

BEDFORDSHIRE
ARCHÆOLOGY



VOLUME 18

BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

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Cover: Photograph by Bedfordshire County Council Photographic Unit of an Anglo-Saxon gilt-bronze buckle-plate, dating from the 6th century AD, found at Wilden, Bedfordshire. See pp. 120, 121 of this journal.

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BOB MUSTOE was educated in Luton and obtained the diploma in Field Archaeology at the Dorset Institute of Higher Education. Since 1977 he has worked for Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Field Team as an excavator on numerous sites. For many years he was supervising the excavations at Grove Priory. Bob was a Field Officer involved in a variety of projects including the major prehistoric discoveries at Goldington. He is now a residential social worker.

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Editorial

The Changing Face of Archaeological Publication

EVELYN BAKER

Volume 18 is the first edition of *Bedfordshire Archaeology* that has been my responsibility; but it has not been a lone effort. A great deal of support and practical assistance has come from the Editorial Sub Committee and I would like to express my gratitude to them, to the various contributors and to the anonymous referees for giving freely of their time and expertise. I owe a special debt of thanks to Carolyn Wingfield, the newly appointed Assistant Editor, for her unstinting help and efficient organisation, without which the volume would have been long delayed. David Hunt of Stanley L. Hunt (Printers) Ltd of Rushden has been unfailingly courteous and generous with his professional knowledge, and has guided us through a number of pitfalls.

The change-over in Editorship cannot take place without paying tribute to David H. Kennett who was Editor of *Bedfordshire Archaeology* and its previous incarnation *The Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* for a total of seventeen years. David only resigned from this office when he moved out of the county too far to be able to be really effective, and even so remains an honorary member of the Editorial Sub Committee. He commutes when he can from his home near Great Yarmouth to lend his support and advice. Archaeology in the county owes much to David: not only has he edited the journal since 1969 but was the mainstay in keeping it afloat both fiscally and academically. He is also a prolific author, and with his paper in this journal has contributed no less than forty-one articles and notes to the series. One is left to consider whether the journal would have survived without him, and I join with the Chairman, Officers and Members of the the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council in taking this opportunity to express our gratitude and thanks to him for his many years of service.

Thanks are also due to a number of local bodies which have contributed to this volume's solvency. Bedford and Luton Museums and the Bedford Archaeological Society have been particularly helpful, and the journal would have been in dire straits without the co-operation of the County Council's Planning Department, in the guise of

David Lukes, in underwriting their Archaeological Field Team's papers as the proper outlet for their work.

Regular subscribers will note a number of changes introduced. It is recognised that the journal has to reach a wider audience without lowering standards if it is to survive in the modern commercial world. Two major strands affect archaeological publication today. First there is the undoubted fact that archaeologists and exponents of related disciplines cannot publish in the immense (and often impenetrably tedious) detail that has been their wont. It is simply too expensive, and questions are being asked as to for whom this multiple hard copy is being produced, and why? A ceiling on space for publication is an excellent discipline. Information is now organised into hierarchies of what can be left in the archive, what might be published given the time and space, and what is indisputably essential for adequate communication regarding the essence of a site or subject. There are inherent dangers of course. What sloppiness of thought, bias, or inadequate recording or analysis is hidden behind the summarised versions we are beginning to see in current publications? How are specialists, who need to communicate by means of a high level of detail, going to fare in this stripped down mode of presentation; and how are they to achieve proper recognition if the major part of their work never reaches the printed page? The alternative stand-point questions the relevance, for instance, of catalogues of finds, tables of pottery, copious and seemingly repetitive drawings of architectural detail, unless they demonstrably and substantially contribute to the understanding of a site or clarify an argument. Is it communicating in the most effective and efficient way to give the reader not only the results and level of detail he needs, but its significance? Future editions of *Bedfordshire Archaeology* will doubtless reflect these factors more stringently than the present one does, but the integration of finds and structural evidence in the Deepdale and Clapham papers is a good way forward.

The second aspect concerns the growing fascina-

tion and appetite for heritage matters from the general public. It is in all our interests to foster this, and to make the various forms of archaeological research more accessible to the layman. This has to be achieved, however, without detriment to specialist needs. Perhaps good examples within this journal of 'accessible' writing are Karen Webster's paper on the Grove Priory knife and shears set and Peter McKeague's readable report on Sutton bridge.

This volume covers a broad spectrum, and it is hoped that the various aspects and topics will appeal to as many different groups. The topographical paper on Bedford's street pattern and names which is clearly and economically presented by Alan Crawley and Ian Freeman should reach a wide audience. Similarly, devotees of St Paul's church in Bedford may appreciate the detail in Bob Mustoe's article. Less easy to popularise, but demonstrating their local and academic worth are the Archaeological Field Team papers on the motte at Chalgrave, the Deepdale Romano British cemetery, and the excavations on what should have been a medieval manor site at Clapham but which turned up mostly Iron Age evidence.

The section on local societies is an innovation, and I hope a welcome one. It gives the societies a forum in which to advertise their existence and purpose, and should bring them to the attention of many local people who might be tempted to swell their numbers and play a more active role in archaeology in its widest sense.

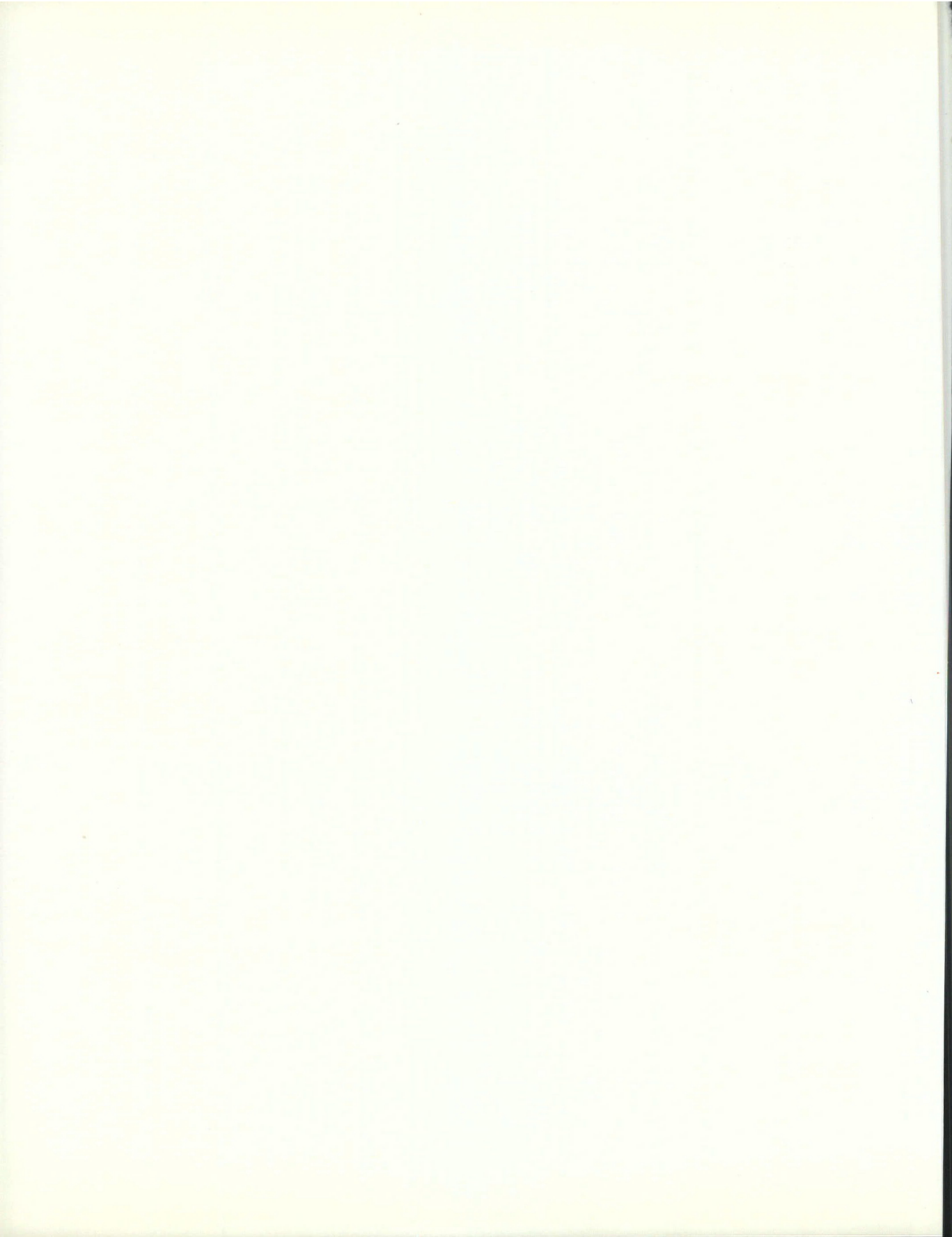
Building analysis is represented by two essays, Stephen Castle's account giving dwellers in Luton's conurbation a rare chance for nostalgia. Not that Luton's roots are not catered for: a new departure is the double section on recent enquiries and donations to the two museums in the county: Luton and Bedford. These useful additions should appear as regular features in future journals and have particular value for a number of reasons. They should encourage people to take their findings for

professional identification and recording; this is of value in itself, reaching in addition the county Sites, Buildings and Monuments Record and Archaeological Finds Data Base, even if the finds themselves do not make their way permanently into museum collections. They can encourage better communication between detectorists and archaeologists, and may have the beneficial effect of improving finds reporting and perhaps recording techniques also. They bring objects of intrinsic importance like the Wilden buckle-plate to our attention, thus enabling us to share in the additions to the Bedfordshire heritage.

Attitudes to archaeology are changing and improving. Developers of all kinds are increasingly recognising the importance of heritage sites to the general public and are acknowledging this by showing an increased willingness where possible to provide funds for recording before destruction. This was the case with the prehistoric sites at Goldington which made such a deep impression on local people despite their not being able to see them on the ground. The interim report, however, is perhaps more of a means to alerting archaeologists working in this field of the nature of the discoveries rather than a popular expression. The Ursula Taylor School excavation is another case; here the County Council sets an example by being itself the developer meeting his responsibilities by paying for archaeological recording.

It must be said, however, that attracting sufficient funds for post excavation work, seen as the less glamorous end of the process, is still an up-hill struggle.

We are in interesting times. The 'heritage' as such still has some way to go before we match the passion and material support given to natural environment and pollution issues. But we have an opportunity to foster interest and enthusiasm. I hope this volume of *Bedfordshire Archaeology* will go a small distance in that direction.



Salvage Excavation of a Neolithic and Bronze Age Ritual Site at Goldington, Bedford

A Preliminary Report

R.S. MUSTOE

SUMMARY

Aerial photography revealed a number of ring ditch sites associated with a field system of square enclosures all of which were to be developed by large scale housing and a superstore complex. A more detailed assessment of the site which included field-walking suggested the familiar Great Ouse Valley settlement pattern of Bronze Age activity followed by late Iron Age and Roman farming. Medieval agriculture was represented by a headland which accentuated a natural ridge which was probably a prominent feature in the prehistoric period, and indications of ridge and furrow. Excavation revealed Neolithic ritual sites which were used during the early Bronze Age. These sites were respected by the ditches of the field system, which appears to be of Bronze Age date. A substantial accumulation of windblown material led to an exceptional level of preservation and minimised the effects of recent agriculture.

The excavation was undertaken by Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Archaeological Field Team, and investigated two of the ring ditches over a period of sixteen weeks using a very small labour force augmented by personnel employed on the Community Programme. This enabled Site 1 to be characterised as a Class 1 henge and Site 2 as a possible second henge succeeded by a multi-phase burial mound.

SITE 1 – The Henge

A single ditch enclosed a circular area approximately 25 m in diameter. It had a single entrance in the SW segment, but no indications of a bank could be found outside the ditch which appeared to have been on the inside of the ditch. The ditch was water-filled and was open for sufficiently long to accumulate plant growth. The bank appeared to have been deliberately pushed into the ditch, and the sequence repeated by being dug out again. Seven pairs of shallow post-pits were regularly spaced around the circumference of the enclosed area.

Though the ditch had been recut several times, the fills contained very few finds but included a fragment of antler and hazel nuts as well as flint debitage and small sherds of pottery.

Re-use of the site for burial in the Bronze Age is attested by two cremations placed in off-centre positions. A collared urn dated to the early Bronze Age accompanied one of these cremations.

SITE 2

Aerial photography showed this to be a double ring, and fieldwalking before excavation showed a mound just distinguishable over the central area of the site. Excavation demonstrated considerable complexity, including two phases of barrow and three ditches. The lack of stratification indicating the position of the outer ditch in the history of the site means that only a provisional sequence can be outlined. This may have to be revised in the light of finds analysis and independent dating. It is likely that most events followed in rapid succession, some being broadly contemporary.

PHASE 1

An irregular sub-circular (outer) ditch with a single narrow entrance in the NW segment enclosed an area between 34 m and 40 m in diameter. Just inside the N and NW area of this enclosure were a number of small pits which contained deliberately placed deposits. These included hazel nuts, pottery sherds, grinding or rubbing stones, and part of a polished flint axe.

PHASE 2

Within the central area enclosed were two crouched inhumations in separate pits, a third pit associated with these may have been cut to hold a marker post. A spherical stone, flint core and a small pottery vessel accompanied one of the inhumations.

A low turf mound was raised over these burials and a stake fence surrounded the burial area.

PHASE 3

The mound was further enhanced by the cutting of a circular ditch through the tail of the mound closely following the line of the stake fence. Several sherds of decorated Mildenhall pottery came from the floor of the ditch along with some animal bone. A saddle quern had been placed on the floor of the ditch

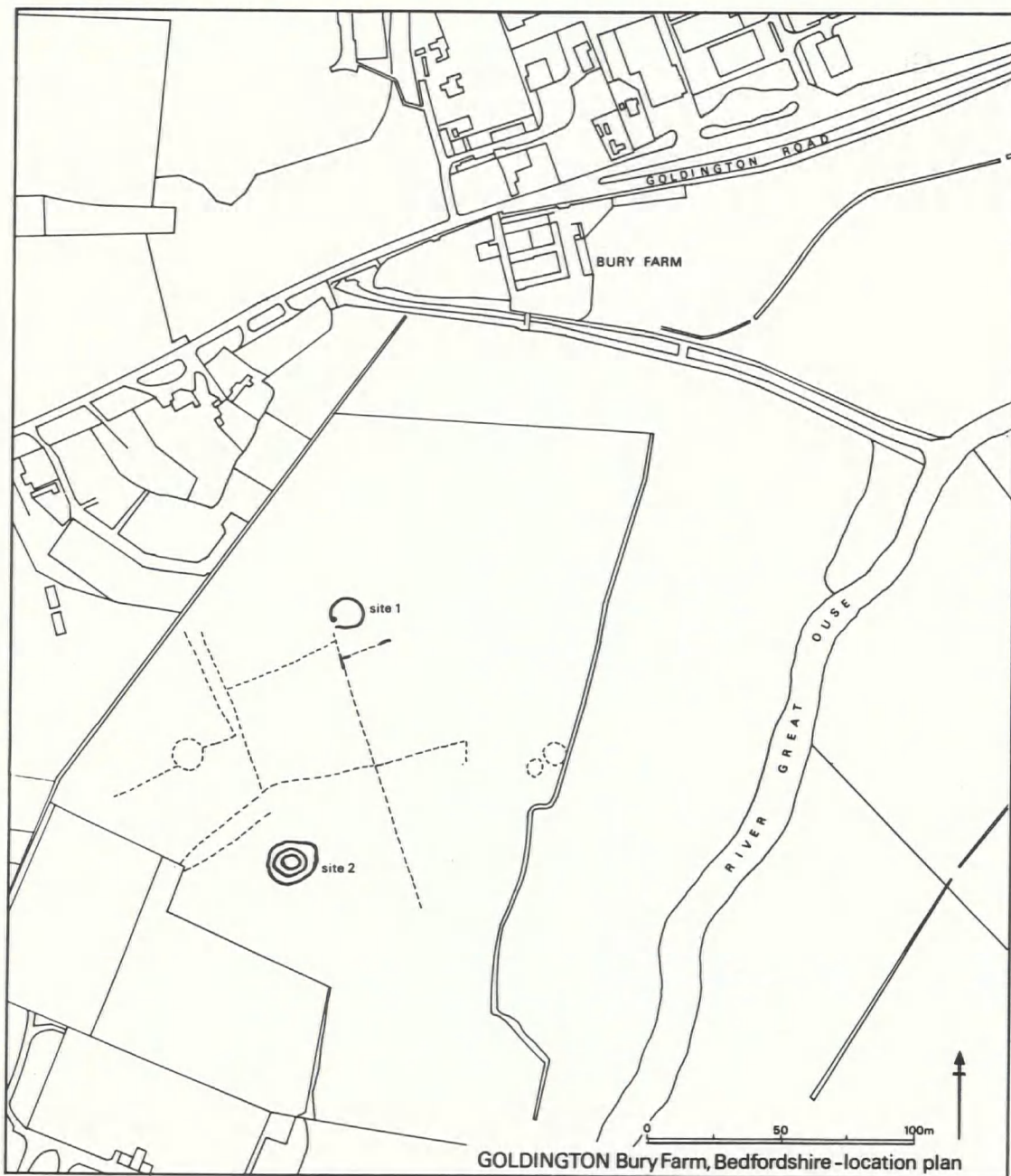


Fig 1 Bury Farm, Goldington; plot from aerial photographs

GOLDINGTON, Bury Farm – Site 1

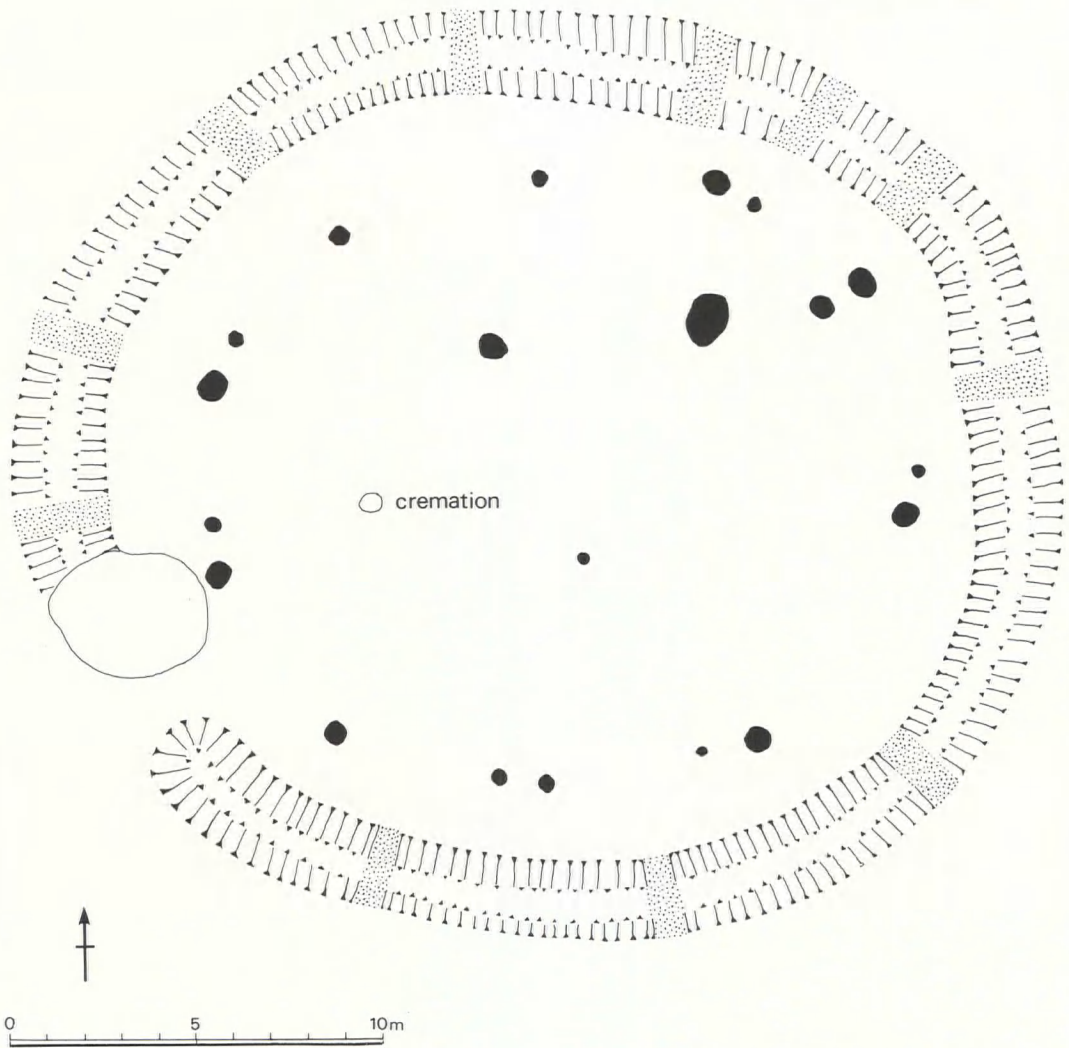


Fig 2 Bury Farm, Goldington; the henge

GOLDINGTON, Bury Farm - Site 2

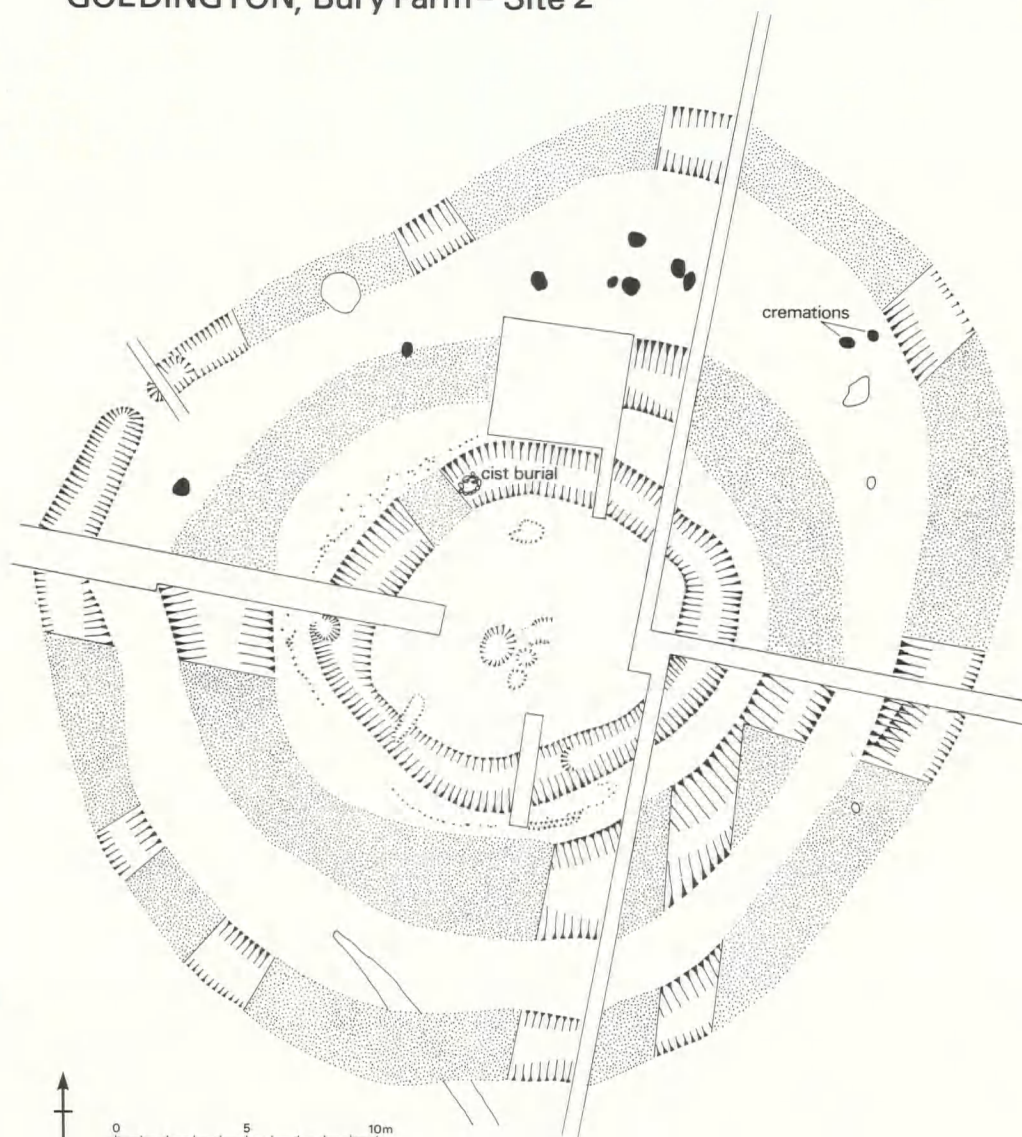


Fig 3 Bury Farm, Goldington; Site 2, the triple ring burial mound

opposite a break in the fence. The ditch was filled in, probably quite soon after excavation.

Two pits containing burial cists, constructed from saddle querns and rubbing stones were cut through the backfilled inner ditch. Each cist contained a single crouched inhumation. A third crouched inhumation inserted into the top fills of the inner ditch and opposite the break in the stake fence should be considered with this group.

PHASE 4

Three further inhumations were inserted into the surface of the mound: these were two child burials in a single grave and a separate adult burial. All were placed in crouched positions. A third ditch (middle) was cut which was significantly more imposing than the first. The spoil from the ditch was thrown onto the earlier mound enlarging it to approximately 24 m in diameter, but of uncertain height. Situated around the inner lip of the ditch were parts of a line of stake holes indicating that the mound was supported by stake reveting.

PHASE 5

An inverted collared urn cremation provisionally

dated between 1700-1200 BC was located on the berm between the outer and middle ditches in the NE segment of the site. This appeared to be the last burial before the mound was abandoned. The lower parts of the site were all sealed by a 0.4 m thick deposit of windblown material.

THE FIELD SYSTEM

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

On Site 1 a large pit had been cut through the back filled ditch terminal near the entrance, and to the E sections were excavated to characterise the narrow sharply cut field ditches.

Two field ditches, similar in profile to those near Site 1 were excavated on Site 2. One was cut by the outer ditch and the second cut across the backfilled outer ditch terminal. The dearth of late Iron Age and Romano-British material and the generous quantities of Bronze Age finds in both later plough soil and the sealing windblown soils point to a Bronze Age date for the system.

Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Bedfordshire County Council's Planning Department for the grant to publish this report.

Excavations at Ursula Taylor Lower School

MICHAEL DAWSON

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM

A.M. SLOWIKOWSKI, HOLLY DUNCAN, ANDREW ROBERTS AND ROBIN HOLGATE

SUMMARY

Evidence for mesolithic and later flint working was found on a site most intensively occupied during the late Iron Age. No evidence of Saxon occupation was seen despite the proximity of the Saxo-Norman church. Only the southern limits of the previously partly excavated Clapham Manor house were observed.

INTRODUCTION

In April and May 1987, members of Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Archaeological Field Team undertook rescue excavations ahead of building works at Ursula Taylor Lower School, Clapham. These excavations were undertaken at short notice over five weeks and were funded by the developers, the County Council's Education Department, with additional help from members of the County Council's Community Enterprise Project.

The decision to excavate was based on several factors: Ursula Taylor School was built partially over the site of the manor house of Clapham, adjacent to the then standing 18th century house. Unpublished excavations ahead of proposed development in the 1970s to the north of the school by P. Tilson for Bedford Archaeological Society revealed the extensive remains of the earlier manor house. This and the proximity of the late Saxon church tower and a ford across the River Great Ouse was indicative of at least some aspects of a preferred site (Fig 1). Topographically the site straddled the break in slope of the lower flood plain of the River Great Ouse, and this position has been generally identified with good archaeological survival. Several phases of past activity were identified, of which unexpectedly the most important and prolific was the late Iron Age.

The damage to the archaeology by soil stripping and the quantity and quality of the surviving artefact evidence has largely dictated the form of this report.

Archaeological features were identified only where they were cut into the underlying subsoil and few have archaeological relationships beyond that; thus much of the phasing is based on a combination of pottery dating and posthole alignments. In

addition not only is the pottery assemblage from the ditches extraordinary (phase 3, below) in terms of the general recovery of late Iron Age ceramics, but also in the completeness of the vessels. In this situation it was inevitable that the pottery should come to characterise the site. The pottery was examined by context and a type series compiled in accord with the Bedford type series (Baker & Hassall 1979). Sherds from the same vessel were brought together and other contexts examined for sherds belonging to the same vessel. Quantification was by vessel and sherd count.

Finally the report presented here is but a synthesis of a more complete record, including detailed finds reports and site records, held as an archive with Bedford Museum.

THE EXCAVATIONS

The extent of archaeological sitework was dictated by the development plan which called for new classrooms and a car park to the S of the present school. This area had been landscaped in 1966 as a games field although current plans included the removal of topsoil from a football pitch and from the adjacent embankment to the E. Contractual time constraints meant that the landscaping and present topsoil stripping (by machine) led to the truncation of the archaeology which was most severe across the centre of the site. In the NE corner, however, stripping was limited to the turf soil and penetrated no deeper than the underlying modern building debris. As this was to be covered by hardcore and used for temporary offices and storage, the archaeology was not considered to be threatened; the area excavated was therefore slightly smaller than that of the proposed development (Fig 1).

PERIOD ONE: MESOLITHIC

The earliest phase of perceived human activity was represented by a series of three ill-defined and irregular pits dug into the natural clay and gravel. Forming no structural pattern, these pits (13, 111, 155) were filled with clean sand and gravel with only

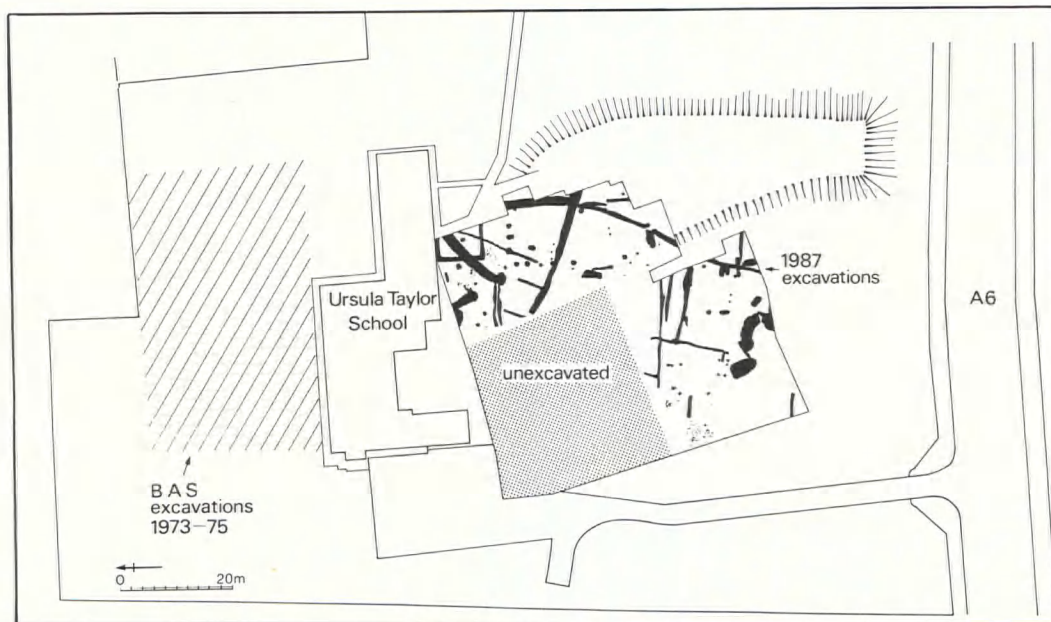
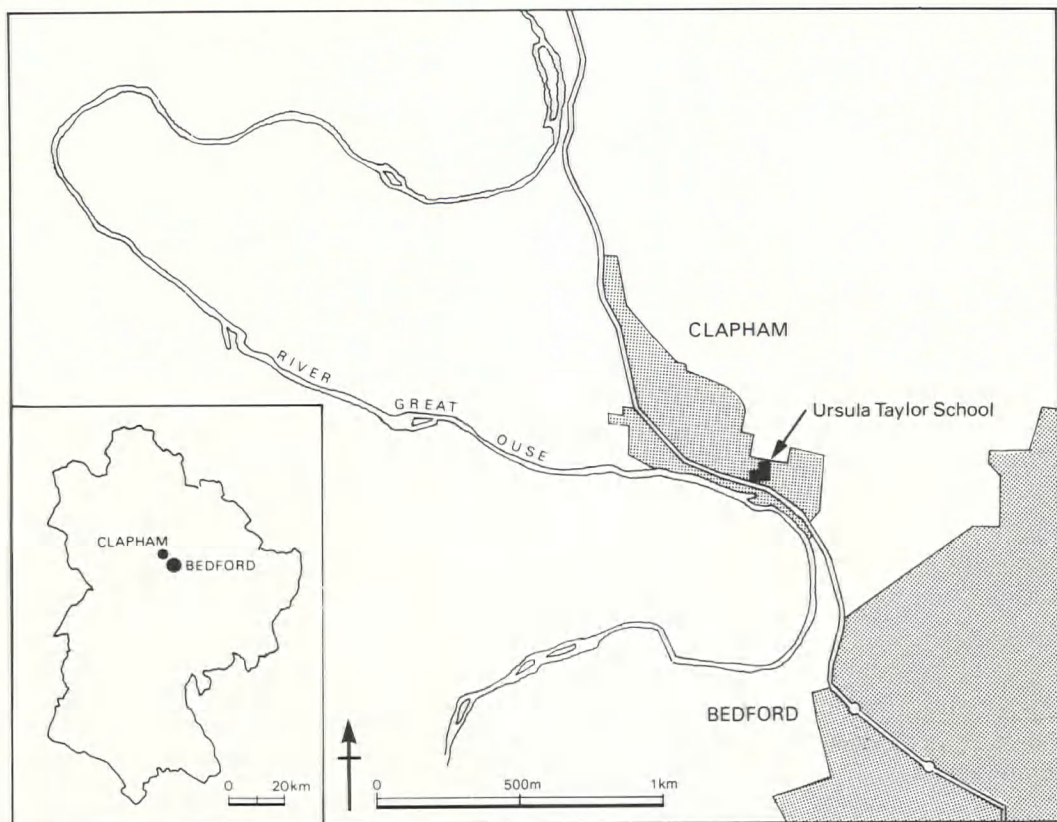


Fig 1 Location of the 1987 excavations

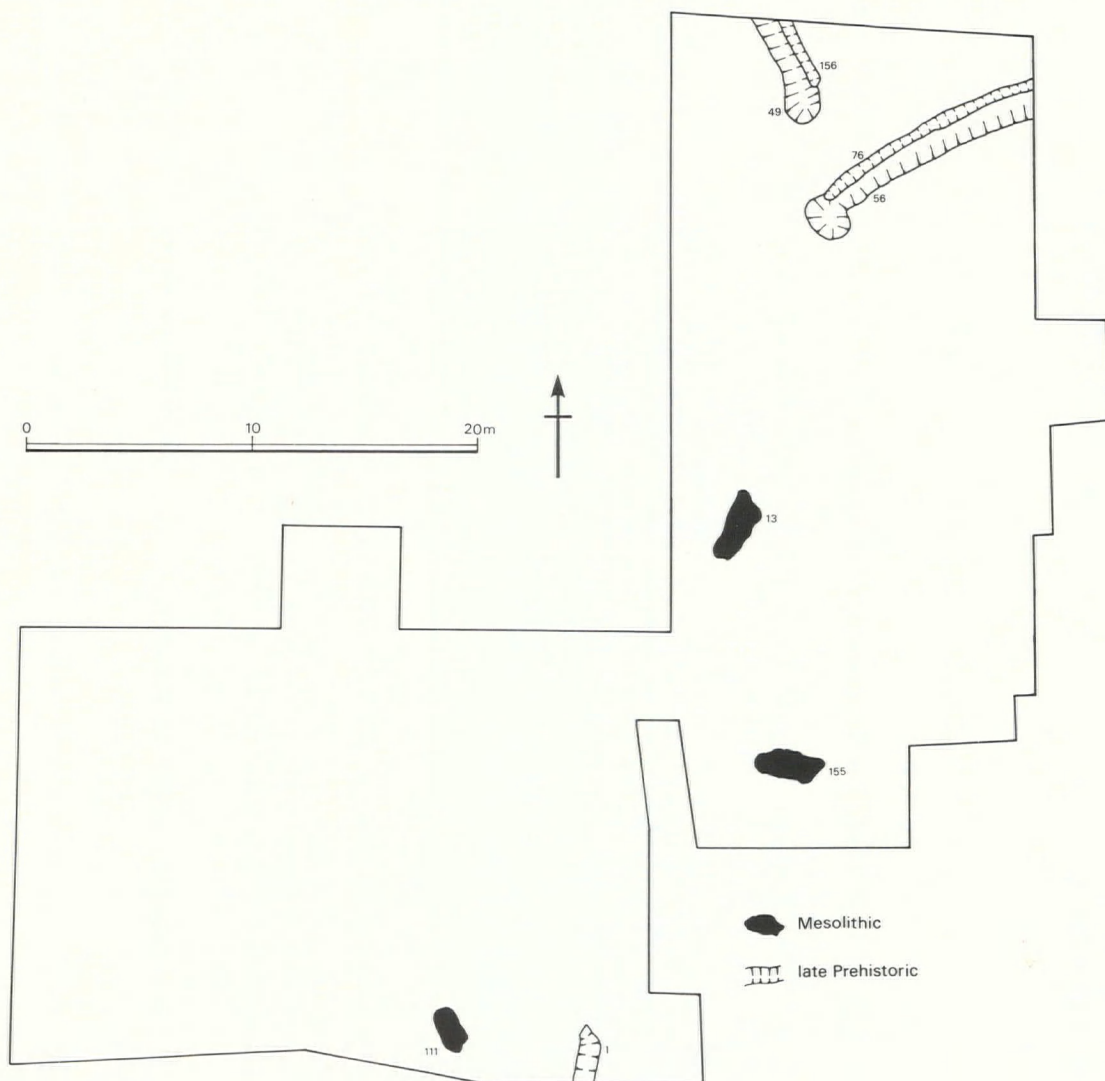


Fig 2 Period 1. Mesolithic and Period 2. Later Prehistoric Features

occasional flecks of charcoal. Apart from flint fragments, identified as mesolithic debitage, the pits contained no artefacts. The coherence of this assemblage of flints in the face of potential later contamination or disturbance, allied with the dissimilarity of the fills with other, later, features argues a mesolithic date for the digging and filling of these pits rather than a periglacial origin (Fig 2).

Apart from the stratified examples other fragments of mesolithic debitage were recovered: a transept axe-thinning flake and four cutting blades/flakes, one of which was produced on an axe thinning flake, as was one of eight re-touched flakes. The small quantity and range of implements present in the assemblage would suggest short stay or task specific activity on the site.

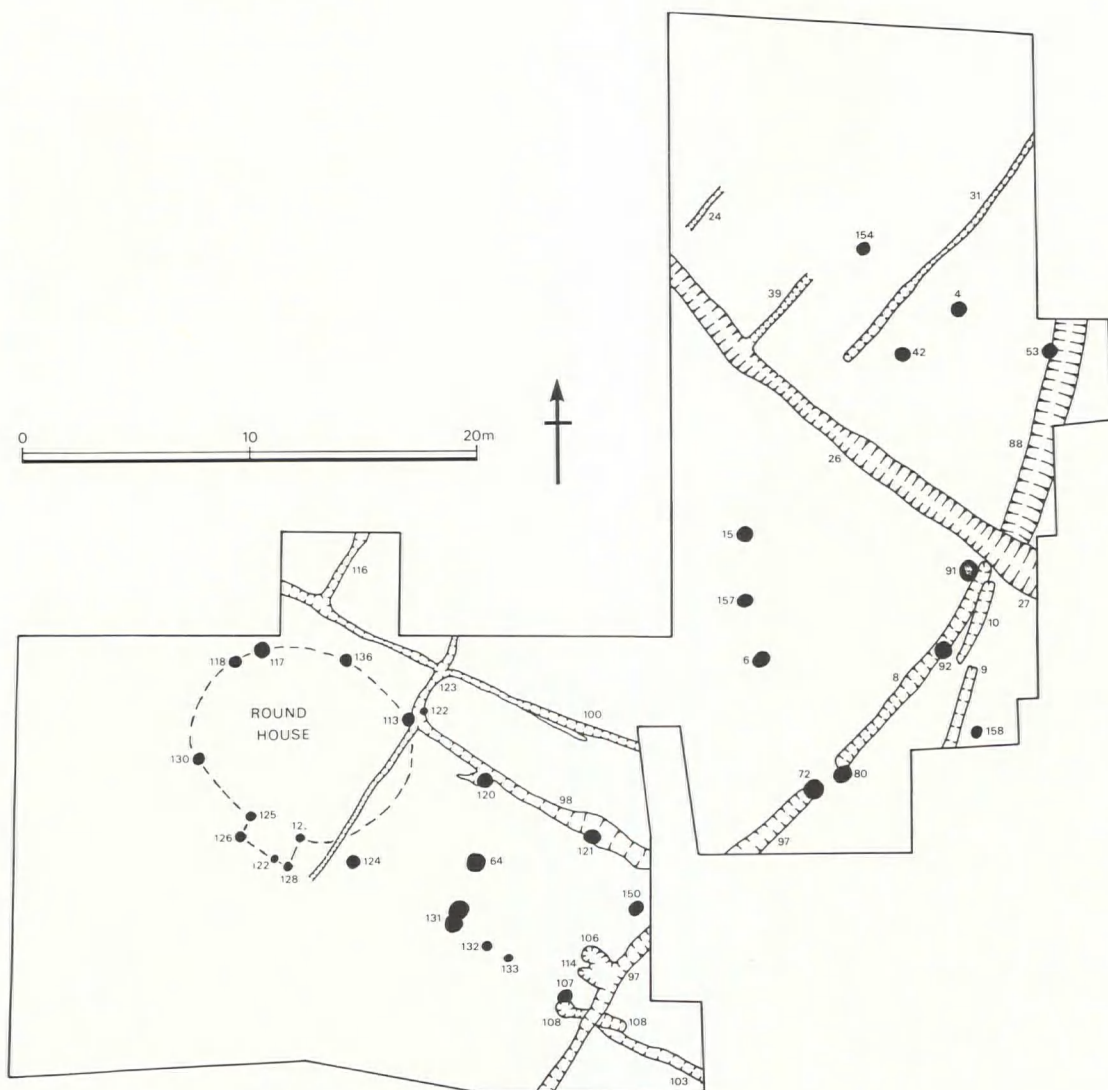


Fig 3 Period 3. Late Iron Age features

PERIOD TWO: LATER PREHISTORIC

A considerable period of non-structural activity occurs after the mesolithic, evidenced only by a wide array of flints found generally as residual material in later dated contexts (Fig 3). However, at the N end of the site, medieval levelling for a yard surface has truncated the archaeology where two ditches (56 and 49) sealed by cobbles form an out-

turned entrance. Both ditches were nearly 1 m deep and both were re-cut on their "inner" faces (76, 156). Their fills were unlike those of later dated features, being a grey clayey matrix. Whilst the larger and more westerly ditch 56 contained pottery in its upper silts, these fragments were of both Iron Age and medieval date and therefore probably the result of later contamination (Fig 12).

These two ditches were not only cut by several medieval post holes, and sealed by the yard, but are at odds with the orientation of a series of late Iron Age enclosures. Unfortunately in this area the boundary gullies of these enclosures appear truncated by the medieval scarping and have no direct relationship with the entrance.

The a-ceramic nature of the ditch silts and orientation suggest an activity range before the construction of the late Iron Age enclosures.

PERIOD THREE: THE LATE IRON AGE

The late Iron Age is characterised by the first extensive development of the site, when a series of small rectangular fields or stock pens were created which were defined by linear ditches dug NW-SE across the site. These enclosure boundaries, probably open ditches with flanking fences or hedged banks, vary in character from the wide, sinuous ditch (88,8,97) with its post-built entrance to the straighter but shallower gullies on the W. In the SW lay a round house similar to that found across the river at Bromham (Tilson, 1975, Fig 1).

The general contemporaneity of the ditches' use is implied by their orientation, whilst the proximity of ditches 100, and 98, must imply some development of the site after initial enclosure or indicate that later scarping has destroyed evidence of more complex structures. The cleaning and re-cutting of ditches is particularly evident in 26 and 88, and further renewal of the boundaries is implicit in the series of post holes which were dug into the ditch silts, presumably renewing the boundary divisions.

The ultimate silting up of the enclosure ditches was accompanied by the deposition of a remarkable assemblage of pottery. Almost sixty vessels with recognisable forms, 48% of the total recovered from the excavations, came from ditches 27 and 8. All the vessels but one were discrete within their contexts, and, although dispersed along ditch 8 and at the junction of 8 and 26, the majority of sherds from each vessel were found together. The substantial number and size of the fragments and their position in the upper fills of the ditches would indicate deposition at one time with little or no residuality. There were no vessels with sherds from more than one context with the exception of No. 33, 12 sherds of which come from ditch 26, one sherd from 8 and one sherd from 27, probably the result of dispersal at the junction of 26 and 8. Additionally there is a large quantity of burnt animal bone from ditch 26.

Including the fragments of Roman pot, sixteen fabrics were identified and of these eleven are

published fully for the first time and thus are listed below extending the Bedford type series.

Drawing conventions used are standard, with vessels shown at one quarter actual size, external view on the right and a section and internal view on the left. Wheel-thrown vessels are shown with solid sections, and hand-made vessels with hatched sections. Hatching is also used to indicate applied parts (separate bases, handles). Where the coils of a hand-made vessel are discernible, they have been illustrated in the section. The pie diagram at the base of each illustration indicates the proportion of the vessel recovered, excluding any reconstruction. Sherds with external decoration or other features such as finger marks, have been drawn across the centre line in the position in which they would have been found. Sherds with internal marks have been drawn to the left of the centre line. Where all sherds surviving have been drawn, the pie diagram has been omitted.

Type F01 Flint tempered ware

Hard, fairly rough, sandy with rounded quartz 0.2 mm to 0.5 mm dia. and flint 0.2 mm to 1 mm dia. Orange-brown to grey in colour with a dark grey core. Surfaces are patchily reduced.

Forms: Coarsely hand-made jars with obvious finger impressions particularly around the neck. Fig 9, 32.

Type F02 Flint and grog tempered ware

Fairly hard, fairly smooth fabric, reduced to grey-black except external surfaces when they are grey-brown. Proportions of temper vary *e.g.* No 40 contains more grog than flint, while No 41 contains more flint than grog. Some large lumps of grog, varying in size from 0.5 mm to 5 mm dia.

Forms: Hand-made bowls with flattened rims. Fig 9, 40 and 41.

Type F03 Early sand and grog tempered ware

Fairly hard, smooth, oxidised fabric, brick-red to brown-grey in colour. Fine sand tempering with sub-rounded milky quartz, particularly on the surface ϕ 0.5 mm dia. Size of grog varies from 0.1 mm to 3 mm dia.

Forms: Hand-made jars with obvious finger smoothing on the interior. Fig 9, 42.

Type F04 Organic tempered ware

Fairly hard, smooth, reduced fabric, grey throughout. Voids within the fabric and on the surfaces where the organic tempering has burnt out in the

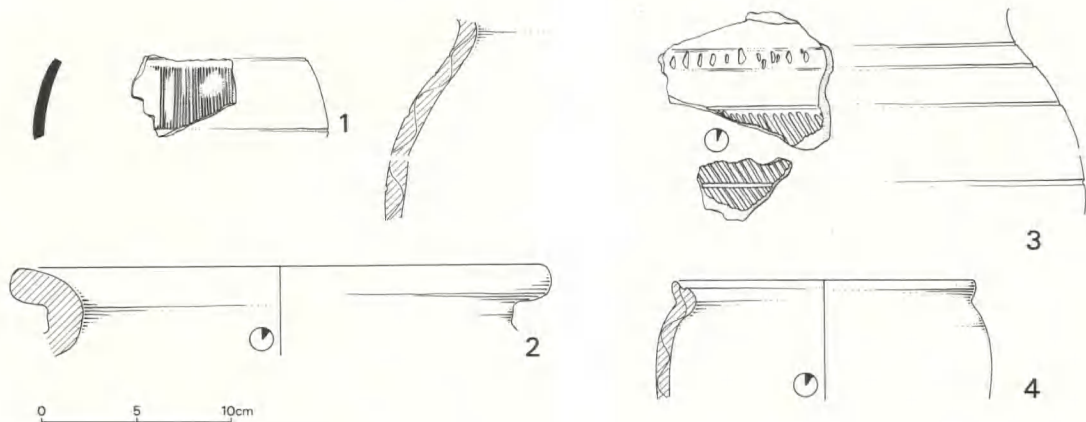


Fig 4 Period 3, 1st century pottery

firing. Some impressions on the surface of chaff and possibly grain.

Forms: Only one sherd from an indeterminate vessel. Fig 9, 44.

Type F05 Grog and shell tempered ware

Fairly hard, fairly smooth fabric reduced throughout to a medium grey colour. External surfaces can be grey-brown with black patches. Interior surface is covered with voids where the inclusions have either weathered or leached out.

Forms: Indistinguishable. Fig 9, 43.

Type F06 Grog tempered wares

This is the most common type found on the site. It can be divided into three sub groups, based on the size and frequency of the grog particles.

A This has the finest and smoothest fabric. It is usually oxidised to a buff or buff-orange colour, with a sharply defined grey core.

B This consists of medium sized grog particles and is the commonest of the three sub-groups. Colour varies from orange-red to brown-grey, with varying sherds of brown being most common. Occasional grey core.

C This has the coarsest fabric, the largest grog particles, and the colour is usually bright orange or brown with a grey core and occasional buff margins. The grog particles of this type vary in colour, depending upon the amount of reduction, from buff or buff-brown to grey or black. This type includes

the Baldock Fabric 1. The forms are fully described in Thompson 1982 and the fabric in Stead and Rigby 1986.

Forms. The finer fabrics, A & B, were used for table wares: cordoned jars, butt beakers and copies of Roman flagons. Fabric C was used for large, thick-walled, flat-based storage vessels, usually hand-made. The surfaces are usually pitted where the large grog particles have fallen out. External surfaces of the finer vessels are frequently burnished, with occasional incised horizontal lines as decoration. Fig 4, 1 and 2, Fig 5, 5-12, Fig 7, 20-27 and Fig 9, 45 and 46.

Type F07 Shelly ware

(These are fully described in Tilson 1973, p 30-31, under the term Clapham shelly ware.)

Forms: most commonly shouldered jars with a grooved rim that may have served as a lid seating. Some large, hand-made jars occur, very clumsily made with a particularly coarse fabric. Decoration, where it occurs, is found only on the smaller, finer jars, and consists of oblique slashing on the rim and/or horizontal combing on the body. Fig 4, 3-4, Fig 8, 28-31.

Type F08 Shell and grog tempered ware

Fairly soft, smooth fabric, buff in colour with a grey core throughout. External surfaces can have orange patches. The shell and grog tempering is very fine with the shell weathering out of the surfaces, leaving tiny voids, although not as "corky" in appearance as Type F07 Shelly ware.

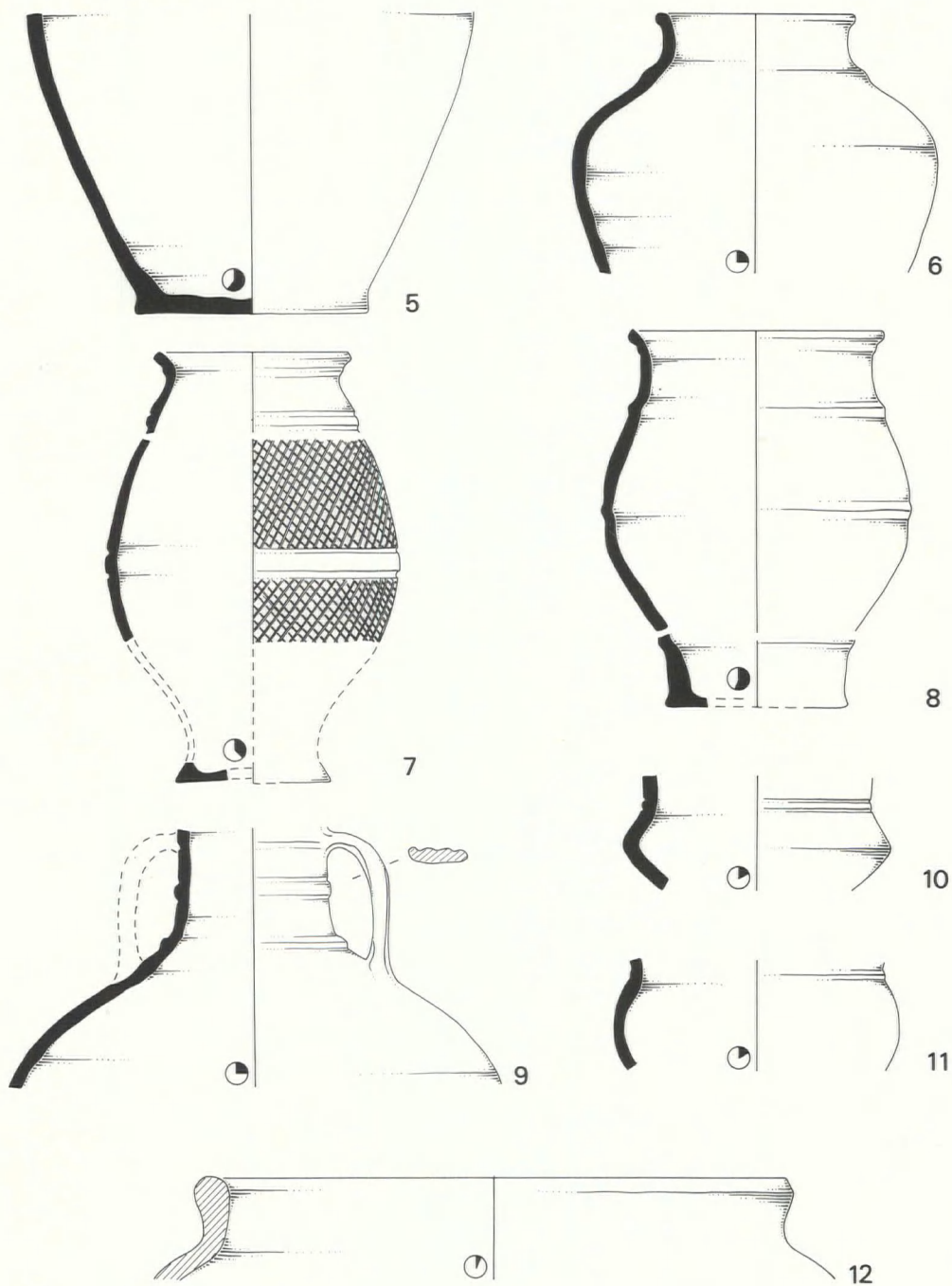


Fig 5 Period 3. 1st century pottery from Ditch 8

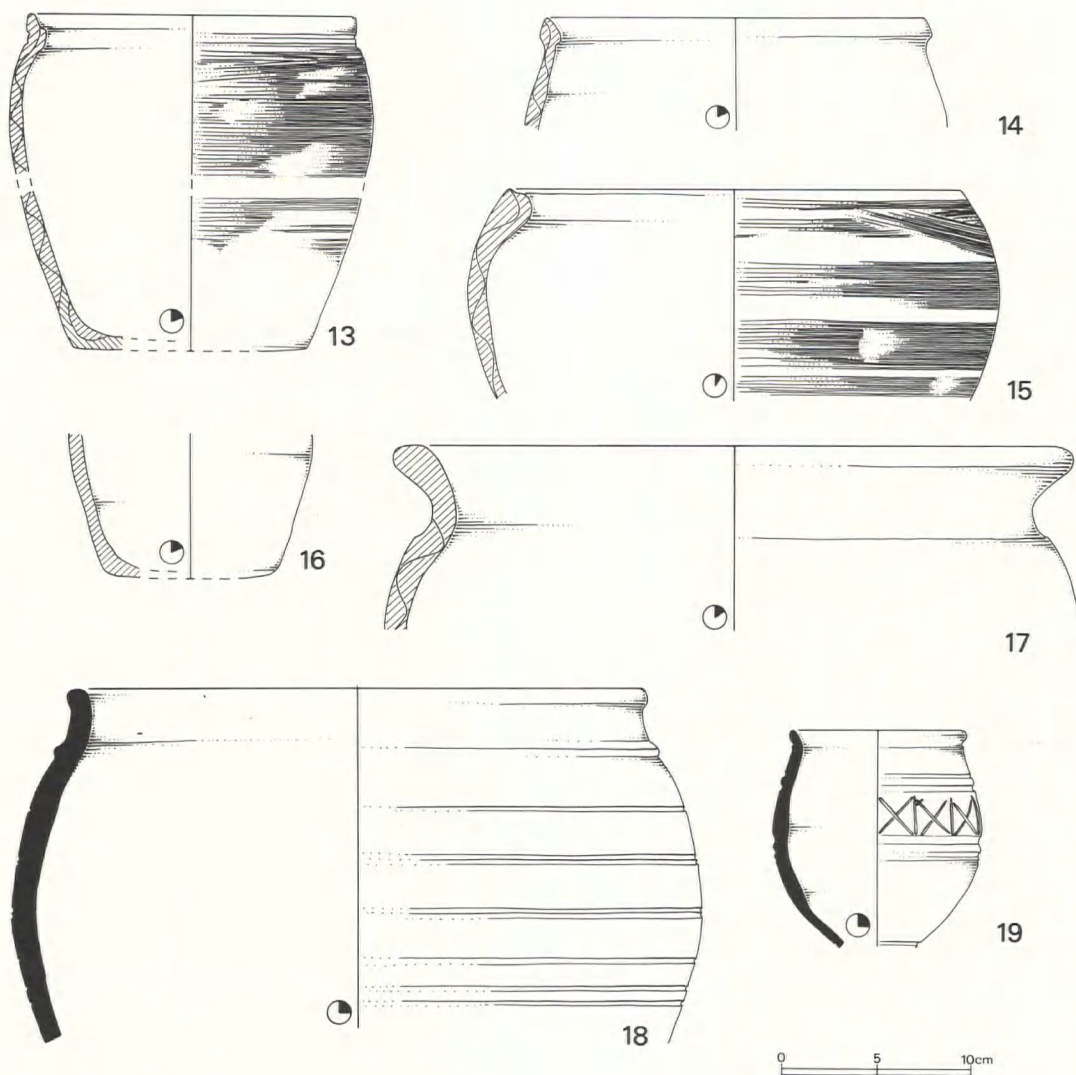


Fig 6 Period 3. 1st century pottery from Ditch 8

Forms: same as for Type 07 Shelly wares, jars with grooved rims. Fig 8, 32-33.

