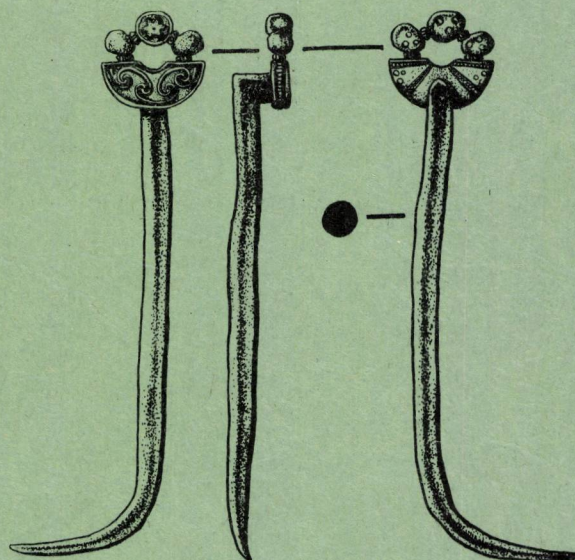


WEST MIDLANDS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
NEWS SHEET



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COVER DRAWING

This silver pin, reproduced here full-size, is, like the peacock strap-end depicted on our cover last year, from Tripontium (Caves Inn). Elizabeth Fowler comments that it is a rare find in S Britain, that it has Irish affinities and may be dated to the late Roman or early post-Roman period, possibly c. 450-500 and of N British origin. It could however be as early as c. 350-400; coins from the site extend to the 360's. The pin has been drawn by Diana Webster.

Ed.

LIST OF OFFICERS OF CBA GROUP 8

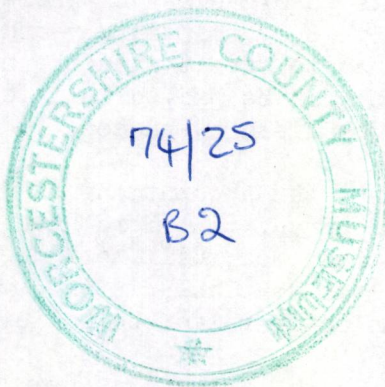
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EDITORIAL

There have been several important developments in the West Midlands in 1971. The region's contribution to RESCUE is described elsewhere, but a large proportion of the work described in these pages is rescue archaeology. Can we any longer defend research excavations? Even the committee of RESCUE believes that they should still go on for two reasons: (1) it is difficult to train archaeological students on rescue digs only - they do need rescue experience, the techniques of instant excavation and recording, but they also need to know how to do the job properly; (2) they, and everybody else, need to know what is being missed on any excavation that falls short of the highest standards available. In rescue excavation, the West Midlands has been the first area in which a motorway excavation could be planned in advance of the construction work. Fowler's work of co-ordination on the M5 was remarkable, but, as he himself emphasizes, too late. The lessons learnt from the M5 have been applied to the Kenilworth by-pass. Here Bill Ford, with the help of the Coventry and Kenilworth societies, has been able to organise the whole operation from the start; fieldwork, documentary study, air survey and test excavation have prepared the workers to know what to expect when the big machines move in; the success of this enterprise can be judged in later pages. It is now the turn of the Solihull and Sutton Coldfield by-passes.

It will be obvious too from these pages that the appointment of County field officers has been very fruitful. James Bond and Bill Ford have been able to weld the archaeology of their counties together; Bill Ford describes the many facets of his work below. It is now clear that only in the sphere of county posts like this can adequate contact and co-operation be achieved with the planners and architects of redevelopment.

Rescue excavation is mostly routine work. Most of the sites found on motorways are not individually very exciting, often no more than a scatter of sherds and the odd post-hole; cumulatively they are, however, important in showing the density or otherwise of settlement of different periods, along a random line which may not show air-photograph indications. Sometimes, however, more dramatic sites are found. That at Blacklow Hill may prove to be the first of the very elusive pagan Saxon sanctuaries. In the urban context, the Tamworth Saxon watermill is another 'first' - surprisingly, because such structures must be very common in England; they simply have not turned up. It was a relief in some ways to be dealing with actual timbers and posts rather than dirty stains in the soil; but the waterlogged conditions brought their own difficulties which laid the editor low in the following months. Stretton-on-the-Fosse also promises interesting developments. This must be the first time that three different cemeteries have been found in one field.

Not all rescue archaeology is a success story. The destruction of part of Bannaventa is one of the worst episodes in midland archaeology for some time. We hope that 1972 does not witness any such acts of vandalism.

PHILIP RAHTZ

INTRODUCTION

Our endeavours to get this News Letter out in time seem, as I write this in January, to be succeeding. The arrangements for distribution have been remodelled and Dr. Jean Perkins of the Department of Genetics has kindly undertaken to take care of this organisation and to try to increase sales.

As I forecast last year more of us are becoming deeply involved in motorway work. The Kenilworth by-pass has given us a good opportunity to work out the best kind of organisation to deal with the problems before and during construction. We are at present trying to apply the lessons we have learnt to the Sutton Coldfield by-pass, while the Coventry Society has taken over the field work on the new Coventry-Leicester route. There are now more difficult projects ahead. Two alternative routes of the Telford motorway replacing A5 have been published and this route will eventually extend to the Welsh border. The two other major new routes, the Birmingham-Oxford road and the Solihull-Tewkesbury road are still in the planning stage and the alignments have not yet been made public. It is obvious that we will need all the resources we have and more, to cope adequately with these large schemes. Motorways have to be seen in their wider context and one of the consequences of all this work is the increased need for sand and gravel. There is, for example, an immediate threat to the D M V at Baginton, where there also appears to be continuous occupation from Neolithic times.

The question now arises as to whether the Avon/Severn Research Committee is the right kind of body to deal with these large and wide spread emergencies all over the West Midlands. A new committee may have to be created and your Executive is giving some thought to this. As the Group measures up to these difficult situations it will be necessary to keep our programme of meetings under constant review. We will continue the policy of organising meetings in different parts of the area on a regular basis, the last at Keele having been highly successful, thanks to the hard work and organisation by Ivor Newcomb. The next will be at Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, on Saturday, 22nd April. After this Hereford has been suggested as a venue. We are also trying to satisfy those who wish for small informal meetings of our members, but the Birmingham venture of this kind was not wholly successful probably because it was held in too large a room. We need to be more flexible in our ideas about meetings and places. It is up to local societies and groups to put forward their views and make their wishes known to us.

We offer our congratulations to Richard Tomlinson on his appointment as Professor of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology at the University and also to Bert Round on his election as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Best wishes for the season.

GRAHAM WEBSTER, Chairman of CBA Group 8

AIR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE WEST MIDLANDS

An index of the air photographs deposited in the Extra-mural Dept. Library has been prepared and duplicated. It consists of a list of photographs arranged according to National Grid Numbers starting with SJ 2217 and ending with SU 5994. It is on foolscap sheets, double spaced and there are 90 pages. Copies are available from Mrs. Sally Foulkes of the Extra-mural Dept. at 50p. (post-free). Arrangements to see the photographs can be made with the librarian Mr Raymond Fisher but the collection is not yet adequately filed and care must be exercised in its use.

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE IN 1971

1. This year's surveys were carried out to a different formula and Arnold Baker, Dereck Riley and myself combined our work into a joint survey that linked a number of long established surveys extending selectively from the Severn to central Yorks. As far as the West Midlands were concerned Arnold and myself flew together whilst he made full coverage in black and white and I made selective records in colour transparencies. The techniques and types of observation that we have developed individually can now be applied to all the areas that have had only individual attention. This will widen still further the gap between archaeologists who understand our work and those who do not, but I am sure that the collaboration will be most useful to all concerned and perhaps it will initiate some constructive co-ordination with field archaeologists on a wider basis than interest in single sites. The sum of the information we have accumulated in all the areas under survey is quite unmanageable but any selective consideration of sites or features or patterns of distribution is contrary to the survey principles the three of us have independently arrived at.

JIM PICKERING

2. Unfortunately the aircraft normally at my disposal was laid up during summer and, but for the very generous co-operation and active support of Jim Pickering, there would have been no contribution on my part. In the event we were able, together, to cover not only the West Midlands but selected areas in the valleys of the Nene, Welland and Trent. Crop marks on the whole were not exceptional due to the rainfall early in the season. Roots however responded well as the land dried out during late July. There was little to add to our present knowledge of Roman military sites with the exception of evidence for temporary camps at Cound on the S terrace of the Severn near Wroxeter. From previous surveys military sites have been contained to the N of the Severn in this area. A notable contribution was the recording of a causeway camp at Fotheringhay on the Nene, very similar in appearance to that discovered in the Upper Thames valley in 1970. Survey analysis is not yet complete but it is apparent that rural sites of all periods continue to appear in both simple and complex forms over a wide area. The evidence for occupation in one form or another from these limited surveys over the years is quite astonishing and it is regrettable that so much remains unrecorded. The implications of these sites are far reaching and in the absence of excavation have yet to make their impact on the archaeology of the Midlands. It is clear that the crop mark evidence for occupation in the river valleys of the E Midlands cannot be divorced from that of the Severn and Avon in the W Midlands. Perhaps through the medium of 'Rescue' such a contribution will arise even if it is confined initially to areas of potential destruction and these are now well in evidence over the Midlands as a whole. From our very limited observations destruction is widespread with only isolated pockets of activity in the form of excavation.

There is no doubt that the contribution of the National Monuments Record is significant in collating the results from aerial reconnaissance. There is however a real need for overall co-ordination of the very modest resources available for aerial reconnaissance. The evidence of crop marks alone is too big a task for the individual. Each year too much is left unrecorded and duplication is inherent in the existing individual contribution. A joint operation between Jim Pickering, Dereck Riley and myself would constitute a more sensible approach provided the problem of financing such an exercise can be overcome. Even within our present resources the idea is feasible and attractive.

ARNOLD BAKER

RESCUE 1971

RESCUE is now firmly established. Philip Barker described its formation and aims in our last News Sheet, and its progress has been dynamic. There are now over 2000 subscribing members, and RESCUE is now one of the largest archaeological bodies in the country. Individual subscriptions range from £1 to £500 and over £4000 has been subscribed. This has enabled RESCUE to operate from an office in Worcester, under the guidance of Philip Barker as Secretary. We must be very grateful to the Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies for seconding him to RESCUE for a whole year.

RESCUE is now seen as an action body, a 'ginger group', which unlike other bodies is free to act independently of Treasury grants or vested interests. It has created in the last year an atmosphere of public opinion much more favourable to archaeology. Press comment on archaeological matters is well-disposed and informed. The Treasury grant to the DOTE for rescue archaeology has been raised from £210,000 to £300,000. The Field Monuments Bill passed through its House of Lords reading not only without opposition, but with a remarkably well-informed debate. The Hansard report reads like the minutes of a RESCUE committee meeting. One of the more spectacular events has been the direct intervention of the Minister to save the Roman forts at Dover - an enlightened act, especially as they were going to be safely buried rather than become a visible 'ancient monument'. On a smaller but equally effective scale was RESCUE's intervention in Tewkesbury, where the archaeological situation has been very difficult.

A professional fund-raising campaign is shortly to be launched to raise a large sum of money to enable RESCUE to have a full-time staff and exercise more influence. But more members are needed so that RESCUE can speak for a large body of archaeological interests. If you have not yet joined, do so, and feel involved in RESCUE's achievements in the last year and in the future. Minimum subscriptions for one year, which make you a member receiving all literature and with voting powers, are as follows:

students receiving full-time education	£0.50
ordinary membership	£1.00
family membership	£1.50

These are minimum rates, and you are asked to subscribe more if possible. Covenants can be entered into if you can subscribe £5 or more p.a., on which RESCUE can recover income tax as a registered charity. If you can give money, but do not want to join, send a donation!

Regional and Liaison officers are also needed for some areas. If there is no officer in your area, and you want to work in this way, offer your services to the Secretary. There is no regional officer for Shropshire yet, and only two societies in the West Midlands (Coventry and Dist. Arch. Soc. and Redditch New Town Arch. Committee) have appointed Liaison officers. Send subscriptions and donations to: The Hon. Treasurer of RESCUE, V.C. Carter, Esq., Manager, National Westminster Bank, 3 The Cross, Worcester; offers of help to: RESCUE, 25A The Tythings, Worcester, (Tel. Worcester 20651).

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

During the past year I have considered a wide range of possible applications to archaeology and several projects are now taking shape. The suite of "plotter programs", some of which I described in previous news sheets, have now been collected together in their final form and offer a neat and easy way to analyse and present the results of a survey. The latest addition is a version of the 3D projection drawing which produces its result on the visual display unit instead of the plotter. Using this, you can type in a choice of scale and viewpoint and the corresponding picture will immediately be projected on the screen in front of you. Thus, half an hour's experimentation should enable you to choose the best picture to present your results and then this can be drawn on the graph plotter to give you a permanent copy. The other main topic has been the gazetteer of sites in Shropshire. It turned out that the scheme being developed by Ernie Jenks and his loyal band of helpers required very little alteration to make it suitable for a computer system. Consequently a copy is being held on the university computer and any section of it can be accessed very quickly and accurately. Programs are already available to produce a list of all the finds from a chosen parish or all examples of a given type within the whole county, and the program to draw a distribution graph for any given object or objects should soon be ready. It should be emphasised that the gazetteer makes no attempt to give a full description of any find or site. It gives a very quick, very complete, answer to the questions "How many of this item have been found in Shropshire?" and "Where can I find descriptions and examples of this item?" but apart from the general types (e.g. FLINT ARROW HEAD or SAXON BURGH) makes no attempt to describe the item. When it is finished, it will provide the research worker with a complete list of references and should prove an invaluable starting point for many detailed archaeological studies.

I have provided examples of output from the two programs mentioned. Example one gives the output from the parish of Clun. There are only four entries because the small amount of data used to test these programs only contained four entries from Clun. Example two shows some of the output for the find 21.3 which is a STONE AXE-HAMMER. The format is very similar for the two lists.

In example one the first item in the first line is the generic type.

for example	8.1	FLINT ARROW HEAD.
	8.3	FLINT FLAKE CHIP.
	21.3	STONE AXE-HAMMER.
	21.4	BOUNDARY OR OTHER LARGE STONE.

In example two, this item is the four letter code for the parish.

for example	ACNS	ACTON SCOTT.
	BRGN	BERRINGTON.
	BICN	BICTON.
	BTLY	BITTERLEY.
	CLUN	CLUN.
	COND	CONDOVER.

The rest of the entry is the same for both examples. Next comes the number of the entry and the county (SA for Salop). Then the Ordnance survey map reference of the position where the item was found. Then two documentary references to published descriptions of the find. Both these are in the form four character code for journal year page.

for example WA01 Archaeol. Cambrensis.
 WA02 Bulletin Board Celtic Studies.
 SA01 Trans. Shropshire Archaeol. Soc.
 SA02 Victoria County History of Shropshire vol. 1
 SA13 index card in Shrewsbury Public Library.

The second line gives the museum in which the item is kept and its accession number if this is known. The remaining lines contain any other comments describing the item. I shall be glad to hear from anyone who requires further information about either of these topics or who has any other problems or suggestions which might require use of the computer.

SUSAN LAFLIN, Computer Centre, University
 of Birmingham.

COMPUTER INPUT FOR COUNTY GAZETTEERS.

1) DESCRIPTION OF A FIND.

IDENTIFICATION (TO BE PUNCHED ON EACH CARD)

GENERIC TYPE 1 2 1 0 3 PARISH 5 C L U N
 NUMBER 9 COUNTY 13 S A

MAIN CARD.

O/S MAP REFERENCE 15 S 0 3 1 1 0 7 5 8 0

	25 JOURNAL	YEAR	PAGE	JOURNAL	YEAR	PAGE
TWO DOCUMENTARY REFS.	W A 0 1	1 9 3 4	1 2 0			

MUSEUM 49 P R P 0 ACCESSION NUMBER 53

COMMENTS 58 P E R F O R A T E D P A R T L Y B R O K

NUMBER OF CONTINUATION CARDS NEEDED 50 1

CONTINUATION CARD NUMBER 15 1

16 E N B Y F I N D E R F R O M C A E R C A R A D O C . /

END OF LINE.

48

CONTINUATION CARD NUMBER 15 2

16 /

60

CONTINUATION CARD NUMBER 15 3

16 /

32

CONTINUATION CARD NUMBER 15 4

16 /

24

48 /

EXAMPLE ONE.

COMPLETE GAZETTEER FOR PARISH CLUN

8. 1 1 SA S028307980 SA01 1888 213 SA01 1892 273
CLUN
UNDESCRIBED ONE OF LARGE COLLECTION FOUND WITH KNIVES
OF VARIOUS KINDS

8. 3 1 SA S028307980 SA01 1888 213 SA01 1892 273
CLUN
TWO FLAKES ONE TOOL, ONE LEAF SHAPED

21. 3 1 SA S031107580 WA01 1934 120 0
PRPO
PERFORATED PARTLY BROKEN BY FINDER FROM CAER CARADOC.

21. 4 1 SA S028307980 SA03 1934 189 0
SITU
LARGE STONE 8FT X 7FT X 3FT APPARENTLY ROLLED INTO DIT-
CH FROM THE BANK AT ROCK HILL.

EXAMPLE TWO.

GENERIC TYPE 21. 3 STONE AXE-HAMMER.

