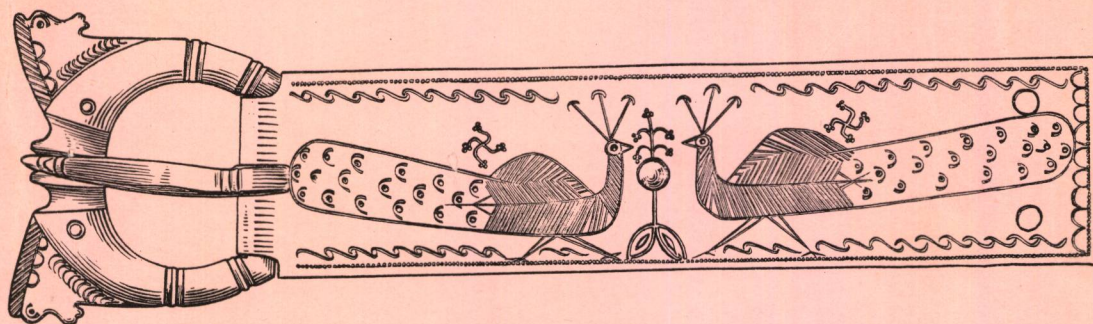


WEST MIDLANDS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
NEWS SHEET



Number 13 1970



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WEST MIDLANDS

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NEWS SHEET

No. 13 1970

## EDITORIAL

Annual publications of the News Sheet type are being increasingly used as works of reference for information about excavations and finds. This is not what they were intended for originally - they were seen as ephemeral collections of the year's discoveries which would soon be made redundant by publication in a local or national journal. But the gap between discovery and publication widens, and more and more the ephemeral note becomes the only record. This is of course deplorable, and a situation which we all hope may be remedied in the archaeological Utopia we hope for. The increasing use of these publications for reference is reflected in their improved format and binding; in some cases, as in the News Sheet, being printed, and including articles and illustrations. Are we in fact by doing this encouraging people to believe that the News Sheet is a final repository of information? If any readers are thinking this, then we must disillusion them sharply - publication in the News Sheet is not publication in any proper sense; every item of discovery (rather than comment) should be prepared for final publication in local, county, or national journals, however difficult this may prove.

Meanwhile, costs rise, and the improved versions are pricing themselves out of the market. Should the various news sheets, news letters, and reviews published by CBA and other groups up and down the country be combined in a national publication called perhaps 'Ephemera'? This would, by reason of increased circulation, be more economical, but what a frightfully indigestible document it would be, with masses of detail of interest only to a few. Or is there reason for some consolidation? Archaeological Review, a well-produced publication by our neighbours to the SW covers a huge area from Cornwall to Hampshire to Gloucestershire. Could we join them in a 'Western England' publication or do our interests merge more readily with the East Midlands?

News Sheet 13 reflects work done during the year in the West Midlands. Or does it? How much goes on that we do not hear about? If any readers know of anything that is slipping through our net, please tell us. There has been some response to my request in News Sheet 12 for articles and comments, but we need more : articles, comments, reviews, letters, grumbles and ideas. Prehistoric activity is again very poorly represented - obviously Graham Webster and others have been only too successful in stimulating Roman and Medieval studies. Or is prehistory becoming too formidable for any but the highly-trained specialist with wide scientific contacts? Hobley continues his spectacular work at the Lunt; not content with excavating Roman forts, he now manufactures them, and much is learnt by so doing. Wroxeter continues - it is interesting to compare the different kinds of information being produced by the three parties engaged there - all of it of great value in the total understanding of this great site, whose future is in jeopardy as this is written. Philip Barker's techniques there continue to develop - it is tragic that the pace of first-class excavation must be slower and slower to retrieve information, while at the same time sites vanish more and more quickly. Leo Biek said to me 15 years ago,

speaking as a scientist, that if he were an excavator he would find so much of interest in the turf and topsoil he would never get down to the first archaeological level! Barker's first monograph on his work at Wroxeter will include layer 2, as well as a full discussion of the complex problems of the disturbances by earlier excavations. Fifth century Wroxeter has at least an epigraphic basis now, even if the latest pottery is still ""fourth century"", a term which should now be used only with quadruple inverted commas. (N.B. to Roman archaeologists: 'Late Roman' does not end with Theodosian coins.) A fine object from Tripontium is striking enough to have been chosen for the cover design. Historically it could be of equal importance.

Ford continues his Saxon investigations with striking results at Stratford, but where still are our midland settlement sites? Hatton Rock, though now proved Saxon, is not likely to be typical. There have been no major medieval excavations this year, but the number and variety of them indicates solid progress in every area, and - on the part of our two indefatigable field workers, Bond and Aston - reconnaissance work of high speed and quality. In spite of what I said earlier, the list of publications is perhaps the most impressive we have ever seen in a single year.

In News Sheet no. 12, I mentioned the impending conference at Barford. This turned out to be a remarkable occasion, which none of us who were present will ever forget. This was followed up with another meeting at Newcastle, to bring in northern interests, and a public meeting in London (see below). The recommendations of the Barford committee are reviewed elsewhere in this issue. Meanwhile the crisis situation does not abate. The Chairman describes the latest developments below, and the measures his own department are taking to deal with the situation, which offer much encouragement to those who wish to do more, but don't know how. The Extra-mural Department of the University is fully committed; so I believe should be the internal departments, as I have written at more length below. I end this 1971 editorial with a quotation from Professor Barry Cunliffe's inaugural lecture at Southampton: (an analogy to the continuing destruction of archaeological sites.)

'Imagine a historian faced with a room in the Public Record Office crammed with un-studied documents of all dates and being told by a Government official "you may select one of these, without opening it, for study." He makes his agonising selection on the basis of his experience of superficial appearance, the quality of the parchment, a glimpse of a word or two - and then stands back whilst the rest are systematically thrown into the fire. He may be allowed to rake through the ashes to see what, if anything, is left, but all the time he has the uneasy feeling that in every room all over the building similar fires are being fed with his primary data. This is what is happening to the archaeologist.....no other discipline, I suggest, has ever been faced with such a rate of data destruction.'

Philip Rahtz

## INTRODUCTION

The new policy of printing the last News Sheet proved to be disastrous. Although all the material was prepared by our Editor and made available to the printers at the right time there were continued delays in getting the work completed, as a result the News Sheet was not issued until the Autumn instead of at Easter. Then there came the problem of distribution. In previous years as the issue was free, there was no difficulty as they were sent out in quantity far and wide. But the new policy of making a small charge necessary has led to further problems and although Mrs. Sally Foulkes of the Extra-mural Department has struggled valiantly, it is clear from complaints that things are far from satisfactory. For all these we humbly apologise and hope that things will be better ordered in this number. At present the signs are not too hopeful. We have had difficulty in finding a printer who will produce the News Sheet at a non-prohibitive price. We also badly need a distribution secretary. An able and energetic person with ideas who is not deeply committed to fieldwork and excavation, yet sufficiently interested in archaeological work. There must be people who could fill the bill - volunteers would be welcome.

The year has continued to be rich in new work and discoveries as will be seen but all will soon be overburdened by the threat of the new motorways. A rough estimate has shown that in Warwickshire alone there will be about 75 miles of these works gouging out wide strips of countryside. Much of this is in areas not yet explored archaeologically and for which it is difficult to get air cover since much of NW Warwickshire is too near the Elmdon and Baginton air corridors. Not only have routes to be surveyed at ground level but there is also the problem of the great increase of the working of the sand and gravel pits. It is these areas where we know there to be the greatest concentration of early agriculture and occupation.

The Regional Group and the Avon-Severn Research Committee are considering how best these immediate problems can be tackled. It is obvious that we will need to call on the local groups and societies in these areas and ask for teams to be formed for field working. The Extra-mural Department is planning crash training courses and the whole project is being co-ordinated by the archaeological field officers of the two county museums, Bill Ford, who we are happy to congratulate on his recent appointment to the post in the County Museum for Warwick, and James Bond of the County Museum, Hartlebury for Worcester. A special group meeting has been arranged on Saturday 27 February in the University (Education Department) to consider the situation.

The reorganization of Group 8 is having the effect of instituting local meetings, the next is being held at Keele in March, when reports of activities in the area are being heard. The next meeting of a similar kind will be in Shrewsbury in the Spring of 1972.

We are sorry to lose the service of Hugh Cameron who has been Group Secretary recently. He has obtained the post of Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the North Lincolnshire Technical College at Scunthorpe. We congratulate him on this advance and wish him well in an area rich in archaeology. His place has been taken by Lawrence Barfield, a lecturer in the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, in the University of Birmingham. This will also have the useful effect of strengthening the ties with this Department.

With best wishes for the coming season (if it has not already gone!).

Graham Webster  
Chairman of CBA Group 8

## BURSARIES

### Foyle Bursaries

The Foyle Trust has kindly offered 2 bursaries of £10 each for 2 adult students from the West Midlands, to enable them to attend an archaeological summer school. Details and application forms are available from the Department. We should be grateful if organisers of local excavations would encourage likely candidates to apply.

### Marie Grutter Memorial Scholarships

Scholarships totalling approximately £60 will be available to assist West Midlands adult students to attend foreign study tours in 1970 organised by the Extra-mural Department or by the Joint Committee of the University and the Workers' Educational Association. Enquiries should be sent to the Department of Extra-mural Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

## GROUP NEWS

The Kidderminster and District Archaeological and Historical Society has taken possession of the 'Castle' they recently rescued from destruction in Kidderminster. They hold meetings each Wednesday evening and work on the report of the excavation on the top floor on Monday and Friday evenings.

Members of our Society, some of whom have dug at Barnsley, have been experimenting with photogrammetry at Barnsley Park and at Greensforge, where John Hockin of the Kidderminster Society has been digging the Roman fort with the support of the Stour and Smestow Group. Preliminary results are being submitted to Dr. Webster and it is hoped that a useful contribution will be made to this rapidly developing science.

Ian Walker



## THE CRISIS IN FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY

During the last year there has been considerable progress in the movement which is attempting to cope with the disaster situation that faces British field archaeology. A meeting of some thirty-five archaeologists held at Barford in Warwickshire last February reached a surprising unanimity of agreement on some form of urgent action, and a working party was set up to explore the short and long term solutions to the problem. As there had been little representation at Barford of archaeologists from the north of England, Scotland and Ireland, another meeting was held in November at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to seek their opinions. By this time, therefore, a wide cross-section of full-time and some part-time archaeologists had been consulted and had had the opportunity to air their views on the situation.

It was resolved by the Newcastle meeting that an organisation specifically aimed at dealing with the rescue problem should be set up, and the working party set out, provisionally, the organisation's aims. It was decided to hold a meeting in London on January 23rd 1971 to which the whole archaeological body and, indeed, the general public would be invited and the crisis and its possible solutions outlined. We are not sure how many people attended but it must have been more than 700.

Briefly, two main proposals were put forward, one a long-term re-organisation of the structure of British field archaeology, and the second the immediate measures which might be taken to deal with the situation regionally and nationally.

The long-term proposals were outlined by Professor Barry Cunliffe and included the provision of a central body which would have the overall direction of rescue policy, and some 20 regional centres with their own staffs of field archaeologists, a secretariat, conservationists, a small laboratory and other similar facilities, together with access to a central archive which would store the massive field survey which is one of the first requirements of the present situation. Publication, or computer or other storage of the enormous amount of information likely to be obtained from the vastly increased field work and excavation resulting from such an expansion of resources would be a major problem.

Among the immediate measures which could and should be taken are the stimulus of local societies and groups, through the C.B.A., Extra-Mural Departments and so on, to concentrate on field surveys of threatened areas, the recording and preservation, or if necessary, the excavation of selected sites which are about to be destroyed.

The London meeting also voted to set up an organisation, to be known as RESCUE, on the lines suggested at the Newcastle meeting. The provisional aims of RESCUE are:

- a. That it should be an association of all interested persons, with individual membership.

b. That it should be a fund-raising organisation, funds being raised in the following principal ways:

1. Individual annual subscription
2. Donations
3. Launching of a professionally organised fund-raising appeal.

c. Money thus collected should be used in the following ways:

1. In general to help to record and conserve the physical remains of Britain's archaeological heritage, without distinction as to age and with particular reference to the natural environment.
2. The money should be able to be used at the organisation's discretion within specific terms or areas, viz:
  - i. to support surveys.
  - ii. to acquire sites or areas of archaeological importance for permanent conservation.
  - iii. to initiate or support rescue excavations including consequent work on the material and eventual publication.

Mr. Martin Biddle agreed to be holding chairman of RESCUE, Mr. Victor Carter, manager of the Worcester branch of the National Westminster Bank, agreed to be holding treasurer and the writer of this note agreed to be holding secretary. As soon as the aims and constitution of RESCUE have been precisely defined legally and its status as a charity established, a massive recruiting campaign will begin. It is hoped that at least 50,000 subscribing members will join in the first year and that many of them will covenant for seven years, giving the organisation an assured income. We also intend to launch a separate, professionally organised fund-raising appeal which will bring in a large capital sum the interest from which will enable us to implement the aims outlined above.

We hope that all readers of this Newsletter will support RESCUE as generously as they can, since money is the crux of the problem, though a large and active membership, united in its determination to rescue what is left of our archaeological heritage will provide a powerful pressure group, capable of influencing not only public opinion, but also parliament, giving us the much more stringent legislation which is necessary to protect individual sites and settlement areas.

Until the membership forms are printed, donations can be made through banker's drafts to RESCUE, National Westminster Bank Ltd., 3, The Cross, Worcester.

Philip Barker

## SKETCH PLANNING: A FINGER IN THE DYKE?

The destruction of archaeological sites, both known and unknown, is increasing at such an alarming rate that even recording, let alone excavation, has not kept pace with the losses. Field work has never been so urgent; yet it is small achievement to discover, for example, a new DMV site one week, only to see it disappear under a housing estate without record the week after. Earthwork sites such as DMVs are particularly vulnerable at present; for not only do they face destruction by the usual encroachment of buildings, roads, etc., but they are also continually threatened by agricultural activities. It is clear that the painstaking surveying techniques which have been used in the past are simply not adequate to cope with the present need.

In the current crisis field work without recording is as pointless, if not as destructive, as excavation without recording; yet few fieldworkers can afford to spend a week on every site they encounter surveying it by conventional means. There has thus been a great need for a method by which the essential features of an earthwork site can be recorded with a maximum of detail in a minimum of time.

Over the last few years the authors have developed a technique of sketch-mapping which, they believe, could go a long way towards bridging the gap. It was developed on systematic lines as a means of rapidly recording DMV earthworks: by this method it was found possible to survey as many as eight DMVs a day (including travelling time), as opposed to the time taken to survey an average DMV by conventional means, which has rarely been less than a couple of days. The method has been successfully extended to cover abbey precincts, moats, fishponds, castles, hill forts and many other earthwork sites, and has proved equally applicable to buildings and to soil marks.

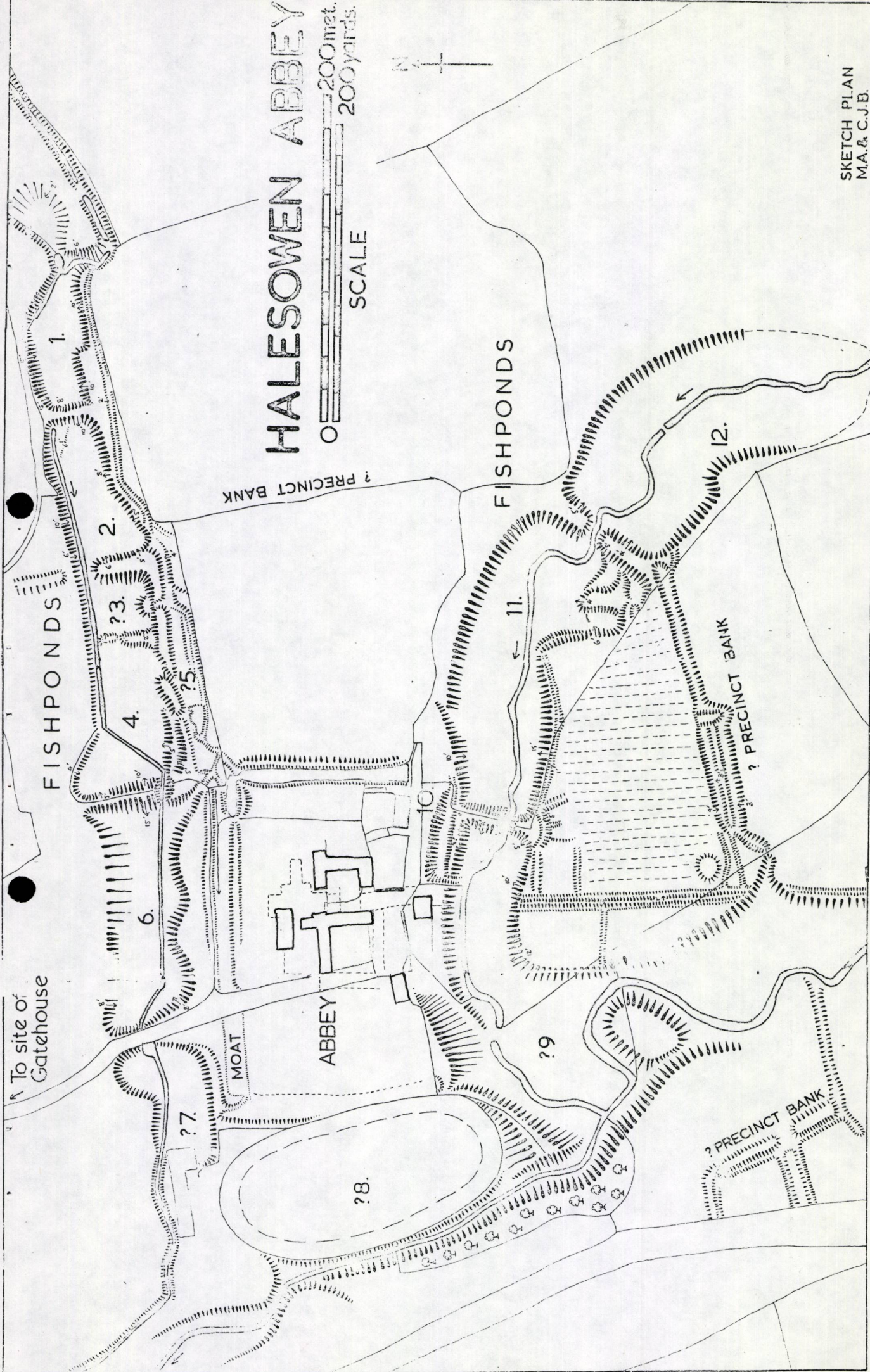
A successful technique can only be developed from practical experience, but a few general points can be made. For earthworks a conventional hachuring technique is used, with heavy, closely-packed hachures for steep slopes, light, widely-spaced ones for gentle slopes, and the length of the hachure proportionate to the length of the slope. One pitfall is too great a concentration on detail at the outset, which may cause grave distortion in the final plan. It has been found advisable first to walk over the site completely, to see what is there; then to walk over a second time, sketching in the main banks and ditches in their correct scale and location; then to add smaller detail where necessary; and then a final check for corrections. Care should be taken to maintain the highest possible accuracy at all stages: the fact that the finished product remains no more than a sketch map is no excuse for slapdash work. Every effort should be made to relate the earthworks to their surroundings so that the finished result can be plotted into the framework of field boundaries provided by the Ordnance Survey maps. Alignments sighted onto features identifiable on maps, e.g. corners of fields and ends of buildings, should be used wherever possible to locate particular parts of the site in their appropriate position on the map. Paced traverses may also help. After the initial plan has been

drawn up in fair copy, it has been found extremely useful to re-visit the site with it, to make final corrections.

The speed with which a sketch plan can be made makes it an ideal field reconnaissance tool. An average English county may contain several thousand archaeological earthworks of all periods: accurate surveying of all these represents several lifetimes' work and this amount of grace is simply not available. During the course of field work the authors have attempted to sketch every earthwork they have visited, and in this way at least some record now exists of sites which may have to wait many years for an accurate survey; in all too many cases such a sketch plan is the only record which ever will be made, for the site concerned has since been utterly destroyed.

The whole purpose of field work is extensive reconnaissance; its results can rarely be conclusive, but it can enable hypotheses to be formulated which can then be tested by intensive investigation, by excavation or other techniques, on individual sites. In the case of many earthwork sites, however, they simply cannot be understood without a plan, and here the sketch plan comes into its own. As an example of the possibilities, a number of monastic precincts have been sketch-planned in Worcs. and Warks. recently: during the course of this, certain earthworks provisionally interpreted as precinct boundary banks have been noted. An unexpected feature has emerged in that many precincts seem to have undergone two stages of expansion: the first stage a small enclosure, sometimes moated, and the second a much larger extent within banks and ditches. A sample sketch plan of Halesowen Abbey is given to illustrate this; other examples are Bordesley Abbey and Cookhill Nunnery. Whether this expansion can be related to one period, or whether in fact the surface earthworks are completely deceptive and do not represent precinct boundaries at all could only be confirmed by excavation; but at least a working hypothesis has been produced which would have been impossible without extensive field work and a cover of sketch plans organising the basic information. The possibilities of sketch surveying on an individual site are shown in the attempted interpretation of the Elmley Castle earthworks (page no. 25); again the conclusions may be completely wrong, but without the production of the sketch map it would have been impossible to see the various banks and ditches in relation to each other, and no such hypothesis could have been produced.

