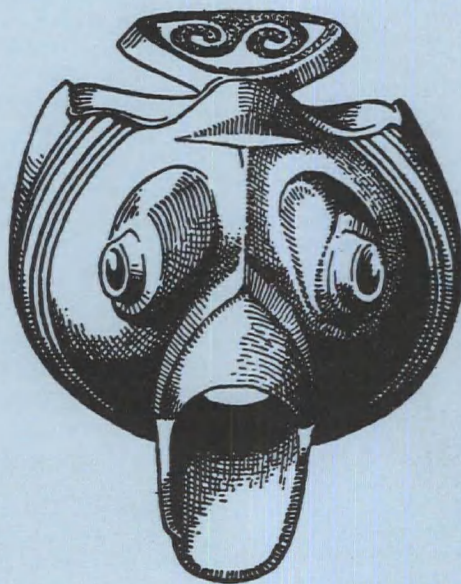


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CONTENTS

Obituary: Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe F.S.A., F.R. Hist. S., F.M.A.	1
Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe: a Bibliography Compiled by David H. Kennett	2
The Bedfordshire Region in the First Millenium B.C. By James Dyer	7
Felmersham and Ostia: A Metalwork Comparison By David H. Kennett	19
The Excavation of a Roman Corn-Drying Oven at Manor Way, Flitwick By Kevan Fadden	23
A Medieval Site at Rook Tree Lane, Stotfold By Angela Simco	35
Farndish in the Counties of Bedford and Northampton or in one of them By D. N. Hall and J.B. Hutchings	43
Cruck-Frame Buildings in Bedfordshire By N.W. Alcock and P.J. Woodward	51
Medieval Pottery and a Possible Kiln Site at Everton By Jane Hassall	69
Notes: Some Bedfordshire Flints By Peter Tilson	76
An Investigation Beneath the Floor of the Church of St. Andrew, Ampthill By Kevan Fadden	77
Work at Newnham Priory By Angela Simco	80
An Unusual Foundation at Ampthill By Kevan Fadden	82
Bedfordshire Archaeology, 1975-1976 Compiled by David H. Kennett	84
Reviews: Bedfordshire County Council, <i>Bedfordshire Historic Buildings: the Heritage and Its Problems</i>	88
M. Aston and T. Rowley, <i>Landscape Archaeology</i> ; C.C. Taylor, <i>Fieldwork in Medieval Archaeology</i>	88

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

The Bedfordshire Region in the First Millenium B.C.

Fig	1	Iron Age pottery cauldron from Willow Way, Legrave	..	..	..	9
	2	The hut circles at Blows Downs, Caddington	..	..	..	10
	3	Pottery from Blows Downs, Caddington	..	..	..	11
	4	Hypothetical boundary of the Catuvallauni	..	..	..	13
	5	The First Millenium B.C. in Bedfordshire	..	..	..	14 and 15

Felmersham and Ostia: A Metalwork Comparison

Plate	1	Bull-head Spout from Ostia and Fish-head Spout from Felmersham	..	20
-------	---	--	----	----

The Excavation of a Roman Corn-Drying Oven at Manor Way, Flitwick

Plate	1	Aerial Photograph of General Area of Manor Way, Flitwick, prior to development	..	..	..	24
	2	Section of double-ditched enclosure on south-west side	..	..	..	26
	3	Central Area of excavation with corn-drying oven partially revealed	..	..	..	30
	4	West side of corn-drying oven showing small stake holes	..	..	..	30
	5	Reconstruction model of corn-drying oven	..	..	..	32
Fig	1	Location of site	..	..	..	23
	2	Plan of ditched enclosure with resistivity survey	..	..	..	25
	3	Sections of ditches	..	..	..	27
	4	Central Area of Enclosure prior to excavation of corn-drying oven	..	..	..	28
	5	Central area of enclosure after excavation of corn-drying oven	..	..	..	29
	6	Section through horizontal flue of corn-drying oven	..	..	..	31
	7	Pottery	..	..	..	32
	8	Small Finds	..	..	..	32

A Medieval Site at Rook Tree Lane, Stotfold

Fig	1	Location of site	..	..	..	..	..	36
	2	Plans and sections	..	..	..	..	..	37
	3	Pottery	..	..	..	..	..	39
	4	Pottery	..	..	..	..	..	40
	5	Small Finds	..	..	..	..	..	41

Farndish in the Counties of Bedford and Northampton or in one of them

Plate	1	Plan and elevation of the manor house erected by Samuel Collins in the mid-1650's	..	..	..	..	..	46
	2	The present manor house at Farndish	..	..	..	..	..	47
Fig	1	Farndish furlong plan	..	..	..	..	..	44
	2	Finds from the Saxon burial at Farndish	..	..	..	..	..	48

Cruck-Frame Buildings in Bedfordshire

Plate 1	Exterior from south of Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine	54
2	Detail of cross-beam of hall crucks, Marston Moretaine	55
3	Detail of external buttress, Marston Moretaine	55
4	Blind Tracery, detail, Marston Moretaine	59
5	Exterior from south-east of Husbourne Crawley, before conversion ..	61
6	Detail of hall cruck truss, Husbourne Crawley	62
7	Detail of 'flying purlins', Husbourne Crawley	63
8	Exterior from north-east after conversion, Husbourne Crawley ..	65
Fig 1	Cruck buildings in Bedfordshire and adjacent counties	52
2	Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine, ground floor plan	53
3	Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine, sections	56
4	Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine, section	57
5	Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine, beam mouldings	57
6	Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine, cruck truss mouldings	58
7	Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine, door head details	60
8	Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine, door head details	60
9	Husbourne Crawley, axonometric record and suggested reconstruction	64
10	Aspley Guise, cruck-frame building	66
11	Clipstone Cottage, Eggington	67

Medieval Pottery and a Possible Kiln Site at Everton

Fig 1	Everton Church End: location maps	71
2	Everton Pottery	73
3	Everton Pottery	74

Some Bedfordshire Flints

Fig 1	Flint Finds from the Ouse Valley	76
-------	--	----

An Investigation Beneath the Floor of the Church of St Andrew, Ampthill

Fig 1	Isometric drawing showing re-use of Romanesque sandstone pillar as base of thirteenth-century pillar in Gothic style in north aisle of Ampthill parish church	77
2	Plan of area exposed; small finds	78

Work at Newnham Priory, Bedford

Fig 1	Location plan and section	81
-------	-----------------------------------	----

An Unusual Foundation at Ampthill

Plate 1	The foundation of ox-bones at No 45, Woburn Road, Ampthill ..	82
Fig 1	Plan of wall foundations	83
2	Bone apple-corer	83

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Obituary

Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S., F.M.A.

Archaeologists and others concerned with the past, and the present and the future of Bedfordshire will long have cause to remember the life and work of Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe who died on 28 January 1976. He was then in his seventy-sixth year. Educated at Rugby and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, he did not remain for sufficient terms beyond matriculation to take a degree. His initial studies were in geology, with a strong interest in zoology. The practical streak in a man who was the second son of Arthur Bagshawe, founder of Bagshawe and Co Ltd, mechanical handling engineers of Dunstable was always strong. In 1920, he joined an expedition to Graham Land in the Falkland Island Dependencies, and remained for two years, enduring a winter with one companion, the two of them living in an upturned boat. From this period came some of his most fruitful scholarship including one of the earliest studies of the habits of that engaging bird, the penguin. From it came also his one full-length book, *Two Men in the Antarctic*, upon which his personal copy bears the date 25 August 1940. Earlier in the same year, on 23 March 1940, the first of two projected children's books, *Pompey was a Penguin*, appeared; the Second World War intervened to prevent the publication of the second, *Wuffy was a Whale*.

Bagshawe was more, however, than a dilettante. His contribution to geographical, and particularly to polar, research was recognised by the Fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society in 1923. His interests here also were recognised by election as a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London and as a Fellow of the Geological Society. The recognition was made more signal by the naming of the "Bagshawe Glacier" in 1958. Upon his return from the Antarctic, he immediately began to take a keen interest in antiquities, an interest recognised by William Austin, Luton's historian, who was especially grateful for his assistance with the recovery of the finds from the Saxon cemetery on Argyle Avenue, Luton. Austin noted:

Mr Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe of Dunstable, an enthusiastic young antiquary, came to my assistance by superintending the excavations

and ensuring the preservation of any articles that might be found.

It was with Bagshawe's 'Notes on the Excavations' that Austin's summary of the site was published. On 12 January 1928 the Society of Antiquaries of London elected Bagshawe to its fellowship, perhaps of all the honours he received that of which he was the most proud. Five years later he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Even before 1928, Bagshawe, with the assistance of James Saunders and William Austin in Luton, and more single-handedly in Dunstable, had taken steps to begin the foundation not of one museum but of two. Dunstable Museum was opened in 1924, Luton Museum in 1927. Of Luton Museum, Bagshawe served first as honorary curator and later as honorary director from 1927 to 1947. To the task of founding a museum he brought an able mind, used to the affairs of business: from 1925 to 1947 he was a director of the family firm. His connections with the business world were deeper: he was a liveryman of the Curriers' Company from 1936 and its Past Master in 1966-67. For almost twenty years, not a continuous period for he served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in the Second World War, he combined business with museum work. He was made an Associate of the Museum's Association in 1933, and became one of the earliest to be elected to the rank of Fellow. As a man who gave his services voluntarily, the recognition is possibly unique.

He was wide-ranging in his interests. Archaeology did not hold for him, as it does for some an enduring fascination. He moved easily into what he saw as social history, particularly on the small-scale and spent much of the latter years of his life, from 1947 onwards collecting material for a work on the folklore of Bedfordshire.

In part of this, he saw social history as British Ethnography. The Royal Anthropological Institute, of which he was a Fellow from 1948 and a Vice-President 1952-55, was encouraged to think about a Museum of English Rural Life. The opening of the Moot Hall at Elstow as a collection of seven-

teenth-century life had his fullest support. He was an honorary advisor from 1952 to 1958 and contributed to its guide.

Although he lived outside the county from 1947, first in Cambridge and then in Sussex, he returned to live in Bedford in 1973.

The county remained his spiritual home. He collected much. The collections of Luton Museum owe much to his assiduous talent for acquisition. Much was given; the Borough of Luton purchased the remainder. But it was more than objects: the finds from Luton's Saxon cemetery, the evidence for rural crafts. There are also the books. More than one paper has been possible because of the books which Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe collected. Books on every conceivable subject, from copies of rare works of foreign scholarship of the nineteenth century on the palaeolithic through a whole

gambade to Victorian reminiscences on the Coaching Age, fill the shelves of Luton Museum and are well-used. But the man collected more than a single library. In latter years he built up a second collection: the Bagshawe Library now in the Local History Collection of Bedfordshire County Library at County Hall.

For these two superb benefactions — their weight can only be measured in the use which is made of them — and equally initially for the bringing into being of Luton Museum, the "man who was lonelier than Adam" who was one of the last of those who tried to do all things rather than concentrate on a narrow spectrum deserves recognition as one who has set in motion the means whereby wide-ranging scholarship might be written.

D.H.K.

Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe: a Bibliography

Compiled by DAVID H. KENNETT

INTRODUCTION

Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe wrote on a wide range of topics, including much that is beyond archaeological interest. However, a man's writings are best listed as a whole. This bibliography attempts to provide as complete a list as possible of the contribution of T.W. Bagshawe to scholarly literature, whatever the field within which the item falls. Thus the geological and natural history interests of the Antarctic years finds a place as readily as items on museums and on Saxon archaeology.

In preparing this bibliography, the compiler has received much help from the staffs of Luton Museum and the Local History Collection of Bedfordshire County Library. To all he extends his warmest thanks for searching out some of the less immediately obvious pieces.

ABBREVIATIONS

Most periodical titles have been given in full: T.W.B. contributed perhaps only once to them. However, some periodicals and all newspapers have been given in the list in summary form.

Ant. J. *Antiquaries Journal* (London, 1920 to date).
Beds.Mag. *Bedfordshire Magazine* (Luton, 1947 to date).

BTS *Bedfordshire Times and Bedfordshire Standard* (Bedford, 1939 to date).
DBG *Dunstable Borough Gazette* (Dunstable, 1865 to date).
J.B.A.A. *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* (London, 1843 to date).
LN *Luton News* (Luton, 1891 to date).
Mus.J. *Museums Journal*, (London, 1901 to date).

1923

'Report of the Expedition to Graham Land', *Geographical Journal* 62, 174-194.

1924

'Dumno's Originals: the identity of the author'.
DBG 27 August, 3 September, 10 September 1924.
 'Dunstable', in *Dunstable: official guide and directory*.

1925

An Early Iron Age Spear found near Dunstable (Dunstable Museum publication).

1926

Dunstable Library and Museum: First Annual Report, 1925-1926.

1927

Dunstable Library and Museum: Second Annual Report, 1926-1927.

'Totternhoe Castle', *J.B.A.A.*, 33, 215-218.

(with A.R. Martin), 'The Dominican Priory of Dunstable, with an account of some recent excavations on the site', *J.B.A.A.*, 33, 321-342; T.W.B. contributed 'Part II: An Account of the Recent Excavations', *ibid.*, 335-342.

Guide to the Priory Church of St Peter, Dunstable,

1928

Dunstable Library and Museum: Third Annual Report, 1927-1928.

What to see in Luton Museum.

(with W. Austin), 'A Saxon Cemetery at Luton, Beds.', *Ant. J.*, 8, 177-192; T.W.B. contributed 'Notes on the Excavations', *ibid.*, 179-192.

'Early Iron Age Objects from Harpenden', *Ant. J.*, 8, 520-522.

1929

Dunstable Library and Museum: Fourth Annual Report, 1928-1929.

1930

Guide to the Priory Church of St Peter, Dunstable (second edition).

Dunstable Library and Museum: Fifth Annual Report 1929-1930.

1931

Dunstable Library and Museum: Sixth Annual Report, 1930-1931.

'A Saxon Burial at [Dallow Road] Luton', *Ant. J.*, 11, 282-284.

1932

Dunstable Library and Museum: Seventh Annual Report, 1931-1932.

'Two Inscribed Stones in St Peter's Church, Dunstable', *Ant. J.*, 12, 175-177.

1933

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1934

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1935

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'Old Oak in Buckingham Gate', *Apollo*, 21, no. 126, 372-373.

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'Straw Marquetry: Part I', *Apollo*, 22, no. 121, 283, 286.

Fourth Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 1935 (Luton Museum).

1936

'Loan Exhibition of Furniture of the Gothic and Early Tudor Periods: Part I', *Apollo*, 23, no. 135, 164-167.

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'Straw Marquetry: Part II', *Apollo*, 23, no. 138, 332-335.

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1937

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Sixth Annual Report for year ended 31 March 1937 (Luton Museum).

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1938

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1939

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Annual Report of the Luton Public Museum for 1938-39.

1940

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1942

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Luton Museum: A Temporary Guide.

1948

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1949

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1950

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'A Plea for a Museum of English Life and Traditions', *The Advancement of Science*, 7, no. 25, 21-24.

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1952

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1953

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1954

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1955

- 'Museum of Costume, Erridge Castle, Tunbridge Wells', *Folklore*, 66, 254-255.
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1961

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The Bedfordshire Region in the First Millenium B.C.

JAMES DYER

In attempting to survey the evidence for the first millenium B.C. in Bedfordshire, one is faced with numerous difficulties. The objects by which we can date the period are limited, and are often old and ill-recorded finds, deposited in the county's museums. Many were found by chance during railway construction or mineral extraction, often in the last century. Excavation has been limited and tends to focus our attention on small areas, rather than present an over-all picture. Aerial photography, though widely used in the county, still largely awaits interpretation, though useful starts have been made on ring ditches in the Ouse valley and in the survey by the Amphill Archaeological Society.¹

Lying on the boundary between eastern and midland England, Bedfordshire can be expected to have received influences from both areas. The more so since in the north our county is cut by a mighty river, the Ouse, connecting the Jurassic Way of central England with the Wash, and affording a navigable routeway to the Continent; whilst in the south the Icknield Way also connects Wessex by way of the Chilterns, to Norfolk and the channel coast. The prehistory of Bedfordshire is the story of the interplay between east and south-west.

If we accept a long chronology, then the first millenium B.C. dawned during a period of prolonged agricultural activity, when the only new inventions were the products of the bronze founders, who copied the occasional new imports from the continent, including rivetted buckets and cauldrons. Whilst only a pottery copy of a cauldron has been found within the county (at Leagrave), the rim of a bronze and iron cauldron was excavated at Letchworth a few years ago. The bronze founders' work is best represented by the hoard of about sixty late bronze age axes found at Wymington in 1860, many of which are now lost, and similar hoards from New Bradwell and Akeley, further west along the Ouse in Buckinghamshire.² Single finds are well represented in the Toddington area, and in eastern Bedfordshire. Such metal work tends to be viewed in isolation, but field walking particularly on the watershed between the Ouse

and the Nene, south of Wymington, shows extensive areas of occupation, without pottery, which may relate to prehistoric settlement contemporary with the bronzes.

Pottery continues in the late Deverel-Rimbury tradition, with barrel urns like those from Toddington and tall situlate vessels from a number of sites throughout the county.³

Intensive field walking in north Bedfordshire has revealed evidence of numerous possible early first millenium sites, but until excavation takes place, positive identification is impossible. In the south the pre-war rescue excavation of a linear ditch and enclosure at Totternhoe provides the best evidence for small farming settlements on the Chiltern scarp. It has been dated to about 700 B.C. on the evidence of a bronze vase-headed pin of late Urnfield type, and high shouldered pottery of hard, flint gritted fabric.⁴ The pin could, however, be a century or more earlier. A jar containing wheat points to some arable farming close by, and this is supported by recent excavations of a neighbouring open settlement with a circular hut (7m in diameter), with drying racks and shallow pits.⁵

Worthington Smith recorded a group of twenty-four hut depressions on the north-facing slope of Blows Downs at Dunstable and observed the destruction of two of them. The hut floors had been cut back into the hillside, to a depth of about 1m on the uphill side, as at Itford Hill in Sussex. A male burial lay on the floor of one of the huts.⁶ A trial excavation of the site by G.C. Dunning in 1929 proved inconclusive.⁷

The apparent open nature of all these sites suggests that arable farming may have been carried out on the chalk uplands, with cattle in the valley bottoms and sheep on the open grassland. At Streatley the first phase of Dray's Ditches consisted of two parallel flat-bottomed ditches some 3m wide and 1m deep, which ran from east to west for at least a kilometre across the Icknield belt, and possibly acted as a ranch boundary, the gap between the ditches providing an access road. One ditch contained a sherd of Deverel-Rimbury pot-

tery. Samples of wheat and barley from the pre-fort phase at Ravensburgh Castle, and the wheat from Totternhoe (above), together with fragments of saddle querns from Puddlehill, all indicate that grain was being produced early in the first millennium B.C. Figures from nearby sites at Ivinghoe Beacon and Pitstone (Bucks) show that 59% and 37% of the stock at those sites were cattle, with 31% and 50% sheep respectively. 7% and 6% pigs indicate the probable presence of woodland close by.

At Cople in the Ouse valley a ring ditch 30m x 27m contained the limestone footings of a rectangular chamber 3.5m wide and at least 4m long, containing the last remnants of a peat-fuelled funeral pyre with cremated human remains. A small barrow was probably piled over the crematorium, and the whole is reminiscent of similar cremation barrows in Friesland, dated to not later than 600 B.C.⁸ Two inhumation burials were added to the barrow later. This might be seen as renewed contact with the southern Netherlands in the first half of the first millennium, and those working on the Ouse ring ditches may well find it profitable to look east for some of their origins.

By about 600 B.C. Ivinghoe Beacon, to the south-west of our county, was defended by an irregular ditch and double wooden palisade. The construction was crude to say the least and suggested to the excavator that it was the work of people not familiar with the local environment. Within the enclosure were small circular and rectangular huts, their floors scattered with pieces of flint-gritted pottery with finger-tip decoration, whilst spindle whorls and loom weights signified the weaving of wool from the sheep.⁹ We have already noted that 90% of the animal bones from the site were cattle or sheep, but only 0.4% were red deer, thus indicating that the community were self-supporting, seldom needing to hunt for food. The small area of the defended hilltop, only 2.2 ha, was determined by the shape of the hill. But why, one may ask, was it necessary to defend it at all? If an enclosure for cattle was needed a wooden stockade would have sufficed; but to dig ditches and erect a double palisade filled with chalk rubble, seems a very determined effort at self-preservation: the setting up of a small 'feudal castle' by an overlord with sufficient power to command the necessary labourers involved in its construction. There is no evidence for large scale movements of people from the Continent at this time, so we should probably see Ivinghoe either

as an expression of the agrandisement of a local chieftain, or the response by the community to localised warfare. But hillforts were a new phenomenon and Ivinghoe is amongst the earliest in Britain. Where did the idea come from? Certainly not from across the North Sea in the Low Countries where the sand dunes of North Holland and Frisia were unsuitable for this kind of construction, and the *terpen* (artificial islands of turves) first built above the flood level of the surrounding water meadows in the 6th century B.C., were not usually defensive. Indeed the total lack of forts in the northern Netherlands is repeated in eastern England where only three forts are known east of Cambridge. Yet the idea hardly came from Wessex where most forts are likely to be later in date. Could it be a native development, perhaps based on information supplied by itinerant metalsmiths who had traded further east on the continent?

The irregularity of the wooden palisade at Ivinghoe is repeated again at Dray's Ditches, Streatley (Phase 2) where more than 100m of palisade holes were excavated in 1972. The double row of posts wandered drunkenly in a roughly east-west direction, clearly no marking-out line having been used. The three massive V-shaped ditches that ran approximately parallel to the stockade were in contrast laid out with care and precision. It was argued in 1961 that Dray's Ditches earthworks, together with similar dykes in the eastern Chilterns formed territorial boundaries of the earliest iron age.¹⁰ The same view still holds good, though there is some conflict in relating the other eastern Chiltern forts to the series, since they appear on present evidence to be too late, unless, as at Ravensburgh it is possible to distinguish a pre-fortification stage in their existence.

The later Bedfordshire forts fall into three distinct groups, which to some extent may reflect the date of their construction perhaps in the fourth century B.C. Along the south are the Icknield Way forts on the chalk, Maiden Bower at Sewell, Sharpenhoe Clapper, Ravensburgh Castle near Hexton, and possibly Waulud's Bank at Legrave (where the neolithic site was refortified in part during the iron age). All these forts fit into the territorial pattern mentioned above and seem to exist quite apart from the great Wessex and Western groups in the rest of Britain. On the greensand of south-west Bedfordshire are the Ouzel forts of Danesborough near Bow Brickhill and the destroyed Craddock's Camp at Heath and

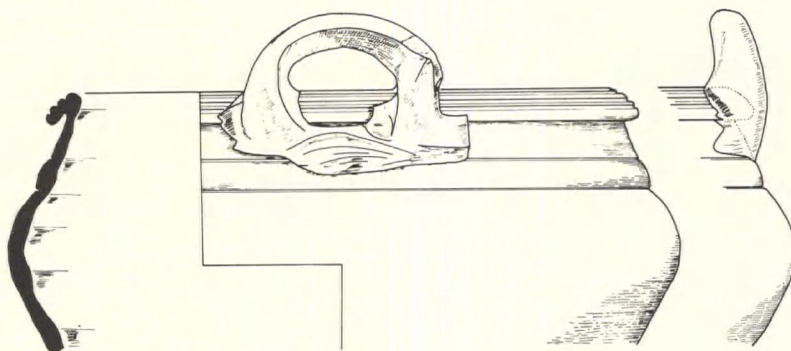


Fig 1 Late Iron Age pottery cauldron from Willow Way, Leagrave. (scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

Reach with perhaps another, also destroyed, at Billington. Strategically placed on the greensand above the Ivel valley are the three Sandy forts, Galley Hill, Caesar's Camp and Sandy Lodge. They can hardly all be contemporaneous and must bear witness to a long period of continuity. On the chalky boulder clay on the western side of the Ivel valley aerial photographs have revealed a probable fort on a spur north-west of Shefford. In complete isolation north of the Ouse, and also on chalky boulder clay is a probable fort underlying the medieval moated site of Mowsbury at Ravensden. The very presence of a moat at Mowsbury suggests that any iron age ditches would have been water-filled for most of the year.

Where the Icknield forts have been excavated they show a remarkably similar picture of development. Often there is evidence of an unditched palisaded enclosure, perhaps as early as 500 B.C. clearly defining an area connected with farming. This was followed about 400 B.C. by the construction of forts with Hollingbury type ramparts (double rows of posts, often laced together for added strength and filled with turf and chalk). Maiden Bower, Ravensburgh Castle and Wilbury Hill (Letchworth) all show the same pattern, and each is fronted by a flat bottomed ditch with almost vertical sides. In each of the excavated sites, with the exception of Ravensburgh, there is clear evidence of destruction and slaughter a little after 400 B.C. At Maiden Bower mutilated burials and slingstones have been found in the bottom of the ditch,¹¹ as well as a man's burial at the gate; at Wilbury Hill the palisade was burnt and a burial thrown into the ditch, and a few miles further east at Arbury Banks (Ashwell) and the War Ditches (Cherry Hinton) the same story of massacre and

burning is repeated with the subsequent abandonment of the fort. I have suggested elsewhere that in considering who caused this havoc along the Icknield Way, we have two obvious choices, either attack from outside the region, or attack from within.¹² If outside, then we should expect to see a clear change in the material culture of the fourth century in the eastern Chilterns.

In the Thames valley and Chilterns angular bowls make a dramatic appearance around 400 B.C. and have been found in excavations at Ravensburgh, Maiden Bower and Puddlehill. Together with La Tène I daggers and brooches Dennis Harding sees the arrival of the angular bowl as evidence of an intrusive population in south-eastern England.¹³ It might be possible to see the sudden spurt of hillfort building around 400 B.C. as a local and hostile response to new arrivals, but the rapid adoption of their new pottery styles suggest that by the time the newcomers had reached the Chilterns their numbers had dwindled and they were allowed to settle peacefully amongst the native population, where the pottery and brooches were produced locally.

A La Tène Ib brooch of insular manufacture has been found at Ravensburgh. At Puddlehill (Houghton Regis) Matthews has shown that pottery of iron age 'B' type makes a sudden appearance after a break of 70 or 80 years¹⁴ — a break which probably begins with the destruction of Maiden Bower, but a break which is too long to suggest that people with a 'B' tradition were responsible: rather that they were moving into an area apparently abandoned and ready for recolonisation.

The alternative is to look for the cause of the massacres within the region. Only at Ravensburgh has excavation failed to find evidence of slaughter

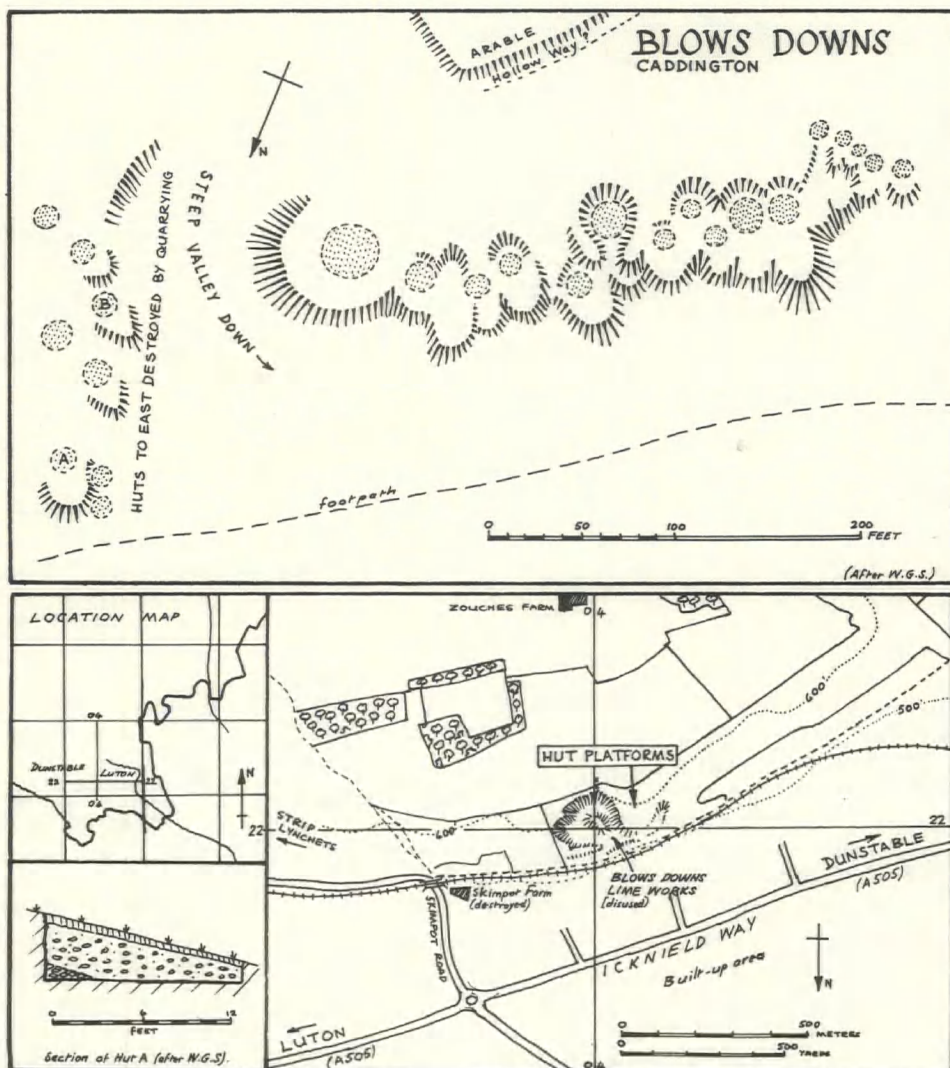


Fig 2 The location and plans of the hut circles at Blows Downs, Caddington.

and burning. Indeed the ditches seem to have been cleared out about 350 B.C. and the whole site given a face lift, with some renewed timber lacing on the western side. Ravensburgh is the largest and strongest fort in eastern England, and it is possible that at this time it was exerting its strength to gain control of all the Icknield forts in the eastern Chilterns. Assuming this bid for power took place around 380 B.C., it is possible for the makers of iron age 'B' pottery to appear in the west of our region around 300 B.C. By that time Ravensburgh, too, had ceased to function as a defensive centre, and we may assume that open village and farm life was dominant once again. There is some

evidence to suggest that the Ravensburgh folk confined their attentions to the eastern Chilterns, and having removed any possible danger from Maiden Bower on their western flank, chose to remain east of the still effective Dray's Ditches.

Little can be said of the Ouzel forts. Craddocks has been destroyed to make a golf course, but its description 'like Maiden Bower' suggests a univallate plateau fort offering a corral for cattle, whilst Danesborough though unexcavated, is small and compact with massive univallate earthworks, and an extensive system of ranch boundaries (largely unmapped and recently and wantonly destroyed to make another golf course) that must

again indicate stock rearing and collection. Both forts are high on the greensand, and overlook the Ouzel valley with its lush watermeadows, and the Great Ouse beyond: an area totally lacking in forts for some 30 km until Rainsborough and Hunsbury are reached on the Jurassic ridge to the west. This void of forts spreads north and east of the greensand to the East Anglian coast, and must represent a thinly populated territory whose way of life had no use for hilltop fortifications. One assumes that arable farming may have predominated amidst the forest land. Forts were useful places for securing large herds of cattle. Without cattle forts were not required.

Similarly the Ivel forts dominate the end of the lower greensand ridge and are the last before the Ivel and Ouse reach the sea. Equally they are the first for continental traffic passing up river to the Chilterns and the Icknield Way. Without excavation their priority is uncertain, but Caesar's Camp with its contour fortification looks early, and Galley Hill late, even contemporary with Roman settlement in the area. The unfinished Sandy Lodge fort could fit anywhere in the sequence, but is typologically early. Chance finds suggest that all were in use, even if only temporarily, in the late iron age, and this is likely to be true, also, of the probable fort discovered by aerial photography at Shefford, close to the princely burial vaults at Stanfordsbury.

One may ponder on the closeness of the three Sandy hillforts to one another, each overlooking the luxuriant Ivel pastures. Did they represent successive market centres or religious foci? The large number of late iron age coins from Sandy suggests either considerable trade or votive offerings.

Iron age pottery in our area has been recently reviewed by Simco, Harding, Cunliffe and Hawkes¹⁵ and a pattern is now beginning to emerge. The large situlate jars of the late bronze age had evolved by the sixth century B.C. into large, wide shouldered jars with rounded profiles, often with finger tip decoration on the rim. The clay tended to be coarse and flint gritted. Examples are found throughout the county, noticeably at Kempston, Sandy and Puddlehill. Similar situlate pots continue into the fifth century, together with new 'flower pot' shapes, but sand tempered fabrics begin to replace the shell gritting. On the chalk of the south hand-made carinated bowls appear, becoming more angular and often with pedestal bases by 400 B.C. The quality of these bowls

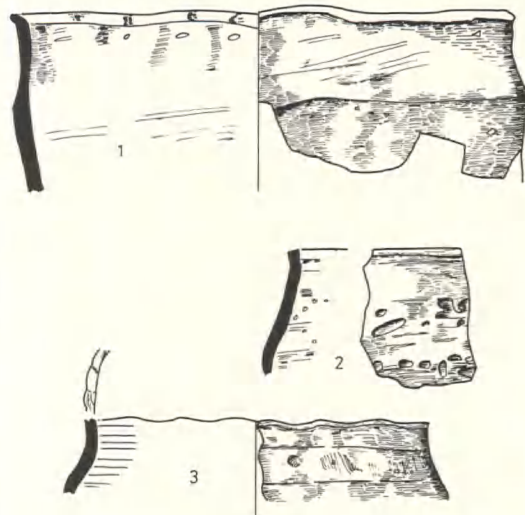


Fig 3 Pottery from the hut circles at Blows Downs, Caddington. (scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

also improves. They tend to be orange, grey or black in colour, are frequently burnished and have incised geometric decoration, which sometimes includes a white paste inlay.

Early in the fourth century B.C. the angular bowls in Bedfordshire suddenly cease, but the less exotic domestic wares continue, their smooth sandy fabric taking on a squat shape, sometimes with a bead rim. The better pots are burnished and decorated with spirals, the poorer have random or vertical striations like those from Eggington. One group emerges with thick vertical handles on the body of the pots. These barrel-shaped vessels occur widely over the counties of Leicester, Northampton, Bedford and Cambridge, and continue for the next century, during which time more emphasis is placed on burnished wares and various late La Tène traits are copied, particularly cordons and simple pedestal bases.

The main stimulus for trade in the middle iron age must have been surplus agricultural produce, both grain and animals. Such a surplus made it possible to employ the artisans occupied in all branches of metal working, carpentry, pottery making, and so on. During this period there is evidence from all over southern Britain that sheep were replacing cattle as the dominant animals,¹⁶ possibly due to the massive forest clearance caused by hillfort building, which led to the formation of much new arable and pasture

land more suited to sheep than oxen, the latter being essentially woodland browsing animals. More sheep meant wool for clothing, and loom weights and weaving combs from Bedfordshire support this: both occurred in Hut 10 at Puddlehill. On the same chalk-hill site at this time sheep outnumbered cattle by three to one.

The picture may have been different in the Ouse valley where watermeadows were better suited to cattle. Aerial photographs show a wealth of farmstead sites which may be datable to this period, including one at Bromham with the familiar Little Woodbury style 'antennae' at its entrance.

With the opening up of the countryside we might expect the appearance of the typical small square Celtic fields. None are known for certain in the Chilterns nor are any recorded in East Anglia. One gets the impression that Celtic fields did not exist in eastern England, though I have not made an exhaustive study of aerial photographs which may reveal such features in the river valleys. I have already suggested that one reason for hillforts was to provide cattle corral facilities, and that lack of forts in eastern England might mean lack of cattle. There can be little doubt that on the chalk hills of the eastern Chilterns and in Cambridgeshire strip-lynchets, usually considered to be of Anglo-Saxon date or later, were already being worked in the middle iron age, if not earlier. The best evidence for date comes from Ravensburgh Castle where lynchets occur on all the steep slopes around the fort (2km from the nearest Saxon village) and stop abruptly on either side of an iron age trackway that runs from the south-eastern entrance of the fort to the Burwell spring in the valley below. Flat plateau land outside the northern entrance to the fort may have been used as pasture. Excavation evidence would suggest a late date in the iron age for the Ravensburgh fields. Other lynchets associated with iron age occupation in some form or other occur at Knocking Hoe and Deacon Hill near Pegsdon,¹⁷ and at Bradgers Hill, Luton (probably the longest series in Britain, and unscheduled). Back in 1923 Sir Cyril Fox was writing:

that terrace cultivation is in some districts older than the Anglo-Saxon period is probable; the cultivation of our chalk downland doubtless commenced in the bronze age; and such a system as that at Cople Hill (Ickleton, Cambs) seems to require an antiquity greater than an Anglo-Saxon origin can give.¹⁸

Salt was an important commodity, particularly for the preservation of meat, and supplies from

the Red Hills of East Anglia probably reached our region via the Icknield Way (and perhaps its branch, the Salt Way?). Metal working, especially iron, was a cottage industry practised all over the county, but particularly in the north on the jurassic limestone, where field walking has revealed numerous hearths and slag deposits.¹⁹ Actual iron objects are less common, possibly since many were melted down and reused, but a variety of tools like hoes and wood-saws are known from Bedfordshire.

For the greater part of the iron age the local population lived either on farms or in small nucleated hamlets, supported by an agricultural economy. Excavated evidence for such settlement of the middle iron age in Bedfordshire is limited to two sites, at Harrold and Houghton Regis. However, this does allow us to recognise that the riverine and chalk-hill models are both very similar. Sadly the records from Harrold are far from satisfactory, due to the death of the excavator before the completion of his work.