ACNS 1 SA S045508960 WA02 1927 80 SA01 1882 392
SRBY 10
PERFORATED GROUP 12 PICRITC SH22/AH EVANS STONE IMPLEM-
ENTS FIG 146

ACNS 2 SA S045508960 WA02 1927 80 SA01 1882 393
SRBY 27
PERFORATED

BRGN 1 SA SJ5610 810 SA13 0 0
BANT
PERFORATED LARGE GROUP 15 SH39/AH CUTTING EDGE WCRN BRO-
KEN ACROSS HOUR GLASS PERFORATION

BICN 1 SA SJ43501320 SA01 1919 MIS8 SA01 1926
PRPO
7INS LONG 2INS DIA. WEIGHT 3LBS FOUND IN FIELD NAMED ON-
SLOW HILL

BTLY 1 SA S058007700 WA02 1927 80 SA02 1908 202
LDLW
PERFORATED UNKNOWN GROUP FROM W.FLANK OF CLEE, UNLOCATE-
D BASALT

CLUN 1 SA S031107580 WA01 1934 120 0
PRPO
PERFORATED PARTLY BROKEN BY FINDER FROM CAER CARADOC.

COND 1 SA SJ4950 950 SA01 1949 34 0
SRBY
PERFORATED 7INS LONG ORIGINATELY POLISHED BATTLE AXE T-
YPE FROM SHARPSTONES HILL

FIELD WORK

N.B. A few items for this section have been taken from other news sheets, namely those of the Solihull group and Worcester Museum.

MESOLITHIC

CBA Mesolithic Survey

The total number of index cards so far submitted to the CBA for the West Midlands is as follows: Herefords 22; Salop 18; Staffs 27; Warws 42; Worcs 23. While these totals remain very small in comparison with other counties (eg. 340 for W Riding of Yorks alone) they are significant in documenting for the first time the evidence available for assessing Mesolithic activity/occupation in the area. Several major assemblages/sites have emerged from the survey and are being studied by the writer. The CBA intends to publish the information collated from this survey in the form of a Mesolithic Gazetteer for England and it is hoped that this will be published by the end of 1972.

ALAN SAVILLE, University of Birmingham

NEOLITHIC

Baginton, Warws (SP 3387 7545)

During excavations in advance of the Kenilworth By-pass further Neolithic pits have been found west of the ring ditch excavation carried out by B. Hobley in 1968. The pits contained fire-cracked stones, burnt clay and sherds of Secondary Neolithic pottery. A shallow linear ditch traversed the area for a distance of 20 m and is possibly part of an enclosure, the rest of which lies off the road alignment.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum

Charlecote, Warws (SP 2691 5792)

Aerial photographs taken by A. Baker and J. Pickering since 1963 have revealed a more complex group of archaeological features in the area around Thelsford Priory than has hitherto been suspected. To the S of the priory area, in addition to the rectilinear enclosure (Site A) and ring ditch (Site B) excavated in 1969 (Avon-Severn Valley Research Project, Report No. 5 1968 & 1969), five further ring ditches (Sites C, E, F, G, H) have been recognised and to the N of this group two parallel ditches, possibly part of a large cursus monument. A series of rectangular enclosures (Site K) have also been observed lying along the E bank of Thelsford brook. The progress of gravel extraction presented an imminent threat to the ring ditch at Site C and the enclosures at Site K were being gradually eroded. Over half of the ring ditch was excavated in addition to part of the surrounding area, to reveal an unbroken ditch enclosing an area 12m in diam. That part of the ring ditch which was excavated exposed 7 straight sections and calculations suggest a 13-sided figure in all. A central grave was discovered containing skeletal remains of a very ephemeral nature, but sufficient to indicate a human burial, the body lying on the left side, with the knees drawn up towards the chin. At the right side of the grave lay a flint knife. The grave appeared to have been open for a period before interment occurred, as gravel slip was present in the base of

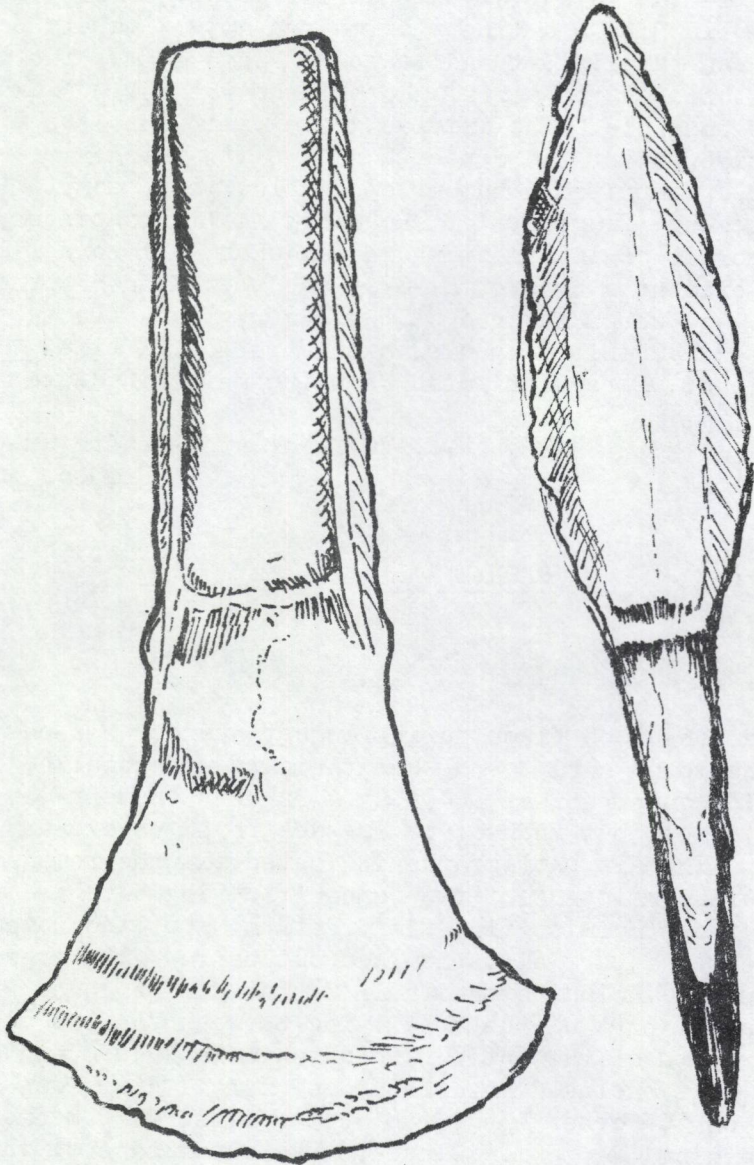
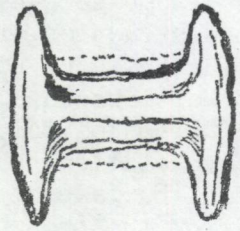
the grave and the body had been laid upon it. Several stages of silting in the main ditch were observed, the primary stages being devoid of gravel slip, and appeared to have taken place initially from the outer bank of the ditch. The final stage of ditch fill however consisted of an homogenous light brown sandy soil free from silt, indistinguishable from the general layer of humus, and appeared to be associated with the late destruction of a surface mound or bank. It was from this level of the ditch that all the pottery finds were made. These comprised several fragments of Mortlake ware from at least 3 urns. The evidence would suggest a barrow of secondary Neolithic date constructed upon a site which had first been cleared of vegetation. Later regeneration of shrubs or bushes had taken place. The central burials of both ring ditches at Site B and Site C were placed equidistant from the ends of the rectilinear enclosure at Site A at a distance of 68 m, and were in direct alignment with the W ditch of this enclosure. This displays a remarkable degree of organisation and accuracy in the layout of this burial group. Twenty-five metres to the N of Site C in Site D a linear ditch ran approximately E to W. To the N a further ditch ran parallel at a distance of some 20 m. The total observable length of these ditches on the aerial photographs was 290 m. Excavation of 15 m of the S ditch was possible. The initial gravel slip into the ditch had taken place from the S side, after the deposition of silt, which yielded fragments of animal bone. Site J comprised a number of shallow pits, some of which yielded heat-cracked pebbles and fragments of secondary Neolithic pottery. At Site K the ditches of a series of intersecting rectangular enclosures, lying immediately to the N of those excavated by Mrs. M. Gray in 1967 (Avon-Severn Valleys Research Project Report No. 4), were examined at the quarry face. Those observed had a V-shaped profile and had silted up over a long period of time. No artefacts or pottery were obtained. A regular watch is being maintained over the whole area.

W.J. FORD for Avon-Severn Gravels Research
Project and the DOTE.

BRONZE AGE

Holt, Worcs (SO 826622)

Rescue excavations took place during August and at weekends in September and October, coming to an abrupt end when the site was engulfed by gravel working. The field concerned was shown by A. Baker's photography to be rich in archaeological sites, but much of it was destroyed before any investigation took place at all. The air photographs indicated, in the remaining part of the field, a feature consisting of two concentric ring-ditches. A slight rise in the surface of the otherwise flat field, at the spot indicated by the photographs, suggested a partially ploughed-out barrow. An area of about 100 sq m was stripped, including the whole of the area bounded by the inner ring ditch and a small part of the area lying between the two ditches. The average width and depth of the outer ring ditch were 1.16 m and 0.50 m respectively, and this enclosed an area whose average diam was 21 m. The inner ring ditch, on the other hand, was 1.45 m wide, 0.70 m deep, and enclosed an area of average diam 10.50 m. Close to the outer edge of the latter were some small pits, one of which contained traces of wood: this suggested that a circle of upright posts may have been constructed. At the centre of the site was a low mound of soil, with a hardpacked core of gravel, pebbles and more soil. In the sides of this mound were separately deposited three cremations: one was in an upright urn; a second, in an inverted urn; and the third was open, but with the bone fragments so compacted together as to suggest that it was originally deposited in a perishable container, such as a hide bag, which had since decayed. Among the bones of the latter cremation were four flint



flakes. A fourth cremation, in another upright urn, was placed near the edge of the mound. There was no evidence to indicate whether the cremations were deposited in any particular order. It was clear, however, that none was inserted after the site had been closed and the barrow raised over it. At present it seems safe to sum this site up as a more unusual type of barrow, with pottery suggesting a middle or late Bronze Age date. Since the excavation ended observation of soil clearance prior to gravel digging showed a further cremation, which was removed in a poor state. The ground was too disturbed to say whether there were other features in association, although examination was made. Destruction of yet another vessel was reported by those employed on the gravel workings: a small sherd is all that remains of this.

ALAN HUNT for Avon-Severn Gravel Research
Committee

Hunscote, Warws (SP 2543 5449)

Excavation in advance of the North Sea Gas Pipe Line of two ring-ditches, revealed by aerial photography, proved the features to be the site of a war-time searchlight battery.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum and
DOTE

Norton Green, Knowle, Warws (SP 180747)

An isolated find of a bronze axe-head was made here. The axe weighs 428.1 gm, has a volume of c. 60 cc and is 148 mm long, with a curved blade 71 mm in width. It has flanges on both sides a maximum of 1 cm deep and stop-ridges between the flanges c. 7 cm from the handle end. A fair proportion of the original surface remains. A date of c. 1300 BC has been suggested for it. See drawing which is full size.

Solihull Archaeological Group

Torton, nr. Hartlebury, Worcs (SO 85257270)

A fine circular crop-mark, clearly visible at ground level, with an estimated diam of c. 20 ft, was noticed in May, 1971, by Mrs. P.M. Dunn of West Hagley. Although this seems small for a ploughed-out round barrow, a charter of 985 A D records 'Three Lows' in a position identified with Low Hill half a mile to the W N W. Subsequently it was discovered that a bomb fell nearby in the last war; but it is questionable whether a bomb crater would create a crop-mark of this type, i.e. a definite ring rather than a solid circular patch. Probably only excavation would establish the nature of this feature.

JAMES BOND for Worcs County Museum

IRON AGE

Iron Age Compound, Avoncroft Museum of Buildings

This summer saw the completion of the second Iron Age house to be reconstructed at Avoncroft. This building has been based on the remains of a circular house of I BC excavated by Nicholas Thomas, in Conderton Camp on Bredon Hill. Its diam is that of the average larger dwelling, just over 30 ft. It has a dry-stone wall 3 ft high containing some 52 tons of limestone, and a cone-shaped timber superstructure with an apex 18 ft high. The roof is thatched and bears over 4 tons of straw and hay. The most remarkable fact about the reconstruction is that the roof span of 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft is unsupported by any central poles at all. Within the house an upright working loom has been constructed with the assistance of Mr. K. Wright of Malvern. This is in its original position as postulated by the excavator. Experiments in spinning and dying yarn are in hand for the coming season. In addition, further experiments were carried out in September into the open-pit firing of pottery, grinding grain on rotary and saddle querns, and reaping emmer and spelt with reconstructed sickles. The second phase of the grain storage experiments has been initiated, which is, in part, a repetition of last year's, involving both covered and uncovered, lined and unlined pits, with the addition of a fired uncovered pit, to examine the evidence afforded by carbonised grains found on Iron Age sites. In total there are 9 pits, 3 each on 3 separate types of subsoil, marl, clay, sand and gravel.

P.J. REYNOLDS

PREHISTORIC

New St , Worcester

A fortnight's excavation took place in July when occupation layers of the last 300 years were examined and the immediately post-medieval layers were reached. The most important information was revealed in a section cut behind a set of cellar steps confirming that the whole range of occupation levels in Worcester are present and showing clear evidence of prehistoric activity in a post-hole/timber-slot/gulley cut into the natural sand and gravel. The excavation is continuing.

P.J. REYNOLDS

ROMAN

Dymock, Glos (SO 705311)

The sketch plan shows details of the upper Roman levels on this site, as excavated to date. The gravel surface at the bottom of the plan is the top of a Roman road. In the main trench at the top of the plan the large gravel floor shown has been carefully laid out over an earlier Roman occupation layer. The build up consists of a layer of fine gravel with rough stone foundations laid on top, finally covered with coarser gravel to a thickness of c. 3 in. A large quantity of iron slag was found all over the site. The earlier features covered by this floor included a number of beam slots and stone lined post-holes. The small bowl furnace between the road and the large floor was set in a carefully made up layer of fine gravel. The top right hand corner of the trench contains a rubbish heap consisting of animal bones, pottery and iron slag. There were traces of 2 further gravel floors in this area. From the evidence of coins and samian the lower layers would appear to date to mid II with the upper layers continuing in occupation until late III or early IV.

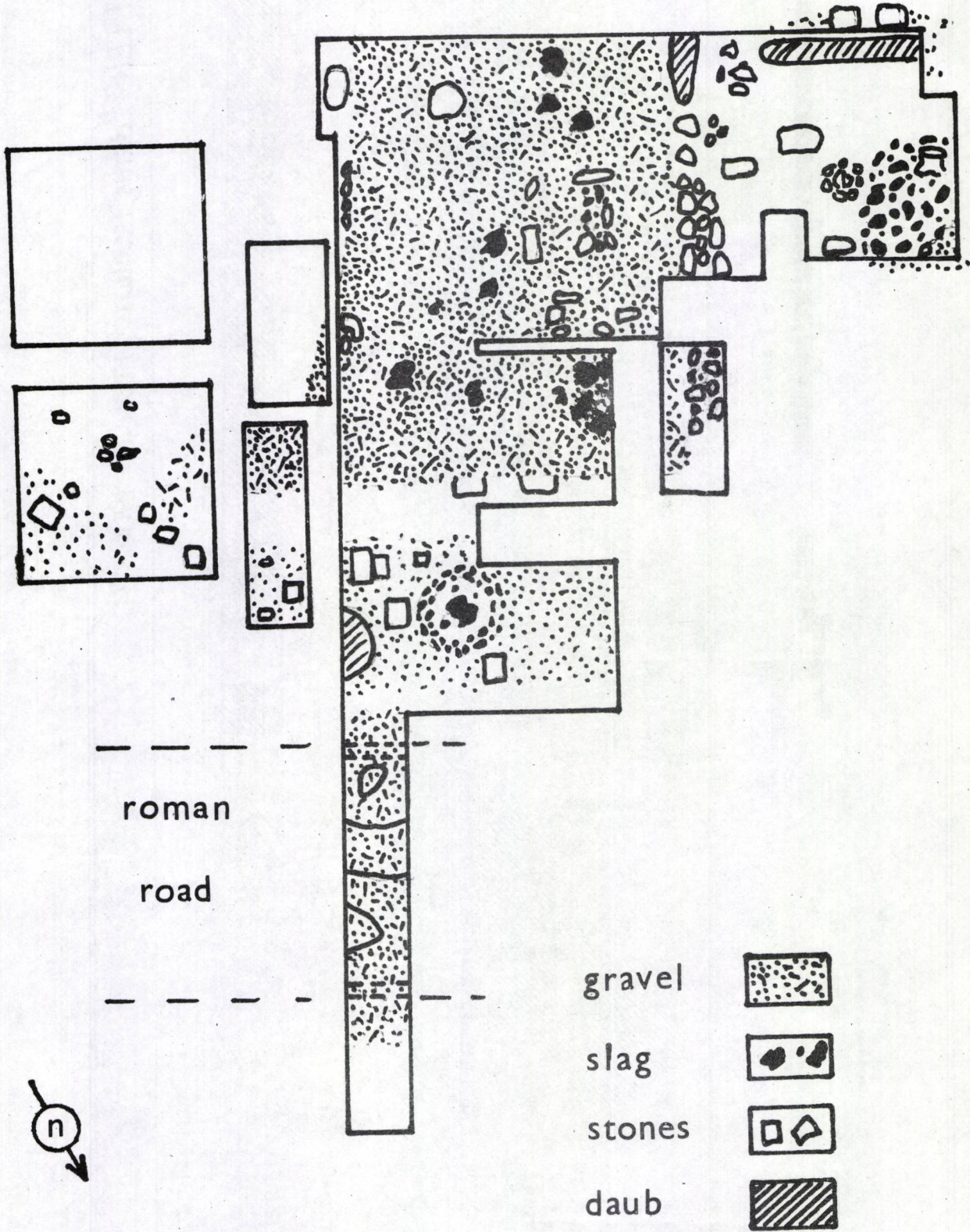
P.L. WATERS for Malvern Research Group.

