

BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY



VOLUME 19

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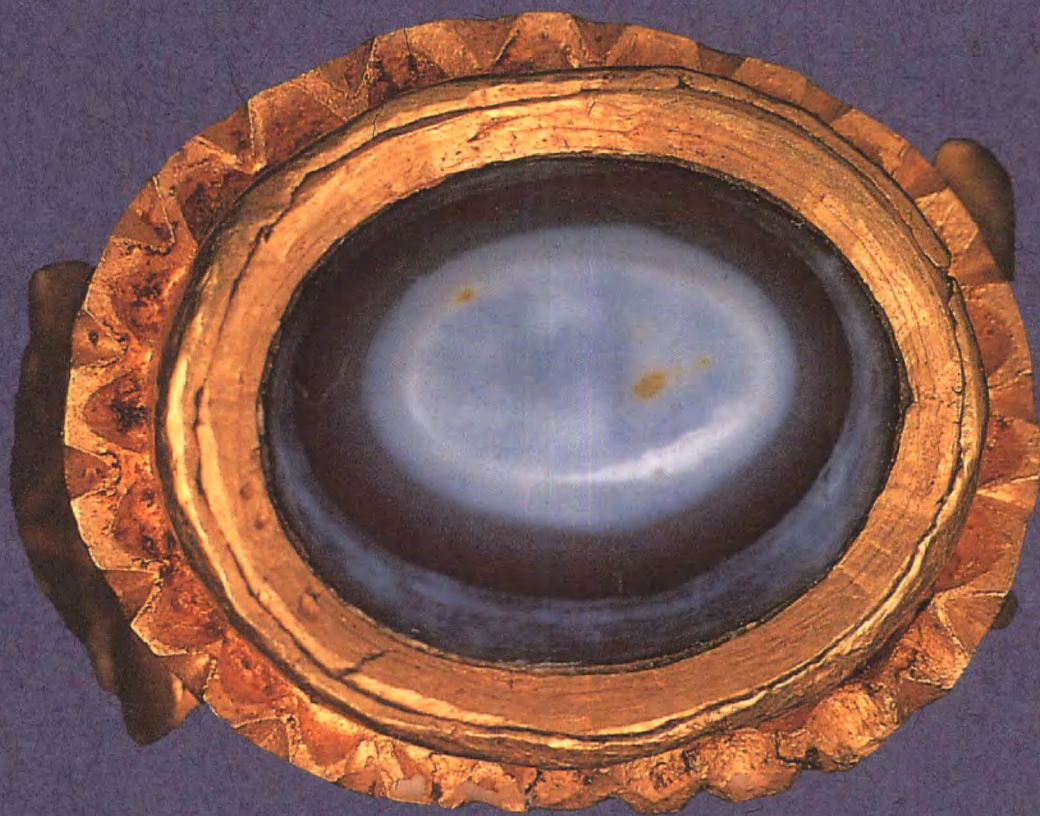
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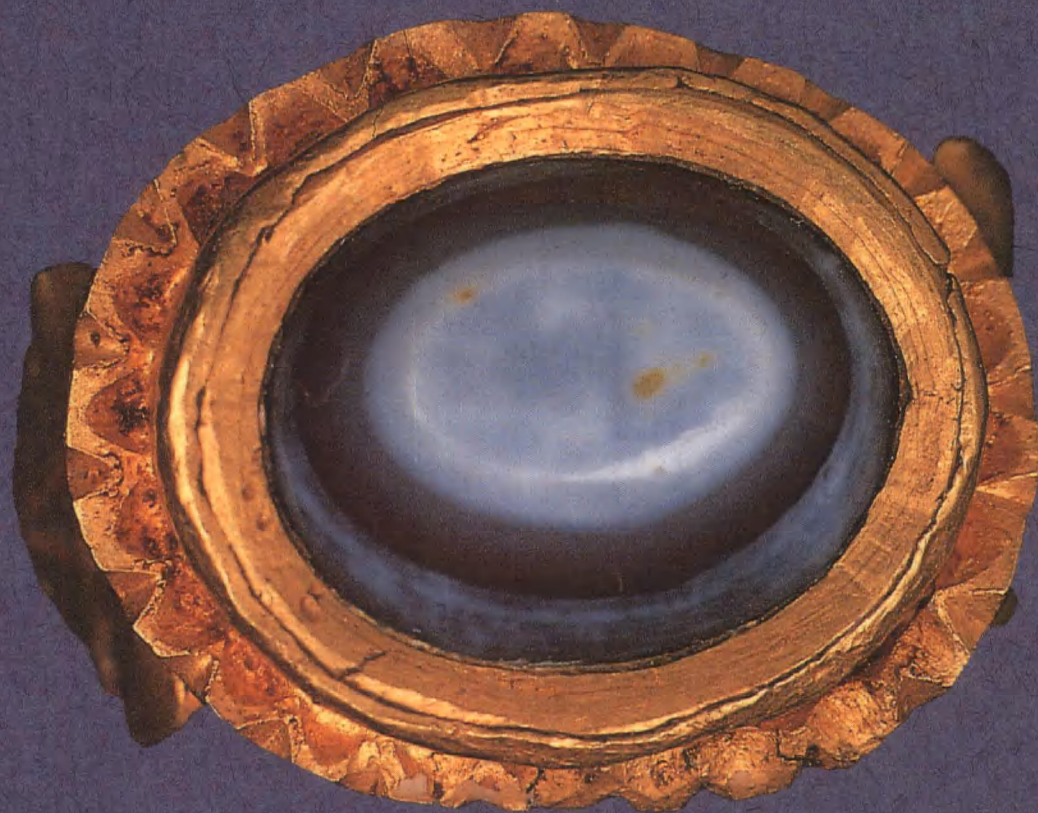
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with the assistance of the Editorial Committee

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Editorial

Archaeology as a Profession: Maturity or Regression?

EVELYN BAKER

Significant changes are taking place in so-called "public" archaeology; while these have their most direct effect upon those earning their living by it, they are also of concern to all who have an interest in the study of the past and its remains, and thus to those who read the results of fieldwork and research in this Journal. If not carefully managed these could have seriously adverse effects on both the archaeological resource and on the way archaeology is seen and handled by archaeologists, developers and government. They are beneficial insofar as they represent society's recognition of the importance of archaeology, but rather less so in their tendency to go beyond the adoption of normal business-like procedures, thus becoming entangled with aspects of market forces less appropriate to the protection of a vulnerable non-renewable resource.

The cornerstone of these changes is PPG16, the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance on "Archaeology and Planning". It sets out the Secretary of State's policy on archaeological remains in town and country, and how they should be preserved or recorded. A useful document, it advises on the handling of these remains within local government development control systems, together with the weight to be given to them in planning decisions. Much of what it advises was largely already standard practice for the more progressive local authorities, including Bedfordshire, but its official codification greatly strengthens the hands of county archaeologists across the country. It has given birth to a new species, the planning archaeologist, and to a new vocabulary of briefs, assessments, evaluations, clients, consultants, "contractors" and "curators".

One of its major benefits is that account is now taken of archaeology far earlier in the planning process than formerly; for important remains there is a clear presumption firstly that they and their settings should be physically preserved whether or not they are scheduled, and secondly that what is perhaps misleadingly called "preservation by record" is definitely second best rather than an equal alternative. Sites and Monuments Records are given an enhanced significance, and it is here

that the first enquiries about possible development ought to be made. Planning authorities ("curators") can now demand that investigatory work (evaluation) takes place to provide sufficient information with regard to assessing the importance of a particular site so that the extent to which it ought to be a constraint on a planning proposal can be decided on the basis of knowledge. Planning archaeologists can recommend the addition of negative conditions to planning consents prohibiting the carrying out of development until such time as excavation has been carried out.

The thorns on this rose, however, are that the Department considers that PPG16 *places no new duties on local authorities, and should not place any significant burden on local authorities*. This maintains the resource level at its present function, despite the obvious implications for those not already in the vanguard. It goes on to say that *Planning authorities should not include in their development plans policies requiring developers to finance archaeological works in return for the grant of planning permission*, thus leaving the problem of gaining adequate funding open.

The logic of this situation is that the planning archaeologist has now been given the multiple role of

- (1) providing "briefs" (an outline of what is known already and what questions need to be answered for a planning decision to be taken),
- (2) providing technical specifications to ensure that the work to answer those questions is done to a sufficiently high standard and in the best and most effective way,
- (3) policing or monitoring the quality of the evaluation/excavation work itself (by the excavating body or "contractor"), and
- (4) assessing its results and implications for feeding into the planning process.

This requires either an archaeological Leonardo, or a significant increase in staff resources in order to meet a wide range of professional and technical demands. It is a very heavy burden to place on those planning archaeologists in small or poorly resourced authorities; often these are "one person bands", and

sometimes weak on the technical experience of excavation to judge the efficacy of complex evaluation fieldwork. Is it reasonable for a generalist, or someone versed in the medieval period, to write unaided, detailed specifications or briefs for a prehistoric site? It is more manageable for those planning archaeologists whose association with the longer established local units and societies gives access to their accumulated local knowledge and ongoing research interests.

Gaps in expertise of all kinds have been traditionally filled for both public and private sectors by the use of consultants. The archaeological version, a relatively new sub-species, varies enormously in functions. Some undertake the production of briefs and/or specifications, doing the "curatorial" work normally undertaken by the planning (county) archaeologist. Others combine a consultancy role with a "contracting" capability, advising clients (developers) on necessary work while also tendering for, and sometimes undertaking, the same fieldwork.

Concern about such potential conflicts of interest has primarily focused upon the traditional local archaeological organisation which in a number of places, including Bedfordshire, has both advised the planning process and undertaken fieldwork arising from that advice; a linkage now made much more potent by the issue of PPG16. It has encouraged a perception that archaeologists ought to be divided into two distinct and quite separate kinds. The planning ones are thus the "curators" (extending the meaning of the title once confined to museum keepers of antiquities), while the fieldwork units ought to be seen as "contractors". The latter term correctly emphasises the need for a business-like approach to fieldwork projects, but can also give two inappropriate messages. One is that business comes first and archaeology second, with a steady flow of one-off contracts being more important than building up and communicating an understanding of the local historic environment. The second and inter-related implication is that the excavating archaeologist has little or no academic/professional/interpretive function, this being the prerogative of "curator" and/or consultant.

In a general climate of privatisation and the separation of providers and clients in the public service, this division can lead to a total separation of function and organisation, with the "curator" meagrely supported on the available public funds, and the "contractor" required to be commercially self-supporting: neither is able to undertake its

archaeological task properly. Yet a sensible sharing of expertise as tasks demand could still be achieved without serious conflict of interests, particularly if all the archaeologists are governed by the primary imperative of securing preservation, with excavation as the fall-back position.

There is much talk these days of the virtues of market forces, and many a ramshackle archaeological organisation has had its mind beneficially concentrated by them. But in the nature of things the market place contains winners and losers, profit and loss, shortcuts and undercutting, entrepreneurs and pirates: concepts not entirely appropriate to the fragile, vulnerable and finite archaeological resource. Hence anxieties about the arrival of competitive tendering between "contractors". The developer's wish to select a "contractor" to do work which he would prefer not to have to pay for anyway, is bound to be influenced by price rather than archaeological considerations. Why pay for a deluxe or even standard model when an economy job is available at a fraction of the price? Where the lone "curator" lacks the resources to specify work sufficiently precisely, its scope is likely to be reduced.

"Contractors" totally reliant upon development-related projects will have to go where the work can be found if they are to maintain the viability of their organisations: where this involves competing successfully against the local excavating body this may damage the continuity of local research, especially if the local "curator" is not in a position to enforce a reasonable degree of conformity with local research programmes and information systems. Territoriality is understandably a dirty word in some quarters, and can shade off into restrictive and monopolistic practices that can harm all interests. On the other hand, a competitive free-for-all can undermine the stability of local organisations, the development and use of local expertise, the needs of local museums and educational benefits. In very few areas is the archaeological framework sufficiently developed, expert and strong to be able to ensure that whoever does work does it in a way which will guarantee a positive contribution to the development of local understanding. This stage of development will never be reached anywhere if market forces become too dominant too early.

What does this mean in practical terms? Briefs should be written by, or at least approved by the "curator", using local advice and expertise as appropriate. Specifications should be designed to cover adequately the needs of the particular set of archaeological problems outlined in the brief. They

must apply equally to whoever undertakes the work, and ensure acceptable standards throughout the project. They must be applied by the planning archaeologist to the specific local context and not left simply as a series of set generalities that might vaguely fit any number of sites. Tender documents and commissioning of work must take into account the quality and type of project and the requirements in terms of expertise and suitability of the body undertaking it.

They must consider the requirements of museum curators and researchers in that the resulting site archives must be totally compatible with local data bases, and analysis and packaging completed to agreed minimum standards. Consultants, clients and "curators" cannot ignore the wider research needs which the project may affect.

Consultants should be employed by developers,

as they do for other environmental topics, to advise on the content of an archaeological specification and the results of evaluation work. The client has a right to know that what is being asked is indeed reasonable, and that he has got what he paid for.

Planning advice must continue to be impartial, with expert advice from whatever source being available but kept distinct and separate from planning recommendations. "Contractors" must apply and retain high professional standards, coupled with consideration for the client and his purse.

In the final analysis, all archaeologists, whether perceived in current parlance as "curators" or "contractors", have two sets of clients. One client set comprises those who seek their services, whether they are planning officers or developers; the other is the archaeological resource itself.

Excavations at Barton Ring Ditches: Landscape History and Archaeology

ROYSTON CLARK WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM
M.J. ALLEN, R. HOLGATE, T. JACKMAN AND A. SLOWIKOWSKI

INTRODUCTION

In 1989 a group of three ring ditches was excavated at TL 0756 2904 in advance of quarrying activity south of the village of Barton le Clay, Bedfordshire. Road construction for the Barton bypass required additional chalk to make a secure road foundation in the lowland surrounding the village. The chalk was quarried from the nearby chalk downland and resulted in the destruction of a group of ring ditches visible as cropmarks. The road construction contractors agreed that a full scale excavation should take place in advance of quarrying.

According to aerial photographs taken in 1981, two ring ditches were located at between 133 m and 140 m above sea level. They were visible on the eastern slope of the Bartonhill Cutting in the parish of Streatley and occupy the very northern limit of the Chiltern chalk downlands. Their location can be best described as "false crested" in that they occupied land on the slope and not on the hill top itself. The area in question is covered by an overlying deposit of clay with flints. The chalk itself is Middle Chalk and to the north the land drops steeply to the upper and lower greensands and gault clays of central Bedfordshire. Here the drift geology is more complicated with quantities of sludged chalk muds overlying glacial sands and gravels (Robinson and Wilson 1987).

Dry valleys and the steep nature of the hill slopes were formed through periglacial solifluction deposits. These make for a dramatic landscape that has evidence for human activity dating back at least to the Neolithic. Within 5 km the Iron Age hill fort at Sharpenhoe dominates one of the tongues of chalk that overlook the lowlands of central Bedfordshire. Closer to Barton itself, a series of ring ditches was excavated at Barton Hill Farm (Dyer 1962). More recently the ring ditches at Galley Hill have been the subject of a small scale excavation (Thorpe 1988). Further south, on the outskirts of Luton, Waulud's Bank has produced neolithic pottery dating to the late Neolithic, and radiocarbon samples from a pig bone have recently been submitted for Accelerator dating at Oxford (Holgate pers comm). This information provides a good

background for presenting the excavations at Barton, as they are one of the main groups of excavated barrow sites for the whole of the Chiltern Hills.

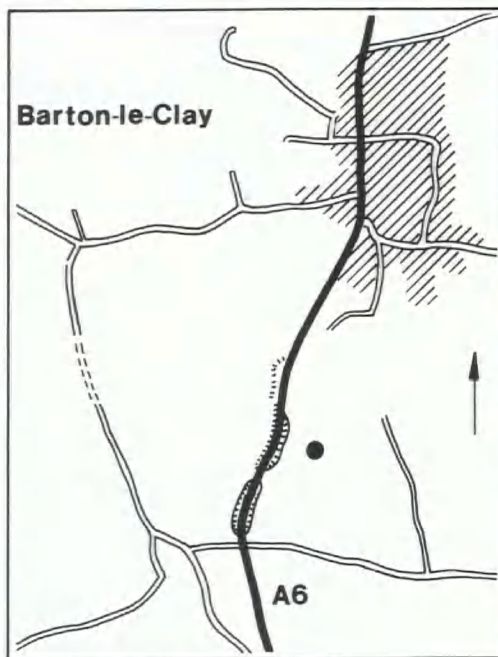


Fig 1 Location Map

Excavation

Before topsoil stripping was carried out, a contour survey was conducted in an attempt to locate mound or other earthwork material that might have been associated with the ring ditches. The results were inconclusive. Walking across the ring ditch areas it was possible, however, to see a higher density of chalk in the plough soil and a less dense vegetational growth of oil seed rape. This is the only evidence that could be used to argue for mound or bank material being present.

Topsoil stripping was conducted by the road contractors under archaeological supervision. Initially two baulks were left to provide sections across the

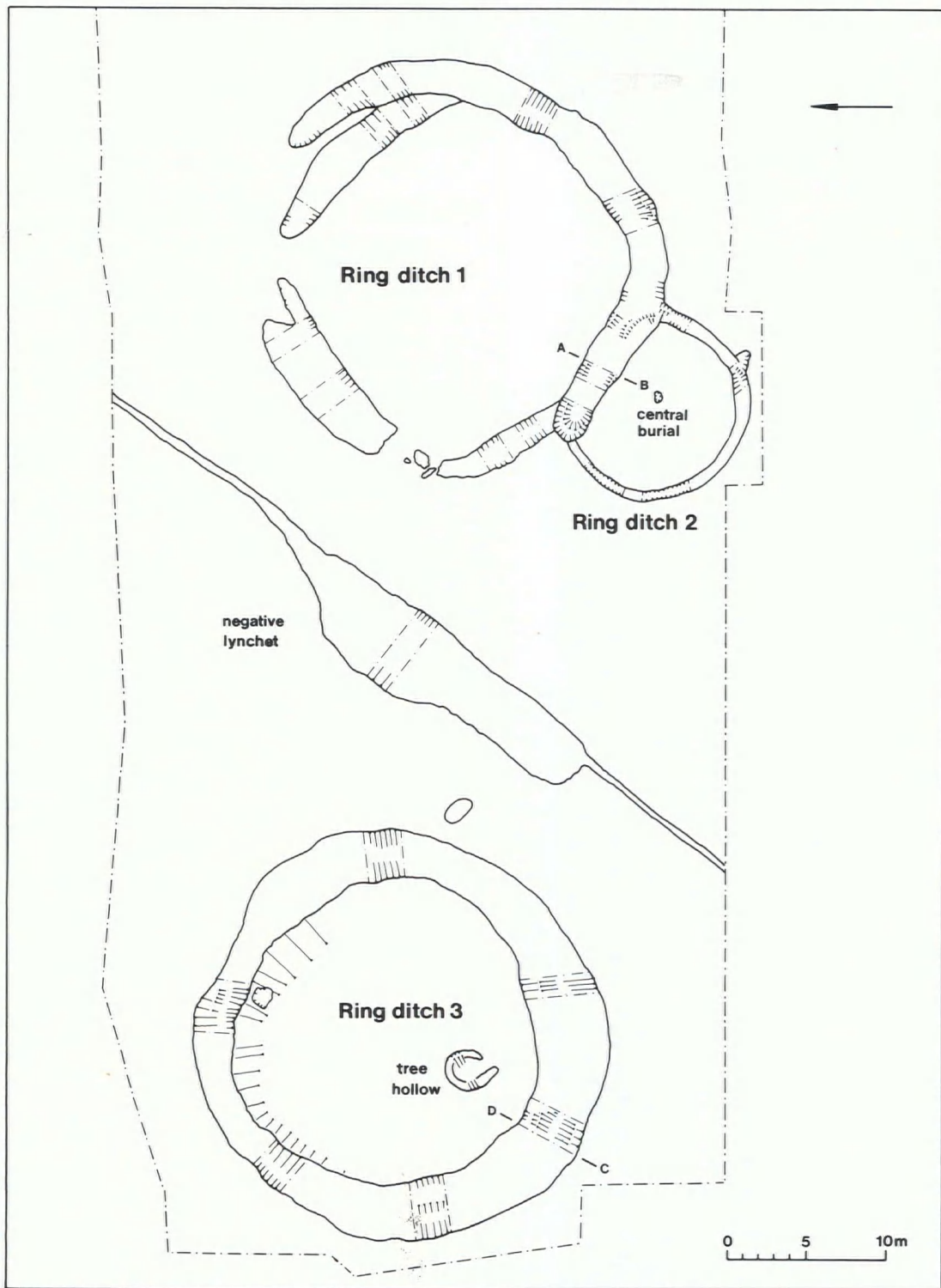


Fig 2 All features plan also showing location of Sections A-B (Fig 4) and C-D (Fig 5)

two ring ditches visible from the cropmark photographs. Once the site was cleared of topsoil the site was hoed and trowelled to the level where the ring ditches became visible. During this stage a magnetic susceptibility meter was used to scan the area for evidence of enhanced human activity such as burning or pottery fragments. In particular the ditches were scanned in case of cremation or pottery material being deposited within the ditch fills etc. One result of this survey was that a cremation in a biconical urn was discovered outside the area of the two ring ditches. Clearing up of this area produced a third ring ditch with the cremation occupying a central position. No other finds or features were located with the magnetic susceptibility meter.

A negative lynchet, caused by plough activity, was also located during the cleaning up of the site.

Sections were then excavated at selected points in the ring ditches in order to provide stratigraphical relationships and samples for land snail analysis. The three ring ditches had suffered from heavy plough damage and, due to dry weather conditions, it was often difficult to interpret the sequence of activity on site. A careful review of the excavation records together with the land snail evidence argue for the sequence of activity outlined in "The Excavation Results" below.

Aims of the Report

Traditionally barrow or ring ditch excavation reports focus on ritual, ceremonial and burial themes and tend to be orientated toward artefact studies. As a result sites that are poorly preserved, or fail to provide rich cultural assemblages, are regarded as having little potential for analysis.

An aim of this report is to show that ploughed-out ring ditches can have an important role to play in our understanding of aspects of prehistory, as they often contain valuable environmental evidence. Land snails or pollen are often preserved in ditch fills and can provide detailed information on environmental history (eg Allen, Morris and Clark in press). In contrast, settlement sites often fail to provide adequate contexts for studying long term environmental change. Pits and post holes are rarely open long enough to allow a build-up of soils containing environmental information. Settlement ditches are often extensively disturbed by domestic activity of short term duration, or are in the wrong location to provide suitable samples.

The aim of the land snail analysis was to provide an environmental history for the site and to place it within the wider context of the prehistoric land-use

of the Chilterns. The temporally limited, yet good relative chronological sequence from the ring ditch complex enabled examination of possible change in the environment and in human activities through time. In addition, in the last 20 years, environmental evidence based on land snail and soil studies has been collected from a series of deposits within the Chilterns. This has never been fully synthesised from an archaeological perspective. This report will attempt to relate this regional evidence for vegetational change to samples collected at Barton.

The site discussion therefore integrates the environmental analysis of land snails with the cultural aspects of the site. It endeavours to show how land snail evidence can help provide important information on the phasing of the ring ditches, which would otherwise remain incomplete.

FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Apart from human remains finds were limited to pottery, flint and animal bones. This section will present an overview of the finds and the methods used in their identification and will also outline the methodology used in the land snail analysis.

POTTERY — A. SLOWIKOWSKI

One hundred and forty-five sherds of pottery (340 g) were found of which 30% were Iron Age or later (Table 1). The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight; all figures in the report refer to the sherd count. With the exception of the biconical urn, all other sherds were small, abraded body fragments, whose forms could not be distinguished; therefore only the biconical urn is illustrated. The pottery was divided into fabric types, but there was some variation in each type.

TYPE DESCRIPTIONS

Shelly (Neolithic?) — soft, smooth, buff-brown fabric with dark grey core; tempered with coarsely crushed shell, and very sparse rounded lumps of a calcareous material which may be limestone. A single, very abraded undiagnostic sherd was found.

Shell tempering is characteristic of the north of the county and continued in use intermittently into the medieval period. Early neolithic shelly pottery of Mildenhall type was found at Goldington, Bedford (Clark in prep.). At Barton Hill Farm middle neolithic pottery had a shell tempered fabric (Smith 1962, 15). It is also known at this date further west along the Chilterns at Abingdon (Case and Whittle 1982, 32). At the Rollright Stones on the Oxfordshire-Warwickshire border, shell and limestone fabrics were contemporary with coarse quartz fabrics, and likewise dated to the middle Neolithic (Darvill 1988, 90).

Quartz/flint (Late Neolithic/Bronze Age?) — fairly soft, red-brown and dark grey in patches. Coarsely tempered with sharp angular calcined flint and white quartz inclusions, which vary in size from 0.4-4.03 mm. All sherds were abraded and no diagnostic fragments were found. Some sherds had quite clearly broken off at a coil. The inclusions protrude through the surfaces of the

TABLE 1 – POTTERY FROM BARTON RING DITCHES

		Shelly neolithic	Quartz neolithic/ early Bronze Age	Grog Bronze Age	Grog Iron Age	Shelly Iron Age	Sandy Roman	Nene Valley Roman	Shelly Medieval	Post Medieval
CONTEXT	No.									
Topsoil	1				7		4	2		
Pit	5		1							
RING DITCH 1 [F58]										
PHASE 1										
Upper ditch fill										
	51						2			
	52						2			
RING DITCH 2 [F13]										
PHASE 2										
Upper ditch fills										
	15		1							
	17									
	25			70						
RING DITCH 1 [F20]										
PHASE 3A										
Upper/main ditch fills										
	62			1						
	64	1								
	68		1							
	103		1							
PHASE 3B										
Upper/main fills										
	42		1	1	1					
Lower ditch fills										
	48		10							
RING DITCH 3 [F11]										
PHASE 5?										
subsoil										
	4		12	1	8	5	3			
Upper/main ditch fills										
	12			1						1
	69		1							
Lower ditch fills										
	95						1			
	33				1					
	34		1							
LINEAR FEATURE (IRON AGE) [F8]										
	7						2		1	1
TOTAL		1	28	75	17	5	14	2	1	2

TABLE 2 - FLINT FROM BARTON RING DITCHES

CONTEXT	Context No.	Flakes	Blades	Shattered pieces	Cores	Misc. retouched pieces	Scrapers	Cutting flake	Fabricator	Fire fractured flint	TOTAL
Topsoil	1	3		3	1		1a)				8
RING DITCH 1 [F58]											
PHASE 1											
Upper ditch fill	53	2									2
RING DITCH 2 [F13]											
PHASE 2											
Upper ditch fills	14	2									2
	15	1									1
Main ditch fills	49	3									3
	50	1									1
RING DITCH 1 [F20]											
PHASE 3A											
Upper/main ditch fills	37	1	1								1
	79	1									1
	62	1									1
Lower ditch fill	63							1			1
PHASE 3B											
Upper/main fills	40	20c)									20
	42	3		2	4						9
	47					1					1
	74	1									1
	35	9	1	1	3						14
	45	1			1						2
Lower ditch fills	36	3		2	1						6
	41	1									1
	43				1					1	2
RING DITCH 3 [F11]											
PHASE 5?											
subsoil	4	20	3	2	2	1	1b)		1	1	31
Upper/main ditch fills	28	9		2							11
	69	11		2	2	1					16
	95			1							1
Lower ditch fills	29	1									1
	70	2		1	1	3					7
	71	3									3
Pit [F5]	5	1									1
LINEAR FEATURE [F8]	7	5			1		1b)				7
TOTAL		105	5	16	17	6	3	1	1	2	156

Notes: a) endscraper. b) thumbnail scraper. Cores = single platform flake cores without platform preparation. Flakes are stone hammer struck. c) group of flakes probably detached from the same nodule (although none refit)

sherds and their angularity would have made potting a painful occupation.

The type is reminiscent of Peterborough ware fabrics in the area but with no decoration or discernable forms, identification can only be tentative. In other areas, coarse quartz and flint pottery occurs at different dates, Barford, Warwickshire, has produced a similar fabric type in the form of a small tripartite collared urn of the early Bronze Age (Gibson 1989, 77) while quartz tempering, up to 7 mm in size, is found in pottery from the Rollright Stones, dated to the middle Neolithic (Darvill 1988, 90). The quartz and flint tempered sherds from Barton Hill Farm were classed with neolithic Windmill Hill ware (Smith 1962, 17).

Grog tempered (Bronze Age) – soft, light brown-orange fabric with occasional dark grey core. Rounded grog fragments can be quite large, up to 4.03 mm and vary in colour from buff-grey to red-brown. Some tiny black inclusions, 0.24–0.8 mm, which are soft and may also be grog, are present. Quantities of grog vary from sparse to abundant. Forms are indistinguishable with the exception of the biconical urn (see Fig 6).

A single sherd, of possible Beaker type was found. Because of its general fabric type it has been quantified with the Grog (Bronze Age) type, in Table 2. Grog tempering is characteristic of the early Bronze Age in the area. Pottery in the form of a collared urn has been found at Galley Hill in this fabric (Thorpe 1988).

Grogged ("Belgic") – fairly soft, orange-brown fabric with dark brown surfaces. Only one rim sherd was found, from a lid-seated jar, typical of the Beds/Bucks/Herts area in the first century AD (Thompson 1982, 245).

Sandy (Roman) – dark grey to black in colour, finely sand tempered; quartz is angular-subangular, 0.24–0.8 mm. Occasional sparse, round, black inclusions are present; these are slightly magnetic and may be iron ore. All were small, undiagnostic body sherds, probably Roman but some could be medieval.

Nene Valley Colour Coat (late Roman) – off-white, fairly smooth fabric. Decorated externally with a red-brown colour coat. Only two sherds were found, in the same context, both very abraded.

Shelly (Medieval) – light orange-buff surfaces with a light grey core. Fairly soft, smooth, shell-tempered fabric; very abraded. A single sherd of this type was found. It came from a thin-walled vessel and may be thirteenth century in date, although, to all intents and purposes, such a sherd is undiagnostic.

Post-medieval – a single sherd of Wedgewood Red Basalt ware was found.

THE FLINTS – R. HOLGATE

The excavations produced a total of 156 flints (Table 2). The raw material used for flaking consisted of flint nodules no more than 8 cm in diameter. Cortex, where present, was thick and abraded and the quality of the flint was poor. Flint of this nature can be obtained from numerous places on the chalk downland in the vicinity of the site. All pieces had acquired a white or blue-white patination, and two pieces had been fire fractured.

The assemblage consisted mainly of flakes that had been detached from cores using a stone percussor, possibly a flint hammer. Butts on most pieces were more than 2 mm in width and there were no traces of abrasion or any other form of platform preparation along the edge between butts and dorsal surfaces on flakes and blades in the assemblage. Cores all comprised single platform cores from which up to about 10 flakes had been detached without any form of platform preparation taking place.

Of the small number of diagnostic implements recovered, thumbnail scrapers predominated. The remaining implements included a fabricator, end scraper and cutting flake, whilst one of

the miscellaneous retouched pieces could represent a backed knife fragment. However, most of these pieces did not come from closed contexts associated with the site.

Just over half the assemblage came from ditch fills (Table 2). One group of flakes from context (40) was probably detached from the same nodule, although none of the pieces refitted. Clearly, certain flint flaking activities occurred on or near the site at various stages whilst the ditches were silting up. As a whole, the assemblage is similar in composition to those recovered from the Bronze Age round barrows or ring ditches in the Luton district, for example Galley Hill and Five Knolls (Thorpe forthcoming; Wheeler and Dunning 1931), in consisting of a flake dominant industry with few implements being present.

ANIMAL BONES – R. CLARK

The animal bones were in very poor condition and had suffered from heavy chemical attrition on the bone surfaces. As a result, out of a total of 52 pieces, only 29 were identifiable to bone type and animal species; 20 of these were from a cow skull. Most bone material belonged to cattle and sheep/goat species; identification was aided by Schmid (1972). The small quantity of bones limits any conclusions about the nature of this Bronze Age assemblage.

LAND SNAILS – M. ALLEN

A series of mollusc columns were taken from the ditch deposits to provide a complete environmental and chronological sequence across the site. Thirty-two samples were submitted for land snail analysis from which a total of 11,782 molluscs were recorded. The methods of analysis followed those outlined by Evans (1972, 44–45) and detailed elsewhere (Allen 1989, 1990a).

The samples were sieved as part of the post excavation programme and the molluscs extracted from the coarse fractions. Extraction of mollusca from the fine fractions and all identifications were made by the author. The results of analysis are presented in Tables 3 and 4 and as histograms of relative abundance (Figs 8, 9 and 10). Mollusc nomenclature follows Waldén (1976). The Shannon-Weiner species diversity index was calculated using the Wessex Archaeology mollusc data programme (details in archive). Magnetic susceptibility was recorded on all samples following the procedures outlined by Allen (1990b) and the results are presented in Table 4 of the site archive.

THE EXCAVATION RESULTS

PRE-RING DITCH ACTIVITY

There was no clear evidence for human activity that dated to before the construction of the ring ditches. Three features interpreted as tree hollows were recorded and represent the only evidence for mature woodland on the site. One tree hollow (F108) was located within the internal area of Ring Ditch 3 and produced a poorly preserved fragment of a sheep's humerus.

THE RING DITCHES:

PHASE 1 (Ring Ditch 1 [F58/F88])

The first phase of activity remains inconclusively dated and consists of a roughly square shaped

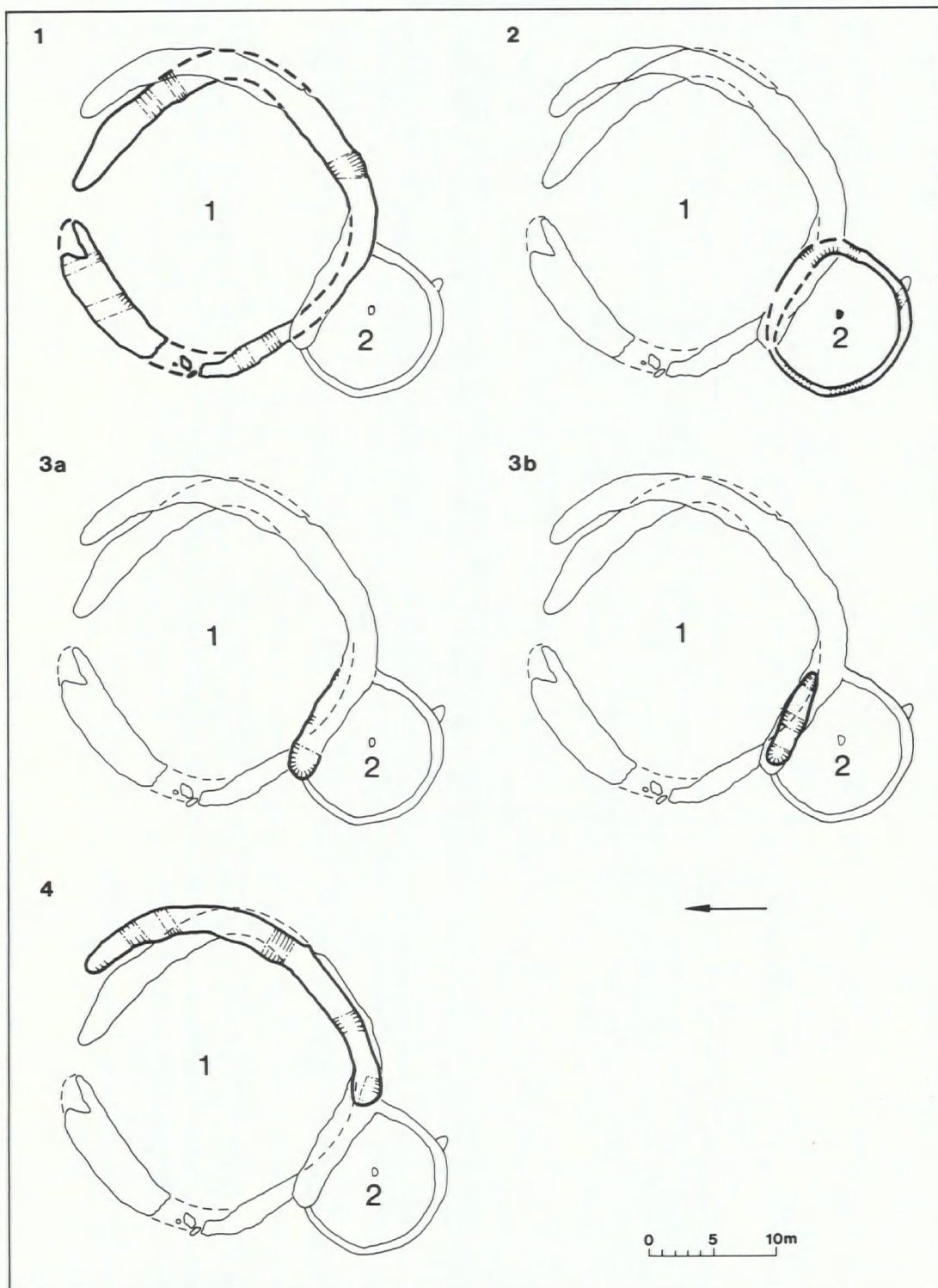


Fig 3 Phase sequence of Ring Ditches 1 and 2

enclosure with sides measuring approximately 20 m in length [F58]. The corners of the enclosure were rounded and a single entrance faced northwards. The entrance was 2.5 m wide and while the north-western area was plough damaged, the north-eastern edge was clearly defined by a steep butt-ended terminus to the ditch.

The ditch was broad and shallow with sides gradually sloping to a flat base approximately 1.80 m wide. The average depth of the ditch was 0.15 m. Two ditch fills were consistently recorded along the length of the ring ditch. The upper fill (53) consisted

of a light brown sandy clay with large quantities of chalk lumps. The lower fill was of the same consistency.

There was no evidence for any central features such as burials. It was postulated above that a bank or mound might have originally been associated with the ring ditch. Unfortunately, the ditch sections provided no evidence to support this hypothesis and it is therefore difficult to argue the case for burial activity to have been related to Phase 1. A south western part of the ditch did however produce a small but dense concentration of charcoal.

Phase Ring Ditch Context Sample No. Depth (cm)	I-I		II		III											
	-058-		-013-		-020-											
	60	59	84	49	83	80	79	78	68	79	78	82	81	79		
	28	29	23	24	25	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20
MOLLUSCA	8-		27-		0-		68-		58-		32-		17-		0-	
	19		8		37		22		15		78		68		42	
Wt. (g)	1000	1000	641	1000	1000	520	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller)	-	2	+	3	3	-	+	63	17	4	5	130	-	3	3	
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i> (Risso)	4	21	1	3	3	3	-	5	259	71	60	21	322	-	9	20
<i>Azeca goodalli</i> (Férussac)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	15	1	-	-	
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Müller)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i> (Porro)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	2	4	2	23	-	1	1	
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	-	2	-	3	-	1	-	3	59	20	16	8	80	-	-	3
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Draparnaud)	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	8	2	4	5	14	-	-	-
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linnaeus)	+	6	-	2	2	1	-	3	53	24	28	19	50	4	2	1
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Müller)	3	8	+	25	10	4	7	29	302	92	83	83	327	-	20	16
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	-	11	-	3	-	-	-	2	24	8	2	6	20	-	2	2
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i> (Müller)	-	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	29	9	3	1	49	-	1	-
<i>Ena obscura</i> (Müller)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	3	3	15	-	-	-
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> (Draparnaud)	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	22	4	9	4	22	2	-	-
<i>Discus rotundatus</i> (Müller)	-	1	-	+	-	-	-	-	14	3	4	10	50	-	1	-
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i> (Müller)	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	2	1	2	4	1	-	-	1	-
<i>Vitrea crystallina</i> (Müller)	-	-	-	12	-	2	2	-	3	-	3	3	8	-	-	-
<i>Vitrea contracta</i> (Westerlund)	-	1	-	8	-	1	1	18	107	17	96	51	96	-	10	27
<i>Nesovitrina hammonis</i> (Ström)	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	21	-	4	1	18	-	-	-
<i>Aegopinella pura</i> (Alder)	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	27	14	11	9	32	-	4	5
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud)	-	-	1	5	1	1	-	4	34	13	11	7	53	1	1	1
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i> (Müller)	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-	6	-	4	6	13	-	2	4
<i>Zonitoides excavatus</i> (Alder)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Limacidae	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	23	9	2	9	26	-	-	2
<i>Euconulus fulvus</i> (Müller)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> (Müller)	18	65	12	275	137	-	-	3	29	26	19	2	12	-	-	2
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i> (Montagu)	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	12	1	-	-	12	-	-	1
<i>Macrogastra rolpui</i> (Turton)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i> (Ström)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	11	3	-	2	37	-	1	1
<i>Balea perversa</i> (Linnaeus)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Candidula intersepta</i> (Poirer)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linnaeus)	1	9	-	10	2	-	-	7	71	15	11	7	54	-	1	-
<i>Trichia hispida</i> (Linnaeus)	2	10	1	2	-	-	2	3	63	14	18	5	84	-	2	6
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i> (Linnaeus)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i> (Linnaeus)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i> (Müller)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
<i>Cepaea</i> spp.	-	1	-	3	+	-	-	-	8	2	1	1	17	-	1	-
Taxa	5	19	3	21	10	13	6	12	29	22	25	23	26	4	17	15
TOTAL	11	84	3	91	32	19	16	78	1256	345	388	269	1572	7	62	95

Table 3 Mollusc sequence from Phases 1-3 (Ring Ditches 1 and 2)

FLINT — R. HOLGATE

Flint material from this phase was limited to two flakes of late neolithic or Bronze Age date.

POTTERY — A. SLOWIKOWSKI

Four sherds of sandy pottery were found in the main fill of Ring Ditch 1 (F58). The small sherds were undiagnostic but could be Roman, and therefore intrusive in the upper part of the fill.

LAND SNAILS — M. ALLEN

The calcareous nature of the ditch deposits allowed for a good level of preservation of shells, generally producing high numbers of taxa and rich assemblages with relatively high species diversity.

Two continuous snail samples were studied, and both assemblages were fairly small and similar in composition. The assemblages were characterised by *Carychium tridentatum* and *Vallonia costata*. None of the major ecological groups (as defined by Evans 1972, 194-203) were dominant; the shade-loving species represented up to 38% of the assemblage but the open country species were also significant (42%). *Carychium tridentatum* was the most dominant of the shade-loving species although its habitat reclassification points to a variety of more open long grass habitats including hawthorn (Cameron and Morgan-Huws 1975) and juniper sere (Evans 1972). Indeed, the Zonitids and other shade-loving species recorded in these two assemblages (Table 3) are those which are found in tall grassland succession habitats (Cameron and Morgan-Huws 1975). Certainly the occurrence of *Vallonia excentrica* and *Helicella itala* in particular, indicates more open dry conditions, but the dominant open country species is *Vallonia costata*. This species can inhabit a wide range of environments from short grass, long unkempt grass to open woodland. *V. Costata* is particularly abundant in the modern juniper sere communities of the Chilterns (Evans 1972, 88; Allen pers. observation).

Although up to 38% of the snails can be considered as shade-loving, it is more likely that these specialised assemblages indicate fairly open, lightly or ungrazed long moist grassland conditions for the duration of the first phase of human activity. The assemblages are not dissimilar to the modern faunas recorded in tall grasses and scrub at Coombe Hole, beneath Ivinghoe Beacon, Buckinghamshire (Evans 1972, 241) only 16 kilometres (10 miles) away.

PHASE 2 (Ring Ditch 2 [F13])

The second phase consisted of a small near-circular enclosure containing the cremation in a biconical urn. The ring ditch measured c10 m in diameter and cut through the south-western end of Ring Ditch 1. The sides of the ditch were very steep and sloped down to a very narrow flat base approximately 0.20 m in width. The depth of the ditch varied between 0.20 m and 0.60 m.

Three ditch fills were consistent along the full length of the ring ditch. The upper fill (14, 15) consisted of a reddish to mid-brown silty clay with small fragments of chalk. The secondary fill (49, 50) was a reddish brown silty clay with a higher number of chalk fragments. There was no evidence from the ditch fills for mound material or internal or external

banks; the profile of the ditch was probably too narrow for such evidence to accumulate.

A single pit was located approximately central within the ring ditch [F10]. The pit was 0.13 m deep and oval in shape (0.60 m x 0.48 m). The fills (eg 9, 16, 25) of the pit contained a light yellowish brown clayey loam. Within this a biconical urn contained the partial remains of a cremation. The urn was lying on its side, and the uppermost side had been severely damaged by plough activity and the topsoil stripping of the site. The burnt bone was mixed with a light yellowish brown clayey loam, similar in composition to the pit fill itself.

POTTERY — A. SLOWIKOWSKI

The upper part of Ring Ditch 2 [F13] contained a single fragment of quartz/flint tempered pottery, probably dating to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

The Biconical Urn (Fig 4)

The biconical urn was found in the cremation pit (F10) and was substantially complete; a full profile could be reconstructed (Fig 4). The fabric of the urn is grog tempered, characteristic of early Bronze Age pottery in the area. The grog fragments are sometimes quite large, up to 5 mm and vary in colour from buff-grey to red-brown. Very sparse, calcareous inclusions can also be seen, suggesting local manufacture. The surface colour is red or orange-brown in patches, and the core is dark grey or black. The dark core, which is not consistent throughout the pot, is characteristic of incomplete firing of carbonaceous matter in the clay during a short bonfire firing (Gibson and Wood 1990, 206). The potting of the vessel is good with even walls and a well smoothed exterior. There is no decoration except for a slight thickening at the point where the body turns inward towards the rim. The rim is simple and slightly rounded.

The origin of the biconical urn has been discussed by Tomalin (1988). He argues that contacts between southern Britain and Brittany led to a new pottery tradition. Imported biconical wares belonging to the Armorican tradition are found on a few sites in Wessex and are regarded as a minor intrusion of a ceramic style which led to an "indigenous response" (Tomalin 1988, 212). This can be dated to c1400 BC. The biconical urn from Barton is typical of this response. There is a decline in decoration from the Peterborough derived collared food urn tradition and the adoption of a simple biconical profile. The Barton urn is somewhat unusual in its total lack of decoration.

THE CREMATED HUMAN BONE — T. JACKMAN

The cremated bones represent the incomplete remains of a probable adult. The surviving roots of teeth and phalanges are fused, suggesting an adult; further ageing and sexing of this individual was not possible.

The bone had generally been well burnt with signs of transverse cracking and some distortion. Fragments of the vertebrae are blue suggesting that this area was away from the fire, where the temperatures are lower. The fragments are consistently small with the longest fragment, at 51.5 mm, from a long bone. Other fragments recognised are from long bone heads, vertebrae, ribs, cranium, face and phalanges.

No small finds were found with the cremated material.

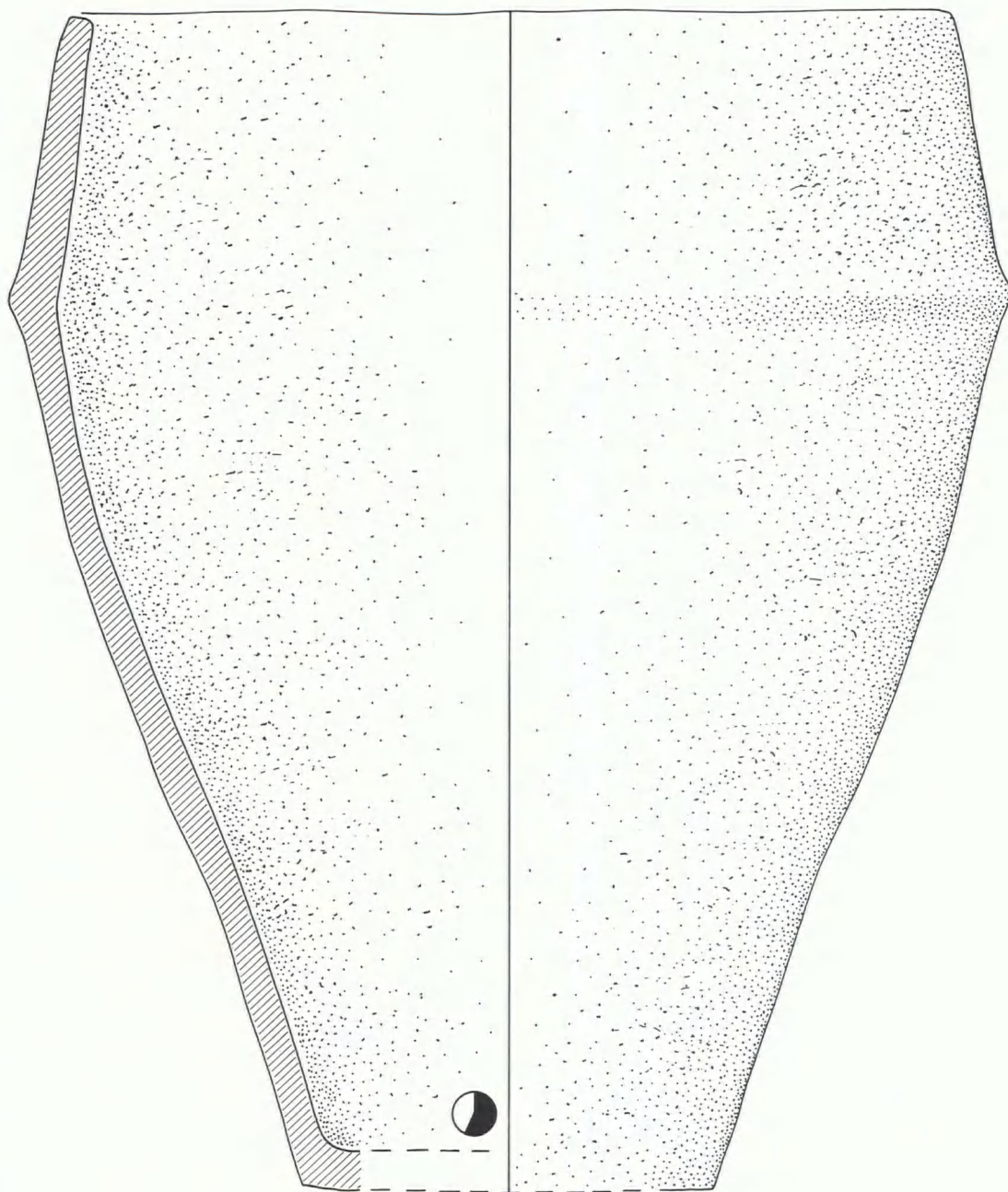


Fig 4 Biconical urn from central burial in Ring Ditch 2 (scale 1:2)

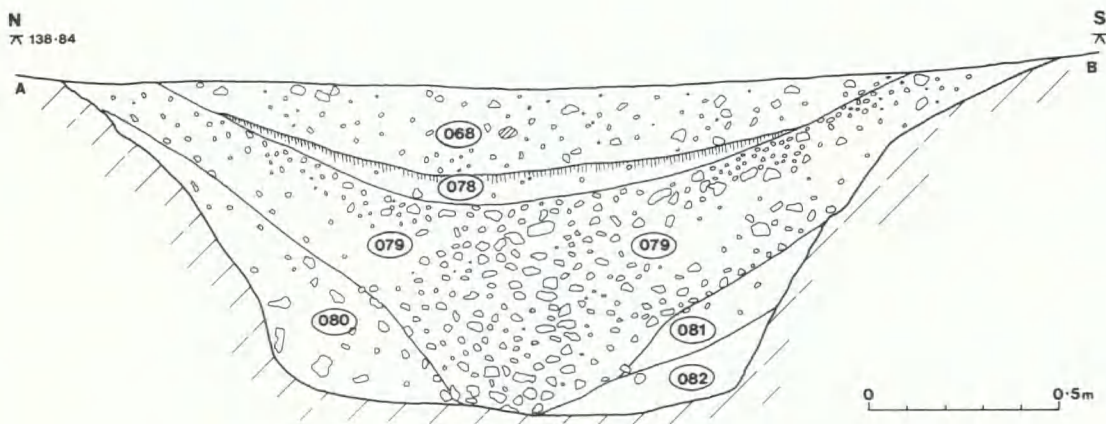


Fig 5 Section across Ring Ditch 1 showing recuts 3A and 3B (see Fig 2 for location)

FLINT — R. HOLGATE

Seven flint flakes were recorded from the upper and main ditch fills.

LAND SNAILS — M. ALLEN

Three samples from the Ring Ditch 2 [F13] contained only moderate numbers of shells (maximum 92). Their composition was very similar to those described above in Phase 1: *Vallonia costata* and the *Zonitids* dominate the assemblages. *Carychium tridentatum* and *Vitrea contracta* are significant components of the assemblage and both are common in tall unkempt grassland. The increase in *Discus rotundatus* in the upper sample (83) might indicate more shrubby habitats locally within a hawthorn sere.

These assemblages suggest that the environment in which the earlier ring ditch was constructed persisted into Phase 2. There is no evidence for change in land use, or increase in pressure on the landscape.

PHASE 3 (Junction between Ring Ditches 1 & 2)

Phase 3 can be divided into two sub-phases 3A and 3B. Both are clearly related and consist of a butt-ended ditch that was cut from the south western junction of where Ring Ditch 2 [F13] cut the fill of Ring Ditch 1 [F88].

Phase 3A

Evidence for Phase 3A was largely destroyed by the recutting of Phase 3B and it was impossible to locate the full extent of this recut to Ring Ditch 1. It was possible, however, to follow it around for 9.5 m. The ditch was 0.85 deep and had steep sloping sides with a flat bottom. Although the ditch fills were truncated by the later recut to the ditch, the lower fill (63) survived in part and consisted of a light yellowish sandy clay with small chalk lumps. A second fill was similar but with fewer chalk lumps (37, 79, 62).

POTTERY — A. SLOWIKOWSKI

A single, possibly early neolithic fragment was found together with two fragments of quartz/flint type material and one Bronze Age grog tempered piece.

FLINT — R. HOLGATE

Three flakes and a cutting flake were recorded from Phase 3A. One blade was also recovered of late neolithic/Bronze Age date.

Phase 3B

Phase 3B was cut from a similar point along the intersection between Ring Ditch 1 and Ring Ditch 2 and extended to form a ditch segment approximately 9.00 m in length. It ended at the south eastern point where the earlier Ring Ditch 1 intersected with Ring Ditch 2. Thus both Phases 3A and 3B functioned in order to some way redefine the spatial relationship between the two ring ditches.

It was clear that Phase 3B was recut after 3A had partly silted up, but it is possible that both events were relatively simultaneous. The ditch fills in Phase 3B were easier to differentiate and had three main fills. Compared to Phase 3A, more of these ditch fills survived. The lower fill (36, 41, 43) consisted of a light yellowish sandy clay and contained a higher density of chalk lumps. Above this was a stone-free dark brown horizon (78), containing many snail shells. This is interpreted as a buried soil horizon which probably indicates a stabilised environment, and it might be argued that a longer period elapsed before the next phase of ditch cutting.

POTTERY — A. SLOWIKOWSKI

The upper fills contained one sherd each of quartz/flint tempered, Bronze Age grog tempered and Iron Age grog

tempered fabric in the upper fill (42). The lower fill (48), however, produced 10 sherds (41 gm) of quartz/flint fabric. All the sherds from this fill belonged to the same vessel with the same thickness, fabric and firing characteristics. No other pottery was found in this level of the ditch. These sherds appeared together suggesting they might have been ritually broken and deposited in the ditch. Ritual breaking and deposition of pottery is known from other neolithic contexts, for example the Sweet Track, in the Somerset Levels (Coles and Orme 1976, 65). Deposition within a ring ditch is unknown and as the ditch was not fully excavated, the possibility exists that the remainder of the sherds from the vessel were scattered in the rest of the fill. The pottery may have got into the ditch during the flattening of the possible mound.

FLINT – R. HOLGATE

The upper/main ditch fill contained 20 flakes which were probably detached from the same nodule (although none refit). A further 16 flakes were also recorded, as well as a total of three cores. The rest of the worked flint consisted of non-diagnostic pieces.

LAND SNAILS – M. ALLEN

A series of three snail columns through the fills of both Phases 3A and 3B were analysed (Table 3) and a composite histogram compiled (Fig 6). This represents a complete sequence through Phases 3A and 3B. The whole sequence displays no major changes and the assemblage composition is similar to those already described in Phases 1 and 2 and therefore portrays a similar environment. An addition to the assemblages is the

presence of *Azeca goodalli* which is commonly recorded, albeit in low numbers, in tall grassland in association with *Nesovitrella hammonis*, *Euconulus fulvus*, *Vitrina pellucida*, *Trichia hispida* and *Carychium tridentatum*. All these species were present at Barton.

