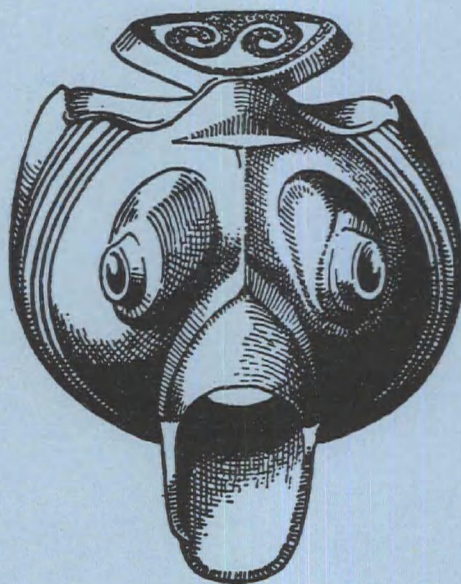


BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL



VOLUME 10 1975

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BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL

Volume 10 1975

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A Field-Walking Exercise in the Ampthill Area

KEVAN FADDEN

SUMMARY

An investigation of a proposed Bypass route for the town of Ampthill by the local archaeological society illustrates how the small group with limited resources, working in a confined area, and often using inexperienced persons, in this type of activity can increase considerably the knowledge of the archaeology of their district.

INTRODUCTION

In June 1972, the Bedfordshire County Council issued a consultative edition of a proposed Ampthill Bypass scheme, linking the roads A418 and A5120 between TL 040409 and TL 027318. This document, clearly set out with maps and construction proposals, was used as a basis for a preliminary programme of investigations by the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society.

It was realised that with the limited resources available to the society it was important to identify all potential sites as speedily as possible so as to leave sufficient time for further investigations, such as detailed earthwork surveys and excavations, in advance of construction work. A preliminary start was made by examining all available aerial photographs of the area under consideration (fig 1) were studied and a member of the society with a pilot's licence undertook a further aerial traverse of the area. Very little was observed on the air photographs already available, but the recent survey revealed a possible deserted medieval village site just off the line of the road (location 2 on fig 1). The survey conducted for the society had covered the whole route of the proposed Bypass and was especially useful in providing an up-to-date map for the field walking exercise which was subsequently undertaken.

The field walking exercise was organised on each Sunday morning during the winter of 1972-73 covering a strip approximately one third of a mile (500 metres) wide along the proposed route. It was preceded by an exhibition organised by the society in the town of Ampthill to show what one

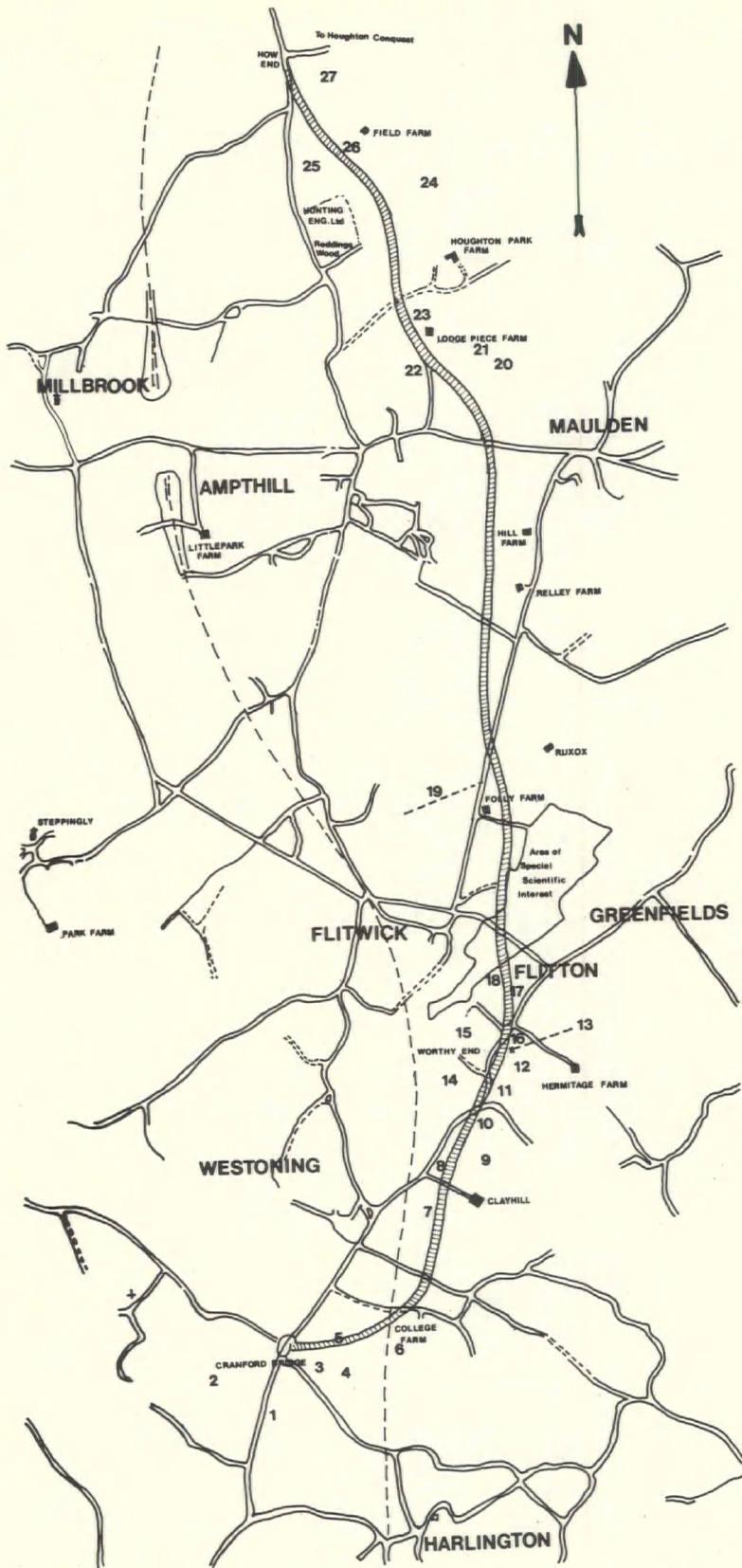
could expect to find in the fields and also to reassure the inhabitants that the society was not opposed to the Bypass. Information and posters about "Rescue" were also prominently displayed.

By the spring of 1973, approximately two-thirds of the route had been walked and the potential of some sites noted for further investigation. It then became apparent that the route may be changed and that even without change construction work would be delayed for several years. The results of the society's investigations were therefore passed to the Sites and Monuments Record of the Planning Department of the Bedfordshire County Council and work on the field walking exercise was temporarily suspended pending further decisions on the eventual route. However, in the autumn of 1974, it was decided to complete the original route proposed for the Bypass as a field walking exercise mounted by the society as one of its winter activities: no final decision at that date had been made concerning the agreed route of the Ampthill Bypass.

Much of the work of field walking was carried out by people without previous experience of archaeological activity who had been attracted by the exhibition in the town. They were shown examples of pottery sherds, tile fragments and worked flints, instruction was given in the techniques of systematic search. One field was walked at a time and all finds were checked before moving on to the next field. Items of interest were given an initial number previously allocated to the field and individually numbered within that field. Their location was also recorded on a Six-Inch Ordnance Survey map. With each group of walkers there was at least one person with considerable previous experience. In addition to examination of the ploughed fields, all hedgrows, tree clumps and field shapes were studied for unusual features or earthworks.

CATALOGUE OF FINDS

The map (fig 1) shows the location of all finds made in the course of the exercise: it numbers



material from south to north. A selection of the material found is shown on figure 2.

- 1 Neolithic type scraper and clay pipe bowl, (fig 2, 2 and 13).
- 2 Extensive crop marks on a photograph in possession of the Society suggest a deserted medieval village. Similar crop marks can be seen on a more recent photograph No 2658 taken by Hunting Air Surveys Ltd. for the National College of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe.
- 3 Scatter of 17th/18th Century pottery, (fig 2, 7, 8 and 10).
- 4 Ridge and furrow earthworks. They are now subject to modern agricultural equipment for the first time and are being destroyed.
- 5 Coin — Charles I 1625-1649 Copper rose farthing, double arched crown, double rose, sceptres within inner circle.
- 6 Linear ditches on top of hill.
- 7 Mesolithic type blade, (fig 2, 4).
- 8 Mesolithic type burin, (fig 2, 5).
- 9 General scatter of post-medieval pot, roof tiles and clay pipe bowls, (fig 2, 11 and 12).
- 10 Post Medieval pottery scatter, (fig 2, 6 and 9).
- 11 Post Medieval pottery scatter.
- 12 Romano-British pottery and tile scatter, (fig 2, 15 and 16).
- 13 Moated site with 12th to 17th Century pottery scattered within.
- 14 Extensive ridge and furrow earthworks, good condition.
- 15 Extensive ridge and furrow earthworks, good condition.
- 16 Neolithic/Bronze Age type scraper, (fig 2, 1).
- 17 Mesolithic type graver, (fig 2, 3).
- 18 Mesolithic type scraper.
- 19 Roman road agger. The Viatores, *Roman Roads in the South-East Midlands*, (London, 1967).
- 20 Romano-British Pottery scatter.
- 21 Post Medieval pottery scatter, (fig 2, 14).
- 22 17th Century enclosed garden, pottery scatter inside.
- 23 Post Medieval pottery scatter, (fig 2, 17).
- 24 17th Century pot and tile scatter.
- 25 Medieval pottery in area of crop mark on aerial photograph No 2616 (as 2 above).
- 26 Moated cottage.
- 27 Romano-British pottery scatter.

Fig 1 (Opposite). The Ampthill Field-Walking Exercise. The Area and Location of Discoveries.

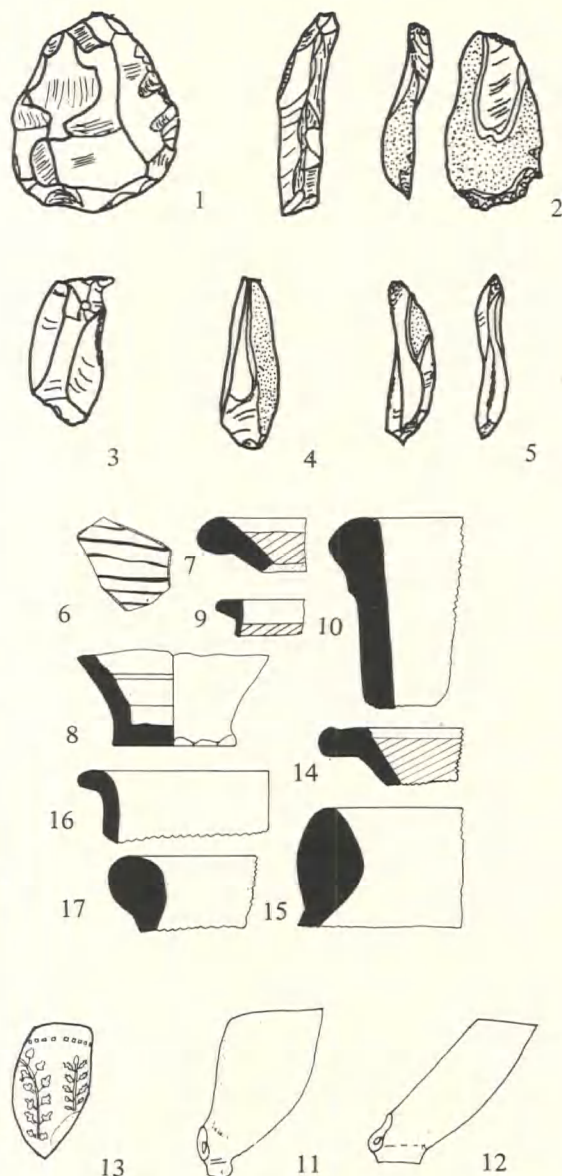


Fig 2 Finds made on the Ampthill Field-Walking Exercise. Flints (1-5), Pottery (6-10 and 14-17), Caly Pipes (11-13). (Scales: 1-5, 11-13 at $\frac{1}{2}$; 6-10, 14-17 at $\frac{1}{4}$).

OBJECTS ILLUSTRATED (Fig 2)

- 1 Neolithic or Bronze Age scraper. Grey opaque flint, retouched, slight patina. Map reference 16.
- 2 Neolithic type end scraper, dark brown translucent flint, retouched, unpatinated, good condition. Map reference 1.

- 3 Mesolithic type graver, brown translucent flint, retouched, unpatinated, good condition. Map reference 17.
- 4 Mesolithic/neolithic type blade. Grey opaque flint, not retouched, slight patina, good condition. Map reference 7.
- 5 Mesolithic type burin, honey translucent flint, retouched, good condition. Map reference 8.
- 6 Sherd of Jacobean tiger ware, Terra-cotta paste, thick yellow glaze with dark brown stripes. Map reference 10.
- 7 Terra-cotta coarse ware, poor quality. Green/yellow glaze on inside, 41mm diameter. Map reference 3.
- 8 Fine grey stone ware, mottled brown finish ? Bellamine. Map reference 3.
- 9 Terra-cotta fine ware, trace of dark brown glaze on inside 24mm. diameter. Map reference 10.
- 10 Terra-cotta coarse gritted ware with red slip, unglazed. 30mm diameter. Map reference 3.
- 11 White clay pipe bowl, undecorated. Map reference 9.
- 12 White clay pipe bowl, undecorated. Map reference 9.
- 13 Fragment of white clay pipe bowl, holly and ivy decoration. Map reference 1.
- 14 Light terra cotta fine ware, brown glaze on inside. Map reference 21.
- 15 Buff coloured shell tempered coarse ware bowl, 36mm diameter, Romano-British. Map reference 12.
- 16 Black sand tempered coarse bowl, 21mm diameter, Romano-British. Map reference 12.
- 17 Red calcite gritted ware, 30mm diameter, Romano-British. Map reference 23.

DISCUSSION

The pattern of discoveries, both of small finds and of earthworks, not only confirms the well-known premise that the more diligent the search, the greater the archaeological knowledge of an area, but also shows the value of the small local

archaeological society in this type of work. The area covered by the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society had been threatened by a destructive agency. By the concerted effort of field walking, the number of sites possibly affected by the line of the proposed road had been increased from one to twenty-seven. The exhibition had attracted a renewed interest in the society and as a result much support was gained for its activities. By presenting its activity as politically neutral and emphasising that the object was not to delay the much needed relief road the society had been further enhanced. It was publicly demonstrated that the object was to further knowledge of the archaeology of the area, and to suggest sites which may repay further investigation in advance of the construction of the road.

The medieval and later pottery scatter and the extensive crop marks in the southern part of the parish of Westoning may well suggest a general move of the village, which was possibly accelerated by the construction of the railway in 1867 which cut the former village in two.

The survey also revealed an extensive area of ridge-and-furrow in the parishes of Flitton and Flitwick. These are still in excellent condition, but some are now under the plough and unless recorded this type of evidence will disappear completely within a few years.

The ridge-and-furrow brought to light in the course of this survey is an excellent example of the value of the local archaeological society undertaking a field walking exercise. It is an activity that is non-destructive; and it is also an essential preliminary to greater knowledge of the archaeology of the local area. It has the value also that it can be done by persons with no previous archaeological experience.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank all the land owners and tenants who allowed us to walk their fields and also the Bedfordshire County Council who supplied the consultative documents and a list of land owners and their tenants. Paper submitted 27 June 1975.

The Wymington Hoard and other Hoards and Finds of the Late Bronze Age from the South Midlands

DAVID H. KENNETT

SUMMARY

A catalogue with illustrations of the hoard of Late Bronze Age axes found at Wymington, Bedfordshire, in 1860 is accompanied by a discussion of the hoards of a wide area of eastern and central England. Opportunity has been taken also to illustrate a number of previously unpublished single finds, and to draw attention to a now lost sword from Turvey.

INTRODUCTION

In the fourth volume of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*, the present author's note on 'Bronzes in Bedford Museum' drew attention to the Late Bronze Age hoard found at Wymington.¹ This hoard is the only substantial hoard of the Late Bronze Age found in Bedfordshire but apart from the brief reference there and some terse earlier citations, it has had only passing notice in the literature. No illustrations have been given with the exception of a photograph which included six of the axes. This short account hopes to present the known items, with drawings of each, and to give a summary of their museum location and acquisition.

The paper also offers a short discussion of the context of the hoard, though the author is not a specialist in the study of Bronze Age metalwork. The known items of Late Bronze Age metalwork from the east Midlands were briefly surveyed in the discussion appended to the illustration of the New Bradwell hoard in 1969.² Since that was written, one further hoard has been found: at Aylesbury in 1973.³ Despite the paucity of other new material, examination of the basements of a number of museums between 1968 and 1975 has unearthed several previously unpublished items, and these have been illustrated here for the first time (figs 5 and 6). From a wide area, covering the area within the basin of the rivers of the Wash, an attempt has been made to provide a map of the Late Bronze Age finds (fig 1), showing the regional setting of the Wymington hoard.

THE WYMINGTON HOARD

The previous note expressed the hope that more axes from the Wymington hoard might be located, but the fifty then located have remained the number known from the find. Both Sir John Evans and Thomas George wrote of its size as "about sixty axes" but the researches of the present author have revealed only thirty-one extant and another nineteen known from casts. These were all known in 1969 when it was observed that as with so many archaeological finds made in the nineteenth century, the Wymington hoard is both scanty in its original provenience and broken in its current location.

The earliest reference to the find was made by Sir John Evans in *Ancient Bronze Implements* who referred to a hoard found on 'Manor Farm' of about sixty axes, some of which were in his possession.⁴ Evans did not say how many axes he had, but two (1 and 2) were subsequently presented by his son, Sir Arthur Evans, to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. These two may have been all that Evans once possessed as neither the City Museum, St Albans, nor the British Museum, London, both of which contain items from Sir John Evans' collection, including Bedfordshire material, have any axes from the hoard.

The hoard was next referred to by Thomas George, curator of Northampton Museum between 1885 and 1921, when writing about the prehistoric material from Northamptonshire for the *Victoria County History* in 1902.⁵ However, he does not mention that Northampton Museum have two axes (3 and 4) from the hoard. He gives the find spot as 'Mr Goosey's Farm', which was the same place as Manor Farm: various editions of local directories record Edward Goosey as tenant of Manor Farm, Wymington, between 1854 and 1877. The farm is situated near to the loop of the Midland Railway's Leicester to Bedford line opened in 1857. An approximate National Grid Reference is Area SP 963637.

If George, knowing of the hoard in 1902 or just before, did not mention these two axes (3 and

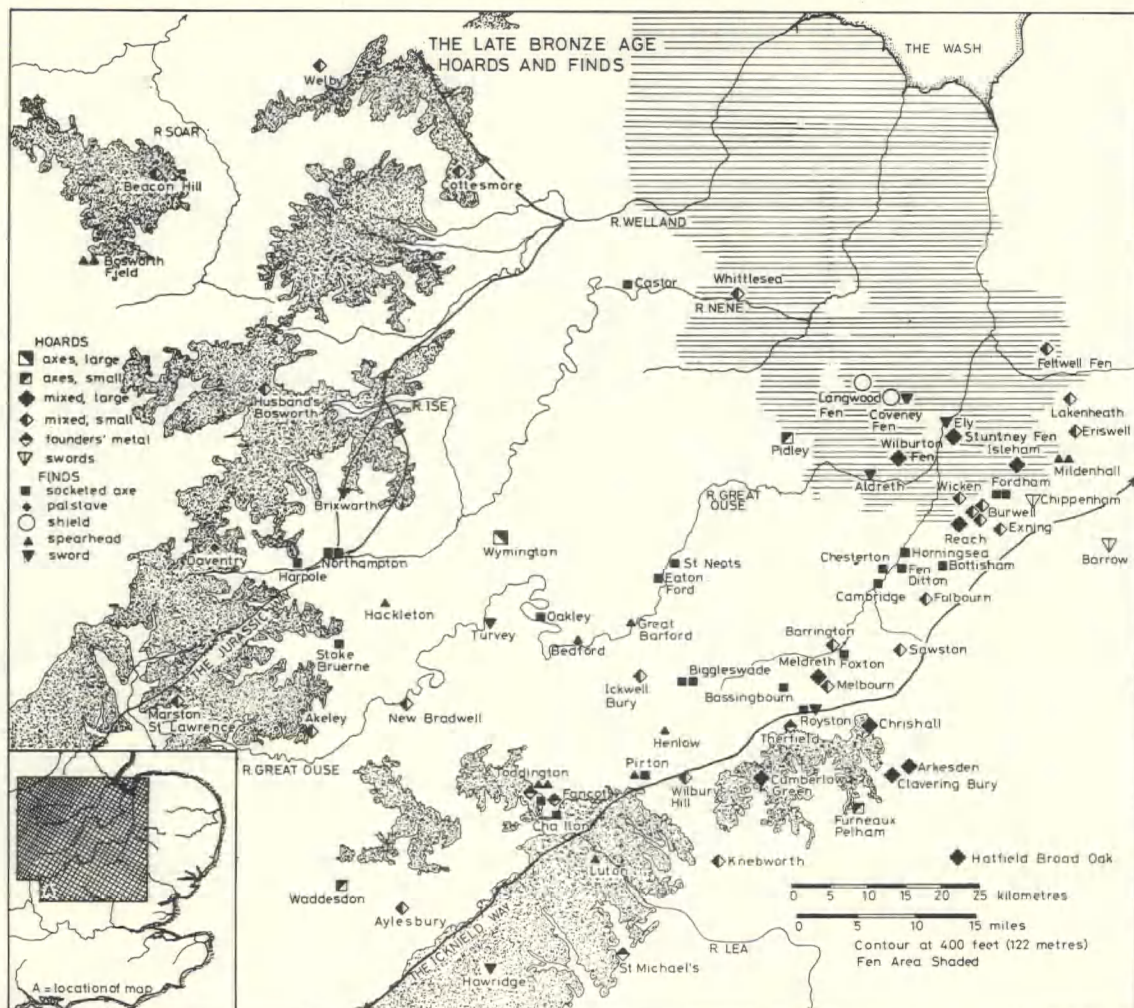


Fig 1 The context of the Wymington hoard. Finds and hoards of the Late Bronze Age from the Area of the Rivers of the Wash (the East Midlands and Cambridgeshire). The background shows physical features and prehistoric communications.

4) it can be assumed that they were not part of the collections of Northampton Museum until the early years of this century or later. The hoard was then unknown to Worthington G. Smith who contributed the section on 'Early Man' to the *Victoria County History of Bedfordshire*.⁶

The first mention of the Wymington hoard by any writer in Bedfordshire would seem to have been the Rev P.G. Langdon who illustrated six axes on the Bronze Age plate of the *Bedford Modern School Museum Guide*.⁷ These axes can be identified and include two in Bedford Museum without accession numbers (11 and 12) as well as

four of these which have been placed in the accessions book (5, 6, 8, 9). Two other axes from the hoard are also in Bedford Museum (7 and 10). Langdon, however, seems to have been unaware that a great deal of the hoard was then in the basement of Bedford Town Hall, in the collections of the old Bedford Literary and Scientific Institute. How many axes the Institute once had is not known, but in 1931, casts of thirty-eight were made by Mr F.G. Howard for the then curator of Luton Museum, C.E. Freeman. For many years these casts formed the principal exhibit of bronzes in Luton Museum. When the

collections of the Bedford Literary and Scientific Institute were broken up in 1959, Freeman was able to acquire nineteen of the originals and some of these are now exhibited in the Bronze Age exhibition of Luton Museum.

The whereabouts of the remainder of the axes are unknown; they can be presumed lost or acquired by miscellaneous collectors. Thus Mr Howard's casts assume considerable importance. Amongst the supplementary casts are three which match originals in Luton Museum (20, 26 and 28). Comparison shows the quality of Mr Howard's work, and this permits figures to be made of the nineteen known only from casts (32-50) together with the nineteen originals in Luton Museum (13-31).

Figures 2 to 4 illustrate the known axes, either originals (1-31) or casts (32-50). From the recorded 'about sixty', it has been possible to trace fifty in four museums. It is possible that these are all which were found, more probable that they are the only ones now extant, but not absolutely certain that these represent the total once known from the hoard. To assist in a greater knowledge of the hoard the known have been drawn and illustrated. This may perhaps elicit knowledge of some others. Their context must now be examined.

LATE BRONZE AGE HOARDS AND FINDS

The Wymington hoard, whether of fifty axes or of sixty, is the largest group of Late Bronze Age finds from the south Midlands. As a concentration it bears comparison with the large hoards of Cambridgeshire and the eastern edge of the Chilterns.⁸ In contrast the material from the western area of figure 1 is more sparse, hoards are small and individual finds more frequent.

Individual finds very much characterise the known Late Bronze Age metalwork of the Nene valley: Wymington as a large hoard is in contrast. One small hoard is that from Thenford Hill Farm, Marston St Lawrence,⁹ which consists of three complete spearheads, two fragmentary spearheads, a ferrule, two swords and a ring. The other Northamptonshire finds, however, are individual pieces: a sword from Brixworth¹⁰ and a palstave from Daventry¹¹ have been figured elsewhere. This paper illustrates a number of other items (fig 5). These include socketed axes from Castor (fig 5b), Martin's Brickpit, Dallington, near Northampton where two axes have been found (fig 5c-d), Harpole (fig 5f) and Stoke Bruerne (fig 5g). The

chisel (fig 5e) is without exact provenience, but is an unusual item worthy of note.

Some small hoards from the area beyond the Welland may also be noted: those from Cottesmore, Welby and Husbands Bosworth. The last contained three socketed axes, three socketed gouges, a ferrule and two spearheads.¹² The Welby hoard included fragments of a cross-handled bronze bowl, harness mounts, a small bronze cup, a sword with a pommel, a spearhead and three socketed axes.¹³ The hoard from Cottesmore consisted of a fragment from a sword blade, three socketed gouges, a narrow socketed chisel and two fragmentary and two complete socketed axes.¹⁴ A single socketed axe was among the items in the hoard from Beacon Hill, Charnwood Forest, which also contained two spearheads, a socketed gouge and an armlet. None of these seems comparable to the Wymington hoard.

The Nene valley has also produced a single spearhead find, from Hackleton (fig 5a), and two have been picked up on Bosworth Field.

Spearhead finds are also a feature of Late Bronze Age material from the Ouse valley. Volume eight of this *Journal* noted those from Great Barford and Bedford,¹⁵ illustrating the former, as well as one from Farley Hill, Luton. Spearheads have been found in two hoards from the Ouse valley. One is the New Bradwell hoard of two spearhead tips, a palstave, the fragments of a sword and twelve socketed axes, of which ten are in Northampton Museum with the remaining pieces.² The other hoard is that from Akeley, which contains two spearheads and a socketed axe of the Irish bag type (fig 6).

Irish bag type socketed axes have been found at Biggleswade¹⁶ and other socketed axes are known from St Neots (fig 5h), Eaton Ford and Oakley.¹⁷ A hoard with two socketed axes, a palstave and founder's metal, probably from Ickwell Bury, was destroyed in a fire in 1937.¹⁸

Individual finds and small hoards characterise the known material from the eastern Chilterns. Five axes were found at Lodge Hill, Waddesdon,¹⁹ and the recently discovered hoard from Manor Drive, Aylesbury, consisted of seven socketed axes, two winged axes, a palstave and lumps of metal.²⁰ Both Toddington and Fancot have produced hoards purely of founders' metal.²¹ Also from Toddington are a socketed axe and two lost spearheads,²² one of which is barbed and belongs to the Broadwood complex.²³ Another socketed axe is that from Chalton²⁴ and there are individual finds of a socketed axe and a spearhead

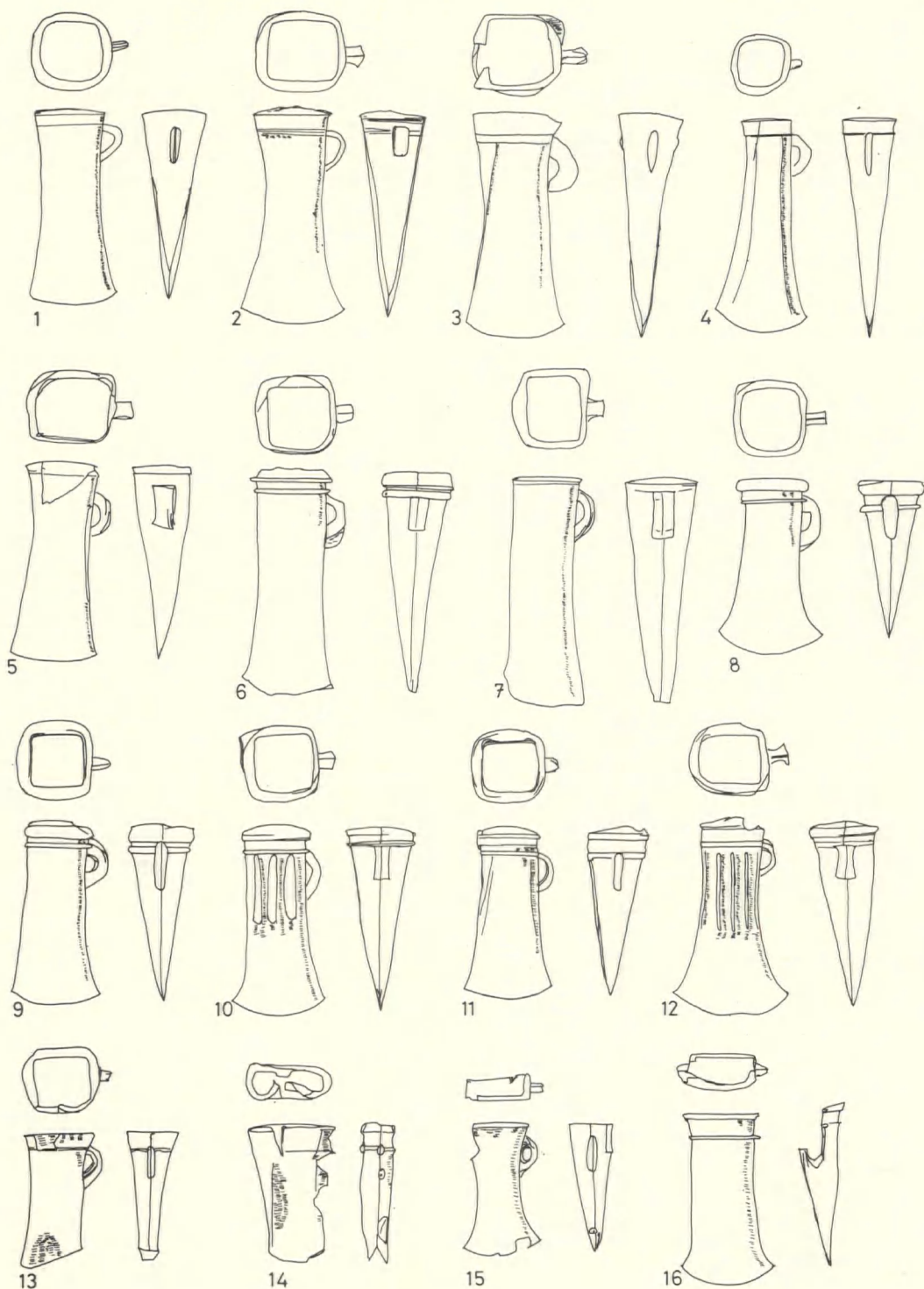


Fig 2 Late Bronze Age socketed axes from the Wymington hoard. All original axes, now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, (1-2), in Northampton Museum (3-4), in Bedford Museum (5-12), and in Luton Museum (13-16). (Scale, $\frac{1}{3}$).

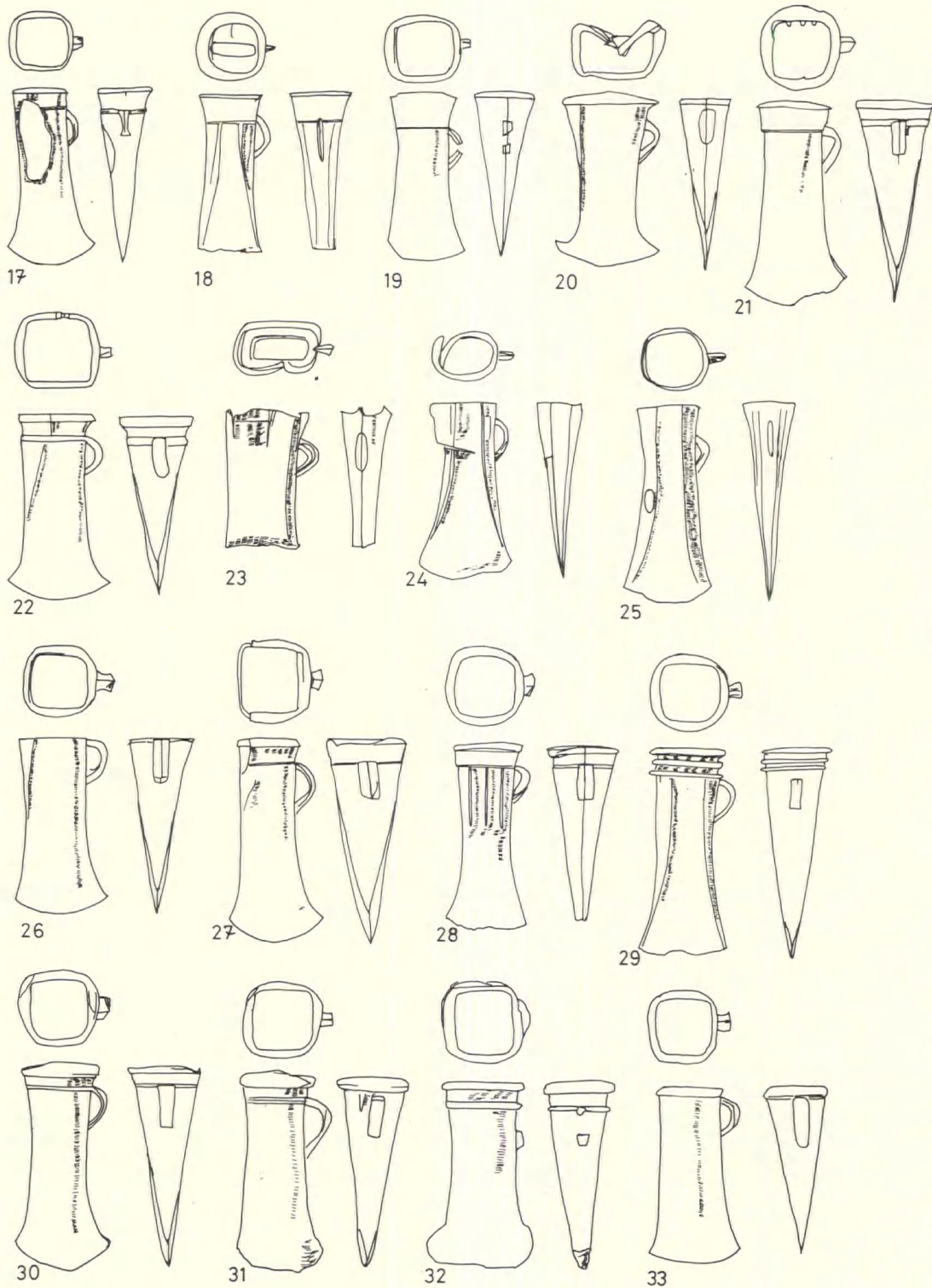


Fig 3 Late Bronze Age socketed axes from the Wymington hoard. All in Luton Museum: Original axes (17-31), casts (32-33). (Scale, $\frac{1}{3}$).

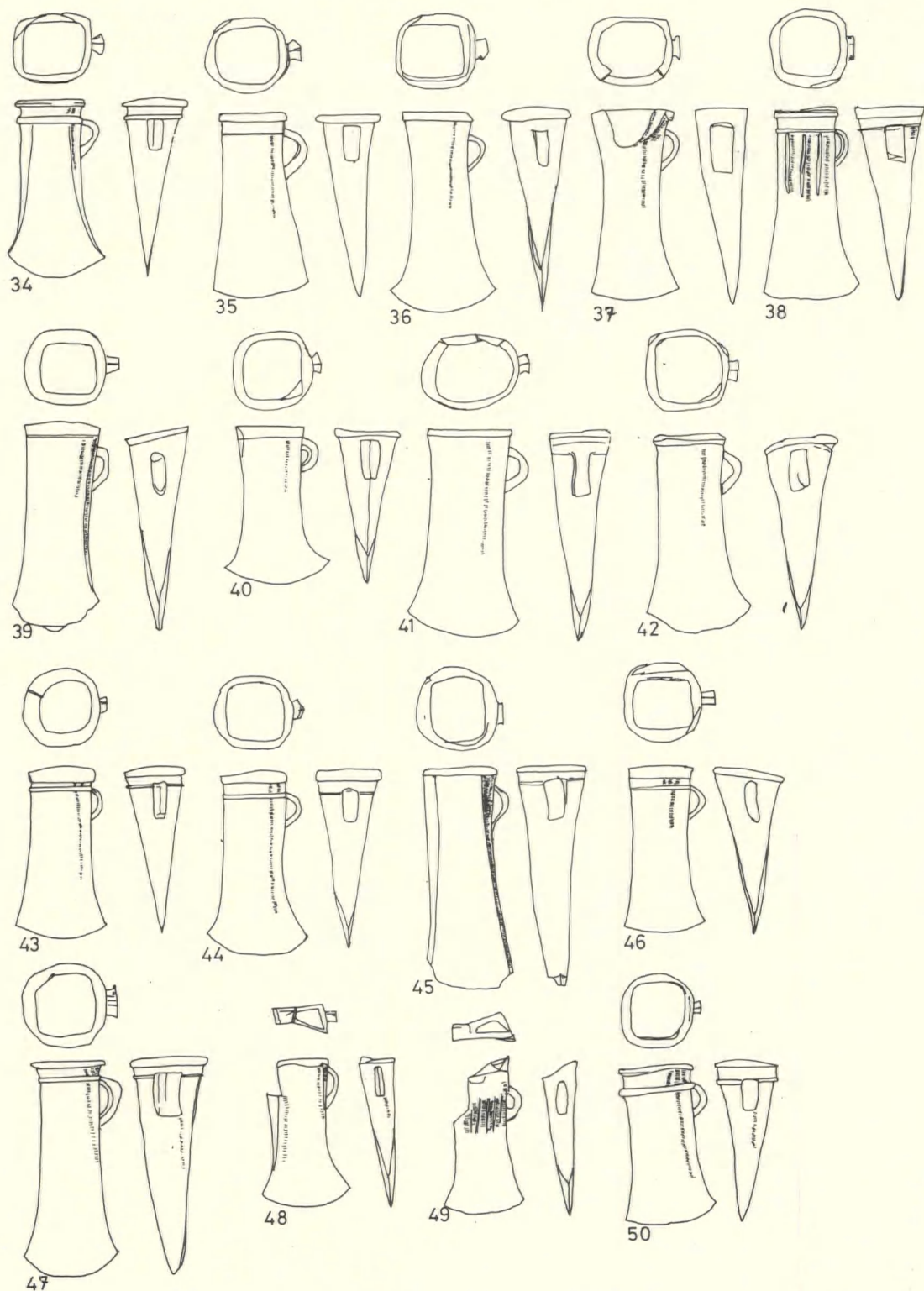


Fig 4 Late Bronze Age socketed axes from the Wymington hoard. All casts now in Luton Museum (34-50). (Scale, $\frac{1}{3}$).

fragment from Pirton.²⁵ The small hoards from St Michael's and Knebworth consist respectively of a socketed axe, part of a sword and metal and a palstave, two socketed axes and a further concentration of founders' metal.²⁶

Further to the east there is a hoard purely of founder's metal from Therfield Heath, and a group of large hoards. Five large mixed hoards deserve total republication together as a group study. These are the hoards from Cumberlow Green, Rushden, from Hatfield Broad Oak, from Clavering Bury, from Arkesden, and from Chrishall.²⁷ They each contain a variety of pieces and are not strictly comparable with the Wymington hoard in their contents. Typical of these hoards is that from Cumberlow Green, Rushden, Hertfordshire, which is partly in the British Museum and partly in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge. In Cambridge there are two hilts and a tip from swords, the upper part of three winged palstaves, the top of a socketed axe and the lower cutting edge of another, together with five socketed axes which are more complete, three fragmentary spearheads, two bronze lumps and a bugle-shaped object. The British Museum hold four bronze lumps, eleven socketed axes (some of which are fragmentary), a winged palstave, sword fragments and a thin bronze plate. The other hoards too have miscellaneous contents. Among the pieces from Chrishall, Essex, in the hoard found in 1847 is the rim and handle attachment of a cauldron, associated with a Carps' Tongue type sword, and a Late Bronze Age type knife, as well as spearheads and socketed axes.

Cambridgeshire also has some large, and from the point of view of comparisons for the Wymington hoard, not particularly comparable hoards. Perhaps the best-known is that from Wilburton Fen, which is mostly socketed spearheads, but which does include other pieces. There are one hundred and fifteen spearheads, associated with nine ferrules, eleven leaf-shaped swords, four chapes, two socketed axes, a tanged chisel, a dagger (or knife), four solid rings, a palstave, a knife, four hollow rings, three looped buttons and seven miscellaneous objects. This is one of the largest Late Bronze Age hoards in existence but despite the preponderance of spearheads, almost one third of its contents are other items. Mixed hoards include those from Reach and from Meldreth and the assemblage from Chesterton may be thought typical. This contained seventeen socketed

axes, in a reasonable state of completeness, the parts of four others, a spearhead, a gouge and a ring, together with fourteen lumps of bronze weighing 6 kg (13 lb 3 oz). There are many smaller hoards such as that found in Burwell Churchyard in 1861 which contained a socketed axe, a tanged chisel, a spearhead and a lump of bronze. Found a year later in Burwell Fen was a hoard consisting of a socketed axe, a spearhead, a bronze ring and metal lumps. Hoards such as this invite comparison with that which used to be kept in Ickwell Bury rather than with the Wymington hoard.