Wroxeter, Salop - Summer School

The work of the Extramural Department Summer Schools was confined to cleaning up the areas recently occupied by the custodian's house and site museum. The SW corner of the insula was occupied by an enigmatic building which has been plausibly identified as a small market hall. It became quite evident during the course of the work that the excavators of XIX and more recent disturbers, have not damaged these structures very seriously, it should therefore be possible to recover a plan and even find some parts still intact stratigraphy. The plan as revealed by a season's work is substantially different from that in Wright's Uriconium. It seems also possible that the area between this building and the street frontage has not been excavated since it was used as a spoil dump by excavations in XIX. Prospects of profitable excavation of this area is therefore excellent.

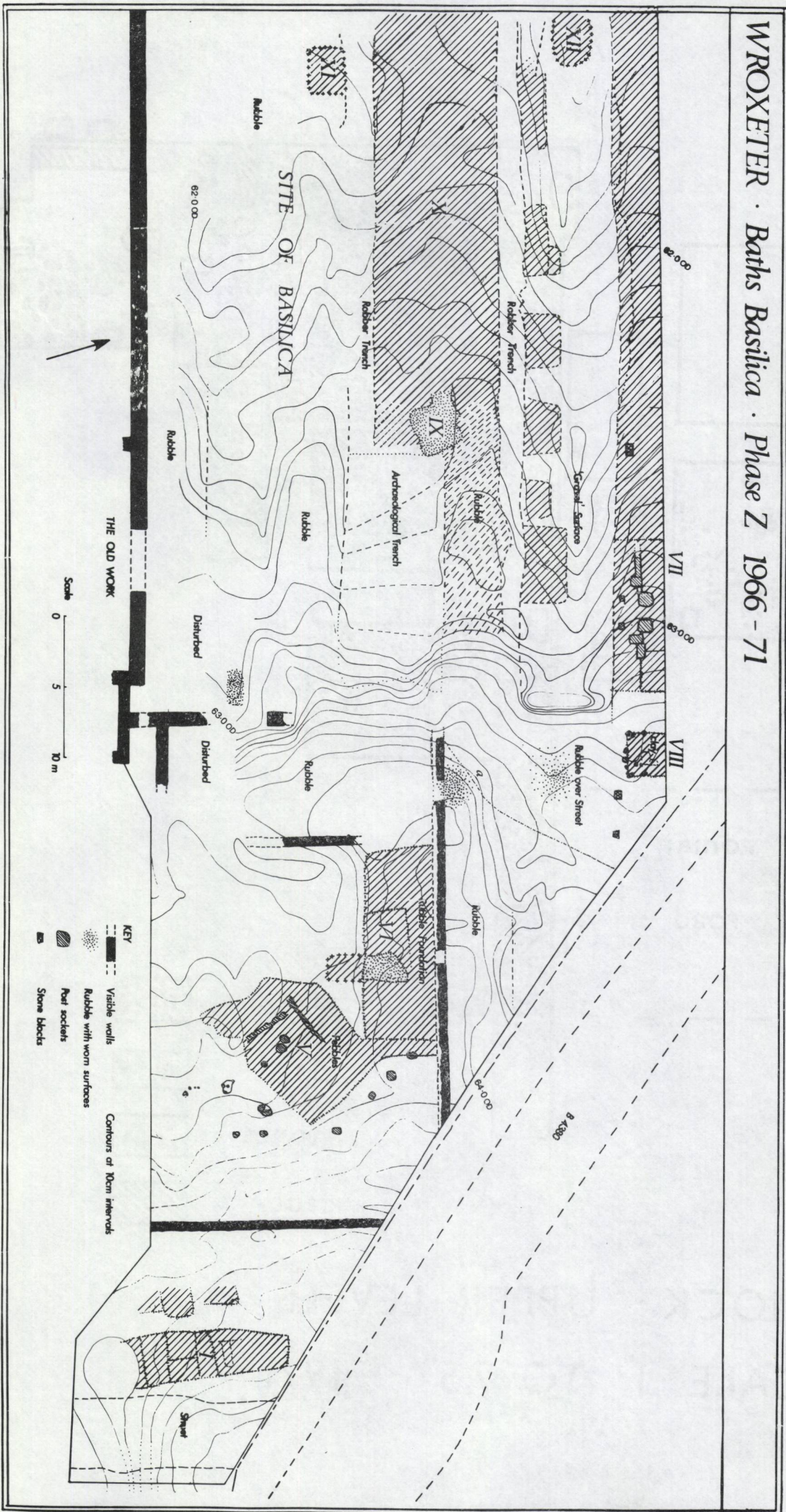
GRAHAM WEBSTER for Birmingham University.

tennis court



DYMOCK UPPER LEVELS
SCALE 1" TO 7.5' 1971

WROXETER · Baths Basilica · Phase Z 1966 - 71



In the area between the precinct wall and the E end of the basilica 2 structures have been found: a large rectangular structure with sandstone footings which probably had a wooden floor and is thought to have been a barn leaning against the precinct wall; near and at 45° to this was a rectangular pebble surface, cut by post-holes which seems to be the floor of another building. It is suggested that this area was a farmyard or barn area in the latest period as there were no hearths and far fewer coins than elsewhere and it is cut off from other areas by surviving walls. A gap in the N precinct wall here with worn rubble outside it may have provided access to the basilican area. Here 1500 sq m have been stripped down to the top archaeological layer together with c. 60 m of the street to the N. Much has been destroyed in previous excavations but enough remains to show that there were many periods of occupation of the basilica after it had gone out of use as a public building. This can be seen in the sections of earlier trenches where as many as 7 pebble floors overlie the herring-bone floor of the basilica proper. Though these glimpses of the development of the basilica after its abandonment as a public building support the general view of the end of Roman towns as a steady decline into squalor followed by abandonment, the evidence of the last period is quite different. The E-W street bounding the insula on the N had been completely removed from the E end of the basilica westwards for c. 50 ft. Thousands of tons of consolidated pebbles must have been dug out and the trench refilled with what proved to be the sifted rubble of the ruins of the basilica: tiny fragments of tile, mortar, sandstone and pebbles. This must have been a cul-de-sac entered from the Watling St to the W since no vehicle could have got on to the undisturbed rubble which overlies the old street. Flanking this cul-de-sac on the N were several buildings. The evidence for most of these is circumstantial but in two cases there are shallow post-holes and in a third there appears to be a large building of classical inspiration; probably a framed building it had a symmetrical portico, massive rectangular post-sockets, wattle and daub wall and probably a wooden floor. This view of large scale reorganisation of the city centre on and near the basilica is supported by the discovery that rubble in the N half of the basilica is a deliberate platform 9 m wide, made of small rubble in clay and earth. Hence it seems that one, or a series, of timber buildings flanked the cul-de-sac on its S side in the latest period. Very slight sub-rectangular raised platforms of the 'gravel' of the cul-de-sac along its S half and the fact that what cart ruts there were are confined to the N half implies the existence of platforms, booths or porticos of wood encroaching on the 'road' in the very latest period. It is almost certain that the cul-de-sac was roofed (? with wood); the surface is extremely soft in wet weather and does not seem to have been exposed to weather as it is smooth and not like those parts of it that have been left open since excavation.

This reorganisation argues a high degree of organisation and motivation. It is not the work of a peasant village nor can it be attributed to incoming Saxon or Irish invaders. We must surely be looking at a complex of religious or public buildings or the private desmesne of a great man. This is an entirely unexpected situation, but the implications of the evidence are inescapable. Wroxeter ends not with a whimper but a bang. The final phase of all seems to be a deliberate dismantling and abandonment of these major buildings. The reason for this final abandonment was perhaps the difficulty of defending the site without a very large fighting force. The discovery of the tombstone of an Irish King dated to c. 460-80 implies the engagement of an Irish mercenary force but at some point Wroxeter was abandoned for a smaller more easily defended site, perhaps the Berth at Baschurch or the site of Shrewsbury itself.

Wroxeter, Shropshire - Roman Research Group

The area of the WNW defences (OS 561092) being available for examination, a trial investigation was made of the regular rows of dots outside the defences and the larger irregular features inside which had been noted from the air by A. Baker some years ago. Nine areas 7 ft sq were selected and in the furthest E was found a cat cremation burial at plough depth. This consisted of a pair of tegulae with surrounding fragments placed over the remains which were lying in natural sand. In 3 other places in a row were single rubbish pits all at plough depth each 3-4 ft deep and c. 10 ft in diam. Rough patches of clay lined the sides; the contents were unstratified and consisted of bones, glass, iron slag and iron objects, lumps of coralline limestone, samian pottery and coarse pottery up to mid II. One feature 40 ft within the defences consisted of a triple pit complex, the pits varying from 7-11 ft in diam. with a small trodden ashy area between. Finds were similar to those above. These pits were sealed with clay which was heavily plough-scored. At all points tested ploughing had been deep and there was no trace of post-Roman features.

Excavation of the counterscarp in field 459 (OS 25") is completed but permission to follow up the scarp was refused. It appears that this gully is in fact the new wide 'killer' ditch cut in IV. The problem of preventing sandy undercut slip from sliding into the deepened stream ditch had been solved by constructing a massive stone and clay core. This IV reconstruction had not proceeded as far as the Finger Post Cottage site where the II-III double ditch system was found. The counterscarp in this area is eroded so that the present width of 101 ft is greater than the original width. Above the Roman levels was a thin turf line upon which were slots and pebble remains associated with iron slag and XII-XIII pottery.

Striking features were revealed by aerial photography in June in field 517 (OS 25"). In the SE corner of the defences where the IV ditch turns at a right angle and is parallel to the Severn, a part circular ringwork c. 48 ft in radius was noted. To the W the scarp was worn down by a buried road and to the W of this, masses of debris were suspected. The counterscarp to the S was flattened and there were the appearances of extensive building material. Two radial trenches were set out across the circular feature and it was found that the ringwork was of dense clay 1 ft thick near the edge of the scarp where it overlay, by up to 2 ft, the completely robbed construction trench of the Roman wall. The clay was set on a turf line and contained pottery from XII-XIV. The only other test was on the flattened counterscarp where, near the surface, masses of Roman building material were found.

A rough topographical survey of the area showed evidence of a dam at the turn of the Roman ditch to the N of which the ditch had been used as a mill pond. In the SE turn of the counterscarp was an artificial cut where a mill could have been and which was needed to allow the brook to run down to the Severn. The sunken road passed in this direction and then wore a depression over the counterscarp. There is no mention of a mill in Domesday Wroxeter. (OS 565175) The N sea gas pipe cut the Roman road from Wroxeter to Chester at this point. The road was found to be 39 ft wide and well cambered. The max depth was $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft and there was evidence of patchy repair. (OS 532001) At the request of Salop C.C. the Devils causeway near Acton Burnell, a slabbed road, was sectioned. The road was 25 ft wide from the W hedge to the farm fence but there was evidence that it extended beyond the fence. The road consisted of a single layer of basalt and sandstone blocks of c. $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 ft, worn and rutted and set on the shaly subsoil. This little used road provided access from the sandstone quarries in Netherwood coppice to the Watling St W. It seems that the upper layers of this road may have been worn down and finally stripped off leaving as a rough but sound

surface the ultimate layer.

Aerial reconnaissance along the line of the Roman road from Meole Brace, Stanley Lane and Mousecroft Lane (OS 480103) continuing via Hanwood bank, Cruckton to Westbury and beyond has shown: (OS 469104) a rectangular ditched enclosure with an entrance on the slope towards Sweet Lake; and at (OS 425155) a double ditched circular enclosure much larger than Stonehenge. Possible satellites can be identified. This site could be destroyed by a projected motorway from Wellington to N Wales.

JOHN HOUGHTON for Shropshire Roman Research Group.

Wall (LETOCETUM), Staffs (SK 101066)

Continued excavation in the SE quadrant of the latest fort has revealed further details of the buildings of this and the overlapping three earlier forts on the same site, confirming a stores building in the latest phase with barrack blocks in the earlier periods. All are on the same alignment, suggesting that the defences of the four forts were parallel. Arising from this, resistivity surveys have been made in selected areas and the anomalies found are to be investigated with the object of locating the defences on the three sides where they are at present undefined. More coins found in the fort area fall within the previous range i.e. Julius Caesar to Domitian, and a few sherds of black-burnished ware suggest this may have circulated in the Midlands appreciably earlier than in Northern Britain.

BERT ROUND for S Staffs Arch and Hist Soc

Wall (LETOCETUM), Staffs (SK 098066)

In the course of improving the Wall Bath House site by the removal of a large part of the spoil dumps left by the 1912 excavators some excavation was undertaken. A section cut in 1956 (Birmingham Arch. Soc. Trans., 74 (1956) p.12) across the width of the 'palaestra' had revealed a large stone base, apparently in its original position, on the centre-line of the area. This, together with the massive side walls, suggested that the 'palaestra' may have been a roofed building. Trenches cut in both directions along the centre-line revealed no further bases, although near the NW end one appeared to have been robbed out. The problem is therefore still unresolved. The limestone rubble foundation of the earlier small courtyard was confirmed along that part of the centre-line, while in the SW half of the 'palaestra' the trench revealed only red sand below dark loam containing much broken tile and wall plaster, suggesting that this area may originally have been paved, but since robbed away. The 'aqueduct' feature was also cleared and shown to be two parallel walls 6 in apart. The earlier, to the NW, was well constructed on massive sandstone rubble foundations; its SW end appeared to have been truncated and the adjacent stoke-hole built on to it. The NE end turned at right angles and the foundation passed under the 'palaestra' wall, showing it to have been part of an earlier building in this area. The later 'aqueduct' wall was of much poorer construction and appeared to surround the 'palaestra' on three sides, probably supporting a light verandah or external colonnade. Adjoining this wall on the NE was an earlier gravelled road laid on a foundation of limestone and sandstone rubble. Stratification indicated that the colonnade wall was a later addition to the 'palaestra'. Stratified finds include decorated Samian which should help to date parts of the structure, and unstratified finds include an as of Hadrian and a denarius of Severus Alexander.

BERT ROUND for DOTE.

Bannaventa, Whilton Lodge, Norton, Warws (SP 612646)

Excavations have confirmed this as the site of the Roman town of Bannaventa, mentioned in the Antonine Itinerary; it lies between Towcester (LACTORVM) and Caves Inn (TRIPONTIVM) on the Watling Street. Excavations made last winter have revealed a three-ditch defensive system enclosing an area of about 14 acres. A plan has been drawn based on the OS 25" sheet and the defensive ditch run has been compiled from excavations in the NE area. The run of the ditches in the other areas have been traced from the aerial photograph by Jim Pickering, and check resistivity and proton-magnetometer readings. Jim Pickering took the aerial photograph in August 1970 after waiting 12 years for the right conditions and crop marks: the ditch system was green against the rest of the gold corn-field. The photograph showed the NW corner of the enclosure at Bannaventa and the original line of the Watling Street. When the area was checked from the ground the field on the other side of the Watling Street was found being levelled by mechanical excavators in preparation for a sports ground for a hotel. The DOTE was alerted and permission obtained to carry out a rescue dig in the field. This was begun in October 1970, by Rugby Arch Soc with the objective of tracing the ditch system, carrying out work on the ditch sections and the excavation of some of the rubbish pits etc. The magnetometer surveys were carried out by A. Bahnet. The RAS then called in Stephen Taylor to carry out full-time excavations on the area near the Watling Street with funds provided by the DOTE.

JACK LUCAS for Rugby Arch. Soc.