Shell numbers were relatively high even in the coarser primary fills but increased dramatically in context (78) which was a stone-free darker horizon. The rise in shell numbers (to 1,572) corresponds to both a rise in the species diversity and a large increase in magnetic susceptibility (Fig 6). On the basis of these results it is likely that this context (78) represents a buried soil and stabilisation horizon. Although no significant change within the environment can be detected, the increase in *Carychium tridentatum* may indicate slightly longer and lusher grasses or may just reflect the more stable conditions. The overlying upper fills do not reflect any significant change within the long lightly or ungrazed grass.

Phases 1 to 3 therefore represent a tall lush grassland sward, probably of a hawthorn sere. This indicates low land-use pressure, with perhaps a slight grazing of rough pasture. No significant change could be detected which either indicates a long period of little landscape change, or fairly rapid ditch infills. The snail report in the following Phase 4 argues a case for a slight change in landscape conditions and this might support the argument that there was a larger gap between Phases 3 and 4 than the preceding phases.

PHASE 4 (Ring Ditch 1)

Phase 4 was the final period of activity relating to the intersecting Ring Ditches 1 and 2. It consisted of a

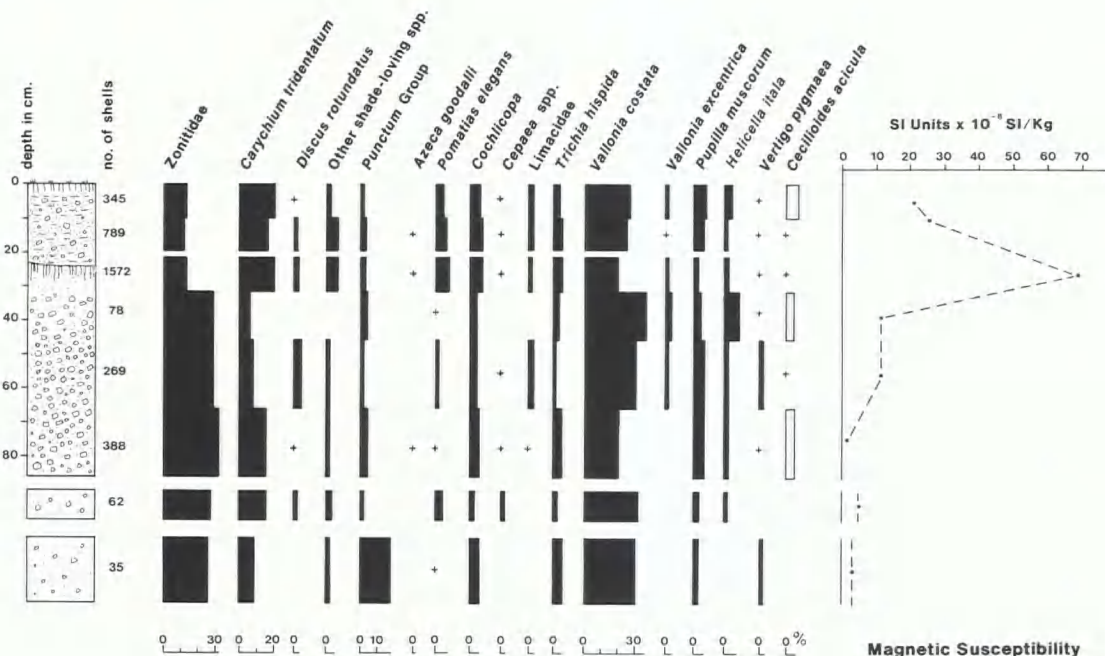


Fig 6 Mollusc sequence for Ring Ditch 1 Phase 3A

segment of ditch [F20] that broadly followed the outline of the eastern part of the Ring Ditch 1 before crossing over it to form a butt-end terminus. In fact it appears as a short crescent shaped recut. Both ends were clearly defined by rounded butt-ends and the southern end again butted with the junction between Ring Ditches 1 and 2. This suggests that it was recut to redefine the spatial relationship between the two ring ditches. Between the two terminals, the diameter was 22 m. The sides of the ditch were almost vertical with a flat base, and at their deepest measured 0.55 m in depth.

The basal fill (121) consisted of a pale yellow sandy clay with 60-70% small to medium chalk fragments. The secondary fills consisted of light to very dark brown sandy clays and up to 40% small to medium chalk fragments. The upper fill consisted of a mid-brown sandy clay with about 50% medium chalk lumps.

HUMAN REMAINS – T. JACKMAN

The upper fill (3) contained fragments of a poorly preserved human adult skull (calva), scapula and several unidentified bones (total weight 85 g). This material was found during initial cleaning of the ditch [F20]. It was not possible to relate these remains to a particular context or feature as it appears to have been disturbed from its original position.

FLINT AND POTTERY –

R. HOLGATE AND A. SLOWIKOWSKI

No lithic material or pottery was recorded from this phase.

FAUNAL REMAINS – R. CLARK

Animal bone was in extremely poor condition due to soil chemical leaching into the bone. A single cattle humerus of a young animal came from a secondary fill. The basal layer

produced six fragments of unidentifiable long bone; possibly of cattle.

LAND SNAILS – M. ALLEN

A series of three samples were analysed (see Fig 7). The basal sample (context 121) was dominated by shade-loving species (81%) and in particular, high numbers of *Carychium tridentatum* (49%). The assemblage is dominated by five species: *Carychium tridentatum*, *Vitrea contracta*, *Aegopinella nitidula*, *Discus rotundatus* and *Aegopinella pura*.

It is significant that the three most common species are not confined to specifically woodland habitats. Both *C. tridentatum* and *V. contracta* are often considered as catholic species (Cameron and Morgan-Huws 1975; Kerney and Cameron 1979) as they are often found at the base of the leaves in tall ungrazed grassland swards and in open woodland with a small amount of shelter (Evans 1972). *Aegopinella nitidula* is also common in tall unkempt grassland and Evans (1972) notes that this is particularly true of the unkempt grassland of the hawthorn sere type along the Chilterns today. *C. tridentatum* is also common, particularly in hawthorn rather than juniper sere. Both *Aegopinella pura* and *Discus rotundatus* which prefer more mesic refugia, could co-exist where shelter and ground litter were available within a shrubby hawthorn sere environment.

This assemblage certainly indicates more shady habitats than those seen in Phases 1 to 3. This may represent localised, but limited, vegetation succession (cf. Cameron and Morgan-Huws 1975). It is unlikely that this merely represents a more shady micro-habitat afforded by the ditch in view of its broad, shallow profile (Fig 7), but the assemblage could also represent localised vegetation growth within the ditch. Vegetation might grow slightly taller as it may not be so readily grazed. The lack of Evans' *Punctum* group indicates that if growth was confined to the ditch it was a full vegetation cover rather than a patchy one.

The assemblages from the overlying contexts (120 and 119) indicate a progressive change. *D. rotundatus* disappears almost totally and immediately, *C. tridentatum* and the Zonitids display gradual but continual reduction in relative abundance. Increases in particular of *Vallonia costata* and the more xerophile species *Pupilla muscorum* and *Helicella itala* suggest a more open

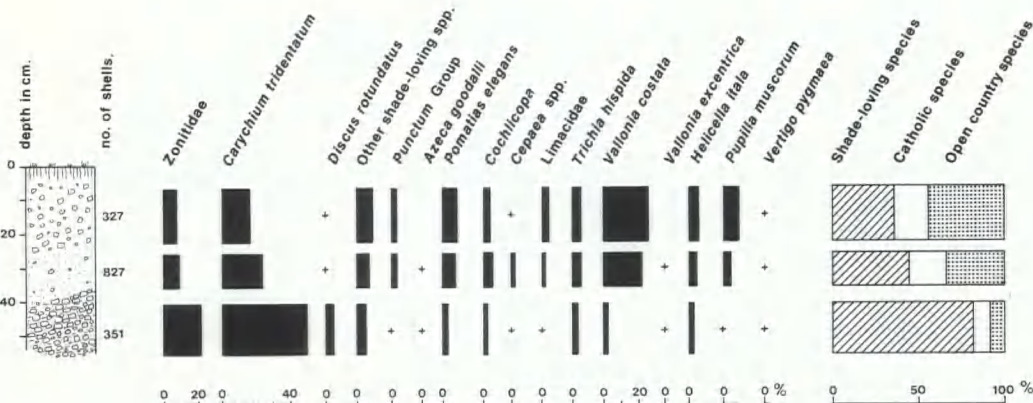


Fig 7 Mollusc sequence for Ring Ditch 1 Phase 4

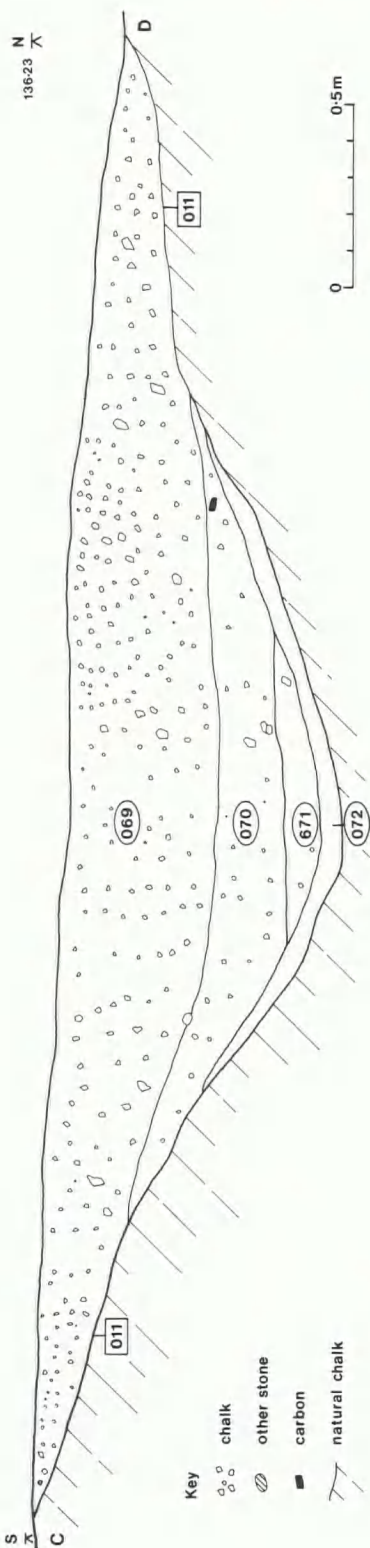


Fig 8 Section across Ring Ditch 3 (see Fig 2 for location)

grassland. These assemblages in general reflect the tall grassland habitats seen in Phases 1 to 3 and therefore suggests a re-introduction of, or increase in, light grazing of rough pasture. Alternatively it could represent an increase in the presence of human activity curbing the growth of the hawthorn sere and as a consequence reducing the grass stand-height through trampling etc (cf. Chappell *et al.* 1971).

PHASE 5? (Ring Ditch 3 [F11])

Down slope and approximately 22 m west of Ring Ditches 1 and 2, a third ring ditch was located in a false crested position. Ring Ditch 3 was a more straight forward circular monument with an internal measurement of 19 m. The ditch consisted of a single phase with a maximum depth of 0.80 m. The up-slope half of the ring had been badly denuded by plough erosion, while the down-slope half was partially sealed by colluvium material that was the result of agricultural activity. Where the ditch had been protected from deep ploughing, it had a maximum width of 4.5 m and contrasted with many of the shallow ditch sequences of the eastern ring ditch complex.

The ditch fills were consistent throughout the excavated segments. The basal fill consisted of a light grey sandy clay with about 5% small chalk fragments. The secondary fills consisted of brown to black silty clays with up to 50% chalk fragments. The upper fills (28, 69, 95) consisted of mid-brown sandy clays with 40-50% small chalk lumps.

At the down-slope areas of Ring Ditch 3 the north-western aspect of the ditch appeared shallower in width and depth. This was because the nearby ground was scarped, either naturally or culturally, and had the effect of enhancing the up-slope view of the ring ditch (see Fig 9). If this scarping was the result of human activity, it is likely that the quarried material was used to form the mound within the ring ditch. On the other hand, it is also possible that a natural depression in the chalk was seen as an appropriate location to build the monument and enhance its visibility.

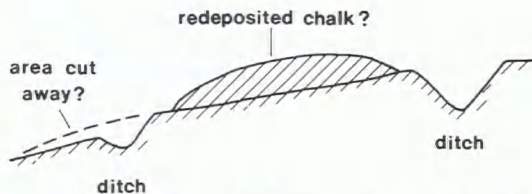


Fig 9 Schematic section through Ring Ditch 3 showing how downslope area might have been scarped to enhance visibility of mound

POTTERY — A SŁOWIKOWSKI

The subsoil above Ring Ditch 3 contained a mixture of prehistoric and Roman pottery. Twelve sherds were of the quartz/flint tempered pottery and one of Bronze Age grog tempered pottery. The remaining 16 sherds were of late Iron Age or Roman date. The upper fills of the ditch contained one sherd each of quartz/flint tempered and Bronze Age grog tempered pottery. The lower fills contained two sherds each of Iron Age grog tempered and Roman pottery, both intrusive. The lowest fill (34) contained a sherd of quartz/flint tempered pottery of neolithic/early Bronze Age date.

FLINT — R. HOLGATE

A total of 70 pieces of flint were recorded from Ring Ditch 3. From sub-soil two blades and a core are of possible mesolithic date. The majority of the flint material consisted of un-retouched flake material. In addition all the fills contained shattered pieces with retouch, three blades, one scraper and a core. Apart from the possible mesolithic material, the flint appeared typical of a Bronze Age assemblage.

FAUNAL REMAINS — R. CLARK

The lower fill (26) produced a poorly preserved fragment of sheep metatarsal and a young cattle tooth. A further two unidentifiable fragments of long bone were also recorded.

LAND SNAILS — M. ALLEN

A series of seven samples were studied from Ring Ditch 3. Although this ring ditch is unphased and essentially undated, the mollusc sequence described below enables some tentative phasing solutions to be proposed.

The thin calcareous basal grey sandy clay horizon produced only 23 shells. This was because the sample available for analysis was small (only 83 g); however this does represent 277 shells per kilogram (Table 4). It is significant that this assemblage comprised mainly of shade-loving species and was dominated by *C. tridentatum* with *Aegopinella pura*, *Vitrea contracta* and Evans' (1972, 331) *Punctum* Group. The *Punctum* Group is often part of

specialised mollusc fauna able to colonise early vegetation within ditches (Evans 1972). These snails occur very early in the ditch fill sequence, indicating almost immediate colonisation by vegetation.

The remaining primary (71) and secondary (70) fills show a reduction in the shade-loving species and a comparable increase in the open country group. The *Punctum* group declines markedly and although *C. tridentatum* increases temporally, so does the open country species *Vallonia costata*. By the deposition of the secondary fill (70) *C. tridentatum* had declined and the assemblages were dominated by *V. costata*. The xerophile *Helicella itala* is also present. Two species from this context are of particular note: *Vertigo pusilla* and *Zonitoides excavatus*. *V. pusilla* is a rare species and has a limited modern distribution (Kerney 1976). Although it inhabits dry open woodland (Kerney and Cameron 1979), it is also found amongst moss, ivy and dead leaves (Ellis 1969). Its distribution was severely restricted by neolithic forest clearance. *Z. excavatus* also inhabits woodland and is uncommon on archaeological sites. Apart from the presence of these two species, the overall change in the assemblage probably represents the development of the long grassland habitats seen in the majority of the ditch fills from the main ring ditch complex.

The base of the tertiary fill (69) produced the specialised "mixed" assemblages recognised elsewhere on the site. A slight increase in *C. tridentatum* and a significant rise in shell numbers to 1,005 is recorded (Fig 10, Table 2). This probably represents a stabilisation, and possibly a buried soil horizon with a tall, mesic, lightly grazed grassland of a hawthorn sere community.

The remaining tertiary deposits (Table 4) show a progressive decline in shade-loving species and increase in *V. costata*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Helicella itala* and *Pupilla muscorum*. Throughout the tertiary fills *V. costata* is dominant and the presence of *H. itala* and *P. muscorum* indicate open short-turfed grassland and possibly limited arable activity. These open dry conditions are also typical habitats of the heliophile *Abida secale* which only occurs in these deposits. The presence of *Ena montana* is of interest in that it is generally restricted to woodlands, scrubs and hedgerows and is anthropophobic.

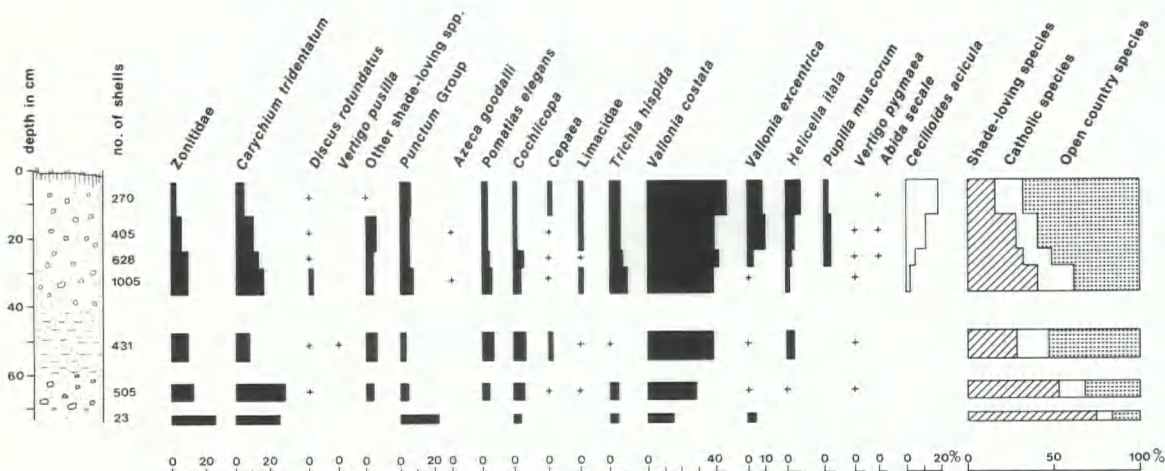


Fig 10 Mollusc sequence for Ring Ditch 3

Phase Ring Ditch Context Sample No. Depth (cm) MOLLUSCA	Wt. (g)	-----IV-----					-----011-----							
		-----020-----					-----69-----							
		48	47	121	120	119	72	71	70	4	5	6	7	
		26	27	30	31	32	1	2	3					
		15-	0-	41-	26-	7-	70-	65-	52-	29-	24-	14-	4-	
		25	13	56	36	15	73	70	60	37	29	24	14	
		978	1000	1000	1000	1000	83	950	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller)		62	11	11	68	29	-	20	27	51	22	14	9	
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i> (Risso)		276	80	172	192	51	6	145	36	157	80	35	13	
<i>Azeca goodalli</i> (Férussac)		3	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Müller)		2	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	1	-	-	-	
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i> (Porro)		10	3	1	13	1	-	2	1	5	5	4	-	
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.		34	8	7	42	12	1	29	23	39	25	5	6	
<i>Vertigo</i> cf. <i>pusilla</i> Müller		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Draparnaud)		6	2	1	3	2	-	3	3	11	1	2	-	
<i>Abida secale</i> (Draparnaud)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linnaeus)		16	23	3	41	29	+	9	34	28	27	15	9	
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Müller)		71	38	15	184	86	3	143	165	307	256	158	123	
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki		10	3	3	12	-	1	3	4	15	19	41	24	
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i> (Müller)		25	5	9	28	16	-	6	8	44	11	8	4	
<i>Ena montana</i> (Draparnaud)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	
<i>Ena obscura</i> (Müller)		-	3	2	3	2	-	4	7	3	5	-	-	
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> (Draparnaud)		2	3	3	13	3	1	13	7	50	19	14	8	
<i>Discus rotundatus</i> (Müller)		9	1	15	4	3	-	5	+	16	3	1	2	
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i> (Müller)		1	-	1	3	2	2	7	2	10	6	4	6	
<i>Vitrea crystallina</i> (Müller)		1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
<i>Vitrea contracta</i> (Westerlund)		20	5	38	20	10	3	16	18	52	26	16	2	
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i> (Ström)		2	3	1	8	3	2	6	6	8	3	1	1	
<i>Aegopinella pura</i> (Alder)		3	5	12	7	7	3	17	8	22	8	7	4	
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud)		13	-	21	36	10	-	22	17	26	28	1	2	
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i> (Müller)		-	1	4	7	-	-	12	!	-	-	2	1	
<i>Zonitoides excavatus</i> (Alder)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Limacidae		15	3	5	14	13	-	7	6	22	6	12	7	
<i>Euconulus fulvus</i> (Müller)		-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> (Müller)		17	57	45	26	118	-	2	5	21	29	45	50	
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i> (Montagu)		8	2	3	14	3	-	-	2	1	5	3	3	
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i> (Ström)		13	3	3	13	6	-	10	7	7	5	9	-	
<i>Balea perversa</i> (Linnaeus)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linnaeus)		16	10	6	40	19	-	1	23	25	19	19	25	
<i>Trichia hispida</i> (Linnaeus)		20	5	9	41	15	1	18	4	88	41	23	15	
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i> (Linnaeus)		+	-	+	+	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	+	
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i> (Linnaeus)		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i> (Müller)		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Cepaea</i> spp.		8	1	3	16	3	-	4	14	13	4	4	5	
Taxa		25	21	25	26	22	10	25	26	25	26	26	21	
TOTAL		648	218	351	827	327	23	505	432	1005	628	405	270	

Table 4 Mollusc sequence from Phase 4 and Ring Ditch 3

Kerney (1968) points out that it is surprisingly common in neolithic and Bronze Age (sub-Boreal) horizons and has been regularly recorded by Evans (1972). It is likely that it became an anthropophobic species in later prehistory.

This sequence produced typical open short-turfed downland assemblages unparalleled elsewhere on the site and probably represents the latest deposits analysed from the excavation.

It is more difficult, if not impossible, to discern where the sequence from the primary and secondary fills fit within the overall site phasing. The stabilisation horizon at the base of the tertiary fills indicates the possibility of a significant time gap between the earlier and later fills. The lower fills are particularly interesting in that they produced *Vertigo pusilla*, and *Zonitoides excavatus*; both species are found in ancient undisturbed Atlantic woodlands. However, as discussed above, they could all be accommodated within the habitats described and all occur in very low frequencies and often as single specimens.

UNPHASED ACTIVITY

A single pit measuring 11.5 m by 1 m was located immediately within the northern area Ring Ditch 3. It is unclear whether it represents activity associated with the ring ditch or is a tree hollow. It produced one piece of pottery and a single flake.

POTTERY — A. SLOWIKOWSKI

A single, abraded sherd of thin walled and finely grog tempered pottery was recorded. No decoration is visible and positive identification is impossible, although it might be of Beaker type.

FLINT — R. HOLGATE

No flint material was recorded.

EVIDENCE FOR POST RING DITCH ACTIVITY

A roughly linear feature located between Ring Ditches 1 and 2 and Ring Ditch 3 is interpreted as a negative lynchet associated with cultivation. This almost certainly post dated the ring ditches and might represent direct evidence for increased land-use activity noted in the land snail analysis.

POTTERY — A. SLOWIKOWSKI

The linear feature contained Roman, medieval and post medieval sherds, signs of later agricultural activity.

FLINT — R. HOLGATE

No flint material was recorded.

THE VEGETATIONAL HISTORY AT BARTON M. ALLEN

Regardless of the phasing of Ring Ditch 3, it is clear that all the ring ditches excavated were constructed and existed in a largely open unkempt grassland. The relatively high number of species indicates an established mollusc fauna exploiting a stable environment. Evans' and Allen's work on the modern vegetation and molluscan assemblages of the Chilterns suggests that open stable grassland consisted of a species rich *old* calcareous grassland; probably the grassland stage of a hawthorn sere. This is one of two vegetational series which have been recorded in the Chilterns (Watt 1934). It is likely that this was dominated by species of tall grassland such as *Arrhenatherum elatius* (false oat-grass), *Bromus erectus* (brome grass), *Brachypodium sylvaticum* (slender false-brome) and *Avena pratensis* together with *Crataegus* (hawthorn scrub), (*Thelacrania sanguineum*) dogwood etc., possibly with (*Mercurialis perennis*) dogs mercury (Tansley 1949).

Thick mesic grassland of this type is very good at colonisation. In particular false oat-grass and brome grass can colonise bare calcareous soils. This may explain the rapid vegetation growth in the base of Ring Ditch 3. Also some of the grass species typical of a hawthorn sere are intolerant of grazing. Slender false-brome, for instance, is readily eaten when it is young and green. It is virtually eradicated by increased grazing pressure, probably replaced by species such as the ubiquitous *Festuca ovina* (sheep's fescue) of the short-turfed grassland reflected in the latest mollusc faunas from the site.

It seems likely that the grassland was maintained as no evidence of a more extensive shrubby or woodland sere succession could be detected. Maintenance may have been through light grazing of the

rough pasture, perhaps by cattle. Human action and activity associated with the construction and use of the ring ditches would also contribute to this maintenance.

Following a prolonged period of unkempt grassland, a more intensive grazing regime was introduced. This activity produced the short-turfed grassland and probably resulted in a rapid decline of the number of grassland species and the colonisation by other grasses such as sheep's fescue. Intermittent arable activity was also suggested by the mollusc assemblages and these activities aided the infill of Ring Ditch 3. This episode of increased grazing pressure and intermittent cultivation was followed by larger scale arable activities. These were such that any mound accompanying Ring Ditch 3 was destroyed and the down-slope part of the ditch sealed by ploughwash. It is likely that this activity can be attributed to the later Bronze Age or Iron Age, and the negative lynchet [F8] is clear on-site evidence for later cultivation.

The introduction of widespread agrarian activity on the Chilterns here seems to be fairly late in prehistory compared with other areas of southern England such as the Wessex downlands.

DISCUSSION

PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPE HISTORY OF THE CHILTERN

M. ALLEN AND R. CLARK

There are a number of snail and environmental reports from the Chilterns which allow a regional landscape history to be compiled. Apart from archaeological assemblages these include "off site" colluvial deposits. The detailed analysis from Barton provides an important addition to the sequence from a period previously lacking in such data.

The earliest environmental evidence at Barton consisted of irregular subsoil hollows which are interpreted as tree hollows and indicate the former existence of woodland on the site. Excavations at Barton Hill Farm ring ditches (only 2 km to the east) produced an anomalous neolithic "turf structure" on site III (Dyer 1962, Fig 5, 11-12). This sub-circular feature had a crescentic humic soil fill and the other half contained a loose chalk rubble. This displays a remarkable similarity to many excavated tree-throw hollows such as those recorded at Barksbury, Hampshire (Allen forthcoming a, Macphail forthcoming) and Barton itself. If this feature is a tree-throw hollow, it is of particular

interest in that it contained a sherd of possible neolithic pottery and indicates woodland clearance. These tree hollows are our only evidence of the former woodland, probably a dense broad-leaved deciduous wood with ash, and its subsequent clearance.

The mollusc assemblages from Barton ring ditches lack evidence of relict woodland faunas, and the grassland environment was probably a long-standing mature sward. This suggests that woodland clearance occurred some considerable time prior to the construction of the ring ditches. The only molluscan evidence for this forest comes from two sites in Buckinghamshire: Pitstone (Evans 1966; Evans and Dalrymple 1974), and a subsoil hollow at Pink Hill (Evans 1972, 312). Charcoal from Pitstone produced a date for woodland clearance of 1960 bc $\pm$ 220 [2459 cal BC] (HAR-327). This is fairly late in comparison with other similar sequences in southern England (Evans and Dalrymple 1974, 350). The tree-throw hollows at Barton ring ditches and Barton Hill Farm probably belong to a similar date.

Post tree clearance mollusc sequences are available from a number of archaeological sites and can be divided into two main chronological periods. The first dates to the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age and are from Barton ring ditches. They indicate the lush tall grassland of a hawthorn sere. A similar environment can be seen in the buried soils beneath colluvial deposits in the dry valleys at Coombe Bottom and Wing Hall about 25 km north-west of Barton in Hertfordshire (Watson 1982). Watson describes these as indicating scrub environments that possibly represent tall grasses of a juniper sere. Unfortunately there is no dating evidence for these buried soils. The mollusc assemblages are however similar to those at Barton and in view of the following overlying sequence, probably belong to the same period. Once deforestation had occurred, it suggests only low level use of the landscape, perhaps light grazing, but certainly not intensive grazing by large herds of animals. Land use might have been very localised and beyond the ceremonial sites more intensive farming could have taken place. In the Wessex region, Fleming (1971) suggests that groups of barrows may have been located in areas of seasonal pasture and away from intensive agricultural activity.

The available evidence from the Bedfordshire lowlands of the Ouse valley suggest a contrast with the Chilterns. Intensive neolithic and early Bronze Age ceremonial activity is clearly seen. Sites such as Goldington and the Cardington cursus complex

have produced Mildenhall and other earlier neolithic pottery as well as Bronze Age material (Mustoe 1988; Clark in prep). The size and extensive nature of these sites suggest widespread deforestation of the light and well draining soils from the early Neolithic. And it is plausible that during this time the chalk downlands of the north Chilterns were used for low intensity seasonal pasture.

The second period of post clearance mollusca are initially Bronze Age, but predominantly Iron Age and later in date. The evidence suggests open dry grassland and arable activity. Land snails from beneath the Bronze Age barrow at Bledlow Cop, Buckinghamshire, indicate an open dry grassland (Kennard 1938) and is similar to that seen in the last sequences at Barton. In addition carbonised seeds found at Barton Hill Farm were primarily weeds of cultivated ground (Godwin 1962).

Although there is evidence for limited cultivation in the Bronze Age it is not until the early Iron Age that there is an intensification of both occupation and land use (Saunders 1971; Clark and Dawson in prep). The main colluvial deposits at Coombe Bottom, Wing Hall (Watson 1982), the Pegsdon Valleys (Sparks and Lewis 1957), Pink Hill (Evans 1972) and Pitstone (Evans 1966; Evans and Valentine 1974) all seem to date from the early Iron Age to Romano-British periods. Most of these sequences indicate episodes of short grazed grassland as well as arable activity, but on the whole testify to a major change and intensification of land use. The lynchet and colluvium sealing the single ring ditch at Barton can probably be attributed to the Iron Age. Contemporary linear boundaries such as the Grims Ditch at Ivinghoe were constructed at this time indicating land division and demarcation. The molluscan evidence from this ditch confirms arable and pastoral activity (Davis and Evans 1984). Certainly the increase in land-use intensity is also reflected by the archaeological sites. The construction of hillforts at Ravensburgh Castle and Sharpenhoe Clapper and the widespread distribution of Iron Age and later settlement across Bedfordshire, suggests intensification of farming activities and a much wider distribution of settlement (Clark and Dawson in prep).

THE BARTON RING DITCHES IN THEIR WIDER SETTING

R. CLARK

Within the Chiltern Hills, 12 out of a total of approximately 150 barrows or ring ditches have been archaeologically investigated. Compared to

other areas of Britain our knowledge of these sites is still very limited. In the 1960s Dyer attempted to catalogue the known barrows and ring ditches of the Chilterns into discreet groupings (Dyer 1961). It is likely that the ring ditch complex at Barton formed part of a dispersed group of at least 10 monuments. These occur in a widespread distribution north of Luton and occupy land adjacent to the Icknield Way (Dyer 1961,3). It is fortunate that this group includes the Barton Hill Farm (Dyer 1962) and Galley Hill (Thorpe 1988) sites which have been the subject of detailed excavation. This group of burial sites also includes one neolithic long barrow, evidence to suggest a well established neolithic presence in the grouping. Further barrow groups that have been investigated in the Bedfordshire Chilterns include the Five Knolls barrows on the Dunstable Downs (Dunning and Wheeler 1931).

The archaeological and environmental evidence from Barton suggests that most of the ring ditch activity occurred within a relatively short period of time. The pottery and flint material indicates a late neolithic presence and early Bronze Age date, and is consistent with the rest of the north Luton group of monuments.

Ring Ditches 1 and 2 display an unusual plan and were closely related. It is unclear whether the earlier phases of Ring Ditch 1 contained a burial and whether it was a simple enclosure with a north facing entrance, rather than a ring ditch. In this respect it displays a similarity to Site I at Barton Hill Farm (Dyer 1962). This enclosure also had an entrance causeway on the north-western side and therefore a very similar orientation to the entrance of Ring Ditch 1 at Barton. A burnt patch located in the ditch fill at Barton Hill Farm was also similar to material found within Phase 1 of the Ring Ditch complex at Barton. Human remains associated with Ring Ditch 1 were found in the ditch fill and it is thought to represent disturbed material, possibly redeposited from an inhumation within the enclosure. This again shows similarities with Barton Hill Farm. Evidence from this site could also suggest that instead of containing a mound, Ring Ditch 1 had an external bank (Dyer 1962).

Pottery from Site I at Barton Hill Farm included Whiteleaf neolithic pottery and suggests that the site was in use during the mid to late Neolithic (Smith 1962).

The second phase of activity at Barton involved the construction of a small circular enclosure (Ring Ditch 2) that clipped the southern aspect of Ring Ditch 1. Ring Ditch 2 contained a central cremation

of an adult in a biconical urn of early to middle Bronze Age date (c1400 BC). There were no grave goods in association and no evidence for a mound or bank for the ring ditch. Site III at Barton Hill Farm produced little in the way of cultural material apart from fragments of collared urn pottery. A "turf structure" is regarded by the author of this paper as a tree-throw hollow and as such represents significant evidence for deforestation in the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. Broadly speaking, Ring Ditches 1 and 2 and Barton Hill Farm Sites I and III are chronologically of similar date, although the biconical urn from Barton probably post dates the collared urn.

In addition to the Barton Hill Farm sites, recent excavations at the nearby Galley Hill site (Thorpe 1988) produced an early Bronze Age ring ditch containing a cremation in an inverted collared urn. This primary burial contained a faience quoit-shaped bead and was enclosed by a structure with evidence of a beam slot and post hole. Surrounding this burial were a series of four adults, three of which were female and the fourth, adolescent. One of the adults had been buried in a wooden coffin, the outline of which survived as a soil mark.

Although there were no grave goods, associated pottery and flint material was also of Bronze Age date. South east of the centre of the ring ditch, four post holes formed a structure that has been provisionally interpreted as a mortuary structure. Human cremations were also found close to this structure. The ditch fill itself had been recut on two separate occasions; one layer contained a charcoal deposit and could have been related to cremation activity (Thorpe 1988).

Galley Hill therefore contained evidence that a cremation was the primary burial and that inhumations followed as secondary burials. At Barton Ring Ditches, it is less clear whether the limited evidence for inhumation pre-dated or post-dated the cremation in Ring Ditch 2.

The successive recuttings of Ring Ditch 1 highlights its ritual importance in relation to the cremation in Ring Ditch 2. Phase 3 at Barton consisted of small scale activity that appeared to restate the position of Ring Ditch 1 in relation to the cremation in Ring Ditch 2. These were in fact two sub-phases located on the south-western junction of the two ring ditches. Phase 4 consisted of a similar recut of Ring Ditch 1, this time at the south-eastern junction of the two ring ditches and formed a crescentic ditch that extended almost to the point of the original north-western terminal to the ring ditch. A

slight change in the snail composition suggests that there was a longer gap between the cutting of this phase and the preceding phases. Fragments of human bone were found in the upper fill. Unfortunately due to the disturbed nature of Ring Ditch 1 caused by heavy ploughing and its multiple phasing, it is not possible to ascribe this material clearly to any of the phases. It is therefore uncertain whether inhumation activity post-dated the cremation in Ring Ditch 2.

Finally, Ring Ditch 3 emphasises the fact that the Barton ring ditches were falsely crested. That is, occupying land sloping towards the combe bottom and where the village of Barton le Clay is now located. It has been argued (Allen, Morris and Clark forthcoming, D. Tomalin pers comm) that false crested barrows were built to be viewed from below, from lowland positions where the related settlements were located. The monuments would have been clearly visible from a valley based site. Little work has been done to locate Bronze Age settlements in this area, and it is likely that such sites being valley based are probably buried by hill wash and outside the reaches of non-excavational archaeology.

The evidence presented here, together with the recent information from Galley Hill, suggests that this group of burial monuments north of Luton holds a significant cultural assemblage relating to life and death during the late 2nd millennium BC. The environmental information is sufficient to build a detailed environmental record for the sites and adds a further dimension to the research potential for such sites on the Chiltern Hills.

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The Five Knolls and Associated Barrows at Dunstable, Bedfordshire

JAMES DYER
WITH A CONTRIBUTION BY ROBIN HOLGATE

INTRODUCTION

Information concerning the Five Knolls and neighbouring barrows is somewhat scattered, and arte-

facts recovered from the barrows have not been reported on fully before. It is thus worth summarising what is known about them. The Five Knolls

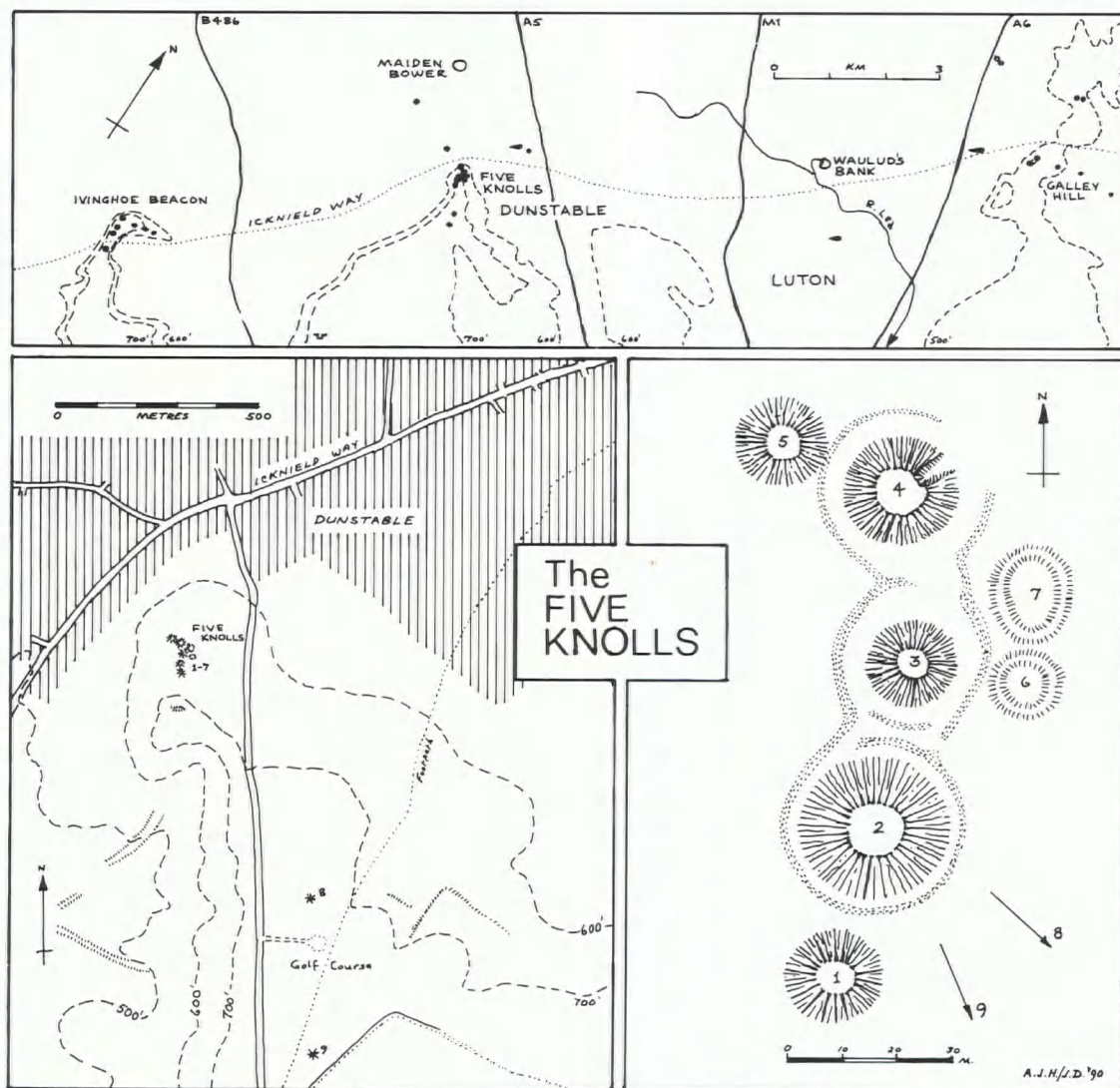


Fig 1 The Five Knolls: location maps and plan of barrows

group of barrows is situated 1.4 km west of Dunstable, on a projecting spur of the Chilterns, once known locally as "Fig Hill", overlooking the traditional course of the Icknield Way (see Fig. 1). In his *Itinerarium Curiosum* (1724, p. 109), William Stukeley wrote: "A high prominence of the Chilterns overlooks all, called the Five Knolls, from that number of barrows or Celtic tumuli, round, pretty large, and ditched, on the very apex of the hill." Today we can see seven barrows in the group, three bell-barrows, two bowl-barrows, and two possible pond-barrows. There were at least two other barrows on the escarpment within c1 km of this group, both of which were destroyed a hundred years ago. Since contemporary evidence has come to light concerning the examination of these destroyed barrows, they will here be considered after the main group. About 100 m to the south of Barrow No. 1 is a long, low mound which Worthington Smith called a long barrow. It is more likely to have been a mortuary enclosure or pillow mound (TL 00632086).

BARROW No. 1 (TL 00632098)

This is the southernmost barrow of the main group, and is the second smallest, being only 17.1 m in diameter and 1.8 m high. It is a bowl-barrow and the only one for which there is no evidence of opening in the past.

BARROW No. 2 (TL 00632099)

This barrow lies 6 m north of No. 1. It is the largest in the group, being 24 m in diameter and 2.4 m high. It is a bell-barrow, with surrounding ditch 1.5 m wide and a berm 1.2 m wide. Although the ditch originally appears to have completely encircled the barrow, a more verdant growth of grass, and a probe survey, show that it joined up with the ditches of Nos. 3 and 4 to form a triple-barrow. The barrow was opened in the summer of 1925 by the University College and Hospital (London) Anthropological Society. Other than a brief paragraph (Forde, 1927), no satisfactory report appears to have been published, but it is known that a large central area was cleared in an unsuccessful attempt to find the primary burial. Two secondary cremations were found, with some sherds of beaker and neolithic pottery, animal bones, some worked "flint chips", two bone pins, part of the antler of a red deer, and three flint arrowheads. Re-examination of the "flint chips" from barrows 2, 3 and 5 by Robin Holgate

(see below) shows a significant proportion of them to be mesolithic. There is no record of their stratification, but we must assume that they were on the ground surface when the barrows were erected.

BARROW No. 3 (TL 00642101)

This bell-barrow, which is the smallest in the group, is 15.8 m in diameter and 1.8 m high. Its surrounding ditch lies outside a 3.0 m wide berm, and joins the ditch of barrow No. 2 to the south and almost certainly 4 to the north. It was opened for the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society on 27th August, 1850, apparently in one day, with many members of the Society and townsfolk gathered on the Downs to watch the spectacle. According to their report "It was opened longitudinally" with a trench four feet wide, "and excavations made through the side to the very centre of the barrow, and quite down to the native chalk. It appeared that in the chalk a few holes had been dug but nothing deposited in them" (Fisher, 1971, 6; AASR 1850-51).

The barrow showed distinct signs of having been opened before, and the only objects found were a fragment of deer antler, the bones of part of a boar, the teeth of an ox, a fox and a rat. The barrow was reopened in 1922 by the University College Society (Forde, 1927), when three hollows, identified as empty grave cists were found cut in the chalk, together with a secondary cremation, just below the turf in the centre of the barrow. There was a bone awl of bronze age date (50 mm in length), and some flint scrapers and mesolithic implements (see below).

BARROW No. 4 (TL 00622104)

This is the third of the bell-barrows. It is 18.3 m in diameter and 1.8 m high: it has a berm approximately 3.0 m wide and a narrow ditch, approximately 0.8 m wide, which is invisible on the north-eastern side, where a large rectangular depression marks the outline of an unrecorded "rifling".

BARROW No. 5 (TL 00612105)

This is the best known barrow in the group. It was selected for excavation by the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society in 1850, but, fortunately, "no sooner had an incision been made, than a considerable number of scattered fragments of human skeleton were found within about six

inches of the surface of the ground. It was, therefore, self-evident that this barrow had been disturbed at no very distant period, and further excavation was pronounced useless" (AASR 1850-51).

It was opened again between 1926 and 1929 by members of the University College and Hospital (London) Anthropological Society, under the various directions of C. Daryll Forde, J. Perry, G.C. Dunning and R.E.M. Wheeler. (Dunning and Wheeler, 1931.) It is the most northerly of the group, and is bounded on the western side by the steep slope of the Downs. It is a ditched bowl-barrow, about 18.3 m in diameter and 1.5 m high. The primary burial which seems to have been of late neolithic date, lay in an oval grave cut about 0.9 m deep into the chalk, and measuring 1.0 m by 0.6 m. The skeleton, which was sharply flexed, lay on its right side, with its knees drawn up to its face and its right hand at its jaw. Professor Elliot Smith wrote that the bones were those of a slenderly built woman of Mediterranean type, about 152 cm in height, and of middle age. The only grave good was a ground edged flint knife placed under the left shoulder (Thomas N., 1964). There were two secondary cremations, one contained in an inverted collared urn, and the other in a slight hollow about 1.8 m east of the primary burial (Dunning and Wheeler, 1931).

The southern half of the barrow was covered with 98 intrusive burials of possible late Roman, Saxon or later date. (See Morris, 1962, for a discussion of the possibility that the mass burials were those of gallows victims.) These are adequately described and illustrated by Dunning and Wheeler (1931). They may be compared with the intrusive late Roman burials found in Barrow No. 3, Galley Hill, Streatley, which is situated on a similar spur of the chalk, 10.5 km north-east of the Five Knolls along the Icknield Way (Dyer, 1974).

BARROW No. 6 (TL 00662101)

This barrow and No. 7 are possibly pond-barrows, and were identified by L.V. Grinsell in 1932 (unpublished) and the present writer in 1952. They are on the eastern side of the main group. Barrow No. 6 has an interior flat area with a diameter of 5.5 m. It is surrounded by a bank 2.7 m in width, giving an external diameter of 10.9 m.

BARROW No. 7 (TL 00652102)

This is a larger possible pond-barrow, and it is oval in shape. The interior flat area is 11.6 m long and

10.4 m wide, whilst its exterior measurements are 21.3 m and 19.5 m. Although these pond-barrows have not been previously excavated they were observed by William Stukeley, who wrote "close by are round cavities often observed in Wiltshire" (Stukeley, 1724, 109) and by Worthington Smith, the Dunstable antiquary, who thought they were hut-remains (Smith, 1904, 43).

BARROW No. 8 (TL 00952040 ?)

We come now to the barrows situated close to the main group, but not actually in it. Barrow No. 8 lay under 1 km south of the main group on the summit of the Downs. When the hills were cultivated, perhaps as early as 1860, the barrow was almost flattened by a "steam cultivator", and all traces have been completely obliterated in recent years by a golf course. Worthington Smith recorded that before its destruction it was about 3.0 m high and 14.0 m in diameter (Smith, 1887). The last remnants of the mound were removed by a farm labourer in March, 1887. Worthington Smith was not present when the first burial was found, but was to hand when the grave was enlarged and the rest of the mound material removed. At the centre was a large grave about 3.6 m long and 1.8 m wide, dug through the surface soil, and 0.75 m deeper into the solid chalk. On the bottom of it lay a modern nail, indicating that the centre of the barrow had been previously opened. Surrounding it were "six or seven other graves, each about three feet (0.9 m) deep from the surface. All were comparatively shallow and small, irregular in shape and measuring three or four feet square". Two of these graves were quite empty; one contained a human jaw-bone, another, fragments of a human skeleton, a third contained the remains of a human cremation, together with the fragments of an urn, and some burnt earth. In the final grave, on the eastern side, was the "woman and child" burial made famous by Worthington Smith's drawing, which showed the crouched burial surrounded by fossil *echini* or sea-urchins (Smith, 1894, frontispiece). This drawing, however, is not strictly accurate, since Smith did not see the skeletons until they were brought to him in 340 pieces, from which he reconstructed the burial. In the grave with the skeletons were 12 fossil sea-urchins, and 91 others were scattered throughout the mound of the whole barrow, making 103 in all. They were of two kinds, *Micraster coranguinum* and *Anachytes ovatus*. It should be noted that many of the fossils preserved along with the skeletons in Luton Museum are not

the original ones. When Smith prepared his meticulous drawing, he arranged the sea-urchins in a circle round the burials, to provide a decorative border. Since the drawing was first published in 1894, it has always been accepted as a true representation of the burial as found. Six other sea-urchins were found in the mound of barrow No. 3 on Galley Hill, Streatley, in 1961 (Dyer, 1974).

The woman's skeleton indicates that she was about 25 years of age, and 152 cm tall. F.W. Kuhlicke recorded that the maximum length of the skull was 180 mm, the maximum width 132 mm, and the cephalic index 73.3, "showing that she was of long-headed stock". The child was about five years old. Worthington Smith suggested that it had been buried alive with the dead mother (Smith, 1887). With the skeletons in the grave were the crushed remains of two beakers; also two rough stone axes, six scrapers, a broken sharpening stone, together with many flint flakes, three globular stone mauls and an arrow head (see below).

BARROW No. 9 (TL 00952000 ?)

This barrow was 230 m south of the last and was flattened in 1887. It was originally about 3.0 m high and 14.0 m in diameter. In the centre was an empty grave roughly 1.2 m square, surrounded by a circle of six or seven similar graves. All had been previously rifled except one on the northern side. This contained the crouched skeleton of a boy between the ages of 14 and 16. With the burial were found three flint flakes, a scraper, a nodule of iron pyrites and some fragments of a pottery vessel, which may have contained a secondary cremation, but of which no trace existed (see below). "All the graves were small and shallow, including the central one. None had been excavated into the solid chalk, they had all been merely dug or scraped in the surface, which here consisted of earth and chalk rubble. When the solid chalk was reached by the grave diggers, the dead bodies were simply laid on their sides upon the chalk surface and covered with chalk rubble" (Smith, 1887). It is perhaps reasonable to assume that the circle of graves found in Barrow 9 (and 8) were all contemporary, and evidence of a single funeral ceremony. If this is the case, was the central burial the main one, with those around it, attendant upon it? Without the barrow stratification we shall never know, but it is tempting to speculate on a mass burial of family or retainers, all of whom died at about the same time. Whether this was the result of misadventure, plague, religious whim or tribal dictate, we can only guess.

THE PREHISTORIC POTTERY AND FLINT

by Robin Holgate

This report gives details of the prehistoric pottery and humanly struck flint from the Five Knolls barrow cemetery presently housed at Luton Museum (see Table 1).

The Barrow No. 2 excavations produced a range of pottery fragments from the mound of the barrow. These consisted of 35 earlier neolithic 'plain bowl' pieces, 22 with flint tempering and 13 with shell tempering, including two decorated pieces in the Mildenhall and Abingdon styles respectively (Smith 1956, 14); one Ebbsfleet style sherd (Smith 1956, 76); two Grooved Ware sherds (Smith 1956, 189); eight beaker sherds with whipped cord decoration, seven of which came from one vessel; nine sherds representing the remains of a small collared urn; ten sherds of earlier Bronze Age date; and two Iron Age sherds (LTNMG L/6=10/586/39).

The pottery from Barrow No. 8 included, along with eight Romano-British sherds, 45 fragments of undecorated earlier Bronze Age pottery, five beaker sherds with whipped cord and stabbed decoration, and eight rusticated beaker sherds (Smith 1894, 337 Fig. 237: the top illustrated piece is decorated with finger tip pinching: LTNMG 2/388/40).

Barrow No. 9 yielded three beaker fragments with whipped cord decoration and six sherds of a small biconical urn, tempered with medium and fine grained flint and grog, and decorated with a line of perforations running round the vessel along the carination (Smith 1894, 335 Fig. 235: LTNMG 2/389/40).

A total of 808 flints was recovered from unspecified contexts during excavations at Barrow Nos. 2, 3, 5 and 8 (Table 1: LTNMG 3=4/388/40; 3/389/40; BL/248/39; L/2=3/585/39; L/1=3, 12=13 & 20=55/585/39; L/7 & 11=12/588/39; 979/39; 980/39; and 982/39). These include a number of flakes, 219 blades and bladelets, five crested blades, 23 blade/bladelet cores, a burin, a cutting blade and four serrated blades of mesolithic or possibly, in the case of some of the debitage, earlier neolithic date. The absence of microliths makes it impossible to give a more precise date to the mesolithic assemblage.

The remaining flints include debitage and a variety of implements of later neolithic and earlier Bronze Age date. Worthington Smith also recovered a substantial quantity of flintwork from cultivated fields on Dunstable Downs (centred on TL 009205), although the precise provenance of this

material is unrecorded. This material includes flakes, cores, scrapers, knives, piercers, flint axe fragments and arrowheads (e.g. LTNMG 216=232/27/27 and 49=50/333/40). Clearly, the Downs in the vicinity of the barrow cemetery was settled and exploited throughout the neolithic period and earlier Bronze Age.

The only flints recovered from the barrows as grave goods include the ground edged knife from the primary inhumation of a middle aged woman in Barrow No. 5 (Dunning and Wheeler 1931, 196 Fig. 2: LTNMG L/116/39) and two flakes, a knife and an end scraper associated with the burial of a boy in Barrow No. 9 (Smith 1894, 333 Fig. 234: LTNMG 4/389/40).

TABLE 1

Flintwork from the Five Knolls barrows, excluding grave goods.

	Barrow number			
	2	3	5	8
Flakes	340	6	113	43
Blades/bladelets	169	2	48	5
Crested flake	1	—	—	—
Crested blades	4	—	1	—
Cores (flake)	4	1	2	2
Cores (blade/bladelet)	16	—	7	—
Shattered pieces	—	1	3	—
Hammerstones	2	—	—	3
Miscellaneous retouched pieces	1	—	1	—
End scrapers	4	1	2	5
Side scraper	1	—	—	—
Button scraper	1	—	—	—
Burin	1	—	—	—
Rod	1	—	—	—
Knives	1	—	2	—
Cutting blade	—	—	1	—
Serrated flake	1	—	—	—
Serrated blades	4	—	—	—
Ovate	—	—	—	1
Chopping tools	3	—	—	—
Oblique arrowheads	3	—	—	—
Barbed and tanged arrowhead	1	—	—	—
Total	558	11	180	59

OTHER BARROWS AT DUNSTABLE

Worthington Smith recorded other barrows within

present day Dunstable (Smith, 1894, 328). One round barrow stood at the junctions of Winfield Street and Edward Street (formerly Mount Street — probably derived from mound). It was destroyed in road construction in the 19th century. It seems to have been quite a large bowl barrow, though its position close to the Watling Street might suggest that it was Roman. Another barrow existed south of London Terrace “behind the Waggon and Horses”. It contained a crouched burial. A third barrow in Albion Street also contained a crouched male skeleton.

In 1724 William Stukeley recorded a long barrow, the Mill Hill, in what is now Union Street (Stukeley, 1724, 109). He was very familiar with chalk long barrows and is unlikely to have been mistaken. Worthington Smith drew a picture of the remains of the mound in April 1907: it is now in the library of the Society of Antiquaries of London. C.L. Matthews saw a surviving remnant destroyed and considered it virgin chalk (Matthews, 1963, 13). For a summary of other barrows, ring ditches and burials known in the vicinity of Sewell and Totternhoe, Matthews, 1976 should be consulted.

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Bedford's Oldest Streets (PART 2)

ALAN CRAWLEY AND IAN FREEMAN

SUMMARY

This second part of Bedford's Oldest Streets continues to explore the origin of the town's street pattern and names through examining topographical, map and documentary evidence.

In an earlier article (*BA* Vol 18) we discussed those Bedford streets which can be directly related to the two burhs from which the town of Bedford derived. Those streets formed the basic skeleton of the town, laid down as part of the burh plans. During the medieval period, that skeleton was augmented by other streets growing organically from that original planned system.

It is not easy to put a date on the origin of such streets. It is doubtful whether a date of origin has any real meaning in this context. How does one fix the point in time at which an open access way between two parcels of land becomes a "street"? We do know, however, that all the streets discussed in this present article were in existence as streets in the medieval period. Firstly, they are referred to in medieval documents, going back, in some cases, to the 13th century and secondly they appear on John Speed's Map of 1610. Speed has been our main source of information for the location of the streets and almost all the streets discussed in the gazetteer below can be located on Speed's Map, though not all are named there. A major source of information for the names has been the Newnham Priory Rental of 1507 (*BHRS* 25). This document also mentions a number of lanes or "ways" which cannot be placed on Speed's Map because they were located in the fields outside the town itself. These lanes cannot be positioned with the same precision as those within the town, so they have not been included in the gazetteer. Their names are: Meadway, Holmway, Procession Way, Rigeway and Newnham Way or Lane. We should also mention here Fullery Street, "Pardouneweie" and "Ryggestrete" to which we have found single references in other documents.