At that site there seems to have been a small hamlet of wattle and daub huts with cobbled floors, situated on a gravel hill, a kilometre north of the Ouse. Coarse gritted pots, some decorated with twig-brush lines, and others with lugs for suspension above the fire, were found close to a circular clay oven. Weaving and leather-working were practised. Near the hut was a large winnowing hollow and grain storage pits, as well as rotary querns for grinding the grain. Amongst animals cattle, sheep and pigs are reported, together with horse and dog: specific numbers are not known. Shallow ditches divided the hamlet and surrounding fields, but details of dating and plans are not available.²⁰

By far the most extensively examined hamlet complex has been excavated on Puddlehill north-west of Houghton Regis. From the late bronze age through to Roman times the hilltop witnessed almost continuous occupation.²¹ Briefly, the earliest iron age structure (c 600–500 B.C.) included a circular hut about 9m in diameter containing a shallow storage pit and a domed clay oven. Nearby were two rectangular barns or granaries. None of these seem to have been enclosed in any way. Later a crude circular shelter or working hollow was set up. A storage pit of about the same date had been filled with rubbish including a horse's skull and the skeleton of a girl, a feature of possible ritual importance.²² Between 500 and 400 B.C. the character of the site changed and three penannular wooden enclosures were con-

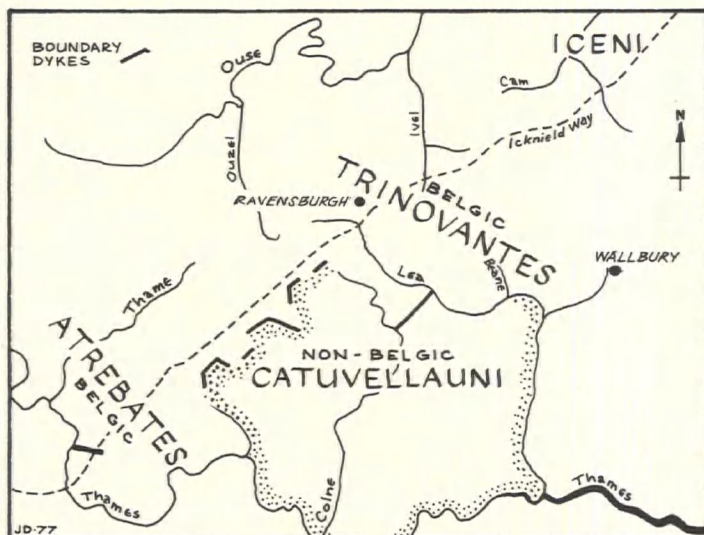


Fig 4 Hypothetical boundary of the Catuvellauni, based on the earliest coin evidence and Chiltern Grim's Ditch.

structed measuring $11\frac{1}{2}m$, $9\frac{3}{4}m$ and $4\frac{3}{4}m$ across respectively. Footing trenches held a circle of massive timbers, broken by remarkably wide entrances of $5\frac{1}{2}m$, $4\frac{1}{2}m$ and $3m$. Internal features were few and make their interpretation as huts extremely unlikely. The massive nature of the woodwork and wide entrances surely indicates that these structures were used for cattle penning and selection, with a hearth for branding. Two post holes inside one of the enclosures would have carried heavy gates for diverting cattle to left or right. There is no proof that all three enclosures were absolutely contemporary.

There is a break of nearly a century in the Puddlehill story here, but when occupation begins again around 300 B.C. there has been a complete change in priorities. Gone are the cattle corrals and in their place a rectangular enclosure some $83m$ by $49m$ surrounds ten grain storage pits. Cereal production has taken over, and cattle are probably of secondary importance, although they still play a viable part in the economy. Soon three small and not very substantial huts were constructed, surrounded by a continuous ditch — a useful feature for keeping children and young animals close to home, without obscuring the view with a fence, and perhaps also suggesting a shortage of suitable timber close at hand. Large rounded jars, often burnished were being used in the houses as well as rotary querns for grinding corn and ovens for cooking it.

A further continuous sub-rectangular ditch was dug during the late second century with four large grain storage pits huddled in the centre, with room

for huts beside them, though no traces of such had survived.

By 100 B.C. Puddlehill had returned to cattle husbandry. A final rectangular enclosure was dug on top of the hill, its entrance again narrowed by a line of posts which restricted the entry or exit of cattle along a path about a metre wide (the excavator's $46cm$ does not allow for natural weathering of the ditch sides). An almost identical restricting gate for cattle was found at Totterhoe²³ and the feature is common at Fengate near Peterborough.

An outstanding problem for most of the iron age is the apparent lack of burials that have been found, in complete contrast to the preceding bronze age. It is generally assumed that bodies were cremated and their ashes scattered. The 'crematorium' at Cople supports this theory, but few similar sites have been found in Britain. Numerous fragments of unburnt human bones found scattered within hillforts and on settlement sites suggest a scant respect for the dead, even cannibalism, but it may give a clue to the method of disposal. Ever since excavations at Little Woodbury first revealed small four-post structures, these have usually been interpreted as granaries. There are anthropological parallels to suggest that these were in fact platforms on which the dead were exposed, until they decomposed and fell to the ground to be scattered by the dogs. Here the dead observed the living and their familiarity gave rise to the apparent lack of respect when they eventually disintegrated and completed their journey

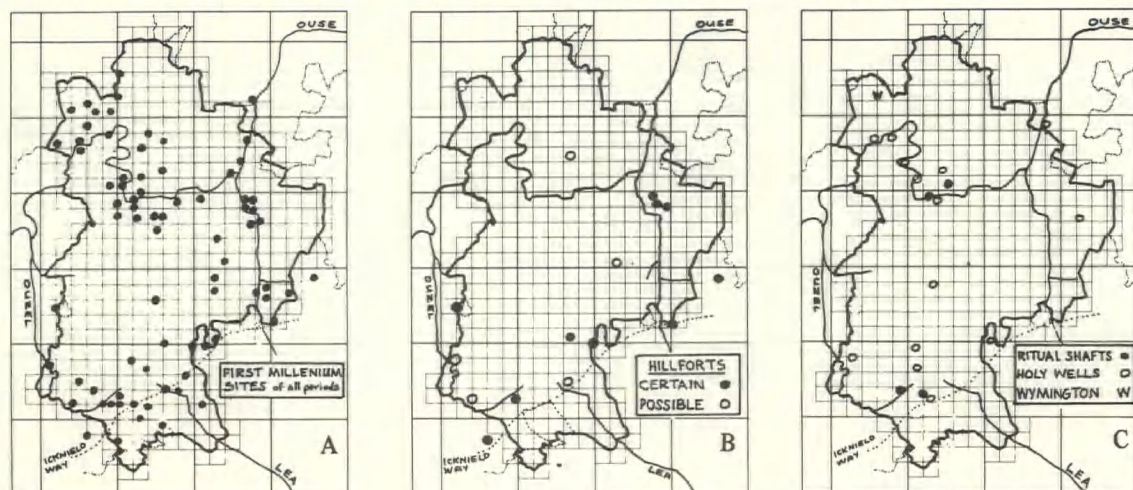


Fig 5 The First Millenium B.C. in Bedfordshire.

- A The distribution of first millenium B.C. sites of all periods.
- B Hillforts in Bedfordshire.
- C Ritual shafts, holy wells, and other sacred sites.

to the next world. There are exceptions of course – the flexed burial with pots from Eggington,²⁴ and the crouched burials from Harrold.²⁵ This latter is not a normal burial method of the Celtic world, but is characteristic of the Arras culture of east Yorkshire. The unaccompanied extended burials already noted at Cople must also be recalled.

At Maiden Bower the mass burial of some fifty people at the southern gate, commemorated above by a cist containing leg bones, has recently been reviewed by Christopher Hawkes²⁶ and can be seen as one of the series of massacres of about 400 B.C.

A little before 100 B.C. the first Belgic immigrants from the Somme were reaching Britain by way of the Thames mouth and Essex estuaries. In the eastern Chilterns and south Bedfordshire the native iron age population were already unified as a tribal group, perhaps as a result of the Ravensburgh take-over of the fourth century.

The initial Belgic immigrants seem to have had little effect on Bedfordshire, but the distribution of the later Gallo-Belgic A coins, shows a distinct enclave of secondary settlement in north-western Hertfordshire, western Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, lying west of the Ravensburgh 'alliance'.²⁷ These gold coins remained in circulation in the area until about 70 B.C., by which time they had become clipped and worn. Pottery of Ann Birchall's earliest Belgic coarse-ware is found

in the same area with examples from Puddlehill and Harrold amongst others. In the areas of primary Belgic settlement in Kent hillforts adopted the wide flat-bottomed ditches of Fecamp type, and it has been suggested that these can be recognised in Essex at Pitchbury and Witham. The writer has long described the broad, flat ditch at the unfinished Sharpenhoe hillfort in south-east Bedfordshire as of Fecamp type, and perhaps this suggestion should now be recognised.²⁸

From about 70 B.C. a wide arc of Gallo-Belgic E coins runs across Bedfordshire, extending from Essex to south Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, which suggests that a unity may have developed along the Icknield Way, perhaps allowing for trading between neighbouring tribal groups and presumably indicating that the Icknield Belt had to some extent accepted the Belgic way of life. Could these tribes in the Icknield arc be the tribes who surrendered to Caesar?²⁹ We know their names but not their location. Only to the south of our county in Herts and southern Essex are Belgic coins lacking. Here was the territory of the native Catuvellauni who resisted all things Belgic, and were to remain at loggerheads with the strongest tribe in south-east Britain, the powerful Belgic Trinovantes, for a number of decades to come.

It is hard to tell from the coins whether our southern Bedfordshire hillforts lay within the territory of the Catuvellauni or that of the

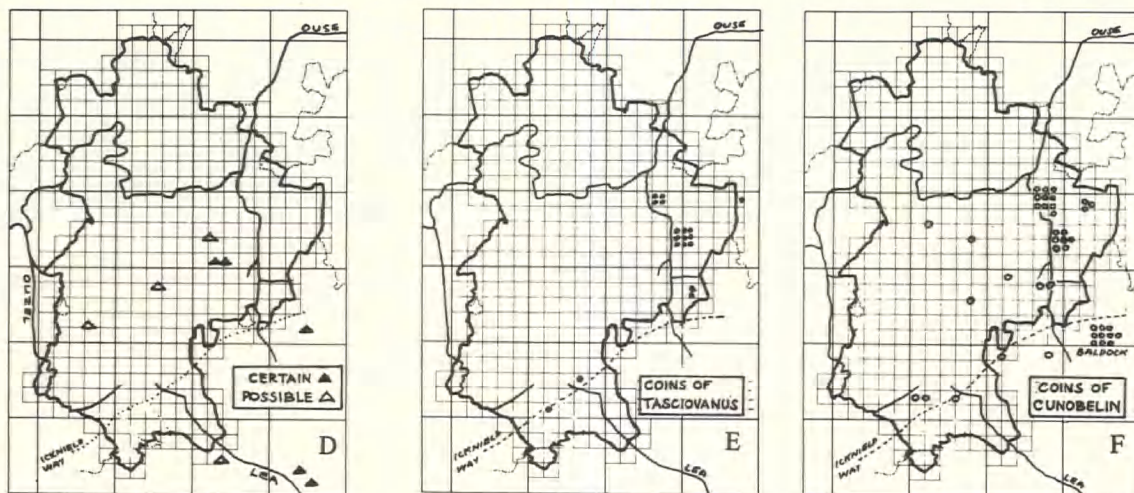


Fig 5 The First Millenium B.C. in Bedfordshire

- D Late pre-Roman Iron Age burials of the 'Welwyn type'.
- E Coins of Tasciovanus.
- F Coins of Cunobelin.

users of Gallo-Belgic E coins. Although these coins were in use along the Icknield Way, the relationship between their users and the Catuvellauni to the south is not known. It may have been firm, but need not have been hostile. I have written elsewhere of the Chiltern Grim's Ditch³⁰ as a territorial, though not defensive, boundary, scalloping around the heavy clay lands of the western Chilterns. Once it is accepted that the Catuvellauni were not the all powerful Belgic tribe of popular archaeological mythology, nor were they great hillfort builders, but they were nevertheless of determined native stock who demanded respect for their territory, then perhaps we can see the Chiltern Grim's Ditch as a deliberate delination of the extent of their territory in those areas where it adjoined the lands of the earlier Gallo-Belgic A enclave to the north-west. That the Grim's Ditch seems to end at Dunstable may suggest that the territory to the north-east was more friendly towards the Catuvellauni, or may even have belonged to them.

The eastern boundary of the Catuvellauni has long been disputed, though it has been generally accepted that it was probably along the Lea or its tributary the Beane. The latter river valley would certainly be supported by the distribution of the British L silver coinage, spreading over east Herts and west Essex, and coinciding with the area of 'rich' Welwyn type burials. Development in this area Rodwell sees as marking the growing strength

of the Trinovantes who had recently formed an alliance with Caesar.³¹

It is worth stressing the absence of hillforts in Catuvellaunian territory south of the Icknield Way. Cholesbury, The Aubreys and the smaller Whelpley Hill are all situated on the heavier clay soils of the Chilterns. All are ring works on relatively flat plateaus, and the two former have additional defences on their southern sides. Only at Cholesbury have excavations taken place (in 1932) and shown the fort to be of two phases, the second undeniably Belgic, but the first was considered by Christopher Hawkes to be 'entirely non-Belgic', and 'distinctively native in tradition'.³²

At Maiden Bower in south Bedfordshire the plateau fort seems to have been reused — the ditch was recut and the chalk taken from it piled into a dump on top of the former rampart. Without excavation it cannot be established when this happened, but on analogy with Ravensburgh Castle, where the defences have been extensively studied, shortly before the mid-first century B.C. seems very likely. At Ravensburgh the site was similarly refortified with a V-shaped ditch and glacis rampart. A new ungated entrance was pushed through the rampart at the south-east corner to give access to the spring, and extensive lines of massive post holes would suggest cattle pens inside the fort. The great size and strength of Ravensburgh (it

encloses 9 ha.) single it out as of major importance in eastern England. The great dry valleys on three sides and marshy land around the Burwell spring make it almost impregnable, and one cannot help wondering if this was not the stronghold used by the native chieftain Cassivellaunus of the Catuvellauni, who was to challenge Caesar in 55 and 54 B.C. The original identification of Cassivellaunus' headquarters at Wheathampstead is no longer tenable and Hawkes makes the point that the only other serious contender, Wallbury in Essex, is too close to Trinovantian territory to fit Caesar's record.³³ Cholesbury and The Aubreys fail to fit Caesar's description. There is no doubt that the refortification at Ravensburgh was short lived, and that the ramparts were subsequently slighted and burnt.³⁴

During the third quarter of the first century B.C. the Trinovantes seem to have been dominant not only in Essex but in north-east Hertfordshire and central Bedfordshire, arcing northwards round the territory of the Catuvellauni. Then followed the sudden rise to power of the Catuvellauni under Tasciovanus (c. 20 B.C. to A.D.10) with his brief expansion eastwards to Camulodunum upon the death or removal (?) of Addedomaros. This annexing of Trinovantian lands was for a brief period only, and the Trinovantian king Dubnovellaunos was soon to regain the former territory, leaving Tasciovanus to concentrate on the area around Verulamium and to the north. Not later than A.D.10 Cunobelinus appeared in Camulodunum minting gold coins, and soon afterwards he set up a second mint at Verulamium producing coins inscribed on their backs TASC. FIL. Whether he was Trinovantian, Catuvellaunian or neither by birth need not concern us.³⁵ He was to remain king of the unified territory of the Trinovantes and Catuvellauni as it expanded northwards across our county and into Northamptonshire, until his death on the eve of the Claudian conquest.

Away from the hillforts, life in Bedfordshire continued with little change. Farms were scattered across the county, particularly on the river gravels and limestone of the north-west. Only a few have been excavated, usually due to quarrying, as at Wyboston and Bromham.³⁶ The biggest change was in the appearance of wheel-turned pottery of La Tène III type which swept the south-east of England, and also in metalwork. Since these have recently been discussed by Miss Simco³⁷ I shall only remark on certain other features which seem to me relevant.

Princely burials have been found in eastern Bedfordshire at Old Warden and Stanfordsbury (near Shefford) with possible sites at Maulden Moor and Woburn, whilst the main distribution of this type of rich burial is concentrated in eastern Hertfordshire around Welwyn and Hertford, and perhaps at Harpenden. David Peacock has shown that the earliest of these burial groups, those containing Dressel I amphorae can be dated to the years 50-10 B.C. and must indicate a concentration of wealthy Trinovantians in the area, possibly centred on Braughing.³⁸ None of the graves in the Welwyn area can be dated after 10 B.C. and this suggests that about that time and at the instigation of Addedomaros, the centre of Trinovantian power moved east to Camulodunum, a more logical area for the development of trade with Rome and the Mediterranean. Only one of the Bedfordshire graves belonged for certain to the Dressel I group. The two Stanfordsbury vaults and the Maulden Moor burials contain samian and are likely to date to the first half of the first century A.D. Stanfordsbury vault A is dated on the evidence of samian cups to around A.D. 35-45, whilst vault B cannot be more closely dated than 10 B.C. — A.D.50.³⁹ The precise number of burials from Old Warden is uncertain since the finds were made in the middle of the last century. Two, or even three, burials produced the famous bronze mirror dated to early in the first century A.D.⁴⁰ as well as a bronze mounted bucket and two turned-shale vases of pedestal urn type, a Dressel I amphora and coins. There was also a second mirror, now lost. Clearly one of the Old Warden burials was early, and presumably began a burial tradition in the area that was to continue with the later mirror burial. Dressel I amphorae were also found at Woburn Abbey (1833) but there are no details of associated finds. A probable burial at Felmersham has produced some of the finest pieces of Celtic art found in our area: cattle and fish heads which can be dated stylistically to early in the first century A.D.⁴¹

What do these rich burials mean? Certainly that by the end of the first century B.C. the Catuvellauni were so well established in eastern Bedfordshire that they had developed at least one market centre in the Ivel valley. This may have been a successor to the Shefford hillfort, and perhaps closer to Biggleswade, where we have a considerable concentration of coins (9) of Tasciovanus. Aerial photography also shows a small Roman villa at Stanfordsbury, indicating a later

progression from fort, via princely burial vaults to eventual stately home. A small group of Tasciovanus' coins (4) come from Sandy, yet with minor exceptions along the Icknield Way, the rest of the county is devoid of them. The story is repeated when Tasciovanus' probable son Cunobelinus succeeded him. But the concentration of coins now swings to Sandy (11), with only 7 at Biggleswade, but 10 further south at Baldock, and all on a line later followed by Ermine Street, and probably indicating that this Ivel valley route was already well established.

Clearly it is eastern Bedfordshire that was being opened up in the late Iron age, leaving the west as a cultural backwater, an enclave of older iron age traditions. Even the decline of the Icknield Way as a major routeway seems to be heralded. It may be significant that it was not adopted as a Roman road.

But if the east was progressing ultimately towards Romanisation, the west was resting on its Celtic nationalism. A phenomenon that developed in west Bedfordshire in the late iron age and lasted well into the Roman period (if not beyond it) was a preoccupation with Celtic religion, particularly that aspect concerned with the digging of ritual shafts. Lack of temple structures in Britain has led us to look for evidence of Celtic worship beside natural springs and in groves of sacred trees. These must certainly have played a part, and it is just possible that survivals still exist in folk memory in our country today: Jeremiah's Tree at Streatley, perhaps? The hoard of late bronze age axes from Wymington were found close to the head of a spring. Shafts, pits and wells can be seen as man's attempt to make contact with the underworld.⁴² They occur in south-eastern Britain, mainly in areas where no caves exist to make the job of gaining underground access easier. Many shafts may have begun as wells, but their function changes when they ceased to be needed, failed to find water, or their supply dried up. Some shafts were dug close to natural springs, and clearly were not needed for water supply (at Sewell for example). The shafts were often carefully lined, and contained varied deposits of votive offerings. In Bedfordshire shafts have been recognised at Bedford (about 50),⁴³ Biddenham, Sewell and perhaps Dunstable. At Biddenham⁴⁴ the shaft was 10m deep and contained a human skeleton, a mutilated Roman statue and altar slab, bones of horse, ox, dogs, pig and fox and fragments of about fifty Roman pots. At Sewell⁴⁵ the shaft was consider-

ably deeper, about 36m, and was packed with human and animal bones, pottery, Roman tiles and sandstone blocks and charred wood. At Dunstable⁴⁶ a disused Roman well may also have been used as a ritual shaft when it was no longer needed, towards the end of the third century A.D. The well was 27.5m deep, and its contents again comprised human bones including a skull, animal bones, pottery, metalwork and fruit. In each case skulls, representing the cult of the human head, dogs and fruit are particularly significant.

Cremation burial became common during the last century B.C. the ashes frequently being placed in pedestal urns, which in turn seem to have been buried in small family plots. In Bedfordshire such urns have usually been found by chance, and Miss Simco has listed a number in her paper on the iron age in the Bedford area.⁴⁷ To these one may add urns from the Arlesey-Stotfold area, Limbury (hamlet of Luton) and Pegsdon. The most typical cemetery group is that from Hill Grounds, Kempston where one series of twenty-three pots were found in a saucer depression in 1889, and another ten in a circle in 1913. Some of the pots are known to be Anglo-Saxon, but a contemporary water-colour shows a number of iron age urns amongst them. Inhumation burials are not known, but it is probable that some corpses continued to be exposed in the earlier iron age manner, particularly in western Bedfordshire where cremation urns seem to be lacking. This cremation 'blank' is not quite complimentary to the ritual shaft distribution, but it may reflect an area where the new burial rites were not compatible with the old beliefs, nor acceptable to their worshippers.

In conclusion the picture one can draw of our county on the eve of the Roman conquest is still one of an agricultural community farming in family units, with few real signs of nucleation, though the concentration of coins at Biggleswade and Sandy suggest that sizeable market settlements may be found in those areas. The hillforts were probably unoccupied by this time, though Maiden Bower has produced late Belgic pottery and the Roman name for Dunstable — *Durocobravis* may be interpreted as 'the walled town of the joined bridges' — meaningless unless it refers to the fort with its inturned barbican entrance surmounted by a bridge or sentry walk.⁴⁸ It would be reasonable to see any inhabitants of the fort at that time eventually rehoused on the Watling Street, thus beginning Roman settlement at

Dunstable. With the exception of the princely ornaments from Stanfordsbury and Old Warden, there is little to show of personal wealth. The only major coin hoard at Whaddon Chase is 10km away in Buckinghamshire.

Throughout the period of its written history Bedfordshire has always been on the edge of national events and major discoveries, but never at the heart of them; with the possible exception of the Caesarian episode, it can be seen that the preceding millenium had already set the pattern.⁴⁹

NOTES

- 1 Field K., *Arch J.*, 131 (1974), 58; Ampthill Arch. Soc., *Aerial survey study of Bedfordshire* (1974).
- 2 Kennett D., *Beds. Arch. J.* 4 (1969), 80; 10 (1975), 5-18.
- 3 Abercromby J., *Bronze Age Pottery of the British Isles*, II (1912), No 472. Hall D.N. and Nickerson N., *Beds Arch J.*, (1969), lff.
- 4 Hawkes C.F.C., *Ant J.* 20 (1940), 487.
- 5 Matthews C.L., *Occupation sites on a Chiltern ridge*, (1976), 36.
- 6 Smith W.G., *Man the Primeval Savage*, (1894), 323ff.
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- 14 Matthews C.L. *op cit.*, 111.
- 15 Simco A. *Beds. Arch J.* 8 (1973), 55ff; Harding D.W. *Iron Age in lowland Britain*, (1974), 136ff; Cunliffe B. *Iron age communities in Britain*, (1974), 315 *et al*; Hawkes C.F.C. in Matthews C.L. *op cit.*, ii,ff.
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- 17 Dyer J. *Beds Arch J.*, 2 (1964), 74.
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- 19 Hall D.N. and Nickerson N. *op cit.*, N3, lff; Hall D.N. and Hutchings J.B. *Beds Arch J.*, 7 (1972), lff.
- 20 Eagles B.N. and Evison V.I. *Beds Arch J.*, 5 (1970), 17ff.
- 21 Matthews C.L., *op cit.*, for full report.
- 22 Compare with ritual shafts, this journal p 17.
- 23 Matthews C.L. *op cit.* 152-3.
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- 25 Eagles B.N. and Evison V.I., *op cit.*, 51.
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- 33 Dyer J., *C.B.A. Group 9 Newsletter* 6 (1976) 7; Hawkes C.F.C., *Britain and Julius Caesar* (1977) forthcoming.
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- 35 Rodwell W., *op cit.*, 277.
- 36 Tebbutt C.F., *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, 50 (1957), 75ff; Tilson P.G. *Beds. Arch. J.* 8 (1973), 23ff.
- 37 Simco A., *op cit.*, 10ff.
- 38 Peacock D.P.S., in Jesson and Hill, *The iron age and its hillforts*, (1971), 182.
- 39 Stead I.M., *Archaeologia*, 101 (1967), 47.
- 40 Spratling M.G. *Beds. Arch. J.* 5 (1970), 9-16.
- 41 Watson W., *Ant. J.*, 29, (1949) 37ff; this journal, 19-22 below.
- 42 Ross A., in Coles J.M. and Simpson D.D.A., *Studies in ancient Europe*, (1968), 255ff. Discussion with Miss Patricia Bell has led me to suggest a correlation between ritual shafts and holy wells. (see map) The idea will be developed in a future paper.
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Felmersham and Ostia: A Metalwork Comparison

DAVID H. KENNETT

The drawing by the late Mr C.E. Freeman of the fish-head spout from Felmersham has graced the cover of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* since its inception in 1962. The piece itself was briefly noted in our volume two¹ when the interpretation, first proposed by Sir Cyril Fox,² that it served as the mouth of a shallow bowl at a spring-head was accepted.³ Since 1964, further examination of the piece and the publication of the late Iron Age burial from Welwyn Garden City⁴ with its wine strainer has permitted a reinterpretation of the function of this masterwork⁵ of Celtic art. The suggestion was made in 1970 that the fish-head spout, together with fragments of a bronze bowl and the bronze segmental plate from the Felmersham Bridge finds, was part of a wine strainer⁶ similar in form to that found at Welwyn Garden City⁷ and one exported to Poland and discovered at Łęg Piekarski.⁸

It has become increasingly recognised since then that it is more probable that the finds from Felmersham Bridge represent a burial⁹ rather than a hoard as was first suggested: indeed the reported "cavity in the gravel, several feet deep with a filling of distinctive colour"¹⁰ reported by the workmen when the pieces were found in January 1942 suggests a vault of the Welwyn-Type burials which are such a feature of the archaeology of the late pre-Roman Iron Age of the south Midlands.¹¹ When the suggestion of a burial as the interpretation to be placed on the finds from Felmersham Bridge was first made by Professor J.V.S. Megaw in 1971,¹² attention was focused on the contents of the group rather than the context of the find; therefore the suggestion of a burial receives more powerful support.

What Megaw also noted was a stylistic comparison between "south-eastern British workshops and contemporary Italian and provincial Roman metalwork associated with drinking and the feast" but he was unable to find "any real continental counterparts" to such pieces as those from Felmersham Bridge, Welwyn Garden City and Łęg Piekarski. This note seeks to point to one such

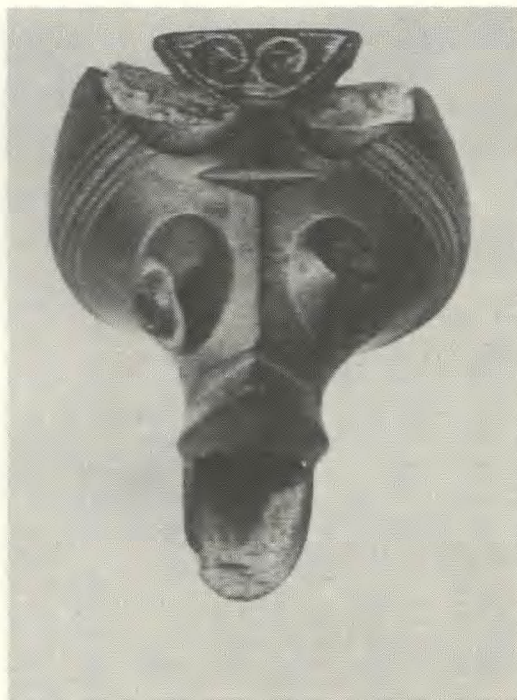
counterpart and to extend the discussion to other pieces of late Iron Age metalwork and their continental and classical comparanda.

The piece from Felmersham Bridge is a spout in the form of a fish-head; Łęg Piekarski is in the form of a boar; and that from Welwyn Garden City is not of a zoomorphic form; but there is also an example in the form of an ox-head from Kirmington, Lincs., which is the most recently published, but differs somewhat from the Łęg Piekarski and Felmersham Bridge pieces in both its form and in its stylistic achievement. As Megaw has concluded, that from Welwyn Garden City is an "import embellished by its local native owners" but both the Felmersham Bridge and Łęg Piekarski finds are of pieces worthy of the designation "masterwork".

Both in fact exhibit a great deal more realism and a great deal more life than the classical piece to which this note draws attention. This is a bronze spout now in the Musée Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Parc du Cinquantenaire, Bruxelles,¹³ which is part of the Ravenstein collection, gathered in Italy in the late nineteenth century, and possibly from Ostia in so far as a provenience is available. No further details of its discovery are, unfortunately, known. The bronze is in the form of a bull-head with an open mouth (pl. 1 a-b) and is 62mm in length and has a maximum width of 68mm. The back, abutting the now missing bowl, is of wide curvature in the horizontal plane, but almost straight in the vertical. The piece would have been fixed under the rim of a bowl as the rear portion of the top is undecorated and shows signs of friction with another piece of metal. Two small stops, also functioning as ears, would have helped to keep the piece in position. A feathered ridge forms the centre line of the top of the head and joins the heavy double feathered ridges which constitute the eyebrows of the beast. The eyes are small protruding pinnacles without a great deal of detail, and the snout is a raised nostril delineated by incised lines. There is an opening beneath this, but the sides of the head are plain except for a double ridged line which goes round the back of



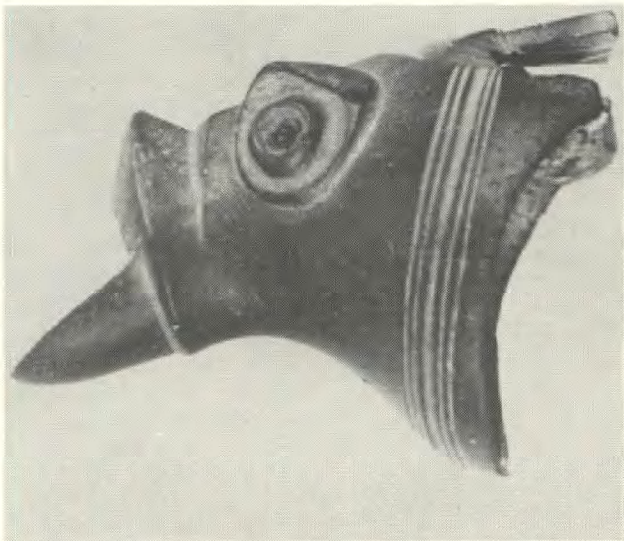
A



C



B



D

Pl 1 Animal-head spouts from bronze bowls:

- A Ostia, looking from above,
- B Ostia, looking at left side,
- C Felmersham, looking from above,
- D Felmersham, looking at right side.

[Photographs: A, B, Musees Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Bruxelles; C, D, Bedford Museum]

the beast's head and joins it formally to the plate holding the device to the side of the bowl.

While the actual beast is different: bull instead of fish; and the artistic achievement is much less; the whole of the Ostia piece conveys a similarity of function to the Felmersham Bridge fish-head spout. The similarity of function: the use of an animal head on a wine strainer, may be matched by a wider comparison of the classical influences on the Celtic world in the artistic endeavour. For Felmersham it is a superiority of tone, but this is not always the case. The range of such pieces is wide, and the late Iron Age burials of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire possess other pieces which have ultimate classical prototypes.

The Felmersham Bridge finds themselves include two items beyond the fish-head spout which link the barbarian with the classical world. That the bronze bucket-escutcheons in the form of cow-heads might ultimately be linked to a classical progenitor is not perhaps unlikely, but three pieces of ribbon mounting¹⁴ may be variously interpreted. In the second vault at Stanfordsbury there is a range of decorated metalwork and box fittings and it seems probable that these should be connected.¹⁵ Though it is almost certain that the present reconstruction of the ornamented bronze pieces of the Stanfordsbury plate is in error,¹⁶ their function as the decoration of a bronze-bound wooden box of which other fittings have survived is not in doubt. The Felmersham pieces could have been another such box with a plain band. However, there is an alternative suggestion which compares the Felmersham Bridge pieces with a piece now in a private collection in Massachusetts.¹⁷ This and further comparative pieces were the bronze facings to leather belts, but its width is 105mm compared with 44mm for the Felmersham Bridge mountings. They are fastened with elaborate clasps in the form of an insect such as a grasshopper but with equine heads and protruding tongues forming the hooks. The piece has three pairs of holes with raised edges to hold the hooks. Small holes are clearly visible along the edges of the Goodman belt and no such holes can be detected on the Felmersham Bridge pieces, which may well argue against the close affiliation of one piece with the other. Also no trace is reported of an elaborate clasp by the original finders of the Felmersham Bridge fragments. Watson's interpretation of pieces implied a flat surface for attachment with iron nails,

surely of very short shank, and assumed a box. The Goodman belt and its parallels from Canosa and elsewhere, while of a much earlier date, might offer a potential alternative suggestion.

The suggestion of a classical prototype for the cow-heads¹⁸ might seem almost an anathema to some used to the insularity of Celtic art, but the relative simplicity of the Felmersham Bridge heads should not blind the viewer to the magnificence of the ultimate Hellenistic and Greek models: one in the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, retains curls of hair, slit not circular eyes, a wide mouth and paired nostrils, and exhibits a greater ferocity than its Celtic descendents.¹⁹ This beast was possibly from a chariot fitting but itself harks back to Urartean examples on cauldrons.

The ancient world had long tentacles, perhaps of tenuous links, but more close in their comparison are spiral bracelets. In the Snailwell burial, like that from Felmersham Bridge, an outlier of the Welwyn-type burials, is a bracelet ending in two ram-serpent heads.²¹ Yet these hark back to Graeco-Roman examples and ultimately to ones from Thebes.²²

The Mediterranean is a long way from the valley of the rivers of the Wash: 1800km at least. The world of classical Greece and Rome even further; but artistic expression and cultural interchange are not dependent on distance alone. With distance and hence with time, these influences may become diluted or changed but they are nevertheless present.²³

NOTES

- 1 W.H. Manning, 'The Felmersham Fish-head Spout', *Beds. Arch. J.* 2, 1964, 74.
- 2 W. Watson, 'Belgic Bronzes and Pottery found at Felmersham-on-Ouse, Bedfordshire', *Ant. J.* 29, 1949, 51 with fig 8 first notes the view given greater expression by C. Fox, *Pattern and Purpose*, 1958, 80, fig 49, pl 46a-b, with illustrations derived from Watson. 1949, 41-42 and fig 4 with pl 5a.
- 3 The idea of a spout at a well-head is not in itself far-fetched, as Watson, *loc. cit.*, observed "lion-headed spouts were ornaments of the Greek well-house".
- 4 I.M. Stead, 'A La Tene III Burial at Welwyn Garden City', *Archaeologia* 101, 1967, 1-62.
- 5 This term seems much more preferable to the use of the word "masterpiece" which has a precise meaning as the piece produced by an apprentice at the end of his period of apprenticeship before being admitted to the ranks of the master craftsmen of his trade and upon the successful com-

- pletion of which depended the subsequent admission.
- 6 D.H. Kennett, 'The Felmersham fish-head spout: a suggested reconstruction', *Ant. J.* 50, 1970, 86-88.
 - 7 Stead, 1967, 23-25, pl 5, fig 12.
 - 8 J.V.S. Megaw, 'A British Bronze Bowl of the Belgic Iron Age from Poland', *Ant. J.* 43, 1963, 27-37.
 - 9 J.V.S. Megaw, 'The Felmersham fish-head spout', *Ant. J.* 51, 1971, 299-300; the burial suggestion was independently arrived at by D.H. Kennett in an unpublished note which space did not permit to be added to F.W. Kuhlicke, 'Postscript on the Iron Age finds from Felmersham Bridge', *Beds. Arch. J.* 4, 1969, 81-82; see also A.H. Simco, 'The Iron Age in the Bedford Region', *Beds. Arch. J.* 8, 1973, 10-11.
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 - 11 Stead, 1967, 44-60 with literature there cited.
 - 12 Megaw, 1971, 299; from hence also the quotations in the next paragraph.
 - 13 Section des Antiquités Grecques et Romaines, accession number R.1346, usually on public exhibition.
 - 14 Watson, 1949, 46-47, pl 6a, lower items; Simco, 1973, 11, suggests a bucket.
 - 15 H. Dryden, 'Roman and Romano-British Remains at and near Shefford', *Pub. Camb. Ant. Soc.* 1, 10, 1845, 18; conveniently C. Fox, *The Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, 1923/1948, 99-100 for a general account, and 105 with pl 18, 4 for the bindings.
 - 16 This conclusion has been noted independently by J. Dyer and M.G. Spratling; I am grateful to Mr Dyer and Dr Spratling for their comments.
 - 17 J.A. Scott in D.G. Mitten and S.F. Doeringer (eds.), *Master Bronzes from the Classical World*, 1967, 197, no. 202, with literature there cited, especially G.M.A. Richter, *Greek, Etruscan and Roman Bronzes*, New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1915, 422- , and P. Jacobsthal, *Early Celtic Art*, 1944, 146 with pl 258d: 1a and 260e.
 - 18 Watson, 1949, 39-41, fig 2, pl 5c-d; Fox, 1958, 73, fig 46, pl 46c-d reproduces Watson's figures and photographs. See also C.F.C. Hawkes, 'Bronze-workers, Cauldrons and Bucket-animals in Iron Age and Roman Britain', in W.F. Grimes, (ed.), *Aspects of Archaeology in Britain and Beyond*, 1951, 171-199, and I.M. Stead, 'The Reconstruction of Iron Age Buckets from Aylesford and Baldock', *British Museum Quarterly*, 35, 1971 250-282 for a more recent consideration.
 - 19 D.G. Mitten in Mitten and Doeringer (eds), 1967, 141, no 145, citing D.G. Mitten, *Fogg Art Museum Acquisitions 1965*, 136-140.
 - 20 P. Amandry, *The Aegean and the Near East: Studies presented to Hetty Goldman*, 1957, 236-261.
 - 21 Conveniently Fox, 1958, 81 and pl 53b; the initial publication is T.C. Lethbridge, 'Burial of an Iron Age warrior at Snailwell', *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.* 47, 1953, 25-37; for an excellent detail photograph see Megaw, 1963, pl 15c.
 - 22 M. Comstock and C. Vermeule, *Greek, Etruscan and Roman Bronzes in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*, 1971, 201-203, esp. no. 256 and 262.
 - 23 Note completed 17 June 1975; it represents ideas first crystallised on seeing the Ostia piece in Bruxelles, 27-29 May 1974; my warmest thanks are due to Dr J. Baulty and Mme C. Skinkel-Taupin of the Musées Royaux, Bruxelles, for their help at the museum and to those who took part in the III^e Colloque International des Bronzes Antiques for their stimulating comments; at Bedford my thanks are due to Mr. F.W. Kuhlicke, Mr. J. Turner and Miss J.M. Hassall for permitting me to re-examine the Felmersham bronzes, at various dates between June 1964 and 1975.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Bedford Museum, North Bedfordshire Borough Council, for a grant towards the costs of this paper.