Blunts Green, Warws (SP 138688)

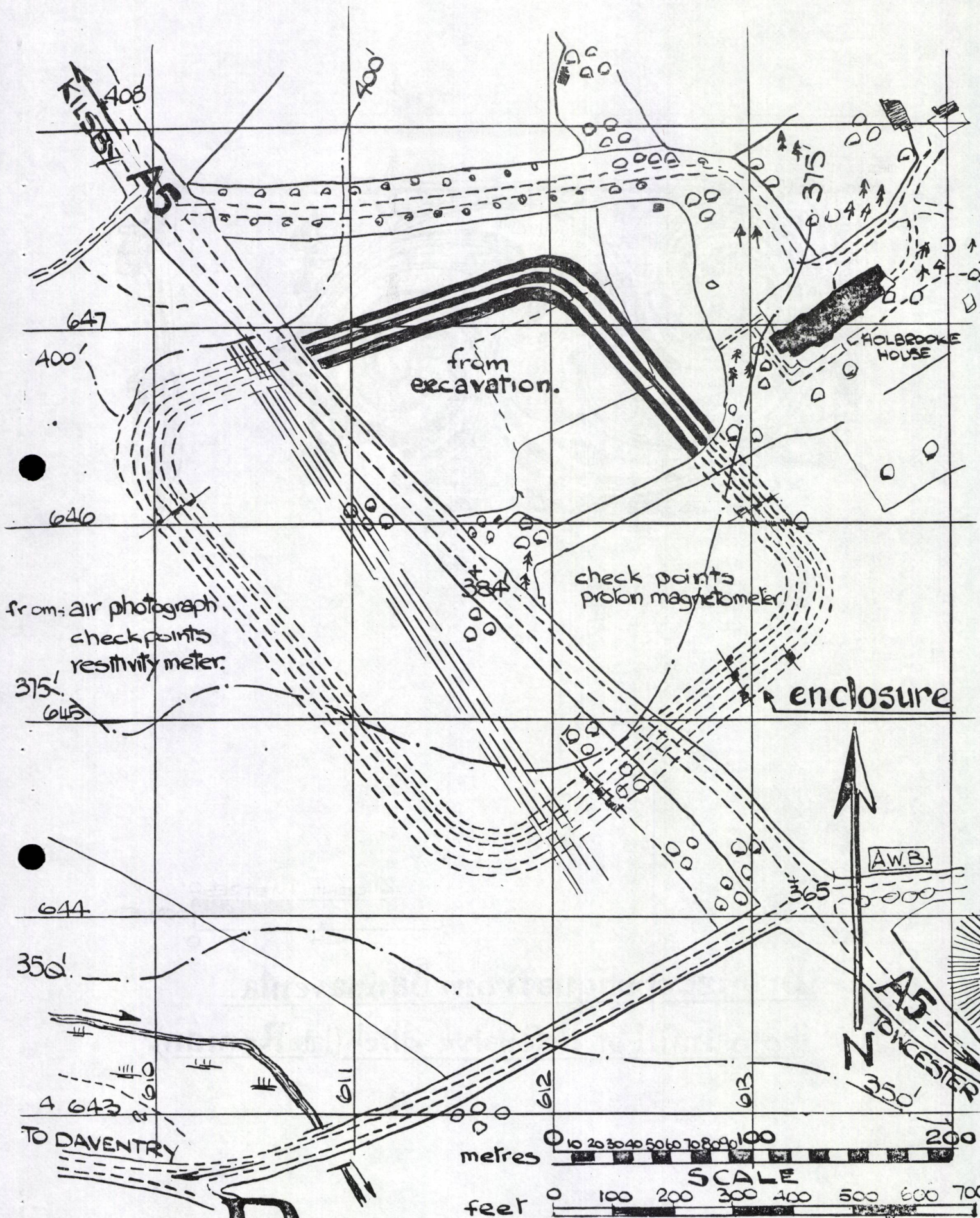
A new cutting was opened here part sectioning the embankment and ditches. Two ditches, one cutting the other, pre-dated the construction of the bank here which is dated to the Antonine period. The later ditch continued to silt up into III. The ditch sequence was quite different from that observed previously, 30 ft away, and it is thought that this site, which has so far produced 4 ditches, 2 embankments and a possible sunken road and may well be multi-period, would repay larger, area excavation.

J.G. PERRY for Solihull Archaeological Group

Crewe Farm, Kenilworth, Warws (SP 3145 7240)

The excavation in advance of Kenilworth By-pass has revealed a rectilinear enclosure, probably three acres in extent. Evidence of two palisade trenches indicate at least two phases of occupation. This was borne out by the discovery of the post-holes of a substantial rectangular timber building which produced many sherds of RB pottery. This building had replaced an earlier circular structure which had been deliberately dismantled. The later structure had in turn also been dismantled and the site was seen to be traversed by cart tracks which had been packed by gravel at various stages, sealing in them fragments of Roman pottery. This may indicate the presence of a third building within the enclosure, the site of which remains to be discovered. Occupations would appear to date from II AD and continue at least until IV. The site is peripheral to the Roman farm and field system centred at Glasshouse Wood.

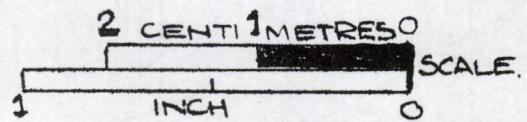
W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum



Bannaventa.

SP 612646. 1971

preliminary
survey
1971



Bronze applique from Bannaventa.
from infill of defensive ditch (late Roman).

Glasshouse Wood, Warws (SP 3145 7240)

Excavation in advance of the Kenilworth By-pass has revealed the stone foundations, floors and roof collapse of a substantial Roman building extending over an area approximately 40 sq m. The building was constructed upon an earlier timber structure and ditch from which material of the I AD was obtained. A series of stone-walled enclosures adjoined the building on its north side and a banked rectangular field system of three to four acre fields extended over a considerable area of the wood. Aerial photography showed that this field system extended to both the N and S of the wood and 50 m to the N of the building a smaller rectangular enclosure appeared to be part of the whole system. Excavation here produced evidence of an enclosing ditch 1.20 m in depth nearby the remains of a hearth. In the E triangle of the wood, trial trenching revealed stone walls and debris including much fused glass waste which probably mark the area of the XVII glass furnaces.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum in
association with Coventry and
District Archaeological Society

The Lunt, Baginton, Warws (SP 344752)

Excavation of the fort continued and the circular feature discovered in 1970 was completely excavated. It proved to be a complete circle 107 ft in diam; around the outside was a timber wall which held back the gravel and may have projected some 6 ft or more above. The floor was sunken some $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft below the rest of the interior of the fort. In the absence of anything to give a clue as to function, it is suggested that it may have been a horse training arena. For fuller details see Current Archaeology 28, Sept 71.

BRIAN HOBLEY for Coventry Museum

Lyndon Rd., Olton, Warws

A bronze FOLLIS (AE3) of Constantine the Great has been found in a garden here. The coin, commemorating the legendary founding of Rome, was issued from the 4th workshop of the mint of Rome c. 330-37 AD.

J.G. PERRY for Solihull Archaeological Group

Mancetter, Warws (SP 326967)

In 1970 an area next to the glass furnace excavated in '69 was investigated adding a pottery kiln, a sump with channel and some post-holes to the plan. Three other kilns were excavated providing a useful group of pottery of II and III (mortaria roller-stamped ware and coarse wares including some of 'Victor and Sarus'. A pebble working floor had two small rectangular features probably for puddling or storing clay. The floor was superimposed on earlier features which included a large ditch and post-holes for substantial timbers. Excavation continued on the late III or IV well and two other wells were found. The road branching SW from Watling St (JRS LIV, p. 164-5) was located and traced for a short distance. Attempts to find where the road left the field were unsuccessful and it is possible that it does not continue but was a service road for the industrial establishment in Broadclose. At the point investigated the road had 3 distinct surfaces of differing widths (c. 20, 8, and 26 ft). Post-holes beside the road indicate the presence of timber buildings; this was too extensive to be

explained as road surface. The presence of a deep pit or wall underneath was indicated by a sharp sagging of the surface. Just inside the W boundary of Broadclose a ditch of semi-punic form (9 ft wide, 4 ft deep) was located; this belongs to a hitherto unknown marching camp or fort of mid I. It was clearly earlier than the local pottery industry. The major part of the earthwork lies in adjacent fields but its line was traced as far as possible; in Broadclose the ditch varied considerably in depth but ploughing may perhaps account for this. A gap in the ditch 32 ft wide indicates a gate, but no trace of gate towers was detected. The presence of turf in the filling of the ditch and the amount of pottery of mid I in the vicinity suggests that the earthwork may have been more than a temporary one.

In 1970 an area, A, (140 by 50 ft) was completely stripped, and revealed the service road, C, to Watling St (sectioned in 1970) at a point where it was joined by another contemporary road, D, apparently also leading to the Watling St further S and going towards the River Anker. There was a small well in the NE angle between the roads and traces of a timber building later than the roads were revealed. A cluster of 5 large pits and various water channels ante-dated the construction of the roads. Unfortunately the edges of the roads have been ploughed away over long stretches. In area B, SE of A, a large water channel (8 ft wide x 2 ft deep) was investigated; it was sealed continuously by road C. This water channel issued from a well dug at the same time; the angle of slope from the well left no doubt that the channel was used for sending water from the well to other parts of the site. This channel was traced for 160 ft close to area A where it turned W, S of A but N of the glass furnace. Time did not permit further examination of this interesting feature, though many small channels and gulleys found may be connected with it. The rest of the channel and links with areas needing water remain unexplored and should provide most interesting detail for the background of the pottery industry at Mancetter. Area B also produced a boundary ditch, cut away by the water channel and a kiln of II used by Loccius Vibius and others. One of the 1970 wells was also excavated; pottery in the fill was all of one date and indicated that it had been filled with waste from the nearby kiln of Minomelus excavated in 1970. After this well had been filled the sinkage provided a pit into which small drainage channels were subsequently led. The very edge of a substantial building was found nearby but time did not permit any excavation of it.

K.F. HARTLEY for DOTE

Norton Green, Knowle, Warws (SP 180747)

An interesting coin was found here recently. Legend as follows: obv.- (HADR)IANUS (AUG) (C)OS. III P.(P) with laureate head of Hadrian right; rev.- (A)POL(LINI) A(V)GVSTO S.C. with Appollo wearing woman's dress, standing front, head left, holding left a lyre and right a Patera. There is doubt as to whether this is a genuine reverse of Hadrian (in which case it is probably a sestertius of 134-8), or a Mule or a forgery.

J.G. PERRY for Solihull Archaeological Group

Pinks Farm, Nuthurst, Warws (SP 149694)

In '70-'71 a section was cut across what appeared to be the continuation of the linear earthwork found at Blunts Green. It was thought that it might be the agger of a Roman road. No contemporary ditch was found at either side and a few sherds of medieval pottery only, in the upper levels, were found. The bank was shown to be made of hard-packed stones including large sandstone blocks randomly arranged. A line of gravel c. 6 ft wide, exposed by ploughing, ran parallel to the bank. If this is a track surface (the stones continue in line in the field across the road) then the embankment is not here the Roman road. It is suggested that it may rather be the beginning of emparkment in XIV and that it follows but is not on an earlier boundary.

ERIC H. KNIGHT for Solihull Archaeological Group.

Tripontium, Cave's Inn, Churchover, Warws (SP 535795)

Work has continued on the substantial building in Area 3. A new area approximately 40 ft by 40 ft has been excavated revealing 3 more rooms, 2 with solid floors and the other with a channelled hypocaust. The building is apparently of the winged corridor type and probably less than half of it has been exposed. A total of 9 rooms and associated corridors has now been excavated. Turf has been stripped from an additional area 40 ft sq adjacent to the room with the channelled hypocaust, and work continues on this now. It is unlikely that this building can be completely excavated in 1972 as the Society intended.

The house opposite Cave's Inn has been purchased for demolition in connection with road widening at a later date. It is important that the grounds of this house be thoroughly excavated. A single trench was dug along its N boundary during 1971 but with no conclusive result other than considerable evidence of disturbed Roman occupation. The silver pin on the cover (see note on inside cover) was one of this years finds.

JACK LUCAS for Rugby Arch. Soc.

Bays Meadow, Droitwich, Worcs (SO 898 639)

The Roman site in Bays Meadow, Droitwich, is situated on a terrace of Keuper Marl to the north of the Salwarpe river and lies about 3/8 of a mile from the junction at Dodderhill of the main Roman road from Worcester to Metchley with the Roman military road from Greensforge. The rescue excavations of 1971 are the last in a series of investigations which started in 1849 with the accidental discovery of a building with a tessellated pavement and which were continued with the excavations of H.R. Hodgkinson (1924-7), P.S. Gelling (1954-5), and R.A. Tomlinson and L.H. Barfield (1967). The results of earlier investigations have shown that the site consisted of a rectangular area approximately of some 7½ acres, 500 x 650 ft defended to the N, E and W by ditches and by a natural terrace slope to the S. Double ditches were sectioned on the E and N sides in 1955 and 1967 but the nature of the rampart itself remained obscure.

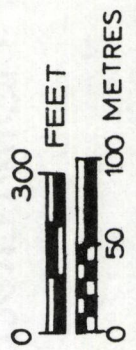
The internal features of the site were, surprisingly, of an unmilitary character, comprising a large and well appointed winged corridor villa, (provided with hypocausts, mosaics and painted wall plaster), aligned along the N rampart and a similar but smaller winged corridor building, of a more modest

design, at right angles to the first building, roughly aligned along the W rampart. The S side overlooking Vines Lane, which is now almost totally obscured by factory buildings, revealed little evidence of structural remains.

In the spring of 1971 only about a third of the settlement comprising the NE corner of the site was left intact. The construction of the Droitwich bypass in the course of the year, besides cutting into the corner of the settlement, led to the isolation of the pasture land containing the site. The latter area was subsequently purchased by Nu-Way Heating Ltd., for development as a car-park, with the result that the site would be totally obliterated. Excavations were therefore carried out for two months in June and July under the direction of Professor R.A. Tomlinson and Dr. L.H. Barfield of the University of Birmingham, financed by the University of Birmingham and the Dept. of the Environment. The research concentrated on the investigation of the E side of the site and its E defences (site V) as well as excavation of the central area in front of the main corridor villa (site IV). At least three phases of rebuilding could be recognized on both sites IV and V. On site V along the inside of the E rampart, the earliest feature was a network of intersecting drainage ditches not clearly associated with any other structures. In period II this was superseded by another drainage network comprising a main N-S drain connected with lateral channels which led into latrine pits. The main drain was, to the N, closely associated with a cobbled road running on the same alignment. A well, lined with sandstone blocks, is probably contemporary, since both it and the drain were sealed by buildings of period III. On the line of the E rampart two short sections of ditch 3.80 and 4.40 m long were found which may be connected with the defences in period II. Although both had the same alignment, the southern section was stepped out by 1.50 m from the line of the N one. In period III these ditches were partly covered by a stone wall revetment for the later rampart and partly by a latrine complex comprising a paved area with a stone basin (bidet?) set into it and two latrine pits. In period III a line of buildings extending for at least 66 m along the E rampart was constructed. To the S was a substantial building measuring 17 m from E to W divided into two rooms by a party wall. The wall footings were of sandstone, while inside both rooms were the bases of roof supports. These were square sandstone blocks set on prepared foundations consisting of a circular cluster of stakes packed with clay and pebbles. Burnt grain from among the slates of the roof found on the east side suggest that the building had been used as a granary. Details of the buildings to the N of this stone structure are difficult to reconstruct without further excavations; however, they can be seen to present a straight frontage of posts (porticus?) lining the cobbled road mentioned above. A coin of Constantine found in the top fill of the well which was sealed by the robbed wall belonging to these buildings, provides a terminus post quem for its construction. Coins of the first half of IV were also associated with the occupation levels of the building.

On site IV one of the earliest features is a cobbled roadway with two flanking ditches which ran in an E-W direction across the site. This joined the road on site V at right angles on the E side of the site. A lime kiln 3 m wide and dug 2.60 m into the Keuper Marl was probably contemporary with the road. Access to the kiln had been provided by an arched doorway 1.50 m high on the S side cut out of the solid marl. Both the kiln and the roadway had been levelled up with dumps of clean marl and other constructions built over them. Over the kiln were the foundations of a rectangular double-walled building. The plan of this structure is incomplete but its symmetrical position in front of the large corridor villa found in 1967, suggests that it may have been a square double-walled temple or shrine. Elsewhere in this area were found a series of deep post-holes and two latrine pits all of which had been cut into the levelling deposits over the road and the kiln.