The great advantage of sketch-planning is its speed: a large number of sites can be recorded to some extent in the minimum of time. It can be done with a minimum of equipment: a sheet of paper, a pencil and an indiarubber; once the knack has been acquired there is no reason why anyone should not make a reasonably satisfactory sketch plan. However carefully made, a sketch is not, and was never intended as a full substitute for accurate surveying, unless time is too short even for this; but conventional techniques are too slow to cope with the need caused by the present destruction rate, and any record is better than none. It is surely preferable to have a corpus of plans showing the essential features of several hundred sites, rather than to take up time producing a handful of supremely accurate and detailed plans, during the course of which many other



# HALESOWEN ABBEY

0 200met. 200yards.  
SCALE

SKETCH PLAN  
M.A. & C.J.B.

equally important sites will have disappeared forever. It is more important to know that, of a given number of moated sites, such a proportion has internal ramparts, so many have counterscarp banks, and so many have attached flights of fishponds, rather than to know the exact dimensions of two or three sites to the nearest centimetre. Planning of an efficient programme of rescue excavations can only be achieved if the maximum possible amount of information on the general class of sites being affected has been made available. Sketch planning must be seen therefore, not as a dilettante pursuit, but as an indispensable technique of reconnaissance, an interim record, and a vital background to any detailed investigations which take place.

James Bond  
Worcestershire County Museum

Mick Aston  
Oxford City & County Museum

### THE MILITARY 'APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION'

#### AS AN AID TO ARCHAEOLOGY

On the eve of a great campaign or battle the commander initiating it issues what is termed, an 'Appreciation of the Situation', for the guidance of his subordinate commanders in the field. There seems to be a place for this process in archaeology.

In the course of construction of his 'Appreciation', he considers every conceivable factor likely to bear upon the forthcoming conflict both with regard to his own forces and the predicament of his enemy. From a balance of these he reasons not only the courses of action open to him but also the likely reaction of the enemy to each of them. Finally he selects his best course and produces a plan to suit it. From this stems his 'Operation Order' for the conduct of the operation, in some detail.

It would seem that, in the field of military archaeology and at the stage at which the meagreness of authentic record from contemporary history and from subsequent archaeological discovery has brought further progress seemingly to a standstill, a thorough military 'Appreciation' might well lead the archaeologist directly to the more profitable sites and to interpret more realistically what he finds on them.

The potential of the 'Appreciation' in this context is particularly promising when applied to the invasion of the Welsh Marches and Wales by any of the invaders in the days of hand-to-hand warfare, for the reason that the factor of terrain and geography is inevitably so powerful as almost to have dictated the course of action, even at the tactical level, despite the contentious factors about which we know nothing but which doubtless had their influence.

The discovery of military sites continues to be somewhat fortuitous in the main - the result of such things as pottery turned up by the plough or by the road constructor, while even purposeful air photography along, for example, a Roman road, is but a compromise. It seems that it would be more logical and efficient and many times as quick as the present approach to commence archaeological search of a military system from the basis of a professional military 'Appreciation', rather than to be content to attempt to fit a strategic context to a military site after it has been found fortuitously.

In the course of their training at the military colleges, students are frequently fed with hypothetical situations upon which to exercise their construction of the 'Appreciation' and it could be a real help to West Midland archaeology if they could be persuaded to flex their minds on such a subject as, say, the Roman invasion of the Marches and Wales. All they would require would be a brief from the historians and the archaeologists as to the political and military situation at the time and equipment and training and organisation of the combatants and the character and personalities of their leaders. The result could well be significant.

Pat Moore  
Hereford

#### ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE COMPUTER

Last year I described a program to draw a contour plot of data. Now I have a second program available which takes the data in a rectangular array and draws an isometric projection drawing of the surface, viewed from each corner in turn. The accompanying diagrams show contours and projection drawing for the same set of test data. Anyone requiring further information or wishing to have data run (free of charge at present) on the Birmingham University computer should contact me (for address see list at end of News Sheet).

Miss S. Laflin  
Computer Centre  
University of Birmingham

#### THE MOUNT, BEOLEY: HILLFORT OR CASTLE? (SP/065695)

The earthwork which stands adjacent to the church on Beoley Hill poses several interesting historical and archaeological problems. Enclosing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres, it stands just below the summit of the hill on the 450 ft contour, with wide views over the upper Arrow Valley. It has been badly mutilated by marl quarrying on its southern and western edges; despite this, however, several peculiarities are still visible. It is incomplete, there being no apparent ditch on the north side for a span which is much too wide

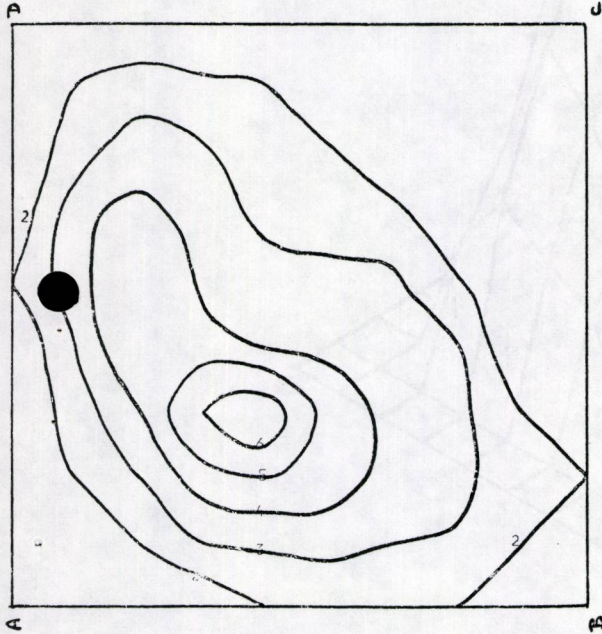
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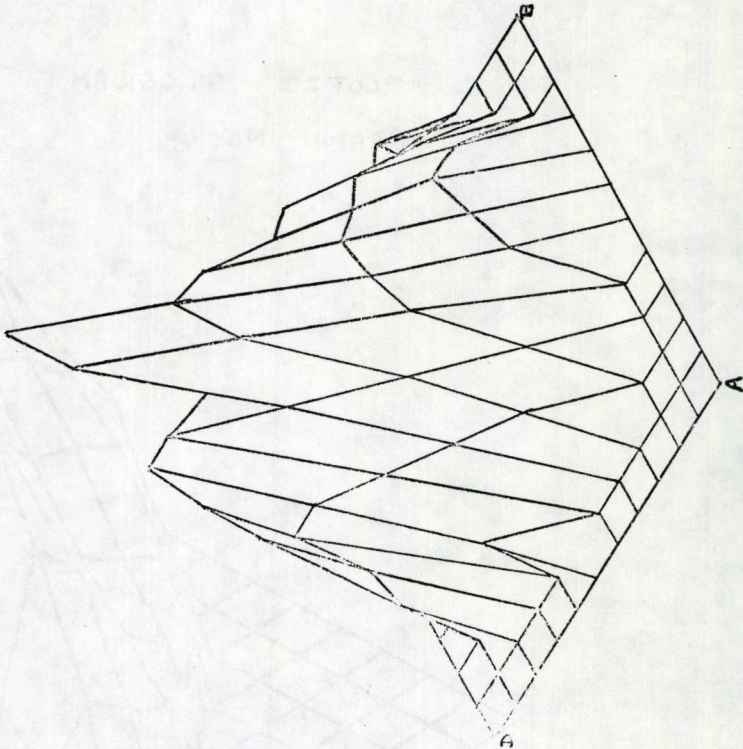
SAMPLE OF TEST DATA FOR PLOTTING PROGRAMS

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10.	15.	30.	45.	60.	75.	90.	0.	0.	0.
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0.	10.	20.	35.	50.	65.	80.	95.	10.	0.
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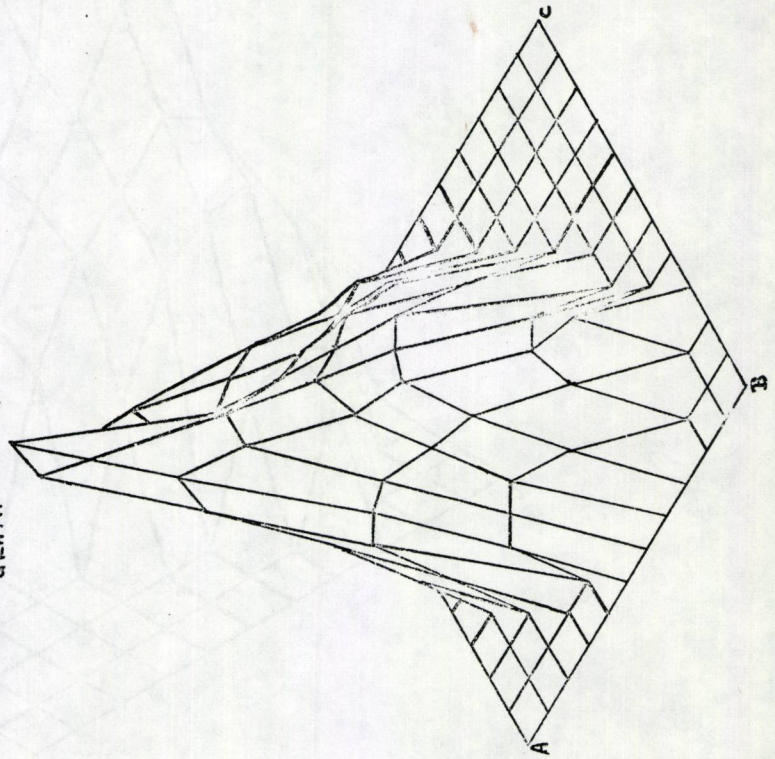


GRAPH FROM CONTOURING PROGRAM FOR SAME SET OF DATA.

"PLOTSD" PROGRAM.  
GRAPH NO. 1.

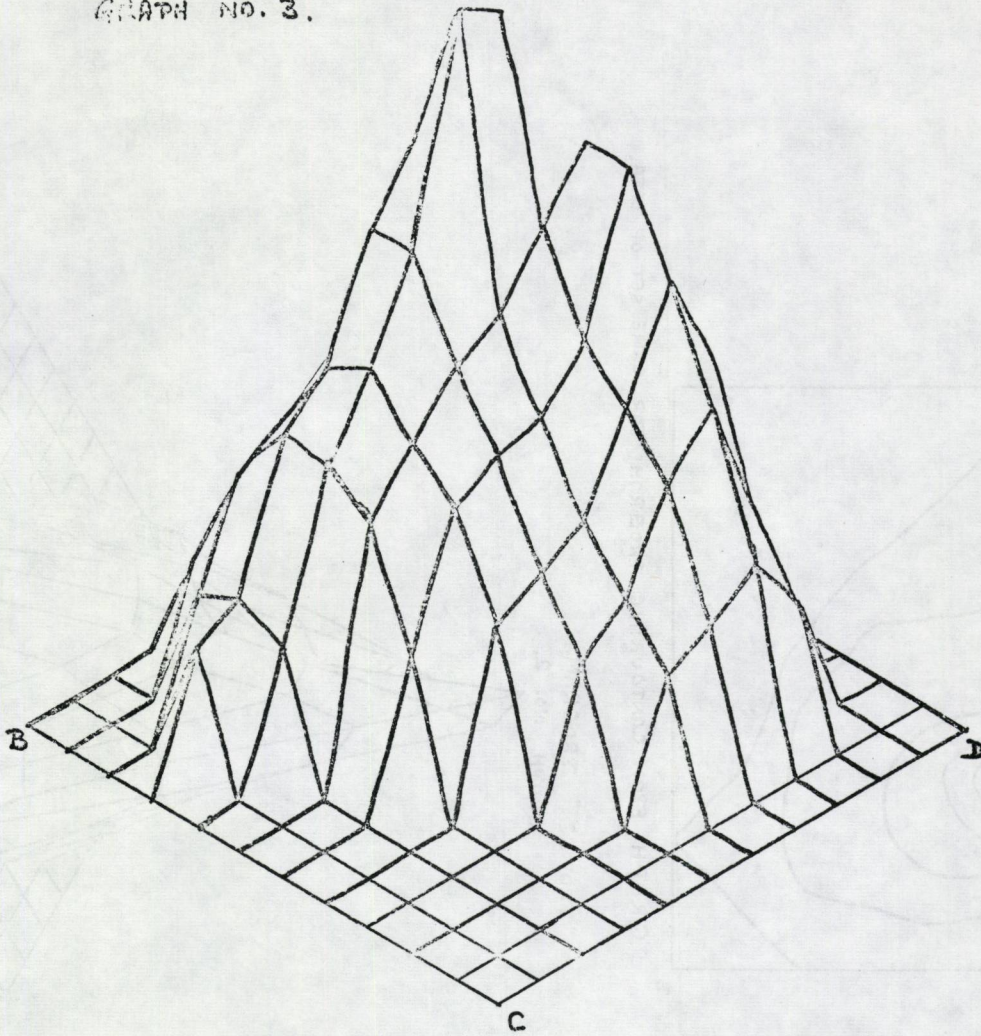


"PLOTSD" PROGRAM.  
GRAPH NO. 2.

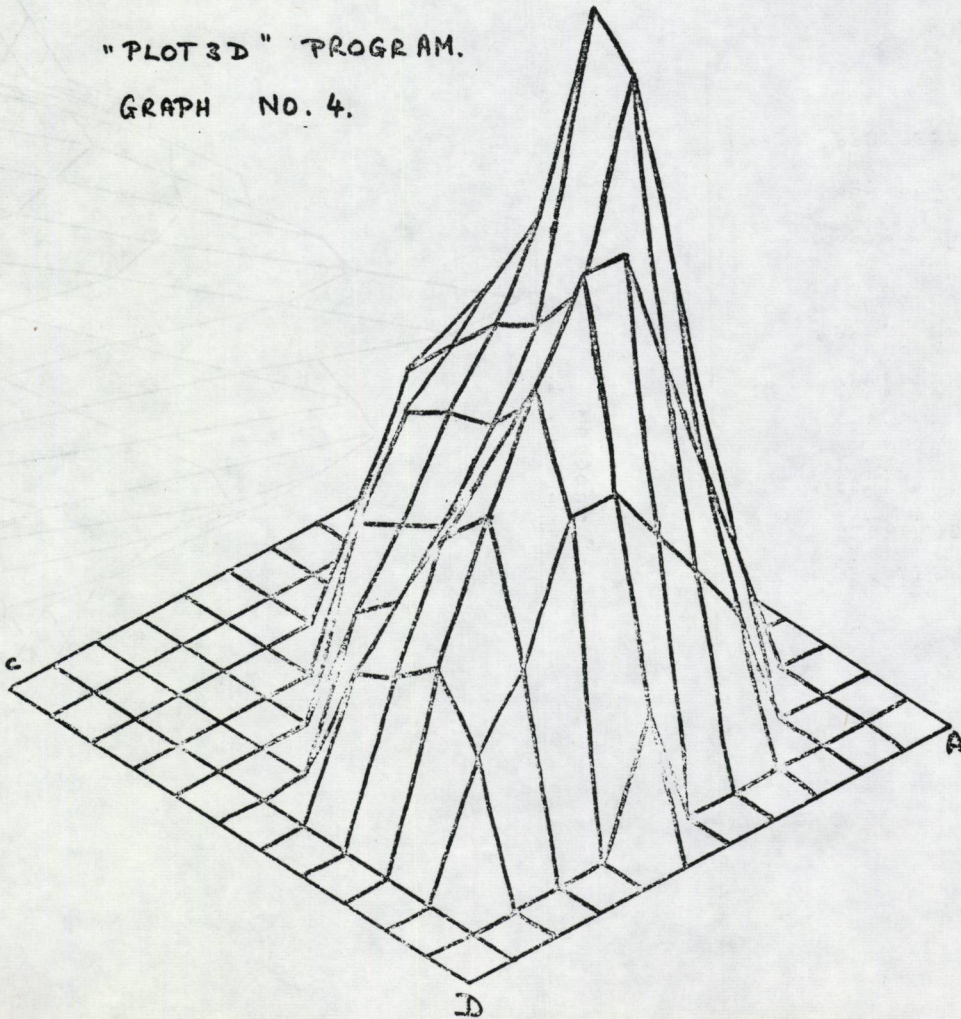




"PLOT3D" PROGRAM  
GRAPH NO. 3.



"PLOT3D" PROGRAM.  
GRAPH NO. 4.



to allow interpretation as an entrance; and the interior is occupied by ridge and furrow.

At first sight the lack of a ditch on the north side, the small size of the enclosure, and its position just below rather than on the summit of the hill, would seem to exclude a prehistoric date for the earthwork. It certainly does not resemble a conventional 'hill-fort'. However, there does seem to exist some documentary evidence for at least a pre-Saxon date, and as (despite the proximity of the Ryknield Street) the Mount can almost certainly be rejected as Roman by reason of its irregular shape, this would imply a prehistoric origin. The Great Charter of Edgar confirming lands of the monastery of SS Peter & Paul at Pershore in 972 (1) mentions 5 hides belonging to that church at Beoley. Fortunately the bounds of the estate are preserved, and amongst the landmarks used is the 'Burhleah' or 'Camp clearing'. The choice of the word 'burh' in other charters usually indicates an earthwork of fair proportions of pre-Saxon date. Is it the Mount? According to Grundy, who worked out the bounds from map evidence without recourse to field work, it is not. (2) He took the charter as including the whole parish. The 'burh' is identified as being near Bransoms Cross (SP/O90710) in the NE part of the parish; but field work here has failed to produce anything which could be conceived as a 'burh'. On the other hand, from the 25" OS map and knowledge of the ground, one could reinterpret the charter bounds in such a way as to suggest that it is only concerned with a portion of the parish, and that basically in the south. This could be just as convincing as Grundy's solution, and the Mount could easily be seen as the 'Burhleah'. In the light of this, a prehistoric origin for the earthwork is quite possible. The difficulties mentioned above still stand in the way of interpretation as a hillfort, but by comparison with the earthworks at Hillcrest, Feckenham and Major's Green (the Berry Mound), which are all below the summit and irregular in shape, one might think along the lines of cattle enclosures.

The traditional view of the Mount is as a castle. This is given its most emphatic definition by the County historian Nash in XVIII, (3) who writes that at 'Beoley was anciently a castle of which the ruins are now scarcely seen.' Here 'scarcely' implies only with the eyes of faith. Habington, a century earlier, would almost certainly have collaborated this evidence had it been true; but he says only that there is 'a church mounted upon a hill in the myddst of a large parke'. (4) There is no contemporary documentation such as a crenellation licence, and certainly no indication of a major defensive structure of the medieval period on the site. In Warwickshire and Worcestershire many defensive sites, i.e. moats at the centre of a manor as distinct from assarting ventures, may have been related to the disturbances of the XIII, particularly the Barons War in which the West Midlands played a central part; (5) and possibly the re-use of a hypothetical prehistoric enclosure on the hill at Beoley during this period may have given rise to the castle tradition.

The documentary evidence certainly points strongly towards the manor being here. Beoley became part of the Beauchamp estates in 1265, later to come to the Earls of Warwick. The Beauchamps had a

seat at King's Coughton, further down the Arrow, but Nash says, again unauthenticated, that they also had a house at Beoley, which was burnt down in 1303. (6) A little later there is mention of a court and grange belonging to the family in the parish. (7) Were either of these situated on the Mount? If not, where was the manor house of Beoley?

Geographically and socially Beoley church is isolated from the hamlet of Holt End and the site of the present Hall,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile away to the NW. This is unusual locally. In the Arrow and Alne valleys and the Arden slopes above there is usually a close relationship between manor and church. On the upper Arrow at Coughton, Morton Bagot, Studley and Ipsley this is certainly so. The only exception on the river above Alcester is Spennall - but here we have a deserted village site where the parish is occupied by large farms whose descent can be traced from the immediate post-plague years; (8); the manor here may be represented by an earthwork in an enclosure just north of the church. In the Alne valley, at Great Alne, Aston Cantlow, Wootton Wawen, Oldberrow and Beaudesert, the same pattern follows as on the Arrow: church and court, castle or manor, lay side by side. Why should Beoley be an exception when it shares so many other common features? The Mount would admirably suit the site of the Beauchamp's seat at Beoley.