Perhaps nearer in comparison to the Wymington hoard is that found at Stuntney Fen, Isle of Ely,²⁸ which was mostly socketed axes but again contained other pieces, together with metal lumps weighing 20 kg (43 lb). This hoard was found in a wooden tub and included three looped and two fragmentary palstaves, a socketed gouge, three fragmentary socketed spearheads, a rapier and a knife. In this hoard there were four faceted socketed axes, three of which were fragmentary, and one ribbed one, together with sixty-seven plain examples, of which forty-nine were complete.²⁸ This is not simply a hoard of axes.

The lack of direct comparisons make fixing a chronological point exactly within the Late Bronze Age difficult when trying to place the Wymington hoard. The current chronology places the Late Bronze Age within the first half of the first millennium B.C. No finer dating can be applied to the Wymington hoard: its position as a hoard simply of socketed axes may be unique.

If this is so, and no suggestions have ever been made of other objects with the hoard and the bronze cake seems unsubstantiated as a report, it does raise questions of the purpose of the hoard. Theories about ritual are frequently admissions of ignorance, but there does seem to be substantial evidence of the casting of objects into fens in prehistoric and protohistoric times. In the Late Bronze Age the finds of shields from Coveney Fen in 1846 and Langwood Fen, Chatteris, some years afterwards, but which was associated with a spearhead, may represent a deliberate casting away. However, there is no real evidence as to the mode of burial of the Wymington hoard and it is not therefore possible to argue that a hoard purely of axes represents a deliberate burial without the intention of retrieval. That in the case of the majority of known Late Bronze Age hoards that retrieval was not carried out is our gain, but

these, it is generally agreed represent the stock of a bronze smith. In all probability the Wymington hoard must be accounted the same, though its contents are unusual when viewed against their regional setting. It has been the purpose of this note to compare the Wymington hoard with its setting: not to provide a detailed study of that setting. The integration of the Wymington hoard within the context of the Late Bronze Age and the study of its metalwork may equally have been served just by its illustration.²⁹

DESCRIPTION OF AXES

THE WYMINGTON HOARD

The Axes of the Wymington Hoard are located as follows:

1 and 2 Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, register numbers 1927.2614 and 1927.2615.

3 and 4 Northampton Museum, accession numbers NN3 and NN4.

5-12 Bedford Museum, accession numbers 3626/3627/3628/3629/3630/3631 and two without accession numbers.

13-31 Luton Museum, accession number 71/59: originals.

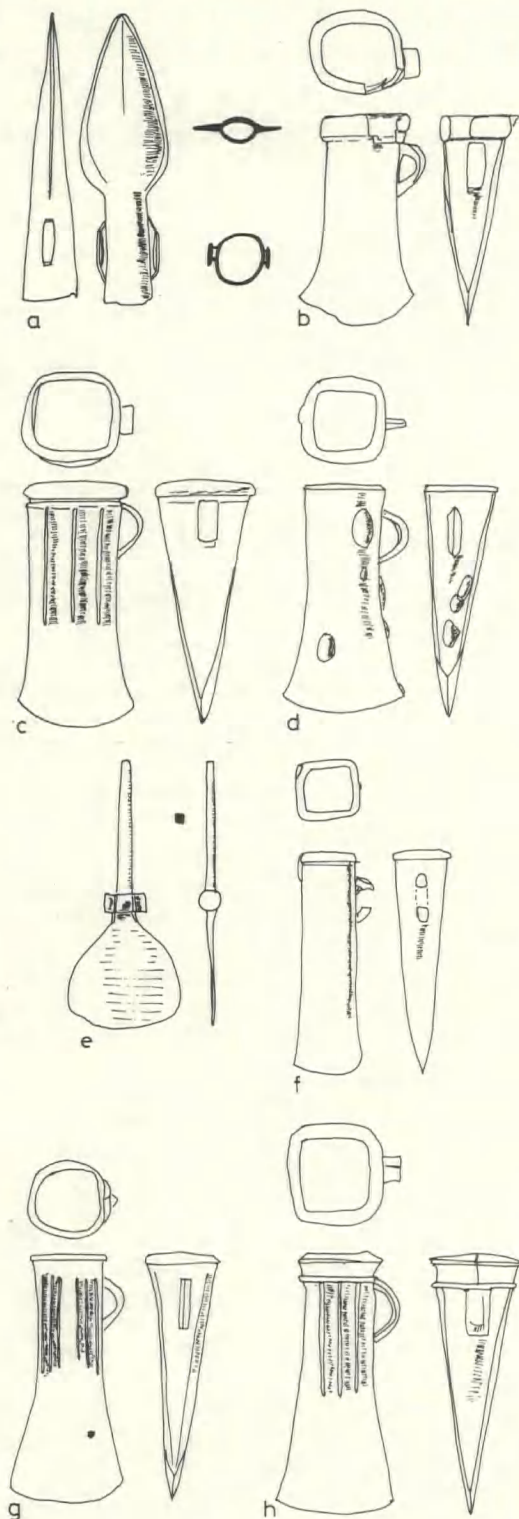
32-50 Luton Museum, accession number 71/59: casts.

The axes are illustrated on figures 2 to 4. In the descriptions which follow the dimensions given are those of the *inside* mouth, with that in the same plane as the handle given first, the maximum height and the maximum width of the blade. A square mouth is defined as one with a difference in measurement of less than 5mm.

- 1 Socketed axe, square mouth opening, broadened blade, single mouth band on face, retains loop; light green patina; mouth 30mm by 28mm; height 92mm; blade 41mm.
- 2 Socketed axe, oblong mouth opening, broadened blade, single mouth band on face, retains loop; green patina with some accretions; mouth 33mm by 28mm; height 101mm; blade 49mm.
- 3 Socketed axe, broken in one corner of square mouth, broadened blade, single mouth band on face, retains ridged loop; green patina; mouth 32mm by 32mm; height 105mm; blade 46mm.
- 4 Socketed axe, polygonal mouth, faced and splayed blade with single mouth band, retains loop; green patina; mouth 23mm by 22mm; height 99mm; blade 43mm.

- 5 Socketed axe, broken on one face at mouth, oblong mouth, broadened blade, retains loop; green patina with encrustations; mouth 34mm by 28mm; height 94mm; blade 40mm.
- 6 Socketed axe, square mouth, broadened blade with edge damaged, two mouth bands on face, retains loop; green patina with encrustations; mouth 28mm by 28mm; height 105mm; blade 43mm.
- 7 Socketed axe, oblong mouth, plain blade, retains loop; green patina, encrusted; mouth 24mm by 32mm; height 108mm; blade 37mm.
- 8 Socketed axe, square mouth, broadened blade, single ridge below mouth and thick mouth band, retains loop; green patina; mouth 28mm by 29mm; height 82mm; blade 49mm.
- 9 Socketed axe, square mouth, broadened blade, single mouth band, retains loop; green patina; mouth 25mm by 24mm; height 85mm; blade 41mm.
- 10 Socketed axe, square mouth, splayed blade with single mouth ridge and three vertical ribs on face, which are very worn, retains loop; light green-brown patina; mouth 27mm by 28mm; height 89mm; blade 42mm.
- 11 Socketed axe, square mouth, broadened blade with single ridge below mouth, retains loop; green-brown patina; mouth 26mm by 25mm; height 81mm; blade 42mm.
- 12 Socketed axe, oblong mouth, splayed blade with three ribs on face below a single mouth band; retains loop; green patina, encrusted; mouth 30mm by 23mm; height 92mm; blade 52mm.
- 13 Socketed axe, damaged on face at mouth and lacking all of cutting edge, square mouth, single thin mouth band, retains loop; light green patina; mouth 26mm by 25mm; height (maximum extant) 63mm.
- 14 Socketed axe, crushed, damaged at top and edge, vestiges of single mouth band, no loop surviving; green patina with encrustations; height (maximum extant) 65mm.
- 15 Socketed axe, lost much of top and damaged on cutting edge, oblong mouth, plain, retains loop; green patina, some encrustations; height 63mm.
- 16 Socketed axe, lost half of one side and loop, oblong mouth, single mouth band on face; light green patina; height 81mm; blade 43mm.
- 17 Socketed axe, large hole in face, square

- mouth, broadened blade, single mouth band, retains loop; light brown patina; mouth 24mm by 24mm; height 85mm; blade 42mm.
- 18 Socketed axe, broken off before cutting edge, oval mouth, faced profile giving hexagonal body, retains loop; green patina; mouth 25mm by 23mm; height (maximum extant) 77mm.
 - 19 Socketed axe, corner of blade and loop broken, square mouth, plain blade broadening to cutting edge, centre of loop missing; green patina; mouth 26mm by 26mm; height 80mm; blade probably 40mm.
 - 20 Socketed axe, damaged at top, originally oblong mouth, plain blade with splayed cutting edge, retains loop; green patina; height 83mm; blade 51mm.
 - 21 Socketed axe, chipped on cutting edge, square mouth with three internal ribs on two faces, two mouth bands on broadened blade, retains loop; light green patina; mouth 27mm by 27mm; height 99mm; blade 50mm.
 - 22 Socketed axe, damaged at top, square mouth, broadened blade with single mouth band, retains loop; light grey-green patina; mouth 32mm by 31mm; height 90mm; blade 48mm.
 - 23 Socketed axe, damaged at mouth and lacking cutting edge, plain blade, retains loop; light green patina; height (maximum extant) 66mm.
 - 24 Socketed axe, damaged at top, oval mouth, faced and broadened blade, plain, retains loop; green patina; mouth 27mm by 18mm; height 84mm; blade 46mm.
 - 25 Socketed axe, with hole in side, polygonal mouth, faced blade giving hexagonal body, plain, retains loop; light grey-green patina; mouth 25mm by 26mm; height 95mm; blade 43mm.
 - 26 Socketed axe, square mouth, broadened blade, retains loop; light grey-green patina; mouth 27mm by 26mm; height 85mm; blade 45mm.
 - 27 Socketed axe, side opposite loop broken at mouth, oblong mouth, single mouth band, broadened blade, retains loop; light green patina; mouth 27mm by 32mm; height 98mm; blade 44mm.
 - 28 Socketed axe, chipped along cutting edge, square mouth, broadened blade with single mouth band and three ribs on face, retains loop; light grey-green patina with encrustations; mouth 28mm by 30mm; height 90mm; blade 39mm.
 - 29 Socketed axe, chipped along cutting edge, square mouth, faced blade with two mouth ribs, retains loop; grey-green patina; mouth 29mm by 30mm; height 100mm; blade 43mm.
 - 30 Socketed axe, polygonal mouth, blade is broadened with a single mouth rib at top, retains loop; grey-green patina; mouth 27mm by 30mm; height 100mm; blade 45mm.
 - 31 Socketed axe, broken on cutting edge, square mouth, broadened blade with single mouth band, retains loop; green patina with much encrustations; mouth 28mm by 30mm; height 95mm; blade 41mm.
 - 32 Cast of socketed axe, oblong mouth, single mouth band on broadened blade, lacks loop; mouth 29mm by 32mm; height 90mm; blade 50mm.
 - 33 Cast of socketed axe, square mouth, plain, retains loop; mouth 27mm by 27mm; height 86mm; blade 44mm.
 - 34 Cast of socketed axe, oblong mouth, broadened blade with single mouth band, retains loop; mouth 31mm by 25mm; height 89mm; blade 48mm.
 - 35 Cast of socketed axe, square mouth, broadened blade with a single mouth band, retains loop; mouth 30mm by 28mm; height 90mm; blade 46mm.
 - 36 Cast of socketed axe, oblong mouth, broadened blade, retains loop; mouth 30mm by 26mm; height 100mm; blade 51mm.
 - 37 Cast of socketed axe, broken at mouth on one face, oblong mouth, plain broadened blade, retains loop; mouth 32mm by 25mm; height 93mm; blade 43mm.
 - 38 Cast of socketed axe, polygonal mouth, broadened blade with one mouth band and three vertical ribs on face, retains loop; mouth 28mm by 29mm; height 94mm; blade 44mm.
 - 39 Cast of socketed axe, cutting edge broken, square mouth, plain broadened blade, retains loop; mouth 27mm by 26mm; height 102mm; blade 41mm.
 - 40 Cast of socketed axe, square mouth, broadened blade, retains loop; mouth 28mm by 30mm; height 78mm; blade 50mm.
 - 41 Cast of socketed axe, part of top missing on one side; oval mouth, plain broadened blade, retains loop; mouth 36mm by 30mm; height 100mm; blade 52mm.



- 42 Cast of socketed axe, square mouth, plain broadened blade, retains loop; mouth 32mm by 32mm; height 96mm; blade 50mm.
- 43 Cast of socketed axe, oval mouth, broadened blade with two mouth bands, retains loop; mouth 25mm by 27mm; height 85mm; blade 42mm.
- 44 Cast of socketed axe, square mouth, broadened blade with single mouth band, retains loop; mouth 28mm by 29mm; height 90mm; blade 47mm.
- 45 Cast of socketed axe, broken on cutting edge, oblong mouth, broadened blade, retains loop; mouth 26mm by 32mm; height (maximum extant) 109mm.
- 46 Cast of socketed axe, square mouth, broadened blade with single mouth band, retains loop; mouth 26mm by 26mm; height 82mm; blade 40mm.
- 47 Cast of socketed axe, polygonal mouth, broadened blade with single mouth band, retains loop; mouth 30mm by 30mm; height 106mm; blade 45mm.
- 48 Cast of socketed axe, considerably damaged at the top, broadened blade, plain, retains loop; height 73mm; blade 42mm.
- 49 Cast of socketed axe, damaged at mouth, plain broadened blade, retains loop; height (maximum extant) 75mm; blade 40mm.
- 50 Cast of socketed axe, oblong mouth, broadened blade with single mouth band, retains loop; mouth 26mm by 31mm; height 78mm; blade 47mm.

OTHER FINDS

- a Spearhead, wide blade and continuous shaft, basal loops with peg hole above loops; length 119mm, blade 75mm.

Location Hackleton, Northants; recorded November 1910.

Museum Northampton Museum, D71/1954-55.

- b Socketed axe, damaged at mouth and rim, oblong mouth, splayed blade, retains loop, green

Fig 5 (Left) Late Bronze Age finds from the Nene and Ouse Valleys. Spearhead from Hackleton (a); socketed axes from Castor (b), Martin's Brickpit, Dallington, near Northampton (c-d), Harpole (f), Stoke Bruerne (g), and St Neots (h); and tanged chisel from Northamptonshire (e). (Scale $\frac{1}{3}$).

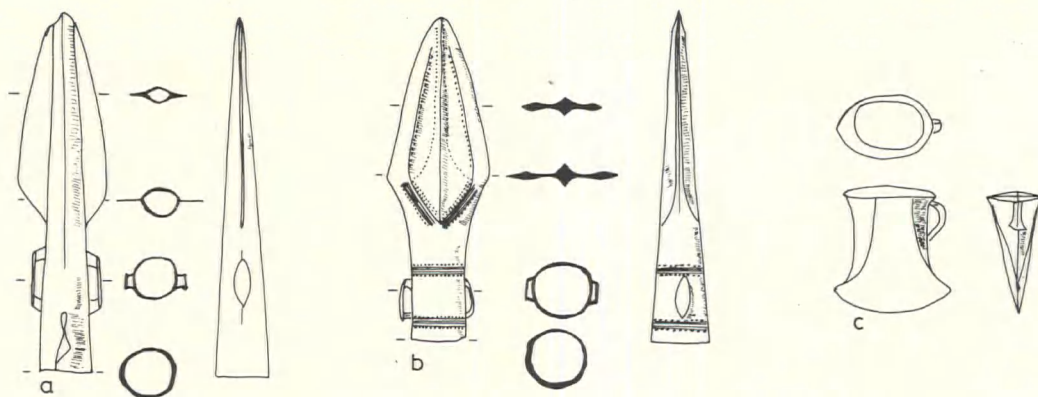


Fig 6 Late Bronze Age hoard found at Akeley, Buckinghamshire. (Scale $\frac{1}{3}$).

patina, heavy encrustation; mouth 30mm by 24mm; height 86mm; blade 49mm.

Location Castor, Northants.

Museum Northampton Museum, D72/1954-55.

- c Socketed axe, square mouth, single mouth band and three ribs on face, retains loop; light green patina; mouth 30mm by 31mm; height 102mm; blade 47mm.

Location Martin's Brickpit, Dallington, near Northampton; recorded August 1867.

Museum Northampton Museum, D75/1954-55.

- d Socketed axe, square mouth, plain blade, retains loop; green patina, distinct lumps of encrustation on face and sides; mouth 24mm by 25mm; height 94mm; blade 50mm.

Location Martin's Brickpit, Dallington, near Northampton; recorded c 1893.

Museum Northampton Museum, D73/1954-55.

- e Chisel, square-sectioned shank, barrel-shaped joint with hammered ends, flat blade; length 110mm; blade 46mm.

Location Northamptonshire, otherwise unrecorded.

Museum Northampton Museum, D36/1958-59, presented by Maidstone Museum.

- f Socketed axe, small square mouth, straight sides, loop broken; mouth 20mm by 19mm; height 94mm; blade 26mm.

Location Harpole, Northants; recorded January 1960.

Museum Northampton Museum, D92/1959-60.

- g Socketed axe, square but almost oval mouth, splayed blade with six ribs on face, retains loop; mouth 25mm by 25mm; height 104mm; blade 44mm.

Location Stoke Bruerne, Northants; recorded

1904.

Museum Northampton Museum, ZL6.

- h Socketed axe, square mouth, single band at mouth with three ribs on face, splayed blade; retains loop; mouth 29mm by 31mm; height 108mm; blade 48mm.

Location St. Neots.

Museum Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, 33.145.

The Akeley Hoard (fig 6)

- a Spearhead with continuous shaft, basal loops; length 147mm; blade 83mm; socket 20mm by 19mm.

- b Spearhead, dipped blade giving short socketed; decorated on socket with two sets of four broken lines and dots on the outside and on the blade with single and double rows of dots; length 130mm; blade 81mm; socket 24mm by 23mm.

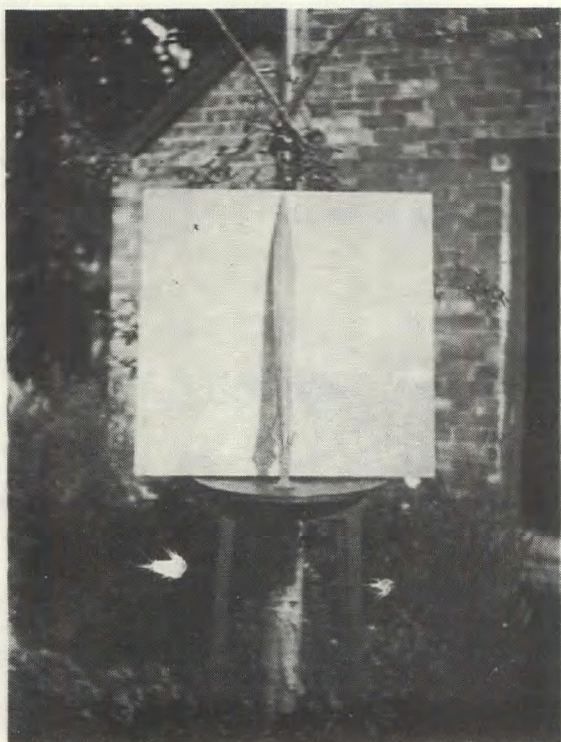
- c Socketed axe, oval mouth, faceted with wide blade, of Irish bag type; mouth 40mm by 28mm; height 53mm; blade 46mm.

Museum Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, 48.315A/315B/316.

APPENDIX

A Late Bronze Age Sword from Turvey

One of the last activities of F.W. Kuhlicke as the Director of Bedford Museum and Honorary Curator of the collections of the Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School (now housed in Bedford Museum) was to show the present author a photograph (pl 1) of an extremely fine Late



Pl.1 Late Bronze Age Sword from Turvey. Photograph taken before 1933. Present whereabouts of the sword are unknown.

Bronze Age sword found at Turvey. The present whereabouts of the sword are not known and it is hoped by this appendix to perhaps elicit further information concerning it. The sword was found some time before 1933 as the photograph was taken by the Rev. P.G. Langdon, curator of Bedford Modern School Museum between 1919 and 1933. When seen by Langdon, the sword was in the possession of a Mr Longuet Higgins of Vine Cottage, Turvey, and this collection later passed to a Miss Longuet Higgins, who died in 1950. Her collections have since been dispersed and though some are now in Luton Museum not all would appear to have reached a museum.³⁰

The photograph shows a sword placed upon a circular occasional table and with a white board as a background. The length of the sword on the photograph is 40mm, which is equivalent to the height of the table as far as this can be judged: the feet of the legs are not visible. In the background is a wall, but this is of little assistance in judging the length of the sword because of the problems

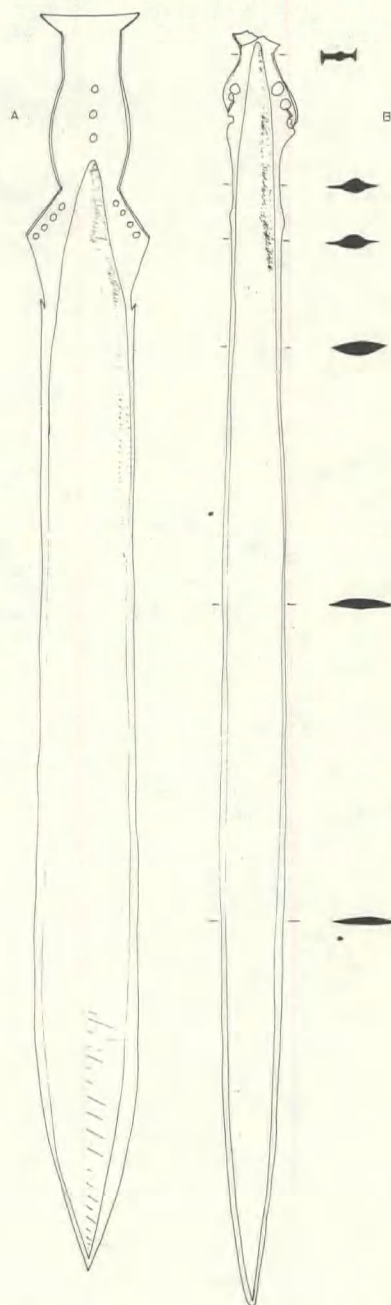


Fig 7 Late Bronze Age Swords from the South Midlands.

A. Lost sword from Turvey reconstructed from photograph.

B. Sword from Brixworth, showing cross-sections.

(Scales: A about $\frac{1}{4}$; B at $\frac{1}{4}$).

of perspective inherent in such an exercise.

It would seem that as far as can be judged the scale of the photograph is between one fifteenth and one sixteenth of the original, and the reconstructed figure (fig 7a) is based on the drawing being at one sixteenth size. The illustration, however, is no more than a representation rather than an accurate drawing. In all essentials, it is hoped that it faithfully reproduces the original.

The sword has a straight termination to the hilt, which is expanded from the grip. The grip is bowed towards the shoulders and has three rivet holes centrally placed. The shoulders are straight and there are four rivet holes on each side. The blade is long, leaf-shaped in all essentials, expanded slightly before the tip, and appears to have flattened considerably in the course of its length. There is a prominent swept-back ricasso.

This sword is the first Late Bronze Age sword to be noted from Bedfordshire and on this count alone deserves notice here. This example with V-shoulders belongs to a not uncommon type found in a number of British hoards.³¹

One other reasonably complete sword, also an individual find, is known from the south Midlands: that from Brixworth.³² This was found before 1847, and is of a rather different type, with damaged curved shoulders and a long slender blade (fig 7b). It is included here to show the way in which the cross-section of a sword changes, which it was not possible to do with the drawing from a photograph in the case of the Turvey sword.³³

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For permission to publish objects in their keeping, I am indebted to the authorities of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Bedford Museum, Luton Museum, Northampton Museum, and the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology Cambridge. For assistance at these institutions and at the British Museum, London, I wish to thank Mr P.D.C. Brown, Mr H. Case, Miss M.D. Craister, Mr R.K. Hagen, Miss J.M. Hassall, Mr F.W. Kuhlicke, Dr I.H. Longworth, Mr. W.R.G. Moore and Mr W.N. Terry.

NOTES

- 1 D.H. Kennett, 'Bronzes in Bedford Museum', *Beds. Arch. J.*, 4, 1969, 80-81.
- 2 D.H. Kennett, 'The New Bradwell Late Bronze Age Hoard', *J. Northampton Mus.*, 6, 1969, 2-7, esp 4-6, this paper is cited as Kennett, 1969.
- 3 I owe knowledge to this to Mr M. Farley of Aylesbury Museum, who spoke about the discovery to the March 1974 meeting of C.B.A. group 9.
- 4 J. Evans, *Ancient Bronze Implements*, 1881, 113 and 466.

- 5 *V.C.H. Northants*, I, 1902, 143.
- 6 *V.C.H. Beds.*, I, 1904, 169.
- 7 *Bedford Modern School Museum Guide*, 1925, plate 5, lower portion of plate.
- 8 The material mapped on figure 1 is not all noted individually in the discussion. The sources are principally C.F. Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, 1923, 57-69 and list 323-324; J. Evans, *The Ancient Bronze Implements of Great Britain*, 1881, *passim*; and the author's personal researches in museum collections, particularly in Cambridge and Northampton.
- 9 *Inv. Arch.* GB 12.
- 10 Kennett, 1969, fig 4.
- 11 Kennett, 1969, fig 3.
- 12 Leicestershire items not otherwise noted are from *V.C.H. Leics.*, I, 1907, 168.
- 13 *Arch. J.* 105, 1948, 27-40.
- 14 *V.C.H. Rutland*, I, 1908, 83 with pl. opp 82.
- 15 R.K. Hagen, 'Three Bronze Age Spearheads in Luton Museum', *Beds. Arch. J.* 8, 1973, 1-4. For Henlow, see *Manshead Magazine* 21, 1972, 29 and fig 8.
- 16 A second axe of this type, accession number Z4307, could not be located in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge.
- 17 Reported *Beds. Arch. J.* 2, 1964, 33; the latter of these is lost, that from Eaton Ford is illustrated *V.C.H. Hunts* I, 1926, 208, pl. 2, 9.
- 18 *Ant. J.* 34, 1954, 232 and pl. 26b.
- 19 *V.C.H. Bucks* I, 1909, 180-185.
- 20 *Rec. Bucks.* 19, 1973, 344.
- 21 Material from the area is listed *Beds. Arch. J.* 2 1964, 33.
- 22 Hagen, 1973, 3-4 with fig 4.
- 23 C. Burgess, D. Coombs, D.G. Davies, 'The Broadwood Complex and Barbed Spearheads', in F. Lynch and C. Burgess (ed.), *Prehistoric Man in Wales and the West*, 1972, 211-283.
- 24 Luton Museum, unpublished.
- 25 Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, unpublished.
- 26 *V.C.H. Herts.* I, 1902.
- 27 For details of these hoards, albeit tersely given, see Fox, 1923, 53-62, and Evans, 1881, *passim*. The discussion which follows has largely been built up from looking at the actual objects in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, rather than by an examination of the original publications, many of which are not known to me. The Cumberlow Green hoard has been illustrated in part by Clarke, *loc. cit.* n.28, pl. 7.
- 28 J.G.D. Clarke and H. Goodwin, 'A Late Bronze Age Find near Stuntney, Isle of Ely', *Ant. J.* 20, 1940, 52-71.
- 29 Paper completed 21 September 1974. It is based on work done mainly in 1968, when the axes from the Wymington hoard came to light in the course of museum research on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery from Kempston.
- 30 I am grateful to Prof C. Longuet-Higgins and Mr M. Longuet-Higgins for answering my queries concerning the sword. It appears that the surviving members of the family have no knowledge of this object.

- 31 e.g. Gorleston, see *Bronze Age Metalwork in Norwich Castle Museum*, 1966, 27 and fig 45; New Bradwell, *J Northampton Mus* 6, 1969, 4 and fig 2, 14; Wilburton Fen, C.F. Fox, *The Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, 1923, 59 and pl 10, 15; isolated examples include Aldreth, *ibid* pl 9, 1.
- 32 Northampton Museum, accession number D107/1954-55, previously illustrated *J Northampton*

Mus 6, 1969, fig 4: a most inadequate sketch. I am most grateful to Mr W.N. Terry and Mr W.R.G. Moore for assistance at Northampton Museum and for permission to publish my drawing of this sword.

- 33 Appendix completed 12 October 1974. I am grateful to Mr Kuhlicke for showing me the photograph and allowing me to retain it so that this note could be written.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Luton Museum and to Bedford Museum for grants towards the costs of this paper.

The Excavation of an Iron Age Hut Circle at Bromham in 1971 with a note on Two Post-Medieval Finds from Clapham

PETER TILSON

With a contribution from A. EAST

SUMMARY

A chance find of post holes and pits, some with Iron Age pottery, discovered during gravel extraction in 1971.

THE IRON AGE HUT CIRCLE

During the investigations of the main Belgic and Romano-British site in Bromham parish,¹ a watching brief was undertaken by those members of the Bedford Archaeological Society taking part in the excavations on adjacent areas of gravel extraction. The area kept under observation was as large as possible and included parts of the parishes of Bromham, Clapham and Oakley. Some casual finds from the last two are published elsewhere in this Journal² and other discoveries have been previously reported.³ This particular site was discovered when the area adjacent to Lower Farm Bromham, (at TL 026518) was cleared for gravel workings by Mixconcrete Aggregates Ltd.

During a routine inspection of the area for archaeological features a series of small post holes and pits (fig 1) were discovered. This report seeks to record these in as great a detail as possible. When these were noticed, the topsoil overlying the natural gravel had already been stripped to a depth of approximately 3ft (0.9m). It is highly probable that many of the main features of the site had been removed prior to the archaeological examination. In particular no occupation layers were found over the post holes and the area within the perimeter they delineate. The circumstances of the discovery allowed only two days for the excavation to be completed.

THE FEATURES

The excavations revealed a series of nine post holes (numbered B10 on fig 1) and a set of associated pits (numbered B1 to B9). The main series of post holes have been interpreted as the outer supports of a hut circle, with some supplementary post holes possibly representing a set of roof supports. Within the area of the main perimeter

of this was a shallow depression, filled with charcoal (B9) which is thought to have been a hearth. Other features recovered were five sterile pits (B3, B4, B5, B7 and B8), one pit with a large storage jar (B6) and two pits (B1 and B2) with pottery and bone. All these features were cut into the natural gravel.

The post holes delineating the supposed hut circle (B10) were ten in number. The area which is enclosed within their perimeter is roughly circular but as has been observed no occupation layers were present above. It is presumed that these had been removed during the preliminary processes of commercial gravel extraction on the site. To distinguish the suggested outer post holes on figure 1 those which are thought to have taken additional roof supports are lightly shaded. The main post holes are in solid black. The surviving depth of these post holes, whether interpreted as taking outer wall or roof supports, was in no case greater than 23cm (9 in). These post holes were filled with a sticky brown earth mixed with charcoal.

Within the area of the hut, on its north-west side, a shallow depression, irregularly shaped but suggesting a deliberately dug feature, was found. This measured 85cm (33 in) at its greatest elongation. Its surviving depth was not more than 13cm (5 in). The depression was filled with charcoal, pottery sherds and bone fragments. It is suggested that this may have been a hearth but no stone packing was found at the edges. Within the area of the suggested hut no other evidence of a hearth was found.

The series of post holes were found in the centre of an irregularly placed series of larger features. These have been interpreted as pits, though five were extremely shallow. These five (B3, B4, B5, B7, B8) were none of them more than 7.5cm (3 in) deep. Each was of an irregular shape and sterile, that is they contained no pottery or bone finds. The fill of each was a sticky charcoal mixed with loam. These five were closest to the post holes. A further depression of the nine

BROMHAM GRAVEL PITS 1971

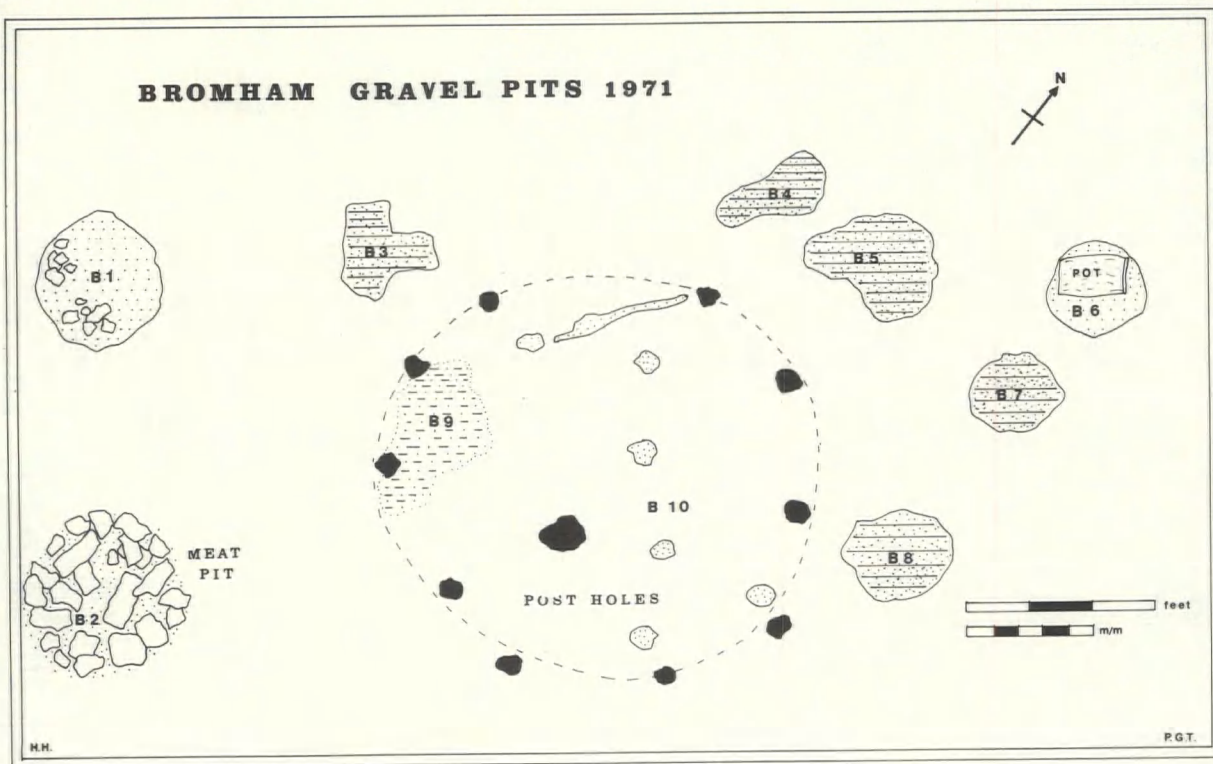


Fig 1 Ground plan of hut circle and associated pits found at Bromham, 1971.

found resembled these in most respects. This (B1) differed in having a larger proportion of charcoal in its fill and contained some fragments of bone and sherds of pottery. The fill also contained some stones, but these were not placed in any regular pattern and it is thought that they were probably part of the general infilling of rubbish in this feature. It is suggested that each of these six was the base of a much larger pit, the remainder of which has been scraped away by mechanical means prior to the archaeological excavation.

Two larger pits were also found. The first of these (B2) was 81cm deep (32 in). It was more carefully constructed than the others. Its sides were packed with burnt clay and stones. The base was similarly lined. The top had been covered with large stones which were found *in situ*. It is thought that originally the pit was dug for grain storage as attempts had been made to ensure it was waterproof. However, when found it had become a meat pit. Within the lower part of the fill, a considerable quantity of animal bone was found. This survived as articulated joints and it is on

this evidence that it is suggested that the pit became a meat pit. The joints were the skull, shoulders and vertebrae of a sheep (or goat), the hind leg of a horse, the two forelegs of a cow (or ox) and the complete skeleton of a small deer. Over this a layer of sandy soil was found. This would suggest that the pit was abandoned for some time. Above this sterile layer, the pit was allowed to fill with general domestic rubbish including fragments of a clay loom weight (fig 2, 11).

The second larger pit (B6) was found outside the main ring depressions on the north-east of the post-holes. This feature survived to a depth of 23cm (9 in) and was filled with brown earth with a little charcoal. Lying on its side was a large, hand-made storage jar (fig 2, 1) which had been cut in half during topsoil clearance. The vessel was empty. It contained no bone nor was any evidence forthcoming to suggest why it had been buried in the manner in which it was found.

THE FINDS

The site was sparse in material remains. One

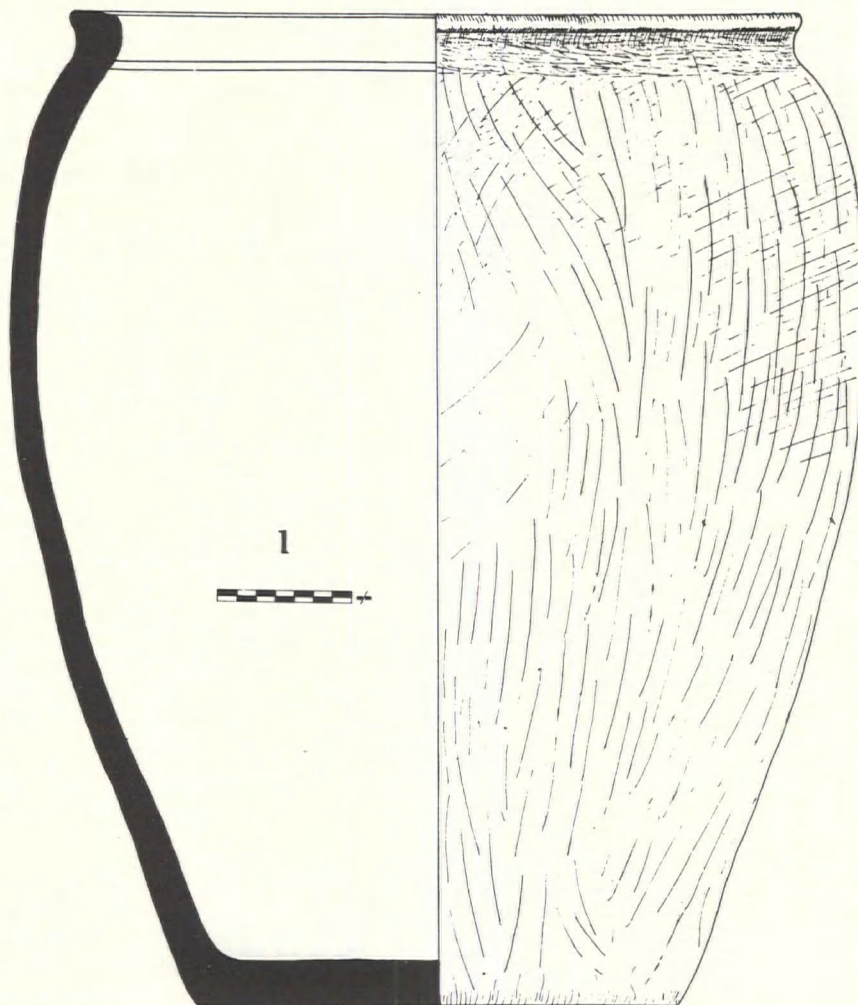


Fig 2 Storage jar (1) found sliced in half in pit B6. (scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

pit (B2) has already been described with considerable quantities of animal bones in the form of articulated joints. Other finds from the site were the large storage jar from pit B6 and some small fragments of pottery from other pits and associated with the post holes. Apart from this large vessel seven rim sherds and two base fragments were recovered and are illustrated here (fig 3-4). The general comparisons of the ceramic suggest an affinity with other Iron Age sites of the pre-Belgic phase in the Ouse valley.⁴ Outside of the immediate area it is possible to make comparisons with pottery from the excavations at Hardingstone and other more widely-known sites in Northamptonshire such as Hunsbury and Rainsborough hillforts.⁵

The largest surviving vessel from the site is the large storage jar (fig 3, 1). This is to be compared in its rim with a vessel from Hardingstone, but large vessels are a feature of many Iron Age sites in the region. Examples may be quoted from Irthlingborough, Easton and Bozeat, each in Northamptonshire,⁶ while from Bedfordshire there is one from Kempston, now in Bedford Museum.⁷

The smaller sheards can be compared to vessels from Hardingstone and Hunsbury. For some sherds comparisons can also be made with the material from Rainsborough and Stoke Goldington. The only other find was a clay loom weight.⁸

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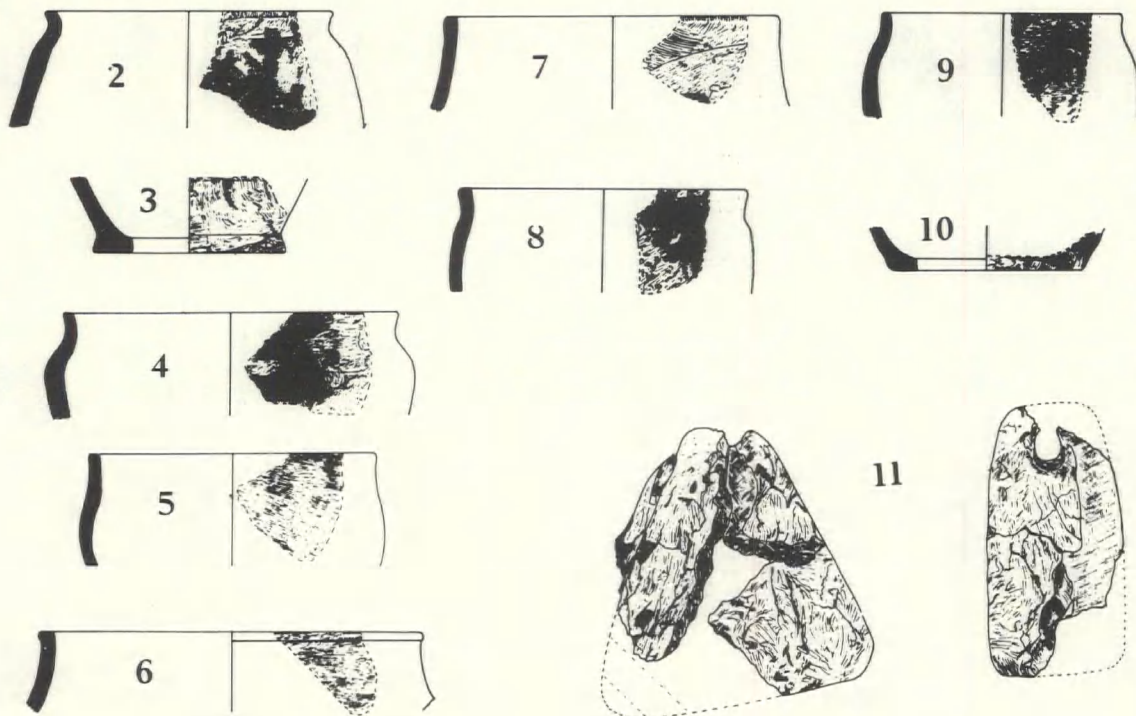


Fig 3 Pottery associated with hut circle (2 and 3), and with pits (4-10), and loom weight from meat pit, B2 (11). (scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

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Wheatthampstead, in R.E.M. and T.V. Wheeler, *Verulamium: a Belgic and two Roman Cities*, [Research Reports of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 11 (1936)]

POTTERY DESCRIPTIONS

1 Large storage jar found in pit B6, hand made probably by means of coiling. Medium to very large shell and grits. Rim uneven with thumb impressions on exterior, straw markings on the body. Medium to dark brown burnt in patches, interior very rough and uneven. Firing was extremely unsuccessful, the pot shows signs of only being half baked in places. Hardingstone 13 with fig 9a, 21.

