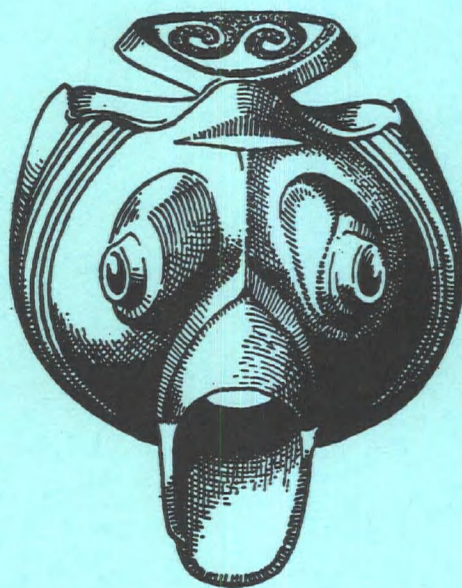


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The Distribution of Archaeological Sites between the Nene and the Ouse Valleys.

D.N. HALL and J.B. HUTCHINGS

SUMMARY

A 76,000 acre tract of land between the rivers Nene and Ouse has been the subject of intensive fieldwork. There are 216 known pre-Medieval sites and 14 deserted villages, most of them new discoveries. The distribution suggests that the district has been substantially de-afforested since Bronze Age times. A detailed gazetteer gives a brief account of what is known about each site.

INTRODUCTION

This paper reports the results of field surveys made since the site distribution work published in 1966.¹ The area now covered in detail is a block of land principally between the Nene and Ouse Valleys, some 76,000 acres in extent. The geology of Jurassic clays, limestones, and in Northamptonshire, ironstones, exposed on the valley sides; the great tract of land between the rivers is covered with glacial clay, and the valleys partly filled with glacial sands and later alluvium.

Aerial photography detects few clayland sites and many of them have never been recorded before. We include in this survey sites previously known as well as the new discoveries. The question of when a site was recognized is generally difficult to establish, as many are known to farmworkers and land owners. Several deserted medieval village sites, claimed as new, are clearly marked on eighteenth century estate plans.

The method of coding previously established has been used, i.e. a clearly identifiable isolated site will get a single code number even if it spreads into several modern fields, but site complexes of superimposed periods, such as occur on river gravels, will be given a series of numbers, one for each modern field.

We would like to stress the complimentary nature of the field surveys and aerial photography. It has been said that sites on the claylands represented by scatters of pottery are minor and un-

important compared to the type of sites that give crop marks; this is not so. Romano-British sites are very easily recognised on the ground by the scatter of building stone and pottery; if they are situated on a light soil they almost invariably give a good series of crop marks. Sites of any period on heavy clay rarely give visible crop marks unless there are very large ditches present and the weather is exceptionally dry (e.g. Bozeat 2 was discovered under these conditions). Conversely, gravel sites always give excellent crop marks, but, often yield no pottery, especially if they date from the Neolithic or Bronze Age periods.

In addition to our own surveys various published sources have been searched and included.²

Techniques of Surveying for Sites.

A preliminary survey of a parish is made in Winter at about Christmas, after seeking permission from land owners. By this time most of the fields will have been ploughed and ready for examination. Each field is carefully examined for earth works, soil marks, and scatters of stone and pottery. During this initial work the terrain becomes familiar, and generally all medieval and Romano-British remains will be found. In March or April the fields dry out and get worked smooth ready for the spring planting, when they are ideal for revealing soil marks. Often an Iron Age site will be seen as a dark area which yields a few sherds of pottery on closer examination. Another detailed survey is then made walking each field in strips; this season is fairly short because the corn rapidly grows through.

If possible the ground surveys should be supplemented by an aerial coverage early in July, when corn fields, especially barley, are the most sensitive to soil moisture variations caused by archaeological (and geological!) features.

Much useful information has been collected from building sites and quarries, especially where large areas are graded down slowly exposing feat-

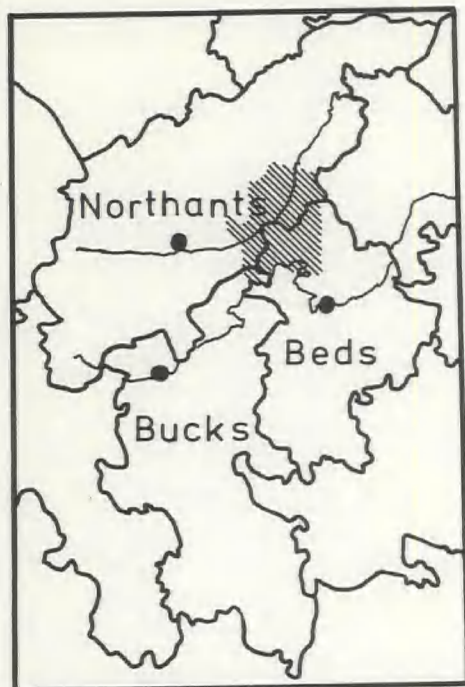


Fig. 1 Location of area in relation to counties of Beds, Bucks and Northants and the rivers Ouse and Nene.

ures. Generally all building sites and quarries are visited weekly if possible, and more often on those occasions when material is being found.

SUMMARY OF THE SURVEYS.

The site distribution is given on figures 2-4, and each period is reviewed below.

Neolithic

The recognisable remains of this period are very few, with only one certain identification, and two other probable sites. Two are on the river Nene gravels and the other is on clay, but overlooking the river. Flint tools are found over the whole area (not marked on figures), but do not prove the existence of dwelling-sites at their find-spots. Some recently found flints are illustrated by Dring³. Some of the barrows in the Grendon Barrow field (particularly Grendon 3) and the well-known Woodford barrows (Woodford 1) might be Neolithic; they are very large and, in the case of the Woodford example, elongated.

The Higham Ferrers/Irthlingborough gravel pits

have revealed new and surprising evidence. Commercial stripping of the alluvium which overlies the gravel exposed old river beds and small ditches filled with black organic matter containing wood, leaves, animal bones, and one human skull vault. It had been assumed that these all dated from the last ice age and were buried by alluvium deposited during the annual flooding of the river. The first evidence of man's activity was a stone causeway 10ft wide, buried 3-8ft down just above the gravel with stakes each side running across the valley for at least 400 yds.

A hut-circle ditch with an entrance was also revealed, dated by a piece of secondary Neolithic pottery. It seems, therefore, that the river valley alluvia were not uniformly deposited since the last glaciation, but accumulated when Neolithic and Bronze Age farming de-afforested the valley slopes, causing a rapid run-off of rain water and silt from the denuded land surface. Over the succeeding millennia the river valley sites have been buried and this is why few dwelling areas of Neolithic and previous periods are found. The presence of the stone causeway, akin in principal to those found on the Somerset levels,⁴ suggests sites of some importance should exist either side of the valley, presumably at Higham and Irthlingborough.

Bronze Age

The find-spots of this period are again apparently mostly limited to the river gravels; but it should be stressed that sites away from the rivers would not be recognised by field work unless there were barrows; no pottery would survive in the plough soil. Of the total of 14 sites 2 are on the claylands and the rest are riverine. There are four areas of barrows, the Grendon complex contains 3 large barrows (1 in Earls Barton) and 4 smaller ring ditches. The Earls Barton one was excavated by Jackson⁵ in advance of gravel extraction; it was previously undamaged by medieval and modern ploughing, still standing 4.5ft high. It proved to be an early Bronze age bell barrow with a wide berm. The barrow field at Irthlingborough contained 6 barrows, one destroyed, three ploughed over, and two undisturbed; the highest one is still 6ft high. At Woodford there are the 3 famous barrows known as the 'three hills', these are the only examples on the valley slopes (but they may be Neolithic, see above); below them is a ploughed over riverine round barrow. At Felmersham there are three damaged barrows.

Ploughed-out barrows are easily recognisable by the characteristic pink tinge of the gravel mound, probably caused by the use of burnt material derived from funeral pyres.

As with the Neolithic period there are probably many sites covered by river alluvium.

At Hinwick 6, cinerary urns were found on the upland clay.⁶ In 1860 a hoard of bronze axes was discovered at Wymington;⁷ the exact find spot was not recorded, except that it was on 'Mr. Goosey's Farm'; near the modern 'Goosey's Lodge' is a large area with burnt pebbles and dark occupation, typical of an Iron Age site, but yet with no pottery, this may be another Bronze Age site, on the clay.

Pre-Roman Iron Age

The distribution of the sites of this period is uniform over all types of soil, suggesting that the greater part of the area was de-afforested. It is not accepted that the sites were in forest glades because most are clearly agricultural with accompanying enclosure and field system ditches; the river alluvia continued to accumulate, demonstrating that large tracts of land were open giving rapid water run-off.

There are 62 early Iron Age sites and 14 late Iron Age (Belgic); whereas the former are frequently found on their own as plough soil pottery scatters, no single period Belgic site is known by field work. Belgic sites are usually found in association with Romano-British sites, except for one case at Sharnbrook 1.

All the sites except Easton Maudit 10 are ploughed out and no earthworks survive. Where excavated or exposed by industrial action, they reveal hut-circle ditches or post-hole circles about 50ft across.⁸ Most of the larger sites are defined by substantial ditches which were probably defensive.

Four sites at Wollaston and Strixton have been found during building or industrial works. (Wollaston 17, 18, 19, Strixton 10). In each case the fields had been carefully checked but there were no indications of a site. The last three appeared to be very small without any large ditches (and so not detectable from the air), and all seem to have been occupied for short times only. It is therefore very possible that the total number of Iron Age sites is still much under estimated. The short periods of occupation suggest that some of the people may have been semi-nomadic; further supporting evidence for seasonal occupation comes from the excavations at Bozeat 2 where ditches were filled

with alternate layers of charcoal (from summer fires) and natural clay silts (winter weathering).⁸

Pottery groups have been excavated at Irchester⁹ Strixton and Bozeat.¹⁰

The two most interesting Belgic sites are at Knuston 2 and Ringstead 3, both revealed by soil moving machinery. At Knuston some 15 acres were stripped of topsoil exposing a complex of enclosure and hut-circle ditches dating from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The remarkable late Belgic pottery was of similar type to the nearby Irchester,⁹ and there were unique shaped vessels with complicated incised decoration and paint. There was some evidence for kilns of the Belgic and Romano-British periods.¹¹

The Ringstead site 3 was exposed by the North Sea gas pipe-line cutting through pits and ditches yielding some fine decorated butt beakers.

Romano-British

A uniform and relatively dense distribution of sites occurs over all the area on light soils and clays alike. There are a total of 131 small settlements varying in size from 0.25 to about 9 acres, averaging about 1 acre. Thus the total occupied area exceeds 130 acres which is more than twice the size of Irchester 1 (50 acres including the cemetery), implying that the greater part of the population was rural. Most settlements are agricultural, judging by the quern stones found and the associated field systems and enclosures visible from the air. The largest newly-discovered site is Little Addington 1 covering some 9 acres.

Kiln sites have been recognised at Harrold 19, Bozeat 8 and 16, Knuston 2, and Souldrop 4.

Irchester 1 remains the only Romano-British site with surviving earthworks. A lot of doubtful evidence continues to be given about Roman minor roads. A recent case of mistaken identity is at Little Addington¹² where a medieval furlong boundary has been partially excavated and claimed to be an agger, even though only medieval pottery was found. There were no boundary ditches; the noted alignment with the Irthlingborough/Addington road is totally irrelevant because it was not laid out until 1780.

For minor roads the only real evidence is from crop-mark parallel ditch alignments as at Wollaston 8.¹³ A probable authentic example of a road was sectioned by the North Sea gas trench on a terrace just below the site at Higham 2; there was

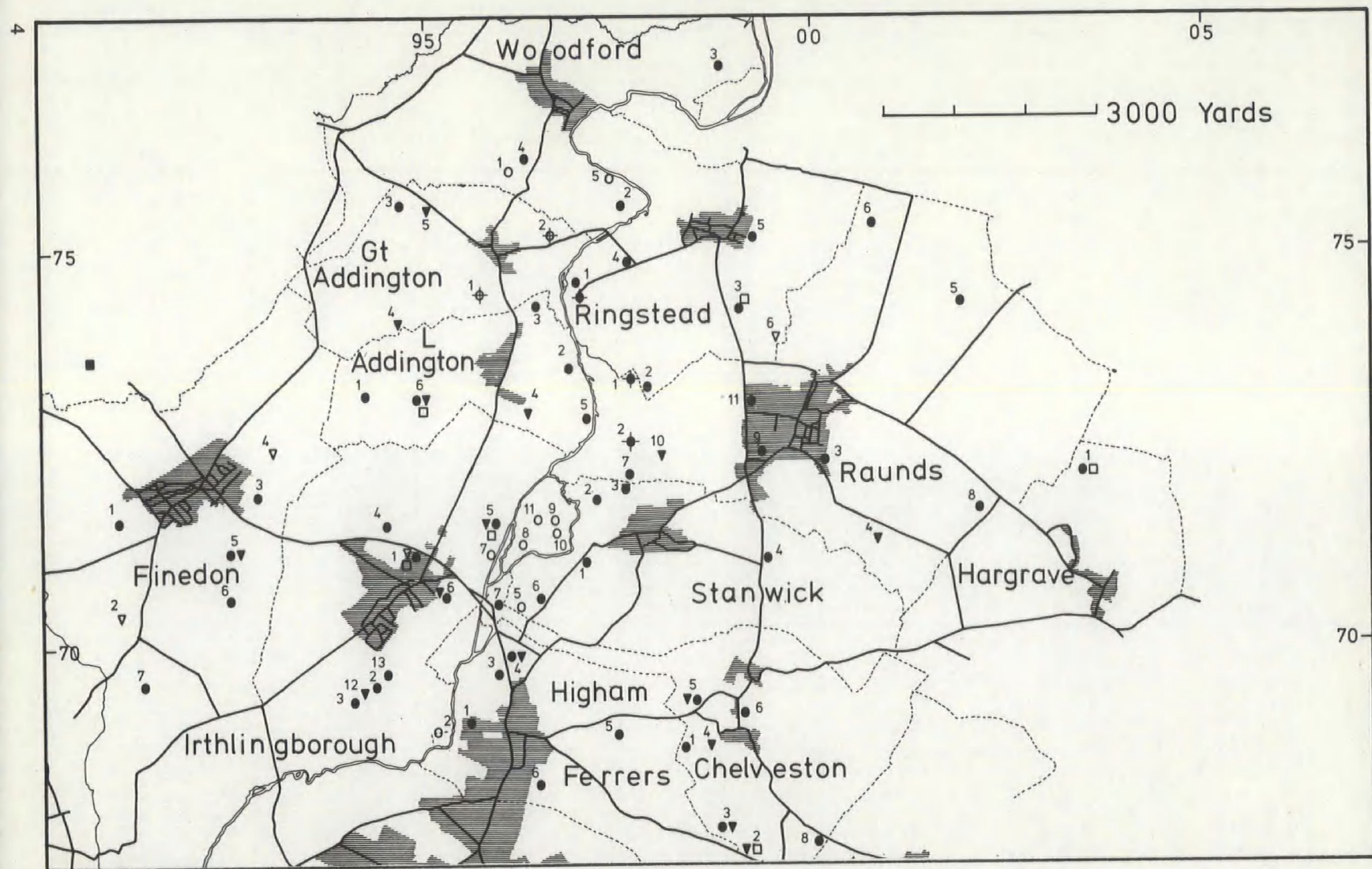
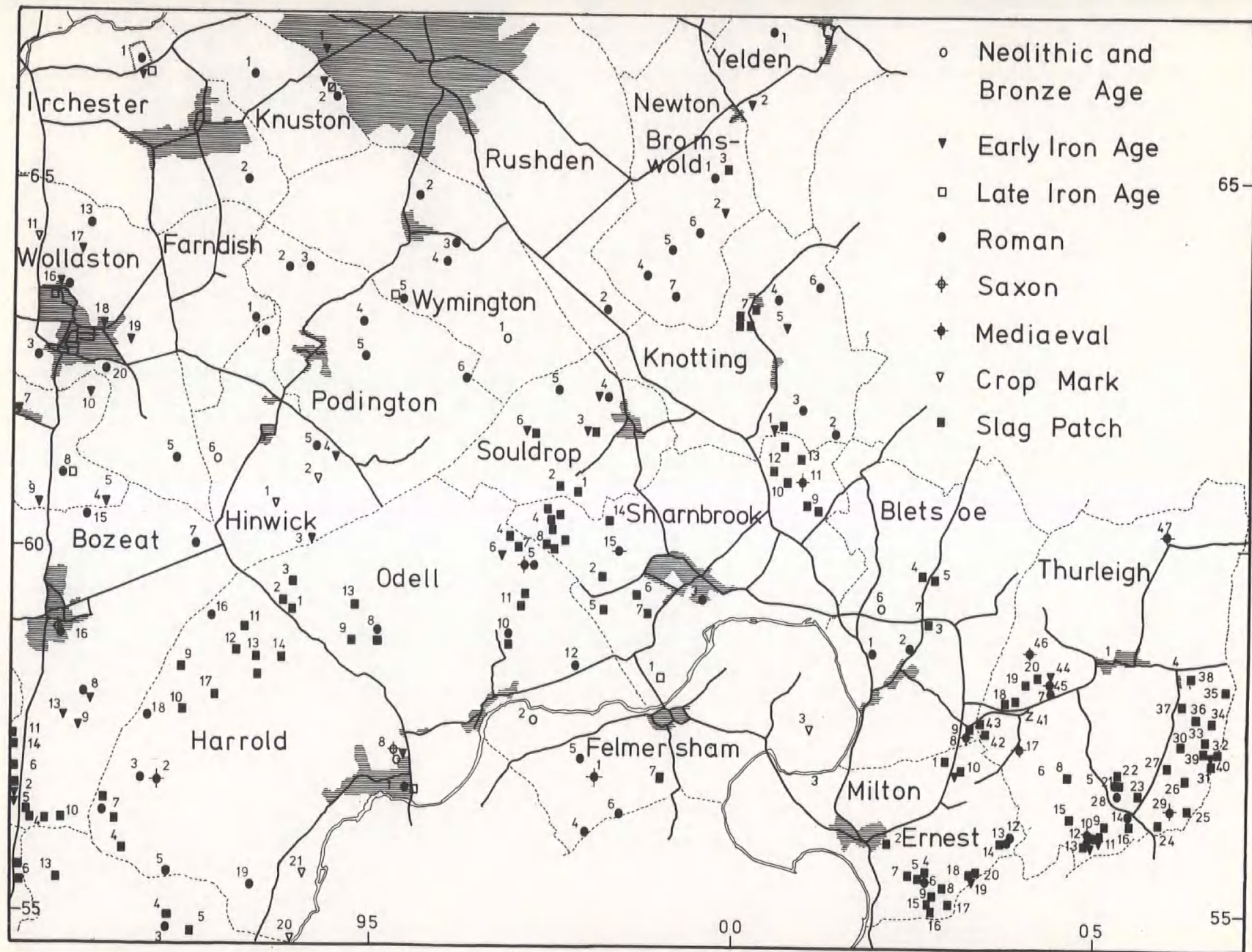


Fig. 2 The distribution of archaeological sites in the Nene valley.

Fig. 3 (below) The distribution of archaeological sites between the Ouse and Nene valleys.



a 15ft wide layer of hardcore, containing Romano-British sherds, running in a southerly direction.

The most interesting sites continue to be those with round houses.¹⁴ Two more have been found at Bozeat 16, one 34ft diameter with a central hearth, and the other about 25ft diameter with a cross wall; both are third century.¹⁵ The connecting link between these sites and Iron Age wooden (or daub) circular huts comes from a recent site at Wollaston,²⁰ where there was an early second century penannular hut-circle ditch 40ft diameter, with a 13ft wide entrance and internal hearths and ovens. A similar Roman hut 30ft diameter was found at Ringstead 4 overlaid by a stone one.¹⁶ It would seem that the Iron Age building traditions continued into the Roman period with the eventual modification of the use of stone. Presumably the Celtic population continued farming for the Roman economy, but themselves received only a very limited Romanization.

Anglo-Saxon

Not much Saxon material has been found, no doubt because it is buried underneath the present villages. There are 4 cemeteries and one isolated settlement. At Bozeat 16 three inhumation burials lying north-south were exposed by building works, one with a necklace and small-long brooch of mid sixth century type. The only other Saxon cemeteries known are at Great Addington 1 and 2.

Two detached sites with a scatter of early or middle Saxon pottery have been found, one at Bletsoe and the other to the north of the area under consideration at Newton-le-Willows (SP 868845). At the latter there is a large quantity of associated iron slag. The dating of plain sherds of hand made Saxon pottery is near impossible; there is no real difference between the fabric of early cremation urns (fifth century) or the latest hand-made vessels found with the earliest forms of St. Neot's ware (ninth/tenth century). Various building sites have produced samples of hand-made sherds at Grendon, Higham Ferrers, Irchester, Newton Bromswold, and Wollaston. No doubt such pottery will be found in most of the villages mentioned in the Domesday survey.

An excavation on the south-side of Wollaston where there was a spread of Saxon pottery revealed stake and post holes of wooden buildings and a few bone artifacts.

The occurrence of Middle Saxon pottery at Newton Bromswold, which is a Domesday village,

but originally a subsidiary settlement of Higham Ferrers, suggests an early foundation for the mother village.

Medieval

The earthworks of shrunken settlements are the commonest and most extensive remains in the area. Not one of the modern towns or villages is without an example. (Albeit preserved in a municipal park e.g. at Higham). Except in the case of Thurleigh, remains adjacent to and part of an existing vill are not given in the appendix. We have prepared plans of medieval road systems and village extents for nearly all the settlements; in the case of Strixton,¹⁷ Raunds, Irchester and Wollaston, there are detailed earthwork plans.

The following deserted villages have been recognised; Mill Cotton in Ringstead, Mallows Cotton and West Cotton in Raunds, Cotton in Grendon, Santon in Harrold, Yelnow in Odell, and Colworth and Arnoe in Sharnbrook. For Bletsoe and Thurleigh all the detached 'ends' are very shrunken and it is a question of definition whether any of them are to be considered deserted. We have surveyed the medieval open field system for all the Higham Ferrers Hundred, Grendon, Irthlingborough, Finedon, Great and Little Addington, and Woodford in Northamptonshire; and Farndish, Milton Ernest,¹⁸ and Felmersham in Bedfordshire. From these surveys it is evident that all the available land in the parish was ploughed except the flooding meadows. In the area mentioned above only Horn Wood at Easton Maudit is of medieval origin, all other woods are later, and most still contain visible ridge and furrow.

The ramparts of deer parks about 20ft wide and 3-10ft high are evident at Lavendon 2, Harrold Park Wood, and Higham Park. Wigney Wood in Milton Ernest is ramparted in a similar fashion, and may have been a Medieval game enclosure.

There are a number of mounds, which are probably windmills of this period, some could be barrows, but none has yet been identified as such. The mounds at Strixton (SP 905615) and Wollaston (SP 914632) are proven windmill sites, other mounds are at Newton Bromswold (SP 992653), Easton Maudit (SP 894587), Thurleigh (TL 049584) and in Three Shire Wood at Lavendon (SP 913557).

Slag Patches.

Dark areas consisting of ploughed over heaps of

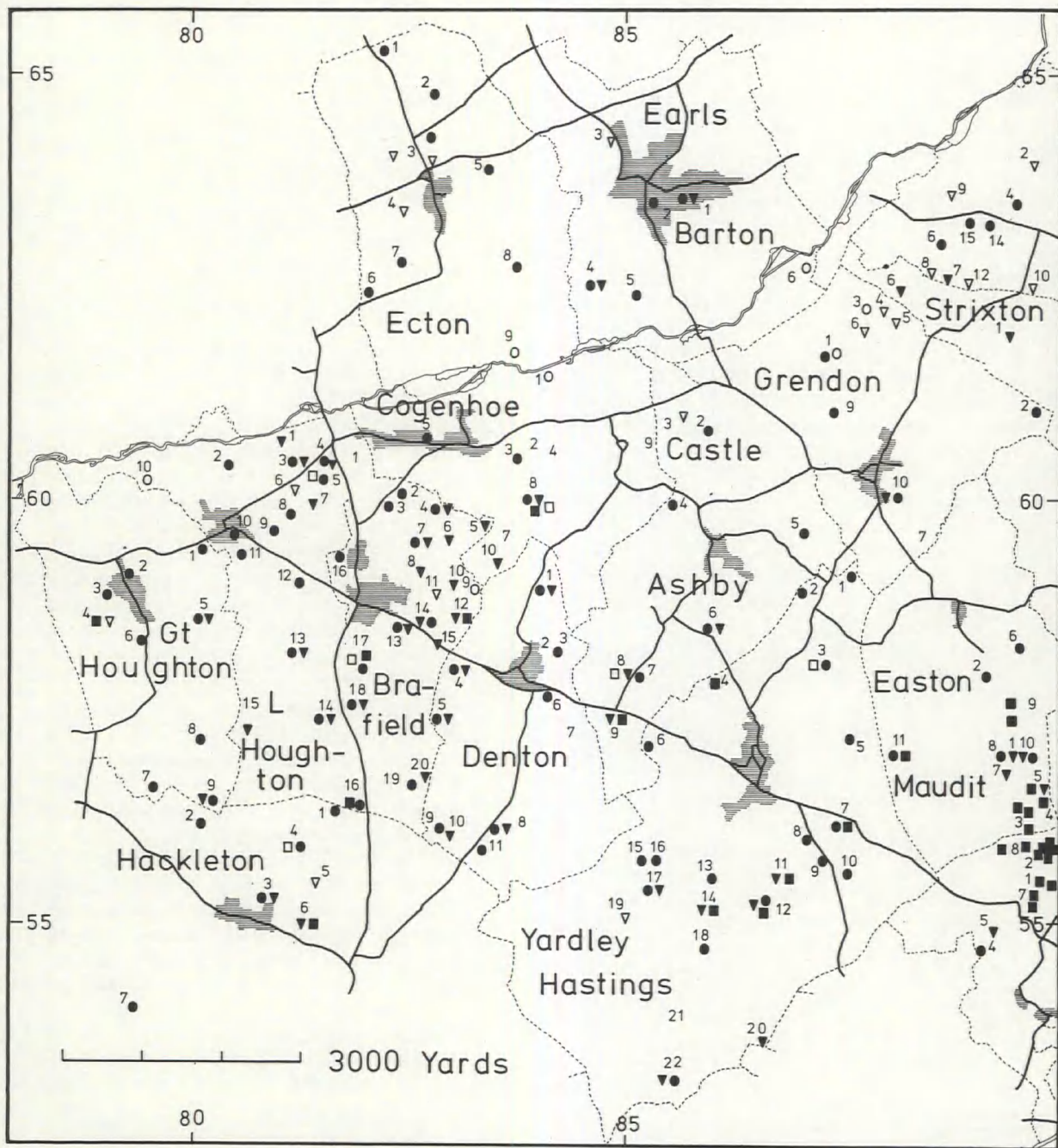


Fig. 4 The distribution of archaeological sites in the central Nene valley. For key see fig. 3.

dense black iron slag continue to be found in abundance. A total of 150 is now known, with only 16 in Northamptonshire. There is still no unequivocal excavation evidence for the dating of these areas. It is of course possible that they are not all contemporary. There is a very marked distribution, nearly all are in Bedfordshire on high clay land, which is unattractive agriculturally. Milton Ernest and Thurleigh have the greatest concentration; north of the Nene there is one in Burton Latimer (SP 906737), and with the Saxon material at Newton le Willows. However according to the evidence of Morton there are many more in north Northamptonshire (which he assumed to be early medieval).¹⁹ They must represent a marginal area of woodland surviving at a time of large scale iron-smelting. The best examples are in Bozeat and Easton Maudit. Excavation of Easton Maudit 3 showed that there was no furnace or flue; indeed most patches are completely ploughed out. Analysis proved that no flux was used to assist the smelting; iron was brought to the wood areas, calcined, and smelted on the spot.

The scanty dating evidence is as follows; they must necessarily post-date the Bronze Age; at Easton 10 slag overlies an Iron B site; a trial cutting at Harrold 1 showed that slag sealed the Belgic levels,²⁰ excavation inside Thurleigh Church revealed early twelfth century walls with a slag filling; the Easton Maudit 3 excavation proved that thirteenth century medieval strips cut through the slag patch. The Thurleigh evidence only shows that slag was in existence by the twelfth century; it could have been collected from older slag heaps which are so abundant there. It would seem that the Roman or Saxon periods are probably responsible for this large scale iron smelting. The Domesday survey and other early medieval documents refer to a wood called *Bruneswald* in the North Bedfordshire region, this name is preserved in the Northamptonshire village name of Newton Bromswood. If the slag patches are Saxon then the Thurleigh area must be a strong candidate for this wood, as indeed the place name itself suggests (Thurleigh – The Ley – the clearing).

FIELD WORK IN THE UPPER NENE VALLEY

The Nene Valley between Grendon and Northampton has been studied by Hollowell.²¹ There is no distribution map in his published account, so we have added these sites to the western part of our area in fig 4. (The original publication should be

consulted for the Gazetteer; site 3 at Denton should have Grid reference SP 843583; Great Houghton site 10 is actually in Little Houghton parish according to the grid reference). There is an exactly similar distribution as for figs 2 and 3, with possible Bronze Age sites mainly in the river valley, and sites of the succeeding periods uniformly distributed over all types of soil. There are many Romano-British kiln sites in this area (discussed by Johnson²² and Woods,²³ some producing grey wares and others colour coated vessels.

There are no known deserted medieval villages in this area.

DISCUSSION

It can be seen that in these 95,000 acres of land there is a wealth of archaeological material; there are some 366 sites of all periods and a further 159 slag patches which are probably Romano-British or Saxon. If this density is spread over most of the county, which is likely, then regions with rapidly growing towns and quarries are losing material at an alarming rate. The results are summarized in tabular form opposite.

This table gives the number of sites counted by period i.e. a two period site has been counted twice. The total number of individual sites counting multi-period sites once only is 230 in our area, and 309 in all, making one site per 307 acres.

The coverage of our area is fairly thorough, although of course, in parishes with large areas of housing estates, woodland, or grassland, it must necessarily be less complete.

The surveys have shown that old theories, of Romans and Saxons clearing living areas out of primeval woodland, are false. The original deforestation was done during the Bronze Age and very early Iron Age times, as shown by the uniform distribution of Iron Age and later sites, and the late date of the river valley alluvia. The woodlands hinted at in the Domesday survey must have been secondary growth and scrub, which sprang up during late and sub-Roman times.

As noted previously, Neolithic and Bronze Age sites are not commonly found because they are buried by alluvium, and pottery does not survive in the topsoil. Late pre-Roman Iron Age and Saxon sites are also infrequently found as surface finds, presumably because they are covered by the respective succeeding periods, i.e. Romano-British and Medieval. The evidence from sites destroyed or excavated supports this theory; Belgic remains

TABLE 1 SITE STATISTICS

Villages	Bedfordshire		Buckinghamshire		Northamptonshire				Total	
	15		2		Hall <i>et al</i>		Hollowell		47	
	No.	%	No.		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Neolithic					3	1.7	1	1.0	4	1.1
Bronze Age	4	4.8			10	5.8	2	1.9	16	4.4
Early Iron Age	16	19.3	2		46	26.6	31	30.0	95	26.0
Late Iron Age	4	4.8			10	5.8	4	3.8	18	4.9
Roman	43	51.8	3		85	49.1	60	57.7	191	52.2
Saxon	2	2.4			3	1.7			5	1.4
Deserted Villages	9	10.8	1		4	2.3			14	3.8
Slag Patches	97		37		16		9		159	
Cropmarks	5	6.0			12	6.9	6	5.8	23	6.3
Total not including Slag	83		6		173		104		366	

have been found under Romano-British settlements and Saxon underneath Medieval and modern villages.

In this paper we have only attempted to give an overall summary of field-work results. In future accounts we hope to deal with various topics in more detail: e.g. Medieval village and field system plans, and particularly the problem of slag patches.

APPENDIX

Sites are described below by parish in alphabetical order. Village names marked by an asterisk (*) are those areas described in the previous report;¹ additional information is given where appropriate. The site geology and grid reference are noted at the end of each entry.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Bletsoe

- 1 Romano-British settlement, pottery, building stone, and coins. An inhumation cemetery of unproven date, cutting through fourth century levels, probably Saxon. Partly excavated by the North Beds. Arch Soc. (*Beds Arch J*, 5, 1970, 119; 6, 1971, 82). River gravel. TL 019585.
- 2 Several acres of Romano-British occupation; glacial clay. TL 025586.
- 3 A slag patch; glacial clay. TL 028590.

- 4 A slag patch; glacial clay. TL 027597.
- 5 A slag patch; glacial clay. TL 028596.
- 6 Scatter of Saxon black-sandy hand-made sherds over several acres. Field drain repairs revealed a pit with occupation debris. A settlement; river gravel. TL 020592.
- 7 A shrunken medieval site; glacial clay. TL 026593.
- 8 Isolated medieval site; glacial clay, TL 032576.
- 9 Slag patch; glacial clay, TL 032576.

Felmersham

- 1 The deserted medieval village of *Hardwick*; well preserved earthworks; glacial clay, SP 981569.
- 2 Three ploughed out barrows; river gravel. SP 973577.
- 3 Enclosure cropmarks; river gravel. TL 011573.
- 4 Early Romano-British sherds and occupation; glacial clay. SP 980562.
- 5 Dark occupation with Romano-British sherds glacial clay. SP 978572.
- 6 Romano-British sherds, glacial clay, SP 986564.
- 7 A thinly scattered slag patch, glacial clay. SP 990569.

Farndish

- 1 Romano-British pottery, building stone, and tegulae; probably a villa. Limestone. SP 934632.

Harrold*

- 19 Three acres of Romano-British occupation and kilns producing coarse pink shelly pottery and roofing tiles. (*BNFAS* 3, 1969, 10: 4, 1970, 9; 5, 1971, 19. Limestone. SP 934553.
- 20 Cropmarks of a circular and rectangular enclosure. (*BNFAS* 4, 1970, 41; 5, 1971, 31). River gravel. SP 939546.
- 21 A circular cropmark (*BNFAS* 4, 1970, 31; 5, 1971, 41). River gravel. SP 941566.

Hinwick*

- 3 An area of Early Iron Age pottery and pebbles; glacial clay. SP 942601.
- 4 Dark occupation area with burnt pebbles, sherds of early Iron Age pottery; glacial clay. SP 945613.
- 5 About an acre of dark occupation and Romano-British sherds including Castor ware. A bronze figure of a soldier found here in 1840 (*BNFAS* 4, 1970, 12; *VCH Beds* 3, 1912, 82). Glacial clay. SP 942613.
- 6 Bronze Age cinerary urn base reported from SP 928612; glacial clay. (*Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 123 with fig 3).

Knotting.

- 1 An annular ditch with traces of rampart, early Iron Age pottery and some iron slag. Glacial clay. TL 006616.
- 2 About an acre of dark occupation with early Romano-British pottery; glacial clay. TL 014616.
- 3 Area of Romano-British occupation covering about 10 acres; quern stone, pebbles, and Castor ware. Glacial clay. TL 009619.
- 4 Dark occupation area with Romano-British sherds; glacial clay. TL 006634.
- 5 Occupation area with early Iron Age sherds, glacial clay. TL 007631.
- 6 A few dark areas with a little Romano-British pottery; could be a charcoal producing site; glacial clay. TL 013636.
- 7 Four scattered iron slag patches; glacial clay. TL 003633, TL 002631, TL 001631, TL 001632.
- 8 Early Iron Age pottery with some stone; glacial clay. SP 996618.

Milton Ernest*

See J.B. Hutchings, 'Milton Ernest : a field survey' *Beds Arch J* 4, 1969, 69-78.

Odell*

- 3 Two charcoal patches; glacial clay. SP 938595.
- 4 Slag patch; glacial clay. SP 969602.
- 5 About six acres of a small Romano-British settlement with a scatter of dressed building stone, roofing tiles, and pottery including Castor ware. Partly destroyed by a reservoir. Also a ploughed out medieval village with a moated site and sunken road. Abundant sherds of the thirteenth century. Glacial clay. SP 971598.
- 6 Dark area of occupation with early Iron Age pottery; glacial clay. SP 968598.
- 7 A scattered slag patch; glacial clay. SP 970600.
- 8 About an acre of Romano-British occupation with pottery, limestone, and pebbles. A scattered slag patch about 100 yd to the South. A few tegulae. Glacial clay. SP 951589.
- 9 A thin scatter of slag; glacial clay. SP 947588.
- 10 About an acre of Romano-British occupation, a few pieces of limestone, several dwelling sites recognisable. A little slag. Glacial clay. SP 969588.
- 11 Two thin slag patches. Glacial clay. SP 971592, SP 972594.
- 12 Romano-British pottery spread over a small area. Limestone. SP 978584.
- 13 A dark well-defined slag patch; glacial clay. SP 948592.

Podington*

- 4 A few Romano-British sherds; glacial clay SP 948632.
- 5 About an acre of Romano-British occupation, stone, pebbles, and pottery. Glacial clay. SP 948626.
- 6 An acre of Romano-British occupation with pebbles and sherds; glacial clay. SP 963623.

Sharnbrook

- 1 Gravel extraction in 1942 revealed Belgic pottery and Bronzes (*Ant J* 29, 1949, 37-61; *Beds Arch J* 4, 1969, 81). River gravel SP 990583.
- 2 Slag patch; glacial clay, SP 982596.
- 3 Small Romano-British site, now built over; coarse wares and samian recovered. Probably partly destroyed by an old gravel pit. Limestone/river gravel. SP 996594.
- 4 Four scattered slag patches, glacial clay; SP 973605, SP 975604, SP 975605, SP 976604.

- 5,6,7. Three scattered slag patches, glacial clay. SP 982592, SP 986594, SP 988592.
- 8 Three slag patches at SP 975600, SP 974601, SP 917602, and a very scattered one at SP 974603. Glacial clay.
- 9 Two slag patches; The north one has a faint red iron-oxide area on the south side. Two Iron Age sherds (not necessarily related); glacial clay. TL 012605, TL 010606.
- 10 Slag patch, glacial clay. TL 007609.
- 11 The deserted village of *Arnoe*, now ploughed and bulldozed, formerly there were the usual house platforms, sunken roads, and ancient enclosures. Abundance of pottery of the late twelfth to fourteenth century. Glacial clay. TL 009609.
- 12 Two slag patches and a dark patch with broken burnt pebbles at TL 007614 and TL 005611. A detached medieval settlement presumably part of *Arnoe*. Glacial clay. TL 009614.
- 13 Slag patch, glacial clay. TL 009613.
- 14 A very dense slag patch; glacial clay, SP 983604.
- 15 The deserted medieval village of *Colworth*. Well preserved under turf. The site Odell 5 (q.v.) may be another part of this village. There is no evidence of any medieval remains under the present House and industrial buildings. Limestone. SP 984600.

Souldrop.

- 1 A large scattered slag patch; glacial clay. SP 978608.
- 2 A scattered slag patch; glacial clay. SP 976608.
- 3 Burnt stones and pebbles, limestone and flint; a dark area with early Iron Age sherds. A few pieces of slag. Glacial clay. SP 979616.
- 4 An acre of a complex site with early Iron Age and first to third century Romano-British sherds. Some kiln bars and grey ware wasters, quernstone of millstone grit, few bits of slag, and roofing tiles. Glacial clay. SP 982621.
- 5 Dark area of pebbles and Romano-British sherds, glacial clay. SP 975622.
- 6 Early Iron Age sherds and a dark area to the north. A few pieces of slag. Glacial clay. SP 971616.

Thurleigh

The code system here is different in that

shrunk medieval settlements are included. This list of sites was presented to the Roskill Commission and we do not wish to change the code system. All the sites are on glacial clay.

- 1 Medieval earthworks at *Church End*. TL 051585
- 2 Motte and ditch, probably twelfth century. TL 053584.
- 3 Medieval shrunken vill at *Park End*. TL 066573.
- 4 *Cross End*, shrunken earthworks, TL 062584.
- 5 Shrunken vill at *Scald End*. TL 050569.
- 6 *Rutters End*, shrunken vill. TL 043568.
- 7 Romano-British occupation with late fourth century colour coated ware. TL 044581.
- 8 Slag scattered over a wide area. TL 046569.
- 9 Moderate density of slag. TL 052563.
- 10 Concentrated slag patch. TL 051562.
- 11 Slag patch with Iron Age and Romano-British sherds. TL 050561.
- 12 An area with medieval sherds. TL 049561.
- 13 Slag, Iron Age and Romano-British sherds. TL 049561.
- 14 Romano-British sherds. TL 054564.
- 15 Slag patch, TL 046563.
- 16 Slag patch, TL 054563.
- 17 Medieval site at *Romp Hall*. TL 041573.
- 18 Two fairly dense slag patches. TL 039579.
- 19 Slag patch. TL 041582.
- 20 A fairly dense slag patch. TL 041583.
- 21 A thin scatter of slag and Romano-British sherds. TL 052568.
- 22 Slag patch. TL 053569.
- 23 Widespread scatter of slag. TL 056567.
- 24 Scattered slag patch. TL 059563.
- 25 Slag spread over whole area of field. TL 063565.
- 26 Small slag patch. TL 063569.
- 27 Slag patch. TL 061571.
- 28 Wide distribution of Romano-British pottery. TL 053567.
- 29 Medieval occupation at *Brook Farm*. TL 061567.
- 30 Slag patch. TL 062574.
- 31 Slag patch. TL 066571.
- 32 A good slag patch. TL 067573.
- 33 Slag. TL 066574.
- 34 A widespread scatter of slag. TL 066677.
- 35 Small slag patch. TL 068581.
- 36 Thin slag scatter over all the field, TL 064577.
- 37 Slag patch. TL 062579.
- 38 A good slag patch. TL 063583.
- 39 Slag scatter. TL 065572.

- 40 Early Iron Age sherds and occupation. TL 066572.
- 41 Thin scatter of slag. TL 042578.
- 42 Large concentrated slag patch. TL 035575.
- 43 Small concentrated slag patch. TL 034577.
- 44 Early Iron Age sherds. TL 044583.
- 45 Isolated medieval site. TL 044582.
- 46 A moated medieval site of *Blackburn Hall*. TL 049586.
- 47 Shrunk medieval vill of *Backnoe End*. Obliterated by aerodrome. TL 060603.

Wymington.

- 1 Many areas of dark occupation and pebbles, rather like an Iron Age site but no pottery. This is near Goosey's Lodge and is probably where the Bronze Age hoard of axes was found in 1860. (*Beds Arch J* 4, 1969, 79). Glacial clay. SP 968628.
- 2 Dark area and stone from a Romano-British building. Grey ware, Castor ware, and a piece of quern stone. Glacial clay. SP 956648.
- 3 About two acres of Romano-British occupation, stone, pebbles, quernstone, and stone tiles. Glacial clay. SP 961642.
- 4 Small area of stone pebbles and Romano-British pottery; glacial clay. SP 960639.
- 5 Romano-British and Belgic sherds associated with dark occupation, limestone, pebbles, and roofing tiles. To the east another dark area with Castor ware, about an acre in all. Glacial clay. SP 954634.
- 6 Two neolithic flints found together in a rabbit burrow. Glacial sand. SP 944647. (*Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 65).

Yelden.

- 1 Romano-British site, probably the one excavated by R.S. Baker in 1882. (*AASR* 16, 1882, 263; *BNFAS* 4, 1960, 7). Glacial clay TL 005671.
- 2 Early Iron Age sherds, and dark area of occupation with burnt pebbles, also some black-sandy hand-made Middle Saxon sherds, presumably from the nearby Northamptonshire village of Newton Bromswold. Glacial clay and gravel. TL 002661.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Lavendon*

- 13 A slag patch; glacial clay. SP 906554.

Warrington*

- 6 Two slag patches; glacial clay. SP 902554. SP 902556.
- 7 Two scattered slag patches, each covering about an acre; there is no dark colour and they could only be seen when walked over. Glacial clay. SP 897553, SP 897554.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Addington, Great

- 1 Workmen quarrying for gravel in 1847 and 1866 found an inhumation cemetery, with some of the skeletons were 'daggers and necklaces' (Whellan 741). This would appear to be a Saxon cemetery, as is the opinion of the *VCH* i 242. Upland glacial gravel. SP 956744.
- 2 Ironstone quarrying in 1883 revealed an early Saxon cremation cemetery. The best known vessel is illustrated by Kennett (*J. Northampton Mus* 6, 43), see also *VCH* i 242, and *PSA* 9 322). Field walking produced a few sandy hand-made Saxon sherds. Ironstone, SP 966752.
- 3 A Romano-British villa site, several acres of building stone, sherds, and roofing tegulae etc. Some early rims and a late fourth-century flanged bowl. Glacial clay. SP 947755.
- 4 A dark occupation area with burnt stones and pebbles, and a few sherds of early Iron Age Pottery. Glacial clay. SP 946741.
- 5 Occupation area with burnt stone; a few early Iron Age sherds. Glacial clay SP 950756.