Beoley was never one of the major Beauchamp homes; the whole parish was economically backward until XIII, and its chief value lay in its pleasure facilities. It had the greatest woodland entry in Worcestershire in the Domesday Book. Subsequently there was a tremendous amount of assarting by the Cistercians and others, witness at least two moated sites; and under the Beauchamps most of it in fact was parkland, which seems to have been their only interest in Beoley. The public records are full of disputes resulting from infringements of their rights to venison and vert. As late as 1653, after considerable encroachment, the parks still represented 661 acres, nearly one seventh of the present parish. The massive dams below the Mount are relics of these parks: one of the pools is specifically mentioned in 1316; on the tithe map the dam at SP/069688 encloses a field called 'Great Pool Meadow'. In view of this form of land utilisation, one could envisage the Mount as a hunting-seat like Claverdon Park moat, the Pleasaunce at Kenilworth or Hunt End Moat. It is at a greater elevation than any of these, but in this it is comparable with, e.g., Kingsford in Wolverley, a recorded hunting-lodge where it is interesting to note a quite unfounded tradition of a castle has sprung up.

The problem of the ridge and furrow next has to be considered; but this would seem to post-date the earthwork since it confines itself to the more level part of the interior and comes to a definite halt about a yard from the lip of the ditch, in places where the marlpits have not encroached. Below the ditch to the south it begins again on a slightly different orientation, with a definite balk. It is very narrow, about 10 ft in width as opposed to some of certainly pre-enclosure origin in Ipsley which is 18-20 ft. The field names all round the Mount indicate that the area was park, and all these factors taken together would seem to rule out the possibility of the ridge and furrow within the

enclosure being medieval in origin. There is an interesting parallel at Beaudesert Mount where Dugdale describes 'The Trenches themselves, not withstanding their great Depth and Wideness are so filled with Furrows in every part of them to the Great Advantage of the industrious Husbandman whose Pains through the Ranknesse of the Soil hath been richly rewarded with many a plentiful Crop.' (9) The area enclosed by Beoley Mount, nearly 2 acres, would similarly be a worthwhile piece of land to cultivate, especially in a period such as 1812 when corn prices were 112s per quarter. Such efforts at cultivation may account not only for the filling-in of the ditch dividing the baileys at Beaudesert, but also the filling of the ditch on the north side at Beoley, represented today by only a slight depression.

From field and documentary evidence, then, the history of the Mount might very tentatively be reconstructed as follows:- A Pre-Saxon, probably prehistoric earthwork situated on a gravel cap, conforming to the pattern of similar earthworks elsewhere in the Arden - Feckenham region; unoccupied during the Saxon period it may have been re-utilised as a minor strongpoint during XIII and subsequently developed as the manor house/hunting lodge of the Beauchamps during the early medieval period. At some later date, possibly in XIV, the site was deserted for a more suitable location. Later still the interior of the enclosure was taken over for agricultural usage and finally the site was used periodically as a marl pit. How far this hypothetical pattern would hold, only excavation could definitely show.

D. Whitehead

- (1) Cartularium Saxonicum, ed. W. de G. Birch, 3 vols., London, 1885-93 p. 1282; also H.P.R. Finberg, Early Charters of the West Midlands, 1961, p. 117.
- (2) Trans. Birmingham Arch. Society. Vol. 43 pp. 32-40.
- (3) Nash, History of Worcestershire, Vol. 1. p. 68.
- (4) Habington, Survey of Worcestershire. (Worcs. Hist. Society) Pt. 1. p. 68.
- (5) B.K. Roberts, Trans. Birmingham Arch. Soc. Vol. 80. pp. 26-37.
- (6) Nash, op. cit. I. 62.
- (7) Chan. Inq. P.M. 9 Edw. II, No. 71. (1316).
- (8) V.C.H. III (Warwicks.) p. 172.
- (9) W. Dugdale, Antiquities of Warwicks. p. 725.

## TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSITION OF THE SAXON

### BURH OF WORCESTER

L.A. Burgess, investigating the 'Origins of Southampton', reveals some interesting facts about the early pattern of growth in towns. In later Saxon times as conditions became propitious for trade, travelling merchants gradually established their quarters for residence and business outside the walled town but conveniently near it, generally on the sea shore or the banks of a navigable river. He says this has proved to be the case wherever this phase has been reconstructed in Northern Europe. Such a settlement appears to have been called a 'wic(k)' (Vicus=suburb). These were organised privileged communities under their elected wicgerefa or wicreeve. The office of Wicgerefa was merged with that of portreeve when the town eventually extended its wall to include the wic.

Documentary evidence in Worcester would seem to suggest that All Saints Parish held an important place in the trading life of the city centred on All Hallows Square and it would be interesting to know whether the All Hallows market was in fact inside the walls, or outside and therefore the centre of the wic, but this can only be proved by archaeological investigation. All Hallows is an open market place to the north of All Saints Church, at a junction of seven roads. Older residents still remember markets being held here and the fact is also recorded in the scrap books about the parish collected by W.R. Buchanan Dunlop. The last one seems to have been a butter market but there are references to earlier markets in the records. In an act of the reign of Henry VII for instance .... 'It was ordained that the salt market be kept at the well of All Hallows as it was of old time used'. According to an old charter, All Hallows was once called Rotherchepyng. 'Rother' is an old English word for cattle, so translated we get cattlemarket. The same charter gives evidence of a market in Dolday one of the ways into All Hallows ..... 'wherefore it is ordained that from this yeld following, all Walshe Catell coming to the market to be sold be brought in Dolday, and all English Catell in Angel Lane'..... In XVII Angel market became the sheep market and Dolday was assigned to pigs. Dolday is the road with possibly the most ancient name in Worcester attached to it. It is a Welsh name: Dol, meaning meadow, is a not uncommon component of Welsh place names, and the route of Dolday leading from the old river crossing to the higher ground of All Hallows must have led round an area of meadow land subject to flooding. Broad Street is another ancient way in All Saints Parish; former names were The Broad Place, Lata platea and Latus Vicus: possibly part of a foreigners' suburb? Before the building of the present bridge there was an alley, called Rush Alley, that led down to the river from All Hallows in the same direction as the present Bridge Street. Here, the poor rush sellers held their market from time immemorial, until the spring of 1876 when they were driven away by the police. Another way into All Hallows is Blackfriars: a name taken from a piece of land given to the Black Friars in 1272 by the Beauchamps of Powick. Quay Street, known as Keyenstrete and Keinestrete in old charters, led under the walls to the quay and shipping pool. A related name element for certain types of wic(k) is 'poort' or 'port', and there are two streets leading into All

Hallowes which include this in their names: Newport Street and Birdport. In old charters Newport Street from All Hallowes to the site of the old bridge was Eport or Eportstrete: the E here, could stand in old English for 'by the river'. Birdport with former names Brid Port and Britte Port is the way into the oldest part of the city, characterised by the number of old churches. Since the principal meaning of 'port' is, of course, gateway, there may have been one into the city at Birdport: Britte could stand for British and mean the way out to Wales. If this was so, then All Hallowes square was outside the gate. Further evidence to support this is the fact that All Saints Church appears, from evidence of stones found at the base of the tower in 1913, to have been built on the city wall. Since all the streets leading into All Hallowes date from very long ago, certainly before the Norman conquest; the parish shows some of the features mentioned by Mr. Burgess; and the layout does resemble the plans of other European cities built beside rivers, particularly the area of such towns furthest from the Cathedral or monastic establishment, it would seem possible that All Hallowes represents the centre of the wic, established outside the Saxon Burh of Worcester.

Mrs. G. Talbut

#### THE CANOE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Most people are familiar with the excitement of underwater archaeology but archaeology by canoe is something new. It is in the field of industrial archaeology that ditch crawling by canoe could make an important contribution to research, since industrial archaeology is concerned with waterways and waterpower, and the study of canals, flashlocks, wharves, quays, watermills and water forges, which can often be explored only from the water source itself. In the period of the Industrial Revolution the early factories and mills were dependent on waterpower, and rivers and streams, now quiet and remote from industry, once throbbed to the sounds of waterwheels, the hammers and machines. From the machines, water-carried goods were sent to the store-houses in the river ports, using canalised brooks and rivers, and raw materials came back by way of return. With the invention of the steam engine waterpower was no longer required, and the mills and wharves were gradually abandoned as the industries moved to the coalfields where fuel and raw materials could be obtained cheaply. The old works in the river valleys fell into ruins and were forgotten. Yet it was these works that started Britain's industrial superiority in XVIII and XIX, and it is the remains of these works that industrial archaeologists are now trying to rediscover, and to map, measure and photograph. In and around Worcs there is much that has yet to be fully investigated. The rivers Teme, Salwarpe, Stour, Rea and Lugg were once navigable, and had flashlocks on them, but these have long been abandoned and only a trace of old masonry at places where there are shallows indicate their positions. To identify these positively would be of real historical value. The work of one of the greatest of the early waterway pioneers, Andrew Yarranton, a captain in the Parliamentary forces during the Civil War, can be found on many Worcs. rivers. He not only built locks on the Avon, Salwarpe and Stour, but also on

Dick Brook, off the Severn upstream of Shrawley. It was here that exploration by canoe proved its worth. This brook still has two substantial locks near its mouth, and it was believed that the upper one of these two was the transshipment point for the raw materials being transported to Yarranton's forge and furnace further upstream. However, this would imply a fairly long overland journey, and since the brook was navigable further upstream, it would seem more logical to take the raw material to a nearer water point. As no other constructions were visible from the land besides the two lower locks, the stream was explored by canoe, and traces of masonry were found at two or three locations upstream. Though not yet proved these may well be remains of locks built by Yarranton and since robbed of most of their stonework.

On the river Rea there are the ruins of two iron furnaces which were working well into XVIII, and between the two, there appears to have been a navigation system but it is very difficult to examine this from the banks. Another pair of forges off the Severn at Erdington, just south of Bridgenorth, has an underground canal linking the two, ending in a water-dock high in the sandstone cliff. Further exploration by canoe on these and other streams used for industrial purposes, is likely to be well rewarded.

H.W. Gwilliam

#### BOTANICAL MATERIAL

Miss Winifred Hutton of Longacre, Higford Lane, Beckbury, nr. Shifnal, Salop (Ryton 248) would be interested to hear from anyone who would welcome her assistance on excavations where botanical material is likely to be present, i.e. in waterlogged deposits, buried soils, pits or wells.

## AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

Jim Pickering

In broad principles, 1970 was a good year climatically for crop marks, and although a good number of new sites was recorded, results were not as good as expected on the Avon. The Trent proved to be much more prolific and many areas away from the river gravels produced better results.

A new factor in the formation of crop marks is the increasing use of cereals with a very short straw, more suitable for combine harvesting than the long straw cereals. Root growth of these types does not penetrate much below plough depth, whereas the longer straw has much deeper root penetration. This not only reduces the number of sites that produce crop marks, but also the number of features within a site. The features are also less well defined.

There was a considerable loss of crop marks from heavy thunderstorms at the end of June. The effect of these storms, which varied greatly in intensity in different areas, was to wash out crop marks, and the Avon area was generally one of the worse affected areas. However many more sites of Roman character were recorded around Wasperton and a substantial double ditched enclosure was recorded at Tiddington. Church Lawford air field area provided many new features and the Bretford area produced some new and interesting sites. A new type of enclosure was recorded below Madmarston and other sites were recorded near Compton Wynyates.

One of the most interesting sites was at Long Itchington, where a complex of these equally sized ring ditches plus a longer ditch seem to be the large mound and small mound named in the Long Itchington Bounds of AD 705. Identical complexes have been recorded at a number of places throughout the Midlands. They are usually outside the known main settlement pattern. There seems to be a similar complex on the Rhine in Germany.

The River Tame north of Tamworth produced many more sites. Sufficient sites have now been recorded here to show that virtually every field on the gravel terraces has a site and that this pattern extends all the way along the River Trent to north of Newark. The favourable climate this year produced a number of sites between the Tame and Wall and in many areas not normally regarded as suitable for crop marks. Linking settlement patterns too closely to the river gravels can no longer be regarded as valid and the whole problem requires radical rethinking.

Jim Pickering



Arnold Baker

The results from aerial reconnaissance this season were most rewarding, the weather remaining dry for the critical period of crop development. It must be borne in mind that in addition to prevailing weather conditions, the recovery of new sites is also dependent on a favourable distribution of crops. The Wye valley for example yielded little in the way of new features west of Hereford, compared with the area south and east of Wroxeter which was most productive.

Of the many new sites recorded, the remains of Roman military installations were well in evidence. To the east of Wroxeter is what appears to be a fortress occupying an area of some 20 acres, so far as can be judged from an initial assessment. The SW and NE corners were well defined by a triple ditched defensive system. The site lies to the south of Eaton Constantine in a good commanding position on rising ground overlooking the Severn. That it should remain undiscovered, although the area has been under intensive aerial observation for many years, comes as no surprise and serves to emphasise the importance of continuity in aerial reconnaissance.

Fragmentary evidence has also been recorded for two or possibly three temporary camps in the vicinity. Without doubt this site represents the most important military discovery in the area so far, and its impact on the archaeology of the West Midlands must await the outcome of excavation.

The fort at Buchton was most impressive, crop marks outlining the remains of the Principia and Commandant's house. To the east of the fort the bath-house has never appeared with such clarity. At Wistanston, north of Craven Arms, the long suspected fort in that area is situated to the SW on relatively high ground. The defences enclose an area of approximately 5 acres sufficient for a Military Cohort, three of the gate positions were visible indicating that the Portu Praetoria faced east. A further temporary camp of some 15 acres was also observed at Buslington, west of Pennocrucium, on the Watling Street.

The evidence for Roman temporary camps at Greensforge has hitherto been inconclusive; now crop marks confirm a temporary camp site to the north of the existing forts, with two more to the SW.

South of Stratford-on-Avon is a feature comprising a corner and two sides of a triple ditched enclosure. The site is an enigma, for the inner ditch does not exhibit as large a radius as one would expect from a Roman military installation. On the other hand, the site is too extensive for a settlement or farm community; moreover the second ditch shows a rounded corner of military characteristics. A fort in this area would not be out of place in relation to the Fosse Way and the road south from Stratford-on-Avon.

The contribution to rural settlement in the form of enclosures, pits, and ditches was significant, particularly in the valleys of the Severn and Avon. Other features such as double ditches or lanes are now appearing in the West Midlands, at Barford, Wroxeter, and Bredon, similar to the many examples recorded in the Thames Valley. The spacing and continuity varies, some appear in isolation and others in association with enclosures or circles. One can only speculate as to their purpose, but clearly consideration must now be given to this form of monument in the West Midlands.

The complexity of settlement observed in the Thames Valley from Oxford to Cricklade was astonishing. During the limited flights undertaken it was not possible to record all the features observed, but from the results comparisons can be made with sites now appearing in the **West Midlands**.

Arnold Baker

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

(reprinted from Alta, no. 11, 1970)

### Introduction

Archaeology is associated in the public mind with digging and finds. This attitude is encouraged by the display of objects in museums and by the coverage given by press and television to spectacular finds and excavations. The popularity of archaeology as a leisure pursuit (and as a subject to read at the University) is often similarly orientated to digging and finding things. Even among those fully involved in archaeology, excavation often outstrips the ability to publish the results. This is not wholly the result of archaeologists being 'dig-happy'. Everywhere, and not least in Britain, sites are being destroyed at an ever-increasing rate, and only a small proportion is being examined before they disappear.

There are of course other kinds of archaeology; they include non-excavational field work, such as the recording and survey of earthworks and buildings: work on museum collections and published material: and the synthesis of all types of evidence, which can be done entirely in a library.

In this country, recording, excavation and synthesis are done by many different bodies, including University departments, the Ministry of Public Building and Works (MOPBW), the Royal Commissions on Historical Monuments, the Ordnance Survey, Museums, local authorities, and - especially characteristic of British archaeology - the local archaeology society. The MOPBW undertakes the preservation of existing monuments and the excavation of those which are about to be destroyed by commercial and other interests.

The role of the Universities in archaeology has been much discussed. Most include some archaeology in their curricula, though only a few have independent departments. A considerable number of professional archaeologists derive their livelihood from academic posts. Some of these do research based mainly on published and museum material. Others do a good deal of excavation, and are more concerned with the recovery of primary data than with its interpretation. Teaching varies considerably from the purely academic to practical training in the field. It is possible to graduate in archaeology in more than one university without ever having been on an excavation. Although the subject is very little taught in schools, the number of applications to read archaeology exceeds the available places; students seem to be undaunted by the small number of jobs at present available to graduates.

As in some other subjects, discussion centres on the extent to which university archaeology should be self-contained, and geared to teaching and research; or involved in the subject on the regional, national or international level. Should a university archaeology department be concerned with British archaeology at all, except

inasmuch as this is part of the European or world scene?

This article examines the resources of archaeology in this university, and how they might profitably be reorganised. I have sought the views of my colleagues, and have tried to express the varying opinions they hold. I have concentrated mainly on the practical and local rather than the academic aspects of archaeology, and to this extent what follows does not present a balanced view of all the activities of archaeologists in the university.

Figure 3: Structure and Personnel

ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Department of Ancient History and Archaeology	Centre of West African Studies	Department of Extra-Mural Studies	Department of Latin	School of History
Professor F.J. Tritsch- Near East and Greece		G.A. Webster (Staff Tutor)- Roman	J.J.Wilkes- Roman	P.A.Rahtz- Medieval
P. Gelling- Iron Age, Anglo- Saxon and Viking		S.C. Stanford- Prehistoric		A.A.M.Bryer- Byzantine
R.A. Tomlinson- Classical		P.A. Barker- Roman and Medieval		
L.H. Barfield- European Pre- history		M.M. Rix-Industrial		
Mrs. H. Waterhouse- Classical				
(Shared with Department of Ancient History and Archaeology)		C.R.Flight- Palaeolithic and West Africa		

Structure and Personnel

Staff concerned with the teaching of archaeology are shown in figure 3. Their range of research is wide in the periods they study and in the places where they have worked or in which they are interested (see maps and key). The amount and frequency of field work undertaken varies considerably from person to person of course.

Archaeology is combined with Ancient History in a Department which aims to present a study of ancient societies on a broad basis; its courses are unique in this country and make other university archaeology departments seem more specialised in comparison. Teaching ranges in period from Palaeolithic to early medieval, and geographically from Greenland to the Near East. Integration of Archaeology with Ancient History is considered by the Department to be an essential feature of these studies. Students are required to

do field work and to take part in excavations in England and abroad. An aims and methods course in the first year is followed by practical training in the field on the department's excavations on such varying sites as prehistoric and Viking settlements in Orkney, a Roman building at Droitwich, a neolithic settlement in Italy, or classical sites in Greece. Post-graduate work is currently being undertaken on British prehistory, Mesopotamian seals, Egyptology, and many other subjects. Students of the Department organise the University Archaeological Society, which draws its numerous membership from many departments; they have an excellent lecture programme, and occasional excursions; they also publish an annual Bulletin of articles and lecture summaries.

Medieval archaeology is also taught in the School of History. Here it forms part of the teaching of history, as a supplement to written sources. All students have some introduction to the nature of archaeological evidence, in the hope that they will use it in their work. Some go on to take special courses in medieval archaeology. Most of the teaching is based on British and NW European topics, with a special emphasis on periods for which there is little documentation, such as that of transition from Roman Britain to Anglo-Saxon England. Combined documentary and archaeological approaches have proved valuable in subjects of later periods, especially that of the English medieval village. Students doing special courses also take part in excavations organised by the School of History and the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology.

African, American and Russian archaeology are included to a small extent in the main courses of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology and the School of History. A recent development has been the appointment of an archaeologist specialising in West African Studies, who will also organise University expeditions to work in West Africa.

The Department of Extra-Mural Studies runs a wide variety of courses; archaeology is their second most popular subject. The staff includes specialists in prehistoric, Roman, medieval and industrial archaeology, with a large number of part-time tutors, including most of the intra-mural staff. Apart from evening classes, practical training has been an important part of extra-mural teaching, based mainly on the excavations of the Roman town of VIROCONIUM (Wroxeter). Courses at different levels are run at the Foyle Centre which has permanent buildings and training facilities catering for about fifty students a year; these have been the main source of active amateur archaeology in the West Midlands and further afield. The Department has also financed and recorded an aerial survey, and is organising a library of several thousand air photographs. It also publishes annually the West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet.

The staff plays an important role in supporting local archaeological societies, and attempting to preserve West Midland archaeological sites, or excavating them when this proves impossible.

## Research

The maps show the geographical range of field activities financed by the university and other bodies (especially, in England, the MOPBW), and areas of research interest. Field work is only a part of research activity, and to some only a minor part compared to that of synthesis; but it does produce new data, and helps to keep teaching and students abreast of current work. Excavations also provide practical experience for students who want to be 'dirt' archaeologists, and sometimes paid vacation work for those who do not.

