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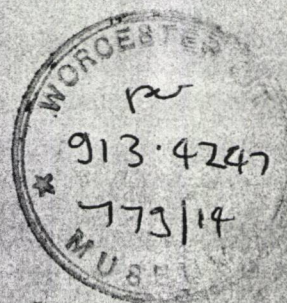
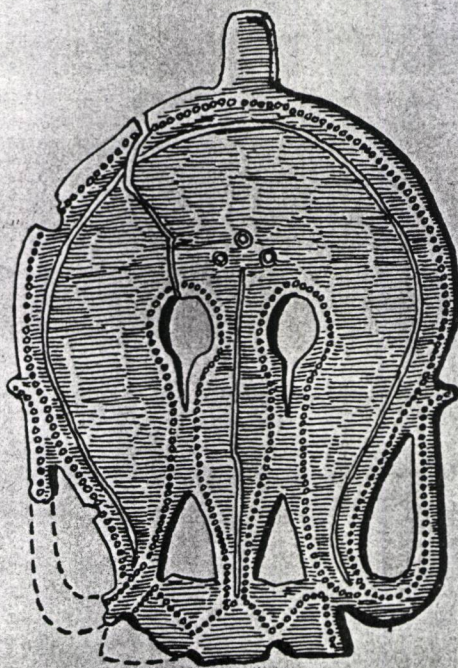
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WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS SHEET

No. 17 1974



C.B.A. Group 8

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Warwicks.

The drawing on the front page is of a bronze pendant of the military type, from the excavation on the Baths Basilica site at Wroxeter.

EDITORIAL

The Newsletter this year is both longer, and regrettably more expensive. Regular readers will notice a distinct shift in emphasis on the work reported. Field survey and recording standing buildings and monuments occupies almost as much space as excavation reports. This is likely to be a change which will continue. We have printed the field survey work in detail both for its intrinsic interest and as models for future work. The County sites and Monuments records are the best repository for local fieldwork since they are directly consulted by Planners. Increasingly we should aim to protect sites, use existing laws and conservation proposals to do this, and excavate only when necessary, and after careful evaluation of the site's potential.

HEATHER BARNIE.

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SECTION 1: CBA AND WEMRAC

Chairman's Letter

At the CBA Regional Group Annual Meeting at Lichfield it was decided to separate this Group from WEMRAC but I write this letter as Chairman of both bodies for the time being as I feel that continuity is at this stage essential. The reason for the separation is simply that the pressure of business on WEMRAC is such that it leaves little time for Group 8. I have been saying for some years that some new blood is essential, and unless members of local societies are prepared to take a wider responsibility there is little hope of any future for the Group. So a new and enlarged executive was appointed at Lichfield and its task is now to study the CBA memorandum on the future role of Groups.

These recommendations are that groups should create WEMRAC type organisations and we can at least have the gratification of knowing that we are among the leading groups in this direction. It is however the other suggestions which may prove difficult to implement. The relevant sections of this document are set out below for all to read and consider. I wrote a letter to all constituent members and it would help to clarify the situation if I quoted part of it; and I may say that the response to this has so far been precisely nil.

"The CBA central body has also been through a rapid growth of responsibility in their last few years. Not only has there been contact with DOE over legislation and the creation of the new area advisory committees but the formation of a new professional body for British archaeologists. All this activity has meant that the small corps of professionals in our region have been fully, if not over committed and there has been little time to develop the Regional Group. If we are to attempt to organise ourselves to handle current and future problems, some drastic reorganisation is necessary. This can only be done by our keen amateurs and dedicated members of societies and groups playing a more effective role beyond their local sphere. It is fully appreciated that there are many who spend much of their spare time in excavation and fieldwork and it would be quite wrong and improper for us to suggest that this valuable work be curtailed. We must look for others less committed to field activities to be prepared to take responsibility for organisation at regional level. The Regional Groups executive was expanded at the last AGM to begin this task, and has now decided to attack two types of problems. The first deals with Item 1 under functions on P.2 of the CBA memorandum. A new committee under the chairmanship of Jeff Perry will be giving thought to this, we are also considering how to tackle Item 2. It is high time we began to discuss with other bodies the problems of excavation in its broadest sense. We are, however, too small and too weak to initiate any moves towards coordination, we are, therefore, asking all those members who may have connections and interests in the National Trust, CPRE, Victorian Society, SPAB, Soc. Preservation of Natural Beauty, etc. etc. to use your influence to try to get across the idea that we need fully representative advisory bodies at county level, to help planning officers in their conservation problems. Some of these societies are much better organised than we are and already have working arrangements with the county authorities. We may find we are some distance behind and we must be prepared to play a subsidiary role, but our voice must be heard; remember we are no longer thinking of red dots on maps but the mans development of the total landscape over several millenia. An area we have not covered adequately is just how the Regional Group can best serve the needs of the societies, groups and individuals. I would like you all to give serious thought to this in relation to the memorandum and let me have your ideas. If your society wishes, it would be possible for me or a member of your executive to come to a meeting and discuss all these problems in greater detail."

Rather than have two separate reports covering much the same ground, we decided to combine this year with one annual report. You will be able to read about the activities of WEMRAC over this past year and there is little need for me to comment in detail. We have been endeavouring to weld ourselves into an efficient organisation to cover all Rescue needs, but the more we do the larger and more serious the problems

become. We still lack full official recognition, yet with the present embargo on local government appointments we have an essential task to perform which cannot yet be handed over to anyone else. We now have three members of staff and have applied for more, yet we have no office and headquarters so everything we organise has an improvised air. Yet there are the positive achievements and I have been very encouraged by the help and sympathy we are now getting from local authorities. Although they cannot make appointments, or give us much money, there are many other ways in which they can and are helping. The creation of bonds of mutual trust and understanding augur well for the future.

We are incredibly lucky to have such splendidly active and loyal officers working under serious difficulties. With the enormous fund of goodwill we are now tapping I have no serious concern for the future. But we must not delude ourselves that solutions will be quick, and there are several years of hard grind still to be faced, in which I feel that our amateur colleagues will continue to act as responsibly as the small team of professionals.

GRAHAM WEBSTER

The Annual Report of the West Midlands Rescue Archaeology Committee

I. Composition, role and development of the Committee

In April 1974 WEMRAC was still the enlarged executive committee of CBA Group 8. Formal links between the two were not severed until December 1974 with the election of a new CBA executive. The composition of WEMRAC at the time of writing (January 1975) is:-

Chairman	Dr. Graham Webster	Extramural Department, Birmingham University
Secretary	Dr. L.H.Barfield	Archaeology Department, " "
Treasurer	G.S.Taylor	
	Prof.R.Tomlinson	Archaeology Department, Birmingham University
	Dr. S. Limbrey	" " " "
	P.A. Rahtz	History Department " "
	P.A. Barker	Extramural Department " "
	Alan Hunt	Worcestershire and Hereford County Museum
	Dr.R. Lamb	Warwickshire County Museum
	K. Sheridan	Staffordshire County Planning Office
	J. Ruffle	Birmingham City Museum
	J.H. Kelly	Stoke on Trent Museum
	Mrs. M. Rylatt	Coventry Museum
	A.A. Round	South Staffs. Historical & Civic Society & Tamworth Excavation Committee
	I. Newcombe	Keele and Newcastle Archaeological Society
	Mrs. M.Sanders	CBA Regional Group
	W. Day	Oswestry
	J. Perry	Solihull Archaeological Group
	B.K. Davison	Department of the Environment
	A. Fleming	" " "
WEMRAC	Heather Barnie	Field Officer
Officers	Julie Crickmore	Urban Survey Officer
	Martin Carver	Director, Shrewsbury Unit.

The composition of the Committee reflects the different ways in which archaeology is organised in the five West Midlands counties : from County and City Museums, County Planning Office, Birmingham University, and local Societies and Committee. Thus from the beginning WEMRAC had an executive role through the various projects organised for DOE and local authorities by its members. The ministerial statement of May 23 1974 announced the Government's intention to create 13 Area Advisory

committees to advise the Minister on archaeological priorities in rescue and conservation in their area. CBA Group 8 area is to be that of the proposed West Midlands Area Advisory Committee. However, the relationship between such Committees, Local Authorities and Executive bodies such as WEMRAC has yet to be worked out. Despite this atmosphere of uncertainty, the Committee has continued to act during the past year in the firm belief that there must be a regional policy for the archaeology in the five counties and jointly agreed programmes of excavation and fieldwork instituted to cope with development and construction threats to the region's archaeology. Regional organization alone can use scarce financial and professional resources most efficiently. The willingness of local authority archaeologists to discuss their policy regionally has enabled WEMRAC to act as the forum for West Midlands Archaeology, and use its resources and staff to implement regional policies.

II WEMRAC Administration

The volume of business to be discussed at each WEMRAC meeting has increased steadily in the course of the year. Detailed examination of particular problems has been entrusted to working parties and committees, with co-options from outside, responsible to the main committee. These are:

(i) The Urban Committee (Chairman Philip Rahtz)

One of the main points highlighted in Lorna Watts' survey Rescue Archaeology in the West Midlands Past, Present and Future, was the region's historic towns. Their number, variety, lack of archaeological investigation has forced the committee to be highly selective in its initial discussions. The Committee, which includes members from Birmingham University's History and Geography Departments, was formed in May and has met four times. One of its first tasks was the production of the Urban Policy Document.

The Committee's proposals for excavation programmes in West Midlands towns were submitted as part of the Regional Estimates to DOE for next financial year. It was strongly felt at the first meeting that it was impossible to frame policy on the basis of such inadequate information. A recommendation was made to WEMRAC that an Urban Survey Officer be appointed to collect and collate information on the history and archaeology of West Midlands towns and their development proposals. This was accepted by WEMRAC and after DOE approval the post was advertised and Miss Julie Crickmore appointed in August 1974. Concern was particularly felt over Hereford and Shrewsbury as urgent priorities for 1974 and town committees were formed for these two places and units established under the aegis of the Urban Committee in the summer of 1974.

(ii) Shrewsbury Rescue Archaeology Committee (Chairman Philip Barker)

Previous excavation in Shrewsbury has been carried out by local archaeologists whose time and financial backing were severely limited and much was lost by the inability to deal with the extensive re-developments in the historic town centre which has included the destruction of medieval buildings. The chairman stated at its inaugural meeting that he considered the next decade to be the last chance for archaeologists to investigate the early history of the town and that the DOE grant of £7000 should be used to create a small archaeological unit. This proposal was welcomed and approved by the Committee which includes representatives on the Shropshire Archaeological Society, the Town and County Museum Services and the District Planning Office and the Recreation and Leisure Committee. The Shrewsbury Committee sent its estimates to the WEMRAC and Martin Carver, the Unit Director is a WEMRAC officer, but the Committee has full autonomy in deciding how its excavation grant should be spent. The District Council has provided the Unit with an office and ample working space at Rowley's Mansion, and been extremely helpful throughout.

The main work of the Unit has been the completion of the Pride Hill excavations and the preparation of this material for publication and the publication of 'Shrewsbury-The Buried Past' a booklet which outlines the town's history, its archaeological potential and the structure and programme of the Unit. A detailed file on development proposals in the District Council area is being built up at the Unit Headquarters.

The first act of the Committee was to recommend the appointment of a Director to create such a unit and this was agreed by DOE. Martin Carver was appointed in October 1974.

(iii) City of Hereford Archaeological Committee (Chairman Philip Rahtz)

Until 1974 the city's archaeology was organized on an ad hoc basis, funded by individual grants from DOE, and in the last few years carried out by Ron Shoesmith. In 1973 a major threat to the City's archaeology was posed by a 15 acre development within the City Walls which has stimulated the formation of the City of Hereford Archaeological Committee under the auspices of the Urban Committee. The Secretary is Alan Hunt, the treasurer is Mr. Oldham of the City Treasurer's Department, and members represent the Woolhope and Civic Societies, the County Council, the City Museum, prospective developers and DOE. An archaeological unit with headquarters, staff and equipment was established in the summer of 1974 with Ron Shoesmith as acting director. A full time Director will be appointed in 1975, probably by the County, on long term secondment to Hereford.

The first major achievement of the Committee was the publication by WEMRAC R. Shoesmith's Archaeological Implications Report, which reviews development threats and costs an archaeological unit able to cope with them. Since this was published in Summer 1974 about 7 acres of the proposed 15 acre development has been cancelled. The developers of the remainder, Messrs Page-Barr, have been most co-operative and made a large house available for the Unit. The development is currently the subject of a Public Inquiry and archaeological point of view has been given a full hearing. The Committee has begun excavations in the threatened area on DOE funds.

(iv) The Publications Committee (Chairman Dr. Graham Webster)

The increasing national concern over the backlog of unpublished major excavations on public funds is very much shared by WEMRAC. A small committee met in December to discuss WEMRAC's policy to the backlog in its own area and future publication policy. The Secretary has compiled a preliminary list of about 100 unpublished excavations in the five counties done on public funds since the 1950's. Memoranda on the problems of non-publication, the reasons why people do not write reports and a proposal for regional Publication Officers, with a brief were submitted by Philip Rahtz and discussed by the Committee.

It was agreed that Philip Rahtz should present these revised recommendations for WEMRAC at the National Advisory Committee, and that the post of a Publication Officer would be the priority in future expansion of WEMRAC staff. It is felt that the increased flow of detailed and lengthy major excavation reports and the increasing costs of printing forces reconsideration of existing means of publication. A meeting is being arranged with the editors of the region's Archaeological Society Transactions to discuss the problem.

(v) The Rural Committee (Chairman Dr Susan Limbrey)

This is the most recent of WEMRAC's Committees and is intended to complement the Urban Committee. It will take a regional view of agricultural developments, the extraction industries and major cross-country road and services schemes which pose threats to archaeological sites and landscapes, and formulate policy for field and aerial survey programmes.

(vi) West Midland County Archaeological Officer

The creation of the new West Midland County for the conurbation of Birmingham and Coventry has left a large area of the West Midlands, which was previously covered by archaeological services of Warwickshire and Worcestershire, without any adequate archaeological surveillance. Coventry has an efficient team operating under Margaret Rylatt and while Birmingham only has a temporary archaeological appointment to deal with the threat to the Birmingham Market area.

What is needed is the appointment of an archaeological officer for the new county, in addition to the Coventry Unit, who would co-ordinate work in the areas not so far covered.

John Ruffle of Birmingham Museum proposed that WEMRAC should formally approach the West Midlands County Planning Office and suggest that they make such an appointment. The initial suggestion has been sympathetically received.

III WEMRAC excavations

The Committee has always realized that expansion of funds for Rescue Archaeology

must be accompanied by greater numbers of qualified archaeologists working full time in the region on excavation and fieldwork and publication. A group of ex-students from Birmingham University Archaeology Department with excavation experience formed themselves in the summer of 1974 into an independent digging team - the 'Birmingham Rescue Archaeology Group, Brum RAG, - modelled on Chris Musson's RAG. WEMRAC agreed to employ them for a year in the West Midlands on excavation and for a period of writing up so that both the Committee and excavators could see how such a system of a mobile excavation team working under contract to a Regional Committee would work. The team began work in August at Pershore and then moved to Droitwich. The success in keeping the team in the field, finding accommodation, transport and working space has been due to Alan Hunt and the facilities of the Worcester and Hereford Museums Service. The team has done field and survey work in the county and watching briefs on construction in Droitwich.

It is now quite apparent that such teams are essential to cope with the amount of rescue archaeology in the counties even on the basis of rigorous site selection. The county appears to be the maximum area within which such a team can live and work. Until WEMRAC's future status is decided and a Headquarters and Administrative staff appointed, it cannot directly maintain such teams in the field. Discussions are at present under way with the staff of the Warwick Museum on the possibilities of establishing such a team in the county.

The multi-period site at Stretton on the Fosse in Warwickshire being removed by sporadic sand extraction is the direct responsibility of WEMRAC for DOE. A small scale excavation policy had to be adopted towards this difficult site, as only small areas are available for excavation at any one time. DOE have not yet been able to negotiate an area excavation with the landowner. In the meantime excavation and recording had been carried out single handed by Peter Gardner. In September 1974, Mrs. R. Haldon was appointed to help in excavation and most urgently to collate excavated material for publication.

The temporary lack of a Field Officer at Warwick Museum in the summer of 1974 led to WEMRAC organizing an excavation on a Roman villa site at Radford Semele. This was discovered and threatened by deep ploughing and the excavation of September 1974 was to assess the size, potential and degree of destruction.