Addington, Little

- 1 About nine acres of building stone, pebbles, and Romano-British sherds, including samian and Castor wares. A small settlement. Glacial clay. SP 942731.
- 2 Romano-British villa — farm, spreading over about three acres; building stone and dark occupation including a quernstone: A cooking pot rim of the late first century and a lot of colour coated ware. Ironstone SP 968735.
- 3 Romano-British villa with building stone and a considerable quantity of roofing tile, about 4 acres in all. (Mentioned in *BNFAS* 2, 1967, 13). Ironstone. SP 964743.
- 4 Dark areas of occupation with burnt lime-

stone and pebbles, early Iron Age sherds including a lug-handle. Aerial photographs show a rectangular enclosure (*BNFAS* 4, 1970, 31). Limestone. SP 963729.

- 5 Romano-British sherds scattered over a dark area with some building stone. Ironstone and limestone. SP 971728.
- 6 A dark area with pebbles and limestone. Iron Age pottery of all periods, and a few Romano-British coarse wares. Glacial clay. SP 949731.

Barton, Earls*

- 3 Cropmark of rectangular enclosure (*BNFAS* 6, 1971, 8). Ironstone. SP 849643.
- 4 Early Iron Age Romano-British sherds, cropmarks (*BNFAS* 6, 1971, 8). River gravel, SP 846627.
- 5 Romano-British sherds at SP 851624. (*BNFAS* 6, 1971, 9).
- 6 Early Bronze Age barrow excavated by Jackson (*BNFAS* 4, 1970, 47). River gravel SP 870627.

Bozeat*

- 8 Near the early Iron Age site noted *Beds Arch J* 3, 1966, 3, is an area of Romano-British pottery and debris from at least three kilns.
- 16 Housing estate works revealed a Romano-British and Saxon site with the following features:
 - (i) late first century occupation associated with at least 3 kilns of the updraught type, producing large coarse ware vessels.
 - (ii) a third century phase with 3 rectangular and 2 circular domestic buildings. (*JRS* 5, 1969, 221). Some painted plaster was recovered from one of the rectangular buildings, a silver coin of Posthumus (AD. 258-263), and 2 radiate crown type coins.
 - (iii) three Saxon inhumations, one with a necklace and a brooch of the small-long type dating to the mid sixth century. Limestone. SP 906587.

Caldecote and Chelveston

- 1 Two acres of building stone and occupation debris of the Romano-British period, some colour coated wares. Glacial clay. SP 983687.
- 2 Dark area with pebbles and sherds of the early Iron Age and Belgic periods. Glacial clay. SP 990673.

- 3 Occupation area with pebbles and sherds of the early Iron Age admixed with a few Romano-British wares; glacial clay. SP 987-676.
- 4 Dark area with limestone and early Iron Age sherds including a typical lug handle; glacial sand. SP 985687.
- 5 About an acre of early Iron Age and Romano-British sherds; limestone. SP 984693.
- 6 A late Romano-British site with Castor ware and building stone. Limestone. SP 996692.
- 7 Romano-British sherds (samian and Castor) associated with building stone and roofing tile; probably controlled an ancient fording near the medieval bridge over the Nene. River gravel. SP 958705.
- 8 Some Romano-British sherds, (*BNFAS* 4, 1970, 7). Glacial clay. TL 000675.

Easton Maudit*

Finedon

- 1 A few Romano-British sherds and limestone scatter, a nearby cropmark of a small rectangular enclosure is probably associated (*BNFAS* 1, 1966, 20; 2, 1967, 9; 6, 1971, 11). Ironstone. SP 910716.
- 2 Cropmarks of two ring ditches about 100ft diameter. (*BNFAS* 1, 1966, 20; 2, 1967, 32; 4, 1970, 11; 6, 1971, 11). Ironstone SP 910704.
- 3 Romano-British building with scatter of coarse pottery and Castor ware. Glacial clay. SP 927718.
- 4 Cropmarks of 2 sub-rectangular enclosures each about half an acre, one with an entrance to the east. Nearby a near-circular enclosure with an entrance. Glacial clay, SP 930725.
- 5 About 5 acres of Romano-British occupation with the usual areas of pebbles and stone, which are probably hut sites. Early Iron Age pottery on the western part of the site. A quern stone, limestone. SP 924712.
- 6 An acre of scattered Romano-British pottery and building stone, with a low area to the east, probably a pond belonging to an ancient farmstead? Glacial clay. SP 924705.
- 7 Romano-British pottery scatter (*BNFAS* 4, 1970, 8). Ironstone. SP 913695.

Grendon*

Hargrave

- 1 A Romano-British stone coffin was ploughed up in 1893. A few acres of dark occupation, pebbles, and sherds of the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods (*VCH* i 218; *AASR* 22, 83). Glacial clay. TL 034723).
- 2 Romano-British pottery from a building site. Glacial clay.

Higham Ferrers*

- 3 A pipeline trench cut through ditches and occupation layers of the Romano-British period. There are cropmarks of enclosures. (*BNFAS* 4, 1970, 32). Ironstone. SP958696.
- 4 Ditches, pits, burnt areas and building stone, along with Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, exposed by a pipeline trench. Ironstone. SP 960698.
- 5 A dark area with building stone and Romano-British pottery; glacial clay. SP 974688.
- 6 An acre of occupation with Romano-British sherds and a small quantity of stone. SP 964683. Limestone.

Irchester*

Irthlingborough*

- 2 A small area of Romano-British pottery and building stone, Ironstone. SP 943694.
- 3 A few Romano-British sherds and some limestone. The main site could have been destroyed by the adjacent ironstone workings. Ironstone. SP 940693.
- 4 Small Romano-British site with coarse ware Castor ware and a quern stone; glacial clay/limestone. SP 944715.
- 5 Dark occupation area with some stone, and early Iron Age, Belgic, and Romano-British sherds. Ploughed out remains of a rectangular system of ramparts. A site in a fortified position with very steep slopes on two sides. Ironstone. SP 958715.
- 6 Early Iron Age sherds excavated during erection of farm buildings, and Romano-British sherds found at the site of All Saints Church. (*Rep. Pap. Northants Antiq. Soc.* 1966). Ironstone. SP 952707.
- 7 A low circular mound of pink gravel surrounded by a dark annulus, probably a ploughed out Bronze Age barrow. River gravel. SP 958712.
- 8 A round barrow undisturbed by ploughing,

about 150ft diameter. River alluvium. SP 962713.

- 9 A low barrow mound; river gravel. SP 966715.
- 10 A large barrow, still some 10ft high even though ploughed. Slightly damaged by the railway. River alluvium/gravel. SP 966714.
- 11 A large undisturbed barrow, reddish gravel disturbed by rabbits. River gravel. SP 964715.
- 12 Area of early Iron Age pottery and pebbles Ironstone/river gravel. SP 942694.
- 13 A Romano-British building with a scatter of limestone and pottery. Ironstone/gravel. SP 945696.

Knuston

- 1 Romano-British pottery at SP 933664. Limestone. A rectangular enclosure, cropmark (*BNFAS* 4, 1970, 32).
- 2 Levelling for a playing field exposed a very complex network of early Iron Age ditches and hut circles, but by Belgic and Romano-British ditches. Large collections of pottery have been excavated and there is clear evidence for a late Belgic pottery industry. Excavated by P.J. Woods for Northants County Council. Glacial clay. SP 943663.

Newton Bromswold.

- 1 A small quantity of Romano-British pottery and a fine brooch of mid first century A.D. type. Glacial clay. SP 996651.
- 2 Dark occupation with early Iron Age pottery and a few Romano-British sherds. A typical windswept watershed type of site commanding extensive views. Glacial clay. SP 998656.
- 3 A thinly scattered slag patch and some pieces of ironstone. Glacial clay. SP 998652.
- 4 Four dark areas, one with Romano-British pottery, and another with broken burnt pebbles. Glacial clay. SP 987637.
- 5 Dark area with pebbles and Romano-British pottery, six other dark patches in the neighbourhood. Glacial clay. SP 991641.
- 6 Several acres of Romano-British occupation with pebbles and sherds, a puddingstone quern. Glacial clay. SP 995643.
- 7 About three acres of pebbles and Romano-British pottery, very dark in the central area. Samian and Castor wares, and some of the very coarse brown pottery found on similarly situated sites at Easton Maudit 11 and Harrald 7. Glacial clay. SP 992638.

Raunds.

- 1 The deserted medieval village of *Mallows Cotton*. Well preserved, extends into Ringstead on the north. Total area 20 acres. Limestone. SP 977733.
- 2 The deserted medieval village of *West Cotton*. Mostly under pasture, some walls plainly visible. A pipeline trench cut through a building with foundations 3ft deep and pottery of the thirteenth to fourteenth century. Total area 13 acres. River gravel. SP 976725.
- 3 Romano-British pottery found in 1878, and further quantities during subsequent house building. Limestone. TL 001723.
- 4 A few early Iron Age sherds associated with an area of stone and pebbles. Glacial clay. TL 007713.
- 5 Area of stone and Romano-British pottery. Glacial clay. TL 018743.
- 6 A sparse scatter of Romano-British sherds; probably not the centre of the site (adjacent fields grass) glacial clay. TL 007753.
- 7 Romano-British pottery and limestone exposed by a pipeline trench. Ironstone. SP 976721.
- 8 Several acres of Romano-British occupation with pebbles and sherds etc. Glacial clay. TL 021717.
- 9 Housing works revealed Romano-British sherds in spoil heaps. Limestone. SP 993724.
- 10 A pipeline trench exposed Iron Age sherds and a piece of antler (*BNFAS* 2, 1967, 6). Alluvium. SP 979724.
- 11 Romano-British sherds discovered by building workers (*BNFAS* 2, 1968, 18). Jurassic clay. SP 992730.

Ringstead.

- 1 The deserted medieval vill of *Mill Cotton*. Now badly damaged, the north east part was bulldozed in about 1965, the south east is buried by gravel extraction plant, and the west is ploughed. Apparently it partly overlies a Romano-British site (Bridges ii 190; Morton 516) Gravel/Limestone. SP 970745.
- 2 Romano-British pottery and building stone; this site probably runs under *Mallows Cotton*, so accounting for previous reports that the vill was a Roman camp. (*VCH* i 194). Limestone. SP 978732.
- 3 A pipeline trench cut through a fairly large

Belgic site with ditches and pits. Some fine butt beaker sherds recovered. Also reports of Romano-British sherds and kiln bars (*BNFAS* 2, 1968, 18). Glacial clay. SP 911744.

- 4 Gravel works exposed a rectangular Roman villa and a circular stone building about 30ft diameter, overlying a wooden circular hut also Romano-British. Some field system ditches adjacent. Excavated by D. Jackson for the department of the Environment. River gravel. SP 976748.
- 5 Builders found Romano-British pottery at SP 991751.
- 6 A cropmark reported at SP 995738 (*BNFAS* 4, 1970, 32).

Rushden.

- 1 Housing estate works revealed about an acre of early Iron Age features with ditches, pits, pebble areas, and part of a hut circle. Jurassic clay. SP 943667.
- 2 Romano-British ditches exposed in house foundations. Glacial clay. SP 982633.

Stanwick.

- 1 Romano-British sherds and building stone. A pipeline trench cut through ditches either side of the site. River gravel. SP 970710.
- 2 Romano-British villa with sherds, building stone and roofing tile. Mentioned by Bridges (ii 194) that fragments of a tessellated pavement had been found. River gravel. SP 972718. (*VCH Northants* i 194).
- 3 A pipeline trench cut through a pit with Iron Age pottery. Limestone. SP 975719.
- 4 A late Romano-British limestone building with fourth century Castor ware rim forms. Limestone. SP 994711.
- 5 Site of a barrow marked on the Ordnance maps, now destroyed by gravel workings. Part of the Irthlingborough barrow field. River gravel. SP 962704.
- 6 Romano-British pits discovered with excavating for a soak-away. Pottery of the second to fourth century, and coins of Constantine I and Gallienus. River gravel. SP 964708.

Strixton*

- 10 A pipeline revealed an early Iron Age ditch and occupation layer with pebbles. Jurassic clay. SP 991620.

Wollaston*

- 16 Early Iron Age and Romano-British features discovered to the north of the Belgic ditch previously reported. Ironstone. SP 905634.
- 17 Ironstone quarrying partly destroyed an early Iron Age enclosure, with a shallow ditch. There were 4 circles of post holes representing huts about 50ft diameter. (*Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 123). Limestone. SP 909641.
- 18 Building works revealed a small early Iron Age settlement with pits and ditches. Details published with Wollaston 17 (*Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 123). Glacial gravel and clay. SP 913630.
- 19 A water pipe trench cut through a small early Iron Age hut circle ditch, 3ft wide, and 3ft deep, enclosing an area of estimated diameter 16ft. Glacial sand and gravel. SP 916628.
- 20 Building works exposed a small Romano-British site with a penannular hut — circle ditch of Iron Age type as the principal feature. The overall diameter was 40ft. with an entrance 13ft wide. The pottery recovered was of the early second century A.D. Jurassic clay. SP 913624.

Woodford.

- 1 The well known three barrows. These are not round, the western one has axes 180 and 85ft. To the south east is a small ploughed mound which could be another barrow. (Bridges ii 265). Glacial clay. SP 962760.
- 2 Romano-British villa site with the main area raised up; about three acres in all. Pottery and decorated hypocaust tiles, large quantity of building stone. (Morton 529; Bridges ii 269; V.C.H. Northants i 194; *BNFAS* 4, 1970, 14). River gravel, SP 975755.
- 3 Romano-British villa, building stone, roofing tile, tesserae, wall plaster, samian and Castor ware pottery sherds. Crop mark complex to south. River gravel. SP 988774. (*BNFAS* 4, 1970).
- 4 Romano-British sherds, building stone and roofing tile. The close proximity to the barrows accounts for the confusion about their date. (Bridges ii 265; Whellan 777; *BNFAS* 4, 1970, 45). Glacial clay. SP 963762.
- 5 Large ploughed barrow with pink gravel exposed. River gravel. SP 974759.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the many farmers, landowners and tenants who gave permission to examine their land.

ABBREVIATIONS

- AASR* Associated Architectural Societies Reports and Papers.
- BNFAS* Bulletin of the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies.
- Bridges J Bridges, *History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire*, 1791.
- Morton J Morton, *The Natural History of Northamptonshire*, 1712.
- Whellan Whellan, *History, Topography and Directory of Northamptonshire*, 1874.
- VCH* Victoria County History.

NOTES

- 1 D N Hall and N Nickerson, 'Sites on the North Bedfordshire and South Northamptonshire border', *Beds Arch J* 3, 1966, 1-6.
- 2 *Victoria County History, Bedfordshire* (1904-1912); *Victoria County History, Northamptonshire*, 1902-19; *Bulletin Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies* 1-7, 1966-1971; *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 1-6, 1962-1971; J Bridges, *The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire*, 1791; J Morton, *The Natural History of Northamptonshire*, 1712.
- 3 *Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 65.
- 4 *PPS* 36, 1970, 125.
- 5 *BNFAS* 4, 1970, 47.
- 6 *Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 123 with fig 3.
- 7 *Beds Arch J* 4, 1969, 79.
- 8 *Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 113; D N Hall, 'Pre-Roman Iron Age sites at Bozeat and Strixton, Northamptonshire', *Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 17-22.
- 9 D N Hall and N Nickerson, 'Excavations at Irchester; 1962-3' *Arch J* 124, 1967, 65-99.
- 10 D N Hall and N Nickerson, 'Iron Age Pottery in north Bedfordshire and south Northamptonshire' *Beds Arch J* 4, 1969, 1-12.
- 11 P.J. Woods, *Britannia* 4, forthcoming.
- 12 *BNFAS* 2, 1967, 33.
- 13 Photograph ZE47 by J K St Joseph, Cambridge University.
- 14 D N Hall and N Nickerson, 'Circular Roman Building at Bozeat, Northamptonshire, 1964', *Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 57-65.
- 15 *JRS* 59, 1969, 221.
- 16 Private communication from D A Jackson, excavating for the Department of the Environment.
- 17 D N Hall and N Nickerson, 'The Earthworks of Strixton' *J Northampton Mus* 6, 1969, 22-32.
- 18 J B Hutchings, 'Milton Ernest: a field survey' *Beds Arch J* 4, 1969, 69-78.
- 19 J Morton, *Natural History of Northamptonshire*, 1712.
- 20 Private communication from E Taylor.
- 21 R Hollowell, *Aerial Photography and Fieldwork in the Upper Nene Valley* [*BNFAS* 6, 1971].
- 22 D E Johnson, 'Romano-British Pottery Kilns near Northampton', *Ant J* 49, 1969, 75-97.
- 23 P J Woods, 'Excavations at Brixworth, Northants, 1965-1970, The Romano-British Villa. Part 1, The Roman Coarse pottery and decorated samian ware', *J Northampton Mus* 8, 1970, 1-102.

An Early Iron Age Site at Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire.

D.N. HALL

INTRODUCTION

Housing estate building works near the A6 trunk road revealed an Iron age and Roman settlement at Irthlingborough, Northants, (SP 946712). The area was previously pasture which prevented discovery of the site by field work. The settlement lies on sloping ground overlooking a part of the Nene Valley rich in prehistoric material.¹ The underlying geology consists of Jurassic limestone and clay.

Building sites rarely produce comprehensive material (unless previously excavated) and this site was no exception. Weekly, and sometimes daily, visits were made during the winter of 1964/65 when roads, service trenches, and footings were being constructed. Plans of ditches and other features were recovered. A small excavation produced a useful group of Early Iron Age pottery, previously published.² The purpose of this report is to give some account of the context of the pottery, and to indicate to future workers where possible excavation might be conducted when the housing estate is demolished.

Further housing works are planned to the north of the area during the next few years, so it is probable more material may be found.

THE FEATURES

The site plan is given in figure 1. Fragmentary remains and evidence of ditches were recovered, principally in the graded road areas.

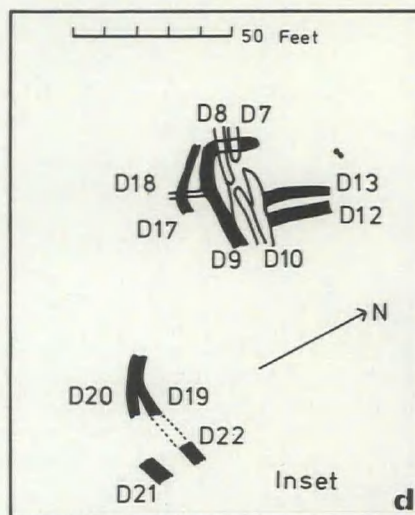
The earliest feature was ditch D5, apparently part of a small enclosure ditch, 6ft wide and 3½ft deep. A narrow channel 1ft wide and 14in deep in the ditch bottom appeared to be a recut, suggesting a fairly lengthy period of use. The lower part of the fill was firm brown limestone-and-clay; primary silts; the upper fills consisted of greenish ash and lumps of limestone containing many large sherds of Early Iron Age pottery,² and a well-preserved weaving comb (fig 2). Most of the finds came from

the entrance arm of the ditch, as is usual. The irregular course of the ditch makes it unlikely that it is part of a hut circle, since these are fairly regular. A date rather before 300 BC is likely. Most of the ditches encountered belonged to the later phase of the Early Iron Age; e.g. D7–D11 marked on the plan (fig 1). The very complex network near D5 seems to be part of recut and superimposed enclosure ditches; D11 probably belongs to D8, and D10 to D7, to make a recut entrance. Most of the ditches were 5ft wide and 2–3ft deep. Pit P1 also belonged to this period; only 9in were left below the graded road level. Some sherds are illustrated in figure 2, they correspond closely to material from Strixton and Bozeat which falls into the date range 250–50 BC.

The area on the plan (fig 1) from A–B was covered with general Iron Age occupation. A few sherds of early Belgic vessels were found (fig 2), made in the characteristic wheel-thrown black smoothed fabric with rather thick walls; i.e. like wheel-made late Early Iron Age. A date about 50–25 BC is likely.

Also from the same area were some sherds of mid-Belgic pottery, in the characteristic orange brown and black wares, with carinated beakers (fig 2). A date of about 25 BC is usual. No features were identified as belonging to either of these periods.

The Romano-British period is represented by ditches D1–D4, D6, D12, and a limestone-built corndryer (fig 3). Most of the material was early, including samian sherds. The corndryer was set into the natural subsoil; at the drying end it was made of pitched stone and the walls of the channel from the stoke hole was made of laidstone. The channels were 6–9in deep with subsoil bottoms, filled with soot and ashes. The hearth, merely a hole 4ft diameter cut in the soil, was reddened and blackened with continual usage. The dryer was associated with sherds belonging to the late third or early fourth century A.D.



IRTHLINGBOROUGH 1

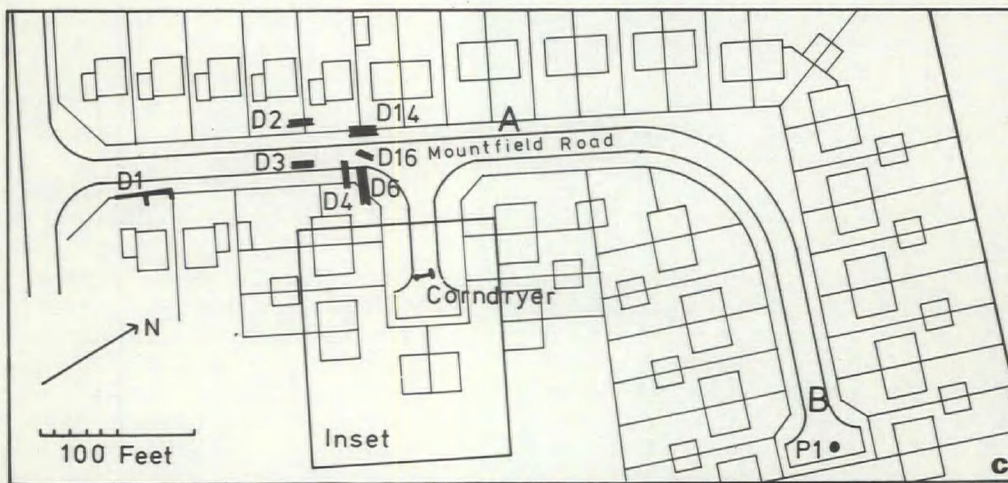


Fig 1 Irthlingborough, Northants site plan and location. a, Northamptonshire; b, Irthlingborough; c, Mountfield Road housing estate; d, inset.

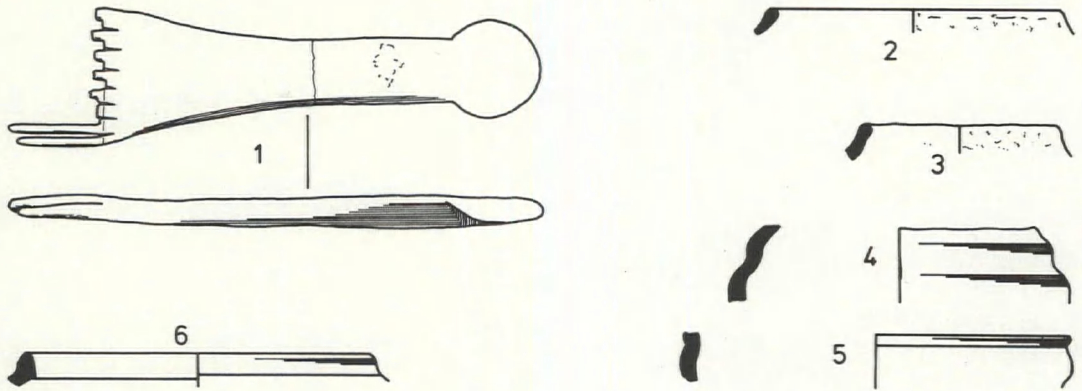


Fig 2 Irthlingborough, Northants; The Finds (Scales: 1, $\frac{1}{2}$; 2-6, $\frac{1}{4}$).

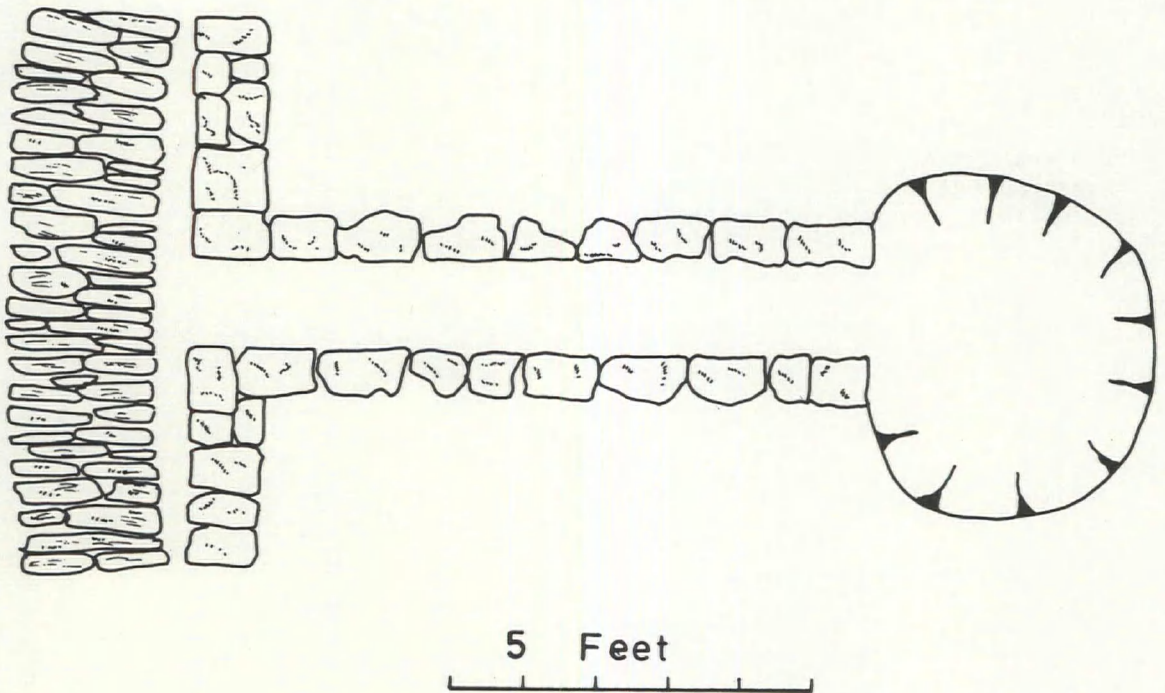


Fig 3 Irthlingborough, Northants; Romano-British Corndryer.

DISCUSSION

The site was occupied continuously throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British periods like neighbouring Irchester.³ The complex series of ditches is clearly only the very small part of the whole, which probably is similar to the complex recently found at Knuston, Northants, by P.J. Woods.⁴ The ditches are of hut-circle and enclosure types.

The most important group of finds was the Early Iron Age pottery, previously illustrated, and the weaving comb. Since the publication of the pottery, the report on Rainsborough, Northants, has appeared⁵ which confirms the suggested early date of the Irthlingborough material. For instance our sherd 4 corresponds to Rainsborough 81, Irthlingborough 10 with Rainsborough 16 and 80, and our 11 with 70. All these parallels are dated before 300 BC.

At Irchester the local Belgic was divided into three periods based on the ceramic types. The two earliest phases were found at Irthlingborough, and all three at Knuston. It seems, therefore, that this classification of the Belgic period is realistic for the Nene Valley. The corn dryer is of typical form, a similar one was found at Cogenhoe.⁶

THE FINDS

- 1 Bone weaving comb. The upper four teeth were broken anciently and the stumps were worn smooth. The next two were then broken and the

comb discarded leaving rough stumps. It was stratified in ditch D5 with the pottery previously published,² and is similar to the Rainsborough example,⁷ dated early fourth century BC.

- 2 Late Early Iron Age cooking pot, hand made grey fabric with black core, similar to types from Strixton and Bozeat, Northants.⁸ Probably early first century BC.
- 3 Similar vessel in the characteristic black burnished ware.
- 4 Early Belgic sherd, unstratified. Wheel-made with a black burnished finish, rather thick walled for the vessel size. Similar to types from Irchester⁹ are 75-50 BC.
- 5 Mid Belgic sherd in orange red ware with blue/grey core. Late first century BC.
- 6 Late Belgic cooking pot rim in greyish shelly ware. Probably had a lid. Early first century AD.

NOTES

- 1 For the distribution of local sites see this *Journal* 1-16.
- 2 D N Hall and N Nickerson, 'Iron Age pottery in North Bedfordshire and South Northamptonshire', *Beds Arch J* 4, 1969, 1-12.
- 3 D N Hall and N Nickerson, 'Excavations at Irchester, 1962-63', *Arch J*, 124, 1968, 65-99.
- 4 P J Woods, *Britannia* forthcoming.
- 5 Avery, Sutton, and Banks. 'Rainsborough...' *PPS* 33, 1967, 207-306.
- 6 *Bulletin Northants Fed Arch Soc*, 2, 1967, 9.
- 7 Avery, *et al*, 1967, 288, no 167 and fig 31, 167.
- 8 Hall and Nickerson, 1969, fig 4, 28, 29.
- 9 Hall and Nickerson, 1968, fig 10, 27-29.

A Roman Well at Dunstable

C.L. MATTHEWS and J.B. HUTCHINGS

SUMMARY

This paper describes the excavation of a Roman well in Dunstable, Bedfordshire. The finds suggested that it was dug during the second century A.D. and abandoned and refilled more than one hundred years later. It would appear that the water table was much lower in Roman times than it is today. The finds included bucket hoops and lead weights, agricultural implements as well as adornments and pottery.

INTRODUCTION

A Roman well was discovered in 1967 during excavations at the Dominican Friary site in Dunstable. The position (TL 019217) is indicated on the site plan (fig 1). During that and the following year the well was totally excavated by members of the Manshead Archaeological Society.

Roman material has been found in eight wells during building operations in this vicinity, (as noted in fig 1). These could not be thoroughly investigated because of damage done during mechanical digging and the lack of facilities and time. However, six appeared to have been infilled during the Roman period while the other two contained both Roman and twelfth and thirteenth century material. Later excavations showed that the present well was in an outhouse of a Roman timber building, the sill beams of which were parallel with Watling Street. The building has not yet been completely excavated but associated with it is a corn drying kiln sealed with early third century silver coins and a latrine pit which contained first century pots. These excavations have firmly established occupational evidence of the Roman Durocobrivae.

All depth measurements are taken from the modern ground level at the top of the well.

THE EXCAVATION

EXCAVATION METHOD

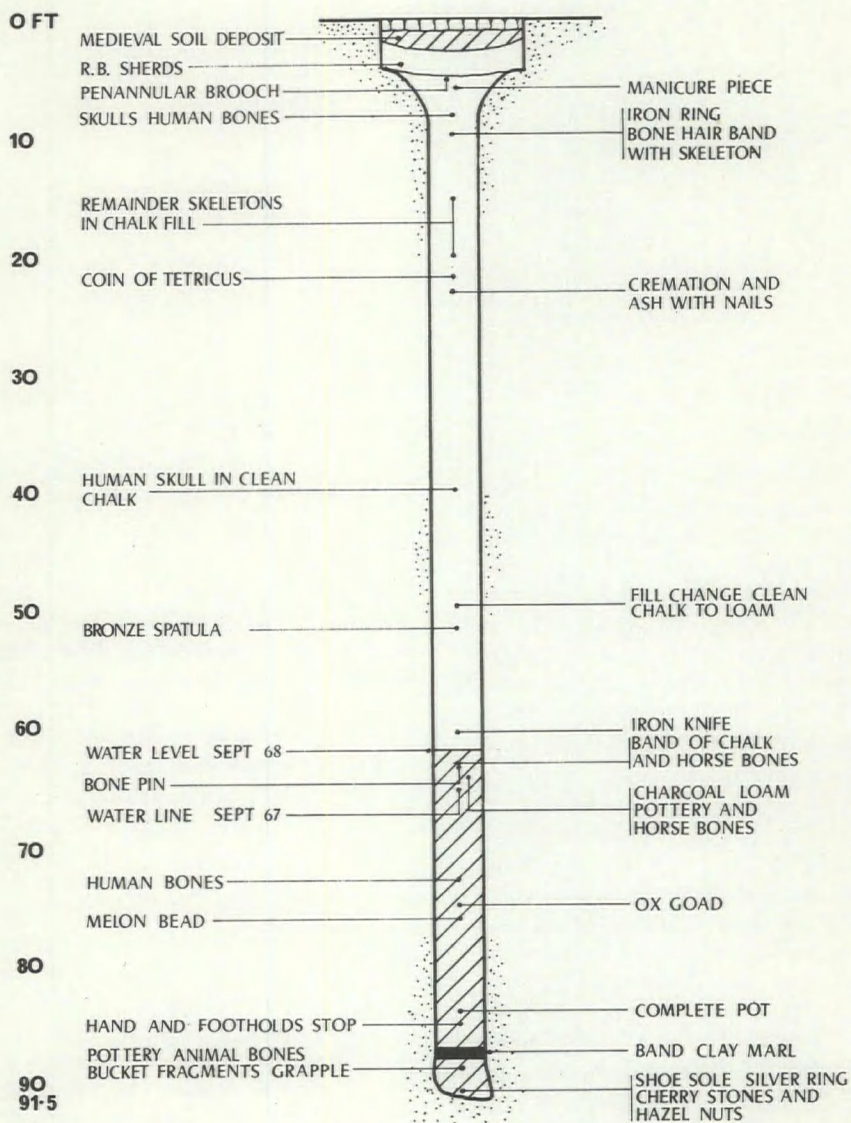
The well was discovered when a slight subsidence occurred after the removal of a medieval occupation layer. It was sunk into the chalk bed rock and was unlined. When excavation reached water level the well was constantly pumped but, despite this, the water level could not be lowered below a depth of 62ft (18.9m) in 1967 and 65ft (19.9m) in 1968.

Stringent safety precautions had to be observed during the excavation and, as digging progressed, three sets of staging were fitted. The sets of staging were joined by ladders and the lowest set was at a depth of 55ft (16.76m). The well shaft was lit by waterproof lighting suspended at depths of 30ft (9.14m) and 60ft (18.29m). All excavators, while in the well, wore safety harness and helmets. Below the water level excavations were carried out by aqualung divers who were lowered into the water by rope. Their air bottles were lowered and the diver fitted them whilst standing in the Roman hand and foot holes in the side of the shaft. The well and the stagings were too narrow for the diver to descend with the air bottles on his back.

Difficulties of depth measurement and recording were experienced by the excavators when working below water level, hence all depths in this part of the well are quoted only to the nearest one foot. During digging the finds were put into a perforated bucket, and, when the excavator had surfaced, the bucket was raised manually to the top of the well.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE WELL

The well was unlined, square cut and measured 4ft (1.22m) across at the top. It narrowed to 3ft (0.914m) across at a depth of 62ft (18.9m) but



ROMAN WELL AT THE
FRIARY FIELD
DUNSTABLE

JMB

Fig 1 The location and section of the well

opened out to a bell shape approximately 5ft (1.52m) from the bottom. The square of the shaft twisted slightly throughout its depth and the corners of the square had been rounded by bucket wear. Hand and foot holes had been cut on opposite sides of the well at 15in (381mm) intervals. These depressions were staggered on each side and ceased at 85ft (25.9m). There were two staging slots cut into the sides at 25ft (7.62m) and 45ft (13.71m).

On top of the well was a 3ft (0.914m) layer of dark loam under which was a 3ft (0.914m) sealing layer of Roman occupation debris. Below this, to a depth of 50ft (15.24m), was a clean chalk fill which covered a chalk and loam mix. Between 75ft (22.86m) and 82ft (26m) the fill was chalk with large flints and below this was a 4ft (1.22m) layer of chalky silt. Beneath this was a 2ft (610mm) band of clay lying on a further 2ft (610mm) of chalky silt. The bed rock of clunch stone was below this.

CONTENTS OF THE WELL

A section through the well is shown in figure 1, and this also indicates the depths at which the major finds occurred.

A top sealing stratum of Roman material was found dipping towards the centre of the filled-in well at a depth of 3ft (0.914m). This consisted of sherds that included a fourth century mortarium, with hammer rim, and so-called imitation samian wares together with large fragments of roofing tiles, coarse building bricks and sea shells of oyster, whelk and scallop.

Below this was a dark loam which produced fragments of a large storage jar and Belgic butt beaker which had probably been carried into the mouth of the well by subsidence from an adjacent site of that period. Other pottery included fragments of Castor ware, coarse wares and samian. This stratum also produced a small penannular brooch and bronze nail cleaner (figs 5.8 and 4.2).

At 7ft 4in (2.236m) the partial remains of five human skeletons were found. These included 3 skulls and portions of articulated bodies. Between 15ft 6in and 20ft (4.7 – 6.1m) the remainder of the skeletons were found with the bones still articulated. These five bodies had been placed in the funnel of the partially filled well at one time and at different angles on top of one another. Later subsidence of the well had occurred before the bodies had completely decomposed, leaving the skulls and feet at the well mouth.

A coin of Tetricus (270-273) was found at a

depth of 22ft (6.71m) and 1ft (0.305m) below this were burnt human bones. Iron nails were found amongst the bones and ash. A single human skull was found at 40ft (12.19m) isolated in clean chalk fill.

At 50ft (15.24m) the fill changed from chalk to loam and this contained a bone pin, iron knife, sherds and horse bones. A considerable amount of pottery was found at 64ft (19.41m) with charcoal and more horse bones. At 70ft 4in (21.54m) a further layer of pottery was discovered and at 72ft (22.05m) parts of a human skeleton were found. Between 75 and 82ft (22.86 – 25m) there was a stratum of chalk flints and this contained the ox goad and melon bead (figs 4.4 and 5.3). Below this was a 4ft layer of chalky silt containing a complete pot (fig 2.7).

A 2ft (0.61m) band of clay had been used as a plug and beneath this bucket fragments, a piece of wooden conduit and a grapple (fig 4.6) were found. The 2ft (0.61m) of chalky silt lying on the clunch bed contained a silver ring, shoe sole (fig 5.1) together with cherry stones and hazel nuts.

THE POTTERY (Figs 2 and 3)

Pot sherds were found throughout the filling but the most complete vessels came from near or at the bottom.

The well was kept very clean during its long period of use and little can be made of the stratification of the wares. It is nevertheless interesting to note the number of small vessels at the lowest levels. These were probably used as drinking cups.

Castor Ware

Sherds from 6 vessels were found in the bottom of the well and one fragment at a depth of 5ft 7in (1.7m), in the depression of the filled-in well, carried the head of a deer.

- 1 Castor ware cup with hunting scene: late second, early third century.
- 5 Small vessel in Castor ware: third century.
- 7 Castor ware beaker with two bands of rouletting. This was recovered unbroken from near the bottom of the well. Mid third century.

Sand-Cast Wares

- 2 This type of vessel is rare in the Dunstable area and was the only one found throughout the fill of the well: late second century. (Gillam, 1957, 190, type 75).¹ Depth 90 ft.

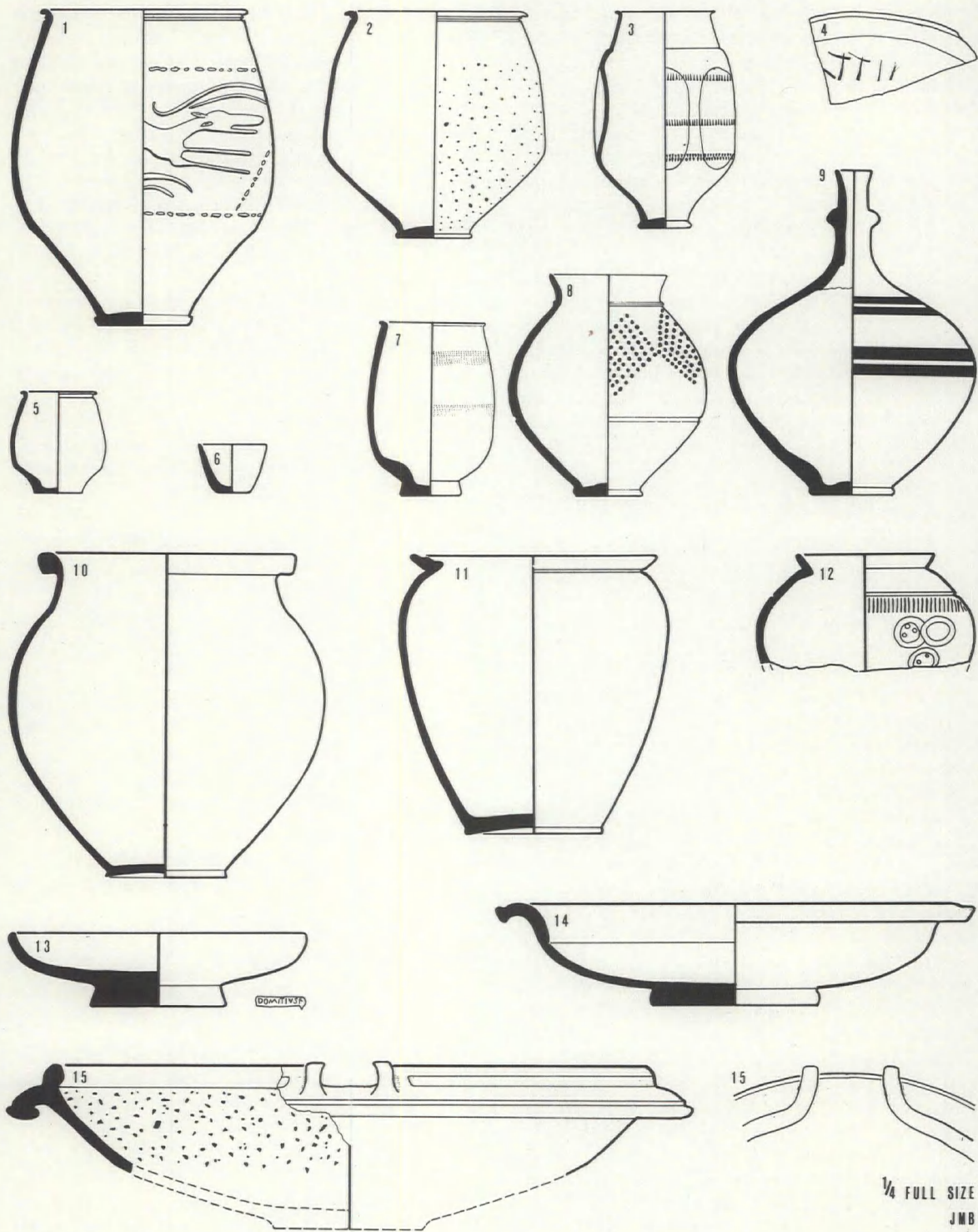


Fig 2 Pottery from the well

Folded Beakers

Three were found all near the bottom of the well. The vessel illustrated (3) is highly burnished with 6 flutes and 3 bands of rouletting (third century). Gillam 1957, 187, type 46. The other two also had flutes but with a metallic slip coating.

Samian Wares

A total of 15 vessels were recovered all of them plain wares. One potters stamp and part of a stamp were found and one fragment with gravitti.

Fragments of the wares were found throughout the filling from 3 feet deep to the bottom.

- 4 Fragment of samian bowl with part of an inscription scratched into the exterior fabric. Antonine period, late second century (Walters type 79).
- 18 Samian bowl type, depth 40ft (12.2m).
- 13 Samian bowl from bottom of well. Stamp DOMITIUS Dragendorf Form 32. Probably from Eastern Gaul kiln site of Rheinzabern, Germany. Antonine period, late second century.

Copies of Samian Wares

Total of 5 dishes. These vessels are copies of samian forms with applied red slip. One vessel was found sealing the well at 28in (0.711m) deep. Two vessels were found at a depth of 12ft (3.66m) and 16ft (4.88m) the remainder were found at 86ft (26.21m).

- 14 Copy of samian bowl found at 86ft (26.21m)
Very eroded red slip of poor quality.

Terra Nigra

A single sherd was found in the sealing layer of the well at a depth of 26 in (0.66m).

Poppy Head Beakers

Two vessels were found. One with a fine black metallic slip came from the bottom of the well.

- 8 Found 12ft (3.66m) deep. Very eroded surface. Dark brown slip on grey ware. Decorated with irregularly applied lozenges of dots. Groove around body of pot.

Flagons

Total of 7 vessels. One fragment of white ware was found at a depth of 36in (0.914m) sealing the well. The remainder were found at different levels.

- 9 Flagon in biscuit ware from 85ft (25.19m) decorated with painted red bands, third century. Also in this same context but not illustrated were one long necked flagon with single handle and a ring necked flagon, both in biscuit ware.

Crucible

Single pot at a depth of 64ft (19.51m). Crucible in hard grey ware.