## Links with other departments

One of the most important aspects of archaeology is that although all the teaching appointments are in the Arts Faculty, or considered as arts subjects in the extra-mural department, the subject provides a bridge between Arts and Science disciplines. Increasingly, archaeologists are dependent on natural sciences for extending the range of information that can be learned from the ground itself, or from objects recovered from it. Assistance is sought not only on relatively straightforward matters such as X-raying metal objects and geological identification, but on more complex matters such as radio-carbon age determination. With the revolution in archaeological thinking that is now taking place,<sup>(1)</sup> more use will be made of statistical techniques; the computer centre has been involved in several archaeological projects, including, for instance, the three-dimensional representation by computer of levelling and proton-magnetometer data. The co-operation between archaeologists and scientists is not merely a one-way traffic. Some of the archaeological problems are within areas of scientific research and excavations can provide materials from unique contexts.

### Figure 5: Science and Archaeology

#### SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH ARCHAEOLOGY

ANATOMY	GEOLOGY with GEOPHYSICS	CHEMISTRY	PHYSICAL METALLURGY
Human remains	Stone identifications; objects and pottery inclusions	Analysis of pottery, metals, and organic matter	Study of metals and techniques of manufacture by X-ray and other techniques
BIOCHEMISTRY	Chemical and/or mineralogical compositions of pottery and glass	PHYSICS	COMPUTER CENTRE
Identification of material of biological origin	Identification of entymological remains in wells, cesspits, etc.	Dating of pottery, pot-boilers, and other	Use of computers in archaeology

(1) Cf. Antiquity XLII, no. 168 (Dec. 1968), 255-262; and ibid. XLIV, no. 173 (March 1970), 26-37; also World Archaeology 1, nos. 1-3 (1969-1970).

		PHYSICS
		artifacts by Thermolumin- escence
ZOOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY	Pollen analysis	
	<hr/>	
	Radio-Carbon dating	PURE MATHEMATICS
	<hr/>	
Study of animal bones and con- clusions on animal husbandry	Geological control of site-locations, trade routes, etc.	Use of statistics in archaeology
	<hr/>	
MICROBIOLOGY	Location of buried features before excavation (Proton- magnetometer, etc.)	
Study of microbes in cesspits, etc.		

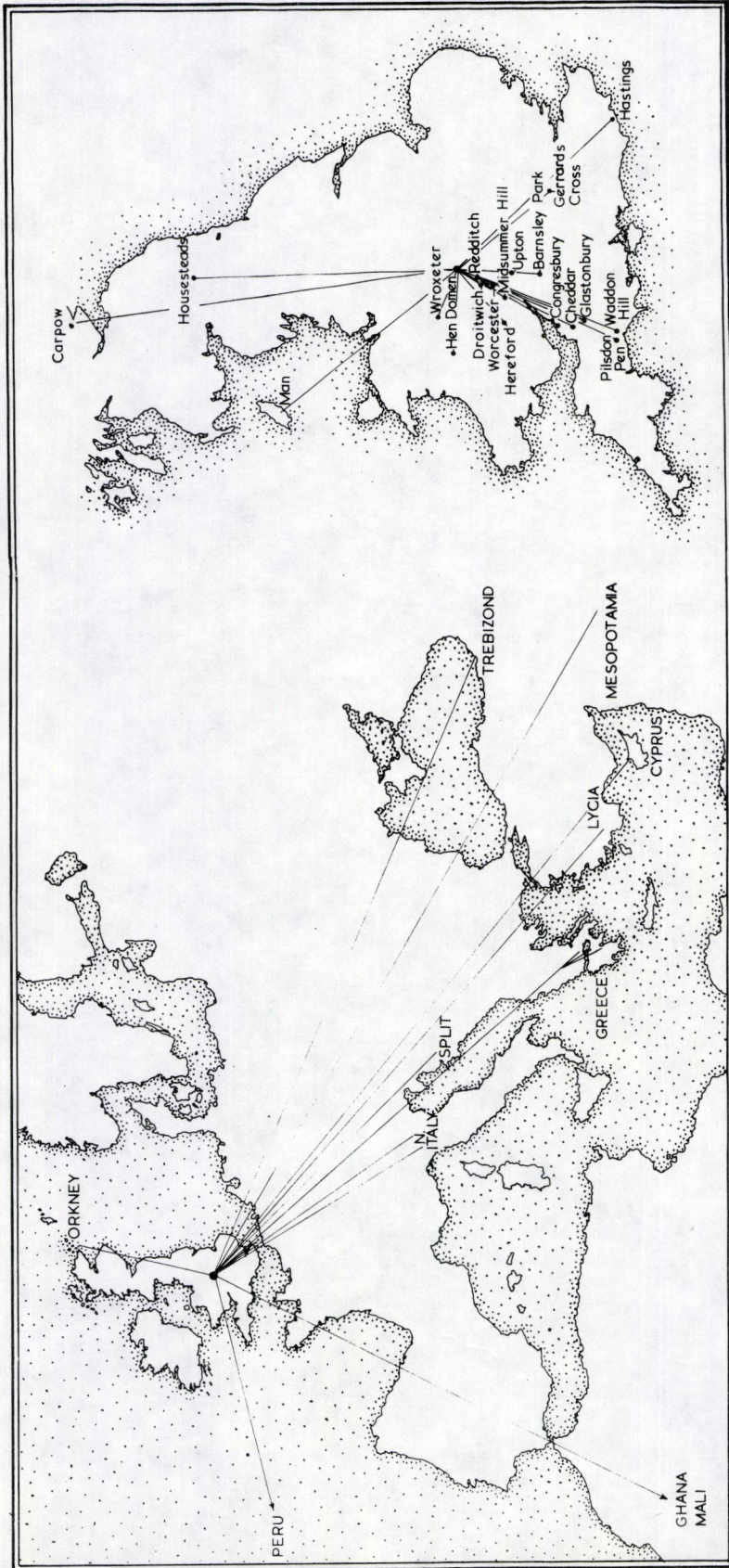
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The interchange of information and help is organised through a Science and Archaeology committee, set up to ensure that interested parties know who to contact; it also holds occasional meetings to discuss specific topics. One was recently held on the principles and application of radio-carbon dating and another on thermoluminescence, a more recent dating technique being developed in the Department of Physics.

One of the most important fruits of this committee has been the establishment of three-year fellowships working in Science departments for archaeology. The first of these was held by David Peacock (Geology) who achieved revolutionary results in the petrological and chemical analysis of pottery, which has had repercussions on the study of the manufacture and distribution of prehistoric, Roman, and later pottery. The present holder is Barbara Noddle (Zoology) whose work on domestic animal bones promises equally important results in this much neglected subject.

Important though these Arts/Science links are, they are made on an ad hoc basis, even if co-ordinated through the Committee. The scientists concerned cannot be expected to give more than a small amount of time to archaeological problems: it is gratifying that they do so much. Their reports form appendices to the archaeological reports, sometimes unrelated to the text or to each other. It might be better if their main points could be summarised in the text, and the detail gathered into broader studies of particular problems. Yet pure scientists do not usually have the time or interest to interpret this material in archaeological terms - this requires a scientist working in an archaeological department who would act as co-ordinator of scientific work in the university, and introduce the uses of science to all archaeology students. Such posts have existed for some time in London and Southampton and one (for a lecturer in 'environmental archaeology') has just been created at Cardiff. We might hope that such an appointment could be given high priority when considering new posts in this university.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM : FIELD WORK, EXCAVATIONS, AND SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST



Key

- Cyprus—Peno, Bronze Age settlement.
- Ghana—Kintampo, cave excavation, quern, factory and occupation.
- Greece—Parachora, temple settlement, and field work elsewhere.
- Lycia—Lycian culture.
- Mali—Gao, medieval trading settlement on southern edge of Sahara.
- Mesopotamia—cuneiform inscriptions.
- N. Italy—Fimon, neolithic lakeside settlement.
- Orkney—Skail, Bronze Age and Viking settlements.
- Peru—Cave excavation, research into origin of potato.
- Split—Diocletian's palace, in association with Yugoslav/USA expedition.
- Trebizond—Field work and survey.
- Barnsley Park—Roman Villa.
- Carpow—Roman campaign fortress on River Tay.
- Cheddard—Roman villa and Saxon monastery.
- Congressbury—Iron Age hillfort, re-occupied in post-Roman period.
- Droitwich—Roman building on edge of Roman town.
- Gerrards Cross—Mesolithic site.
- Glastonbury—Saxon and Medieval religious sites.
- Hen Domen—Motte and Bailey Castle.
- Hastings—Motte and Bailey Castle.
- Hereford—Defences of Saxon town.
- Housesteads—Roman fort on Hadrian's wall.
- Man, Isle of—Prehistoric and Viking sites.
- Midsummer Hill—Malvern, Iron Age hillfort.
- Pilsdon Pen—Iron Age hill fort.
- Redditch—Bordesley Cistercian Abbey.
- Upton—Cotswold deserted medieval village.
- Waddon Hill—Roman fort.
- Worcester—Roman and medieval town.
- Wroxeter—Roman town with occupation extending into post-Roman period.



This however would not solve all problems. Neither the lecturer in science/archaeology nor the scientists with whom he has close links can hope to cope with the large and rapidly increasing routine needs of archaeologists in the university, not to mention those in the West Midland area as a whole. Material disintegrates because of lack of facilities for conserving it and much potential information is being lost because of the scarcity of scientists on excavations.

### Local Archaeology

The Department of Extra-Mural Studies is, as already mentioned, deeply committed to local archaeology, since this is very largely the basis of their teaching. Much of their field training is based on local excavations such as those at Wroxeter and the Roman villa at Barnsley Park, which are themselves research projects of considerable importance. This training has in turn led to the formation of local groups who have carried out many minor excavations in their own areas. There is no doubt that this has brought about remarkable changes in West Midlands archaeology. Twenty years ago the area was generally regarded as being not only largely devoid of archaeological sites, but also of archaeologists;<sup>(1)</sup> now it is comparable to the richest areas of England in the density of its ancient settlements, and one of the most active in the exploration of them.

There has been a good deal of co-operation with local authorities in digging in midland towns; one of the most promising of such liaisons is that between the University and the Redditch UDC, who own Bordesley Abbey. The earthworks offer varied archaeological structures including major masonry buildings of the abbey, especially its church; fishponds and other earthworks; industrial areas concerned with iron and bronze working; and preserved wood in waterlogged conditions. With generous financial help from the Redditch UDC a long term programme of research has been started to investigate the history of this Cistercian Abbey, especially its economic background. The site is not only of great historical interest but offers excellent facilities for the systematic instruction of students and this has already begun. Nor is this solely for the benefit of University archaeology. Redditch is to be expanded to a New Town of 150,000 inhabitants and Bordesley Abbey is its only major 'ancient monument'. Its excavation, consolidation, and the eventual setting up of a site museum, will provide a cultural nucleus which will help to establish roots for the New Town population.

These various projects, individually valuable though they may be to intra-mural and extra-mural students, to the West Midland communities, and to archaeological research, are not as fully co-ordinated as they might be. There could be more contact between the staff of the intra-mural and extra-mural departments, and between their students, though there are trends towards greater participation by internal students in local excavations, training courses, and conferences.

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(1) cf. Archaeology of the Birmingham Plateau and its Margins, Archaeol. News Letter 2, no. 6 (October 1949), 85-90.

It can be argued that it is not the business of a University to concern itself with local archaeology, its sites or its affairs; that this is too parochial to be the concern of internal departments; that such departments should concentrate on academic research and teaching at its widest; and that West Midland archaeology is the concern only of the Extra-Mural Department. Such a view is widely held and is probably the main reason for the lack of co-ordination already indicated.

Perhaps greater co-operation and interest on everybody's part could have saved the Roman site at Metchley, <sup>(1)</sup> or at least ensured that it was excavated properly before being destroyed. This is a large and complex fort of the Conquest period with several phases. Within its earthworks, which are now barely visible, were ranges of military buildings. These were of timber and clay construction and the only remains of them are changes in the colour and texture of the soil, from a study of which the plans of the buildings can be recovered. The history of the forts can also be reconstructed from a study of ramparts and ditches and from the pottery and finds.

The SE corner of the forts lies within the campus of the University and the rest within the grounds of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The site has now been almost totally destroyed by University and Hospital expansion. Excavation has taken place from time to time since the mid 1930's, and one of the corner towers of the fort, and a section of the defences, were reconstructed close by the Medical School in 1958. Despite these earlier excavations, which were limited largely to sections of the ramparts and ditches, the true nature and complexity of the site was not realised until 1967 when the area around the camp cottages was excavated. In 1968 and 1969, considerable areas were stripped at a cost of several thousand pounds. The work was financed by the MOPBW and the Birmingham Archaeological Society, and directed by Trevor Rowley, then at the Bordesley College of Education.

The site proved to be extraordinarily complex, and these excavations demonstrated among other things that the chronology of the site had been totally misunderstood. The implications that arose from this work were of wide, even of national importance.

The excavations did little more than reveal the extent of the archaeological problems. Despite the fact that thousands of square feet were methodically excavated, the threatened areas were barely touched, and the natural subsoil was only reached in a few places. It is obvious that a rescue excavation, limited by time and money, was not the proper way to excavate such a site. Slow painstaking excavation over many years was required for a full understanding of the site's history.

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(1) I am indebted to Trevor Rowley for the factual detail concerning the Metchley site.

Birmingham was the only university to have a Roman fort in its campus; it could have been a great monument in an academic institution, if totally excavated and laid out, possibly even reconstructed. Its careful excavation could have been the means of training hundreds of students in advanced field techniques; but the opportunity has been lost, and the forts sacrificed to other interests.

### British Archaeology

On the national as well as on the local scene, archaeology is facing a crisis of unprecedented dimensions. At the same time as aerial photography and intensive field work are multiplying the known number of archaeological sites by tenfold or more, the rate of destruction by building, road-making, gravel and mineral extraction, and intensive agriculture (1) is now so rapid that it is estimated that all except a very small proportion of sites, whose preservation is fought for by legislation, will be gone by the end of the century. The loss of so much unrecorded evidence will considerably diminish the data available for research in future generations. Attempts are made to salvage this evidence by rescue excavation, mainly financed by the MOPBW at a rate of about £200,000 a year. Much of the government's money is channelled through local organisations, such as archaeological societies, museums, or university departments; over £30,000 has been spent in the last five years in this way by University of Birmingham archaeologists on sites threatened with destruction. Rescue excavation is on a totally inadequate scale not only by comparison with what is needed, but what is done in some other countries, notably Holland, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries.

In view of this failure to recover all but a fraction of potential evidence, it is perhaps surprising to an outsider that much of the resources and skill of British archaeologists are being expended on sites which are safe from destruction, such as the two Somerset Cadburys or Silbury Hill. This apparent anomaly arises from a deeply-rooted dichotomy of attitude on the part of archaeologists. Some believe that research proceeds on the question and answer method whereby an archaeologist studying a particular problem will select a site to give the answers he needs; he does not believe that this choice should be influenced at all by considerations of rescue or research. Others maintain that until the rate of destruction dies down, it is the primary concern of archaeologists to recover and publish all the data possible so that future generations have the maximum amount of material to work on. It should also be emphasized that sites do not merely provide answers to problems currently being posed by the investigating archaeologist, but also answers for a multitude of other problems

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(1) These may be justified in the name of 'progress', 'expansion' or 'development'; as we have seen in the case of Metchley, destruction is not confined to non-academic institutions; another example is Bristol, where the construction of the new museum will destroy the site of the castle and part of the Saxon and medieval town!

not yet considered or even formulated; excavations provide a great many questions for a variety of answers!

A compromise view that has found favour recently proposes that although most of the available resources should be directed at threatened sites, the choice of which of these should be totally excavated, examined superficially, or written off, should be related directly to research in each area and period. This can only be done within a framework of planned research at regional and national level. There is, moreover, a case for the very precise excavation of some safe sites, or parts of them, both to assist in the advancement of knowledge, and also to develop new techniques which can be applied to rescue excavations.

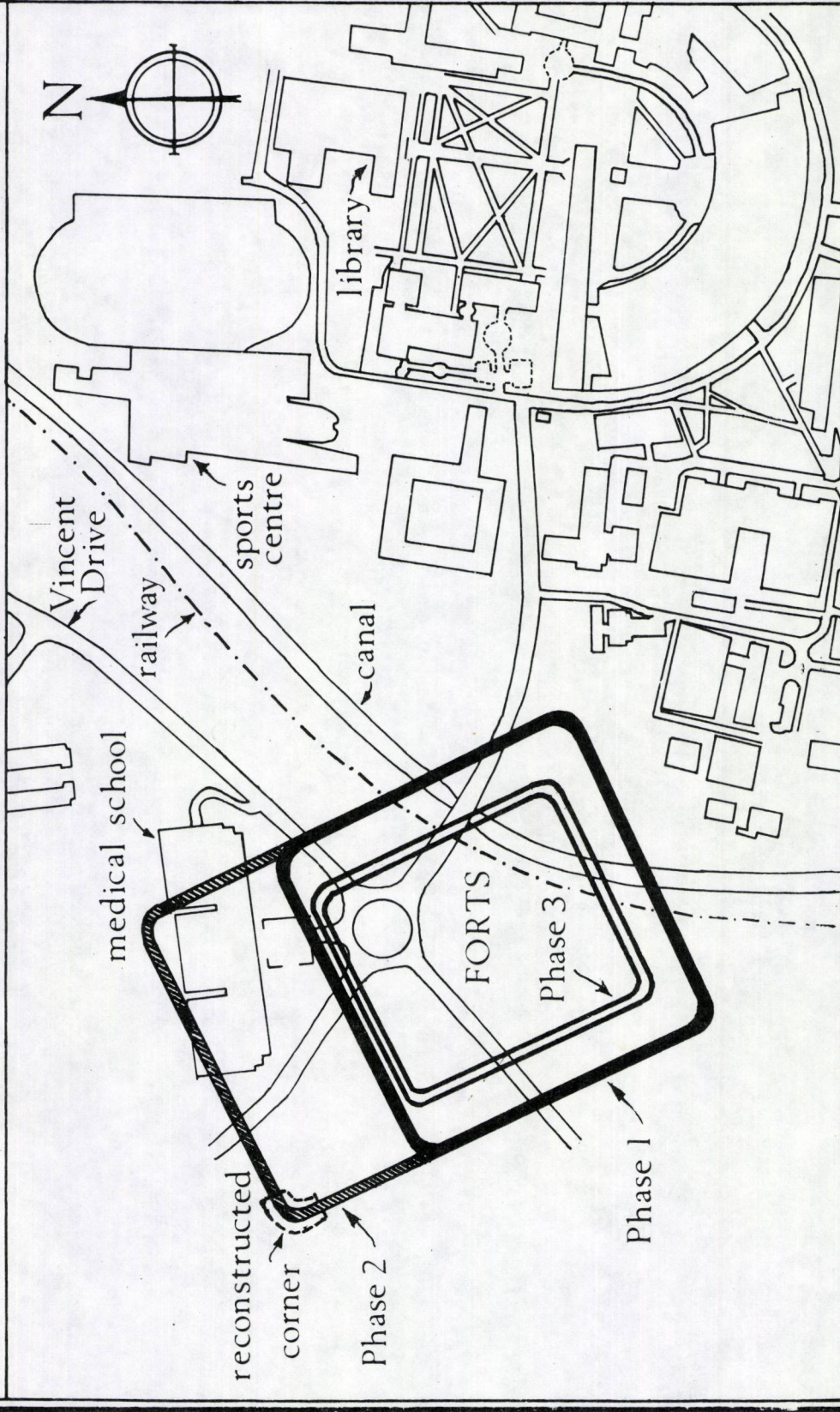
Such a planned programme of research and rescue was envisaged in recent discussions on the reform of the whole structure of British archaeology which took place at Barford, at a three-day conference initiated by the Universities of Bristol and Birmingham and attended by over thirty leading British archaeologists. A scheme was drawn up for the re-organisation of British archaeology which, if implemented, would greatly expand the scope of archaeological research and put rescue excavation on a systematic basis. The scheme involves the setting up of regional organisations under a central officer with a staff who would co-ordinate work in each area. These organisations would record, survey, and fight for the preservation of monuments, draw up research policies, and carry out and publish details of excavations.

Is the crisis in British archaeology the concern of any university, or of this university in particular? There are, after all, monuments being destroyed in other countries; Birmingham University has recently organised rescue excavations in Greece and Cyprus. The work done by university archaeologists on British sites threatened with destruction is already on a considerable scale, and suggests that the university is accepting some responsibility in this direction; some believe that this should remain minimal as far as the internal departments are concerned. British archaeology as a whole, and rescue excavation in Britain especially, is seen as a minor facet of academic research and teaching, and best left to other bodies.

If the Barford scheme ever reaches fruition, it will need not only finance, but also several hundred more archaeologists. Should these be trained in our universities, or in special institutes capable of providing technical as well as academic courses? More than technicians will be needed, and the guiding policies of the regional organisation must not be divorced from academic archaeological thought.