Type F09 Late sand and grog tempered ware

Fairly soft, smooth fabric, a medium grey colour with orange or brown surfaces. External surfaces can be smoothed and/or burnished. Inclusions consist of small quartz particles and tiny grog fragments, usually black in colour, and very clearly visible even against the grey background.

Forms: small jars with incised decoration, possible copies of Roman types. Fig 6, 18.

Type F10 Fine "Belgic" copy

Fully described in Thompson 1982.

Forms: Butt beaker. Fig 6, 19.

Type F11 Sandy ware

Fairly soft, quite rough to the touch although the surface has been smoothed. Colour is red-brown with a black core, with patchy reduction when the colour is grey-black. Inclusions consist of abundant fine, rounded quartz, 0.1 mm to 0.6 mm dia.

Forms: probably fine tableware, cordoned jars, possibly Roman copies. Fig 8, 37 and 38.

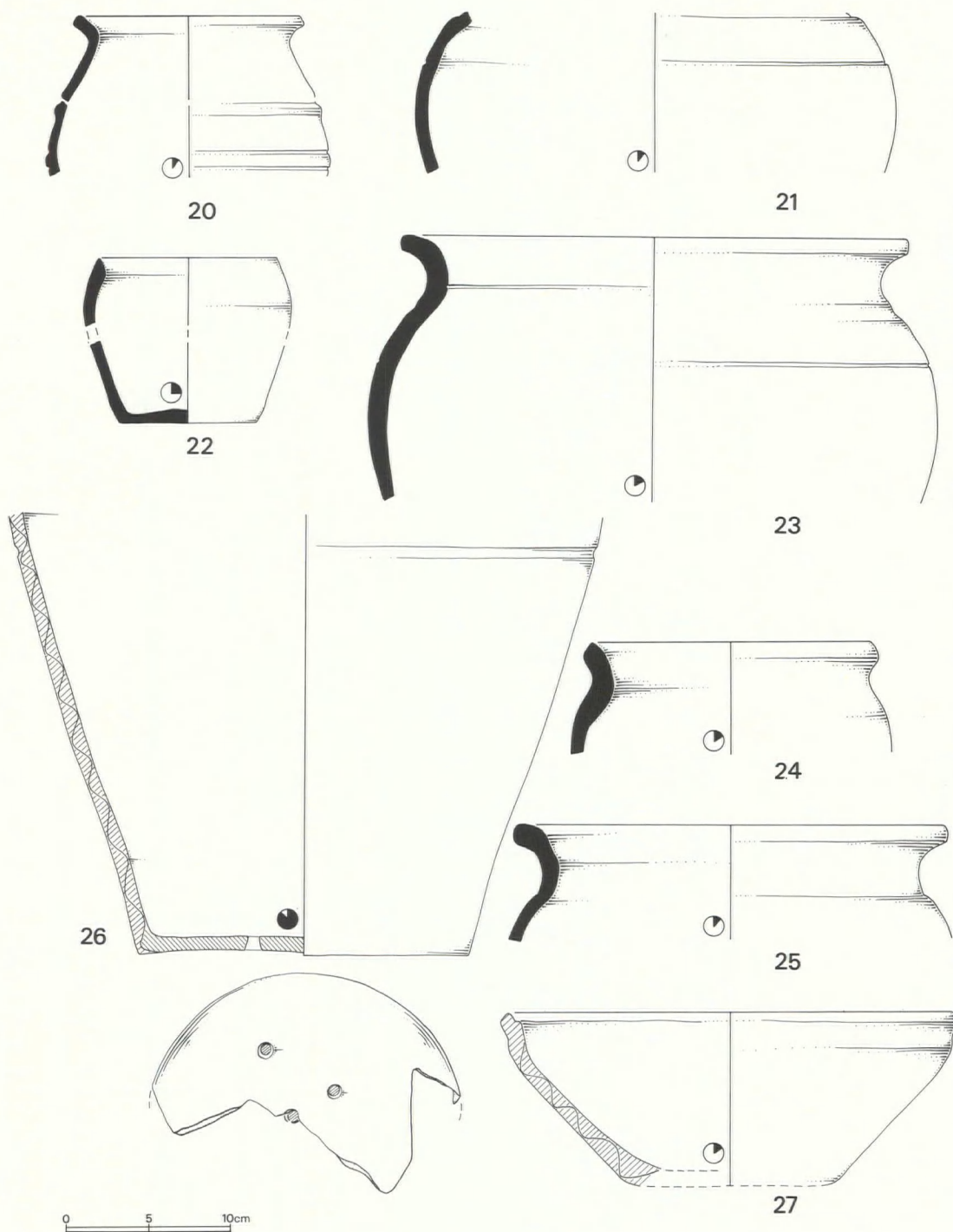


Fig 7 Period 3. 1st century pottery from Ditch 26

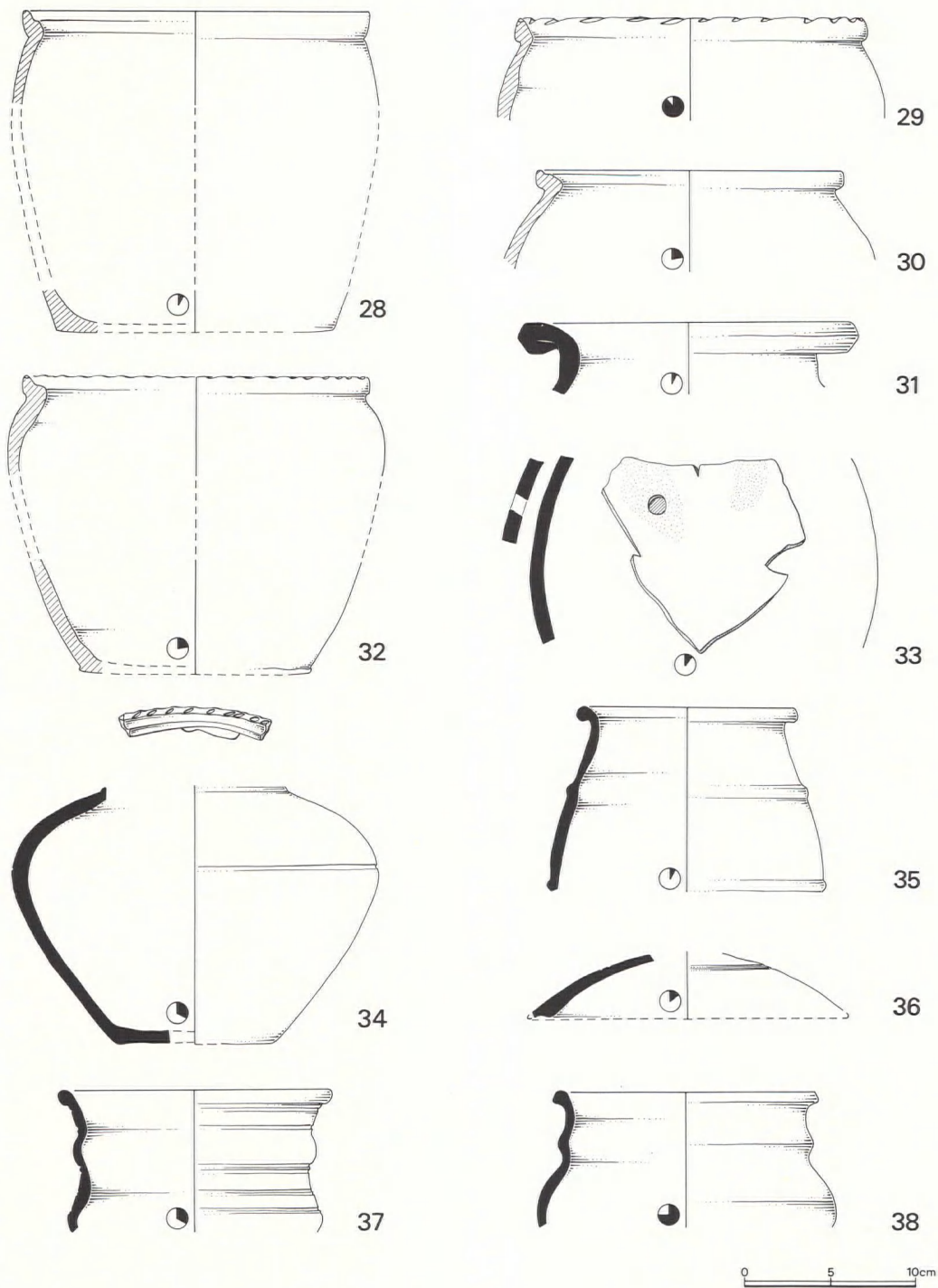


Fig 8 Period 3. 1st century pottery from Ditch 26

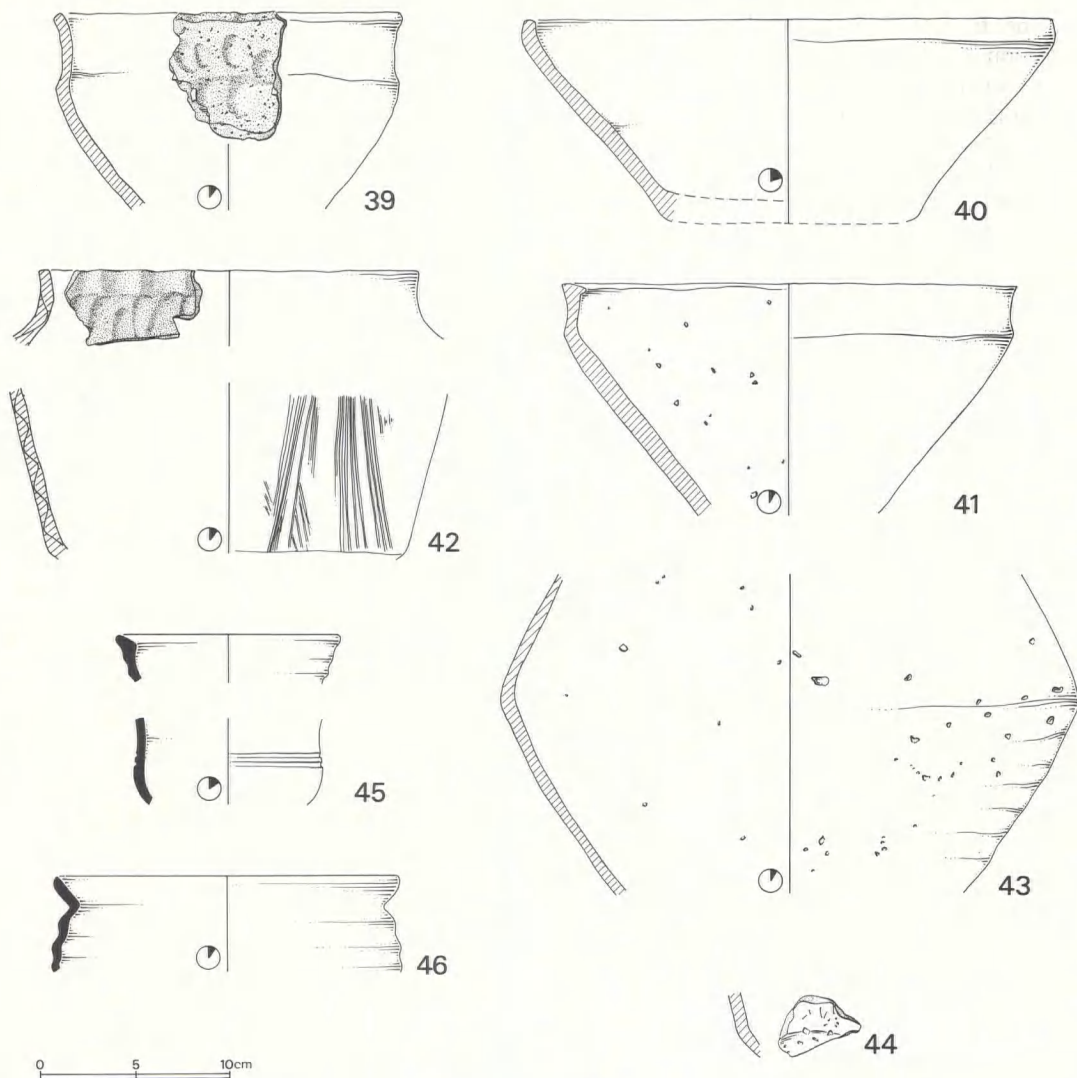


Fig 9 Early Iron Age pottery from 53 and pottery from late Iron Age features

Type F12 Black sandy ware

Hard, very smooth, black throughout, with a very fine sand temper.

Forms: well made on a wheel. Only three sherds, which could be Roman. Not illustrated.

Type F13 Black flint tempered ware

Fairly hard, smooth, reduced to black throughout, sparsely flint-tempered; also some medium sized, rounded quartz grains. Matrix can be micaceous,

but this occurs on only one sherd which could be early medieval.

Forms: indistinguishable. Not illustrated.

POTTERY DISCUSSION

Imports of late Iron Age pottery from the Gallo-Belgic areas on the Continent, as well as local copies of these vessels, first appear in SE Britain in the late first century BC. Most of the pottery from the Ursula Taylor site appears to be of local origin, with

forms of fairly standard late Iron Age type (Thompson 1982). The pottery is a good representation of a domestic assemblage, consisting of tableware, storage vessels and cooking pots. The jar is the predominant form, either plain or very simply decorated. Obvious copies of continental forms are the butt-beakers, particularly the small butt-beaker, No 19, and the flagon, No.9, which is a copy of the Hofheim flagon. This would normally have had two handles, although evidence for the presence of a second handle is missing. Large numbers of copies are found in pre-Conquest contexts elsewhere (Thompson 1982, 529).

There is one ambiguity in the pottery record and that is the group from post-hole 53 (Fig 9). This comprises substantial sherds from five vessels (plus five further body sherds), of an earlier date than the pottery from the tops of the ditches. These vessels cannot be certainly dated, although flint gritted pottery with finger tip decoration was found at Ivinghoe Beacon, possibly dated to about 600 BC (Dyer 1976, 8). Pottery comparable both in fabric and form was found at Roxton, about 10 miles away, in the Great Ouse valley (Taylor and Woodward 1983, 16) and although not closely dated a date in the early first millennium BC has been ascribed to it. The vessel with the sharply angled shoulder found at Roxton compared well with that from Ursula Taylor (No 43) the angles of the shoulders of both vessels measuring 130° . The early Iron Age pottery from Willington (Pinder 1986, 27) which is geographically closer to Ursula Taylor, was completely different both in fabric and form, although decoration was similar in that line scoring was used on the body, like that on No 42 from Ursula Taylor. Willington is situated in the Great Ouse Valley, but on the opposite side of the river, and the river may act as a boundary between two ceramic traditions.

The shelly ware vessels, Type F07, are a common type in the Bedfordshire-Hertfordshire-Buckinghamshire area and their source is almost certainly local; shell bearing clays are common in the northern area of "Belgic" distribution and were exploited well into the medieval period. A kiln producing shelly wares on a commercial scale was found at nearby Bromham (Tilson 1973). Firm dating evidence is missing from Ursula Taylor: butt beakers appear at the beginning of the first century AD and cease soon after the Conquest, possibly placing this group in the first half of the first century AD. At Odell, shelly wares are dated to the mid-first century AD (Dix forthcoming).

Both wheel and hand-made vessels were found

together. The coarse, hand-made vessels were usually coil-built and these coils are sometimes visible in the broken section.

Grog and shell were the most frequent tempers, shell being used for coarser vessels and grog for finer wares, although not exclusively. The grog was sometimes mixed with varying amounts of sand, but it is not always possible to tell whether this was a deliberate addition or something integral to the natural clay. At Odell, sand and grog mixtures were found chiefly in the first century AD. They continued in a harder and denser form well into the Roman period (Dix forthcoming).

Decoration was sparse on both the wheel and hand-made vessels. Some horizontal incised grooves were found on the wheel-made vessels, and combing, both vertical and horizontal, on the hand-made shelly wares. Combing or brushing was evident on the surfaces of shelly vessels at Harrold (Eagles and Evison 1970, 36) and it was suggested that bunches of twigs may have been used. Firing was probably carried out in a bonfire kiln, leaving patchy burning and uneven reduction on some of the vessels.

Evidence for the function of the pottery was looked for. Wear marks did not appear to survive, possibly due to the soft nature of the coarse wares, many of whose surfaces had partly eroded away, and the probable care in use lavished on the fine ware. Sooting, however, survived well, particularly on the shelly ware jars. The sooting was found only on the exterior and covered most of the lower half and base. The same type of jar was found sooted at Odell; presumably their use on a fire would indicate cooking as their main function. The large hand-made jars (e.g. Nos 2, 3, 12, 17, 26) were completely devoid of sooting and were most probably used for storage. Coarse grog-tempered storage jars with thumb impressions and combing on the exterior date from the late first century BC, but they continue with very little change into the Roman period.

One of these jars, No 26, has had holes bored through the base, from the outside, after firing. The holes do not appear to be frequent or evenly spaced around the base, so presumably the jar would not have functioned efficiently as a strainer. An internal off-white residue is present in patches but it is impossible to tell whether this resulted from the vessel's primary function as a storage jar or not. No residue was found on the insides of the holes, although its patchy survival elsewhere does not exclude its association with a secondary function.

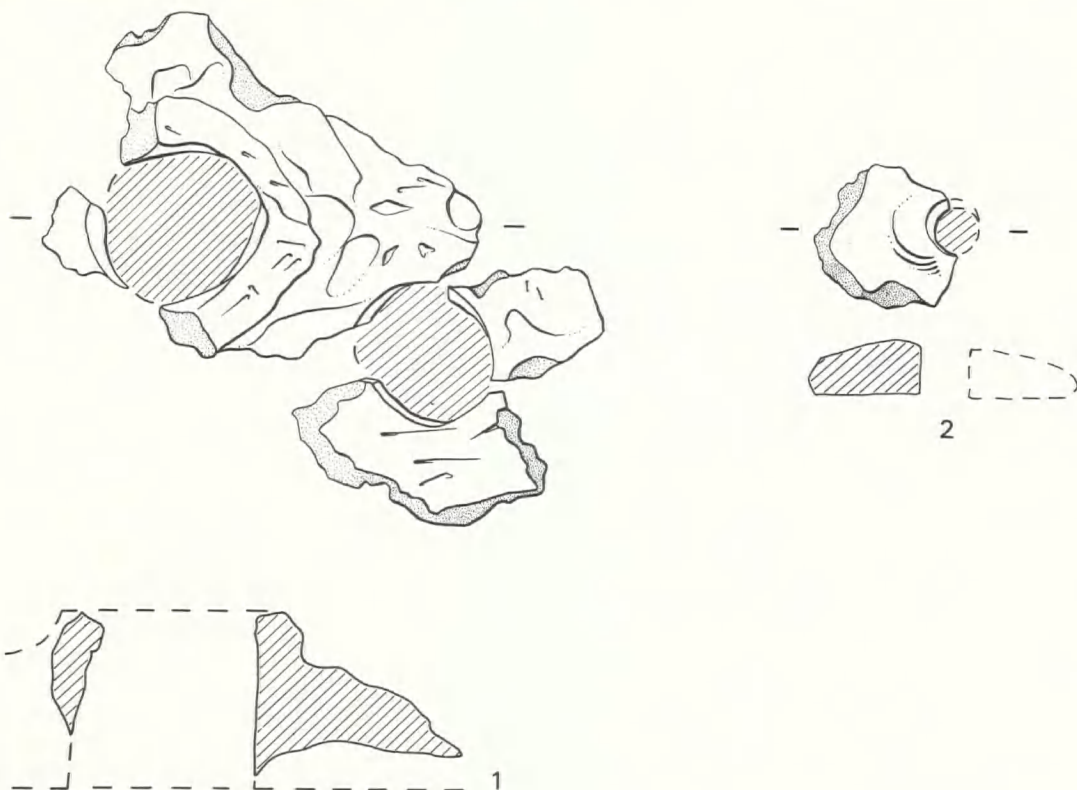


Fig 10 Fired Clay (Scale 1:2)

One other vessel, No 33, has a hole, bored through the body also after firing, implying either modification of use or a possible repair. Holes bored after firing are not uncommon on late Iron Age pottery (Wheeler and Wheeler 1936, 66; Wainwright 1968, *passim*).

Lids are rare on this site; only one was found, No 36. The rims of the shelly ware cooking pots (e.g. Nos 4, 13, 28) are, however, frequently deeply grooved to give a lid seating. Lids made from other materials were probably used, as well as coverings from softer materials such as leather, which could have been tied down under the rims.

In addition to the late Iron Age wares, period three produced some Roman pottery. Ditch 26 produced an undecorated fragment of a Samian base and a body sherd of grey ware, plus three sandy black sherds. 88 produced a tiny fragment of a red, sandy body sherd suggesting activity into the Roman period.

Fired clay

Eleven fragments of fired clay (four of which are illustrated Fig 10, 1), were found in ditch 8. They are of a soft soapy fabric, buff with pink surfaces where oxidised, and varying shades of grey where reduced. The fabric is fairly smooth, with organic tempering that has burnt out leaving voids, and one lump of flint, 10 mm in diameter. The largest fragment of fired clay is 42 mm at its thickest and has parts of two holes, about 40 mm in diameter, pierced before firing.

Fired clay fragments with holes pierced through them have been found on other Iron Age sites, where they have been interpreted as clay oven floors. At Verulamium pierced bricks were said to have formed trays or platforms in ovens (Wheeler and Wheeler 1936, 180). Not enough survives from Ursula Taylor to say what the arrangement of holes may have been, and none of the fragments join together; but at Harrold (Dunning 1970, 37) the two

clay oven fragments had an arrangement of eight and ten holes, respectively, around a larger hole. It was suggested that these were used for the baking of bread and are common in the Midlands and S of Britain. The same arrangement of holes was found in clay fragments from Little Woodbury (Brailsford 1949, 159) but here they were interpreted as fragments from a corn drying kiln; while at Hardwick Park, Wellingborough (Foster *et al.*, 1961) a rectangular block of fired clay with holes pierced through it, was interpreted as part of the flooring of the pottery kiln within which it was found. The small fragments from Ursula Taylor probably form the vents of an oven, of a type commonly found on Iron Age sites throughout southern Britain.

One fragment from a possible spindle whorl (Fig 10, 2) was found in ditch 26. It may have been formed from a base sherd of a Type F07 Shelly ware jar. The hole was formed post-firing. Early first century AD.

Ironwork

Horseshoe frag (SF 28). Portion of a branch of a horseshoe, lobate outer edge and two circular nail-holes with sub-rectangular counter sinking. No nails *in situ*. Toe and heel do not survive. Surviving length 81 mm, width of web 231.5 mm (from X-ray) (Fig 11). Context 88 (Fig 3).

Although this form of horseshoe with a lobate outer edge is commonly ascribed to the Norman period (Clark 1986, LMMC 1940, 114-15) several examples are known from undoubted pre-Roman and Roman contexts (Taylor 1978, 135-59, App. I). As Taylor (*ibid.*, 156), and Ward-Perkins (1941) before, concluded "there is no way of distinguishing between the date of the horseshoe on grounds other than its archaeological context".

Glass

Fragment (31 x 11 mm) of clear flat glass with patinated outer surfaces, portion of edge surviving, thickness 1.25 mm. Context 26.

CONCLUSION

Apart from post holes cut into the ditch silts and the identified relationships between the ditches, there was no other stratigraphy. Dating for the occupation of the Iron Age settlement relies on external parallels for the pottery which was identified as predominantly from the first half of the first century AD. The horseshoe fragment, the Roman pot sherds and a glass fragment, found on the surface of the ditches were indications of the likely position of



Fig 11 Horseshoe (Scale 1:2)

the associated settlement and its survival into the Roman period.

PERIOD FOUR: MEDIEVAL OCCUPATION

There were essentially two centres of activity during the medieval period: that associated with the manor house and immediately adjacent buildings to the N, and the structure on the W edge of the site (Fig 12). Apart from this, driveways, field tracks and other post-medieval activity were found in the western part of the site, but this was recorded on early Ordnance Survey sheets and needs no discussion here.

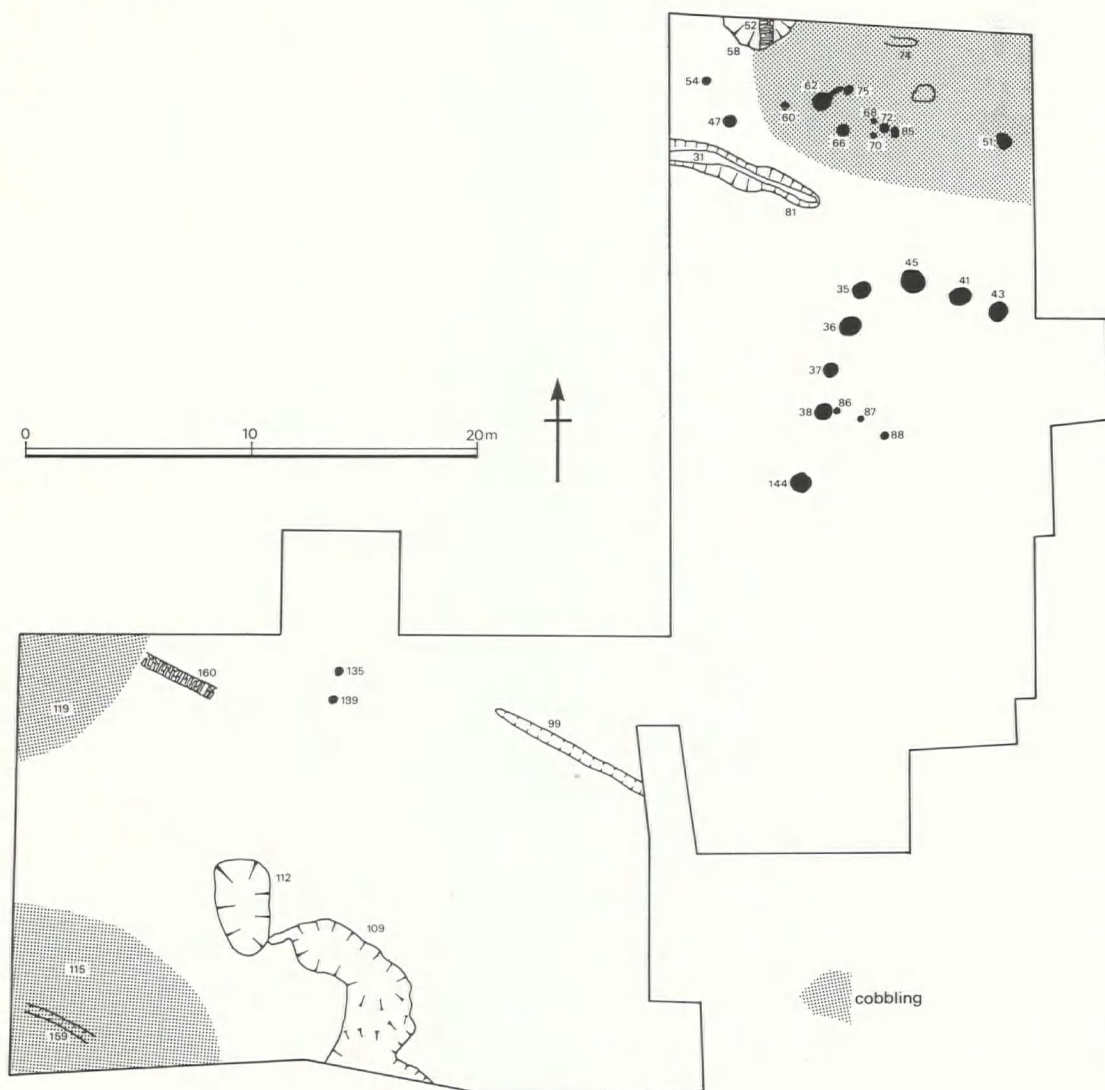
The earliest activity was probably that adjacent to the now destroyed manorial range beneath the school, where on the edge of the site a variety of largely incoherent structural remains were revealed. Principal amongst these was the short length of wall (52) built on top of an earlier refuse pit (58) — a factor which had caused the structure to subside and led to a later repair. From the surviving remains it seems both that the pitched stone foundation and the ashlar infilling of the repair were intended to support a wooden superstructure. Five m to the S, a series of three gullies (78, 31, 35) ultimately filled with broken roof tile, were dug probably to drain away from a yard or building to the N. A cobbled yard, in some places deeply rutted and bounded by an alignment of three post-holes had been laid in the NE corner of the site directly onto the clay after the topsoil had been removed. Further S the angle of the substantial post-built building or enclosure survived.

To the W of the site another cobbled surface (119) overlay the natural gravels: this surface, unlike that in the N, contained a large quantity of demolition debris, implying destruction of a building close by. Once again, although a short stretch of foundation was revealed, no coherent building plan was

TABLE 1
Pottery Quantification (vessels: sherds)

Common name	Type no	Later Prehistoric		Late Iron Age												
		49	56	8	88	97	9	10	26	27	31	39	53	72	92	98
Flint tempered	F01								2:2				2:8			
Flint and grog	F02												2:58			
Early sand and grog	F03												2:59			
Organic	F04												1:1			
Grog and shell	F05												1:32			
Very fine grog	F06A			4:181		1:1			10:69		1:13					1:4
Fine grog	F06B		3:8	15:92	3:4	3:5			117:394	1:1	1:1			1:3		1:3
Coarse grog	F06C			4:28	1:1	1:1			16:181			1:10				1:2
Shelly	F07		1:1	11:162		4:12		1:2	95:249	1:1	4:25		1:1		1:1	
Shell and grog	F08								2:50				1:1			
Late sand and grog	F09			2:44	1:1				7:47							1:2
Fine "Belgic" copy	F10			1:13												
Sandy	F11		2:2	1:2		1:3			3:32		1:1					
Black sandy	F12															
Black flint gritted	F13		1:1													
Roman (misc.)					1:1				3:5							
Thetford type	C08															
Stamford	C12						1:1									
St Neots type	B01	1:1														
S Beds grey	C60B															
S Beds sandy	C59C															
Unidentified																
Tudor green	P13															
Raeren	P23															
Tin-glazed	P33															
Salt-glazed	P37															
Unglazed earthenware	P01															
Post-medieval earthenware	P47															
TOTAL		1:1	7:12	38:522	6:7	10:22	1:1	1:2	255:1029	2:2	7:40	1:10	10:160	1:3	1:1	4:11

Medieval and Post-medieval																Common name
100	33	35	36	38	41	43	45	54	58	74	99	109	112	115	119	
															1:11	Flint tempered
																Flint and grog
																Early sand and grog
																Organic
																Grog and shell
																Very fine grog
							2:5					1:1			3:3	Fine grog
															1:1	Coarse grog
															5:6	Shelly
																Shell and grog
																Late sand and grog
																Fine "Belgic" copy
																Sandy
				1:5												Black sandy
				1:2			1:1									Black flint gritted
																Roman (misc.)
									1:1							Thetford type
																Stamford
1:1	2:2	2:2	1:1			2:2		1:1	6:14	3:4	2:2		1:1		1:1	St Neots type
	2:2				1:2										1:1	S Beds grey
	1:1							1:1								S Beds sandy
															1:1	Unidentified
																Tudor green
															1:1	Raeren
															1:1	Tin-glazed
															1:1	Salt-glazed
	7:8							1:3							1:2	Unglazed earthenware
	1:1														1:2	Post-medieval earthenware
1:1	13:14	2:2	1:1	2:7	1:2	2:2	3:6	3:5	7:15	3:4	2:2	1:1	1:1	1:1	16:19	TOTAL



indicated. To the S of this three gravel quarry pits (109, 110, 109) lay sealed below the 18th century drive.

A small amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery was found. The pottery was very fragmentary and, particularly in the case of the shelly wares (called St Neots type), almost impossible to distinguish from late Iron Age fragments unless rim sherds were present.

A small amount of tile was found, most of it flat unglazed roof tile. Six fabric types were defined but as all the tiles were in a very fragmentary state, no

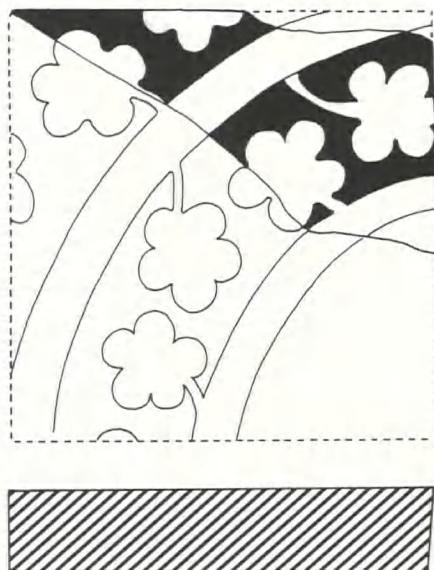


Fig 13 Medieval Floor Tiles (Scale 1:2)

attempt was made to calculate the number or probable size of complete tiles. One tile from gully 33 had a cat's paw print, one a human hand impression, whilst several had mortar adhering: six different tools were identified in the making of peg holes. The dating of the tiles is limited; features 99, 112 and 115 contained possible medieval pottery, but no more than two small body sherds each. The other features with tile contained either a mixture of pottery or none at all. Gully 33, however, contained primarily late medieval/early post-medieval pottery of 16th to 17th century date. Similar tiles were found from the Bedford Midland Road and Bedford Cauldwell Street excavations, dating to the 17th century.

Two decorated floor tile fragments were recovered from Feature 33, and were assigned numbers in accordance with the Bedfordshire Floor Tiles Data Base.

The first, Fig 13. 1, is a two colour Penn tile (type P142 in Hohler 1942, 39), Beds Floor Tile Data Base Type 518, with a design which dates from the mid to late 14th century; an identical tile was found at Elstow Abbey.

The second floor tile fragment, Fig 13, 2 is also a two colour Penn tile, probably P152 (Hohler 1942, 40), Beds Floor Tile Data Base Type 632.

One other fragment of floor tile was discovered but this was badly abraded and insufficient remains for identification.

Eight small fragments of brick were found in gully 33 together with the roof tile. If the brick is contemporary with the pottery in the gully, then a date in the 16th to 17th century can be suggested.

Copper Alloy

Jeton (SF 21), obverse; three crowns with three **fleur-de-lys** round a rose. The legend had been replaced by a border of triangles. Reverse; **reichsapfel** with three pairs of dots, one each side of the three points of the border. Legend as on obverse. Diameter 21.5 mm, thickness 0.7 mm. Context UT 119. Common stock type issued by many Nuremburg makers in the mid-16th to 17th century.

Architectural Stone

Moulding. Fragment of limestone moulding; portions of three faces survive, a small section of a flat base, a straight face and an adjoining concave or arched face. The latter two surfaces have tooling marks which appear to have been made by a chisel. The concave face has parallel chisel marks, the adjoining straight face has diagonal chisel marks. Surviving height 85 mm. Context 87.

CONCLUSIONS

The medieval and post-medieval occupation evident from earlier excavations (Tilson, 1970's), was confirmed by pottery recovered and this was strengthened by the survival of the jeton and the range of building materials including the carved architectural stone from stake-hole 87.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Additionally the excavations were made that much easier by the help of Watson and Cox the contractors, the interest of Mrs Molly Gibson, Headmistress, and her staff and our thanks must go to them and extend to all members of Bedfordshire County Council's Field Team for their patience, enthusiasm and support during the autumn of 1987 when this report was written.

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A Romano-British Cemetery at Warren Farm, Deepdale, Sandy

MICHAEL DAWSON AND A.M. SLOWIKOWSKI

SUMMARY

A Romano-British cremation cemetery of the late first and second century AD was found at Warren Cottages, Deepdale, in the parish of Potton. The cemetery which appeared to be enclosed by a ditched boundary was discovered during garden alterations in 1985.

INTRODUCTION

The Deepdale cemetery was first discovered in May and June 1985 when, during the laying out of a new greenhouse, six cremations were discovered some 70 cm below topsoil. The first three were recovered by the owner Mr Robert Pitts and three more were excavated by Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Field Team. Subsequently the digging of drains in the summer of 1986 and spring 1987 revealed a further five burials and in November 1987 three more. In addition to the cremations, a ditch running N to S, apparently bordering the cemetery to the W, was discovered by Mr Pitts. The pots and cremations which were first brought to the attention of Bedford Museum have been donated to the museum by Mr Pitts with exception of the poppy-head beaker (cremation 9, below). In addition to this, the site records and the site archive have been lodged with the museum.

THE EXCAVATIONS

The Deepdale cemetery lies on gently sloping ground on the N side of a wide dry valley SW of the modern village of Potton, Fig 1. The surrounding area is arable farmland and evidence of Roman structural remains, tile and mortar have been revealed in the ploughsoil to the S, although in the absence of a specific threat this has not been investigated in detail.

The soil and subsoil formations, sandy loam ploughsoil c25 cm deep over c25 cm of subsoil above yellow sand, were particularly favourable for the preservation of both pot and cremated bone although there was evidence of plough damage.

Within the cemetery, of which only a small portion has been examined, the cremations, some with accessory vessels and some without, had been placed in individual pits and appeared not to have

been disturbed by later additions or robbing. Only in the case of two cremations 6 and 9 were positions of the accessory vessels noted. The cremations were in pits of various depths from 450 mm to 700 mm penetrating the natural sand. All the cremations so far discovered were found E of a ditch which ran N-S across the corner of the present garden which inferred that this is a W boundary of the cemetery. The ditch, where sectioned, was c2 m deep by 1.2 m wide and contained fragments of Roman pot.

THE CREMATIONS

Cremation 1

Vessel:

Calcite gritted jar (late 1st-early 2nd century AD) (some fragments of tile possibly associated, see below) Fig 2, 1

Cremation:

One individual
Age: unknown

Sex: unknown
Bone weight: 75 g

Cremation 2

Vessel:

Calcite gritted jar (late 1st-early 2nd century AD) Fig 2, 2

Cremation:

One individual
Age: unknown

Sex: unknown
Bone weight: 150 g

Cremation 3

Vessel:

Calcite gritted jar (late 1st-early 2nd century AD) Fig 2, 3

Cremation:

One individual
Age: probably adult

Sex: unknown
Bone weight: 500 g

Cremation 4

Vessel:

Calcite gritted jar and one colour coat lid (late 1st-2nd century AD) Fig 2, 4 and 5

Cremation:

One individual
Age: immature

Sex: unknown
Bone weight: (see cremation 11)

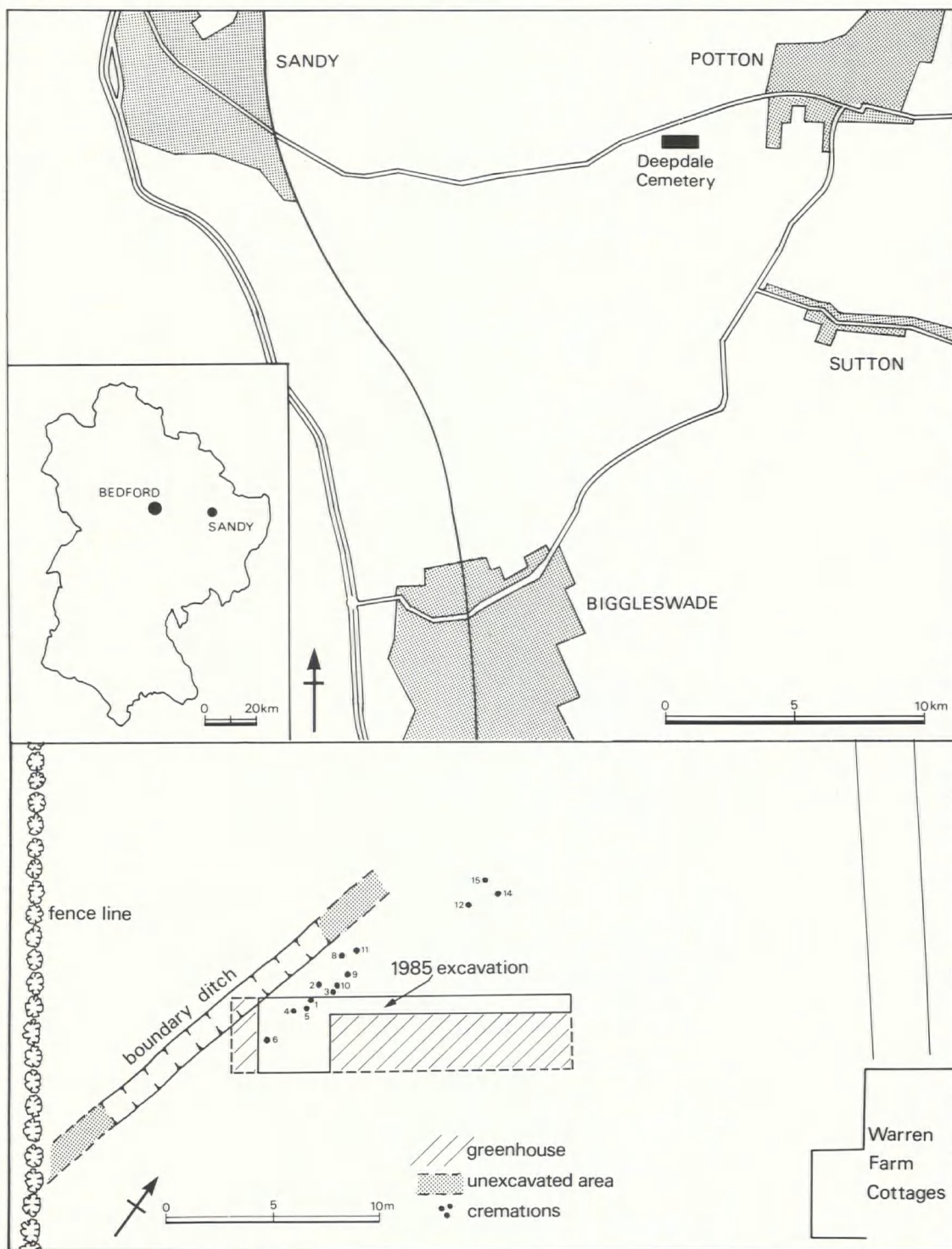


Fig 1 Location Plan

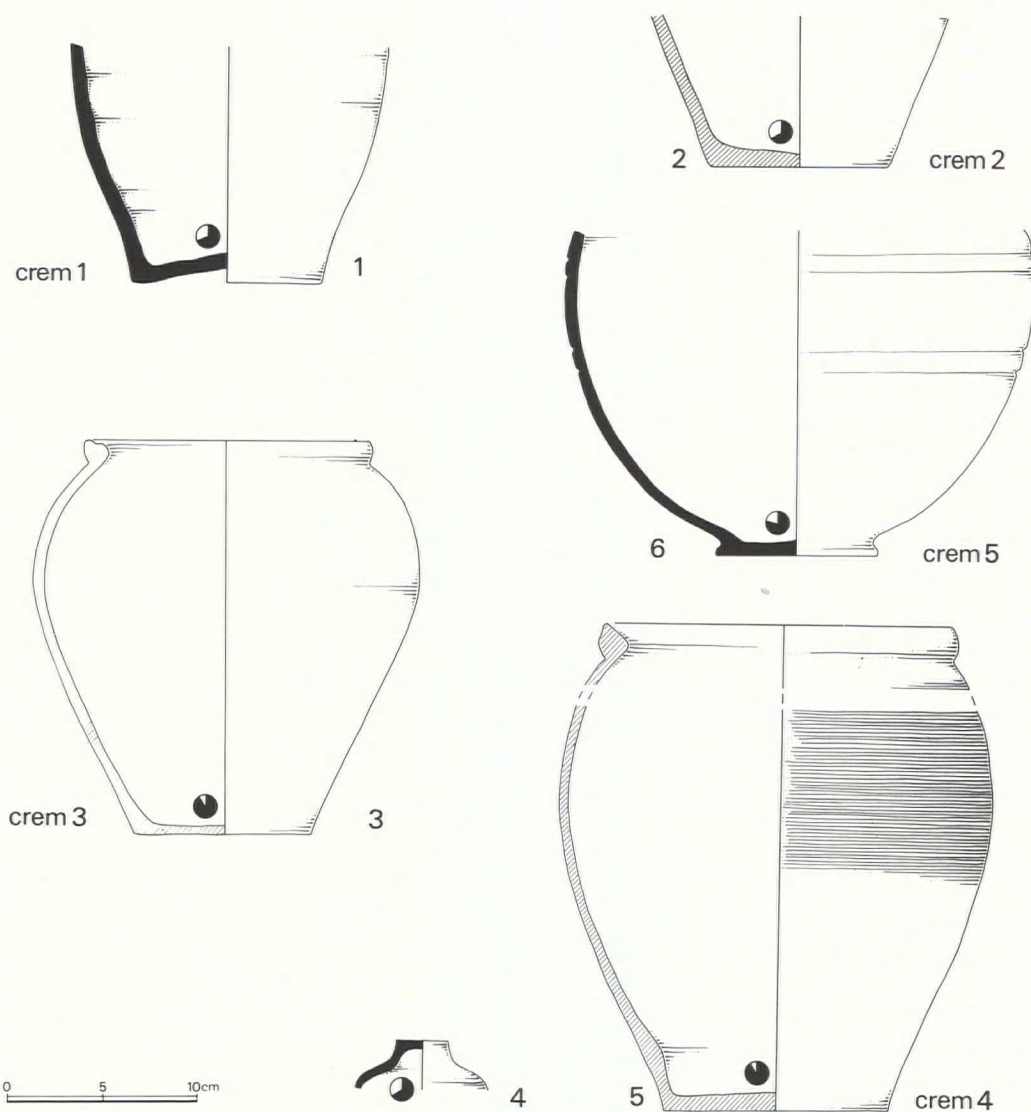


Fig 2 Pottery from Cremations 1-5

Cremation 5

Vessel:

Sandy jar (late 1st-2nd century AD) Fig 2, 6

Cremation:

One individual

Age: under 25 years (based on fusion of the epiphyseal rings of the vertebral bodies)

Sex: unknown

Bone weight: 425 g

Poor burning of vertebral fragments, suggesting burning from above (see cremation 6).

Cremation 6

Vessel:

Sandy jar Fig 3, 10

Accessory vessels:

Grey sandy vessel Fig 3, 8

Fine sandy flagon Fig 3, 9

Burnished jar Fig 3, 7

(found arranged around the cremation vessel)

All late 1st-2nd century AD.

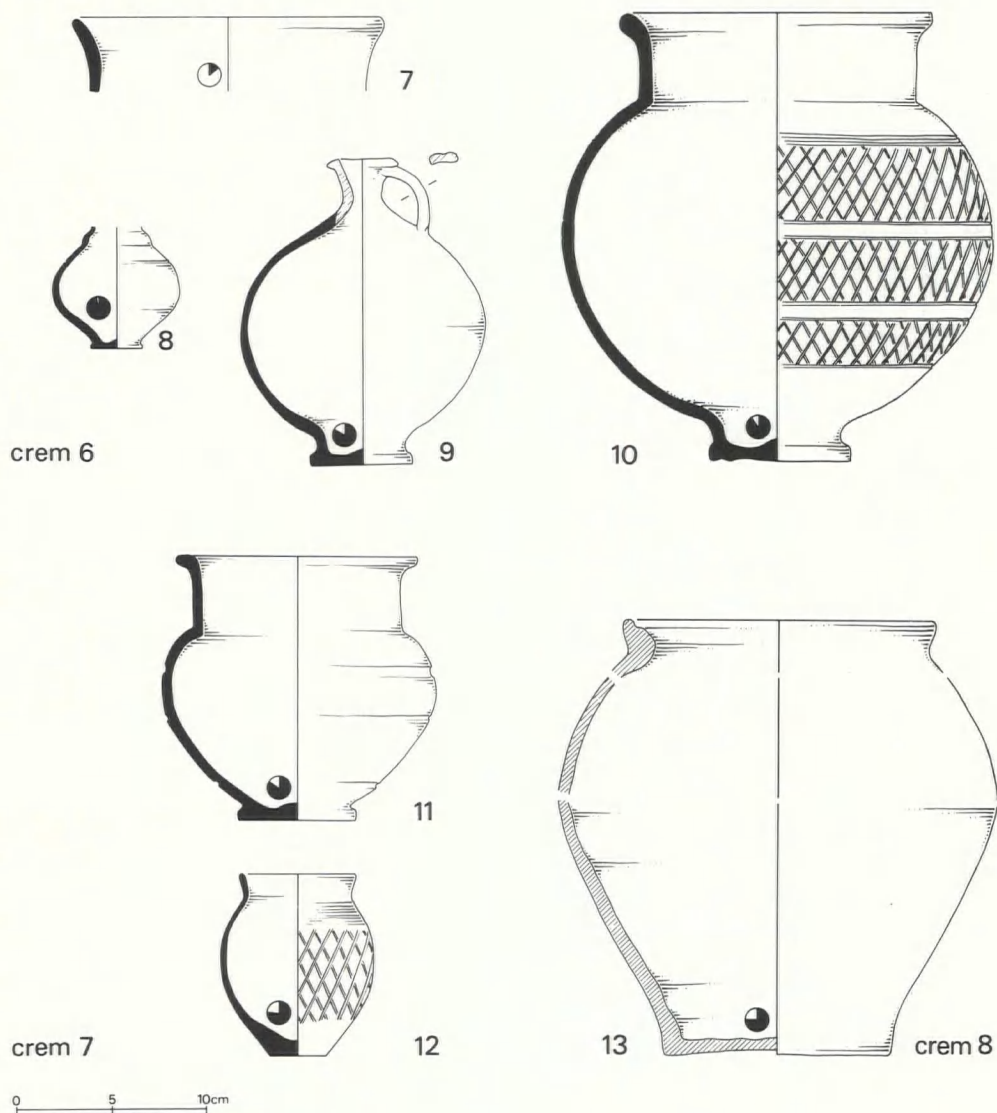


Fig 3 Pottery from Cremations 6-8

Grave goods:

Nail; fe. length 105 mm

Nail; fe. length 36.6 mm

Nail; clenched with distorted head, fe. length 20.8 mm

Strip; possibly riveted, fe. length 105 mm

Cremation:

One individual.

Age: young adult (based on fusion of the epiphyseal rings of the vertebral bodies)

Sex: possibly female

Bone weight: 475 g

A schmorl's node was observed on one of the vertebral bodies.

The vertebral fragments had been poorly burnt compared with the rest of the bone, suggesting the cadaver was laid supine and the pyre built above. A nail was fused to a rib.

Cremation 7

Vessel:

Sandy jar (late 1st-early 2nd century AD) Fig 3, 11

Accessory vessel:

Grey sandy beaker (late 1st-early 2nd century AD) Fig 3, 12

Cremation:

No surviving bone

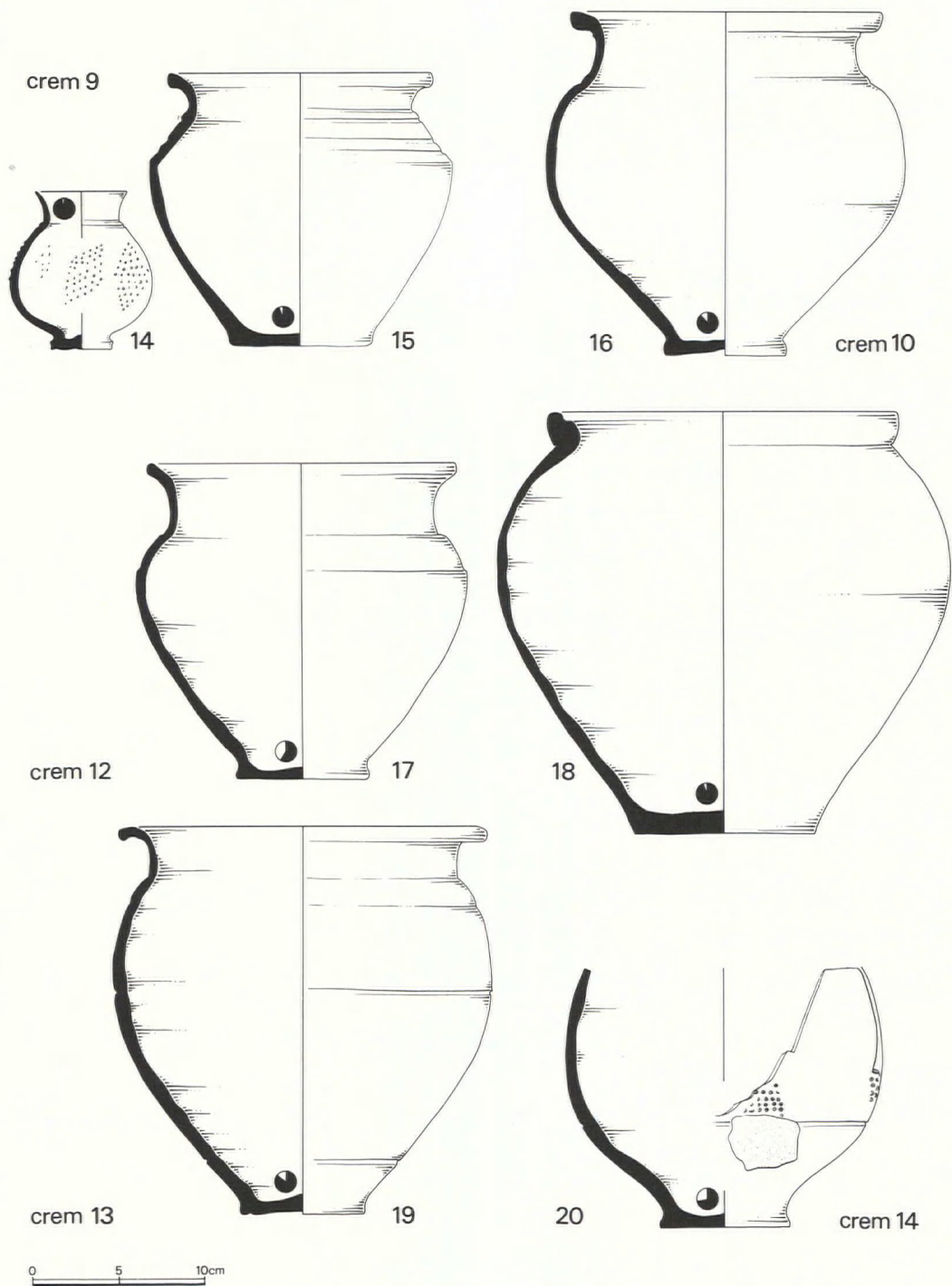


Fig 4 Pottery from Cremations 9-14

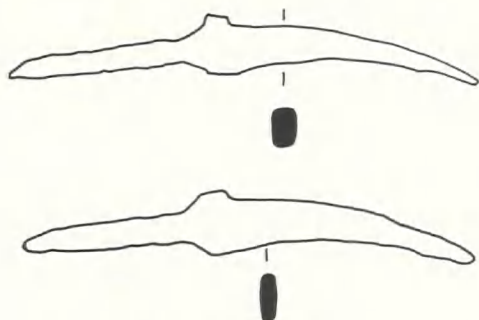


Fig 5 Iron knives (Scale 1:2)

Cremation 8

Vessel:

Calcite gritted jar (late 1st-early 2nd century AD) Fig 3, 13

Cremation:

One individual

Age: adult (based on thickness of femur)

Sex: unknown Bone weight: 400 g

Cremation 9

Vessel:

Grey sandy jar (late 1st-2nd century AD) Fig 4, 15

Accessory vessel:

Grey sandy poppy-head beaker (late 1st-2nd century AD). Found in the top of the cremation vessel. Fig 4, 14

Grave goods:

Razor or knife with hooked blade, tang and stop ridge. Badly damaged by corrosion. Length 123.7 mm. Fig 5, 1

Cremation:

One individual

Sex: unknown

Age: unknown

Bone weight: 400 g

This cremation was not as efficiently burnt as the rest of the cremations in this group with a higher percentage of blue/blue grey bone and fewer fragments showed any twisting or cracking.

Cremation 10

Vessel:

Sandy jar (2nd century AD) Fig 4, 16

Cremation:

(No surviving details)

Cremation 11

Cremation:

One individual

Age: adult (?)

Sex: unknown

Bone weight: (both this cremation and number 4 were confused and although two individuals were discerned it is not clear which individual belongs to which urn). Combined weight 650 g.

Cremation 12

Vessel:

Sandy jar (late 1st-2nd century AD) Fig 4, 17

Accessory vessel:

Sandy jar (late 1st-2nd century AD) Fig 4, 18

Cremation:

One individual

Sex: male

Age: adult

Bone weight: 1,275 g

Well burnt remains of fairly complete adult male. Areas of blue bone suggest that the front of the body was burnt at lower temperature than the back.

Cremation 13

Vessel:

Sandy jar (late 1st-2nd century AD) Fig 4, 19

Cremation:

One individual

Sex: male

Age: young adult

Bone weight: 1,075 g

Mixed colour of the bone throughout the remains suggest collapse of the pyre with parts of the body falling through. Fairly complete young adult male.

Cremation 14

Vessel:

Slipped sandy jar (late 1st-2nd century AD) Fig 4, 20

Cremation:

One individual

Sex: unknown

Age: probably adult

Bone weight: 295 g

Small fragments only of very incomplete cremation.

THE POTTERY

The cremation urns and their accessories were identified by their fabric and form — where such pottery has been published previously attention has been drawn to this. These fabric types will be incorporated into the Bedfordshire type series (Baker and Hassall 1979).

Calcite gritted ware

Fairly soft, smooth fabric, orange to buff-brown in colour, sometimes with light grey cores where the wall is thickest and, occasionally, pink-red margins. Soft, white inclusions possibly crushed shelly limestone, 0.3-1.2 mm dia., which have weathered out of the surfaces leaving voids, giving a 'corky' appearance to the vessel. Some small elongated voids indicate the presence of shell. Tiny fragments of mica occur in varying frequencies, as does the occasional lump of grog, either dark grey to black, or buff to orange in colour.

Forms: jars with lid seatings. A complete example was found at Kempston early this century. (Bedford Museum accession No. BM 104.) Fig 2, 1-4, 6; Fig 4, 14-15.