A further excavation was organized by WEMRAC for Warwick Museum and DOE in Wootton Wawen churchyard in November/December 1974, directed by the Field Officer. This potentially important site was threatened by modern grave digging, a type of threat not so widely recognized as deep ploughing and construction. (reports on all these excavations will be found in the Excavations Section of the Newsletter). The WEMRAC's policy is to maintain a close control over its excavations and they have all been visited and at times detailed advice given by Committee members. The Committee fully accepts its responsibility in ensuring prompt publication of excavations with which it is directly involved.

IV Finances and Estimates

Just over 50% of the total DOE rescue excavations of c. £40,000 allocation for the region was paid directly to WEMRAC for excavation, field survey and staff in 1974/5. The appointment of the Urban Survey Officer and Director for Shrewsbury later in 1974 were funded, with DOE approval by re-allocation of existing funds. In April 1974 it was announced by DOE that they would start a quarterly system of grants payments. This has unfortunately not worked out and the Treasurer of WEMRAC has had considerable difficulties of communication with the various DOE departments over grant payments.

The Estimates submitted in August 1974 for the next financial years Rescue Excavation allocation for the region are summarized below. The DOE recognize the difficulty in estimating for excavations so far in advance, when construction and development plans are either unformed or likely to alter. However, this is necessary for the overall figures to be assessed and awarded by the Treasury. In common with other units there have been requests for contingency funds to cope with sudden emergencies, otherwise special application has to be made to DOE for re-allocation of specific funds.

Estimates 1975/76

I	Staffs.	£22,000 (exclusive of the Trent Valley Research Group)
II	Shropshire	£18,500
III	Warwicks.	c.£19,000 (exclusive of Coventry)
IV	Worcs/Hereford	c.£58,000
V	Inter County, admin, staff and air survey	c. £10,000

Approx. Total £127,500.

HEATHER BARNIE
for WEMRAC

Field Officer's Report

The Field Officer started work for WEMRAC on 1st April 1974, with a wide brief from the Committee to liaise with professional and amateur archaeologists in the five counties, assess the development threat to archaeological sites and organize and carry out fieldwork programmes in response. It was thought that the Officer's work would be concentrated in counties without local authority archaeologists, particularly Shropshire. However, the Field Officer is based in Birmingham which is roughly central to the region.

After nine months work it is clear that the post is as much that of an Administrative Officer as a fieldworker, and has come under 5 main headings:

1. Administration of WEMRAC and its Committees

Early in the year financial estimates for the 1975/6 DOE allocation had to be collected and worked out on the basis of known threats. This was particularly difficult in under-surveyed areas. The overall figures and excavation programme that they embody were discussed and approved by the Committee and forwarded to DOE by August, 1974. The formation and work of the various WEMRAC committees, (the Urban Committee, the Hereford and Shrewsbury Committees, the Publications Committee and most recently the Rural Committee), reported on in other sections of this report, have involved the Field Officer in much administration, since she is secretary of all but the Hereford Committee.

2. Investigation of the Scale and Nature of the 'Rescue' situation

This programme has constantly broken down into ad hoc investigation of specific development proposals, in visiting the sites, contacting the planners and developers and trying to assess the archaeological potential of the site. This work also included towns, particularly Stafford and its proposed Inter Relief Road, until the appointment of an Urban Officer in August. Much time in the summer and autumn was spent investigating sites in Warwickshire, during the 'interregnum' between two Field Officers.

3. The Organisation of Fieldwork with local groups

This has centred around motorway work since the Field Officer was able to get an overall programme of motorway and major trunk road schemes from Midlands Road Construction Unit. Advance fieldwork on the majority of these routes has been, and will continue to be, impossible without the help of societies. The Solihull Group, with a small amount of help from the Field Officer and Dr.H.Bamford of Birmingham City Museum, has been maintaining a watching brief on the M42 south east of Birmingham. After the preparation by the Field Officer of an 'Archaeological Implications' survey of known sites on and near the proposed M40 routes between Banbury and Warwick for the Midland Road Construction Unit to tie in with survey already done by the Oxford Unit, the Southam Group and Fr. Fabian Radcliffe are to field survey the area. The Field Officer is helping a local history group led by Mrs. J. Woodall from Solihull to look at the route between Warwick and Birmingham.

4. Excavations

The excavations detailed in the main report involved much preliminary organization of finances, equipment, access and accommodation.

5. Liaison with Archeologists in the Region

This has involved much travel (an estimated 8,000 miles in all) and time spent in discussion, both absolutely essential in establishing lines of communication and ways in which WEMRAC can work with existing county and district archaeologists.

The maintainance of a regional viewpoint means that this work of communication and publicity must be continuous, particularly in the wide field of contacts with planners, developers and government organizations like The Forestry Commission and the Ordnance Survey.

Referring back to the Field Officer's original brief, there has quite clearly been an imbalance between actual fieldwork and general administration. A field by field survey of the route of the M54 in Shropshire and Staffordshire was carried out in April and May 1974 and work done in South Shropshire during the Autumn of 1974. The post seems during the course of the year to have resolved itself into two levels and two spheres of activity: overall administration and policy making and detailed site and area investigation. It seems clear that further expansion of WEMRAC's work will demand the services of a full time administrator/director and more specific field work, particularly in Shropshire and Staffordshire.

HEATHER BARNIE,
Field Officer.

Urban Survey Officer's Report

The appointment was made on August 20th 1974 with a specific brief centring on the main problems of assessing the present urban situation, gathering full development and archaeological information and forming excavation policies to cope with future re-developments.

1. Assessing the Urban Problem

Faced with a total of 300 towns the best approach to an overall analysis was to construct a series of overlay maps which would categorize in symbol form the various types and date range of urban settlement from Roman to Post Medieval period. The pre-Conquest map is here reproduced as an example of the methods used. This approach was perhaps most productive with the smaller towns of the region, whose urban status at different periods is often uncertain, and whose sheer numbers force a very selective programme of archaeological response to developments. A series of symbols on a map implies definitive statements which may not be justified. A card index to provide back-up detail for the maps was therefore set up to record additional information.

2. Coping with Future Redevelopments

Gathering information on planned developments in towns involves much time and travel particularly with the devolution of planning powers in local government re-organization. Personal visits by the Urban Survey Officer are essential to establish and maintain channels of communication. The Urban Survey Officer is of course particularly concerned in getting information from counties without local authority archaeologists. The problem can be tackled by working directly with a County Planning authority, a situation which has developed with the formation of the Shrewsbury Unit. Elsewhere it is more a matter of co-ordinating and cataloguing the information supplied by Local Authority Archaeologists and relating this information to known archaeological sites, in co-operation with Conservation and Planning Depts.

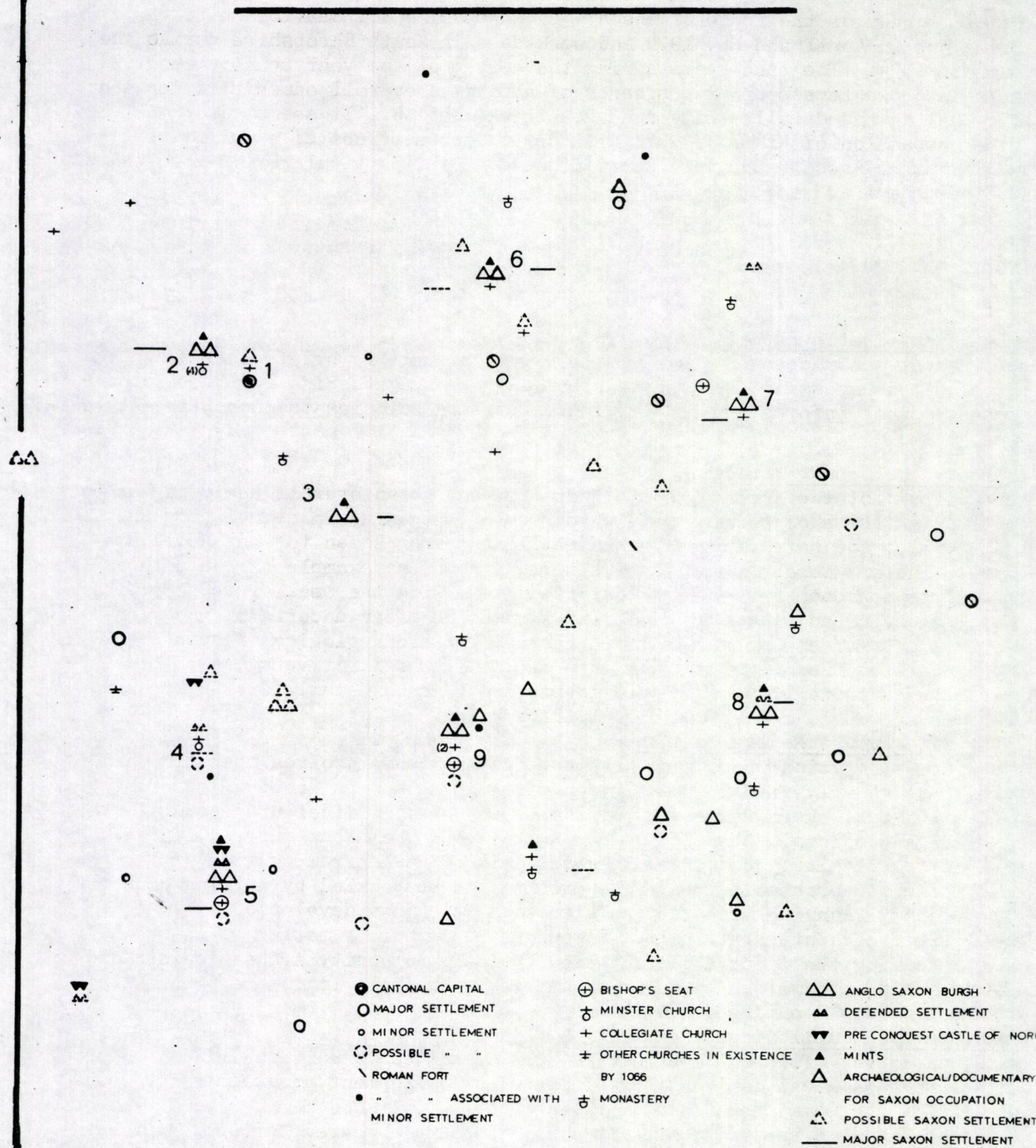
3. Archaeological Implications Reports

The Urban Survey Officer was briefed by the Committee to edit individual reports on the archaeological implications of proposed development programmes for towns selected by the Committee, such as those already published for Hereford, Tamworth and Shrewsbury. A report by Mr. Jim Gould is being prepared for publication. Another for Warwick is being compiled by Mr. H. Myton for Warwick Museum. A report for Stratford prepared by Mr. T. Slater of the Geography Department, Birmingham University is ready for publication. These individual surveys must justify the cost and time involved by being directly usable as Planning Documents by local authorities.

4. Long Term Prospects

It is intended to use the maps and card index as working documents for planners and archaeologists and other bibliographical material in the region. A list of published and unpublished urban excavations and a survey of finds in local museums will be incorporated towards evaluating the archaeological potential of individual

PRE-CONQUEST URBAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEST MIDLANDS



- 1 Wroxeter
- 2 Shrewsbury
- 3 Bridgnorth
- 4 Leominster
- 5 Hereford

- 6 Stafford
- 7 Tamworth
- 8 Warwick
- 9 Worcester

towns, when future excavation policy is discussed. It seems realistic to compile a central file only in so far as the long term threats can be assessed. The uncertainty on the timing and choice of development proposals means that a complete picture is time consuming and hard to attain. It is hoped to make this liaison with planning offices more systematic. At the same time the Urban Committee intends to suggest areas of conservation and excavation programmed on an academic basis and it is part of the Urban Officer's brief to attend conferences and seminars on urban history and archaeology.

JULIE CRICKMORE,
Urban Survey Officer.

Urban Policy Document

Members of the urban committee, particularly the medieval historians, and the historical geographer, have been debating the main problems on the history of West Midlands towns and how their archaeology should be organized.

The origins of towns and their character in the pre-conquest period depend almost entirely on archaeological evidence. The pre-urban use of town sites, particularly if they are in strong defensive positions is important. Changes in the character of settlements, particularly if a planned town develops and thus transforms an existing village nucleus like Stratford, should be considered. To some extent information on the character of early towns is implicit in their origins -- are they organized for defence, as administrative centres, whether ecclesiastical or secular, or do they develop as market centres or industrial centres? Critical to the assessment of their economic character at various periods is the extent to which they are still heavily integrated into and dependent on the local agricultural system. The degree of density of settlement at particular periods, and the scale and use of open areas -- gardens, meadows -- within the town can provide information on the economic base, together with evidence of specialized trades and the presence of imported material. Historical geographers have focused their attention on town morphology and the analysis of town plans. It is obviously crucial to know the degree of continuity in street patterns, burgage plot boundaries and lines of defence. This would help date periods of expansion and contraction and possible periods of drastic change leading to realignment of streets and reorganization, or expansion, of the urban area. Differential development within the town at different periods needs to be explored, particularly the development of suburban areas, often of considerable antiquity.

Microstudy of particular buildings with their stratified deposits has many possibilities -- particularly on the question of the level of material culture in towns. Here the data can only be interpreted comparatively, with towns in other regions and sites within the 'catchment area' of the town. Ceramic evidence helps to define the areas of influence exercised by the town on the surrounding countryside.

Scientific analysis of floral and faunal material, particularly from rubbish pits can produce detailed information on economic activities. The most striking recent example is the work on deposits from tanning and leather working processes in York. The proposed regional lab could handle this work for the West Midlands.

These then are in brief the main research interests in the history of West Midland towns. Archaeological information is in many cases all that is available. How then should a committee like WEMRAC approach the towns in its area? Their number and variety in size and history, are daunting. The majority have been extensively redeveloped -- a process which is likely to continue.

It is clear from this outline of problems that large scale area excavations and concentration on amassing data from particular towns are necessary. Financial resources and availability of excavators force selection of towns. Building up an exhaustive typological sequence of pottery is a long-term project alone. Developments very often allow only selective examination of small areas; this information is, in itself, often meaningless. Its context in the town can only be established by further excavation. Hence the need to concentrate on towns of obvious importance like Hereford and Shrewsbury, and form an archaeological unit which can excavate every site offered by redevelopment.

To some extent this choice was already made before WEMRAC was organized. It has a clear responsibility to build on work already done in towns like Warwick, Worcester and Tamworth, Alcester, Hereford, etc.

However, many towns remain, particularly smaller towns like Newcastle under Lyme, or Pershore whose early urban character remains unknown. It is clear that the committee must find a way of keeping developments in all towns under review in case a particular or a major, development offers a chance to investigate town defences, or an area in the town centre, or a linear development cutting streets and tenements. It would be impossible to organize an archaeological unit for each of these smaller towns.

WEMRAC's present policy is to use a group of professional excavators who wish to work in the West Midlands (Birmingham Rescue Archaeology Group) and have excavated in Pershore and Droitwich to date, to carry out a programme of excavations.

In terms of finance and excavators this programme demands initial individual and overall surveys of the towns involved and close liaison with planning offices and district councils. That in itself is a full time job. It is hoped that other major towns besides Shrewsbury and Hereford may have full time archaeological units. But clearly there must be contingency funds and a mobile labour force to cope with developments in other towns. The information provided by surveys should allow the committee to make a considered assessment of the archaeological potential of particular sites offered by development. A choice is inevitable, therefore it must be WEMRAC policy to make this choice on academic grounds, with as much background information as possible.

To some extent this is a policy of problem oriented research -- and this aspect may well be emphasized if decisions are made to excavate selectively. Financial and administrative constraints on rescue excavations in towns must lead to an assessment of the differing quality of information likely to result from different layers.

This in turn involves the director and committee in individual decisions on excavation methods, if time and money prevent meticulous trowelling down and drawing of each layer. Later medieval layers might well have to be excavated more rapidly than earlier if it is felt that the information is likely to be more valuable.

Trial excavations to assess the stratigraphic potential of all developments within a historic town centre like Shrewsbury, produce a more informed selection of sites for full scale excavation.

It is vital for any urban archaeology committee to establish a working relationship with town planners and developers. Its attitude to development is likely therefore to differ somewhat from local civic societies, though an urban archaeology committee should make the archaeological case for thorough recording, even preservation of above-ground structures. In general, however, the individual town committees and the urban sub-committees' responsibility is for the below-ground archaeological deposits.