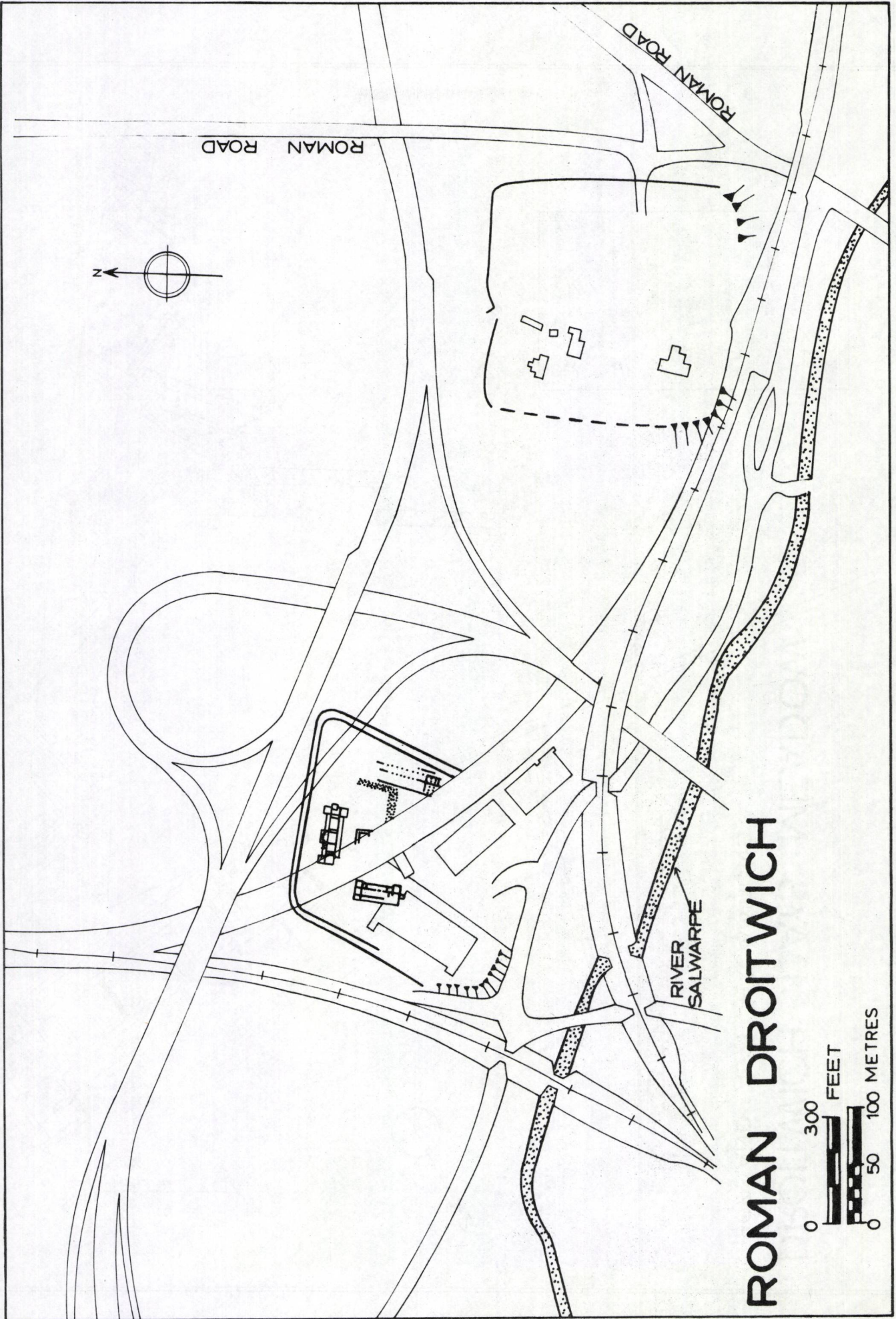
ROMAN DROITWICH



RIVER
SALWARPE

ROMAN ROAD

ROMAN ROAD

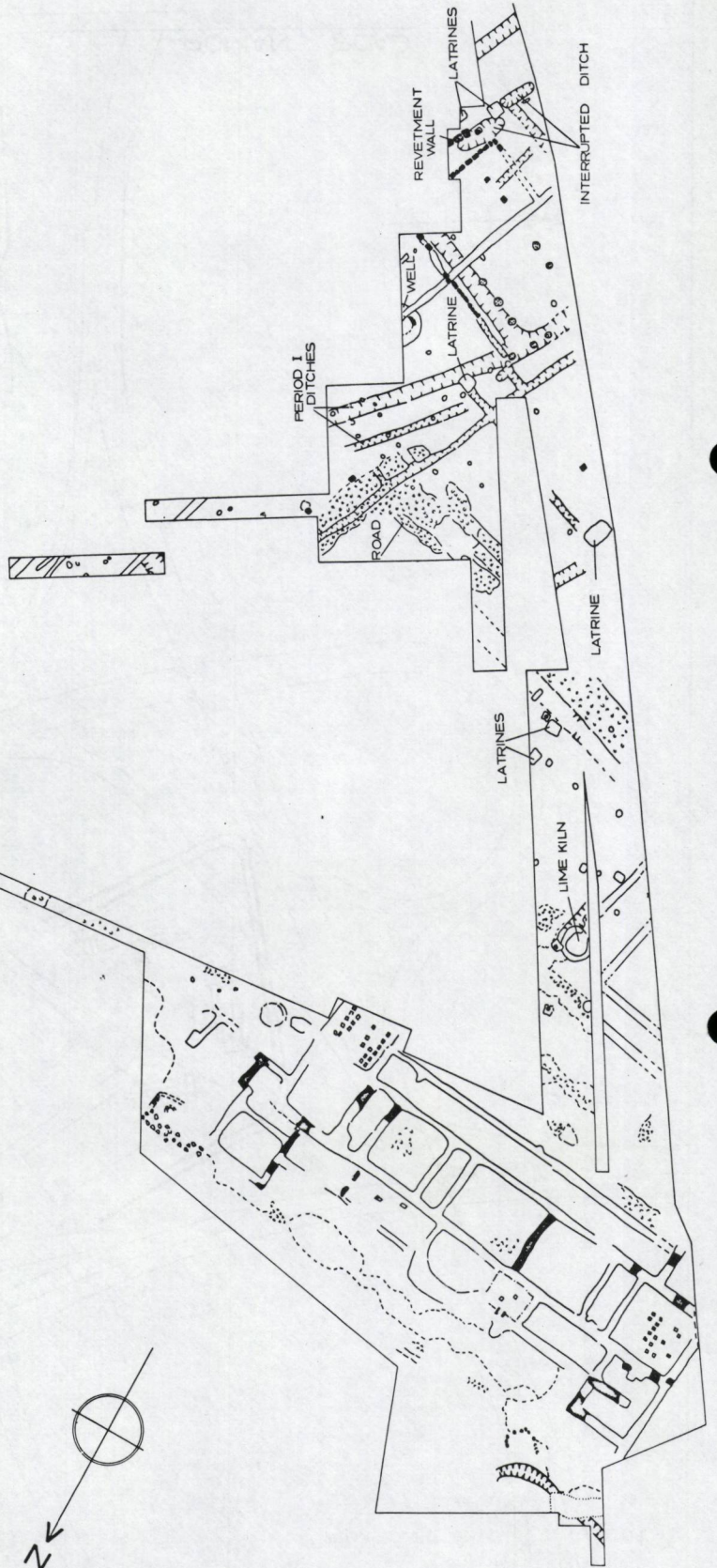


DROITWICH BAYS MEADOW

1967 AND 1971 EXCAVATIONS



KEY	
	SANDSTONE WALL FOUNDATIONS
	ROBBED WALLS
	DITCHES
	ROAD AND COBBLED SURFACES
	POST HOLE
	COLUMN BASE
	PEBBLE AND STAKE FOUNDATIONS



These latest excavations have shown that the internal area of the fortified complex in Bays Meadow was densely occupied and the buildings in it were laid out according to a well-defined plan. The buildings however have a civilian rather than a military character and a possible interpretation is that the site was an official residence perhaps connected with the organization of the salt extraction at Salinae or with other forms of administration.

Excavations will be continued in 1972.

L.H. BARFIELD & R.A. TOMLINSON, University
of Birmingham for DOTE

Cropton, Worcs (SC 99634346)

Ploughing in a field NW of Smoky Farm revealed a scatter of Roman pottery and a small quantity of dressed lias and oolite. Most of the pottery is rather abraded. A number of cooking pots, storage jars, bowls and tankards of Severn Valley ware is represented, together with several fragments of black cooking-pot including a late III overhanging rim and a small flanged bowl or 'pie-dish' of IV type. Also present were fragments of a hooked-rim mortarium, a collander, and at least 5 samian vessels, of which Drag. 35 or 36 and Drag. 18/31 are recognisable. Other finds include the broken upper half of a typical RB domestic flat-topped rotary quern and a bronze sestercius of Crispina (177 AD). The pottery evidence suggests a range of occupation from II into IV, but the absence of roofing tiles would seem to suggest no buildings of great pretension.

JAMES BOND & LINDA BABB, Worcs County Museum

Crutch Lane, Droitwich, Worcs (SO 90346392)

A contractor's trench exposed a partial section of the Droitwich-Greensforge road some 250 ft N of the drive entrance to Glenhyng School. Unfortunately on the E side the section was seriously disturbed by modern pipe trenches and on the W the road material continued beyond the edge of the trench, so it was not possible to ascertain the width of the Roman road. The modern road surface appeared to lie directly on the Roman levels and had a width of 24 ft; and the presence of side ditches was suggested by the difficulties lorries were encountering in entering the field to the E.

Despite the uncleaned and irregular side of the section, several layers were visible. The lowest road deposit, of stiff sandy brown clay containing a few flecks of tile and burnt clay, sealed at least four shallow pits, none of which contained any dating evidence. Above this were two further lenticular layers of clay and pebbles, presumably indicating successive repairs, and patchy traces of a possible surface of small stones.

JAMES BOND & LINDA BABB Worcs County Museum

Dodderhill, Worcs (SO 90116389)

Topsoil scraping for the Droitwich Outer Relief Road exposed a single inhumation burial on a NNE - SSW alignment, with the head to the N, just outside the NW corner of the Dodderhill Roman fort. A couple of sherds of Roman pottery were associated with the burial. The remains were in extremely poor condition, only part of the right arm and traces of the backbone and a few ribs surviving.

JAMES BOND, Worcs County Museum

SAXON

Alveston, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warws (SP 2094 5485)

Investigation of the site adjacent to the pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery continued. The palisade trenches located in 1970 were seen to extend to the S and E and appear to be part of a series of conjoined enclosures dating from the end of the pagan Saxon period. Replacement palisades had been erected and indicate a considerable life span for these enclosures. The S side of a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure of late RB/agan Saxon date, partly excavated in 1970, was also located to the S of the most northerly palisaded enclosure, the post-holes of a small rectangular structure with adjacent pits were revealed. Many further features of medieval date including ditches and pits were superimposed upon the earlier occupation.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum and DOTE

Bidford-on-Avon, Warws (SP 0998 5197)

Preliminary excavation took place in advance of roadworks near the area of the pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated in 1922-25. Two cremations and three inhumations were discovered, some 50 m N of the limit of the 1925 excavations, indicating a cemetery of much greater extent than hitherto suspected. One grave was badly disturbed by a later pit, the second, that of a young female, although disturbed still contained a situla and a pair of small saucer brooches with a spiral motif. The third grave proved to be extremely rich in grave goods. It contained a small long brooch of a square-headed type and a type G pennular brooch, both near the lower jaw, together with a long iron pin. Under the left shoulder lay a pierced bronze disc with a number of double headed rivet-like pieces of bronze. At the left hip was a knife with a bone handle and a purse mount with much of the leather attached. The remnants of a necklace of 36 glass and amber beads lay across the rib cage. Many occupation features were also present. A number of parallel slots each terminating in a post-hole were suggestive of a series of pens. These had been cut by a curved ditch in which was a destruction layer containing much burnt material, wattle-marked clay daub, several fragments of rotary-querns and a decorated bone knife handle. Further W other ditches and post-holes yielding Saxon pottery were found and may indicate the presence of timber structures.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum and DOTE

Blacklow Hill, Warws (SP 2905 6755)

Excavations in advance of the Kenilworth By-pass have revealed a series of enigmatic circular pits 1.20 m in diam cut into the sandstone bedrock at the E end of the hill. They extend over the whole of the crest of the spur and appear to be contained within two parallel arcs of square post-holes. Within the area contained by the two arcs and lying in a central situation immediately W of the inner arc were two inhumations. They were orientated E-W with the feet facing W. The most northerly grave, that of a male, contained a scramaseax with a blade 30 cm in length. The site has been disturbed by a quarry-like feature 18 m broad and 6 m deep, which has been cut into the side of the hill. All the faces have been dressed with a chisel-like tool and the corners have been cut into a wedge-shape tapering upwards. One larger pit 1.80 m in diam lies without the area on the E side. The sides of the quarry towards the mouth

have a peculiar double triangular shape and are entirely symmetrical. The dating and interpretation of the site present a number of difficult problems which depend on the relationship of the evidence of cross-ploughing to the various features. It is possible however that the site may well be that of a pagan Saxon sacred grove.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum and DOTE

Stretton-on-Fosse, Warws (SP 2182 3831)

During continued sand quarrying W of the village, a further 14 inhumations were discovered 200 yd to the E of the site of the pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated in 1969/70. Ten of these graves, which varied in depths up to 1.70 m below the modern turf line, were aligned N to S. The occupants lay with their feet to the S and in six cases evidence of studded boots was found. In two instances, the boots were not part of the apparel of the deceased, but had been placed separately in the graves at the time of burial. Four graves which were aligned E-W were seen to be of a later date, having been superimposed upon the earlier N-S inhumations. No evidence of studded boots was found in these later burials. The lapse of time between the N-S burials and the E-W graves must have been considerable as the earlier burials could hardly have been recognisable when the latter were dug. One easterly orientated grave had cut through an earlier inhumation and the pelvic bones, the lower arms and the thighs, had been replaced carefully by the head of the earlier burial, suggesting a state of almost total decomposition of the first body at the time of the disturbance. Six of the 14 inhumations were in coffins. Examples of carrying handles were found and nails at the head and feet of one coffin were seen to be hook-shaped. Two stages in the use of the cemetery were recognisable, the second stage coinciding with a change of burial method, suggesting the introduction of Christian practices and the discarding of the pagan beliefs associated with the presence of studded boots. The excavated graves so far, indicate an orderly method of burial and the beginnings of rows of graves are recognisable. The accumulation of evidence indicates an undoubted link between the RB and Pagan Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. The presence of studded boots among the female element of the Saxon burial group and the discovery that fragments of material attached to all the brooches from the female Saxon graves, were woven by traditional RB methods, certainly suggests that extant pagan RB burial practices were brought to an immigrant Anglo-Saxon element at Stretton through marriage with women from an already established RB community.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum and DOTE

Liberal Club Grounds, Hereford (SO 509402)

The site, between Eign Gate and Widemarsh Gate, is on the tail of the rampart, the main part of the rampart being under Wall St. A single trench, 6 by 2 m was laid down at right angles to the city defences. The northern end of the trench, nearest Wall St., showed the gravel rampart (Rahtz period 6) with an earlier phase of rampart building (Rahtz period 5?), which included a piece of Chester ware, under the gravel. Above the rampart material were medieval and later occupation layers. Sealed by the rampart was an occupation layer with a post-hole and a sleeper beam trench cut into the natural soil. The large amount of bone, cooking pot sherds and iron nails suggest that prior to the building of the rampart there was considerable occupation outside the earlier Saxon defences. This confirms the excavations at the Brewery site,

Mwcm
402

near Eign Gate, in 1968.

Hwcm 402

JOHN HOOD & RON SHOESMITH for Hereford
Excavations Committee

St Nicholas' St , Hereford (SO 508398)

Hwcm 403

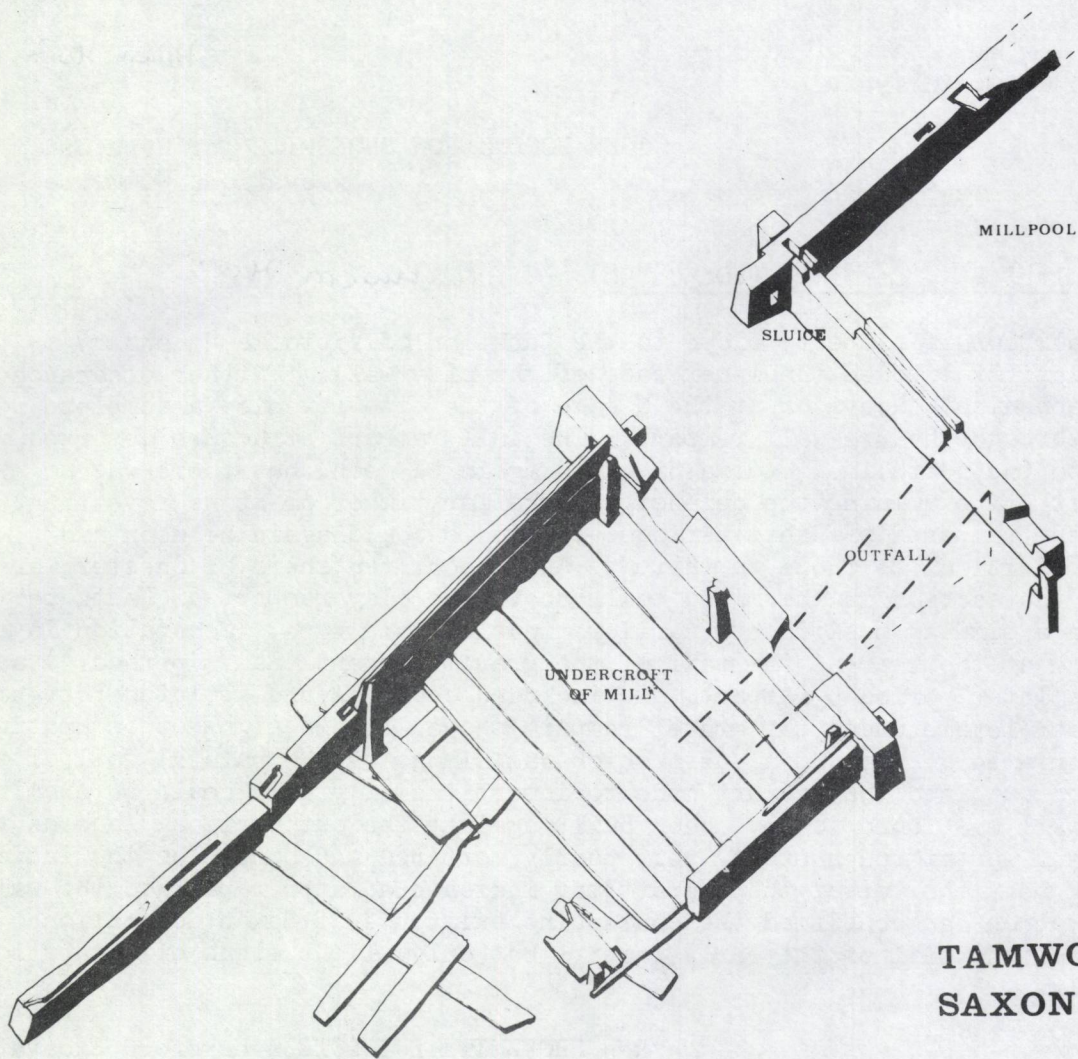
Demolition of property close to the junction of Victoria St and St Nicholas' St exposed the inner face of the city wall. Further clearance with a mechanical excavator at the N edge of the site revealed a complete section through the pre-wall rampart. The full rampart structure observed further to the north in Victoria St could again be seen, but there was no possibility of examining the defensive works for timber or stone revetting. However the ramparts of Rahtz periods 4, 5 and 6 could again be seen and appeared identical to those further N. An undecorated sherd of Chester ware was found in the section in the mixed soils above the clay rampart of Rahtz period 5, and in a similar position to earlier finds of this type. Occupation layers were found at the rear of the tail of the gravel rampart (Rahtz period 4) and under the later period 5 rampart, and included charcoal and isolated post-holes. The earlier levels under the gravel rampart showed little signs of occupation except for a large part of a quern which was almost on the natural soil of the site. The cut into the rampart made to insert the city wall could be examined and the wall was found to have been built against the cut vertical face of the rampart and was of rough stone, very poorly mortared and bonded on the inside. Trenching near the top of the rampart may indicate a later repair to the wall. The excavation has confirmed the continuing existence of Saxon occupation levels near the tail of the early rampart but only slight signs of occupation previously.