The Excavation of a Roman Corn-Drying Oven at Manor Way, Flitwick

KEVAN FADDEN

SUMMARY

An aerial photograph suggested the presence of a square-shaped ditched enclosure in an area of new housing development at Manor Way, Flitwick.

An initial resistivity survey prior to excavation in advance of building work in 1974 revealed both an irregular sinuous feature cutting the enclosure, considered geological, and a central anomaly to the enclosure.

This, a T-shaped corn drying oven, of second-century date, retained traces of an encircling series of small post holes. These, and a central post hole, indicate a covering for the oven, of which a scale model reconstruction was made.

INTRODUCTION

In 1973, the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society obtained an aerial photograph of the area to the north-west of Flitwick station taken by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in 1970. The photograph (pl. 1) shows a distinct rectangular crop mark almost at its centre (at TL 026350), some 45 metres east of Flitwick Wood, in Wood Field. In this and the adjacent fields the photograph revealed a number of more indefinite marks, including what appeared to be a larger rectangular feature divided at one end to the south-east of the central crop mark, but still within Wood Field.

Wood Field, Flitwick, and those adjacent to it were then under intensive investigation by field-walking by the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society, under the general supervision of the writer, as the area is within the Flitwick Development Scheme. The scheme, when completed, is expected to cover some 200 acres (80 hectares) of land formerly purely agricultural to the south-west of the Flitwick/Millbrook road and east of Flitwick Wood. One of the first roads to be constructed of the new development is Manor Way; as this approaches the site, this name was chosen to distinguish it.

In view of the limited time and resources available to the Ampthill and District Archaeological



Fig 1 Location of the site; the arrow (left centre) indicates the direction of the aerial photograph (pl 1, overleaf).

and Local History Society, it was decided to concentrate on the most obvious feature in Wood Field. The developers, Messrs. Taylor-Woodrow Limited, were approached for permission to excavate the site in late autumn 1973, and kindly agreed to this provided that archaeological investigation was completed by 30 April, 1974. The site was examined at weekends during the winter, finishing with a more concerted effort in April 1974.

This report covers the excavations of that winter; other work in the area of Flitwick Development Scheme will be noted in a future contribution to the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*.



Pl 1 Aerial Photograph of General area of the Manor Way development at Flitwick, looking east. The ditched enclosure examined is visible in the centre of the photograph immediately east of Flitwick Wood; it may be located by the marginal arrows. A possible building can be seen south-south-east of this (above and to the right).

Photo: Royal Commission on Historical Monuments; Crown Copyright reserved.

THE EXCAVATIONS

The site at Manor Way, Flitwick, located on the 1970 aerial photograph, is on the top of a slight rise of the Lower Greensand Ridge. Preliminary to the excavation, a resistivity survey was conducted, and upon its results the excavation trenches were laid out so as to section the ditches of the known rectangular feature and to examine a central anomaly which appeared on the plot of the survey.

THE RESISTIVITY SURVEY (Fig 2)

To aid in determining the exact location of the known rectangular feature, whose general position could be fixed on the ground by a correlation to some oak trees prominently visible near the north-east corner of Flitwick Wood both on the ground and on the aerial photograph, a resistivity survey was carried out using a Martin Clark resistivity meter. The survey was conducted in an initial series of traverses, both in a north-east to

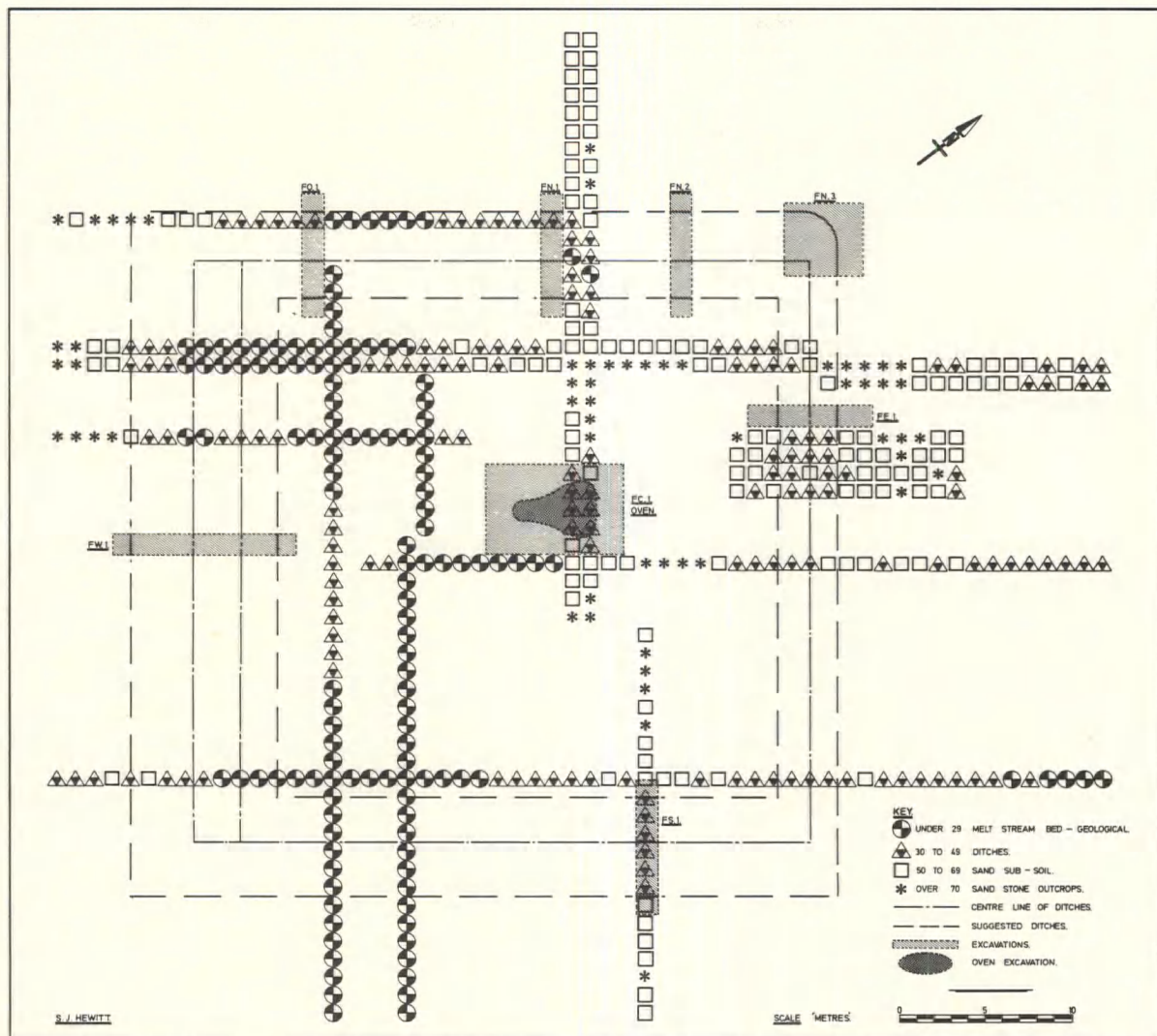


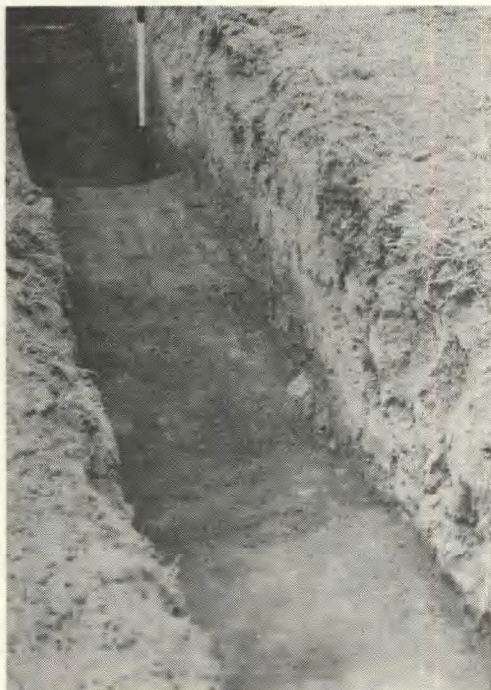
Fig 2 Plan of ditched enclosure at Manor Way, Flitwick, showing results of resistivity survey.

south-west direction and at right-angles to this on a north-west to south-east line. When examined in a linear fashion the initial results, however, gave a most confusing series of readings with a wide variation in values, upon which no interpretation could be placed. Subsequent traverses, particularly on the north-east to south-west line, again examined as a linear progression, did not clarify the initial impressions. The readings were therefore plotted as a map. To assist in the interpretation, the values given by the resistivity survey were assigned a series of colour codings in bands of 5 units. It was only when this was done

that any interpretation was possible. Figure 2 is a simplification of the initial plot, showing also the location of the subsequent excavation trenches, but excluding the terminal portions of traverses outside the general area of the rectangular feature. From this it will be seen that three distinct groups of values are apparent and these were correlated to the features visible on the aerial photograph.

Under 29 An irregular horse shoe pattern on the south side, assumed to be the broad feature visible on the photograph.

30 to 49 A probable square pattern, reflect-



Pl 2 Section of double-ditched enclosure on the south-west side, Trench FW1. The ranging pole in half metres.

ing the ditches of the enclosure and a central group, whose initial presence was unexpected.

Above 50 The general background to the site, taken on initial reading to reflect the natural subsoil, but containing some individually very high readings.

EXCAVATION METHOD

Two strips of overburden, measuring 1.5m by 40m across the centre of the enclosure were cleared to a depth of 100mm (4in) by a drott, and then cleaned by hand. The outer extremes of the rectangular enclosure, as suggested by the resistivity survey, were sectioned using the back-actor of a J.C.B. All other excavations on the site were carried out by conventional hand digging.

THE GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

The puzzling area of low readings from the resistivity survey was examined by cutting a section F02 with a J.C.B. 12m to the south of the main enclosure on a north east/south west align-

ment. It was found to be a 'hollow way' of irregular shape, approximately 1.5m deep and 19m wide, filled with a mixture of disturbed sandstone and dark brown sand which appeared to have been water borne. No artifacts were found in the section and it has been assumed to be a geological feature. The feature was not investigated to any great degree and is not illustrated. An extension of this 'hollow way' determined by infil, aerial photograph and resistivity readings, was cut through at F01 where it converged with the ditch of the enclosure.

THE DITCHED ENCLOSURE

The aerial photograph suggested and the resistivity survey confirmed the existence of a rectangular ditched enclosure. The time limit imposed by the building schedule did not allow full excavation of the enclosure and its ditches. A programme was therefore evolved to verify the position, shape, date and probable function of the feature. At least one section was cut across each of the four sides of the enclosure, with a total of three sections and a corner square being examined on the north-west side (fig. 2, FO1, FN1, FN2, FN3). Four of the sections, FO1, FN1, FN2, and FE1, were excavated totally by hand; and two, FW1 and FS1, were initially cut by the back-actor of a J.C.B. and their final investigation completed by hand. In each of these six sections Romano-British pottery sherds were found. Considerable care was taken in the ditches which were excavated by hand to discover some firm dating evidence. This was not easily accomplished as the excavators were unable to identify any significant soil changes in the infill of the ditches. It suggests undisturbed accumulation of silt without sudden activity in the vicinity to accelerate the deposition. Pottery was more abundant nearer the surface, and generally of a later date. The acidic nature of the soil destroyed all organic materials completely.

Figure 2 shows the position of the ditches, forming a rectangular enclosure whose external dimensions are 40m by 39m, internally 29m by 28.5m. Clearance of the topsoil at FN3 exposed the corner, with an outer radius of 300mm. Neither the width nor the cross-section of the various ditches was consistent (fig 3). At the points excavated the single ditches varied in width: FN1 was 5m wide, FE1 had a width of 3.5m, but at FS1 the ditch was 5.5m wide.

Trench FO1 was excavated across both the

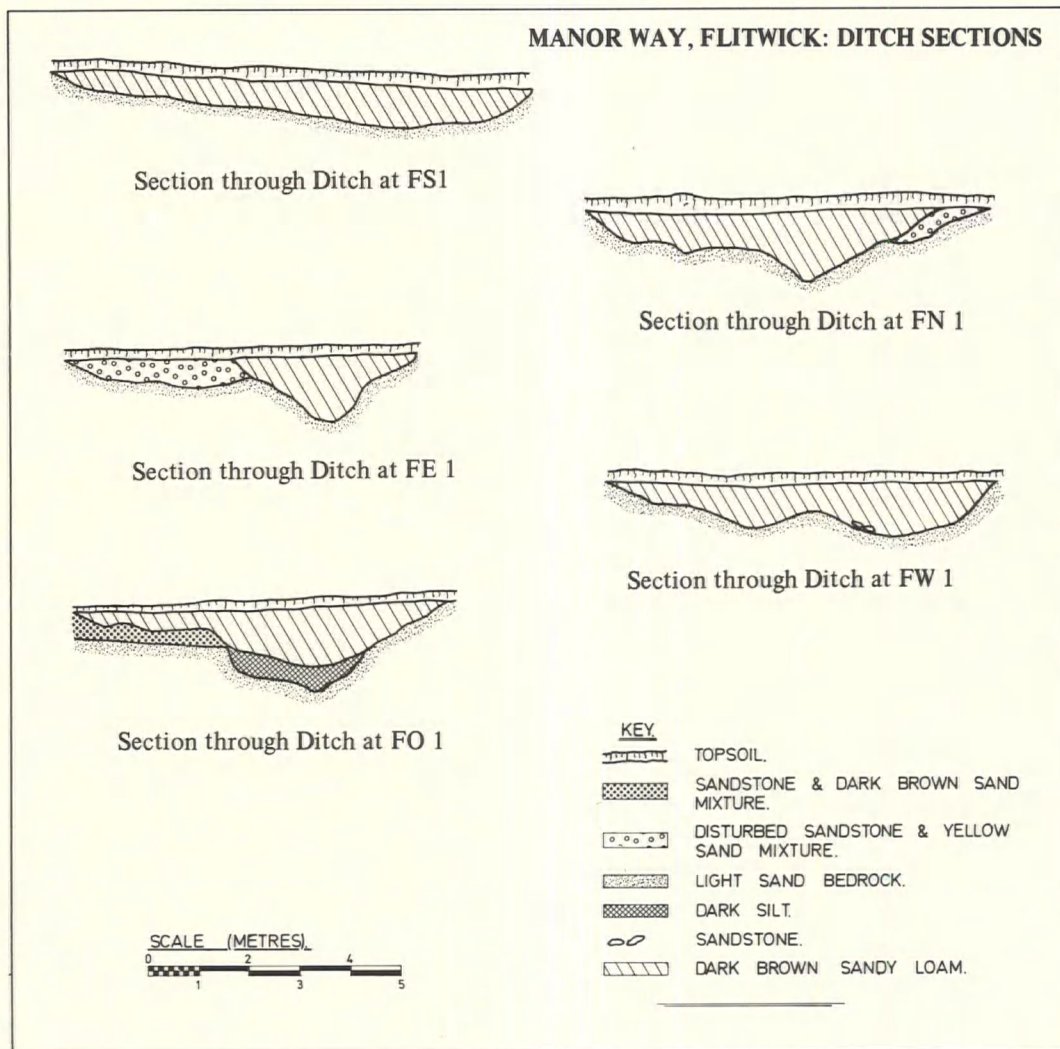


Fig 3 Sections of Ditches.

ditch and the geological hollow way. Only in this section was a positive horizon identified. A dark silt layer at the bottom of the ditch suggested that it may have collected water. It forms the principal evidence that the ditches were probably open for a long time, rather than rapidly filled.

Trench FW1 was excavated across the double ditch on the south-west side of the enclosure. (pl 2). The inner of the two ditches had a number of sandstone blocks and pebbles set in the bottom. These would be consistent with the base of a palisade fence, but no evidence of this was found in the other sections. Time did not permit further trenches to be cut across the enclosure on the south-west side.

THE CORN-DRYING OVEN (Figs 4–6 Pls 3–5)

The initial clearance of the overburden within the square enclosure at the point where the central anomaly had been seen on the resistivity survey revealed a mass of blue clay set in fine relief against the pure sand sub-soil. It gave an irregular quadrangular shape with a distinct narrowing about halfway along the longer axis giving a projection on the south side (fig 4; pl 3). The unexpected feature after careful clearing was found to have signs of burning at the northern end of the clay area. The surface on the west side, particularly, was found to have a series of small post holes, varying in depth from 30mm to 60mm (fig 4;

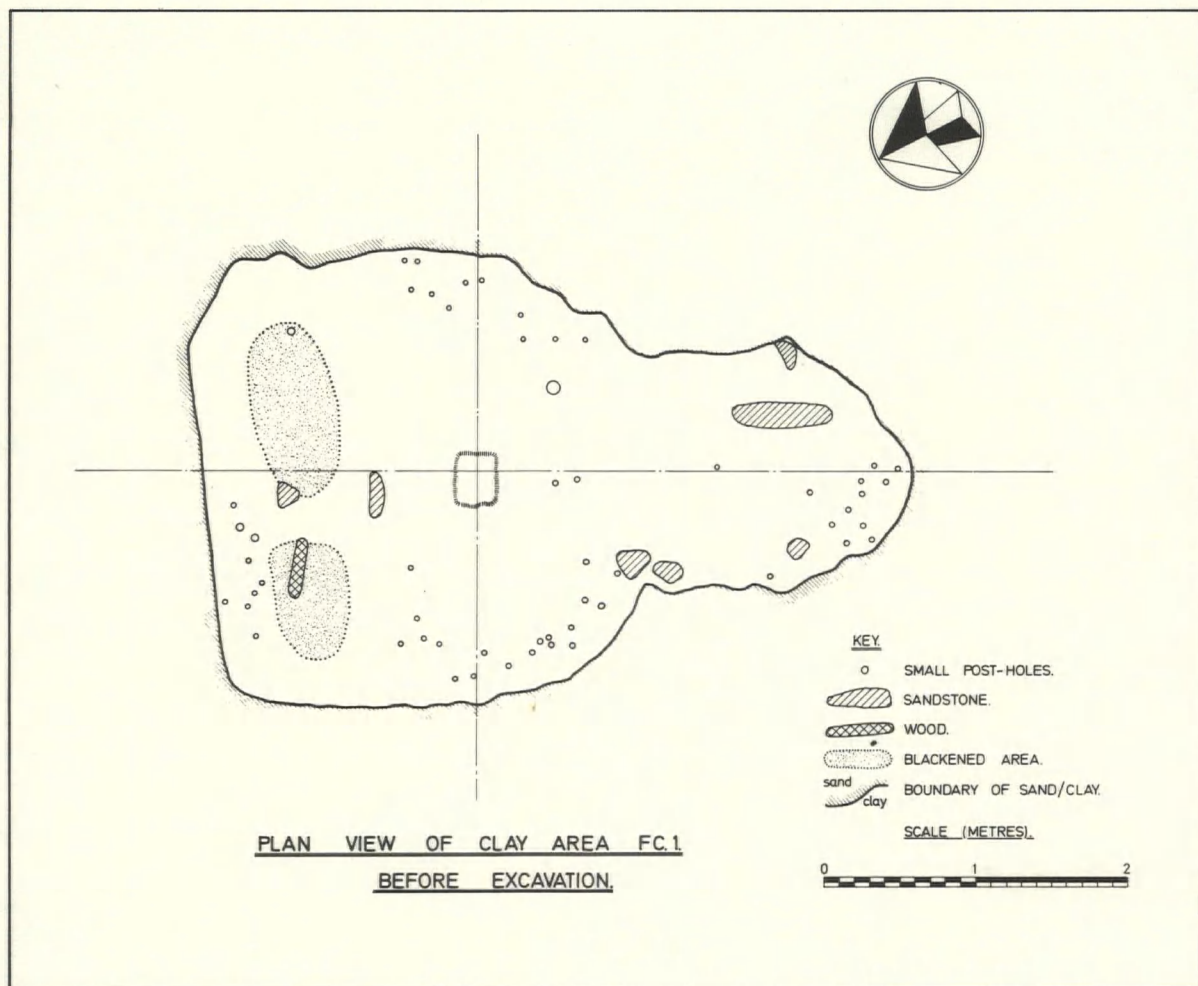


Fig 4 Central Area of Enclosure prior to excavation of Corn-Drying Oven.

pl 4). Found over all portions of the western side of the feature, a group were also seen on one area of the eastern side. It is not known whether the small post holes found were the surviving ones of an encircling structure, or whether the gaps in the perimeter were significant. At this stage a single, central post hole, of much larger dimensions, measuring 300mm by 330mm and 150mm deep was also found. Subsequent excavation demonstrated that this post hole was over the central flue of the corn-drying oven but did not penetrate the flue; its roof was flattened underneath a ring of dried clay.

A section (fig 6) was cut through the clay, revealing a central flue, establishing that the central anomaly seen on the resistivity survey was not a

natural feature of the site. The distinction between the blue clay and the sandstone was clear-cut; evidence of original spade marks to dig out the sand for the clay was discovered. Subsequent removal of the clay feature uncovered a firebox and a complete T-shaped flue system, whose stem was 2.2m long, and whose arm measured 2m. Against the northern edge of the arm at the confluence of the T flues a triangular-shaped sandstone block had been placed, so as to divide the flow of air from the firebox placed at the southern end of the stem.

The firebox was constructed of irregular sandstone blocks set in a mortar matrix. The top of one of these blocks was visible at an early stage in the excavation (fig 4). Apart from the junction of the two flues, there was no evidence of the use of

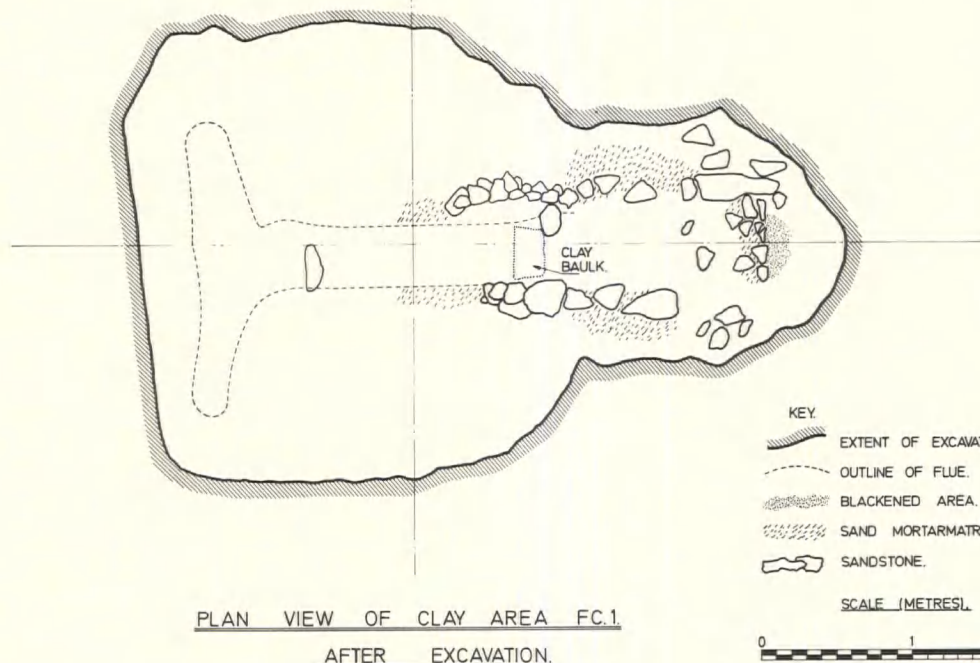


Fig 5 Central Area of Enclosure after excavation of Corn-Drying Oven.

sandstone blocks or bricks in the construction of the oven.

Both the long flue and the cross arm were formed of clay baked hard into an effective pipe. The process whereby this was achieved is uncertain. The clay was discoloured suggesting that it may have been baked in situ using a fire, but the sun is a possible alternative. The inner edges were reddish-brown. An alternative explanation is that the flue was moulded into its round cross-section using wooden formers which were later burned out.

It is clear that before use the whole area was surrounded with, and the structure covered by, blue clay which was allowed to spread into a prepared hole to form the floor of the oven. The

suggested superstructure, seen in the perimeter postholes, was built within this blue clay feature.

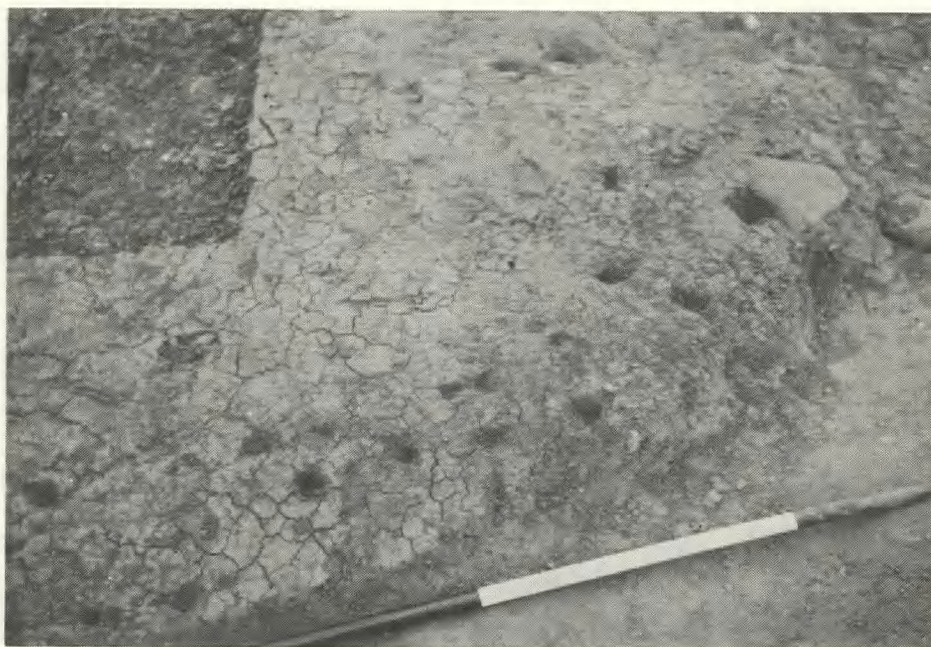
RECONSTRUCTION OF CORN-DRYING OVEN (Pl 5)

To aid the interpretation of the structure a model of the corn-drying oven was made by John Miles, a member of the society. The model (pl 5) is of the cutaway type so as to demonstrate as many features of the structure as possible. The long flue is thus shown in section and only half of the suggested superstructure appears.

The model envisages a building with a central post. An isolated and substantial post hole suggests this single, central support for the roof. The evi-



Pl 3



Pl 4

Pl 3 Central area of ditched enclosure during excavation; the corn-drying oven is partially revealed.

Pl 4 West side of corn-drying oven showing presence of small stake holes.

dence of the small post holes found on the perimeter of the clay area and extending a little across the centre has been taken to represent a circular structure with an additional windbreak on the western side at the southern end (because of the orientation of the model and its cutaway form this is not shown). The flue outlets contained a number of baked clay lumps with straw impressions and it is suggested that these were part of the daub walls of the building.

On any reconstruction of this nature the height is clearly hypothetical; about 2 metres is envisaged.

The whole structure would have been made from materials readily available within 500 metres of the site. Sandstone had been quarried from the Greensand Ridge and used in local buildings since the Roman period. Blue clay is found adjoining the Greensand Ridge. In the Middle Ages and subsequently it was dug to provide marl for the local fields. It would be an ideal material for the daub of wattle-and-daub construction.

DISCUSSION

THE DITCHED ENCLOSURE

From the pottery evidence it would appear that the ditches were cut in the second century, and that they remained open throughout the Roman period. On the south-west side the ditch was doubled, with a line of sandstones on the inner ditch; comparison for this suggests a palisade similar to one found in region 6 at Camulodunum.¹

The function of the ditched enclosure was not clear. It could have been excavated to surround and protect the corn drying oven but it is difficult to envisage why an elaborate earthwork should have been necessary, especially as the oven had a limited life in the mid-second century. There were no signs of repairs or rebuilding in the oven.

It seems probable that the oven was slightly earlier than the ditched enclosure and that there were no connections between the two features. Similar enclosures found elsewhere have been designated religious sites and are not confined to England. Examples include Buchendorf in Bavaria, and in England one near Bokerly Dyke, Hants., and that at Long Wittenham, Oxon.² No pits or burials were found within the earthwork, but time did not allow for complete stripping of the interior; work was concentrated on the corn-drying oven.

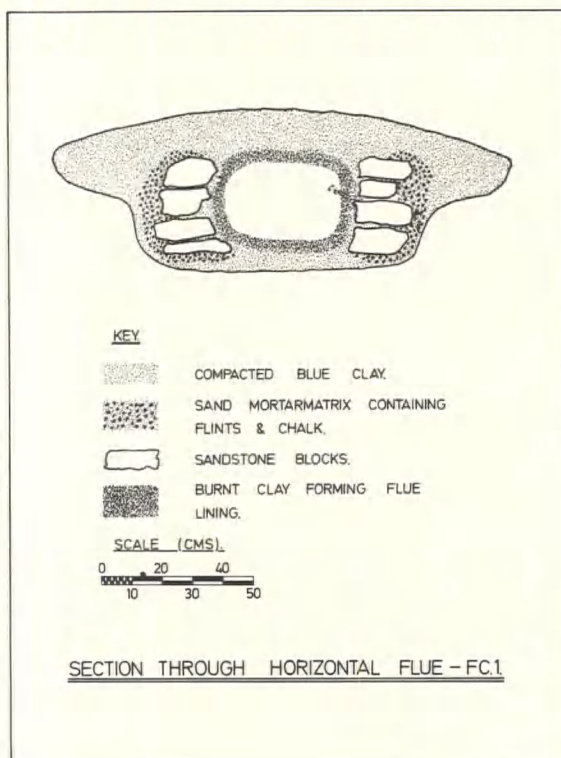


Fig 6 Section through horizontal flue of corn-drying oven.

THE CORN-DRYING OVEN

The corn-drying oven was an unexpected feature of the site, suggesting the presence of further agricultural buildings in the area. In this context the other, larger rectangular structure within the adjoining field might usefully be investigated. This is clearly visible on the aerial photograph (pl 1).

The corn-drying oven is of interest in itself. Firmly dated to the mid-second century, it is earlier than most of the other known examples,³ although one has been published from Bromham, Beds., of A.D. 150-170.⁴ Most published examples are of fourth-century date.

These also have not produced evidence of a surround structure as at Manor Way, Flitwick. That at Clapham had two large size post holes beyond the arm of the flue, but no evidence of the small stake holes. At present those at Flitwick seem to be without parallel.

The well-preserved corn-drying oven at Manor Way, Flitwick, suggests that the area of the Flitwick Development Scheme may contain other



Pl 5 Reconstruction model of the corn-drying oven found at Manor Way, Flitwick. The stem of the flue is 2.2 metres long.

indications of settlement during the Roman period. From the pottery discovered in the upper fills of the ditched enclosure it would appear that this settlement was long-lived. Further work in the area will be necessary to establish both its duration and its exact location.

THE FINDS

The material objects from Manor Way, Flitwick, were limited in their range. The sections across the ditches especially were particularly meagre.

MATERIAL FROM THE DITCHES

Pottery (fig 7)

- 1 Jar in calcite gritted ware, light brown surfaces, sooted externally indicating use as a cooking pot. Diameter 200mm. Cf. Radwell⁵ 78, fig 5, H37, fourth century. From FN1 upper layers.
- 2 Jar in light brown ware; rim diameter 145mm third century type. From FN1, upper layers.

- 3 Bowl, grey ware with burnished pattern on inner and outer walls, rim diameter 185mm. From FN1, upper layers.
- 4 Pseudo-samian ware type mortarium, in red colour-coated ware, with signs of burning on the rim. Rim diameter 250mm. Probably from the Oxford kilns. Fourth century.

Flint (fig 8)

- 1 A single neolithic type thumb scraper was found in FN1, uniface, retouched black translucent flint; without patina and unworn.

MATERIAL FROM THE CORN-DRYING OVEN

Pottery (fig 7)

Pottery was found in the flue outlets, the fire box and the ash pit, all contemporary with or later than the oven when in use.

- 5 Cooking pot in coarse, grey gritty ware; rim diameter 140mm. Brixworth⁶ type 0. Flavian (69-98).

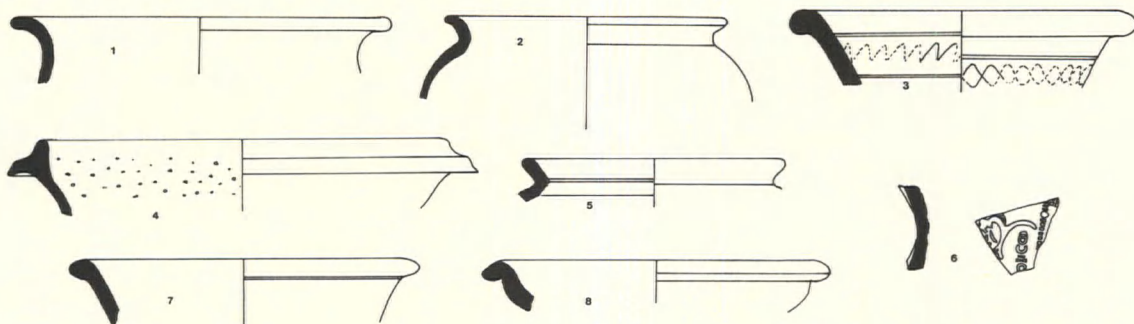


Fig 7 Pottery; 1-4 from ditches; 5-8 from corn-drying oven. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

- 6 Bowl in decorated samian ware, for Dragen-dorf form 37. Antonine. Central Gaulish.
- 7 Grey ware bowl; rim diameter 185mm. Similar to Brixworth⁶ No. 27. Second century.
- 8 Coarse dark grey ware bowl; rim diameter 185mm. First – second century type.

Wattle and Daub

Significant quantities of baked daub with wattle impressions were found in the flue outlets.

Timber

Substantial baulks of timber were found in the flue outlets. These were submitted for specialist examination, but no detailed report is yet to hand.

Iron (fig 8)

The firebox contained nails. An iron ring was also found.

- 3 Iron ring, external diameter 70mm attached to a split pin and showing wear at the point of contact.

Tile

One calcite-gritted flanged rooftile was found beneath the sandstone blocks of the firebox. It predates the structure.

Corn

A quantity of charred grain, possibly wheat, was found in the flue outlets.

Flint (fig 8)

- 2 A mesolithic type scraper was found within

the blue clay. Unifaced end scraper, re-touched on three sides, in grey translucent flint, without patina and broken.

Baked Clay

Apart from the daub, a number of lumps of baked clay with straw impressions were found in the area of the flue outlets.

Fossils

Quantities of ammonite fragments were found in the clay.

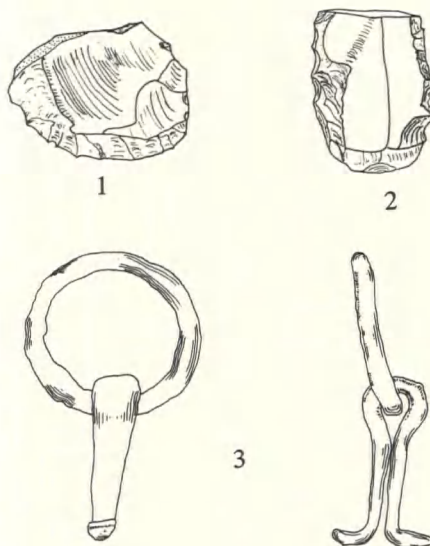


Fig 8 Small Finds. Flints: 1, from ditch; 2, from oven. 3, Iron ring with split pin from oven. (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank Messrs Taylor-Woodrow Ltd. for their co-operation in re-arranging their work schedule to permit excavations to take place, the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable for the use of their resistivity meter. The plans in this paper are by Simon Hewitt; pottery drawings are by W. Langridge and the photographs by A. Court. A grant from the Department of the Environment, secured through the good offices of the Conservation Section of the Planning Department of the Bedfordshire County Council, was made towards the costs of this excavation.

NOTES

- 1 C.F.C. Hawkes and M.R. Hull, *Camulodunum. [Reports of the Research Committee of London, 14 (1947)]*, 122-126, esp. 125, with pl 111.

- 2 Conveniently, S. Piggott, *The Druids*, (1969), 62-72 with figs 52, 50 and 56 respectively.
- 3 R. Goodchild, 'The T-shaped Corn-Drying Oven in Roman Britain', *Ant. J.* 23 (1943), 148-153, with literature there cited.
- 4 P.G. Tilson, 'A Belgic and Romano-British Site at Bromham', *Beds. Arch. J.*, 8 (1973), 27-29 with figs 6 and 7; pottery *ibid.*, 53-54 with fig 26, 249-264; quern stone *ibid.*, 61 with fig 31, 319; samian *ibid.*, 66 no 26, with fig 30, 311.
- 5 D.N. Hall, 'Rescue Excavations at Radwell Gravel Pits, 1972', *Beds. Arch. J.*, 8 (1973), 67-92.
- 6 P. Woods, 'Excavations at Brixworth, Northants., 1965-1970. The Romano-British Villa', *J. Northampton Mus.*, 8 (December 1970), 3-102 [Note this report is also separately published as *Brixworth Excavations I*].