HEATHER BARNIE
for the Urban Committee.

A Museum Archaeology Department: The First Five Years

Introduction

Some harsh things have been said recently about the effectiveness of museums in rescue archaeology. It has been suggested that museums have become isolated from the mainstream of archaeology, resulting in a decline in the standards of their work and in the calibre of their staff; and that museum archaeologists have frequently neglected their rescue responsibilities in favour of projects unrelated to the general priorities of their region and geared solely to enriching museum collections.

Much of this adverse criticism stems from a failure on the part of the non-museum archaeologist to understand either the purpose of museums or the peculiar problems faced by archaeologists working in them. It is all too readily forgotten that archaeology usually forms only one sector of the total museum service, and that other disciplines such as natural history or folk life, which are competing for the same museum resources, are suffering loss and destruction of information just as serious as that facing archaeology. The prime function of a museum is not and never has been excavation or field survey. The function expected of it by those who pay for the cost of its upkeep is to collect, store, conserve and display objects of material culture and, wherever appropriate, to record details of their provenance and context; any further activities beyond that could with some justification be regarded as peripheral, or even outside the scope of the museum's main aims. Despite this, many museums have long been active in rescue archaeology; and, indeed, in many areas they were the only bodies involved in that field until quite recently.

The adverse comments from archaeologists outside museums have been matched by much heart-searching within the profession over its future role in archaeology. Museums are usually amongst the first organisations to feel the pinch of financial stringency, while the increasing complexities of excavation become ever more expensive. When expansion of museum resources is curtailed, there is a strong temptation for the museum to revert to its traditional roles and to relinquish the burdens of rescue excavation and survey to some embryonic Unit or some other ad hoc arrangement. Thereby the internal pressures created by an active museum field archaeology department clamouring for an increasing share of dwindling resources and becoming a tail wagging the dog might be avoided.

There can be little doubt that field archaeology in museums is now reaching a crossroads, and it may now be instructive to consider the development of an archaeology department in a County Council-run museum during the first five years of its existence. Worcestershire County Museum is based at Hartlebury Castle, in a pleasant rural setting some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles outside Kidderminster. It is a relatively recent foundation, having been opened to the public in May 1966. Its objective was defined as the 'illustration of the broad basis of the life of Worcestershire people through the centuries'. Management of the Museum is under the control of the County Education Committee; it is essential to remember this, as the implications of this position and the prime commitment to education pervade all aspects of its philosophy. In its early years the Museum's activities were strongly influenced by the nature of the private collection of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Parker of Tickenhill which provided its nucleus. The main emphasis was on domestic, social and industrial life in the 19th. and 20th. centuries. However, the moral responsibility for earlier periods was not forgotten, and the appointment of the first archaeological officer followed soon after the publication of the Walsh Report 1969.

Worcestershire County Museum Archaeology Department

Objectives and Activities

The basic objective of the new department was to plug a hiatus in the Museum's coverage by providing a range of parallel services for all periods prior to the 19th. century. Because of the nature of the museum collection, the preoccupation with internal tasks such as cataloguing was at first relatively slight compared with other departments, while the proportion of effort devoted to field-work and outside recording was correspondingly greater. The first tasks were to determine

the most effective way of recording the sites and monuments of Worcestershire, to define the priority areas for detailed investigation where the greatest threats to the survival of those monuments existed, and to disseminate the information thus gained to all appropriate quarters by whatever means necessary. The exact nature of the activities which resulted from these objectives will be examined further below, but it is worthwhile noting that at this stage the brief specifically excluded excavation. It was felt that the most urgent need was for an extensive and county-wide survey of the total historic environment, and it was recognised that the time-consuming and geographically restricting nature of excavation would conflict with this need. It was not until May 1973 that a second archaeologist with specific responsibility for excavation was appointed; and this appointment was only achieved through a carefully reasoned argument based on the experience of the first 3½ years demonstrating (a) that an enormous amount of information had already been lost by the destruction of sites without prior excavation; (b) that the techniques of field survey by which new sites were constantly being discovered and superficially recorded demanded totally different skills from the detailed examination of those sites by excavation, and that the latter technique required its own specialist practitioner; and (c) that, given the then situation in Worcestershire, the Museum was the only base from which a full-time excavator could readily operate.

The activities of the department fall into three main categories, those concerned with the collection, processing and dispersal of information:-

1. Collection of Information:

- a) The acquisition of archaeological objects for the museum collection by donation, loan, or, on exceptional occasions, by purchase.
- b) Liaison with other organisations and individuals whose work or interests are related to those of the department.
- c) Continuing examination and collation of published and unpublished secondary sources in order to build up a corpus of known sites and finds.
- d) Original documentary research, restricted to specific topics.
- e) Planned field survey.
- f) Rescue excavation, salvage excavation, watching briefs.
- g) Reporting of chance discoveries to the Museum.

An attempt to map the distribution of effort on some of these activities is shown in Fig.1. The various black symbols represent a total commitment to full survey or excavation with complete publication as an end product. The small open symbols represent limited recording, in most cases involving less than one full day's work where the aim has been restricted to newsletter publication and/or an interim record deposited in the museum to await further work in future. The areas and lines described as fields of concentrated survey are mostly related to specific threats, e.g. Redditch New Town, motorway corridors, bypass routes etc.; here there has been a concentrated effort to record the maximum possible number of sites from all available sources, though it does not yet in every case imply a field-by-field ground survey. There is no attempt to show the large number of sites discovered with only a brief ground examination and recorded only by photography or a record card. Only in a most general sense does the map give any representation of manpower input; had this been attempted, the imbalance shown would have been enormously greater, with heavy concentrations on the Museum's main excavation sites such as Blackstone and Holt. Furthermore the map is essentially quantitative, and does not attempt to evaluate the field work carried out in qualitative academic terms, except in the very broad sense already indicated. A final caveat is that, except for certain excavations included for the sake of completeness, the map is confined to the direct involvement of museum personnel. It does not include the work of local societies or individuals working as independent agents with the support of the Museum, even when the results of their work is deposited in the Museum records.

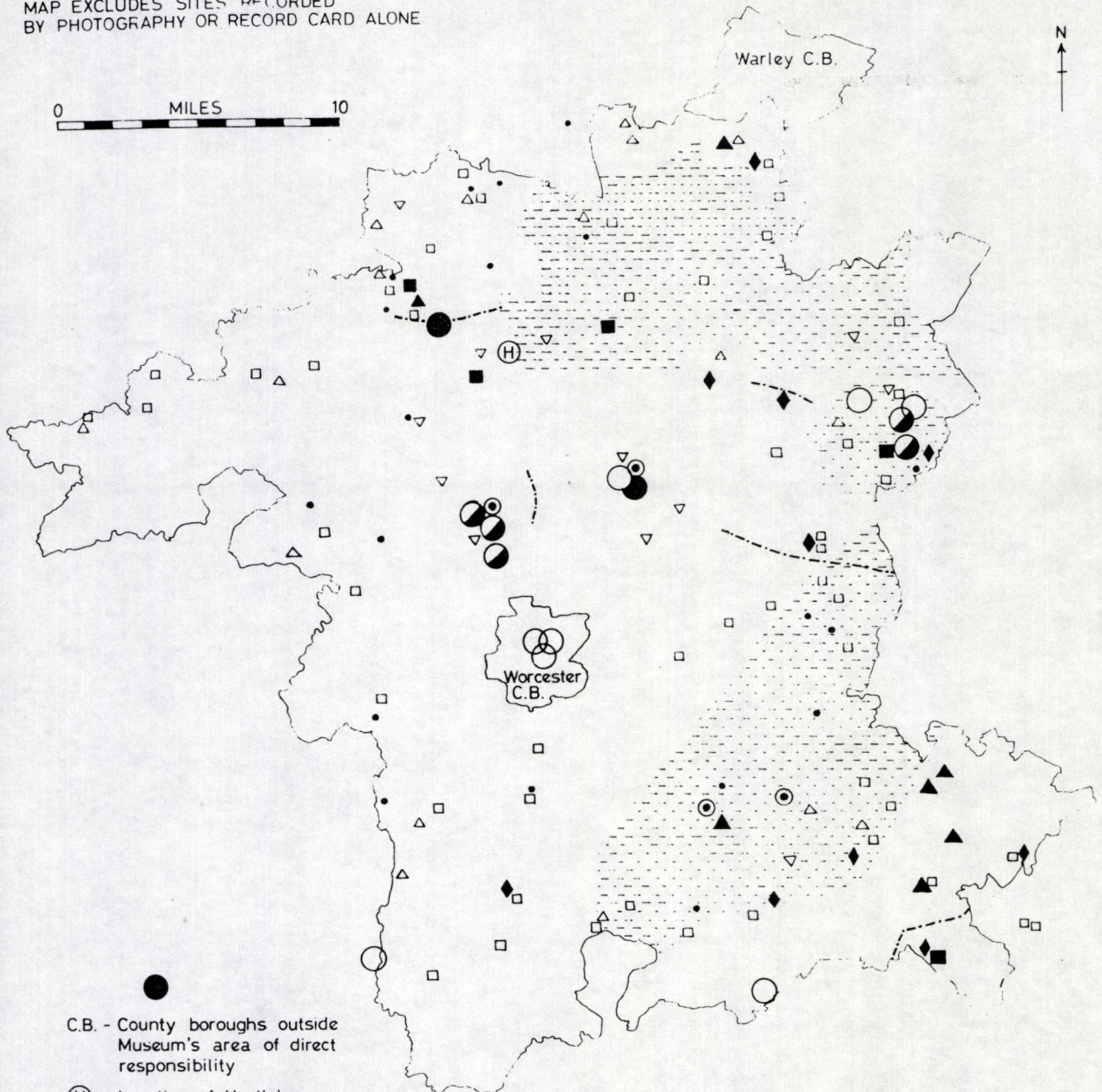
2. Processing of information:

- a) Cataloguing of objects coming into the Museum collection through the Museum's internal cataloguing system; also their conservation and storage.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WORK AUG. 1969 - JULY 1974

MAP EXCLUDES SITES RECORDED
BY PHOTOGRAPHY OR RECORD CARD ALONE

0 MILES 10



C.B. - County boroughs outside
Museum's area of direct
responsibility

(H) - Location of Hartlebury

EXCAVATIONS

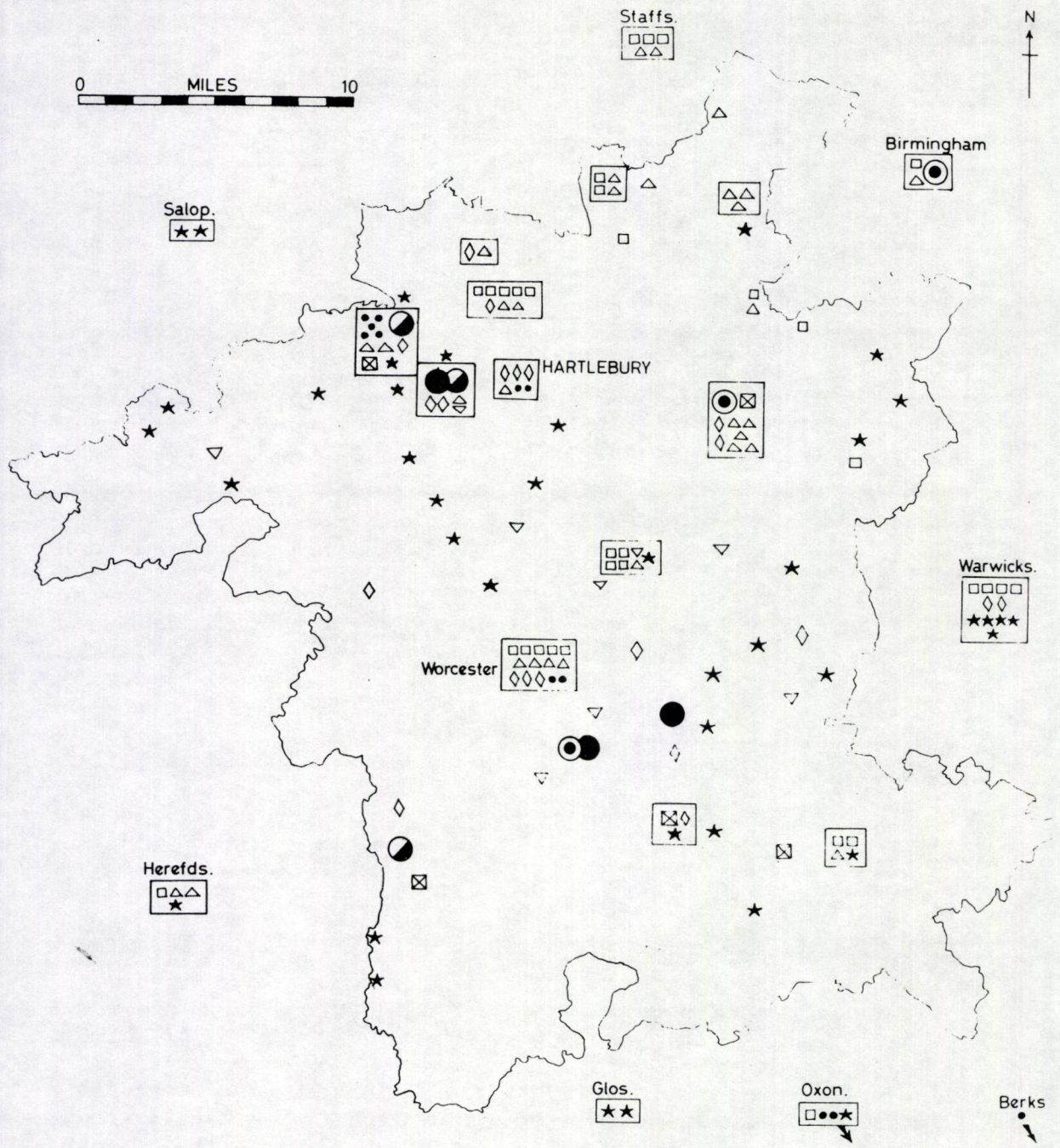
- Directed by Museum
- ◐ Serviced by Museum
- Not directly involving Museum
- ⊙ Salvage Excavations
- ◆ Watching briefs
- Finds deposited in or recorded by Museum

SURVEYS

- Areas of concentrated survey
- - - Lines of concentrated survey
- Earthworks measured
- " " sketched
- ▲ Buildings measured
- △ " " sketched
- ▽ Other surveys

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN ARCHAEOLOGY AUG. 1969 ~ JULY 1974

0 MILES 10



LECTURES

- Extra-Mural / W.E.A.
- Sessional courses
- Terminal courses
- Short courses
- Single lectures

- Local archaeology & history societies
- △ Schools & colleges
- ▽ Womens Institutes &c.
- ◇ Miscellaneous

FIELD TEACHING

- ★ Sites used for demonstrations

EXHIBITIONS

- ⊠ Temporary archaeological displays outside Museum

- b) Indexing of sites and finds outside the Museum collection in the County Archaeological Inventory. The Inventory is perhaps the most important single facet of the department's work. Its ultimate aim would be to become a comprehensive register of all finds, cropmarks, earthworks and buildings of archaeological, architectural and historic interest in the county from prehistoric times to the 19th. century. In practice this aim is probably unattainable, but in the absence of an R.C.H.M. volume or an adequate V.C.H., the Worcestershire Inventory is already considerably more complete than any other single source. At present it contains some 12,000 record cards; all sites are being plotted on 1:10,560 and 1:2,500 record plans on a system of overlays, and are backed up with detailed written descriptions, sketches, measured drawings, air photographs and colour slides wherever appropriate or available. Only two classes of information are excluded from the Inventory as a matter of policy: these are original documentary material and ground-level monochrome photographs, both of which fall into the domain of the County Record Office. The recording system owes its inspiration to the Oxfordshire sites and Monuments Record developed by Don Benson at Oxford City and County Museum (see Oxoniensia Vol. XXXVII, 1972, pp. 226-237), although it has diverged from that model in detail. In the absence of any single adequate source it has been our policy to aim initially at maximum quantity of sites recorded rather than quality of detail of the first record; so in many cases cards contain only a bare record of the existence of a site, with minimum details of name, parish, map and grid references. Cross-indexing is less well-developed than in the Oxfordshire Record, and in certain categories of information are at present somewhat laborious to retrieve. A further contrast with Oxfordshire is the rather higher proportion of standing buildings and industrial monuments in the Worcestershire Inventory: only some 35% of the present Worcestershire cards refer to 'traditional' archaeological sites of medieval and earlier date.
- c) The abstraction of information from the County Inventory for period and site-type distribution maps, checklists, etc., which are kept updated as new discoveries are recorded.