Meadway lay in the Prebend Field which occupied the area to the west of River Street. From a reconstruction of the closes into which the field had been divided at the time of the Rental, it can be

deduced that Meadway ran roughly parallel to, and somewhat west of, the present Prebend Street; not as shown on Henman's Map (*BHRS* 25) in an east to west direction along the southern edge of the Prebend Field.

The context of the Newnham Priory Rental suggests that there were two Newnham Lanes or Ways. One approached the Priory from the north, on the line of the present Newnham Avenue. In the 18th and 19th century it was known as Hoggett's Lane and ran alongside Hoggett's Piece (Hogherds Piece in 1773). The other started from Peck's Hall or Farm, marked on Speed's Map and others, near to St Cuthbert's Church. The Hall was partly leased to Newnham Priory in 1447 by William Peck(e) who was MP for Bedford in 1449. The lane might have developed, not only as an access way between the Hall and the Priory, but also as a more direct route between the Priory and the Town Centre. Such a lane is shown, though not named, on the pre-enclosure map of the north Bedford parishes (*CRO* X1/57) and parts of it are shown as late as 1882 on the OS Map. Writing in 1831, Matthiason describes it as "a walk across the fields from Castle Street" (now Newnham Street) to the Priory Ruins.

Holmway and Procession Way were both situated in the Middle Field, the common field which lay between Clapham Road and Foster Hill Road. Holmway is associated in the Rental with Lark Slade which seems to have been situated in the area to the south of the present Brickhill Drive. However, no map has been found which shows a lane in that area. Procession Way branched off Thurleigh Way (*BA* Vol 18) to the east and so could have been a name for the lane which formed the northern boundary of St Peter's parish. This would explain the name as it would be part of the route of the Rogation Day Procession around the parish boundary.

Rigeway ran across Bury Field, the common field which lay between Foster Hill Road and the Kimbolton Road. It can be tentatively identified with a lane or baulk, shown on the pre-enclosure map, as meandering from the Clapham Road on the west, to the Kimbolton Road on the east.

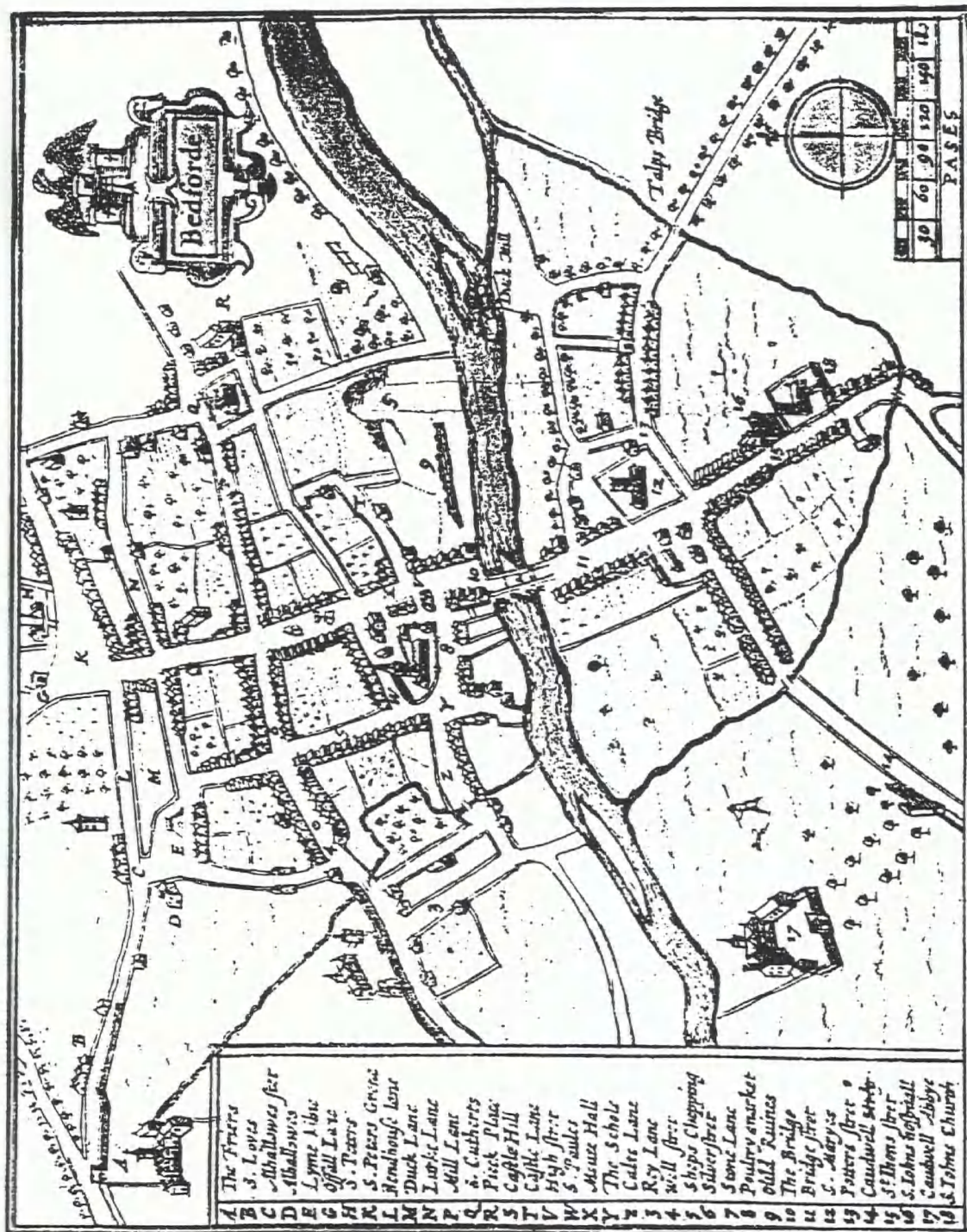


Fig 1 Speed's Map of Bedford, 1610

The only clues we have to the location of Fullery Street, which was in existence in the middle of the 14th century (BHRS 43 item 212), are references to two fullers who occupied land in the River Street area. Thus a Newnham Priory Cartulary item dated 1220, mentions a Thomas the Fuller holding land "next to the ford towards the west", ie Abel's Ford alias Batt's Ford, and a document of 1430 (CRO-W.24) mentions "John be the Ree, fullere". So Fullery Street might be tentatively identified with the lane described in the Newnham Priory Rental as "leading to Trumpington Mead" from Abel's Ford.

"Pardouneweys" or "Pardunesweys" (Newnham Priory Cartulary, BHRS 43 item 163) lay next to St. Leonard's Hospital and adjacent to land belonging to Cauldwell Priory. The name is difficult to interpret but seems to contain the element "dun" or "down" meaning a low hill. The extinct road to Haynes (BA Vol 18) is a possible candidate for this road, in which case the "down" in question could be the relatively high ground of the greensand ridge in the Haynes area. "Rygge Strete" is mentioned in a list of property formerly belonging to Newnham Priory which was granted to John Williams in 1545 (Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, Rolls Series vol XX item 90 no 4). The particular parcel of land in Rygge Strete was a garden in the tenancy of John Spencer. The Court of Augmentation Accounts (BHRS Vol 64 p 69) lists, under Newnham Priory property, John Spencer as holding a messuage with garden in St Mary's parish. The only garden in St Mary's parish listed in the Newnham Priory Rental of 1507 (BHRS Vol 25 p 40/41) is in "Brigestreete". Could "Rygge Street" be a transcriber's error for "Brygge Street"?

Speed's Map also shows two little lanes connecting Potter Street with Duck Mill Lane which are not named and do not appear on later maps except possibly as blind alleys and property boundaries on Reynold's Map of 1841 and Cole's Map of 1807. One of these is probably intended in an entry in the Newnham Priory Rental when it refers to "a lane leading to Joel's Mill" (BHRS Vol 25 p 39). There is, however, a modern road which seems to correspond with one of the lanes, ie Chethams, named after the Chetham family remembered by many Bedfordians as owners of property in this area.

GAZETTEER

Most of the streets have undergone one or more changes of name during their long history, which reflect their changing function in the life of the

town. The purpose of this Gazetteer, therefore, is to trace these changes of name from the earliest records up to the present day and so identify them under their modern aliases and also to discuss, where appropriate, what light the old names throw on the history of life in the town.

FOSTER HILL ROAD

This road continues the line of the High Street northwards as far as the cemetery gates. The line continues as a footpath over the hill to Clapham Park. The road and footpath followed the boundary between two of the pre-enclosure fields of North Bedford. The footpath, Foster Hill Road and the High Street had evidently formed an important approach road to the river-crossing at Bedford from quite early times (BA Vol 18).

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Clapham Park Way, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental BHRS 25.

LATER NAMES

Little Berry Lane, 1765 Jefferys' Map.
Waterloo Road, 1841 Reynold's Map.
Cemetery Road, 1856 Improvement Commission.
Foster Hill Road, 1890 Kelly's Directory.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

"Little Berry Lane" is obviously a variant of "Little Bury Lane" and relates to Bury Field and Bury Farm. Bury Field was a pre-enclosure field of North Bedford of which the lane formed the western boundary. Bury Farm once stood near the start of the lane on a site now covered by De Parys Avenue. The precise significance of the name "Bury" in this area, has never been established but it is strongly suggestive of a connection with an early "bury", or "burh" ie a fortified house or settlement. About half a mile north of St Peter's Church, alongside the footpath section of this lane, there is an earthwork of unknown date which might also have some bearing on this name.

"Waterloo Road" was the name introduced at the time the lane was becoming integrated into the new development of that part of the town in the 1840's. The name was no doubt chosen to be compatible with the names of the new streets in the area eg Wellington Street, Albert Street etc.

With the opening of the cemetery in 1855 the name was changed to Cemetery Road. This was evidently not thought suitable as an address for the fashionable houses being built there towards the end of the 19th century. The name "Foster Hill Road" had been introduced by 1890. Foster Hill is the hill over which the footpath continues the line of the road on to Clapham Park. It was named after John Foster who acquired the Brickhill Estate from its previous owner Joseph Willis sometime after 1795. He was well established by 1807 because in that year he published a booklet on *Observations on the Agriculture in the North of Bedfordshire*. The homestead of Brickhill Farm once stood near the present Shopping Centre in Brickhill Drive.

RAM YARD AND ROSE YARD

These two narrow alleys open on to the High Street, Rose Yard running along the south side of the Rose Steak House, while Ram Yard opens out slightly to the north between numbers 49 and 51. The two yards join together and continue as a single road, to meet Castle Lane at the northern end of the north/south section of that lane.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Ram Yard, 1681 Hagable Rental.

The Rose Inn Yard, 1800 Deed CRO R4/534/13/3.

LATER NAMES

Rose Yard, 1807 Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

There were at one time four public houses next door to each other in this part of the High Street, called respectively (from north to south), The Red Lion, The Ram, The Rose and The Ragged Staff. Of these, only the Rose is still a public house. The Red Lion survived until 1973 as the Lion Hotel but The Ragged Staff had become a baker's shop by 1800 and the Ram disappeared sometime between 1804 and 1806. Rose Yard and Ram Yard ran alongside their respective hosteleries. Speed's Map of 1610 shows an unnamed street corresponding to Rose Yard as a relatively wide thoroughfare leading from the High Street to the northern end of the north/south section of Castle Lane. Ram Yard is not marked although both the Rose and the Ram must have been in existence at that time, the Ram being mentioned in a will of 1533 (CRO ABP/R 3f 106d) and the Rose being mentioned in a deed of 1563 (CRO CRT130 Bedford 7 no 6). A plan attached to a deed of 1800 shows Rose Yard as a narrow passageway, some 70 yards long, opening out into a wide thoroughfare which continues through to Castle Lane. This thoroughfare is described on the plan as a "waste or roadway leading from the Rose back gate to the Public Highway" (ie Castle Lane). In 1807, a Mr Covell was given permission to purchase "a small piece of ground at the east end of the Rose and the late Ram yards in order to build a house thereon". This must have been the beginning of the infill which had been brought to completion by the time of Reynold's Map of 1841 and which effectively extended the two yards as separate alleys almost to Castle Lane.

The plan of 1800 shows the Castle Ditch running along the northern edge of the "waste or roadway" and terminating at the edge of the Rose property. The ditch must have originally continued westwards for some 20 yards more before turning south to form the western perimeter of the Castle. It would seem that the "waste or roadway", together with what was to become Rose Yard, was a useful short-cut between St Cuthbert's and the High Street after the Castle had been demolished following the siege of 1224.

Today, Rose Yard is a private road providing access to the Rose Steak House as the latter has no other entrance on to the High Street. This presumably applied to the original yard and inn and also to the Ram Yard and inn likewise. The two inns would have been built gable end-on to the High Street as was frequently the case for medieval buildings. The "waste or roadway" would have been kept open as a useful alternative approach to the two inns from the St Cuthbert's end.

FORD END ROAD

This road, together with Well Street (Midland Road) and Silver Street, originally formed the principal western thoroughfare. It led towards the hamlet of Forthe, or Ford End as it came to be known, and the village of Biddenham.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Forthestrete, late 13th century, Newnham Priory Cartulary *BHRS* 43 item 236.

LATER NAMES

Forthestrete, 1315/47 Newnham Priory Cartulary *BHRS* 43.

Forth Street, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental *BHRS* 25.

Ford End Road, 1843 Improvement Commission.

Cox's Pits Road, 1847 Improvement Commission.

Cox's Pits Road, 1877 *PO Directory*.

Ford End Road, 1890 *Kelly's Directory*.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The hamlet of Forthe, later Ford End, is mentioned in a charter of William II. Fowler has identified the land concerned with the "one hide and one virgate" stated in the Domesday Book to be held by Erwin the Priest at Biddenham (*Prebends of Bedford*, p 4).

The name indicates a river crossing, Ham Ford was in use here until the 19th century (J. Woods, *Beds Parish Surveys* 2 1984).

Cox's Pits was an open cast gravel and limestone working which was active during the early 19th century, if not earlier. Its position is marked on Bryant's County map of 1826 and (as Cox's Stone Pit) on the first edition OS map. It lay at the end of Ford End Lane just on the Bedford side of the boundary with Biddenham. It is marked on the 2½ in OS map (1st series) as "Cox's Pits Allotment Gardens". During the 1840's, the Proprietors of Cox's Pit were in dispute with the Improvement Commissioners over who was responsible for maintaining the last stretch of Ford End Road leading to the pits. At the time, that stretch was a public bridle way but a carriage way and driftway for private use only. An agreement was reached in 1846, that if the occupiers would supply material, the Commission would supply labour for maintaining the road. This agreement seems to have fallen through in 1847 when the occupiers failed to supply the materials. The pits had been infilled by the end of the 19th century.

KIMBOLTON ROAD

The role of Kimbolton Road alias Putnoe Way, as an approach road to the town and the river crossing from the north, was discussed in the earlier article (*BA* Vol 18). Where the road entered the environs of the town, however, it acquired two other names as described below.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Cucking Stole Lane, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental *BHRS* 25.

Oke Way, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental *BHRS* 25.

LATER NAMES

Cokyngstolelane, 1536-1555 Court of Augmentation Accounts *BHRS* 63/64.

Oke Lane, 1638 Deed CRO P100/6/11.

Oke Lane, 1693/4 Deed CRO P100/6/13.

Kimbolton Road, 1859 Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The cucking stool was an instrument of punishment going back to Saxon times.¹ In the original form of the punishment, the miscreant was seated on the stool in a dung cart and paraded through the main streets of the town to suffer the censure of his or her neighbours. It was not until the 15th century that the cucking stool became a ducking stool and the parade ended in the immersion of the miscreant in some suitable stretch of water.

Previous authors² have located Cucking Stool Lane as being a little lane which appears on some maps (eg Reynolds Map of 1841) running north from St Peter's Street to a pond at the rear of the Moravian Chapel and it has been surmised that the miscreant was taken along that lane to be ducked in the pond. That identification, however, is incompatible with the key reference to Cucking Stool Lane in the Newnham Priory Rental. The Rental makes it

clear that Cucking Stool Lane ran to the east of Sparrow Close, a parcel of land which is clearly marked on several maps and which occupied the western side of Kimbolton Road from near its starting point up to the present Glebe Road. The name Cucking Stool Lane must therefore have applied to this first stretch of Kimbolton Road and probably indicated where the shameful parade started rather than its termination. If the punishment as applied in Bedford ever involved a ducking, it would more likely have taken place, after a parade down the High Street, at Duck Mill. This appropriately named mill was the site of other similar aquatic activities, such as witch swimming³ and adult baptism by total immersion.⁴

The name Oak Lane is an allusion to Oak Field, one of the pre-enclosure open fields of Bedford, that lay on the eastern side of the lane. It is probable that the name changed to Kimbolton Road when it was turnpiked in 1795, as a deed of 1822⁵ states "the turnpike road from Bedford to Kimbolton formerly called Oak Lane".

Although in 1835 the Improvement Commission states "St Peter's Street — from St Peter's Square eastward and then northward toward Kimbolton", it does not appear that the name "St Peter's Street" was ever used, even for the southern section of Kimbolton Road. The Improvement Commission referred to Kimbolton Road in 1859.

- 1 T.N. Brushfield — *Jrnl. of Archit., Archaeol. and Hist. Soc. of Chester*, Vol 6 203 (1887-9).
- 2 W. Glassby — *Bedford Town and Townsmen in 1507 — Beds. Standard*, 1917.
- 3 M. Fulton — *Northants and Beds Life* Nov 1986 p 14.
- 4 Plaque on Duckmill Bridge marking site of Bunyan's baptism.
- 5 Deed 1822 CRO P100/6/36.

NEWNHAM ROAD AND THE EMBANKMENT

The Speed Map of 1610 shows an unnamed street leading south from St Cuthbert's Church to the river, then eastwards along the river's north bank. Although the map does not extend far enough to show it, the lane almost certainly continued to the site of Newnham Priory as it is shown to do on the Enclosure Map of 1795. The first section, running south from St Cuthbert's Church, is known today as Newnham Road. (This section is referred to as the southward section in the following list of names.) The second section, following the river bank, today forms part of the Embankment. (This is referred to below as the eastward section.) During the 19th century, this stretch passed through a somewhat disreputable suburb known as Waterloo which was demolished in 1889 to make way for an improved housing development. The part of the Embankment which runs, alongside the Swan Hotel, up to the High Street was not constructed until 1876.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Temesse Street, 16th century, *VCH, Beds* Vol 3 p 8.

LATER NAMES

Thames Street, 1765 Jefferys' Map (eastwards).
Thames Street, 1836 Dewhurst and Nichols Map (southwards).
Thames Street, 1876 Mercer's Map (southwards and eastwards).
Embankment, 1876 Mercer's Map (new section from High Street only).
Newnham Road, 1884 OS Map (southwards and eastwards).
Newnham Road, 1901 OS Map (southwards).
Embankment, 1901 OS Map (eastwards).

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The use of the name "Thames" is interesting. Although the earliest reference is in the *VCH* and quoted as 16th century, it could have been in use from very much earlier. Mawer and Stenton ("Place Names of Beds and Hunts" *EPNS* Vol 2 p 111) in discussing Tempsford (eight miles east, also on the Ouse) came to the conclusion, on the basis of two 10th century references, that the Ouse, or that stretch of it, must have been known as the Thames.

Margaret Gelling ("Place Names in the Landscape" p 72) agrees that Tempsford means "Thames Ford". She dismisses one suggestion (Ekwall 1960) that it means "ford on the road to the Thames (ie London)", but goes on to say, "the earlier suggestion, that this part of the Ouse was called Thames in Anglo-Saxon times, is not wholly convincing either". However, the use of the name "Thames" for a road in Bedford leading to and along the Ouse would seem to support Mawer and Stenton's explanation, even though the reference is no earlier than the 16th century.

The Augustinian Priory of Newnham started life at St Paul's Church where the secular canons began to follow the example of monks and live as a community. The foundation of the Priory is attributed to Simon de Beauchamp in 1166.¹ In that year, at a solemn service in St Paul's Church, he granted the church with its prebends and possessions to the regular canons. William, one of the canons, became the first Prior. The next Prior, Auger, had been appointed by 1170 and planned new buildings outside the town at Newnham, where the Priory had moved by 1178.²

Little is recorded of the Priory during its life, which ended, along with other religious houses, at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries. The Prior John Ashwell, with 14 canons and two lay brothers, signed an acknowledgment of the royal supremacy in 1535.¹ The end came with the Priory surrendering on 2nd January 1540.

- 1 *VCH Beds* Vol 1 pp 377-8.

- 2 J. Godber *History of Bedfordshire* p 46.

ST CUTHBERT'S STREET

This street leads from St Cuthbert's Church, north to the junction of St Peter's Street, Kimbolton Road and Goldington Road. On the basis of Haslam's model, the eastern boundary of the northern Saxon burh lay just to the west of the street and just to the east of the boundary between St Cuthbert's and St Paul's parish.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

St Cuthbert's Way, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental, *BHRS* 25.

LATER NAMES

St Cuthbert's Lane, 1765 Jefferys' Map.
St Cuthbert's Street, 1806 Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The early history of the church of St Cuthbert's is largely unknown. The dedication has led people to speculate that the church was founded in the 8th century and named in honour of the great Northumbrian Bishop. However, this is not likely as early churches were most often named after the New Testament saints rather than near contemporaries. Haslam has postulated that the church, positioned as it seems to be, just outside the eastern entrance to the Saxon burh, might have been associated with an extra-mural market place, a not uncommon feature of such burhs (Haslam *BA* Vol 16).

On the other hand, Fowler, on the basis of documentary evidence, concluded that the church was founded by a Roland of Bedford sometime in the 12th century and was granted to Dunstable Priory by Roland's son, Abel, at the turn of the 12th to 13th century. If this dating is correct, it would explain the choice of dedication as the Prior of Dunstable at about that time was a man called Cuthbert. This later date is also compatible with a tentative dating of a font which has survived from the early church, ie mid or late 12th century (opinion from R. Gem based on sketches of the font). Whatever its age, this earlier church was destroyed, along with St Paul's, before or during the siege of Bedford Castle in 1224. Its successor appears in various 18th and 19th century drawings but this too was replaced in 1847 by the building which, with extensions in 1865 and 1877, comprises the present church.

DUCK MILL LANE

This lane provides access to Duck Mill from St Mary's Street but it might have had an earlier and more significant role. Both Speed's map of 1610 and Reynold's Map of 1841 show the first section of the road, ie from St Mary's Street to Bedesman's Lane, as a broad thoroughfare curving towards the south-east before it abruptly changes direction and continues on to the mill as a much narrower lane. If that initial curve was to continue it would join "Potter Street", alias Cardington Road, just at the point where that road bends away from its original line, directed towards the river crossing, to turn towards the cross roads at St Mary's Church. Thus it seems likely that the first stretch of Duck Mill Lane is a remnant of the original road before it was diverted to fit in with the burh plan (BA Vol 18). Its usefulness as an access road to the mill would explain why that particular part of the road survived.

Recently, a new stretch of Duck Mill Lane was developed, running at right angles to the original lane, parallel to and slightly east of Bedesman's Lane (qv) which it has replaced as a thoroughfare to Cardington Road.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Mill Lane, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental BHRS 25.

LATER RECORDED NAME

Boy and Oar Lane, 1826 Improvement Commission.
Duck Lane, 1835 May Improvement Commission.
Duck Mill Lane, 1835 October Improvement Commission.
Bouy and Oar Lane, 1847 Improvement Commission.
Bouy and Oar Lane, 1849 Improvement Commission.
Duck Mill Lane, 1851 Talk by Mr G. Hurst to the BA and AS.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The mill can be traced back to at least the 12th century when Miles de Beauchamp granted it to the monks of Bermondsey (BHRS 1 p 7). It remained the property of Bermondsey Abbey until the dissolution of the monasteries although it was leased to various tenants including the Knights Templar (VCH Beds 111 p 24) and Newnham Priory (Newnham Cartulary BHRS 43 p 111). After the dissolution it passed into private hands and was finally demolished in 1890 although the sluices and weir still exist.

The mill was not known as Duck Mill until the late 16th or early 17th century (see under Kimbolton Road for a possible explanation of this name). Prior to that it was known by various versions of the name Joel's Mill (see list). "Duck Mill" was not, apparently, applied to the lane until the 19th century.

There are 14th century references to Mulnelane (1342 Newnham Cartulary), ie Milnelane (1368 CRO, CRT170/171) and a 13th century reference to Mullestrete (deed mentioned in the

Official Schedule Of Ancient Charters and Muniments, published 1895). There is unfortunately no way of telling whether they apply to this Mill Lane or to the Mill Lane (Mill Street) north of the river in St Paul's parish. This ambiguity does not apply to the Mill Lane of the 1507 reference, as this clearly places that lane in St Mary's parish.

In the 18th century it was known as Boy and Oar Lane although exactly when that name came into use is not clear. There was a public house of that name in 1751 which, according to Hurst (BAAS 1 p 389, 1851) was named after a buoy to which boatmen, who frequented the public house, moored their barges. According to Farrar (Old Bedford p 93) the public house was demolished in the 1840s. The Improvement Commission used the name "Boy and Oar Lane" in 1826 and they were still referring to it as "Bouy and Oar Lane" in 1847 and 1849, even though they had chosen "Duck Lane" as the official name in 1835 (modified to Duck Mill Lane later that year).

EARLY NAMES OF "DUCK MILL"

- 1203-6 Joel's Mill BHRS 43 item 96.
- 1220-60 Joel's Mill BHRS 43 item 1.
- 1250 Joel's Mill BHRS 43 item 154.
- 1330 Gelys Mill BHRS 43 item 78.
- 1394-5 Gelys Mill BHRS 43 item 162.
- 1507 Joel's Mill BHRS 25 p 39.
- 1535-55 Joel's Mill BHRS 63/4 item 343.
- "Johelis Mill vulgarly called James" BHRS 63/4 item 345.
- Saynt James Mill BHRS 63/4 item 211.
- 1574 James Gelys Mill CRO ABP/W 1574/45 (Robert Goodall's will)
- 1610 Duck Mill Speed's Map.
- 1627 Duck Mill CRO ABP/W 1627/225 (Robert Hawes' will).

BEDEMAN'S LANE

We have put forward the theory that the section of Duck Mill Lane from St Mary's Street to Bedesman's Lane is a remnant of the main approach road to the town from the south east (see Duck Mill Lane). We further suggest that Bedesman's Lane was possibly constructed at the time the southern burh was formed, to connect this remaining section of the old road to the newly constructed road (today's Cardington Road) leading to the central cross roads.

Today, Bedesman's Lane has been reduced to a small service road with no access for road traffic from Cardington Road. Its function as a thoroughfare has been taken over by the recently opened stretch of Duck Mill Lane (qv) which now runs parallel to it.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Bedesmans Lane, 1835 Improvement Commission.

LATER NAMES

Bedesman's Lane, 1841 Reynold's Map.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

Although we believe the lane could well have been in existence since the formation of the southern burh, it is not until 1835 that we find any reference to a name.

The maps of the town earlier than 1835 show the lane but without a name. The Improvement Commission on May 1st 1835 state "Bedesman's Lane - from Potter Street to Duck Mill" (Presumably, they meant to say "Duck Mill Lane"). No earlier reference can be found for the lane being known by this name, but

it is possible the Improvement Commission was perpetuating existing usage.

No reason can be found why the lane came to be known by this name, apart from its obvious proximity to St Mary's Church. Farrar (in *Old Bedford* p 74) suggested that the name derived from one who made prayer beads or rosaries, but this is an unlikely meaning for the word "bedesman". The usual meaning is one who prays daily for the soul of his benefactor in return for charity.

GRAVEL LANE

Speed's Map shows Gravel Lane (but does not name it), running between Well Street (alias Midland Road) and Calts Lane (alias Horne Lane) as it did until recent times. The first reference to a name is Ocles Lane in the Newnham Priory Rental of 1507. The Rental also describes a "little Lane" from Calts Lane to the river, which Henman in his reconstruction map of Bedford in 1506-7 (*BHRS* 25), draws as a continuation of Gravel Lane. Whilst this lane existed there must be some doubt whether it definitely aligned with Gravel Lane. It is not shown on the Speed Map of 1610 but the Reynold's Map of 1841 does show a property boundary to support Henman's reconstruction. Such a lane, from Calts Lane to the river, is referred to in 1739 (Acts of Council-Town Hall Muniments) as Ben Wells' Lane.

Gravel Lane remained as a thoroughfare between Horne Lane and Midland Road until 1974, when it was finally closed by new shop developments on Midland Road.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Ocles Lane, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental *BHRS* 25.

LATER NAMES

Gravel Lane, 1765 Jefferys' Map.

Gravel Lane, 1835 1858 1859 Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The name "Ocles Lane" suggests a connection with the Oakley family which flourished in Bedford in the 13th and 14th centuries. Robert de Ocle appears as a burgess of Bedford in a charter of 1291 and was assessed on a tannery in the taxation list of 1297. John and Thomas Okele are listed in the Burgess Roll of 1399. It could be that one of the family owned a tannery in the area, the water required for this process being readily available from either the Saffron Ditch, just to the east of the lane, or the river.

It is not known when the name changed to Gravel Lane but the name alludes to the gravel workings which took place in this area at one time. The Enclosure Award of 1797, tells us that the plot (no 36) which lies at the south-western corner of the lane was allotted to the Surveyors of Highways "as and for a stone-pit".

Benjamin Wells was a butcher, baptised in 1644 and buried in 1727.

RIVER STREET

This street runs from Midland Road past the Commercial Road/Horne Lane junction to the river at Batts Ford. It marked the western limit of the town from at least medieval times until the 1860s, when the area to the west of Water Lane, the old Trumpington Meadow, was developed. After Victorian development River Street remained virtually unchanged until the 1970s when, as a consequence of road widening, the entire eastern side between Midland Road and Horne Lane was rebuilt.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Ree Lane, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental *BHRS* 25.

LATER NAMES

Rey Lane, 1610 Speed's Map.

Water Lane, 1765 Jefferys' Map.

Water Lane, 1861 Census.

River Street, 1871 Census.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

All the names for the street have roughly the same meaning. In the Oxford English Dictionary *Ree* is described as being of obscure origin and meaning "a stream, channel or river". The next reference of *Rey* would be an alternative spelling, while *Water Lane* and *River Street* continue the aquatic connection.

It is not clear whether the name refers just to a lane leading to the river, or to a "water lane" as in Kempston, where an open stream runs down the side. The Improvement Commission in April 1819 resolved "that the common sewer from High Street along Silver Street and Well Street be continued in its present form and size into the new common sewer in Watery Lane". It is possible that the "new common sewer" was made to enclose an open stream. The Improvement Commission chose "Water Lane" as the official name in May 1835 and defined it as "Water Lane — from Well Street to the Public Wharf".

The southern end of the street is known as Batts Ford and it has been suggested that this indicates a ford over the Ouse at that point. However, there is no evidence of a continuation of the road south of the river. All the major approach roads are, or were, aligned on the present river crossing at the town bridge (*BA Vol* 18). The name *Batt's Ford* is also contra-indicative of a river crossing. Mawer and Stenton (*EPNS Beds* p 12) suggest a somewhat doubtful connection between this name and Samson de Batesford who held the manor of Odell in 1302. However, he derived his name from Battisford in Suffolk. (*Rot. Hundred Vol* 11 p 127). There is no doubt, in fact, that the name derives from the Battison family who were coal merchants in Bedford during the 17th and 18th centuries. Two of them served as mayors on several occasions and one of them, Alderman Robert Battison, is recorded as leasing land between Horne Lane and the river (Acts of Council, April 1739) ie in the Batts Ford area.

Matthiason (*Bedford and its Environs* 1831) gives *Batt's Ford* in the text of his book (p 111) but *Batson's Ford* on the map which accompanies it. "Battison's Ford" is used in the Acts of Council for July, 1833. Thus it is highly unlikely that this post-medieval family would have given their name to a ford which, if it had crossed the river, would have been out of use for several centuries.

The ford did exist before the Battison's time when it was known as *Abel's Ford*, almost certainly named after *Abel Attewater* who was living in the 13th century and held land in that area. Several references to *Abel's Ford* place it adjacent to *Waterwick*, a close which covered approximately the same ground as the present car park and market area.

All the indications, therefore, are that *Batt's Ford* crossed the Trumpington Mead Ditch allowing access from River Street to the Trumpington Meadow which covered the area south of the present Commercial Road.

HORNE LANE

This street runs west from St Paul's Square to River Street. At the western end, the lane originally terminated in the prebend fields of St Paul's Church, so the lane might have served as a thoroughfare from the Church to that property. In 1858 the eastern end of the lane was realigned to the north to allow room to build a new hall for Bedford School (the hall now accommodates the Civic Theatre).

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Caltelane before 1342 Newnham Priory Cartulary *BHRS* 43 items 507/8.

LATER NAMES

Calts Lane, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental *BHRS* 25.
Caltis Lane, 1507 Newnham Priory Rental *BHRS* 25.
Caltis Lane, 1610 Speed's Map.
Horne Lane, 1649 Bedford Corporation Minute Book (*BHRS* 26 p 12).
King's Lane, 1765 Jefferys' Map.
Horne Lane, 1835 Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

John Calt was living at the turn of the 13th to 14th centuries and held land at the western end of the lane in question. There is a memorial to Muriel Calt in St Paul's Church with a marginal inscription in Norman French. This, unfortunately, is now indecipherable but a transcript is given in the *VCH Beds* (Vol 3 p 25). Kuhlcke, in his guide book to the church published in 1950, dates the memorial to c1230. If this is correct, then Muriel would be a generation or so earlier than John.

The later name, Horne Lane, is explained by a discovery recorded by J. Wyatt (BAAS Proceedings, Dec 15th 1868) of a ditch containing numerous cores of goat horns, evidently the refuse dump of a manufacturer of horn goods. Horn Pot Lane in York was named after a similar refuse pit dated to the 14th century.

Apparently the horn-working process involved initially soaking the horns in pits or tanks of water to soften the horn sheaths and allow them to be detached from the boney cores. This process took at least two months so several such tanks would be needed to keep a supply of sheaths available for the second stage which involved boiling the sheaths in water to make them soft enough to cut and shape into the finished article. The boney cores were then discarded. (Taken from C. Mahany et al — *Excavations in Stamford, Lincs*; Soc for Med Arch Monograph no 9).

"King's Lane" appears only on Jefferys' Map. It is probably a mistake, perhaps arising from a misinterpretation of some phrase such as "King's Highway" (used often in late medieval documents).

CASTLE LANE

In the words of the Improvement Commissioners in 1835, this lane is the one which runs "from St Cuthbert's Church extending round the Old Castle Close to the High Street".

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

"A lane leading to Bedford Castle", 1507 Newnham Priory Rental, *BHRS* 25

LATER NAMES

Castle Lane, 1610 Speed's Map.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The High Street end of Castle Lane reputedly marks the site of the barbican of the castle and, although there is no firm archaeological evidence for this, the idea is supported by an entry in the Newnham Priory Rental which describes "a messuage lying opposite the gate of Bedford Castle which abuts east on the High Street and at the other end of Fish Row". Thus that part of the street running east from the High Street would have formed the main approach road from the barbican to the castle keep. At the end of that section, Castle Lane turns sharply north and this

section could represent another approach to the keep from an entrance in the northern section of the castle perimeter.

It might, however, have pre-dated the castle and formed part of the grid system of the Saxon burh ie a street running south from Lurke Street, parallel to the High Street on the east side, corresponding to Harpur Street on the west side (*BA* Vol 18). Such a street would have ceased to function as a public thoroughfare when the castle was built but the stretch within the castle walls, being useful to the castle occupants, would have survived, ready to return to public use when the castle was destroyed in 1224.

DAME ALICE STREET

This street continues the line of Bromham Road, leading it to the cross roads near St Peter's Church. It was argued in a previous article (*BA* Vol 18) that Bromham Road was a relatively late development and this is supported by evidence that Dame Alice Street was of similar late development. The Enclosure Map of 1795 and Cole's Map of 1807 show property boundaries forming continuous diagonals across the line of the street. These diagonals appear as the boundary of St Peter's parish as shown, for instance, on Reynold's Map of 1841. This indicates that the street was laid across already established land boundaries.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Marstons Lane, 1559 Quitclaim CRO X55/2.

LATER NAMES

Bendowes Lane, 1586-1604 Bedford Court Book, Townhall Muniments F11/4a.
Bendhouse Lane, 1610 Speed's Map.
Bend house Lane, 1765 Jefferys' Map.
Harpur Street, 1807 Cole's Map.
Dame Alice Street, 1835 Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The "Marstons Lane" of 1559 formed the southern boundary of a close called "Marstons Close" also known as Dove House Close. We do not know the identity of Marston.

The later name "Bendhouse Lane" seems to indicate a connection with the tanning industry which had flourished in Bedford from Medieval times. A bend was a piece of heavy quality leather cut from the centre of a hide. So a bendhouse would be a warehouse for the storage of the finished bends. (The Quitclaim of 1559 includes a reference to a barn owned by John West the tanner.)

In 1802 a disastrous fire destroyed a considerable number of poor quality houses in the area and a fund was set up by the Harpur Trust to relieve the victims. The money raised was used to build almshouses along the northern side of the street (only the eastern half survive today, the other half having been demolished in 1969).

The name of the street had changed by 1807 to Harpur Street to commemorate the part played by the Trust in the rebuilding.

In 1835 the Improvement Commission decided to change the name to Dame Alice Street. In doing this they still preserved the Harpur connection as Dame Alice was the wife of William Harpur, the founder of the charity. They decided to use the name "Harpur Street" to cover the whole of the thoroughfare running north from St Paul's Square which, up to then, had been named in sections, Angel Street, White Horse Street and Harpur Place (*BA* Vol 18).

ST PETER'S STREET

This street is a continuation of Kimbolton Road leading round to the top of the High Street. As discussed in the previous article (*BA* Vol 18), it represents a deflection from the original line of Kimbolton Road to lead it into the northern entrance to the Saxon burh. It runs along the southern edge of St Peter's Green, the triangular space which lies to the south of St Peter's Church. Haslam (*BA* Vol 16 p 29) has postulated that this green was the site of one of the extra-mural market places often found to be associated with churches at the entrances to Saxon burhs. Certainly St Peter's Church was in existence in the Saxon period as it contains fabric surviving from the mid-tenth century (Taylor and Taylor, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* 1 p 58 and T.P. Smith *BAJ* Vol 3 p 9). However, according to A. Cross (*Links with the Past*, 1905), "the green was at one time a part of the churchyard; human remains were unearthed in digging for the foundations of the Bunyan Statue, as also in making the subterranean chamber for the electric light; and again over the site of the old rectory many bones were found showing the wide extent of the old burial grounds".

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Holydays Lane? 1507 Newnham Priory Rental *BHRS* 25.

LATER NAMES

St Peter's Grene, 1610 Speed's Map.
St Peter's Street, 1765 Jefferys' Map.
St Peter's Square, 1835 May Improvement Commission.
St Peter's Street, 1835 May Improvement Commission.
St Peter's Green, 1835 October Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

Holydays Lane was identified with St Peter's Street by W. Glassby in a lecture on "Bedford Town and Townsmen in 1507" reprinted in the *Bedfordshire Standard* in 1917. He gave no reason for this identification so it must be taken as unconfirmed. It is however, supported to some extent by the entry in the Newnham Priory Rental which makes it clear that Holydays Lane ran east to west and St Peter's Street is one of the few streets in the parish to run in this direction. The Holyday family (alias Haliday) are mentioned frequently in medieval records of Bedford.

Surprisingly, the name "St Peter's Street" has not been found earlier than Jefferys' Map of 1765. In May 1835 the Improvement Commission introduced the name St Peter's Square for the area south of the Church and St Peter's Street for the continuation eastwards. Then in October, the same year, they changed St Peter's Square back to St Peter's Green, the name shown on the Speed Map of 1610.

TAVISTOCK STREET

As the continuation of the Clapham Road, Tavistock Street now forms the major road into Bedford from the north west. This may not always have been the case, however. Bryant's map of 1826 shows the road as it is today, with the main route running along Clapham Road and Tavistock Street, but Cary's map of 1801 shows the main route running down what is now Union Street. An entry in the minutes of the Improvement Commission for 1819 implies that, at that time, Union Street was considered to be part of the Clapham Road, while a sketch plan of 1750 shows what is now Dame Alice Street labelled as "Back Lane that leads to Clapham" (CRO 1344 Kk2/60). Jefferys' map of 1765 shows a very confused picture, with what is now Tavistock Street ending apparently in mid-air with no connection to the Clapham Road.

(See also the discussion re Clapham Road and Thurleigh Way in *BA* Vol 18.)

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Godstoklane, 1559 deed CRO X55/2.

LATER NAMES

Offal Lane, 1562-1603 Black Book of Bedford *BHRS* 36 p 26.
Offal Lane, 1807 Cole's Map.
Offa Street, 1835 Improvement Commission.
Tavistock Street, 1835 Improvement Commission.
Broadway, 1914 *Kelly's Directory*.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

The earliest known name, Godstoklane, refers to its function as an approach road to St Peter's Church and Graveyard. (God's stock = God's Place.) The Street was known as Offal Lane by the end of the 16th century and was the place where butchers were required to dispose of their offal under the regulations laid down in the Black Book of Bedford. Cole's Map of 1807 shows the street, with that name, to have extended from St Peter's to what is now the rear of the gaol. Beyond that, the road widened and was labelled "to Kettering and Wellingborough". At about that time this area of the town was being developed as a fashionable suburb. (The Crescent was built in 1825.) In view of this, the name Offal Lane was gentrified to Offa Street in 1835, an allusion to King Offa's reputed burial in Bedford. The extent of the road was as shown on the Cole's map, ie "from St Peter's to the Penitentiary". At the same time the Improvement Commission introduced "Tavistock Street" as running "from the Penitentiary westward towards Oakley" but in practice "Tavistock Street" stopped at Union Street, with "Clapham Road" continuing on from there, as it does today.

The name "Tavistock Street" would have been chosen as a compliment to the Marquis of Tavistock, heir to the Duke of Bedford, who was owner of land adjacent to the road. Sometime in the 1870s, the name Offa Street was dropped and Tavistock Street was applied to the whole length from St Peter's to Union Street.

"Broadway" is a comparatively recent introduction (c1914) applying to the road that runs along the western side of St Peter's Green, connecting the High Street with Tavistock Street, Foster Hill Road and De Pary's Avenue.

ALLHALLOWS

The church and rectory of Allhallows lay on the western side of this road and the Newnham Priory Rental of 1507 lists a message, adjacent to the rectory, as also being in Allhallows parish. The same rental lists property on the eastern side of the road as being in St Paul's parish. This suggests that the road marked the boundary between the two parishes. This being the case, the road almost certainly bore some relationship to the western boundary of the Saxon burh. On Haslam's model (*BA* Vol 16 p 31) the burh boundary lay just to the east of Allhallows (Haslam does not mention the parish boundary). It could, however, just as easily have lain to the west. In that case, Allhallows would have been an intra-mural road on the parish boundary comparable to the Lurke Street, Lime Street intra-mural road in Haslam's model.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Colles Lane, 1309 Newnham Priory Cartulary *BHRS* 43.

LATER NAMES

Colles Lane, 1565/66 Deed CRO DDX55/5.

Allhallows St(reet), 1610 Speed's Map.

Dines Lane, 1819 1826 1860 Improvement Commission.

All Hallows Lane, 1835 Improvement Commission.

Allhallows Lane, 1961 *Kelly's Directory*.

"Allhallows — formerly Allhallows Lane", 1963 *Kelly's Directory*.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

Colles Lane led to Colles Well which was situated at the south end of the lane in Well Street (Midland Road). The Harrold Cartulary in 1260-70 refers to "the way which leads from the graveyard of All Hallows towards Colleswelle".

The Newnham Priory Rental of 1507 mentions "the rectory of All Saints in Colleslane and the graveyard of the same". The Speed Map of 1610 names the street and shows the church of Allhallows situated at the northern end, on the western side. The church was in existence at the end of the 12th century when it was given to Newnham Priory as an endowment. The parish of Allhallows seems to have continued into the 17th century when it was absorbed into the parish of St Paul's. The church itself must have gone before the end of the 17th century as part of the site was by then occupied by the Christie Almshouses built before Christie's death in 1697. The Enclosure Map of 1795 shows the site once occupied by the church and possibly the graveyard as plot-79.

For a time in the 19th century the street was known as Dines Lane and the Improvement Commission record of June 7th 1825 states that Mr Dines had premises on the corner of the lane and Well Street (Midland Road). Allhallows Lane was the name officially adopted by the Improvement Commission in 1835 and on May 6th 1836 they record a proposal to widen Allhallows Lane to sufficient width for a cart to pass and thereafter maintain it as a public highway. Despite the adoption of the name "Allhallows Lane" in 1835, they again refer to Dines Lane in a report of January 11th 1860.

ST LOYE'S STREET

This street starts from the junction of Lime Street and Harpur Street, runs diagonally across to the western end of Dame Alice Street, then west as far as Adelaide Square, thus bridging the gap between Dame Alice Street and Bromham Road. In the previous article (*BA* Vol 18) we discussed how the diagonal of St Loye's Street appeared to be in conflict with the rectangular pattern of the streets of the northern burh and how the street breached the north-western corner of the burh defences in an awkward way. We speculated on whether this indicated a pre-burh or post-burh origin for the street. Since that article was published, our further research has revealed that the present St Loye's Street runs across what was Allhallows Green. This raises the possibility that the diagonal aspect of the street might have arisen because the street developed from a well-used short cut across what would have been an open space with public access.

EARLIEST RECORDED NAME

Allhallows Green, 1565 Deed CRO X55/5.

LATER NAMES

St Loyes Green, 1651 Corporation Minutes.

St Lloyds, 1765 Jefferys' map.

St Lloyds, 1829 *Pigot's Directory*.

St Eloise Street, 1835 May Improvement Commission.

St Loyes Street, 1835 October Improvement Commission.

EXPLANATION OF NAMES

St Loye, alias St Eloi or Eligius, was a seventh century bishop of Noyon largely responsible for bringing Christianity to that part of North West Europe now covered by Belgium and Northern France. His cult appears to have become popular in England in the fourteenth century following the marriage of Edward III to Philippa of Hainault. His name was widely associated with powers of healing; holy wells and pesthouses were dedicated to him in various parts of the country. It is the pesthouse connection which accounts for the appearance of his name in Bedford. St Loyes Chapel in Bedford is mentioned in the Court Book in 1590 (Town Hall Muniments F11/4a p53) and its position can be deduced from Speed's map of 1610 which shows the name "St Loyes" at the site of the pesthouse, the site now occupied by Trinity Church. This is well to the west of St Loye's Street which runs across the triangular space shown on Speed's map just to the east of Allhallows Church. During the lifetime of the church, this was known as Allhallows Green. St Loye's Chapel gave its name to that ward of Bedford which included both the chapel and Allhallows Green and, with the demise of the church sometime in the seventeenth century, the green came to be known as St Loye's Green.

The eighteenth and early nineteenth century form "St Lloyds" indicates how completely the identity of the saint had been lost to public knowledge by that time. The Improvement Commissioner's choice of "St Eloise Street" in May 1835 appears to have been an attempt to reinstate the original saint's name. Unfortunately they got the sex wrong and the name had to be corrected to St Loye's Street a few months later. That area of Bedford is still referred to as "St Loye's" (ie without the "street") by many Bedfordians.

CORRECTIONS TO BEDFORD'S OLDEST STREETS PART 1

The following corrections should be made to part 1 of this article which appeared in *Beds. Arch.* 18.

Gazetteer, page 106, HARPUR STREET

Under *Later Names*, the quote from the Improvement Commission (1835) should read "Harpur Street — From St Paul's Square . . ."

Gazetteer, page 108, CAULDWELL STREET

Under *Explanation of Names* in the second paragraph, the last sentence erroneously implied that the Countess Judith was alive in 1147. This sentence should read "According to S.R. Wigram in the *Chronicles of Elstow Abbey*, the Countess Judith endowed 12 acres of land at Caldwell which was to become the site of Cauldwell Priory. This must have been prior to her death which G.H. Fowler puts at c1090 (*BHRS* 9 p24)."

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Medieval Choir-Stalls at Leighton Buzzard Church, Bedfordshire

CHARLES TRACY

SUMMARY

For some 50 years now, the thesis of Frederick Gurney, buried in the pages of the Leighton Buzzard Observer, about a St Albans Abbey provenance for the choir-stalls in the guardianship of the parish church of All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, has enjoyed general acceptance. This paper re-examines the issues, in particular the heraldic evidence, formerly adduced. Also the appropriateness of the Leighton Buzzard furniture for use in a greater church, and in particular at St Albans Abbey, is considered. It emerges that there are too many inconsistencies in the arguments for the traditional view to be tenable any longer. Unfortunately, one can still only speculate on the furniture's origins. With our present state of knowledge, it is only possible to say that the stalls were made, a little later than had previously been supposed, for a greater church in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire areas.

The tradition that the early fifteenth-century choir-stalls now at Leighton Buzzard Church, Beds are from St Albans Abbey, I have always treated with some scepticism.¹ It is true that, where at the Dissolution a monastic church was converted to parish use, there is always the faint hope that some fragments at least of the choir furniture may have been saved by being employed elsewhere. In practice, this rarely occurred. There is the case of the thirteenth-century misericord at Hemingborough, North Yorks, which quite possibly came from Selby Abbey,² and the fifteenth-century misericord at the V & A, said to have come from Malmesbury Abbey,³ but these are exceptions to prove the rule. In practice, most of the fragments of woodwork that were saved from abbey choirs at the Dissolution are from houses that were altogether suppressed. Even so, the number of instances is still very few.⁴ The stalls at Leighton Buzzard are considerably later than those that are known to have been part of the early fourteenth-century east-end refurbishment at St Albans. Moreover, there is no recorded evidence to suggest that the abbey choir-stalls were burnt or replaced at any time before their removal after the Dissolution.

The documentary evidence for a substantial re-

furbishment in the liturgical choir at St Albans in the early fourteenth century is unequivocal. In 1314, during the abbacy of Hugh of Eversden, Edward II gave one hundred marks and some timber "*Ad stallam suam in choro monasterii sui ibidem emendanda*".⁵ It is clear from this that the abbey had not commissioned a completely new set of stalls. But, as at Exeter Cathedral a few years earlier,⁶ a serviceable set of seats was probably salvaged and then fitted with new canopywork. The name of the master-carpenter in charge is recorded. The *Gesta Abbatum* states that he "... and his servant (*garcio*) were paid a joint fee of 4s weekly, and that Geoffrey received a yearly robe of the suit of the Abbot's esquires, as well as other profits and fees". In view of the fact that the former liturgical choir was removed long ago, how much can be conjectured about the original arrangement? According to the local historian, Frederick Gurney, in an undated article published in the *Leighton Buzzard Observer*, probably during the 1930s, the archaeological excavations inside the abbey in 1874, in the crossing and at the east end of the nave, revealed the foundations of a single row of stalls each side, running between the eastern boundary of the crossing and the second bay of the nave.⁸ They extended about seventy-eight feet on the north side and some sixty-four feet on the south, the abbot's throne being, apparently, isolated on the south side. Gurney reported that there were sixty-eight stalls in total. The way that the pilasters on the west side of the crossing die into the walls at about eighteen feet from the ground, has been taken as suggesting the use of tall canopywork. Above the stalls between the clerestory windows there are traces of large painted figures. The thirteenth-century pulpitum, in the third bay from the east, continued in use until the late fourteenth century. It seems to have had an "ante-choir" to the west of it in front of the former rood-screen. On the south-west face of the second nave pier from the crossing, where the pulpitum began, there are the remains of the steps of a staircase to the loft above.

There seems to be no reason for the monks to have needed to change their recently re-furbished



Fig 1 All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, Beds. View of choir-stalls from West

choir-stalls in the early fifteenth century. Apart from the rood screen, the collapse of the south wall of the nave in 1323 does not seem to have affected the liturgical choir. The stalls could conceivably have been replaced as part of a wholesale re-furbishment *ensuite* with the new stone rood screen, usually dated around 1380. But this seems unlikely, since the monks had already been put to considerable expense by the costly failure of the masonry in the nave.

As is well known, St Albans Abbey was reduced to the status of a parish church on its dissolution in 1539. The liturgical choir was adapted as far as possible to the needs of the Reformed Use. By the end of the eighteenth century, at least, a gallery had been interposed on the north side of the crossing, and a pulpit on the south. In addition, box pewing was fitted from the east side of the crossing probably as far back as the stone rood-screen.⁹ Wooden panelling clothed the walls to just below capital level at the east end. Presumably, the western portion of this preaching-box-within-a-church was panelled also. Unfortunately, there seem to be no views

surviving with a westerly aspect. Certainly, it would have been very inconvenient and illogical for the parish to have retrained the abbey's choir-stalls, which would have simply got in the way.

Quite reasonably, histories of St Albans Abbey have assumed that the medieval choir-stalls were ejected at the Dissolution. In these circumstances, it is normally supposed that such woodwork would have been burnt for firewood, or left outside to rot, there being no incentive for the town to find a new home for it. By contrast, in the case of a fully suppressed rural institution, a former benefactor and landowner might arrange for the transfer of some of the contents to certain parish churches in his patronage.¹⁰

The choir-stalls at All Saints, Leighton Buzzard (Pl 1) are an incomplete set, and they are clearly refugees from a larger building. There are eleven lateral stalls each side, with six on the returns, making a total of twenty-eight seats in all. They can never have been canopied, since there are no mortises in the seat capping extensions for any uprights.¹¹ The evidence for their re-use is the fact



Figs 2a & 2b All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, Beds and Lincoln Cathedral. Lateral choir-stall junctions



Fig 3 All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
Human bust choir-stall elbow figure
with crozier



Fig 4 All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
Angel bust choir-stall elbow figure

that the doubled seat standards at the corner of the returns, which were formerly carved in the solid, have been sawn right through on each side (Pl 2a). The junction of the seat capping in the corner on the south side does not match, and there are slots for more seats visible at all four ends. The desking, where returned on the north side, does not fit together properly as it does on the south, a clear indication of some later interference with the original scheme. Presumably, in the first place, there would have been four return stalls each side, a possibility quite beyond the capacity of the Leighton Buzzard choir.

In terms of carving, the furniture is only of run-of-the-mill quality. On the other hand, it contains a number of interesting stylistic features. The human bust elbows, some of them with their personal emblems, are of the common fifteenth-century type (Pl 3).¹² The winged figures (Pl 4), with their feathers tucked under, along the seat standard moulding, and long fingers running down the edge of the divider, probably occur for the first time at Lincoln, c1370.¹³ The stone plinth upon which the stalls sit is, again, an example of a convention that was ubiquitous in the fifteenth century. It is comparatively shallow with discreet ventilation holes, as again found for the first time at Lincoln Minster. The corner seat junction standards at Leighton Buzzard are both of the Lincoln type (Pl 2b) with a crowned head above a column. In both cases the treatment of the hair, with the cork-screw curls, conforms to the late fourteenth-century type. The misericord of a face with brimmed hat (Pl 5) displays the fleuron, the "trade-mark" of the Lincoln stalls. On the other hand his forked hair-style seems to point to an early fifteenth-century date. An example in some ways comparable would be the head of a bishop on a misericord (N7) at Ludlow Church, carved c1415-25.¹⁴ Finally, the lion's head misericord (N6) strongly recalls the Lincoln treatment of the same motif. All these stylistic characteristics point to the date of manufacture in the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century.

There have been a number of different theories put forward as to the origin of these stalls, the most plausible based on the heraldry displayed on the misericords. In 1930 a somewhat fanciful suggestion that the furniture came from Fountains Abbey was made by a Mr Joseph Procter, whose ancestor was living at Leighton Buzzard at the beginning of the seventeenth century.¹⁵ His father, having acquired Fountains Abbey, dismantled the church in 1609. Without a shred of evidence in support Mr Procter

suggested that his ancestor might have arranged for the Yorkshire choir-stalls to be shipped down to Leighton!

In 1913 the local historian Mr R. Richmond wrote to the College of Arms for advice about the heraldry on the misericords. The response suggested a number of lines of investigation.¹⁶ However, it was not until the 1930s that there was an attempt to draw any conclusions. At that time Gurney's article, which set out to solve the problems of the identity of the coats and the origins of the stalls once and for all, was published.¹⁷ He pointed out that the stalls must have been inserted after the destruction of the rood-loft in 1562. He observed that, as there must originally have been eight return stalls, a choir very much wider than the one at Leighton Buzzard, of almost twenty-nine feet, would have been needed to accommodate them. Finally, on the basis of his identification of the coats on the misericords he claimed that the stalls originated from St Albans Abbey.

