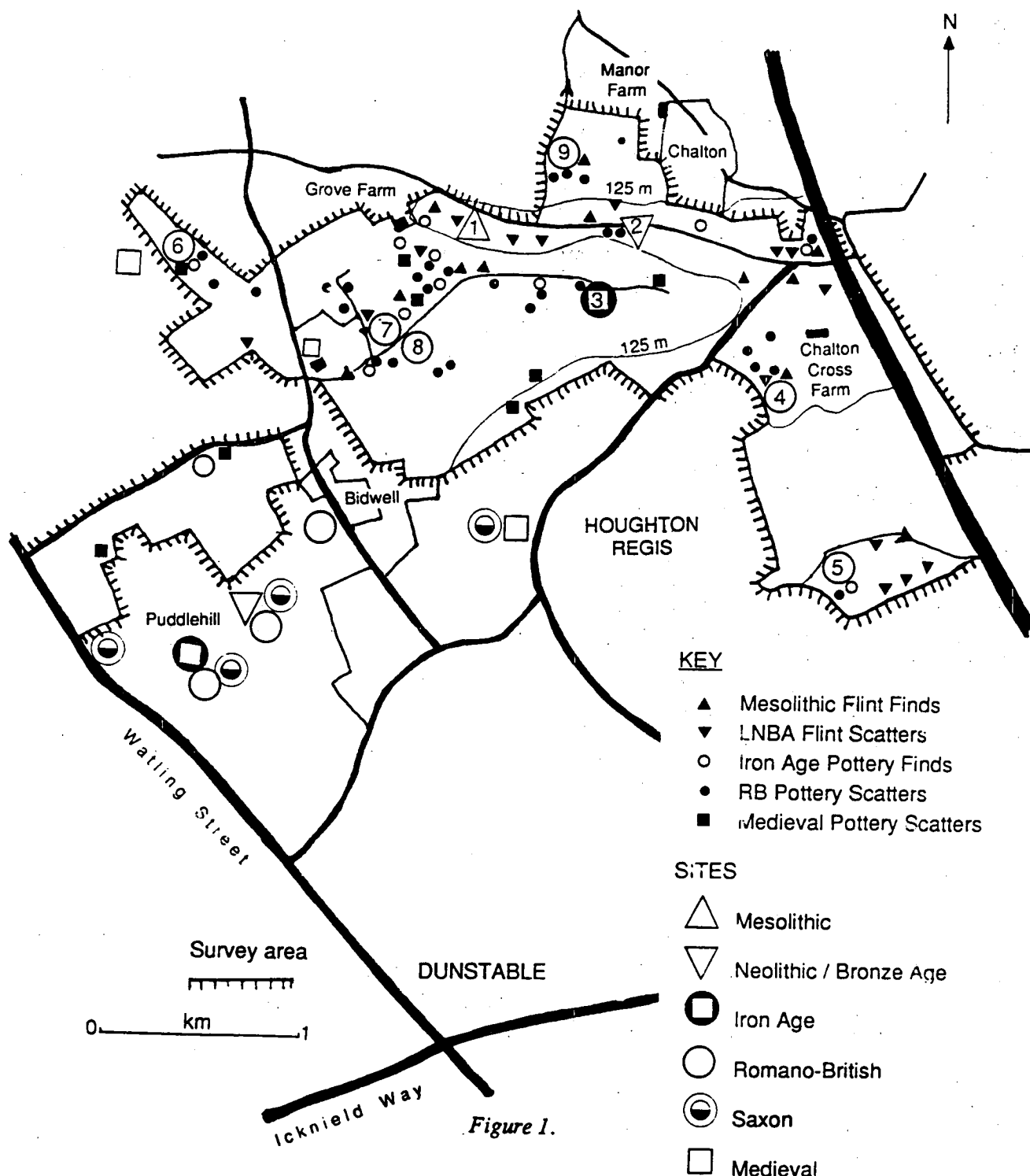
The survey identified three previously unrecorded Roman sites; at Chalton Cross (Fig. 3,4 TL036252) (found by the writer), Houghton Park (Fig. 3,5 TL037245) and Wingfield (Fig. 3,6 TL004259). A re-assessment was made of the known sites at Bidwell (a) (Grove Farm/Calcutt) (Fig. 3,7 and 8 TL015255) and Chalton (Manor Farm, Fig. 3,9 (b) TL025264). These seem to have covered a wider area than previously realised.

Each site was marked by scatters of tile, building stone and pottery sherds. Three of the sites were situated next to streams and at two of the sites iron slag was found suggesting industrial activity. The amount of pottery and tile fragments around each site suggests intensive infield cultivation, with each of these farmsteads perhaps within a land unit of approximately 1km² (in a pattern not dissimilar to the 19th Century farming landscape). These may have been independent landholdings or part of a large estate.

Their regular distribution certainly suggests well organised and fully exploited rural landscape by the end of the Romano-British period.

Medieval Period

So far, no Saxon pottery has been identified in the survey area. The excavated evidence from Puddlehill (d) indicates pagan Saxon settlement along the chalk ridge, but no evidence has been found for valley floor settlement until the medieval period.



Index of sites

1. TL020260. Large mesolithic flintworking scatter; Neolithic/Bronze Age flints.
2. TL027261. Neolithic/Bronze Age flint scatters, burnt flints, flint gritted pot sherds.
3. TL026257. Belgic pot sherd scatters, Romano-British pot sherds.
4. TL036252. Romano-British occupation, pot sherds, tile, stone, iron slag scatters.

5. TL037245. Romano-British pot sherds and tile scatters.
6. TL004259. Romano-British occupation, pot sherds, tile and stone scatters. Belgic and medieval pottery.
7. TL015255. Romano-British occupation, pot sherds, tile and iron slag. Belgic and Medieval pottery.
8. TL016255. Romano-British occupation, pot sherds, tile and stone scatters.
9. TL025264. Romano-British occupation, pot sherds, tile and stone scatters. Cropmarks.

Fig. 3. Houghton Regis - fieldwalking.

There was little surface evidence to indicate extensive arable cultivation during the medieval period; small scatters of potsherds were found near Grove Farm (TL0125), Chalton Manor Farm (TL0226), Thorn (TL0024) and Wingfield (TL0026). Ridge and furrow can still be seen in fields at Bidwell, and lynchets were indicated by snow (1991) on the slopes above Grove Farm. Late medieval horseshoes have been found in fields near Calcutt, Thorngreen and along the Edeway.

Post Medieval Period

A general scatter of material, including potsherds, tile, brick and field drains indicates extensive arable cultivation over the past four hundred years. Dense scatters of pottery, glass and tile alongside trackways and field boundaries suggests a long history of fly tipping in the area. At least two 19th century rubbish tips were identified.

Conclusion

The survey has identified previously unrecorded mesolithic, Iron Age and Romano-British sites and perhaps indicated areas of cultivation during the Roman period. It has also indicated the antiquity of the ridgeway (Edeway) near Chalton.

Further fieldwork in the area is continuing in advance of road construction and other building work.

Acknowledgements

Permission to fieldwalk was kindly granted by: Lady Bowman Shaw, Mr R Aldridge, Mr P Brandham, Mr D

Buckingham, Mr R Dryden. Many thanks to the fieldwalkers and to Dr Holgate for reviewing the finds.

Notes

- Bidwell: *SMA* 16, 1986 and *Ancient Dunstable* (p.88) (Matthews & Schneider)
- Chalton: *Manshead Magazines* 9 & 10.
- Puddlehill: Saxon settlement *Ancient Dunstable* (p 100) (Matthews & Schneider) 2nd edition 1989

Leighton Buzzard Southern Bypass

Bernard Jones

Over the past year members of the Society, together with the Leighton Buzzard and District Archaeological Society have kept a watching brief on the construction of the Leighton Buzzard Southern Bypass. This short report and the accompanying map indicate the finds to date.

Finds (reference to the map):

- surface scatter of worked flint flakes.
- fire cracked flints - 1m. below surface
- bone fragments, including ox, pig, dog and possible human
- area of prehistoric ditches. Pottery sherds - possible Iron Age A through to medieval; include rims.
- Iron objects including a barbed arrowhead, Guildhall horseshoe and medieval patten.

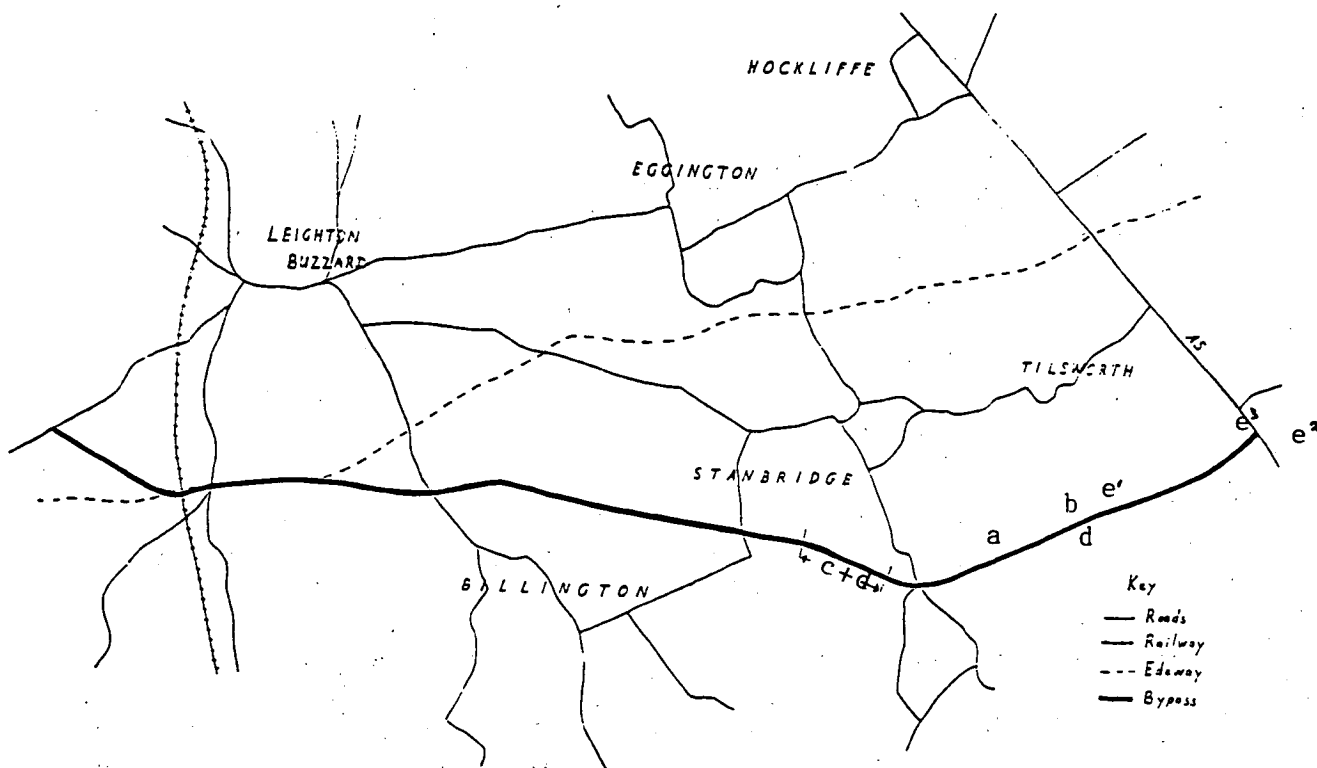


Fig. 4. Line of Leighton Buzzard Bypass.

ELEPHANT AND WALRUS: IVORY AND CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE FIFTH AND SIXTH CENTURIES. A SUMMARY OF THE EVIDENCE FROM THE SOUTH MIDLANDS

David H. Kennett

It is well-known that few of the 484 objects extant from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery found at Kempston, Bedfordshire, between 1863 and 1865 can be ascribed with any great certainty to a grave specifically recorded by the Rev. S.E. Fitch (1). However, one grave, one of three recorded on 19 March 1864, had the finds kept together and these can now be identified (2). In this grave, number 107 in the catalogue prepared in 1968, the finds were: two belt fittings, originally described as tweezers and appearing very much like the latter, which were found behind the left pelvis, a bronze ring, an ivory ring in fragments, a bronze bracelet, more than 200 beads of which a few were of amber, and others of glass, or pottery, found as a necklace and as ornament on the upper arm, a bronze pick, a pair of elaborately decorated disc brooches, two belt plates, one triangular and the other square, a damaged bronze buckle with a fragmentary iron loop, a finger ring and three Roman coins. Excepting the beads, the bronze pick and the finger ring all these items have been identified.

In the same cemetery, one of the graves recorded on 20 October 1863, numbered as grave 31 in the catalogue, was noted as containing 12 beads, fragments of an ivory ring found at the waist, a ring of silver-plated copper on the shinbone, and bronze rings found near the arm. None of these has been identified with certainty (3). Of doubtful association is the third record of an ivory ring from Bedfordshire. Two certain and several more loosely-recorded burials were found at Waulud's Bank, Limbury, in 1905. Among the unassociated materials were a bronze pin and a fragment from an ivory ring (4). The fourth known ivory ring from Bedfordshire was among the unassociated finds found at Argyll Avenue, Luton, in 1925 (5).

Two ivory rings are known from the older excavations and finds made from Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in Northamptonshire. One was found at the Holdenby cemetery, possibly associated with a small-long brooch with lozenge foot (6). The other Northamptonshire find of an ivory ring is a complete example recorded as coming from grave 31 at Nassington, but its position in the grave was not given in the published report. Associated with this female burial was a bronze annular brooch found on the left collar bone, a bead at the neck, and exceptionally fine example of a cruciform brooch of Aberg's group IV recorded as being found at the right hip under the right hand, two portions of sleeveclasp not marching and not given a specific position, together with two buckle pendants, a bead, a finger ring, an iron knife, an iron ring, and a bronze buckle plate with an iron hoop. None of the last six items is given a place of discovery in relation to the body (7).

From the cemeteries of the Thames Valley now in the modern county of Oxfordshire, five ivory rings have been found with inhumation burials, and two cremations from Abingdon contained fragments of these objects (8). Also from Abingdon is that found in grave B29, an adult female, buried in a coffin beneath a heap of large stones. The ivory ring had two ancient repairs with bronze plates and was found between the right arm and the ribs. Associated with the burial were two disc brooches, not a pair, found either side of the lower jaw, and beside the lower ribs were an assortment of iron objects considered as part of a chatelaine (9).

Two graves from Brighthampton are recorded with ivory rings. In grave 22 a female had a wooden vessel at her feet, four silver rings on her right breast, a number beads and ten Roman silver coins in her lap; the right hand had a plain ring of white metal on the third finger, and a pair of applied saucer brooches were found on the breast. By the left hip were a knife in a metal mounted sheath, a purse mount, a faceted crystal bead, a large ivory ring and a bronze ring within it (10). Grave 49 at Brighthampton contained a woman of advanced age, with an ivory ring between her right arm and the body. Within the ring were two bronze rings, a perforated stone and two iron objects. Associated with the burial were two small saucer brooches on the shoulders, a knife, and a large crystal bead (11). At Long Wittenham, grave 150 was of an old woman who had only a single molar remaining in the lower jaw. On her left side was an ivory ring together with three large beads of ivory, multi-coloured glass, and terracotta, an iron knife and an iron purse-mount. There was an amber bead by the right hand and amber beads at the neck (12). The fifth such object is amongst the finds from Cassington cemetery (13).

One now lost was also recorded at Fairford, just over the Gloucestershire boundary (14). A number of points may be made about these objects. They are found outside the body and not as arm rings. Where associations are well-recorded there appear to be a number of items found in close association with the ivory ring. All of these are from women's graves, but there is no obvious evidence of the accoutrement being restricted to specific age groups. The women in Long Wittenham 150 and Brighthampton 49 are described as old, but no age is suggested for those in Nassington 31, Kempston 107, the tall woman in Brighthampton 22, and the adult female in Abingdon B29 is specifically described as "young". The woman in Nassington 31 had a child's skull by one of her hands.

All the women were buried in their clothes: fastenings in the form of shoulder brooches are recorded at Abingdon B29, Brighthampton 22, Kempston 107, and Nassington 31. The elderly women in Brighthampton 49 and Long Wittenham 150 may, of course, have passed on their jewellery prior to death.

The two known from cremations in the south midlands, Abingdon C55 and C73 (8), can be paralleled in at least eighty urns from Norfolk (15). The ivory ring is usually found of a fairly constant diameter. Those recorded as

complete, Brighthampton 49 at 5in (125mm), Abingdon B29 4 1/4in (108mm), Nassington 31 at (120mm) are typical. The ivory ring was used to close a purse in which a woman kept a number of her possessions. They worked as a means of keeping a linen or canvas bag open when held horizontally and closed when the ring and the bag was permitted to lay against the body. The bag was affixed inside the ring and from the ring to the belt was a separate thong (16). The origin of these rings is usually considered to be elephant ivory, either Indian elephant or the smaller and smaller-tusked African elephant.

Ivory is found on two other mammals: the Arctic walrus and the Eskimo narwhal. However, the latter is unlikely as the tusk is ridged not smooth and all the ivory rings known to me are smooth on the outer surface. The narwhal is a member of the whale family with a single tusk with an anti-clockwise spiral. The beast is found in Arctic and adjacent waters and is not an endangered species. Examples have been noted as visiting England and the Netherlands (17). These notes seek to examine the possibility that the walrus rather than the elephant might be the source of the ivory rings found in Anglo-Saxon graves in the south midlands and elsewhere.

The traditional case for the elephant rests on the expected assumption that south-east England, and specifically the county of Kent, is the conduit through which imports are brought into Anglo-Saxon England. The source of ivory rings as elephant is not identified (18). It could be either the African elephant or the Indian elephant. The present day distribution is a contraction from that known in prehistory. By the fifth century A.D. neither North Africa nor the Near East had any native elephants. Hannibal's crossing of the Alps in 218 B.C. brought the animal to Europe for the first time, but shortly afterwards elephants ceased to be indigenous to the coastal lands of Africa north of the Sahara Desert. It is thought that they died out in the Fertile Crescent perhaps as early as c.1200 (19). In the light of this view ivory rings fit with the importation of Arabian *Cypraea* shells and Coptic bronze vessels, both of which do have a markedly Kentish bias to their distribution in Anglo-Saxon England.

There are some examples of the ivory ring in Germany and other parts of Europe but there are many fewer ivory rings in continental Europe than there are Coptic vessels, an object which has Spain and the Crimea as the limits of its distributive range (20). The English distribution of ivory rings is predominantly from the eastern and midland counties. There are over one hundred from the large cremation cemeteries of Norfolk and Suffolk; there are examples from Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire, also from cremation urns (21). The source of these as walrus ivory is an idea which relies partly on the later uses of walrus ivory. The Vikings carved chessmen from ivory (22) in the early middle ages the great cross of the high altar of the abbey of Bury St. Edmunds was carved from more than one walrus tusk (23). Clearly if in the later first millennium A.D. and the two succeeding centuries the tusk of the walrus could be exploited it may have been in the central centuries of the first millennium.

It is as yet unclear as to whether the walrus was traded over long distances or exploited as chance beasts were washed ashore in Norfolk or Lincolnshire or alternatively on the west coast of Norway (24). In the twentieth century, the walrus has a restricted distribution and is an endangered species. Fifteen hundred years ago, it had a much wider range. First reported in the ninth century, the walrus was circumpolar in its range when Ohthere, a Norwegian merchant, visited King Alfred. On an expedition to the White Sea, Ohthere had slain sixty walruses in two days and ivory tusks were among his presents to the king of Wessex. Then as today with the Eskimo walrus hide made good ropes for ship's rigging and the carcass utilised for fats and meat.

By the sixteenth century the White Sea appears to have been abandoned by the walrus as a breeding ground. In 1520 Archbishop Erik Walkendorf wrote to Pope Leo X recording their presence in Finnmark, the northern part of Norway, but suggesting that they were a most fearful animal on account of their tusks. There are late seventeenth century reference to Finnmark as a breeding ground but by 1753 only occasional visitors are known here. Twentieth century occurrences in north Norway have been as intermittent as they have been further south on the Norwegian coast.

Another sixteenth-century breeding ground for the walrus was the sea round the Orkney Islands. Hector Boece, a contemporary historian, recorded a great fish larger than a horse which used tusks to fasten itself to a rock when wishing to sleep. Local mariners killed the walrus by strangulation with ropes: again the hide was used for ropes and the fur for oil. But by the beginning of the nineteenth century the sightings of walruses in both the Orkneys and the Shetlands were of stray visitors only. These were animals which had drifted from Greenland in the general west to east flow of the current in the north Atlantic.

These strays have included ten individuals in Shetland between 1815 and 1926, another ten in the Orkneys between 1825 and 1902, three sightings in the Hebrides in the nineteenth century, one at the mouth of the River Clyde on 8 August 1884, and single individuals in the River Severn and the River Shannon in 1839 and 1897 respectively.

In the southern North Sea, the first record is of a beast in the River Thames, recorded in Caxton's Chronicle in 1456. The German artist Albrecht Dürer sketched one from the Dutch coast in 1521. More recently one swam into the Fenland washes at Welney in September 1981 and out again to the mouth of the River Witham. On the Scandinavian and German coasts there have been wandering beasts recorded in 1926, 1939, 1953 and 1960. The walrus has thus become reduced in its range and also less frequent as a stray in the twentieth century. It is not certain how wide was its European distribution in the first millennium A.D. but clearly it was wider than the present day one.

The ivory ring is part of a moderately well-furnished grave: the associations from the cemeteries of the south midlands are typical of the context. It also is part of a wider trade pattern.

Individual forms of bronze vessel suggest contacts with both Norway and Scotland. An early type of cauldron has a carinated body with a concave wall above the carination. One such is the vessel found in grave 93 at Long Wittenham (25). Of a different type, with a globular profile and a convex wall is an unassociated cauldron from Long Wittenham. Examples from just beyond the CBA 9 area are those from graves 100 and 182 at Bidford-on-Avon, Warks., and a hybrid type with a globular profile but faintly concave walls include two from Fairford and two, both used as cremation containers, from among the material found at Baginton, near Coventry. Fragments of cauldrons include two further examples from Long Wittenham, and one from Duston, Northants (26).

Bone gaming pieces are also known in Scandinavia and eastern England (27). However, there is a paucity of record among the cremation cemeteries of Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire such as to not permit definitive knowledge of the contents of the pots found at Kempston and Kettering in these two counties respectively.

It is possible that greater research, and more knowledge of the contents of Norwegian museums than is possessed by this writer, will bring to light further possible contacts between the south midlands and areas to the north and east on the one hand and Norway on the other. These limited connections are, however, no more tenuous than those postulated for contact between England and the Mediterranean at the same time. Anglo-Norwegian contact in the fifth and sixth centuries has usually been regarded as minimal chiefly because brooch types diverge in rather more than just their details. But brooches may be the least suitable artifact on which to base a series of cultural contacts.

A woman's jewellery was acquired at various times in her life: marriage was a principal occasion for gift-giving but this is going to reflect the more immediate circumstances than long-distance cultural contacts. The closeness of the distribution of individual late sixth century brooch forms is proof of how limited an area marriage partners were drawn from if jewellery reflects marriage patterns.

For cultural contact between distant regions to be seen in the archaeological record, it would seem preferable to examine the comparative distributions of items like bronze vessels, bone gaming pieces and ivory rings. By not assuming that ivory rings are necessarily of elephant ivory this note has sought to suggest a cultural setting within which the attribution of ivory rings found in the Anglo-Saxon graves of the south midlands and elsewhere might be made to the walrus. That the traditional ascription to the elephant is correct has not been ruled out; it is merely that the cultural setting makes the walrus a plausible provider (28).

NOTES

(1) S.E. Fitch, 'Discovery of Saxon Remains at Kempston', *Assoc. Architect. Soc. Reports* 7 (1863-4), 269-299, partly reprinted S.E. Fitch, 'Anglo-Saxon Remains discovered at Kempston', in C. Roach Smith (ed.), *Collectanea Antiqua* VI (1868) 201-221. For a modern account of the Kempston

cemetery see D.H. Kennett, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery found at Kempston, Bedfordshire: a reconsideration*, (typescript 1968, available Bedford Museum, Bedfordshire County record office, British Museum Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities).

(2) Fitch, 1864, 295-7; Fitch, 1868, 214-215; Kennett, 1968. The actual objects are British Museum acc. no. 1891, 6-24, 10-21 and 332. The fragments from the ivory ring are British Museum acc. no. 1891, 6-24, 332.

(3) Fitch, 1864, 286; Fitch, 1868, 203.

(4) *Proc. Soc. Ant.* 21 (1906), 59-63.

(5) Luton Museum, in 1966 without specific accession number.

(6) Northampton Museum; these two objects are kept together, but the association may be doubtful.

(7) E.T. Leeds and R.J.C. Atkinson, 'An Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Nassington, Northants'. *Ant.J.* 24 (1944), 110, with pl. 30 for the ivory ring.

(8) E.T. Leeds and D.B. Harden, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon*, Berkshire, (Oxford, Ashmolean Museum, 1936), 20 and 22 for fragments in C55 and C73. (9) Leeds and Harden, 1936, 36 with pl. 8.29.

(10) J.Y. Akerman, 'Report of researches of a Cemetery of the Anglo-Saxon Period at Brighthampton, Co. Oxford', *Archaeologia* 37 (1856-7), 86.

(11) Akerman, 1856, 89, with fig. of ivory ring.

(12) J.Y. Akerman, Report on '... an Anglo-Saxon Burial Ground at Long Wittenham, Berkshire', *Archaeologia* 39 (1861), 140, and 142 with pl. 11, fig. 6 where the ring is described as "the burr of a very large antler of a red deer" and other examples of red deer antler rings are given. Notes on coll. British Museum list the ring as "ivory".

(13) Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. E.T. Leeds and M. Riley 'Two early Saxon cemeteries at Vassington, Oxon'. *Oxoniensia* 7 (1942) 61-70 is not to hand.

(14) W.M. Wylie, *Fairford Graves* (1852), 12.

(15) These are listed in D.H. Kennett, 'Ivory in Anglo-Saxon Norfolk: Context, Animals and Origins', forthcoming.

(16) E. Vogt, 'Interpretation und museale Auswertung alamannischer Grabfunde', *Zeitschrift Schweizerische Archäologie und Kunstgeschichte*, 20 (1960), 70-90 with text 27-34. The conclusions are summarised by B. Green in J.N.L. Mues and B. Green, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries of Caisterny Norwich and Marshall, Norfolk*, (Res. Rep. Soc. Ant. London, 30, 1973), 100-103 with text fig. 3.

(17) Examples of stuffed and skeletal narwhal are in the Natural History Museum at Tring, Hertfordshire. For an object of narwhal see the episcopal staff in the Treasury of Coventry Cathedral.

(18) Green, 1973, 100, states emphatically "fragments of burnt elephant ivory ..."

(19) H.H. Scullard, *The Elephant in Greek and Roman Times*.

(20) N. Aberg, *The Anglo-Saxons in England from the*

Invasions to the end of the Seventh Century, (Cambridge and Uppsala, 1926), 102-106 with list 207-8; more recent literature can be approached accessibly via J. Werner, 'Fernhandel und Naturalwirtschaft in ostlichen Merowingerreich nach archaologische numismatischen zeugnissen', *Bericht des Romisch Germanischen Kommission* 42 (1961), 307-346 esp. 310-315 with typeseries and distribution map.

(21) Kennett, 1968, map 3 maps sites known in 1968 without a quantitative analysis.

(22) P. Lasko, 'Ivory Carvings' in G. Zarnecki et al., *English Romanesque Art 1066-1200*, (catalogue of exhibition Hayward Gallery, 1984), 227, with illust. 212; also *ibid.*, 72 for colour photographs. See also M. Taylor, *The Lewis Chessman*, (1978)

(23) Lasko, 1984, 224-226, with illusts. 206-208, and col. photo on 70. See also N. Scarfe, 'The Walrus-ivory Cross in the Metropolitan Museum of Art: the Masterpiece of Master Hugo at Bury?' in N. Scarfe, *Suffolk in the Middle Ages*, (Woodbridge, 1986), 81-98 with pl. 14-22. Scarfe does not discuss the figure of Christ, Lasko 1984, no 207, now in the Museum of Applied Art, Oslo, which was exhibited with the cross in London in 1984.

(24) R.J. Perry, *The World of the Walrus* (1968), *passim*, with J. Ritchie, 'The Walrus in British Waters', *Scottish Naturalist* (1962), 5-9 and 77-86. Other examples are noted D.H. Kennett, 'The Walrus in the Northsea since the Middle Ages', forthcoming.

(25) J.Y. Akerman, 'Report on ... an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Long Wittenham, Berkshire', *Archaeologia*, 38 (1858-61), 345, with pl. 17.2.

(26) These objects are listed in D.H. Kennett, 'Graves with swords at Little Wilbraham and Linton Heath', *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, 63 (1971), 25-26; subsequently H. Vierck, 'Redwals Asche ...' *Offa* (1972), 20-49, esp. 32-34 and list 47 of English cauldrons, map. 6.

(27) D. H. Kennett, 'The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Tuddenham, Suffolk', *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, 67 (1977), and fig. 5, with brief discussion 57. See also Green, 1973, 98-100.

(28) Paper completed 4 January 1991. Much of the initial work for this paper was done prior to my move to Norfolk in September 1980. I thank Luton Central Library for help with items from natural history periodicals for background to the walrus in the North Sea.

COUNTRY HOUSES AND MARKET TOWNS: SPHERES OF INTERACTION IN POST-MEDIEVAL BEDFORDSHIRE

David H Kennett

The country house is rarely considered as important to urban development or as significant as a consumer of industrial innovations. Yet the wider world was never absent from the country house. The research has yet to be done to sum up

the use of horse mills, the adoption of gas lighting, the provision of mechanical devices in the great estates of Bedfordshire and the other counties of the CBA9 area. However, much thought has been given to consideration of the spheres of interaction between the major country houses of Bedfordshire and the local market towns. The web of interaction is provided by building activities; the web is seen in the topographic developments (1). Perhaps the most famous country house in Bedfordshire is Woburn Abbey. In the present context it is noteworthy for the way in which the park impinges on the back fences of the east side of the main street of the small town of Woburn. The great house has imposed constraints on the built up area. Facing the west facade of Woburn Abbey is a fine avenue of oaks and horse chestnuts which crosses the Hockcliffe to Newport Pagnell turnpike road of 1727 (now the A50). The avenue of trees reaches as far north as Leighton road, the road from the south-west into Woburn. Very limited building development has been possible in the south-west part of the parish, precisely because of the presence of the avenue of oaks and horse chestnuts. Only to the north-west of the town crossroads has any modern development been possible.

Six miles to the north-east Ampthill is a typical crossroads town. Roads go north to Bedford, east to Clophill, Shefford and Baldock, south to Dunstable, and west to Woburn. West of the town and north of Woburn Street is Ampthill Great Park. This originally contained Ampthill Castle, not a fortified motte-and-bailey but a great quadrangular house built by Sir John Cornwall, Baron Fanhope, the second husband of Henry IV's sister. The house became royal property as a result of the gambling debts of a subsequent owner the third Earl of Kent in 1507. Henry VIII liked the house, had it repaired extensively, and used it both as a hunting lodge for himself and Anne Boleyn and to house Katherine of Aragon during her trial for divorce at Dunstable Priory, not far to the south. The buildings of Ampthill Castle fell into disrepair during the late sixteenth century and were demolished in the reign of James I, although a projected refurbishment led to plans being drawn by John Thorpe in 1608. South of Woburn Street and still surviving is the much wooded Littlepark. Littlepark Farm is an early double pile house; this brickhouse is dated 1695. Dispersed is Houghton Park, partly in Ampthill and partly in Houghton Conquest; it served the now ruined Houghton House. From Houghton Park, King's Wood remains to delimit its east side and the gate piers of the great avenue which lead from Ampthill remain on Church Street in the town of Ampthill. With parks to the north and north-east (Houghton Park), the north-west (Ampthill Great Park), and the south-west (Littlepark) the modern town of Ampthill has developed south-east to the central crossroads and now stretches southwards to join the large commuter village of Flitwick.

In both Woburn and Ampthill, the modern topography is delineated by post-medieval parks. This is even more true of the third Bedfordshire town whose development has been constrained by its country houses.

Luton would not immediately strike the outsider as a town

whose topography and indeed eighteenth-century prosperity was dependent on the local country house. But both Luton Hoo and Stockwood Park has exercised considerable topographical influence in their architectural features much in the take up of detail. Luton Hoo takes its name from the town to the north; the Hoo family were owners in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Then, and in the post-medieval centuries, the house was within the great medieval parish of Luton. Luton Hoo Park occupies nearly all the land in West Hyde, one of the seven taxation townships into which the parish was divided. On the western boundary of the park is the turnpike road south from Luton to London; in part this is also the parish boundary. The eastern wall forms an enclosure for a long narrow belt of trees shielding the great lake dug out in the 1760s from the River Lea. The northern boundary of the park is the southern edge of the modern borough of Luton and was the division between the fields of West Hyde and those of the township of Luton.

When Luton became a municipal borough in 1876, only the township area was included in the new entity. Although home to 10,000 people the area included at least seven farms. Subsequently the land of the township became covered with houses, factories, shops and schools; much of it by 1939 had become urban including lands in the townships to the north and east: Leagrave, Limbury and Stopsley. The municipal borough was enlarged as the town took in more of the farmlands of the old medieval parish. Development eastwards was rapid. By the end of the 1950s, the southern two-thirds of Stopsley had been built over, including the fields of the early seventeenth century Falconner's Hall which had become the site of Luton International Airport. However, even in 1963, the main shopping street of Luton, known variously as Park Square, George Street, and Manchester Street, together with the adjacent central business district including the Town Hall, was still equidistant from the west, north and east boundaries of the continuously built up area. A walk of three miles from the extreme north-east corner of the suburban area to the ancient parish church dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin represented the greatest distance anyone would need to travel to reach the town centre in 1963 (2). In the past quarter of a century, the growth of Luton has been over the former farmlands of Leagrave and Limbury, both well to the north of Luton itself and the building process has now reached the northern limit of the medieval parish. As recently as 1976, much of this land was still farmland. The old parish church had been built on a gravel knoll in the centre of the old medieval parish of 15,435 acres; it is now on the southern edge of the built up area of the modern town because the southern third of the medieval parish is occupied by Luton Hoo Park in its western half.

To the west also is Stockwood Park, a creation in 1740 for John Crawley, of a new house in a new park on what until then had been fields. This has delineated the modern development of Luton in the sector between London Road and the road to Caddington.

Both houses have had considerable effect on the buildings

of Luton between 1740 and 1860. As elsewhere, the great house, in its building, rebuilding and refurbishment, was a major source of employment to a local town. Local craftsmen were much utilised in the jobbing building work in many great houses. From the country house these men would accumulate ideas derived from the more cosmopolitan architects whom the rich owners of country houses could afford to employ. Work at the local great house was copied, not always accurately, and imitated. Ideas percolated down into the facades of market towns as prosperous brewers and maltsters and later other merchants could afford to put new fronts on these houses, even on occasion rebuild these.

Depending on local circumstances, this refurbishment is confined to the period slightly over a century between the accession of George II in 1727 and the death of his great-grandson, William IV, in 1837. Luton is unusual in that it continued into the first half of Queen Victoria's reign. More typical is Dunstable where the finance for rebuilding came from the prosperity brought by the coaching trade.

In Luton, the eighteenth century was marked by poverty not prosperity. The town lost its porter trade to London: Baldock and Ware, both Hertfordshire, were more advantageously placed. The straw hat trade did not become an economic force in the town until after 1825.

In the single street, there was only limited refacing before the flash flood of 1828. When Thomas Fisher drew the town in 1820 the buildings were almost all timber-framed in their construction and many appear to have been ill-kept and only minimal state of good repair. Even the principal inns, 'The Bell' and 'The George', were without brick fronts until 1830. The entries of presentments for obstruction of the highway in the court books of the manor of Luton in the early 1830s are replete with summonses of owners for encroaching on the street with piles of building materials, leaving holes in front of their premises, and indeed for underbuilt brickwork. There are very few brick facades in Luton earlier than this, whether as new houses or as fronts (3). Facades in Luton reflect the fashions of the two local great houses. In 1740, Stockwood House was built of grey bricks and contrasting red bricks for the lintels and reveals of the fenestration. One of the earliest brick-fronted houses in the town was built in 1748 for Daniel Brown III at no. 16 Park Square. The maltster's house had a five-bay front of the local brick, purplish-grey in colour and known in the nineteenth century as 'Luton Greys', with the lintels of the upper floor windows picked out in pale red bricks. His house was timber-framed behind the originally elegant facade: construction reflected what he could afford (4). A near neighbour at no. 12A Park Square refaced his sixteenth century timber-framed house with Luton Greys but omitted the red brick lintels.

In 1762, the third Earl of Bute bought Luton Hoo and from then until his death employed Robert Adam to build a new house on the site of the large seventeenth century house, part of which remained in 1774. Because of the complex later history of rebuilding and refurbishment at Luton Hoo, exact details of construction for the mid eighteenth century

house are unknown.

However, there is little evidence of building in Luton itself in the 1760s and 1770s. An exception is 'The White House' on Park Square, which replaced the former timber-framed house of the Cheyne family of Great Bramingham. Built in 1767 for Edmund Humphreys, brewer, 'The White House' was double-piled of three central bays with single bay wings. The street facade was of stucco, but this is not known to reflect any contemporary treatment of Luton Hoo (5). A generation later, but before 1815, Daniel Brown IV refaced his house, no. 48 Park Square, in Luton Greys but his ground floor has the window and central door recessed within arched brickwork. On Chapel Street, a public house, 'The Coach and Horses', rebuilt in 1819, has the same style but used arches of brickwork to encompass the fenestration of all three storeys and has the arches in contrasting red bricks. On Market Hill, Thomas Waller's house (later Barclays Bank) used a whiter brick for the street facade but has arches in red brick. This arcading is a reflection of the treatment of the stables of Luton Hoo.

Samuel Smirke worked on the great house in the years before 1827. He would appear to be the man responsible for the stuccoed appearance it had when the building was sketched after the great fire of 1843. At Stockwood Park, stucco was applied in 1831.

There are a number of surviving buildings in Luton's main street which have stuccoed facades. A different Thomas Waller built a house almost opposite to that of his kinsman and this three-storey building was faced with white stucco. On the corner of George Street and Cheapside, a new building was erected for the London, County and Westminster Bank in 1845: it has a stuccoed facade. New streets were laid out west of George Street. These, George Street West and Wellington Street, have houses, mostly now used as offices, which date to between 1823 and 1855. Many of these were faced in stucco. At an unknown date, but after 1804, no. 12 Park Square was given a brick front which was covered with stucco.

As already mentioned, Luton Hoo was damaged by fire in 1843. A new street, Park Street West, laid out between then and 1855, has a number of houses with doorways with elliptical pilasters and half-round windows above the door. Both ideas are common on doorways used in the rebuilding of Luton Hoo after 1843.

Sometime between 1855, when the facade was reported as 'stuccoed', and 1876 when the facing was noted as red brick, Stockwood House was refaced in red brick tiles in Flemish Bond, that is alternate faces of stretchers and headers. The south face of the surviving stable block at Stockwood Park has brick tiles in the hard bright red fabric.

At least two buildings in the centre of Luton were refaced with brick tiles: Thomas Marsom's House on Market Hill at a date before 1862, and 'The Clarence Hotel' (formerly 'The Two Brewers Inn') on Upper George Street at an unknown date. Both are now demolished but known from

photographs.

The latter part of this paper has sketched some pointers to the interaction between rebuilding the great house and refurbishing the market town in the case of Luton. Documentary evidence, in the form of the court books of Luton Manor Court, enables the researcher to investigate the tenurial history of almost every property in the town. Presentments show when some of the building was taking place. Notes taken prior to the modern rebuilding record those buildings surviving in the early 1970s. Photographs show earlier demolitions. All these can be tied back to the building history of the great houses of the town.

The post-medieval development of one small market town may seem remote from the concerns of many archaeologists. Their work often lacks the documentary basis which underpins the study of urban history after 1660. However, this paper has indicated close correlation between building technique in one area, the great house, and developments in a less affluent sphere, the town houses of the moderately prosperous merchants.

It would be interesting to examine the buildings of Romano-British towns, particularly the less prosperous ones like Dunstable or Sandy, in the light of work on villas. It applies not only to Bedfordshire, but questions may be asked: Did, for example, the work of mosaicists in the fourth century extend from rich villa to town? Were walling techniques the same or different in villa and town house? In the middle ages what are the techniques which interact between castle and church?

By treating a small town in depth, it has been possible to elucidate a potential area for further research over a much greater temporal span than 1740 to about 1860 (6).

NOTES

(1) This paper derives from work done for a projected book *The Country House in the Landscape*, which has yet to find a publisher in the current economic climate. It summarises the Bedfordshire material utilised in Ch. VII 'The Country House and the Market Town'.

(2) For the topographical development of Luton see maps of the town's growth 1842-1976, and of the town's land use in 1876, 1926, 1945, and 1976, drawn by D.H. Kennett at a scale of 6 inches to 1 mile and now kept in Luton Central Library.

(3) Illustrations of the town are reproduced H.O. White, compiler, *Old Luton*, Luton 1974, and *Luton Past and Present*, Luton 1976. Further illustrations are available W. Austin, *A History of Luton and its Hamlets*, 2 vols. 1928, and in the collections of Luton Museum and Art Gallery.

(4) D.H. Kennett and T.P. Smith 'Bonners, no. 16 Park Square, Luton', *Bedfordshire Archaeology* 18, 1988, 81-85.

(5) Material on the tenurial history of Luton is derived from card index arranged by properties of the changes in ownership recorded in Luton Manor Court between 1732 and 1844; Luton was mainly copyhold in the eighteenth and

early nineteenth centuries.

(6) Note completed 29 December 1990; it is based on work done at various dates since 1974. The part book chapter from which the paper is derived was written in 1988.

MATHEMATICAL TILES AT ALTHORP, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

David H. Kennett

Mathematical tiles are not a common form of wall covering in the south Midlands. They are most numerous in Kent and Sussex, with smaller concentrations in Surrey, Wiltshire, and Hampshire. Seven buildings in Berkshire (a county formerly in CBA9 area) are known to have the covering: two in Windsor, and one each in Bracknell, Hampstead Norris, Hungerford, Speen, and West Ilsley. To these can be added one observed in Abingdon, formerly Berkshire, but now Oxon (1). North of the River Thames, mathematical tiles have been noted on four buildings in Luton: surviving on the stable block of Stockwood House, and among demolished buildings, Stockwood House itself, Thomas Marsom's house on Market Hill, and the former public house, 'The Two Brewers' later called 'The Clarence Inn' on Upper George Street (2). Of the buildings mentioned, Stockwood House is a major country house built in 1740 for John Crawley, refaced in stucco in 1831, and refaced again with mathematical tiles sometime between 1855 and 1876, probably before 1862. The Berkshire examples include a small patch of tiling on Binfield Lodge, another large country house of various building dates, and three manor houses: at Hampstead Norris, Speen Manor, and West Ilsley House. However, of these only the Victorian refacing of Stockwood House is comparable in the extensiveness of its use of mathematical tiles to that at Althorp.

Mathematical tiles are thin tiles designed to be hung on an existing frame or building and intended to look like bricks to an unpractised eye. They have the alternative name of "brick tiles". Their use is intended to deceive, and at Althorp this has been achieved. A modern commentator, Lawrence Stone, has written (3): The exterior walls of Althorp today consist of late sixteenth century stone walls, the red brick facing added in the 1660s, and the present stone facing added in the 1790s. The present stone facing is Roche stone in the centre of the entrance front but white mathematical tiles elsewhere.

The tiling hides a building of exceptionally complex building history. Althorp began as the second house of the Spencer family, wealthy graziers and sheep farmers of Wormleighton, in nearby Warwickshire. When purchased in 1508 there was a small manor house on a moated site at Althorp. Constructed partly of timber-framing with wattle-and daub infill and partly of the local limestone, it was refenestrated by Sir John Spencer (died 1522). This work and the original stone walls remain but both are buried within the later house (4).

Althorp remained a small house until 1573 when another Sir John Spencer (died 1586) incorporated the existing house into the south range of his new courtyard house. The late sixteenth century house, of red brick with freestone dressing, faced south and had long wings to the south of the preexisting range. The courtyard was to the north, with ranges round all four sides. This house was approached by a gatehouse on the southern edge of the moated platform. This gatehouse was reputed to be standing until about 1730. However, engravings of 1677 and by Knyff, done in the early eighteenth century, show gate piers at the northern end of the bridge over the moat. By the last quarter of the seventeenth century the moat was dry, but remained.

It was this house which was rated at 64 hearths in the hearth tax assessment of 1664. This makes Althorp one of the largest houses in Northamptonshire. Of comparable size are Burghley House at 70 hearths, Castle Ashby at 64 hearths, and Drayton House at 60 hearths. Kirby Hall, although rated at only 30 hearths, may have been almost as large but by the reign of Charles II was already partly uninhabitable (5). In other counties of CBA9 area, the houses of comparable size are Luton Hoo, at 60 hearths, Houghton House at 55 hearths, and Wrest Park at 52 hearths. The largest house in Oxfordshire is Cornbury, near Charlbury, a house assessed at 43 hearths; returns for Buckinghamshire are not in print. Outside of the south Midlands, houses comparable in assessment to Althorp are Bratby Hall, Derbyshire, rated at 68 hearths, Shireburn Castle, Dorset assessed at 60 hearths, and Blickling, Norfolk whose assessment of 58 hearths can be checked by counting the chimneys on the main house.

Houses which are larger are Hardwick Hall and Chatsworth, Derbyshire, respectively 114 and 79 hearths, Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire assessed at 82 hearths, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire of unknown assessment but with 80 chimneys visible, and Audley End, Essex which had 86 chimneys in the original house.

Althorp is thus one of the largest houses in England. When assessed for hearth tax, it was the principal house of the Spencer family. On the night before the battle of Edgehill (23 October 1642) Prince Rupert, the commander of the king's troops, blew up three-quarters of Wormleighton to prevent the house being utilised by the parliamentary forces. Even so, the single range remaining of the Warwickshire House was rated at 15 hearths three decades later. It was originally of comparable size to Althorp.

As the family's principal house in the 1660s, Althorp was refaced by the second Earl of Sunderland using an unknown Italian architect. The engraving of 1677 shows the refurbishment with giant pilasters on the walls and arcading over the windows. At the roof level a balustrade was added, thus hiding the dormers of the attic. At the same time the inner courtyard of the Elizabethan house was roofed over and the space used for a grand staircase, work which began in 1666.

Both in the courtyard and from the south front the great height of Althorp is apparent. In the courtyard the ground

floor has a single row of paintings, mostly showing people from the mid chest upwards. On the first floor there is a double row of hangings, including on the lower tier several which are both full size and full length portraits. In 1669, the grand staircase led to a grand saloon on the garden side of the house (the original north range of the courtyard). The grand saloon, like many rooms on the north and west sides of the house is appreciably taller than the ground floor rooms. Rooms such as this caused John Evelyn to describe the house as such as "may become a great prince".

Some fifty years later, the fifth Earl of Sunderland (later the third Duke of Marlborough) employed Roger Morris to redesign part of the interior. The entrance hall, occupying the full height of the two storeyed south range of the original courtyard house was designed by him with a very deep coffered coving and has great paintings of horses, hounds, and grooms by John Wootton on the walls. Morris also did the stables at Althorp, a building so impressive that it has been mistaken by visitors for the great house itself. The facade of the stables, dating to c. 1730, being a giant Tuscan portico, lends weight to the misattribution.

The house was next repaired in 1772 when part of the roof of the north front collapsed and the first Earl Spencer called in Sir Robert Taylor to affect repairs.

This then was the house which Henry Holland refaced in 1787 and subsequent years: essentially a large Elizabethan house which had been updated about every fifty years.

Holland had a number of problems to overcome. First the balustrade had fallen; it was taken down completely. Second the rooms on the first floor needed better access. In the former courtyard the staircase was made to lead to a balcony on three sides, which was done to match the century-old stair. This gave independent access from the ground floor to bedrooms in the westwing. Inside the open court at the front of the house Holland added corridors and above them placed an extra set of bedrooms to accommodate the great number of servants who visited the house with their employers. This half-floor emphasised the great height of Althorp.

The greatest problem Holland perceived was the lack of unity to Althorp. The house had facings of ironstone, white limestone, red brick, and since his work white brick also. To give it unity Holland clad the external walls in mathematical tiles. These tiles made to look like bricks. At Althorp they were laid in English Bond, that is with alternate rows of headers and stretchers. At the corners and the window reveals, the architect used brick, although the fenestration is covered with decorative plasterwork.

By using mathematical tiles, Holland avoided two problems. The house was on a moated platform which extended as far south as the limits of the frontwings. These rose sheer from

the moat as had the north and west sides of the house. Although dry for over a hundred years the moat was capable of being filled and to have used brick would have meant the possibility of introducing the prospect of rising damp. To have used brick would have entailed a double skin of brick because Althorp is such a tall house. The use of mathematical tiles avoided the problem of weight and potential collapse on a house as high as this. Only in the centre, well away from the edges of the moat, did Holland use stone, from Roche Abbey, to create a focus, but this was one of understatement, a prelude to the interior.

Mathematical tiles at Althorp thus solved engineering problems of a tall house, the need for unity in a house of various building materials, and the avoidance of potential future damage (6).

NOTES

(1) M. Exwood (ed). *Mathematical Tiles: notes of the Ewell Symposium 14 November 1981*, Ewell 1982, *passim*; M. Exwood, 'More on Mathematical Tiles', *British Brick Society Information* 37, Nov 1985; M. Exwood, 'Mathematical Tiles the latest count', *BBS Information* 41, Feb 1987, 11-13 with distribution maps.

(2) See D.H. Kennett, 'Country Houses and Market Towns: Spheres of Interaction in Post-Medieval Bedfordshire', *SMA* this issue, above.

(3) L. Stone and J.C.F. Stone, *An Open Elite? England 1540-1880*, Oxford 1984. 382.

(4) Accounts of Althorp appear N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Northamptonshire*, 2nd edition revised by B. Cherry, Harmondsworth 1973, with pls 85 (grand staircase in former courtyard) and 96 (entrance hall); G.E.K. Spencer, *A Short History of Althorp and the Spencer Family*, n.d. but about 1949, G. Battiscombe, *The Spencers of Althorp*, London 1984; articles in *Country Life* by H. Avery Tipping 17 and 24 April 1920, by A. Oswald 11 June 1959, by C. Hussey 18 January 1968. Both Spencer n.d. and Battiscombe 1984 reproduce engravings and photographs of the house.

See additionally R.L. Greenall, *Old Northamptonshire in photographs*, Northampton 1976, pl. 3, an exceptionally close up view of part of the house.

(5) Hearth Tax assessments for Northamptonshire area given Stone and Stone, 1984, table 2.7 on unnumbered page 465.

(6) Note completed 19 December 1990. It derives from Ch IV 'Replacement rates: the country house in the eighteenth century' of a projected book, *The Country House in the Landscape* for which the author has yet to make a contract with a suitable publisher. For other material partly utilised therein see D.H. Kennett 'The destruction of countryhouses: Eighteenth-century Bedfordshire reconsidered', *SMA* 20, 1990, 13-16.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

COUNTY MUSEUM REPORT FOR 1990

Michael Farley

The report on work in Milton Keynes appears separately. This will be the last full year in which the Milton Keynes Unit undertakes fieldwork and, as indicated in that report, there appears little prospect at present that any satisfactory arrangement will be made to provide future effective cover for the area. On the positive side however, the splendid results which have been achieved over the last twenty years will shortly start appearing in print and will be of great significance for the region. No other such large tract of landscape in the South Midlands, with the exception of Raunds area, will have been studied in such detail. The museum carried out four pieces of fieldwork; at Brill, at Aylesbury, on the proposed Thames Flood Relief Scheme which straddles both Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, and on the Little Brickhill by-pass.

Brill

Trial trenching by Andrew Hunn adjacent to the former Magistrates Court at Brill in advance of development by Aylesbury Vale District Council, brought to light part of a medieval tile kiln and an opposed flue pottery kiln, both of fourteenth century date. A sand pit of similar date was also sampled. No funding was available for a full investigation. The work showed once again the density of the ceramic industry within the village. In this case the only above ground trace had been a handful of medieval sherds collected from an allotment. An unexpected discovery was of an eighteenth century 'ha-ha' ditch and brick revetment wall of which some 35m. was recorded. The wall belonged to Brill House built in 1770 by Thomas Saunders. A 'riotous assembly' broke down the gates and destroyed the shrubberies of the house in the late eighteenth century following the alteration of a road into the village. As the ha-ha lies on the opposite side of the main village street to Saunders' house it may be that construction of this was a cause of the diversion referred to.

Coldharbour Farm, Aylesbury

An evaluation was carried out by Ian Stewart in advance of housing development at Coldharbour Farm to the west of Aylesbury. The work was funded by the Ernest Cook Trust. The land is lowlying and adjacent to the Bearbrook. In 1987 fieldwalking by the Aylesbury Past Project revealed a scatter of Saxon grass-tempered sherds. Although some further sherds were recovered from topsoil, trial trenching failed to reveal any Saxon features in the area. An unexpected discovery however, was of a previously unsuspected mid-Iron Age site. A mixed fluvio-glacial geology made interpretation of the features encountered difficult within the confines of trial trenches. Nevertheless a 75m. length of Iron Age ditch was uncovered, with a rich fill of ceramic and animal bone. Other features present

included pits and post-holes. The report on the work has been completed and will be published in Records of Bucks 32. It is intended that the site will be preserved within open space on the new estate.

Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Relief Scheme

The museum was commissioned by the NRA to undertake the Stage 1 and 2 study of the archaeological implications of the proposed new flood relief channel, some 9km. long. The work was directed by Andrew Hunn. Stages 1 and 2 consisted of a desk-top study, Stage 2 of an extensive fieldwalking and electronic survey programme. Stage 3, the field evaluation by a 2% trench sample, was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services. The results were striking. Prior to the study, despite good cropmark air photo cover, only two or three sites were known to be affected by the route. The combination of the various methods used brought to light some 24 unrecorded sites, many being small scale prehistoric sites. Burnt flint was a common feature of these sites which appear to be middens rather than the remains of 'burnt mounds'. Particularly significant groups of features were encountered near Lots Hole, a site previously recorded on air photos, and now seen to be largely medieval; near Lake End, an Iron Age settlement and an MBA cremation; and at Agars Plough, Eton College, where many early-mid Iron Age features were present. One pit contained a decorated bone comb, triangular loomweight, and cut red deer antler. Earlier prehistoric and Roman features were also present here. Steve Ford of TVAS comments on the marked lack of Roman material from the evaluation as a whole and points out that a 2% sample will undoubtedly still have left a number of smaller sites undiscovered.

Little Brickhill by-pass

A brief survey of the route of the Little Brickhill by-pass was undertaken by Andrew Hunn for the DoT. Much of the land was under crop when the survey was requested, but with the aid of electronic survey by A. Bartlett the eastern limits of the town of Magiovinium appear to have been determined. A survey of earthworks at the eastern end of the village, accompanied by an auger survey, suggests that the earthworks were largely the result of quarrying and dumping, not medieval occupation as once suspected.

Other fieldwork

Amongst other fieldwork undertaken was the second phase of a watching brief at Galley Lane crossroads, adjacent to Magiovinium (for the first phase see MKAU report), a survey of the old churchyard site at Stoke Mandeville with proposals for future management, and the recording of a newly discovered Belgic site at Aston Clinton. Amongst the finds from the latter site was a pottery base with incised hexagon design. This site, which was discovered during excavation of a pond, was of particular interest in that it was not far from a find in the last century of an amphora burial, and raises the possibility of an extensive 'Belgic' settlement in the area. In the grounds of Castle Hill House at High

Wycombe, a substantial cavity broken into by construction work was briefly investigated, but the results were inconclusive. The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out work prior to development inside the hillfort of Danesfield at Medmenham. Finally, the County Museum Archaeological Group arranged fieldwalks at three locations, each of which provided useful new data for the SMR.

Other matters

A slightly unusual commissioned piece of work was undertaken by Andrew Pike for the Corporation of the City of London, who required historical background on East Burnham pound prior to its restoration. Don and Dorothy Miller also kindly contributed background data. The *Records of Buckinghamshire* 31 (1989), was published containing several articles by the section's staff including pieces on excavations at: Bedgrove, Aylesbury; Brill; Hitcham; Great Brickhill; and Walton, Aylesbury. The publication of the latter was paid for by R.Raphael and Sons plc. The Buckinghamshire section of *The Ice-Houses of Britain* by S.Beamon and S.Roaf incorporates much material contributed by Andrew Pike.

The publication of PPG 16 'Archaeology and Planning' is beginning to have a substantial effect on the section's work, and in particular, District Councils are becoming more responsive to suggestions. Regrettably however, lack of staff means that the service which is offered is still far from satisfactory. Considerable progress has been made with computerisation of the SMR through the thorough work of Joe Peachey, under the overall supervision of Andrew Pike. The HBMC funded programme will end in March. The completion of this programme after four years' work will be a significant milestone in the SMR's development. Buckinghamshire is unusual in the region in having an SMR which had its roots in the pre-war Ordnance Survey Correspondent system, and the amount of data which has had to be transferred has been substantial, forming now the largest database on the County's mainframe. We now look forward to a more active role for the record and to further enhancement. One public face of the SMR has been the publication of a series of County Council circular walk leaflets including much archaeological information supplied from the SMR by Andrew Pike. Finally thanks are due to the County Museum Archaeological Group whose members continue to give regular support to all the Museum's archaeological activities, despite there no longer being regular Tuesday gatherings.

MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT 1990-91

By the time these notes are printed Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit will have been transformed from a active archaeological field unit to a purely post-excavation organisation. This is as a result of the 'winding-up' of Milton Keynes Development Corporation, the Unit's founder and

sole funding body. Although the Development Corporation will cease to exist at the end of March 1992 this does not mean that there will be no more development in the city. In fact the greater part of the eastern and western flanks still remain to be developed. After twenty years of continuous archaeological study there will no longer be a single body responsible only for the archaeology of the remaining development areas. Buckinghamshire's over-extended Museum Service will become the sole monitoring body. It is not only excavation and fieldwork that will cease; many of the other services which the Unit has offered over recent years will be severely reduced if not curtailed completely. In particular the educational and metal detectorist programmes will be largely terminated. The one area where we may be certain of increased activity is the publication of the excavation programme. By the time the Unit is finally closed in March 1994 it is expected that all of the planned monographs will be completed and in press, if not actually on sale. Once again many significant finds have been reported by detectorists working under MKAU's metal detector policy (SMA 20, 1990, 20). Certainly the most unexpected and perhaps the most important of these was a Late Bronze Age coil-ended gold bracelet of a type only previously reported from five hoards in S. Britain. This bracelet has been acquired by Buckinghamshire County Museum with the aid of a grant from the Victoria and Albert Museum. Summaries of the Unit's main activities over the past year are presented below.

FIELD PROJECTS

(See Fig. 1 for location plan.)

Fenny Stratford Bypass Bob Zeepvat SP 893333

Construction of this road to the south of Fenny Stratford, linking the A5 to the B488 Bletchley to Leighton Buzzard road, began in July 1990. At its north end, the by-pass followed the line of Galley Lane, passing close to the scheduled area of the Roman town of Magiovinium, though outside the known boundary of the town. Shortly after work began on the by-pass, the discovery of a number of Roman burials was reported to the Archaeology Unit by detectorist Gordon Heritage. Although outside the designated area of Milton Keynes, and therefore beyond MKAU's normal area of operations, the Unit was requested to cover this and any other discoveries because of staff shortages at the County Museum. Accordingly, Peter Busby (Buzz) from the Unit's Westbury excavation was despatched to deal with the burials. One week later, detectorists Andy Smith, George Foster, Dick Colliass and Tony Smith reported to the writer the discovery of a Roman coin forger's hoard, consisting of bronze coin blanks and bronze pellets contained in three coarse-ware pots, and a pair of iron coin dies. These had been deeply buried in a pit or ditch, about 25m. N of the burials. Both burials and hoard lay beneath the line of Galley Lane. In addition to the major discoveries listed above, many other metal detector finds from the site were reported to the Unit during the course of the month, by which time a member of staff from the County Museum, Andrew Hunn, took over the watching brief on the by-pass. Among these

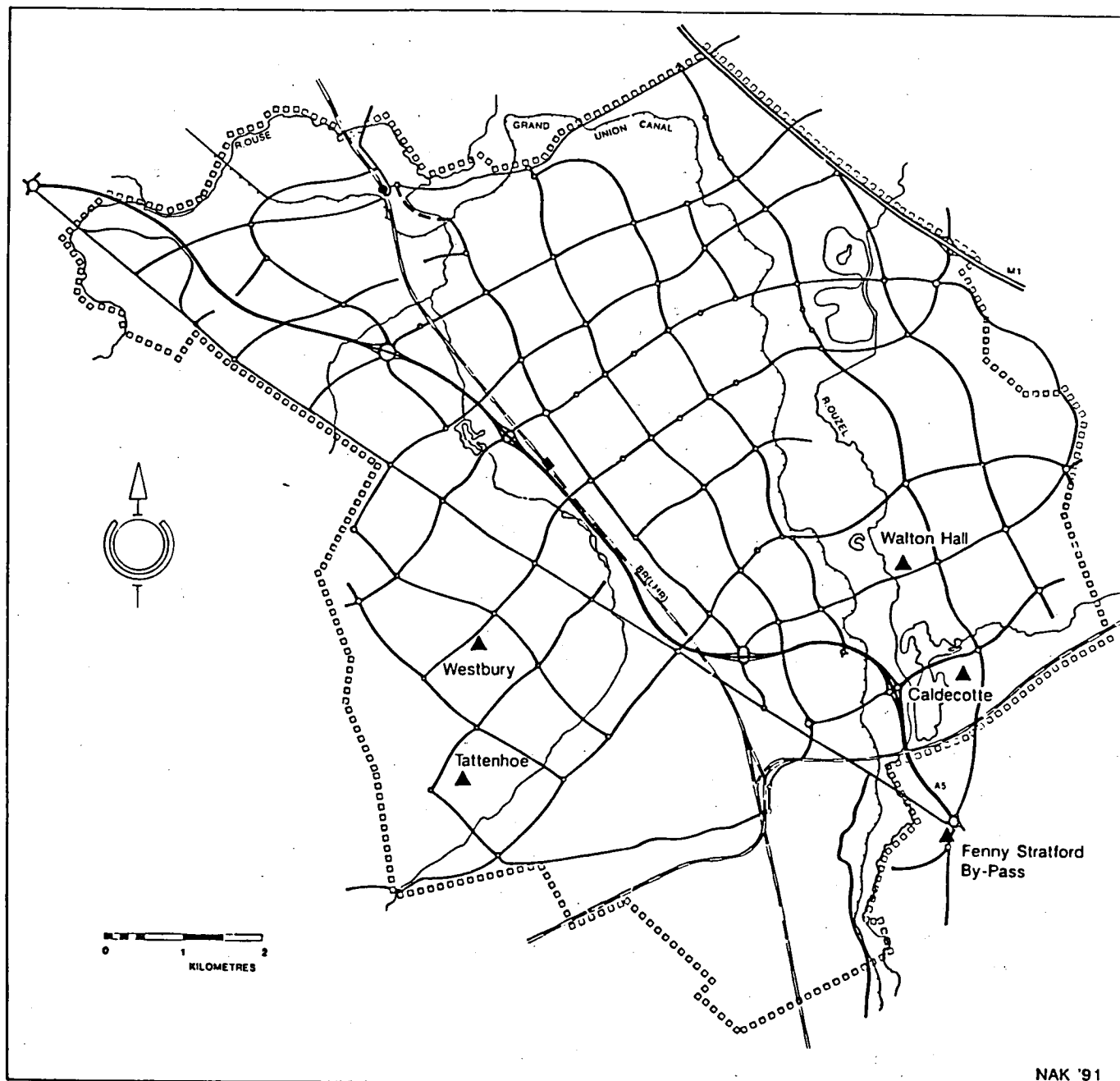


Fig 1. Milton Keynes Location Plan.

finds, of particular note was a small bronze ram (Fig. 2), evidently part of a larger statuette of Mercury, found by detectorist Alan Stewart.