3. Dispersal of information:

It will be convenient to consider the third group of activities of the department under two sub-headings:- (i) the nature of the services provided and (ii) the clients using them. If we take the second consideration first, the principal calls upon the information collected by the department come from a variety of sources:-

- a) National organisations, e.g. the D.o.E. (recommendations for scheduling, etc.), the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division.
- b) Regional organisations, e.g. C.B.A. Group 8 and subsequently WEMRAC.
- c) Other County Council departments: the promotion of better liaison with the County Planning and Highways & Bridges Departments has been a major concern, and efforts have been made to ensure that the planners are aware of the existence of archaeological sites in all their variety and density, and are in a position to take account of these in making planning decisions; and to ensure that the museum receives sufficient advance warning of development schemes to make an adequate record of sites before their destruction.
- d) Educational establishments: the chief link between the Museum and schools and colleges is through the Museum Education Service, which operates as a separate Museum department with its own full-time staff. The Archaeology Department operates partly through the M.E.S. by providing loan material and exhibitions for schools, but also has its own direct links through its lecturing services and through involving schools in excavations and field work.
- e) Archaeology and local history societies, amenity groups etc.
- f) Other organised groups not specifically committed to archaeology, e.g. W.I.'s, Y.F.C.'s etc.
- g) The general public
- h) Internal Museum use: an often under-estimated function of the County Archaeological Inventory is to provide a whole range of information used by other Museum departments in their own work. The effects of this have become increasingly apparent in the Museum displays outside the archaeological gallery.

Different services are provided for different clients in varying proportions. Some of the principal services given are as follows:-

- a) Lectures and field excursions have always been an important aspect of the department's work. In some cases these have been organised through Birmingham University Extra-Mural Department or through the W.E.A., in other cases through the Museum itself. Fig. 2 attempts to map this activity over the five years. It will be noted that Hartlebury itself has not proved outstandingly successful as a focus of this activity, and that by far the greater part of evening lectures have taken place at other centres all over the county. There is inevitably considerable geographical imbalance, but in very general terms the greatest effort has been directed towards those parts of the county most urgently in need of field work, i.e. the north, east and centre. In view of the relative lack of public awareness of archaeology in Worcestershire in 1969 a policy was evolved of lecturing as widely as possible to as many different types of organisation as possible, and not just to preach to the converted. The following table summarises the actual number of lectures given over the five years to different types of group:-

Archaeological & historical societies	35
Extra-Mural/W.E.A. classes	107
Educational establishments	31
Other non-archaeological groups	42

- b) Museum display: In 1973 some 40,669 persons visited Hartlebury. Even if 9% of these took no interest in the archaeological display whatsoever, the remaining proportion probably represents a far greater number of people than would ever dream of reading an indigestible archaeological report in an inaccessible academic journal. Museum display should be accepted and valued as simply another form of publication, intended to interest and inform the general public by visual means and thus provide a parallel function to the written report for the specialist. The archaeological gallery at Hartlebury was first opened in 1970, and has subsequently seen several major changes. By no standards can it be regarded as an outstanding archaeological display; it is limited by the restricted nature of an archaeological collection and is only a product of the last five years, and by space in an already fully-utilised building (only some 25 square metres of floor area is available for archaeology, and it is impossible to increase this without major alterations to the entire museum). Nonetheless, it has its part to play. The heavy usage of the Museum by schools has led to some concentration on models and reconstructions, and this has been extremely rewarding. In addition to internal museum displays, temporary exhibitions have also been arranged elsewhere on occasions; but the extremely time-consuming nature of display work places a serious constraint on display commitments outside Hartlebury.
- c) Publication has always been accepted by the Museum as an essential obligation for both field survey and excavation, and again every effort is made to pursue this at both academic and popular levels. On the field survey side short notes in national archaeological journals, longer articles in local journals, and frequent contributions to local and regional newsletters have appeared fairly regularly. None of the Museum's excavations have yet been fully published, but work on these is actively proceeding. On the popular side the Museum has itself published a variety of information sheets and leaflets and one longer booklet on prehistoric and Romano-British settlements in the county, and within the limits of its publication budget it is hoped to expand this range in future.
- d) Field inspection of monuments to maintain a check on their condition, and recommendations that sites worthy of protection should be listed or scheduled.
- e) Assessment of proposed developments and their effect on sites and structures of archaeological and historic importance.
- f) Storage of a reserve collection and making it available for research.
- g) Support and help with specific projects carried out by schools, colleges, voluntary groups and private individuals.
- h) Answering general inquiries by letter, telephone or personal visits; an important and valuable service to the public, but one which other pressures

on staff-time have made it increasingly necessary to limit. This restriction is very regrettable, as a potent source of enlistment of amateur support is thereby hindered.

- i) Identification service for visitors bringing in objects; more than most other services, the effectiveness of this is very restricted by the specialist knowledge of staff at any one time.
- j) Research.

Resources

It is impossible to quantify the financial support of Worcestershire for archaeological work over the past five years, as the departmental budget is inextricably enmeshed in the Museum's general estimates and expenditure. Although the county has never given a specific cash grant for excavation, it has, however, provided considerable back-up and ancillary services. Some of these are detailed below:-

1. Staff

The circumstances of the appointment of the two archaeological officers has already been described. The first officer appointed in 1969 was given general responsibility for field survey and setting up the Inventory, and was also expected to spend up to two months a year on display work, together with lecturing in spare time; excavation was specifically excluded from this brief, although in practice force of circumstances created the necessity for occasional salvage operations. The second officer's appointment in 1973 was specifically for rescue excavation, but he has also played an active part in teaching and in general administration and planning liaison. In addition other members of Museum staff have been involved in various aspects of the department's work at different times. For the first four years one Museum Assistant worked in the department for two days a week whenever her other duties permitted, and gave assistance with display, cataloguing, inventory and field work. This help is now no longer available, partly because of the appointment of a second full-time officer, and partly because more staff-time was required in the Museum's increasing involvement with folk-life studies. On the other hand, increasing secretarial assistance has become available, and one of the Museum office staff now spends an average of two hours a day on the work of the archaeology department whenever general pressures allow. Limited conservation assistance is available occasionally, although again this has to be fitted in with the much larger demands of the rest of the Museum's collection; Hartlebury is not at present equipped to cope with highly-specialised archaeological conservation. During the closed season and during special exhibitions the carpenter and technical assistant are frequently involved in case-building and lighting; but as there is no design staff, all design, painting, labelling, model-making etc. has devolved entirely on the first archaeological officer and museum assistant.

2. Accommodation

The space allocated to the archaeology department falls into three main components:-

- a) The display area, now amounting to a floor area of some 25 square metres, in the main museum building.
- b) The office, shared between the two officers, a floor area of some 22 metres, in the former coachhouse; this room houses the County Archaeological Inventory, the archaeological library, and a variety of equipment.
- c) An archaeological store with a floor area of some 18 square metres, incorporating a sink and some working space, leading off the back of the office.

This accommodation is not wholly satisfactory in a number of respects. Controlled conditions of heat and humidity in the store are simply not attainable; the restrictions of the limited display area have already been noted; and in the office the conflicting needs of administrative and publication work on the one hand and the the necessity of public access for consultation of the record system on the other hand are becoming increasingly apparent. Nonetheless, it must be said that the accommodation at Hartlebury compares very favourably with that suffered by many similar institutions.

3. Equipment

- a) Over the years a considerable stock of survey and excavation equipment has been accumulated.
- b) A small library including many major archaeological references for Worcestershire, but still far from adequate; a complete Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 and partial 1:2,500 cover of the county; the various other components of the County Inventory.
- c) Transport: here the department is relatively well-served; an estate car primarily for archaeological use has been available since 1971, and a Land-Rover was purchased for the department in 1973. In addition there are now three caravans for site office/staff accommodation.
- d) Miscellaneous items of store & office equipment, including tables, filing cabinets, map cabinets, tracing table, drawing tables, Grant Projector, photographic equipment, racking and boxes.

4. Voluntary Support

If the entire archaeological effort in the county consisted only of the staff of the Museum's archaeological department, little could be achieved. Indeed, well before the department came into existence, there was a valuable reservoir of amateur manpower, which perhaps achieved its heights in the mid-1960's during Ph Barker's important rescue excavations in the centre of Worcester. Worcester was a County Borough, so the County Museum had no direct responsibility for it until April 1974; nonetheless it was inevitable that, as the biggest population centre in the middle of the county, the main administrative centre, and the location of a long-established City Museum and the County Record Office, it would continue to act as a focus of archaeological activity. To quote one example, a class led by Jacqueline Jameson in the County Record Office has carried out some immensely valuable work over the last few years systematically abstracting field-names from tithe and estate maps, an operation which has directly led to the discovery of a number of new sites. All projects of this nature have been encouraged and supported by the County Museum wherever possible.

Outside Worcester the position has been less satisfactory. There are a number of groups and individuals in various parts of the county who have carried out important work on their own account, and the present writer would be the last person to underrate their value; but the fact remains that, in comparison with some county local archaeological groups are not, on the whole, a strong force in Worcestershire. Although there is plenty of goodwill and moral support, we have yet to find the effective formula for translating this into constructive and profitable channels.

Conclusions and Future Prospects

In this necessarily brief summary many points have been passed over rapidly with the detailed scrutiny they deserve. If we attempt to draw together some of the threads, a number of points emerge.

On the credit side, the department can look back on some modest achievement. At the very least a number of Worcestershire sites have been recorded by the Museum which otherwise would certainly have been destroyed without investigation; a basic framework has been established on which future growth can build; and a considerable educational contribution has been made.

Nonetheless, there is no room for complacency. Many of the department's services require considerable improvement. For example, for every site the Museum has been able to excavate or survey in detail, there have been many instances where it has been able to do no more than offer its condolences in the wake of destruction. Another area where there is scope for improvement is planning liaison. Although this is universally recognised as a key role in the pattern of rescue archaeology, the Museum's effectiveness has been limited; partly because it is governed through a different committee, and while it can offer advice and information, can take no part in the processes of planning decision-making; and partly because of the practical problems of geographical distance from the planning office. These problems are not insuperable, but the various interests involved in planning, development

excavation and conservation are complex, and the development of successful liaison between them all and the museum archaeologist takes time.

The competing, and sometimes conflicting, demands of the various activities to which the staff are committed, balanced against the limited man-hours which two people can afford, are a constant constraint on the department's effectiveness. A bigger contribution from volunteer support is not the whole answer to the problem. The time factor is one restriction; however great the abilities of part-time helpers, they cannot be wholly effective working on an evening and weekend basis. Supervision of less experienced voluntary groups is extremely time-consuming, and the Museum's involvement needs increasingly to be carefully weighed against the benefits accruing. Many operations of the Museum are simply inappropriate for volunteer involvement; sometimes because we are dealing with confidential information; more often because of the problems of inconsistent treatment caused by the different interpretations placed upon the requests made of them by different individuals - this has led to many anomalies in the County Inventory, for example, which have still not been eliminated.

The greater part of what has been described relates to the situation prior to March 1974. On April 1st. this year the creation of the new County of Hereford and Worcester and the transfer of control of the Museum to it, has brought about a fundamental change. The archaeology department now has to cover more than twice its previous area of responsibility, without any extra staff or financial resources. The implications of this change are self-evident. Unless staff resources can be improved, there must inevitably be a drop in either the standard or the quantity of services provided. Time spent on teaching, enquiries and display are being reduced, but it is essential that these vital links with the lay public are not severed completely. The programme of field survey and excavation must now be even more carefully planned: it is now impossible even to attempt to respond to each individual threat with whatever resources happen to be available at the time. Our priorities are having to be much more closely defined and our pattern of work geared much more strictly to those priorities, with correspondingly more sacrificed without record.

The archaeology department of the Museum thus shares in the general state of flux currently running right through archaeology in Britain. Its future role cannot be considered in isolation, but must be constantly re-examined in relation to the profound changes in local government, and to national and regional archaeological organisation, whose structure is evolving equally rapidly. In all this change, one constant must not be forgotten. A Museum is in a unique position of contact between the local government structure, educational interests, archaeological concerns and the general public. Whatever its limitations, the position it holds is a key one. Unless it is enabled to improve and develop the services it now provides, the loss will be to the ultimate detriment of all.

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Computer Applications in Archaeology

The conference on "Computer Applications in Archaeology", held in January 1974, was a great success and I am glad to say that most of the papers given at the conference have since appeared in the Proceedings. Arrangements for the next conference, in January 1975, are well under way and we hope once again to have the Proceedings ready some time in April.

Work has continued on the gazetteer programmes and I now have the software available to provide lists of sites and finds as requested. Unfortunately much of the work of entering descriptions of sites and finds into the data bank still has to be done. I have started files for Shropshire, Worcestershire and work is starting in Staffordshire and Warwickshire. Much work still has to be done and the existing groups are always glad of extra help. These groups are:

Shropshire: The group meets in Shrewsbury library on Tuesday evenings. Contact Mr W.E. Jenks, phone 074-372-2492 in the evening.

Staffordshire: The Keele & Newcastle Archaeological Society are recording sites in their area. Contact the secretary. Society headquarters are Room 34, Keele Hall, University of Keele.

Worcestershire: Contact the County Archaeologist at the County Museum, Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury.

Warwickshire: Work has been started by local societies in both Solihull and Sutton Coldfield. Contact County Archaeologist at the County Museum, Warwick.

The data tapes for Shropshire and Worcestershire are available and I can provide listings of records selected on any of four different criteria. In each case, the coded information is analysed and printed on the left hand side of the page while the text comment is printed alongside on the right hand side. Two examples are given:

IDENTIFICATION 309 SRBY 2 SA
 PARISH SHREWSBURY FOUND AT SJ 4685 1121
 BRONZE PALSTAVE NOW IN SRBY MUSEUM.
 DESCRIBED IN SA01 1929 M.15 AND G004 1929 0409.

COMMENTS- BRONZE PALSTAVE FOUND ON THE
 EDGEBOLD BRICKFIELD ON HANWOOD ROAD IN ABOUT 1897-8.
 LOOP BROKEN. FOUND WITH ANOTHER PALSTAVE 3.9 SRBY 3 AND
 TRUNNION CELT OR CHISEL 3.1 SRBY 3. FOUND 5 FT. BELOW
 SURFACE. PART OF BRONZE HOARD 3.5 SRBY 1.

IDENTIFICATION 309 SRBY 3 SA
 PARISH SHREWSBURY FOUND AT SJ 4683 1121
 BRONZE PALSTAVE NOW IN SRBY MUSEUM.
 DESCRIBED IN SA01 1929 M.15 AND G004 1925 0409.

COMMENTS- BRONZE PALSTAVE FOUND ON THE
 EDGEBOLD BRICKFIELD ON HANWOOD ROAD IN ABOUT 1897-8.
 LOOPED. FOUND WITH BRONZE PALSTAVE 3.9 SRBY 2 AND
 TRUNNION CELT OR CHISEL 3.1 SRBY 1. FOUND 5 FT. BELOW
 SURFACE. PART OF BRONZE HOARD 3.5 SRBY 1.

The four possible methods of selection are 1) type, 2) parish, 3) museum, and 4) O.S. map reference. In the first three cases all records relating to that quantity are selected. For map reference, an area is chosen; for example SO, eastings between 2000 and 2500, and northings between 1000 and 6000. Then all records within this rectangle would be selected. This is easy to obtain. A letter requesting, say, all bronze axes in Shropshire would be translated, by me into a request to list all records of type 0301 from the tape for Shropshire. Such a request would usually be in the post 48 hours after I have received it. Further programs to provide graphical output are being developed and will be available as soon as I have them ready.

SUSAN LAFLIN
 Computer Centre

The Kinver Edge Region (SO 88 SW): Interim Report of An Archaeological Survey.

In the last year, work has been started by one field party of the Stour and Sme Archaeological Research Group on a survey of the area covered by O.S. 6" map SO 88 SW. It is hoped that it will be possible to combine actual examination of the ground with as much documentary research as is practicable, in order to produce an assessment of the pattern of settlement in the area at different periods. This is a long-term project, but it is hoped that it will be possible to produce interim reports from time to time.

