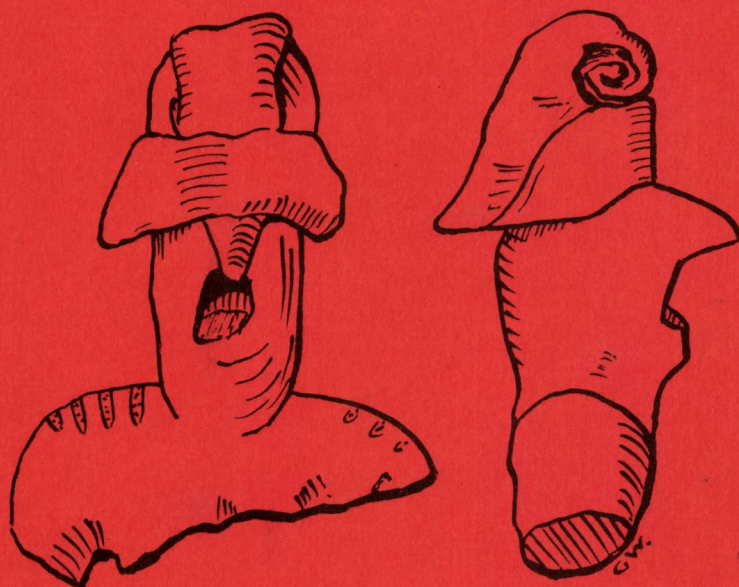


WEST MIDLANDS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
NEWS SHEET
NO.16 1973
C.B.A. GROUP 8



 worcestershire
county council

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service:

Source No:

WR2419

Produced & Distributed by
The Dept. of Extramural Studies
The University of Birmingham

PRICE 30p

LIST OF OFFICERS OF C.B.A. GROUP 8.

CHAIRMAN: DR. GRAHAM WEBSTER.
SECRETARY: DR. LAWRENCE BARFIELD.
TREASURER: MR. GEOFFREY TAYLOR.
JOINT EDITORS: DR. WEBSTER.
DIANA WEBSTER.

COPIES OF THE NEWS SHEET CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:

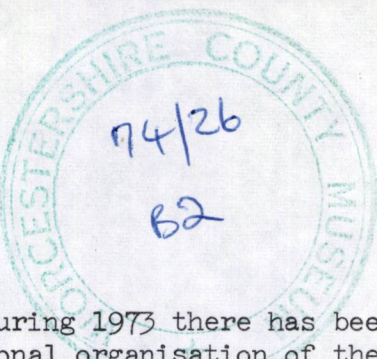
MISS M. McLEAN,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTRAMURAL STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM,
P.O. BOX 363,
BIRMINGHAM. B15. 2TT.

OR

MR. J. G. PERRY,
66, PURNELLS WAY,
KNOWLE,
SOLIHULL,
WARMS.

The figure on the front page is a pottery head and bust from Tripontium (Caves Inn) from an old collection in a buff ware with traces of red painted stripes on the shoulders. The Phrygian cap suggests an ancient origin and it may be a local deity similar to the long-nosed one recently published from Vindolanda. (Archaeol. Acl., 5th ser. i (1973), Pl.XVI, No.8).

But is it more recent? Maybe a local cup-tie supporter or a Tripontium de Gaule.



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

During 1973 there has been a further development in the creation of the regional organisation of the West Midlands to cope with emergency excavations which is now known as WEMRAC. Our initiative has been recognised by D.O.E. and we are now the official body responsible for the assessment of needs and administration of funds for the West Midlands. At the same time there has been a slowing down of the original D.O.E. plan for full regionalism. This seems due to the introduction in September of the new Under-Secretary Mr Dennis Haselgrove who has had long experience in dealing with local authorities. Consultations are now taking place between D.O.E. and the local government organisations, and it now seems evident that a much revised scheme will eventually be agreed in which the county authorities will play an effective role. Until this stage is reached it is difficult to begin any discussions with the new authorities in the West Midlands which is very unfortunate since their staff structures will soon be complete and they will be unwilling to consider any further appointments for some time. More recently there has been a 20% expenditure cut imposed by the government and this will automatically prevent any immediate development. One must, therefore, accept the situation in which the area will be administered on a voluntary basis for several years to come. This will impose strain on the committee and its officers, all of whom have other work to do. Discussion with D.O.E. has, however, helped to alleviate the position and money is to be allocated for some full-time appointments. The first of these for a West Midlands field officer has already been made and we welcome Heather Barnie for the S.W. who will be starting her duties on 1st April on our threatened areas, especially the motorways etc. We would also like to have an excavating officer and an administrator/secretary to help to handle the considerable sum of money every year and to make contact with the local government officers in planning and highways. These ideas may now suffer with the cuts. The committee has prepared, mainly through the efforts of Lorna Watts, a document which assesses the needs of the immediate future and this should by now be printed and available to all. We have in hand a further document which will take a look a long way ahead and consider the archaeological needs in the light of the Report of the West Midlands Economic Council, which visualises a large proportion of land being taken for development in the next 25 years.

We are also deeply concerned with the problems of training and publication and will be giving much thought to this in the ensuing months.

I have been deeply conscious all this time that the pressures of all this re-organisation and large archaeological problems have caused us to neglect the C.B.A. Regional Group and we now have to face this issue. Can the same small group of people run both organisations? I feel the time has come to seek new blood from local groups and societies to help reconstitute the C.B.A. Regional Group. Whenever I ask any of you to help or come to meetings, the answer is inevitably 'we're too busy digging', and so you are, but if the amateur is to continue to play an effective role in British archaeology, some of you must come forward and take your rightful places in organisation and not leave everything to the professionals and then complain that you are being squeezed out. These issues must be hammered out at our Lichfield meeting on 4th May. This is a day you must set aside and come forward with advice and offers of help.

GRAHAM WEBSTER.

GENERAL

The Ordnance Survey is under great pressure from the Government to become self supporting and most of its activities are being reviewed to see if they can be made profitable. A suggestion that the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch maps might be discontinued has been dropped in response to public pressure, but the archaeology division has been forced to accept a lower standard of recording. This means that casual finds are no longer listed and a site has to be visible or of major importance before any associated finds are noted. This sad and retrograde step is being vigorously opposed by the C.B.A., Rescue and other bodies, but it makes it all the more imperative that local societies and individuals make sure that all finds are adequately recorded on the cards and sheets in their own museums in town and county, since these in the future may be the only complete records. It is now possible to buy from Ordnance Survey copies of their archaeological 6 inch record maps and the cards for them. A new period map, Britain before the Norman Conquest covering the period from the end of Roman Britain to 1066 will soon be available. Work has been started on a new edition of the map of Roman Britain and a revised set of symbols has been agreed with the Iron Age and Roman Research Committee (address: Ordnance Survey, Romsey Road, Maybush, Southampton SO9 4DH.)

The C.B.A. H.Q.

We congratulate Miss Beatrice de Cardi on her well deserved honour of being made an Officer of the British Empire on her retirement as Secretary and we welcome Henry Cleere with the new title of Director of the Council. He is well known for his work in R-B Ironwork while he was Secretary of the Iron and Steel Institute. The year has also seen a change of President and we are pleased to see our old friend Nicholas Thomas now installed in that office. He is still warmly remembered from his days at the Birmingham City Museum.

C.B.A.

The C.B.A. executive has during 1973 been most concerned with the great changes taking place in British Archaeology. There have been discussions with D.O.E. on the new regional organisation, and a working party has been set up to consider the questions of professionalism and a superannuation scheme has been worked out with an insurance firm for self employed archaeologists. There have also been the constant worries about the export of antiquities, the growing menace of the treasure-hunters, the serious state of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey and the lack of training facilities to help the increased number of young excavators and field workers. In the face of these major concerns it is not surprising that the meetings have become longer, now lasting all day and that lesser matters have been left aside. It is becoming clear that to take the strain of these pressures the shape of the C.B.A. and its regional organisation will have to be re-shaped to the efficient and effective voice of British Archaeology.

Treasure Hunters

Anxiety has been expressed by many over the activities of treasure hunters with metal detectors in the West Midlands. They hunt in packs and have been especially drawn to Wroxeter, although this is now a state owned site; these eager beavers are reputed to be recovering quantities of coins and metal objects every weekend. There is no immediate and easy solution to this serious menace and just how bad it can get is well illustrated in an account in Rescue News, No.5. At present all we can do is

to try to be friendly with these people and find out what they find and list the coins and try to get the other objects identified and drawn. At the same time any precise information should be sent to the C.B.A. in London where a dossier is being kept which will eventually, it is hoped, persuade the Government to take action.

Chance finds of Iron Age metalwork from Herefordshire and Staffordshire.

In 1972 two remarkable pieces of Iron Age metalwork were found in the West Midlands and brought to the Birmingham City Museum for identification.

From the village of Coomb Moor, near Presteign, on the Hereford border came a small bronze figurine of a deer of startling beauty and craftsmanship. The figure is of unusually large size, measuring 4 inches long and 5 inches high. The head has large upstanding ears held aloft on a long neck, and the body and short tail are supported on four legs, each slanted stiffly forwards as if the animal had come abruptly to a halt. On top of the front of the body is a suspension loop and the back is perforated by a round hole.

The deer has no close parallels in Britain though stylistically it resembles objects in the unpublished Hounslow hoard in the British Museum.

The figure was found when it was washed out of the soil after heavy rain, and no associated finds are recorded. After passing through the hands of several dealers the deer was sold at Christies on 11th July, 1973 (lot 203) to a London Dealer for £21,000.

The second object was found at Milford, near Stafford while testing a newly purchased metal detector in 1972. It is a bronze terret of elliptical form with lip ornament consisting of three pairs of projecting knobs and a flattened section in one of the larger sides. It has a design inlaid with red enamel. Unfortunately the terret was cleaned in acid by the finder. The type is well known and best paralleled from examples in the Stanwick hoard, Yorks., of 1844 which is in the British Museum. The terret measures 3 inches long and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide.

The terret was also included in the Christies sale (lot 202), but was withdrawn before the sale and is apparently still in private possession.

Both objects are illustrated in the Christies' Sale Catalogue. This note is intended to bring them to the attention of local workers and it is hoped that a detailed publication will follow in due course.

ANTHONY GUNSTONE

Birmingham City Museum.

Environmental Archaeology at Birmingham University

The Department of Ancient History and Archaeology at Birmingham University has recently been able to appoint an Environmental Archaeologist, Dr Susan Limbrey to their staff. The teaching of environmental archaeology in Universities is a relatively new development, although long established in the Institute at London, and the number of posts in this field is gradually increasing.

Dr Limbrey, whose main research interest is soil studies, previously worked for the D.O.E., and she has also been assistant secretary of the CBA Scientific Research Committee. She is concerned about the lack of laboratory facilities for archaeology in Britain and since her election to the Executive Committee of WEMRAC is interested in the setting up of an area archaeological laboratory in the West Midlands. Dr Limbrey is willing to give advice to directors of excavations on the interpretation of soils and deposit. (But please do not send her samples without prior consultation!)

Personalia

We congratulate Brian Hopley, one of our most able and active archaeologists, formerly of the Coventry City Museum, who has now been appointed to the new and important post of Chief Urban Archaeologist to the City of London. We wish him well in this exciting challenge.

Miss Lorna Watts who has been so much help to WEMRAC is now the Field Officer, a new appointment, at the Birmingham City Museum. Her first task may be to excavate the site of the Manor House of the de Bermingham family.

Editorship.

Philip Rahtz and Susan Hirst have retired from the editorship of the News Letter and we must all express to them our thanks for undertaking this difficult annual task for the last five years. As an interim measure Diana Webster kindly undertook to see this issue through with help from the Chairman. We are also very grateful to Jeff Perry for organising the sales and distribution this year with such notable effect.

Aerial Surveys

Until mid-May, the cumulative weather of 1973 was favourable for the creation of crop marks. Short periods of very heavy rain in mid-May and in June, however, destroyed most crop marks in the central Midlands and the river valleys appeared to be devoid of sites. Analysis of rainfall statistics during the summer showed substantial differences in cumulative weather in different parts of the country, and areas of lower than average rainfall were prospected, with better success. Where crop mark sites did appear, their life was very short, and sites appeared and disappeared in a few days. In the West Midlands, the best area was around Wroxeter, and along the Malvern Edge, but most known sites remained invisible.

Most of the sites recorded this year in the Midlands as a whole, were entirely new and their distribution does not coincide with the cumulative pattern of sites recorded in the past. Few of them, for instance, are on gravel terraces or gravel caps. The obvious lesson from this year's surveys is that where weather conditions have been favourable, sites can be found in wider geological contexts,

but it is necessary to predict the times of the development of crop marks with much greater accuracy than present statistics permit.

JAMES PICKERING.

Worcestershire County Archaeological Inventory

Further checklists of different classes of monument in Worcestershire have appeared in the Worcestershire Archaeology Newsletter. These are as follows:-

Checklist No. 5	Provisional list of moated sites	<u>W.A.N.</u>	No. 12 (1973)
Checklist No. 6	Village pounds and pinfolds	<u>W.A.N.</u>	No. 13 (1973)
<u>Addenda</u> to Checklist No. 4	Cruck-framed buildings	<u>W.A.N.</u>	No. 13 (1973)

Any corrections, deletions, additions or further information on any of these will be welcomed, and should be sent to James Bond at the County Museum, Hartlebury Castle, nr. Kidderminster, DY11 7XZ. Further checklists are in preparation and will appear in the same Newsletter in due course.

Carbon 14 - Tritium measurements.

The following information has been received from the Carbon 14/ Tritium Measurements Lab., Bldg 10.46, AERE, Harwell, Didcot, Berks. :-

The Carbon-14/Tritium Measurements Laboratory at Harwell is contemplating an expansion of its carbon-14 measurement facilities. This expansion would create more capacity for archaeological sample dating. We would be grateful for your help in gauging the likely demand for a routine service.

A sliding scale of charges is proposed because some samples require more work than others. This would reduce the price charged for, say, charcoal as compared with bone which needs considerably more preparation. The turn-round time will depend on the laboratory workload but we will aim to keep it to less than three months.

We are now working closely with DOE and have an arrangement which should mean that in certain cases the cost of the measurement may not be deducted from a DOE grant. Dr Helen Keeley of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments Laboratory (Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2AA, telephone 01-734-6010) is handling the matter.

Further information can be obtained from Mr G.A. Bradburn (tel: Abingdon 4141 Ex.2443)

Computer Applications in Archaeology

This is the title of the conference to be held in the Computer Centre on 5th and 6th January 1974. This year we have two speakers from Germany, two from the U.S.A. and one from Canada, as well as many from Britain, and the papers cover a wide range of topics. It promises to be a most interesting weekend and we hope it will become an annual event. The proceedings will be published and may even be ready by the time the West Midlands conference takes place.

The other major event in the Computer Centre has been the installation of the 1906A computer and the closing down of KDF9. As I write this, the gazetteer programmes are being transferred and I should soon have the files set up on the new computer and ready for use. The gazetteer system is being considered by the Ordnance Survey as an information retrieval system for all their archaeological records and several other counties, in addition to Shropshire and Worcestershire, are preparing their own data banks.

The suite of programmes for plotting archaeological surveys and the new suite I am developing for recording and analysis of archaeological excavations will also be transferred to the 1906A and I hope to report at the next conference that they are all installed and working on the new computer.

The other project which is likely to be of interest is the Museums Association archaeological record form. As some of you may know, IRGMA (the Information Retrieval Group of the Museums Association) are producing a large computer system to handle records describing all types of objects from all museums and art galleries. I am a member of the design group for the archaeological form and we have had many meetings and discussions during the past year. Our aim has been to decide what information needs to be recorded for archaeological finds and how this can best be fitted into the general system already in existence. We have now agreed upon a form and this is ready for testing in some museums. In addition, I am working on programmes to transfer information on the small finds stored in museums from my gazetteer data bank to the IRGMA system. Thus museums in the West Midlands may record their information in either form and it can still be stored in the general IRGMA system.

I shall be very pleased to hear from any one who is interested in any of the above projects and wishes to discuss them further.

SUSAN LAFLIN
Computer Centre,
University of Birmingham.

Grave Recording

All over England gravestones are being removed from Churchyards, often wholesale, to allow the use of motor mowers to keep down Churchyard grass. This results in the loss of much valuable historical evidence about the people who are buried and the art of the monumental mason; it also separates this information from the skeletons which lay beneath the stones, which will surely be of great interest to future archaeologists.

It is therefore an urgent matter that all gravestones should be fully recorded and an accurate plan made of their position in the Churchyard. This is work which can be done by anybody who has time and who owns, or has access to a good camera. The recording forms of which copies are reproduced here are those used in a recent survey of Deerhurst (Glos), and may be found useful as a model for readers of the News Sheet wishing to make a record of their own Churchyard.

PHILIP RAHTZ
School of History,
University of Birmingham.

PERIOD UNCERTAIN

Crop Marks near Holt, Worcs. (SO/83006135 & 829 56125) see plan encl.

In August 1973 Mr D F Harper of Top Barn Farm called attention to a pattern which was appearing in a sugar-beet crop in a field some 500 metres south of the farm.

The site concerned has been recorded many times from the air by Arnold Baker and Jim Pickering, and is one of the most persistent crop-marks in the middle Severn Valley. Its most prominent features are two ditched enclosures in close proximity but not actually joined. The northernmost is roughly rectangular, with a curious double bend about halfway along its northern side, open on part of the southern side, and showing traces of a slighter outer ditch on the east and west sides. The southern enclosure is larger, single-ditched, six-sided with each side a different length, with an entrance from the south. A much larger but less prominent enclosure, apparently of different date, shaped like an irregular pentagon, intersects the main nor-

GRAVESTONE RECORDING FORM

Photograph:

Churchyard:

Date of recording:

Serial number of stone:

Flat-/head-/tombstone:

Geology of stone:

Stonemason/undertaker:

Number of Inscriptions:

Number of people commemorated:

Inscription:

--serial number:

-copy - (copy lettering, punctuation, and dates, in the form in which they appear on the stone):

Sketch of shape and dimensions:

Remarks:
 -how found;
 -if tombstone, the relationship with other tomb members:

-condition - tick: A. mint;

B. Clear but worn;

C. Mainly decipherable;

D. some traces;

E. illegible;

-Faces - e.g. eastward:

Other sheet(s) - yes/no, number(s):

PERSONS INDEX

Churchyard:

Relationships - son/daughter/husband/-wife/etc., of:

Inscription serial number:

Surname:

Christian name(s):

Maiden name:- if married woman:

Title:

Sex: A

Place of birth, or origin:

Place of death:

Date of birth:

Date of death:

Age:

Married/single:

How many children?