Sandy ware

Fairly harsh, sandy, fairly soft fabric, orange-brown to buff in colour, with an occasional grey core. Frequent rounded to sub-rounded quartz, 0.1-0.5 mm dia., some of which is milky in colour, or orange, possibly from iron-staining. Infrequent soft, red, powdery inclusions, probably grog, average dia 0.3 mm. Occasional soft white fragments of crushed limestone, although this does not occur in all vessels. Infrequent hard, black inclusions, 0.1-0.7 mm dia., probably black iron ore; this also only occurs in some vessels. This type is known from Sandy where it is dated to the 2nd century (Dix and Aird 1983, 3). Two vessels of the same type were found at Kempston early this century. (Bedford Museum accession Nos. 3225 & BM 110.)

Forms: jars. Fig 3, 7, 11-12, Fig 4, 18.

Fine sandy ware

Very smooth, fine fabric, orange-brown to pink in colour, with buff core where wall is thickest. Small soft black inclusions, less than 0.1 mm dia., may be finely crushed grog.

Forms: flagons. Fig 3, 10.

Grey sandy ware

Fairly soft fabric, varying from smooth to harsh to the touch, with surfaces that are frequently easily rubbed away. Light grey, sometimes almost white in colour with darker grey surfaces, where they survive. Sandy, with infrequent hard, black inclusions, possibly black iron ore, average dia. 0.5 mm. Some soft, black inclusions that are probably grog.

Forms: jars, of varying sizes; beakers, bottles, bowls. Fig 3, 9 and 13, Fig 4, 16 and 17.

Burnished ware

Hard, smooth fabric, sandy with small, subrounded quartz, 0.1-0.4 mm dia. Some hard red and black inclusions probably iron ore, 0.1-0.4 mm dia. Colour of fabric is brick-red but can have grey margins. Surfaces are black and intermittently burnished.

Forms: jars with everted rims. Fig 3, 8.

Colour coated ware

Fairly soft, smooth, creamy white fabric with an exterior colour coat varying from orange-brown to grey-black. Very occasionally a pale grey core is visible where the wall is thickest. Very fine, with few inclusions visible to the naked eye. Infrequent red inclusions, less than 0.1 mm dia.

Variant: there is one example of a bowl in an orange-brown fabric and a pale grey colour coat on

both surfaces. Infrequent subangular quartz, 0.2-0.5 mm dia.; also occasional hard black inclusions, probably iron ore.

Forms: jars with rouletted decoration; flagons, bowls, lids. Fig 2, 5.

Slipped sandy ware

Fairly hard, sandy, harsh to the touch, grey-brown in colour with a thin dark grey core. Subangular to subrounded quartz grains, 0.1-0.3 mm dia. Infrequent soft black inclusions, c0.3 mm dia. possibly grog.

Forms: jars with external white slip that abrades away, and groups of small circles painted in a dark slip.

In addition to the above fabric types several small body sherds were found, but these may be regarded as contaminants from recent activity. They comprised six vessels of an off-white sandy fabric; four sherds of indistinguishable Samian; one sherd of a fine red ware; three sherds of grog tempered ware; one sherd of an early Iron Age flint gritted type. Some modern body sherds were also found.

Of the fourteen cremations found, thirteen consisted of almost complete cremation vessels and three had complete accessory vessels (cremations 6, 7 and 9) giving 22 vessels in all. The two commonest pottery types amongst these vessels were calcite gritted wares and sandy wares, both probably of local manufacture.

Cremation 9 consisted of a jar with sharply angled shoulders, No. 15, dated at Verulamium to the mid-second century AD (Wheeler & Wheeler, 1936, 188). Its accompanying poppy-head beaker, No. 14, is typical in its squat rounded form, of the late first-mid second century (Wheeler & Wheeler 1936, 197). A first century AD knife was also found with this cremation.

The distinctive cordons round the shoulders of Nos. 6, 17 and 19 argue for their date in the early Roman period; they are a characteristic form of decoration of the Belgic ceramic tradition. Belgic forms but not fabrics continue into the second century (Wheeler & Wheeler 1936, 181).

The tall necked jars. Nos. 10 and 11, are also derived from Belgic tradition, but they continued into the fourth century in some areas (Taylor & Woodward 1983, 19), so dating for them is difficult. If they are of the same date as the other cremations, then a date in the late first or early 2nd can be postulated.

Lid seated jars used, presumably, for cooking, were common in the late Iron Age (Slowikowski in

Dawson, 1988, this volume) and appear to continue in use into the Roman period. Flagon No. 9 (cremation 6) is typical of the second century (Collingwood and Richmond 1969, 259). The small accessory vessel No. 8 from the same cremation is unusual and a parallel could not be found. Jar No. 9 corresponds to Verulamium Fig 124 No. 878 (Frere 1972), dated to the mid second century AD. Jar No. 20 is problematical; no parallels could be found, although the fabric is of the usual sandy ware but with the slip added. The date of manufacture probably falls within the range late 1st-2nd century.

There was evidence of burning on vessels Nos. 1, 2, 3, 13 and 16. All the sooting was on the exterior and in a patchy state. Jar No. 3 is sooted right up to the lid seating, ending in a sharply defined line and was probably used as a lidded cooking pot prior to its use as a cremation urn.

Jar No. 15 has two adjacent holes bored through the rim after firing. They may have been used to secure a lid with a thong indicating that at least some of the sandy vessels may have had other uses prior to their use as cremation urns. Lids of wood or other non-durable material however, may have been used to cover the cremations. The use of tiles to cover cremations is well known (Liversage 1973, 470; Clarke 1979, 128) and, although fragments of broken tile were found, it cannot be certain that they were used in this way.

Tile

Fragments of tile, including one possible floor tile, were found. Most were among the unstratified material, although small fragments were found with cremation 1 (1 frag), cremation 8 (3 frags) and cremation 9 (1 frag). There is no way of telling whether these tile fragments belonged to the cremations.

One possible floor tile, grog tempered, was found with the unstratified material.

Ironwork

In addition to the grave goods Deepdale yielded another knife of the type found in cremation 9, but unstratified, length 119 mm, Fig 5, 2. Both razors or knives are of Manning's Type 6D (1985, 111, pl 53 Q15), with a suggested first century date, based on parallels from London. The remaining nails and strip from cremation 6 are undatable.

DISCUSSION

As far as investigated Deepdale cemetery comprised in-urned cremations, several with accessory vessels arranged around or placed inside the urn. There was no indication of a more elaborate ceremonial — nor any surviving evidence of grave-markers, although simple gravegoods were occasionally present. Deepdale cemetery has provided no evidence of inhumations and the coherence of the date range of the dating evidence from pottery and ironwork clearly indicates use throughout the late first and into the second century AD. The cemetery thus represents the simplest form of 1st-2nd century AD Roman burial, in this case probably adjacent to a small agricultural settlement.

The cemetery appears delimited by a ditch to the north, Fig 1, and, even from such a small sample, seems to reflect the same tradition first identified at Kempston, where the association of cremation in calcite gritted or sandy jars was apparent. The Kempston cemetery also yielded sherds of the poppy headed beaker form. It would seem from the association of such factors that we have evidence of a local pottery industry and population adapting to the influence of new trade and cultural patterns that began to be established immediately after the Roman conquest.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was the result of several people's work: the report on the cremated bone from cremations 1 to 10 was undertaken by C. Osbourne, that on 11 to 14 by A. Stirland, A. Slowikowski analysed the pottery. H.B. Duncan reported on the ironwork; Elaine Windrath undertook valuable preliminary research. Our thanks are due to Mr Robert Pitts for drawing our attention to the Deepdale cemetery in the first place.

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The Excavation of a Motte and Bailey Castle at Chalgrave, Bedfordshire, 1970

ANDREW PINDER AND BRIAN DAVISON WITH CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM GEORGINA BRINE, STEPHEN COLEMAN AND
HOLLY BURTON DUNCAN

SUMMARY

A short rescue excavation on a small motte and bailey castle in Chalgrave, Bedfordshire, produced no clear evidence about its exact date or function, but pointed to the possibility that the castle acted as a centre for the Manor until the late 12th or early 13th century. The site was probably used for agricultural buildings from the 14th century.

INTRODUCTION

The small earthwork castle that stood beside the church of All Saints, Chalgrave (SMR 721, TL 008 275), was excavated in September and October 1970 in advance of its total destruction to facilitate

agricultural land use. No trace of the site now survives. It stood about 1.5 km south of Toddington on a flat topped ridge of sand and gravel overlying decalcified boulder clay, close to the north-western boundary of the parish (Fig 1). There are no obvious natural defences that might have determined the siting of the castle, although the position has well drained soils and good all round views. If defence had been the main consideration in the choice of the site, a better vantage point could have been found on the end of a slight spur 200 m to the E, where the ground drops away steeply to the E and SE. The tilled land of Chalgrave parish lies to the south (Fig 13) and viewed from this direction the castle and its

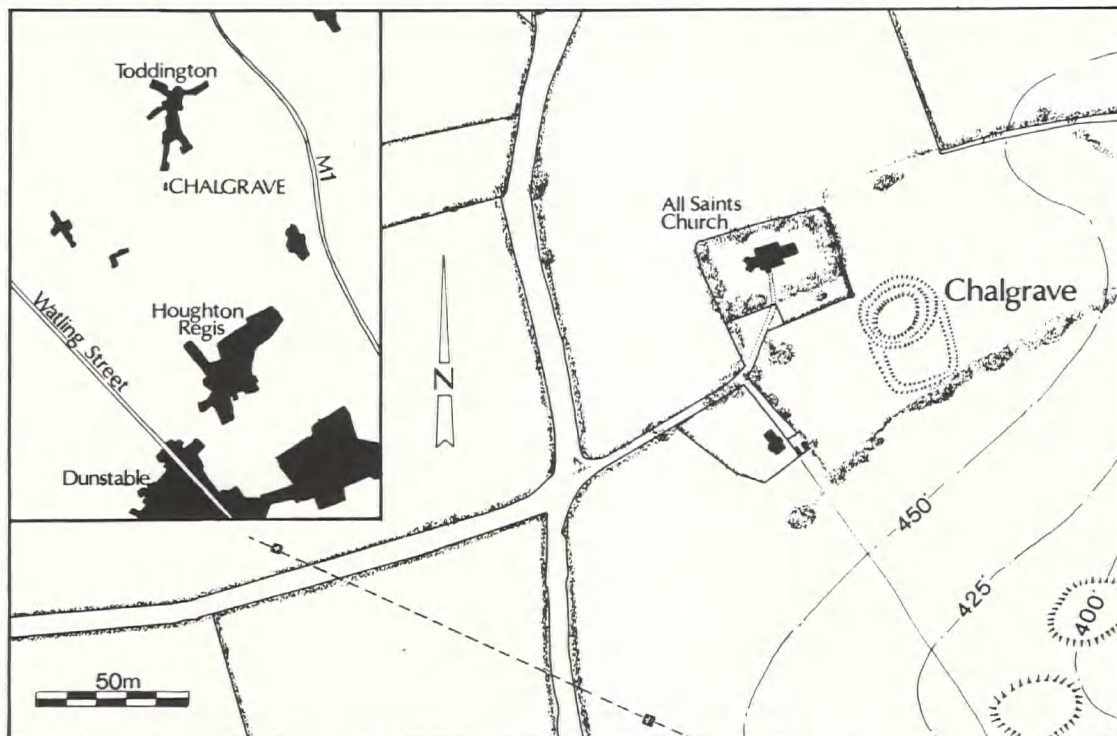


Fig 1 Location map of Chalgrave Church and castle



Plate 1 Chalgrave castle photographed from the north

adjoining church would have been very prominent on the skyline.

The earthworks surviving in 1970 (Fig 2) consisted of a low motte with a small bailey to the south. The motte stood 1.2 m above the surrounding ground level and had a completely flat top. It was surrounded by a ditch 8 m – 11 m wide and 0.5 m deep, crossed by a low narrow ridge or causeway to the N. The bailey was defined by a ditch and low bank. These were best preserved at the south-west, the ditch here being 0.6 m deep and the bank 0.2 m high. The general appearance of the earthwork prior to excavation suggested that the defences were weak, with the main defensive feature being the ditch rather than the motte.

Prior to the 1970 excavation, there had been at least two periods of archaeological work on the site. In 1951 James Dyer directed a small excavation concentrating on the perimeter of the motte and the

eastern ditch (Dyer 1955). In the 1960's an unknown amateur dug various holes in the top of the motte. The scars of both these excavations were visible prior to the work now under discussion.

THE EXCAVATION

Only a very short period of time was allowed for archaeological excavation prior to the site's total destruction. Detailed investigation was therefore confined to the top of the motte, with machine-cut trenches running both E and W to investigate the ditches (Fig 2). The summit of the motte was divided into eight, wedge-shaped sectors for excavation and recording purposes. The excavation was incomplete, and there was no time to investigate all features fully. In particular, only one small trench was dug to examine the old ground surface beneath the motte, and no attempt was made to investigate the interior of the bailey.

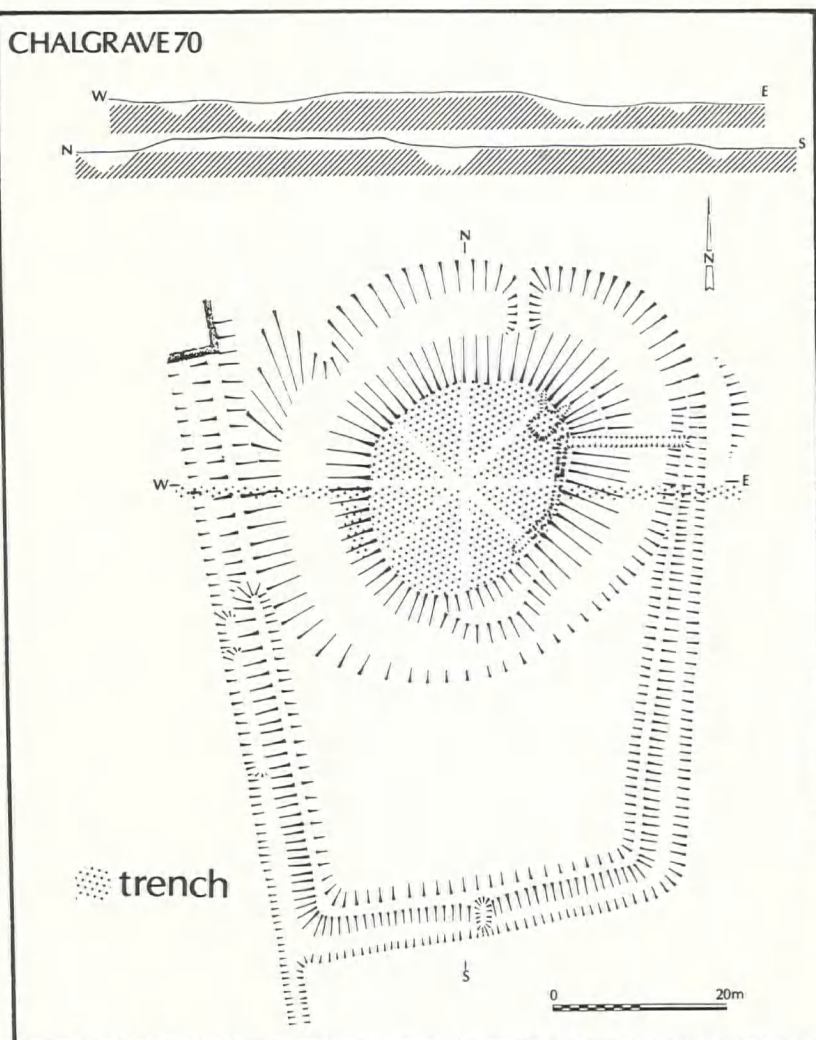


Fig 2 Plan of the earthworks and the location of the trenches

PHASE 1, THE PRE-MOTTE FEATURES (Figs 3 & 5)

An area 6 m x 2 m was excavated by hand to the old ground surface at the west edge of the motte. A thick layer of fine, grey, sandy soil with charcoal flecks (123) overlay the old ground surface (124). Several features were found to be cut into the old ground surface and were filled with the overlying grey sandy soil. Two parallel gullies (42 & 44) were found, one (44) with evidence of former timber posts. It may have been the bedding trench for a line of alternating posts and studs set at approximately 0.6 m centres. A further gully (46) had held at least

two posts at its western end and three at the E. It was not possible to tell whether (123) had been cut by these features or had built up around them. All the timbers had been withdrawn, however, before the motte was raised.

Below the E flank of the motte a fourth gully was cut into the grey sandy soil (123), sealed by the mound (Fig 5, 121). Further E again, beyond the bailey defences, a ditch (30) was found on the same alignment as the post trenches (42 & 44) and running roughly parallel to them. This ditch was 1.35 m wide and about 1 m deep, with a sharp 'V' shaped profile (Fig 5; this is a very oblique section).

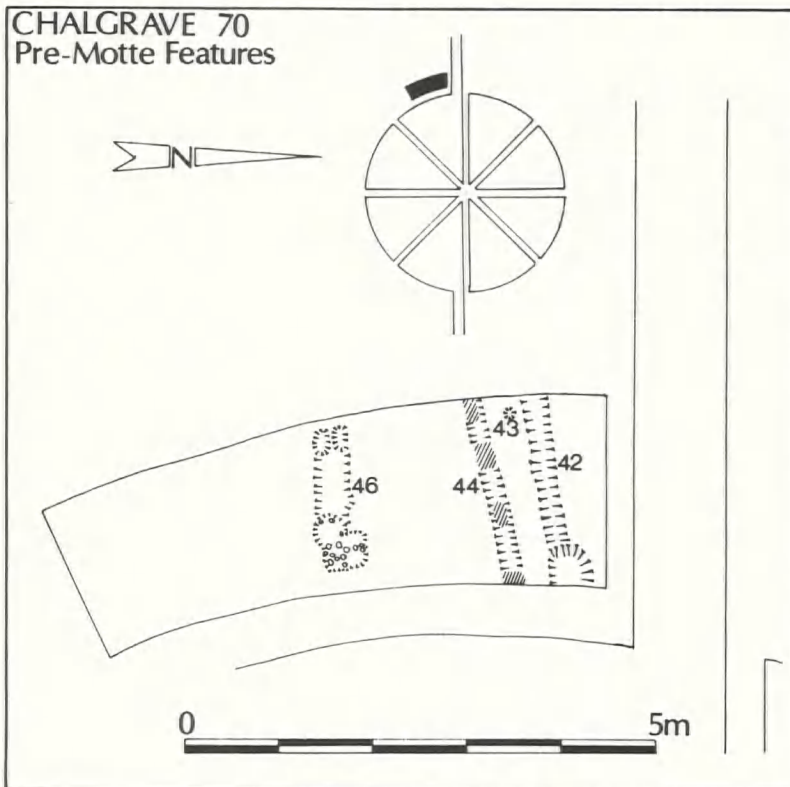


Fig 3 Phase 1, plan of excavated features

The ditch stopped abruptly, with a carefully cut square end. Although this ditch was cut through an earlier posthole and appeared to have its upper fills cut by further postholes, the stratigraphic relationship between it and the bailey ditch (31) was unclear, so that its inclusion in this phase must be tentative.

PHASE 2, THE PRIMARY MOTTE (Figs 4 & 5)
The old ground surface sloped gently from E to W. Over this, and countering the slope a low platform was thrown up (122, 59), with a maximum thickness of 0.4 m. This low 'motte' was circular and was derived from a ditch (129 & 139) 6 m wide and 1.5 to 1.8 m deep.

The main structural feature within this phase of occupation was a large rectangular, loam filled feature (14) at the centre of the mound. Time did not allow this feature to be fully excavated so it must remain conjectural as to whether this vertically sided hollow, measuring 9.5 m by 8 to 10.5 m, represents a structure that predated the motte which was raised around it, or post-dated the motte

having been dug into it. The infill of this hollow, the upper surface of which appeared to have been trampled, must represent a secondary use or disuse of the rectangular central structure, whatever it was.

A number of other features (pits, postholes, etc) were cut into the surface of the motte, none of which could be positively attributed to this phase. No trace of any perimeter palisade or fence was found, although the shallow stepped profile of the inner edge of the ditch in the E and the small gully (138) cut by the ditch in the W may represent the bedding trench for a timber revetment to the mound. The exact stratigraphical relationship between the gully (138) and the motte remains unclear, so this interpretation must remain tentative. However, calculations suggest that the spoil from the ditch (129/139) could not be dispersed to form so low a motte, unless the sides of the motte were almost vertical.

PHASE 3A, THE MOTTE EXTENSION (Figs 4 & 5)

The early circular motte was found to have been

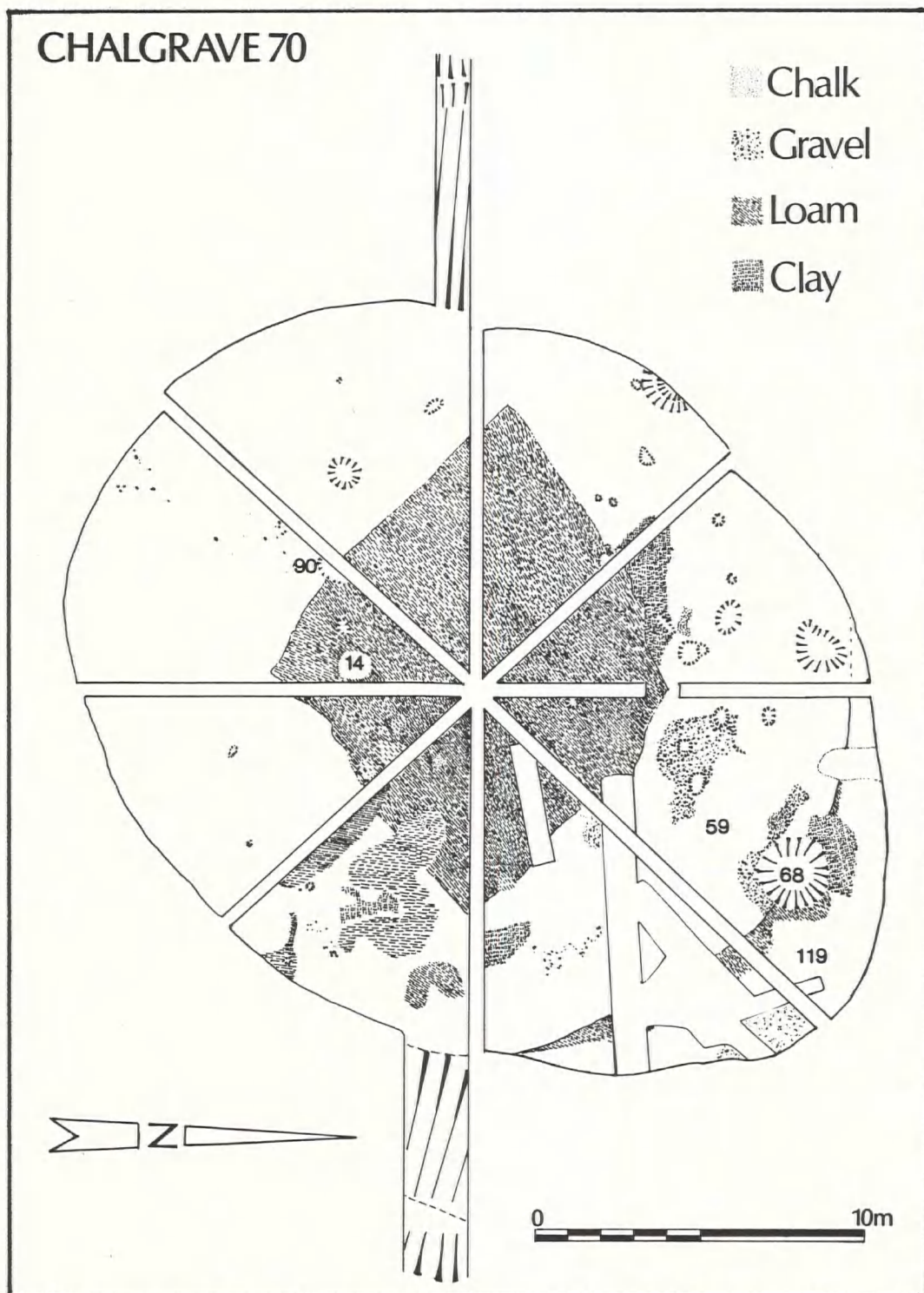


Fig 4 Phase 2 and 3a, plan of the top of the motte

CHALGRAVE 70

West

East

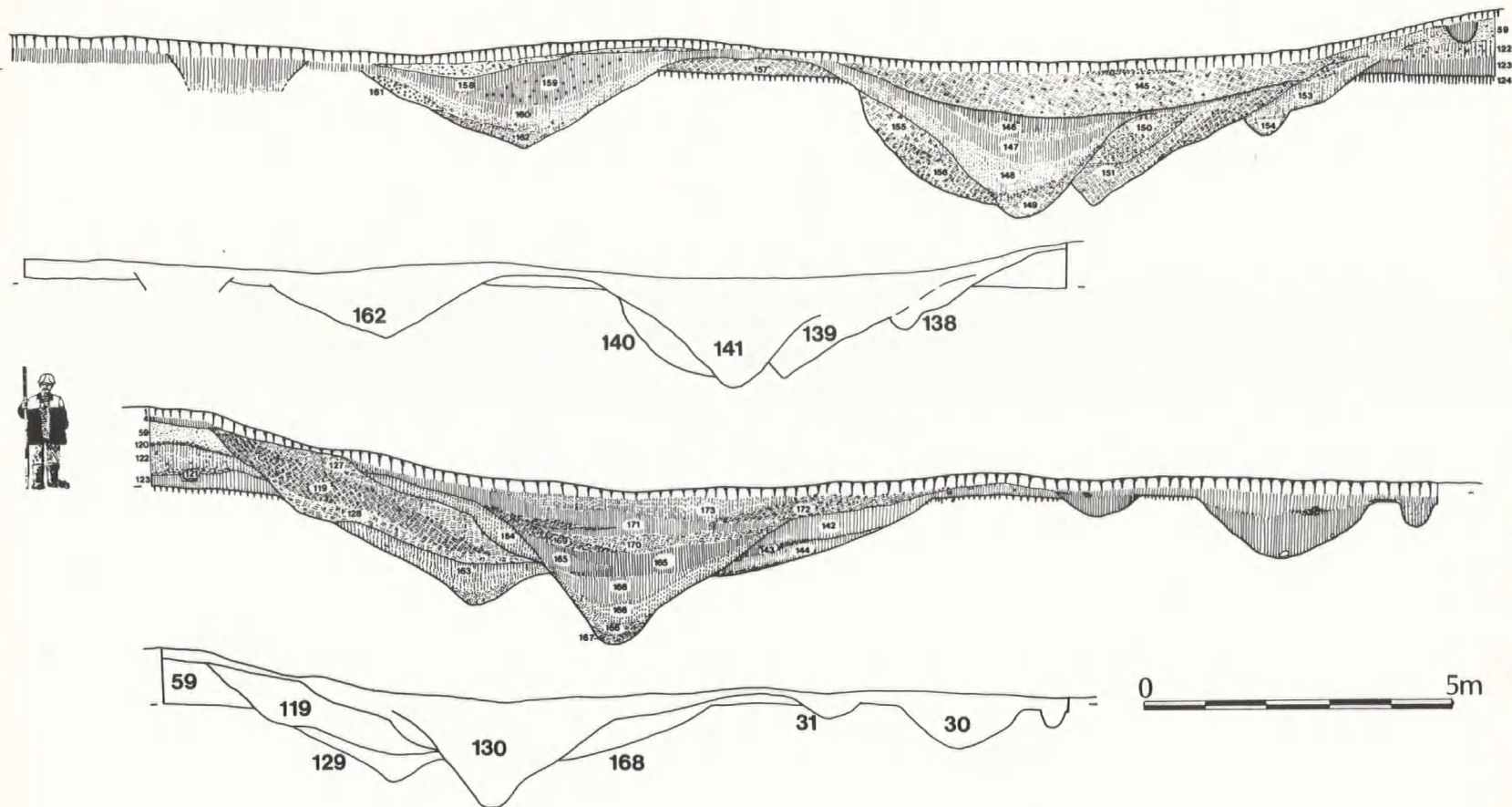


Fig 5 Sections through the motte and bailey ditches

CHALGRAVE 70

Chalk

Gravel

Loam

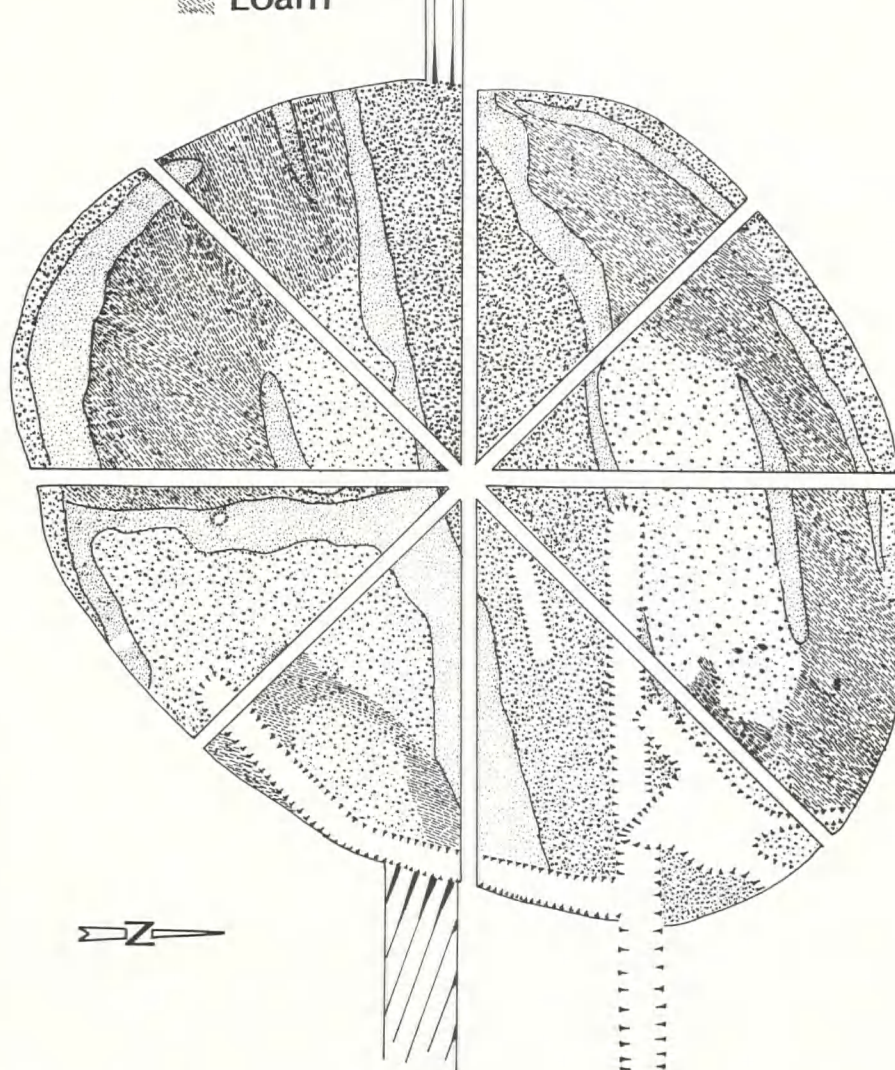


Fig 6 Phase 3b, plan of the top of the motte

extended to the NW (119), giving an oval plan. Some of the material used for this extension derives from subsoil found only at a depth of 1.5 m; it may thus have come from ditch 140 (Fig 5), which reached such deposits. Over the whole surface of the extended motte there lay a uniform layer of soil 0.14 to 0.20 m deep (4). It was unclear whether this was a soil formed *in situ* and subsequently churned up, thus losing its natural profile, or was material deliberately brought in to make up the ground prior to the construction of the period 3b buildings.

Several features could be associated stratigraphically with the soil layer; two small pits (68 & 90) and five postholes (48, 49, 60, 83 & 95). Other features may have been associated with this phase but their relationship with the soil layer (4) was not clear.

PHASE 3B, THE FINAL PHASE OF OCCUPATION (Fig 6)

In the last phase of occupation the surface of the extended motte was occupied by new buildings. The evidence for these took the form of bands of chalky loam bordering areas of gravel 'metalling' (Fig 6). These deposits lay on top of the soil layer (4) of phase 3a. The loam bands incorporated fragments of chalk about 1 to 2 cm in diameter, which occurred approximately every 5 cm; this material does not occur naturally in the immediate area and must have been imported deliberately from some distance away. The loam bands and gravelled areas form distinct patterns that may represent the remains of earthen wall foundations from a central long building with lean-to extensions on either side, surrounded by a gravel path, and possibly with a perimeter wall. There were no hearths or other evidence of domestic usage, and little can be said, from the structural evidence, about the nature of any buildings from this phase.

The ditch of phase 3a was recut with a deeper 'V' shaped profile (130 & 141). Unfortunately it is not possible to assign this recut with any certainty to either of the last two phases.

THE BAILEY DEFENCES (Fig 5)

The surface indications before excavation showed the bailey ditch, to the E of the motte (31), narrowing and becoming shallower as it ran from S to N, eventually merging into the motte ditch. The bailey bank similarly faded out at this point. The machine-cut trench E of the motte crossed the bailey ditch at this narrow point, just before it merged with the motte ditch. Here, the bailey ditch was only 1.2 m wide and 0.25 m deep, with a low bank formed of

scraped up topsoil. However, even in the narrow machine trench the ditch was seen to be getting wider and deeper as it ran S.

To the W, the bailey ditch was much wider and deeper, 4.7 m by 1.10 m, and 'V' profiled (162). A low bank of clay (157) survived to a height of 0.25 m. Aerial photographs, however, suggest that at one time the W side of the bailey may have been incorporated into a later field boundary, so that this 'V' shaped, deep ditch may be the result of later re-cutting.

Time again did not permit the investigation of the bailey bank in search of structural features. The bailey ditch was separated from the motte ditch in the section taken, and thus cannot be with certainty fitted into the stratigraphic sequence of the motte.

THE FINDS

THE POTTERY by Georgina Brine

Introduction

Forty-four kg of medieval pottery was recovered from the 1970 excavations and has been sorted according to the Bedfordshire type series developed by E. Baker and J. Hassall (Baker and Hassall 1979). Some of the Chalgrave pottery fabrics are described in that publication, but most of the pottery fits into five newly recognized fabric groups, which are described below.

The basic forms occurring in these five fabrics have been illustrated in Figs 7-9. Hatched sections have been used when the pot appears to be hand-made. Filled sections have been used when there are clear throwing lines on the pot. Further variations and a full descriptive catalogue are available in the archive.

The pottery has been quantified by weight and estimated vessel equivalent. This has been analysed on micro-computer using programmes written by Dr Paul Tyers of the Department of Urban Archaeology, London. A summary of the results within phases is given below: the full analysis is available in the archive report.

(A small amount of intrusive post-medieval pottery was discarded by the excavator.)

Fabric Descriptions

Roman Pottery (residual)

A small amount of residual Roman pottery was

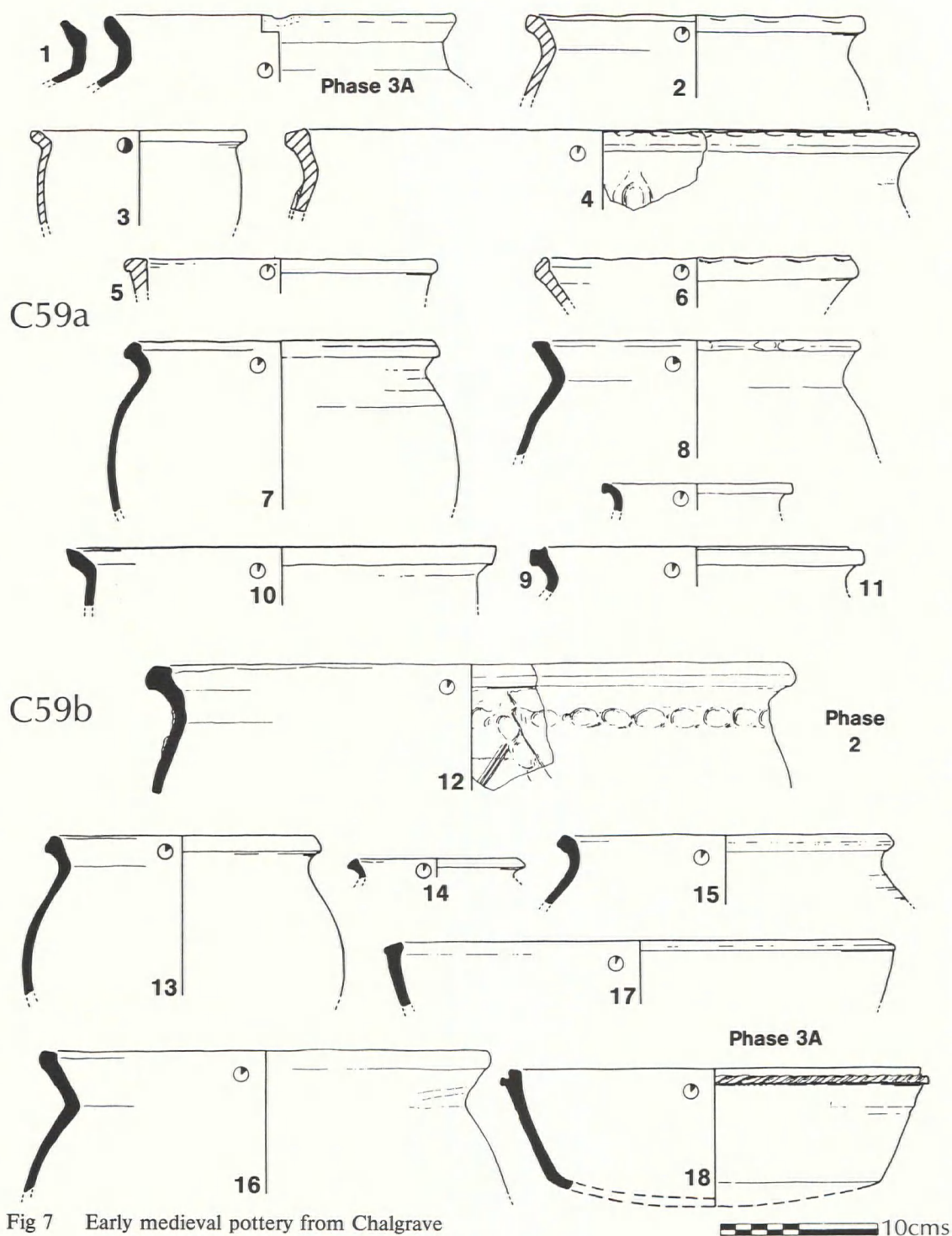


Fig 7 Early medieval pottery from Chalgrave
 No 1 Fabric C59A from Phase 3A, Nos 2-11 Fabric
 C59A from Phase 3B, No 12 Fabric C59B from
 Phase 2, Nos 13 Fabric 3A. Scale 1:4

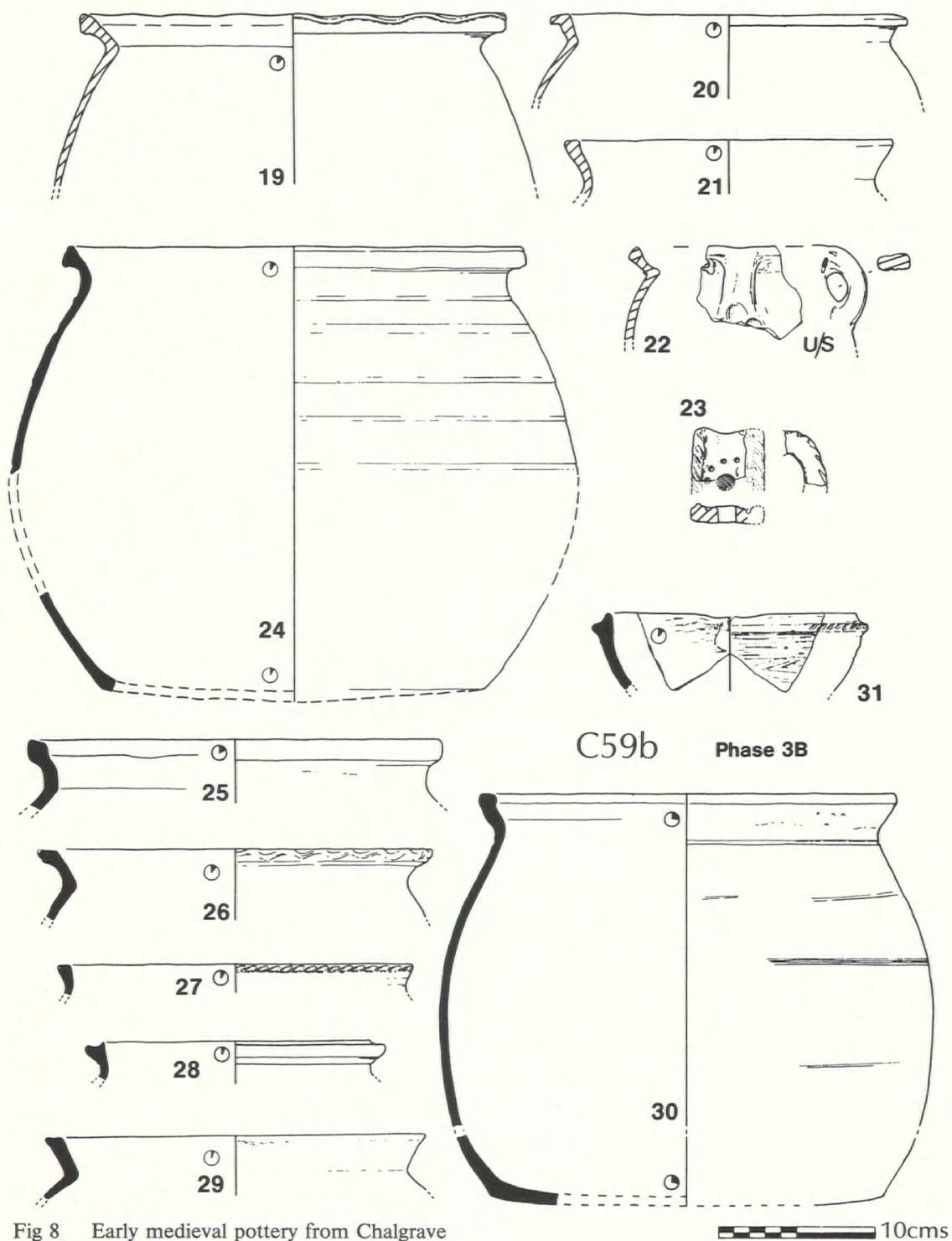


Fig 8 Early medieval pottery from Chalgrave
Nos 19-21, 23; 31. Fabric C59B from Phase 3B (No.
22 unstratified). Scale 1:4

found: less than 1% of the total assemblage. Most of it was in a grey sandy fabric though there was one sherd of colour coat.

Saxon Pottery (residual)

A small amount of residual Saxon pottery in a roughly finished sandy fabric was found: less than 1% of the total assemblage. Two simple, handmade cooking pot rims were the only diagnostic pieces.

B1 St. Neots-type Ware

Less than 2% of the whole assemblage was in this fabric. (Fabric description in Baker and Hassall, 1979, 165.) Two bowls with inturned rims were the only forms recognized. This type is usually found within a 10th to 12th century date range.

B7 Developed St. Neots-type Ware

Less than 4% of the whole assemblage was in this fabric. (See *op cit* 167.) Forms included bowls, cooking pots, a small dish and jugs, which would fit in with a B1 typology; however the fabric is hard and well-fired to give even orange surfaces. The end of the B1 date range is suggested for this type.

C9 Brill/Boarstall-type Ware

One sherd would seem to have come from a Brill/Boarstall-type small bottle. (Fabric description in *op cit* 173.)

C59A Fabric (Fig 7 Nos 1-11)

This group made up nearly 29% of the whole assemblage. The main characteristic of the fabric is the abundance of coarse, rounded quartz inclusions which give the fabric a very pimply texture. Fine, angular white inclusions (limestone?) and sometimes rounded black inclusions (iron ore?) occur in moderate quantities. The colour varies greatly but often there is a grey core with a patchy orange, grey and/or buff external surface and a light grey or dull orange internal surface. The forms are all everted rimmed cooking pots, often with finger-tip decoration around the outer edge of the rim. Some vessels have clear throwing lines but others appear handmade. It is presumably a local ware and the forms would suggest a late 11th to 12th century date (see discussion below).

C59B Fabric (Fig 7 Nos 12-18 and Fig 8 Nos 19-31)

This group made up nearly 34% of the whole assemblage. The fabric is similar to C59A, but the rounded quartz is finer, giving a rough, sandy texture to the fabric. There are also sparse, coarse,

blackened voids and sparse, very coarse, grog inclusions. The colour varies but often the external surface appears patchy like C59A with a light grey core. The forms are mostly cooking pots, similar to those in fabric C59A and again often having finger-tip decoration around the external edge of the rim, but there are also small bowls (No 18 and No 31) and jugs (No 23) and a small handled cooking pot with a perforated rim (No 22). Most of these vessels are clearly wheelmade, but a few appear handmade. Fabric C59B and C59A are possibly part of the same industry.

C59D Fabric

One sherd in fabric C59B had a thin clear glaze on the external surface and was given this fabric number.

C60 Fabric (Fig 9 Nos 32-38)

This group made up about 26% of the whole assemblage. The fabric has rather poorly sorted, medium to very coarse, sub-rounded quartz with sparse, limestone, grog and black ore inclusions. It most often occurs in a light grey or blue-grey colour throughout. Most of the forms are cooking pots, some similar in shape to those in fabric C59B, with one shallow dish (No 37) as the exception. Certain examples appear handmade but most have clear throwing lines.

C63 Fabric (Fig 9 Nos 39-42)

This fabric made up less than 3% of the total assemblage but it is very distinctive having sharp, angular, very coarse flint inclusions. There are also rounded, medium quartz grains and occasional grog inclusions and blackened voids. The colour varies greatly from grey to light yellow and sometimes red and orange surfaces. The forms are cooking pots similar to those in fabric C60, and it may be part of the same industry.

C64 Fabric (Fig 9 Nos 43-45)

This fabric made up only about 2% of the total assemblage. Its main characteristic is sparkling mica clearly visible on the surfaces. The fabric mainly has moderate rounded quartz grains of medium to coarse size, sparse flint inclusions of medium to very coarse size and varying amounts of grog, red and black inclusions (iron ore?) and white inclusions (limestone?). The colour varies but often there is a grey core with grey or orange surfaces. The forms are mostly cooking pots although some finer rims might be from jugs (No 43).

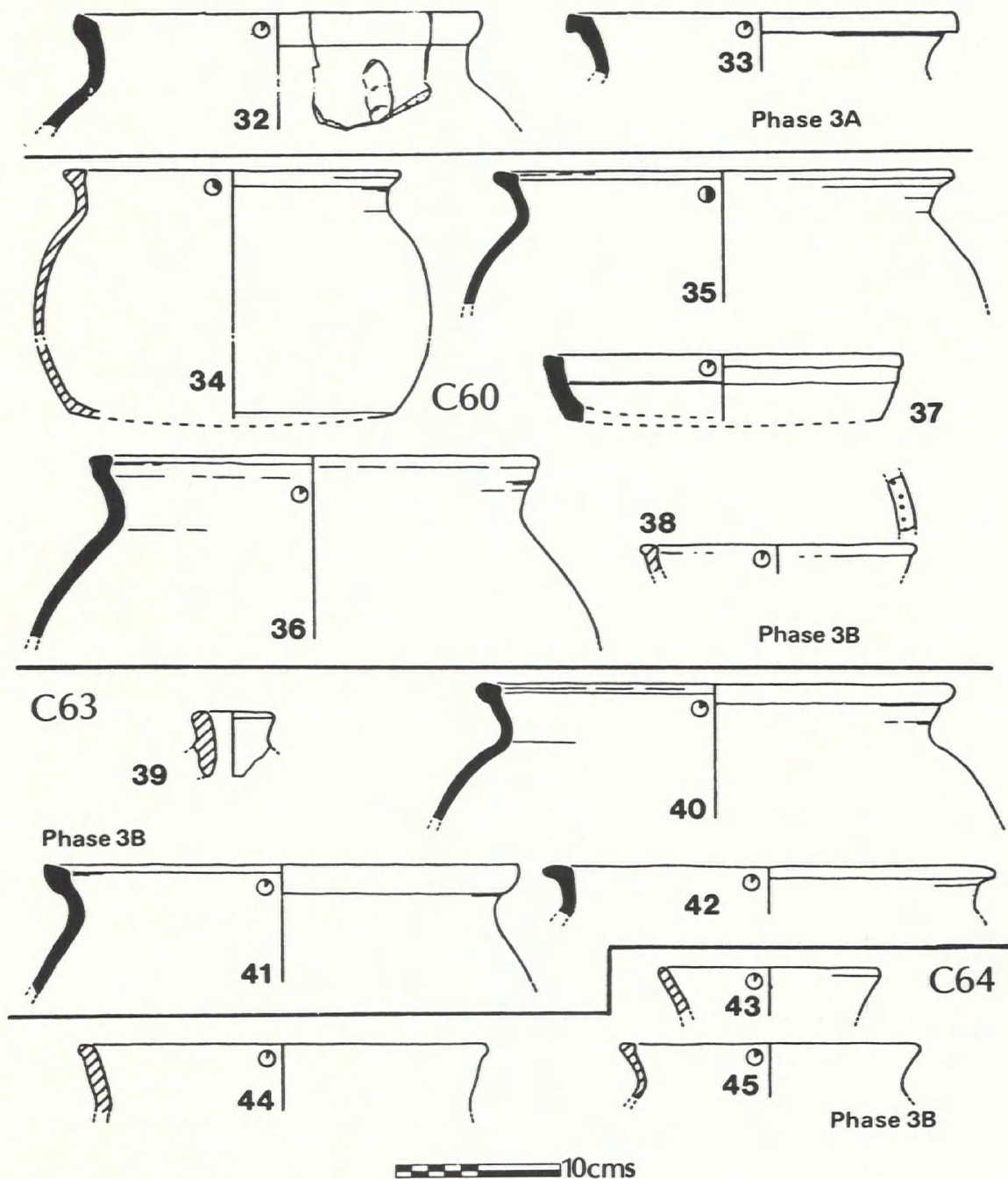
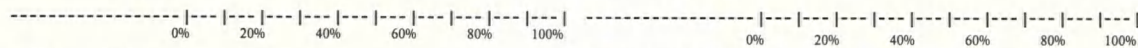


Fig 9 Early medieval pottery from Chalgrave
 Nos 32-33 Fabric C60 from Phase 3A, Nos 34-38
 Fabric C60 from Phase 3B, Nos 39-42 Fabric C63
 from Phase 3B, Nos 43-45 Fabric C64 from Phase
 3B. Scale 1:4

PHASE 1

ROMAN 6 ga *
 B1 75 ga *****
 B7 68 ga *****
 C59B 4 ga *
 C60 45 ga *****

ROMAN 0.00 Eve
 B1 0.06 Eve *****
 B7 0.40 Eve *****
 C59B 0.00 Eve
 C60 0.00 Eve



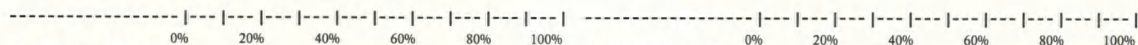
TOTAL 198 ga

TOTAL 0.46 Eve

PHASE 2

B1 60 ga *****
 B7 33 ga **
 C59A 181 ga *****
 C59B 326 ga *****
 C60 11 ga *
 C64 7 ga
 E1 6 ga
 MISC 10 ga *

B1 0.13 Eve *****
 B7 0.08 Eve *****
 C59A 0.06 Eve *****
 C59B 0.38 Eve *****
 C60 0.00 Eve *
 C64 0.00 Eve
 E1 0.00 Eve
 MISC 0.00 Eve *



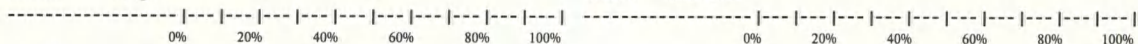
TOTAL 634 ga

TOTAL 0.65 Eve

PHASE 3A

B1 8 ga
 B7 199 ga *
 C59A 2386 ga *****
 C59B 2504 ga *****
 C60 2032 ga *****
 C63 126 ga *
 C64 64 ga
 E1 62 ga
 MISC 19 ga

B1 0.00 Eve
 B7 0.11 Eve *
 C59A 1.20 Eve *****
 C59B 1.49 Eve *****
 C60 0.54 Eve *****
 C63 0.09 Eve *
 C64 0.00 Eve
 E1 0.00 Eve
 MISC 0.00 Eve



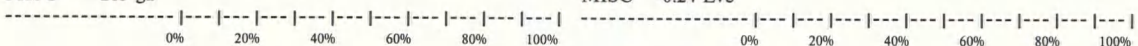
TOTAL 7400 ga

TOTAL 3.43 Eve

PHASE 3B

ROMAN 84 ga
 SAXON 27 ga
 B: 97 ga
 B7 523 ga *
 C9 6 ga
 C59A 7908 ga *****
 C59B 9160 ga *****
 C59D 9 ga
 C60 7155 ga *****
 C63 1040 ga **
 C64 605 ga *
 E1 717 ga *
 E2 61 ga
 MISC 205 ga

ROMAN 0.05 Eve
 SAXON 0.22 Eve
 B: 0.05 Eve
 B7 0.63 Eve *
 C9 0.02 Eve
 C59A 5.93 Eve *****
 C59B 7.40 Eve *****
 C59D 0.00 Eve
 C60 3.19 Eve *****
 C63 0.67 Eve *
 C64 0.68 Eve *
 E1 0.46 Eve *
 E2 0.11 Eve
 MISC 0.24 Eve



TOTAL 27597 ga

TOTAL 19.65 Eve

Table 1 Histogram showing the proportion of pottery fabrics occurring within each phase: calculated according to weight (in grammes) and estimated vessel equivalent (Eve), which is the percentage of rims present

E1 Fabric

This fabric made up less than 2% of the whole assemblage. (Description in *op cit* 212.) Standard bowls, a cooking pot and a jug were identified in this late medieval coarseware, the main production centre for which, in Bedfordshire, seems to be Flitwick five miles NE of Chalgrave (Mynard, Petchey and Tilson, 1983).

E2 Fabric

Only one cooking pot and a few unattributable sherds were found in this fabric. (Description in *op cit* 212.) It is probably a variant fabric within the late medieval coarseware tradition.

DISCUSSION

The proportion of these fabrics within each phase of the site is given in Table 1.

Most of the shelly wares (B1 and B7) were found in phases 1 and 2 of the site, which may suggest they are earlier than the sandy wares. The small quantity of shelly wares in general might suggest either that there was little late Saxon/early medieval occupation on the site or that the ceramic tradition for this period in the S of the county differs from that demonstrated in Bedford (Baker and Hassall 1979). The local geology is unlikely to provide clays containing fossil shells, so the latter is likely.

Of the sandy fabrics, three fabrics predominate from phase 2 onwards: C59A, C59B and C60. All these fabrics are new additions to the Beds Fabric Type Series and no external or independent dating is known at the time of writing. The number and variation of forms is quite limited, which might suggest a fairly tight date range. Comparison of forms with pottery from other regions (for instance Walton, Buckinghamshire see Farley, 1976, Fig 34, 37-38 *etc* and Northolt, Middlesex see Hurst, 1961, Fig 66, 67) suggests a date of 11th to 12th century is probable. Fabric C59A, C59B and C60 have subsequently been found as a result of the excavations at Grove Priory six miles to the SW of Chalgrave, and study of the assemblage there may throw some light on the dating of this group of pottery.

Apart from one glazed sherd, there are no 13th century glazed wares. This single sherd plus the late medieval E wares and the post medieval material have been regarded as intrusive.

All the forms suggest domestic use — cooking pots, bowls, jugs: kitchen wares. None of the pottery could be described as fine table ware or as having an industrial function.

OTHER FINDS by Holly Duncan

Introduction

A select catalogue of the small finds is presented below, the objects grouped according to material. Items excluded from the catalogue (17 in total), consisted of fragments of rods, strips or sheets, in two cases off-cuts, which were not readily identifiable as being part of a specific object. A listing of small finds by phase follows the catalogue.

Coins

1 Alexander III long single cross penny, second coinage (1286+), obverse; *ALEXANDER DEI GRA*. Crowned bust in profile facing left with sceptre, reverse + *REX SCOTORUM*, two mullets, one six point, one seven point, two stars, one six point, one seven point. Very worn.

Feature 4, phase 3A/B, Plt 2.



Plate 2 Chalgrave, coin of Alexander III, reverse (cat 1)

Copper Alloy

2 Pin, wire wound head moulded into spherical shape and circular sectioned shank (0.75 mm), length 24 mm.

Feature 15, phase 3B.

Suggested date 16th to 17th century.

Parallels: Williams 1979:260.

3 Pin, wire wound head moulded into special shape and circular sectioned shank. Unstratified.

Suggested date 16th to 17th century.

Parallels: Williams 1979:260.