Mortaria

Nine of these vessels were found at varying depths. One of white ware with brown grits was at a depth of 24ins. This was similar to No.15 but the underside of the rim was more flattened. One Samian mortarium as No.26 was found at 16ft and one hammer head type (not illustrated) as No.25 but with flange pressed into the body of the pot was found at a depth of 84ft (25.61m).

- 15 White ware with brown grits. Depth 84ft (25.61m). Probably third century.
- 25,26 & 27 All in white ware with brown grits at 64ft (19.51m).

Fine Wares Bowls etc.

- 12 Bowl of red ware decorated with applied triple circles. Second to third century. Depth 91ft (27.735m)
- 16 Bowl of grey paste fired red. Depth 64ft (19.51m).
- 17 Tazza with bands of rouletting and pinched frilling on neck. Fired biscuit. Depth 64ft (19.51m).
- 19 Bowl with red slip on biscuit ware. Depth 89ft (27.1m).
- 20 Rounded vessel with bead rim in grey ware with burnished surface. Depth 64ft (19.51m).

Storage Jars

Large rolled rim vessels. The remains of 12 were found at varying depths from 14ft to the bottom of the well (not illustrated).

Amphora

- 23 One fragment of vessel with part of a handle in biscuit ware. Depth 26ft (7.91m)

Odd Vessel

- 28 Vessel in red tile ware. Burnt on interior and

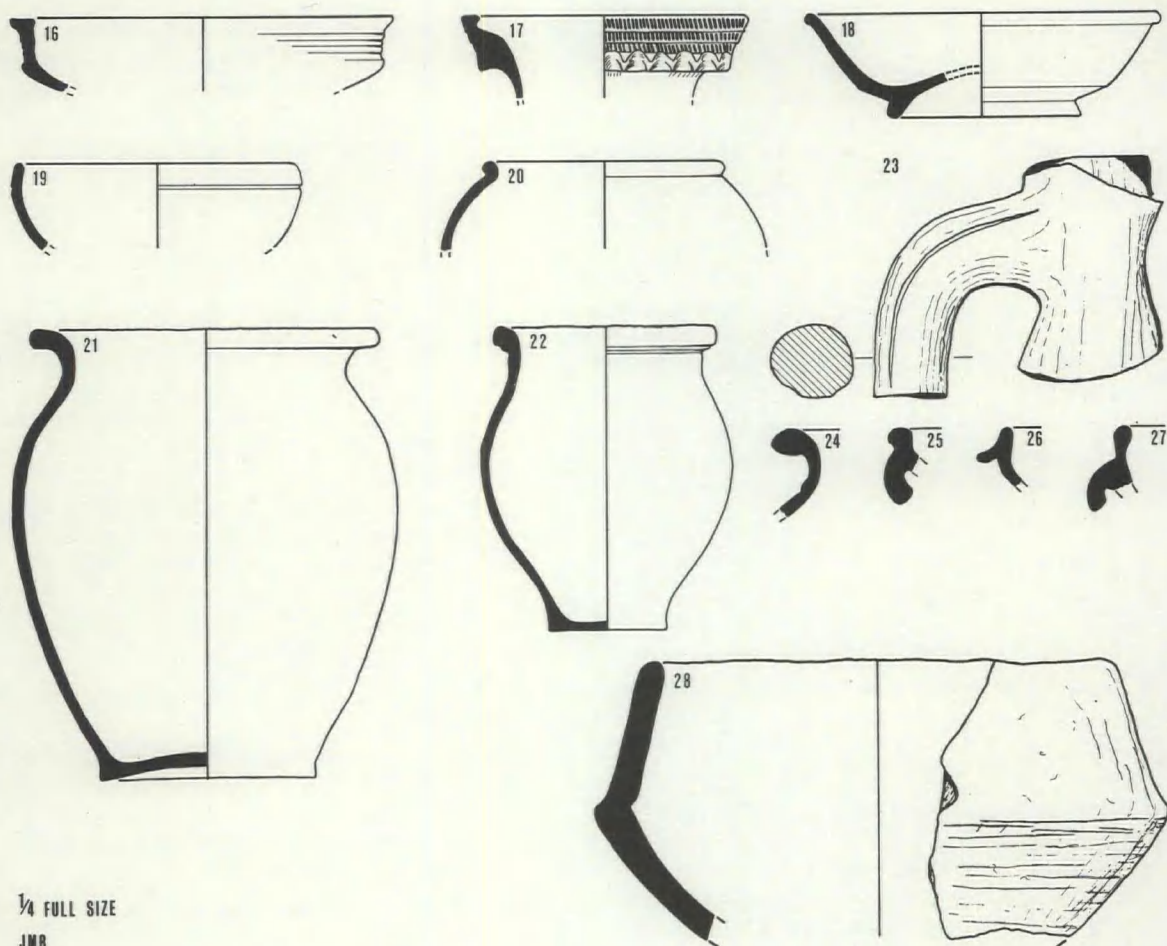


Fig 3 Pottery from the well

slightly on exterior near rim. Potter's finger marks on inside. Depth 90ft (27.43m). This thick solid vessel may have been used as a water carrier but the flange and the burning suggests a use as a kiln chimney.

Jars or Cooking Pots

Approximately 116 vessels of grey wares found at varying levels throughout the filling. Five (10, 11, 21, 22 and 24) have been illustrated as typical.

Three vessels of type 21 were found almost complete at the bottom of the well. These contained shell grits and had a soapy feeling fabric. Probably late first or early second century.

METAL OBJECTS

Metal objects are described in metal groups — silver, iron, bronze, lead and within these in order of depth of discovery.

IRON

- a Ring at 9ft 8in (2.94m). Ring from top of a ring headed spike, external dia. 1.6in (40mm) internal dia. 1.4in (35mm). Found with bone hair band and skeletons.
- b Nails at 23ft (7m). Several with human bones and ashes and throughout the well fill.
- c Knife at 60ft 3in (18.37m).
- d (fig 4.4) Ox goad at 75ft (22.86m). Common in

- the locality, five found on friary site, others elsewhere in Dunstable and at Puddle Hill. Compares with others from Lydney, Woodyates, Silchester.² There is one from Kempston found in a poppyhead beaker with a cremation.³ They also occur in bronze and bone but usually with a tubular socket.
- e Knife at 77ft (23.47m). Part of wooden handle survived adhering to tang. Common type, at least as far as the blade is concerned. Best parallel for blade and stop ridge is from Silchester.⁴
 - f (fig 4.1) Rake at 89ft (27.1m). A rare type in excellent condition, part of wooden handle survived in the socket. Prongs are 7.1in (180mm) long and the socketed handle 13.4in long (340mm). Example in British Museum from Walbrook, the prongs of which are 7.1in long (180mm) and the handle 8.8in (223mm) long, firmly dated to the last 20 years of the first century A.D. There is a parallel in Landesmuseum Trier.²
 - g Bucket bands at 89ft (27.1m). Three bands used for iron bound wooden buckets, probably they were from the same bucket.
 - h (fig 6.1 and 2) Handles at 89ft (27.1m). 3 handles, overall lengths 10, 11, 12in. (254mm, 279mm, 305mm).
 - i (fig 6.3 and 4) Handle supports at 89ft (27.1m) Two plate supports 6in long with holes at each end for the handle and for fixing to the top hoop of the bucket.
 - j (fig 4.6) Grapple. 89ft (27.1m). This has 4 grapples of 4 hooks fixed to a ring plate external dia. 9.3in. This is suspended by an iron handle to a ring which allows the grapple to swivel. Similar grapples were used locally within living memory, to recover buckets from wells. No ancient parallels have been found.
 - k Bucket ring at 89ft (27.1m). Used for keeping neck of leather buckets open: square in section 0.4in (10mm) thick, overall dia. 9.3in (236mm).
 - l (fig 4.3) Part Band at 89ft (27.1m). Incomplete band, perhaps part of ox goad.
 - m Hob Nails. 89ft (27.1m). Many from near the bottom of the well perhaps from leather sole found adjacent.
- Fowler's type D⁵ which first become current in late first century B.C. or early first century A.D. but continued into third century or even later.
- b (fig 4.2) Nail Cleaner at 5ft 7in (1.7m). A fair parallel to type found at Richborough⁶ common in Roman and Saxon contexts.
 - c (fig 5.4) Ring at 7ft 4in (2.235m). Plain, common type. Found on third finger of right hand of skeleton 1.
 - d (fig 5.5) Part of Buckle at 9ft 8in (2.96m). As illustrated, quite common.
 - e Bronze Spatula at 52ft 0in (15.85m) length 4in (102mm), common type.
 - f (fig 5.2) Bronze plate brooch at 89ft (27.1m). The underside of this brooch is smooth with one iron stud surviving (5). The bronze face plate (4) has been chip carved to provide channels for enamelling. Decorated with an outer band of very light blue enamel which has red enamel spots (1). This was divided from the centre piece by red enamel (2) and the centre was light blue enamel with white enamel circles centred by spots of red enamel (3). The red enamel spots were surrounded by a halo of darker blue probably caused during the fusing process in manufacture. Not common.
 - g (fig 7.2) Two bronze eyelets with traces of leather at 89ft (27.1m).

LEAD

- a (fig 4.7) Lead Plug at 7ft (2.134m). Probably from a pot.
- b Two lead plates at 89ft (27.1m) probably bucket weights. Oval shaped with half inch flange on edges. The ends are bent upwards and contain round holes. Diam 1.3in (33mm). The plates measured 9.8in by 6in (223mm by 152mm) and 9.5in by 6.3in (241mm by 160mm). The height of the flange was 6in (15mm). There were some small holes approx. 2mm diam round the edge of the flange which were probably for attaching to the bucket leather.

SILVER

- l (fig 5.11) Silver Finger Key Ring at 91ft (27.735m). The centre piece is a small key. Usually made of bronze or less commonly, in iron. Key is for lever lock. Compare with bronze example from Finsbury Circus, London.⁷

BRONZE

- a (fig 5.8) Penannular Brooch at 4ft 10in (1.473m). Rolled terminals. Example of Elizabeth

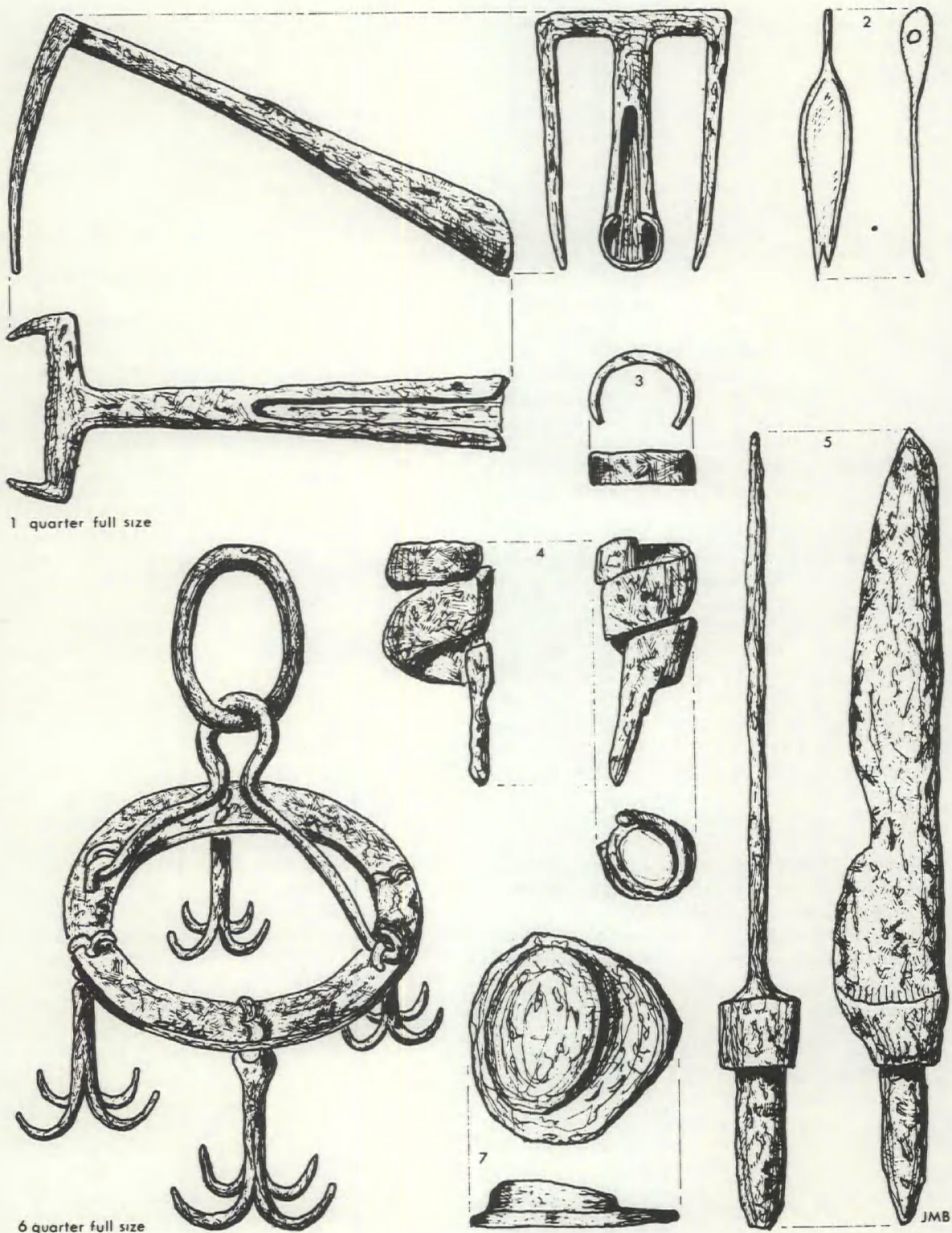


Fig 4 Iron (1, 3-6), bronze (2), and lead (7) objects from the well.

HUMAN BONES By Dr E V Jones

Parts of 7 skeletons were examined. From the upper fill they were of an elderly female, two adult females, an adult male, and a boy aged 14 years. From 40ft (12.19m) was a skull of a female aged 25-35 years, and from the bottom of the well parts of the post cranial skeleton of a middle-aged man.

In the upper fill, the 3 skulls at the rim of the skulls from 16ft (4.88m) and 17ft 8in (5.39m) agreed in sex, age and number with the bones scattered through the upper fill and are assumed to come from five complete skeletons.

Most of the skulls had suffered from crushing to varying degrees from the nature of the dig and those bones from the bottom also from water.

Skull 1 from rim and bones from 16ft (4.88m)

Skeleton of an elderly female with considerable wear on all teeth, buccal caries in a molar and 7 molars had been lost ante-mortem. There was considerable osteophyte formation on dorsal and lumbar vertebrae. Hip and shoulder joints showed early arthritic changes. Height (Fe Hu) 1.56m.

Skull 2 from rim and bones from 16ft (4.88m)

Skeleton of an adult female aged 25-35 as deduced from dental wear and unfused sutures. There was a carious first molar and there was an aberrant tooth entering the nasal cavity. Post cranial remains were those of a healthy female. Height (Fe Ti) 1.54m.

Skull 3 from rim and bones from 20ft (6.10m)

Skeleton of 14 year old boy as shown by unfused epiphyses of long bones and metacarpals. The skull was thin and disintegrated on excavation. There were caries in an upper molar and an incisor. Upper third molars were just erupting. Post cranial bones showed no pathology. Estimated height (Fe Ti) 1.61m.

Skull 4 and bones from 16ft (4.88m)

Skeleton of an adult male aged 35-45 years as judged from dentition. The sutures were unfused and there was a mediofrontal suture present. The teeth remaining with the skeleton showed caries in an upper molar and absent third molar. The post cranial bones showed early arthritic changes in femoral and humeral heads. Height (Fe TI) 1.60m.

Skull 5 and bones from 17ft 8in (5.39m)

Skeleton of a female aged 25-35 years from dental wear. Sutures were fused. Maxilla was missing from the collection of bones. First lower molar was malinserted and nearly horizontal and the second lower molar had been lost ante-mortem. There was considerable lingual wear on the lower incisors and canines which may have been due to protrusion of the lower jaw.

Skull from 40ft (12.19m)

This was a female skull with unfused sutures, mediofrontal suture and three Wormian bones. Age estimated from teeth 25-35 years. Roots only were remaining of an upper molar and premolar. There were no associated bones or mandible with the skull and the skull had certainly rotted elsewhere and had been cast into the well which by this time was being used as a waste pit.

Remains from 72ft (21.95m)

These were parts of humerus, femur, tibia and 5 vertebrae of a heavily muscled middle-aged man as deduced from the size and markings on the bones including the femoral head and the degree of arthritis in the part of the vertebrae found. The first three cervical vertebrae were present and the presence of these suggests that there was originally a skull, and that this had degenerated beyond recognition at the bottom of the well. One joint between axis and third cervical was fused by an arthritic process. The breakages in the bones were in part post mortem and could not be related to a fall into the well.

The osteology agrees with a mass burial of 5 skeletons at the mouth of the well and the casting of a single skull into the well when it was partly filled.

Two skulls, skull 4 from the rim and skull from 40ft (12.19m) both had mediofrontal sutures. This was not seen in the other skulls from the well or from a small series of Roman and Dark Age interments from the same field. It is tempting to suggest that there was a blood relationship between the two skeletons as this is an inherited trait. The Wormian bones seen in the skull from 40ft (12.19m) were not seen in any of the other skulls.

Caries was seen in all the skulls even that of the 14 year old boy and must reflect the soft diet. There

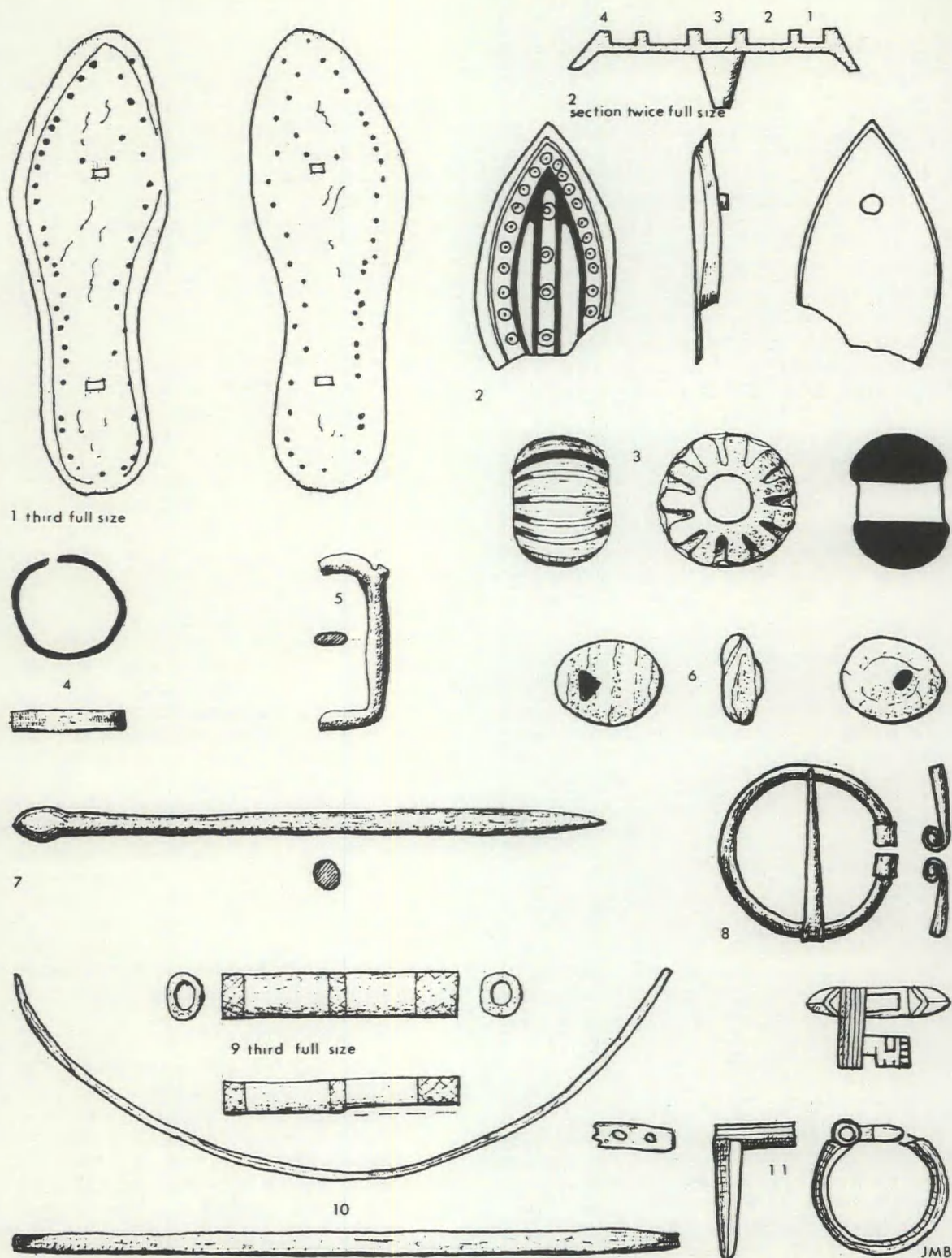


Fig 5 Bronze (2, 4, 5, 8), silver (11), glass (3), and organic (1, 6, 7, 9, 10) finds.

was the unusual finding of an aberrant tooth entering the anterior nasal cavity in skull two.

The principal other pathological finding was of arthritis which was mainly in the dorsal and lumbar vertebrae and only slight in the large joints and this was related to age.

ORGANIC FINDS

- a (fig 5.10). Bone Band at 9ft 8in (2.94m). Two small holes drilled either end, possibly a hair band from a skeleton.
- b (fig 5.7). Bone Pin at 63ft (19.2m). A common type.
- c Wooden Pole at 82ft (25m). Round, hedge cut, possibly a fork handle.
- d Dressed Timber at 82ft (25m). Fragments, probably the remains of the well top.
- e Wooden staves at 82ft (25m). Staves belonging to wooden buckets.
- f Half Cylinder of hollow wood at 82ft (25m). Nearly half round section, probably of conduit. Internal dia. 3.5in thickness 1in.
- g (fig 5.9) Bone Handle at 89ft (27.1m). Very typical incised decoration, probably knife handle. Many in Silchester collection² and in most large Roman collections.
- h (fig 5.6) 'Shell' Bead, 90ft (27.43m). A dermal tubercle of a ray fish, genus *Raja*, found in European waters. Similar item was found, as a survival from the Roman period, in an adjacent medieval context.
- i Hazel nuts at 91ft (27.735m). Two found.
- j Small seeds at 91ft (27.735m). Cherry Stones two.
- k (fig 5.1) Leather Shoe Sole at 91ft (27.735m). The inner sole of a small shoe. Has a small groove on one surface. There were nail holes round the periphery and several in the interior. On the instep and the ball of the foot were small oblong holes for hob nails. Iron hob nails were found adjacent.

OTHER FINDS

- a Building bricks. 3ft to 6ft (0.91 – 1.8m). Fragments.
- b (fig 5.3) Glass Bead, 76ft (23.17m). A blue glass melon bead, broken. Wide date range beginning in the Claudian period.
- c Quern Stones at various depths throughout the fill. Several broken, from Hertfordshire pudding

stone and from millstone grit.

- d Roofing Tile, fragments found at various depths throughout the fill.

CONCLUSIONS

The well was 91ft 6in deep and was situated in an outhouse of a Roman building. The finding of a piece of conduit at the bottom of the well indicated that the water was probably piped into the building from the well top.

The main dating evidence for the well consists of the poppy beaker and Samian ware of the second century, the coin of Tetricus (270-273) and the mortaria and other sherds typical of the late fourth century. All sherds from a greater depth than 70ft (21.34m) were of early second and third century date. Therefore the finds suggest that the well was dug during the early second century and was in use for more than one hundred years. It also appears that the well was at least partly open until the late fourth century. Confirming the long use was the observation that, although the section was originally square, continued operation of the well and polished the sides and eroded the corners.

After the well had been abandoned it was used as a rubbish pit and debris of animal bones and occupational waste had filled it to a depth of 50ft (15.24m). There was much clean chalk in this which suggests that a deliberate attempt may have been made over a short period to fill the well. When the filling had reached 50ft (15.24m) the top of the well collapsed. The well head had probably been protected from frost and weathering during its useful days and when this had been removed the top and surrounding chalk had slipped into the well leaving a large funnel shaped depression. Twenty three feet of the well had been filled by this collapse which had been lodged up, perhaps by a wooden lining of the top, leaving a cavity of at least 15ft (4.5m) within the well.

The resulting surface depression had then been used probably at first for the burial of a person whose cremated remains had been placed in a wooden box, held by nails, and later for a mass inhumation of five people. At some time after the mass burial, and while the bodies were in a state of partial decomposition, parts of the five bodies fell 14ft (4.27m) when the well subsided. It was still slightly cavitated when the modern excavators uncovered the top 4ft (1.22m) and it sank nearly a foot under one of them. It is not possible to date this mass inhumation as the only object found in

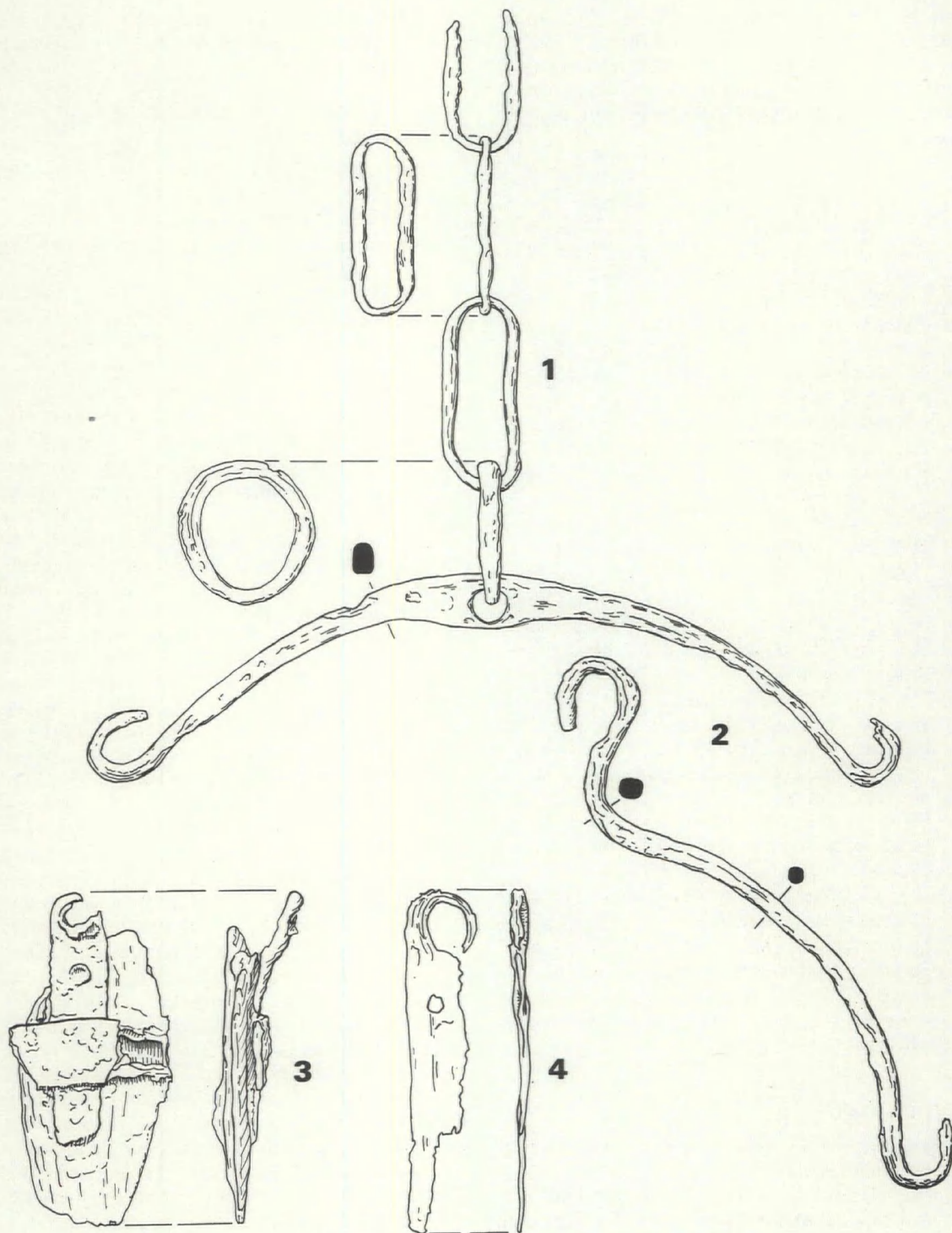


Fig 6 Bucket fragments. (Scale: $\frac{1}{3}$)

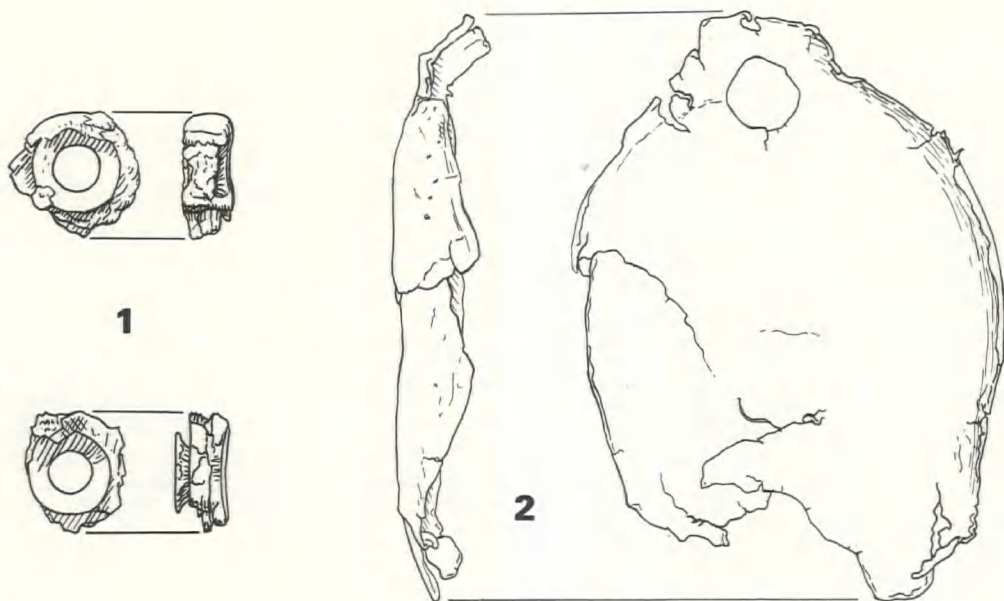


Fig 7 Bronze eyelets (1) and lead weight (2) (Scale $\frac{1}{3}$)

direct association with them was a plain bronze ring (fig 5.4) on the third finger of the right hand of skeleton 1. The bone hair band found near may also have belonged to a member of the group. After the burials the site continued to be occupied and the funnel shaped depression was filled and sealed by a layer of Roman debris 3ft (0.91m) below the present surface.

No evidence was found to suggest a later Saxon occupation. Immediately above the sealing Roman layer were medieval sherds which persisted to the modern turf level. The 3ft (0.91m) of medieval material was a dark loam which probably represents a deposit of top soil placed there when the site was levelled for the building of an adjacent Dominican Friary.

For drawing water, iron bound wooden buckets and also skin buckets had been used. Reconstruction of the finds 7, 8 & 9 showed that the shape of the former type of bucket was a tapering cylinder, with a bottom diameter of 15in (381mm) a top diameter of 13.5in (343mm) and a height of 18in (456mm). The skin buckets were reinforced and weighted with lead plates, two of which were found. It is suggested that the legs of the skin had been pulled through the centre holes and tied underneath. The mouth of the skin was probably kept

open by an iron ring, one of which was found at the bottom of the well in association with the lead plates. It seems likely that the grapple (fig 4.6) for which no parallels have been found, was used to retrieve lost buckets.

One complete pot was found (fig 2.7) and it would seem unlikely that this cup had survived a 90ft (27.43m) drop into the well. It had probably been used as a drinking cup and had been left in a bucket. Most of the small, fine wares came from the bottom of the well; the Castor ware cups and folded jars were probably the drinking cups of the period.

It is interesting to note that the water level in this area today is higher than in Roman times. This is the second Roman well excavated to water by the Society in Dunstable and in both cases the hand and foot holes continued down below the modern water level. The present well was open for two seasons and during this period the modern water table only varied a few inches and could not be reduced below 65ft (19.83m) despite constant pumping for nearly three months. The clay packing was probably used to plug the well and its presence suggested that, even at a depth of 88ft (26.82m) the well had run dry during the Roman period. The poor condition of the iron work and wood also suggests that the

well had run dry since it was first dug.

During extensive redevelopment of the town very little Roman roofing tile has been discovered and the fact that very little building or roofing tile was found in the well seems to confirm that Roman Dunstable was a very small township with few substantial buildings at least up to the third century. The roof tiles found in the top of the well with the burial were probably late fourth or early fifth century.

APPENDIX

Ironwork Analysis by Robert Taylor

A microsection of Roman iron from the bucket rings from the well on the Friary site has been examined and a microphotograph taken. The photograph shows grains of ferrite (alpha iron, relatively free of carbon) which are equiaxed and a small amount of iron oxide which shows the direction of forging of the implement.

The specimen is relatively good wrought iron in that it contains very little carbon and is quite clean (slag free).

The implications of these observations are that firstly, a good deal of trouble has been taken to produce a good wrought iron which will be capable of considerable cold forging without fracture. Secondly, the slag inclusion shows directionality but the ferrite grains do not, which is sufficient to tell us that the smith responsible for these implements has sufficient knowledge to anneal his work after forging. This had the effect of relieving stresses set up during forging and lessening the risk of fracture, a practice which is not always carried out by today's metal workers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation was carried out by members of the Manshead Archaeological Society and the Society is grateful to the Watford Underwater Club for their assistance over the final ten feet of the dig. The Society also wish to thank those who assisted with the excavation of the well, especially Mr. Blakey for supplying a compressor for pumping. The Associated Portland Cement Company for the loan of safety harness, Mr Gillette and Mr Wren for loaning submersible lighting and pump. The scaffolding and covers for the excavation were donated by local friends, and the Society is grateful to Mr J B Stevens for supplying the electric power and for permission to carry out the excavation of his land.

The society thanks Dr W H Manning for his prompt and valuable comments on some of the finds. Thanks are due to the authors of the appendices Dr E V Jones and Mr Robert Taylor.

The Staff of the British Museum (Natural History) kindly identified the 'shell' bead.

NOTES

- 1 J P Gillam, 'Types of Roman Coarse Pottery in Northern Britain', *Arch Ael* 35 (1957) 180-251; reprinted with corrections as a separate offprint, 1970.
- 2 Information from Dr W H Manning.
- 3 Bedford Museum, accession numbers 3221 and 3221A.
- 4 Reading Museum, Silchester Collection, information from Dr W H Manning.
- 5 E Fowler, 'The Origin and Development of Penannular Brooches in Europe', *P P S* 26 (1960) 149-177; E Fowler, 'Celtic Metalwork of the Fifth and Sixth Centuries A.D.', *Arch J* 120, (1963) 98-160.
- 6 B W Cunliffe, *Richborough* 5, 1970, 100 pl 43.178.
- 7 R E M Wheeler, *London in Roman Times*, 1930, 75 pl 21.10.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to the Council for British Archaeology and the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable for grants towards the cost of this paper.

A Roman Ditch in Dunstable Priory Meadow

RICHARD HAGEN

INTRODUCTION

In March 1970 a trench was dug across part of the Priory Meadow in Dunstable (TL 021219) to re-lay part of a main electricity supply cable. The site is that of the Augustinian Priory of St Peter, founded in 1132. The field is owned by Dunstable Corporation and is used as a public recreation area.

The trench was 5–6ft deep and about 5ft wide, cut in a NE/SW direction across part of the meadow just south-east of the remaining Priory Church. The excavation was found to cut through part of a burial ground – probably the monks' cemetery, and some building remains of the Priory period (1132 – c. 1540).

Underlying the site at a depth of about 5ft was the surface of the natural chalk, and dug into this was a substantial ditch, sealed by a layer of dark soil containing early Roman pottery. A partial section through the ditch was excavated, and some pottery recovered. The pottery is too small a group for precise dating, and there were no associated finds. However, from the presence of slaty-grey cooking pot fragments, of a type found at Camulodunum around A.D.65 and continuing into the second century, the 'native' style bowl, which while not closely paralleled is similar to vessels found at Colchester and St Albans, and the large storage jar fragments, likely also to be fairly early in date; also fragments of a mortarium of bead-and-roll type found in early contexts at Silchester and a fragment of a samian bowl, Dragendorf form 37, similar to vessels being made at Lezoux around A.D. 100 by COCATUS and his contemporaries, a date about the end of the first century – early second century would appear to be right for the sealing layer. The ditch itself was filled with hard compacted chalk, and two undistinguished fragments of coarse grey ware were the only finds.

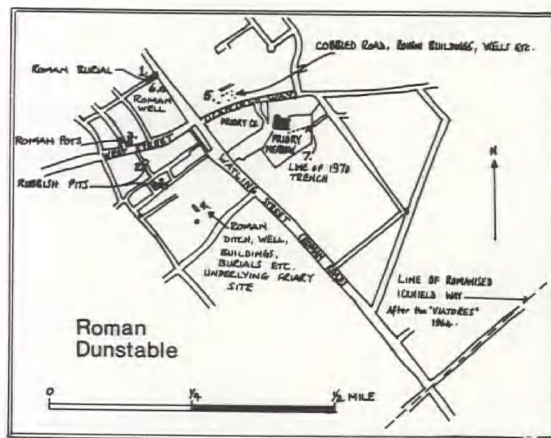


Fig 1 Roman Dunstable

The Ditch

The Ditch was 7ft 6in wide at the top and was excavated for a depth of 3ft below the level of the natural chalk. The sides sloped steeply and appeared to have suffered little erosion. The fill was mainly chalk, there being a greater proportion of loam in the upper part of the fill. The ditch had been encountered by the medieval Priory builders, who had dug out the softer loamy chalk and inserted a packing of flints and Totternhoe Stone blocks to carry a substantial wall which coincided with the ditch at this point.

Parallel to the ditch and about eight feet from it were two shallow trenches cut in the natural chalk. These contained only loam and clean sand, and there was no evidence of their date, although they occur well below the other medieval remains.

This is, as far as I know, the first find of Roman material in the South East Quadrant of Dunstable, within a short distance of the crossroads.

Medieval Remains

At least 18 burials were recorded, buried at

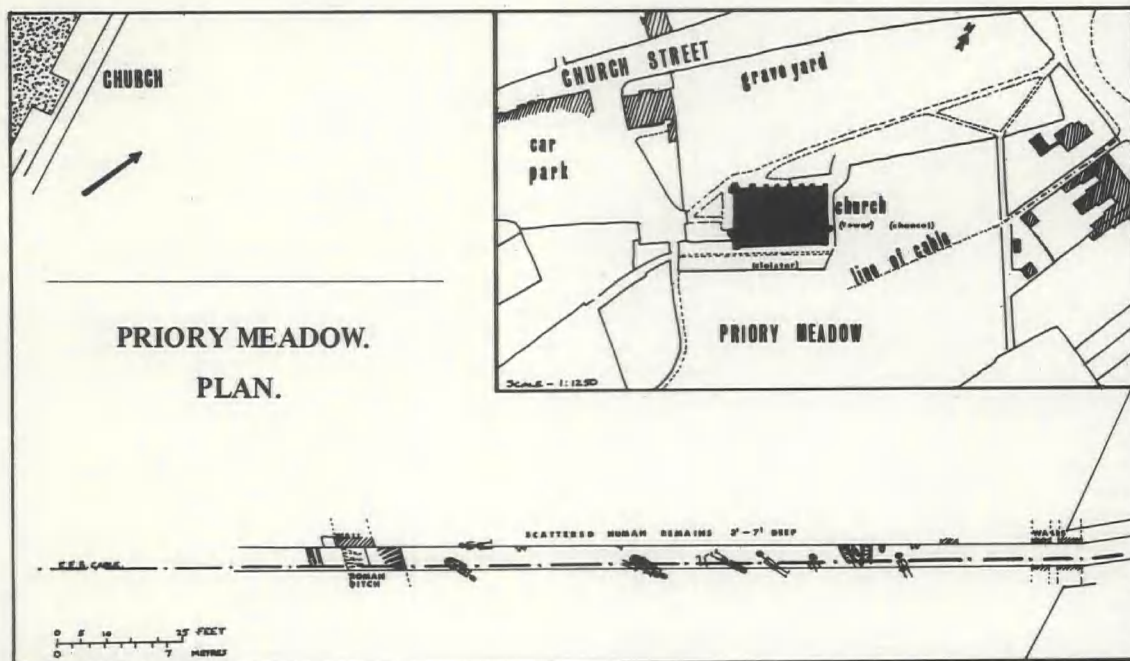


Fig 2 Location of cable and plan of ditch

various depths in the fine, greasy brown loam which covered part of the site to a depth of five feet. The bones were generally in very poor condition and had been badly mutilated by the trench-digger, but all appeared to be middle-aged-elderly male skeletons. The bones were collected for re-burial by the Coroner's Officer.

Substantial Totternhoe Stone walls were found, mostly with ashlar facings robbed away. These are marked on the plan, and whilst their exposure is too small to calculate their precise relationship to the original Priory at least one wall, that at the South West end of the trench which coincides with the Roman ditch, may be part of the foundations of the South Transept.

Other Roman Finds in the Centre of Dunstable

The major distribution of Roman finds in the centre of the town is shown on the map (fig 1). The Roman Burial at (1) was discovered by Worthington G. Smith in 1901, and the rubbish pits at (2) were also recorded by him. The Roman pots at (3) were found about 1960 by workmen building a new office block — these are now in Luton Museum.

The Roman ditches and well etc. at (4) were

excavated recently by local archaeologists, and the short length of cobbled road with poor houses either side at (5) was found during the construction of the North East Quadrant shopping centre in 1964-65.

The well at (6) on the sketch map was found in 1963 and contained a mixture of Roman and Medieval remains.

It will thus be apparent that the site of Dunstable was fairly well settled in Roman times. As re-development progresses more remains of the Roman period are certain to be revealed and the unexpected discovery of a ditch of possibly defensive proportions underlying the site of the Augustinian Priory must lead one to speculate that the settlement or 'posting station' of *Durocbrivae* listed by Antoninus at the crossing of the Watling Street and Icknield Way, was, in fact, on the site of the present town centre.

The Pottery (fig 4)

Pottery recovered from this site is now in Luton Museum.

1. A cordoned bowl with smoothed sub-triangular decoration between the cordons. A well-fired slightly gritty brown ware, slightly

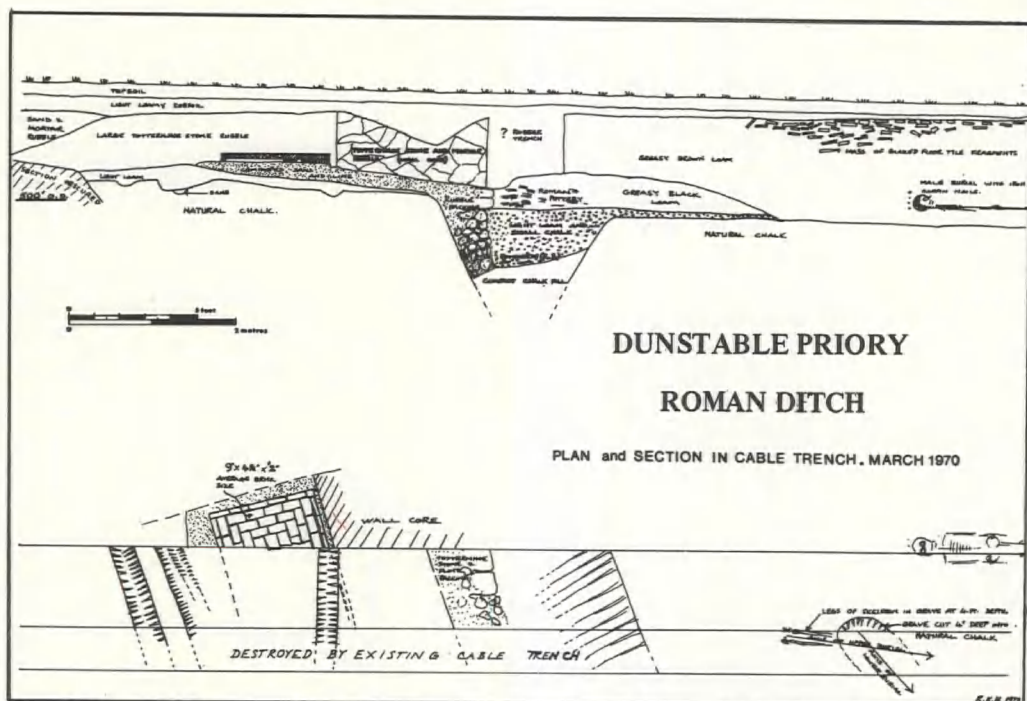


Fig 3 Plan and Section in Cable Trench, March 1970

burnished just below rim.

