

WEST MIDLANDS ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS SHEET

No. 10, 1967

Edited by Jim Gould

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and

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DATES FOR 1968

Annual Conference of Archaeological Research Groups & Societies,
Pendril Hall, Nr. Wolverhampton.

2nd-3rd March

EXTRA-MURAL SUMMER SCHOOLS

Wroxeter Excavation Techniques:

Course A 27th July-10th August

Course B 17th-31st August

Fieldwork on the Hillforts of
England and Wales 20th-27th July

Field Archaeology 31st July-7th August

Industrial Archaeology 10th-17th August

Barnsley Park Roman Villa 6th-27th July

TRAINING EXCAVATIONS

Roman Fort at Waddon Hill, Dorset 1st-22nd June

Details from Dr. Graham Webster, 30 Portland Street,
Leamington Spa.

Hen Domen, Montgomery Dates to be arranged

Details from Mr. P. Barker, 4 St. George's Square,
Worcester.

RESEARCH EXCAVATIONS

Midsummer Hill (The Malverns),
Herefordshire 12th August-7th September

Details from Mr. S.C. Stanford, Ashfield Cottage,
Luston, Leominster, Herefordshire.

Upton Deserted Mediaeval Village 6th-27th July

Details from Mr. P.A. Rahtz, School of History,
University of Birmingham.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROSPECTION

A one-day symposium on archaeological prospection is to be held in Oxford on Saturday, March 23rd, 1968. The scope of this meeting (which takes the place of the arranged annual Magnetic Prospection Symposium provisionally arranged for March 16th) will be the instrumental development and field application of techniques used in prospecting for archaeological remains, together with brief outlines of the results that have been achieved. It is hoped that papers will be presented on the following:- the proton magnetometer, the proton gradiometer, the soil conductivity meter, the pulsed magnetic induction technique, induced polarisation and methods of underwater prospection. Details of time and place will be available in the New Year from The Research Laboratory for Archaeology, 6 Keble Road, Oxford.

BURSARIES

Those living in the West Midlands are reminded that Foyle Bursaries are available for people attending the training schools at Wroxeter and the training excavations at Barnsley Park and Hen Domen. The only conditions are that applicants should be attached to active research groups or societies. They can be of any age but the bursaries are NOT, as people seem to imagine, available only for college students. Applications should be made to the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, Birmingham University.

INTRODUCTION

This is the tenth West Midlands Annual Archaeological News Sheet. The first was issued in 1958 and it has grown in scope as well as in size since then. It is hoped that it now includes in addition to the brief accounts of all local excavations, enough information on all other West Midlands archaeological activities, for it to be of the maximum help to all, including any newcomers who may receive it. Any suggestions for, or comments on its contents, would however be sympathetically considered.

All the projects which have figured in previous issues continue; up-to-date details will be found in the reports which follow.

One of the most important archaeological issues of the day, which is a national as well as a local problem, is the ever expanding rate of new developments in our towns. Our own area contains many towns with medieval centres and often underlying Roman remains - examples are Worcester, Hereford, Shrewsbury and Warwick; there are also a number of smaller examples. Much effort is needed to preserve where possible, and to record by excavation etc. where preservation is not practicable. Further problems arise in areas to be developed as new towns where we do not yet know what archaeological sites may be revealed. The Worcestershire New Towns Archaeological Committee has been set up to deal with the problems which will arise when work begins on the Redditch New Town development etc. It hopes to ensure that all archaeological evidence is recovered before building starts.

The organisation of extending the activities of C.B.A. Group 8 is proceeding and should produce results within the next twelve months.

As usual, this issue is produced by co-operation between the University of Birmingham, C.B.A. Group 8, the Museums, the Archaeological Societies and the local excavating groups. Thanks are due to all of these, but we are especially grateful to Jim Gould, the editor, and to the Extra-Mural Department of the University which undertakes the production and distribution.

(Mrs.) M.G. Sanders, Chairman, C.B.A. Group 8,
9 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham. 17.

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

Taken on the whole, crop-marks last season were average; development in general appeared to be late, but the latter part of July proved sufficiently rewarding. Results in the Avon valley were patchy and somewhat disappointing; the Thames valley however never fails to compensate for the hours spent searching for the plums in archaeological discovery. In 1965, what appeared to be a hitherto unknown section of Roman road was recorded to the east of Cricklade. This season the section proved part of an important junction involving three roads. A find of this nature is unusual in that the line of each road does not conform to any known pattern in the area.

Evidence of rural development in the vicinity of Wroxeter is slowly increasing, but Wroxeter itself yielded little of note except perhaps that a more complete picture of the town's defences is emerging from crop-marks.

At Leintwardine, a few hundred feet of ditch has at last, after many seasons of persistent observation, confirmed the size of the Roman temporary camp at Brampton Bryan, enclosing an area of at least fifty acres.

A. Baker, Latchmere House, Durrington, Salisbury.

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE (Cont.)

Another poor year climatically for surveys, the dry spell in May being too late to affect the growth rate of well established cereal plants. Once cereal foliage makes good ground cover, the soil maintains too even a moisture content to create variations in growth.

In any year, no matter how poor, there will be exceptions from weather variations which could be described as "mini-climates". Local thunder-storms at a critical stage of growth can cancel out much of the earlier variations in growth. Lodged crops can also be confined to small local areas. Other permutations can produce good local results that do not apply to the area as a whole.

The area to the north and east of Church Lawford airfield gave more indications of large areas of contiguous field systems and sites. These seemed similar in character to other nearby sites identified as Iron Age. Indications were too faint for good photographic records. A number of other faint sites were recorded along the Avon, and these must await a better recording year.

Searches away from the main rivers and gravel terraces continue to produce isolated sites. Soils, crop and "Mini-climate" permutations are more critical than on gravel terraces and more thought on distribution patterns of all archaeological periods is required, in conjunction with the incidence of surface finds and of sites known from field-work on the heavier soils.

A casual survey of the hilly area to the north-west of Wroxeter and west of Shrewsbury revealed faint indications of sites over several square miles. These must also await a good recording year.

Jim Pickering, The Outwoods, Hinckley, Leics.

ALCESTER EXCAVATION COMMITTEE

Alcester SPO91574) The 1967 season has been disappointing. Early in the year a trench was cut by machine along the full length of the garden of the Bear Inn which has since been developed as a car park. It was hoped that this trench, which extended over most of the distance between the east side of the High Street and Gas House Lane, would provide a section through the south-east Roman defences. No trace of the defences was found, nor was there any sign of buildings or the layers of gravel-flooring so characteristic of the inhabited parts of Roman Alcester. Furthermore, at the southern (Gas House Lane) end, the trench was cut through material which, during the Roman period and possibly later, had formed part of a watercourse or marsh, presumably at one time, the bed of the River Arrow running on the south-east side of the town. These largely negative findings, taken in conjunction with the results of previous excavations, suggest that the Roman defences enclosed an even smaller area around the site of the medieval church than was previously supposed.

Apart from an abortive investigation of a stone-lined well, probably of Roman date, but filled with rubbish from a 19th century brewery under a house in Church Street (SPO92578), activity in the latter part of the season has been concentrated on the site of demolished cottages in Malt Mill Lane (SPO92574). A gravel floor laid on red clay with the post-holes of a timber building cutting into it has been uncovered at a depth of two feet, but no dating evidence has been obtained. If it is Roman, it almost certainly belongs to the inhabited area within the defences and may therefore provide us the first opportunity in recent years to study intra-mural as opposed to extra-mural occupation of Roman Alcester.

Ullin Place has now left to take up an appointment in the University of Leeds, and his functions as Secretary of the Excavation Committee have been taken over by Don Sidaway, 32 Meadow Lane, Alcester, who will be glad to hear from anyone interested in keeping alive archaeological activity in Alcester.

Ullin Place, 102 High Street, Boston Spa, Yorks.