Topography

Previous studies have usually concerned individual parishes. The decision to study a piece of landscape rather than a parish involves more documentary research, but it is felt that the effort is justified since it encourages a different approach the consideration of the whole landscape as an archaeological entity.

The area lies mostly in the parishes of Wolverley and Kinver, with a small part of Arley and a corner of Romsley. It is therefore divided fairly evenly between the counties of Worcestershire and Staffordshire with a very little of Shropshire. The area, however, does in fact possess a sort of geographical entity, and this has been reinforced by occasionally "running over" the edge of the map or stopping short of it, in order to conform with natural features. For instance, the River Stour winds in and out of the E. part of the area, and is in general used as a boundary on that side. On the other hand, an interest is taken in sites lying just outside the edge of the area because of their possible relationship to the general settlement pattern.

From the West bank of the Stour, the ground rises to a ridge running through Kinver Edge and Blakeshall Common. Beyond this on the N.W., the ground falls to a valley in which lie Kingsford and Drakelow. Beyond this again, the ground rises once more, but in a more broken conformation, towards Enville Sheepwalks. The area under study omits the main part of Wolverley village, but includes much of Cookley, Caunsall and Kinver: at the moment Kinver "town" is only being studied in a general way, a more detailed survey being left for later.

The problem posed by the study of this area is an interesting one. The map is roughly divided by a geological fault running from S.S.W. to N.N.E. To the west of the fault, the surface soils are heavy; to the east of it lie much lighter soils, including the Stour Valley. It seems at the moment that nearly all the earlier sites lie on these lighter soils, whereas it can be seen in the field that on some parts of the heavy soils a large number of old farmhouses stand up on high ground (often hillocks) possibly representing a medieval or post-medieval clearance of forest.

Fieldwork, therefore should be aimed at proving or disproving the hypothesis that settlement at different periods has been geologically determined. If this should prove correct, the situation here would be very different from that found by the S.S.A.R.G. when walking the Hanbury gas pipe-line, where scatters of flints and Romano-British pottery were found on very heavy, wet ground.

The following is a provisional summary of the known sites and finds in SO 88 SW, together with a small amount of new material based on a little field-work and documentary research done during 1973 and 1974. Although an attempt has been made to ascribe the sites to various periods, the evidence in most cases is very inadequate, and such an attempt must be regarded as only tentative.

Palaeolithic

Nothing known. Possible Lower Pal. flint tool from Wolverley Lodge is just outside area. (In possession of Mrs. Carpenter, Trimpley).

Mesol./Neolithic

Two flint scatters known (with some flints of vaguely Mesol. type):-

1. Blakeshall (SO 833813) Collected by the late Mr. Preece; now in Hartlebury (Worcs. Arch. Newsletter No. 6, p.2).
SO 831808 and 828808. A few more flints collected by this field-party from adjoining farm (S.S.A.R.G. Field Report I, p.7).
2. Little Kingsford Farm (SO 818809) Some in Hartlebury, some in possession of Mr. Gillie (owner). Field now under grass, but flints often also ploughed up at 814813.

There are a few odd finds:-

1. Horseley Hills Farm (SO 806804): lozenge-shaped arrowhead.
2. Kinver Edge (c. 835833): Neolithic flint tool - casual find by Mr. J. Handley of Kinver. Finder and object still to be traced.

3. A few odd finds made by this Group:-
 - a) Brown's Farm (SO 820825): flint awl and waste flakes (Shotton)
 - b) Compton Park Farm (SO 809839): single flake (Neol.?) (Shotton)
 - c) Webb's Farm - site of A.P. enclosure (SO 852814): a few waste flakes

Bronze Age.

Nothing certain. Possibly Bronze Age are:-

1. The Bolt Stone (Plot 1686): (c. SO 824839?) may have been standing-stone. Destroyed c. 1841 (Hodgson MS). Presumed site (from field-names) searched but nothing found.
2. Round barrow with ring-ditch S.E. of Kinver Edge Camp: (838831?) described by Plot, accepted as Prehistoric by Lyttelton. Nothing visible.
3. Rest of Plot's barrows were "petrified" (i.e. natural outcrops). (Gunstone N.S.F.C. 1962).
4. Place-name Drakelow: implies barrow where treasure once found? (Often "Drakeley" in Manor Rolls). 819809: knoll with lush grass (natural?).

Pre-Roman Iron Age.

Hillforts

1. Kinver Edge Camp SO 836833 (Southern Britain in the Iron Age O.S. 1162) Univallate promontory fort with defences on S. and E. only. 8½ acres. Only find is Neolithic flint above.
2. Solcum Farm Camp SO 822809 ("Aylesbury Solcum" of Tithe Map, "Ailsbury" of Medieval Manor Court Rolls). Promontory fort c.4 acres, with ploughed-out double ramparts across promontory, single rampart about steep scarps (W.M.A.A.N. 1963, p.10). Finds: part of Hunsbury type rotary quern. Al button-scraper (? Mesolithic) found by Group near presumed entrance. (S.S.A.R.G. Report I, p.8).

The forts lie about a mile apart on the same ridge (Bunter Pebble Beds).

Unexcavated, so no information whether contemporary, and relationship unknown.

Solcum an outpost guarding Kinver from S.W.? Or both guarding lighter soils against presumed forest-belt to N.E.?

3. Arley Wood Camp SO 804820 Once thought a Roman fort, but Ian Walker this I.A. (W.M.A.A.N. 1960, p.6). On Silurian marls. c.3½ acres. Multivallate strong site on lowish ground but between streams. Ditch and counterscarps survive on slopes, 3 ditches across neck of promontory. Little trace of inner rampart (surprising, if slighted in modern times?). Period and function uncertain, but cf. strongly-defended civilian site at Blackston (S.M.A.A.N., 1972, p.6 and 1973, p.19).

Possible Settlements

1. Webb's Farm, Caunsall (SO 852814): A.P. enclosure of unknown date on field above Stour. Faint soilmarks etcetera visible on ground. No finds except a few flints (see above).
2. Common Barn Farm (SO 856807): another A.P. enclosure E. of Stour, just outside area: finds - (a) ? Mesolithic flint core and flake, (b) Possible Severn Valley Ware rim-sherd, also base-sherd of tankard (but very abraded) (S.S.A.R.G. Report I, p.8).
3. Not known if I.A. inhabitants lived permanently inside Kinver and Solcum camps, as in most excavated forts of Welsh Border etcetera. No house-platforms visible. Solcum very ploughed-out; Kinver probably also ploughed in the past?

Romano-British

Very little known, though Romano-British occupation seems likely (of native character leaving very little trace?).

1. Hodgson (MS in Wm. Salt Library, Stafford) says black glazed pot found c.1824, 33' down, in digging well on Mr. March's land. Had two handles, twelve white compartments showing labours of Hercules. In British Museum

2. Arley Wood (see above)?
3. Little Kingsford Farm (SO 814813): Romano-British pottery said to have been found. —Mr. Gillie has one bead-rim only.
4. No details given of alleged Roman coins found in Kinver (A.J. Bennett Short History of Kinver, p.5)
Mr. Bishop of Blakeshall found one at c. 838810: sold at Christy's no details.
5. Local tradition of Roman road through Kinver, down Dark Lane, crossing Stour near former Whittington (854828). No evidence.
6. No evidence for local story of "Roman Bath" (or alternatively Medieval hermitage) in Bath Coppice, Compton (82358440). See below.

Dark Age and Saxon.

1. Early monastery of Ismere (Husmere) probably outside area; but if at Ismere and not at Kidderminster (Britain in the Dark Ages O.S. 1966), territory, fisheries etcetera could extend into SO 88 SW. Nothing known.
2. Saxon estates of Cookley, Wolverley, Arley lie partly in area:
 - a) Wolverley: Mentioned in lost C.8. charter, and in surviving one of AD 866, with survey. Five hides. Exchanged between Burgred of Mercia and Wulfred; granted to Worcester Priory.
 - b) Cookley (Culnan Clif): two hides. Granted by King Eadgar to Earl Beorhtnoth AD 964, but later in possession of Priory of Worcester (with survey).
 - c) Arley: granted to Canons of Wolverhampton AD 996. With survey.

North boundary of Culnan Clif ("from Horse Brook....along the dyke to the 'Stour'") probably Staffordshire/Worcestershire boundary. Line follows former hedgerow, (850819) Gipsy Lane, then eroded bank across Kinver Edge (828822) down to Kingsford Lane, where it disappears. Corresponds to 1300 Perambulation of Kinver Forest. This line crosses ridge of Kinver Edge/Blakeshall Common roughly halfway between Kinver Camp and Aylesbury Solcum: Saxon estates of Culnan Clif and (presumably?) Kinver could have been related to earlier ones belonging to the hillforts? Some of Grundy's other interpretations need checking: landmarks which should survive ("uphill path", "Kinver Stone" - not apparently Bolt Stone) have not yet been identified on the ground.

3. Kinver Church said to be of Saxon foundation: Kinver had priest at Domesday. Saxon settlement should be near church: no evidence of remains except alleged former stone-lined well of unknown date (c.848829). Humps in same field said to have been rabbit warren.
Wolverley Church outside area.
4. "Cenunga's ford" (AD964) seems to imply Saxon settlement nearby, also road. Location not certain. Present bridge (81758070) lies on medieval lane Blakeshall-Horseley (Manor Court Rolls).
5. No evidence for popular belief that some rock-houses were pre-Norman hermitages.

Norman and Later Medieval.

1. Location of Domesday mills not certain: under some later ones? Kinver's presumably at 84858328 and 85058455 (Kinver and Hyde)?
2. Kinver Church said to contain Norman work. (Hodgson).
3. Kingsford Castle: status uncertain. Allegedly a royal huntingbox of Plantagenet kings - no evidence. Possibly late 12th Century home (sub-manor?) of Walter de Keningeford (Cart. Worc. Cathedral Priory, p.21).
4. Fieldwork has not yet found site of mill thrown down by early 13th Century (ibid. No. 29, p.22).
5. Name "Holy Austin Rock" may imply Medieval hermitage (?). No evidence yet. Rock contains several rock-houses, one with highish vaulted roof (could be chapel?), now blocked off. Unlikely to be 13th Century hermitage of Guthersburn (Cal. Patent Rolls 1248) in Forest of Kinver but probably in SO 88 NE, near Gothersley??

Possible D.M.V. Sites, Shrunken Hamlets, etc.

Manor Court Rolls imply that some medieval hamlets have since grown (Caunsall, Cookley), others vanished (Woodhamcote?), others contracted (Horseley).

1. Plot's 1686 map marks village symbols at:-
 - a) "Cast Hill" at Kingsford. Tithe map has field "Kingsford Green" near also dark stripes observed in nearby cornfield during field-walking. Small cluster of cottages survives near Castle Farm.
 - b) "Lynedon" is outside area to N (also "Hoo").
2. Horseley has contracted from probable hamlet to two houses. Two timber-framed houses demolished in living memory. References from 1143. "Mano 1315, etcetera. Fieldwork still in progress. More detailed publication later.
3. Compton. Now dispersed, c. 822847, but pattern has altered. "Compton Green" field-name on early maps at 818841, and fines paid for encroachment in 19th Century. Documentary research and field-work still in progress. Further publication later.
4. Cookley (Culnan Clif) alleged to have moved (V.C.H. Worcs. III, p. 570), presumably because of shape of Saxon estate. No evidence yet.
5. Place-name "Starts Green" not yet investigated.

Compton Park Moat and Medieval Park of Whorwood

Compton Park Farm. SO 806836. Found by fieldwork to have been moated (moat most destroyed but can be traced). Shown as moated in 18th Century estate-survey in the Foley Collection, which also gives field-name "Whorwood" nearby, plus scatte of "Park" names. Park probably defined by old lanes: cf. names "Heron's Gate" a "Lydiates". Whorwood emparked 1269; various documentary references. With Fores of Kinver. Documentary research and fieldwork in progress. Separate publicatio later.

Post-Medieval and Industrial

1. The area includes a number of old farmhouses, sometimes incorporated into much later brickwork. Eg. 819811 Lower Kingsford Farm appears to be of cruck construction (invisible from outside). No evidence yet of local tradition that Hightrees Farm (801833) was once a monastery.
2. Water-mill sites: very common. Further work necessary: interim list as follows:-
 - a) Hightrees Farm, Top Dingle (80058345): hollows in wood, alleged by farmer to be fishponds, identified as water-mill by Alan Hunt (Hereford and Worcester County Archaeological Officer).
 - b) Arley Wood (c.80458195). See above.
 - c) Gilbert de Dunnesleye's property at Dunnesleye (Dunsley), Kinver, included water-mill in 1325/6 (Inq. Post-Medieval)
 - d) 18th Century survey shows name "Mill Bank" near pool with dam at the Wilderness, Compton (814836); also "Pool Tail" father down same stream at Lydiates (818832). Finds of slag in neighbouring field. Not yet examined.
 - e) Water corn-mill near High Hobro Farm, not converted to ironworks late as water-supply insufficient (information Hereford and Worcester County Archaeology Department, based on statement on late Mr. Preece). No date yet. (The mill built on Horsebrook 1482/3 - Manor Court Rolls).
 - f) Kinver said to have had four iron-mills. Hodgson's list in 19th century has Stourton Rolling Mill, Hyde, Kinver and Whittington Slitting Mills. Hyde began in the 16th Century, Whittington a little later (Preece). Rough survey made by field-party of foundations surviving at Whittington Mill. More study needed.
 - g) Former ironworks existed at Cookley and Caunsell. Cookley Forge probably early 17th Century. Two ironworks in Cookley in 1766 (Preece). More study needed, re. dating etcetera.
 - h) Several dams beside A.449 near Islandpool are just outside area.

- i) Fallen brickwork at Bath Coppice at 82358440 (above) could be mill, but more likely early 19th Century bath-house, as at Four Ashes Hall, especially as has rock-cut structure. (folly?)
- 3. Yarranton made Stour navigable from Stourbridge to Kidderminster (Hodgson).
- 4. Canal built 1776-1782, partly by Brindley (Hodgson).
- 5. Coal-mines:
 - a) One said by local farmer to have existed formerly near Compton Hall Farm (81188410).
 - b) There is a "Pit Field" near Pigeonhouse Farm 818836: reason unknown.
 - c) Mining shafts in Arley Wood 799827 are just outside area.

Features of Unknown Period

There are several, requiring further study:-

1. Rock Houses

Probably most are 18th Century or 19th Century, perhaps a few earlier (cf. Plot mentions rockhouses near Stourbridge) Provisional list:-

- a. Holy Austin Rock 83658357.
- b. Meg-a-Fox Holes (Nanny's Rock) 82948254: apparently only a natural cave when Plot wrote (1686).
- c. Vale's Rock (Crow's Rock) 82708210.
- d. Drakelow 82158075 and 82008080; also 81858050. More c. 81958030 ??
- e. The Sladd, 815802 (not yet examined).
- f. Kingsford c. 814811 (not yet examined).

Just outside area are:-

- g. Gibraltar (destroyed) 853835.
- h. Anchor Inn? (destroyed) 852829.
- i. Sampson's Cave 82858115.

The above are wholly or mostly rock-cut. No list made of numerous rock-cut outhouses etcetera. Separate detailed study of rockhouses will probably be published.

2. Tracks and Hollow-ways.

Too many to list fully. Include:-

- a. Deep hollow-way up Kingsford Castle Hill 817820: implies traffic towards Starts Green?
- b. Hollow-way beside Aylesbury Solcum Fort 823807; also terraced-way with stone revetting towards Kingsford Lane 823810.
- c. Ridge of Kinver Edge has at least three parallel routes: foot-path along top, Kingsford Lane below to west, lane to Blakeshall below to east. May imply early trackway??
- d. Also deep multiple hollow-ways etcetera in woods west of Kinver Edge, eg. 833836, 832830.
- e. "Uphill path" of Saxon charter not located. Grundy's interpretation unsatisfactory on this point?
- f. What was King Charles' route after the Battle of Worcester, and was a road cut out of the rock on SW 88 SW? (Snake Lane has been suggested).
- g. Deep hollow-ways, probably to early assarts, near Horseley (80398044) and Bodenham (812812).