I have found no precise parallel for this vessel, but it is very similar to 'native' vessels from Colchester (*Camulodunum*,¹ fig 49, 50, pl. LXXV) and *Verulamium*,² fig 31 esp. no. 35, dated 120-160, but of superior fabric.

2. A jar of hard, black, slightly gritty fabric which occurs again in type 8, and a fair proportion of the sample of sherds recovered was of a similar fabric. Parallel in shape but not fabric is form 262 (*Camulodunum*, LXXX 111) and *Verulamium* fig 34 type 58 for a native example of this type.
3. A rim of hard, slaty-grey ware of a distinctive form found at Colchester in this fabric (*Camulodunum*, pl. LXXXIII type 266 and 271 where the ware gets better and more slaty as time goes on. Recorded as continuing into the second century, and if fragment 3a, 'poppy-beaker' is in fact part of this pot (the fabric is identical) then an early second century date may be attributed to this piece (*Verulamium*, 197 'poppy-beakers').
4. A cooking-pot of hard black paste, slightly gritty, showing red inside where broken.

Very similar surface appearance to types 2 and 8 (of type 266A etc. *Camulodunum*, pl. LXXXIII).

5. Hard-fired, brownish black slightly gritty ware, (see *Camulodunum*, pl. LXXXIII type 166B etc.).
6. A hard slaty-grey ware with slightly sandy surface, pot unlike type 3 in colour. Of the same basic type (*Camulodunum*, pl. LXXX-III).
7. A fine jar of buff, hard ware, slightly gritty but with very smooth surface texture.
8. Hard black paste as type 3. See *Verulamium*, 196 type 66 for similar ornament (A.D. 110-40) derived from a Belgic type.
9. Hard-fired sandy white 'bead and roll' type mortar, found at Silchester³ in an early context and paralleled at Shakenoak⁴ by type 172, dated c. 110-160 A.D. and *Verulamium* fig 31 no. 38 but both these are of orange-buff ware and *Camulodunum*, fig 53 no. 33 (type 192).
10. Fragment of a high-domed lid of coarse brown buff paste, very hard fired.

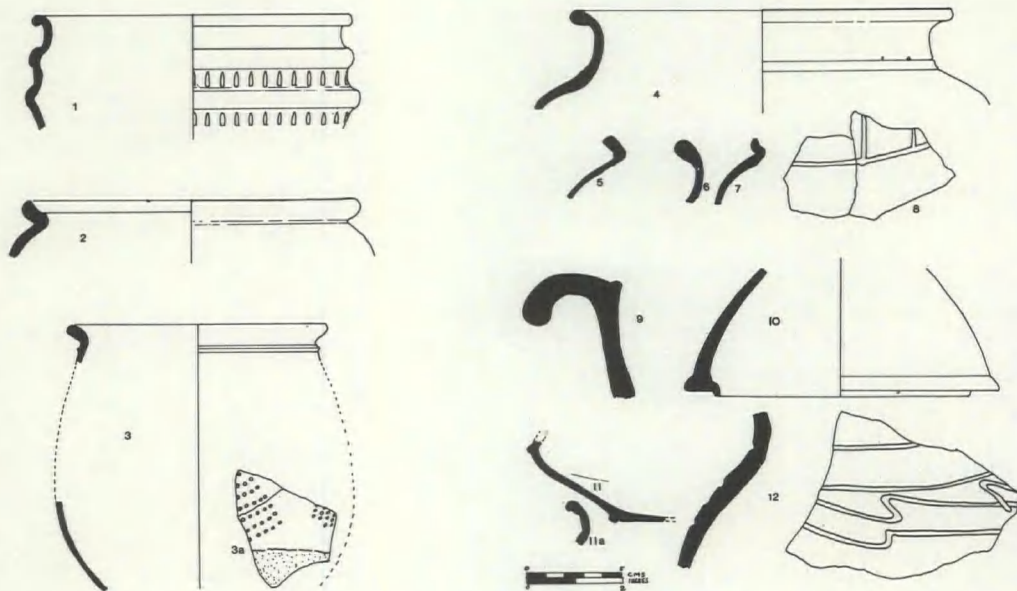


Fig 4 Pottery from Roman Ditch at Dunstable

11. A carinated bowl of hard black paste, not burnished, with a slight cordon on the carination and a turned foot-ring. 11A is a similar fabric but burnished below the rim. It is possible that these fragments are from the same vessel.
12. A fragment of a coarse heavy jar decorated with shallow wavy indentations. The fabric is coarse, red-buff and shell-gritted.

Samian Ware

Four vessels of samian ware were identified, three of which were represented by small rim fragments. These include one sherd each of

Dragendorf form 15/17 (platter)
 Dragendorf form 33 (conical cup)
 and one plain small bead rim.

The fourth vessel was represented by four

sherds forming part of the base of a Dragendorf form 37 bowl, of a type being made at Lezoux around A.D.100 by potters such as COCATUS and his contemporaries. The surface is a matt red and the vessel has been poorly finished.⁵

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Luton Museum wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of Dunstable Corporation in the recording of this site.

NOTES

- 1 C F C Hawkes and M R. Hull, *Camulodunum*, 1947, herein cited as *Camulodunum*.
- 2 R E M and T V Wheeler, *Verulamium, A Belgic and two Roman cities* 1936, herein cited as *Verulamium*.
- 3 T May, *The Roman Pottery at Silchester*, 1916.
- 4 A C Brodribb, A R Hands, D R Walker, *Excavations at Shakenoak II*, 1971.
- 5 J A Stanfield and G Simpson, *Central Gaulish Potters*, 1958, 11-12 and pl 167, 5 and 6.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Luton Museum for a grant towards the costs of this paper.

An Urn from Moggerhanger and Panel Style at Kempston

DAVID H. KENNETT

SUMMARY

The publication of an isolated find of an Anglo-Saxon cremation urn with triangular panel style ornament from Moggerhanger allows a discussion of the style at Kempston. These vessels form a late sixth century link between the Cambridge region and the Upper Thames, where both styles are prolific. Other items showing the same links are briefly reviewed.

An Anglo-Saxon cremation urn was found in the village of Moggerhanger in 1934 and subsequently it was presented to the Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School. It is now in the collections of Bedford Museum, to which the former museum's collections were transferred in 1959. The exact site where it was found is not known: Morris reports it was found at TL 13854905, which is some way to the south-west of the centre of the village. Apart from inclusion in two recent gazetteers of Anglo-Saxon finds from Bedfordshire and a passing mention by Myres, the vessel has received little attention and has not previously been illustrated.¹

The vessel (fig 1), described in detail below, is an example of the triangular panel style found in England north of the Thames and suggested by Myres² as belonging to the second half of the sixth century. These pots are prolific at sites like Illington, Norfolk; Lackford and West Stow Heath, both Suffolk; and Girtton, St Johns Cricket Field and Little Wilbraham, Cambs. East Shefford, Theale and Reading are all Berkshire sites where the style has been found as well as further north in the Thames Valley at Long Wittenham, Abingdon and Frilford. Scattered examples are found to the north of Bedfordshire at sites in Northamptonshire at Kettering, Brixworth, and Pitsford; and to the northwest in Warwickshire at Baginton, Stratford (Alveston) and Bidford-on-Avon.

Between these groups lies the Bedfordshire group which includes the Moggerhanger urn. There are

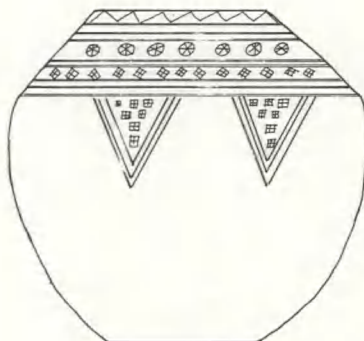


Fig. 1 Anglo Saxon urn from Moggerhanger.

also four examples of the type from among the finds at the Kempston cemetery. The latter are all illustrated and described herein (fig 2). Though the stamps used are different, the style of Kempston 28 is not dissimilar to that of the urn from Pitsford.³ The tiny pot from grave 16 of the 1912 excavations at East Shefford, Berks.,⁴ exhibits the same basic stylistic make-up of triangular panels divided from one another by a vertical element. On the Pitsford and East Shefford pots it is a row of stamps within grooves, while it is merely vertical grooves on the Kempston urn. Typologically earlier are pots such as those from St Johns⁵ and Baginton⁶ where the triangular panels fill the spaces between shoulder-bosses. More usually there is no vertical element as with Abingdon C47.⁷ The Moggerhanger urn and the three other vessels from Kempston (25, 26, 359) belong to a common group with no vertical element between the pendant triangles, which includes urns from Baginton,⁸ Little Wilbraham⁹ and West Stow Heath.¹⁰

A wide range of stamps appears on these urns. None is sufficiently idiosyncratic to be diagnostic of a potter working in Bedfordshire. The style was used by the Illington/Lackford potter in Cambrid-

shire, Suffolk and Norfolk.¹¹ One urn of this potter from Lackford contained the fused remains of a great square-headed brooch of Leeds' A3 class and a fragment of a silver bracelet.¹² Both of these are unlikely to date to before the middle years of the sixth century and more probably belong to the second half of that century.¹³ Another associated find in an urn with triangular panel style ornament comes from Baginton where an eleven coil spiral saucer brooch twisted by the fire was found as an inclusion.⁸ Again a late sixth century date is probable.

occurs on two other Northamptonshire pots, one from Barton Seagrave and the other a sherd from Islip. These have a triangular arrangement of 'wine glass' stamps with the lowest one set slightly off-centre.¹⁷

Other links of the second half of the sixth century may be discerned at Kempston and in other Bedfordshire cemeteries which connect the Upper Thames and the Cambridge region. Perhaps the most noticeable of these is the 'Kempston type' of applied saucer brooch, recently discussed and listed elsewhere.¹⁸ Other links south-westwards at

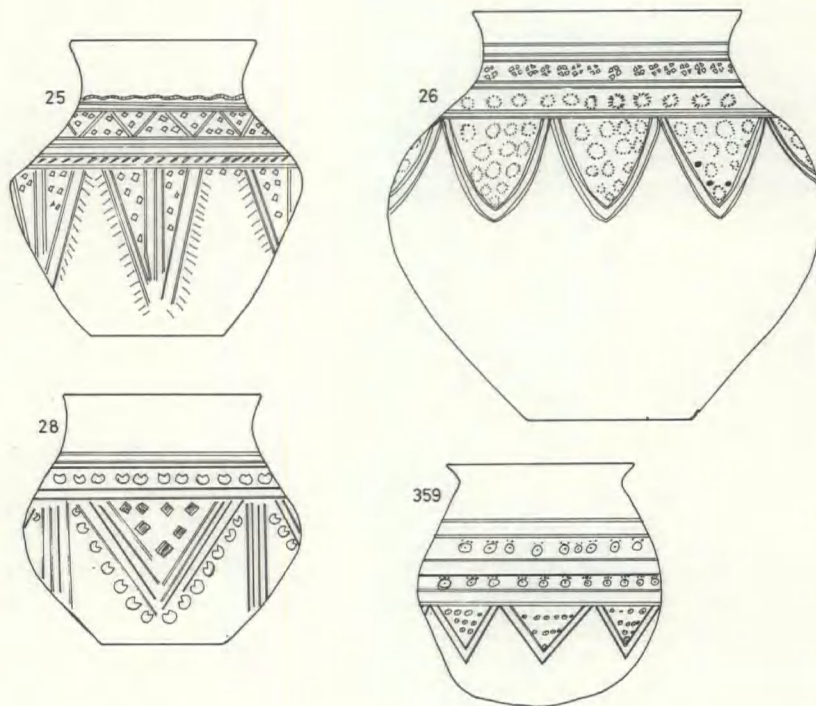


Fig. 2 Urns with triangular panel style from Kempston.
Numbers refer to corpus of Kennett, *Kempston*.

These five pots from the Ouse valley form an important link between the Cambridgeshire/Suffolk group and the examples in the Thames valley. Three others from Dunstable, Beds.,¹⁴ Kingsey, Bucks.,¹⁵ and Brixworth, Northants., (fig 3) are stylistically linked and provide further spots on the map in the area. The first named, known only from a Roach Smith illustration, and the two others have similar ring stamps and are further linked by the trick of placing an impression of it at the lowest point of the triangular panels.¹⁶ A similar trick

Kempston include the use of a six-faces design to an applied saucer brooch plate,¹⁹ and saucer brooches with face centres. The pair from Kempston grave 37 (grave of 7 November 1863)²⁰ have very close links in their facial design with brooches from Long Wittenham, Berks.,²¹ and Brightampton grave 49²² and Broughton Poggs,²³ both Oxon. The Kempston pair have hatched borders and this feature is found on saucer brooches from East Shefford, Berks.,²⁴ and Bidford-on-Avon, Warks.²⁵ The same style of a hatched border is found also on

the great square-headed brooch with a triangular foot found at Haslingfield.²⁶ The last named has several points of contact with the great square-headed brooch with a triangular foot from Kempston.²⁷ Both are examples of the square-headed variety of florid East Midland brooches, whose other examples link Cambridgeshire with Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire.²⁸ One further link found at Kempston may be discerned in the connections of the Cambridge region and the Upper Thames valley. This is the use of silver-headed rivets on shield bosses. Apart from two each at Kempston²⁹ and the small Newport Pagnell cemetery,³⁰ examples may be cited from Haslingfield, Little Wilbraham and Barrington,³¹ all in Cambridgeshire, and from Frilford, Fairford and Wheatley³² in the Upper Thames valley.

The only other large cemetery from Bedfordshire with late sixth century material is that from Argyle Avenue, Luton. The great square-headed brooch of Leeds' B6 class found in grave 41³⁴ find ready parallels at Abingdon³⁵ and Fairford³⁶ to the south-west and Haslingfield³⁷ and Market Overton³⁸ to the north-east. A brooch from 'Oxfordshire' and a pair from Market Overton³⁹ are parallels to the saucer brooches of Luton grave 41,⁴⁰ which have a local parallel at Sheffield.⁴¹ The various sub-types of the weak five-pointed star occur over a wide area, but include one from Luton and others from sites in the Upper Thames valley and the Cambridge region.⁴²

The Luton and Kempston brooches have connections which underline the importance of Bedfordshire to students of Anglo-Saxon archaeology. This is reinforced by ceramic evidence, particularly the triangular panel style urns found at Moggerhanger, Kempston and Dunstable, which are a link between Mid Anglia and the Upper Thames in the late sixth century. They are also an indication of the uncharted, and therefore neglected riches, of the archaeology of Anglo-Saxon Bedfordshire.⁴³

DESCRIPTIONS OF POTTERY FIGURED

Fig 1

1 Moggerhanger

Globular urn, lacking rim, neck and much of one side, of a black gritty ware, reconstructed to give a complete profile and body of vessel to base of the neck. Very strong shoulder with decoration profuse above: chevrons at base of neck, above grooves surmounting a row of six-spoked wheel

stamps; below this are two grooves and a row of small quadripartite stamps. From three grooves on the shoulder hang four extant pendant triangles from probably six originally. These triple scored triangles enclose an arrangement of seven small quadripartite stamps.

Museum Bedford Museum, accession number 3734.
Literature: Not previously illustrated; cited Morris, 1962, 69; Meaney, 1964, 39; Myres, 1969, 117. Myres, *Corpus*, no 388.

Fig 2

25 Kempston, 25

Shouldered urn, almost complete, with chip from neck and rim restored, of a harsh black ware. Profusely decorated from the neck downwards. A line of roller stamping in discontinuous waves at the base of the neck, above grooves enclosing a series of continuous pendant triangles with three small square stamps above and four small square stamps below. Row of diagonal stabblings in the lowest pair of grooves. On and below the shoulder six pendant triangles, double scored, with external stabblings, enclosing three perpendicular grooves and sets of small square stamps in random fashion. Up to three small square stamps between each triangle. Flat base. Height 158mm; rim diameter 89mm; base diameter 70mm.

Museum British Museum, register number 1891, 6-24, 25.

Literature: Fitch, 1864, pl 6 top right; Fitch, 1868 pl 44 top right; Kennett, *Kempston*, object 25; Myres, *Corpus*, no 1980.

26 Kempston 26

Globular urn, of black ware fired light brown to buff in places, with ornament confined to above the greatest diameter. Grooves on neck above row of quatrefoil stamps and below further grooves row of sun-ray stamps. Two grooves above group of pendant triangles enclose by two curving lines and filled with sun-ray stamps. Lower part plain.

Height 218mm; rim diameter 140mm.

Museum British Museum, register number 1891, 6-24, 26.

Literature Fitch, 1864, pl 4 third row left; Fitch, 1868, pl 42 third row left; Kennett, *Kempston*, object 26; Myres, *Corpus*, no 1982.

28 Kempston 28, grave 126, found 3 April 1864

Small globular urn, complete of harsh surfaced

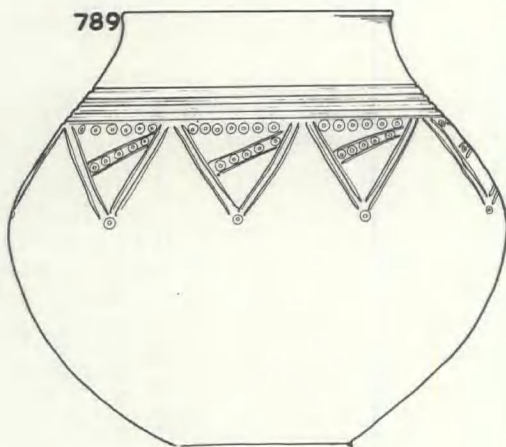
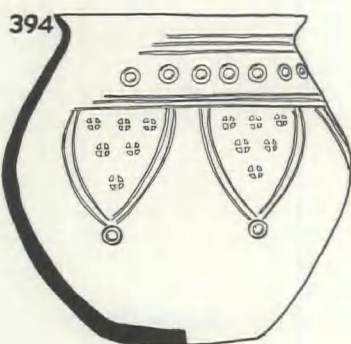
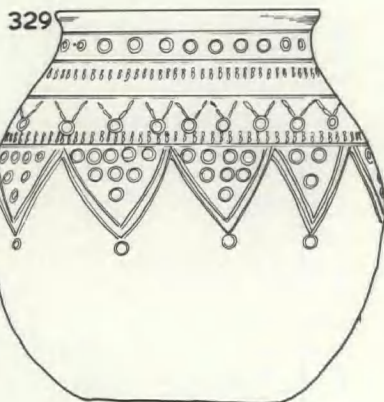


Fig. 3 Urns from Dunstable (329), Kingsey (394) and Brixworth (789). Numbers refer to Myres, *Corpus*. Figure drawn by Dr J.N.L. Myres.

ware, fired light brown sandy colour, profusely decorated. Three wide encircling grooves at base of neck above row of crescent-shaped stamps and two further encircling grooves. Above and across shoulder of pot are four pendant triangles of four lines enclosing groups of diamond matt stamps: seven in two triangles and one each with four and six. The triangles are edged with crescent-shaped stamps and divided by blocks of four vertical grooves. Flat base.

Height 133mm; rim diameter 104mm.

Museum British Museum, register number 1891, 6-24, 28.

Literature Fitch, 1864, 298, pl 5 centre. Fitch, 1868, 216, pl 5 centre; Kennett, *Kempston*, object 28; Myres, *Corpus*, no 1971.

359 Kempston 359

Small ovoid pot, red brown, light brown and black surfaces. Grooves at base of neck and above shoulder enclose rows of stamps between second and third rows and between fifth and sixth rows. These stamps are dot-in-circle with two dots above. Six pendant triangles below shoulder filled with dot-in-circle stamps. Round base.

Height 131mm; rim diameter 98mm.

Museum Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, accession number, 1909, 515.

Literature Previously unpublished; Kennett, *Kempston*, object 359; Myres, *Corpus*, 2074.

Fig 3

329 Dunstable

Small urn, profusely decorated with neck grooves enclosing row of circle stamps and row of stamps like a squashed letter 'B', above a row of stamps made up of both stamps to form a rough face with the letter 'B' stamps as elongated ears and a row of letter 'B' stamps below. Below a single groove are pendant triangles filled with circle stamps and having a circle stamp at the point of the triangle.

Museum: not known to me, was once in the library of Clare Hall, Cambridge, but has not been traced in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge.

Literature: *Collectanea Antiqua*, 2, 1862, 233 and pl 54.2; Myres, *Corpus*, no 329.

394 Kingsey, Oxfordshire

Small jar, with row of circle stamps inside neck grooves and pendant triangles with curving sides

on shoulder. These are filled with quadripartite stamps and terminate in a circle stamp.

Museum: not known to me; Dr J N L Myres kindly supplied information on this vessel.

Literature: Myres, *Corpus*, no 394.

789 Brixworth, Northamptonshire

Small urn, with five neck grooves and a row of pendant triangles below, with a row of dot-in-circle stamps below the horizontal grooves and another placed diagonally inside a pair of grooves. The triangles terminate in a dot-in-circle stamp.

Museum: Northampton Museum.

Literature: Myres, *Corpus*, no 789.

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NOTES

- 1 See literature at end of description of the urn.
- 2 Myres, 1969, 115-119 with map 9; and 204 with fig 29, also pl 6, gives a fuller survey.
- 3 D H Kennett, 'Anglo-Saxon Northamptonshire: some minor sites', *J Northampton Mus* 6, 1969, 48, with fig 1.5.
- 4 H Peake and E A Hooton, 'Saxon Graveyard at East Shefford, Berks.', *J R Anth* 1 45, 1916, 116 and pl 3 top right.
- 5 Myres, 1969, 204 and fig 29, 288 and 290.
- 6 Myres, 1969, 204 and fig 29, 2452.
- 7 E T Leeds and D B Harden, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon, Berkshire*, 1936, 19 and fig 4. C47 and pl 1.47.
- 8 Myres, 1969, 204 and fig 29, 371a.
- 9 Myres, 1969, 242 and fig 48, 2625.

- 10 Myres, 1969, 242 and fig 48, 2060.
- 11 Myres, 1969, 132-136 with map 10, and 242 with fig 48.
- 12 T C Lethbridge, *A Cemetery at Lackford, Suffolk*, 1951, fig 17, 50. 178B.
- 13 For a discussion of silver bracelets see *Med Arch* 14, 1970, 27-28.
- 14 C Roach Smith, *Collectanea Antiqua* 2, 1862, 233 and pl 54.2. It has been reported that this pot is in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge (Morris, 1962, 65) but an extensive search failed to find it. Myres, *Corpus*, no 394.
- 15 Myres, *Corpus*, no 394.
- 16 I owe this point to Dr Myres.
- 17 D H Kennett, 'An Anglo-Saxon Potter from Northamptonshire', *J Northampton Mus* 6, 1969, 37-41. This is seen most clearly in the published photographs of these pots: *ibid* photograph on 39 for Islip and Myres, 1969, pl 6 c for Barton Sea-grave.
- 18 D H Kennett, 'Applied Brooches of the Kempston Type at St Johns, Cambridge' *P Camb Ant Soc* 63, 1971, 27-29.
- 19 British Museum, register numbers 1891, 6-24, 254/255; Kennett, *Kempston*, objects 254 and 255.
- 20 British Museum, register numbers 1891, 6-24, 243/244; Fitch, 1864, 288 and pl 2, 6; Fitch, 1868, 205 and pl 40, 6; Kennett, *Kempston*, objects 243/244.
- 21 *Archaeologia* 38, 1860, 338 and pl 19.1.
- 22 *Archaeologia* 38, 1860, 89 and pl 3.7.
- 23 Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, accession number 1909, 489.
- 24 British Museum, register number, 1893, 7-16, 45.
- 25 *Archaeologia* 63, 1912, pl 25.8.
- 26 E T Leeds, *A Corpus of Early Anglo-Saxon Great-square-headed Brooches*, 1949, number 139.
- 27 *ibid*, number 141: Kennett, *Kempston*, object 360
- 28 For these see Kennett, *Kempston*; E T Leeds, in *Med Arch* 15, 1971, forthcoming; and D H Kennett 'A Fragmentary Florid Cruciform Brooch from Brixworth' *J Northampton Mus* forthcoming and Anglo-Saxon Finds made at Brooke, Norfolk, 1867-1869', *P Camb Ant Soc* forthcoming.
- 29 British Museum, register numbers 1891, 6-24, 60/65; Kennett, *Kempston*, objects 60 and 65, see D H Kennett, 'A decorated shield from Kempston', *Beds Arch J* forthcoming.
- 30 Aylesbury Museum, unpublished.
- 31 All in Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge.
- 32 Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, accession numbers, 1886, 1434; 1961. 7/81; 1883.4.
- 33 W Austin *et al*, 'A Saxon cemetery at Luton', *Ant J* 8, 1928, 177-192.
- 34 *ibid* 182 and pl 29; the grave list does not give the grave recorded in summary fashion, loc cit. E T Leeds, *A Corpus of Early Anglo-Saxon Great square-headed Brooches*, 1949, number 95.
- 35 *ibid*, number 99.
- 36 *ibid*, number 97.
- 37 *ibid*, number 98.
- 38 *ibid*, number 96.
- 39 E T Leeds, 'The early Saxon Penetration of the Upper Thames Area', *Ant J* 13, 1933, 243.

- 40 *Ant J* 8, 1928, pl 27, 1, 1-2 (this is printed as a reversed negative).
- 41 *Beds Magazine* 12, 1969-71, photograph on 203.
- 42 Leeds, *loc cit* n39, which also gives details of other contacts of Mid Anglia and the Upper Thames which have no Bedfordshire intermediary.

- 43 Mr F W Kuhlicke provided access to the Moggerhanger urn in Bedford Museum and granted permission to publish it. At the British Museum, Mrs L E Webster facilitated my examination of the pots from Kempston. Dr J N L Myres kindly read this note in draft form and provided a concordance to his *Corpus*. To all I tender my grateful thanks.

Seventh Century Finds from Astwick

DAVID H. KENNETT

SUMMARY

A resume of the seventh century finds from Astwick, recorded briefly by Ransom, but not previously given a modern consideration. The principal finds are four spearheads, a sugar-loaf shieldboss, a sword, and a lancehead. Appendix 1 considers a seventh century pot from Clifton.

INTRODUCTION

William Ransom of Hitchin collected many archaeological materials on his extensive travels, both in Britain and on the continent. His collections are now in the British Museum, Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities and Department of Prehistory and Roman Britain,¹ and the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge.² These collections have long provided a quarry for students in many fields of archaeological research, but in general they are poorly published. Contemporary publication is almost non-existent, and where the items were published in the nineteenth century they reflect the standards of a nineteenth century dilettante. A case in point is the contemporary account of these seventh century finds from Astwick, sandwiched in a comparatively short paper between an account of a find of samian ware at Astwick and an equally terse note of a hoard of bronze axes from Cumberlow Green. The latter is then followed by a piece on the discovery of a Roman cremation cemetery at Great Wymondley, Herts.³

This brief conspectus of some of the contents of William Ransom's paper, 'An account of British and Roman remains found in the neighbourhood of Hitchin', read to the Hertfordshire Natural History Society at Hertford on 18 March 1886, serves to illustrate the wide range of this dilettante's cabinet. Beyond material already mentioned one can cite other objects of the Anglo-Saxon period: a great square-headed brooch from Kempston found in 1884⁴ and finds from a cemetery at Ashwell,

Herts.⁵ Roman finds are particularly well represented and an extremely representative collection of Roman glass from sites in France, now in the Cambridge Museum, deserves fuller study than it has hitherto received. Two items in the British Museum of note are a large collection of palaeoliths from a number of localities and a collection of medieval pottery from London.

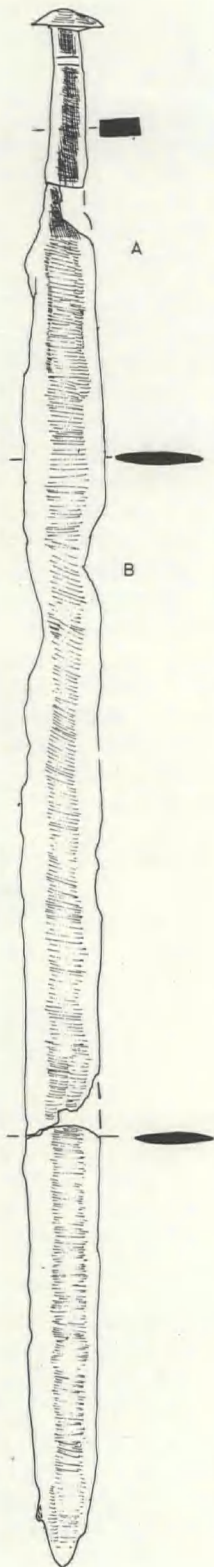
THE ASTWICK FINDS

Anglo-Saxon material is comparatively poorly represented in the finds collected by Ransom. The principal items in Cambridge have already been mentioned and there is only one group of note in the British Museum. This is the group of seventh century finds from Astwick which is the subject of this paper.

Ransom recorded little in 1886⁶ beyond their existence and a note of the discovery at the same time (apparently) of a group of ten fine samian bowls.

Three or four miles eastward, near Astwick, in digging for coprolites, a large number of human skeletons were disinterred, and near these were ten Samian vessels, all quite perfect, with the potters' names distinctly legible on most of them. A sword and a number of spear-heads, with divided haft, indicative of Saxon workmanship as distinguished from the usually welded haft of the Roman weapons, were also found. One of these is of a very unusual type. There was also a boss of a shield, which was in fragments, but, when cleaned, the pieces were easily put together.

This unhelpful account is supplemented by a plate showing the principal items found, and the descriptions which follow give a concordance of that plate.⁶ The account does not even give the date of discovery and no details whatsoever are included of associations and grave positions. It is not even clear what the exact relationship between the large number of skeletons, the ten samian bowls and the Anglo-Saxon finds are.



The finds, it has been suggested, were made at about TL 216385.⁷

From the Anglo-Saxon finds it is possible to locate in the British Museum the sword, four spearheads, a lancehead, two knives, a stud, a fragment from the shieldboss and three bent iron rods.

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS

The Astwick finds are in the British Museum, Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, register number 1915, 12-8, 353-365. Ransom illustrated most of the finds, *Trans Herts Nat Hist Soc* 4, 1886, pl 2, to which a concordance is given.

- 1 Sword, iron, in fair state of preservation, though edge is severely damaged in part, now in six pieces. Hilt extant with considerable traces of wood. Pommel at end of hilt, iron, and cast with the sword. Length overall 838mm. Length of blade 730mm. Width of blade 44mm maximum, 37mm minimum. X-Ray shows blade has pattern-welding of a mixed type (at 'A' and 'B'). No pattern-welding on pommel. (Ransom fig 1; British Museum, 1919, 12-8, 353).
- 2 Spearhead, iron, short blade, length 168mm, blade 104mm, width 22mm, retains some wood in the socket. (Ransom fig 2; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 354; on loan to National Museum of Wales, Cardiff).
- 3 Spearhead, iron, broad blade, broken socket, length extant 245mm, blade 180mm, width 43mm. (Ransom fig 3; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 355).
- 4 Spearhead, iron, broad flat blade, closed socket, length 337mm, blade 205mm, width 65mm. (Ransom fig 4; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 356).
- 5 Spearhead, iron, socket broken at end and edges of blade damaged, length extant 290mm blade 206mm, width 40mm. (Ransom fig 5; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 357).
- 6 Knife, iron, length 176mm. (Ransom fig 6; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 358).
- 7 Lancehead, iron, long socket, split at end with small, very narrow blade. Length extant 288mm, blade 80mm, width 25mm. Comparison with Ransom's figure suggests that the

Fig 1 (left) Sword from Astwick. Pattern welding is visible on an X-ray photograph at 'A' and 'B' but definition is too indistinct for it to be shown diagrammatically. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

blade was rather longer and ended in a much sharper point. About 40mm appears to have been lost. (Ransom fig 7; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 359).

- 8 Knife, iron, length 185mm. (Ransom fig 8; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 360).
- 9 Rod, iron, curved at one end, length 135mm, (Ransom fig 9; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 361).
- 10 Disc with rivet beneath, iron, diameter 38mm. (Ransom fig 11; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 362).
- 11 Rod, iron, length 260mm. (Not illustrated by Ransom; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 363).
- 12 Rod, iron, length 221mm. (Not illustrated by Ransom; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 364).
- 13 Shield boss, reported as found in fragments, of which five co-joined have been traced (lacking a British Museum number). From their shape and its resemblance to Ransom's illustration and that of Miss Evison may be safely assumed to be the Astwick boss. Approximate diameter 140mm, height extant 111mm. Straight-sided, conical boss, lacking a carination and with a narrow rim. One rivet extant on the rim. (Ransom fig 10; Evison, 1963, fig 22 a-c; British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 365).
- 14 Shield grip, presumably iron. (Ransom fig 12; Evison, 1963, fig 22 c; not accessioned by the British Museum).

Three possible finds from Astwick, are illustrated:

- a Spearhead, length 420mm, blade 260mm, width 22mm. (British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 350).
- b Spearhead, broken at socket, length extant 258mm, blade 160mm, width 27mm. (British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 351).
- c Spearhead, iron, length 180mm, blade 95mm, width 24mm, wood in socket. (British Museum, 1915, 12-8, 352).

DISCUSSION

The material from the Astwick cemetery is meagre but the range of finds includes several objects diagnostic of seventh century cemeteries in the south-east Midlands. Particular attention may be paid to close relationships with other cemeteries in Bedfordshire and with cemeteries in Hertford-

shire and Cambridgeshire, where several of the objects may be easily paralleled.

Sword

The Astwick sword (1) is a short sword, requiring only one hand to wield it. Many Anglo-Saxon swords are large, two-handed swords, as for example the most notable of the Kempston swords, that from grave 75 (found 2 February 1864), a late sixth century sword with a 'Linton Heath type' scabbard mount.⁸ A much closer comparison to the Astwick sword is that from grave 3 at Harrold,⁹ and a fragment from Kempston is only 32mm wide.¹⁰ The presence of seventh century finds at Kempston is well-known and the associations of the Harrold sword place it late in the Anglo-Saxon graves with accoutrements. It may prove on more intensive examination that the short sword, single handed and with a narrow blade is a characteristic seventh century type. As yet insufficient work has been done to prove this.

Spearheads

Four spearheads are extant from Astwick (2-5) and these present a perplexing mixture of types. One (2) is a type found in contexts of widely differing dates, but the three others seem all to be variants of what is probably a seventh century type. The spearhead with the broad flat blade has been found locally at Melbourn, Cambs., grave 12,¹¹ associated with a sugar-loaf shield-boss, and elsewhere in Bedfordshire. That from Biscot Mill has no associations,¹² but one from grave B 11 at Marina Drive, Totternhoe, had an iron knife with it.¹³ This grave, however, was found by workmen and not in the course of excavation. On one from Harrold grave 3⁹ were short chevron grooves either side of the join of blade and socket. Though larger than any other cited weapon, this does have very late associations.

Lancehead

The lancehead (7) is an unusual object, difficult to parallel in English material. It is, however, common in Germany. A group of lanceheads at Krefeld-Gellep, graves 258,¹⁴ 759¹⁵ and 947,¹⁶ can be compared with examples from Eisenach grave 07/10¹⁷ and Rittersdorf graves 102¹⁸ and 142.¹⁹ These have been dated to the late fifth or early sixth century, but this dating may well not be applicable to England. Even in Germany some

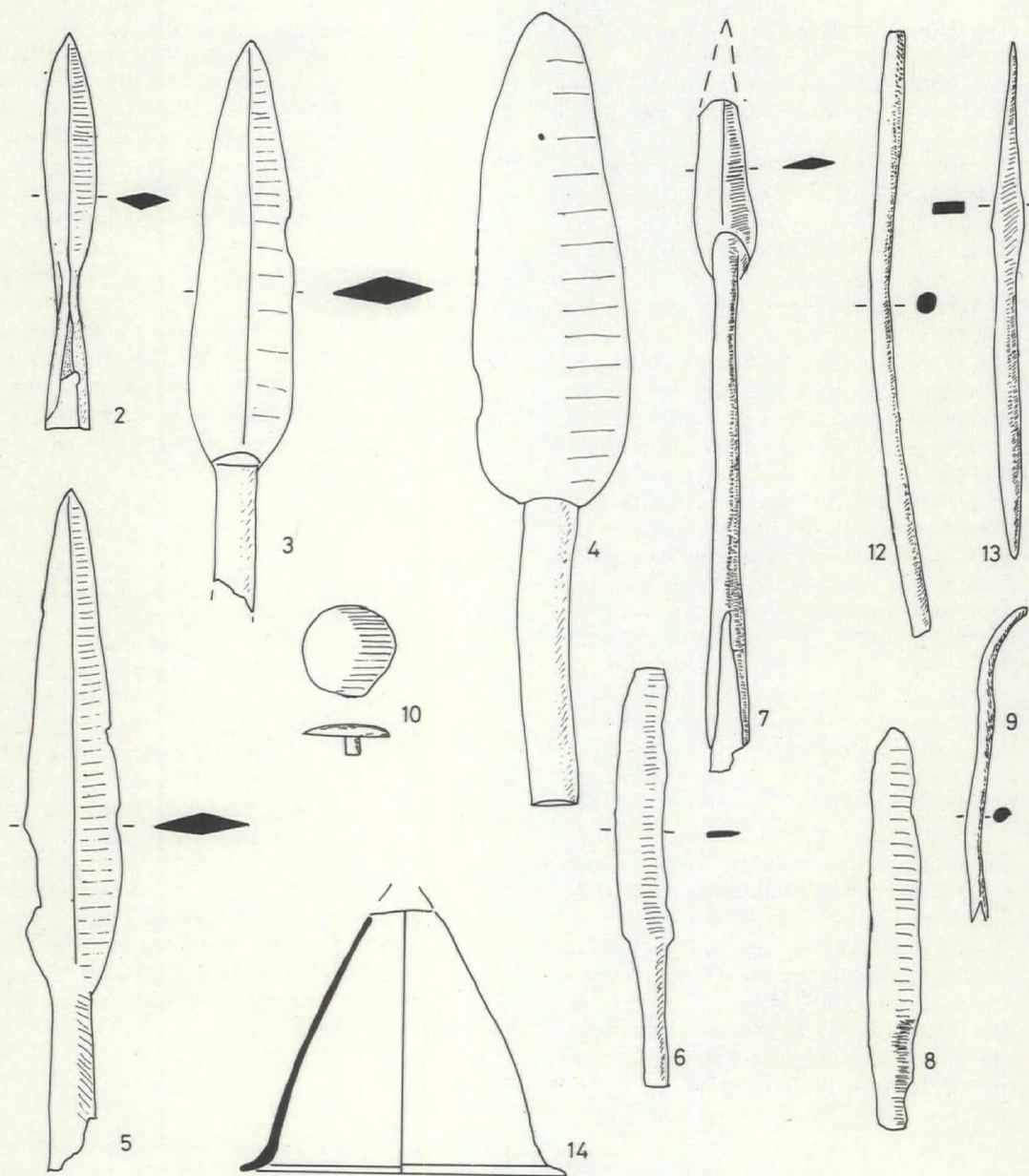


Fig. 2 Metal work from Astwick.

examples are given late sixth century dates and many ideas whose German origins are late in the fifth century do not reach England until some later date. The complexities of the inter-relationships of the English and German shores of the North Sea in the later *Volkwanderungszeit* have yet to be examined in full. A more close examination of both English and continental material may yet prove that the lancehead is an accredited component of the seventh century weapon complex in England, but that its origins in the Rhineland are earlier.

Shieldboss

Miss Evison first drew attention to the sugar-loaf shieldboss (13) in her 1963 survey.²⁰ This fairly simple cone, with straight sides is comparable to a boss from grave 6 at Portsdown, Hants.²¹ The disc (10) has been suggested as a disc on top of the boss. Several bosses do have a button top: lost examples from Breach Down, Kent,²² and that found in grave 12 at Melbourn, Cambs.²³ However, it is argued below that the disc at Astwick was more probably a shield ornament. The lack of a carination on a sugar-loaf shieldboss is unusual. Sugar loaf shieldbosses since Miss Evison's survey have long been recognised as characteristic of the seventh century.

Disc

Ransom, and following him, Miss Evison, illustrated the disc (10) a button top to the shield boss. However, its size, diameter 38mm, suggests an alternative explanation of its function. Among the material from Kempston is an iron disc, diameter 35mm,²⁴ with a rivet on the underside. Comparison of the two pieces suggests that the interpretation of the Kempston piece, as a disc on the face of a shield, would be equally applicable to the Astwick disc. Shield ornaments are found in a number of sizes and a variety of shapes.²⁵ A circular disc, usually but not always, capped with silver, with a diameter of 35-40mm, is probably the most common form.²⁶ The Kempston piece quoted is part of the rich 'fish badge grave', grave 52 (grave found 11 December 1863).²⁷ Associated in this grave are a sharply carinated shieldboss, with a high angled rim, now only partly extant.²⁸ The rivets on the shieldboss rim were capped with silver, and there is a silver-capped disc which fits the wide button top of the boss exactly.²⁹ The shield had a bronze binding³⁰ and silver rivets on the face.³¹ The fish-badge and three rivets, all of tinned bronze,

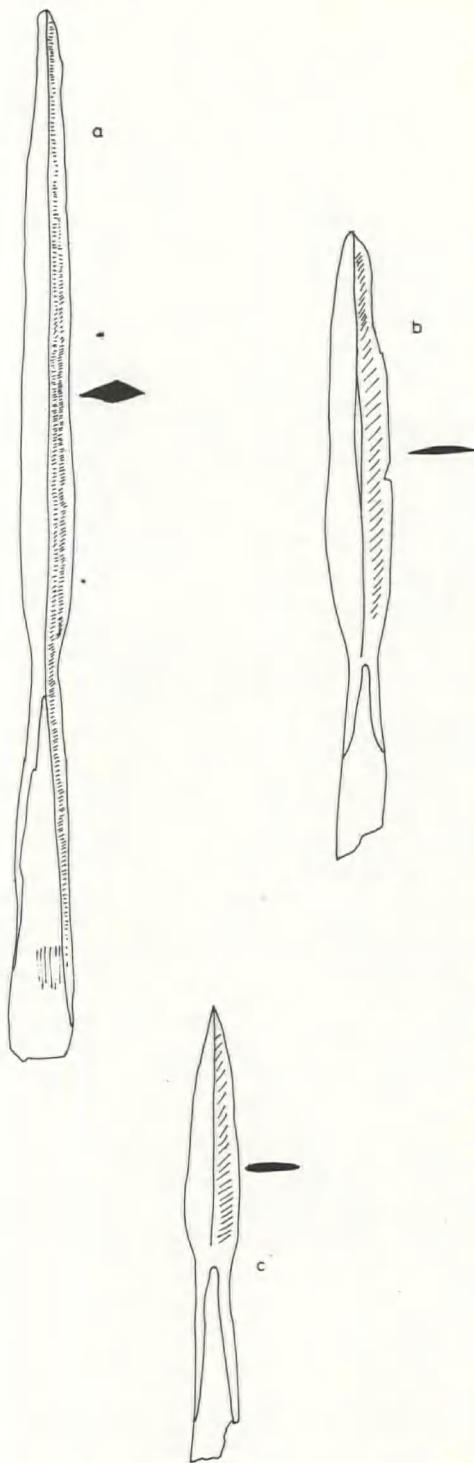


Fig. 3 Spearheads, perhaps from Astwick.

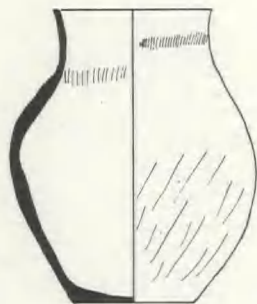


Fig. 4 Pot from Clifton

complete the known accoutrements of the shield.³² Kempston grave 52 is probably late sixth century, but in England silver rivet heads on shieldboss rims are also found well into the seventh century, as with the Holdborough type boss found in grave 151 (grave recorded 20 December 1864) associated with a circular bronze pouch mount.³³ There is no reason why a poorer shield of the seventh century should not have an iron disc on the face.

The Astwick Cemetery

The discussions have emphasised that the main body of finds from Astwick are seventh century in character. The sugar-loaf shieldboss and the spearhead with the broad blade are both well-attested members of the seventh century corpus of Anglo-Saxon material. Further research may prove that the same is equally true of the angon and the short, single-handed sword. A shield disc of iron, probably one of several on the shield face, is not out of place in such a cemetery.