Occupation:

Cause of death:

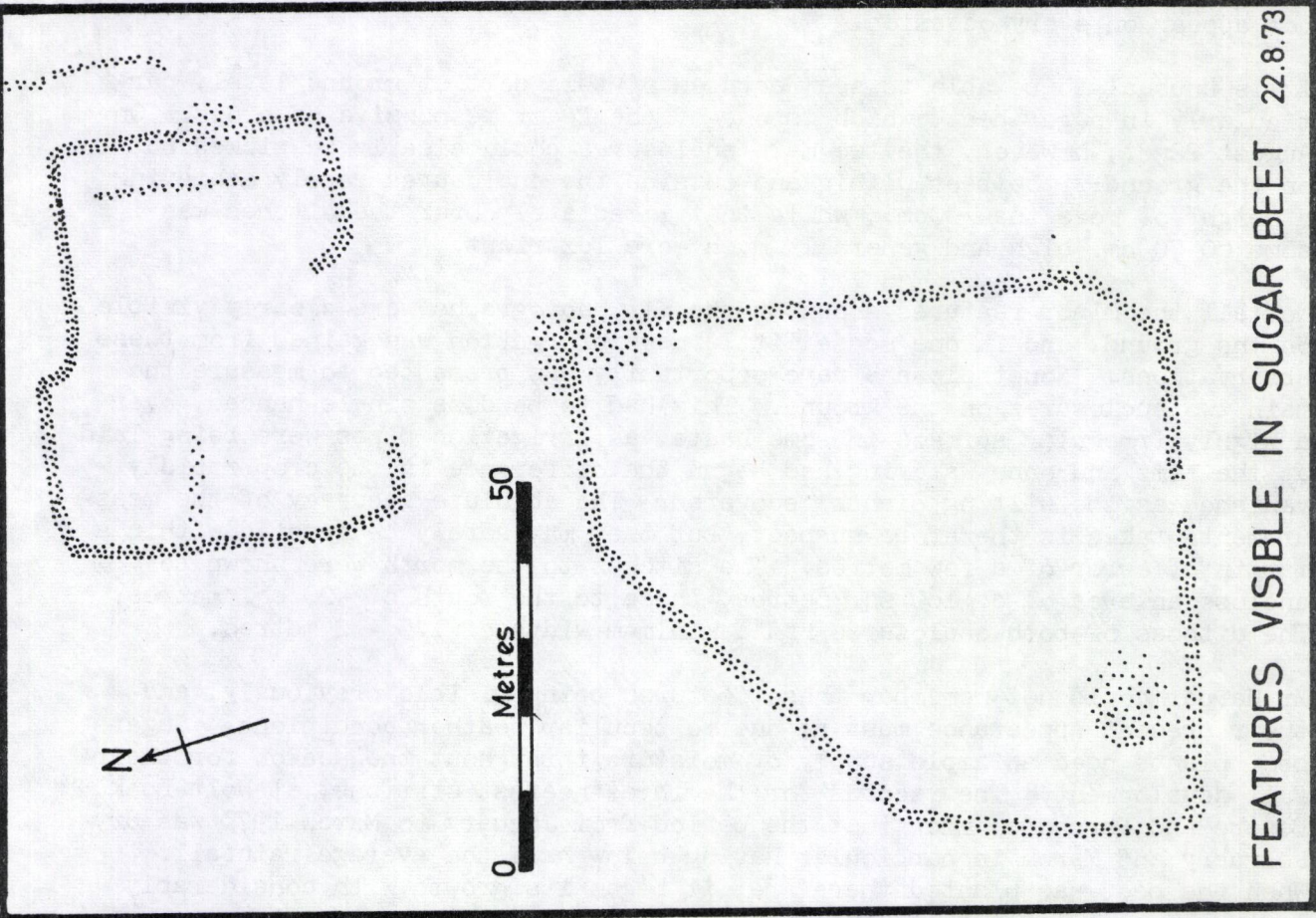
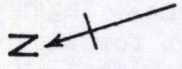
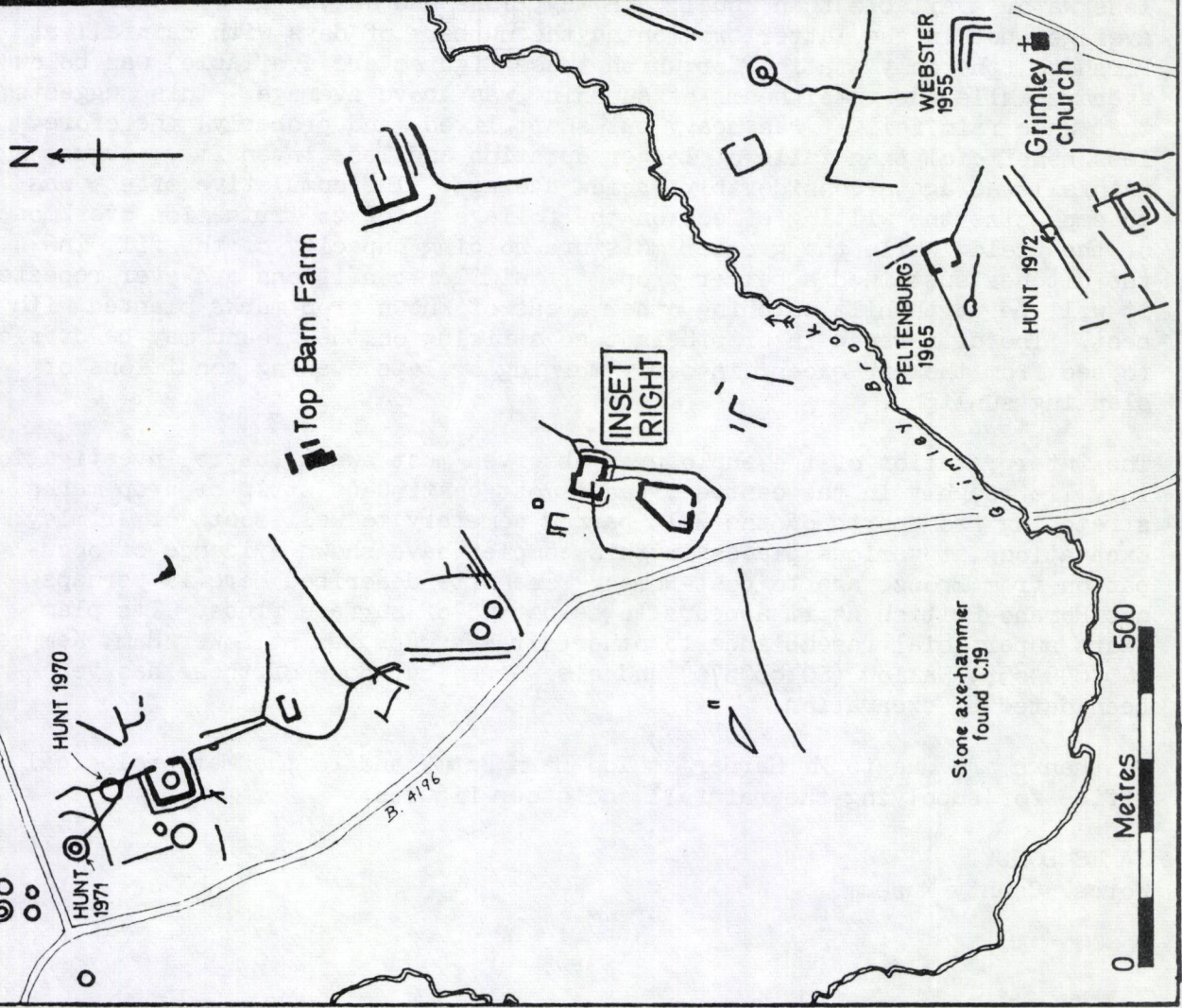
Entry in register:

Register index number:

Other remarks - remarriage, etc:-

C.J.B.
1973

CROP MARKS AT HOLT



FEATURES VISIBLE IN SUGAR BEET 22.8.73

thern enclosure and completely surrounds the southern one. Further features are visible on photographs taken under the most favourable conditions, but do not appear on every occasion.

It is unusual to be able to see features of this sort at ground level, particularly in sugar beet, which is one of the least responsive of crops. On August 22nd., however, the two main enclosures could clearly be picked out on the ground: the beet within and outside the enclosures rarely achieving a height of more than 40cm., while that immediately over the ditches was some 60-70 cm. high and generally much more luxuriant.

Not all the minor features shown on the air photographs were clearly visible on the ground, and in one sense little new information was gained from these observations. Nonetheless a rare opportunity was presented to measure the main two enclosures on the ground. This had to be done single-handed, over a highly irregular surface in some haste, as irrigation pipes were being laid at the time and once watering had begun the difference in the crop rapidly vanished as the wilting plants recovered. The absolute accuracy of the measurements taken is therefore suspect, but they may safely be trusted within a margin of error of a few metres. The ditches to the north were shown to enclose an area of c. 180 sq. metres, those to the south c. 420 sq. metres. The ditches of both enclosures had a minimum width of 1.5 - 2 metres.

Mr Harper could not remember these features being visible previously, and their present appearance must be due to peculiar weather conditions. Sugar beet plants need an ample supply of moisture throughout the season for their full development. The records for the three nearest stations, at Holt Lock, Bevere and Pershore, show that the period from January to March 1973 was dry, February and March in particular having below half the average rainfall. When the beet was planted therefore, it began its growth with considerably less water available than usual. In May, June and July, rainfall was above average, but in the latter two months the number of days with rainfall at Pershore (the only station for which these figures are available) was below average while the total hours of sunshine was above average - this suggests that when rain fell it was heavy but short lived, and probably, therefore, less beneficial than falls of longer duration and less intensity. August's rainfall was again considerably below average. The cumulative effect was to emphasize the wilting effect on the foliage prior to irrigation over most of the field, while the greater moisture holding capacity of the fill in the ditches sustained a better crop. If similar conditions are ever repeated it will be worthwhile watching other areas of known crop marks planted with beet. The difference in crop height so striking on the ground may be difficult to see from the air except in early morning or late evening conditions of slanting sunlight.

The interpretation of the enclosures observed must await future investigation. They lie roughly in the centre of an almost continuous strip of crop marks stretching from north of the Holt barrow cemetery to well south of Grimley. Excavations at various places in this complex have shown evidence of occupation from Bronze age to post-Roman. The site described here is perhaps not Romano-British as it appears to be devoid of surface finds. Its plan bears superficial resemblance to other paired enclosures at Lower Ham, Kempsey (SO/849485), Hallow (SO/830576) and elsewhere, but none of these has yet been dated by excavation.

My thanks are due to Mr Harper at Top Barn Farm, and to the Meteorological Office for supplying the rainfall and other figures.

JAMES BOND
Worcs. County Museum.

PREHISTORIC

Wetton Mill, Manifold Valley, Staffs. (SK/096563)

Excavation has recently been completed on this small rock shelter. The series of deposits have yielded animal remains, human bones, and artifacts. The lowest layer contained a late Pleistocene fauna with reindeer, glutton, possible arctic fox, hare and arctic lemming along with grouse and possible ptarmigan. The early post Glacial layer included a series of Mesolithic patinated flint and chert artifacts associated with the remains of a large Bovid, red and roe deer, wild boar, badger, fox, otter, pine martens and red squirrel. The Neolithic and Bronze Age levels included finds of sherds from Middle Neolithic bowls, including a rim fragment reminiscent of Windmill Hill twisted cord decorated pottery, a sherd from a Collared Vessel of the Primary series and sherds from a Rusticated Beaker and a Bucket shaped vessel.

Of particular interest were sherds from an All Over Corded Beaker, the first to be recorded from Staffordshire and only the second recovered from the Midlands. Associated with the sherds were a range of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint and chert tools, two bone needles and spatulas, a bone toggle, and a bone fish gorge of a type recorded from Prehistoric Lake Villages in Switzerland. Bones from these levels included wild cat, badger, common fox, dog, pig, sheep/goat, Ox - *Bos taurus primigenius*, Ox - longhorn variety, red and roe deer, water vole, fish and bird bones, together with the remains of at least one adult and three children. Finds from the upper levels included sherds of Roman fine calcite gritted wares and other coarse wares, and a Barbarous radiate of Gallienus c. A.D. 270 below fragments of medieval pottery whilst close to the surface sherds of 18th and 19th century pottery, bricks and roofing tiles were recorded. All finds are deposited in the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum. Report pending.

J.H. KELLY
(City Museum, Stoke-on-Trent.)

Neolithic

Pugh's Rough, Wichenford, Worcs. (SO/77286235)

A Neolithic stone axe found by Mr G R Taylor has a maximum length of 10.1 cm., width 5.15 cm., and thickness 3.0 cm. It has been examined by Professor Shotton, who has commented on its interesting form: 'initially shaped by flaking, as can clearly be seen at the edge end, it has also been shaped by pecking. It is difficult to decide whether the pecking or the polishing came first. It could be that the belt of close pecking near the butt end might have been done to assist adhesion of the axe in a bone or wood cavity in the haft. The axe is a quartz-bearing lithic tuff with epidotisation. Although slightly finer-grained than the type, it does not differ in any significant respect from Group XX... This has been provisionally assigned to Charnwood Forest, though the working site has not been located.'

Mesolithic - Bronze Age

Thorne, Inkberrow, Worcs.

The find of a late Neolithic flint arrowhead from Thorne was reported in the previous News-Sheet. Further finds of flints by Miss Jackson and Mr Clinton

have been made at SP/014555, 015557 and 006562, including some half dozen micro-liths, a fine barbed and tanged arrowhead and an assortment of miscellaneous scrapers and waste flakes.

C J BOND.
Worcs. County Museum.

IRON AGE

Sutton Wells Camp, Herefordshire (SO/523465)

The exposure of a human skeleton in a precarious section during machine excavations provided the occasion for a hurried two day dig in August 1973. The skeleton, probably a male of advanced age, was laid on its left side with hands at left hip, and legs, (lost in machining), bent back. The head was thrust forward to accommodate the body in the 50 cm. deep hollow, scooped from the occupation level of the primary embankment.

One shard of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the grave.

RON SHOESMITH
for D.O.E.

The Wrekin, Wellington (SO/631083)

Excavations on the Wrekin in April and early May showed that the hill-fort was permanently occupied as a village in the centuries before the Roman Conquest. The work was financed by D.O.E. in advance of the construction of the television transmitting station within the earthworks of the ancient camp. Test excavations showed that the actual building site - on the steep west slope between the defences of the inner and outer camps - is not of great archaeological interest. There was no evidence of prehistoric hut platforms and along most of this side the line of the rampart was marked simply by a ledge cut on the hill-side to provide a fighting platform.

Most of the excavations took place along the line of the intended approach track to the station from the present track along the ridge of the hill. Here were found the post-holes of timber buildings measuring about 10 feet square. The natural slope is about 1 in 6 and platforms had been cut into the hillside to accommodate these huts which were only about 12 feet apart. The close arrangement and utilisation of this steep north-facing slope must indicate that space on the hill was at a premium and it may be assumed that, except for the western side, most of the rest of the camp was covered with these little rectangular huts, some of them dwellings, others store buildings. The population of the Wrekin before the Roman conquest may have numbered a thousand or more. Nor were these temporary visitors, for it has been possible to recognize at least three or four rebuilding phases in most of the post-holes, and comparison with similar evidence, from Herefordshire hill-forts suggests that this indicates that the outer camp of the Wrekin was occupied for at least three or four hundred years. Only further excavation could show whether the occupation of the Outer Camp represents an extensive early occupation that was followed by a contraction to the Inner Camp, or marks an extension of the occupied area after some earlier occupation of the Inner Camp on the summit itself. The discovery of carbonised grain shows that corn was important and should provide radio-carbon dates for the occupation of the outer camp on the Wrekin. Most of the final buildings were destroyed by fire, and by dating the associated carbonised grain it should

be possible to see whether the destruction occurred about the time of the Roman conquest or long before.

S C STANFORD

University of Birmingham for the
Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Beckford, South Worcs. (SP 984364)

Introduction

Rescue excavations are being continued upon this extensive crop-mark site where each year an area of 1.4 acres (0.5 ha.) is threatened by gravel quarrying. Observation is made of the entire area, but as a result of local factors and the resources at present available the method of recording that has been adopted is a combination of salvage excavation (involving little or no hand excavation) and the full-scale (though by no means total) rescue excavation of selected areas. The accompanying plan gives an indication of the results during 1972 and 1973. A clear distinction is drawn between the types of evidence that each of the recording techniques can achieve, but so far the results from both have been complimentary. At present the chronological range of the site lies between the Early/Middle Bronze Age and the later Roman period, but it is possible that work in future years will extend this at either end.

Bronze Age Boundary ditch.

The earliest feature that has so far been found is also the largest, a boundary ditch. It is clearly visible upon the aerial photographs of the site and came within the excavated area in 1972 and 1973. It is a large linear ditch running almost due north and south, c. 6m. wide and 2.5m deep and has at least one wide causeway across it. Evidence for a bank was only very slight and the apparent absence of any timber features at the causeway seems to indicate a non-defensive function. It appears to be running on an alignment between Bredon Hill and Oxenton Hill but it is hoped that future geophysical work will trace its course further afield. The fill of the ditch is mainly sterile but it did produce several sherds from a single pot which were originally considered to belong to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition. A charcoal sample from an equivalent layer has produced a radiocarbon determination of 1410 \pm 200 b.c. (Birm 431). A terminus ante quem is also provided by the settlement of the mature pre-Roman Iron Age described below. Ditches and pits of this cut into the silted upper layers of its fill. The mean of the determination lies at the conventional transition from the Early Bronze Age to the Middle Bronze Age.