RON SHOESMITH for DOTE & Hereford Excavations
Committee

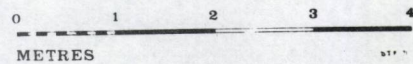
Albert Road, Tamworth, Staffs (SK 209043)

Excavation prior to development as a police-station located the Medieval and Saxon ditches and the Saxon rampart of the N defences. The Saxon defences consisted of a small V-shaped ditch 2.5 m wide and 1.1 m deep and a rampart 5.2 m wide separated by a 6.4 m berm. The rampart was of turf (?) and stone construction, and beneath it were a number of post-holes, visible in section, but not uncovered in plan, which formed no regular pattern, but were certainly of the same construction as the body of the rampart. There were also indications of horizontal timbering on the berm. No finds were recovered from these features, but they presumably relate to the building of the burgh in 913 AD by Aethelflaed. The medieval ditch was situated to the N of the Saxon defences. Its S edge was located, but the N edge lay beneath the modern road. The width of the medieval ditch was traced for 8.4 m before interruption by the modern road. It was filled with mixed clay and earth, interpreted as back-filled rampart material.

K.W. SHERIDAN for Tamworth Castle Museum



**TAMWORTH
SAXON WATER MILL**



The horizontal water mill was in use in Ireland from as early as VII AD and survived as late as XIX. Arising in the countries bordering the E Mediterranean and in E Europe, the type also extended through NW Spain, W France and W Scotland to Scandinavia and to Ireland. F.T. Lucas has described the typical horizontal mill as follows. 'The horizontal mill consisted of a small two-storeyed wooden building usually erected on a race or channel into which water was diverted from a neighbouring stream. To ensure a steady supply, the water was impounded in a pond immediately above the mill, from where it was led to the wheel through a large wooden trough or chute hollowed out of a single length of timber. The lower storey of the building was open at each end, the water entering at one and flowing out at the other. The grinding was carried out in the upper storey where the millstones were set up. The mechanism consisted of a long vertical wooden shaft, terminating below in a top-shaped nave or hub into which were mortised a number of scoop-like wooden paddles which radiated from it like the spokes of a wheel. The pointed lower end of the nave rested in a hollow seating of stone or wood in which it revolved. An iron spindle attached to the upper end of the shaft passed through an opening in the floor of the upper storey and through a hole in the lower millstone. The top of the spindle was fastened to an iron bridge or rynd let into the lower surface of the upper stone, so that when the spindle turned it carried the stone around with it. The jet of water from the chute was directed against one side of the wheel and impinged on the scoops of the paddles causing it to revolve. All the remains of Irish wheels that have been discovered show that they were designed to rotate in a clockwise direction. As the wheel, shaft, spindle and upper stone formed, in effect, a single unit, no intermediate gearing was required and one revolution of the wheel produced a corresponding revolution of the upper stone. The operation of the mill was controlled by admitting or cutting off the supply of water to the chute by means of a sluice gate.'

The main preserved timber structure found in June in Tamworth appears to have been just such a watermill. The mill was of two phases. The water supply was almost certainly derived from a leat diverted off the R. Anker some distance upstream. The end of this leat was found filling a millpool. The mill itself consisted of a series of structures erected in a deep excavation; the level which survived was the lower storey as described above. Beyond this the outfall presumably erupted into the river; the junction was destroyed by the medieval town ditch dug in late XI or early XII. Of the earliest mill, the only surviving elements were the levels of the primary leat and timbers and timber-holes sealed beneath the later mill timbers. These consisted of a framework of thin pegged planks laid on the floor of an irregular excavation which, like the first leat, had eroded beyond its original limits by water-scouring. It is conjectured that the first mill became useless because of erosion which failed to keep the water supply within its proper course and lowered the head of water to a level where it would no longer operate the wheel. The features of the 2nd mill may be seen at least partly as attempts to overcome the difficulties of the 1st. The 2nd mill was a very substantial structure of massive oak timber baulks, planks, posts and pegs, exhibiting a wide variety of techniques in the joints and pegging. The mill had several components (see isometric drawing p). The millpool consisted of a 3 sided structure of timber baulks in which was built up a head of water. Its N (up-slope) side was built up further by a plank wall to prevent erosion of the edge of the mill-pool. Around the pool, filling up the old eroded leat and raising the level of the mill-pool, was a packing of tons of dense yellow clay which acted as a waterproofing envelope; this was extended E under and around the wheel structures and mill race and outfall. The water was fed into the lower storey of the mill by two channels: the wheelrace on the N side and the overflow on the S. These were presumably wooden troughs as described above but only the emplacements for them remained. That for the wheelrace in the W

(main) baulk of the millpool had 2 vertical cylindrical holes c. 3cm in diam which may well have held upright members of a grill to prevent objects such as branches from fouling the wheel. Between the 2 emplacements the timber baulk was cut into a deep slot to support a further water-retaining plank. To the W of the millpool at a lower level was the main mill structure: 3-sided with a floor of massive planks it was set into the same excavation as its predecessor but enveloped with clay. Its 3 sides were founded on massive timber baulks supporting thin plank walls surviving up to 50 cm above the floor. The W side was open, where the water flowed away. The E side had 2 emplacements to receive the lower ends of the wheelrace and overflow channel troughs. Five upright posts of slight scantling were in the 4 corners and in the centre of the E wall. On the floor and extending away to W in the outfall area were silts and sands; the pattern of these suggested that water continued to move down the overflow channel after the wheelrace was blocked. The N wall originally finished at the W end of this structure, and at this point a separate heavy plank wall turned N, ending behind a massive timber upright. Later, possibly even after the mill was abandoned, the N wall was extended W to form a revetment on the N side of the outfall area.

From the evidence of these timber structures it seems most likely that the Tamworth mill represents the lower storey of a horizontal mill, as described by Lucas, with an upper storey where the grinding took place. Not much evidence of the wheel and machinery remained but the mill was burnt down and some evidence for its working arrangement was recovered from the burnt debris which had fallen on to the plank floor. Finds here include over 200 fragments of c. 20 millstones, both upper and lower stones; they were up to 60-70 cm in diam and most were of millstone grit or other local gritstones though a few were of Rhineland lava. There were also pieces of a daub structure which, although found in a fired condition due to the fire, were originally an annular structure of puddled clay. The most likely interpretation is that these pieces were part of a clay bedding for the lower (fixed) stone, possibly set in a frame; on the side of the inner hole were embedded grains and grain impressions. There was an iron bearing: a block of iron set into a plank, which had a circular hole in one end; in the block was a wear-socket of an iron spindle c. 1 cm diam. This is thought not to be large enough to be the main lower bearing but it has been suggested that it might be an upper bearing to steady the spindle at the top. It is possibly the first piece of Anglo-Saxon machinery to be found.

Little remained to give details of the mill superstructure. There were burnt timbers but no other daub to suggest anything other than a timber building; there were no nails and this implies pegged joints throughout. There was some Roman brick of uncertain function. There were also several pounds of melted lead. While some of this looks like melted roof or other material, some is undoubtedly window leading. Although there is no definite glass (though there is one piece among the lead which may be fused glass) the H-section indicates panes, but perhaps these were of horn rather than glass. Some pieces of lead frame are clearly of diamond shape c. 5x3 cm. The occurrence of 'leaded lights' is remarkable, and if glass may be assumed, this is one of the very few instances of its use in Anglo-Saxon contexts other than monastic ones.

Other finds include wooden objects including several curved fragments probably of one or more of the scoop-like paddles of the wheel, and a lathe-turned bowl from the mill pool. Iron objects include the bearing already mentioned, an iron-covered lead weight, and a complete hinge suitable for a trap-door.

There were no obviously datable objects associated with either mill. The absence of pottery suggested a date later than V; sherds of early Stamford ware in the layer above, deposited when the mill had been abandoned for some time,

gave a terminus ante quem of c. AD 1000. Since the excavations however, four C14 dates have been obtained which were all centred within the eighth century, which strongly suggests that the mill was of this date.

The function of the mill is at present difficult to determine, until more is known of the Saxon layout of this part of Tamworth. Its scale is not large, and it may perhaps be seen as an example of the kind of mill that are so well represented in the Domesday survey. The only other mill of early date excavated in England is that at Old Windsor of mid or later XI. This was powered by three parallel wheels driven off a canal cut from the Thames. This was presumably part of the royal complex at Old Windsor, and much larger than the Tamworth example. Was the latter a communal town mill, a private enterprise structure, or an adjunct of the royal palace? It must be remembered that only 30 m away Young in 1968 found indications of substantial stone and timber buildings. The mill provides us with a remarkable amount of structural information. Hitherto, Saxon buildings have only been known from soil marks, even of the largest buildings like those of the palace complexes of Yeaveering or Cheddar. At Tamowrth we have for the first time (except for the remarkable Saxon timber-framed wells at North Elmham) a three-dimensional demonstration of what has long been held from other evidence, that the Anglo-Saxons were able to erect timber structures of high quality and in sophisticated techniques.

Since the excavation was completed in July 1971 the mill-timbers have been lifted by the Tamworth Borough Council; they are to be kept damp until they can be preserved for future reconstruction.

For a short report with photographs see Current Archaeology No. 29 Nov. 71.

P.A. RAHTZ & K.W. SHERIDAN for Tamworth
Borough Council, DOTE and the University
of Birmingham

Hentland, Herefords (SO 543263)

The excavation of the first area has now been completed. This revealed the presence of three stone buildings: a rectangular house of XVII probably the manor referred to by documentary records; a building of XV-XVI, the end wall of which remains; a building of XIII, one wall of which was found, the remainder being in the unexcavated area. These buildings stood upon a made-up layer which covered two sets of features, the first being several post-holes of timber buildings. The second feature consisted of two parallel ditches, which were exposed over a distance of 30ft. The general depth below the former land surface for both was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft, and they were about 8 ft wide. The innermost had a V-shaped profile whilst the outer had a flat bottom. RB sherds were discovered during excavation, in addition to material from the stone building phases of occupation.

NORMAN BRIDGEWATER for Archenfield Excavation
Group

The Yeld, Pembridge, Herefords (SO 351563)

Shortly after this moated site was surveyed, the field was completely levelled and the circular ditch filled with material from the mound. During the next few days the levelled site was examined and the remains of some structures and a few sherds of pottery were found. One cess-pit, containing large amounts of charcoal, fragments of ash and some elderberry seeds, was found along with a

stone lined pit of uncertain use. Most of the pottery, which indicated a XIII-XIV date, came from around the stone foundations of a hut.

NORMAN BRIDGEWATER for Archenfield
Excavation Group

Mount St, Stafford (SJ 92022344)

A medieval well lined with sandstone blocks, possibly quarried locally, was excavated in March 1971. It had apparently gone out of use late XII, and finds included metalwork, window glass and an extremely useful pottery group - fragments of cooking pots and a skillet, a large, green-glazed Nottingham (?) jug and other wares. The date of the construction of the well has not yet been determined. With the assistance of Mr. W.E. Jenks five courses of the well (c. 5½ ft) were removed and have since been reconstructed by Stafford Museum.

P.H. ROBINSON for Stafford Museum and Mid
Staffs Arch Soc

Hen Domen, Montgomery (SO 214980)

The 1971 season of excavations on this timber castle was spent in stripping part of the NE sector of the bailey. A post-hole and wattle and daub building of phase Y was discovered lying on the back of the rampart and continuing the sequence of buildings of this phase revealed in the NW sector. Further E were post-holes and pits, suggesting that a major building on a slightly different alignment lay behind the rampart. Work on this building will be continued next year. Analysis of the pottery by Pamela Clarke continued and shows, rather unexpectedly, that the finer cooking pot fabrics tend to precede the coarser ones. The most important pottery find was a group of a Developed Stamford Ware jug from the latest period.

PHILIP BARKER for University of Birmingham &
RAI

Bredwardine, Herefords (SO 336440)

The third season of excavations on this medieval complex was concentrated on joining previously excavated areas together, as far as standing trees would permit. The six periods of occupation postulated in 1970 continue to fit the facts and it would now appear that there are at least five different stone buildings within the excavated area, covering some three different periods. Work will continue in 1972.

RON SHOESMITH

MEDIEVAL

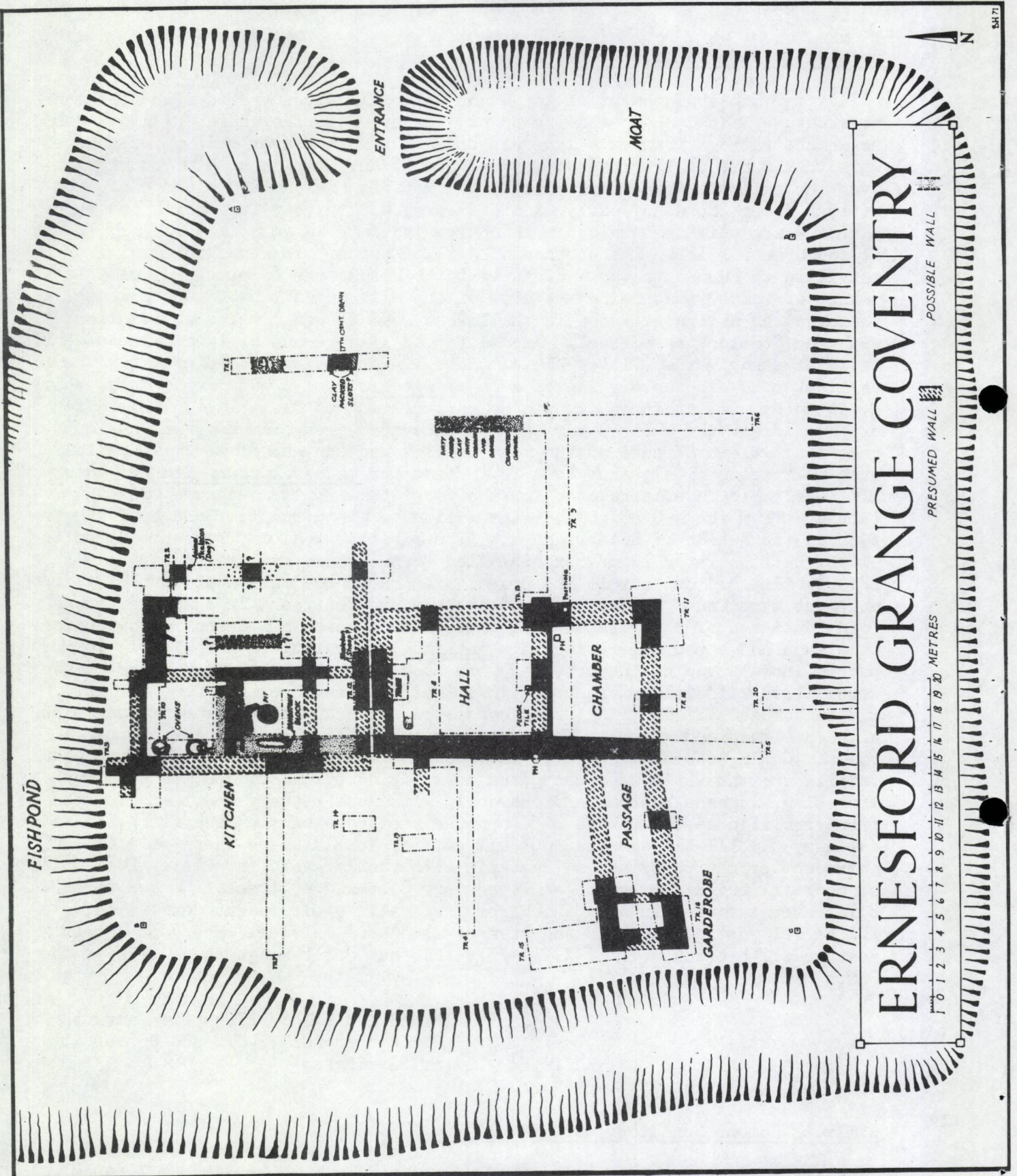
Bolebridge St, Tamworth, Staffs

After the abandonment of the Saxon watermill already described here the area became silted up to a depth of c. 1 m before further human activity can be demonstrated. Then metalling was spread over the area; this is associated with the lowest of the roads described below, and with an area of occupation over the millpool area; this yielded the key ceramic dating evidence of several dozen sherds of early Stamford ware, with a very few shelly and sandy sherds - a combination which in this area indicate a date in early XI, though it could be earlier. The absence of earlier pottery is remarkable. The metalling thickened to the W of the site to become the lowest level of a series of roads, traversing the area of the mill outfall N-S. Unfortunately there was no dating evidence in the lowest road to confirm its association with the Stamford Ware level. In the top of it were one or two sherds of early medieval sandy wares (?later XI +); these link this level (and probably the earliest road) to the digging of a major ditch some 8 m wide x 3 m deep, which is dated by similar sherds in its primary silting to ?later XI+. This ditch extends across the whole S part of the excavated area from E-W, and has cut away the extreme SW edge of the mill complex and the end of the mill outfall area. It seems likely that this is in fact the medieval town ditch of later XI - early XII date, here seen for the first time in its S course, having turned W from the N-S alignment (the E side of its circuit) found by Young in 1968 on the N side of Bolebridge St. The earliest road may have pre-dated the ditch, but the later roads certainly led to the ditch and crossed it by a bridge; time did not permit the proper examination of this, but traces of its abutment were found at two or more levels where the roads ended. The second road consisted of a series of long thin timbers laid in N-S and E-W directions; they each had a peg hole (with pegs in situ in some; these had clearly formed part of some structure before they were used in the road.) The spaces between were filled with ?alder brushwood in a 'mat'; there were also some upright timbers close by. The final road consisted of thick irregular sandstone slabs with some sand and gravel. There were a few XI-XII sherds in these upper roads. During the XIII century, the roads were abandoned, and the ditch began to fill up; the whole area was given over to industrial occupation with much iron slag, furnace-bottoms and charcoal, with much pottery and leather - the first prolific layers on the site. On the west edge of the excavation, a deep cut-away of XIII-XIV date had cut all earlier levels; here there were two enormous upright posts and a ?cess-pit with much organic material. Post-holes of medieval buildings were also found near Bolebridge Street. Houses were built over the area in XVI, which remained until their recent demolition; a XVI barrel was found, which had been re-used as a latrine. The most recent feature was a brick well of XVIII-XIX; this had cut through the W side of the Saxon mill.