- 2 From pit B1 a small irregular hand made pot. Small to medium shell, no grits. Thumb impressions around top, straw markings on body. Dark brown badly burnt in places. Angle of rim uncertain. Hardingstone. 11 and fig 8, 2. Rainsborough. 290 and fig 32. 179.
- 3 Base, hand made, very uneven with thumb impressions around the bottom. Small to medium shell, burnt brown. Hunsbury, pot B8.
- 4 Flat rimmed pot, hand made, medium to large shell, slight burnishing on exterior, medium brown burnt. Straw markings on body. Hardingstone. 11 and fig 8, 7. Hunsbury pot FT4A.
- 5 Flat rimmed pot, hand made, burnishing on exterior, medium brown interior burnt. Some small shell. Hardingstone. 11 and fig 8, 3. Stoke Goldington. 41.
- 6 Half bead rimmed pot, hand made, burnishing on exterior, soapy finish. Medium brown, very small shell. Angle uncertain. Hardingstone. 11 and fig 8, 3.

- 7 Small hand made pot, dark brown, medium shell, slight burnishing on exterior with thumb impressions around rim. Angle uncertain.
- 8 Small hand made pot, irregular finish, badly worn around rim and interior. Dark orange, heavily burnt. Hardingstone. 12 and fig 8, 17. Rainsborough. 27-1 and fig 21, 26.
- 9 Small hand made pot similar to 8. Medium brown with thumb impressions on exterior of rim. Small to medium shell, burnt in patches.
- 10 Base, hand made, some medium shell. Dark brown badly burnt, slight traces of a foot-ring. Uneven finish. Hardingstone. 13 and fig 9a, 23.
- 11 Clay loom weight, medium red/orange to brown, very heavy in large shell and grits. Triangular shaped made from puddled clay, punched at each corner with half inch holes. Badly burnt and only half baked. Examples found at Wheathampstead. 150 fig 5.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the farmer, Mr Steward and Mixconcrete Aggregates Ltd for their co-operation throughout the dig and for the help and support of excavations to H. Hall, R. Smart and helpers from the Teachers Training College, Bedford who turned out in a snow blizzard to complete excavations. I am particularly grateful to T. Roberts and J. Coombs who supplied the pottery drawings.

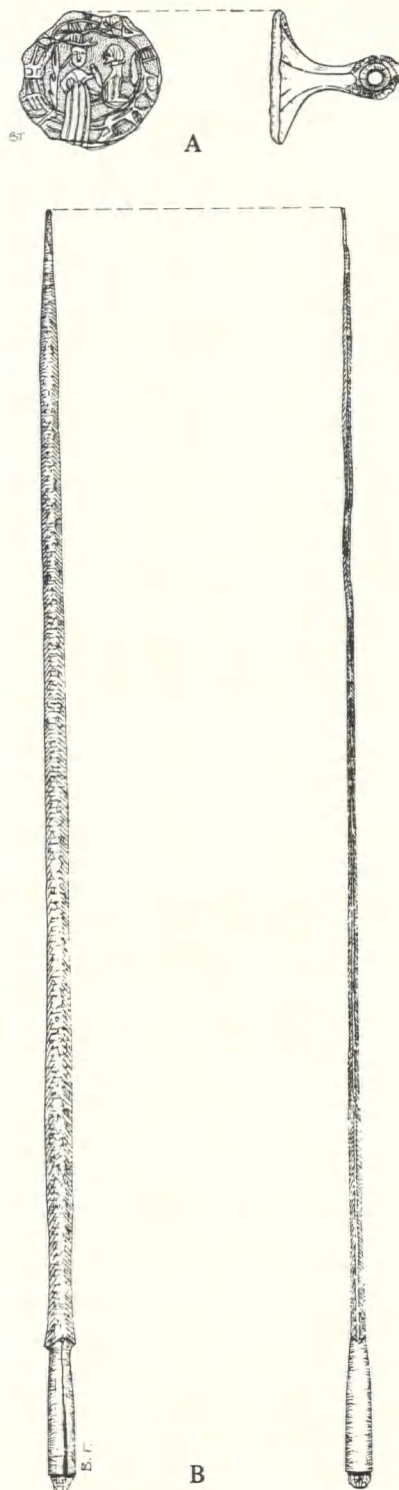
TWO POST-MEDIEVAL FINDS FROM CLAPHAM

by P.G. TILSON and A. EAST

The excavations on the large Belgic and Romano-British complex at Bromham⁹ provided a focus for a number of casual finds made in that and adjacent parishes to be brought along for identification. These have each been given passing mention in previous issues of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*.¹⁰ This particular note, however, seeks to draw attention to two unusual items from Clapham, each of which remains in private possession.

The first item is a small bronze seal (fig 4A) which was found by a resident of the parish while erecting a fencing post. The face of the seal is in a

Fig 4 (Right). Post-Medieval Finds from Clapham.
A. Small Bronze Seal.
B. Iron Object.



reasonable state of preservation, with both the figures and the border still visible. The central design is made up of two figures, one a frontal view, the other seen from the side, whose dress suggests a sixteenth century date. The former is standing, but the latter is shown in a kneeling position. The border consists of a series of criss-cross lines whose pattern appears to be completely random. The stem is punched and probably once took a leather thong. One would judge this to have been the personal seal of some resident of the parish, though the arrangement of the figures might suggest it to have been given by a man to his intended, perhaps at their betrothal.

The second piece is a long iron object (fig 4B) which was found in Green Lane, Clapham, by some children. The blade is cast and then beaten from solid iron to produce a slight flare at the shaft end. The shaft is split and would have taken a wooden pole of 2.5cm diameter. The object is 2.65m long. Its use is uncertain. A pike has been suggested but the piece does not conform to any of the known regulation types.¹¹ If it is a pike, it might have been made by a village blacksmith for some local force, either in the Civil War or for the militia during the reign of Elizabeth I. However, it departs considerably from other examples, such as those in Bedford Museum which are of regulation types,¹² and from those which have survived in local militia collections, such as those in the vestry of Mendlesham parish church, Suffolk.¹³

The object has been here published to draw attention to it and to elicit parallels in due course.¹⁴

NOTES

- 1 P.G. Tilson, 'A Belgic and Romano-British Site at Bromham', *Beds. Arch. J.*, 8 (1973), 23-66.
- 2 See below, p. 23.
- 3 *Beds. Arch. J.* 7 (1972), 94.
- 4 A.H. Simco, 'The Iron Age in the Bedford Region', *Beds. Arch. J.*, 8 (1973), 5-22; D.N. Hall, 'Iron Age Pottery in north Bedfordshire and South Northamptonshire', *Beds. Arch. J.* 4 (1969), 1-12.
- 5 See bibliography to this paper for full references to these sites.
- 6 Hardingstone, noted above; Irlingborough, Hall, 1966, 1 and fig 1, 1; Easton Munduit, Hall, 1966, 5 and fig 3, 11; Bozeat, Hall, 1966, 5 and fig 3, 16.
- 7 Simco, 1973, 19 and fig 3, 2.
- 8 Paper received July 1973.
- 9 P.G. Tilson, 'A Belgic and Romano-British site at Bromham', *Beds Arch J* 8, 1973, 23-66.
- 10 Both these items were reported *Beds Arch J* 8, 1973, 140.
- 11 Useful *conspecti* of these may be found R.E. Oakshott, *The Archaeology of Weapons*, 1960, and J.E. Mann, *Catalogue of the Wallace Collections: European Arms and Armour*, 1962, *passim*.
- 12 Technically each of those in Bedford Museum is a halberd rather than a pike.
- 13 Conveniently illustrated, L. Boynton, *The Elizabethan Militia*, 1958, pl 3.
- 14 Paper completed 7 August 1973. We wish to thank the residents of Clapham village for providing information about finds made in the village and Mrs Barbara Tilson who kindly did the drawings.

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

Excavations at Willington, 1973

JANE HASSALL

With contributions from Annie Grant and R. Thomas

SUMMARY

Rescue excavations were undertaken by the author on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment on the moated site at Willington, TL 113502, known as 'Danish Docks'. The site had already been partly destroyed by the L and NW railway which cut through the earthworks, and more recently by afforestation and market gardening. Trial excavations revealed wall footings and timber post-holes of two Early Medieval buildings, and a section through part of the moated island showed something of the method of its construction. Part of a small timber jetty built into the river bank was found in situ.

INTRODUCTION

The village of Willington lies about five miles downstream from Bedford on the south side of the River Ouse. The excavations were carried out during the summer of 1973 on a series of earthworks which form a complex moated site known locally as the 'Danish Docks'.¹ The central part of the site was still substantially intact but the outer earthworks had been seriously eroded by intensive market gardening and by a poplar plantation. Rescue excavations in the form of trial trenches were undertaken on those parts of the site that were most under threat. Permission to excavate was kindly given by Mr W.A. Smith of Chapel Lane, Willington, and by Bryant and May (Forestry) Ltd.

The site is situated on river alluvium in an area which could be called the middle Ouse valley, at a point where the valley is some two miles wide and surrounded by Pleistocene valley gravels.² The importance of the river as a water source for the site is obvious as the earthworks were constructed very close to the river-bank with one bank and ditch leading down to the river, thus allowing the water to fill the moated area and shallow depressions of the site.

The earthworks have been discussed in some detail by Goddard³ and, more recently by

Dyer⁴ amongst others,⁵ in connection with their hypothesis that the site was built and used by the Danes during raiding activities in the Ouse valley during the tenth century A.D. No evidence to support this idea was revealed by the rescue excavations, and an alternative interpretation of the site as a medieval moated homestead with fishponds and enclosures is suggested here. It may be that some of the outer banks and depressions are the result of gravel digging which took place nearby.

The site could be classified as belonging to the A2 series as defined by Jean Le Patourel, that is, a moated island with attached enclosures of various kinds.⁶ The central part of the earthworks consists of a raised rectangular island, very long and narrow, surrounded by a deep ditch with a 'U' shaped profile, and having a complex assemblage of banks and enclosures to the east, which could be interpreted as fishponds. The remains of an internal bank running round the edge of the island are visible in one corner standing about 3 feet high, but this bank has been destroyed for the most part. Trench III was situated in an opposite corner, where the bank had been flattened and traces of it were uncovered during excavation. Trench IV was dug in the NW area of the platform and its position was determined by the summer crops already planted.

To the north of the island are two linear earthworks, destroyed in part by the railway cutting, which head towards the river where they meet another bank and form a roughly 'D' shaped area. This other bank is difficult to trace on the ground and is visible only on Goddard's plan and on the St Joseph aerial photograph. (Plate I) Trenches I and IA were laid out to investigate this. Trench II was placed within the enclosed area where a scatter of clay roof-tiles indicated the existence of a building. Trench II was carefully placed between the rows of poplars so as to do as little damage as possible to their roots.

To the south of the island is another set of linear earthworks which enclose two roughly

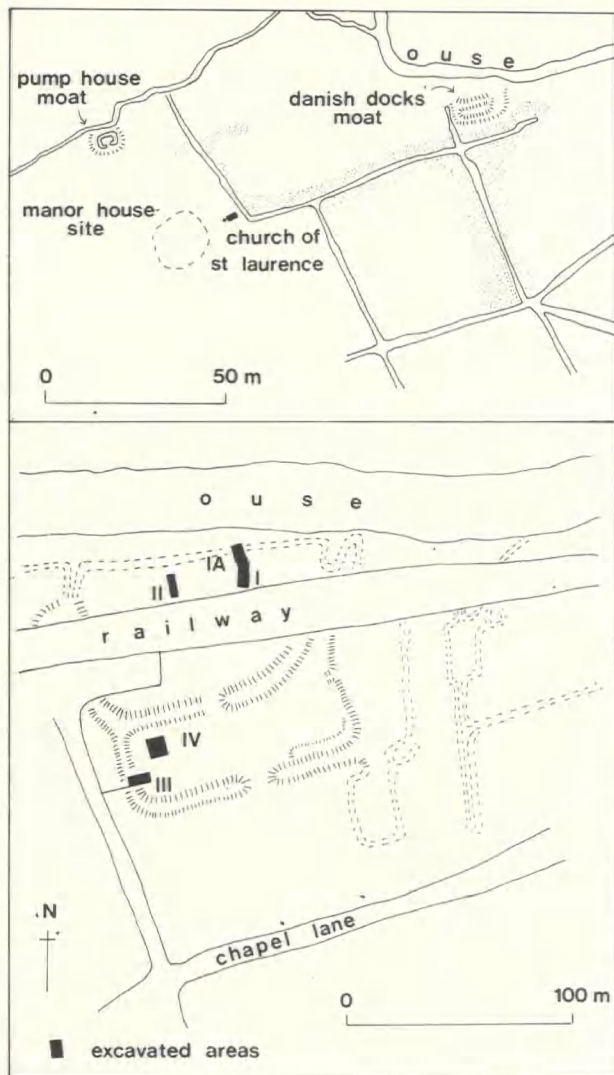


Fig 1 The Site and Situation of the Willington Excavations. The stippled areas indicate the village today. The earthworks, where they can be seen, are shown hachured, and a dashed line is used to trace the rest of the plan. This figure is based on the plans of Goddard, Beauchamp Wadmore, and others, and on the Ordnance Survey map.

rectangular areas, although these are now difficult to discern. They are in part destroyed by the houses built along Chapel Lane and are greatly abraded on an adjacent strip of agricultural land which has been used extensively for market gardening.

To the east are at least two wide and shallow rectangular depressions which may have served as fishponds in medieval times.

THE EXCAVATIONS

TRENCH I AND IA

Trench I was a trial trench 2 metres wide and 14 metres long laid out between the poplar trees and running approximately from north to south. The size and positioning of the trench was limited by the trees, but was placed so that it would cut the bank and ditch which formed the boundary earthwork, as noticed on the St Joseph aerial photograph.

Topsoil was removed mechanically and placed to the east of the trench to await reverse back-filling. The excavation continued by hand and a series of medieval layers were uncovered. Both the soils and the pottery found were similar in colour, texture and range to those found in trenches IA and II, which are described below in some detail. No structural remains were found in trench I and the amount of soil build up above natural was between 50 and 90 cm. At the northern end of the trench the edge of the ditch was discovered but the trench was cutting it at an obtuse angle. It was decided to re-align and extend by about 4 metres the trench, now called IA, in order to section the ditch at right angles.

Trench IA was dug entirely by hand and beneath the topsoil layer of brown turfy loam was layer 2, composed of soft brown clay loam, in which a few iron nails and much medieval pottery was found, with sandy wares predominating. This sealed layer 3, a narrow band of black loamy clay containing a certain amount of river silt and much medieval material including several pieces of baked clay (350 g weight) some with withy marks. (fig 11 no 4). This was a curiously lumpy layer which dipped down, following the general trend of the layers, to form part of the fill of the ditch-like feature next to the riverbank. It looks as though this material may have been thrown up over layer 4, a thick spread of yellow-grey clay flecked with charcoal and also containing medieval finds. This formed a large part of the fill of the ditch, and sealed layer 7, a long narrow belt of reddish-brown silty loam (Munsell 5 YR 2.5/2) with a pH of 7, producing much medieval pottery. Of some significance was the wood recovered from this layer. Twigs and small roots in a good state of preservation were abundant in the damp silty soil, and appear to have been deliberately placed,

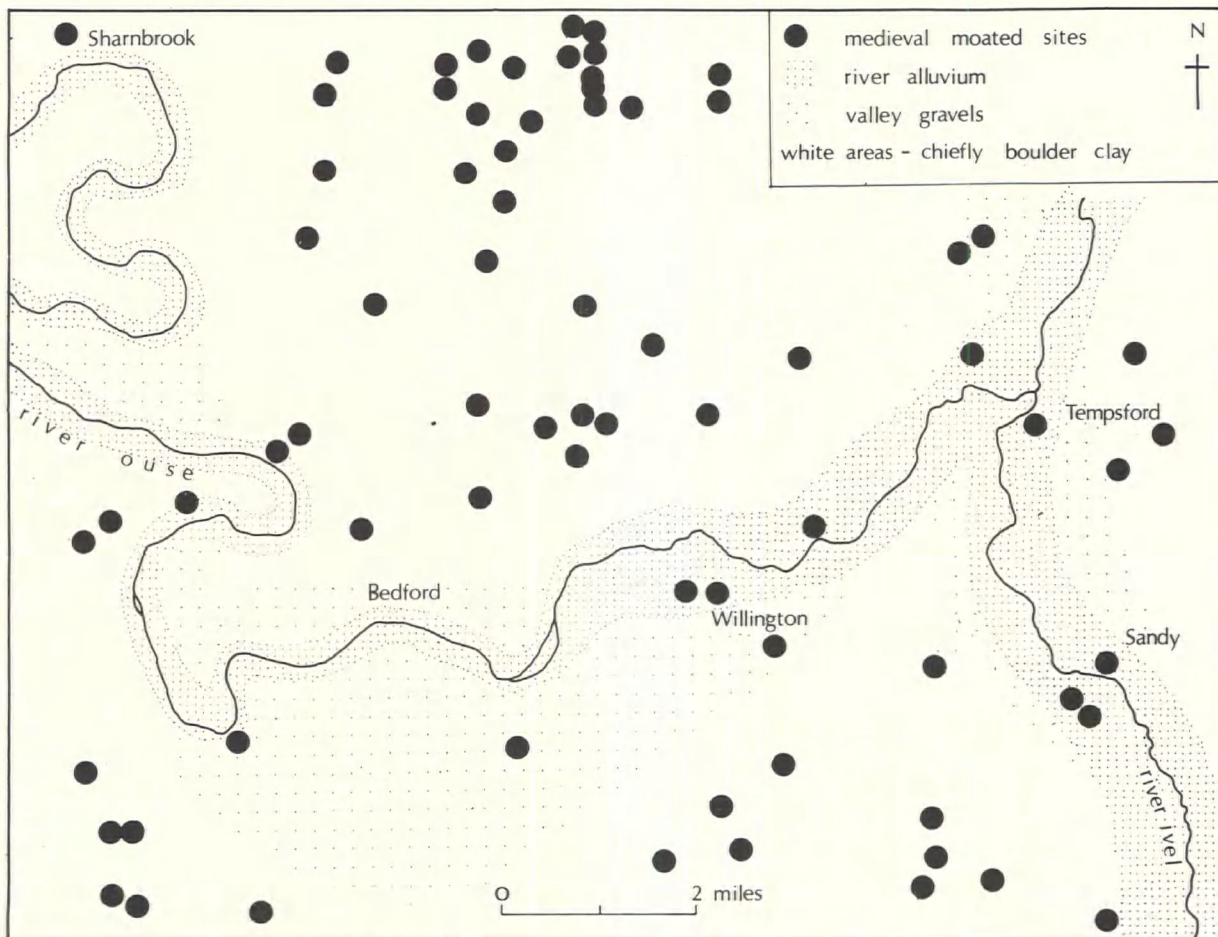


Fig 2 Moated sites in the Middle Ouse Valley around Willington. Map based on information from the Conservation Section, Planning Department, Bedfordshire County Council.

presumably to stabilize the ground.

Overlying the northern end of layer 7 were layers 5 and 6. Layer 5 was a reddish-brown clay loam with a little gravel, similar to layer 2 but considerably wetter. Layer 6 was a spread of orange-grey clay containing many small pebbles and gravel. It was overlying that part of layer 7 where the wood was concentrated, and may well have been thrown up to consolidate the platform created by the spread of timber. Both layers 6 and 7 contained much shell-filled pottery.

Forming a lining to the side and base of the ditch was a spread of orangey-brown gravel, layer 8. Thrown up against this gravel was another dark silty layer (layer 10) similar to 7, which again contained many pieces of wood. A small platform had been formed by roots and twigs, with two stout logs placed on top. Both of these were solid pieces

of oak, one 90 x 20cm with a maximum thickness of 20cm, and the other 80 x 25cm and some 15cm thick. A short piece of oak planking was found on top of the logs, and this was rectangular 36 x 14cm and approximately 2cm thick. A wooden stake, 74 x 12cm, tapering to a point, was discovered close by, driven through an overlying clay layer 9, into the silty layer 10. This was a waterlogged layer, 19.29 metres above sea level and came down on to natural silty sand.

The addition of the bank and ditch running along the riverbank close to the water's edge would have made an approach to the site from the river more difficult, and it may not have been possible to beach boats here. It seems probable that the timbering from layers 7 and 10 formed part of a jetty to enable small boats to be made secure here.

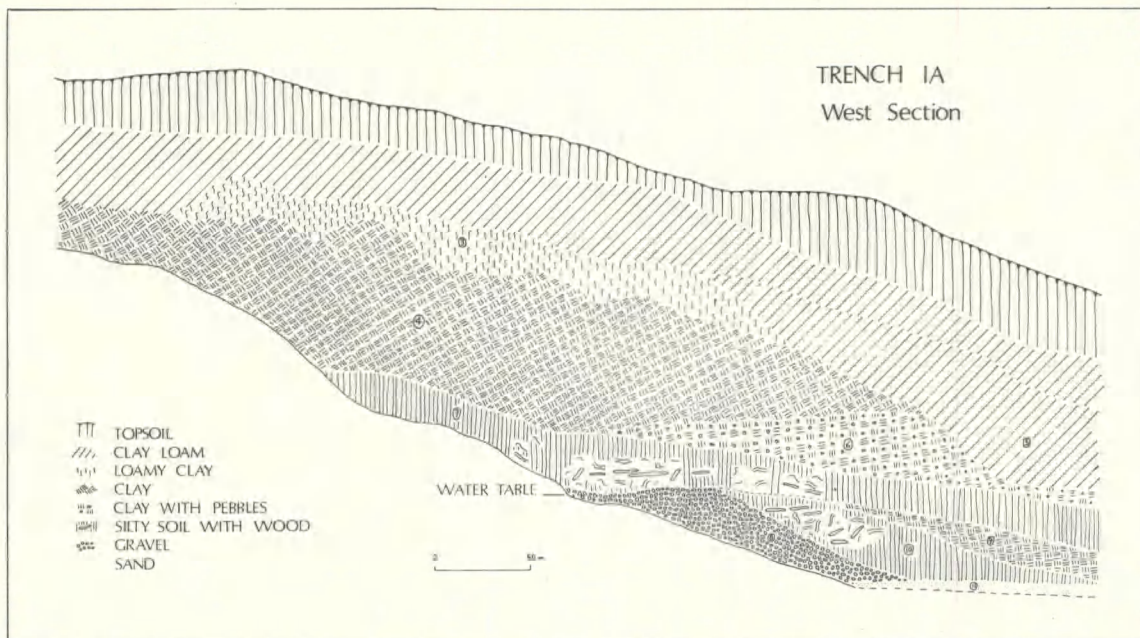


Fig 3 Section of Trench I, Willington Excavations, 1973.

TRENCH II

In Trench II there was a fairly shallow accumulation of soil above natural gravel, the maximum depth being about 1 metre. The topsoil, a rich turfy loam, varied between 12 - 30cm in thickness, and beneath this at the southern end of the trench was a layer of brown loamy clay flecked with charcoal and mortar, which produced some Post-Medieval material. There was a similar layer which had a higher proportion of clay at the northern end. A layer of yellow-brown loam lay beneath, and was spread across the central area of the trench, immediately above the natural subsoil and covering the medieval features. Overlying feature 3, a pitched tile hearth, was a patch of very fine loose black loam which produced some medieval finds. The hearth itself was overlying feature 9, and was probably enclosed with the room represented by wall feature 2.

The Wall-Footings

The most obvious feature of this trial trench was the complex of limestone wall footings at the northern end. The walls seem to represent three phases of construction. Feature 1 ran from west to east across the trench and was between 40 - 50cm

wide. An extension to the trench at the north east corner was made in order to establish the relationship of this wall to feature 2 which appeared as a small clump of stones. When more of it was uncovered, feature 2 formed an L-shaped stretch of wall, 2.20m in length, with the long stretch running N-S, being about 80cm wide. The short length had a definite edge to the west, and was 1 metre wide. Features 1 and 2 were linked by another stretch of walling which had a scattering of clay roof tiles amongst its footings. This wall was also L-shaped and formed a thickening to wall 1 for a distance of some 2 metres before it turned south to meet wall 2. There was thickening of stones in the corner angle of this wall.

Because of the position of the trees, it was not possible at this stage to uncover the rest of wall 2. Consequently the two small lengths of wall, features 10 and 19, cannot be directly related. Both features run parallel to wall 1 and are probably connected with the building.

Without further excavation it is not possible to relate the timber post-holes described below to the stone-walled building. However this trial excavation has demonstrated the existence of at least one substantial early medieval structure on this site.

Medieval Features

In the NW corner of the trench was feature 11, a circular pit of medieval date sectioned by the edge of the trench, and having sloping sides. It had a rounded base and was some 40cm deep, with a fill of uniform sandy loam, very dark greyish brown in colour (Munsell 2.5Y 3/2). The pH rating was slightly on the acid side at 5.5. There were few finds from this pit and it does not appear to have been used for rubbish disposal.

Just to the south of the wall complex was feature 4. This was an oval shaped pit with sloping sides and flattish base, some 56cm deep. Some animal bone and St Neots type pottery was found in the light brown fill of this feature, but as with 11, it is rather too small to be a rubbish pit and may well be a post-pit. Less than a metre away to the SW was feature 13. This was a post-pit, again containing a few medieval finds, sub-rectangular in shape with an oval-shaped post-hole cut through to a depth of 55cm. The whole feature was filled with dark brown clay loamy soil.

Feature 12 was a small square post-pit to the south of 13, 50cm square and 47cm deep, containing a clay loamy fill mixed with charcoal. Feature 7 a little to the east but on the same alignment, was cut by wall 2. This rectangular pit was steep sided, flat-bottomed, and some 40cm deep, with a fill of light brown loam. As well as other medieval finds, a little burnt daub was recovered from this feature.

A little over a metre to the south was feature 14, a rounded post-hole about 60cm in diameter with a shallow step at the top, then becoming steep-sided and plunging 40cm down to a gently rounded base. It contained a sandy clay loam fill, dark yellowish brown in colour (Munsell 10 YR 4/4) with a pH around neutral at 6.4. Feature 9 was found just to the SW of 12, being a small squarish post hole with a stake hole in the NW corner. It was about 20cm deep and was filled with a black loamy soil no doubt derived from layer 5, which covered the pitched tile hearth feature 3, beneath which feature 9 was discovered.

To the west, and cut by the edge of the trench was feature 6, a large irregularly shaped pit approximately 1m 50 by 70cm, and 55cm maximum depth. It consisted of a central bath-shaped depression with a flat base and the edges of the feature sloping gently down towards the centre. A polished bone awl and a couple of iron nails (fig 10) were found in the silty blackish loam fill along with 900g of baked clay fragments. Further south

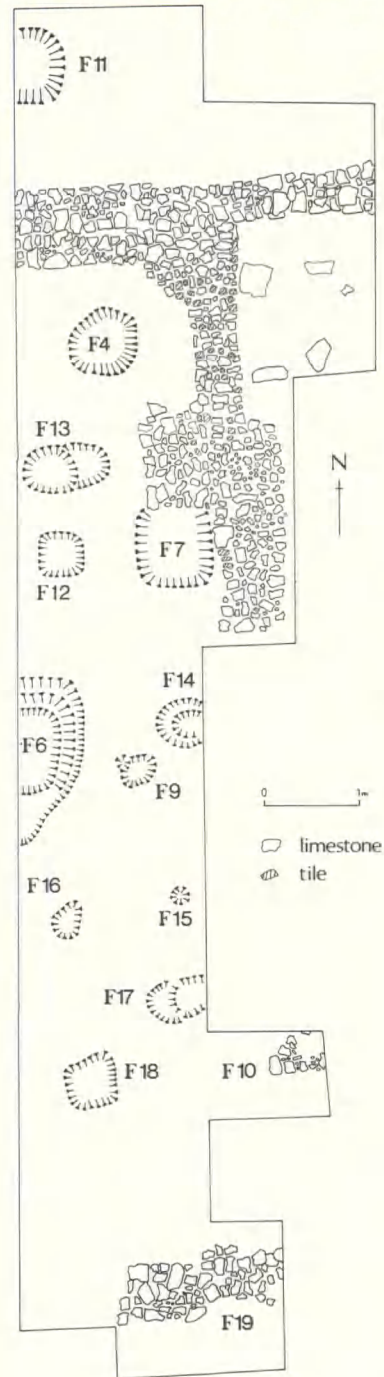


Fig 4 Plan of Medieval Features in Trench II, Willington Excavations, 1973.

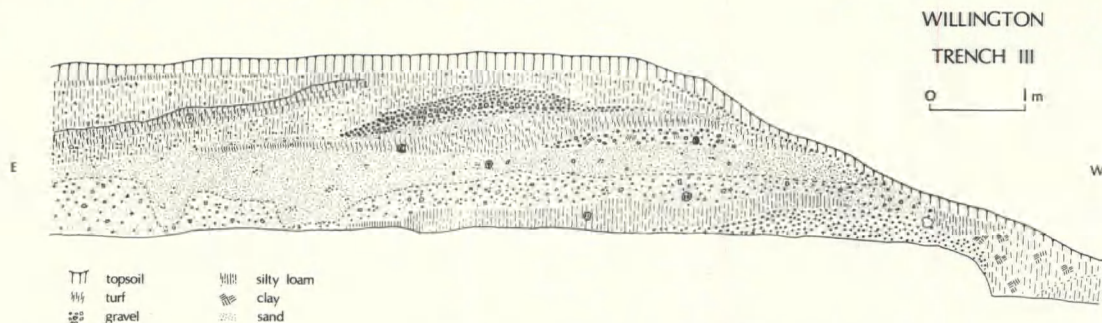


Fig 5 Section of Trench III, Willington Excavations, 1973.

was a post-hole, feature 16, small and sub-rectangular in shape, 10cm deep with a flat base. East of this was another shallow post-hole, feature 15, filled with lightish brown yellow loam. There were no finds from either of these post-holes. Feature 17, to the south of 15, was a post pit 42cm wide and about 20cm deep with sloping sides, a yellow-brown loamy fill and no finds.

Feature 18, a little to the SW, was a deep straight sided post-hole filled with charcoal. On the surface it was covered with small river pebbles and pieces of limestone set in a clockwise spiral fashion and covering the surface area. The hole beneath was 45cm deep and filled with dark loam and charcoal, many pieces of limestone and a few roof tiles. The soil fill was a sandy clay loam, dark greyish brown in colour (Munsell 2.5Y 4/2) with a pH reading of 5.5.

TRENCH III

This trench was set out in the SW corner of the central platform, and was a 2m wide trial trench, positioned to cut through the small bank that ran round the edge of the platform, and to investigate the side of the mound.

Beneath topsoil at the E end of the trench was a thin line of turf overlying a layer of brown clay loam with light gravel. This contained chiefly post-medieval material. Beneath this the line of the residual medieval bank was uncovered, shown up by a sloping layer (layer 7) of turfy loam. This covered a series of gravel bands which made up one phase of the bank construction. It seems as though the initial bank building consisted of a central core of gravelly clay (layer 8) covered with a light loamy gravel and turf (layer 6). The gravel bands already mentioned were thrown up over this, with the turf layer 7 going over the top. As might be expected, there were few finds from this trench, but the pottery recovered from the bank gravel layers and below was of St Neots type, with both shelly and sandy wares represented, thus providing an early medieval date for the bank construction.

The layer of sandy loam with gravel (layer 9) beneath the bank appears to have been flattened off prior to the bank building, and came down on to clean sandy gravel (layer 10) which lay on top of the natural gravel subsoil.

At the W end of the section a layer of grey clay

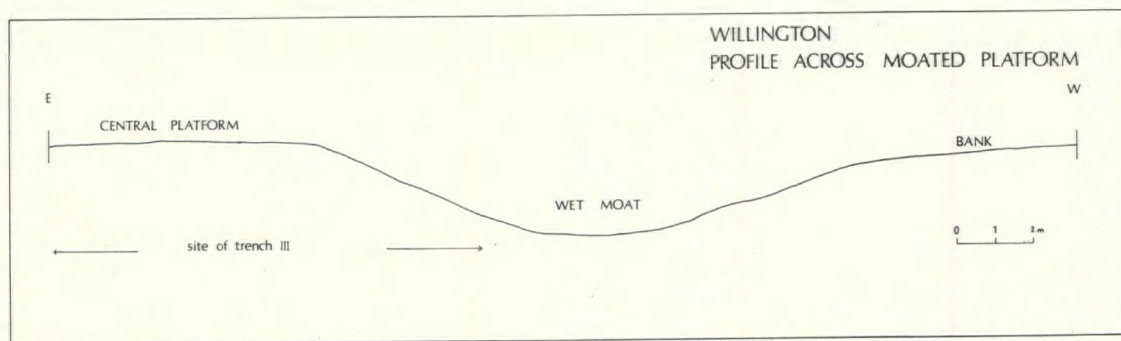


Fig 6 Profile across Moated Platform, bank and ditch.

loam (layer 11) was overlying natural, about half-way down the slope, and three separate silty clay layers were found at the bottom in the ditch fill.

TRENCH IV

A rectangular area, approximately 5 x 6 metres, was opened up on the raised moated platform, towards the NW corner. Topsoil was removed mechanically and the site was cleaned down on to layer 2, a thick grey-brown layer of clay loam. This soil contained several very small abraded fragments of early medieval pottery. Beneath this was a build up of between 65-85cm formed by three clay layers, one of which, layer 4, was gravelly and contained small water-worn pebbles. Pottery, tiles and pieces of baked clay were recovered from these layers. In the N and W half of the trench, these layers came down on to natural, a hard gravelly loam bearing traces of iron-panning and occurring at a depth of approximately 1m 20 below the ground surface.

In the SE area of the trench an orange gravel spread, layer 6, occurred above natural, and through this layer a number of features were cut. These all contained a soft grey-brown loamy fill, but there were very few finds.

On the western edge of this feature complex were several stake holes, features 20, 21, 26 and 27, all of which had flint packing at the base. These lay close to four more substantial post-holes, features 22, 23, 24 and 25. These were between 15 and 25cm deep and their bases were lined with a blue-grey clay. A little to the east was a large double post, features 2 and 3, which were similar in shape, size and filling to those already mentioned. Features 4, 5, 6 and 7 were post-holes clustering around the north of 2 and 3 and features 11 and 12 were much the same, situated to the SE.

Post-holes, features 13 and 15, were in line with 7, running southwards towards 16, a large double post-hole, with a wad of clay-packing separating the two, which were again about 25cm deep. Features 17, 18 and 19 were small post-holes scattered around 16, and another group of similar features, 8, 9, 10 and 14 were uncovered near the western edge of excavation.

Interpretation of these features must obviously be limited at this stage as further excavation is necessary for clarification, but it looks as though the post-hole complex of features 2-3-6 and 16 may indicate a structure. Possibly the stake holes 20, 21, 22, 25, 23, 24, 11, 12 and 8 form the corner of a staked enclosure.

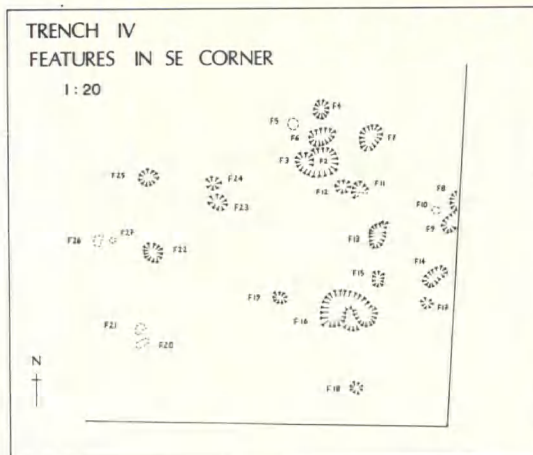


Fig 7 Plan of Medieval Features in Trench IV, Willington Excavations, 1973.

THE FINDS

THE POTTERY

The majority of the pottery recovered from the Willington excavations was in good condition, with the exception of some of the material from Trench IV which was a little abraded due to plough damage. A good range of St Neots type shelly ware was found which appears to relate to Early Medieval rather than Saxo-Norman times. No independent dating evidence occurred and dates here are based on the relative typology of the pottery. It is noteworthy that of the total number of sherds recovered from the site, some 47% were shell-filled wares, 42% had a sandy temper and about 1% were gritty wares. The occurrence of sandy and shelly wares in association, in pits and layers, would suggest a twelfth to thirteenth century date for most of the material. Only one hand-made sherd of possible Saxon date was found, fig 8 no 14, but was obviously residual.

Early Medieval shell-filled ware

The St Neots type shellyware was all wheel thrown pottery and conforms to the types defined by Hurst⁷ and illustrated and described, amongst others, by Addyman⁸, Baker⁹, and Kennett.¹⁰ The majority of sherds came from cooking pots with diameters ranging from 6-9in., (15-23cm) with everted rims sometimes thickened, and occasionally moulded. The cooking pot bases usually had a thickened angle between body wall and

base and were sometimes knife-trimmed. Several examples had obviously not been trimmed and had a fold of clay on the outside angle. The proportion of flat to sagging bases was about half and half, and no examples bore 'cheese-wire' markings.

The bowl forms were chiefly inturned or upright in profile, with only one example of a bowl with an inturned flange rim, fig 8 no 6, and none of the typical hammer-headed type. Apart from cooking pots and bowls, there were a very few jug and dish forms represented.

The variety of colour was quite extensive, with cores ranging from light to dark grey and occasionally pink, and surfaces from light buff to pink, orange, brown, purple to black. A dark purplish-brown outer surface, with pink-grey inner surface and medium grey core may be seen as the most frequent colour combination here. Many sherds had the distinctive soapy texture so often noticed with shell-filled wares of St Neots type, though some examples were noticeably rough to the touch, which is apparently a characteristic of the pottery from the St Neots excavations.¹¹

Medieval Sandy Wares

Pottery with a sandy fabric was found mainly in cooking pot forms, with rim diameters ranging from 7-9½ in. (17.8-24.1 cm). One or two jugs were also represented, for example fig 8 no 21, and a body sherd from a large storage vessel, fig 8 no 28, indicates that these too were being used. Most of the pottery is in hard fine, dark grey sandy ware, sometimes with a micaceous temper. It is frequently decorated with thumb-impressed applied strips, combed wavy lines and rouletted patterns. Several decorated body sherds have been recovered but are not illustrated. Other typical sandy wares from Willington include a dark grey ware with thin creamy core and rouletted decoration, a light grey ware with pronounced rilling, and a few sherds of oxidised ware with thumb-impressed applied strips.

Medieval Glazed Wares

Very few glazed sherds were found, but they include a base and a body sherd of Stamford ware, having the characteristic creamy pink fabric and a pale green-grey glaze. This can probably be dated from mid twelfth to early thirteenth century. A few sherds from a Brill ware jug of a similar date range were found, and a body sherd from the

shoulder of a jug is shown (fig 8 no 27).¹² Fragments of Lyveden ware were also recovered, including a body sherd with dark green glaze, bearing a distinctive stamped decoration with a criss-cross pattern.¹³ There was one sherd probably from a London ware jug with a creamy buff fabric, yellow glaze and applied red strip decoration.¹⁴ Apart from these, no other glazed pottery was found.

Post-Medieval Wares

Very little material representing the Post-Medieval period was recovered, and most of this was earthenware. Cooking pots and jug forms were represented in unglazed sandy earthenware, and there were also a few sherds of vessels with internal green glaze, and some with brown glaze, probably from a local kiln. Two feet from different tripod pitchers were found, one in hard sandy ware with dark green internal glaze, and the other in orange sandy ware covered with a bright mottled green glaze. One piece of a German stoneware jug, probably Frechen, was discovered. The date range for this material is from the mid sixteenth to mid seventeenth centuries.

The examples illustrated in the pottery catalogue which follows, are a representative selection.

POTTERY CATALOGUE

FIGURE 8

Bowls of Shell-filled St Neots type

- 1 Bowl, large, with rounded thickened rim, gently sagging base; grey core purplish brown surface. Probably a developed St Neots form. IA layer 5.
- 2 Bowl, large, almost upright, with thickened rim, grey core with orange-pink surface and subsequent fire-blackening. II layer 1. See Hurst, 1956, fig 3 no. 10.
- 3 Bowl with upright rim and sloping sides, grey core with purple-brown surface. IA layer 7. See Hurst, 1956, 63, no B43.
- 4 Bowl with upright thickened rim, slightly inturned, grey core, grey-brown surface, partly abraided inside. Probably a developed St Neots form. III layer 9.
- 5 Bowl with heavy flanged rim, thumb impressed; dark core and orange-red surfaces. Probably a Developed St Neots form. IV area 2/6.
- 6 Small bowl or dish with inturned flange rim, grey core and pink-buff surface. II layer 8. See Addyman, 1973, fig 15 no 5.