The burials

A total of nine extended inhumation burials were recorded, along a 20m. length of the road formation from about 100m. S of the A5/Galley Lane roundabout. Most had been badly damaged during site stripping, and were in a fragmentary condition, so efforts were concentrated on recording the burials and recovering dating evidence, rather than the more time-consuming process of lifting the burials. In addition, a number of adjacent pits and ditches were recorded and sampled. Four of the burials were of adults, three of children (one an infant), and the remainder too fragmentary to identify. Five were aligned north-south, and one east-west. Only one grave contained any finds: a few sherds of late

Roman pottery in its fill. None was associated in any way with the other features noted in the area. Examination of the latter produced only two small Roman sherds from one of the two ditches noted.

The Forger's Hoard

Like the inhumations described above, this was also discovered beneath the former line of Galley Lane, but further north, about 75m. S of the roundabout. It was not possible to ascertain the circumstances of the hoard's burial, as enthusiastic excavation by the finders, coupled with the churned-up state of the site, had obliterated any trace of a ditch or pit by the time a site visit could be arranged. After cleaning of the material had been completed, the three pottery vessels were reported on by Pauline Marney (Fig. 3), whilst the writer undertook statistical analysis of the coin blanks. Metallurgical analysis of the blanks and dies, as well

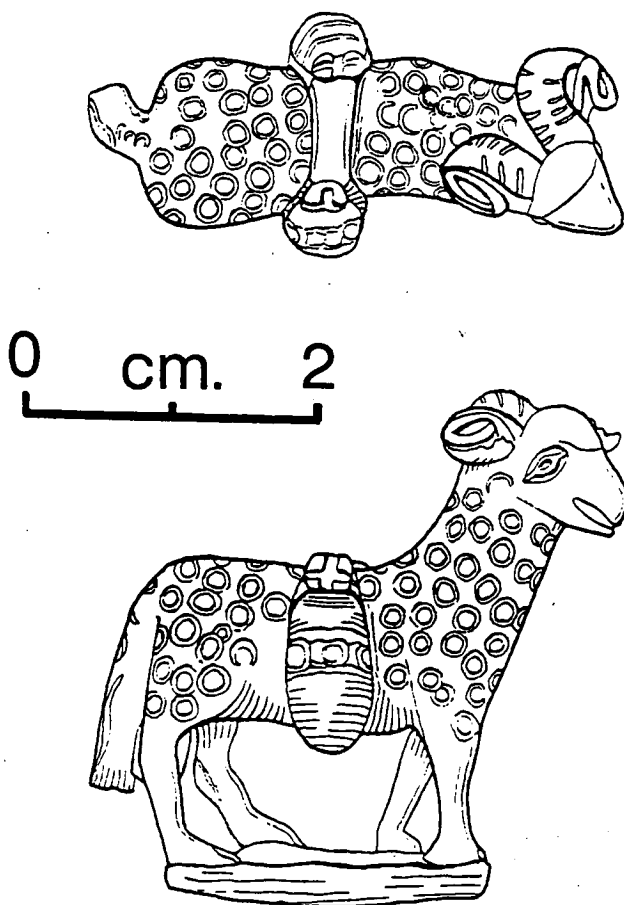


Fig. 3. Bronze Ram.

as conservation of the latter, is being carried out by the British Museum. Further studies of the coin blanks are under way at the Institute of Archaeology and Kingston Polytechnic. The vessels containing the copper alloy elements of the hoard were all of local sand-tempered grey-ware fabrics, ranging in height from 116-120mm., and imitating the BB1 miniature cooking pot. Dating is difficult with such forms and fabrics, and these examples are thought

to date perhaps to the late third to early fourth century AD. Each of these three vessels contained the products of what are believed to be different stages in the striking of Roman coins. The first held 0.6kg. of bronze pellets, cut from a rod about 5mm. in diameter. These are thought to have been the raw material, ready for melting down to cast the rough coin blanks. The second contained 246 blanks, all of which had undergone some hammering out, but were not ready for striking. The third held 352 finished blanks, ready for striking. The average weight of the blanks in both of these last two stages was 2.47gm., which suggests, along with the date of the pottery, that the intended end-product was late third century counterfeit antoniniani, better known as 'barbarous radiates'. The two iron dies, found immediately beneath the pots, evidently formed a set. Both were about 25mm. in diameter, the larger, upper die measuring 144mm. in length, and the lower 55mm. As both were heavily corroded, no details were visible. It is hoped that careful cleaning by the British Museum's conservators may reveal traces of the die faces. Whilst a number of Roman forger's hoards have been recovered from sites in this country, the Fenny Stratford find is of particular significance for two reasons. Firstly, it is the first instance of a hoard containing both material and equipment for striking coins, although struck forgeries are themselves common. While bronze coin blanks have been found elsewhere, sometimes with struck imitation coins, much of the evidence for forging so far found has been for moulding coins, which does not require the technological skill necessary for engraving suitable die faces. Secondly, the dies themselves are believed to be the first pair made of iron, official or counterfeit, found in this country.

Other finds

As might be expected, a number of Roman coins and metal objects, as well as quantities of pottery, were brought in by various detectorists. Of particular interest among the objects was a small copper alloy figurine of a ram, 32mm. high, found by detectorist Alan Stewart (Fig. 2). The ram stood on a rectangular base, on the underside of which were traces of solder. Over the back of the ram hung two panniers or

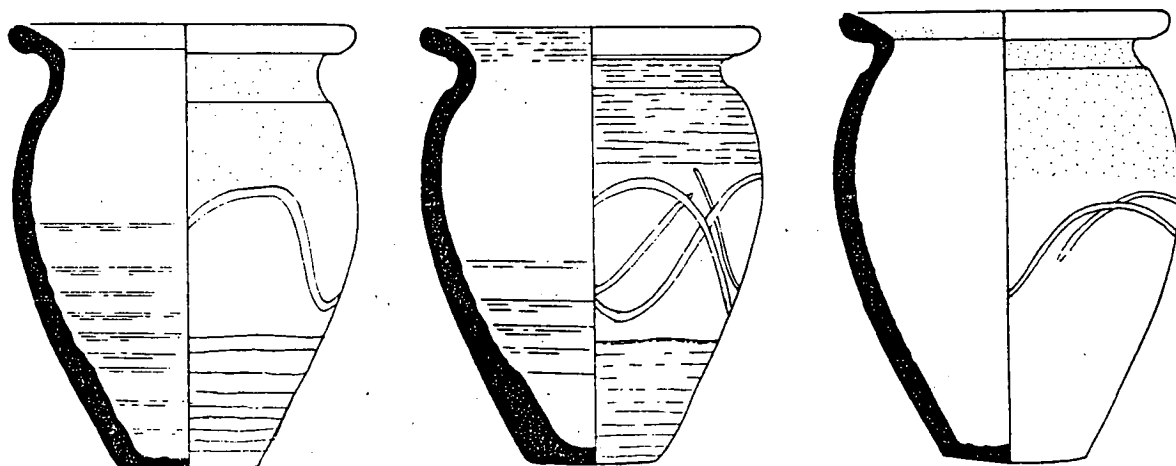


Fig. 3. Forger's Hoard pots.



bags. This piece was possibly part of a larger statue of Mercury; the bags represent the god's purses. This object is of particular importance because, whilst bronzes of rams sometimes associated with Mercury have been found in Britain, this is the only known example where the ram carries the purses.

Walton Hall

Bob Zeepvat SP 888367

In November 1990 the Unit was requested by the Development Corporation to conduct an evaluation of three fields at Walton Hall, close to the Open University, prior to the sale of the site for a private development. The primary objective was to determine the extent, nature and state of preservation of a Roman site first noted during excavations in 1972 on the line of city grid road H9 Groveway, immediately to the S of the area in question. The three fields concerned amounted to an area of some 6.25 hectares, and were mostly covered by ridge and furrow, though the easternmost contained some medieval earthworks related to Walton village. Evaluation was carried out by machine-trenching, with 1.5m. wide trenches at 15m.

centres. Some sampling of features thus exposed was carried out, aided by detectorist Gordon Heritage. The main area of Roman occupation was found to cover about half a hectare immediately to the N of the 1972 discoveries, with outlying field boundary ditches and other features extending over some three hectares. From the type of features and the range of finds recovered, the Walton Hall settlement was native in character, similar to the adjacent Wavendon Gate site, excavated in 1989. Analysis of the ceramic finds gave a date range from the mid third to fourth century, with only a few earlier sherds present. A similar date range was noted from the coins recovered. Apart from the ridge and furrow, evidence of medieval or later activity was confined to two areas; on the south side of the lane leading to Walton Church, adjacent to Walton Rectory, and on the east side of Walton Road. In the former, expanses of cobbling were noted, probably an extension of the stable yard on that side of the Rectory, which dates from the sixteenth century. In the second area patches of cobbling were noted on one of a row of house plots alongside Walton Road, the plot being bounded at its rear by a stone wall and ditch.

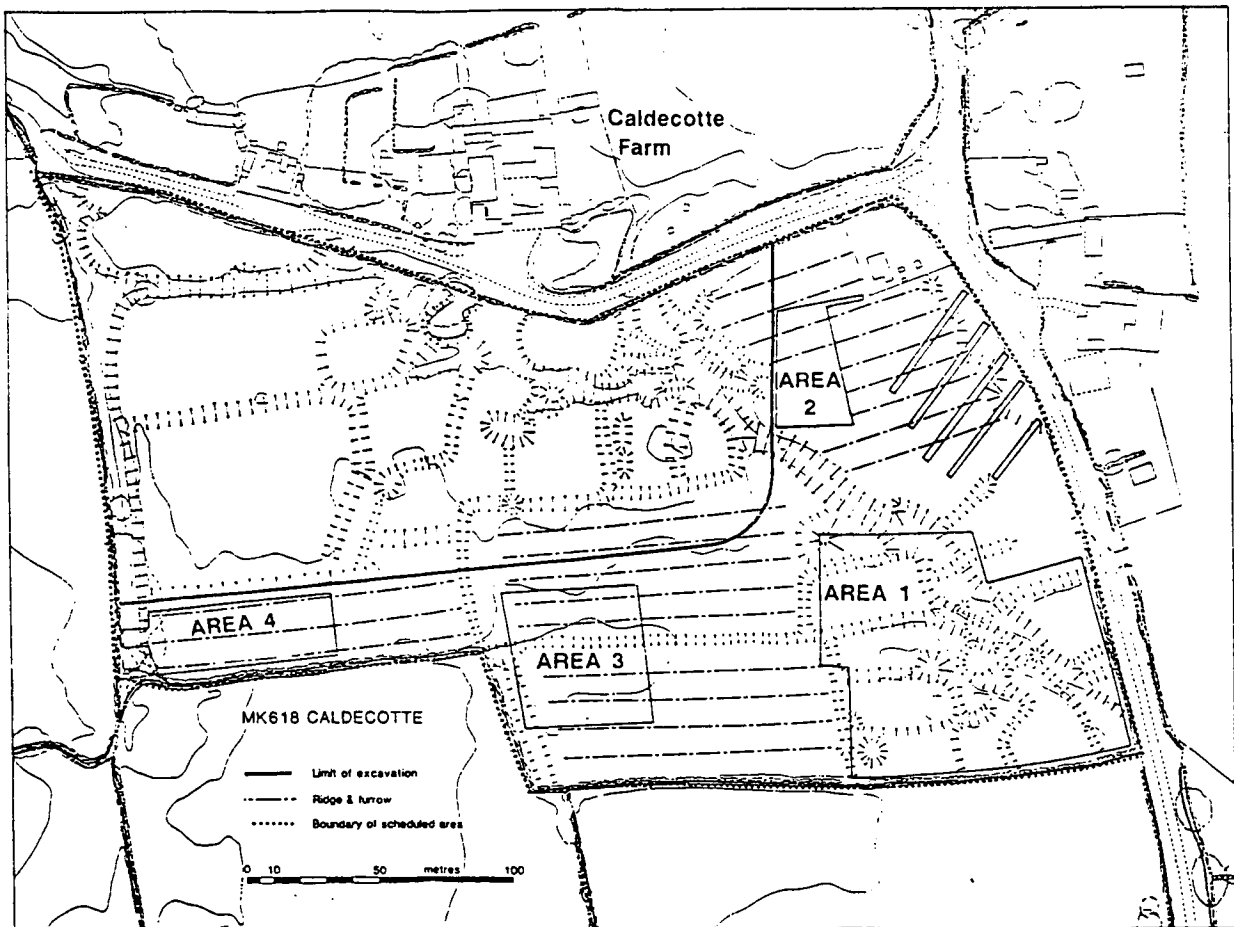


Fig. 4. Caldecotte.

Introduction

The final project in the Archaeology Unit's twenty year programme of major excavations in the city was begun in September 1990 on the earthworks of the deserted village of Caldecotte. The site, which is a scheduled ancient monument, was originally earmarked by the Development Corporation for housing development, but after representations from English Heritage, part of the earthwork containing the best preserved house platforms has been retained as open space. Despite this reduction, the area requiring archaeological examination totalled some 36000 square metres, and contained a mixture of ridge and furrow, small enclosures or crofts in varying states of preservation, and a hollow way cutting diagonally across many earlier earthwork features (Fig. 4). As the excavation, supervised by John Roberts, will continue until the end of March 1991, what follows is of necessity a general statement of what has been achieved so far, and a more detailed report will appear in the next issue of SMA.

Method

Prior to excavation, a detailed contour survey of that part of the area not containing ridge and furrow was carried out. This was used in conjunction with a 'desk-top' survey of the available documentary, field survey and aerial photograph evidence for the site, to attempt an interpretation of the site so as to target particular areas for excavation. Also taken into account in this study were the results of the Unit's earlier excavations to the west of the present site in 1978-80, directed by Martin Petchey, which revealed extensive early Roman occupation and industrial activity, as well as a medieval moat and a post-medieval water mill (CBA 9 Newsletters 9-11). This contour survey is now being extended to the remainder of the site, including the retained part, to build up a fuller picture of the original scheduled monument. The evidence from the survey was reinforced by selective trial trenching of 'problem' areas. As a result of this preliminary work, four areas were targeted for topsoil stripping. Area 1, covering approximately 14000sqm. in the SE corner of the scheduled area, encompassed much of the hollow way, as well as several possible enclosures or crofts. To the north of this Area 2, covering 1200sqm., was opened to examine a part of the site devoid of any visible earthworks. Area 3, measuring 3600m., was opened to test an area of ridge and furrow to the west of Area 1 for traces of earlier occupation, while Area 4, covering 2700sqm. in the SW corner of the field, was opened up to ascertain the eastward extent of the Roman features noted in earlier excavations, and to examine the hollow way forming the west boundary of the scheduled site.

Results

As Areas 2 and 4 proved barren of features predating any visible earthworks, and excavations in Area 3 demonstrated that evidence of Roman occupation in the fields to the west

did not extend into the scheduled area, much attention has been given to excavating Area 1. The hollow way now appears not to have crossed the site, as was first thought, but to have led to a complex of post-medieval stone-footed buildings situated east of the centre of Area 1, while on the western side of the area excavations have identified two, possibly three, medieval crofts, a circular stone-footed dovecote, a pond, and numerous features of thirteenth and fourteenth century date. Excavation of these earlier features is still underway.

An Interim Report on the Excavations at Westbury By Shenley, Buckinghamshire Buzz

The excavations at Westbury were centred on SP 829356 immediately N of Shenley Brook End (the southern settlement of Shenley Parish, Milton Keynes). The site is situated midway down a gentle south facing slope overlooking a tributary of the Loughton brook. The soils here are all gleys derived from an alkaline boulder clay, and are under permanent grazing, except north of the excavations, where recent arable cultivation has taken over. This post-war land use change will culminate within the next few years with the total absorption of Shenley parish by the expanding New Town. It is this urban expansion which has directly led to a large scale landscape excavation on what has been called Westbury 'deserted village': a collection of substantial earthworks strung along a number of hollow-ways, flanked to the W by the thirteenth century moated manor at Westbury Farm and to the E by another possible moated manor, (Fig. 5). Previous archaeological work has involved the scheduling of the eastern moated manor (AM no.90), the listing of Westbury Farm, the excavation of two small areas during 1984-1986 and field walking of the ploughed fields to the N of the site (SMA 15, 1985, 45 and SMA 16, 1986, 54). The current phase of investigation consisted of a full scale earthwork survey and interpretation by RCHME in addition to an extensive evaluation of the below ground archaeology by a network of trial trenches (SMA 20, 1990, 20), followed by eighteen months of large scale excavation. On the basis of previous work, the thick worm-sorted top soil was mechanically removed over an area of approximately 44,000sqm.. This allowed the selection of some 39,000sqm. for full excavation. In all over 75% of the surviving earthworks have been excavated since 1984.

Pre Late Iron Age

Activity prior to the Late Iron Age is represented only by residual finds ie, flint artefacts.

Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British

This period sees the creation and development of, what may be best described as a 'Celtic' field system across most of central and western areas of excavation. Interspersed within the fields were discrete areas of domestic habitation seen as concentrations of finds and pits rather than structures.

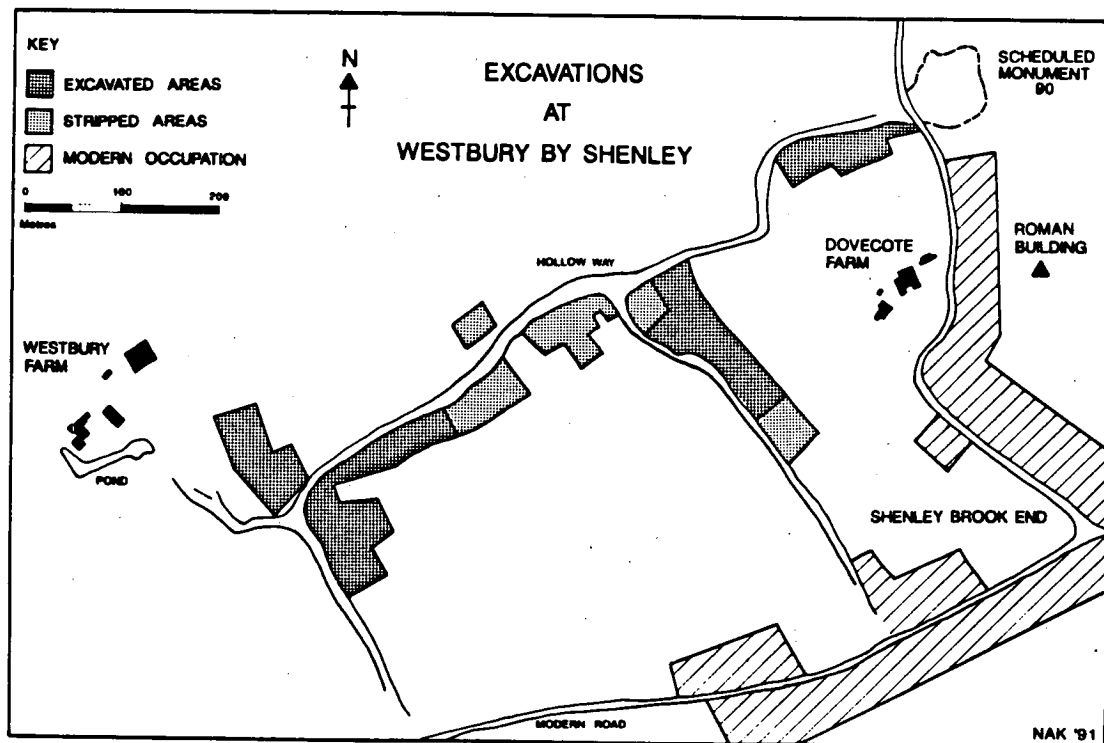


Fig. 5. Westbury by Shenley.

Roman

Initially the only detectable activity was the interment of a number of cremations in the SW corner of the excavations. However, by the third century the archaeological record in the NW corner of the excavation shows that the earlier field systems were undergoing a substantial reorganisation involving the creation of an E-W driveway and small rectangular fields, set out roughly parallel to the line of what was to become the medieval E-W hollow-way. The only known structure of this date lies outside the area of excavation, behind the council houses in Shenley Brook End. It may be associated with the nineteenth century reference to mosaics under Dovecote Farm (Haverfield 1901, 342). Sometime during or shortly after this phase of activity a group of water collection sumps were dug into the remains of a major N-S 'Celtic' field boundary in the western area of excavation in the general area of the cremations. One of these was subsequently converted into a flax retting pit, producing an interesting plant macrofossil assemblage.

Middle Saxon

This phase of activity consists mainly of a late pagan inhumation cemetery, located in the same general area as the Roman cremations.

Saxo-Norman

There were two foci of activity at this period, one along the N-S hollow-way to the south of Westbury Farm, the other at the crossroads in the centre of the excavated area. Both

are represented by concentrations of postholes and pits, surrounded by what appear to be small fields.

Medieval

This phase of activity is characterised by a lack of structural evidence although there are hints of domestic occupation, ie. hearths and the first archaeological evidence of arable cultivation. The more westerly area of Saxo-Norman occupation was ploughed over, and in the central and western areas of excavation quarrying for clay took place.

Late Medieval

The Late Medieval activity appears to mark an expansion in the settlement and is marked by the creation of the surviving earthworks. These can best be described as a collection of farmstead complexes strung along a number of hollow-ways, surrounded by ploughlands. These were in active use but were also being eaten into by the expansion and creation of individual farmsteads. All these farmsteads contain similar components, though somewhat differently arranged. Each has a cobbled surface, usually forming a path which in some cases expands into yard surfaces. The cobbled areas link the ploughlands to hollow-ways via building and activity areas. The building sites themselves are very different from previous structures (which were largely post-built) being characterised, archaeologically, by vacant rectangles, surrounded on one or more sides by cobbled surfaces and probably represent the sites of timber-framed structures. The only activity areas identified so far are the 'open areas' associated with each platform. These were invariably devoid of archaeologically detectable features and were bounded by ditches and buildings. They

were presumably used for hay ricks, temporary animal pens, middens etc. In addition to these discrete areas of burning activity (although no slag was found in association) and surface water collection sumps were identified.

Post Medieval

A 1698 estate map shows the area of excavations as enclosed fields with no building and with the settlement of Shenley Brook End to the S existing much as it does now. In addition the site of the scheduled earthworks to the E of the site is shown as a relatively large house, adding credence to the more recent interpretation that it is a sixteenth century house and garden earthwork complex rather than a medieval moated manor. So in conclusion the excavation has uncovered a complex sequence of land use covering the last 2000 years, allowing us the unique opportunity to look at in depth, the development and subsequent decline of an East Midlands, claylands deserted medieval settlement.

Bibliography

Haverfield F. 1901 Quarterly notes on Roman Britain, *The Antiquary* 37, 1901.

Excavations at Tattenhoe Deserted Medieval Settlement N. Shepherd

The deserted settlement at Tattenhoe (centred SP 829340) sits on a S facing slope overlooking the Loughton Brook, a tributary of the Ouse. The land is currently under cultivation to provide grazing and other fodder crops. As recently as 1963 Tattenhoe was described as one of the best examples of a deserted medieval village in Buckinghamshire. Farming activities over the past quarter of a century have seriously denuded, levelled and obscured many of the earthworks. However, several major features are still well preserved, Fig. 6: 1) The church, which is still regularly used, is essentially the structure that was rebuilt in 1540 probably on the site of the thirteenth century chapel. 2) The moated site. 3) A series of fish ponds. To the SE of this complex a marked hollow-way runs down the slope towards the Loughton Brook and another pond. On either side of the hollow-way a series of rather vague earthworks, describing small enclosures, may still be seen. The site is a scheduled ancient monument; the area of best preserved earthworks around the church and moat will retain this protection. Excavation was undertaken to sample that part of the site to the south of the church that has been earmarked for development. On the basis of trial work completed in 1988 (*SMA* 19 (1989), 16-18), three separate areas were mechanically stripped of topsoil (A, B and C), amounting to approximately 9400sqm., just under 10% of the known extent of the settlement, Fig. 6.

Area A

This was located to the NE of two linear ponds running SE from the moated enclosure. Almost all the earthworks visible on aerial photographs had been levelled by ploughing, apart from a prominent bank running along the NW. edge of the adjacent ponds. Scattered remains of eleventh/twelfth century activity were recorded in the form

of pits, post-holes, short lengths of ditch and at least one simple post-built building. These were overlain, probably in the thirteenth century, by ridge and furrow delimited to the NE and SW by field ditches. Some time after this the adjacent ponds were constructed, the upcast from their excavation forming a bank that partly sealed the field ditches.

Area B

This was located some 150m. down-slope to the SE of area A at a point straddling the hollow-way and approximating to the centre of the settlement. As in area A, most of the earthworks visible on aerial photographs had been levelled although the hollow-way was still a substantial feature. On excavation this was found to be surfaced with cobbles for most of its length, with drainage ditches on either side. Three crofts, two to the north of the hollow-way and one to the south were identified. All three consisted of a complex of buildings (probably a mixture of timber framed and cob construction), grouped around cobbled yards and surrounded by small closes defined by drainage ditches. This overall arrangement appears to have undergone little change over time and provisional dating suggests occupation spanning the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries. Quarrying for clay within the abandoned crofts seem to have taken place during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Area C

This was located 60m. down-slope to the SE of area B, its eastern edge being located over the hollow-way. Scattered (and as yet undated) pits, post-holes, ditches and at least one simple post-built building were sealed by ridge and furrow respecting a major E/W field boundary. To the S of this was a small group of closes adjacent to an open yard area. Within this was located a possible bread oven of limestone construction and a simple agricultural kiln (perhaps a drying kiln or malting oven). Provisional dating places these activities between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. Quarrying for clay and gravel seems to have taken place within the closes during the fifteenth and possibly sixteenth centuries but there was evidence for more extensive quarrying beyond the hollow-way to the E. Here long narrow strips or plots of gravel had been excavated suggesting a more controlled and organised approach. Dating this late phase of activity is difficult but certainly by this time the hollow-way had gone out of use for access and had become filled up with quarrying waste.

Conclusion

A simple linear arrangement of crofts arranged along a winding hollow-way (set within a classic open-field landscape), existed between the eleventh and fifteenth centuries. Some early changes in layout seem to have occurred but the pattern then established appears to have remained broadly unchanged until abandonment. The church and manor apparently remained in use and the current form of the major earthworks suggests that they may have been modified by post-medieval garden landscaping. Post-excavation analysis is now underway and significant emphasis will be placed on setting the excavated areas into

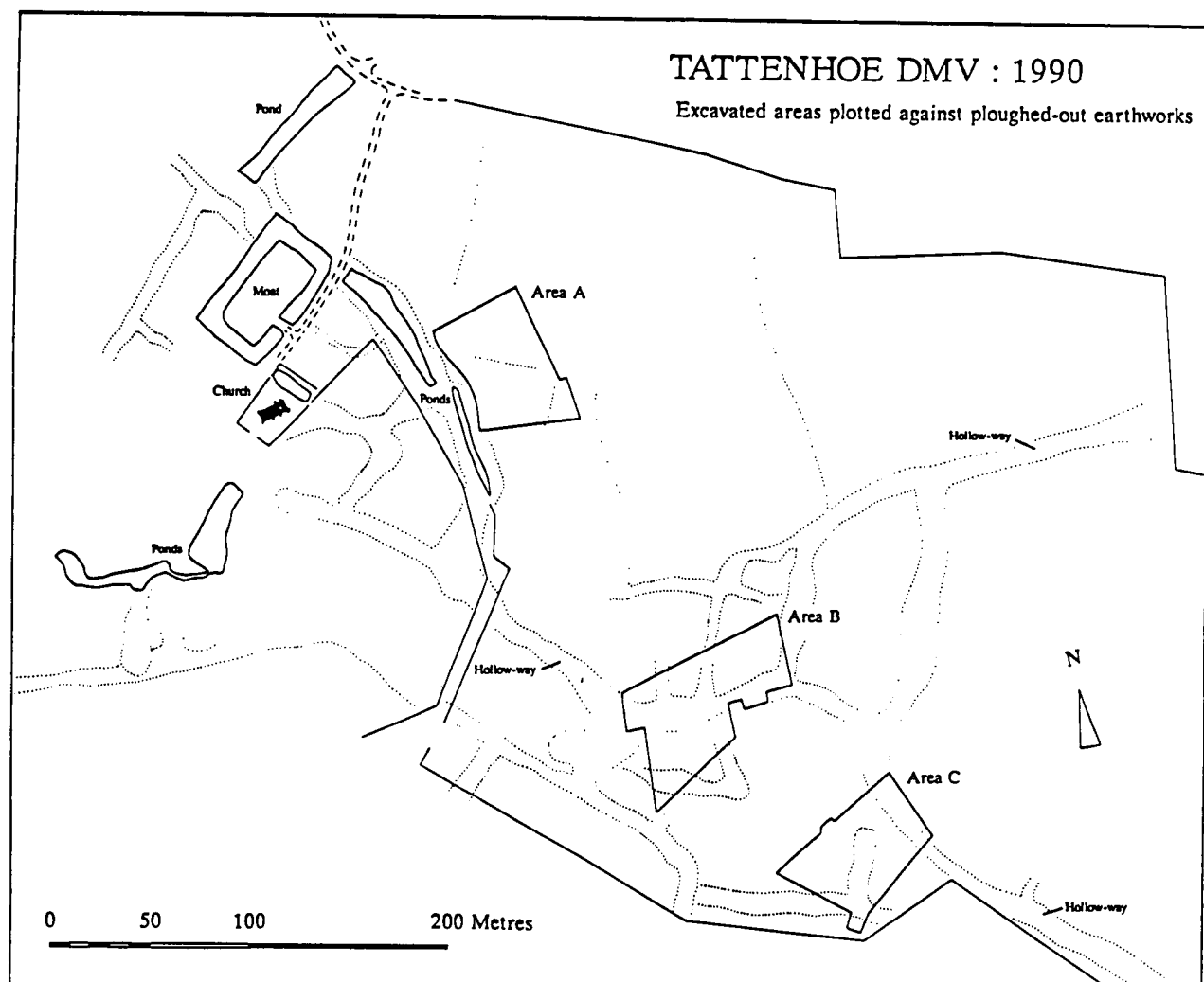


Fig. 6. Tattenhoe Medieval Settlement.

the context of the wider landscape. Joint publication with the nearby site of Westbury (scheduled for 1994 as part of the *Records of Bucks* monograph series) will give us the opportunity for comparative analysis between the two sites and significantly widen the scope of our studies. Taken as a whole the Westbury/Tattenhoe project should provide a model for the study of lowland medieval settlement in Britain.

Public Relations, Education and Interpretation

Marion Blockley

Publicity and Media Coverage

Over the past year the Unit's work has received considerable attention in the national and local press. Press launches were staged at the Borough of Milton Keynes civic offices for the Bradwell Abbey seal and the Fenny Stratford coin forger's hoard. During 1990 the work of the Unit has figured in news bulletins on all three local TV stations. Live interviews and other reports were also given on the local, national and international radio stations.

Public Relations and Interpretation

A large number of temporary exhibitions and other events were staged during the last year. Topics covered include Westbury medieval village, Wavendon Gate excavations, The Bradwell Abbey seal, the work of the Archaeology Unit, Symbols of Authority, Excavations at Walton Church, the Bradwell Abbey window and Bancroft Villa and the Bancroft Villa Thriller.

Events

During the summer of 1990 the Unit took part in 'Kids Day at The Bowl' in support of the Milton Keynes Year of the Environment, the Buckinghamshire County Show and the Open University Open Day. The Unit also organised children's activities at Central Milton Keynes and Woburn Sands Libraries, staged the 'Bancroft Villa Thriller' and staged one of the six venues for the National Young Archaeologists Day.

Presentation

Click Systems Ltd, have generously supplied three fine showcases which are installed in Central Milton Keynes Library and the foyer of the Civic Offices in Milton Keynes. Regularly changing displays of the Unit's finds are now on public view. Six more full colour interpretation panels have been produced for sites within the city's parks, in conjunction with the Recreation Unit of Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

Education

Ros Tyrrell and Marion Blockley have shown over 30 school groups around the Bradwell Abbey exhibition and Bancroft Villa, and provided talks and handling sessions in schools.

'The Bancroft Villa Thriller'

Two hundred children from five local schools spent six weeks working on, in and around the site of Bancroft Roman Villa. They worked with artists from Interaction (our local community theatre company) their teachers, and the Archaeology Unit. The children became archaeological detectives, searched for clues on site and used their imagination to create their own version of the story of the site. They made costumes, mosaics, furniture, statues and even built a reconstruction of the mausoleum to bring the site to life. The story was performed using music and drama in front of an audience of over 2000 and ended in a spectacular fire show. Much of the funding for this project was raised through sponsorship. A resource pack on Bancroft Villa is in preparation with the Advisory Service of Buckinghamshire County Education Department. An article on the Bancroft project will appear in the next issue of the CBA Education bulletin.

Popular Book

1991 will be occupied with the production of a glossy full-colour book to celebrate the achievements of 21 years of Field Archaeology in Milton Keynes. A full colour leaflet on the work of the Unit may be obtained from MKAU, 16 Erica Road, Stacey Bushes, MILTON KEYNES, MK12 6PA.

ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCHYARD, BRADWELL, MILTON KEYNES

Patricia Reynolds M.A.

Introduction

Position of The Site

St Lawrence's churchyard is situated within the village of Bradwell, an estate of the New Town of Milton Keynes in the county of Buckinghamshire (SP832395). Until the recent development of the New Town estate of Bradwell, St Lawrence was at the extreme south of the village; it is now in the middle of the estate.

The Threat

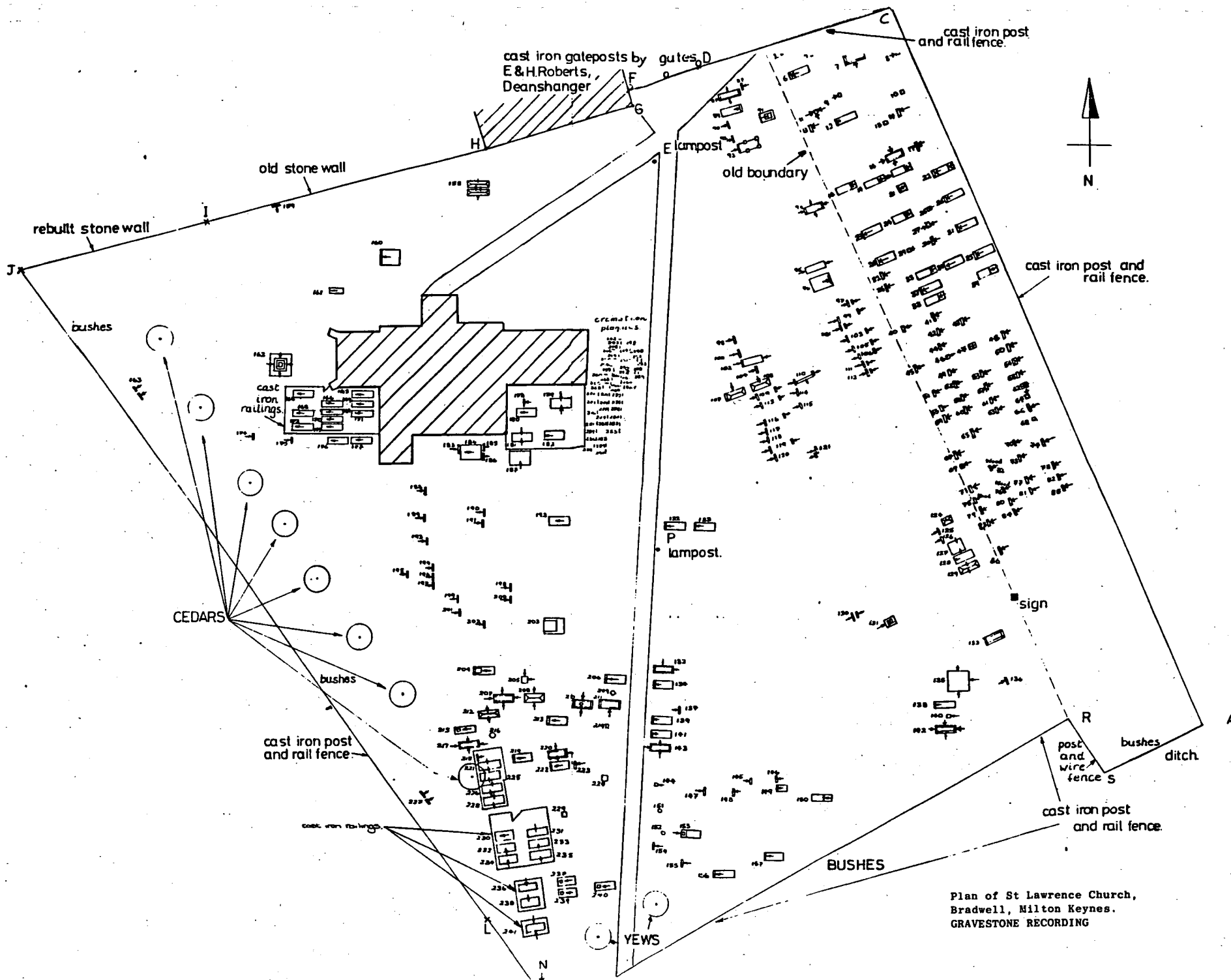
Many of the churches of Milton Keynes, despite the hugely increased population, are now redundant. New functions are found for the buildings; these often mean that the traditional care of the churchyard is not maintained. St Lawrence's, Bradwell, is continuing, for the foreseeable future, to be used as a parish church. A small amount of oral history work amongst the older residents of the village has established that, up to twenty years ago, there were many more stones in the church yard. The present incumbent has indicated that no more will be removed or moved: but with a change of incumbency, there is no guarantee that this will remain so.

The major, imminent threat to the churchyard is from the weathering of the stones. Amongst the materials used, especially in the 19th century, is a very crumbly sandstone. 74% of these stones have lost all or part of their inscriptions. A recent innovation is the use of metal lettering, which, when it falls off, leaves only affixing holes to suggest where the text was, its length, and so on. At present, only a few letters have fallen, and no text has been rendered illegible. Nevertheless, this presents a real threat to the future legibility of graveyard monuments.

Methodology

The record of the churchyard was made by members of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Society. The principles and methodology outlined by Jeremy Jones (1984) have been strictly adhered to. The cards show how the example suggested by the CBA has been modified. A larger sheet has been used so that there is no need for the recorder to turn the page over (a boon in a windy churchyard).

Two copies of the cards are kept: one in the County archives at Aylesbury, and one by the Milton Keynes Archaeological Society; the church holds a copy of the plan and indexes to the memorials. In addition, the written, but not the photographic, record, is held on a database (dBase2, on an Amstrad PCW8512), which can be copied to anyone interested in the data. The Attwell-Fletcher Significance Test was used to test the significance of some of the findings. Originally this test was designed to investigate spatial relationships; the relationship between "points" and "environment" (Attwell and Fletcher 1987). It has a major advantage in that it can be used with small data sets. One



Plan of St Lawrence Church,
Bradwell, Milton Keynes.
GRAVESTONE RECORDING

has to know both the actual distribution and the expected distribution (based on the size of the various areas) of "points". The computer then simulates distributions (in multiples of 100), and relates these to the actual "points", producing a test of the significance of association. The program also produces a rough guide to the significance of distribution as a percentage of times it occurred during simulation.

I first used the test to examine the position of memorials in the churchyard. The program was then used to examine other, non-spatial, relationships. To do this, a "point" (such as a person) can be placed in an "environment" (such as age at death) which is not necessarily composed of equal sized sections (eg under twelve months, 1-5, 5-20, and so on). The sections are weighted within the programme as if they were parcels of land of various sizes.

History of the site

Bradwell is a Domesday village lying on and westwards of a minor road between the Stony Stratford to Newport Pagnell turnpike (opened 1814) and the Roman Watling Street (opened as a turnpike in 1700). The London and Birmingham Railway, opened in 1838, passes the church a few hundred yards to the west, beyond the allotments.

As Rahtz points out (1976), "The churchyard is normally as old as the church it serves, and sometimes older". If this is the case with St Lawrence, there is no known indication of it. St Lawrence's church appears to date from the early thirteenth century. Mynard (1981) has a full history of the church buildings.

There has been one recorded expansion of the church yard, when the area between the "old boundary" and the the cast-iron fence (points A - C) was added in the mid-twentieth century. Despite extensive modern building around the church, except to the west, which is under allotments, there is record of human remains being found. This would suggest that the modern churchyard represents its greatest extent.

Talking with local people before and during the survey drew two graves -- the memorials of Kitelee Chandos Bailey (number 233) and Harry James Stammers (number 40) -- and a myth to our attention. Bailey was the vicar of Bradwell from 1869 to his death in 1921. He is remembered as a "great man". He "ruled the village and small boys went in terror of him". We were told that all his family were buried in the churchyard "even though they didn't live in the parish". Stammers was a master glass painter, and some of his work is in the church. We were told by the Rev. Byrne that the previous incumbent had told him that the only interesting memorials were some "small stones" marking the graves of navvies who died during the construction of the railway. We asked him to point these out to us, but they proved to be footstones of monuments numbered 97, 99, 101, 103, 105 and 106.

Analyses

The Distribution of Monuments by Date
Results

As we surveyed the churchyard, it was noticed that "early" monuments tended to be around the church, and later ones further away. It is known that a portion of the churchyard was purchased, and the earliest memorial in this area is 1947. The hedge-line of the earlier area can be seen on the ground as a low bank.

We recorded the distance of each monument from the nearest point on the church. For statistical analysis the churchyard was divided into five 10 metre bands, sector 1 being nearest the church, and sector 5 the furthest away.

Table (1) showing the position of monuments

Sector	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1800	10	1	0	0	0	11
- 1824						
1825 -	6	1	2	0	0	9
- 1849						
1850	4	9	6	0	0	19
- 1874						
1875	6	7	4	6	3	26
- 1899						
1900	0	1	11	11	3	26
- 1924						
1925	0	0	11	15	7	33
- 1949						
1950	0	0	9	36	0	45
- 1974						
1975	0	2	0	16	14	32
- 1986						
Total	26	21	43	84	27	201

It will be noticed that the three monuments dated before 1800 have been excluded from this table. This was done because the numbers involved were too small to analyse. The Attwell-Fletcher test was used to calculate the likelihood of the distribution of monuments being random. Firstly, the rows were analysed. The null hypothesis was that there was no association between the date of burial and distance from the church.

1800-1824: the observed numbers of monuments in the 0-10m band was above the 5% significance level.

1825-1849: the observed number of monuments in the 0-10m band was above the 5% significance level.

1850-1874: the observed number of monuments in the 10-20m band was above the 5% significance level.

1900-1924: the observed number of monuments in the 20-30m and 30-40m bands were above the 5% significance level and the number of monuments in the 0-10m band was below the 5% significance level.

1925-1949: the observed number of monuments in the 30-40m band was above the 5% significance level and the number of monuments in the 0-10m and 10-20m bands were below the 5% significance level.

1950-1974: the observed number of monuments in the 30-40m band was above the 5% significance level and the number of monuments in the 0-10m and 10-20m bands were below the 5% significance level.

1975-1986: the observed number of monuments in the 30-40m and 40m+ bands were above the 5% significance level and the number of monuments in the 0-10m and 20-30m bands were below the 5% significance level.

Overall, the observed number of monuments in the 30-40m band was above the 5% significance level, and the number in the 10-20m band was below the 5% significance level.

Then the columns were analysed. The null hypothesis was that there was no association between the position and date of burials. In the band 0-10m from the church the observed number of monuments dating from 1800 to 1824 was above the 5% significance level. In the band 10-20m from the church the observed number of monuments dating from 1850 to 1874 was above the 5% significance level. This does not contradict the findings of the first analysis.

Discussion

Thus our first idea that early monuments were likely to be near the church was confirmed for those monuments dating 1800 - 1849. In the following years, sites further from the church have been selected, and those nearer to the church have been avoided. Only one finding is outside this pattern: that in the period 1950-74, the observed number of monuments over 40m from the church was below the 5% significance level. This was probably due to the provision, shortly before, of the new section of the churchyard, which gave more space nearer to the church.

The pattern reflects a crowded churchyard - support for the oral history data collected earlier (see p. 5).

Orientation of Graves

In almost all cases it was possible to determine the axis of the burial, and in many the orientation of the grave could be determined.

The precise orientation of the grave tends to be influenced by the local environment. The church is not aligned east-west, but ESE-WNW, and this orientation is followed by graves 158 to 203 and the cremation plaques.

Numbers 1 to 121, 124 to 131, 133 and 136 are all aligned along the "old boundary", and later along the "new boundary", which is parallel to it.

Numbers 122, 123, 132, 134, 137, 139, 141, 143, 144 to 157, 206, 209 to 211, 214 and 224 are all aligned on the path. Number 227 is placed against the N - J boundary.

Numbers 135, 138, 140 and 142 are possibly aligned on the path, or possibly aligned on the church. They are a long way from either.

Numbers 212, 215 to 223, 225, 226 and 228 to 241 are not influenced by their environment, but aligned on a true east-west axis.

Types of Monument (Table 2)

There are seven basic types of monument: headstone, footstone, flatstone, tomb, edgings, flowerpots and cremation plaques. They occur in various combinations.

Flat stones were particularly popular before 1850 and in the first quarter of the twentieth century. In the twentieth century, they have been particularly used in combinations with other types of monument. At present, they are not used.

Headstones have always been used. In the period 1850-1950 they were more often used in combinations than on their own, but since 1950 they are found on their own again.

Tombs are particular to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Footstones are rarely found except with other types of monument. They are particularly found in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Edgings have only been used frequently on their own during the period 1925-1949, but have been used in combinations from 1900-1974. They are not currently used.

Flowerpots have been used since 1925, on their own and in combinations in about equal proportions. Since 1975 they have only been used in combination with cremation plaques.

Cremation plaques have been used since 1950. Flowerpots are an increasingly common addition.

The greatest proportion of complex monuments, using more than one type, are found in the period 1900 - 1924.

Discussion

It appears that at a given time certain types of monument are more popular than others. The popularity of edgings, headstones and footstones appears to be linked: footstones were used with headstones from 1850 to 1900, and edgings were used after that.

The popularity of cremation plaques obviously reflects the popularity of this method of burial. The popularity of tombs may be a similar indicator of belief.

Size of Monuments

Flat stones range in length from 240 mm to 2440 mm. Large flat stones (over 2000 mm) are not found before 1876, short ones (under 1250 mm) are found at all times, but more frequently after 1950. Width too is variable: from 300 mm to 1230 mm, generally in proportion to length. It was not always possible to measure the thickness of the stone: where possible it varied between 50 mm and 850 mm. Thickness does not relate to other dimensions or to date.

Table (2) The types of monuments compared over time

a	b	c								
TOTAL	-1800	1800-	1825-	1850-	1875-	1900-	1925-	1950-	1975+	
(inc. undated)		1824	1849	1874	1899	1924	1949	1974		
Flat stone (40)		3	3	3	8	12	2	2	1	
+ head & foot (1)					1					
+ foot (1)								1		
+ " & edgings (1)								1		
+ edgings (11)						3	3	5		
+ flower pot (1)					1					
TOTAL USES (55)		3	3	3	10	15	4	9	1	
Headstone (88)	1	2	2	8	9	4	4	21	25	
+ foot (17)			1	6	6	1		1		
+ cross (2)						2				
+ edgings (26)			1		1	6	7	8	2	
+ " & pot (4)							2	2		
+ flower pot (1)										
TOTAL USES (139)	1	2	5	14	16	13	13	32	27	
Tomb(8)	2	4		2						
Footstone (12)		1	1	1	2	1				
+ edgings (3)					1			2		
TOTAL USES (35)		1	2	7	10	2		5		
Edgings (10)					1		9			
+ cross (1)						1				
+ flower pot (5)							2	2		
TOTAL USES (43)			1		3	10	22	20	2	
Flower pot (18)							2	3		
+ base (1)										
TOTAL USES (38)							4	7	11	
Cremation (36)								17	19	
Plaque										
+ flower pot (13)								2	11	
TOTAL USES (49)								19	30	

Table (3) Percentage of monuments with 1, 2 or 3 components compared over time

	-1800	1800-	1825-	1850-	1875-	1900-	1925-	1950-	1975+	
No Components		1824	1849	1874	1899	1924	1949	1974		
1	100	100	63	70	69	57	55	65	77	
2			37	30	28	43	39	30	33	
3					3		6	5		

Table (4) showing sizes of headstones

Height	before 1800	1800 1824	1825 1849	1850 1874	1875 1899	1900 1924	1925 1949	1950 1974	1975 present
- 150 mm					1			1	
150 - 500 mm				1	2		2	8	5
500 - 700 mm						1	7	5	8
700 - 900 mm	1			3		1	5	13	17
900 - 1100 mm		1	3	3	2	2	2	1	
1100 - 1300 mm		1	1	6	7	1		1	
1300 mm +				1	4	2			

Head stones range in height from 150 mm to 1470 mm. The occurrence of various sizes are shown in table 4:

Thickness ranges from 12mm to 370mm. Thick stones are defined as those over 100mm, thin stones those under 65mm. Short stones are often thick, but tall stones do not tend to any particular thickness. Width ranges from 230mm to 915mm. Wide stones are defined as those over 700mm, narrow stones those under 500mm. Tall stones are never narrow, and only occasionally wide. Short stones are often wide. Width and thickness are not otherwise associated.

The eight tombs range from 0.23m to 2.79 m. They increase in size over time, with one exception: number 182, which is about half the size that would be expected if it fitted into the scheme of increases.

Footstones are always smaller than the accompanying headstone. They also tend to be thinner and narrower than the average for headstones.

Cremation plaques are all the same size: 196mm high, 221mm wide, and 25mm thick.

Flowerpots range in height from 100mm to 620mm (including base), or 295 if that is excluded. 1:1:1 is the commonest proportion, but 1:1.3:1.3, 1:1.4:1.4, 1:1.4375:1.4375, 1:1.5:1.5, 1:1.56:1.56, and 1:0.88:0.88 are also found.

Two of the wooden crosses are 368mm high and 25mm thick and one is 564mm high and 49mm thick. They are between 318mm and 588mm wide.

Discussion

Two general trends can be observed in the size of monument: firstly, there is an increase in size in many monuments, leading to a maximum in the late nineteenth century. Secondly, smaller monuments tend to occur after 1925 for many types of monument.

It is interesting to note that the "small" tomb, number 182, is that of a daughter who married out of the family.

Direction of Inscriptions

The faces of monuments bearing inscriptions was recorded as being north, south, east, west or top, with the southwestern edge of southwest/northeast aligned monuments being recorded as south and so on.

The various types of monuments fall into five groups with regard to inscriptions:

1/ headstones and footstones, which are only inscribed on their west or east faces (except where displaced). The east is twice as likely to be inscribed as the west for headstones, but there is no difference for footstones. There are only two pre-twentieth century headstones where the western side was not used for inscription: these are numbers 227 (southern and northern) which are positioned with their western sides against a hedge. For twentieth century headstones the western side is only inscribed for numbers

89, 131, 136, 145, and 147, which date from 1907 to 1923.

2/ flat stones and tombs, which may be inscribed on any of their five faces (this applies even to flat stones, which may have "house-ridges"). For flat stones, the top is most often utilised, followed by E,W,S,N. For tombs, there is little difference in the number of times each side is selected, the order of use being T,N/S,E,W.

3/ edgings, which may be inscribed on any of their faces. Over half were inscribed on their east face, about 10% at each of the other cardinal points, and only 2% on top.

4/ flowerpots, which may be inscribed on any of the cardinal points. Over two-thirds are inscribed on the east face or side, about 10% at each of the other cardinal points.

5/ cremation plaques, which may be inscribed on any of the cardinal points. 75% are inscribed on the east, 15% on the north and 10% on the south.

Discussion

It is evident from the plan of the churchyard that the choice of side to be inscribed is sometimes conditioned by its visibility. This is clearest in the cremation garden, where not one plaque faces west, to the church wall. Some of the earliest graves, in the Battams enclosure (numbers 164-173 inclusive), are positioned so that people outside the enclosure can read who is buried there. This is not, however, a universal factor, for one tomb (number 179) is inscribed only a few inches from the church wall.

While stones in the area between lampposts P and E and the signposts could have been inscribed on the west to make them visible from the paths, it is more likely that this was the traditional side to inscribe. Sometime during the early twentieth century, this pattern reversed and the eastern side became commoner.

Monument Materials:

A wide variety of materials were used (occurrences following in brackets, total occurrences are to be found in square brackets at the end):

Ceramic [2]

Concrete [3]

Grey stone {unidentified further} [1]

Granite (13) {Black (3), Dark (2), Dark Grey (1), Grey (13), Light (3), Pink (2), Red-Brown (10), Red (7), White(3)} [58]

Limestone [21]

Marble (10) {Black (9), Dark Grey (1), Grey (3), White (94), White/Grey (3)} [120]

Sandstone (103) {Grey (1), Red (2)} [106]

Wood [3]

Neither of the two ceramic monuments is dated. They were painted to look like granite and marble.

The single dated concrete monument is dated 1921.

The single unidentified grey stone monument is dated 1940.

The earliest dated granite stone of any colour is dated from the 1850s (the last digit is not readable). Granite continues to be used until the present day. Light, Pink, Red-brown and White granite all have limited periods of occurrence.

The dates of first and last occurrence are as follows:

Black 1923-1971

Dark 1947-1951

Dark Grey 1979

Grey 185?-1985

no colour specified 1890-1985

Light 1933-1969

Pink 1904-1918

Red-Brown 1902-1955

Red 1936-1980

White 1936-1955

The first dated example made of limestone is dated 1839, then there are no dated examples in the period 1867-1973. Since 1973 limestone has been a popular material, with 14 memorials made from it.

The first dated example of marble (any colour) is 1860. The material continues to be used to the present. All the colours recorded have a similar longevity, except black marble and a white/grey marble, which are newcomers. The dates of first and last occurrence are as follows:

Black 1961-1980

Dark 1948

Grey 1876-1981

no colour specified 1860-1977

White 1878-1986

White/Grey 1953-1978

The first dated example of sandstone (any colour) is 1738, and it is almost the only material which survives from the period 1738-1860. There are only four examples after 1910, and none after 1969. The dates of first and last occurrence are as follows:

Red 1863-1942

Grey 1969

no colour specified 1738-1964

Wood is used for three markers, only one is dated (1984).

Discussion

The ceramic vases were painted to look like stone, probably they were cheaper than granite or marble vases.

It is apparent from the condition of the graves which the wooden memorials mark that they are used to identify recent burials for that interval of time until the ground settles sufficiently for a stone monument to be raised.

There are several patterns in the occurrence of materials which could be interpreted as the result of fashion. Dark coloured marbles and granites are, with the exception of two black granite monuments from the 1920s and 1930s, recent.

Table (5) Showing condition of inscriptions

	Mint	Worn	Mainly Decipherable	Trace	Illeg.
Ceramic	1	0	0	0	0
Concrete	0	0	1	0	1
Wood	3	0	0	0	0
Grey stone	0	0	1	0	0
Granite	18	42	0	0	0
Limestone	16	3	1	0	0
Marble	49	53	18	1	0
Sandstone	4	26	41	1	11

The use of white/grey marble appears to supersede the use of white granite in the mid 1950s.

Sandstone has not been frequently used as a material since 1910, perhaps because other, harder-wearing, stone has

become comparatively cheaper to import into the district and/or engrave or more affordable.

Condition of Inscriptions

The condition of monuments is naturally affected by their position, the best-preserved being found in positions sheltered by the church, a hedge, or another monument.

The material also had a great affect upon the condition of the monument: the following table shows the number of inscriptions in each category, followed by the average date of dated inscriptions in each category.

Discussion

The large number of marble monuments with "mainly decipherable" descriptions is due to this being the favoured stone for cremation plaques, which are smaller and more shallowly carved than other forms of monument.

Table (6) Methods used for Inscriptions

Method	No	Conins	Dates	Material
Applied Bronze letter	1	1	1969	Black Marble
Applied Lead letter	1	2	1922	White Marble
Applied Metal letter	3	1	1971-1980	Granite (Red/Dark Grey/Grey)
Applied Yellow Metal letter	1	1	1975	Black Marble
Applied Plastic Metal letter Coated	3	1.6	1971-1982	Grey Granite, Black Marble
Metal plate (incised)	1	1	1984	Wood
Brass plate (incised)	1	3	1921	Concrete
Incised	169	2.3	1738-1986	Limestone, Sandstone {Grey/Red-Brown/Red/ unspecified} Wood Granite (Light/ Red-Brown/White/ unspecified) Marble (Dark/White/ White-Grey/ unspecified) Grey stone
Incised, metal filled	1	1	1980	Limestone
Incised, metal filled,	1	1	1817	Sandstone painted
Incised, metal filled, painted Black	11	1.3	1816-1985	Granite (Grey/ Black/unspecified) Sandstone Marble (White/Black/ Grey) Limestone Granite (Black/Grey/ Dark/Red) Marble (Dark Grey/ Black) Limestone Grey Granite
Incised, metal filled, painted Gold	10	1.4	1960-1978	Black Marble
Incised, metal filled, painted Silver	1	2	1949	Limestone metal filled
Incised, metal filled, painted White	1	1	1973	Granite (Grey/ Red-Brown/Pink/ Red/Dark/unspecified) Marble (White/Grey/ unspecified) Ceramic Sandstone
Incised, yellow	1	1	1839	Granite (Red/White) painted
Incised, lead filled	66	2.1	1839-1969	White Marble painted Black Dark Granite painted Gold
Incised, lead filled,	2	2	1950-1955	Wood
Incised, lead filled,	1	2	1942	
Incised, lead filled,	1	2	1947	
Pattern of nails	1	1	undated	

With this taken into account, marble appears to be the hardest stone, followed by limestone, granite and sandstone. It is perhaps because of this that sandstone fell out of favour in this century.

Methods of Inscriptions:

The table below summarizes the methods of inscription, the number of each method recorded, the average condition of inscription (column headed "conins" where 1 = mint, 2 = worn, 3 = mainly legible, 4 = trace and 5 = illegible), the earliest and latest dates when the method has been used and the materials it has been used on.

Discussion

The traces of paint on early graves were found only on very sheltered sites: one side of one tomb, for example, which is up against the church wall, had near-mint condition paint. It is likely that some examples recorded as "Incised", or "Incised, lead filled" were originally painted. Black was probably the only colour used, as there is no example of early use of gold, silver or white paint. The dark stones which these paints occur are not dated before 1950.

The Number of People commemorated
The majority of monuments commemorate one or two people (167 and 94 monuments, respectively). These are found in all periods and represent 41% and 47% of people. Three people are commemorated on 8 monuments, dating from 1801 to 1969, representing 6% of people. Four

people are buried on five monuments, dating from 1816 to 1923 representing 5% of people. Five people are commemorated on one monument dated 1812, representing 1% of people.

Discussion

The number of people commemorated on a single monument appears to be normally one or two, larger numbers have been known in the past, but are infrequent in this century.

Births

Results

Table (7) Births recorded on gravestones

1685-1689 M
1690-1694
1695-1699
1700-1704
1705-1709
1710-1714
1715-1719
1720-1724
1725-1729
1730-1734 FM
1735-1739
1740-1744
1745-1749
1750-1754 FM
1755-1759
1760-1764 FFM
1765-1769 FF
1770-1774 FMM
1775-1779 FFMM
1780-1784 FM
1785-1789 FFM
1790-1794
1795-1799 FFM
1800-1804 FM
1805-1809 FMM
1810-1814 FFM
1815-1819 FMM
1820-1824 FFM
1825-1829 FFM
1830-1834 FFM
1835-1839 FFM
1840-1844 FFM
1845-1849 FFM
1850-1854 M
1855-1859 FFM
1860-1864 FFM
1865-1869 FFM
1870-1874 FFM
1875-1879 FFM
1880-1884 FFM
1885-1889 FFM
1890-1894 FFM
1895-1899 FFM
1900-1904 FFM
1905-1909 FFM
1910-1914 FFM
1915-1919 FFM
1920-1924 FFM
1925-1929 FFM
1930-1934 FM
1935-1939 FFM
1940-1944
1945-1949 FF
1950-1954 M
1955-1959
1960-1964 M
1965-1969 M
1970-1974 F
1975-1979 M

F = Female
M = Male

1980-1984 FM ? = Sex not clear

It is important to note that this information merely represents the information on surviving stones, and not the number of people born in the parish or who died in it.

One would however, expect the same number of stones to survive for both sexes, providing they were erected to both sexes without prejudice. However, this is clearly not the case. The Attwell-Fletcher test was run, assuming a null hypothesis that the same number of stones are erected/survive for both sexes. The following occurrences were beyond the 5% significance level:

1805-1809: the births of 1 girl and 6 boys are recorded,
1890-1894: the births of 18 girls and 2 boys are recorded,
1915-1919: the births of 1 girl and 7 boys are recorded.

Discussion

The unusual proportion of births in the period 1805-1809 must be due to the vagaries of preservation. Overall in the period pre-1850 51 men were born compared with 45 women.