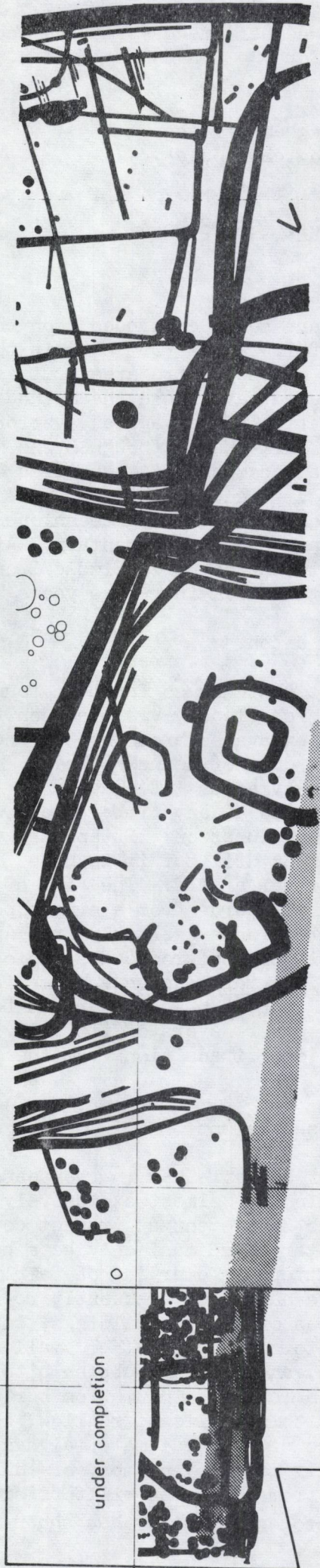
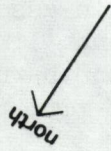
Pre-Roman Iron Age settlement

The northern part of the site has in two seasons produced a plan of ditches, pits and gullies which are almost exclusively Iron Age in date and which represent an undefended settlement at present covering about 1.8 acres. Although the plan is fragmentary, and must only be a part of a much larger whole, a reasonably clear pattern is emerging of fairly large and contiguous enclosures of which the ditches have been frequently re-cut upon slightly differing alignments, defining areas of timber buildings, smaller internal enclosures and concentrations of storage pits. Other smaller clay-lined pits, possibly furnaces or hearths, and special rubbish pits and cess pits have been found. Four adult and a single child inhumation burial are recorded, generally in a crouched position within small and shallow, bowl-shaped pits, and without grave-goods. A wide range of cultural material has been found in association with this settlement, generally dated by pottery of 'duck-stamped' and 'linear-tooled' styles, well known from excavated hillfort sites in the southern Marches and eastern Wales. Petrological study has shown that it came from production centres

BECKFORD, worcs

rescue excavations 1972-3

Rescue Archaeology Group



salvage

area excavation

30 m

scale 1:1000

CRM
WJB

in the Malvern Hills and at Beckford it forms only a small proportion of the total pottery of that date. Other items include: worked bone points and pins, clay 'loomweights', a decorated glass bead, 'weaving comb', saddle querns, grinding and pounding stones, iron brooches of flattened bow type, a decorated bronze triskele plaque and ribbed bracelet, flint implements, hoard of 10 spit-shaped 'currency bars', VCP (very coarse pottery), triangular bronze-melting crucibles.

The settlement is generally dated by a charcoal sample from a particularly rich rubbish pit which produced a radiocarbon determination of 160 ± 120 B.C. (Birm 432). This seems to be the first extensively excavated undefended settlement producing 'Malvernian' pottery and it is hoped that work now and in future years will begin to establish relationships with the neighbouring excavated hillfort sites on the Cotswold Edge, Bredon Hill, Conderton Camp, and Oxenton Hill which have all produced similar wares.

The late pre-Roman Iron Age is at present poorly represented, but a number of pit groups have produced pottery of distinctly different styles which seem to have an affinity with the more developed 'Belgic' forms.

Roman agriculture, trackways and inhumation cemetery.

The southern part of the site has produced a palimpsest of small ditches defining small rectilinear areas and contained by more substantial drainage ditches. Most of the area that has so far been recorded has produced a thin scatter of abraded Roman body-sherds from the topsoil. This and the evidence of the ditches strongly suggest that the entire area was cultivated during the Roman period. Possibly also associated with this activity is a system of trackways constructed from laid gravel and sand, and which overlie earlier Iron Age ditches. One of the trackways is dated by sherds of Roman Pottery and an iron 'ox-goad'. A scattered inhumation cemetery has apparently been placed in land marginal to the fields. A number of the inhumations had been decapitated before burial, the severed head being placed either between the knees or the feet. One had been buried in a coffin which had iron fittings.

WILLIAM BRITNELL

(Rescue Archaeology Group on behalf of
Avon-Severn Committee and D.O.E.)

ROMANO-BRITISH

Greensforge, Fort A (SO/864886)

A surface scatter of about 80 sherds of Roman pottery was collected from the plough soil of the fort, mostly from near the NW-SE rampart to the east of the modern road. In general, the assemblage does not fit in well with the first century military finds produced by the 1927 excavation (William Salt Soc. 1927), but appears to suggest a later civilian occupation lasting into the fourth century within the area of the fort.

LESLIE KING and MERCIA FENTON, on behalf of
the Stour and Smestow Archaeological Research Group.

Netherton, Worcs - Crop Marks north of Chapel Farm (SO/991422)

Extensive and complex crop marks have been recorded from the air by Arnold Baker in a couple of fields some 600 metres north of Chapel Farm. These extend over a terrace by the side of a stream rising on Bredon Hill, with the Lias Clay under -

lying. A spring rises near the stream in the northernmost of the two fields. The central feature of the crop-mark is a square enclosure with an entrance facing east (away from the stream) delimited by a slight inner ditch, a major outer ditch and a further lesser ditch, apparently not continuous, beyond that. This occupies the highest part of the slope up from the stream, and the present field boundary with a row of lime trees, passes right through it. There are numerous other ditches and enclosures to both north and south, including a feature like a smallcursus or drove-road, and the complex continues across the stream westwards towards Bricklehampton. The whole site has recently been scheduled as an ancient monument, and when a drainage system was inserted recently across the western side of the area, arrangements were made to carry out a watching-brief.

In fact the drainage work produced little new information because most of the pipes were laid by a machine which cut a narrow furrow rather than providing a trench with observable sections. A few sherds of coarse Romano-British pottery were brought to light in the pipe furrows, but much more material was collected from the ploughed headland of the field north of the lime trees. This comprised some forty sherds of orange-buff Severn Valley ware, about half a dozen fragments of grey ware, one sherd of black-burnished ware and a number of oyster shells. The densest distribution of finds was in the vicinity of the central square enclosure, and there appeared to be some tendency not only for the pottery to decrease in quantity further away, but also for it to be more abraded. This would need to be confirmed by re-examination when more of both fields is ploughed. No samian or colour-coated wares were recovered, and there also appeared to be an absence of tile. A single worked flint was found in the northwestern corner of the northern field.

My thanks are due to Mr R Steele of Chapel Farm and to the drainage contractors D W Clark of Shipston-on-Stour, for their interest and co-operation.

JAMES BOND
Worcestershire County Museum.

Bays Meadow, Droitwich, (Worcs). (SO/898639)

During 1973 the University of Birmingham Department of Ancient History and Archaeology continued excavations on the Roman Settlement in Bays Meadow, Droitwich.

1. In June the Department conducted a training excavation on the South side of the site, where the south-east corner of the fourth century basilica building partially uncovered in 1972 (W M Arch. News Sheet, 1972), was cleared. The sandstone foundation course of the wall of this building, consisting of large dressed blocks, was preserved intact in this area. Parallel to the south wall a similar but rougher wall footing appears to belong to an outbuilding extending along most of the length of the south wall of the basilica building. Wall footing to this outbuilding were absent at the North & South ends. Its floor was entirely covered with burnt grain.

Immediately to the south of the outbuilding was a path, made from sandstone blocks re-used from the foundations of the 3rd c. villa building excavated in 1967. This path was laid over the infilling of a shallow 'V' shaped ditch which pre-dates the construction of the basilica and its outbuilding. The line of a still earlier ditch running at right angles to and below the south walls of the basilica and its outbuilding was also followed.

2. In August a rescue excavation was carried out for four weeks under the

direction of Mr M Shaw. This was concentrated in front and to the south of the main 3rd c. villa building. The excavation was financed by a grant from the D.O.E. for supervisors and equipment and by a grant from the Baylies Charity Trust to enable students from Dudley Schools to work on the site. Work on this area is continuing at week-ends over the winter under the direction of Mr T B Shaw and Mr M A Stokes.

The SE corner of the trench contained a cobbled surface with two earlier ditches running underneath. The uneven nature of the cobbles suggested that they had been laid in a haphazard fashion when parts of the courtyard area became muddy rather than as a deliberate attempt at paving the whole area. To the north and west of the cobbles were medieval ploughmarks and in the west were found traces of the medieval ridge and furrow system. The western side of the trench contained a complex of rubbish and latrine pits and a dump of roof tile and mortar, probably dating from the clearing of the main villa. In the section of some of the pits can be seen evidence of an earlier level through which the pits had been dug. This level will be examined over the winter. The central area contained large numbers of sandstone blocks. However, no sense could be made out of these and the presence of deep gouge marks on some of the stones confirmed the impression that they had been much disturbed by ploughing.

All the finds were of the Roman period, the most notable being an intaglio depicting Victory standing on a globe and a cache of 14 coins of Carausius and Allectus, one of which is a hitherto unpublished type.

MR T M SHAW
DR L H BARFIELD.

The Lunt Roman Fort Baginton Excavations 1973
National Grid Ref: SP344752

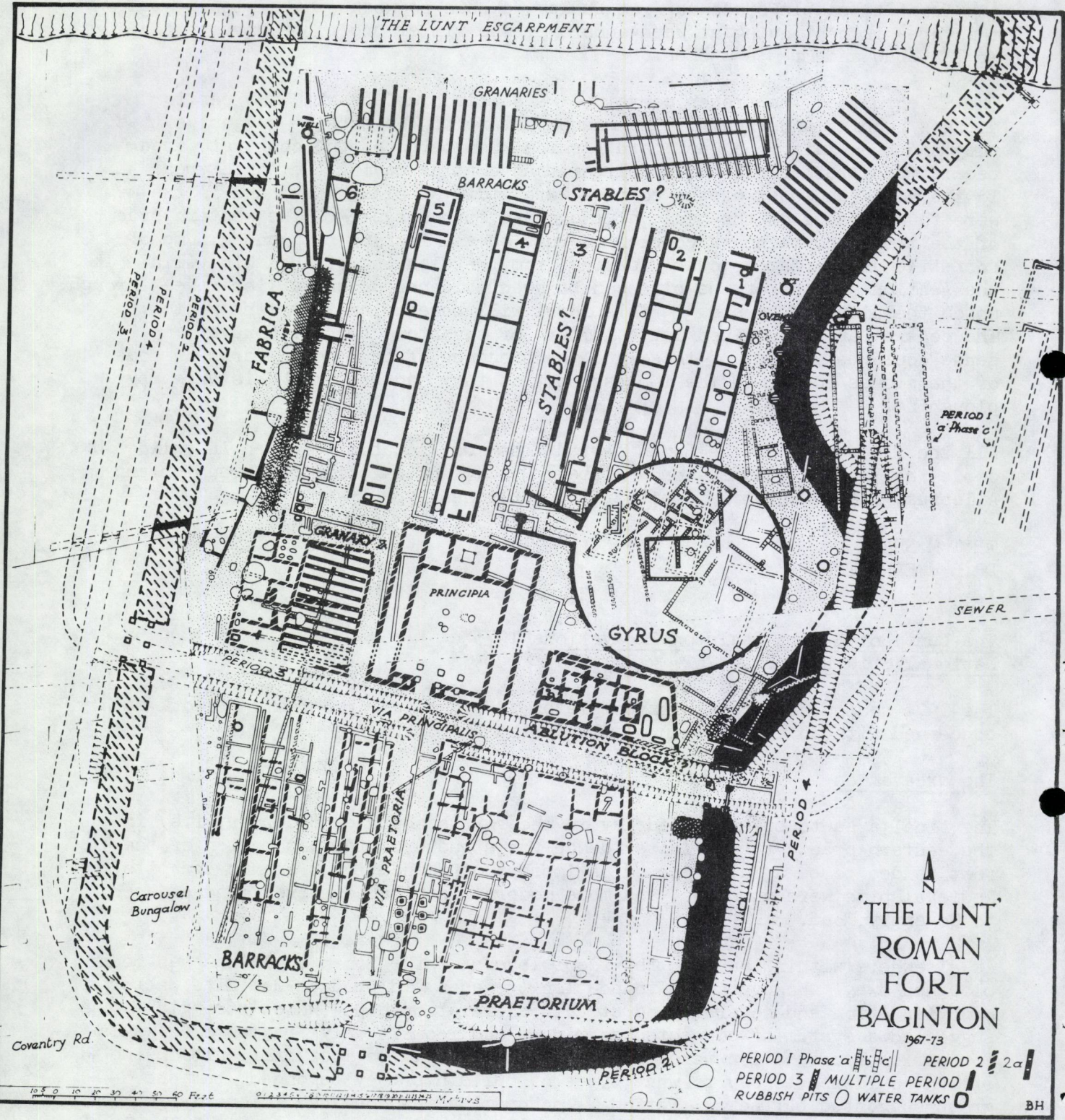
The 1973 season of excavations completes an eight year programme of work mainly concerned with an examination of the Period II fort.

The excavation

The final area to be excavated lay in the fort's south-east corner, i.e. in the eastern praetentura. The evidence for structures in this region of the fort tended to be a multi-period palimpsest of foundation trenches and pits. Medieval pits were numerous, and more modern disturbances were found adjacent to Coventry Road.

As elsewhere within the fort the floor levels of the Roman buildings had been ploughed away. However, the foundation trenches did produce definite patterns of orientation and several good structural relationships- which strongly suggested a system of connected corridors and rooms. Only fragments of walls for period I occupation were recovered and it would be most difficult on the present evidence to say to what types of buildings they belonged, but one group suggested barracks. Period II occupation was confined to one large building in the eastern praetentura, which covered an area approximately 110 ft x 100 ft. (33m x 30m) but in shape was not truly square. The north-west corner was aligned at a right angle onto the via principalis and the via praetoria but the eastern frontage was tapered towards the west and was not on the same alignment as that fronting the via praetoria. The orientation of the eastern side was also mirrored by the building immediately to the north (ablution block?).

THE LUNT ESCARPMENT



THE LUNT
ROMAN
FORT
BAGINTON

1967-73

PERIOD I Phase 'a' [diagonal lines] [diagonal lines] [diagonal lines]
 PERIOD 2 [diagonal lines] 2a [diagonal lines]
 PERIOD 3 [diagonal lines] MULTIPLE PERIOD [diagonal lines]
 RUBBISH PITS ○ WATER TANKS ○

BH

The building appears to have had a verandah, facing the via principalis and along the eastern side.

Internally, a range of rooms with linking corridors was clearly evident at the northern end. Gaps in the foundation trenches strongly suggested entrances. Many pits were found, with some clearly placed in the corners of rooms, while others were aligned to the walls. There were no water-tanks. On the western side partition walls were few and this would suggest a single elongated room. Consequently, the northern and western ranges suggest a basic inverted 'L' shape building. Within the inner corner of the 'L' a complex series of foundation trenches was uncovered which suggests connecting rooms and corridors.

The Southeast corner of the main building appeared to be devoid of Roman structures and those discovered were largely ephemeral. It could be argued, either that here was an unroofed, walled compound or that the lesser partition walls have been destroyed by ploughing or other disturbances.

Interpretation

It is clear from the above account that too many structural details are missing for the production of satisfactory plans of the building. However, there can be little doubt that the eastern praetentura contains a single building c. 110ft x 100 ft. (33m x 30m) which is on a scale quite exceptional in a quingenary fort. This building is larger than the principia and the gyrus and is therefore the largest single structure within the fort. Its very size would exclude it from being the commandant's house which is more likely to have been the building immediately west of the principia.

What rank of officer would have occupied this building. It is comparable in size with tribune's houses within legionary fortresses, ranging in size from 150 ft x 100 ft (45m x 30m) at Inchtuthil, to 100 ft x 100 ft (30m x 30m) at Nijmegen and Carnuntum, and at Novaesium 125 ft x 125 ft (37.50m x 37.50m).

The plans of the tribune's houses vary considerably but usually consist of four ranges of rooms, facing onto a central colonnaded courtyard. The Lunt building conforms in scale, but its plan is difficult to parallel.

Fort Type

However, the size of this building is also significant in a general understanding of the fort's function. The size of the fort c 500 ft x 315 ft, (150m x 94.50m) is c. 3.5 acres (1.4 ha.) and is what would normally be required for an ala quingenaria. Here the four hundred and eighty cavalry or so would require twice the ground area needed for a cohors quingenaria. The fort at Fendoch 598 ft x 320 ft (179.40m x 96m), had a unit of 1000 men as it garrisoned a cohors milliaria. At this site as at the Lunt, the Roman engineers made the best of the terrain available and established their fort on the largest and most regular piece of ground with strict regard to the requirements of defence. The evidence of the gyrus, the many pieces of horse trappings, additional granaries, fabrica buildings with substantial evidence for smithies, buildings whose positions and a plan make them suitable for stables, all strongly suggest cavalry. In addition there is the house west of the principia that could have been used by the officer responsible for the fort, while the larger house in the eastern praetorium could have been used by the praefectus ala quingenaria.

This officer would be senior to the fort's commandant being of equestrian status and having a rank that was certainly senior to a tribunus angusticlavius but below the status of a tribunus laticlavius. It is possible that the presence of a senior officer at the Lunt is connected with the training function of the gyrus arena. It could be argued from the existing evidence that this fort

was used for the training of selected recruits for service in the alae or in the cohorts equitatae. If so it would require accommodation for a senior officer, who could have made his headquarters at the Lunt or used the accommodation when on tours of inspection.

Reconstructions

During July, the Royal Engineers, over a period of fifteen days, reconstructed in situ a timber granary 70 ft x 30 ft and standing 28 ft to the roof apex. This building will be opened to the public during the spring of 1974, as a museum of the Roman army.

B HOBLEY
Coventry Museum.

Kinvaston, Penkridge, Staffs.

During the 1973 season sections through the eastern and southern defences of the presumed Claudian fort of 26 acres demonstrated the presence of two parallel military ditches, the inner 3.4m wide and 1.6m deep, the outer 1.7m wide and 1.4m deep. There was no trace of a rampart. Although a pottery report is still forthcoming, the evidence recovered from the ditches includes a piece of Dr. 29 which has a very close parallel among the Claudian samian from Colchester. A third defensive element on the southern side revealed by aerial photography proved to be a ditch 2.7m wide and 1.5m deep and may well represent the limit of a small annexe belonging to the smaller (18 acre) fort.

A small trench at an appropriate point within the eastern defences of the 26 acre fort supplied evidence of partitioning within a timber building but failed to produce any meaningful dating material.

An area excavation immediately behind the eastern defences of the smaller fort, which has now yielded enough dateable material to firmly support a Neronian date for its foundation, showed two distinct periods of occupation on the site. Traces of a large timber building with its long axis at right angles to the eastern defences stopped abruptly at c. 4m from the inner lip of the inner ditch. Six coins recovered from the area were in a very poor state of preservation, but three of them have been identified as Claudian. The full extent and nature of this building, which showed no evidence of partitioning, await further investigation. Road metalling associated with the building, though sporadic, had likewise been cut through during the digging of the Neronian ditches. Part of a second building, relating to these ditches, was located but the fact that it could be seen for only a short distance bears witness to the considerable damage done to parts of the site by ploughing.

NEVILLE INGREY for Stafford Girls'
High School and Wolgarston Comprehensive School, Penkridge.

Wall (LETOCETUM), Staffs. (SK/098066)

During 1973 the area between the baths and the 'Villa', 40 ft away and on the same alignment, was completely investigated. No stratified material later than Antoine was found, although pottery of the 4th c. had been found in the baths, suggesting that upper Roman levels had been removed in terracing this naturally sloping area, probably when the 'Villa' wall on this side was robbed to its foundations in the early 18th century. The earliest feature found was a military latrine pit with associated stakeholes, suggesting the area was within one of the four forts known or an annexe on the higher ground. A ballista bolt,

dolabrum sheath and melon beads support this suggestion although no traces of buildings, other than burnt daub, were found.