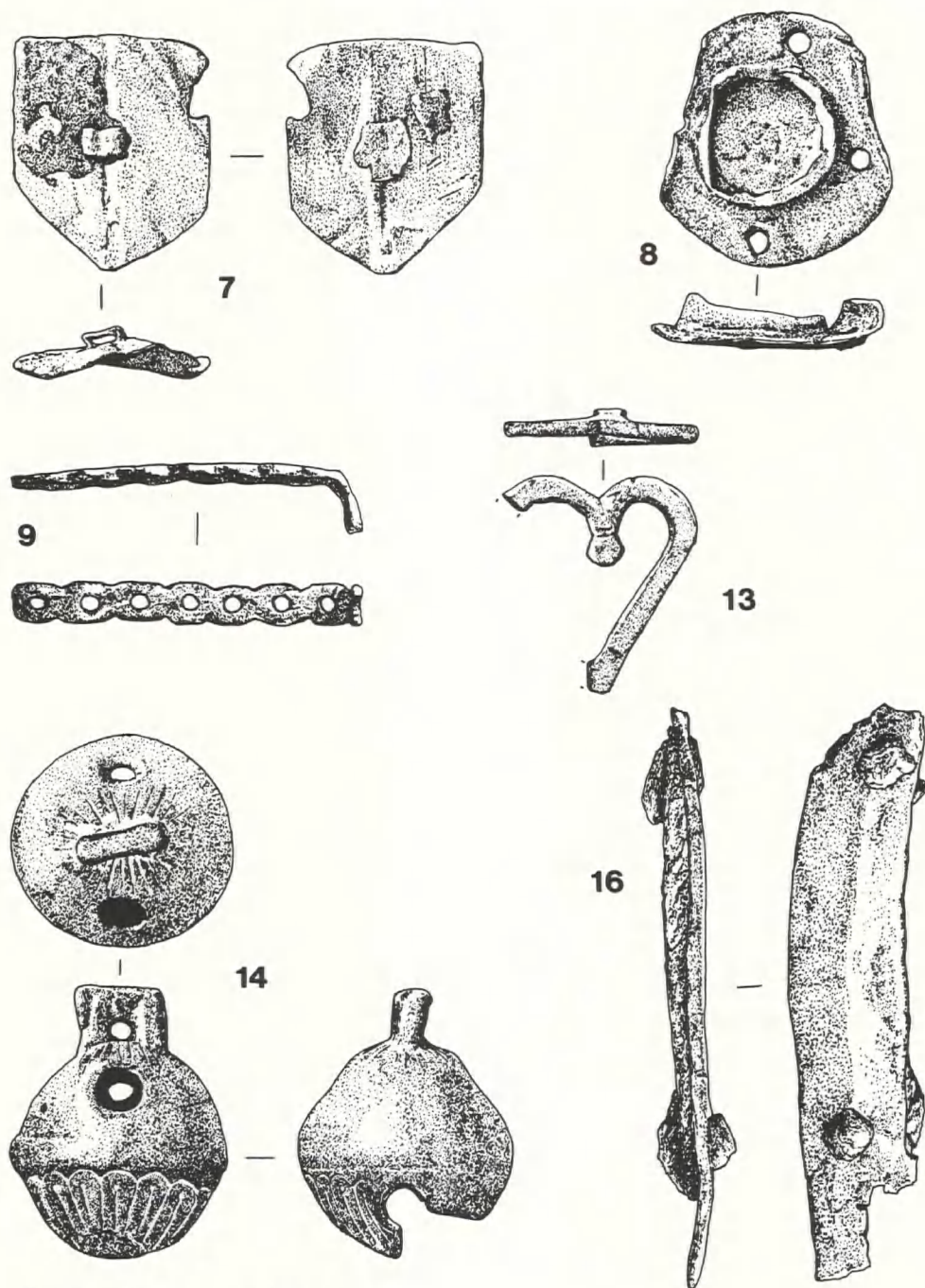


Fig 10 Copper alloy objects at 1:1

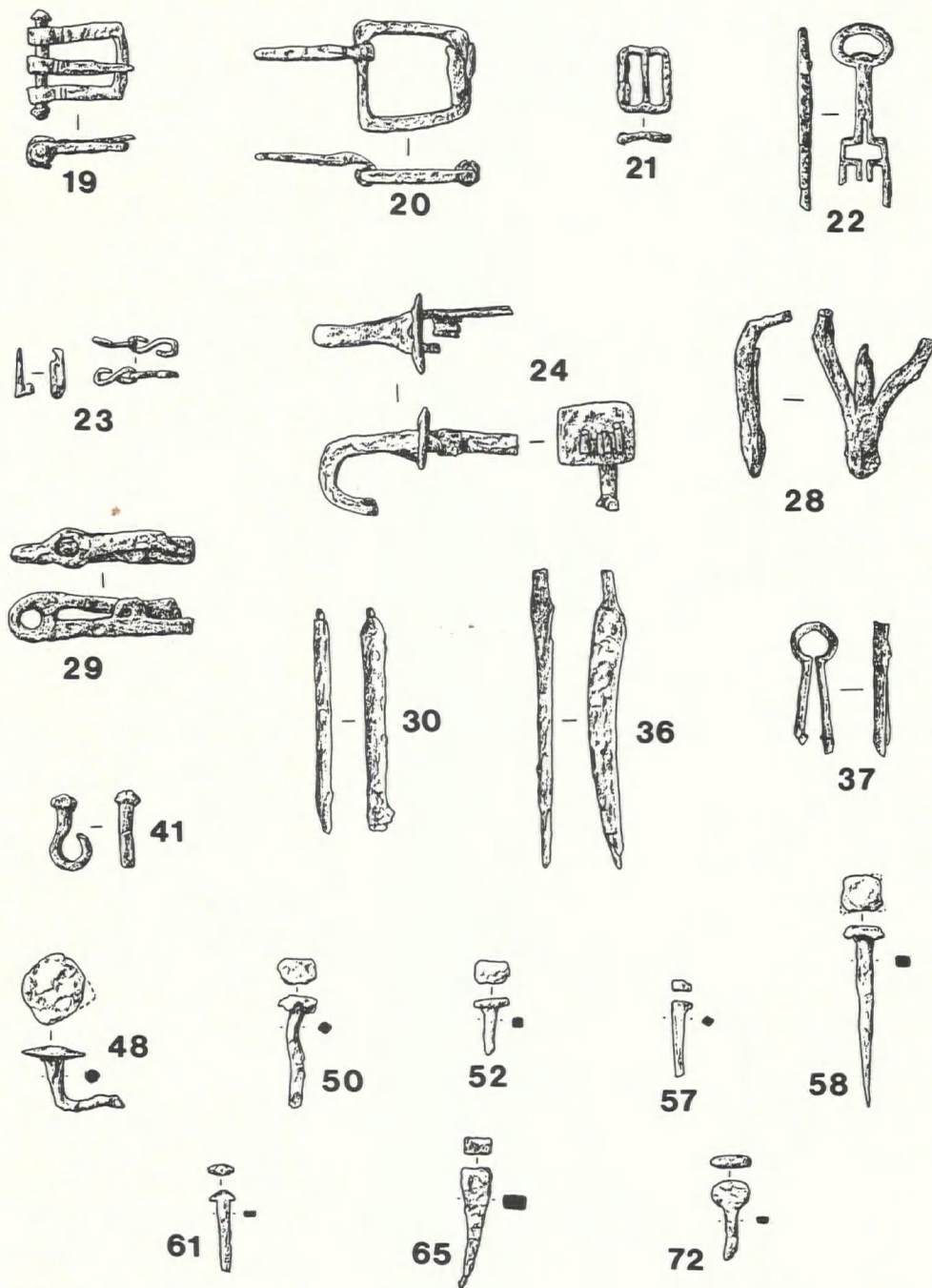


Fig 11 Iron objects at 1:3

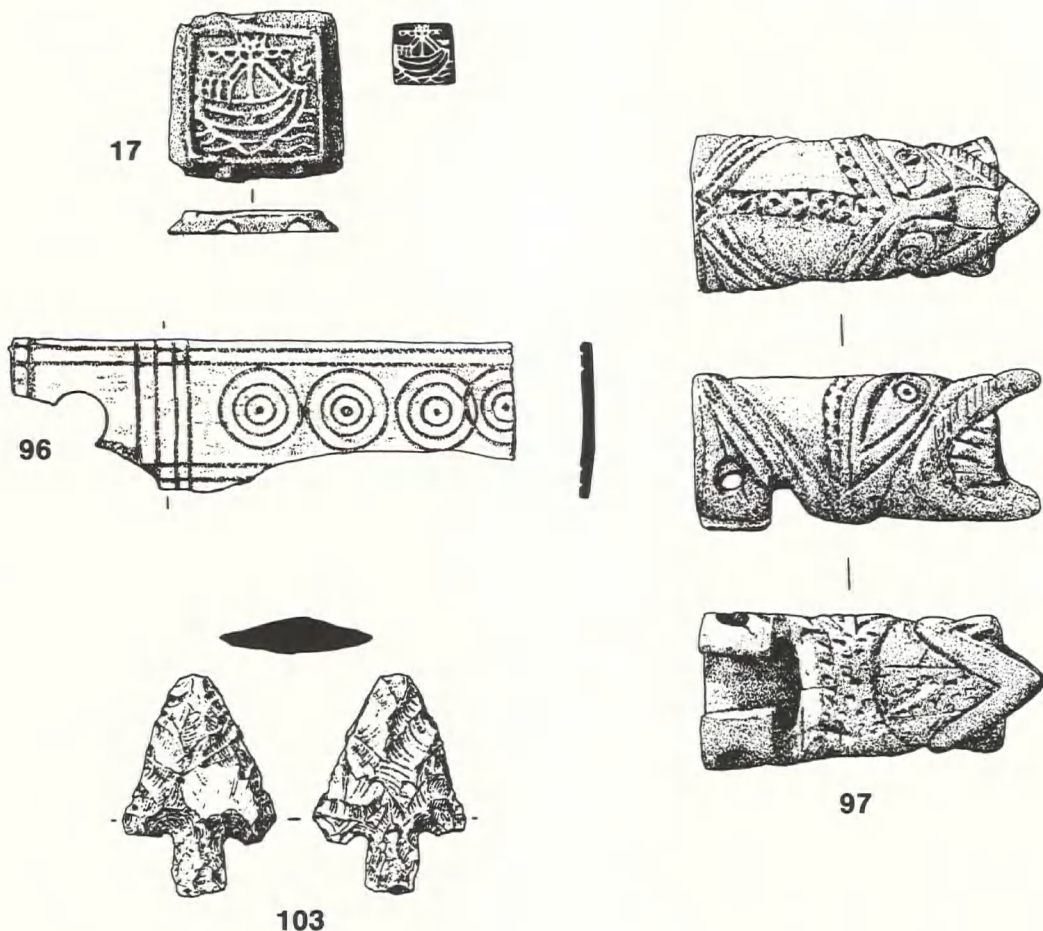


Fig 12 Lead alloy, bone and flint objects at 1:1

4 Pin, wire wound head moulded into spherical shape and circular sectioned shank. Unstratified.
Suggested date 15th? or 16th to 17th century.
Parallels: Williams 1979:260.

5 Lace tag, rivet holes surviving.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B.
Suggested date pre-16th to 17th century.
Parallels: Williams 1979:263.

6 Lace tag, oval in section, rivet holes do not survive, remaining length 19 mm.
Feature 8, phase 3B.
Suggested date pre-16th to 17th century.
Parallels: Williams 1979:263.

7 Heraldic badge or jousting-shield?; shield shape with remains of enamel on both surfaces. A raised rectangular strip is affixed to the centre of the reverse face. Decoration does not survive, but a raised ridge down the centre of obverse face suggests that the field

of decoration was divided. A curved notch has been cut out along one edge of the shield.

Feature 4, phase 3A/B.

Suggested date 14th to 15th century. Fig 10, 7.

8 Circular mount, damaged, with four circular perforations placed equidistant near the edge. A cast inverted annular ridge, centrally placed, originally held a boss or a gem.
Feature 15, phase 3B. Fig 10, 8.

9 Gilt binding strip, plano-convex in section, decorated with stamped circular perforations.
Feature 6, phase 3B.
Suggested date 12th to 13th century. Fig. 10, 9.
Parallels: Goodall 1981a:70 and Coad and Streeton 1982: Fig 43, 4.

10 Binding strip, sub-rectangular in plan with one rivet hole either end, one rivet survives *in-situ*. Bent, remaining length c. 44 mm.
Feature: base of topsoil, phase 3B.

11 Strap end fragment?, made from a thin sheet, one end formed by folding over the sheet. One edge of a circular perforation survives, remaining length c12.1 mm. Unstratified.

12 Strap fitting, one iron rivet *in situ* and portion of a perforation surviving at the break. One end chamfered.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B.

13 Cast heart-shaped decorative fitting (?handle), sub-rectangular in section. Unstratified. Fig 10, 13.
Parallels: Bedwin 1976: Fig 9a, 31.

14 Decorated rumbler bell with perforated rectangular tab for suspension.
Feature 28, phase 3B.
Suggested date 14th century onwards.
Parallels: Baker, *et al* 1979: catalogue nos 1388, 1389. Plat and Coleman-Smith 1975: catalogue nos 1726, 1806, Fig 10, 14.

15 Harness ring? oval in section, diameter 21.7 mm. Feature 15, phase 3B.

16 Rim of vessel? rivetted by two iron rivets to a strip of iron. Possibly repair of copper alloy vessel.
Feature 48, phase 3A/B. Fig 10, 16.

Lead and Lead Alloy

17 Lead alloy plaque, sub-square in plan with bevelled edges and a raised square border enclosing a ship-at-sea in relief. Two raised notches occur along the bottom edge, a third occurs on the top edge. Possibly a coin weight. Weight 9.1 g.
Feature 28, phase 3B.
Parallels: Christie and Coad 1980: Fig 57, Fig 12, 17.

18 Flashing? roughly rectangular sheet with two countersunk nailholes, remaining length 46 m.
Feature 23, phase 3B.

Iron

19 Rectangular buckle with moveable bar and looped over pin. Probably for harness.
Feature 39, phase 3B, suggested date 12th to 13th century. Fig 11, 19.
Parallels: LMMC 1975: pl LXXIX no 2.
Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975: catalogue no 1973.

20 Sub-rectangular buckle with rolled sheet round one end of loop and looped over pin. Probably for harness.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B. Fig 11, 20.
Parallels: LMMC 1975: pl LXXIX no 3.
Williams 1979: Fig 120, 90, 98.

21 Rectangular double buckle with remains of rolled sheet round one side of loop.
Feature 5, phase 3B. Fig 11, 21.

22 Key, kidney shaped bow, solid stem, the ward is formed by the end of the stem. LMMC Type IX.
Feature 5, phase 3B. Suggested date 13th to 14th century.
Parallels: LMMC 1975: Fig 43, 5, Fig 11, 22.

23 Two joined S-shape links of rounded section found in association with an L-shaped rod. The stem of the rod has been hammered flat and retains an edge of a circular perforation. Pieces of padlock?
Feature 1, phase 3B.
Parallels: Goodall 1981: Fig 57, 1, Fig 11, 23.

24 Brass plated padlock bolt, 'U'-shaped with rectangular end plate, split spine and free arm.
Feature 39, phase 3B.
Parallels: Williams 1979: Fig 116, 4, Fig 11, 24.

25 Brass plated padlock bolt, 'U'-shaped with rectangular end plate, spine originally split but damaged, length 75 mm.
Feature 8, phase 3B.
Parallels: Williams 1979: Fig 116, 4.

26 Hinge pivot with rectangular sectioned tang and rounded-square upright. Length 63.5 mm, height 48.4 mm.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B.

27 Catch? roughly 'L'-shaped strip, one end bent over, length 54.6 mm.
Features 15, phase 3B.
Parallels: Williams 1979: Fig 109, 52.

28 Three-armed claw-like flesh hook, tang and two arms damaged.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B. Fig 11, 28.
Parallels: Goodall 1981:60.

29 Hinge mechanism or harness fitting? roughly 'U'-shaped object. The bend of the 'U' has been flattened and has a circular perforation stamped through it. One arm of the object has a countersunk rectangular perforation with an iron rivet *in situ*. About one third of the way along its length there is a rectangular tab projecting at right angles from the arm. This has a circular perforation. The second arm has a stamped circular perforation near the bend of the 'U'. This arm is slightly bent and its end is broken off. Unstratified. Fig 11, 29.

30 Knife, moulded handle with decorative knob; oval in section the blade does not survive.
Feature 1, phase 3B.
Suggested date 17th century. Fig 11, 30.
Parallels: Moorhouse 1971: Fig 17, 6 and 7. Williams and Farwell 1984: Fig 12, 7.

31 Knife blade fragment, triangular in section, straight backed blade with curved cutting edge; remaining length 109.4 mm.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B.

32 Knife blade fragment, triangular in section, straight back and cutting edge both tapering to a point, remaining length 97.6 mm.
Feature 6, phase 3B.

33 Knife blade fragment, in very poor condition, triangular in section, remaining length 122.2 mm.
Feature 8, phase 3B.

34 Knife blade fragment; triangular in section, straight backed blade, cutting edge angled to point; tip and tang do not survive. Remaining length 63.8 mm.
Feature 15, phase 3B.

35 Knife blade fragment, triangular in section, straight cutting edge and straight back starting to angle towards tip. Tip and tang do not survive, remaining length 68 mm.
Feature 7, phase 3B.

36 Mood for knife?; yet to be ground and finished, rectangular in section.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B. Fig 11, 36.

37 Shears, incomplete, only handle and beginning of recess survive.
Feature 23, phase 3B. Fig 11, 37.

38 Socketed and pointed ferrule, incomplete and damaged, oval in section, remaining length 82 mm. Unstratified.

39 Socketed and pointed ferrule? in very poor condition, oval in section, remaining length 43 mm.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B.

40 Mount? rectangular sheet with slightly off-centre perforation, dimensions 27.5 by 21.5 mm.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B.

41 Swivel hook, domed rectangular head and rectangular sectioned shank, point missing.
Feature 23, phase 3B.
Parallels: Williams 1979: Fig 119, 77; Fig 11, 41.

42 Staple, incomplete, one end in-turned, square in section remaining length 59 mm.
Features 2, 3 and 4, phase 3A/B.

43 'U'-shaped staple, square in section, length 62 mm.
Feature 6, phase 3B.

44 Staple? rectangular in plan and section, length 98.3 mm.
Feature 28, phase 3B.

45 Staple, rectangular in plan and section, remaining length 104 mm.
Feature 23, phase 3B.

46 Link, incomplete, square in section, length 55 mm.
Feature 4, phase 3A.

47 Ring (harness?), incomplete, square in section, estimated diameter 50 mm.
Feature 8, phase 3B.

Nails (48-95)

In all 48 nails were recovered. These were typed, where possible, according to head form using Goodall 1973: 173-5. Twenty-one examples had incomplete heads (75-95). The majority of nails were for timber and all had square or rectangular sectioned shanks. The surviving points were either wedge-shaped (13) or rounded (4). Only three shoeing nails were recovered and these were all of the fiddle key variety suggesting a date pre-14th century. The nail types and examples are listed below with feature numbers indicated. One of each type of nail is illustrated.

Timber Nails

1 Flat-headed

a squared: 2 examples from feature 15, heads 25 by 25 mm, and 14 by 14 mm; shanks 4.5 by 4 mm, and 6 by 5 mm; length, only one complete, 61.5 mm (no 48-49) Fig 11, 48.

b rectangular: 2 examples from feature 25 and 39, heads 19 by 11 mm, and 13 by 16 mm; shanks 5 by 5 mm, and 4.5 by 5 mm; lengths 64 mm and 46 mm (no 50-51) Fig 11, 50.

c long-rectangular: 5 examples from features 4 (2), 9 (1), and 15 (2), four heads below 20 mm, ranging from 9 by 5 mm to 17 by 17 mm, one head 23 by 18 mm; shanks between 5 by 5 mm to 6 by 4.5 mm; no complete lengths (no 52; 56), Fig 11, 52.

d rectangular off-set: 1 example from feature 4, head 6.5 by 5 mm, shank 4 by 3.5 mm, length incomplete (no 57) Fig 11, 57.

e Diamond shape: 3 examples from feature 4 (2) and 15 (1) heads 19 by 16 mm, 20 by 15 mm and 14 by 10.5; shanks 6 by 5 mm, 6.5 by 4.5 mm, 3 by 3 mm; complete lengths 76 mm and 46 mm (no 58-60), Fig 11, 58.

Raised-faceted: 4 examples from feature 1 (1 disintegrated), 4 (1), 14a (1), and 15 (1), heads 9.5 by 7 mm, 11 by 4.5 mm, 11 by 12 mm, shanks 4.5 by 4.5 mm, 4.5 by 5.5 mm, 4 by 5.5 mm; complete lengths 58.4 mm and 35 mm (no 61-64) Fig 11, 61.

Flaring wedge-shaped shank: 7 examples from features 1-4 (1), 6 (2), 15 (2), 23 (1) and 28 (1), heads all under 20 mm, ranging between 12.5 by 8 mm and 5.5 by 4 mm; shanks range between 12 by 7 mm and 5 by 4 mm; complete lengths 51 mm and 52 mm (no 65-71) Fig 11, 65.

Shoeing Nails

Fiddle key: 3 examples from feature 4 (2) and 15 (1) all with rectangular shanks, lengths between 34 and 38.4 mm (no 72-74) Fig 11, 72.

Worked Bone

96 Decorated and perforated bone plat with triple ring and dot ornament with borders of parallel incised lines.
Feature 56, phase 3A/B.
Suggested date late Saxon-early Medieval. Fig 12, 96.
Parallels: Williams 1979: Fig 141, 83.
Coad and Streeton 1982: Fig 46, 21.

97 Beast-head terminal, tubular fitting in the form of a beast's head with open jaws. At the underside of the back of the head is a T-shaped recess, either side of the base of the T having a circular perforation.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B. Suggested date late 11th century. Fig 12, 97.
Parallels: Backhouse, Turner and Webster 1984: 208-09, catalogue no 274.

Window Glass

98 Painted glass fragment, pot ash glass with a small portion of curvilinear design surviving, portion of one grozed edge survives. Thickness 4 mm.
Feature 8, phase 3B.

Vessel Glass

99 Bottle fragments of mid-green glass from base and body of 18th century vessel. Unstratified.
Parallels: Baker et al 1979: catalogue No 1185.

100 Light apple green glass fragment, form indeterminate, thickness 2.5 mm.
Feature 8, phase 3B. Modern.

101 Clear glass fragment, form indeterminate, thickness 1.5 mm. Unstratified.

102 Light green glass fragment, form indeterminate; portions of an incised leaf pattern? survive, thickness 3.3 mm.
Feature 1, phase 3B.

Worked Stone

103 Barbed and tanged arrow-head, Bronze Age, of translucent grey flint.
Feature 5, phase 3B. Fig 12, 103.

104 Perforated whetstone of schist, rectangular in plan and section, with edge of circular perforation surviving along break. Surfaces and edges smoothed.
Feature 4, phase 3A/B.

105 Whetstone fragment of sandstone, roughly rectangular in plan and section, smoothed surfaces, remaining length 77.4 mm.
Feature 6, phase 3B.

106 Sharpening stone, sub-rectangular in plan and section, all surfaces have numerous shallow, 'V' shaped grooves. One side shows signs of dishing suggesting use as a whetstone; length 78.6 mm.
Feature 1, phase 3B.

107 Architectural fragment? limestone rectangular in plan with bevelled edges on obverse face and highly smoothed reverse face.
Feature 8, phase 3B.

108 Pot or rotary quern fragment of pumice or tree fossil, the outer edge has a regular pattern of diagonal notches. The edge of a circular depression for an upright handle survives on the obverse face, the reverse face is smoothed from use; roughly triangular in plan and rectangular in section, remaining length 211 mm.
Feature 'old pre-mound soil', phase 1.

PHASE 3B			
copper alloy	2	pin	16th to 17th C
	6	lace tag	pre-16th C
	8	circular mount	
	9	gilt binding strip	12th to 13th C
	10	binding strip	
	14	rumbler bell	14th C
	15	harness ring	
lead/	17	coin weight	
lead alloy	18	flashing	
iron	19	harness buckle	12th to 13th C
	21	double buckle	
	22	key	12th to 14th C
	23	padlock components	
	24	padlock bolt	12th to 15th C
	25	padlock bolt	12th to 15th C
	27	catch	
	30	knife, moulded handle	17th C
	32-35	knife blade fragments (4)	
	37	shears	
	41	swivel hook	
	43-45	staples (3)	
	47	ring (harness)	
		fiddle key nail	pre-14th C
		timber nails (17)	
glass	98	painted glass fragment	
	100, 102	vessel fragments (2)	modern
stone	103	tanged flint arrowhead	Bronze Age
	105	whetstone fragment	
	106	sharpening stone	
	107	architectural fragment	

Finds by Phase

Material	Object	Suggested date
PHASE 1		
stone	108 Pot or rotary quern	
PHASE 2		
no finds		
PHASE 3A/B		
silver	1 Alexander III penny	1280-1286+
copper	5 lace cap	per 16th C
alloy	7 heraldic badge or jousting	14th to 15th C
	12 strap fitting	
	16 vessel rim (repair)	
iron	20 harness buckle	
	26 hinge pivot	
	28 flesh hook	
	31 knife blade fragment	
	36 mood for knife (?)	
	39 ferrule (?)	
	40 mount (?)	
	42 staple	
	46 link	
	timber nails (7)	
	fiddle key nails (2)	pre-14th C
worked bone	96 decorated bone plate	late 9th to 12th
	97 beast headed terminal	late 11th C
stone	104 perforated whetstone	

UNSTRATIFIED			
copper alloy	3	pin	15th to 17th C
	4	pin	16th to 17th C
	11	strap end fragment	
	13	heart-shaped handle (?)	
iron	29	hinge or harness fitting	
	38	ferrule	
glass	99	wine bottle fragments	18th C
	101	vessel fragment	modern?

DISCUSSION

The small finds recovered from the excavations of Chalgrave do not greatly add to our understanding of the site. Only one fragment of a quern stone came from Phase 1, while no small finds were attributable to Phase 2. The majority of datable small finds from Phase 3 (A and B) span from the 12th to 15th centuries, perhaps centring on the 13th to 14th centuries. However, two bone objects (nos 96 and 97) date to about the late 11th century and are perhaps residual, while the closest parallels for the moulded knife handle (no 30) are of 17th century date.

A number of the objects from Phase 3 can be classed as building fittings (*eg* staples, pivot,

padlocks), while several are associated with horses (eg harness buckles and rings, a rumbler bell and the 'jousting shield'). The remaining finds are not easily placed in specific categories. The knives, vessel fragment, shears, flesh hook and whetstones might be considered of a more domestic nature, while only the lace tags and strap fitting can be classed as personal ornament.

In summary, the majority of finds from Phase 3A and 3B appear to be of a similar date, c13th to 14th centuries, the coin of Alexander III (no 1) giving us the only 'certain' date. Due to the small number and varied character of the finds assemblage no firm conclusions can be drawn as to the nature or function of the motte in Phases 3A or 3B.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

by Stephen Coleman

Prior to Enclosure in 1800, that part of Chalgrave parish E of the Toddington to Dunstable/Houghton Regis road (A5120) consisted entirely of closes, while that to the W, the majority of the parish, lay chiefly as common fields surrounding the main settlements at Tebworth and Wingfield. This situation dated from at least the early medieval period when all the closes E of the A5120 were the manorial demesne lands for the Manor of Chalgrave. Only a relatively small amount of manorial demesne ever lay W of the road and that was arable, dispersed in pieces in the common fields of Tebworth and Wingfield; though of course the remainder of the common field area was held of the Manor of Chalgrave and was subject to its jurisdiction (Coleman, 1983; Coleman, 1986).

The 'castle' stood on the NW corner of the demesne, as did the adjoining church which belonged to the lords of Chalgrave Manor until the later 12th century. From before the Norman Conquest until 1386 the manor was held by the Loring family, who may even have been the original founders of the church as a seigneurial church. It is unlikely that such a manorial church would have been built far from its manor house: the 'castle' or an adjoining plot could well have been the site of the early medieval manor house for the Manor of Chalgrave, especially as this was probably on the most suitable site for settlement in the parish and in a prime topographical position (*VCH Bedfordshire*, 1912, 345-6; Dale 1950, xviii-xix).

Sometime before 1185 Roger Loring granted the church and some land to Dunstable Priory. The church was rebuilt in the early 13th century, presumably to give more room to fulfil the new role it acquired as a parish church, and was rededicated in 1219 (Fowler, 1926, 75, 104, 246; Richards Luard, 1866, 56). The reason for the isolation of the present All Saints' Church is its predecessor's origins as a manorial church; there was never any substantial settlement to serve close by it, and the main settlements throughout the medieval period were always away at Tebworth and Wingfield.

In 1220 Chalgrave vicarage was ordained, with closes (formerly part of the demesne) to the W, N and S of the church being given as glebe land (Fig 13). The close to the S of the churchyard and the W side of the 'castle' was selected as a vicarage house site (Richards Luard, 1866, 59; Davis, 1908, 3; *VCH Bedfordshire*, 1912, 348; Fowler, 1926, 20-1; *Bedfordshire CRO*: ABE 1, 1693; ABE 2, 1709). Clearly the demesne immediately adjacent to the 'castle' site was being eroded in the late 12th and early 13th centuries. This and the giving away of the church may indicate a decreasing interest in the location by the Lorings.

The only known documentary information relating directly to a manor house belonging to the Lorings dates from just after the death of Sir Nigel Loring in 1386. The Manor of Chalgrave was then to be shared between his two daughters and co-heirs, the proposed division being described in a survey of 1386-7. Even the manor house and its farmstead were to be divided: the buildings were described in detail and indicated an extensive complex, including a chapel and several gardens and orchards adjacent, all lying close to a moat, some ponds and the corner of the Loring's park which are also mentioned (Dale, 1950 xxxi-xxxii). The reference to a manorial chapel, the lack of any reference to All Saints' Church or its churchyard in any of the abbuttals, the size of the complex and its proximity to a moat and ponds suggest that this manor house must have been somewhere on the lower lying part of the demesne SE of the church, where a ready water supply was provided by several head water tributaries of the river Flitt. A moat and associated fishponds survive today along the course of one of these tributaries at TL01692719, just S of Chalgrave Manor Farm. The latter was the post-medieval manor house and was probably the site of the manor house described in 1386-7. It is also possible that the moat may have preceded Chalgrave Manor Farm as a manor house site.

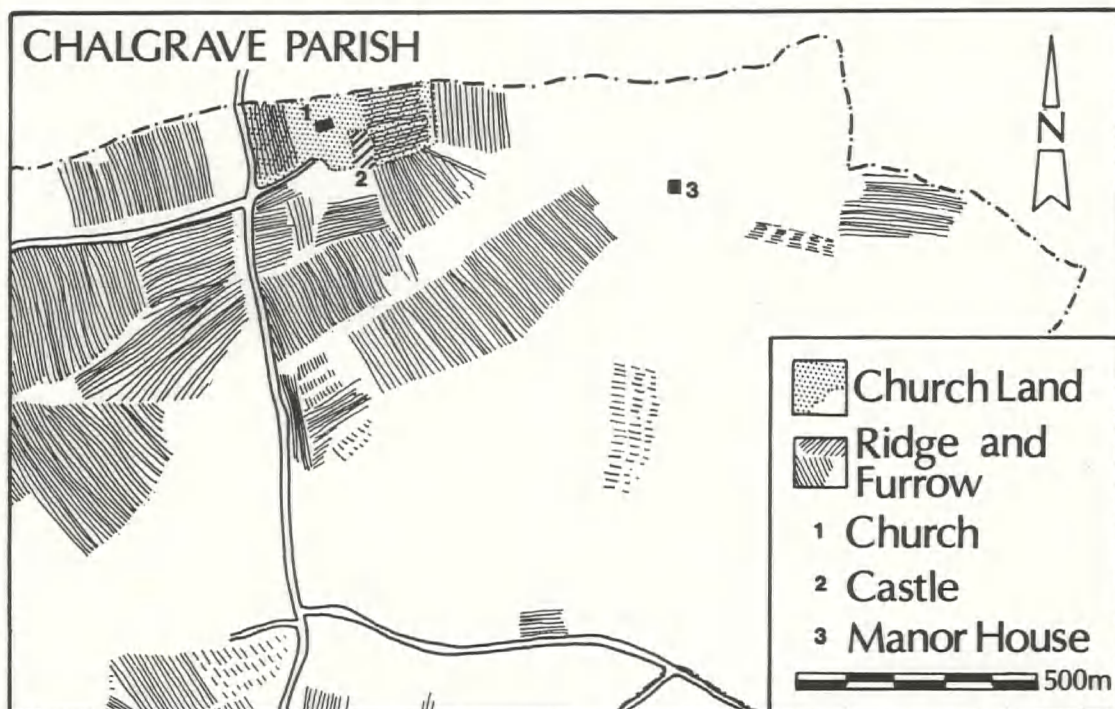


Fig 13 Chalgrave parish

If the 'castle' area was also the early medieval manor house site, the Lorings must have decided to abandon it well before 1386 for a lower lying site, perhaps initially for a newly dug moat which would have been fashionable in the later 12th and 13th centuries. Any abandonment of the 'castle' could possibly have coincided with the granting of the church and adjoining land to Dunstable Priory.

DISCUSSION

The dating of the various phases must remain tentative. The ceramic evidence shows a distinction between phases 1 and 2, whereas the pottery from phase 2 is very similar to that from phase 3. This would suggest that either phases 2 and 3 are near contemporaries or that pottery from phase 3 is derived from earlier periods on the site.

The only datable historical event associated with the site is the granting of the nearby church to Dunstable Priory, sometime before 1185, and its rededication in 1219. It seems likely that the change of status of the church reflects a change of use of the site. In this case 1219 would be a *terminus ante quem* for the removal of the site of the manor house

downhill, to the E, although it is perhaps more likely that this would have occurred around 1185 when ownership of the church changed hands.

To identify the phase which corresponds to this event one must turn to the small finds. The material from the make-up of the motte extension is residual, a bone plate (Fig 12.96) that dates from the late Saxon or early medieval period. Layer 4, the loam that separates phase 3a from 3b, contains a mixture of material. The presence of a quantity of residual pottery and 11th century carved bone terminal (Fig 12.97), and the fact that the layer was not directly associated with any structures (overlying the filling of the phase 2 rectangular hollow, and under-lying the enigmatic deposits of phase 3b) suggest that the soil was imported to make up the level of the extended mound prior to the construction of the phase 3b buildings, rather than churned up *in situ* by activity on the motte itself, unless that activity required the area free from structures (such as using it to pen animals), although there was no evidence of any surrounding fence, and the soil horizon seems to have been rather too clear to suggest this. Together with this residual material

was a coin that must date from after 1280. There does seem to have been some contamination of the later disturbance. However, if this coin is accepted as contemporary with the deposition of 4, then a *terminus post quem* of c1280 has to be accepted for the construction of the phase 3b buildings, if one accepts the evidence of the small bronze shield (Fig 10, 7), then a date in the fourteenth century would seem likely for the deposition of layer 4. The finds from the final building phase would seem to confirm this conjecture, and although none are closely datable they can be broadly assigned to the period 12th and 14th centuries with at least one, the key, being datable to the end of the 13th century.

Thus it would seem likely that phase 3b dates from after the move of the manor house. This would conform to common sense, as the buildings of phase 3b do not have any evidence of domestic use; no hearths or ovens and apparently no contemporary pottery that would suggest a continuation of the function of the site from phase 2. Some of the finds from this phase suggest more a connection with horses or other agricultural activity rather than being derived from domestic use. By 1220 the site was bounded on three sides by church owned land, and there would be little else to do with such a small parcel of land but to re-use it for agricultural buildings. What is not at all clear is the relationship between phases 3a and 3b. If the two phases were broadly contemporary then one must explain why the effort was made to recut the surrounding ditch, when all it apparently enclosed was a group of barns or stables. It is quite possible therefore that phase 3a represents an enlargement of a still functioning motte, prior to the moving of the manor at the end of the 12th or beginning of the 13th century.

During only one, or possibly two phases, therefore, did the site actually function as a castle (phase 2 and possibly phase 3A). Phase 2 is very difficult to date. There are no datable small finds and, as has been said above, the pottery is of no use as a tool for close dating. Unfortunately only a small portion of this phase was dug. It is for instance, not known whether the central feature (14) represents an earlier building round which the motte was piled, or a structure built into the top of the mound. The difficulties are compounded because there was so little time to investigate the pre-mound occupation. The most easily datable, pre-13th century artefacts occur as residual material in phase 3. However, they do offer a guide to the length of time that the site was occupied. It might be tempting to say that the late 11th century animal head finial gives a date by

which the site was occupied. Although, as has been said, the pottery from phase 2 is not closely datable, the general forms suggest a production date of the late 11th or early 12th century when compared with other regions. As not enough of the pre-motte ground surface was excavated to judge the nature of the occupation, it cannot be certain that prior to the construction of the castle the site was not already occupied by an early manor house.

The features discovered under the motte present problems in both interpretation and dating. Whilst there is obviously some occupation under the motte, as discussed above its nature, extent and date cannot be reliably postulated on the evidence we have. Although it would make an interesting sequence of occupation if the motte had been constructed over, and possibly around, an earlier manor house, there is only very limited evidence available. There is some early pottery from this phase, but generally the quantity recovered is not sufficient to interpret the presence of any occupation immediately prior to the construction of the motte being very intensive. Again it must be stressed that a very small sample is being dealt with.

The sequence of occupation therefore is as follows: a manor house was built (possibly at the end of the 11th century) over an earlier occupation site. This house was constructed in accordance with the normal motte and bailey plan. On the excavated evidence it is not possible to ascertain how strong the defences of the castle were: this would be dependent on knowing if the motte was revetted and how high the central building was. It would seem likely though that the castle was constructed more for a show of strength, than with a serious intention to defend. This house was used until the end of the 12th century (possibly being enlarged during its occupation by extending the motte, phase 3a) when it was abandoned in favour of a new position, probably due to pressures of fashion rather than any inherent disadvantages in the site. After some years the disused motte was increased in height (layer 4) and some form of agricultural building constructed.

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The report was prepared at the request of the excavator, and with his assistance, by members of Bedfordshire County Council

Planning Department's Archaeological Field Team. The post-excavator research design was undertaken by Evelyn Baker, who has also edited the report. The work was funded by English Heritage.

The finds, excavation record and post-excavation documentation have been deposited in Luton Museum.

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The Excavation and Conservation of a Knife and Shears Set from Grove Priory, Bedfordshire

KAREN WEBSTER

SUMMARY

Routine X-ray of the iron finds from Grove Priory revealed this unusual and rare object. Conservation, X-raying and analysis showed it to consist of two knives and a pair of shears inside a leather box scabbard.

The knives have a most unusual handle construction, consisting of a very short iron scale tang, secured by one rivet, into a slot at the end of the decorative gunmetal component which acts itself as a scale tang for the fixing of alternate bone and ?horn panels. Both functional and decorative rivets are present on the handle.

The knife blades have inlaid makers marks. The scabbard has internal compartments of leather and has crude decoration of incised lines on the exterior of the shears compartment.

INTRODUCTION

Rescue excavation by Evelyn Baker for Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Archaeological Field Team took place in advance of sand extraction on the site of Grove Priory near Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

Grove Priory was a royal manor first documented in Domesday. As the royal manor of Leighton it was given to the Abbey of Fontevrault in 1164 by Henry II. It was one of only six alien houses of the order in England; not only was the manor exploited so as to send money to Fontevrault, but it appeared to be used by the king as if it were still his own. It reverted to a royal manor at around 1300, being in the hands of Mary of Woodstock (daughter of Edward I and herself a nun of Fontevrault) and then Maud of Lancaster. The last royal Lady of the Manor was Princess Cecily, mother of Edward IV, when the demesne block was separated from the rest of the manor in 1480. After that the site went into decline, with the focus of the manor shifting to a nearby site; the medieval buildings appear to have been partially in use until the early 17th century.

The knife and shears set was one of several hundred iron objects recovered from the site during thirteen years of excavation. Preliminary post excavation work (full analysis is in progress) places

the set in a small garden or courtyard within the main domestic and administrative area. (Fig 1.)

CONDITION BEFORE CONSERVATION

What was apparently one object was routinely X-rayed before conservation during 1985-6. It soon became apparent that it was unique amongst the finds from the site; the author is not aware of parallels for it from other sites.

EXAMINATION AND CONSERVATION

When the object arrived at the laboratory it was mostly covered with heavy concretions of soil and corrosion. (Plate 1.) Where concretions were

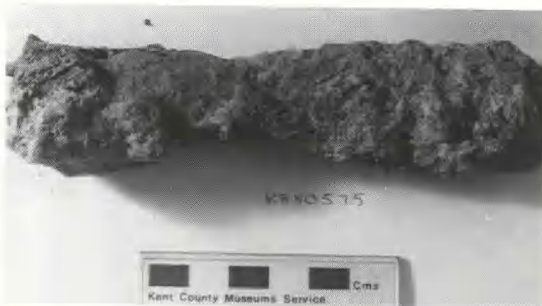


Plate 1 Before conservation (side view)

absent, traces of bone, copper alloy handle and rivets were visible. The concretions appeared to contain brown, powdery material thought to be mineralised organic material, perhaps leather. Incorporated into the concretions were the mineralised remains of many insect larval cases.

Visual examination revealed little information about the object, other than the presence of iron and copper corrosion products; the general shape though, suggested a knife of some sort. Initial X-raying showed the object to consist of two scale tang knives with another object laying on the backs of the

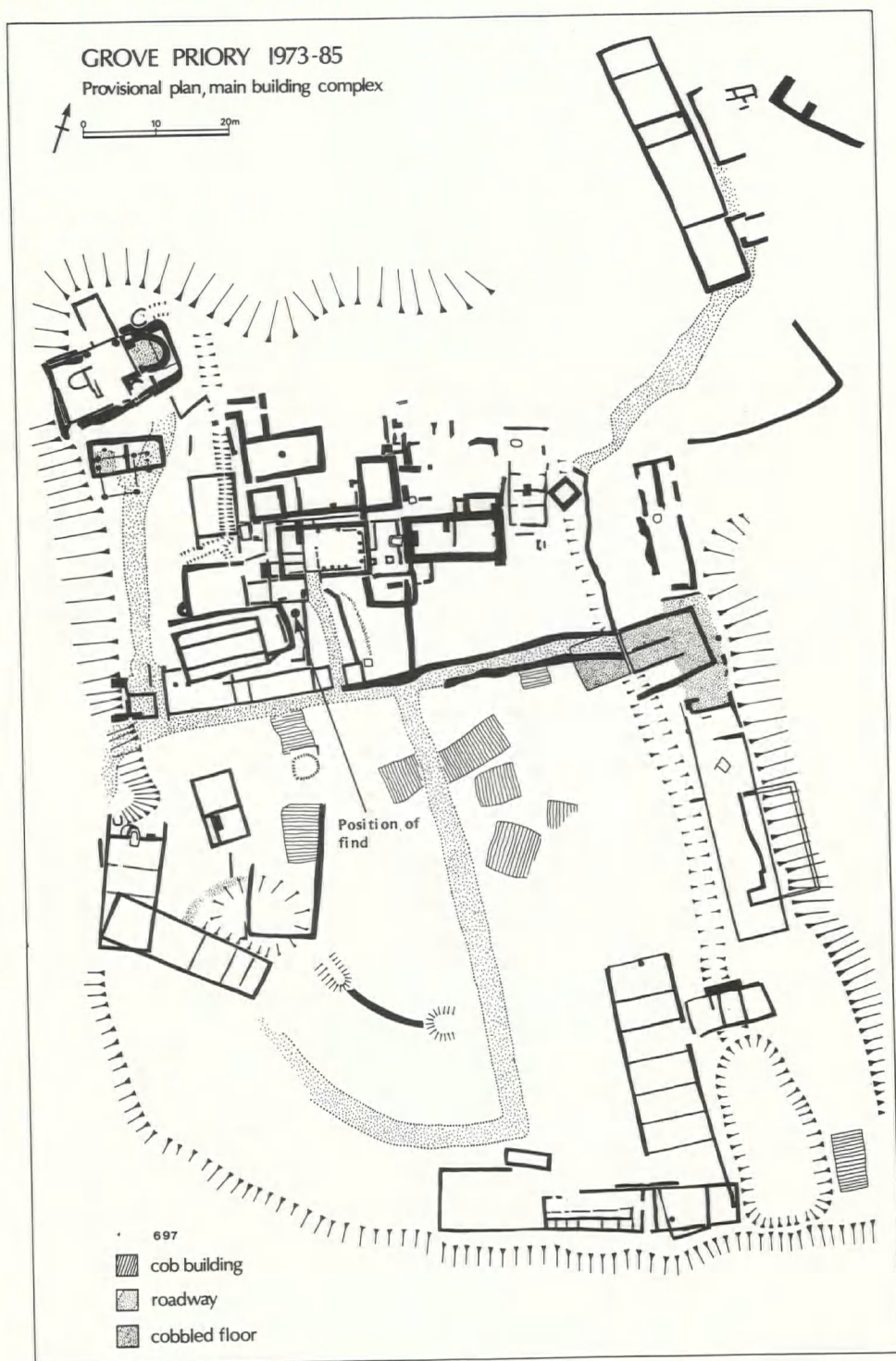


Fig 1 The position of the object within the buildings and earthwork plan; Grove Priory alias the royal manor of Leighton

knife blades. Further X-raying from a variety of directions and at different exposures was done, and stereoscopic X-ray images were obtained, helping to clarify many features which had been difficult to interpret.

After X-raying, the compact soil layer was removed mechanically with scalpel and soft brush whilst viewing with a low power binocular microscope. This exposed large areas of mineralised leather, with part of the knife handles protruding.



Plate 2 After conservation (side view)



Plate 3 After conservation (side view)

The visible copper alloy component of the handles was cleaned lightly with a scalpel.

No further cleaning, for example of the iron blades, was possible due to the extensive covering of leather. Similarly no stabilisation procedures were attempted, and lacquering or consolidation was considered unnecessary and inappropriate, since this might hinder future investigative work.

The copper alloy handles were qualitatively analysed using energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence analysis,¹ a non destructive technique. This was undertaken by Dr P. Wilthew of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, London.

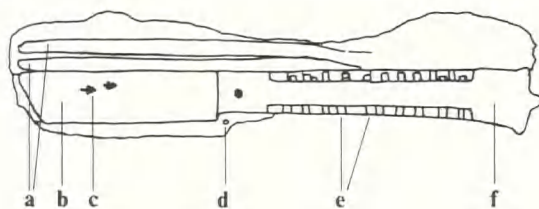


Fig 2 Details visible on X-ray no KCMS 954 (side view)
(a) iron shear blades
(b) iron knife blades, two superimposed
(c) inlaid maker's marks
(d) "starburst" pattern on scabbard
(e) copper/copper alloy rivets
(f) gunmetal "tangs" (two superimposed)

THE OBJECT

The combination of cleaning, X-ray examination and analysis led to the retrieval of considerable information about the object, much of which is not apparent by visual examination alone.

The object as a whole consists of a decorated leather box scabbard with internal leather compartments housing two apparently identical knives and a small pair of shears. The scabbard and contents are incomplete, with the ends of the blades and scabbard missing.

THE KNIVES

The two knives appear to be identical in all respects and therefore the following description applies to both.

The blade: The blade is of iron with approximately parallel edges, having a blade depth of 13-14 mm.

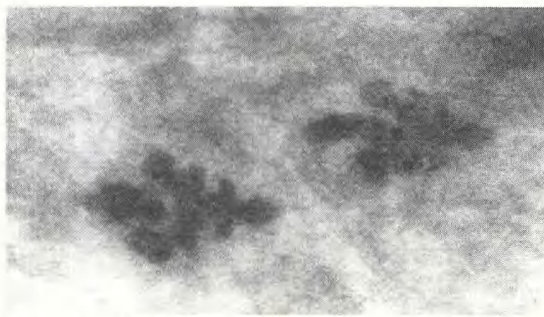


Plate 4 Inlaid maker's marks. Direct enlargement using X-ray KCMS 941 as the negative. Length of mark 4 mm

The existing blade length is approximately 51 mm (measurements taken from X-ray images) but is incomplete. The general style of the knife suggests the original blade length was considerably more.

Makers marks: Two similar makers marks are visible on the X-ray plates. Stereoscope pairs of X-ray images indicate one mark on each knife blade. The marks are inlaid, fleur-de-lys,² probably of a tin-based alloy³ and thought to be on the "mark side" of the blade.⁴

The iron tang: From the blade extends an iron scale tang 8 mm long which is secured into a slot in the end of the copper alloy handle by one rivet.

The handle: The handle construction is most unusual, consisting of a copper alloy component acting as a scale tang but in the plane at right angles to a conventional scale tang. *i.e.* the organic panels are rivetted to the top and bottom of the tang, rather than the sides. (Figs 3 and 4.) This "tang is

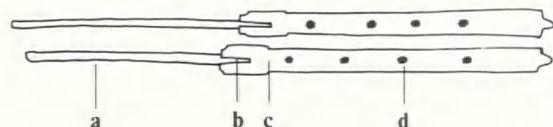


Fig 3 Detail of knives visible on X-ray (KCMS 950 and 943) from above:
(a) iron blade
(b) true iron tang
(c) gunmetal "tang"
(d) functional copper/copper alloy rivets

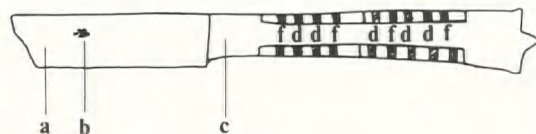


Fig 4 Detail of knife drawn from X-ray (K. 941), side view
(a) iron blade
(b) maker's mark
(c) gunmetal "tang"
(d) decorative rivets
(f) functional rivets

considerably thicker than conventional scale tangs and the amount visible between the organic panels increases the decorative effect.

The ends of the "tang" widen to give the effect of shoulder plate and end plate. The "end plate" has leaf-shaped decorative recesses but surviving surface detail is poor due to the nature of the corrosion products present.

Some X-ray images suggest that the "end plate" may be perforated, perhaps to allow for a cord or chain to be attached. X-ray fluorescence analysis shows the copper alloy "tang" to be of gunmetal (copper-zinc-tin alloy). A trace of lead was also detected.

Rivets: Nine copper or copper alloy rivets are present along each side of the gunmetal "tang". These appear to be solid, rather than hollow. The X-ray images suggest that only four of the nine rivets are functional *i.e.* pass into the "tang". The remainder are hammered into the organic panels for decorative effect (Figs 5 and 6).

Organic Panels: X-ray and visual examination indicate that the handle originally consisted of four panels of organic material rivetted on to the gunmetal "tang", two on the top, and two on the underside. Diagonally opposite panels are of the same material (Figs 5 and 6).

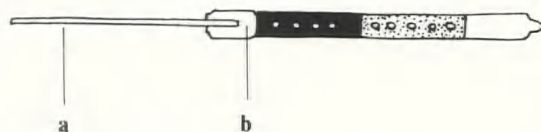


Fig 5 Handle reconstruction from above
(a) iron blade
(b) gunmetal "tang"
bone
? horn

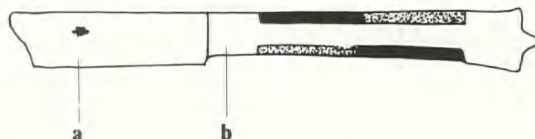


Fig 6 Handle reconstruction, side view
(a) iron blade
(b) gunmetal "tang"

The best preserved panels are of bone⁵ which has become stained due to contact with copper corrosion products. The other panels have not survived burial well. Slight traces, only, are left *e.g.* around the rivets. The traces have a layered, rather than fibrous, structure and are black with localised lustrous patches. The colours visible may be original or due to decomposition products. The original surface, or an impression of it, may be visible in the copper corrosion products between the two knife handles. The condition of the traces did not allow positive identification but the general structure and features visible suggest horn.⁶

Fibres: Between the "end plates" were found traces of creamy colour fibres. These were examined and identified as being of silk.⁷ Their presence may be intentional, *e.g.* indicating the remains of a cord, or may be the result of accidental contact during use or burial.

THE SHEARS

Interpretation of the object lying on the knife backs was difficult due to its high degree of mineralisation and the fact that images of all the objects in the scabbard were superimposed on the X-ray plates. However, stereoscopic pairs of X-ray plates suggest the object to be simple shears⁸ (rather than scissors). The blade length is approximately 75 mm but the blades may be incomplete. The maximum width of blade (calculated from the width of the scabbard compartment opening) did not exceed 17 mm.

It is not possible to determine how the blades overlap but the tendency, generally is for the left blade to overlap the right.⁹

The X-ray detail visible for the bow area is very poor due to the condition of the object. The shaping of the scabbard by the shears compartment opening suggests that the bow, at least in part, projected from the compartment and rested on a leather strip. This would facilitate access. The bow has only partially survived burial. There is a curved area of iron corrosion near the shears compartment opening which may be part of the bow or may be mineralised leather (perhaps a thong?) (Fig 7).

THE SCABBARD

The condition of the scabbard is very poor, particularly around the knife blades and shear blades due to disruption by iron corrosion products. It is missing from the underside of the knife handles.

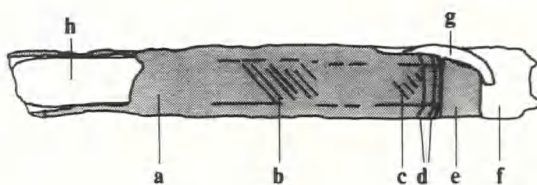


Fig 7 Details of leather scabbard from above
(a) scabbard
(b)
(c) parallel decorative incised lines
(d)
(e) leather strip (? for shears bow to rest on)
(f) knife handle terminals
(g) iron corrosion (?? remains of shear bow or ?? heavily mineralised leather thong)
(h) Shears blade covered with fibres from flesh side of leather (grain side of leather missing)

It is, however, possible to ascertain the following: The scabbard is of leather with the grain side on the outside. It has internal compartments of leather so that there is a layer of leather between the two knives and between the shears and the knives. It has definite box-like shaping near the mouth (perhaps it was treated to retain this shape *e.g.* cuir boilli). The mouth has been shaped to allow the knife handle terminals and shears bow to project. It is, at least in part, crudely decorated by parallel incised lines. This decoration appears to be confined to the shears compartment (Figs 7 and 8).

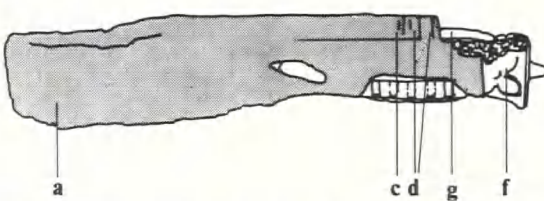


Fig 8 Details of leather scabbard, side view
(key as for Fig 7)

One small unexplained feature was noticed on X-ray plate KCMS 954.¹⁰ At the bottom edge of the scabbard is a bright "starburst" pattern approximately 1.5 mm diam. The image is whiter than the surrounding area, indicating it is caused by a more dense material or by a thicker layer of material. It may be an accidental pattern caused by corrosion



Plate 5 "Starburst" pattern on scabbard. Direct enlargement using X-ray KCMS 954 as the negative. Actual diameter: approx 1.5 mm.

processes or perhaps is the remains of decoration, e.g. paint traces retained in recesses in the leather. It is only visible on MX film (Fig 2, Pl 5) and Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 94/87.

Jane Cowgill has commented as follows: "There are only a few examples, in the Museum of London, of leather box scabbards, and they have fewer internal compartments than this one. They usually have five sides and one seam at the back. The seam on this example would probably be by the cutting edge of the knife blades, but the object is too deteriorated in this area to see any stitching. It is likely that the leather was originally painted, although this may not be detectable now."

DISCUSSION

DATING

The general style of the knives — the blade shape and length, the decorative scale tang and terminal — strongly suggests a late 14th century date. The examples of fleur-de-lys makers marks at the Museum of London are dated 1360-1400. The shears are of a type which are commonly found in the late 14th century.¹¹

The style of the knives and their very decorative nature suggests a date of late 14th or possibly early 15th century.¹² There are no parallels in the British Museum. The nearest examples, with respect to knife handle construction, are two knives which

have iron scale tangs in the same plane as the gunmetal "tang" in this example.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

This form of knife construction gives a very decorative knife, but one which, due to its relatively short iron tang held only by one rivet, seems likely to be inherently weak.¹³

Shears of this size are thought to be held in the palm of the hand and operated by combined action of finger and thumb. They are generally thought to be suitable for making single exact cuts, rather than for continuous cutting. It is suggested that such shears may represent the development of needle-point or sewing shears.¹⁴

The overall impression this find gives is of a highly decorative knife and shears set which may have been a gift for a lady to use on special occasions, or perhaps for cosmetic or toiletry use.¹⁵

NOTES

- 1 Ancient Monuments Laboratory analysis reference no: PTW 7/1/86. The method used was X-ray fluorescence analysis which is a non-destructive technique for qualitative surface analysis.

The area for analysis is irradiated with X-rays. This causes the atoms on the surface of the object to release energy in the form of further X-rays, known as secondary or fluorescent X-rays. Each element produces different, characteristic wavelengths of secondary X-rays, and it is therefore possible to determine the elements present.

By measuring the intensity of the secondary X-rays of a particular wavelength, an estimate can be made of the amount

- of that element present. For detailed quantitative analysis, other methods are necessary.
- 2 Jane Cowgill, Museum of London, verbal report.
 - 3 The author has conserved 21 other knives with makers marks from this site. Inlaid marks have been analysed by X-ray fluorescence. From experience of comparing the density of X-ray images and the later analysis results, the author feels strongly that in this instance the density of the X-rays image suggests a tin-based alloy (rather than copper or silver) for the mark.
 - 4 All the knives in 3 had their marks on the "mark side" of the blade, *i.e.* the left-hand side of the blade when the knife is held with the handle towards the holder. It is thought likely that this is the case here.
 - 5 Identification by Jacqui Watson, Ancient Monuments Laboratory, London, personal communication.
 - 6 Identification by Jacqui Watson, verbal report.
 - 7 Identification by Glynis Edwards, Ancient Monuments Laboratory, London, verbal report.
 - 8 Dr Barry Knight, Ancient Monuments Laboratory, verbal report.
 - 9 Jane Cowgill, verbal report.
 - 10 KCMS X-ray No. 954. Mx film. 70kv/1.0 min and 80kv/1.0 min.
 - 11 Jane Cowgill, verbal report.
 - 12 John Cherry, British Museum, verbal report.
 - 13 Jane Cowgill and John Cherry, verbal report.
 - 14 Jane Cowgill, verbal report.
 - 15 John Cherry, verbal report.
 - 16 For details of X-ray, and photographic programmes see Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report No. 94/87 by K. Webster.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the staff of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory for their help with analysis and identification of organic traces. My thanks also to Jane Cowgill and John Cherry for their most useful comments on the find.

Evelyn Baker provided information about the site and provided the site plan.

The object (small find 697, context GP 78/XIII/398/3) is presently in the care of Bedfordshire County Council. When post excavation analysis has been completed it will go with all other finds and records to Luton Museum as the gift of the landowners, the Church Commissioners.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to the Planning Department, Bedfordshire County Council, for the grant to publish this paper.

Sutton Packhorse Bridge

PETER McKEAGUE

SUMMARY

The late medieval packhorse bridge at Sutton was recorded during 1986 in conjunction with a repair scheme by the Bedfordshire County Surveyor's Department. Stone-for-stone analysis of the structure revealed several alterations to the bridge during its history. An original timber construction raft was identified.