The "missing" boys from 1890-94 are almost certainly the eleven men who are recorded on a plaque on the memorial hall as having died during the Great War 1914-18. During the war their ages would have ranged from 20 to 28.

The hall also records the names of the two village men who lost their lives during the Second World War (1939-45). They would probably have been born in the period 1908-1928. There are, in fact, "missing" women rather than men during this period and, indeed, during most of the twentieth century.

The additional longevity of women may account for this in part, but as the trend is seen as far back as 1900, this is unlikely to totally account for them all. It is possible that Bradwell has seen an effective female de-population, with more women moving/marrying out of the parish than moved/married in. Or perhaps more men have moved into the parish than have moved out.

Age at Death

Discussion

The general trend observed in the churchyard data echos that for Britain as a whole: people are living longer, and women are living longer than men.

Most other observations probably reflect the nature of the data rather than demographic considerations: for example the peak in infant's deaths in the period 1875-1899 may be due to more notice being taken of children's deaths in this period.

Table (8) Comparison of child deaths expressed as percentage of deaths

Deaths 0 - 4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	%
1800 - 1824	_____												
1825 - 1849	_____												
1850 - 1874	_____												
1875 - 1899	_____												
1900 - 1924	_____												
1925 - 1949	_____												
1950 - 1974	_____												
1975 +	_____												

Month of Death

Table (9) showing the month of death compared to age at death

Age:	0-4	5-14	15-29	30-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	TOTAL
January	0	0	0	3	1	5	10	10	29
February	0	0	2	3	2	2	11	3	23
March	2	1	1	4	5	4	6	4	27
April	2	1	2	0	3	5	10	5	28
May	2	0	2	4	2	2	3	7	21
June	2	1	2	0	0	9	7	7	28
July	0	1	1	0	4	4	3	3	16
August	1	0	0	2	0	5	4	9	21
September	1	0	3	1	1	1	10	4	21
October	1	0	0	0	3	3	10	4	21
November	3	1	1	5	2	3	4	2	21
December	3	1	2	3	3	7	8	5	32
TOTAL	17	6	15	25	26	50	86	57	282

None of these distributions was statistically significant.

Table (10) showing the month of death compared to the year of death

MONTH:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
YEARS:													
1800-1824	1	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	12
1825-1849	1	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	14
1850-1874	2	1	1	2	1	3	1	0	2	1	4	1	19
1875-1899	2	3	6	6	2	4	0	0	3	4	3	0	33
1900-1924	3	4	4	5	4	3	2	4	1	1	3	4	38
1925-1949	6	3	5	3	7	2	3	4	3	7	2	6	51
1950-1974	8	6	3	4	3	9	8	9	7	10	4	13	84
1975+	5	5	5	5	4	7	2	4	5	1	7	9	59

Again, none of these distributions proved to be statistically significant. However, the distribution of deaths in the last quarter of the 19th century looked irregular, and the rough guide of probability provided in the Attwell-Fletcher test gave the following likelihood:

Month:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Deaths:	2	3	6	6	2	4	0	0	3	4	3	0
Likelihood	21	52	5	7	30	26	4	6	51	29	50	6%

This, although not a rigorous test, seemed to warrant further investigation.

The sample was obviously too small to test statistically, when broken down into this form. However, the increase in deaths in February, March and April, and the decrease in the latter part of the year seemed to be particularly echoed in the

Table (11) showing the month of death compared to age at death for deaths in the period 1875-1899

Month:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
10-19	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-29	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
30-39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40-49	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
50-59	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
60-69	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
70-79	1	3	1	4	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

pattern of deaths for children under 10 and people over 60. The above table was therefore summarised:

	January/April	May/August	September/December
<=9 or >=60	15	3	6
10-59	2	3	4

During the last quarter of the 19th century, the number of deaths in January/April of people <=9 or >=60 was above the 95% significance level, and the number of deaths in May/August was below the 5% significance level.

The old and young tend to die in winter, tend not to die in summer, and die as a random distribution would expect in autumn. The "untimely" die randomly through the year.

Discussion

These results provoke two questions: firstly, why should the young and old have a different pattern of death to the rest of the population? Secondly, why should this only occur during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and not at any other period?

It seems likely that the cold and reduced food of winter would further weaken the susceptibility of the old and young to potentially fatal diseases. But one would expect winter would have this affect in all periods, or at least until heath-care techniques and availability improved. The pattern probably does not show in other periods because of the small samples involved.

Family Groupings

Using the data on the stones it has been possible to draw up 24 family trees. There is no instance where lineage can be positively linked between more than two generations. Most links between two generations come from the 15 graves of infants and children where the names of parents are given.

Parents' names are given for married women in 2 cases.

There are five groups of graves which are within their own palings. These are: (number refers to monument number) Group 1/ north-west of the church

- 164 William Battams d. 1883
- 165 Undecipherable
- 166 William Battams d.1855

- 167 Undecipherable
- 168 George Battams d. 1902
- 169 John Battams
- 170 Elizabeth Battams d. 1826
- 171 Mary Battams d. 18??
- 172 Robert Battams d. 1850
- 173 Robert Battams d. 1828

Group 2/ north-east of the church

- 178 Isaac d. 1804
- 179 William James Baily d. 1862
 - Elizabeth Baily d. 1869
 - Ruth Baily d. 1834
 - John Baily d. 1816
- 180 Anne Baily d. 1801
 - William Baily d. 1802
 - Charlotte Baily d. 1801
- 181 Joseph Key Baily d. 1817
 - Celia Baily d. 1859
 - Elizabeth Baily d. 1823
- 182 Ann Tillcock (nee Baily) d. 1823

The remaining groups lie on a line north of the church. 241, a single memorial, also within its own palings, also lies on this line. It commemorates Ashfield Harries d. 1925 and Rose Ashfield Harries, d. 1910.

Group 3

- 218 Mary Adnitt d. 1918
- 221 Robert Wylie d. 1919
 - Sarah Emily Wylie d. 1906
- 225 Robert Murray Wylie d. 1939
- 226 Elizabeth Wylie d. 1955
 - John Alexander Wylie d. 1950
- 228 Charles Ernest Wylie d. 1956
 - Maud Gertrude Wylie d. 1955

Group 4

- 230 Charles Cherwode Baily d. 1914
- 231 Arthur James Baily d. 1933
- 232 Joseph Baily d. 1909
- 233 Kitelee Chandos Baily d. 1921
- 234 William Oakley Baily d. 1902
- 235 Emma Sarah Baily d. 1919

Group 5

- 236 Jane Martha Duncan d. 1880
- 238 William George Duncan d. 1876

These represent the only occurrences of these names.

It is evident that the new section of the churchyard (monuments 1 - 86) and the cremations (monuments 243 upwards) have been filled in sequence as time went on, and no family groupings can have appeared. A family group is said to exist when more than two monuments to people with the same surname are found adjacent, and none are found which are not adjacent (excluding, of course monuments in the new or cremations sections). Two groups do not fit in with this definition (James and Millward), but have been included in the following list for reasons explained below.

List of Family Groups, with monument numbers

- Bird 205, 205
- Cooper 194, 195, 196
- Delafield 198, 200
- Ebbs 96, 97
- French 138, 140
- Higgins 103, 105, 106, 111
- James 102, 104, 108, 108, 118, 119. The one James not buried in this group (145) was an infant.
- Linnell 286, 287
- Millward 89, 90, 91, 92, 93.
- Three Millwards (mother, father and daughter) are buried at 150, the earliest death being of the daughter who died age 4.
- Surridge 114, 115
- Timms 210, 211
- Tite 189, 193
- Townsend 99, 101, 112

These groupings represent 68% of all possible groups. Where a group is taken to mean 3 or more memorials, they represent 100% of all possible groups.

Discussion

The groupings within palings tend to be of people with the same names, and in one of the occurrences where the person does not (Tillcock), the memorial makes it clear that her maiden name was the same as the rest of the group. It might be suggested therefore that Adnitt is the married name of a Wylie.

As the palings and separate portion of the churchyard cost money, the groups are probably those of the "best" families of Bradwell. A number of the men in these groups are recorded as J.P.'s and M.P.'s which tends to confirm this. Documentary confirmation is provided by various sources. The Posse Cometatus lists John Baily as a gentleman. The only other man of that station is Isaac King, and it is tempting, though not proveable, to link this name with the Isaac who is buried in the Baily's area. Kelly's directory of 1903 lists Kitelee Chandos Baily as vicar and Robert Wylie as a farmer (not, however, gentry).

It appears that less important families were also buried in groups. The separate burial of the young James and Millward in the same area focuses attention upon that area.

Burial of the Young

The age and date of the first burial noted for a row of memorials leading back from the path in the south of the churchyard:

Memorial No.	Age	Date
145	12	1908
146	5 days	1984
148	6 weeks	1911
149	3 month	1926
150	4	1898

Other children are buried at other places:

In the new section; 11, 21, 76, 81

Buried within a family group identified above; 91, 138

Buried in grave previously used by member of family; 113, 163

Cremated; 248, 276

Isolated, but becoming focus of a family group; 97, 127,

" " " a family grave 158, 205

Isolated burials; 121, 124, 161, 204, 225

Discussion

There appears to be an area set aside for the burial of the young. It is still in use. Perhaps because an "adult" plot was purchased, adults may subsequently be buried there.

The apparently isolated graves of children may, in the cases of 121, 161, relate to earlier family groups with no memorials extant.

It appears that sometimes children are treated as "different", meriting burial in a special part of the churchyard, others treat children as full members of the community, burying them with the family group, or in the chronological placement of the new section. The age of child at death and

date of death do not appear to have any affect on this division.

The subsequent burial of adults in infant's graves, and the burial of infants in adult's graves may reflect economies or a belief that it is "proper" for children to be buried near their parents.

Bibliography

Attwell, M. and Fletcher, M. An Analytical Technique for Investigation Spatial Relationships in Journal of Archaeological Science Volume 14 Number 1 January 1987

Jones, Jeremy How to record graveyards edited by Phillip Rahtz Third edition Council For British Archaeology and RESCUE 1984

Mynard, D C St. Lawrence's Church, Bradwell 1981

Rahtz, Phillip The archaeology of the Churchyard in The archaeological study of churches (eds. P V Addyman and R K Morris) CBA Research Report 13 pp 41-5

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT - REPORT FOR 1990

Compiled and edited by Brian Dix

INTRODUCTION

The year 1990 saw an increase in public awareness of the work of the Unit, chiefly through the Education and Interpretation projects but also by the broadcast of a television documentary on the pioneer work in garden-archaeology at Kirby Hall and from widespread interest in excavations at the site of the Guildhall extension in central Northampton. At the same time appreciation increased of the extent to which archaeology has become an important dimension of planning and future development.

While the year was one of achievement, it was also characterised by challenge and change. The transfer of the Archaeology Unit to the county Planning and Transportation Department has required adaptation to working within a major technical department, but many aspects of work now benefit from the close relationship with others similarly involved in the resolution of conflict over land-use change. The increased opportunities for co-operation and for sharing ideas provide a stimulating framework for carrying out the advices contained in PPG 16 and thereby promote an effective management of the county's archaeological resource. In the next year detailed attention must be given to the definition of an historic environment strategy and the formulation of a business plan with medium and long term objectives.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD IN 1990

Christine Addison

Work recommenced in earnest on the Sites and Monuments Record following the appointment of a full-time SMR worker in January 1990. The backlog of work which had accumulated during the previous eighteen months still remains to be cleared however, and is one of the major tasks to be undertaken during 1991.

The Monument Protection Programme comprised the main bulk of the SMR work during 1990. Thirty-seven monument classes have now been assessed, including the major religious houses, round and long barrows, deserted and shrunken medieval villages, and castles. None of the sites identified for protection has yet been formally scheduled as part of the Programme. The amount of feedback generated for updating of the SMR by MPP has still to be properly assessed, but is likely to be considerable.

The remainder of the work on the database has concentrated on the completion of the Aerial Photography Index, excluding those photos from the summer 1990 flying programme, which are still to be printed. (Storage

conditions in the Unit, or lack of them, have necessitated that from 1991 the National Monuments Record Air Photo Unit in Swindon will hold all the Unit's photographic negatives.)

The cropmark plotting programme was suspended in all but urgent cases during 1990, largely because of hardware/software incompatibility. The SMR has recently acquired a new plotter, however, and it is hoped that a more systematic approach to cropmark plotting will be undertaken in 1991.

Following the publication of most of the District/Borough Councils' Local Plans, initial meetings have taken place to set into production a series of "Constraints Maps" which eventually will cover the whole of the county. In addition to indicating all Scheduled Ancient Monuments these will highlight all other sites of major importance in the county. They will also show sites of lesser importance and in the long term should be an invaluable tool for effective forward planning by local authorities. Kettering District is to be taken as the initial pilot study area.

The identification of several "weak areas" within the SMR, most notably perhaps including Industrial Archaeology and gardens/landscape parks, has necessitated an evaluation of priorities for future research. In the pursuit of broadening the scope of the SMR, the Unit hopes to play an active role in establishing a Northamptonshire Gardens Trust; one of the main aims will be to undertake systematic and detailed survey of gardens and parks within the county. The potential for the enhancement of the SMR by such initiatives will continue to be explored in the future, including forging links with local Industrial Archaeology groups, etc.

A review of the limitations of the current SMR database has highlighted the need for considerable upgrading of the present system, and this aspect will be pursued during 1991. Upgrading should permit a more efficient input/output exchange with effective cross-referencing which will ease usage of the Record.

A considerable number of enquiries of the SMR were made by the general public in early 1990, following extensive publicity of the services offered by the Unit. About half of the parishes in the county were targetted and while demand for information has now fallen off, a steady trickle of visitors to the Unit is maintained. SMR services to the general public and research students continue to be free of charge.

The growth of developer-funding and the concomitant employment of archaeological contract services has resulted in a large number of SMR enquiries of a commercial nature; it seems unlikely that there will be any fall off in this line of enquiry. While such consultants have hitherto been charged a basic rate for SMR services, an adequate scale of charges for work of this nature has yet to be established.

The SMR expanded its office space considerably towards the end of the year, not only easing the steady progress of current work through the system, but by its open-plan layout

also rendering the SMR more accessible for enquirers. To the same end a leaflet, "A Users Guide to the SMR", was produced early in 1990.

FIELDWORK AND RELATED OBSERVATIONS

Aldwinckle, St Peter's Church

(TL 0061 8185) - G Cadman

Three test pits adjacent to the north and south aisles and the southern side of the chancel were investigated prior to the construction of a new external drainage system. The presence of a previous stone drain was noted. A watching brief is to be maintained during construction of the new drain.

Barnwell, Barnwell Castle

(TL 9486 8519 - TL 0499 8520) - G Cadman and B Giggins

The excavation during November 1990 of a pipe-trench across the lawn to the east and south of the castle reportedly exposed a brick and stone yard surface, a cobbled path and a concentration of large coursed limestone - possibly part of a demolished wall.

Benefield, Biggin Hall

(TL 011891) - G Cadman, G Johnston and S Upex

Two possibly three stone-lined drains or culverts were temporarily breached by a pipe-trench opened immediately to the east of the Hall. The one accessible drain had a barrel-vaulted roof and measured internally 0.65m high by 0.76m wide. It was explored by potholers for some distance in either direction along its north-west to south-east alignment. Though undated, the individual drains are suspected to be contemporary with use of the adjacent hall.

At the northern end of the pipe-trench and overlying the natural clay at a depth of 0.55m was a layer of silt clay from which a small quantity of late twelfth- and thirteenth-century pottery was recovered. This may relate to the site of the documented medieval Biggin Grange.

Benefield, Lyveden Old Bield

(SP 9816 8584) - G Cadman

Ongoing watching brief during constructional and landscaping works has led to several post-medieval and later elements being recorded, including, during 1990, a stone drain and a small pit. A quantity of medieval crested roof-tile which was recovered is retained by the owner.

Brackley, BP Filling Station

(SP 5939 3855) - G Cadman

Early in December 1990 a local metal detector user, Mr J Possinger, discovered human bones on the site of a new BP

filling station under construction adjacent to the junction of Northampton Road and the A43 bypass to the north of Brackley. No previous archaeological discoveries are recorded in this field though Mr Possinger had previously found and reported a sixteenth-century ring and a small hoard of twelfth-century silver pennies a short distance to the north (cf *Northamptonshire Archaeol.* 21 (1986-7), p 157).

Subsequent archaeological salvage works, assisted by Mr Possinger, identified vestigial features around the periphery of the construction site. They included pits from some of which Iron Age pottery was recovered. With the support of the contractors, D. J. Duncan of Leicester, an area of surviving subsoil close to the site's eastern margin was machine-stripped and the remains of six shallow graves, together with several other features, were hurriedly recorded and excavated. Although the human skeletal remains were generally poorly preserved, having suffered modern compaction and disturbance, they were sufficiently intact to determine a variety of burial postures. In one instance the burial lay face downwards with the legs slightly flexed and the arms crossed at the wrists behind the back. This individual partly overlay a second skeleton with a reversed orientation. Apart from some small, probably residual, sherds of Iron Age pottery there was no material to assist with dating the graves. Together with unstratified bone a total of at least nine or ten individuals appears to have been interred. The limits of this small cemetery are uncertain and await future clarification.

Brackley

(c SP 579 384) - G Cadman

Fieldwalking in January 1990 on potential development land to the west of Brackley identified medieval and post-medieval manuring scatters together with a small quantity of Saxon pottery.

Brackley, 53A Goose Green

(SP 5838 3659) - G Cadman

Imported levelling deposits up to 1.50m deep were observed on a hillside location during redevelopment and suggest the absence or total destruction of medieval activity within this property situated at the southern fringe of the town.

Brixworth, County Park

(SP 7537 6948) - G Cadman

A small quantity of unstratified Roman and later pottery was recovered during construction of the new Country Park. Metal detecting search by D Derby and S Pulley retrieved 20 miscellaneous metal objects and 6 third- and fourth-century Roman coins.

Daventry, Borough Hill
(SP 5875 6220) - G Cadman

A watching brief conducted in November and December 1990 during the excavation of cable and drainage trenches immediately north of the BBC Transmitting Station confirmed that, despite the high level of modern disturbance close to the station, recent levelling dumps have served to bury some areas of former plough- /subsoil. From one such area around 100 sherds of Iron Age pottery, probably all from a single vessel, were retrieved from the fill of a cut feature at least 6m wide. All of the observed trenches lay well within the hillfort's defences.

Daventry, Holy Cross churchyard
(SP 576 626) - B Dix

A complete record of the memorials in Daventry parish churchyard was commissioned by the district council. The majority of the 1260 or so individual memorials dated from the period c 1830-1960, although 32 survived from the eighteenth century. Of the total number of stones 295 were illegible, but the remainder commemorated some 2144 persons. Biographical details of the deceased were shown to have been recorded in numerous instances.

Several types of stone had been used for the memorials. Ironstone and sandstone were common at the earliest dates in addition to limestone which was augmented by slate in the early nineteenth century before being largely superseded by artificial stones. Granite and imported marbles had been frequently chosen in the present century.

Fawsley Dower House
(SP 570 578) - M Audouy

Archaeological recording was carried out on behalf of the Hon Nicholas Gage during the course of repairs to the stair-turret at the sixteenth-century brick lodge in Fawsley Park. The work revealed details of the original construction together with evidence of flooring and subsequent restoration.

Geddington, St Mary Magdalene's Church
(SP 8952 8302) - C Addison

Limited excavation was undertaken in the thirteenth-century aisle of the church of St Mary Magdalene, Geddington during June 1990. This followed the disturbance of layers containing large quantities of human bone during the removal of rotting floor timbers. The floor of the church was last replaced in the 1900s.

The highly disturbed layer beneath the floor possibly dates from those repairs or, more likely, from the major renovation of the church in 1857. The matrix of sandy clay, mortar and burnt clay with charcoal patches, contained fragments of clay tobacco-pipes, glass bottles and some eighteenth- to

nineteenth-century pottery as well as large quantities of bone. At a depth of approximately 0.30m disturbance was less evident, giving way to a well consolidated yellow-brown sandy clay layer with inclusions of the same late date range. Removal of this layer in some areas of the floor had revealed three brick-built vaults up to 0.70m deep, covered by large, flat, rough-hewn fragments of limestone.

Collapse during the repair work had largely infilled both of the westernmost vaults, but the easternmost was cleaned for recording purposes. The vault was 2.1m long x 0.58m wide x 0.64m deep and contained two wooden coffins. The uppermost, a child's coffin, was the better preserved, although there were no visible remains of a body within. It had collapsed into the remains of the adult's coffin, which may have been bound with a woven fabric and was elaborately decorated with bronze rivets. The adult skeleton was articulated and in good condition. No other finds were recovered from the vault. The brickwork of all the vaults suggests a late date, probably of the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries, if not nineteenth-century.

Some of the overlying sandy layer was removed around the vaults and found to extend to a depth of at least 0.10m. A similar exercise was carried out beneath the arches of the south aisle in the hope of being able to trace the foundations of the south wall of the original Anglo-Saxon church. Large fragments of limestone, often pitched, were indeed found along this alignment, but appeared to have been badly disturbed by the post-medieval renovation work. No dating evidence was recovered and it seems likely that the stones had collapsed from the foundations of the pillar-bases forming the south aisle.

Removal of some of the uniform sandy layer in the area around the foundation of the arch pillars did however reveal another burial, oriented east-west and located at the south-east corner of the easternmost pillar base - though no relationship could be determined. About half of the oval grave was uncovered, including the head and top left side of the body. Three limestone fragments supported the skull. The grave was a minimum of 0.14m deep and vertically sided. No datable finds were found in its fill.

As far as possible all the exposed features were left intact. Following recording, the large stone covers were replaced across the vaults and a layer of sand spread over the area before a hardcore foundation was laid. The area was then concreted prior to the setting of the new wooden floor.

Great Doddington, Wilby Way
(SP 8809 6589) - P O'Hara

Following prior evaluation, which had denoted the existence of important settlement remains dating from the middle to late Iron Age periods (cf SMA 20 (1990), p 35), detailed archaeological recording was undertaken on behalf of Welland Homes (East) Ltd in advance of proposed roundabout construction. A series of enclosures, ranging in date from towards the close of the first millennium BC until

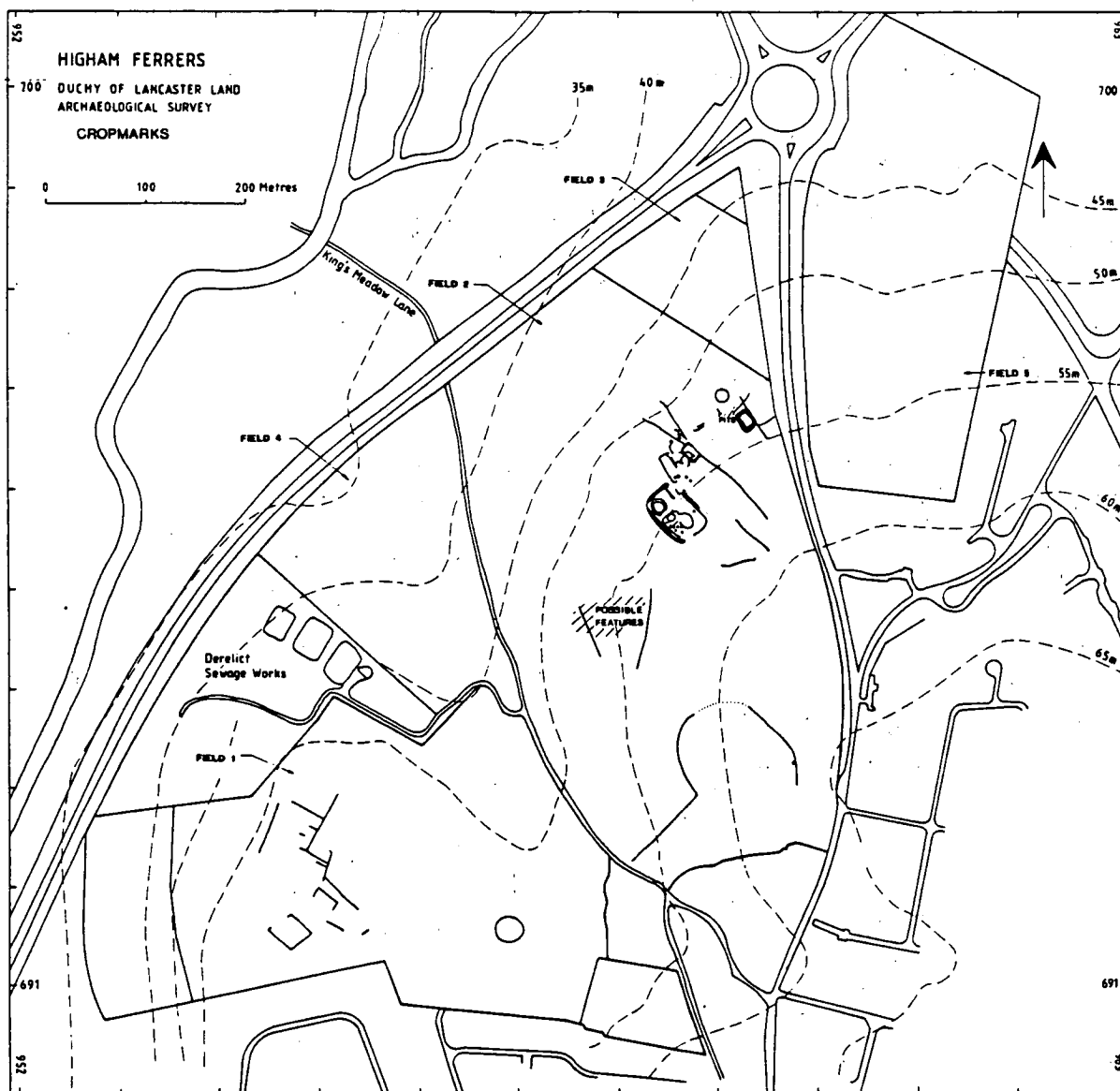


Fig. 1.

about the third quarter of the first century AD, included one which had been defended by a massive ditch, up to 6m wide and 3m deep. A group of linear boundaries and a small animal pen probably formed part of an adjacent field-system.

Gretton, Kirby Hall (SP 925 927) - B Dix

Continued exploration of the series of historic gardens (cf *SMA* 19 (1989), pp 25-7 and 20 (1990), p 36) involved the recovery of details of an hitherto lost wing of the late Elizabethan/Jacobean mansion, together with other structural aspects, and the investigation of disturbed graves and church-remains on the Mount in the South Terrace. Further excavation is planned in 1991 to investigate the bridge-cum-dam across the Kirby Brook where details of its seventeenth-century canalisation and an existing watergate have already been recorded.

Higham Ferrers

(centred on SP 958 694) - M Shaw and S Steadman

Secondary evaluation was carried out for the Duchy of Lancaster in September and October 1990 on a block of land, c 40ha in area, comprising five fields to the north of Higham Ferrers. Systematic fieldwalking in 1989 had revealed a dense concentration of Roman pottery at the west end of Field 1, a minor concentration of early to middle Saxon pottery towards the centre of Field 1, and a major concentration of early to middle Saxon, late Saxon and medieval pottery at the southern end of Field 2 (cf *SMA* 20 (1990), p 38). In addition a detailed plot of croplmarks in the area was compiled. These comprised: linear enclosure ditches in the area of the Roman pottery concentration; a possible ring ditch towards the east end of Field 1; a large oval enclosure, c 1ha in area, in the vicinity of the major Saxon pottery concentration in Field 2; and rectangular enclosures, linear boundaries, ring ditches and pits at the north end of Field 2.

The work in 1990 comprised magnetometer survey and trial trenches across the fieldwalking and cropmark sites. Magnetometer survey of an area of 0.72ha of the Roman concentration in Field 1 revealed a possible ditched trackway crossing the area on the same alignment as the linear enclosure ditches. Trial trenches across the western side of the trackway uncovered a series of layers of metallurgy, confirming its identification. Further trial trenches were excavated to investigate surface scatters of limestone within the areas of the pottery concentration. Stone wall footings, floor surfaces, a hearth and postholes with limestone packing were revealed. The associated pottery has a date-range from the second to fourth centuries AD. Trial trenches within both the minor early to middle Saxon pottery concentration and the possible ring ditch in Field 1 failed to uncover any related features, apart from a shallow, square pit or cellar of late medieval date in the area of the possible ring ditch.

An area of 3.2ha was surveyed by magnetometer at the southern end of Field 2, including all of the oval enclosure. Subsequently trial trenches were excavated in the area of the Saxon and medieval pottery concentrations and across the ditch of the oval enclosure. Ditches, pits, postholes and slots of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date were revealed. The oval enclosure appears to be of Saxon date.

Trial trenches at the northern end of Field 2 confirmed the presence of features in the area of the cropmarks. All appear to date to the middle to late Iron Age.

Irchester

(SP 9148 6679 - SP 9191 6699) - G Cadman

Following the mechanical cleaning out of over 500m of a stream-bed located between Chester House and the River Nene two undated, tapering, stone fish-trap weights were recovered from the dredgings (centred on SP 9186 6695) along with 27 sherds of unstratified, mainly Roman, pottery and tile.

Irthlingborough, Station Road

(SP 9510 7088) - G Cadman and D Sutherland

Several sherds of medieval pottery were found during house construction, with traces of limestone features present at the terraced, western side of the site.

Middleton Cheney

(SP 4965 4140) - G Cadman

Following field survey of the line of a proposed bypass the Midland Archaeological Research Society (MARS) conducted a detailed metal detecting survey in a field reputed to be the site of a minor Civil War battle. Though a considerable quantity of recent metalwork was located and plotted, the survey found little evidence with which to confirm that an engagement had taken place in the field.

Northampton, 6 Peveril's Way

(SP 7342 6076) - G Cadman

Over 100 sherds of Belgic/Roman pottery, dating as a group to the late first and second centuries AD, were retrieved by the householder from "dark earth" exposed by construction trenches in his rear garden; the items are retained by the owner. The finds are presumably associated with the adjacent Roman town of Duston.

Northampton, 40-42 Abington Square

(SP 7613 6081) - G Cadman

A watching brief carried out in November 1990 during rebuilding on a site located a short distance outside the town's medieval defences recorded archaeological levels behind the site's destroyed northern frontage. Up to 1.30m of disturbed deposits overlay the natural Northampton Sand and appeared to be largely of post-medieval or later origin. Traces of possible earlier features were noted, with the earliest pottery dating to the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries.

Northampton, Church Lane

(SP 7540 6086) - G Cadman

Inspection of office development footings in May 1990 led to the recovery of a small quantity of thirteenth- to fourteenth-century pottery from a pit.

Northampton, Freeschool Street

(SP 7508 6038) - M Shaw, B Giggins and P O'Hara

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in July and August 1990 on a plot of land, 0.06ha in area, to the east of Freeschool Street. The area was scheduled as an ancient monument in 1988. Since it is situated immediately to the east of the middle Saxon timber and stone halls excavated by the Northampton Development Corporation Archaeological Unit between 1973 and 1985 it was thought to lie within the middle Saxon palace complex of which the halls formed the centrepiece. The area also contained most of the site of the medieval church of St Gregory's which may have originated as a chapel within the middle Saxon palace complex. The evaluation was intended to assess what form of development might be possible on the site without damage to the archaeological levels. It comprised: a survey of the present standing structures in the area (factory buildings of Victorian and later date) in order to establish the degree of survival of any remains of the church or the Free School which succeeded it; an examination of the locally accessible documentary evidence for the church and school; an accurate plan of cellars in the area, including checking by excavation, in order to assess the extent of destruction of archaeological levels; and the excavation of trial trenches in order to determine the survival of archaeological levels within the area of the church, in the churchyard and in an area to its north.

The documentary and architectural survey suggest that no remains of the church now survive above ground and that Victorian cellars have removed at least part of the remains below ground but the foundations of the tower and chancel may survive outside the cellared area. Stonework surviving above ground appears to be part of the Free School which was largely rebuilt in the 1840s.

The trial trenches established that cellars had removed all of the archaeological levels over most of the southern half of the site but that part of the graveyard of the church remains, while at the northern end Saxon and medieval deposits survive c 1.8m below the present ground surface.

Northampton, Guildhall Extension (SP 7562 6048) - M Shaw and S Steadman

Archaeological evaluation followed by full-scale excavation of a sample area was carried out between March and June 1990 immediately to the east of Northampton's Guildhall prior to the construction of the Guildhall extension. The work was financed by the Northampton Borough Council.

The site lay between two medieval streets, St Giles' Street at the south and Dychurch Lane to the north. Initially two evaluation trenches were excavated. One trench at right-angles to St Giles' Street, a major thoroughfare, showed that while medieval levels survived the immediate street-frontage had been lost due to later cellars. The other trench, at right-angles to Dychurch Lane, was more heavily disturbed. Stone wall footings, floor levels and part of a tiled floor attested to occupation on this frontage but an area of only c 4m² of archaeological levels survived, the remainder having been removed by Victorian cellars and pits. It was therefore decided to concentrate work upon the St Giles' Street frontage.

Accordingly a further trench was excavated immediately to the east of the preceding trial trench. The total area of the two trenches was c 200m². The earliest features were two large pits and two postholes, both probably of an eleventh-century date.

Subsequently a boundary ditch was excavated across the site at right-angles to St Giles' Street. This was later recut on a slightly different alignment. To the west of the ditch the remains of a posthole-structure were uncovered. To the east of the ditch less substantial structural remains were discovered. Further postholes possibly relate to a second

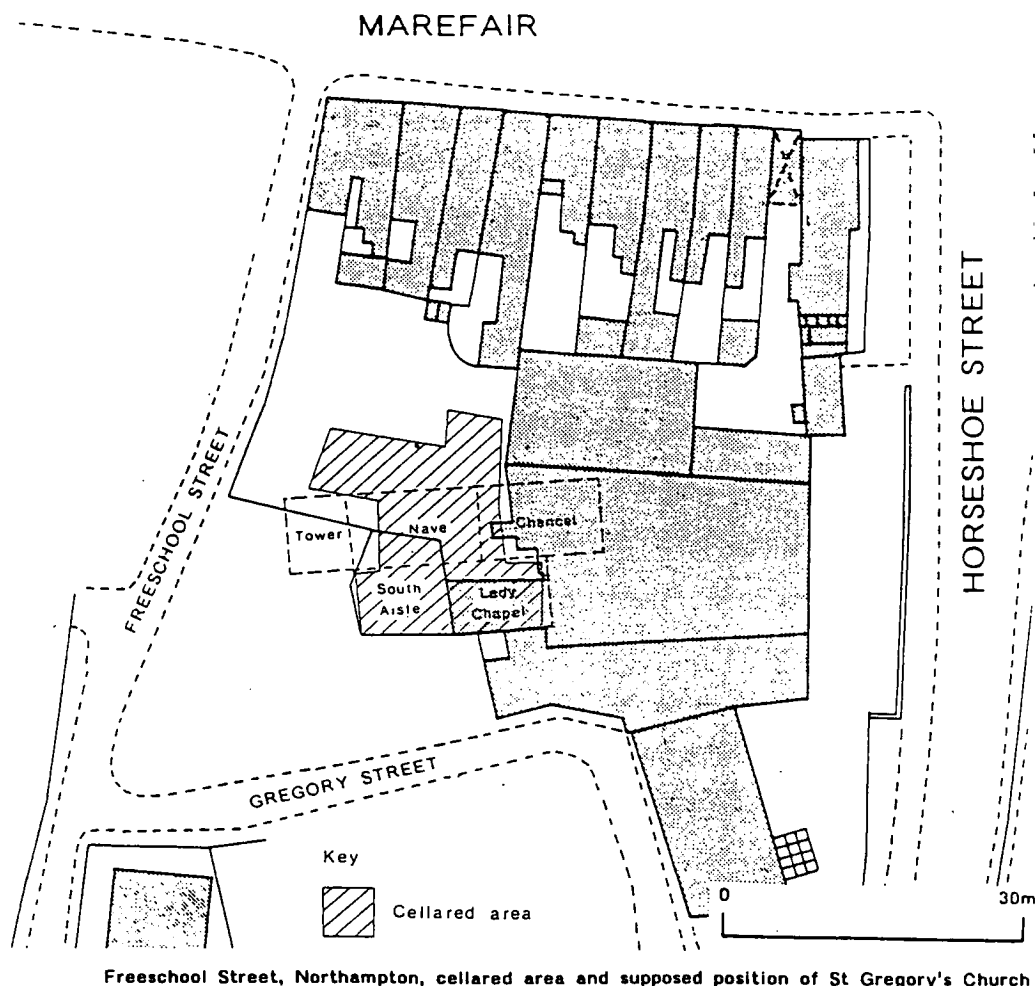


Fig. 2. Freeschool Street, Northampton.

phase of timber structures which may be connected with the recutting of the boundary ditch. This phase of activity is dated to the twelfth to thirteenth centuries.

A layer of stony, clay loam was laid over the remains of the posthole structures and the boundary ditch was replaced by a stone boundary wall c 3m to the east of the original boundary.

To the west of the boundary wall a stone-founded building was constructed. The front of the building had been lost due to the cellars along St Giles' Street but the back of the building survived, running at right-angles to the street for a distance of over 10m. Where the walls of the building were built over the backfilled pits of an earlier phase the footings were laid on top of large stone slabs set in a foundation trench, but elsewhere they were built directly on top of the stony layer. A build-up of c 0.3m of clay and sand floor levels and loamy occupation deposits survived within the building and three rooms divided by stone-founded walls could be identified. A possible stone-floored passageway, c 2m wide, was located on the east side of the building. The stone-founded building was constructed sometime after the mid-thirteenth century and probably went out of use by the early seventeenth century.

No evidence for a building was discovered to the east of the boundary wall, but it is likely that one formerly existed parallel to the street in the cellared area by the street frontage. Hence the excavated area is likely to have formed a yard behind such a building. Two large ovens were discovered at the southern edge of the site, pits occupied the central area and a corn-drying oven the northern end of the site.

Post-excavation work is proceeding on the site and it is hoped to publish a digest of the completed report in *Northamptonshire Archaeology*.

Northampton, St John's Street

(centred on SP 755 603) - M Shaw, P O'Hara and M Webster

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in December 1990 on a plot of land, 0.8 ha in area, bordered by St John's Street at the south, Fetter Street to the east, Angel Street to the north and the rear of properties fronting Bridge Street at the west. All these were streets within the medieval town, outside the area of the late Saxon town, and it was thought that deposits relating to the earliest occupation of this area might survive. The intention was to establish the extent and quality of preservation of any archaeological stratification rather than to excavate it. A survey of cellaring established that archaeological deposits on the Angel Street frontage were likely to have been largely destroyed. Trial trenches on the Fetter Street frontage, however, established that timber structures of probable twelfth-century date did survive and that there was the potential for recovery of complete tenement plans. Similarly, along the St John's Street frontage evidence for a timber structure of medieval date was recovered and here it had been replaced by a

stone-founded structure in the late medieval period. Again there was the potential for recovery of complete tenement plans. An evaluation report is currently being prepared for the owners of the site.

Outer Northampton, Brackmills Extension

(centred on SP 780 579) - M Shaw and T Sharman

Archaeological evaluation of an area of 250ha to the south of Northampton was carried out in January 1990 in order to assess the archaeological constraints on proposals for the extension of the area of the Brackmills Industrial Estate. The work was undertaken on behalf of the Commission for the New Towns. The area was divided into two parts, an Inner Zone of 130ha which lay towards the bottom of the Nene valley on an Upper Lias Clay subsoil and an Outer Zone on the sides and towards the top of the valley on a variable subsoil. Initially fieldwalking was carried out in the Inner Zone where the proposals for development were most pressing. No sites were discovered in this area. Two fields in the Outer Zone were fieldwalked. A minor concentration of early to middle Saxon pottery (10 sherds) was discovered in Field Bk 6 (SP 773 573). In Field Bk 7 (SP 794 581) large concentrations of Iron Age (270 sherds), early to middle Saxon (101 sherds) and medieval pottery (818 sherds) were recovered. The medieval concentration presumably indicates that the village of Great Houghton, which lies immediately to the north, once extended into this area.

Outer Northampton, King's Heath

(centred on SP 729 628) - M Shaw, P O'Hara and M Webster

Archaeological evaluation of an area of some 40ha to the north-west of King's Heath Housing Estate, Northampton, was carried out for the Northampton Borough Council between April and July 1990 in order to assess the archaeological constraints on any development proposals. This involved the plotting of cropmarks, fieldwalking, magnetometer survey and the excavation of trial trenches. A settlement of Middle-Late Iron Age date (possibly the second to first centuries BC), covering an area of c 15ha and surrounded by the remains of trackways and field systems, was discovered. It comprised rectangular enclosures of varying sizes, circular ditches which mark hut sites and linear ditches and rows of pits denoting trackways and boundaries. One enclosure with a particularly wide ditch (Enclosure 1) is of a type which it has been suggested represents the homestead of a local chieftain.

Passenham

- S Steadman

An evaluation in summer 1990 for RMC Technical Services Ltd of an area of proposed gravel extraction in the upper Gt Ouse valley identified a series of gravel "islands" within the alluvial floodplain and confirmed the presence on one of a prehistoric burial mound. The only other archaeological

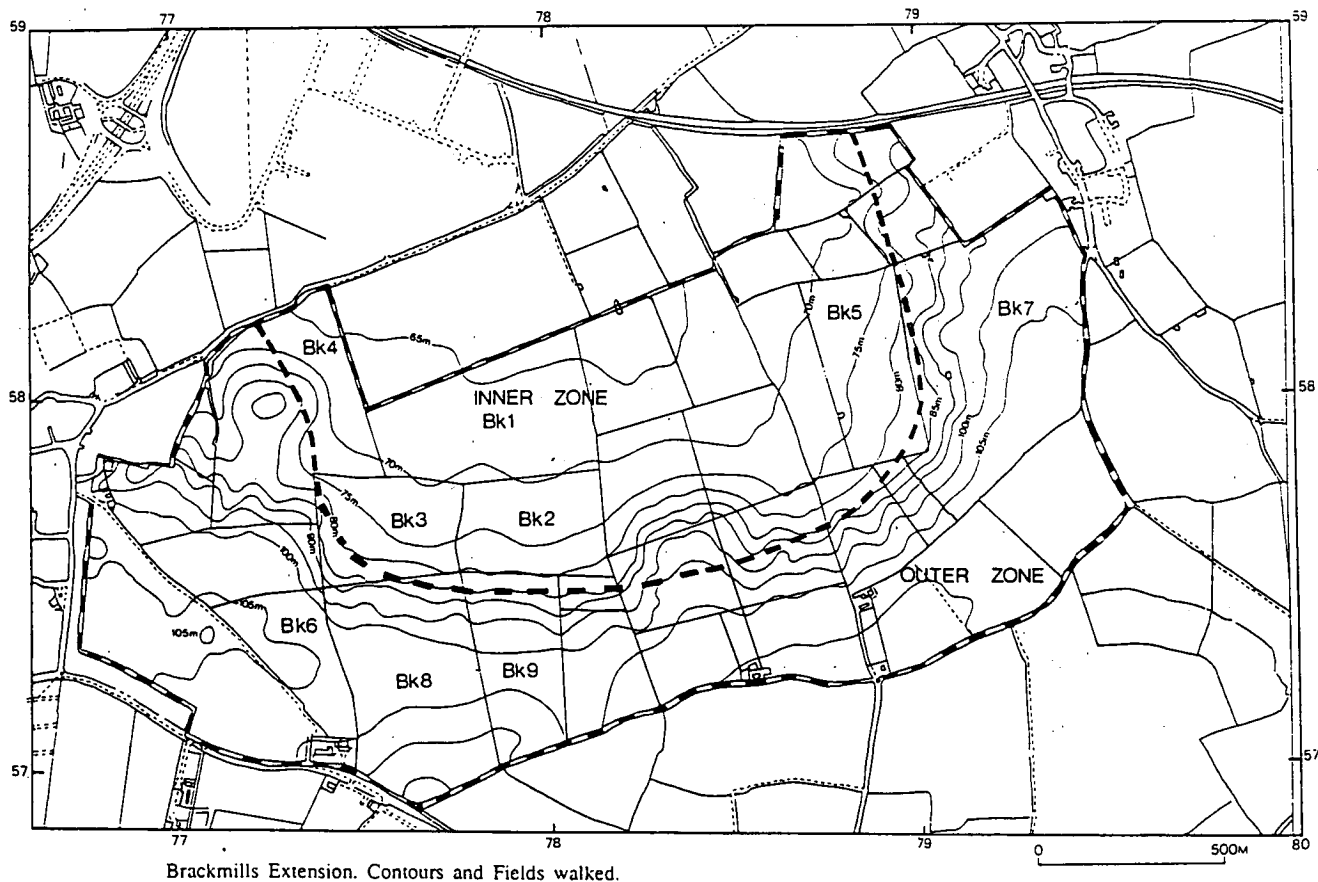


Fig. 3. Outer Northampton. Brackmills Extension.

features related to medieval or later agriculture and quarrying.

Raunds Survey

- S Parry with M Webster

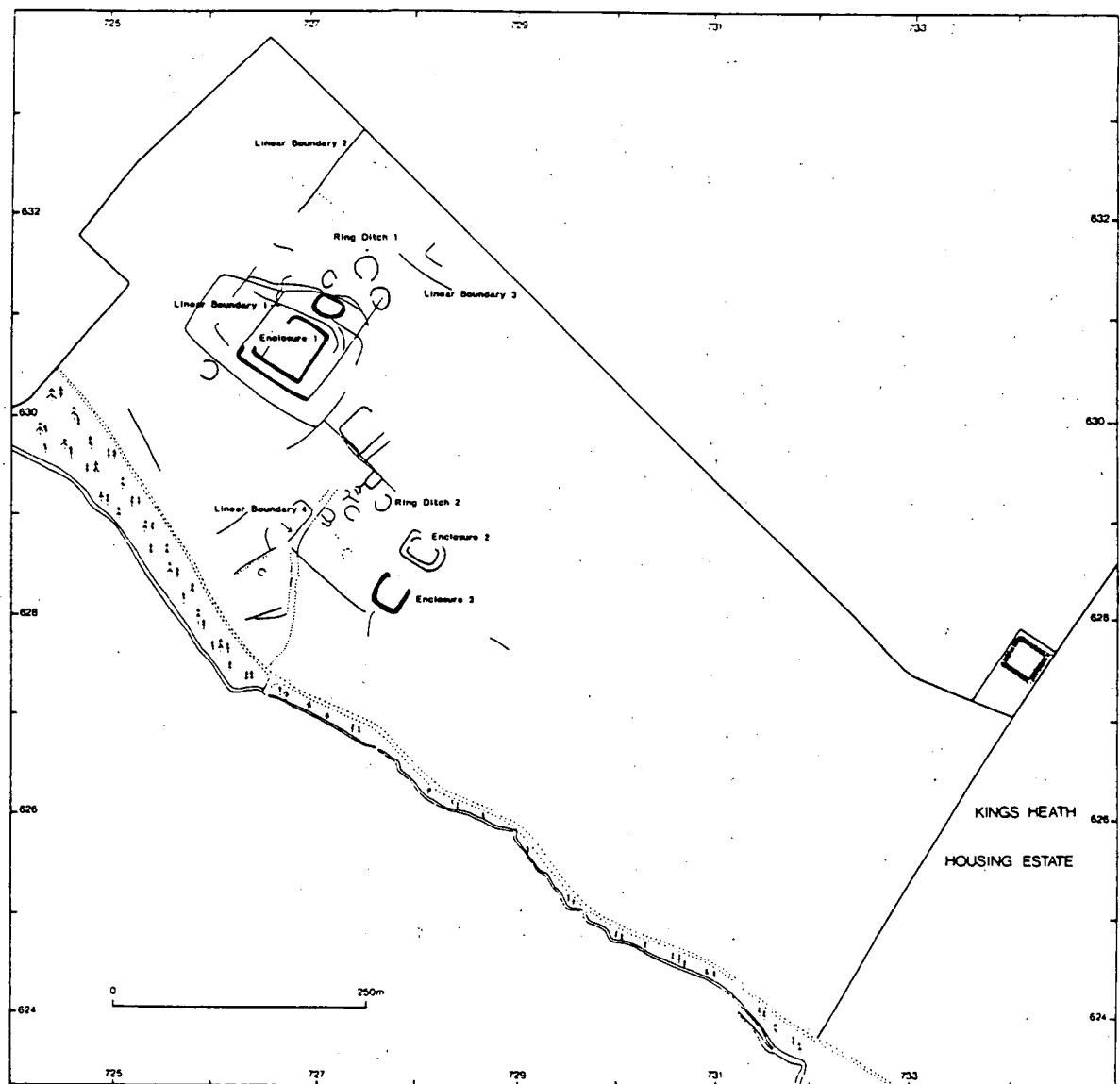
Autumn 1990 saw the completion of fieldwalking and the start of post-collection analysis. Some 2864 ha, representing 72% of the total study area, has been examined using traverses at 15m spacing (cf *SMA* 18 (1988), pp 49-50). Indeed, the kind co-operation of almost all the local farmers has meant that only 15ha of arable land were unavailable for survey. The reconnaissance identified some 70 sites of all periods. The work has been followed by more detailed investigations including the incorporation of cropmark evidence, magnetometer surveys and rescue-related excavation - the most recent work is described below. This has permitted an appreciation of some early prehistoric burial and ritual monuments, later Iron Age and Roman settlement patterns and the evolution of the medieval villages and hamlets.

The significance of early to middle Saxon surface scatters is less certain, however, as only in a few cases in Northamptonshire are features visible as cropmarks (but cf Higham Ferrers, above). Magnetometer surveys, based on a 1m grid have been carried out on four early to middle Saxon scatters in the Survey area but failed to reveal significant anomalies. Presumably this paucity of evidence is due to the

rarity of large boundary ditches and the small size of individual features. Blind acceptance that surface scatters directly relate to subsoil features requires validation and as an attempt to redress this lacuna, six surface scatters of varying size, density and location were chosen for investigation. The successful identification of features relating to settlement at Crow Hill, Irthlingborough and at Upton, to the west of Northampton (cf *SMA* 19 (1989) pp 27-8 and 20 (1990), pp 51-3 respectively), suggested that the excavation of long machine-cut trenches was a suitable method of investigation. The trenches were located in order to provide a balanced investigation of both the core of each surface scatter and its periphery. Where features were identified further excavation was carried out to allow adequate identification of the remains. The work was undertaken between July and early October 1990 in the period between harvest and ploughing. Excavation on permeable geologies in the valley was hampered by the drought-conditions which prevailed in summer, while only limited investigation could be carried on sites located upon Oxford Clay.

West Spinney, Denford (SP 9818 7640)

Some 168 early to middle Saxon sherds and six Ipswich ware sherds were collected during the main reconnaissance from a field located on the lower flanks of the valley side adjacent to the River Nene. Further intensive collection



King's Heath, Outer Northampton: Cropmarks

Fig. 4. Outer Northampton. King's Heath.

confirmed the high density of early to middle Saxon pottery on the field. In addition smaller quantities of Iron Age and Roman pottery were found, possibly associated with three rectilinear enclosures identified from cropmarks.

Excavation of 15 trenches was confined to the central and western parts of the field since the eastern portion was unavailable due to a different crop regime. Trenches across the cropmarks confirmed the presence of enclosure ditches containing Iron Age pottery. A number of aceramic postholes and small pits within the enclosures could have been contemporary. Despite the presence of dense surface scatters no early to middle Saxon pottery was found in the enclosures or to the east of enclosure A. However, immediately to the west of enclosure B three trenches revealed features containing early to middle Saxon pottery. One of the trenches was enlarged exposing a ditch some 0.8m deep, containing four Roman and 60 early to middle Saxon sherds, including one sherd with two diamond-shaped stamps. Adjacent to the ditch a group of postholes may denote the partially preserved remains of a

contemporary structure. Five of the postholes contained a total of 29 sherds of similar pottery, including one which was decorated with a rusticated pattern. An oval vertically-sided pit, some 0.48m deep, located 50m south-west of the structure contained a further 29 sherds of early to middle Saxon pottery. These features were located between the principal concentrations but not within them. The dense concentrations of pottery in the ploughsoil may have been caused by damage from later agricultural activity removing subsoil features. However, deeper features may be expected to have survived and this pattern could reflect deliberate dumping of domestic waste away from living areas.

Scalley Farm, Raunds (centre SP 9820 7320)

Investigations have continued between the deserted medieval village of Mallows Cotton and Scalley Farm where concentrations of Iron Age, Roman and early to

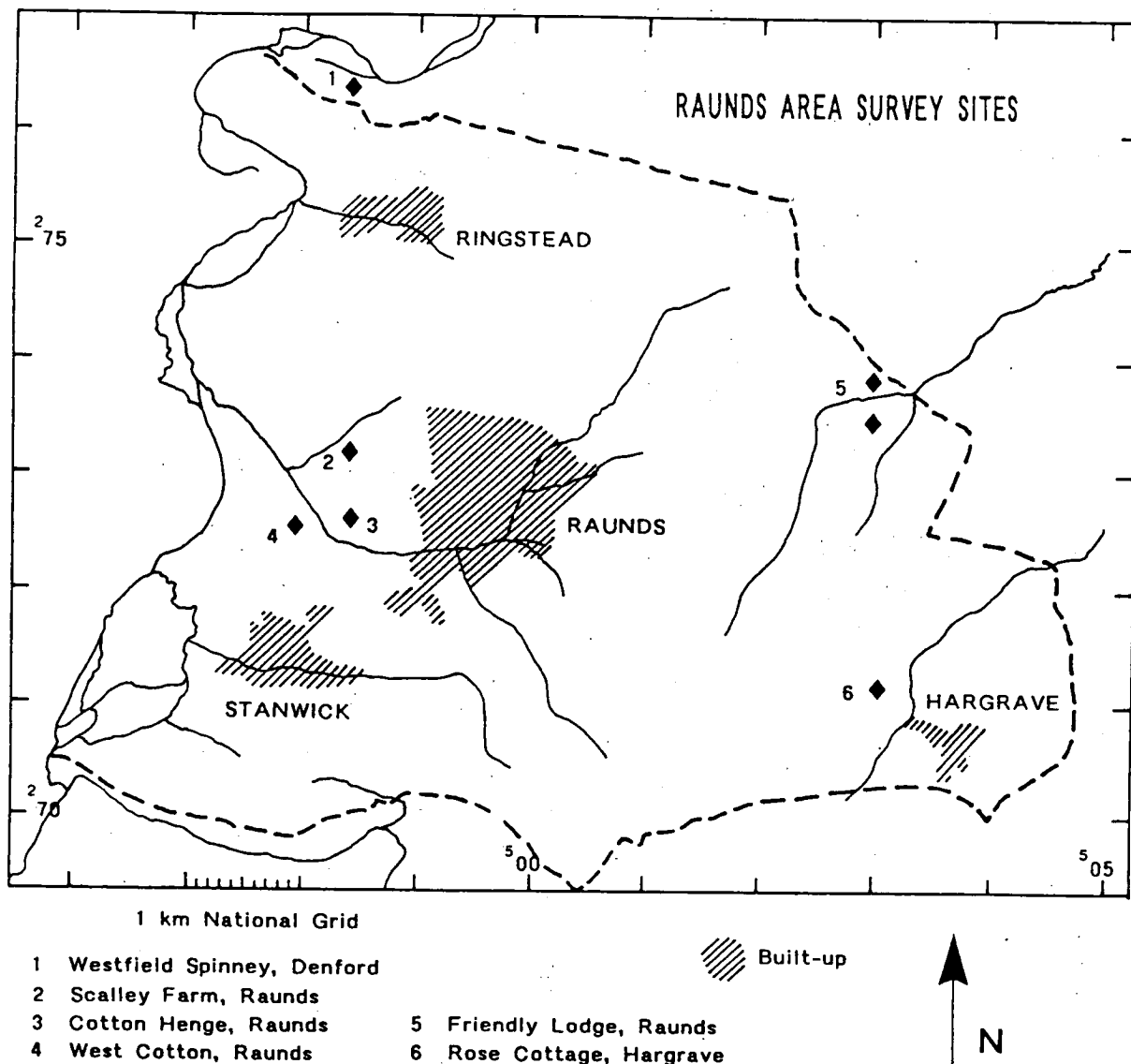


Fig. 5. Raunds Area Survey Sites.

middle Saxon pottery have been identified during fieldwalking. The area forms part of the eastern side of the Nene valley with a deep tributary valley bisecting two fields. Part of the Roman scatter in the southern field was excavated in 1986 ahead of road construction (*Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 21 (1986-7), pp 16-17).

Magnetometer survey at both sides of the stream has revealed extensive series of anomalies. In the northern field at least two broad phases may be distinguished with a double-ditched oval enclosure (A) and larger rectilinear enclosures with possible drove roads (B). A circular anomaly (C) within the centre of one of the enclosures may represent the eaves-drip gully of a roundhouse. A second circular anomaly with a diameter of 20m (D) could represent the remains of a further roundhouse or perhaps an earlier ring ditch. Iron Age pottery recovered from fieldwalking coincides with the oval enclosure and may suggest that it formed the original settlement with the rectilinear enclosures perhaps of Roman date. In the southern field the magnetometer survey identified elements of a rectilinear

enclosure system measuring 100m by at least 70m which partly enclosed the excavated area. Survey over the early to middle Saxon concentration failed to identify any significant anomalies.

Excavation related to the investigation of the early to middle Saxon surface scatter was confined to part of the southern field where a slight concentration of 21 sherds was located upslope from a more general distribution. The southern portion of the field was unavailable due to a different crop regime. Some 20 trenches were opened but only 53 early to middle Saxon sherds were recovered, mostly from the base of a secondary tilth. Three oval pits measuring up to 1.78m by 1.73m and 0.4m deep and filled with a leached reddish loam which contained no more than two sherds of early to middle Saxon pottery formed the only features of possible Saxon date, though their significance is uncertain. A group of aceramic small postholes and two gullies adjacent to two of the pits could represent contemporary activity. These features were located some 55m south-west of the apparent surface scatter concentration. A further 13 sherds of early to

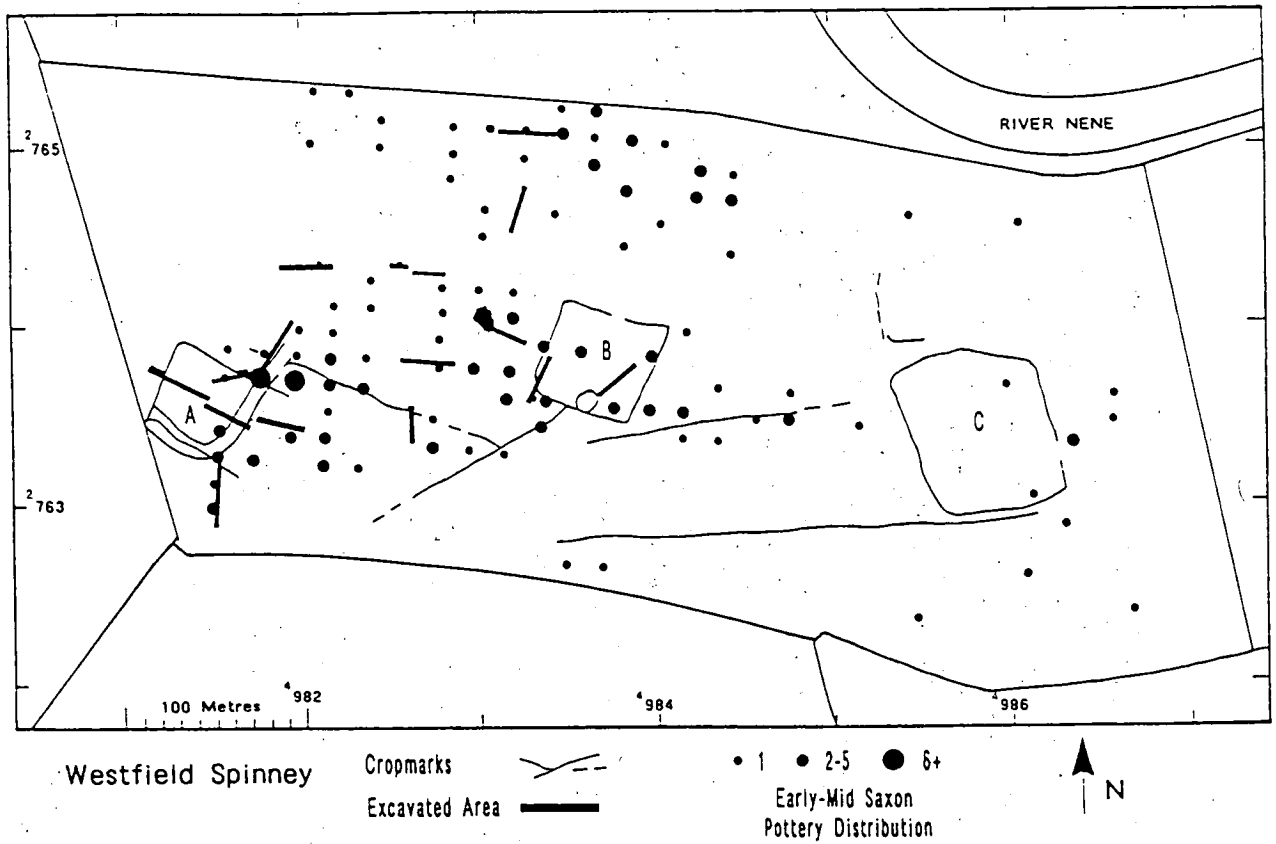


Fig. 6. Westfield Spinney.