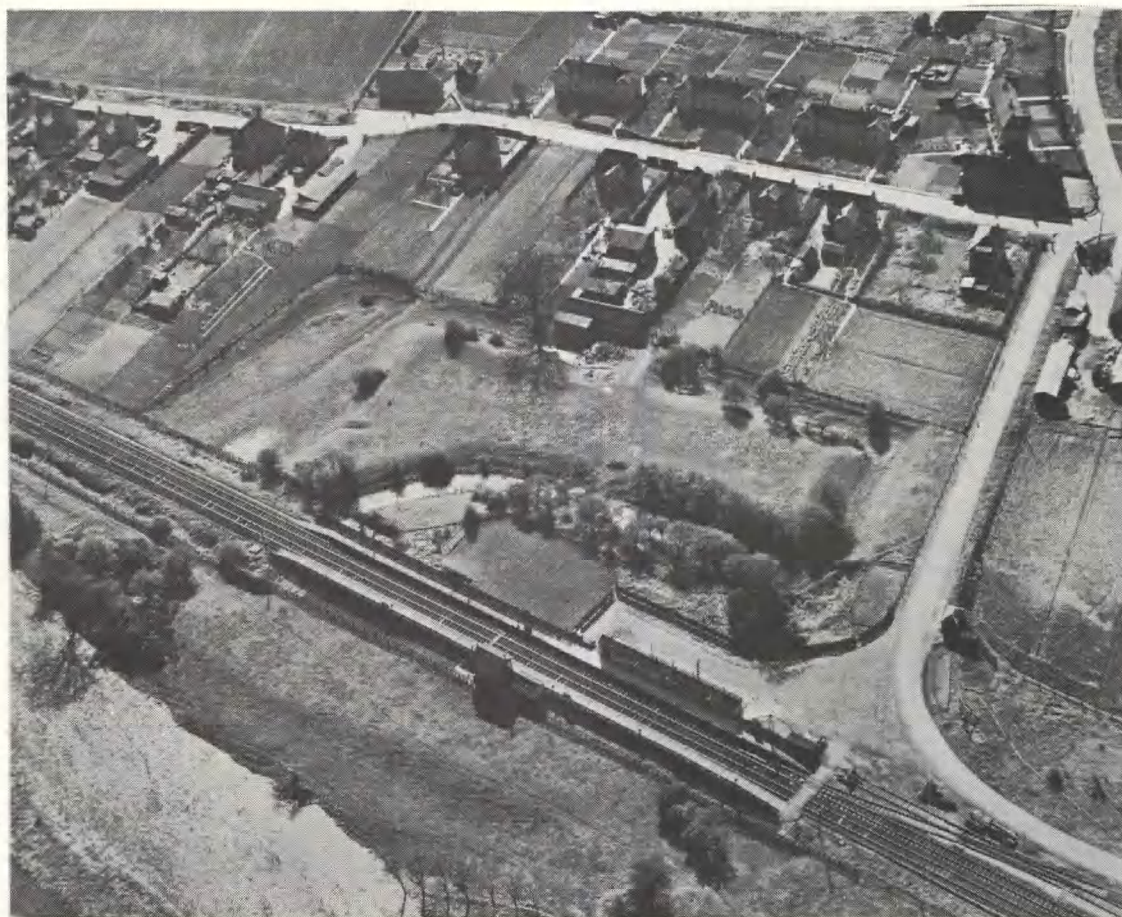


Plate 1 The earthworks at Willington Docks, photograph taken in the 1950s, showing also the now dismantled Cambridge to Bedford Railway line.

(Photo: copyright reserved: University of Cambridge)

- 8 Small bowl with upright thickened rim; grey core and blackish surface. II layer 6.
- 9 Bowl with upright sides and heavy rounded rim; grey core and blackish surface. III layer 9. Similar to Addyman, 1973, fig 15 no 15.
- 10 Bowl with everted rim, heavy and rounded outside; dark core and blackish surface, purple-brown inside. I layer 4. See Hurst, 1956, 61, fig 6 no 16.

Other Bowls

- 7 Small bowl with upright rim, sloping sides, grey core and grey-brown lightly burnished surfaces. Fabric hard with grit and shell inclusions. II feature 3.

Jugs and Cooking Pots

- 11 Jug base, flat and untrimmed; light buff core with pink-purple surfaces and some fire blackening, shelly fabric. IV area 2/6.
- 12 Base of jug or small cooking pot, thin body-wall; brown-pink worn fabric, with much shell burnt out in firing. I layer 4.
- 13 Late Medieval jug with flat base and beading; grey-green glaze inside with sparse glaze on body. Fine cream buff fabric – possibly reversed Cistercian ware. IA layer 1.
- 14 Cooking pot with upright rim and gently flaring sides; hard black gritty ware, hand-made, with lightly burnished surfaces. I layer 8.

- 15 Cooking pot with plain everted rim; light grey core, dark grey-brown surface, hard sandy ware. II layer 4. Similar to Baker, 1970, fig 7 no 46.
 - 16 Cooking pot with heavy squared everted rim, hard grey gritty fabric. I layer 8.
 - 17 Cooking pot with squared rim, pinched below lip, thick body wall; light buff gritty fabric with pale grey surface. IV area 2/6.
 - 18 Cooking pot with thick flat everted rim; pale grey core, darker grey surface, gritty fabric. I layer 4.
 - 19 Cooking pot with flat everted rim, thick body wall; pink buff sandy ware with grit inclusions. I layer 4.
 - 20 Cooking pot with everted rim and bodywall of even thickness; hard sandy ware with micaceous temper; dark brown outer surface with burnished black inner surface; hand made probably with finishing on a slow wheel. I layer 4.
 - 21 Jug with infolded rim, everted shape; buff core and buff-grey surfaces; hard sandy fabric. II layer 8.
 - 22 Cooking pot with everted rim, sandwich core of pink-grey-pink, dark outer surfaces; hard sandy fabric. I layer 5.
 - 23 Cooking pot with heavy everted rim, dark grey fabric with rounded grit inclusions. III layer 9.
 - 24 Cooking pot with thick flat rim, hard grey sandy fabric. I layer 4.
 - 25 Cooking pot with thick squared rim, sandwich core as no 22, with dark grey surfaces, hard gritty fabric. I layer 2.
 - 26 Cooking pot with flat base in a hard dark grey sandy fabric light grey core. Series of vertical knife scorings inside. I layer 5.
 - 27 Body sherd of Brill jug with fine pink-cream fabric, surface decoration of mottled green glaze with vertical striations and applied red-brown strips. IA layer 5.
 - 28 Body sherd probably from large storage vessel, with combed line decoration; hard light buff sandy ware with some grit inclusions. I layer 16.
- grey core with purple-brown surfaces. III layer 13.
- 4 Cooking pot with plain thickened everted rim; grey core and pink-brown surfaces. IV layer 8, feature 4.
 - 5 Cooking pot with plain everted rim; grey core and rough black surfaces. I layer 5.
 - 6 Cooking pot with upright hollowed rim, thin body walls; brick red with fire blackening on outer surface. IA layer 7.
 - 7 Cooking pot with everted rim and sharp shoulder angle, thumb-pinched rim; very coarse ware with mixed shell and grit temper. Grey fabric throughout with orange-pink surface. IA layer 7.
 - 8 Cooking pot with upright rim pulled up by thumb-pinching; grey core with brick red surfaces. IA layer 3.
 - 9 Cooking pot with inturned squared rim, grey core with pink buff fabric IA layer 7.
 - 10 Cooking pot with rounded bead rim folded over; grey core and pink buff surfaces. I layer 4.
 - 11 Cooking pot with flat, squared everted rim; buff grey core with dark grey surfaces. I layer 3.
 - 12 Cooking pot with everted slightly hollowed rim; grey core with dark grey abraded surfaces. I layer 5.
 - 13 Sagging based cooking pot with grey core and light buff surfaces, smooth outer side and pitted inside. I layer 17.
 - 14 Cooking pot with everted lightly thumbled rim, grey core and red to black surfaces. IA layer 7.
 - 15 Cooking pot with plain everted rim, grey core and pink-buff surfaces. IA layer 7.
 - 16 Cooking pot with everted thickened rim, thickening achieved by outfolding; grey core with red and black surfaces. IV unstratified.
 - 17 Cooking pot with plain upright rim; grey buff colour throughout. IA layer 2.
 - 18 Cooking pot with upright rim, narrow body walls, grey core and black surface. IA layer 7.
 - 19 Cooking pot with squared faceted rim, probably straight sided; dark grey core, brick red surfaces with fire blackening on outside. II feature 13. Similar to Baker 1970 fig 7 no 39.
 - 20 Cooking pot with everted hollowed rim; dark grey core and black surfaces. IV area 2/6.

FIGURE 9

- 1 Cooking pot with squared everted rim; grey core with purple brown surfaces. IV layer 8.
- 2 Cooking pot with everted rim, grey core and pink-brown surfaces. II feature 13.
- 3 Cooking pot with everted rim, thin body wall;

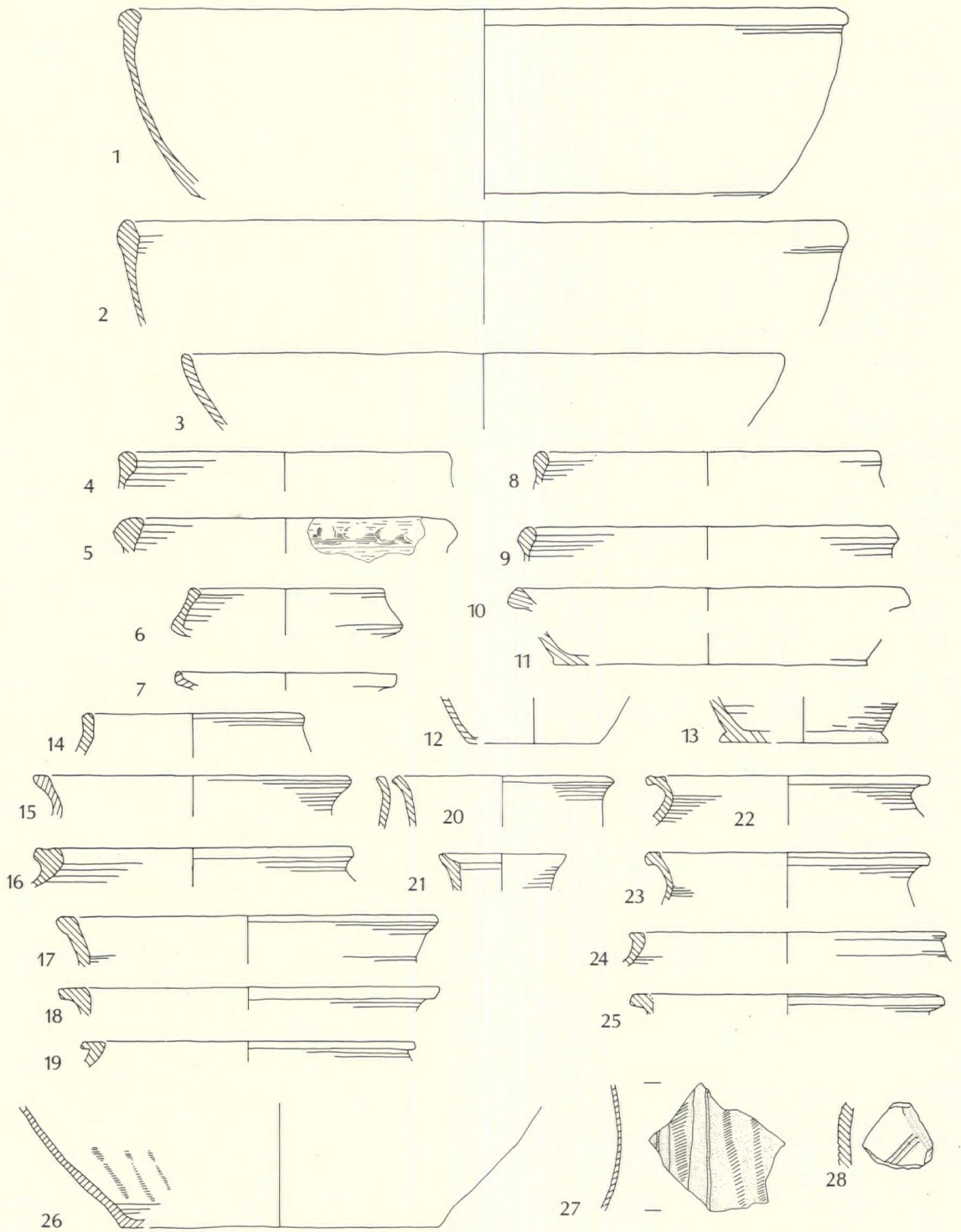


Fig 8 Medieval Pottery: Bowls, Jugs and Cooking Pots, (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

- 21 Cooking pot with upright rim, hollowed inside; dark grey core and purple-brown surfaces. IA layer 3.
- 22 Handle from large jug, with thumbled edges and three rows of a cruciform stamped pattern running along handle; brick red surfaces and dark grey core. I layer 4.
- 23 Cooking pot with heavy everted rounded rim, grey core and grey-pink surfaces. III layer 4.
- 24 Cooking pot with everted hollow rim; dark grey core and brick red surface. IV area 2/6
- 25 Cooking pot or possibly a jug with narrow mouth, heavy everted rim slightly hollowed inside; dark grey core and brick red surfaces. III layer 1.
- 26 Cooking pot with rounded rim folded over externally; dark grey core and pink surfaces. IA layer 7. See Baker, 1970, fig 7 no 27 for similar form.
- 27 Cooking pot with folded over rim; dark grey core and brick red fabric. II layer 3.
- 28 Cooking pot with heavy outfolded rim and hollowing on inside; grey core and buff smooth surfaces. IA layer 2. For similar vessel see Hall 1972 p 27 no 4.
- 29 Cooking pot with slightly everted, beaded rim; dark grey core and brick red surfaces. IA layer 5.
- 30 Small cooking pot with outfolded rim, undercut on outside with upper surface hollowed; grey buff core with pink-buff surfaces. I layer 5. See Hall, 1972, p 27. C4 for parallel, at Harrold.¹⁵
- 31 Cooking pot with upright or flattened rim; grey core and brick red surfaces. II feature 18.
- 32 Cooking pot with everted, slightly hollowed rim; grey core and dark grey surface. I layer 5.
- 33 Cooking pot with flared everted rim; dark grey core and purple-brown surface. II feature 6.
- 34 ? Pot lid, with dark grey core and grey-brown soapy surface. I layer 8.

BAKED CLAY AND TILES

Pieces of baked clay bearing the impression of wattling were recovered from all trenches and particularly from Trench II, having a total weight of 1.85kg. The piece illustrated fig 11 no 4 is from IA layer 3 and is typical, having the shape of a withy some 16mm in diameter. There are some large grit inclusions in the clay and the outer sur-

face has been smoothed almost flat.

Clay and limestone roof tiles were found on all the trenches, weighing 20.82kg altogether. Of these some 23% were limestone, and of the clay tiles 15% were green or brown glazed.

METALWORK

Iron objects (fig 10)

The ironwork for Willington was badly corroded and most of the drawings had to be made with the help of X-ray photographs. With the exception of the spur, all the finds were discovered during excavation.

- 1-5 Sprig nails, square in section with round-ed flattened heads.¹⁶
- 6 Nail, much corroded, possibly of fiddle-key type.
- 7 Spur, consisting of heel grip and shank with 7-pointed rowel attached, and having a type F terminal. Early fifteenth century type. Found on moated island during cultivation. Museum Accession 1973/1/4.¹⁷
- 8 & 9 Nails with circular cross-section and small flattened heads.
- 10 & 11 Nails of rectangular and sub-rectangular cross section, with heavy rounded heads.
- 12 Plate, flat and square with rounded corners.
- 13 Ferrule.¹⁸ Or socketed arrow head.
- 14 Nail with square section and 'mushroom' head.
- 15-19 Nails with flattened heads. Nos 18 and 19 are flattened to one side.
- 20-22 Nail shanks.
- 23 Knife with broken tip and tang, of typical medieval type. See Addyman, 1973, fig 19 no 6 and note 19.
- 24 Knife with broken tip and tang, possibly double-bladed.

Bronze Objects (fig 11)

- 1 Hollow bronze strip, possibly a lace-end, and could be associated with clothing.²⁰
- 2 Harness bell, probably late seventeenth – early eighteenth century. Found on the moated island during cultivation. Bedford Museum Accession Number: 1973/1/3.²¹
- 3 Bronze disc, very thin with small hole pierced in centre.

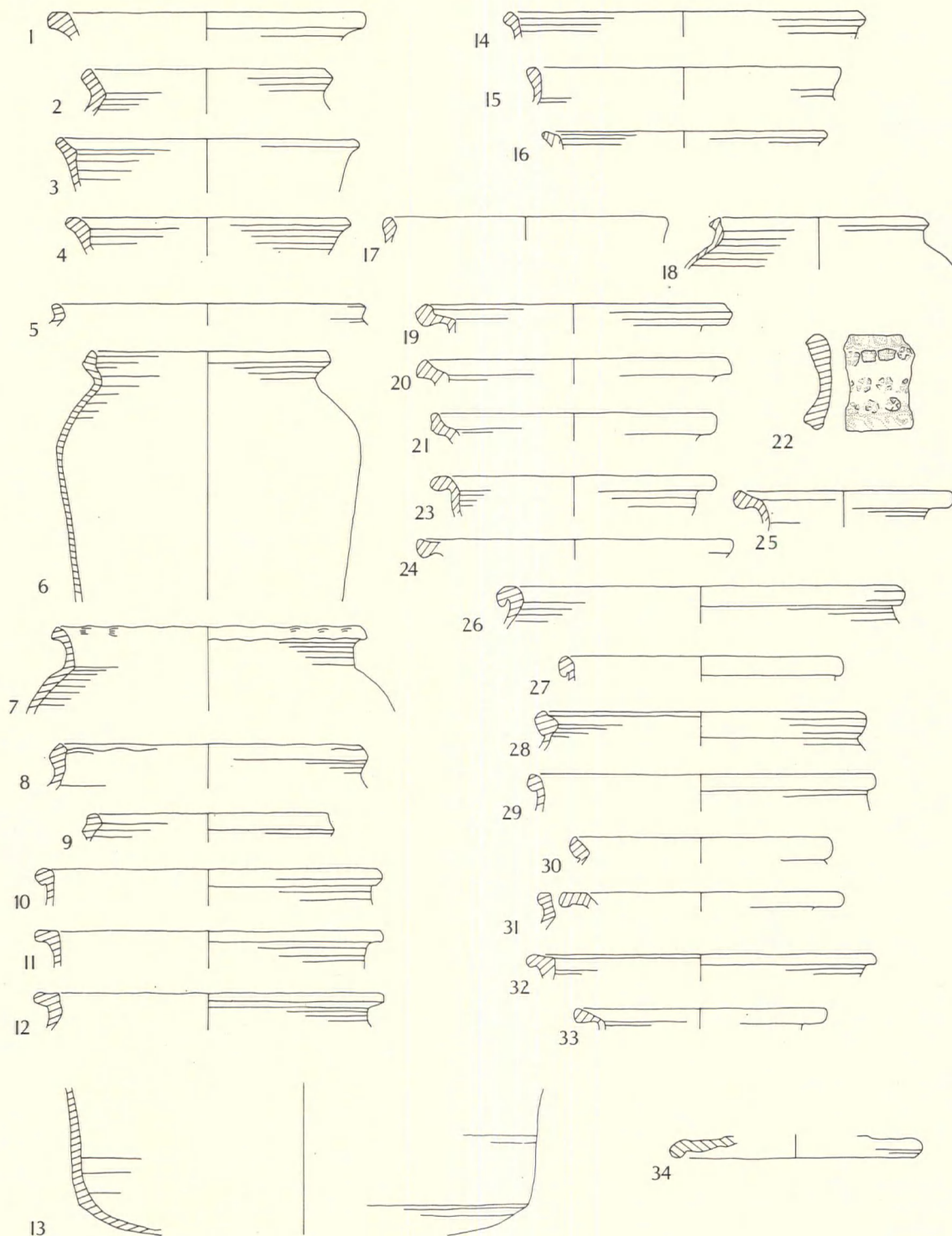


Fig 9 Medieval Pottery: Cooking Pots, (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

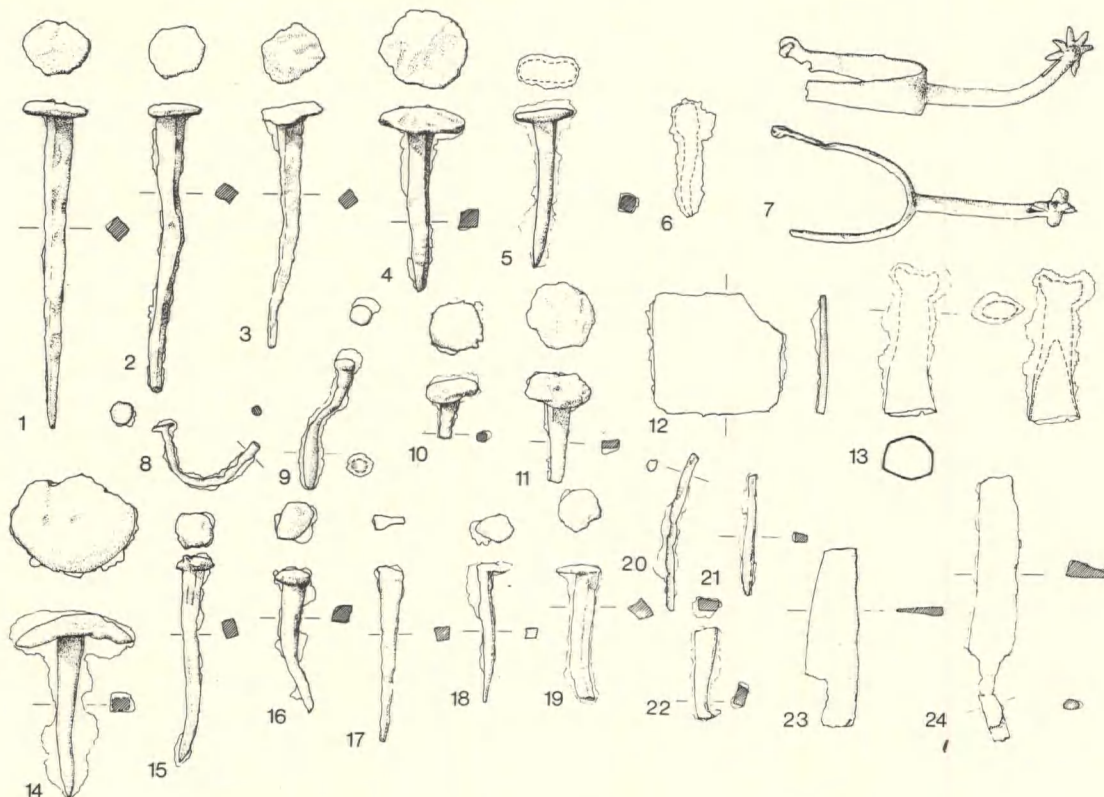


Fig 10 Iron Objects, (Scales: 1-6, 8-24 at $\frac{1}{2}$; 7 at $\frac{1}{4}$)

WOOD AND CHARCOAL

By R. Thomas

An examination of the wood and charcoal samples from Trench IA, Layer 10, revealed that only two tree types were represented:

- 1) Oak — Quercus sps.
- 2) Willow — Salix sps.

The samples examined were as follows:

Sample	No.	Tree/Shrub type
Log — 90 x 20cm	1	Oak
Log — 80 x 25cm	1	Oak
Piece of Planking — 36 x 14cm	1	Oak
Stake — 74cm long	1	Oak
Branch fragments	4	Oak
Root fragments	30	Willow
Root fragments	50	Oak
Charcoal sample	1	Oak

No: Number of specimens examined

Oak was the dominant tree type here, consisting of some 65% of the total. The oak samples included worked wood, roots and charcoal, all in good condition. All the willow samples examined consisted entirely of roots. Compared with the oak samples the willow roots were in a very poor state of preservation.

Several wedge-shaped pieces of wood were found in trenches IA and IV. They were in a hard resinous state, and may have been pieces of carbonised wood pitch. The largest of these was 6 x 5 x 2cm.²²

THE ANIMAL BONES

by Annie Grant

During excavations at Willington Moat, some 700 bones were recovered from medieval layers. Just over one hundred of these were not positively identified, and the rest indicated the presence at the site of cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, dogs, cats,

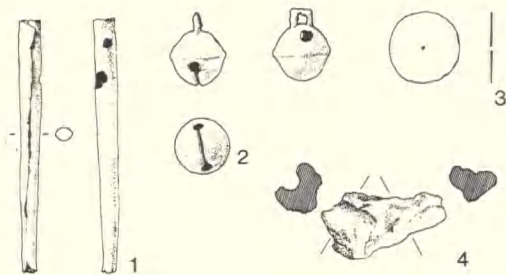


Fig 11 Bronze Objects and Baked Clay, (Scales: 1 and 3 at $\frac{1}{2}$; 2 and 4 at $\frac{1}{4}$)

birds, fallow deer, roe deer, rabbits and fish. Bones were recovered from each of the four sites excavated.

Site I and IA

The majority of the bones were recovered from this site, and 377 were identified. The bones of cattle were the most common and formed approximately 30% of the total. Sheep, pig and bird bones each formed about 15% and dog bones 10% of the total. Fallow deer, rabbits, cats, horses and red deer were each represented by a small number of bones.

The relatively high percentage of bird bones should be noted, but it is not without parallels at other medieval sites of the same date, as for example at Portchester Castle in Hampshire.²³ Dog bones, which were also found in relatively large numbers, came from both medium and large sized animals.

The sheep bones included a fairly complete skull. The horn cores were widely spaced, and rose at right angles to the skull in one plane, but sloped outwards from the skull. Unfortunately, both horn cores were broken off at about 30cm from the skull.

The bones of sheep and cattle were mainly from mature animals, but the majority of the pig bones were from immature animals. The five pig mandibles recovered from this site were from three individuals, one of less than a year, one of approximately two years old, and one about three years old.

The only diseased bone was from a dog – a radius was found to have a small lesion on the shaft near the proximal end.

Bones recovered from layers 7, 9 and 10 had apparently been in waterlogged conditions. They

had the dark brown, smooth surfaces characteristic of bones recovered from wells or other wet environments.

Site II

Only 37 bones were identified from this site. Cattle and sheep bones each formed a third of the bones and pig, bird and rabbit bones together formed another third.

A cattle rib was found that had been broken and rehealed.

Site III

49 bones were identified from this site. Cattle and rabbit bones were the most common, but sheep bones were almost as numerous. Pig, dog, bird and cat were represented by between one and four bones each. The single pig bone was from a very young animal.

The broken radius of a sheep showed signs of disease at the proximal end – the shaft walls were thin and the bone was swollen, but the proximal epiphysis itself was missing.

Site IV

107 bones were identified from this site. Cattle and sheep bones each formed about 25% of the total. Birds and rabbits were the next best represented species, while pig bones formed just under 10%. Bones of horse, fallow deer, dog, cat and fish together formed a further 10% of the total.

A mature sheep mandible was observed to have signs of periodontal disease.

The bones from all sites included some that had been gnawed, probably by dogs, and some that showed chop marks, resulting from the butchery of the animals.

The relatively large numbers of rabbit bones identified, especially from Site III, may indicate that there had been some disturbance of the medieval layers by rabbit burrowing, although some of the rabbit bones may be contemporary with the occupation of the site.

The animal bones indicate an economy typical of many southern English sites, with cattle, sheep and pigs forming the bulk of the diet. Some hunting may be indicated by the presence of the deer bones, and horses, dogs and cats were kept. Domestic fowl and other breeds of birds seem to have been eaten.

DISCUSSION

The 1973 excavations at Willington were considerably limited by the amount of time, labour and finance available, and by the commercial use of the site by the landowners. They were essentially trial excavations of a rescue nature, and the results indicate that further excavation, if it were possible, would be worthwhile. Whatever the origins of the site, and the results from Trench III indicate that at least part of the island was constructed in the Early Medieval period, it was certainly occupied in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and was a moated site of some complexity. Willington, which was in existence at the time of the Domesday Survey²⁴ had more than one moated site and the supposedly medieval moat at Pump House²⁵ which is now entirely destroyed, was less than half a mile from the 'Docks' site. Half a mile further on and close to the medieval church of St Laurence, is the traditional site of the manor of Willington²⁶ apparently unmoated. It is by no means uncommon for the site of a manor to be moved in the middle ages, and this may well have happened at Willington.²⁷

Future work at Willington must obviously include a detailed search through the documentary evidence, and a survey of the existing earthworks is necessary. A resistivity survey may well be useful in tracing the outer earthworks which have been considerably destroyed through cultivation.²⁸

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to all the volunteers who helped on the excavation, and thanks are due particularly to Andrew Mimmack and Johnny Moore who proved to be very capable site assistants. Corinne Renow drew the pottery and the small finds drawing was the work of Diana Blaxter.

NOTES

- 1 The site is thus marked on the Ordnance Survey Six-Inch map.
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- 16 S.E. Moorhouse, 'Finds from Basing House, Hampshire (c. 1540-1645) Part Two', *Post Med. Arch.* 5, 1971, 51.
- 17 See *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, 1967, 93-112. The spur is on loan from Mrs A.W. Smith to Bedford Museum.
- 18 P.A. Rahtz, 'Excavations on Glastonbury Tor', *Arch J.* 127, 1970, fig 23, nos 1-5.
- 19 Rahtz, 1970, fig 23, no 6.
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- 21 The harness bell is on loan to Bedford Museum from Mrs A.W. Smith.
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- 23 A. Grant, 'The Animal Bones' in B.W. Cunliffe, *Excavations at Portchester Castle Volume III*, forthcoming.
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- 28 Paper completed 23 May 1975.

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

Cainhoe Castle Excavations, 1973

ALISON TAYLOR and PETER WOODWARD

SUMMARY

The trial excavations on the earth works to the south and south east of Castle Hill demonstrated that none of them represented building platforms or enclosures as part of Cainhoe D.M.V. The area to the S.E. at this date was probably wet and marshy, unsuitable for habitation. There were however the remains of a stake and wattle structure of an earlier period (Carbon dated a.d. 500 $\pm$ 70 years)

Excavation on the side of the hill to the south of the Motte showed that the defences at this point were entirely natural. A road surface uncovered to the south east of the hill, although orientated towards one of the castle entrances was not necessarily contemporary with the castle usage. The earthworks to the south of Castle Hill proved to be devoid of features and probably were the result of field drainage and/or quarrying into the side of the hill.

INTRODUCTION

Cainhoe Castle¹ in the parish of Clophill is situated about a mile to the south of the present village of Clophill. At Cainhoe, apart from Castle Hill, there are a series of earthworks (fig 1 inset) which are presumed to represent a deserted medieval village of Cainhoe.

Cainhoe Castle is one of a number of motte and bailey complexes strategically placed on the upper reaches of the River Ivel. Others are at Flitwick and Meppershall, as well as at Toddington, Chalgrave and Pirton further to the south.

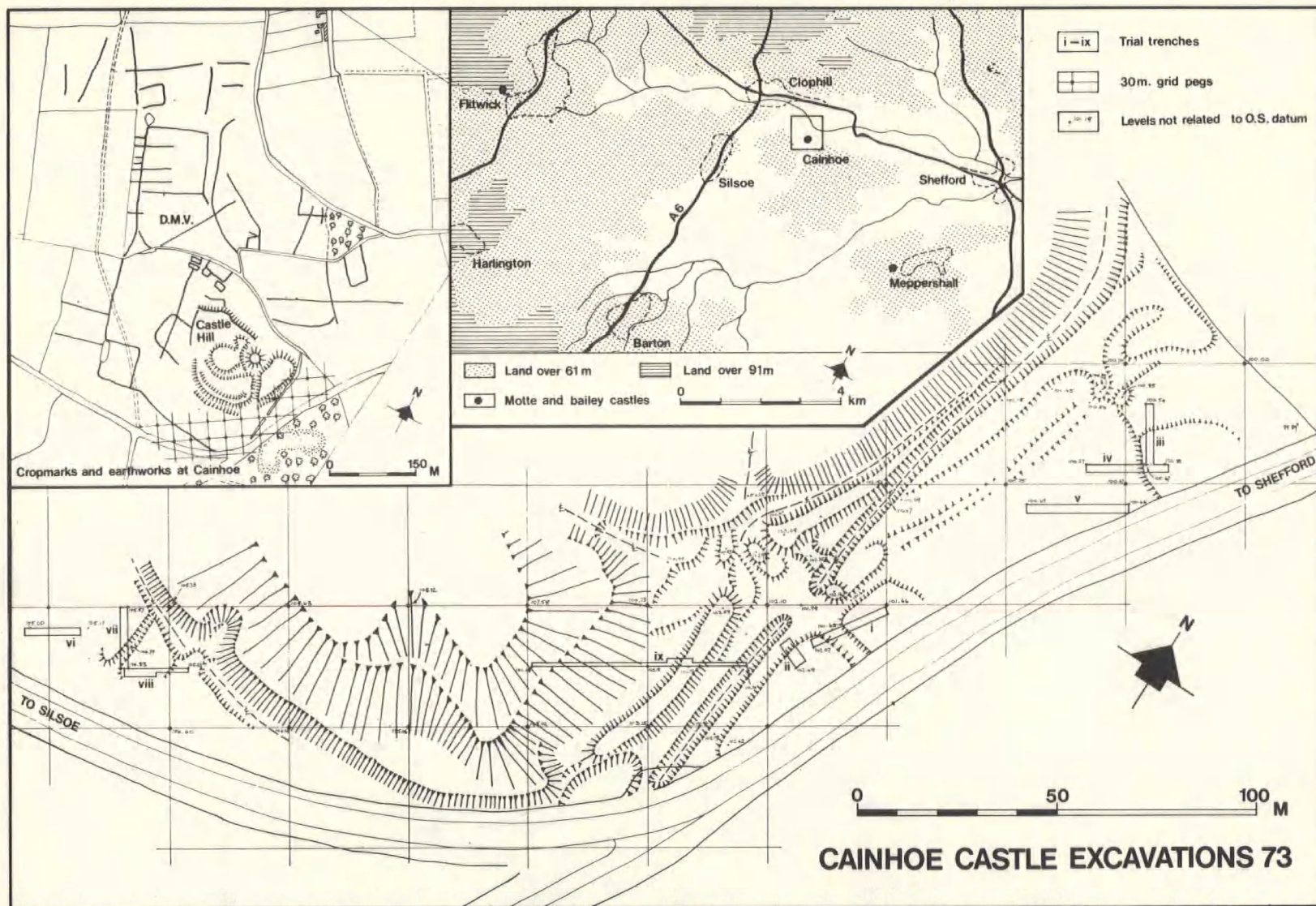
Cainhoe is situated on an isolated sand outcrop overlooking the river valley and a cleft in the ridge to the north (fig 1 inset) and consists of a motte and three baileys cut into and built on a natural hill. (fig 1 inset).² The motte and bailey sites at Meppershall and Flitwick have a similar strategic value, being placed on high ground. At Flitwick the castle consists of a motte (much damaged) and probably one bailey, while at Meppershall there are a motte and two baileys in line. Both these motte and bailey sites are in

close proximity to churches with twelfth century Norman workmanship, and to other village earthworks. However, this does not necessarily imply that they are of this date and they could easily be examples of the many rapidly erected stockaded castles of a later period. This is probably the case at Flitwick, but at Meppershall, like Cainhoe, the extensive nature and complexity of the earthworks might suggest that it was of a more permanent nature and it was certainly built by 1138 when this outpost was captured by Stephen on his way to the siege of Bedford.

The manors of Cainhoe and Clophill are mentioned in the Domesday survey. They were always held together and became known as the manor of Clophill and Cainhoe. That of Clophill consisted of 5 hides and had been held by two thegns, men of Earl Tosti, while the manor of Cainhoe was assessed at 4 hides and had been held by Aluric, a thegn of King Edward. After the Conquest, the manor became part of the Domesday fief of Nigel d'Albini, although there is no castle directly mentioned in the Domesday survey, (D.B. references to castles are incidental sources of expenditure and not income and therefore omission does not prove it was not a fort by 1086).³ The earthwork known as Castle Hill was evidently the head of the barony of Nigel d'Albini which was the second largest barony in Bedfordshire.

At the death of Simon d'Albini in 1272, no castle is mentioned and the estate became divided amongst his three sisters, Isabel, Christina and Joan. The estate of Isabel was inherited in 1310 by Peter de St Croix, her grandson, and it was in 1349 that his estate suffered severely from the plague; all the bond men and cottars dying of pestilence. He himself died in the same year, followed a few months later by his son Robert.⁴ Perhaps the desertion of the village of Cainhoe could be associated with this period.

The estate was partially reunited in the late fourteenth century in the families of St Amand and Dakeney and annexed to the royal honour of Ampthill in 1542.



THE EXCAVATIONS

The site to the south and east of Castle Hill was pasture land comprising a number of earthworks representing banks, ditches and platforms. All of them were thought to be contemporary with the Castle and D.M.V. apart from one N-S field boundary drainage ditch (ref fig 1) and pond which cut the moat of the Castle. Due to a road widening scheme, excavations were carried out to find the archaeological nature of these earthworks, prior to their destruction, by a series of trial trenches. The first two trenches (I and II) were dug by hand to ascertain the nature of the strata, and the rest by machine. These trenches were located on a 5 metre grid directly related to a 30 metre pegged grid, from which an accurate survey of the earthworks was carried out. Levels were taken on the 30 metre grid pegs and on the 5 metre pegs of the trenches. These levels were not related to the O.S. datum as there was no convenient bench mark. A sequential numbering system was adopted for all features and layers for each individual trench. All finds and records have been deposited in Bedford Museum.

TRENCH I

Hand excavated trench across two platforms, lengthened by machine trench (ref. Site plan Fig 1; Trench plan Fig 2) to south east of Castle mound.

- I (1): Turf and topsoil 20cm deep.
- I (2): Orange stony sand seals road surfaces (I (5), I (9) and ditches (I (8), I (3)).
- I (3): ROAD DRAINAGE DITCH, 3 metres wide; its bottom 55cm below upper road surface. (Level 100.85) shallow V shape with gentler slope towards the road. Filled with clean blue clay mixed with a little orange sand near the bottom. Some medium (5-7cm) and large (15-18cm) cobbles occurred on the road side of the ditch. This ditch was overlaid in part by the upper road surface (I (5)).
- I (4): ORANGE SAND BANK: Platform to N.E. of Road surfaces, orange.
- I (7): Sandy loam with red ironstone flecks, excavated to a depth of 68cm. At a depth of 60cm (Level 101.20) the sand bank was completely sterile and was taken to be natural. A crude line of large ironstone blocks (I (7)) lay along its southern edge, one course thick and laid on a patchy tightly packed small pebble surface (I (8)). A large number of horses teeth and jaw, tile fragments and small body sherds

of medieval pottery were found with I (7) and I (8).

- I (5): UPPER ROAD SURFACE: (Level 101.40) Nearly 8 metres wide with a rather uneven surface of fairly large cobbles mostly of local ironstone and sandstone, in places made into a more even surface of tightly packed smaller stones. This road surface was bounded by a clay-filled ditch, partially examined in the southern end of the trench (I (8)) but partially overlapped a similar ditch I (3) on the north east side. Fragments of tile, animal bone, horseshoe and oxshoes, pottery.
- I (6): ROAD DRAINAGE DITCH: Partially excavated, apparently similar to I (3), some medieval pottery, body sherds.
- I (9): LOWER ROAD SURFACE, (Level 101.10). Rather better laid than the upper road surface. Local ironstone, sandstone and occasional flint used. The larger stones occurred in groups generally above the level of more tightly packed smaller material. This road surface was bounded by two drainage ditches (I (3), I (6)) and was 20cm thick. There were few stones below its top surface. Tile fragments, horseshoe (unidentifiable), pottery, and animal bone, including horse-teeth.

Below the lower road surface there was a layer of yellow loamy sand with ironstone flecks (Similar to I (2)) for a depth of 25cm when blue clay and silver sand became apparent and were taken to be natural.

TRENCH II:

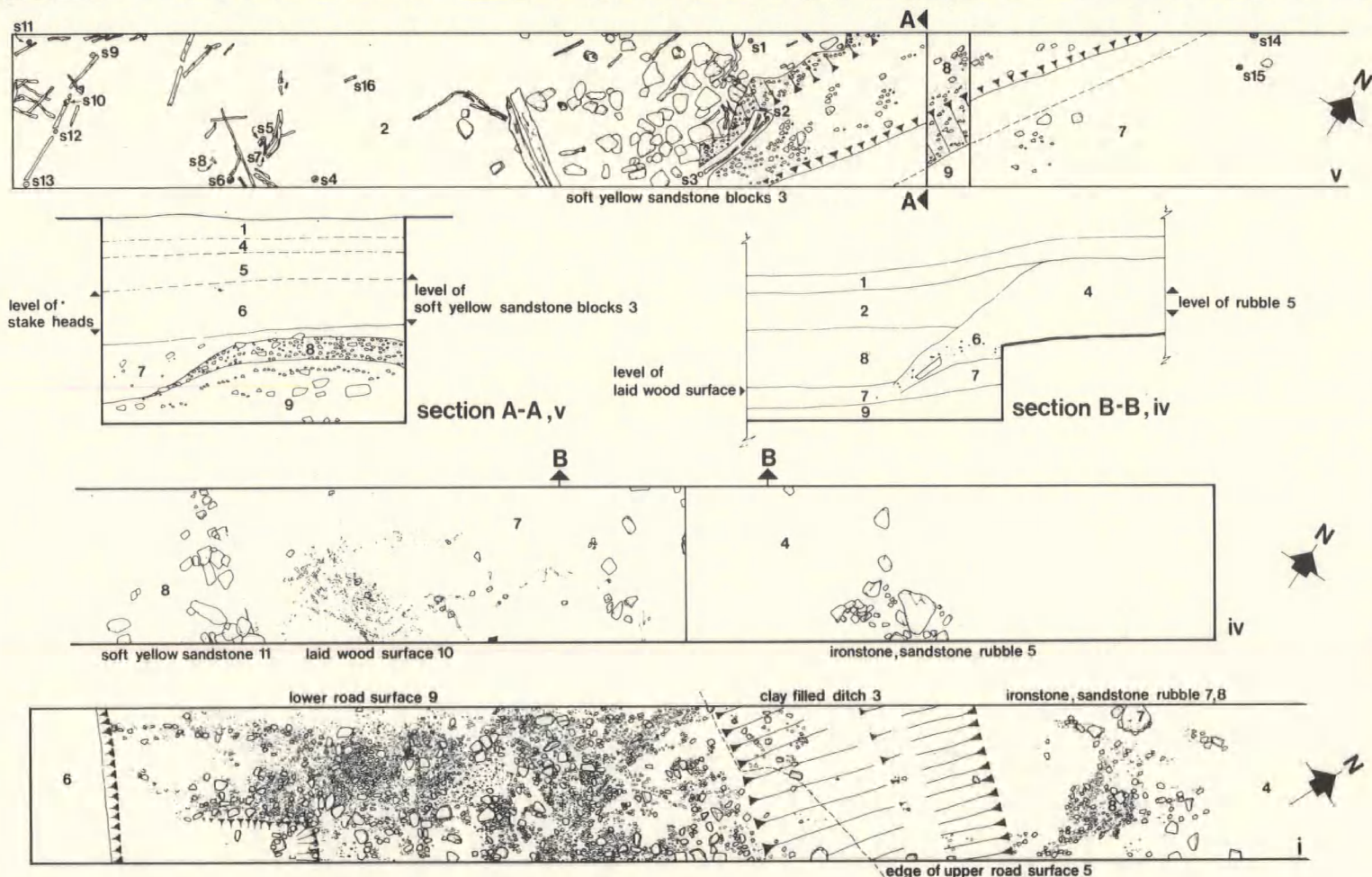
Hand dug to S.W. of Trench I on side of platform which when excavated appeared to be a natural bank; excavated to a depth of 40cm. Occasional ironstones on south side of trench. A deeper accumulation of topsoil in depression on west side of platform.