3. Enclosures and field systems.

- a. System of field-banks between Kinver Edge and Kingsford Lane. Largish fields, probably Parliamentary Enclosure, with a few hedge-species. Eroded banks, some with traces of sandstone revetment. One blocks hollow-ways at 833836. Presumed Saxon or Medieval bank on county boundary is much as rest. Also just below Aylesbury Solcum, but recut where meets rampart (c.82058085).
- b. Dark Lane, Kinver (850830): faint hints of massive eroded banks of unknown date, but conforming to layout of existing fields (medieval?).
- c. Earthwork enclosure found by fieldwork; lies below Aylesbury Solcum Camp. 81958095. Eroded bank and ditch, not apparently with easiest entrance to Kingsford Lane. But probably late, as 18th Century Manor Rolls show fines for encroaching "under Ailsbury".
- d. At Hobro Villa (811808), the modern field is subdivided by 3 eroded banks into long, narrow closes. Northernmost is "Barn Close" of Tithe Map, but others (within northernmost of fields called "The Haughtons") not shown. Date not known, but earlier than field boundary system shown on Tithe Map.

Place-Names

A fairly considerable number of early field-names has now been collected, though not yet complete, from Tithe Maps, Bright's plan 1831 and an undated 18th Century estate survey of Kinver (Foley Collection). Many names need investigation, but are too numerous to be listed here.

Future Objectives

More fields need to be searched for remains and finds of all periods. Since the area is very large, attention is being concentrated at the moment on Horseleyhill and Compton.

By documentary research and fieldwork together, it is hoped to establish the date of assarting of various farms and hamlets out of the forest.

Acknowledgements.

Documentary sources are good: apart from published material (Public Record Office, Worcs. Historical Society, William Salt Society etcetera), good unpublished material exists for Kinver and Wolverley. The Group wishes to acknowledge its gratitude to Mr A.T. Foley of Stoke Edith for the use of valuable material from the large Foley collection in the Record Office at Hereford (including the Kinver estate survey mentioned above); and also to Mr A.J. Caswell of Cookley for the loan of the M.S. notes of the late Mr. Preece of Blakeshall, containing the results of a lifetime of historical research, including extensive extracts from Wolverley Manor Court Rolls from 1285 onwards.

The Group also wishes to express its thanks to Alan Saville and Professor Shotton for examining the flint finds, to the landowners for allowing the fields to be walked and to the Hereford and Worcester County Archaeology Department for much encouragement and practical help.

MERCIA FENTON, ERIC PHILPOTTS,
PETER KING AND LESLIE KING.

for the Stour and Smestow
Archaeological Research Group.

Aerial Reconnaissances of the Midlands

An eight week flying programme commenced at the beginning of July. Amongst its purposes was a study of changes of crop marks in different geologies. The first stage of the programme was a week of intensive coverage of limited areas around each of the following airfields:-

- 1) Shawbury (Shropshire)
- 2) Leconfield (South Wolds of Yorkshire)
- 3) Benson (Thames Valley & Vale of White Horse)

During the next two weeks a number of longer ranging flights (some of them with Arnold Baker) were made from Leicester, mainly in continuation of regular annual checks of areas, but some new areas were added. These flights also provided a second look at Shawbury and Benson at a phased interval after the earlier intensive cover. The Trent Valley was covered from Alrewas to Cromwell and additionally westwards towards Stoke-on-Trent. The Wenlock edge area again proved interesting and a number of new sites and features were recorded around Ludlow. South of Ludlow to Ross Wye provided little new, but an area of ground to the west of Malvern produced several interesting sites including a large group of small barrows. Gloucester to Stratford produced a rash of Romano-British farmsteads, one group being along a road that seems to line up with the existing road from Evesham to Winchcombe. At the end of July, crop marks in the Northampton area were poor and only a few new sites were recorded there. The Trent Valley around Alrewas and between Nottingham and Cromwell showed crop marks of sites for several weeks, but the Warley Witham Valley was virtually blank. The Northern edge of the Cotswolds had some unusual and interesting sites showing but the northern edge of the Lambourn Downs overlooking the Vale of White Horse was devoid of indications of sites. The Yorkshire moors and north of these to Newcastle on Tyne was uninteresting this year.

Three more weeks of intensive flying were carried out from the beginning of August.

- 1) Bicester (Cherwell Valley)
- 2) Cottesmore (Nene Valley & East Leicestershire)
- 3) Leconfield (Yorkshire S. Wolds)

This programme was devised to carry out a number of experiments and areas selected for intensive flying and the time when the flying was carried out over them was carefully calculated. Combined with the longer ranging surveys, the programme made it possible to check the state of crop marks in a variety of geologies and in similar geologies both in the same week and after an interval.

The programme and its timing was based on earlier reconnaissances in May and June. Rainfall and cool weather at the beginning of July lengthened the time of growth before crop maturity in some areas and the final week in Leconfield proved to be the best recording week. This was four weeks after the normally best recording week in the Thames Valley.

Areas in which crop marks develop in any year have a direct relation to the spring and summer rainfall in the area, but the relation is not a simple one. Rainfall statistics provide some guidance, but it is easier to predict areas where crop marks are unlikely to develop than areas where crop marks will develop with a good contrast.

The large number of factors that determine whether crop marks will develop and what type of crop mark will develop makes close prediction of their occurrence more difficult than has perhaps been realised. At the moment, it is less urgent to try and predict than to realise that knowledge of crop marks at best is superficial and in general is based on misconceptions. Interest in the information they provide has preceded an understanding of the processes that produce the evidence.

Some 2000 colour transparencies and 500 black and white photographs were taken in the course of the above reconnaissances. Some areas that normally produce crop marks were totally devoid of any evidence of previous land use. Some crop marks seem to develop over some sites every year that cereals are planted regardless of weather. In one area I have flown over for nearly 20 years, some sites have only been visible once, for a few days only and these sites have not all been visible in the same year. Every time a crop mark develops, there will be details in it that are different from its other appearances.

Whilst the interest of archaeologists in the results of aerial archaeology tends to be towards sites in their areas that are suitable for excavation, there is increasing evidence of a type that cannot be obtained from excavations. As an example, several areas under annual surveillance are producing evidence of large areas of graticular field systems, laid out mainly without regard to contours. These contrast with field systems determined by terrain. The relationship between these different field systems and the domestic sites associated with them requires investigation. Some field systems in East Leicestershire seem to be orientated on and to include elements of earlier features of, in some cases linear earthworks up to 1km. long or in other cases parallel earthworks, approx. 500 metres long to 200 metres apart. Many of the ridges and furrows in these systems have been developed within earlier baulks. The continuity of land use in these areas is perhaps farther back in time than is at present accepted.

The experience of this year's varied reconnaissances indicates that there is still a vast amount of as yet undiscovered information available in crop marks for aerial archaeology to tackle, but that it will take many more years of more painstaking application than are necessary to record the easily seen sites and features.

The area was devoid of any crop marks in sugar beet although in some years sugar beet has provided better evidence than cereals.

ARNOLD BAKER AND JAMES PICKERING

'Good friend for Jesus' sake forbear,
To dig the dust enclosed here,
Blest be the man who spares these stones,
And trouble he that moves these bones'

(Richard Hancocks, Wroxeter, 1782)

Introduction

This report describes a preliminary survey of the gravestones and memorials of Wroxeter, carried out in three days by a group of ten students from the School of History. Although the purpose of the project was primarily educational, to show the kind of information that could be extracted statistically from a body of epigraphic evidence, it also went some way towards recording of the gravestone group, an urgent problem when so many are being cleared, for ease of maintaining and mowing. This report should show what can be done in a small number of man-hours, and the extent to which this falls short of proper recording. As in so many other aspects of archaeology, it may ultimately be more useful, historically, to have superficial surveys of ten graveyards, than a complete survey of one and no information from the other nine destroyed. This last point, is, of course, arguable; so too is the historical value of the information to be derived from gravestones.

Method

The students were given gravestones recording forms (see W.M.A.N.S. No.16 1973) and were allocated serially numbered batches of stones. Each stone had been numbered with chalk previously, and a fairly accurate sketch plan was made concurrently with the survey; it would have been better if this had been done earlier and to a higher degree of accuracy, so that analysis of e.g. orientation and location could have been done more accurately. 180 stones were visible outside, (some cleaning and turf-mat removal had to be done), and a further c.30 inside; the latter were not assessed more than superficially, since they are likely to be 'safe'; the number recorded by each student was about 20. Photographs were also taken, but not exhaustively: a photographic record needs to be done over a longer period in suitable light conditions and after cleaning. It would have been useful but expensive to have made a temporary record with a Polaroid camera so that an instant record could be attached to the recording sheet. This would have made it possible to do immediate analysis of shape, style, calligraphy and iconography, which must now be relegated to a later time when the photographic record is complete and available.

Analysis

The data on the forms was considered under several headings; even in the short time available, significant results were obtained, which could obviously be refined in a more lengthy study. Much of the information would, of course, be available from written sources in a much fuller form, especially parish registers.

Orientation

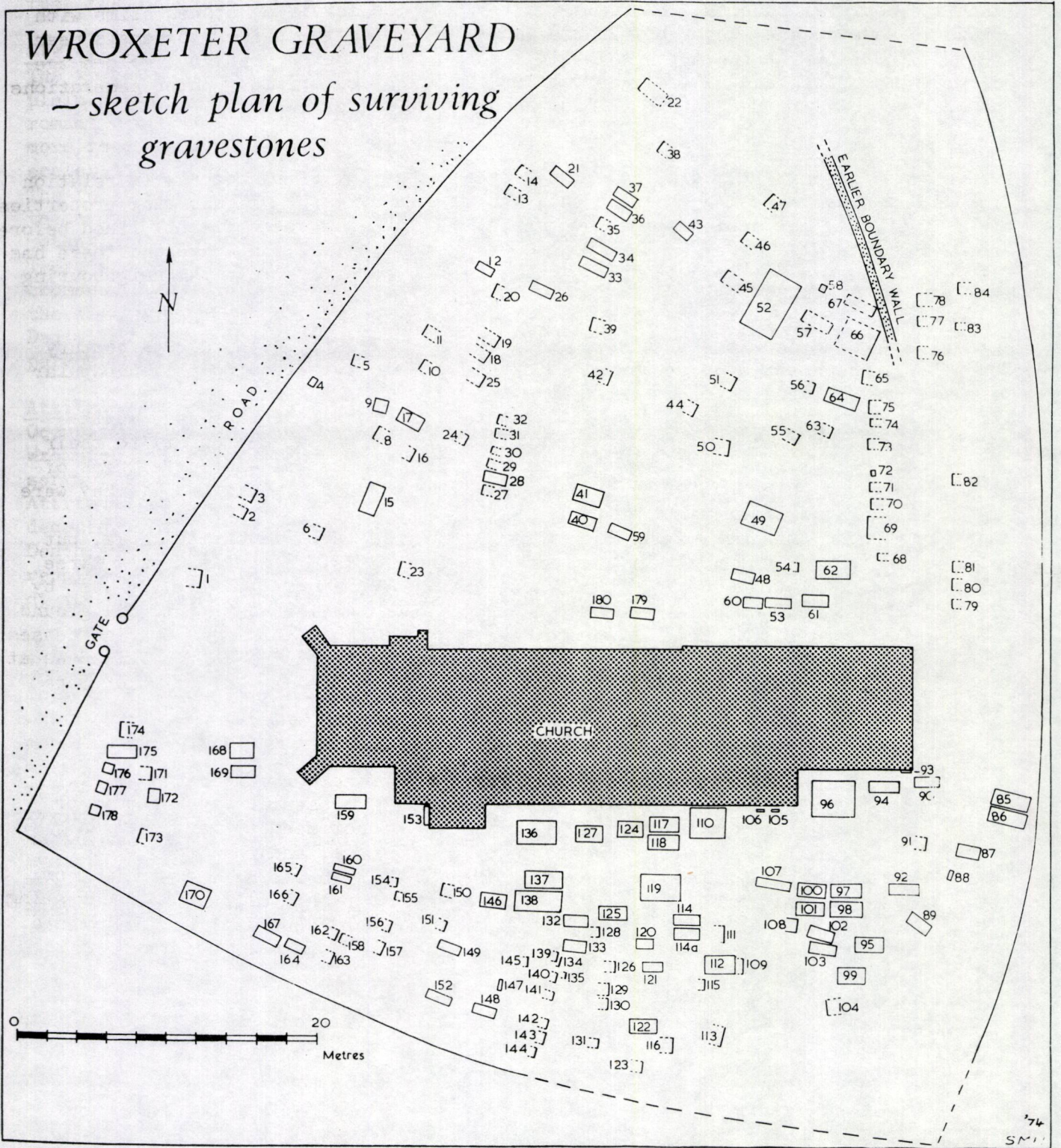
While all graves were orientated with heads to west, the exact orientation varied considerably, being affected especially by the orientation of contiguous features. Thus graves near the church were governed by its orientation; those towards the road tended to be at right angles to this, and those nearer to the north boundary were aligned with this. The latest graves, however, in the new extension have reverted to the 'canonical' orientation of the church.

Agencies of Survival

The survival of a stone on its inscription depends partly on its location (see below) but also on natural agencies and on the geology of the stones, which has not yet been assessed. Flat (ledger) stones tend to become buried (turf mats were peeled off) showing a 'cast' of the inscription in rootlets, and this will tend to preserve

WROXETER GRAVEYARD

— sketch plan of surviving gravestones



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SM

is left of their inscription. Inscriptions on standing stones weather and fade differentially, but may survive in their lower part if this gets buried. In other places the other flora have not done as much damage at Wroxeter as in many other places. In the yard is very well looked after.

The major destructive factor, however, is clearance, a process which happily does not take place at Wroxeter; this is in its turn obviously accelerated by decay but this is clearly the reason why there is only one surviving medieval stone (propped against south church wall) and eight before 1770 (except, of course, the fine medieval internal memorials); after this the surviving stones climb and drop in some decades to a peak in the 1880s, declining thereafter to levels that of the late 18th Century. Clearly the later 19th Century was the golden age of grave memorials and also of destruction of earlier memorials. Later generations at Wroxeter have respected the earlier dead and buried elsewhere.

Locational Analysis

The shape of the graveyard is determined by the location of the church in relation to the Roman road passing the west end, and to boundaries of neighbouring properties. It is not known how ancient these boundaries are, but they were clearly fixed by the 19th century. There may have been modifications before that date and there has recently (since 1950) been an encroachment of the churchyard into the neighbouring property on the east side.

The location of surviving gravestones is determined by complex factors; only excavation could show the extent to which the predominantly 19th to 20th century burials on the north side represent an expansion into this traditionally unpopulated area, or the clearance of earlier graves.

All the 18th-century graves were on the south side, between the present south entrance and the east end. Their survival may be due (as at Deerhurst) to their being in a well-frequented area, so that they have become well-loved features of the churchyard, which could not be destroyed with as much impunity as if they were in other areas, or overgrown.

The next century saw some infilling or replacement in this 'favourite' area, also expansion to east and west, and into the north side. After 1900 only two graves were dug in the (by now) dense southern area, two more towards the west end, but the great majority now on the north side, and since 1950 into new areas at the N.E. corner. If this latter tendency is maintained, or if inhumation ceases because of the spread of cremation, the gravestone pattern will be fossilised by c. 1950, after perhaps many shifting patterns in the preceding millennium or more, which could only be determined by excavation.

Surnames

809 names were collected; certain family names predominated (Jenkins, Newport, Cartwright, Oatley, Dana, Corfield), all of which are present over a century or more; the Jenkins from the 1650's to 1900's; they do not seem to have been an aristocratic family, whereas the Newports of course were, and the Danas were successive incumbents. The rest were represented only in a single generation or two, implying considerable mobility. Welsh names occur only after 1800, suggesting immigration after this date, the reasons for which could doubtless be ascertained from other sources.

Christian Names

Analysis showed predictable waves of popularity for different names, both male and female, as well as repetitive names in certain families; the use of two names does not appear before 1800.

Age at Death

These are, of course, quite unrepresentative of any real age expectancy, because the longer a person lived, the more likely they were to achieve a permanent stone memorial. Up to c. 1850, the recorded average ages are about the same for men and women between 58 and 65, but after c. 1850, while the male average rises slowly, the female one drops sharply down to the 30's, to recover by c. 1900 to the male figure of c.60, after which both finish fairly evenly together. It

be interesting to compare these graphs with those from other churchyards, however unrepresentative they may be of true actuarial data.