INTRODUCTION

Sutton packhorse bridge, crossing the Potton brook, stands immediately north of the ford (Plate 1a) in Sutton High Street at TL 2206 4741. Both are still in everyday use; the ford for vehicular traffic, and the bridge for pedestrians. Indeed they link the parish church to the main area of village settlement. The principal users are mainly local since the village is situated away from the main roads in a quiet part of eastern Bedfordshire.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Little is known about the bridge's history: it was first mentioned in a will of 1504 when Thomas Loffe of Sutton left 3s 4d towards its upkeep.¹ In 1540, John Burgoyne bequeathed 40s towards repairs, "if it be not delivered to the same use before I depart this transitory lyff".² Such bequests, both large and small, are a fairly typical occurrence in the later 15th and 16th centuries. From 1711, funds were set aside from the newly established John and Constance Burgoyne Charity, for the maintenance of both church and bridge.³ The bridge remained under the care of the Charity until 1941 when the County Council assumed responsibility.⁴

Despite the paucity of documentary evidence outlined above, some tentative observations may be made about the earlier history of the bridge. In 1530/1 an Act of Parliament⁵ was passed establishing county liability for any bridges for which nobody was otherwise held responsible. This act applied to bridges on the highway outside towns, and though Sutton is only a footbridge by the present roadside, in the 16th century road and bridge may not have been differentiated. Had maintenance of the bridge been ill-defined at that time the county would have

been obliged to repair it. Similarly, if responsibility had rested with the church (as opposed to Parish), the County may have eventually become liable. Therefore, either the Parish or an individual were most probably responsible for its upkeep. Given the nature and quality of the stonework, and discounting a church involvement, a manorial involvement is strongly suggested for, at least, the initial construction. Certainly the Burgoynes, who held the Manor from 1540, and were tenants from 1516,⁶ maintained an interest in its upkeep, and occasionally mentioned the bridge in their wills. Such acts of generosity benefited the parish as a whole and were regularised with the establishment of the Charity in 1711.

DESCRIPTION (Plates 1-3) (Fig 1)

The bridge is of a fairly simple design with the approaches set at an angle to the crossing point (Fig 1). It is about 40 m (or 131 ft) long, and the approaches are 3.5 m wide (11 ft 5 ins) or 2.80 m (9 ft 2 ins) between the parapets. Over the stream, the width narrows to 2.30 m (7 ft 6 ins) or 1.9 m (6 ft 3 ins) between the parapets. Two pointed arches, each 3.00 m (9 ft 10 ins) high, with a span of 3.00 m (9 ft 10 ins), spring from the central pier which is 1.4 m (4 ft 7 ins) thick and has a triangular cutwater extending upstream into the flow of the water. Both abutments are similarly protected by splayed wall faces. Each of these features is carried up to parapet height, the cutwater forming a pedestrian refuge. There are no corresponding features on the downstream elevation.

THE STONEWORK (Figs 2-4)

The County Surveyor's Department commissioned a full set of photogrammetric drawings, enabling an intensive survey of the fabric to be carried out. These drawings were first checked in the field; a number of alterations were made, principally where vegetation growth had obscured the true nature of the stonework. The amended drawings provided a full and detailed record of the condition of the bridge prior to the commencement of the repair programme. This record was supplemented by



Plate 1 South elevation, Sutton packhorse bridge from the south east, 1969

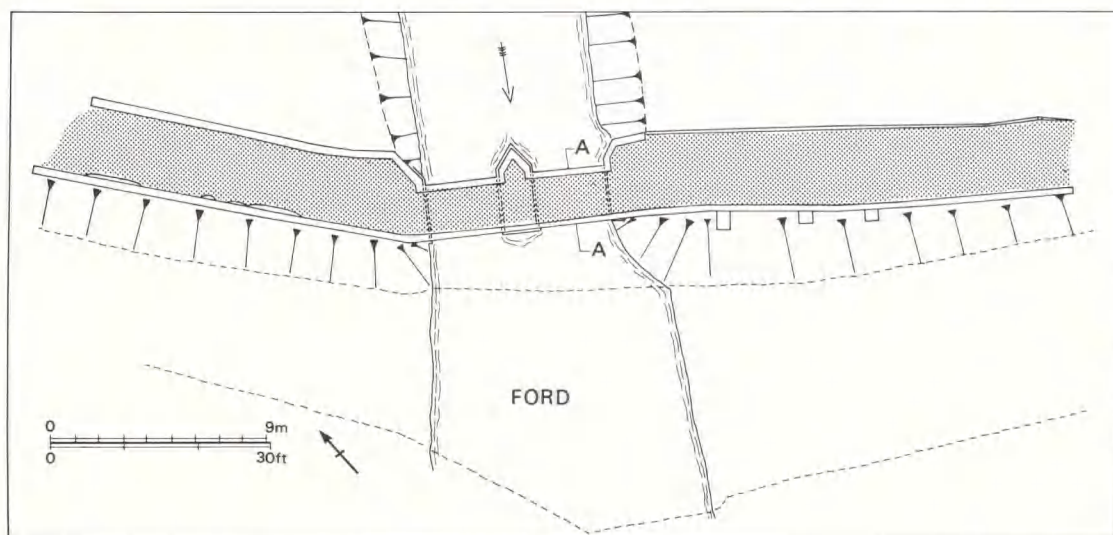


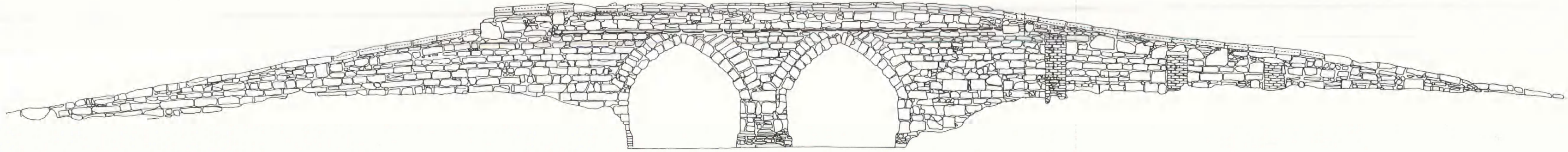
Fig 1 Ground plan of Sutton packhorse bridge and ford



Plate 2 North elevation, Sutton packhorse bridge from the north west, after repairs 1986

Plate 3 Sutton packhorse bridge from the east, view along the path towards Church End





SOUTH ELEVATION

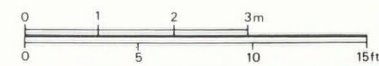
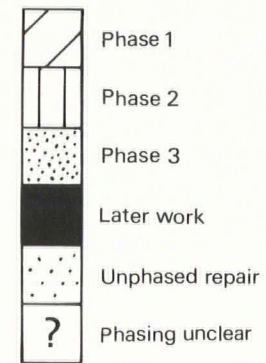
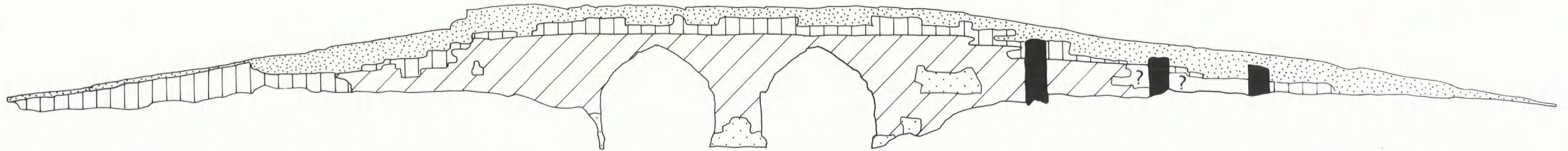
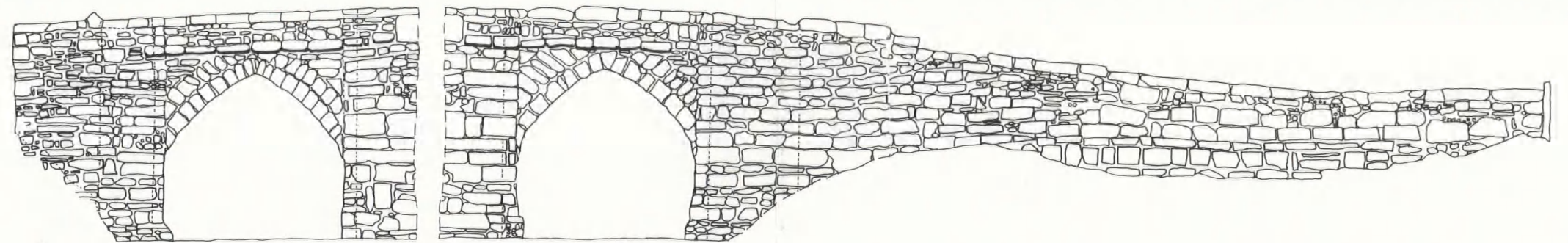


Fig 2 Stone for stone record of south elevation of bridge and phases



NORTH ELEVATION

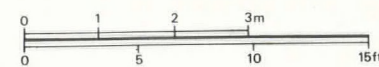
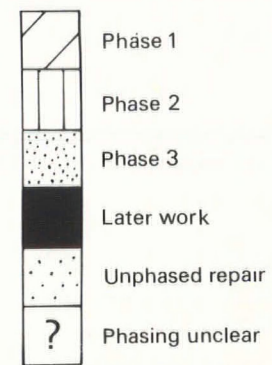
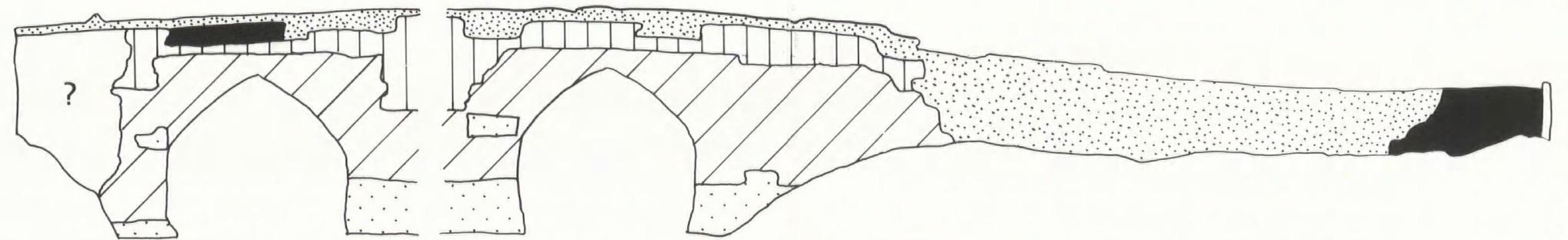


Fig 3 Stone for stone record of north elevation of bridge and phases



Plate 4 Elm raft, west arch from south, 1986

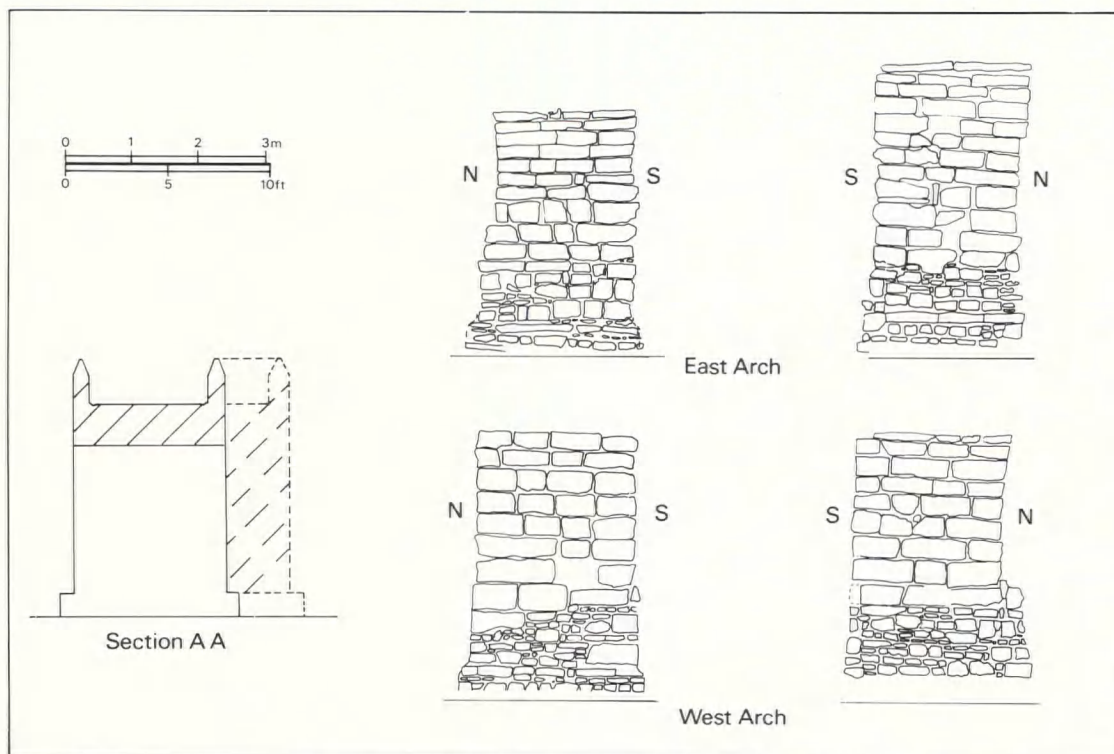


Fig 4 Cross section of bridge and stone for stone record of unfolded arch soffits

detailed recording of specific architectural features and every definable variation in the fabric. By treating the elevation record as a stratigraphic sequence, the development of the bridge could be unravelled.

The stonework is generally of high quality. It is of dressed golden brown sandstone laid in regular, level courses decreasing in thickness towards the top of the bridge. The grain of the rock is laid parallel to the coursing except in the voussoirs when it was set at right angles to the arch ring. Stonework replacement revealed more dressed sandstone behind the facing stones. The bridge was, therefore, of a very solid construction with little room for an earthen core. A duller brown sandstone was observed principally in the parapets and wing walls, the latter also containing several large blocks of limestone ashlar.

THE ARCHES (Plate 4) (Fig 4)

Inspection of the arch soffits shows that they are of one build, in dressed sandstone. The blocks are laid in courses progressively decreasing in thickness towards the crown of the soffit. At the abutments, the spring of the arch lies between two courses, whereas at the central pier, the arch springs from the middle of a course. Immediately above the water line there is a shallow limestone plinth which appears to be a later replacement. There are a variety of moulded stones incorporated into this work.

RESTORATION PROGRAMME

During 1986 the Bedfordshire County Surveyor's Department, undertook major repairs to the bridge. The supervising engineer was John Slinn, and the contractors Rattee and Kett Ltd. As the bridge is scheduled as an ancient monument the work was carried out under a Scheduled Monument Consent; English Heritage supplied specialist advice as to repair methods necessary to retain the bridge's historic character. The recording and ancillary excavation work was carried out by the author for Bedfordshire County Planning Department's Conservation and Archaeology Section, funded by English Heritage.

The proposed repair programme affected two distinct areas of potential archaeological interest. Work on the stream bed was likely to expose and then destroy evidence of the nature of the bridge foundations. Repairs to the masonry required detailed recording of character changes within the

fabric. These observations formed the basis of an interpretative account of the bridge.

STONWORK REPLACEMENT (Fig 5)

Stone replacement was in Clophill sandstone. The extent of replacement work was recorded (Fig 5) as part of the site management record. The south elevation was much more badly weathered than the north, and this is where most of the stonework replacement occurred. Significantly almost all of the new stone is concentrated within the lower and older parts of the bridge. Such a distribution reflects either the age and/or strength of that sandstone in relation to the surrounding work or the use of a stronger pointing (more probably repointing) than stone. In either case the distribution of replacement stone can be seen directly to reflect the oldest parts of the bridge.

Worn stones were cut out and replaced on a stone for stone basis. In some instances, notably the soffit stones, part of the stone was sound and only the weathered areas were cut away and replaced. In some areas where either poor repairs or patching was cut out it was possible to identify the character of the original stonework behind it; in such cases the form of the original stonework was reproduced in the new repair.

Two areas (at the east and west end of the north elevation) had to be taken down and rebuilt due to structural instability. In both cases the original stone was reused where possible and any new stone was cut to size. Additionally a new retaining wall was built for the north side of the east approach ramp and a drain inserted to remove surface water from the bridge.

THE FOOTINGS (Fig 6)

Settlement of the footings had caused structural weaknesses to the bridge, most notably cracks to the east abutment. These were rectified by the excavation of the stream bed, the insertion of concrete rafts, and the underpinning of the pier and abutments with engineering bricks faced with stone. This work involved the removal of a series of timbers lying in the stream bed; these were badly decayed, particularly under the east abutment, presumably encouraging the differential settlement of the bridge. When first noted in 1982 by a Bridge Inspector, it was thought that these timbers were a later insertion, associated with earlier repairs to the pier and abutments.

Excavation of the stream bed was carried out under one arch at a time. Using a Bobcat mechanical

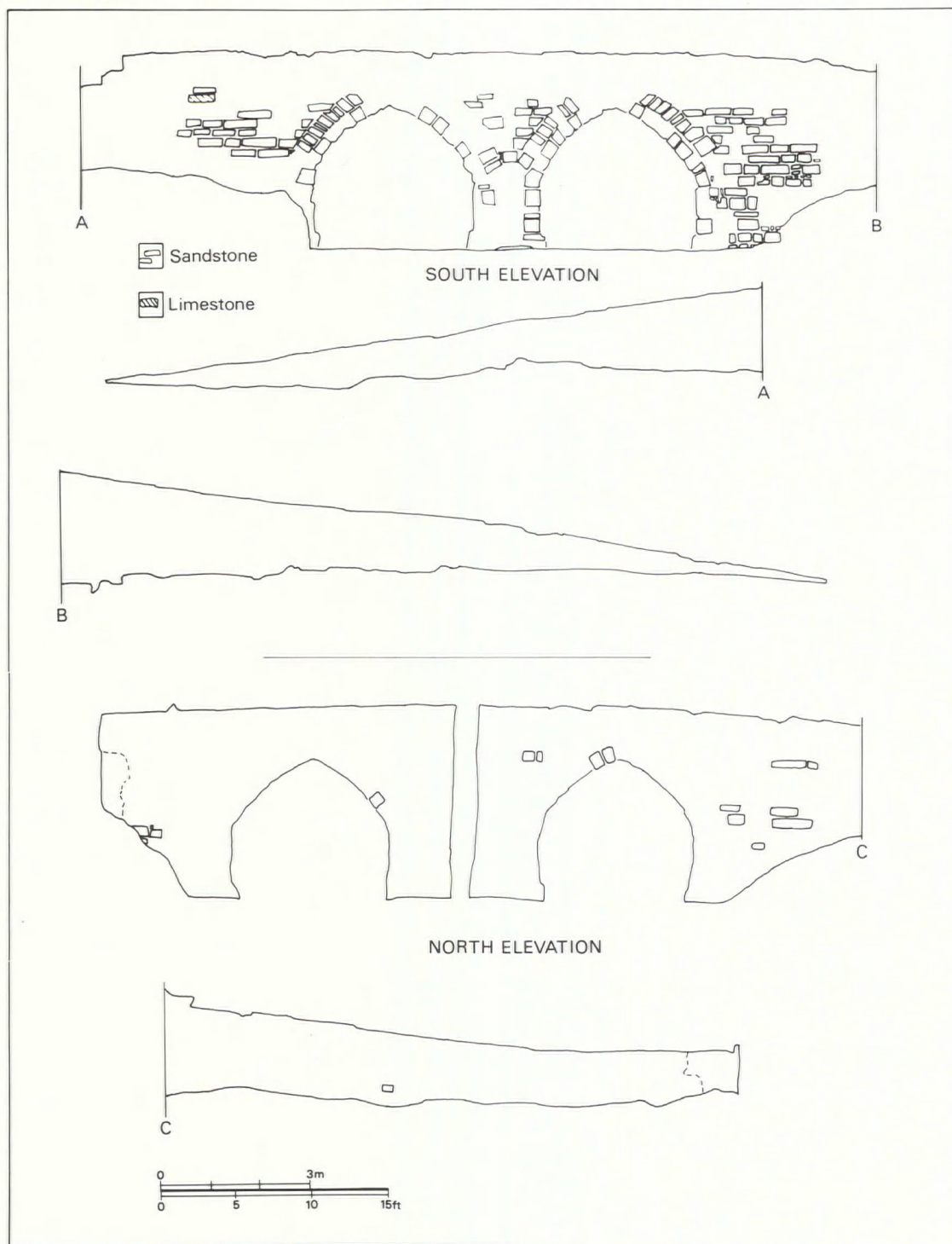


Fig 5 Stone replacement record south and north elevations

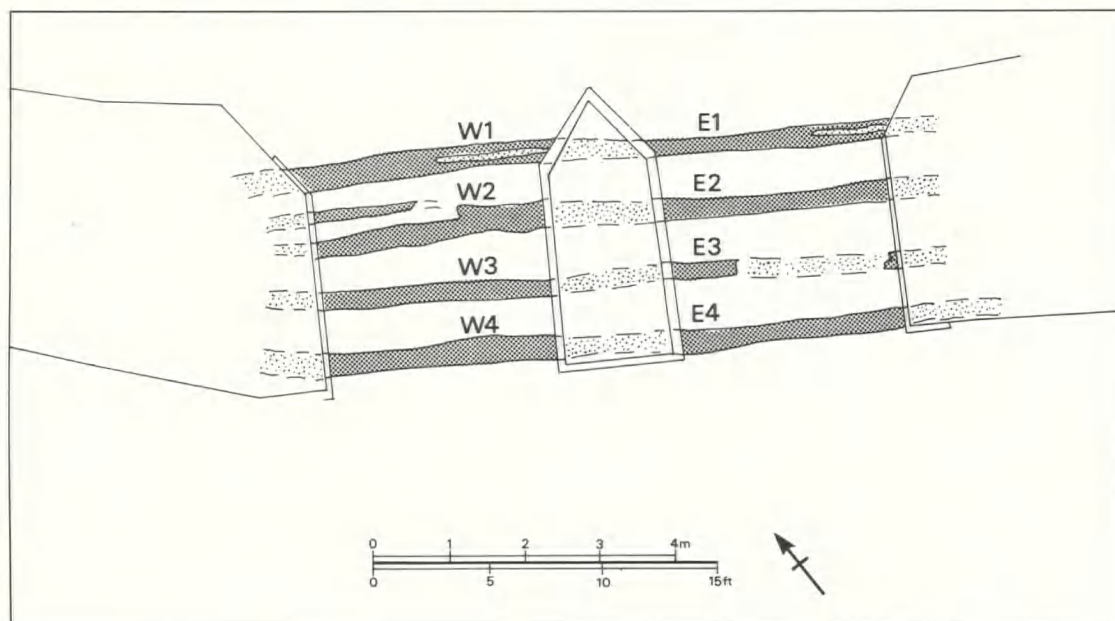


Fig 6 Elm foundation raft

digger, the compacted stream bed was removed from between the timbers thus exposing them (Fig 6) (Plate 4). There were four elm beams⁷ under each arch: although not excavated completely below the central pier it became apparent that they were continuous timbers from the east to the west abutment. The cross sections of timbers E1 and W1 (the most northerly timber under each arch) were very distinctive. The timbers had been squared and halved, and laid across the stream with the centre facing up. In both cases the soft pith was absent from the upper surface. Although none of the other timbers could be shown to match up so conclusively, it seems that the raft was most probably original to the bridge, and could not have been inserted at a later date to support the foundations. There was little to indicate reuse of the timber. Only E/W1 showed any signs of preparation. Most of the timbers still had vestiges of the soft sapwood and bark adhering, and the stubs where small branches had been chopped off could be seen. Indeed one timber, W2, retained a branch which extended under the west abutment. There is therefore the strong likelihood that the wood was cut specifically for the timber raft and not reused from elsewhere. The timbers rested upon a layer of small stones set in an orangey silty clay. A brass binding strip came from this layer. This is turn sealed a thin 0.10 m

band of dark silts overlying the soft greensand stream bed. A second find, a lead alloy badge, was recovered by a metal detector user outside working hours. It was reported to have come from excavated silts but a clear association with the bridge cannot be proved.

STRUCTURAL SEQUENCE (Figs 2, 3, and 7) PHASE I (Figs 2, 3, and 7a)

Outcrops of sandstone occur in the stream bed immediately downstream of the ford, but only soft greensand was seen in the contractor's trenches below the bridge. Given the soft nature of the stream bed at this point, the need to create a solid foundation was paramount. Two things were done. Firstly a tightly compacted layer was put down on top of the natural stream silts: this created a more or less level surface. Then the timbers were laid down across the flow of the stream creating a stable surface to distribute the weight of the superstructure more evenly over the stream bed. Elm wood was used for each beam, presumably for its waterproof qualities. There was no evidence of vertical piles beneath the horizontal timbers nor of any cross braces. This is probably because vertical piles would have been difficult to drive in due to the nature of the bedrock.

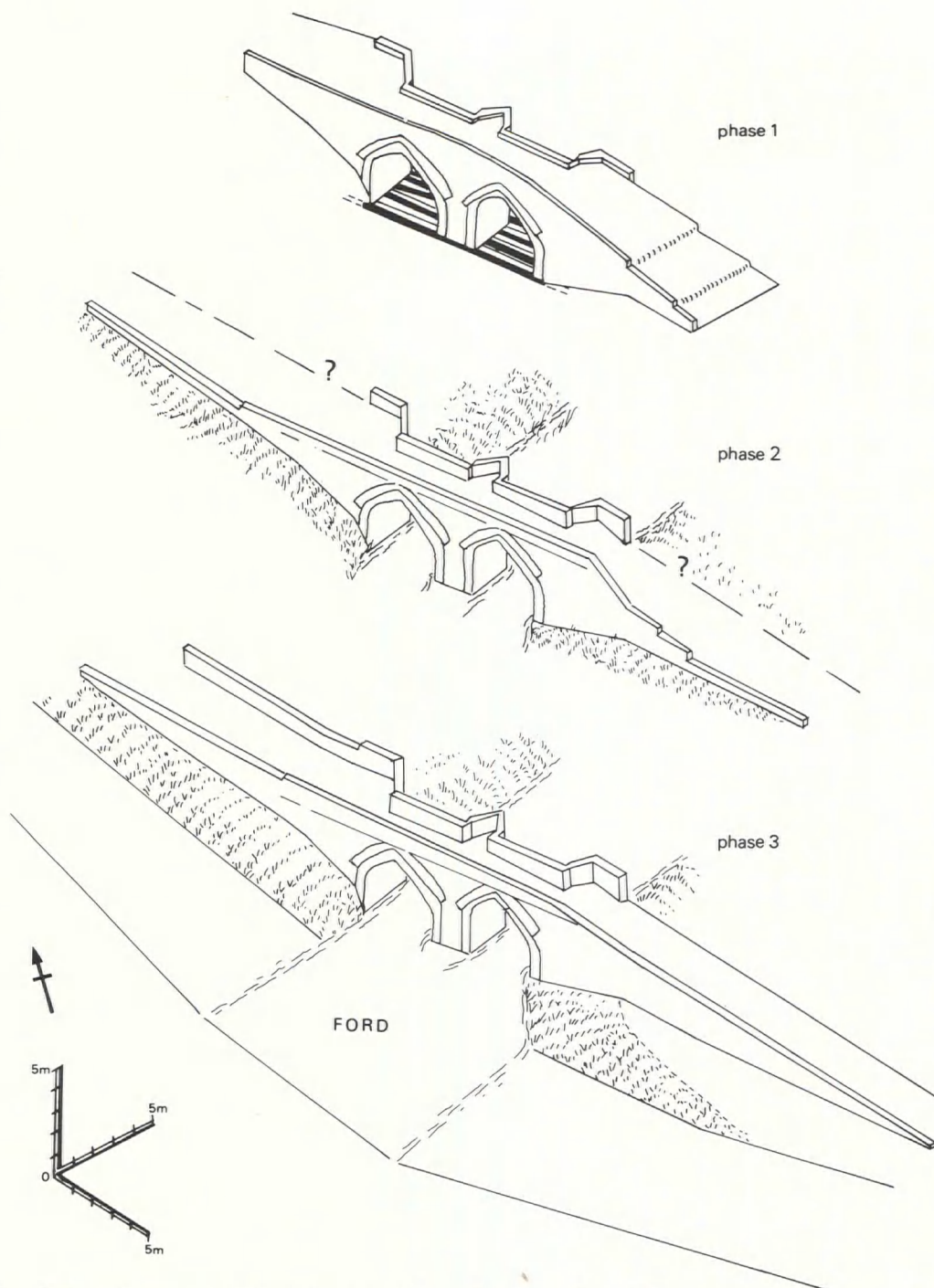


Fig 7 Isometric reconstructions showing the development of the bridge

Very little has previously been recorded about the foundations of narrow foot or packhorse bridges, but it is to be expected that they would be less substantial than but similar to those of major river bridges. The simple raft is an unusual form of bridge foundation. Larger bridges were normally founded on piles, though in tidal waters such as around medieval London bridge and Berwick bridge,⁸ piers rested on starlings; these were artificial platforms created by driving piles into the soft river bed, forming a crib which was then infilled with rubble to above water level. The island was then planked over to create a building platform for the piers. Sometimes piers were founded upon horizontally laid timbers by cross braces called branders or gratings, rather than on piles. This method of construction was frequently used from the later medieval period; dated examples are known from the old Brig of Ayr (1491), and the bridge of Dee, Aberdeen (1520-7).⁹ There is likewise no obvious similarity between the minor timber bridges discussed by Rigold¹⁰ and the Sutton raft. Without exception these timber bridges rested upon piles or, more usually, transverse trestle supports. Occasionally these foundations were strengthened by longitudinal sole-plates but there were no examples where they formed the primary support since the principal thrust was always through the transverse plane. Conversely, the Sutton raft provided a solid, level building platform redistributing the weight of the masonry above over the whole stream bed.

The simplicity of the Sutton raft argues for a local and expedient solution to a particular problem. The proper significance of the raft can only be assessed once a more representative sample of foot or packhorse bridges has been examined.

The evidence from the bridge foundations is critical to the dating of the bridge's construction. A 14th century date has previously been suggested, based on the character of the pointed arches.¹¹ The brass binding strip from immediately below the raft would suggest an 11th-13th century *terminus post quem* (see Finds Report below) for laying down the foundation. Two samples from the timber raft were submitted for radiocarbon determinations. Results support a 13th century date for felling of the timber and its subsequent use in the construction of the bridge soon afterwards (see appendix).

When first constructed on the wooden raft, the bridge was much shorter than its present form. The earliest surviving stonework is the golden brown sandstone, seen in the arches, and in the abutments on both elevations. The stones were set in a soft

sandy mortar, and regularly coursed, decreasing in thickness towards the deck, from 0.40 m thick to less than 0.20 m. This is reflected in both soffits. Each arch was formed by a double order of dressed voussoirs. There is a chamfer on the lower order, but the chamfer stops are unrecognisable through weathering. The triangular cutwater rising against the north elevation is not tied into the fabric of the bridge above the springing line until the parapet. The butt joint so created is not, however, evidence that the upper courses of the cutwater were added later. Rather, it is simply that the cutwater could not be tied in structurally to the angled voussoirs it abutted.

During phase 1, the south elevation, facing onto the ford, was about half its present length, that is 20 m (65 ft 7 ins). There is little evidence that the north elevation extended beyond the abutments, where the stream is steeply embanked. Such a discrepancy in the length of the elevations reflects the need to support and retain the approach ramps of the bridge on the south side. The extended elevation also protected the ramp from flood water extending back over the low ground by the ford. In the earliest phase the pathway over the bridge was almost certainly higher than now. By projecting the curvature of the upper voussoir order to its full height and allowing for at least one additional stone-work course above, the height of the decking over the stream bed would have been just less than 4.00 m (13 ft 1 in). Given the shorter wing walls the approaches would have been steeper: in fact the bridge would have been hump backed. It is possible that the path was stepped, as the approaches are very short. At Moulton, Suffolk, the path over the 15th century packhorse bridge is stepped at the base of one of the approaches.¹² There is likely to have been little or no parapet or railing to the phase 1 work. Instead the road surface would either have extended to the sides of the bridge or would have been delimited by a low kerb. The absence of parapets to such bridges is not unusual: at Charwelton, Northants,¹³ there is a low kerb; whilst at Combe Bissett, Wilts,¹⁴ there is neither kerb nor parapet. At Moulton the parapet is slightly out of line from the main build and rises from the tops of the cutwaters; it would appear to be a later addition. The presence of a parapet rather than a kerb would have perhaps hindered packhorses. Woolpacks, for example, could have caught and torn open on the high sides of the bridge.

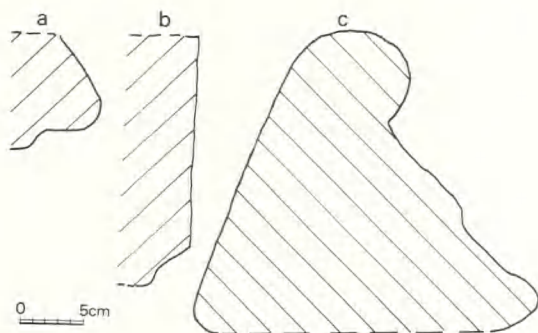


Fig 8 Profiles of stone mouldings from the bridge:
 (a) string course moulding from south face of bridge
 (b) string course moulding from north face of bridge
 (c) roll top moulded coping

PHASE 2 (Figs 2, 3, 7b, 8a, and b)

Substantial alterations are visible in the area of sandstone which is of a consistently darker hue, and the poorer quality than the original construction. The crowns of the upper voussoir order appear to have been truncated by the insertion of a moulded string course supporting a parapet above. On the south elevation, facing the ford, this was formed by a projection with a chamfered upper surface (Fig 8a). It extended over the stream to the top of the approach ramps but not beyond. On the north face the moulding was a much plainer concave chamfer (Fig 8b) and whereas on the south face the parapet had been recessed from the top edge of the string course, on the north face it rose straight from the upper edge of the moulding. The steepness of the approaches was lessened in phase 2 by dropping the height of the deck over the stream, and by extending the approach ramps. The wing walls on the south side of the bridge were extended. Upstream, the height of the stream banks were considered sufficient to protect the bridge and support the approach ramps.

PHASE 3 (Figs 2, 3, 7c, and 8c)

A second alteration is identified on the basis of the predominance of limestone ashlar in the build. It is seen to overlie the earlier extension (phase 2). The southern elevation was again slightly extended and built up, and most of the present north west wing wall was erected.

The parapets over the arches were also repaired at

some stage and capped with roll top moulded copings (Fig 8c). Some minor repairs in limestone may also be associated with these extensions, principally the addition of plinths to the abutment and pier bases, some work on the parapets, and the underpinning of the north east wing wall. The repair to the east abutment in the south elevation which incorporates fragments of a decorated stone is not however contemporary since it is set in a concrete based mortar. The brick buttresses on the south elevation, and a slight extension to the north west wing were added at a later date.

Tentative dating is only possible if it is assumed that the ashlar blocks were reused and locally available. The only identifiable source within the parish was Sutton Park House, which stood to the north west. It was partially redesigned in 1786, and again in 1824, before being destroyed by fire in the following year.¹⁵ Alternatively, ashlar repairs to the tower of All Saints Church in Sutton were carried out in 1686,¹⁶ and are very similar to the work done on the bridge and perhaps were done at the same time. Finally, it must not be discounted that phases 2 and 3 could be broadly contemporary. The separate phases are distinguished by the use of different stone but there remains the possibility that the bridge was only extended once. However, the nature of the postulated extensions allows for a two stage development.

THE FINDS

Metalwork (Fig 9)

1 Brass plated copper alloy strip, decorated with two groups of four sub-rectangular punched marks at the centre of the strip. The strip has slightly tapering rounded ends which are perforated. It is possibly a decorative binding strip, similar to examples from Cheddar¹⁷ 11th-12th century, and Baile Hill, York¹⁸ 12th-13th century.

92 mm long, 15 mm wide, 0.5 mm thick.

2 Crudely cast lead alloy badge, decorated with anthropomorphic representation of explicitly sexual nature on one surface only. Perhaps tied or fastened to something by a thin strip of organic binding which has left a slightly dark stain across the man's right leg. Lead and lead alloy badges were worn from the 13th century, at first these were mostly pilgrims badges. There were also secular badges, worn by retainers of wealthy families and guilds whilst badges as personal ornaments became popular in the 16th century. The Sutton badge probably belongs to this latter category. (Bedford Museum enquiry number 112.)

DISCUSSION

Precise parallels for Sutton packhorse bridge are hard to find. Design was dictated by availability of suitable building stone, and the width of the

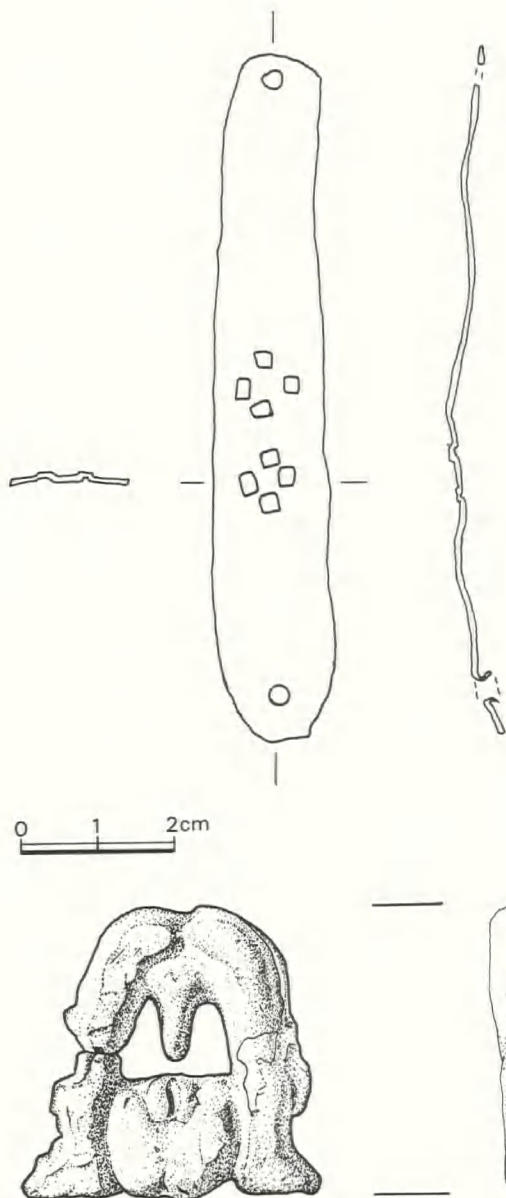


Fig 9 Metalwork: copper alloy strip, lead alloy badge

crossing. The closest parallel is that at Charwelton, Northants, although the quality of the stonework is poorer. It is similarly of two pointed arches, though each of a single order, divided by a central cutwater carried up to deck level to form a pedestrian refuge. However, there are no splayed abutments and the path is much narrower.¹⁹ Elsewhere, greater

variation due to building material, age, and size of crossing, has led to a very diverse range of styles.

MEDIEVAL TRADE (Fig 10)

Although the bridge has traditionally been associated with the medieval wool trade, historically local records have not described it specifically as a packhorse bridge. The earliest such description is in the Victoria County History of 1908.²⁰

In the middle ages wool was transported across country by packhorse trains to the major wool towns or staples. It was important to keep the wool as dry as possible for carriage or the much heavier wet wool would have been slower weighing down the animals. Major rivers already spanned by road bridges were not a significant problem, but the many smaller streams would have been a hindrance. One solution was to build narrow bridges across them. Parapets were not added in case overhanging packs caught and ripped open. The absence of parapets effectively increased the widths of these bridges. Height was perhaps more important than width; there had to be enough clearance over streams swollen by winter floods. Even at Sutton, the Potton brook rises by almost two feet after heavy rain.

Sutton packhorse bridge probably owes its survival to its remoteness. Elsewhere such bridges were often widened or rebuilt, leaving little or no trace. In Bedfordshire there are no other recorded examples of packhorse bridges as such. Yet the earliest part of Tysill bridge at Thistley Green, Stagsden, on the Bromham to Newport Pagnell road is only 2.3 m (7 ft 6 ins) wide, the same as Sutton. On the river Ouse each of the four great medieval road bridges in Willey Hundred originally had lengthy stone built foot causeys or packhorse ways extending back from the road bridges over the broad flood plains. Fragments remain by Turvey bridge, and those at Bromham and Stafford have long since been destroyed; only that at Harrold still survives intact. The location of these bridges may thus have had a great influence on routes followed. It is significant that each of these other bridges were subsequently widened or rebuilt, whilst Sutton remained unaltered. Figure 10 shows the main highways in Bedfordshire as shown by Gordon on his map of Bedfordshire of 1736, and bridging points known by that time (mills which may have had foot bridges across are excluded). The map reflects the medieval road system. Stafford and Harrold bridges lay on the highway from Bedford to Northampton and Leicester; Bromham and Tysill on the road from

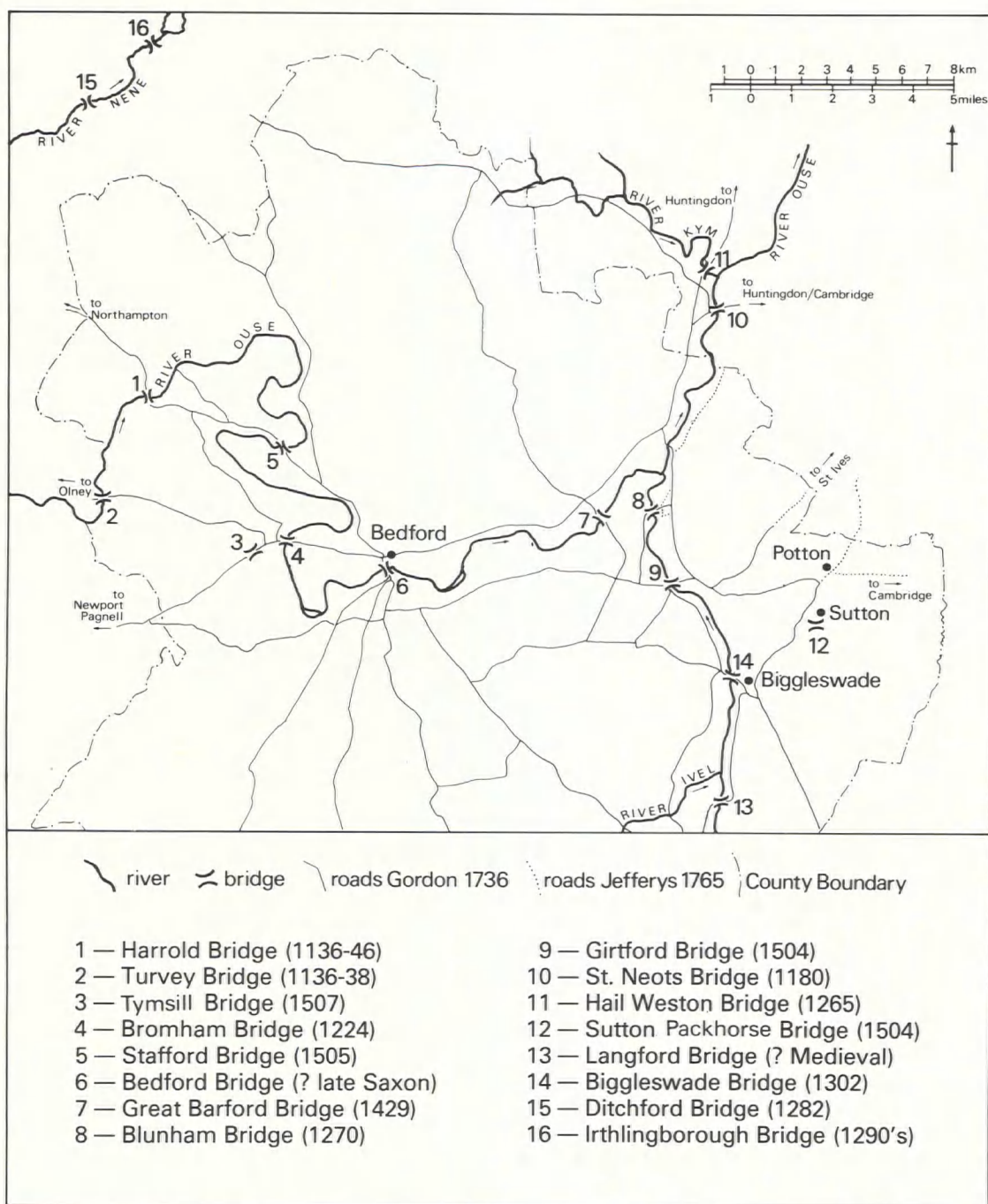


Fig 10 Communications in north Bedfordshire in the mid 18th century. Highways, rivers and bridges (earliest known references bracketed)

Bedford to Newport Pagnell; and Bromham and Turvey on the road through Olney to Northampton. No such routes pass through Sutton. Changing markets and trading patterns may have led to a swift decline in some routes and centres. Even so, Sutton may never have lain on an important route. The present road from Biggleswade to Potton and thence to St Ives passes on the west side of the village; in the medieval period the road may have passed much nearer the church forming the main street of Sutton. However, there is no apparent east-west route through the village. Conceivably the village may have lain on a road from Bedford to the east, but the boulder clay of the high ground beyond Sutton would have hindered traffic especially in adverse weather conditions.

THE BRIDGE AND THE VILLAGE (Fig 11)

The evidence connecting the bridge to trade routes is inconclusive, and its role in local communications is similarly vague. The village lies between the nearest market towns, Biggleswade and Potton. Both these places and Sutton itself held fairs. Yet the provision of a fine masonry bridge is beyond the needs of the local communities.

The flimsy documentary evidence discussed above, and the high quality of the bridge, suggest a manorial involvement. A number of factors may have influenced the decision to construct it. In 1271, both Sutton and Potton Regis manors were held by the Le Latimer family, and they followed the same descent, passing to the Duchy of Lancaster in 1392.²¹ None of the lords of the manor of Potton Regis seem to have been resident in Potton for any length of time, preferring instead to reside in Sutton. The bridge may have been built to ease access between different parts of their holdings in both the parishes.

Another factor to consider is the development of the village of Sutton itself. The present village has a linear development, straggling along the High Street. The ford separates the church and rectory from the main settlement which lies to the east. Most of the area surrounding the church has long since been incorporated into the Park. 19th century estate maps show a drive up to the House immediately west of the church. The drive is on the line of the Biggleswade to Potton road which seems to have been diverted at Watermill bridge in the extreme south of the Parish to skirt the Park altogether. The possibility must exist that the village centre had initially developed around the Church. Unfortunately any trace of earthworks around the church are lost in the landscaped grounds of the

Park. The present layout may have resulted from a deliberate relocation of the village when the Park was first set out. The earliest evidence for a park is in connection with the Elizabethan Manor house, though Sutton was the principal manor well before then. Although undated, a medieval origin for Sutton Park is very plausible. Indeed Steane found that "the greatest volume of imparking coincides with the agrarian expansion of the 13th and 14th centuries" for Northamptonshire,²² and Rackham suggests that the heyday of many parks was around 1300.²³ Dating evidence from the bridge has shown that it was originally constructed during the late 13th to 14th centuries, at the very time when many such parks were established. The narrow bridge may have been built specifically to give access to the church now isolated from the village.

The bridge does not fit into any known long-distance road pattern but is rather isolated. Nor does it serve any local markets that could not be reached by alternative routes from Sutton. The bridge was only identified as a packhorse bridge much later on account of its narrow width, rather than from historic evidence as to function. It is possible that its origins and uses were much more localised. The bridge was almost certainly of manorial origin for the benefit of the estate and perhaps the village. In particular the construction of the bridge may be associated with imparkment and the development of the village away from its historic centre around the church.

Acknowledgements

The work at Sutton Packhorse bridge was part of a general repair programme on Bedfordshire's historic bridges. The County Surveyor's Department has at all times been very helpful, supplying copies of the photogrammetric surveys, and allowing access to its records. I would like to thank P. Tobutt, Chief Assistant Engineer, and his staff for their co-operation. Rajni Vasani, Team Leader, and John Slinn, the resident engineer at Sutton bridge, and the contractors, Rattee and Kett Ltd, were very helpful at all times during the repair programme.

I am very grateful to Angela Simco and Dr A. Streeten who read and commented upon earlier versions of this paper. I would also like to thank John Johnson who prepared the illustrations, and Ken Whitbread and Dave Stubbs of the Photographic Unit at County Hall for plates 1-3, H.B. Duncan for identification of the binding strip, D. Haddon-Reece for wood identification, and C. Wingfield of Bedford Museum for supplying information about the badge. Documentary research was carried out at Bedfordshire County Record Office, and I would like to thank all the staff there for their help.

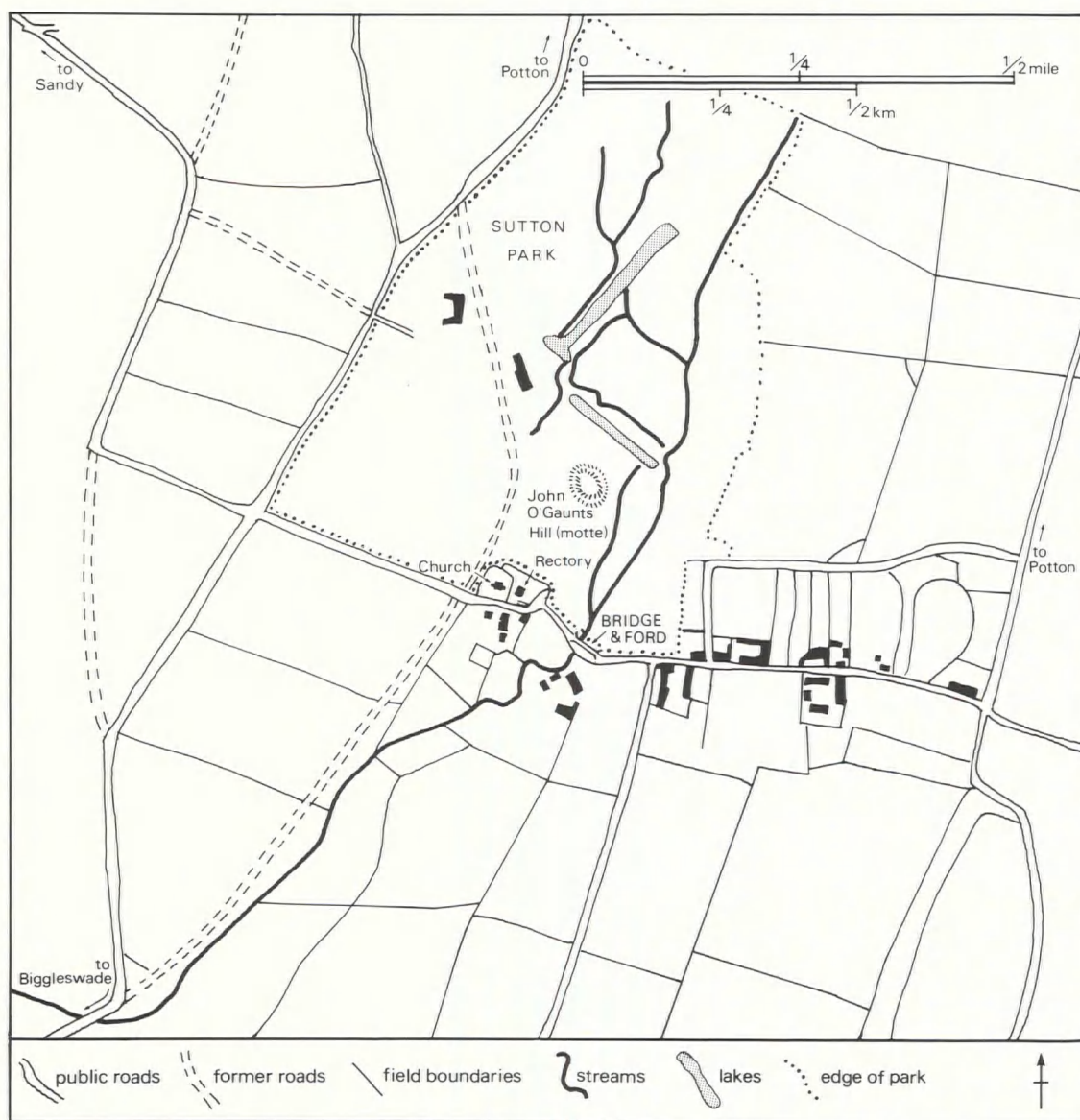


Fig 11 Sutton Park and bridges c1820 (Beds CRO X117/43 transcribed)

APPENDIX
SUTTON PACKHORSE BRIDGE RADIOCARBON
DETERMINATIONS.

Two samples from the elm raft were submitted to the Isotope Measurement Laboratory of A.E.R.E., Harwell. The results are presented below:

Description	Lab. No.	uncalibrated years BP
W1, raft	HAR 8803	790 +/- 40 BP
W3, raft	HAR 8804	750 +/- 50 BP

If the two results are combined the weighted mean and standard error are:

$$775 \pm 30 \text{ BP}$$

Calibration of the mean results, using the curve of Stuiver, M., and Pearson, G.W., 1986, Radiocarbon, 28, 805-838, gives the following ranges:

cal AD 1235 to 1270, 1 sigma
cal AD 1220 to 1275, 2 sigma

NOTES

ABBREVIATIONS

Beds CRO Bedfordshire County Record Office, Bedford.

BHRS *Bedfordshire Historical Records Society publications.*

- 1 BHRS 37, 1957, 14, no 46d.
- 2 BHRS 58, 1979, 154, no 119.
- 3 Beds CRO CRT 130 Sutton 3; P/123, 5/1.
- 4 Beds CRO, P/123/5/1-4.
- 5 22 Henry VIII C 5.
- 6 Beds CRO, W 2087.

- 7 Identified by David Haddon-Reece, Ancient Monuments Laboratory, English Heritage.
- 8 Ruddock, T., "Bridges and roads in Scotland: 1400-1750", in Fenton, A. and Stell, G., *Loads and roads in Scotland and beyond* 1984, 67-91, esp. 79-81.
- 9 *ibid.*, 76-79.
- 10 Rigold, S., "Structural Aspects of Medieval Timber Bridges", *Medieval Archaeology* 19, 1975, 48-91, especially 55f.
- 11 Jervoise, E., *The ancient bridges of Mid and Eastern England*, 1932, 94.
- 12 Notes from site visit 9/1986.
- 13 For illustration see Goodfellow, P., "Medieval bridges in Northamptonshire", *Northamptonshire Past and Present*, 7, (3), 1985-6, 143-158, esp 148.
- 14 Jervoise, E., *The ancient bridges of Southern England*, 1930, 74, and plate 36.
- 15 Beds CRO: CRT 130 SUTTON 8.
- 16 Datestone incorporated into ashlar repair of the tower of All Saints Church.
- 17 Wilson, D.M., 1979, "Copper alloy finds", in Rhatz, P., *The Saxon and Medieval Palaces at Cheddar*, BAR 65, 1979.
- 18 Addyman, P.V., and Priestly, J., "Baile Hill, York", *Archaeological Journal*, 1977, 134, 115-156.
- 19 Notes from site visit, 8/1986. See also *op. cit.* note 14.
- 20 *Victoria County History of Bedfordshire*, volume 2, 1908, 237-8 and 247-8.
- 21 *Victoria County History of Bedfordshire*, volume 2, 1908, 246.
- 22 Steane, J., "The Medieval Parks of Northamptonshire" *Northamptonshire Past and Present* 5 (3), 1973, 211-233, esp. 219.
- 23 Rackham, O., *The History of the Countryside*, 1986, 123f.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to the Historic Monuments and Buildings Commission, and the County Surveyors Department, Bedfordshire County Council for grants towards the costs of this paper.

'Bonners,' 16 Park Square, Luton

DAVID H. KENNETT AND TERENCE PAUL SMITH

SUMMARY

A description, with reference to the tenurial history of a brick-fronted, timber-framed house built in the town of Luton for Daniel Brown, baker and maltster in 1748.

INTRODUCTION

The facade of the mid-eighteenth-century house described in this paper together with the adjacent building has been illustrated several times before, initially with the caption:

Shops in Park Square today [1964]. The one on the right dates from about 1760.¹

A later reproduction described the buildings as:

Shops in Park Square, originally houses dating from about 1760.²

In 1977, the same photograph was given a more extensive caption:

Shops in Park Square, photographed in 1962. They were originally houses: that on the right dates to about 1745 (*recte* 1748) and was built for Daniel Brown, baker and maltster. From 1748 until 1800 it was also used by the Quakers for their meeting place. Adams Yard was built behind this house in 1796. The house on the left was built in 1850 following the building of Park Street West. The main structure of these buildings exists today.³

The photograph of 1962 showed the house as it was when examined by the present writers in April 1973. The ground floor was divided into two shops, a smaller one occupying the two southern bays of the facade, a larger shop occupying the centre and two northernmost bays. Although in 1962 and for two decades earlier under the same management, the two shops sold different goods: the southern one was a confectioner's, the other sold millinery.

When examined, the building was unoccupied. Subsequently, for two years about 1977 the building was used by a clothing supplier, trading under the name 'Denim Haven'. At this time the facade was painted in a kaleidoscope of psychedelic colours to reflect the merchandise purveyed therein. It retained this facade until 1985.

A photograph taken in the early twentieth century shows the house with only the southern shop cut into the ground floor of the original facade.⁴

LOCATION AND SITE

The house stands on the west side of Park Square, Luton. In 1985 it was completely refaced at both front and back, although the roof has been left largely intact. The new brick front face keeps the original fenestration pattern, although the windows themselves and other features are in a weak sub-Georgian style unworthy even of such a modest original. For most of the last forty years the building was known as 'Bonners': the address is 16 Park Square, Luton.

In 1842 it appeared on the tithe map of Luton as plot 1612, a house and malting occupied by William Adams.⁵ In John Waller's *Who's Who in Luton in 1842* it is plot 281.⁶

TENURIAL HISTORY

No specific bundle of deeds is known for this property. However, as with so many of the houses in the town of Luton, No. 16, Park Square was subject to entry fines to the manor of Luton. Record of admissions is thus preserved in the court books which have entries from 1732 through to 1847. These entries were written annually.⁷

In 1842, a detailed map of the town was made.⁸ From the accompanying schedule it is possible to correlate occupiers in that year to specific properties. Most of the town was held by copyhold tenure, changes in which can be traced through the court books of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Because of the 1842 map it is possible to relate the individual tenement history of much of the town to specific properties.

The first record of No. 16 Park Square in the court books was on 19 July 1732 when William Gutteridge was admitted to a messuage devised to him by his father, Matthew Gutteridge.⁹ William Gutteridge may be the unnamed son of Matthew Gutteridge, farmer of Luton, who was baptised on 24 October 1699. An unnamed wife of Matthew Gutteridge was buried on 26 July 1706, two weeks after her un-

named child of unknown sex was buried. Matthew Gutteridge, himself, was buried on 13 May 1729.¹⁰ He is described in the parish register as a "rich man"; his will states that he was "yeoman of Dallow".¹¹ Dallow was then a hamlet of Luton, but not one like Stopsley or West Hyde which was regarded as separate for the collection of taxes.