INTERPRETATION OF TRENCHES I AND II:

The road orientated towards one of the Castle entrances seems to have had two periods of use, for the later road surface overlapped one of the two drainage ditches, which seem to have been deliberately filled-in. The pottery on the road surface, of local medieval manufacture (thirteenth century date), might indicate a contemporary date with the later phases of the Castle, but the shoes tend to indicate a rather later usage, at least for the second road surface. The drainage ditch which cuts the Castle moat (fig 1) has a bridge where it crossed the line of this excavated road which seems to indicate that the road was prior to this field enclosure although there is no certainty that it was used when the Castle was occupied.

The orange sand platforms on either side seem to be only in part artificial, built up perhaps for drainage purposes. The rubble on the platform in

Fig 1 (Opposite) Location plan for Cainhoe Castle excavations with insets of surrounding deserted medieval village and neighbouring motte and bailey castles.



CAINHOE CASTLE EXCAVATIONS 73

plan 0 2 m

section 0 1 m

trench I was very patchy and disturbed but could perhaps represent the remains of a dry stone wall or rough footings for a fence parallel to the road, although there were no traces of posts or other timber. The pottery from the 'wall' and platform was of local thirteenth century manufacture. A large number of horses teeth were found with the rubble in trench 1, a parallel for which can be found at The Mound, Glastonbury where they occurred in an early medieval ditch.⁵

TRIAL TRENCHES III AND IV:

Two machine trenches at right angles across an earthwork platform to east of Castle mound.

Trial Trench III running N.W. — S.E.

- III (1): Turf topsoil to depth 20cm.
- III (2): Platform in S.E. of Trench: Orange sand bank partially artificial in build up, IV (4), Pottery.
- III (3): Depression to N.E. of Trench: Sticky blue clay with orange sand flecks. IV (8). Below topsoil (1) and seals side of sand platform.
- III (4): Thin band of grey clay beneath (3) in N.W. end of trench. Seals loamy sand (5) and (6) and dips down in an apparent shallow ditch parallel to sandy bank.
- III (5): Sandy orange loam beneath (4).
- III (6): Patch of tightly packed sandstone on III (3).
- III (7): Orange sand beneath (6), worked flints (including knife tool) and some body sherds of pottery on top surface.

Trial trench IV running N.E. — S.W. Across same platform as III. (Ref. Fig 2 for plan and section).

- IV (1): Turf and topsoil 20cm deep.
- IV (2): Orange sand mixed with grey clay, stone free.
- IV (4): Orange loamy sand bank below (1), contains (5) in N.E. half of trench. III (2), occasional medium sized blocks of ironstone found in it, including one small patch of packed stones at N.E. end. Excavated onto natural silver sand to S.W. and clay to N.E. Medieval gritty body sherds to level, of IV (5).
- IV (5): Very crude line of medium large ironstone crossing sand bank on S.W. edge. Medieval gritty body sherds.
- IV (6): Silver sand below (4) at S.W. end of sand bank.
- IV (7): Blue clay mixed with some organic matter. Frosty efflorescence occurs as this layer dries out. Appears to run under sand bank IV (4). Contains preserved wood scatter IV (10), Pottery sherd (illustration 4), and worked flints including an end scraper (illust. 14).
- IV (8): Blue clay and orange sand flecks, very few stones, above (7) and (9). Contains soft yellow sandstone IV (11).
- IV (9): Black peat with preserved vegetation.
- IV (10): Preserved wood sticks in organised scatter with some silver sand in IV (7). A small

piece of animal bone (possibly cow).

IV (11): Soft yellow sandstone in IV (8).

A small section was put through (7) and (9), 14 metres from the S.W. end of the trench. The trench became waterlogged at depth 260cm.

IV (12): Peat mixed with clay below (7) and (9).

IV (13): Black sticky organic clay beneath (12) Contained firecracked flints. Depth 84cm to 260cm, still continuing.

TRIAL TRENCH V:

Machine cut trench running N.E. — S.W. in flat depressed area to east of Castle mound. (Ref. fig 2 for plan and section).

- V (1): Turf and topsoil.
- V (2): Soft black peat, containing preserved wood (stakes 1 — 13, 16) and soft yellow sandstones (V (3)). This layer only existed in S.W. end of trench. Pottery and fire-cracked flints. Animal bone (cow tooth).
- V (3): Medium and large soft yellow sandstone blocks.
- V (4): Orange sand mixed with blue clay beneath topsoil, IV (2).
- V (5): Sticky blue clay with orange sand flecks, II (8) with occasional sandstones. Starts just N.E. of V (3) and runs to end of trench, below (4), above (6).
- V (6): Rather peaty blue clay. Two preserved wooden wooden stakes (S14, S15) below (5) in N.E. end of trench. Animal bone (cow).
- V (7): Clean blue clay beneath (6) above (8), contains occasional sandstone and base of wood stakes preserved in (6).
- V (8): 'Path' of tightly packed flints sealed by (7) and (2). Contains occasional medium sandstones.
- V (9): Heavy grey clay below (8). Sandstones (7-15cm diameter) and flints (7-10cm), the clay becomes green and stony towards the bottom of the half metre trench at right angles to machine trench (ref. plan). Several fire-cracked flints in this layer.
- V (10): Light brown organic soil containing many reeds beneath (9) above (11).
- V (11): Packed flint and sandstones — natural.

INTERPRETATION OF TRENCHES III, IV and V:

The earthwork platform sectioned by trenches II and IV was similar in nature to that sectioned by trench I. It again seemed to be partially artificial in make-up and again there was a crude line of stone blocks, mostly ironstones along its S.W. edge (Ref. fig 2 plan). Medieval sherds were found on this platform and with the ironstones. This orange sand platform dipping down towards the north in trench III was bounded by a shallow clay filled ditch. This contained no dating evidence but it probably relates to medieval drainage in this area. Below this ditch in the sandy substrata, three

Fig 2 (Opposite) Cainhoe Castle: Plans and sections of Trenches I, IV and V.

worked flints were found, one of which (illustration 13) was a heavily patinated and rolled 'knife' tool, a stray find probably resulting from the deposit of an old river bed that laid down the sandy strata. The other two flints suggest some later prehistoric disturbance. Black peaty soil and a preserved tree root were below this 'natural' sand strata. This peaty layer seems to occur under the whole site, as the field drainage ditch to the north of Castle mound, which was being recut at the time of the excavations, indicated.

The south west part of trench IV was certainly waterlogged until modern drainage was introduced. As a result some thin sticks in a criss-cross pattern were preserved and might represent part of a collapsed wattle structure. These were found at a low level (refer section fig 2), with a thirteenth century decorated sherd which show that the ground level here was depressed by 0.7m until at least the thirteenth century. However these twigs could be associated with the preserved wooden stakes in trench IV of an earlier period which form quite definite structures, if the thirteenth century sherd is associated with the later back filling of the depression.

The stakes in trench IV could be grouped into fence lines and corners, some having the remains of wattles lying between them (refer fig 2 plan and stake report). Although the stakes were covered by the peat layer, it is possible that the drying out of the upper layers of peat could have caused the stake heads to rot at some stage and so it is not possible to date the stakes stratigraphically. One Roman dish rim was found with the stakes but this could easily be residual. A radio carbon date was obtained for stake 13 from Harwell; this was 1450 ± 70 years B.P. (B.P. — 1950) giving a date of 500 a.d. ± 70 years. The soft yellow sandstones found at the same levels as the stakes in the peat was only one course deep and gave no indication that a wood fence could have surmounted it. It could represent a scattered drystone wall.

The area in which the stakes were found seems to be a depressed area of marsh or even a pond surrounded by natural sand to the N.E. and S.W., and Castle hill on the N.W. (ref. fig 1). The structure is therefore assumed to represent either some form of raised platform especially if the twigs in IV are directly related to it or possibly a seasonal animal pen in use when the depressed area was dry. Note also the raised path earthwork aligned N.E. — S.W. which lies across this area which is still slightly depressed.

From an examination of the wood stakes, Richard Thomas has shown that there were six species present. This suggests that the timber was randomly selected and that the builders were perhaps cutting down undergrowth rather than using whole mature trees. This in turn suggests the building of a temporary structure for seasonal rather than permanent settlement.

Sealed beneath the peat layer (2) and blue clay (7) in V was what appeared to be a trackway of tightly packed flints and occasional sandstones, very sharply curved in profile. However it is more likely that there is a natural explanation for this feature as it seems most unlikely that anything would be laid down at this waterlogged level.

TRIAL TRENCH IX

A trench which was machine cut but not otherwise excavated across hillside to the south of Castle hill. The trench 1m wide was widened to 2m where it crossed an apparent bank at the base of the hillside (ref. fig 1). Here there was a scatter of medium sized ironstones at a depth of 25cm. The trench was deepened to 90cm and a line of scattered stones was visible in the section but this could easily be natural.

Lower down the hillside the trench was cut to a depth of 50cm., higher up, to a depth of 25cm.

INTERPRETATION OF TRIAL TRENCH IX

No finds or features were found and it would seem that the hill was entirely natural.

TRIAL TRENCH VI

Machine cut trench to S.W. of Castle hill to depth 35cm, then excavated by hand in two 5cm spits. Two trenches at right angles to main trench to depth 68cm.

VI (1): Turf and topsoil machine strip to 35cm.

VI (2): Cleaning down to loamy sand.

VI (3): Hard compressed orange loamy sand.

There were slight concentrations of ironstone in layers (2) and (3) but with no real pattern, and it was otherwise featureless.

All pottery sherds from layers (1) and (2) (3) were of assorted medieval gritty ware of local manufacture. A rondel dagger and horseshoe were found just below the machine scrape. Three worked flints and tile fragments were found on excavation of VI (2).

TRIAL TRENCH VII

Cleaned to 30cm after machine stripping and then again onto orange loamy sand. No features.

TRIAL TRENCH VIII

Centre area cleaned after machine stripping to 50cm onto

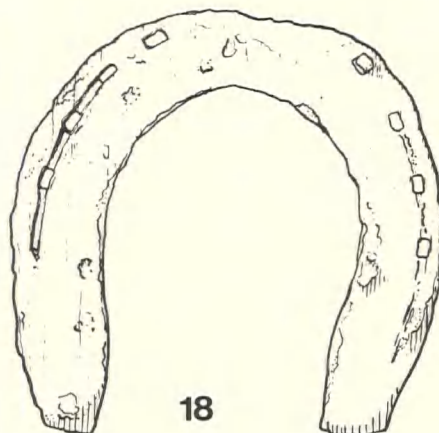
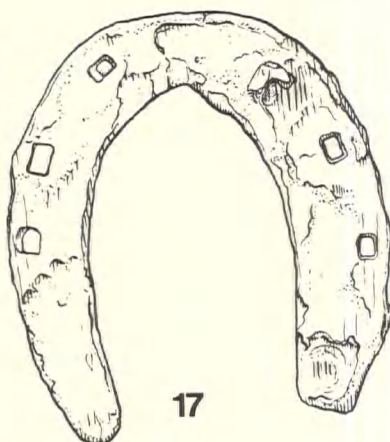
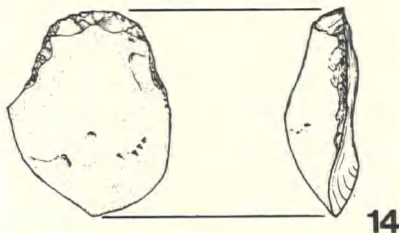
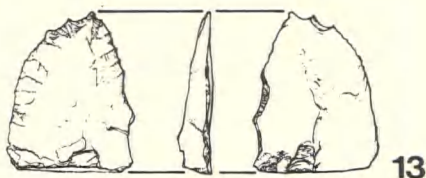


Fig 3 Flint tools. Horse- and Ox-shoes, (Scale ½).

orange loamy sand. Several small to medium ironstones without apparent pattern. One area of tightly packed sandy soil but this appeared to be natural. Pottery again of local medieval manufacture and an iron nail (VIII (2)) and three worked flints (VIII (2)).

INTERPRETATION OF TRENCHES VI, VII AND VIII

The lack of features indicate that the earthworks are probably the result of field drainage or disturbance from quarrying into the side of the hill (ref. fig 1).

THE FINDS

FLINT REPORT

A number of worked flints were found at Cainhoe, but they hardly represent a unified group. The origin of the material is probably the local gravel beds on the Ivel apart from the heavily patinated and rolled knife blade which probably originates from an earlier period when the sand strata was laid down by an old river in the area.

A large number of the flakes (about 70%) were utilised and/or retouched including two thermal

flakes (one of which has a status of a scraper tool and is illustrated) Three of the flakes were thermal. Two cores were present.

- III (7): Smashed single platform core, utilised as hollow-ground scraper, retouched, <25% cortical. Blue black material no patina.
- III (7): Primary flake <25% Cortical, blue black, no patina.
- III (7): Pressure flaked knife blade from thermal flake. Heavily rolled with a red yellow patina (fig 3, 13).
- IV (7): Flake blade, utilised as cutting edge, non cortical blue black material, no patina.
- IV (7): Thermal flake end scraper 40% cortical, slight white patina on thermal face, blue black material (fig 3, 14).
- VI (2): Thermal flake utilised as scraper <25% cortical, slight patination, blue green material.
- VI (2): Broken flake <25% cortical utilised on two edges as hollow ground scraper no patina, blue black material.
- VI (2): Flint nodule with single flake removed from prepared end. No patina, blue black material.
- VIII (2): Flake utilised and retouched as notched scraper and fabricator <25% Cortical as patina blue green material.
- VIII(2): Flake <25% Cortical blue black, no patina.
- VIII(2): Flake <25% Cortical brown blue, no patina.

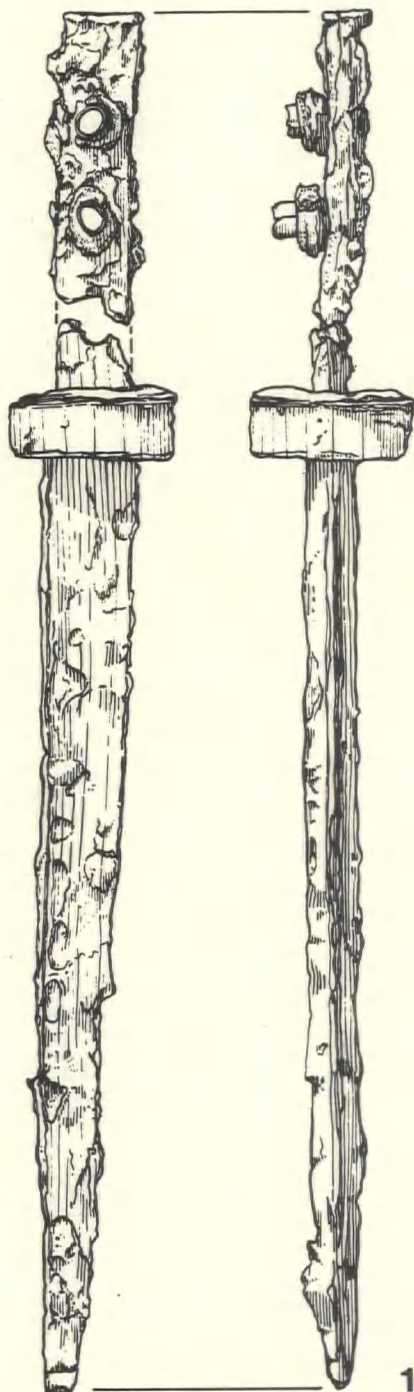


Fig 4 The rondel dagger. (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

THE DAGGER

An iron dagger was found in Trench VI layer 2, and is illustrated on fig 4, 15. Although broken, with a missing rivet and pommel, this single edged dagger has a cylindrical guard and the proportions of a rondel-type dagger of the mid-late fifteenth century.⁶ The rivets with horn grips, indicate that the tang originally had a cover, probably of wood. The dagger is probably of English manufacture from the simplicity of its design (Continental rondels tend to have rather more elaboration and larger guards), although we have no cutlers marks or pommel to confirm this. The blade is of a fairly standard length (25cm) but has probably been reduced by wear and rusting. The blade has a slight hollow grounding (this could be partially due to sharpening) and the top edge (i.e. the unsharpened edge) has a slight curved rise to it.

This type of dagger was in common usage by both soldiers and civilians in the fifteenth century. One method of dating medieval weaponry is by reference to contemporary illustration, e.g. on brasses. In Bedfordshire daggers of this type on brasses are either partially hidden or broken and only one of early sixteenth century date has rivets (John Acworth, St Mary, Luton, 1513), and in this latter case the guard is hidden, so is not necessarily of rondel form.

The nearest parallel brass illustration is probably that of Sir Thomas Green at Green's Norton, near Towcester, in Northamptonshire. This dagger is typically rondel in form with its cylindrical guard and pommel but has more the proportions of a short sword. There are four rivets in the handle and it is a two edged weapon. It is dated 1462.

THE HORSESHOES

Horseshoes and one oxshoe were found in layers I (5), I (9), VI (2). The horseshoes and oxshoe found on the two road surfaces in trial trench I (I (5), I (9)) were very difficult to date as there were no typical characteristics. The broken horseshoe on the second road surface (I (9)) was in such a bad state that even an X-ray could not elucidate any meaningful features.

All the shoes were X-rayed and the illustrations were drawn with their aid.

The oxshoe and horseshoe (fig 3, 16 and 17) on the second road surface have some characteristics that indicate a medieval, post thirteenth century date: for example, the smooth edge and broad pro-

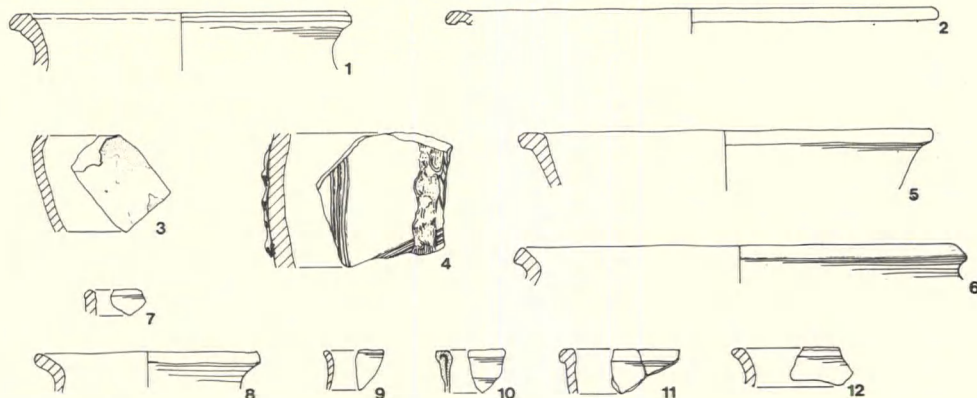


Fig 5 Pottery. (Scale ¼)

portions and the slight upturning of the horseshoe at the rear for a calkin. Nails in the shoes were broken or absent and would have been slightly counter-sunk.

I (5).16 Oxshoe, two countersunk holes on outside edge, one blocked with broken nail.

I (5).17 Horseshoe, six holes (three slightly countersunk) two blocked with broken nails. Slight upturning of the shoe for calkins.

The horseshoe from trench VI (2) (fig 3, 18) must be later medieval or later, to judge by the fullerred groove between the nail holes, and the smooth outline. No calkins were present and there were no nails.

POTTERY REPORT

A total of 93 sherds were collected from the following layers:

I (5) (6) (7) (9) (+), III (2) (7), IV (4) (5) (7), V (2) VI (2) (3) (+), VIII (2)

78 of these were of local medieval manufacture and of thirteenth century form. 13 sherds had a soft soapy feel to them and were of an earlier medieval form (fig 5, nos 6, 7, 8).

Of the 91 medieval sherds, 43 were a coarse surface gritty ware (as vessels illustrated, fig 5, nos 6, 7, 8), 7 were sandyware (as vessels illustrated fig 5, nos 12 (27) were a gritty ware sometimes with a mica grit surface (as vessels illustrated fig 5, nos 1, 4) and 1 was a fine hard grey gritty ware (the vessel illustrated fig 5, 3).

The remaining two sherds (illustrated forms 5 and 9) were of Roman form (from layers V (2) and VI (2)).

1 Jug rim, soft soapy with light grit temper with burnt out inclusions on surface. Black

core and dark brownish black surfaces (I (5)).

2 Dish rim, gritty ware with coarse grit surface Black core and orange brown surface (I (9)).

3 Shoulder, fine hard gritty ware, sparse yellow green glaze, blue grey surface where glaze is worn off, non glazed surface slightly oxidised. Grey core. (I (+)). Medieval, probably from kiln in S. Beds/Herts.⁷

4 Body sherd of large cooking or storage vessel. Combed line decoration and applied thumb strip. Gritty ware. Grey core with slight oxidation on surface. (IV (7)). Local, probably from a kiln in S. Beds/Herts.

5 Dish rim, fine gritty ware, pinkish grey black core with black surfaces. (V (2)). Roman fabric.

6 Rim, soft soapy with light grit temper with burnt-out inclusions on surface. Black core and dark brownish black surfaces. (VIII (2)). Local early medieval ware.

7 Rim, soft soapy with light grit temper with burnt out inclusions on surface. Black core and dark brownish black surfaces.

8 Rim, soft soapy with light grit temper with burnt out inclusions on surface. Black core and dark brownish black surfaces. (VI (2)).

9 Rim, fine grit, smooth surface. Red orange oxidised, (VI (2)). Possibly Roman origin.

10 Rim, gritty ware with coarse grit surface. Turned over rim, oxidised (VI (2)).

11 Rim, gritty ware with coarse grit surface grey core, oxidised black orange surfaces (VI (2)).

12 Rim, coarse sandy ware with grit inclusions. Grey green core and orange oxidised surfaces (VI (2)).

STAKE REPORT

Stake No.	Groups	Max. Diam. mm	Length mm	Working of points of stakes	Wood Type	Bark	Carbon Date
14+	Fence line	55	370	3 cut facets on ½ circumference cut from 190mm up.	Oak	Preserved on top 70mm	
15		43	220	2 cut facets on ½ circumference cut from 130mm up	Birch	Not preserved on whole length	
9		63	470	3 cut facets on ¾ circumference cut from 180mm up	Oak	"	
10		53	550*	4 cut facets on ¾ circumference cut from 370mm up.	Prunus avium (Bird cherry)	"	
12	Wattles lying between	52	590	5 cut facets all of circumference cut from 260mm up	Ash	Preserved on top 240mm	
13		Not Recorded		Not Recorded	Oak	Not recorded	X 500 A.D.
11		52	370	Unsharpened	Ash	Bark preserved on whole length	
4	Corner fence structure	49	330	2 facets on ½ circumference cut from 320mm up	Alder	Bark on whole length partly preserved	
5		66	360	3 facets on ½ circumference cut from 250mm up	Oak	Bark rotted on whole length	
6		78	420	3 cut facets on ½ circumference cut from 320mm up	Oak	Bark preserved on whole length	
7		30	360	Unsharpened 'Twig'	Qak	"	
8				Broken 'Twig' Unsharpened	Salix Spp (Willow spp)	"	

16 Isolated 19 250 Unsharpened Oak "

- 1) Wattles Very short pieces remaining for (1-3), crumbled on
 2) between extraction, unsharpened.
 3) 9,10,12
 & 13

* Part of stake missing therefore measurements approximate.

+ Illustration 19

X Carbon Date carried out at Harwell (Harwell ref. HAR-715)

^{13}C ($\pm 1\%$): - 26.6; Age B.P..1450 $\pm$ 70 (Age B.P. - 1950).

IDENTIFICATION OF WOOD STAKES RECOVERED DURING EXCAVATION

by Richard Thomas

An examination of twelve stakes showed that six species were present. The stakes examined were as follows and all were in a soft 'spongy' state of preservation.

Stake Number	Tree/Shrub type
4	Alder - <i>Alnus Glutinosa</i>
5	Oak - <i>Quercus</i> spp.
6	Oak - <i>Quercus</i> spp.
7	Oak - <i>Quercus</i> spp.
8*	<i>Salix</i> spp. (Willow spp.)
9	Oak - <i>Quercus</i> spp.
11*	<i>Prunus avium</i> (Bird cherry)
10*	Ash - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
12	Ash - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
13*	Oak - <i>Quercus</i> spp.
14	Oak - <i>Quercus</i> spp.
15	Birch - <i>Betula</i> spp.
16	Oak - <i>Quercus</i> spp.

* Identification carried out by Carole Keepax in Department of Environment laboratories.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to all volunteers for the hard work they put into the excavations, especially to Luton Sixth Form College. Thanks are due to Dr Alan Borg of the Tower of London Armouries for his examination of the rondel dagger, to Jane Hassall for her help with the pottery report and to Richard Bradley who examined the worked flints, to Carole Keepax of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, and Richard Thomas who carried out a wood identification of the stakes. The excavations were carried out on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment.

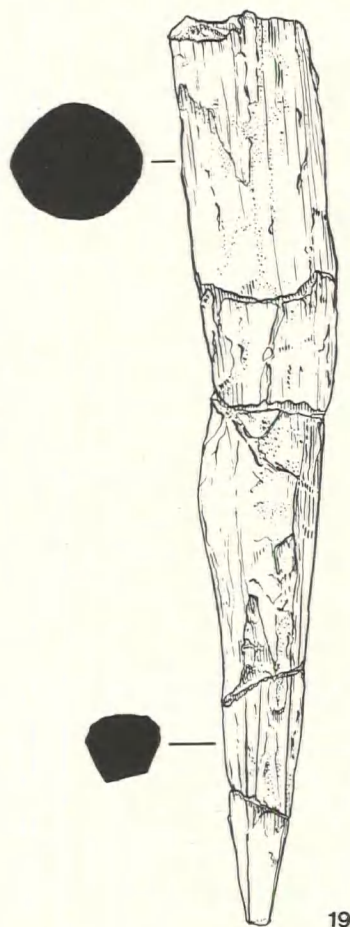


Fig 6 Wooden stake from sixth century structure.
(Scale $\frac{1}{3}$).

NOTES

- 1 General information has been obtained from A.R. Goodard, 'Ancient Earthworks', *V.C.H. Beds.* I (1904), 291-292, with fig on 292; M.R. Mansfield 'Clophill', *V.C.H. Beds.* II (1908), 320-325, esp. 324; B. Wadmore, *The Earthworks of Bedfordshire* (1920), 95-96 with fig on 96 and aquatint opp. 96; G.H. Fowler, *Bedfordshire in 1086*, [*Quarto Memoirs of the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society* I (1922)]; J. Godber, *History of Bedfordshire, 1066-1888* (Bedford, 1969), *passim*; refs to Cainhoe may be found *ibid.* 22, 46 and 73.
- 2 Adapted from Bedfordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record, based on Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map. Motte and Bailey is SMR 225, Deserted Medieval Village is SMR 3222.
- 3 D.F. Renn, *Norman Castles in Britain* (London, 1968), 27-33.
- 4 *Chan. Ing. p.m.* 23 *Edw. III* pt. 1 No. 84., cited *V.C.H. Beds.* II (1908), 321 n. 25.
- 5 This information was kindly provided by Jane Hassall.
- 6 A rondel dagger is strictly defined as: 'One where both the pommel and the guard take the form of a disc set at right-angles to the tang', [J.B. Ward-Perkins], *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (1940, HMSO reprint 1967), 42; for general parallels *ibid* 42-47 with fig 8, 5, fig 9 and pl. 8.
- 7 Although no kiln has yet been found, there is a concentration of pottery of this fabric and design in this area, suggesting a local kiln product. Information provided by Dennis Mynard.
- 8 Paper completed June 1975, revised and submitted for publication September 1975.

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

Calcutt Farm, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire A Measured Survey of a Moated Farmstead

J.M. BAILEY

SUMMARY

It was known that the later brick facade of the Calcutt farm building hid the substantial remains of an early timber-framed structure. As it is possible that a long-standing planning permission could be revived it was decided that a very detailed survey should be carried out if possible. The building was destroyed in 1975, having changed ownership.

INTRODUCTION

Calcutt Farm (TL 012254) is situated on land which formerly was part of the Manor of Caldecote in the Parish of Houghton Regis. The Manor was granted to Dunstable Priory by King Henry I and remained the property of the Priory until the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

After the Dissolution, Caldecote passed into the hands of the Crown. Only part of the subsequent descent is known and this is given in the *Victoria County History of Bedfordshire*. In the eighteenth century the building with 117 acres of land came into the hands of the Gilpin family of Hockliffe Grange, for on the excellent survey map of the whole Parish of Houghton made in 1762,¹ the owner was given as Thomas Gilpin Esq., and the tenant as William Barton. It was then described as "Carcutt Farm".

The 1762 map shows the remains of moats and we can assume that in medieval times the homestead on the site was protected by a moat. The exact location of the medieval homestead is not known, but it may have been to the east of the present building within the main moated area. A reproduction of the 1762 map in figure 1, compared with that of the Ordnance Survey reproduced alongside,² shows how little the moats and field boundaries have changed, only the section of the moat to the north and north-west of the building having disappeared.

Large areas of the moats shown on the survey have in recent years been filled.

The site was chosen very near to the source of

two adjacent tributaries of the River Ousel. One of the tributaries, rising to the north, was led into channels passing round the buildings and discharging into the second tributary running across the southern end of the site. Further areas of water were taken from these channels to form additional moated areas, and perhaps, fishponds.

THE BUILDING

The present farm building has been modernised at various times and only three bays of the originally larger two-storey, timber-framed and jettied structure remain. An external staircase has been added giving access to first floor and attic and in more recent times a brick front has been built against the main west elevations destroying the entire framing at ground floor level on this face. A later outshot is wrapped around the north-east angle of the building and butts up to the external stair.

External chimney stacks are located on the east and north sides of the building.

Enough evidence remains to deduce that this was originally an "L shaped" building with a main range of three unequal bays running north to south and a two storey wing extending to the east from the east side of the northernmost bay. The original position of the East Wing is shown chain-dotted on the ground floor plan in figure 2. The jetty of the first floor projected along the whole west elevation which is assumed to have been the front of the original house.

The main frame follows the general pattern of a jettied building with the first floor joists spanning from a central spine beam. The north and south ends have studs at close centres stiffened at the first floor level by ogee braces. The roof was modified when the east wing was removed and only the section over the two southernmost bays is original. The section remaining is of queenpost construction with clasped purlins and wind braces. Pegged clay tiles covered the entire roof of the main building, stair and outshot.

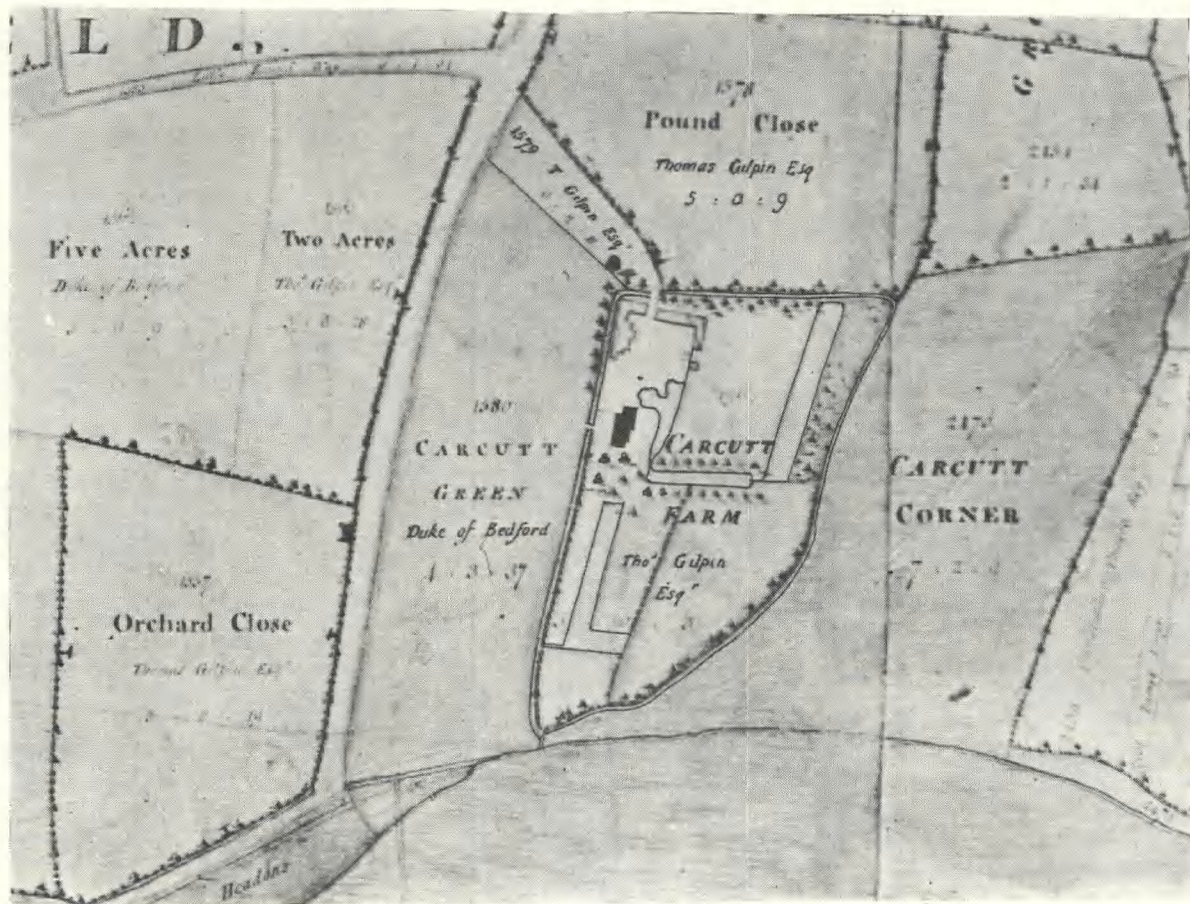


Fig 1 Portion of the 1762 map of "The Manors of Houghton Regis and Seywell belonging to John, Duke of Bedford", surveyed by Thomas Bateman, showing Calcutt Farm (marked as Carcutt Farm), compared with a modern Ordnance Survey map of the same area (opposite). Maps by courtesy of the Bedfordshire County Council and the Director General of the Ordnance Survey. Crown Copyright reserved.

POSSIBLE USE OF ROOMS

Presumably the middle ground floor room of the existing range was the principal room, i.e. the hall; the width of the fire place and its placing on one of the long walls suggests this. The southern room would probably have been a service room. Modern rebuilding of the east wall of the south bay and insertion of a modern fireplace has destroyed all evidence of the original structure so it cannot be proved whether or not the southernmost room was heated. It seems most likely that the north chimney is a rebuild and that the original chimney stack served the ground floor central bay only.

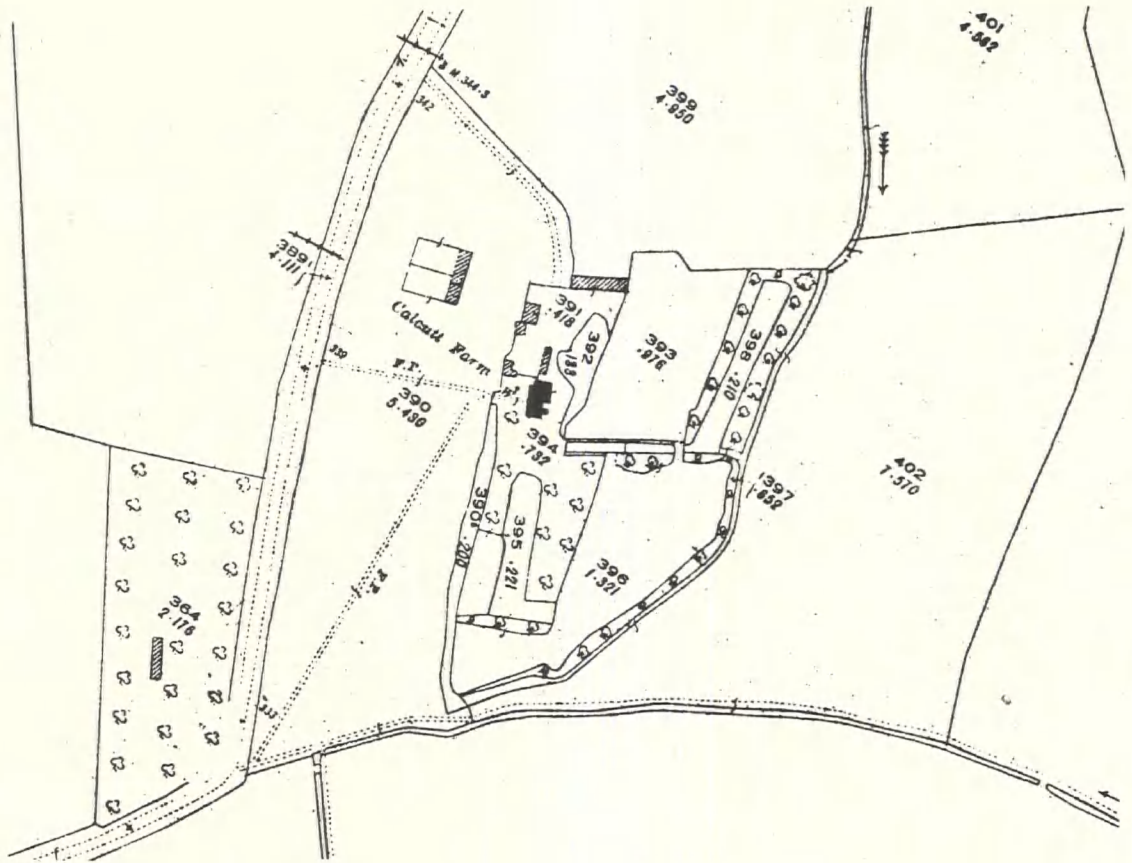
The northern room is most likely to have been

the parlour, and the room in the demolished east wing almost certainly contained the staircase.

Just what were the respective functions of hall and parlour at this period is not at all clear, although it is known from literary evidence that there was a growing confusion between them. Probably the Hall was also the kitchen and if so, the room south of it would have been the pantry. In that case, the other service room in the wing was perhaps a buttery, where drink was kept; the association of parlour and buttery is not uncommon in the seventeenth century.³

CONSTRUCTION OF MAIN FRAME

The method of jointing at the southwest cor-



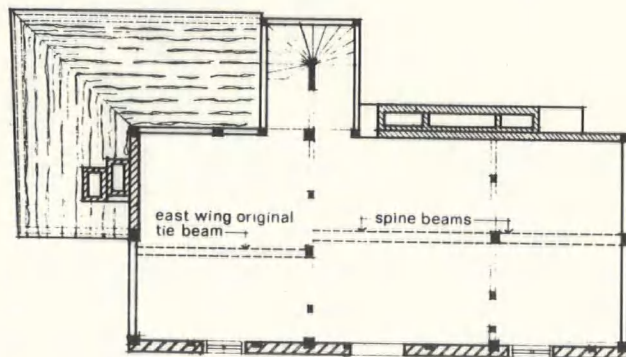
ner of the building is illustrated in figure 5A (north west corner similar). The first floor corner posts have foot tenons which tie the junction of the side bearer and bressummer. The side bearers are halved on the underside to fit over the ground floor top plates. A most complicated and unusual joint has been used for this purpose. The side bearers are rebated along their length to receive the floor boards which run from north to south.

At the north and south ends, mortices in the underside of the side bearers show that originally 150mm wide studs were inserted at 325mm centres at ground floor level. At first floor level the studs remain and these are the same size and at similar centres. These first floor studs, it should

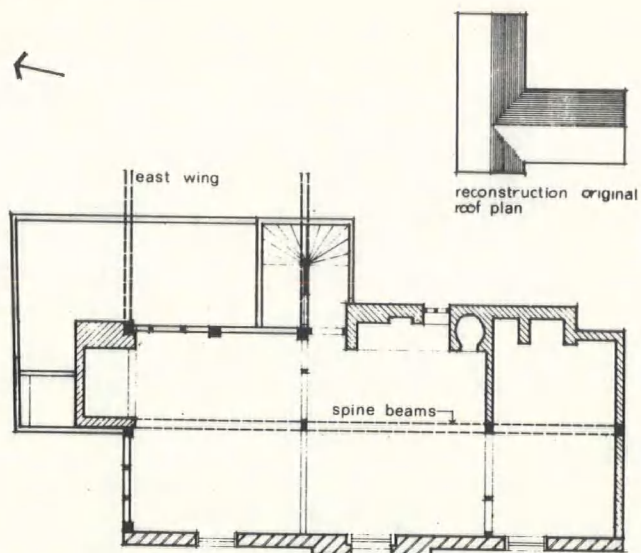
be noted, butt to the ogee braces and are fixed with iron nails.