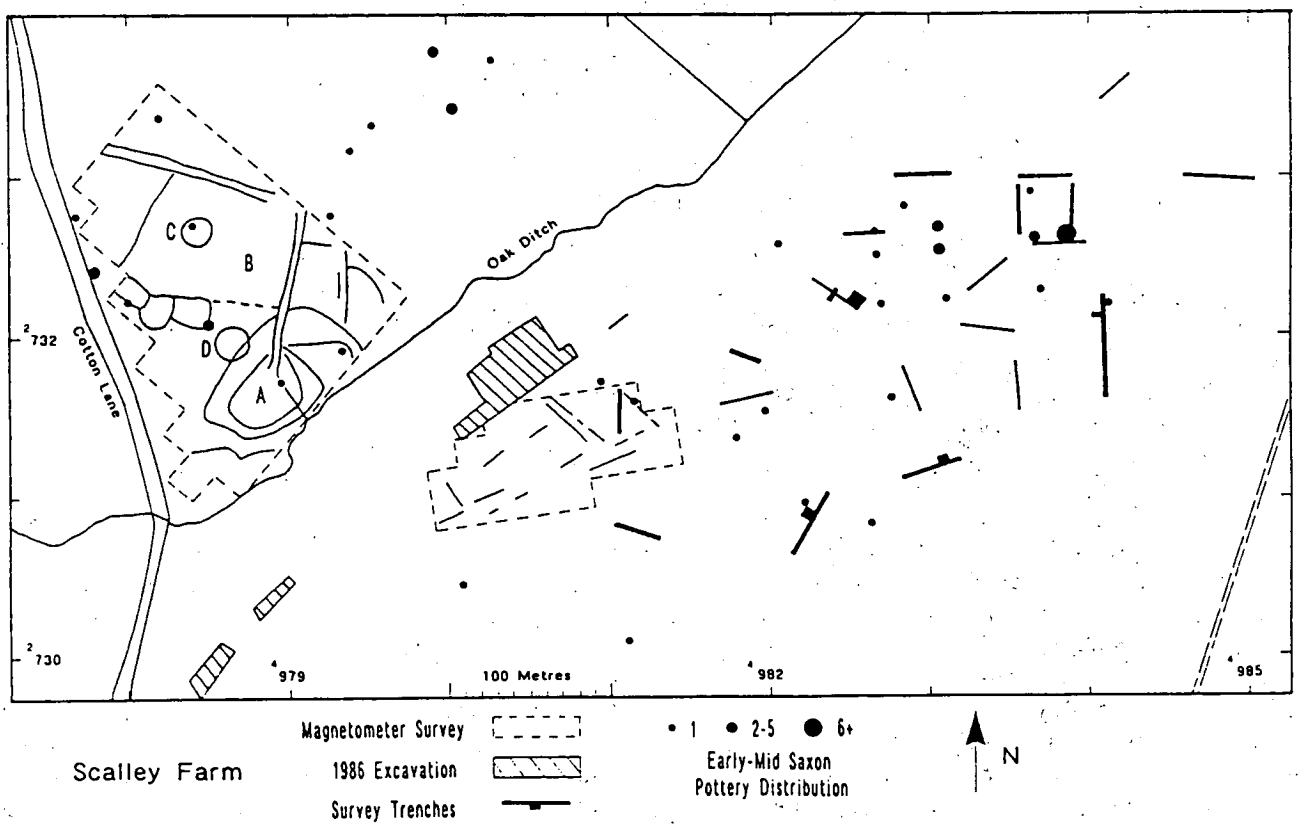


Fig. 7. Scalley Farm.

middle Saxon pottery were recovered from the upper fill of a Roman ironstone quarry pit located some 16m south-east of similar pits found during the 1986 excavation. It is probable that these sherds represent later infilling. The remains of two Roman burials and a further quarry pit were also found within the same trench. A number of Iron Age pits and ditches were also found at SP 9824 7308.

West Cotton (SP 9776 7254)

A fairly dense early to middle Saxon surface scatter, comprising some 46 sherds, was identified from the Survey reconnaissance in a field to the east of Cotton Lane, adjacent to West Cotton. Nine trenches were excavated to cover most areas of the field except for the north-west corner where cropmarks of three ring ditches may denote the remains of round barrows.

Only seven sherds of early to middle Saxon pottery were recovered and then mostly at the base of the secondary tilth. One sherd was found in the fill of a possible palaeochannel which may have been the original line of the Tip Brook. If so, the line of the palaeochannel would have divided the surface scatter from the two early to middle Saxon structures excavated to the west of Cotton Lane (*SMA* 20 (1990), p 46), thus forming one of a number of paired sites noted in the area. To the east of the palaeochannel trenching revealed groups of aceramic postholes, pits and gullies which, given the long history of land-use, cannot be assigned even a broad date. A double ring ditch containing pottery possibly from the beaker period was identified in a trench some 20m east of the cropmarks. Adjacent to Cotton Lane a medieval boundary wall and stone bank were uncovered. The purpose of the bank is uncertain but it may have been intended as a protection against flooding. A contemporary hearth and limestone surface, possibly a road, were also revealed.

Friendly Lodge

Two early to middle Saxon pottery scatters forming a possible pair across a small tributary valley draining into the Great Ouse basin were partially investigated.

TL 0283 7353

Eight trenches were opened in the southern scatter where 73 sherds of early to middle Saxon pottery formed a fairly dense concentration. Despite attempts to water and clean the cracked and desiccated surface of the Oxford Clay, the edges of potential features remained indistinct but some produced contemporary pottery where sampled. Some 85 early to middle Saxon sherds were recovered in total, perhaps implying that with more favourable weather conditions features relating to settlement may have been identified.

TL 0292 7389

Two trenches were opened within a small concentration of 18 sherds of early to middle Saxon pottery. Similar conditions were encountered as with the southern scatter and the trenches were backfilled with only limited work.

Rose Cottage, Hargrave (TL 0303 7103)

Investigation of an extensive surface scatter comprising 37 early to middle Saxon and four Ipswich ware sherds was carried out in July and early October 1990 due to different crop regimes. In July, despite relatively moist conditions, only slight features probably of geological origin were found beneath low density concentrations of surface pottery. In October conditions were similar to those at Friendly Lodge so that possible features could only be sampled.

Other survey related work:

Cotton Henge, Raunds (SP 982 725)

A possible henge identified from aerial photography was further investigated as part of the Raunds Survey. The monument is located on the upper flank of the Tip Brook adjacent to its probable former confluence with the River Nene and some 450m to the east of the prehistoric ritual focus identified during excavation at West Cotton (cf *SMA* 20 (1990), p 46).

The monument may originally have been more prominent as there are traces of a much infilled dry valley to the east. Provisional analysis of struck flint collected from transects walked at 15m intervals suggests the occurrence of concentrations above and immediately to the west of the monument. A similar concentration occupied part of the dry valley to the south-east.

A magnetometer survey provided a complete plan of the monument and confirmed the presence of two ditches, each made up of roughly straight lengths to form an almost circular plan. The inner ditch was c 21m in diameter, while the outer ditch had an elliptical plan with a major axis of 75m aligned north-west to south-east and a minor axis of 70m. The northern side of the outer ditch is slightly flattened, matching that of the inner circle. A possible entrance might have been formed by a slight projection of the northern side of the outer ditch, though the presence of a nearby hedge may partly obscure the original layout. No apparent entrance has been observed for the inner circle.

East Langham Road, Raunds (SP 9984 7322)

Six evaluation trenches were opened in the rear garden of 10 Langham Road ahead of house-building. The area is

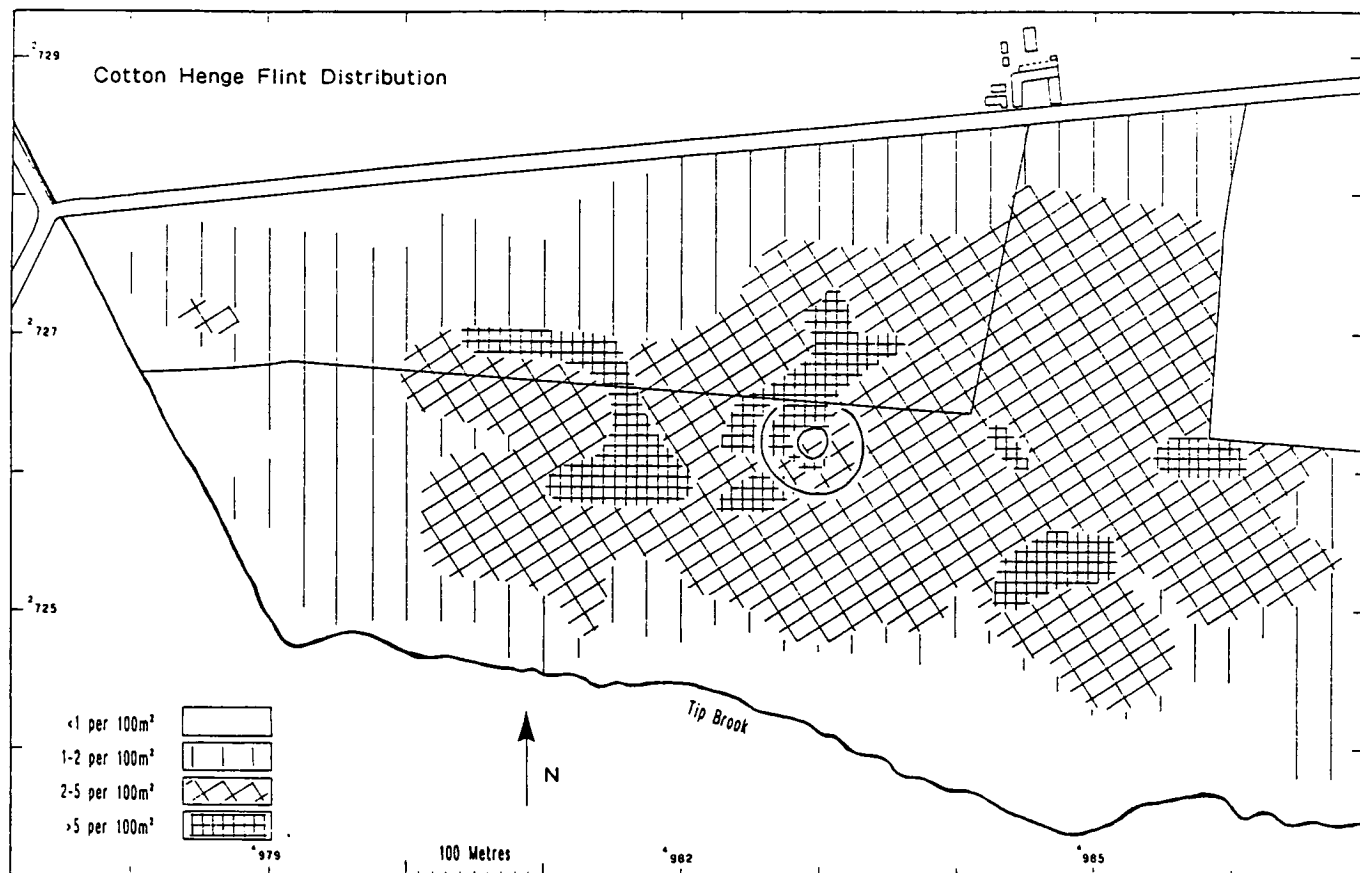


Fig. 8. Cotton Henge. Flint distribution.

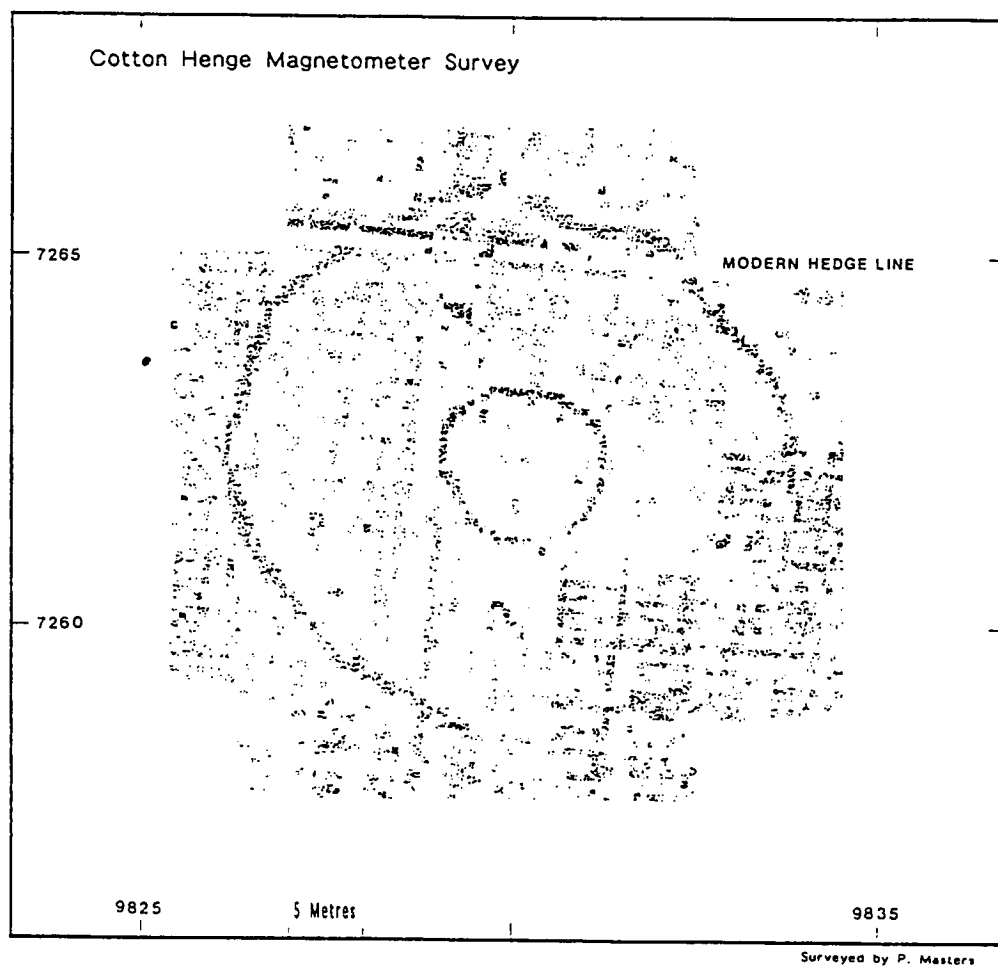


Fig. 9. Cotton Henge. Magnetometer survey.

located between previous excavations at Langham Road and The Orchard, both of which have produced evidence of early to middle Saxon activity and late Saxon and medieval plots (*Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 21 (1986-7), pp 18-25).

The excavation identified a total of 155 features of which only 36 contained pottery. This paucity of finds may suggest that the area was peripheral to both the Saxon and medieval settlement. Seven pits and a gully each contained a single sherd of early to middle Saxon pottery. While they may attest to activity at that period, a later date could also be possible given the limited amount of pottery at the site. A single late Saxon ditch, twice recut, may indicate a continuation of plots identified to the north. A series of deep postholes in a rectangular arrangement and containing medieval pottery could represent the remains of a small structure. A large pit or ditch also of medieval date was present.

Market Square, Raunds (SP 9986 7284)

Excavations in 1989 (cf *SMA* 20 (1990), p 43) were extended so that the trench measured 29m by 20m. This revealed a sequence of boundary ditches dating from the late Saxon to early medieval periods. The earliest ditches may have been aligned upon High Street but were subsequently reorientated twice. The site appears to have been largely abandoned by the thirteenth century.

Park Road, Raunds (TL 0015 7298)

Trial excavation some 50m east of the possible early to middle Saxon cemetery (cf *SMA* 20 (1990), pp 42-3) revealed a dispersed scatter of features of various dates. A shallow hollow containing 10 sherds of early to middle Saxon pottery and three others each with a single sherd may attest to limited activity of that period though there was no evidence for the continuation of the cemetery. Other shallow pits contained medieval pottery but their function remains uncertain.

Hill House, Stanwick (centre SP 9783 7127)

Extensive trial excavation in the gardens of the now ruinous Hill House failed to identify any archaeological features. This absence may further suggest that the central area of modern Stanwick was unoccupied until relatively recent times (cf *SMA* 20 (1990), p 43).

Road Construction Projects

- G Cadman

A14 (M1-A1 Road Link)

By the end of 1990 construction work on Contract 3 (Kettering Southern Bypass) and Contract 4 (Kettering to Rothwell) was well advanced. No new sites have been identified on Contract 4 which largely follows the line of the existing A6. The following observations relate to Contract 3.

Burton Latimer (SP 9025 7633)

Following initial road-scraping rescue excavations were conducted at Easter 1990 on a series of at least 17 sub-circular pits and other features containing Iron Age pottery. These extended across the width of the road-corridor and along its length for a distance of over 70m.

Pythchley Lodge (SP 877 756)

Apart from a few unstratified finds of worked flint and pottery sherds no significant archaeological discoveries were made in this area despite the proximity of cropmark and other sites.

A43 Blisworth and Milton Malsor Bypass

Gayton (SP 715 540)

Ditches, a possible corn-drier and other features, together with Roman pottery, were identified during initial road-scraping beside the site of the Gayton Roman villa which is believed to have been substantially destroyed by nineteenth- and early twentieth-century ironstone quarrying. Reports have also been made of the exposure of inhumation and cremation burials. Metal detecting by D Derby recovered a dozen coins mainly of Roman date; other finds have been similarly made by G Heritage and others working elsewhere along the road-corridor.

Gayton (SP 7166 5444)

A scatter of small pits and other features with Iron Age pottery was recorded during road-scraping.

Stanion, 17 Little Lane (SP 9143 8713) - G Cadman

A watching brief in January 1990 during redevelopment of part of one of the village's medieval tenements led to the discovery of several features including a medieval pottery kiln straddling the southern boundary of the modern property. The northern half of the kiln was excavated to reveal a single central pedestal. A considerable quantity of

pottery was recovered from the site. This appears to betoken two distinct phases of production or, alternatively and perhaps more likely, originates in part from a separate nearby source. Of considerable interest was the finding of three rare, small "whistle-pots" in a sandy orange-pink fabric and probably dating to about the fifteenth century. A detailed report is in preparation.

Stoke Bruerne, A508 River Tove Bends
(SP 7480 4826) - G Cadman

Several features, mainly former water courses, were recorded in a roadside drainage ditch during realignment road-construction works across low lying land beside the River Tove in December 1990. Of particular interest was a deliberately constructed, straight channel, 8.80m wide and at least 0.90m deep. Immediately adjacent to it were exposed part of a substantial limestone wall, limestone rubble and at least three rough surfaces. These features, from which a small amount of fourteenth-century pottery was recovered, lie on the edge of some previously unrecorded earthworks located to the west of the new road-corridor. They appear to represent part of a mill or other riverside focus.

Thrapston, Trust House Forte
(TL 0035 7817)

With the support of Trust House Forte a limited evaluation was carried out in October 1990 on part of an enclosure cropmark lying within the area of a service station and restaurant complex planned for construction alongside the A14 (A1-M1) link-road to the south-east of Thrapston. Trenches, confined to the eastern side of the site, confirmed the existence of the enclosure. Two phases of ditch were recorded. The larger, approximately 4.40m wide and 2.10m deep, was cut by a smaller ditch set on a slightly different alignment. Both contained a small quantity of Iron Age pottery. The presence of gravel quarrying across part of the site was also confirmed. No other significant features were encountered outside the enclosure or within the small area of its interior which was investigated. One Roman coin and

an unidentified coin were recovered with the aid of a metal detector used by Mr N Howe.

Trust House Forte kindly agreed to exclude that part of the enclosure within their development from any constructional disturbance. No evidence was found however with which to support the RCHM's suggestion of a Roman temple or shrine hereabouts (*Archaeological Sites in North-east Northamptonshire* (1975), p 96).

Towcester, Old Tiffeld Road
(SP 688 495) - S Steadman and B Dix

The site of Roman Lactodurum, mentioned as a stopping-place in the routes of the Antonine Itinerary, is largely buried beneath modern Towcester. The importance of its location at the junction of Watling Street and the road to Alchester was formerly recognised by the provision of defences which enclosed an area of c 11.25 hectares. The discovery of large quantities of Roman material beyond the fortified core shows that settlement was also extensive outside the area which came to be defended.

Archaeological excavation of part of its environs at the south-west has located the remains of an industrial suburb along the Alchester road, while elsewhere evidence for occupation and cemeteries has been noted. To the north of the walled area settlement appears to have been strung out along Watling Street. Existing information, based on observations made in connection with the construction of the A43 Towcester-bypass and prior to other recent local redevelopment, indicates the existence of former properties and their Associated features.

A proposal to develop land situated to the east of Watling Street and lying between the A43 new road and Old Tiffeld Road led to the requirement for an archaeological evaluation to determine the extent and nature of any below-ground remains which might thus be affected. Such work was undertaken in February 1990 for the Hesketh Estate and

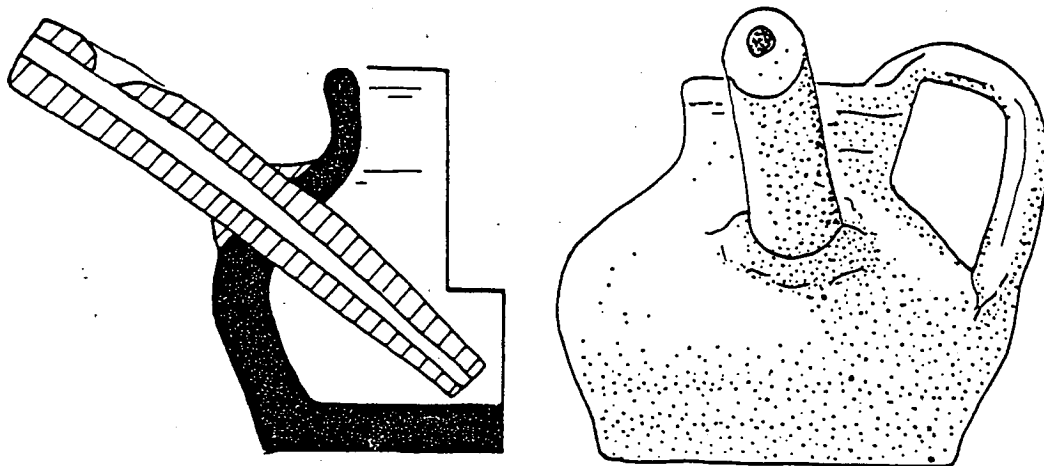


Fig. 10. Stanion, 17 Little Lane. 'Whistle pot'.

comprised geophysical survey in addition to the excavation of a series of trial trenches.

Following a general survey of the entire application-site using a fluxgate-gradiometer, an area of c 0.4 ha was surveyed in detail at the western end of the land-parcel beside Watling Street. Despite a possible pattern of buildings and boundaries being identified, there was no indication of the existence of special features such as kilns or other industrial structures which might be denoted by a major anomaly.

The subsequent excavation of trial trenches both parallel with Watling Street and at right-angles to it confirmed the existence of Roman features behind the former frontage. Roman remains were uncovered immediately below the topsoil at a depth of up to c 0.5m. Their upper levels had been so truncated by succeeding agriculture, however, that the best survival occurred on the ridges between the furrows of later cultivation.

The densest concentration of features lay nearest to the road, where the discovery of a robbed-out wall and other possible structural elements suggests the former presence of buildings within plots extending back from the main highway. The apparent intercutting between features indicates that activity might not have been confined to a single period of time and that its relative sequence may be preserved by stratification. Associated finds suggest that occupation could have begun as early as towards the close of the first century AD and continued through to the fourth century.

By contrast, the features located further back from the frontage were more discrete. The sporadic occurrence of pits and postholes over a seemingly wide area was consistent with the effects of intermittent, low intensity, 'backland'-usage.

Towcester, Meadow (SP 6938 4893 and SP 6941 4891) - G Cadman

On behalf of the Hesketh Estate two machine-dug evaluation trenches were opened in August 1990 across a sinuous low earthwork ditch and bank situated on meadowland a short distance to the east of Towcester's Bury Mount. A flat-bottomed ditch up to 3m wide and at least 0.40m deep was recorded together with an earth and gravel bank approximately 3m wide at its base and set close to the western edge of the ditch. A single fragment of hand-made green glass found in the lower fill of the ditch dates from the period c 1650-90. It remains uncertain, however, whether these earthworks are of seventeenth-century origin (Civil War defensive?) or later.

A series of earlier features which pre-dated the bank included a ditch, a gully and two inhumations which, from accompanying late Iron Age and Roman amian pottery may hint at the presence of a hitherto unknown cemetery to the East of Lactodurum.

Towcester, Saracens Head Hotel (SP 6918 4880) G Cadman

A watching brief has continued throughout 1990 and will progress into 1991 during refurbishment of this property. Some limited exposures of archaeological stratification have been observed together with several pits and post-medieval and later wells. Small quantities of Roman and medieval pottery have been collected.

Upper Faxton - B Dix

A preliminary survey, involving a search of existing records and two field visits, was undertaken as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment concerning a proposed new village site, located mainly in Lamport parish but also impinging upon the adjacent parishes of Draughton and Orton. The work was commissioned by Brian Barber Associates Ltd.

Much of the study area had been utilised as part of the Harrington airfield built during the Second World War. An Iron Age defended enclosure was excavated at that time but other details of the former landscape, such as the ridge-and-furrow of the local common fields, were largely obliterated without record. It is therefore uncertain if there had been any form of medieval occupation or other exploitation of the local resources, among which the nearby clays were used subsequently for pottery and brickmaking.

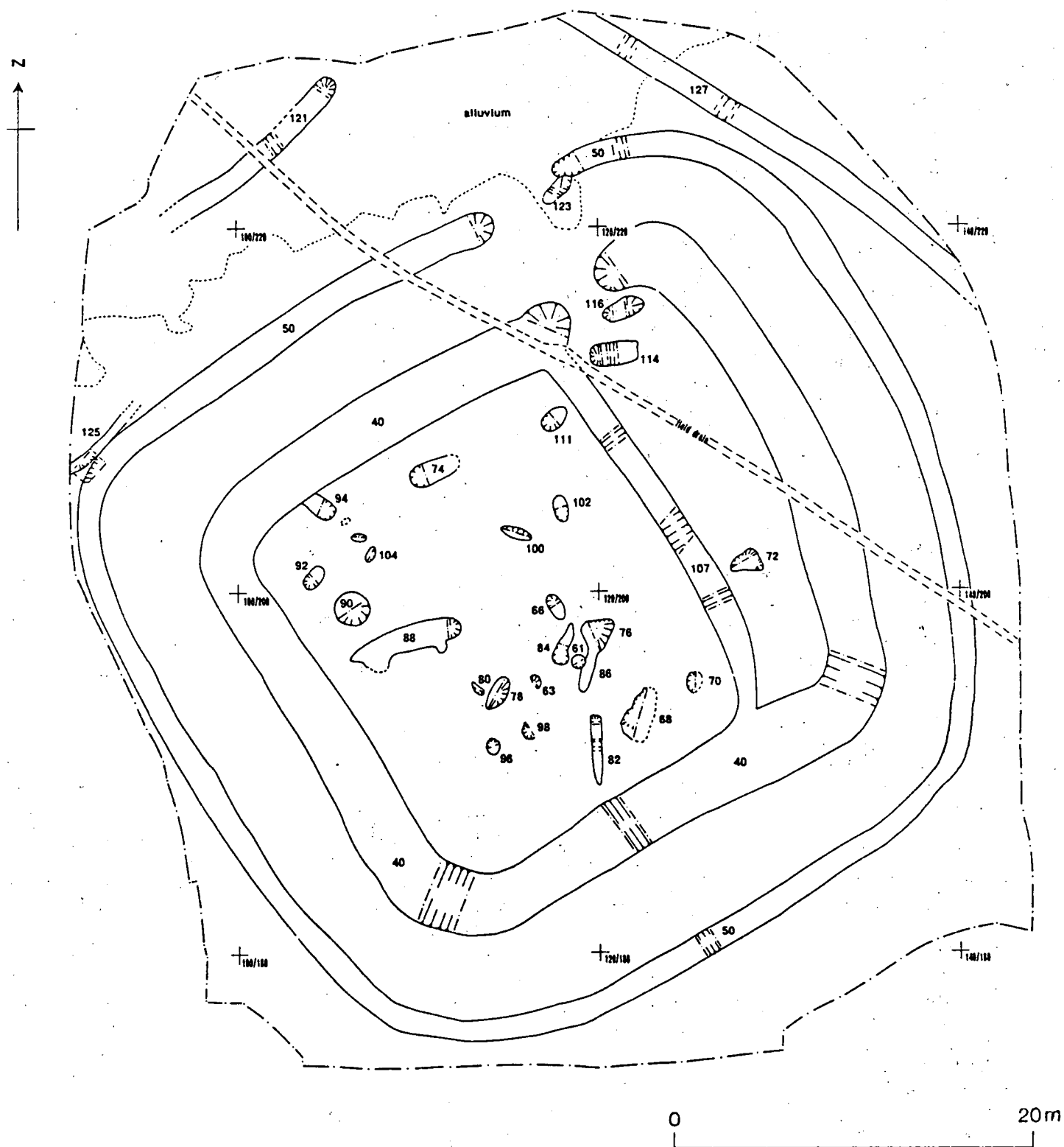
Weldon, Church Street (SP 9297 8943) - G Cadman

Machine-dug evaluation trenches opened during July 1990 with the support of the landowner in pursuit of a planning application revealed a substantial limestone quarry alongside part of the Church Lane frontage. The quarry infill included medieval pottery, charcoal, ash and metal slag attesting to the nearby presence of iron-working.

A stone wall which sealed the infilled quarry is believed to belong to a building fronting Church Lane which was abandoned or demolished in about the eighteenth century.

Wollaston (SP 887 636) - P O'Hara

As a result of previous trial excavation on a series of Iron Age sites, which had highlighted the presence of waterlogged deposits containing environmental remains, controlled archaeological excavation and a wider watching brief were undertaken for Pioneer Aggregates (UK) Ltd in part of their Wollaston gravel pit. Early forms of land-division were denoted by boundary ditches and a pit-alignment but the major feature was a double-ditched enclosure of c 0.6ha containing pits and other features indicative of occupation. The richly organic, peat-like fill of



Wollaston Site B: Plan of Enclosure

Fig. 11. Wollaston, Site B.

its outer ditch was extensively sampled for scientific study by Leicester University.

OTHER PROJECTS

Post-excavation and publication

Considerable progress was achieved during 1990 in the preparation for publication of the results from the Unit's work in the Raunds Area Project. Work is now well advanced for a major report on North Raunds which will combine the evidence of individual sites to provide a comprehensive analysis of the settlement's history. Post-excavation studies of the results from almost five years' excavation at the deserted medieval hamlet of West Cotton also commenced in 1990. An illustrated interim report on the excavations was published in November under the title "From barrows to bypass". Copies are available from the Archaeology Unit at a cost of £3.95 including postage.

The detailed identification and analysis of the range of excavated materials from the sites within the Raunds area will facilitate comparison of the economies between individual sites and between settlements of different periods, thereby increasing knowledge and understanding of the changing landscape. Many specialists are involved in these studies which range from environmental research, concerning animal bones, plant remains and soils, to the reporting of single artefact-types.

The Archaeology Unit itself is cataloguing the large collections of Saxon and medieval pottery where it is hoped to refine the dating of individual types and to investigate aspects of their distribution and trade. Allied with this is work at Liverpool University to identify residues within the fabric of pottery in order to determine the functions of different classes of vessels.

A different kind of research has involved the study of medieval documents by Dr Paul Courtney in order to provide historical and early topographical information for the area. The analysis of the former manorial and peasant economies contributes information which is relevant to individual sites in addition to increasing the general understanding of landscape and society and showing the late medieval land-market to have been in a dynamic state.

Education - R Shaw

1990 was the fourth year of the Education Project and its effectiveness was improved by the appointment, in April, of a part-time assistant. As in 1989, the single, most time-consuming aspect of the programme was the summer season of on-site activities for schoolchildren, and all the related work of publicity, teachers' sessions, preparation of teaching material, and pre-visits to schools. This year, all the visits took place at Stanwick Roman villa, where we offered a wide range of activities: planning, levelling, work on finds,

and excavation techniques. The presence on site of a large exhibition cabin, containing a wall-display on the Raunds Area Project and portions of the Stanwick mosaics, added to the variety of experiences available to the pupils. Classes of all ages visited, from both mainstream and special schools in the county. The success of these visits owes a great deal to the enthusiasm of the teachers and to the help and forbearance of David Neal and the rest of the team at Stanwick.

The gradual introduction of the National Curriculum, which makes statutory what should be taught to pupils at different stages in their development, is preoccupying everyone connected with Education. Although archaeology as a separate subject is rarely mentioned, there are many areas where its study has much to offer. For example, both the History and Geography documents encourage Local Studies, and the county Sites and Monuments Record is an ideal tool in building up detailed local knowledge. Increasing numbers of teachers are coming to the Archaeology Unit to consult the SMR and practical courses have been given in how to use the material and to provide ideas for local fieldwork. Likewise, the Unit's collection of aerial photographs has great potential for work in History and Geography, and there is much common ground still to be explored in the Technology document, which includes the design and use of artefacts, modern or early.

Regular visits are made to schools to give talks on various aspects of archaeology or to run classroom finds' handling sessions. However, there is a limit to the number of schools which can be visited, so, during the year, work has been undertaken towards increasing the range and availability of materials for the teacher to use. A complete resource list has just been completed, and more artefacts kits are being prepared for classroom use.

Other highlights of the year include the noisy involvement of hundreds of local schoolchildren at the opening ceremony at Long Buckby Castle, and similar events at Naseby, where a Civil War camp was set up in the school playing field by the Sealed Knot.

The teaching resource pack, "The Quest for the Past: Archaeologists at Work" is well into its second print-run and it was the subject of an invited talk at the annual conference of the Schools History Project in April. A separate contribution was made to the year's York Archaeological Weekend which took the theme of "Archaeology and Education".

Interpretation - M Whewell

The opening of Long Buckby Castle in April 1990 was a joint venture with the Education Project. Over 500 local schoolchildren and their families participated in the event which was assisted by the Escafeld Medieval Society from Sheffield. Displays of medieval combat were followed by workshops which gave the children the opportunity to have a closer look at the costumes and to discuss what life would

have been like in a medieval castle. Much following up work was carried out by the schools: one even used the event in French lessons by discussing the implications of the Norman invasion linguistically! The interpretative panel which has now been installed consists of an artist's impression of what the castle might have looked like when it was in use, together with a small amount of text explaining the history of the site.

The unveiling of two interpretative panels on Naseby Battlefield was similarly used to promote the education potential of the area. Members of the Sealed Knot fired a salute over the battlefield and gave an interpretation of the events to the invited guests. A Civil War camp was set up at the village school where children were able to see how the armies would have lived. A leaflet has also been produced which can be purchased from local tourist information centres and museums. Signage to the site is also being improved.

The touring exhibition "Villages from the Past" has now been on the road for nine months and has been well received throughout the county. Its appearance at the East of England Show gave the Archaeology Unit the opportunity to explain directly its work to a large number of people. A supporting leaflet has been on sale with the exhibition. The important task of evaluating the success of the exhibition is currently being carried out by Heather Kinch, a student in the School of Archaeology at Leicester University.

In conjunction with the county's Buildings Conservation Section much of the year was devoted to enhancing the County Council's guardianship policy. A re-survey of all NCC Guardianship sites is currently being undertaken. The necessary funds have been made available by the Environment 2000 Committee to carry out vital repairs, to assess interpretative potential and to establish an effective management plan for all the sites.

The Unit continues to work closely with the Countryside Services branch by offering archaeological advice and contributing to all of the countryside walks leaflets. Close links with the Pocket Parks initiative (which promotes local action in the countryside) has resulted in an archaeological pamphlet being incorporated into the recently produced information pack. With the help of Andrew MacDonald there has also been involvement in Operation Woodpecker, an environmental playscheme held in the county's Country Parks. Children were able to make, decorate and fire their own pots following Andrew's example.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Redlands Farm, Stanwick - Round barrow SP 961705

A ploughed-out round barrow, defined by double concentric ring ditches on aerial photographs, was excavated on behalf of ARC Ltd. Four graves were located, containing five burials in total; all lay within the circuit of the inner ditch. The central though not necessarily primary burial was that

of an adult male lying on his back with the legs flexed to the left; there were no grave goods. There were traces of a possible coffin or mortuary structure around and under the body. Approximately 5m. to the north a second grave contained a crouched infant inhumation, accompanied by a Beaker, the only grave good or other find recovered from the barrow excavation. A secondary inhumation, of a neo-natal infant, had been inserted into the top of the backfilled grave. The remaining burials each contained a crouched infant inhumation.

Redlands Farm, Stanwick - Roman villa complex SP 960705 (Figs. 1 and 2) - Graham D Keevill

Approximately 5,000 sqm. of a Romano-British villa complex were examined; included in this area were ancillary buildings, field boundaries, yard surfaces, at least one trackway and two palaeochannels. Post-excavation analysis is at a very early stage, but a provisional sequence of events is provided here.

I A field system was established, consisting of gullies running N-S in parallel. Similar features excavated by English Heritage at the Stanwick villa one mile to the north have been dated to the Bronze Age (Neal 1989, 152). During this phase a pit was excavated and a Beaker deposited in it; there was no evidence for a burial, although a Roman building had truncated the feature. The pit, at least, is likely to be broadly contemporary with the round barrow described above.

IIa A more complex field and enclosure system was established in the early Roman period (possibly with a late Iron Age component). At the eastern limit of the system two, or possibly three, buildings were erected. Two of these were small rectangular barns, one of which might belong to a later phase, and certainly continues in use beyond this phase. The third building was a mill, lying on a low sand island between two palaeochannels; the latter were tributary channels of the river Nene, and both had been diverted through aqueducts, or leats, which joined beyond the NE corner of the mill. The latter consisted of a rectangular building measuring 14 x 6.5m. externally; the east end was cellared, with a wide barn door in the south wall.

IIb The field/enclosure system was replanned and field walls were built. One of these was extended westwards to become part of a curtain wall enclosing the building complex; building the wall necessitated the demolition of one of the rectangular barns. Roughly-paved courtyards were laid down within the circuit of the curtain wall and also in the angle formed by its junction with the field wall. The mill was converted into a small villa. The barn door was blocked and a hypocaust was constructed in the cellar; the remainder of the mill was divided into two rooms, each equal in size to the cellar. The west room was furnished with a tessellated pavement, the central room with an opus signinum floor, and the hypocausted room with painted wall plaster. A back corridor was added, within which was placed the furnace for the hypocaust; the corridor linked a pair of long wing rooms

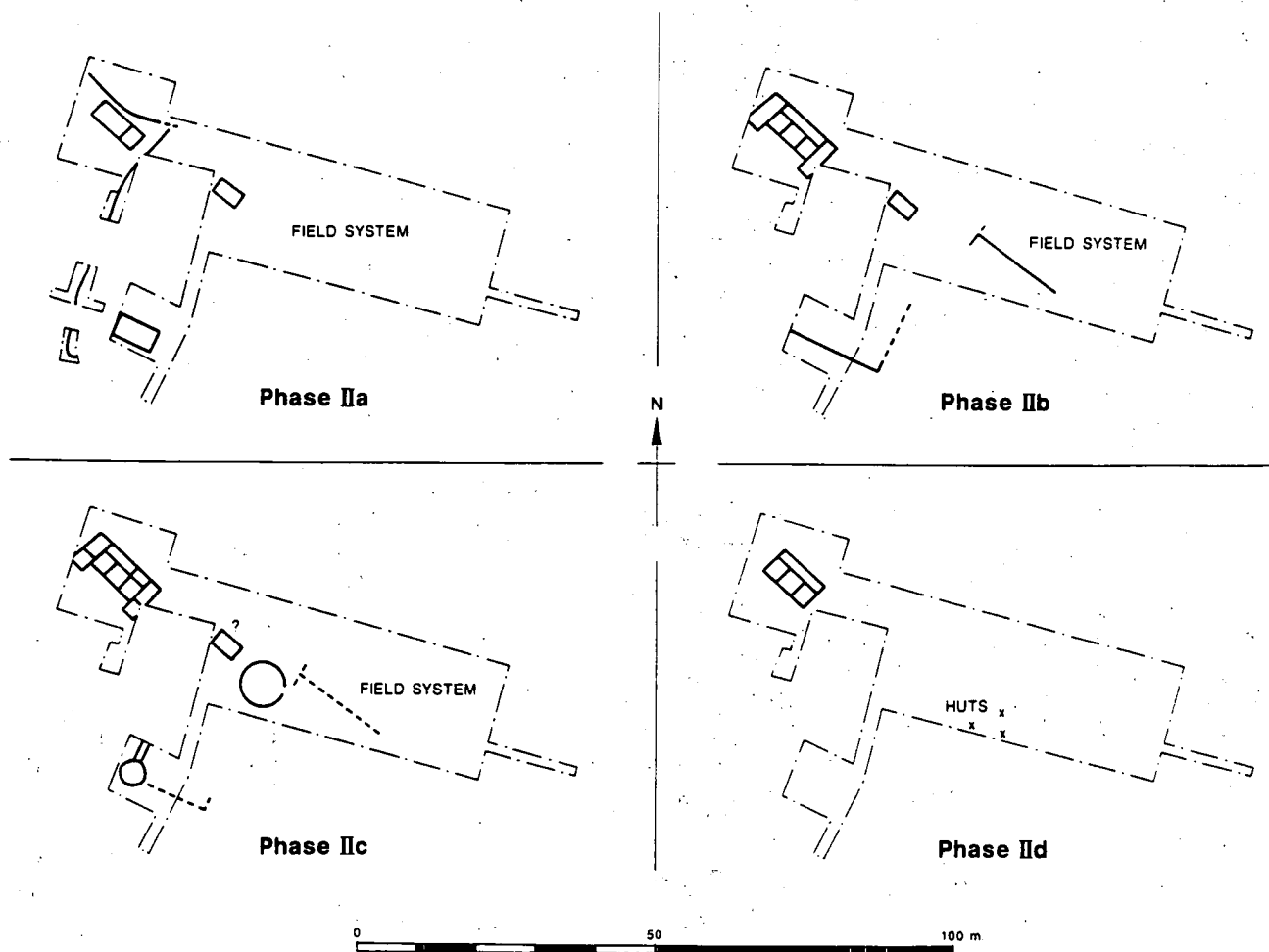


Fig. 1. Redlands Farm villa complex, phases IIa-IId.

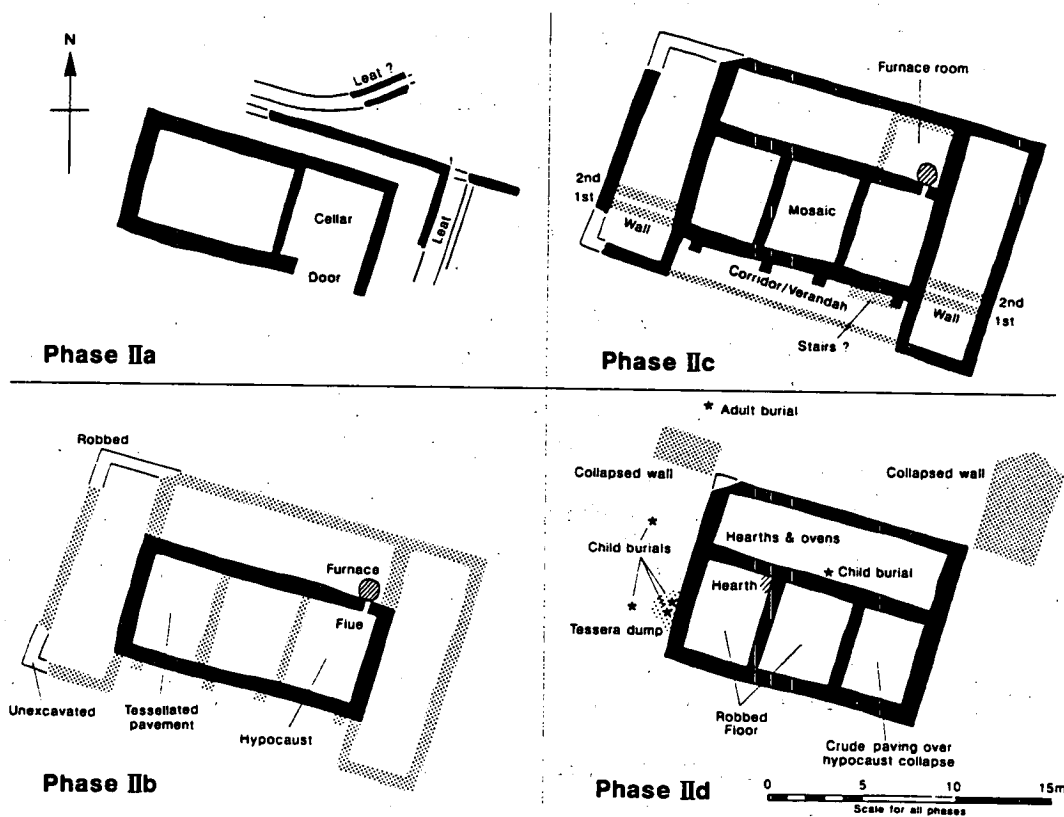


Fig. 2. Redlands Farm villa, plan of phases IIa-IId.

flanking the mill building. The newly-converted villa faced south, and the facade between the projecting wing rooms was embellished with four columns, the central pair flanking the new entrance.

I1c The curtain wall was interrupted, and possibly removed altogether, by the construction of two circular stone buildings across its line. The first, 9.5m. in diameter, overlay the phase I1a rectangular barn. The interior of the roundhouse was completely filled with pitched limestone; fragments of a slab floor survived in places. A limestone ramp/track led to a wide doorway in the north side of the building, which seems to have served as a threshing floor-cum-barn.

The second roundhouse cut through the eastern arm of the circuit wall. This massive structure, 15m. in diameter, is among the largest stone roundhouses discovered in Roman Britain. Its interior seems to have been divided into human and animal quarters, in the west and east halves respectively, while the central area was occupied by a succession of hearths. The roof was supported on four large stone pads.

Another stone building, rectangular in plan, was inserted into the corner formed by the junction of the curtain and field walls. Truncation by modern quarrying meant that the northward extent of the building could not be determined; it may have continued beyond the curtain wall, which would thus have to be removed, or it may simply have been a lean-to in the corner. Certainly the building was very slightly constructed.

The fate of the curtain wall in this phase is unclear. Its importance was at least diminished, but one cannot be sure whether the various buildings were simply inserted into its course rather than being built after its demolition.

Further developments took place at the villa. It is not clear that these occurred at the same time as the construction of the roundhouses. The two events have been phased together here for convenience.

A paved corridor or verandah was built between the projecting wings of the villa's south facade. At the east end of the verandah a short length of wall was added to the easternmost column base. The wall may have acted as a buttress to the blocking of the old barn door; alternatively it might be the base of a stairway leading to an upper storey in the east wing. The ground floor of the latter, and of the west wing, was now divided in two by the insertion of a partition wall. In each wing the partition was replaced once, entailing the enlargement of the south room. In the central room in the original mill building, a mosaic pavement was laid.

It is notable that symmetry of plan was maintained during these alterations. The exception to this rule occurred in the rear corridor and was entirely dictated by functional considerations. The hypocaust furnace had evidently been functioning poorly, and so it was entirely enclosed by the construction of walls to the west and north (abutting the

exterior wall of the villa), and by the blocking of the doorway between the east wing and the back corridor.

I1d Towards or at the end of the Roman period the villa went into serious decline. Both wings were demolished (Keevill 1990). The hypocausted room fell into ruin, with the cellar being breached and the wall plaster collapsing; over this was laid a crude, paved floor. The tessellated and mosaic pavements were deliberately removed. The tesserae of the latter were scattered and trampled in, but those from the tessellated pavement were used for a quite specific purpose - to seal off a group of three burials of neo-natal infants in the abandoned west wing.

Although the level and status of activity had declined, it is clear that the shell of the villa was in use for some time. A group of three sunken-featured huts was built c 80m. to the south-east, possibly contemporaneously with the final use of the villa, in the courtyard to the east of the large roundhouse. Early Saxon pottery was present in assemblages dominated by late Roman forms from these huts. A similar pattern of bifocal, small scale activity was noted at West Cotton; as at Redlands Farm, the foci were separated by a stream channel (Windell et al. 1990, 16).

Abandonment of the villa complex may have been caused by overbank flooding; certainly the villa itself was partly sealed by alluvium. The fact that it was not used as a quarry - in contrast to the wholesale robbing of the neighbouring villa at Stanwick - suggests that access was impossible due to the floodwaters. It is notable that the westernmost extent of the ridge-and-furrow fields was c 75 m. east of the limit of inhabitable land in the Roman period. The furrows cut the Phase I1d huts. At West Cotton mid-Saxon cultivation also superseded the early Saxon occupation (Windell et al. 1990, 17) This would suggest that overbank flooding, and perhaps a general rise in the water level, had forced the abandonment of a wide strip of land.

This pressure on the land must have intensified, and in the end the ridge-and-furrow was abandoned. Exactly when this happened is not clear, but it seems to have been during the medieval period, again as at West Cotton (Windell et al. 1990, 41). The field system was sealed by a thick deposit of alluvium. The land was left fallow thereafter until the nineteenth century, when improvement took place. Ceramic pipe land-drains were inserted; ironically, they were laid along the furrows of the Saxon/medieval field system. Fortunately this modern activity did very little damage to the Roman archaeology, especially over the west side of the site. The added depth of alluvium here contributed to the extraordinarily good preservation of the villa, the rectangular barns and the smaller roundhouse. It is notable that these lay beyond the limit of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, unlike the larger roundhouse which had thereby suffered considerable truncation.

References

Keevill G D 1990, 'Redlands Farm Villa' CA 122 52-5

OXFORDSHIRE

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY, 1990

Keith Ray

Both an active and a difficult year for County Archaeology saw a final decision made to incorporate the service wholly within the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies at the Westgate Library, Oxford. The possibility of the formation within the Department of Leisure and Arts of an Environmental Heritage Service incorporating also the Countryside Section and the Biological Records Centre had been explored briefly. However, this idea was considered as a potentially costly option, and one which could have cut across the open-access ideas behind the COXS plan. So from July 1991, the Sites and Monuments Record and the planning/conservation staff will be located on the second floor of the Central Library in the centre of Oxford. Here it is intended to provide an integrated Local Studies, Family History, Photographic Archival and Sites and Monuments Record service to the public. Other developments during the year included the retirement of John Steane after fifteen years service as County Archaeologist, the appointment of Carol Rosier as Deputy County Archaeologist (Historic Buildings) and the appointment of Paul Smith as County Archaeologist. The computerisation project continued with high input levels despite staffing problems, and three of the five Districts have now been processed. A number of conservation studies were carried out, two of which were developed as projects by Oxford University In-Service Trainees. The level of demand on advisory services continued to grow during the year, including several requests to provide data for national level conservation studies - two of which related to the potential impact of road schemes. Grants in support of archaeological work in the County were reviewed as part of a Countywide reappraisal. Following considerable discussion and comparison of options, the grant hitherto made available to the Oxford Archaeological Unit was reformed into a contractual arrangement for the provision of particular services. In addition to involvement in the planning process (and especially in development control) at both County and District level, there was an enhanced involvement in resource management issues. Besides continued local liaison with the National Trust, advantage was taken of the opportunities afforded by the Forestry Commission consultation scheme to provide some archaeological input into estate management practice. Interpretation studies continued to be an important focus. At Cogges, Witney, a study of the fabric and interiors of the Manor House which forms part of the Farm Museum was begun. Guide literature

for the 'Bishops Palace' at Witney was prepared. A reappraisal study of current site interpretation at East End villa, North Leigh was also carried out. Finally, in the year which saw the publication of the long awaited Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning, seminars on the County Archaeological perspective were held for District and County Planners. These included a day school in Banbury on the archaeological resource of villages with guest speakers David Austin and James Bond.

Cherwell District

(SP62503255 (centre)) Foxley Fields Farm, Finmere

A desk top study was carried out as part of a review of the potential implications of minerals extraction here. The study revealed that two ring-ditches previously perceived as isolated (PRN 13468 and PRN 13469) are in fact part of a complex arrangement of early landscape features. Further possible barrows were noted from direct vertical aerial photographs, together with a linear boundary and apparently associated enclosures.

Cherwell District

(SP 52652945 (centre)) Fritwell

As part of the constraint map study referred to above, a field visit was made to a group of villages in the near vicinity of the newly-constructed Wendlebury-Banbury section of the M40. No earthworks had previously been recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record for Fritwell, but prior study of aerial photographs indicated that they might exist in pasture at several points in the village. The visit led to the definition of two principal historic elements represented by earthworks. The first was a series of enclosures and platforms in the near vicinity of St Olave's church. The second element was the location of further such features aligned onto and stretching along the line of a northwest-southeast routeway through the village still represented in large part by the Souldern-Middleton road.

Cherwell District

(SP 4937 2440 (centre)) Lower Heyford PRN 5608

This unusual hillslope enclosure apparently with two concentric banks was first recognised as a cropmark site by Crawford in 1930. It survived as an earthwork into the nineteenth century but was subsequently levelled, and deep drainage trenches dug across its western half. This effectively obliterated this portion of the feature, even from the air. Restudy of the 1930 photos in 1990 and comparison also with those of 1947 and 1961 produced the observation

that the outer bank (diameter 240m.) clearly lies immediately inside the ditch. Also, the inner bank is not concentric, but is closer to the northeastern edge of the perimeter. At this point, the outer bank contains a straight section some 60m. long. These observations, together with the absence of an entranceway, can be taken to contradict an identification of this site as a henge monument. However, the present form is sufficiently anomalous to throw doubt on an Iron Age date either. Finds of Anglo-Saxon burials from the same field, reported in the early nineteenth century (possibly at the same time as the initial levelling of the earthwork), do nothing to clarify the status of the enclosure which at present must remain anomalous.

South Oxfordshire District

(SU 6965 8588 (centre)) Swan Wood, Highmoor

Reports of finds of Romano-British pottery and a kiln were followed up here prior to woodland regeneration. The finds reported from the vicinity of the house (see Fig. 1) were not corroborated there, but a dense scatter was located in the northeastern corner of the wood. A possible contemporary enclosure was noted some 40m. south of this latter, and a series of linear banks of low but broad dimensions was noted north and east of the house. An inspection of Deadman's Lane to the north of the wood led to a series of observations about its form and topographical location. In particular, the scarp forming the northern edge of the trackway is more pronounced than that forming the southern, and the route of the lane cuts across the head of a southward-facing valley. This conjunction suggests that this stretch of the ditch can, in contradistinction to some earlier conclusions, be considered to be part of an eastwards extension of the Mongewell Grim's Ditch. In turn this again raises the possibility that the boundary work concerned, sharing some close similarities throughout its route, does in fact traverse the whole tract of country from Wallingford to Henley.

Vale of the White Horse

(SU 28088305; 28428215 and 28788098) Ashdown Park

A collaborative field visit with National Trust staff led to the recognition of further features to those noted during a survey in 1989. These additional features included lynchets in the lower (eastern) areas of Hailey Wood, and rectilinear paddock-like enclosures defined by low earthen banks in among the sarsen stones in Kingston Bottom immediately southeast of the Park entrance. Further earthworks in the southeastern corner of Upper Wood were observed. These comprised a series of rectangular mounds arranged in an L-shape. They have been interpreted provisionally as a pillow mound complex.

West Oxfordshire District

(SP 3250 1850 (centre)) Stag's Plain, Chilson

A rapid surface survey was carried out in advance of afforestation in fields northwest and southwest of

Knighton's Copse. At SP 3232 1825 a light scatter of Romano-British pot sherds was noted close to the northeastern edge of a copse and on the edge of a northwest-facing combe. It appears likely that the settlement from which this material derives lies within the copse itself, surmounting a broad level spur of land overlooking the Evenlode valley.

West Oxfordshire District

(SP 3265 2640) Glyme Farm, Chipping Norton

Two reconnaissance visits were made in advance of afforestation of outlying areas of this farm. At SP 3318 2610 an area of ridge and furrow, unusual for the locality, was found to survive only within a copse north of New Chalford Farm. The ruin of the latter is designated as an SSSI, and is much overgrown. It is sited on a south-facing slope at the lower edge of a broad level lynchet. The surviving fabric includes a fireplace at the western end, spanning almost the entire width of the building. The mantel has collapsed, but appears to have been at an unusually high level. This raises the possibility that the central cell of the structure was once a hall open to eaves level. This is surprising in view of documentary indications that the farm was a post-medieval creation. At the southern end of a field called Whipwell to the southwest of the farm at SP 322261 a slight earthen mound was noted. Orientated north-south and oval in shape, the long axis of this possible barrow measures approximately 25m. The mound is broadest at its southern end, measuring 15m. A Romano-British site on the northwestern margins of the farm has produced numerous coins and a carved stone head, but remains ill-defined. Earthworks which may relate to the building complex which apparently survives here were noted in Whipwell, next to the spring in the northwestern corner of the field. Ploughing of an adjacent area had brought to the surface sherds of Samian as well as colour-coated ware.

West Oxfordshire District

(SP 2829 2426) The Corner House, Churchill (PRN 12795)

A group of 115 medieval floor tiles was reported discovered in the above house in *CBA9 Newsletter No 11*. (1981: p83). A variety of foliate and heraldic designs were noted among the 30 decorated tiles, and the source of the group was deduced to be local. At that time, the possibilities were thought to be the now-abandoned medieval church, or nearby Bruern Abbey. However, examination of the part-cellar beneath this ostensibly eighteenth century building revealed a two-light fourteenth century window, the upper mouldings of which are partly obscured by a later plain barrel vault contemporary with the present building. In addition to the tiles, a number of other building fragments have been retained, some built into one of the ground floor fireplaces, were decipherable. These represent mouldings from a fourteenth century doorway. There seems to be, therefore, a strong likelihood that the tiles and other building fragments, both in-situ and reincorporated elsewhere, form part of a medieval building truncated at ground floor level

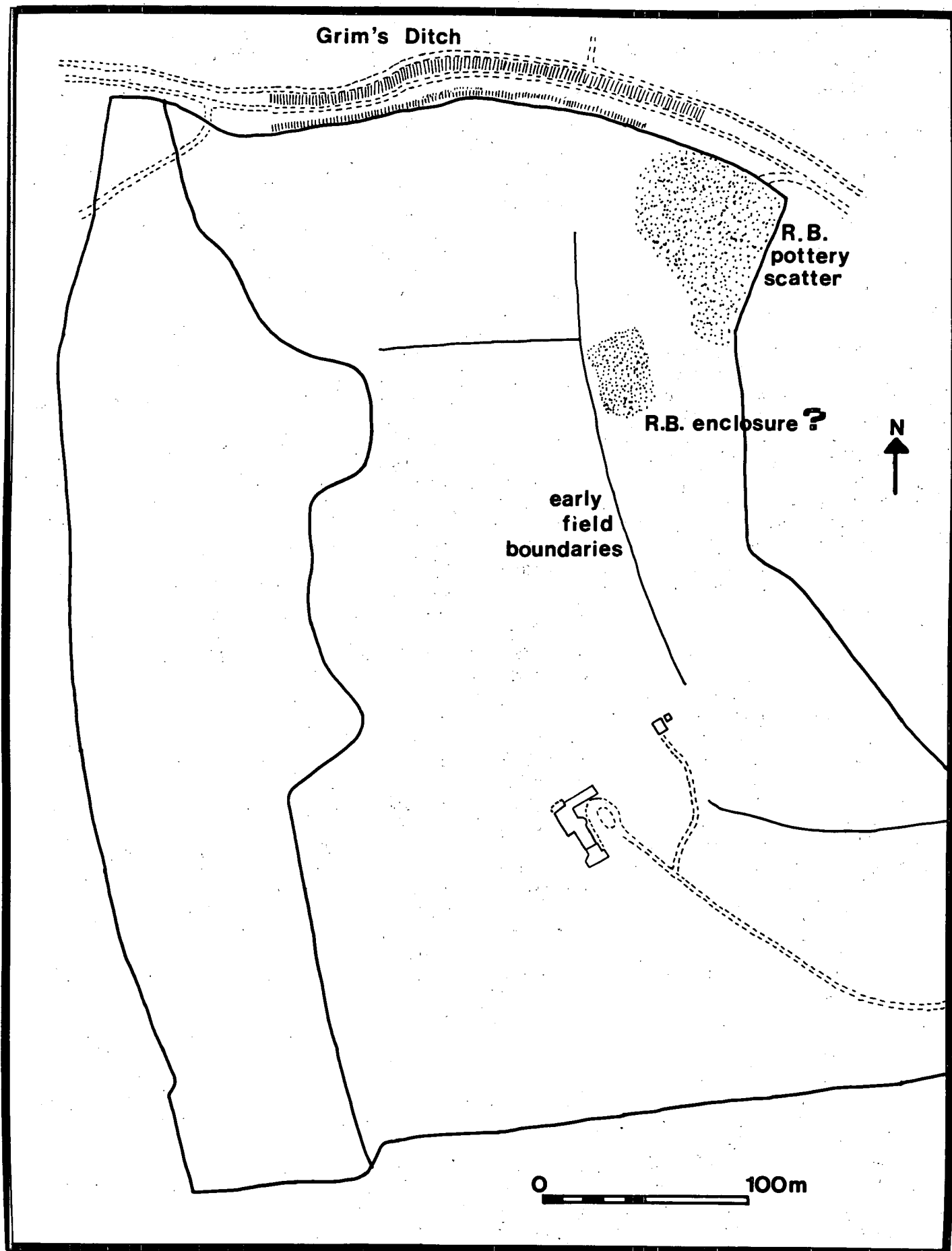


Fig. 1. Swan Wood, Nettlebed, Oxon.

and used as a plinth and partly as cellarage for the later building. That this is a common feature locally is suggested by the incorporation at cellar level of yet more elaborate windows and vaulting of a medieval building at Chipping Norton (PRN 4509). The present discovery echoes earlier observation of a fourteenth century roll-moulded arch at adjacent Hastings Hill (CBA9, 10, p88 : PRN 11855) and indicates a medieval focus at Churchill considerably south of and uphill from the medieval church.

West Oxfordshire District
(SP 3828 2838) Little Tew

The discovery of human skeletal material some time ago was reported from a property southwest of Timbryard Cottages. This latter building contains a fourteenth century door and screens passage from a medieval hall building, once Brohouse (one of three manors known to have existed in Little Tew at Domesday: *VCH Oxon*, XI, 249-51). A site visit early in 1990 located a truncated mound which was not obviously a mortuary structure. Grass-tempered potsherds were recovered from its surface, and these finds echo similar discoveries in fields to the south of this part of the village. In a corner of the same area of garden, a series of low narrow concentric banks were also observed. The innermost of these continues its line northwards, becoming the boundary of a paddock to the rear (west) of Timbryard Cottages. Traces of the line of the outer two are just detectable in the arable field beyond this paddock. Attempts to trace the rest of what was presumed to be a circuit of banks and ditches met with only partial success on the ground (see Fig. 2). Both aerial photographs and a map of the open fields of Little Tew of 1742 indicate the line of this banked enclosure on all sides except the southeast. Whether this means that the enclosure was D-shaped and never fully circular is at present impossible to determine. As to its date, this is again difficult to establish. Fields to the south, between Manor Farm and the river Dom, have produced large quantities of prehistoric material. A multivallate fortification might best be regarded as Iron Age, but even a Dark Age date cannot be ruled out at present. Several small platforms were observed within the enclosure, in the paddock mentioned earlier. The disposition of these level areas in reference to the banks appears to favour contemporaneity.