AVON-SEVERN VALLEYS' RESEARCH PROJECT

Beckford (S0980361) westernmost enclosure of Aerial Reconnaissance (Site No. 14). Further work was undertaken on this site during April. Quarrying had removed the areas excavated by Mr. Oswald in 1964 and 1965 and had also removed some 30 feet to the east of them. The quarry edge was cut back along the western edge of the remaining easterly strip. This gave a section some 70 feet long which established the northern line of the outer ditch and the inner palisades. It also cut through a pit, a stone structure, and the second internal oval crop-mark. Two small areas were opened to the east of the line of the section. One of these showed the oval crop-mark was made by a round-bottomed ditch containing posts. On the inside edge of this were circular shallow features, about 2 feet in diameter, with clay filling. The other revealed a stone floor with stone packing along the edge suggesting post-holes. This had cut through earlier features but no dating evidence was found. The two areas demonstrated that a linear crop-mark running north-south inside the main enclosure, was a gravel ditch presumably for drainage purposes, later than all the other features. No evidence for a bank behind the outer ditch was shown in the section.

A rectangular area, 90 feet by 30 feet was stripped by hand from just below top-soil level. About a foot of natural clay overlay the gravel, and many small features were cut into this, and some post-holes cut through it into the gravel. There were also shallow circular features similar to those already noted in the internal oval crop-mark. Most of these features lay just north of what proved to be the south side of the entrance gap in the eastern line of the palisades. Evidence of burning, including charcoal and daub, around the ends of the palisade trenches suggested some wooden structure at the entrance. This was reinforced by the discovery in the filling of two large limestone blocks with cup-like hollows indicating a possible use as supports for gateposts. A sherd of pottery which lay beneath them is suggested by Mr. Oswald to have Corintian parallels. Most of the large quantity of pottery found was similar to that discovered by him and confirms his suggested date. There were also large quantities of horse bones, one coin (Constantinopolis type) and some pottery of a late Roman date.

(Mrs.) M.G. Sanders, 9 Victoria Rd., Harborne, Birmingham.17.

BIRMINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD GROUP

Bordesley Abbey, Redditch, (SP685045) The increased R.U.D.C. grant of £500. made it possible to launch a large-scale excavation on the Abbey Church as well as looking at the outlying earthworks.

Site A. A preliminary section located the west wall of the Abbey Church and some 8,000 square feet of nave was uncovered. The depth of rubble varied from 1 foot to 5 feet which meant that mechanical diggers could be employed. The west wall was the most impressive piece of masonry found but had been heavily robbed. It stood up to 4 feet 6 inches in places with some fine faced stones on the exterior. There was no western doorway. The south wall of the church had been completely robbed. The sandstone pillar-bases of the south aisle were uncovered and stone platforms presumably for the same purpose were found in the north aisle.

There were traces of three distinct medieval floor levels but except for a small area of medieval tiling in the north aisle, the floors had all been disturbed.

Evidence for post-monastic lead smelting was found in the centre of the nave, where hearths and gulleys reusing medieval tiles had been dug into the natural subsoil. A large number of graves were found dug into the nave floor. One of these was carefully excavated and a male skeleton uncovered which was in a good state of preservation. The feet were facing the altar and the arms were folded, right over left. A stone slab which may well have been an altar stone judging from the crosses on it, was found out of position in the north aisle.

A large volume of tile and worked masonry was found, some of it very fine. Much stained glass was also found, but there were only a few sherds of 15th century pottery and with the disturbed nature of the area, dating of levels was almost impossible.

Site B (SP686050) A small earthwork, half a mile to the east of the main Abbey earthworks was investigated. An area of 250 square feet was stripped to the first archaeological level and medieval timber structures obviously related to some form of industry were uncovered. Associated with these features was a burnt area with coal, charcoal, tiles, nails and daub. An impressive amount of medieval pottery dating from 1200 to 1500 indicates extensive occupation. An important find was a round sword pommel, 2 inches in circumference, with the arms of the de Clare family stamped on one side and a heraldic lion on the other.

Site C A small section was cut across a banked boundary in the field north of Abbey meadows. This appeared to be the edge of the Abbey precinct. It was made of heavy clay and pebbles. An eroded timber slot in the top of the bank may well have held a timber palisade which would have encompassed the whole Abbey area. There were no small finds.

A comprehensive survey of the whole Abbey region was undertaken and earthworks and sunken roads of almost certain medieval origin were located along a considerable length of the Arrow valley.

R.T. Rowley, Bordesley College of Education,
Camp Hill, Birmingham. 11.

Metchley, Camp Cottages (SPO43836) The south-east corner of the Roman forts at Metchley, lying within the campus of Birmingham University, was threatened by a car-park extension scheme. The corner was isolated from the remainder of the forts which lie within the grounds of Queen Elizabeth hospital, by a canal and railway. The threatened area was occupied by two cottages with outbuildings and gardens.

About half the threatened area, some 5,000 square feet in all, was stripped and three distinct phases of occupation were found. Phase C structures, belonged to the first, large fort. Phase B structures had been partially disturbed and belonged to a realignment of Phase C. Phase A structures belonged to a second smaller fort; over much of the site this latest phase had been destroyed.

Phase C. Structures relating to the first fort were cut into natural sand and were in the form of parallel gulleys, timber slots, pits and post-holes. As these structures had been truncated by the second fort ditch to the south, and by the canal to the north, it was impossible to determine their precise function. However, nine parallel compartments, between 6 and 10 feet wide were uncovered. These seem to have been quite substantial buildings with associated drainage channels.

The most impressive of these structures was in the form of a series of circular pits, 5 feet in diameter, 3 to 4 feet deep, contained within a parallelogramatic building, with internal divisions between each pit. Although these pits were filled with burnt material, it seems probable that they originally held large containers or vats. Another circular pit, 9 feet by 6 feet deep with a clay and rubble lining, could have held water. The alignment of these structures does not conform to that of the normal barrack block. As earlier excavations elsewhere on the first fort have indicated that it was a temporary tented encampment, these structures may well have been more permanent storage quarters associated with this phase.

Phase B. To the south of the excavated area were a series of more flimsy timber slots and post-holes following the main alignment of the Phase C structures. The only recognisable building of this phase was a rectangular structure containing four small rooms, 4 feet by 7 feet. Each room had one open side suggesting a storage function. A large cutting into the main drainage gully of Phase C also belonged to this phase. Over much of the site Phase B structures had been destroyed by modern outbuildings.

Phase A. A series of undisturbed structures belonging to the second Metchley fort were located next to the canal. Basically these took the form of timber buildings contained within a ditch and rampart. About 80 feet of the ditch was emptied and it was found to be 6 feet deep with several recuts. The outside shoulder had trodden pebbles and was slightly lower than the interior edge. Inside the fort a narrow berm was cut by a gully some 4 feet wide. This ran obliquely away from the main ditch and it was not obvious whether it belonged to Phase A or later. The gully had irregular sloping sides, but at the bottom there was evidence of a timber slot and post-holes. It seems probable that the gully once held a palisade which had been dug out. Beyond this, parallel to the main ditch, the base of the rampart was found. This was of leached turf, 11 ft. wide with a series of major supporting timber slots, 10 ft. apart on either side. Inside the rampart were small intercommunicating rooms probably belonging to a barrack block. Seven complete rooms were uncovered, one of which contained a small hearth. A destruction level up to 1 ft. 6 in. deep in places, indicated that the second fort was destroyed by burning.

The Phase C pottery is thought to be A.D.55-65 and Phase A pottery is thought to continue to the middle of the second century.

R.T. Rowley, Bordesley College of Education,
Camp Hill, Birmingham. 11.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY (School of History)

Upton Deserted Medieval Village (SP152344) Further work on site A showed that the lower part of the 13th century longhouse being dug, was not a byre, but a focus for domestic industrial activity with stone troughs; a baby was found buried in one corner. Under the longhouse were indications of two phases of earlier structures, the first being possibly, preconquest. Further examination of the western boundary confirmed the existence of a substantial timber fence earlier than the stone wall. This was based on pairs of large posts, probably again of preconquest date.

P.A. Rahtz, School of History, Birmingham University.

Badby, Northants (SP561592) The excavation of the moated monastic grange took place during May and June. Three major periods of construction were encountered starting with a stone building with substantial walls standing on pitched stone footings which was dated to the early part of the 13th century. This was followed by the building of bakehouses to the north, which, although on a different alignment, may in their first phase, have been in use at the same time as the 13th century buildings but continued on into period III. In period III the buildings were enlarged and additional buildings constructed to the north and west, at the end of the 14th century. After the Dissolution the buildings continued in use until possibly the end of the 18th century.