The shields with a chevron between three lions' masks (S2; Pl 6) were the arms of the Frowick family, of South Mimms, Middlesex.¹⁸ It was correctly postulated that the devices on the misericords were the arms of two brothers, Thomas and Henry Frowick. Usually, the shield of the younger brother, Henry, bearing a molet for distinction, are displayed on the dexter side. A molet should be the mark of the third son, not the second. On the other hand, at this juncture, a fully consistent system of cadency marks had probably not been worked out.¹⁹ In any case, Henry's priority in this context probably tells us something about the relative prestigiousness of his social position, and his role as artistic patron. Gurney correctly states that Henry, who lived at Gunnersbury, was a wealthy merchant. He was a mercer, and alderman of the City of London 1424-57. Unfortunately, Gurney, apparently not realising that the brothers' father and grandfather were both called Henry, inadvertently skipped a generation in the pedigree, confusing the grandfather with the father.²⁰ He associated the family closely with St Albans, pointing out that Thomas Frowick held the manor of South Mimms in his wife's right. He also stated that the Henry Frowick, who died in 1384, was active on the town and monastery's behalf during the Peasants' Revolt.

The shield with the roundel and rings (S8; Pl 7) was identified by Gurney as that of a Thomas Thorneburgh. He was born at Selside in Westmorland, and being a younger son became a lawyer and, in 1391, took up the office of Steward of the Abbey



Fig 5 All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, Beds. Misericord with man in brimmed hat



Fig 6 All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, Beds. Misericord S2



Fig 7 All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, Beds. Misericord S8

of St Albans. He also worked for the fourth Earl of Warwick "himself the hereditary friend and protector of the Abbey".²¹ On moving to London in 1402 he kept his house in St Albans. Gurney claimed to have found his will and stated that Thorneburgh was buried in the abbey. The fleur-de-lys in the central ring at the top of the shield, it was claimed, was used to distinguish his arms from those of his brother, although it was normally the cadency mark of the sixth son.²²

The arms on the sinister side of this misericord were identified as the older shield of the earldom of Warwick. This belonged in the first place to a thirteenth century earl called Neubourg. It was pointed out that there should have been ermine spots on the chevron, and, indeed, claimed that one of them could still be made out. Its position alongside the Thorneburgh shield was seen as entirely consistent with the relationship of the two parties. The identity of these coats agreed with the College of Arms opinion.

The shield on the sinister side of misericord N1 (Pl 8) was associated with John Aynel of Pendley, who died before March 1402. It was claimed that the carving on the left side was an *Agnus Dei*,²³ which has been split away. However, after looking carefully at the damage, it seems much more likely that there

was originally a heater-shaped shield in that position. This is another family closely connected with St Albans, this time, by land holding. The shield on the dexter side was attributed to that of John Crowmer or Cromer of Aldenham, Herts. His dates are not known but his son was Lord Mayor of London in 1413 and 1423. The Crowmers' land at Aldenham belonged to the abbots of St Albans. The first crow on the shield faces sinister, unlike the other two which it should follow. Certainly, the three crows face to dexter on the Crowmer monuments at Aldenham Church.

The misericord S1 (Pl 9) bears the swan badge of the Earls of Warwick and the arms of Beauchamp — the fess and six crosslets — on the dexter side. The shield was associated by Gurney with Earl Thomas, who died in 1401. In summing up his arguments, Gurney states that the name of St Albans keeps occurring throughout the series "like a refrain". "We have the personal emblems of its chief tenants — of its hereditary friend and chief lay-patron, the earl — and of the steward and judge of its courts" (Thorneburgh). Finally in his view, the identity of the saltire cross on the sinister side of S1 cannot refer to the Nevilles. It can only be the attribute of St Albans Abbey.

Gurney suggested that the choir-stalls were made



Fig 8 All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, Beds. Misericord N1



Fig 9 All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, Beds. Misericord S1

at the very end of the fourteenth century, perhaps a little earlier than they would be dated on stylistic grounds. He states that the furniture must have come from the abbey itself, because there was no other building within its jurisdiction big enough to take it. Gurney's arguments have been given a full airing here because they were not properly published at the time. More importantly, they were the source of the improbable tradition that the Leighton Buzzard stalls came from St Albans Abbey.

John Goodall has pointed out that the College of Arms in 1913 would have been unable to judge instances of arms as early as these, as their records are entirely post-medieval.²⁴ The records on which they would have had to depend at that time, the late fifteenth-century grants and the Herald's Visitations from 1530 to the late 1680s, were far too late for this purpose. He goes on to refute nearly every one of Gurney's heraldic attributions in the following terms: "The arms of Thorneburgh of Selside (S8, dexter) were not as suggested (their's was a pretty coat). The identification of the chequy coat with a *plain* chevron (S8, sinister) as the arms borne by the Beaumont earls of Warwick seems unlikely. I do not recall ever seeing carved heraldry with ermine spots just painted on when all the other parts of the design appear in relief."²⁵ He could find no evidence for the use of the coats ascribed to Aynel in medieval sources (N1). Goodall has warned that any argument based on the Aldenham tombs, said to be connected with the Crowmer family, must be prey to doubt, because the monuments have been comprehensively restored. In any case, the chevron at Aldenham is engrailed. It might refer to the Kent Crowmers. Finally, Goodall says "Beauchamp and the saltire coat (S1) should be read together as referring to Richard (Neville) earl of Salisbury who was recognised as earl of Warwick *jure uxoris* in 1449". Thus a modern historical gloss has fatally undermined a traditional and accepted thesis!

We are left with two pairs of identifiable coats, the Beauchamp/Neville (S1) and the Frowick (S2) misericords. The components of each pair have filial or marriage connections. Doubtless, the other two misericords would show similar features if they could be identified. Richard Neville married Alice, only child of Thomas de Montacute, fourth earl of Salisbury in 1425. Alice was heiress of the Beauchamp title. Although he was not recognised as earl of Warwick until the death of his aunt in 1449, he could have used the Beauchamp coat of arms as on the misericord at any time after his

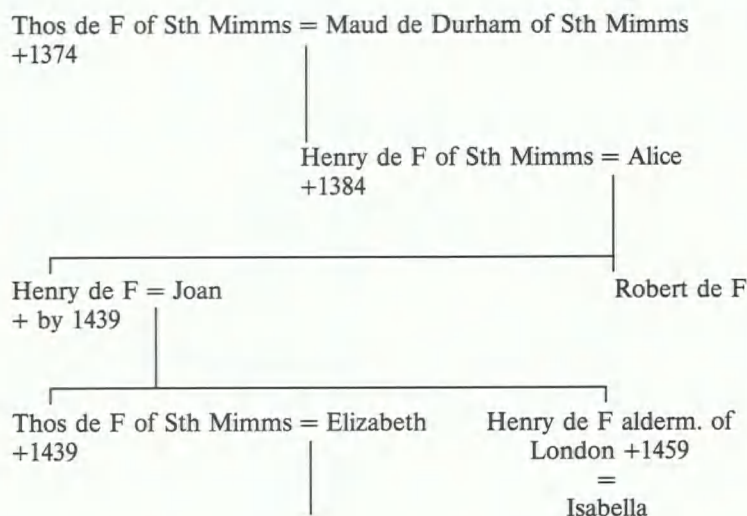
marriage.²⁶ About the adduced Frowick coats, Goodall says: "Henry Frowick mercer and alderman of London bore the arms with a molet for difference and died in 1459. There are, of course, other families with the same basic design in medieval records but, given the location, I would think that Frowick is the most likely."²⁷ Thus Gurney's interpretation of this misericord, and the Beauchamp identification on S1, are the only ones allowed to stand. Henry Frowick's aldermanic period of office was 1424-57. Thus the two identifiable misericords could have been made at any time from around 1425. On stylistic grounds a date of c1430 is probably appropriate.

Unfortunately, there are no comparable surviving sets of choir-stalls in the area. The only other Gothic furniture is at St Paul's, Bedford, but the choir-stalls there on stylistic grounds must be considerably earlier.²⁸

We should now return to Gurney's speculations about the origins of the choir-stalls. In his arguments he got himself into difficulties over the matter of canopywork. He noticed, correctly, that there were no uprights on the Leighton Buzzard stalls, to carry a superstructure. He surmised that they must have been "of the type of the magnificent work at Chester". But the Chester stalls did have columns on the seat capping in the first place, as is shown in the measured drawing by R.C. Hussey, of c1850.²⁹ These were subsequently removed by George Gilbert Scott. The Leighton Buzzard stalls were probably of the single-screen type, being provided with panelled, traceried and corniced wainscoting behind. Ambitious canopywork in England was in any case a characteristic of north-country joinery, for instance in this context the lost choir-stalls at York Minster, probably finished by 1420.³⁰ The height of the chamfering on the western arches of the crossing at St Albans at about eighteen feet, is considerably greater than would have been required for choir-stall canopywork, unless the design followed the formula of Lyngwode's early fourteenth-century furniture at Winchester Cathedral, which is very unlikely. In any case the alterations referred to are more comprehensive than simply a chamfering off of the pilaster, as the masonry is stripped right back to the core of the pier. The method is very crude, and is more likely to be a post-medieval modification, probably connected with the parochial fitting out of the former liturgical choir.

The proposed dating of the Leighton Buzzard furniture falls within the abbacy of Wheathamp-

Fig 1 Pedigree of the Frowick family



stead, at St Albans. The last-named, during his first abbacy 1420-40, was an active patron.³¹ But there is no record of any call for new choir-stalls, or for their manufacture.

Unfortunately, the plan of Gilbert Scott's excavations of the crossing and the eastern part of the nave at St Albans, referred to by Gurney, cannot now be found. But if the arrangement of the stalls was in two straight lines, as he intimates, it would have been very unusual for an English choir.³² On the other hand, it seems unlikely that he would have been mistaken in his interpretation of the plan, and it certainly rings true for a monastery that there was only a single row of stalls each side with no substalls. If, indeed, there never were any return stalls at St Albans, clearly the Leighton Buzzard furniture could not have come from there.

It now seems that the received idea that these stalls came from St Albans Abbey can no longer be sustained. Neither Richard Neville, nor Henry Frowick seems to have had any close ties with the abbey, and in any case the form of the stalls themselves mitigates strongly against the thesis. It would be satisfactory, in conclusion, if the original location of the furniture could be pinned down. It would have to have been a substantial building, not too far away from Leighton Buzzard. However, there is so little to go on that it seems unlikely that the problem will ever be solved. There were ten "greater monasteries" in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, within the definition

laid down at the time of the Dissolution, as those institutions with an annual income greater than two hundred pounds.³³ Two of the Bedfordshire houses had Beauchamp connections. At Cistercian Warden, Simon, Hugh and William de Beauchamp were among the benefactors.³⁴ Augustinian Newnham was founded by Simon de Beauchamp in about 1166.³⁵ But, of course, these were the Bedford Beauchamps, who bore quarterly gold and gules a bend gules, not the fess and crosslets coat. Therefore, for the time being at least, the origins of the Leighton Buzzard choir-stalls are an enigma.

NOTES

- 1 Most recently reiterated in John Lea, *Grotesque Wood Carvings in Bedfordshire Church Stalls*, *Beds Mag*, 4, 25, 27-28.
- 2 Hemingborough Church did not become collegiate until 1426. See *VCH, Yorkshire East Riding*, III, 42.
- 3 Charles Tracy, *English Medieval Furniture and Woodwork, V & A Museum*, London, 1988, Cat 87.
- 4 One could cite the Osney Priory, Oxon stalls (now at Kidlington Church, Oxon) from the thirteenth century. There is hardly a single example from the fourteenth century, whereas rather more from the fifteenth century, such as the Whalley Abbey, Lancs stalls (now at Whalley Church), Jervaulx Abbey, Yorks desk ends (now at Aysgarth Church) and Bridlington Priory, Yorks desk ends (now at Leake Church, North Riding, Yorks). The last three examples are discussed in Charles Tracy, *English Gothic Choir-Stalls, 1400-1540*, Woodbridge, 1990.
- 5 Close Rolls, Edward II, m.6.
- 6 Charles Tracy, "The early fourteenth-century choir-stalls at Exeter Cathedral", *The Burlington Magazine*, CXXVIII, Feb 1986, 99-103.

- 7 Quoted from John Harvey, *English Medieval Architects*, Gloucester, revd ed. 1984, 114-15. The source is H.T. Riley, ed., *Gesta Abbatum Mon. S. Albani* (Rolls Series, 1867-69), II, 281.
- 8 Frederick G. Gurney, "Leighton Choir Stalls. Origin Traced. Removed from St Albans Abbey", n.d., see County Record Office, Bedford, P91/2/32.
- 9 See Cat 136 in T. Girtin and D. Loshak, *The Art of Thomas Girtin*, London, 1954, where two similar watercolour views of the nave and crossing looking east are listed. One was drawn between 1795 and 1796; the other is dated 1796. There are photographs of each in the Gerald Cobb archive at the NMR. In the eighteenth century there was a Georgian gallery west of the rood-screen with an organ above.
- 10 An example is the adduced intervention of the Yorkshire Scrope family. See J.S. Purvis, "The Ripon carvers and the lost choir-stalls of Bridlington Priory", *Yorkshire Archaeological Jnl*, XXIX, 1929, 157-201.
- 11 There are mortises behind the dignitaries' seats in the return stalls, presumably for a backing screen and entrance arch.
- 12 Saints with their attributes which have been identified at Leighton Buzzard are St Paul, with his sword; St Andrew, with the saltire cross; St James the Less, with his fuller's club; St Bartholomew with a flaying knife; and St Jude, with a missionary's preaching cross.
- 13 See M.D. Anderson, "The choir-stalls of Lincoln Minster", Lincoln, 1967, Fig 27.
- 14 At Ludlow the head-band of the mitre is also decorated with fleurons. See Charles Tracy, *English Gothic Choir-Stalls. 1400-1540*, Woodbridge, 1990, Pl 37.
- 15 Letter to Mr R. Richmond of Leighton Buzzard, dated 14 June, 1930. County Record Office, Bedford, P91/2/32.
- 16 It is worth quoting the reply in full:
 "1 (S8; Pl 7). Azure on a fess or three torteaux in chief as many annulets gules in the centre on a fleur de lys of the second, a (apparently) coat of Thornborough. It is not recorded and is quite different from the authorised coat of the Yorkshire family of that name but I find it mentioned.
 2 (S8; Pl 7). Chequy a chevron — chequy or and gules a chevron of the first, is a coat of Botreaux of Co. Warwick, chequy or and azure a chevron ermine, is Newburgh, Earl of Warwick.
 3 (S2; Pl 6). Sable a chevron between three leopards faces or is the coat of Wentworth.
 4 (S1; Pl 9). A fess between six cross crosslets. Gules a fess between six crosslets or is Beauchamp Earl of Warwick. Azure a fess between six crosslets argent is coat of Haversham. Gules a fess six crosslets argent. Sir Piers de Arderne.
 5 (S1; Pl 9). A saltire. Gules a saltire argent. Neville. Azure saltire argent. See of St Albans. But there are many others and it is impossible to identify.
 6 (N1; Pl 8). Two chevronels. Impossible to identify as there are many.
 7 (N1; Pl 8). A chevron between three birds. "I do not find any recorded coat with the two birds chief respecting one another and apart from this it is quite impossible to identify." Letter from G. Woods Wollaston, Bluemantle, College of Arms, October 13 1913, in the County Record Office, Bedford, P91/2/32.
- 17 See Note 8.
- 18 For the genealogy of the Frowicks, see Sylvia L. Thrupp, *The Merchant Class of Medieval London (1300-1500)*, Chicago, 1948, 342-44.
- 19 A suggestion made by Mrs Frances Robson.
- 20 John Goodall has kindly provided a Frowick pedigree for this period. See Fig 1.
- 21 "The Lord Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and his Countess Margaret, bore great affection to this church; and gave some timber for the repair of the refectory." See Peter Newcombe, *The History of the Ancient and Royal Foundation called The Abbey of St Alban, London, 1795*.
- 22 Information by letter from Mrs Robson.
- 23 In old French, "agnel".
- 24 John Goodall's heraldry expertise has been invaluable to the preparation of this paper.
- 25 This and other quotations, below, are from a letter to the writer.
- 26 On 3 May 1429 the judges and peers of the Great Council confirmed Neville's claims to the title of Earl of Salisbury, in right of his wife, until the king came of age. See DNB, 1894, XL, 279.
- 27 Goodall has suggested that Henry's priority on the misericord carving probably reflects his high status as a Mercer.
- 28 They were dated by Remnant as probably early fifteenth-century. See G.L. Remnant, *A Catalogue of Misericords in Great Britain*, Oxford, 1969. 1. Here, Remnant was following the known building history at St Paul's, the chancel probably being rebuilt at the beginning of the fifteenth century. However, this sadly-mutilated furniture, which is of considerably higher quality than the Leighton Buzzard work, cannot have been made later than c1390, and could be anything up to twenty years older. The treatment of foliage is reminiscent of the choir-stalls at Lincoln Cathedral of c1370. The bearded profile head on a misericord, now mutilated, is very close indeed to the one on a misericord from the Carmelite friary at Coventry and is related to another on a misericord from the choir-stalls at St Katherine's Hospital-by-the-Tower, London. Both these monuments are of the mid 1360s. (See Tracy [1987], Pls 181 & 182, and Chapter 9.) The charged shield on misericord S4 at Bedford is referred to by Remnant as displaying the town arms. He describes the decoration as "diapered a cross fleury". The shield is certainly diapered but the foliage is closer to a rose or flower on a stem with leaves either side. This is more likely to be the artist's conceit rather than an accurate rendering of any specific heraldry. Blades gives the arms of Bedford as "An eagle displayed looking to the sinister with wings inverted sable, ducally crowned or, on the eagle a large castle surmounted by two more one above the other or" (see F.A. Blaydes [ed], *The Visitations of Bedfordshire, The Harleian Society*, XIX, 1904, 1. They are illustrated in G. Pedrick, *Borough seals of the Gothic period*, London, 1904, Pl 43). Although the Bedford misericord has been mutilated at the top and curtailed at the bottom, it is clear that it could never have taken the form of the town arms. The castle may once have been double-storied, but was never backed by an eagle. Castles were depicted on misericords in the fourteenth century at Lincoln and Chester cathedrals, and at Enville, Staffs and Boston, Lincs. These examples are all associated with an illustration of the popular legend of Sir Yvain, who became trapped in a castle portcullis. The Bedford misericord may very well refer to a particular castle. Unfortunately the other heraldry on the misericords at Bedford (N4) has not yet been identified with any certainty. At this moment, therefore, we cannot be sure that the extant stalls were intended for this church, particularly as they do not coincide with any known building activity in the later fourteenth century. (See also remarks about this misericord in F.W. Kuhlicke, "A Bedfordshire Armorial", *The Bedfordshire*

Magazine, 2 no. 15, Winter 1950/51, 270-72.)

29 See Charles Tracy, *English Gothic Choir-Stalls. 1200-1400*, Woodbridge, 1987, Pl 177.

30 See Tracy (1990), 24, Note 46, Pl 80.

31 He put in a great window in the west front, a chapel at the south-east corner of the Lady Chapel, and a chapel, no longer extant, south of the first bay from the east of the south aisle of the presbytery.

32 The early fourteenth-century choir-stalls at Cologne Cathedral are ranged in two straight double lines.

33 Elstow, Dunstable, Warden, Chicksands, Newnham and Woburn (Beds); Missenden, Nutley and Ashridge (Bucks); and St Albans (Herts).

34 *VCH*, Beds, I, 1904, 46.

35 *VCH*, Beds, I, 1904, 48 *et seqq.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the Reverend Peter Whittaker, vicar of All Saints' Church, Leighton Buzzard for allowing me to examine and photograph the choir-stalls. I am particularly indebted to Mr John Goodall for his advice on the heraldry of the misericords. My thanks also to Mrs Frances Robson, Mrs Gene Peyton-Jones, Mr Frank Kilvington and Dr Eileen Roberts, and to others who have helped in small but important ways.

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Field Surveys in Bedfordshire

DAVID HALL

SUMMARY

Four parishes in the south of Bedfordshire were surveyed field-by-field for archaeological "sites" and for the remains of medieval fields. Many prehistoric and Roman sites were discovered, forming a density similar to that found previously in the north of the county. The medieval field-patterns were reconstructed from the linear banks that represent furlong boundaries.

INTRODUCTION

During 1977-8 several Bedfordshire parishes were surveyed in the southern part of the county. This was undertaken to compliment the fieldwork undertaken in North Bedfordshire between 1966-72 where many new sites were discovered (Hall and Nickerson 1966; Hall and Hutchings 1972). It was of interest to discover whether the remainder of the county was similarly dense in remains of pre-medieval activity. The surveys were more detailed than those previously made in that the medieval field-boundaries were recorded from which the complete open-field pattern was reconstructed.

The parishes studied in the first instance were Higham Gobion, Sundon and Barton le Clay, with Edworth added in 1983.

METHOD

The fieldwork technique used was to walk over each field in the parish in strips of 100 metres width, when land was suitably weathered in winter. Early sites were identified by the discovery of concentrations of artifacts, domestic bone fragments, burnt stone and other occupational debris. Iron Age and Roman sites were often indicated by a dark stain on the field surface, particularly at the Iron Age remains of Barton le Clay. When a "site" was discovered walking lines were reduced to five metres to collect artifact samples.

Medieval field boundaries were identified by the occurrence of long linear banks of soil that had accumulated at the edges of groups of strips (furlongs). These were plotted on 1:10560 scale Ordnance Survey maps, of which copies were used in the field. The orientations of individual lands

were sometimes visible as soilmarks or could be worked out satisfactorily from the field pattern itself. The methods follow those previously used (Hall 1972 and 1981).

RESULTS

The results of the studies are presented here in the form of parish maps. The site locations are indicated by letters and numbers marked where there are spreads of artifacts; the earthwork boundaries of the medieval fields are drawn as thin lines. The strips are schematic only, but the orientations are believed to be correct. Grid references (NGR) are given to the nearest kilometre only; full details may be found in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

Barton le Clay

SITES

No	NGR	SMR No	Description
1	TL 09 33	7998	Dark area with Iron Age sherds, pebbles, 1 piece of 2nd century Roman pottery. Clay and flint.
2	TL 08 32	9352	Dark area with Iron Age sherds at the SW, and also Belgic and Roman sherds at the NE. A large site; a loomweight. Clay.
3	TL 08 32	9353	Iron Age sherds and a saddle quern fragment. Clay.
4	TL 09 28	14739	Two neolithic flint scatters and a few sherds.
5	TL 09 30	9354	Dark sandy pottery of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon date. Clay.
6	TL 09 31	9355	Dark area with Iron Age sherds. Clay.
7	TL 07 31	3447	Saxon and medieval sherds. Clay.

The medieval fields of Barton are split into two parts by the steep scarp of chalk. This was not ploughable and presumably served as the common pasture for grazing the village animals. Some earthworks of hollow ways and ditches occur to the west at Brook End Green (SMR 3447).

Edworth

No new sites were discovered in this parish because when surveyed the ground was frozen, and only the

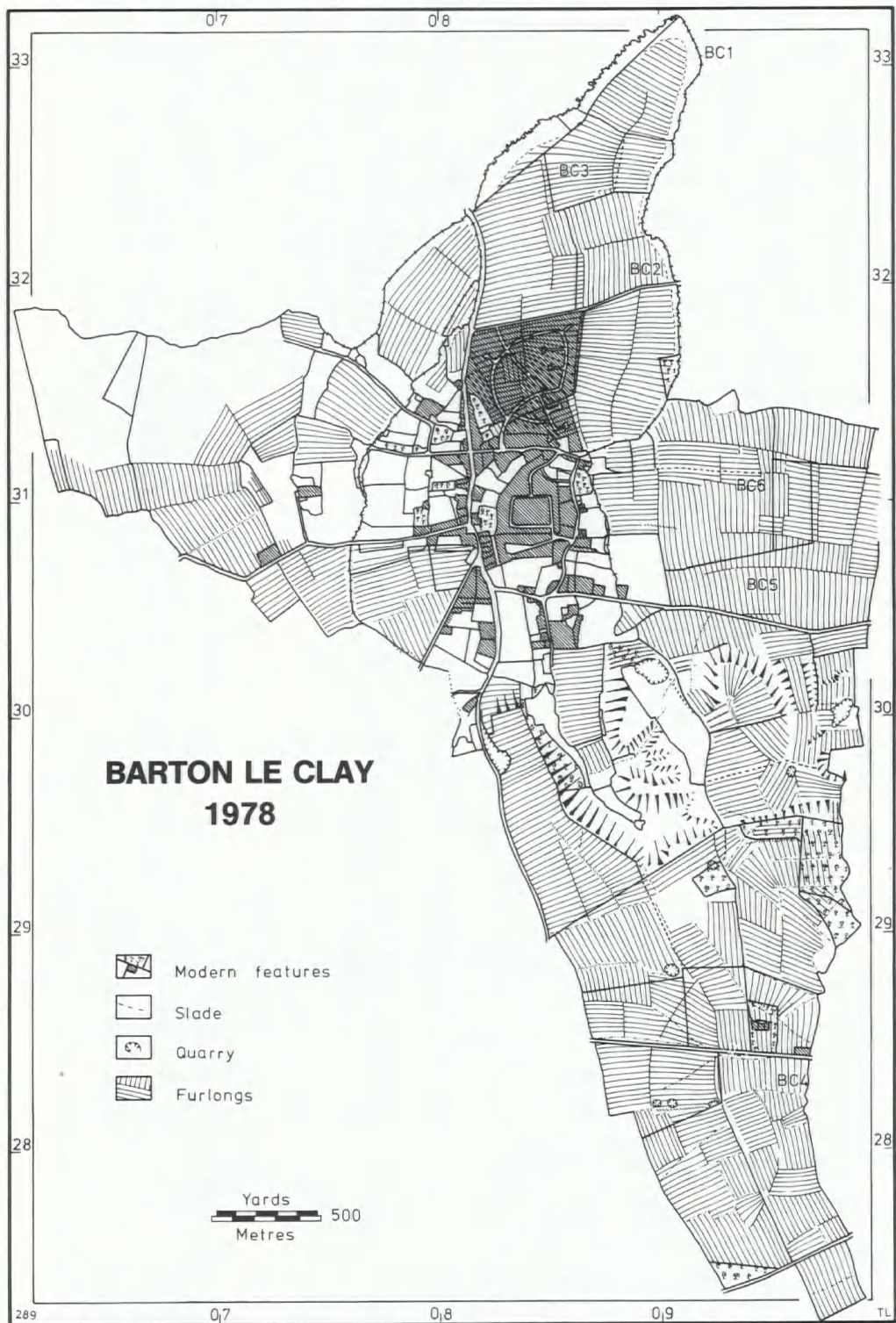


Fig 1 Barton le Clay archaeological survey 1978

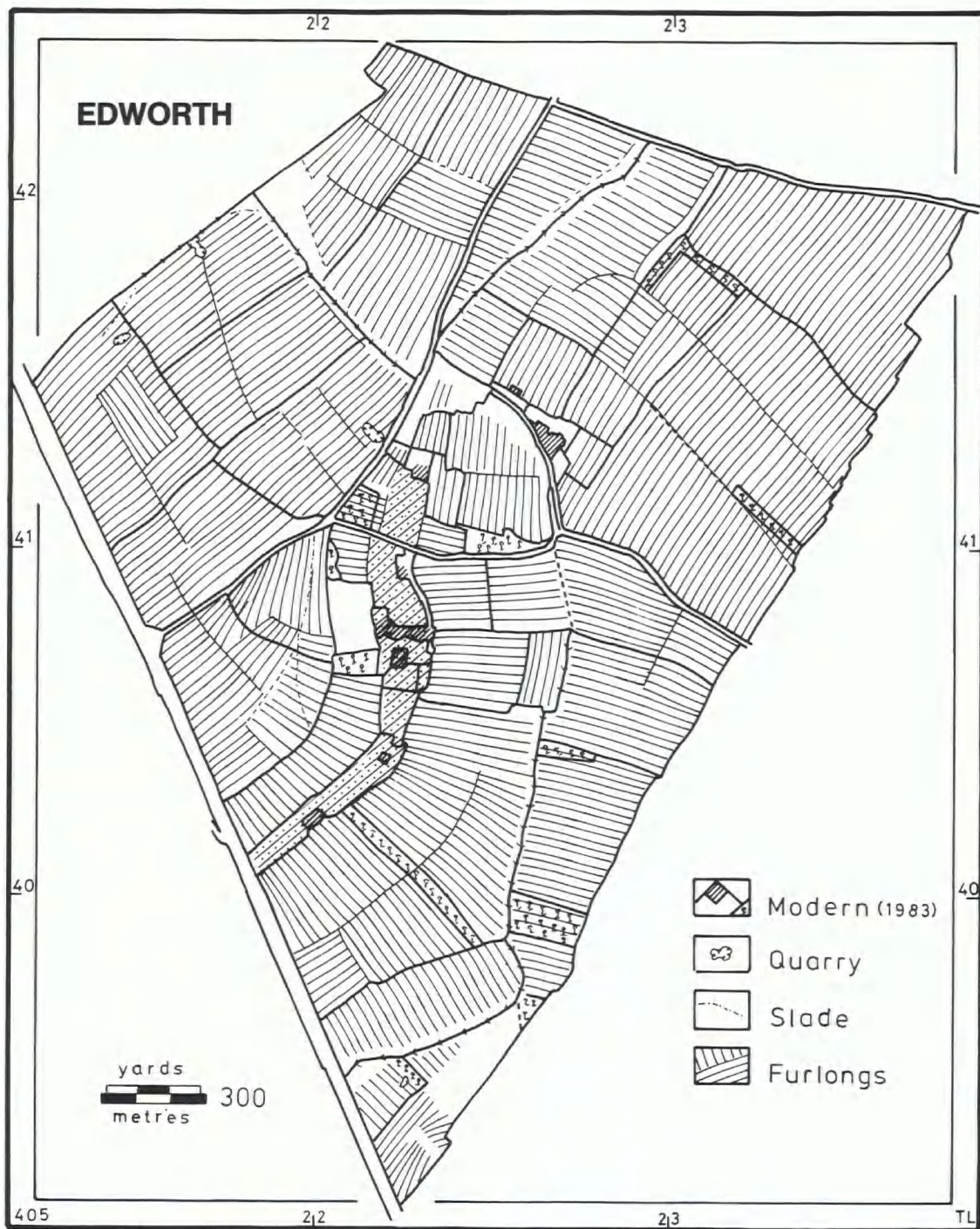


Fig 2 Edworth archaeological survey 1983; the village earthworks are marked by the stippled band

medieval boundaries could be seen. From the information already available in the County Sites and Monuments record it is clear that most of the cropmark sites occur only on clayey Till. This highlights the local relativity of what is a "good" soil; in most areas boulder clay is the worst and unpreferred geology for settlement, but at Edworth it is the best, being preferable to the impermeable Jurassic clay.

Geology also dominates the medieval vill, which lies along the boundary between the two clay types at the spring line. The vill plan has an unusually linear "drove" form, superficially like a fen drove settlement. A large scale plan of these earthworks was made in 1983 (by John Wood, in the SMR).

Higham Gobion

SITES

No	NGR	SMR No	Description
1	TL 10 32	1804	Cropmarks; no finds.
2	TL 10 25	9348	A few worked flints. Glacial gravel.
3	TL 09 33	9349	Iron Age sherds and occupational debris. Gault Clay.
4	TL 09 31	9350	Iron Age sherds on Gault Clay.

The village is shrunken with a few house plots visible (SMR 773). There are the earthworks of a large fishpond to the north of them (TL 10 33; SMR 404).

Sundon

SITES

No	NGR	SMR No	Description
1	TL 04 26	8903	Worked flints, boulder clay.
2	TL 05 26	9308	Iron Age sherds, burnt pebbles etc. Chalky clay.
3	TL 04 27	9309	Dark area with much burnt stone; Roman sherds. Clayey chalk.
4	TL 05 27	9310	Large Iron Age site with some Belgic sherds and a possible house site. A complex of soilmarks of enclosures visible, that probably extend beyond the sherd area. Boulder clay.
5	TL 06 26	9332	Gritty hand-made sherds of Iron Age date. Dark area with many burnt pebbles.
6	TL 06 27	9333	Dark area with many Roman sherds, fragments of querns made of puddingstone and sandstone.
7	TL 06 28	9334	Slightly dark area with Neolithic flints, flint-gritted pottery and Roman sherds.
8	TL 05 27	9341	A few Roman sherds and burnt pebbles from a dark area; clay.

No	NGR	SMR No	Description
9	TL 06 28	9343	Belgic sherds from a dark area; gravelly clay.
10	TL 04 27	9342	Saxon sherds and a glass bead; glacial gravel.
	TL 05 27	9338	Burnt pebble area of probable prehistoric cooking site.
	TL 05 28	9337	Two small tile kiln sites, 17/18th century.
	TL 05 27	9337	

There are the two vills of Upper and Lower Sundon (SMR 5469, 3558), both very shrunken, of which more detailed plans of the earthwork hollow ways and property boundaries have been made by R. Fowler and the Manshead Archaeological Society. Sundon Wood (TL 05 26; SMR 9340) and Holt Wood (TL 06 28; SMR 9339) are likely to be medieval since they are surrounded by ramparts. The area to the west is quarried and destroyed; land west of the M1 was not investigated.

CONCLUSIONS

The occurrence of pre-medieval sites is seen to be similar to the north of the county. There were several new sites discovered, mainly dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods and lying on heavy soils that are unresponsive to conditions that give rise to cropmarks. The number of Iron Age sites is considerable, they presumably relate to the hill forts in the region.

Most of the soils in the chosen parishes were not as different from the north as might have been expected because the chalk of Sundon and Barton is largely covered by Till (boulder clay). The Jurassic clay (Gault) on the lower ground of Barton was more densely occupied than expected. Studies elsewhere show that these clays are generally avoided (eg north of Cambridge where a 5,000 hectare sample was found barren; Hall forthcoming). The recorded archaeology of Edworth supports this finding also, where most of the cropmark sites occur on the Till clays and not on Jurassic clay.

The locations of the sites discovered follow the distribution pattern first reported in 1966 and subsequently; early prehistoric and Saxon sites normally occur only on light soils, but those of the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods spread on to heavier clays. This settlement pattern has been observed throughout the south-east Midlands and on the Yorkshire Wolds; it is probably the same throughout the country and Europe.

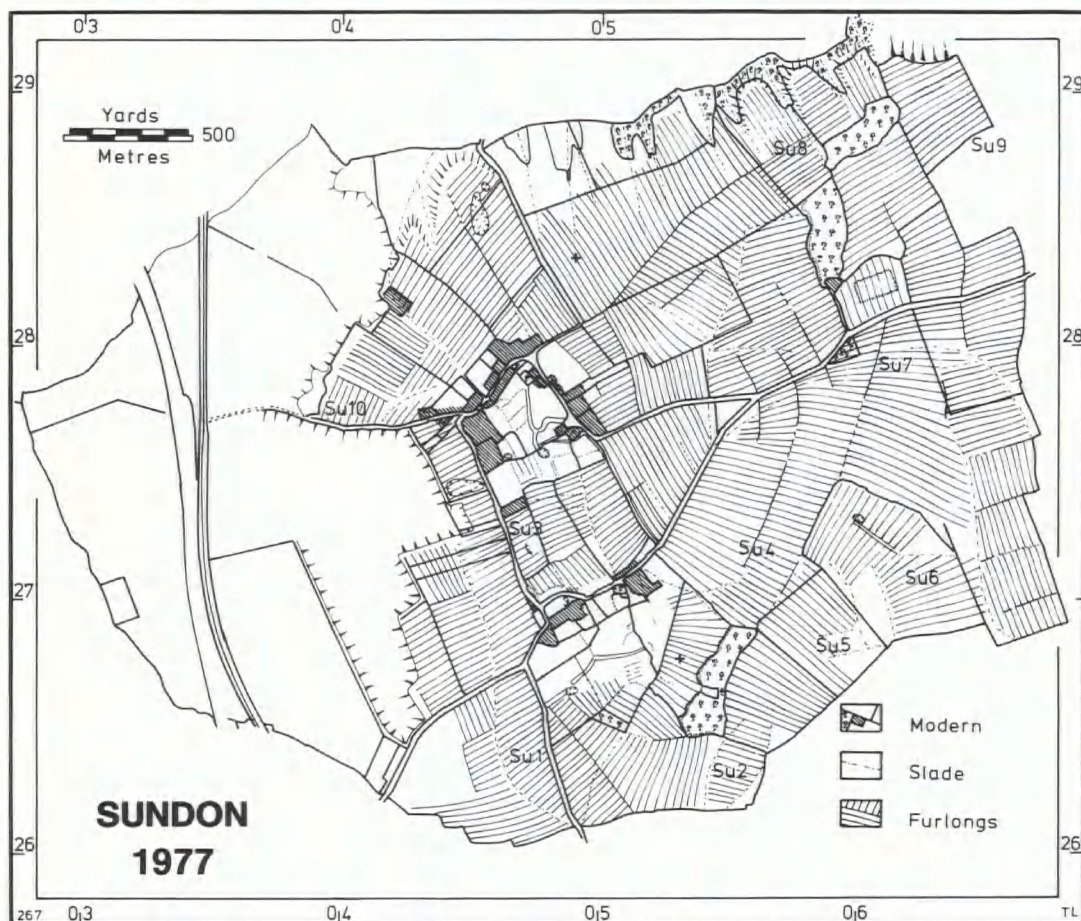


Fig 4 Sundon archaeological survey 1977

MEDIEVAL FIELDS

The field patterns all show a normal checkerboard arrangement found in most of the English lowlands that have an undulating terrain. The fields (furlongs) are a response to the contours, given that the furrows need to drain down the steepest gradient.

It should be possible to work out the furlong names and field structure from the available historical sources, especially for Barton which has detailed medieval records originating from the muniments of Ramsey abbey, to which it belonged.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful for help given in the field by Paul Martin, Ron Fowler and John Bailey, and to all the farmers for access to their

land, which was arranged by John Bailey, John Hutchings, Ron Fowler and David Sydenham. Angela Simco and Steven Coleman kindly provided data from the County Sites and Monuments Record.

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Fieldwalking at Houghton Regis and Caddington, South Bedfordshire 1988-90

R.E.T. HUDSPITH

SUMMARY

This paper is an interim report on fieldwork which is currently still in progress in South Bedfordshire.

Over the last two winters, a fieldwalking survey has been carried out on some of the remaining arable land in South Bedfordshire. So far, two areas have been surveyed: c3.75 km² on the chalkland around Houghton Regis, and c5 km² on the upland, covered by



Fig 2 Bedfordshire: the study area

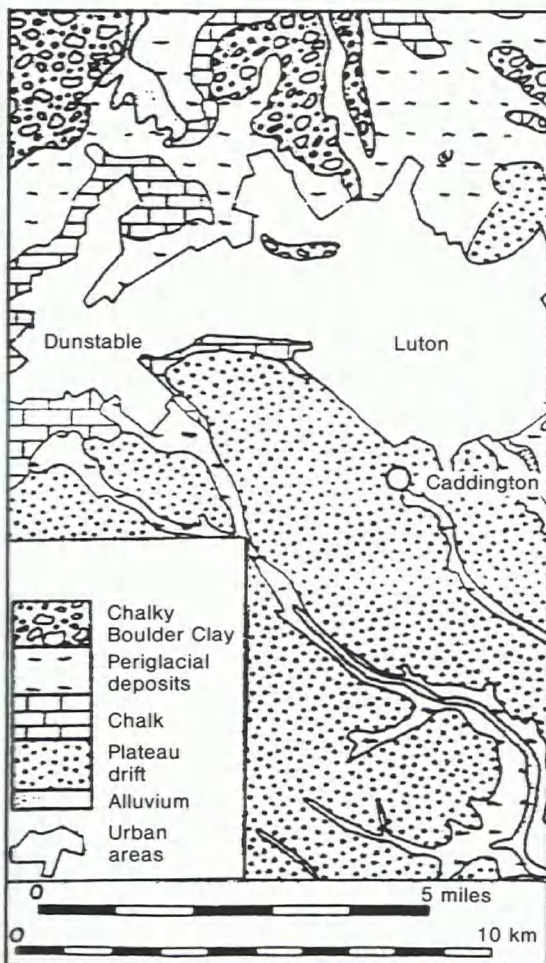


Fig 1 Map A: Superficial geology, South Bedfordshire (after Hagen, 1973)

clay with flints, around Caddington. Half of this area was fieldwalked by members of the Manshead Archaeological Society; the rest of the survey work was completed by the writer.

The aim of the survey has been to try and recover, by fieldwalking, the evidence (and pattern) of settlements in the area from the mesolithic to medieval periods.

LOCATION

Caddington is situated on a clay with flints covered plateau, height 150-200 m OD. There are steep scarp slopes to the North and West, with a more gentle dip slope to the South East. The plateau is dissected by dry river valleys running North West-South East. The current land use is mainly arable with the landscape retaining some enclosure hedgerows and areas of woodland. Houghton Regis is situated on a chalk ridge, height 125m OD. The main features of the area are the Ouzel brook valley to the North, which rises to a clay covered ridge (height 130m OD). The Ouzel drains to the West; other streams

drain to the North from the ridge near Chalton, and South East from Houghton Regis. The current land use is arable; many of the enclosure hedges have been removed from fields in this area leaving large tracts of arable land.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Our knowledge of the area's archaeology derives from the pioneering fieldwork of W.G. Smith (*Dunstable: Its History and Surroundings*, 1904) and F. Gurney (various notebooks and map c1913-22 at Luton Museum). The Manshead Archaeological Society has recovered much information on the archaeology of Dunstable and its surrounding area, mainly from rescue excavations, over the past 40 years. The Society carried out limited fieldwalking around the two small excavation sites of Chalton and Bidwell' (Fig 4, nos 1 and 2). Land at Zouches Farm, Caddington, outside the survey area, has been walked by M. Wilmot and R. Holgate (pers comm). The discovery of several previously unrecorded sites in the survey area suggests that much of this area has not been extensively fieldwalked.

METHOD

Due to time constraints the method chosen was simply linewalking at set distances apart, eg 12.5 m, 25 m or 50 m, giving an area sample size of 2%-8%. Finds were provisionally identified, recorded and mapped on site using standard survey forms. To average out the results, the figures were adjusted to give an overall 4% sample, then mapped by period on a quantity per hectare basis, with hectare squares based on the OS grid. These results, representing a visual summary of the survey, are illustrated in Figs 1-5. The areas with denser concentrations of artefacts, marked 11+ on Figs 1-5, generally yielded more than 20 finds per hectare, based on a 4% sample survey.

It must be stressed that the method used meant that only a small proportion of the total area was surveyed; likewise only a sample of the available artefacts was recovered. How much that sample is representative of the area's archaeology is a matter of inference.

A brief note and discussion of finds, by period, is given below.

Mesolithic

A large flintworking scatter has been identified on the clay covered ridge near Chalton (TL 0226) (Fig 3, no 1). This probably represents a seasonal hunting encampment and dates to the mesolithic

period. The finds were mainly broken blades, waste flakes and a few cores. Other small scatters of mesolithic flintwork occur along the ridge, with occasional finds along the valley floor.

Only a small number of mesolithic flints has been found in the survey area at Caddington, although a mesolithic site has previously been recorded at Zouches Farm, Caddington (TL 0321) outside the survey area (Fig 3, A).

Neolithic and Bronze Age

A large variety of worked flints, widely distributed, represent prehistoric activity in the areas surveyed. Finds included waste flakes, cores, retouched flakes, scrapers, blades and piercers. Many of the flints were crudely worked and probably represent "field tools" with a one-off usage. They are probably best dated to the Bronze Age. No neolithic pottery has been identified, but possible late Bronze Age pottery has been found along the ridge at Chalton.

These flintworkers, much like those of the mesolithic period, seem to have preferred the upland areas, although hillwash may have obscured potential sites along valley floors.

At Caddington, the dry valleys and associated ridges which dissect the plateau seem to have provided natural routeways, with possible occupation or activity sites along their slopes, as indicated by the denser flintworking scatters (Fig 4).

The wide distribution of finds suggests a landscape with large areas of woodland clearance. The heavy clay soils, though potentially rewarding, may not have been easily worked as arable; farming practice could have been largely pastoral, with hunting as a supplementary activity.

At Houghton Regis, a generally lower density of flint finds suggests the area was not so widely exploited in the neolithic or Bronze Age: apart from along the ridgeway at Chalton. Perhaps much of the land remained poorly drained and heavily wooded until the Iron Age, when there is firmer evidence for valley floor settlement.

Iron Age

Two scatters of late Iron Age pottery (Fig 5, no 1) have been found close to the Ouzel brook near Houghton Regis (TL 0225). These may indicate occupation sites. Other occasional finds of Iron Age pottery may represent manuring scatters, from as yet unidentified settlement sites.

Romano-British

At Houghton Regis two previously unrecorded occupation sites have been identified (TL 0325 and

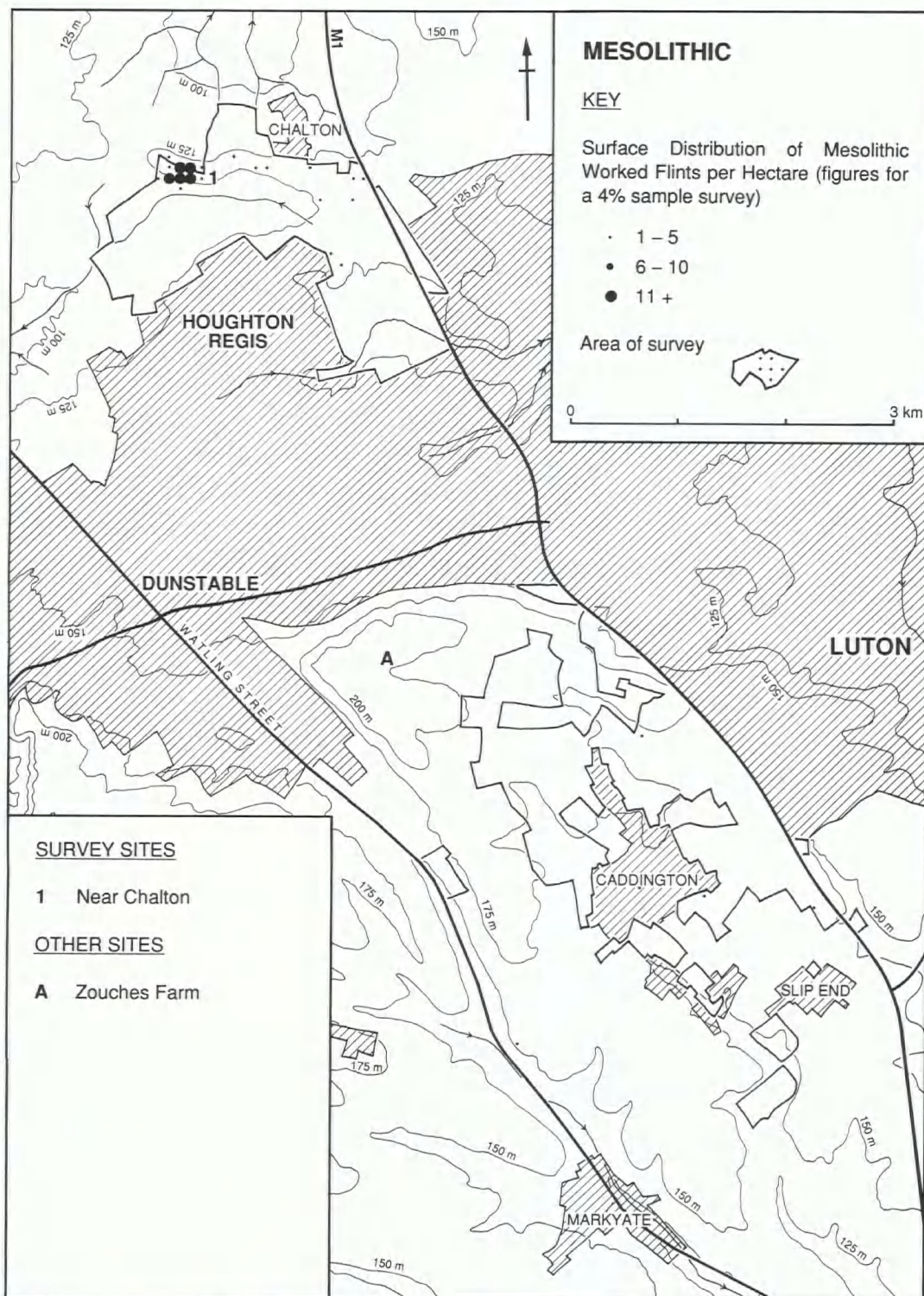


Fig 3 Fieldwalking: Mesolithic artefact distribution

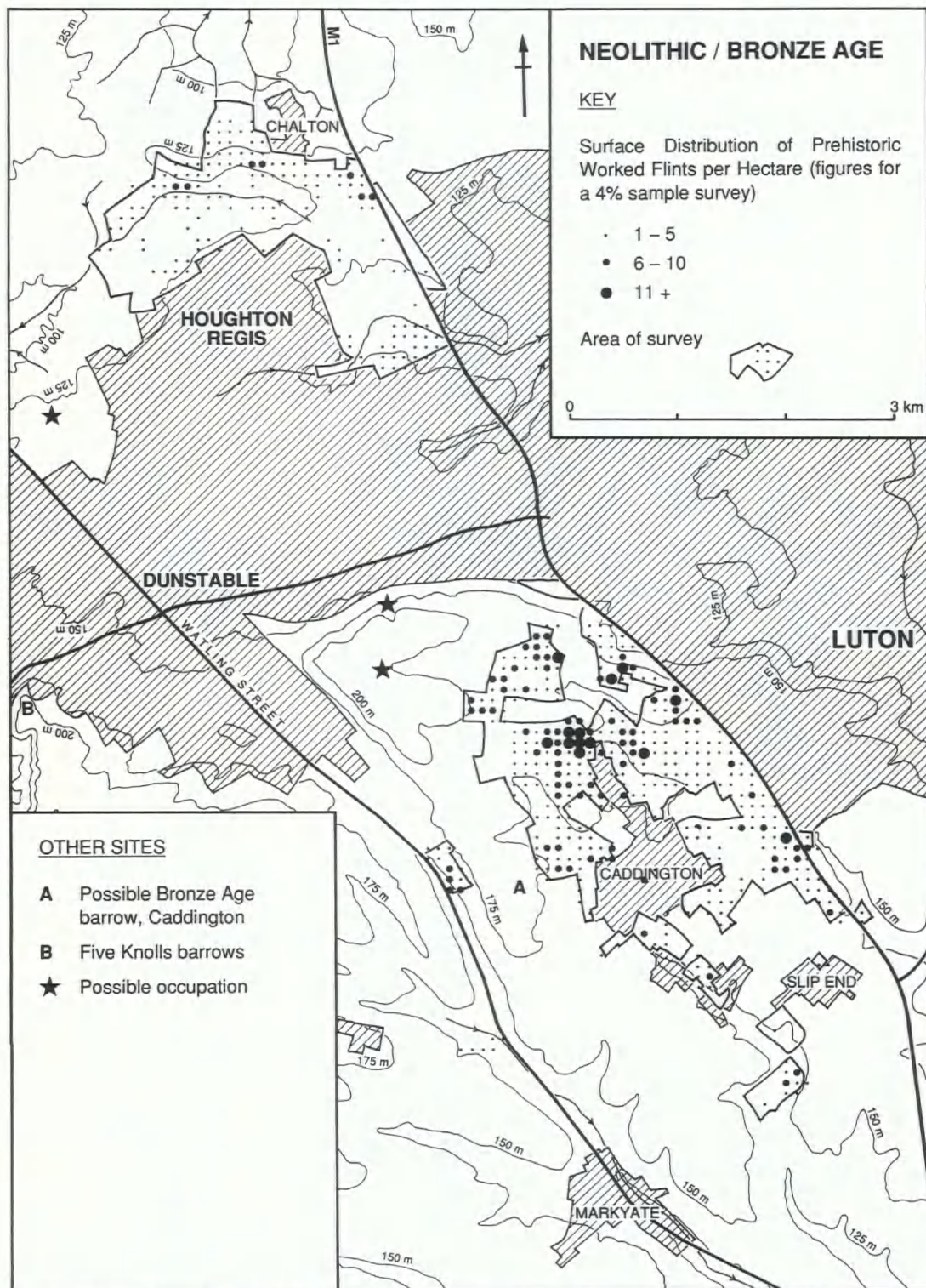


Fig 4 Fieldwalking: Neolithic/Bronze Age artefact distribution

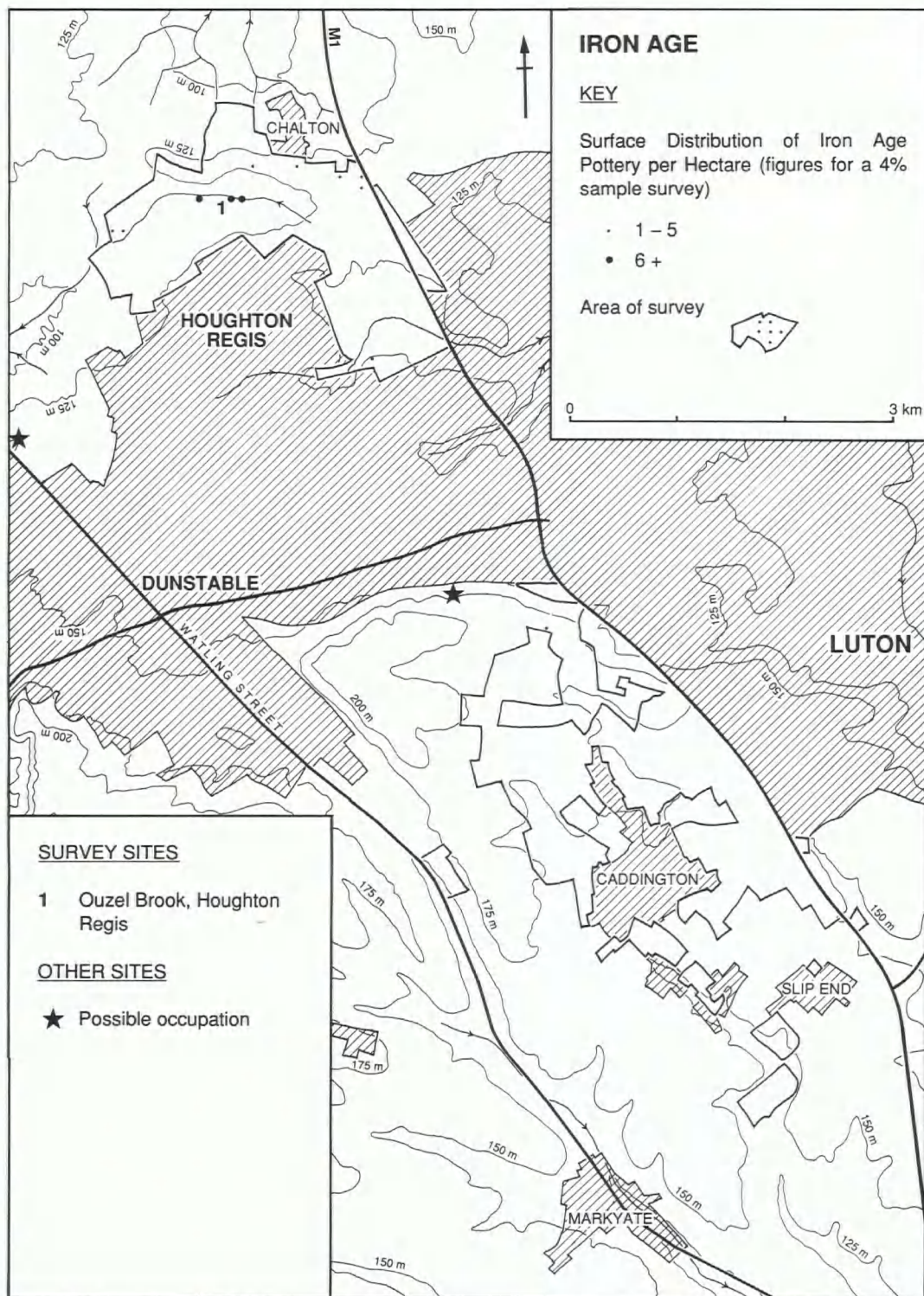


Fig 5 Fieldwalking: Iron Age pottery distribution

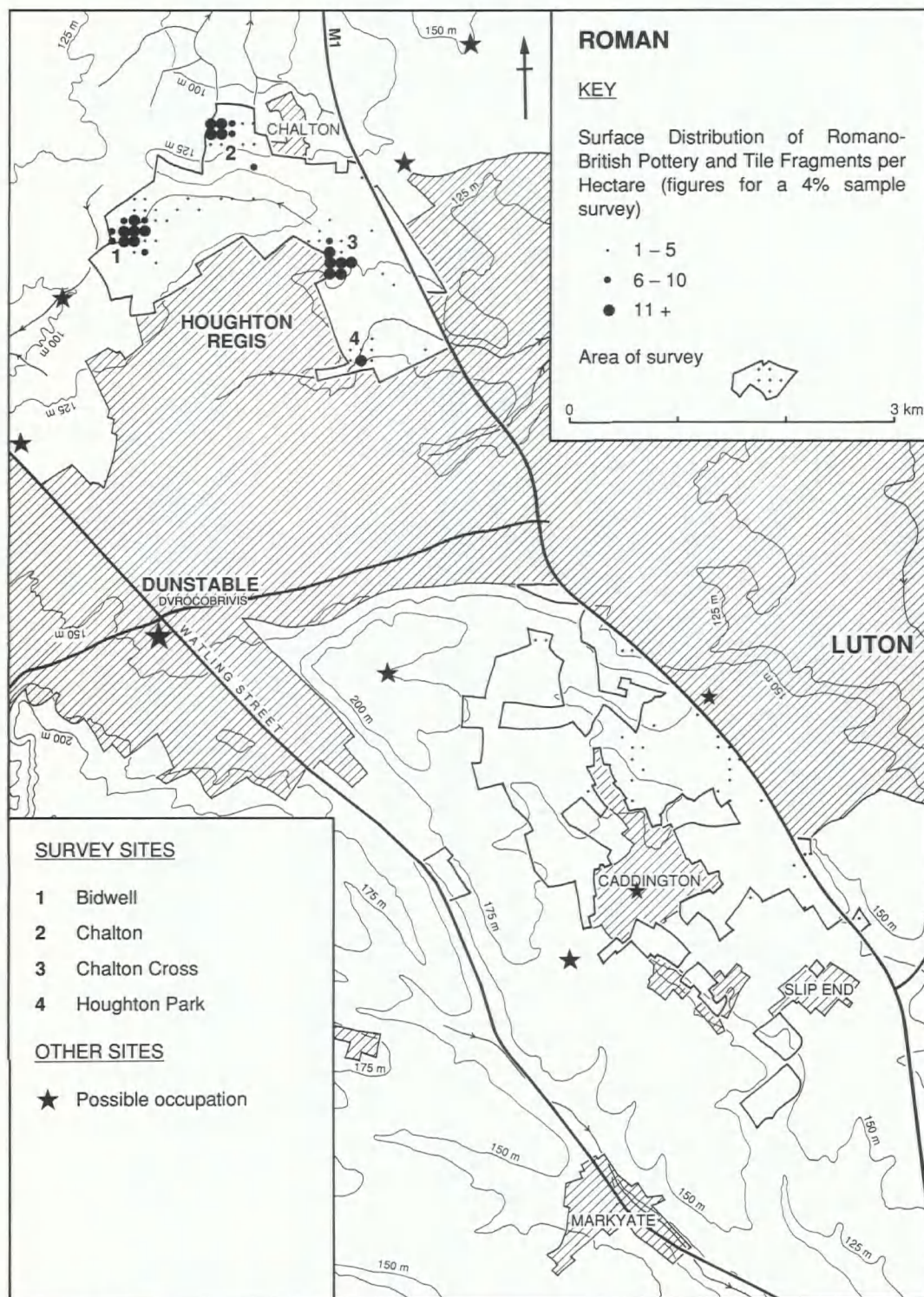


Fig 6 Fieldwalking: Roman ceramics distribution

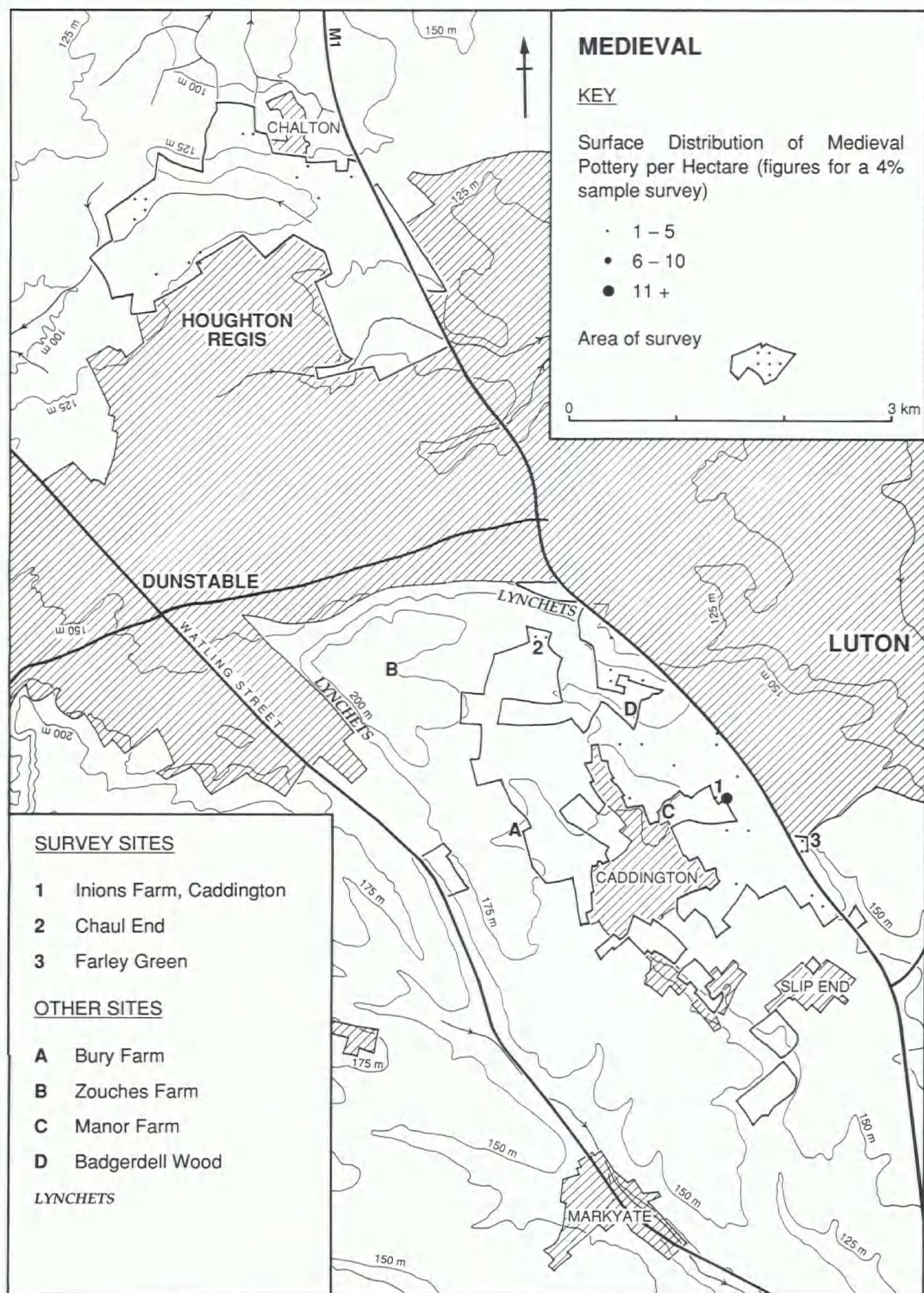


Fig 7 Fieldwalking: Medieval pottery distribution

TL 0324) (Fig 6, nos 3 and 4). These are marked by surface scatters of tile and pottery. A reassessment was also made of the extents of the known sites at Chalton and Bidwell (TL 0226 and TL 0125), both of which seem to cover a wider area than previously realised (Fig 6, nos 1 and 2). Small areas at both these sites have been investigated by trial excavation by the Manshead Society.¹

The discovery of roof tile and other building materials indicates reasonably substantial buildings stood on these sites. The datable pottery seems to indicate occupation from at least the 3rd to late 4th centuries. The recovery of iron slag at two of the sites suggests industrial activity, and three of the sites are situated next to streams.