Time of Year of Death

This data is similarly probably unrepresentative, but would be interesting to compare with other periods. Total graphs, 1700-1974, show peaks in January and March, and the lowest figures in June/July/September (about half the peak figures). The graphs for each half-century, however, show such varying patterns that it seems that they do not reflect at all the seasonal pattern, but are random.

Style, Iconography, etc.

The Wroxeter series exhibits the usual remarkable sequence from the relatively plain early examples through deaths heads and baroque cherubs, to the Gothic and romantic stereotypes of the 19th century, and the even more conventional stones of more recent times, when eccentricity in design or formulae is discouraged by ecclesiastical authorities.

The relationship of these changes to religious attitudes, fashion and sculptural techniques, is of course a huge and regional field of study, but is probably potentially the most valuable aspect of gravestone studies.

There are some individually remarkable stones, such as the superb copies of Celtic crosses, floriated medieval slabs of the Stevenson family (formerly incumbents) in the earlier decades of this century, the long Latin inscription of another incumbent, Daniel Dana of 1806, or the verse quoted at the beginning of this paper, which is a paraphrase of Shakespeare's epitaph at Stratford.

Attitudes, Occupations

Occupations of the deceased are surprisingly rare on gravestones; the few at Wroxeter include incumbents. Schoolmasters, military men, and oddly, domestic servants; 'ordinary' trades are hardly named.

Attitudes to death and the hereafter cover a wide range and variation in successive decades. They can be summed up as expressing the following:

Death as reliever, punisher, cutter-short; lament of bereaved, hope in being reunited, hope in resurrection, testimonials to the dead; and requests for non-disturbance and peace.

Demographic Implications

The surviving memorials represent only a small percentage of the dead of Wroxeter. Leaving aside the possibility of Roman Christians at Wroxeter, we may assume the existence of a 'village' population of c.100-200 people since late Saxon times; in more recent times nearer the latter. In a millenium, therefore, at three generations a century, we might expect a total of c.5000 burials, of which thus only c.4% are represented by the gravestone sample; for recent times, comparison with parish registers and other sources would allow accurate statistics to be compiled; excavation would reveal many more memorials, but the only true record is that of the burials, whose skeletal remains should equate with the total parochial dead.

The whole cemetery, its graves and its memorials, must be considered as important historically as any other part of Wroxeter, and therefore to be jealously preserved.

PHILIP RAHTZ

The South West Crypt, St. Martin's Church, Birmingham

St. Martin's has 2 crypts, one under the W end of the S aisle which we are concerned with, the other under the chancel. Both were rediscovered during the rebuilding of the church in the 1870s and their location was described in a subsequent report published in the Transactions of the Birmingham and Midland Institute (now the TBAS) for 1873. The SW crypt appeared to be medieval although the ribbed vault had been replaced by in brick, presumably in the C18. All that

remained of the medieval structure were the corner springers and several courses of sandstone masonry. The dimensions of the vault were given as 16' by 15' by 7' from the floor to the crown of the roof. No plans or elevations were published and the architectural features were not described in detail. Recent searches failed to locate any manuscript drawings.

Early in 1974, the newly-appointed architect for St. Martin's sought advice from Birmingham City Museum because he and the rector had decided to reopen the SW crypt, to assess its potential as a chapel for private worship and as an historical amenity for their parishioners. As with most aspects of the early history of Birmingham, the foundation date and details of previous buildings on the site of the parish church are obscure. Therefore this opportunity to examine and record the oldest surviving parts of St. Martin's was welcomed, as was the architect's forethought in asking for archaeological advice.

An entrance was made in the brick vault, which had clearly been done before. The crypt, thus revealed, was $\frac{2}{3}$ full of disarticulated human bones which had previously been buried in soil, intermingled with a dozen lead-plated coffins. This can be widely paralleled, locally for example at St. Editha's, Tamworth. Some of the coffins have date plaques referring to the 1st half of the C19. The other skeletons were arguably disinterred during the late C18 - early C19 alterations to the crowded, up-built cemetery outside the church. An alternative explanation is that they were disturbed during the 1870s. Mr A.B. Chatwin, grandson of the restoration architect, has recently given all the plans relating to the rebuilding to Birmingham Reference Library and amongst these is a numbered plan of the cemetery around the church at that time, together with a notebook listing names and dates from the crypt which must be one of the earliest examples of graveyard recording in the face of the destruction. The few scraps of pottery found while clearing the bones cannot be closely enough dated to decide between these alternatives. Examination of the teeth may produce a closer dating.

The unexpected discovery of such a mass of human bones has caused logistic problems about storage space, because the museum, with the support of WEMRAC, has argued forcefully that such a collection should remain intact, for future study if resources are not available to do so at present. While it is not definitively dated and its source has not been demonstrated beyond doubt, the collection is thought to have come from St. Martin's graveyard. As already mentioned, further information on dating is likely to result from detailed examination of the teeth. Miss E. of Birmingham Dental Hospital has already completed a study of a C19 cemetery which was destroyed and would argue the value of such studies, of which more are needed here an adequate volume of material to study the skeletal structure, the nutrition level and diseases of non-documented Brummies.

The skeletons have delayed work on the examination of fabric of the crypt. The observations have been confirmed; it is also clear that more than one style and colour of sandstone are represented in the springers, but the depth of the bones is still too high to record them in detail.

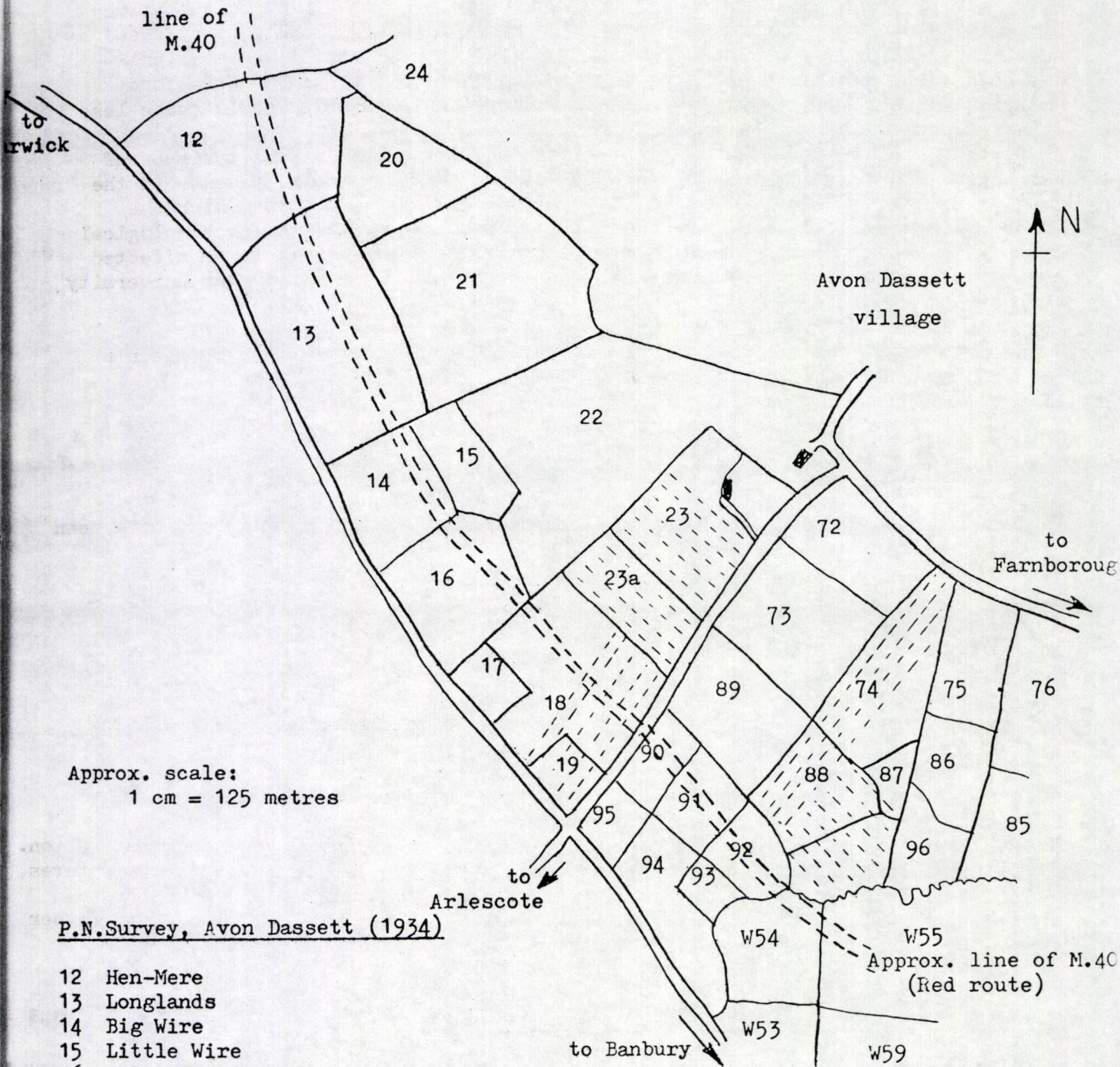
During 1975, it is hoped to complete the removal of the skeletons from the crypt which, on the terms of the present faculty, have to remain within the church, to draw the elevations. We do not have anyone free to study either the bones or the teeth in the near future; access would be arranged if anyone wished to.

LORNA WATTS

M.40 Motorway Survey

The M.40 is planned to run from the present terminus at Waterstock, near Oxford to the east of Banbury and via the existing Warwick by-pass to link with the proposed M.42 (Birmingham-Nottingham motorway) near Umberslade. The West Midlands Rescue Archaeology Committee (WEMRAC) have allocated sections of the motorway to various groups, who have been requested to observe all the archaeological features along the corridor affected by the road. The Solihull Archaeological Group are already studying the Lapworth-Umberslade section, and the portion between the Warwick by-pass and the Oxfordshire boundary has been shared between Bishop B

PROPOSED M.40 MOTORWAY ROUTE THROUGH AVON DASSETT



Approx. scale:
1 cm = 125 metres

P.N. Survey, Avon Dassett (1934)

- 12 Hen-Mere
- 13 Longlands
- 14 Big Wire
- 15 Little Wire
- 16 Splash Meadow
- 17 Elm Tree Meadow
- 18 Front Piece
- 19 Hand Post Meadow
- 20 Bean Hill
- 21 Big Ground
- 22 Mason's Ground
- 23 Garden Ground
- 23a Little Ploughed Meadow
- 24 Tin Hovel Field
- 72 The Meadow
- 73 The Big Ground
- 74 The Top Ground
- 75 Top Gardener's Ground
- 76 Little Home Hill
- 85 Brook Meadow
- 86 Gardener's Ground
- 87 Three Acre
- 88 Red Hovel Ground

- 89 New Piece
- 90 Top Canada
- 91 Sage's Meadow
- 92 Red Hovel Ground
- 93 Gothern's
- 94 Sage's Meadow
- 95 Canada
- 96 Gardener's Ground

Warminster

- W53 Gotherns
- W54 Upper Wiversill
- W55 Lay Ground
- W59 Turnpike Ground

Grammar School and the Southam District Local History Society. There are three proposed routes through Warwickshire. The D.O.E. Consultative Document identifies them with colours as Warmington (red), Knightcote (yellow) and Harbury (blue). The D.O.E. appear to prefer the Warmington route as this has been thoroughly surveyed and subsoil borings have been taken. Stratford District Council have recommended the Knightcote route as this should cause less interference to existing settlements.

As Southam, we have made a start on our section with a look at the parishes of Warmington and Avon Dassett. A brief survey of the documentary evidence in the C.R.O. has been followed by a walk through some of the fields over which the motorway is planned to pass. We decided to put on record all the archaeological sites within the parish irrespective of whether they were likely to be affected by the motorway. Such information can then be put into the Birmingham University computer.

Our preliminary skirmish has revealed the following points of interest:

1. Goosebanks. Probable deserted settlement. "Old Town" marked on Beighton's 1730 map. Not previously recorded.
2. Curious mounds in the ridge and furrow.
3. Rubborough of Rough Bury. Earthwork on hillside of Farnborough Park.
4. Asscombe. Apparent earthworks.
5. Church Ground. Scatter of Roman and medieval pottery.
6. Court Close. Possible site of alien priory of Preaux.
7. Benchlands earthwork or Roddiscombe terrace road. Flints reported to have ploughed up here.
8. Town Ground. The D.M.V. of Arlescote.
9. Site of Windmill.
10. Berrills or Bury Hill. Interesting field name.
11. Windmill site, only recently demolished.
12. Strip Lynchets (?) visible on hillside.
13. Motley. Interesting field name. Site of Hundred Moot?
14. Gostall or Ghost Hill. Roman and Medieval pottery picked up here. Was the original name Ghost Hall, implying a deserted farmhouse?
15. Old Yard Meadow. Yards indicate habitation, but nothing visible.
16. Black More furlong. Black earth frequently indicates a Roman site.
17. Stanborough Meadow. An unploughed mound in a ploughed field.

Not all of these sites were actually visited and some may repay closer investigation. It is interesting how the motorway line manages to keep well clear of these fields so we wonder what we have missed. We have walked over a number of the fields in these two parishes over which the motorway will actually pass, and have found ridge-and-furrow or ploughed fields with negligible pottery scatter.

M.40 Motorway Survey - Parish of Avon Dassett

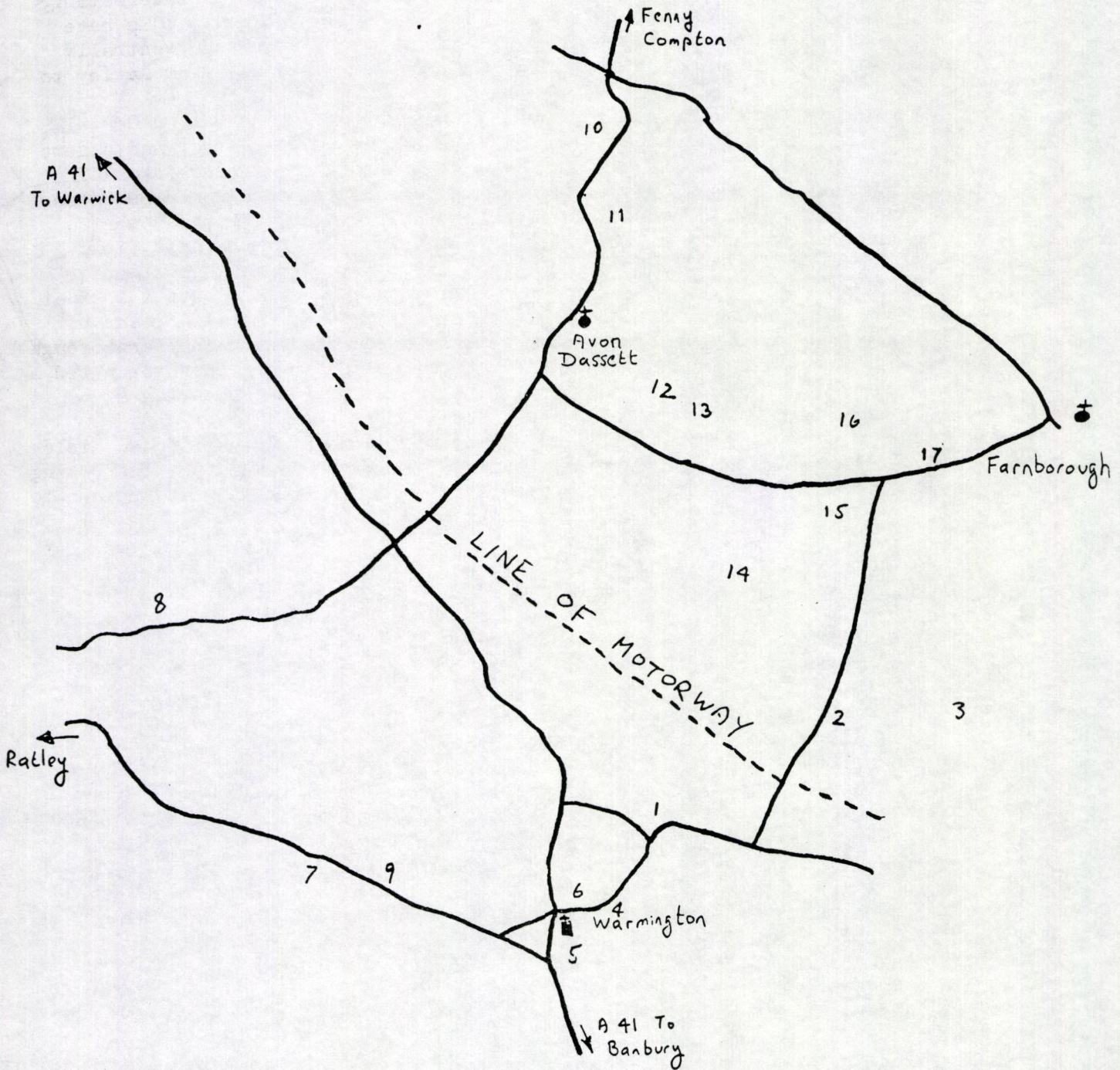
Reference maps: Inclosure Surveyor's working map (pre 1779) C.R.O. CR457, Box
Miss Susanna Wells' Estate, 1815 CR 1253/9
Hawtin Estate, 1839 CR 1253/10
Rev. R.G. Jestin Estate, mid. C19 Z 218 (U)
Place Name Survey (Schools), 1934 P 39

Avon Dassett was visited on 8th. December, 1974, and the fields between the village and the Warmington parish boundary were inspected. The remnants of ridge and furrow were observed in fields 18, 19, 23 and 23a. Field 88 contained strongly marked ridge and furrow with a change of direction at a headland. The ridges continued into fields 74 and 87 where they were less well marked. There were none of the circular mounds which were observed in ridge and furrow at Warmington. The school children of 1934 found a field called Roundabouts (field 84, adjoining, and to the east of field 85) and we wonder if this contained some of these mounds, but it was not visited on this trip.