Later a gravel road was laid down along the NE side of the baths. From the SE corner to the baths entrance this was 9 ins thick, but beyond it was thinner. Then sandstone and limestone cobbles were laid on the gravel, and above this more gravel, which was the latest surviving Roman level. Below the cobbling at the NE corner of the baths a thin layer of burnt material suggested the destruction of an earlier building. Cut through the burnt layer was a ditch 3 ft wide running the full length of the baths on this side, although not quite on the same alignment, backed by a clay-and-cobble wall foundation, the top of which had been removed by the 18th c. levelling. No trace of the wall itself remained except pieces of sandstone with adherent cement in the base of a robber trench, which was all that survived at the back of the wall. The end of the cobble foundation was continued by a line of closely set 4 inch postholes for 17 ft and beyond by an irregular drainage gully. Coins of Claudius and Domitian were found in the ditch silt and a cornelian intaglio of Mars Gradivus, dated to later than A.D. 79, in a layer through which the ditch was cut. Trenches cut at right angles to the NE side found traces of cobbled floors suggesting light outbuildings in this area. About 75 ft from the 'Villa' a ditch on the military alignment is being investigated.

BERT ROUND for
D.O.E.

Wroxeter, Baths Basilica.

The 1973 season saw the removal of the last of layer one, the top soil, from the site. Fragments of the W end of the Basilica were revealed in trenches dug by earlier excavators. This end of the site is very extensively disturbed but enough remains to show that buildings, including what looks like a small guard room, overlay the street close to its junction with the Watling Street and that in the penultimate phase a furnace or oven of the type found by Atkinson in the forum had been built between the basilica and the Watling Street. At the eastern end of the site further details of the timber facades of the buildings flanking the street were revealed while within the Baths Precinct area there was evidence of an earlier pebble-floored, perhaps winged building, underlying the 'barn' of the latest period. A coin of A.D. c 367 found in the rubble make-up of this barn gives the latest terminus post quem yet discovered for the site. In all, twenty nine major and twelve subsidiary structures built on or into the rubble of the demolished stone buildings have been recognized.

A most interesting situation seems to be emerging at the eastern end of the basilica. There is evidence that for nine periods, during and beyond its life, the extreme east end of the nave was an area of special significance, either being floored differently from the rest of the nave, or with a raised floor, or at a very late stage, enclosed by a small building. This special significance seems to have persisted even after this late building was demolished. One can only hazard a guess at the reason for this - perhaps the most likely explanation is the presence here of altars or cult figures.

A crucial point in the history of Roman towns seems to be that beyond which mortar is no longer used. From then on all building is in timber or dry stone or clay and etc. This thought is prompted by the discovery that one of the latest floor levels close to the Old Work which appears at first sight to be a mortar or plaster floor, is in fact merely crushed wall plaster, made perhaps into a slurry and spread to form a rather soft white surface. By the time this floor was laid the ability or the wish to make proper mortar seems to have gone. Whether this is the reason for, or the consequence of, building in wood is a debatable matter.

PHILIP BARKER.

Wroxeter 1973 - Market Hall

Three training courses at Wroxeter were based on the market-hall site in the SW corner of the baths insula. The whole of the building has now been stripped of its disturbed levels and it is astonishing how much has survived the 19th c. excavations and subsequent erection of buildings on the site. It is clearly a very massive public building with its internal colonnaded court-yard raised two feet above the external side-walk. Already there are visible fragments of an earlier building of a quite different plan. Contact has also been made with the military demolition level on the S side. The W side of the street frontage has yet to be cleaned down, but the main problem is now that of organising a large scale excavation, since it can no longer be left to the small amount of work which the Summer School produces every year. The plans for 1974 are to have a paid labour force and try to integrate training programmes into the excavation. Phil Barker has had all the excitement in the basilica area; soon useful results will be forthcoming on this part of the site as well.

GRAHAM WEBSTER

The Cunorix Grave Stone - Wroxeter

The precise find spot of this memorial, dated by Prof. K Jackson to a period as late as 470 A.D. has been determined. (Antiq. J., 48(1968), 296 - 300). It was found by the vigilant eye of a farm worker just external to the E. defences, 35 to 40 yards W. of the Horseshoes Lane, i.e. in the well known cemetery area. An exact reference is not possible. This fact seems to indicate that at this late date the City cannot have shrunk much if at all. The ancient custom of burial outside the city confines was still observed, and Latin, even if roughly combined with early Irish, still remembered.

The Watling Street.

Widening and new junctions on the A5 (Watling Street) between Wellington and Shrewsbury have afforded opportunities to observe the structure of this famous highway. 400 yards W. of the Haygate Restaurant a deep section unveiled the cobbled remnants of a road, over 30 feet wide. About 200 yards further on to the W., on the S. side, there was a considerable peat bog through which the road passed while maintaining a straight course, although obviously it was not possible to examine the basal construction.

The Horseshoes Lane.

At this famous hostelry, known to those who have worked at Wroxeter over the years, a lane wobbles its way into Viroconium. Air photographs provide clues as to the straight course of this road from Overley Hill W. of Wellington into the city. A dog-leg angle is shown to be inside the E rampart, from repeated air photography observation. Work currently proceeding is endeavouring to demonstrate the true course across and E of the rampart. A row of cremation burials on the W side has helped to prove the true alignment of the road. Sections in the field across the lane to the N. are proving informative.

A W J HOUGHTON
on behalf of the
Shropshire Roman Research Group.

The Glass Find in Field 509 at Wroxeter

This site was by a wide road which, having crossed the Severn, was about to enter the town, thus suggesting light industry nearby.

Dr D Harden has now seen all the glass, associated objects and photographs. He has kindly summarised his lengthy report as follows:

'All the fragments of vessels in this assemblage are early pieces. They might all belong to the later 1st century and none is later than the mid 2nd century. The four window glass fragments are also early, being of the matt-glossy variety. The material indicating that glass working was taking place in the vicinity includes:

- a) Two fragments of thin drawn glass rods.
- b) Remains of ring punty wads.
- c) Cullett which includes wasters, punty wads and drawn rods.
- d) Melted lumps of waste glass. (Blobs)

Any one of items (a) to (d) would be good evidence that glass was being worked, presumably in the vicinity. When all four occur it seems proof positive and the discovery on this site of a dump of clean sand seems to clinch the matter.'

Due to the generosity of the Museum Department of Messrs Pilkington, St Helens, Lancs., detailed analyses of cullet, blobs and sand have been provided.

Samples of cullet included a strap handle, an amber coloured fragment with applied decoration, window glass and spiral rods. The blobs were examined and lastly, sand samples. In brief the results showed that the cullet (glass fragments) were not made locally, that the local sand was not used in their manufacture but the composition of all the fragments was chemically identical. The local sand was 'refractory' and a temperature in excess of 550° was required to melt it. The 'blobs' were made using this local sand. It is accepted that the presence of blobs is evidence of efforts to produce glass. As to the high temperature achieved, ample supplies of fuel were available for analysis. Dr Laura Ponsonby, of the Royal Botanic gardens, Kew, has kindly provided a report. She states that the wood used was Quercus Robur, the common oak.

The site was completely stripped and must have been dirty and fly-blown. Quantities of bone, some butchered, were about the site. The workers were presumably eating pig, oxen, possibly goat and perhaps chicken. Mr G S Cowles of the British Museum (Natural History), has kindly reported on the radius of a bird. He states that in shape and size it is close to Gallus Domesticus. A report on the associated tools is awaited.

It seems that cullet was collected locally and large quantities would have been brought and imported by the army. Efforts to manufacture glass appear to have been made but clearly without the skill of trained craftsmen, and lack of available material forced the works to close.

Beneath the Glass works was an iron bloomery associated with the lowest road levels. Dr G Webster has kindly provided a report on fragments of armour and iron weapons found there. It seems possible that this industry was contemporary with the period of Military occupation.

A local find

A bronze ring 1.6 cm in diameter was found in the topsoil of field 422 (SJ 25in.) Mr R P Wright translates the Latin inscription on the bezel (ama amo) as: DO THOU LOVE. I LOVE.

The Supposed Site of Rutunium.

Field work has been intensively carried out in this area. Those interested should consult sheet SJ 52 NE. The general reference is, within moderate limits, SJ 557255 (Harcourt Park). The agger of the Roman Road, from Wroxeter

to Chester is visible in marshy land having crossed the River Roden. In a wide area much destruction from quarrying has effaced important features but it seems unlikely that a Roman settlement would have been set up in an area subject to severe flooding. A few trial boxes failed to reveal any significant features. But it could be that the site lies on higher ground to the WNW. The air space is not available to civil aircraft but reconnaissance may be possible next season from other sources.

Shropshire Roman Research Group.

Blunts Green

In 1972 a limited area excavation was opened up approximately ten m. to the south of Hob Ditch Causeway. The gully of a circular wattle and daub structure was traced for about two thirds of its circumference, where it had been cut by slots of at least three phases of rectilinear buildings on different alignments. Two probable door post pits, about two m. apart were both filled with burnt wattle and daub and domestic rubbish. Post holes filled with clay below the rubbish layer, suggested that the door posts were salvaged from a fire, and the resulting pits filled with burnt debris.

The most remarkable feature found in attempting to trace the circular structure was a sub-rectangular pit, approximately 3 x 2 x 1.5m deep. Both the sides and the bottom were wood lined, probably with planking, and so far two corner posts have been found with the wood which has rotted in situ. The pit was tightly packed with weathered and broken sandstone of various sizes and shapes, some of which were carved with classical mouldings and indefinite decorative motifs. It appears that a monument, perhaps a shrine or tombstone had been thoroughly broken up for rubble some of which was used for filling this open pit. A sample of the wood has been submitted to Birmingham University for identification and Carbon 14 dating. Excavation will recommence on Sundays as soon as an efficient and portable water pump can be found.

BRIAN HUTTY

Aston Mill Farm, Worcestershire (SO 944 349)

A scatter of limestone rubble and Romano-British pottery was reported to Mr A. Hannan (of Tewkesbury), who in turn passed the information to the County Museum Archaeology Department. More of this material was found when the field was ploughed in August. There is no crop-mark recorded in this particular field; the density and localisation of the scatter suggests that a new Romano-British site may have been revealed.

ALAN HUNT for
Worcestershire County Museum.

Blackstone, Bewdley, Worcs. (SO 792 738)

A second season of rescue excavation on this Iron Age/Romano-British farmstead site took place throughout July and August. An area of 1300 square metres was stripped, which included part of the South side defences and linked up both areas of the interior opened in 1972.

Examination of the defences on the South side was hindered by the discovery

of another (unrecorded) archaeological trench dating from the late 1950's, within the area excavated. Sufficient evidence was obtained, however to put together a tentative chronology for the defences:

- (1) Inner ditch: middle silts yielded a few sherds of linear-tooled ware. Latest silts contained destruction debris (ash, charcoal), and pottery types broadly comparable with 1st c. AD material from interior features.
- (2) Outer ditch: no pottery found in 1972, but this season a very few sherds from middle range of silts, again comparable with 1st century types.

This evidence seems to suggest that the inner defences may have been constructed in the late pre-Roman Iron Age, with the outer ditch, a regular V-profile, being added during the first century.

From the dense distribution of features in the interior several structures emerged immediately and a number of other putative building plans may be suggested, including a circular hut of stake-wall construction, with an interior diameter of just over 2 metres, and a NNE-facing entrance which appeared to have been narrowed. There was no trace of an internal hearth. This structure, in common with all the others excavated so far, had been dismantled; no traces of timber have yet been found in situ. There were two sub-rectangular buildings of post construction, both open ended, which may well be barns or byres, and a larger (10m x 4m) sub-rectangular building of similar construction with internal roof-supports. A few groups of post/stake holes were interpreted as granaries.

Environmental work was again carried out continuously, all deposits excavated being sampled and water-sieved. In consequence a large body of seed and charcoal evidence has been built up. Preservation of animal bones on this site is not good, but evidence of livestock kept now includes horses as well as sheep and cattle.

ALAN HUNT for
Worcestershire County Museum and D.O.E.

Redhill, Lilleshall, Salop. (SJ 726110)

A rescue excavation was conducted by David Browne in advance of reservoir construction on behalf of the Department of the Environment. Approximately 2.100 square m. of the interior of the large single-ditched enclosure to the north of the Watling Street was examined. No traces of substantial timber structures were located. The ditch was 4.20m. wide by 2.20m. deep with a typical Roman military ditch profile. A timber-and-clay revetted rampart had stood on the inner lip before being dismantled and thrown into the silted ditch at the abandonment of the enclosure by the army. The structure may have been a temporary storage depot established during one of the mid-first c. campaigns, but no satisfactory dating evidence was obtained.

The two ditches of a smaller and later enclosure within the bounds of the larger one were shown also to be of military character, being about 2.00m wide by 1.00m deep. The interior of this emplacement could not be examined extensively and no structures associated with it were certainly identified. Sparse finds of pottery suggest a date in the later 1st century AD. A small policing post or signal station is suggested for its function.

An area of a small single-ditched enclosure bisected by the Watling Street was also examined. Few traces of structures within the ditch were found. The ditch had a U-shaped profile, 3.20m wide by 1.80m deep and is dated by pottery finds to the first part of the fourth century AD. A coin hoard buried in its uppermost filling is expected, on detailed analysis, to show that the enclosure had ceased to function by the mid-fourth century. The presence of a substantial amount of 3rd. c. pottery indicates the close proximity of habitations of that date; second century pottery is rare. The work on this enclosure ditch suggests that the recently proposed Theodosian date for late fortified post along the Watling Street, may need reconsideration.

Other work on the site identified fragmentary remains of clay-and-timber buildings subsequent to the first century military structures; a first century military ditch which may have formed an annexe to the larger enclosure and other stretches of ditch of uncertain function, some fourth century in date.

DAVID M. BROWNE
University of Cambridge.

Tripontium, Caves Inn, Churchover, Warks. (SP/553794)

During the winter a magnetometer survey was carried out of the undisturbed areas West and South of the stone building in Area 3 with surprising results. Extending to the West was a boundary ditch with palisade (post-holes) and a gap that may indicate an entrance. To the south there appear to be extensive remains of stone buildings at various depths, subsequently proved by trial trenching.

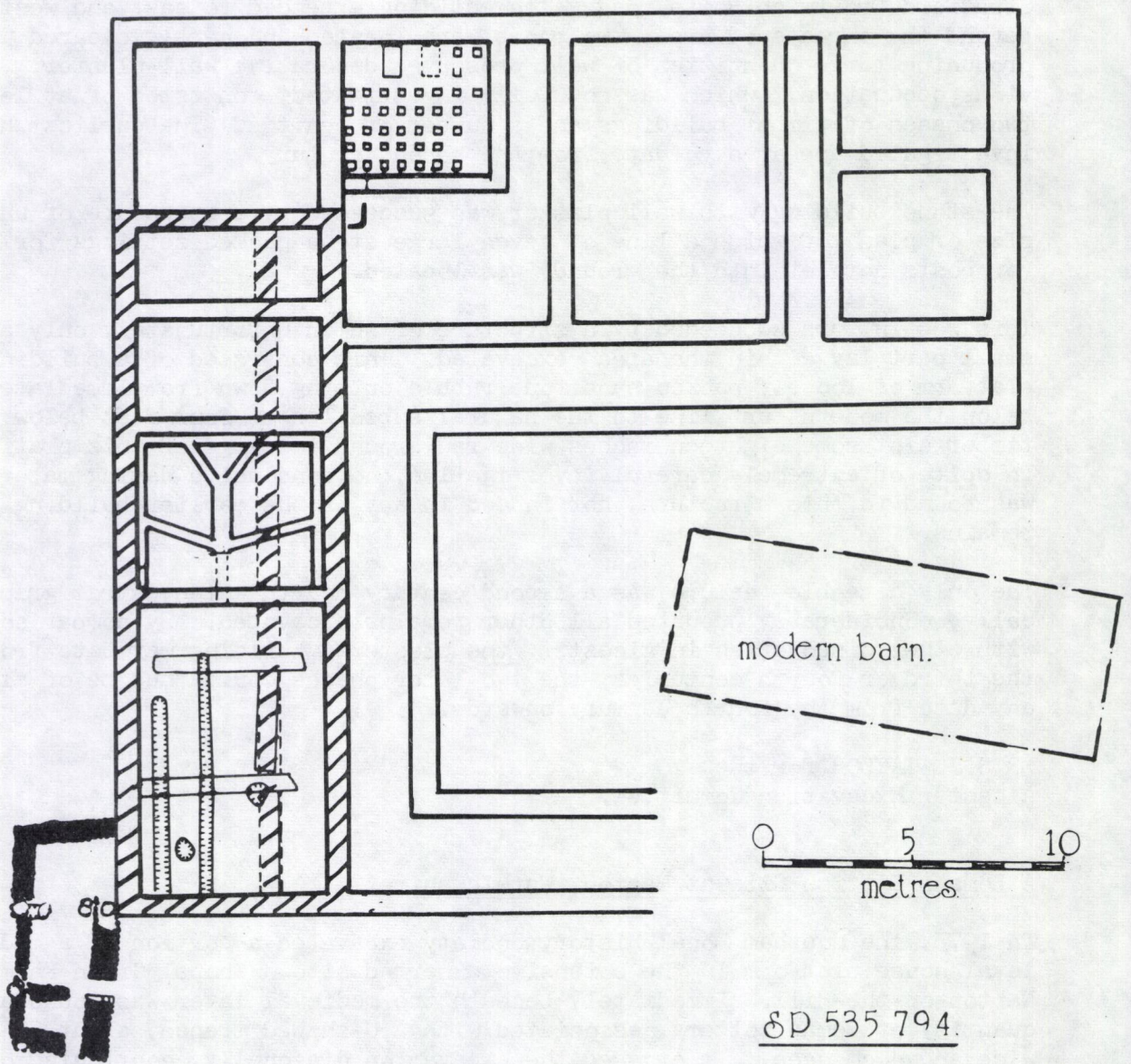
Work on the main building continued all season. The floors were lifted, there were three in some rooms, and the rest reduced to the natural sand, into which was cut a ditch running the full length of the West wing. The ditch having been completely emptied proved to be pre-building, carefully back-filled with sandy brown clay. The excavation of this area produced very little dating material.

A 10 metre box was excavated adjacent to the South-West corner of the building, revealing a slight floor surface 1 metre down with a beam slot, which produced a few 4th c. sherds. Below this level the fill was all R.B. including 1st and 2nd c. material. Below this were a series of post holes indicating a small demolished stone and wood building cut through by the later west wall.


There are now three building sequences dating from the late 1st c. to the 5th c. The intrusions cut into the floor of the most westerly rooms appear to be attempts at shoring up the roof. The in-fill of these produced coins of the House of Valentinian.

Since the society is on the perimeter of Group 8 it has been asked by the two adjacent groups to watch their areas in our vicinity. This has resulted in some scheduling in Leicestershire and work on church redundancies in Northamptonshire.

JACK LUCAS for
Rugby Archaeological Society.