The amount of pottery found close to each site suggests intensive infield cultivation, with perhaps the greater part of the landholding under pasture or consisting of areas of managed woodland. These farmsteads seem to have been the centre of a land unit or holding of about 1km². Whether these were independent holdings or part of a large estate can only be guessed.

At Caddington, not very much Roman material has been found in comparison with Houghton Regis. Occasional finds of pottery and tile fragments may indicate manuring scatters. Some larger fragments of roof tile (tegulae) have been found in the fields around Inions Farm (TL 0720), and may have come from a villa in the Farley Farm area (TL 0721). Other finds of Roman tile occur in a re-used context among spreads of flint and peg tile, which possibly represent the remains of medieval or post medieval buildings (Fig 7, nos 1-3 and A).

Finds of Roman occupation material have been recorded from brick earth pits at Caddington (Fig 6) and an occupation site is also known near Zouches Farm (TL 0321).

Medieval

A scatter of early medieval pottery was found close to Inions Farm, Caddington (TL 0720) (Fig 7, no 1), near to a spread of flint and tile; a large rectangular cropmark was recently observed at this site. Other pottery find spots near possible building remains (Fig 7, nos 2 and 3) were Farley Green (TL 0719) and Chaul End (TL 0521).

There were only a few pottery finds throughout the survey areas, probably representing manuring scatters. Apart from the ubiquitous fragments of

peg tile, which may well have been later in date, there was little surface evidence to indicate widespread arable cultivation in the medieval period at either Caddington or Houghton Regis.

More tangible evidence survives in the form of strip lynchets, on the scarp slopes at Caddington (Fig 7). Some slight evidence of ridge and furrow remains at Caddington, and more visibly in fields at Bidwell, near Houghton Regis.

At Caddington, manorial earthworks are visible at Bury Farm (TL 0519) (Fig 7, A), Zouches Farm (TL 0321) (Fig 7, B) and possibly a moated site at Manor Farm (TL 0620) (Fig 7, C). A medieval building has been excavated at Badgerdell Wood by Mr D. Warren² (Fig 7, D).

"Saxo-Norman" pottery, 11th century in date, was the only type of Saxon pottery found in the survey areas.

Post Medieval

A general scatter of 17th-20th century pottery and other material was found, confirming widespread arable cultivation over the past 400 years.

Conclusion

The surveys outlined above have located previously unknown domestic sites of mesolithic, late prehistoric, Romano-British and possibly medieval date; and indicated the extent of cultivated land during some of these periods.

Further fieldwork in neighbouring areas is essential. In addition, more intensive survey work and trial excavations at some of the above sites should be undertaken in order to recover a larger sample of material and to assess the date, nature, and state of preservation of each site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Permission to fieldwalk their land was kindly granted by: Lady Bowman Shaw, Mr R. Aldridge, Mr A. Brewer, Mr W. Clarke, Mr D. Brown, Mr P. Brandham, Mr J. Priestley, Mr R. Dryden, Mr V. Sams, Mr G. Mossman, Mr W. Busby.

Many thanks to Dr R. Holgate for his assistance with the preparation of this paper and to J. Hitchcock for the mapwork. Thanks to the fieldwalkers of the Manshead Society, D. Warren, J. Schneider, G. James, J.B. Jones, J. Hitchcock, J. Carroll, T. George, W. Dillon, C. Maykin, C. Atkins, C. Bates and anyone else not mentioned.

NOTES

- 1 Chalton: *Manshead Magazine* No 9 p 17, No 10 p 12. Bidwell: *South Midlands Archaeology*, No 16 p 29.
- 2 D. Warren: "A medieval site at Caddington" (personal communication).

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Acquisitions, Enquiries, Research on Collections and Fieldwork at Bedford and Luton Museums, 1988-89

CAROLYN WINGFIELD AND ROBIN HOLGATE

INTRODUCTION

The following articles provide information on the most noteworthy archaeological finds brought either as donations or for identification to Bedford and Luton Museums during the past two years, and summaries of research undertaken on the Museums' collections. Archaeological material acquired through excavation or other organised field-work is not included as it will be published in reports elsewhere.

Objects are grouped chronologically under general period headings. Provenances are given as the parish, followed by further detail and the grid reference; grid references in brackets [] have been inferred from the description of the find-spot.

Both Bedford and Luton Museums offer an identification service free of charge and are always pleased to consider offers of appropriate archaeological material for their collections from N Bedfordshire and S Bedfordshire respectively. For further information please contact:

The Keeper of Archaeology, Bedford Museum, Castle Lane, Bedford MK40 3XD, tel. (0234) 353323;

The Keeper of Archaeology, Luton Museum Service, Wardown Park, Luton LU2 7HA, tel. (0582) 36941/2.

BEDFORD MUSEUM

CAROLYN WINGFIELD

NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE

STONE AXE
Potton
(near John O'Gaunt
Golf Course)

Fig 1.1
[vicinity of TL 21/22 47]

Small, polished axe of darkish grey stone, the origin of which could not be identified although it would appear not to be a local stone. It measured 75 mm in length, 55 mm at its greatest width across the blade-end, and had a maximum thickness of 25 mm.

BEDFM enquiry 257, reported by Mr Pitts, formerly of Potton.

ARROWHEAD

Ravensden

TL 05 54

Flint barbed and tanged arrowhead, tip broken, of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. The white patina on the flint suggested that it had been disturbed and lying in topsoil for some time.

BEDFM enquiry 432 found and reported by Mr D.C. Poulton of Ravensden.

EARLY IRON AGE

POTTERY AND CREMATION

Radwell

TL 01 57

See entry under "Belgic and Roman Iron Age" below.

BELGIC AND ROMAN IRON AGE

BELGIC GOLD
STATERS

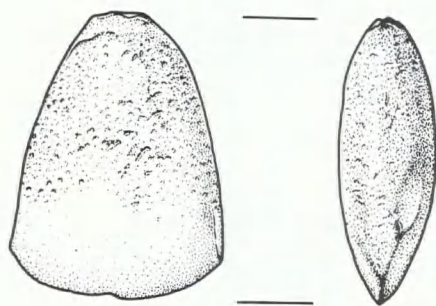
Plate 1

Clapham

TL 04 52

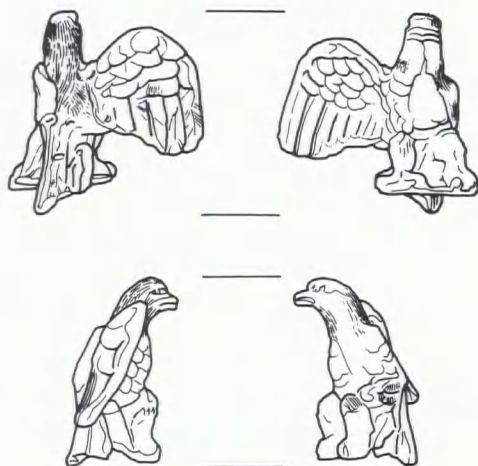
Two gold uniface staters (Gallo-Belgic E) dated to c60-45 BC were found about 37 m apart on farmland SW of the village. Both are of Mack 27 type and feature a disjointed horse galloping to the right beneath an assortment of pellets and short, curved lines.¹ The larger of the staters (1989/149) measures 18.5 mm in diameter and weighs 6.26 g, and shows a single pellet below the horse; it is probably of slightly earlier date than the other stater. The second stater (1989/150) measures 18 mm in diameter and weighs 6.14 g, and the decoration below the horse features a cabled exergual line with a single pellet above and three 'horseshoe' crescents below, each containing a pellet and pointing alternately down or upwards.

BEDFM enquiry 192 and accession numbers 1989/149 and 1989/150. Metal-detector finds made and reported by Mr J. Hinds of Bedford; declared Treasure Trove at a Coroner's inquest in Bedford in January 1988 and subsequently purchased by Bedford Museum. I am grateful to Dr J. Kent, British Museum, for confirming the identification of and commenting on the staters.



1.1

0 4 cm



1.2

Fig 1 1.1 Neolithic stone axe, Potton (x 1/2); 1.2 lead eagle figurine, Eaton Socon (x 1/2)



Plate 1 Uniface gold staters, Clapham 1989/149 (left) and 1989/150 (right)

BELGIC SILVER COIN Plate 2
Biddenham TL 02 47

The greater part of an uninscribed silver coin of the first century BC, measuring 14 mm in its maximum surviving diameter and weighing about 0.91 g in its

incomplete state. The reverse shows a horse galloping to the right accompanied by a dot-and-pellets within a ring above the horse's quarters, and beneath the horse, a dog also running to the right but with its head turned to the left. The obverse is less well preserved, but features an abstract design



Plate 2 Belgic silver coin, Biddenham (reverse)

which includes ring-and-dot and tendril motifs. It is a type not featured in the standard works on Iron Age coins.²

BEDFM enquiry 347 metal-detector find made and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham.

STUD IN FORM OF HEAD Fig 2.1
Wymington SP 93 64
 (toward Podington/
 Farndish)

A small, decorative stud, cast in the form of a simple, schematised human head and measuring 18.5 mm from top of head to chin. The hair is represented by light, criss-cross lines and the eyes and nose are simply delineated. Both date and function are uncertain: it was presumably intended to decorate some item of harness or clothing and has been tentatively assigned to the late pre-Roman Iron Age, but if post-conquest could be contemporary with Romano-British material from the same site, listed below. A medieval date is a further possibility.

BEDFM enquiry 273 and accession number 1989/21. Found, reported and donated by Mr R. Martin of Bromham, with acknowledgement to the landowner, Mr J. Saxby.

ANIMAL BROOCH
Northill (near Hatch) [TL 14/5 47/8]

Copper alloy plate-brooch in form of either a horse or a stag; the latter seems to be indicated by the

cervine rump and tail, although deer-brooches are less common than horse, or horse-and-rider brooches. Traces of enamel occurred on the neck, in a circle above the fore-legs and in two vertical bands on the body (blue), and in a circle on the hind-quarters (yellow). On the top of the head were the broken remains of either antlers or a head-loop. A date in or around the second century is likely.

BEDFM enquiry 369 metal detector find made by J. Woodrow and reported through the Suffolk Archaeological Unit.

BOW BROOCH
Ridgmont (Segenhoe) SP 98 35

Head and bow of a copper alloy 'Dolphin' type bow brooch, surviving length 42 mm, dating to the mid first century AD. Both the bow and semi-cylindrical wings, which measure 40 mm across, are plain and the spring was secured through a doubly-pierced head-plate.

BEDFM accession number 1989/42 kindly donated by Mr J. Hinds of Bedford, with acknowledgement to the landowner, Mr R. Hedges.

FIGURINE OF EAGLE Fig 1.2
Eaton Socon TL 16 58

Small figurine in lead alloy of an eagle with outstretched wings (one wing broken off), measuring 55 mm from tip of beak to tail. Details of the plumage are clearly defined and there are traces of gilding. A patch of rust on the underside between the feet indicates that it was once mounted on an iron spike or rod. Eagle figurines, more usually of bronze, can have military connotations but in the civilian areas of SE Britain they are more likely to be associated with the worship of Jupiter.³ If it is Roman, a date in the first or second century would be appropriate, however it is an unusual piece and since it comes from an unstratified context, its identification must be treated with some caution. Another lead eagle figurine was recorded from the Roman cemetery at Shefford by Thomas Inskip in the early nineteenth century but its location now is unknown.⁴ The finder reported large numbers of bronze plus a few silver Roman coins from the same area, including a 'coin' of Carausius IMP C CARAUSIUS PF AVG/PAX AVG struck on a thick lead flan (some form of test-strike or tally?).

BEDFM enquiry 263 found by Mr T. Morgan of Eaton Socon and reported by Mr R. Lamont of Bedford. Metal-detector find. I am grateful to Dr Miranda Green for commenting on this and other eagle figurines.

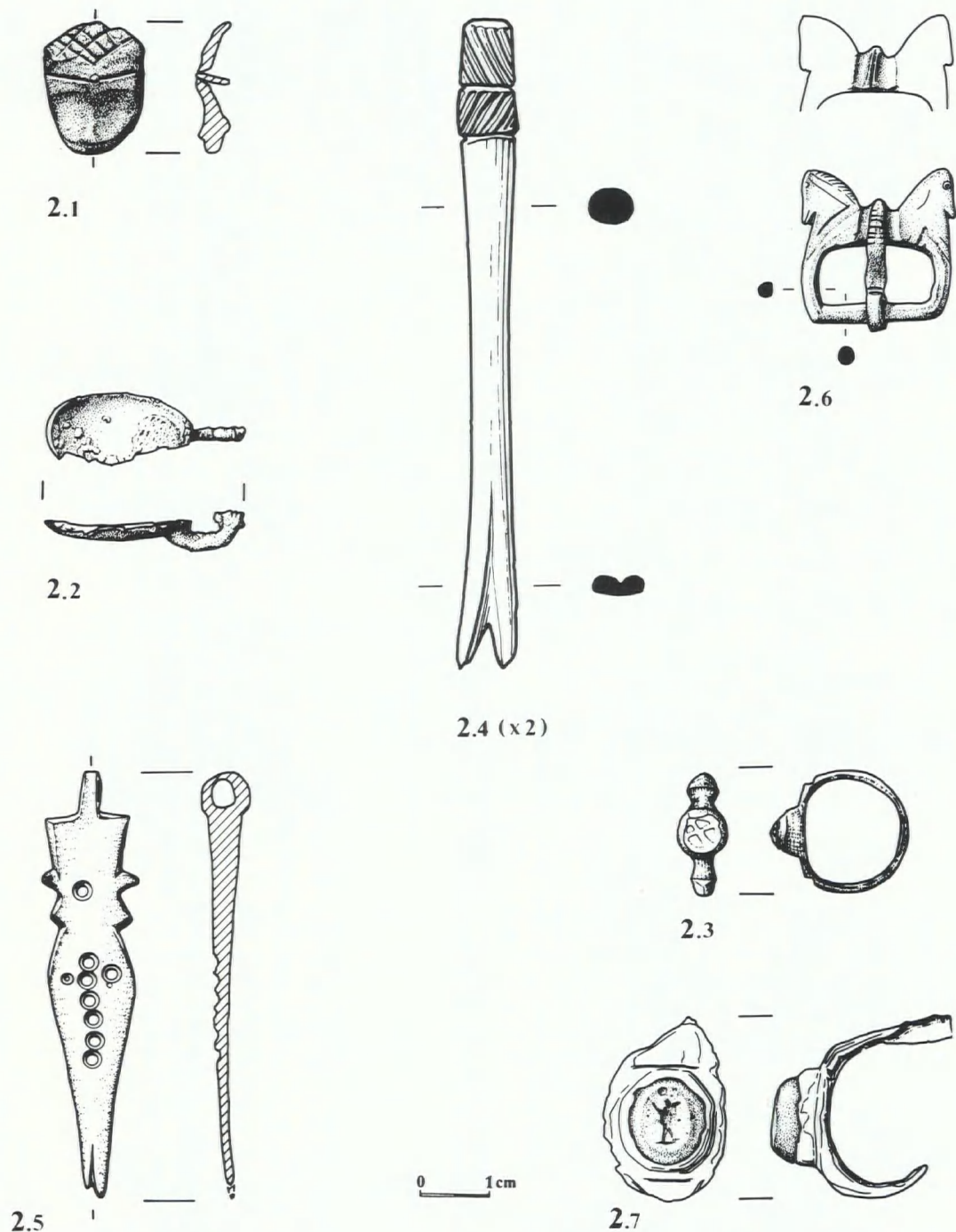


Fig 2 Finds from Romano-British settlement site, Wymington 2.1 stud (x 1), 2.2 spoon bowl (x 1/2), 2.3 ring (x 1), 2.4 nail-cleaner (x 2), 2.5 nail-cleaner (x 1), 2.6 buckle (x 1), all copper alloy; 2.7 silver ring (x 1)

METALWORK, COINS AND POTTERY

Harrold

TL 93 55

The catchplate of a first-century AD bow brooch, and 120 late Roman bronze coins were collected from the same area as some Roman pottery. The identifiable coins comprised 14 late third-century radiates, 38 Constantinian and 37 Valentinianic small denominations. The potsherds submitted were: 2 sherds of decorated Samian; 18 colour-coated sherds of Nene Valley and Oxford wares; 14 grey and 19 shelly ware sherds; 3 sherds from mortaria, and 1 sherd each of shelly ware roof and flue tile.

BEDFM accession numbers 1988/153, 1989/16 and 17, and 1990/51 (enquiry 336) metal-detector and other finds made and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham, with acknowledgement to the landowner Mr J.W. Northern. A small amount of medieval and post medieval pottery was also collected and donated, accession number 1989/18.

METALWORK, COINS AND POTTERY

Kempston

TL 01 47

Parts of three Colchester-type bow brooches were collected from the same site as 141 late Roman bronze coins, a Samian rim-sherd with leaf-trail decoration, the base of a colour-coated beaker and 2 sherds from large grey ware jars or bowls. Of those coins which were identifiable, 13 were late third-century radiates, 39 were of Constantinian date and 51 belonged to the house of Valentinian. A further 38 late Roman bronze coins, together with 2 ases of Hadrian and Vespasian, were collected from a second site in the vicinity.

BEDFM enquiry 336 metal-detector and other finds made and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham.

METALWORK AND COINS

Kempston

TL 01 47

Another site in the area produced parts of two bow brooches of the late first century (one of the 'Dolphin' type, the other a 'Colchester' type with doubly-pierced head-plate), and also 63 late Roman bronze coins. The coins comprised 18 radiates of Victorinus, Tetricus I and Claudius II; 14 Constantinian and 16 Valentinianic small denominations, and 15 very worn or fragmentary late Roman coins. A spindlewhorl fashioned from a sherd of local Romano-British shelly ware was also recovered but

could have been of Roman, Saxon or medieval date.

BEDFM enquiry 355 metal-detector and other finds made and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham.

METALWORK, COINS AND POTTERY

Podington/Farndish

SP 93 62

The head of a 'Dolphin'-type copper alloy bow brooch, Roman bronze coins and much Romano-British pottery were found in the same area. The brooch is one of the earlier 'Dolphins' in which the spring is held to the head by a rearward-facing hook, and is of mid first-century date. The coins included a worn sestertius possibly of Claudius, an as of Antoninus Pius, 5 antoniniani, a follis of Maximinus II, 56 Constantinian coins, 6 Valentinianic and a number not identified beyond 'late Roman'. Amongst the more diagnostic potsherds collected were some Nene Valley colour-coated sherds, mostly fourth-century, Ouse Valley shelly wares and grey wares.

BEDFM enquiries 336 and 376 metal-detector and other finds made and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham, and accession number 1988/6 pottery donated by Mr Martin with record of coins previously discovered.

METALWORK, COINS AND POTTERY

Wymington

**(toward Podington/
Farndish)**

Figs 2.2-7

SP 93 64

A number of small items of metalwork, together with large quantities of Roman coins and potsherds, indicate the site of a Romano-British farmstead or rural settlement. The finds are summarised below.

Metalwork. Copper alloy objects included part of the bowl and neck of a late Roman spoon (Fig 2.2); a small third-century finger-ring set with a 'stone' of pale blue glass (Fig 2.3); a nail-cleaner with two opposed bands of slanting grooves round the top of the shaft (Fig 2.4); a flat type of nail-cleaner with ring-and-dot ornament and closely related in shape and decoration to a late fourth-century group of strap-ends (Fig 2.5); and a late fourth-/early fifth-century buckle with two outward-facing horses' heads (Fig 2.6). Iron objects were: part of the head of an iron adze-hammer of Manning's common B14 type,⁵ and the tanged blade of a general-purpose type of Roman knife. The buckle is of particular interest as one of the few types of artefact datable to

the very end of the Roman period, perhaps continuing into the sub-Roman period. Its maximum width is 22 mm and the rectangular belt-plate is missing, but the details of the horses' manes, eyes and mouths are just visible and there is some decorative ribbing across the tongue of the buckle. It is now thought that although such belt-fittings could have been made initially for military personnel, they would also have circulated among the civilian population, and are not diagnostic of any particular racial or occupational group. The Wymington example and a more recent find from excavations at Sandy are the first instances of this type of buckle to be recorded in the county. The finger-ring has lightly moulded shoulders typical of Roman rings of that period and the alloy presumably had a high tin content since the metal had a silver-grey appearance, no doubt in imitation of silver. Part of a silver ring, with purple glass intaglio (Fig 2.7) was also found; this ring has shoulders expanding towards the bezel and lightly grooved down either side of the central, triangular area. The box setting holds an oval intaglio 13 x 11 mm engraved with a standing figure, detail no longer discernible. A date in the third century, perhaps extending into the fourth, would be appropriate.

Coins from the area, except for half a denarius of Commodus, were all bronze and comprised 2 sestertii of Marcus Aurelius, 25 late third-century radiates, 47 small denominations of Constantinian date and 36 of the house of Valentinian, plus 19 very worn late Roman coins of indeterminate date.

Pottery recovered from the surface showed a predominance of coarse grey, black and shelly wares from domestic vessels, all or most probably of local manufacture, and a small proportion of colour-coated vessels (most if not all from the Nene Valley kilns). Only four worn Samian sherds were recovered. There were also a number of fragments of shelly ware roof tiles and a few sherds from box flue tiles.

BEDFM enquiries 302, 308, 314 and 319 metal detector and other finds made and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham. Finds from enquiries 314 and 319 were collected by grid-square and records of these are held at Bedford Museum and by the County SMR. Objects donated to Bedford Museum, by kind consent of Mr Martin and of the land-owner, Mr J. Saxby, are: 1989/19 horse-heads buckle; 1989/20 broken silver ring with glass intaglio; 1989/22 ring with blue glass "stone"; 1989/23 late Roman nail-cleaner; 1989/24 and 1989/25 coins and pottery. I am grateful to Catherine Johns of the British Museum for commenting on the ring 1989/22 and nail-cleaner 1989/23.

COINS AND POTTERY

Podington/Farndish

SP 92 63

A quantity of potsherds, including 1 sherd from the base of a Samian bowl, a small number of colour-coated sherds and numerous grey and shelly ware sherds, were collected from the same area as 2 rim-sherds from shelly ware tegulae, 15 late Roman bronze coins and the head of a mid to late first-century 'Colchester' type bow brooch. Of the coins, one was a radiate of Tetricus II, 8 were Constantinian, 2 were Valentinianic and the remaining 4 were indeterminate.

BEDFM enquiries 313 and 354 metal-detector and other finds made and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham, and accession numbers 1989/28 (enquiry 313), and 1988/22 pottery previously collected and donated with acknowledgement to the landowner Mr J. Saxby.

COINS AND POTTERY

Podington/Farndish

SP 93 63

(Whites Barn)

Twelve late Roman bronze coins and a sample of potsherds including 1 worn Samian rim-herd, 2 sherds from parchment ware bowls or mortaria, and 7 other sherds in coarse fabrics, were collected from ploughsoil.

BEDFM enquiry 312 and accession number 1989/31 metal-detector and other finds made and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham, pottery and coins donated with acknowledgement to the landowner Mr E.M. Reeves.

COINS AND POTTERY

Sharnbrook

SP 97 59

Romano-British finds were collected from two areas in the grounds of Unilever. Area A produced 25 late Roman bronze coins: 7 antoniniani (including a silvered coin of Postumus and 2 radiate copies of Tetricus), 9 Constantinian coins (including three copies of the "fallen horseman" issue), 2 Valentinianic coins and 7 late Roman coins of indeterminate date. The 27 coins from Area B comprised 17 Antoniniani, 1 Constantinian and 2 Valentinianic coins, and a further 7 worn coins probably of fourth-century date. Pottery from the same area showed a predominance of local shelly wares (including a fragment from a comb-patterned box flue tile) with some grey wares and a small proportion of finer fabrics. The latter consisted of 3 colour-coated sherds from bowls or dishes and 3 Samian sherds,

one of which came from a dish of Dragendorff form 15/16/17.

BEDFM enquiry 413 metal-detector and other finds made and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham.

POTTERY

Astwick

TL 21 38

A scatter of Romano-British pottery comprising 1 abraded footring from a Samian bowl, 2 colour-coated sherds from the lid of a Nene Valley box, 5 sherds of grey wares and a flanged rim with oxidised red exterior.

BEDFM enquiry 375 collected by Mr C. Kaciniel and reported by Mr R. Martin.

COINS AND POTTERY

Souldrop

SP 98 62

Two Belgic bronze coins: one of Tasciovanus (VERLAMIO between rays of star/bull left, Mack 172) and one of Cunobelin (CUNOBELINI laureate head to left/TASCIOVANI F centaur blowing a horn, Mack 242).⁶ 16 Roman bronze coins, comprising a sestertius of Antoninus Pius and 15 late third- or fourth-century small denominations. Other finds of the same period were part of a hinged bronze bow brooch (late first to early second centuries) and a number of potsherds, mostly locally-made shelly wares. A sherd of a hand-made, late Iron Age vessel in a grog- and sand-tempered fabric was also recovered.

BEDFM enquiries 285 and 350 found and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham. The pottery has been donated by Mr Martin with acknowledgement to the landowner, Mr C. Dunmore; accession number 1988/152.

POTTERY

Harrold

[SP 95 57]

Sherds of Belgic pottery from investigations at Harrold Pits, 1960.⁷

BEDFM accession number 1988/152, donated by Mr D.N. Hall, Higham Ferrers Hundred Archaeological Society.

POTTERY

Northill

TL 15 46

(E of village)

Sherds of pottery indicating a modest settlement-site from the first century AD onwards. The group included a number of large sherds with little sign of

abrasion and some adjoining pieces. Samian bowls or dishes, 4 sherds; colour-coated wares (Nene Valley type), 3 sherds; parts of 8 necked-and-cordoned jars or bowls of first-century date; 4 sherds of a black platter, probably a local imitation of Gallo-Belgic ware; sherds of various domestic vessels in coarse grey, shelly and parchment-type wares, and 3 fragments of box flue tiles with combed decoration.

BEDFM enquiry 270 reported by Mr R. Lamont of Bedford. The pottery was found in boxes in a building near the presumed find-spot, but their precise location cannot be entirely certain.

POTTERY

Mogerhanger

[vicinity of TL 13 50]

(Willowhill Farm)

Samian footring from dish/bowl; 4 pieces of colour-coated ware (including 2 bases of beakers); 5 sherds from a Nene Valley mortarium with reeded rim, and 1 sherd from a second mortarium, third- or fourth-century; and a number of grey coarse ware sherds which include one rim with an upright, everted profile and single cordon and probably of first-century date. The assemblage seems to span the entire Romano-British period and is further evidence in that area for Roman settlement already attested by crop-marks and previous finds.

BEDFM 1988/16 and 1988/17 collected and donated by Mr R. Lamont of Bedford, with acknowledgement to the landowner, Mr L.V. Davison.

POTTERY AND CREMATIONS

Radwell

TL 01 57

Pottery, cremations and other excavation material, together with plans, from excavations at Radwell Gravel Pits 1972-74 conducted by David Hall, John Hutchings *et al.* Most of the material was of Belgic or Roman date, but there was also a small amount of Bronze Age and early Iron Age pottery and an early Iron Age cremation.⁸

BEDFM accession number 1988/156 donated by David Hall, Higham Ferrers Hundred Archaeological Society.

MOSAIC FRAGMENT

Northill

TL 14 48

A small piece of mosaic floor approximately 5 cm square with fine, thin tesserae up to 10 x 10 mm in white and dark grey stone. The pattern appears to be one line of white tesserae next to two of dark grey

with possibly another row of white beyond that. It probably dates to the fourth century and attests a higher class of dwelling than usually seen in rural N Bedfordshire.

BEDFM enquiry 240 and accession number 1988/14 found and donated by Mr R. Lamont of Bedford.

ANGLO-SAXON

BROOCH Clophill

Fig 3.1
[TL 09 38]

Small-long brooch of copper alloy, 68 mm in length from centre of edge of head-plate to foot. A rather worn specimen, minus hinge (iron?) pin and part of catchplate, it has a plain head with three concave sides and a small, square raised panel immediately above the bow. Below the bow the brooch broadens to form a pair of stubby, semi-circular wings which are separated from the wide, rounded foot by three transverse ribs. The wings, expanded foot and treatment of the head can all be traced to the East Anglian great square-headed brooches of which small-long brooches were a cheaper relation. The Clophill brooch dates to the second half of the sixth century.

BEDFM enquiry 298 found and reported by Mr T. Collins of Clophill.

HARKNESS-MOUNT/ BROOCH Felmersham

Fig 3.2
[SP 99 57]

Gilded copper alloy harness-mount of eighth- or ninth-century Irish manufacture, later converted into a Viking-period brooch by the rather clumsy addition of a simple sprung pin, riveted through the roundel by three copper alloy studs. The head of a fourth stud, which may have once secured the catch-plate, survives at the broken end of the main arm. The mount is incomplete and has suffered from corrosion although the patterned areas retain most of their original gilding. The complete design probably had four arms in the approximate shape of a saltire cross but was not necessarily symmetrical.⁹ It was presumably intended to cover a complicated strap-junction, the centre of which was the roundel decorated with three spirals, in contrast to the linear patterns and lozenge-shaped cells of the ribbon-interlace on the rest of the piece. The mount measures 33.5 mm across from the edge of the roundel to the end of the long arm.

Viking activity in Ireland from the ninth century led to many portable objects and fragments of Irish metalwork finding their way to the Vikings' Scandinavian homelands, where many examples have been found (often converted into brooches) in Norwegian graves from cAD 900 onwards. However where harness-mounts occur, they generally appear in sets, sometimes with horse-bits, and seem to have been taken for their intended purpose and not for conversion to trinkets.¹⁰ Moreover instances of stray Irish/Viking-period metalwork are rare in SE Britain, which may be partly explained by the broad (though by no means absolute) generalisation that Ireland and NW Britain were subject to expeditions from Norway while E England was colonised by Vikings from Denmark. Nevertheless, a small number of Irish items inevitably found their way eastwards, though by what route can only be guessed. In the Bedfordshire region the Felmersham specimen can be set alongside the shrine-mount from Northampton and the mount from Markyate, Hertfordshire,¹¹ as examples of contact between the Irish, Viking and Saxon communities of the late Saxon period.

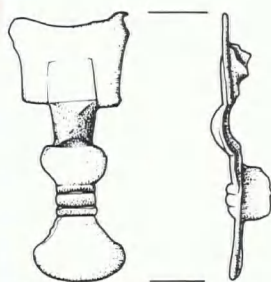
BEDFM enquiry 374 and accession number 1990/50. Metal-detector find made and reported by Mr T. Thurston of Felmersham; Bedford Museum is grateful to Mr Thurston and to the landowner, Mr Davies of Felmersham, for allowing the Museum to purchase the harness-mount/brooch. The piece was found on a riverside site that had recently been cleared for development and there appeared to be no other finds or features associated with the mount/brooch. I am indebted to Dr J.A. Graham-Campbell for the suggestion that it was originally a harness-mount, and for drawing my attention to comparable pieces elsewhere.

STRAP-ENDS Roxton

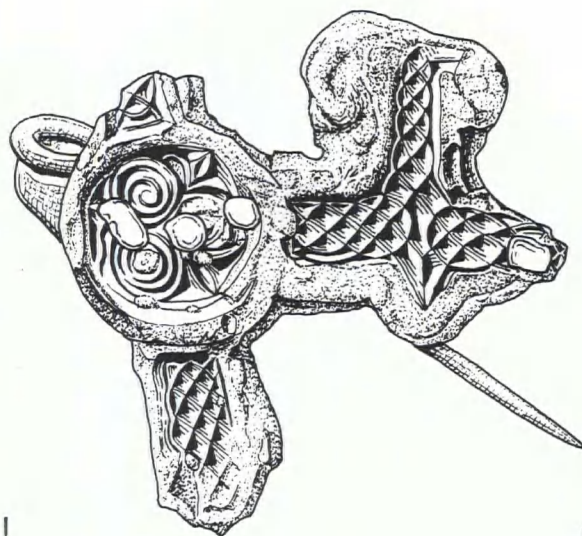
Figs 3.3-4
[TL 15 54]

The fragmentary strap-end (Fig 3.3) is 15.5 mm long and is made of silver, though outbreaks of corrosion suggest that it contains a certain amount of copper. It is decorated with animal-ornament which may have been inlaid with niello, but both have become obscured by corrosion. The shape of the strap-end, style of the discernible animal-ornament and notched border are all typical enough of ninth- to early tenth-century Anglo-Saxon metalwork.

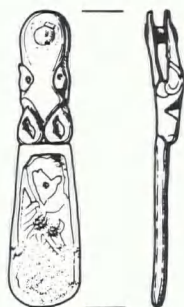
The second strap-end (Fig 3.4) is of copper alloy with an iron rivet through the nose of the animal-head terminal and is 39 mm long. Again corrosion has obscured much of the animal-interlace on the lower half of the tag, although from what can be seen a date round about the ninth or tenth centuries



3.1

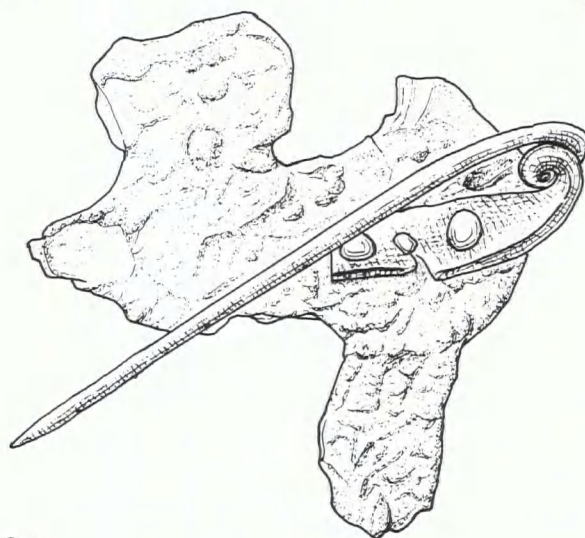


3.2



3.4

0 1 cm

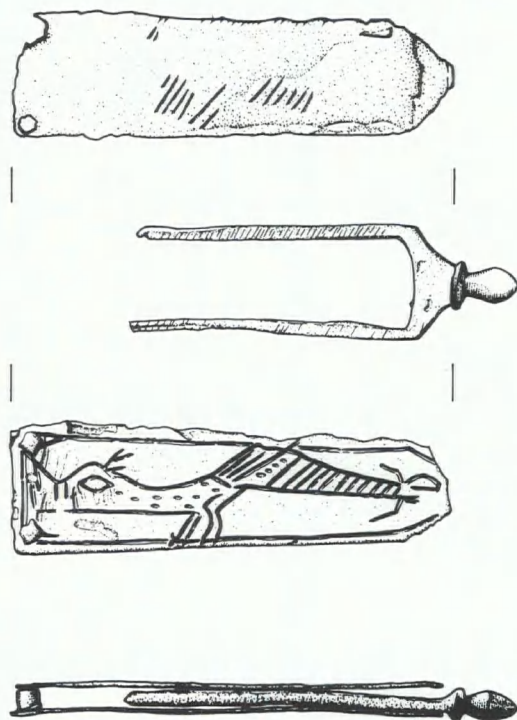


0 2 cm



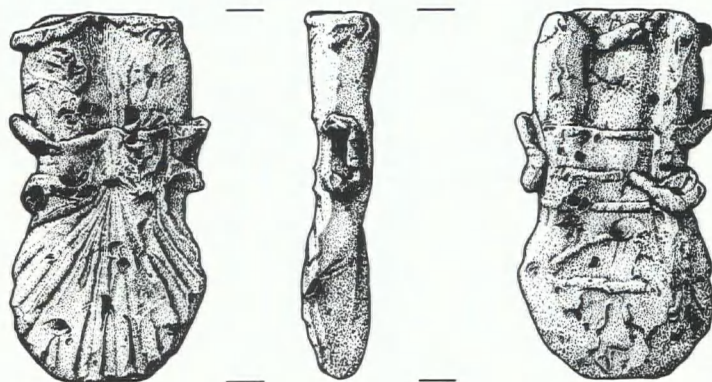
3.3

Fig 3 Anglo-Saxon metalwork, 3.1 copper alloy small-long brooch, Clophill (x 1/2), 3.2 copper alloy gilded harness-mount/brooch, Felmersham (x 2), 3.3 silver strap-end and 3.4 copper alloy strap-end, Roxton (x 1)



4.1

0 1 cm



4.2

Fig 4 Medieval metalwork, 4.1 copper alloy belt chape, Cardington (x 1), 4.2 lead pilgrim's ampulla, Colmworth (x 1)

would be appropriate. Other features are however unusual: the outline of the strap-end, with near-parallel sides widening gradually to a rounded end, and the use of a large animal head at the rivet-end, set it apart from most other specimens of the period. Strap-ends with more-or-less parallel sides occur on a few sites such as Cheddar¹² but these are significantly narrower, have a shank separating the rivet-end from a small animal-head at the pendant-end, and are related to Continental and Scandinavian straight-sided forms. The Roxton strap-end might equally be compared to the more "normal", Anglo-Saxon type of oval outline and consisting of a panel of interlace terminating in an animal-head with prominent eyes and ears. The treatment of the decoration on the Roxton example could be entirely Anglo-Saxon and it should not be surprising if Saxon metal-workers produced a diversity of forms, whether directly influenced by Continental and Scandinavian contacts or not.

BEDFM enquiry 292 metal-detector finds made and reported by Mr R. Lamont of Bedford.

POTTERY Biddenham

TL 02 49

Of 19 coarse ware sherds collected from an area in the S end of the Biddenham loop, 5 of these were probably of mid-Saxon date, c sixth to eighth centuries, and compared closely with other mid-Saxon pottery excavated at Odell. They included 3 sherds from plain, slightly everted rims and were all hand-made in blackish, moderately hard fabrics which contained some quartz sand and a little shell or calcite. A few had surface streaks that could have been due to grass-wiping.

BEDFM anonymous enquiry submitted by Charmian Woodfield. I am grateful to Anna Slowikowski, Pottery Officer, Bedfordshire County Council Archaeology Service for commenting on the sherds.

MEDIEVAL

BELT CHAPE Cardington

Fig 4.1
[TL 07 48]

Copper alloy belt chape consisting of two-pronged fork with small, knobbed terminal and two thin plates of sheet-metal which enclosed the end of the strap and were riveted together at the top corners;

the total length of the chape is 66 mm. This is a common type of belt chape dating to the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, however the engraved decoration — a dragon with large head and open jaws — is less usual and appears to be unparalleled.

BEDFM enquiry 373 metal-detector find made and reported by Mr T. Thurston of Felmersham.

PAPAL BULL Milton Ernest

[TL 01 56]

Lead papal bull of Clement V (1305-1314), bearing the customary portraits of Saints Paul and Peter on one side and CLE/MENS/P.P.V. on the reverse.

BEDFM enquiry 417 found and reported by Mr A. Dunn of Milton Ernest. Apart from the small hermitage at Yarlwood a mile away, there are no known religious houses in the vicinity of Milton Ernest. The possibility that the bull reached the find-spot amongst rubbish for the fields or in imported topsoil, cannot be ruled out.

PILGRIM'S AMPULLA Fig 4.2 Colmworth

TL 10 59

Lead ampulla 49 mm high in the form of a flask with a small, lug-like handle either side of the neck. One side of the body takes the form of a scallop shell, the most ubiquitous pilgrim's motif, while the other side has five raised stripes across it. It may date from the twelfth to fourteenth centuries and was probably bought as a souvenir at one of the many English medieval shrines.

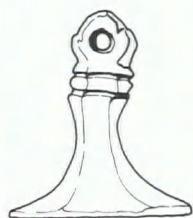
BEDFM enquiry 444 found and reported by Mr R. Brightman of Colmworth.

PURSE BAR Roxton

Fig 5.1
[TL 15 54]

Copper alloy purse bar measuring 68.5 mm tip-to-tip in its bent state. The side-bars are circular in section and issue from simplified animal-heads either side of the central boss which is in the form of a slightly flattened sphere and retains traces of criss-cross decoration inlaid with niello on one side. The swivel-hole is 5 to 6 mm in diameter. This belongs to a well-defined group of late medieval purse bars thought to have been made at one workshop in the late fifteenth or early sixteenth centuries.¹³

BEDFM enquiry 292 metal-detector finds made and reported by Mr R. Lamont of Bedford.



5.2

5.3

5.4

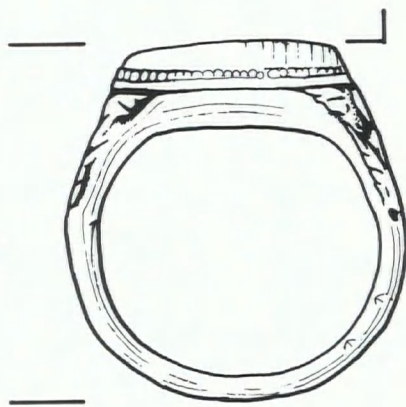
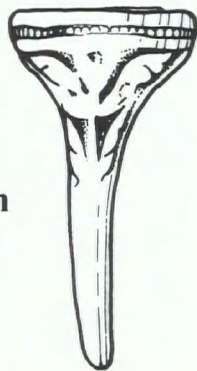
0 2 cm



5.1



0 2 cm



5.5

Fig 5 5.1 copper alloy purse bar, Roxton (x 1/2), Copper alloy seal dies (all x 1), 5.2 Bedford, 5.3 Old Warden, 5.4 Roxton, 5.5 gold ring with carnelian intaglio, Old Warden (x 2)

SEAL DIE
Ravensden

[TL 07 54]

Circular lead seal die 31 mm in diameter and varying between 1 and 2 mm in thickness, a small loop for suspension at the top. Although worn and damaged, the central motif could be seen to be a simple star or flower shape, and the legend around the edge reads:

+S' RADVLFI FIZWIL-AM
(Sigillum Radulfi FitzWilliam
— 'seal of Ralph Son-of-William')

The seal die may date to the late twelfth or thirteenth centuries, and is a cheaper contemporary of the heraldic seal die of Ralph de Torfreville excavated on the site of Bedford Castle.¹⁴

BEDFM enquiry 377 found and reported by Mr D.B. Edwards of Ravensden.

SEAL DIE
Knotting

TL 00 63

Lead seal die of the vesica-shape characteristic of many seal dies dating to c thirteenth century. The face, measuring 35 x 21 mm at its widest points, bears a faint cross-like motif of which the long arms are lightly feathered and the short arms appear to end in a flower. The inscription round the edge reads

+ S.' ISABEL AD MONT[—]
(Sigillum Isabel ad montem
— 'seal of Isabel at the hill')

Here the owner is identified by a feature of the local landscape where she lived.

BEDFM enquiry 362 metal-detector find made and reported by Mr R. Martin of Bromham.

SEAL DIE
Bedford

Fig 5.2
TL 04 49

Copper alloy seal die of late medieval handled type (later thirteenth to early fifteenth century),¹⁵ lightly faceted hexagonally and with a circular face bearing the Biblical quotation

* AVE MARIA GRACIA
(‘Hail Mary [full of] grace’)

The design shows the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus, between three large leaves (perhaps intended as palm-leaves?). Religious motifs were a popular theme on seal dies (see below).

BEDFM enquiry 308 found and reported by Mrs Sidebottom of Clapham. The seal die was found on a gravel footpath by St Paul's Church, so while it may have been lost in the churchyard and subsequently disturbed, it may also have been imported in gravel.

SEAL DIE
Old Warden

Fig 5.3
TL 14 44

Copper alloy seal die of same type as above. The oval face is inscribed around the edge

+ SAVNT MERGORET

and depicts a scene from the life of St Margaret of Antioch, a popular saint in the late Middle Ages. According to the legend, Satan took the form of a dragon in order to swallow her, however Margaret was miraculously saved when the cross which she was carrying grew inside the dragon's mouth and forced its jaws apart, thus effecting her escape. St Margaret is depicted on the seal die standing triumphantly on the dragon, the foot of her cruciform staff planted in the beast's mouth. A similar seal die was found in excavations at Thorneholme Priory, Humberside, in 1976 and was dated to the late thirteenth century; other “St Margaret” dies are in museums at Cambridge and Birmingham.¹⁶

BEDFM enquiry 305 found and reported by Mr R. Randall of Norfolk, through Barbara Green, Keeper of Archaeology, Castle Museum, Norwich. Found in same general area and on same occasion as Tudor gold ring, described below.

SEAL DIE
Roxton

Fig 5.4
[TL 15 54]

Copper alloy seal die of same type as above. The back is lightly faceted hexagonally and the handle rises to form a single, plain circular loop for suspension. The circular face, 18 mm in diameter, is engraved with a fox carrying a goose on its back, the goose's head in the fox's mouth. The inscription, in Old French, reads:

* IE VOYS ABOYS

which could perhaps be rendered as “Je vois [aux] abois” (“I see at bay”).

BEDFM enquiry 292 metal-detector find made and reported by Mr R. Lamont of Bedford.

POTTERY
Harrold

[SP 95 56]

Medieval shelly ware pottery and animal bones from investigations at Harrold Kiln site.¹⁷

BEDFM accession number 1988/158 donated by Mr D.N. Hall, Higham Ferrers Hundred Archaeological Society.

POTTERY
Stagsden

SP 98 47

65 medieval and post medieval potsherds (glazed

and unglazed) collected from a moated site S of the village.

BEDFM accession number 1988/21 collected and donated by Mr D.C. Mynard of Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit (former Bradwell Abbey collection number 1973/29).

POTTERY AND OTHER MATERIAL

Thurleigh TL 05 58 (Thurleigh Church)

Medieval pottery and tile, together with the excavations plans and eighteenth- and nineteenth-century roof-lead with graffiti, from excavations at Thurleigh Church 1970-72 conducted by David Hall and John Hutchings.¹⁸

BEDFM accession number 1988/154 donated by Mr D.N. Hall, Higham Ferrers Hundred Archaeological Society.

HUMAN REMAINS

Bedford TL 05 49 (Church of St Peter de Dunstable)

Remains of inhumations from the site of the Church of St Peter de Dunstable (demolished 1546), disturbed by builders' trenches in the 1970s.

BEDFM accession number 1988/155 donated by Mr D.N. Hall, Higham Ferrers Hundred Archaeological Society.

POST MEDIEVAL

GOLD RING Fig 5.5 Old Warden TL 14 44

Gold ring set with an oval, orange-red carnelian intaglio which measures 9 x 11 mm and is engraved with a human head facing right. The hoop has a maximum external diameter of 22.5 mm and the shoulders, which expand slightly towards the bezel, are engraved with a (slightly worn) foliate pattern. A single row of beading (again showing signs of wear) decorates the outer edge of the bezel. The ring was examined at the British Museum by Mr John Cherry who suggests that a sixteenth-century date would be appropriate for the ring. Similar decoration on the shoulders and beading around the bezel occur on other rings of this period; a close parallel for the Old Warden ring is Dalton Catalogue no. 299 in the British Museum.¹⁹ The ring was analysed in the British Museum research Laboratory (reference no. 31604 T) using X-ray fluorescence on uncleaned surface metal, and therefore the result should be

regarded as semi-quantitative only. It was found to comprise 80.5% gold, 12% silver and 7.5% copper. It weighs 4.95 grammes, the hoop and bezel being hollow. The intaglio would appear to be of the same date as the metalwork and not, as sometimes happens, an antique classical intaglio re-used in a later setting.

BEDFM accession number 1989/45 purchased with the aid of the Museums and Galleries Commission/Victoria & Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund from the land-owners, Shuttleworth Agricultural College, and the finder, Mr R. Randall of Norfolk. The ring was found by metal detector unassociated with any other objects or features and at the Treasure Trove inquest held in April 1989 at Bedford was found not to be Treasure Trove. The find-spot was in an area of pasture with no known buildings or other features of sixteenth-century date in the vicinity, therefore it must be assumed that the ring was accidentally lost. I am grateful to John Cherry and to the British Museum Research Laboratory for permission to publish their comments on the ring, also to Barbara Green, Keeper of Archaeology, Castle Museum, Norwich, for directing the initial enquiry to Bedford Museum.

NOTES

- 1 Mack, R.P., 1975 (3rd edition); *The Coinage of Ancient Britain*, Spink & Son Ltd, 14 no. 27 (resembles 1988/150) and Van Arsdell, R.D., 1989; *Celtic Coinage of Britain*, Spink & Son Ltd, 70-1, no. 52-1 (resembles 1988/149) and 54-1 (resembles 1988/150). These and similar staters are widespread in SE Britain and are associated with the period of the Gallic War and the Ambiani tribe of the Somme area. A note on these coins has been published in *British Numismatics J.* 57, 1987, Coin Register 124, nos. 2 and 3; and in Burnett, A.M. and Cowell, M.R. 1988; "Celtic Coinage in Britain II" in *British Numismatics J.* 58, 6 and plate 3, nos. 1 and 2.
- 2 A note on this coin is to be included by Dr A. Burnett, British Museum, in the Register of Coin Finds, forthcoming edition of the *British Numismatics J.*
- 3 Green, M.J., 1976; *The Religions of Civilian Roman Britain*, BAR 24, 17-9.
- 4 Page, W. and Keate, Miss, 1908; "Romano-British Bedfordshire" in *VCH Bedfordshire*, London, 13. The Shefford eagle was described as having outstretched wings, measuring 7½ ins across, and a weight of over 3 lb. It was apparently made to fit on a staff.
- 5 Manning, W.H., 1985; *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum*, British Museum, 17-8 and plate 8, B 14.
- 6 Mack, R.P., *ibid.*
- 7 Hall, D.N. and Nickerson, N., 1969; "Iron Age Pottery in North Bedfordshire and South Northamptonshire" in *Beds. Arch. J.*, 4, 1-12.
- 8 Hall, D.N., 1973; "Rescue Excavations at Radwell Gravel Pits, 1972", *Beds. Arch. J.*, 8, 67-91; and Hall, D.N. and Hutchings, J., 1983; "Iron Age features at Radwell gravel quarry", *Beds. Arch. J.*, 16, 85-7.
- 9 Although many Irish harness-mounts take the form of an ordinary cross or a T-shape, a good parallel for the form of the Felmersham piece exists in a mount found at Berdal, Norway, cat. no. 60 in Wamers, E., 1985; *Insularer Metallschmuck in wikingerzeitlichen Gräbern in Nordeuropas*, Offa-Bücher-Band 56, plate 24 no. 5.