West Oxfordshire District
(SP 3975 1542) East End Villa, North Leigh

A request for information on the early excavations at this Guardianship site from its part-time custodian led to a review of its interpretation from available source material and close observation on-site. Within the guardianship area it was possible to establish the original location of a series of massive columns as being the baths/temple complex in the north east range of buildings. This would have had a huge facade, perhaps surmounted by a pediment. Measurement of wall thickness facilitated a reconstruction which envisages a three storey structure for the principal range. An area of parching observed by Mr Ray Young in the centre

of the main courtyard is thought to be suggestive of an ornamental centrepiece. Beyond this courtyard, further observations of growth patterns of crops, and slight parching of meadow grassland were made. This amplified information from a watching brief carried out in 1979 which suggested further substantial structures existing beyond the Guardianship area to the north, and towards the river Evenlode to the east. Matching of these marks with the plan of the excavated structures leads to a suspicion that further courtyards may be ranged along the northern front of the presumed principle structures, and that the northeastern and southwestern ranges were carried further southeastwards to a river frontage.

West Oxfordshire District
(SP 3189 2869) (house) Over Norton Park

In August 1990 a service trench was dug from the continuation of the village main street (at SP 3174 2853) to a point eastwards beyond the garden surrounding the House (at SP 3192 2872). The trench was observed when open, only in the eastern two-thirds of its course. Directly south of the House, a bank running northwest-southeast was visible at surface, and was intersected by the trench at SP 3190 2862. In section, the bank was shown to be 1.5m broad, and fronted to its eastern side by an entirely infilled ditch 2.5m. wide and 0.5m. deep. One of the two sherds of plain medieval pottery recovered from this part of the trench came from spoil immediately adjacent to the ditch. The opportunity was taken to record other features in the Park. A short stretch of a broad ditch northeast of the garden is presumed to be the remains of a ha-ha, then in process of being infilled with building rubble. A series of ponds in the valley of the Cleeve stream below the House was being restored, and one of the earthen dams for the upper series of ponds had recently been cleared of vegetation. A large irregular stone had been revealed, embedded in the surface of the dam at SP 3201 2860. The shelly oolitic limestone of this stone, its size and weathering pattern and lichen covered surfaces is closely similar to these characteristics of the King's Men among the Rollright Stones. Another monolith has been re-erected in the rear garden of a house near the centre of the village at SP 3169 2830. The existence of two such stones in secondary contexts here may represent the survival of elements of a circular barrow with stonework on its east side noted by O G S Crawford at SP 3217 2847. If such an identification can be sustained (see Lambrick, *The Rollright Stones*, 1988, p114-5), it supports the recognition of a continuous distribution of 'portal dolmen' structures set in small circular barrows, of which the Hoar Stone, Enstone, and possibly also the Hoar Stone at Barton Abbey may be further examples eastwards.

West Oxfordshire District
(SP 3485 2155) Court Close, Spelsbury

A tree downed in winter gales was found to have been rooted in stone rubble on the northeastern corner of the churchyard of All Saints Church. An attempt to adduce a context for this

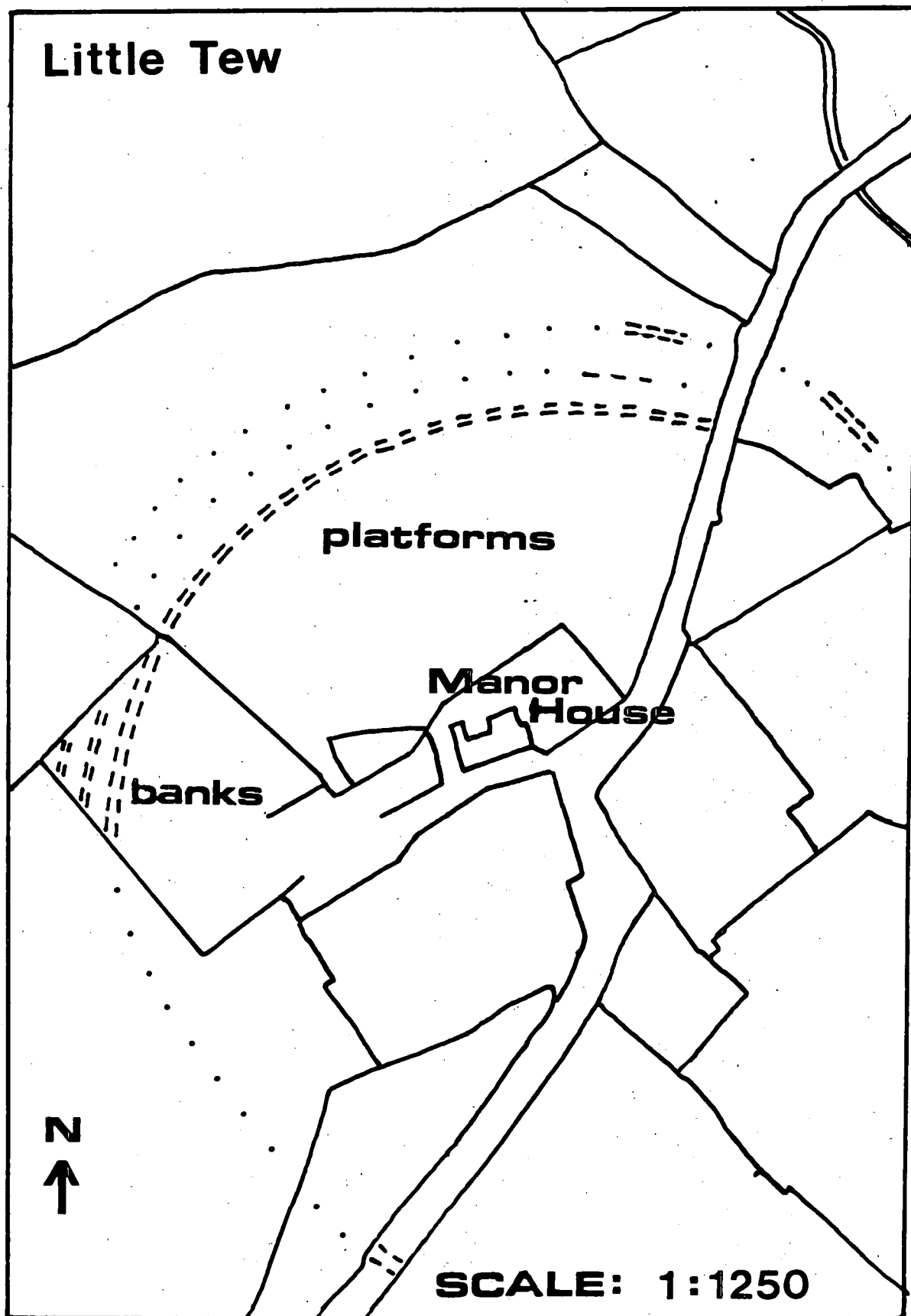


Fig. 2. Little Tew.

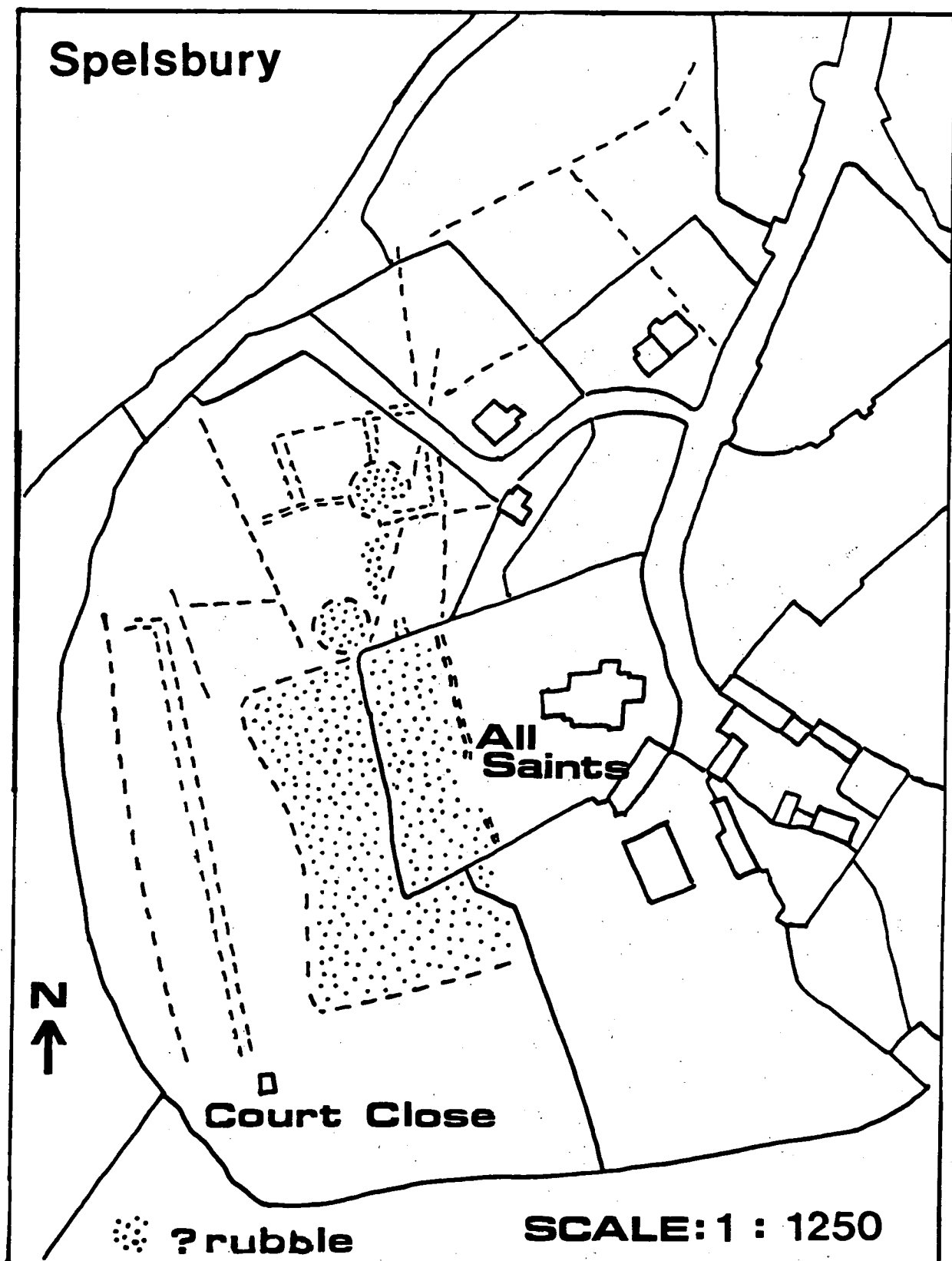


Fig. 3. Spelsbury.

rubble led to close inspection of Court Close, immediately adjacent to the West, and a review of information about the late Saxon and early Norman episcopal residence presumed by some writers to have stood here. The church itself was a substantial stone cruciform structure at the relevant date, but the nave and both transepts were subsequently removed. This leaves a west tower of massive proportions with clear traces of its earlier form in shallow clasping pilaster strips extending to ground level at the tower angles, but terminating at eaves level in the centre of all three visible sides. The present churchyard has been extended to the west onto a pronounced platform. This is traceable in the adjacent paddock (known as Court Close) as a broadly rectangular feature, the eastern edge of which is marked by a bank representing the former eastern limit of the churchyard. The original nave of the church may have extended this far west also. Aerial photographs of 1935 taken by Major Allen help to clarify the disposition of features. The 'platform' appears to comprise a spread of rubble, and smaller circular and linear dumps are visible to the north of it, also under pasture. At least one large rectangular building is visible partly buried beneath one of the smaller dumps. Two straight parallel banks are traceable on the western flank of Court Close (see Fig.3). The exact status of this site is uncertain. It is difficult to sustain one interpretation, namely that the earthworks are part of a shrunken medieval village. Mrs E. Corbett in her *History of Spelsbury* (1962) identifies Court Close as the site of the Wychwood residence of the Bishops of Worcester and subsequently as that of a castle of the Beauchamps, Plantagenet Earls of Warwick. Certainly the amount of rubble adduced as present here suggests a substantial stone building, and the number of banks indicate that the complex occupied a substantial plot of land. One find made in Court Close in 1933 has been little reported, but does appear to support the idea that a high status residence existed here. This is a gilt bronze disc 4.6cm. in diameter with relief-cast interlace fields pierced by two rivets. These latter have led to its identification as a brooch, but it is more likely to have been a hanging-bowl escutcheon. Interlaced patterns on these objects are regarded as late in the series, and as late seventh or even early eighth century in date. This is of particular interest in view of the earliest documentary reference to the Spelsbury area, a Mercian royal charter of 840 in which King Berhtwulf gave Bishop Heaberht of Worcester 'land enough for ten households in the place the countrymen call Wychwood'.

West Oxfordshire District

(SP 4438 1679) Fletcher's House, Woodstock

During the rebuilding of the brick half-wall dividing the garden area of the County museum, the footings of an earlier wall were discovered. Based on rubble foundations, up to three courses of limestone ashlar survived. Following the recovery of flint-tempered pottery as well as late medieval and post medieval finds, the base of the construction trench for the rebuilding was carefully cleaned. It appeared that the construction trench for the original stone wall was cut into a level containing medieval material, but it was not possible to trace the boundaries of this latter deposit. The

flint-tempered pottery is unlikely to be later in date than the eleventh century and may therefore predate the foundation of New Woodstock in the late twelfth century. The only earlier known finds nearby were those of 1755, of Roman coins from near the parish church.

OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

MERTON: BORROW PITS

SP 571170 - George Lambrick and Mick Parsons

The huge limestone quarry being dug to provide roadstone for the new M40 threatened to destroy two Bronze Age ring ditches and a possible Iron Age enclosure. Vigilance by the County Museum Services prevented their destruction in the nick of time, and in January and February an excavation was commissioned by the contractors, Sir Alfred McAlpine, to fulfil the County's planning requirements. An adjacent field which was to be landscaped was also assessed. The site lies very close to the river Ray, just upstream from the Dorchester-Alchester Roman road crossing. Spring 1990 saw some of the most extensive floods for many years and at one point almost the whole area was under water, which severely hampered work. Eventually, however, the water retreated and the project was successfully completed. The two ring ditches were very typical, one 24 m. in diameter with a ditch 3 m. wide and 1 m. deep, the other similar in size but with a shallower ditch. The southern ring produced five cremations, three of them in urns (one at least a small collared urn with twisted cord decoration), which were found just inside the ditch in its SE quadrant. There was no central burial, and it is not clear what form the barrow took: it may have been a bowl barrow with a central mound or a disc barrow with an external bank. The ditch was largely devoid of finds, except for an interesting cluster of 45 most unusual large square flint flakes which probably represent a bagful of scraping or cutting tools. The second ring ditch also had no central burial, and the only cremation, again with a small urn, was in the bottom of a very large shallow pit, 4 x 5m. but only 0.3m. deep. This had been filled with stone. This ring ditch contained several pieces of pottery including a fragment of a decorated urn. The ditch cut the end of the small rectangular enclosure which was confirmed to be middle Iron Age. The only other possible Iron Age features in this excavation were a large pit (possibly for grain storage) and two much smaller pits and a few postholes with burnt stone in them. Unfortunately these did not add up to positive evidence for a house. The assessment of the next field revealed an area with more evidence of Iron Age activity, mostly of a low density, and this is to be preserved in the landscaping proposals.

CUMNOR: PINKHILL MEADOW

SP 460067 - Naomi Hutchings

At Farmoor Reservoir a watching brief was carried out on behalf of Thames Water during the enhancement programme for Pinkhill Meadow, to check for finds and

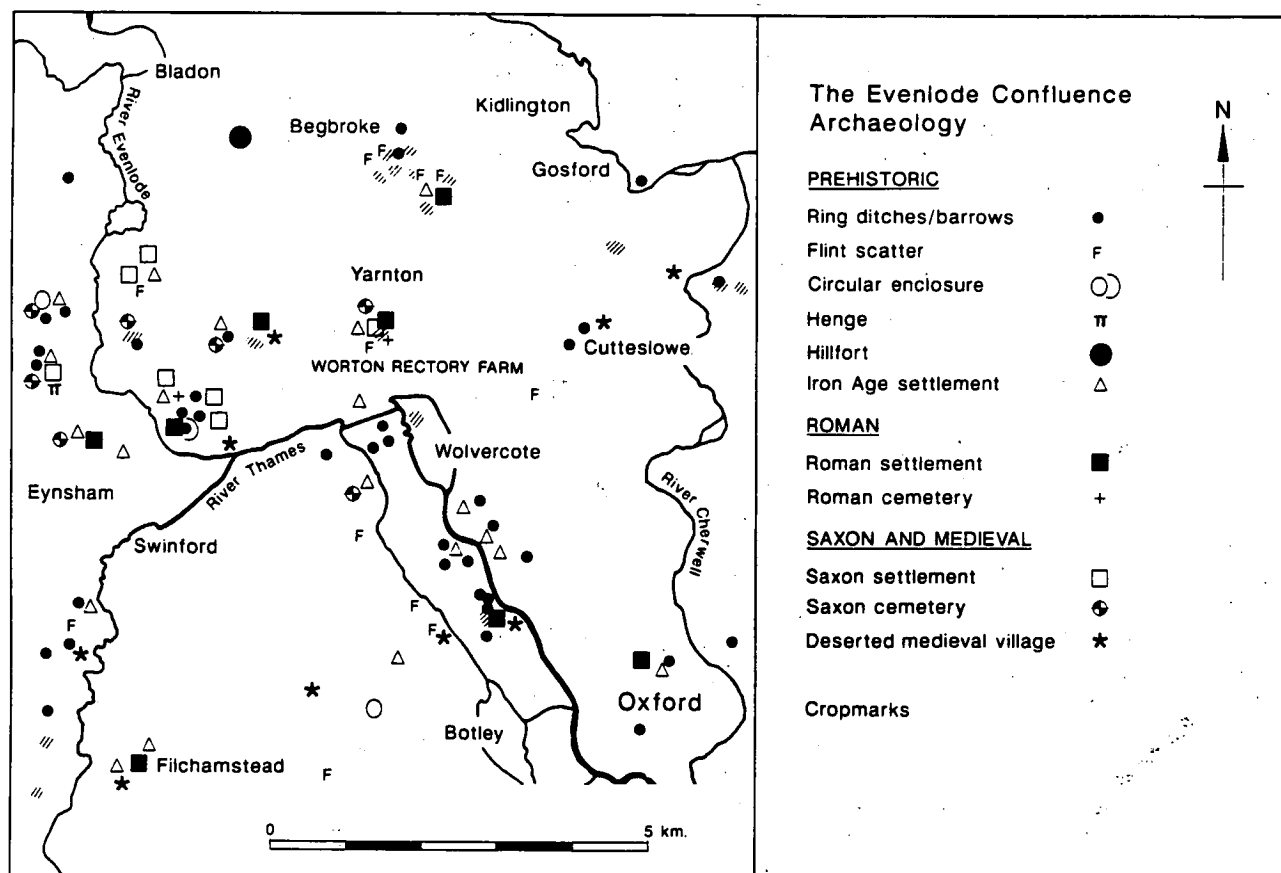


Fig. 3. Evenlode Confluence Archaeology.

features. Pinkhill Meadow is approximately one kilometre to the NE of a previously identified Iron Age and Roman settlement site. Three lakes were dug: a large central one with two smaller, shallower lakes to the NE and to the S, revealing alluvium to a depth of approximately 1m. above the natural gravel. The only obvious archaeological feature was an E-W linear ditch showing in the E side of the central lake, 1m. wide and approximately 1m. deep, containing a few sherds of Iron Age pottery. The ditch could be followed for a length of 14m. On the S side of the central lake a shallow scoop was identified, containing burnt material but with no associated finds. Part of a quartz hammerstone was also picked up. These finds would seem to indicate some occupation, probably seasonal, of the Thames floodplain in this area during the Iron Age.

YARNTON WORTON RECTORY FARM SP474113 - Gill Hey

Gravel extraction by ARC in their new Cassington Pit has prompted a new programme of work by the Oxford Archaeological Unit. This work is being funded by English Heritage and has the full co-operation of ARC.

Archaeological background

The gravel pit lies in the Thames/Evenlode confluence area (Fig. 3). Extensive gravel extraction, railway and road

building and housing development in the past have led to the destruction of many rich sites with only limited and piecemeal recording. The large late Iron Age enclosure at Cassington Mill is the most obvious example of a range of sites from the Neolithic to the early medieval period which have suffered this fate. [Fig 1] It is hoped to set some of these sites into context and test regional hypotheses relating to Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon settlement patterns and political, social and economic change. It is also hoped to provide evidence of land use in the past. The site lies on an area of second terrace gravel, interspersed with Oxford clay and silty loam deposits, sloping down onto the alluvium of the Thames floodplain. Two palaeochannels, running roughly east to west, cut gravel islands on the floodplain which lie very close to the surface in several places. Oxey Mead, a well documented historic haymeadow, lies in the southeast of the pit (Fig. 4).

Outline of Archaeological Programme

The project was initiated by the discovery of a set of air photographs of a dense cropmark site in the future ARC plant area and the exposure of part of a wooden platform or trackway on the edge of a palaeochannel. The wood, from which two flint flakes and several hazelnut shells were recovered, was destroyed before it could be properly examined but the Oxford Archaeological Unit was able to mount an assessment of the future plant site and on the basis

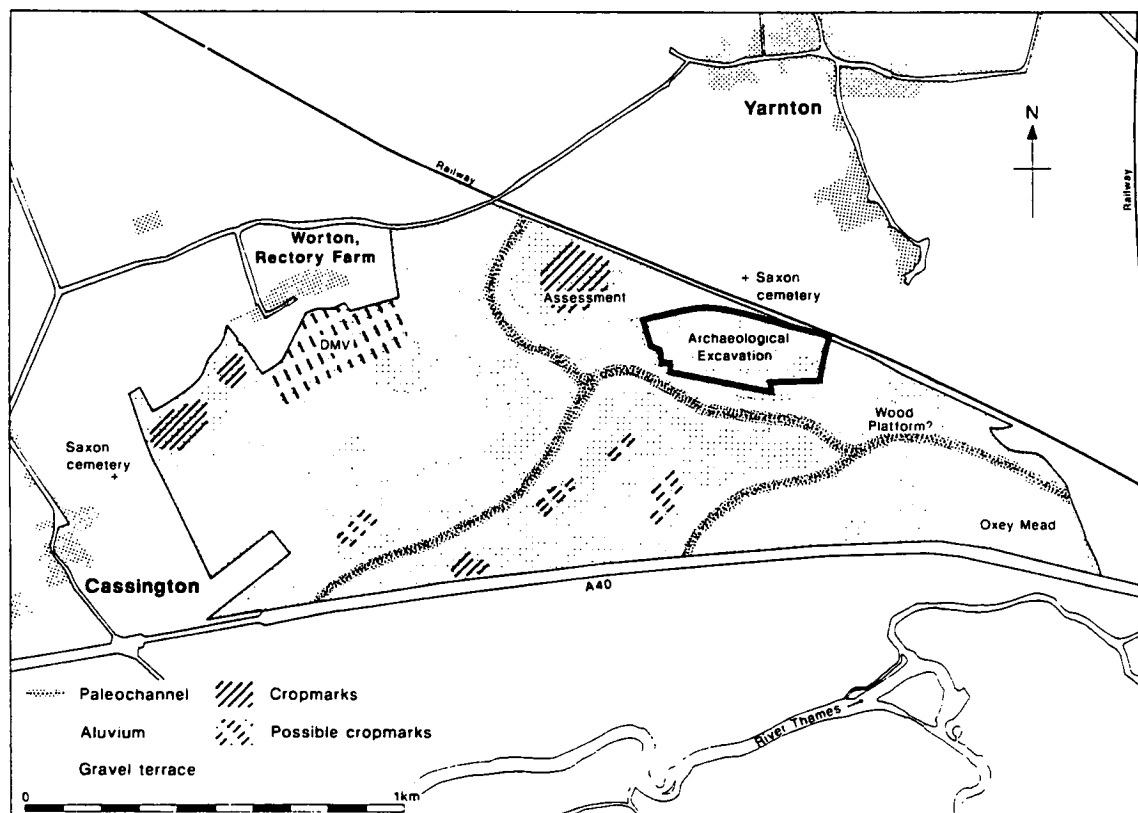


Fig. 4. Yarnton, Worton Rectory Farm: Sites in pit.

of the results English Heritage funded a limited programme of excavation. Evidence of continuous occupation from the sixth century BC to the eighth century AD has been recovered. Such longevity of occupation is unique in the Upper Thames area. A complex site dating from the early Iron Age to Saxon period was excavated on the plant site. The area adjacent has now been stripped and work is in progress on a high-status seventh century Saxon settlement. Some further assessment work has taken place on the field to the north of the plant site and the early Iron Age settlement was found to extend into this field. Fieldwalking in the area of the pit will help to locate other possible occupation sites. The project also intends to address the problem of the environmental background of the settlement and the landuse of the area. Sections cut through a series of alluvial deposits in the palaeochannels, both in Oxey Mead and immediately to the south of the settlement, have been sampled for macrobotanical remains and pollen. Bundles of flax, from the flax retting process, were recovered from a probable Iron Age context in Oxey Mead. The fieldwalking programme is intended to examine manuring patterns and includes fields over varied geology beyond the pit area but within the presumed site catchment. Comparisons with environmental evidence from contemporary occupation contexts should be particularly interesting.

Excavations on the plant site

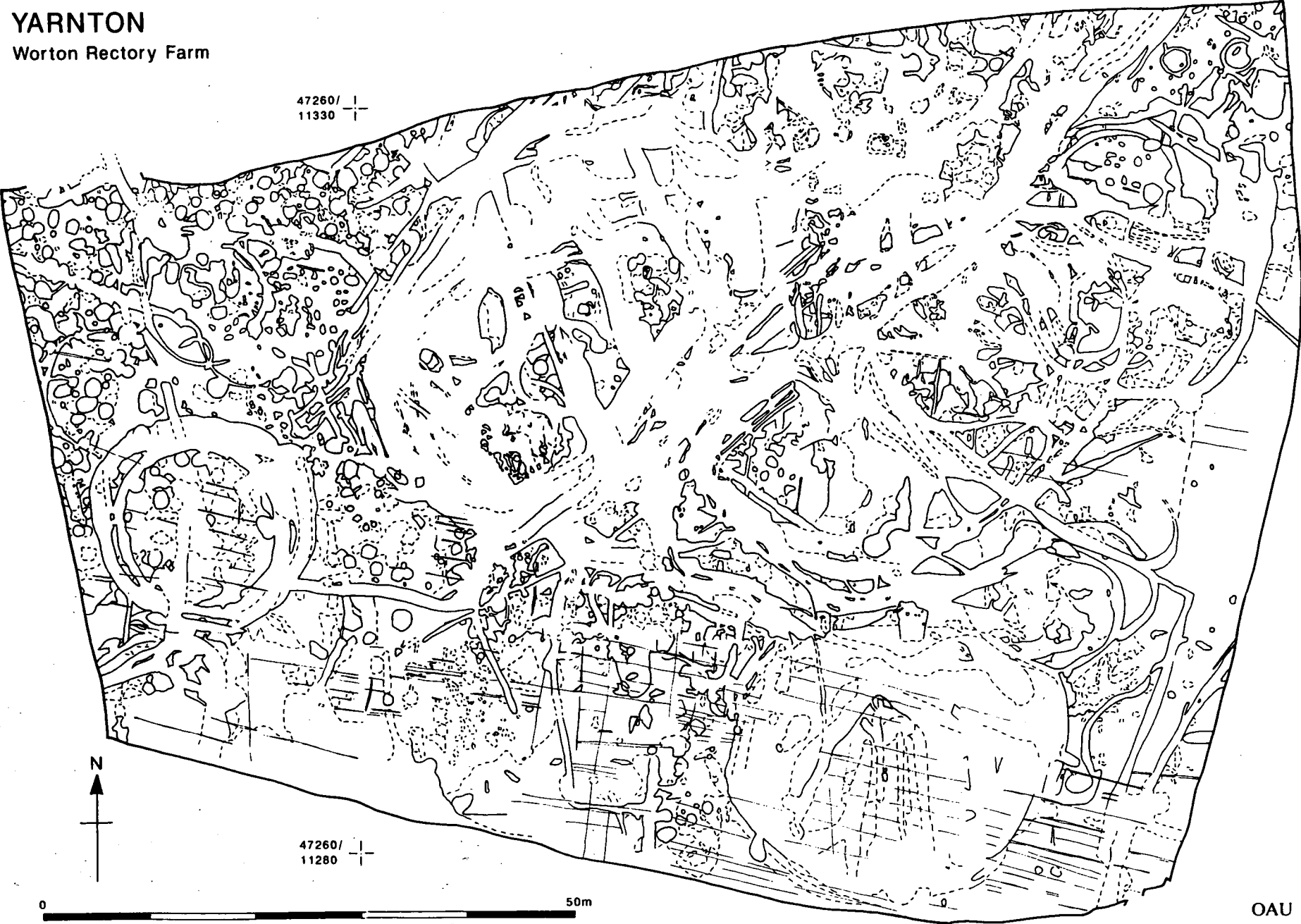
The cropmarks on the air photographs indicated that the site had a great density and variety of archaeological features. Two small, circular enclosures, as well as a large number of

intercutting ditches of rectangular and sub-circular enclosures, linear features, a mass of pits and some possible gullies were all visible. In February 1990 an area about 1 hectare in size was opened for excavation and a further 3 hectares to its south and east was dealt with as a salvage operation. The archaeology proved to be much more complex than originally envisaged, partly because the feature density was so great (nearly 70% of the site). There was only sufficient time and money to assess and selectively sample the different elements of the site. Post-excavation analysis has not yet taken place. Although the first clear evidence of occupation was early Iron Age in date a late Neolithic flint scatter has been recovered from the lower ploughsoil and subsoil; part of a greenstone axe was found. A pit in the west of the site, mostly chopped away by three late Iron Age ditches, contained Mortlake Ware and another small pit in the present excavations to the east was filled with 75 flint tools and flakes, including a transverse arrowhead. A cremation was cut into the top of the pit. Beaker pits were recorded in the last century from the railway cutting to the north.

Iron Age

The early Iron Age occupation could be traced across the northern part of the site and into the salvage area to the east. Remains of at least five circular post-built houses were found, as was a fence-line and gullies which may represent land division. Remains of other structures and pits, including many grain storage pits have been recorded (Fig. 6). Later activity has disturbed and confused the layout of

YARNTON
Worton Rectory Farm



OAU

Fig. 5. Yarnton, west of site.

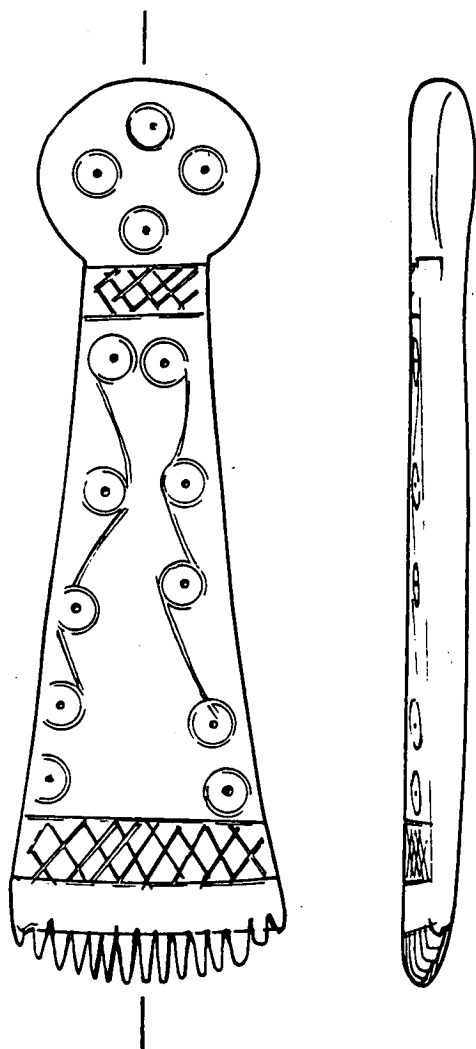


Fig. 6. Comb from early Iron Age pit.

the settlement to the east, except in the salvage area where the plans of two buildings and several grain storage pits were recovered. Recent assessment work in the field to the north of the plant site has shown that this phase of occupation spread at least two hectares to the northeast. The middle Iron Age settlement (c 350 BC - 50 BC) retained a similar focus. A ditch enclosed an area 15 m in diameter. Within the enclosure were the postholes of a circular timber house. This replaced an earlier circular building with entrance posts, which was probably early Iron Age in date. Other postholes in the enclosure probably represented the remains of animal pens and fence lines. An annexe on the north edge of this enclosure contained the postholes of a semicircular structure, probably a workshop. Slag from metalworking was found in the backfill of the ditches nearby. Other features of middle Iron Age date, especially pits, have been found elsewhere on the site. In the late Iron Age (c 50 BC - AD 50) the site layout was altered and several large animal enclosures were excavated. Two smaller, circular enclosures with good pottery groups could have had a domestic function. Postholes lay within one of these enclosures but the arrangement was disturbed by later Roman ditches.

Roman

The focus of early Roman occupation lay to the east of the excavation. The remains of a building with a compact earth

and clay floor surface was associated with a corn (or pot?) drying oven. Two pottery kilns were excavated a little to the east, within the salvage area. These small, clay-lined, oval kilns both had a double flue and a central pedestal for supporting the racks upon which the pots would have been fired (Fig. 7). Wasters from a pot which broke during firing were found in one of the kilns and suggested a late first century AD date. A stone-lined, T-shaped corn drier was excavated on the west edge of the site. Several charred seeds, probably of wheat, were recovered from the flue. Several of the enclosures, first dug in the late Iron Age, were recut and backfilled in the early Roman period, illustrating the strong degree of continuity within this period. New enclosures, presumably connected with stockmanagement, were dug including a large and frequently recut circular enclosure which from the air photographs was suspected to be a Bronze Age ring ditch. A small (?) late Roman cemetery was discovered, lying mostly within the salvage area. Unfortunately few objects were found with the bodies. Fifteen of the burials appeared to be pagan and lay north-south, two with their heads by their feet and another buried with a dog. A further seven were exposed a little to the northeast, lying east-west. This change in orientation could reflect Christian influence in the late Roman period. The evidence of late Roman occupation was slighter. Three post pads and other postholes in the north of the site were of this date but did not form a coherent structure. They were associated with a possible grain processing area. To the south part of a yard surface survived. It is suggested that this phase of occupation was worst affected by later ploughing and late Roman finds in the ploughsoil confirm this. On the east edge of the salvage area rows of large, rectangular postholes were found regularly spaced in threes and late Roman pottery was recovered from two of these. It may have been a granary. Other late Roman features were mostly field boundaries and paddocks.

Saxon

Saxon occupation of the site was first attested by the discovery of a sunken-featured building 4.30 x 3.70m. within the plant site excavation area. It was terraced into the slope and had a trampled floor surface and 1m. deep postholes to north and south. Several circular loomweights were found on the floor.

Nine further sunken-featured buildings were discovered in the salvage area. Postholes were only found at each end of the long axes. A decorated glass bead came from one of these structures (Fig. 8). The postholes of a rectangular timber building lay next to one of the sunken-featured buildings but there was insufficient time to examine this carefully.

Excavations east of the plant site

It was clear that the concentration of Saxon occupation lay to the north and east of the site, towards the Anglo-Saxon cemetery, which was discovered and largely destroyed during gravel extraction and railway building in the last century. Air photographs also indicated an interesting arrangement of enclosures in this area and late Roman finds

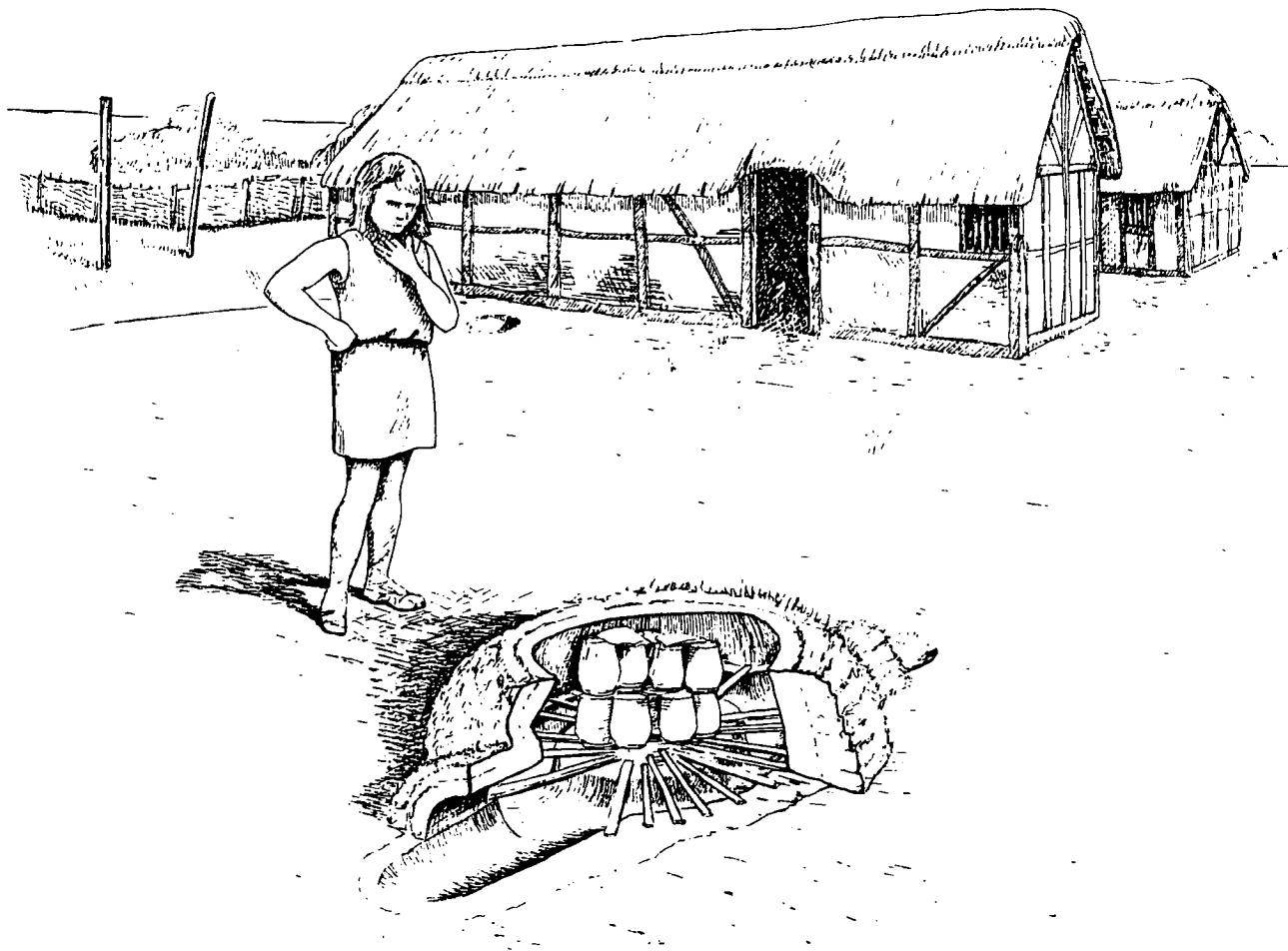


Fig. 7. Reconstruction of pottery kiln.

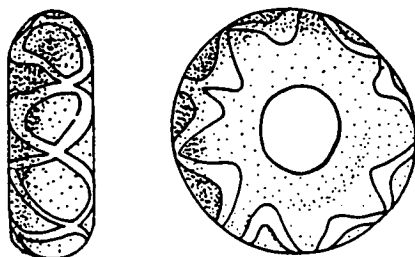


Fig. 8. Anglo-Saxon bead.

had been recovered from the ploughsoil. When ARC stripped this area in Autumn 1990 English Heritage once again agreed to finance a programme of work. This work is now in progress and the following are preliminary results.

The ditches of a Roman rectilinear field system were the earliest features discovered, although the paucity of finds so

far recovered from them makes them difficult to date. A series of boundary ditches running east-west seemed to form the southern limit of the site. Part of what appeared to be an everted entranceway was found, possibly a droveway onto the pasture of the floodplain and small rectangular enclosures nearby were probably associated paddocks.

The dating and sequence of the later enclosure system has not yet been fully investigated. It is potentially Saxon or sub-Roman in date. A large almost square enclosure cut across the earlier field system. Virtually no finds have come from the sections so far excavated although its southwestern corner was overlain by the smithy associated with the seventh century settlement. The enclosure appears to have been enlarged to the east. One of the timber halls and other potential structures not yet fully investigated were laid out within the enclosure. Either later cuts were open during the early to mid Saxon period (this in loose and fast-eroding silty loam) or the enclosure layout was retained in some way, possibly by hedges. A series of shallow ditches recut along the eastern arm of the large enclosure were certainly contemporary with the building and the latest silting seems to be filled with material from its destruction.

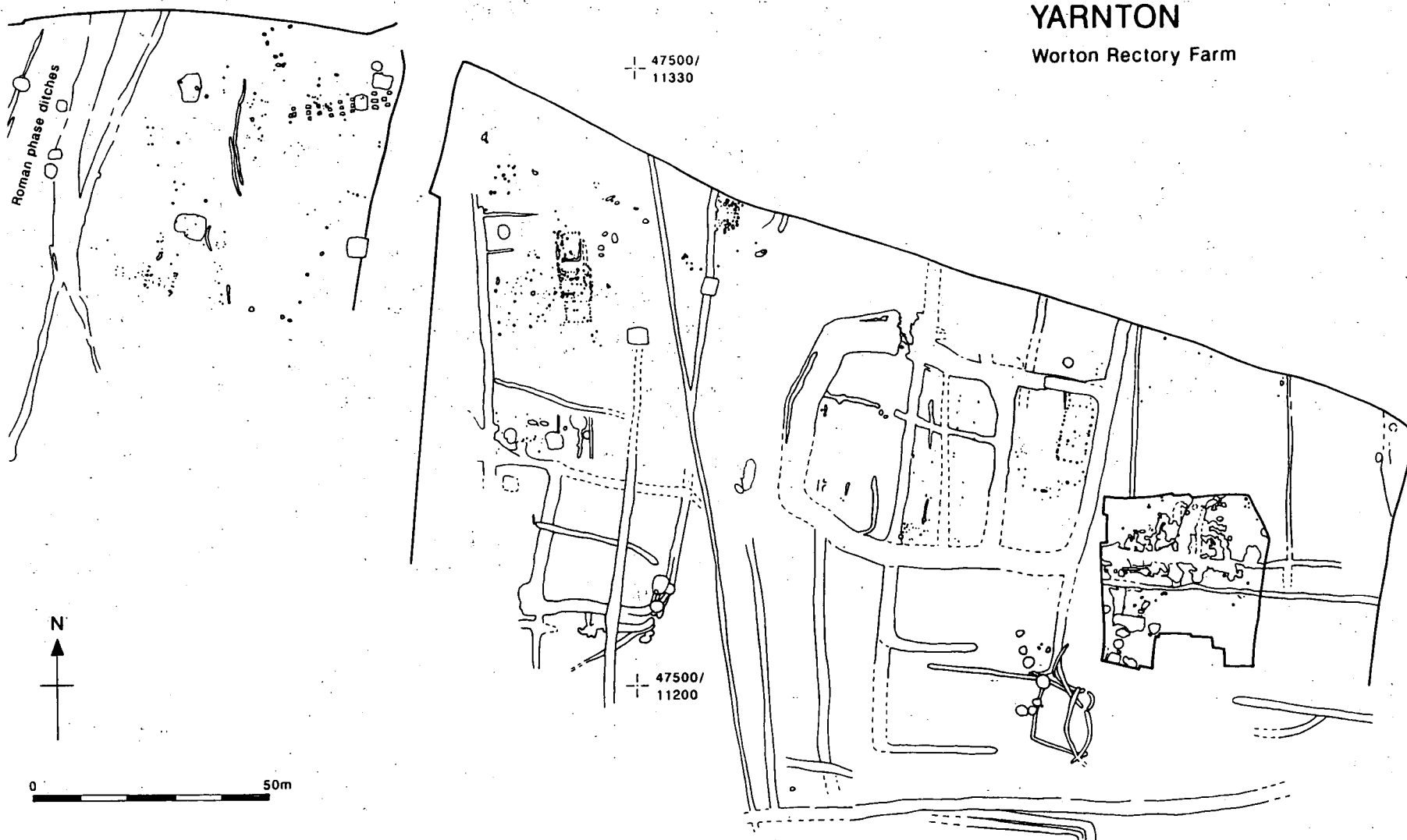


Fig. 9. Plan of east of site.

A smaller almost square (25 x 28m.) enclosure in the southwest of the site was certainly Saxon in date. Work is in progress on the seventh century settlement. The plans of three timber halls approximately 17 x 6.5m have so far been recovered and two others on the western edge of the site are now coming to light. Simple post-built wall construction seems to have been used, although some beam slot construction has been observed. At least one of the structures has a very complex history of rebuilding. Further halls within the large enclosure are suspected. Other smaller buildings have been observed but only two sunken-featured buildings have been found and both are in the southwest of the present excavation area. Gullies and shallow ditches seemed to delineate the occupation zones. Finds from these features are rare, in common with other high status sites of this date. However, imported Niedermendig lava quernstone has been found in reasonable quantity suggesting a mid Saxon date.

A smithy with a circular stone hearth base and a square stone working platform (?) is being excavated. Hammer scale and slag have been recovered from the adjacent area. Deep, irregular pits, generally devoid of occupation refuse, could well have been excavated to recover the fine sand for use as flux in welding.

Waterholes presumed to be contemporary with the settlement have been excavated in the lower, south part of the site. Well preserved waterlogged deposits were recovered including part of a wooden object, resembling a ladder.

Audlett Drive, Abingdon

SU 505973 - G D Keevill and M Parsons

Excavations by Oxford Archaeological Unit for Oxfordshire County Council revealed three early Saxon sunken-featured buildings, a number of gullies, and a major boundary ditch. The latter appears to be of mid to late Saxon date. The sunken-featured buildings are small, typically 2.5m. square, with a posthole centrally placed at each end. Finds include two bone spindle whorls, a triangular bone comb, a small copper alloy penannular brooch and large quantities of pottery. 359 postholes were revealed, 158 of which were excavated. Very few contained finds. Beaker pottery was recovered from a posthole which was sealed by one of the sunken-featured buildings. Some of the postholes, however, are clearly associated with the major Saxon boundary ditch.

Oxford, Park End Street: former Halls Brewery SP 507062 - Brian Durham

The former Halls Brewery site in Park End Street lies west of Oxford Castle in St Thomas, a medieval suburb established on the Thames flood plain terrace in the early thirteenth century. The two principal street frontages were been excavated ahead of office and residential development by Grosvenor Square Properties, who provided financial support.

Most of the documentation for this area comes from the Cartulary of Oseney Abbey, which owned enough property to give a representative picture. Three of the Hollybush Row properties were given to the abbey in 1265 by Roger of Comenore (ie Cumnor). At that time the street would have linked Hythe Bridge and perhaps the manor of North Oseney (under Rewley Abbey?) to the new St Thomas's Church and Oseney Abbey.

Apart from the frontage walls, the entire plan of one house and parts of two others were recorded, apparently planted on undisturbed topsoil, running parallel to the street. There was evidence of previous attempts to drain the area, and water channels remained an important feature of the local maps through to the 18th century. This was demonstrated in the excavation, where Buildings 1 and 2 were divided by a deep narrow channel whose stone linings formed the house foundations. A good range of medieval metalwork and coins came out of the earlier buildings, and in one case there was a semicircular oven built inside against the back wall.

A major reconstruction of the middle building occurred in the late Fourteenth or early Fifteenth century, when it was extended over the narrow channel, now infilled. From this fill came a vesicle-shaped lead seal matrix, inscribed S ROGERUM COMENORE CLICI (the seal of Roger of Cumnor, clerk), the name of the thirteenth century owner who had given these properties to Oseney perhaps 150 years previously. This seems to be the first time in English medieval archaeology that an identifiable personal possession has been recovered from its owner's property. The declension of ROGERUM is wrong, which is surprising for a man who described himself as a clerk. However, at the date when he was giving these properties to Oseney, he used another seal with his name contracted to ROG, thereby dodging the issue. It is therefore tempting to believe that the excavated seal was Roger's first, and that it was lost during the period when he was spending a lot of time at Holly Bush Row. He owned these properties for only five years, and the discovery of something as important as his personal seal is the strongest possible circumstantial evidence that he actually lived here.

Roger was a man of substance as well as being a clerk. In 1265 he unloaded no less than six properties on Oseney Abbey, having previously given another to his son Henry. Three years later he made the initial grant of land to the newly arrived Austin Friars to enable them to build their house and oratory. Perhaps he was a prosperous solicitor. Should we, therefore, expect to find him living in a comparatively humble house in St Thomas? The most substantial of the three was probably Building 1, of which only a fragment was accessible, but which may also prove to have been the oldest. Although the Oseney properties on this frontage are later described as cottages, the two in the middle were so much more valuable than the rest that it is reasonable to think that they arose from a tenement which was traditionally more prosperous. This could have been the house of Roger of Comenore.

On the south side of the site fronting St Thomas Street the medieval levels had suffered much more damage from the brewery buildings, and most of the stone structures appeared to be comparatively late. There were, however, some anomalies in the shape of medieval floor levels which did not respect the stonework, and by careful excavation it became clear that the earliest medieval buildings were made of shuttered mud or 'cob'.

Parts of two rooms were found, with a yard area beside. It appears, therefore, that this frontage was even less built up than that on Holly Bush Row, and provisional dating suggests it may have been as late as the fifteenth century. Behind was a rear wing, perhaps a service wing, and it was here that a second seal was found.

The later seal was disc-shaped and had no inscription, only a letter 'A' with a crown above it, three stars and a leaf. Martin Henig points out a similar crowned 'A' on a brooch carried by the prioress in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* where it is followed by the words 'amor vincit omnia' - 'love conquers all'. We ought to read this as the love of Christ, but Chaucer seems to be levelling a subtle innuendo at the prioress. The second excavated seal could therefore have been one of many medieval seals relating to love and friendship. One seal lost by a prosperous solicitor in his stone house, the other by a lover in a mud hut!

Thame: the Prebendal SP 702064 - Brian Durham

The prebendal house at Thame has a classic thirteenth century arrangement of solar and chapel, but the original hall which linked them was converted to a barn when a later hall was built to the north. Margaret Wood in *The English Medieval House* describes the buildings, and shows how the later hall has become the focus of the present house. Since 1837 it has been totally detached from the chapel and solar, and the owners have acquired a genuine medieval roof from elsewhere, which they propose to reerect on a new 'hall' linking the three components.

Thame church became a prebend of Lincoln Cathedral in 1234, and much of the surviving architecture is attributed to this date. The hall area was investigated with two hand-dug trenches, which encountered various modern disturbances and a large eighteenth century well, but it was clear that there are thin medieval floors within the foundations of the old building. The floors do not show the accumulation of ash which is associated with the open fires of a ground-floor hall, and the building does not appear to have pier bases which would be needed in a stone undercroft beneath a first floor hall; the logical explanation is that it had a first floor of timber, and it need not have been the hall at all, rather an additional solar or an antechamber.

This assessment has therefore provided significant new information on an important medieval house, and it is hoped that the development proposals will allow it to be investigated further.

Wallingford: former Cattle Market, Wood Street SU 608892 - Brian Durham

South Oxfordshire District Council extended a surface car park up to the line of Wood Street, which is known from previous excavations to have the only tenth-century deposits so far found in Wallingford, and is therefore an indicator of the centre of settlement within the Alfredian burh.

Only in one place were the contractors' excavations deep enough to show early deposits on Wood Street; there was a series of ashy and gravel occupation surfaces with a small group of Oxford Fabric B pottery underneath. The implication is that these were floors of the earliest building in this part of Wallingford, and that they are an indication of what may still survive a few inches beneath the clearance level over the rest of the site.

A typically eleventh-century group of St Neots-type ware from a pit cutting through this level supports the view that the earlier settlement was on the riverward side of the burh.

Oxford: Bartlemas House and leper hospital chapel SP 534055 - Brian Durham

A watching brief on earthmoving for a ornamental pond showed a medieval ditched and walled boundary between the existing fourteenth century chapel of the leper hospital and Bartlemas House to the north. The inference is that the house is a later addition, and therefore not part of the medieval hospital, which means that the hospital buildings must lie to the south of the chapel.

Oxford: Oriel College SP 515068 A sixteenth century leisure amenity? - Brian Durham

OAU has been investigating a real tennis court at Oriel College, looking at the floor deposits inside the building before they are disturbed by underpinning work.

Before the late sixteenth century, most of the surface now covered by the existing building seems to have been part of the garden of a property on the High Street (Nos. 104-5), with household refuse pits and two large squarish hollows, unlike anything seen in Oxford before. They are assumed to have a horticultural purpose.

The garden or gardens became a 'tennis play' by 1572, which seems to have been roofed by about 1600, the date of the pottery from a silt-filled pit. The reasoning is that this was the earliest of four pits under the court with similar clean silty fill, and at least two of them were fed by a drain from just outside the W wall, so logically they were collecting run-off from a roof.

The existence of a roof is not improbable, because real tennis requires a firm surface with a clean bounce for the hard balls,

and it is clear that in the English climate many courts were roofed.

The inside walls of the court are made of fine ashlar, again to give a true bounce, but many courts were timber and it appears that there was a timber phase at Oriel. The evidence here is the cast of two big earth-fast posts sunk more than 1.2m. into the ground, still in place when the stone footings were built up against them. Many sixteenth and seventeenth-century courts were timber, the play surfaces formed by horizontal planking, and it only remains to be decided at what point the Oxford court was rebuilt in its present form.

The first of a series of mortar floors dates from this time, and subsequent refloorings left the impressions of 6 inch and 9 inch paving tiles. A large number of the larger tiles from the later seventeenth century survive where they have been reused in the final phase of soakaway and its associated drain. A floor of stone slabs was laid around the beginning of the eighteenth century and this still survives in many parts of the building. As the slabs extend over the entire floor, it must mean that all the internal fittings of the court, including the ashlar walls of the penthouse, had been temporarily removed. In 1833-6 the building was used as the first of Oxford's four 'New' Theatres, with doorways cut through the playing surface of the E wall. This was subsequently reinstated to a playable standard before tennis was finally abandoned c 1860.

Thame: St Mary's Church SP 703063 - Brian Durham

Evaluation trenches at Thame Church have shown medieval floors in the N aisle and external burials back to the twelfth century, with more underneath, in part of the churchyard where it is proposed to build an underground complex of parish rooms.

The church lies in the oldest part of the town, in Priest End, opposite the thirteenth century Prebendal House close to the Thame Bridge and next door to the presumed site of the Bishops' Court.

It is a big cruciform church with aisles added in the thirteenth century on the sort of site which might have been the focus of a pre-Conquest settlement, perhaps even the site of the 'altar of Thame' on which Wulfhere swore in the seventh century. The excavation found sherds of late Saxon pottery for the first time in Thame, and the lowest tier of burials excavated (as opposed to those left in place) had stone 'ear-muffs' to support the head, typical of the twelfth century. In all 30 burials were lifted, and calculations indicate that there may be at least another 1000 in the area of the proposed undercroft. Assuming the development proceeds, this will be a major section of Thame's medieval population, perhaps with Saxon features beneath in some places. The Unit is very grateful to the church authorities for allowing this preview of what may be in store.

A small Cogge Brian Durham

For the past five years the Unit has been running training excavations at Cogges Manor Farm Museum, Witney, looking at the layout of the medieval manor house and castle. Each previous season work has been justified by a rescue threat, ie tree-planting, pipe-laying etc., and 1990 was the first year of pure research, with appropriate results.

The objective was to find the N range of the manor house, which had been hinted at in last year's excavations. The shape of the building is now clear, with two doorways, one into the courtyard on the S side, and one through a gable or crosswall to the W.

The interior of the building is very instructive in its eighteenth century form, with a stove base and a large corner oven. Just outside in the yard a small pit was stacked with eighteenth century wine bottles, perhaps the result of a party just before the building was pulled down. It would make sense as a utility wing for the shortlived boarding school of Mr Morland between 1753 and 1766, pulled down when Lord Harcourt reorganised the estate around 1778.

This puts a new complexion on the shape of the house at this stage, but it doesn't necessarily make the N range medieval.

Further work in the next two years will concentrate on the area to the W, and there is evidence of a large stone building continuing the N range.

Little Milton: Betts Farm SP 617005 - Brian Durham

Whilst landscaping the area beside a stone barn in the village of Little Milton, the owner recognised human bones coming from the side of his excavation, and they seem to be from an unusually large grave pit of prehistoric date. OAU recorded the deposit, but the rest of the feature runs into the adjoining property and no further excavation will be possible.

This grave must have been on a slight ridge, not the highest ground in the village, but higher than the church. There is no sign that it was marked by a barrow, but the grave cut was certainly large, about 1.8m. wide, and flat-bottomed. Most of the bones were dug out of the bank by the owner and his assistants, and they show that the body lay on its back with the head roughly N, and as far as could be seen it was parallel to the side of the grave cut. There was some ash in the lower fill, but otherwise no evidence of ritual and no grave goods.

This is the first prehistoric find in the village, which lies between the Ditch End Roman villa site and the suspiciously straight alignment of the A329 coming from the direction of Dorchester on Thames. The Unit is very grateful to Mr Caldwell for drawing our attention to the new find.

Eye and Dunsden: a dene hole at Dunsden Green
SU 740769 - Brian Durham

The Unit was asked by the County Archaeologist to investigate a report of a dene hole on cultivated land at Dunsden Green Farm near Reading.

The 9m. shaft was open to the bottom, with a scramble down steep ramps into the two opposing chambers, which were about 5m. high with barrel-shaped roofs and a floor width of 3-4m.

Damaged flint nodules in the walls suggested that the mining had been done with steel tools, and that the primary purpose was to recover chalk for marling. The reason for going so deep may have been that the roof of the mine would be self-supporting for use in successive years without sacrificing agricultural land, and the opposing chambers were parallel to the field boundary and may therefore have been designed to conform with a strip holding.

Witney: former Mount Mills site: 'Palace Farm'
SP 358093 - Brian Durham

The Unit carried out an evaluation of the site of a proposed office development by Tarmac Provincial Properties. It lies immediately to the E of twelfth century manor house of the bishops of Winchester at Witney, which since the excavations in 1984 has become known as Witney Palace.

The rock-cut E moat proved to be rather narrower than on the N side, and it seems to describe a gentle arc at a distance from the E terrace wall. To the N of the new site, fronting a lane leading from the manor to the bishops' mill, were a concentration of walls and internal floors, and the base of a very large oven or perhaps a lime kiln. These are presumed to be part of the manorial farm which is described in the bishopric rolls as being E of the manor house.

The proposed development of landscaped offices has been redesigned to avoid the structures found in the assessment, but there is still likely to be an archaeological impact and further rescue excavations may show more of the peripheral parts of the farm.

Ducklington: Gill Mill
SP 373075 - Paul Booth

Work at Gill Mill on behalf of J Smith and Sons was concentrated in two separate areas in 1990. The first, in the northern part of the gravel extraction complex (SMA 19, 50) was a small middle Iron Age farmstead which was identified at Gill Mill during assessment trenching in 1988. This excavation revealed its plan, consisting of a single house site and a series of attached animal pens or enclosures (for a plan see *OAU Archaeological News* xvii no. 2 (1990), 11). Two main phases are discernible. There was very little domestic rubbish and the farmstead was probably not occupied for very long. Some of the ditches were still waterlogged and

the site had been covered by alluvium; it may have been subject to flooding when it was in use, and occupied only seasonally.

The form of the site is typical of low-lying summer grazing camps of the kind excavated by the Unit at Farnmoor and Claydon Pike.

Three such sites (also sampled by the Unit) still survive as earthworks on Port Meadow, and the preserved plant remains from their ditches reflect exactly the modern flora of Port Meadow, which is known to have been common grazing land for at least 800 years.

The Gill Mill site dates from the same period (c 200-50 BC) and again waterlogged plant remains are likely to provide evidence of its environment. A preliminary inspection by Mark Robinson has already revealed the presence of bracken, which occurs at other sites and was probably used for animal bedding.

Gill Mill fits neatly into the pattern of Iron Age settlement in the lower Windrush Valley. The Unit's intensive work on sites in this area like Gravelly Guy, Mingies Ditch and Watkins Farm, together with earlier discoveries, is making it one of the best understood areas of Iron Age rural settlement anywhere in Britain. Not only is it clear how different types of site occupied specific topographical and environmental niches, but it is also becoming apparent how they developed through time and how in economic terms the settlements complemented each other, reflecting their strong social links.

A part of a major Roman settlement lying some 800m. SE of the Iron Age site was examined by excavation and salvage recording in June and July 1990. This settlement, identified in assessment trenching in 1988 and 1989, is in parts very well preserved, and some features contain waterlogged deposits. The importance of these deposits has been recognised by the gravel company, Smiths, who have agreed not to extract the main part of the Roman occupation area. This is to be protected from water loss during quarrying by the construction of clay bunds against the sides of the adjacent gravel pits as they are excavated.

The Roman settlement is a linear one, laid out on both sides of a road running NNE/SSW across the Windrush Valley. The 1990 work examined parts of the rear of a series of plots laid out along the western side of the road. The westerly extent of these plots was defined by a sequence of boundary ditches. Within the main excavated area (c 40 x 50m) the alignment of these ditches veered away from being parallel to the road to a N-S orientation.

In this area the earliest version of the boundary ditch was the most westerly, about 4m. wide. Later ditches to the E perpetuated this alignment through at least two further phases and were related to more ditches at right-angles, the latter presumably separating different properties. Three large pits were probably contemporary with the later ditches; they contained waterlogged organic material,

including wooden and leather objects, and tesserae were found in one of them.

Further S the situation was even more complex, with perhaps as many as four phases of ditch running parallel to the road, though it is possible that some of the ditches were in contemporary use.

Unfortunately the proximity of the eastern edge of the area examined made it impossible to identify with certainty the number of plots defined by ditches at right-angles to the main alignment, but there may have been at least four such plots, varying in width from c 25-35m., in addition to those lying within the area of excavation to the N. Behind the roadside plots, to the W, further ditches may have defined small fields or paddocks. These contained a number of features of uncertain function, some of which may have been tree holes, and one which is tentatively interpreted as a pond.