SD 535 794.

FIRST PERIOD 

TRIPONTIUM — BUILDING AREA 3
CAVE'S INN, RUGBY.

1973

Summary report on excavations at Alcester, 18th June - 1st August 1973.
Alcester, Warwickshire. (SP 091570)

Excavation in advance of flood barrier construction revealed the remains of a substantial building on stone foundations lying immediately north of the Stratford-Droitwich Roman road. The building extended to east and west beyond the threatened area; two rooms were located and partly cleared, producing large quantities of well preserved decorative wall-plaster. Previous occupation, which was not fully investigated, consisted of at least two phases of timber buildings and a number of hearths. The earliest hearth investigated appeared to date from the second century.

The stone building with wall plaster was succeeded by a structure of unknown size or plan, of which a line of seven large stone-packed settings for pillars (or posts not let into the ground) was located.

This was in turn succeeded by a structure of which unfortunately only a small part lay within the area excavated. This consisted of a building platform of loosely packed sandstone rubble cutting down from immediately below the modern turf line to the natural subsoil some four feet below. A timber slot some eighteen inches wide ran around the edge of this platform. In spite of extremely careful investigation, no conclusive dating material was found in this structure, nor indeed in any of the earlier building remains.

The only dateable feature was a second century hearth which, stratigraphically, considerably predated all other remains excavated. By comparison with other discoveries in Alcester, the plastered building may date from the third or fourth centuries; the two later phases could thus be of almost any date from the fourth century onwards.

MR S.J. TAYLOR for the
Alcester Excavation Committee.

A Romano-British Site at Napton, Warwickshire.

In 1973, the Southam Local History Society excavated a portion of a medieval house platform in the extensive deserted site at Chapel Green Farm, Napton-on-the-Hill. Immediately beneath the medieval layer was found a quantity of Roman pottery, associated with a U-shaped trench, about 50 cm wide and 40cm deep. It crossed the excavation diagonally, continuing on in both directions and a 10 m. length was exposed.

A large quantity of grey ware was found with the rims from at least six different pots, including a jar in red ware with a cream colour coat and a delicate rim, and a sherd of colour-coated ware and a tiny piece of 1st c. samian (Form 29). A few fragments of pottery with a square-cut rim are probably of Iron Age date.

It is suggested that the trench was a land drain, and if projected both ways, it would run from the higher ground where Chapel Green Farm now stands to a sunken hollow in the next field where the DMV is located. The Romano-British habitation probably lies under the present farmhouse. The sunken hollow is said locally to have been a well, although it has not been open for at least 50 years.

Although occasional Roman sherds have been picked up on various fields in Napton, this is the first Romano-British occupation feature to have been

located in the village. The site is a comparatively inhospitable one located on the heavy Lower Lias clay. The soil is difficult to work and slow to drain.

SAXON

Tamworth, Staffordshire (SK/209043)

The records of the excavations of F T Wainwright in 1960 for Tamworth Borough Council recently came into the possession of Tamworth Castle Museum. Amongst them were those of a section across the northern defences of the town, south of Albert Road. The drawing of this section, although incomplete, shows a Saxon Ditch and Rampart separated by a berm as elsewhere in the town. From the rear of this rampart in a layer of stones interpreted by Wainwright as an intervallum road, came a silver cut half-penny of Edward the Martyr minted at Torksey. Added to the Saxon rampart was the medieval bank associated with a wide, deep ditch. (cf. Sheridan, with an appendix on the Torksey Halfpenny by M Dolley, Trans. S. Staffs Archaeol. and Hist. Soc. 14 for 1972/3, forthcoming.)

MEDIEVAL

Hen Domen, Montgomery.

This season's work concentrated again on the N E sector of the Bailey. It is now clear that the building history of this sector of the Bailey in its latest phases is very different from that of the N W sector, confirming, once again, that evidence from one part of an archaeological site cannot be safely extrapolated to other parts of the site. Intensive occupation of the last periods seems to be absent from this newly excavated area. There appears to be only one building of the last period here represented by a very fine roughly rectilinear pebble surface with two rows of pebbles which may mark the positions of sill-beams or floor joists. The penultimate period, Phase Y, seems to be represented over much of the area by a thick humus layer which may indicate temporary abandonment of this part of the Bailey. Below this the buildings of Phase X, whose timber slots and post-holes have been deliberately filled with stones, can be seen emerging.

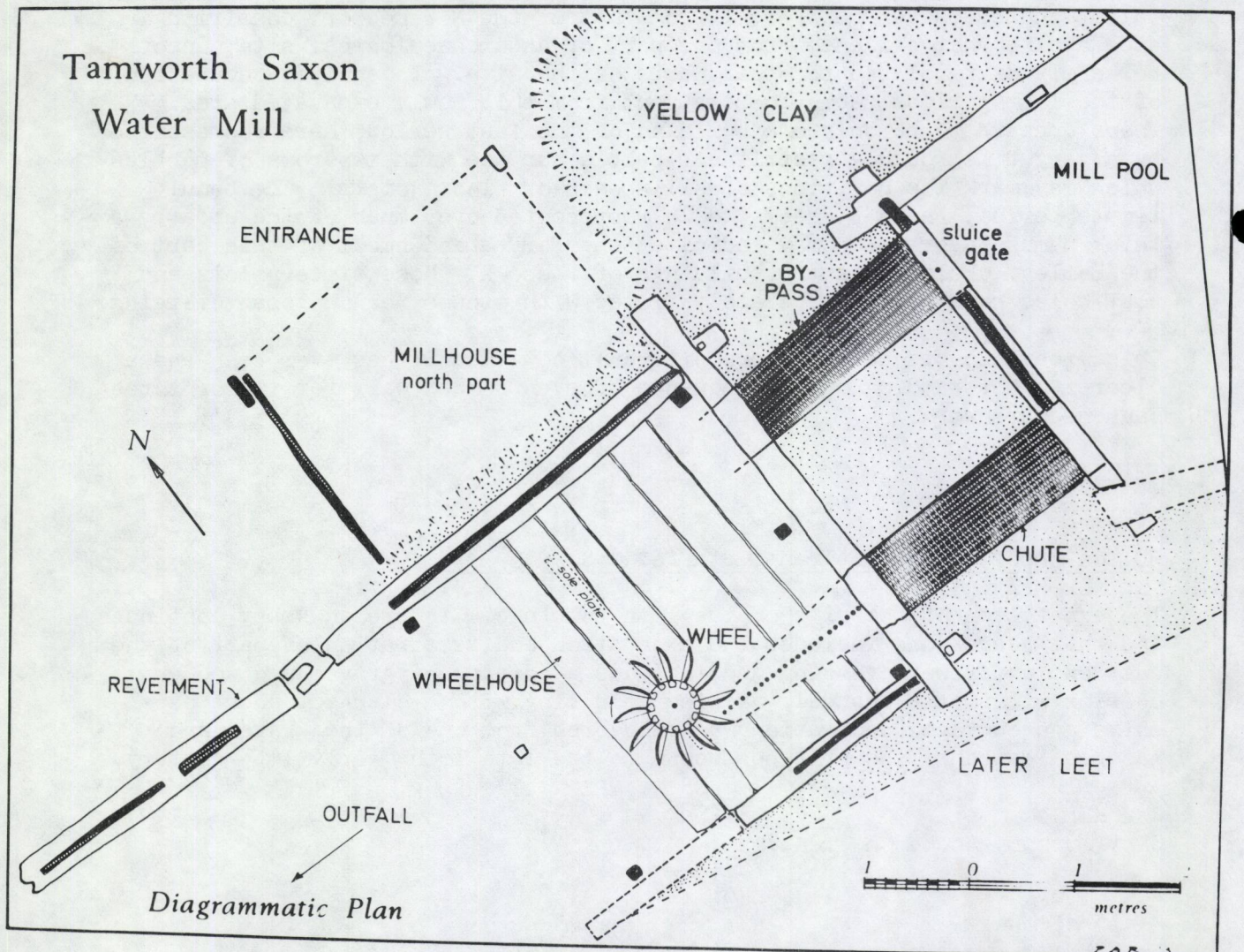
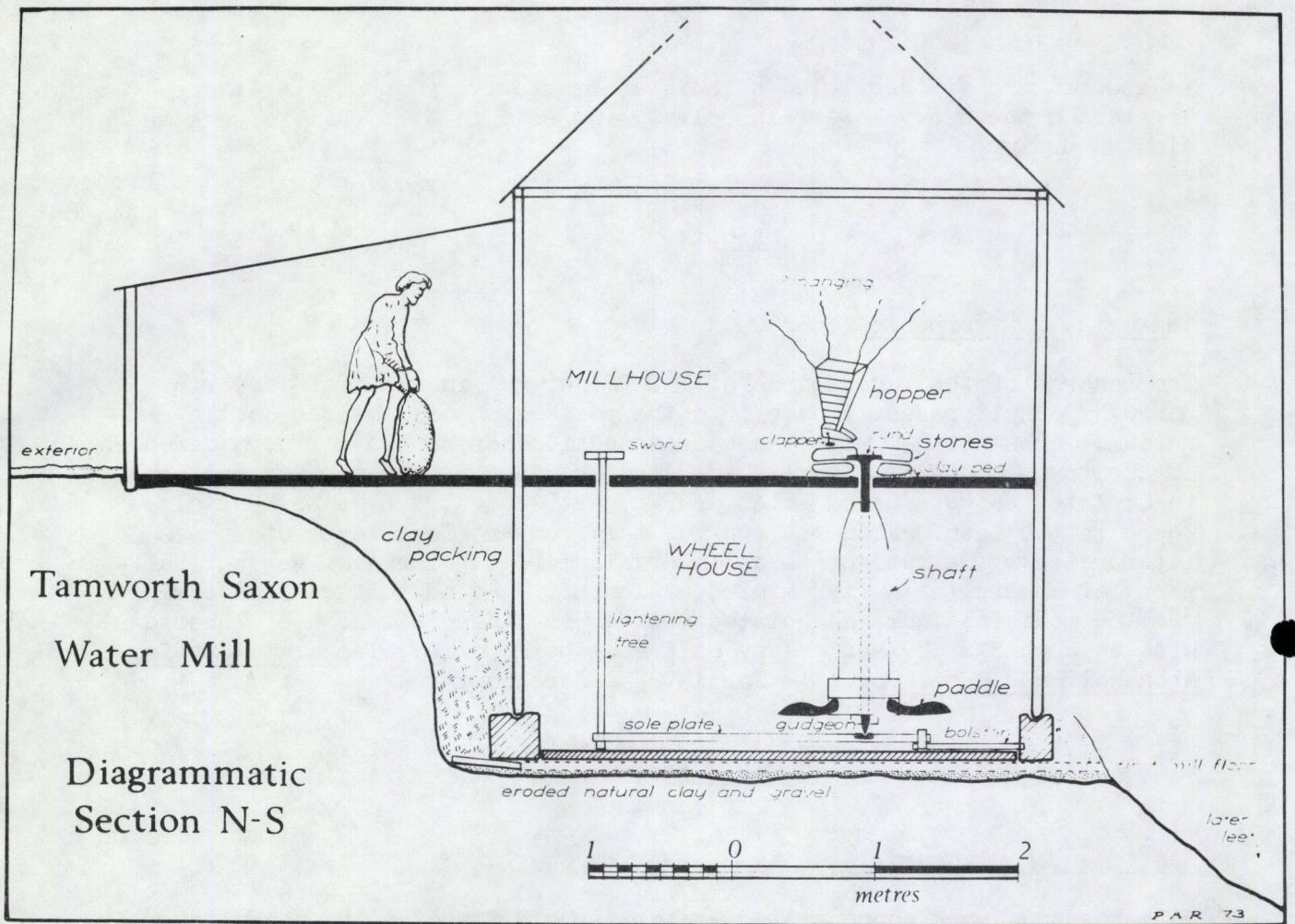
This excavation is perhaps more difficult now than it has ever been and a clearer understanding of the sequence of events must wait for two or three seasons more work.

PHILIP BARKER

Hulton Abbey, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. (SJ/905493)

The excavation of the site of the 13th - 16th c. Cistercian Abbey continues and this year's work includes the excavation and restoration of part of the east end and tower crossing and includes a complex of graves and wooden coffins within the Chancel. A fine gold ring with a claw-set uncut sapphire and engraved decoration was recovered from one of the graves and has been dated by the British Museum to the late 15th, early 16th century.

J H KELLY
City Museum, Stoke On Trent.



Astley Priory, Worcestershire. grid ref. SO 787677

During a routine field visit to Astley church earthworks were noted around the churchyard. A sketch map was produced and this indicates two groups of features:-

1. The probable precinct of the alien priory is demarkated by the circularity of the roads around the church. There is a pronounced break of slope all around this precinct area with traces of an embankment on the north and west sides. The churchyard occupies the south-east part of the area: the rectory and its attendant buildings of the eighteenth century have obscured the south-west corner. Earthwork traces of buildings can, however, be seen north of the church and these probably indicate the site of the priory offices proper. There are no obvious entrances to this precinct although a nearby house on the western side is called Westgate cottage. There are traces of a road? or internal boundary across the centre of the area running down a holloway to the Prior's Well, a stone built medieval spring cover.

2. To the east from this precinct and well are the very well-defined earthworks of a previously unrecognised deserted medieval village. There was evidently a road along the eastern side of the precinct and present churchyard to the well; here it turned and now runs eastwards in the form of a well-marked holloway, at least a metre deep. This is partly obscured by the gardens of a group of council houses but its course is clearly discernable. South of this are four or five terraced crofts or house platforms backed on the south side by a back lane or boundary ditch. Beyond this there was probably a close; no ridge and furrow is visible but there are abandoned roads on the south and east sides. North of the main village street the earthworks are somewhat obscured by the modern houses but terraces are evident and it is clear that the present road from Astley Town occupies the old back lane.

MICHAEL ASTON.

Maxstoke Priory, Warwickshire. Grid ref. SP 235867.

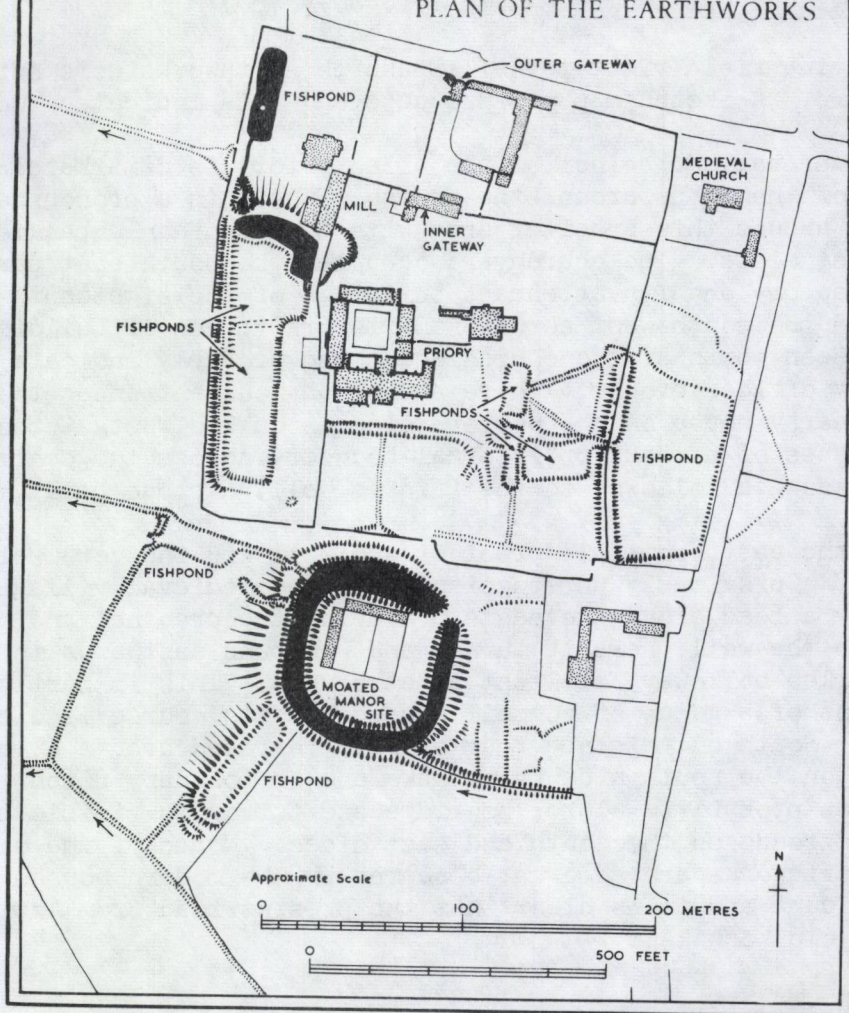
The site of the Augustinian Priory at Maxstoke was visited and a sketch map was drawn showing the earthworks within the precinct and immediately adjacent to it. Particular attention was given to features connected with the control and use of water in the area. Two distinct areas of earthworks can be recognized:-

1. To the south of the priory precinct there is a very large moated area still partly filled with water. On the east side, there is a causeway entrance; here the ditch is dug up to 3 or 4 m. into the natural Keuper Marl. On the west side, the moat was retained by a large clay dam built out from the flat valley side. The moat was probably fed from a spring and stream to the south-east which still flows in a deep cut channel. Overflows from the moat at the north-west and south-west corners fed rectangular fishponds now both dry, the southern one being an impressive feature running along the valley side and retained by a large clay revetment.

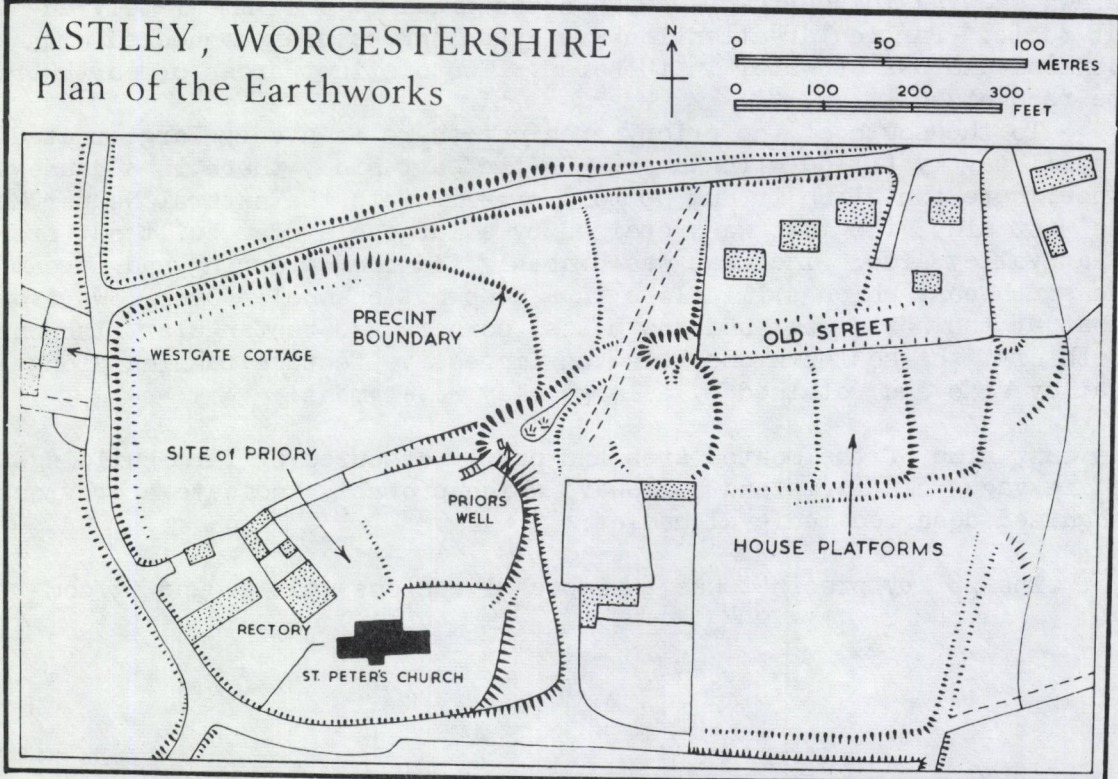
On the east side of the moated area and partly obscured by farm buildings there are vague platforms and holloways which probably indicate a previously unrecognized deserted medieval hamlet.