(Mrs.) Margaret Gray, School of History, Birmingham University.

Charlecote, Warwicks. (SP268578) During October and November 1967 excavation was undertaken prior to gravel extraction, on site 71 of the Avon-Severn Valleys' Research Project. The site showed on aerial photographs as a series of intersecting rectangular enclosures covering an area of approximately an acre and a half. An area 30 metres square was opened up and trenches cut to establish the chronology and lay-out of the site. There appeared to have been three closely related periods dated by pottery in the ditches from the end of the first century A.D. to the beginning of the third century A.D. No trace of buildings was found in the area under excavation apart from a quantity of burnt stones in the ditches which may have supported a timber construction in this loose sub-soil. The ditches were in most cases V-shaped and some appeared to have supported timbers which were subsequently removed. There were no finds except pottery, leading to the conclusion that this was a poor settlement of early Roman date having a comparatively short period of existence.

(Mrs.) Margaret Gray, School of History, Birmingham University.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY (Dept. of Ancient History)

Bays Meadow, Droitwich Excavations were carried out by L.H. Barfield and R.A. Tomlinson on behalf of the Ministry of Public Building and Works. The defences of the Roman settlement were sectioned, and shown to consist of a double ditch system, the inner ditch of V profile, the outer having a flat bottom. Within this, further work was carried out at the house, one end of which had been excavated by Mr. H.R. Hodgkinson in 1924-7 (see J.K. St. Joseph, Roman Droitwich, Birmingham Arch. Society LXIV (1946) pp. 39f.) This was found to be a corridor house with wings at either end, similar to the house excavated by Mr. P. Gelling which is at right-angles to this one which faces south. The total length of the house is 49.5 metres: the width of the main section some 15 metres. The main room has an apse projecting beyond the line of the north wall. Painted plaster for the conch of the apse is decorated with naturalistic plant patterns with human figures and animals. The floors are badly damaged, and only small fragments of the mosaics that once covered many of them have been found. About 70 coins indicate that occupation of the site began only after the middle of the 3rd century A.D., and that the house, which shows two distinct building phases and overlies a deposit of ash at one end, was destroyed at the end of that century. There are signs of later occupation. Less substantial buildings have been found outside the main house.

R. Tomlinson, Dept. of Ancient History and Archaeology,
Birmingham University.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY (Dept. of Geology)

Fladbury Worcs. (SO996463) A rescue excavation was conducted on a piece of ground behind the Church Hall after building operations had disturbed a number of skeletons. The burials which were probably of Romano-British date did not extend far into the excavated area. Most of this was occupied by a V-shaped ditch, 20 ft. wide and 9 ft. deep, possibly of prehistoric date. A small Saxon hut revealed by post-holes, was built into the top of it. The most remarkable discovery however was a sunken bread-oven with a radio-carbon date of A.D. 850[±]30

D.P.S. Peacock, Dept. of Geology, Birmingham University.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY (Extra-Mural Dept.)

Bromfield Quarry, Salop (SO481776) The first campaign of rescue excavations in advance of quarrying ended in May revealing two cemeteries about 150 feet apart both of Middle Bronze Age date. The southern cemetery consisted of a round barrow 32 ft. diameter within its ditch and containing a single central cremation. Nearby were a number of cremations, some of which had been contained in upright urns. There is reason to think that this site may be contemporary with a large cremation pit to the north.

Here only two urned burials were found, as well as two other pits containing only burnt bone in the manner of the urnless burials of the southern cemetery. About 130 other pits contained various fillings - charcoal; charcoal and broken pots; charcoal, bone and pots; and charcoal and bone alone. These were generally disposed in a semicircle. From them it has been possible to restore the form of 20 Middle Bronze Age vessels, most of which have affinities with Wessex biconical urns, and may well all date to the 14th century B.C. They form the largest collection of pottery of this date in the Welsh border, and mark the most northerly occurrence of these Wessex traditions. The project has been aided by grants from the Ministry of Public Building & Works and Ludlow Museum. The Earl of Plymouth has generously donated the finds to the Ludlow Museum.

S.C. Stanford, Ashfield Cottage, Luston, Leominster.

Barn Meadow, Bermuda, Nuneaton (SP893353) Trial trenching in this field failed to reveal any definite evidence of the manor of the Knights Templar. Scattered traces were found of timbered farm buildings probably of medieval date but there was no sign of any dwelling house. It is hoped that further exploration in 1968 will reveal whether or not Barn Meadow was the site of this establishment.

Steven J. Taylor, County Museum, Warwick.

Hen Domen, Montgomery (SO241981) The excavation of this motte and bailey castle was continued for two weeks in the summer of 1967 with the aid of grants from the University and the Royal Archaeological Institute. In accordance with the Institute's programme of research into the early history of the castle, and to test the hypothesis that the motte may have succeeded an earlier ring work on the site, a section 50 ft. long was cut across a chord of the motte at a point where an earlier rampart might be expected to be buried under the mound if this was secondary. The section showed conclusively that the mound was primary, and that it had been built by cutting a circular ditch and piling first the turf and then the natural boulder clay from the outside edge towards the centre so that the lower layers of the mound were concave in section. There were no finds in the body of the mound below the surface layers, and it sealed a buried sterile soil. This supports the theory, already advanced, that pottery does not appear on the site in any quantity until the early or mid years of the twelfth century.

Careful search was made for evidence of a palisade continuing the line of the bailey palisade up the side of the motte to the tower which presumably crowned its top, but there was no trace of one; instead there were large post-holes of a palisade of many periods encircling the base of the motte. It seems clear that the castle built by Roger de Montgomery between 1070 and 1074 was, from the first, of motte and bailey type.

Work also continued on the bailey rampart and produced the plans of more buildings of post-hole construction including a square tower on the bulb of the rampart where it joins the motte ditch and an open-ended shed with scrap-iron scattered on its floor. It was not possible to make coherent patterns from a group of post-holes of many periods underneath and on the same alignment as the chapel of period Y, but they may represent earlier chapels, particularly as a limestone stoup for holy water came from a filling of one of them.

Finds were comparatively few but included a gilt bronze stud and a door lock whose mechanism has yet to be examined.

P.A. Barker, 4 St. Georges Square, Worcester.

Worcester, Broad Street (S0850551) Within the last year there has been considerable development in the Broad Street Dolday area of the city. Continuous observation and occasional excavation are revealing:

- a) the presence here of prehistoric occupation with ditches hearths and coarse pottery of probable Iron Age date in the lowest levels.
- b) a Roman suburb which in its earliest phases seems to have had timber houses of some pretensions with delicately painted wall plaster and dry-stone walls but with no evidence of hypocausts or mosaic floors.

In the 3rd century this civil occupation was replaced by an extensive iron-producing factory. Work on the slags by Mr. R. Morton is producing significant results for the analysis of slags in general. The suburb was linked to the town by a pebbled street, 20 ft. wide, which, when the factory began work, was resurfaced with slag and widened to 32 ft. The street had gone out of use by medieval times since large rectangular pits yielding good groups of medieval and late medieval pottery, had been cut through it. Remains of the massive stone foundations of the Blackfriars (begun in 1347) have been discovered overlying the Roman factory and more are expected to emerge as the development moves northwards.

A brick-lined well near Broad Street produced a very large group of beer mugs, mixing bowls, chamber pots and some fine dishes, all datable to the 17th/early 18th century, and presumably from an inn as yet unidentified.

City Walls A section cut across the City Ditch near Bowling Green Terrace showed it to be some 36 ft. wide, flat-bottomed and water filled. A short stretch of the wall foundations and the plinth above was cleared, and as a result the Council hopes to lower the proposed City Walls Road at this point to the medieval level and restore the wall as a landscape feature. Excavation behind the wall is continuing in the hope of establishing the nature of the defences.

P.A. Barker, 4 St. Georges Square, Worcester.