Nine cremation and three inhumation burials were found. Most of these were located within the area defined by the principal ditch alignment, usually close to it. One group of three cremations and an inhumation occurred within a small rectilinear enclosure at the southern edge of the area examined. This well defined space may have been intended specifically for burials, though the small number of burials located may argue against this suggestion.

There was no conclusive evidence for structures within the areas examined, but part of the floor of a possible timber building was located in a trench at the northern end of the site. The presence of tesserae, some with mortar adhering to

them, in a pit presumably indicates the existence of at least one substantial stone building within the settlement.

Four rows of post settings, some containing waterlogged timber, were found in the excavated area. The similarity of alignment of one of these rows to the E-W ditches in the excavated area was probably coincidental, however, and it seems likely that these rows represented post-medieval fence lines, despite the fact that some of the settings appeared to be sealed by alluvium. Many of the Roman features lay beneath alluvial deposits which made the site invisible from the air. The most obvious features visible on aerial photographs are former watercourses; several probable examples were located within the salvage recorded area. Some, at least, must have predated the Roman settlement.

The finds have yet to be examined in detail, but suggest a second to fourth-century date range, with early Roman material poorly represented. A large number of third-fourth century coins have been recovered from the general area. The outstanding small object from the recent work was part of a limestone shrine or altar, two pieces of which were found at the northern end of the site (Fig. 10). This object and the very large numbers of coins might imply the existence of a temple which could perhaps have formed a focus for the settlement, the presence of which in such a low-lying location is not easily explained.

Further salvage work to the NW of the area described above produced evidence for a second Roman road running across the Windrush Valley. The alignment of this road, like that of the one forming the axis of the Roman settlement, coincides with the position of a known ford across the river, the two crossing places being some 650m. apart. It is uncertain why two crossings were required so close together, and they may not have been in use at the same time. Nevertheless, their survival up to the present day is interesting.

An archaeological display concentrating on the work at Gill Mill was provided for the official opening of the gravel pit in early June 1990.

Uffington: White Horse Hill project SU 302866 - Simon Plamer

The Uffington Hill figure, the White Horse, began to reveal some of its long-hidden secrets over the last year. Like all thoroughbreds it has a long pedigree, stretching back in documents to the twelfth century; none of the other surviving horse figures can claim a date earlier than the eighteenth century. The Uffington Horse has been the centre of a controversy in recent centuries over its exact date, with two opposed schools of thought. Its stylised outline, reminiscent of figures on Celtic coins, has been taken as firm evidence for it being an Iron Age creation.

There is, however, a view argued cogently by Diana Woolner that its present shape is purely an accident and that

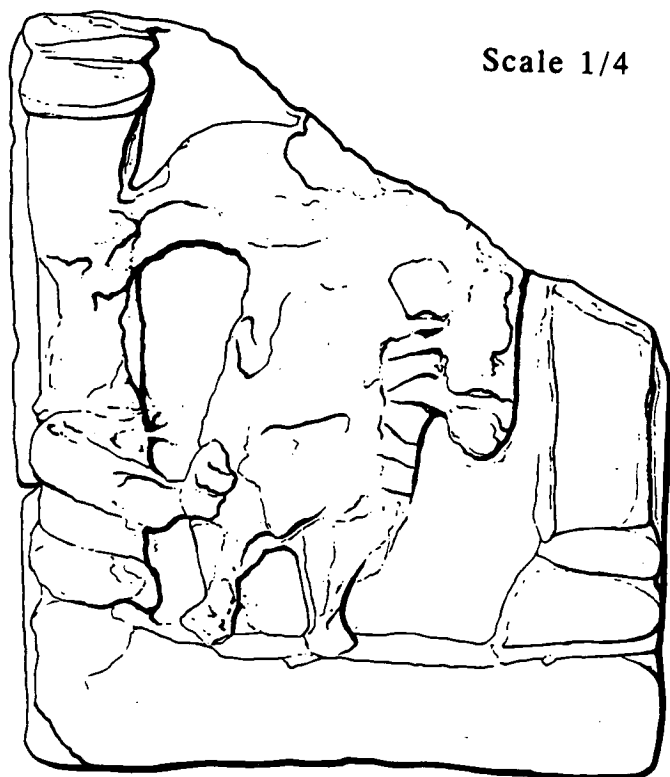


Fig. 10. Limestone altar fragment.

time, erosion and successive scourings have had their effect and gradually changed the shape. From this argument a Saxon date would seem more likely, making the monument up to a thousand years younger.

Excavation work in 1990, again undertaken with the backing of English Heritage and the National Trust, was an attempt to clear up this mystery not only by investigating the Horse's changing shape but also by attempting to date the silt deposits interstratified with the Horse.

The Horse was extensively restored after the war and the opportunity was taken then to excavate a trench adjacent to the beak-like projection from the head of the Horse. The results of this work were never published but were nevertheless important.

They showed two successive phases of beak, separated by hillwash and positioned some way above the chalk bedrock. This trench was reopened in May and revealed four successive beaks - an earlier beak which was missed in the post-war investigation and a later one which has formed since the 1952 restoration. This beak certainly has a long history and has kept its shape and position with only minor variations, despite completely disappearing at times. The silt beneath the earliest beak has been dated to the prehistoric era by optical stimulated luminescence (OSL). This however only gives a terminus post quem for the horse; further dates above this earliest beak are still awaited.

Another trench was placed down the hill from the belly of the horse to see how much this bottom edge had moved - was it once a more natural-looking animal rather than the present, somewhat outre beast? This trench showed clearly that the horse was mainly of a packed chalk construction and that the original edge was never more than 2m. further down-slope. Thus the horse seems never to have been a natural equine shape.

At the same time work has continued on the hillfort, Uffington Castle. In 1989 an area of rampart that had been cut through by a breach was investigated. Documentary evidence (in the form of Saxon boundary charters) indicated that this breach on the NE and a similar breach on the SE were extant in the ninth century AD.

The 1989 section was continued through the outer ditch and across the counterscarp bank, giving a complete section of the fortifications.

The SE breach was also investigated in 1990. This trench gave the same sequence as the previous year's excavation - a box rampart with backing bank, succeeded by a dump rampart with a large V-shaped ditch. Sarsen stones were again encountered in the middle layers of the later ditch, adding weight to the surmise that there had been a Sarsen 'parapet' wall which had been slighted. The infilling of the ditch seems to indicate that the cutting of the breaches may have occurred at the same time.

The only dating evidence for the slighting was from the layers above, from which quantities of Roman pottery were recovered. These breaches in Uffington Castle therefore seem to have at least 2000 years of antiquity to their credit and as such will now remain as permanent features of the monument.

Little was recovered in 1990 in the way of dating evidence for the initial construction of the fort - an early Iron Age date was indicated in 1989.

In 1989 the interior of the fort was subjected to a geophysical survey; this year it was sampled for magnetic susceptibility and phosphates. Results to date do not seem to suggest a long-term, densely occupied site.

The Ancient Monuments Laboratory's geophysics team have also surveyed the top of Dragon Hill - the flat-topped chalk outlier beneath the White Horse. The main interest here is the reference to an Ecclesia in a Saxon charter - could there be a Saxon church on this site? Unfortunately preliminary results do not indicate any anomalies beneath the present surface.

The Manger, the deep dry valley below the fort and Horse, was also investigated in 1990. The accumulation of silts was trenched in an attempt to document landuse history on top of the Downs by the study of snails and other environmental evidence.

Similar exercises on colluvial deposits on the South Downs have been successful. Just under a metre of colluvium has built up at the head of the manger but with up to 2m. of chalkwash beneath. Most of this hillwash appears to be Roman or post-Roman in date and seals an earlier soil horizon, now buried.

The geomorphology of the area has been elucidated by this exercise. The terrace or 'bench' around the head of the manger has its origin in an early postglacial scree deposit, loose chalk blocks piling up at the bottom of the slope.

An 'oppidum' at Abingdon, Oxfordshire SU 499 973 - Tim Allen

Since the end of the main excavation in December 1989 salvage has been progressing to the N in advance of road construction. This has revealed further Iron Age and early Roman features N of the silted course of the river Stort plotted by Rocque (Fig. 11), and has located the boundary of the Iron Age and early Roman settlement, marked by a ditch some 10m. wide and 3m. deep in gravel.

The ditch was only seen in part in three narrow exposures, but a group of mid 1st century pottery was recovered from an occupation dump halfway up the fills. Waterlogged organic deposits were preserved in the primary silting, which should provide the environmental context for the ditch. Immediately S of the ditch was a band c 10 m wide without features of early Roman date, which is interpreted

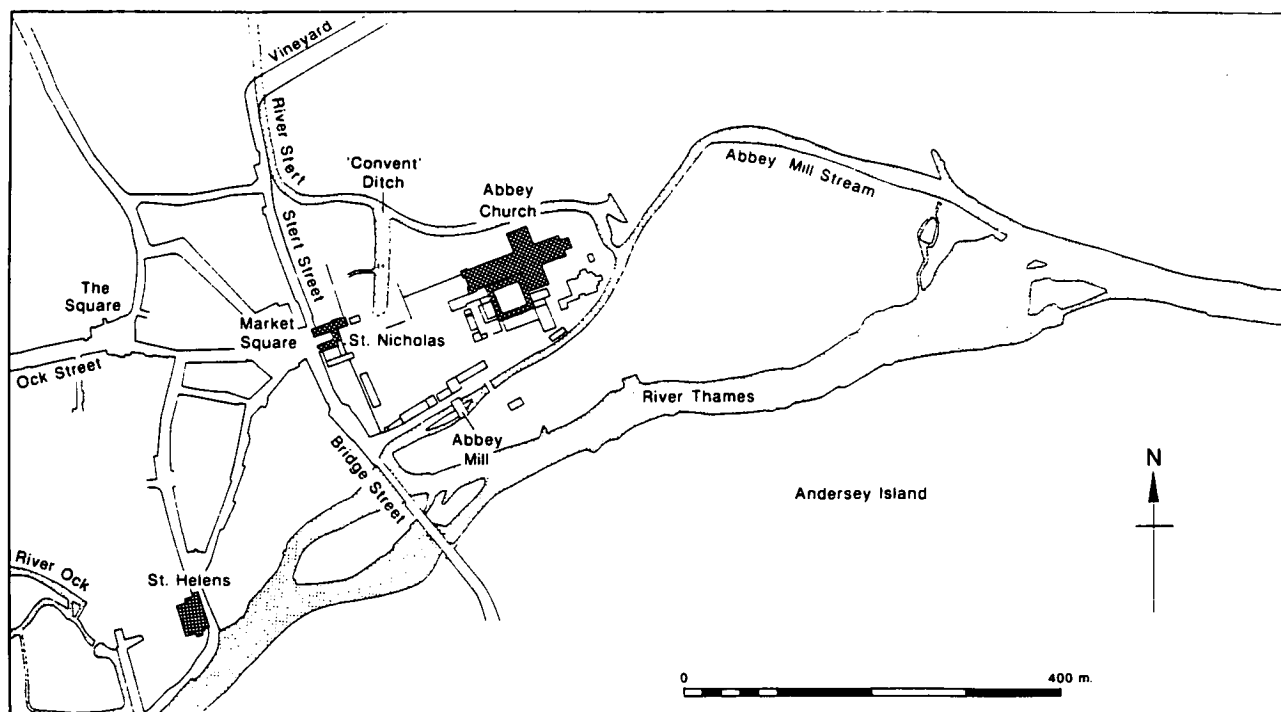


Fig. 11. Map of Abingdon.

as the site of the upcast bank from the ditch. N of the ditch excavations in Vineyard Area 1 (Allen 1989, 45) and in Vineyard Area 6, currently under excavation, have revealed only second-fourth century Roman activity, showing that the ditch was the limit of the dense early Roman settlement.

This defensive-sized ditch suggests that the riverside settlement at Abingdon was enclosed, making it similar to the surviving valley enclosure at Dyke Hills, Dorchester-on-Thames and the largely destroyed Big Rings at Cassington, Oxfordshire.

Like these other two sites it occurs at the junction of the Thames with one of its tributaries, in this case the Ock. The pottery from this period includes a wide range of finely made butt-beakers, a small quantity of Claudio-Neronian samian and Continental imports, for instance Terra Nigra vessels and sherds of glazed St Remy ware. These high status finds confirm Abingdon's role as a central place or 'oppidum' at this time.

Another result of the salvage has been to show that the Stert very probably did not follow the course plotted by Rocque in the Iron Age or Roman period. Roman ditches can be traced continuing on either side of the river without any indication of a break, and the proximity of the 'oppidum ditch' to the course of the river makes it very unlikely that both are contemporary.

It seems plausible that the river was diverted into this course, which runs against the natural direction of flow, by Abbot Aethelwold in the tenth century when the Abbey stream was being dug to feed the Abbey mill. Diversion of the Stert would have provided both an additional head of water and

a defensive boundary on the N and NE of the abbey precinct (Fig. 12).

A further 35 burials were recovered from salvage on the NW side of the Civil War cemetery, bringing the total number of bodies from this to 285. These are at present being studied by Dr Helen Bush at Sheffield University, who has commented on the high incidence of pathology amongst both adults and children.

Study of a similar sample of the medieval burials, which total nearly 1000, has just been agreed with Dr Jenny Wakely of Leicester University.

Sutton Courtenay: Otney gravel pits SU 495945 - John Moore

An assessment was carried out for the proposed extension to the gravel pit of J Curtis and Sons Ltd. The site comprises some 7 hectares of first terrace gravels adjacent to the river Thames.

Aerial photography has revealed two enclosures at Otney and two prehistoric monuments east of the Drayton B cursus. Roman field boundaries and trackways associated with the small Roman settlement immediately to the south-west of the present plant site of Curtis & Sons are also clear on the aerial photographs.

The northern enclosure at Otney was defined by a shallow ditch, while the north-eastern side of the other enclosure was found to have been formed by a series of five ditches, perhaps successive phases. These ditches were very shallow. No features were found in the interior of the

enclosures. Further ditches were located in the assessment trenches but only one sherd of pottery (Roman coarse ware) was recovered. There were no finds from the enclosures.

While the character of the enclosures suggests a Romano-British date, there was a total lack of surface finds of this period.

There was also a surprising absence of prehistoric activity; only one flint was found on the ploughed surface during the work on the site.

Extensive gravel quarrying had been carried out during the post-medieval period. This, coupled with the modern ploughing, has led to a poor state of survival of the archaeology in this area.

A Neolithic long enclosure is known from aerial photographs. It is parallel to the Drayton B cursus and has a sub-rectangular enclosure some 15m. to the south. One of our assessment trenches defined the precise location of the

northern terminal of the long enclosure while trial excavation by AAAHS further south through the east ditch revealed that the ditch originally had almost vertical sides and a near flat base (Gledhill and Wallis 1989, 'Sutton Courtenay: a Neolithic long enclosure', *SMA* 14, 58).

Pits and possible postholes indicated activity external to the enclosure along the main axis of the two monuments. This type of activity has also been found at West Cotton, Northants.

(Windell 1981, 'The Raunds area project: second interim report', *Northants Archaeol* 21, 9).

Banbury: Inner Relief Road
SP 459406 - R A Chambers and M Napthan

The construction of stages II and III of the Banbury Inner Relief Road provided an opportunity to examine the date

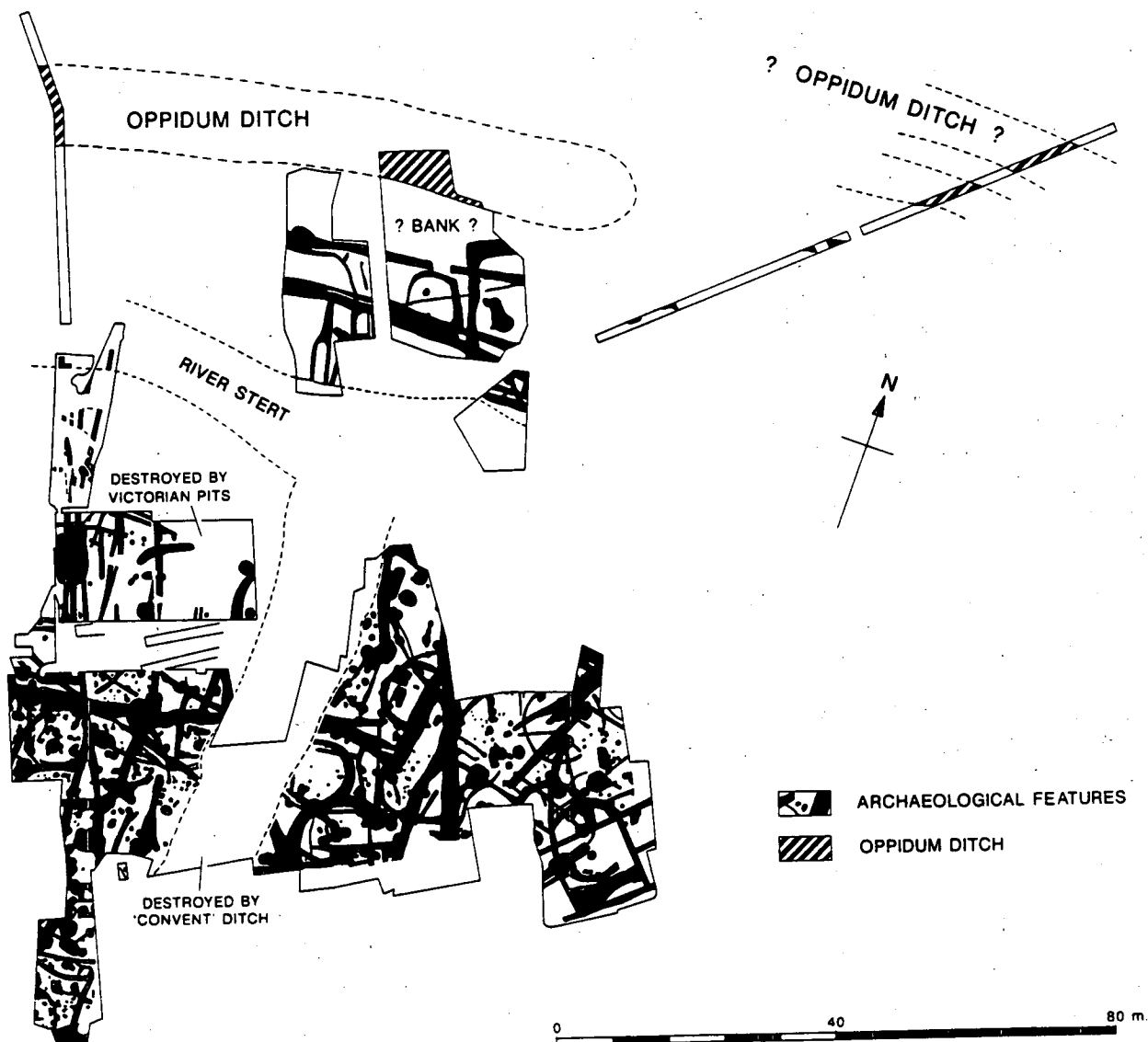


Fig. 12. Oppidum ditch and later course of River Stert.

and character of the development at the very east end of the medieval town.

The work was split into two phases: an initial excavation lasting four weeks in January-February 1990 followed by a watching brief. The excavation examined those areas on either side of the carriageway immediately north of Bridge Street where a watching brief would have been ineffective in recording the archaeology destroyed by service trenches and minor development.

The work was funded by Oxfordshire County Council. The excavation lay within a triangular site between the canal and the north side of Bridge Street at the foot of the causeway leading up to the bridge across the Cherwell. Two arches of the 14th century medieval stone bridge remain visible within the core of the modern road bridge. To the west, the site was bounded by properties along Mill Lane.

The site is best known locally for the canalside warehouse featured on the cover of the current telephone directory. The warehouse was demolished in December 1989, just one month short of the bicentenary of the Oxford-Birmingham canal. This warehouse and the former fire station were surrounded by a complex of small industrial units during this century, causing much ground disturbance, but enough survived below ground to demonstrate the earlier history of the site.

The southwestern two-thirds of the site occupied higher ground which fell away quite sharply along its northeastern side into the river Cherwell floodplain. The first medieval buildings on the site lay at an angle to Bridge Street and the later property boundaries. These buildings, represented by rubble built foundations from two separate structures, were surrounded by soil containing medieval pottery probably deposited in the thirteenth century. Later a linear boundary ditch was dug from Bridge Street northwards to the edge of the floodplain. This probably represents a growing need to increase the density of settlement in this part of the town, which had gradually expanded as far east towards the bridge as it could while keeping to the dry higher ground. By the early post-medieval period the ditch had been replaced with a wall. This wall included much re-used weathered stone and some non-local ashlar masonry, probably robbed from the castle after the Cromwellian Civil War. The line of this property boundary remained unaltered until the present, having been incorporated into the canalside warehouse and respected by the later industrial units.

The northern frontage onto Bridge Street was examined below two turn-of-the-century brick built houses, nos 59 and 60. These late Victorian houses had replaced earlier post-medieval buildings built in the local brown ironstone. In turn, these buildings probably lay over a medieval building of which the central, undated open hearth was all that remained. Several pits showed that this frontage was open ground for at least part of the medieval period. The lack of walls which could be directly associated with the open hearth suggests either that the medieval foundations had been reused for the later houses, or that the open hearth was

directly replaced with a central chimney stack enabling a second floor to be inserted into the shell of the medieval building. The position of the medieval street frontage was not confirmed. Either it had been destroyed by the turn of the century housing or it lay further out into Bridge Street.

The medieval properties backed northwards onto the edge of the flood plain which was then gradually silting up and providing a convenient dumping ground for medieval rubbish. Following the construction of the canal just below the edge of the flood plain, the intervening depression was infilled with large amounts of Victorian rubbish and soil before being built upon.

A further opportunity to explore the street frontage between the cellars of nos 63 and 64 Bridge Street suggested that medieval occupation had not extended this far to the east. The earliest feature here was a small sixteenth or seventeenth century pit later cut by a barrel lined well. The well was later sealed by a metalled pathway and stone foundations.

Bicester: fishponds

SP 586 217 - R A Chambers

In January 1990 these fishponds were bulldozed for a new building development. The ponds were almost certainly medieval, built for Bicester Priory on what was originally marshy ground. The fact that they survived to be recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map suggests that they continued to be maintained and stocked after the dissolution. This is not particularly surprising as fresh sea fish would only have become available with the arrival of the railway in the mid nineteenth century.

It is regrettable that no provision was made for archaeological recording. Such fisheries were an important element in the medieval economy and their role will not be clearly understood until opportunities to examine their construction and maintenance are grasped. These ponds may be seen as an integral part of the fabric of the everyday life of Bicester's Augustinian priory, the remains of which continue to suffer unrestricted and unrecorded destruction by piecemeal development as a result of the failure to implement existing planning controls.

Bicester: Tesco supermarket site

SP 579 219 - R A Chambers

This site fills the corner northeast of the junction between the A421 Oxford-Bicester road and the new southern bypass. During the construction of the southern bypass in 1989, a fragment of a sword from a Bronze Age smith's hoard was found immediately to the south of the present site. The underlying clay and brashy limestone have been only partially cleared of top soil for the access road which is bedded on Terram. It is highly unlikely that any underlying archaeological features could be seen in such conditions.

The topsoil contained nothing except an occasional post-medieval pottery sherd.

Charney Bassett: St Peter's Church
SU 381 944 - R A Chambers

This small church, which comprises a rectangular chancel, nave and north aisle, lies immediately south of the surviving medieval manor house. In early February a drainage gully between 0.6m. and 1m. deep was cut round the west, north and east sides of the church exposing the foundations. Little of archaeological merit was exposed by this trench except on the north side of the west end of the nave. Here the present nave wall overlay a short 2.4m. length of rubble built foundation aligned at a slight angle to the present wall. This suggested the north wall of a small square building originally occupying the ground immediately west of the end of an earlier short nave. The function and precise date of this structure remains unknown, but it is tempting to view it either as a bell tower or as a tomb or shrine. The foundations are too massive for it to make sense as a cell for a religious recluse or vicar's house. Inside the present church the wall plaster concealed any structural evidence for an extended nave and the junction between the nave wall and the west end of the unusually short north aisle had been destroyed by the insertion of a nineteenth century brick flue.

Great Chesterton: St Mary's Church
SP 562 213 - R A Chambers

The replacement of the suspended timber floors beneath the pews in St Mary's has confirmed that both the north and south aisle arcades rest on the foundations of an earlier rectangular nave.

Little was seen of the wall foundation beneath the transitional Norman north arcade, but beneath the early English south arcade a substantial mortared wall foundation survived. The decking beneath the pews had been installed during the Victorian period.

The ventilation cavities below the decking extended 0.5 to 0.6m. below the level of the aisles and the medieval floor levels appear to have been dug away. The present reflooring was a direct replacement of the existing wooden decking beneath the pews and no excavation was necessary.

Souldern: Souldern Manor
SP 518 315 - R A Chambers

Landscaping the grounds continued in 1990 with the construction of a new metallised access along the medieval east-west hollow way and a new tennis pavilion. Neither development revealed any medieval building evidence.

Upper Thames Valley: aerial survey
R A Chambers

During 1990 the Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook several survey flights, each targeted at specific areas within

the Upper Thames Valley. On 9 February archaeological features highlighted by floodwater were photographed during a short reconnaissance flight from Wallingford to Bampton. Of particular interest were the relict water channels in the valley floor, heavily silted and often difficult to recognise. At Eynsham the floodwater revealed channels on either side of a newly discovered Bronze Age settlement, confirming at a glance the results of an earlier archaeological assessment. At Dorchester-on-Thames flooding did not affect the interior of the fortified Iron Age settlement behind the massive bi-vallate linear earthwork known as Dyke Hills. Although the interior remained dry, floodwater filled the surviving part of the defensive ditch between the banks, illustrating the full defensive potential of this site.

At Oxford, the floods across Port Meadow emphasised much of man's past intervention. Of particular note were the circular banks of two Bronze Age barrows standing several centimetres above the flooding. These photographs will continue to be of value in the coming years as more and more assessment work is undertaken along the Upper Thames Valley. Unfortunately the survey stopped near Bampton at the edge of a cold front marked by dense low cloud.

Perhaps the most interesting view of all was of a well-known field near Bampton with its Iron Age settlement portrayed in fine detail as cropmarks in winter wheat - in mid February! While crossing West Oxfordshire the lack of earthworks picked by the low early morning sun emphasised the continuing loss of this form of evidence for past settlement activity, particularly medieval.

A striking public reaction during the summer was the unprecedented number of farmers who have suddenly taken an interest in cropmarks, a useful by-product of the media coverage of non-archaeological crop circles. In July the RAF also began to take an interest in inexplicable marks near their Brize Norton aerodrome - could spaceships have made crop circles here, undetected by Brize radar? Yes, quite probably, but these circles were the remnants of Bronze Age burial monuments to the W and S of a long corridor of land defined by two parallel cropmarks. This suggested either a Roman road or perhaps a cursus. Either way the OAU is grateful to RAF Brize Norton for pointing out this and several other previously unknown features.

August brought two harvests, one of winter wheat and one of archaeology, with farmers 'phoning in to report cropmarks in their cereals and drought-stricken pastures. Two evening flights on the 3 and 16 August concentrated on growth marks in pasture on the gravel terraces of the Thames between Oxford and Faringdon. The drought stress was much greater than in 1976, and soil-filled archaeological features were showing as lines of green growth against brown, parched pasture. In consequence areas of permanent grazing revealed underlying archaeology for the first time, in particular Roman roads, settlements and field systems NE of Faringdon.

Waterstock to Wendlebury: M40

R A Chambers

Although the carriageway is now well advanced and offers little further scope for archaeological prospection, this contract continues to destroy adjacent archaeology. An initially illicit stone quarry opened up by McAlpines at Merton removed 200 m of the line of the Dorchester to Alchester Roman road including the approach to the late first century AD timber bridge whose piles survive in the silted river channel. A complex of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains at the west end of the quarry was also badly damaged, but some archaeological recording, described separately under Merton, was possible.

Wendlebury: Wendlebury Holt

SP 576 203 - R A Chambers

This building plot lies directly above the projected line of the Roman road running east from Alchester. Site clearance has not provided any recognisable evidence for a roadway, but the variable quality and construction of Roman period roads often makes the recognition of their former presence difficult in the best of conditions.

West Hanney: St James the Great

SU 406 927 - R A Chambers

During January the rotten wooden decking beneath the pews in this parish church was replaced. This confirmed that the Victorian restorers who rebuilt most of the nave had removed all of the medieval floor levels and rebuilt the aisle columns on new foundations. No traces of an earlier nave were seen. The ventilation cavities beneath the pews were 0.5 - 0.6m. deep and were floored with mixed soil and Victorian construction waste.

The Victorians had carefully retained the brick built burial vaults of the previous century. These had been let into the floor of the unrestored medieval nave and the protruding crowns of the vaulted roofs gave an indication of the pre-Victorian floor level. The roof arches of nine brick built burial vaults were found within the nave. None could be related to wall plaques or otherwise directly dated. Bricks were removed from three vaults in order to view the integrity of the structures inside. One vault was only 1.7m. deep from the present floor level whilst a second, double vault was significantly deeper and flooded with ground water from the high water table. The vault showed the poor quality of the locally made bricks; as at nearby Charney Bassett this almost certainly reflected both the quality of the local clay and the firing technique employed during manufacture. The dividing wall between two vaults had already collapsed and crumbling brickwork was evident all round. One vault was seen to contain the collapsed remains of a confined burial. The coffin, edged with domed upholstery nails, had borne the embossed arms and family monogram. Now rusted and half disintegrated, the arms had presumably been brightly painted.

Of particular note within the remains of this coffin of one of the wealthy landed gentry was the distribution of large clenched iron nails, mirroring the irregular nail scatter frequently found in confined Romano-British graves. It seems the quality of the joinery had not changed!

Eynsham: royal centre, minster and abbey

SP 432 091 - Graham Keevill and R A Chambers

Eynsham Abbey was a Benedictine house of the top rank rebuilt in the early twelfth century on the site of the previous Benedictine abbey, whose foundation was confirmed in 1005. A minster church which is known to have been in existence by 864 AD was probably situated in the vicinity. Eynsham appears to be the focus for a sub-Roman kingdom and later West Saxon estate centre named in the Anglo-Saxon chronicle. Beneath the remains of the late Saxon abbey lies a sequence of settlement remains suggesting the presence of major Anglo-Saxon buildings from the late fifth or sixth century onwards.

The Unit was concerned that the last opportunity to explore and record the heart of this Saxon royal and monastic centre and later medieval abbey might be lost to cemetery expansion, and a trench was excavated in 1989 to assess the quality and quantity of the archaeological remains. Favourable results led to large-scale excavation, and we now know that the remains from each period are of exceptional interest. Eynsham is emerging as the key site for the archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon period both within the Upper Thames Valley and regionally.

The 1989 assessment was funded from the Oxfordshire County Council annual grant. On the basis of the evidence recovered during this assessment English Heritage decided to fund the excavation of those areas of the Church of England and Roman Catholic churchyards where grave-digging will eventually destroy the archaeology.

Excavation since January has shown that the remains of the late Anglo-Saxon Benedictine abbey survive below the larger medieval abbey (Fig. 13). There are also the remains of substantial early and middle Saxon buildings which apparently represent the domestic elements of the middle Saxon minster and earlier royal centre. For the first time in the Oxford region there is an opportunity to recover pottery from securely dated middle Anglo-Saxon deposits. A coin-dated circular cesspit represents the first deposit excavated in the Oxford region which can be dated with confidence to the mid eighth century, and pottery and good environmental material have been recovered from the domestic debris with which it was partially backfilled. In addition, a fragment of wall face from the above ground structure of a major timber-framed building has been found, for the first time in England. Finds reflecting the status of the late Anglo-Saxon monastic site include a fragment of a finely carved elephant ivory panel from a casket and an unfinished walrus ivory figure of a saint, originally from a crucifixion scene (Figs. 14a and b).

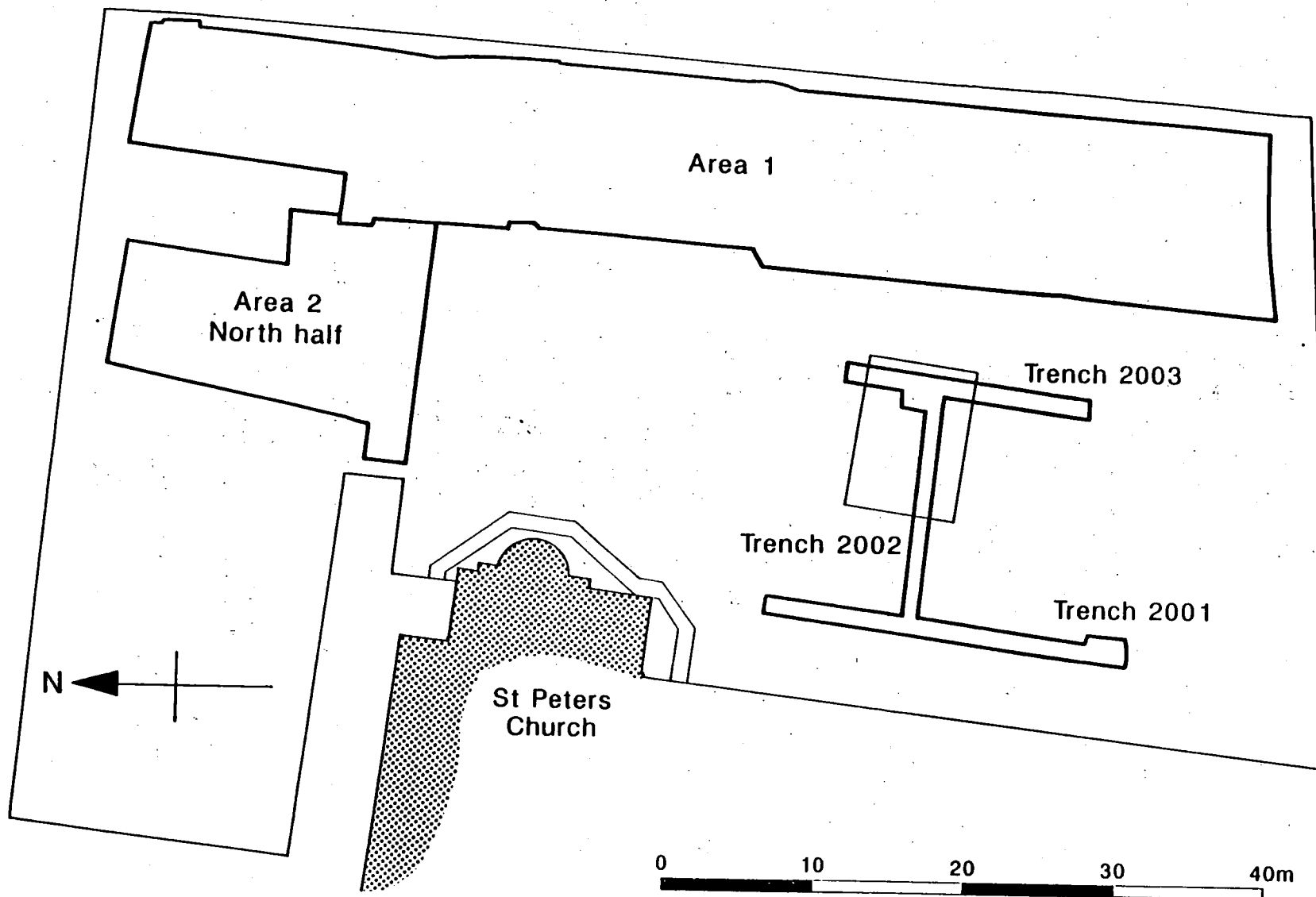


Fig. 13. Eynsham Abbey, areas of excavation.

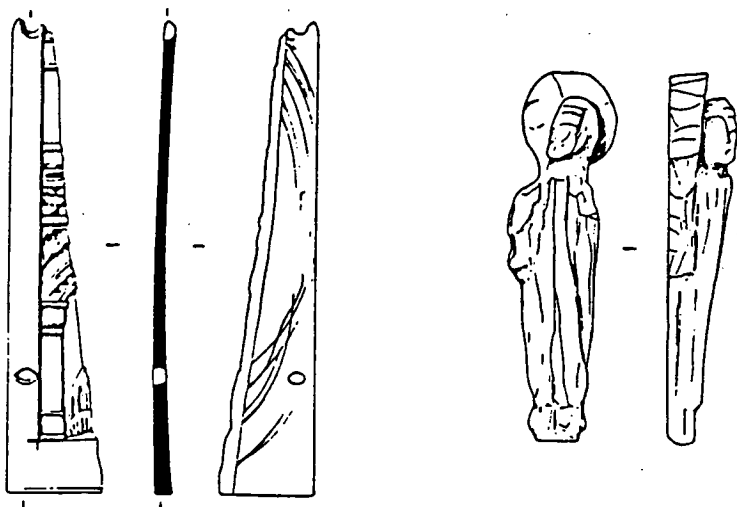


Fig. 14a & b. Carved panel from casket and figure of saint.

Comparatively little survives of the Norman and medieval Benedictine abbey founded at the end of the eleventh century on the site of its late Anglo-Saxon predecessor. After the Dissolution in 1539 there followed three centuries of methodical robbing of all reusable building materials, from stonework for house- building to floor tiles for road mending. Even the massive wall foundations were quarried for their stone.

Summary of phases of occupation uncovered in the northern half of St Leonard's churchyard extension (Fig. 15) Although residual Neolithic flint blades have been found on the site, the early E-W ditch (4m. wide and 2m. deep) probably represents part of a substantial Bronze Age monument (Phase I). A second large, possibly Bronze Age, ditch was discovered beneath the E edge of the excavation. After the ditch sides had stabilised and become overgrown, Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age domestic debris from an adjacent but as yet undetected settlement accumulated. The area was not occupied again until the early Saxon period, but two Roman coins and several sherds of 1st-4th century pottery show that occupation was not far away. A general pre-Saxon spread of gravelly homogeneous soil suggests cultivation, either Iron Age or Roman period.

A sunken featured building and some post pits 15m. to the S belong to the early Saxon reoccupation of the site (Phase II). This building, backfilled with domestic waste, was later cut by a N-S palisade trench of Phase V. There was no trace of the structure against which the southern end of this boundary stopped. The circular cess pit (Phase III) whose backfilling is dated to the mid-eighth century by an imitation sceat minted AD 720-730 is almost certainly later than the Phase II post pits.

An extensive and long-lived hearth area (Phase IV) comprising many individual hearths beside or overlying each other lay on almost undisturbed cultivated soil, suggesting an earth-floored building with a central hearth on an exact W-E alignment. No other trace of this building was found.

The precise relationship between the N-S boundary trench (Phase V), the hearth area (Phase IV) and the circular cess pit (Phase III) is unclear. The eighth-century well filling settled to leave a depression into which a section of the daub superstructure of a timber building collapsed (Phase VI). The impression of the timber framing survived within the daub, which was of mortar rather than clay. The building represented by this wall face may be associated with a short alignment of possible post pits and several larger pits to the S, and may also be associated with the N to S boundary ditch in Phase V.

By the later Anglo-Saxon period building remains had become more substantial. A timber building left an interrupted cill beam trench and a large cesspit (Phase VII). It is conceivable that this building was a lean-to against the inner wall of the S range of the next building phase (Phase VIII), although the beam slot was not parallel to the S wall.

The late Anglo-Saxon Benedictine abbey, whose foundation received royal confirmation in 1005, appears to be represented by a range of substantial stone buildings, some of which were rendered inside and out and sealed with a buff lime wash (Phase VIII).

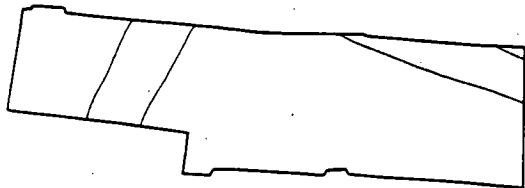
The bases of two circular mortar mixers similar to three from middle Anglo-Saxon levels in Northampton were used in the construction of these buildings (Fig. 16).

Following the Conquest in 1066, the abbey was initially deserted and later translated to Stow in Lincolnshire. This move was quickly reversed by the next Bishop of Lincoln. The abbey then passed through an unsettled period before Henry I confirmed the re-endowment of the abbey in 1109. At this time, the abbey was clearly still not rebuilt and lay in ruins (*dissipatam et desolatam*).

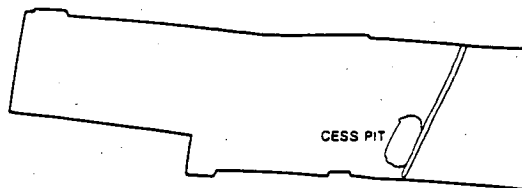
The early twelfth-century rebuilding of the abbey appears to have begun in earnest with the shallow foundations of temporary, possibly timber, buildings to the S of the church (Phase X). The preceding phase of building (Phase IX) is difficult to interpret but may represent a first attempt to reoccupy the abbey during the unsettled period following Bishop Bloet's decision to re-establish Eynsham Abbey in 1093.

Although a sketch made by Anthony Wood in 1657 seems to show only alterations and additions to the Norman abbey church, we now know from excavation that at least some of the buildings to the S were demolished and replaced during the medieval period. Phase XI represents medieval abbey buildings which appear to have been built or rebuilt in the late twelfth-early thirteenth century. Little can be concluded about the foundation plan of these buildings until a more comprehensive picture is produced by further excavation to the W later this year. The area A is no longer thought to be the great cloister because of a building discovered in the NE corner of the present excavation, and the walk B and

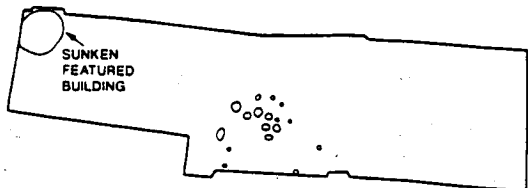
I PREHISTORIC



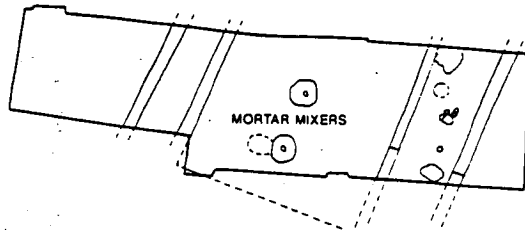
VII



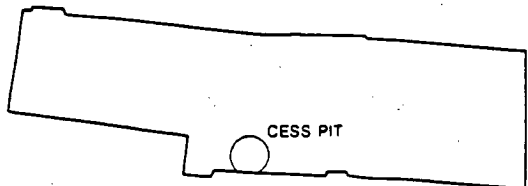
II EARLY SAXON



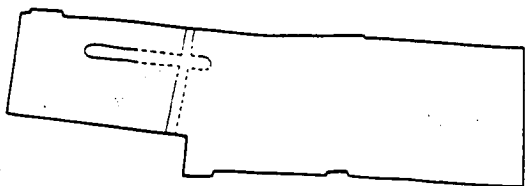
VIII LATE ANGLO-SAXON BENEDICTINE ABBEY



III



IX



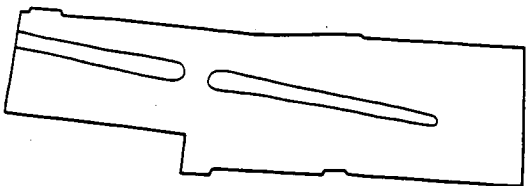
IV



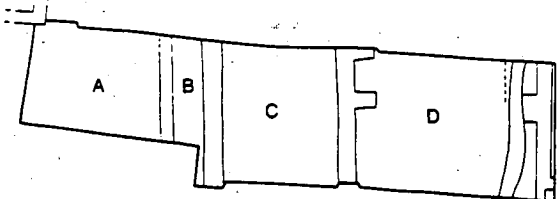
X NORMAN REFOUNDED BENEDICTINE ABBEY



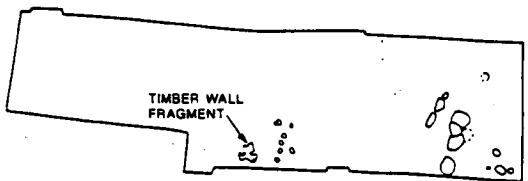
V MID SAXON



XI MEDIEVAL



VI



XII LATE MEDIEVAL OR POST DISSOLUTION

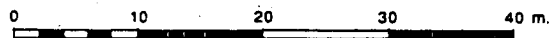
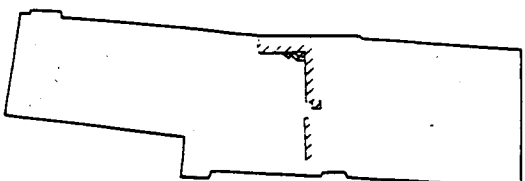


Fig. 15. Summary of phases in N half of St Leonards churchyard extension.

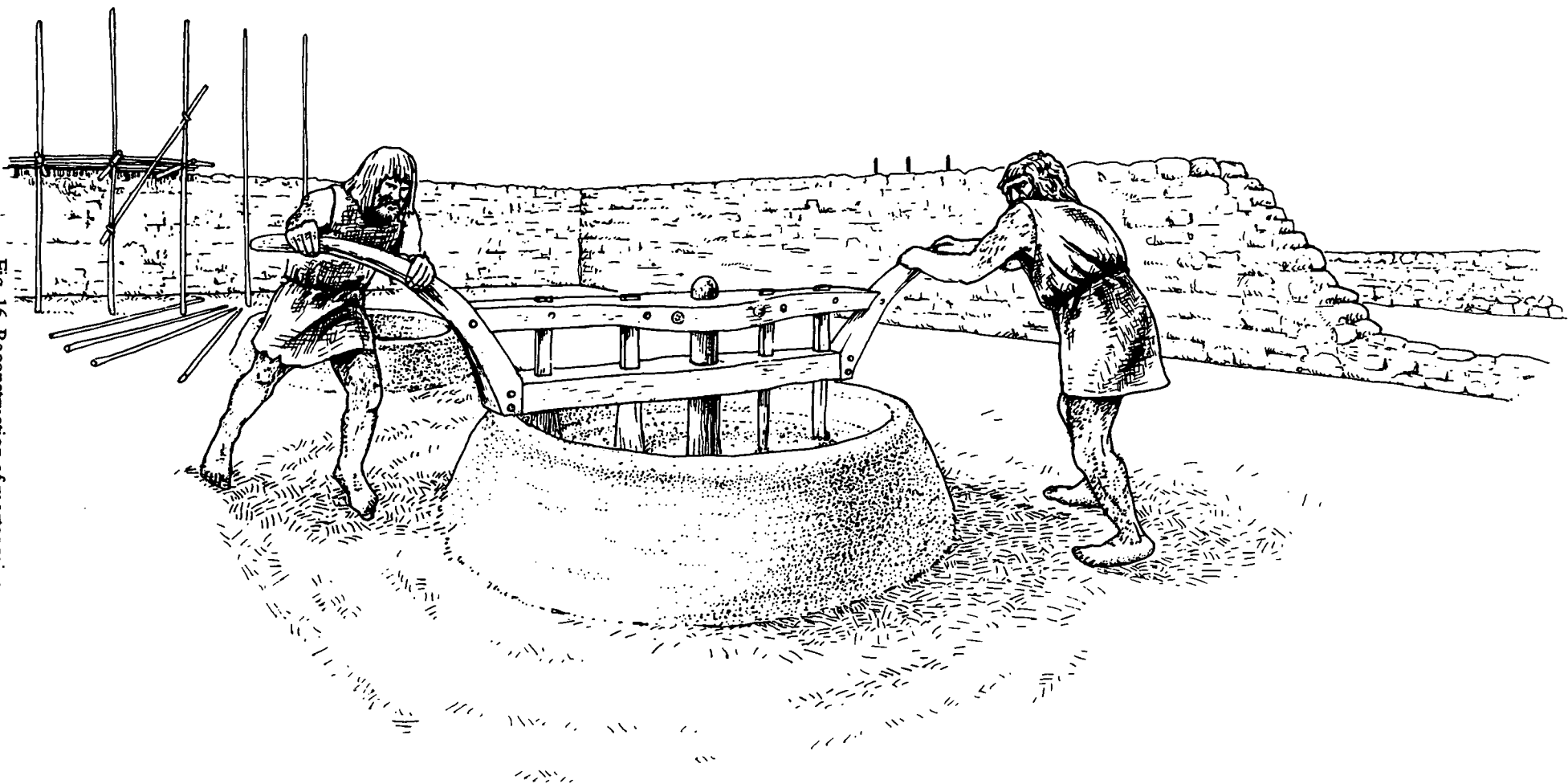


Fig. 16. Reconstruction of mortar mixers.

substantial building C buttressed on its S side are open to interpretation.

D was a garden throughout the life of the medieval abbey and a curving path led through it against the N side of another range of buildings. Little of the fabric of the medieval abbey was left in the excavated area, which had been thoroughly robbed of all usable stone, tile and flooring materials.

The plan of Phase XII shows the remnant of an area of stone paving within a shallowly founded drystone-walled building. This may be a small post-Dissolution agricultural building built within the robbed remains of the medieval structure. The excavation of the southern end of St. Leonard's churchyard extension has now been completed. This has revealed a complex of drains and cesspits, the remnants of a sequence of lavatory blocks which probably served a building which may have been the abbot's lodging. This building lay immediately S of the garden excavated last spring and began life as a Norman hall. The uneven bare soil floor of its larger medieval replacement suggests a hall over a ground level undercroft. The medieval builders had not taken sufficient account of the patches of soft ground created by the pits and ditches of earlier occupation and part of the W wall of the later hall had been subjected to extensive underpinning. The sequence of lavatory blocks, each with a cesspit and a drain for the washing facilities, appears to have improved in structural quality as each successive block was built progressively nearer to the hall.

By the late fourteenth to early fifteenth century a lavatory block was built onto the W end of the hall with a stone-lined cesspit of truly palatial proportions. This cesspit, cleaned out and partially rebuilt after the dissolution of the abbey in 1538, continued in use into the seventeenth century, suggesting that it was retained for a while as part of the private manor house. The layers of grey soil representing the Anglo-Saxon occupation have proved to be a continuation of the sequence recorded in the northern half of the trench. The soils were all laden with domestic refuse.

Occasional post pits and an area of burning suggested the former presence of lightly founded buildings, but the slight nature of these buildings and the destructive activities of later generations on this continuously occupied part of the site have left us no clear plans.

The Unit carried out an assessment of the S half of St Peter's churchyard, to the W of St Leonard's churchyard, in October 1990. This was part of a review of research priorities connected with grant applications to English Heritage. An H-shaped trench was excavated, covering 70sqm. and sampling two distinct hollows in the ground surface, one of which turned out to be a post-medieval gravel quarry. The other represented a sequence of very large pits; one pit contained cess, and they may have been garderobes. A stone-lined drain was associated with them.

The most spectacular find lay immediately to the E of the pits (Fig. 17). A 6.5m. length of wall was found, standing to

a height of at least 0.5 m. The masonry incorporated a blocked-up doorway, against which slates had been stacked. New walls had been added to the N and S of the E door jamb, and more masonry was found immediately to the N. The most tantalising information, however, was in the N face of the wall, where the springing for one side of an arch was found; the other side lay beyond the edge of the trench. The arch had been blocked while the building was still in use. The position of the head of the arch would be consistent with the existence of a cellar or undercroft.

This building is obviously of considerable significance; here at last was a structure which survived as more than just robber trenches! The implication is that the building continued to be lived in after the Dissolution and thus escaped the wholesale robbing which happened elsewhere in the abbey. We know the Abbot's Lodging was used as a manor house well into the seventeenth century. We now have two good candidates for the lodging!

The assessment also produced more evidence for Saxon activity. The dark earth revealed in St Leonard's churchyard continued into St Peter's. Several large postholes or pits cut the dark earth, and early to mid Saxon pottery was recovered, including two fine, stamp-decorated sherds.

Watlington: St Leonard's Church SU 684 947 - R A Chambers

Shallow burials and a wall foundation were revealed by workmen enlarging the drainage trench around the E and S walls of this church. Several W-E burials, some clearly disturbed in antiquity, were found close to the wall of the 14th century S aisle. Originally only 0.6 - 0.8m. deep, none can be dated with precision, although several coffin nails appeared to be associated with one burial.

The Norman building was heavily refurbished and extended in the fourteenth century but little of this survives as the church was almost completely rebuilt in 1877. A length of chalk rubble wall foundation was revealed extending S from the SW corner of the fifteenth-century chapel. The Norman building may have followed a cruciform plan and the newly discovered foundation suggests an early extension to the S transept, suppressed when the fifteenth century chapel was built.

Bicester: Littlebury Hotel SP 583 222 - R A Chambers

A substantial extension to the rear of this hotel will be built in the autumn on a large piece of land between the parish church and the Oxford-Bicester road. This is the part of Bicester called Kings End and is traditionally held to be the site of the original Anglo-Saxon settlement destroyed by the Danes. The position of King's End, between the later medieval settlement and a main Roman road, indicates that there was a settlement growing up beside a continuing cross-country route similar to pre-Domesday Merton to the

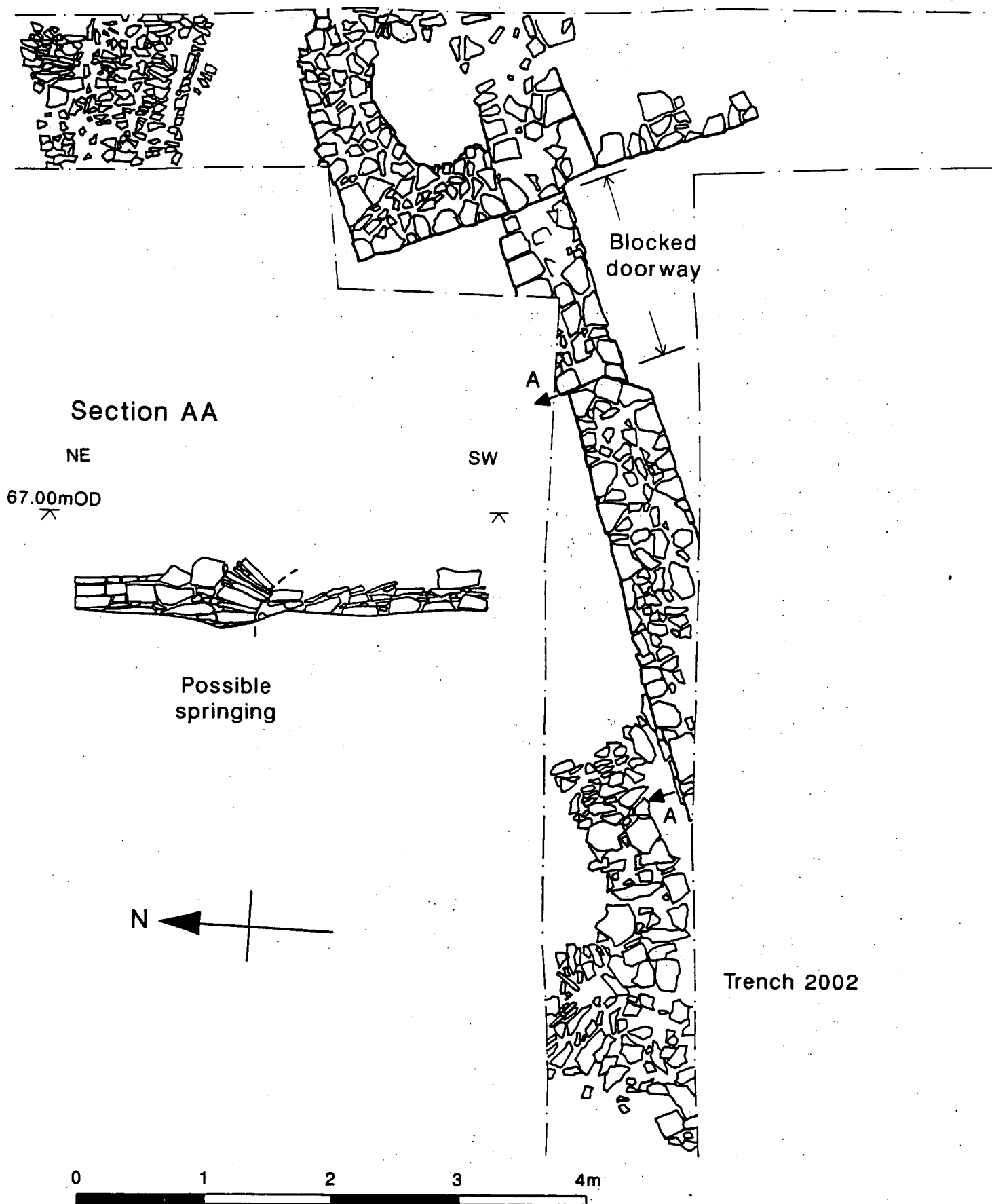


Fig. 17. Length of wall with blocked doorway.

south. An evening class fieldwork group based in Bicester excavated a series of trial trenches across part of the property. Although no evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement was found, Romano-British pottery was recovered. The nature of the Romano-British settlement is not known.

Charlbury: Queen's Own
SP 194 355 - R A Chambers

More human bones have been found on the S side of Queen's Own while digging the footings for an extension. The remains consisted mainly of the long bones and skulls from at least four adults, and represent the reburial of graves disturbed in antiquity, probably during the construction of the original cottage. The cottage, which had already been much enlarged before the present work, was originally very small and bears no date stone; it probably belongs to the seventeenth or eighteenth century.

Before the Conquest, Charlbury was the centre of a large episcopal estate whose minster church almost certainly stood either on or perhaps immediately to the N of Charlbury's present parish church. St Mary's is a large medieval church with a Norman north arcade surviving from an earlier building. No Anglo-Saxon work is evident. The burials around Queen's Own are 30 m beyond the northern limit of the present churchyard and are therefore likely to belong to the late Anglo-Saxon graveyard of a minster church lying to the N of the present building. The fact that the original cottage was not built facing W onto Church lane but was set back facing S suggests gradual encroachment onto the ancient churchyard, which had survived into the post-medieval period as open ground.

Cogges: moated enclosures
SP 361 096 - R A Chambers

The last grave to be dug in the now full churchyard at St Mary's, Cogges, cut deeply into the heart of the northernmost part of two moated islands. In the mid seventeenth century Anthony Wood recorded that this area, then called Castle Yard, was where 'oftentimes great thick foundations [were] dug up'. Cogges was the caput of the Arsic barony throughout the twelfth century, and the moated enclosures are likely to mark this site of their defended manor house.

The recently dug grave revealed 1.6m. of overburden above a massive, solidly mortared limestone foundation which extended beyond the sides of the grave pit in every direction. Although undated, the foundation is likely to be Norman and is more substantial than any other Norman work so far found on the site.

Fawler: Barn Cottage
SP 372 171 - R A Chambers

A large drystone culvert 4' wide by 4' high with an arched drystone roof has been discovered while digging a small pond in the garden on the N side of the present house. This

'tunnel' runs N-S along the top edge of a steep slope parallel to the highway.

Built during the nineteenth or very early twentieth century, it probably carried spring water southwards from the higher ground to former farm buildings now partly incorporated into Barn Cottage.

Although the culvert leads from the general direction of the 19th-century iron workings and Boulton Brothers' brick and pottery manufactory, it is almost certainly part of agricultural, rather than industrial, archaeology.

Swalcliffe: Swalcliffe Barn
SP 377 379 - R A Chambers

In the autumn of 1990, restoration work began on the larger of the two medieval barns to the W of the manor house.

Unfortunately, the northern porch was underpinned before the OAU was notified and the reason for the subsidence remains unknown; it was probably induced by archaeological features that could have had a bearing on the earlier function and layout of this area of the Norman manorial curtilage.

ABINGDON AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Better preserved early Roman building exposed by excavations behind Twickenham House, Abingdon.
Bob Wilson using dating evidence from Paul Booth and Maureen Mellor

Excavations in the walled garden behind Twickenham House, 20 East St Helen Street, were carried out in 1989 by the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society with the permission of Mr John Lightfoot. In this trench, over 1m of post-medieval soil was removed by mini-excavator to expose important earlier deposits. Excavation then was confined mainly to the north end where medieval disturbance had missed the Roman levels.

The earliest manmade feature was a hollow cut into the natural yellow river silts. Romano-Celts had also removed all prehistoric soil, and probably previous settlement deposits, and quickly refilled the hollow with thick layers of grey silt and fireash, F38, and greenish cesslike deposition, F33, intercalated with thin spreads of redeposited red brown natural soil and yellow gravel, Fs32 and 39. These and similar ashy layers above, Fs 26, 30 and 31, appear to have been dumped to bring the ground up to a level suitable for the construction of a building or an extension of one. An ashy deposit, F29, mostly later destroyed, was probably a continuation of Fs 26 and 30-32. All these contained pottery dating to the mid first century.

A succession of higher flattened layers were associated with wall trenches, stone foundations remaining in one. Wall trench F21c survived as a notch cut in F29 and therefore the wall appears dug into the other dumped layers Fs 26 and 29-32.

Certainly some later layers must be floors, namely those of crushed chalk, F23; mortar, F16; and large flat paving stones, F34; with intervening less diagnostic layers of orange brown loam, F15b; gravel, F41; and, possibly, ash, F22 (equally may be deposition from an intervening phase of construction) and layers as deep as F25 indicate other floors down to levelling deposit F26.

Total depth of the flooring was around 0.6m. It extended horizontally over 2-3m between three trench sections and probably once occurred throughout the excavated area. Most floors appear laid between the mid first to early second centuries.

A major stone wall base, Fs 19b and 28b, of the building ran north-south for at least 5m along one side of the excavation trench. It consisted of irregularly shaped lumps of coralline ragstone packed solidly and competently together, 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep, during the mid first century. On meeting the surviving floors, this wall turned west but its passage was only registered by the robbed trench, F21. A narrow robber trench, F14, was cut through upper levels down to floor F24 and parallel to the east-west walltrench. Originally it was a building feature since the flat stone pavement, F34, formed a 1.2m wide east-west corridor between it and the other wall but otherwise there was little evidence of the definitive structure or function of the building.

It appears to have been at least 8m by 3m in size and, from an earlier trench directed by Jeff Wallis, appears to have stood to the south and west of yard areas of layered gravel and soil. Floor layers contained domestic rubbish, probably of lower status people with limited trading connections.

No abandonment and demolition deposits occurred above the uppermost floorlevel, F15a. It is significant, however, that the major thirteenth century stone robbing trench and pit, F21; layers of a large fourteenth-fifteenth century pit, F27; and the shallow robber trenches, F8/14 and 19a appear truncated and totally transformed at the same level as floor layer F15a ceased probably during the late medieval period. F27 was backfilled with much rubbish including horn cores of cattle indicating tannery waste.