- 10 Several sets of such harness-mounts from Viking graves in Ireland (Co. Meath) and Norway (Rogaland and Vestfold) have recently been exhibited at the British Museum, see Youngs, S. (ed.), 1989; *The Work of Angels*, British Museum, 117-20.
- 11 Williams, J.H., 1979; *St Peter's Street, Northampton; Excavations 1973-1976*, 254, Fig 109, Cu 44, and Young, S. (ed.), *op. cit.*, 118-9, no. 116.
- 12 Rahtz, P., 1979; *The Saxon and Medieval Palace at Cheddar*, BAR 65, 283, Fig 95.
- 13 Museum of London, 1954 and 1967; *Medieval Catalogue*, 163-65. The Roxton purse bar belongs to type A1 defined by a round or shield-shaped central boss, animal heads gripping side bars and frequent use of niello inlay.
- 14 Baker, D., Baker, E., Hassall, J. & Simco, A., 1979; "Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977", *Beds. Arch. J.*, 13, 284-5, cat. no. 1504. The Bedford Castle seal die is on display in Bedford Museum.
- 15 This and the following two seal dies belong to Rigold's species II which are mainly of fourteenth-century date, see Rigold, S.E., 1977; "Two common species of medieval seal matrix", *Ant. J. LVII*, 324-9.
- 16 Rigold, S.E., *ibid.*; 327 and 328, Fig 3, no. 11.
- 17 Hall, D.N., 1972; "A Thirteenth Century Pottery Kiln Site at Harrold, Bedfordshire" in *Milton Keynes J. of Arch. and Hist. I*, 41-54.
- 18 Hall, D.N. and Hutchings, J., 1980; "Thurleigh Church Excavations", *Beds. Arch. J.*, 14, 59-75.
- 19 Dalton, D.M., 1912; *Catalogue of the Finger Rings: Early Christian, Byzantine, Teutonic, Medieval and Later (Franks Bequest)*, British Museum, 50 no. 299.

LUTON MUSEUM

ROBIN HOLGATE

Donations and Enquiries

MESOLITHIC/NEOLITHIC/BRONZE AGE

Toddington TL 01 28

Mesolithic bladelet core from TL 014 286, 11 neolithic/Bronze Age hard hammer struck flakes from TL 015 286 and 4 neolithic/Bronze Age miscellaneous retouched flakes from TL 017 285.

LTNMG 1988/42/2=4 donated by Mr J. Pollard and found by him along footpaths SE of Toddington between 1984 and 1987.

Toddington TL 010 291

Mesolithic core tablet, crested blade and blade.

LTNMG 1988/42/1 and 1988/79/1 donated by Mr J. Pollard and found by him in 1986 and 1988 in the garden of 11 Station Road.

Mesolithic crested blade and 6 neolithic/Bronze Age hard hammer struck flakes.

LTNMG 1989/106 donated by Mr J. Pollard and found by him in 1989 from allotments behind Station Road.

Luton/Butterfield Green TL 110 250

3 hard hammer struck flakes, 1 core and 4 miscellaneous retouched flakes of later neolithic/Bronze Age date.

LTNMG 1989/107/1 donated by Mr C. Makin and collected by him from the field surface in 1988.

Flitwick/Ruxox Farm TL 048 363

Basesherd of an early Bronze Age biconical urn, dated to c1500 BC.

LTNMG 1989/11 donated by Mr P. Osborne who found it in 1983 on line of Ampthill bypass.

ROMANO-BRITISH

COIN

Luton/Laburnham Close [TL 08 25]

Two Aes 3 folles. 1. Constantine I in fair condition. Obverse: IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG with lauriate head looking right. Reverse: D. N. CONSTANTINI MAX.AVG. with laurel-wreath. 2. Constantine II in fair condition. Obverse: laureate head looking right. Reverse: CAESARVM NOSTRORVM with laurel-wreath.

LTNMG 1989/63/1=2 donated by Mr A.G. Kingman. Found by the donor in the garden of 25 Laburnham Close.

COIN

Eaton Bray [SP 97 20]

Aes 3 coin of fourth-century date in poor condition.

LTNMG enquiry 3079 reported by I.M. Clarke.

COIN

Luton/Trinity Road [TL 075 239]

Antoninianus of Postumus (259-268). Obverse: POSTVMVS P.F. AVG with bust radiate right. Reverse: ?PAX AVG with ?Pax standing left raising right arm with star in field.

LTNMG 1988/125 donated by Mr N. Purkis. Found by the donor in the garden of 53 Trinity Road.

COIN

Luton/Sundon Park [TL 060 248]

Antoninianus of Carausius (287-293) in fair condition. Obverse: IMP.CARAVSIVS.P.F.AVG. with

bust radiate draped right. Reverse: PAX AVG with Pax standing left with sceptre; Camulodunum mint.

LTNMG 1989/69 donated by Mrs C. Atkinson. Found by donor at Sundon Park Recreation Ground near Waulud's Bank.

POTSHERDS

Galley Hill

[TL 09 26]

5 fragments of Romano-British coarse pottery, as well as 11 flint flakes, 2 end scrapers and 1 miscellaneous retouched flake of later neolithic/Bronze Age date.

LTNMG 1989/6 donated by Mr P. Shaw. Found by Robin Holgate and Ren Hudspeth by surface collection survey in the vicinity of a crop-mark oval enclosure to the east of Galley Hill.

ANGLO-SAXON

POTSHERD

Harlington

TL 032 300

Rimsherd of pre-eighth century bowl.

LTNMG 1989/12 donated by Mr P. Osborne and found by him at Sheepwalk Hill in 1983.

MEDIEVAL

COIN

Luton/Stockwood

[TL 08 19]

Edward I long cross silver penny issued at Durham (1279-1307) in fair condition.

LTNMG 1989/66/1 donated by Mrs J.L. Conybeare. Found at Stockwood allotments.

POTSHERDS

Conger Hill

TL 011 289

A total of 14 fragments of late medieval pottery.

LTNMG 1988/42/5 and 1988/79/2 donated by Mr J. Pollard and found by him on the eroded SE side of Conger Hill in 1987 and 1988.

POTSHERD

Barton-le-Clay

TL 085 301

1 large rimsherd from a late medieval jar with impressed cordon decoration.

LTNMG 1988/39 donated by Mr J. O'Dell. Found in the stream at Church Road.

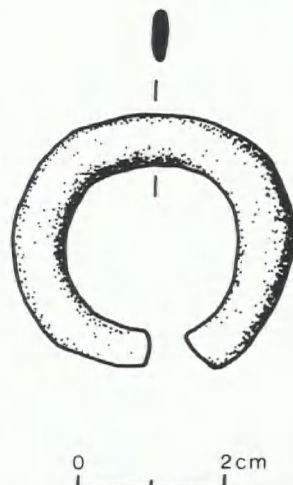


Fig 1 Iron penannular ring brooch, Puddlehill

Collection Research

Puddlehill

TL 009 233

The excavation of an Iron Age settlement at Puddlehill by the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable in the 1970s produced a small quantity of iron objects.¹ Most of these objects have been conserved recently by the St Albans Museums' Conservation Laboratory. Whilst conserving one of these items, the so-called "ring headed iron object with swan neck",² it became apparent that the object is a penannular ring brooch (Fig. 1). The part of the object previously interpreted as the "swan neck" is a brooch pin, although insufficient remained of the pin to confirm whether or not it belonged to this penannular ring brooch. The brooch came from a pit associated with "group 3" pottery from the site, dated to the fifth century BC.

Luton/Wodecroft Road, Limbury

TL 077 248

Extensive traces of Romano-British occupation, including ditches, pits and traces of a building, were unearthed during the construction of roads on the new housing estate at Runfold Avenue, Limbury during 1953. These discoveries, mainly from the area stripped for Wodecroft Road, were reported on by Manning.³ However, his report on the coarse wares was only a summary statement and Malcolm Lyne's study in 1989 of the pottery has provided further information on the assemblage from the Wodecroft Road area.

A POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE FROM WODECROFT ROAD, LIMBURY

Malcolm Lyne

Large quantities of pottery were found in 1953 at Wodecroft Road in association with coinage ranging in date between AD 270 and 348. This pottery has been analysed using the EVE (Estimated Vessel Equivalent) method (see Table 1). This involves totalling up the percentages by fabric of rim circumferences represented by surviving rim fragments and is generally held to be the best statistical method to use for evaluating pottery.

1. The coarse kitchen wares

The bulk of the pottery (56.2%: percentages given in this section are of total coarse wares) is of relatively local manufacture and consists of sandy grey wares. Probably connected with this local industry is a range of black, sandy, wheel-turned bowls and dishes (10.2%). These appear to be deliberate imitations of Dorset Black-Burnished ware (BB1) forms, even down to the burnished linear decoration on the exterior surfaces of the vessels. There are two

other handmade vessels in similar fabric (1.5%) which probably came from the same source. Genuine, handmade BB1 is also present but in minute quantities (0.9%).

Shell-tempered wares from the Harrold kilns in northern Bedfordshire are also present in reasonable quantities (16.8%). There are three vessel types present: horizontally-ribbed, hook-rimmed jars, flanged bowls and large storage jars. The quantities present support the evidence of the coinage in indicating an early rather than late fourth-century date for the pottery. The Harrold kiln products became overwhelmingly dominant in the SE Midlands after AD 350 with late fourth-century groups from the St Albans area having as much as 30% present. One would expect a late fourth-century group from Luton to have such wares making up to 50% of the assemblage.

The Much Hadham kilns near Hertford produced two main fabrics, both of which are present here. The grey wares (8.3%) are treated as coarse and the orange, oxidised wares as fine but this is probably an over-simplification of the situation. Smaller quantities of coarse pottery came from the Verulamium kilns (1.5%) and the Nene Valley (2.6%). There is

	Jars EVE %	Bowls EVE %	Dishes EVE %	Beakers EVE %	Store Jars EVE %	Others EVE %	Total EVE %
Misc. black & grey wares	6.63	3.56	1.42	.36			11.97 56.2
W/T imit. BB1		1.13	.98		.07		2.18 10.2
H/M imit. BB1		.25	.06				.31 1.5
BB1		.14	.05				.19 .9
W/T shell tempered	2.85	.51			.21		3.57 16.8
Hadham grey	.47	.89	.4				1.76 8.3
Verulamium oxidised	.32						.32 1.5
Nene Valley grey	.43	.06	.06				.55 2.6
Alice Holt					p		p
Grogged store jars					.32		.32 1.5
Sandy white (?residual)	.13						.13 .6
Total: coarse wares	10.83 (50.8)	6.54 (30.7)	2.97 (13.9)	.36 (1.7)	.6 (2.8)		21.3 69.4
Nene Valley cc	.1	.84	.18	.85		Mort.: .02	2.04 6.6
Oxford red cc		.88	.54	.67		Bottle: .05	
Oxford ww						Mort.: .17	2.37 7.7
Oxford parchment	.09	.08				Lid: .11	1.65 5.4
Hadham oxidised	.1	.48	.17	.12		Mort.: 1.65	.17 .6
Samian			.14			Bottle: 1.43	2.37 7.7
Others		.2		.25		Mort.: .07	.14 .5
						Mort.: .22	.67 2.2
Total: all wares	11.12 (36.2)	9.02 (29.4)	4 (13)	2.25 (7.3)	.6 (2)	3.72 (12.1)	30.71

TABLE 1 The pottery assemblage from Wodecroft Road, Limbury

one solitary storage jar body-sherd from the Alice Holt kilns on the Hampshire-Surrey border. This is decorated with herring-bone combing.

The coarse wares account for 69.4% of all pottery and are characterised by a high ratio of bowls and dishes (44.6%) to jars (50.8%). It is more normal for jars to outnumber bowls and dishes by about two to one.

2. The fine wares

The bulk of the fine wares and mortaria came from the Oxfordshire kilns (13.7%: percentages given in this section are of all pottery) and can be subdivided into red-colour-coated (7.7%), white wares (5.4%) and parchment wares (0.6%). The white wares are restricted to mortaria and the red-colour-coated mainly to bowls, dishes and beakers in imitation Samian wares. Much Hadham was the second most important source of fine wares (7.7%). Many of its products were similar to those in Oxfordshire red-colour-coated ware. The Nene valley industry supplied a range of jars, bowls, dishes, beakers, mortaria and bottles in a fine white fabric with chocolate colour-coat (6.6%). A residual Central Gaulish Samian dish fragment (0.5%) is also present and a few non-attributable fine ware fragments account for the remainder (2.2%).

Fieldwork

Luton/Bramingham vicinity of TL 077 259

The Icknield Way runs in a SW to NE direction across the SE part of the new Bramingham housing estate. As the Romano-British settlement in the Wodecroft Road area (see above) extended as far N as the Icknield Way,⁴ a survey was undertaken of areas where topsoil was stripped for roads and house foundations in 1987-88. No *in situ* archaeological features were recorded and the only artefacts recovered were later neolithic/Bronze Age flints; these are listed below.

TL 079 258: 19 flakes, 4 cores, 2 scrapers and 1 miscellaneous retouched flake (LTNMG 1989/17/1).

TL 078 258: 3 flakes (LTNMG 1989/17/2).

TL 078 262: 3 flakes and 1 scraper (LTNMG 1989/17/3).

TL 080 264: 3 flakes (LTNMG 1989/17/4).

Further material was found by Mr C. Makin in the vicinity of TL 076 262, including 28 flakes, 3 cores, 2 scrapers and 10 miscellaneous retouched flakes of later neolithic/Bronze Age date, and 1 fragment of Samian ware (LTNMG 1989/107/2).

The cultivated field immediately SE of Great Bramingham Farm (in vicinity of TL 077 264) was walked in transects spaced at 20 m intervals during November 1987; artefacts in each 20 m section along every transect were collected. A diffuse scatter of flintwork was found across the field; this included a mesolithic bladelet core and truncated blade, and 42 hard hammer struck flakes, 3 cores, 1 disc core, 4 scrapers, 1 piercer and 3 miscellaneous retouched flakes of later neolithic/Bronze Age date (LTNMG 1989/18). The line of Dray's Ditches runs along the N edge of the field and 1 Iron Age sherd was found in the NW part of the field close to the line of the earthwork. Also in the NW corner of the field (in vicinity of TL 075 263), adjacent to the outbuildings of Great Bramingham Farm, 83 fragments of thirteenth- to sixteenth-century pottery were recovered (Fig 2). This material is probably associated with the manor house of "Bramble-hanger, alias Bramhanger" known from documentary evidence to have existed here in the late medieval period.

A number of coins have been recovered with metal detectors in the southern part of the Bramingham estate. Mr M. Taylor discovered 2 Iron Age coins (of Cunobeline and Tasciovanus) and 50 third- to fourth-century coins in 1982-88 from an area 500 m radius SW, S and NE of the Sainsbury's store (in vicinity of TL 078 257). The identifiable Roman coins include 1 of Caracalla, 4 of Gallienus, 3 of Claudius II Gothicus, 2 of Constantine I, 1 of Theodora, 3 of Constantine II and 1 of Valens.

Archaeological material from area already built on by 1987 includes 1 mesolithic notched bladelet collected by Dr P. Hyman in 1989 (LTNMG 1989/95) from Kershaw Close (TL 069 261) and the remains of 2 Romano-British timber buildings and pits of late third- to fourth-century date recorded by Mr D. Warren in 1979-80 along Leamington Road (TL 076 253).⁵

Although archaeological reconnaissance of the Bramingham area has been patchy, a considerable amount of information concerning past settlement of the site has been ascertained. The low density scatter of mesolithic and later neolithic/Bronze Age flintwork suggests that the area was exploited to a certain extent at this time, whilst the paucity of Iron Age material suggests that Dray's Ditches was a

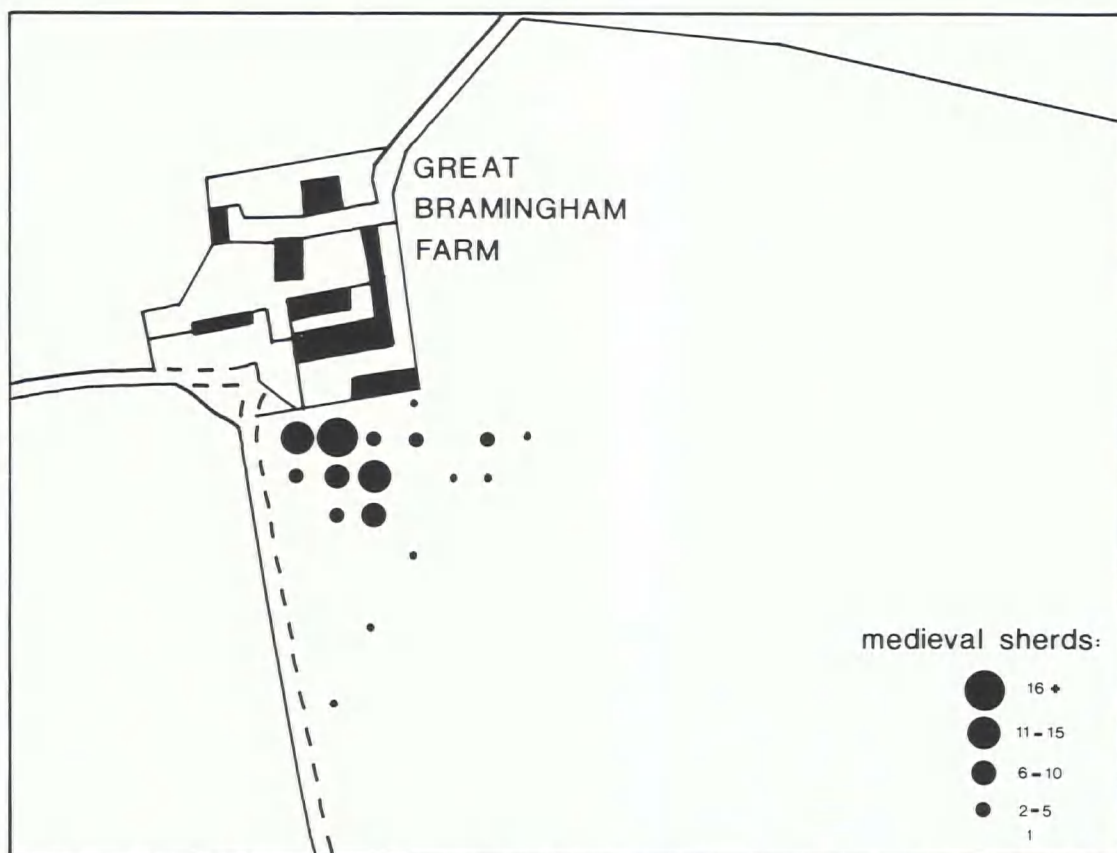


Fig 2 Distribution of medieval sherds from fieldwalking — Great Bramingham Farm, Luton

form of boundary marker as opposed to an earth-work associated with domestic activity.⁶ The distribution of Romano-British artefacts indicates that the settlement centred on Wodecroft Road and Gooseberry Hill extended north of the Icknield Way for a short distance only, with pasture or woodland probably lying beyond this up to Dray's Ditches. The settlement was probably abandoned by the start of the Saxon period. During the medieval period, a manorial complex was centred on the site of Great Bramingham Farm, probably with grazing land or woodland on the southern side of the manor. The site has then continued to be farmed until the new housing estate was developed in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Caddington/Zouches Farm TL 041 213

Since the early 1970s, Mr M.O. Wilmot has amassed a large collection of humanly-struck flints and

Romano-British material from the surface of cultivated land at Zouches Farm. The flints include mesolithic debitage and neolithic-Bronze Age debitage, scrapers, cutting tools, piercers and an oblique arrowhead, collected from an area approximately 600 m by 300 m situated to the W of the farm. The Romano-British material, retrieved from an area N of the farm, includes Samian ware, coarse wares, tile and glass fragments, and a coin of ?Hadrian. Further archaeological material was collected from several localities at Zouches Farm in January 1989, as detailed below.

TL 036 213: 16 bladelets and 2 cores of mesolithic date; and 44 flakes, 3 cores, 6 scrapers and a piercer of neolithic date (LTNMG 1989/25).

TL 036 215: 32 blades and 9 cores of mesolithic date; and 47 flakes, 4 cores and 4 scrapers of neolithic date (LTNMG 1989/26).

TL 038 216: 38 sherds of Romano-British coarse ware and 6 tile fragments (LTNMG 1989/27).

TL 038 216: 3 mesolithic blades, 6 neolithic flakes and 2 neolithic scrapers (LTNMG 1989/28).

TL 036 215-TL 048 218: 7 flakes and 1 scraper of neolithic date, 4 Romano-British sherds, 1 medieval sherd and 1 whetstone fragment (LTNMG 1989/29=33).

Mesolithic cores were recovered from Blows Downs in the 1920s (LTNMG 2504 & 2505/1/28 and BL/235/39), possibly coming from the mesolithic-neolithic site west of Zouches farm. The Romano-British material could represent the remains of a small farmstead situated north of Zouches Farm in the Romano-British period.

Barton Bypass

TL 077 298-TL 082 318

The 1.5 km length of the bypass route, skirting the western edge of Barton village, was surveyed between late January and March 1989 by Robin Holgate and Ren Hudspith. All material recovered during the initial survey and from subsequent investigations on the bypass was donated to Luton Museum by the Ministry of Transport (LTNMG 1990/24).

Three concentrations of material were found during the initial survey.

1. A medieval site opposite Higham Road junction (TL 081 318): 20 medieval sherds and 1 animal bone were found initially (LTNMG 1990/24/91).

2. A medieval pottery scatter north of Faldo Road (TL 078 315): 12 medieval sherds were found by surface collection (LTNMG 1990/24/1 and 1990/24/89) but no features or further sherds were recorded after topsoil stripping.

3. A Romano-British pottery scatter below Bartonhill Cutting (TL 077 299): this site was first discovered when a water pipe trench was laid across the line of the Bypass at TL 0765 2985 (John Manning pers. comm.). A surface collection survey in late January by Robin Holgate, Ren Hudspith, John and Sean Manning recovered 5 mesolithic/neolithic flints, 1 Iron Age sherd, 34 Romano-British sherds and 3 Romano-British tile fragments (LTNMG 1990/24/2).

Further survey and excavation work was undertaken at 2 of these sites.

Medieval site opposite Higham Road junction

[TL 081 318]

Further investigations were carried out by Ren Hudspith and the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable in late March 1989. Surface collection produced 5 Romano-British sherds, 82 late medieval sherds, 4 medieval tile fragments, a whetstone fragment and 6 animal bone fragments; iron nails and a George III farthing were also recovered (LTNMG 1990/24/102=108). A layer of compacted stone, possibly the surface of a yard, was recorded and sampled by excavation, producing 3 medieval sherds in association with the stone layer (LTNMG 1990/24/109). However, it is possible that the sherds were residual and that the stone layer is post-medieval in date. The site is described in greater detail by Hudspith.⁷

Romano-British site below Bartonhill Cutting

[TL 077 299]

Further surface collection by Robin Holgate and Ren Hudspith produced 5 mesolithic blades, 22 flakes and 3 scrapers of neolithic date, 33 Romano-British sherds and 26 animal bone fragments (LTNMG 1990/24/83=84;88;97). The site was also surveyed using metal detectors by Miriam and Ron Hammond and John and Sean Manning, yielding a Bronze Age bronze dagger/knife blade fragment (LTNMG 1990/24/78), 203 Romano-British coins (LTNMG 1990/24/3=77), 5 Romano-British bow brooch fragments (LTNMG 1990/24/79) and a late Romano-British toilet set (LTNMG 1990/24/82). The coins have been identified by M.D. Deacon.

ROMAN COINS⁸

M.D. Deacon

Coins found by M. & R. Hammond

Pre-Constantinian

1. C1-3 As or Dupondius.
2. As of Titus or Domitian (79-96).
3. As of Dupondius, probably Antonine (C1-2).
4. Sestertius, probably Antonine (C1-2).
5. C3 Antoninianus - type: AEQUITAS AUG.
6. Antoninianus of Gallienus (260-8), type: probably LIBERTAS.
7. Antoninianus of Gallienus (260-8).
8. Barbarous Radiate of Tetricus I or II (270-3).
9. Barbarous Radiate of a Gallic Usurper (258-71).
10. Antoninianus of Carausius (287-93).

11. Antoninianus of Allectus (293-6), type: LAETITIA AUG.
12. 4 Barbarous Radiates of mid-late C3.
13. 3 probable Barbarous Radiates of mid-late C3.

Constantinian

14. Follis of Licinius I (308-24), possibly Mint of Trier.
15. 2 Follis of Constantine I (307-37), type: RIC 42, Mint of Trier, SOLI INVICTO COMITI, date 313-5.
16. Follis of Constantine I (307-37), type: SOLI INVICTO COMITI.
17. Follis of Constantine II as Caesar (316-37), type: CAESARUM NOSTRORUM.
18. Follis of Constantine I (307-37), type: BEATA TRANQUILLITAS, Mint of Trier, date 321-3.
19. Follis of Fausta, type: RIC 300, Mint of London, SALUS REIPUBLICAE, date 324/5.
20. Follis of Helena, type: RIC 481, Mint of Trier, SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE, date 326.
21. Follis of Constantine I (307-37), type: RIC 252, Mint of Lyons, URBS ROMA, date 332.
22. Follis of Constantine I (307-37), type: RIC 537, Mint of Trier, GLORIA EXERCITUS, date 332/3.
23. Follis of Constantine I (307-37), type: RIC 543, Mint of Trier, CONSTANTINOPOLIS, date 332/3.
24. Follis of Constantine I (307-37), type: RIC 267, Mint of Lyons, URBS ROMA, date 333/4.
25. Follis of Constantine II as Caesar (316-37), type: Mint of Trier, GLORIA EXERCITUS, date 335-7.
26. 11 Constantinian Follis, type: GLORIA EXERCITUS, date 330-40.
27. Constantinian Follis, type: GLORIA EXERCITUS, possibly Mint of Trier, date 330-40.
28. Constantinian Follis, type: URBS ROMA, date 330-40.
29. Constantinian Follis, type: CONSTANTINOPOLIS, possibly Mint of Lyons, date 330-50.
30. Follis of Constans (337-50), type: VICTORIAE. DD. AUGG. Q.NN, possibly Mint of Trier, date 347/8.
31. Follis of Constantius II (337-61), type: RIC 181, VICTORIAE. DD. AUGG. Q.NN, Mint of Trier, date 347/8.
32. Follis of Constantius II (337-61).
33. 2 Constantinian Follis, type: VICTORIAE. DD. AUGG. Q.NN, date 347/8.
34. Constantinian Follis, type: VICTORIAE. DD. AUGG. Q.NN, Mint of Siscia, date 347/8.
35. Follis of Magentius (350-3), type: RIC 114, FELICITAS REIPUBLICAE, Mint of Lyons, date 19 January 350-Spring 351.
36. Follis of Decentius (351-3), type: possibly unique coin, unregistered in RIC. Obverse: DECENTIUS CAESAR, Head bare, R. Reverse: SALUS DD.NN.AUG.ET. CAESS. Alpha and Omega either side of large Chi-Rho. Mint mark, STRP, Mint of Trier.
37. Constantinian Barbarous Follis, C4.

Post Constantinian

38. 3 Valentinianic Follis, type: SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE, date 364-78.
39. 3 Valentinianic Follis, type: possibly SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE, date 364-92.
40. Valentinianic Follis, type: SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE, probably Mint of Arles, date 364-78.
41. Valentinianic Follis, type: GLORIA ROMANORUM, Mint of Thessalonica, date 364-72.

42. Valentinianic Follis, type: GLORIA ROMANORUM, possibly Mint of Rome, date 364-92.
43. Valentinianic Follis, type: GLORIA ROMANORUM, date 364-92.

Unidentifiable Coins

4 coins below 10 mm diameter	5 coins of 11 mm diameter
5 coins of 12 mm diameter	18 coins of 13 mm diameter
13 coins of 14 mm diameter	1 coin of 12-14 mm diameter
10 coins of 15 mm diameter	28 coins of 16 mm diameter
6 coins of 17 mm diameter	1 coin of 14-17 mm diameter
1 coin of 16-17 mm diameter	8 coins of 18 mm diameter
1 coin of 16-18 mm diameter	3 coins of 20 mm diameter
1 coin of 22 mm diameter	1 coin of 23 mm diameter
1 coin of 24 mm diameter	3 coins of 25 mm diameter
1 coin of 26 mm diameter	3 coins of 27 mm diameter

Coins found by J. & S. Manning

1. Antoninianus of Claudius II (268-70).
2. Antoninianus, possibly of Claudius II (268-70).
3. Constantinian Follis, type: GLORIA EXERCITUS, date 330-40.
4. Valentinianic Follis, type: GLORIA ROMANORUM, Mint of Constantinople, date 364-75.
5. Valentinianic Follis, type: SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE, date 364-78.

Unidentifiable Coins

1 coin of 12 mm diameter	2 coins of 13 mm diameter
1 coin of 11-13 mm diameter	1 coin of 12-13 mm diameter
1 coin of 14 mm diameter	1 coin of 15 mm diameter
1 coin of 13-15 mm diameter	4 coins of 16 mm diameter
1 coin of 14-16 mm diameter	1 coin of 17 mm diameter
1 coin of 16-17 mm diameter	1 coin of 18 mm diameter
1 coin of 16-18 mm diameter	1 coin of 18-20 mm diameter
1 coin of 21 mm diameter	1 coin of 25 mm diameter

A sample excavation by the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable in late March 1989 did not locate any features but produced further material. This included 28 Iron Age sherds, 198 Romano-British sherds, 14 Romano-British tile fragments, 3 pieces of fired clay, 12 medieval sherds, an iron bow brooch, an antoninianus of Gallienus (260-8) and 53 animal bone fragments (LTNMG 1989/24/92=96;98;11;101). The Romano-British pottery included 2 fragments of Samian ware, grey wares, shell-tempered wares, grass-tempered wares, a coarse ware mortarium fragment and colour-coated wares, including both Nene Valley and Oxfordshire wares. The animal bones included sheep, ox and possibly pig bones. The site is described in greater detail by Hudspeth.⁹

In mid May 1989, Miriam Hammond noticed two features truncated by the drainage ditch dug by the contractors on the W side of the Bypass. Both were

Romano-British drainage ditches, probably forming part of a field system. The first produced 71 Romano-British sherds from two vessels, one a grey war jar (LTNMG 1990/24/85) and the other a shell-tempered jar (LTNMG 1990/24/86), whilst the second yielded 10 Romano-British sherds and four animal bone fragments (LTNMG 1990/24/87).

The Romano-British material and drainage ditches suggest that a small farmstead or ancillary farming site of mid third- to late fourth-centuries AD date was situated next to the stream at the foot of Bartonhill Cutting. Iron Age and first-century AD material was also recovered, perhaps indicating a longer period of occupation than that suggested by the bulk of the pottery and coins recovered from the site. The medieval pottery could have resulted from medieval cultivation and manuring on and in the vicinity of the site.

NOTES

- 1 These are reported in Matthews, C.L., 1976; *Occupation Sites on a Chiltern Ridge* (British Archaeological Reports British Series 29).
- 2 Matthews, C.L. *op. cit.* 71-2; Fig 28, no. 12.
- 3 Manning, W.H., 1955; "A Roman site at Runfold Avenue, Limbury" *Bedfordshire Archaeologist* 1; 21-7.
- 4 Simco, A., 1984; *Survey of Bedfordshire. The Roman Period* (Beds. County Council and RCHM), 109 gazetteer entry 154.
- 5 Warren, D., 1990; "Roman Settlement at Bramingham, Luton (Limbury) TL 074-6/252-4", *The Manshead Magazine* 30; 1-19.
- 6 Surface collection survey of the two cultivated fields immediately N of Dray's Ditches on the E side of the A6 in Autumn 1987 and Winter 1988 produced a small quantity of later neolithic/Bronze Age flintwork, but no Iron Age material.
- 7 Hudspith, R., 1990; "A Watching Brief and Rescue Archaeology - Barton Bypass Feb-March 1989", *The Manshead Magazine* 30; 29-33.
- 8 Catalogued using Bruun, P.M., 1966; *The Roman Imperial Coinage Vol. VII (Constantine and Licinius, AD 313-337)* and Kent, J.P.C., 1981; *The Roman Imperial Coinage Vol. VIII (The Family of Constantine I, AD 337-364)*.
- 9 Hudspith, R. *op. cit.*, 30-3.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Bedford Museum, North Bedfordshire Borough Council, and to Luton Museum Service, Luton Borough Council, for grants towards the cost of this paper.

A Palaeolithic Site Rediscovered at Biddenham, Bedfordshire

PHIL HARDING, DAVID BRIDGLAND, DAVID KEEN AND ROBERT ROGERSON

INTRODUCTION

A site of considerable archaeological and geological significance, at Biddenham, Bedfordshire, has been investigated for the first time in over a century. The site was originally described by Wyatt (1861, 1862), Prestwich (1861, 1864) and Evans (1872). It was known from these reports to be an important source of Palaeolithic artefacts, as well as mammalian and molluscan remains, all of which occur in gravels, sands and silts forming a terrace of the River Ouse. In April 1986 sections were excavated by the authors in the basal part of these terrace deposits under the auspices of the Geological Conservation Review, a programme of site appraisal being undertaken by the Nature Conservancy Council.

GEOLOGY AND PALAEOONTOLOGY

The sections excavated at Biddenham, in the Deep Spinney Pit, exposed the lowest 2 m of a total of approximately 7 m of fluvial deposits at this site. The uppermost 3.5 m of gravel, lacking fossils or archaeological evidence, is exposed in a face some 0.2 km to the west of the Deep Spinney (Fig 1.1). Two new sections (A & B) were excavated by hand, in the basal deposits, both yielding Palaeolithic artefacts from immediately above the Oxford Clay (Fig. 1, Section A). Section A also revealed beds and lenses of shelly clay interbedded with the gravel. Section B was restricted to the lowest 0.5 m of the gravel.

Forty-six species of mollusc were identified amongst the material collected from Section A, a significant increase on the 30 recorded at Biddenham by Kennard and Woodward (1922). The assemblage was dominated by aquatic taxa, but with terrestrial snails also represented. The variety and characteristics of the assemblage point to temperate (interglacial) conditions.

The Biddenham deposits represent the highest terrace of the River Ouse (Rogerson, 1987) and as such seem likely to be of Middle Pleistocene rather than Late Pleistocene age. An attempt to obtain an estimate of their relative age using amino acid analysis of shell material is eagerly anticipated. A publication providing full details of the geology

and palaeontology of this site is currently being prepared.

ARCHAEOLOGY (Fig 2)

FLAKE 1

Raw material and condition. A broken flake, measuring 72 mm long by 48 mm wide, was found lying in two pieces at the base of the gravel on the natural clay surface of Section B. It is made of good quality flint with an eroded chalky cortex and coarser cherty inclusions. It has a light orange staining and is in a sharp (Wymer 1968 Pl 11) condition, with some slight damage to the edges. The conjoining surfaces are in mint condition which indicates that the break was post depositional.

Technology. The flake has a clear point and cone of percussion which typifies the use of a hard stone hammer (Ohnuma and Bergman 1984). The butt is faceted, a technique used to determine the platform angle prior to detaching the flake, which is most commonly associated with Levallois technology; however the negative scars on the dorsal surface of the flake are aligned parallel with its main axis of percussion, rather than convergent as might be expected with Levallois technology. Flakes of this type can be produced during the preparation of Levallois cores, but are not in themselves the end product of the prepared core technique. They can also result from the manufacture of handaxes, and as such are not diagnostic of technology or age.

FLAKE 2

Raw material and condition. This retouched flake was found on the clay bedrock surface of Section A in a horizontal position. It measures 75 mm long by 76 mm wide and is made of good quality flint, although incipient thermal fractures would probably make knapping quality unreliable. It has a weathered chalky cortex and is stained dark orange brown. It is in a rolled condition (Wymer *op. cit.*) with considerable damage to all edges.

Technology. The point and cone of percussion are both clear, which indicates the use of a hard stone hammer (Ohnuma and Bergman *op. cit.*). A second

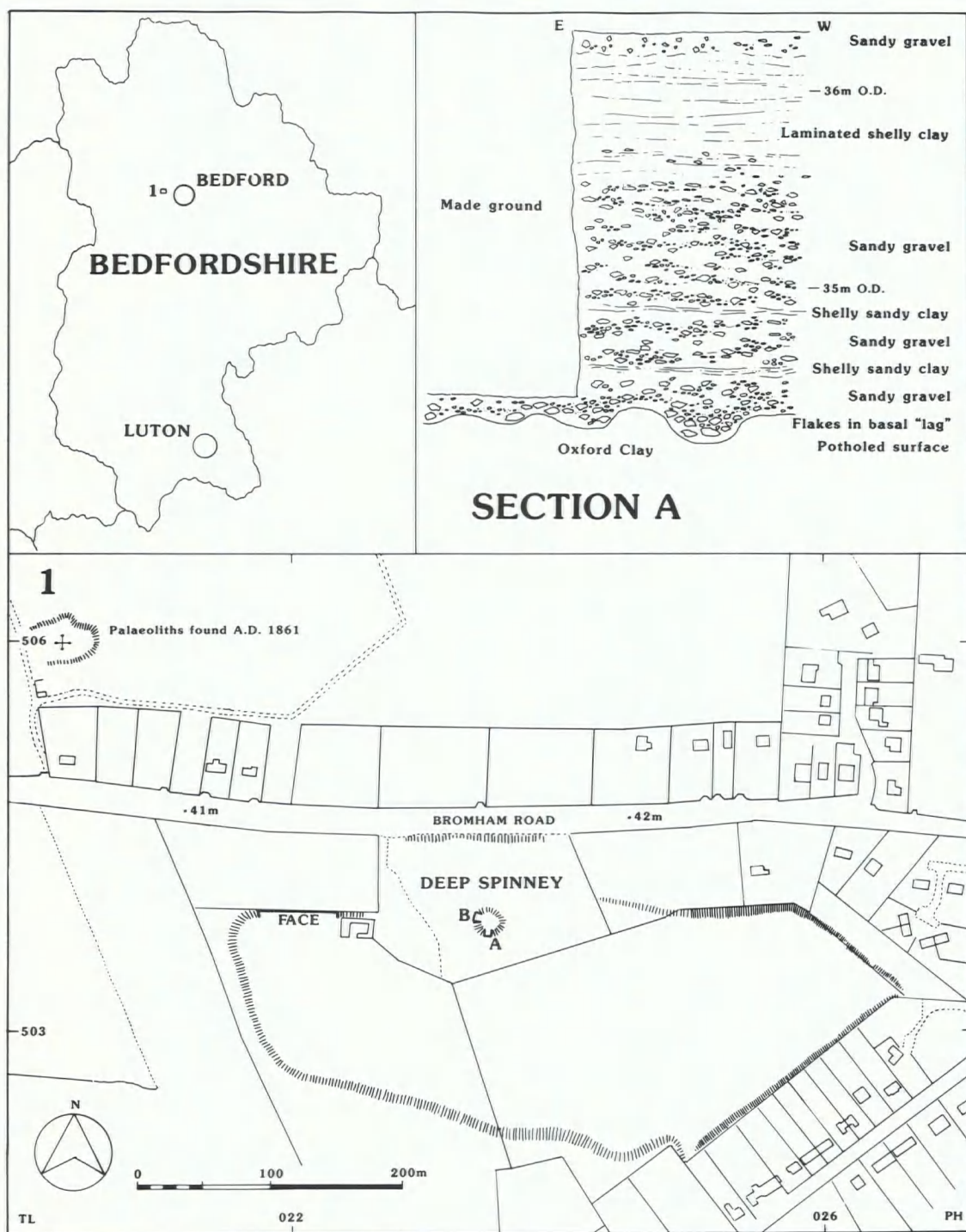


Fig 1 Spinney Pit: Site location and Section A (above), Site plan (below)

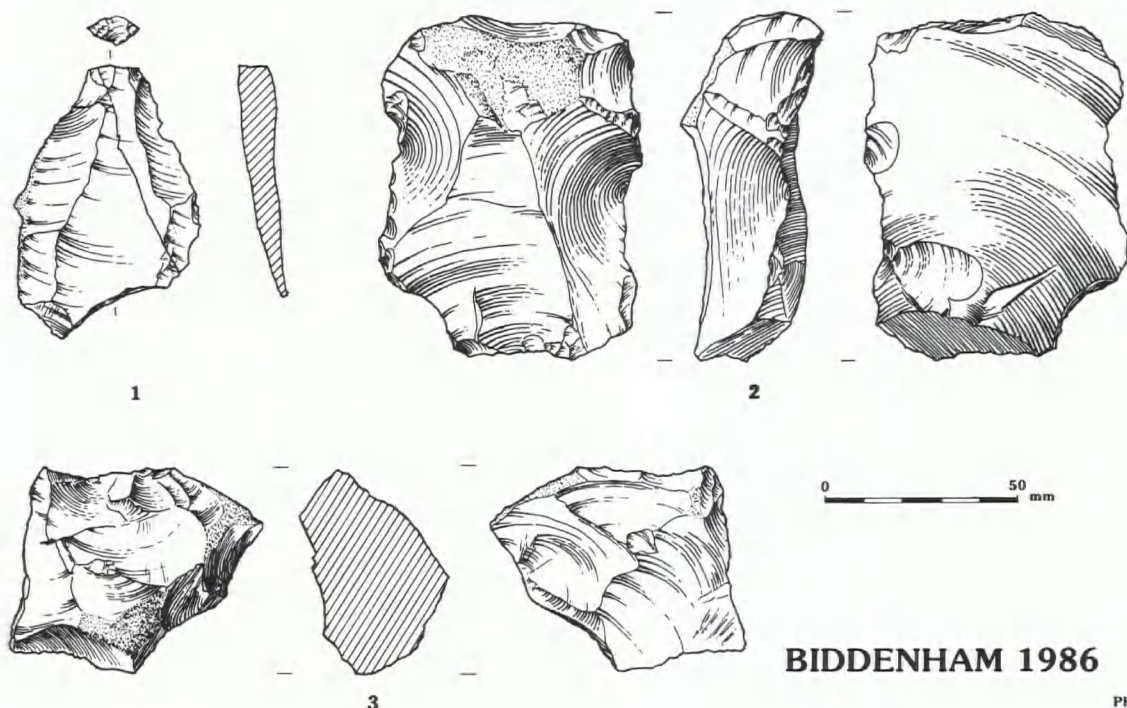


Fig 2 Spinney Pit: The Palaeolithic flakes and core

cone of percussion, which may have resulted from an earlier mishit or from an irregularity in the hammer surface, is present, but has been removed partially by the bulbar scar. The flake has a broad plain butt and a low angle of percussion, indicating that there was no platform preparation before the flake was detached. There is a single negative flake scar on the dorsal surface aligned parallel to the main axis of percussion, suggesting that the flake was not removed from a prepared core.

Flakes of this type are characteristic of Clactonian technology, but are not exclusive to Clactonian industries, as they can result from the production of both cores and handaxes.

Retouch. The flake has been notched on both edges by direct invasive retouch. Additional abrupt, direct retouch, which may be deliberate, extends round to the distal end from the right edge. Retouch of this type is similar to that found on Clactonian artefacts from the Lower Gravel and Lower Loam at Swanscombe (J. McNabb pers. comm.).

MISCELLANEOUS FLAKES

Three small flakes were found near the base of the

gravel in Section A. They are all undiagnostic and at least one may have resulted from natural gravel collision in the river.

FLINT CORE

Raw material and condition. An irregular flake core was found in the gravel of Section B. It is in a sharp/slightly rolled condition and is made from a water worn flint pebble with a thermal fracture in one face. This flaw probably caused the final core rejection.

Technology. The striking platforms of the core utilise previous flaking surfaces or show crude preparation. No attempt was made to shape the core before each flake was removed by hard stone hammer percussion. Cores of this type provide blanks for simple flake tools and are neither technologically nor culturally diagnostic.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Biddenham has been known for many years to be a prolific archaeological site. Roe (1981, 211) recorded that it has produced hundreds of mixed artefacts, including pointed handaxes and "proto-Leval-

loisian" cores and flakes. The recent section cleaning has provided an opportunity to re-examine the site and, despite its limited extent, has confirmed the presence of both archaeological and faunal material.

The work has also provided confirmation of Wyatt's (1862, 80) observation that artefacts occurred towards the base of the deposit. Very little can be said about the artefacts themselves. They are in contrasting condition and technology, which is consistent with a mixed assemblage, and as a result they do little to date the deposit. The discovery of a flake with a faceted butt is, by itself, insufficient to confirm that Levallois material is present, but it does not contradict Roe's observation. There is also a possibility that previously unrecorded Clactonian artefacts may be present.

In the well-documented Lower Thames terrace sequence, mixed Palaeolithic assemblages of this type, with Clactonian artefacts alongside handaxes and the earliest Levallois material, are particularly characteristic of the Corbets Tey (= Lynch Hill) Gravel. This terrace aggradation has recently been attributed to the mid Saalian Stage, possibly equivalent to Oxygen Isotope Stages 10-8 of the oceanic record (Bridgland, in press).

The discovery of flint flakes from such a limited excavation suggests that future exposures should be observed for archaeological material whenever possible.

The finds in this report have been deposited at Bedford Museum (Acc. No. 1988/186).

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Mesolithic Finds from Priestley Farm, Flitwick

KEVAN FADDEN

SUMMARY

The opportunity, presented when the Southern Gas feeder pipe was installed across Bedfordshire in 1977, was taken to walk the fields in advance of excavation to look for archaeological features on the ground and

to watch the work as it progressed. Special attention was given to the sections cut by the digger. Experience in the area suggested that Mesolithic material could be expected and a concentration of flints was found in the soil disturbed by the workings and the plough soil of

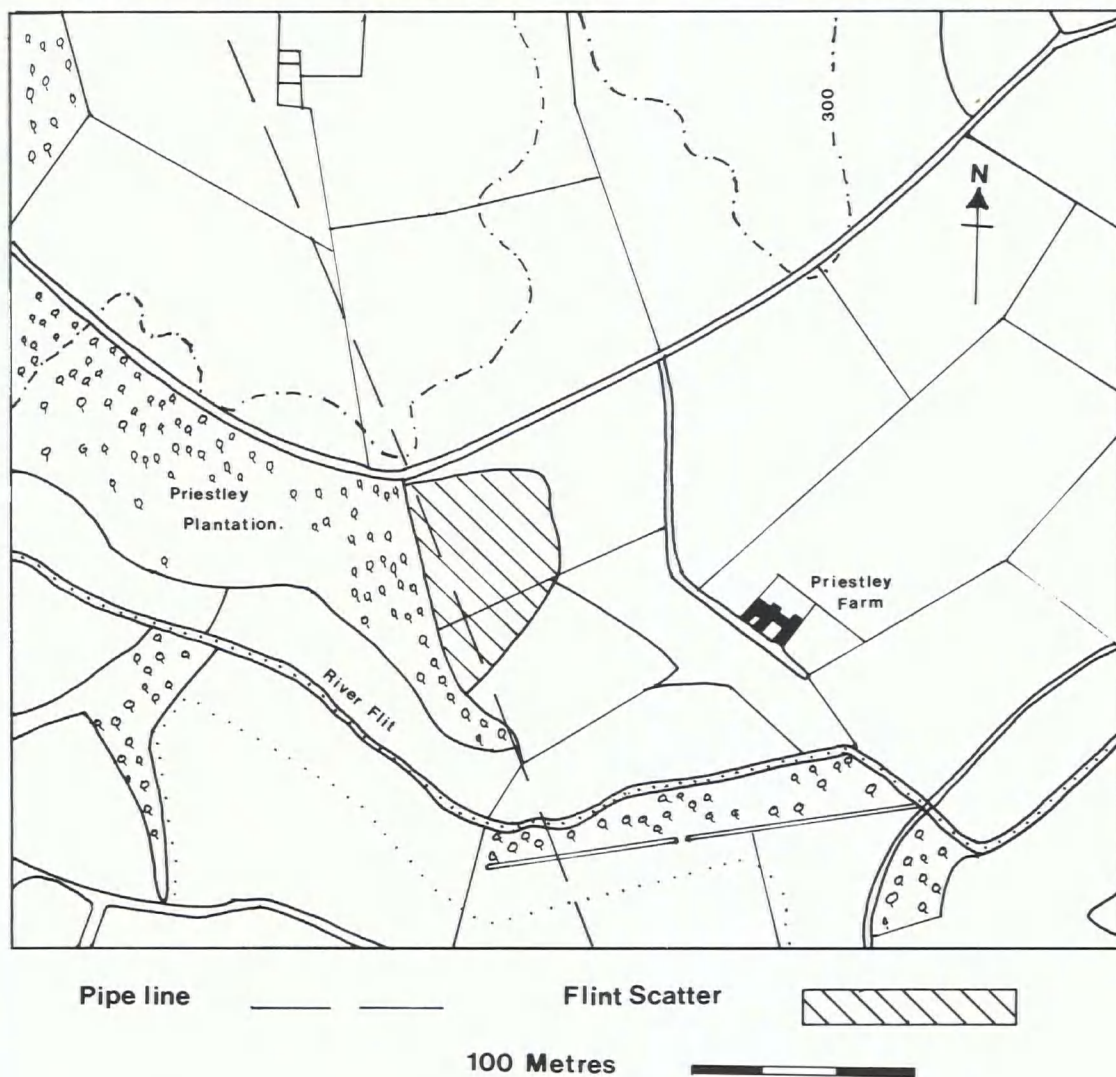


Fig 1 Map of Priestley Farm, Flitwick TL 0154 3325

the surrounding field. No features were found, probably due to the initial clearance of topsoil in advance of the trench, but the flints collected from the disturbed soil serve to increase our knowledge of prehistoric Bedfordshire. The location of the scatter relative to the geological features continues a pattern previously recorded in the area.

INTRODUCTION

During the winter of 1975-76 the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society walked the route of the Southern Gas feeder pipe in advance of its installation across Mid Bedfordshire in 1977. In the area of Priestley Farm several struck flakes were found but very little else. This was as expected because the proposed route ran through pasture and then a spinney of trees known as Priestley Plantation (Fig 1).

When the pipe was installed, however, its alignment had been changed to run beside the spinney through an arable field which had not been walked. The trench was open before the Society became aware of the change, with the topsoil pushed to one side.

PROCEEDINGS

Almost immediately on entering the field a barbed and tanged arrow head was found in the topsoil ridged up by the excavations. No further Bronze

Age artefacts came to light at that stage but a collection of Mesolithic flints and debris were found in the disturbed soil over approximately 200 m along the route of the pipe-line. Further investigations within the field showed the scatter to cover approximately two hectares of ploughed land to the east of the line. The spinney to the west made it impossible to assess the full area but it is reasonable to assume from the high concentration of flints in the vicinity that the site had been cut in two. Careful scrutiny of the trench revealed no sign of any worked flints or artefacts; removal of the top soil had cleared all possible evidence of occupation.

As would be expected in a field walking exercise four flints from other periods were found and have been included in this report.

LOCAL GEOLOGY AND CONDITIONS

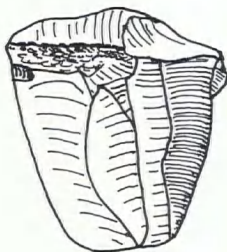
Priestley Farm is to the west of the village of Flitwick in the heart of Bedfordshire on the fertile dip slope of the Lower Greensand Ridge. The area is drained by the River Flit which runs through an area of peat overlying alluvium. The pipeline cut through the Ridge on an approximate North-South alignment. The flint scatter appeared at the start of the dip slope of the ridge and followed it down, disappearing before the river alluvium was reached. In the highest part of the field to the east of the pipeline route, the topsoil, which was slightly acidic, was

Fig 2 Flints from Priestley Farm (opposite)

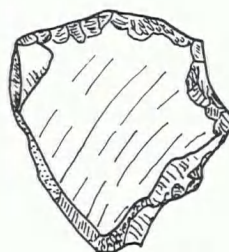
1. Core, grey, opaque, light patina, slight iron staining, unworn.
2. Core, grey, translucent, slight patina, traces of iron staining, unworn.
3. Neolithic/Early Bronze Age end scraper, unifacially worked, black, translucent, unpatinated, convex edge retouch, unworn.
4. Cutting blade, unifacially worked, grey, translucent, patinated, retouched on two edges, unworn.
5. Blade, unifacially, grey, translucent, patinated, unworn.
6. Cutting blade, unifacially worked, light grey, translucent, unpatinated, retouched on three edges, unworn.
7. Neolithic/Early Bronze Age knife, unifacially worked, honey, translucent, unpatinated, backed one edge, unworn.
8. End scraper, unifacially worked, dark grey, translucent, patinated, retouched on end, unworn.
9. Microlith, unifacially worked, grey, translucent, light patina, notched down one edge, unworn.
10. Core rejuvenating blade, grey, opaque, patinated.
11. Blade, carinated, unifacially worked, grey, translucent, patinated, unworn.
12. Tranchet axe sharpening flake, grey, translucent, patinated, unworn.
13. Scraper, unifacially worked, grey, translucent, light patina, retouched on three edges, broken, unworn.
14. Early Bronze Age barbed and medium tanged arrow head, finely worked, light grey, translucent, unpatinated, unworn.
15. Bladelet, unifacially worked, grey, translucent, unpatinated, unworn.
16. Bladelet, unifacially worked, light grey, translucent, light patina, unworn.
17. Blade, unifacially worked, grey, translucent, white patina, unworn.



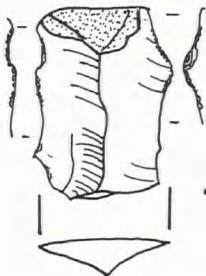
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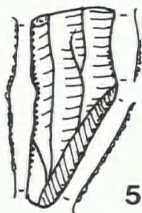
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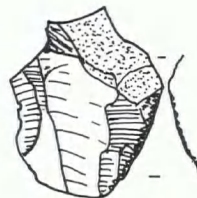
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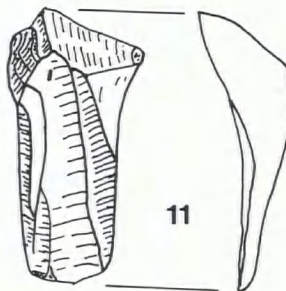
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TABLE 1
Analysis of Mesolithic Flints from Priestley Farm

Type	Uniface	Retouch	Grey	Honey	Transl	Patinated	Worn	Total
CORES	0	0	6	0	2	6	0	6
BLADES	29	4	28	1	23	28	0	29
CUTTING BLADES	5	2	5	0	5	3	1	5
BLADELETS	19	1	18	1	18	17	0	19
MICROSCRAPERS	2	2	2	0	2	2	1	2
MICROBURINS	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
SCRAPERS	10	7	10	0	10	9	0	10
TRANCHET AXE	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
SHARPENING FLAKE								
FLAKES	0	0	6	0	6	6	0	6
MICROLITHS	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
CORE REJUVENATION BLADES	1	0	2	1	3	3	0	3
TOTALS	69	16	82	3	74	79	2	85

almost pure sand while lower down the soil became a sandy loam. This, however, did not apply to the topsoil along the route of the pipe-line, which was a consistent sandy loam. The field had been used for market gardening over a long period and subjected to intense cultivation, producing several crops a year.

AREA AND BACKGROUND

Fieldwalking by the Society on the Lower Green-sand Ridge and the Gault Clay plain below the scarp slope has, over many years, shown a pattern of finds which appear to bear a distinct relationship to the terrain. This is especially true with Mesolithic flints. The topsoil on the ridge is very light and, due to deep ploughing in the 1950's through to late 1970's, is almost running sand in many places. The clay topsoil on the plain is more robust and deeper than the modern plough will reach and is therefore hardly affected.

It is usual to find an odd Mesolithic type flint in any fieldwalking exercise in the area but it is more probable on the lighter soils. The areas of large concentration of artefacts can be expected on the dip slope just below the ridge, where the depth of soil is greater due to the effects of erosion and ploughsoil creep. The site at Priestley Farm is a

good example of this observation. The lack of variation of the soil along the pipe-line compared with the adjoining field can be explained by its close proximity to the spinney. Agricultural activity was restricted and the trees shielded the soil from the prevailing winds.

It is worth recording that no major concentrations of worked flints have been found by this Society on the clay plain to date.