The size of the cemetery was probably small. The known metalwork suggests five graves were accompanied by weapons. It is rare to find graves with two spearheads and it seems logical to suppose that in the poorly-recorded circumstances of the Astwick finds the number of spearheads is equivalent to the number of male graves with weapons. Certainly this would represent the maximum. If the three possible spearheads are included the number rises to eight.

Ransom specifically records:³⁴

a large number of human skeletons.

In these circumstances and knowing, as we do, that many Anglo-Saxon burials are unaccompanied by any accoutrements or at best have only a knife, it seems logical to suppose that the number of burials at Astwick was much larger. It is difficult to raise arguments of size from one cemetery at another,

but the local proportions of accompanied to unaccompanied graves would suggest that twenty or more was a probable number of burials at Astwick.

At Biscot Mill, Luton, some eleven burials have been found over the years.³⁵ Of these three had grave goods. At Blackhorse Road, Letchworth, four burials out of the ten had grave goods.³⁶ Marina Drive³⁷ had a higher proportion of accompanied graves, but many of the thirty two burials with grave goods had only a knife, and seventeen more were unaccompanied. A high figure of accompanied burials is to be found at Melbourn, Cambs.,³⁸ but many of these had only a knife. Similarly at Shudy Camps, where 148 burials were found, seventy seven had grave goods, mostly only a knife.³⁹

However, at Astwick, there are only two knives extant, and it is quite probable that there were several not salvaged. Direct comparisons, difficult at most times, are thereby rendered almost impossible. One can, though, appreciate that a large number of Anglo-Saxon burials of all dates, but particularly of the seventh century, have at best a knife and are often unaccompanied. In such circumstances a find of five (or eight) spearheads, a shieldboss and a sword could well represent a much larger number of burials.

APPENDIX I

A seventh century pot from Clifton (fig 4)

This vessel, in the Ransom collection of the British Museum, Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, is illustrated here for the first time. The vessel was found by Ransom at either Clifton or Henlow, which is not certain. It is a jar of grey ware, with a flared neck above a gentle shoulder to a bulbous body. Height 158mm, rim diameter 84mm. (British Museum, register number 1915, 12-8, 207).

This is a typical seventh century vessel with several local parallels. Bedford Museum has four from Kempston.⁴⁰ There is one from Biscot Mill, Luton,⁴¹ and the shape is that of the decorated vessels from Chamberlains Barn grave 18⁴² and Marina Drive grave G2.⁴³

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My grateful thanks are due to the Trustees of the British Museum for permission to publish these objects in their collections. I am grateful also to the staff of the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities for their assistance, in particular to

Mrs L. E. Webster, Assistant Keeper in charge of Anglo-Saxon antiquities, for many courtesies in relation to this paper; I am especially obliged for the X-ray of the sword. Mr John Lewis was kind enough to allow me access to the exhibitions at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

NOTES

- 1 These two collections are accessioned under the numbers, 1915, 12-8, 1-365.
- 2 This collection was received in 1923, and is the bulk of the 1923 accessions of the museum.
- 3 W Ransom, 'An Account of British and Roman Remains found in the neighbourhood of Hitchin', *T Herts N H S* 4, 1886, 39-48: hereafter cited as Ransom.
- 4 E T Leeds, *A Corpus of Early Anglo-Saxon Great Squareheaded Brooches*, 1949, no 141; D H Kennett 'The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Kempston, Bedfordshire' (1968, unpublished, available in Dept. Medieval and Later Antiquities, the British Museum) object 360, with full discussion. (The latter work is hereafter cited as Kennett, *Kempston*).
- 5 Principally, a pair of 'Kempston type' applied saucer brooches (*P Camb A S* 63, 1971, 27-29) and a shield mount in the form of a goose (see n.26 below).
- 6 Ransom, 40, and pl 2.
- 7 A L Meaney, *A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites*, 1964, 35. The site is omitted by Morris, *Beds Arch J* 1, 1962, 58-76.
- 8 Kennett, *Kempston*, object 75, British Museum, register number, 1891, 6-24, 75. For a discussion of the scabbard mount type see D H Kennett, 'Graves with swords at Little Wilbraham and Linton Heath', *P Camb A S* 63, 1971, 9-26, esp 13-15 and 24-25.
- 9 BN Eagles and V I Evison, 'Excavations at Harrold' *Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 39 and 42-44, with fig 12.
- 10 British Museum, register number 1891, 6-24, 80; Kennett, *Kempston*, object 80.
- 11 D M Wilson, 'The Initial Excavation of an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Melbourn', *P Camb A S* 49, 1955, 35 and fig 3.
- 12 R K Hagen, 'Anglo-Saxon Burials in the vicinity of Biscot Mill, Luton', *Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 23 and fig 2.
- 13 C L Matthews, 'The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Marina Drive', *Beds Arch J* 1, 1962, 29 and fig 2.3.
- 14 R Pirling, *Das Römisch-Frankische Graberfeld von Krefeld-Gellep*, 1966, 40, taf 23.15.
- 15 Pirling, 1966, 99, taf 70, 1, associated finds taf 70.2-6.
- 16 Pirling, 1966, 113, taf 78.1, associated francisca, taf 78.2.
- 17 K Bohner, *Die Frankischen Altertüer des Trierer Landes*, 1958, 146-160, Lanzenspitzen, with taf 28.7, also band 2, 33.
- 18 Bohner, 1958, band 2, 128, taf 28.2.
- 19 Bohner, 1958, band 2, 131, taf 28.9.
- 20 V I Evison, 'Sugar-loaf Shieldbosses', *Ant J* 43, 1963, 43 and fig 22.a-c (with 38-96 *passim* for a general discussion of the type).
- 21 Evison, 1963, 44, and fig 22.d.
- 22 Evison, 1963, 44, fig 23.g.
- 23 Evison, 1963, 42-43 and fig 17.d-h.
- 24 British Museum, register number 1891, 6-24, 71; Kennett, *Kempston*, object 71.
- 25 Several shield ornaments are illustrated in the figures to Evison, 1963.
- 26 In connection with the forthcoming paper on the Kempston 'fish-badger grave', the present author is collecting a corpus of shield fittings. It is expected that the main types of shield fittings will be illustrated therein.
- 27 S E Fitch, 'Discovery of Saxon Remains at Kempston', *A A S R*, 7, 1863-64, 290, reprinted in *Collectanea Antiqua* 6, 1868, 207-208; see also J Wyatt, *ibid* 169. The complexities of this grave are discussed in Kennett, *Kempston*, hence n.26 above.
- 28 British Museum, register number, 1891, 6-24, 60, Kennett, *Kempston*, object 60.
- 29 British Museum, register number, 1891, 6-24, 70, Kennett, *Kempston*, object 70.
- 30 British Museum, register number, 1891, 6-24, 182/183/185; Kennett, *Kempston*, objects 182, 183, 185. One of these is from grave 38 (grave of 11 November 1863), which is not yet certain.
- 31 British Museum, register number, 1891, 6-24, 72/73/74; Kennett, *Kempston*, objects 72, 73, 74.
- 32 British Museum, register number, 1891, 6-24, 296-299, Kennett, *Kempston*, objects 296-299.
- 33 Fitch, 1864, 299; British Museum, register number 1891, 6-24, 65 (shieldboss) and 197 (pouch mount).
- 34 Ransom, 40.
- 35 Hagen, 1971, 23-26.
- 36 J Moss-Eccardt, 'An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Blackhorse Road, Letchworth', *Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 27-32.
- 37 Matthews, 1962.
- 38 Wilson, 1955.
- 39 T C Lethbridge, *Shudy Camps Cambridgeshire*. Bedford Museum, accession numbers, 3775, 3776, 3779 and BM 96; respectively Kennett, *Kempston*, objects 375, 376, 379, 453.
- 40 Hagen, 1971, 24 and fig 3.3.
- 41 M Hyslop, 'Two Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries ...', *Arch J*, 120, 1963, 177 and fig 11.a, with 195.
- 43 Matthews, 1962, 32 and fig 5.4.

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Modern Surveys of Medieval Field Systems

D.N. HALL

SUMMARY

Techniques for surveying Medieval fields and the earthworks left by ancient field boundaries are described. It is possible to compile complete furlong maps for any settlement, which show that all the land except the flooding meadows was cultivated. Supporting historical studies show that the field systems were completed by the early fourteenth century. It is demonstrated that fourteenth century village sizes are related to the area of good quality arable soil; from this relation it should be possible to calculate the size of any Medieval settlement so giving a new method of population assessment.

INTRODUCTION

The present work is part of a programme to record as much as possible of the pre-enclosure landscape of Northamptonshire, before it is destroyed by towns, quarries, and intensive agriculture. Each parish receives a field by field archaeological survey of the pre-enclosure field system, along with a study of ancient field and other names. The area surveyed in the first instance is the Higham Ferrers Hundred, Northamptonshire, and a few adjacent parishes. Some fifty thousand acres have now (1972) been completed.

Supporting historical studies have shown that these field systems are substantially unchanged since at least the medieval period. Thus application of the survey techniques can be used to prepare open-field maps for anywhere in the country which does not possess them.

This paper will restrict itself principally to Wollaston and Strixton, which are typical examples of pre- and post-conquest Midland villages.

FIELD SURVEYS

In many parts of the country there are modern fields of pasture which are not flat, but present a

"corrugated" or ridged aspect (pl. 1, 2a). Detailed examination shows they are built up from a basic unit which is a strip of average dimensions 206 by 8yd (0.34 acre), ridged up to about 1ft down the centre long axis. There is considerable variation in the size, between 15 and 400yd. The strips are not straight, but form an elongated mirror image of an 'S'; i.e. when viewed from the centre the ends have a left-handed twist (pl. 1a, 2a). At each end there is a small mound or heap piled rather higher than the top of the ridge (pl. 2a).

Strips are found together in groups forming essentially rectangular areas, but much modified in shape by roads, brooks and parish boundaries. The average area of a group is about 25 acres, but most are larger than this, the average being reduced by a few very small groupings. They are set out so that the ridges run down a gradient; thus sometimes there will be two or more groupings with strips in the same direction (pl. 1a), and in other cases strips will run at right angles (pl. 1b).

From a consideration of these grass fields, it is evident that they must have acquired their characteristics by ploughing at some stage. Since the present hedges frequently cut across strips they must have been formed before enclosure when agricultural practice was known as "open field". In this part of Northamptonshire where only a few permanent grass fields survive, most being arable and planar, it was of interest to try and determine the extent of the strip system. When a ridged field is ploughed flat in the modern way not all traces disappear; the positions of the ridges are still visible (for 50 years or more, depending on the soil) as light subsoil marks; and the piled up ends of the strips are not much flattened, but remain smoothed together as a ridge or bank of soil. Thus wherever a group of strips met another set, either oriented in the same direction or at right-angles, there will remain a bank of soil when the whole area is ploughed out. A survey of these banks in an entire parish allows the complete pattern of strip groupings to be deter-

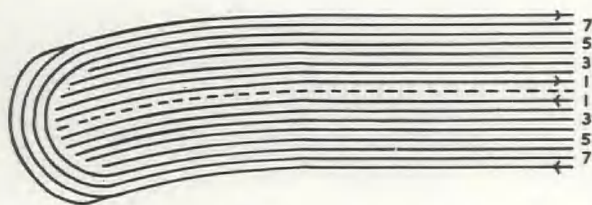


Fig. 1 Scheme for ploughing a land.

mined. Care must be taken when examining a modern arable field not to confuse the results of modern ploughing with the older earthworks. However, generally ancient boundaries are too large to be confused with modern ones; some soil banks are very broad, especially on gravel soils, and are often confused with Roman roads by the inexperienced. The largest bank in Wollaston is 50 yards wide and 3ft high in the middle.

Surveys are easiest to make in spring, when fields have been worked smooth. It is best to work from a permanent grass field containing undisturbed strip ridges and boundaries. Banks in arable fields are often easier to see when the rows of corn just come through (pl. 2b, A-A). Actual strips can often be seen surviving as soil marks, particularly in fields ploughed for the first time in the modern way during 1940-45. Aerial photography is a useful supplement to ground surveys, since strips may show crop marks, but the soil banks are not usually visible from the air. Parishes which were enclosed before about 1725 usually have hedges set along strip boundaries; differences in soil levels, and changes in the orientation of the strips have to be sought.

When surveying for medieval fields the remainder of the parish naturally comes under review; i.e. roads, meadows, and village. Ancient roads in undisturbed grass fields are worn down ways between the strips, and often run along the bottoms of slades, presumably to keep out of the way of plough-lands. Where roads have been ploughed over they usually disappear without trace. Often the enclosers deliberately tried to obliterate a road by digging a ditch along the length, or disguising under newly planted hedges and spinneys. Modern roads following the course of ancient ones are easily recognised by the inflections and neat way of fitting in with the strip patterns (Wollaston-Wellingborough).

The ancient meadow is defined as that land never under ridge and furrow. It also happens to be

the land which was not ploughable because of the annual floods of brooks and rivers.

Where a modern village has not expanded over all the area of the medieval vill the ancient remains can be seen. The strips stop and give way to earth works representing the abandoned houses and garden plots. Such earth works are visible on the south west of Wollaston, and on the north west and south east of Strixton.

DETAILED STRUCTURE OF STRIPS

The most obvious features of strips are the ridges, the terminal mounds, and the curving shape.

The ridges are easily accounted for as the result of ploughing towards the centre more times than towards the outside.

The heads, likewise, are the result of ploughing towards the centre; the plough moves a small quantity of soil in the direction it travels, and when taken out of the ground at the end of a strip, deposits the excess on the left hand side. The effect is cumulative. Heads are thus not symmetrical, but are 'one-sided' heaps. (fig 3, pl. 2a).

The left curve of strip ends undoubtedly derives from the problem of turning a team of beasts in a tight circle.¹ By swinging left some yards before strip end, the turning circle is enlarged to bring the plough in position for the return furrow. Ideally the team would start to veer left at a distance not less than its own length away from the sharp right hand turnabout, otherwise it would be in an inefficient contortion.

The scheme illustrated in fig. 1 accounts for the observed features of a strip. It seems that the plough was lifted for the first few cuts (whilst there was still room on the head to man-handle the team, without trampling the ploughing), and kept in later.

Strip sections can be deduced from first principles; the first complete ploughing would give a section as in fig. 2a, several ploughings as in fig. 2b, leading eventually to equilibrium conditions as shown in fig. 2c. In practice, of course, the furrows and ridges will not be pointed, but rounded off. The smoothing over is further helped by the growth of turf since the time the strips were last ploughed. A strip at Strixton furlong 25 was sectioned (under archaeological conditions) and found to be as anticipated (fig. 2d).

The most noticeable prediction of fig. 2c is the horizontal level of subsoil underneath the centre half of the ridge, and this is clearly evident in the

excavated example. When strips are ploughed out this ancient level of subsoil is reached by the deep modern ploughing, and gives rise to the characteristic marks of freshly flattened ridges. The modern ploughs do not normally reach down to the depth of the ancient furrow once the ridge is levelled; thus when topsoil is carefully stripped off a modern field the subsoil is found to be furrowed.

The ancient ploughing transfers all the original topsoil to the centre of the strip, and this eventually is buried by subsoil ploughed up from the furrows. Thus along the entire length of a land there is a 'conveyor-belt' system moving soil from furrow to ridge, at right-angles to the direction of ploughing. In the ridges excavated at Strixton it was not possible to distinguish the inner mass of buried topsoil from the rest.

The degree of ridging, (i.e. the difference in height between the ridges and the furrows) is a function of the strip width and the depth of ploughing.

Strips which lie on a slope with an appreciable gradient at right-angles to their length appear asymmetrical. Measurement of such strips at Wollaston furlong 5, show that this is an optical illusion. The highest part of the ridge is in the middle of the strip measured on the cross-slope, but on the ground the eye tends to see the maximum height of the ridge in an absolute sense, i.e. shifted up the cross-slope a little. However, ridges on steep slopes have very large mounds at the bottom and small ones at the top because soil is more easily dragged down than up.

RESULTS OF FIELD SURVEYS AND PRE-ENCLOSURE TERMINOLOGY.

The pre-enclosure field systems of Strixton (fig. 3) and Wollaston (fig. 4) were surveyed during 1961-3. On the maps the thin continuous lines represent boundaries visible at that time, while broken lines are used where the boundaries are no longer clear. Because of the scale of the maps it is not practical to mark each strip (even if they were all known), the real number of strips is about four times the number drawn. These plans were drawn entirely as a result of observation and measurement; there being no assumptions about the nature or antiquity of the pre-enclosure systems.

For Strixton there is a remarkable pre-enclosure, or open-field map of 1583² (pl. 3). Plate 3 is reduced far too much to read the details, but the overall pattern is evident. The similarity between

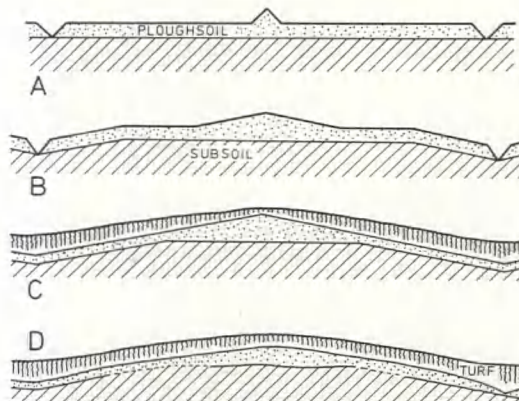


Fig. 2a Schematic section of a land after the first ploughing.

2b Schematic section of a land after several ploughings.

2c Schematic section of a land at equilibrium conditions (showing accumulated turf).

2d Section of a land in Strixton furlong 25.

plate 3 and fig 3 is so great that we must assume that the Elizabethan surveyor was looking at the same system of earthworks as we were. Therefore the strip system still surviving at Strixton is unchanged since at least the sixteenth century.

From the close-up of the 1583 map (pl. 4) we may infer that the strips were called *landes* (because the group strips called 7 *landes f* contains seven strips, and similarly 9 *landes f* contains nine). Each group of strips or lands was called a *furlong*. From a similar open field map of Higham Ferrers³ it is evident that furlongs were grouped together to form areas called *fields*.

This term should not be confused with the modern one; pre-enclosure fields were usually hedgeless and often of several hundred acres in extent. Before enclosure the only hedges were usually around small areas of land near the village called *closes* (plate 4 is slightly ambiguous being in black and white; furlong boundaries are in brown ink on the original, and the hedges surrounding the closes are in green).

Lands were ploughed individually, usually beginning at one end of the centre long axis, and going round clockwise until the outside was reached and the whole land completed. In a fallow year this sequence might be reversed,⁴ but since soil was ploughed towards the centre more often than away, the lands became ridged up.

In addition to lengthwise ridging, the plough dragged soil forward, and on lifting to turn, soil

was deposited at the ends of the land. The heap formed was called a *head* (fig. 3, pl. 2a). Where two furlongs with lands set at right angles met, the first land of one was made up of the smoothed out heads of all the others, and so was called a *headland* or *hades* (fig. 3, pl. 1b). As a consequence of ridging it was necessary to set lands out so that furrows drained downhill. To assist the plough team to turn round, each end of a land had a slight twist to the left when viewed from the centre, thus giving lands their characteristic mirror image — S shape¹ (pl. 1a).

The above are the principal and most common terms found on open field maps and in documents (terriers). Others are given by Fowler⁵ and the Orwins;⁶ the meanings of terms may be worked out for Northamptonshire by comparing the 1728 copy of the 1567 land terrier for Higham Ferrers⁷ with the 1788 open field map,³ and from the Wollaston land terriers.⁸

Lands set out at right angles to a road or boundary were said to be a *butting, bearing, or shooting* on or out from it; e.g. "two lands shooting above thatchway" (Wollaston, furlong 17). The Latin equivalents are *abbutta(n)t* and *lancea(n)t*.

When a land was left unploughed for a few years, and laid down to grass, it was called a *ley*.⁹ *Meadow* is the unploughed grass land by the river, *pasture* is the upland grass in the bottoms of the slades, and may possibly include some leys.¹⁰

Occasionally, in a furlong going round a corner because of a gradient change, a land only reaches one side, finishing in a point halfway up the furlong. The triangular shape formed was called a *gore* (fig. 5).

Very short lands were called *butts*, because they consisted of two ends (heads) with almost no long part.

According to Orwin, a *stint* is a right of 'trespass' on to another man's land so as to complete ploughing;¹¹ thus all headlands are stints, and the western headlands of the 'furlong next pinchback' at Higham are called *stints* in the terrier.⁷ On the other hand these two lands are shorter than the rest of the furlong, and the term may be referring to this.

Between groups of lands were permanent grass strips called *balks*. Examination of the lands of Strixton furlongs 16 and 27 (before the 1965 ploughing), which are marked as balks on the 1583 map,² showed that they are identical to any other land except that they were narrow and not ridged so high. On plate 4 balks show best as the separ-

ated dark strips in *Buttes furlong*. The ridging of these must have been done by ploughing at some time, but balks cannot have been ploughed in later centuries because they are invariably mentioned as standard reference points in land terriers. This use can be traced back to 1340.¹² The term 'balk' was not found in a detailed examination of *Carte Nativorum*,¹² which is a collection of several hundred documents, mainly of the period 1250-1320. The earliest recorded use of the word in Northamptonshire¹³ is 1237. The Strixton court roll of 1360¹⁴ shows that balks were not fixed public rights of way in the fourteenth century, when several people were fined for 'making a common way at the hullebalke' (*fecerunt co. em. viam ap. d. le hullebalke*). From the fifteenth century onwards 'common balks' are frequently mentioned. We shall assume that balks were not a normal feature of the open field system before the fourteenth century and were not in great use until the fifteenth.

Balks were probably formed by ploughing back before leaving to grass over. Several clear cases of this occur at Strixton, e.g. furlong 28, where the balk lies on the side of a land rather than in between two lands. The Court orders for 1695¹⁵ at Wollaston requested balks to be made between every seventh rood, everyone allowing an equal proportion of land; but apparently this was not done for long, or it would still be visible. There is no evidence that there were ever balks between every land.¹⁶

There were other modifications. Thus at Higham in 1788,³ there is a note that several lands had been ploughed together e.g. 'four lands now two' in Fullwell hill furlong. At Strixton in 1583,² furlongs 30 and 31 are rather confused because the boundary between them was ploughed over in several places to make short lands into long ones.

The Medieval Latin equivalents of the principal terms are:

field	campus
furlong	cultura
lands	seliones
headland	forara

DATING OF MEDIEVAL FIELD SYSTEMS

Regarding the antiquity of the open fields, we have so far shown that the furlong system still surviving in Strixton is at least as old as 1583 (pl. 3, c.f. fig. 1). All the furlongs except No. 36 are identical. In this single case no doubt the Elizabethan surveyor is in error; part of the furlong was

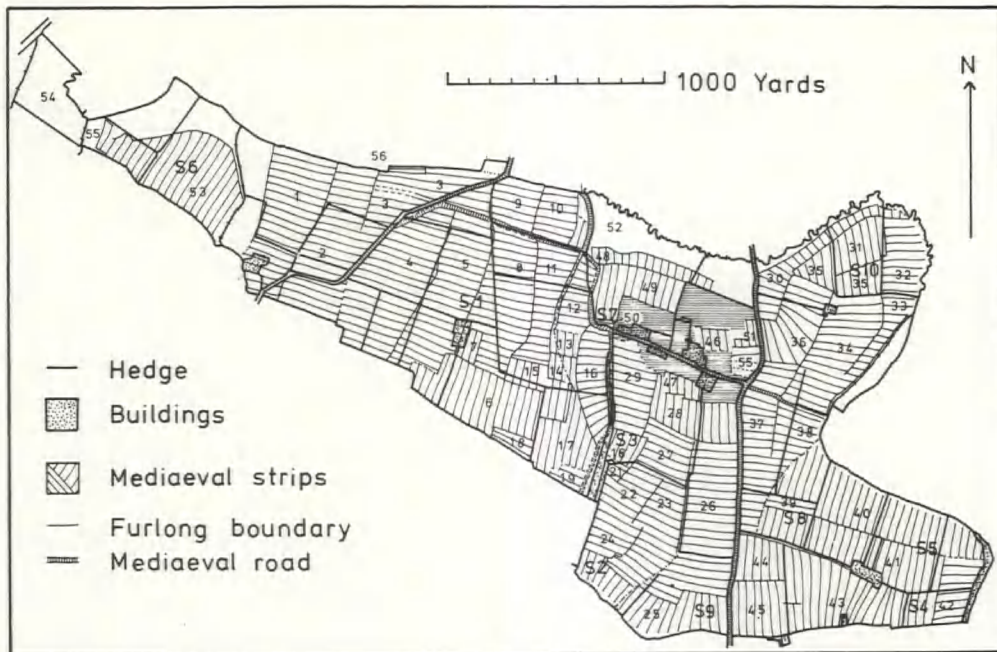


Fig. 3 Strixton furlong plan: modern features correct to 1966.

enclosed and the remainder all belonged to the same owner, so it is probable that it was never measured in detail. Before 1965, furlongs 16, 27, 28, 29, and 47 were unploughed and could be seen to correspond land for land to the Elizabethan plan.¹⁷

Similarly there are open field maps for Higham Ferrers³ (1788), and Raunds¹⁸ (1789) which agree exactly with their respective modern surveys. For Higham there is a terrier of 1567 which agrees exactly with the map, so like Strixton the furlong system can be confidently traced back to the sixteenth century. It is hoped to trace furlong names of all the parishes from Irchester to Ringstead to the thirteenth century using the comprehensive series of Duchy of Lancaster Court Rolls.

For Wollaston there was an open field map of 1774,¹⁹ which is now lost. However a fairly complete list of furlong names can be drawn up from the enclosure documents of 1788,⁸ and this is substantially the same as the list obtainable for 1430.²⁰ In this 1430 terrier there is a copy of a terrier of about 1370 which refers to 24 of the furlongs evenly distributed over the parish.²¹ Thus it is clear that the Wollaston open field system is at least datable to the fourteenth century, and is therefore truly medieval. Furlong 88 (fig. 2) is

mentioned in about 1225²² (wodeweye); since this is on the heavy clay to the far south east of the parish it suggests that the whole system was complete by this date, it being unlikely that the fertile lighter soils in the western part of the parish near the village would be uncultivated.

For Strixton there is a scarcity of medieval documents, but a few of the furlong names can be traced to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.²³

The date for the beginning of the open field system is of course undocumented. It is certainly after the fourth century A.D. because the Romano-British sites scattered over the whole area have lands ploughed over them. Orwin took the view that the system began with the Saxons.²⁴ More recently Titow²⁵ also considered the open field system to have been the same in essentials throughout the Saxon-medieval period. Thirsk²⁶ has challenged this, saying that possibly some furlongs or areas were first set out and individually cropped, then at a later date they became fragmented into strips and eventually an organized communal system developed. In the absence of written evidence it is difficult to be sure of the open field beginnings. At Sherington, Bucks., Chilbnall takes the Saxon origin of the furlong names to mean the land was cultivated before the conquest,²⁷ but naturally

Saxon names persisted in usage well into the medieval period. At Wollaston the Saxon element in names is very strong, and includes personal names. This is in accord with Wollaston being a Saxon settlement; it is mentioned in Domesday, and coins and pottery of the eight-ninth centuries have been found.

From the physical evidence we can be sure that there has only been one furlong system for each village; had there ever been a fresh start with lands and furlongs, then two systems or more would be visible as crop marks — but these have not been observed. Thus in this area the open field system appears to be complete by the time of the earliest documentary evidence in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and there is circumstantial evidence that it has Saxon origins where a settlement is that old. This is not the case for Strixton, it differs from Wollaston in being a late settlement, and is not mentioned in Domesday, being first recorded in 1100-1135.²⁸ No pottery earlier than the twelfth century has been found there by excavation, and the philology of the furlong names suggest they are Middle English rather than Saxon in origin. The parish boundaries are not smooth lines, but reflect changes in the furlongs on either side. All this suggests that Strixton was not settled until the twelfth century, and so the open field system will have begun at that date.

It may be deduced that the furlong system had reached its maximum, i.e. the parish boundaries, by about the beginning of the fourteenth century. The period 1100-1300 has been established as one of economic expansion,²⁹ which means that villages and furlongs were also expanding. Declining population and depression was characteristic of the years 1300-1475.³⁰ The population numbers recovered later on, but with the effects of the New World trade and eventually the industrial revolution, villages did not necessarily have to supply all their own food. Therefore not since the early fourteenth century has a village had to support the maximum population that its fields could produce food for. This date for the end of medieval expansion is confirmed by Beresford's work on town plantations, which activity falls off in 1300-20, and there are no new towns during the period 1368-1613.³¹ The year 1300 is also the date chosen by Chibnall for his reconstruction of Sherington furlongs.³²

The furlong patterns of fig. 1 and 2, will thus be assumed to have been completed by about 1300. Documentary evidence before 1300 is scarce, but Wollaston furlongs 38, 40 and 41 are mentioned in

about 1225²² showing that land close to the village was still under the plough.

In the late thirteenth century the demand for land was great, so great that every available piece was ploughed. Wollaston furlongs 31 and 39 must have been additions to the system during this time, when every possible area was cultivated. By 1426 furlongs 31 to 41 were enclosed or set down to pasture,¹⁰ and the remainder had many balks: i.e. lands left as permanent grass. These effects must have been a result of the depression beginning in the fourteenth century; with the decline of population there was land enough to spare for balks and small enclosures near the villages.

It has been assumed that each furlong was cut out from wasteland when more ploughland was needed.³³ If this is true then furlongs should spread out from the previously existing features, i.e. the roads and villages, towards the parish boundaries. The most convenient way of setting out a furlong would be to make the lands parallel, or at right-angles to the road, according to the gradient. This principle can be seen in fig. 2. Where furlongs spreading out from adjacent roads meet, they form irregular shapes in the block of land between, this is particularly evident for Wollaston furlongs 70 and 74. The same principals apply to parish boundaries; Wollaston furlongs 81, 82 and 87 come up to the boundary giving rise to awkward angles and lots of butts, which demonstrates that the boundary was there before the furlongs. Thus we may conclude that the furlong pattern does show the 'growth' of furlongs from the village and roads towards the boundaries.

The suggestions that all the area available was not ploughed,³⁴ and that some of the ancient woodlands were not cleared for agriculture until recently,³⁵ are untenable for this area at least. All the Higham hundred was ploughed to its outermost limits. With the exception of Horn-wood at Easton Maudit, every modern wood and copse in the hundred is set on ridge and furrow still visible; very few modern woods are older than the eighteenth century. Indeed the woodland cut down by the Saxons to make furlongs can only have grown up since Romano-British times, because all the hundred contains a fairly uniform distribution of Iron age and Romano-British agricultural sites.³⁶

All the preceeding discussion concerns the *physical* aspects of lands and furlongs: by suggesting these have changed very little, we do not wish to imply that the organization of furlongs into fields and the method of crop rotation did not change.

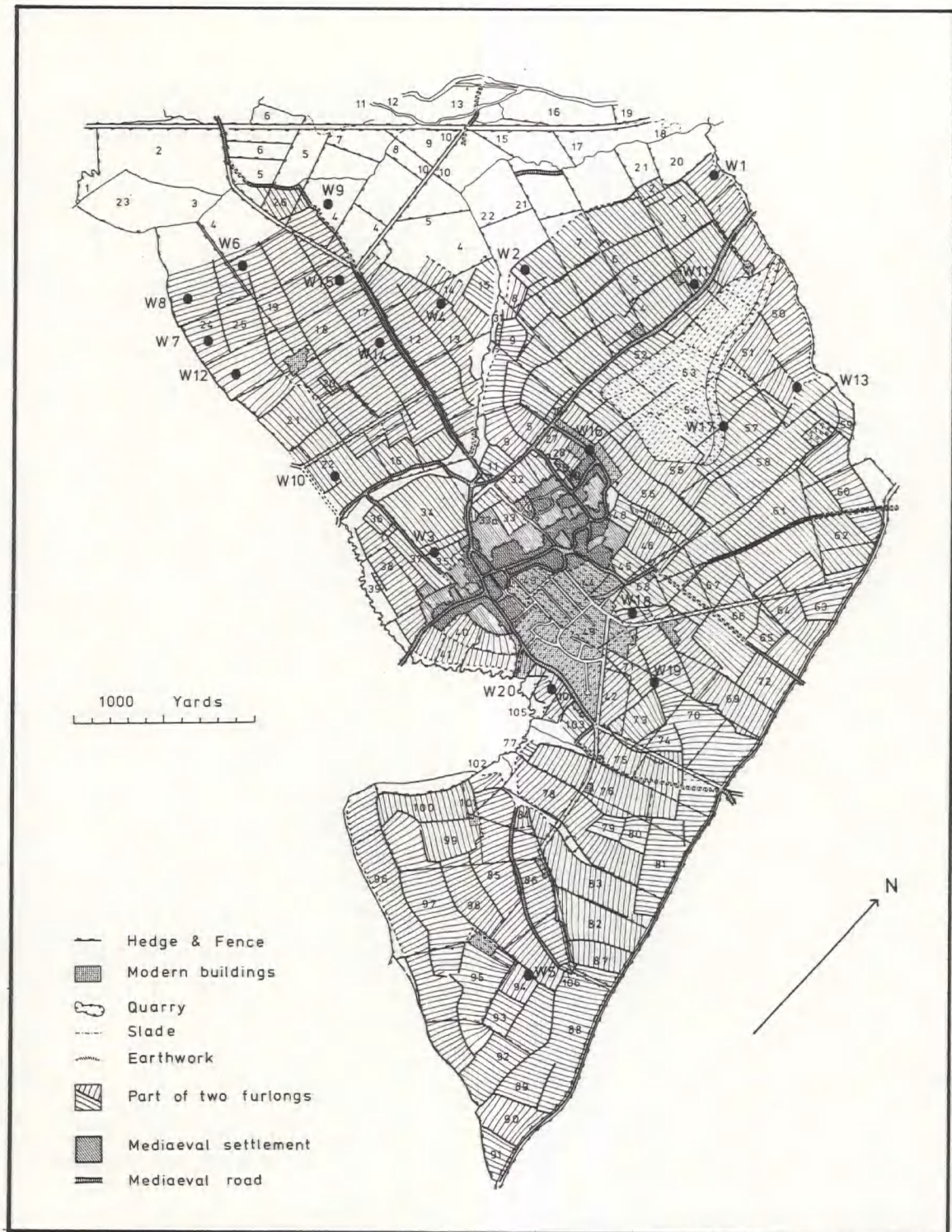


Fig. 4 Wollaston furlong plan. Modern features correct to 1966

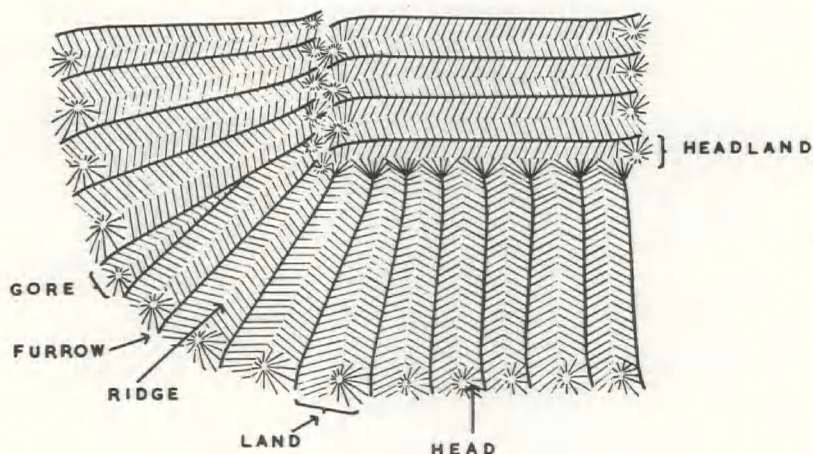


Fig. 5 Details of part of two furlongs

Elsewhere there is abundant evidence that the numbers of fields were changed³⁷ but this does not affect the physical state of the furlongs. For Wollaston the number of fields remained three from about 1370 to their obliteration in 1788. The particular furlongs in each field changed only slightly; in 1430 and 1788 the *nethirfeld* comprised furlongs 1 to 27 (fig. 2), the *Higham weyfeld* in 1430 (alias Millfield 1788) furlongs 28, 24, and 46 to 75, the *ouerefeld* in 1430, furlongs 76 to 106, this became the mill field by 1788, furlongs 76 to 106 and 43. The inlands were made up of furlongs 34 to 39: there is no information how these were worked with the three great fields. The existence of the three fields in the fourteenth century suggests there was already a communal system of crop rotation by then. There are no actual details of agricultural practise until the end of the seventeenth century,¹⁵ when court orders attempting to improve the husbandry are almost identical with those of Sherington.³⁸ For Strixton there is no field information.

Apart from small enclosures near the village in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and their minor changes, the furlong systems at Wollaston and Strixton continued until the general enclosure and farming in the modern way. For Wollaston this was not until the parliamentary enclosure of 1788.⁸ Strixton was enclosed privately sometime between 1583 and 1720,²⁸ probably about 1600 by the local encloser Edmund Aprece who lived there,³⁹ and in 1619 by Robert Parkhurst.⁴⁰ In the sixteenth century at Strixton land tended to be

collected into blocks under a single owner;² but at Wollaston, right through until 1788 the lands of each owner were scattered in ones, twos and threes, throughout the parish.⁸

DISCUSSION

APPLICATIONS OF THE SURVEYS

As already indicated, much can be deduced from complete surveys, such as the relative antiquity of roads and parish boundaries, and the maximum extent of the village and plough-lands at about 1300. The philological study of the furlongs and other field names gives information on the approximate period of settlement of the villages.

The village surveys confirm the recent suggestion⁴¹ that the earthworks of the shrunken village are common, and no township in the Higham hundred is without them. (The scale of figs. 1 and 2 does not allow the marking of these earthworks, but detailed maps of the medieval villages are being prepared.¹⁷)

A deserted village not previously recorded has been found at Grendon (SP 875610). It is about 12 acres in area, and consists of the usual earthworks, building stone and sunken roads. From the modern field name it appears to have been called Cotton. Cotton and the earthworks of the other villages all yield pottery of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, suggesting that the date of their destruction was the fifteenth century.

The extent of the separate open field unit of

Knuston has been found and also most of the boundaries of the open-field area belonging to the three Cottons, now in Ringstead and Raunds. These small deserted villas are Mill Cotton, 20 acres, at SP 971745; Mallows Cotton, 20 acres, at SP 976733; and West Cotton, 13 acres, at SP 976725.

The areas of the ploughlands etc. of some of the villages so far surveyed are given in table 1. They were measured using a planimeter, and are accurate to the nearest acre. The extent of the glacial clay was measured referring to the Ordnance Survey Geological sheet 186 (1958).

Since the figures in table 1 represent equilibrium conditions with village size and area of arable at a maximum, it is expected that there will be some interactions. The most likely relation is one between village size (V) — which is proportional to the number of people, and the area of arable (A) — which has to produce most of the food. However a plot of V against A does not give the expected straight line graph, but only a scatter of points, suggesting the relation is no more than approximately true.

From table 1 it can be seen that the settlements away from the river (Bozeat and Newton Bromswold) are small, and those near the valley on the light easily-worked soils tend to be large, irrespective of parish size.

From this it is likely that geology plays a part, as the heavy claylands do not give such good yields as the light soils.

Let the arable (A) be split up into glacial clay soil (C), and the good soil (R), ($A = C + R$).

Let the yield per acre per annum from clay soil be unity, and the yield from good soils x (x greater than 1), then the yield p.a. is $C \times 1 + R \times x$.

The population and hence the village size must be proportional to the yield, thus

$$V = k(C + Rx), \text{ where } k \text{ is a constant,}$$

dividing by A, i.e. expressing the village and clay area as fractions of the total arable,

$$v = k(c + \frac{R}{A}x), \text{ and since } R = A - C$$

$$v = k(c + x(1-c)), \text{ rearranging}$$

$$v = k(a - x)c + kx$$

Thus if the village size is proportional to the area ploughed and if the geology affects the yield, then a plot of v against c should be a straight line. Fig. 6 is such a plot. The point for Higham is not very accurate, because of the area of modern disturbance and building. The remaining points fall on a fair line; therefore the relation derived is likely to be correct.

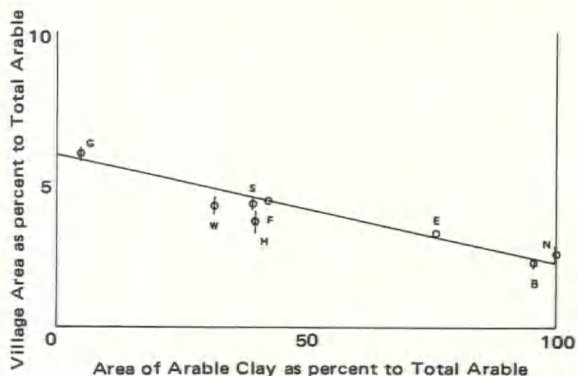


Fig. 6 Relation of village size to the arable in 1300.

From the intercepts of the plot (fig. 6), it can be calculated that the maximum village size for arable consisting of good soils is 7.0% of the arable; and for villages with all clay arable 2.6%. The yield on good soils is 2.7 times greater than on clay (x). This value is rather high, but must be of the correct order. The only way of altering the values is to reassess the area of clayland. This could be done by adding to the area of the glacial clay the areas of Jurassic clay, which would have the effect of shifting all the points along the 'clay' axis of fig. 6 but would not greatly affect the constants.

That the claylands posed more of a problem agriculturally than the good soils is reflected in the small size of the Overfield at Wollaston compared with the other two:—

Overfield	552 acres
Highamway field	791 acres
Nether field	640 acres

The Overfield is predominantly clay, and the other two are composed mainly of lighter soils.

For some of the villages the village size is proportional to the area of meadow. This is fortuitous, and again arises because of the geology. Good soils are mostly on the valley slopes, thus the large settlements near the river have also a large area of meadow. The high clayland villages have very little meadow and are small because of the infertile soil.

The surveys also brought to light ancient sites, these are recorded on fig. 1 and fig. 2 and are discussed elsewhere.³⁶ They do not affect the furlongs in any way except that around the Roman villa at Wollaston (W.3) they were called Waltonacre, and the boundary of furlongs 54 and 57 is aligned over the ditch-rampart system of an Iron age enclosure (W.17). At Easton Maudit and Irchester, Iron age and Roman earthworks survive, and the furlongs are modified.

TABLE 1. LORDSHIP STATISTICS (ABOUT 1300).

Lordship	Total area (acres)	Settlement (V acres)	Settlement as % of total arable (v)	Meadow (M acres)	Total arable (A acres)	Glacial clay arable (C acres)	Clay arable as % of total arable (c)
Bozeat	2331	50 – 73	2.34 – 2.86	145	2113–2136	2031	95.1 – 95.6
Easton Maudit	1791	56 – 57	3.73 – 3.80	175	1499	1136	75.8 – 75.9
Farndish (Beds.)	694	32	5.14	40	622	263	42.3
Grendon	1715	85 – 91	6.82 – 7.34	384	1240–1246	57	4.6
Higham Ferrers	1925	61	3.76	244	1620	646	39.7
Irchester		63 – 96		199			
Chester	2792	7	3.74 – 5.72	37	2279–2325	316	13.6 – 13.9
Knuston		17 – 27		147			
Newton Bromswold	875	35	2.65 – 3.31	64	799	799	100
Higham park	601	6		13	582	582	100
Strixton	1012	42 – 45	4.83 – 5.25	110	857– 860	336	39.1 – 39.2
Wollaston	2840	99 – 114	4.56 – 5.30	566	2160–2175	681	31.3 – 31.5

The only parish with any woodland is Easton Maudit with 60 acres.

Notes for table 1.

The meadow is the unploughed floodland. The arable is the maximum area of all the furlongs, except those known to have been part of the crofts (i.e. a furlong enclosed to form garden plots).

The village area is the maximum extent of the earthworks hemmed in by the furlongs. Where the modern village has spread beyond the medieval settlement there is necessarily some uncertainty. For the Higham hundred reference to eighteenth century maps is useful, because where it is still possible to check, the eighteenth century vill never spread beyond the medieval. *Grendon*. The village size includes the 12 acres of Cotton. *Higham*. The settlement area is estimated from the 1788 plan. The plan also shows that 15 acres of Newton Broms-

wold are erroneously included on the modern Ordnance maps. *Irchester*. There is still some uncertainty about the boundary between Irchester and Knuston. The expected line does not agree with the 1791 map.⁴² Thus the whole area has been taken together. It is difficult to be sure of the area of Knuston vill because of the combined effects of emparkment, and later occupation by the army (1939 to 1945). The extent of Chester is taken from the 1756 map,⁴³ it is also included with Irchester on the table.

Newton and Higham Park. It was not supposed that furlongs would be found in a Norman deer park, however it has been ploughed anciently. The area was deemed to be part of Newton originally.

The area of the park lodge-house has not been

added to Newton vill, as it was not considered to be a self supporting agrarian settlement. The two fields either side of the Yelden (Beds.) road, now marked as Bedfordshire have been included in Newton, because they obviously contain part of the village.