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

A Medieval Site at Rook Tree Lane, Stotfold

ANGELA SIMCO

SUMMARY

Excavations on an earthwork site at Rook Tree Lane, Stotfold, in advance of the construction of a school, identified the rear boundary of a probable house site, and pits and occupation spreads of an inner yard. No structures were located. Pottery and small finds indicated a date range from the late twelfth to the sixteenth century.

INTRODUCTION

Stotfold lies three miles north of Letchworth and Baldock, with the Great North Road forming the eastern boundary of the parish. The River Ivel runs in a northerly direction to the east of the village.

The site is situated on the east side of Rook Tree Lane which, lying between the village green and the church, forms an integral part of the medieval village layout; the Tithe Map of 1849¹ shows property boundaries reflecting a toft and croft pattern, especially on the west side of the Lane towards the green. The Pre-Enclosure Map of c. 1848² records that the site was in an area of old enclosure; the field name is given as 'Calves Close' in the Tithe Award, and the area was then under pasture, but no other documentary evidence relating to past land use has yet been traced. No buildings are shown on the land on either of these two maps.

The field was used as grazing land until February 1975, when work began on the construction of a new Lower School. A routine visit was made beforehand and the earthworks shown on figure 2 recorded. Though not in an outstanding state of preservation, they suggested the existence of a house platform, with ridge and furrow to the rear and side of the delimiting earthworks. A similar arrangement was noted in the paddock to the south. A footpath ran to the rear of the earthworks and parallel with Rook Tree Lane, and may have been related to the existence of a back lane.

When the topsoil was stripped from part of the site as the first stage of construction, occupation levels were revealed, and a quantity of finds col-

lected, including the stirrup shown in figure 5. A period of two weeks was available for the investigation of the site, which was carried out on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council.

THE EXCAVATION

The excavation was limited to that part of the site which was to be disturbed by building operations, and which it was clear from the topsoil stripping contained evidence of occupation. This enabled work to be confined to a trench measuring 22m by 5m, situated to the front of the school plan and about 11m from the modern street frontage. As the surviving occupation spreads were removed, no structures were revealed, and it became clear that the archaeological features consisted of several pits and depressions, and a more substantial ditch running along the eastern edge of the trench. The investigation was therefore limited to the sectioning of a few features to obtain dating evidence; it was also hoped that enough material would be recovered to provide the beginnings of a medieval pottery sequence for this part of the county.

The natural subsoil, a loose chalky gravel, lay 30 to 40cm below the surface of the topsoil.

OCCUPATION SPREADS

Occupation levels lay immediately below topsoil; they were mostly confined to the northern part of the area, extending about 7m south from the northern limit. The average depth was 20cm, though there was considerable irregularity in the surface of the underlying natural. The predominant material was a light brown silty loam, which contained lenses of charcoal and ash. There were no clear stratigraphical distinctions and the pottery reflects the date range of the whole site.

DITCH A

Running north-south along the eastern edge of the excavation, Ditch A was traced for a distance of 22m, though for a length of 4m the edge was not clear from surface indications. It was at least

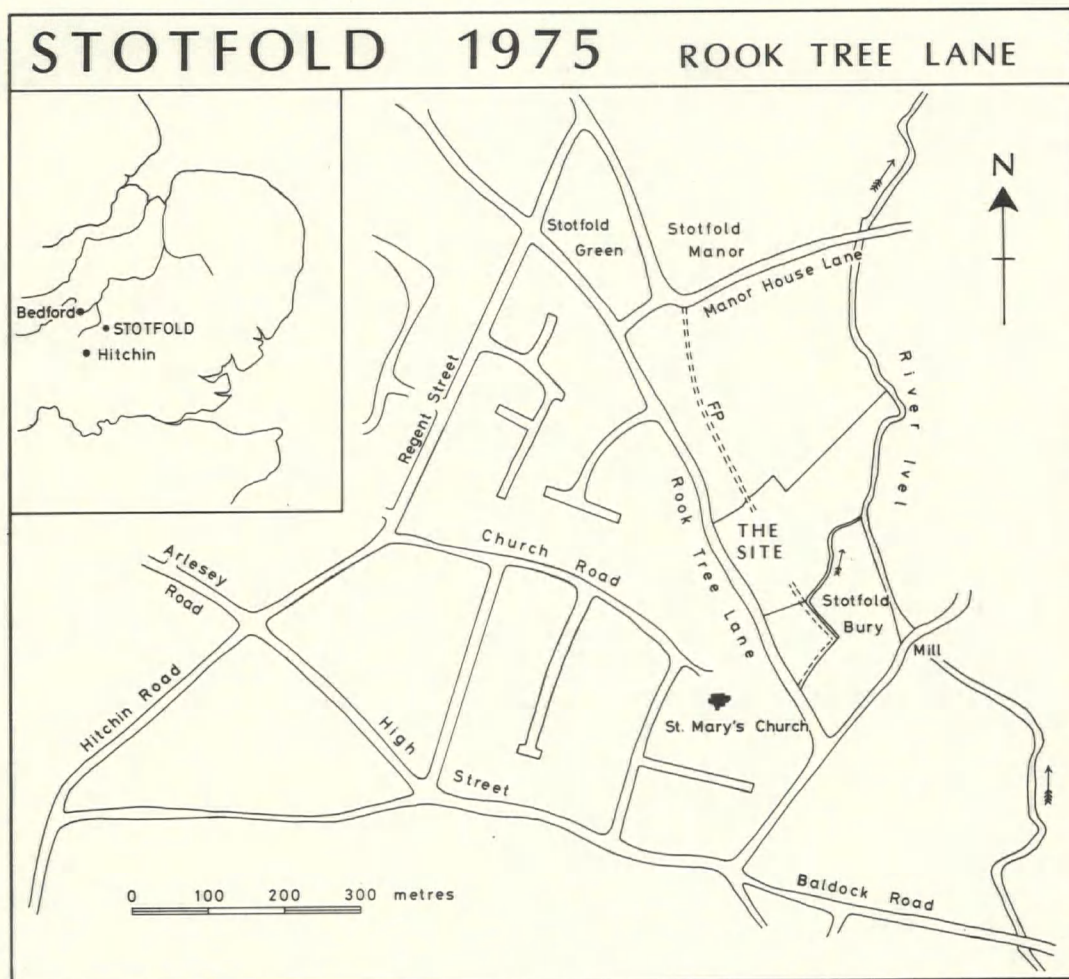


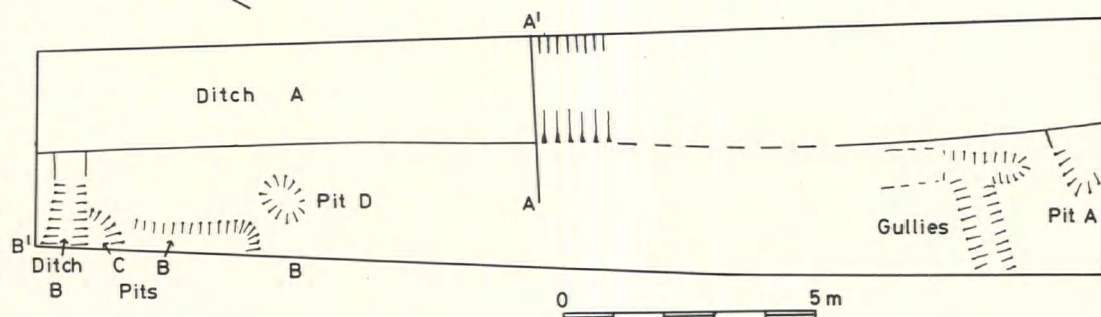
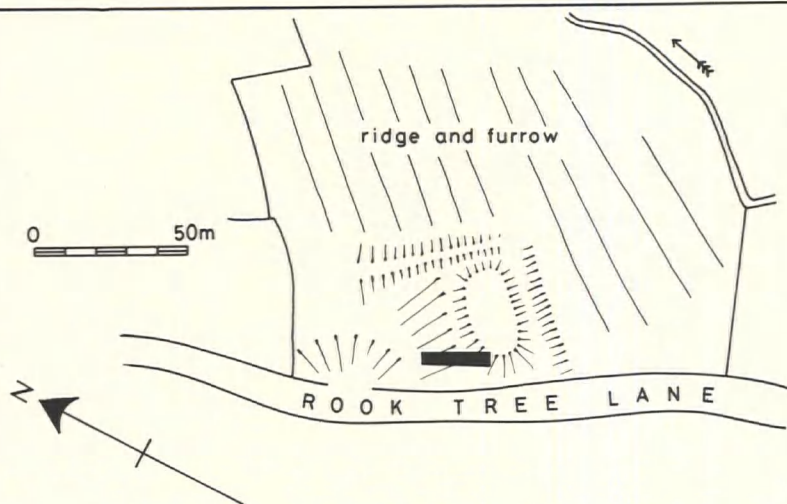
Fig 1 Location of the medieval site at Rook Tree Lane, Stotfold

230cm wide, the eastern limit being outside the area being investigated. One complete section was taken, revealing a shallow, flat-bottomed profile, cut 45cm into the natural gravel. The stratigraphy showed no signs of recutting. At the time of excavation the water table lay about 10cm above the bottom of the ditch, and the clayey nature of the primary fill suggests that this situation prevailed at the time the feature was cut. Above the primary fill a yellow-brown gravelly loam, 20cm thick, gave way to darker, less gravelly material, which contained more ash and occupation material nearer the surface of the feature. The stratigraphy was reflected in the pottery assemblages: the lower levels contained material of thirteenth to fourteenth century date (fig 3, nos 1-6); the upper

levels produced hard-fired pottery of fifteenth to early sixteenth century type (fig 3, nos 7-18). The iron rowel-spur (fig 5, no 2), an early fifteenth century form, was found at the junction of the two levels. A second section, begun at the south end of the ditch, produced further fifteenth and sixteenth century material (fig 4, nos 19-25), confirming the evidence of the stirrup of developed fifteenth century type (fig 5, no 1) which had been recovered from the surface of the feature during the machine stripping. Before excavation ceased on this second section, a layer of cobbles was encountered which was sufficiently compact to be interpreted as a surface laid down over the ditch, and subsequently sunk into it. Much of the pottery came from immediately above this surface.

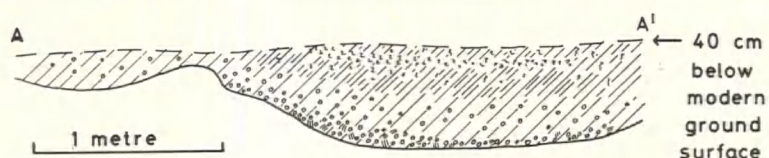
STOTFOLD ROOK TREE LANE

EARTHWORKS AND TRENCH LOCATION



TRENCH PLAN

SECTION A-A'



Gravel Clay Charcoal Ash Topsoil

SECTION B-B'

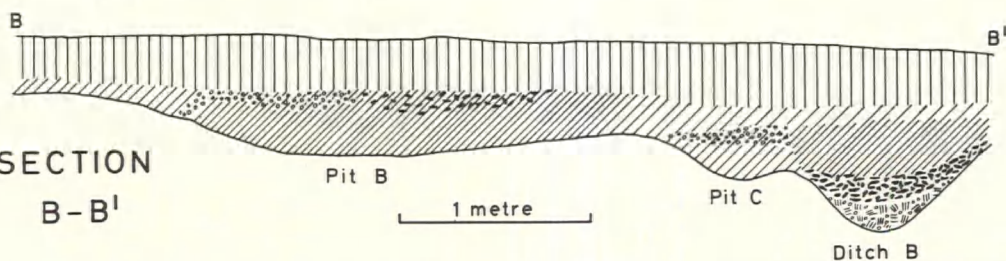


Fig 2 Plans of earthworks and excavated features; sections.

DITCH B

At right angles to Ditch A and cut by it, Ditch B was defined for a length of 2m; its rounded V-shaped profile was 110cm wide and 60cm deep. The clayey loam of the primary fill and the silty loam of the upper part of the feature were separated by a deposit, 18cm in depth, of ash and charcoal. The ditch contained only two sherds of pottery: a shelly body sherd comparable with material from Bedford³ from the primary fill; and a rim sherd of a developed St. Neot's-type jug, of thirteenth or fourteenth century date (fig 4 no 26).

PITS

The few pits identified did not contain much material, and no pot groups were recovered from them. Of the earliest features, Pit A, cut by Ditch A, contained a cooking pot rim of late twelfth or early thirteenth century date (fig 4 no 27), but Pit C, cut by Ditch B, produced no dating evidence. Pit B, a long feature merging into the occupation spread at its northern end, was of the fourteenth or fifteenth century. A feature underlying Pit B was not investigated.

GULLIES

Lying at right angles to each other, it seemed possible that the two features in the south of the trench may have represented some sort of timber structure. Excavation revealed a maximum depth of 10cm, and there was no sign of any postholes, or anything else to suggest the function. The pottery was a mixture of fourteenth and fifteenth century types (fig 4 nos 31-33).

DISCUSSION

The evidence suggests that the earliest occupation of the site took place in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century, represented by Pit A, and probably also Pit B. The later thirteenth century was marked by the construction of Ditch B, and then of Ditch A, which gradually filled up until the fifteenth or sixteenth century. This latter seems to have served as the defining rear boundary for the area of occupation. Not only would its substantial nature have been suitable for this purpose, but no archaeological features could be seen to the east of it, either during the removal of topsoil, or when foundations for the school were laid. This area to the east may therefore have been in use as an outer yard or domestic garden. It is noticeable

that the division between this outer area, and the inner yard represented by the excavated features cannot be detected from the plan of the earthworks.

There remains the problem of where the structures are or were located, and what the status of the site was. Allowing for the fact that Rook Tree Lane has been considerably widened during this century, the potential width of the occupied area from Ditch A to the street frontage was 16m. This would allow room for a building between the excavated area and the original street, but it is likely that the front of such a structure has been lost through the road widening, while any other remains are sealed beneath the forecourt of the school. The range of pottery does not suggest a site of any especial wealth or importance, but the stirrup and rowel-spur are objects which one would not normally expect to be associated with an average village house site.

THE FINDS

THE POTTERY (figs 3 and 4)⁴

A distinctive feature of the pottery assemblage is the predominance of sandy over shell-tempered fabrics. A few sherds represent a developed St Neots' tradition of the twelfth to the fourteenth century (nos 26 and 30) but of these, no 26 has a crushed limestone, rather than true shell temper. The sandy ware was probably manufactured nearby, and shows a development throughout the period represented by the site. Early forms (thirteenth to fourteenth century) display a variety of colour (eg nos 1-3, 6), while the later material (fifteenth to sixteenth century) is almost uniformly a hard red fabric, with or without a grey core, depending on the thickness of the sherd (nos 8-18). Cooking pots, jugs, bowls and cisterns were produced, though it is not possible to estimate the proportions of the different types from the amount of material recovered. A further variety of products is suggested by the imitation Brill jug sherds (nos 4 and 31). The only clearly imported piece is the Raeren cup rim (no 25).

Ditch A — lower levels

- 1 Cooking pot; dark grey sandy fabric.
- 2 Cooking pot; coarse buff sandy fabric with grey core; slight rilling on external surface.
- 3 Cooking pot; fabric as 2, with external surface darker than internal.
- 4 Sherd of jug; pinkish-buff sandy fabric with

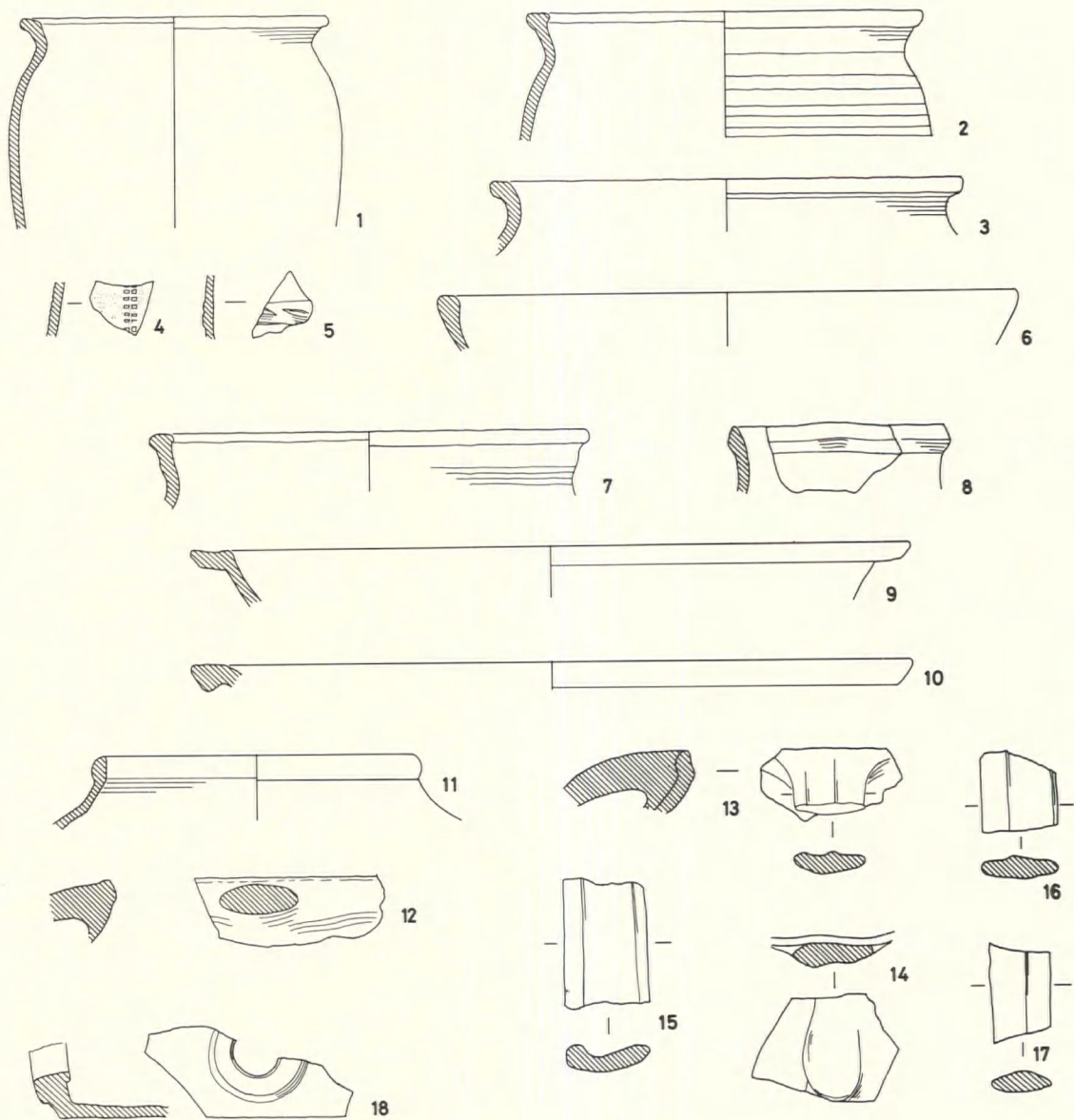


Fig 3 Pottery Nos 1-18 (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

- grey core; vertical rouletted decoration consisting of two parallel lines of square impressions; fragments of yellow-green glaze (stippled); imitation Brill (cf no 31).
- 5 Sherd of grey sandy fabric; applied ribbon with scored impressions.
- 6 Bowl hard black surface; red-brown sandy fabric with grey core.
- Ditch A — upper levels;
- 7 ?Cistern; buff sandy fabric with dark grey

external surface.

- 8 Rim sherd of jug, slightly pressed in; red sandy fabric.
- 9 Bowl; fabric as 8.
- 10 Bowl; orange-buff sandy fabric.
- 11 Jug; red sandy fabric.
- 12 Jug rim with top of strap handle; fabric as 11.
- 13 Jug rim with top of strap handle; fabric as 11, but with grey core.
- 14 Jug body sherd with bottom of strap handle;

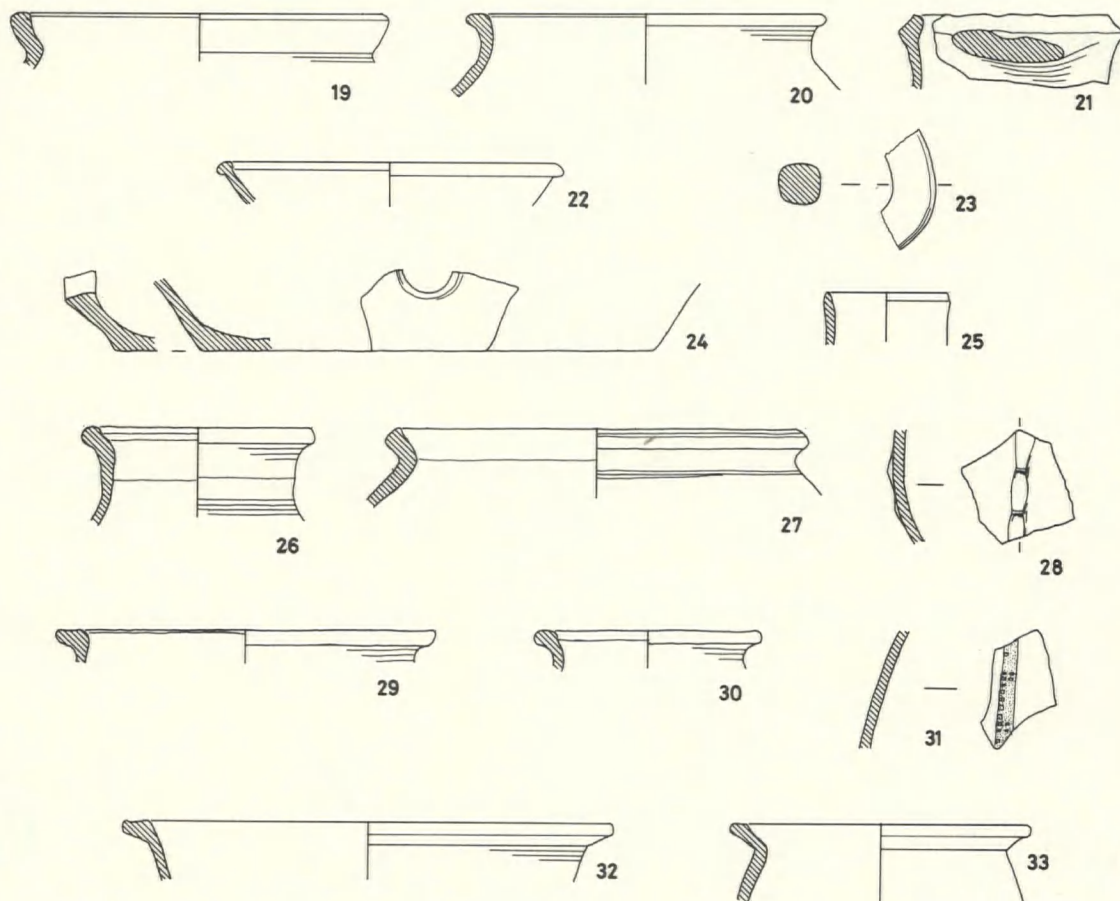


Fig 4 Pottery Nos 19–33 (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

fabric as 13, probably from same vessel.

- 15 Jug strap handle; fabric as 13.
- 16 Jug strap handle; red sandy fabric with dark grey surface.
- 17 Jug strap handle; red sandy fabric with grey core.
- 18 Cistern base with bunghole; fabric as 17.

Ditch A – fill above cobble surface.

- 19 Cooking pot with tulip rim; red sandy fabric.
- 20 Cooking pot; fabric as 19.
- 21 Jug rim with strap handle; fabric as 19, with grey external surface.
- 22 Small dish; fabric as 19, with traces of internal glaze.
- 23 Rod handle; red sandy fabric with grey core and black surface.
- 24 Cistern base with bunghole; red sandy fabric with grey core.
- 25 Rim of Raeren cup; white fabric and glaze.

Ditch B

- 26 Jug; buff with grey core; crushed limestone temper.

Feature below Pit B

- 28 Body sherd with vertical applied ribbon with thumb impressions; grey sandy fabric; cf 5.

Pit A

- 27 Cooking pot; buff sandy fabric with grey core.

Pit B

- 29 Cooking pot; coarse dark red sandy fabric.

Occupation spread

- 30 Cooking pot; red shelly fabric with grey core.

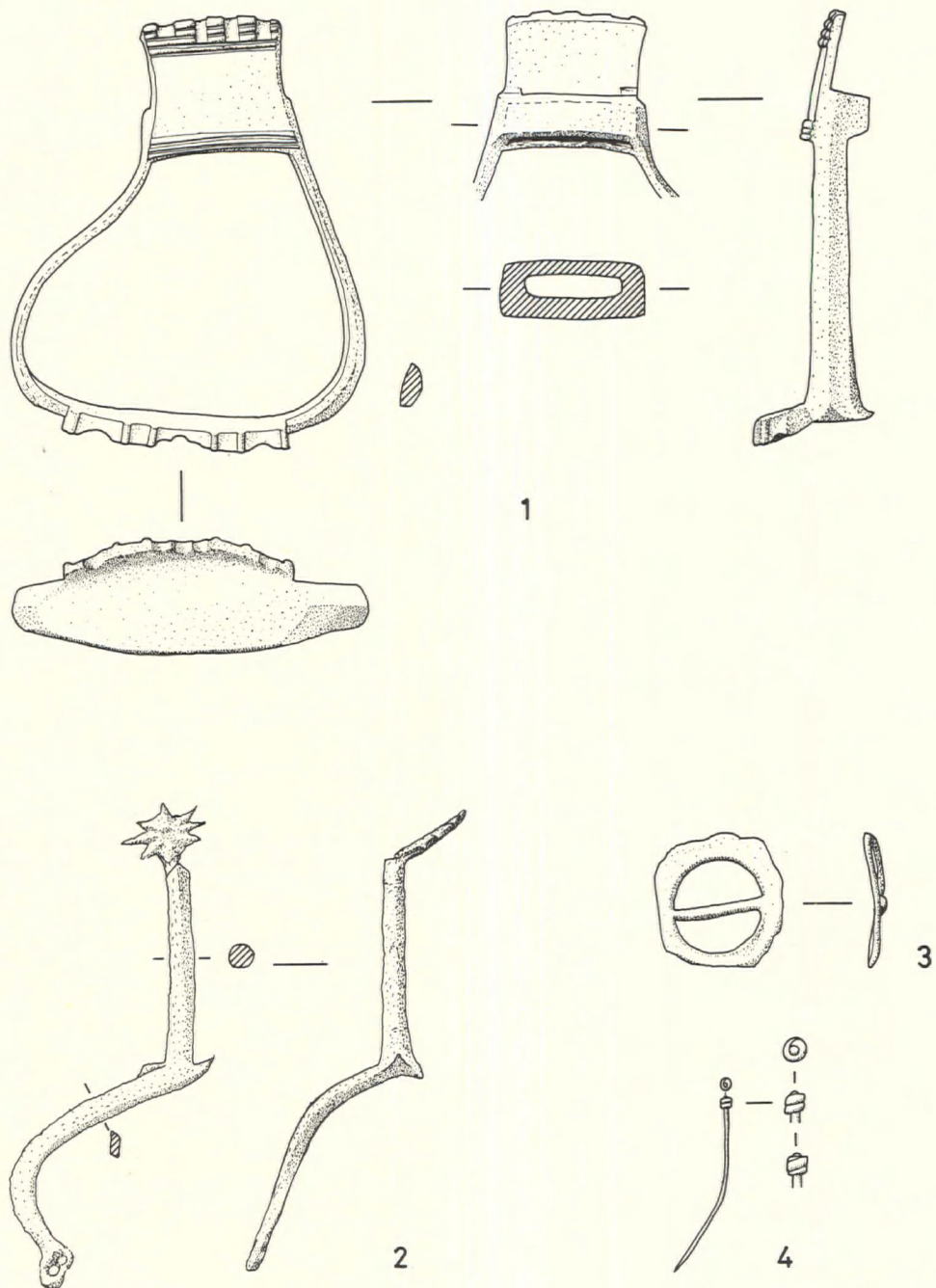


Fig 5 Small finds (Scale ½)

Gullies

- 31 Body sherd of jug; sandy fabric with grey core, and red external, pink-buff internal surfaces; vertical rouletting with parallel rows of square impressions, covered with strip of cream slip; unevenly applied green glaze with sand particles adhering; imitation Brill (cf no 4).
32 Bowl; dark grey sandy fabric.
33 Cooking pot; red sandy fabric with grey core; a few spots of internal glaze.

THE SMALL FINDS

- 1 Bronze stirrup. Asymmetrical; expanded foot-plate, with tongue on forward edge; decorated plate covering suspension loop. Solidity of form suggests developed fifteenth century type.⁵ From Ditch A, upper levels.
2 Iron rowel-spur. Eight-pointed rowel on lengthened shank; projecting ornamental point at junction of shank and body; curved body with one arm surviving with two-holed terminal. Early fifteenth century.⁶ From Ditch A, at junction between upper and lower levels.

- 3 Bronze buckle. From occupation spreads.
4 Bronze pin with twisted wire head. From occupation spread.

THE ANIMAL BONES

Because of the limited nature of the excavation, the faunal material has not been submitted for specialist study. Preliminary identification showed the presence, as is to be expected, of horse, ox, sheep and pig and small carnivore. Most of the bones were recovered from Ditch A, and of those identified the majority (of bones, not necessarily of individuals) were of sheep.

NOTES

- 1 Bedfordshire County Record Office map, MAT 41/1.
2 Bedfordshire County Record Office map, MA 88/2.
3 David Baker, 'Excavations in the area of Mill Street, Bedford, 1971', *Beds Arch J* 9. (1974), 106-107, figs 5, 6.
4 I am greatly indebted to Mr. Dennis Mynard for his helpful comments on the pottery.
5 London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue*, (1940), 89, cf fig 27, no 2.
6 *ibid.* 105-106, cf fig 35, no 2.

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

Farndish in the Counties of Bedford and Northampton or in one of them

D.N. HALL and J.B. HUTCHINGS

Archaeological and historical surveys of Bedfordshire are being conducted at several levels. Members of the County Conservation Department are making rapid parish surveys to collect information for immediate planning needs, and at the same time encouraging in-depth field-by-field surveys.¹ We present here a case study of the detailed parish survey of Farndish.

The need for such surveys is self-evident where there is a threat by housing development or mineral extraction. A recent finding at Wollaston, Northants., adjacent to Farndish, has shown that modern agricultural threats to the landscape are also serious. Here some fields were revisited after a fifteen year interval when it was found that the linear earthworks of the medieval fields were badly eroded, some having disappeared. No doubt there has been corresponding damage to the occupation levels of ploughed-over ancient sites.

The in-depth parish surveys operate at three levels. Firstly a careful examination of ploughed fields is made for ancient occupation remains which are often marked by stones scattered from ploughed buildings, or darker areas accompanied by sherds of pottery. Bronze Age burial mounds often reveal themselves as raised mounds of pink soil or circles of dark grass or as crop marks. Secondly, the medieval ridge and furrow is plotted on an Ordnance Survey six-inches-to-the-mile scale maps, the strips being marked schematically (but with the correct orientation) and the furlong boundaries marked accurately. The third type of survey is made by recording shrunken village earthworks and the surviving ridge and furrow enveloping modern villages. These are plotted on the 1:2500 scale. All these surveys are supplemented by the use of aerial photographs, care being taken not to confuse marks left by modern agriculture with ancient features.

The results of the first class of survey over several parishes in northwest Bedfordshire have been given previously,² and also the medieval field systems of Milton Ernest.³ Detailed parish surveys are available for the Northamptonshire

parishes of Little Houghton,⁴ Paulerspury⁵ and Wootton.⁶ Plans of open fields, with brief notes, have been published for Bozeat,⁷ Grendon,⁸ Hartwell,⁹ Maidwell,¹⁰ Newton-in-the-Willows,¹¹ Strixton¹² and Wollaston,¹² all of which are in the same county. Village earthwork surveys have been given for Newton Bromswold,¹³ Strixton¹⁴ and part of Raunds.¹⁵

We shall now discuss the results for Farndish, excepting for the earthwork survey. General survey techniques have been discussed elsewhere.¹²

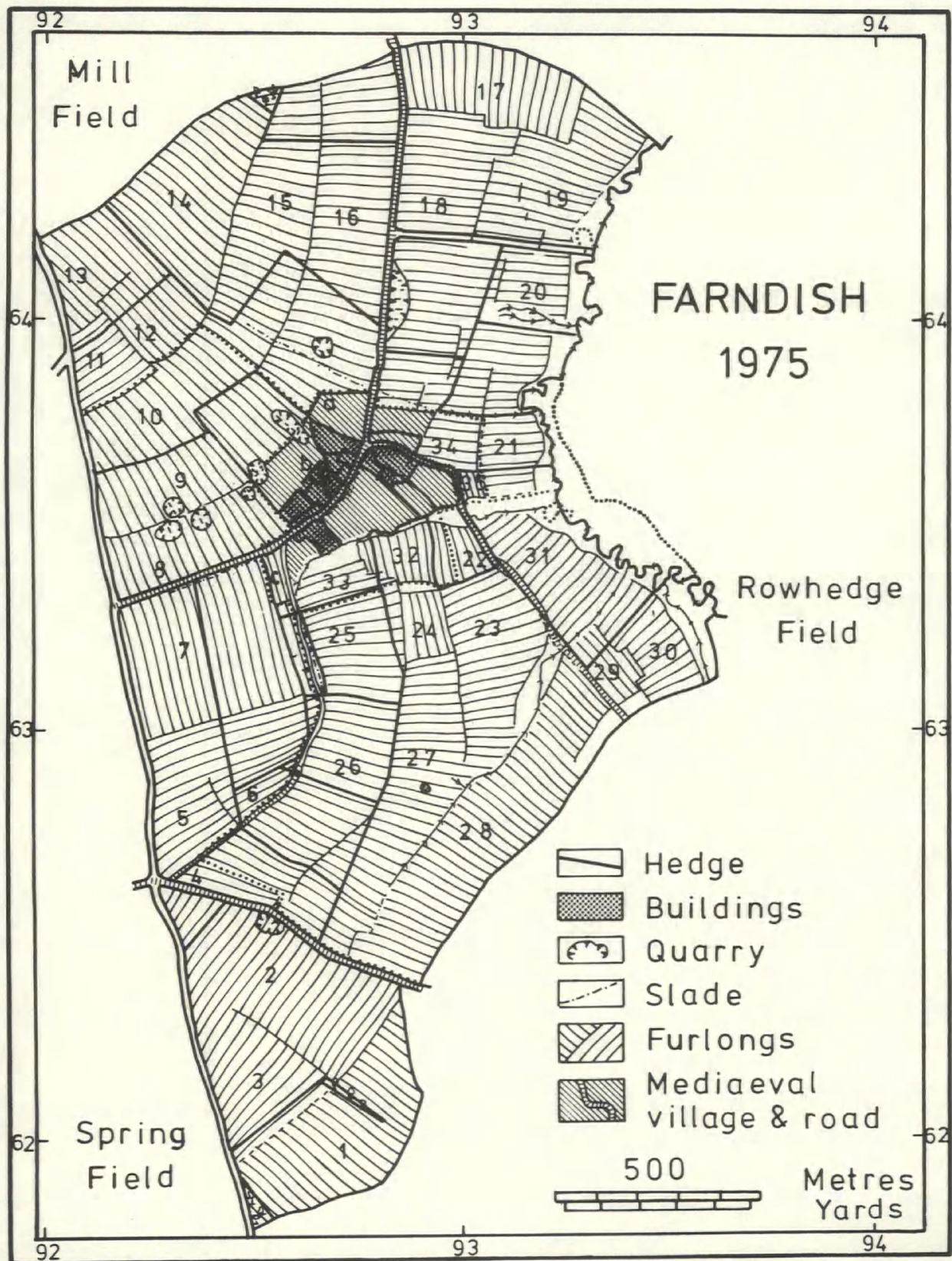
The village is sited on a bed of great oolite limestone adjacent to a stream (the *Fullwell*) which runs into the Podington brook. The higher ground is covered by glacial deposits, which consist of heavy clay, north and south of the village, but are quite gravelly and sandy along the west boundary. Unnamed water courses run by the side of the Wollaston Road and below the Hinwick boundary. North of the village runs the *Calverslade*, being a small valley.

The only pre-Saxon occupation site so far identified is a possible Romano-British villa (F1, SP 934632) which yielded a scatter of building stone, roofing tile and sherds when first ploughed in 1967.

In about 1828 a Saxon inhumation with grave goods of a brooch and beads were discovered "in a bank which here forms part of the county boundary".¹⁶ This latter remark is ambiguous since it is not clear whether the county boundary in 1905 or 1828 is meant, and these are quite different. We believe that the site is at the west end of the Wollaston Road, for reasons discussed below; here there is a bank, mostly caused by medieval ploughing, and partly perhaps by the Roman road, which forms the western manorial and parish boundary. It is not possible to identify this burial with an early settlement at Farndish. Details of the Saxon burial goods are given in Appendix 2.

The main features illustrated on the plan, figure 1, are the medieval fields. A brief explanation of the terminology is given for clarity.

The unit of cultivation was called a *land*, which was a narrow strip of average area one-



third of an acre, and average dimensions 200 yards by 8 yards. Soil was ploughed towards the centre of the strip more often than to the outside, so forming the characteristic ridge and furrow. On figure 1 the number of lands shown in each furlong should be multiplied by four to give the approximate real number (the small scale does not allow each land to be represented individually).

A group of lands parallel to one another was called a *furlong*, each of which had a name. Boundaries of furlongs are still visible, even in ploughed fields, as linear earthworks of soil piled up by ancient ploughs.

A group of furlongs was called a *field*; each parish was divided into two or, most commonly, three fields which included all the land except the flooding meadows and the village.

Figure 1 shows the open field system of Farn-dish as it was at about the end of the thirteenth century. Various historians¹⁷ have demonstrated that *circa* 1300 A.D. saw the end of the great post-Norman economic and agricultural expansion which in most of Midland England had used up all marginal land and it seems likely that the open-field system reached its maximum extent at this time.