CONCLUSIONS

The types and condition of the artefacts (Table 1; Fig 2) show a group which suggests Mesolithic settlement of the site, particularly taking into account the size of the area of collection. The high percentage of unworn flints strongly indicates a working area which was probably cut through by the pipe-trench and associated topsoil clearance. The negative evidence from the trench is significant as there was no sign of any artefact or occupation level in what was a new, cleanly cut, section of the subsoil.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Mr M. Wildman who drew and described the flints for inclusion in his unpublished paper on "The Mesolithic in Bedfordshire".

Mr G. Little of Priestley Farm who allowed the Society access to the area.

A Note on the Palynological Analysis of a Late Pre-Roman Iron Age Shale Vessel from Harpenden

G.T. DENFORD AND J.B. RIDING

SUMMARY

The source of the shale used to manufacture the vessels from Harpenden was sought by palynological analysis. The results indicate a probable Dorset provenance. It is suggested that a wider sampling programme is necessary in order to gain information on prehistoric and Romano-British exchange links from distributions of shale artefacts in England and Wales. A computerised database exists to facilitate such an end.

The collections of Luton Museum contain the fragments of two, possibly three, vessels found with bronze fragments in a burial about a mile north-east of Harpenden Church during the construction of the railway in 1867. At least two of the vessels are clearly cordoned pedestalled vases and are shown reconstructed in Freeman and Watson (1949, Fig 1).

The group was first published by Bagshawe (1928, 520-522) who reported the presence of "two or three turned wood vessels". The material of the vessels was first correctly identified as an oil-shale by Dr W. Campbell Smith of the British Museum (Natural History) in 1949 and parallels were drawn with other examples of turned shale vessels, namely the cordoned pedestalled vase found at Old Warden and the tazze from Great Chesterford and Barnwell (Freeman and Watson, 1949, 196-197). These forms were considered by Birchall (1965) to be characteristic Aylesford-Swarling types and thus of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age date.

It has generally been accepted that the source of the shale used to manufacture these vessels lay in the Kimmeridge region of Dorset. Cunliffe (1982, 48-50) has written of the importance of Kimmeridge shale as a commodity produced in his "Wessex Contact-Zone" in the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and, referring to the vessels, of exchange links with eastern Britain. However, Kennett (1977, 20) has speculated, reasonably, that such a concentration of vessels in the Bedfordshire/Essex area might suggest a local source for the shale and he specifically mentioned Flitwick Moor, in the parishes of Maulden, Flitwick and Flitton. To attempt to confirm or refute this suggestion would require the material of the vessels to be analysed as visual

examination alone could not provide an answer.

The problems concerning the characterisation of shales and other similar materials such as jets, lignites and cannel coals have received attention in recent years. Attempts to discriminate between these materials have relied upon trace element composition using XRF¹ (Pollard *et al.*, 1981, 139-167; Bussell *et al.*, 1982) or on direct analysis of the organic components using ESR spectroscopy² (Sales *et al.*, 1987, 103-109). Whilst these techniques would seem to be effective in broadly distinguishing between jet and jet-like materials they are less effective, at present, in distinguishing between the materials which make up the latter category (the shales, lignites and cannel coals). Palynological analysis would, it was hoped, indicate a source for the material.

In order to attempt to elucidate the provenance, a small (approximately 3 g) fragment was prepared for palynological analysis. If the resultant assemblage of palynomorphs (organic-walled microfossils) was sufficient to determine precisely the geological age of the rock used in the vessel's manufacture, sources yielding similar lithologies of different age could be eliminated (see Smith and Owens, 1983). Furthermore, an age determination would, it was hoped, make the material source clearer.

The sample was prepared using the standard procedure of demineralisation (using HCl and HF) and oxidative maceration (see, for example, Barss and Williams, 1973). After mineral acid treatment, the residue yielded large quantities of amorphous organic material (amorphogen) which tended to obscure the palynomorphs. This was partially removed and disaggregated by treating the residue with Schulze's solution (a solution of potassium chlorate in nitric acid, see Manum, 1956) for ten minutes.

The residue and slides are held in the palynology collections of the Stratigraphy and Tectonics Group, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham.

The sample yielded an extremely abundant acid resistant residue dominated by fragments of amorphogen and containing common palynomorphs.

Gymnospermous pollen was the predominant element, comprising some 80% of the assemblage. Dinoflagellate cysts and pteridophyte spores were present in relatively low proportions. The dinoflagellate cyst florule included *Cribroperidinium globatum* (Gitmez and Sarjeant 1972) Helenes 1984, *Cyclonephelium* sp., *Pareodinia ceratophora* Deflandre 1947, *Perisseiasphaeridium pannosum* Davey and Williams 1966 and *Systematophora daveyi* Riding and Thomas 1988. The presence of *C. globatum* and *S. daveyi* is characteristic of the Kimmeridgian Stage of England, see Riding and Thomas (1988). These authors determined the range of *P. pannosum* in England as being Kimmeridgian (Mutabilis to Pallasioides standard ammonite zones (see also Nøhr-Hansen, 1986; Riding, 1987)). This age determination rules out an Oxford Clay (Callovian to Lower Oxfordian) source for the vessel and together with lithological considerations and the abundance of organic matter (Ioannides *et al.*, 1976) is consistent with the Dorset Blackstone. This is a distinctive, massive, relatively hard oil shale within Kimmeridge Clay standard Bed 42 (KC42) of Cox and Gallois (1981). In prehistoric times it was used for the manufacture of jewellery and household utensils, including vessels and spindle whorls (see, for example, Calkin, 1948). During the Roman period the range of products was increased and included, for example, items of furniture (for a convenient summary of the range of forms produced in Roman times see Lawson, 1975). It was also used as a fuel in the production of salt (eg Farrar, 1962, 140) and possibly pottery (eg Bugler and Drew, 1973, 64). Attempts were made to exploit it more extensively as a fuel source during the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries; shafts and adits of workings can be seen at Clavell's Hard (NGR SY 920777; see Cox and Gallois, 1981). Although a correlative of the Dorset Blackstone can be recognised in the oil shales of KC42 elsewhere in England, nowhere else is it as tough or as thick as in Dorset, nor is it naturally exposed (Dr B.M. Cox, personal communication 1990).

Certain conclusions would seem to follow from the analysis. Firstly, that Kennett (1977) was mistaken in proposing a local source for the shale and that exchange links between Dorset and eastern Britain are demonstrated in the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age by the presence of the vessels in Harpenden. Further, that the understanding of exchange links in prehistoric and Roman Britain could be improved by a knowledge of the distribution of Kimmeridge shale artefacts since the

material would appear to have originated in a restricted geographical area. However, in order that the distributions are not distorted by visually similar materials a widespread sampling programme is needed. The computerised database being created by one of the authors (GTD) of prehistoric and Romano-British shale artefacts found in England and Wales could form the basis for such a programme. The database is being compiled from the literature (over eight hundred published references) and from correspondence with over one hundred museums and organisations with shale artefacts in their collections. Already, well over three thousand artefacts have been entered and their significant attributes recorded.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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J.B. Riding publishes with the permission of the Director, British Geological Survey (NERC).

NOTES

- 1 X-ray fluorescence (XRF) provides an elemental analysis of a sample. In distinguishing between jet and jet-like materials the main discriminating element is iron which is found to be at much lower levels in the former than in the latter. Other elements are of some discriminatory value, most usefully potassium and strontium, although neither is reliable enough on its own. To date, no attempt has been made to identify the provenance of the jet-like materials using XRF, these being considered far too common in occurrence and too variable in composition to make it a worthwhile task.
- 2 Electron spin resonance (ESR) spectroscopy is a technique which characterises kerogens on the basis of the parameters of their carbon radical signals. These signals are complex functions of the maturation, burial depth and hence type of kerogen and can be used diagnostically to identify unknown materials. The signals may then be compared with the signals obtained from samples from known sources to suggest a provenance (see Russel, 1990, 160, for a recent application of the technique).

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Some Unpublished Bronze Age Finds in Luton and Bedford Museums

JOSHUA POLLARD

INTRODUCTION

The opportunity is taken to discuss a number of previously unpublished Bronze Age finds in Luton and Bedford Museums. All the material under consideration was found in south Bedfordshire, and largely consists of chance finds devoid of any information concerning specific archaeological context. Most of the material has been listed previously by Thomas (1964), but has not received detailed description or (with the exception of the Chamberlain's Barn collared urn) adequate illustration.

1 LEIGHTON BUZZARD SP 927 264

Secondary series collared urn, of South Eastern style (Longworth 1984, No. 25). Ex Frederick Gurney collection. Decorated with 5-7 lines of coarse horizontal twisted cord around the collar. Grey- to orange-brown fabric, tempered with finely crushed grog. The base and lower portion of the vessel is missing; this suggests that it may have been inverted when found, having suffered damage prior

to recovery either through ploughing or quarrying activity.

Records in Luton Museum state that it was recovered in August 1936, within the area of the Pagan Saxon cemetery at Site No. II, Chamberlain's Barn (*cf* Hyslop 1963). The exact location seems to have been a point *c* 20 m to the ENE of Grave 60, at a depth of less than 60 cm from the surface in a layer of sandy humus. There was no indication that the urn, which contained a cremation, had been inserted into a barrow. However, the occurrence of further unurned, and hence undated, cremation burials in the vicinity could suggest the former existence of a flat cemetery (Hyslop 1963, 171). Luton Museum, accession no. 288/55.

2 TODDINGTON (vicinity of TL 00 28)

Deverel-Rimbury series urn, of straight-sided form with a slightly expanded T-shaped rim, decorated with regular finger impressions. The fabric is flint tempered, orange- to grey-brown in colour, and slightly rough. There are traces of vertical finger-

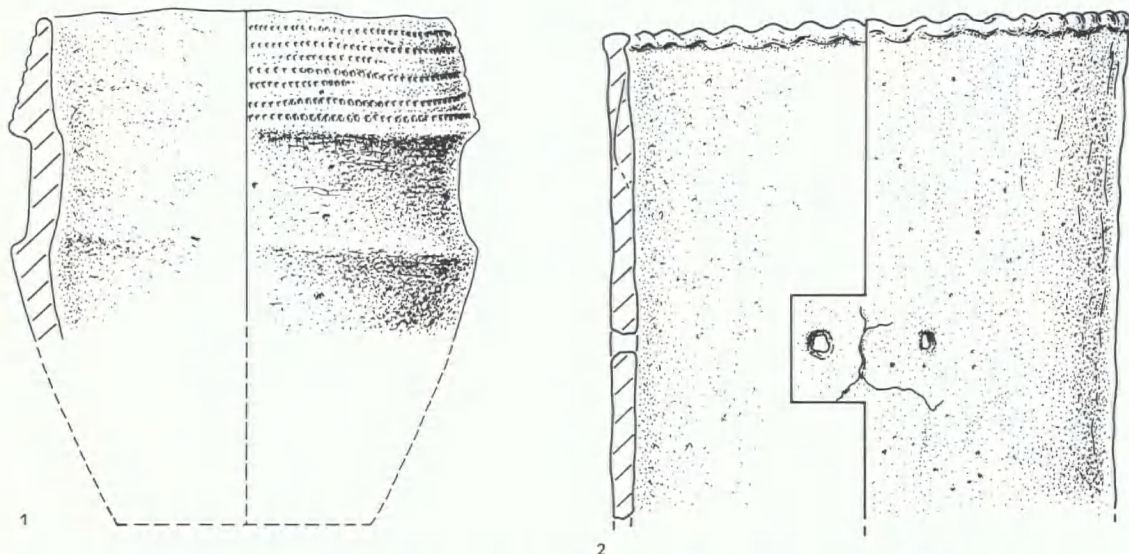


Fig 1 Pottery from Chamberlain's Barn, Leighton Buzzard (1) and Toddington (2) (scale 1:4)

smoothing on the external surface. Part of the rim, wall and the entire base of the vessel are missing. Two holes have been drilled into the wall of the vessel subsequent to firing, apparently as part of a crude repair.

The urn, which presumably contained a cremation, was found during gravel extraction on Glebe land adjoining Leighton Road, to the SW of Toddington, in March 1881. A second Deverel-Rimbury vessel from the same field, with an applied horizontal cord around the shoulder, was illustrated by Abercromby (1912, No. 472) and is now in the British Museum.

The plain forms of the vessels, their simple decoration and the use of vertical finger-smoothing, can be paralleled amongst an identified 'East Midlands' tradition, which is best represented by recently excavated assemblages from Coneysgre Farm, Notts. and Pasture Lodge Farm, Lincs. (Allen, Harman and Wheeler 1987). Bedford Museum, accession no. 3447.

3 SUNDON

Arreton type flanged axe, with arched butt and gently splayed blade. Length 96 mm, width 40 mm across blade. Presented to Luton Museum in May 1977 by Mr J. Hall-Mounsey; the circumstances of the find are not recorded. The axe is highly pitted and corroded, with only patches of the original surface surviving on parts of the sides and body above the blade. This appears to be the only example of its type recorded from the county, though comparable examples are by no means uncommon from southern Britain, occurring most notably in the Arreton and Plymstock hoards (c1650-1500 BC). Luton Museum, accession no. A321.

4 SILSOE

Cast of a shield-pattern palstave. Acton Park stage. The original was presented to Luton Museum in 1931, but cannot be located. A closely comparable example has been published from Waterloo Farm, Arlesey (Wingfield 1988, 116). Luton Museum, accession no. 57/31.

5 CHALTON (vicinity of TL 03 26)

Low-flanged palstave with slight midrib, of Southall type. Length 166 mm, width across blade 73 mm. Presented by James Dyer to Luton Museum in July 1970. It was apparently a single surface find from a field to the east of the village, adjacent to the Bedford - St Pancras railway.

Traces of hammering are visible just above the blade on one face. The axe displays a dark olive-brown patination and is in generally good condition, though has suffered damage to one wing and is worn through to the metal in places.

Typologically it would belong to the Acton Park stage (c1500-1350 BC), although a number of broad-blade palstaves of this type are known in later hoards associated with Carp's Tongue material, probably representing scrap survivals (Schmidt and Burgess 1981, 131). Two further palstaves, one of which is looped, are recorded from the Chalton area (Thomas 1964, 32), but have not proved possible to trace. Luton Museum, accession no. A2.

6 CHALTON

South-eastern type socketed axe. Length 108 mm, width at socket 43 mm. Ex Frederick Gurney collection. The circumstances and specific location of the find are not recorded. The axe is in good condition, with a smooth shiny surface, and only limited damage to small areas of the body and blade.

Socketed axes of this type, belonging to the Ewart Park stage (c900-700 BC), are by no means uncommon, either as single finds or in hoards. Locally, a small example is recorded from Toddington, 3 km to the NW of Chalton (Smith 1894, 316).

7 TODDINGTON (TL 009 290)

Small hoard of 'raw' metal. Found in 1847 at Park Close, Toddington. Four pieces were originally illustrated in the Bedford Modern School Museum catalogue of 1925 (Pl. 5), of which three now survive in Bedford Museum (accession nos. 3619, 3621-2). At least two of the fragments are from large plano-convex ingots; the third is an irregular lump of metal 70 x 40 x 25 mm. All possess a highly uneven, pitted, surface and are patinated a pale blue-green.

Although the metal composition of the fragments is unknown, pieces of comparable later Bronze Age ingot material that have been analysed are shown to consist of pure copper (Tylecote 1986, 22).

8 FANCOTT (vicinity of TL 018 280)

Fragment of plano-convex ?copper ingot. Original diameter approximately 170 mm. Irregular surface, patinated pale blue-green. It is stated to have been found at Fancott in 1861, but there is no further information to suggest whether it was an isolated find or part of a hoard. Bedford Museum, accession no. 3620.

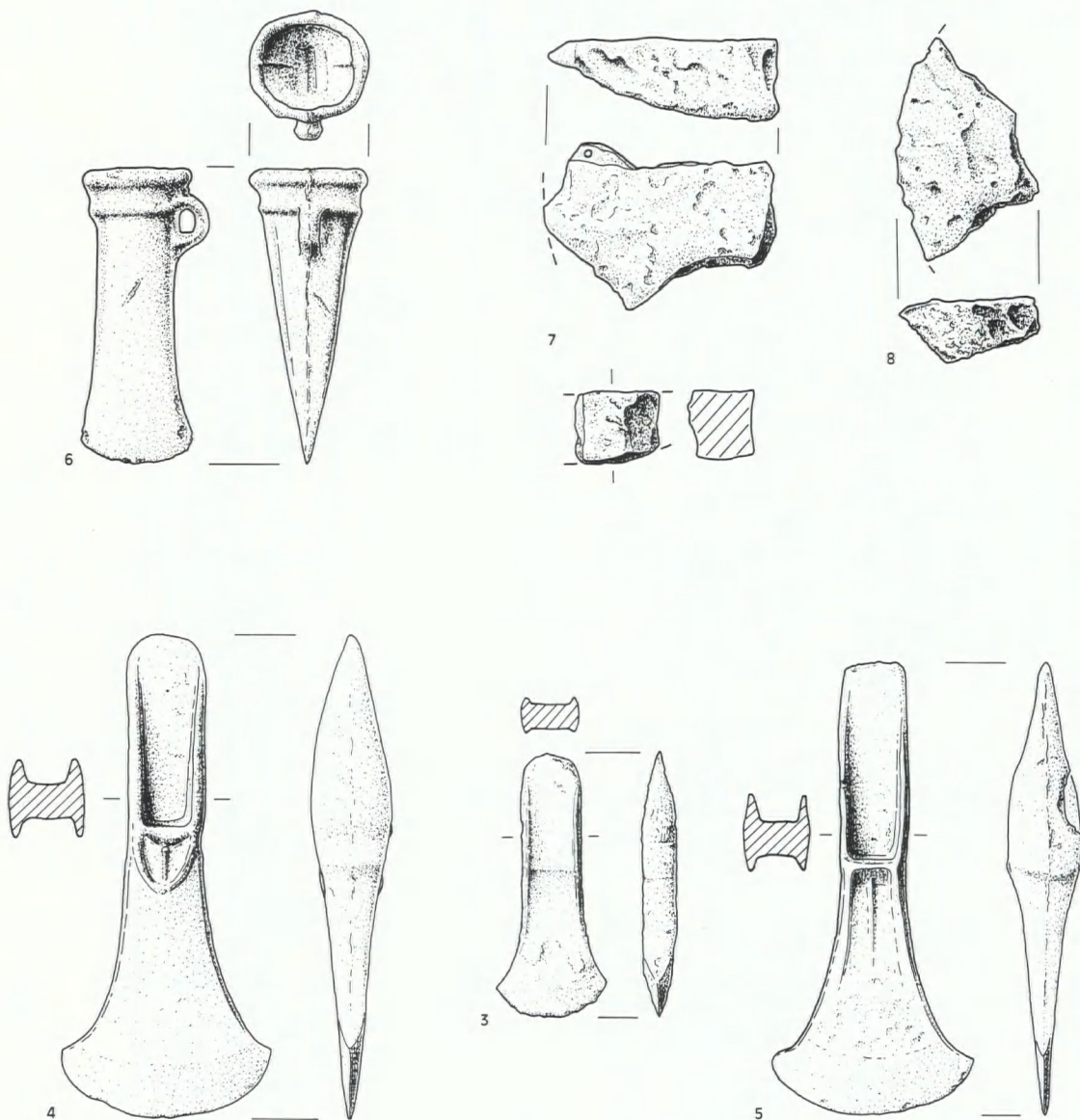


Fig 2 Bronze Age metalwork: (3) Sundon, (4) Silsoe, (5-6) Chalton, (7) Toddington, (8) Fancott (scale 1:3)

DISCUSSION

The recognition of a flanged axe (No. 3) from Sundon brings to 10 the total number of individual Bronze Age metalwork finds from the Toddington-Chalton-Sundon region: an area of around 20 sq km.

Previous writers have commented on this concentration (*cf* Kennett 1975; Thomas 1964), which is unmatched elsewhere in Bedfordshire, but have failed to seek any explanation of the processes which could have produced such a pattern. Deliberate deposition can certainly be inferred in the case of the ingot hoards from Toddington and Fancott, and the anomalous spearhead find from Sundon, which apparently accompanied an inhumation or deposit of human bone (Hagen 1973; see also Burgess 1976 for discussion of other mid-late Bronze Age weapon burials). However, there is strong reason for suggesting that the remaining metalwork finds were also intentional deposits, on which an embargo existed on their recovery.

Metalwork production and recycling was clearly a highly efficient process which maximised the metal resource; this is illustrated by the recent examination of a defended enclosure at Springfield Lyons, Essex (Buckley 1988), where total excavation produced considerable quantities of casting debris, largely for Ewart Park swords, but not a single scrap of bronze. Metal finds from contemporary settlement sites are also rare, and when they do occur, generally consist of small tools or ornaments, a number of which could even be explained as deliberate foundation or abandonment deposits (Barrett and Needham 1988, 136). Furthermore, to envisage the vast number of single finds or hoards of the period as the product of casual loss, or the hapless and forgetful nature of smiths, displays a degree of ethnocentrism towards second-early first millennium BC society, and a lack of understanding of the complexity surrounding the formation of the archaeological record (Barrett and Needham 1988; Bradley 1984, 101).

When examined in detail, the Toddington-Chalton-Sundon material displays a degree of patterning in terms of chronology, local geography and artefact representation. Broadly, this can be divided into two groups. The first group comprises a series of single finds from the Chalton area spanning the Arreton, Acton Park and Taunton stages (c1650-1200 BC), and largely consisting of axes. The Deverel-Rimbury cremation burials from Leighton Road, Toddington, 4 km to the NW, are approximately contemporary with these, though

spatially distinct. A second group comprises several metalwork deposits belonging to the Ewart Park stage of the early 1st millennium BC, centred on an area immediately to the east of Toddington. These take the form of the two hoards of raw metal described above, single finds of socketed axes, and two spearheads (one of which was of the Broadward variety, and arguably non-functional; *cf* Burgess, *et al* 1972). Both the spearheads were recovered from marshy land adjacent to Cowbridge Farm, prior to 1822 (Hagen 1973), a 'watery context' typical of many later Bronze Age single weapon finds.

Extrapolating the motives behind deposition is a more complex process, and it would be naive to assume that a single explanation will suffice for a range of material deposited in widely differing contexts over a period of nearly a millennium. The deposition of appropriate elements of material culture, in itself a visually dramatic act, might have marked critical events or transitions during life, such as the succession of power, or perhaps as part of funerary ritual (Barrett and Needham 1988, 129). Clearly, the fact that so much metalwork of the period has survived demonstrates that deposition was intended to be permanent.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Robin Holgate of Luton Museum, who suggested the writing of this article and provided access to much of the material; Carolyn Wingfield of Bedford Museum; and James Dyer for information concerning the Chalton palstave.

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A 'Belgic' and An Early Romano-British Burial From Toddington

JOSHUA POLLARD

The purpose of this note is to record a number of previously unpublished 'Belgic' and early Roman vessels in Luton Museum, recovered during the last century from sandpits at Fancott and from land adjacent to the 'Old Park', Toddington. The material under discussion was acquired by Luton Museum from the J. Steele Elliott and J.H. Blundell bequests in 1940 and 1949 respectively, though ultimately derives from the collection of Major Cooper-Cooper who was actively involved in the archaeology of the area between 1870 and 1898.

Fancott

TL 019 281

Four vessels, three of which have previously been incorrectly described as Saxon (Morris 1962;72), appear to have derived from a single cremation burial of early-mid first-century AD date. Little is known of their specific context beyond their discovery in 1858 in a sandpit near Luton Road, Fancott. However, the possibility of further cremation burials, or an adjacent settlement, is raised by a number of contemporary sherds, mostly from large grog-tempered jars, held in Luton Museum (30-33/75/38), and the discovery of bronze-working debris, animal bone and pottery in nearby claypits (Simco 1984; 120).

Only the large jar is recorded as containing a cremation, though the complete condition of the remaining vessels implies they also derive from a funerary context; the squat jars and beaker probably acting as accessory vessels, their small capacity making them unlikely to have contained separate interments. 77/49 has no specific provenance other than "Toddington", though its close similarity in form to the other squat jar makes its inclusion in this group likely, if currently unproven.

323/40 Large coarse-ware jar with regular comb 'decoration'. Coil built, grog tempered fabric grey to buff in colour, probably the result of uneven firing. Largely complete, but heavily restored. Inner profile conjectured.

75/49 Fine ware beaker with a band of horizontal

grooving around shoulder. Possibly finished on a wheel. Fine grog-tempered fabric; buff in colour with dark grey patches. Complete and undamaged.

70/49 Small squat jar. Wheel thrown or finished on a wheel. Grey to dark grey fabric containing fine organic temper with some grog and fine sand.

77/49 Small squat jar. Wheel thrown or finished on a wheel. Buff fabric with grog and sparse fine sand temper. Restored — 60% complete.

Old Park

[TL 02 29]

Two, possibly three, previously unrecorded vessels of late first-second-century date may mark the site of a further cremation burial, adjacent to Old Park Farm and the site of a substantial Roman building on Sheepwalk Hill (Simco 1984; 120). The small flask and jar, both in a coarse grey fabric, were recovered during drainage work in 1868. A heavily restored single-handled flagon (325/40) possibly belongs to this group — the occurrence of identical vessels from cremation burials at Kempston, Wootton (Kennett 1970) and specifically the Grange, Welwyn (Rook 1973) is suggestive.

73/49 Flask. Wheel-thrown, with false cordons defining a band of faint vertical grooves. Grey to yellow-grey fabric; sand-tempered with some small flint and grog inclusions. Part of neck and rim missing.

324/40 Shallow jar. Faintly incised chevron decoration between cordon and rim. Wheel-thrown or finished on a wheel. Grey fabric with sand and grog temper. Restored — 50% complete. Inner profile conjectured.

325/40 Single-handled flagon with multiple annulated neck and flared rim. Wheel-thrown. Buff to orange-buff fabric with very fine sand temper. Heavily restored — 40% complete. Inner profile conjectured.

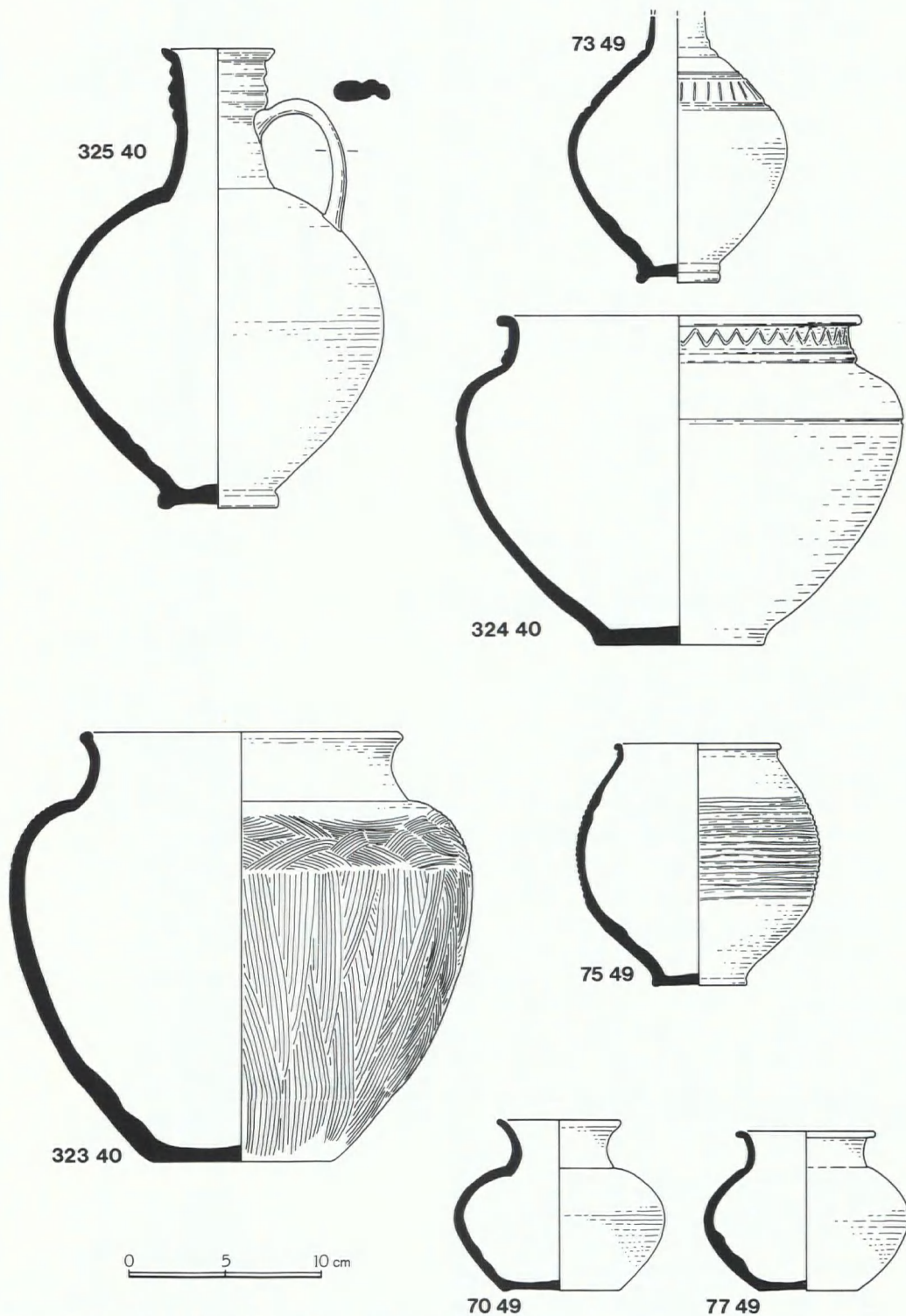


Fig 1 Pottery from Old Park (top) and Fancott (bottom)

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I would like to thank Robin Holgate and staff at Luton Museum for their valuable assistance.

The Fourth-Century Coin Hoard from Tingrith

M.G. DEACON AND K. LOCKYEAR

INTRODUCTION

A hoard of over 2,000 copper alloy coins was discovered at a sand quarry at Tingrith (TL 009331) on 20th June, 1961. The coins had been buried in a pottery vessel about 1 m below the ground surface. Many of the coins and the fragments of the pottery vessel were recovered by the site foreman, Mr Charles Bunker. However, an unknown quantity of coins was collected and taken away by the workmen removing the sand. The coins and pottery fragments were donated to Luton Museum by the quarry owners, Inns and Company Ltd (accession number LTNMG 73/62). The coins were cleaned and initially identified by Mr Tom Gardner. An unspecified number of coins disintegrated through corrosion whilst being cleaned, and were therefore lost before they could be identified.

In 1990, Mr A. Quinlan of Welwyn, Herts., showed a further 684 coins from the Tingrith hoard in his possession to Mr Tony Rook of the Welwyn Archaeological Society. These coins were presumably recovered from the sand quarry in 1961 by one of the workmen.

THE HOARD

The coins had been placed in a pottery vessel. Another vessel had been inverted over the neck of the first pot to exclude earth. Only 22 base and body sherds from both vessels were recovered (LTNMG 1=2/73/62); however, sufficient survives to show that both vessels were shell-tempered with mottled grey and orange surfaces. The acidic nature of the ground in which the hoard had been buried had dissolved the shell on the surface of the pottery vessels, giving them a corky texture. The interior of the vessel containing the coins had been stained green by the corrosion products of the coins in contact with the surface of the vessel.

The pottery vessels containing the coins had been placed in a small pit dug to a depth of about a metre; a lozenge-shaped marker stone (LTNMG 3/73/62), about 25 cm by 25 cm in size and consisting of a 3 cm thick slab of ironstone, appears to have been placed on the surface of the backfilled pit. About a metre from the hoard, and on what was interpreted as the

old ground surface, Tom Gardner recorded the remains of a pottery vessel associated with burnt soil, charcoal flecks and fire-stained stones. Only the base of the pottery vessel survives (LTNMG 6/73/62), consisting of a sand-tempered bowl or jar with a grey external surface and an orange internal surface. He interpreted these remains "as evidence of a meal of sorts at the time of burial" (Gardner 1964, 28).

THE COINS

Tom Gardner's initial identification and analysis of the coins was based on a total of 2,024 (Gardner 1964). According to the accessions register in Luton Museum, 1,995 coins were accessioned in 1962 (accession number LTNMG 7/73/62). Of these, 1,985 have been reanalysed by Martin Deacon (Table 1).

The coins in Mr Quinlan's possession have been identified by Kris Lockyear (Table 2). This table is a preliminary set of figures and, although none were obvious, there are likely to be unrecognised copies in this part of the hoard: this awaits further work. In both tables, where date ranges cross the brackets used here, the numbers have been split more or less evenly between them. The coins classified "as RIC" have been counted into the mint used for the "as" classification: the early coin of Siscia is an example of this.

DISCUSSION

The Tingrith hoard is only one of a large number of hoards of similar date discovered in Britain. Comparable examples include Salisbury Plain (318-330), 1,565 coins from 13 mints; Woodeaton I (337-340), 1,397 coins from 14 mints; Cranfield (337-340), 975 coins from 12 mints; and Bloomsbury (330-335), 656 coins from 13 mints.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The reassessment of the coins from the Tingrith hoard in Luton Museum was first suggested by Dr Robin Holgate, Principal Keeper at Luton Museum, who provided the notes on the discovery of the hoard. We are also grateful to both Mr A. Quinlan and Mr Tony Rook for bringing the previously unrecorded coins from the hoard to our attention. Martin Deacon

wishes to thank Dr Anne Robertson of Glasgow University and Dr Andrew Burnett of the British Museum for their kind assistance.

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Table 1

Summary of the coins from the Tingrith hoard in Luton Museum

Year	Mint													Total
	London	Trier	Lyons	Arles	Siscia	Ticinum	Aquileia	Rome	Heracula	Thessalonica	Cyzicus	Antioch	Nicomedia	
306-310	1	1												2
311-315		1												1
316-320	80	31		2	14	11	2		1	4				145
321-325	851	504	70	21	22	13	2	8	1	4	1	1	1	1499
326-330		116		9				1	1	3		1		131
331-335		64	13	14	1				1	1	2		1	97
336-340		8		1										9
Undatable	11	12	5	3	4	2						1		36
Totals	943	737	88	50	41	26	4	9	4	12	3	3	2	1958

Table 2

Summary of the coins from the Tingrith hoard in Mr A. Quinlan's possession

Year	Mint											Total
	London	Trier	Lyons	Arles	Siscia	Ticinum	Aquileia	Rome	Heracula	Thessalonica	To be done	
296-300					?							1
301-305												0
306-310	1											1
311-315	1	1										2
316-320	34	12		1	5	6	3		1	7	17	86
321-325	230	157	22	13	12	7	3	4		5	39	492
326-330		52	2	4	2	1			1	2	4	68
331-335		21	4	3	1			1				30
336-340		4	2									6
341-345												0
346-350		2										2
Totals	266	249	30	21	21	14	6	5	2	14	60	684

A Roman Gold Ring from Bromham, Bedfordshire

CATHERINE JOHNS AND CAROLYN WINGFIELD

The ring which is the subject of this note was found in a ploughed field at Bromham in mid-September 1988.¹ The finder took the ring to Bedford Museum on October 4th that year, and a fortnight later, as a potential Treasure Trove case, it was submitted to the British Museum for examination. No other objects were found with it, and this being so, the Coroner's jury in the Treasure Trove inquest held in Bedford in April 1989 decided that the ring had not been deliberately concealed, and was therefore not Treasure Trove. It was subsequently acquired by Bedford Museum.²

The Bromham ring is a fine example of a classic type of late-Roman gold jewellery, and is in good condition. It has a large, raised bezel set with a truncated conical stone banded in blue-grey and brown. Surrounding the box-setting in which the stone is mounted is a decorative gold flange worked to produce a pie-crust effect. The shoulders flanking

the setting are broad where they join the bezel and taper to form a triangle with fairly simple curves and re-entrants along the edges and two engraved lines in the centre; the hoop of the ring is narrow and flat. The ring was bent out of shape when found, and the finder, taking advantage of the malleability of the gold, restored the hoop to a wearable, roughly circular form. However the hoop has since been restored to approximately its original Roman shape, flattened rather than round, and displaying a marked angle where the shoulders meet the hoop³ (Fig 1).

The overall size of the bezel is 16 x 13 mm, and the internal maximum diameter as restored to its Roman shape is 19 mm. The width of the hoop at the back is 2 mm, and the ring weighs 5.19 g. The metal was analysed semi-quantitatively by X-ray fluorescence in the British Museum Research Laboratory, and the results indicate a composition of 91.5% gold, 6.2% silver and 2.3% copper.⁴ For-

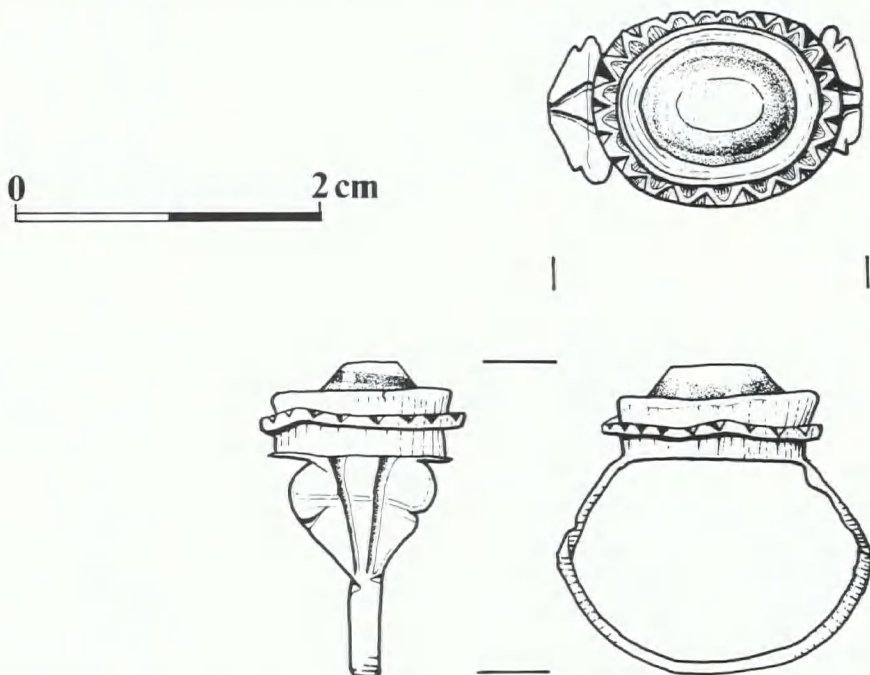


Fig 1 Roman gold ring set with banded agate, Bromham (x 2)

tuitously, this is very close to the gold content of modern 22-carat gold (91.6%). It is a little less pure than many late-Roman gold items, which are frequently over 95% fine, but the presence of silver as the principal alloying constituent is very typical. The stone is set with a form of banded quartz (agate or chalcedony).

The Bromham ring belongs to a type which was developed in the third century AD and continued to evolve in the fourth. The typical features are the raised setting with a decorative surround, the triangular shoulders and in particular the angular shape of the hoop. Many rings of this type have far more elaborately worked shoulders than the Bromham specimen, utilising pierced work or sometimes filigree to create a stylised foliate feature.

Stones set in rings of the earlier Roman period are generally engraved with devices which would have had amuletic significance for the owner of the ring, usually figures of gods and goddesses or other motifs connected with pagan religion. Gem-engraving was certainly practised in Britain, but there was an Empire-wide decline in this very specialised skill in the later Roman period, and plain settings, as well as engraved gems re-used from older pieces, are common in late-Roman jewellery. Certain stones had symbolic meanings in themselves, and the effect of their various colours against gold was also highly prized in late Antiquity, so the natural banding of the colours in the quartz set in

the Bromham ring, carefully emphasised by the way it has been cut, would alone have made it into a desirable jewel. In addition the stone may have been thought to have had some talismanic quality in itself. Symbolic values are still attached to gemstones, for example, in the idea of a 'birthstone' which has a special meaning for a wearer born in the appropriate month or under the appropriate sign of the zodiac.

There are two rings from Roman Britain in the collections of the British Museum which provide parallels for this new find. One of the four rings found with a coin-hoard at Sully Moors, Cardiff, in 1899 has a very similar bezel and shoulders.⁵ It is set with a cameo-cut stone depicting a head of Medusa, a popular apotropaic device in the Roman period. The latest coin issue in the hoard is of AD 306, and this places the deposition of the group in the early fourth century. Though this *terminus post quem* establishes that the ring is of third- or very early fourth-century date, it does not answer the question of how old the ring was at the time of its concealment, but the object displays a certain amount of wear resulting from use, and a date in the second half of the third century would seem to fit all the circumstances.

Not so close in style to the Bromham ring, but still a relevant parallel, is a ring from Odiham, Hampshire, which is set in a nicolo engraved with a figure of Victory.⁶ The decorative flange round the bezel is diagonally crimped, a simpler effect than that on the Bromham and Sully Moors rings, but the treatment of the shoulders is the same. The overall hoop form of the Odiham ring is rounded rather than angular, but this is probably caused by modern re-shaping, as formerly happened to the Bromham ring. The dating of the Sully Moors and Odiham rings therefore suggests that the gold ring from Bromham is likely to date from the late third century AD.

Amongst the various types of Roman rings found in Bedfordshire, either through excavation or as casual finds, relatively few can compare to the Bromham ring in quality or in the use of precious metal and a semi-precious stone. The only other example of a Roman gold ring occurring within the county is of the rare *opus interrasile* (openwork) type, inscribed with the phrase EVSEBIO VITA – '(long) life to Eusebius' – which was found at Kempston, about 3 km from the Bromham find-spot, in 1980.⁷ Rings of silver have been slightly more common: examples are known from Dunstable (set with a small bronze key);⁸ Eaton

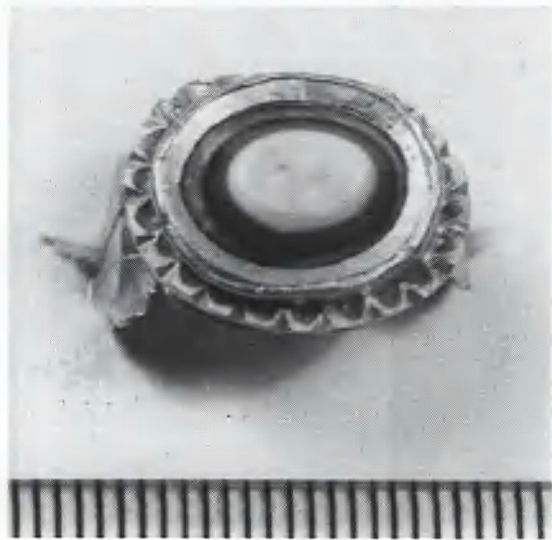


Plate 1 Roman gold ring, Bromham
(scale in mm)

Socon,⁹ Farndish,¹⁰ Ruxox¹¹ and Sandy¹² (all set with intaglios of glass or stone), and also from Harrold.¹³ Recent excavations at Sandy in the area of the Roman settlement have produced three or four silver rings fused together and evidence to suggest that metal-working was practised in the vicinity.¹⁴ None of these rings provide good stylistic parallels to the Bromham find, except perhaps the silver ring from Farndish which displays similar, triangular shoulders and a raised, oval box-setting, and may also be dated to the late Roman period.

Far more common but less spectacular are finds of copper alloy finger-rings, sometimes set with intaglios such as the 'Achilles' ring from Chalgrave,¹⁵ or the small (child's?) ring bearing a carnelian engraved with an eagle¹⁶ and like the lost silver ring from Sandy, also found in a cremation urn in the Tower Hill cemetery. Copper alloy rings set with small stones or glass are recorded from Farndish, Odell, and Dunstable;¹⁷ another find from Roxton extends the range of decorative techniques to include enamel inlay.¹⁸ Even simpler are the plain or coiled wire rings of copper alloy such as those from excavations at Odell.¹⁹ An iron ring has been noted at Dunstable.²⁰ Finds of jewellery other than finger-rings are almost exclusively of copper alloy and offer nothing comparable to the Bromham ring. This brief survey of the range of Roman rings known from Bedfordshire places the Bromham specimen in context as an exceptional find locally and one distinguished by its opulence from the large quantity of cheaper ornaments worn by the mass of the rural population.

The place of the discovery, approximately ¼ km from the present course of the River Ouse, is in an area of river-valley gravels within a large bend of the Ouse. The find-spot offers few clues as to the identity of the owner or to the circumstances of its loss; the finder searched the surrounding area in vain for associated objects or features and it must be assumed that the ring was accidentally lost in antiquity. Unlike the find-spot of the Chalgrave ring, there is no spring or indication of an ancient water-course in the immediate vicinity therefore it would not appear to be a votive offering, nor have any roads or trackways of Roman date been recognised in that area. While crop-marks and fieldwork indicate that the Ouse Valley was extensively farmed in the Roman period, the nearest occupation site known to the ring's find-spot is about 1½ km away to the west and was in any case abandoned by the close of the third century (apparently due to flooding), thus it would not have been contemporary with the

ring's deposition.²¹ However, the area covered by the parishes of Bromham, Biddenham and Kempston has produced many finds of Roman coins, pottery, building debris and other objects over the years. Material in Bedford Museum from F.W. Kuhlicke's investigations of a site at Moor End, Kempston hint at a fairly substantial building, if not a villa, occupied in the late Roman period, and the Roman well uncovered at Biddenham in 1857²² contained sculptural fragments suggesting the existence of a relatively wealthy settlement in the neighbourhood. More recent fieldwork and finds brought into Bedford Museum for identification tend to reinforce the picture of the area centred on the 'Biddenham loop' of the Ouse as a local concentration of comparatively well-to-do, though essentially rural settlement. It may not be entirely coincidental that the only other recorded find of a gold Roman ring was also made within this area.

Outside the urban settlements of Sandy and Dunstable the great majority of the Romano-British population would have made their living off the land and, with the exception of the few wealthy land-owners, civil servants or merchants, would have been unlikely to be able to afford gold or silver jewellery. Yet the finding of the Bromham ring and the handful of other gold and silver rings from Bedfordshire show that here, as elsewhere in Roman Britain, there were people capable of indulging a taste for fashionable jewellery and the finest craftsmanship of the day. The gold ring from Bromham is the first example of this type of late-Roman ring to be recorded in Bedfordshire, and it would have belonged to a person of substantial wealth and status. From its comparatively small size, we may infer that its owner was a woman, but this cannot be absolutely certain. A large quantity of fine gold jewellery survives from the Roman period in Britain, and this example is a worthy addition to the list.

NOTES

- 1 The ring was found by Mr Richard Martin, using a metal detector on land belonging to Mr D.S. Stewart, in the area of TL 03 52. Bedford Museum is grateful to both the finder and the landowner for allowing the Museum to acquire the ring, and to the finder for allowing the Museum to purchase at a reduced cost equal to the price of a replica.
- 2 Bedford Museum accession number 1989/46. The ring was acquired with the aid of the MGC/V&A Purchase Grant Fund.
- 3 The re-shaping of the hoop was carried out by Mr Peter Shorer by pressing the gold between small pieces of hardwood. The drawing (Fig 1) shows the ring as restored to its approximate Roman shape.

- 4 The analysis was carried out by Mr Duncan Hook, and we record our thanks to him and Dr Michael Tite, the former Keeper of the British Museum Research Laboratory.
- 5 Marshall, F., 1907, reprinted 1968, *Catalogue of the Finger-rings, Greek, Etruscan and Roman, in the Departments of Antiquities, British Museum* (London), no. 544; Kent, J.C.P. and Painter, K.S., 1977, *Wealth of the Roman World* (London), no. 125. British Museum registration number 1900.11-23.3.
- 6 Marshall, F., *ibid.*, no. 545. British Museum registration number 1865.10-19.1.
- 7 Johns, C., 1981; "A Roman gold ring from Bedford", *Antiq. J. LXI pt II*, 343-45. This ring can be seen on display in the British Museum, Roman Britain gallery.
- 8 Matthews, C.L. and Hutchings, J.B., 1972, "A Roman Well at Dunstable", *Beds. Arch. J.*, 7, 21-34.
- 9 See this journal, p. 116, no. 14.
- 10 Bedford Museum accession number 1989/20. See this journal, p. 70.
- 11 A plain silver ring with a small intaglio, and three other intaglios (presumably also from rings) were acquired with other finds from Ruxox by Bedford Museum in 1991, accession number 1991/19. They were formerly in the collections of Longsands Community College Museum, St Neots. The ring was previously thought to be iron but was found to be silver during conservation.
- 12 Johnston, D.E., 1974; "The Roman Settlement at Sandy, Bedfordshire", *Beds. Arch. J.*, 9, 41.
- 13 Bedford Museum accession number 3400; erroneously published as "bronze ring from Kempston" in Simco, A., 1984; *Survey of Bedfordshire — The Roman Period* (Bedfordshire County Council/RCHM), 44 fig 35(e).
- 14 Excavations 1989 by Bedfordshire County Planning Department's Archaeological Service. Publication by Dawson, M. *et alia* forthcoming.
- 15 Simco, A., *op. cit.*, 56, 59 fig 60 and 100 G53.
- 16 Bedford Museum (no accession number recorded).
- 17 Farndish ring, Bedford Museum accession number 1989/22, see this journal p. 69; Odell ring ('stone' missing), Bedford Museum accession number 1985/18.Giv.16, publication forthcoming; Dunstable ring in Matthews, C.L. *et alia*, 1981; *The Roman Cemetery at Dunstable, Durocobrivae, Beds. Arch. J.*, 15, 44 no. 4.
- 18 See this journal p. 116, no. 13.
- 19 Bedford Museum accession numbers 1985/18.Giv. 3, 9, 21 and 24; excavations by Brian Dix, Bedfordshire County Planning Department, publication forthcoming.
- 20 Matthews, C.L. *et alia*, 1981, *op. cit.*, 44 no. 5.
- 21 Tilson, P., 1973; "A Belgic and Romano-British site at Bromham", *Beds. Arch. J.*, 8, 23-66.
- 22 Dyer, J., 1976, "The Bedfordshire Region in the First Millennium BC", *Beds. Arch. J.*, 11, 17; Simco, A., *op. cit.*, 56-7 and 98 G23.

A Collection of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon Brooches and Other Finds from East Bedfordshire

CAROLYN WINGFIELD

INTRODUCTION

The brooches and other finds featured in this article are part of a private collection made by Mr Tim Morgan of Eaton Socon and were submitted to Bedford Museum for identification and recording between January and May 1989. All were found by metal detector and therefore do not come from stratified contexts, however they do significantly extend the range and distribution of types recorded in the county and have been published for this reason. The author is grateful to Mr Morgan for his co-operation in recording these finds; there may be many noteworthy but unknown archaeological objects from Bedfordshire in private ownership and it is hoped that more collectors will be encouraged to bring forward finds for identification or to deposit records of their collections with either Bedford or Luton Museums, or with the County Planning Department's Archaeological Service. Grouping of objects, provenances and grid references are as for the Museum acquisitions and enquiries published

in this journal. **All objects described below are copper alloy unless otherwise stated.**

ROMAN IRON AGE FASTENERS AND BROOCHES

FASTENER AND STUD

1 Button-and-loop Fastener Fig 2.1 Northill (Hatch) [TL 15 48]

Button-and-loop fastener of Wild's type III, 'tear-drop or petal-headed fasteners', or Kilbride-Jones' 'boss-and-petal' form¹ with a pronounced, domed boss divided radially into eight cells round a single, small cell in the centre. There is red enamel in alternate cells and vestiges of red enamel on either side of the spur below the boss; the enamel in the other cells has gone completely. Length 107 mm, maximum width of boss 38 mm. This is by far the commonest type of button-and-loop fastener, on which enamelling is occasionally found, but their distribution tends more to N and W Britain, with a handful of outliers in SE Britain along the line of the Icknield Way.² The enamelled decoration on the Northill specimen is more elaborate than is usual. Button-and-loop fasteners were probably used to fasten cloaks or other clothing and relate to native Celtic rather than to Roman dress. Boss-and-petal fasteners first appear in the later first century AD and continue well into the second.

2 Enamelled Disc-stud Fig 2.2 Eaton Socon [TL 17 58]

Small, circular stud with shank on reverse showing that it was intended as a decorative mount, perhaps for a leather strap. Within the copper-alloy rim the disc is set with blue enamel and eight dots of red enamel around a central copper-alloy 'bull's-eye' containing a white glass bead. Like the enamelled brooches below, it most probably dates from about the second century.³

ENAMEL and GLASS INLAYS

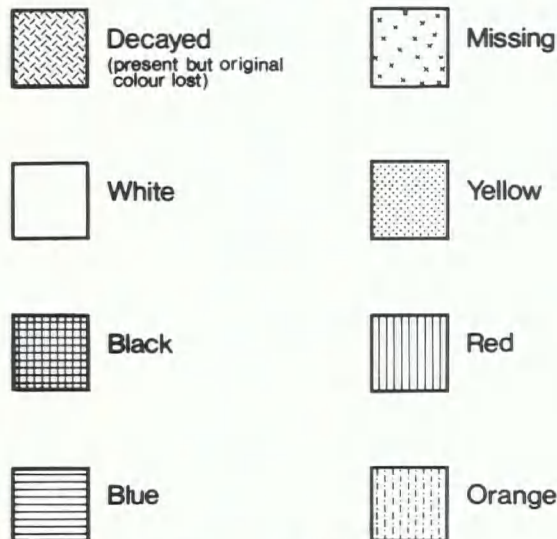
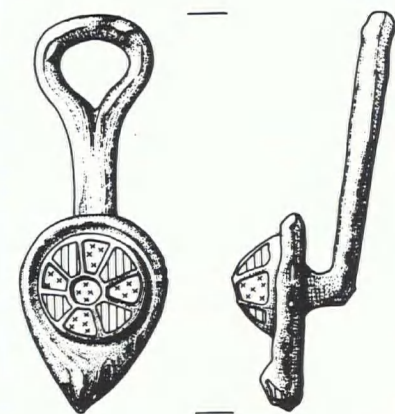


Fig 1 Key to enamel colours



2.1

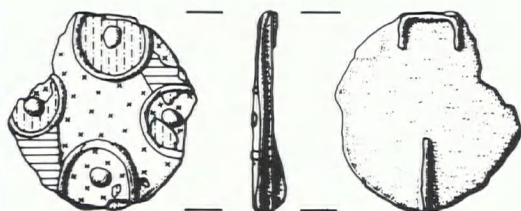
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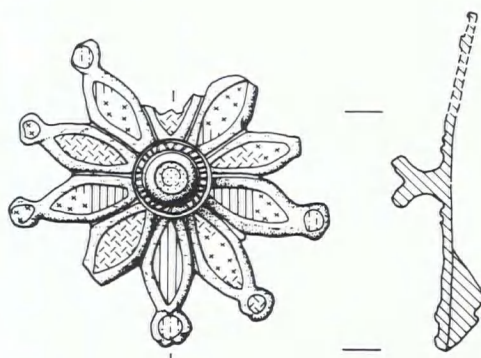
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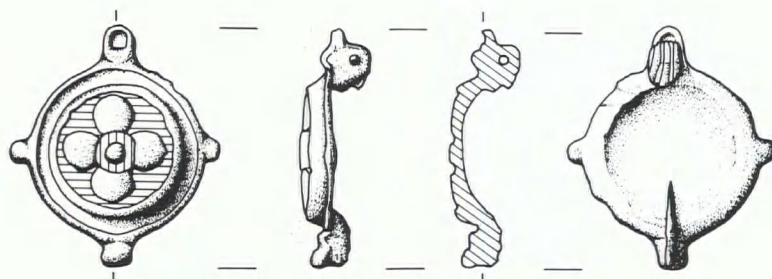
2.3



2.4



2.6



2.5

Fig 2 Romano-British enamelled copper alloy fasteners and brooches (x 1).
2.1 Northill. 2.2-3 Eaton Socon. 2.4 Roxton. 2.5 Eaton Socon. 2.6 Roxton.