PHILIP RAHTZ & KEN SHERIDAN for Tamworth
Borough Council, DOTE and University
of Birmingham

Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, Warws(SP 351908)

After the discovery of further medieval kilns (see Med Arch XII (1968) p. 208) during building operations 29 more kilns were located by local archaeologists; the best had 1 m of wall and 4 flue arches still intact: this is the finest kiln from the site. The excavation proves the development of pottery kilns: twin flue 1st half of XIII, 3 flue by XIV. Much of the pottery



ERNESFORD GRANGE COVENTRY

PRESUMED WALL

POSSIBLE WALL

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 METRES

is plain but in the middle of a high production plain period appears a decorated phase with face jugs. The best decoration in early XIII had stamped, incised and applied zoomorphic motifs in coloured clay. Products new to the site include a decorated three leg vessel, lamps, multi handle face jug, a complete tile in relief- probably a die stamp, handles with plaited strip down centre and a face louver.

KEITH SCOTT for Nuneaton Group

Ernesford Grange, Binley, Coventry, Warws (SP 370776)

Ernesford Grange was an outlying farm of the Cistercian monastery of Combe Abbey. It was in the possession of Combe in 1279. There was continued monastic use until the Reformation, when in 1544 the grange was granted to Thomas Broke on the orders of Henry VIII. There were still apparently buildings on the site in the early XVIII. A map of the Knightlow Hundred by Henry Beighton (1722-1725) records Ernesford Grange as an old building. Redevelopment necessitated rescue. Excavations revealed an 'L' shaped stone building on the W side of the enclosed moated area. This building had four main elements; kitchen, hall, chamber and garderobe. The garderobe was situated adjacent to the W moat and linked to the main building (34 m x 9 m) by a passage (12 m). This building had been erected on a levelled bed of clay, some 30 cm deep, which had been deposited when the moat had been excavated. This clay had effectively sealed an earlier land surface. The walls had been laid directly onto the levelled clay. The weight of the subsequent building had indented the clay to a depth of some 3 cm - 6 cm. Within the building several interesting structures were found including two circular ovens (kitchen) a large hearth of pitched re-used roofing tiles and a garderobe pit. Only one floor tile was found in situ, this had been laid upon mortar directly over the dumped clay. A large quantity of both whole and broken roofing tiles were found, where they had fallen during the building's demolition.

The garderobe pit (2.70 x 1.70 m) had had the surrounding floor levels badly disturbed. Its original depth could, however, be estimated at c. 3 m. The tapered pit walls were built of crudely shaped and unmortared local red sandstone. The floor of the garderobe was paved with large chalk slabs c. 15 cm thick. As chalk is not a local stone, this feature must be seen, as a special importation possibly to aid the drainage. Resting upon this floor or in the immediate silt above it were three large pottery vessels.

Work will continue during August-September 1972 on both an examination of the causeway entrance and elsewhere within the moated area, to try and locate evidence for farm buildings.

BRIAN HOBLEY for Coventry Museum and DOTE.

Kings Hill, Finham, Warws (SP 3290 7448)

Field work in advance of the Kenilworth By-pass revealed the site of the DMH of Hellinhull which lay immediately to the west of the By-pass route. The house platforms, crofts and back lane were clearly visible. Excavation was carried out along the threatened inner furlong headland. It was shown that the furlong had been laid out by a line of posts c. 9 m apart beginning at the corner where the headland and sideland met. No evidence of an earlier field system has yet been produced.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum and DOTE

7-10 Much Park St, Coventry, Warws (SP 336 787)

This site contained a series of medieval timber framed buildings prior to the extensive re-development which has taken place in that area of the city. The houses were multi-storeyed, with front and rear bays, the front bays sealing large vaulted cellars. The houses at nos. 7-10 were among the last to be removed and the site was made available for archaeological investigation. Excavation was concentrated initially at no. 7 where a succession of medieval floors, earthen and plastered, were uncovered, each floor level being associated with stone wall-footings, bonded with red clay. The trench across nos. 8-9 cut layers which revealed a succession of activities related to the houses at no. 7. The earliest occupation levels were at a surprising depth from the present ground surface; excavations at the Stone House further along the street to the S suggested that the depth of build-up at nos. 7-10 was abnormal. The natural ground surface had been cut by a number of ditches, and these, together with a pit, produced pottery of late XII including some Stamford ware. The sealing of the ditches was followed by the first buildings, possibly of timber post-hole type. This phase was succeeded by the buildings with stone footings noted already. In mid XV the structures only recently dismantled were erected, accompanied by the construction of large vaulted cellars. This caused further heightening of the floor which then only underwent superficial alteration until 1970.

ALAN HANNAN for Coventry Museum and DOTE.

The Stone House, Much Park St, Coventry, Warws (SP 336 787)

Excavations were carried out here during August by a team of Birmingham University students and the local society. The building, which has three of its walls standing to full height, was to have its stratigraphy destroyed during the landscaping scheme for the Lanchester Polytechnic. Three phases of occupation were discovered on the site. The earliest consisted of post-holes and pits dug into the natural and containing pottery of early XIII and some residual Stamford ware. A series of boundary walls and a large quantity of glazed ware provided evidence for a previous structure which stood on approximately the same site as the stone building. These walls continued to be used after the present building was erected in XIV. No occupation levels associated with the house were found except a thick band of fine sandstone rubble - the waste from the dressing of stones used in the construction of the house. It seems likely that the surrounding area was kept clean during the occupation of the house. All the interior medieval levels had been destroyed by later occupation, and there were few finds apart from pottery. Work will continue on the site during the actual process of landscaping.

GREENVILLE ASTILL for Coventry Museum and DOTE

Pinks Farm, Nuthurst, Warws (SP 149 694)

It is suggested that a linear earthwork here, previously thought to be Roman, is connected with emparking in XIV. See Roman section for details.

Nuthurst, Warws (SP 14507045)

Following up a 'Town Close' field name possible house platforms were found running parallel to the road from Kemps Green to Hockley Heath in the area between the S boundary of Town Close and the Brick Kilns. There is also evidence of ridge and furrow and a hollow way. This DMV was not previously known. A survey of this is shown opposite.

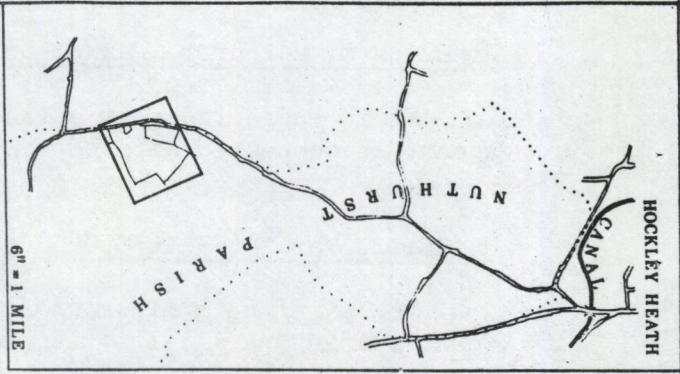
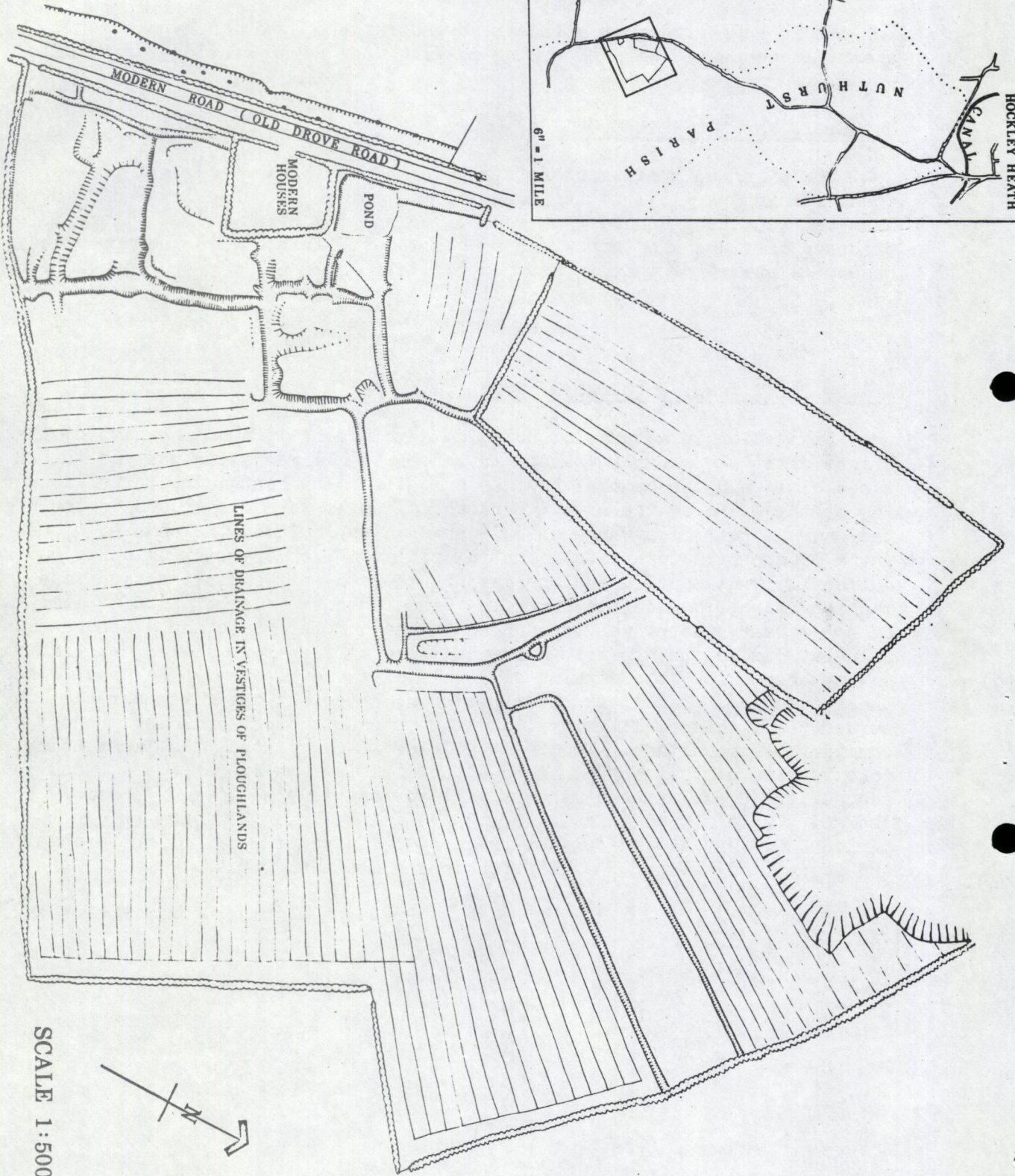
E.A. PRICE for Solihull Archaeological Group

Priory Park, Warwick (SP 2830 6530)

Excavation in advance of building development located the site of the Priory of St Sepulchre, founded in the early XII revealing part of the nave, the S aisle and the chancel of the church. A cist containing three inhumations lay at the E end of the nave. Substantial walls were also found to the W of the church, part of a range of buildings which included the chapter house. This was a square structure with a central pillar. The monastic buildings had been deliberately dismantled and the masonry re-used in the construction of a mansion house, immediately after the Dissolution. A large circular lime kiln, of pre-monastic date, was found beneath the chapter house and a second square kiln lay 5 m to the N. Both kilns had been deliberately filled, the latter having been cut by the sinking of a well of medieval date. The great size of these furnaces, as well as their position, rules out their use for the construction of this small priory, and suggests some other building project of considerable magnitude. Two possibilities are suggested, the first being the construction of the castle although the site is some distance away, and the second, the erection of a masonry wall surrounding the town or possibly the 'burh'. Certainly they indicate substantial building activity before the period 1106-1124 AD and suggest the need for a reappraisal of the archaeological and documentary evidence of Warwick in the medieval period.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum and DOTE

NUTHURST : SURVEY OF DESERTED SETTLEMENT



S.A.G
1971

Ratley and Upton, Warws. (SP 381473)

Excavations have continued on this small motte and bailey. A section across the rock-cut bailey ditch has been completed, but no dating evidence has been recovered, and the ditch appeared to have been deliberately filled shortly after being dug. Almost all the available area of the NW bailey has been stripped of turf and is being slowly excavated. Stone footings of a square structure lie inside the entrance (? entrance tower), and there are post-holes and a beam slot cut into the ironstone. The pottery is almost all unglazed cooking pot; other finds include a XII-XIII prick spur, and gilt-bronze ornamental strips which are paralleled at Ascot Doilly (Oxon) in a XII context. A section across the motte ditch is nearly complete. There appear to be fragmentary bridge structures set into the motte side of the ditch; and in the lower part of the ditch fill, above the primary silt, the rubble included two large shaped stones, one from a moulded arch. This may indicate that quarry disturbance in the bailey followed soon after the motte went out of use. This rubble was overlaid by heavy stone fallen in from the motte side, implying a stone revetment round the motte base.

A significant number of Roman sherds and a fragment of fine Roman glass indicate a Roman site near at hand.

Rev. FABIAN RADCLIFFE & Bishop Bright
School Archaeology
Club.

Bordesley Abbey, Redditch, Worcs (SP 045688)

This year the S Transept was excavated to natural; on the buried soil mortar slicks of the Norman (Period 1) builders carried impressions of pre-church vegetation. There were several small channels dug in the original surface by builders to drain surface water. Just above these builders' surfaces were the remains of the earliest Norman floors of mortar and gravel surfaces, laid irregularly, replaced several times and evidently laid down in places where the ground had become muddy through subsidence. At some subsequent period, possibly as late as the period 2 reconstruction of c.1200, the Norman floors were sealed by a make-up of green stone and stone dust, presumably the result of builders' work elsewhere. This raised the floor level by c.30 cm to a level which carried the tiled floors of period 2+. The Norman foundations are variable in depth; the east wall and those of the 3 E side chapels rest only on the original ground surface; those of the N side (the S side of the choir and chancel) are more deeply founded with an offset and pebble footing. Twelve more graves were excavated; two were in wooden coffins, which it is hoped to preserve; one has a 'pillow' of decorated floor tiles, and a thin wooden rod alongside the right leg; these were the only 'finds' in the graves. It seems likely that all those so far excavated were of late date XV-XVI, and of lay gentry, who payed for a place of burial and for masses to be said in the side-chapel, around which they cluster.

Three main periods of architecture can now be defined in the transept - Period 1 Norman (c.1140), 2 (c.1200), and 3 (c.1270), the latter of which has two phases; this periodisation can only be tentative until more of the church has been dug. A 4th period can be defined as that of decay when crude blockings were being made. The side-chapels have been further excavated; the succession of floors follows that of the transept; the division between the W and E parts (marked by a step in period 2+) is not reflected in the period 1 level. In the E exterior an area has been cleared in the angle between the chancel and transept. Below a series of destruction and repair levels, an original ground surface has been reached; there are pieces of what may be headstones (one with a carved cross) but it is too early to say whether or not these are in situ. Finds here include window glass, roof material,

pottery and a silver clipped penny of Henry III.

The Boundary Bank. An area was opened here over the area of a gap in the bank to confirm the existence of a road through the bank which was postulated in 1970 by the finding of a causeway in the external ditch. The road consisted of a series of heavy gravel layers in and under which were extensive multiple ruts, implying heavy cart traffic; there were also horseshoes and other objects, and heavy door studs indicating a gate. It was shown that the road, and therefore also the outer ditch, were secondary to the bank, which, it is now clear, was derived from the inner ditch, over which the road was laid.

The inner ditch section was completed; its lower 60 cm were filled with clayey silt, in which were leaf impressions at all levels; attempts to count these in a series of microlayers or varves proved unsuccessful. Above this silt was the road gravel with a horseshoe and some ceramic roof tile. This suggests that the advent of tile on the site and the making of this secondary road were contemporary features. Tile in the transept is first used in period 2 (c.1200) (it is found sealed beneath the architecturally dated night stair block), and it may be that the re-organisation implied by the extensive period 2 work in the church was also the occasion of the cutting of the road, perhaps for the cartage of stone; or it may have been to facilitate contact with Hewell Grange, foundation late XII.

The field to the S of the bank was examined in a 2 m wide cutting; traces of E-W ridge and furrow were observed; a close interval levelling of the surface of the field confirmed the existence of this but its relationship to the inner ditch was ambiguous.