COVENTRY & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Ryton, Warwicks. Avon Aerial Survey Site 97B (SP371725) This is the second year digging this complex which, from the aerial photograph, is shown to consist of a large circular enclosure some 130 ft. in diameter, having a smaller area approximately 30 ft. in diameter externally attached, with a rectangular feature butting on to both of these. The whole area is threatened by gravel workings.

We have gone a long way to recovering the plan of the site on the ground. The majority of the southern area has been excavated and segments of the main enclosure ditch emptied. An intrusive feature some 35 ft. long, which cut into the silted main enclosure ditch, and ran from the entrance back along it, was noted. The feature contained stone packing around post sockets and stone tumble along its length. Iron Age pottery was recovered from this intrusion and particularly from two adjacent post sockets. These latter sherds, from a large red vessel, were thick in the body and drawn up to a comparatively thin simple rim.

The junctions and superimpositions of the main enclosure, the smaller enclosure and the rectilinear ditches, were excavated in part and will be completed next year. Various features were noted in areas cleared within the main enclosure, in particular, indications of a small circular hut.

The bucket urn mentioned last year has now been dated to 850-650 B.C. We are indebted to Professor F.W. Shotton for this valuable radio-carbon date which is a cornerstone for the Late Bronze Age culture in our area. The urn was recovered from within the smaller enclosure (termed D-shaped from the aerial photograph) and the ditch defining the D-shape is demonstrated to have cut through the main enclosure ditch. The exterior dimensions of the urn are: height 19.7 cms; base diameter 16 cms. rim diameter 18-19 cms. The fabric is dirty buff, grit is absent and the walls are 0.9-1.2 cms. thick. There is a slightly inturned rim with nail decoration.

The Upper Avon Survey sites close by are being kept under observation by field-walking. The field containing pit-alignments is at present safe from gravel operations.

J. Bateman, 116 Robin Hood Road, Coventry.
V.S. White, 37 Lonscale Drive, Coventry.

The Hobditch, Blunt's Green, Ullenhall. (SP138688) The section across the newly discovered Roman Road begun in 1966 has now been completed. From south to north, the earthwork consists of a roughly V-shaped ditch, 17 feet wide at the top, seven feet deep below the original ground surface, and an embankment rather more than 50 ft. wide, surviving to a height of just under 5 feet and consisting of clean red clay capped with an eroded cobble and gravel surface, with a more U-shaped ditch on the north side, 18 feet wide and some 6 feet 8 inches deep. Both ditches appear to have been recut a number of times. The filling of the southern ditch, above the bottom 2 feet contains large quantities of occupation material and building debris. It appears to have been recut significantly more often than the northern ditch. The fill of the latter consists of water-born sand and silt with two layers of occupation debris deposited from the embankment side. In both ditches, the pottery found falls into two distinct periods - the late 2nd century and the 4th century. No pottery or artifacts were found in the primary silt of either ditch.

A series of trenches laid out to the south of the earthwork has not yet discovered the expected Romano-British habitation site, but has found a regular V-shaped ditch, 9 feet wide, 4 feet 6 inches deep, parallel to the embankment and some 65 feet south of what has been previously referred to as the southern ditch. This appears to be a drainage ditch on the south side of a gravel road, some 19 feet wide laid directly on the natural clay with no corresponding ditch on the northern side. It seems likely that this represents an earlier road later superseded by the large agger. The single ditch appears to have been back-filled in the Roman period, not very long after its original construction, and a very compact gravel surface has been laid across the top.

West of Blunt's Green (SP132683) traces of the road or its ditches have been found running along field boundaries for just under a mile on a due west alignment towards Heath's Farm (SP114682). Some possible confirmation that the present Warwickshire-Worcestershire county boundary along Green Lane is in fact a Roman road was observed by Don Sidaway, in a trench cut in the course of drainage works alongside the Studley-Redditch road, north of its junction with Green Lane (SP066646). This trench partially sectioned two apparently V-shaped ditches cut into the natural clay, and sealed to a depth of 2 feet by superimposed material. The most southerly was 11 feet 6 inches wide at the top and its southern edge, 19 feet north of the north-western corner of the modern road junction. The second ditch was only 5 feet wide with its southern lip 39 feet from the north-west corner of the modern road junction. A thin gravel surface, 8 feet 6 inches wide connected the lips of the two ditches.

Work will continue on Sundays throughout the winter and anyone interested should contact Brian Huty, 54 Lyndon Road, Olton, Solihull.

Ullin Place, 102 High Street, Boston Spa, Yorks.

Baginton (SP344748) The cottage garden excavation has been completed. Two pits contained Roman pottery and flints. Reconstruction of the stake-holes revealed a sequence of wattle and studding walls of constant proportions. Exploration of the further extension of the (stone) wall was uncompleted but Roman pottery was abundant in the lower layers.

Observation was kept on the 'restoration' of Baginton 13th century church, features were recorded and new conclusions drawn about its history and development. Some interesting medieval tiles supplement P.B. Chatwin's list of those observed by him at Baginton Castle. Some, but not all, must have been produced by the same craftsman.

Two half-timbered buildings, the School House and the cruck cottage, were recorded.

(Miss) G.G. Wilkins, School House, Baginton.
now of 150 Kings Road, Gosport, Hants.

Buildings Study With the old Coventry fast disappearing we felt that the Society had a responsibility concerning old buildings. But while we knew about post-holes and beam-slots, ditches and pits, we know little enough about actual standing buildings. And without knowing what criteria to apply it would have been foolish to try and argue for the preservation of a building or to spend hours recording it. Accordingly, with the help of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Birmingham, and a number of experts, in the last twelve months we have studied: the history of minor domestic architecture; legislation affecting the preservation of buildings; methods of recording; timber-framed buildings; castles; vernacular architecture in Coventry; industrial archaeology; palaeography.

With this background we have now organised ourselves on three fronts:-

- 1) Under the guidance of the City Archivist, a group is preparing a detailed historical study of one Coventry Street from its first days to its last, recording the present street before the new ring road obliterates it; some documentary study, photographing and measuring has already been done.
- 2) Under the leadership of a field secretary, threatened buildings are noted, recorded and - if possible - defended; here we work in close co-operation with the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Warwickshire Branch.
- 3) We now feel able to lend weight to appeals for the preservation of buildings where this seems to us appropriate, and some action has already been taken on these lines.

Whether we now become active in this field depends, of course, entirely on our members and their enthusiasm for old buildings. What worries us is the size of the task, and we feel that there is scope for more specialist groups of this kind in the C.B.A. Group 8 Area.

Francis Busby-Grayer, 156 Cannon Hill Road, Coventry...

COVENTRY, HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

The Lunt, Roman military site, Baginton (SP344752) As the 1966 season had been given over to building the experimental rampart, the 1967 season of $3\frac{1}{2}$ months was concentrated on locating buildings and trying to establish the size. Over 15,000 sq.ft. (1,425 sq.m.) were totally stripped and revealed military buildings within and outside the eastern defences. Careful examination failed to reveal buildings beneath the rampart. Within the enclosure and separated from the rampart by a 10 ft. (3.04m.) wide inter-vallum road, a 70 ft. (21.3 m.) x 30 ft. (9.1 m.) granary was revealed, comprised of 15 crossbeam foundation trenches. Twenty feet (6.09 m.) south of the granary, a 20 ft. (6.09 m.) corridored barrack block was exposed for over 100 ft. (30.4 m.) and had an officer's apartment at the northern end. Across a 10 ft. (3.04 m.) road to the west, another corridored building was located but it was not possible to decide its function. In front of the stripped eastern rampart, a north-south orientated building was discovered. Just north of its northern entrance porch lay a 5 ft. (1.52 m.) square, rock-cut water tank. The building itself was 15 ft. (4.57 m.) wide, its full length was not determined but extended up to 76 ft. (23.16 m.). Many interesting details of both the outside and internal walls gave this building the character of a barrack block.

In an attempt to resolve the size of the defended area, the eastern defences were followed by a series of closely spaced trenches for over 320 ft. (97.5 m.). These trenches produced evidence for sinuous eastern defences with two gateways lying 120 ft. (36.57 m.) apart. The south-east corner of the site was not located and must be south of the Coventry Road.