William Gutteridge retained the property for almost twenty years. Sometime before 2 June 1748, he sold it to Daniel Brown, baker. In 1748, William Gutteridge was described as "formerly of Luton, now of Dunstable, a baker".

Daniel Brown II was admitted to the property at the court held on 30 May 1751. Seven years earlier he had been admitted to various small parcels of land and a house "in the South End of Luton" following the death of his father, Daniel Brown I.¹²

When Daniel Brown II died in 1774, aged 63, he owned property both in Luton and at Stanbridge. In Luton, he owned a house near the Market House and another in Church Street as well as a house with an adjacent malthouse and orchard in Stopsley and closes both in Luton and Stopsley. All of these were left to his son, Daniel Brown III. The will of Daniel Brown II makes several personal monetary bequests totalling £832.¹³

One of the other beneficiaries of the will of Daniel Brown II was his daughter, Elizabeth, who died unmarried in 1777. Her will left the lands in Stanbridge — which had been bequeathed to her by her father — to her brother, Daniel Brown III, subject to the payment of a number of monetary bequests. The latter add up to £352.¹⁴

Thus three years after his father's death, Daniel Brown III had reassembled his father's landed property. When he died in 1815, aged 73, he owned property at Luton and Stanbridge, in Bedfordshire, at Mangrove in the parish of Offley, Hertfordshire, and at Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire. All of this was left to his son, Daniel Brown IV. To his daughter, Elizabeth Phillips, he bequeathed £3,000, and to the husband and children of his deceased daughter, Ruth Kempton, a total of £1,500.¹⁵

These bequests are apart from the personal estate of Daniel Brown III which was affirmed at under £4,000.¹⁶

Daniel Brown IV did not retain No. 16 Park Square for long. At the court of the manor of Luton held on 6 June 1816, he was first admitted to "a messuage over and against the Cross Pond" and then recorded as having alienated the property to William Adams, who was his kinsman. In 1817, the Land Tax returns record "William Adams, late

Daniel Brown, £2-2s-0d".¹⁷ William Adams is recorded in various early-nineteenth-century directories¹⁸ as "baker and maltster" and also as "brewer, corn dealer and mealman". It is he who is the occupier in the book containing the schedule accompanying the tithe map of 1842, recording "William Adams, a house and malting".

The malting attached to the house at this date is known from photographs to have been built in 1796 as the date was picked out in raised bricks within a large panel on the upper part of its facade.¹⁹ It was presumably built by Daniel Brown III, although it was known for many years in the late nineteenth century and beyond as "Adams' Yard". It is thought that the malting was demolished about 1950 when the buildings of J.W. Green's brewery were rebuilt. During the twentieth century, the malting and the house had been in separate ownerships.

The house is not recorded in the "list of hereditaments held of the land of the manor of Luton" in 1904 and the date of the enfranchisement of the copyhold is not recorded.²⁰

The Browns were a prominent Quaker family in Luton.²¹ On 10 June 1748 the house of Daniel Brown was licensed for meetings of the Society of Friends.²² It remained licensed until the Quaker Meeting was built on vacant land adjacent to Castle Street in 1800.²³

DESCRIPTION

The building here recorded was of mid-Georgian type though with a later shop-front inserted in the ground-floor storey. Of two storeys with a cellar and with an attic-stage partly masked by the simple parapet, the building was of darkish red bricks measuring 9 x 4 x 2½ ins (23 x 19 x 6 cm) with brighter red-brick trim for the flat arches above the first-floor windows.

The ground-floor shop-fronts had large plate-glass windows supported by very thin wooden mullions of circular section. The sills were low — 1-1½ ft (0.3-0.45 m) above pavement level. At each end was a flat-elliptical pilaster with simple base and capital, and there was a further example of this between the two shops, south of centre. They supported a simple architrave with bead ornament along the bottom and simple roundels with a dot or boss in the centre above each of the pilasters. A simply moulded cornice was placed above this. All this was carried out in timber. The doorways were set well back from the frontage so that the spaces behind the plate-glass windows served as quite large display areas.

16-16A Park Square, Luton: sketch plan of ground floor

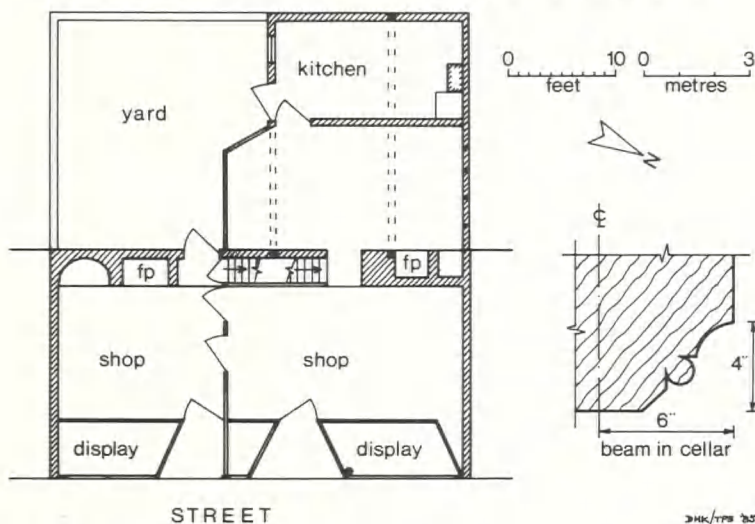


Fig 1 Sketch plan of ground floor of 16-16A Park Square, Luton. Inset shows beam in cellar.

The first storey preserved its Georgian appearance with five sash windows arranged 2:1:2. The central window was further distinguished by a slightly projecting 'keystone' (of brick) reaching up to cornice-level. The windows were set back from the wall-face and had red-brick flat-arches in gauged-work. A moulded-brick parapet-cornice separated the main wall-face from the quite high and plain parapet which had a simple coping of two oversailing courses of stone. At the time of recording, the parapet was rendered, but this was probably not a primary feature.

The roof had a fairly steep pitch and was covered with plain red tiles measuring $10 \times 5\frac{1}{2}\text{-}7\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ ins (25.5 x 14.19 x 1.3 cm), slightly cambered in both directions; they had two peg-holes but no nibs. A number had been replaced, particularly towards the bottom of the roof. There were two hip-roofed and tiled dormers with casement windows. The cheeks were rendered, probably from the first.

In plan the building was L-shaped (Fig 1): at the rear a two-storey wing occupied the northern side of the property, the southern half being an open yard. The cellar was reached *via* a straight flight of brick steps and extended only under the main block, not the wing. The cellar was brick-lined with a more or less central brick pier of square section. In the east (front) face were four recesses and a coal-chute, and there was a further recess in the west face. A wide brick shelf ran along the south wall. A moulded

beam (Fig 1, inset) ran north-south from the pier to the south wall.

Much of the ground floor of the main block was taken up by the display areas for the shops. In the south-east angle of the large northern display area was an iron pillar. All the display areas had roller-blinds and had originally been gas-lit. In the main building part of a carved beam was visible above the doorway at the west end of the central partition. The south shop had a fireplace (blocked) in its west wall, and to the south of this was an apsidal recess or press with a slightly domed head. Otherwise, the only features were panelling and shop-fittings of the nineteenth century. The boarded ceiling was probably of this date too.

The west wing at the rear of the main block was divided into two, the smaller western portion forming a kitchen. This contained a built-in copper with a brick stack against the north wall. The larger eastern room had a fireplace in its east wall with a built-in press with a shallow barrel-vault adjoining it. A large bay with sash windows formed the southern end of the room. Ceiling beams and wall-beams (posts or studs) were noted as shown in the plan; the studs in the north wall were only 2 ins (5 cm) wide.

At first-floor level there was a cased beam running the full length of the building. This floor was divided into three rooms, the southern partition being of timber-framing: slim studs at 2 ft 3 ins (0.7 m)

intervals; there was one straight tension-brace at the east end. The north room contained a fireplace (blocked) in its west wall, and there was another in the west wall of the southern room; to the south of this was a small built-in press. The west wall of the west wing at this level was timber-framed with the wall-plate only 4 ft 10 ins (1.5 m) above floor-level: the room was partly within the roof-space. The central post (or stud) was about 6 ins (15 cm) wide; others could be seen only as 'ghosts' behind the plaster. The wing contained a number of windows, all of casement type. The western of the two rooms into which the wing was divided also contained a dormer in the southern roof-slope.

The attic-space was divided into two rooms, both ceiled at collar-level. The north wall was of timber-framing comprising six straight and slight studs only 2 ins (5 cm) wide at about 2 ft (0.6 m) intervals. The central partition had slightly wider studs at about 3 ft (0.9 m) intervals. No traces of studs were observed in the south wall. The purlins, partly set in-pitch and partly square-set, were visible at the level of the ceiling. As previously mentioned, there were three dormers in the east (front) face. The chimney stack at this level was against the west wall; to its north were two presses in the brickwork and a further press was to the south. The attic space of the wing was not used for rooms.

DISCUSSION

There is no reason to dispute the suggested dating of 1748 to c 1760 for this building.²⁴ The shop-front was inserted perhaps a century or so later, though it is interesting to note that the elliptical pilasters pick up a theme which was quite common in Luton in the eighteenth century.²⁵ There is no reason to suppose that the brick frontage was later than the timber-framing behind it; the latter was decidedly late and 'decadent', and we clearly have here a case of a 'show' front with cheaper building behind.²⁶ It is noteworthy that the rear windows (and those of the dormers) were of casement type whilst the principal front had the then more fashionable sash windows. The ground-floor bay at the rear, with its sash windows, was probably a later (nineteenth-century?) alteration. The moulded beam in the cellar was seemingly out of place, and was presumably re-used from a much earlier building, here or elsewhere.

CONCLUSION

No. 16 Park Square, Luton, was a house dating to the middle years of the eighteenth century. There

were ownership changes in 1748 and 1774, of which the first was a sale to a new owner, Daniel Brown II, who in the same year is recorded as having his house licensed for Quaker worship. It seems not improbable that this house was then newly built.

From a description of Luton in 1804, it is clear that Daniel Brown III occupied No. 16 Park Square and that his son, Daniel Brown IV, lived further down the street at the house later numbered 48 Park Square.²⁷ This was the house mentioned in the court roll entry of 1744 as "a house in the South End of Luton". No. 48 Park Square is now demolished but early-twentieth-century photographs make it clear that it was of more recent refurbishment in 1815 than No. 16. Both in 1804 and in 1842, Daniel Brown IV lived in a house with an early-nineteenth-century brick front of three bays and a recessed waggonway adjacent.²⁸ Indeed his widow lived there until 1879.²⁹

Since he had his own, more recently updated, house, it seems probable that Daniel Brown IV sold his father's house to William Adams in 1815 partly because he had no need of two houses and partly to pay the legacies of his father's will.³⁰

William Adams was resident from 1815 to after 1853 in a home which by the end of his occupancy was well over a century old. When built, No. 16 Park Square was a very fashionable house and one of the earliest brick-fronted houses to be erected in Luton. If the supposition be correct that No. 16 Park Square was built for Daniel Brown II in 1748, when he was thirty-two years old, then the house shows what a successful baker and maltster in Luton could afford, having established his business — he had been in business for over seven years — but by no means at the end of his career: Daniel Brown lived in No. 16 Park Square for another twenty-six years.³¹

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the Luton Office of Messrs Whitbread Ltd., the owners of number 16 Park Square, Luton, for permission to survey the building in April 1973 and for providing every facility so to do. On the documentary side we have benefited from advice and information, as well as access to documents and photographs, at Luton Museum and Bedfordshire County Record Office. At the former we are indebted to Mrs M. Calcut and at the latter Miss P.L. Bell and Mr. A.F. Cirket.

ABBREVIATION

BCRO, Bedfordshire County Record Office.

NOTES

- 1 J. Dyer, F. Sygall and J.G. Dony, *The Story of Luton* (1964), pl. 23 lower.
- 2 [H.O. White], *Old Luton* (1974), pl. 23 lower.
- 3 H.O. White (editor), *Luton Past and Present* (1977), pl. 51 upper.

- 4 Luton Museum, unnumbered.
- 5 BCRO, document with map.
- 6 Printed pamphlet; a reproduction of the map which accompanied the original is sold by Luton Museum. Map is insert W. Austin, *A History of Luton and its Hamlets* (2 vols. 1928), vol. II after 150.
- 7 BCRO, documents X 312/1 (1732-87), X 312/2 (1787-1903), and X 312/3 (1903-1939). Individual court entries are not referenced below.
- 8 See notes 5 and 6. Note the town of Luton was mapped at the scale of 1:1188 by the tithe commissioner, Henry Davies of Kimpton, Herts. The scale (53½ inches to 1 mile) allows properties to be easily identified when surviving.
- 9 Entries in the court book for 1732 are composite for about thirty years preceding.
- 10 *Parish Registers of Luton, 1602-1754* (1979, being Bedfordshire Parish Registers, volumes 53A, 53B, 53C), items not individually referenced.
- 11 BCRO, document ABP/W, 1729/23.
- 12 Daniel Brown, maltster, will (of 1741), BCRO, document C532.
- 13 BCRO, document X80/16.
- 14 BCRO, document BS 637.
- 15 BCRO, document X80/17.
- 16 Note of probate attached to BCRO, document X80/17.
- 17 BCRO, documents QDL, Luton, 1817. He is so recorded until 1832, after which land tax records cease.
- 18 Those produced by Pigot & Co. in 1823/4, 1830, 1839, Robson in 1839, Kelly in 1847, Slater in 1850, Craven in 1853; William Adams does not appear in the directory produced by Cassey in 1862.
- 19 Photograph, of unknown date, reproduced *Old Luton*, pl. 47 lower right, and White (ed., 1977), pl. 52 lower right.
- 20 BCRO, document X 312/3.
- 21 Further material on the Browns is given W.L. Austin, *A History of Luton and its hamlets* (1928, 2 vols.), vol. II, 57-58 with pedigree.
- 22 *Bedfordshire County Records I Notes and Extracts from Quarter Sessions Rolls, 1714-1832* (n.d., but 1907).
- 23 White (ed., 1977), pl. 111 lower; this building is now demolished.
- 24 Dyer *et. al.* (1974), pl. 23 lower; the photograph is omitted in subsequent editions. See also above, with notes 1-3.
- 25 It was used for door-cases to houses published as of the time, cf A.E. Richardson, "Luton Doorways", *Beds. Magazine*, 9, No. 67 (Winter 1963-4), 112-113. In fact, these doorways date to after 1850, and probably reflect the influence of Sir Samuel Smirke's rebuilding of Luton Hoo after the 1843 fire. The addresses given by Richardson are for areas not developed on the 1842 tithe map, with the possible exception of 32 Castle Street. However, Richardson's general point, here followed, that local craftsmen were influenced by working at Luton Hoo (and for that matter Stockwood Park) remains valid. D.H.K. is collecting notes on the influence of the great houses on small towns.
- 26 For the use of contemporary and poor framing behind brick facades cf. T.P. Smith, 'Bedfordshire Timber-Framed Buildings - I', *Beds. Magazine*, 17, No. 132 (Spring 1980), 144; H. Forrester, *Timber-Framed Building in Hertford and Ware* (1965), 5.
- 27 Printed sheet, Luton Museum, 'The Town of Luton in 1804' refers to Daniel Brown III as "Mr Daniel Brown, sen." and Daniel Brown IV as "Mr. Daniel Brown jnr., flour and pig dealer". There is no good published photograph of No. 48 Park Street, Luton. It appears as the large building on the extreme right of 'Park Street Baptist Church Band of Hope leaving for a temperance outing in 1897', in White (ed., 1977) pl. 54 lower. There are good photographs in collections of Luton Museum. Will of Daniel Brown IV, BCRO, document X80/29.
- 28 Comments based on examination of photographs; the building was demolished c 1960. Both the present authors were then pupils in the early years of Luton Grammar School.
- 29 Will of Lydia Brown, BCRO document X80/30, Lydia Wallis was the second wife of Daniel Brown IV.
- 30 Will of Daniel Brown III, BCRO, document X80/17; see above under Tenurial History.
- 31 Paper completed 1 October 1986. The building was examined jointly in 1973 as part of a (now abandoned) project to survey the surviving timber-framed buildings of Luton. Neither author is resident in the town. Figure 1 and description of the building written by T.P.S.; tenurial history by D.H.K.; other portions are joint authorship.

A Timber-framed Building in Legrave

STEPHEN A. CASTLE

SUMMARY

This paper provides a detailed description of No. 57, Compton Avenue, Legrave, in the ancient Parish of Luton, Bedfordshire. It originally comprised two thatched timber-framed, apparently single cell, cottages, under one roof, dating from the 18th century. Indeed, numismatic evidence suggests a date in the 1770s, or perhaps even later. Much of the timber framing, in particular the principal posts and roof trusses, were revised from an earlier building or buildings and the use of nails in the assembly of roof timbers is entirely consistent with a late date.

The central axial chimney served back-to-back fireplaces, one heating each dwelling and comprising chamfered oak lintels resting on orange brick jambs in Flemish bond. No. 57 is illustrated on the Tithe Map of 1842, at which time it formed part of the estate of Sir Edmund Filmer.

Although listed as Grade II by the Department of the Environment, the property was condemned as being unfit for human habitation in 1982. Listed Building Consent for demolition followed a Local Inquiry held in 1983. However, Mr Clive Booth, the owner, generously agreed to present the building to the Chiltern Open Air Museum at Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire and work on its gutting, recording and dismantling was carried out in October, 1983 to March, 1984.

INTRODUCTION

A remarkable, indeed pleasing survival amidst the somewhat dull 20th century suburban sprawl of Legrave was the timber-framed and thatched No. 57, Compton Avenue.¹ It was situated on the south side of Compton Avenue, 70 yds (64 m) east of its junction with High Street and 450 yds (411.5 m) west of Legrave Railway Station (N.G.R. TL: 059238).

Alas, by 1979, the building had fallen into a state of disrepair and was subsequently listed as Grade II by the Department of the Environment.² The last occupant was evicted in 1982, when the Borough of Luton condemned the building as being unfit for human habitation. In spite of some local opposition,

an application for 'Listed Building Consent' for demolition was granted, following a 'Local Inquiry' held by the Department of the Environment in March, 1983. As it was clear that the building would not be preserved *in situ*, the Chiltern Open Air Museum approached the owner, Mr Clive Booth, proprietor of the Compton Garden Centre, with a view to removing it to Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire. The building was generously donated to the Museum by Mr Booth and work on its gutting, recording and dismantling was carried out in October, 1983 to March, 1984.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING (Plate A and Figs 1-7)

No. 57, Compton Avenue was a single-storeyed, thatch-roofed, three bay timber-framed building 36 ft 3 ins (11.049 m) long x 12 ft 1 in (3.683 m) wide and appears originally to have comprised two small dwellings/cottages (Fig 1).

The north gable end (Fig 2 A-B) comprised a reused cambered tie-beam resting on reused jowled principal posts with slightly curved tension braces, 3¼ ins (8.3 cm) thick, springing from the latter to the top of the end sill. The sill was tenoned to the principal posts and the widely spaced, roughly hewn studs, were tenoned to the soffit of the tie-beam and the top of the sill, but nailed to the braces. Principal posts A and B were tenoned to the tops of the side sills. Springing from the top of the tie-beam were two angle-struts, which were tenoned to the principal rafters, the latter of which were 5 ins (12.7 cm) wide.³ Similarly, two upright studs extended from the tie-beam to the principal rafters and were bridged by a short collar. The side-purlins were nailed to the principal rafters, and a yoke which was nailed to the inner faces of the rafters, supported the ridge piece. The principal rafters were morticed and tenoned at the apex.

The south gable end (Fig 2; I-J) was identical to the north gable end, except that its roof truss was of lower king-and-queen-struts type.⁴ The cambered collar clasped the side-purlins, and a yoke nailed to the inner faces of the principal rafters, supported the ridge piece.



Plate A Leagrave: No. 57, Compton Avenue from the west, following the removal of the upper part of the chimney. October, 1983. By courtesy of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments

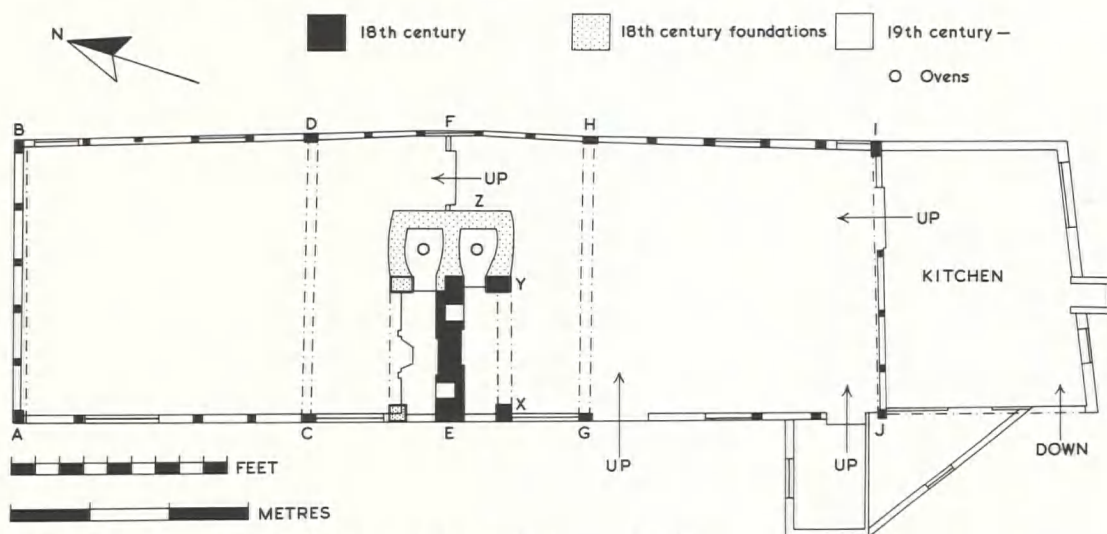
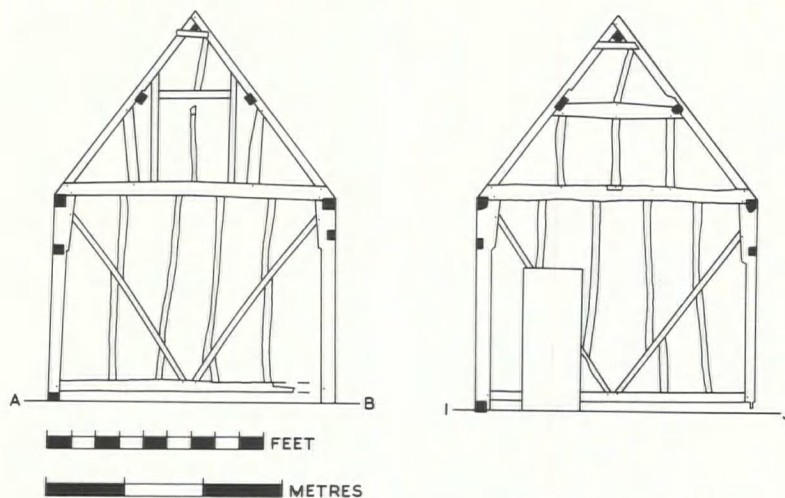


Fig 1 Leagrave: No. 57, Compton Avenue. Plan

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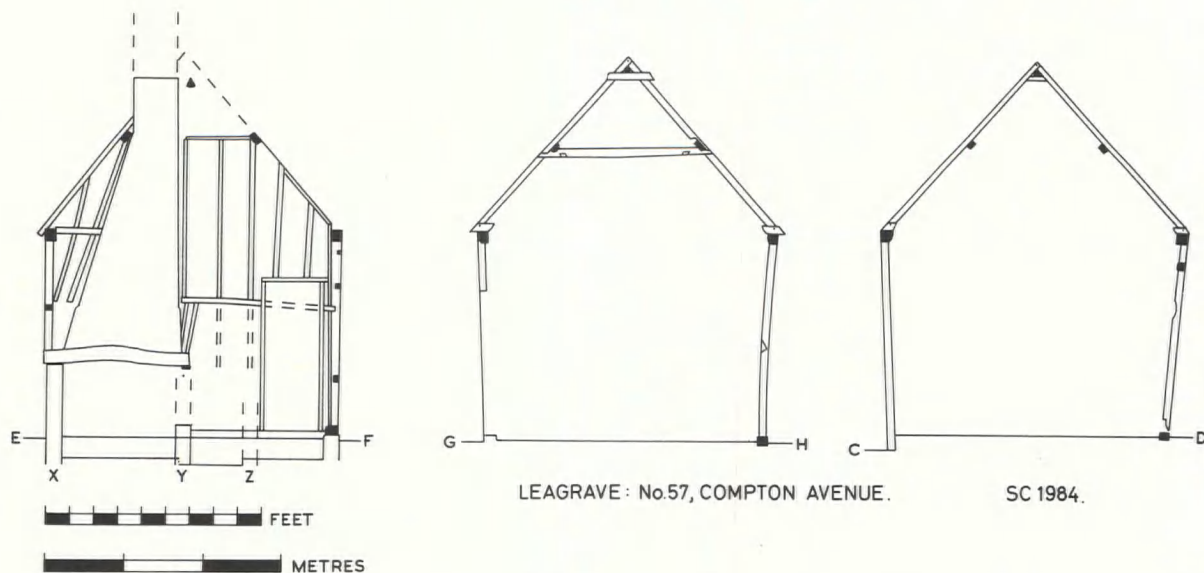
LEAGRAVE: No.57, COMPTON AVENUE.

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Fig 2 Legrave: No. 57, Compton Avenue. North gable end A-B and south gable end I-J

The tie-beam of truss C-D (Fig 3) had been removed, as had the angle-struts, which had been halved to the north faces of the common rafters. Again, the ridge piece was supported by a yoke nailed to the north face of the common rafters.

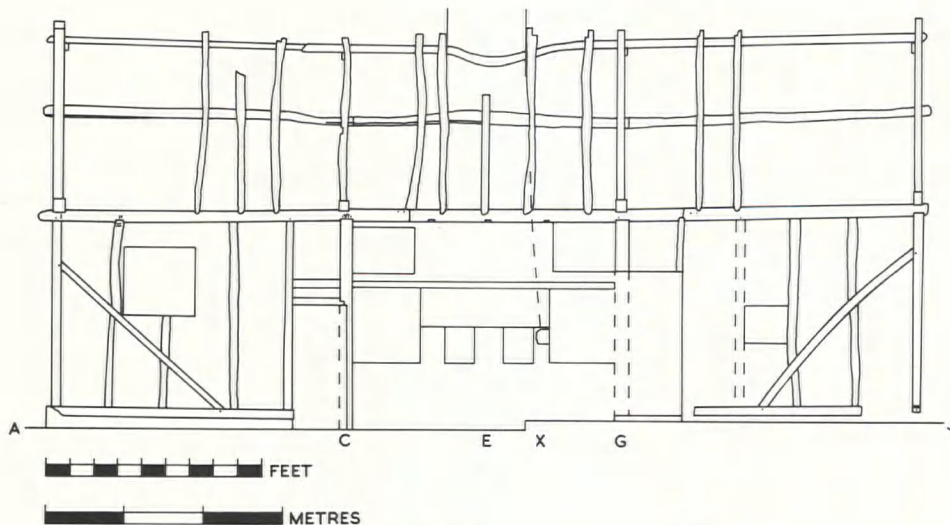
Truss E-F (Fig 3) comprised the partition dividing the two dwellings and included the chimney shaft, with back-to-back fireplaces. It lacked a tie-beam, being midway between trusses C-D and G-H. The partition comprised a series of flimsy studs and



LEAGRAVE: No.57, COMPTON AVENUE.

SC 1984.

Fig 3 Legrave: No. 57, Compton Avenue. Partition between dwellings. Fireplace and chimney shaft E-F. Roof trusses C-D and G-H



LEAGRAVE: No.57, COMPTON AVENUE.

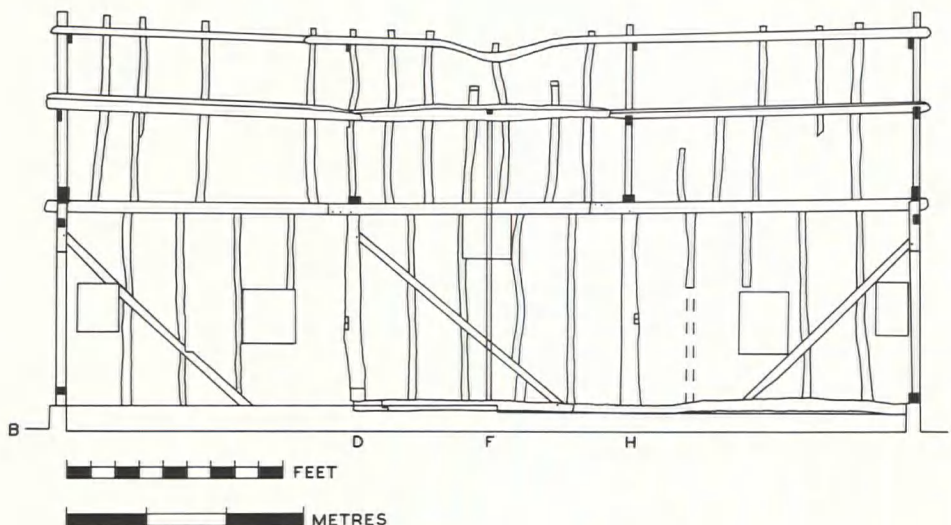
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Fig 4 Leagrave: No. 57, Compton Avenue, West elevation

horizontal members. Packed between the studs were orange and red bricks, placed on edge,⁵ encased in nailed horizontal laths, in turn rendered in plaster reinforced with animal hair. It is noteworthy that this partition was inserted after the

application of laths and plaster to the inner faces of the rafters and studs of the east wall. A doorway was cut through the partition in c 1928,⁶ when the dwellings were converted into one cottage.

The tie-beam of truss G-H (Fig 3) had also been



LEAGRAVE: No.57, COMPTON AVENUE.

SC 1984.

Fig 5 Leagrave: No. 57, Compton Avenue. Longitudinal section showing east wall and roof

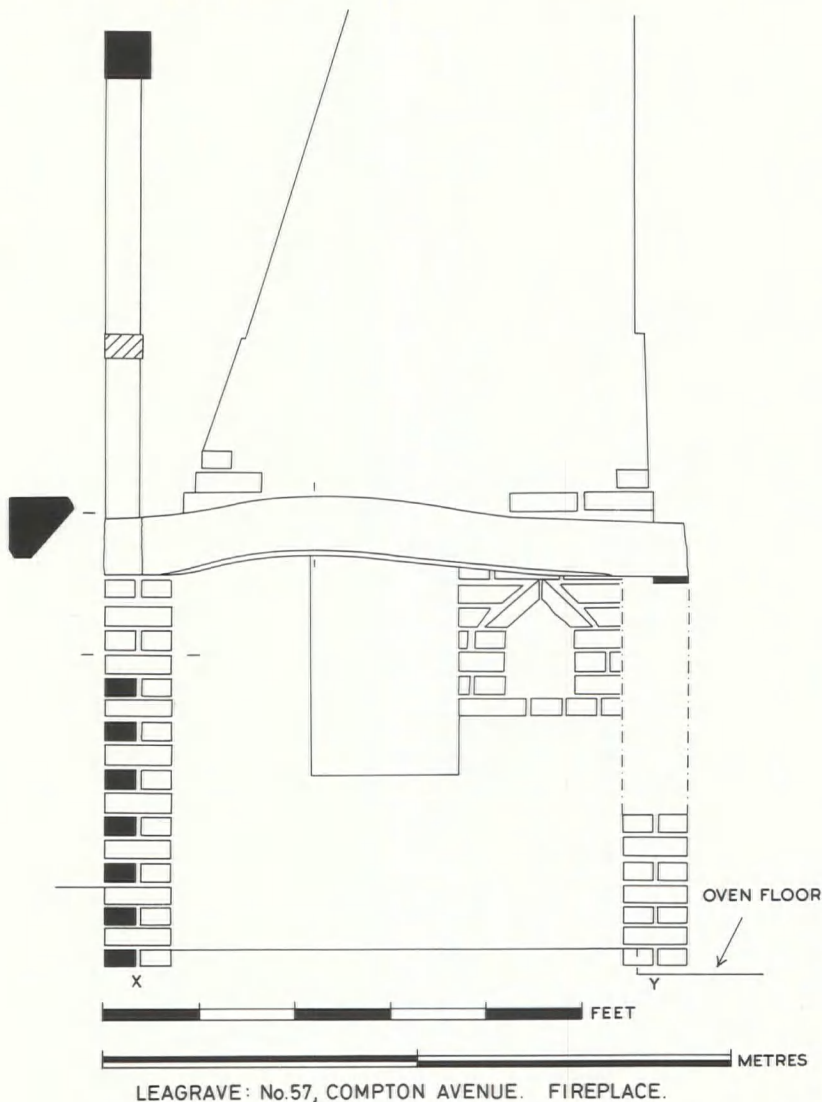


Fig 6 Leagrave: No. 57, Compton Avenue. Fireplace detail X-Y

SC 1984.

removed, though the collar, which was dovetailed to the south faces of the common rafters and which clasped the side-purlins, had survived. On the south face of the collar were dovetail housings for angled queen-struts,⁷ which were presumably tenoned to the top of the tie-beam. Again, a yoke supported the ridge piece.

As for the timber framing below roof level, it should be mentioned that only the principal posts at the gable ends were jowled and these were reused from an earlier structure. Straight and slightly

curved tension braces 2½-3 ins (6.4-7.6 cm) thick sprang from the principal posts to the tops of the sills and the roughly hewn studs were widely spaced, four to a bay (Figs 4-5). The wall-plates had secret bridled scarf joints (Fig 7), one of which, of the east wall-plate, was inverted, whilst the side-purlins and ridge piece had simple splayed scarfs nailed together. The entire timber frame rested on orange and red brick foundations 8½ ins (21.6 cm) wide.⁸

Only the north and south gable ends were clad in weather-boarding and nailed to the inner faces of

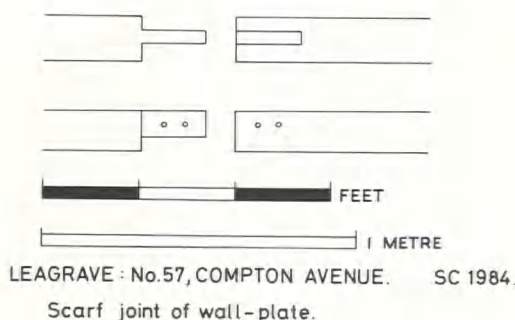


Fig 7 Leagrove: No. 57, Compton Avenue. Secret bridled scarf joint of the west wall-plate

the boards were vertical laths. These laths were in turn concealed beneath puddled chalk-and-earth with pebbles packed between the timbers and encased within nailed horizontal laths, to which was applied plaster, reinforced with animal hair. Identical infilling was present in the east wall, except that the exterior comprised nailed horizontal laths rendered in plaster. Some repair work below the tension brace between principal posts B and D, comprised merely a mixture of clay with pebbles, resembling cob. The original infilling of the west wall had been replaced with whitewashed orange and red brick nogging. However, the lower part of the west wall of the central bay, between principal posts C and G, was of orange bricks in Flemish and stretcher bonds,⁹ contemporary with the original back-to-back fireplaces.

The fireplace of the southernmost cottage (Figs 1, 3 and 6: X-Y) had survived largely intact, comprising a chamfered, cambered oak lintel 6 ft 1½ ins (1.867 m) long x 7½ ins (19.1 cm) resting on orange brick jambs 8½ ins (21.6 cm) wide and 3 ft 11 ins (1.94 m) high. Piercing the back/central wall was a triangular-arched niche 1 ft ½ in (31.8 cm) high x 8¾ ins (22.2 cm) wide x 9¼ ins (23.5 cm) deep. The upper part of jamb Y had been removed during the early part of the present century. Alas, the fireplace of the northernmost cottage had been destroyed in c 1928, with only the foundations, chimney shaft and back/central wall surviving, the latter of which was pierced by yet another triangular-arched brick niche. A smaller fireplace was created in c 1928, with the reuse of a Victorian wrought-iron fire-back and surround. Following the dismantling of the timber frame, archaeological excavations disclosed the orange brick foundations of two identical ovens, at the east ends of the fireplaces (Fig 1:O). They were served by flues, piercing the east jambs of the

fireplaces and their floors were 3½ ins (8.9 cm) lower than the fireplace floors.

Piercing the brickwork of the west wall were two contemporary ventilation holes (presumably originally with grills) 1 ft 6 ins (4.57 cm) high x 1 ft 3 ins (38.1 cm) wide. Presumably the tops of these holes were originally surmounted by a timber plate, above which were three studs, which were tenoned to the wall-plate. The studs and plate were replaced during the 19th century by thick reddish-brown bricks in stretcher bond¹⁰ and a longer timber plate, the latter at a higher level. It is clear that the windows abutted against the faces of the fireplace lintels and that the original doorways abutted the principal posts C and G.

At a depth of 11 ins (27.9 cm) below the raised, c 1928 floor (floorboards on joists) were found orange and red paving bricks, possibly the original flooring.¹¹ A farthing of George III, of the 1770s, was found embedded in mortar beneath a paving brick, inside the south end of the building, close to principal post J. The paving bricks in this area appeared to be contemporary with the brick foundations of the south gable end, however, it is stressed that foundations of timber-framed buildings were frequently repaired or replaced, the original sills being left in position.

Adjoining the southernmost cottage on its south side, was a 19th century timber-framed kitchen with thatched roof. First floor bedrooms had been inserted in both cottages by c 1912,¹² hence the presence of dormers in the east slope of the thatched roof. However, they were removed in c 1928, when the dwellings were converted into one cottage.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE¹³

The earliest large scale detailed map, preserved in

the Bedford County Record Office, which shows No. 57, Compton Avenue, its associated boundaries and the remainder of the Legrave settlement, is the Tithe Map of 1842.¹⁴ Unfortunately, no enclosure map or award exists for Luton, the parish in which Legrave lay.

On the Tithe Map, No. 57 is included with other buildings in a plot numbered 34 and described in the award as merely 'Cottages and Gardens' occupied by 'Joseph Thomas and others' all on 2r. 24p. of land owned by Sir Edmund Filmer, Bart. The latter was the chief landowner in Legrave hamlet (*i.e.* township) in 1842.

Filmer's property in Legrave, the adjoining hamlet of Limbury and the parishes of Toddington and Caddington is also detailed in a volume in the County Record Office, which contains a series of maps and schedules.¹⁵ Though undated, this survey can be shown to have been prepared sometime between 1834, when Sir Edmund succeeded to the estate, and 1842. No 57, together with a building just to the south, is shown on a plot numbered 92, which is listed in the schedule as follows:

Occupier	Description
	1r.4p.
Richard Pigott	Cottage and Garden
John Steff (This name crossed out in pencil and replaced by name Joseph Thomas)	Cottage and Garden
John James	Cottage and Garden
Thomas Bosworth	Cottage and Garden

It is not possible to identify who of these agricultural labourers lived in which building, but it is clear that both buildings were subdivided into tenements to accommodate the four households, a very common situation at this date.

The four original occupiers names given above also occur together in a parish rate book for 1833,¹⁶ when these cottage properties were each assessed at 10/- with a rate of 6d payable. At this date the Rev Sir John Filmer, Bart., uncle of Sir Edmund, owned the property. None of the other parish rate books for the earlier 19th century include these particular cottages, presumably they were not of sufficient value to be assessed. These buildings also cannot be positively identified in the land tax assessments for 1797-1832, though there is an outside chance that they may be included as part of a series of entries for Richard Piggot (*sic*), from 1805-1832, preceded by John Gobby from 1797-1804.¹⁷

THE COINS

Four coins were recovered during the excavation.

Floor to east of the ovens.

1. Charles II. 1660-1685. Milled copper farthing. Obv. CAROLVS.A.CAROLO. Head of Charles II left.
Rev. BRITAN NIA. Figure of Britannia. 1672-75 or 1679.
Seaby 2659.¹⁸
2. George II. 1727-1760. Milled copper halfpenny. Obv. GEORGIVS. II. REX. Head of George II left.
Rev. BRITAN NIA. Figure of Britannia. 174?
Date unclear.
Seaby 2948/2949.

Below floor level, between east wall and northernmost oven.

3. Illegible copper halfpenny. 18th century.
Obv. Illegible.
Rev. Part of Britannia's shield visible.

Set in mortar under paving brick of floor near south gable end.

4. George III. 1760-1820. Milled copper farthing. Obv. GEORGIVS III REX. Head of George III right.
Rev. BRITAN NIA. Figure of Britannia. 1771 or 1773-75. Date unclear.
Seaby 3030.

This coin is thought to have been in mint condition when deposited in the mortar, the latter of which had corroded the date.

CONCLUSIONS

This building appears originally to have comprised two single cell dwellings under one roof, which were heated from a central axial chimney. Careful examination of the timber frame provided no evidence of the existence of original first floors, though as mentioned above, first floor bedrooms existed by c 1912,¹⁹ but were subsequently removed in c 1928, when the building was converted into one dwelling. Presumably secondary timber frames were erected within the building to support binding beams and joists? We are told that narrow staircases existed between the ovens and east wall. None of the surviving windows appeared to be earlier than the 19th-20th centuries and it is doubtful whether any windows originally pierced the east wall.

Abundant reuse of timber, in some cases entire posts and tie-beams, the use of nails in the assembly of roof timbers, taken in conjunction with a contemporary chimney and fireplaces built of orange bricks

(8½ x 4 x 4¼ ins x 2⅝ ins/21.6 x 10.2-10.5 x 6.7 cm) in Flemish bond, indicates a date in the 18th century. Moreover, if the paving bricks and brick foundations of the south gable end were contemporary with the timber frame, the George III farthing mentioned above, would place the date of the building in the 1770s or later.

It is perhaps worth stressing that but for the removal of No. 57, Compton Avenue to the Chiltern Open Air Museum, it is doubtful whether such a late and lowly timber-framed structure would have received such lavish detailed recording. At the time of writing, in February, 1986, the timbers lay in store at the Chiltern Open Air Museum, Chalfont St Giles, awaiting the funds and resources necessary to enable their re-erection.

A mere handful of timber-framed buildings now survives in the Borough of Luton and the task of recording their historic architectural elements is of the utmost importance and urgency. Hopefully, some, unlike No. 57, Compton Avenue, will be allowed to survive *in situ* for posterity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, thanks are due to Mr Clive A. Booth of the Compton Garden Centre, not only for generously donating the building to the Chiltern Open Air Museum, but also for affording every facility for its gutting and recording. His kind hospitality is much appreciated. Mr Ron Jones, the resident of No. 61, Compton Avenue, is thanked for keeping an eagle eye on the building during weekdays.

A special debt of thanks must go to the following people who helped with the gutting and recording work: Mr John Hyde Trutch, Mr Ron Grace, Mr Kevin Bailey, Mr George Robinson, Mr John Bishop, Mr and Mrs Philip Buller, Mr John Broadbent and lastly, members of the Marsh Farm Scout Venture Unit, Leagrave. Dismantling of the building was supervised by Mr John Hyde Trutch.

Mr K.A. Howes of the British Museum is thanked for cleaning the coins. Mr David Baker, MA, FSA, Conservation Officer of

Bedfordshire County Council, is thanked not only for his moral support, but for permitting me to use the notes on the maps and documents relating to the building, compiled by his colleague Mr S.R. Coleman.

Last but not least, thanks must go to Mr J.T. Smith, MA, FSA, Principal Investigator of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, both for his helpful comments on my records of the building and for arranging detailed photographic coverage.

NOTES

- 1 H. White, ed., *Luton Past and Present* (Luton, 1977), p. 88, which exclaims "Extant thatched cottage, probably seventeenth century, in Compton Avenue, Leagrave."
- 2 *Borough of Luton: Building Preservation in Luton: Recommendations for a new list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest* (April, 1979), p. 84.
- 3 R.A. Cordingley, 'British Historical Roof-types and their Members: A Classification', *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society*, N.S., Vol. 9 (1961), p. 99.
- 4 Cordingley, *op. cit.* in note 3, p. 91, Type Vd (4c), but with ridge piece.
- 5 Bricks measuring 8½-8⅝ ins x 4 ins x 2½ ins (21.6-21.9 x 10.2 x 6.4 cm).
- 6 J. Hyde Trutch, '57, Compton Avenue, Leagrave: A Recent Acquisition', *Chiltern Open Air Museum, Friends' Newsletter*, No. 18 (July, 1984), p. 4.
- 7 Cordingley, *op. cit.* in note 3, p. 86, Type III, but angled queen-struts and with ridge piece.
- 8 Bricks measuring 8½ ins x 4-4¼ ins x 2⅝ ins (21.6 x 10.2-10.5 x 6.7 cm).
- 9 *Ibid.*
- 10 Bricks measuring 9 ins x 4½ ins x 2¾ ins (22.9 x 10.5 x 7.0 cm).
- 11 Paving bricks measuring 8¼ ins x 3¾-4¼ ins x 1⅞-2⅞ ins (20.9 x 9.5-10.5 cm x 4.8-5.4 cm).
- 12 Hyde Trutch, *op. cit.* in note 6, pp. 3-4.
- 13 Notes kindly provided by Mr S.R. Coleman of the Planning Department of Bedfordshire County Council.
- 14 Bedford CRO MAT 30/1.
- 15 *Survey of Estates of Sir Edmund Filmer, Bart* (CRO BH UNCAT, Bundle 323).
- 16 Bedford CRO P85/11/10.
- 17 Bedford CRO Q.D.L. Leagrave.
- 18 H.A. Seaby, *Standard Catalogue of British Coins: 1. England and United Kingdom* (London, 1964).
- 19 Hyde Trutch, *op. cit.* in note 6, pp. 1-4.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to the Council for British Archaeology and to Luton Museum, Luton Borough Council for grants towards the costs of this paper.

A Watching Brief Within St Paul's Church, Bedford

R.S. MUSTOE

SUMMARY

Excavations at St Paul's Church, Bedford during the construction of the narthex (gallery and vestibule) and refitting of parts of the interior led to the discovery of seven grave slabs and indications of structural alterations to the W end of the building. Reflooring was associated with the construction of the N aisle and with other alterations within the building dated to the 19th century. No evidence relating to an earlier church was found.

INTRODUCTION

St Paul's church is located on the nearest high ground north of the river Great Ouse in the centre of the Saxon town (Fig 1). It is Bedford's premier church with a number of predecessors possibly on the same spot: the earliest architectural evidence in the present building dates to the 13th century.¹

During 1980 and 1981 a programme of works was undertaken to improve the heating and lighting facilities and to construct a narthex. Shortly before construction commenced, nine of twenty four narthex stanchion base pits (Fig 2) were excavated over a period of three days by Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Archaeological Field Team.² Each pit was recorded with a unique numbering system, but correlated for descriptive purposes in this report.³

The excavation was carried out through the kind permission of the Vicar, the Reverend N. Coulton, and the architect to the church, Victor J.F. Farrar. Thanks are also due to Mr K. Whitbread of Bedfordshire County Council's Photographic Unit. Finds research was undertaken by Holly Duncan, Teresa Jackman and Anna Slowikowski, whilst Evelyn Baker assisted with the report in draft form. The staff of the Bedfordshire County Record Office provided guidance on the documentary evidence.

THE EXCAVATIONS

Four areas of the church were investigated archaeologically and form convenient blocks for discussion (Fig 2). Areas 1 and 2 were the N and S areas relating to the construction of the narthex. Area 3 was in the NE corner of the nave, and area 4

in NE corner of the S transept where sections of the floor were removed for maintenance work on the power supply.

The very limited scale of the excavation makes phasing difficult and it was not possible to relate this to the upstanding structure. However, the construction of the N aisle in the late 19th century is well documented,⁴ the works being completed in 1884. The two areas examined in the NE corner of the nave, and S transept produced only three grave slabs E, F and G with terminal dates of 1746, 1832 and

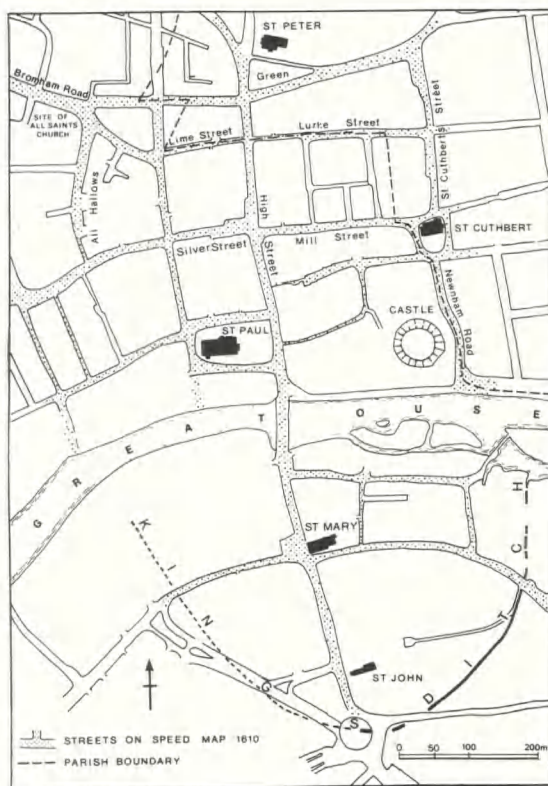


Fig 1 Outline plan showing St Paul's church situated within the historic part of Bedford (from Baker, D.B. *et al* 1979 Fig 182) see note 31.

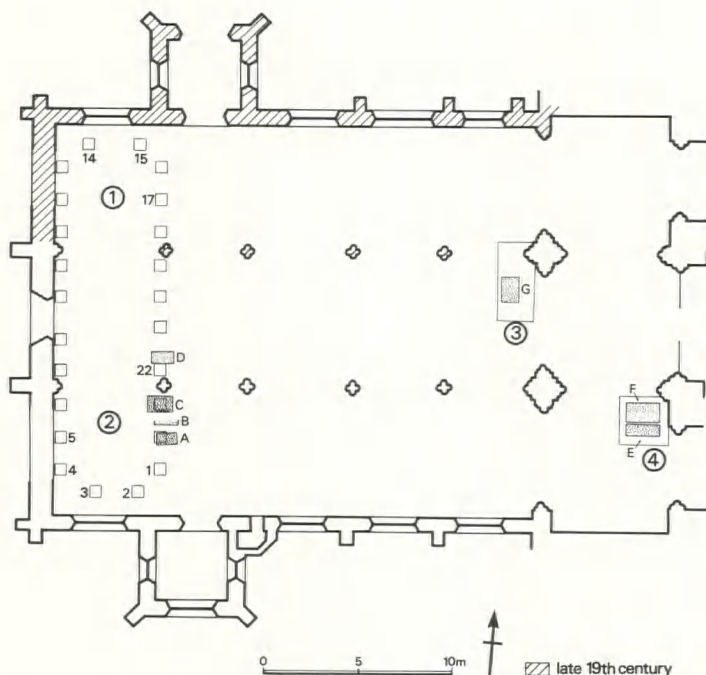


Fig 2 Plan of the nave of St Paul's Church, Bedford showing the stanchion base pits and grave slabs

1841 respectively. These were sealed by a stone slab floor which was replaced by the one removed by the contractors.

In the western end of the building the stanchion base pits, cut in the nave and S aisle, exposed a possible continuum of horizontal stratification (Fig 3). This was usefully dated by the siting of grave slabs A and C with terminal dates of 1794 and 1815 respectively. Thus the stratification discovered in this part of the church may be tentatively ordered into phases.

THE NARTHEX, Areas 1 and 2

Construction work involved moving the font from its position at the W end of the S aisle to a central position against the N wall of the N aisle. After lifting the existing stone slab floor twenty-four stanchion base pits each measuring 0.60 m square and 0.60 m deep were cut through archaeological levels, dictating the extent of excavation. The pits were situated at regular intervals across the W end of the church, and a total of nine were excavated archaeologically,⁵ sampling across the W end of the church. This gave an extrapolated profile of the upper layers across most of the width (Fig 3).

NARTHEX, Area 1, the W end of the N aisle
Three stanchion base pits 14, 15 and 17 (Fig 2) were excavated archaeologically.

The earliest stratigraphy seen in this part of the church was a homogeneous deposit of brown loamy clay (10), observed in all three pits at approximately 0.36 m below the existing floor level. The depth of this material could not be ascertained. Overlying (10) a spread of limestone rubble (9) was seen in all three pits. Over this and extending over much of the area exposed was a stone slab floor (8) displaying numerous repairs. In turn this underlay the general spread of brick and plaster rubble (7) which was exposed when the contractors removed the existing stone slabs.

NARTHEX, Area 2, the W ends of the nave and S aisle

Removal of the existing stone slab floor, exposed underlying brick and mortar rubble (1). Five stanchion base pits were excavated in this part of the church (Fig 2): pits 2, 3 4, 5 and 22.

The earliest archaeological layer (11) encountered in this area was seen in pit 2, 0.55 m below the modern floor and comprised of pebble gravel with

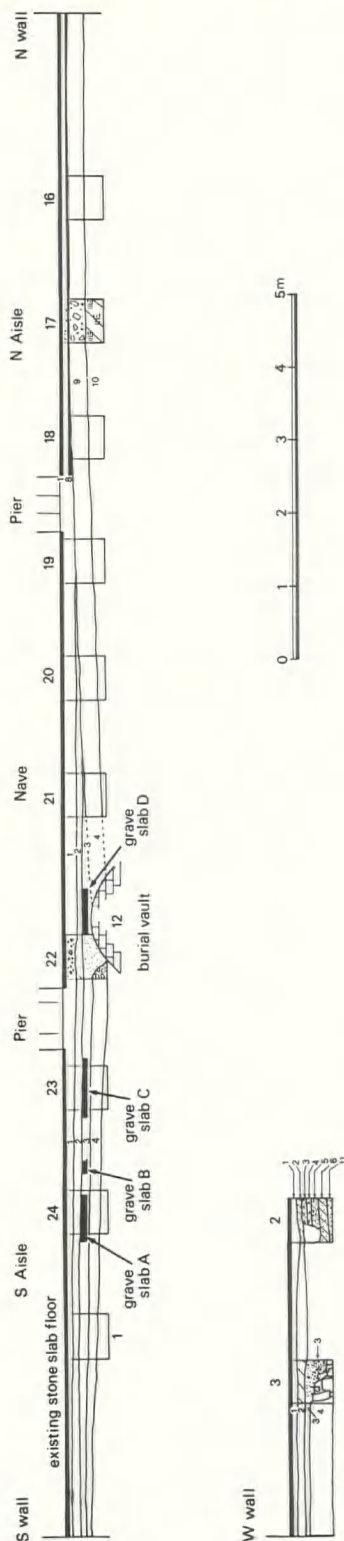


Fig 3 Extrapolated section across the W end of St Paul's Church, Bedford

some brick rubble and fragments of bone from a previously disturbed burial. It could not be fully excavated as it exceeded the permitted depth. Overlying (11), and identified in pits 2 and 3 in the S aisle, was a deposit of dark brown gritty loam (6) which underlay a spread of fine gravel (5). These may indicate levelling and flooring after burials and other upheavals had taken place inside the W end of the building. A deposit of limestone rubble or debris (4) overlay the generally horizontal bands of stratification, observed in pits 2, 3 4 and 5. Pits 4 and 5 showed this layer to be approximately 0.40 m deep against the W wall of the S aisle. However, further into the interior of the building its average depth decreased, but was sufficiently extensive to have resulted from major construction activities. On top of the limestone rubble, and identified in pits 2, 3 and 5, was a thin layer of brick and mortar rubble (3) which post dated a brick roofed burial vault (12) seen in pit 22 and capped by grave slab D (6).

Resting at the same level as Slab D were three other grave slabs, A, B and C, all in the S aisle. Only the inscriptions on grave Slabs A and C were legible, recording terminal dates of 1794 and 1815 respectively.

Immediately above the grave slabs in this area and observed in all five stanchion base pits was a band of dark slightly powdery material (2) interpreted as decayed wood which may be the remnant of a previous timber floor. This layer was separated from the existing stone slab floor by a spread of brick and mortar debris (1).

AREA 3, the NE corner of the nave

An area of approximately eight square metres was exposed by the building contractors when removing existing floor slabs. At approximately 0.40 m below the surface of the floor was the grave slab of Edward Jackson and his wife Jenny (slab G). The Parish registers recorded a terminal date of December 24th 1841.⁷ The surface adjacent to this grave slab was of brick and mortar rubble, similar to that discovered with the grave slabs at the western end of the church (8). Resting on top of the rubble was a later stone slab floor. A duct lined with brick to house a service pipe had been cut into this sequence of floors and floor make up, disfiguring the underlaying grave slab.

AREA 4, the NE corner of the S transept

An area of approximately seven square metres adjacent to the base of the pillar supporting the southern side of the chancel arch was stripped of

flooring. At a depth of 0.40 m below this lay the grave slab of Sarah Thom and her husband William (slab F). The inscription bore a terminal date of September 15th 1832. An area of brick rubble identical to (8) surrounded the grave slab. A further layer of brick had been spread across the top and sealed with concrete. A series of ducts lined with brick to house service pipes had been cut through the area before the stone slab floor was laid.