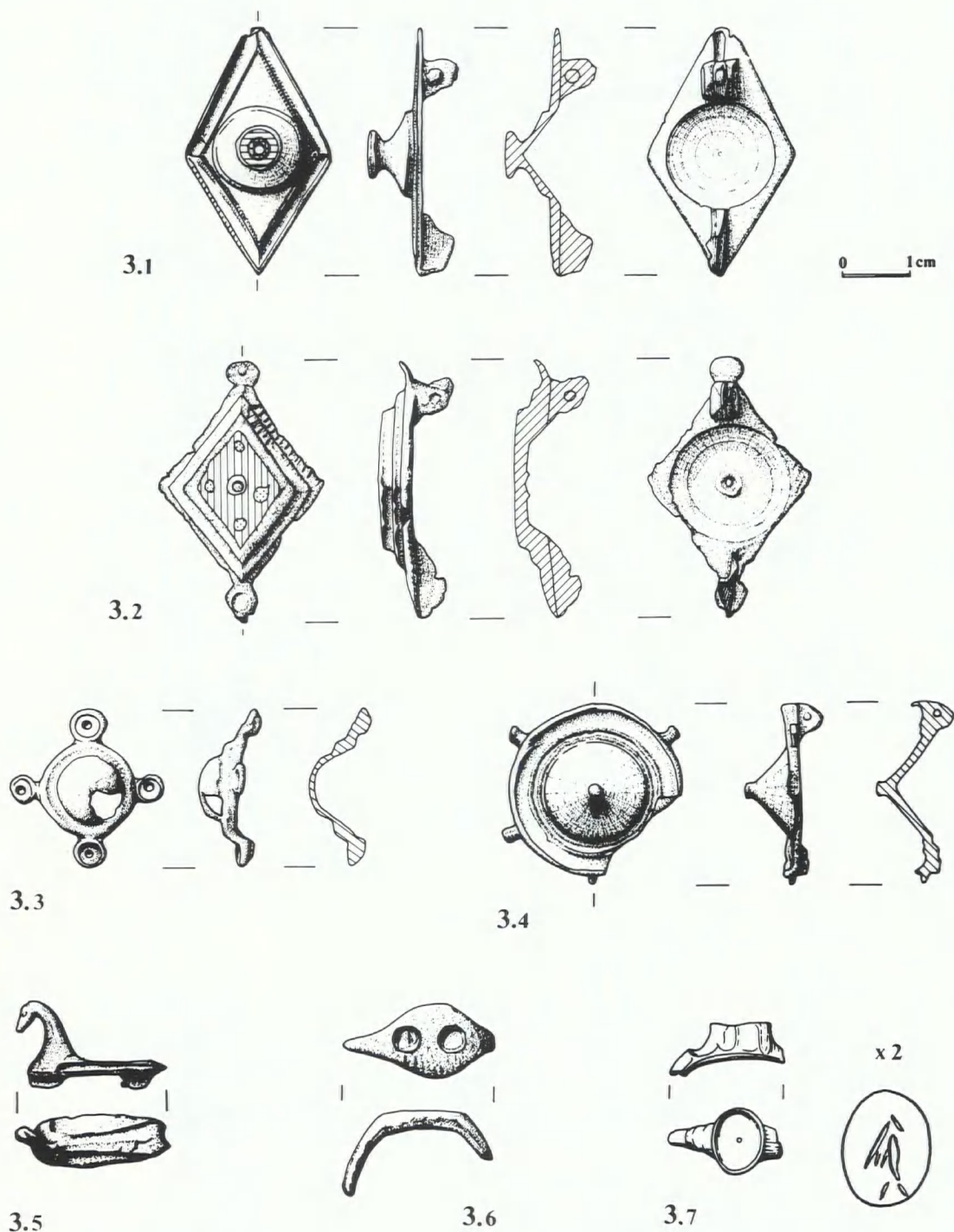


Fig 3 Roman enamelled copper alloy brooches. 3.1 Roxton. 3.2 Eaton Socon; unenamelled brooches 3.3-5 Eaton Socon (all x 1). 3.6 copper alloy ring, Roxton (x 1). 3.7 silver ring, Eaton Socon (x 1) and intaglio (x 2).

ENAMELLED BROOCHES

All the brooches described below fall within the general date-range of late-first to early-third century.

3 Circular Plate-brooch Eaton Socon Fig 2.3 [TL 16 58]

Small, circular brooch, 20 mm in diameter, with a six-point star-like motif and central button both in copper alloy. The enamel inlay is red in the centre around the star, and blue between the star and rim (except for a small, stray patch of red on one edge of the star). The black retains the catchplate and part of the copper alloy pin-spring with iron axis-pin *in situ*. This is one of the commoner types of Romano-British enamelled brooch which has a wide distribution and occurs in a variety of colour-schemes.⁴

4 Circular Plate-brooch (not illustrated) as no. 3

Brooch identical in size and design to no. 3 and presumably from the same workshop but having lost all traces of its enamel inlay.

5 Circular Plate-brooch Roxton Fig 2.4 [region of TL 14 55]

The greater part of a worn circular plate, maximum surviving diameter 26 mm, with four 'eyes' inlaid with bright orange enamel spaced more-or-less equally round the edge. The remainder was originally inlaid with blue enamel. The 'eye' or dot-and-circle motif can be found on a number of enamelled plate-brooches but I have yet to find a close parallel for this design.⁵

6 Lugged Circular Brooch Eaton Socon Fig 2.5 [TL 16 58]

The plate has a diameter of 23 mm and, around the edge, four small lugs, the largest of which hides the mechanism for a (missing) hinged pin. A wide, shallow groove separates the rim of the brooch from the slightly-raised centre which is decorated with a moulded quatrefoil motif. The quatrefoil is surrounded by blue enamel and set with red enamel around the central spot. The 'quatrefoil' pattern is distinctive, the few recorded examples being scattered across SE Britain.⁶ Nearest geographically, though differing in details of enamel-colours and design, is a Northamptonshire example recorded by Hattatt, however closest in similarity is a brooch

quoted by the same author from Blandford Forum, Dorset, of identical design and colour-scheme but having the quatrefoil's petals orientated at 45° to the lugs instead of opposite them. They are presumably all products of a single workshop.

7 'Ten-petalled' Plate-brooch Roxton Fig 2.6 [region of TL 15 55]

The brooch is in the form of a flower or star with ten 'petals' each ending in a small, round disc and measuring up to 44 mm across from one petal-tip to that opposite. The plate is flat except for the raised central knob, inlaid with yellow enamel and surrounded at the base by a ring scored by tiny transverse lines. From the surviving traces of enamel it can be seen that alternating petals were red with orange discs, but it is now impossible to establish the colour of the intervening petals. Whereas no closely-comparable example has been found so far for this Roxton brooch, it does belong with a well-attested category, the so-called 'sunburst' or 'spoked-wheel' brooches.

8 Lozenge-shaped Brooch Roxton Fig 3.1 [region of TL 14 55]

The brooch measures 38 mm corner-to-corner lengthways and 22.5 mm in width. A broad, shallow groove runs around the edge with traces of light tooling along the inner edge and in one quarter, also along the outer. The circular, raised centre rises to a button set with a small annular bead of black glass in turquoise-blue enamel. From the reverse the circular recess is very even and shows signs of lathe-turning, not of the brooch itself but of the mould from which it was cast. Part of the catch-plate and mechanism for a hinged pin remain. See comments on no. 9 below.

9 Lozenge-shaped Brooch Eaton Socon Fig 3.2 [TL 16 58]

A similar brooch to no. 8 and again showing evidence for a lathe-turned mould in the recess although a little more corroded than the brooch above. It measures 41 mm in length and 25 mm in width. The lozenge-shaped centre is stepped, with vestiges of tooling along the outer edge and first step, and inlaid with red enamel. Within the enamel are set a yellow dot at each corner and an annular bead of white glass round a central bronze pin. Brooches 8 and 9 are both examples of a type imported from Gaul in the second century, common

features being the use of a lathe-turned mould; small black beads set in enamel; stepped centres and lugs at the corners (such as the two lugs surviving on no. 9). Such brooches are found in Gaul, the Rhineland and S Britain and exhibit many variations in details of shape, pattern and colour.⁷

UNENAMELLED BROOCHES

- 10 Domed and Lugged Circular Brooch** Fig 3.3
Eaton Socon [TL 17 58]

A small brooch with a plain, domed centre and four peripheral lugs, each of which has a dot-and-circle ornament, but appear not to have been enamelled. Maximum diameter across the lugs is 24 mm.

- 11 Lugged Brooch with Conical Centre** Fig 3.4
Eaton Socon [TL 16 58]

The brooch originally had six small, rectangular lugs round the rim and measures 25.5 mm in diameter. The hollow, conical centre is separated from the upturned rim by a broad, shallow groove and is finished with a small knob at the apex. Similar brooches with conical centres (though often without lugs) are widely distributed in Britain and Gaul.

- 12 Duck Brooch** Fig 3.5
Eaton Socon [TL 16 57]

This is an example of a popular type of Romano-British brooch representing a water-fowl, presumably a duck or a goose. It is smaller than most such brooches, measuring only 21 mm in length. The eyes and outline of the wings are just discernible but there is no suggestion of the enamelling that frequently decorates larger, more elaborate examples. Simple, unenamelled bird-brooches comparable to the Eaton Socon specimen are known from Caerwent and St Albans.⁸

ROMANO-BRITISH RINGS

- 13 Enamelled Copper-alloy Ring** Fig 3.6
Roxton [region of TL 14 55]

Only the bezel and part of the hoop survive but the hoop seems to have been plain and approximately circular, while the bezel is a flat oval, 14 x 11 mm,

inlaid with two circular cells containing traces of red enamel. Enamel or glass were frequently used in cheaper Roman jewellery in lieu of gemstones. The Roxton ring should probably be dated to around the second century.

- 14 Silver Ring with Intaglio** Fig 3.7
Eaton Socon [TL 16 58]

Fragment of a small silver ring, incorporating one shoulder and the bezel which contains an oval intaglio 9 x 6.5 mm of honey-yellow glass. It is difficult to make sense of the engraved device: it may be a simplified or disjointed representation of a figure, or possibly a wheat-ear or (turned on its side) a dolphin swimming. A date in the third century is likely for this style of ring.

ANGLO-SAXON BROOCHES AND PIN

All copper alloy

- 15 Small-long Brooch** Fig 4.1
Eaton Socon (Little End) [TL 17 58]

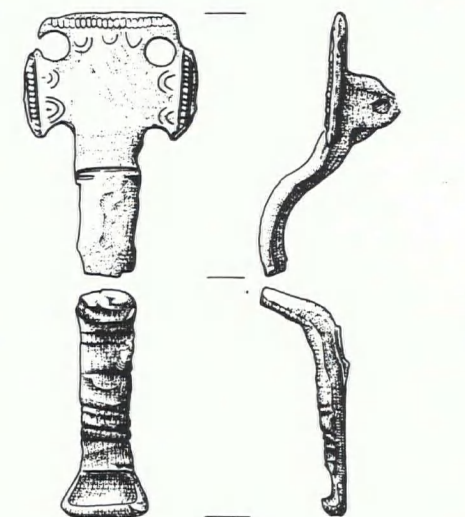
A slightly worn brooch in two pieces, broken just below the bow, and together measuring 67 mm in length. The end of the head-plate is pierced by a small, round hole at each corner and the other two corners are slightly incurved giving the head-plate the appearance of a cross pattée. The edge of the head-plate is decorated by a well-defined row of cable-moulding within which there is a row of engraved swag ornament. Small-long brooches are generally dated to around the sixth century AD. Among the many examples of small-long brooches recorded in the region, two from the cemetery at Barrington, Cambs, share a similar form of head-plate.⁹

- 16 Small-long Brooch** Fig 4.2
as no. 15

Part of a second brooch from the same site, the worn remains of the head and bow only. The edges of the head-plate are too damaged for its original shape to be discerned.

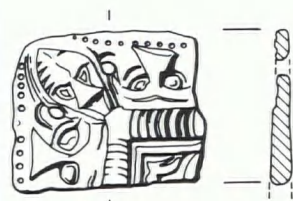
- 17 Fragment of Square-headed Brooch** Fig 4.3
Roxton [region of TL 14 55]

A rectangular fragment, 25 x 21.5 mm, apparently clipped off the corner of a square-headed brooch in

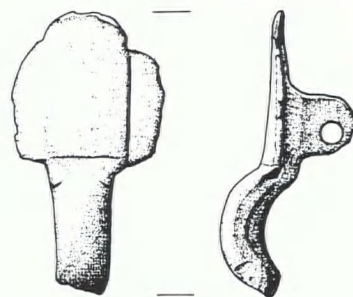


4.1

0 2 cm



4.3

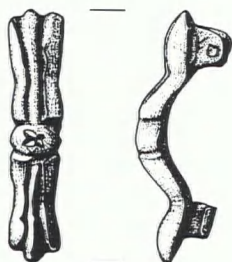


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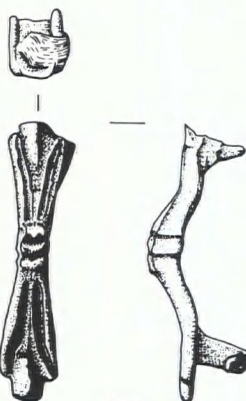


4.6

x 2



4.4



4.5

Fig 4 Anglo-Saxon copper alloy brooches (x 1). 4.1-2 small-long brooches, Eaton Socon. 4.3 square-headed brooch fragment, Roxton 4.4-5 ansate brooches, Eaton Socon. 4.6 Anglo-saxon copper alloy pin, Roxton (x 2).

antiquity and still retaining some of its original gilding on the obverse. From this it is possible to reconstruct the decoration of the head: this would have comprised a central rectangular panel of disjointed animal-ornament, contained within a raised frame, and a row of outward-facing masks with pronounced eyes and snouts plus a single row of impressed dots around the edge. The extant corner has a lentoid, inwardly-facing mask at the corner of the frame which would have been repeated on the other side. Attempts to classify this brooch or draw comparisons with other square-headed brooches on the evidence of the head alone are of limited validity, but two particularly relevant parallels may be mentioned. One is square-headed brooch no. 5 from Nassington, Northants¹⁰ which displays a similar row of outward-facing masks with holes pierced between them (two such holes can be seen on the Roxton fragment) and plain lentoid bosses at the two upper corners. Another brooch with a similar mask-border is from grave 60 of the cemetery at Chessell Down, Isle of Wight,¹¹ here the lentoid corner-bosses have become masks, very similar to those on the Roxton example, although the piercing of the border is absent. The Chessell Down specimen belongs to Leeds' South Midlands group, datable brooches from which have been assigned to the late sixth century. Great square-headed brooches have not been especially plentiful in Bedfordshire, being confined mainly to the Kempston cemetery in the N and to cemeteries of the Luton area in the S of the county. However, given the relatively large numbers recorded from East Anglia and Cambs, it is not so surprising that one should come to light in the E of the county, and it appears to be in keeping stylistically with others from the S Midlands region.

**18 Ansate Brooch
Eaton Socon**

**Fig 4.4
[TL 17 58]**

This is an example of a type variously referred to as 'ansate', 'caterpillar' or 'equal-arm', brooches, a Merovingian/Frankish class of brooch of wide distribution in N Europe and dating to the seventh to ninth centuries.¹² It is cast with the distinctive bowed profile and has two deep grooves running the length of each arm; its total length is 33 mm. The pin is missing but the surviving mechanism shows it to have been hinged and it is presumably a Continental import, unlike 19 below.

**19 Ansate Brooch
as no. 18**

Fig 4.5

This is a similar type of brooch to 18, but 37 mm long and having arms splayed at the ends and tapering towards the centre. The most important difference however lies in the method of securing the iron pin which was looped through a hole in a plate between two small lugs on the reverse (the illustration shows the remains of the iron pin corroded *in situ* in the hole in the copper alloy lug). This feature identifies the brooch with a small group of ansate brooches all sharing this unusual fastening and with a distribution confined to East Anglia. Hattatt has suggested that they are all English copies and products of the same workshop in the vicinity of East Harling, near Thetford, Norfolk, and there is certainly a marked resemblance between the Eaton Socon brooch and other 'East Harling' brooches recorded by him.¹³ The only other ansate brooch recorded from Bedfordshire is that from Shirrell Spring, Totternhoe, and is of an earlier form with rounded terminals to the arms.¹⁴

**20 Pin
Roxton**

**Fig 4.6
[TL 15 54]**

The upper part of the shaft and head of a small pin, 26 mm long, the head being faceted and each of the eight facets decorated with a raised circle. There is no sign of these having been cells for enamel or stones. A mid-Saxon date is probable.

NOTES

- 1 Wild, J.P., 1970; "Button-and-Loop Fasteners in the Roman Provinces" in *Britannia* 1, 137-55; Kilbride-Jones, H.E., 1980: *Celtic Craftsmanship in Bronze*, Croom Helm, 159-69, especially 166-8.
- 2 Of over 30 examples of boss-and-petal fasteners cited by Wild and Kilbride-Jones, *op. cit.*, enamelling was recorded on just 4 fasteners: one each from S Ferriby and York (blue enamel) and 2 from Traprain Law having respectively a central spot of blue enamel and a trefoil motif; see Burley, E., 1955-56; "A Catalogue and Survey of the Metalwork from Traprain Law" in *PSAS* lxxxix, 118-221. To these may be added a blue-enamelled example from Colchester published in Hattatt, R., 1989; *Ancient Brooches and Other Artefacts*, Oxbow, 415 and 417 fig 7, no. 24; the Northill specimen brings the total of enamelled boss-and-petals to 6. Wild also included in his type III fasteners an enamelled pair from Traprain Law (Burley, *op. cit.*, nos. 233 and 234) which Kilbride-Jones defined as a separate "expanding spiral" form, an immediate forerunner of the boss-and-petal. Hitherto Traprain Law has been regarded as the sole, or at least main manufacturing site for boss-and-petal fasteners (see Kilbride-Jones, *op. cit.*, 167-8) however the marked contrast between the Traprain Law enamelled patterns, derived from three-pointed and trumpet-spiral motifs,

- and the eight-celled symmetry of the Northill fastener's design, and its markedly longer shank, caution against assigning all boss-and-petals automatically to the same source. The find-spot of the Northill specimen lies some 10 miles N of the Icknield Way which links it with other finds of boss-and-petal fasteners at Hockwold, Norfolk; Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead, Herts; and Lowbury Hill, Berks, and from Colchester the enamelled fastener (above, Hattatt) and an unenamelled one quoted in Wild and Kilbride-Jones to complete the list of this type recorded in SE Britain (see Kilbride-Jones, *op. cit.*, 168 for discussion of significance of Icknield Way as a trade route in relation to button-and-loop fasteners).
- 3 A similar type of stud which may have contained enamel, was excavated at Milton Keynes from a fourth-century context, see Mynard, D.C. *et. al.*, 1987; *Roman Milton Keynes — Excavations and Fieldwork 1971-82*, Bucks. Arch. Soc. Monograph Series No. 1, 138 no. 96 and 140 fig 44. A number of small enamelled studs were excavated at Verulamium from contexts dated to the second half of the second century, see Frere, S., 1972; *Verulamium Excavations*, vol I, Soc of Antiq. of London, 126 nos. 96-100.
 - 4 This type is described by Hattatt as of wide distribution (Hull's type 253). A specimen very similar to the Eaton Socon brooch and with the same colour-scheme, came from Cold Kitchen Hill, Wilts. See Hattatt, R., 1982; *Ancient and Romano-British Brooches*, Dorset Publishing Co., 138 no. 118; and Hattatt, R., 1985; *Iron Age and Roman Brooches*, Oxbow, 141 no. 518.
 - 5 The best comparison is with a group of brooches nos. 1031-34 in Hattatt, R., 1987; *Brooches of Antiquity*, Oxbow, 168-9 and 171 fig 55, all of which however have 6 'eyes' around a central circle.
 - 6 Hattatt 1985, 146-7 and 144 fig 61, no. 538A (Blandford Forum) and Hattatt 1987, 184 and 182 fig 50 no. 1066 (Northants.). Mention is also made of an example from Woodeaton, Oxon., recorded by Hull.
 - 7 For brooches similar to 8 and 9 see: Brown, R.A., 1986; "The Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement at Woodcock Hall, Saham Toney, Norfolk" in *Britannia XVII*, 39 fig 25 no. 183; Hattatt 1985, 156-61 nos. 567, 568A and 569; and Hattatt 1987, 197-202 especially nos. 1087 and 1096. Another enamelled lozenge-shaped brooch was excavated at Sandy in 1989 by Beds. County Planning Department's Archaeological Service (publication forthcoming).
 - 8 Frere, S., *op. cit.*, 118 fig 31 no. 22, an unenamelled simple duck brooch from a context dated AD 150-155/160. For note on other simplified brooches of this type (including Caerwent example) see Hattatt 1987, 227 and 229 fig 71 no. 1159.
 - 9 Fox, C., 1923; *The Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, Cambridge University Press, plate XXX.
 - 10 Leeds, E.T., 1949; *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Great Square-Headed Brooches*, Oxford, 65-7, brooch 107 (Nassington 5).
 - 11 Arnold, C.J., 1982; *The Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries of the Isle of Wight*, British Museum, 30 no. 60i, 54 and fig 15 no. 60i.
 - 12 Evison, V.L., 1966; "A Caterpillar-Brooch from Old Erringham Farm, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex" in *Med. Arch. 10*, 149-51. Both 18 and 19 share with the Old Erringham brooch a solid, moulded construction and trefoil terminals which, by comparison with dated examples from the Netherlands, suggest a date in or around the early ninth century.
 - 13 Hattatt 1987, 325-29 and 382-3, nos. 1328, 1329, 1424 and 1424A.
 - 14 *Dunstable Library and Museum Annual Report 1925-6*, 7 and fig 9.

Chicksands Priory and the Work of the Friends of the Priory

W.H. SMITH

SUMMARY

Chicksands Priory represents the only standing remains of the Gilbertine Order of any size, and the Friends of the Priory are attempting to preserve this important building. Their work has led to the discovery of various features previously hidden by later alterations.

HISTORY

The building known as Chicksands Priory stands in the middle of RAF Chicksands, between the A600 road from Bedford to Shefford and the A507 road from Shefford to Ampthill. The Priory was founded in cAD 1150 by Payne de Beauchamp and his wife, the Countess Rohese, for the nuns and canons of the Gilbertine Order.

After the Priory was dissolved in 1538, the property passed into the hands of the Snowe family, and then, a few years later, into the hands of the Osbornes, whose family home it remained until 1936 when it was sold to the Crown.

The Church of St Mary of Chicksands, which existed before 1150, formed the basis of the Priory. According to tradition, the main Priory buildings were in the form of two quadrangles, one built onto the N side of the Church and the other onto the S side (one quadrangle accommodating the nuns and the other the canons, the customary arrangement of Gilbertine double foundations). The N quadrangle, if it did exist, must have disappeared soon after the Dissolution, as did most of the Church a little later. Thus only the S wall of the Church and the S quadrangle remained. To these a new N wing was added before 1730. In 1740 Isaac Ware remodelled most of the first floor and a small area of the ground floor. He was followed in 1813 by James Wyatt, who laid out the Entrance Hall, built the Main Stairway and rebuilt the N Wing as we know it today.

The present building (Fig 1) therefore includes monastic remains (c1150-1500), early Georgian (1740), and Regency (1813), plus some minor alterations and additions from other periods.

OWNERSHIP

The Chicksands base, including the Priory, is owned

by the Ministry of Defence and has been a RAF Station since 1940, although today the RAF is represented by only one officer, the USAF having taken over all operational duties.

THE FRIENDS OF THE PRIORY

The Society known as the Friends of Chicksands Priory was founded in 1974 by the USAF and RAF Commanders of the time with a few other interested individuals, to preserve the Priory and prevent further deterioration of the building. The following year conducted tours were started. Research into the history of the building, the estate and the people connected with them started as a private venture in 1973 and continued as part of the work of the Friends.

Today, this work continues on several fronts: work on the building, opening the Priory for public tours, research into the many aspects of Chicksands, and 'educational' work which includes lectures to interested groups and publication of the results of research.

OBTAINING PERMISSION TO WORK

Although some work on the building was carried out by the Friends before 1980, it was only at about this time that work started in earnest and to a more definite plan. At first such work was simply authorised by the RAF Commander, but as time passed, so the bureaucratic system has become more complicated.

At present, the Friends are licensed by the Ministry of Defence to undertake certain types of work on the building and to take people around it, this license being renewed each year according to strict rules.

In addition to the licence, permission to carry out each item of work has to be obtained from

- (a) the RAF Commander, as landlord for the Ministry of Defence;
- (b) the Property Services Agency, both local and regional, as 'guardian' of all government buildings;
- (c) the Department of the Environment (the Priory is a listed Building);

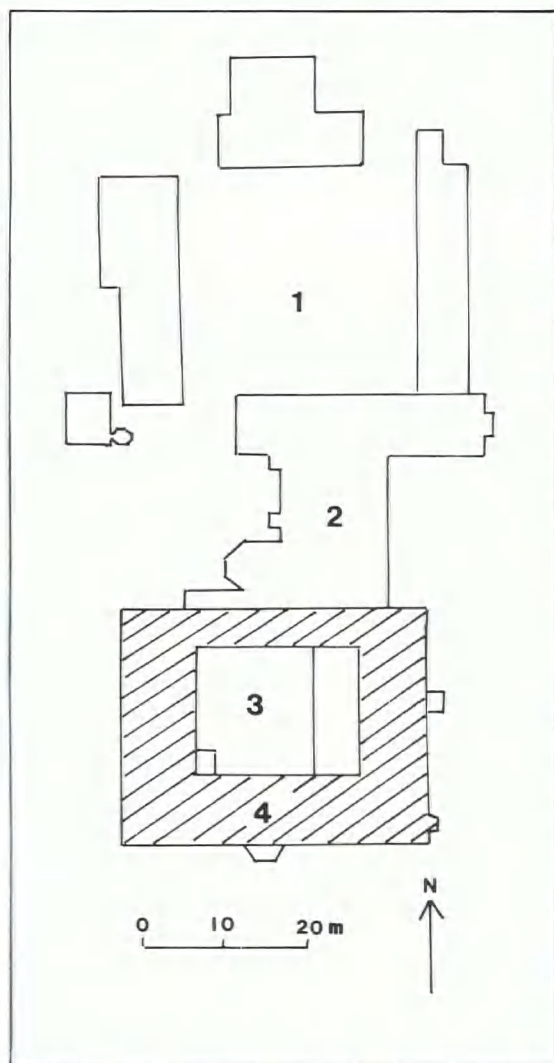


Fig 1 Sketch-plan of the present main buildings (scale approximate) showing:
1 Stable Yard; 2 North Wing;
3 Quadrangle; 4 Monastic buildings

(d) English Heritage (the Priory is a scheduled ancient monument).

This means that even relatively simple work will take time to complete.

AIMS OF THE FRIENDS

As the building is unfurnished, the most interesting features of the building are its architecture and the variety of styles found in it, especially as these

reflect changes through the different ages represented at Chicksands. Thus, the Friends have no intention of trying to 'restore' the building to its former condition at any one specific period. Instead, the aim is to present the building in a clean and attractive way to visitors, and to bring out the many points of interest. To carry this out entails preservation work (against damp, dry rot, insects etc), minor repairs, redecoration and cleaning. The Property Services Agency is concerned mainly with wind- and weather-proofing, structural defects and infestations of various types.

WORK TO DATE

Preservation work has included the carrying out of regular inspections and watching of 'danger areas' for signs of deterioration; improving ventilation by re-opening blocked-up fireplaces or removing modern partitions, cleaning gutters and so on. In addition, large quantities of debris have been removed from the tops of ceilings.

Repair work has included such items as the making safe of floor-boards, the filling of many thousands of holes in the plaster of walls and ceilings, and generally making good the results of fifty years of public ownership. Redecoration has been carried out as and when necessary. Since modern decorating materials have been used by the various government departments in charge of the building, over the past two years, the use of these has been continued as being the most practical, especially considering the uses to which the building is put. However, no general stripping of paintwork has been done, in order to preserve the many layers for future analysis, and all materials and colour schemes are approved by the Department of the Environment and English Heritage.

On the ground floor some parts of the walls in the Kitchen and Buildings N of the Church have been stripped of the plaster and cement render to allow the stonework to breathe, and so has improved the drying-out of these areas. Plaster repairs and redecoration have been started in the N Wing ground floor. In addition, some of the floors have been stripped of modern vinyl tiles or lino-paint, also to counteract damp. One wall and several plaster-board partitions have been removed to provide through ventilation.

Much more work has been done on the first floor, where almost all the main rooms have been redecorated over the past few years. One of the more interesting rooms on this floor was badly affected by dry rot and so in 1985 Property Services

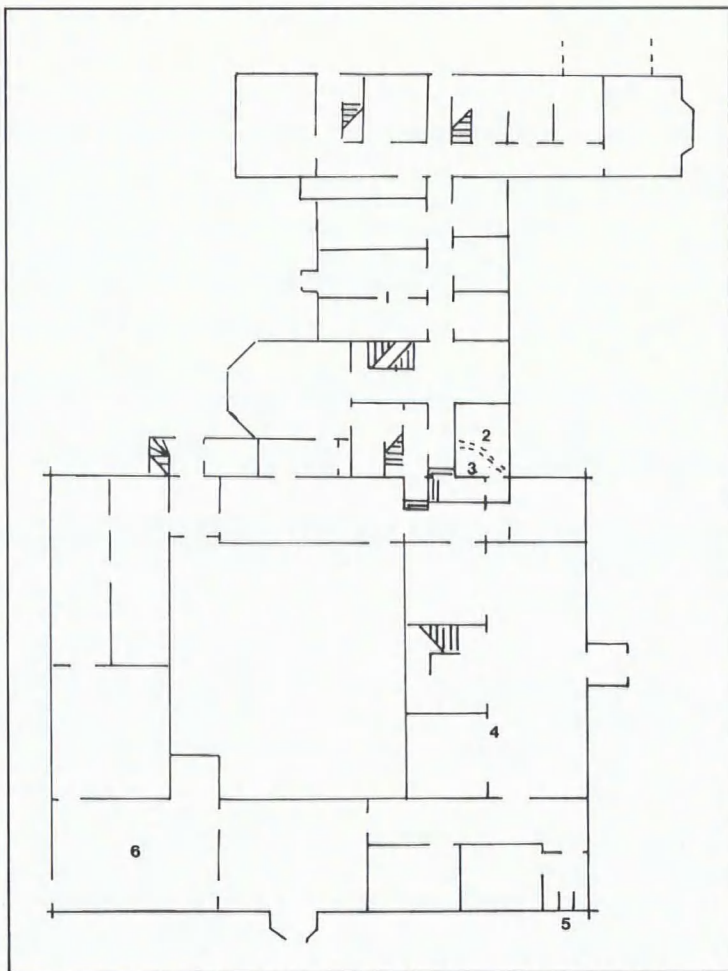


Fig 2 Sketch-plan of the Ground Floor of the house showing:
 1 Cistern and remains of old walls under present floor;
 2 Conduit; 3 Blocked-up doorway; 4 Remains of older ceiling
 under floorboards above; 5 Blocked-up window (first left of
 stairway on Buck print of 1730); 6 Study

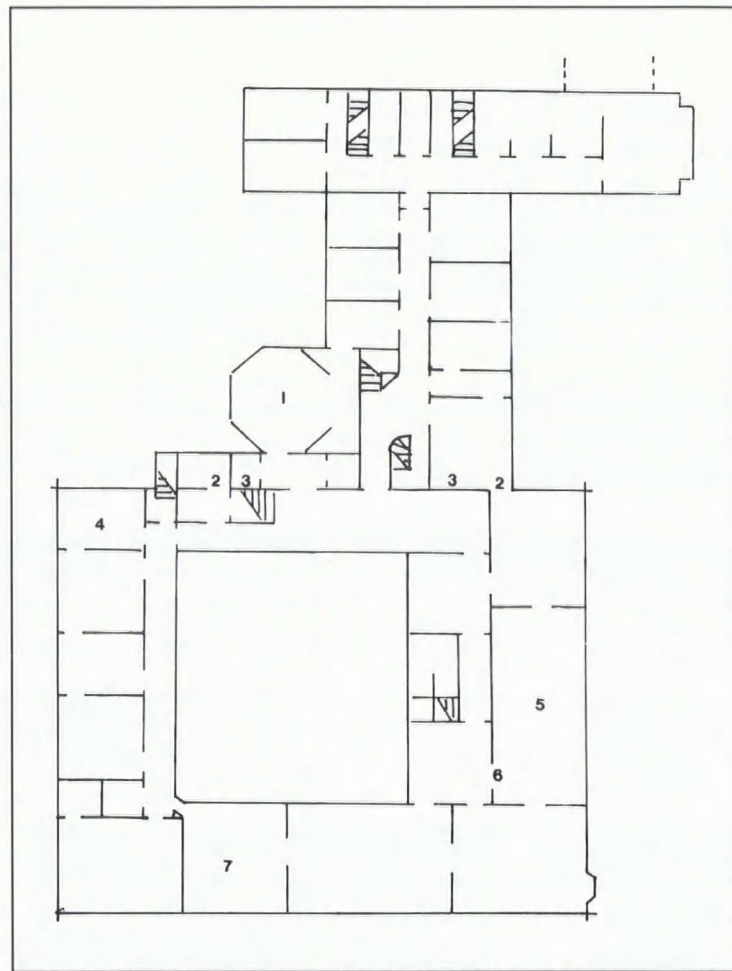
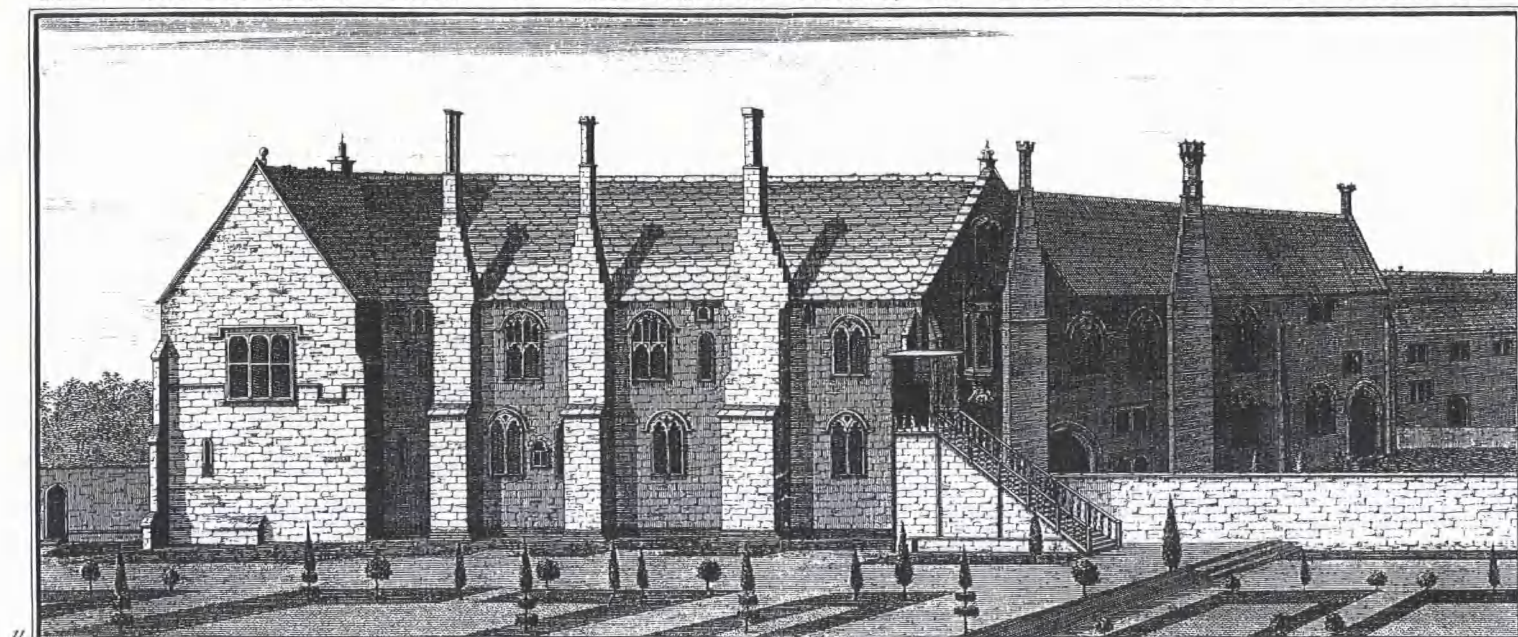


Fig 3 Sketch-plan of first floor of the house showing: 1 King James's
 Room; 2 Remains of older doorways; 3 Remains of older
 windows; 4 Remains of the monastic building found when
 floorboards were removed; 5 Library; 6 Remains of older
 ceiling under present floor (see Fig 2:4); 7 Chinese Room

THE SOUTH-EAST VIEW OF CHICKSAND-PRIORY, IN THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD.



THIS Priory was founded in the Reign of R. H. I. by Rose, Wife of Paganus de Beauchamp Baron of Bedford: for Nuns of the Order of S. Gilbert of Sempringham: & dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. This Paganus & his Wife gave divers Lands & Privileges to this House, which were confirm'd by R. E. II. who in the 10th Year of his Reign granted Licence to John Blundel to settle y^e Manor of Chicksand wth all it's Appurtenances on this Convent. The present Owner is T. Danvers Osburn Bar.^r

J. H. N. Buck Delin. et Sculp. 1730.

Agency contractors removed a modern partition and the affected floor-boards, revealing a number of unusual features. The Friends are at present building a walk-way through this room so that visitors can more easily see these features. Also on the first floor, work is in progress to re-open a doorway in order to restore Isaac Ware's original route through the reception rooms. Other work is in hand in the rooms along the N Wing Corridor. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to undertake work in the 'King James Room', which is potentially one of the finest parts of the house.

Work has also taken place in the S Attics, although here some panelling is in need of replacing and some painting is to be completed. Often there are difficulties in completing work in one area before moving on to another job, which can make the task both frustrating and rewarding. A typical instance would be the decorating of one of the landing bays, where a succession of repairs and workmen, followed by the installation of new fire alarm system and lighting, and the aftermath of social functions, have resulted in the decoration of the bay still awaiting completion after six years.

DISCOVERIES

It was inevitable that work on a building of this antiquity should produce some discoveries. Most of the finds in recent years came to light when the Property Services Agency contractors were involved in major repairs which entailed the removal of floor-boards and of plaster from walls in a number of areas.

In the N Wing, the E half of the floor is of concrete, but the W half is of wood and under this latter section the discovery has been made of what appears to be a rain-water cistern (at present full of rubble) and remains of older walls (Fig 2.1). The precise date of these is as yet unresolved, but both the cistern and the walls appear to date from before 1813 and are most likely to have formed part of the

building shown in the Bucks' engraving of 1730 (Fig 4). The walls are orientated along the lines of the present buildings for the work of 1813. This area is in need of clearance so that the features can be measured, photographed, planned and properly recorded.

On the ground floor, the following features have been brought to light: part of a window shown on the print of 1730 (Fig 2.5 and Fig 4); a conduit just below floor level (perhaps once used for rainwater), and remains of an earlier ceiling in the former E Cloister (Fig 2.2 and 2.4). This early ceiling must pre-date 1812 since a Fisher print of that date shows a vaulted ceiling which obviously had replaced the earlier one with moulded wall-boards. It is possible that the conduit led to a cistern which would have been destroyed when the cellar was extended. The construction of the vaulting in the Study has also been elucidated. It is now clear that the vaulting in the Study is of two different periods: the western two-thirds (originally part of the W range) dates from the monastic period, whereas the eastern third dates from Ware's alterations of 1740, when the monastic staircase was removed.

Repair work on the first floor yielded Chinese wallpaper from behind the architrave of one door, a number of early windows and doorways which had been covered by plaster, several moulded timbers of monastic age re-used as floor joists, an old monastic passage floor below the level of the modern floor, and the remains of earlier ceilings over the Library and King James Room (Fig 3).

Most of these finds will not be covered up again, but will be left open so that they can be viewed by visitors.

No doubt further evidence of the building's past history and use will be uncovered as work progresses, but how quickly this can be carried out depends on the availability of volunteer labour and the willingness of visitors to donate towards the cost; the Friends receive no grants of any sort.

A Watching Brief at the Gilbertine Priory of Chicksands, Bedfordshire

T.A. JACKMAN

SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken on this Scheduled Ancient Monument when the Property Services Agency commissioned work on drainage and other services in the nineteenth century courtyard purporting to be sited over the nuns' church and cloister of this double house of monks and nuns. Both positive and negative evidence combined to indicate that the monastic layout was considerably at variance with that previously supposed.

INTRODUCTION

The Gilbertine monastery of St Mary is situated on the lower Greensand ridge of central Bedfordshire (TL 122393), and is currently part of RAF Chicksands. It was founded in c1150 by Pain de Beauchamp and his wife the Countess Roese as a house of the strict double order of nuns and canons after the ideal of St Gilbert de Sempringham. Roese was herself buried at Chicksands. Chicksands was the third largest of 11 of these English houses,

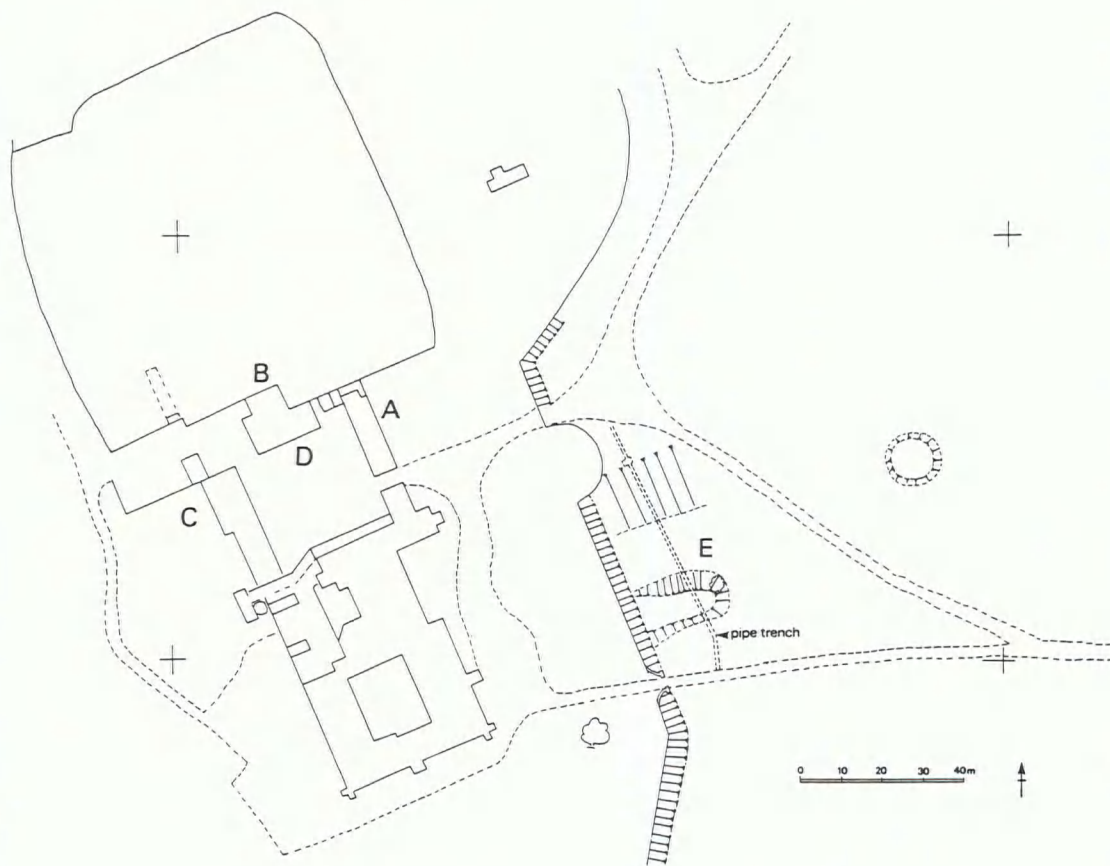


Fig 1 Chicksands Priory 1988: Monitored Areas

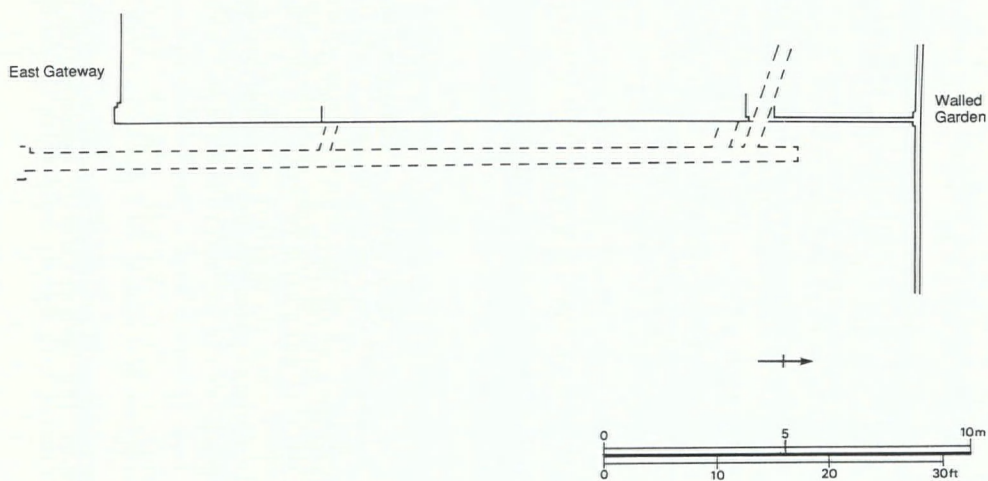


Fig 2 Trench A: East Side of North Courtyard

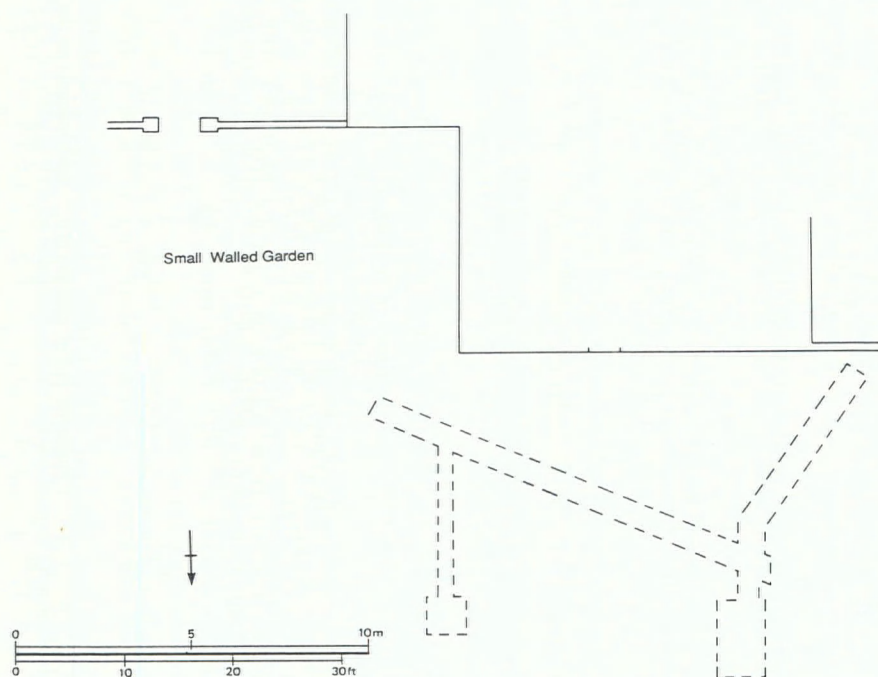


Fig 3 Trench B: North of North Courtyard

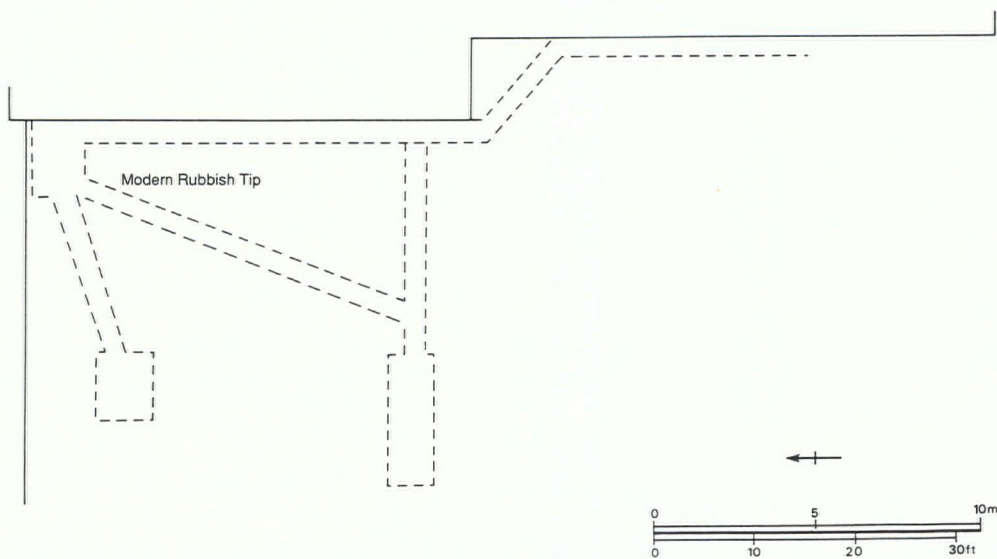


Fig 4 Trench C: West Range of Courtyard

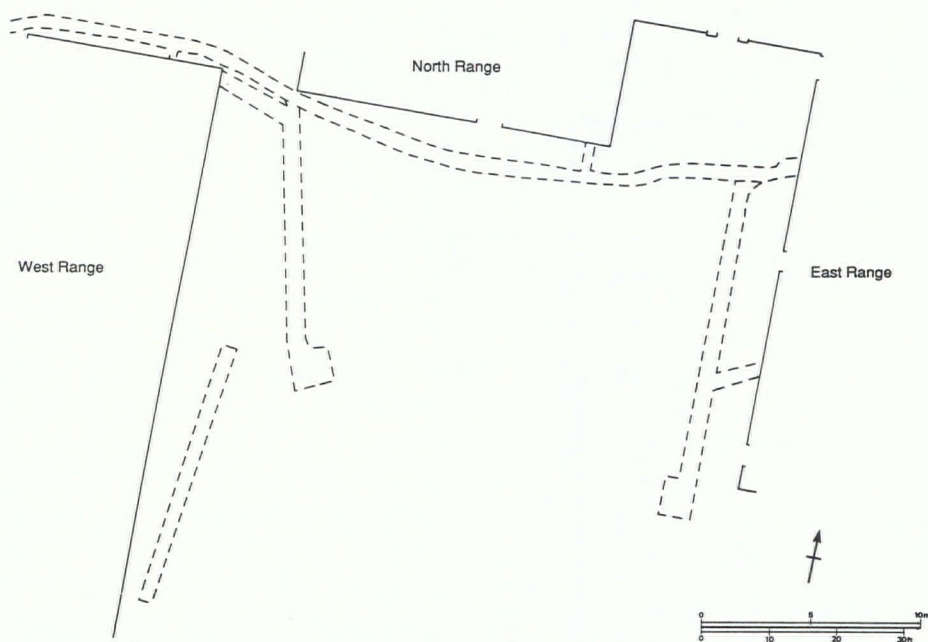


Fig 5 Trench D: Trenches in North Courtyard

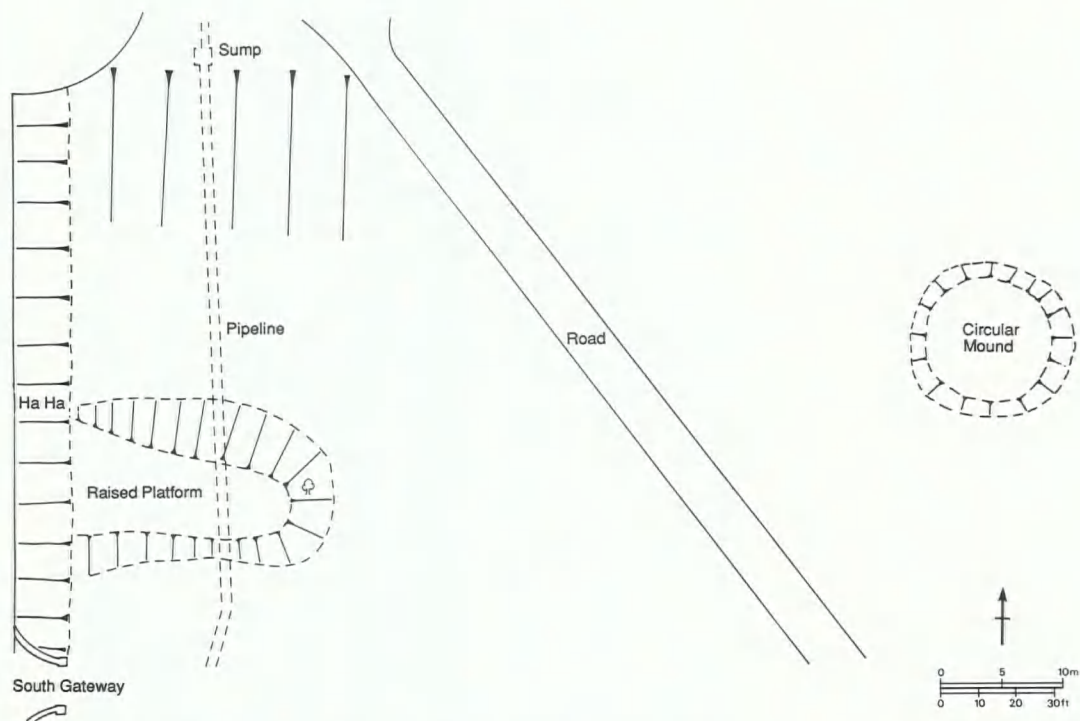


Fig 6 Earthworks and Drainage Trench East of the Priory Buildings

having as many as 120 nuns and 55 brothers in the thirteenth century. Dissolved in 1538, it passed into the hands of the Osborn family by about 1560-1570, remaining in their possession until the lands and buildings became Crown Property in 1935.

All that remains of the monastic buildings are four sides of a thirteenth century cloister and part of the south wall of the church. The south range has a fine late medieval roof. Extensive repairs and renovations were undertaken in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the latter being by James Wyatt.

Previous excavation consisted of work undertaken in 1969 when James Dyer noted from a pipeline trench that the graveyard lay to the south of the present buildings (Dyer 1970).

Ground disturbance caused by the drainage works were watched by Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department's Archaeology Service. The aim was to ascertain the nature and extent of archaeological survival, to clarify the basic layout of the priory buildings, and to record any archaeological evidence brought to light or destroyed by the construction activities. The work was funded by English Heritage.

RESULTS

The pattern and extent of the trenches dug for drainage are illustrated; despite being extensive in nature, they encountered no medieval deposits in sectors A, B, C or D. Had there been medieval occupation in the area, then the trench design would have revealed its presence.

However, a narrow trench (sector E) which was situated outside the scheduled area, and therefore considered to be beyond the area of archaeological sensitivity, was dug independently by the Property Services Agency. Placed to the west of the main buildings beyond the Ha Ha, and dug for a pipeline and sumps, it cut through a raised platform. Here it disturbed quantities of sandstone rubble, worked Totternhoe clunch, clay roof tile and fragments of painted glass. Similar building debris was noted in the upthrow occasioned by recently planted trees near to the platform.

CONCLUSION

A combination of the negative evidence from the contractor's trenches where the claustral complex was thought to be, and positive evidence from an accidental discovery of medieval building debris in a

position thought to be beyond the main buildings, require a re-evaluation of the site.

Clearly the double cloister did not extend to where the contractor's trenches lay to the north of the remnant church fragment. Instead, considerable but fragmentary evidence now exists to postulate that the claustral complex lies to the east, probably on either side of the Ha Ha, and with the extant, but now mutilated earthwork playing an important part in the pattern of medieval buildings. This could

imply that the nuns' cloister was not situated on the northern side of the monks' church, but to the east, and perhaps even separately as at Watton priory.

The scheduled area now needs to be revised, protecting a largely sterile zone rather than the archaeological site which is now known to lie beyond its limits.

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The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Bedfordshire County Council's Planning Department for a grant towards the cost of this paper.

A Previously Unrecognised Sherd of Tating-Type Ware from Excavations in Bedford in 1976

A.M. SLOWIKOWSKI



Fig 1 Sherd of Tating-type ware (scale 1:2)

In 1979, Baker and Hassall (1979, 177) published a sherd of pottery of type C48 (Bedfordshire Type Series) among other pottery from excavations in Bedford. This sherd was described as being wheel made, burnished and probably of late medieval date. It was the only sherd of this type found. Recent work has led to a different identification, and this sherd has now been confirmed as being part of the rim of the rare Saxon Tating-type ware.

The Bedford sherd is of a fine, wheel-thrown, light grey fabric with dark grey surfaces. The tin-foil decoration typical of this type is missing but the residues of the adhesive that fixed the foil to the vessel remain (Fig 1). The rim is from a spouted pitcher, a classic type found frequently on Scandinavian sites (Selling 1955, 52), and on high status ecclesiastical, royal or trading sites in England. However, examples are now known from sites of apparently low status, eg Wharram Percy, North Yorkshire (Coumts and Hodges, forthcoming). A source in the Rhineland or northern France is probable for this type.

Tating-type ware is dated to the late 8th-early 9th century, the best dated examples coming from layers sealed by the destruction of the palace at Paderborn in AD 778 (Winkelmänn 1972, 37-47). The type is no longer in production by the mid 9th century.

The context from which the Bedford sherd originated is unclear; it is certain, however, that it came from excavations in the Midland Road area of the town. Other middle Saxon pottery was found on the site, thought to be residual, but indicating settlement in the area in the 9th century. This pottery was of local, sand-tempered types. With the exception of the Tating-type sherd, no other imports were found. The presence of the Tating-type sherd, however, would seem to indicate a site of some importance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Cathy Coumts for confirming the identification of this sherd.

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