Should Birmingham University remain outside such a regional organisation, in a consultant capacity, or should it be more directly involved? If it were agreed that it should be (and this would at present be a minority opinion), then it could become the nucleus itself, the centre of all West Midland archaeological activity, guiding policies of research and rescue, and integrating its students fully into the work. As we have seen, the University has the manpower, academic skills, some of the practical facilities,

# Metchley Roman Fort, University of Birmingham



and a very interested general public.

### Future developments

What should future policy be for archaeology in the university? Should it remain as it is now, or should there be consolidation of existing facilities? Any decisions on possible re-organisation must obviously hinge on the matters discussed earlier in this article, viz.:

1: The extent to which University archaeology should continue to be split into intra-mural (academic research and teaching, with field-work and excavation playing a minor role, and that not necessarily in Britain, and especially not solely in the West Midlands) and extra-mural (organising local courses, conferences, research groups, training schools for practical archaeologists, and rescue excavations); or whether all this activity could profitably be more co-ordinated than it is at present, for instance by a Board of Archaeological Studies, or a larger Department of Archaeology. Such an organisation could incorporate all the internal archaeologists, strengthen the scientific links, and seek the closest collaboration with the Extra-Mural Department, pooling technical and academic resources. It might well do everything that is being done now, both at home and abroad, and still provide the nucleus of West Midland research, in which students could be fully involved. Expansion of this kind could also provide practical facilities for all archaeologists in the University which are now rather lacking, such as the use of a proper photographic service, drawing and storage facilities, and a laboratory for the conservation and study of finds. Such a research nucleus with facilities of this kind is in operation at the University of Southampton, complete with basic services, scientific equipment, and access to a spectrometer, for both internal and external staff and students.

2: What kind of students are admitted, and what end-product is expected? Not all archaeology students want to be 'dirt' archaeologists; one of the advantages claimed for the close integration of history and archaeology is that these two sides of the same coin do not get separated; that students are in a position to be flexible in the courses they choose. Some students will be primarily historians, others art-historians; the rest, possibly a minority, will wish to be practical archaeologists, who will need adequate training in field techniques. The best answer is probably to provide broad courses at first, with opportunities to specialise in one branch or the other later.

3: Communication: Whatever may be felt about the commitment of various University departments towards British or local archaeology, or how much part excavation should play in teaching or research, it may be generally agreed that fuller and more frequent contact between all university archaeologists can only be beneficial. This could be achieved either by a Board of Studies as already suggested, or more simply by the arrangement of more seminars like those of the Science and Archaeology Committee, to discuss work being done by different people in the University, both archaeologists and scientists, which would be open to all those interested, whether intra-mural or extra-mural, staff or student.

Any discussions on the future of archaeology in Birmingham should take these factors into account, and should consider the interests of all those concerned; these include, as I hope this article has made clear, not only internal and external staff and students, but the whole community which the University serves.

Philip Rahtz

## FIELD WORK

### Field Work in Worcs

A programme of field work and sketch surveying on earthwork sites is being carried out. To date most of the castle sites in the county have been visited; work on DMV sites is in progress; and work on moated sites, of which the card-index at the county museum now records nearly 200 examples in Worcs alone, is just beginning. Where a site is threatened a more accurate survey is being made. The object is eventually to build up a complete series of plans of earthwork sites in the county which should be an invaluable aid to planning future selective excavations.

James Bond

### Elmley Castle, Worcs (SO 980403)

A detailed sketch survey of earthworks on the lower northern slopes of Bredon Hill revealed a complex site amidst which several periods of construction may be discerned.

Periods 1 & 2: Two successive Iron Age hillforts, the outer one with an inturned entrance. In relation to Kemerton Camp on the summit of Bredon Hill, it occupied a downslope position on the northern side similar to Danes Camp at Conderton on the south. Perhaps Conderton and Elmley Castle may be seen as outposts to Kemerton Camp? It is interesting that all three sites clearly show two stages of development, though whether these can be correlated is another matter.

Period 3: A Norman ringwork was added, probably by Robert Despencer around 1080, partly cutting across the line of the inner Iron Age rampart.

Period 4: Subsequently a strong bailey was added SW of the ringwork, possibly by the Beauchamps, who held Elmley Castle from c. 1130-40 onwards; much of this represented an adaptation and strengthening of the inner Iron Age earthwork. Foundations of a stone keep constructed within the ringwork remain, and south of the bailey is a single small square fishpond.

This hypothesis is based on field work alone, and only extensive excavation could prove or disprove it.

James Bond and Mick Aston



## MESOLITHIC

### CBA Mesolithic Survey

A preliminary study of the Mesolithic artifacts from region 7 (Leics, Northants, Rutland, Staffs, Warws, and Worcs ) has been undertaken for the compilation of the Survey's card index, with the result that over 60 cards are now completed. Notification of any new finds, or information on material that has been overlooked would be appreciated.

Lawrence Barfield and Alan Saville,  
Dept. of Ancient History & Archaeology  
University of Birmingham

## MESOLITHIC/NEOLITHIC

A research project is in progress to study the postglacial Stone Age communities of the Central Midlands (i.e. basically region 7 of the CBA Mesolithic Survey). This project involves the initial compilation of a complete corpus of Mesolithic and Neolithic material from the region, leading to an assessment of the human activity this material represents, and a consideration of its economic and socio-cultural implications.

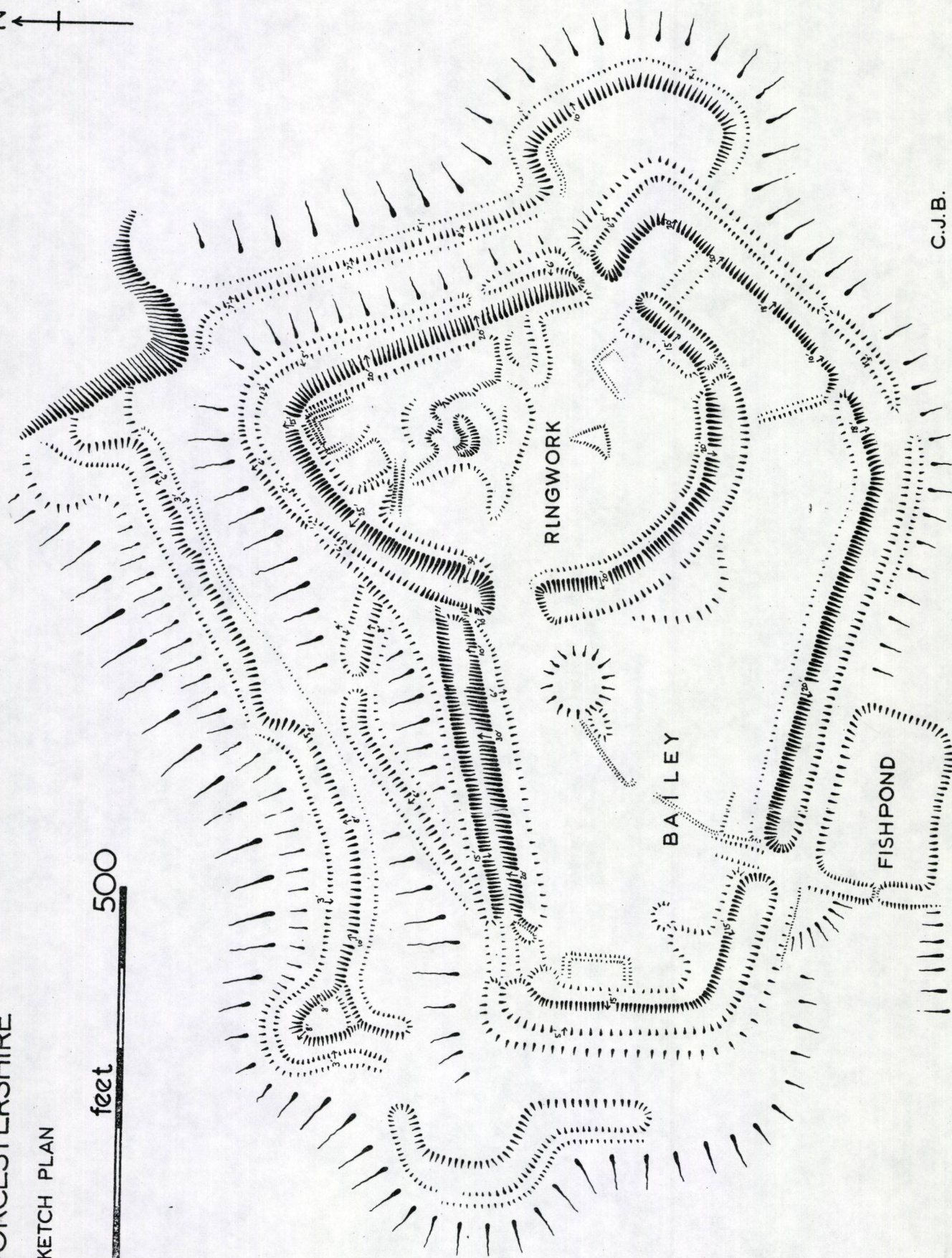
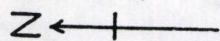
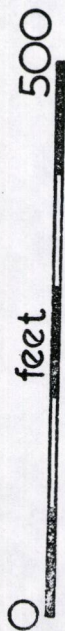
The extent and nature of Mesolithic/Neolithic occupation in this region is at present largely unknown, but recent excavation for example, in the valleys of the Avon and Teme, has indicated that our concept of these areas, in later Neolithic times at least, needs to be radically altered, and it is a reasonable hypothesis that human presence as far back as late glacial times has been seriously underestimated. The lack of attention paid to Stone Age sites until very recently by Midland archaeologists is understandable in view of the urgent need to excavate more tangible sites of Roman or Medieval date, but is no less regrettable. For the whole region, apart from flint concentrations, we have published excavation evidence for only a couple of Neolithic occupation sites and none for Mesolithic encampments. Indeed, it is often the case that the possibility of finding a prehistoric occupation site has only come to light during the excavation of a superimposed historic settlement, as we know from the reports on sites such as Upton Warren, Worcs, and Fisherwick and Wall, Staffs. But how often has such unlooked-for material gone unpublished or even unnoticed? When we are concerned with occupational activity that might be archaeologically detectable only by a few pits, or an arc of stake-holes, or even by a couple of manuports, then it is vital that the slightest evidence be fully recorded.

Nevertheless, a preliminary study of the literature, and the response to a questionnaire sent to all museums in the region, has suggested that enough artifactual evidence already exists for a worthwhile assessment of the period and its problems to be made. The initial information-gathering stage of the project is crucial

# ELMLEY CASTLE

WORCESTERSHIRE

SKETCH PLAN



C.J.B.

to the validity of the research as all the scattered evidence must be analysed, and in this connection I would be very grateful for any help in locating unpublished material, or for any comments and suggestions from anyone interested in this early phase of Midland prehistory.

Alan Saville  
Dept. of Ancient History and  
Archaeology,  
University of Birmingham

Holt, Worcs (SO 825622)

Trial trenching showed that the most impressive features on this crop-mark site (a ring ditch about 140 ft diam and a double ditched sub-rectangular enclosure about 180 by 110 ft had been destroyed by gravel working. However, excavation was possible on a ring ditch some 200 ft to the north, 60 ft diam. The ditch was quasi-circular; its average width was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft and its depth  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. Upcast from the ditch had been deposited inside the circle. The SE quadrant and the central area of the circle were stripped to the natural gravel, and 6 pit features exposed. Two of these, near the centre, had some traces of a red marl lining. One had a little burnt material near the bottom, but not sufficient to suggest a cremation deposit. The other pits had been dug and rapidly back-filled. There was some evidence that all the pits were not dug at the same time. A few shallow stake-holes appeared; these were evidently much later in date than the main features. No pottery or other occupation material was found - the only artifacts were a flint scraper and a few waste flakes and cores. The lack of evidence for a burial might suggest that this site had a ritual function, possibly in the late Neolithic or early Bronze age. The relatively small amount of comparative material in this or other Midland areas creates problems in the interpretation of this type of site.

Alan Hunt

Blakeshall, Wolverley, Worcs (SO 833813)

A dozen or so worked flints including scrapers, possibly of secondary Neolithic origin, were found in a ploughed field by Sebright Farm.

James Bond

Dowles Brook, Bewdley, Worcs (SO 76797639)

A Neolithic polished stone axe was found in the garden of Town Mill. The axe is 11.9 cm long, 5.9 cm wide and 2.6 cm thick and in perfect condition except for a slight fracture at the butt end. The stone has still to be identified.

James Bond

## IRON AGE

### Midsummer Hill Camp, Eastnor, Herefordshire (SO 760375)

Detail added at the South Gate confirmed the previous interpretation of the guard-room sequence and showed that a hut had been built against the rampart tail after the demolition of the stone guard-room on the east side of the gateway. The completion of an extensive excavation in a flatter part of the interior showed that a gridiron of oblong post-built huts averaging 12 by 10 ft overall were set 15 ft apart. They were rebuilt four or five times before being finally burnt, presumably at the Roman Conquest, and there was some infilling as the structures shifted in alignment and became somewhat smaller. Fragments of sleeper trenches, surviving only where they had penetrated the bedrock, may mark the original Iron Age buildings. A conical pit and some nearby hollows seem to be related to Bronze Age activity on the hill.

Stan Stanford  
for Malvern Hills Archaeological  
Committee

### Brandon, Warws (SP 390759)

A large crop-mark site has been located in gravel pits overlooking the river Avon at Brandon. The site, first located by James Pickering, shows a sub-rectangular enclosure some 300 by 200 ft. Excavation has located the enclosure ditch and entrance together with a number of pits. Finds include pottery, part of a loom-weight and rotary querns. All the finds appear to be of late date, possibly within I BC - I AD. The enclosure appears to be an Iron Age farm.

John Bateman

### Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warws (SP 371725)

It is hoped that work will be completed on this site by Christmas 1970. The major area of the site, stripped of top soil, revealed the double circumvallate ditch enclosure and two rectilinear palisade trench/ditch enclosures. It has been difficult to date these complexes but the site probably falls within the late middle Iron Age period to the early Roman period. Further cremation pits were found as a result of stripping top soil prior to gravel extraction. Out of 27 pits only 9 contained pottery, two of these contained fragments only: the remainder of the pottery was identifiable as BA, possibly LBA, cremation urns. A number of saddle querns and stone mortars together with large unworked stones were found in a pit during sand extraction in a nearby field. Two Roman pits were also located.

John Bateman  
for Coventry & District Archaeological  
Society

## ROMAN

### The Lunt Roman Fort, Baginton (SP 344752)

Three main objects were attempted in the 1970 season: firstly, the reconstruction of a further 120 ft (36.58 m) of the eastern defences, including the gateway; secondly, to complete the excavation of the fort's eastern side and explain the sinuous nature of the defences; lastly, to excavate as fully as was possible the phase II principia.

#### THE RECONSTRUCTION

During the 1967-9 seasons the porta principalis sinistra of the phase II fort had been found and examined. During 1970 a generous private donation was made towards reconstructing this gateway and the adjacent ramparts. The gate's design was based upon three main factors: firstly, excavation, which showed the width and breadth of the gateway as well as the size of posts used by the Roman army; the 30 ft (9.14 m) of superstructure was achieved by studying examples of towered timber gateways as shown on Trajan's Column; lastly, guidance and help from colleagues working on similar problems. Mr. Freddie Charles was consulted on the final designs and gave detailed information as to the type of jointing and framing that could have been used. Labour for this project came from three main sources, volunteers, approved schools, and the Royal Engineers. The gateway timbers were prefabricated by traditional hand tools at the Central Depot of the Royal Engineers at Long Marston. The erection was carried out by twenty five men in three days without the aid of modern lifting gear. The whole operation was seen as a research project in an attempt to simulate the original erection techniques as used by the Roman Army. Similarly, the 50 ft (15.24 m) of turf rampart either side of the gate was seen as a quantitative, time and motion study. The rampart fighting platform and crenellation was made like that shown on Trajan's Column, the use of wattle being rejected in favour of round and split timbers. Defensive ditches exposed in front of the ramparts were completely exposed and left open. Now the research aspect has been completed the gateway and its ramparts will be available for public viewing from 1971. The main purpose of the reconstruction will now be to stimulate interest in archaeology among the general public. This will emphasize that archaeology, far from being just a treasure hunt, is primarily concerned with recreation the past from structures, as well as 'finds'.

#### PHASE II EASTERN DEFENCES

The eastern defences were examined to try and explain their unusual sinuosity. Open trenching inside the fort in the area of the projecting defensive 'bulge' supplied the answer. It was found that on the same curvature as the 'bulge' a circular feature 105 ft (32 m) in diameter had been created by the Roman army. As yet only the circumference has been examined in detail but it appears that the interior had been levelled down by removing some 2-3 ft (60 cm - 1 m) of the sand and gravel sub-surface to create a remarkably horizontal surface. The circumference of this circular feature was clearly defined by a change of level and a timber 'slot' some 1ft 6 inches (45 cm) wide to hold a surrounding palisade. It appears that this

circular feature was made during the first phase of occupation and was retained for the subsequent second and third phases when the fort was reduced in size. The intervallum road, rampart and ditch were subsequently curved around its eastern side. At some later stage, possibly in the later third phase the interior of the circle was deliberately filled with a graded mixture of sand gravel and clay. However, only a very limited amount of excavation has been carried out to the natural ground within the interior. Samian pottery and the absence of later finds would point to this belonging to the Neronian-Vespasianic phases.

It would appear to be exceptional to have such a circular feature within a Roman fort and no parallels have as yet been found. It could have been some form of open stockaded arena with the rampart providing tiered seating in a theatre. Within the circle some form of individual weapon training could be carried out or horses exercised and broken.

## PHASE II PRINCIPIA

The principia was located and excavated to help relate the road system and defences to the buildings discovered within the retentura. Its central position proved to be normal as one would expect for principia and it was constructed of timber wattle and daub. On the northern side the normal arrangement of five offices were found, with the east and west ranges either as single rooms or suites of rooms or a colonnaded walk. Unfortunately there was no evidence for partition walls, only a structural wall facing the inner forecourt. On the southern side facing the via principalis a portico had been built. The western side appears to have been narrowed to incorporate the building into an existing road system. The internal forecourt was 50 ft (15.24 m) sq and the overall external size 70 ft (21.3360 m) sq.

The 10 ft wide entrance to the forecourt aligned directly onto the sacellum, within which was found a flat-bottomed pit 5 ft sq (1.52 m). It had been dug some 3 ft (1 m) below the Roman floor level and showed quite clearly the position of corner posts which presumably were used to support a timber floor. This floor, it must be assumed, had a trap-door which opened into the pit, in which the garrison's pay chest was stored. The pit's filling contained six denarii and three asses dating from c. II BC to Vespasian, (AD 69-70). This pit must be seen as a very early forerunner of the small cellars which date from the time of Severus (AD 193-211).

## PHASE III FORT

In excavating the via principalis of the phase II fort a paired system of defensive ditches was discovered. These ditches apparently show the final reduction of the fort to some 2.4 acres (1 hectare) from 3 acres (1.21 hectares) in phase II. In the entrance to the phase II principia a twin portalled gateway 10 x 20 ft (3 m x 6 m) was found. Eight post-holes and pits were discovered showing signs of repair or alteration. The western ditch seems to have been extended into the roadway; it seems that this side of the gateway was blocked, leaving a single gateway which was widened slightly or a pedestrian doorway added. There is little doubt that these

features show the porta praetoria of the phase II fort. From the bottom fill of the SW ditch at the butt-end, an as of Nero (64-68) was recovered.

#### PHASE IV DITCH

The evidence for this latest phase of Roman occupation is some 300 ft (91 m) of ditch on the fort's eastern side. The alignment is similar to the phase II defences and also turns at the fort's SE corner. The general orientation and position of this ditch in relation to the earlier ditches strongly suggest this as a defensive ditch to another fort.

#### FINDS

During 1970 a coin hoard dated to Trajan or later was recovered from the upper fill of the phase III ditch, immediately outside the gateway. This may be associated with the phase IV occupation. The IV hoard comprised of 23 denarii dating from II BC to Domitian and fourteen bronze coins of which the latest was a Trajanic Sestertius (c. AD 113).

A total of 106 stratified coins have now been found which strongly support the fort's main tenure to be c. AD 60-74.

Brian Hobley  
Dept. of Field Archaeology  
Coventry Museum

#### Wroxeter, Shropshire - Summer School

The area of military buildings to the south of the piscina was completed without any significant discoveries. A pit produced an interesting range of military wares many of which were badly distorted. It almost seems as if the quartermaster buried some of the rejects from his store. The vessels did not appear to have been used and may have been whole when dumped. This area cannot be developed any further as we are now confined by the south corridor-wall. The area of the piscina has now been handed over to the Ministry for conservation and eventual opening to the public.