Strixton. The lordship is taken as its size in 1583; at present part is administered as Wollaston. Where the unploughed village area and meadow run into each other, the dividing line is taken as the winter flood line. The vill includes furlong 47 because it forms part of the crofts in 1583 (pl. 2b).

Wollaston. The north part of furlong 33, and the east part of 28 have been included in the vill area because they have fourteenth century occupation remains on them.

CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological field work techniques have enabled plans of pre-enclosure field systems to be made. In the Midlands, at least, these ancient fields prove to be medieval. Thus open field maps can now be obtained for those many areas without them. The surveys show that most villages are still near or less than their greatest medieval size (in the early fourteenth century), this allows fourteenth century village statistics to be compiled. There is then found to be a relation between village size and open field area, showing that under conditions of a natural economy the population was controlled by the available land. Using this relation it should be possible to estimate the size of any medieval settlement, knowing the nature of the terrain. It is very probable that different constants will be required for soils with different underlying geology.

It is a matter of some urgency to record the earthworks left by medieval fields, because they are fast disappearing under the influence of intensive agriculture, especially on light soils.

APPENDIX

The furlong and other names of Strixton and Wollaston.

a) Strixton.

Very few medieval documents relating to Strixton have survived, but the map of 1583² gives all the furlong names except those enclosed or put down to permanent grass. A few names are given in the court rolls,¹⁴ and others can be gleaned from the Wollaston documents (q.v.).

The fields; in 1583 they were – the west feelde – midle feelde, and (probably) grene feelde. The exact extent of each is not known. The furlongs are shown on table 2 (overleaf).

b) Wollaston

The sources are terriers in the Register of William Wulston,²⁰ various terriers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries;⁴⁴ ⁴⁵ and the 1788 enclosure documents.⁸

Space does not allow the detailed discussion of the identification of furlongs. Consideration of the order of names in land terriers, the ancient field they formed part of, and the orientation of the lands (E–W, or N–S), taken along with ancient and modern field names, and the map (fig. 2), leads to the identifications known at present. Much uncertainty would be cleared up if the lost open field map of 1774 could be found.¹⁹ In some cases it is known which of the great fields a furlong or name belonged to, but its exact location is not.

The fields: Nether feld (1430) and various spellings to Nether field (1788); Higham wey feld (1430) etc. changing to Mill feilde (by 1695), and (Wind) mill field (1788) Ouer feld (1225) etc. changing to Woodfeild (by 1607), and Woodfield (1788).

i The furlongs in Nether field

In 1788 this consisted of furlongs 1 to 27, 31 and 32, i.e. 28 major furlongs not counting 10 and 31. There is no reason to suspect that its size was any different in 1430 (this being the date of the most complete list of furlong names).

<i>No. on fig. 4</i>	<i>Name of furlong (in 1430, unless otherwise given).</i>
1 or 21	bradmere
4, (south)	lamcoteslade; (lampost slade by 1788)
4, (north)	pytweie; (Wellingborough way by 1634)
8 or 9	fullewele
11	hill (at mededyth); (redhill by 1788)
12 and 17	thatchweie
15	oldbrook
20	crossefurlonge
22 and/or	
16 (south)	hamton weie or northamton weie.
23	ryholme
24	cryngil
26	holmweie
31	? litelborowse
33	gerscroftdythe (grass croft 1788)

ii The furlongs in Highamway field or Mill field

In 1788 this field consisted of furlongs 28, 42, and 46 to 75.

<i>No. on fig. 4</i>	<i>Name of furlong (in 1430, unless otherwise stated).</i>
42	hokerespath; (Hookhams path from 1726 to 1968).
46	elderstubrill
49	berry hedge (1623)
50 or 51	red pits (1788)
50 (east)	mores
52	lamscoteslade; (Wellingborough way by 1788).
54	stonedelfwong; (furlong shooting below lime kiln joint 1788).
55	breydisweie
56	gyndale
58	hieheueden
60	northirn
61	nether highamweie
62	(above) highamweie, and the longe; (upper Higham way long, 1788)
63	claylondys
64	bridlowe (1654); (burlows, 1788)
65	spytchekokes
66	farnddys crosse; (Farndish patch, (1788).
67	the furlong above farndish patch (1684).
68 (south)	windmill joint (1788).
70	wronge
73 or 74	pudswell (In the Overfield in error in original document)
75	hynewykeweie

iii The furlongs in Overfield or Woodfield

In 1430 this consisted of furlongs 76 to 106; it was the same to 1788 with the addition of furlong 43.

TABLE 2 — FURLONGS IN STRIXTON

The furlongs:

<i>No. on fig.3</i>	<i>Total no. of lands</i>	<i>No. of balks</i>	<i>Name in 1583.</i>
1	67	2	Sandy f. (furlonge)
2	67	2	whitegrounde f.
3	40	3	the furlonge buttinge on whitegrounde.
4	98	1	the furlonge shoutinge in the hill balk.
5	101	4	midle f.
6	73	4	the windmill furlonge (in the west feelde and midle feelde).
7	15	—	little briery f.
8	88	1	hill balke f. (hullebalke in 1360)
9	25	—	cringlewaye f.
10	31	—	walneacre f.
11	79	4	stonebridg f.
12	47	1	towneponde f.
13	22	—	botome slade.
14	17	—	midle furlonge in ye botome of ye slade.
15	43	—	the midle furlonge that the mill furlonge doth butt on.
16	76	6	stonilandes f. (stonylons in 1429)
17	37	2	cakestones peece.
18	9	—	nine landes furlonge.
19	11	—	water forowse f.
20	11	—	the furlonge at Easton path.
21	10	—	the furlonge that hadeth stonelandes.
22	21	—	Easton path peece.
23	51	5	claye f.
24	25	—	shouldbread f.
25	92	5	Bosiat slade f.
26	93	6	crabtre f.
27	40	3	twinywayes f.
28	25	1	towne furlonge.
29	53	3	buttes f.
30 (west)	26	—	bridge furlonge at gimple leys.
30 (east)	42	5	gimple f.
31	—	—	(confused with 30 (west), see text).
32	51	3	blakedike f. (thathdyth in 1429).
33	38	—	ryeholme f.
34	56	2	townehadland f.
35	52	1	midleclaye f.
36	62	—	beanholme f.
37	78	3	millhedge f.
38	33	2	grenehill f.
39	7	—	sevenlandes f.
40	129	8	ball pit slade f.
41	82	5	midle f.
42	32	1	feeldes end f.
43	79	1	longe gallantre f.
44	40	3	longe smythy & short smythy f.
45	45	5	potters balk f.
47 (west)	6	—	the furlonge at Peers close.

Total number of furlongs 53.

The meadows:

- 54 water meadowe.
55 the holme.

Field road:

- 56 cringle waye

<i>No. on fig.4</i>	<i>Name of furlong (in 1430, unless otherwise stated).</i>
76	shitburslade; (shepherds slade by 1788)
77	wellewong
78 and 83	dunstale; (black dunstons slade by 1788)
78 (part)	netherwhynes
79	middelwhynes
80	ouerwhynes
81	hoboldisdythe
82	puddeswell
85 and 96	middelslade
87	Hinwick hedge (1788)
88	wodeweie
91	strete; (streetway 1788)
92	pubblywong
93 or 94	blacklond
95	gorbrode
96 (west)	slideris = abbottiswell; (obersons slade 1788)
96 (east)	dokeford
97	hayrigges
98	buskys; (kings or ragged bushe 1634)
100	Strixton slade
102	halywelle (1250 & 1430) = thathdyth (1430); (Blakeditch by 1634)
105	sewellefurlonge

iv. Furlongs in the ancient enclosures (close the the village)

Furlongs 34 to 41, 44 and 45, and that part of 68 across the ancient Irchester road from 45, are enclosed and confused from the fifteenth century onwards and are not included in the three great fields. Furlongs 34 to 39 comprised the inlands, and furlongs 45 and 68 were coney garths in 1788.

<i>No. on fig.4</i>	<i>Name of furlong (in 1430, unless otherwise stated).</i>
34	longeeye
35	dufhouswonge
36	nethir walton acre
37	upper walton acre
38	furlong abutting walton acre
40 and 41	sudcroft (1250)
43	baxstonys (Highamway field); backside 1788 (Wood field)
44	kichcroft (1612)

Wollaston meadows

A complete list of these is given in 1788 and although many of these can be traced back many centuries the 1788 names will be used here on account of their completeness.

<i>No. on fig.4</i>	<i>Name in 1788</i>
1	Ladyholme
2	Fleetholme (or fleethorn)
3	Ryeholme
4	Mare hay common
5	Meadow
6	Sykes meadow

7	Summer leys
8	Little meadow
9	Nightholme
10	Wet holme meadow
11*	Osier bed
12*	Pentelowe holme
13	Mill Holme
14	Roundabout
15	Scort holme (or scortum)
16	Bull tongue
17	Kitty holme
18	Northolme
19*	Woodlake
20	Priest meadow
21	Netherfield out meadow; (outmede in 1430)
22	Horse hay common
23	Southholme

* These are actually in Doddington parish (adjacent).

Other names located:

Luxwynns ashe corner (1426), near f.34
 mathenysmore (1426), near f.38
 knapperdiswelle (1250), middle of ff.40/41.
 gypole (ford) (1426), east of f.41
 osewellemore (1430), near f.34
 Jefferies more (1788), below f.105

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NOTES

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- 17 D N Hall and N Nickerson, 'The Earthworks of Strixton', *J Northampton Mus* 6, 1969, 22-34.
- 18 Duchy of Lancaster Records Office, Raunds Enclosure, map 1798
- 19 A Whichello, *The Annals of Wollaston*, third edition, 1930, 34.
- 20 Leicester Museums, Archives Dept: Terrier of 1430 in Register of William Wulston.
- 21 Nethirfeld: blackmanlond, brakfurlonge, colman brigge, fullewelle, haybalke, hill, holmweye, howpyng, milneweye, pitteweye grene, and thatchelwisknoll. Higham weiefeld: bakstones, besell, elderstubrill, higham weie, hynewykweye, mores, pochouerheueden, tyndal, wrong. Ouerfeld: brokeswell dunstale, nether whynes, peryns, sewelle furlonge, shitburslade, wodehille.
- 22 Leicester Museums, Archives Dept: Grant by Roger of Newburgh to William, son of Seier, c 1225, in Register of William Wulston.
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- 44 N R O: Wollaston Glebe Terriers, 1684-1783.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to the Higham Ferrers Hundred Archaeological Society for a grant towards this paper.

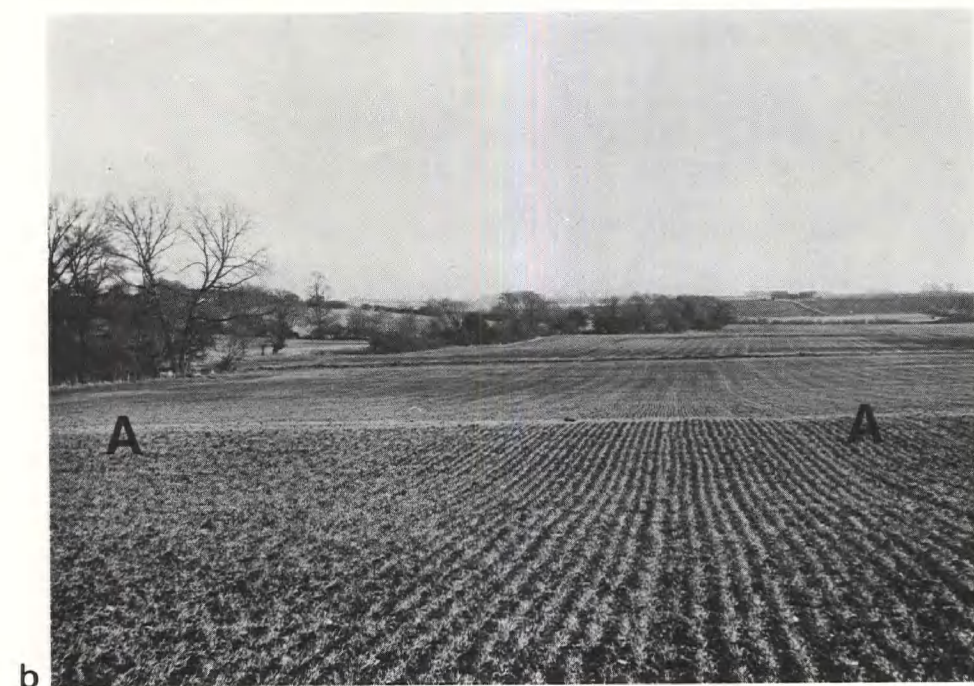


Plate 2a Part of furlongs 5 and 9 showing a head. Wollaston, Northants.

2b The ploughed over boundary between furlongs 9 and 10, readily visible in the young corn. Strixton, Northants.

MEDIEVAL FIELD SYSTEMS



a



b

Plate 1a Part of furlongs 5 and 9 looking south, at Wollaston, Northants.

1b Part of two furlongs showing a headland. Castle Ashby Park, Northants.

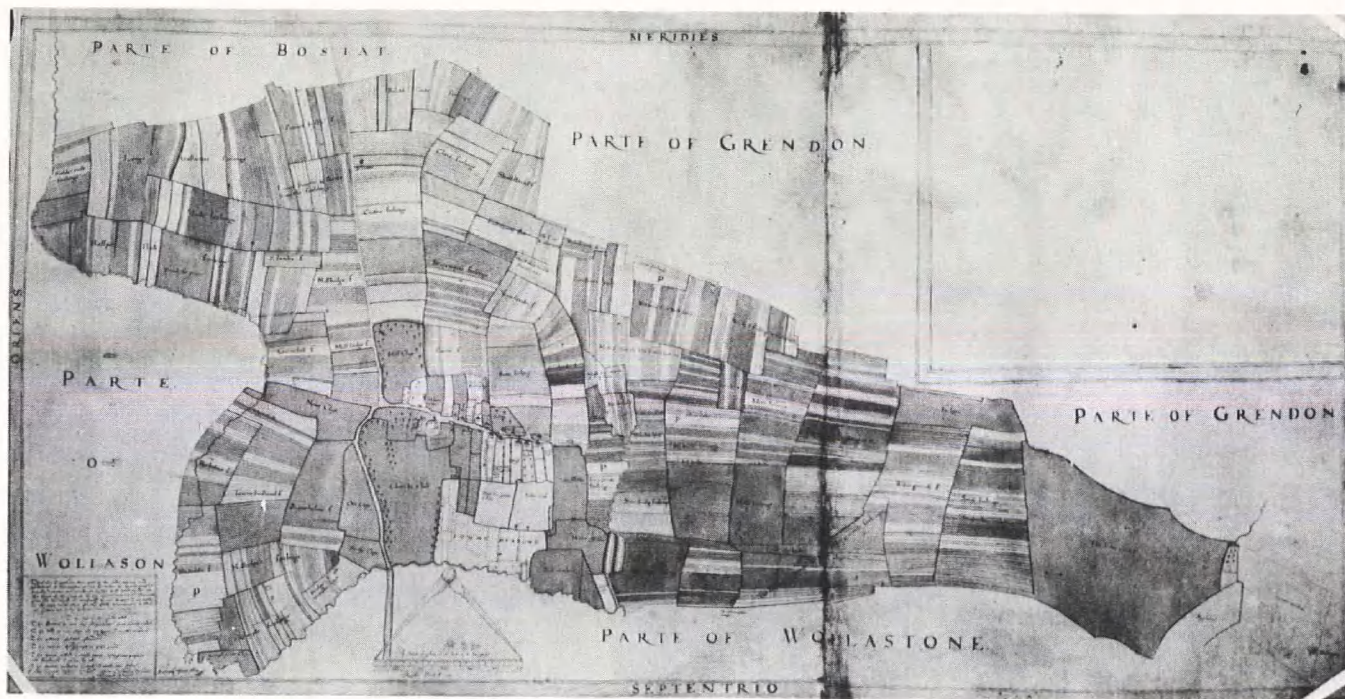


Plate 3 The 1583 open field map of Strixton, Northants, showing the furlong pattern.



Plate 4 Part of the 1583 open field map of Strixton, Northants.



Plate 5 Demolished Timber-Framed Building, formerly in Upper George Street, Luton (after W. Austin *History of Luton*).

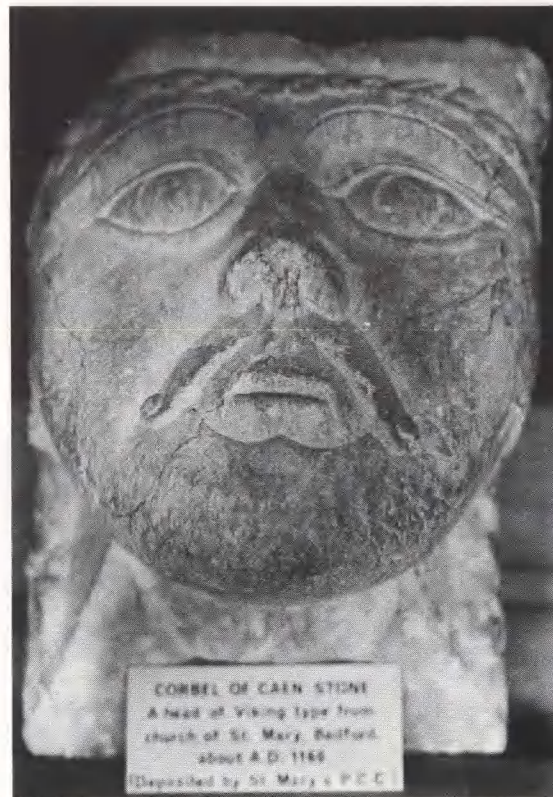


Plate 6 Side and face views of Twelfth Century Carved Head from St Mary's Church, Bedford.



Plate 7a Palimpsest Brass from Cople.



Plate 7b The central portion of the Septrans brass showing hilt, baldric and sword.



Plate 8 Sherd of Nene Valley Pottery from Ruxox Farm, Maulden.

Medieval Jugs from Bedford

SUSAN LINGER and DAVID H. KENNETT *

SUMMARY

A catalogue and illustration of the major finds made in Bedford during the 1920s and 1930s bringing out the principal sources of medieval pottery from Bedford. These are seen as local wares, often derived from St. Neots type wares; Lyveden ware from Northamptonshire; pottery with affinities to Elstree jugs; and a large group with parallels to Brill kilns and other white wares of the Oxford region.

INTRODUCTION

During the 1920s and 1930s much of central Bedford was redeveloped in a piecemeal fashion, with individual plots rebuilt at various times. In the course of this redevelopment much archaeological information was undoubtedly lost. Some, however, was saved and it is due to the indefatigable energy of F.W. Kuhlicke and G.C. Dunning that such a large body of material was secured for the collections of the Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School. These collections were transferred to Bedford Museum in 1959 and the pottery is now there.

The pottery illustrated represents the majority of the jug sherds from finds made between 1919 and 1939, with the exception of material from the Bedford Bridge widening of 1939. Excepting a vessel from Kempston (13) all the pottery is believed to have come from Bedford, though exact provenances are not always certain.

The present study seeks merely to provide an introduction to the medieval pottery of Bedford and to elucidate the probable sources of that pottery. The excavations now in progress in Bedford under the direction of David Baker¹ will provide a much greater range of pottery and also stratified

groups and thus no more than an interim statement seems required from these notes designed to place on record the pots found in the 1920s and 1930s.

CATALOGUE

The catalogue is in the order of the discussion and gives details of the pot, its ware, glaze and decoration and where known its provenance. The number in brackets is the museum number.

1. Jug; virtually complete, spout side missing; two vertical lines slashed down spine of handle; light red brown shelly ware with grey and red unevenly fired core. Bedford, Fleur de Lys, Mill Street. (3898)

2. Jug; rim, spout, top of handle, neck; light red shelly ware. Marked "Found when excavating for new premises for L.C.W. & P. Bank in rear of 83, High Street, Bedford. 1921. J.C. Bungey, Esq."

3. Jug; rim, no spout, top of neck, handle; ridge along spine of handle; orange sandy ware. (Section is drawn horizontally through the line of the spout; the handle is not on a line with the spout, but twisted to the right) Bedford. St. Mary's Street, Black Knight public House. (3977)

4. Jug; handle only; red shelly ware with black core; Bedford, Cauldwell Priory. (3941)

5. Jug; handle only; perforations in three approximately vertical lines along spine of handle; red shelly ware with dark grey core. Bedford, Cauldwell Priory. (3942)

6. Jug; handle only; diagonal slashes and small perforations along spine of handle; orange shelly ware with dark grey core. Bedford, station site. (3907)

7. Jug; rim, part of lip, top of handle, neck; red interior, grey core, brown exterior; shelly ware; green glaze on neck and rim, but not on handle; applied yellow glazed strips, horizontal and vertical; handle thumb-pressed to neck. Bedford. (8909)

8. Jug; part of rim, neck, handle; handle has two shallow vertical line depressions along spine

* The drawings and descriptions of this paper are by S.L.; D.H.K. supplied comment and introductory material.

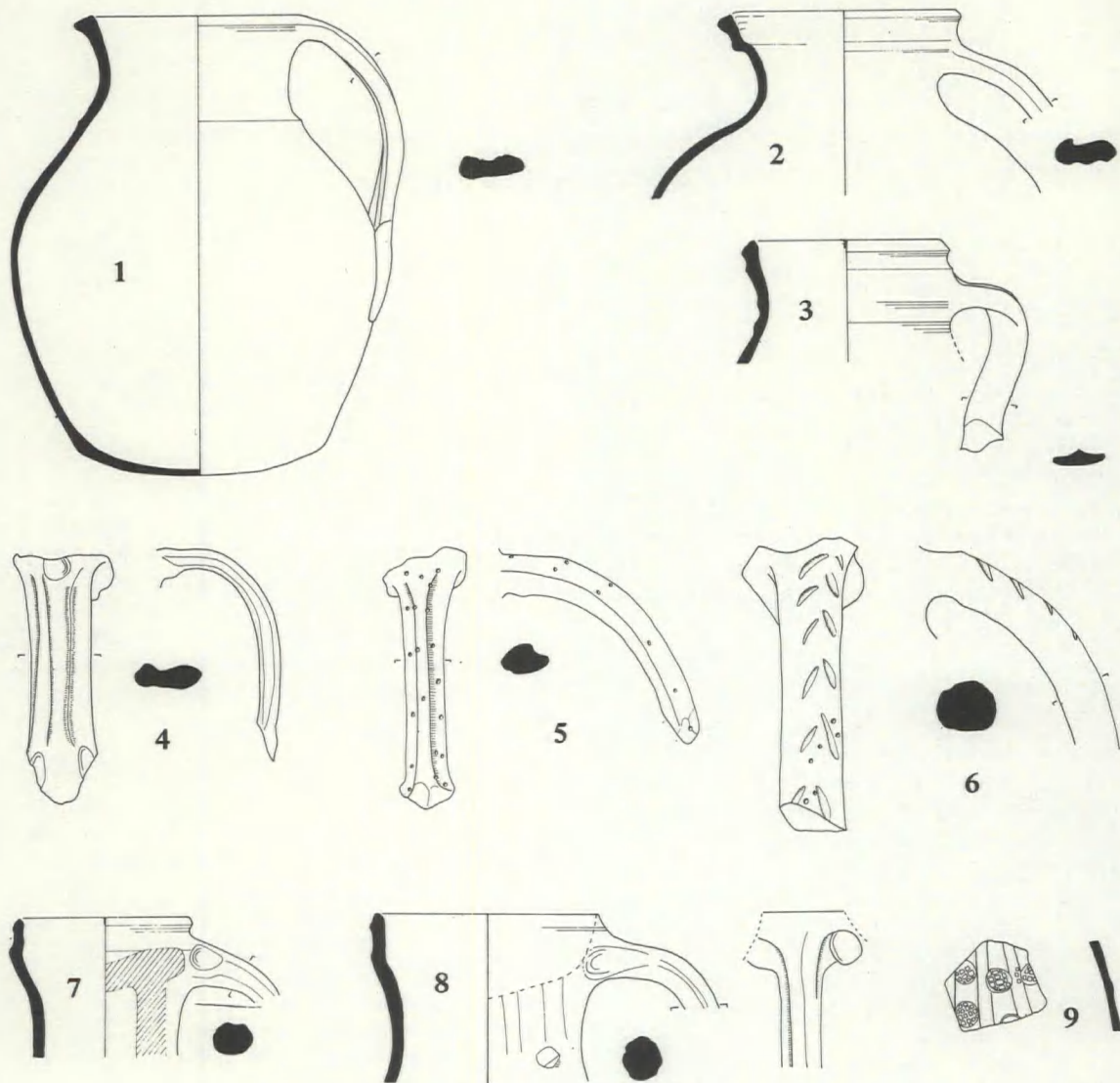


Fig 1 Local wares (1-6), and Lyveden jugs (7-9).

and side; handle thumb-pressed to neck; red shelly ware with grey core; green glaze on exterior with applied yellow glazed vertical strips and yellow glazed knob. Bedford, High Street. (3925)

9. Jug (?); wall sherd; porous shelly ware with interior and grey core; yellow glazed applied vertical strip, and circles with a chequered design inside them, on a greeny brown glazed background (-).

10. Jug; large sherd including much of handle wheel-turned, hard grey ware, sandy with matt sur-

faces, thin walled, with neck and upper part of walls finely shaded with raised lines done with tool cuts; the outer edge of the handle was touching thumb-pressings, with the nail impression showing and marked by a deep pricker hole. Horne Lane. (3953)

11. Jug; half of body, handle, rim, no base or spout; handle thumb-pressed along sides; rows of perforations along sides and spine of handle; horizontal row of nail indentations around base of neck;

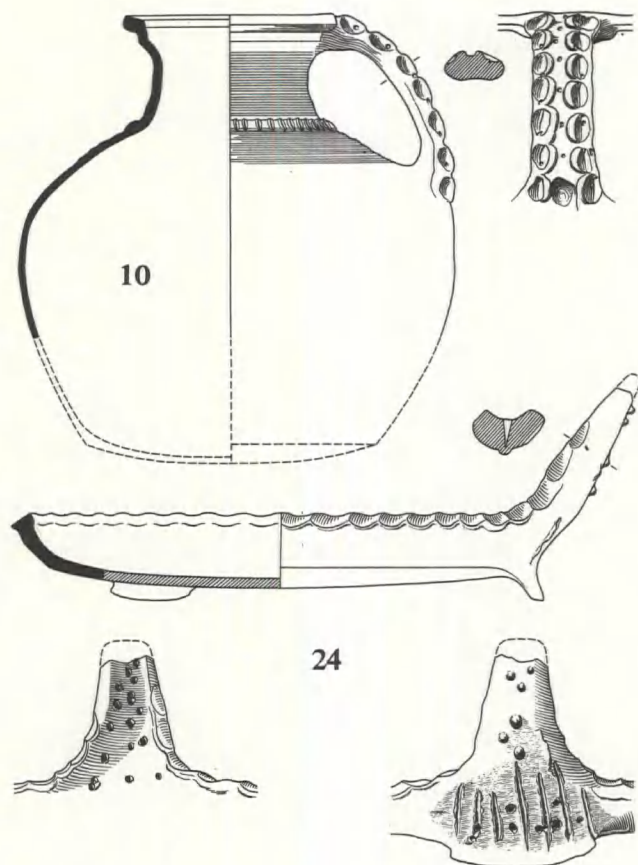


Fig. 2 Jug and skillet in ware of Elstree type found in Horne Lane. Drawn by G.C. Dunning.

dark grey sandy ware. Bedford, station site. (3908)

12. Jug; handle, part of rim, neck, body, no spout; handle thumb-pressed along each side; two vertical rows of perforations along spine of handle; four horizontal perforations at junction with rim; horizontal row of nail indentations around base of neck; light grey sandy ware with unevenly fired buff and grey core. Bedford, Cauldwell Priory. (3947)

13. Jug; handle and part of rim; handle thumb-pressed along sides, with irregular perforations along spine, roughly in three vertical rows; red shelly ware with dark grey core; traces of burning on handle. Marked "with E15". E15 came from Kempston Mill.

14. Jug; most of body and part of neck; no base or rim; beginning of bottom of handle; buff coloured sandy ware with unevenly fired buff and

light grey core; upper half of body and neck has green yellow glaze; vertical strips of alternate self-fabric and metallic grey brown glaze on upper part of body. Bedford, Cauldwell Priory 1921. (3944)

15. Jug; half of body, edge of base, part of rim; drawing reconstructed from two sherds – part of rim, side of body and base; orange buff coloured sandy ware; orange glaze on upper half, with dark red brown glazed vertical strips; Bedford, Cauldwell Priory. (3945)

16. Jug; rim, spout, neck, part of body, no base or handle; drawing reconstructed from six sherds (part of rim and spout, two part of body and neck, three body); buff coloured sandy ware; yellow glaze on exterior; red brown glazed applied strips in irregular curvilinear design below neck. Bedford, Cauldwell Priory. (3940)

17. Jug; part of base and bottom of body; buff

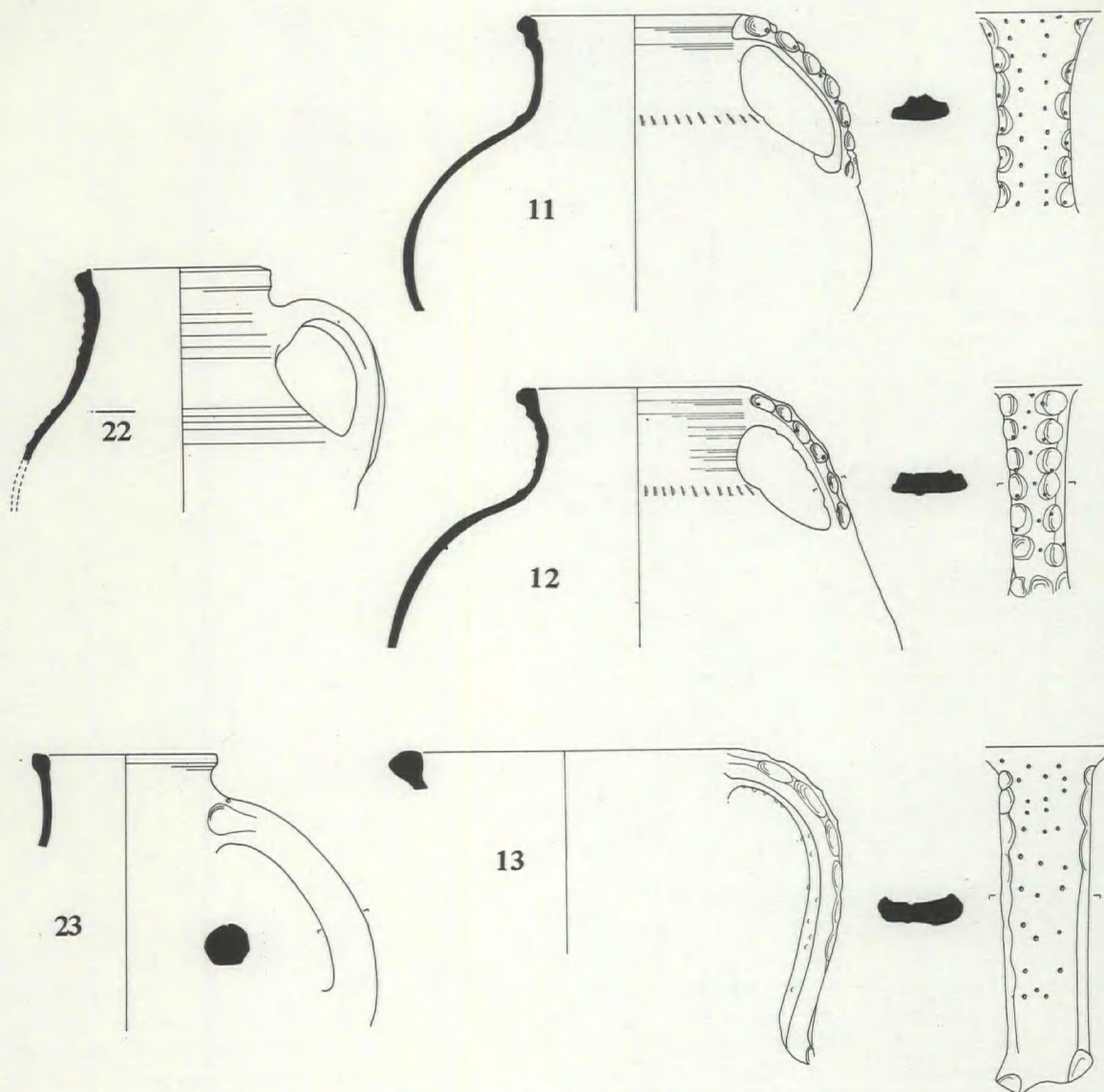


Fig 3 Elstree type jugs (11–13) and sandy ware jugs (22 and 23).

coloured sandy ware with orange exterior; orange and green glazes, bottom 4cm. unglazed; brown glazed horizontal strip just above lower limit of glaze; vertical strips of alternate self-fabric and brown glaze, with double rows of rectangular perforations, on body. Bedford, St. Peter's Granada site. (3879) (A similar body sherd is probably of the same pot).

18. Jug; base and part of body; buff coloured sandy ware with orange exterior and buff and light grey unevenly fired core; partially glazed with green

glaze; irregular curvilinear design of brown glaze and self-fabric. Bedford, St. Peter's Street, Granada site. (3938)

19. Jug; part of base and lower body; buff coloured sandy ware with orange exterior; dark red brown strips applied in curvilinear design; patchy green glaze. Bedford, St. Peter's Street, Granada site. (3939)

20. Jug; wall sherd only; buff coloured sandy ware with green glaze; applied self-fabric and brown glazed strips in curvilinear design with punched

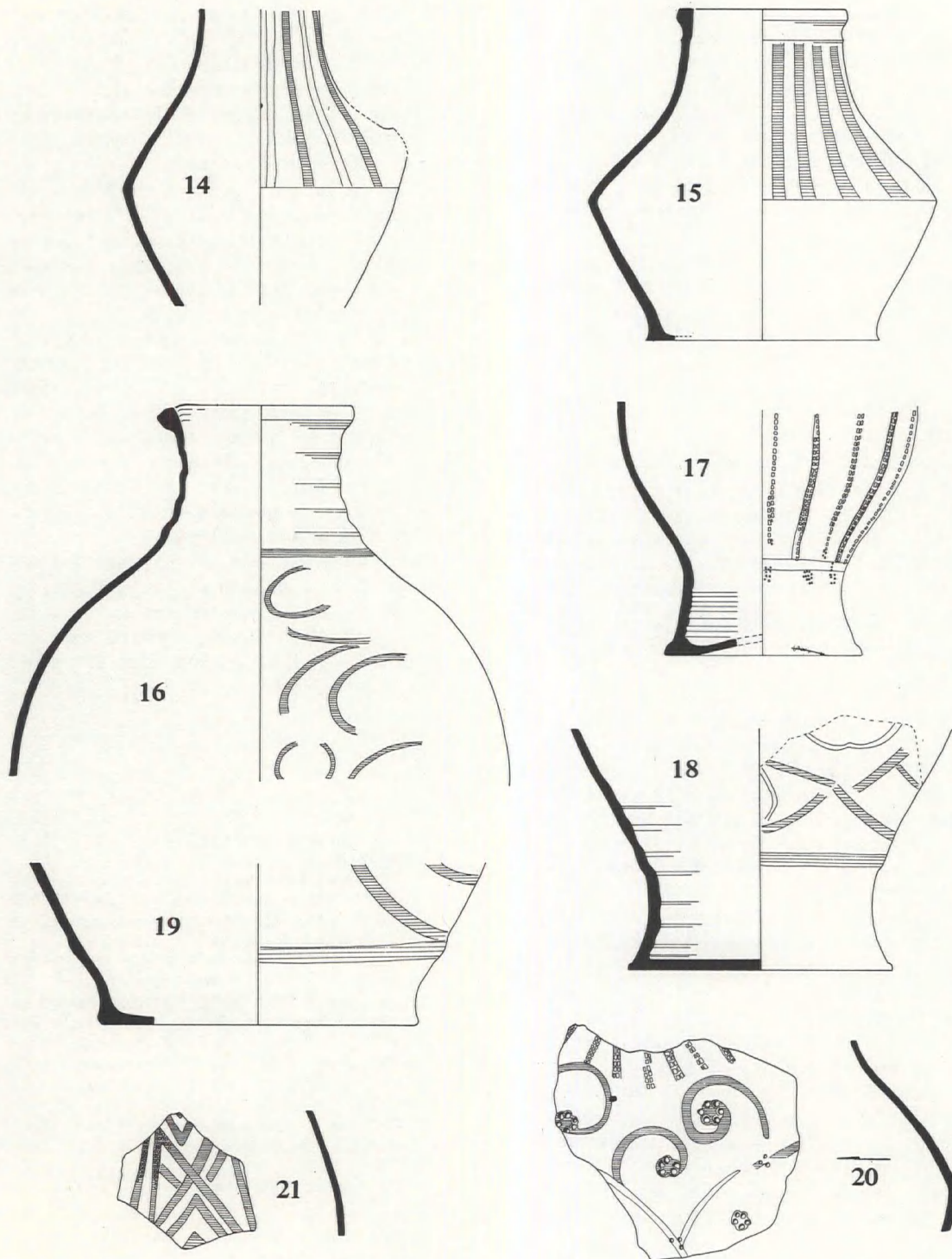


Fig 4 Jugs of white wares, including Brill jugs (14 and 15).

floral design; vertical strips with two rows of rectangular depressions, alternately self-fabric and brown glaze, at bottom of neck. Bedford, L.C.W. & P. Bank, High Street, (3922)

21. Jug; bottom of handle only; buff coloured sandy ware with green and brown glaze; part of V-shaped dark brown glazed linear design; perforations along spine of handle. Bedford, Horne Lane Brewery. (3878) (Possibly the same pot as the wall sherd marked 3878)

22. Jug; rim, spout, neck, handle, top of body; handle twisted slightly to right; buff coloured sandy ware; orange and green glaze; row of perforations along spine of handle. Bedford. (8904)

23. Jug; handle only, part of rim; handle thumb-pressed to neck; orange buff coloured sandy ware; green glaze on bottom half of handle. Bedford. (8905)

24. Shallow skillet; lug handle and foot on part of the base; in a hard grey sandy ware; finger-tipping on the edge of the handle extends to the rim of the vessel; handle has deep pricker marks on the upper surface producing protrusions on the underside; series of cuts on the underside going almost to the base of the foot; Horne Lane. (3952)

DISCUSSION

Six vessels (1-6) are thought to be local wares. The complete jug from the Fleur-de-Lys, Mill Street, (1) is perhaps fifteenth century, but its ware is not that different from classic St Neots ware jugs.² Similarly strap handles (2-5) are akin to St. Neots ware handles and the shelly ware of the slashed rod handle (6) is again like earlier shelly wares, though the form is unusual.

One group of wares is distinctive: the jugs with a dark olive-green glaze and yellow applied strips, linked to the Lyveden kilns. Recent examples have been published from Ellington, Hunts³ and their thirteenth century date is broadly applicable to these from Bedford (7-9) which also include one from the bridge widening.

Another distinctive group is the thumb-pressed handles in a harsh black ware, which may be classed under the term Elstree jugs.⁴ The earliest are the two (10 and 11) with touching thumb pressings in a deeply moulded handle. Later are those with a flatter handle and the thumb pressing tending to disappear (12 and 13).

A probably related piece is the pottery skillet (24) which may be from a pit group in Horne Lane with an Elstree jug (10). These are a rarity: one of

twelfth or thirteenth century date has been published from Upper Heaton⁵ and metal skillets such as that from Stanford-in-the Vale, Berks.,⁶ are known. One may surmise that the ware, akin to that of Elstree jugs, and the likelihood of being a pottery skeuomorph of a metal type suggest a similar date for the Bedford piece.

Another distinctive type are the Brill jugs⁷ (14 and 15) and it seems probable that the other white wares, all glazed and highly decorated, represent other influences from the Oxford region. This may, however, be found to be an over-simplification of a much more highly complex picture.

As far as one can at present judge the sources of the medieval pottery of Bedford can be traced to being local products and wares imported from other areas. The local wares seem to be derived from the tenth to twelfth century shelly wares, such as St. Neots ware. Fairly obvious groups which can be identified as from external sources are the Lyveden jugs, the vessels linked to Elstree jugs and their derivatives and the Brill jugs.

It is probable that this interim statement will become outdated as more groups are published but it may, the authors hope, serve as an outline to the major sources. It is though admitted that it is probably only the surface impression of a much more complex picture.⁸

NOTES

- 1 D B Baker, 'Excavations in Bedford, 1967' *Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 67-100; summaries of subsequent excavations *Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 119; 6, 1971, 81; below p.90.
- 2 J G Hurst, 'Saxo-Norman wares in East Anglia: part 1, St. Neots ware', *P Camb Ant Soc* 49, 1956, 43-70; D H Kennett, 'St Neots ware from Bedford: jugs and bowls', *Beds Arch J* 4, 1969, 17-25.
- 3 *P Camb Ant Soc* 63, 1971, 62-63 with fig. 10.
- 4 M Biddle, 'Medieval Pottery from Elstree' *T St Albans A A S*, 1961, 65-69; D F Renn, *Potters and Kilns in Medieval Hertfordshire*, 1964, 8, fig. 3 WH1; D F Renn, 'Further finds of Medieval Pottery from Elstree: with a survey of unglazed thumb-pressed jugs', *Herts Arch* 1, 1968, 124-127.
- 5 *Arch J* 121, 1964, 94-96 with fig 17.
- 6 G C Dunning, 'The Bronze skillet from Stanford-in-the-Vale, Berkshire' *Berks Arch J* 60, 1962, 98-100.
- 7 *Rec Bucks* 16, 1953, 39-42.
- 8 The authors wish to thank Mr F W Kuhlicke, Director of Bedford Museum for access to the museum collections and for permission to publish these vessels. They are especially indebted to Dr G C Dunning for the use of his figure of the material from Horne Lane.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Bedford Corporation for a grant towards the cost of this paper.

A Demolished Timber-Framed Building at Luton

TERENCE PAUL SMITH

SUMMARY

A Luton timber-framed house, now demolished and known to us only from a photograph, shows two types of framing technique. It apparently consists of a hall with a storeyed end (possibly an extension). A sixteenth century date is argued for, although it is possible that the hall part is of the fifteenth century. The building is important in view of the extreme paucity of medieval and sub-medieval remains in the town.

INTRODUCTION

A photograph (pl. 5) facing page 178 of William Austin's *History of Luton* (vol. 1, 1923) carries the caption:

'Early fifteenth century House, Upper George Street, Luton (demolished)'.

No mention of the building occurs in Austin's text, and the photograph is the only record of it that we have. Although some details are obscured by shrubbery in the foreground and by later building, a good deal of information can be gleaned by a careful examination of the details shown in the photograph (pl. 5). Approximate elevations and a plan based on this view are given in figure 1 and a perspective of the timber-framing in figure 2. Enquiries by D.H. Kennett have shown that the building formerly stood on the south side of the street, on the site now occupied by Messrs. Connells' premises. The building occupies a long site running north-south at right angles to the street so that the building is taller at the street end than at the other end.¹

DESCRIPTION

The building is a long rectangular structure of two storeys at the south and three storeys at the north, the whole covered by one stretch of gabled roof.

Many of the original features of the north end have been covered by brickwork or rendering. The basement storey is of bricks, whose size suggests that they are non-primary; it forms a sort of plinth to the storeys above and has one window, apparently of late eighteenth or early nineteenth century date. The eastern side of this storey is taken up by a flight of brick steps with a wooden rail supported by posts rising from ground-level. The steps give access to the main doorway on the floor above. The details of this doorway are not clear in the photograph. West of it is a wide window of four lights divided by diagonally-set wooden mullions. This is late medieval — fifteenth or sixteenth century — in appearance.² The wall-frame is composed of fairly closely-set studs with a brick infilling; at the top of each corner-post is a curved bracket beneath the over-sailing part of each rail; the rails form the ends of the jetty.

The topmost stage of this end wall is jettied out over the storey beneath and, like the gable, is entirely rendered. The bressummer and corner-posts are either replacements or possibly planks covering the original beams. However, it is clear from the disposition of the timbers at the bottom corners of the wall — that is, at the jetty's ends — that the bressummer is fully-framed, that is to say the rails of the side walls and the joists of the first-floor are jointed into the back face of the bressummer, instead of the bressummer resting on the ends of the rails and joists. This storey is lighted by one window in the end wall; the window, of sub-medieval appearance, is centrally placed with a small hood. The window may be a replacement or may have been heightened, for its top appears to cut into the original tie-beam. This must have seriously affected the strength of the building, but such structurally unsound alterations to medieval buildings are by no means unknown.