Farn-dish is a classic case illustrating the difference between village ploughland area, and the diffuse political area of the manor. The ploughland is, and always has been, the neatly defined area coterminous with the ecclesiastical parish. In contrast at the Domesday Survey (1086) the land was divided amongst three estates, one of which was considered to be in Northamptonshire.

Taking the ploughland area first. The appealing simplicity was noted by Emerson in 1937, using the Inclosure information, Farn-dish is

'the simplest type of single manor parish small in area and population, and regular in shape. The village and home closes being in the centre surrounded by three fields of about equal area. There were no other closes whatever.'¹⁸

The parish boundaries form smooth lines except for the eastern one which is a meandering brook. The western boundary is formed by the long line of a Roman road to Irchester, and those north and south are smooth watershed curves being quite uninfluenced by the furlong patterns. This

is consistent with the boundaries being defined before the ploughlands of Farn-dish or any of the adjacent villages actually reached them, at Farn-dish demonstrated by the furlongs to the north west. Here Upper Furlong and Spich Hocks Furlong (figure 1, 13) finish off in awkward triangular lands (called *gores*). Clearly the boundary was in existence before them so forming a constraint. Had Farn-dish been cut out of a 'primaeval' larger parish there would have been right-angled bends in the boundary as it made its way between existing ploughlands, as can be seen between Wollaston and Strixton¹² or Great and Little Houghton, Northamptonshire.⁴

The manor and county boundaries, in contrast, have been in chaos until resolved by the Victorians in 1884,¹⁹ who could not tolerate the offence to bureaucracy of a parish lying in two counties. As previously mentioned one of the Domesday estates was in Northamptonshire, this was probably that with property and tofts northwest of the village street. As, however, with open field agriculture the lands belonging to each toft are completely intermixed, the counties became confused throughout the parish strip by strip, and this accounts for Bridges' note of *circa* 1720,

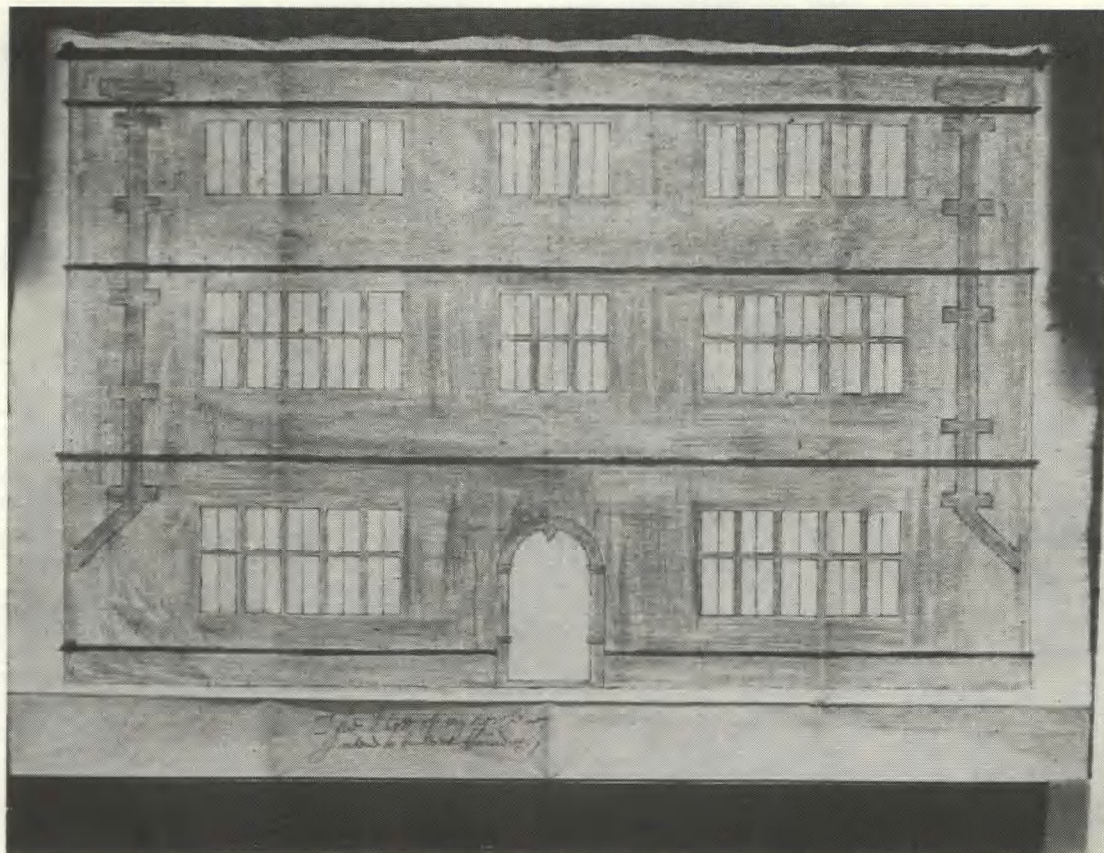
'As to its civil and ecclesiastical government it is subject to the jurisdiction of Bedfordshire, but charged to the land-tax with Irchester . . . The lands in the open field, several closes and houses, are so intermixed with those of Bedfordshire, that in crossing any one furlong you traverse the counties various times'.²⁰

At the time of the Inclosure in 1800 the properties north of the village street are stated to be in Northamptonshire. It is from this document that the cautious legal statement which we have used for our title is taken.²¹

The dual county problems came to a head in 1637 when an enterprising Bedfordshire tax-collector insisted that the villagers living on the Northamptonshire side of the street should pay him, so they ended by paying twice. A letter of complaint was promptly sent to the Sheriff, Henry Chester at Ampt-hill.

'I am requested by Robert Mase and John Pack and the others inhabitant of Northamptonshire to inform you of an abuse afforded to them upon the last years taxation for shipp money by means of Robert Worley a man . . . that loveth to be over busy . . . Parte of Farn-dish is Northamptonshire and the greater parte Bedfordshire. Those of Northamptonshire are

Fig 1 (opposite) Farn-dish furlong plan, 1975.



Pl 1 Plan and elevation of new building by Samuel Collins at the manor house, Farndish, c. 1653.

wholly under the constabulary of Irchester and have no relation in any thing to the constables of Farndish and doe pay with Irchester . . . all taxes . . . Robert Worley causeth these men to be taxed with Farndish returneth their names to Mr Geery (and) . . . escaped for 4 shillings. Afterwards this town being assessed with Northamptonshire contributed 6 shillings . . . and so payed double'.²²

The Inclosure commissioners rationalised the county boundary in an artificial way which cut across several furlongs. Most of the northern third of the parish was in Northamptonshire, and also a detached close set out on the east side of furlong 7. Perhaps the village street was the boundary of some Saxon estate before Farndish was settled, and was still half remembered at Domesday thus becoming crystallized in the political landscape.

The village plan is quite simple, lying either side a principal street which branches into two at

each end. The sunken village lane to the east originally continued to Podington. There was a road, the *Woodway*, leaving to the south west crossing Wollaston Parish to Strixton and Harrold. Within the village the roads are sunken because of erosion occuring before they were properly surfaced. The furlong pattern is set out in a basically rectangular form from the settlement and the four roads, becoming distorted by water courses and valleys (slades) to the east.

No detailed medieval documents survive. The Domesday estates descended as a principal manor and a minor property not of full manorial status.²³ The chief manor seems to have had the usual features of a rabbit warren (figure 1, (a), coney geares), dovecote (figure 1, (b), dovecote yard) and mill.

The pound (figure 1, (c)) was at the west end of the village in front of the manor house. A wind-mill site has not been identified, nor do there appear to be any obvious fishponds.



Pl 2 Modern photograph of the manor house, Farndish.

In common with most villages there has been late- and post-medieval shrinkage, leaving good earthworks east and south of the settlement. At the northwest the earthworks are ploughed over exposing building stone and sherds of twelfth to fourteenth century date. The reduction of population freed land from the open fields so allowing an envelope of 'home closes' to be formed encompassing the earthworks and some of the former ploughlands. This is likely to have occurred during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It was certainly complete by the seventeenth century when many of the closes mentioned in deeds are known by the names later recorded in the Inclosure papers.

Along with the increased area of inclosures there was an increased amount of grass in the open fields. Many strips were left as permanent grass leys, and are referred to in terriers. These grass lands seem to be in furlongs at the edge of the parish. Insufficient ridge and furrow survives to see if any headlands were double, indicating that they too were left as permanent grass, but the name *horse hadens furlong* suggests that there was extra grass formed in this manner. (see under)

The manor was purchased by Samuel Collins of Irchester for £1,000 in 1653.²⁴ He rebuilt the house soon after and his plan and elevation for the new building survives²⁵ (pl 1). It is recognisably

similar to the existing Manor Farm (pl 2). The estate was split between Collins' two daughters, one of whom, Margaret, married Thomas Maydwell of Holcot, Northamptonshire in 1680.²⁶ The Maydwell family, as distant landlords, were only interested in exacting as much money from the estate as possible and frequently vied with other members of the family, e.g. in 1715.²⁷ In 1719 Thomas Alderman applied in Chancery against Thomas Maydwell because he had bought some property in Farndish.

'half a messuage close and severall parcells of arrable land and ley ground lyeing dispersed in the open fields . . . 54 acres and common. Thomas Maydwell has the other half . . . (the) great part of which . . . lye so dispersed and intermixed with other lands of Thomas Maydwell . . . that they are not nor can be easily known or distinguished from (them) . . . Thomas Maydwell for five years past received more than his share of rents . . . taking advantage of the orators ignorance in ye exact Buttals and boundaries.'²⁸

The court found for Thomas Alderman and two separate terriers were drawn up when both halves of the property were sold together in 1720.²⁹ In the early nineteenth century the estate was mortgaged and eventually sold.³⁰ These disputes, no doubt tedious to Farndish people at the time, are useful because they caused terriers

and maps to be made which now help in the identification of the fields.

The name Farndish is derived from *fearn edisc*, which means 'enclosed pasture, overgrown with fern or bracken'.³¹ A complete list of furlong names is given in Appendix 1. Although no early forms are available most of the 1607 names are intelligible. There was then, as usual, a three field system.

Henwycke moore, is Hinwick meer or boundary. *Stanbush* means stone bush, and the form *Pubbly wound*, crooked pebble, perhaps referring to the stones and the twisted shape of the lands. *Hubbons ditch* is also a Wollaston name and occurs in the form *Huboldesdyche* (1372) and *Huboldisdych* (1430);³² the first element is the Old English personal name Hubald. The Farndish 1708 terrier gives the additional information that it butts into *Streetway*, which is a common name for a Roman Road. It seems that the old road was still visibly ditched in early medieval times. *Fidlers grave*, also occurring at Wollaston in 1591,³³ takes its name from a site on the parish boundary. It is very probable the Saxon burial place discovered in 1828, if so we have a case of an event surviving as a place name for about 1200 years.

Fauldewes means ewe fold. *Spich hockes* occurs at Wollaston in 1430 as *Spytchehokes*.³⁴ Ordinarily this would mean bacon hooks and refer to unusually twisty lands. Twisted strips are often noticed in furlong names, thus *Trendeland* (wheel-land) at Hinwick in 1765,³⁵ *Wheelback* and *Tenter* at Higham Ferrers (1576)³⁶ and *Twinywayes* at Strixton (1583).³⁷ There is some doubt in this case because with the two Wollaston furlongs there are three adjacent furlongs bearing the same name; it would be unusual to find so many twisted lands together on gentle terrain with no awkward boundary constraints. It is just possible that instead the name means *spaeche oke* that is, speech oaks, and is an early site of the Higham Ferrers Hundred Court meeting place.

This might be the reason that part of Farndish remained in Northamptonshire. The site is on high ground, typical of a meeting place. *Langlande* also refers to the physical aspect of a furlong, in this case the extreme length of the lands (420 yards compared with the norm of about 200). *Moore*s in Mill Field probably means marsh rather than meer; the area is very marshy caused by numerous springs running out of the base of the limestone. *Old Yards* furlong lies below some shrunken village earthworks. Yard is often used to name a manor house site (e.g. at Bozeat and

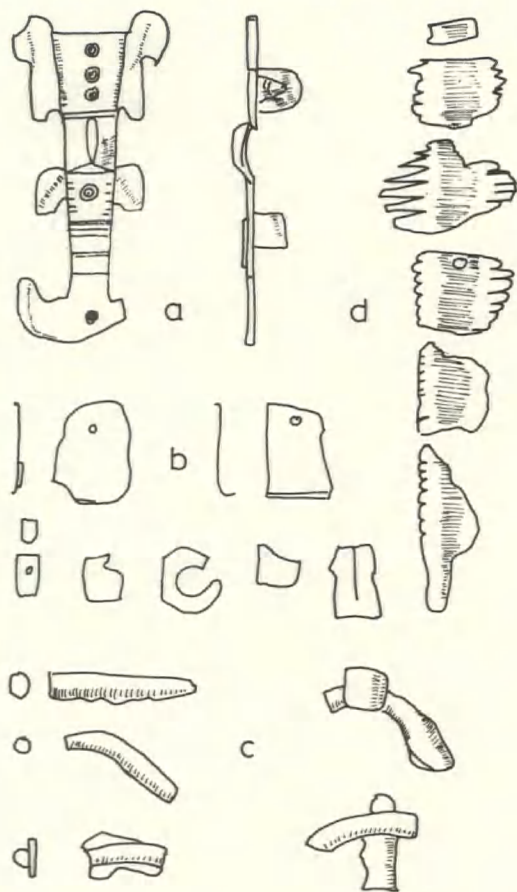


Fig 2 The objects from the Saxon burial at Farndish. (scale $2\frac{1}{2}$).

Wollaston, *Bury yard* and *Hall yard* respectively) and the earthworks may be near one of the Domesday properties.

Fullwell is foul or muddy spring, being the slade below the village. *Hallway* is the Wollaston to Hinwick road and refers to Hinwick Hall. *Rowhedg* may mean rough hedge or, if it should really be *wro*, then corner hedge, and referring to the angle at its north end. *Horshadens*, horse heads is probably the ends or heads of the strips later set down to grass where horses were staked out to graze in the summer.

Although these name forms are rather a late set to work on there seems to be a remarkable absence of any Scandinavian influence in them, except perhaps for *wro* (Old Norse *vra*), which in the surviving form of row is uncertain.

Farndish was inclosed by a Parliamentary Act

of 1800.²¹ The usual straight-hedged fields were set out, and infilled to a certain extent with some curved ones following the open field contours. Limestone quarries were allocated by the Commissioners on furlongs 9 and 18 and gravel on furlong 2. There had been quarries at the first site, *Mayds pit*, at least by 1607.³⁸

The Inclosures rapidly introduced the new agricultural techniques so that by 1838 there were 430 acres of arable (i.e. destroyed ridge and furrow) out of the total area of fields of about 660 acres.³⁹ In 1905 177 acres were described as permanent pasture.¹⁶ The total of ridge and furrow and village earthworks was 113 acres in 1966, now reduced to 51 acres. Ridge and furrow survives in parts of furlongs 18, 20, 32, and 33.

The population has remained small and agricultural, being an estimated 30 at the Hearth Tax of 1671, 68 in 1801 and 72 in 1881.⁴⁰

An interesting practise for hiring labourers is deplored in a sermon of 1858 by G.J. Chester, the Rector. Apparently workmen hired themselves out at 'Statute Fairs' which 'became a time of fiery temptation and fearful peril to the young. The public houses are all filled, those of the worst name having dancing-rooms open, and by the time that night set in drunkenness and grosser crimes are the invariable order of the season'.⁴¹

In furlong 27 there is a crater which was made by a United States Air Force B17F bomber crashing fully laden soon after take-off in 1944.

It is hoped that this account will prove of some use to those undertaking parish studies. It can be seen that it is still possible to map pre-inclosure landscapes, and identify the open fields using the combined evidence of terriers and surviving field names.

APPENDIX 1

FARNDISH FIELD NAMES

The principal sources are the glebe terriers of 1607³⁸ and 1708,⁴² and a conveyance terrier of 1720.²⁹

Number on

Figure 1

Name in 1607

Orientation

West Field or Spring Field 1-10.

1	Henwycke Moore furlong	NS
2	Long John furlong	EW
3	Stanbush leys (Pubbly wounds 1720)	EW
4	(Short furlong above galls 1720)	EW
5	Hubbons dich.	EW
6	(Short furlong shooting to Woodway 1708)	

7	Eldarn (Elder furlong 1708)	NS
8	Fidlers grave (Nether furlong 1708)	NS
9	Mydle furlong	NS
10	Upper furlong	NS

Windmill Field 11-21

11	Fauldewes (Faldows 1708)	EW
12	Blacksandes	NS
13	Spich Hotkes	NS
14	Langlande	NS
15	Mydle furlong	NS & EW
16	Furlong above Irchester Way	EW
17	(Below Irchester way on Meer 1720)	NS
18	Furlong below Irchester way	EW
19	(abutting moores)	EW
20	Short furlong butting into Mores	EW
21	Old Yards furlong	EW

Rowheg Field 22-31

22	Fullwell	NS
23	Beanland	EW
24	Oatecraft	NS
25	Woodway furlong	EW
26	(?Galls furlong)	EW
27	Hallway	EW
28	Rowhedg furlong	EW
29	(? Ditto)	EW
30	Horshadens	NS
31	Brooke furlong	EW

Ancient Inclosure 32-35

32	Grass croft
33-35	

The *Calverslade* running EW, north of the village means calf valley.

APPENDIX 2

THE SAXON BURIAL

By David H. Kennett

The Saxon finds from Farndish have been noted as having been found "in a bank which here forms the county boundary" in the year 1828, or thereabouts. These finds are now in the British Museum, London, but are without accession number.

- a: Small-long brooch, bronze with square head-plate panelled with horns on upper corners; decorated with three circles on the panel with nicks along the edges, with a short bow and down-facing lappets either side of a panel decorated with a circle. The broken notched crescentic foot has a central circlet. Length extant 65mm.
- b: A collection of bronze fragments, including two plates each with a rivet hole and one binding pieces. These are of uncertain interpretation.
- c: Series of five iron fragments, some curved, others straight, probably from two or more iron penannular brooches.

d: fragments from a bone comb; length of longest fragment 32mm.

The associated group is unusual for north Bedfordshire and adjacent areas of Northamptonshire, although iron penannular brooches are known at Holdenby.⁴³ The small-long brooch is of a type found in Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk. Associated examples are few. Two graves at Holywell Row provide some pointers. With a notched crescentic foot, the pair from grave 37⁴⁴ were associated with a large example of a cruciform brooch of Aberg's group IV, with flat excrescences on the knobs, which had been broken and mended in antiquity. The type is known also with a triangular foot; that in Holywell Row grave 79 was buried new in a grave with four other brooches, all of which show considerable wear.⁴⁵ Lethbridge placed both graves late in the sixth century. For all examples of the developed form of the horned small-long brooch this seems not improbable and this is probably the general chronological position of the Farndish grave.⁴⁶

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to D. Carpenter, and A. Waterston of Bromborough Estates, and the late T. Saxby for permission to walk their fields.

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C.B.A., Council for British Archaeology.
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Cruck-Frame Buildings in Bedfordshire

N.W. ALCOCK and P.J. WOODWARD

Bedfordshire lies at the extreme eastern fringe of the area in which crucks were used (fig 1),¹ and an examination of its few recorded cruck buildings is therefore of particular interest in relation to the distribution of crucks in Britain as a whole. In this paper, the two principal cruck-trussed houses are described in detail and their significance assessed.

These two houses are at Marston Moretaine and Husborne Crawley. They are contrasted in their quality and social level, but yet are similar in their craftsmanship and in technical idiosyncracies.

MOAT FARM, MARSTON MORETAINE

(SP 993413; Beds C.C./S.M.R. 4800;² Plates 1-4; Figures 2-8)

The house stands on an isolated site 0.5km, from the centre of Marston Moretaine village, within a 80m by 60m rectangular moat. Although there were doubtless ancillary buildings around it at one period, all trace of them has vanished. The house is of strikingly high quality in its construction and decoration. It is of 'hall, cross-passage and cross-wings' plan, with the hall cruck built and with both cross-wings added later.

An investigation of its documentation has traced the ownership back to 1674 when it was the property of William Fairey of Toddington, gentleman.³ Its earlier history can only be inferred, but it seems likely that it was the manor-house of Marston Moreteyne (that one of the six manors in the parish which covers the area where the house stands). This manor was owned in the seventeenth century by the Snagge family, and it seems likely that at some point in this period they built a new house and sold the old one. If this is correct, there is one significant aspect of its medieval descent. It was held by the Morteyne family from before 1284 to 1428 when it passed to Reynes. From 1380 to 1428 its profits were enjoyed by Elizabeth Morteyne, widow of the last male Morteyne; it is perhaps less likely that major building work occurred during this period than at other times.

HALL

The hall is unusually wide (6.2 metres internally) and its most important features are the central open cruck truss and the spere truss (fig 3). The roof is heavily smoke-blackened, and the plank-like common rafters, (5 by 20cm) are supported on a square-set ridge-piece and two purlins. The latter are chamfered with step stops and have simple splayed scarfs. The central truss has a saddle apex, a cranked collar, arch braces and wide wind-braces. There is also a cross beam only 2m above the present floor, which is clearly original because the blade moulding is returned on the beam (pl 2); the beam has birds-mouth joints around the blades.

The truss is highly decorated (fig 6). There are heavy quarter-round mouldings separated by a fillet on the lower parts of the blades, the cross-beam and the arch-braces. They are thinned out (though not properly stopped) on the blades below the braces, some 1.5m above the beam. This curious gap could have been occupied by a capital or similar feature, but any evidence on the face of the blades is obscured by a partition wall. A heavy hollow-moulded strip (8cm in projection and thickness) is applied to the side of the truss in an arch outside the quarter-round moulding, held on with infrequent pegs. It now only exists on the west side at first floor level, and partly buried in the wall on the ground floor, but its shadow and its peg-holes show that it did reach the centre of the collar, and was present on both sides of the truss. It almost certainly formed a complete arch, interrupted only by the cross-beam. The latter carries this same hollow-moulding (but carved in the solid above the quarter-round), and above this, the beam is battlemented.

Externally, the truss shows a very curious feature (pl 3; fig 6). Each of its 32cm wide studs carries the wall plate, and below this has the outlines of two tenons from spurs (otherwise concealed). Slightly lower down, the stud is thickened to form a heavy projecting buttress (20cm square). Superficially, the buttress appears to be part of the cruck blade, but this is definitely not so, because it is one piece of wood with the upper part of the

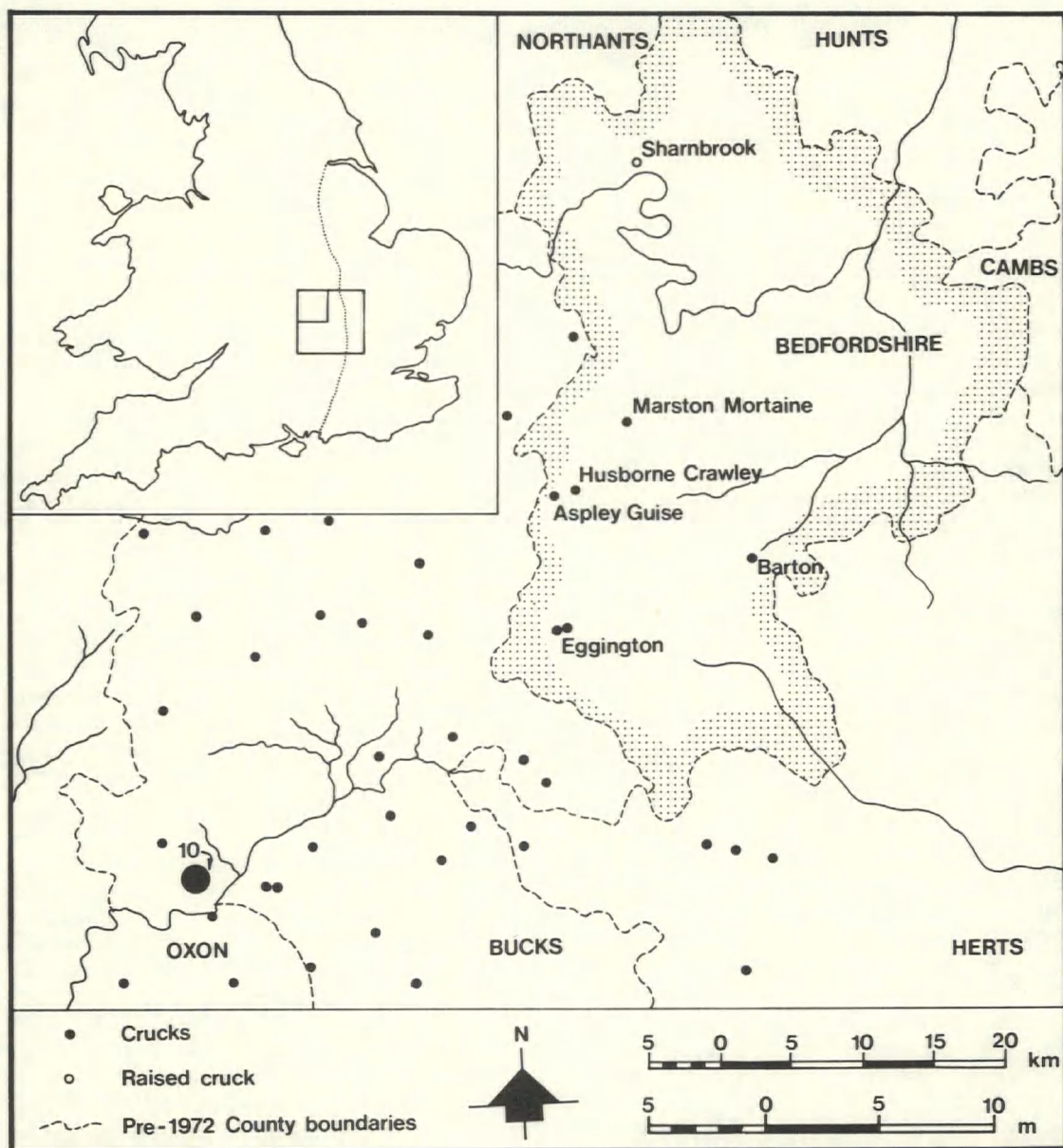


Fig 1 Cruck buildings in Bedfordshire and adjacent counties, with inset map of England and Wales showing approximate eastern limit of crucks.

stud, which is clearly separated from the cruck. The jointing between the two is now concealed, but the most likely method is a long tenon on the back of the blade, let into the stud (with side pegs hidden in the wall). The function of the buttress can best be understood as increasing the depth at the base of the blade, which projects less than 10cm from the original wall face.

The spare truss is unusual, because its main posts are canted inwards; there are spurs at wall-plate level and at about head height. The arch-braces have quarter-round mouldings which are carried right down the posts. The principal rafters are slightly cranked.

The external walls of the hall range have been renewed in recent brick and timber,⁴ apart from

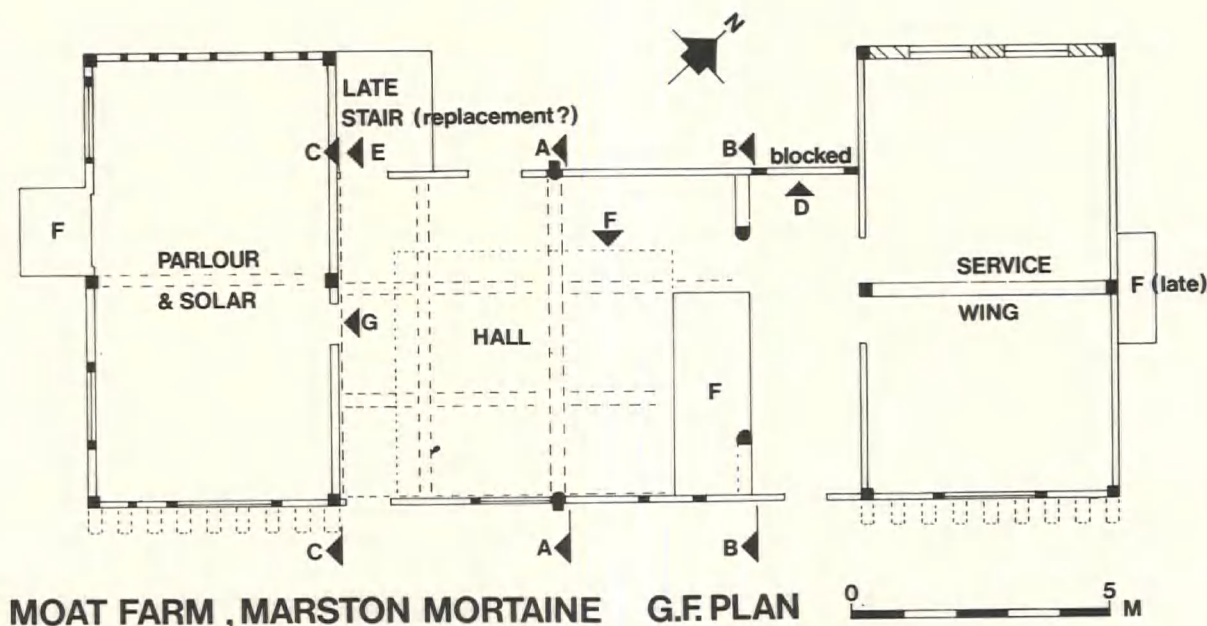


Fig 2 Moat Farm, Marston Mortaine. Ground Floor Plan. The modern partitions in the hall are shown by short dash lines. Existing wall studs are shown, but apart from the principal posts, most are not original. A-C refer to sections. D-F refer to door head elevations.

the cruck blades and spurs, and the original North doorway of the cross-passage. This is two-centred, composed of two heavy curved jambs and a lintel (fig 7). Both ends of the hall are now formed by the side walls of the cross-wings, but this is not the original arrangement. At the east end the wall is concealed; the hall purlins and ridge piece are only connected to the wing roof with rough props, and the ridge extends several feet beyond the side-wall. At the west end (fig 4), a pair of irregular rafters stands on the wall-plate of the wing, crossed at the apex for the ridge and supporting the purlins on blocks. This truss is filled with wattle-and-daub, and all of the hall side is smoke-blackened.

Superficially from this evidence, the hall and wing are contemporary, but (apart from the contrast with the east end) close examination shows that the wing is later. The principal evidence comes from the ridge-piece. This continues past the truss and, although the rear of the truss is entirely clean, the ridge is heavily smoked. Also, the first truss east of the end wall has common rafters above the purlins, but below this the rafters are heavy (20cm square) and carry a pair of wind-braces. These rafters have the appearance of an intermediate truss, but this is unlikely because it would imply a hall of enormous

length. It is more probable that they are the relics of the end truss of the hall, and that this was of tie-beam construction, as the rafters are not consistent with either a cruck or an aisled truss.

Of the original form of the house apart from the hall, we have no direct evidence but the most likely hypothesis is that it was a straight range, only acquiring cross-wings in modernisation. It also appears from the smoke-blackened ridge-pieces at each end, that at roof level there was no partitioning between the hall and the end bays.⁵

The date for the hall can be suggested from the truss moulding (fig 6). The heavy quarter-round is characteristically fourteenth century,⁶ although the use of battlementing is normally later. Taken together, a date of *circa* 1400 may be correct; the cross-passage doorway is also consistent with this.⁷

CROSS-WINGS

The two cross-wings are extremely similar. On the south side both are flush with the hall range on the ground floor and jettied above, while on north side they run back 2m and are un-jettied. The wings are much narrower than the hall range, and it is noticeable that their first floors are significantly taller than their ground floors.



Pl 1 Exterior from south of Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine.

[Photograph: Royal Commission on Historical Monuments: Crown Copyright reserved.]

The framing has been largely replaced but seems to have had studs at about 60cm spacing, and there is now a rail half way up each storey. However, in the part exposed at the west end of the hall, the studs are at 1.5m intervals with long upward braces (fig 4), and this is an alternative possibility for the original wall framing.

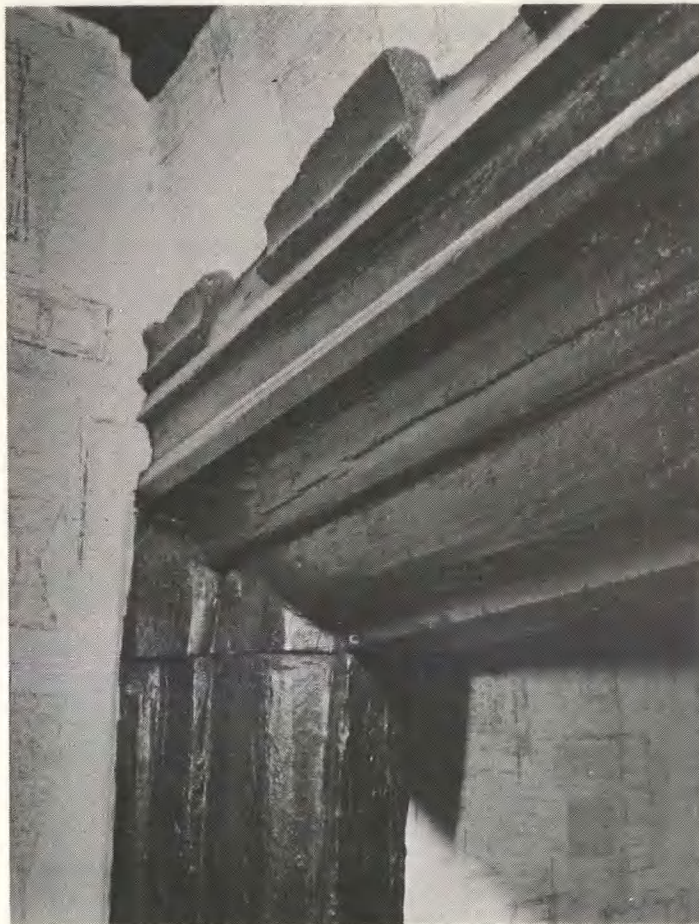
Each wing has a central truss with principal rafters, a collar, queen-posts and braces from the posts to the collar. Each roof has two purlins and slender irregular wind-braces, but no ridge-piece.

The west wing was clearly the 'solar' end of the house. The central beam on the ground floor has arch-braces, and a heavy clunch chimney serves fireplaces on each floor. Both fireplaces have battlemented stone lintels, and that on the first floor is decorated with blind tracery combining trefoil-headed lancets and symmetrical quatrefoils. The chimney is clearly original, but the

perfection of the fireplace decoration is rather suspicious, and we are forced to discount it as possibly a 'Romantic' improvement to the house. The east wing was presumably for service. It is now divided into two main rooms on each floor, but there are no features visible to confirm whether this is original. It has a nineteenth century chimney on the east side.

Dating for the wing can be based on the queen-posts, in combination with the fact that the open hearth of the hall was still in use. This suggests a date of around 1500 or somewhat later.

There is one major stage of improvement evident in the house, dateable to the later sixteenth century. The hall was ceiled over with intersecting moulded beams (fig 5) and with a cornice around the walls; there are bosses carved with roses at their intersections. A large chimney was inserted against the spere truss, probably intended to serve both floors (although this is uncertain as



Pl 2 Detail of cross-beam of hall crucks, Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine.

Pl 3 Detail of external buttress, Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine.

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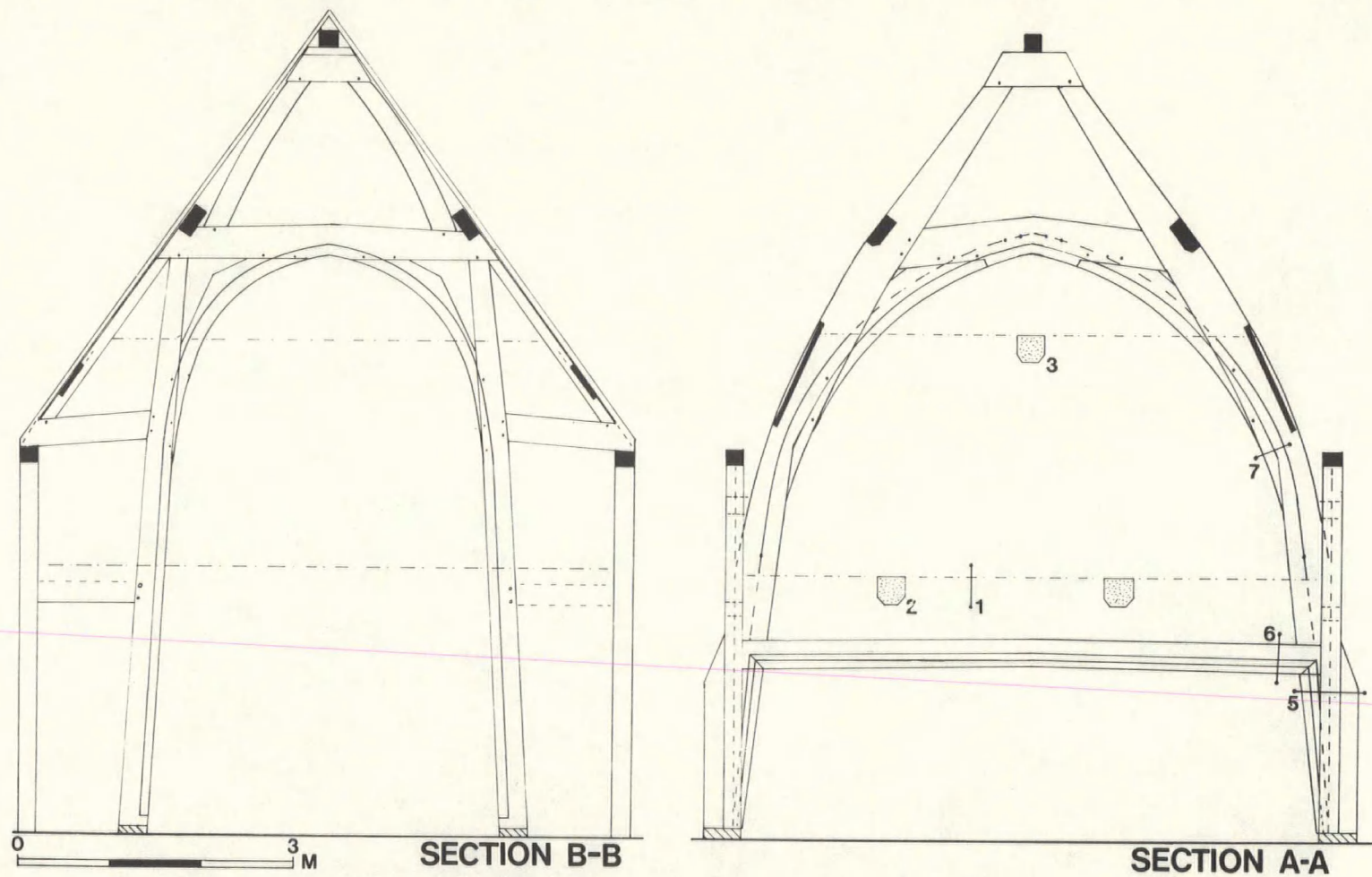


Fig 3 Moat Farm, Marston Mortaine. Section A-A, cruck truss; and B-B spere truss. Numerals refer to moulding details.