The buried soil beneath the road was not fully excavated to confirm the existence of the plough marks discovered in 1970; it, and the area of the ridge-and-furrow did however contain a good deal of prehistoric material - flints, pot-boilers and possibly some features - and there is clearly an area of prehistoric occupation preceding the monastic features here, which will be further explored.

The 1972 excavation will be devoted to the clearing of the E exterior and the rooms adjacent to the S side of the transept (Chapterhouse, library etc.).

P.A. RAHTZ for Redditch UDC and
University of Birmingham

Childswickham, Worcs (SP/074384)

A survey was made of the earthworks immediately SW of Childswickham church, recorded on the OS maps as a moat, prior to their levelling for cultivation. The most prominent feature on the site was an L-shaped trench delimiting the S and W sides of a large enclosure, which was bounded by much slighter earthworks on the other two sides. At the SW corner was a rectangular depression, and outside the main trench to the S and W were two shallower depressions surrounded by embankments which may represent dry ponds. Within the enclosure, parallel to the S and W sides, was a slight but persistent bank which may represent some sort of wall or pallsade. At the SE corner a channel appeared to feed into the main trench round the side of a small triangular dry pond.

It is clear that this site is not an orthodox moat, and does not in fact fall into any recognisable standard category of earthwork. The village church is somewhat isolated from the present settlement, and it is possible that the earth works in question may represent the village boundary bank of an earlier settlement by the church, locally elaborated round a manorial complex.

JAMES BOND for Worcs County Museum

Ipsley, Worcs (SP/065666)

A survey of the earthworks in the vicinity of Ipsley church was made prior to the development of the area by Redditch New Town. The appearance of Ipsley in medieval tax lists with a not inconsiderable population, the absence of a village in the parish today, and the architectural reflection of declining population in the form of blocked-up aisles in the church suggests the presence of a DMV; however, the evidence of the earthworks was inconclusive. The entire area had been severely affected by modern trenching and by dumping, and it was not possible to identify any unambiguous house platforms, let alone a coherent village plan. The only recognisable features were a hollow-way parallel to the modern road leading SW-wards towards Ipsley Mill, and a ditch separating an area of prominent ridge and furrow on the N from a rather featureless paddock much overgrown with nettles, which might represent a village boundary.

JAMES BOND for Worcs County Museum

Moons Moat, Beoley, Worcs (SP 069682)

This small moated site (int. dimensions 27 x 20m) lies S of Beoley in the New Town Development area. The site was known in XIX; the antiquarian Carmouls recorded in 1826 that although it 'is now overgrown with trees, a stone wall of good workmanship was taken down from the inner ridge some years ago! Excavations began in 1969. In the W half of the site a rectangular clay area was found; this may have been an inside floor surface with evidence of foundation trenches on the E and W edges. Sherds of pre-1400 were found on the surface. S of this was an area of cobbling under which the clay floor appeared to continue. Abutting these cobbles was a circular depression c. 1m deep which had 7 post-holes, at regular intervals within the inside edge and inclined towards the centre, suggesting that the timbers they held supported an object tripod fashion. Excavations in 1971 suggested the feature was connected with drainage. Near this was a silver penny of Edward II (1307-27). A red marl surface in the centre of the site had dressed sandstone blocks set out on it ? indicating the presence of further rooms or buildings. More such blocks were found E of this set in a surface made of clay and scattered stones. A rough surface between this and the moat on the W may represent an outside yard. A cobbled surface extending E from the clay floor (and ? overlying its edge) and covering much of NE part of the site, had 5 post sockets in it. Pottery was of late XVII and suggests that the cobbling may be associated with later agricultural use of the site eg. as a cattle pound or storage space. A cutting across the S sloping edge suggested that the site had been surrounded by a sandstone wall. Pottery of XIV and suggestions of a building abutting the wall, were also found in this cutting. A section across the moat on the N side revealed a suspected causeway associated with the post-Medieval use of the site.

In 1971 the rest of the enclosed area was stripped. The SE corner of the site proved to have been made up with topsoil. A large amount of tiles and sandstone rubble found here may represent a collapsed building, which overlies a rubbish pit. Excavation of the bank continued and the perimeter wall was revealed in several places. The wall had a foundation trench and stood to a height of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 m; it was made mainly of white sandstone and mortar was used in places. The sandstone revetment on the N arm of the moat proved to be sandstone rubble which had been spread at the time the wall was demolished. Remains of a pier projecting into the moat were found. A trench cut by mechanical excavator in the outer bank on the S side of the moat revealed a gully, at a depth of 2m running underneath and parallel to the moat bank. Similarly a pre-moat surface with charcoal spread, was found at a depth of 2m on the SE outer bank of the moat.

Field surveys and documentary research of the parish of Beoley continue, and extensive ridge and furrow, dried-out mill-ponds etc. have already been found in the vicinity of Moons Moat.

MIKE WISE & CHRIS MEDLEY for Redditch
New Town Arch Committee

Poden by Church Honeybourne, Worcs (SP/128436)

Trenching for a natural gas pipeline (Churchover - Wormington 24" Duplicate Main) has been watched in the vicinity of the DMV of Poden. The pipeline misses the settlement site itself and crosses the open-field furlong immediately adjoining to the E. No scatter of pottery or other occupation debris has been observed. Just to the S the pipeline crosses what may have been the village fishpond, distinguished in the scrape by an area of silty yellow clay. This pond appears to post-date the last arable cultivation in the next furlong to the S, as its construction seems to have curtailed the ridge and furrow before its headland.

JAMES BOND for Worcs County Museum

Rectory Farm, Longdon, Worcs (SO/83663546)

The remains of a four bay cruck-framed barn, badly damaged by fire and in an unsafe condition, apparently previously unrecorded have been discovered here.

JAMES BOND for Worcs County Museum

POST-MEDIEVAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Bewdley Snuff Mill, Worcs (SO/78437470)

A corn mill in Bewdley Park, first mentioned in 1336, was said, in 1381, to be often useless because the stream dried up, and it was then worth only 6s. 8d. yearly. This mill is mentioned again in 1608 as belonging to King James I when its rent was 13s. 4d. It was taken over for grinding snuff by James Holder during the 18th century and his son John Holder continued the business till 1870. Subsequently it was used for polishing horn combs and cutting curry-combs, and was active at least till 1920. By 1931 it was derelict; the pool was drained in 1955; and the building has now largely collapsed. Enough remains to show that in its final phase the mill building was of brick construction and that the wheel was of overshot type. All the internal machinery apart from the main shaft has gone. A pile of rubble at the NW end of the dam marks the site of a sluiceway leading to an overflow channel which can still be followed for 300 yds down the side of the valley. The first hedgerow crossing the valley immediately below the snuff-mill stands on what must be the dam of one of the earlier mills on the site, as the pond which it would have impounded would have flooded the present building. The vestigial traces of an overflow channel from this are cut by that from the later mill. Only one other snuff-mill is known in Worcs, at Bransford, and that has also vanished.

JAMES BOND for Worcs County Museum

Water-mill sites, lower Dowles Brook and Wyre Forest

The following sites have been visited:-

SO 76787640 - Town Mill: No machinery remaining, but line of mill-lead can be followed for 400 yards to the take-off point on the Dowles Brook.

SO 76227659 - Knowles Mill: Like Town Mill, granted to Bewdley for the poor by Sir John Hubaud c.1595. Stone mill building remains, still containing some machinery including driving wheel, main shaft and crown wheel, but no longer in working order. Overshot wheel remains outside.

SO 75717669 - Cooper's Mill: Only evidence of mill is the main shaft and crown wheel lying outside the present building.

SO 76917614 - Pond between Town Coppice and Hitterhill Coppice held up by stone-faced dam with stone-lined overflow channel; no evidence of building on site.

SO 76767611 - Another pond higher up the same stream has a similar stone-faced dam overlooking a ruined stone building which contains three (? later) brick vats of some kind. The purpose of this is unknown.

SO 76677605 - A further pond higher up the same stream is impounded by a dam which has upon it what appear to be the foundations of a small rectangular building at an angle to the alignment of the dam.

JAMES BOND & S. DAVIES

Newlandhouse Farm, Salwarpe, Worcs (SO/90516061)

Mr. Verity, the farmer at Newlandhouse Farm, called attention to a domed brick structure in one of the barns there. It predates the barn, and bears a

strong resemblance to the top of a standard egg-shaped icehouse. However, there is a gap at the top of the dome from which the remains of an earlier collapsed roof are visible, and below this an unlined shaft descends to a depth of at least 70 feet. The purpose of this structure is uncertain. It is possible that it is connected in some way with brine pumping, as salt springs occur at the surface just beyond Oakley Wood to the west. Any information or suggestions would be welcomed.

JAMES BOND for Worcs County Museum

Ravensmere Farm, Beoley, Worcs (SP 072685)

Fieldwork in Beoley parish has revealed the presence of at least 4 ? dried-out pools. Two of these are quite large: one has a retaining bank more than 100m long; the other c. 150m N of Ravensmere Farm has a dry gully, or a possible race, running from it, that is connected with a stream. It was thought possible that a change in vegetation at the junction of pool and channel marks the position of a sluice-gate and that there is a building platform between the race and the pool. A section cut across the top of the suspected platform, continuing across the race and into the bank on the opposite side, located laid stone surfaces on both banks ? for revetment purposes. The gully was found to be lined with grey clay into which had been cut a trench in which was a cow's skeleton. No evidence of the sluice gate was found. Trial trenches were also cut across the area between the gully and the XVII barn to the N of Ravensmere Farm in the hope of located buildings. A cobbled surface was revealed upon which were found house-bricks and pottery of mid XIX. A ? drainage trench cut across one area of cobbles had in its fill roofing tiles similar to those excavated at Moons Moat. It is hoped that more work can be done on both these sites.

MIKE WISE & CHRIS MEDLEY

Mill St , Stafford (SJ 92092355)

In October 1971, in the course of recording a section exposed to the E of Sir Martin Noel's Almshouses in Mill Street, the lower part of a rectangular rubbish pit of XVIII was located and excavated. From its location the pit would appear to be almost certainly associated with the Almshouses. The contents included, apart from the iron-glazed and manganese-glazed wares, some of them of low quality, an unexpected proportion of quality wares, eg. (fragments of) a Chinese export porcelain tea bowl, a Cream ware tea-pot with rope handle (place of manufacture not certain), two tea-pots and two saucers with matching design in hand-painted porcelain in underglaze blue (Stoke on Trent, previously attributed to Liverpool), an octagonal press-moulded vessel in lead-glaze stone ware and several Staffordshire blue printed pearl ware vessels. The date of the deposit is probably after c.1780. The pit included, however, 6 clay tobacco pipe bowls of which 4 (2 of them by Jane Overton and Jos. Hughes, both of Broseley) are conventionally dated to the beginning of XVIII.

P.H. ROBINSON for Stafford
Museum and Mid Staffs
Arch Soc

Avoncroft Museum of Buildings

The repair and restoration of the Guesten Hall roof began in March '71. To date 3 trusses have been erected at ground level, and progress has been made on the remaining 5. The complete roof should, by late Spring, '72, be erected and covered with polythene. It will then be an exhibit of outstanding interest during the time it will take to build the new hall which will house the roof. An appeal will shortly be launched for £200,000 to finance this hall which has

been designed to exhibit the roof, and at the same time serve as an exhibition, concert and lecture hall. The appeal will also include the cost of restoring and re-erecting the String of Horses - a XVI inn from Shrewsbury, part of which will be used as a children's project room, library and reading room. In addition, a covered area is also required to house parts of buildings and to serve as a workshop and for storage space.

Good progress has been made during the summer on the granary from Temple Broughton Farm and also on the chain-making workshop both of which are now nearing completion. The exterior of the windmill is now virtually complete, and work has started on the interior. Work has also begun on the transporting of a bakery from Alcester. Funds are being sought to cover the cost of restoring the dovecotes at Dormston and Hill Croome which will become the property of the museum and open to the public.

M. THOMAS

PUBLICATIONS OF WEST MIDLANDS INTEREST

- Antiquity 178 (1971), pp. 140-141
J.K. St. Joseph 'Air reconnaissance: recent results, 24'
- Trans Woolhope
Nat Field Club 39 (1969) part III
N.P. Bridgewater 'The Manor of Tretire'
- N Staffs J of Field
Studies 10 (1970)
F.H. Goodyear 'The Roman Fort at Chesterton, Newcastle-
under-Lyme'
- N Staffs J of Field
Studies 11 (1971)
A.F.H. Gunstone 'Prehistoric Bone and Pottery Finds from
Mill Pot Cave near Wetton, Staffordshire'
- S Staffs Arch and
Hist Soc Trans 11 (1969-70)
K.S. Painter 'An Iron Age Gold-Alloy Torc from Glascote,
Tamworth, Staffordshire'
- A.A. Round 'Excavations at Wall, Staffordshire, 1966-7,
on the Site of the Roman Forts (Wall
Excavation Report No 9)'
- E.W. Danson 'The Anglo-Saxon and Norman Mint of Tamworth,
Staffordshire'
- J. Gould 'Excavation of the Fifteenth-Century Iron -
Mill of Simon Montford at Bourne Pool, Aldridge,
Staffordshire'
- A.A. Round 'Observations on the Construction of a New
Pumping Station at Wall, Staffordshire'
- G.R. Morton and Joyce Wingrove 'Metallurgical Considerations of Early
Bloomeries in South Staffordshire'
- H.R. Hodgkinson's Papers on the Roman Roads in
the Wall (Staffs) Area and on the Roman Site
at Shenstone Hall Farm, Staffs'
- Roman Frontier Studies Tel Aviv 1971, pp. 21-33 and pp. 38-45
Brian Hobley 'An Experimental Reconstruction of a Roman
Military Turf Rampart'
- Graham Webster 'A Roman System of Fortified Posts along
Watling Street, Britain'

- Britannia ii(1971), pp. 156-165
P.J. Osborne 'An Insect Fauna from the Roman Site at Alcester, Warws'
- Current Archaeology No 24 Jan '71 pp. 16-21
Brian Hobley 'The Lunt'
- Current Archaeology No 25 March '71, pp. 45-49
Graham Webster 'Wroxeter'
- Current Archaeology No 28, Sept '71, pp. 127-130
Brian Hobley 'A Gyrus at the Lunt'
- Current Archaeology No 29 Nov '71, pp. 164-168
P.A. Rahtz and K.W. Sheridan 'Tamworth'
- Trans B'ham & Warws
Archaeol Soc Vol. 84 for 1967-70, 1971
Brian Hobley 'Neolithic Storage Hollows and an Undated Ringditch at Baginton, Warwickshire'
K. Scott 'Two Romano-British Tile-Kilns'
Christine Mahany 'Excavations at Manduessedum 1964'
Brian Hobley (Historical survey by M.W. Lambert) 'Excavations at the Cathedral and Benedictine Priory of St. Mary, Coventry'
G.G. Wilkins 'Baginton Church, Warwickshire'
John H. Drew 'A Historical note on the Music of Kenilworth'
A.W.A. White 'The Condition of Mining Labour on a Warwickshire Estate before the Industrial Revolution'
A.J.H. Gunstone 'Archaeological and Historical Notes'
- Research Papers Vol. III, 1971 (Vale of Evesham Historical Society)
P.J. Reynolds 'Aston Mill Farm'
P.J. Reynolds 'Exploratory Examination of a Romano-British Site at Wickhamford, Worcs'

ADDRESSES

G. Astill
School of History
University
Birmingham 15

A. Baker
Latchmere House
Durrington
Salisbury
Wilts

Dr. L. Barfield
Dept. Anc. Hist. & Archaeol.
University
Birmingham 15

P.A. Barker
4 St. Georges Square
Worcester

C.J. Bond
Worcestershire County Museum
Hartlebury Castle
Kidderminster
Worcs

N.P. Bridgewater
Glen-y-Arw
Pantygelli
Abergavenny
Mons

W.T. Ford
Warwickshire County Museum
Market Place
Warwick

A. Hannan
Dept. Anc. Hist. & Archaeol.
University
Birmingham

Mrs. K.F. Hartley
Flat A
22 Shire Oak Road
Leeds

B. Hobley
Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Jordan Well
Coventry

Dr. A.W.J. Houghton
Oak Wood
Pulverbatch
nr. Shrewsbury

A. Hunt
C/o City Museum
Worcester

Miss S. Hirst
9 Serpentine Road
Selly Park
Birmingham 29

Miss S. Laflin
Computer Centre
University
Birmingham 15

J. Lucas
7 Rugby Road
Catthorpe
Rugby

J. Pickering
Elmtree Drive
The Outwoods
Hinckley
Leics

Rev. F. Radcliffe
Bishop Bright Grammar School
Guys Cliffe Avenue
Leamington Spa

P.J. Reynolds
Worcester City Museum
Worcester

P.A. Rahtz
School of History
University of Birmingham

P.H. Robinson
City Museum
Stafford

A.A. Round
95 Darnick Road
Sutton Coldfield
Warws

A. Saville
Dept. Anc. Hist. & Archaeol.
University
Birmingham 15

K. Scott
71 Castle Road
Hartshill
nr. Nuneaton

K.W. Sheridan
Castle Museum
Tamworth
Staffs

R. Shoesmith
Y.H.A.
Staunton-on-Wye
Hereford

S.J. Taylor
Hinton Manor
Woodford Halse
Daventry
Northants

M. Thomas
Avoncroft Museum of Buildings
Bromsgrove
Worcs

Prof. R.A. Tomlinson
Dept. Anc. Hist. & Archaeol.
University
Birmingham

P.L. Waters
2 Westward Road
Malvern Link
Worcs

Dr. G. Webster
The Old School House
Chesterton
Harbury
Warws

M. Wise
113 Forge Mill Road
Redditch
Worcs