In the gable the ends of two purlins — one each side — are visible rather more than halfway up the roof slope. The side-purlins are set in-pitch and are

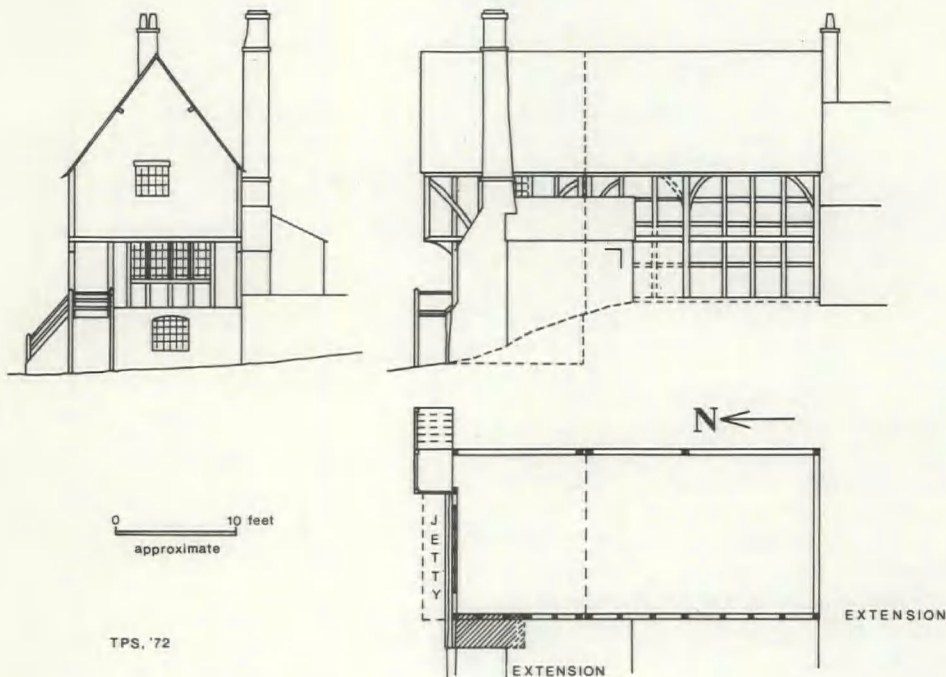


Fig. 1 Conjectural plan of timber-framed building in demolished Upper George Street, Luton.

presumably butt- (rather than through-) purlins. The verges project slightly and there are no barge-boards. The roof-pitch appears to be approximately 50° .

Since the west (side) wall of the building is un-rendered, more details of construction are visible. The southernmost half of the wall (that furthest from the camera) is of square-panel construction. There are two bays to this half of the wall, the more southerly being rather shorter than the other since it has three horizontal divisions whilst the latter has four; the principal posts are clearly visible in the photograph (pl. 5). The southernmost principal (corner-) post has a slightly curved arch-brace rising from it and passing the topmost rail to meet the wall-plate. The central principal post of this part of the building has a similar arch-brace on its south side, though none is visible on the north; it is, however, likely that there was originally a brace in this position. The other, northernmost, corner-post is not all visible in the picture, but again appears to have been braced in similar fashion, except that the brace was structurally weaker in that it passes from post to adjacent stud rather than to the wall-plate.

No windows can be seen in this half of the building although there must have been some originally. No details of the roof are known; the roof covering is of hand-made tiles, but it must not be assumed that these are a primary feature.

The northern half of this same side wall is of markedly different character. A later — or just possibly contemporary — chimney stack and an even later outhouse obscure much of the wall, including the whole of the lower storey. The basement extended beneath at least the northern part of this half of the building and probably beneath the whole of it: it is shown thus by the broken lines in Figs 1 and 2. The storey above the basement corresponds to the ground-floor further south. The most southerly feature is a principal post which is contiguous to that which forms the northernmost feature of the southern half of this side wall. At the top of this post a slightly curved tension-brace butts against it, and this must rise from the middle rail of the wall, although only the top of the brace is visible. There is a similar slightly curved tension-brace to the other, northernmost, principal (corner-) post. All but the foot of this brace is visible; it passes one of the intermediate

studs into which, presumably, it is halved. These tension-braces contrast with the arch-braces further south in the building, and another contrast is in the method of wall-framing, which here is of vertical panels separated by fairly closely-set studs, similar to the construction of the end wall. One window is visible in the photograph, just south of centre of this half of the wall and next to the chimney stack. The window may well be in the position of an original, although it is of eighteenth or early nineteenth century type. The roof covering of this half of the building is again of hand-made tiles.

Throughout its length this side wall is unjettied, and the nogging is of bricks, which appear to be 'statute' bricks.³

Also of such bricks is the chimney stack at the side of the northern half of the building. It is very wide at the bottom, about 5ft judging from the number of bricks *per* row, but diminishes to about 3ft at about the level of the middle rail by a sloping and tiled offset. A change to inferior bricks at about this level perhaps indicates that the upper half of the stack has been rebuilt. The stack has a band at eaves level and another towards the top; the short stretch of work above, with its slightly more elaborate banding, is probably a later — eighteenth century — augmentation.

Built against the south face of the stack and the west face of the main structure is a late eighteenth or nineteenth century single-storey pentice-roofed outhouse of standard sized bricks and with a slate roof. At the south end of the building is another chimney stack, with pots, probably eighteenth century. Also at this end is a lower extension to the main building; this has a tiled roof, but no dateable features are discernible.

The dimensions of the building can only be estimated from the disposition of the bricks. The width is approximately 14-15ft, its length roughly between 30 and 35ft. Each storey — including the basement — appears to be about 6ft in height.

DISCUSSION

The difference in the methods of wall-framing, particularly in the types of bracing, between the two halves of the building possibly indicates two phases of construction, the southern half being the older, and some support is given to this conjecture by the contiguous principal posts at the junction of the two framing methods; when extending a timber-framed building it was usually found easier

to erect an additional set of principal posts rather than to frame into the existing set. On the other hand (J.T. Smith, private communication) it is possible that the two posts, and therefore the two halves of the building, are contemporary, the differences in framing being due to difference of function — that is, southern hall and northern storeyed end.

The square-panel construction and the short, only slightly curved arch-braces of the southern half of the building belong to what J.T. Smith has defined as the western school of timber-frame construction.⁴ The main concentration of buildings of this school lies to the west (and south) of Bedfordshire, so that the Luton building must be an outlier. The arch-brace which runs from one vertical member to another (*supra* p 74) is significant in this respect, for it relates the building to others in East Anglia. That this brace is an *arch*-brace and not a *tension*-brace would seem to support J.T. Smith's suggestion that such bracing should be regarded as a separate type and not as a variety of tension-bracing.⁵ The southern half of the building thus consisted of a two-bay structure of western school framing, but related to the East Anglian school. Of the original fenestration nothing is known. The height of the rails is peculiar (Fig 1) and the arrangement makes it unlikely that the building was originally of a single storey open to the roof; it is more likely that the whole structure was divided by a floor from the outset. It is highly probable that the panels of the wall-frame were originally filled with wattle-and-daub, which would have been plastered, the brick nogging being a later alteration. Of the original roof construction nothing is known. Fig 2 indicates a crown-post roof with collar purlin, but this is conjectured. Whether or not the roof was of this type depends to some extent on its date: if it is earlier than the northern part and so perhaps of the fifteenth century then such a roof is likely. In north Bedfordshire even late medieval houses may have such roofs, and in one instance a building as late as the sixteenth century has a crown-post roof,⁶ though this is exceptional. If, on the other hand, this half of the building is contemporary with the northern half (sixteenth century), then a side-purlin roof like that of the northern half is much more likely.

By way of contrast, the northern half of the building belongs to the eastern school of tall vertical panels, fairly closely-set studs, and curved tension-braces.⁷ Luton lies well within the main concentration of buildings of this school. This half

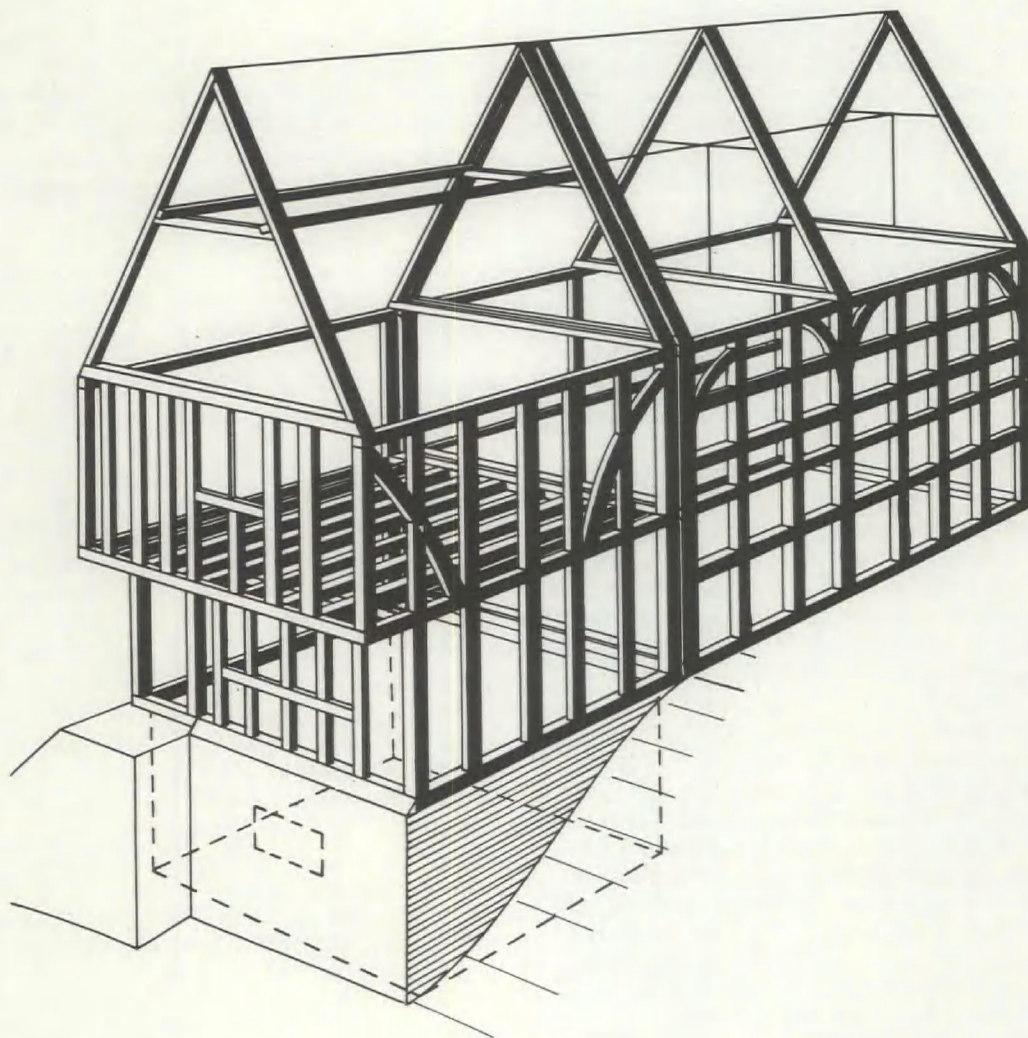


Fig. 2 Isometric reconstruction of timber-framing of demolished building in Upper George Street, Luton.

of the building formed either a storeyed end contemporary with the southern half, or a storeyed extension of later date. It was of one bay and was jettied on its end wall. The slope of the site permitted (or necessitated) a cellar which was probably of brick, and above this were two further storeys. What is known of the fenestration has been noted above; the doorway is in the usual position for a building with a cellar of the type exhibited here. Little is known of the roof structure except that it had the in-pitch side-purlins already mentioned, perhaps with collars above these.

The northern half of the building may be dated to the sixteenth century. The fully-framed bressummer on the end wall may pretty safely be assigned to that century. C.A. Hewett has shown that in Essex this method of framing the bressummer was in vogue for a period of about fifty or sixty years from c.1530.⁸ Extrapolation from one region to another should never be indulged in lightly, but Bedfordshire is sufficiently close to Essex for a broadly similar date to be accepted for this feature in south Bedfordshire buildings, and a sixteenth century date may accordingly be acc-

epted. The nature of the tension-bracing, the wide four-light window in the end wall, and the roof construction incorporating side-purlins in-pitch are consistent with this dating. In this area side-purlin roofs probably began to supersede the earlier crown-post roofs at the end of the fifteenth century. They are a common feature of those post-medieval houses in north Bedfordshire examined by N.W. Alcock,⁹ and are present in Bedfordshire's best timber-framed building, the Moot Hall, at Elstow, which Stuart Rigold dates to c. 1500 (with seventeenth century additions and alterations).¹⁰ The features of the southern half of the Luton building could be of this date or somewhat earlier (fifteenth century).

From its position against the side of the building the brick chimney stack would appear to be a later addition, though just possibly it was put up in such a position as part of the original build. The stack is typically late sixteenth or seventeenth century, and is very similar to the gable-end stack of this date at the Moat House, Biscot, Luton.¹¹

The building was not a town house, for the medieval and immediately post-medieval town of Luton did not extend as far as present Upper George Street. Presumably it belonged to the class of 'many good sized farm houses occupied by yeomen farmers and maltsters,' mentioned by Austin.¹² The significance of the building lies in the fact that Luton is as devoid of material remains of its past as any town in England, and this building is, together with the Moat House at Biscot, the earliest Luton vernacular building of which we have visual evidence. Its appreciation, even through the medium of a photograph, is therefore a matter of importance in the study of the history and development of the town.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to D.H. Kennett for allowing me to make use of his researches into the site of this building; to J.T. Smith, and Helen Clarke for reading an earlier draft of this paper and for making many invaluable comments and suggestions, of which I have made use in a revised draft. The photograph (pl. 5) is reproduced by kind permission of Mrs K.M. Milner, to whom my grateful thanks are due.

NOTES

- 1 The building on the extreme east of Austin's photograph may be identified with 'The Clarence' public house, thus allowing the site of the timber-framed building to be located. Immediately to its west is a large garden, which appears as a large blank space on an 1855 map of the town. *Ex inf.* D H Kennett. Upper George Street was formerly known as Dunstable Street.
- 2 For such windows cf. R W Brunskill, *Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture* (1971), 118-19.
- 3 The bricks appear to measure roughly 8-9in by 4-4½in by 2-2½in. The 'statute' referred to is that of Edward IV of 1477; cf. C F Innocent, *The Development of English Building Construction* (1916, reprinted 1971), 152; also A Clifton-Taylor, *The Pattern of English Building* (revised ed., 1972), 249; for brief notes on early brick in Luton vide T P Smith, 'Someries Castle', *Beds Arch J*, 3, (1966), 49.
- 4 J T Smith, 'Timber-building in England', *Arch J*, 122, (1965), 133-58; also Brunskill, 54-5, 178.
- 5 J T Smith, 147-8.
- 6 N W Alcock, 'Timber-framed Buildings in North Bedfordshire', *Beds Arch J*, 4, (1969).
- 7 J T Smith, 133-58; also Brunskill, 54-5, 178.
- 8 C A Hewett, *The Development of Carpentry 1200-1700: an Essex Study* (1969), chap. 7, and especially 52.
- 9 Alcock, 47 and *passim*.
- 10 S E Rigold, 'Elstow Moot Hall', in *The Moot Hall, Elstow* (Beds C.C. publication, 1969), 5-8. There is good reason to believe that the side-purlin roof developed in the West Midlands; cf. K W E Gravett, 'Smaller Houses under the Tudors - a Period of Transition', *Proc Royal Inst of Gt Britain*, 43, (1970), 161-9. A demolished West Midlands example at Chorley House, Droitwich, Worcs. is illustrated in Clifton-Taylor, 310 (drawing by F W B Charles), dateable to c. 1400. Away from the West Midlands they occur progressively later, but reached (e.g.) King's Lynn by the early sixteenth century; a fine example at Thoresby College in that town and is dateable from documents to c. 1510; vide V Parker *The Making of King's Lynn*, vol. 1 (1971), 73 and Fig. 17, p 75. It is not unduly surprising that the type reached as far as Kent only late, 'arriving at the county boundary about 1530 and slowly travelling eastwards reaching Canterbury and Sandwich by about 1600...': K Gravett, *Timber and Brick Building in Kent* (1971), 10-11.
- 11 A J Hales, 'The Moat House, Biscot', *Beds Mag* 11 (1968), 143-6.
- 12 W Austin, *History of Luton and its Hamlets*, vol. 1 (1923), 220.

NOTES

Further Flint Finds from Ruxox Farm, Maulden

KEVAN FADDEN

Introduction

The Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society have conducted an intensive field walking campaign on the fields of Ruxox Farm, Maulden (TL 048360), following the discovery of flints by the farmer, Mr J. Course, during the 1960s. Artifacts previously published¹ suggest a date range of the Mesolithic period to the Late Bronze Age from prehistoric occupation at Ruxox.

A further series of finds is published here following the introduction of more intensive agricultural methods. The area has been ploughed continuously since the eleventh century but within recent years this has become deeper. In 1970 a 400 mm plough was utilised over the whole farm, with the exception of one field.² The latter, too wet to work because of a post-Roman peat layer, escaped the full destruction but subsequently the peat has been broken down. Following the deep ploughing a series of prehistoric artifacts were discovered within an area of 6m radius from the extreme eastern extremity of the area of flint finds marked on the previously published map.³

The Flints (figs 1 and 2)

A number of finds were made and of these a selection is illustrated. These remain in the possession of the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society.

- 1 Bifacially worked cordiform type Mousterian hand axe. A shaped black/brown translucent core with light brown patina, recently damaged. The light stipple on drawing indicates possible later working with some retouching, this was unpatinated.
- 2 Bifacially worked burin, retouched at point black translucent with slight white patina, unworn.
- 3 Unifacially worked scraper, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.
- 4 Unifacially worked flake, retouched at point,

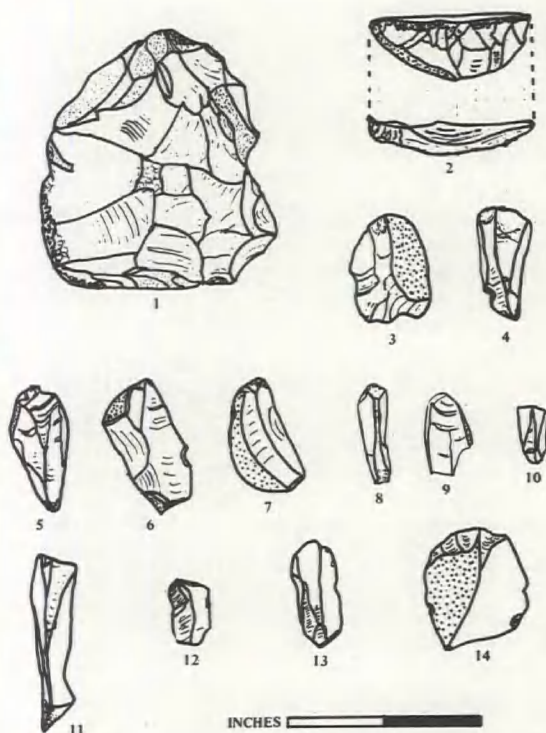


Fig 1 Mousterian hand axe (1) and Mesolithic flints (2-14) from Ruxox Farm, Maulden.

- honey translucent with white patina, unworn.
- 5 Unifacially worked flake, retouched at point, grey translucent slight white patina, unworn.
- 6 Unifacially worked, burin, retouched at point, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.
- 7 Unifacially worked burin, retouched at point, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.
- 8 Unifacially worked truncated flake, grey translucent with slight white patina, unworn.
- 9 Unifacially worked artifact, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.
- 10 Unifacially worked micro burin, opaque with

- heavy white patina, unworn.
- 11 Unifacially worked burin, retouched at point, honey translucent, deep red patina, unworn.
 - 12 Unifacially worked micro burin, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.
 - 13 Unifacially worked burin, honey translucent, white patina, recently damaged.
 - 14 Unifacially worked, steeply corinated scraper, retouched, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.
 - 15 Unifacially worked corinated scraper, grey translucent, heavy white patina, unworn.
 - 16 Unifacially worked, backed scraper, grey translucent with light white patina, unworn.
 - 17 Bifacially worked saw, grey translucent light white patina, unworn.
 - 18 Unifacially worked burin, grey translucent, light white patina, unworn.
 - 19 Microlithic core, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.
 - 20 Microlithic core, light brown opaque, white patina, unworn.
 - 21 Microlithic core black opaque, white patina, recently damaged.
 - 22 Core, grey translucent, slight white patina unworn.
 - 23 Unifacially worked adze head, multicoloured with brown patina, recently damaged on blade.
 - 24 Bifacially worked scraper, retouched on edge, black translucent, unpatinated, unworn.
 - 25 Bifacially worked burin, retouched at point, black translucent, unpatinated, unworn.
 - 26 Unifacially worked end scraper, retouched at ends, multicoloured, brown patina, unworn.
 - 27 Bifacially worked end scraper, retouched at end, brown opaque with brown patina, unworn.
 - 28 Bifacially worked burin, retouched at point, black translucent, unpatinated, unworn.
 - 29 Unifacially worked end scraper, retouched at point, black translucent, unpatinated, unworn.
 - 30 Unifacially worked end scraper, retouched at end, brown translucent, unpatinated, unworn.
 - 31 Unifacially worked backed blade, honey translucent, unpatinated, unworn.
 - 32 Bifacially worked awl, black translucent unpatinated, unworn.
 - 33 Unifacially worked artifact, black translucent, unworn.

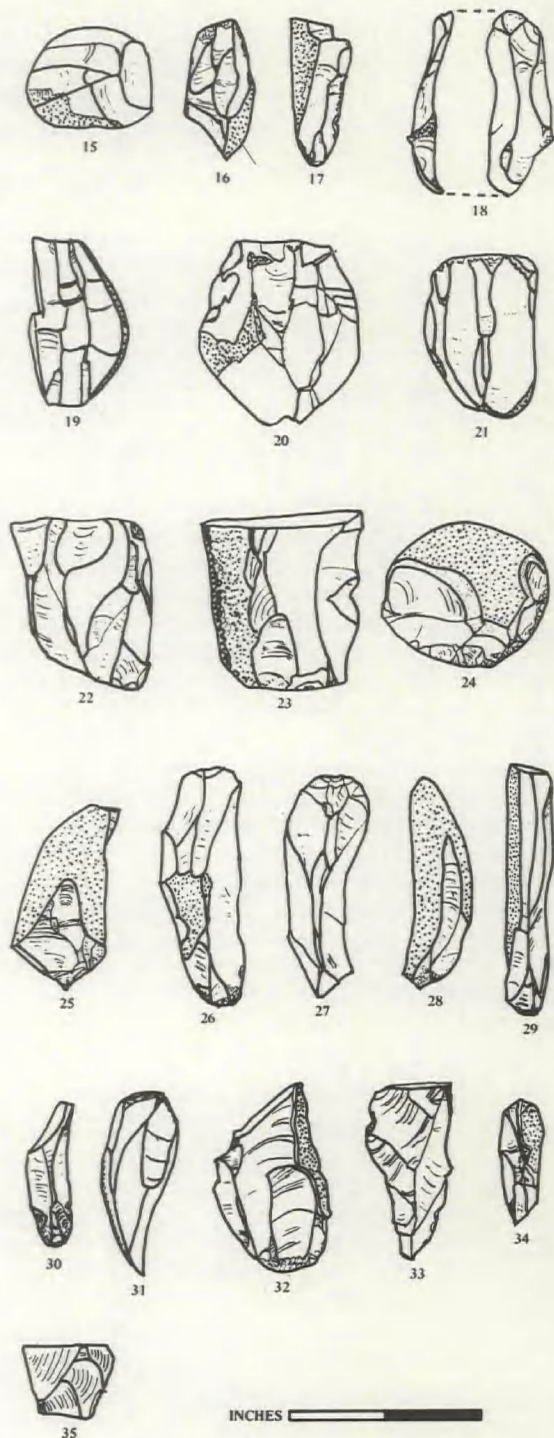


Fig 2 Flints from Ruxox Farm, Malden.

- 34 Unifacially worked truncated flake, black translucent, unpatinated, unworn.
- 35 Chisel headed arrow head, multicoloured translucent, unpatinated, unworn.

Discussion

The Mousterian hand axe (fig 2.1) is the oldest known find in this area and is a good example of the cordiform type. It is damaged but it appears to have been deliberately re-struck since its original manufacture. This could have been in the Neolithic period as the working is unpatinated as were (29) and (30) found within inches of the axe.

The flints (2–22) are in the Mesolithic tradition and are all to some extent patinated. They are in good condition with no sign of wear. These together a fair scatter of worked debris not illustrated suggest a Mesolithic working floor.

The other artifacts (23–35) are basically larger and mostly unpatinated making it safer to suggest a

Neolithic dating.

As all the flints were found in such a small area it can reasonably be assumed that the plough disturbed at least two occupation levels. This can not be verified in the foreseeable future as it is not possible to excavate due to intensive agricultural requirements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. D. Roe who kindly confirmed the dating of the Mousterian Hand Axe. Thanks are also due to Mr J. Buckle of Ruxox Farm who has allowed the Society to walk his fields.

NOTES

- 1 K Fadden, 'Ruxox Farm, Maulden: 1 the prehistoric finds', *Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 1-4, with description of the physical environment of the area.
- 2 Fadden, 1970, map 1: field located to
- 3 Fadden, 1970, fig 1, the shaded area.

A pre-Roman and early Romano-British settlement near Bedford

G.J. DRING

Following recent excavation of pre-Roman Iron Age (Iron Age ciii), early Romano-British (Claudio-Neronian) and late first and early to mid second century A.D. pottery from one or more of three adjacent sites situated on the gravel terraces of the River Ouse, south of Bedford,^{1 2} similar finds were anticipated when, within an area almost central to these sites, construction of the new John Bunyan School commenced in the parish of Eastcotts at Mile Road, Bedford (TL 062478) early in the summer of 1972. That the school area designate merited examination had been indicated when cropmarks in the area were photographed during aerial surveys by Dr J.K. St. Joseph in 1959.

The building procedure, involving the initial extensive removal of ploughsoil to expose the surface of the gravel terrace, has provided a study area hitherto unprecedented in the Bedford region and has enabled an examination to be made in detail of the nature and periods of origin for a settlement site typical of the many which have been recorded

as cropmarks bordering the River Ouse. The study has also proved a most valuable extension to the research carried out at the Romano-British pottery kiln site which is 440 yards (407 metres) southwest of the school site (TL 058476).

Among features displayed was an area 76ft (23m) wide presumed to be rectangular, and enclosed by two ditches. From the ditches three bronze fibulae of Colchester types II, III and VII were recovered and these serve to date a series of characteristic Belgic pottery sherds from the ditches. Together with wares typical of the adjacent post-Conquest kilns in the upper siltings of the ditches this enclosure has been securely dated. This enclosure overlay earlier occupation features including a square or rectangular hut, the full extent of which was not revealed, with associated pits and ditches. These latter features contained similar pottery to that obtained from the double-ditched enclosure. There are indications that for the fabric of the pottery a transition from the use of clays

with no inclusions to those of sandier composition is evident during the period of occupation.

Of further interest is that the development area lies directly on an alignment suggested by the *Viatores*³ for their Road 210 originating at Verulamium and continuing to Bedford via Hitchin and Shefford. The proposed alignment coinciding with the school development site was based on the northward projection of the present A600 near Cotton End, Bedford, conveniently linking it with London Road, Bedford. The aerial photograph, whilst depicting the large settlement complex noted here, provides no evidence for the existence of such a road and moreover none has been obtained from examination on the ground following removal of the topsoil. Indeed, it has been revealed that the ground within the immediate vicinity of the roads supposed alignment is of a soft, clayey nature, undoubtedly marshy in early periods, and thus demanding of much ballast if it were to support a

road. In this light then, in the complete absence of direct evidence, the *Viatores* claim for the existence of a road on this alignment must be regarded as suspect. Furthermore, other suggestions made by the *Viatores* both for the crossing point of the River Ouse and for certain Romano-British establishments within Bedford itself, all of which were largely based on the validity of this alignment, are now questionable.

It is intended that observation and rescue type excavation will continue at the school site until the work is completed.

NOTES

- 1 *Beds Arch J* 4 (1969) 85.
- 2 *Beds Arch J* 6 (1971) 68 and 85.
- 3 The *Viatores*, *Roman Roads in the South-east Midlands* (1963). 254 and 457.
- 4 *Ibid* 256 and 478.
- 5 Further work will be reported in future issues of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*.

An Early Roman Skillet in Bedford Museum

DAVID H. KENNETT

While it was the Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School, Bedford Museum's collections acquired a small collection of Romano-British material of unknown history and varied provenance. One of the items in this collection is illustrated here for the first time (fig. 3). The skillet bowl is low with a broad, flat rim decorated with a leaf design. The handle is broken off this bowl, diameter 150mm, of which no history is known except that it has a label which gives 'London' as the provenance. The bowl has not been analysed: it is presumed to be bronze.

Though it lacks its handle, the vessel is immediately recognizable as the bowl of an 'Ornovasso' type skillet,¹ also known in northern Europe as the 'Aylesford' type.² These have a long, narrow handle ending in a swan's head. The present vessel is the fourth to be reported from the British Isles. All are from south-east England. The Aylesford, Kent,³ find grave Y, was associated with an Italian jug, Italian fibulae and the well-known plated

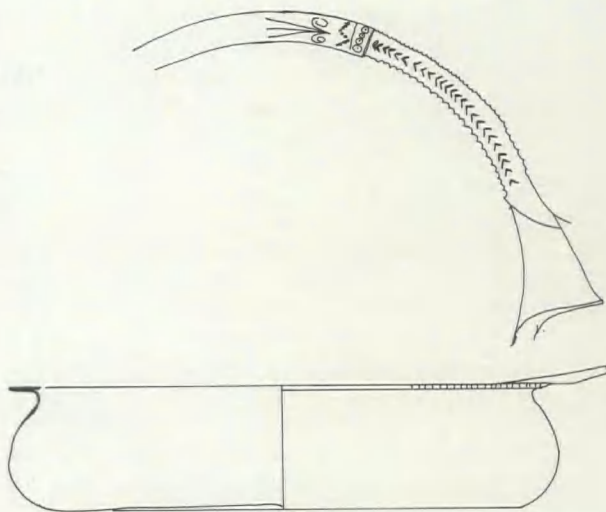


Fig 3 Bronze skillet in Bedford Museum.

bucket. Also associated with an Italian jug is Welwyn grave B4 where the Italian silver cups were also found. The third group to include a skillet of this type is the series of bronze vessels found in 1854 in Creed Lane, London, and now in the British Museum.⁵ The skillet here has a plain rim to the bowl and a stylised swan's head termination to the handle. It was associated with three bronze bowls, one of which has an affixed palmette design.

The two finds from London, that in Bedford Museum and that from Creed Lane, add to the lists given by Werner in 1954⁶ and Birchall in 1965.⁷ Together they suggest that if the occupation of London did not begin until 43 A.D. the accepted dating of 'Ornovasso' skillets to the first century B.C. will need on extension.⁸

NOTES

- 1 For a general discussion of this type see J Werner 'Die Bronzekanne von Kelheim' *Bayr. Vorg.* 20 (1954) 43-73.
- 2 Following H J Eggers *Der Römische Import im Friesenland* (1951) 41 and 171, type 130.
- 3 *British Museum Quarterly* 28 (1964) 21-29; also *Archaeologia* 52 (1890) 317-388.
- 4 *Archaeologia* 63 (1912) 1-30.
- 5 British Museum, 1855, 8-4, 23; drawing given by H J Eggers 'Römische Bronzegefäße in Britannien' *Jb R-G Zm Mainz* 13 (1966) 101 with abb. 51u. The remaining vessels of this find are unpublished.
- 6 Werner, *loc. cit.* 67.
- 7 *PPS* 31 (1965) 295 with map 4.
- 8 I am grateful to Mr F W Kuhlicke, Hon Director of Bedford Museum, for permission to publish this vessel: access to the comparative vessels in the British Museum, Dept Prehistory and Roman Britain, was kindly provided by Mr K S Painter.

An Anglo-Saxon Grave-cover at Cardington Church

MICHAEL J. HARE

With the exception of the chancel, the church of *St Mary, Cardington* (TL 086479) was pulled down and rebuilt between 1898 and 1901. During the demolition of the central tower a number of fragments of medieval gravestones came to light. The discovery is recorded in the *Bedfordshire Times and Independent*.¹

On the site of the church of *St Mary, Cardington*, there doubtless originally stood an Anglo-Saxon church. . . . The discovery of an Anglo-Saxon coffin-slab in the walls of the Norman portion of the tower, and of a number of Early English slabs in the upper portion, points conclusively to the above facts.

The gravestones were subsequently built into the east wall of the south chancel chapel, while other fragments, mostly architectural in character, were set into the walls of the ringing chamber of the new west tower.

Among the fragments in the east wall of the south chapel is the Anglo-Saxon coffin-slab (or

more correctly, grave-cover) referred to by the *Bedfordshire Times and Independent* (fig 4). It has unfortunately not survived complete, having been broken away at both ends. In its present form the slab measures 2ft 10½in (876mm) in length and 1ft 7½in (495mm) in width at its broader end, tapering to 1ft 1¼in (337mm). As it is set into the wall of the church, the thickness of the slab cannot be determined. Its surface is slightly rounded, and there is a shallow chamfer along the two edges.

The surface of the slab is decorated with four panels of interlace as background to a cruciform framework. The panels are disposed in pairs on either side of a central shaft which stretches from end to end of the slab, with a cross-arm at the centre. The cross-arm and the upper part of the central shaft are indicated by means of incised lines, but in the lower half of the slab the central shaft is directly flanked by the panels of interlace. The arms of the central cross expand outwards and are not closed at the ends. The design was no doubt

originally completed by crosses at each end of the slab, but of these no trace has survived. In all four panels the interlacing work consists of regular four-cord plaitwork. In the two upper panels the straps of the plaitwork have a central incised line.

The Cardington slab belongs to a group first discussed by Sir Cyril Fox² in 1921. The grave-covers of this group are characterised by interlacing panels disposed as background to a wide variety of cross-forms, which are sometimes cut in relief and sometimes, as at Cardington, indicated by incised lines. For the most part they are austere in treatment, showing no decorative motifs other than interlaced ornament. Grave-covers of this type are found over a wide area of East Anglia, the chief concentration being in Cambridgeshire. The only other example known from Bedfordshire is at Milton Bryan.³ Examples from Cambridge Castle and Peterborough Cathedral indicate that grave-covers of this type were laid on the surface to mark the site of a burial. In no case has a coffin been found in association with any of these grave-covers.

Fox demonstrated convincingly that the group can be dated within the century 970-1066. The Cardington example is probably late in the series, dating perhaps from the twenty or thirty years preceding the Norman Conquest. The closest parallels to it occur in two late fragments from Little Shelford, Cambs.⁴ These fragments not only have central cross-arms similar to the Cardington example, but they are also the only other grave-covers in the group with a central incised line in the straps of the plaitwork. As at Cardington this trait appears in the upper but not in the lower panels. It seems likely therefore that the fragments from Cardington and Little Shelford are related and that a late date similar to that of the Little Shelford fragments can be assigned to the Cardington slab, though the evidence is far from conclusive.

Fox considered it unlikely that monuments of this type continued to be produced in the period after the Conquest, and the Cardington slab, as an example that is probably late in the series, certainly does not weaken this conclusion. It is clear from the account in the *Bedfordshire Times and Independent* that the slab was found embedded in Norman masonry. There is now no way of knowing whether the tower was eleventh or twelfth century in date, but there must in any case have been a considerable interval between the production of the slab and its re-use as building material. The possibility of a date after the Conquest cannot be excluded, but the circumstances would certainly

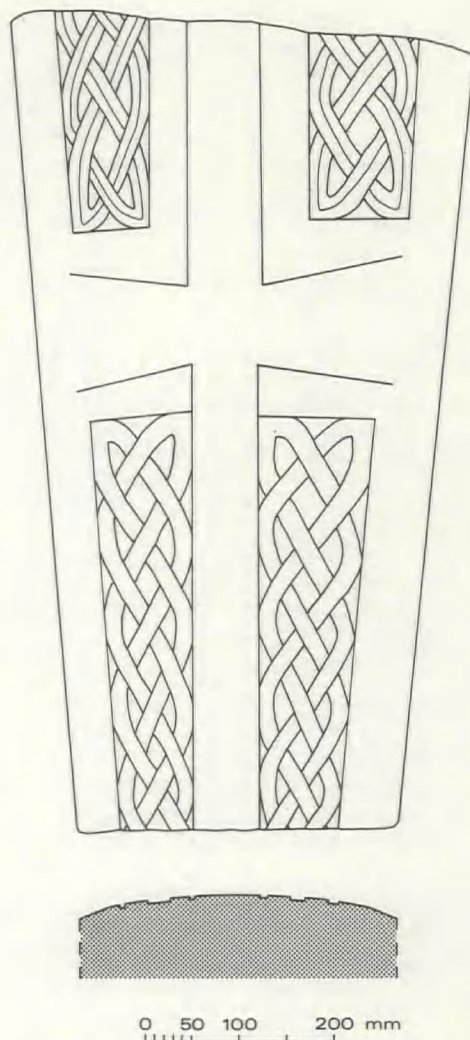


Fig 4 Anglo-Saxon Grave cover in Cardington Church.

seem to suggest the likelihood of a date before the Conquest.

The Cardington slab shows that the grave-cover at Milton Bryan is not an isolated outlier of the East Anglian group. If two such grave-covers have survived in Bedfordshire to this day, it seems fair to conclude that originally there were probably more. However, the extent to which this form of funerary art was prevalent in the area in late-Saxon times cannot be satisfactorily determined in our present state of knowledge.

NOTES

- 1 *Bedfordshire Times and Independent*, 2 August, 1901, an article in the series 'Round the County', written by the editor, Arthur Ransom, an antiquarian.
- 2 C Fox, 'Anglo-Saxon Monumental Sculpture in the Cambridge District', *P Camb Ant Soc* 23, 1920-21, 15-45. In addition to the forty-seven examples listed by Fox there are fragments of this type at Caxton, Conington, Orwell and Balsham in Cambridgeshire and Huntingfield in Suffolk. The first three were referred to in RCHM, *W Cambs*, 1968, *passim*, while the Balsham example was published in *P Camb Ant Soc* 32, 1932, 51. For the Huntingfield fragments see a guide-book on sale in the church.
- 3 *P S A* 20, 1903-05, 355-6. Also illustrated in N Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Bedfordshire*, 1968, 126, attributed to the twelfth century.
- 4 Fox, 1920-21, 22 and 34 (Nos 20 and 22, Plates V and VI).

A Twelfth Century Carved Head from St Mary's Church, Bedford

F.W. KUHLCHE

The Church of St Mary, Bedford stands within the southern half of the Anglo-Saxon *burh*,¹ on the south bank of the River Great Ouse, and beside the main north-south street through the town. (Grid reference: TL052494). It had long been recognised that the church contains early Norman features,² but in 1959 restoration work by Major John Gefge, consisting in the systematic removal of Victorian additions to the fabric, revealed evidence of basically Saxon work; this work is considered by T.P. Smith to belong to the period after the conquest when Anglo-Saxon building traditions were not, in the smaller churches, wholly displaced by the more cosmopolitan forms of Romanesque.³

In the course of Gefge's work a niche in the east wall of the south transept was opened, and this proved to be an Anglo-Saxon window which had been partly blocked probably in the fourteenth century. Amongst the rubble-blocking was discovered a remarkable corbel-head, vigorously carved in Caen stone, which Gefge and myself at first dated to the Anglo-Saxon period; however, Prof E.P. Lasko and Prof G. Zarnecki (private communications) consider it as belonging to the second half of the twelfth century, possibly to c.1160. If this dating be correct, then the corbel is a remarkable instance of Anglo-Saxon stylistic survival into the Norman era.

The Bedford head (pl 6) is 24cm across the forehead, is 15cm deep, 30cm high, and 23cm broad at the base. There are traces of red pigment on the lips, nostrils, and cheeks, though this may have been applied when the recently discovered

murals were painted. The principal features are the drooping moustache with small upcurled volutes at the extremities, the very subtly carved indications of hair on the chin, and the well-defined eyebrows. The hair is crisply curled upon the forehead and falls in 'corkscrews' behind the ears, which are boldly carved. Indeed, the ears and the slightly protruding, wide eyes beneath widely sweeping brows are the most striking features and give the whole piece a marked 'Viking' look.

Two parallels have been brought to my attention:⁴ a far less well preserved corbel over the south doorway of St Mary's Church, Luton; and a pair of small heads on the Prior's Doorway, leading from cloister to nave, at Ely Cathedral.

The Luton head is the only remaining piece of the late Saxon church in the town and is entirely disconnected architecturally from any part of the surviving medieval building.⁵ It has wider sweeps of curve in the moustache and the eyes are in very much lower relief, but lack the firm outlines of the Bedford head. The latter is that of a warrior sure of himself, the former that of an older and rather weary man.

Unlike the Luton corbel, the Ely heads are integral parts of the Norman Prior's Doorway, the tympanum and lintel of which bear well-marked Scandinavian associations in the foliage-scroll pattern upon them.⁶ The lintel rests on two brackets — both carved with the foliage-scroll — supported by the corbel-heads, which have much in common with that from Bedford. This resemblance is seen chiefly in the 'Viking' — like countenance, the

wide eyes — which, however, protrude a little more than those of the Bedford corbel — and the fillet-like treatment of the hair on the brow.

NOTES

1. Cf. D.Hill, 'Late Saxon Bedford', *Beds Arch J* 5 (1970), 96-9.
2. D A Bungey, *The Church of St Mary, Bedford* (1937), *passim*; also, *Victoria County History of Bedfordshire* 3 (1912), 26-7.
3. T.P. Smith, 'The Anglo-Saxon Churches of Bedfordshire', *Beds Arch J* 3, (1966), 9-10.

4. By D H Kennett and T P Smith.
5. The corbel is illustrated in W Austin, *History of Luton and its Hamlets* 1 (1928), opposite p42. Smith (1966), 14 considers it likely that the corbel belongs to the church of 1131, not to an earlier Saxon church, though admits there is some doubt on the matter.
6. Excellent photograph of the Ely doorway as pl.228 of R T Stoll, *Architecture and Sculpture in Early Britain: Celtic, Saxon, Norman* (1966). The doorway is dated to c.1140 by Lawrence Stone, *Sculpture in the Middle Ages* (1955), 71-2; and is considered in a mid-twelfth century context by Arthur Gardner, *English Medieval Sculpture* (1951), 70-1.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Bedford Corporation for a grant towards the cost of this paper.

A Medieval Cooking Pot Type at Bedford

DAVID H. KENNETT

Among the medieval pots in Bedford Museum are two cooking pots, one complete (2) and one a rim sherd (1), which stand out from the general style of early medieval cooking pots at Bedford. Little work at Bedford has been done on cooking pots of the tenth to thirteenth centuries,¹ but it is clear that the most common type is the olla, or jar, found extensively in St Neots ware.² A wide-mouthed open vessel is also found both in St Neots ware³ and in the later, sandy fabrics.⁴

These two vessels (fig 5) are different to both types mentioned as common. The characteristics of the pottery illustrated are a wide body and a very angular shoulder. The rim form is fairly simple, though the sherd (1) does have a slight out-turn. On the complete pot the base is a sagging one with a fairly distinct angle between base and wall. The most noticeable feature, however, is the angular shoulder.

It is difficult to place these vessels in the medieval pottery series. One from Mill Lane Ditch, Cambridge,⁵ is similar, a sherd of an angular-shouldered cooking pot. This vessel has an exactly similar fabric to the pots at Bedford and from its associations is probably thirteenth century, perhaps belonging to the second half of the century.

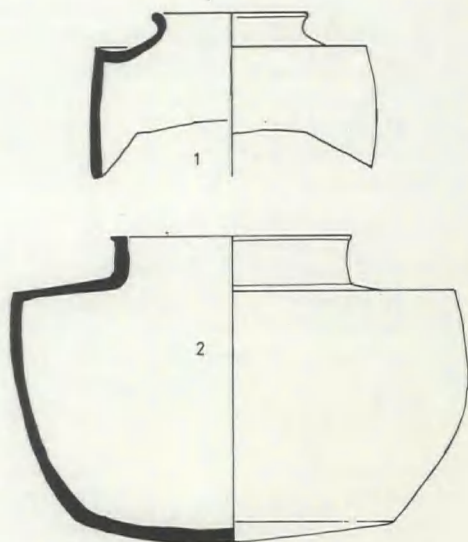


Fig 5 Cooking pots from Bedford.