Finds this year included a fine horse pendant of phallic design and many pieces of military equipment in both bronze and iron. The coins, and the samian and coarse-ware pottery evidence indicated strong Neronian-Vespasianic occupation C. A.D. 60-75 with some Claudian, Samian and a thin scattering of late Roman pottery.

B. Hobley, Keeper of Field Archaeology,
Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry.

Medieval Cathedral and Benedictine Priory of St. Mary, Coventry.
(SP336792) A generous donation of £2,000 by a private benefactor made possible an examination of the disused churchyard at Holy Trinity Church, Coventry. The primary object of the excavation was to see whether beneath the west end of the medieval cathedral known to be on this site, there would lie the earlier Saxon church of the 1043 A.D. Leofric and Godiva foundation, and the 8th century nunnery of St. Osburg.

Two 90 ft. (27.4 m.) by 6 ft. (2 m.) trenches were placed across the nave and south, just beyond the cathedral's southern nave wall. They located, beneath the 19th century graveyard, at a depth of 10 - 12 ft. (3.0 - 3.6 m.) the nave floor of the cathedral. The floor had been extensively robbed of its tiles but the tile patterns were discernible in the mortar bedding. Clearance of this $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (1 cm.) or so of mortar showed the floor to have been laid on an artificially created bedrock sandstone terrace cut into the hillside. The quarrying of this feature in post-conquest times had removed any archaeological evidence to prove or disprove this to be the site of the earlier churches.

Undulations in the floor had hinted at possible structures beneath, but these proved on excavation to be pre A.D.1539 monastic burials from the period of the medieval cathedral.

A fragment of exceptionally fine woollen cloth (merino type) was discovered within one grave. Analysis by the Research Laboratory of Courtaulds Ltd. and later at Leeds University has shown this fragment to be a remarkable example of the high quality of woollen fabrics possible in the 15th century or earlier.

B. Hobley, Keeper of Field Archaeology,
Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry.

HEREFORD EXCAVATION COMMITTEE

Hereford City Defences (S0507398) Excavations between January and June in areas available before demolition of contractor's buildings as part of the relief road scheme, established that the base of the western rampart, survives two to five feet in depth and approximately 60 ft. in breadth, little disturbed across the whole yard.

Attention was concentrated at first on the forward area where gravel and soil layers and a marking-out trench, 1 ft. 6 in. deep survived below the level at which the City Wall was later inserted. Because of gravel quarrying, only one section showed these early rampart layers, truncated by a steep recutting of the main ditch. This recut appeared to have been re-filled in medieval times, but the position of later medieval and of Civil War ditches could not be determined. Finds from the forward area were scanty.

A partially exposed section was cleaned to reveal considerable complexity in the rampart structure behind the wall, and excavation in an area 40 ft. to 50 ft. behind the wall penetrated layers of gravel and cleaner soil to reach a layer in which sherds of hard-fired reddish cooking-pots in a sandy fabric were found. These included 4 rim sherds and others with rouletted decoration, subsequently recognised as identical with late Saxon sherds from Chester. Bones of domestic animals, plaster chips, and pieces of iron and slag were also plentiful. From the lower layers of soil came a bone comb and a skewer.

The identification of the late Saxon wares made it essential to establish their relationship with the other layers of the rampart at this end of the site, when demolition work had been completed.

In October, 1967, a section, 5 ft. wide, 60 ft. long, was cut adjacent to the remains of a bastion tower. Finds were sparse from the earlier periods, but features indicating a possible timber palisade were found. These were partially obliterated by a later but little used, road, and also by a rampart made with a gravel core covered by a thick layer of clean soil. Further additions to this rampart contained the hard, diamond-rouletted pottery dated at Chester to C. 70 A.D. Plaster and stone flecks in the rampart suggested that walling might have been constructed about this period. After a period of disuse the rampart was again strengthened with a layer of clean natural gravel and covered with a mixture of dirty gravel and soil. Two pits were cut into this later deposit, both contained 13th century pottery.

It appears that the rampart was used as backing for the City Wall and left to provide a rampart walk, as shown on the south side of the area excavated. A machine-cut section in front of the line of the wall confirmed the ditch edge some 2 ft. in front of the bastion. This had a thick dirty gravel slip on the side.

Further excavations are proposed to discover more details of the defensive structures and the relationship of the late Saxon pottery to the reconstruction in A.D. 1055 described in contemporary chronicles.

R. Shoesmith,
F. Noble, 6A Wylcwm Street, Knighton, Rads.

KEELE & NEWCASTLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Hales, Staffs. (SJ722338) This season's work at the Roman Villa site has completely uncovered the bath-house. This has been found to be a completely isolated building, separated from that part of the villa excavated by Pape in 1928 by some 30 ft. The main residential buildings probably await discovery. At least **two** periods of occupation of this building can be distinguished. The original construction follows a common pattern for small bath-suites, including a hot bath or tank in an alcove off the caldarium, and a much larger cold-plunge adjoining the frigidarium. The apsidal west end of the building might have provided a dressing room. A second century date will probably be assigned to this period.

In the second phase of occupation it appears that the building was used for other purposes. The original praefurnium was re-floored and its furnace blocked, a new furnace being constructed outside the building on the south side by breaking through the wall of the tepidarium. Probably at the same time the hot bath was removed and its drain sealed up.

The large number of broken roof-tiles and rusted iron nails found over the whole area shows that tiles on a wooden frame-work formed the final covering of the building. Presumably an original barrel-vaulted roof of concrete had been removed when the change of use occurred.

It is hoped to publish a full report in the North Staff. Journal of Field Studies.

Frank H. Goodyear.

KIDDERMINSTER & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Stourport, St. Michael's Vicarage (SO814717) Workmen levelling the new vicarage garden hit a stone thought to cover a plague pit. Excavation found a shallow ditch containing some Norman pottery.

Stourport, Manor Road (SO817721) Excavation for the foundations of a pair of houses brought up 17th century pottery. What appeared at first to be a small rubbish pit was found to be dug into moulding sand and iron slag found stratified with 17th/18th century pottery and Tudor bricks suggesting more complexities than expected.

Kidderminster Ring Road and Central Development. A watch has been kept but with disappointing results.

C.I. Walker, 18 the Ridgeway, Stourport.

LICHFIELD & SOUTH STAFFS. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Wall (Letocetum) SK101066. Excavation in the field west of the school has continued. The rampart found last year has been shown to be associated with a defensive ditch system identical with the third and following phases of the early defences sectioned in 1959-60 on the south-east side and at right-angles to them. These two sections, together with a section observed near the north-west corner enabled the third phase fort to be outlined, and show its area to be about two acres. Further excavation of the area behind the rampart has produced more evidence of intensive metal-working with slag, several pieces of lead (including one nearly 1 lb. in weight), a small collection of scrap bronze (including the bow of a Hod Hill type brooch) and many iron objects including a small knife or dagger with wooden handle and bronze ferrule.

In an attempt to delineate the legionary fort suspected to exist at Wall, a resistivity survey was made in an area to the north of the defences described above, which revealed a linear feature approximately parallel to, and 170 yards away from the early north eastern defences. A trial trench was dug across this feature and showed it to be a defensive ditch 12 ft. across and 7 ft. deep. Detailed investigation of the bottom was impossible owing to water-logging. The ditch had been open for a short period only or had been kept clean. It was filled with almost clean sand. This feature is to be examined further.

An area of 1200 sq. ft. within the third phase fort has been stripped mechanically to a depth of 15 in. and is now being examined in detail. First indications are of the presence of stone foundations which will be investigated in detail in 1968.

A.A. Round, 95 Darnick Road., Sutton Coldfield.

Tamworth, Town Defences (SK205060) A section was cut across the western town defences prior to the site in Brewery Lane being developed. The section revealed a medieval ditch, 8 ft. deep, 20 ft. wide at the top and with a flat bottom 6 ft. wide. The inner lip of this ditch scarped what was discovered to be a Saxon rampart, 16 ft. wide, built in turf with a palisaded front and with timber strapping. The ditch associated with the Saxon rampart was 6 ft. deep and 12 ft. wide at the top and was separated from the palisaded front of the rampart by a berm of 20 ft. Any probable medieval addition to the Saxon rampart had been removed when comparatively modern buildings were erected on the site. There was no trace of any medieval wall though the filling of the Saxon ditch contained a quantity of sandstone. In the medieval ditch were scraps of Stamford ware and sherds ranging from the 12th to the 14th Century.