THE GRAVE SLABS⁸

Seven grave slabs were found during the course of these investigations and for recording purposes were labelled A to G. Slab G was manufactured from Purbeck marble, and the remainder were of York stone Fig 2.

slab A

Damaged slab but most of the inscription still legible. Laid in memory of Thomas Gadsby 1725-1794 who was an apothecary.⁹

slab B

Half slab extant, one side broken away in antiquity. The inscription was too badly eroded to be legible.

slab C

Intact slab with no signs of major damage. Laid in memory of Deborah Gadsby 1755-1815. No connection could be identified with Thomas Gadsby (slab A).

slab D

Intact slab, but inscription and face too eroded to be legible.

slab E

Fairly intact slab with legible inscription. Laid in memory of Mary Marsh, an infant of Ursula and John Marsh an attorney. Mary died on October 30th 1746 only two months after being born.¹⁰

slab F

Intact slab, commemorated Sarah Thom 1762-1824 and her husband William Thom 1759-1832. The inscription recorded Camberwell, Surrey, as their place of residence.

slab G

Fine Purbeck marble slab had been cut across the centre by a service duct laid in the NE corner of the nave, but with still legible inscription. Laid in memory of Edward Jackson, 1746-1802, surgeon, and his wife Jenny, 1761-1841.¹¹

THE DOCUMENTARY BACKGROUND

During the 19th century, there was a programme of alterations to the building which culminated in the construction of the N aisle. On July 13th 1830 the vicar and parishioners of St Paul's Bedford formed a 'Committee for the enlargement of the Church'. Consultations concerning the need for improvements led to an architect's report stating that 'the only effectual mode of increasing the number of

settings would be to add another aisle to the church which would afford five hundred more settings'.¹² Consequently applications were made to the diocesan authorities for a faculty to enlarge the existing galleries and raise the level of the floor in the church. Permission was granted for these works in 1831.¹³ Perhaps as an interim measure in 1832 a further faculty was granted to erect a pew in the gallery at the western end of the building adjoining the S wall of the S aisle.¹⁴ After this, little progress appears to have been made and in October 1846 an article appeared in the *Bedfordshire Times* despairing of the condition of the building; 'The mutilations which it has suffered from time to time, in order to compress it into the present contrivance for the purposes of Divine Service, are too many to be numbered.'¹⁵ By 1859 the situation had not improved and a public meeting was held which concluded with a resolution to restore and enlarge the church.¹⁶ By 1861 sufficient progress had been made for conditions and regulations of the required works to be finished.¹⁷ The exact specifications had been agreed and estimates submitted¹⁸ and drawings presented by the architect Robert Palgrave.¹⁹ Once the works had been commissioned at least two appeal leaflets emerged from the campaign. The first was issued during 1864²⁰ to raise funds for the restoration of the font, and the second²¹ was issued the following year for the general cost of the building works.

In the 1865 appeal leaflet one paragraph hints at the existence of an earlier and presumably demolished N transept. However this could not be investigated during the course of the 1981 archaeological excavations. The construction of the currently standing N aisle and transept was completed in 1884.²²

The patched brick floors and areas of timber floor found during the 1981 archaeological excavations is documented in the 1861 *Specifications of Works*.²³ A concrete under-paving was 'provided over the entire area of the inside of the church to receive the tile and stone pavings and under the wood floors'.²⁴ During the course of the work, the need to conserve as much of the re-usable material as possible was included in the specifications. The contractor was required to re-square for relaying 'all the sound and good old paving'. Additionally the stonework and windows in the N wall of the nave were saved to be re-used in the new wall of the N aisle. It was also stipulated that as much of the stained glass should be re-used as was practicable.²⁵ The overall level of upheaval tolerated within the church during the course of

this work, was likely to have affected not only the daily routine of services, but also the upper archaeological strata as well. Fortunately, the nature and extent of these works at St Paul's Church Bedford was meticulously described in the documentation now stored at the Bedfordshire County Record Office.

DISCUSSION

On this occasion no archaeological stratification associated with the development of the town was discovered. The work at the western end of the building failed to find any structural evidence associated with an earlier phase of the church. Instead, successive levels of rubble and re-flooring were found which might be linked to the 19th century expansion of the building. Prior to the addition of the N aisle which was completed in 1884²⁶ major disturbance had been taking place within the church through the construction of burial vaults. The practice of burial under the church was further indicated by the discovery of seven grave slabs when various parts of the existing floor were removed. All these slabs dated from the mid-18th to the mid-19th centuries. This reflects the wider growth in the popularity of burial within churches during the 18th and 19th centuries²⁷ which led to earlier burials being disturbed.

THE FINDS

The excavations conducted on a limited scale, indicated that a high level of disturbance occurred during the 19th century. However the small quantities of artefacts found included a range of materials befitting a church structure. Details of these finds may be found in the site archive.

Architectural features

During the course of the 19th century alterations to the church, the pulpit was removed from its original position in the NE corner of the nave.²⁸ It was not until 1929 that the pulpit was restored to its former location. The pulpit, manufactured from clunch or Burwell stone, has been described in previous works as part of a reredos and could be of 16th century work.²⁹

In 1981 the font was moved from its position in the SW corner of the S aisle. A small octagonal

plinth, measuring 0.28 m high and 0.82 m across, with a 0.07 m vertically bored hole through the centre, was found resting on the stone slab floor under the font.³⁰

Notes

- 1 Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Sites, Monuments, and Buildings Record 861.
- 2 The watching brief was directed by R.S. Mustoe, assisted by employees on a Youth Opportunities Programme of the Manpower Services Commission.
- 3 The excavation archive and finds are stored in Bedford Museum accession number 1986/1.
- 4 Bedfordshire County Record Office (BCRO) P1/2/14-17 and P1/2/26.
- 5 The N Aisle was built during the late 19th century and therefore was not expected to overlay evidence for levels of activity as intense as within the older parts of the church.
- 6 Details of the grave slabs are included in a separate section of this report.
- 7 BCRO Parish register for St Paul's Bedford 1840-1845.
- 8 It is hoped that a more extensive account of the grave slabs will be appearing in a future publication.
- 9 BCRO Parish register for St Paul's Bedford 1569-1812.
- 10 *ibid.*
- 11 BCRO Parish register for St. Paul's Bedford 1840-1845.
- 12 BCRO P1/5/2b.
- 13 BCRO P1/2/12.
- 14 BCRO P1/2/61a.
- 15 BCRO 120/8 *Bedfordshire Times* 3rd October 1846.
- 16 BCRO P1/2/144.
- 17 BCRO P1/2/14.
- 18 BCRO P1/2/15.
- 19 BCRO P1/2/16.
- 20 BCRO P1/2/129.
- 21 BCRO P1/2/132.
- 22 BCRO P1/2/26.
- 23 BCRO P1/2/15.
- 24 This excluded the Archdeacons Court to the S side of the chancel now referred to as the Trinity Chapel.
- 25 BCRO P1/2/17.
- 26 BCRO P1/2/26.
- 27 Rodwell, W., 1981, *The Archaeology of the English Church*, Batsford, 146 discusses the popularity of burial within churches during the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 28 BCRO 120/8 *op. cit.*
- 29 Pevsner, N. 1968, *Bedfordshire and the County of Huntingdon and Peterborough*, Penguin, 46-47.
- 30 BCRO 120/8 refers to three fonts associated with St Paul's Church, Bedford. One of these may have been removed to All Saints Church, Bedford, but no association can be substantiated with the current font or the octagonal base discovered in the excavations described above.
- 31 Baker, D.B., Baker, E.M., Hassall, J., and Simco, A., *Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977 Beds. Arch. J.*, 13, 1979.

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Bedford's Oldest Streets

ALAN CRAWLEY AND IAN FREEMAN

SUMMARY

It is now generally accepted that Bedford as a town originated in two burhs dating from the Saxon period, the earlier one to the north and the later one to the south of the river. This article discusses how the streets which still form the nucleus of modern Bedford relate to those early burhs and also how the establishment of the burhs must have altered the pattern of the cross-country roads in the area. The name changes of these early streets are traced from the earliest recorded forms through to the names by which they are known today. Some explanation of these names is given where the meaning is not immediately obvious.

One school of thought claims that Bedford was the site of the battle of Biedcanford in AD 571. The place-name evidence is against this, but even if it were so, there is no evidence that Bedford was a town at that time. The earliest indication of a town at Bedford is in the story, related by the 13th century writer Matthew Paris, that King Offa of Mercia was buried at Bedford when he died in AD 796. Unfortunately, according to the story, his tomb was washed away by a flood and there is no confirmatory evidence. Bedford had certainly become a place of importance by AD 885, when it was used as a key point on the Danelaw boundary and there was definitely a town there by AD 914. In that year Earl Thurcytel and other Danish leaders went from Bedford to Buckingham to submit to King Edward there. The account in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of this event tells us that Edward built two strongholds at Buckingham, one on either side of the river. This is in contrast to the entry for the following year which describes Edward's occupation of Bedford itself. This tells us that Edward took possession of the burh, i.e. Bedford and arranged for the burh on the south of the river to be built up (see Fig 1).

As Haslam has pointed out (*Beds. Arch.* 16) this must mean that the burh north of the river was already in existence when Edward came to take possession. So unless this burh was built by the Danes it must have had a Mercian origin as Matthew Paris' story implies. Haslam has argued

against a Danish origin on the grounds that there are no Danish parallels to the situation at Bedford. He has also shown that the defence line of the northern burh can be deduced from the pattern of streets surviving at the centre of the town. It follows that these streets would also be Mercian or Danish in origin while those of the southern burh originate with Edward's burh of AD 915. For the northern burh, the defence lines prove to be roughly rectangular in plan. The river formed the southern defence line. The eastern defence line ran just west of St Cuthbert's Street and the northern line ran just south of St Peter's Street. This positioning of the northern line would enable the roads approaching the town from the north to funnel through a single gateway at the centre of the northern defence line corresponding to the top of the High Street, leaving Dame Alice Street and St Peter's Street outside the burh. The other sides of the rectangle would have been pierced by similar central gateways, corresponding to Mill Street on the eastern side and the bridge over the river on the southern side. The northern and eastern defence lines would correspond with the parish boundaries of St Paul's with St Peter's and St Cuthbert's respectively and would explain why those boundaries came to be where they are.

The western defence line is more speculative but it is reasonable to assume, as Haslam has, that the eastern and western lines would be roughly equidistant from the High Street. It seems likely that the western line would come to be used to mark the boundary of St Paul's, as did the northern and eastern lines. In this case the boundary would be with the lost parish of All-Hallows. Haslam places this line slightly to the east of All-Hallows Lane but there is evidence which suggests that the parish boundary lay along All-Hallows Lane itself, so that this lane would have marked the western boundary. This would push Haslam's line slightly to the west but would not weaken his general argument. Again this defence line would be pierced by a single gate, this time corresponding to Well Street, now Midland Road.

For Edward's southern burh, the defence line is

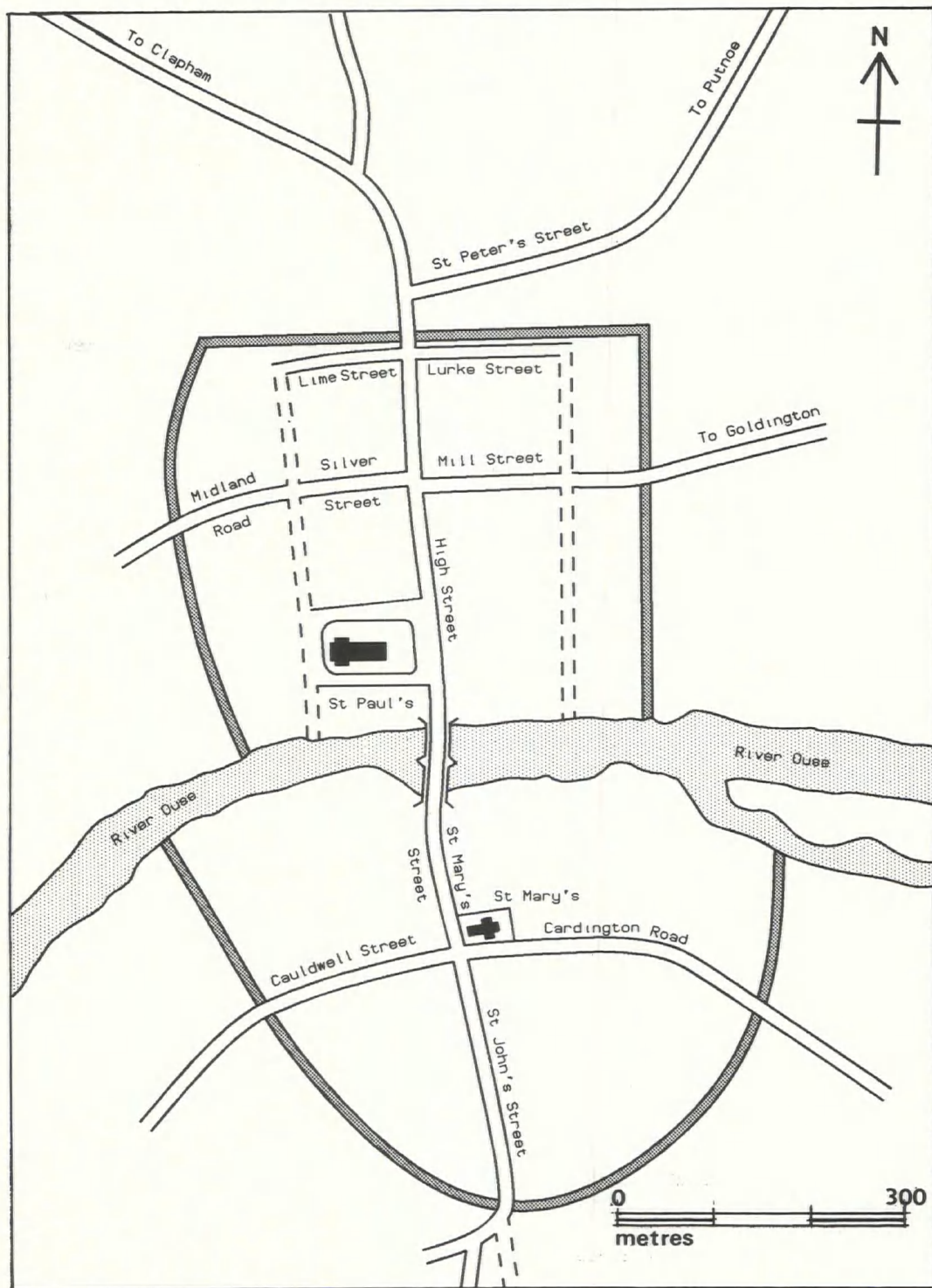


Fig 1 The Bedford Burhs

unambiguously defined by the King's Ditch whose semi-circular outline has only recently been partly obscured by modern road developments. Most of the streets in the centre of modern Bedford can be related to these two burhs. For instance, for each burh the essential feature was a central cross-roads formed by the intersection of a north to south road with an east to west road.

In the northern burh the north to south road was the High Street running from the north gate to the river crossing. The east to west road was formed by Mill Street and Silver Street with Midland Road. The High Street possibly took a straighter course than it does today. Nowadays, the line from the central cross-roads bends slightly to the east before reaching the bridge. A very important feature of the early town would have been a market and it is reasonable to assume that this was situated, as it was from medieval to modern times, close to the church and river crossing. Expansion of this market area could have been responsible for deflecting the High Street at this point. In addition to the cross-roads, the northern burh street plan would have included Lime Street and Lurke Street. These would have run just inside the northern defence line and so together would have formed an intra-mural street which was a feature of many early burhs.

It is possible that the southern part of Harpur Street was also part of the original street plan. (The extension north of Lime Street was not opened until the 19th century.) If so it would imply a grid pattern, rather than a simple cross-road pattern, with another north-south road equidistant from the High Street on the eastern side. Such a road would have been erased to a large extent when the Norman castle was built and effectively obliterated the south east corner of the old burh. However, that section of Castle Lane which runs north to south is about the right distance from the High Street and a chain of property boundaries shown on the Speed Map of 1610 and the Enclosure Map of 1797 carries the line of that road northwards past Mill Street to Lurke Street.

On the other hand, it is possible that Harpur Street was not contemporary with the rest of the burh streets. We can deduce from the Harrold Cartulary that the "territorium of Aldermannesberi" lay at the north-west corner of the town. At one time part of Harpur Street was known as Aldermanbury. It could be therefore, that the street was built as an approach from St Paul's Church to the Aldermanbury which would have been the fortified homestead of the Elderman, the senior

official of the Saxon county.

One old street which cannot be fitted neatly into the burh pattern is St Loye's Street. This seems to breach the defence line in an awkward way at the north west corner. This street could have been a continuation of Harpur Street alias Aldermanbury or it could have been built for some other purpose after the burh defences had ceased to be of importance. Alternatively, as we shall see later, it might be the remnant of one of the roads which pre-dated the burh.

The street pattern of the southern burh is much simpler in that there is no indication of any streets associated with the burh other than those forming the cross-roads. The north to south road consisted of St Mary's Street and St John's Street running from the river crossing to a southern gate near St John's Church. The east to west road consisted of Cauldwell Street and Cardington Road which intersected the north to south road near St Mary's Church. Duck Mill Lane and the other lanes in that area probably developed later as access roads leading to the Mill.

Apart from creating new streets within the defences, the building of the burhs must also have brought about the re-alignment of the cross-country roads which previously would have led directly to the river crossing (see Figs 2 and 3). This is very apparent south of the river where Cauldwell Street from the south west and Cardington Road from the south east have clearly been diverted from their original alignments on the river crossing just at the points where they cross the King's Ditch. It is also obvious that Ampthill Road was once aligned on the river crossing but was diverted to the east in order to enter the newly formed defences through the south gate.

The original alignment of Elstow Road is not so clear because it changed direction at several places in the comparatively short distance from Elstow village to where it entered the southern burh through the south gate. In 1308 there was a major re-routing of the road around St Leonard's Hospital, which once stood in the area roughly occupied today by the disused St John's Railway Station. This re-routing diverted the road to the east before reaching the Hospital to join up with another road that led south from the south gate. This road, now no longer in existence, can be seen on the Enclosure Map of 1799 leading south as far as Mile Road. A chain of footpaths, hedgerows and minor roads which can be traced on the 2½ inch OS Map suggest it might have continued to Haynes.

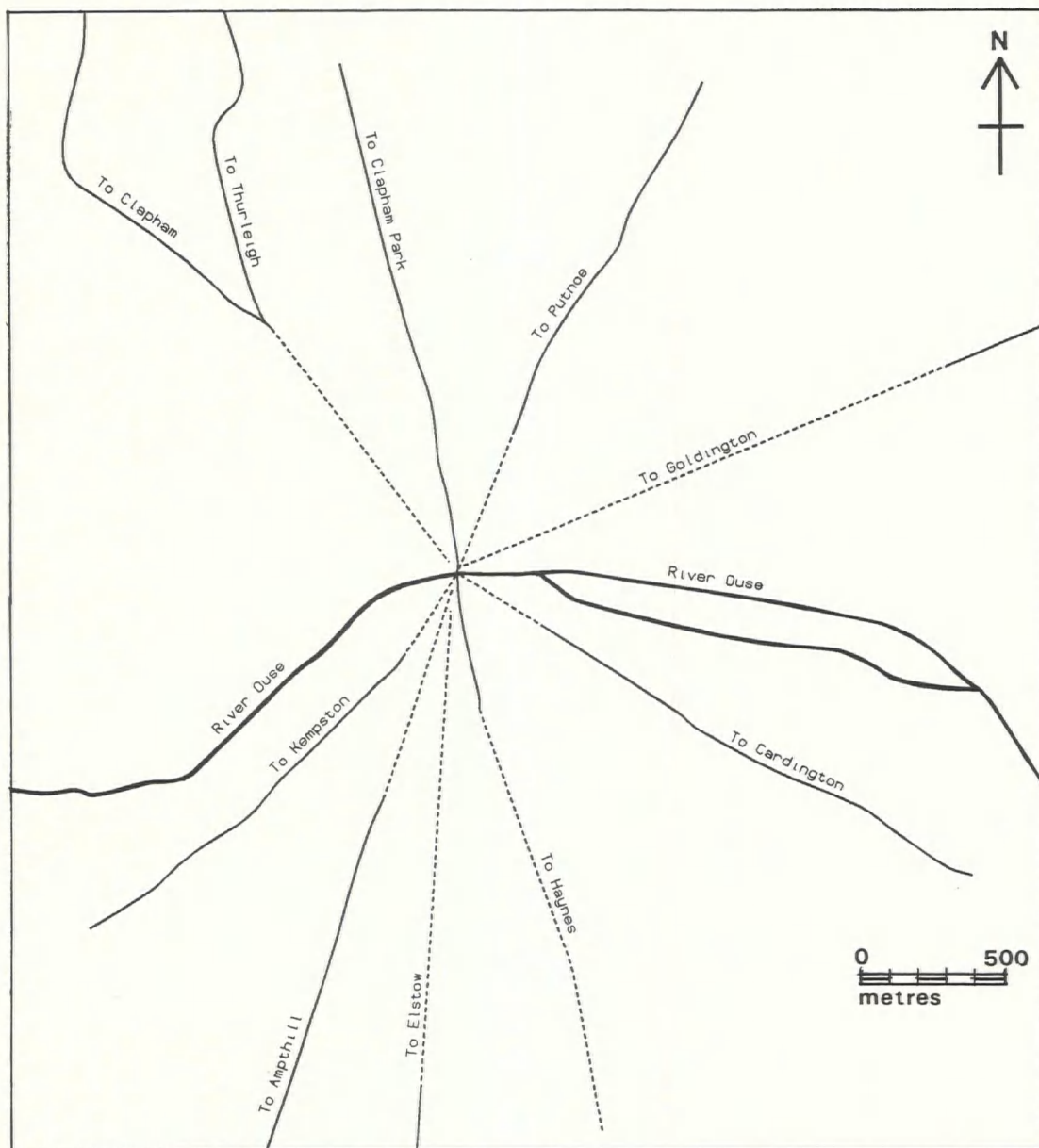


Fig 2 Pre-Burh Roads

London Road shows no obvious alignment on the river crossing although it does appear to start from the south gate and so might be associated with the burh. However, the earliest reference to this road is as part of the Bedford to Hitchin turnpike which was established in 1757, and it has not been possible to find any evidence of the road before that. Jefferys' Map of 1765 shows the road but Speed's Map of

1610 fails to indicate any road in that position. In fact it shows a block of houses built across the line of the road at the point where St John's Street turns towards Elstow and Ampthill.

There are similar indications that some of the roads north of the river did once align on the river crossing and might therefore represent communication routes which pre-date the burh. Foster Hill

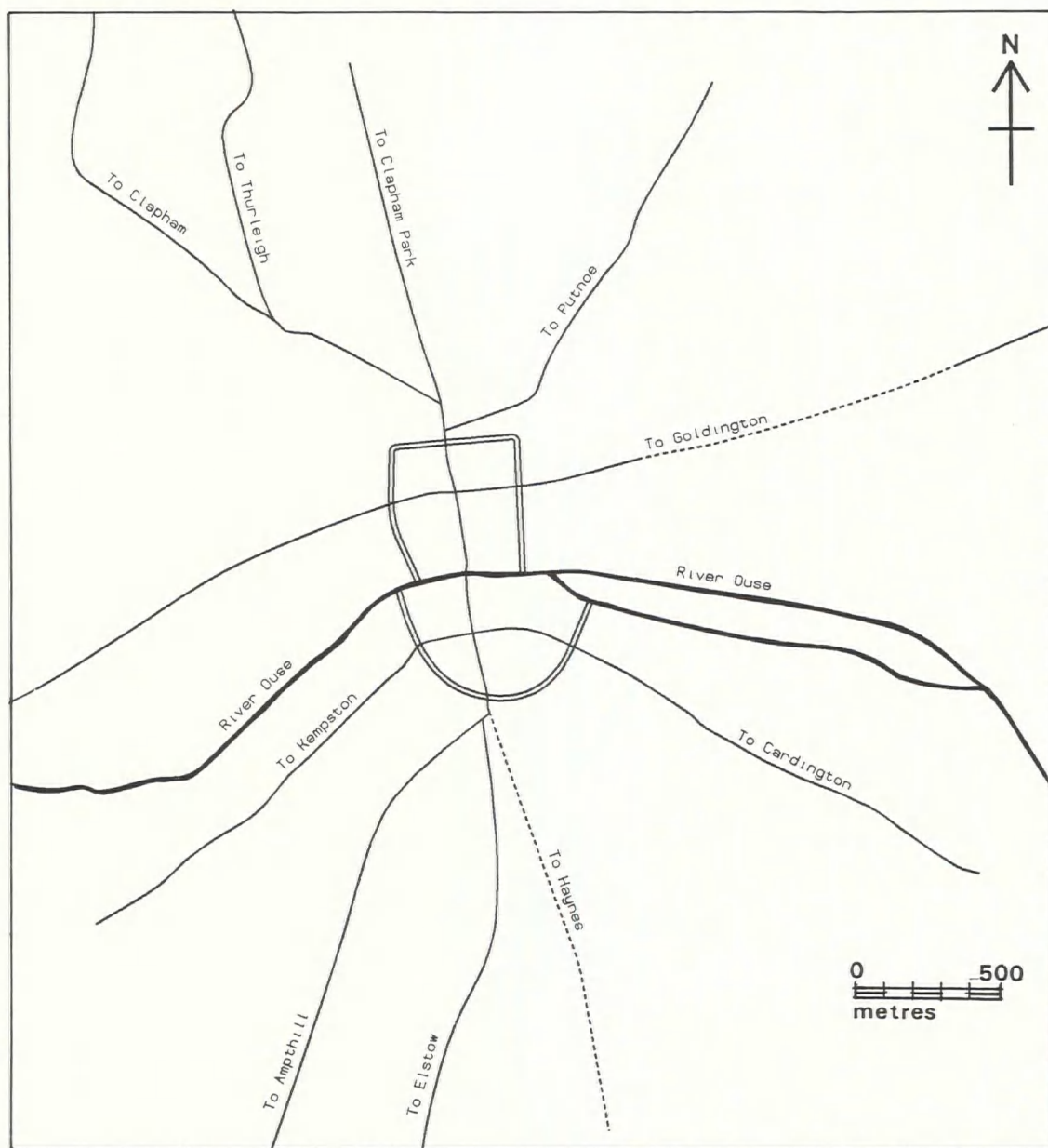


Fig 3 Post-Burh Roads

Road shows a direct connection with the river crossing, as it is a continuation of the High Street with only a slight deviation at St Peter's. It was known as Clapham Park Way in the Middle Ages and a foot-path still carries the old line as far as Clapham Park although the modern road finishes at the Cemetery. Another road which shows a clear alignment on the river crossing with a diversion to accommodate the

burh is the present Kimbolton Road. The turnpike road to Kimbolton was proposed in 1795 and completed in 1820. Prior to that the first stretch of what is now Kimbolton Road formed part of Putnoe Way. This continued along Putnoe Lane to the hamlet of Putnoe then along what is now a bridle path past Putnoe Wood to Renhold, Wilden and other places to the north east. A continuation of this

line in a southerly direction would take it to the river crossing but the road has clearly been diverted along St Peter's Street in order to enter the burh by the northern gate.

The Clapham Road is now the major road out of Bedford to the north west and the way it follows the terrace above the left bank of the Ouse suggests it began as an early routeway. Nowadays it continues into Bedford along Tavistock Street and shows no obvious alignment on the river crossing. However, research has revealed that just at the point where Clapham Road becomes Tavistock Street it was joined by an old road which once came down from Thurleigh via Clapham Green. This old road which was called Thurleigh Way, was referred to in the Newnham Rental of 1507 and was still in existence in the 18th century although the only part now surviving is the foot path known as Slade Walk. The point at which Thurleigh Way joined the Clapham Road is still marked by a kink in the modern road which shows where the two roads merged into a common line, a line which if produced, would pass through St Loyes and intersect the river at the crossing. It is thus possible that the combined roads followed this route down to the river before the burh was built. If so they were then diverted along Tavistock Street to enter by the north gate.

The Goldington Road is now the main approach road from the east but at one time there was another road from Goldington which led through to Mill Street. This road, still in existence in the 18th century, was at that time known as Little Goldington Highway. If the line of the present A428, as it now goes through Goldington village, is extended it can be seen to be in direct alignment with the river crossing. The present Goldington Road turns off this line as it nears the top of Newnham Avenue and proceeds towards St Peter's. The little Goldington Highway turned off the original line somewhat nearer to the river crossing to approach the central crossroads via Mill Street. Such a bend is clearly shown on Jeffreys' Map of 1765 although that map is not precise enough to fix the position.

It seems therefore that the road through Goldington was also aligned on the river crossing but was diverted to accommodate the burh. Both Goldington Road and Little Goldington Highway were in existence during part of the 18th century but the latter had dropped out of use by the 19th century. The fact that Little Goldington Highway led to the central crossroads indicates that it was the earlier of the two roads, and this is confirmed by the

way the common field system developed round it. Thus it formed the boundary between the field known as the Sele which lay south of the road and the field to the north known as the Haylands. The present Goldington Road cuts across the Haylands and so must have developed after the field boundaries were laid out.

The main road from the west is now the Bromham Road but the late development of this road is evidenced by the fact that it by-passes both Bromham and Biddenham village centres. In fact one has to follow the road out to either Turvey on the northern fork or Stagsden on the southern fork before coming across a village on the road. Also, it bisected Conduit Field, one of the common fields of Bedford, which suggests it developed later than the field system. The earlier approach road from the west would have been from the river crossing at Ford End along Ford End Road, Midland Road and Silver Street to the central crossroads. A road from Biddenham village joined this road near Ford End.

CONCLUSION

This analysis demonstrates how the establishment of the two burhs influenced the pattern of the roads around Bedford. Prior to their existence, the river crossing would have formed a node at which the approach roads would converge and then fan out. With the establishment of the burhs, these roads would be diverted to enter the burhs by the appropriate gateways.

Apart from the building of the castle the patterns of the streets within the burhs and of the immediate approach roads, were to remain substantially unchanged throughout the medieval period. Speed's Map of 1610 is the earliest street map we have but most of the streets shown on Speed's Map can be traced further back through documents for some two to three hundred years, albeit with many changes of name in some cases. Speed's Map can therefore be taken as a picture of Bedford as it was after the castle had been demolished. The central crossroads in each burh are clearly apparent and the built-up area fits closely within the burh defence lines as described above, apart from a little suburban growth at St Peter's and St Cuthbert's.

This pattern of streets was to persist until well into the 19th century. Jeffreys' Map of 1765 and Brayley's Map of 1807 show that during the intervening years a certain amount of infill had taken place within the town and some ribbon development was beginning to appear along the main roads out of town but the basic pattern was unchanged.

It was to remain unchanged until the 1820's when new developments in the Tavistock Street area heralded the beginning of the expansion which was to lead to Bedford as we know it today.

GAZETTEER

In the following notes individual streets are examined and discussed as to how they were related to the early burhs (using Haslam's definition in the case of the northern burh). Their changes of name are traced from the earliest known forms to their modern equivalent and give some explanations of the names where these are not immediately obvious. One point is that in many cases more than one name might be applied to a single street over a given period of time. This happened because early street names were, in a sense, nicknames derived from the use of the street or from some prominent feature in the vicinity. No list of Official street names existed in Bedford before 1835, when the Improvement Commission set up a committee to select names for all the streets then in existence. Even after that, an older unofficial name might continue in common use, alongside the official name in some cases.

Only those streets which can be associated with some certainty with the street plan of the original burhs or might have pre-dated the burhs have been selected. Other streets developed in the Medieval period and these also show interesting changes of name; discussion of these will have to wait for a future occasion.

ST PAUL'S SQUARE

Records tell us that there was at least one church in Saxon Bedford and it seems likely that one of the earliest churches was on the site of the present St Paul's which is well-integrated into the street plan of the northern burh. Haslam has argued that the early church could have been a minster serving a wide ecclesiastical area and even that King Offa could have been buried at St Paul's. This last point however, is not compatible with Matthew Paris' account of King Offa's burial in a chapel outside Bedford town and near enough to the river to be destroyed by floods.

Whatever the truth of this, it is reasonable to assume that the early church on the site of St Paul's was built as an integral part of the northern burh. It is also reasonable to assume that the open area around the church and its burial ground would very soon come to be used as a market area even if this purpose was not part of the original burh plan. Certainly by the Middle Ages the area we know as St Paul's Square was occupied by a network of narrow market streets.

BUTCHER ROW

le bocherie, 1422 St Peter's terrier. BHRS 2.
le Botherowe, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental. BHRS 25.
Bocherowe, 1562/1603 'Black Book of Bedford'. BHRS 36.
Butcher Row, 1649 Bedford Corporation Minutes. BHRS 26.
Butcher Row, 1736 Acts of Council. Bedford Town Hall Archives.

FISHMARKET

le Fishrowe, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental. BHRS 25.
The Fishmarket, 1649 Bedford Corporation Minutes. BHRS 26.
Fish Mar(ket), 1807 Brayley's Map.

GIRDLE LANE

References in 1653, 1677, 1697 in 'Records and Other Documents of the Corporation of Bedford', published in 1883.

GOOSE DITCH LANE

Goselane, 1429 Deed. CRO X67/79.
Gosedichelane, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental. BHRS 25.

PIG MARKET

Piggmarket, 1636 Deed. CRO X67/81.

POULTRY MARKET

le Pultry Market, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental. BHRS 25.
Poultry Market, 1610 Speed's Map.
Poultry Market, 1648 Bedford Corporation Minute Book. BHRS 26.

PUDDING LANE

Pudding Lane, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental. BHRS 25.

ST PAUL'S SQUARE

St Paul's Square, 1830 Pigot's Directory.
St Paul's Square, 1835 Improvement Commission.

STONE HOUSE LANE

Stone Lane, 1610 Speed's Map.
Stone House Lane, 1694 Corporation Minutes. BHRS 26.
Stone House Street, 1765 Jeffreys' Map.
Stone House Lane, 1807 Brayley's Map.
Stone House Lane, 1825, 1829, 1830, Pigot's Directories.

VINE STREET

Vine Street, 1765 Jeffreys' Map.
Vine's Corner, 1807 Brayley's Map.
Vine's Corner, 1808 Improvement Commission.

From the Newnham Rental and other sources we can deduce the relative positions of some of these little streets. The Pigmarket had St Paul's churchyard adjoining it to the south and the Butcher Row to its east. Gooseditch Lane ran roughly parallel to these and to their north. Thus this group of lanes ran east to west across the northern side of the Square. From the 17th century onwards this side of the Square is marked on various maps as "Stone House Lane" or "Stone Lane". It seems therefore, that Gooseditch Lane followed the line of Stone House Lane, with Butcher Row and the Pigmarket lying between it and the churchyard.

A stone house stood on the north west corner of the square and served as the Town Gaol until 1589 when it was abandoned as being too noisome. This may be the stone house (domo lapidae) mentioned in the Warden Cartulary, c 1190, as standing near Bedford Bridge. Nothing is known of the ditch which gave Gooseditch Lane its name except that Wyatt (in BAAS Proc. Dec. 15th 1868) mentions a ditch running "across the lower part of St Paul's Square" into which had been thrown "numerous horns, always in pairs" which proved to be the cores of the horns of goats.

The Fishmarket was situated on the eastern side of the square between the High Street and St Paul's churchyard. Girdler's Lane was also somewhere in that area but has not been specifically located.

The Poultry Market was on the southern side of the square. A lane called Pudding Lane ran from this down to the river. The name of this lane might signify that, like Pudding Lane in London, it was the route by which the "puddings" i.e. the intestines etc. from animal carcasses were taken down to the river for disposal.

The removal of this unpleasant debris was always a problem and the Black Book of Bedford, issued at the end of the 16th century, laid down strict rules that the butchers of that time must "carry their intrayle and garbages daylye the same day the beast be kylled into Offalle Lane" (alias Tavistock Street).

In the 18th and early 19th century this side of the square was known as Vine Street, with Vine's Corner on the corner nearest to the bridge. This name probably came into use after the building of the Shire Hall in 1753 and the 'modernisation' of the neighbouring houses to give them Georgian facades, but the name could derive originally from the "Vinter's House" (domum Vineter) mentioned in the Newnham Cartulary in the 13th century.

It was not until the early 19th century that the concept of an open square surrounding the church began to emerge. This was a consequence of the Improvement Commission's efforts to tidy up the old market area. The name St. Paul's Square first began to appear in private addresses in the directories of the 1820's and was finally given official recognition in the list of approved street names issued by the Improvement Commission in 1835.

HARPUR STREET

Possibly the western side of an original grid pattern street plan or constructed as the approach road to the Aldermanbury.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Doke Lane 1422 St Peter's Terrier. BHRS vol. 2.

LATER NAMES

Duck Lane, 1610 Speed Map.

Duck Lane, 1738 Acts of Council. Bedford Town Hall Archives.

Aldermanbury, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental. BHRS 25.

Le Schepyschepyng, 1414 CRO X67/56.

Sheps Chepping, 1610 Speed Map.

Angell Street, 1736 Acts of Council. Bedford Town Hall Archives.

White Horse Street, 1787 Corporation Records.

"Harper Street — From St Paul's Square extending through Angel Street, White Horse Street and Harpur Place to what is now Harpur Street but is intended to be called Dame Alice Street." 1835 Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The earliest reference is to Duck Lane in 1422 and the earliest to the street being called the Aldermanbury is not until 1507. As there are references to the district of Aldermanbury in the 13th century and it would have been in existence long before that, we also believe the name Aldermanbury would have been used for the street going back to the 13th century or earlier.

One of the 13th century references (1260/70 Harrold Cartulary BHRS Vol. 17 item 133) tells us that at least a part of the district of the Aldermanbury was in the area of what we today call St Loyes. The Aldermanbury would have been the official residence of the Ealdermann or 'earl' of the county in Saxon times.

The names Shepyschepyng and Sheps Chepping mean the sheep market, which the Speed Map of 1610 locates in the lower section of the street between St Paul's Square and Midland Road. As the map shows the western side of the street completely built up, it would be reasonable to assume that the market was an open area on the eastern side where no buildings are illustrated.

This same section of the street was later, in the 18th century, to become Angel Street, but the location of the Inn that gave it the name is not known. It is not included in the list of Inns in the Quarter Session Rolls of 1751.

The 18th century also saw the name of the section between Midland Road and Lime Street called White Horse Street. In this case we know the White Horse Inn was situated on the present site of Marks and Spencers and was not demolished until 1929 to make room for the store.

Harpur Street only went as far as Lime Street before the 19th century. Harpur Place, in the 1835 reference, was the extension from Lime Street to Dame Alice Street made in 1819. The further extension from Dame Alice Street to Tavistock Street was not made until after 1835. This 1835 reference also tells us, that it was then, that the present day name of Harpur Street was adopted.

William Harper (1496?-1574) was born in Bedford of a local family. He spent most of his life in London as a merchant tailor, of which company he was elected Master in 1552. In 1556 he became an Alderman of the City of London and in 1561 Lord Mayor, being knighted during his term of office. He is buried in St Paul's Church, where he is commemorated by an inscription and brasses of himself and his wife Dame Alice.

ST JOHN'S STREET

Together with St Mary's Street, this formed the north to south axis of the southern burh. It probably formed part of a pre-burh thoroughfare continuing the line of Foster Hill Road and the High Street southwards over the river crossing.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Seynt Johnstrete, 1439 CRO X67/58.

LATER NAMES

St John's Stret, 1610 Speed's Map.

St John's Street, 1835 Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

St John's Hospital in Bedford was founded by Robert de Parys and John and Henry St John in c 1180. The Master and brethren were to observe a daily round of religious service and to tend the deserving poor of Bedford. The church was originally built as a private chapel for the hospital but later became the parish church of St John's Parish when this was set up some time before 1321, to cover a small area carved out of St Mary's Parish. Until recent times, St John's Street was the only street running through the parish.

HIGH STREET

This street probably preceded the burh as, together with Foster Hill Road to the north and St Mary's Street to the south, it forms a continuous north-south thoroughfare over the river. When the burh was built, this road came to be the north-south axis street.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Alta Strata, c 1300 Newnham Priory Cartulary. BHRS 43.

LATER NAMES

High Street, numerous references from Medieval times to the present day.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The street has always been described under the name High Street or its latin equivalent 'Alta Strata', indicating that it has always been considered to be the principal street of the town. The

sinuous course of the present High Street suggests it might have wandered from its original line and that at one time it ran straight down to a river crossing slightly west of the present bridge.

SILVER STREET AND MIDLAND ROAD

The street leading from the central crossroads to the western gate of the northern burh.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Well Street, 1240 Newnham Priory Cartulary. BHRS 43.

LATER NAMES

Silver Street, 1610 Speed's Map.

"Little Silver Street alias 'Gaol Lane,' 1653 Will of Richard Beckett.

"Gaole Lane alias Silver Street," 1662 Corporation Minutes. BHRS 26.

Gaol Lane, 1638, 1743, 1796 Corporation Records.

Silver Street, 1807 Brayley's Map.

Gaol Lane, 1808, 1815 Improvement Commission.

Silver Street, 1819, 1835 Improvement Commission.

Trumpington Road, 1866 Burt Directory.

Midland Road, 1866 Burt Directory.

Midland Road, 1871 Mercer and Crocker Directory.

Midland Road, 1884 BTI Directory.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

Well Street ran westwards to Colles Well in the 13th century and we believe would have started at the High Street, as a reference of 1507 (Newnham Priory Rental) tells us it did then. The well was situated in the street near the south end of Colles Lane (All Hallows) and until the 19th century this marked the western extent of the town. From here Forth Street continued to the hamlet of Forth or Ford End.

It is not until 1610 that we find the first reference to the eastern section, from Harpur Street to High Street, being called Silver Street. We believe the name Silver Street originated and was used for this section, along with the name Well Street, from a very much earlier time. 'Silver Streets' occur as principle streets in many Saxon towns (Anglo-Saxon towns in southern England). Silver Street could be the 'street of the Silversmiths', but in the absence of early forms of the name this should not be assumed. Silver Street in Reading, for example, was 'Sivekare Stret' in 1311, the street of the Sievemakers.

We also find Silver Streets in villages such as Great Barford and Stevington, where it is unlikely there would have been a Silver smith.

This same section of the street, from Harpur Street to High Street, was also known as Gaol Lane, the first reference to this being in 1662. Both Gaol Lane and Silver Street were used until, in 1835, the Improvement Commission finally settled on Silver Street.

The old County Gaol stood on the northern corner with the High Street until it was moved to its present location in 1801. There had been a Gaol in the street since the 12th century and is mentioned in the Harrold Priory Cartulary several times up until the 15th century.

The name Trumpington Road was briefly applied c 1866 for the section of the road between River Street and Prebend Street. The name refers to the medieval Trumpington Meadow that occupied the area between this part of the road and the river.

Midland Road was named after the Midland Railway that opened its line to the west of the town in 1857 and the new station on Freeman's Common in 1859. The census of 1861 refers to Well

Street for the full built up length, but by 1871 Midland Road was applied to the section from River Street to the Station with Well Street confined to the eastern end as far as Harpur Street. The whole thoroughfare, from the Station to Harpur Street, had become Midland Road by 1884.

MILL STREET

The street leading from the central crossroads to the eastern gate of the northern burh.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Horsemylne Lane, a deed of 1341. CRO X67/39.

LATER NAMES

Scolestret, mortgage of 1447. CRO X67/63.

Scolestreet, 1508/9. CRO CRT130/43.

'Mill Lane alias School Lane,' 1681 Hagable Rental, Corporation Records.

Mill Street, 1835 Improvement Commission.

(Mullestrate, 13th century deed. Official Schedule of Ancient Charters 1895. The location in this case is not clear, it could refer to the street later to become Duck Mill Lane.)

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The horse mill was situated on the southern side of the east end. Known as Trinity Mill as it was owned by the Fraternity of the Holy Trinity, a religious guild connected with St Paul's Church.

The School stood half way along on the northern side. It had been maintained by the secular canons of St Paul's Church from the early 12th century and later by the regular canons of Newnham Priory.

The School and the Mill were contemporary which leads us to believe that the two names were interchangeable during the early period. This is supported by the reference in 1681 and the late reference to School Lane in the 17th century, long after the School had moved to St Paul's Square in 1558. The present name Mill Street was chosen by the Improvement Commission in 1835.

LURKE STREET

This street lay just inside the northern defences of the northern burh and together with Lime Street, formed one of the intramural streets which were a feature of Saxon burhs.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Lurclane, a deed of 1447. CRO X67/63.

LATER NAMES

Lorkelane, mortgages of 1476. CRO X67/66.

Lucks Lane, 1765 Jefferys' Map.

Lucke Lane, 1835 Improvement Commission.

Lurke Lane, 1839 Pigot's Directory.

Lurke Street, 1885 Kelly's Directory.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The origin of this name is obscure. There is a 'Lurke Lane' in Beverley, Yorks, but this was Lort Lane in 1578 and earlier, meaning muddy or dirty lane. This derivation might apply to the Bedford street but the early forms 'Lurclane' and 'Lorkelane' would seem to rule this out. The later forms Lucks Lane and Lucke Lane are obvious corruptions of the earlier form.

LIME STREET

This street lay just inside the northern defences of the northern burh and together with Lurke Street, formed one of the intramural streets which were a feature of Saxon burhs.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Lime-Kiln Lane or Gee's Lane, a mortgage of 1676/7. CRO X199/2.

LATER NAMES

"Queen's Head or Duck Lane," Jeffery's Map 1765.

"Lime Kiln Lane alias Queen's Head Lane," feoffment 1805. CRO X199/24.

Queen's Head Lane, 1835 Improvement Commission.

Lime Street, 1885 Kellys Directory.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The lime kiln was situated in St Lyes Street, opposite the west end of Lime Street. The kiln is shown on the Speed Map of 1610 and is located on the Enclosure Map of 1797 as plot 194. There are many references to Lime-Kiln Lane until 1805 but only the one for Gee's Lane. Jeffery's Map of 1765 refers to "Queen's Head or Duck Lane". Harpur Street was at one time known as Duck Lane and the name possibly continued round into St Lyes. This we think may have confused Jefferys, as we do not believe Lime Street was ever known as Duck Lane. The Queen's Head Inn that gave its name to the street in the 18th century must have disappeared before 1751 as there is no mention of it in the list of Bedford Inn's and Ale Houses recorded in the Quarter Sessions role of that date. By 1885 the name had changed to Lime Street as it is known today.

ST MARY'S STREET

Together with St John's Street, this formed the north to south axis of the southern burh. It probably formed part of a pre-burh thoroughfare continuing the line of Foster Hill Road and the High Street southwards over the river crossing.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Brugestrate, deed of 1270. CRO X67/3.

LATER NAMES

Bridge Street, 1610 Speed's Map.

High Street, 1647-1664. Corporation Minutes. BHRS 26.

St Mary's Street, 1765 Jefferys' Map.

High Street, St. Mary's, 1807 Improvement Commission.

St Mary's Street, 1835 Improvement Commission.

High Street, St Mary's, 1877 PO Directory.

Bridge Street. 1917 Lecture by W. Glassby on 'Bedford Town and Townsmen in 1507' published in the *Bedfordshire Standard*.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

St Mary's Church has Saxon elements in its construction and the original building was probably contemporary with the southern burh, or built very soon afterwards. The church bears the same relation to the southern burh as St. Paul's does to the northern burh.

The name St. Mary's Street, however, does not appear before the 18th century. The earliest references use the name 'Bridge Street' i.e. the street leading to the bridge. The 17th Century Corporation Minutes refer repeatedly to "the High Street" as though it were a continuous road from north to south across the river. At one point the phrase "the High Street on either side of the River Ouse" is used. Jefferys' Map seems to be the first recorded use of "St Mary's Street" and this was chosen as the official name by the Improvement Commission in 1835. Nevertheless, the directories of the 1870s were still using "High Street, St Mary's".

It is surprising that in his lecture delivered in 1917, Mr Glassby could say that "Bridge Street still bears the name by which it was known four hundred years ago", even though Bridge Street had not been used officially since the 17th century. Thus does popular preference survive official decisions.

CAULDWELL STREET

The street leading from the central crossroads to the western gate of the southern burh.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Caldewellestrete, a deed of 1270-1310. CRO X67/8.

LATER NAMES

Caldewellestrete, a will of 1442. BHRS 58.

Caudwell Stret, 1610 Speed's Map.

Cauldwell Street, 1807 The Improvement Commission.

Cauldwell Street, 1835 The Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The name has been used consistently from at least Medieval times and it is significant that the Improvement Commission in 1835 defined it as "from St Mary's Church westward towards Cauldwell Priory" which is exactly as it appears on Speed's Map of 1610.

The Caldwell (i.e. cold Spring) was evidently something more than a mere source of water as it gave its name to a locality between Bedford's south-western boundary and the adjoining parish of Kempston. According to S.R. Wigram in the *Chronicles of Elstow Abbey*, the Countess Judith in 1147, endowed 12 acres of land at Caldwell, which was to become the site of Cauldwell Priory.

Cauldwell Priory, like Newnham Priory to the east of Bedford, was of the Augustinian order but was smaller in size. The date of its foundation is not known but it was in existence by 1153. After the dissolution in 1534, the property was granted to William Gostwick and Anne his wife. It was not until the 20th century that the land was broken up and sold in lots.

CARDINGTON ROAD

The street leading from the central crossroads to the eastern gate of the southern burh.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Potterestrete c 1300 Newnham Cartulary. BHRS vol. 43.

LATER NAMES AND REFERENCES

Potters Stret, 1610 Speed's Map.

Potter Street, 1835 The Improvement Commission.

Potter Street, 1877 PO Directory of Beds., Herts. and Bucks.

Cardington Road, 1885 Kellys Directory.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The most likely explanation of the name is that a Pottery existed in the street from the late 13th century or before. The name changed to its present day form of Cardington Road sometime between 1877 and 1885.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank John Bailey for his assistance with the preparation of the maps and acknowledge the great help given to us by the late Mr Arthur Guppy.

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

Notes

Some Lower Palaeolithic Handaxes from Kempston

ANDREW PINDER

Seven flint artefacts dating from the lower palaeolithic period were brought to light in 1984 when their presence was discovered in a private collection, together with an assemblage of Roman and Saxon pots and cremations, in Bedford. The owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, was kind enough to allow archaeologists working for Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Archaeological Field Team to record them.

The finds were made at the turn of the century at Jarvis's Pit in Kempston (TL 030 480). The flint collection consists of four, probably middle Acheulian, handaxes (Fig 1, Fig 2a), a large flake,

and two roughly shaped cores (Fig 2b, c, d). Most pieces are of flint with a reddish brown patina, but the flake is of a pale grey colour. Unfortunately the time which has elapsed since the discovery has meant that the circumstances of exactly how the finds were made is not known, although they seem to have been discovered in a group. It may be significant that a further handaxe from Jarvis's Pit is listed by Roe as being in the Bradford City Museum and Art Gallery.¹ This may have been donated by a Mr Cudworth when he gave a collared urn from the same site.²

NOTES

- 1 D. Roe, *Gazetteer of British Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Sites, CBA Research Report 8*, 1968, 4-5.
- 2 D.H. Kennett, "A Lost Collared Urn from Kempston" *Beds Arch J* Vol. 5, 1970, 6.

Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Bedfordshire County Council's Planning Department for a grant covering the publication of this note.

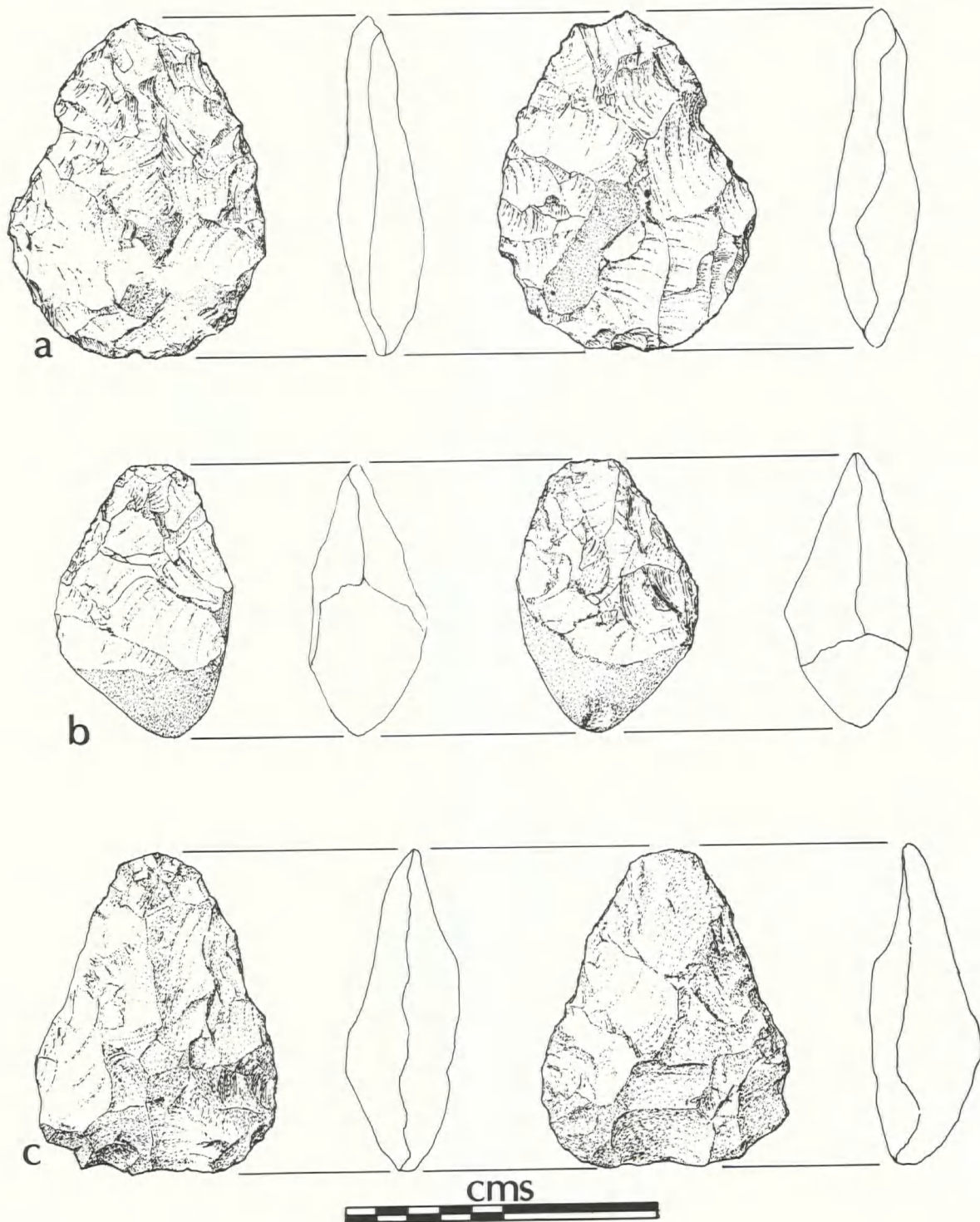


Fig 1 a-c Lower Palaeolithic handaxes from Kempston

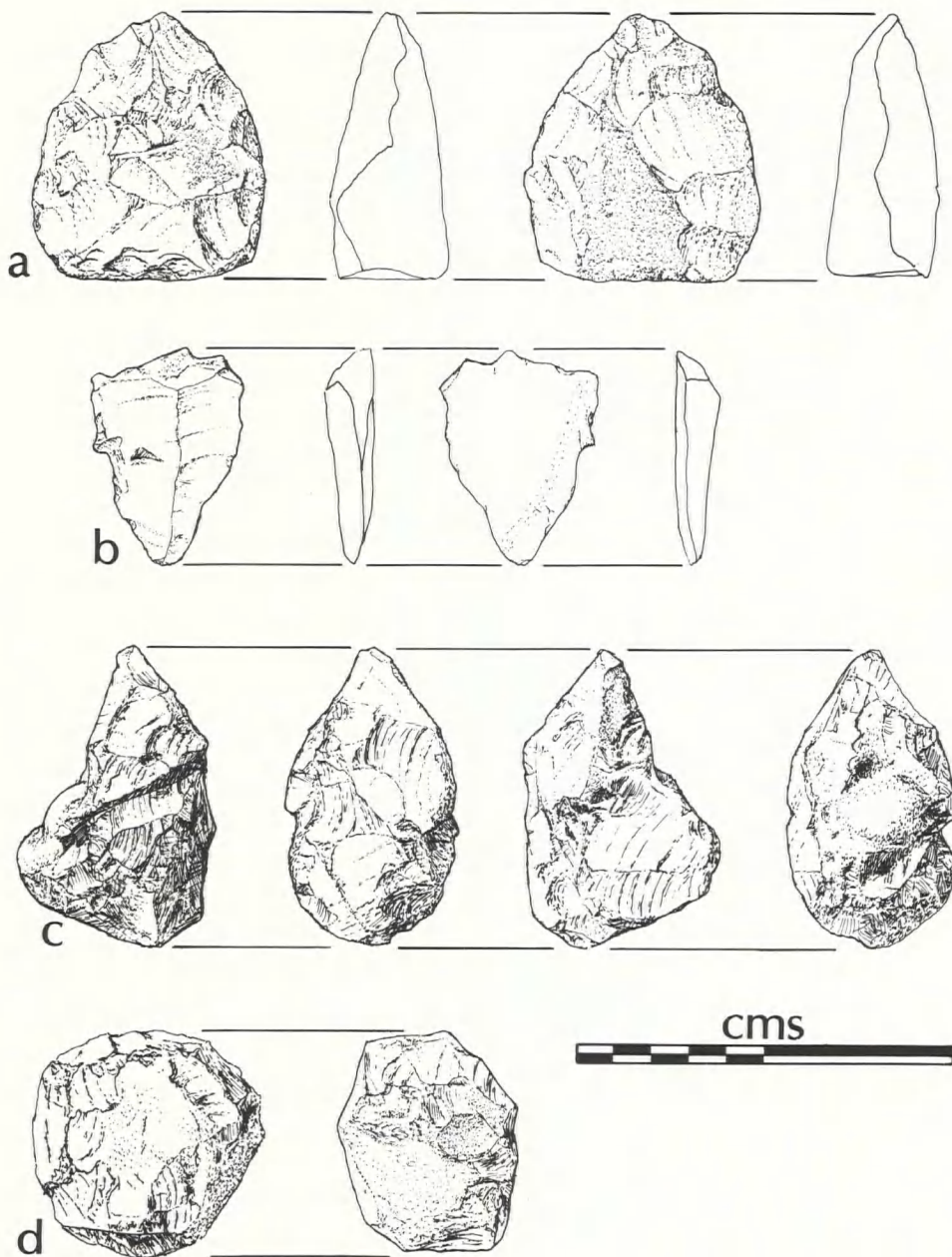


Fig 2 Lower Palaeolithic tools
(a) handaxe, (b) large flake, (c and d) roughly flaked cores, from Kempston

A Late Roman Pewter Vessel from Sandy

STEPHEN GREEP

Early in March 1981 the illustrated pewter vessel (Fig 1, Pl 1) was brought to the Verulamium Museum, St Albans for identification. It was found (by metal detector) at Banks Farm, Sandy. Although a hoard of bronze vessels is recorded from Sandy (Kennett, 1969, 124), this is the first pewter find from the area (cf Peal, 1967, Fig. 1).

The vessel, a small, flanged bowl or cup is c 55 mm in height and has a rim diameter of between 127-137 mm, the exact dimensions being uncertain. It appears to have been hit, and damaged by, a plough while still in the ground which accounts for its oval shape and indented side (Pl 1). It has a wide flanged rim (14 mm in width) decorated by a series of cast raised dots fairly evenly spaced around its outer edge. The base is quite narrow (c 50 mm diam) probably with a low footring although the damaged area partly obscures this, and its underside is incised with a rescored 'X' (Fig 1).