The angular profile of the complete pot (2) suggests that it has antecedents in metal cooking pots, such as have been found at London⁶ and

elsewhere. More usually these have very angular handles, as examples in Leicester Museum⁸ show. The other feature of metal cooking pots of this type is a tripod foot.⁹ This too is found on pottery skeuomorphs of this style, of which examples may be instanced from London¹⁰ and Leicester.¹¹

Although rather different to the cooking pot in shape another vessel type deserves mention in this context. Among the pottery from Horne Lane, Bedford, found in 1888¹² is a sherd of a handle and foot of a pottery tripod foot skillet.¹³ This vessel, again probably thirteenth century in date, is a pottery version of the better known metal skillets of the period. Clearly there is much work to be done on pottery and its relations with metal vessels in the medieval period. The two Bedford cooking pots are merely one aspect of the complex inter-relations of the potter's craft and the metal trades.¹⁴

The Pottery

- 1 Cooking pot, rim sherd, hard sandy fabric, shiny surface light grey. Rim diameter 80mm. Bedford, no details known. (Bedford Museum, not catalogued).
- 2 Cooking pot, complete except for small hole in side, dark grey metallic ware with sparse grits, hard surface has flaked badly in places. Rim diameter 128mm, height 165mm. Bedford, no details known. (Bedford Museum, not catalogued).

NOTES

- 1 For the limited work on St Neots ware cooking pots at Bedford see D H Kennett, 'St Neots Ware at Bedford' (unpublished undergraduate thesis, University College, Cardiff, 1966 - copy in Bedford Museum).
- 2 G C Dunning, 'Late Saxon Pottery', *Med Arch* 3, 1959, fig 15.2, from Bedford. This vessel is atypical: most cooking pots have only one neck groove.
- 3 Bedford Museum, accession number 3723, from St Peter's Street Bedford (unpublished).
- 4 Bedford Museum, unpublished material, limited in quantity and quality.
- 5 T McKenny Hughes, *P Camb Ant Soc* 8, 1893, 268, pl 13.1 (no scale given for figure, I owe this reference to Dr G C Dunning).
- 6 *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, 1967, 202-207.
- 7 An example from Les Loges, Seine Inférieure, France, illustrated *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, 1967, pl 39, top left, may be instanced.
- 8 Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester.
- 9 *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, 1967, 205, fig 68, pl 56.
- 10 *Ibid* 224, fig 74.
- 11 G C Dunning, 'The Medieval Pottery' in K M Kenyon *Excavations at Jewry Wall, Leicester*, 1948, 235, fig 67.
- 12 *PSA* 12, 1888, 115-116.
- 13 Bedford Museum, accession number 3953, see S Linger and D H Kennett 'Medieval Jugs from Bedford' above p 72 and fig 2.24 for a discussion of this piece and its parallels, both ceramic and metal.
- 14 This note owes much to the encouragement of Dr G C Dunning who first discussed the pieces with me. I am grateful to Mr F W Kuhlicke for access to the museum's collections.

A Palimpsest Brass at Cople.

F.W. KUHLICKE

In June 1970 Mr B.S.H. Egan, a member of the Council of the Monumental Brass Society, was repairing the sword of the brass of John Launcelyn in Cople church, when he realised that the brass was a palimpsest. He consequently took up the whole brass and made a silicon-rubber impression of it from which he made a cast which is now in Bedford Museum. The original has been replaced in its matrix.

The Launcelyn brass consists of two figures sharing a foot inscription which records (in Latin) that John Launcelyn, Esquire, who died 7 May,

1435, and his wife Margaret are buried beneath it. John is depicted in plate armour and measures 641 by 178mm, and his lady, who wears a horned head-dress and long gown with pendant sleeves, measures 724 by 216mm; the whole brass is 723 by 648mm. The brass is illustrated and described by Saunderson¹ and a description of the Launcebyns, by the present writer, in the *Bedfordshire Magazine* also illustrates the brass,² of which a fine engraving was made by Thomas Fisher in the early nineteenth century.³

The reverse of the brass, when the female figure

is inverted and placed in close juxtaposition with the male, shows that they are cut from the middle part of an almost life-sized figure of a knight. The foot inscription, which had at some time been broken, is apparently complete and coincides in size with that of the Launcelyns' but the breach has rendered the interpretation of one word subject to some speculation. It is in 'black letter' type and well cut but the Old French words are abbreviated. It reads in two lines:—

Icy gyst Johan Veal orthier (?) q morust le V
Jour d'april l'an Milccclxxv Vs q par cy passes
pur l'alme de lui pez.

Here lies John Veal, orthier, who died April 5
1375. You who pass this way pray for his soul.

The difficult word is 'orthier'. The join of the plate passes through a letter after tye 't' which appears to be a scratched or mutilated 'h'. The join also passes through the 'r' of 'par cy' but offers no difficulty. What does 'orthier' mean? According to DuCange it could be 'ortoier' a word of doubtful import but apparently connected with gardening. Was this possibly an office of serjeanty? So far we have not traced John Veal. The old French of the inscription is typical of the period; thus on Sir John Cobham's brass, 1534, it reads 'Vous qe passey icy entour priez pur l'alme...' and on Sir Thomas Cobham's, 1367, 'Vous par icy passey pur l'alme...'.

The original brass was, of course, much larger and belongs to an early group of military brasses preceeding the introduction of plate armour. It is fairly late for its group, which Macklin⁴ lists as the twenty oldest brasses in England. These include memorials to Sir John D'Abernoun, (1277), Sir Roger de Trumpington (1289), Sir Robert de Bures (1302) and Sir Robert de Septvans (1306). All these represent almost life-size figures dressed in complete suits of chain-mail with hauberk, coif de mailles, surcoat sometimes heraldic, and sword suspended upon a baldric. The pommel and hilt of the sword, as well as the scabbard, are in some cases decorated with a diaper patterning. The palimpsest, when re-assembled, reveals much of the centre part of a mail-clad knight in a linen hauberk. Part of the

right sleeve and two loosely hanging mittens are engraved with bands of interlaced crescents indicating steel links. What may be a metal or cuir-bouillit genouilliere is shown near the right thigh just visible through a gap in the opening surcoat. It has a double rose design, (possibly some reference to gardening or a canting reference to his coat of arms). There is indication of a cord drawing in the surcoat at the waist. The baldric swings freely below the hips with a long end draped from the buckle back over the main belt and there is an attachment, not clearly defined, from the buckle to the scabbard. Both the scabbard and the baldric are ornamented with six-petalled flowers, those on the latter are within circles, those on the scabbard are heraldically 'barbed'. The pommel of the sword is spherical with a pointed knob, the quillons are longish, slightly curved and plain. The hilt is diapered with a lozenge-shaped trellis enclosing small quatrefoils.

When we compare this fragment with more or less contemporary brasses we realise that some, if not all, came from a common designer. Thus the diaper on Veal's sword hilt is almost exactly the same as that on the scabbard of the Septvans brass (pl 7b) and the rosettes on Veal's baldric are remarkably like those on Sir Robert's, whilst the mail muffs or mittens depend from the wrists in the same way on each, (in the Veal brass they are just visible). There is one marked difference, namely the method by which the sword is suspended. Sir Robert's is attached to the end of the baldric by three inter-linked rings whereas Veal's as far as we can see, has a leather attachment better shown on the brasses of de Bures, Trumpington and d'Abernoun. The method of engraving the chain-mail on Veal's brass closely resembles that on Sir Robert's but is better executed.⁵

NOTES

- 1 *T Monumental Brass Soc* 2, 118 and 193.
- 2 *Beds Magazine* 7, 1961, 301-302.
- 3 T Fisher, *Collections... for Bedfordshire*, 1812.
- 4 H W Macklin, *The Brasses of England*, 1907.
- 5 M Morris, *Brass Rubbing*, 1965.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Bedford Corporation for a grant towards the cost of this paper.

Bedfordshire Archaeology, 1971-72

compiled by DAVID H. KENNETT

The summaries below are intended to serve as a guide to current fieldwork and excavations being conducted in Bedfordshire. Important isolated finds and museum acquisitions are also included. The compiler wishes to thank all those who have contributed summaries for this section and hopes that future work and finds will be brought to his notice for subsequent issues of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*.

BEDFORD TL 052497

Ten sites in the town were explored during rescue excavations directed by David Baker for the Bedford Archaeological Society and the Department of the Environment.

A section across the bank inside the Kings Ditch in the south-east part of the town indicated a primary Norman date rather than the traditional early tenth century context of Edward the Elder's *burh* construction. It may have functioned as a flood-prevention earthwork, and was heightened several times in the medieval period.

The inner bailey ditch of the medieval Castle was sectioned. It had been cut about 6m below present ground level and into bedrock. At a late stage it was recut and broadened to a width of about 12.5m between berms. The south side was stone-lined and the north turf revetted. The stone-work may be connected with *fossata pavimentata* constructed by Falkes de Breaute between 1215 and 1224. A bridge abutment was seen on the south side, lining up with cobbled areas seen in the 1970 excavations. The ditch had been filled in part with material probably resulting from the royal order to slight after the 1224 siege.

Part of a stone building of castle period was seen close to the probable site of the north curtain wall.

Three sites in Mill St were explored. One, north of No 21, confirmed Speed's seventeenth century map which showed the area as fields. At 43, on the south side, a fifteenth century house was the earliest identifiable structure, and no occupation was

found on a site two houses further east.

South of the river, a site on the west side of St Mary's St, next to the Anglers Inn, produced a complex series of hearths and ovens of the medieval period: work will continue here.

BEDFORD TL 04755112

Jeffreys map of Bedfordshire (1750) with a street plan of Bedford inset shows the present day Foster's Hill Road and Foster's Hill path as Little Berry Lane. The possible association for the name was recently sought and it is of interest that in the region of Bedford cemetery, immediately adjacent to and situated to the west of the modern path is an overgrown thicket, a small group of hitherto unrecorded earthworks have been discovered. Whilst a scrub growth of thorn and small trees makes survey difficult the main features of the earthworks have been recorded. The modern path encroaches on the west side of the group.

It appears that, at a point some one-third of the distance up the hill, during the construction of the earthworks the ground, here a chalky boulder clay, has been cut away to form a terrace. As a result a vertical fall of about 1m has been formed towards the northern end of the terraced area. Lying some 20m south from this northern limit there exists a ditched enclosure. The enclosed area is somewhat irregular in shape and is approximately 20m across on the N/S axis. Much infilling of the ditch has taken place and modern bric-a-brac continues the process. The ditch appears today in the shape of a horseshoe and is best seen on the north-west aspect where it is some twenty feet wide and two or three feet deep. On the west side of the enclosure it is much overgrown and poorly preserved whilst it is absent altogether at the south side, although here it might now be fully sited. A large piece of dressed limestone is visible in the outer lip of the enclosure ditch on the N/S mid-

line; neither whether this is strictly contemporary with the earthworks nor that others are present is unknown. It is evident that the enclosed area was intentionally built up to provide a level surface and on the southernmost face it now stands some 2.2m above the natural fall of the hillside. This almost vertical fall may have proved a sufficient obstacle not warranting a ditch and may explain why the ditch does not continue around the southern aspect.

It is interesting that the earthworks are not at the top of the hill. As the hilltop (200ft contour line) broadens to a large plateau it is possible that as a defensive site a situation on the fairly steep incline was less vulnerable than one at the summit, alternatively, as a vantage point overlooking the River Ouse valley, the location of the earthworks might provide for a wider, all round coverage than is possible from the top of the hill.

Until the date for the construction of these earthworks is established by excavation their relationship either to medieval Bedford or perhaps as part of the early Iron Age pattern, which is gradually appearing for this area, remains unknown.

BEDFORD Swan Hotel TL 052496

During work on extensions to the Swan Hotel, Bedford, several pieces of St Neots ware have been found. The first find in May 1972 was of two large sherds, both bases and much of the walls of cooking pots. A second cache in June 1972 produced four bowl rims and several body sherds from bowls and cooking pots.

BEDFORD

A fifteenth century spearhead found in the garden of the house on the corner of Bromham Road and the Crescent has been given to Bedford Museum.

BIGGLESWADE

D.H. Kennett has begun to transcribe a series of eighteenth century inventories attached to wills and admissions for the Biggleswade Peculiar (Beds CRO documents PBwP/W and PBwP/A 1713-1786). The series falls into two groups: 1713-1733 (24 inventories) and 1758-1786 (22 inventories). Most occupations of a small market town are represented.

BRICK BUILDINGS

T.P. Smith is researching into the pre-1600 brick buildings of Bedfordshire and the five immediately adjacent counties. Bedfordshire has two good examples: Someries Castle (*Beds Arch J* 3, 1966, 35-51) and Old Warden house. Timber-framed buildings of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries include examples with bricks used as infilling, such as the dovecote at Chiltern Green farm and the Moot Hall, Elstow. The study aims at establishing a corpus of the existing and the known but now demolished examples; also to examine their distribution and its possible relationship to superficial geology of the area. (*Beds Arch J* forthcoming).

BROMHAM

Two teeth from a mammoth were brought into Bedford Museum for identification. One was a complete molar; the other a large fragment from a molar. They were found at Bromham pit on 26 February 1972.

CADDINGTON Area TL 055190

Six principal sites, the main one at TL 055190 (approximately). Research excavation, 20 June to 28 August 1971, directed by Garth Sampson (Oregon University) and Derek Roe (Oxford University); financed by National Science Foundation, USA.

Aim: to locate and examine remnants of undisturbed Lower Palaeolithic 'floors' observed in brickearth by Worthington G. Smith of Dunstable from 1889. Trenches located close to estimated positions of Smith's principal finds. Mechanical diggers used to open large areas and remove sterile upper levels consisting mainly of reworked Tertiary (Reading Beds) material.

No floors found; only very few Palaeolithic artefacts recovered, including a typical but broken and abraded Levalloisian flake. Stratification found to be extremely variable and brickearth very localised. Surface of underlying chalk had numerous deep solution hollows and channels. Report on Pleistocene geology in preparation (C. Turner and M.P. Kerney).

Stratum rich in Pleistocene mammal bones found at extreme end of season. Detailed report not yet available, but elephant and deer species

apparently included. Smith found no definite faunal remains at Caddington, so this find is important if future work can relate it to the Palaeolithic occupation. A few mechanically fractured flints found in same level, but no definite artefacts yet. Stratum clearly continues beyond excavated area: further work thought well worthwhile, and certainly planned if funds available and landowner willing.

Numerous pollen and deposit samples being studied. Traverse of borings tested area adjacent to main site. Concurrently with field work, principal extant collections of several thousand Caddington artefacts were studied, and large selection drawn.

Work is the first part of large research project on British Acheulian, involving several other sites.

CLAPHAM TL 017523

Excavations by P.G. Tilson for the Bedford Archaeological Society are continuing on the large Belgic ditch system to the east of the site reported in *Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 84. The excavation of the ditch bottoms is complicated by an unusually high water table. In autumn 1972 further investigation of the corn drying oven and granary areas will take place and it is hoped that this will be the final year of excavation of the Belgic/Roman settlement. (*Beds Arch J* forthcoming).

CLAPHAM High Street TL 031525

P.G. Tilson excavated on a small area opposite the main Belgic/Roman site at Clapham (*Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 84) in the hope of tracing settlement on the north bank of the river. Three trial trenches, each 20ft by 3ft were excavated to natural gravel. Only very recent building was found, together with Victorian pottery and clay pipe fragments. There were two stray pieces of late third century Roman pottery.

CLAPHAM St Thomas' Church TL 035525

A number of nineteenth century plans and drawings have come to light in a chest in the church. Most of these are in the hand of Sir Gilbert Scott and include not only his detailed drawings for the rebuilding of the nave and chancel, but also a plan and elevations of the church as it was prior to the restoration. In addition there are full-scale coloured tracings of patterned wall-paintings discovered in

the 1850s. These materials have all been transferred to the Bedfordshire County Record Office (P117/5/5-35). A newspaper article describing the restoration in some detail has also been traced (*Bedford Times and Bedfordshire Independent*, 4 November 1862).

CLOPHILL Beadlow Manor Farm TL 111383

K. Fadden reports in the course of road widening operations at Beadlow Manor Farm, Clophill a number of worked flints were discovered by the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society. The site was first walked in July 1972 when a fence was erected by the contractors: three flints were discovered in spoil from the fence postholes. A second visit when the area had been scraped to a depth of 0.6m revealed natural sand had been reached and further flints and some working debris were found. In the section formed where the mechanical excavator stopped, about 3m from the fence line, neither a concentration of flints nor irregularity in soil levels was apparent.

ELSTOW Abbey TL 049474

Excavations continued for the seventh year, mainly at Easter, under the direction of David Baker for Bedford Archaeological Society and Portsmouth Polytechnic, (third interim report *Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 55-64).

The eastern arm of the Abbey church remains a problem. The discovery of the footing for an eastern wall to a south transept highlights the unusual plan of the *quire* as indicated by the area excavated in 1968. It has been suggested that the main apse may belong to a secondary rather than to the primary period, though there is no means of confirming this at present.

Most work was done on the monastic out-buildings between the claustral complex and the stream. By the Dissolution in 1539 a block of buildings had accumulated for some 180ft (55m) west from south of the fourteenth century *dorter*, with gaps in only two places, thus almost creating a second court. In general, single buildings were modified rather than replaced: the earliest out-building, aisled on a north-south axis, was partly reused and laterally extended in the final complex. Two adjacent rooms contained a central hearth and

a regular chimney and hearth with deep footings built out from the north west corner of the building. Three small chambers were attached to the south of the latter room, probably forming *garderobe* chambers. Lengths of ground level guttering had been laid externally in places.

Work will continue in 1972.

HARROLD SP 933553

During the third and final season of excavations by A.E. Brown for the Department of Adult Education, University of Leicester, and the Department of the Environment, at this pottery and tile manufacturing site. Three areas with a total area of 140 square metres were opened up, following a gradiometer survey. The work disclosed a well preserved horizontal draught kiln of the fourth century. This had been partially cut into a deep pit also of the fourth century, and had also severely mutilated an earlier kiln of unknown date. A third well preserved up-draught kiln of drystone construction belonged to the second century. The usual range of deep pits was also encountered. The products were mainly cooking pots and bowls and a wide variety of tiles, all in a buff calcite gritted fabric.

HENLOW

Bedford Museum have photographic records of the discovery of a complete mammoth tusk at Henlow on 7 December 1929. This find, previously unrecorded in archaeological literature, was completely exposed, but owing to heavy storms for two days had to be left unattended. It thereafter disintegrated when attempts at salvage were made. This find joins the growing record of Pleistocene fauna recorded from Bedfordshire. These include part of the upper femur of a mammoth found at Biddenham in 1861 and two associated flint hand axes, now in Bedford Museum.

HENLOW

A bronze spearhead found at Henlow has been presented to the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable. It is thought that the spearhead was once part of a hoard, now disturbed by ploughing. An attempt is being made to find the exact location of the hoard.

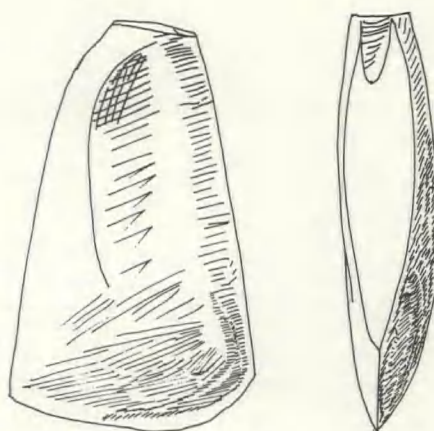


Fig 1 Neolithic Axe from Houghton Regis.

HOUGHTON REGIS

In August, 1971, Bedford Museum were given a greenstone axe, found by chance at Houghton Regis earlier that year. The axe (museum accession number 71/B/131) is 11cm long and 6.4cm wide. There is a depression on the face shown, which is not present on the reverse, and there is considerable wear on the polished blade.

KEMPSTON Wood End TL 004477

David Kennett investigated a report of pottery found during drainage operations on Wood End Farm, Kempston, and notified to the County Council by the farmer, Mr Frossall. The material came from a pit, approximately 2m long by 1m wide (no measurements were taken) in the centre of the field where an old barn once stood. The pit had a dark grey fill and contained broken burnt stones, animal bones and pottery. The pottery was 36 body sherds, 15 rims from 12 pots and 3 bases. Most of the body sherds were of shelly fabrics of the local Iron Age type. The three bases were two in the coarse fabric and one in a dark grey hard fabric. This wheel-turned base and rim sherds in a similar early Romano-British fabric suggest a first century date for the material. This is corroborated by a single mortarium rim in a hard white paste. The other rim sherds were mostly of small jars in a shelly fabric, though three sherds from the same rim were in a hard light grey ware. Two distinctive vessels were a wide-mouthed vessel represented by

a rim sherd and an adjoining body sherd and a storage jar much narrower at the neck and rim than at the girth of which a large rim sherd was found. Both these vessels were in a shelly fabric. All the pottery and the larger bone fragments are now in Bedford Museum.

KEMPSTON All Saints' Church TL 015480

Michael Hare reports that further Anglo-Saxon work has come to light at Kempston church. In the east wall of the nave faint but quite distinct remains of a blocked triangular-headed doorway can be made out above the roof of the chancel. The triangular head is formed of two rough stones, while the jambs consist of the same rubble as the surrounding walling. The original purpose of the doorway was probably to lead from a roof-chamber over the nave to a chamber above the chancel. Similarly placed doorways can be found in a number of Anglo-Saxon churches, for instance Green's Norton (Northants) and Hart (Co/Durham).

The presence of a triangular-headed doorway gives strong support to the Anglo-Saxon origin claimed for this church, although it modifies slightly the conclusions which were set out in the last volume of this Journal (*Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 35-7). It was then suggested that the upper part of the east wall of the nave was contemporary with the Norman west tower. This view can no longer be maintained and the whole of the east wall of the nave would seem to be contemporary with the side-walls of the chancel. It now appears probable that the Norman chancel-arch replaced an earlier arch.

A further feature of interest observed is a round-headed recess in the east wall of the first floor chamber of the Norman west tower. This recess, which is 1ft 10½in (0.57m) in depth, measures 5ft 3in (1.60m) wide and 5ft 1in (1.55m) high to the top of its chamfered imposts. It is now used as a cupboard, but would appear to be contemporary with the tower itself. Originally the recess may have housed an altar.

LEAGRAVE Waulud's Bank TL 062247

Rescue excavation prior to construction of dual-carriageway on south side of site, was sponsored by the Department of the Environment, and carried out by students of Putteridge Bury College of Education, under the direction of J. Dyer.

A 'D' shaped bank and wide, external ditch enclose an area of 18 acres. The straight side of the earthwork is additionally protected by the river Lea and extensive marshes. In 1953 excavation showed

that the earthwork was of neolithic construction, and produced Rinyo-Clacton ware and flint work. (*Beds Arch J* 2, 1964, 1-15).

The 1971 excavation confirmed that the whole earthwork was of neolithic date. Its ditch, 6ft deep and 30ft wide, was flat-bottomed. The material excavated from it had been piled-up to form a bank, the front of which was revetted with turves. There were no indications of retaining posts (through one post-hole was found in 1953). Sealed below the bank were pieces of Windmill Hill pottery, including a lug, other decorated sherds, a selection of flint work and many domestic and wild animal bones.

Previous finds of many arrowheads, and the closeness of the marshes suggest a hunting economy, supplemented by animal husbandry and agriculture. The site, with its continuous neolithic ditch is unique as a domestic monument. Its position beside a river resembles a number of henge monuments, but its internal bank creates a problem. No original entrance has been found: that suggested in the 1953 report has since been shown to be modern.

Part of the site had been utilised during the late Iron Age, perhaps in conjunction with a known, nearby domestic site.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD Chamberlains Barn Cemetery SP 928262

Luton Museum report that the composite brooch from grave 11 of the Chamberlains Barn Anglo-Saxon cemetery which was found in fragments has now been returned following conservation at the British Museum Laboratory. The brooch (*Arch J* 120, 1963 176 and fig 10a) formerly in a poor state has been superbly restored and is now on display in Luton Museum.

MAULDEN Ruxox Farm TL 052364

The Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society under the direction of Keven Fadden have continued work on the Romano-British settlement site at Ruxox Farm, Maulden. A complex of ditches and workinghollows have produced a considerable quantity of pottery, bone, iron, glass and other artifacts, dating to the period from the mid second to the late fourth century. Several examples of Nene Valley wares have appeared. An unusual sherd (pl 8) combines the chocolate colour-coated ware and bossed decoration of the Stibington kilns and the rosette pattern found on sherds from Brixworth, Dunton, Weekley, Kettering and Higham Ferrers.

NORTHILL Ickwell House TL 153455

Bedford Museum have acquired a stone mortar from Ickwell House. This mortar closely resembles one from Cauldwell Priory, though it is in a different stone. These two mortars are large, square in outside plan, but with the sides cut away to give rounded faces within stone corner pillars. Both mortars have a funnel on one pillar top.

OAKLEY Bridge TL 006532

P.G. Tilson reports that a field survey was undertaken at Oakley bridge in March 1972. There was a large quantity of pottery and three coins were found: one of Constantine I (307-337); an unofficial farthing of James I, dated 1603; and an undatable coin of George III. A. East reports that earlier the site has yielded coins ranging in date up to George III, including at least nine of Roman date: amongst which are coins of Trajan (98-117); Antoninus Pius (170); Crispus (317-326); Constans (337-350); and three radiates, one a local copy of the fifth century. Pottery from the site was mainly of St Neots ware of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Some rims, however, were identified as third century Romano-British. The area is under heavy cultivation and has been disturbed by gravel working during the last hundred years. A more detailed survey of the area will be undertaken in the winter of 1972-73.

OAKLEY Trafford Bridge TL 008545

A. East reports that the following objects have been found in the course of river dredging during 1971 and 1972:

- a. Stone loom weight, punched and triangular in shape, of uncertain date, but possibly Roman.
- b. Fragment of the lower stone of a rotary quern, large size, made of milstone grit, probably Roman.
- c. Pottery, coarse wares of the 'Clapham shelly ware' type, not later than the third century.
- d. (fig 2) Iron spearhead, closed socket, leaf shaped blade with central spine. F.W. Kuhlicke suggests this is to be dated to c. 1400.

PARSONAGES

David H. Kennett has begun work on the parsonages of seventeenth century Bedfordshire, for which two terriers of 1607 and 1706-8 survive (Beds C R O document ABE 2). This aims at enlarging upon the comments of M.W. Barley (*Eng-*

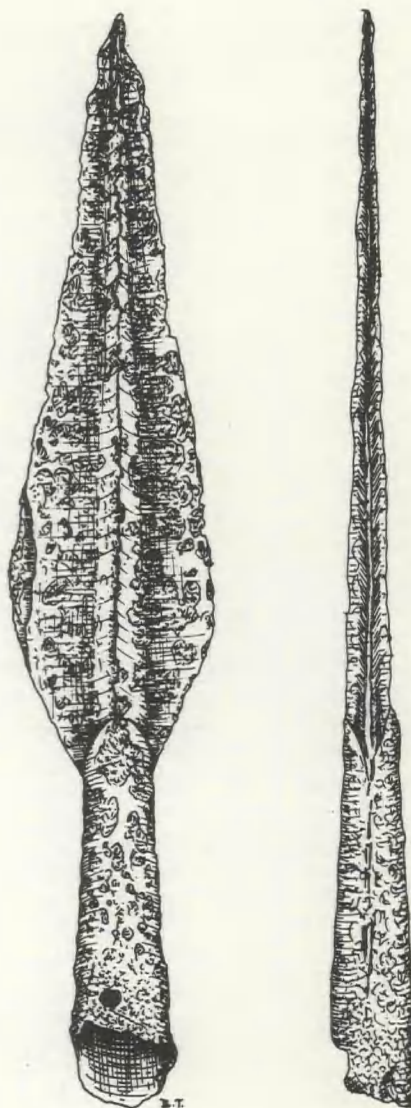


Fig 2 Spearhead from Oakley, Stafford Bridge.

lish Farmhouse and Cottage, 1961, 256-259 with fig 37) and is particularly concerned with the building materials and shape of the houses.

POST-MEDIEVAL PEWTER

Bedford Museum have a small collection of post-medieval pewter, which has been drawn by David H. Kennett in connection with a forthcoming study of 'Pewter in Eighteenth Century Bedfordshire'. These are a warming pan, a thimble, a wine funnel,

and four mugs, one of which is spouted. The publication will also include a review of the documentary evidence for the use of pewter in eighteenth century Bedfordshire, drawing on wills, inventories, cookery books, and non-local material such as a ship refit of 1702. (*Beds Arch J* forthcoming).

RAVENS DEN Mowsbury Camp TL 067532

G.J. Dring has excavated at Mowsbury Camp, Ravensden, for Bedford Museum and the Department of the Environment, following preliminary research and field survey, (reported *Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 68-69). As anticipated there is a univallate trench and rampart defence of the early Iron Age. Where sectioned, on the south-west aspect of the site, the defences measured: outer trench 4.27m wide, 2m deep; with a berm of 3.66m in width separating it from the rampart of the timber-laced Hollingbury type, 6.1m wide and with the rear face a turf stack 4.27m wide. Front and rear postholes for the palisade timbers were 61cm in diameter. Within the rampart longitudinal and transverse timbers were discovered: an impression of large intersecting timbers and the end of an iron nail or stake was found on a piece of baked clay, not found *in situ*. The rampart was destroyed by fire shortly after construction and much of its fabric was pushed into the ditch. For the Iron Age levels at this point of the earthwork, only a single period of occupation has been demonstrated with pottery from the ditch, beneath and immediately behind the rampart and sealed by the destruction debris as the same type found before excavation. Lying on the destruction level of burnt timber behind the rampart was an isolated fragment of human skull. Excavation continues. (*Beds Arch J* forthcoming).

ROXTON Chawston Manor TL 155562

A late fifteenth century Dutch altar vase found at Chawston Manor, Roxton, has been presented by C.F. Tebbutt to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge (accession number 63, 153). (*Beds Arch J* forthcoming).

SANDY TL 174492

Mr Gurney, grave digger at Sandy, has brought into Bedford Museum a fine, almost complete samian bowl variant of Dragendorf form 32, stamped MVSICIM. The form and stamp point to a Lezoux origin of the late first or early second century for the piece, which was found in the modern cemetery at Sandy. Roman material was found here in

the 1950s and grave digging has produced further finds.

STAGSDEN SP 983476

P.G. Tilson reports that field study of a moated site in the course of destruction by heavy ploughing was undertaken in November 1971. Pottery of the early twelfth to late seventeenth centuries was found in large quantity. There were six house platforms traceable from pottery and building rubble, and when surveyed the moat was still visible. It is now being rapidly filled in. The pottery will be published in a future *Beds Arch J*; (see also D.C. Mynard in *Wolverton Hist J* 1970).

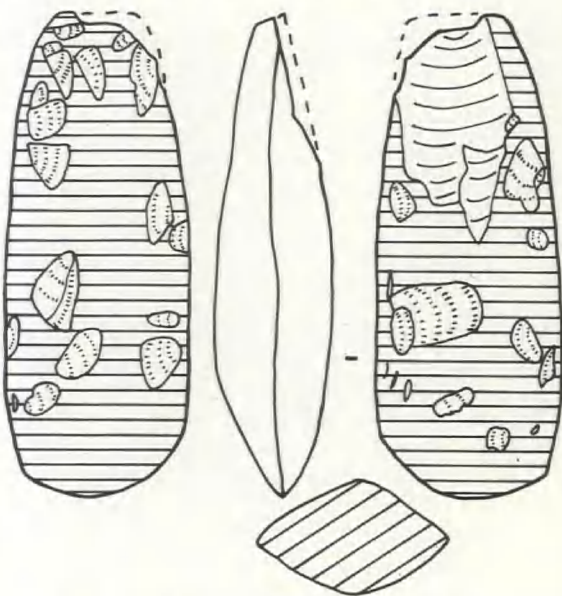


Fig 3 Flint axe from Steppingley

STEPPINGLEY TL 009355

H.S. Green reports that a polished flint axe was found by Miss Sarah Ann Woods (aged 4 years), of Steppingley, in a patch of bare earth by the gate of the recreation ground opposite the Rectory in Steppingley. The find remains in her possession and she kindly gave permission for its publication.

The axe is polished over most of its surface and has become stained amber-brown in colour. There is a relatively recent break near the butt which is patinated grey-white. The raw flint was probably of pale translucent grey colour with many inclusions. The quality of the flint evidences that the axe is not a flint mine product, but is probably made

from flint derived from a local boulder clay or gravel. The asymmetrical cutting edge is of interest and suggests that the axe was hafted with the left-hand edge of figure 1 (left-hand view) uppermost.

The axe is of an unspecialised type not easy to date within the period 3500-1500 R.C.

STEVENINGTON SP 991537

Excavation by P.G. Tilson in the tithe meadow, adjacent to the church, has revealed a large medieval building, possibly the tithe barn of the manor. The stone building, 4.5m by 6m, is partly under the modern road leading to the church. Only the first two or three courses of the foundation stonework remain and in part this and the clay floor have been dispersed by ploughing. Pottery finds, mostly developed St Neots wares, suggest a date for the building in the late thirteenth or early fourteenth centuries. Underneath the stone building traces of a timber construction were found. All features were cut into natural and were a row of postholes, 30cm wide by 15-22cm deep, and a parallel gully, width 45cm and 30cm deep. From the features early thirteenth century pottery was recovered. A trial trench through the tithe meadow has brought to light a well-constructed, but much robbed, lime-burning kiln of the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century. The kiln was built of shaped limestone blocks and cut into natural soil for drainage purposes. It was about 2m in diameter with a base of packed red clay. Traces of a stoke-hole to the beehive-shaped kiln remain. These excavations will be completed in 1972 and thereafter the area will be laid to grass by the landowner Mr Prentice, who kindly gave permission to excavate.

STREATLEY Dray's Ditches TL 078266 to TL 088264

Rescue excavation prior to housing estate and by-pass road, sponsored by the Department of the Environment. Excavation by students of Bedford College of Education, Putteridge Bury College of Education, and others, under the direction of J. Dyer.

Interest was first aroused in the linear dyke known as Dray's Ditches after the excavations of 1959 (*Ant J* 41, 1961, 32-43) suggested that they were part of a series of Iron Age territorial boundaries.

In 1971 fourteen sections were cut across the earthworks, and a large area was stripped at the

point where the Icknield Way was believed to cross the dykes.

The excavations confirmed the presence of three 'V' shaped ditches averaging 2m deep and 4-5m wide. Between the southern and central ditches was a massive stockade of wooden posts, spaced linearly at 61cm intervals, with a second line about 1m behind. These did not follow a straight course but staggered between the ditches, suggesting only a rudimentary knowledge of stockade construction. There was considerable similarity in layout between this stockade and the rampart of Ivinghoe (Cotton and Frere, *Rec Bucks* 18, 1968, 187ft). Pottery from the ditch was sparse but a rim sherd of collared urn suggests an early Iron Age date.

Examination of the area where the 1961 report suggested that the prehistoric Icknield Way crossed through the dyke showed that at that point the ditches were in fact continuous. The Icknield Way must therefore have followed a different course, probably under a medieval road to the east.

By Roman times the ditches had silted up, and the Roman Icknield Way *did* cross at the expected point, metal cart tyres having cut a hollow-way some three feet into the chalk at this point. Wheel ruts were very pronounced and a ten foot section of the Icknield Way at this point produced 7 horse-shoes, an ox-shoe and a coin of Vespasian or Titus. (Dr Manning of Cardiff is at present working on the horse-shoes). The clay-filling of the Iron Age ditches at this point probably caused carts to get bogged-down in the winter and the horses pulling them to cast their shoes.

Whilst about half this site is being destroyed by housing and the by-pass road, a quarter remains under a golf course, and a quarter, as yet unscheduled, in fields west of the A6 roadway.

TODDINGTON

Bedford Museum have acquired a coin of Cunobelin found in the nineteenth century at Toddington ('Pinkerton, *Medals* 1, 369, pl 2.6).

WILSTEAD

Bedford Museum were asked to identify an eighteenth century wine bottle found in a fifteenth century cottage at Wilstead.

WOLLASTON SP 907627

D.N. Hall reports a polished Neolithic axe (fig. 4) in excellent condition was recently recovered from a back garden in Newton Road, Wollaston,

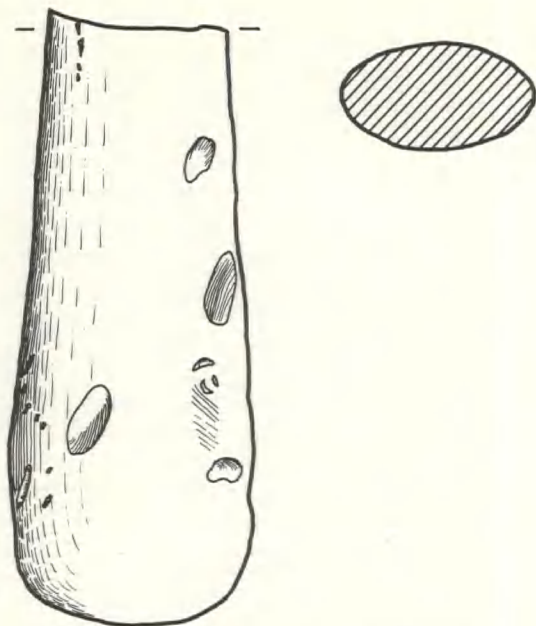


Fig 4 Neolithic axe from Wollaston.

Northants (SP 907627). In spite of a recent break at the hafting end, the specimen still weighs 658g, and is 18.5cm long by 6.8cm wide. It is made of greenstone which probably originates from the Charwood Forest area of Leicestershire.

It is hoped to further investigate the findspot to establish if there is associated occupation. D.N. Hall is grateful to Mrs E. Peters and the Wollaston Society for allowing him to examine this find.

WYMINGTON SP 495642

In the course of fighting a fire at 2-4 Church Lane, Wymington, on 8 August 1971, the Bedfordshire Fire Brigade discovered a hoard of 373 silver coins of face value £129. 4s. 0d. The hoard consisted of:

- 89 Gold sovereigns, dated 1872 to 1913.
- 42 gold half sovereigns of 1890 to 1914.
- 1 silver crown of 1888.
- 67 silver half crowns of 1874 to 1914.
- 67 silver florins of 1855, 1857 and 1866 to 1914
- 50 shilling pieces of 1838 and 1864 to 1914
- 49 sixpenny pieces of 1839, 1864 and 1880 to 1914
- 8 threepenny pieces of 1873 to 1913.

Full details, kindly supplied to the compiler by Sargent T. Keens, Coroner's Officer, have been deposited in Bedfordshire County Record Office.

Conference Report

The Fourth Bedfordshire Archaeological Council conference was held on Saturday 11 March 1972 at the National Centre for Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe. Opened by K.J. Fadden, chairman of the Ampthill Archaeological and Local History Society, whose remarks drew attention to the growing concern for the environment and the increasing need to record archaeological evidence before it is destroyed, the conference heard of the current work and approaches of local societies. David H. Kennett began with a lecture on 'The troubled and prosperous century: an examination of the local evidence for the end of Roman Bedfordshire' which surveyed the historical background to the growing body of hoard evidence for the late fourth century. Mrs H. Rollaston spoke on 'Remains of ancient agriculture in the Luton area' instancing the large number of field systems and lynchet patterns still extant but in danger of being ploughed out. Dr D.A. Roe broke new ground in his address, 'A Palaeolithic excavation at Caddington', which surveyed the large scale opening up of the site of the floors at Caddington discovered by Worthington G. Smith and its results. F.W. Kuhlicke reviewed 'Coins in Bedford Museum' and spoke on the background to the Bedford mint, and the moneyers who began in the reign of Eadred, about 946, and continued until a prolific group in the reign of Ethelred, presumably to pay the Danegeld. D.B. Baker brought the first session to a close with 'Bedfordshire archaeology and the county archaeologist', explaining the functions of his post as Archaeological Liaison Officer for the Bedfordshire County Council and particularly the planning aspects and the need for the co-operation of local societies. G.J. Dring spoke on 'Excavations at Mowsbury Camp, a newly discovered hillfort near Bedford' and the burning of its rampart, The work of D.N. Hall and others in north Bedfordshire was reviewed in his lecture, 'Excavations inside Thurlough Church and a thirteenth century pottery kiln at Harrold'. The particular excavation skills of C.L. Matthews were revealed in his review of the excavations conducted by the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable, in 1971, mainly on the foundations of a large building discovered in Friary Field, Dunstable, and the second structure found next to it. R. Fowler, Chairman of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council thanked the speakers and praised the work of the Ampthill Archaeological Society for making the afternoon a success, despite the inclement weather.

Reviews

Aerial Photography and field work in the Upper Nene Valley by R. Hollowell. [*Bulletin of the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies* 6 (1971)] 21 pp + 14 pp plates, price 50p.

This special issue of the *Bulletin* edited by A.E. Brown is devoted entirely to the work of Mr R. Hollowell, who is well known for his field work and aerial photography in the Northampton area. The material is arranged as a gazetteer with illustrations. Much of the information is published for the first time, and includes a few sites in neighbouring counties. The area most thoroughly covered is Mr Hollowell's home village of Brafield and adjacent parishes, which have received a very thorough field by field survey as well as aerial coverage. These nine parishes have 79 known sites (some multi-period) in their 13,000 acres; 1 Neolithic, 3 Bronze Age, 33 early Iron Age, 4 late Iron Age, 72 Romano-British, 3 unidentified cropmark sites and 7 iron slag patches. The average is nine per parish or one site per 165 acres which is similar to site densities found in adjacent parts of Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire.

The work is a good example of a significant contribution to archaeology made with limited resources and a determination to walk over ploughed fields in winter.

There are a few errors in the text, e.g. the grid reference of Denton site 3, and Great Houghton site 10 is in Little Houghton. The absence of a

distribution map for the central area is unfortunate, and such a large body of information is surely worthy of at least a brief discussion.

However the *Bulletin* will be of great use to those interested in site distribution, and a similar publication of Bedfordshire aerial surveys would be very welcome.

D.N.H.

List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest: Borough of Bedford, Bedfordshire issued by the Department of the Environment, third schedule as at 14 May 1971 (1971: no price stated).

The inclusion of a building in the *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest* is normally a good guide to its age. All pre-1700 buildings are included and most of those built between 1700 and 1840. The third list issued for Bedford borough deserves greater recognition for it could provide the starting point for an exciting full survey of the post-medieval dwellings of the town, of which there are a surprising number still extant. Students of architectural history will welcome this publication and its very full details of location and record by the Department will somewhat more terse notes on the actual buildings, though these have the advantage that they do bring out the salient features of interest.

D.H.K.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council have copies of the following of their publications:

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 2 1964.

J Dyer: A Secondary Neolithic Camp at Waulud's Bank, Leagrave.

N Thomas: A Gazetteer of Neolithic and Bronze Age Sites and Antiquities in Bedfordshire.

J Moss-Eccardt: Excavations at Wilbury Hill, 1959.

W H Manning: A Roman hoard of Ironwork from Sandy.

G T Rudd & B B West: Excavations by Warden Abbey in 1961 and 1962
with shorter notes; price £1.75.

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 4 1969

D N Hall & N Nickerson: Iron Age Pottery in north Bedfordshire and south Northamptonshire.

A Smallridge: A late eighth century disc from Mavourne Farm.

D H Kennett: St Neots ware from Bedford: Jugs and Bowls.

D B Baker: Excavations at Elstow Abbey, 1966-68.

N W Alcock: Timber-framed buildings in north Bedfordshire.

J B Hutchings: Milton Ernest—a field survey.

with shorter notes; price £2.10.

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 5 1970

K Fadden: Ruxox Farm, Maulden: the prehistoric finds.

D H Kennett: A lost collared urn from Kempston.

M G Spratling: The Late Pre-Roman Iron Age Mirror from Old Warden.

B N Eagles & V I Evison: Excavations at Harrold, 1951-53.

D N Hall & N Nickerson: Circular Roman building at Bozeat.

D B Baker: Excavations in Bedford, 1967.

J Dyer: The burial ground at Chicksands Priory.

with shorter notes; price £2.10.

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 6 1971

G Fisher: Archaeology in the *Bedford Times*, 1845 - 1850.

J Dyer: Excavations at Sandy Lodge.

D N Hall: Pre-Roman Iron Age sites at Bozeat and Strixton.

R Hagen: Anglo-Saxon burials from Biscot Mill, Luton.

J Moss-Eccardt: An Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Blackhorse Road, Letchworth.

M Hare: Anglo-Saxon work at Carlton and other Bedfordshire Churches.

D N Hall, J B Hutchings, G J Dring: Excavations inside Ravensden Church.

D Baker: Excavations at Elstow Abbey, 1968 - 1970.

with shorter notes; price £2.10.

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 1 1962 and 3 1966.

are currently out of print but when sufficient orders have been received arrangements will be made to reprint them. Further details from the Hon Treasurer, 63 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedford, from whom back numbers may be purchased at the prices stated.