An area of the turf rampart was stripped. At the front of the rampart was a row of post-holes, 10 ft. apart with slight traces of vertical timbers between and a facing of marl at the front foot. Eight feet behind the front row was another row of post-holes at similar intervals. A rear row was 8 ft. further back still coinciding with the end of the rampart. Apart from three grass-tempered sherds no pottery was found in the rampart.

Below the Saxon rampart and sealed by it, was a palisade trench and beam slot but time did not allow these earliest features to be examined except in section.

Extensive development on a number of sites in Tamworth is being watched. A ditch observed in one sewer trench suggests that on the western side the medieval town ditch turned eastwards to join the north western defences of the castle, instead of continuing southwards to join the Tame as was expected.

Jim Gould, 307 Erdington Road, Aldridge, Staffs.

MALVERN RESEARCH GROUP

Malvern Link (SO789497) Further excavation at this supposed Roman pottery kiln site, exposed some shallow pits, 2 to 3 ft. in diameter, filled with black earth, pottery and fragments of baked clay. The normal red clay under the pit was stained grey. It seems possible that these might be the remains of clamps for firing pottery. The experiment at Leeds University this summer showed that it is possible to fire red-coloured pottery in this way. The pottery includes tankards bowls and dishes which look 2nd century in style.

Dymock (SO705311) No excavation was possible this season. A coin found in the lower filling of one of the ditches during the 1966 season has been identified as Claudian suggesting the possibility of early military occupation.

P.L. Walters, 2 Westward Road, Malvern Link.

MALVERN HILLS ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE (in association with the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club and the Worcestershire Archaeological Society)

Midsummer Hill Camp (SO760375) In the southern entrance it has been possible to demonstrate a long succession of gateway repairs comparable to the record obtained at Croft Ambrey. The excavation is still not completed but already there is evidence of some nineteen successive gates. The same remarkable parallelism of gate development at Croft and Midsummer that was established last year to the tenth gate down has been shown again, with both sides having their last double entrance 14 gates from the top. At present it appears that the whole local Iron Age hill-fort sequence is present at Midsummer's southern entrance, the earliest gates probably belonging to a timber-framed box rampart of which some evidence began to emerge in the last two days of the dig.

Inside the rampart an extensive excavation of the swampy area showed how stone-lined sumps had been used to collect water from a shallow Iron Age pool, and revealed the two major Rampart building episodes that are now suggested by the gateway evidence. On the steep hillside above the gateway we have seen that even a 1 in 3 slope could be terraced and used for timber buildings. It must be reasonably certain that Midsummer was closely built over, as was Croft Ambrey and Credenhill. Again the buildings are small rectangular ones, many times rebuilt. On one site, four phases of such buildings were recorded overlying earlier terraces. On the higher of the two sites, the earliest buildings were about 15 ft. by 12 ft. and raised on sleeper beams set in slots neatly chiselled in the Malvernian rock. Such construction is extremely rare in the British Iron Age record (it was used on the Heathrow Temple site), and its recognition here at Midsummer is of immense interest. Finds from the house sites were plentiful and included two complete iron knives, a bronze spindle, a padlock key and various beads and rings.

S.C. Stanford, Ashfield Cottage, Luston, Leominster.

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY (Dept. of History)

Bicton, Shropshire (S0292825) The last few years have seen a great increase in the number of Roman sites known in the Central March, especially in the area of Leintwardine. The sites of the forts have primarily been concentrated on or near the line of the Roman road running south-west from Wroxeter through the Church Stretton gap, a strategic route whose importance has often been noted in the past. A new fort has now been located on the hills to the west of this corridor, 9 miles north-west of Leintwardine. The site lies a mile north-west of Clun on the south-eastern side of the hamlet of Bicton where a spur commands extensive views over the broad valley formed by the confluence of the R. Clun and its tributary the R. Unk. The fort occupies the spur and is now bisected by the present lane linking Bicton to Clun. The main surviving features lie in the field to the south of the lane, the north-western and south-western ramparts being particularly clear along alignments of c.215 and c.305 degrees respectively. The north-western and north-eastern angles are less well preserved on the northern side of the present lane. The approximate overall measurements are 640 ft. by 400 ft. giving a fort an area of 5.9 acres suitable, theoretically, for either a cohors miliaria or an ala quingenaria. Coarse ware, tile and clinker have been recovered from the surface of the southern side of the site but as yet gives no clear indication of the period of occupation.

The position of the newly discovered fort relatively so close to the Leintwardine-Buckton area suggests that the development of Roman occupation was particularly complex as already suspected (J.R.S., li(1961) pp.124 ff.) At the same time further sites may now be expected in positions comparable to that of the Bicton fort where river valleys cut deeply into the Welsh mountain pass e.g. in the Presteigne-Kington area.

G.D.B. Jones, Dept. of History, Manchester University.
W.G. Putnam, Weymouth Training College, Weymouth.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC BUILDING AND WORKS

Chesterton-on-Fosse (SP341598) Ten weeks were spent excavating part of the north-west corner of this settlement in order to determine the extent of destruction likely to occur through ploughing. A section was cut across the defences revealing an early system of turf bank and ditch (or possibly ditches) which was replaced in the first half of the 4th century by a stone wall two ditches and counterscarp. There was no sign of either bastion or internal tower at the corner of the wall.

Immediately within the defences were the indeterminate remains of timber structures of Antonine and later date, of which it was not possible to recover coherent plans. An area was opened adjacent to the Fosse Way, revealing a solidly made oblong stone building of five rooms, with an associated cobbled yard; this appears to have been some sort of commercial building perhaps with living quarters attached and with various associated timber sheds. The main building was destroyed and partially robbed late in the 4th century. Below the floors of the stone building were the remains of some three phases of earlier timber structures, associated with a wide 2nd century road ditch which had been recut once before the stone building was erected across it.

Pre-Roman occupation of the site was represented by a series of small cooking-pits and the crouched burial of an adolescent. There was also evidence of Saxon occupation of the site though whether or not this was merely casual is as yet uncertain.

Steven J. Taylor, County of Warwick Museum, Warwick.

Chivers Coton, Nuneaton (SP352906) Building operations exposed the remains of a medieval pottery kiln and subsequently quantities of medieval pottery wasters were found over an area of about half a mile square. A rescue operation was mounted at two weeks notice directed by P. Mayes and R.G. Thomson.

During a four week period 15 pottery kilns were excavated with a date range from the late 13th century to the mid 16th century including several impositions. Subsequent building operations revealed several more kilns.

The Nuneaton kilns demonstrate a logical chronological development; the earliest had two flues, by the early 14th century the kilns were triangular with three flues, by the turn of the 14th and 15th century they were square with a flue in each corner, and by A.D.1450 they were round with five flues. The last in the sequence had five flues and a walk-in entrance.

A large twin-stokeholed tile kiln of the mid 14th century with two firing tunnels was also excavated. This kiln produced at least 42 different patterns of inlaid floor tiles, several of which are paralleled at the Coventry and Nottingham kiln sites.

These kilns produced a very wide range of ceramics; from the green glazed, highly decorated "Coventry" type of material (Jewry Wall, Figs. 69 & 71) to the near stoneware Midland purples and Cistercian wares. Costrels, Urinals, face jugs, lobed jugs, chafing dishes and ceramic mortars are among the more exotic material, and decorative techniques included stamps, applied strips and motifs, rouletting, thumbing and incised patterns. A preliminary study suggests that much of the medieval pottery in the Midlands originates from the Chivers Coton area and R.G. Thomson would be very grateful for the opportunity to examine excavated medieval pottery groups from the Warwickshire, Leicestershire and South Staffordshire area.