2. The priory precinct has an impressive stone wall around it com-

MAXSTOKE PRIORY WARWICKSHIRE
 PLAN OF THE EARTHWORKS



ASTLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE
 Plan of the Earthworks



plete with gatehouse on the north side. There are three courts within the precinct area. On the north side the court is largely occupied by farm buildings, not stone but brick built and probably of the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries. This is entered from the north gate and the area acts as an outer court to the main priory court to the south originally entered via the inner gateway, now the farmhouse. Within this court there are impressive remains of part of the church tower and the end wall of the infirmary. The other priory buildings are clearly marked by low earthworks over stone walls.

The enclosure to the west is largely occupied by a large dry fishpond, formerly two pond areas divided by a dam. A large earthwork dam remains on the north side of these ponds; at the east end of this and adjacent to the inner court wall are the impressive remains of a medieval stone-built water mill. To the north, in the north-west corner of the precinct, is the rectory and an ornamental fishpond which is probably medieval in origin.

The passage of water through the precinct and the uses to which it was put can be clearly understood from the earthwork remains. The priory and its precinct were fed by springs issuing from the hillside on the east side of the precinct. This water seems to have been collected first into a large retaining pond or reservoir just outside the east wall of the precinct. The dam of this pond actually supports the eastern precinct wall, here suitably buttressed to prevent subsidence. This pond probably dates from the fourteenth century when the priory was founded since the wall seems to be of that date. Water was conveyed along surface leaks from the north-west corner of this pond to three small fishponds or stews in the inner court. An overflow channel from these ponds runs away westwards to supply the pools in the eastern enclosure. Water was also conveyed from the eastern reservoir to the priory buildings in stone channels which have been traced in earlier excavations. Water from the priory buildings issued subsequently into the rere-dorter range which is situated here on the west side of the claustral buildings in the west wall of the inner enclosure. Much of the water collected in the ponds in the eastern enclosure must have been used to drive the mill. The water from the whole precinct eventually drained away westwards under the precinct wall in an arched stone duct to a gully still used as a field drain.

MICHAEL ASTON.

Feckenham, Worcs, Courthouse Moat. (SP/007615)

The site consists of an oval enclosure of about 4 acres surrounded by a rampart and a ditch. A royal manor-house or hunting lodge in Feckenham with its own chapel is documented from the 12th century. In 1356 the house was sold to the Abbot of Evesham who demolished it and carried away the materials. It was never subsequently rebuilt - when John Throckmorton owned the manor in 1558 he complained of the lack of a manor house and stated his intention to build a new one in Feckenham Park. A prison used for the punishment of forest offenders did remain on the site, and its upper storey housed the manorial courts in the 16th century. This too was allowed to fall into decay after the disafforestation of 1629 and in the time of Charles 2nd, the ground it had occupied is said to have been 'planted with tobacco which grew very well; till the planting of it was prohibited by Act of Parliament, 12 & 15 Ch. II.

The site is now used as a playing -field by Feckenham United Football Club. Their pavilion was extended in August 1973, when trenches were dug all round the building then existing and enclosing a larger area on the east. These trenches were cut for the most part through ground heavily disturbed by the previous construction of the pavilion. Only in the north-eastern corner was there an undisturbed profile of soil over Keuper Marl. In the north-western corner the trench intersected a ditch or large elliptical pit filled with ashy grey-black soil, with a layer of small angular pebbles in the bottom; this was at least 50cm deep, but the alignment of the trench made it impossible to establish its width. Stratigraphically this feature is unlikely to be of any antiquity.

No stratified finds were made, and most of the debris collected was modern, including a few animal bones. There were a few fragments of hand-made orange tile with a grey core, difficult to date. No structures were identified, and if any existed in that area it is probable that the previous construction had obliterated their upper level. The area of disturbance watched was very small and could not be expected to add greatly to our knowledge of the site.

JAMES BOND
Worcestershire County Museum.

Alcester Abbey, Warwickshire (SP/087578)

A plane table survey was made in April 1973 of the site of Alcester Abbey in view of potential threats from floodbank construction and school playing field extensions. The documentary evidence for the site has been examined at the same time by Miss Diana Pitt. Founded in 1138, one of the last Benedictine houses to be established in England, it was originally envisaged as a major abbey but subsequently fell upon difficult times, and in 1466 became a cell of Evesham Abbey; it was suppressed with the other smaller houses in 1536.

No standing masonry is visible above ground, and this appears to have been the case since the mid-17th century when Dugdale refers to 'the very ruins being all digg'd up, and Corn sowed where it sometime stood.' The site is now marked only by earthworks, which are complicated by considerable post-medieval disturbances including the effects of stone-robbing, cultivation, the tail-races of Ragley Mill, encroachment of neighbouring property boundaries, dumping a pipe trench and previous unpublished archaeological investigations. These disturbances make the interpretation of the earthworks extremely difficult, and although a tentative interpretation may be ventured many problems remain to be resolved.

The most prominent surviving medieval feature is a narrow and shallow moat, which has been affected in several places by later interference. It is not clear whether the moat continued across the northern side of the site along the present route of the overflow from Ragley Mill, or whether this side was originally open to the River Arrow. The highest part of the enclosed island contains earthworks of low relief which seem to represent the claustral buildings; it is not possible to discern a wholly coherent plan, but the site of the church, cloister garth and ranges south of the cloister may be tentatively identified.

Further earthworks outside the moat include a couple of curious depressions which may be fishponds, although they are not all typical in form; and to the south-east a building platform abutting against a deep V-shaped trench

whose function is not at all clear at present. Further east again are at least three sets of abandoned river meanders, two of which cannot be contemporary. The course of the Arrow appears to have been artificially straightened at this point, in contrast to its considerable meanderings just upstream. The same river has been canalised and redirected at several points along its course, notably at Bordesley Abbey some eight miles further upstream. The evidence for the change of course at Alcester being of monastic origin is, however, less conclusive than at Bordesley. The stub ends of ridge & furrow appear on the bluff above the abandoned meanders, indicating that the area was without the monastic precinct.

The most recent excavations on the site were begun in 1938 and abandoned uncompleted in the outbreak of the war; all the notes were destroyed by bombing and the majority of the finds were lost. Miss Pitt has managed to recover some information from what little record survives of this work, but further excavation would be advisable before the site suffers any more permanent damage.

JAMES BOND for
Alcester Excavation Committee.

SP 088577

A barrier is to be constructed in the Abbey meadow, just to the north of school lane, and preparatory stripping took place along the entire southern side of the field. Apart from cutting the end of the feature marked N on the survey of the Abbey meadow prepared by James Bond, this work did not disturb any of the abbey earthworks. Although a few scraps of medieval pottery were found, the area stripped showed no sign of any medieval features. A few fragments of Roman pottery were also found, but again there was no evidence of occupation on the site, which lies well outside the northern boundary of Roman Alcester.

STEPHEN J TAYLOR

The Mount, Cheswick Green. (SP 130 761)

The interior of this moated site was stripped and excavated between 31st August and 1st October 1973, in advance of building development. Use of the site before the construction of the moat and inner bank was represented by various shallow gullies running under the embankment. The only trace of buildings found in 1973 was the rough stone floor already located by T L Jones in 1953. This was associated with charcoal-burning activities, and almost certainly dated from a time when the fortifications had fallen into decay and disrepair. There was no evidence of any internal buildings contemporary with the construction of the fortification. Such total lack of evidence being no justification for assuming the existence of timber buildings, one must conclude either that the Mount was never intended to have any buildings within; or, if such buildings were intended, that they were erected, i.e. that the Mount was never completed.

From such documentary evidence as is known, and from the handful of potsherds discovered, it is impossible to date the Mount closely; it is certainly medieval, and by the latter part of this period it was in disrepair, its sheltered interior being used on occasions by charcoal-burners. Its original purpose remains unknown.

STEVEN J TAYLOR, on behalf of
Greaves Organisation.

Ratley and Upton, Warks (SP/ 381473)

Work has continued on the motte and bailey at Ratley. Excavation in the NW bailey entrance tower was completed, and a length of the bailey bank was examined in an attempt to discover further traces of timber lacing. The evidence proved scanty and inconclusive; but at the two points where the bank has now been examined, it is shown to be a simple dump construction of earth and rubble with a dry-stone revetment at the back but no revetment whatever at the front. Plough scratches were found on the bedrock surface at several points in the bailey, in some cases beneath the bank. They were in two sets of parallel lines in slightly different alignments; surprisingly the general direction was across the motte ditch. Further pottery was found in the motte build-up, which sealed occupation layers also containing pottery and a hearth. All this pottery was sandy fabric cooking pot, except for one sherd of soft 'soapy' fabric. This is in contrast to the occupation material in the bailey, where the two types of pottery were found in about equal proportions; and it strengthens the possibility that the motte is a secondary feature which may not have been completed. The current excavations have now finished, and the site backfilled. Work on the report is progressing.

FABIAN RADCLIFFE and the
Bishop Bright School Archaeology Club.

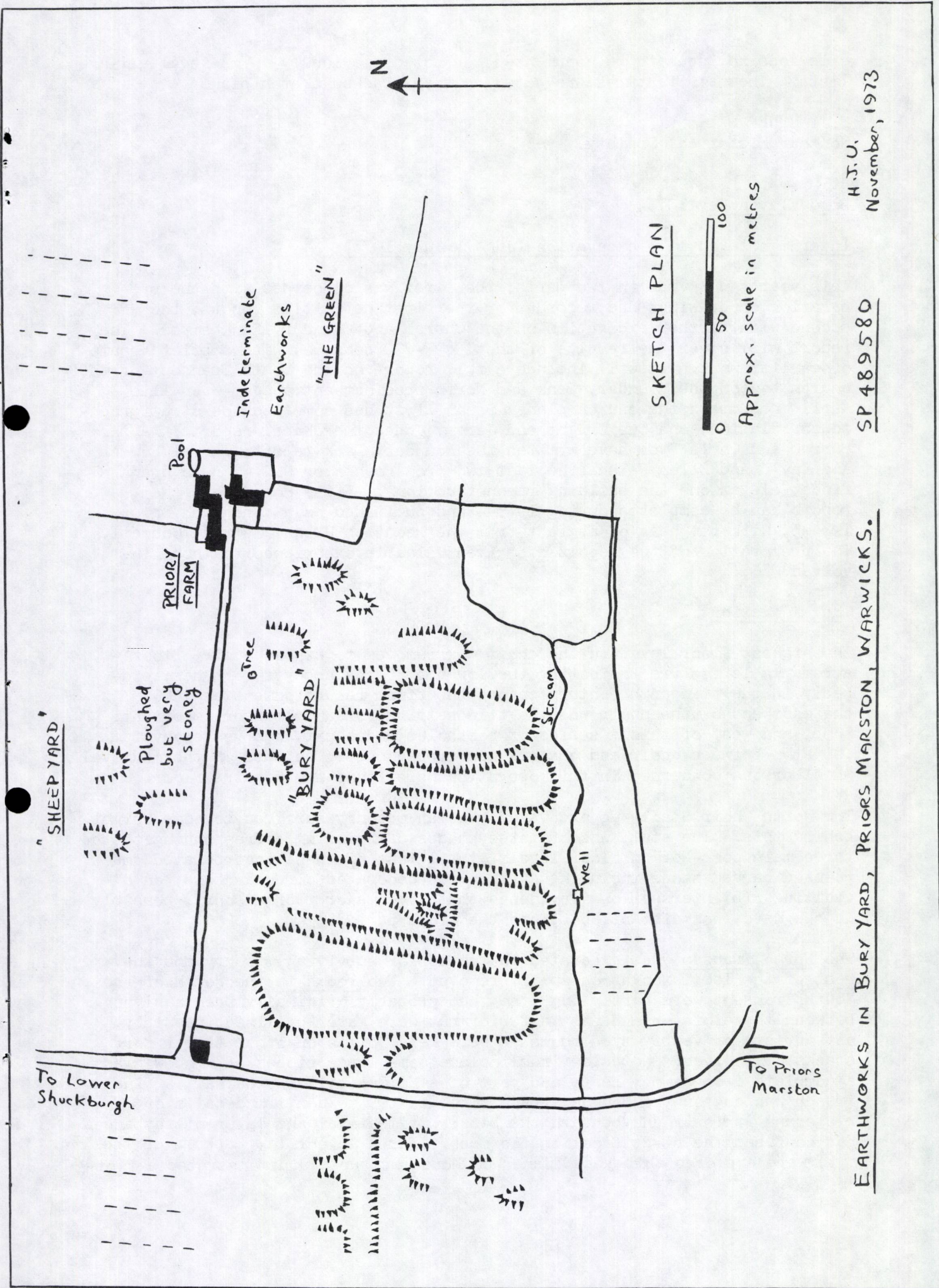
Tamworth, Staffordshire (SK/206040)

Excavation on the east side of Kings Street, Tamworth by KW Sheridan for the Excavations Work Group of Tamworth Archaeological and Historical Committee revealed a large medieval rubbish pit succeeded by a late 17th/early 18th century well. The rubbish pit was preceded by a number of shallow stake holes of indeterminate date.

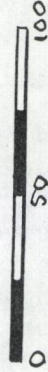
The pit itself contained pottery of the 13th and 14th centuries including a number of glazed roof tiles. Cut into the northwest corner of this pit was a well containing pottery, glass, coins and clay pipes, many stamped, of the late 17th and early 18th centuries; the well was not fully excavated. Prior to excavation the timber framed building standing on the site had been recorded by R A Meeson and it was demonstrated that one wall of this building overlay the medieval pit which thus provided a terminus post quem for this building.

A Shrunken Site at Priors Marston.

In S E Warwickshire, most villages have a pasture field quite close to the church which shows signs of earlier occupation. But at Priors Marston, half a mile away, at Priory farm, there is a large 10 acre field containing a complex of earthworks. This field is known as Bury Yard, and local legend has it that this is 'the field in which the monks were buried' ! The name of the farm and the field would indicate that this was the site of the Prior of Coventry's manor house. There was no Priory at Priors Marston. The site shelters under the slope of Marston Hill and faces west. The earthworks spill over into adjacent fields, but are nowhere as clear as in Bury Yard. The field above the farm has the significant name of "The Green". The main features in Bury Yard are a number of house platforms adjoining the farm approach road, and five parallel lanes running down to the stream. By the stream bed is a well which was said to have been the sole source of water for the village until the recent introduction of a piped water supply. The



SKETCH PLAN



Approx. scale in metres

EARTHWORKS IN BURY YARD, PRIORS MARSTON, WARWICKS.

H.J.U.
November, 1973

SP 489580

site does not seem to be documented, or noted previously in medieval village lists. The main features are noted on the attached sketch plan.

H.J. USHER
Southam Historical Society.

Bordesley Abbey 1973

Interim note on 1973 excavation (June - July 1973)

This year's work was in two parts; the first was concerned with the preparation of drawings and records for the first definitive report, the second with further excavation on the Church and Boundary Bank sites. The report will cover the results of the 1969 - 72 seasons, with a brief resume of earlier work. It will include a full report on the South Transept of the church and on the Boundary Bank and North precinct entrance. Grenville Astil has drawn the church plans, Susan Hirst has compiled the stratigraphic correlation, and Sue Wright and Jeremy Jones the chapel reports; Ian Burrow and Chris Dyer have written the Boundary Bank report; Darryl Fowler and David and Ellen Walsh (the last two from Rochester U.S.A) have drawn finds, elevations and building reconstructions. It is hoped that the report can be completed during 1973-4 and published as a monograph in 1974-5, with the help of a grant from the Redditch Urban District Council. The preparation of the report has given valuable experience to those involved.

The Excavation

The highest floor level in the choir was removed to expose a dirt floor - a remarkable feature indicating the low ebb of the abbey's fortunes, probably in the fifteenth century before the final refurbishment c. 1500. At the east end of the choir was the tile setting for an altar or important tomb, and west of this a series of postholes and a pit, not yet excavated. The step between choir and chancel was robbed out. The ruts of the medieval wheelbarrows concerned in this operation were found in the dirt floor.

The north Choir Stall was excavated; Norman masonry survives to some height behind this. The stall was of three phases of building corresponding to the three main post-Norman floor levels; the latest of these incorporated much re-used carved stone including a fine leaf-decorated circular boss, on a vaulting rib intersection - evidence that some major roof masonry, possibly in the nave, was dismantled before the final period.

The North Transept was excavated to the top of surviving masonry and the rest of the 1863 excavation spoil removed. Two rooms to the south of the South Transept were partly dug; they had probably originally been a slype between the cloister and east exterior but were later utilised, possibly as sacristy or vestry type rooms - there were joists on other timber for stacks or shelves. Notable finds include some large pieces of window glass a complete iron hammer head, and part of a Norman pillar piscina. A final trench was dug on the Boundary Bank site, to try to confirm details of ridge and furrow found beneath the bank; but medieval and later disturbances had confused the stratification too much. Three scientific aspects of the site were explored this year, Jane Woodhouse set up and demonstrated a flot-

ation tank, to recover environmental evidence (especially seeds) from soil samples. John Evans (University of Cardiff) gave a seminar on land molluscs and examined soils to recover snails. Dr Susan Limbrey, recently appointed to the staff of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, has this year done a dissertation on the Bordesley Abbey floor-tiles at the Courtauld Institute. Next year's work will comprise the lowering of the Choir/Chancel area to the main thirteenth century floor level, and the completion of the two rooms to the south. Our thanks are due to those named above; and to Linda Wilkinson and Owen Hilton who supervised excavations, to Jim Crow who was foreman of labour, and to the girls of Brindley Moor Secondary School; and to Geoff Rollins, Roy Vann, and the Redditch U.D.C. for their continued financial and moral support.