The studs, although tenoned at top and bottom are not pegged. Figure 5B shows the construction of the western end of the southernmost intermediate frame.

The two internal partitions are infilled in a similar manner to the ends but with lighter studs. In both cases a main central post with two subsidiary posts supports the tie beams and the frames are stiffened by curved tenoned and pegged braces at ground and first floor levels. The 75mm by 75mm studs are at fairly wide centres and have unpegged tenons on to the ties and nailed butt joints to the curved braces. The frames would originally have had lath and plaster infilling.

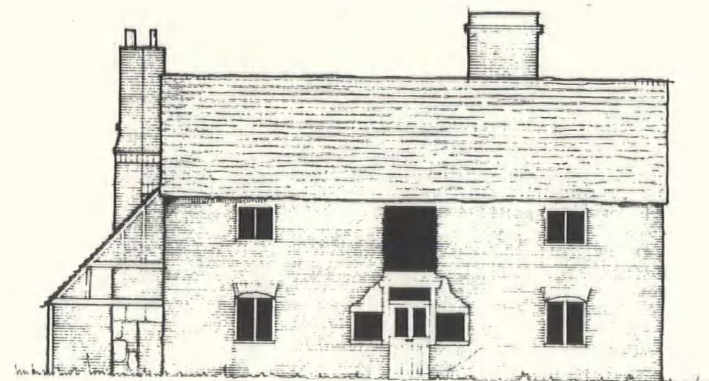


FIRST FLOOR

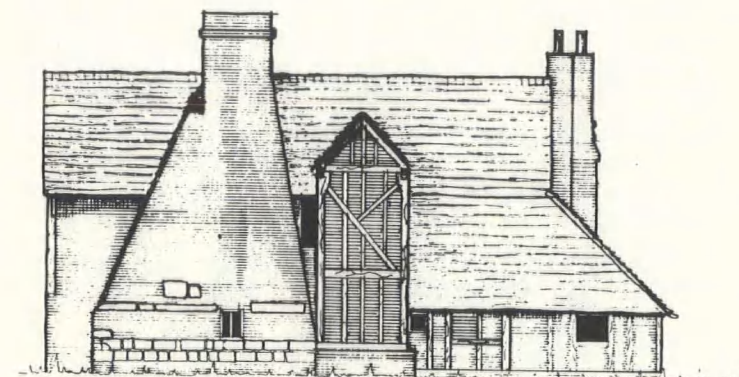


GROUND FLOOR

0 10m



WEST ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

jmb

Fig 2 Calcutt Farm, Houghton Regis. Plans and East and West Elevations.

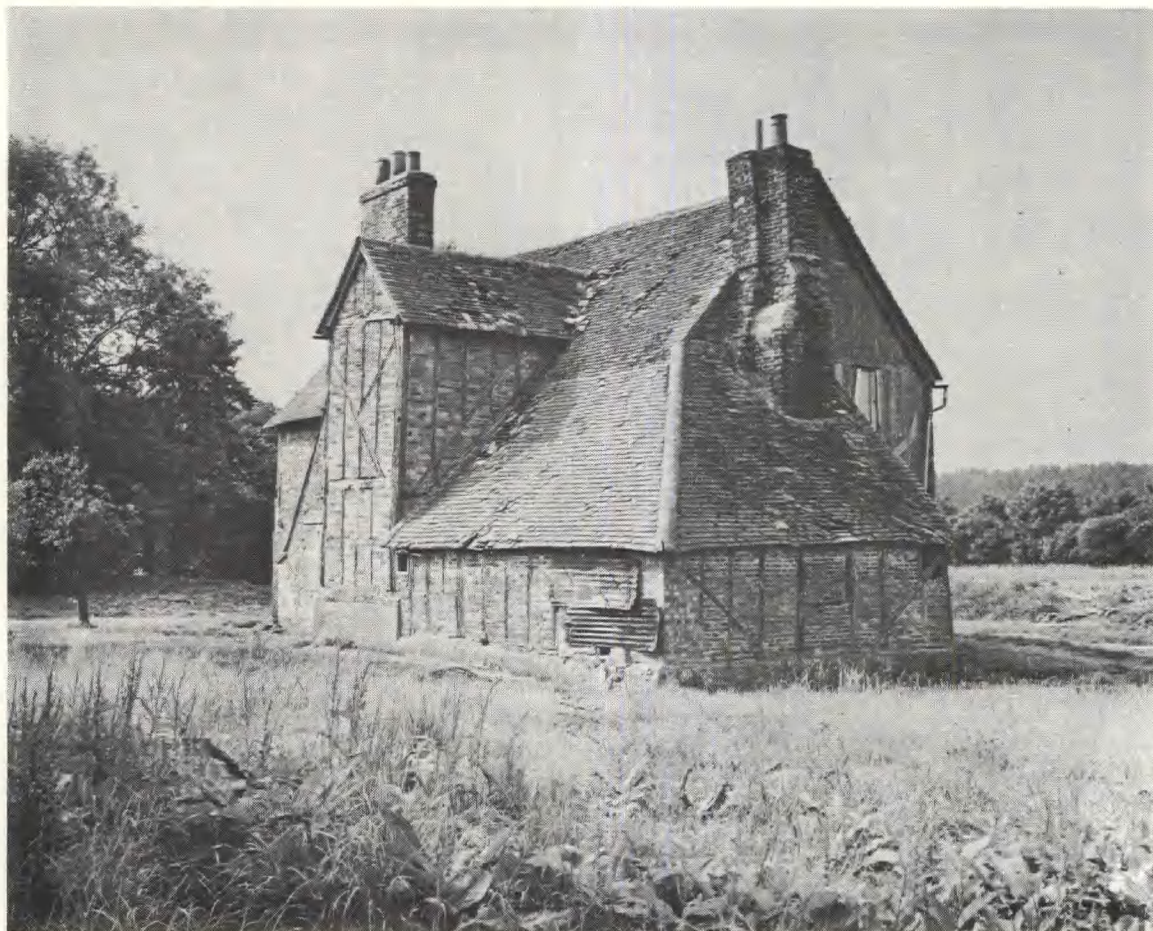


Plate 1 Calcutt Farm, Houghton Regis, in 1969, looking at the east and the north fronts.

(Photograph: Bedfordshire County Council)

Floor joists are jointed to spine beam and rear plate by two variants of central tenons with diminishing haunch and peg, these are illustrated in figure 6. Also illustrated in figure 6 is the method of jointing the east ground floor top plate to the north east corner post. The joints are arranged so that the top of the joists are flush with the spine beam but lower by the width of the floor boards where they strike the plate. This allows the side of the floor boards to finish neatly against and flush with the platetop.

The roof trusses have curved tie beams and collars. The curve on the top of the tie beams indicates that the attic joists were intended as a ceiling support and that a usable attic floor was not intended. The principal rafters reduce to half their thickness above the purlins, and are tenoned into the tie beam with two pegs.

The rafters notch into the top of the wall plates and are jointed and pegged at the ridge. Each common rafter is pegged to the purlin.

Short, virtually straight wind braces stiffen the roof structure.

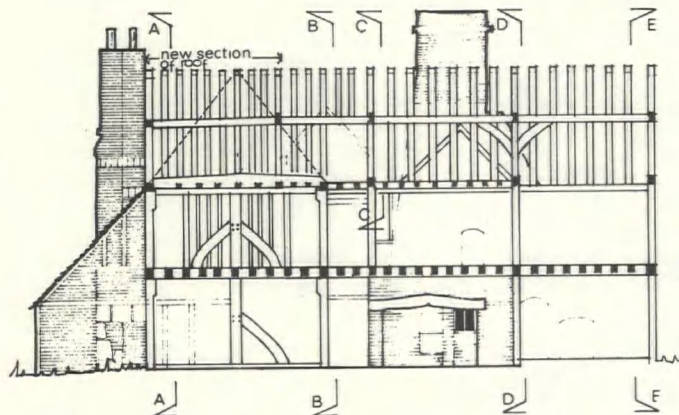
METHODS OF JOINTING

Scarf Joints

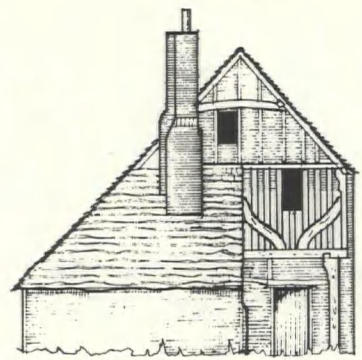
There are three types of scarf joint remaining, and these are at purlin, bressumer and top plate. No section of ground cill with scarf now exists.

Purlin scarf, (fig 5E). This is a common purlin scarf joint used throughout the sixteenth century and later. It is not supported on the collar, but located between truss and junction with wind brace.

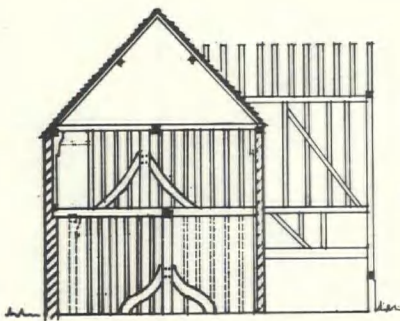
Bressumer scarf. (fig 5D). This is a squint-



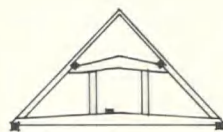
LONGITUDINAL SECTION TO EAST



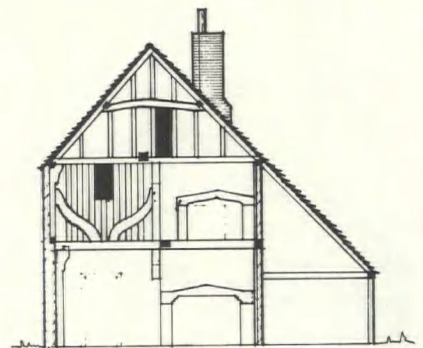
NORTH ELEVATION



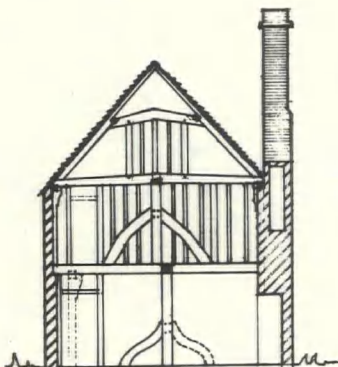
SECTION B B



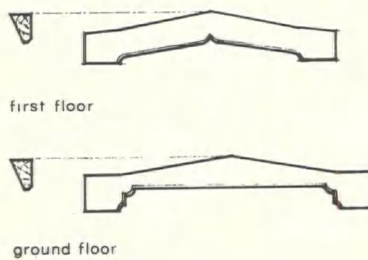
SECTION C C



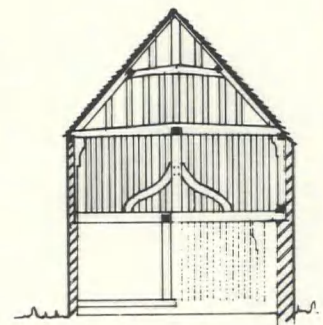
SECTION A A



SECTION D D



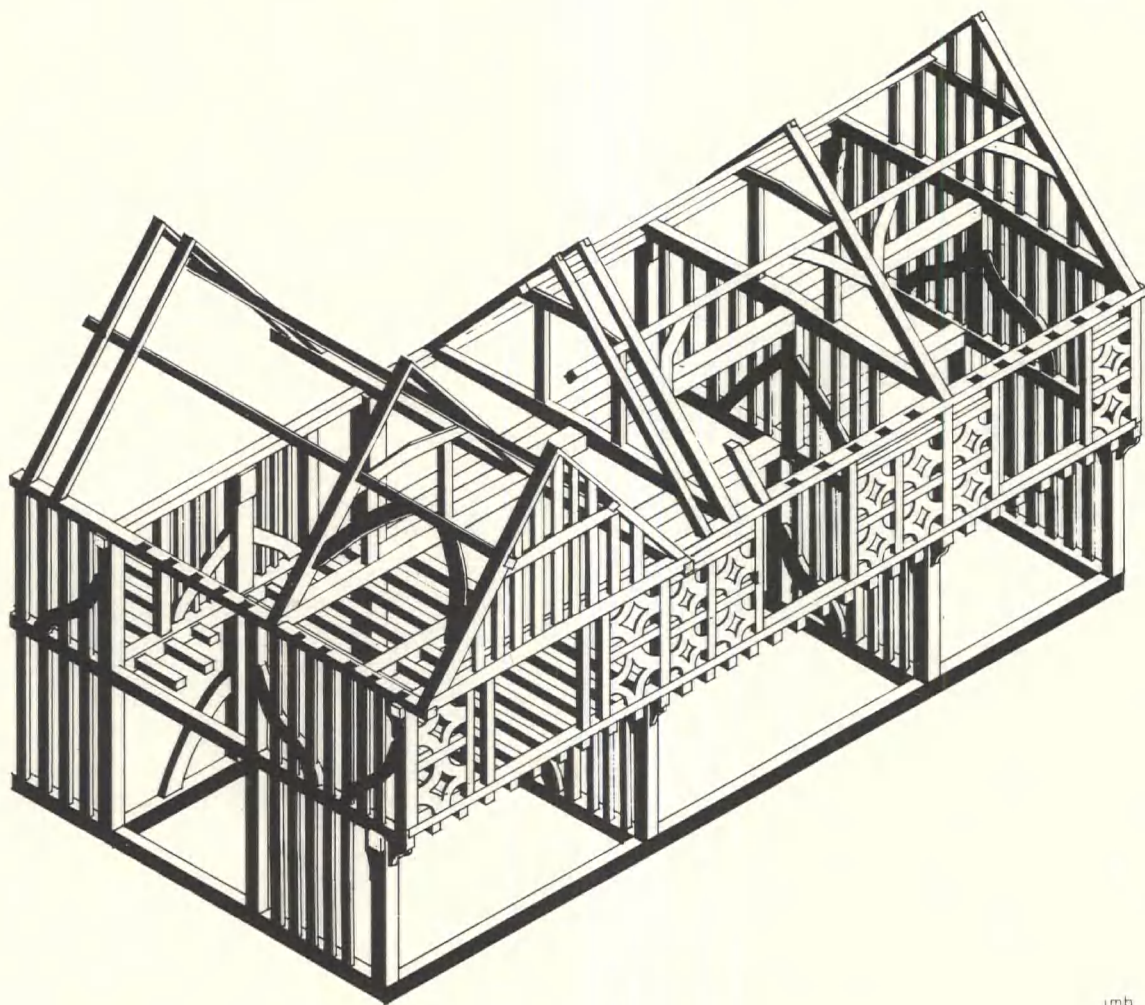
FIREPLACE LINTOLS



SECTION E E

jmb

Fig 3 Calcutt Farm, Houghton Regis. North and South Elevations and Sections.



jmb

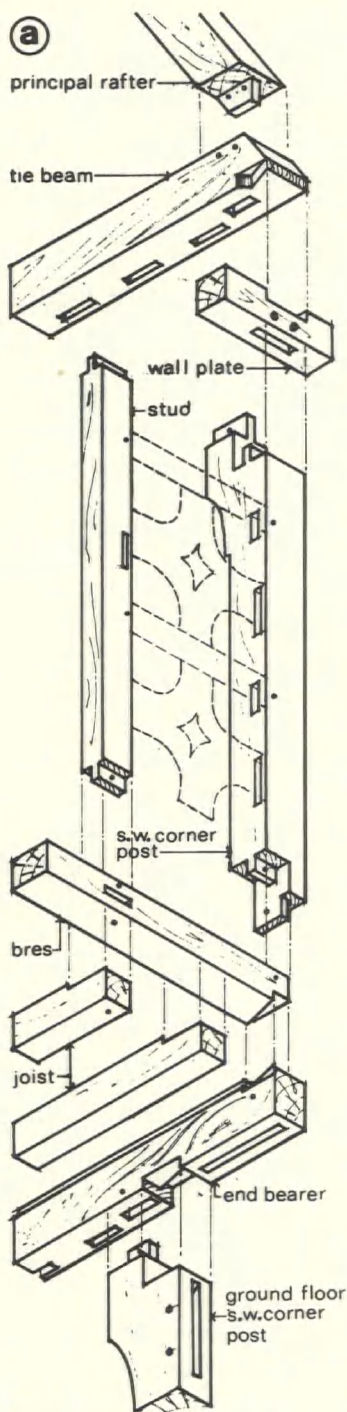
Fig 4 Isometric reconstruction of the original frame of Calcott Farm, Houghton Regis, West gable infill and east wing studs conjectural; decorative infill panels shown are based on the mortise joint evidence.

butted scarf with secret bridle and two edge pegs; a joint that was in use over several centuries. C.A. Hewett records its use in the ground cills at Cressing circa AD 1200.⁴ The writer has noted its use in sixteenth century south Bedfordshire buildings as a top plate scarf.

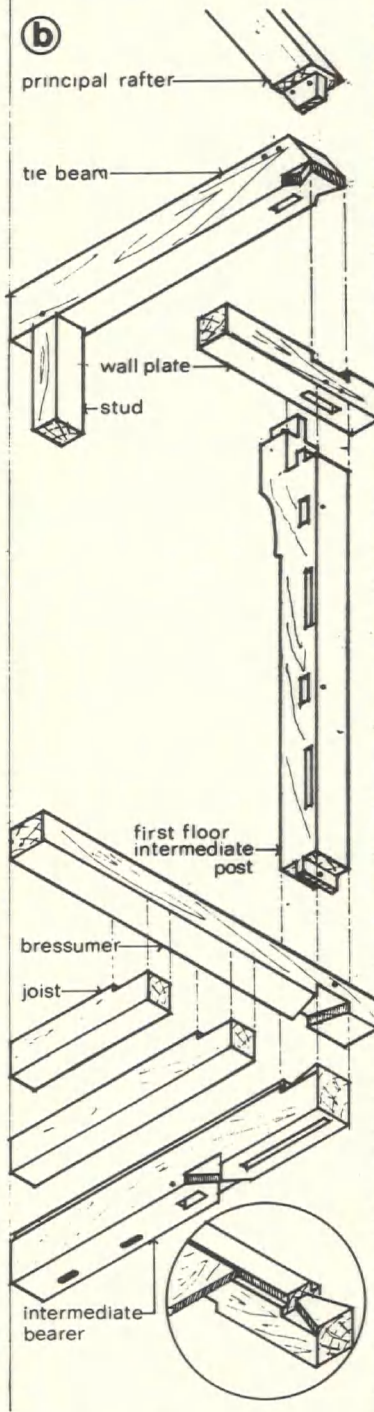
Top plate scarf, (fig 5C). This is a more involved form of the Edge-halved scarf with bridled butts that is common in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

DECORATIVE TREATMENT OF THE FIRST FLOOR MAIN ELEVATION

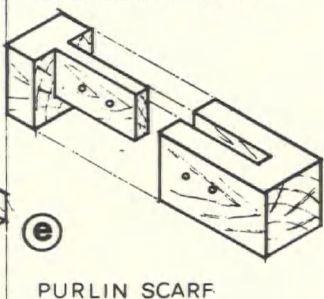
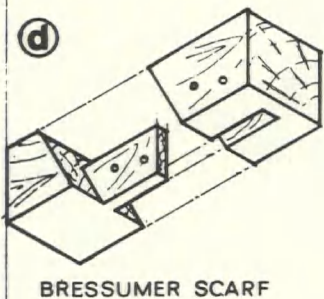
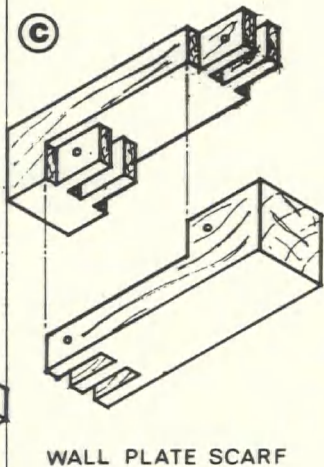
As the later brick front is still fairly complete and masks the majority of the remaining frame at first floor level, it is not possible to see every mortice on the external face of the building. The sides and inner face of the studs can, however, be examined, and one of these studs from the central bay has been removed during rebuilding and repositioned reversed which allows



SOUTH WEST CORNER
VIEWED FROM N.W.



INTERMEDIATE POST JUNCTION
WEST ELEVATION FROM N.W.



j.m.b

Fig 5 Calcutt Farm, Houghton Regis. Scarf and Tying Joints.

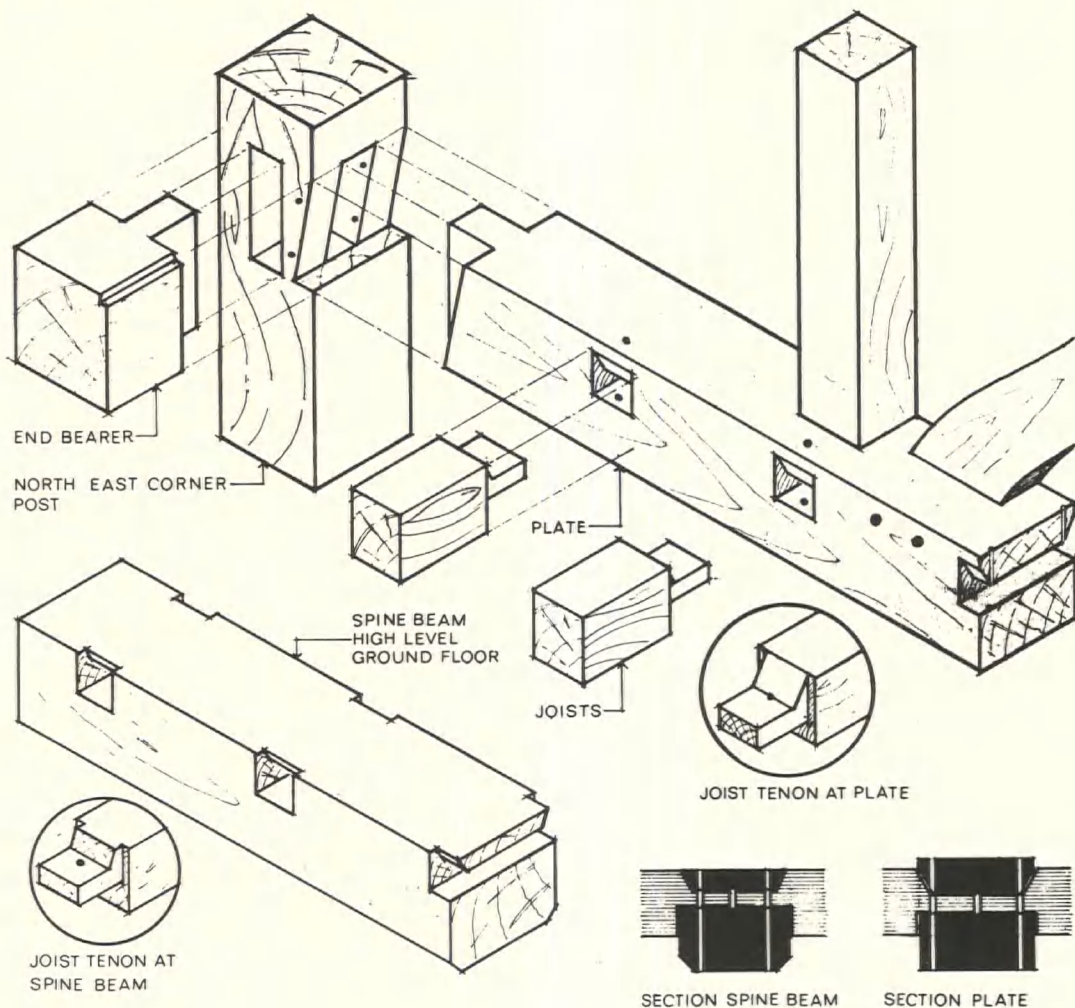


Fig 6 Calcutt Farm, Houghton Regis. Joints with the Floor Joists with the Spine Beam and the Rear Plate.

some of the jointing for the central window to be detailed. The first floor west elevation, had a window central on each bay and the spaces on each side of the windows had been divided into square panels by the introduction of horizontal rails tenoned and pegged to the posts and studs. In the case of the northernmost bay, an additional stud had been added on either side of those supporting the window to reduce the width between stud and post in order that the pattern of squares one above the other on either side of the window could be achieved. (fig 4).

Two pegged tenons can be observed on the front of the bressumer where the brickwork has fallen away and in both cases these are situated

on the centre line of studs framing the window opening.

The square panels alongside the window openings all have unpegged mortices on the centre of the inner face of each horizontal and vertical timber surrounding the panel. It is assumed that these would be for decorative braces and a conjectural arrangement of these is shown in figure 4. This form of decorative treatment is rare in Bedfordshire being in the "West country tradition," but there is an example at Meppershall where panels in the main elevation of the manor house are treated in this manner. The construction of the building, however, is not similar.⁵

EVIDENCE OF THE EAST WING

It is fortunate that during the reconstruction of the roof, an original tie beam of one of the trusses forming part of the east wing roof structure was left in position, together with sections of the two associated wall plates. This remaining tie beam is on the longitudinal centre line of the building and spans the northern-most bay. It had to be retained as this tie also acted as a continuation of the first floor spine beams supporting the attic joists, which in turn support the false ceiling. The section of spine beam spanning the southernmost bay has been removed, and ceiling raised to the level of the collars. It is apparent that the spine beams are original as they tenon at either end into the tie beams, the remaining east wing tie beam rests on the original top plates, one of which now acts as a "tie beam" in the new north gable end.

The cross-halved joint used where the original east wing top plates cross the top plates along the front of the building indicate that the gable end projected beyond the front (west) face of the building as indicated in figure 4. Mortices in the top of the tie beam indicate that the east wing trusses were of queenpost construction.

Floor joists joints along both sides of the rear high level ground floor plate show that the east wing floor continued through with the first floor joists on the same line and centres as the main block.

There are mortices in the east face of the north-east corner post which relate to the east wing. One is identical to that for the ogee braces existing in the north end at first floor level, the other being for a ground floor top plate.

Where the east wing northern wall plate crosses the north-east corner post a scarf joint occurs of the type shown in figure 5C.

Dimensions

The remaining portion of the original building measured approximately 13.5m by 6m.

PAINTED WALL DECORATION

A small section of painted wall decoration was found on the inner face of the door post to the first floor doorway between the north and central bays. A section of this design, which was white upon a red ground, is shown in figure 7. It

Fig 7 (Opposite). Calcutt Farm, Houghton Regis. Wall Painting. A section of the original.



is a repeat design of a fairly large scale, not geometrical, but with fairly free and regular foliage, fruit and flowers. As the design goes around the doorhead it can fairly be assumed that it is not the remains of a design on a piece of reused timber. The design would have continued on the wall plaster now destroyed.

Dr E. Clive Rouse considers that the design is most likely to be early Elizabethan, but with only a small fragment to examine, it is not possible to give a close indication to date.

DATING

It would not be wise to attempt to give a firm date for the building on the evidence available.

The most likely time of building is the late sixteenth century. This opinion is based on the general form of the structure; the use of joints secured with iron nails and the general sophistication of joints particularly the degeneration from the ideal form of the joist tenons.⁶

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks are due to Messrs. Maltglade Ltd. for allowing me to enter and survey the building, prior to its possible demolition. I would also like to thank Miss M.L.

Miller for assisting me in measuring the building and Mr J.T. Smith for reading this paper in draft. Specific thanks are also due to Miss P.L. Bell, County Archivist for Bedfordshire, for drawing my attention to the 1762 Gilpin map and for providing a photograph of the relevant section for reproduction in this paper; to the Director General of the Ordnance Survey for allowing the relevant portion of the Survey to be reproduced; to Mr J.T. Smith for his comments on the uses of the various rooms; and to Dr E. Clive Rouse for examining a drawing of the decoration and giving an opinion on the possible date.

NOTES

- 1 H.S.F. Lea, 'Houghton Regis', *V.C.H. Beds.* III (1912), 389-394, esp. Calcutt Farm has previously been illustrated D.B. Baker, A. Cox and E. Marten, *Bedfordshire Historic Buildings*, (Bedford, 1975), 4.
- 2 Bedfordshire County Record Office, map B553.
- 3 These paragraphs owe much to discussion with J.T. Smith.
- 4 C.A. Hewitt, *The Development of English Carpentry; 1200-1700: an Essex Study*, (Newton Abbot, 1969), fig 93A.
- 5 J.T. Smith, 'Timber-Framed Building in England', *Arch. J.* 122 (1965), 133-158, esp. 137-143. The Meppershall building is illustrated conveniently *Bedfordshire Heritage*, (Bedford, 1961), no. 7; see also *Beds. Mag.* 7 (1959), 45-46 and further comment with photograph *ibid.* 71.
- 6 Paper completed August 1975.

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

A Group of Post-Medieval Pottery from the Manor House, Strixton, Northamptonshire

D.N. HALL

SUMMARY

Drainage works on the site of the manor house at Strixton, Northants revealed a group of late-seventeenth century pottery and other finds. The artifacts were deposited during a major building phase of the manor, and the pottery is one of the few well dated local post-medieval groups.

INTRODUCTION

Strixton parish lies south of the river Nene on the Kettering — Newport Pagnell Road (the A509) adjacent to Wollaston. The village stands on a bed of jurassic limestone at 250ft above the Ordnance datum. The topography is gently undulating with a brook to the north, dividing Strixton and Wollaston parishes, lying some 70ft below the settlements.

The medieval fields and the earthworks have been described previously^{1,2}. The village has early twelfth century origins and suffered severe shrinkage in the early seventeenth century when the parish was enclosed for sheep rearing. The earthworks arising from this shrinkage were perfectly preserved until 1966, since when they have been constantly eroded by agriculture. A series of surviving maps made the village a classic example for relating cartographic features with earthworks left on the ground.

The group of finds discussed below came from the Manor House site, just east of the church at SP905617. Little is known about the early occupants of the house, because the Lords of the Manor lived elsewhere and presumably installed a tenant or bailiff. The first recorded owner was Michael de Hanslope in the early twelfth century.³ From about 1190 until the early years of the fifteenth century the manor belonged to the family of Prayers, and then passed to the Draytons until 1479. A number of owners rapidly succeeded one another in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, including the crown and Edmund Aprice, a local grazier.

In the seventeenth century the manor passed to the north Bedfordshire family of Alston with the arrival of Sir Edward in 1648. It is to this family that the group of finds once belonged.

Strixton was purchased by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough in 1737, and thus became the property of the Spencers. With their main seat at nearby Althorp the Spencer family had no need of another mansion house, and demolished the Strixton structure sometime in the mid eighteenth century.

An orchard was set over the gardens by 1720 and survived until about 1850. It is likely, therefore, that the house was not occupied by 1720. Since 1850 the site has been permanent pasture.

The sixteenth century manor house is clearly marked on a map of 1583.⁴ It was a large building standing on three sides of a rectangle. The south wing has been proved to have medieval origins, the other two were probably Elizabethan additions.

The principal earthworks of the manorial complex form a large rectangular rampart (120ft by 130ft) with a sunken 'courtyard' inside lying some 7ft down. In the field to the east of the rectangle are various terraces and raised causeways; the crop mark of a private drive to the house can be seen in dry weather. Before the present A509 road was widened in the 1930's the sealed-up entrance to this drive could be seen in the roadside wall now demolished.

Various excavations have taken place over recent years in advance of destructive agricultural threats.^{5,6} Trial excavations in 1961 and 1962 showed that the sunken rectangle was a garden made in the seventeenth century. The ramparts were thrown up burying some medieval walls and partly exposing a medieval stone quarry. The area was laid out with crossing footpaths dividing it into four small squares, but later a circular garden was made in the centre, approached by a solid gravel path from the south.

The manor house itself laid mainly to the south of this garden, although judging from the 1583 plan the Elizabethan north wing would have been destroyed by the construction of the garden ramparts. Excavation of part of the house showed occupation from the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries.

Mechanical drainage operations on the main

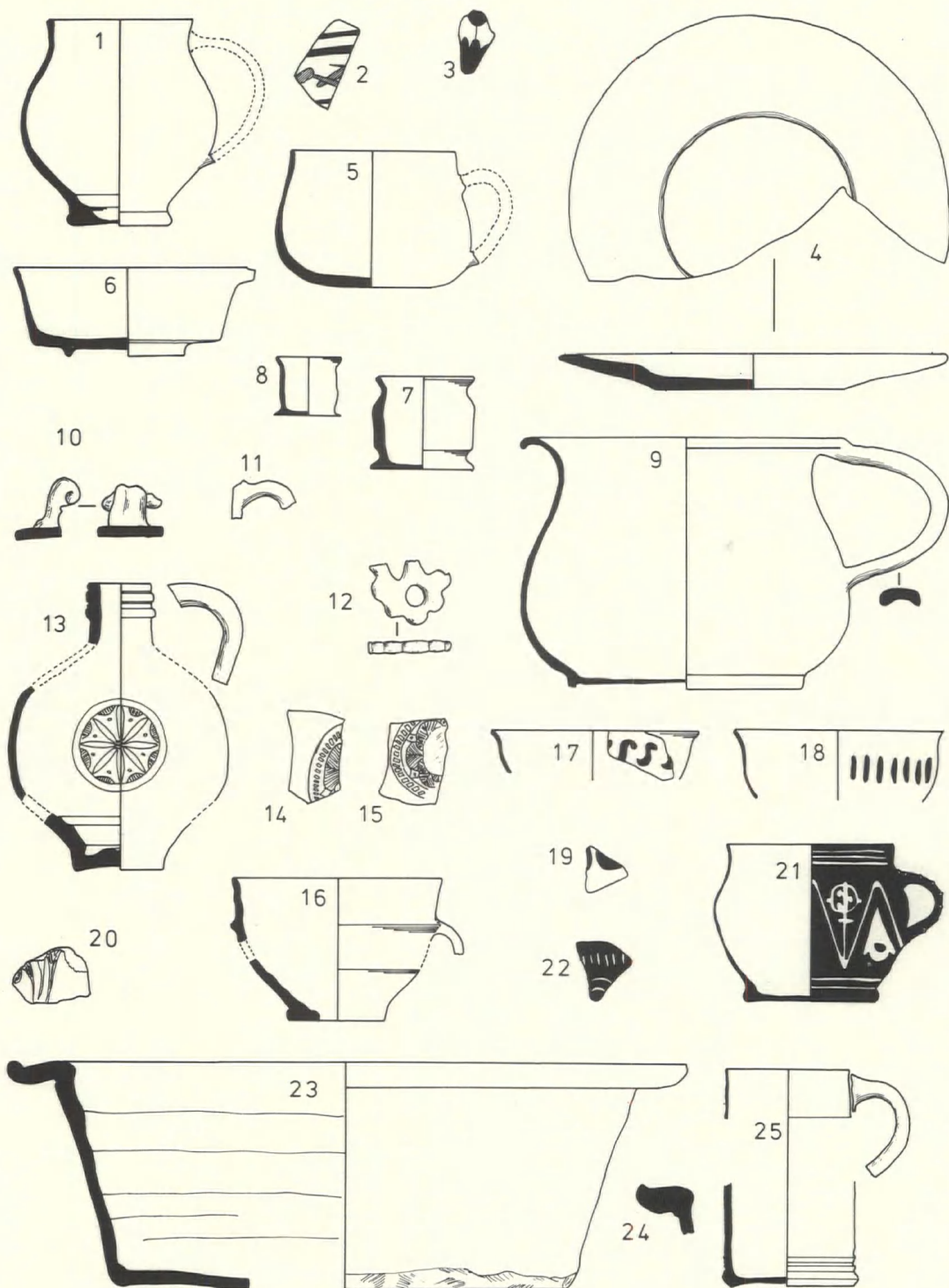


Fig 1 The Pottery from Strixton Manor House. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

manorial earthworks cut across a yard and the south wall of the manor house. In the yard was a rubbish pit approximately circular, of diameter 12ft, and 3ft deep below the modern turf. The finds are of sufficient variety and interest to throw light on the life of a country manor house in the late seventeenth century.

THE FINDS

The rubbish pit yielded a wide variety of debris. From the many building materials recovered it is evident that it was being filled during a time of reconstruction, probably when the Alstons took up residence. The material is catalogued below and an analysis made thereafter.

THE POTTERY

Decorated delft wares, English and/or Dutch.

Fig 1

- 1 Mug with a thick tin glaze, mottled purple with manganese on the outside. Most of the handle is missing but can be reconstructed from known examples.⁷
- 2 Part of a large decorated drug jar (see nos 7, 8, below for the form). The horizontal bands are purple and the lattice motif blue, both being in a delicate pastel shade.
- 3 Fragment with decoration in a dense under-glaze blue.

Plain Delft Wares

- 4 A plate; off-white sandy fabric with a thick tin glaze. Purple tinges around the rim. Slight footing. Two trivet marks surviving.
- 5 Mug or posset glazed inside and out except under the base. A series of ripples on the glaze around the base. Similar to examples from Norfolk House, Lambeth, fig 54, 62A,⁸ late seventeenth century.
- 6 A porringer with scar for a single handle. Very pink glaze on all extremities. Crinkled finish at base. Similar to an example from Basing House, Hants, fig 18, 187,⁹ and Norfolk House (fig 54, no 55.)⁸
- 7 A drug jar glazed inside and out except under the base. Similar to Basing House example (fig 19, 200) attributed to the first half of the seventeenth century.⁹
- 8 Small drug jar, with several pink areas of glaze. String-cut marks on the base. Another similar pot was also recovered. Compare Norfolk House examples, fig 55 nos 83, 84.⁸

- 9 Chamber pot with unglazed base, similar to Norfolk House example, fig 55 no 77.⁸
- 10 Handle from a salt.
- 11 Strap handle.
- 12 Handle of a porringer.

Stonewares. German bellarmine, all mottled brown salt-glaze.

- 13 Near complete bellarmine jar with a rosette medallion; wire marks on the base. Similar to examples from Hangleton, Sussex, dated 1666.¹⁰
- 14 Part of a rosette medallion from a bellarmine.
- 15 Similar to 14. These rosettes are known on the wreck of the *Vegulde Draeck*, which sank in 1656.¹¹

Yellow Wares

- 16 Mug made in a cream fabric with a light yellow-to-green glaze containing light brown patches. Probably a product of the Potterspury or Yardley Gobion kilns, Northants.¹²
- 17 Yellow ware mug or posset with brown iron slip decoration. A product of the Staffordshire kilns.¹³
- 18 Yellow Staffordshire mug, similar to no 17, with a different design. Both nos 17 and 18 may have had two handles.¹³
- 19 Fragment of Staffordshire yellow ware vessel with brown slip decoration.¹³

Slip Decorated Lead-glazed Wares.

- 20 Sherd in a brick-red fabric with a marbled orange and yellow slip. This sherd is of a type recently recognised in Buckinghamshire and Northants by D.C. Mynard.¹⁴
- 21 Mug or posset pot in red fabric with a yellow slip on a brown lead glaze. A Potterspury vessel, examples were found at Bradwell Abbey and Great Linford, Bucks, datable to the third quarter of the seventeenth century.¹⁴ Our vessel would have had two handles. Similar highly decorated vessels were made at Wrotham, Kent, in the seventeenth century.¹⁵
- 22 Mug of red fabric decorated in reverse slip; similar to no 21 with a different decoration.

Coarse Lead-glazed Wares.

- 23 Panchion with dense black iron glaze inside and out. Red fabric.
- 24 Panchion rim of radius 10in; red fabric.
- 25 Mug in red fabric with a typical handle form. Possibly a Potterspury product, but the glaze is rather too brown for the kilns. Similar to Mayes, fig 28, 26,¹² This mug

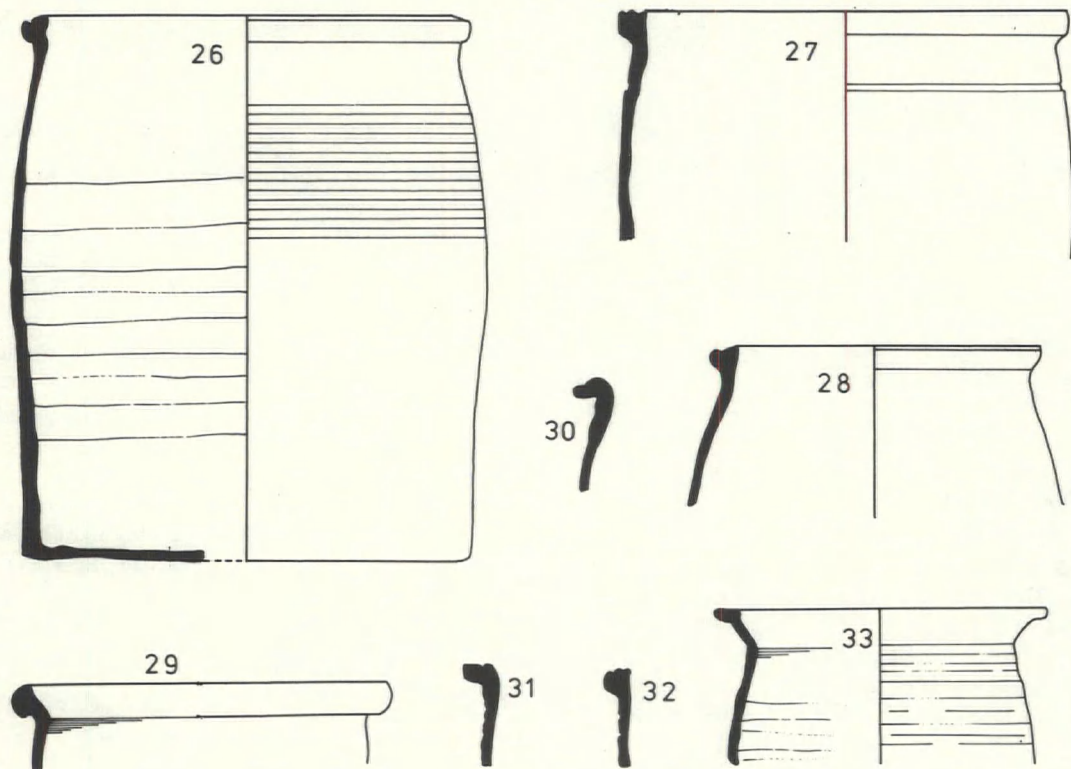


Fig 2 The Pottery from Strixton Manor House. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

should not be confused with similar forms of eighteenth century date from Staffordshire.