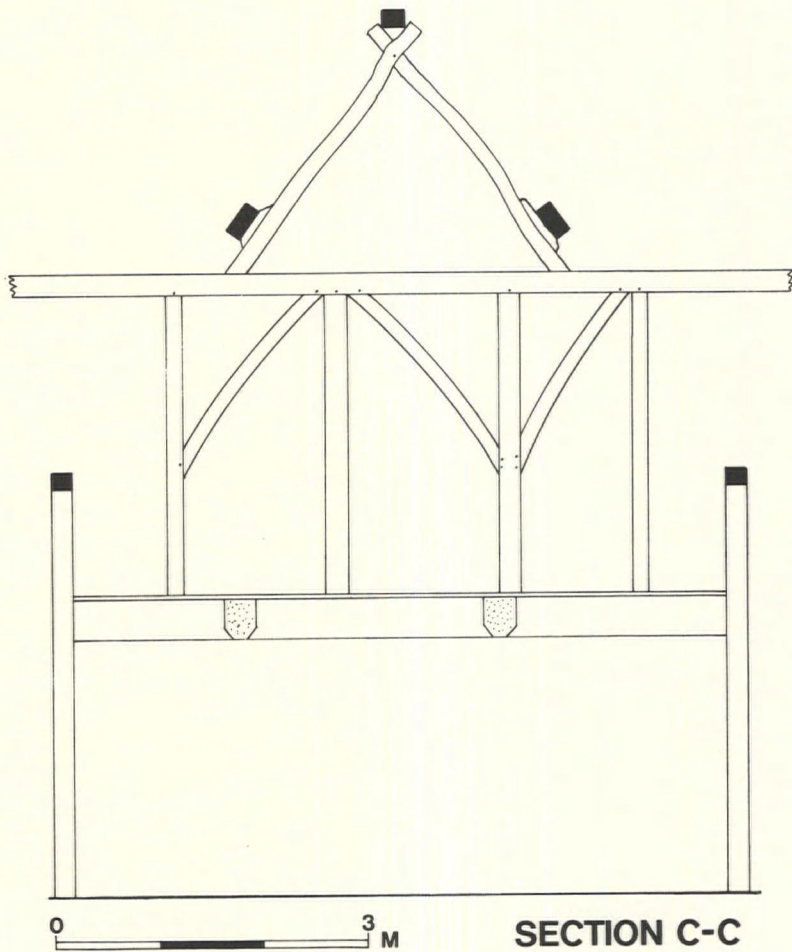


Fig 4 Moat Farm, Marston Mortaine. Section C-C, end of hall.

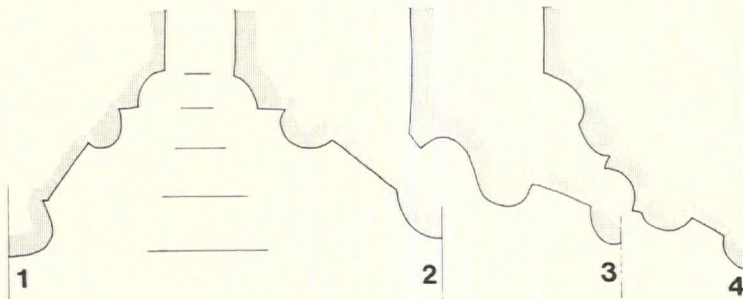


Fig 5 Moat Farm, Marston Mortaine. Beam Mouldings 1-4. Nos 1-3 are as marked in Fig 3. No. 4 is the upper floor ceiling beam in the East wing. Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$ full size.

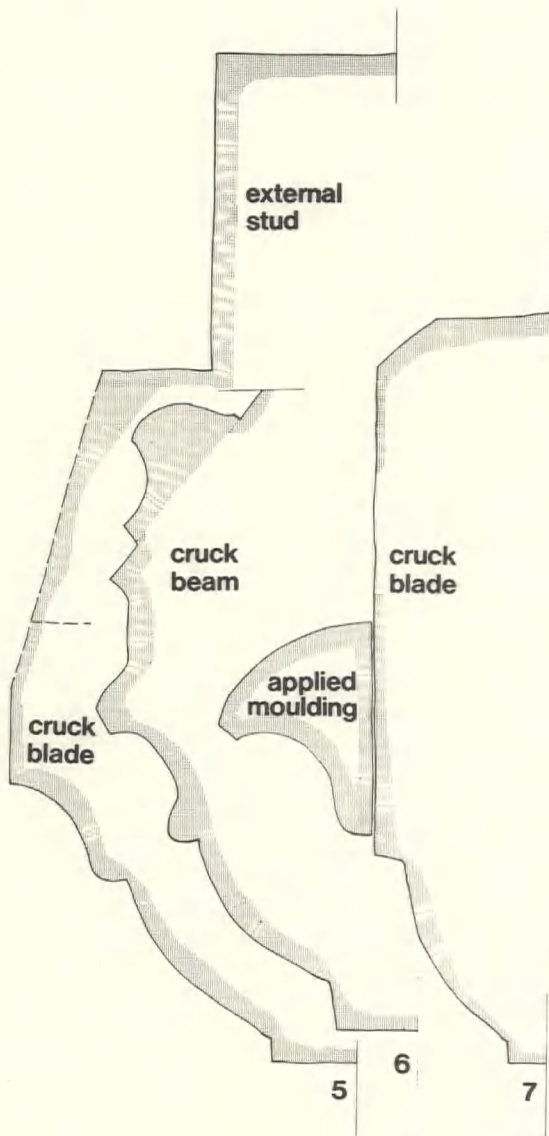


Fig 6 Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine. Cruck truss mouldings 5-7. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ full size

the fireplaces are completely blocked). The room or rooms over the hall were also ceiled, with a spine beam using almost the same moulding as the floor beams (fig 5).

Moulded axial ceiling and cornice beams are also present above the first floor rooms of the east wing, and similar ones are probably concealed in the west wing. These may also be of the later sixteenth century, but the moulding is much more complex, (fig 5, moulding 4) and they may well be an original part of the wing.

A doorhead of depressed ogee form (fig 7) poses the same problems of date as these beams. It is located in the west wing, at first floor level, leading into the stair in the north-west corner between wing and hall. The lean-to projection housing this stair is entirely modern but the door-head may be *in situ*. If this is correct, then there was presumably an earlier stair in the same place as the present one:

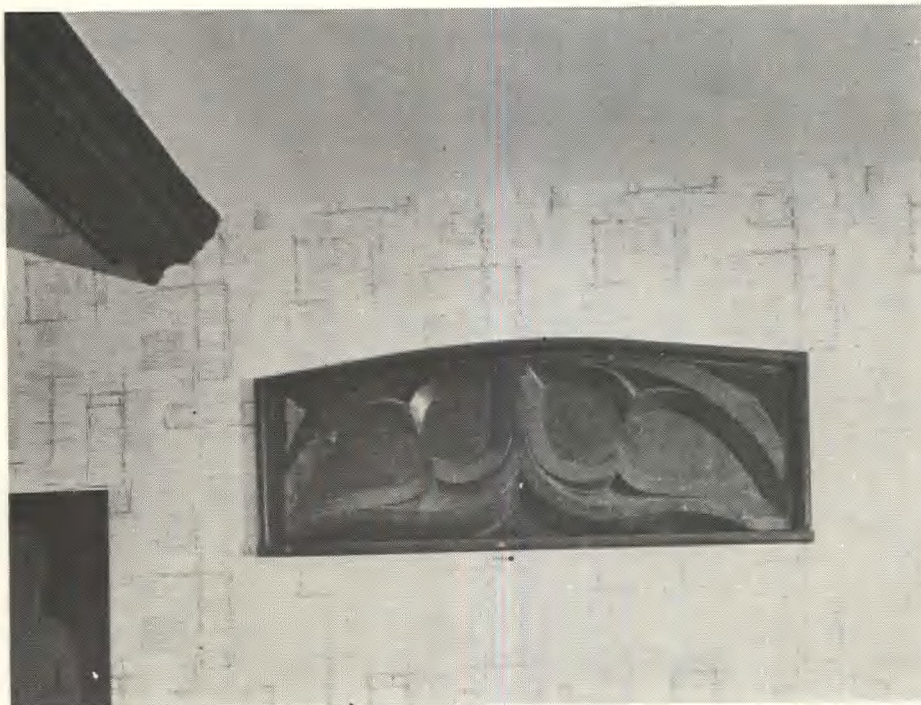
One other early feature should be noted: a set of three wooden panels of blind cusped tracery (pl 4; fig 8). Two are identical (pl 4), and the third is very similar. Their original function is not certain, but the general shape and ogee lower moulding suggests that they were probably door-heads. Two are clearly not *in situ*, being incorporated in modern partitioning of the hall; the third (fig 8,G) is over the ground-floor door from the hall to the west wing, but also appears to have been built in recently. A wooden lintel with battlementing is also reset, over the present outer door on the north side of the hall.

275 BEDFORD ROAD, HUSBORNE CRAWLEY (SP 953363; Beds. C.C./S.M.R. 3737; Plates 5-8; Figure 9)

The house is set back from the main Bedford to Woburn Sands road, overlooking the village centre at Church End, Husbome Crawley.

On an estate map of 1760 of the Duke of Bedford,⁸ the house stands on part of a close known as Home Field, owned by a Mr Edmonds. The house and land were subsequently purchased by the Duke of Bedford. Earlier ownership has not been investigated because, even if the fifteenth century owner could be found, it is not likely to throw much light on the building. Although the status of the building has not been directly established, comparison of structure and situation show it is of a lesser significance than the building at Marston Mortaine. Nevertheless it is a fairly large building (four bays) and of generous proportions. Each cruck truss has been carefully designed relative to the functional spaces desired within the building, and although the jointing techniques are not complex, the design of each cruck truss has reached quite a high level of sophistication.

Until a few years ago the building was single storeyed with lofts. The roof space was reached by a ladder from the south bay, and was apparently used for storage. Recent conversion to a full two storey building, by raising the level of the eaves and the insertion of a staircase has enabled us to



Pl 4 Blind tracery, detail, opposite G on figure 2.

[Photograph: Royal Commission on Historical Monuments: Crown Copyright reserved]

examine the structure of the building fully, identifying it as a 4-bay cruck structure with a central open 2-bay hall of probable fifteenth century date. The ceiling over of the building probably took place in the seventeenth century when the brick chimney was inserted to the north of the central hall truss.

Figure 9 is both a representation of the surviving cruck timbers and an interpretation of the functional arrangement of the building. There are four cruck trusses enclosing three bays; beyond them, the southern-most bay has a stud end-wall which is constructed of reused timbers. The two centre trusses, 2 and 3, have saddle apexes and a slight cranking to the collar. Trusses 4 and 1 have long cranked collars and the latter has empty half lap joints, two on the collar and one on the upper half of each blade (fig 9). The proportions of the two centre trusses and trusses 1 and 4 are also very different. The centre trusses have larger timbers and blades only slightly curved, whilst the other two have thinner timbers which do not meet, and a more curved form; if extended, they would meet at a very oblique angle, and this suggests that 1 and 4 have not been truncated at a later date although the ends of the blades may

have been slightly trimmed. The dissimilarity between these two pairs suggests that the original roof was of a half hipped form, but it is difficult to understand exactly how the ridge piece originally continued from the two centre trusses. At the north end, truss 4 is completed with a brick gable, but was certainly of half-hip form until the recent conversion (pl 5).

The structure at the southern end is very remarkable. The purlins, extending 1.4m beyond truss 1, are supported by wind-braces but are otherwise 'flying' (pl 7). They carry a cross-beam (omitted from fig 9) at their ends, and the beam, the wind-braces and the purlins (including their free ends) are heavily smoke-blackened.⁹ The cross-beam is puzzlingly different in character from the rest of the structure, as it is very straight with a regular square section; it is not jointed to the purlins, but must be pegged in place. This end of the house was presumably fully hipped from an early date (as it still remains).

A further complexity of truss 1 is the presence of lap joints on the collar and blades. Those on the collar might have carried some form of support for the ridge, but it is difficult to see what was the function of those on the blades, unless the

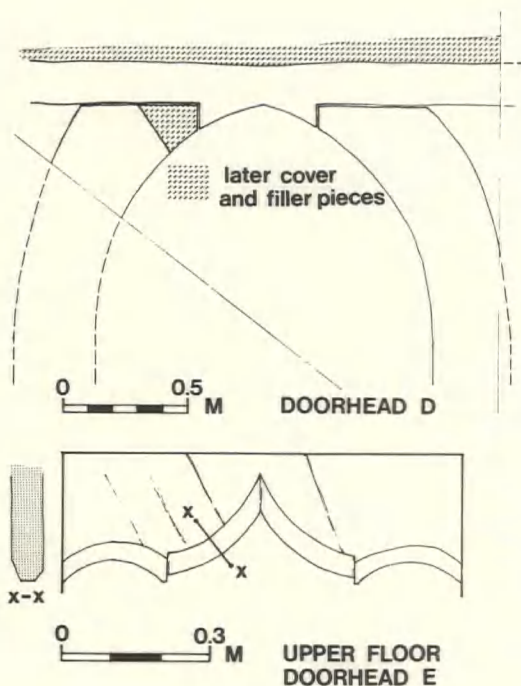


Fig 7 Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine. Door head details D and E.

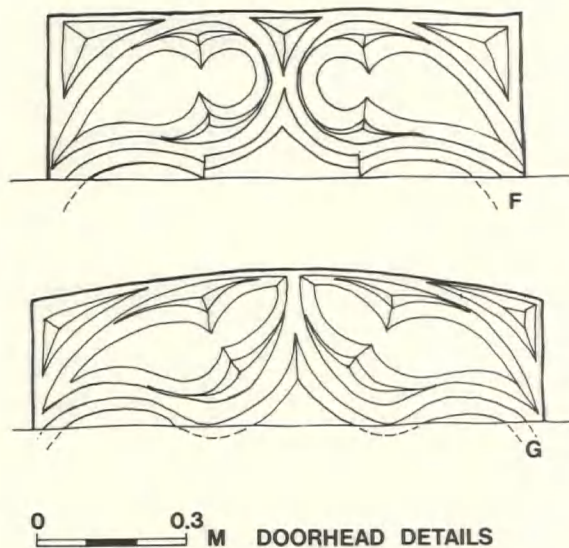


Fig 8 Moat Farm, Marston Moretaine. Blind Cusped Tracery, door head details F and G.

partitioning between hall and end bay required an extra cambered collar. This collar would then provide a housing for the ends of the timbers halved across the surviving collar. It is noticeable that these collar halvings each have three irregularly spaced peg-holes, possibly suggesting repair work.

On the ground-floor there are opposed mortices, apparently for the head-beam of the partition that would be expected at this point, dividing the hall from what was presumably a small service bay.

The main hall cruck truss 2 (fig 9; pl 6) has a saddle apex, a slightly cranked collar, arch braces and a low tie-beam. This tie-beam has in the main been removed, but was undoubtedly continuous because it has a straight lap joint and no stop unlike the notched lap of, for example, the spur in truss 3.¹⁰ All these timbers are chamfered on their interior edges. Daub on boards and wattle fills the upper triangle of this truss but is not smoke-blackened like the surrounding structure, and is therefore a later infilling. The evidence of the chamfers, the arch braces and smoke blackening of all upper timbers in the two bays on either side of 2, shows undoubtedly that truss 2 was the open central cruck truss for a two-bay hall.

Cruck truss 3 has a similar apex to 2, but was obviously closed. There is smoke-blackening on the surviving wattle and daub in the apex only on the hall face, and wattle holes remain for further infill on the outer side of the cruck blades. This truss has also a slightly lower tie-beam with spurs to support the wall plate. This lower tie-beam is repeated in the end truss 4 and with the deliberate insertion of spurs is clearly indicative of the formation of a two storey bay. Access to the upper storey may have been from within the end bay or possibly from the hall.

Mortices in the studs above the tie-beam of truss 3 indicate a rail at this point. Access to the lower room is under a chamfered doorhead. The studs on either side of this door are not chamfered and are set back, suggesting that the actual door frame was inside them. All the studs on this truss are probably in their original positions, and each has a smoke blackened face towards the hall. The sill beam is probably a replacement; it has mortices for a suspended floor.

Cruck truss 4 has two cross-beams, one to take the floor of the two storey bay and the other the wall plate. This extra strengthening and the presence of wattle holes down the upper side of



Pl 5 Exterior from south-east of Husbourne Crawley before conversion.
[Photograph: Bedfordshire County Council]

the cruck blade tell us that this was always the end truss of the building. The surviving studs, from an examination of the peg holes, are probably contemporary (pl 8).

Wind braces occur at each cruck truss and are sawn in pairs although not necessarily used opposite one another. Each has a mortice and tenon joint singly pegged at the blade and a double pegged lap joint at the purlin. The rafters were pegged to the purlins at about 0.5m intervals, and the purlins have simple splay scarfs. Curiously, these are staggered, one being on either side of truss 2. There is no direct evidence for the roof material, but thatch was presumably used.

All four cruck-trusses are grounded on a sill around the building. This appears to have simple lap joints at the corners like the cross sills at trusses 1 and 3. It is laid on a raised foundation of

local sandstone (in places replaced by brick) and at the base of each cruck blade large roughly squared sandstone blocks have been used to spread the localised pressure. There is a similar block at the south-east corner of the house, and this has led us to consider the possibility of a fifth cruck truss, at the southern end. It seems, however, more likely that the present arrangement is original, with a hipped bay, because the bay is very short, and because truss 1 seems to have been designed to carry a full hip. It is also certain from the smoke-blackening that the present arrangement was in existence while the open hall was still in use.

The other external features that must be noted are the wall studs supporting the now missing wall plate, at each cruck truss. It was not possible to examine fully their joints to the cruck blades, but each appears to have a simple lap joint with



Pl 6 Detail of hall cruck, Husbourne Crawley.

[Photograph: Bedfordshire County Council.]

the end of the tie-beam or spur, (with a side peg concealed in the wall) and to be pegged to the outer face of the cruck blade at its base. There would probably be a notch in the blade of the cruck to support the stud but this is nowhere visible. There does, however, seem to be a variant of this on cruck 2 on the eastern side where the stud is no longer extant, but the outer face of the cruck blade has obviously been shaved off. Also, since there is no peg-hole to be seen at the base of the blade, there was presumably a side peg. In either case the cruck must have projected beyond the face of the building. This feature of artificially deepening the hall cruck by means of the attached stud to form a buttress was also noticed at Marston Moretaine. This feature cannot be seen on the other blade of the hall cruck as there is a later cover strip, but is possibly indicated by two side pegs and the apparent remains of a long mortice in the west blade of cruck 4. A long cut on the other blade of 4 may indicate this also.

It is difficult to find out where the original wall studs were positioned since the wall plate has gone and not all the peg holes can be found in the ground sill. However, one wall between 2 and 3 on the western side does have indications of their placing. There is no evidence for the original entry.

There is no specific evidence of date for this house, but the elaborate hall truss places it firmly in the medieval period, and could suggest the earlier fifteenth century. Its plan is also characteristically medieval, with two bay open hall with inner room and solar over at one end and a small lean-to bay, presumably for service use at the other.

COMPARISONS BETWEEN BEDFORDSHIRE CRUCKS

There are striking similarities between Husborne Crawley and Marston Moretaine in their details despite their different status. One of these is the pro-



Pl 7 Detail of 'flying purlins', Husbourne Crawley.
[Photograph: Bedfordshire County Council.]

jection from the exterior of the cruck blade, as a buttress (Marston Mortaine) or an apparently decorative feature (Husborne Crawley). Another is the use of a low tie-beam on the central open truss of the hall. This also occurs in the tie-beam truss of a house of about 1500 at Eaton Socon.¹¹ The function of these beams is incomprehensible; they are decorated with mouldings or chamfers and did not carry any structure beneath them, nor apparently above, and they would seem to obscure the decorative arch-braces. However, they do clearly indicate a local tradition of carpentry.

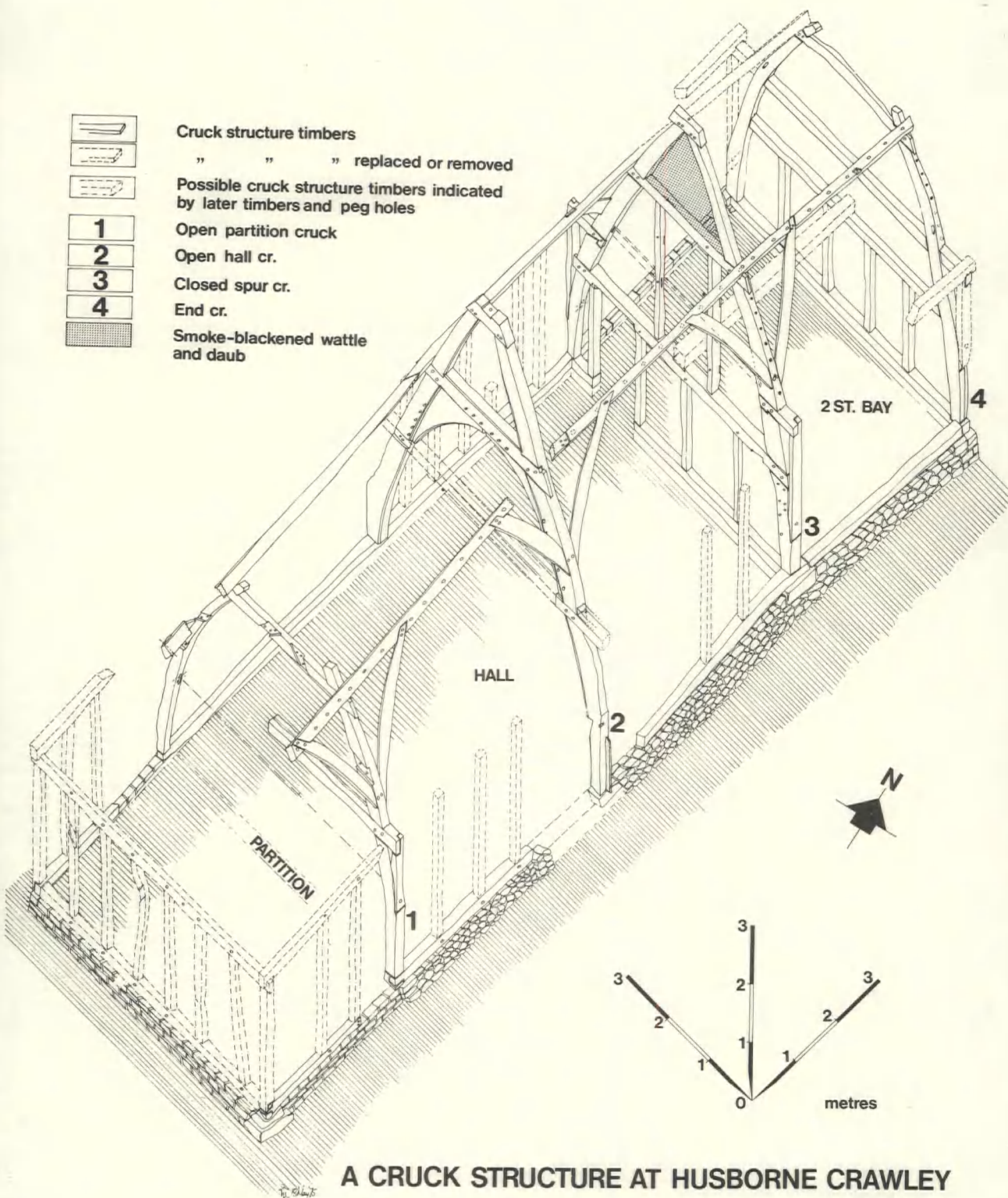
Five other crucks or near-crucks have been discovered in Bedfordshire, at Sharnbrook, Aspley Guise, Barton-in-the-Clay, and two at Eggington (Clipstone).

The one at 30/32 High Street, Sharnbrook (SP 996595; Beds. C.C./S.M.R. 5923) apparently has short curved feet raised well up the side walls of a stone-built house. It is similar to a number of Northamptonshire examples, also lying within the

Jurassic belt. Their development seems to have been from (probable) full crucks encased in stone via raised crucks set in stone walls to short (raised) crucks.¹² The Sharnbrook example, belonging to the last group, has little direct relationship with the timber-framed buildings further south.

The cruck at 10-12 West Hill, Aspley Guise (SP 942359; Beds C.C./S.M.R. 3681 Figure 10) is very fragmentary, but shows similarities with Husborne Crawley. One truss survives in part (fig 10), and has the doubled tie-beam as truss 4 of Husborne Crawley, suggesting that it is the end truss of a two-storeyed bay. The next truss has been removed apart from its tie-beam, but the purlins remain and show smoke-blackening over what would be the hall; beyond this nothing remains.

At 32 Sharpenhoe Road, Barton-in-the-Clay (TL 079308; Beds. C.C./S.M.R. 242), one cruck truss survives, apparently an internal truss from





Pl 8 Exterior from north-east after conversion, Husbourne Crawley.

[Photograph: Bedfordshire County Council]

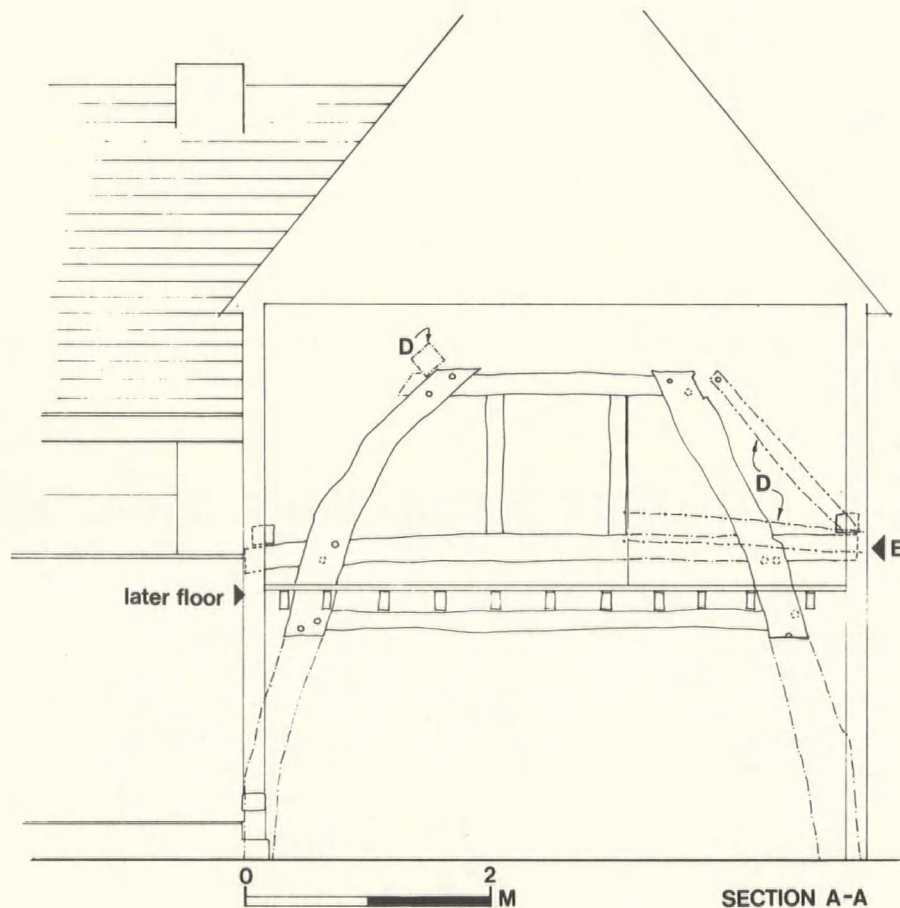
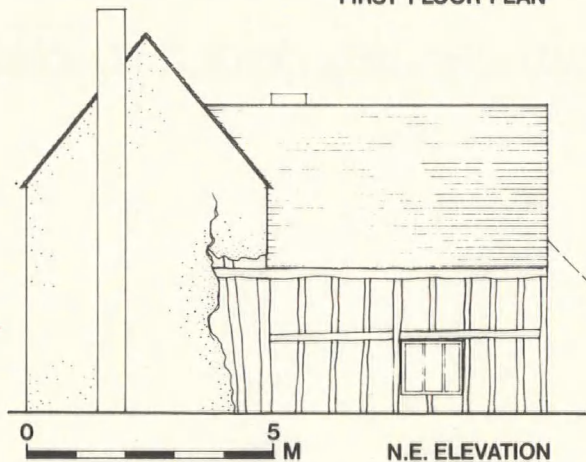
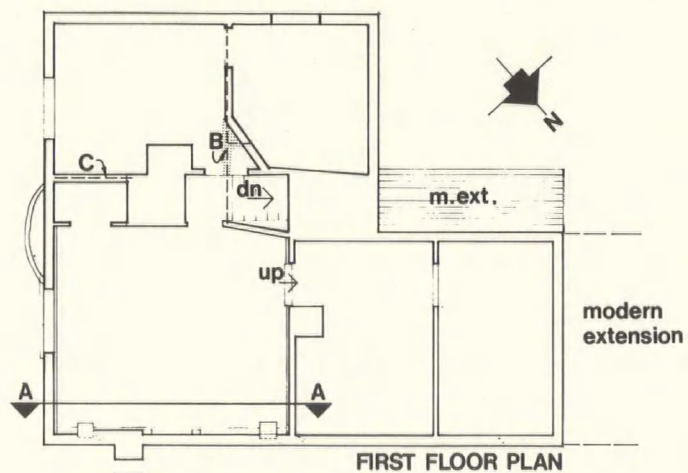
a two- or three-bay house. The blades are smooth and curved but show no features that might suggest a house of any quality.

Of the two at Clipstone, Eggington Parish, one survives, Clipstone Cottage (SP 94782631; Beds C.C./S.M.R. 4415); and the other, a barn opposite this cottage at Manor Farm (SP 94802633; Beds C.C./S.M.R. 6760) was demolished in 1970.¹³ The crucks at Clipstone Cottage (fig 11), define the only surviving bay of what must have been a longer building. Unfortunately, not all of the two cruck trusses are visible, but what could be examined suggests contrasts rather than similarities to the other cruck structures of Bedfordshire. The wind braces are not fixed directly to the cruck blades, but are pegged to packing piece between the wall plate and the through purlin. The spurs seem to be introduced in the internal

truss to raise the tie-beam (rather than to lower it as at Husborne Crawley) to produce an open truss form. There is only a single cross beam in what must be the end cruck truss, which has a long collar at purlin level forming a half hip.¹⁴ The latter point is one similarity to the Husborne Crawley example. Unfortunately, the apex of neither truss is visible. The purlins continue with attached wind braces to the North West end of the building where a modern brick wall probably replaces another cruck truss. All the visible timbers have been cleaned and creosoted, so that no smoke blackening can be seen. It is clear that this was the end of at least a two-bay building, but until the upper roof structure can be examined, it cannot be more closely defined.

The building to which Clipstone Cottage bears most resemblance is the Manor Farm barn on the opposite side of the road. From surviving photographs it was a complete four-bay cruck-truss building with half-hipped ends. The size and pro-

Fig 9 (opposite) Husbourne Crawley. Axonometric record and suggested reconstruction.



- B — smoke-blackened purlin and rafter
- C — probable cross-beam of second cruck at level E and reused rafter, s-b
- D — line of purlin from B, rafter and cross-beam from C

10-12 WEST HILL ASPLEY GUISE

Fig 10 Aspley Guise cruck frame building.

CLIPSTONE COTTAGE, EGGINGTON

O.S. ref.: SP 94782631

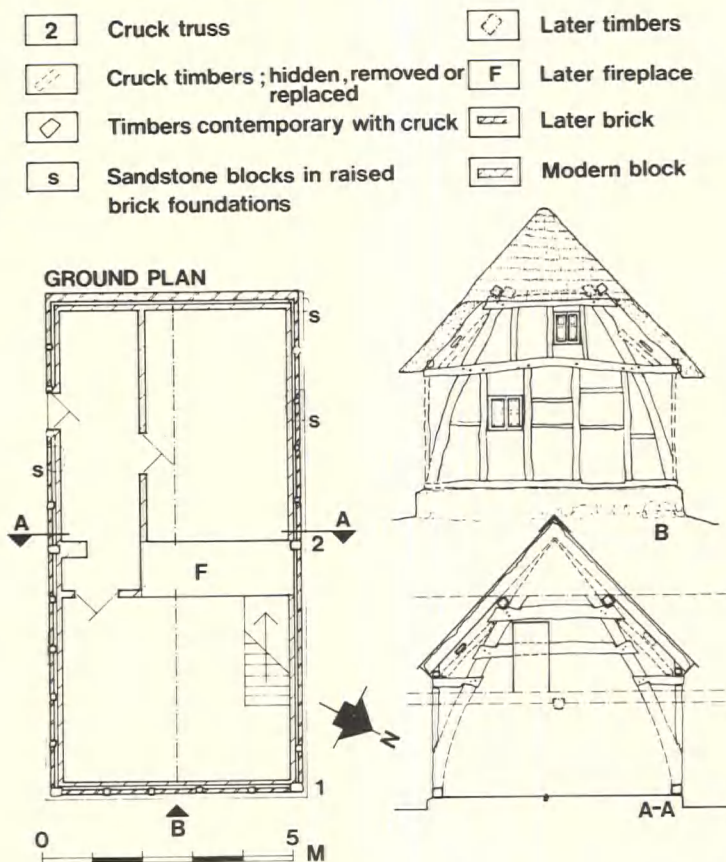


Fig 11 Eggington, Clipstone Cottage cruck frame building. Existing wall studs shown on plan and elevation, are probably not all original but seem to indicate original placings.

portion of the bays were similar to that at Clipstone cottage. The central cruck truss had a crossed apex, collar to support the through purlins, spurs to support the wall plate and a raised tie-beam. On the other two internal trusses, the blades extended somewhat above the collar, but did not meet; they also carried tie-beams and spurs. The tie-beams were set high, above the spurs, on all the internal trusses, no doubt to keep the interior unobstructed; they make it clear that the building had always been a barn. On the end trusses, the blades also terminated just above the collars, presumably for half-hips, while the tie-beams were at wall-plate level. There were wind braces between the purlins and packing pieces fixed outside the cruck blades.

The characteristics of these two buildings at Clipstone contrast with those further north at

Husborne Crawley, Aspley Guise and Marston Moretaine. These contrasts suggest a distinct group which has a slightly different design tradition to those further north in the county.

THE USE OF CRUCKS IN BEDFORDSHIRE

Bedfordshire lies on the extreme east of the area where cruck-construction survives (fig 1). Although further field-work may add examples in the south west, to give a density closer to that in Buckinghamshire, it is clear in our present state of knowledge that there is a well-defined frontier between 'crucks' and 'non-crucks' in existing buildings.¹⁵ Evidence from excavations also suggests that this is not the result of crucks having disappeared from the area to the east; an example is the eleventh century post-hole house at Eaton Socon, Cambs., (formerly Beds.).¹⁶ The two poss-

ible explanations for the use of crucks in west Bedfordshire are then:

- (i) that they were in use for a long period (several or many centuries) in the area where they occur, or
- (ii) that their use spread (clearly from the west) into this area superseding less permanent house-types, at the same time as other permanent forms of construction were appearing, which proved to be more dominant.

In our view, the first alternative is unlikely because it must surely imply some cultural frontier preventing further migration of crucks, and there seems to be no evidence at all in other aspects of building construction for such a frontier; we would also expect *either* a greater density of crucks, *or* for surviving examples to be notably early.

A spread from the west, in contrast, appears to offer a satisfactory explanation in general; crucks were used by those carpenters or for those clients who had particular links with areas further west, where cruck construction was standard. Most of the crucks in this area are of simple construction in houses of modest quality. It is significant that in the one exception, Marston Mortaine, there is one other major structural feature, the spere truss, that derives directly from western traditions. There are no more than two or three other examples in the whole of East Anglia.¹⁷ However, we do not suggest that the carpenter of this building was himself from western England; on the contrary, his work carries the distinctive traits of a local carpentry school.^{18, 19}

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank, Mr Tom Young, Mr and Mrs Lescott, Mr Ian Tucker and Mr and Mrs Pizzuti for permission to examine their houses at Husborne Crawley, Aspley Guise, Clipstone and Marston Moretaine, respectively; and David Smith, Peter Addyman, and Albert Giddings for informing us of the existence of the buildings at Marston Moretaine, Husborne Crawley and Aspley Guise.

Thanks are also due to Mr Batchelor for information on the Manor Farm barn and for his photographic record of it; and to the R.C.H.M. for access to their notes on Marston Mortaine. The photography at Husborne Crawley was carried out by Bedfordshire County Council Photographer Ken Whitbread and his assistant, Dave Stubbs. Permission to publish these photographs has been given by Bedfordshire County Council. Those at Marston Mortaine were taken by the R.C.H.M. and permission likewise given.

Peter Woodward's contribution was undertaken in the course of his work as a field archaeologist for Bedfordshire County Council.