Work was continued on the corridor itself. This has proved to be most useful since it is an area which was left untouched by all previous excavators. The most significant deposit is a layer of roof tile with pieces of molten lead which may represent the demolition of this part of the building. In and under it were radiate coins of late III. This dates this event to the end of this century or early in IV prior to c. 330 when the flood of Constantinian issues would have left examples. The floor of the corridor is very patchy and much disturbed, below a made-up level there is an earlier floor. One of the huts of the University Training Centre prevents the extension of this excavation but it is hoped in 1971 to develop to the west when the Ministry has removed some of its small buildings; when this is completed it should be possible to place the chronology of the

bath-house on a firm basis. It is interesting that the conclusion reached at the south end of the site confirms those of Mr. Barker on the Basilica to the north. It would now seem that the baths ceased functioning probably in early IV. Some parts of this great complex of buildings were demolished, parts used for other purposes and the rest stripped of useful material and left derelict.

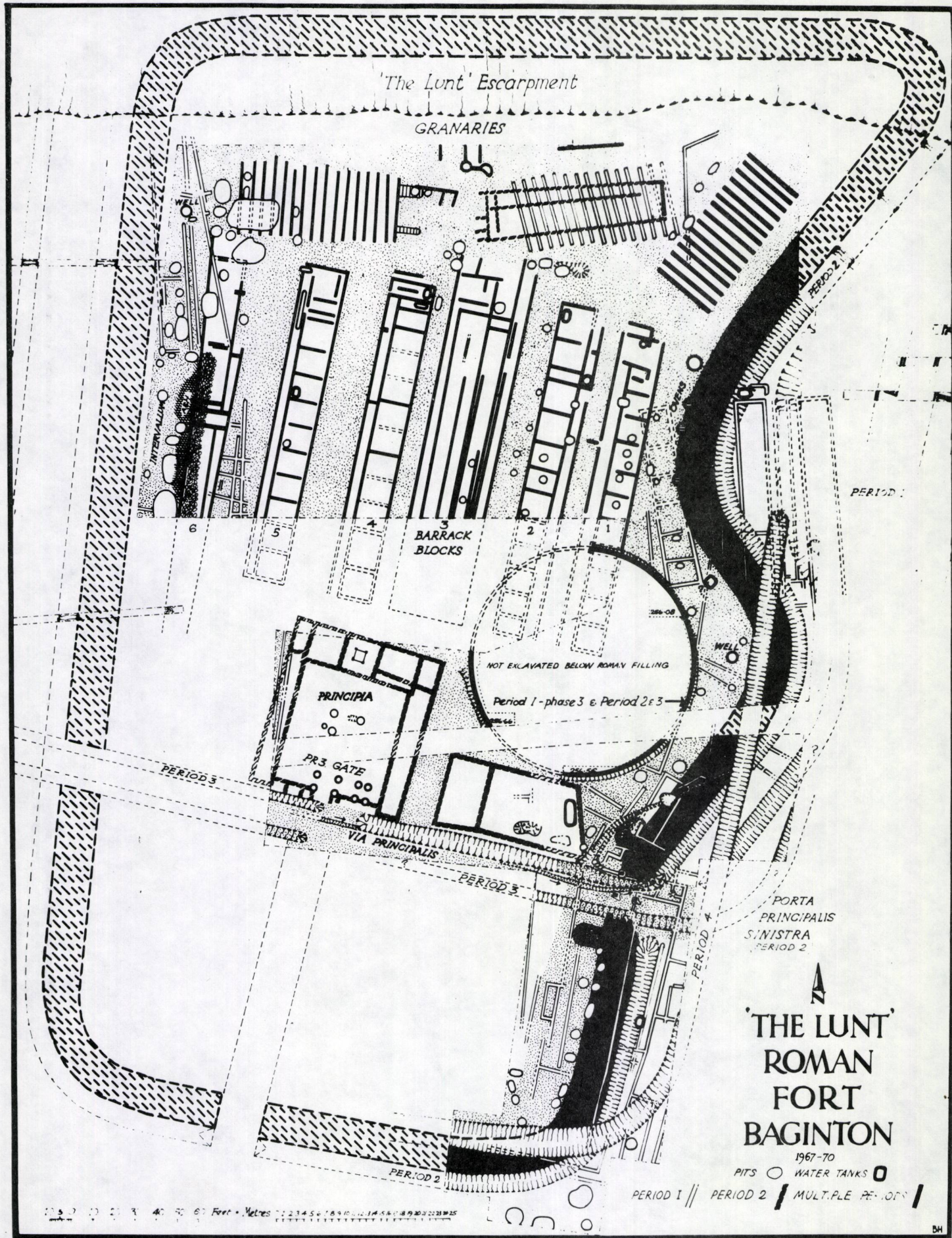
Graham Webster

Wroxeter, Shropshire (SJ 566087) - MOPBW excavation

The excavation of the latest levels on the site of the baths Basilica and the areas to the north and east was continued in 1970; the excavated area, now stripped down to the first archaeological layer, is about 2000 sq m. It is becoming apparent that on complex sites of this kind any smaller area will lead to misinterpretation or the complete loss of the kind of evidence adduced below. The most significant fact which is emerging is the importance of the rubble spread from the destroyed stone building for the understanding of the latest phases. This rubble spread marks a break, not yet understood, in the development of this insula and the one to the north. It seals a number of pebble and mortar floors which lie above the Basilica floor, but it has been cleared from some large area whose buildings can thus be shown to be post-rubble in date. However, at least one of these buildings is classical in design, though built in timber framing and wattle and daub, so that a late Roman rather than a post-Roman date is implied. Close examination of the rubble spread shows where it has been worn by the passage of feet, or used as somewhat impromptu flooring, or where, conversely, it has been covered at an early stage with earth and perhaps grass, and thus been protected from wear.

The townscape of this part of the city in its last phase is now revealing itself. The insula was bounded on the east by a street of large pebbles. Between this street and the parallel baths precinct wall lay the bow-sided wattle buildings of bi- or tri-partite form discovered in 1967/8. In their penultimate phase these buildings and their outhouses had been burnt down, but the burning did not extend beyond the precinct wall which suggests that this was standing to an effective height at the time. The area, about 20 x 26 m, bounded by the precinct walls and the eastern end of the basilica contains no random rubble spread. Within this area there is a patch of featureless ground close to a recilinear pebble surface lying diagonally to the precinct wall. A scatter of post-holes and stake-holes suggests that this pebble surface was within a building though this cannot be proved. Nearby, a rectangular spread of sandstone rubble, 14 x 5 m has a tightly packed area of worn sandstone blocks at its centre. The whole seems to be the foundation for a timber-framed building leaning-to against the northern precinct wall. An area of worn compacted rubble-spread immediately outside a break in the wall foundations implies that there was an opening here when the wall was standing, giving access on to the abandoned street, which is covered with rubble, incoherently distributed, though worn in places.





THE LUNT  
ROMAN  
FORT  
BAGINTON



1967-70

PITS ○ WATER TANKS □

PERIOD I // PERIOD 2 / MULTIPLE PERIODS |

The most remarkable and mysterious activity of this last occupation was the removal to a depth of about a metre of a large stretch of the cobbled street north of the former Basilica, and its replacement by a bed of fine gravel, which weathers badly and is very soft in wet conditions. This impractical surface must have had some special purpose, which is at present unknown. It may have been covered, since it would hardly survive one winter's use, but there is no sign of the heavy roof supports which would be needed. Flanking this new street surface were the facades of at least two buildings, one of them a timber and wattle portico, symmetrical, and sunk a little into the ground to level the massive uprights of the framed structure; the other a clay foundation, square, with shallow post-sockets. There is presumptive evidence that these buildings, the gravel street, and the last buildings within the precinct were contemporary, but there is nothing to show that the bow-sided buildings outside the precinct on the east were of the same date - the history of that area could be quite separate.

Among the areas of rubble spread surviving over the site of the Basilica one small square patch of very closely compacted material, perhaps a floor, overlies the line of the robbed north wall of the Basilica, strengthening the impression that this great building had been demolished and its walls robbed before the abandonment of the city (if it ever was totally abandoned). The pottery and coin evidence, which has yet to be fully studied, suggests demolition of the Basilica in the mid-years of IV. Discontinuous mortar and pebble floors lying over its herring-bone tiled floors, but sealed by the rubble spread, suggest a complex sequence of events before its final levelling.

The evidence for the history of Viroconium in its late - and post-Roman periods is gradually accumulating. The recent discovery within the city defences of the tombstone of a late V Irish chieftain, Cunorix (see below); the recognition of a Francisca or Frankish throwing axe, of similar date, found in the baths area in XIX and now in Rowley's house Museum, and the recovery last year of three martio-barbuli, lead weighted legionary javelin heads of late IV or early V, to go with the one already in Shrewsbury, coupled with the superficially Germanic plan of the last buildings outside the precinct wall, and the classical plans of those inside, imply a most complicated situation in the city's final stages.

One can add to these pointers aerial photographs of a field within the north-eastern defences of the city, where cropmarks show what appears to be a large area of timber buildings contained within a rectilinear pattern of ditches. There are also dozens of pits, many of them rectangular and aligned with the ditches. The whole complex bears a remarkable resemblance to aerial photographs of the excavated sites of early Anglo-Saxon settlements with grubenhäuser. As this field, which is ploughed annually, is of soft sand and is in part steeply sloping, its investigation is a matter of urgency. If this settlement should prove to be late- or post-Roman its relationship to the Saxon village of Wroxeter, at the other end of the city, would be of great interest.

The problems of Wroxeter cannot be divorced from those of the other major sites of the region: the Wrekin and the Breidden, the latter with its suggestion of post-Roman refortification: the Berth, with its dark-age cauldron and its association with Cynddylan, Prince of Powys, the territory which seems to be co-terminous with that of the Cornovii; and Shrewsbury itself, not mentioned before but, probably after a number of shifts of the centre of gravity, the ultimate successor to Viroconium as capital of the region.

Philip Barker  
University of Birmingham  
Department of Extramural Studies

#### Wroxeter, Shropshire - Shropshire Roman Research Group

For some years past, work by the Shropshire Roman Research Group has been concentrated on the defences of VIROCONIUM in late II. The slowly increasing body of evidence supports Dr. G. Webster's hypothesis, expressed in 1960, that when in AD 197 following the elimination of Commodus in AD 192 the British Governor, Clodius Albinus denuded Britain of troops and decided to fight it out for the supreme position north of LUGDVNVM (Lyons) the bitter, restless and revengeful tribes of Powisland would have seized the opportunity to exact a terrible retribution from the open civitas.

It seems likely that some defences were erected at once and that the turf revetted stone wall, bastions and gates were added later. There is no archaeological evidence yet to date the wall.

At the Finger Post cottage site (SJ 568083) where the modern road from Ironbridge bifurcates as it enters the ancient city, the triple ditch system butts up to a 20 ft wide road as it emerges from beneath the modern road. It aims in the general direction of Wroxeter church and shortly provides access to a building all the chambers of which face towards the pleasant SW. The exposed NE aspect was protected by a long wall. A hypocaust with a simple but charming mosaic was found. The road itself was about 2 ft thick, badly constructed and hastily pitched. The pottery found in the unstable make-up was of Flavian period and one brooch found in the road together with two trodden into the surface appear to be not anterior to AD110. A well chased bronze dolphin, of applique style, was also found on the road surface. Quantities of butchered beef bones were flung into the middle ditch and beyond the small outer ditch some scores of sea oyster shells were found. (British Museum, Dept. of Natural History)

On the upper layer of a late IV deposit between the inner and middle ditches was the upper part of the right femur of a young person with evidence of a sword slash at the front. Death would have resulted in 20 minutes from severance of the femoral artery. This specimen is at present in the care of Prof. J. Camps of the Police Forensic Lab. and his final report is awaited. On the broken mosaic surface of the building above mentioned was the R collar bone of a young person.

The footings of the wall, here 8 ft thick, were demonstrated crossing the earlier road.

To the south, in field 459 (OS 25") a further section across the defences is at present being excavated. It seems certain that the linear feature in which at present a small brook runs, is in fact, the innermost defensive ditch. In 4 tons of ditch silt, from the middle ditch two small fragments of high fired grey ware were found.

Routine aerial reconnaissance by our active flying group, in 1969, filled in more details of the street system. A street is now seen to run parallel to the inner side of the ramparts north of the Ironbridge road from Finger Post cottage. There is as yet no evidence of any extension of the regular street system outside the late ramparts. We increasingly favour the view that the rectangular (or sub-rectangular) street pattern was developed after the end of II. However, examination of the ploughed topsoil well beyond these defences reveals clear evidence of the presence there of substantial stone buildings.

An inscribed stone built into a wall in Wroxeter village has recently been identified and the owner has kindly given permission for its removal; the lettering is very worn and has not yet been deciphered.

Another stone, a memorial of outstanding importance was found within the NE ramparts in 1967 by J. Rogers, a local farmworker. It is the gravestone of one CVNORIX probably an Irishman. Wright and Jackson have published a full account in the Antiq Journal 48 (1968) 296. The stone is evidence that the use of Latin and some kind of organised life continued at VIROCONIVM as late as c. AD 480.

CVNORIX  
MACVSMA  
QUICOLINE

Professor K. Jackson interprets this as CVNORIX MACVS MAQUICOLINE, i.e., partly Latinised primitive Irish and further states 'Note in Celtic: cuno = 'hound' and Rix = 'king' or 'lion-like king' or 'mighty king'. No trace of mortar was found in the stone and it has been suggested that it has originally been part of a much larger gravestone possibly broken up for use as building stone. The lettering was pecked, irregular and rough. Jackson's last paragraph is of great interest. 'The conclusion seems to be that the person commemorated here was one of the Irishmen settled in Wales by the Romans, or one of their descendants, Cunorix, son of Maqqos - Coline by name, who died at Wroxeter, where some Latin was still current, somewhere roughly about AD 460-475 or 80.'

John Houghton  
for Shropshire Roman Research Group

Lea Cross, Pontesbury (SJ 417085)

Lea Cross was discovered in November 1793 and rediscovered by Houghton in 1956. Excavation for the Shropshire Archaeological Society in 1969-70 has concentrated on an area of 2250 sq ft. The site has been extensively robbed in XVIII and there is much evidence for the removal of opus signinum and mosaic floors as well as wall structures; building material abounds on the site and includes hypocaust pilae and box-flue tiles, painted wall plaster of various colours, and slate roofing tiles as well as tegulae and imbrex tiles.

Phase 1 (Building 1)

The only surviving features were part of the north wall of a very solid masonry structure 4 ft thick of sandstone blocks mortared with a pink cement, and a small fragment of the base of a hypocaust which is itself an apparently secondary feature. Two tentative suggestions are made (a) that this first building was a bath-house (which would account for the heavy walls and its situation in low-lying ground near the river), (b) that destruction of the floors may have been carried out in later Roman times to obtain tile. Fragments of mosaic floor (presumably that drawn by Telford and published in Victoria County History of Shropshire Vol. 1) were found in the ploughsoil, one fragment clearly being part of a guilloche pattern in red, black, blue and white tesserae.

Phase 2

It is suggested that Phase 1 was of the earlier part of II. Modifications in Phase 2 consist of the patching and rebuilding of the north wall of the Phase 1 building and the attachment of Rooms 2 and 3 to this structure. Room 2 contained the sandstone block foundation of a probable cistern or bath, which drained through the floor of the room probably by a pipe covered with tiles, extended by a V-shaped gully cut in the natural clay. The whole room was filled with masses of soot and burning mixed with sandstone blocks, the whole severely disturbed. The building of Phase 2 must be seen as either a modification of the original bath? - house or turned to some industrial use in which a water supply was necessary.

Phase 3 (Building 3)

A completely different form of building was constructed against the north wall of the first two buildings. This building was being used in the latter part of III and perhaps not occupied far into IV. This building is a substantial barn. The floor of the barn was of closely packed sandstone rubble supporting flat sandstone blocks.

Two secondary internal structures were present in the barn:-

Room 5

- 1) A flue (?) - channel made of re-used tiles; probable a corn-dryer.

Room 6.

- 2) A recess or platform was built adjacent to this structure probably entered from outside the building. This could be seen as a loading-bay for corn for the corn dryer.

Considerable amounts of wall plaster have been found of different textures and colours. The main colours are white, red, green, brown, and yellow and occasional suggestions of superimposed design are found.

From the sophistication of a well-constructed establishment with hypocausts and mosaic floors (there is extensive evidence over the site for the destruction of tessellated pavements as well as at least one figured mosaic) a major change is seen in the later construction of a utilitarian building for purely agricultural purposes. It is possible here that we can see a change of ownership or tenancy which might be reflected in the context of Wroxeter, where the wealthy decurions appear to have taken to the town during IV: the south of England offers a different picture of the development of wealthy villa establishments around the towns in IV in more secure surroundings.

Geoffrey Toms  
Shropshire Archaeological Society

Tripontium, Cave's Inn, Warws (SP 534797)

During Council work in widening the A5 road, the opportunity was taken to determine the exact position of the south entrance to the IV defensive ditch. As a result the full extent of the ditch can now be shown (drawing attached). The clay bank would have reduced the area inside the enclosure to less than 3 acres. A full season has been spent on the stone building in Area 3 starting at Easter with 18-20 workers for a fortnight; Society members have carried on throughout the summer and autumn. An area 45 by 35 ft west of the bath-house has been excavated to a depth of 8 ft showing that the hillside had been cut into to insert the building. In later phases the building was renovated and the floors raised 20 in. The later periods of occupation have provided 40 coins of Constantinian date. The belt buckle illustrated on the cover was found in the top levels of the filling of the IV defensive ditch. There is no specialist report on this yet. (It is however, clearly one of a well-known type of late IV or early V belt fittings thought to indicate the presence of Germanic mercenaries; the implications have been discussed by Sonia Hawkes in a now classic paper 'Soldiers and Settlers' in Medieval Archaeol 5 (1961). One illustrated there (fig. 15, p. 49) from Stanwyck, is closely comparable to the Tripontium example, though the latter is in much better condition. --Ed.)

Jack Lucas  
for Rugby Archaeological Society

Wall (LETOCETUM), Staffs (SK 101066)

The excavation in the SE quadrant of the latest fort has been extended, and further details of the four phases of timber building which represent the four successive forts on the site have been recovered. The latest phase is represented by a structure with close-set rectangular foundations, suggesting a stores building, while earlier phases appear to be barrack blocks. The excavation area is being extended further to recover fuller details. The 22 coins found comprise 3 of Julius Caesar, 10 of Claudius, 2 Nero, 5 Vespasian and 2 of Domitian confirming the suggested abandonment of the site in the early years of II.

Bert Round  
for South Staffordshire Archaeological and  
Historical Society

Dymock, Glos (SO 705311)

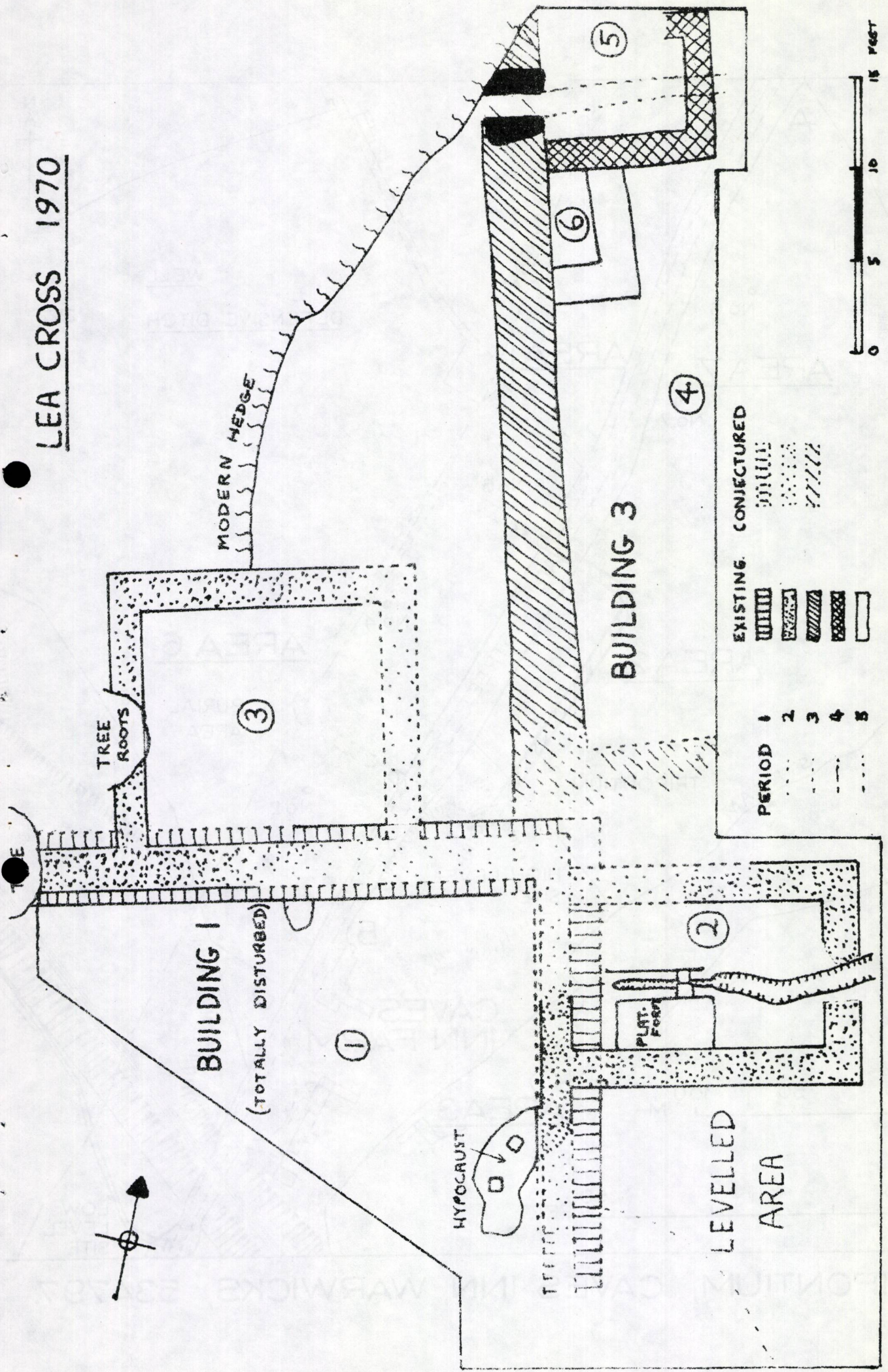
Excavation was resumed at this RB occupation site after an absence of 4 years. Remains of buildings consist of gravel floors with lines of loose stones and daub indicating where the walls were. Previously, a large floor 7m by 7m had been excavated which was covered with large pieces of iron slag and surrounded by one or two bowl furnaces. This year portions of two further buildings were found and a rubbish heap containing a large quantity of animal bones, iron slag and pottery. Finds of coins, Samian and coarse pottery indicate occupation during II and III.