26-33 Various forms of hollow wares, densely glazed inside and out; fired very hard to a brick red or grey colour. These vessels are a post-medieval development of Midland purple vessels. Local kilns have been excavated at Potterspury¹⁶ and Paulerspury,¹⁷ in the Cleyley Hundred of Northants, which produced large quantities of these coarse wares. None of the Strixton examples actually correspond in detail to the Potterspury published examples, but there are some close parallels with the Paulerspury group. Compare nos 23 and 24 with Hall, fig 2, 25; 26 and 28 with Hall, fig 3, 62; and no 29 with fig 2, 49.¹⁷

Where there are closely datable parallels it is clear that the above group is late in the seventeenth century. As Hurst has pointed out caution should be exercised when comparing vessels originating from sites far apart;¹⁸ — the general forms of seventeenth century pottery are widely distributed, but de-

tails of form, fabric, glaze and decoration are local. For the above, it is difficult to find many published groups of seventeenth century for comparison. The Basing House etc. parallels are given as general references; the closest parallels are all from sites within a twenty mile radius.

THE SMALL FINDS (Fig 3)

Copper Alloy

- 1 Half a pair of candle snuffers, well-made and delicately decorated.
- 2 A plain ring, — possibly a curtain ring.
- 3 Pin typical of the several hundred found. These were probably used in clothing.
- 4 Tag.

Iron

- 5 Plate with rivets for fixing onto wood or leather.
- 6 Half a pair of scissors.
- 7 Typical nail.
- 8 A fragment of guttering with crenellated edges.

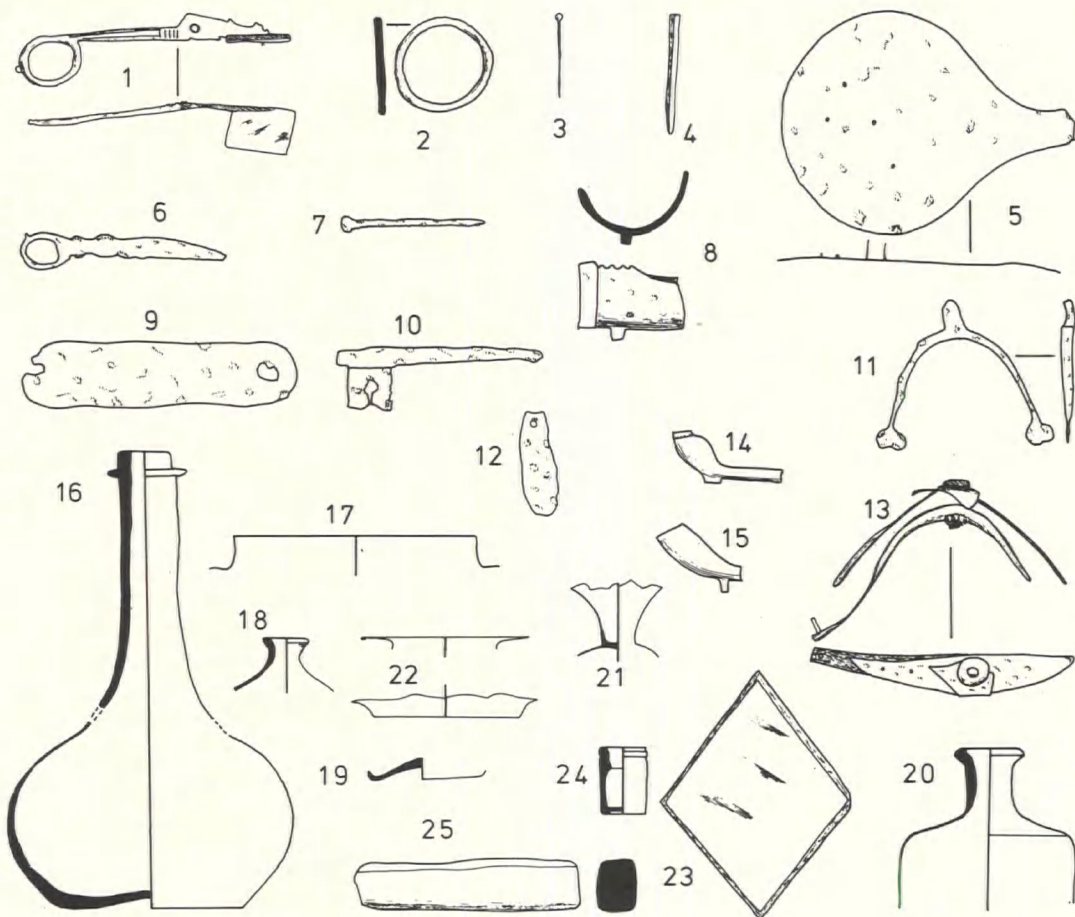


Fig 3 Small finds from Strixton Manor House.(Scale $\frac{1}{3}$).

- 9 Probably a piece of harness.
- 10 A simple key.
- 11 Badly corroded spur.
- 12 Possibly a piece of harness.
- 13 Iron strips held together by a brass screw clasp.

Clay

- 14 Plain clay pipe, typical of about 100 recovered. Probably of local manufacture, there were many pipe kilns in Northampton in the seventeenth century.
- 15 Plain clay pipe, probably of early eighteenth century date. A small object such as this could have fallen into the pit by the action of rabbits or vermin.

Glass

- 16 Wine bottle, dark green with crizzled golden surface.

- 17 Wide necked jar made of very thin clear glass, possibly Venetian.
- 18 Typical bottle top, brown.
- 19 Common bottle base, possibly belonging to no 18.
- 20 Green bottle.
- 21 Very finely made vessel base in a clear metal, probably Venetian.
- 22 Base and rim of a flanged jar in white glass.
- 23 Pane of green window glass. Large quantities were recovered.

Bone

- 24 Finely carved bone pot.

Stone

- 25 Part of a whetstone.

There were large quantities of stone and clay roofing tiles, and plaster and mortar from a demolished building.

Token

A tradesman's token:

o.b. ROBERT ASPRAY, with a pair of scales.

Rev. OF OLNEY 1662, A in the centre.

RM

Coal

Considerable quantities of good quality shiney coal were recovered from the pit.

DISCUSSION

The dating of the finds is clearly the late seventeenth century. The main evidence is the Olney token of 1662, but all the other finds which are datable by parallels point towards a similar period.

Local tradesmen's tokens had quite a wide circulation so it is not surprising to find an Olney token at Strixton. There was direct trade between Wollaston and Olney: in the manor court held at Wollaston in April 1639 George Thompson and a certain Osborne, Olney bakers, were fined for selling bread within the manor precinct.¹⁹

The life style of the manor can be seen to be very prosperous. The building materials suggest a period of active change — possibly the destruction of the north and west wings of the Elizabethan house to make the sunken garden. The moulded plaster and roof tiles suggest a date not before 1500 for these wings.

The abundant finds of good quality coal shows the marfioral lords to be users of this expensive commodity. In the seventeenth century the river Nene had not been opened up for transport beyond Peterborough, and the Strixton coal may have been brought by horse and cart from there or St Neots, which was being supplied with coal in 1625 by water transport up the Ouse.²⁰

Again prosperity is demonstrated by the wide range of pottery. Decorated Delft table wares were in use along with plain and decorated local wares. Wine was imported in jars of Rhenish stonewares as well as in the squat early glass bottles.

Many glass vessels and bottles were in daily use. Most are likely to be of English origin, but some are in clear exceedingly thin metal and are likely to be Venetian, — again pointing to a prosperous household.

The clay pipes are all almost certainly of local manufacture. Similar types can be seen in Bedford and Northampton Museums.

The enormous quantity of meat bones attest to the good quality of eating at the manor. Ox, sheep, pig, rabbit, and fowl were represented.

In summary we see the Alston family living in comfort in a refurbished Manor House newly appointed with formal geometrical gardens and grounds. The village consisted of only two other houses and the church, and was enclosed. The aspect would have been one of large fields dotted with sheep, all set in a vast landscape of neighbouring open fields broken only by distant village house clusters.²¹

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Mr Douglas Austin, Mr W.W.S. Gibbard and the Duchy of Lancaster Estate Office, for permission to survey and excavate Strixton earthworks over the years; and to J.G. Hurst and D.C. Mynard for examining the pottery.

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- 4 Northampton Record Office, Strixton Open Field Map 1583.
- 5 Hall D.N., 'A Thirteenth Century Windmill Site at Strixton Northamptonshire', *Beds. Arch. J.*, 8 (1973) 109.
- 6 Hall D.N., 'Medieval Pottery from the Higham Ferrers Hundred Northamptonshire', *J. Northampton Museums and Art Gall.*, 10 (1974), 38-58.
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- 10 Hurst J.G., in Holden E.W., 'Excavations at the Deserted Medieval Village of Hangleton, Part 1', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, 101 (1963) 139-142; pot no 249.
- 11 Information from J.N. Green.
- 12 Information from D.C. Mynard. Yellow fine wares with greenish glaze, but not in this form, were found by Mayes at Potterspury (see note 16).
- 13 I am grateful to P. Woodfield for confirming the source of these sherds.
- 14 D.C. Mynard, publication forthcoming.
- 15 Ashdown J., *Kent Arch. Rev.*, 14 (1968), 13-17.
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- 17 Hall D.N., 'A Post-Medieval Kiln Site at Paulerspury Northamptonshire', *Milton Keynes J.*, 4 (1974).
- 18 Hurst J.G., *Med. Arch.*, 6-7 (1962-3), 135-149.
- 19 Ellesmere (Brackley) Collection, Northants, Record Office, Microfilm 3b, 6778/14.
- 20 J. Godber, *A History of Bedfordshire*, (1972) 248-9.
- 21 Paper received July 1974

The Products of an Eighteenth Century Bell Foundry at Wootton: a static distribution reviewed

DAVID H. KENNETT

The concerns of the nineteenth century antiquary are rarely those of the archaeologist of the late twentieth century, yet the work of the former is the basic foundation of our study. Their world, both local and national, was very different to our own; and the background of the men whose writings fill the pages of the local transactions of the nineteenth century is certainly not that of the men whose papers have figured in the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* since its inception in 1962. No clergyman has written for these pages, yet the *Associated Architectural Societies Reports and Papers*, in which the nineteenth century Bedfordshire Archaeological Society published its proceedings from 1849 to 1887, is largely, if not exclusively written by the Anglican clergy of the area. It is therefore not surprising that its pages contain much that is on subjects of ecclesiastical interest.

The cleric-antiquary of the nineteenth century very often did an excellent job in preserving information about material which would otherwise have been lost. Rarely, if ever, is it possible to point the accusation that given the particular circumstances of the discovery, and often his own prior lack of any detailed knowledge of the topic he was required to suddenly become expert in, he, the cleric-antiquary, did not do the best for the discoveries being made. When time permitted and thorough research was possible, his monograph on a topic of deep interest to himself is likely not easily to be superseded.

One such clergyman with a wide knowledge of a particular topic was Thomas North, a Leicester man, who wrote a series of books on church bells published between 1876 and 1886: the last, on Hertfordshire, in fact being published posthumously.¹ These neglected works with much detail cover not only the bells extant in the churches at the time of writing but also those which had been replaced by recasting. Such a monumental collection of factual information is valuable for our own day with its very different concerns: ecclesiastical topics when considered at length can assume an economic aspect.

This note seeks to present an economic aspect of the study of church bells: their distribution. Distributional studies as attempted by North and his contemporaries, of whom J.J. Raven of Cambridge² is the most well-known, were limited to listings of individual makers of bells within single counties. Their introductions gave a resume of the work of bell makers found within the county being covered and noted the churches with particular bells by the maker concerned, or considered them to be of general distribution within the county. They gave also, for makers resident in the county being covered, an account of the makers and their foundries, which later work has yet to render incomplete.

Given the completeness of North's summary of the background to the only known Bedfordshire bellmakers of the eighteenth or any other century, this note will give only a brief summary of the two bell founders at Wootton in the eighteenth century.³

The earlier man was Thomas Russell whose bells date from 1715 to his death in 1743. One bell, at Arlesey, was cast by a Henry Russell of Wootton in 1714, and this man may possibly have been his father, to whom he had been apprenticed. Thomas Russell was also a clockmaker: a single hand clock by him is among those in the collection of Bedford Museum. Late in life, Thomas Russell went into partnership with his sons, Thomas Russell of Biddenham and William Russell of Wootton,⁴ but excepting two bells at Bromham cast by Thomas Russell senior and his son, William Russell, in 1739 the agreement was limited to clockmaking. Thomas Russell, junior is recorded in 1747 and William Russell remained a clockmaker at Wootton until his death in 1770.⁵

By that year, another clockmaker, William Emerton, had set up in business in Wootton. Described as a clockmaker at his marriage in 1766, he cast his first bell in 1768 and between then and his death in 1790 he continued to be a bell founder, though clockmaking was his main means of livelihood.⁶ A rather finely engraved dial and the accompanying mechanism by him is also in Bed-

ford Museum.

For distributional studies, the present location of clocks by such men is not an accurate guide to the area which they served. However, both men cast church bells, and using the nineteenth century monographs it is possible to present maps of the distribution of their products, and to gauge the extent of the area within which their clocks originally may have been sold.

Russell, the earlier man, was active for twenty-eight years, during which he cast no fewer than 51 bells, almost two each year. Two complete peals were cast by him: at Biggleswade four bells were cast in 1721 and in the Northamptonshire church of Walgrave, three bells of the complete peal made by Russell in 1723 had survived in 1878. Another bell which had gone when Thomas North made his enquiries, published in 1883, was the tenor bell cast at Eversholt by Russell in 1727. By that year, when he had been established in the craft for over a decade, Russell had cast bells in each of the four counties outside Bedfordshire where his work is known. The extensive Northamptonshire connection began in 1719 at Rothersthorpe and continued for the remainder of his working life. In 1720, he cast bells in three parishes: Crick, Little Houghton and Staverton. In 1733, bells by him were cast at Killingsbury and at Holy Sepulchre, Northampton, where another was made in 1739. In the last year of his life, 1743, a particularly active one, Russell cast at Flore. Other Northamptonshire bells by Russell are at Harpole, two, one of 1725 and the other undated; at Brafield-on-the-Green, of 1732; at Roade, of 1721; and at Whiston, made in 1729.

The Northamptonshire bells cover his entire working life, and whilst in number those in Huntingdonshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire are much fewer: in total only nine, including that in Eaton Socon parish church, their date range spans the last twenty-five years of his working life. Two are early: at Newton Blossomville, Bucks., in 1719 and Great Paxton, Hunts., in 1721. Others followed in 1726 at Ickleford and in 1731 at Pilton, both in Herts., and in 1733 and 1735, respectively at Olney and Tyringham, both in Bucks. His other work in Huntingdonshire began with a bell of 1733 at Keyston and there are bells of 1740 at Eaton Socon and the following year at Brampton. Both in Huntingdonshire and in Buckinghamshire there was direct competition from other founders. At Eaton Socon, another bell was also cast in 1740 but this was made by Joseph Eayre of St Neots: a

foundry established first as a branch of the foundry of Thomas Eayre of Kettering.⁷ In the lifetime of William Emerton, it continued under Robert Taylor, who cast a bell at Cockayne Hatley in 1786. The Buckinghamshire foundry was one at Drayton Parslow, active under Edward Hall between 1726 and 1754.⁸

Despite the extensive Northamptonshire connection, where one-third of his output is recorded, Thomas Russell was a Bedfordshire man and just about half his work is within the county. Excepting the southern parishes and those of the north-west there are few areas without his work.

In the north of the county, some of his earliest bells are found: those of 1716 at Pertenhall, of 1719 at Melchbourne and of 1721 at Renhold. Two of his bells are in Sandy church, of 1723 and 1733, and there is one of the latter year at St Peter's Church, Bedford. Late pieces are the two bells he cast with his son, William, at Bromham in 1739 and that at Blunham of 1741, for which he was paid £12 3s 9d. Apart from the Arlesey bell of 1714 which bears an inscription saying it was cast by Henry Russell of Wootton, but which it has been surmised Thomas Russell may have been partly responsible, the products in east Bedfordshire are few, with the exception of the peal of four at Biggleswade. There is a bell of 1725 at Cockayne Hatley and another of 1740 at Stotfold. There are also scattered instances of his work in the west and the centre of the county. The earliest bells to have an inscription testifying to Thomas Russell's workmanship are two of 1715 at Apsley Guise and Harlington. The last are a whole series of 1743: two at Westoning, one at Barton and in north Bedfordshire one at Thurlough. Between these in the centre of the county are bells by Russell at Eversholt of 1727, at Maulden of 1738 and at Wootton itself of 1736.

William Emerton, his successor a generation later, also cast a bell for his village church, in 1779. He was by then established a decade, but never on so large a scale as his predecessor. He cast in all Twenty-seven bells: just over one per annum in his working life of twenty-two years, 1768-1790. However, there is a gap of some years between the first bell, at Ampthill in 1768, and the next three, all cast in 1774. Likewise no bells were cast in 1777, 1778, 1781, 1784, 1785, 1788 and 1790. Not merely is his output much less than that of his predecessor, barely half as many, but its geographical range is more restricted. Outside of Bedfordshire there are only three bells: at

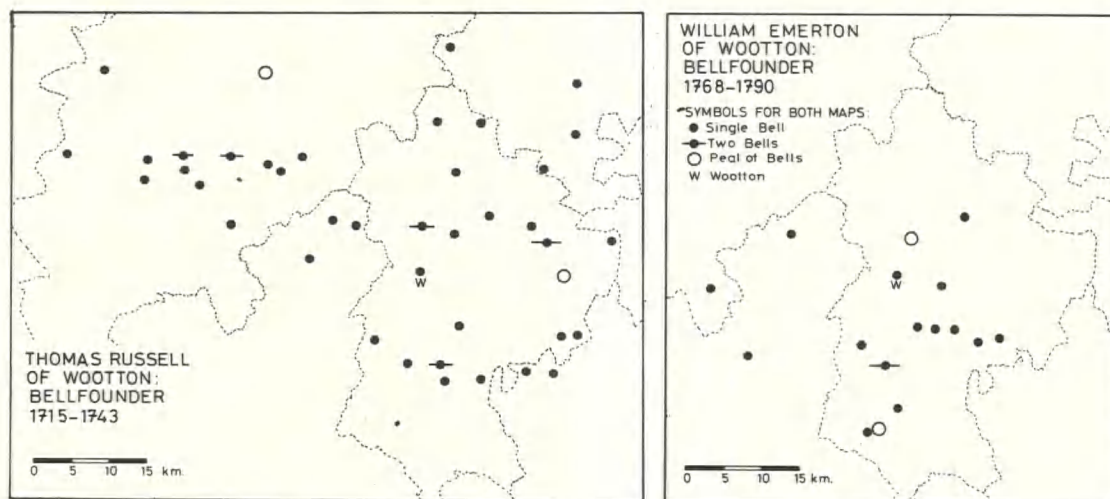


Fig 1 Distribution of bells by the Wootton foundry in the Eighteenth Century. Based on the lists of church bells in the volumes by Thomas North for Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire, of G.A. Cocks for Buckinghamshire, and T.N.M. Owen for Huntingdonshire. County boundaries shown by broken line are those of 1973.

Potterspury, Northants., in 1774, and in two Buckinghamshire villages, Weston Underwood and Whaddon, in 1779 and 1780 respectively. His Bedfordshire range is also more restricted. Apart from the peal of six at Biddenham in 1787, there is a single bell at Renhold, of 1775, from parishes north of Wootton. East Bedfordshire is not represented, but in the south-west of the county, Emerton's products are found at Chalgrave and at Stanbridge, each a single bell of 1775, and at neighbouring Tilsworth, where he cast a peal of five in 1776. The main weight of his products is a belt across the middle of the county. Here Emerton's bells are found in seven parishes. Single examples are known from Meppershall of 1774, from Upper Gravenhurst of 1772, from Clophill of 1774, from Maulden of 1780, from Ampthill of 1768 and from Husbourn Crawley of 1779. Emerton cast two bells at Eversholt, in 1786 and his last bell in 1789. Outside this line there are the bells at Wilhamstead of 1783 and that at Wootton of 1779.

The two men at the Wootton foundry cast less than a hundred bells in two working lives spanning three-quarters of the eighteenth century but with a central gap of twenty-five years. There can be reasonable certainty that the lists made in the nineteenth century are complete and that all the bells either man made have been located. Both distributions are very restricted: neither is found in Cambridgeshire,⁹ and while Russell built up a

fair trade in Northamptonshire his successor did not.

The fact that the distributions are restricted, but because church bells are fairly immobile objects, which once hung are unlikely except for being cracked to be removed, they reflect the original distribution of the objects, these maps do permit so further reflections on the general nature of the distribution of material remains to be made. These comments apply not merely to a late object such as eighteenth century church bells but have a wider temporal significance. Indeed, because the church bells belong to a period when documents are plentiful and because they are of themselves dated, with inscriptions giving the maker's name and the date of manufacture, they have a wider background available than would be the case with an older object. Church bells in Bedfordshire in the eighteenth century were not only cast by the two men at Wootton. The note has cited makers from St Neots and Kettering and the county has also examples of work by men from Leicester and London: the bells of the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Luton, were recast by Pack and Chapman of London in 1775. In a monetary economy, competition is to be expected and this is obviously a restricting factor on the distribution of an object. If the other enterprises were more established and more highly organised this would limit severely the possibilities of expansion by the local man. To study this in depth

would not be difficult: all the counties of the east Midlands have been covered by Thomas North and his contemporaries..

If one limiting factor is imposed by the nature of the economy, several are imposed by the nature of the object, a factor upon which archaeologists should reflect. The church bell is an artefact, and a very large one at that. Their production requires a considerable amount of organisation: either in a local workshop, in this case at Wootton, or at the site of use, the church requiring the bell or bells. Both casting on site and casting away from site by the eighteenth century were almost certainly practised, as in gunfounding, with probably the use of a central workshop more usual than the churchyard, at least for new bells. Against this must be weighed the reuse of old bells, a common practice, and here there may have been greater reliance on the temporary workshop.

Whichever location of manufacturing was employed, the fact remains that in total the numbers of these objects known to have been made by one man is very few. And even given that both men were also, and in one case certainly primarily, clockmakers, so this was not the sole means of livelihood, there remains some disquieting feelings from looking at the distribution maps.

Their very smallness in total numbers. Students of classical bronzes for example might ponder how many statues should be attributed to any one man with a working life of just over a quarter of a century. Both men were also clockmakers, and though no count has been made of this side of their business activities, and perhaps by the nature of the objects none can easily be made, one would reveal the extent of their activities. Because of their very ordinariness, the numbers of clocks — and watches also — attributable to either man would not contain spurious examples, though such a collection is unlikely to be complete. If perhaps, Russell made about as many clocks as he cast bells: given the range of competition within that trade and the potential number of customers at the time, this may not be an inaccurate assumption, there might be some interesting comparisons to be made with earlier periods. The man working alone, or with only minimal assistance in his workshop cannot be thought to have made that many individual pieces. Students of the jewellery of earlier ages, when products were individual rather than mass-produced, may have much to learn from a consideration of the

totality of the products of a village clockmaker. One does wonder how many brooches were made by any of the recognised Anglo-Saxon artificers. In this context it might be useful to examine the records of assaying to discover the volume of products of individual silversmiths.

In the pre-industrial world, products, whether Anglo-Saxon brooches or eighteenth century clocks, whether Roman statues or eighteenth century bells, were individually made. The numbers made by the single worker are likely to be small. On occasions they will be very restricted in their locations. The immobile church bell may also be indicative of one aspect of the migratory world of the eighteenth century. The world before the Industrial Revolution was not static, demography has taught historians that, but it was restricted. The maps do show the limit of one, very specialised but nonetheless necessary, craftsman's influence, the restricted and localised spectrum within which he worked. One man acquired a trade in two counties: his successor had to be content with one. Neither was a man who travelled the world, and their products, few in number, are found in few places.¹⁰

NOTES

- 1 T. North, *The Church Bells of Leicestershire*, 1876; T. North, *The Church Bells of Northamptonshire*, 1878; T. North, *The Church Bells of Rutland*, 1880; T. North, *The Church Bells of the County of Lincoln*, 1882; T. North, *The Church Bells of Bedfordshire*, 1883; T. North, *The Church Bells of Hertfordshire*, 1886; see also G.A. Cocks, *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897; and T.N.M. Owen, *The Church Bells of Huntingdonshire*, 1899 for counties not otherwise cited. The maps, fig 1, have been drawn from the lists in North's volumes and those of Owen and Cocks.
- 2 J.J. Raven, *The Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, 1881.
- 3 North, 1883, 37-39; an earlier account is North, 1878, 108-110.
- 4 Beds. C.R.O. documents AD 2421-2; also will of Thomas Russell, senior, ABP/W 1744-5/44.
- 5 Wootton Parish Register; administration Beds. C. R.O. ABP/A 1771/33.
- 6 Wootton Parish Register; administration Beds. C. R.O. ABP/A 1790/9.
- 7 North, 1878, 47-51 and 107; Owen, 1899, 42-48.
- 8 Cocks, 1897, 220-239, for an account of this foundry, active 1636-1756; it was formerly managed by the Chandler family.
- 9 Neither man is mentioned in Raven, 1881.
- 10 Paper completed 25 May 1975; it represents ideas first considered because of a W.E.A. course given at Wootton in 1972 and checking of North's volumes in that year and in 1975.

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

NOTES

An Iberian Storage Jar from Cople

DAVID H. KENNETT

In the period between 1600 and 1900 there was a considerable and flourishing trade between England and Holland on the one hand and the Iberian Peninsula on the other. This trade is not lacking in documentation and would be worthy of much greater study that currently seems to be available.¹ In particular its artifactual evidence would repay greater comment.

Amongst the artifacts of Iberian origin which have survived in northern Europe are several different types of ceramic, one of which is briefly considered in this note. Another, differently shaped vessel is also known² and an example from Lakenheath, Suffolk, has recently been published.³ These olive jars are contemporary imports from Iberia to a vessel which has long been in Bedford Museum. This storage jar was found a number of years ago at Cople and since its acquisition by Bedford Museum has been in the entrance lobby. The large vessel (fig 1) is of unknown history, though it has all the hallmarks of a genuine import rather than a later copy. It is in an unglazed, pink earthenware fired to a white and pink variegated surface on the outside and a deeper colour inside. It has a wide, open mouth, internally seated for a lid, the diameter at the inside being 19cm, with a maximum rim diameter of 32cm, round the thickened and out-turned rim. The large body has curving but flattened shoulders and below the greatest girth virtually straight sides going down to a flat base. The lower part is a perfect truncated cone. The flat base is 31cm externally; and internally the base has been measured at 24cm. The vessel is 31cm at its greatest girth and 81cm high. On the shoulder and extending to just below the greatest girth are two vestigial handles. Each is above an extremely worn plaque. On these, little of the press mark can be made out. There is certainly a bar with a central hump at the top and remnants of letters below. It would seem that these can be best interpreted as a reversed 'B' on the right, though this could be an 'F' as the lower part is indistinct. It has been drawn as a 'B' but as the figure shows no trace of the vertical remains. The left-hand side of the plaque is totally indistinct except for a small curle in the upper

part towards the outside. It would be unwise to suggest a more exact description of these letters, though 'CB' with each of the letters reversed is possible.

Plaques are a feature of jars of the eighteenth and earlier centuries.⁴ On the basis of the use of the Florentine lily on jars from Hoorn, West Friesland, and Wapping, London, and the use of the arms of the Grand Duke of Tuscany by London oilmen who used these jars as their shop signs, it has been suggested by J.H. Ashdown that some jars are Tuscan in origin.⁵ It is not improbable that Italian finds may bring to light other examples of the type. Other groups have been found in Portugal, and Spain is an equally probable source, especially for early ones.

These vessels, like the Cople example, feature in an important marine painting, the *Old Custom House Quay*, painted by Samuel Scott (1710-1772) and now in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Painted in 1757, which is known also by another version in the Fishmongers Hall, City of London, by the title, the *East India Company Quay*.⁶ The genre, whether English, French or Dutch, does not though seem again to have included these jars among the incidental objects.

It has been observed that these vessels were copied in England by vessels without a plaque beneath the handles and often with a cross scratched on the base. Often made as copies for garden ornaments, a distinguishing feature is a high, rounded rim and sometimes a tall neck. An example with the latter features is in the south porch of Eaton Bray church, now painted red on the upper part and used as an umbrella stand.

As has been said, the early history of the Cople jar is unknown. It may have been a garden jar as with those at Colchester Museum and the Yorkshire Museum, York, but when first shipped to England, it would have been more practical in its contents. Wine, most probably, rather than oil would have been its contents: oil requires glaze to prevent seepage.⁷ Lids are known and particularly when also tied inside a sacking cover, the pot would have been quite stable in the hold of a vessel from Porto or Aviero, Malaga or Sevilla.

That they have been transported accounts for

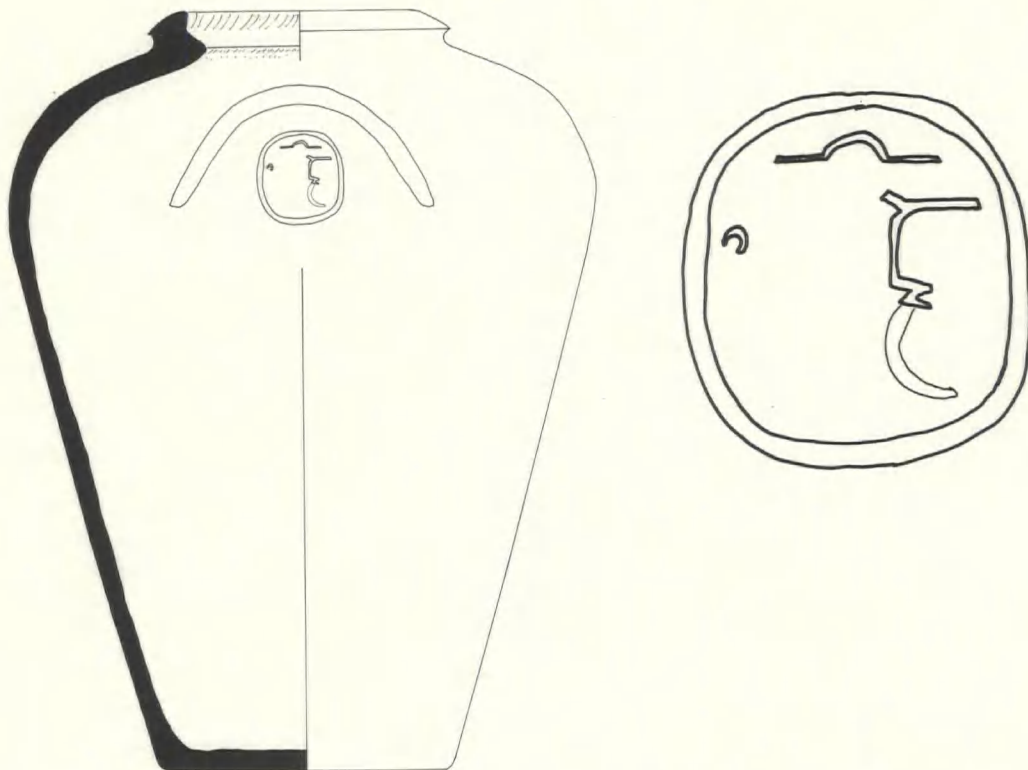


Fig 1 Iberian Storage Jar found at Cople, with details of plaque. (Scales: pot at $\frac{1}{8}$; plaque at $\frac{1}{2}$).

fragments found in wrecks like that from Mewstone Ledge, near Plymouth, and on shorelines as at Wapping and Brentford.

Both England and the Netherlands have extensive finds:⁸ that from Hoorn has been mentioned and others are known in museums at Arnhem, Leeuwarden and Amsterdam. Those in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, include one with vestigial handles over a plaque with a 'CB with an olive tree between' and another with two broad bands set on the body, dividing it into three unequal parts.⁹

The latter is obviously a variant of this type of jar of Mediterranean, and specifically Italian and Iberian origins, of which that from Cople is the more customary form.¹⁰

NOTES

- 1 The principal works in English are J. McLachlan, *Trade and Peace with Old Spain, 1667-1750*, 1940; H.E.S. Fisher, *The Portugal Trade*, 1971; and more generally the essays in W.E. Minchinton (ed), *The Growth of English Overseas Trade in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries*, 1969; archival evidence unused so far by scholars includes the papers of Thomas Robinson, second

Baron Grantham, when Ambassador to Spain, 1770-1779, now in Bedfordshire County Record Office, documents L25 and L30/14.

- 2 J.M. Coggin, 'The Spanish Olive Jar', *Yale Univ. Pub. Anthropol.* 62, 1960; also examples from Bristol, *Med. Arch.* 8, 1964, 211 and fig 72, 95; and Tresco, Isles of Scilly, *Post Med. Arch.* 4, 1970, 23 no 29; for a study of those in collections in Cambridge (England) and Amsterdam see D.H. Kennett, 'Jarros importado desde peninsular Iberica em norte Europas', *Conimbriga* forthcoming.
- 3 D.H. Kennett, 'A Portuguese Jar from Lakenheath', *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Arch.* 33, 1974, 90-93.
- 4 For a general consideration of this type of jar see J.H. Ashdown, 'Mewstone Ledge site: Oil Jars', *Int. J. Naut. Arch.* 1, 1972, 147-153.
- 5 Ashdown, 1972, 151.
- 6 Ashdown, 1972, 149-150 with fig 8 for detail of the cited painting.
- 7 I owe this point to Miss M.D. Craster.
- 8 Further details can be found in Ashdown, 1972.
- 9 I wish to thank Miss Heukensfeldt Jansen for assistance at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. The second of my cited examples is on public exhibition in the gallery devoted to Dutch History.
- 10 Paper completed May 1973. I am grateful to Mr F.W. Kuhlicke, the then Director, for facilities to study this vessel in Bedford Museum, and for permission to publish it.

A Horse-Engine House from Priestley Farm, Flitwick

TERENCE PAUL SMITH

For many centuries horses, together with wind and water, were a principal means of obtaining power, and for some purposes they were used after the invention of the steam-engine and even the internal-combustion engine.¹ The early medieval development of (literally) harnessing this power, together with the development of nailed horse-shoes and of the whipple-tree, had a considerable significance for the growth of agriculture.² The adoption into scientific terminology of the (now superseded) term 'horse-power' was a measure of the horses' importance as a provider of power, as indeed is the (now usually metaphorical) phrase 'harnessing power'. The obvious use of the horse as a power-provider lies in pulling carts and wagons and in drawing ploughs and other implements of the field. A probably later development was the invention of machines — horse-engines — by which rotary power was provided by having the horse walk in a circle, the horse-engine allowing the power to be transmitted to some mechanism. Horse-engines of this type are an important aspect of industrial development. One of their commonest applications in certain areas was for winding men and coal from the coalmines, and in the early seventeenth century the cog-and-run gin was developed for this purpose, followed towards the end of the century by the whim-gin, working on a rather different principle.³ Other horse-engine machines could be used for various crushing or mixing jobs, for example in butter-making, cider-making, brewing, or brickmaking.⁴ A further use of great importance was in working thrashing-machines and similar machines on the farm. The thrashing-machine was perfected, if not invented, by the Scotsman Meickle in the late eighteenth century, the first effective machine being constructed at Kilbogie, Clackmannanshire in 1786; this machine, which involved a revolving drum to separate the grain from the ears, superseded an earlier type using rotating flails.⁵ In some parts its introduction was accompanied by Luddite-like machine-wrecking by men who feared for their livelihoods.⁶ The machines could be used for a variety of thrashing and cutting jobs on the farm, and required care on the part of the boy walking the horse; for if the horse walked too fast 'the

old machine started to revolve like fury. Then there was some swearing', for that could be dangerous for the man feeding the machine. 'If the old horse started a-loitering, on the other hand, . . . the chaff-cutting [or whatever] wouldn't go forward.'⁷ In some areas it was usual for the horse-engine to be housed in an apsidal, polygonal, or square outbuilding to the barn;⁸ but elsewhere this was not the case: Evans describes a typical Suffolk example of a chaff-machine as 'geared to a capstan-like arrangement in the yard outside.'⁹ So far as present research goes, horse-engine houses seem to be commonest in northern England and southern Scotland and in parts of the West Country,¹⁰ suggesting that they may have been provided for climatic reasons, horse-engines being more commonly in the open in the more south-easterly parts of the country.

Thomas Batchelor's 1808-survey of Bedfordshire agriculture includes a section on 'Thrashing-mills', from which it is clear that they existed at Biggleswade, Dunton, Little Staughton, Mogerhanger, Tempsford, Old Warden, Woburn (which had three), and perhaps at Harrold.¹¹ In addition there would have been other horse-engines used for purposes other than thrashing and the like — for example at the numerous brickfields in the county.¹² It will be clear from what has been said that the existence of these machines cannot be taken to imply the existence of buildings to house them. Indeed, Batchelor mentions explicitly that at Little Staughton 'The horses walk in the open air . . .'.¹³ Horse-engine houses, in fact, seem not to have been at all common in the county. Part of a sandstone wall of what *may* have been a horse-engine house at Eggington has been observed. This is now part of a storage-building at the entrance to Claridge's Farm (SP 954251); the upper part of the surviving half of the curved wall is now rebuilt in brick; the example, however, is not certain. The only certain example was that at Priestley Farm, Flitwick (TL 020331). In the early part of 1973 this example was badly damaged by fire, and the writer was invited by K. Fadden of the Ampthill and District Archaeological Society to record the building; a week after the survey was made the building was demolish-

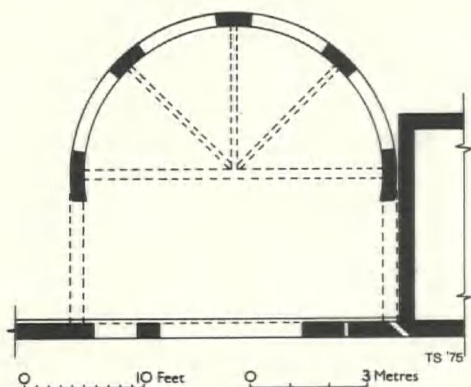


Fig 1 The Horse-Engine House at Priestley Farm, Flitwick

ed.¹⁴ It may have been Bedfordshire's only example.

The horse-engine house was built against the side of a large barn – doubtless a thrashing-barn – and was of the common half-round (apsidal) plan; its external diameter was 8.5m. (28ft).¹⁵ The walling was of coursed dressed ironstone, available locally and much used for both late vernacular and supra-vernacular buildings within the area. In the 'apse' were four large openings of a single square order with sawn limestone slabs for sills, the heads of the openings being formed by the soffit of the curved timber wall-plate. The wall-plate continued beyond the ends of the 'apse', over the two large spaces between 'apse' and barn (fig 1). The top-most courses of the wall had been rebuilt at some time, but in their original form, and the roof had been raised at some time, as was indicated by the scar of a former, and lower, roof against the side of the barn.

By the time of the survey the horse-engine house contained none of its machinery and had been used for storage. The central vertical axle or centre-post would have been carried at its head in the soffit of a horizontal beam running across the top of the structure, the beam-holes for which remained although the beam itself had gone. In order to accommodate these beam-holes in such a way that the beam passed through the centre of the 'apse' the latter was made slightly greater than semi-circular (fig 2). The southern (but not the northern) beam-hole had a timber plate for the beam's end to rest on.

The roof had a tie-beam, not quite centrally placed, with a central king-post with joggle-pieces from which rose raking-struts to the rafters. Subsidiary raking-struts rose from the tie-beam to in-pitch side-purlins. A series of radiating horizontal beams (which functionally were not tie-beams) arranged around the 'apse' (fig 2) also carried subsidiary struts to the purlins. There was a ridge-board running between the centre of the 'apse' and the side-wall of the barn. The roof-covering was of Welsh slate with angle ridge-tiles. The eaves projected markedly – some 23cm (9in).

The barn wall had two large openings – 1.1m (3½ft) and 2.6m (8½ft) wide (fig 1) – through the larger of which the horizontal tumbling-shaft to the thrashing-machine would have passed. Further south was a long vertical slit-opening, its sill having been considerably scored by ropes or chains; the purpose of this opening is not entirely clear. Close to it was a further opening – square, fairly high up in the wall and running into it obliquely; it was partly blocked at the time of the survey.

The horse-engines contained within buildings of this type could be worked by two, four, or even more horses, and that at Old Warden, Beds. could be worked either by two horses or by four oxen.¹⁵ The horses walked round a circular path, led by a boy, and were yoked to horizontal beams radiating from the crown-wheel at the top of the centre-post or from the centre-post itself; these beams were normally strutted.¹⁶ The crown-wheel was toothed and engaged a further cog on the tumbling-beam, which ran above the level of the horses' heads. Occasionally, by way of contrast, the shaft passed under the horse-path, as at Little Staughton, Beds.¹⁷ The daily expenses involved in running a four-horse-engine at the beginning of the nineteenth century are given by Batchelor, his example being one of the engines at Woburn.¹⁸

	s. d.
4 horses, at 2s. 6d.	10. 0.
A lad to drive	9.
3 men to feed (the thrashing-machine) and attend the boys, at 1s. 6d.	4. 6.
2 boys to bring forward the corn, and back the straw, at 6d.	1. 0.
Interest of the expense of the machine, and for repairs £10% on £365	2. 0.
	18. 3.