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

NOTES

- 1 N.W. Alcock, *A Catalogue of Cruck Buildings*, Phillimore, 1973.
- 2 Beds. C.C. S.M.R. — Bedfordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record; These records are accessible in the Conservation Section of the Planning Department.
- 3 This documentary evidence was kindly provided by J.F.J. Collett-White, of the Bedfordshire County Record Office. The title deeds are: Bedfordshire County Record Office (henceforth B.C.R.O.), Russell Deeds Box 135/6, Bundle 5/1-40 (Calendar Vol. V, p 379).
- 4 This may well be the work of 1880 by the Duke of Bedford noted in *Victoria History of Bedfordshire III* (1912), 308.
- 5 cf. N.W. Alcock and M. Laithwaite, 'Medieval Houses in Devon and their Modernisation', *Med. Arch.*, 13 (1973), 100-125.
- 6 M.W. Barley, A. Rogers and P. Strange, 'The Medieval Parsonage House, Congingsby, Lincolnshire', *Ant J.*, 49 (1969), 346-366.
- 7 If the identification as Marston Morteyne manor house is correct, and the unlikelihood of construction during Elizabeth Morteyne's widowhood is accepted, then a date of *circa* 1375 seems most likely, as post 1428 is probably too late.
- 8 Estate map of Duke of Bedford 1767, compiled 1760, B.C.R.O. R1/42.
- 9 There are now two short vertical smoke-blackened timbers, one standing on each end of the cross-beam; this could have carried the original hip rafters but may have been reset during the alterations.
- 10 This joint contrasts with the birds mouth joints on the corresponding beam at Marston Moretaine.
- 11 N.W. Alcock, 'Timber Framed Buildings in North Bedfordshire', *Beds. Arch J.* 4 (1969), 27-29.
- 12 R.B. Wood-Jones, *Traditional Domestic Architecture of the Banbury Region*, (1958).
- 13 The only surviving evidence comes from colour slides taken by the owner Mr Batchelor, on demolition; a set of these is now in the Bedfordshire County Council's Sites and Monuments Record (S.M.R. 6760). A portion of the cruck blade with spur has been preserved by and is in the possession of Mr Batchelor.
- 14 This is not at present visible, the old thatch being 'tinned' over, but is clear from an earlier photograph of the building from which the elevation drawing in Fig 11 has been partly produced.
- 15 The only claimed cruck lying significantly further east, at Knebworth, Hertfordshire (TL 2520) (Alcock 1974) is now considered to be spurious. (Information from J.T. Smith).
- 16 P.V. Addyman, *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, 58 (1965), 38-73, esp. 43-52.
- 17 Information provided by W.S. Phillips and Mrs S. Colman.
- 18 For a contrasting view of cruck development, see J.T. Smith, 'Cruck Distributions: An Interpretation of Some Recent Maps', *Vernacular Architecture*, 6 (1975), 3-18.
- 19 Paper received December, 1975.

Medieval Pottery and a Possible Kiln Site at Everton

JANE HASSALL

SUMMARY

Landscaping of a private garden in Everton and subsequent fieldwalking in the neighbourhood, produced large amounts of pottery of late fourteenth – early fifteenth century date. Local geological conditions would favour a kiln site and although none has been found so far, the uniform nature of the pottery and the presence of wasters indicate that one may well have existed here.

INTRODUCTION

During the winter of 1975 a quantity of pottery from Everton was brought to Bedford Museum for identification.¹ It was thought to be of Medieval date and subsequent research indicates a late-fourteenth- to early-fifteenth-century date range.² Several sherds were cracked or badly fired indicating that they may have come from a kiln site, rather than being ordinary medieval domestic debris. Consequently a site visit was made and pottery was recovered from three main areas. The chief of these was area B on the location map (fig 1) where over two kilograms of pottery were picked up, in addition to a large quantity already found by the landowner during recent building works and garden landscaping. Odd broken clay bars were amongst his collection, suggesting that the finds represented kiln debris and possibly a rake-out area.

Area A was a sand quarry pit associated with nineteenth-century brickmaking and now used for market gardening. Only 300g weight of sherds was recovered here, but there are local reports of whole pots having been found in the sides of the quarry.³

Area C was referred to as the 'burnt ground' to the north-west of area A, and stood some 4 metres higher than the bottom of the sand quarry. Over 1,500 kg of sherds were found in this field and the soil was noticeably darker here. A few more sherds were picked up in Berry Close (Enclosure Map field name) to the southwest, area D on fig 1, and again local tales report pottery occurring in large quantities here in the past.

In the spring of 1976 a drainage pipe line was dug, up to 60cm deep, alongside the drive to Story Farm and over 3kg of potsherds were recovered from it.

Everton was also once the site of Roman pottery manufacture. There are records of a large grey earthenware vessel having been found approximately ½ mile to the south-west of the Medieval pottery areas, and indications that a small Roman kiln once operated here (SMR 2002).⁴ During Post-Medieval times, brick and tile manufacture was carried out, and nineteenth century clay and sand pits today scar the landscape to the NW of Everton. Documentary references, even for comparatively recent times, are scarce or uninformative concerning this industry. But there may be a clue from field names on the Enclosure Map 1804, such as Further Burnt Ground, to the north of areas A-D.⁵

It is, however, not at all surprising that pottery, bricks and tiles were once made at Everton, from topographical and geological considerations. (see fig 1). Everton is situated just on the line where the Oxford clay meets a belt of greensand, thus the necessary raw materials were easily available. The meeting of these two geological beds also means that there are a large number of springs at Everton, and water was also a vital element in the pottery industry.

THE POTTERY

THE FABRICS

The pottery is for the most part hard and gritty, being rough to the touch, and both oxidised and reduced sherds occur. Many examples have oxidised internal surfaces, no doubt caused by inversion in the kiln. Quartz and quartzite with some mica and grog fragments are the main inclusions, and seven distinct fabric types can be defined by inclusion analysis. They are as follows:

Fabric A: a hard, rough pottery, often with grey core and brown-buff outer surfaces. Wheel made with wheel markings visible inside; some smoothing below the rim.

Composition**FABRIC A***Inclusion Name**Frequency**Size**Shape*

Quartz

Sparse

0.25mm

Sub-Angular

Quartzite

Moderate

0.25 — 0.5mm

Rounded

Mica

Sparse

—

Flat

Grog

Rare

< 0.5mm

Angular

FABRIC B*Inclusion Name**Frequency**Size**Shape*

Quartz/Quartzite

Moderate

up to 0.5mm

Sub-Rounded

Quartz

Abundant

0.25 to 0.5mm

Sub-Rounded

Flint

Moderate

up to 1mm

Angular

White mica

Moderate

—

Flat

FABRIC C*Inclusion Name**Frequency**Size**Shape*

Quartz

Moderate

0.5mm

Sub-Angular

Quartzite

Abundant

up to 1mm

Sub-Rounded

Quartz/Quartzite

Sparse

< 0.5mm

Sub-Rounded

FABRIC D*Inclusion Name**Frequency**Size**Shape*

White Mica

Moderate

—

Flat

Grog

Abundant

0.1 — 0.5mm

Sub-Angular

Quartzite

Moderate

0.25 — 0.5mm

Sub-Rounded

FABRIC E*Inclusion Name**Frequency**Size**Shape*

Limestone

Abundant

0.2 — 1.5mm

Irregular

White Mica

Moderate

—

Flat

Quartzite

Moderate

0.2 — 0.4mm

Sub-Angular

Grog

Moderate

up to 0.5mm

Angular

FABRIC F*Inclusion Name**Frequency**Size**Shape*

Quartz/Quartzite

Abundant

0.3 — 1mm

Sub-rounded

Quartz

Moderate

0.4mm

Sub-rounded

Quartzite

Sparse

up to 1mm

Angular

FABRIC G*Inclusion Name**Frequency**Size**Shape*

Quartz

Moderate

0.2mm

Angular

Quartzite

Abundant

0.5mm

Sub-rounded

Granite ?

One only

5mm

Irregular

Flint

Moderate

0.3mm

Angular

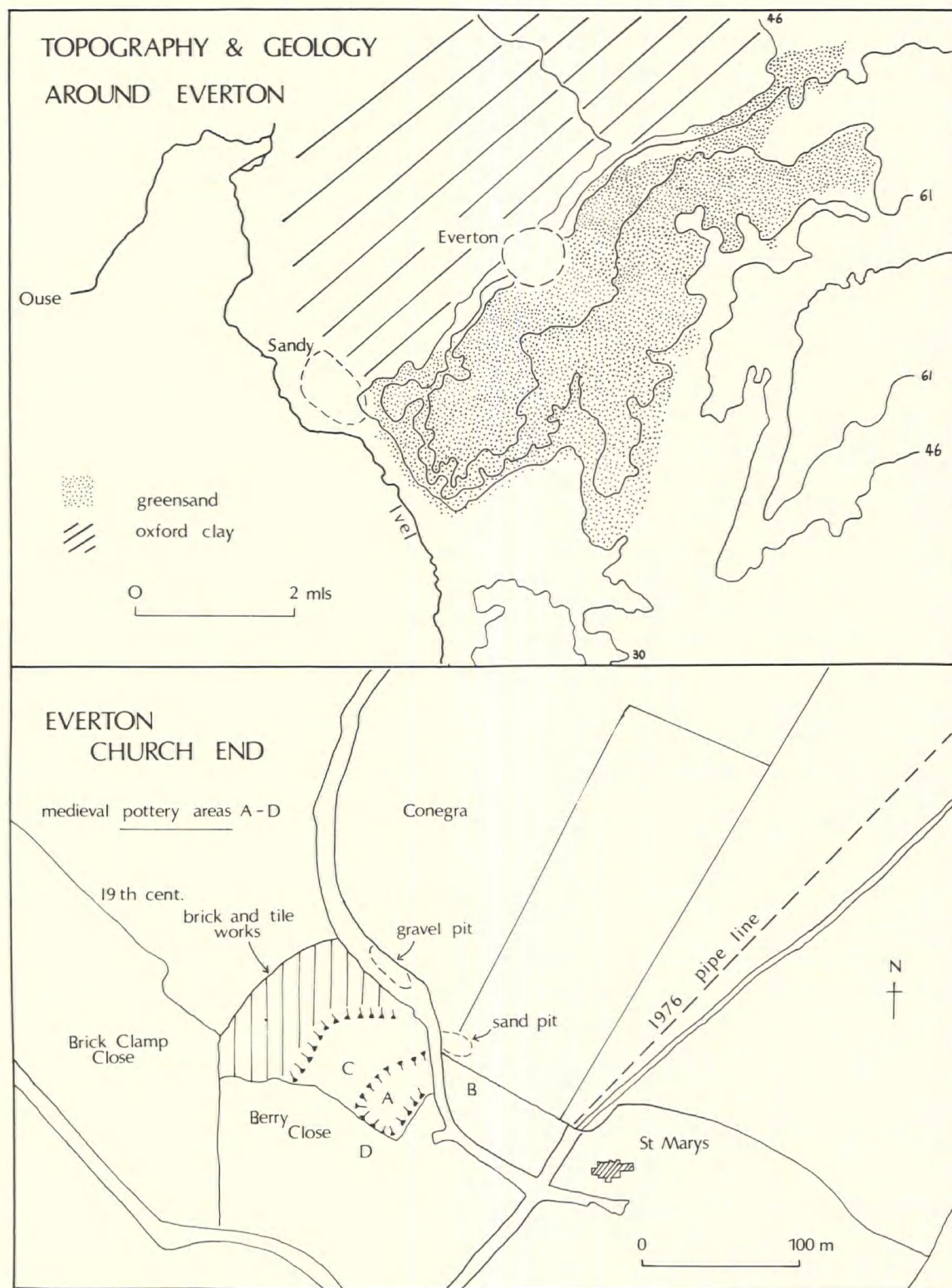


Fig 1 Location Maps : field names from 1804 Enclosure Map; pits and brick works from O.S. First and Second Editions.

Fabric B: similar feel to A, with rather more oxidised than reduced examples. Orangey core with grey-brown surfaces. Again wheel-made, with trimming below rim. Many red quartz/quartzite inclusions or voids present, which do not occur in fabric A.

Fabric C: another rough hard fabric, similar to types A and B, but all examples are reduced. Large amounts of quartzite are present and there is very little grog or mica added. Wheel made.

Fabric D: a hard fabric but smoother to the touch than A, B and C and a finer texture. Core and surfaces generally pale grey, and all examples are reduced. No clear quartz occurs, and only occasional red quartz/quartzite grains are found. Characterised by grog inclusions. Wheel made.

Fabric E: probably much the same as D, being hard and sandy-smooth to the touch, but with the addition of some limestone or calcite. Light grey core with light grey-brown surfaces. Wheel made.

Fabric F: a similar type to C, having the same inclusions but in different proportions; also fired to a bright orange colour. Hard and rough, and wheel made.

Fabric G: a hard, rough and gritty fabric with very pimply surfaces mainly reduced examples — light grey core, with grey-brown, sometimes orangey surfaces. Similar to ABC, but many more inclusions, and with flint in addition. Wheel made.

These descriptions of inclusions are based on visual examination with x 20 magnification by binocular microscope.

THE FORMS

Cooking pots, jugs and bowls are represented in the pottery from Everton and all examples are wheel-thrown. They are all fairly typical medieval forms, and there is a wide range present, particularly amongst the bowls. The jug types can be paralleled by those from the Oxford region and there is a good range of comparable material from Kings Langley, Herts., (Moorhouse, 1973, fig XVI).⁶ There is only one glazed example (fig 3, 44). There is a variety of cross-section amongst the jug handles, and fig 3, 51 and 52 display a pronounced groove on the underside, apparently a characteristic of the Everton pottery. Several handle sherds (e.g. fig 2, 34 and 35) have a small plug of clay on

the inside, showing how they were attached to the vessels. The cooking pots with squared rims have parallels with the Writtle medieval forms. (Rahtz 1969, fig 22, nos 11, 12 and 16)⁷

Pottery Catalogue

FIGURE 2

Bowls

- 1 Inturned with over-folded rim. Fabric type C.
- 2 Heavy flanged rim with slight hollowing inside. Fabric type A.
- 3 Heavy squared rim. Fabric type B.
- 4 Flanged rim with small, pronounced undercut. Fabric type C.
- 5 Simple everted rim. Fabric type D.
- 6 Upright flanged rim, Fabric type F. Similar to Hall, 1974, fig 8, 205.⁸
- 7 Flanged thumbled rim. Fabric type G. Similarities with Addyman and Marjoram 1972 fig 36, 11.⁹
- 8 Everted rim with thickening on inside. Fabric type B.
- 9 Upright form, with over-folded, squared rim. Fabric type A.
- 10 Slightly inturned rim with heavy external thickening. Fabric type B.
- 11 Flat topped rim, out-turned and undercut. Fabric type A. Similarities with Addyman, 1973, fig 16, 12.¹⁰
- 12 Small upright flanged rim (possibly cooking pot type). Fabric type G.
- 23 Everted rim, thickened and squared. Fabric type F.
- 24 Flanged rim with thumbled top, Fabric type A. Similar to Hall, 1974, fig 9, 223.⁸
- 25 Narrow upright rim, slightly hollowed inside, over-folded. Fabric type A.
- 26 Upright thickened rim. Fabric type F.
- 27 Flat topped flanged rim. Fabric type A.
- 28 Everted rim, possibly cooking pot form. Fabric type C.

Cooking Pots

- 14 Horizontal squared rim, slightly undercut. Fabric type A.
- 15 Horizontal squared rim, slightly hollowed inside. Fabric type A.
- 16 Squared rim with slight grooving on top. Fabric type A.
- 29 Everted squared rim, sharp angles. Fabric type B. Similarities with Drury and Petchey 1975, fig 13, 74.¹¹

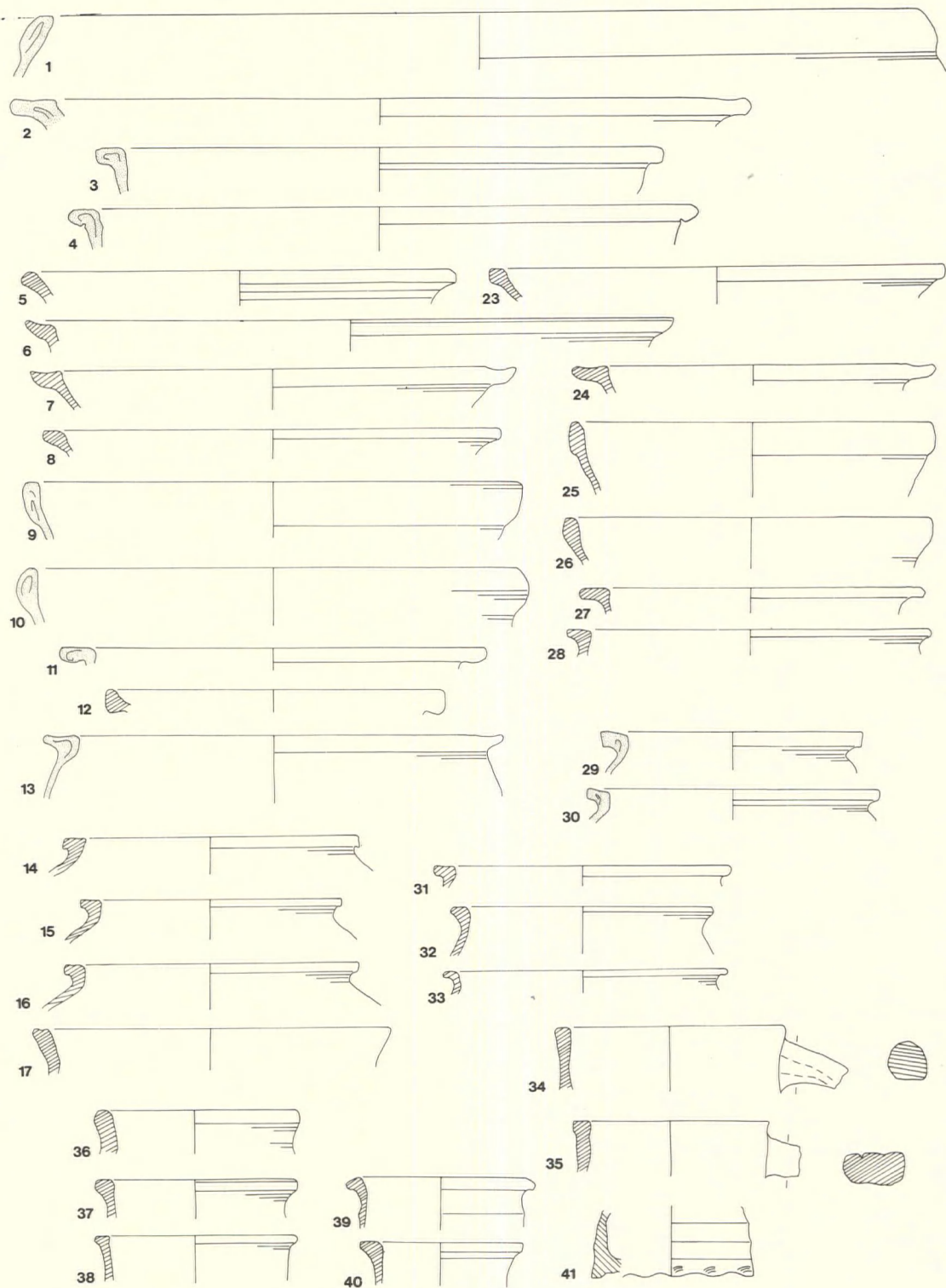


Fig 2 Everton Pottery

- 30 Everted squared rim, Fabric type B.
- 31 Simple flanged rim. Fabric type B.
- 33 Small everted rim. Fabric type C.

Jugs

- 32 Everted rim with thickening on inside. Fabric type G. Similar to Rahtz 1969, fig 55, 54.⁷
- 34 Upright rim, smooth surface and simple round-sectioned handle with flat underside. Fabric type A.
- 35 Upright rim, squared at top with pinching inside. Stabbed handle. Fabric type A. Similarities with Sutermeister 1975, fig 5, 7.¹²
- 36 Thick, slightly everted rim, uniform thickness. Fabric type G.
- 37 Everted squared rim, slight hollowing. Fabric type E.
- 38 Upright squared rim, slight hollowing. Fabric type D.
- 39 Everted flanged rim, with cordon on neck. Fabric type D. Similar to Hurst 1965-6, fig 7, 23.¹³
- 40 Everted thickened rim. Fabric type C.
- 41 Frilly base of thumbled jug with cordons on body. Fabric type B.
- 42 Jug handle with prominent raised centre to grip. Fabric type C.
- 43 Handle with deep slash running length of sherd – possible waster. Fabric type B.
- 44 Sherd with stub of oval-shaped handle, squared edges, with dark green speckled glaze. Fabric type B.
- 45 Handle with light stab marks and some thumbing. Fabric type A.
- 46 Handle with central hollow strip, irregular cross-section. Fabric type A.
- 47 Handle sherd, roughly squared, with thumbing and central slash. Fabric type B.
- 48 Rim of spout or lip of jug. Fabric type B.
- 49 Handle sherd with lateral raised ridge. Fabric type C.
- 50 Handle sherd with central hollow, underside pushed out to compensate. Fabric type G.
- 51 Handle sherd with central hollow, pronounced lateral groove underneath. Fabric type A.
- 52 Handle sherd roughly oval in section, with pronounced lateral groove underneath as no 51. Fabric type G.

(Note: Nos 18-22 are unpublished examples)

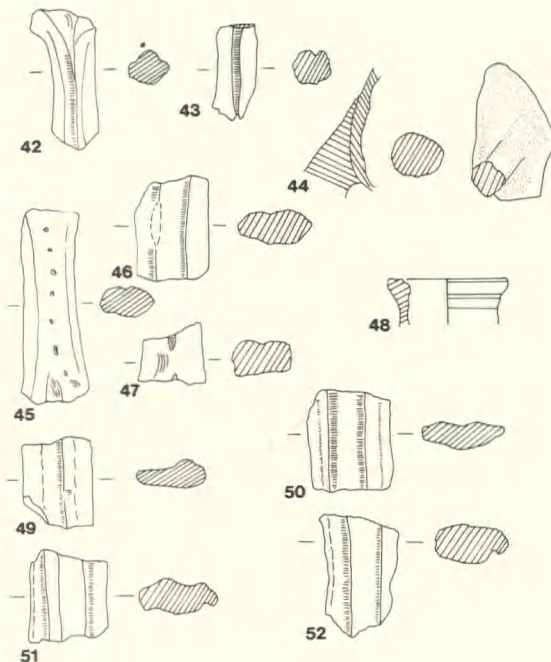


Fig 3 Everton Pottery

DISCUSSION

There are few known kiln sites of the Medieval period in Bedfordshire, consequently most comparative material has to be found outside the county. On typological grounds the Everton pottery is very similar to the Higham Ferrers material⁸ where there is good evidence for an early fifteenth century date. There are also parallels with Potterspury types¹⁴ where a mid to late fourteenth century date range has been well substantiated. How long the industry was in operation in Everton remains an unanswered question at present. There are certainly good traditional reasons for expecting it to have continued over several centuries, and documentary studies by Jean Le Patourel indicate that this was generally the case in potting communities.¹⁵ The precise location of a kiln site in Everton, and continued field walking in the area would help to clarify the picture.¹⁶

NOTES

- 1 I am grateful to Mr and Mrs Ball of Everton for bringing this material to my attention, and for their continued interest in the site.
- 2 David Hall and Dennis Mynard kindly discussed the pottery with me.

- 3 I am grateful to Mr Gurney of Everton for this information.
- 4 SMR refers to the Sites and Monuments Record, of the Planning Department, Bedfordshire County Council.
- 5 Miss A. Simco made an initial search through the relevant material in the Bedfordshire County Record Office and will be checking on details during parish survey work in Everton.
- 6 S. Moorhouse, — 'The Pottery', in D. Neal, 'Excavations at the Palace and Priory at Kings Langley, 1970, *Hertfordshire Archaeology* 3, (1973) 31-72.
- 7 P.A. Rahtz — *Excavations at King John's Hunting Lodge, Writtle, Essex, 1955-57*, [Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph No. 3, (1969)].
- 8 D.N. Hall, 'Medieval Pottery from the Higham Ferrers Hundred, Northants.', *Northampton Mus.*, 10 (1974), 38-58.
- 9 P.V. Addyman and J. Marjoram, 'Post Medieval Finds from St Neots,' *Post Med. Arch.*, 6 (1972), 69-106.
- 10 P.V. Addyman, 'Late Saxon Settlement in the St Neots Area', *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.* 64 (1973), 45-99.
- 11 P.J. Drury and M.R. Petchey, 'Medieval Potteries at Mile End and Great Horkesley, near Colchester,' *Essex Archaeology and History*, 7 (1975), pp 33-60.
- 12 H. Sutermeister, 'Excavations at . . . Micheldever, Hants.,' *Post-Med Arch.* 9 (1975), 117-136.
- 13 J.G. Hurst, 'The Pottery', in C.F. Tebbutt, *St Neots Priory*, *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, 58-59 (1965-66), 55-67.
- 14 D.C. Mynard, 'A Late Medieval Pottery Kiln at Potterspury', *Milton Keynes Journal* 1, (1972), 12.
- 15 Jean Le Patourel — 'Documentary Evidence and Medieval Pottery' *Med. Arch.*, 12 (1968), 101-126.
- 16 Paper received 31 December 1976.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Bedford Museum, North Bedfordshire Borough Council, for a grant towards the costs of this paper.

NOTES

Some Bedfordshire Flints

PETER TILSON

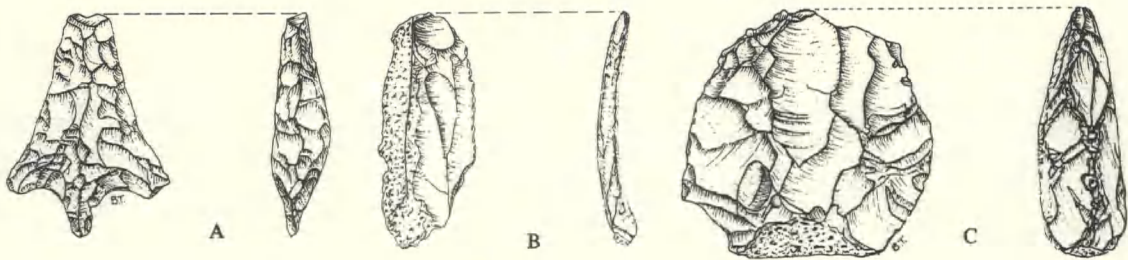


Fig 1 Flint Finds from the Ouse Valley.
A Arrowhead from Cople
B and C Scrapers from Oakley Bridge. (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

In the course of the major excavation programme at Bromham,¹ a number of small finds of archaeological interest were reported to the directing staff. The post-medieval pieces are reported elsewhere in this journal;² this note seeks to record a number of flints from various parishes in the Great Ouse Valley.

In 1972 a small flint arrowhead of the barbed type was found on a farm at Cople (TL105485) by R. Gray.³ It is 31mm long and is slightly damaged at the tip (fig 1a). It is very similar to those found on Waulud's Bank, Leagrave, by Thomas Cumberland in the early years of this century.⁴

A number of finds have been made at Oakley in the course of the work at Bromham. Earlier reports in the 'Bedfordshire Archaeology in 1971-1972' column of *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 7, noted a triangular loom weight and a small quernstone of millstone grit.⁵ The former, first considered to be Roman in date, is more probably of the early medieval period; the latter is thought to date to the Belgic phase of the later pre-

Roman Iron Age. It compares with some of those found on the Belgic site at Bromham.⁶

Two flint scrapers (fig 1b and 1c) were found in 1973 at Oakley Bridge (TL006532), the bridge over the southern arm of the loop of the River Great Ouse.⁷ Both scrapers compare with ones found at the Bromham site⁸ already mentioned. They are thought to be examples of flints from the Belgic phase of the later pre-Roman Iron Age.

NOTES

- 1 P.G. Tilson, 'A Belgic and Romano-British Site at Bromham', *Beds. Arch. J.* 8, 1973, 23-66.
- 2 P.G. Tilson, 'Two post-medieval finds from Clapham', this journal, below p.00
- 3 Not previously recorded.
- 4 J.F. Dyer, 'A Secondary Neolithic Camp at Waulud's Bank, Leagrave', *Beds. Arch. J.* 2, 1964, 14 with fig 6.
- 5 *Beds. Arch. J.* 7, 1972, 94.
- 6 Tilson, 1973, 61-2 with fig 31.
- 7 Reported *Beds. Arch. J.* 7, 1973, 141.
- 8 Tilson, 1973, 62 and fig 33, 329 and 330 for fig 2b and fig 33, 323-328 for fig 2c.

An Investigation Beneath the Floor of the Church of St Andrew, Ampthill

KEVAN FADDEN

SUMMARY

Substantial foundations discovered beneath the floor of the church of St Andrew, Ampthill, during building operations in May 1975 confirmed the existence of an earlier, probably Romanesque, structure.

The history of the parish church of St Andrew, Ampthill, has been investigated over many years, most recently by Mr A.G. Underwood, whose booklet, *The Parish Church of St Andrew, Ampthill: a History*, was published in 1964. It is known that in 1140, Nigel d'Albini, of Cainhoe Castle, Clophill, whose family held the manor of Ampthill at the time of the Domesday Book [1086], made an endowment to provide the stipend of a parish priest. The list of incumbents displayed in the present church begins somewhat later than this with the appointment of a priest, Martin, in 1238.

From these it is clear that an ecclesiastical foundation for Ampthill pre-dates the present church, of which the earliest visible remains are the pillars of the nave, suggested as dating to c. 1330. Sir Nikolaus Pevsner notes "the four-bay arcades are of tall early fourteenth century piers of the quatrefoil type with four thin shafts in the diagonals. The arch mouldings are typically early fourteenth century too".

The discrepancy between the documentation and the architectural evidence until now could only be bridged by surmise and conjecture. However, in May 1975 an opportunity to undertake limited investigations of the problem arose when the previous boarded floors of the nave and aisles were replaced by concrete ones. In the course of this the contractors, J.M. Hill and Sons Ltd., stripped the previous floor and left it open for four days. It was during this period that the investigations of the Ampthill and District Archaeological Society, under the direction of the present author, took place.

The present investigations, however, were limited to an examination of soil which had been previ-

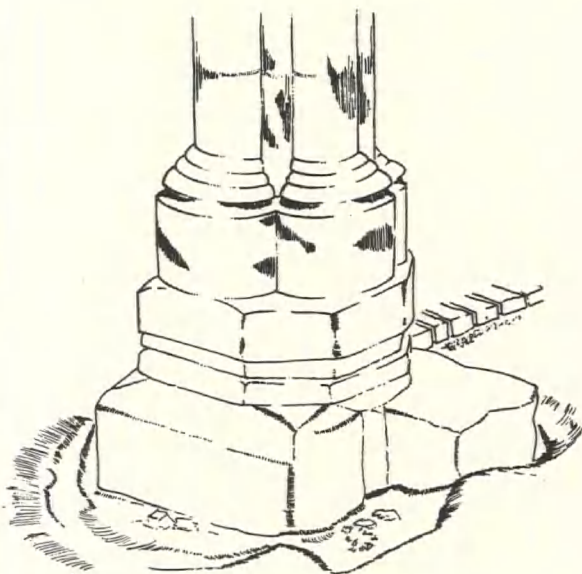


Fig 1 Isometric drawing showing the re-use of Romanesque sandstone pillar as base of thirteenth century pillar in Gothic style in the north aisle of Ampthill parish church.

ously disturbed and to a removal of the general accumulation of the rubble overburden. This did permit a limited examination of part of the floor area.

The area exposed by the builders was found to be deeply covered with an accumulation of rubble and dust from successive floors. It had been considerably disturbed by a heating system installed in 1873. The wooden floor joists had been supported by rows of bricks laid East to West and mortared into position. The foundation trenches for the supports had created further disturbance.

Sifting through the rubble produced some plain yellow, green and black glazed tiles of fourteenth century type and some small pieces of stone roof tile together with many other items of less significance, detailed below.

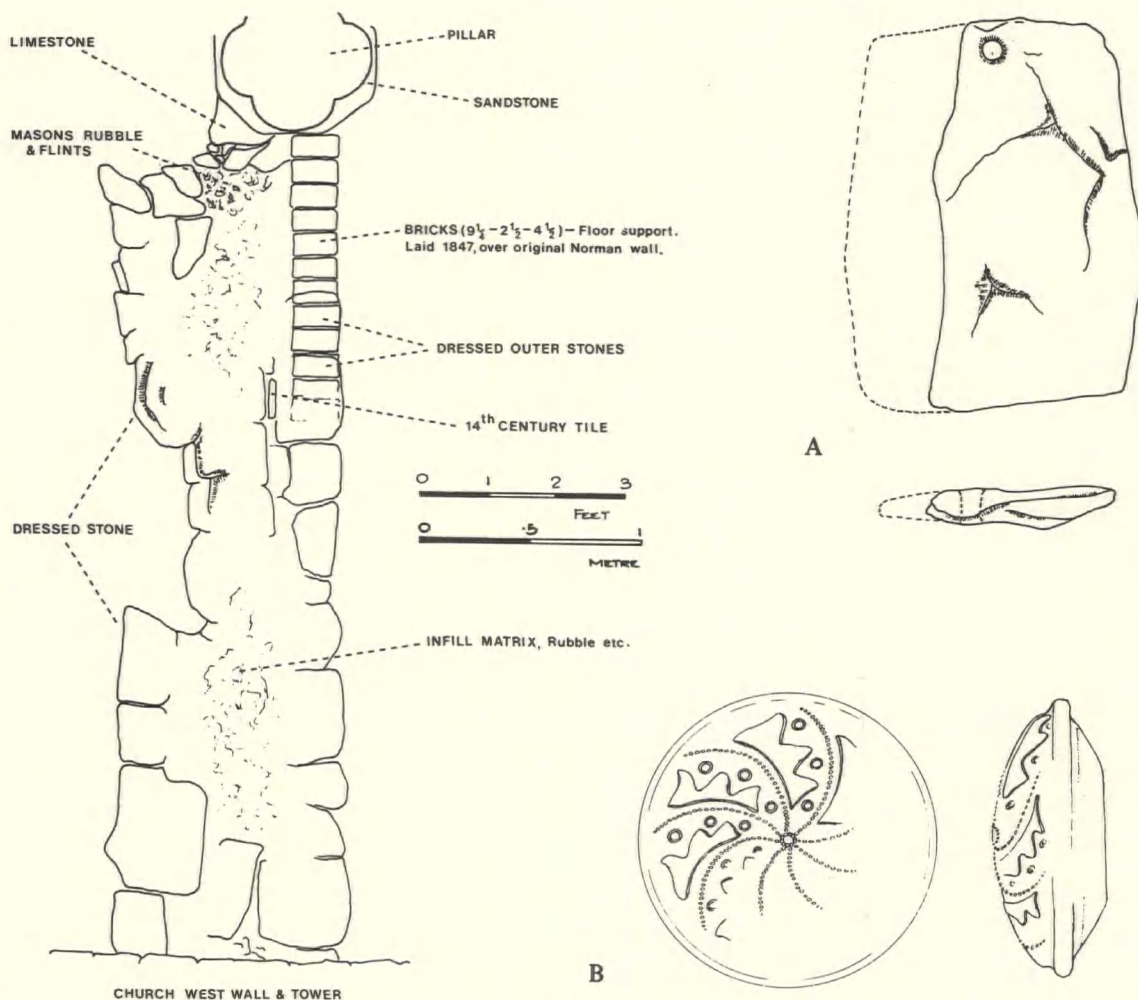


Fig 2 Plan of area exposed in north aisle of Ampthill parish church, showing sandstone foundation; with drawings of finds:

A Pegged limestone roof tile.

B Bone button with copper face.

(Scales: A, $\frac{1}{2}$; B, $\frac{3}{2}$)

The floor support bricks in the West and of the nave were seen to have been laid directly onto sandstone which seemed solid. The sandstone was cleaned revealing the foundations of a wall which ran from under the West wall of the church to the first pillar of the North aisle. Clearance of rubble in a similar position relative to the South aisle exposed a sandstone wall extensively robbed but sufficient to establish its location and size.

Checks between the pillars to the North of the nave did not reveal foundations, it would have been necessary to dig into undisturbed soil to have

established robber trenches. The area between the South pillars had not been made available to us by the builders.

The removal of the church pews exposed a cut away portion in the North aisle wall which matched the tomb slab of Nicholas Hervey, Knight, who died 1532. In line with the end of the slot a slight step of Totternhoe clunch marked the position of an altar tomb wall. This coincides with the location suggested in the church history. Nicholas Hervey was a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to King Henry VIII and an attendant

to Catherine of Aragon when she was under house arrest in Ampthill Castle.

In the West corner of the North aisle a number of grave stones had been re-used to make a hard standing for a stove. These were lifted and three names recognised, as listed below.

The base of one pillar was cleaned up to show the re-use of sandstone for its foundation. (fig 2).

The sandstone wall foundation was as shown in the drawing (figure 1). It comprised of very substantial blocks dressed on both sides with an infill of sandstone rubble.

The pillars were built partially into the line of the original wall but mainly within the nave. The foundation and presumably the wall must have been cut away to allow the pillars to be built and then the wall knocked down. The flints and masons' rubble were packed between the pillar and the foundation wall.

The bases of the pillars are all different heights but are of the same basic shape and were almost certainly built at the same time. They are standing on sandstone blocks which have been partly shaped to conform with the pillars, presumably down to the original floor level. The dressing on the lower parts of the sandstone does not conform to any pattern and therefore appears to have been re-used.

The size of the sandstone wall foundation and its position relative to the North aisle, built in 1330, suggest it is of Romanesque origin.

The pillars were built on re-used sandstone blocks.

The Norman church would have been of similar proportions to the existing nave and in the same position.

At sometime before the clerestory was added in the fifteenth century, the roof would have been covered with stone tiles.

In the fourteenth century the floor would have been at least partially covered with green, yellow and black glazed tiles.

OBJECTS FOUND UNDER FLOOR

Offcuts of dressed Totternhoe stone
Green glazed tiles 177mm by 177mm by 27mm.
Pegged limestone roof tile, see fig 2.
Red tile 206mm by 203mm by 25mm.
Red tile 219mm by 219mm by 41mm.
Red brick 230mm by 117mm by 38mm.
Broken oven fired brick, brown fabric ? by 102mm by 66mm.
Brown glazed pot sherd fifteenth century.
White glazed sherd, blue pattern nineteenth century.
Bone button with copper face, see fig 3.
Fragment of stained glass.
Forged iron nails 100mm long.
Iron nails 20mm long.
Iron gate hinge.
Georgian pew door hinge.
Oyster shell.
Lump of coal.
Clay pipe stems and part of a bowl.
Piece of slate.
Brass trouser button stamped OUR OWN MAKE.
Peach stone.
Chestnut shells.
Hazlenut shells.
Glass bead.