The medieval features and the building floors were overlaid by deep 'dark earth'

layers containing debris from the 'missing' building destruction rubble and the upper parts of the pits and robber trenches. Some of this soil transformation seems related to the construction of a later building since rocks, suggestive of a stone standing and posthole packing supporting a wooden pillar, were found in F7 above F21. At the south end of the excavation trench, pits or trenches, were cut through medieval layers, perhaps to rob the wall, 28b below. Backfill of F10, dating to the later seventeenth century, included a fragment of gilded and red painted sculpture - perhaps a relic of Civil War desecration.

Later intrusive and higher features, including a macabre c. nineteenth century deposit of human bones, F3, - subject of a coroner's inquest, also penetrated into the thick accumulation of 'dark earths' but their upper levels were homogenised by further activities, presumably gardening.

More details and generalities should appear in *Oxoniensia*.

64 Bath Street

SU 49522 9728 - Roger Ainslie

A small trench approx. 3.5m x 1m x 1m deep was dug in the rear garden of this house to establish whether medieval and Roman deposits survived in this area.

The following sequence was found: Soil had developed from the natural clay with the lowest find being a single

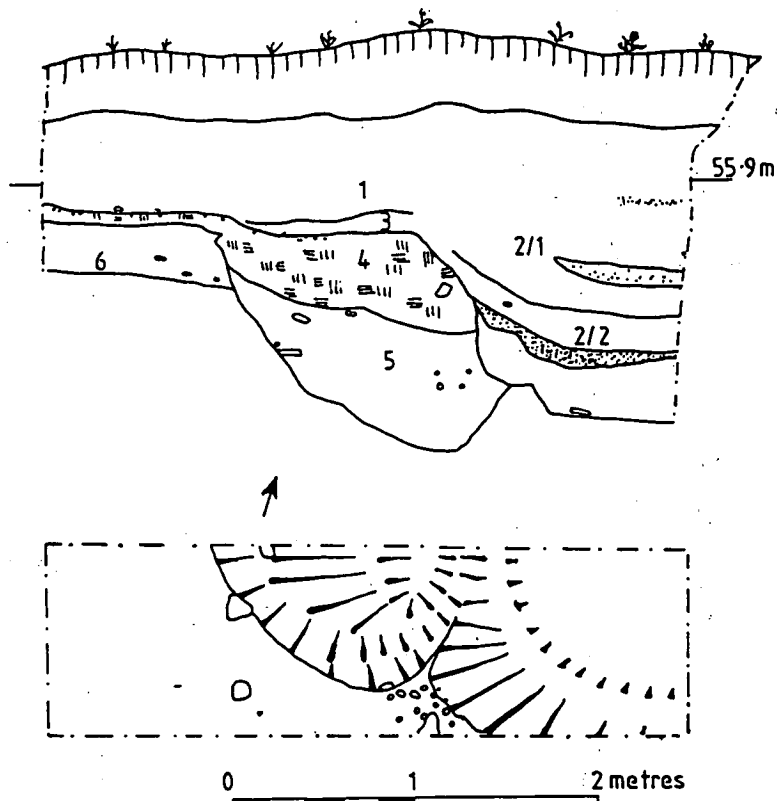


Fig. 1. 64 Bath Street, Abingdon.

sherd of Iron Age pottery. (A sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was also found as residual material in pit (5)). Above this silty clay subsoil was a dark brown silty loam (6) which contained 60 sherds of Roman pottery and 48 pieces of bone. This layer was probably of late third century/early fourth century date although it contained some large sherds of second century pottery including a piece of Antonine samian ware of form 18/31R[1]. Cutting this layer was a pit-like feature (5) which had its upper levels filled with a deposit containing approx 50% clay. The fill of this feature (4) and (5) contained some 130 sherds of Roman pottery, mainly local grey wares but including Oxfordshire colour-coated products, Nene valley wares, a southern Spanish amphora sherd and a piece of roof tile. This material was in smaller pieces than would normally be expected it had been deposited as rubbish into a pit dug for that purpose.

This Roman feature was cut by a medieval pit (2) which contained some 100 sherds of medieval pottery and 81 of Roman. Its fill is dated to the early thirteenth century by large pieces of tripod pitcher with a handle decorated with a twist of clay, similar to one found in St. Ebbe's, Oxford [2]. This pit may originally have been stone lined as it had a shelf in the natural clay which could have been the base for such a lining, which must have been removed before much of the fill was deposited. Over these deposits were mixed layers containing residual Roman and other material including a piece of Roman flue tile.

The excavation showed that large amounts of Roman deposits are preserved in this area beneath 56 metres Ordnance Datum. The later Roman date of the material contrasts with the late Iron Age and early Roman deposits found in the centre of Abingdon.

The house at 64 Bath Street has been found by its owners, Mr & Mrs Rushbridge, to contain a considerable amount of its timber framed structure, probably of fourteenth century date behind its eighteenth and nineteenth century exterior.

REFERENCES

B.R. Hartley 'Samian Ware of Terra Sigillata' in Collingwood and Richmond 'The Archaeology of Roman Britain' 1969, p244.

M. Mellor - Medieval finds in 'Excavations in St Ebbe's, Oxford 1967-1976' *Oxoniensia* LIV (1989), p210.

ARCHIVE

The archive material and finds will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Council's Museum Service.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Mr and Mrs Rushbridge for their help and encouragement, Mr Booth of the Oxford Archaeological Unit for looking at the Roman pottery. The usual digging team was assisted by Mrs S Wallis who also drew the section.

Andersey Island, Abingdon
SU 505 967 - Roger Ainslie

During 1989-1990 work was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of this area which lies to the south of Abingdon bridge.

Air photographs were taken, the area was fieldwalked and a trench and several smaller trial pits were excavated. The results of these investigations can be summarised thus:

Air Photography: This was probably the most successful part of the project as photographs were taken when the cropmarks showed well. Whilst the barrows and the rectangular enclosure near Rye Farm have been known for some time our photographs located features on the western side of the survey area. In particular a possible trackway was found running N-S and this was respected by other features and another possible track cut it diagonally towards the north of the area.

Fieldwalking: The arable fields were walked in parallel lines 20 metres apart with finds bagged every 50 m. Post medieval pottery was not collected as there was a considerable amount of it on the western side of the area. This may have come onto the fields as rubbish from the town.

The flint has, with one exception, no obvious focus although it tended to be more abundant on the western, higher, part of the area. The exception was a cluster of blades on the south-eastern edge of the area. These and the Thames pick indicate the possibility of there being a mesolithic site under the alluvium in this vicinity. Robin Holgate (1) has in the past carried out fieldwalking in this area and this should enhance his work, particularly for the mesolithic period.

The little prehistoric pottery which was collected was mainly found near the barrows.

The Roman pottery could indicate a settlement or that during the late Roman period rubbish was being dumped here from the town. There was none of the early Roman pottery which occurs in abundance in central Abingdon. Perhaps this is an example of the more dispersed late Roman settlement indicated by Tim Allen's excavations in the Vineyard, Abingdon (2).

The medieval pottery was mainly in small pieces, widely dispersed, indicating its deposition with manure rather than any definite settlement.

Excavations

Trench 1 - 25m x 1.5m: This was located to the west of Rye Farm. It found a barrow ditch (11), a Roman ditch (13) and a medieval pit, possibly a gravel quarry (9). All of these, particularly the first two, had fills which included reddish brown silty loam of the type which often overlies the gravels. Elsewhere this did not survive indicating that in the past ploughing has disturbed the layer. The upper layers

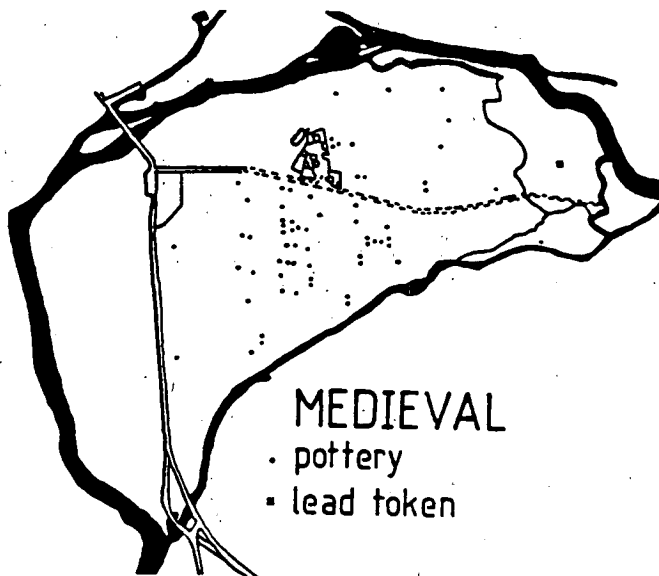
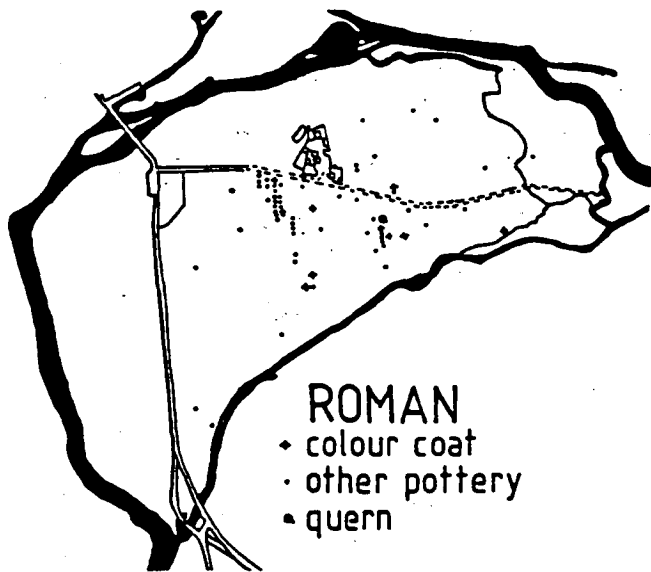
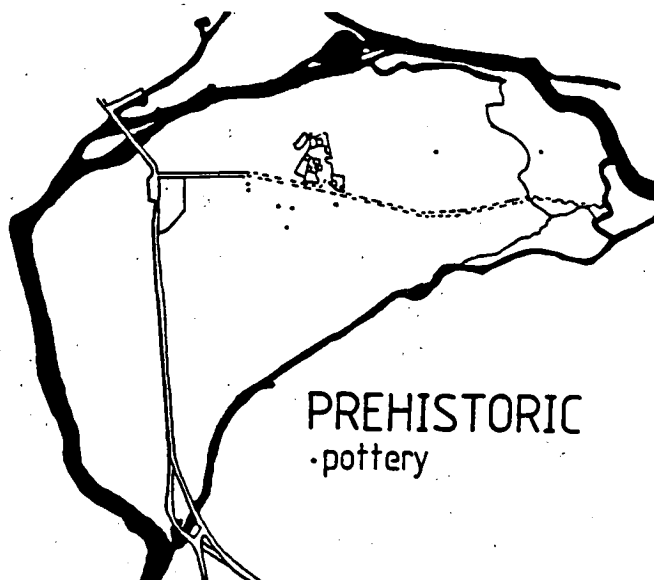
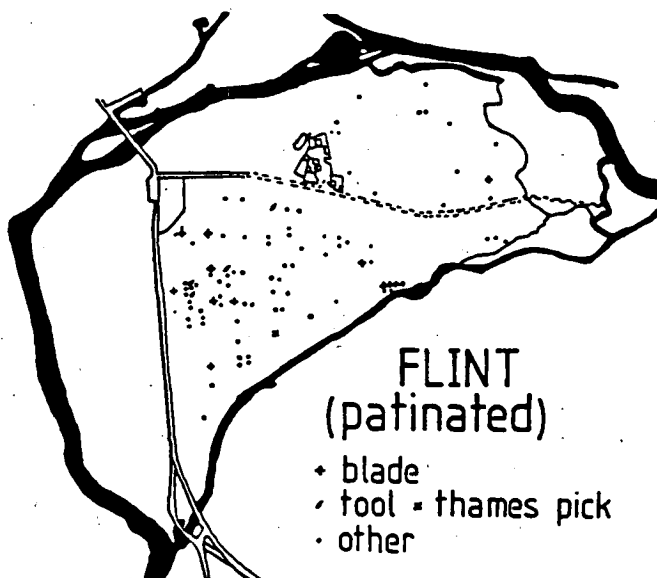
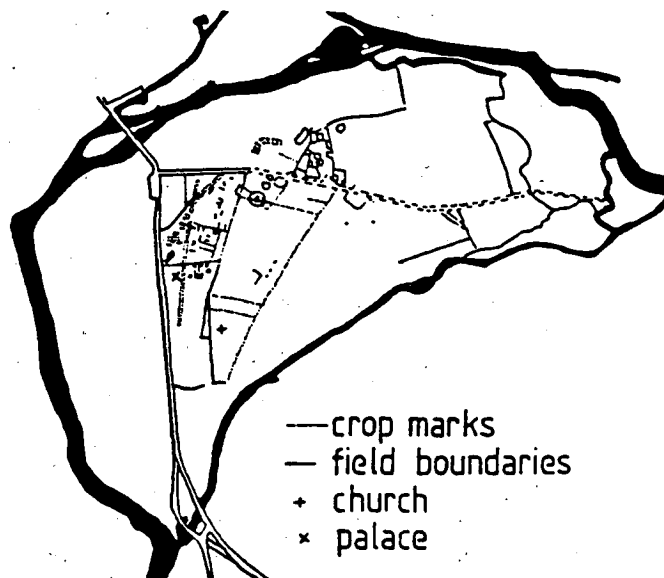
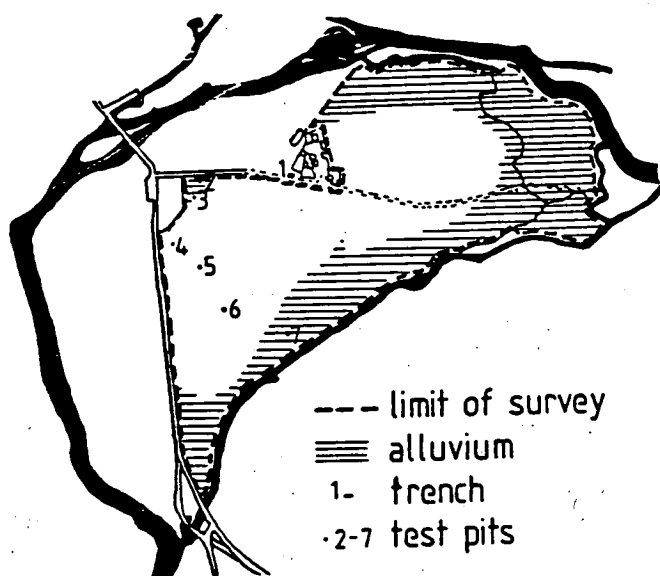


Fig. 2. Andersey Island, Abingdon.

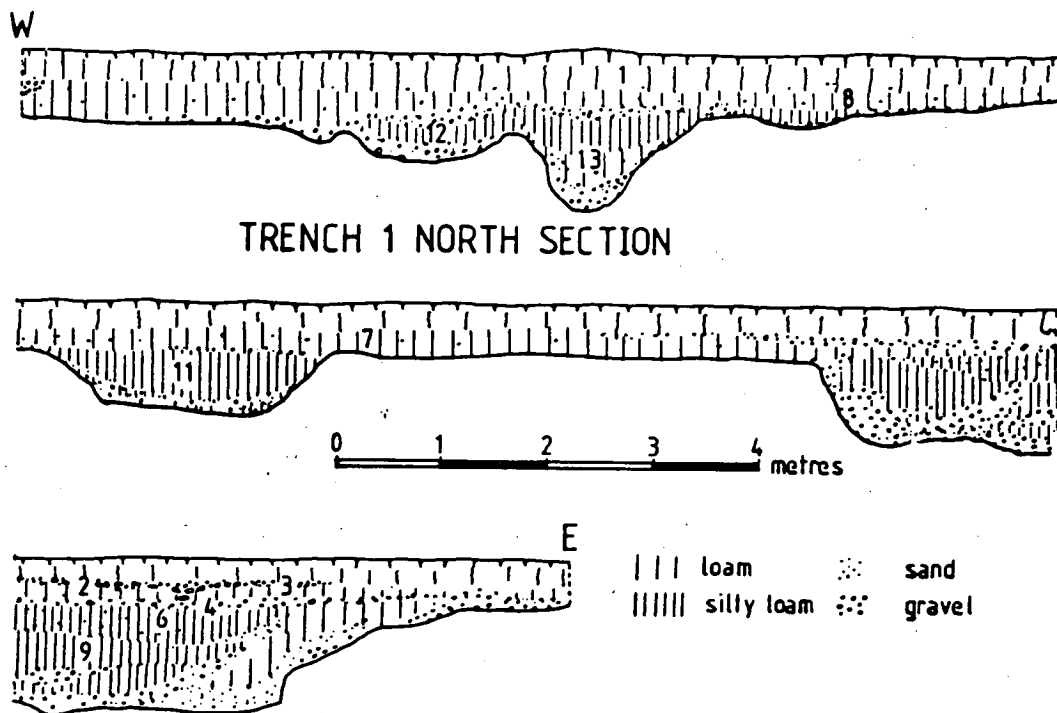


Fig. 3. Andersey Island. Trench 1.

included the remains of a north-south track (2 and 3) probably of nineteenth century date.

A piece a pottery of collared urn-type shape but hard fabric was found in the layer which overlies both the barrow ditch and the Roman ditch.

Trench 2 - 7.5m x 1m: This was located to the southern side of the track to Rye Farm. It found a compacted gravel surface probably a medieval road running E-W, a precursor of the current track. Underneath this was a possible palisade trench running north south. This had post holes approximately 40cm diameter and 60cm deep.

Trench 3 - 6m x 50cm: This trench was located to find ditches identified on air photographs and found the area covered with approximately 50cm of alluvium. Towards the base of the alluvium a single abraded sherd of Roman grey ware was found. One definite N-S ditch was found 2m wide and 70cm deep. 3m. to its west a smaller possible ditch was found 30cm deep and at least 1.5m wide.

Trench 4 - 6m x 1m: This showed that ploughing had penetrated 30-40cms to the natural gravel. A single post hole 40cm diameter and 40cms deep was found. The eastern end of the trench had been disturbed by a pit containing eighteenth/nineteenth century pottery.

Trench 5 - 6m x 1m: This was located over an area of dark patches on the air photographs. It found that ploughsoil extended to a depth of 30cm, then 10cm of light brown sandy silt occurred before natural gravel. The patch investigated was however caused by a pit approximately 90cm deep which had nineteenth century pottery in its fill.

Trench 6 - 6m x 1m: In this area there had been relatively little disturbance with 30cm of sandy silt between the ploughsoil and the natural sand. One piece of medieval pottery was found in the sandy silt.

Trench 7 - 3m x 1m: Beneath the ploughsoil here was a yellow brown clayey soil from which at a depth of 50cm were found 2 unpatinated flakes. The clay continued until natural sand was found at 1m depth.

CONCLUSIONS

Prehistoric

As ploughing has disturbed the top 30cm it is unlikely that anything other than flint scatters will be found except where the material is protected in ditches or under alluvium. The alluvium on the SE part of the area has a potential for a mesolithic site. The rectangular enclosure to the east of Rye Farm could be of Iron Age date and requires investigation.

Roman

The late Roman pottery and the Roman ditch from trench 1 indicate settlement here. Roman material has also been found to the east at SU 526 968 and perhaps the track shown as a cropmark at the eastern side of the area links the two settlements.

Medieval

Ordnance survey maps show the location of a palace and church. Of the former trench 4 only found a single posthole with no dating evidence. The presumed palace site is in an area much quarried for gravel but further investigations

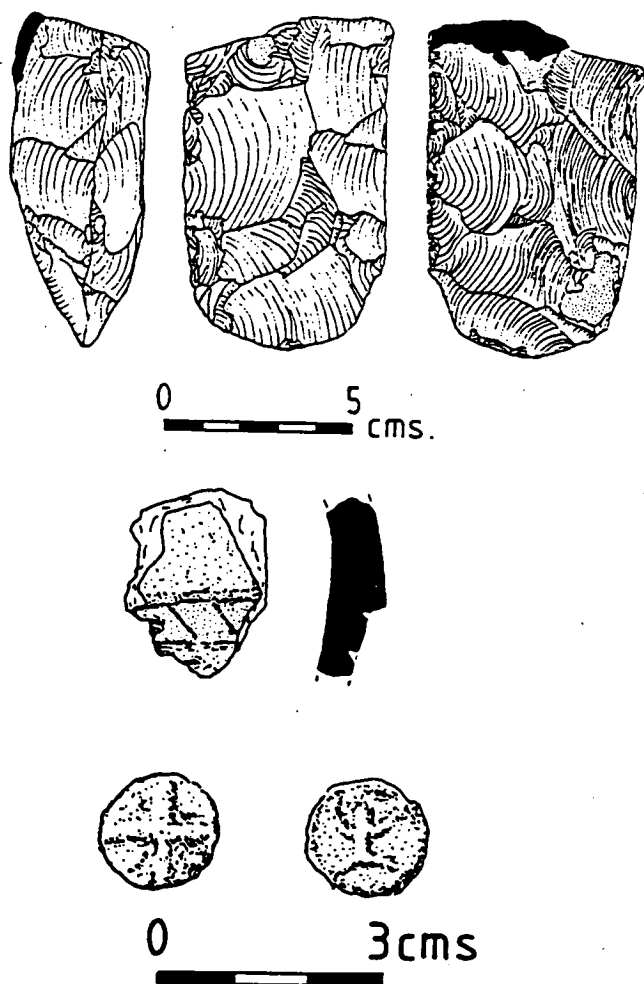


Fig. 4. Thames pick - white patinated flint found during fieldwalking. The top half has been broken off and missing.

Piece of Collared Urn - The fabric of this sherd is unusually hard for prehistoric pottery approximately 5 on Mohs scale. Its core is grey and surfaces grey/brown and it is of a sand tempered fabric. The decoration has two diagonal and one horizontal incised lines and at the broken edge are 2 stabbed holes slanting upwards. From layer 8 of trench 1.

English lead token - Fifteenth-?Eighteenth century kindly identified by staff at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Found during fieldwalking.

should be carried out in the vicinity and to the east of trench 4. Of the supposed site of the church no remains were found. The church is recorded as being demolished in 1101/2 and its stone used to rebuild the monastery at Abingdon. The demolition must have been very thorough or the foundations very shallow to have left no traces for fieldwalking or air photography. Only one enigmatic right angle of crop mark to the NE of the supposed church site could be a clue as to its location. The sites of the other chapels are sometimes found by their burials as at Chimney (3) but here there are no records of burials being found. The track running N-S on the western side of the area appears to be earlier than most other features. Its extent and purpose need to be traced as it could be a predecessor to the early fifteenth century

causeway which formed the western boundary to the survey area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Robin Holgate Mesolithic, Neolithic and Earlier Bronze Age Settlement Patterns south-west of Oxford. *Oxoniensia* LI, 1986.

Tim Allen Abingdon Vineyard Redevelopment. *SMA* 20 1990.

Sally Crawford The Anglo Saxon Cemetery at Chimney, Oxfordshire. *Oxoniensia* LIV, 1989.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Several members of the Society have assisted in this work. In particular Jeff Wall's directed trench 1 and John Copper, Alison Gledhill, John Carter, Jacqueline Smith, Bob Wilson, Charles Wrench, Terry Stopps, Bob Eeles and Sally Oatley were often on site. Mr. Tom Arthur kindly assisted by preparing the base and archive plans. In particular I would like to thank Mr. A. Lay for permitting work on his fields and Mr. Beaumont for permitting trench 1 to be dug.

FINDS AND ARCHIVE MATERIAL

These are to be given to the keeping of the Oxfordshire County Council's Department of Museum Service.

50 West St. Helen Street, Abingdon
SU 49685 96903 - Roger Ainslie

A small trench was dug into the yard at the rear of this house as the owner proposed to build an extension. It was located some 11m behind the present street frontage, was approximately 1.8m x 1.5m and reached an average depth of 1.5m.

The excavation revealed a nineteenth century stone-lined cess pit which had cut through earlier levels. These were mainly medieval pits (5, 6 and 7), although in one corner Roman levels (8, 9, 10 and 11) had survived. Only one piece of pottery came from these Roman deposits but the lowest layer (11) consisted of small pebbles compacted to form a surface which contained a single piece of bone. Natural gravel was immediately underneath this surface. The excavation was therefore successful in finding the depth of Roman levels in this area. Finds included a small flint core, 31 sherds of Roman pottery and 17 sherds of medieval pottery.

The Roman pottery is almost all of mid first to early second century date although there is a least 1 sherd of later pottery from the Oxford kilns. The amount of Roman pottery although almost all from residual contexts, at 7.6 sherds per cubic metre compares with only 0.3 sherds per cubic metre of the material excavated by hand at the site further west at

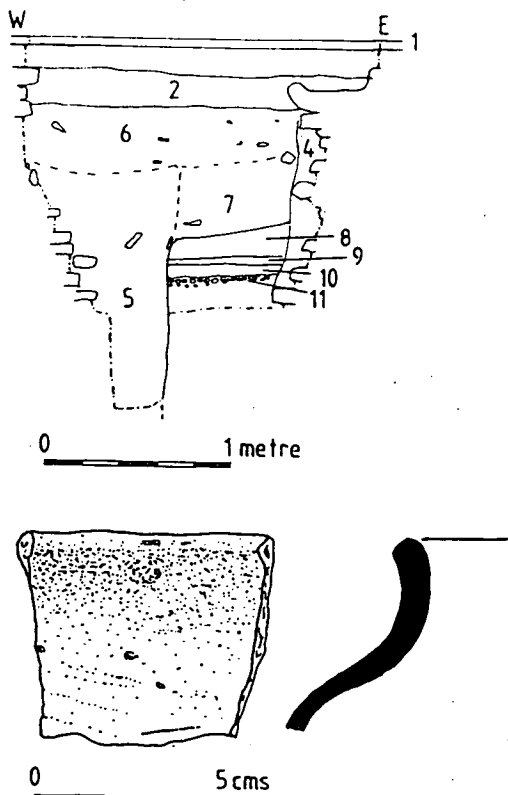


Fig. 5. North section of excavation.

Piece of hand made pottery from layer 5. It is dark grey/black throughout, has a small amount of grass tempering and is slightly burnished externally. The external rim diameter must have been approx. 24cm. Opinions are divided as it could be late Iron Age or early Saxon in date.

Winsmore Lane (1), reinforcing the theory that the edge of Roman Abingdon must be located somewhere between these sites.

The finds and archive material will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Council's museum service.

REFERENCE

Abingdon-Winsmore Lane, *SMA* 20, 1990, p. 90-93

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Paul Booth of the Oxford Archaeological Unit for looking at the Roman pottery and Mrs J. Jones for permitting the excavation to take place. The digging team was largely the same as carried out the Andersey Island work. Thanks are also due to Mrs Jones for allowing the Society access to her premises.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Pillboxes in Oxfordshire

A W J Graham-Kerr

This is part of a large-scale study of pillboxes in various regions, carried out by the Fortress Study Group.

If the Germans had crossed the English Channel and in time taken London, it is said that the Government would have moved to Stratford-upon-Avon. Working on the basis that the Germans had landed in the south of England, it was reasoned that once they had a foot-hold in the southern counties they would start to head in a northerly direction towards Oxford. Re-grouping at Andover and then moving north to the GHQ line running along the Kennet and Avon canal it would be important for them to pass around the towns because of sniper fire and booby-traps. Between Hungerford and Newbury would be the main push, so this is what GHQ did. Joining the A338 to Oxford on the north of the town, Wantage was the only other town on the A338, which was easy to by-pass. Oxford, which they hoped to defend, sits on the Thames at the top of its bottle-neck, Abingdon lies south of Oxford and has the river passing through it after Oxford; further up the Thames and to the west is Newbridge. The distance between Abingdon and Newbridge is only six and a half miles; this is where GHQ chose their second line of defence.

It is this line that I am looking at: the pillboxes are built at half mile intervals, in a line running from Abingdon Common through the villages of Marcham, Frilford and Fyfield to the Thames at Newbridge. The line consists of 20 pillboxes, of which most are rectangular (FW3/28). These were the largest of the pillboxes built for the 2-pounder anti-tank gun, in some cases even a 3-pounder or a 6-pounder. The 2-pounder was a highly mobile gun which, with wheels removed and trails splayed, made an effective weapon against the lightly armoured tanks of 1939-40¹.

The main period of building pillboxes was the summer of 1940, although they were built at other times during the war. They were cheap and relatively easy to build. As well as this, each one required less than a platoon of men plus a few weapons; a pillbox with a machine-gun made a formidable obstacle which rarely could be bypassed in an attack without a great deal of diversionary effort. An important part of pillbox construction was the use of steel bars. Both ends of each bar were bent through 90 degrees for a distance of almost a metre. One set was laid with the end projecting upwards, while those which were part of the roof projected downwards, being linked together by the others which formed the skeleton of the walls. The structure now resembled an enclosed cage, with small apertures for a door, ventilator and loopholes. Then, using wood around the framework of bars, concrete was poured in to form a thickness of 18". This set to form a very solid wall. Local builders could build a pillbox in less than three weeks from start to finish. The first pillboxes were manned by the army,

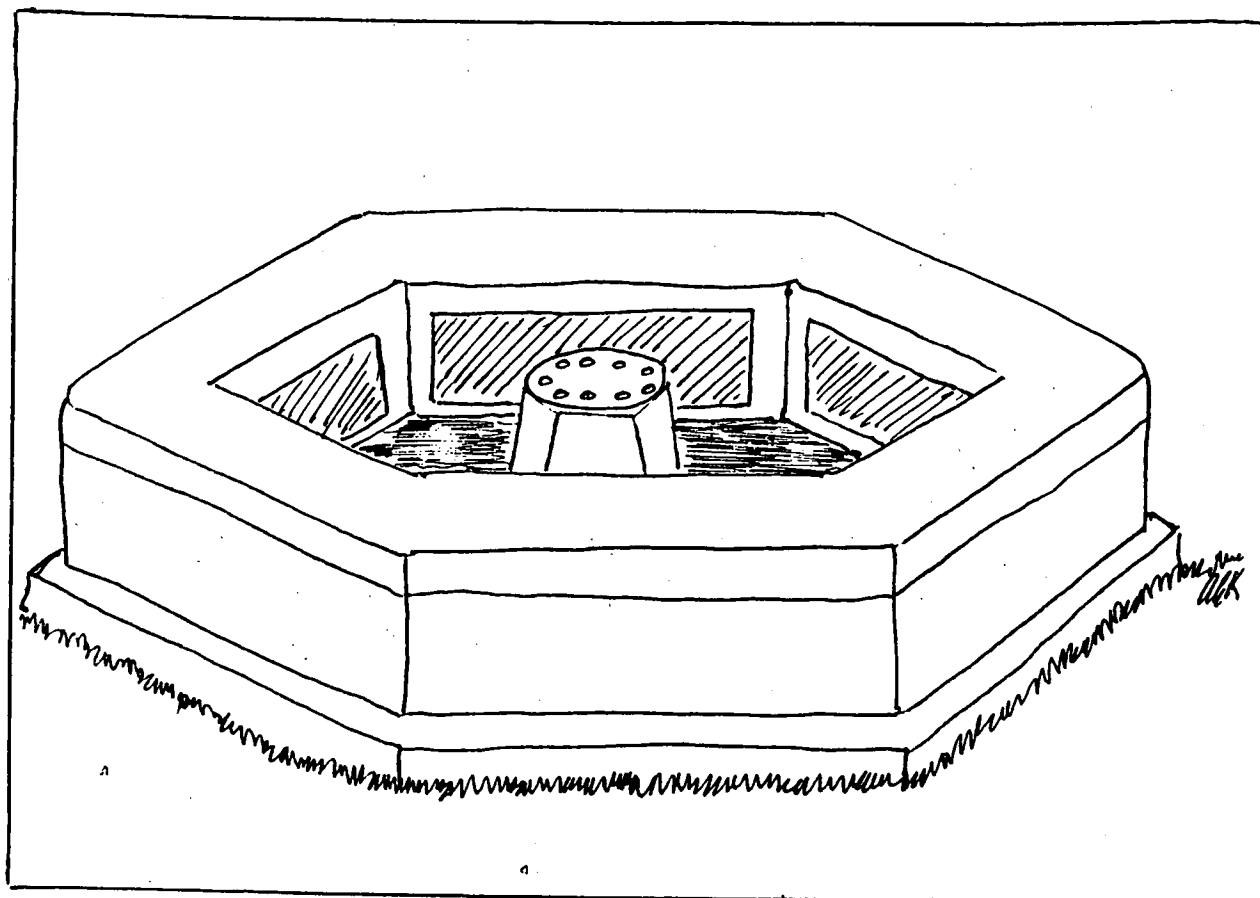


Fig. 1.

but as war progressed, they were handed over to the Local Defence Volunteers, later known as the Home Guard².

Along this line between Abingdon and Newbridge were other pillboxes. As well as the rectangular pillboxes there were hexagonal ones. There are also, where roads were involved passing through the line, road blocks. These were steel posts embedded in concrete. The concrete blocks took several forms - Pimples, Dragons' Teeth, Blocks and Coffins which are simply extended blocks. These can be found at SP 421009 and SU 465974. There are only a few traces of the anti-tank ditch: this was 8' deep and between 10' and 12' wide, the ditch ran the whole length of the stop line.

Heading north towards Oxford along the A338, one passes over a stream then past the pub, the Noah's Ark. Just ahead lies the cross-roads of the A415; at this cross-road is a hexagonal base: this is rather unusual and during the war it would have had a 6-pounder Hotchkiss gun bolted to the top of the base. The site is at SU 443971.

Also in this GHQ line is where 15 of the 2-pounder guns are, of the 170 2-pounder guns for the whole GHQ line. One interesting bunker remains (which is underground and is at SU 413995) is that of the Royal Observer Corp, and was in use until the 1960s. Aerial photographs show the outline of the anti-tank ditch, especially between Marcham and Abingdon. The GHQ line was manned by five platoons and

these were: Frilford, Cothill, Appleton, Fyfield and part of Frilford.

References

- 1 Wills, H., *Pillboxes* (Leo Cooper, 1985)
- 2 Brice, M., *Stronghold* (Batsford, 1984)

Notes on the Celtic Head Tradition in the South Oxfordshire Area

Cynthia A Graham-Kerr

Introduction.

Attention was drawn to this subject by an article by Mary Kift in our journal, *The Bulletin*, 1986, pp28-29, describing a fine Celtic head noticed locally. This reminded us of another, noted years ago in Woodcote - were there others extant?. They are not by any means common in this region, but about 13 possibilities were located and recorded.

Some may well be medieval, but are included as they contain Celtic features, and the sculptors might easily have been influenced by the Celtic cult when carving them. The descriptions are headed under the area from which the head came.

Note: The measurements are approximate, as the heads are often in totally inaccessible places, such as church towers.

West Challow (Wantage District) (Fig. 1)

It was this particular head which started the project and is now in a garden in Seaton, Devon. The family who used to live in a cottage "near Wantage" (?West Challow) unearthed it in 1956 about 2 feet below ground. They thought it was a garden ornament and took it with them on moving to Seaton. The following comments were made about it by Dr Ann Ross: "Among the hundreds of stone heads, etc, from all over once-Celtic Europe ... there is a class which is distinguished by the treatment of the features, from eyebrows to chin ... this example is one of the finest". It would appear to be about 60cm high with negroid features, and a feeling of character and strength about it; the carving is crude, with the typical bulging eyes. It was not possible to locate its supposed original site in West Challow, in spite of help from locals.



Fig. 1.

Whitchurch (Fig. 2)

This small head, of about 24cm high, is still in position above the Norman archway of the south door of St Mary's church, sheltered by a 15th century porch. It was noted by Canon Slatter in his *History of the Parish of Whitchurch* in the 1880s when the church was rebuilt: "The porch had decayed ... and was taken down, revealing a crudely carved face set into the wall ...". This head has decidedly Romano-Celtic characteristics and was fortunately left alone during the Victorian rebuilding.

Aldermaston (Fig. 3)

This head has the typical crescent-shaped droopy moustache (cf Figs. 2, 7 and 11) and "Celtic" protruding



Fig. 2.

eyes, placed at the outer sides of the head. It is around 30cm high and over a blocked north door inside the church: but we have been unable to find any reference to it in the church literature. It is limestone, and not in very good condition - the edges are broken and chipped.

Woodcote (Fig. 4)

This is a large and well-sculptured head, 28cm high, with typical protruding eyes, exaggerated lips and flattened nose. The folds of skin on the neck and musculature at the back of the head have been carefully detailed. It is of white oolite limestone, and was found at Wayside Green, Woodcote. It is Romano-Celtic, probably 1st - 2nd century, and is now in Reading Museum (Ref 401-78).

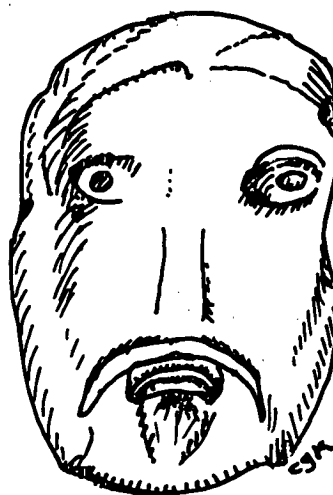


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

Caversham (Fig. 5)

A small head in Jurassic limestone, of Romano-Celtic date, was found near St Anns's well at Priest's Hill. This is one of the old holy chalybeate wells, associated with pagan Celts, and the head was in a garden nearby. It is 16cm high and crudely executed in a slab-like manner - almost bas-relief, with prominent eyes. It is now in Reading Museum (Ref 262-74).

Tidmarsh (Fig. 6)

This head is not an integral part of the early Norman arch, as would seem at first glance. Upon close observation it is clear that it has broken edges fitted neatly onto the Norman edging, and may even have been part of a vertical slab, as suggested by the shoulders. The features show a strong Celtic influence. The black outlines in the drawing are white mortar in the original.

Bucklebury (Fig. 7)

This head, in the south Norman doorway (1150-70) may be more medieval than Celtic, with its extraordinary crest, and the very odd dotted object, "entwined" with mantling of sorts. The eyes, moustache, and nose, however, repeat the Celtic formula. In this case it seems to be integral with its surroundings and it is included in this article, as a "curious reversion to an earlier type - a strange face" (Keith Poste, *History of St Mary the Virgin*, 1976).

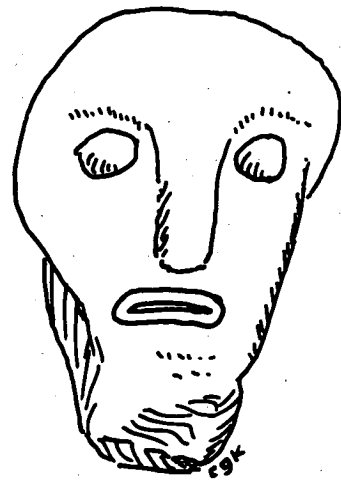


Fig. 5.

Chaddleworth (Fig. 8 & 9)

This church was mentioned in Domesday, it lies besides a fine old manor and has many Norman features. Here were two possible heads: one set in the centre of the string-course on the south side of the tower (Fig. 8) - thus it was difficult to see clearly but it had the characteristic features - unlike the heads on the corners which looked decidedly medieval.

The second head (Fig. 9) was quite different, being inside the church and on the eastern pillar, about 6 feet from the floor of the tower arch, southern side, and just jutting out. There was no stone, carved or otherwise, protruding from the north pillar of the arch, although the carved head had a flat top not unlike a corbel. In contrast to the rather severe one outside, this one has a broader and most amiable face, but serves no apparent purpose. It measured about 20 x 26cm.

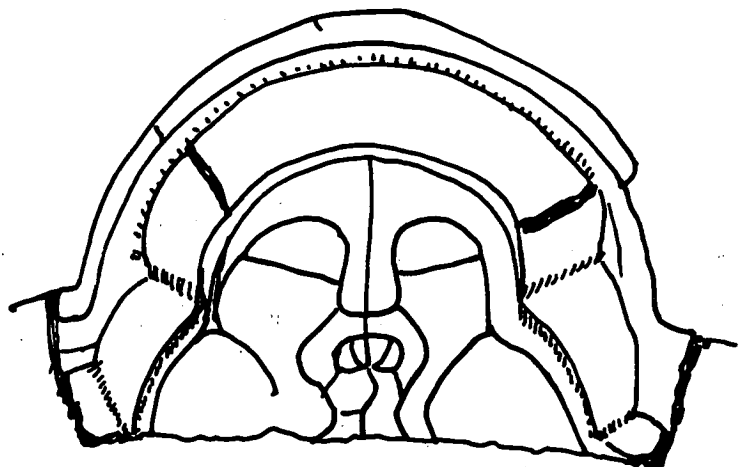


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.

East Garston (Figs. 10 & 11)

On the south side of the tower is a large old sundial and just below it, attached to a small plinth is a head with decidedly Celtic features (Fig. 10). Again, it was difficult to see detail. It is interesting to note this church is very near the River Lambourne; water is so often associated with pagan worship. The head was rather triangular, eyes and nose crowded together in the middle and what might be hair, or a background, squaring up the sides.

On the outside of the Lady Chapel, on the eastern wall was a stone with the date 1684, below, a string course with decorative heads each end. In the centre, however, is set a head of a different type (Fig. 11) with the thin moustache and plain features of the Celtic head, and usual glum expression. His chin rests curiously on the apex of the window, and like his neighbour at Chaddleworth, he



Fig. 8.

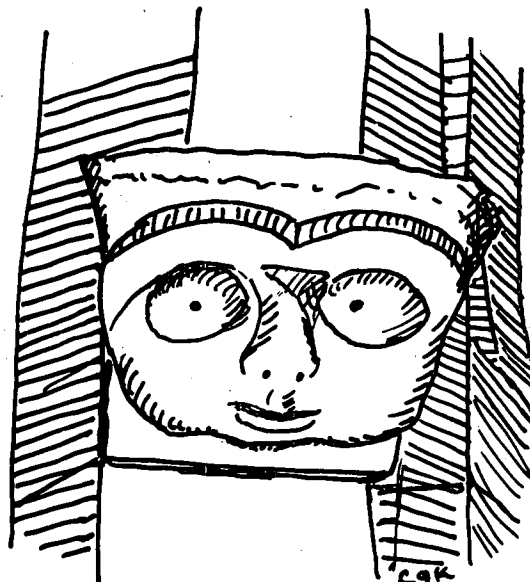


Fig. 9.

appears to have been added in when alterations were being made.

Abingdon (Fig. 12)

The Abingdon Museum has a tricephalous, or three-faced head, 32 x 5cm high, and 18cm wide (Acc. No 8096.1142), but they do not know its exact locality, but think it was from the Abbey area. This is quite possible as recent new excavations (Allen, 1989) have produced quantities of Iron Age, Bronze Age and Roman artefacts. Sculptured heads of this type were made by the Celts in Roman times and several have been found in Britain (see below). The triple aspect



Fig. 10.

apparently held a special religious significance for the Celts (Ann Ross, *Pagan Celtic Britain*, 1967).

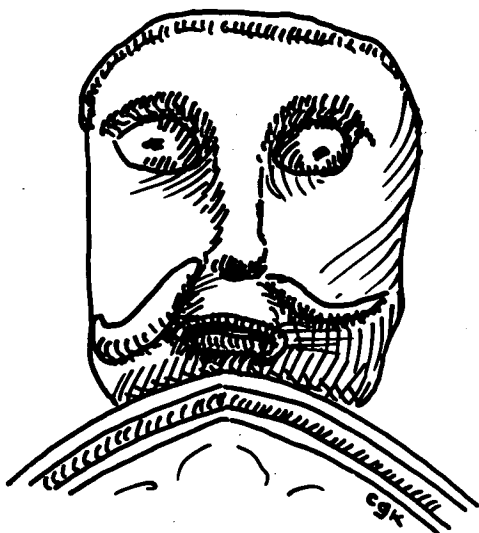


Fig. 11.

Ibstone (Fig. 13)

Heads are often placed on or over the keystone of an arch, but this one at Ibstone church is strange indeed. It lies at the highest point under the chancel arch (rebuilt in the 13th Century). There is some unusual Norman work in the church, noted as "probably Saxon" (church notes). It is a tiny church on a hillock, a stone coffin lies by the gate. (The

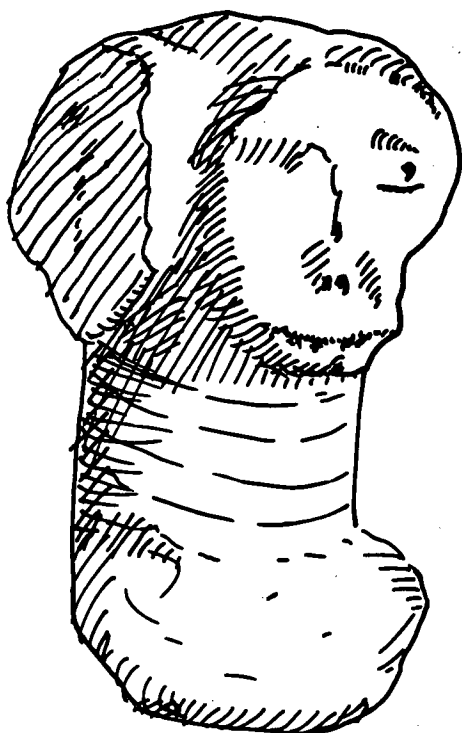


Fig. 12.

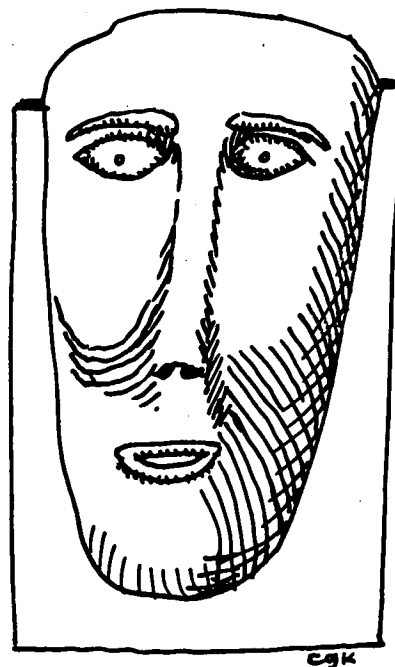


Fig.13.

village moved further up, following the plague, leaving the manor and church isolated).

The head, high at the top of the arch, has a slab base and typical Celtic features including a long chin as noted on other heads. It faces the floor, lying N-S under the arch and estimated as 22cm long. Outside the church over the window to the right of the porch is another head (not illustrated), but although it has the long moustache and plain features, the mouth is open and hollow and it does not look really Celtic.

Summary

It is interesting to note the positions of these heads: over doors, or towers, and 'loose' ones, which are dug up quite near the surface. Were they 'saved' when pagans became Christians, as familiar friends to be tolerated? Also, the presence of water nearby is a pagan link: eight of the churches concerned are within reach of water - rivers and St Anns's Well, Caversham, was a holy well of chalybeate water, used for cures. The Celtic religion held that both the human head and healing waters were of the utmost importance and this runs through Celtic cults everywhere. The head was the centre for the spirit and thus became an elaborate ritual object, a symbol of veneration, which developed into heads with horns, cats' ears and other appendages although we have not, so far, found any of these locally.

Looking through the photographs in Ann Ross' *Pagan Celtic Britain*, it is remarkable to see how different types of heads mentioned in these notes have parallels in heads from such diverse places as Norway, Denbighshire and Corbridge but the ones in this region seem to have more moustaches. Did these various types originate from a few sources, or were ideas spread as the sculptors travelled, or did the heads

themselves travel? Any further information on heads in this region would be of considerable interest.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my colleagues and members of SOAG who have worked with me on this project, especially Mary Kift, who started me off with her article in the *SOAG Bulletin* 1986. Janet Sharpe who came hunting in the cold of winter, also Malcolm Todd, and my husband who accompanied me to obscure places and held chairs whilst I photographed.

Also Professor Stuart Piggott who encouraged me and put me in touch with Dr Miranda Green, who has taken an active interest in the project and Nancy Hood, Curator, Abingdon Museum, Leslie Dram of Reading Museum, both of whom produced heads and information.

References

- SOAG, *The Bulletin* 1987/8 Nos 42 and 43, pp28-29
Poste, K, *History of St Mary the Virgin, Bucklebury*, 1976
Ross, A, *Pagan Celtic Britain*, 1967
Slatter, J, *History of the parish of Whitchurch*, 1880

Drawings by the author

Notes on some old local implements

C A Graham-Kerr

These old country implements have been lying around our house for years - people are inclined to dump "old things" on me - knowing they will be appreciated, and I thought it might be of some interest to put them on record.

Billock - Figure 1

Properly spelt "Billhook" (or, in some localities, 'bille'), this is pronounced bill'ock locally, and they are still in everyday use for light chopping and hedge-trimming. There are about 30 different types which vary from county to county and this is the typical 'Oxfordeer' one. Each locality has a strong

tradition as to shape and indeed they vary so much that some hardly seem to be the same tool. Other craftsmen who use them are the thatcher, who splits his spars and runners (usually hazel in our locality) with skilful strokes, and the woodman who have them for general work such as bean rods, and for trimming.

Thatcher's Needle - Figure 2

This T-shaped flattened iron, with its sharp point is an essential tool for the thatcher. The slim stem will stab into thatch without harming the straw. It is 51.5cm. long and strong enough to stop a ladder slipping and hold up the

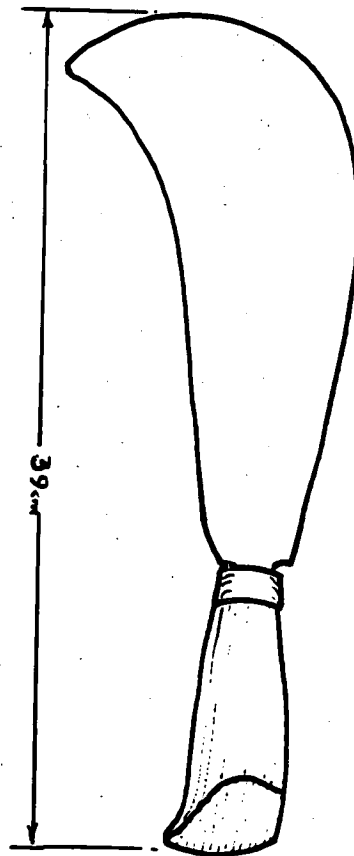


Fig. 1.

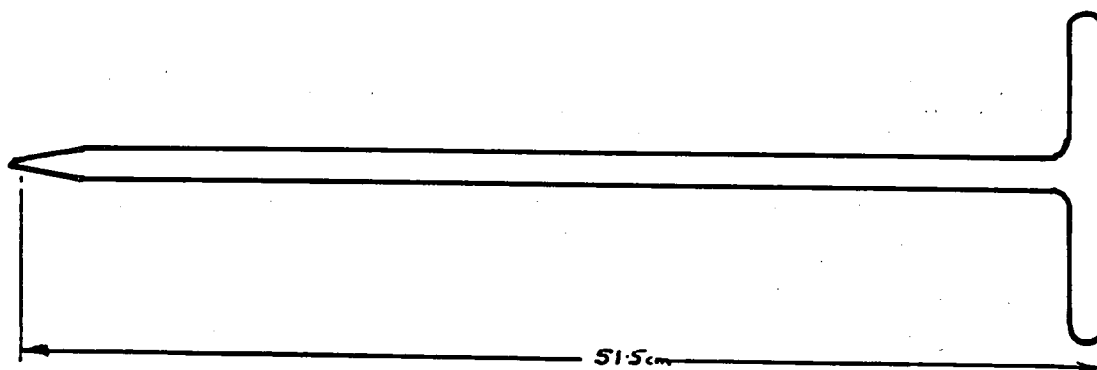


Fig. 2.

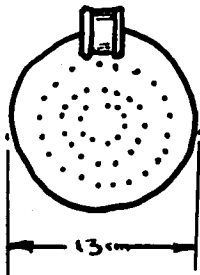


Fig. 3.

bundles of straw; but mainly for keeping one layer of thatch up tight, whilst the next bundles are tucked under, when using wheat or Norfolk reed. It is, in fact, a maid-of-all-work where anything needs holding, stopping or pinning down.

Skimmer - Figure 3

This circular object, which looks like a vegetable ladle, is evidently handmade, the holes being unevenly spaced, and its small curly handle roughly soldered to the edge, and it measures 13cm. in diameter. It is especially made to skim off the cream from shallow pans of rich milk, which are "set" to allow the cream to rise, as with Devonshire cream. This one is a very superior brass skimmer - they are usually made of tin.

Baker's Bat - Figure 4

This wooden bat, or peel, for removing loaves etc from the oven was discovered in a neighbour's roof under the thatch. (Later a round brick oven, smooth inside, with a domed roof was found behind a wall in the house). The handle is of ash, 124cm. long and the bat blade itself probably oak (which does not burn) they can also be elm or beech. The bat blade is 34cm. long to the handle and 37cm. across the mouth

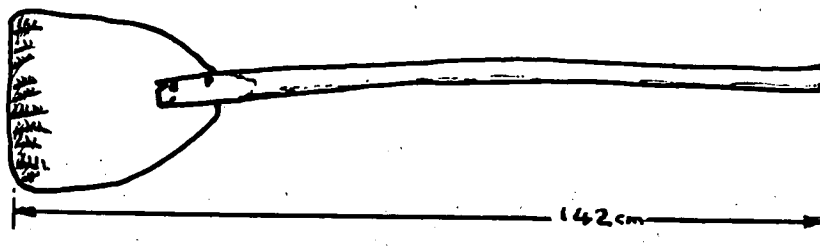


Fig. 4.

which is chamfered to get under the loaf easily. It has been photographed together with the next item for the records.

Dung Fork - Figure 5

This article materialised mysteriously in my yard. The handle is 154cm long, with a nicely shaped end and the prongs probably hand forged, are 25cm. long, strongly curved for scooping up litter from the stables and byres when mucking out. It is fixed by three rivets to the handle. It is also called a muck-rake, and a local friend told me that when he was farming in Gloucestershire they called it a "shavick".

Cook's Basting Spoon - Figure 6

This vast cooking spoon has a handle 41cm. long and the bowl itself is 11 cm. in length but is not to sup with the devil but to baste the joint. I found it in a farmyard together with a jack of the mechanical brass types. The beaten out handle shows it is forged work, very neatly made.

Well Pale - Figure 7

This object has puzzled a number of people but was in common use in the villages around here and has been seen used at the back of cottages at Fyfield, at Whitechurch Hill, Preston Crowmarsh and by a friend's grandfatyer at Chalgrove. It is for lifting and lowering the bucket into a shallow well - the pole (broken off on this one) could be very long or quite short, according to the depth of water in the

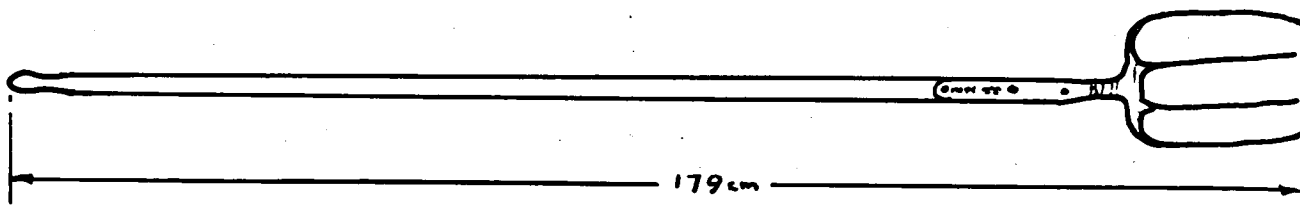


Fig. 5.

well for which it was used. This one is a nice piece of forged ironwork, (45cm-long) and no doubt local, with the spring clip still strong and working. This looks crooked, but that is

intentional, making it easier to catch the handle of the bucket and heave it up, clipped securely in the loop (Figure 7a).

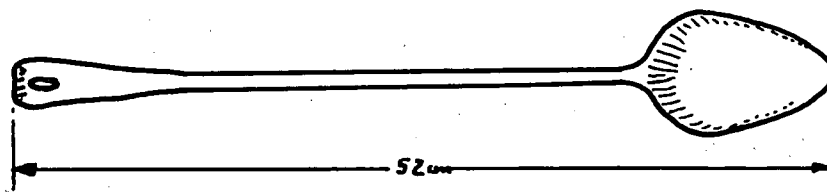


Fig. 6.

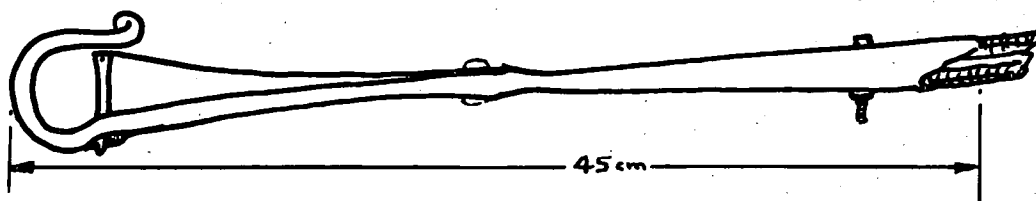


Fig. 7.

Index

NOTE: references in italics denote illustrations.