NOTES

- 1 There are several general accounts of horse-power e.g. K. Hudson, *Industrial Archaeology: an Introduction*, 1963, 88-90; A Raistrick, *Industrial Archaeology: an Historical Survey*, 1973, ed., 93-4 and 111-13.
- 2 Cf. L. White Jr., 'The Expansion of Technology 500-1500', in C.M. Cipolla (ed.), *The Fontana Economic History of Europe: 1, The Middle Ages*, 1972, 151-3.
- 3 A.R. Griffin, *Coalmining*, 1971, 30-32; the coal-mining gins were not normally enclosed in a horse-engine house.
- 4 Raistrick, 1973, 112.
- 5 G.E. Fussell, *The Farmer's Tools*, 1952, 156-62; J.A. Hellen, 'Agricultural Innovation and Detectable Landscape Margins: the Case of Wheelhouses in Northumberland', *Agric. Hist. Review*, 20, 2, 1972, 141.
- 6 G. Ewart Evans, *The Horse in the Furrow*, 1967 ed., 116; cf. N. Harvey, *A History of Farm Buildings in England and Wales*, 1970, 137: 'By the 1820s, mechanical threshing was widespread practice, as the Luddite riots of the labourers whom it deprived of their precious winter work as flailers showed so pathetically,' and 152, n. 61: 'By 1827 attacks on threshing machines were sufficiently common to make necessary an Act imposing a seven years transportation on those who damaged them.'
- 7 Evans, 1967, 27-8, describing a chaffing-machine. T. Batchelor, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Bedford*, 1808, 199 states that the horse-engine at Old Warden worked a machine which could be used for chaffing or for thrashing; one of the machines at Woburn could be used as a grinding- or bolting-mill as well as (primarily) a thrashing-machine (p 203).
- 8 Hellen, 1972, 141; R.W. Brunskill, *Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture*, 1971, 142-9 Evans, 1967, 27.
- 10 K. Hutton, speaking at a conference of the Vernacular Architecture Group, London, 14-15 December 1974; see K. Hutton, 'The Distribution of Wheelhouses in the British Isles', *Agric. Hist. Rev.*, 24, 1976, 30-35; and see F. Atkinson, 'The Horse as a Source of Rotary Power', *Trans. Newcomen Soc.*, 33, 1960, 46. For some northern examples see A. and J.K. Harrison, 'The Horse Wheel in North Yorkshire', *Bull. Cleveland and Teesside Local Hist. Soc.*, 8, 1969, pages unnumbered, reprinted in *Indust. Archaeol.*, 10, 3, August 1973, 247-65; and J.A. Hellen, 'Some Provisional Notes on Wheelhouses and their Distribution in Northumberland', *J. Geog. Soc. Univ. Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, 18, 1970, 19-29; and Hellen, 1972, 140-54.
- 11 Batchelor, 1808, chap 5, section 7, pp 198sqq.
- 12 The inventory of Robert Hill, shoemaker of Claphill, presented to the Archdeacon's Court 13 April, 1619, includes: 'Item His Horse Mill with other small things in the mill house 53s. 4d.', *Beds. Hist. Rec. Soc.*, 20, 1938, 138 (Inventory no 155); a brewery at Luton also had a horse-engine: Sale catalogue of Park Square Brewery, 4 February 1858, Lots 140-151, Bedfordshire County Record Office, document, X95/252.
- 13 Batchelor, 1808, 198. An illustration of such an open-air horse-engine, of the type with crown-wheel just above ground-level and being used to work a thrashing-machine, is reproduced in Harvey, 1970, 121 top.
- 14 Ex. inf. K. Fadden; there is a drawing of the building in [T.R. Key], *Flitwick: a Short History*, 1973, 18.
- 15 Batchelor, 1808, 200.
- 16 Cf. Hellen, 1972, 142.
- 17 Batchelor, 1808, 198.
- 18 Batchelor, 1808, 204.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Bedford Museum and to the Bedfordshire County Council for grants towards the costs of these shorter contributions.

Bedfordshire Archaeology, 1973-1975

Compiled by DAVID H. KENNETT

The summaries below are designed to serve as a guide to current fieldwork, excavations and museum research into the archaeology of Bedfordshire. Important isolated finds and museum acquisitions are also included. The present summaries are material submitted to the compiler by 1 March 1975. The compiler wishes to thank all those who have contributed notes to this section and hopes that future work and finds will be brought to his notice for inclusion in subsequent issues of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY SURVEY

On 21 July 1974, an aerial survey was carried out over approximately 168 square miles of Bedfordshire by Hunting Surveys Limited for the National College of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe.

The main survey was in conventional black and white at a scale of 1:12000, each photograph being overlapped to enable a stereoscope to be used. Simultaneously with this run a considerable part of the area was photographed within selected colour bands, i.e., infra red, red, orange and green. These were at a scale of 1:18000 printed together to facilitate easy cross reference.

The Ampthill Archaeological and Local History Society are very fortunate to be allowed to study these photographs in the laboratory of the College and under the leadership of K.J. Fadden are in the process of recording all crop marks on a card index. The information on this index will eventually be analysed and fed into the Bedfordshire Sites and Monuments Record. It will also form a basis for future field walking by the Society.

The survey is of particular value to archaeology as it was taken at the end of a very dry spell of weather and for the photographic techniques used. The results to date are very encouraging with a number of new sites and many crop marks requiring investigation.

BEDFORD: Newnham Marina TL974494

Work was resumed by Angela Simco for Bedfordshire County Council, Bedford District Council and the Department of the Environment, in May, 1974 on the Romano-British and prehistoric crop-

mark site at Newnham, south-east of Bedford after a break caused by winter flooding.

A yard area was examined to the north of the hypocaust excavated in 1973, and produced evidence of domestic activity of the Roman period. A rubbish pit, 400 by 300cm, produced a considerable quantity of pottery. The presence of an oven was suggested by a feature of clay, 190 by 70cm, with a stoke-hole on the long axis. The whole feature was filled with dark loam containing much ash and charcoal, as was another feature two metres to the east. This latter comprised a depression, 350cm in diameter, and up to 30cm deep; three steep-sided gullies ran into it from the south, and the evidence of burning in them gave them the appearance of stoke-holes. There was another, shallower, gully to the north. The fill of the depression contained pottery, bones and shell from domestic refuse, and a few pieces of light porous slag; there were also several pieces of unworked limestone, but no stone structure remained. A row of four post-pits below the depression, and filled with the same material, may represent a structure associated with it, but may be earlier. The feature is possibly connected with some kind of domestic industry. This yard area also contained several stone-packed post-pits, some of which are aligned, but no building plan has yet been identified. An Early Iron Age and a Belgic ditch are stratified beneath the Roman layers.

An area forty metres to the south-west and fifteen metres square, produced further evidence of the Roman building plan. Well-laid cobbled surfaces were defined by regularly aligned pitched limestone footings, one metre in width and forty centimetres deep. Up to seven rooms were represented, but the limits of the building were not established, and it is possible that some areas of rougher cobble were external surfaces. Two rooms were completely excavated, and were 650 by 250cm and 650 by 650cm. The floor of the largest room, at least 750 by 750cm had been renewed on two occasions, once with a similar cobbled surface, and later with a surface of small pebbles set in a hard mortar matrix.

The function of this range of rooms is not yet certain, though the cobbled floors suggest a

utilitarian emphasis. The thin occupation layer was almost sterile, but a single samian sherd on a related external cobbled surface in the trench now being excavated indicates use in the second century. The floor make-up layers, up to 25cm deep in places, produced no finds as a terminus post quem.

BEDFORD: 10 Midland Road TL049499

Trial rescue excavations by Andrew Cooper in July 1973 on the edge of the forthcoming Harpur Centre area development showed evidence for medieval structures and ample occupation remains including pottery.

BEDFORD: 6-8 Midland Road

Two adjacent trenches were excavated within the 1.5 basement excavation for the Harpur Centre. A medieval occupation layer overlaid various early medieval features: these included traces of timber buildings fronting onto Midland Road, a hearth, several large rubbish pits, three of which were wood-lined at the base and a floor level consisting of compacted layers of wattle and straw. The excavations were directed by Jane Hassall (as 10 Midland Road) for Bedford District Council and Bedfordshire County Council.

BEDFORD: Cauldwell Street TL050493

Excavations in 1973 on the site of St Mary's Rectory showed early medieval rubbish pits cut up to the present street front, like those seen on adjacent sites in earlier years. No Saxon material was recovered. Evelyn Baker for Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment.

BEDFORD: St. John's Street TL051491

Three large areas were stripped on a redevelopment site in the angle of St John's Street and Kingsway, close to the Kings Ditch in the south-west part of the town, by Jane Hassall for Bedford District Council, Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment. Traces of at least two late-Saxon timber buildings were found, following the axis of St John's Street. Medieval features included rubbish pits, many postholes, some lime and iron smelting pits, a small stone-built bread-oven set in a paved hearth pit, and a large circular kiln about 8m in diameter with opposing flue and stoke hole. Pits excavated furthest away from the St John's Street frontage were mostly large rectangular, straight-sided and post-medieval in date.

BEDFORD: Castle TL052497

The examination of an early medieval lime kiln within the outer bailey of Bedford Castle was continued by Jane Hassall for Bedfordshire County Council, the Borough of Bedford and D.O.E. A roughly circular stone built feature formed of solid lime stone blocks and approximately 5 metres in diameter was uncovered. It was some 3 metres deep, curving towards the base which was circular and had a cruciform pattern of gullies, in which a large amount of processed lime was found. There were two small arched air vents opposite one another near the base of the kiln. Its fill consisted of a large number of loose lime stone blocks in the lower part with much domestic debris, indicating that the kiln had been used as a large rubbish pit after it had gone out of use. Pottery finds of St Neots type ware suggest that the kiln was functioning during the life span of the Castle, which was demolished after a siege in 1224.

BOLNHURST

D.H. Kennett and T.P. Smith have continued work on a general survey of the buildings of Bolnhurst, complementing their work on Mavourn Manor (reported *Beds. Arch. J.* 8, 1973, 140). In connection with this D.H. Kennett has prepared a typescript on 'The Francklins and Bolnhurst: the tenurial history of a Bedfordshire estate', which covers the individual tenement histories of the farms now known as Mavourn Farm, Crowhill Farm, Blacklands, and Brook End Farm, together with 'The Old Plough' public house. Copies of this may be consulted at Bedfordshire County Record Office, Bedfordshire County Library Local History Collection, Luton Central Library and Luton Museum. It is hoped to be able to prepare further tenement histories of the buildings of Bolnhurst.

CHURCHES

A number of Bedfordshire Churches have been declared redundant at different dates in the past thirty years. Most recently this has been the case with St Mary's Church, Bedford, the earliest work of which was examined by T.P. Smith in 1970 (see *Beds. Arch. J.* 9, 1974, 95-99). Churches closed much earlier and now ruinous are Segenhoe, in Ridgmont parish, and Clophill Old Church. Both of these have been examined by J.M. Bailey, who has prepared full measured surveys of the plan, the architectural details and also the remaining portion of the roof at Segenhoe church.

FELMERSHAM: Radwell Gravel Pits TL010575

D.N. Hall and J.B. Hutchings have continued examination of the archaeological features present at the Radwell Gravel Pits (first report *Beds. Arch. J.* 8, 1973, 67-92). Continued gravel extraction has revealed two more ring ditches. The first was circular, 34ft diameter, with a ditch 7ft wide and 4ft deep. Just off-centre was a cremation buried in an inverted collared urn with a plough-damaged base. Amongst the bones was a small bronze (toiletry?) article similar to an awl, a few small bone objects, and beads of jet and orange glass with at least two spacers. A date of about 1500BC is suggested.

A large oval 'ring' ditch of axes 84 by 96ft yielded no finds except a posthole 9in diameter containing some cremated bone.

Between the ring ditches was an Early Iron Age hut. The palisade gully, 18in wide and 20in deep, encompassed an arc completing a semicircle of radius 34ft. Along the diameter was a slightly off-centre posthole 14in wide and 16in deep. There were three hearths made of burnt pebbles set in clay. Outside the hut was a rubbish pit which yielded a good group of pottery.

GENERAL SURVEY

Three Survey programmes have been in progress during 1974, apart from routine development control and public queries, in the work of the Conservation Section of the Planning Department, Bedfordshire County Council.

1 Listed buildings parish surveys

These investigations are designed primarily to identify buildings of historical importance with a view to gaining statutory protection. Interior inspections are not always made. Riseley, Stevington, Shillington, Barton, Harrold, Turvey and Carlton have been covered.

2 Historic Towns survey

Annette Edwards has compiled the archaeological, historical, and topographic evidence for Biggleswade, Harrold, Luton, Sandy, Potton, Ampthill, Dunstable, Woburn, Shefford and Leighton Buzzard. This will provide a basis for the assessment of development proposals. Jane Hassall and David Baker have completed a similar survey for Bedford (*Beds. Arch. J.* 9, 1974, 75-94).

3 Rural sites survey

Angela Simco has commenced a pilot survey of sites and earthworks in seven representative parishes, with special reference to destructive agencies beyond planning control. The parishes are Card-

ington, Houghton Conquest, Milton Ernest, Stanbridge, Staploe, Steppingley and Streatley.

GREAT BARFORD

David H. Kennett has continued work on the rural society, as exemplified by Great Barford, 1660-1850. In the course of this an extensive survey of the buildings of the parish is being conducted with particular reference to a correlation between the buildings and two types of muniment, the hearth tax returns of 1671 and the surviving window tax returns for Great Barford in 1750, 1753 and 1758. The results will, it is hoped, be published in a paper on 'Hearth Tax, Window Tax and Extensive Survey', (*Beds. Arch. J.* forthcoming). Other parishes with surviving window tax returns are Keysoe for 1731 and Old Warden for 1770.

HARLINGTON

David H. Kennett has continued work on the buildings of Harlington, and in particular the provision of rural housing in the nineteenth century. The surviving buildings are being related to a sale catalogue of 1867 whose attached map shows all the then extant houses of the parish. This research will be presented in a paper on 'The Provision of Housing in Rural Parishes in the Nineteenth Century'. Evidence from other Bedfordshire parishes, including Eversholt, Great Barford and Thurleigh, will also be used.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD: Grove Priory SP923227

Rescue excavations in advance of sand quarrying were commenced upon the alien cell of Fontevrault, which existed from the mid twelfth century to the early fifteenth century, by Evelyn Baker for Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment.

A full survey of extensive earthworks was carried out by Peter Woodward, and excavations in 1973-74 located two complexes of buildings. One consisted of several periods of stone footings; while these were not identifiable from their plan form, they may represent the main monastic buildings.

The other consisted of barns and outbuildings associated with the Priory. Beneath the medieval occupation, and on top of the natural boulder clay, lay several groups of slots and post holes, and a group of large pits with associated post holes. The latter produced pottery provisionally dated to the mid-late Saxon period.

The barn was at least 34m long and 7m wide, with rubble footings and clay packed post pits set into and along the sides of the walls. There were at least 3 cross walls. The barn was modified twice and was associated with a cobbled yard. Finally, it seems to have been deliberately dismantled.

Other structures in the area included a series of post pits and fragmentary remains of at least two more buildings with sleeper footings of stone and pebble.

LITTLE BARFORD: Rowe's Cottage

J.M. Bailey has made a measured survey of the cottage in which the early eighteenth century Poet Laureate, Nicholas Rowe, is reputed to have been born in 1674. The structure is a surviving portion of an originally more extensive row of sixteenth-century jettied cottages. (*Beds. Arch. J.* forthcoming).

LUTON

In the course of a series of inter-locking research projects on the history of Luton, David H. Kennett has accumulated a considerable amount of information on the documentary history of individual messuages of the old township, basically the seven streets – Manchester Street (formerly Tower Hill), Upper George Street (formerly Dunstable Lane), George Street, Chapel Street (formerly Hog Lane), Castle Street, Church Street and Park Street (formerly Sheep Street) – which were described in 1782 as “a long, dirty market town of one street, meanly built, and forming off like a Roman Y from the Market Place, and then again to the Church north, and by a Pond south to Lord Bute’s house”. Using old photographs, in Luton Museum, the Bedfordshire County Record Office, and elsewhere, it has proved possible to identify many of the buildings of the former township. Their tenorial history has been traced from a variety of documentary sources, principally the admissions register of the Court Book of the Manor of Luton and its sub-manors, 1732-1939 (*Beds. C.R.O.* documents X 312/1-3) which give a detailed record for some ninety-five messuages, c. 1700-1845. This has been related to the Luton tithe surveys of 1842 and 1844, to the former of which a large scale map, showing even the smallest outhouses is appended. Additional documentary evidence has been culled from the wills proved in the Archdeaconry of Bedford, 1750-1857, and these have been calendared for

Luton. Additional calendaring of the wills, concentrating on the period 1670-1749, is in progress partly in an attempt to help collate the Hearth Tax of 1671 to specific buildings. Little work, except that which has incidentally come to light from miscellaneous collections of deeds in the Bedfordshire County Record Office, has so far been done on the period before 1670, and the deeds held by the Borough Secretary’s Office of Luton Borough have yet to be researched. It is hoped that these will provide additional information on the earlier history of the various properties of the town.

These researches have confirmed the veracity of Frederick Davis’ statement in his *History of Luton*, 1855, 137, that “Luton, a little more than half a century ago, was a dirty town, with streets narrow and low, so that there were but few places in which carts could pass each other . . . the houses were generally very low, built with stud walls, and overhanging in front about two feet, many of them thatched”.

It has also been possible to note that between 1800 and 1855 “many of the houses have been taken down, and others new-fronted with bricks, and raised”. It is hoped to present a map showing this phase of the rebuilding of central Luton. Using Thomas Cooney’s map of 1870, the series of photographs taken by Frederick Thurston in 1906, together with more recent photographs and personal observation, it is further hoped to present a series of maps showing the progressive building loss between 1842 and the present day. The 1842 map will be used as a base and five surveys will be presented: 1870, 1906/1914; 1939, 1970 and 1975.

For a much earlier period, information about the location of the sources, particularly the documentary material, is being collated. This is in connection with David H. Kennett’s projected book on *Tudor Luton*, which will cover the period 1475 to 1628/1640, but will have also a number of chapters on the late medieval background. In respect of the last named, a critical look has been taken at the building history of Luton Parish Church, which presents a number of unresolved problems. Using the printed taxation returns for 1297, 1309 and 1332, the effect of the Great European Famine of 1315-17 is being considered and with the aid of what surviving fourteenth century deeds there are the effect of the fire of 1336 and the Plagues of 1348-9 and 1361-2 are also being considered. It would seem probable that it will be possible in



Plate 1 Brick Cistern at Stopsley

due course to show conclusively, rather than as at present tentatively, that the street plan of Luton is the result of the rebuilding of the town after the 1336 fire.

LUTON: Stopsley TL106244

Construction of a car-park for the Stopsley Sports' Centre beside the Butterfield's Green Road during 1973, revealed a subterranean vault measuring some 3m square. Entirely constructed and floored with local hand-made bricks, it was roofed by an elliptical arch vault, 70cm above the floor at the sides and 120cm high at the centre (pl 1). There was a man-hole like opening in the roof about 60cm square, at the eastern end, whilst an opening 90cm wide on the west of the chamber had been bricked-up with more recent, though still hand-made, bricks. At the base of this opening were three timbers, all badly charred, that had supported the more recent blocking work. Half-way along the south side of the room some of the floor bricks had been removed to reveal what seemed to be a water-filled drain or soak away. The room seems to have been a water cistern, and

probably dates from the early nineteenth century. The man-hole like opening would have accommodated pumping machinery, whilst the blocked-up opening either allowed for the entry or overflow of water. It is known that the Manor of Hayes once stood on the site, and was probably replaced by a farmhouse, which was the forerunner to the present Manor Farm which stands a hundred metres to the north.

Since the discovery the vault has been filled with rubble to preserve it, and the hole has now been covered by the tarmac of the car-park.

ODELL: SP956568

Investigation of an extensive and complex spread of cropmark features in the south-western corner of Odell parish began in autumn 1974 in advance of gravel extraction, by Brian Dix for the Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment. The site should be regarded as part of the intensive occupation pattern of the Ouse gravels around the present-day settlements of Carlton, Harrold and Odell and lies close to

where prehistoric and seventh century Anglo-Saxon material has previously been discovered. (*Beds. Arch. J.* 5, 1970, 17-55).

Aerial photography has revealed 'positive' crop-marks of two distinct concentrations of enclosure possibly separated by a trackway or road running north-south. In layout they appear to represent farmstead element of late prehistoric and Romano-British date and initial discoveries over an area of 2.6 ha. confirm this. Whilst some ditches were obviously dug as field boundaries, others were intended to enclose occupation areas and exhibit several phases of re-cutting. The material evidence so far obtained indicates a probably continuous activity from the late Iron Age until at least the early third century AD, with perhaps an intensification in the second century.

A little to the north of the enclosure groups a small Saxon well was excavated. Its bottom lay some 2.10m below the present-day ground surface, at which point a timber framework, just over 1m square, had been constructed around four oak piles which had been driven into the underlying gravel. Upon abandonment all accessible timbers appear to have been removed and the whole deliberately infilled. However, the framework and silting of the lower levels, which would formerly have been under water, survived virtually intact and two phases of construction could be distinguished. Pottery evidence suggests an early/middle Saxon date for the structure and it is hoped to corroborate this with a radiocarbon determination from one of the piles.

Work continues at the site.

OLD WARDEN: Warden Abbey TL121439

Rescue excavations were occasioned by the ground works associated with the restoration of the ruined late-monastic and post-monastic mansion fragment on the site. They were directed by Evelyn Baker for Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment.

The tile mosaic pavement uncovered by Rudd and West in 1962 was re-excavated for further study: it was not possible to locate it within the monastic ground plan, though the limited evidence suggests the area of the crossing and south transept in the fourteenth century extension to the church. Another large area of mosaic tile pavement was found N of the ruin, possibly in a late Abbot's house: this was in much better condition, with slip and glaze largely intact. Tiles include examples with lions heads, parts of garments and background

fillers, all individually shaped: several had graffiti on their sides and backs, both words and symbols. Both pavements, which are provisionally dated by Mrs Elizabeth Eames to the early fourteenth century, have been lifted and given to Bedford Museum on permanent loan by the Southill Estate. Two other small fragments of pavement were found in other groundwork trenches around the building. Other discoveries included medieval and post medieval footings and other features, though the limited scope of these excavations has made it difficult to understand their full significance.

In connection with this work, J.M. Bailey has prepared a full measured survey of the surviving portion of the sixteenth century brick building. The restoration work in 1974 permitted details of the original structure to be revealed by the stripping of plaster and demolition of modern walls has allowed an accurate reconstruction of the original form of the manor house to be made.

ROXTON: TL158535

The last two of five ring ditches at the junction of the Ouse and Ivel were excavated by Alison Taylor and Peter Woodward for Bedfordshire County Council and D.O.E. before destruction by gravel quarrying. Both had been heavily eroded by ploughing and there was no buried ground surface. Both had been cut by the River Ouse. One ring ditch had an external diameter of 28m. The central pit contained an upright Collared Urn with a cremation and a smaller identical vessel lying on its side. Parts of the ditch had been refilled very soon after construction.

The second ring ditch had an external diameter of 30m. The central burial consisted of two conjoining pits filled with top soil containing burnt fragments of a Collared Urn and much cremated bones. The lower half of an inverted urn covered by a crude cairn of stones was found cut into the primary ditch fill. There was a flexed beaker-type burial in a pit just outside the ring ditch and a Roman burial with an iron knife had been laid on the filled in ditch.

Earlier occupation of both sites was represented by post holes sealed beneath the mounds, and large quantities of flint flakes and tools of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age type. Iron Age and Roman ploughing in the field completed the filling of the ring ditches.

WILLINGTON: 'The Docks' TL113502

See above, pp 25-40.

Reviews

Iron Age Communities in Britain by Barry Cunliffe (Routledge Kegan Paul, 1974, £9.50); *The Iron Age in Lowland Britain* By Dennis Harding (Routledge Kegan Paul, 1974, £6.95)

Early in the 1960's our conventional ideas of the development of the British Iron Age, characterised by three major invasions, was drastically challenged by Roy Hodson and others. Since then prehistorians have scarcely dared comment for fear of appearing demode. Ten years later a major English publishing house has presented us, almost simultaneously, with two interpretations of this crucial period of prehistory.

Barry Cunliffe, Professor of Archaeology at Oxford, leads a school of archaeologists who challenge the invasionist theory, whilst Dr Dennis Harding of Durham University, a former pupil of Christopher Hawkes, champions and develops the theories of his former teacher.

Cunliffe's *Iron Age Communities in Britain* ranges over the whole of Britain in considerable detail, looking not only at the history of the period, but its economic and social development too. It is a major achievement to have covered the material so comprehensively and penetratingly. Perhaps Cunliffe's greatest achievement is to bring together so many important illustrations of comparative material, both objects and sites, which are scattered through hundreds of books and journals, and are largely inaccessible to most students outside the major university departments. His addition of the source to the picture is particularly valuable. In a book of this size and scope there is much that one can challenge, but at a time when we urgently needed a consensus of Iron Age material it is better to leave the quibbling to the pedants.

Harding first considers the invasion hypothesis and, like the reviewer, feels that its opponents can best be defeated by their own arguments. How many historically recorded invasions could be detected solely by archaeology? Could we spot the Danelaw division of Bedfordshire on the non-literary evidence? I think not. He also continues to believe in the value of pottery for assessing the date of Iron Age occupation in Britain, and whilst recognising the hazards postulated by Hodson and others, points out that the vast quantity of material found and its regional variations, will probably, with the development of more refined laboratory techniques, eventually lead to more precisely dated

local classifications; something which is not possible with the more popular metal types, which may well have been distributed by way of trade from centralised workshops.

Perhaps Harding's major contribution lies in two particular theories. Firstly he convincingly resurrects the Marnians, first suggested by Hawkes as appearing around 250BC. That date is too late, and Harding would see this appearance around 400BC, represented particularly by angular vases, so similar to the 'vases carenées' found in the Marne. Secondly the problem of the Belgis is reconsidered. Harding takes Caesar literally and allows them to settle primarily south of the Thames. From there they moved north to Hertfordshire, an area responsive to continental influence, and possibly settled three centuries before by the original Marnian immigrants. Such an argument has lots to commend it, and regrettably Harding does not develop it as far as he might. If the inhabitants of Hertfordshire at the time of Caesar had lived in Britain for three hundred years, their architecture would have reflected native British works, not the new continental hillforts with Fecamp defences or the great Belgic oppida. This should give us a clue when searching for the headquarters of the Catuvellauni in Britain. We are not looking for an oppidum of continental type, surrounded by sets of dykes, but a native hillfort of massive construction, possibly founded by the Marnian immigrants around 400BC. Wheathampstead has long been considered unsatisfactory as the Catuvellaunian headquarters. Surely it is time to wipe the slate clean and look again in our area.

In the last part of his book Dr Harding ranges over enclosures and house types, economy, religion and burial, but he is best at home in describing fortifications and warfare. His study of hillforts is provocative and penetrating, and we are left to ponder on their use as military bases from which the warriors sallied forth to fight in the open, leaving the elders and children to line the ramparts; or to consider again Posidonius' comment on the Celtic method of deciding battles by single combat between champions, each cheered on by groups of noisy supporters.

In conclusion Cunliffe treats us to a major survey of the Iron Age communities of Britain in a broad and concise form which will have immediate appeal to all students of general prehistory.

Harding's work is shorter but is more academic and authoritative, and likely to have a deeper and more lasting impact on the serious student of the Iron Age.

JAMES DYER

The Spearheads of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements, by M.J. Swanton, (The Royal Archaeological Institute, 1973, £5.00); *A Corpus of Pagan Anglo-Saxon Spear-Types*, by M.J. Swanton, (British Archaeological Reports, 7, Oxford 1974, £1.10).

Half a hundred years ago, or rather more in fact, a man was given the task of cataloguing a major collection hitherto in private hands. The collection was that of Sir John Evans, the man Edward Thurlow Leeds, and the book that came was *The Archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements*. Michael Swanton has succeeded in an equally difficult task: his *Corpus* shows the magnitude of the problem, some 3000 objects are listed by site and correlated to his type series, with a measured length (taken before the devastating actions of over-conservation) accompanying the notice of museum location and number together with published reference where available. It, the *Corpus*, is the essential foil to the épée of the *Spearheads*. In the volume, by any standards good value at £5.00 for x plus 215pp, with 88 figures, the ideas are well set-out presenting the formal characteristics which distinguish Swanton's various types, thirteen main series by shape with a total of thirty groups sub-divided off within these. There is too a lengthy introduction (pp 1-15) setting the spearhead in context and a summary covering his deductive points. This is followed by a register of associated examples (pp 146-215) with thirty-four figures (figs 55-88) illustrating fifty-four different graves with spearheads, where possible two at least for each group. These will be used not only for the spearheads but this register of weapon graves will find uses in many other studies. That the register does not correlate easily to the figures, though it follows the order of the main text which has copious cross-referencing, is a minor criticism but it does make it difficult to discover from the register which exactly the illustrated groups are. Against the extremely wide knowledge that Swanton has of the literature, both insular and continental, and his display of the personal acquaintance with collections from Lund to St-Germain-en-Laye, like any comment on the over use of "op. cit." rather than the provision of a bibliography or even just a date citing, it pales into insignificance.

What is of no small insignificance is the sheer bulk of Swanton's work, who in the best tradition does his own figures and makes them both visually attractive and archaeologically clear. Among material illustrated in *Spearheads* is the only associated example of his group K2 from Toddington (fig 87 a-d), and associated examples of his group D1 from Luton graves 20 and 32 (fig 65 a-c, d-f). With no significant associations are that of group C1 from Luton grave 6 (fig 9a), one of group C5 from Kempston (fig 16b), another of group E1 from Luton (fig 23c), and one of group E3 from Kempston (fig 27c). Among those representing group F1 is one from Luton (fig 31d) and group F3 is illustrated by one of the Astwick spearheads (fig 34b). Corrugated types include group T2 with one from Kempston (fig 47e) and group K2 with one from Luton (fig 52d). Counties other than Bedfordshire have an equally diverse array of illustration.

The serious student will long have cause to be grateful that the Royal Archaeological Institute undertook the publication of *The Spearheads of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements*. Its importance and its quality may be judged by the comparison with which this review began.

D.H.K.

The Age of Arthur, a history of the British Isles 350 to 650, By John Morris, (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1973, £5.35).

Oed gnodach y guael ar wyneb (y) gwellt
Noc eredic brynar

Europe's oldest language illustrates the initial problem of he who would set the story of the British Isles in the Volkerwanderungszeit in focus and make of it a coherent whole. The sources are so diverse, both in the material remains and in the literary record. They are archaeological and theological, and include myth and history woven in patterns which are not easy to disentangle. It is perhaps small wonder that few men have chosen to do what may be the impossible. It is a task which can only be done in the long years of a lifetime's concentrated scholarship. In a variety of places including *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*, 1, 1962, John Morris had already set out preliminary thoughts on his synthesis, and though these are incorporated in his book, they do not seem to have been revised in the light of more recent work. This is a pity for his dating of Anglo-Saxon grave goods relies on a chronology which is very short, and places all over by the

620s. His point though that the power of old beliefs had begun to die before the cemeteries of the Final Phase (now placed in the late seventh century) is, however, a valid one. He has a go too at the knotty problem of *Biedcanforda* (sub anno 571 in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle). The solution is as in 1962: an invasion from south-west Cambridgeshire, but relying on his evidence, the applied saucer brooches of the 'Kempston type', there are two pairs from Winterbourne Gunner, (Wilts.), published in 1964. Quite apart from the incidence of plain backplates which have lost their ornamented frontplates, the type on its present distribution might just as conceivably have had a Wessex origin. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle is a Wessex document and there are other brooches, cast in one piece such as button brooches and great squareheaded brooches of Leeds' class B6, which have a similar extension. One is less than certain also about an early-sixth-century depopulation being reflected in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. It is an attractive hypothesis, and if the material does admit of such a fine dating, it is one worth pursuing as an idea requiring vindication. Morris floats a number of ideas which are highly personal interpretations and seems to present them as fact, and this is a pity for the book he set out to write will have a wide sale, if only because of its title, concentrating on

... that Arthur of whom modern Welsh fancy raves. Yet he plainly deserves to be remembered in genuine history, rather than in the oblivion of silly fairy tales; for he long preserved his dying country.

William of Malmesbury, a twelfth century monk, wrote those words. From the indignity of all, Hollywood included, Morris does salvage a real character and places him at the centre of his stage: in that he has served his publishers well, although this reviewer, for one, is less than happy with a concept of the period centred on a single man.

Such a concentration does place less emphasis on the central event of the first millennium A.D.: the great folk-wanderings, which give the period its name, the *Volkerwanderungszeit*, a word not adequately translated by 'Migration Period', because that implies a terminal date c 700, and the real end came dramatically on Christmas Day 1066 when, a Viking, Duke William, bastard son of Duke Robert of Normandy, placed upon his head a crown which had been worn by a Wessex man, Alfred, and by a Dane, Cnut, but never by a Briton, Arthur, who harked back to the Roman

time. Morris' concept is Romano-British in its initial standpoint, insular in its objectives, and this gives it a certain unity for there can be no doubt that as presented it is a coherent whole. In what seems a weighty strength might be the volume's greatest weakness that it seems just too coherent. With considerable honesty, Morris presents always the case of the limitations of the evidence, though sometimes this is not as clear as it might be, but it is with the opposite, and profoundly disappointing, sense of being presented with the finite answer to the several possibilities that this reviewer is left.

Commoner was the blood upon the grass

Than the furrow of the plough

So sang the poet whom we have quoted in a language of more infinite beauty than any translation can ever command. "Eredic brynar" is required of us all, because it is only with more study, with greater emphasis on primary publication in all fields — archaeological, historical, theological — that an advance in total knowledge will be possible. Then, and only then, will

Oed gnodach y guart ar wyneb (y) gwellt be possible. That it may be legitimate, or even desirable, is another question.

D.H.K.

The Cambridgeshire Landscape: Cambridgeshire and the Southern Fens, by Christopher Taylor (Hodder and Stoughton, 1973, £3.50).

To most people Cambridgeshire, or more properly the administrative county of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, probably means the University of Cambridge and Ely Cathedral. This is not without some reason, for some of the University and College buildings and the great cathedral of Ely are amongst the finest buildings of Europe; and the rest of the county is at first glance poor by comparison. The geomorphological basis is singularly unpromising. The chalk hills to the south rarely reach the 500ft contour and there is nothing to equal, say, Sharpenhoe Clapper or the downs above Barton-in-the-Clay in Bedfordshire. For the rest, the southern half of the county consists of clay-lands lapping the chalk; and the whole of the northern half is taken up by peat fens and silt fens with only the occasional 'island' (e.g. that of Ely) rising above the general flatness. It is also a predominantly rural county, with only three old-established urban centres: Cambridge, Ely, and Wisbech. 'Chatteris and March,' as Mr Taylor

observes, '... are both relatively new as towns and their growth as urban centres has been late.' (p245) Added to this, as Mr Taylor points out, 'by no stretch of the imagination can [Cambridgeshire] be considered one of the most beautiful counties of England.' (p21)

To conclude from all this that the Cambridgeshire landscape has little to offer would, however, be very wide of the mark. One needs to take seriously Professor Hoskins' remark in the Editor's Introduction to this book: 'There is no part of England, however unpromising it may appear at first sight, that is not full of questions for those who have a sense of the past.' (p19) This general statement is being impressively supported by the individual case-studies in the 'The Making of the English Landscape' series, to which Mr Taylor has already contributed a justifiably well-received volume on Dorset. His Cambridgeshire volume follows the same high standards of research and presentation. In a remarkably short compass (274pp) Mr Taylor uncovers the story of the formation of the county from prehistoric times to the present day. It is a high achievement, one requiring conversation with the documentary and archaeological evidence from all ages, geographical expertise, an appreciation of architectural and building history, and above all that eye for the landscape which enables it to be 'read' fully and accurately. To hold all these strands together without either dropping most of them or tangling all of them is a task of immense difficulty. Yet Mr Taylor has performed that task with apparent (but it must be *only* apparent) effortlessness.

Some will wonder whether a little more space might have been given to the prehistoric period, or at least to the Early Iron Age, for the hill-forts of that period — like the War Ditches near Cherry Hinton or Wandlebury in Stapleford parish — certainly imply a greater degree of (tribal?) organisation in the area than Mr Taylor seems to allow (pp32-4). From a later age there might have been more about farm buildings — the actual barns and other structures connected with the day-to-day running of a farmstead — and perhaps something about toll-houses — like those surviving at Arrington, Chesterton, and Croydon. More space too might have been given, without disproportion, to variations in vernacular building-materials due to location.

But all these are perhaps personal preferences; and certainly a reviewer can do little but praise Mr Taylor's achievement. There are indeed some

contentious matters: Mr Taylor's theory that 'the Saxon settlement consisted mainly of slow infiltration into and between existing Romano-British settlements in most places and was only carried out on a large scale in those marginal areas which had been left largely unoccupied by earlier generations;' (pp53-4) or his view that medieval moated sites were built *only* as status symbols (pp127-8). This is not to say that Mr Taylor's views on these matters are *wrong*, and I am humbly aware that they are areas in which Mr Taylor has made and is making significant original contributions to the dialogue; I wish only to emphasise that the state of research is still one of dialogue. But in any case the general reader is adequately informed that these *are* matters for dispute; and Mr Taylor's own case is always well and convincingly argued.

The whole story which Mr Taylor has to tell is fascinating and never without interest. This reviewer was particularly absorbed by the account of fen drainage; by the refreshingly different account of the growth of *non-university* Cambridge; and by the description of the former port of Reach, where basins may still be seen along the river's edge and where some of the buildings connected with the port may still be recognised. Mistakes in the text seem to be almost non-existent, though Morton's Leam dates from 1482, not 1490 (p189), as Mr Taylor's map (fig 13, p190) in fact correctly shows. The text is easily, but not loosely, written, and is supported by clear maps and excellent photographs.

The book is attractively produced, and its clear print was a joy to at least one myopic reader!

It now remains for Mr Taylor's book to be *used*, for this is certainly not a work to be read *only* in one's armchair. Lecturers and teachers should take their students and pupils over the actual landscapes chosen by Mr Taylor for his detailed examples, and the individual reader should also get out and look at those examples. After that, other landscapes can be looked at and will be seen with greatly enhanced understanding and appreciation. Mr Taylor has provided the best kind of guide and stimulus to such pursuits — better than a whole library of the normal 'tourist's guides' — and if his book is not used in this way that will be due to others' indolence, and no fault of Mr Taylor.

T.P. SMITH

The Northamptonshire Landscape, by John M. Steane, (Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1974, £3.95).

Landscape history is a multi-faceted subject which has attracted historians, geographers and archaeologists and each has a contribution to make to the study of the landscape man has made. In their series of books on 'The Making of the English Landscape', the publishers, Hodder and Stoughton, commissioned a man who came to the county to tackle our northern neighbour, Northamptonshire. Of his pages, Steane devotes pp 25-87 to before 1066, pp 88-183 to the Middle Ages and pp 184-310 to 1500 and beyond. The last named are generally successful though at times there is an unfortunate tendency to cram a little too much into the compass. Future writers for the series might adopt a plan of fewer examples in greater depth to illustrate nineteenth century developments in particular. The Middle Ages are well-served and here the author is able to summarise his own researches on the pottery industry at Lyveden and the forests and to call upon the recent work of specialists in a number of fields, including our contributor Mr Hall, though this reviewer notes a rather restricted range of citations in the sparse footnotes. The earlier part is perhaps of greater interest to many readers of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* and they will be rewarded from the Romano-British section (pp 40-53) but those looking for an authoritative statement on the prehistoric and Saxon archaeology of Northamptonshire may find the treatment superficial with consideration given only to recent discoveries. The Earls Barton barrow of the 'Wessex Culture' gets a full treatment on page 33 but there is no attempt to assess the implications for settlement of the forty or so urns from the Ise valley, which must surely rate as one of the largest concentrations of Bronze Age pottery in England.

For those centuries when England was formed, Steane's work is entirely derivative and his treatment open to question. He begins by accepting Myres' ideas of 'Romano-Saxon pottery' without the caveat that these may prove to be no more than one variety of the quite common late Roman stamped wares. He then goes on to provide a list of cemeteries, uncritically taken from Meaney but that list contains one overstatement. It would be unkind to draw attention to this if it were not

that the site in question is Irchester. There is no evidence for any Saxon burial at the Roman town. There was a point when sorting of the proveniences of the Dryden collection had not finally distinguished the Marston St Lawrence brooches, to which those referred to by E.T. Leeds in his 1912 paper as from Irchester should most properly be ascribed. The mistake and its correction can be traced from Leeds' notes now in the Ashmolean Museum. A Saxon burial at a Roman town needs very careful authentication. The Saxon penetration, Steane surmises points to "an intensive and very early settlement" but how much of the material for Anglo-Saxon Northamptonshire is early. Certainly not Desborough (p 56) where one cemetery is late in the seventh century and that which it replaced on the available evidence — a photograph in Leeds' notes of two brooches and a comment by R.A. Smith on a silver necklet — seems not to be earlier than the second half of the sixth century. If "early" is to be used it should be confined to those items which are *indisputably* fifth-century and for Northamptonshire that is very little: the Great Addington jug urn, but that is a rare type and not diagnostic of continental origins, possibly the Milton Buckelurne and bowl and certainly one cruciform brooch at Nassington. But there is nothing else at Nassington which needs be as early and the five-coil spiral saucer brooch from Duston and the late example of a cruciform brooch of Aberg's group I from Brixworth are surely to be seen as the accoutrements of the earliest graves in their respective, if ill-recorded, cemeteries. A similar confusion over what "early" means is found in using a conflation of "four early names and four pagan cemeteries" (p 58). His list is four names only, and of these only the cemetery at Kettering has fifth-century pots, but seemingly none of the first generation of that century.

Kettering is where the author freely tells us he first stepped out of a train to behold a Northamptonshire spire in 1964 (p 128). To write an account of a county from Stone Age to steelworks in under a decade's acquaintance is a remarkable achievement. The well-produced volume with excellent photographs accompanies an easily-read text. Perhaps we have no right to ask more of an author than that.

D.H.K.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council have available also the following of their publications:

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 8, 1973

- R.K. Hagen: Three Bronze Age Spearheads in Luton Museum.
A.H. Simco: The Iron Age in the Bedford Region.
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Bedfordshire Archaeology: Essays Presented to Frederick William Kuhlicke
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are currently out of print, but when sufficient orders have been received, arrangements will be made to reprint them.

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