P A RAHTZ

Burton Dassett, Warks. (SP 39875141)

The field immediately south of All Saints churchyard is about to be taken into use as the "New Churchyard": it has in fact, been consecrated already. Earthworks were observed, and surveyed in this field, and consequently, trial excavations were carried out during April, 1973, in the part of the field most urgently required for burials.

An area of about 250 square metres was stripped but only the latest levels examined. A stone wall running approximately north/south seemed to be the boundary wall of a croft, flanked to the s. (downhill) by a boundary/drainage ditch, with a crude causeway of piled stones built across it. This causeway was aligned with a narrow entrance through the croft wall. At the end of the croft wall was a considerable tumble of stone rubble, which seemed to indicate that a more substantial structure lay immediately outside the excavated area to the south. To the East of the wall was a scatter of scorched stone and a spread of ashy soil, presumably the remains of, and the raked-out ashes from an oven or hearth. The ditch was sectioned to the natural sandstone; it yielded destruction debris of at least two earlier structural phases.

Pottery from the levels excavated ranged generally from XI to XIII, with some Romano-British sherds also. Insofar as conclusions can be drawn from this excavation, it would seem that these structures were abandoned rather earlier than the well-documented de-population of Sir Edward Belknap (and others) in the late XV/early XVI.

In conjunction with the excavation, field survey work was carried out by James Bond, Worcestershire County Archaeological Officer. The earthworks of the Burton DMV, and those of Chipping Dassett/Dassett South End, have been planned, and both are shown to be more extensive than was originally thought. The documentary evidence has also been examined.

A M HUNT for
DOE and Warwick County Museum.

Hobditch Causeway, Botley, Solihull, Warwickshire, (SP.1440689)

Excavations on this section of the causeway has shown it to be of two periods; period I has been dated by pottery to XII - XIII, but period two is undated.

In the first period there was a simple ditch with the upcast forming a small bank. This bank was later reinforced in period II, and built up to form a more substantial earthwork. The ditch has been interpreted as a leat, which may have been connected with a dam across a small ravine on Mows Hill (SP.138696). The water power from this dam must have powered some form of mill and a large platform in the field to the east of the earthwork may mark its position.

Evidence was also obtained for the destruction of part of the period I bank and this must have led to the substantial reinforcement in Period II. The use of the bank in this period, the ditch had considerably silted up at this time, is not known but there is documentary evidence suggesting both a medieval road and floodgates in the area. A large quantity of timber in the other ditch of the earthwork may support the later idea.

JEFFREY PERRY for
Solihull Archaeological Group.

Sydenhams Moat, Monkspath, Solihull, Warwickshire. (SP.144757)

Sydenhams moat lies to the S W of Solihull in the flood plain of the River Blythe and has a small platform measuring approximately 30m x 30m. The western quarter of the interior has been stripped to reveal a complex of stone structures of at least three periods.

The earliest period so far encountered consists of the north wall of a building containing an external flue. This wall was later re-used and extended in the next period to form the north wall of another building 4m x 7m, on an east-west alignment. The eastern end of this building had an apsidal wall 1m thick and 4m in diameter. This structure has, therefore, been interpreted as a 'chapel'(?). When this had gone out of use, a third building, 6m x 7m, was constructed to the north of the 'chapel', but this time using stone pillar bases instead of sill walls. Several ovens, a stone-lined drain and other structures were contained within the building. Two Jettons and a quantity of Medieval pottery have so far been discovered, giving a date of about late XIII - XIV for all periods. No timber phases have yet been encountered.

Documentary evidence has been recovered for the fishponds and mill on this stretch of the Blythe, although these can not conclusively be linked to the moat complex itself.

JEFFREY PERRY for
Solihull Archaeological Group.

Castle Green, Hereford (SO 512 395)

Excavations were carried out in advance of re-scarping and revetting the riverside bank of the bailey of Hereford Castle; and two areas were excavated behind the raised riverside footpath, where drains and cables were to be laid. Machine cuts through the bank, long supposed to reflect early river defences, established that it was constructed in the 18th century purely as a landscaping feature. A study of the pottery indicates an almost complete abandonment of the Castle between the 14th and 18th centuries. Beneath the footpath embankment, however, an undisturbed layer of brown soil and mortar spread contained pottery of the 12th and 13th centuries, sealed beneath

which, and encompassing the whole of the main area of excavation, was a burial ground from which 87 bodies were recovered. The burials extended beyond the site, and some skeletons were exposed by the contractors working on the river bank. The burial ground seems to have been in use during the Saxon period, although some burials may have been medieval. There were no finds associated with the skeletons, but all articulated burials were aligned east-west. It was impossible, except at the lowest levels, to find the original grave cuts; in one place seven distinctly separated burials overlay one another. Many iron nails and iron coffin fastenings were found in situ, clearly indicating the coffin shapes. Differing burial techniques were used: in the upper levels one of the skeletons was buried in a stone-lined cyst, while four burials were provided with packing stones at either side of the skull. Among the earlier burials, eight were found associated with quantities of charcoal and would seem to be similar to burials found at Winchester, York, Oxford and Exeter. In four of these cases, associated coffin nails were found, and in one case the coffin impression was clearly visible. Two of the charcoal burials had stones on either side of the head. In all cases the bodies were laid on a bed of charcoal, although in two instances the charcoal seems to have covered the body as well. Four of the charcoal burials were within the limits of the corner of a loose stone built structure which was presumably the support for a timber framed building. The stonework had one re-building phase and was roughly oriented east-west. One charcoal burial was cut into the re-built stonework.

RON SHOESMITH for
D.O.E.

Berrington Street, Hereford. (SO 507 398)

The third stage of the Berrington Street excavations are currently (Nov.-Dec '73) underway on a site previously occupied by St Vincent's Convent, and St. Francis Xavier's R.C. School. Demolition of this complex in 1972 exposed the remains of some 60m. of the Saxon defences of Hereford. The western boundary of the site is the medieval city wall, which was cut into the Saxon rampart at this point. The excavations were restricted to occupation layers on and under the various tails of the Saxon defences, and had to be taken in three parts to enable building work to continue. In half the first area, post-Conquest levels had been destroyed for the most part by the recently demolished buildings, but some 20 pits of the 11th to the 16th centuries produced a useful series of pottery types for the City. There was much less disturbance in the second half of the first area which produced occupation levels associated with Chester ware, and earlier levels without pottery. A coin dated to the later years of the reign of Alfred was found under the Chester ware level. The second area was considerably disturbed by medieval pits, but the plan of a small Saxon timber building was established. The final area, currently under excavation, will enable the chronology of the entire site to be tied into the various periods of rampart construction.

RON SHOESMITH
for D.O.E.

Earthworks at Fenn Green - Alverley, Nr. Bridgenorth, Shropshire.

Immediately beside the main Kidderminster-Bridgenorth Road, at a point

about equal distance between both towns, and a few hundred yards within the Shropshire County Boundary - which crosses the main Road. Proceeding towards Bridgenorth from this point the first lane on the left is known as 'The Lowe Lane' and the Mound is exactly opposite. (Map ref:- 775/828. 1" to Mile.N.O.S.)

Description

A large feature near the main road rises to a height of 20 - 25 feet, sloping steeply on two sides and gently on the other two. The Mound Top is a plateau the bulk of which takes the form of a squarish depression roughly dropping some 3-4 feet one end and the sides some $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet but levelling on the West. (Facing the road).

A possible entrance faces North and in the adjoining corner is a gentle hump. The depression slopes down to a flat interior, the slope being gradual. Due to its swelling outline, it is a difficult site to measure and all measurements are approximate.

Possible associated feature:-

About 300 yards to the W of the mound is a ditch. It varies greatly in depth and width, although at one point, on casual view it appeared to be some 20 feet wide.

E.W. TIPLER.

POST MEDIEVAL

Buildings 1973.

This has been a busy year and again the Recording Group has met regularly, its principal work having been in Ledbury and in the Broxash Hundred. This is not reported below as it is hoped to publish a full account of the work at a later date. As in previous years we are greatly indebted to the University of Birmingham and the W.E.A. for their active encouragement of this work. A university Extramural weekend course with the writer as tutor was based on Ludlow and spent some time in North Herefordshire, especially in Yarpole, while a long weekend at Attingham Park was directed by the writer with help from Mrs M Moran, my wife and Messrs C.H.I. Homes and R C Perry

In the notes below information in the R.C.H.M. Inventory has not been repeated, though often the two need to be read together.

J W TONKIN

6, Castle Street, Hereford. (SO.512397)

A pair of semi-detached, late-medieval houses now converted into one, may in fact be the end pair of a longer row, for the West wall of a 19th century brick house, and a joint in the wall-plate close to this may indicate that it ran on to another house. Each house apparently consisted of a one-bay open hall and a two-storey bay.

Upper Vinesend, Cradley. (SO.750476) (R.C.H.M. 12)

Now restored. Hall appears to have had one bay open and the other floored over the screens-passage.

Great Quebb, Eardisley. (SO.302519) (R.C.H.M. 33)

Two complete cruck trusses remain and there appears to have been a third probably a two-bay hall with a service-bay and perhaps a parlour cross-wing replaced by the present one in the 17th century. Alternatively there may have been a parlour bay.

Oxford Arms, Kington. (SO.299567)

At first sight this is a 19th century building with much stucco decoration on the front. However, inside there is evidence of a five-bay timber-framed building, probably built in the late 17th century. A cellar runs most of the length of the house.

Greensleaves, Whitton. Leintwardine (SO.411739) (R.C.H.M. 50).

A long house with two-room plan and byre having direct access to the hall. It appears to date from the mid-17th century. The initials W S are carved on the fireplace lintel. William Smith was assessed for £5 in 1652 and had two hearths in 1665.

St Mary's House, Kinton (SO.411747) (R.C.H.M. 41)

Recent restoration has shown this to be an open hall and cross-wing, probably of early 16th century date.

23 and 24 Brookend Street, Ross-on-Wye. (SO.601244) (R.C.H.M. 37)

In a three-bay house which is undergoing restoration, part of a mural decoration has been found on a wall in the Northern room on the ground floor. It appears to be a blue and black pattern. On the first floor the beams and some exposed joints are painted with a black pattern on a white ground. The roof trusses are of the upper-cruck type.

Old Gaol, New Street. (SO.599243)

A strange building which probably dates from the 19th century Gothic period in Ross c. 1840. The vaulted undercroft, the two-centred doorway and the weathered red sandstone all look genuine enough, but the lancet windows and the tablet over the doorway do not look right.

Old Vicarage, Weobley. (SO. 481518) (R.C.H.M. 19)

During redecoration of the house, what appears to be a date (1319), was revealed in the centre part of the bracket on the North wing. As it is in Arabic figures on a Renaissance bracket it is certainly not of contemporary date, though it may have been put there when the wings were added.

What it means, if anything, is a mystery. The roof has quatrefoil wind-braces of the 15th or perhaps the 14th century.

Oak Inn, Wigmore. (SO. 413690)

Now entirely roughcast, this building appears to date from c. 1600 with close-set framing on the ground-floor at the front of the house and square framing above. There seems to have been two rooms on the ground floor and three on the first and in the attics.

During the year members of the listed building sub-committee looked at 39 buildings, most of which were to undergo minor changes. Of these, eight were to be demolished or part demolished. Protests were made about the proposed demolition of Bewell House, Hereford, the Old Railway Inn, Ross, 4, High Street and 16 and 17 Mill Street, Kington, and the Town Hall, Leominster. Of these, Bewell House and the facade of 4, High Street, Kington, are definitely being preserved. As far as is known, no listed building was demolished during the year.

As well as the additional trusses at Great Quebb mentioned above and the upper cruck at Ross, a previously unrecorded cruck building was found at Thinghill Grange. These can be added to the lists already published.

Little Virginia, Kenilworth. (SP.281723)

During the extensive renovation of this traditionally Elizabethan cluster of cottages near Kenilworth Castle, advantage was taken of builders trenches to learn more of this ill documented site.

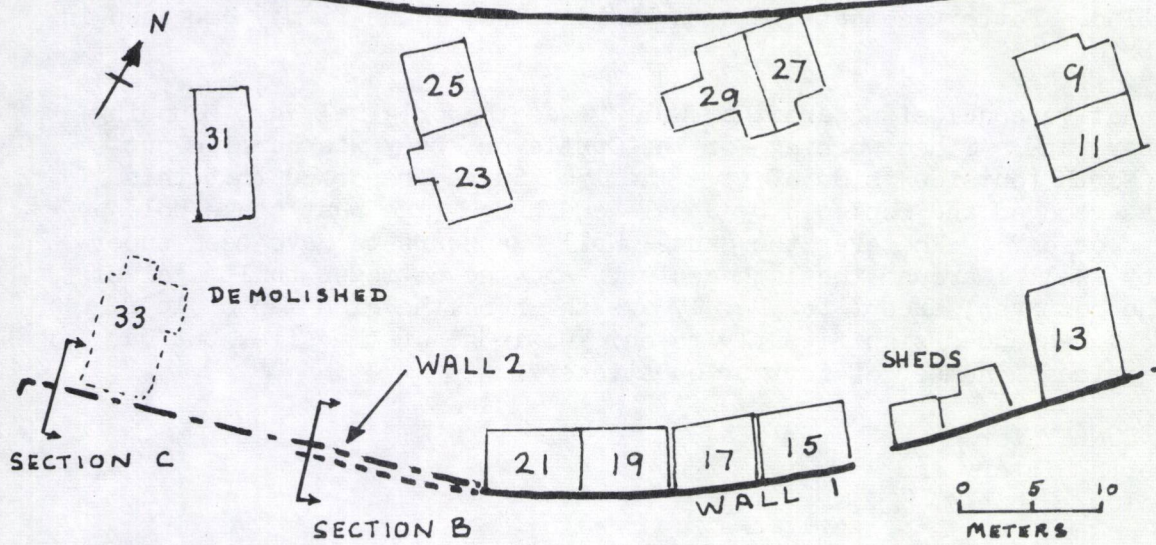
After recording the cottages in advance of the substantial changes, a study was made of the sandstone wall systems running on the South side of the site; although no longer continuous, cottage no. 13 and the row 15-21 (Fig. 1a.) had been built against it. (No. 17 had been inserted later as its brick side walls masked the closely adjoining plastered wattle and daub walls of its neighbours). The standing wall continued eastwards a metre or so beyond No. 13 and local memory testifies that c. 1910, it extended at least a further 90m. During the dismantling of the wall between No. 13 and the sheds, sherds of 17/18 c. pottery were found in the fabric. This supports the opinion that architecturally, the cottages are all constructed dwellings of about the Commonwealth period. A quantity of unstratified pottery has yet to be studied to obtain an indication of the earlier occupation. Trenches to the West of the row 15-21 showed that the wall continued below ground for at least a further 15m, more importantly, it ran alongside a previously unsuspected wall of deeper foundations and better construction (Wall 2). The upper sandstone blocks of this wall were chisel dressed, even on the south side, where masked by Wall 1 (Fig. 1b.), suggesting that Wall 2 was the earlier.

An area on the North side of the wall was opened up and the section shown on Fig. 1c. resulted. The foundation trench of Wall 2 was dug after an earlier undated gravel lined gulley had been well silted over, (layer 5). The soil from the trench was left as a spread of mainly red clay (layer 4) on the land surface.

Above this layer the wall face was dressed. Shortly after construction,

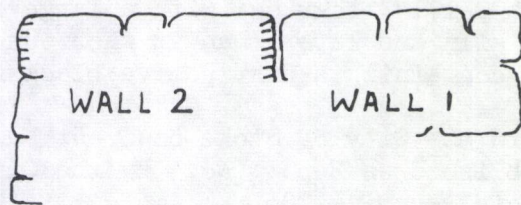
DRAFT

CASTLE ROAD



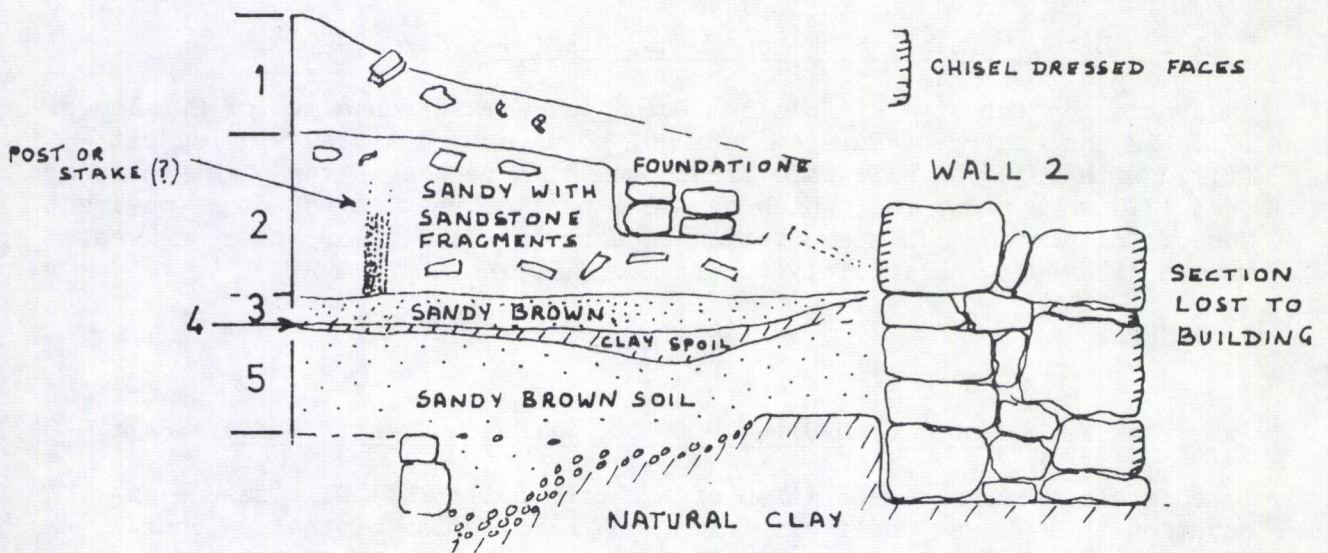
PLAN SHOWING LINES OF WALLS 1 AND 2

FIG 1A



SECTION AT B

FIG 1B



SECTION AT C

FIG 1C

LITTLE VIRGINIA - KENILWORTH 1973

the area to the North of the wall appears to have been used as a stone mason's yard; layers similar to layer 2 and containing part worked stone, had been observed elsewhere on the site.

A part of Wall 2 in the vicinity of section C, due to be trenched out, was dismantled. Pottery compatible with 12/13 c. was found firmly embedded in the fabric.

The tentative conclusions are that Wall 2 was the original Wall bounding the Abbey Park. Stone working for the Castle or Abbey was carried out on the North (outside) side of it. The 1581 Survey reported that this wall was removed and replaced by a pale and hedge (the post/stake hole in the section?). Whatever the cause, Wall 2 appears to have been superseded by wall 1 around the 16th century, and the cottages built against it. The cottages, except for No. 17 are shown on the Fish map of 1692. This work has added significantly to our knowledge of the site, but has of course raised a number of further questions.