Although most finds of pewter are recovered from hoards of the late fourth century (Brown, 1979,

207) apparently no other vessels were found with the illustrated bowl, nor have any been subsequently brought to the Verulamium or Bedford Museums for identification. The exact form of the Sandy vessel is difficult to parallel although it is similar in shape to the ornate series of Late Roman silver flanged bowls discussed by Strong (1966, 202-3). Pewter vessels from Icklingham, Lakenheath and Wangford noted by Brown (1979, 206) appear to be the closest comparable types, while others possessing a similar shape to the Sandy examples are decorated with internal fluting and cast spots on the internal base (cf Brown, 1979, for a discussion of the type). Although no material was apparently associated with the Sandy bowl its date should lie within the fourth century.

REFERENCES

- Brown, D., (1979) The Pewter Vessels in Clarke, G., *The Roman Cemetery at Lankhills. Pre Roman and Roman Winchester*, II.
 Kennett, D. (1969) Late Roman Bronze Vessel Hoards in Britain. *Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseum, Mainz*, 16, 123-148.
 Peal, C. (1967) Romano-British Pewter Plates and Dishes. *Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc.*, 60, 19-37.
 Strong, D. (1966) *Greek and Roman Gold and Silver Plate*, London.



Plate 1 Late Roman pewter vessel from Sandy

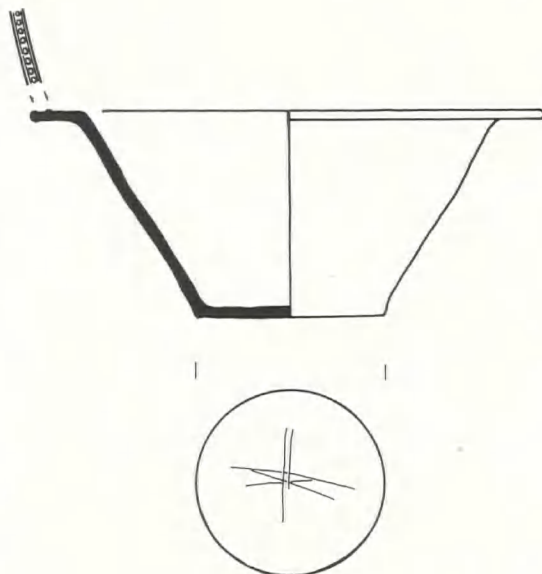


Fig 1 Late Roman pewter vessel from Sandy, 1/2 size

Three Late Medieval Latten Candlesticks from Bedford

R. BROWNSWORD AND T. CIUFFINI

The three candlesticks covered by this note were found in Bedford but in no case was the discovery a result of a properly controlled archaeological excavation and so they are not likely to feature in any report. However, they are of sufficient intrinsic interest to warrant publication since two are essentially undamaged except for the effects of surface corrosion; the third item is a detached stem.

THE CANDLESTICKS

The first candlestick (Fig 1 and Pl 1) is of a type similar in general form to a modern laboratory bunsen burner. A hollow, shallow cylindrical base supports a narrow cylindrical stem which increases in diameter at the top to form a hollow socket. The two parts were made separately and the stem fixed to the base by means of a short extension at the end of the stem which was passed through a hole in the

top of the base and rivetted by hammering from below. Simple turned decoration includes a small knob at mid-height and slight waisting at the top and bottom of the stem and both socket and base have decorative bands.

This candlestick was found in 1985 as a result of a watching brief during construction work for the British Telecom building in St John's Street (approximate grid reference TL 051 492). It was discovered amongst material removed from a foundation hole and so it cannot be assigned to a particular level.

The second candlestick (Fig 2 and Pl 2) has many similarities to the first; the stem and socket are of much the same shape as these carry very similar turned features by way of decoration. It is in the base that the main differences lie. In this candlestick the hollow drum base is strongly flared into a bell-like foot. The upper rim is extended to give the top of the base a pronounced saucer-shaped area to act as a drip-tray. The method of assembly is however the same as that described above.

This candlestick was discovered in 1940 along with other items on the bed of the Ouse below Bedford Bridge during bridge-works (approximate grid reference TL 051 496), as was the third incomplete candlestick (Fig 3). This consists of a hollow stem¹ detached at the rivetted joint from its base. The stem is closely similar in form to those of the other candlesticks but it cannot be known what type of base this candlestick had.



Plate 1 Candlestick from St John's Street, Bedford
Photograph: North Bedfordshire Borough Council

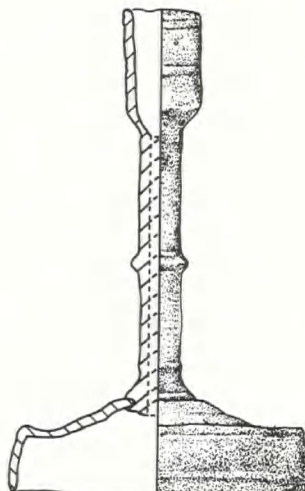


Fig 1 Candlestick from St John's Street, Bedford 1/2 actual size

A DISCUSSION OF DATING AND PROVENANCING

It has been shown by Werner² and by the author and their colleagues^{3,4} that the alloy compositions of copper-alloy objects vary in a sensible manner within the medieval period. The amounts of antimony, arsenic and particularly nickel are valuable indicators in dating such objects. The Bedford candlesticks have been sampled for analysis and the results are given in Table 1. On the basis of these data for the above elements, a period of manufacture in the 15th/early 16th century is indicated.

Candlesticks of the bunsen-type have been found at sites in various parts of the country. Published examples include ones from Leicester,⁵ Cardiff⁶ and Winchester⁷ and unpublished examples are from Coventry, Lincoln and a number of sites in London. Candlesticks of exactly this form are rare in museum collections on the continent. There is thus

a body of circumstantial evidence suggesting that bunsen-type candlesticks are of English manufacture.

There is support for this view in the compositions of the alloys used in making candlesticks. Analysis of a number of such examples reveals that latten alloys with relatively low zinc content but relatively high tin content were used when compared with contemporary Flemish candlestick alloys.⁸ The local availability of tin in England and zinc-bearing calamine in Flanders explains these differences. The three Bedford candlestick alloys conform to the established compositional profile for English 15th/early 16th century candlesticks.

It is believed that the bunsen-type was a basic English candlestick form of the 15th century and that, late in that century and early in the next, certain derived forms developed with flared-drum or bell bases. Ones with more elaborate bases still and more varied stem forms are probably of 16th century date.⁹

Thus the St John's candlestick is believed to be a 15th century example and the complete Ouse Bridge candlestick a slightly later (c 1500) example of English domestic lighting equipment. The stem is clearly also from a candlestick of the same broad period, and is probably the earliest of the three (early 15th century) as indicated by the low nickel content.



Plate 2 Candlestick from Bedford Bridge site
Photograph: North Bedfordshire Borough Council

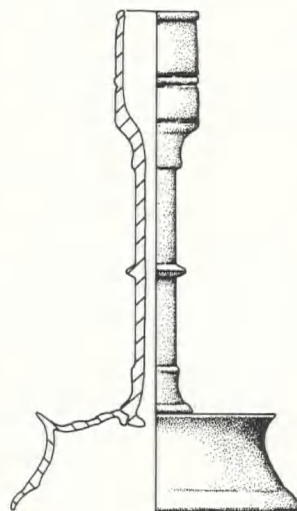


Fig 2 Candlestick from Bedford Bridge site
½ actual size

TABLE 1

Candlestick alloy compositions

Find site (Bedford Museum (accession no.))	Lab. No.	Copper	Zinc	Tin	Lead	Nickel	Iron	Antimony	Arsenic	Silver
	1C313									
St John's (1986/4)	a (stem)	88.2	5.09	3.05	1.68	0.18	0.64	0.62	0.47	0.08
	b (base)	85.7	5.21	3.64	3.32	0.15	0.52	0.64	0.70	0.12
	1C255									
Ouse Bridge (8853)	a (stem)	84.1	3.93	4.43	4.65	0.26	0.70	1.08	0.77	0.08
	b (base)	81.8	4.12	4.96	5.86	0.25	0.52	1.57	0.82	0.14
	1C317									
Ouse Bridge (8854)	a (stem)	79.4	12.5	4.77	1.91	0.04	0.84	0.30	0.15	0.08

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to John Turner, Curator of Bedford Museum, and to Andrew Pinder, formerly of Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Field Team, for allowing the examination of the candlesticks and for providing information about their discovery. All three candlesticks are in the collections of Bedford Museum (accession numbers 1986/4, 8853 and 8854).

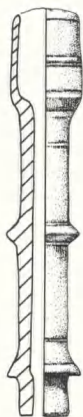


Fig 3 Candlestick stem from Bedford Bridge site $\frac{1}{2}$ actual size

NOTES

- 1 This candlestick stem was examined by radiography at the time of its analysis and was shown by the X-ray to be hollow throughout (its apparent solidity being due to compacted river mud inside the stem). It has not yet been possible to X-ray the candlestick from St John's Street previously analysed, but it is possible that this too may have a hollow stem and therefore the section has been drawn with broken lines in Fig 1. The complete candlestick from Bedford Bridge site (Fig 2) is also hollow. The effect of the hollow (as opposed to solid) stem would presumably be to place the centre of gravity lower, in the base of the candlestick, and so make the candlestick more stable when holding a candle.
- 2 Werner, O., *Archaeologie und Naturwissenschaften* 1, 144 (1977).
- 3 Brownsword, R. & Pitt, E.E.H., *Historical Metallurgy*, 17, 44 (1983).
- 4 Brownsword, R. & Pitt, E.E.H., *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Arch. Soc.*, 105, 83 (1983).
- 5 Brownsword, R., Pitt, E.E.H. & Rutland, R.A., *Trans. Leics. Archaeol. & Hist. Soc.*, LVII, 17 (1981-82).
- 6 Illustrated in ref. 5.
- 7 Cunliffe, B., *Winchester Excavations 1949-1960*, City of Winchester Museums and Libraries Committee 1964 (p. 152 and Fig 52).
- 8 As 3.
- 9 Brownsword, R., *Finds Research Group, Data Sheet No. 1*, 'English latten domestic candlesticks 1400-1700' (1985).

Recent Donations and Enquiries to Bedford Museum, 1985-87

CAROLYN WINGFIELD

INTRODUCTION

The intention of this article is to make available information on the most noteworthy archaeological finds brought to Bedford Museum, either as donations or for identification, during the past two years. All the objects described below are casual finds; archaeological material acquired from excavations, watching briefs and other field-work has been omitted since it will be fully published in reports elsewhere.

Objects are grouped in chronological order under general period headings and within each group have been arranged according to material. Provenances are given as the parish, followed by further detail and the grid reference, where the finder has been able to give one. Grid references in brackets () have been inferred from the description of the find-spot.

The author is grateful to a number of individuals, acknowledged in the text for advice on identifications, but takes sole responsibility for the contents of this paper and the opinions expressed in it.

NEOLITHIC

STONE AXE Fig 1.1
Carlton and Chellington SP 95 55

Polished stone axe, measuring 97 mm in length and a maximum 55 mm in width. It is made of olive-green stone, which superficial examination suggests may be from Langdale, Cumbria, but this has yet to be confirmed by petrological analysis. In size and in its general proportions, the axe is closely comparable to a greenstone axe found at Streatley in 1976.¹

BEDFM 1985/3 donated by Mr Wykes of Chellington. The axe was originally found in topsoil on allotments some years ago² and was donated to the Museum in 1985.

BRONZE AGE

PALSTAVE Fig 1.2
Arlesey (vicinity of TL 20 38)

Bronze palstave of 'developed shield-pattern' type measuring 162 mm in length and 70 mm across the

tips of the blade. Typologically, it belongs to the Acton Park phase (c 1400-1200 BC) and exhibits several features of early palstaves in its general proportions, lack of a side-loop or knobs and wide blade with upturned ends. However, unlike the earliest palstaves (such as that from Dunton, BEDFM 1973/4/1³) the stop-ridge and flanges of the Arlesey palstave are fused. The Arlesey palstave appears to be the first palstave of this type recorded in Bedfordshire⁴ and may be best seen on an outlier of the East Anglian 'shield-pattern' group.

BEDFM enquiry 177 found by Mr Warboys of Arlesey and reported by Mr Wildesmith of St Neots. The palstave was found during ploughing in about 1977 at Waterloo Farm.

SOCKETED AXE Fig 1.3
Meppershall (vicinity of TL 14 35)
(Upper Stondon)

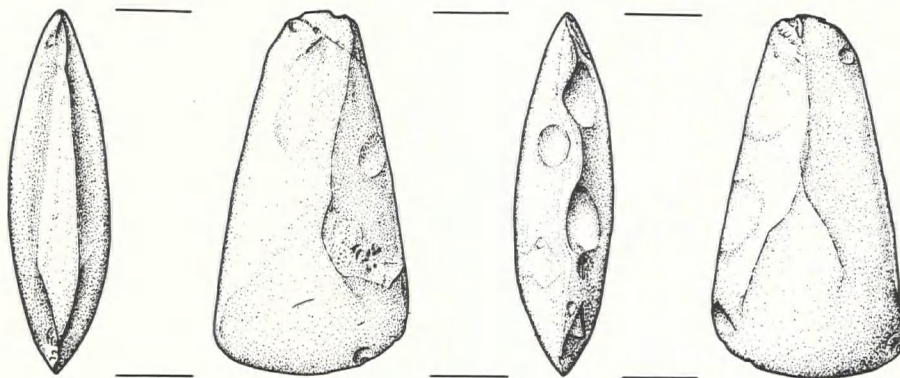
Bronze socketed axe 104 mm long and 54 mm across the widest part of the blade, which is moderately splayed. The mouth measures a maximum of 29 mm by 29 mm internally. Both faces are decorated with two pairs of ribs which curve to run parallel with the slightly faceted sides. The inner-ribs of each pair curve inwards at the top to define a plan, central field of inverted U-shape. There are no other socketed axes in the collections of Bedford Museum, nor recorded in the Wymington Hoard,⁵ that correspond closely with this axe from Meppershall. In form and decoration, it seems to be a near relative of the Late Bronze Age faceted axes of East Anglia and the Middle Fen region, c 900-600 BC.

BEDFM 1985/4 purchased (proceeds to charity) from Mr Parrish of Upper Stondon.

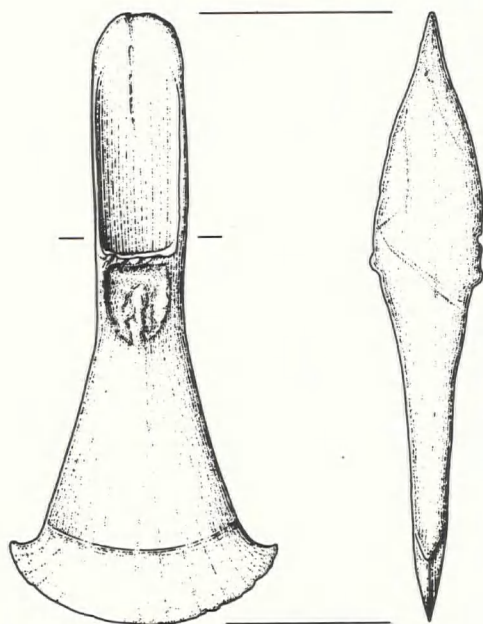
BELGIC IRON AGE

BOW BROOCH Fig 2.1
Biggleswade TL 19 47

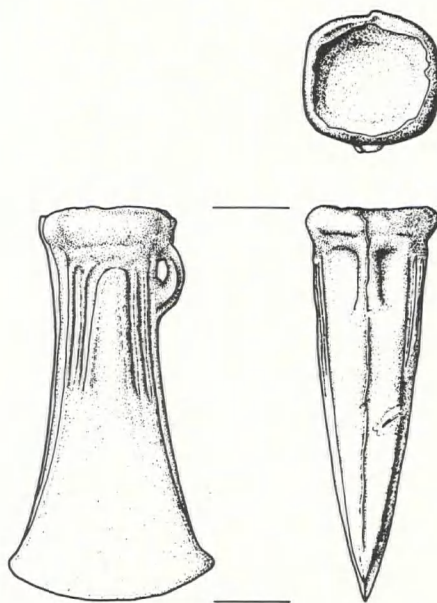
Copper alloy bow brooch of Hawkes and Hull type XV⁶, 60 mm in length overall. The bow is curved in a



1.1

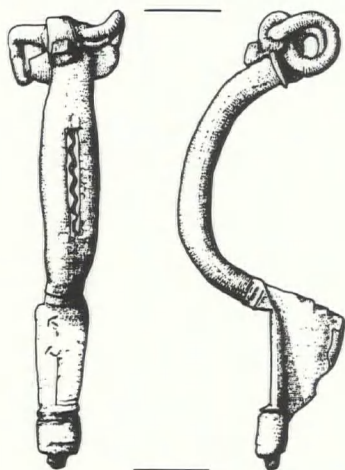


1.2

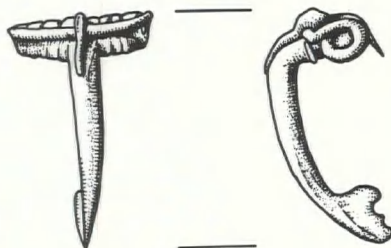


1.3

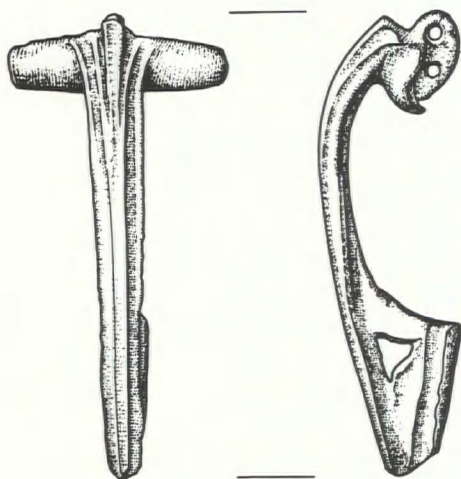
Fig 1 1.1 stone axe, Chellington; 1.2 palstave, Arlesey; 1.3 socketed axe, Upper Stondon (all x 1/2)



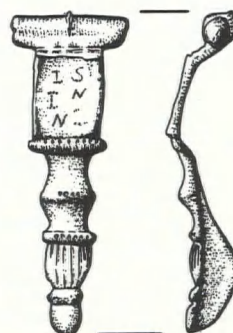
2.1



2.2



2.3



2.4(a)



2.4(b)

Fig 2 copper alloy brooches 2.1 Biggleswade Common; 2.2 Chellington; 2.3 Biggleswade (Langford Road); 2.4 (a) inscribed brooch Ravensden (all actual size) 2.4 (b) inscription (x 4)

slightly flattened semi-circle, with a median band of counter-sunk wavy-line decoration. The spring has four turns and the external chord is held by a hook on the head of the brooch. The coil is partly covered by a short side-wings. The foot terminates in a knob, with traces of grooving on the front and a small projection below. The pin and part of the catchplate are missing. The date-range for this type is c 50 BC to AD 50.

BEDFM enquiry 084 found and reported by Mr B. Walker of Kempston. Metal-detector find, area of Biggleswade Common.

BOW BROOCH Fig 2.2
Carlton and Chellington (vicinity of SP 96 56)

Copper alloy brooch of the 'Colchester' type, Hawkes and Hull type III⁷, length 31 mm; pin missing. The spring has eight turns and is protected by side-wings with corresponding corrugations. The external chord is held by a hook. The small, triangular catchplate is incomplete but shows signs of originally having been pierced. Type III brooches date from the first half of the first century AD, continuing for at least a couple of decades after the Roman Conquest.

BEDFM 1986/9 donated by Mr. J Hinds of Bedford. Metal-detector find, from Hill Farm, Chellington.

ROMANO-BRITISH

BOW BROOCH Fig 2.3
Biggleswade (vicinity of TL 18 42)
(near Langford Road)

Copper alloy 'Dolphin' type bow brooch (Hawkes and Hull type V⁸/Collingwood and Richmond group H)⁹ with typical 'humped' profile of the bow at the head, length 62 mm. The spring and pin are missing but the flat lug with two holes shows that on this brooch the newly-developed axis-bar was used to help keep the spring in place.¹⁰ The coils were partially enclosed by semi-cylindrical side-wings. The catchplate is triangular and pierced with a single hole. 'Dolphins' are generally dated to the second half of the first century AD, but the use of an axis-bar may suggest a date later rather than earlier, within that period for this specimen.

BEDFM 1986/6 donated by Mr J. Hinds of Bedford. Metal-detector find, from field known as Sheepwalks.

INSCRIBED BROOCH Fig 2.4
Ravensden TL 06 55

Copper alloy hinged brooch (pin missing), a variant of the 'Hod Hill' type, length 43 mm. The head is flat and rectangular and the foot is vertically grooved and terminates in a knob. Single lines of impressed dots decorate three transverse ridges separating the head from the bow, across the middle of the bow and separating the bow from the foot respectively. The brooch is a little corroded and shows no sign of the silvered or tinned finish commonly found on 'Hod Hills'. The type is dated to the middle decades of the first century AD. The chief interest of this brooch lies in the inscription on the head. The letters are formed by single rows on tiny impressed dots and are partly obscured by wear, but may read:

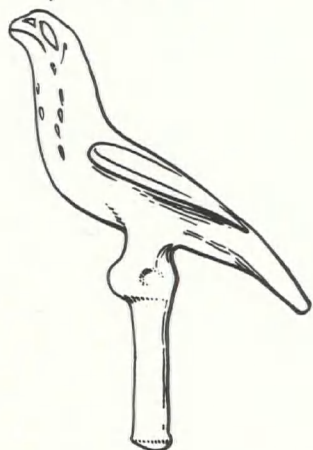
I S
I N (or N E, when inverted?)
N O

Mr Mark Hassall, of the Institute of Archaeology, has examined this brooch and has suggested two alternative readings IS/IN/NO or ON/NE/SI, depending on which way up the brooch was intended to be read,¹¹ but the significance of the inscription is now lost.

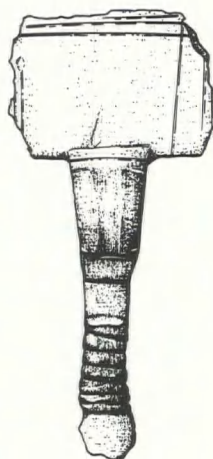
BEDFM enquiry 096 reported by Mr B. King of Bedford. The brooch was found c 1983-84 in a river bank.

FIGURINE OF BIRD Fig 3.1
Campton TL 12 38

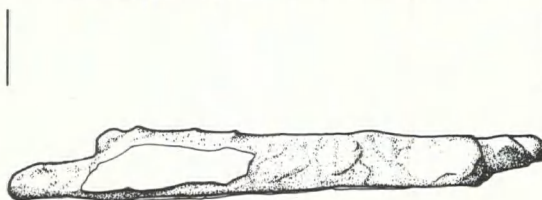
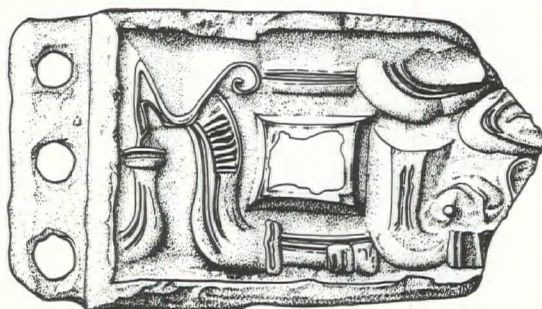
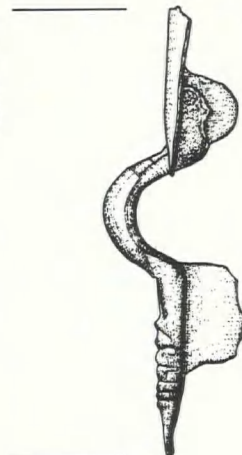
Solid copper alloy figure of a bird, 55 mm from beak (tip missing) to tail. The feet form a rounded base from which a rod 21 mm long and 4.5 mm in diameter extends as if to form a peg for attachment. Details of feathers are incised on the throat, wings and tail. Bird and animal figurines of many types occur throughout SE Britain. Lynn Pitts¹² has observed that in the tribal areas of the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes, many of these figurines are of very small size and could serve a variety of purposes, including furniture-, box- and vessel-mounts, votive offerings (in either temples or domestic shrines) and amulets. Certainly many bird figurines have been found in indisputably religious contexts, such as temple sites, but it is seldom clear whether they were intended to accompany, let alone represent, a particular deity,¹³ or whether they were simply offerings purchased and dedicated by visitors to the



3.1



3.2



3.3



Fig 3 Copper alloy bird figurine, Campton; 3.2 small long brooch, Biddenham (both actual size); 3.3 gilt-bronze belt fitting, Wilden (x 2)

shrine. Identifiable species represented by such figurines include crows/ravens and eagles (or similar birds of prey) with which the Campton bird compares most closely.¹⁴ Amongst those figurines for which a ritual use can be postulated, there are examples from East Anglia of a bird adorning a priest's crown and others topping maces or sceptres.¹⁵ However, the purely decorative or non-religious functions of figurines should not be dismissed when the nature of the place of origin or context is unknown. Evidence of Romano-British occupation, including a wealthy cemetery and domestic building with hypocaust, are known from Shefford nearby,¹⁶ but until more is known of Campton itself in that period, the significance of the bird figurine must remain open to speculation, as must its precise date.¹⁷

Letchworth Museum enquiry 1276 found and reported by Mr H. Cross of Shefford.

Metal-detector find from Campton recreation ground. I am grateful to Gilbert Burleigh of North Hertfordshire Museums Service for recording and making available information on this find; drawing by Garth Denning.

POTSHERDS

Biddenham (Church End) (vicinity of TL 01 50)
Biddenham (vicinity of TL 02 48)
(Biddenham loop)

Two groups of potsherds, pieces of tile and brick, mostly Romano-British.

From Church End: thirty-one Romano-British sherds, including one sherd from a flanged Samian bowl, three colour-coated sherds (one beaker-base, with drilled hole; a body-sherd and beaker rim) and the neck of a flagon in coarse, cream-coloured ware.

From Biddenham loop: three rim-sherds from large storage vessels and ten fragments of roof- and flue-tiles, of which three were decorated.

BEDFM 1986/19 (Church End) and 1986/20 (Biddenham loop) donated by Mr B. King of Bedford.

POTTERY/CREMATIONS

Potton (Deepdale) TL 20 47

A series of Romano-British cremations, including urns and accessory vessels, plus scatters of potsherds, found in 1985-87. A watching brief on the site was undertaken by the County Council Archaeological Field Team and is published separately in this volume.

BEDFM 1987/11 donated by Mr R. Pitts of Potton.

ANGLO-SAXON

BROOCH Fig 3.2
Biddenham (Honey Hill) (vicinity of TL 02 49)

Copper-alloy small-long brooch with square head, 60 mm long but with parts of the foot, catchplate, head and iron pin missing. The head is simply decorated with pairs of parallel, incised lines around three sides; there are traces of further incised lines at either end of the hump of the bow, and the end of the foot is flattened and may have originally been splayed. This type of brooch is widespread and can be dated to around the sixth century AD.¹⁸

BEDFM 1986/5 donated by Mr B. King of Bedford.
 Metal-detector find.

BELT-FITTING Fig 3.3
Wilden TL 09 55

The greater part of a copper-alloy, rectangular belt-fitting, maximum dimensions 35 mm long by 20 mm wide and 5 mm thick. The central raised cell contains a purple stone, which may be a garnet or (unusually) an amethyst. Mrs Leslie Webster of the British Museum has suggested that this is probably a buckle counter-plate of mid-sixth-century date, with dismembered animal ornament characteristic of Style I. One foot of the animal runs down the left-hand edge of the border, with leg flexed, and a main strand of the body, partially pelleted, passes below the setting for the stone. The ornament towards the broken end of the plate is partially obscured by wear and corrosion. Traces of gilding survive which suggest that the counter-plate was originally covered in a thick layer of gilt (including a patch on one side, shown in the illustration). There are three holes in the complete end of the plate, providing for attachment to a strap by rivets, and there are also traces of lead solder with vestiges of more copper alloy adhering to it on the reverse. This suggests a secondary use in which the strap-end was adapted as a mount for an object of copper alloy.

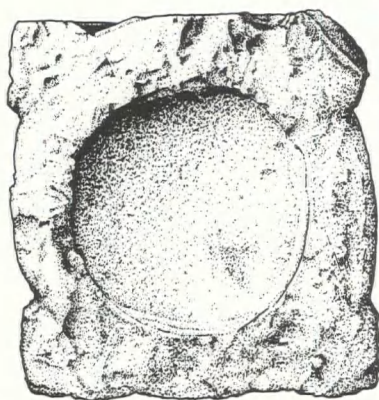
Similar belt-fittings of copper alloy or silver, with or without gilding, are associated particularly with Kent but are also found elsewhere in southern England.

BEDFM enquiry 218 found during archaeological survey of a gas pipe-line and reported to Mr P. Catherall, archaeologist for British Gas. I am grateful to the staff of the Conservation Laboratory, Verulamium Museum, for making a preliminary examination of the strap-end and for their comments on the solder and gilding.

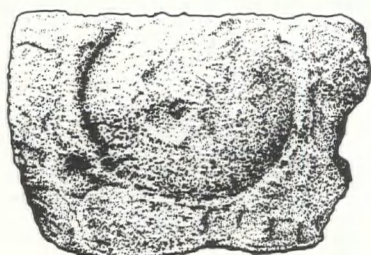
4.1



0 5 cm



0 20 cm



4.2

Fig 4 4.1 fragment of tile, Aspley Guise (x 1/2);
4.2 stone mortar, Melchbourne (x 1/4)

MEDIEVAL

FLOOR TILE Fig 4.1 Aspley Guise (Berry Lane) (vicinity of SP 94 36)

A fragment of a worn two-colour lead-glazed tile, measuring 60 mm x 40 mm maximum, and depicting part of a four-tile foliate design forming a circular motif. The pink-red fabric and grey core have affinities with the stabbed Wessex series known in Bedfordshire but the design more closely resembles those from Halesowen Abbey such as design no. 2616 (catalogue no. 3997) in Eames' Catalogue.²⁰ The tile is probably of thirteenth-century date. Information from Evelyn Baker, Senior Archaeological Field Officer (Bedfordshire County Council Archaeological Field Team).

BEDFM enquiry 111 found and reported by Mr Hall of Aspley Guise. Drawing by Pat Walsh.

POTSHERDS AND SPEARHEAD Kempston (Box End) (vicinity of TL 00 49)

Forty-seven coarseware potsherds mostly identifiable as Saxo-Norman or medieval, two pieces of tile and one medieval limestone roof-slate. There is also a very corroded iron socketed spearhead which may be of early medieval type.

BEDFM 1986/22 originally collected some years ago by the late Mr Hubert Felce of Box End, Kempston, from Box End Road near Melrose Nurseries. Donated by Miss G. Cole of Kempston.

MORTAR Fig 4.2 Melchbourne (Park Farm) (vicinity of TL 03 65)

A mortar of light grey stone (not formally identified, but probably limestone) maximum dimensions 204 mm by 192 mm and 130 mm high; the bowl has a maximum depth of about 40 mm. The bowl has been partially rounded out of the square block of stone, leaving the corners of the block projecting to form lugs. On the underside, the corners had been roughly chamfered towards the base. The mortar is roughly dressed and — especially considering the shallowness of the bowl — appears to be only partly finished, although it is much battered. Its size and general form are consistent with medieval domestic stone mortars of thirteenth- and fourteenth-century date, but in finished examples the roundness of the bowl is more emphasised and the corners correspondingly reduced to form projecting lugs. Mortars with and without pouring-lips are known, so the lack

of a groove on any lugs of the Melchbourne mortar is not necessarily due to its incomplete state.

If the identification of this unfinished mortar is correct, it is worth considering the implications for our knowledge of local medieval trade and industry. The principal mortar industry in medieval England was based on the S coast, from where large numbers of mortars were exported widely over S and SE England. Examples of Purbeck limestone mortars have been found in excavations at Bedford²¹ and Northampton.²² A complementary N-S trade in mortars in Millstone Grit has also been identified by the late G.C. Dunning²³ (no examples from Bedfordshire have been identified as yet). Mortars are likely to have been made, or at least roughed-out, near to the source of the stone, before being traded further afield. Melchbourne lies a few kms from the band of Oolite Limestone covering part of NW Bedfordshire and S Northamptonshire and further outcrops of this limestone occur in N Bedfordshire where it is mostly overlain by gault clay. More research into mortars and other stone objects and identification of stone-sources is needed to establish whether there was a localised stone-working industry in or near N Bedfordshire.

BEDFM enquiry 078 found and reported by Mrs S.M. Brodie of Melchbourne, who has since reported finding pieces of a larger mortar, broken by the plough. A large piece of slag, fired flint and a piece of stone (part of a mould?) were also found in the same area.

SEAL DIE Fig 5.1 Riseley (vicinity of TL 03 62)

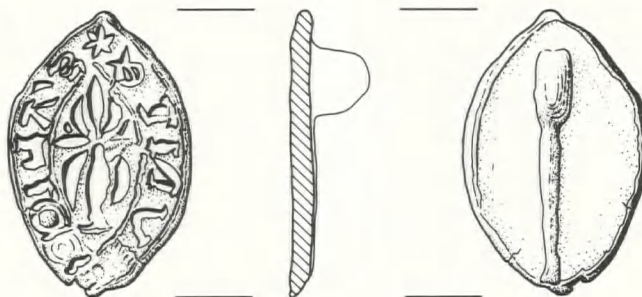
Lead seal die, vesica-shaped, maximum measurements 38 mm x 22 mm, average thickness approximately 3 mm. A small projection on the back of the die forms a handle.

The face of the die shows a variation of the fleur-de-lis, one of the most common devices found on seal dies. The inscription reads:

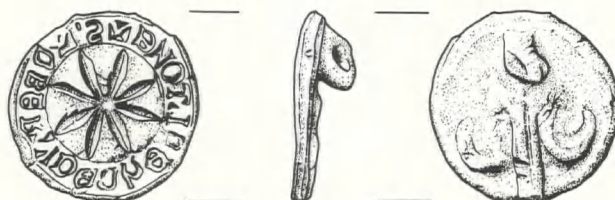
* S'ALICE VNTE
'the seal (*sigillum*) of Alice (H)unte(r)'

Both this die, and the die from Upper Caldecote described below, are typical of thirteenth-century lead seal dies which generally bore a popular motif and the owner's name, both male and female ones being recorded.²⁴

BEDFM enquiry 206 reported by Mr P. Surridge of Ringstead, Northants. Found by Mr Surridge's father during levelling of footpath near Rotton Row, Riseley.



5.1



5.2

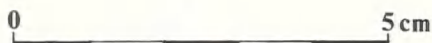


Fig 5 lead seal-dies 5.1 Riseley; 5.2 Upper Caldecote (both actual size)

SEAL DIE Fig 5.2
Northill (Upper Caldecote) TL 17 45

Circular lead seal die, maximum diameter 26 mm and thickness at rim varying between 2 and 3 mm. The reverse bears a fleur-de-lys moulded in low relief and a small projection now squashed but originally pierced for suspension. Dies of this type are generally dated to the thirteenth century.

The face is incised with a symmetrical eight-point star and the inscription around the edge reads:

S'ROBERTI DE CHERLTONE
'the seal of Robert of Chalton'

'Cherlton' is probably to be identified with the hamlet of Chalton (between Blunham and Moggerhanger) which is only 5 km N of the find-

spot and has recorded medieval spellings comparable with that on the die.²⁵

BEDFM enquiry 228 found and reported by Mr R. Lamont of Bedford. Metal-detector find.

PILGRIM'S AMPULLA TL 04 52
Clapham

Lead pilgrim's ampulla of simple pouch-shape, measuring 42 mm in length and 31 mm across its widest point. It has been squashed flat and is rather corroded, but a crowned 'W' is faintly discernible on one face and this suggests that it came from the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk.²⁶

BEDFM 1987/18 donated by Mr J. Hinds of Bedford. Metal-detector find.

Records of all archaeological enquiries and donations brought to Bedford Museum are kept at the Museum and are also sent to the Bedfordshire Sites and Monuments Record (County Planning Department). Bedford Museum operates an identification service, free of charge, and objects may be left for identification at any time during opening hours (11-5 Tuesdays-Saturdays, 2-5 Sundays). Staff are always pleased to consider offers of appropriate specimens from N Bedfordshire for the local archaeology collections. For further information, please contact:

*The Archaeological Officer, Bedford Museum,
Castle Lane, Bedford. Tel. (0234) 53323.*

NOTES

- 1 Dyer, J., 1983; 'A Polished Stone axe from Streatley', *Beds Arch* 16, 85.
- 2 Bedfordshire Sites and Monuments Record 9056.
- 3 Hassall, J., 1973; 'A Middle Bronze Age Palstave from Dunton', *Beds Arch Journal* 8, 131-132.
- 4 A looped palstave of later type was recorded by C.F. Tebbutt in a private collection at Ickwell Bury, Northill, but was apparently destroyed by fire in 1937.
- 5 Tebbutt, C.F., 1954; 'Bronze Age, Iron Age and Saxon objects from Bedfordshire', *Ant J* 34, 232 and pl 26b.
- 6 Kennett, D.H., 1975; 'The Wymington Hoard and other Hoards and Finds of the Late Bronze Age from the South Midlands', *Beds Arch J* 10, 5-18.
- 7 Hawkes, C.F.C. and Hull, M.R., 1947; *Camulodunum*, (Soc. of Antiq. of London), 320 and pl XCV.
- 8 *ibid.*, 308-10 and pl LXXXIX-XC.
- 9 *ibid.*, 311-12 and pl XCII.
- 10 Collingwood, R.G. and Richmond, I., 1969; *The Archaeology of Roman Britain* (Methuen), 295 and 287 Fig 102.
- 11 See Hattatt, R., 1982; *Ancient and Romano-British Brooches* (Dorset Publishing Co.), 46 and 64-66, for discussion of developments in securing springs and in 'Dolphin' brooches.
- 12 Hassall, M.W.C. and Tomlin, R.S.O., 1986; 'Roman Britain in 1985: Inscriptions', *Britannia* XVII, 439 no. 22. I am grateful to Mr Hassall for examining and commenting on this brooch.
- 13 Pitts, L.F., 1979; *Roman Bronze Figurines of the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes* (BAR British Series 60), 36-38.
- 14 Green, M.J., 1977; 'Thieromorphism and the Role of Divine Animals in Romano-British Cult Art' in Munby, J. and Henig, M., 1977, *Roman Life and Art in Britain* (BAR British Series 41 ii), 297-326.
- 15 See, for example: a bronze eagle from Verulamium, in Frere, S., 1972; *Verulamium Excavations*, vol I (Soc. of Antiq. of London), 142 Fig 49 and 144, no 158; bronze 'hawks' from Wood Eaton, Oxfordshire, Ross, A., 1967; *Pagan Celtic Britain* (Routledge and Kegan Paul), 338 Fig 156, d,h,i,j,k.
- 16 The foot of a bird figurine surmounting the apex of a crown from Felmingham Hall, Norfolk and instances of small bird figurines occurring on maces or sceptres from the same site and from Willingham Fen, Cambridgeshire. Henig, M., 1984; *Religion in Roman Britain* (Batsford), 137 and 140-1.
- 17 Simco, A., 1984; *Survey of Bedfordshire - The Roman Period* (Beds. County Council and RCHM), 117 gazetteer entry 223.
- 18 Of the comparatively few figurines from datable context, Pitts (1979) observes that several belong to the later third or fourth centuries. The eagle referred to above from Verulamium, in Frere (1972), however came from a context dated to c AD150-260. The great variety in style and standard of workmanship exhibited by figurines inhibits dating on stylistic or typological grounds.
- 19 Other small-long brooches from N Bedfordshire in Bedford Museum are one from Podington/Farndish (BEDFM 1980/6) of the fifth century, and three from the fifth- and sixth-century cemetery at Kempston (BEDFM 3812, 3813 and 3856).
- 20 Comparable plates with a border of Style 1 animal ornament surrounding a central, rectangular setting, are those from Barn Elms, London and Gilton, Kent, although in both these examples the setting for the stone is larger than that on the Wilden plate. Also, the animal ornament on the Barn Elms and Gilton pieces appears to be more evenly distributed around the setting, thus filling the available space more effectively. Gilton also provides an example of a counter-plate with three rivets at either end, in a similar arrangement to the surviving end of the Wilden plate, although this Gilton counter-plate is decorated with gold filigree ornament and has no setting for a stone.
- 21 Eames, E.S., 1980; *Catalogue of Medieval Lead-glazed Earthenware Tiles* (British Museum).
- 22 Baker, D., Baker, E., Hassall, J. and Simco, A., 1979; 'Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977' *Beds. Arch. J.* 13; 267 and 268 Fig 168, catalogue nos. 1151 and 1155.
- 23 Dunning, G.C., 1979; 'The Purbeck Marble Mortar' in Williams, J.H., *St. Peter's Street, Northampton, Excavations 1973-1976* (Northampton Development Corporation), 284.
- 24 Dunning, G.C. 1975; 'The Stone Mortar in Little Baddow Church', *Med. Arch.* XIX, 161-63.
- 25 Two vesica-shaped lead seal dies of thirteenth century date in Bedford Museum record the names of Matilde Fivill (BEDFM 1981/30) and Will Hevel (un-numbered) respectively.
- 26 Medieval spellings of Chalton include *Cherleton*, *Cherlton*, *Charleton* and *Chaltone*, see Mawer, A. and Stenton, F.M., 1926; *The Place-Names of Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire* (English Place-Name Society vol. III), 92-3. Chalton near Toddington and Carlton are effectively ruled out by their etymologies (deriving from 'cealf-tun' and 'karla-tun' respectively) and by their relative distance from Upper Caldecote. Charlton, near Hitchin, Hertfordshire, could be considered on etymological grounds, but given that seal dies of this popular type, like their yeoman-farmer or tradesman owners, were unlikely to have travelled much outside their immediate locality, Chalton near Mogerhanger must be preferred.
- 27 Ampullae from Cirencester and Dunwich bearing the crowned W of Walsingham are cited in London Museum Catalogue no. 2: Medieval Catalogue, 1940, 259.

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

Recent Donations and Enquiries to Luton Museum, 1985-87

ROBIN HOLGATE

INTRODUCTION

This note describes casual finds donated or brought in for identification to Luton Museum in the last two years. Objects are grouped in chronological order. Grid references in brackets have been inferred from the description of the find-spot.

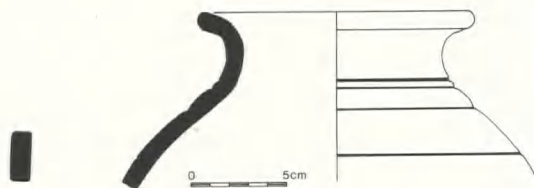


Fig 1 Rim of vessel from Marlin Road, Lewsey, Luton

LATE PRE-ROMAN IRON AGE

POTSHERDS Fig 1
Luton/Marlin Road, Lewsey TL 03 32

Ninety 'sherds representing a minimum of six vessels and consisting of wheel-thrown jars with fine sandy fabrics. The majority of pieces are undecorated, and have orange external and internal surfaces; linear grooves on the neck of one of the vessels is the only form of decoration represented in the assemblage. Other contemporary pottery and an iron brooch have also been recovered from this site,¹ and it is likely that this material results from domestic activity on the site between c 50 BC-c AD 50.

LTNMG 1987/122 donated by Mr A. J. Hales. The pottery was found by the donor in 1964 during housing development.

ROMANO-BRITISH

BOW BROOCH

Eaton Bray/ (TL 97 20)
Swallowfield Stables

Copper alloy 'Dolphin' type bow brooch with hinged pin. The wings are decorated in a manner that is reminiscent of the coiled spring used in earlier methods of pin attachment. A late first-century AD date is likely.

LTNMG enquiry 2653 reported by Mr D.A. Andrews of Luton. Identification by Mr J.S. Davison.

POTTERY JAR

Luton/near Sundon Park (TL 05 24)

A wheel-thrown jar, 11.5 cm high and 11 cm wide, of fine sandy ware fired to a dark grey colour. It probably dates to the late first-third century AD.

LTNMG 1987/63 donated by Abingdon Museum. The jar was found before 1980 by Mr C.W. Leake adjacent to a pond just off the Icknield Way near Sundon Park.

POTSHERD

Luton/Icknield Way (TL 07 24)

Large rim fragment of a fine sandy grey ware jar with a rim diameter of 8 cm, probably of late first-third century AD date.

LTNMG enquiry 2837 reported by Mrs Boag. Found while digging a foundation trench in the front garden of 151, Icknield Way. This location lies on the western edge of the known Romano-British settlement centred on Runfold Avenue, Limbury.²

COIN

Luton/Birdsfoot Lane (TL 08 25)

A silver denarius of Vespasian in mediocre condition.

LTNMG enquiry 2853 reported by Mr V. Philpott. Found amongst the roots of an uprooted tree in the back garden of 52, Birdsfoot Lane. This location lies on the eastern edge of the known Romano-British settlement centred on Runfold Avenue, Limbury.³

COIN

Barton

(TL 08 31)

A third- fourth-century AD bronze coin, probably a barbarous radiate, in poor condition.

LTNMG 1986/18 donated by Mr M. Whitaker. The coin was found before 1978. Identification by Mr J.S. Davison.

COIN

Luton/Legrave High Street (TL 05 23)

A low denomination copper alloy coin of Constantine I. Obverse: IMP. CONSTANTINVS P. F. AVG. Reverse: SOLI INVICTO COMITI showing the god Sol standing and holding a globe.

LTNMG enquiry 2815 reported by Mr R. Donohoe. Found at a depth of 0.5 m on the site of the Methodist Church.

Luton Museum provides an identification service free of charge and is pleased to consider offers of appropriate material from S Bedfordshire for the archaeology collections. For further information, please contact: The Keeper of Archaeology, Luton Museum Service, Wardown Park, Luton, Beds. LU2 7HA. Tel. (0582) 36941/2.

NOTES

- 1 Dyer, J. and Dony, J.G., 1975; *The Story of Luton*, 3rd edition (Luton: White Crescent Press Ltd.), 14.
- 2 Simco, A., 1984; *Survey of Bedfordshire. The Roman Period* (Beds. County Council and RCHM), 109 gazetteer entry 154.
- 3 See above, note 2.

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

Archaeology Around the County

News from local archaeological and historical societies and Harlington Upper School

INTRODUCTION

Bedfordshire is fortunate in having a number of local societies which seek to promote archaeology and related work on historical buildings, and also in having one school, at Harlington, where archaeology is taught to examination level. The following contributions from each society and from Harlington Upper School summarise the range of archaeological groups within the county and their activities. It is intended that in future, Bedfordshire Archaeology will provide a forum for regular, up-to-date reports from local societies. All those contributing to the following article are affiliated to the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council.

AMPTHILL AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Kevan Fadden

The Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society was formed in 1962 from a WEA tutorial given by Dr J. Alexander on archaeology. Local history was included in the scope of the Society in the belief that it would help to stabilise the membership and generate more interest.

The Society meets at 7.45 p.m. on the first Monday of the month from October to April at the White Hart Hotel, Ampthill for a programme of lectures. During the summer occasional trips are arranged to sites of interest. Throughout the year a watching brief is kept on the surrounding area to monitor building and development. Field walking, aerial surveys and small scale excavations are carried out as and when required on threatened sites. The Ampthill by-pass was a good example when more than a dozen new sites were found and recorded.

A history of Flitwick village was produced in 1974 and is now ready for updating; this is the current project for the local history section. Further details can be obtained from the Chairman Kevan Fadden, Ampthill 402273 or Hon. Secretary Brian Lazelle, Ampthill 402264.

BEDFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Ian Freeman

In 1847 the Bedfordshire Archaeological and Architectural Society was founded. This had a number of distinguished members including the Duke of Bedford and Earl de Grey as Presidents. However, forty years on, in 1887, this society appears to have been taken over by the Bedfordshire Natural History Society although F.A. Blaydes Esq. was retained as 'Secretary of the Archaeological Department'. The first annual general meeting of the merged society was held in 1888 and we still number our AGMs from that year. For this reason, we are celebrating our centenary in 1988.

In those early days the emphasis was indeed on natural history rather than archaeology and lectures, which were held about once a week, tended to be on subjects such as 'The Behaviour of Earthworms'. However, the balance gradually changed and by 1918 the title was changed to Bedford Natural History and Archaeological Society. In 1955, when natural historians had other societies to cater for their interests, the title was changed again to Bedford Archaeological Society as it is today.

The aims of the Society as defined on our programme cards reads:

'The objects of the Society shall be to advance the education of the general public in subjects of archaeological or antiquarian interest, particularly those relating to English life and culture, with specific reference to the town and county of Bedford, and including excavations in the field.'

The somewhat Victorian flavour of this declaration betrays our date of origin but the objects are, in general terms, the same today. We do not, however, allow the phrases 'English life and culture' and 'specific reference to the town and county of Bedford' to restrict our activities. The last full-scale 'excavation in the field' undertaken by the Society was in the 1970s at Clapham Manor House, under the direction of Mr Peter Tilson.

More recent activities 'in the field' have concentrated on 'surface archaeology' i.e. surveying and field working. One such exercise at the deserted hamlet of Tilwick in Ravensden was reported in *South Midlands Archaeology* 14 (1984) p 2. A similar exercise at Yelden Church is nearing completion.

We also have an ongoing documentary research programme on the origins of Bedford's streets and street names which is beginning to yield publishable results.

But our main activities involve lectures (once a month during the winter) and outings during the summer. For our lecture programme our policy is to choose speakers who can inform us of the latest developments in archaeology and related topics. For this we draw on professional archaeologists active in Bedfordshire and the neighbouring counties and also, whenever possible, well-known speakers from farther afield. Recent programmes for instance have included Professor John Coles speaking on the Somerset Levels, Dr Christopher Taylor on Landscape Archaeology and Dr Margaret Gelling on place-names.

Our summer outings take the form of car trips to local places of archaeological or historical interest, preferably where some activity is in progress, or coach trips further afield. Our policy here is to try to take our members to places which they would find difficult to visit on their own, either because of distance or accessibility. Popular coach trips of recent years have included Coalbrookdale, the Mary Rose and the Jorvik Centre at York.

Our membership at present is about 70 people. Further details about membership and our current programme can be obtained from our Hon. Secretary Miss Sylvia Woods. Tel. Bedford 65095.

THE HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

David Hall

The Society was founded in 1965 with the initial object of recording the archaeology of the Higham Ferrers Hundred, then under threat by building and quarrying. Although lying in Northamptonshire, the Hundred extends the whole length of North Bedfordshire. Fieldwork was also a significant activity with the Society and many parishes in North Bedfordshire were surveyed for pre-medieval sites;

the results have been published in Volumes 3 and 7 of this Journal.

A few rescue excavations in Bedfordshire were also undertaken in the churches of Ravensden and Thurleigh during restoration works, and at Radwell gravel pits; these sites also have been reported in this Journal.

The current interest of the Society is primarily fieldwork and ancillary historical back-up. Some parishes in the south of the county have been investigated, and the Cardington survey is in progress with the help of John Wood.

The Society does not have formal newsletters or regular meetings but members continue fieldwork on most winter weekends. The secretary would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in arranging permission to walk around the fields of a parish.

Secretary: David Hall, The Gables, Raunds Road, Hargrave, Northants. Tel. (home (0933) 625776; office (0223) 333323).

LUTON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

John Burley

The Luton and District Archaeological Society, was formed by James Dyer and Stuart Davison, the Keeper of Archaeology at Luton Museum, in 1986.

The purpose of its formation was to make available a number of volunteers to co-operate with Luton Museum in carrying out field walking and excavations on land threatened by development.

The Society holds a series of lectures each winter between October and May. The subjects are of local, national and international interest. The speakers include well known local and national members of the archaeological world, although usually with some local connection.

During the summer, as well as taking part in any active archaeology that presents itself, a number of field trips are organised to places of archaeological interest.

The officers of The Society include Professor W. H. Manning, President, and James Dyer FSA, Chairman. Since the departure to Scotland of Stuart Davison, the secretary's position has been taken by John Burley, 18 Trinity Road, Luton, Beds. LU3 1TP. Tel. Luton 594072.

MANSHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF DUNSTABLE

Barry Horne

The Society was formed in 1951 to carry out rescue excavation ahead of chalk quarrying. This threat has now disappeared but the Society continues to excavate in and around Dunstable ahead of building development.

Members meet four times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and Sunday morning) either to excavate or to carry out post excavation work.

Winter lectures are held each month in The Friars on Monday evenings at 7.45 p.m.

In addition there is an annual outing in June; in 1987 it was to Worcester.

Newsletters are produced twice a year in addition to the Manshead Journal which is a report of our excavations and post excavation work. The latest Journal contains a report of a chance Roman find in West Street and a preliminary report of our excavation at Kingsbury Court.

Other publications include *Occupation Sites on a Chiltern Ridge* BAR 29 which reports on the palimpsest of occupation on Puddlehill which stretches from the Neolithic to the Saxon period; and the 'Roman cemetery at Dunstable' published in volume 15 of this Journal.

The Society archive contains many slides in addition to a number of super 8 cine films of our excavations since 1952. One of the films is a detailed record of the reconstruction, by members, at the Chiltern Open Air Museum of one of the Iron Age houses found on Puddlehill. Speakers are available to talk about the prehistory and history of the area.

Our current dig is a trial excavation on the reputed site of the palace of Henry I. Other work includes the detailed analysis of medieval pottery from Dunstable as well as the preparation of reports of earlier excavations.

During the winter months field walking is undertaken as well as visits to local antiquities.

For details of the Society's activities please contact: Barry Horne, Hon. Secretary, 'Beaumont', Church End, Edlesborough, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2EP. Tel. Eaton Bray 221219.

POTTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Peter Ibbett

The Society was formed on October 13th 1977 and has built up a membership of over 70 people.

AIMS

1. To promote an interest in history and particularly in that of Potton through regular meetings, exhibitions and other activities.
2. To collect, record and publish information on the history of Potton for the benefit of members of the local community.
3. To record current events in Potton for the benefit of future generations.
4. To assist in the general conservation and preservation of the buildings and surrounding countryside.

ACTIVITIES

1. Monthly meetings

The Society meets at the Community Centre, Brook End, every month on the fourth Thursday (except December, which has an earlier date).

The programme features a blend of visiting speakers and Society generated topics. Regular events of the Society programme are talks by its own active members as well as Research Evenings, Town Walks and Pictorial Entertainments.

Meetings usually commence at 8.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. Any changes will be announced in the local press. Membership is only £3.50 (Family £6.00, Senior Citizen £1.00).

2. Exhibitions

The Society has collected an archive of over 3,000 photographs of past and present activities in the town. Most of these have been mounted and captioned and are regularly exhibited in Society Meetings and at other local events. The Society also maintains a collection of documents and printed material.

3. Projects

The Society has an active core of members dedicated to researching both past and present events in the town. Projects to which members have contributed include a photographic collection, taped memories, scrapbooks, the indexing of censuses 1851-1881, a film archive 'Past and Present', a gravestone survey, cars of Potton Manor, Trade Directories 1785-1940, Potton Consolidated

Charities, Parish Registers and two audio-visual programmes 'the Great Fire of Potton' and 'Decade of Change 1977-1987'.

4. Publications

The Society has gained much praise for its publications: *Potton* (Yates, 1979), *Picture of Potton* (Yates/Parry, Volume 1,* 1981 and Volume 2, 1985) and research reports: *Potton Market Square* (Ibbett, 1981, revised edition 1987), *The Great Fire of Potton** (Ibbett, 1983) and *Potton Consolidated Charities* (Yates, 1985).

Society contact and publication sales: Mrs Patricia Yates, Secretary, 31A Royston Street, Potton. Tel. 260328.

*Denotes publications not available.

ARCHAEOLOGY AT HARLINGTON

Jo Constantine

The study of Archaeology to examination level continues to flourish at Harlington Upper School. The long-established and much respected archaeology teacher, Mr James Dyer, retired in 1985 but has maintained close links with the department, keeping a paternal eye on its development.

Until the end of the summer term 1987 courses offered included East Anglian Board CSE Mode 3, London Board A/O level and Cambridge Board A level. Most students entered for these examinations in 1986 and 1987 received certificates. Special congratulations are due to Mr David Ward of Harlington who, as a mature student sat in on the 6th form lessons for three years and despite ill health in his second year completed a personal research project on the Mesolithic Period in Bedfordshire. Mr Ward achieved Grade C in his A level examinations.

From September 1987 students in the fourth year will be beginning the new London and East Anglian Board GCSE examination in Archaeology; one-

year Sixth formers will be studying for London Board A/O level, and there are new 'A' level students also beginning their studies.

Close links with the County Archaeologists have been forged by the Sixth form A level students using the sites and monuments records, and local sites and excavated material for their project research. One of the students, who sat her examination in June 1987, used previously unpublished Roman pottery from Deepdale as the basis of her 'A' level project. More work of this nature is being fostered in the department particularly now that GCSE students must also produce an individual study to complete examination requirements. The 1987-89 GCSE group are presenting their individual studies as a complete work *Aspects of Archaeology in Bedfordshire* with each child contributing a chapter on a topic which particularly interests them.

The scope of GCSE projects is tremendous, encouraging students of 14 and 15 to become involved in surveys, field-walking exercises, artefact studies and excavation, under responsible supervision. Although few students continue with Archaeology once they have left Harlington, many of them retain an interest in archaeology and in Britain's archaeological heritage. Although residential field work away from Bedfordshire appears to be curtailed by the new conditions under which teachers must work, local field studies will continue. In some ways this will be a better arrangement as the students will come to know their home county well, and may have a better understanding of local planning problems where archaeology and development issues conflict.

The Archaeology Department at Harlington is now poised to begin a new era. Humanities in the school is changing, with an integrated Humanities course in the first year being taught in modular fashion. Links between the various Humanities disciplines are being stressed and Archaeology is contributing to many of the modules. At the same time the Archaeology units point out the obvious links with the Sciences, thus preparing students for the variety of skills they will be developing in the GCSE course.

BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL

VOLUMES 5 to 15

and

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Enquiries from booksellers are welcome and special terms are available to them.

All enquiries for purchasing Bedfordshire Archaeological Council publications should be made to:

Alan Crawley
Sales Officer
305 Goldington Road
Bedford MK41 9PD
Telephone (0234) 61344

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