P. Mayes, 3 Headingley Terrace, Headingley, Leeds.
R.G. Thomson, Yew Tree Cottage, 2 Brinklow Road,
Binley, Coventry.

NUNEATON

Chivers Coton, Nuneaton (SP342893) Excavation of the Romano-British tile kiln is now complete. The firing chamber was 9 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft. 6 in. containing 7 cross-walls or fire-bars. Length from the back wall to the front of the stokehole was 19 ft. 6 in. and the main flue was 2 ft. 6 in. wide and 5 ft. deep. With the exception of the back wall the kiln was of brick construction, the size of the bricks being 1 ft. 4 in. by 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. The back wall was made of broken tile (tegula) each layer bonded with very sandy mortar.

When constructed the kiln was made to last as long as possible, there was no sign of repair so the kiln must have gone out of use when distorted and burnt out from continual firing.

Evidence remains of continued occupation of this site, further kilns probably remain and post-holes suggest covered areas or huts.

The products of the site include tegula, imbrex, box flue, sub-floor tile and various thicknesses of tile or brick, none of which have any stamp or trade mark, so it is going to be difficult to locate the sites supplied from this factory.

From the small quantity of pot recovered the date for the kiln is late 2nd or early 3rd century.

K. Scott, 71 Castle Road, Hartshill, Nuneaton.

OFFA ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, OSWESTRY

Ysgwennant, Denbighshire (SJ189305) In continuation of the work on this Bronze Age burial mound a small excavation was made to decide the extent of the ditch surrounding the mound. This ditch had been established on the north side but not on the south. The fresh excavation was on the west and no ditch was found. It seems therefore that the ditch only occurred on the northern half of the mound (the east side had already proved inconclusive).

This small excavation was outside the area allotted to us by the farmer, and we had to wait for growing crops to be removed before starting. Any other work inside our allotted area will have to wait for a large oak tree to be removed.

W. Day, Green End, Oswestry.

RUGBY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Caves Inn, Shawell (Tripontium) (SP535795) The area to the west of the Watling Street at the northern extremity of the site covering about 5 acres has now been stripped mechanically. Numerous enclosures, foundations of wooden buildings, cobbled areas, hearths and rubbish pits have been recorded. Two wells, both stone-lined were in the area. One with a total depth to the bottom of the structure of about 40 ft. has been completely dismantled and yielded eight interesting wooden beams forming the construction of the lowest part of the well. All are re-used with many joints from the previous use and an attempt is being made to preserve them. They are about five feet long and vary in cross-section (about 6 in. square). The well was probably filled during the late 4th century.

Advance of the gravel digging will not be so rapid as was thought and a considerable area has been left to be excavated during the winter and next spring. Volunteers are needed, especially from Easter onwards.

J. Lucas, 7 Rugby Road, Catthorpe, Nr. Rugby. (Swineford 433)
H. Cameron, 1 Vernon Avenue, Rugby ('phone 2691)

SHREWSBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Wroxeter (Viroconium) (SJ568083) Work has continued during the past season in the deserted cottage garden by the side of the Ironbridge Road on the easternmost angle of the ramparts. It has been shown that the first century road discovered last year does in fact follow the course of the present Ironbridge road when it crosses the ramparts and does not lead to the flat field immediately to the east which the late Dr. P. Corder thought might be a parade ground. Butting up to the Roman Road, the outermost of the two first period ditches was found. Here it was nearly seven feet wide and had begun to silt up before the middle of the second century. A black-burnished cooking pot of the period A.D.125-140 was found in the silt, with broken ox bones. Subsequently this ditch had been deliberately filled and levelled with a compact and hard stony surface which extended eastwards beyond the ditch for 22 ft. To the east, below the compact stony level was pottery of the late 4th century and above it and over the ditch area was a black occupation layer containing residual samian ware and late 4th century material.

The butt end of the recut great ditch of the second period was found internal to the above mentioned earlier ditch and a search will now be made for the remains or the robber trench of the town wall.

In the summer, Mr. C.V. Everall discovered an inscribed stone when ploughing in the field south of the Watling Street as it approaches the Horseshoes Inn and internal to the rampart system. Clearly this stone had been shifted by ploughing operations an unknown distance from its original setting. It was of coarse sandstone and was a re-used fragment of a flat slab. The letters were stippled instead of being cut, and were crudely and unevenly set out. Mr. R.P. Wright and Prof. K. Jackson of Edinburgh consider that CVNORIX? whose tombstone this is, was an Irish settler who could have arrived presumably via the Bristol Channel and the River Severn as late as A.D.475. The translation is:

CVNORIX(?), SON OF THE SON OF THE HOLLY
Cunorix means "Hound-King" meaning "Mighty King" Prof. K. Jackson considers that on linguistic grounds he would date this inscription about A.D.470.

A.W.J. Houghton, Pulverbatch, Salop.

SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Weeping Cross, Shrewsbury (SJ503104) Building development has now spread eastwards from the previously reported sites and engulfed a portion (approx. 5 acres) of the deserted Medieval Village of Sudetone (now Sutton). Half-weekly excavation throughout the year aided by a little mechanical digging enabled the close examination of a wide variety of mainly medieval features.

A. Medieval

- I) Eight Ovens. Although these were large and could have been communal they were confined to an area of $2\frac{1}{3}$ acres. Fortunately each was deeply dug into the gravel and was thickly lined with imported clay thus being sealed from subsequent ploughing. However, finds within them were few. One oven was contained within one end of a two part open fronted shed.

- 2) A trench-bedded cigar-shaped structure having large internal posts which probably divide the feature into two. Only one end could be examined but sufficient indications for this being a type of longhouse were obtained.
- 3) A spring-fed "Waterworks". A somewhat complex system of dams, gulleys, spillways and reservoir with modifications to allow for drought conditions. The spring water was fed along a pre-historic ditch (see below) which was recut several times and would probably have originally issued from the lower north end.
- 4) A palisade having main posts spaced unevenly 4 - 5 ft. apart running along one side of the spring water gully/prehistoric ditch. Both round and rectangular posts were used.
- 5) Two U-shaped gulleys contiguous and running at approx. right-angles to the palisade. The earlier one was back-filled in places, probably during its replacement, with a slightly larger re-aligned one. These seem to form the northern boundary of all medieval features and contain early medieval sherds in the primary silt of the later feature.
- 6) Unidentified post-holes and pits. These were numerous, mainly round, and showed successive occupation of the site over a long period. It is hoped that future extensions to the area excavated will supply more coherent details.

B. Romano-British

A cobbled floor, well trodden in places and sunk into the natural clay. Only approx. 130 sq. ft. were exposed but this yielded a few pieces of much abraded coarse pottery. The floor was cut by a later gully (above).

C. Pre-historic

Several sections were cut across a ditch feature which was traced for 75 yards in a roughly straight course. The main details are:

- 1) 14 ft. wide at plough depth approx 5 ft. 3 in. deep
- 2) Divided into sections by very narrow causeway/baulks sometimes only 2 to 3 ft. high.
- 3) Recut in prehistoric times, the recut being continuous through the causeway/baulk.
- 4) Collapse of a rampart into the recutting.

A rim sherd of fingernail-decorated, Neolithic(?) quartz-gritted ware together with several curious stone artifacts (e.g. a flat disc having faint and deep striations, a nodule of polished haematite etc.) occur in association with this feature and a Neolithic date is likely.

The sections are slightly obscured by the coursing of spring water through them. However the system is probably defensive, though an aerial survey kindly undertaken by Mr. T. Ewart of Shrewsbury did not reveal any extension into the neighbouring fields.

The site will be excavated at weekends throughout the winter and also during evenings (Tuesday/Friday) in summer months.

W.E. Jenks, 18 Longford Avenue, Upper Pulley, Shrewsbury.

Wayford Hill, Stapleton (SJ473042) Gravel quarrying has now largely taken out the western knoll of this hill but traces of a strongly palisaded enclosure of early Romano-British date were discovered at the south-east side. A number of inhumations nearby were probably medieval, possibly plague victims. A fair number of 14th to 18th century sherds lay in an accumulation of ploughed silt in the "saddle" of the knoll. The subsoil is sand and gravel and a defensive ditch would not be feasible here.

W.E. Jenks, 18 Longford Avenue, Pulley, Shrewsbury.