TOMBSTONES

- 1 Anne Noke, widow of William Noke of London, died 13 September 1644, aged 46.
- 2 Thomas Redhead, died 13 November 1759. An innkeeper of Ampthill.
- 3 Richard Leach, died in April 1751. An aldraper of Ampthill.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Rector, the Rev L. Sturman, and the Parochial Church Council of the parish church of St Andrew, Ampthill, for allowing the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society to investigate the church floor. Our thanks are also due to Messrs J.M. Hill and Son Ltd. for their co-operation with the work schedule. The drawings to this note are by Mr J. Mileson.

Work at Newnham Priory, Bedford

ANGELA SIMCO

SUMMARY

A linear feature forming part of the remaining earthworks at Newnham Priory was sectioned during gravel extraction operations. It was shown to be a continuous boundary ditch of thirteenth to fourteenth century date.

INTRODUCTION

Newnham Priory is situated to the east of Bedford (centre at TL 067493) on the north bank of the River Great Ouse. It was an Augustinian house founded in about 1166 from the collegiate church of St. Paul's, Bedford, and moved to Newnham, then in the parish of Goldington, some time between 1178 and 1181.¹ A railway embankment and an artificial channel of the river cut the site from north-east to south-west. North of the railway the precinct earthworks, which survived to some degree into this century,² have since been levelled by building operations and allotment gardening. The last surviving feature, an oblong mound originally circular in shape, was examined in 1971 before a road-widening scheme.³ To the south of the railway the earthworks, comprising fishponds and boundary features, remained in a better state of preservation; those now extant have been scheduled as an Ancient Monument and will be incorporated as a feature in the Newnham Marina development.

In May 1973, gravel extraction operations began in the east of the priory precinct, affecting the two parallel features which formed the eastern limit of the earthworks. Initial topstripping removed all material down to the top of the natural gravel, at an average depth of 1m below the previous ground surface. In July 1973, excavations began on the Roman and Iron Age cropmark site at TL 073491 for Bedfordshire County Council, North Bedfordshire Borough Council and the Department of the Environment, and while these were in progress a watching-brief was kept on the working quarry. I am most grateful to Amey Roadstone Corporation for their co-operation at all stages of the archaeological work.

THE EXCAVATION

During quarrying operations the eastern of the two features was identified as a continuous ditch, approximately 3m wide at the gravel surface. One transverse section was excavated, revealing a broad V-shaped profile with rounded base. The feature was cut 80cm into the gravel, and therefore had an original depth of about 1.8m. The stratigraphy indicated a process of natural silting, with no evidence of recutting. The primary fill, layer 4, consisted of a high concentration of gravel in a clayey loam, suggesting that the ditch originally contained standing water. A deposit of slightly loamy, hard-packed gravel, layer 5, on the east edge was probably caused by slumping of the side. Above the primary silt, the gravel and clay content of the fill gradually decreased; layer 1 was a loose silty loam with very little gravel. It is likely that the topsoil, forming the latest deposit in the ditch was not more than a few centimeters above the highest point in the centre of the recorded section.

The western of the two ditches was noted during quarrying, but was not excavated. No other features were observed in the area of extraction.

THE FINDS

Apart from a fragment of tile in layer 1, and a small piece of iron in layer 2, the ditch produced two sherds of medieval pottery. Layer 4 contained a small body sherd of green-glazed ware of a pinkish-buff fabric with a high sand content, giving a rough internal surface. In layer 2 was a sherd (illustrated) from a Lyveden-type jug; the highly porous orange fabric is coated externally with a white slip which is used as a basis for both a slip-trailed and a square stamped decoration; green glaze was applied after the decoration. Neither of these sherds has sufficient diagnostic features to be given a close date, and it can only be said that they fall within the range of thirteenth and fourteenth century glazed wares.⁴

DISCUSSION

The excavation and watching brief, though of

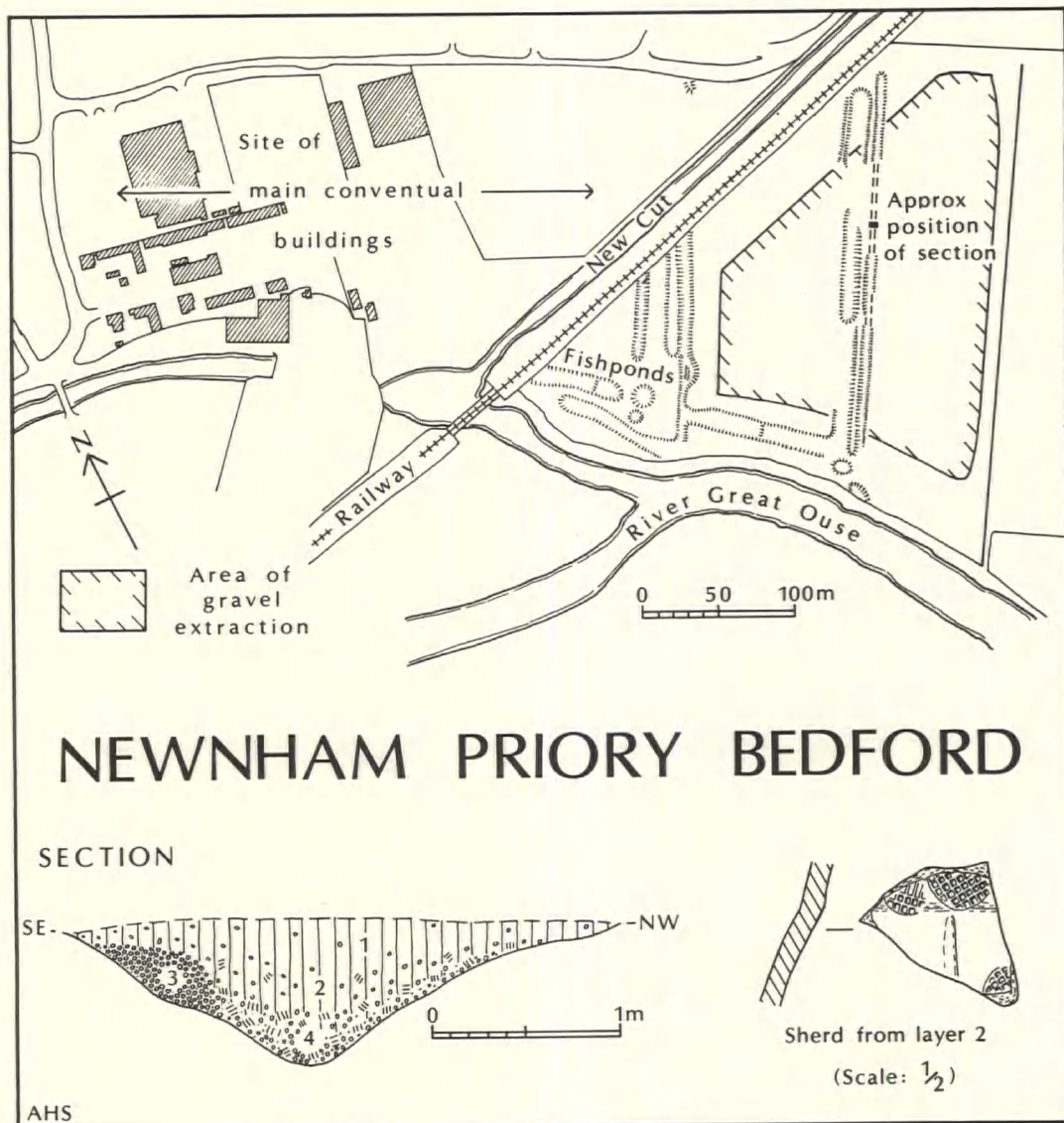


Fig.1 Location Plan and Section.

a very limited nature, have served to confirm two points. First, stone monastic buildings did not extend into the eastern area of the precinct, though the nature of the top-stripping process would have prevented the detection of insubstantial timber structures. Secondly, the linear features forming the east limit of the earthworks were originally continuous and acquired their broken appearance by later infilling; this suggests they were constructed as boundary ditches and thus different in

character from the definite fishponds nearer the river.

NOTES

- 1 Joyce Godber, 'The Cartulary of Newnham Priory', *Beds. Hist. Rec. Soc.* 43, parts I and II 1963-64.
- 2 *V.C.H. Beds.*, I, 1904, 303-5.
- 3 W Annan, D Baker, 'An earthwork at Newnham Priory, Bedford', *Beds. Arch. J.* 6, 1971, 77-80.
- 4 I am most grateful to John Steane and Jane Hassall for their observations.

An Unusual Foundation at Ampthill

KEVAN FADDEN



Pl 1 The foundation of ox-bones at
No 45 Woburn Road, Ampthill

In March 1974 the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society were asked to investigate some bones found beneath the floor of a cottage in Woburn Road, Ampthill.

The cottage, No 45 Woburn Road, Ampthill, was built in 1812 and had been allowed to deteriorate to an extent that major repairs were necessary. The floor was dug out and filled with concrete. It was during this operation the bones were found. Consultations with the builders, Messrs. Upton Bros of Maulden resulted in a change in work schedule to allow time for minor excavations.

It became clear that the bones, ox tibiae, had been driven into the ground beside the foundation wall of an earlier building. The foundations were on a slightly different alignment to the current

house and extended through into the garden. The bones had been placed along the full length. (Pl 1; fig 1).

The pottery with the foundations was of seventeenth century type with several examples of Jacobean Comb ware. Many domestic items were found including a bone apple corer, fig 2 and non ferrous pins of a type used in the pillow lace industry which thrived in the area.

The foundations comprised two walls 84mm apart. One lined with bones was the base of a cottage or house wall, the other parallel to it was complete with a finishing layer of bricks at the top.

No definite use for the bones has been found to date but it could have been an attempt to control

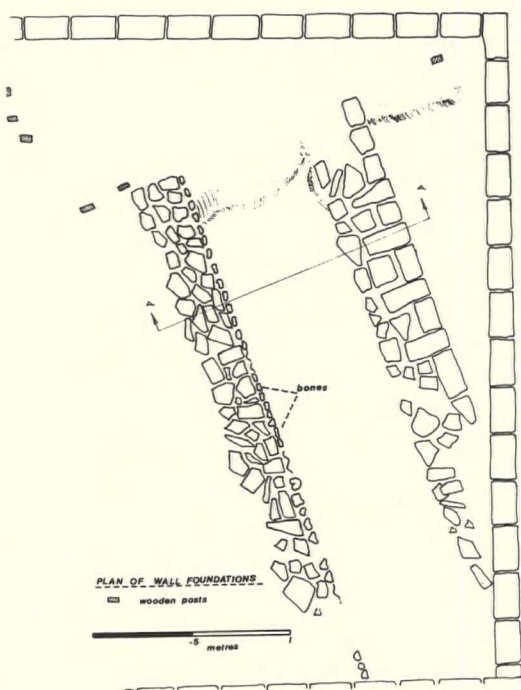


Fig 1 Plan of Wall Foundations at
No 45 Woburn Road, Ampthill.

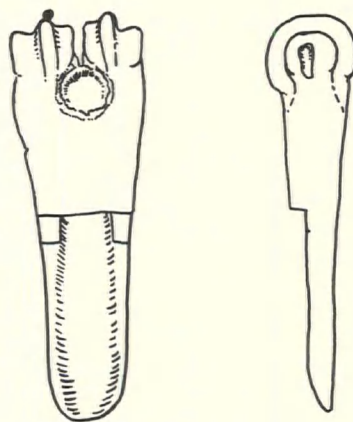


Fig 2 Bone apple-corer found in foundation
of ox-bones at Ampthill. (Scale $\frac{2}{3}$).

rising damp. It has also been suggested that it was a bed for grape vines. This theory is supported by the position of the foundations which suggest a kerb wall for a garden bed next to a building.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks are due to the builders, Messrs Upton Bros of Maulden. The drawings are by Mr J. Milesen; the photograph by Mr A. Cowl.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to the Department of the Environment and to the Bedfordshire County Council respectively for grants towards the costs of the publication of these notes.

Bedfordshire Archaeology, 1975-1976

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 1976. 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*.

BEDFORD: Newnham Marina TL 074494

Excavations were resumed by Angela Simco for Bedfordshire County Council, North Bedfordshire Borough Council and the Department of the Environment, in June 1975, on the Romano-British and prehistoric crop-mark site at Newnham, south-east of Bedford, in advance of gravel extraction.

Work continued on the area of the Roman courtyard, revealing a cobbled surface of at least 300 square metres which was renewed in places with cobble and limestone patching, and was in use from the 2nd to the 4th century. Several gullies and small ditches probably had a drainage function, though the profile of one suggested that it may have held a timber partition, perhaps serving as a stock-pen. Sealed beneath the courtyard surface were several Belgic features: a ditch, 2.5m wide, of at least three phases: two small parallel gullies; a pit 175cm in diameter and 70cm deep; and a timber structure at least 12m x 7m, one side being formed from a row of substantial stone-packed post-pits. The latest feature in this area was a post hole containing Saxon stamped ware, possibly related to two others at a stratigraphically comparable level, but no plan could be reconstructed.

A further area of 750 square metres, covering a section of the field system, was examined, showing a succession of land use in the prehistoric and Roman periods. Only two small Early Iron

Age ditches were located. Of the Belgic period there were two substantial ditches; the earlier had at least four phases; the later was a single phase ditch, 2.5m wide, continuing in an almost straight line for at least 50m. Both ditches contained rubbish deposits with substantial amounts of pottery. A row of large post-pits extended at right angles from the later ditch for at least 12m and may have been a palisade. The most numerous features were of the Roman period. The main Roman boundary ditch, appearing on aerial photographs as a rectangular enclosure with rounded corners, was sectioned in two places, and seems to have silted up naturally over a long period of time. A smaller Roman ditch, running roughly parallel with and 2m to 3m south of the later Belgic ditch showed continual re cutting. Successive layouts of small plots were revealed by sections of parallel gullies.

Work on this area will be completed in Autumn 1975, and a watching brief will be carried out as the extraction programme proceeds across the area of densest crop-marks.

FELMERSHAM Radwell TL 011588

Excavations were carried out by Peter Woodward for Bedfordshire County Council, Bedford District Council and the Department of the Environment on a ring-ditch site prior to gravel extraction.

The site, on pasture land, had been located in a small trial trench by David Hall and John Hutchings in 1973. Excavations in May and June 1975 were intended to sample and examine the ditch in more detail, and to complete a section across the centre of the ring ditch, drawing upon information gained from the five ring-ditches excavated at Roxton 1972-74.

The excavations at Radwell showed that the mound had been ploughed after the ditch had been almost totally filled. The old surface was not complete but there was enough of the buried soil remaining to show that there had been a central mound and berm, presumably formed

from the upcast of the ditch. The majority of the worked flint was found inside the ring-ditch on the ploughed-out mound material and on the inner side of the ring-ditch silting. A few sherds of Roman and Bronze Age pottery were also found in the ploughed-out mound material. The ring ditch had a consistent fill, not showing the characteristic silt layers from the silting of an open ditch. A jet toggle, a glass bead and a Bronze Age body sherd were found half-way down the ditch with a concentration of charcoal and a few animal bones, suggesting the broken up remains of a burial of early or middle Bronze Age date. The primary filling of the ring ditch was present on the inside top edge and on the sides only slightly, but was almost entirely absent at its base.

This evidence suggests a change of site usage from a fairly typical ring ditch burial barrow to some form of habitation area, when the burial or burials were disturbed, the ditch cleaned out and refilled whilst the area was in use for habitation. Its wider interpretation must ultimately be set within the context of the Roxton ring-ditch excavations, recent work on the Ouse valley sites by Ken Field and Stephen Green, and the current field-work programme being undertaken by Peter Woodward.

GENERAL SURVEY

Walking the route of the Southern Feeder Gas Pipe Line

The Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society under the direction of Kevan Fadden have spent the 1975-76 winter season walking a section of the proposed route of the Southern Feeder gas pipe line between the M1 at Tingrith and the A6 at Haynes. This was an interesting section to walk as it crossed the alluvium of the Flit Valley, the Lower Greensand Ridge, the boulder clay of the Bedford levels and then back up the scarp face of the Greensand Ridge. In common with previous field walking exercises in the area, worked flints of the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze age types were found on the Greensand. Odd areas of Medieval and Post Medieval pottery scatter were found on all soils, but predominated on the boulder clay of the Bedford levels. No finds are of sufficient significance to recommend excavation before the pipe line is laid, but they do show where a special watch should be kept while work progresses. In the long term the results of the field walking are helping to build up a picture of the archaeological remains in the area.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD Grove Priory

Excavations commenced in 1973 and 1974 by Mrs Evelyn Baker for Bedfordshire County Council and the Department of the Environment were continued in 1975 by Humphrey Woods and Dominic Powlesland on this alien priory of the order of Fontevrault (mid twelfth – early fifteenth centuries), to be destroyed by sand quarrying.

Humphrey Woods exposed a large structure in what is tentatively identified as the main claustral area. It measured 12m by 6.8m and was pierced by doors on the west, north and south. A range of buildings returned north and south from this structure, though only a small part of the range lay within the limit of excavation. A porch protected the western entrance. The structure itself had been robbed to its footings except along a short length of its eastern wall. The footings were of pitched carstone whose style suggests a date in the late twelfth or early thirteenth centuries. A layer of destruction debris sealed the structure and from this large quantities of glazed roof tile, including decorated finials, clunch mouldings and painted window glass were recovered. These indicate that the building must have been very elaborate when standing, and of first importance in the priory.

The range was of secondary build to this structure. To the south it survived intact to within a few cms of the present ground surface, but to the north was damaged. An outstanding small find in one of the rooms to the north was a lead *bull* of Pope Alexander IV (1254-61).

Dominic Powlesland commenced the excavation of an area about 20m by 22m, south-east of the other trench, and several phases of timber and stone structures were recognised: the former included post holes and slots probably predating the first stone buildings of the priory.

The area chiefly contained a rectangular robber trench, over a metre in width, for a building on an east-west axis, with internal dimensions of about 12m by 4.4m. To the west of this building was a range of rooms represented by dwarf walls, only partly lying within the area excavated. There was a small lean-to structure against the south side of the main building, containing two thirteenth century stone coffins.

The main building in this area, unlike the others excavated to the north-west, continued in use after the dissolution of the priory, presumably in the early fifteenth century. Alterations including the insertion of a large fireplace may suggest conversion to a farmhouse, which, on coin evidence,

remained in use until at least 1700.

ODELL SP 956567

The gravels of the Ouse valley around the north Bedfordshire villages of Harrold and Odell have been favoured for human settlement and activity since at least the third millennium B.C., and several discoveries relating to the ancient settlement pattern of the area have been made during quarrying over the last 25 years. The present quarry, operated by Hall Aggregates (Eastern Counties) Ltd., is currently extending across the site of an early settlement which is being excavated by Brian Dix for Bedfordshire County Council, Bedford District Council and the Department of the Environment. The objective is to recover a near complete plan of the settlement by total excavation: the willing co-operation of both local and regional quarry staff has been invaluable in this process, which is likely to continue until at least 1977.

The results so far obtained suggest that the main occupation of the site began towards the end of the Iron Age, although traces of earlier activity, including a possible funerary monument of the second millennium, have been noted. At some time in the period between 50BC and the middle of the first century AD a farm was established and its territories defined by a series of ditches. The living accommodation within this settlement has at present only been partially investigated but would seem to have comprised several circular timber-framed huts of which curving 'eaves-drip' gullies and the holes dug to hold the upright posts survive. Similar construction persisted into the Roman period, later in the first century AD, and from this time onwards, various modifications were made to the farm layout. New ditches were dug whilst existing ones that had filled were often re-dug on slightly shifted alignments. Grouped strip or long fields were laid out and might have been used for winter grazing, and for the cultivation of root and fodder crops as well as cereals. Gravel was extracted from large, roughly circular, quarry pits, and wells were dug. The fill of the latter preserved organic materials such as wood, grass, snail and insect remains, which should provide environmental and agricultural usage evidence.

Two small cremation cemeteries dating to the first half of the first century AD have been discovered, one containing six urned cremations shallowly buried upright in small circular pits, the

other comprising five larger pits, each containing the cremated remains of at least one individual scattered over the bottom, with associated food remains and whole pots. Several inhumations of a slightly later date have also been found.

The present available evidence suggests that Roman activity on the site continued until perhaps the mid-fourth century AD, after which there is a break in the archaeological record until the Saxon period. Two timber-lined wells of sixth or seventh century AD date have been recovered. Both were set in specially dug circular pits, but were dissimilar in design. One was of simple construction, comprising a roughly square timber framework laid around four oak uprights, whilst the other was formed by enclosing a wicker basket within an oval framework of withies woven around short stakes, with a 'platform' of re-used planks for access to one side. To date, no associated settlement remains have been found.

OUSE VALLEY RING DITCHES

Peter Woodward is embarking upon a study of Bronze Age settlement along the Ouse valley in Bedfordshire, arising from his work with Alison Taylor at Roxton, and at Radwell, and from work recently published by Stephen Green and Ken Field (*Archaeological Journal* 131, 1974). The survey work is being carried out within the rescue context for Bedfordshire County Council, Bedford District Council and the Department of the Environment.

The Roxton ring-ditches were large diameter barrows with shallow mounds, sometimes with berms and/or outer banks and with wide deep ditches. They dated from the Bronze Age period and had been constructed for burial purposes. They were located on the site of earlier habitation. Flint knapping probably continued on the site during the Bronze Age after primary use as a burial ground, but with no intensive habitation. Iron Age peoples used the field for agricultural purposes but did not attempt to fill in the ditches, though the whole site was ploughed out by the end of the Roman period. The shallow earthwork of the residual ditch was still used for cremations and inhumations in this period. Excavations of ring-ditches in the upper Ouse valley at Milton Keynes by Stephen Green have similarly demonstrated that they were burial structures of early to middle Bronze Age date, and were generally associated with habitations of an earlier or contemporary date. Reuse of the site in the middle Bronze Age

was also demonstrated.

A regular aerial survey of the river valley by Ken Field has given some information on distribution. The ring-ditches tend to cluster at intervals along the Ouse valley, and, sometimes, as at Roxton, appear as discrete organised groups. Extensive complexes only occur at Cople and Cardington in Bedfordshire. Ring-ditch crop marks occur mainly on the gravels next to the river, and sometimes on the cornbrash above the river plain. They also generally occur with other types of cropmark: further analysis of this matter is necessary.

It is hoped that the projected survey campaign will include continued and regular aerial photography, and a resistivity survey of pasture land immediately adjacent to isolated ring-ditches, in order to ascertain whether or not they are parts of larger groupings. It is hoped to carry out a survey of this nature at Radwell. There will also be a fieldwalking programme to locate flint scatters and concentrations on selected areas along the Ouse valley, in order to obtain a distribution pattern for the Neolithic and Bronze Age, to be superimposed upon the pattern produced by aerial photography. Flints, like ring-ditches, are being taken as indicators of habitation.

Fieldwalking will be concentrated upon three main kinds of land; the pin-pointed ring-ditches sites, selected blank areas on the Ouse valley gravels, and a sample cross-section across the river valley on to the surrounding uplands. It is hoped that some kind of quantitative result will be obtained from subsequent analysis of the material.

The excavation programme will largely be determined by the incidence of destruction threats, but it is hoped at least to sample ring-ditch sites. The information from this large scale investigation should allow a more selected and rational approach to excavation in the future.

It is hoped that this combination of survey and excavation will help to establish part of a general archaeological landscape for the Bronze Age in Bedfordshire. It might show how the ring ditches relate to earlier and contemporary habitation of this period, and could demonstrate whether such habitation is only associated with ring-ditches and the river gravels. It could produce a more definite pattern for Bronze Age settlement in the Ouse valley, by relating the excavation results and field-

walking results to a general distribution pattern arising from aerial photography. It may be possible to relate ring-ditch structures to barrow structures of other areas, and to organise the period of ring-ditch construction through a matrix of radio-carbon dates. Further evidence could be gained for Bronze Age burial ritual in the lowland context, and for environmental conditions during the period of ring-ditch construction.

WILSTEAD By-Pass TL 057442-064430 (approx)

Wilstead by-pass, constructed during the autumn of 1974 and 1975, takes the A6 from Luton to Bedford around the eastern edge of the village of Wilstead. The line of the road passed through no known features of archaeological importance apart from ridge-and-furrow, which was recorded prior to construction works commencing. A watching brief on preliminary grading works was carried out by Peter Woodward for Bedfordshire County Council.

During construction, pitched stone foundations of limestone were found at the northern end of the by-pass near Duck End (TL 05764411). Some sherds of local medieval and post-medieval pottery (fourteenth and nineteenth centuries) lead window came, glass and an iron catch were found in association with the footings. Although grading for the road had disturbed all occupation levels, the finds and the plan form indicated a projecting chimney to a house.

On the enclosure map of 1804 there is no building mentioned for this piece of land, which was part of an old enclosure known as Nortons Closes. At enclosure, Nortons Closes were exchanged by Samuel Whitbread: an examination of Whitbread documents in the Bedfordshire County Record Office allowed the tracing of a likely descent. A house seems to have been built on Nortons Closes between 1639 (when no house is mentioned) and 1648, when closes with cottage in which George Warner was living were settled upon his grandson of the same name. It was still standing in 1696, but was probably demolished by 1725 (when a toft is mentioned), and was definitely demolished by the time of enclosure in 1804.

It seems probable that the foundations excavated belonged to some period of this house's construction.

Reviews

Bedford County Council, *Bedfordshire Historic Buildings: the Heritage and its Problems Today* (Bedfordshire County Council, 1975), 58pp £1.00

This 'contribution . . . to European Architectural Heritage Year 1975' aims to rouse public interest in and concern for the county's heritage of buildings of all types and ages. Realistically, the authors state that 'true conservation involves *selective* preservation' (2, my italics); along with this there is a welcome acknowledgement that buildings form part of a landscape or townscape and find their visual 'meaning' within that context. Concern for buildings 'should be firmly based upon a knowledge of the subject and its problems' (2). The booklet admirably provides a basic foundation, and a useful bibliography (57) for those who wish to build on this foundation. Generalisations are inevitable when a large subject is dealt with in small compass, and occasional assertions are questionable or even straightforwardly false. It was probably in the late rather than the early seventeenth century that timber was superseded by alternative materials (3); and Flemish bond brickwork is weaker, not stronger, than English bond brickwork (10): hence the use of English bond in many industrial and engineering structures, illustrated on p35 of this booklet. But such faults are few, and overall a valuable character sketch of Bedfordshire buildings is presented.

The booklet begins with an outline of building materials occurring within the county. This is followed by chapters on different types of buildings, leaving the impression — quite correctly — that country houses and churches and chapels pose the hardest problems. The problems are summed up in a final chapter, and the booklet finishes with a series of disturbing photographs under the heading "Will They See 1985?". Disturbing, because one can be certain that in some cases the answer to the question is 'No', and because one knows also that these photographs show only a selection of those that it would be possible to show.

The booklet is illustrated by 87 photographs, 2 maps, and 7 drawings. The line drawings are clear; the photographs are on the whole of good quality although occasionally the reproduction is a little dull; that of the doorway at Someries

Castle (52) is unfortunately reversed. Yet in general the photographs are effective and should serve to illustrate both that Bedfordshire has many buildings worth looking at and that some are in a lamentable condition. Some of the county's buildings — Woburn, Luton Hoo, Felmersham Church, Someries Castle, for example — are of national importance, though most are not; yet these too have significance within their more circumscribed local context. It is buildings of this latter category that often require the greater vigilance, for they are so much an accepted part of our surroundings that, like Edward Thomas' copse, they are not noticed until they are gone. Yet the case of Someries Castle demonstrates that even a building of national importance *can* be faced with a similar fate. This early example of English brick building, with a number of rare brickwork features and an apparently unique plan, was, when visited by County Council officers, 'overgrown: roots of vegetation were disrupting the brickwork' and 'the protective fence around the site was incomplete and in need of repair' (53). It is good to learn since the first version of this review was written that the County Council are now taking active steps to consolidate this building.

One is grateful to the County Council for producing this booklet and at a reasonable price. One hopes that it will have the results which it is designed to achieve. Time will tell.

T.P. Smith

Landscape Archaeology by Michael Aston and Trevor Rowley (David and Charles, 1974, £2.50); *Fieldwork in Medieval Archaeology* by Christopher Taylor (Batsford 1974, limp £3.10)

There has recently been a spate of books concerned with fieldwork and the landscape, reflecting very properly where the emphasis lies in practical archaeology today. Works inspired by the Hoskins approach, leading towards Taylor's *Total Archaeology*, have been filling the bookshops, and have been selling despite their high prices. For those who are not averse to paperback editions, there are two cheaper, useful volumes well worth considering.

Landscape Archaeology and *Fieldwork in Medieval Archaeology* deal with the same theme, the techniques and approaches to fieldwork, and the latter examines their particular application to features of the Medieval period. Both books have a practical bias, particularly Christopher Taylor's, and the combination of his chapter "Recording in the Field" with Aston and Rowley's "Techniques of Fieldwork" provides the field worker with all he needs to know about practical recording.

Whilst both volumes are aimed at students and extra-mural groups involved in archaeology, there is also much valuable information for the would-be topographer and historian. Both books have a chapter dealing with the application of documentary evidence, and between them they produce a good range of examples. Taylor's book obviously goes into more detail, and is particularly valuable on the subject of the interpretation of sites by documents. He also cites a wide range of explanations for landscape features, which should be of great help to all field workers, even though his examples are all taken from Lowland Britain. An especially useful section in this book is the bibliography of field monuments which provides an admirable check list of possibilities, from Lazy Beds to Bee Gardens, to be considered in any assessment of a landscape feature.

In its more general approach, *Landscape Archaeology* looks at aspects of field work in town and village, and considers also the recording of churches and other buildings, which Taylor omits. Amongst the useful series of appendices is one that shows Brunskill's method of recording forms for buildings, and the questionnaires of the Medieval Village and Moated Sites research groups are also

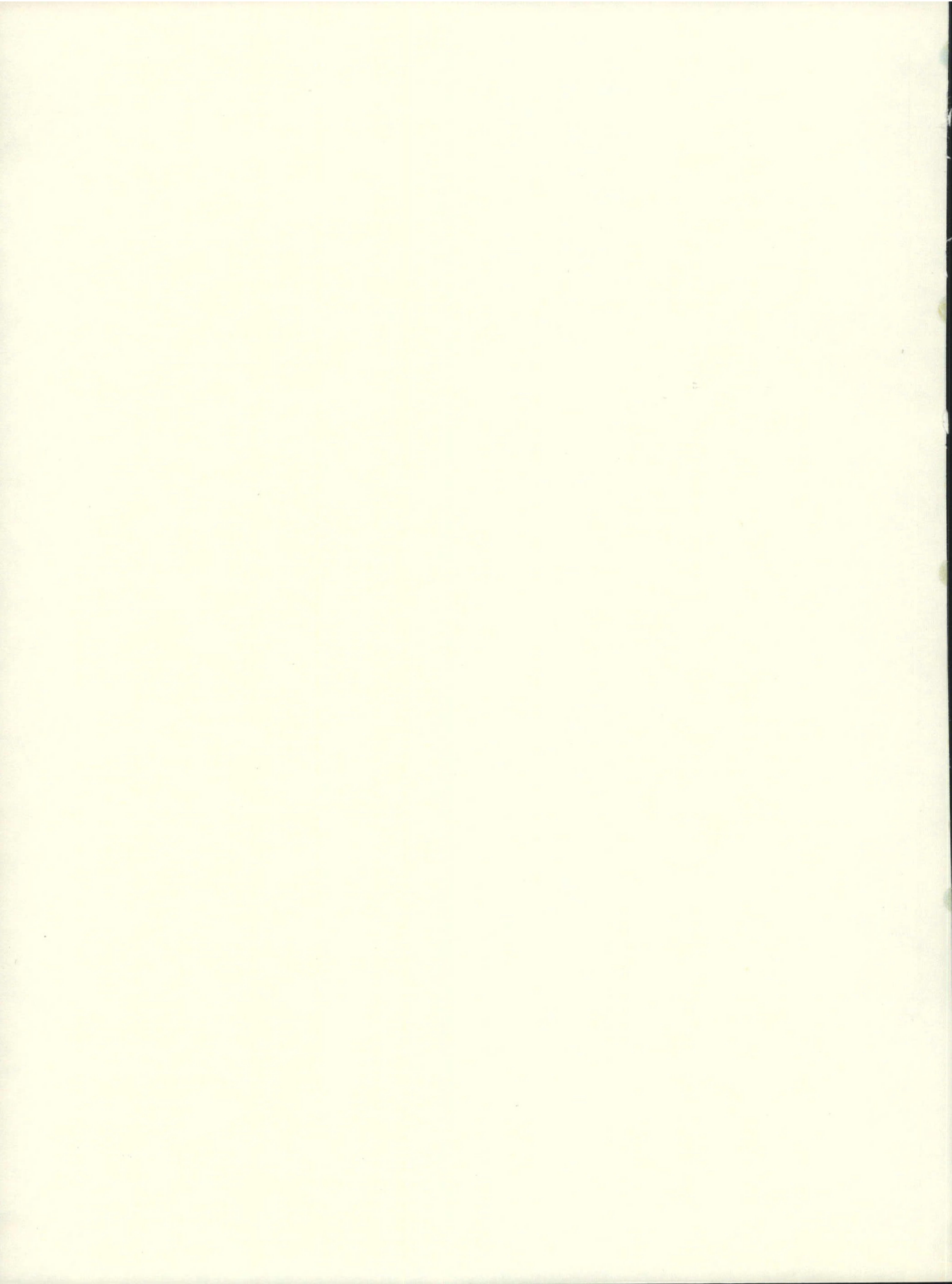
included. These are of particular value in ensuring that the field worker checks all aspects of his site and does not become too blinkered or parochial in his outlook — a danger against which Taylor also warns.

One aspect stressed in both volumes is the need to make available and even publish the results of a piece of field work. *Landscape Archaeology* explains the value of a Sites and Monuments Record, both to archaeologists and planners, and how field workers, whatever their degree of competence, have a vital contribution to make to any information system.

The presentation of these two field work volumes is similar. Both use a fair number of illustrations to demonstrate the techniques explained in the text. Taylor's are superior in design and execution, and examples of his own survey work are usefully accompanied by a list of equipment used to produce each plan. A better quality paper has been used for this volume, enabling excellent photographs to be printed alongside the text, which has obvious advantages over the interleaved plates which illustrate *Landscape Archaeology*. Potential field workers would do well to emulate the clarity of Taylor's drawings, rather than the heavier quality of some of Aston and Rowley's plan.

There is, however, much to offer both the professional and amateur archaeologist in these two books. They make excellent companion volumes to this exacting subject, but as Taylor points out, reading is no substitute for the experience gained by practical field work and survey.

Jane Hassall



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.
P.G. Tilson: A Belgic and Romano-British site at Bromham.
D.N. Hall: Rescue Excavations at Radwell Gravel Pits.
D.H. Kennett: Some Anglo-Saxon Pottery from Luton.
D.H. Kennett: Seventh Century Cemeteries in the Ouse Valley.
D.N. Hall: A Thirteenth Century Windmill Site at Strixton.
R.K. Hagen: Two Late Medieval Bronze Belt Chapes.
T.P. Smith: The Chantry House, Tempsford.
T.P. Smith: A Timber-Framed Building in Cumberland Street, Luton.
with shorter notes, vi + 146 pp.; price £3.00, plus postage.

Bedfordshire Archaeology: Essays Presented to Frederick William Kuhlicke
being *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 9, 1974

- Frederick William Kuhlicke: an appreciation and select bibliography.
C. Rew: Archaeology, Schools and Bedford Museum.
J. Dyer: The Excavation of Two Barrows at Galley Hill, Streatley.
D.E. Johnston: The Roman Settlement at Sandy, Bedfordshire.
D.H. Kennett: Some Decorative Aspects of the Anglo-Saxon Shield.
R.K. Hagen: Some Anglo-Saxon Pennies from Bedford Mint now in Luton Museum.
J.M. Hassall and D.B. Baker: Bedford: Aspects of Town Origins and Development.
T.P. Smith: The Earliest Work in the Church of St Mary, Bedford.
D.B. Baker, G.C. Dunning and E.S. Eames: Excavations in the Area of Mill Street, Bedford, 1971.
H.K. Cameron: A Palimpsest Brass at Dunstable.
A.C. Cole: Frederick William Kuhlicke and Heraldry: a tribute.
viii + 136 pp.; price £3.00, plus postage.

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 2 1964, 4 1969, 5 1970, 6 1971, 7 1972

10 1973 are also available, price £3.00 each, plus postage.

Sets of back issues, comprising volumes 2 and 4-10
are sold at a set price of £20.00, plus postage.

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 1 1962 and 3 1966

are currently out of print, but when sufficient orders have been received,
arrangements will be made to reprint them.

Further details from the Hon. Treasurer, the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council,
63 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedford,
from whom back numbers may be purchased at the prices stated.

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal, 11, 1976

Obituary: Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe F.S.A., F.R. Hist. S., F.M.A.	1
Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe: a Bibliography Compiled by David H. Kennett	2
The Bedfordshire Region in the First Millenium B.C. By James Dyer	7
Felmersham and Ostia: A Metalwork Comparison By David H. Kennett	19
The Excavation of a Roman Corn-Drying Oven at Manor Way, Flitwick By Kevan Fadden	23
A Medieval Site at Rook Tree Lane, Stotfold By Angela Simco	35
Farndish in the Counties of Bedford and Northampton or in one of them By D.N. Hall and J.B. Hutchings	43
Cruck-Frame Buildings in Bedfordshire By N.W. Alcock and P.J. Woodward	51
Medieval Pottery and a Possible Kiln Site at Everton By Jane Hassall	69
Notes: Some Bedfordshire Flints By Peter Tilson	76
An Investigation Beneath the Floor of the Church of St. Andrew, Ampthill By Kevan Fadden	77
Work at Newnham Priory By Angela Simco	80
An Unusual Foundation at Ampthill By Kevan Fadden	82
Bedfordshire Archaeology, 1975-1976 Compiled by David H. Kennett	84
Reviews	88