- A14 (M1-A1 Road Link) 71, 72
- A43 Blisworth and Milton Malsor Bypass 71
- A508 River Tove Bends 72
- Abingdon, Oxon
 - prehistoric; Rye Farm 111
 - mesolithic; Andersey Island 111, 113, *114*
 - Beaker period; Audlett Drive 92
 - Iron Age: 64 Bath Street *110*, 111; (SU 499 973) 97
 - Roman, early to middle
 - oppidum (SU 499 973) 97-8, 99
 - Twickenham House 109-10
 - West St Helen Street 114-15
 - Roman, late
 - Andersey Island 111, 113
 - 64 Bath Street *110*, 111
 - Vineyard 98, 111
 - Winsmore Lane 115
 - Saxon
 - Audlett Drive 92
 - cemetery 31, 32
 - medieval
 - abbey 114
 - Andersey Island (palace and church site) 113-14
 - 64 Bath Street *110*, 111
 - course of Stert 98
 - stone head 119, *120*
 - West St Helen Street 114
 - post-medieval
 - Andersey Island (C19th) 114
 - bridge (C16th) 1
 - Civil War cemetery 98
 - mathematical tiles 37
 - sites: Andersey Island 111, *112*, 113-14; Audlett Drive 92; 64 Bath Street *110*, 111; Rye Farm 111; Stert, course of 97, 98, 99; (SU 499 973) 97-8, 99; Twickenham House 109-10; Vineyard 98, 111; 50, West St Helen Street 114-15; Winsmore Lane 115
- Adam, Robert 35
- Aethelwold, Abbot of Abingdon, Oxon 98
- Agars Plough, Eton College, Bucks 39
- airship photography 6, 7
- Aldermaston, Oxon; stone head *117*
- Aldwincle, Nhants; St Peter's church 59
- Alfred, King of the West Saxons 32
- altar, Roman limestone; Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 96
- Althorp, Nhants 37-8
- Amphill, Beds 34
- Anglo-Saxon Chronicle 102
- antler, cut red deer; Eton College, Bucks 39
- Antonine Itinerary 72
- arch, roll-moulded; Hastings Hill, Oxon 82
- arrowheads
 - flint
 - barbed and tanged; Houghton Regis area, Beds 28, 29
 - transverse; Yarnton, Oxon 87
 - iron, barbed; Leighton Buzzard, Beds 30
- Ashdown Park, Oxon 80
- Aston Clinton, Bucks; Belgic site 39
- Astwick, Beds; medieval barn 25
- Audley End, Essex 37
- Augustinian order; Oseney Abbey 92
- axes, stone
 - greenstone; Yarnton, Oxon 87
 - polished; Cardington, Beds 10
- Aylesbury, Bucks
 - Coldharbour Farm middle IA site 39
- Baginton, near Coventry, Warks 33
- Bailey family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
 - Revd Kitelee Chandos Bailey 49, 56
- baker's bat *122*
- Bampton, Oxon; Iron Age site 101
- Banbury, Oxon; Inner Relief Road, medieval town 99-100
- Bancroft Roman Villa, Milton Keynes, Bucks 47, 48
- bank, medieval stone; West Cotton, Nhants 69
- barns
 - Roman
 - Stanwick, Nhants 76, 77, 78
 - medieval
 - Astwick, Beds 25
 - Barton, Beds 25
 - Bedford, Newnham Priory 22
 - conversions in Conservation Areas 23, 25
 - Shillington, Beds 25
 - Streatleybury Farm, Beds 25
 - Swalcliffe, Oxon 109
- Barnwell, Nhants 59
- barrows (*see also* ring-ditches)
 - Abingdon, Oxon 111, *112-13*
 - Brize Norton, Oxon 101
 - Finmere, Oxon 79
 - Over Norton Park, Oxon 82
 - Oxford, Port Meadow 101
 - Passenham, Nhants 64-5
 - Redlands Farm, Stanwick, Nhants 76
 - West Cotton, Nhants 69
 - Whipwell, Chipping Norton, Oxon 80
- Barton, Beds 25
- Barton Abbey, Oxon; Hoar Stone 82
- baths, Roman; North Leigh, Oxon 82
- Battams family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 55-6
- bead, Saxon decorated glass; Yarnton, Oxon 89, 90
- Beaker period (*see also* under pottery)
 - pits: Redlands Farm, Stanwick, Nhants 76; Yarnton, Oxon 87
 - ring ditch, possible; West Cotton, Nhants 69
- Bedford
 - Castle 21
 - King's Ditch 5
 - new architecture 26
 - Newnham Priory 20, 21-2
 - St Mary's Church Archaeology centre 3, 4, 5-6, 8
 - St Paul's Church 21
 - St Peter de Dunstable church 5
 - Southern Bypass 8, 9, 10-11
- Behrtwulf, King of Mercia 85
- bell tower; Charney Bassett, Oxon 101
- Benefield, Nhants
 - Biggin Hall 59
 - Lyveden Old Bield 59
- Bicester, Oxon
 - Abbey fish-ponds 100
 - Bronze Age hoard 100
 - Littlebury Hotel, Kings End 107, 109
 - Tesco supermarket site 100-1
- Biddenham, Beds; Gold Lane Iron Age/Roman settlement 12, *13*
- Bidford-on-Avon, Warks; Saxon cemetery 33
- Bidwell, Beds

- ridge and furrow 30
- Roman site 1, 28, 29
- Biggleswade, Beds; St Andrew's School 25
- billhook 121
- Bird family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
- Blisworth, Nhants; bypass 71
- Bloet, Robert, Bishop of Lincoln 104
- Boece, Hector 32
- bone objects (*see also*: antler; combs; spindle whorls)
 - gaming pieces, Saxon 33
- bones, animal (*see also* dog)
 - Aylesbury, Bucks 39
 - Cardington, Beds 11
 - Dunstable, Beds 26, 28
 - Salford Quarry, Beds 15
 - Willington Quarry, Beds 12
- bones, human *see* inhumations
- Bow Brickhill, Bucks *see*: Caldecotte; Magiovinium
- bracelet, Bronze Age gold; Milton Keynes, Bucks 40
- bracken, Iron Age 95
- Brackley, Nhants 59
- Brackmills Extension, Northampton 64, 65
- Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bucks
 - Abbey; seal 47
 - St Lawrence's Churchyard survey 48-57
- brass skimmer 122
- bridges
 - Roman
 - Merton, Oxon 102
 - Otmoor, Oxon 1
 - medieval
 - Banbury, Oxon; C14th stone 100
 - Great Barford, Beds 7
 - post-medieval
 - Abingdon, Oxon; C16th timber 1
 - Harrold, Beds 7, 8
- Brighthampton, Oxon; Saxon cemetery 31, 32
- Brill, Bucks
 - ha-ha 39
 - medieval kilns 39
- Brixworth, Nhants 59
- Brize Norton, Oxon 101
- Brogborough, Beds 25
- bronze objects *see* copper alloy objects
- brooches
 - La Tène, late; Salford Quarry, Beds 15
 - Saxon 31, 33
 - penannular copper alloy, Abingdon, Oxon 92
- Brown, Daniel III, of Luton, Beds 35
- Brown, Daniel IV, of Luton, Beds 36
- Bucklebury, Oxon; stone head 118, 119
- buildings, historic; in Conservation Areas 23, 25-6
- buildings of unspecified type
 - Iron Age; Yarnton, Oxon 89
 - Roman: Abingdon, Oxon 109-10; Bidwell, Beds 1
 - Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon, timber 96
 - Higham Ferrers, Nhants 62
 - Stanwick, Nhants, rectangular stone 77, 78
 - Towcester, Nhants 73
 - Yarnton, Oxon, agricultural 89
 - Saxon: Eynsham, Oxon, timber 104
 - Yarnton, Oxon 89, 90
 - medieval: Banbury, Oxon 100
 - Churchill, Oxon 82
 - Northampton, stone-founded 64
- bunker, Second World War 116
- Burghley House, Nhants 37
- burials, human *see*: barrows; cemeteries; churchyards; cremations; inhumations
- Burton Latimer, Nhants 71
- Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk 32
- Bute, John Stuart, 3rd Earl of 35
- buttress trench, medieval; Dunstable 26, 27
- Caddington, Beds 28
- Calcutt, Beds 28, 29
- Caldecotte, Bowe Brickhill, Milton Keynes, Bucks 43, 44
 - Roman 44
 - medieval and later 43, 44
- Canova, Antonio 26
- Cardington, Beds
 - neolithic/early Bronze Age ceremonial complex 8, 9, 10-11
 - Iron Age/Roman rural site 11
 - RAF airfield 6, 7
- cartulary of Oseney Abbey, Oxon 92
- casket, Saxon ivory; Eynsham, Oxon 102, 104
- Cassington, Oxon
 - Big Rings 98
 - Mill; late Iron Age enclosure 86
 - Saxon burial 31
- Castle Ashby, Nhants 37
- Catherine of Aragon, Queen of England 34
- Catlin, Sir Robert (d. 1574) 21
- cattle
 - Iron Age 11, 13, 15
 - late medieval 110
- cauldrons, Saxon bronze 32-3
- Caversham, Oxon; stone head 118, 120
- Caxton, William; *Chronicle* (1456) 32
- Celtic tradition
 - field system, Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 44, 45
 - stone heads 116, 117-20, 121
- cemeteries (*see also*: barrows; churchyards; cremations; inhumations)
 - Iron Age
 - Brackley, Nhants 59
 - Roman
 - Towcester, Nhants 72, 73
 - Yarnton, Oxon 89
 - Saxon
 - Charlbury, Oxon 109
 - Chimney, Oxon 114
 - Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 45
 - Yarnton, Oxon 89
 - medieval
 - Bedford; Newnham Priory 22
 - Thame, Oxon 94
 - post-medieval
 - Abingdon, Oxon (Civil War) 98
- ceremonial complexes, neolithic/early Bronze Age *see* Cardington; Willington Quarry
- cesspits
 - Saxon; Eynsham, Oxon 102, 104
 - medieval; Eynsham, Oxon 107
 - C19th; Abingdon, Oxon 114
- Chaddleworth, Oxon; stone heads 118, 119
- chain, copper alloy; Salford Quarry, Beds 15
- Chalgrove, Oxon 122
- Chalton, Beds 28, 29, 30
- chapels, Non-Conformist 25
- charcoal

- Iron Age 15
- medieval 22, 73
- Charlbury, Oxon; probable Saxon cemetery 109
- charnel pit; Newnham Priory, Bedford 22
- Charney Bassett, Oxon; St Peter's church 101, 102
- charters, Saxon
 - boundary; Uffington, Oxon 97
 - Mercian royal 85
- Chatsworth House, Derbys 37
- Chellington, Beds 22
- Chesham, Bucks 1
- chessmen, Viking ivory 32
- Chilson, Oxon; Stag's Plain 80
- Chimney, Oxon; Saxon cemetery 114
- Chipping Norton, Oxon
 - New Chalford Farm 80
 - Glyme Farm 80
- churches
 - Saxon
 - Chaddleworth, Oxon 118, 119
 - Charlbury, Oxon; minster 109
 - Eynsham, Oxon; minster 102
 - Spelsbury, Oxon; All Saints 82, 84, 85
 - medieval
 - Aldermaston, Oxon 117
 - Bedford: St Mary's 4, 5, 6; St Peter de Dunstable 5
 - Bucklebury, Oxon; St Mary's 118, 119
 - Charlbury, Oxon; St Mary's 109
 - Charney Bassett, Oxon; St Peter's 101, 102
 - East Garston, Oxon 119, 120
 - Great Chesterton, Oxon; St Mary's 101
 - Ibstone, Oxon 120
 - Northampton; St Gregory's 62
 - Thame, Oxon; St Mary's 94
 - Tidmarsh, Oxon 118
 - Watlington, Oxon; St Leonard's 107
 - Whitchurch, Oxon; St Mary's 117
 - post-medieval
 - Geddington, Nhants; St Mary Magdalene 60
 - Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
 - West Hannery, Oxon; St James the Great 102
 - undated
 - Aldwincle, Nhants; St Peter's 59
 - Chellington, Beds; St Nicholas' 22
 - Harrold, Beds; St Peter's 22
- Churchill, Oxon; The Corner House 80, 82
- churchyards
 - Bradwell, Milton Keynes; St Lawrence's 48-57
 - Cogges, Oxon; St Mary's 109
 - Daventry, Nhants; Holy Cross 60
 - Eynsham, Oxon; St Leonard's 102, 103-6, 107; St Peter's 107
- Civil War 62, 73, 98
- clay (*see also under* quarries)
 - burnt, medieval; Newnham Priory, Bedford 22
- Claydon Pike, Fairford/Lechlade, Glos 95
- Clutton, Henry 25
- cob huts, medieval; Oxford 93
- cobbles
 - Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
 - Walton Hall, Bucks 43
 - Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 45
- coffins
 - prehistoric, possible; Stanwick, Nhants 76
 - Roman; nail scatter patterns 102
 - C18th; West Hannery, Oxon 102
 - undated nails, Watlington, Oxon 107
- Cogges, Witney, Oxon
 - manor house 79, 94
 - moated sites 109
 - St Mary's churchyard 109
- coin blanks and pellets, Roman; Fenny Stratford, Bucks 40, 41-2
- coin dies, Roman iron; Fenny Stratford, Bucks 40, 41, 42
- coins (*see also* token)
 - Roman
 - Brixworth, Nhants 59
 - Chipping Norton, Oxon 80
 - Eynsham, Oxon 104
 - Fenny Stratford, Bucks (Magiovinium); forger's hoard 40, 41, 42, 47
 - Gayton, Nhants 71
 - Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 96
 - Thrapston, Nhants 72
 - Walton Hall, Bucks 43
 - Woodstock, Oxon 85
 - Saxon
 - Eynsham, Oxon 102, 104
 - medieval
 - Brackley, Nhants 59
 - Newnham Priory, Bedford 22
 - Oxford 92
 - unidentified
 - Thrapston, Nhants 72
- combs, bone
 - Iron Age
 - Agars Plough, Eton College, Bucks 39
 - Yarnton, Oxon 89
 - Saxon
 - Abingdon, Oxon, 92
- Conference, CBA Group 9 Spring 1991 1
- Conservation Areas 23, 25-6
- contour survey; Caldecotte, Bucks 44
- Cooper family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
- copper alloy objects
 - Bronze Age; sword fragment from smith's hoard, Bicester, Oxon 100
 - late Iron Age; chain, Salford Quarry, Beds 15
 - Roman: coin pellets, Fenny Stratford, Bucks 40, 42; statuette of ram, Fenny Stratford, Bucks 41, 42, 43
 - Saxon: brooch, penannular, Abingdon, Oxon 92; cauldrons 32-3; disc, gilt bronze, Spelsbury, Oxon 85
 - medieval; Newnham Priory, Bedford 22
- Coptic bronze vessels 32
- Corbett, Mrs. E. 85
- corn dryers, Roman
 - Gayton, Nhants 71
 - Yarnton, Oxon 89
- Combury, near Charlbury, Oxon 37
- Cornwall, Sir John, Baron Fanhope 34
- Cotton Henge, Raunds, Nhants 69, 70
- Cranfield, Beds; International Eco-Technology Building 26
- Crawley, John (fl.1740, of Stockwood Park, Beds) 35, 37
- cremations
 - prehistoric
 - Willington Quarry, Beds 12
 - Yarnton, Oxon 87
 - Bronze Age
 - Lake End, Bucks 39
 - Merton, Oxon 85
 - Iron Age
 - Salford Quarry, Beds 13, 15
 - late IA/Roman
 - Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 44-5

Roman
 Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 96
 Gayton, Nhants 71
 Saxon; ivory rings with 31
 modern; St Lawrence's churchyard, Milton Keynes 50, 51
 crofts, medieval
 Caldecotte, Bucks 44
 Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
 crop circles 101
 cross, Saxon ivory altar; Bury St Edmunds 32
 culvert, drystone, C19th-20th; Fawler, Oxon 109
 Cumnor, Oxon; Pinkhill Meadow 85-6
 cursus monuments
 Brize Norton, Oxon (possible) 101
 Cardington, Beds 10
 Drayton, Oxon 98, 99
Cypraea shells 32

Danes 5

Danesfield hillfort, Medmenham, Bucks 40

daub

Iron Age; Salford Quarry, Beds 15
 middle Saxon, mortar; Eynsham, Oxon 104

Daventry, Nhants

Borough Hill hillfort 60
 Holy Cross churchyard 60

Delafield family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56

dendrochronology 19

dene hole, Eye and Dunsden, Oxon 95

Denford, Nhants; West Spinney 65-6, 68

disc, Saxon gilt bronze 85

ditches

Bronze Age

Eynsham, Oxon 104

Iron Age

Biddenham, Beds 12, 13
 Cumnor, Oxon 8
 Great Doddington, Nhants (massive) 61
 Northampton 64, 66
 Raunds, Nhants 69
 Warren Villas Quarry, Beds 19
 Wollaston, Nhants 73, 74, 75

Roman

Abingdon, Oxon 97, 98, 99, 111, 112-13
 Gayton, Nhants 71
 Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 95, 96
 Sutton Courtenay, Oxon 98-9

Saxon

Raunds, Nhants 71
 Sandy, Beds 16, 17
 Yarnton, Oxon 90, 92

medieval

Banbury, Oxon 100
 Dunstable, Beds 26, 27, 28
 Raunds, Nhants 71

post-medieval

anti-tank, Second World War 116
 ha-has: Brill, Bucks 39; Over Norton Park, Oxon 82

documentary research; medieval Raunds 75

dog buried with human; Yarnton, Oxon 89

Domesday Survey; Stratton, Beds 19

Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon; Dyke Hills 98, 101

dovecotes, medieval

Caldecotte, Bucks 44
 Newnham Priory, Bedford 22

Dragon Hill, Uffington, Oxon 97

drains

medieval; Eynsham Abbey, Oxon 107
 C19th ceramic pipe; Stanwick, Nhants 78
 undated stone-lined; Benefield, Nhants 59

Drayton, Oxon; cursus 98, 99

Drayton House, Nhants 37

droveways

Iron Age; Salford Quarry, Beds 15

Roman

Raunds, Nhants 67
 Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 45
 Yarnton, Oxon 90

Ducklington, Oxon; Gill Mill Farm Iron Age and Roman settlements 1, 95-6

Duncan family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56

Dunstable, Beds

C18th coaching trade 35
 Friary field 26
 Pond Cottage, Bull Pond Lane 26, 27-8
 Priory 34
 16-20 West Street 25

Dürer, Albrecht 32

Duston, Nhants

Roman town 62
 bronze cauldron, Saxon 33

Dyke Hills, Dorchester, Oxon 98, 101

ear-muffs, stone, burials with 94

East Burnham, Bucks 40

East Garston, Oxon; stone heads 119, 120

Ebbs family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56

Edway *see* Theedway

Edward the Elder, King of the Angles and Saxons 5

eel traps, medieval; Warren Villas Quarry, Beds 1

Eggington-with-Clipstone, Leighton Buzzard, Beds 26

elephant as source of Saxon ivory 32

enclosures

prehistoric; Finmere, Oxon 79

neolithic

Sutton Courtenay, Oxon (long) 98, 99

Bronze Age

Cardington ceremonial complex, Beds 8, 9, 10-11

Iron Age

Abingdon, Oxon; rectangular 113
 Biddenham, Beds; rectangular 12, 13
 Cardington, Beds 11
 Cassington Mill, Oxon (late) 86
 Denford, Nhants 66
 Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 95
 Great Doddington, Nhants 60-1
 Merton, Oxon 85
 Northampton, King's Heath 64, 66
 Raunds, Nhants; double-ditched oval 67
 Salford Quarry, Beds 13, 14
 Upper Faxton, Nhants; defended 73
 Willington Quarry, Beds 11-12
 Wollaston, Nhants; double-ditched 73, 74, 75
 Yarnton, Oxon 87, 89

Roman 67

Cardington, Beds 11
 Denford, Nhants 66
 Higham Ferrers, Nhants 61-2
 Raunds, Nhants; rectilinear 67
 Sutton Courtenay, Oxon 98-9

- Swan Wood, Highmoor, Oxon 80
Yarnton, Oxon 89
- Saxon
Higham Ferrers, Nhants; large oval 61, 62
Yarnton, Oxon 90, 92
- medieval
Caldecotte, Bucks 44
Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
- undated
Ashdown Park, Oxon 80
Little Tew, Oxon 82, 83
Lower Heyford, Oxon; double banks 79-80
- Enstone, Oxon; Hoar Stone 82
- Environment 2000 Committee, Nhants 76
- environmental samples 1 (*see also* insect and plant remains; pollen; seeds)
Abingdon, Oxon 97
Eynsham, Oxon 102
Oxford, Oriel College 1
Salford Quarry, Beds 13, 15
Uffington, Oxon 97
Wallingford, Oxon 1
Yarnton, Oxon 87
- Escafeld Medieval Society 75
- escutcheon, hanging-bowl 85
- Eton College, Bucks 39
- Evelyn, John 38
- Evenlode-Thames confluence area 86
- Eye and Dunsden, Oxon; dene hole, Dunsden Green Farm 95
- Eynsham, Oxon 102, 103-6, 107, 108
neolithic flints 104
Bronze Age settlement 101, 104
early Iron Age scatter 104
early Saxon royal centre 102, 107
late Saxon abbey and royal centre 102, 103, 104, 105-6, 107
medieval abbey 104, 107, 108
St Leonard's churchyard extension 102, 103-6, 107
St Peter's churchyard 107
- eyot settlement, late Bronze Age; Wallingford, Oxon 1
- Fairford, Glos
Claydon Pike 95
Saxon burials 31, 33
- Faringdon, Oxon; aerial survey 101
- farm, manorial; Witney, Oxon 95
- Farmoor, Cumnor, Oxon 85-6, 95
- farmsteads
Iron Age: Beds 16; Biddenham, Beds 12, 13; Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 95
Roman; Houghton Regis, Beds 28, 29, 30
medieval; Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 45-6
- Fawler, Oxon; C19th culvert 109
- Fawsley Park, Nhants; Dower House 60
- Fenny Stratford, Bucks (Magiovinium) 39, 40, 41, 42-3
coin forger's hoard, Roman 40, 41, 42, 47
- field systems (*see also*: lynchets; ridge and furrow)
Bronze Age; Stanwick, Nhants 76
Iron Age
Great Doddington, Nhants 61
Northampton 64, 66
Stanwick, Nhants 76
Westbury by Shenley, Bucks ('celtic') 44, 45
- Roman
Stanwick, Nhants 76;
Yarnton, Oxon, 90
- Finmere, Oxon; Foxley Fields Farm 79
- fish traps, medieval; Warren Villas Quarry, Beds 1, 19
- Fisher, Thomas (1781-1836, antiquary) 21, 35
- fishponds *see* ponds
- Fitch, Rev. Samuel Edward, MD (fl.1862, of Kempston, Beds) 31
- flax, Iron Age; Yarnton, Oxon 87
- flax retting pits
Warren Villas Quarry, Beds 1, 19
Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 1, 45
- flint, burnt
Houghton Regis, Beds 28, 29
Leighton Buzzard Southern Bypass 30
Thames Flood Relief Scheme, Bucks 39
- flint implements
mesolithic
Abingdon, Oxon 111, 114
neolithic
Eynsham, Oxon 104
Houghton Regis area, Beds 28, 29
Luton, Beds 26
Stopsley, Beds 26
Warren Villas Quarry, Beds 19
Yarnton, Oxon 87
- Bronze Age
Houghton Regis area, Beds 28, 29
Luton, Beds 26
Merton, Oxon 85
Stopsley, Beds 26
- Iron Age
Biddenham, Beds 12
Salford Quarry, Beds 15
- unspecified prehistoric 99
Cardington, Beds 10
Cotton Henge, Raunds, Nhants 69, 70
Leighton Buzzard Southern Bypass 30
Pytchley Lodge, Nhants 71
Sutton Courtenay, Oxon; Otney gravel pits 99
Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 44
Yarnton, Oxon 86
- Flitwick Manor, Beds 25
- floors (*see also*: mosaics; *opus signinum*; tesserae; tiles)
early Roman; Abingdon, Oxon 109-10
- food residues, late Iron Age; Salford Quarry, Beds 15
- fords
Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 96
by Theodweg (Theedway), Beds 15
- fork, dung 122
- French family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
- Friendly Lodge, Nhants 69
- Fritwell, Oxon; earthworks 79
- fruit-stones; Salford Quarry, Beds 15
- Fyfield, Oxon 122
- Galley Lane, Fenny Stratford, Bucks 39, 40, 41, 42-3
- gaming pieces, Saxon bone 33
- gardens
Roman
Meppershall, Beds 16
Sandy, Beds 16, 17
medieval; Eynsham, Oxon 107
post-medieval
Bedford, Newnham Priory 21-2
Flitwick Manor, Beds 25
Kirby Hall, Nhants 1, 58, 61
Pavenham, Beds 25

- walled 21-2, 25
Wootton House, Beds 25
Wrest Park, Beds 23, 24
Gayton, Nhants; Roman finds 71
Geddington, Nhants; St Mary Magdalene's church 60
geophysical surveys 10, 23, 73
Gill Mill Farm *see under* Ducklington
glass objects (*see also*: bead; wine bottles)
 fragment, C17th hand-made green; Towcester, Nhants 73
gold bracelet, late Bronze Age; Milton Keynes, Bucks 40
Gostwick, Sir John (d.1545, of Willington, Beds) 21
granary, possible late Roman; Yarnton, Oxon 89
grave goods, Saxon 31-4
Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt, Oxon 95
graveyards *see*: cemeteries; churchyards
Great Barford, Beds; bridge 7
Great Bramingham Farmhouse, Beds 25
Great Chesterton, Oxon 101
Great Doddington, Nhants; Wilby Way Iron Age site 60-1
Great Houghton, Nhants 64
Gretton, Nhants *see* Kirby Hall
Grey family of Wrest Park, Beds 23, 34
Grim's Ditch, Mongewell, Oxon 80, 81
Grove Priory, Beds 8
growth marks during drought 101
gun emplacement (SU 443 971) 116
- ha-has
 Brill, Bucks 39
 Over Norton Park, Oxon 82
- halls
 Saxon timber; Yarnton, Oxon 90, 92
 Norman; Eynsham Abbey, Oxon 107
 medieval: Little Tew, Oxon 82; Thame, Oxon 93
- hammer scale; Yarnton, Oxon 92
hammerstone, Iron Age quartz; Cumnor, Oxon 86
Hannibal 32
Harcourt, George Simon, 2nd Earl Harcourt 94
Hardwick Hall, Derbys 37
Hardwick with Yelford, Oxon; Mingies Ditch 95
Hargrave, Nhants; Rose Cottage 69
Harrold, Beds
 bridge 7, 8
 St Peter's church 22
Hastings Hill, Oxon; C14th arch 82
Hatfield House, Herts 37
haymeadows 1, 86
hazelnut shells 86
Heaberht, Bishop of Worcester 85
heads, stone
 Roman; Chipping Norton, Oxon 80
 'Celtic', Oxon 116, 117-20, 121
hearth base, stone; Yarnton, Oxon 92
hearths
 Iron Age; Biddenham, Beds 12
 Roman; Stanwick, Nhants 77, 78
 Saxon; Eynsham, Oxon 104
 medieval
 Banbury, Oxon 100
 Bedford, Newnham Priory; pitched-tile 22
 Stratton DMV, Beds 21
 West Cotton, Nhants 69
 Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 45
Hemel-Humber Petrofina Pipeline 16
henges
- Cardington, Beds 10
Cotton Henge, Raunds, Nhants 69, 70
Lower Heyford, Oxon; enclosure proved unlikely to be 79-80
Henry I, King of England 104
Henry VIII, King of England 34
Henry of Cumnor 92
Higgins family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
High Wycombe, Bucks; Castle Hill House 39-40
Higham Ferrers, Nhants; SP 958694 61-2
Highmoor, Oxon; Swan Wood 80, 81
hillforts
 Borough Hill, Daventry, Nhants 60
 Crow Hill, Irthlingborough, Nhants 65
 Danesfield, Medmenham, Bucks 40
 Dyke Hills, Dorchester, Oxon 98, 101
 Uffington Castle, Oxon 97
hoards
 Bronze Age smith's; Bicester, Oxon 100
 Roman coin forger's; Fenny Stratford, Bucks (Magiovinium) 40, 41, 42, 47
Hockliffe, Beds; Methodist Chapel 25
hoggin 23
Holdenby, Nhants; Saxon cemetery 31
Holland, Henry 38
hollow ways
 Caldecotte, Bucks 44
 Souldern, Oxon 101
 Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
 Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 44, 45
hollows
 Iron Age work; Salford Quarry, Beds 15
 Saxon; Raunds, Nhants 71
 possible horticultural, Oxford 93
Home Guard 116
horn cores, cattle; Abingdon, Oxon 110
horse, white; Uffington, Oxon 96-7
horse bones, Iron Age; Salford Quarry, Beds 15
horseshoes
 Houghton Regis area, Beds 30
 Leighton Buzzard, Beds 30
Houghton Conquest, Beds 34
Houghton Park, Beds 34, 37
 Roman site 28, 29
Houghton Regis, Beds
 fieldwalking 28, 29, 30
 Houghton Regis Hall 25
houses (*see also*: halls; roundhouses; sunken featured buildings; timber framed buildings)
 Iron Age (*see also* roundhouses)
 Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 95
 Yarnton, Oxon 87
 Roman (*see also* villas)
 Sandy, Beds 16, 17
 Saxo-Norman; Spelsbury, Oxon 84, 85
 medieval
 Eynsham Abbey, Oxon 107
 Oxford 92-3
 Stratton, Beds 21
 post-medieval
 Chipping Norton, Oxon; New Chalford Farm 80
 country, Beds 25; and market towns 34-7
Humphreys, Edmund (fl.1767, brewer, of Luton, Beds) 36
hut circles, Iron Age *see* roundhouses
huts, medieval cob; Oxford 93
hypocaust; Stanwick, Nhants 76, 77

- Ibstone, Oxon; stone head 120
- ice-houses 40
- implements, country 121-3
- industrial suburb, Roman; Towcester, Nhants 72
- inhumations
- prehistoric
 - Little Milton, Oxon 94
 - Redlands Farm, Stanwick, Nhants 76
 - Beaker
 - Redlands Farm, Stanwick, Nhants 76
 - Iron Age/Roman; Towcester, Nhants 73
 - Roman
 - Fenny Stratford (Magiovinium) 40, 41
 - Gayton, Nhants 71
 - Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 96
 - nail scatter patterns 102
 - Raunds, Nhants 69
 - Sandy, Beds 16, 17; possible indigenous tradition 16
 - Stanwick, Nhants 78
 - Yarnton, Oxon 89; with dog 89; with heads by feet 89
 - Saxon
 - with ivory rings 31-4
 - Lower Heyford, Oxon 80
 - medieval
 - Abingdon, Oxon 98
 - Thame, Oxon, with 'ear-muffs' 94
 - post-medieval
 - Abingdon, Oxon; irregular 110
 - Geddington, Nhants 60
 - West Hannery, Oxon 102
 - undated
 - Little Tew, Oxon 82
 - Kirby Hall gardens, Nhants 61
 - Watlington, Oxon 107
- insect remains
- North Furzton, Bucks 1
 - Salford Quarry, Beds 13
- Irchester, Nhants 62
- Iron Age sites not indexed by features or finds
- Higham Ferrers, Nhants 62
 - Lake End, Bucks 39
 - lower Windrush valley 95
 - Thurleigh, Beds 16
- iron objects *see*: arrowheads; coin dies; country implements; horseshoes; patten
- iron-working (*see also* slag)
- Roman; Dunstable, Beds 26
 - Saxon smithy; Yarnton, Oxon 90, 92
 - medieval; Weldon, Nhants 73
- ironstone quarrying, Roman; Raunds, Nhants 69
- Irthlingborough, Nhants
- Crow Hill hillfort 65
 - Station Road 62
- ivory objects, Saxon
- altar cross, Bury St Edmunds 32
 - casket; Eynsham, Oxon 102, 104
 - rings in C5th-6th burials 31-4
 - statuette of saint; Eynsham, Oxon 102, 104
- Kempston, Beds; Saxon cemetery 31, 33
- Kent, Richard Grey, 3rd Earl of 34
- Kettering, Nhants
- planning constraints map 58
 - Saxon cemetery 33
- kilns
- agricultural, medieval; Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
 - lime, medieval; Witney, Oxon 95
 - pottery
 - Roman; Yarnton, Oxon 89
 - medieval: Brill, Bucks 39; Stanion, Nhants 71-2
 - post-medieval; Chesham, Bucks 1
 - tile
 - medieval; Brill, Bucks 39
 - unidentified
 - Roman; Highmoor, Oxon, unverified 80
 - King, Isaac, of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
 - Kirby Hall, Gretton, Nhants; gardens 1, 37, 58, 61
 - kitchen, medieval; Newnham Priory, Bedford 22
 - Knyff, Leonard 37
 - Lactodurum Roman town *see* Towcester
 - ladder, possible; Saxon, Yarnton, Oxon 92
 - Lake End, Bucks 39
 - latrine chamber; Oriel College, Oxford 1
 - lavatory blocks, medieval; Eynsham Abbey, Oxon 107
 - lead objects, medieval
 - seal matrix; Oxford 92, 93
 - token; Abingdon, Oxon 114
 - leather objects
 - Roman
 - Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 96
 - Wavendon Gate, Bucks; saddle 1
 - medieval; shoes, Warren Villa Quarry, Beds 19
 - leats, Roman; Stanwick, Nhants 76
 - Leighton Buzzard, Beds
 - 2-4 Lake Street 25
 - Leighton-Linslade bypass 15-16
 - Southern Bypass 30
 - Limbury, Beds; Waulud's Bank Saxon burials 31
 - lime wash, late Saxon; Eynsham, Oxon 104
 - Linnell family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
 - Little Brickhill, Bucks 39
 - Little Milton, Oxon; Betts Farm 94
 - Little Tew, Oxon; banked enclosure 82, 83
 - Littlepark, Ampthill, Beds 34
 - Local Defence Volunteers 116
 - Long Buckby Castle, Nhants 75-6
 - Long Wittenham, Oxon; Saxon cemetery 31, 33
 - loomweights
 - Iron Age, triangular; Eton College, Berks 39
 - Saxon, circular; Yarnton, Oxon 89
 - Lots Hole, Bucks 39
 - Lower Heyford, Oxon; double banked enclosure 79-80
 - Luton, Beds
 - prehistoric 26
 - Roman 26
 - Saxon; Argyll Avenue cemetery 31
 - post-medieval; interaction with country houses 34-6
 - sites: Clarence Hotel 36, 37; Gooseberry Hill 26; Market Hill; Thomas Marsom's house 36, 37; Park Square 35, 36
 - Luton Hoo, Beds 35-6, 37
 - lynchets
 - Ashdown Park, Oxon 80
 - Chipping Norton, Oxon 80
 - Grove Farm, Beds 30
 - Lysons, Samuel 21
 - M1-A1 link, Nhants 71, 72
 - M40, Waterstock to Wendlebury section 102

- Magiovinium Roman town, Bow Brickhill, Bucks 39, 40, 41, 42
 magnetometer surveys
 Cotton Henge, Raunds, Nhants 69, 70(UE)
 Raunds area, early to middle Saxon scatters 65, 67
 Manger, Uffington, Oxon 97
 manor houses (*see also* moated sites)
 Cogges, Witney, Oxon 79, 94
 Eynsham, Oxon 107
 manuring patterns 87, 111
 Marsom, Thomas, of Luton 36, 37
 Maulden Mausoleum, Beds 25
 Medmenham, Bucks; Danesfield hillfort 40
 Meppershall, Beds; Roman villa 16
 Mercia, kingdom of; royal charter 85
 Merton, Oxon
 Neolithic site 85
 Bronze and Iron Age site (SP 571170) 85, 102
 Roman road and bridge 85
 mesolithic sites
 Abingdon, Oxon 111, 113, 114
 Houghton Regis area, Beds 28, 29, 30
 metal detectorists 40
 middens, burnt flint in prehistoric 39
 Middleton Cheney, Nhants 62
 mills
 Roman; Stanwick, Nhants 76
 medieval and post-medieval
 Barton, Beds 25
 Caldecotte, Bucks 44
 Stoke Bruerne, Nhants, possible 72
 Stotfold, Beds 25
 Millward family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
 Milton Keynes area, Bucks
 cessation of Unit's fieldwork 39, 40
 see also: Bancroft; Bradwell; Caldecotte; North Furzton;
 Tattenhoe; Wavendon Gate; Westbury-by-Shenley
 Milton Malsor, Nhants; bypass 71
 Mingies Ditch, Hardwick with Yelford, Oxon 95
 moated sites
 Althorp, Nhants 37, 38
 Caldecotte, Bucks 44
 Cogges, Oxon 109
 Stratton DMV, Beds 19, 21
 Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
 Thurleigh, Beds 22-3
 Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 44, 45, 46
 Witney, Oxon 95
 Moggerhanger, Beds; Park House 25
 monastic buildings
 Abingdon, Oxon 114
 Bedford; Newnham Priory 20, 21-2
 Eynsham, Oxon 102, 103-6, 107, 108
 Mongewell, Oxon; Grim's Ditch 80, 81
 monoliths
 Barton Abbey, Oxon 82
 Enstone, Oxon 82
 Over Norton, Oxon 82
 Montagu of Beaulieu, Edward Douglas-Scott-Montagu, 3rd Baron 3, 6
 Morland, Mr (fl.1753-66, schoolmaster of Witney, Oxon) 94
 Morris, Roger 38
 mortar, daub consisting of; middle Saxon, Eynsham, Oxon 104
 mortar mixers, late Saxon; Eynsham, Oxon 104, 106
 mosaics, Roman (*see also* tesserae)
 Stanwick, Oxon 77, 78
 Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 45
 mound, truncated; Little Tew, Oxon 82
 muck-rake 122
 nails, iron coffin 102, 107
 narwhal 32
 Naseby, Nhants 75, 76
 Nassington, Nhants; Saxon cemetery 31, 32
 Nature Conservancy Council; Prime Sites of Nature Conservation
 Importance 7
 Nettlebed, Oxon; Swan Wood 80, 81
 New Chalford Farm, Chipping Norton, Oxon 80
 Niedermendig lava quernstones; Yarnton, Oxon 92
 North Furzton, Bucks; ring-ditch complex 1
 North Leigh, Oxon; East End Roman villa 79, 82
 Northampton
 Iron Age settlement, King's Heath 64, 66
 Belgic/Roman; 6 Peveril's Way 62
 Saxon
 Guildhall extension 58, 62, 63-4
 St Gregory's church 62
 medieval
 40-42 Abington Square 62
 Church Lane 62
 Freeschool Street 62, 63
 Guildhall extension 58, 63-4
 St John's Street 64
 post-medieval
 40-42 Abington Square 62
 multiperiod pottery scatters; Brackmills Extension 64, 65
 Norway, Saxon contacts with 32
 nutshells; Yarnton, Oxon 86
 Ohthere (C9th Norwegian merchant) 32
 oppidum, Roman; Abingdon, Oxon 97-8, 99
 optical stimulated luminescence (OSL) 97
opus signinum; Stanwick, Nhants 76
 oral history 48, 49, 50
 Ordnance Survey Correspondent system 40
 Orkney Islands, Saxon contacts with 32
 Oseney Abbey, Oxford 92
 OSL (optical stimulated luminescence) 97
 Otmoor, Oxon 1
 Ouzel brook valley, Beds 28, 29, 30
 ovens (*see also*: corn dryers; kilns)
 Roman corn- or pot-drying; Yarnton, Oxon 89
 medieval
 Oxford, semicircular 92
 Tattenhoe, Bucks; bread- 46, 47
 Witney, Oxon 95
 undated; Northampton, Guildhall extension 64
 Over Norton, Oxon 82
 Oxey Mead, Yarnton, Oxon 86, 87
 Oxford
 Iron Age; Port Meadow 95, 101
 medieval
 Bartlemas House and leper hospital chapel 93
 Oseney Abbey 92
 Park End Street, former Halls Brewery 92-3
 post-medieval; Oriel College, (latrine chamber) 1, (real tennis court) 93-4
 painted decoration
 Roman wall plaster; Stanwick, Nhants 76, 78

- C14th/15th wall painting; St Mary's Church, Bedford 6
- palaces
- Saxon; Northampton 62
 - Saxo-Norman; Spelsbury, Oxon 84, 85
- medieval
- Abingdon, Oxon 113-14
 - Witney, Oxon 79
- palisade trenches
- Saxon; Eynsham, Oxon 104
 - undated; Abingdon, Oxon 113
- parchmarks 23, 82
- parks
- Amphill, Beds 34
 - Houghton, Beds 34
 - Littlepark, Beds 34
 - Over Norton, Oxon 82
- Passenhams, Nhants 64-5
- pastoralism, Iron Age seasonal 1, 86, 95
- patten, medieval iron; Leighton Buzzard 30
- Pavenham, Beds 25
- peat formation 19
- peel (baker's implement) 122
- pellets, Roman bronze coin 40, 42
- periglacial features; Cardington, Beds 10, 11
- Petrofina Pipeline 16
- photography, aerial
- airship 6, 7
 - climate and 23, 82, 101
- pick, Thames; Abingdon, Oxon 111, 114
- Piddington, Nhants; Roman villa 1
- pig bones, prehistoric 12, 15
- pillboxes, Second World War 115-16
- pillow mound complex, possible; Ashdown Park, Oxon 80
- pipeline, Petrofina Hemel-Humber 16
- pipes, clay tobacco; Geddingdon, Nhants 60
- pit alignments, Iron Age
- Northampton, King's Heath 64, 66
 - Wollaston, Nhants 73, 74, 75
- pits (*see also*: flax retting pits; pit alignments; quarries; sand pit)
- prehistoric
 - Cardington, Beds 10, 11
 - Little Milton, Oxon; large grave pit 94
 - Sutton Courtenay, Oxon 99 - neolithic
 - Willington Quarry, Beds 12
 - Yarnton, Oxon; Mortlake ware and flints 87
- Beaker 87
- Stanwick, Nhants 76
 - Yarnton, Oxon 87
- Iron Age
- Agars Plough, Eton College, Berks 39
 - Aylesbury, Bucks 39
 - Biddenham, Beds 12
 - Burton Latimer, Nhants; sub-circular 71
 - Gayton, Nhants, 71
 - Merton, Oxon 85
 - Raunds, Nhants, 69
 - Salford Quarry, Beds 15
 - Yarnton, Oxon, 87, 89
- Roman
- Dunstable 26, 27
 - Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 95-6
 - Raunds, Nhants; quarry 69
 - Towcester, Nhants, 73
 - Wavendon Gate, Bucks 1
- Saxon
- Eynsham, Oxon 104
 - Raunds, Nhants 67
- medieval
- Abingdon, Oxon 111
 - Bedford, Newnham Priory; charnel- 22
 - Northampton 63
 - Raunds, Nhants 71
- planning constraints maps 6, 58
- plant remains (*see also*: flax; wheat)
- Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 95
 - Wavendon Gate, Bucks 1
 - Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 45
 - Yarnton, Oxon 87
- plaster, painted Roman wall-; Stanwick, Nhants 76, 78
- platform, timber; Yarnton, Oxon 86
- plough damage 12, 13, 15
- plough-marks (*see also* ridge and furrow)
- Iron Age; Warren Villas Quarry, Beds 19
- plum stones; Salford Quarry, Beds 15
- pollen 13, 87
- ponds
- Roman; Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 96
- medieval
- Bicester, Oxon 100
 - Caldecotte, Bucks 44
 - Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
- post-medieval
- Over Norton Park, Oxon 82
- post-built structures
- Iron Age; Yarnton, Oxon 87
 - Saxon; Denford, Nhants 66
 - medieval; Northampton 63-4
- post-hole alignments
- Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 96
 - Willington Quarry, Beds 12
- post-holes
- prehistoric; Sutton Courtenay, Oxon 99
 - Iron Age
 - Aylesbury, Bucks 39
 - Merton, Oxon; with burnt stone 85 - Roman
 - Towcester, Nhants 73
 - Yarnton, Oxon 89 - Saxon; Abingdon, Oxon 92
 - Norman; Northampton 63
- post pads, Roman; Yarnton, Oxon 89
- post pits, Saxon; Eynsham, Oxon 104
- pottery
- neolithic
 - cord-impressed; Warren Villas Quarry, Beds 19
 - Mortlake Ware; Yarnton, Oxon 87
 - other; Cardington, Beds 10 - late neolithic/early Bronze Age
 - Houghton Regis, Beds 28, 29
 - Willington Quarry, Beds 12 - Beaker
 - Abingdon, Oxon 92
 - Stanwick, Nhants 76
 - West Cotton, Nhants 69 - Bronze Age
 - collared urns: Abingdon, Oxon 112, 114; Merton, Oxon 85
 - urns; Merton, Oxon 85
 - other; Abingdon, Oxon 111 - Iron Age
 - Abingdon, Oxon, 110-11; Aylesbury, Bucks, 39; Biddenham, Beds 12; Brackmills Extension, Outer Northampton 64, 65;

- Cumnor, Oxon 86; Daventry, Nhants; Borough Hill 60; Dunstable, Beds 26, 28; Denford, Nhants 66; Gayton, Nhants 71; Leighton Buzzard Southern Bypass 30; Raunds, Nhants 66-7; Salford Quarry, Beds 15; Thrapston, Nhants 72
- late Iron Age
Abingdon, Oxon 115; Cardington, Beds 11; Houghton Regis, Beds 28, 29; Towcester, Nhants, 73; Willington Quarry, Beds 12; Yarnton, oxon, 89
- Belgic
Aston Clinton, Bucks 39; Dunstable, Beds 26; Houghton Regis, Beds 28, 29; Northampton 62
- Roman
amphora, southern Spanish; Abingdon, Oxon 111
butt-beakers; Abingdon, Oxon, 98
coarse ware: Dunstable, Beds 26; Fenny Stratford, Bucks (Magiovinium) 40, 41, 42; Sutton Courtenay, Oxon 99
colour-coated: Abingdon, Oxon 111; Chipping Norton, Oxon 80
grey wares: Abingdon, Oxon 111, 113; Fenny Stratford, Bucks (Magiovinium) 40, 41, 42
Nene Valley; Abingdon, Oxon 111
Oxfordshire; Abingdon, Oxon 111, 114
Samian Ware: Abingdon, Oxon 98, 111; Cardington, Beds 11; Chipping Norton, Oxon 80; Towcester, Nhants 73
St Remy ware; Abingdon, Oxon 98
Terra Nigra; Abingdon, Oxon 98
others: Abingdon, Oxon 97, 109, 111, 113, 114-15; Bicester, Oxon 109; Brixworth, Nhants 59; Cardington, Beds 11; Chilson, Oxon 80; Denford, Nhants 66; Eynsham, Oxon 104; Fenny Stratford, Bucks (Magiovinium) 41; Gayton, Nhants 71; Higham Ferrers, Nhants 61, 62; Highmoor, Oxon 80; Houghton Regis, Beds 28, 29; Irchester, Nhants 62; Leighton Buzzard, Beds 30; Luton, Beds 26; Northampton 62; Raunds, Nhants 66-7; Sandy, Beds 16; Stanwick, Nhants 78; Towcester, Nhants, 73; Uffington, Oxon 97; Walton Hall, Bucks 43; Yarnton, Oxon 89
- Saxon
flint-tempered, Saxo-Norman; Woodstock, Oxon 85
grass-tempered; Aylesbury, Bucks 39; Little Tew, Oxon 82
Ipswich ware: Denford, Nhants 65; Hargrave, Nhants 69
Oxford Fabric B; Wallingford, Oxon 93
St Neots ware; Wallingford, Oxon 93
stamp-decorated; Eynsham 107
others: Abingdon, Oxon 92, 115; Brackley, Nhants, 59; Brackmills Extension, Outer Northampton 64, 65; Denford, Nhants 65; Eynsham, Oxon 102, 107; Hargrave, Nhants, 69; Higham Ferrers, Nhants 61, 62; Leighton Buzzard, Beds 30; Raunds, Nhants 65-9, 71, 75; Stanwick, Nhants 78; Thame, Oxon 94
- medieval
Abingdon, Oxon 111, 113, 114; Banbury, Oxon 100; Bedford, Newnham Priory 22; Brackmills Extension, Outer Northampton 64, 65; Higham Ferrers, Nhants 61; Houghton Regis, Beds 30; Irthlingborough, Nhants 62; Leighton Buzzard, Beds 30; Northampton 62; Over Norton Park, Oxon 82; Raunds, Nhants 71, 75; Salford Quarry, Beds 15; Stanion, Nhants 71, 72; Stoke Bruerne, Nhants 72; Stopsley, Beds, 26; Stratton DMV, Beds 19, 21; Towcester, Nhants 73; Weldon, Nhants 73
- C16th; Oriel College, Oxford 93
C18th/19th; Abingdon, Oxon 113
- pottery residues 75
Preston Crowmarsh, Oxon 122
Puddlehill, Beds; Saxon settlement 28, 29
purse, ivory ring used to close Saxon 32
Pythchley Lodge, Nhants 71
- quarries
clay
Tattenhoe, Bucks, C16/17th 46, 47
Westbury by Shenley, Bucks, medieval 45
gravel
Abingdon, Oxon, medieval 111, 112-13
Eynsham, Oxon, post-medieval 107
Thrapston, Nhants, undated 72
ironstone; Raunds, Nhants, Roman 69
limestone, Weldon, Nhants, medieval 73
- querns
Roman; Sandy, Beds 16
Saxon, Niedermendig lava; Yarnton, Oxon 92
- ram, bronze statuette of; Fenny Stratford, Bucks 41, 42
Raunds, Nhants
prehistoric; Cotton Henge 69, 70; Scalley Farm 66-7
Roman; Scalley Farm 66-7
Saxon and medieval: Raunds village 69, 71; Scalley Farm 66-7, 69
Raunds Area Project 65-71, 75
see also: Denford; Hargrave; Raunds; Stanwick; West Cotton
real tennis court; Oxford 93-4
remote sensing 10
resident archaeologist, role of 15, 16
residues
food late Iron Age 15
pottery 75
ridge and furrow ploughing
Bidwell, Beds 30
Caldecotte, Bucks 44
Chipping Norton, Oxon 80
Leighton-Linslade bypass 15
Stanwick, Nhants 78
Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
Walton Hall, Bucks 43
ring, C16th; Brackley, Nhants 59
ring-ditches (*see also*: barrows; roundhouses)
Cardington, Beds 8, 9, 10-11
Finnere, Oxon 79
Higham Ferrers, Nhants 61, 62
Merton, Oxon 85, 102
North Furzton, Bucks 1
Raunds, Nhants 67
West Cotton, Nhants 69
Willington Quarry, Beds 11-12
ritual monuments, prehistoric *see*: Cardington; Willington Quarry
road blocks, war-time 116
roads (*see also*: hollow ways; trackways)
Roman
Brize Norton, Oxon (possible) 101
Ducklington, Oxon 1, 95, 96
Merton, Oxon 102
Sandy, Beds 16, 17
medieval
Abingdon, Oxon 113
West Cotton, Nhants 69
modern construction projects 79; resident archaeologist's role 15, 16
Rocque, John (fl.1761, cartographer) 97, 98
Roger of Comenore (fl.1265) 92, 93
roundhouses (*see also* ring-ditches)
Iron Age
King's Heath, Northampton 64, 66
Raunds, Nhants 67

- Salford Quarry, Beds 13, 14, 15
 Yarnton, Oxon 87, 89
 Roman, stone; Stanwick, Nhants 77, 78
 Royal Observer Corps 116
 Rupert, Prince, of Bavaria 27
- saddle, Roman leather; Wavendon Gate, Bucks 1
 Salford Quarry, Beds; Iron Age settlement 13, 14, 15
 sand pit, C14th; Brill, Bucks 39
 Sandy, Beds
 Roman; Municipal Cemetery 16, 17
 see also Warren Villas Quarry
 sarsens
 Ashdown Park, Oxon 80
 Uffington Castle, Oxon 97
 Saunders, Thomas, of Brill, Bucks 39
 Saxon settlement not indexed by features or finds
 Puddlehill, Beds 28, 29
 Scandinavia, Saxon trade with 32-3
 Scotland; Saxon contacts 33
 sculpture (*see also*: heads, stone; statuettes)
 gilded and red painted, Abingdon, Oxon 110
 seal matrix, medieval; Oxford 92, 93
 Sealed Knot 75, 76
 seals, medieval
 Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes, Bucks 47
 with letter 'A'; Oxford 93
 seasonal occupation, Iron Age 1, 86, 95
 Seaton, Devon; stone head 117
 seeds, carbonised
 Iron Age; Salford Quarry, Beds 13, 15
 Roman; Yarnton, Oxon 89
 settlement pattern 86
 Iron Age 16, 28, 29
 Roman 16
 medieval 19
 Stratton, Beds 21
 Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
 Sharnbrook, Beds; Baptist Chapel 25
 'shavick' (implement) 122
 sheep bones; Salford Quarry, Beds 15
 Shetland, Saxon trade with 32
 Shillington, Beds; barn 25
 shoes, medieval; Warren Villas Quarry, Beds 19
 Simon de Beauchamp (fl.1166) 21
 skimmer, brass 122
 Skipper, Ian 5
 slag
 Iron Age; Salford Quarry, Beds 15; Yarnton, Oxon 89
 Roman; Houghton Regis, Beds 8, 29
 Saxon; Yarnton, Oxon 92
 medieval
 Bedford, Newnham Priory 22
 Weldon, Nhants 73
 Slatter, Canon; *History of the Parish of Whitchurch* 117
 Smirke, Samuel 36
 smithy, C7th; Yarnton, Oxon 90, 92
 Soane, Sir John 25
 Souldern, Oxon; hollow way 101
 Spelsbury, Oxon 82, 84, 85
 Spencer family of Althorp 37, 38
 spindle whorls, Saxon bone; Abingdon, Oxon 92
 spoon, cook's basting 122, 123
 spur stones; Harrold bridge, Beds 8
 squatter occupation, late Roman 1; Stanwick, Nhants 78
- Stammers, Harry James, of Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bucks 49
 Stanion, Nhants; medieval kiln 71-2
 Stanton Harcourt, Oxon; Gravelly Guy 95
 Stanwick, Nhants
 Hill House 71
 Redlands Farm Roman villa 75, 76, 77, 78-9
 statuettes
 Roman bronze ram; Fenny Stratford, Bucks 41, 42, 43
 late Saxon ivory saint; Eynsham, Oxon 102, 104
 Stert, River 97, 98, 99
 Stockwood Park, Luton, Beds 35, 36, 37
 Stoke Bruerne, Nhants; medieval 72
 Stoke Mandeville, Bucks; old churchyard site 39
 stone objects *see*: axes; flint implements; hammerstone; heads;
 querns; sculpture; spur stone; stones, burnt; tesserae; weights
 stones, burnt Iron Age
 Biddenham, Beds 12
 Merton, Oxon 85
 Stopsley, Beds; Whitehill Farm 26
 Stotfold, Beds 25
 Stow, Lincs 104
 Stratton DMV, Beds 19, 21
 Streatleybury Farm, Beds; barn 25
 sumps, medieval; Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 46
 Sunderland, Robert Spencer, 2nd Earl of 37
 Sunderland, Charles Spencer, 5th Earl of 38
 sunken featured buildings
 Abingdon, Oxon 92
 Eynsham, Oxon 104
 Stanwick, Nhants 78
 Yarnton, Oxon 89, 92
 Surridge family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
 Sutton Courtenay, Oxon; Otney gravel pits, prehistoric and Roman
 site 98-9
 Swalcliffe, Oxon; medieval barns 109
 sword fragment, Bronze Age; Bicester, Oxon 100
- tanning
 Iron Age; Salford Quarry, Beds 13, 15
 late medieval; Abingdon, Oxon 110
 Taranis, god; wheel symbol, Wavendon Gate, Bucks 1
 Tattenhoe DMV, Milton Keynes, Bucks 46, 47
 Taylor, Sir Robert 38
 Tebworth, Beds; Methodist Chapel 25
 temples, Roman
 Bidwell, Beds (possible) 1
 Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon (possible) 96
 North Leigh, Oxon; East End villa 82
 Thrapston, Nhants (postulated) 72
 tenements, medieval; Northampton 64
 tesserae
 Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 96
 Stanwick, Nhants 77, 78
 Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 45
 Thame, Oxon
 Prebendal 93
 St Mary's church 94
 Thames Flood Relief Scheme 39
 Thames-Evenlode confluence area 86
 thatcher's needle 121, 122
 Theedway (Theodweg, Edeway, ancient road) 15, 28, 29, 30
 Thorn, Beds 30
 Thorngreen, Beds 30
 Thorpe, John (fl.1608, architect) 34
 Thrapston, Nhants; Trust House Forte 72

- threshing floor, Roman; Stanwick, Nhants 77, 78
- Thurleigh, Beds
- Iron Age settlement 16
 - moated site, Blackburn Hall 22-3
- Tiberius Claudius Severus; stamp on Roman tegula, Piddington, Nhants 1
- Tidmarsh, Oxon; stone head 118
- tiles (*see also under kilns*)
- Roman
 - Abingdon, Oxon 111
 - Houghton Regis, Beds 28, 29
 - Irchester, Nhants 62
 - Piddington, Nhants 1; stamped tegula 1
 - medieval
 - floor: line-impressed, Bedford 6; Churchill, Oxon 80
 - roof: crested, Benefield, Nhants 59; peg, Dunstable 28
 - post-medieval
 - floor; Oxford 94
 - mathematical 37-8
 - roofing; Chesham, Bucks 1
- timber framed buildings
- Abingdon, Oxon; 64 Bath Street 111
 - Bedford; Newnham Priory (stone founded, C14th) 22
 - Beeston, Beds; Elm Farmhouse 25
 - Brogborough, Beds; Round House 25
 - Dunstable, Beds; 16-20 West Street 25
 - Eynsham, Oxon; middle Saxon fragment of wall face 102
 - Great Bramingham Farmhouse, Beds 25
 - Leighton Buzzard, Beds; 2-4 Lake Street 25
 - Sandy, Beds; late Roman stone founded 16, 17
 - Thurleigh, Beds; Blackburn Hall 22-3
 - Wilstead, Beds; Duck End Farm 23, 25
 - Yielden, Beds; Spring Lane 25
- Timms family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
- Tite family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
- token, lead; Abingdon, Oxon 114
- Towcester, Nhants 72-3
- Iron Age/Roman 72-3
 - medieval 73
 - post-medieval 73
 - Old Tiffield Road 72-3
 - Saracen's Head Hotel 73
 - SP 69384893, SP 69414891 73
- towns
- Roman
 - Abingdon, Oxon 97-8, 99
 - Duston, Nhants 62
 - Sandy, Beds 16
 - see also*: Magiovinium; Towcester
 - post-medieval market, Beds 34-7
- Townsend family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
- trackways (*see also*: droveways; hollow ways; Theedway; roads)
- Iron Age
 - Northampton 64, 66
 - Roman
 - Abingdon, Oxon 113
 - Higham Ferrers, Nhants 62
 - Sutton Courtenay, Oxon 98-9
 - medieval
 - Stratton DMV, Beds 21
 - undated
 - Abingdon, Oxon 111, 112, 113, 114
- trade, early Saxon 32
- Uffington, Oxon
- White Horse Hill project 96-7
 - Uffington Castle 97
 - Upper Faxton, Nhants 73
 - Upton, Nhants 65
 - urban development; influence of country houses 34-7
 - Usher, John 25
- vaults, burial
- Geddington, Nhants 60
 - West Hannery, Oxon 102
- Vikings 5; ivory chessmen 32
- village settlement patterns 19, 21
- villages, deserted and shrunken
- Caldecotte, Bucks 43, 44
 - Great Houghton, Nhants 64, 65
 - Stratton, Beds 19, 21
 - Tattenhoe, Bucks 46, 47
 - Walton Hall, Bucks 43
 - Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 1, 44, 45, 46
- villas, Roman
- Gayton, Nhants 71
 - Meppershall, Beds 16
 - North Leigh, Oxon; East End 79, 82
 - Piddington, Nhants 1
 - Stanwick, Nhants 75, 76, 77, 78-9
- Walkendorf, Erik, Archbishop 32
- wall finishes
- Roman; painted plaster, Stanwick, Nhants 76, 78
 - Saxon
 - daub, mortar; Eynsham, Oxon 104
 - wall face fragment; Eynsham, Oxon 102
 - medieval; painting, St Mary's Church, Bedford 6
- Waller, Thomas, of Luton, Beds 36
- Wallingford, Oxon
- late Bronze Age eyot 1
 - late Saxon 93
- walls (*see also* wall finishes)
- Roman
 - Stanwick, Nhants; curtain 76, 77, 78
 - Towcester, Nhants 73
 - medieval
 - Eynsham, Oxon; monastic 107, 108
 - West Cotton, Nhants; boundary 69
 - early post-medieval boundary; Banbury, Oxon 100
- walrus ivory 32
- Walton Hall, Bucks; Roman and medieval 43
- War, Second World; pillboxes 115-16
- warehouse, C19th; Banbury, Oxon 100
- Warren Villas Quarry, near Sandy, Beds 1, 18, 19
- waterholes, possibly Saxon; Yarnton, Oxon 92
- waterlogged deposits 1
- watermills *see* mills
- Watkins Farm, Oxon 95
- Watlington, Oxon; St Leonard's church 107
- Waulud's Bank, Limbury, Beds 31
- Wavendon Gate, Bucks; Romano-British site 1, 43
- weatherboarding, Roman; Wavendon Gate, Bucks 1
- weights (*see also* loom-weights)
- fish-trap
 - Irchester, Nhants 62
 - Warren Villas Quarry, Beds 19
- Weldon, Nhants; Church Street 73
- well pale 122, 123

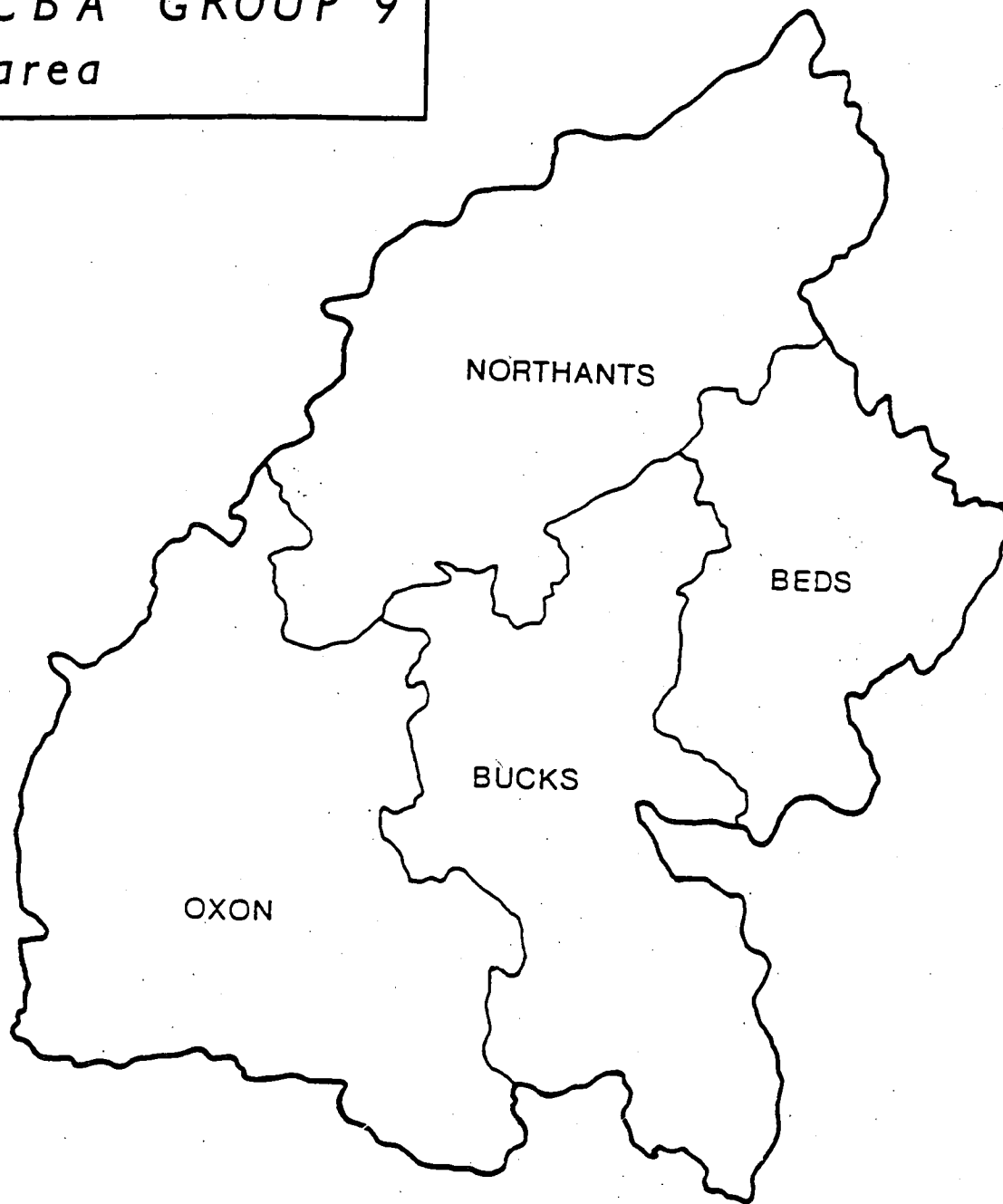
wells

- Iron Age; Salford Quarry, Beds 15
- Roman 1
- Romano-Celtic; St Anns', Caversham, Oxon 118, 120
- Saxon; Eynsham, Oxon 104
- post-medieval
 - Banbury, Oxon 100
 - Towcester, Nhants 73
- Welney, Norfolk 32
- Wendlebury, Oxon 102
- West Challow, Oxon; stone head 117
- West Cotton, Nhants 75
 - prehistoric 8, 69, 99
 - Saxon 69, 78
 - medieval 69
- West Hannery, Oxon; church vaults 102
- Westbury by Shenley, Bucks 47
 - late Iron Age 44, 45
 - Roman 44, 45
 - medieval 1, 44, 45, 46
- wetlands 1
- wheat
 - Cardington, Beds 11
 - Warren Villas Quarry, Beds 1
 - Yarnton, Oxon 89
- wheel symbol of Taranis; Wavendon Gate, Bucks 1
- Whitchurch, Oxon; stone head 117
- Whitechurch Hill, Oxon 122
- Willington, Beds 21
- Willington Quarry, Beds; prehistoric ceremonial site 11-12
- Wilstead, Beds; Duck End Farm 23, 25
- wine bottles, C18th; Cogges, Witney, Oxon 94

Wingfield, Beds

- Roman site 28, 29
 - medieval potsherds 30
 - Witney, Oxon (*see also* Cogges)
 - Bishop's Palace 79
 - Mount Mills; manorial farm 95
 - Woburn Abbey, Beds 26, 34, 37
 - Wollaston, Nhants; IA enclosure 73, 74, 75
 - Wood, Anthony (1632-95, antiquary) 104, 109
 - Woodcote, Oxon; stone head 116, 117, 118
 - wooden objects
 - Roman; Gill Mill, Ducklington, Oxon 96
 - Saxon ladder; Yarnton, Oxon 92
 - post-medieval baker's bat 122
 - woodland
 - prehistoric clearances 1, 12
 - sequence 1
 - Woodstock, Oxon; Fletcher's House 85
 - Wootton, John 38
 - Wootton House, Beds 25
 - workshop, middle Iron Age; Yarnton, Oxon 89
 - Wormleighton, Warks 37
 - Wrest Park, Beds 23, 24, 37
 - writing tablet, Roman; Wavendon Gate, Bucks 1
 - Wulfhere, King of Mercia 94
 - Wylie family of Bradwell, Milton Keynes 56
-
- Yarnton, Oxon; Worton Rectory Farm Iron Age to Saxon settlement 86-91, 92
 - Yielden, Beds; Spring Lane 25

CBA GROUP 9
area



0 10 20 m