CITY OF STOKE-ON-TRENT MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Hill Top Pottery, Burslem (SJ867499) A small pit containing pottery wasters has been excavated, and to-date 82 slipware dishes have been recovered and restored. Associated finds include, coarse storage jars with horizontal strap handles, ointment jars and rouletted brown saltglaze beer tankards including a fragment bearing a stamp of Queen Anne.

Albion Site, Hanley (SJ833475) The discovery of the remains of an oven of late 17th/early 18th century date with associated wasters has led to its excavation and later re-erection in the grounds of the museum.

Manifold Valley (SJ095562) Excavation on a rock shelter has yielded finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic date. Work is now curtailed by foot and mouth restrictions.

Samuel Alcocks Hill Pottery, Burslem (SJ867500) On this site a cache of earthenware and china deposited on April 24th 1839 has been unearthed. Details are included in Museum Report No. 2.

D.H. Kelly, City Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM with BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY (Dept. of History)

23-40 Market Street, Warwick, (SP279649) Excavation of the small part of this area which had not been destroyed by cellars revealed large pits of 12th/13th century date with a succession of pottery kilns occupying the site in the 14th/15th century. The kilns so far revealed had been largely destroyed by 17th century disturbances thus one cannot be sure of their type. Demolition of adjacent garages due in 1968-9 should enable further excavation of the kilns. Their main products appear to have been handled green-glazed jugs decorated with horizontal lines on the shoulder, and plain cooking pots. There is also evidence for the production of pipkins, fish dishes, and decorative roof tiles. This is the first kiln to be located in Warwick although pottery appears to have been made commercially in the town from the 11th century at least until 15th century. Also found were large numbers of wasters from the clay pipe factory that occupied the site in the 19th century.

23 Brook Street, Warwick (SP280649) Some 6 ft. of 19th century garden soil, artificially made up was stripped mechanically from this site to reveal an unfinished well and a series of pits dating from 11th century to 13th century. There were traces of timber buildings along the street frontage, though these were much disturbed by later buildings and formed no coherent plan. Three 18th century cess pits produced a fine selection of wine bottles and ceramics of the period. Neolithic occupation was attested by two small pits containing sherds of the same type as found during the 1965-6 excavations.

Bowling Green Street, Warwick (SP279648) A section was cut across the putative line of the town ditch. No trace of the ditch was found, all evidence having been destroyed by extensive quarry pits which had been filled with masons' debris by mid 18th century and may have been dug to obtain stone for the rebuilding operations following the Great Fire of 1694. Whether or not the western garden wall of the Lord Leicester Hospital represents a remnant of the 15th century town wall thus remains an open question.

Brook Street, Warwick (next to Congregational Chapel) A vacant plot next to the chapel entrance was excavated and proved to have been greatly disturbed by rubbish pits of 18th century and later date. Various small medieval pits were revealed also a Neolithic feature containing one sherd of typical pottery. Extensive cellars on the road frontage can be presumed to have destroyed any early structural remains.

Michael Farr, Warwick County Record Office, Warwick.
Steven J. Taylor, County Museum, Warwick.

WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS FIELD CLUB (HEREFORDSHIRE)

Leintwardine (SO403742) During the summer it was possible to complete the excavation of the Roman fort bath-house south of Mill Lane. The recent work has produced additional evidence of the enlargement of the bath-house contemporaneously with the construction of the massive fort defences in the late second century. At this time a timber-laced rampart was built to protect the annexe in which the bath-house stood; its structure is similar to that of the main fort rampart built at this time to enclose 12 acres. The additional room recently excavated was crossed by a deep stone-floored masonry drain. The area between the bath-house and the annexe rampart had been used as an ash and rubbish tip from which a quantity of pottery and some metalwork was recovered. The excavations were made possible by the continued kindness of Mr. C. Griffiths and a Ministry of Works grant.

S.C. Stanford, Ashfield Cottage, Luston, Leominster.

WORCESTER DYSON PERRINS MUSEUM, ROYAL PORCELAIN WORKS WORCESTER

Graingers China Works, St. Martins Gate, Worcester. This factory was founded in 1801, taken over by the Worcester Royal Porcelain Company in 1889, and finally ceased production in 1902. Earlier this year across part of the site owned by Heenan and Froude Ltd., a pipeline was dug revealing the structure of two early bottle kilns and a number of levels and pits containing large quantities of wasters, kiln furniture and moulds. The owners have kindly allowed all this material to be kept by the Royal Porcelain Co. for examination and future publication.

Warmstry House, First Period Factory Site, Worcester. An excavation has just begun on this site in order to obtain stratified material from Dr. Wall's factory and to examine the probable Medieval and Roman levels below this.

Henry Sandon, Dyson Perrins Museum, Royal Porcelain Works, Worcester.

WROXETER TRAINING SCHOOL

Wroxeter (Viroconium) (SJ566086) During 1967 work continued on the piscina revealing an apse at the south end similar to that at the north. An area of stone flagging at the south end has been uncovered which is totally different in character and material from that of the rest of the bath. It would now appear that our previous conclusion that the bath was abandoned before it had ever been completed, must be revised, since this patch is evidently a repair, and the abandonment of the bath may be associated with this phase.

Work has continued also on the military levels with the addition of considerable detail. It would now appear that there was some replacement of timbers, but whether this was in the nature of a repair or rebuilding at an intermediate stage is not yet clear.

There was further clearance of the palaestra and it is now seen that there must have been large scale robbing and clearance at an early date. The floor of the nave appears to have been used and it is covered with a black deposit which contains a large quantity of animal bones, and fourth century pottery. Pottery of this type does not appear anywhere else on the site, this seems likely to mean either occupation or dumping of rubbish on the site of a public building already disused and stripped of building materials.

Graham Webster, 30 Portland Street, Leamington Spa.

ARICONIUM, HEREFORDSHIRE

Field work has produced, for reference, a map of fields, north, south and west of Ariconium, indicating the limitations of industrial activity and positions of ploughed-out building materials.

SO 647238 Trial trenches were dug on the slopes immediately below the 400 ft. contour line. Here Roman accumulation levels were found to be considerably disturbed by cultivation, and only 1st century deposits remain.

Native A/B ware was found in quantity, and three main forms were distinguished:-

A plain or burnished cooking pot with an everted rim, a globular pot with a flaring rim and high shoulders usually decorated with oblique lines between two encircling lines, and a wide mouth bowl with a heavy rim.

These finds were associated with a denarius of Mark Antony and two early Roman brooches.

SO 645241 A rescue dig was undertaken to record the possible remains of a mosaic floor, where quantities of tesserae had been observed in the plough soil. However, the main building was not found, and time did not permit further investigation.

Excavations revealed a robber trench of an external wall, forming a T-junction with the footings belonging to a cross wall. Associated finds were a follis of Diocletian and sherds of orange ware of West Midland type.

On the old turf line, partly damaged by the erection of the cross wall, were the remains of five bowl furnaces. A 1st century pennanular brooch and a sherd of native fabric were found on this level.

Garrod & Moss, 27 Court Gardens, Hempstead Village,
Gloucester.

GENERAL NOTES

University of Birmingham, Dept. of Geology Work has continued thin-sectioning pottery from sites in the West Midlands. In particular, groups of Romano-British native and other wares have been shown to be products of the Malvern district.

D.P.S. Peacock.

Proton Gradiometer (Bleeper) and Resistivity Meters are available for loan by societies in the West Midlands. Applications to borrow them should be made to Mr. Geoff. Taylor, 5 Greenside Road, Birmingham.24 ('phone ERDington 6818).

PERSONAL NOTES

This summer, Mr. Frank Lyon died suddenly and unexpectedly just as he was beginning his retirement. Frank was the first chairman of the Lichfield and South Staffordshire Archaeological Society and did much to get that Society successfully launched. For several years he directed excavations at Letocetum and was one of the first people to pass through the Wroxeter Training Schools. Latterly he had devoted much of his time to medieval Lichfield.

The following is a list of names and addresses of local organisers of excavations. Names in brackets refer to the sites or towns with which the person is particularly associated. Further copies of this list are available separately from Miss Cynthia Holme, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, The University, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham. 15. (021-472-1301, Extn. 150).

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J.A. Pagett, Esq., 48 Park Road, Donnington, Wellington.	

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