P.L. Waters  
for Malvern Research Group

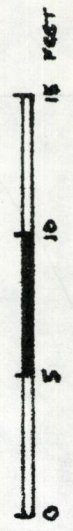
Bleachfield Street, Alcester, Warws (SP 089569)

Construction of a flood barrier to the east of the Bleachfield Street resulted in an area of the Roman town some 500 by 30-80 ft being stripped. Eight days were spent in planning such remains as appeared, and excavating an area some 30 ft square. The excavation revealed a Roman road 14 ft in width running SW from the Stratford-Droitwich road towards the river crossing at Oversley Mill. This road would appear to have acted as a 'by-pass' around the southern industrial suburb of Alcester. Substantial traces of at least 2 periods of timber buildings survived alongside the western edge of the road; these buildings were destroyed, the road resurfaced, and a roadside ditch dug at some time before IV. Early in IV the ditch was filled in and buildings on stone footings erected along the street line. Similar stone buildings were also erected to the east of the road; these were also on the site of earlier timber buildings. They were succeeded by a timber erection of uncertain date. Traces of

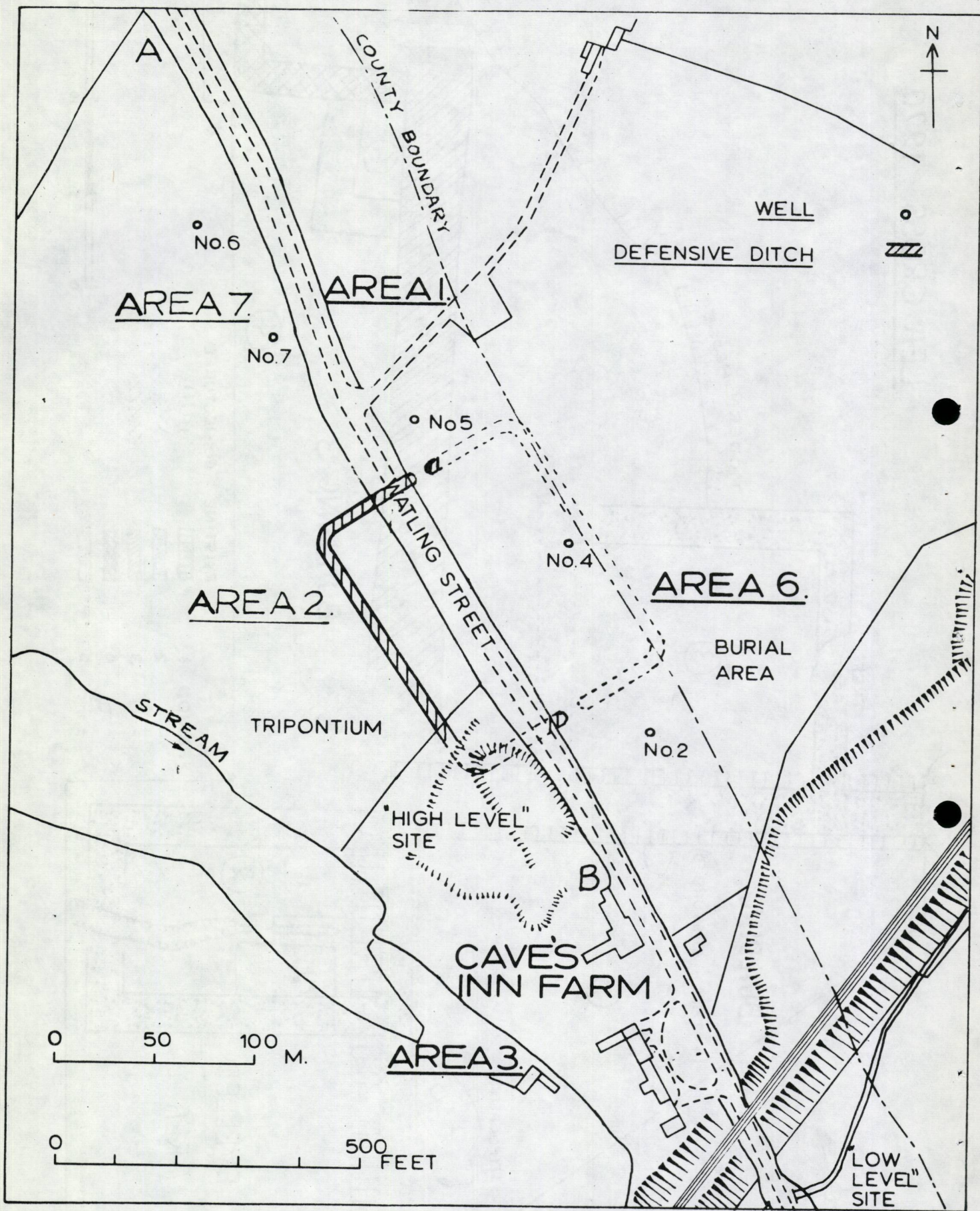
LEA CROSS 1970



PERIOD	EXISTING	CONJECTURED
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		







TRIPONTIUM, CAVE'S INN, WARWICKS, 534797.

other stone buildings were noted to the south of the area excavated; these also appeared to be aligned on the road.

Steven Taylor  
for Alcester Excavation Committee  
and MOPBW

Arbury Kiln, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, Warws (SP 342893)

A second Roman tile kiln was found this year almost identical to the one described in News Sheet No. 10, 1967. A third and different kiln was also found, its stokehole lying above the stokehole of the second kiln. This kiln was more like a pottery than a tile kiln in construction and was exceptionally well preserved. The firing chamber floor was vented, with 13 vent holes. Heat was channelled from the stokehole along the main flue arch around a tongue type pedestal (made of 6 x 6 in pilae tiles) which supported the firing chamber floor. An additional channel was cut centrally through the pedestal to give a more even heat distribution. The overall length of the kiln was 10 ft 6 in; the firing chamber was 5 ft 6 in by 5 ft and the main flue - 1 ft 2 in. Pottery evidence suggests that the kiln went out of use in early IV. The products suggest that a light-weight tegula was being made. Previous tile finds have a thick flange, and are generally heavier all round.

Keith Scott  
for Nuneaton Group

Grit Farm, Malvern Link, Worcs (SO 777494)

A pottery waster heap was revealed by the cutting of a water main trench some 400 m from a previously reported site (SO 779493). In the limited time available a sample of the pottery was collected from the spoil heap. The types of vessel found were similar to, but not identical with, those previously found in Malvern. No excavation was possible on any of the other Roman pottery kiln sites in Malvern Link this season.

P.L. Waters  
for Malvern Research Group

## SAXON

### Hatton Rock, nr. Stratford-upon-Avon (SP 237577)

Among the air-photographs published by Webster and Hobley in their survey of the Avon gravels in Archaeol 5 1964 was one of what was then called Site 61. It showed a series of large buildings and other features extending over c.8 acres which it was thought might be a Saxon palace like Yeavinger and Cheddar. A plan in two periods, based on different orientations of the buildings, was drawn from the air photographs. This was published, with a note on the historical background in Antiquity 44 June 1970, and is reproduced here (fig. ), in a revised form.

In January 1970, a water pipe trench was cut right across the site from W-E; it was only a foot wide and observation was hindered by frost and snow, but some useful information was recovered. Several major building features were found, such as post-holes and timber slots 2-3 ft deep, which confirmed that there were indeed major buildings on the site. The trench also cut a sunken-floored building, and from this came many animal bones and Saxon pottery. This is not closely datable, but could be as early as VII; there was also a pointed bone tool of characteristic early Saxon type.

Philip Rahtz and Sooh Hirst  
School of History  
University of Birmingham

### Worcester Cathedral, South Passage and College Green

A number of burials were found in the South Passage (which runs from the SE corner of the cloister along the east end of the refectory) and in College Green, outside the east end of the refectory. Those in the South Passage, about 20 in number, appear to date from before the construction of the refectory and may therefore belong to the Saxon minster of X; there were no grave goods, but the infill contained a large quantity of Roman potsherds and some coarse gritty pottery. The burials sealed a pit which contained large sherds of a coarse gritted cooking pot of Iron Age of Late Saxon date. The 13 burials in College Green contained similar pottery and it is likely that they are of the same date as the South Passage skeletons. Each group consisted of both articulated skeletons, with crossed arms and heads to the west, and disturbed burials. The high concentration of burials within the small areas investigated suggest that they may have been interred within a limited space - perhaps a small graveyard or even inside a building.

Helen Clarke  
for Worcester City Museum

Alveston Manor Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon (SP 20855472)

Excavations by Wellstood in 1934 on the important Pagan-Saxon cemetery in the gravel pits west of Loxley Road, suggested continuation of burials into the grounds of the hotel. As a result of proposed extensions and an associated car-park scheme further excavation was undertaken in this area. There were 7 inhumation graves and 3 cremations. The cremations occurred in typical urns, while 3 of the inhumations were seen to have both primary and secondary interments. In each of these latter cases, the grave of the secondary burial virtually coincided with that of the primary; there was evidence that the primary grave was clearly recognisable at the time of the second burial. The skeletal material was in extremely poor condition, but the grave-goods were much better preserved; conditions were particularly favourable to timber features. The timber feature in grave F1 had a recognisable shape; it was behind the area of the head, possibly a cradle for retaining the head in an upright position. F31 contained large timbers at the right hand side of the body, extending from the shoulder to the feet, while a smaller wand-like feature lay at the left hand side. Other grave-goods included saucer and penannular brooches with bronze toilet articles, from the female graves, while spearheads, shield bosses and other implements were obtained from the male inhumations. The cemetery appeared to be continuing in a westerly direction; it was bounded on the south side by a palisade trench running E to W; to the S of this was part of a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure. There was A/S from the lower fill of the ditches, but RB sherds also came from the enclosure. Four further palisade trenches ran N to S at the W end of the excavation; two of these were secondary to F31, with early A/S pot in the lower fill, much of it grass-tempered. The most westerly of the palisade trenches produced early Med pot. The whole complex suggests replacements of a boundary fence covering a long period possibly associated with the manor house site immediately to the west. Grave F31, which contained the large timber feature, was successfully lifted and transported to a covered area, to allow a more leisurely and detailed examination under laboratory conditions.

Bill Ford  
for MOPBW

SAXON/MEDIEVAL

Hentland, Mons (SO 543263)

Hentland is situated 4 miles NW of Ross-on-Wye, 1 mile from the Wye, and alongside an ancient route, probably a Roman road through Archenfield. The site lies immediately south of the parish church. The chief interest is currently centred around the suggestion of Early Christian origins associated with the cult of St. Dubricius, to whom the church is dedicated. However the material presented in the Book of Llandaff relating to his life is highly suspect, and a recent analysis has shown that there is no pre-Conquest support for the association between Hentland and St Dubricius. The excavation to date has revealed an appreciable part of a rectangular building, badly robbed, which may tentatively be regarded as a half-timbered XIII building later converted into a Tudor residence. The evidence of this consists of stone sills and also Flemish or Tudor bricks. A large amount of XIII wares has been recovered, together with glazed ridge tiles with hooked and moulded crests. A small quantity of XVI ware was found, including salt-glazed German stoneware. The floor area of this building was a roughly-levelled make-up layer containing some medieval material, thus indicating the presence of another building in the vicinity. Beneath the make-up layer have been found two V-shaped ditches, 7 and 8½ ft wide and 3 and 2ft deep respectively, which appear to have a parallel alignment. Problems of silting and backfill have not yet been resolved, as these ditches could be several centuries earlier or merely early medieval. In the make-up layer was found a rim sherd of a bowl or jar of typically II-IV West Midland form but the finish is unusual and foreign to the Archenfield district.

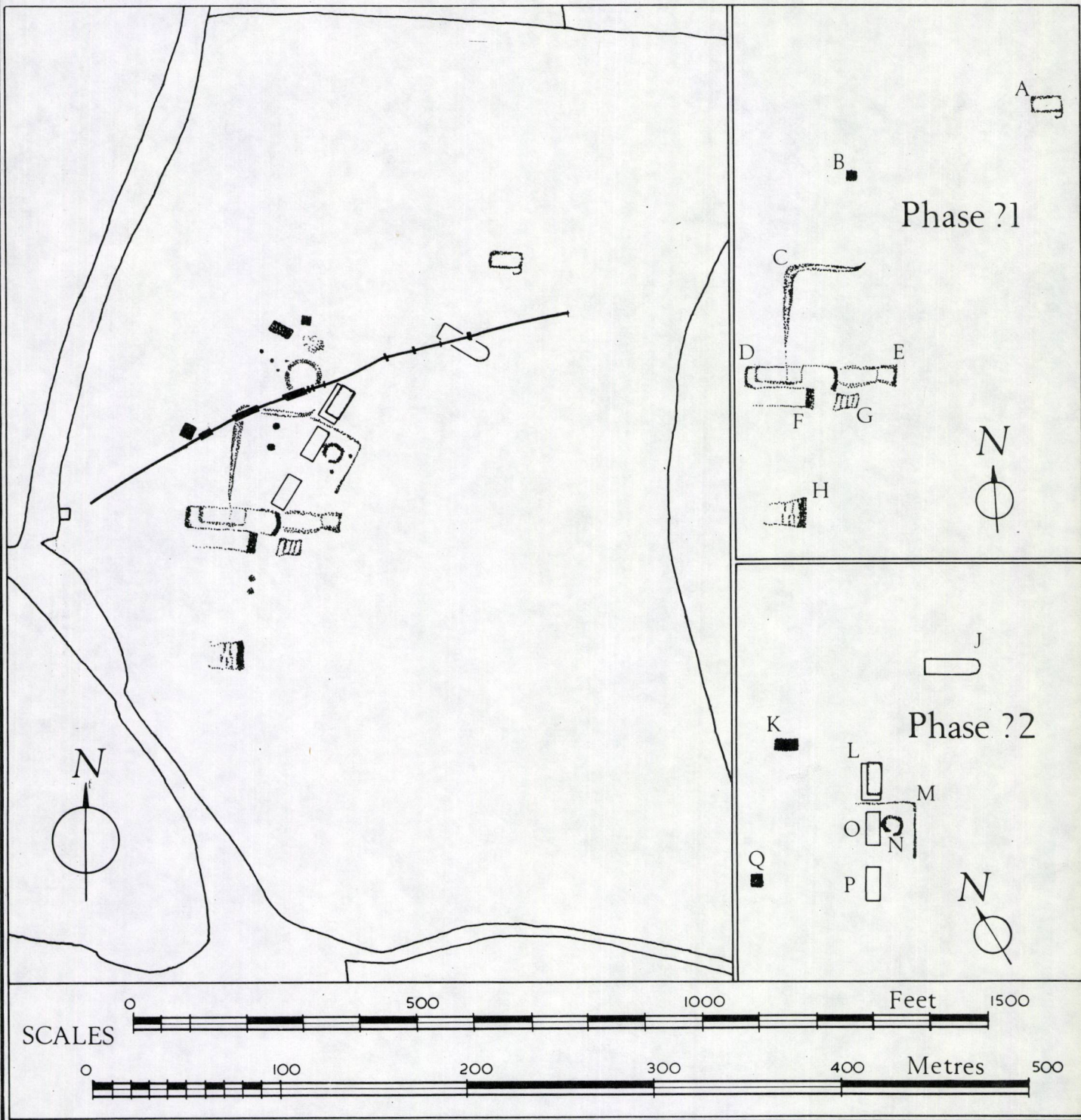
Norman Bridgewater  
Archenfield Research Group

Hen Domen, Montgomery (SO 214980)

The 1970 season at this motte and bailey castle saw the completion of the first phase of the excavation, which had lasted for eleven years, and the beginning of the second phase, which aims to explore the remaining part of the bailey.

At the end of the last season part of a large rectangular building, perhaps dating from the Dark Ages was found under the castle rampart. The excavation of this building, which had been partly destroyed by the castle ditch, was completed this year. It was 15 ft wide and more than 22 ft long, with at least one central post-hole, presumably to hold up the ridge of the roof, and with a gully on the uphill side to divert storm water from the gable end of the building. There were no finds which could be used to date the building and no sign of a floor or hearth, though these would have been removed by the ridge and furrow ploughing which lay over it.

# HATTON ROCK 1970 *Pipe Trench and Air Photograph*



A large area of the undug part of the bailey was stripped of its topsoil and meticulously cleaned in the hope of obtaining more evidence of the castle's latest phase. The results were unexpected. The buildings found in earlier years extended only a little way into this new area, which seemed otherwise to be unoccupied. There were very few traces of timber buildings even in the form of shallow post-sockets, but careful plotting of the distribution of pottery, building nails, horseshoe nails, burnt daub and small finds shows that all are concentrated in two areas of darker earth, which probably represent the sites of buildings all trace of which has disappeared. It is not even certain that this last occupation of the castle was defended, since there was no sign of a palisade, and the contours of the rampart make it unlikely that there was a timber-framed palisade standing on its crest. It is possible therefore that the castle was either abandoned when the new stone castle of Montgomery was built in 1223, and became the home of squatters or other civilians, or that its re-organisation was more drastic than we thought, with the new buildings clustered near the motte, leaving the rest of the bailey unoccupied.

This is a long-term excavation, however, and so there is time for these interim thoughts to be radically altered.

Philip Barker for R.A.I. and  
University of Birmingham  
Dept. of Extramural Studies

## MEDIEVAL

### Bordesley Abbey, Redditch, Worcs (SP 685045)

The Industrial Site proves to be complex; this summer's work indicated that there were several periods of timber buildings and gravel floor; the excavation here is very difficult and provides training at an advanced level.

On the Boundary Bank, the 1969 cutting was extended through the rest of the bank, the modern hedge ditch and the area beyond, in the field adjacent to the River Arrow. The possible ridge and furrow under the bank was not confirmed, but of equal significance was the discovery of plough-marks in the clay subsoil underlying the bank; these are shallow scratches and are unidirectional, roughly at right-angles to the bank; but there is some indication that the plough-team was turning in an anti-clockwise direction at this point. It seems likely that the bank was built on the line of a former headland marking the limit of the pre-abbey field system, and possibly also the edge of the flood-plain of the Arrow. This may have been the boundary of the land given to the Cistercians in the late 1130's, defined by them as a substantial bank. The plough-marks are among the earliest known from post-Roman contexts in this country.

The bank itself consisted of (1) ploughsoil from the ditch area heaped over the former ploughsoil (2) red clay subsoil (3) gravel. The front of the bank was cut away to a level platform on which was a substantial revetment of large cobbles. In front of the bank was a large flat-bottomed ditch c. 2m deep and c. 6m wide. This was of sufficient size to have provided all the bank material. If this was indeed the case, then the purpose of the larger internal ditch whose edge was found in 1969 remains obscure; this will be investigated in a further season.

The configuration of the base of the ditch, and the layers of gravel in the fill, indicated that there was a causeway close by the section on its west side. An entrance through the boundary bank into the abbey precinct was confirmed by a dip in the bank opposite the presumed causeway. At a later date the line of the boundary was again perpetuated by a hedge ditch, probably dug in the last century. On the top of the silted outer ditch was a layer of clay on which was a deposit of Victorian rubbish, including lemonade bottles embossed with the name of a manufacturer in Redditch; the latest find was a coin of 1917.