H.L.G. SUNLEY for
Kenilworth History and
Archaeology Society.

Albion Square, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. (SJ/885474)

Excavations during 1967-68 on the site of a recently demolished rectory c. 1841-1963, revealed the foundations of a brick built, multi-mouthed kiln of the period, c. 1690-1714, together with a large quantity of its pottery wasters. By the kiln and later than it was found an 18th century (c. 1730-1760?) pit containing a distinctive black glazed earthenware.

All finds are deposited in the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum. A full report of this excavation is published as Report No.4 by the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society, price 70p.

J.H. KELLY.

Hill Top Site, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. (SJ/867499)

Excavation on the site of "William Burns Pot Works" (on a map of Burslem c. 1710) in the centre of Burslem during 1968 uncovered a clay-winning pit filled with rejected slip ware dishes and kiln refuse. Over eighty dishes of c.1710 were recovered, which now form part of the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Collection. This excavation appears in the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society Report no. 3, price 25p.

J.H. KELLY

Swan Bank Methodist Church Site, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. (SJ/870499)

Immediately after the demolition of a church built in 1801 a rescue excavation in 1970 was undertaken prior to the erection of the new church. Excavation revealed three sealed layers containing sherds ranging from 14/15th century to the end of the 18th century.

The finds are now housed in the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum and the excavation appears as report No. 5 of the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society, price 40p.

J.H. KELLY.

Old Hall Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. (SJ/885475)

Rescue excavation in the centre of Hanley in the Spring of 1973 uncovered the base and some of the fire-boxes of a brick built, circular pottery kiln, possibly used for the firing of saltglazed stoneware in the early decades of the 18th century. A large quantity of kiln furniture and pottery wasters were recovered including sherds of iron glazed ware, Staffordshire slipware and some saltglazed stoneware.

All finds are deposited in the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum. Report forthcoming.

J.H.KELLY
(City Museum, Stoke-on-Trent)

Fenton Vivian, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. (SJ/884449).

Excavation for the sixth season by the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society continues on the site of the Master Potter Thomas Whieldon whilst in partnership with Josiah Wedgewood circa. 1750-60, and further foundations of buildings and working areas are being uncovered together with great quantities of wasters from the wide range of pottery types produced. The excavation of this important early industrial site will shortly finish due to its redevelopment.

All finds will eventually be deposited at the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum. Report in preparation.

J. GREAVES.

Nuneaton - Harfield Lane 1973. Brick kilns.

Top soil stripped in advance of pipe line activities revealed the outline of two kilns. These were brought to the notice of K. Scott by N. Woolridge and jointly, under trying conditions due to an inrush of water, they excavated one kiln. The substantial structure of clay had baked to a thickness of 6" with vitrification on the inner surface. On the west side relining had been necessary and it would appear this side was structurally weak, finally collapsing at the arch length. The stoke hole walls at the lower level had a course of limestone lining, the entrance to what was probably a double flue arch. Two bricks were found in the firing chamber, their dimensions are $9\frac{1}{8}"$ x $4\frac{3}{8}"$ x $2\frac{3}{8}"$ and $9\frac{1}{4}"$ x $4\frac{7}{16}"$ x $2\frac{3}{8}"$.

NO FIRM DATING EVIDENCE.

K. SCOTT.

Excavations in the recreation ground extending from the 1972 trench revealed another medieval ditch with recuts, the latest being filled with coal and contemporary with the mine shaft proved at the trench edge. The build up from original ground level to present day surface consists of 6" top soil and 2'0" of waste material from medieval pottery industry, from which two main stratified groups were recovered. The latest group consists of well fired thick red purple wares including cooking pots, jugs, cisterns two handled storage jars (one with leaf stamp), bowls, a three handled cup in Cistercian ware and a decorated lid in white fabric and yellow glaze. Some cooking pots and storage jars were adapted as saggars by having small curved cut-outs on the rims. The second group's fabric varied from pink to orange, - red to purple; products included bowls, skillets, storage jars, lids, cooking pots, roof and floor tiles, costrels, jugs with incised spiral groove and plain single handled cups in Cistercian ware. A unique sherd, decorated with a 'stamped' face, its sides perforated with round and irregular cut-outs, was found in the ditch filling. From these trial excavations it is fairly conclusive that the recreation ground must be lying on a fair proportion of the Medieval "Potters Coton".

K. SCOTT.

Central Garage, Pershore, Worcs. (SO/94594618).

Extension to the garage resulted in the discovery in March 1973, of a number of burials. A total of eight burials was noted, dug into gravel at a depth of around half a metre; they were regularly arranged in an East-West alignment with the heads (with one exception) to the West; they lay in a row at right-angles to the road. The skulls were of a variety of sizes, and associated with one burial aligned in the opposite direction to the rest was an infant skeleton. This would seem to discount the possibility put forward at the time that this was a cemetery associated with the documented Civil War skirmish. Corroded iron items which appear to be coffin handles were present in a number of the graves. The skull of a pony was also recovered, but may not be associated with the human burials as the buildings to the rear were formerly part of a farm.

No systematic excavation was possible, and the origins of these burials are as yet uncertain. They rested directly on natural red sand, and no earlier archaeological levels were noted. Their alignment seems to be related to that of the street, which is certainly medieval in origin. The farm buildings must post-date the burials, and these are at least as early as the Regency period. There is no local knowledge or memory of a burial ground on this site, but it is known that further inhumations were discovered about 15 years ago closer to the road; no detailed record seems to have been made of these at the time.

The Civil War theory can now almost certainly be rejected, and perhaps the most likely possibility remaining is that of a plague cemetery, although no epidemic in Pershore is known which might be related to it.

MARSHALL WILSON
JAMES BOND.

INDUSTRIAL

Experimental Charcoal Burn, Alton Woods, Wyre Forest.

As part of its policy of reviving interest in the traditional crafts and industries of the area, Bewdley Museum organised an experimental charcoal burn in Alton Woods, Wyre Forest, during October 9th - 15th 1973, under the supervision of Mr Joe Nevey of Kidderminster, a retired charcoal-burner. The traditional process was followed, and detailed records made at every stage of the preparation. A full report is in preparation, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped, most particularly Mr Nevey himself, for without his skill, hard work and interest, nothing could have been achieved.

STEVEN PRICE and JAMES BOND.
Bewdley Museum.

MISCELLANEOUS

Observations have continued on the construction of the Ombersley By-Pass and on the re-alignment of the Bromsgrove-Redditch main road, but little has come to light. This is surprising in view of the close proximity of the latter route to the known flint-knapping site at Tutnall (SO/991699), where it was anticipated that at least a further collection of flints could be made. Thanks are due to the volunteers who have given up their time to help with this rather unrewarding exercise and to the road construction engineers for their co-operation.

PUBLICATIONS.

One of the most interesting publications to come out this year has been the Worcestershire Countryside Treasures prepared by A.A. Wood of the Worcs. County Planning Office. This is an extensive list with maps and illustrations of historical and archaeological sites in the county. In spite of some mistakes and omissions, it is a very valuable document and one which can easily be corrected and enlarged. This is just what is needed for every county, the placing of all known remains and sites of antiquity on maps, since once this is done they can be respected in all planning decisions. A site, however important to us archaeologically, remains unknown unless it is firmly marked and fully annotated on the maps in the District and County planning offices, and it should be our aim to bring this about. Worcestershire is to be congratulated on its pioneer study and for setting up a model for all to follow.

The Journal of the West Midlands Studies devoted to Industrial archaeology has for some years been issued free to local institutions. In future it will cost 40p per copy and the 1973 issue at this price has already appeared. Orders for this very useful and interesting Journal should be placed with the subscriptions secretary, R A Revell B.A. B.Sc., The Polytechnic, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton.

The Roman Conquest of Britain by Graham Webster and Donald Dudley was first published by Batsford in 1965. Since then, many new archaeological discoveries have made the book out-of-date, and a completely new edition in the form of a Pan paperback (price 40p) has now appeared and it includes much new evidence especially for the West Midlands.

Phil Barker has published another interim report of his work at Wroxeter, Excavations on the Site of the Baths Basilica at Wroxeter 1972, which can be purchased on the site. A new and completely revised D.O.E. Guide to the site is now also available.

All those writing pottery reports should get the new Pottery Colour Chart prepared by the Study Group for Romano-British Coarse Pottery. It is available from Rescue, 5a The Tything, Worcester., (£1.50 post free) to which all profits go.

The Vale of Evesham Hist. Soc., has published vol. 4 of its series of Research Papers. Apart from those of a purely historical nature, they include C J Bond on 'The Estate of Evesham Abbey', a preliminary survey of their medieval topography, and S H Grylls on the 'Elmley Castle Sundials', the two very ornate sundials of Tudor times made with elaborate mathematical concepts. The volume costs £1.50 and is available from the Vale of Evesham Hist. Soc., Almony Museum, Evesham.

Archaeological Publications of West Midlands Interest.

Archaeol. J. 129 (1973)

Lawrence Butler - John Gildon of Hereford: a Late Sixteenth Century Sculptor (148 - 153)

Current Archaeology No. 39 Wroxeter (111 - 116); an account of the work on the Baths Basilica.

S. Staffs. Archaeol. and Hist. Soc. 13 (1973).

Jim Gould - Romano-British farming near Letocetum (Wall, Staffs) 1 - 8.

Philip Rahtz and Ken Sheriden - Fifth Report of Excavations at Tamworth, Staffs., 1971; a Saxon Water Mill in Bolebridge Street, an interim note, 9 - 16.

J W Whiston - Bee-holes at Pipe Ridware Hall Farm, Staffs. 43 - 45.

Anthony Gunstone - Some Prehistoric implements from South Staffs, reported to the Birmingham City Museum.

D G Stuart - Exact Location of the Quaker Burial Ground, Alston Field, Staffs.

Trans Worcs Archaeol. Soc. 3rd ser. 3 (1974)

Adrian Oswald - Excavations at Beckford (7 - 54)

Michael Aston - Earthworks at the Bishops Palace, Alvechurch, Worcs. (55 - 60)

F.W.B. Charles and Kevin Down - A Sixteenth Century Drawing of a Timber Framed Town House (67 - 80)

Trans Birmingham Archaeol. Soc. 85 (1973)

Brian Hutton - Hob Ditch Causeway: Linear Earthworks in the Forest of Arden (1 - 6)

Brian Hobley - Excavations at 'The Lunt' Roman Military site, second interim report (7 - 92)

H. Cameron and J. Lucas - Tripontium, second interim report (93 - 144)

Sonia Chadwick Hawkes - A late Roman buckle from Tripontium (145 - 160)

Susan Hirst and Philip Rahtz - Hatton Rock 1970 (161 - 177)

N W Alcock, J G Braithwaite and M W Jeffs - Timber framed buildings in Warwickshire, Stoneleigh Village (178 - 202)

K. Scott - A section across the defences of a Roman fort at Mancetter, Warks, 1968 (211 - 212)

G S Taylor - Excavation of twelfth century hut, Greenside Road, Birmingham (213)

Trans Woolhope Club 40 (1970)

Lord Rennell of Rodd - A Roman Road from Mortimers' Cross to Clyro/Hay(36-44)

Arnold Baker - Results in Herefordshire from Aerial Reconnaissance in 1969 (45 - 48)

M B Hale and L P Moore - The Fortress Salient in the River Wye round Kings Caple (49 - 54)

R Shoesmith - Archaeology in 1970 (158 - 161)

Rosamund Hickling - Deserted Medieval Villages (172 - 176) 1971.

L P Moore - Conclusions from a military appreciation of the Roman invasions of the Marches and Wales

P J Leach - Hereford Castle Excavations 1968 - 69 (203 - 210)

R Shoesmith - Hereford City Excavations 1970 (211 - 214)

R Shoesmith - Archaeology in 1971 (280)

Rescue News No. 5 (1973)

W J Britnell ; R.A.G. at Beckford.

Why not join RESCUE and so help British Archaeology to have a loud and effective voice in Parliament, with Government Departments and in the mass media. RESCUE can take rapid and independent action in times of crisis when sites and buildings are threatened by destruction. The forces against us are very powerful and wealthy - help to strengthen RESCUE by giving more or joining now.

Write to RESCUE, 25a, The Tything, Worcester.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

M Aston,
formerly of
Oxford City & County Museum
Woodstock,
Oxon.

A Baker
Latchmere House
10 Bulford Road
Durrington
Salisbury
Wiltshire

Dr L Barfield
Dept of Anc Hist & Arch
University of Birmingham
Birmingham B15 2TT

P A Barker
4 St George's Square
Worcester WR1 1HX

CJ Bond
Worcs County Museum
Hartlebury Castle
Kidderminster
Worcs.

W J Britnell
1 Llanbloddian Gardens
Cathays
Cardiff

D Browne
45 St Barnabas Road
Cambridge

M J Cooper
6 Dugard Place
Barford
Warks

Mrs K C Fenton
'Hillcrest'
80 Heath Lane
Stourbridge
Worcs

W Ford
Wiltshire Arch Officer
County Offices
Trowbridge
Wiltshire

F H Goodyear
95 Lincoln Avenue
Newcastle
Staffs.

Miss R Hickling
85 Beaufort Avenue
Hereford HR2 7QE

B Hobley
formerly of
Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Jordan Well
Coventry

Dr A W J Houghton
Oak Wook
Pulverbatch
Nr Shrewsbury

A Hunt
7 High Street
Amblecote
Stourbridge
Worcs.

N Ingrey
Stafford Girls
High School
Westway
Newport Road
Stafford

J H Kelly
City Museum
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffs

E Klingelhofer
School of History
University of Birmingham
Birmingham B15 2TT

Miss S Laflin
Computer Centre
University of Birmingham
Birmingham B15 2TT

J Lucas
7 Rugby Road
Calthorpe
Rugby

J Pickering
Elmtree Drive
The Outwoods
Hinkley
Leicestershire

S Price
The Museum
Bewdley
Worcs

Rev F Radcliffe
Bishop Bright Grammar School
Guys Cliff Avenue
Leamington Spa
Warks

P A Rahtz
School of History
University of Birmingham
Birmingham B15 2TT

AA Round
95 Darnick Road
Sutton Coldfield
Warks

K W Sheridan
Castle Museum
Tamworth
Staffs

R Shoesmith
Youth Hostel
Staunton-on-Wye
Hereford

S C Stanford
Ashfield Cottage
Luston, Leominster
Herefords HR60 BA

H L G Sunley
57 Highland Road
Kenilworth
Warks

G S Taylor
Wychbury
Greenside Road
Birmingham B24

S J Taylor
Hinton Manor
Woodford Halse
Daventry
Northants

E W Tipler
Holly Bank
Romsley
Nr Bridgenorth

J W Tonkin
Chy an Whyloryon
Wigmore
Leominster
Herefords

H J Usher
37 St Mary's Close
Southam
Leamington Spa

P L Waters
2 Westwood Road
Malvern Link
Worcs

Dr G Webster
The Old School House
Chesterton
Harbury
Nr Leamington Spa
Warks

M Wise
113 Forge Mill Road
Redditch
Worcs

ADDRESSES OF ORGANISATIONS

ATHERSTONE ARCH SOC
Mrs R J Phillips (Sec)
75 Marston Lane
Bedruth
Warks

BIRMINGHAM & WARKS ARCH SOC
Mrs Ruth Taylor (Sec)
c/o City Museum & Art Gallery
Birmingham

BORDESLEY SOCIETY
Miss D M Arnold (Sec)
29 Salop Road
Redditch
Worcs

CHEADLE HIST SOC
Mr H A Chester (Sec)
71 Froghall Road
Cheadle
Staffs

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY
Miss B de Cardi
CBA
8 St Andrews Place
London N W 1

COVENTRY & DIST ARCH SOC
Mrs V A Howard (Sec)
30 Ivybridge Road
Styvechale
Coventry

COVENTRY MUSEUM
Mr C J Scott (Director)
Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Jordan Well
Coventry

DUDLEY COLLEGE ARCH SOC
Miss L Faulkes (Sec)
Dudley College of Education
Castle View
Dudley
Worcs

HEREFORD MUSEUM
Mr J F W Sharwood (Curator)
City Museum & Art Gallery
Hereford

KEELE & NEWCASTLE ARCH SOC
Mr Ivor Newcomb (Sec)
175 Basford Park Road
Newcastle
Staffs

KENILWORTH ARCH SOC
Mrs I Potter (Sec)
2B Bertie Road
Kenilworth
Warks

KIDDERMINSTER ARCH SOC
Mr D Wright (Sec)
Borough Library
Kidderminster
Worcs

LANDOR SOC
Mr A W Neal (Sec)
Eireen
38 Fortescue Lane
Rugeley
Staffs

LEEK & DIST FIELD CLUB
Miss D Hill (Sec)
6 Newcastle Road
Leek
Staffs

OFFA ANTIQUARIAN SOC
Mr Martin Beck (Sec)
Keepers Cottage
Aston
Oswestry
Salop

ORDNANCE SURVEY
Romsey Road
Maybush
Southampton

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE TRUST
Mr Levi Fox
SBT Shakespeare Centre
Stratford-upon-Avon

SHREWSBURY MUSEUM
Mr R E James
Public Library & Museum
Castle Gates
Shrewsbury

SHROPSHIRE ARCH SOC
Mr H Beaumont (Sec)
Silverdale
Severnbank
Shrewsbury

SOLIHULL ARCH GROUP
Mr J G Perry (Sec)
66 Purnells Way
Knowle
Solihull

SOUTH STAFFS ARCH SOC
Dr J Cole
11 Bracebridge Road,
Sutton Coldfield

STAFFORD HIST & CIVIC SOC
c/o J S Horne
24 St Johns Road
Rowley Park
Stafford

STAFFORD & MID-STAFFS ARCH SOC
Mr G F Reinli
The Cottage
Oulton
Stone
Staffs

STAFFS LOCAL HIST COUNCIL
Mr LNA Davies
Pendrell Hall Residential
College of Adult Education
Codsall Wood
Nr Wolverhampton
Staffs

STOUR & SMESTOW ARCH RESEARCH GROUP
Mrs K C Fenton (Sec)
Hillcrest
80 Heath Lane
Stourbridge
Worcs

TAMWORTH MUSEUM
Miss Tarjan (Curator)
Castle Museum
Tamworth

WARWICK COUNTY MUSEUM
Miss J M Morris (Curator)
County Museum
Market Place
Warwick

WOOLHOPE FIELD CLUB
Mr V H Coleman (Sec)
Strommiss
Hereford Road
Weobley
Hereford

WORCS ARCH SOC
Mr R F Panton (Sec)
4 Orchard Road
Malvern
Worcs

WORCESTER CITY MUSEUM
Mr C Phipps
Worcester Museum
Foregate Street
Worcester

WORCESTER COUNTY MUSEUM
Mr G L Shearer
Hartlebury Castle
Kidderminster
Worcs.