The church excavation was again the area of the South Transept. This was cleared down to the early medieval floor level, mostly mortar surfaces with tile impressions; the three side-chapels to the east were dug to the same level. The exterior destruction levels were removed from the angle of the south and chancel, to the ground level of late medieval times; the SE corner of the chancel was located. To the SW the east walk of the cloister was uncovered; in this were the east ends of six graves. South of this the tops of the walls



of the sacristy and chapter-house were defined. All this work involved the removal by hand of over 500 tons of soil and stone, which was efficiently removed from the site by skip and lorrycrane.

The South Transept now indicates what the church will look like when its excavation is completed, an impressive building with ashlar masonry surviving in places to a height of 3m. It is now clear that the masonry of the monastic buildings to the south survives to similar height, as the ground falls away to the south of the church in a series of descending terraces. The potentialities of Bordesley Abbey as a substantial 'ancient monument' are vastly greater than they seemed a few years ago.

The archaeological evidence now suggests three major building periods which are probably Norman (c. 1140), Early English (c. 1200-1250) and Later EE (c. 1250-1300); only minor modifications were made after c. 1300. In places the Norman builders' levels have been reached, lying on the original ground surface; these are sealed by a 50cm layer of make-up on which was the floor level of earlier medieval times. In this were defined the outlines of several graves. The Norman church was of green sandstone and distinctive pebbly-mortar, with simple dressings. Later structural work included the reshaping of the tower piers, the insertion of the night stair block, and the insertion of massive buttresses and footings to attempt (unsuccessfully) to counteract subsidence of the SE corner of the transept, probably caused by soft ground below.

At some date after c. 1300, possibly soon after, possibly not till c. 1500, the church maintenance began to decline. The tile floors were displaced, and apparently a very rough floor of mud and tile fragments accumulated; the surface of this was eventually consolidated and on it, at the level of the sills of the entrances into the side-chapels, there was a floor-level of fine dark grey dirt; a similar floor level was continued into the choir, south aisle, and east cloister. Several graves were dug from this; the surfaces of two of these were marked by tile settings now robbed. Further layers of make-up and dirt surfaces accumulated, until the final surface was reached at c. 75cm, above the primary floor. There is no reason to think that these dirt floors were of post-Dissolution date. Graves dug from the lower floors indicate that they at least were pre-1540; nor were there any finds to indicate secular occupation.

The final stage in decline was the blocking of the side-chapels by walls which included parts of a very large altar with several consecration crosses. Probably dating from the Dissolution period were some lead-melting hearths. The very clear evidence of lowered standards may be due to one or more of several factors - economic decline, plague and consequent reduced manpower, or a worsening climate causing wetter conditions; this last might be accentuated by a lack of maintenance of the abbey's drainage system.

Finds include glass, a remarkable series of tiles, and carved stone. On some of the stone can be traced the outlines of the masons' marking-out designs.

Two graves were excavated; one was in a Cotswold stone coffin with a lid of red sandstone; this had displaced two earlier graves on the same spot. The skeletons are the first to be lifted of what we hope will be a long series which will be examined by the Anatomy Department to investigate the physical characteristics of the monastic population and of local gentry buried within the abbey church. Other grave covers were re-used in later structures.

Philip Rahtz and Chris Dyer  
for Redditch U.D.C. and  
School of History  
University of Birmingham

Cookhill Nunnery, Inkberrow (SP 053573)

Of the conventual buildings here, only a rebuilt chapel and a timberframed construction remain but there are considerable areas of earth works in the extreme SE corner of Inkberrow parish.

The precinct of the nunnery appears to have been demarcated by a bank and ditch. This survives well on the east side, facing the modern road (A 441). On the south side a bank remains intact although its course is interrupted by a leat system feeding a fish pond. On the north side a deep gully forms the boundary and may also have served as a by-pass tract around the precinct. In places it has a bank and in others it is only marked by a hedge bank. The precinct is thus roughly triangular with the base to the east and the apex to the west. Within this area hedge lines suggest that the precinct was formerly considerably smaller and that an area was annexed at some time, from the NW.

A number of features, existing as earthworks can be recognised inside this precinct bank. At the NE corner there is a large moated mound. The northern part of this has been dug away (as an excavation?) to reveal the stone foundations for the cross-trees of a windmill. This point is the highest area within the precinct and is adjacent to the old (Redditch) ridgeway. I would be very pleased to hear any information about this 'dig' and of any other examples either of moated windmill mounds or of windmills within monastic precincts. Adjacent and parallel to the NW side of the precinct lies a large fishpond, now with a broken clay dam and an almost dry bed. Traces of a second pond exist to the east. A further very clear, dry fishpond remains in SE corner of the precinct area with its dam to the west. These are all in addition to the fish stews and possible moat shown on the 6" OS map.

Mick Aston

Moon's Moat Redditch, Worcs (SP 069682)

Work upon this site has continued regularly at week-ends, with a week's continuous excavation in July. During last season's excavation areas of red clay floor were uncovered upon which were found sherds of pottery probably dating to no later than the end of XIV. A well-laid cobbled surface was the other main feature to be uncovered, upon which were found quantities of pottery probably dating to c. 1700. Much of this season has been spent in stripping further this cobbled area which covers much of the NE part of the site, and is connected to the cobbled 'path' leading from the narrowest point of the moat. Five post-sockets were detected and the finds included a small quantity of pottery, tentatively dated to the late XVII, and a small iron chest key of a type generally thought to be late XV or post-medieval. It seems unlikely that the area was intended for domestic occupation, but it may have been connected with later agricultural usage of the site, perhaps as a cattle pound or for storage of crops or tools. The stripping of the southern part of the site to the first level was completed this year. A number of post-holes found close to the southern edge may be evidence of a building that abutted the perimeter wall but here, as on the other three edges of the site, excavation was hampered by severe root disturbance. The unprecedented low water level during July enabled work to commence on a ditch section across the narrowest and shallowest part of the moat, which is on the north side of the site. Removal of the surface mud revealed a causeway of small cobbles and fragments of red tiles set into a thin layer of red marl. Pottery evidence indicates that the causeway was laid during XVIII or XIX, probably at the same time that the site was robbed of its building materials. Under the causeway was a thick layer of dirty grey clay which contained broken tiles and fragments of white sandstone. The lowest part of this level produced pottery sherds with a brown treacly glaze, tentatively dated to XVII, and matching the sherds found on the surface of the main site. A late medieval fig-shaped pewter spoon was also found at this lower level. The inner bank protrudes slightly under the causeway into the moat, and is strengthened on the sloping surface by mortared, irregularly shaped white sandstone blocks. A major stone-lined post-hole of 40 cm diameter, situated at the top of the reinforced inner bank, suggests that the pier served as a springer for a wooden bridge, although a similar staging has yet to be located on the outer bank. Work on this ditch section will be continued next year when it is hoped that with the aid of pumping equipment, it will be possible to take the section down to the natural. Ditch sections will also be taken on the south and west sides of the moat. A close inspection of the mere which protects the east side of the site will be undertaken together with a study of the water system. Preliminary auger tests on the south and west sections of the moat indicate a silt depth in excess of one metre. Three quarters of the site have now been stripped down to the first level. It appears, from the evidence of two seasons' excavation that Moon's Moat was settled in the late XIII or early XIV. The site subsequently fell into disuse, but the period at which this occurred is not yet clear. Part of the site was re-used c. 1700, but by 1826 when the antiquarian Carmouls visited the site it was overgrown with trees. It may be assumed that any buildings or activity on the site would have been noted.

It is hoped to continue the excavation for a further two seasons. Volunteers always welcome; please contact Mike Wise.

Mike Wise and Chris Medley

43 Rother Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warws (SP 19835486)

Demolition of a Victorian house, before the development of a new shopping precinct, allowed examination of an additional area within the assumed planned medieval town of the late XII. Removal of modern debris and the levels of XIX revealed a palimpsest of features cut into the gravel sub-soil, with the footings of walls of a building of Tudor date. This once more indicated the complete clearance of a site during reconstruction in XVI as shown during the 1969 excavations. The Tudor building was seen to be on the same alignment as an earlier timber structure, represented by numerous post-holes and slots of a linear building with a gabled end to the street and partitioned into rooms. Evidence of replacement and additional supporting posts suggested a prolonged life; pottery of XIII-XVI supported this conclusion. There were also cess-pits to the rear of the site. The dimensions of both the Medieval and Tudor Building correspond to that of other existing buildings within the planned town area which have been developed by the linking of two such linear structures with a cross section facing the line of the street.

Bill Ford  
for MOPBW

Moulds Yard, Church Street, Tamworth, Staffs (SK 208041)

Following the demolition of a number of cottages at Moulds Yard on the north side of Church Street, and near to the east end of the Church, a small site became available for excavation by the S. Staffs. Arch. and Hist. Soc. with the aid of a grant from the (then) MOPBW. One of the earliest features found on the site was the corner of a building evidenced by two rows of closely spaced post-holes. The posts would have stood against each other in a manner common to Saxon building techniques. A contour analysis of the part of the town within the burh defences clearly demonstrates a high natural platform in the vicinity of the Church and at the centre of the burh. The presumed Saxon structure found in 1969 and the one mentioned above are both on this platform. Also found at Moulds Yard this year was a deep pit with vertical sides 1.8 m deep and a flat bottom and other features with strong evidence of industrial (metallurgical?) activity. The features may be as early as XII: samples are currently being analysed. Moulds Yard is adjacent to the Deanery and a section of a boundary bank (and ditch?) was examined. The bank may be c. XIV or earlier.

Bob Meeson

Hereford (SO 508399 and 610399)

Two sites in Hereford on the northern line of the Saxon ditch and bank were investigated during building work. Sherds of a tripod pitcher and ecological material came from the bottom of the ditch. The latter indicated that the ditch was filled with water for some time and was not too polluted. Various pits in the rear and underneath the rampart gave material from the XI to XV and included rim and rouletted sherds of Chester ware. A sample from a XIII cess pit produced fig seeds and grape stones.

Ron Shoesmith  
for the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club

Bredwardine, Herefordshire (SO 336440)

A further area was opened which has indicated a longer period of occupation of the site with early timber buildings followed by others with stone foundations. Two periods of timber buildings are probably of XII and are followed by three periods of stone building. The earliest, with some well-squared stone and massive walling could well be the 'castle' mentioned in early documents. This is followed by a stone and tufa construction with a coin of Edward I or II in the occupation associated with it. Both these sets of buildings were largely removed and replaced in the XIV by a farmhouse complex. This, of poor construction, made use of the earlier stone walls in several places. Further robbing and building work occurred during XVI and in turn suffered stone robbers in XVIII. Work will continue in 1971.

Ron Shoesmith  
Staunton-on-Wye

Worcester Cathedral, Refectory Undercroft

Excavations in the refectory undercroft showed that the prehistoric Roman and Dark Age levels which have been discovered in other parts of the Cathedral precincts were destroyed during the building of the refectory in XII when the roof of the undercroft was vaulted with large slabs of limestone.

During the second half of XVII part of the stone vault collapsed and was repaired with bricks. A large pit was dug in the undercroft floor, perhaps to provide sand, and was then filled in with rubble from the collapsed roof and bricks from the repair work; the infill contained a number of clay pipe bowls of early XVII type, a fragment of late XVII tyg (drinking mug) and also a few very small medieval sherds, scraps of window lead, and a fragment of a draped figure carved in limestone and decorated with black, red and buff paint. The presence of medieval objects in a post-medieval pit suggests that the pit may have been dug and the vault repaired after the Cromwellian occupation of the Cathedral.

Helen Clarke  
for Worcester City Museum

Coningsby's Hospital, Widemarsh St , Hereford

An examination of the burials discovered in March 1970 in the old dining room suggests that they were interred before the hospital's foundation in 1614. Two skeletons were partly excavated and examined. Both were orientated E-W and carefully laid out approximately 7-8 cm below the present earth floor. The whole building was probably the chapel of the Knights of St John, constructed early in XIII. This building was altered in early XVII when two partition walls were inserted to form the dining hall and hospital. The interments may be of the original inmates, i.e. members of the order of the Knights of St. John, or the remains could be those of monks from the neighbouring Blackfriars monastery. There were no traces of coffins apart from a few nails, possibly coffin nails, and the only finds were a few potsherds and tile fragments of XIII or XIV. There is no evidence to suggest plague victims. The apparent confusion of the burials in some cases is accounted for by the re-use of the site for at least 300 years, causing considerable disturbance of earlier graves.

Peter Leach  
then at Hereford Museum,  
and Ron Shoesmith  
Woolhope Club

Lugwardine, Hereford (SO 547407)

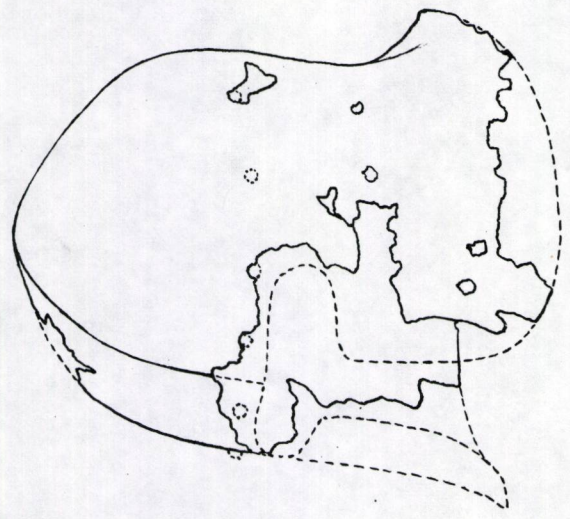
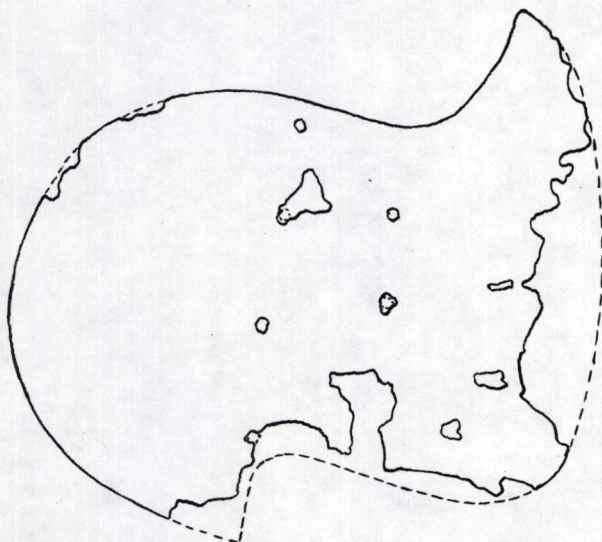
An iron helmet of XV from the bed of the River Lugg at Lugwardine Hereford is identified as a 'Barbuta', an Italian made helmet dated c. 1460. This is a type found rarely in Britain, the majority having been made at Milan and neighbouring north Italian steel centres, although some may have been made elsewhere in Europe, possibly also in England. The drawings illustrate the original form of the complete helmet although variants of the face opening exist.

Peter Leach  
then at Hereford Museum

Lawn Cottage, Nuneaton, Warws (SP 343897)

Work has continued in a small way this season on this XIII site. Structures excavated included a paved area, a stone-lined drain, an extension to drainage gullies, a still wall, post-holes and a hearth superimposed on a large storage jar full of pebbles. The jar had applied strip decoration and its original use may have been for grain storage. There were also two areas with a noticeable scatter of nails. Other finds were lead, decorated floor tile, oven tiles, a stone disc and whetstones.

Keith Scott, Nuneaton Group



Italian "Barbuta" helmet c.1460  
Lugwardine Herefordshire

Harefield Lane, Nuneaton, Warws

This medieval kiln site produced pottery decorated with impressed stamps. I and II are products of this site, the remainder are probably occupation pot. Only stamp VII has been recognised from one other site. Reports of the stamps from other sites would be extremely valuable especially in a datable context.

Keith Scott, Nuneaton Group

Halesowen Abbey Guest-House site, Worcs (SO 97568283)

Construction of a transformer point on the supposed site of the guest house of Halesowen Abbey by the Midland Electricity Board was watched in August 1970. A layer of mixed rubble, tile, pottery and bone was encountered at a depth of 3 cm; this included one complete plain medieval floor-tile, fragments of patterned tiles, and a green-glazed roof ridge tile. An earthing trench 50 cm wide was expected to locate the west wall of the guest-house, but no trace of this was seen apart from a couple of loose trimmed sandstone blocks and a general decrease westwards in the thickness of the rubble layer and in the amount of bone. However, an unexpected stone wall was discovered some distance to the east, at a lower level. This cannot belong to the guest-house, and must represent some earlier building; unfortunately nothing was found in its construction trench to suggest a date. Two other disturbances cut by the cable trench appear to be of recent origin.

James Bond

Alvechurch, Bishops Place, Worcs (SP 03107265)

Digging of a flower-bed in the garden of the house within the medieval moat revealed a structure consisting of 6-7 rows of closely set red tiles, many of them broken, set on edge at an angle of about 20° from the vertical. Traces of stone walling were found nearby, and a number of medieval patterned tiles were discovered.

James Bond

Wick Dovecote, nr. Pershore, Worcs (SO 95914516)

Within living memory this site was in perfect condition. It was of circular plan, 28 ft in external diameter, of plaster-covered oolitic rubble walls over 3 ft thick and 20 ft high. Originally it had 1300 nest-holes, beginning with a widely-spaced double row at 4ft above ground level, and continuing with 5 more tiers, each with 3 rows of more tightly-spaced nest holes, separated by perching-ledges, up to the roof. The doorway had been altered and reduced in size



to an opening 5 ft high x 3 ft broad, and 8 further nest-holes had been inserted into the blocked arch above it. As the dovecote stood on sloping ground its walls had been reinforced by three original buttresses, each of three stages. There had been a conical tiled roof with a single dormer window and plain lantern. The potence had survived complete. Some years ago the roof fell in and over half the circuit of the wall collapsed, leaving the remainder, which included two of the original buttresses and the doorway, standing to its full height. Dangerous cracks had appeared in this, and in January 1970 consent was given for its demolition. A full record of the remains has been made.

James Bond

POST-MEDIEVAL

Clarke Street, Stafford (SJ 92382319)

An exploratory excavation was carried out by members of the society in an area at the corner of Clark St and Eastgate St, a short distance from the East Gate, in the spring and early summer, with the intention of locating and dating suspected medieval structures and a pre-historic site. The foundations of two post-medieval structures were found together with a midden containing early XVIII pottery (including fragments of a dish by Thomas Toft II (?)). No positive evidence of medieval occupation was discovered with the possible exception of a cylindrical clay construction, the date and purpose of which has not yet been established. A small number of medieval sherds and other items were found, mainly in mixed levels.

A. Carter and A.W. Taylor  
for Stafford Historic and Civic  
Soc.

Stourbridge, Worcs (SO 90058429)

During trenching for building foundations in July 1970 on a plot of cleared ground at the corner of Market St and Bell St, Stourbridge, the top of a well with an internal diameter of 2.75 ft was noticed. The section showed that it pre-dated both the adjacent XIX century shop premises and the last building on the cleared site. The shaft had a top course of sandstone blocks, the remainder being of bricks measuring 9.5 x 2.25 x 4 in. The contents could not be properly investigated: an assortment of slag, bone, pottery of XVIII character, glass and clay pipes came out of the top foot or so. Three complete pipe bowls were recovered, one bearing the stamp of John James of Broseley, c. 1680; another Thomas Clarke of Broseley, c. 1647; and a third provisionally attributed to Ezekiel Gribble of Exeter, c. 1700. Unfortunately the site was covered in before it could be emptied any further.

Alan Hunt  
and James Bond

Pound Green, Upper Arley, Worcs (SO 75767911)

A timber-framed house at Woodseaves north of Pound Green was investigated and found to consist of a two-bay box-framed wing with a single-bay annexe. One room contained a plaster frieze with a repeating pattern of heraldic rose, bunches of grapes and acorns, and a coat of arms yet to be identified. When the floor was taken up the remains of an early XIX shoe were found buried; this appears to be a not uncommon custom, and any information on its origins would be most welcome.

James Bond

Forge Mill, Redditch, Worcs.

Work has continued at the Mill with a limited number of volunteers throughout the year with the result that the Mill is now in very reasonable state of repair, and is open to view by parties or individuals by appointment. Requests should be made to Mr. J.G. Rollins, 40 Meadowhill Crescent, Redditch, telephone: Redditch 64460 and he will arrange for the Mill to be opened and if possible for the water wheel to be operated.

Redditch has been designated a new town and in consequence of the re-planning of the area, industry generally and the needle trade in particular is experiencing a considerable upheaval. The needle makers are being very co-operative and are making available to the Forge Mill quantities of old and obsolete machinery. All of which is being over-hauled by volunteers on arrival at the Mill and it is hoped that in the fullness of time these additional items will be added to the very interesting selection already on display in the Mill.

J.G. Rollins  
Redditch U.D.C.

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