Much more of the land here was ploughed compared with Warmington, and corn stubbles remained in fields 73, 75-6, 85-6, and 89-96. A strongly pronounced ridge mark was the position of a removed hedge between fields 89 and 73, and this yielded a fragment

M.40 MOTORWAY SURVEY

WARMINGTON & AVON DASSETT (Red Route)



- | | | | |
|---|---------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Goosebanks | 10 | Berrills |
| 2 | Mounds | 11 | Windmill |
| 3 | Rubborough | 12 | Lynchets |
| 4 | Asscombe | 13 | Motley |
| 5 | Church Ground | 14 | Gostall |
| 6 | Court Close | 15 | Old Yard Meadow |
| 7 | Benchlands | 16 | Black More furlong |
| 8 | Town Ground | 17 | Stanborough |
| 9 | Windmill | | |

of C18 pottery. In field 96, the soil was much richer and had been well-manured as shown by a quantity of C19 pottery.

The large field W55 over the brook in Warmington parish was also ploughed and gently to a summit between the brook and the A.41. The Motorway will pass over the crest of this hill, which ought to be the Wiversill (Weaver's Hill?) of the Place Name Survey.

In the north of the parish at SP 412508 is a small field called Berrill or Ber Hill. This is on the grassy slopes of Bitham Hill and may repay investigation. A Dutch barn occupies the site. The position of a windmill is on Mill Hill at 412503.

On the south facing slopes of Avon Dassett Hill or Big Hill are what appear to be a series of strip lynchets at about SP 413496 or SP 417496. These were clearly visible from the motorway fields and merit closer attention. Another interesting field name in this area is Motley at SP 418495 (1779 and 1934). Could this have been the Moot Low - the meeting place of the Hundred? Avon Dassett is centrally placed in Honesberie Hundred which stretched along the Jurassic Way from Ratle Priors Marston.

The field at SP 419489 where Mrs. Digby Firth found her pottery is called Gost in 1934, Ghost Hill in 1815 and Gostal in 1779. There is no hill here, and a hill of Ghost Hall is suggested as the original name, reminiscent of ruined farms of the Cold Cottage and Crow Castle type. A more mundane explanation would be Ghost Stall, and something called "The Goose" is marked in 1779. However the Roman pottery does require explanation, and a further hint is given by the next field at SP 423492 which is called Old Yard Meadow in 1934. Remembering the extensive DMV in the Old Yards at Whitehall Farm, Long Itchington, we went to have a look at it. However the field is well ploughed with no sign of stone, the main point of interest being a fine avenue of trees which must be associated with the Farnborough emparkment. Further north, near Dassett Field Farm, the Enclosure surveyor noted Black more furlong and Black more haes, which provides further indication of a settlement in this part of the parish.

Over the boundary in Farnborough parish is an unploughed mound in a ploughed field at SP 426494. The field has the suggestive name of Stanborough meadow. The mound is finished with a quick fence into Farnborough Park to have a look at what appears to be a dry cascade and "belle vue" overlooking the lake.

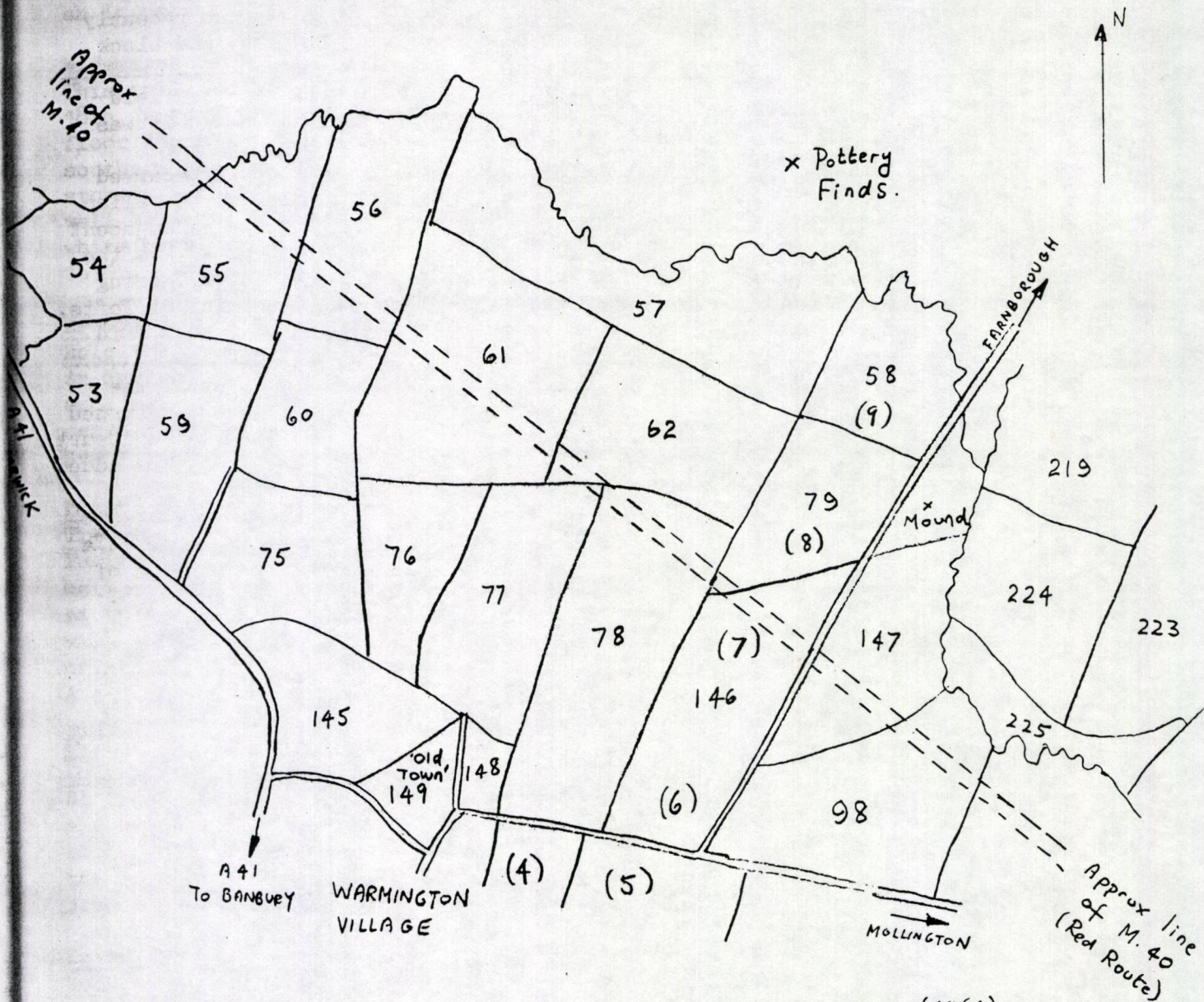
M.40 Motorway Survey - Parish of Warmington

Reference maps: Earl of Jersey Estate, Warmington, 1819	C.R.O. Z 86(U)
Farnborough Tithe Awards, 1841	CR 569/1
Warmington (Arlescote) Tithe Awards, 1842	CR 569/2
Mr. Cambray's Estate, Warmington, 1864	CR 1253/
Place Names Survey (Schools), 1934	P 39

The Warmington area was visited on the 24th. November, 1974, and fields in the Motorway area were inspected. The field known as Goosebanks (149) shows a curious rudimentary hollow way with earthworks on either side, and banks which may represent a back lane. This field is a probable candidate for Warmington "Old Town" which is marked on Henry Beighton's 1725 map of Kineton Hundred. It agrees exactly with Beighton's location. In the adjoining field (148), the earthworks appear to continue to the remains of a headland where definite ridge and furrow commence. Fields No. 57, 58, 62, 78, 79, 98, 146, 147 were all seen to be well-marked ridge and furrow. In several places there were curious rounded knolls in the ridges, sometimes at the points where two ridges or a ridge and headland joined, but frequently isolated in the middle of a ridge. There was one particularly well-marked example in field 79 at SP 421483 where the mound was about 10 metres diameter and 1 metre high, standing in splendid isolation. Similar mounds have been observed in ridge and furrow at Farnborough and Wolfhampcote but their function is unknown. They appear to be contemporaneous with, or later than, the ridge and furrow.

The Rubborough fields in Farnborough parish appear to contain nothing of interest.

PROPOSED M.40 MOTORWAY ROUTE THROUGH WARMINGTON



P,N, Survey, Warmington (1934)

- 53 Gothers
- 54 Upper Wiversill
- 55 Lay Ground
- 56 Eighteen Acres
- 57 Bridle Brook Ground
- 58 Cinderspills
- 59 Turnpike Ground
- 60 Woolins (Wolvins)
- 61 Brindle
- 62 North Hill
- 75 Plowfield
- 76 Big Broadrush
- 77 Little Broadrush
- 98 Bollands
- 146 Dairy Ground
- 147 Farnborough Meadow
- 149 Goosebank

Cambray Estate, (1864)

- 4 Home Close
- 5 Home Ground
- 6 Seed Ground
- 7 First Dairy Ground
- 8 Lower Dairy Ground
- 9 Sinder Spills

Tithe Awards, Farnborough (1841)

- 219 Rubborough Ground
- 223 Rubborough Ground
- 224 Rubborough Ground
- 225 Rubborough Meadow
(Feet of Fine, 1246: Houburgh)

the actual Rough Bury is on the hillside at about SP424483. Mrs. Digby Firth commented that the ploughed field over the parish boundary in Avon Dassett at SP419489 was rich in pottery. She showed a sherd of white Roman mortarium and a fragment of late medieval jug handle picked up in the field. On the slopes of Deddington Hill to the east of the church are hints of grassy earthworks not unlike those of Howcombe at Napton. This field may be the Assco of the Schools Survey. It is interesting to note the survival of the Celtic 'o' in minor place names in Warmington. In addition to Asscombe, we have Langcomb, Gracombe and Roddiscombe. At the top of the hill, Church Ground has been recently ploughed and a variety of pottery was picked up here, ranging from grey and black R.B. coarse ware through early and late medieval to C17 treacle ware. On the hillside north of the church are further possible earthworks in the field called Court Close. Here were built the Council Houses in the 1930's and it is here that Mr. Arthur Russell of Long Itchington uncovered the foundations of buildings when excavations were made for the sewers. These, together with car stones, tiles and a piscina led him to suggest that this was the side of the abbey priory of Preaux. This seems a very reasonable suggestion, as the site is adjacent to the church, the Dugdale said that "it stood about the midst of the Town, as Inhabitants, by tradition, do affirm". The Priory had a chequered history, being seized from the monks of Preaux in 1360, and the lands passed to the Prior of Empryngnam, but in 1415 was granted to the Prior of Wytham who held it until the dissolution in 1544. It is not clear whether the monastic buildings were demolished in 1360 or whether they lasted until the dissolution. However the field name "Court Close" is significant. The Warmington schoolmaster of the P.N. Survey of 1934 has his own gloss- "Manorial Court moot held here". The manorial functions of the monastery may have continued in the remains of the monastic buildings. Time was not available to look at other features in the village which must await further visit. The hamlet of Arlescote is very much shrunken from the 5 hides Domesday, and there should be a DMV in the field called Town Ground at SP39548. St. Ann's Well nearby should be the original village spring. On the road to Nadbury Camp is a field containing earthworks known variously as Benchlands earthwork or Roddiscombe Terrace road. The 1934 schoolmaster jokingly annotated his entry with the comment "Ancient British Campers road to the sports field - arrowheads and flints ploughed up in sports field - part of road to St. Ann's or Mountebanks (British Camp)". On the top of the hill at SP405475 is a field called Millfield which is presumably the site of a windmill. However the M.40 is not likely to affect any of these sites.

Southam District Local History Society

Buildings, 1973

Again the Recording Group has met regularly and is now bigger than ever, with thirty members. Its principal work has been in the Greytrees Hundred. This is reported below as it is hoped to publish a full account of the work at a later date. Once more we owe a great debt to the University of Birmingham and the W.E.A. for encouraging this work.

A University Extramural week-end course with the writer as tutor was based on Southam and spent a day in Leamington and Eye.

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.

Hereford

City Arms, Broad Street. SO 509399 (R.C.H.M.33)

The Duke of Norfolk's town house built in 1790 has been demolished except for the facade and is being rebuilt as a bank.

At the rear the three-storey building recorded in R.C.H.M. still has much of its original four-bay roof in situ. It appears to have been a first-floor hall or great chamber with moulded purlins and two arch-braced collar-beam trusses. This was divided into two floors during the 19th century. There was certainly a separate room in the southern bay and the northern bay may have been some sort of entry to the hall or chamber itself.

The ground-floor bays correspond with those above and the mouldings at both levels appear to be either of the late 15th or early 16th century. It would appear to be an important town house of that period.

Widemarsh Street SO 509401

This building presents three gables to the street. The two northern ones are of the 18th century and almost certainly replaced earlier houses on the site. On the first floor the rooms fronting on to the street have simple ceilings of that period. The southern part is an almost complete timber-framed town house of c.1600, with two storeys, cellars and attics. It is two rooms deep with a central stack and stairwell between them. In one room on the first floor are traces of a red, black and white mural which was hidden until recently by panelling dating probably from c. 1630.

Bromyard

Holditch Lane SO 653545

An interesting line of brick and stone cottages with a blacksmith's shop at one end, all at first site of the 19th century. However, there seems to be a 17th century core with two beams of that period, while in the actual shop there is a heavy, roll-moulded beam of the 16th century, probably re-used.

Dorstone

Tredomen SO 297397

Basically, a three-bay, two-room plan house of the later 18th century. It has a hall-kitchen and parlour on the ground floor and three rooms above. Even as late as this it still has opposing doorways in the hall. It is of local sandstone with well-made king-post trusses. At one end is a wash-house, probably part of the original design and at the other is an added cider-house.

A stone barn and a sheep-cott stood in the yard until recently.

Dulas

Dulas Court SO 371296

At first sight a big house of 1866 and 1920 but hidden beneath the additions and alterations is a house of c.1600 which was much altered about a century later. The stone walls of the earlier house and the beams of three rooms still remain as does the four-centred parlour and fireplace. The panelled dado of the stairway dates probably from the early 18th century.

Ewyas Harold

Walk Mill SO 379295

A three-part plan, timber-framed house with a cross-passage backing on to the stack. It is on the long-house model and appears to date from the early 17th century. There are an added lean-to, a back kitchen and a byre, the last in line with the house. The threshing barn of three bays has timber-framed walls with stone panels in the lowest part and heavy wattle above and a queen-post roof. There is a three-bay stone addition to it and a stone granary both with king-post roofs.

The Shop SO 387286

A very complicated building which needs a detailed examination. It seems to be a 17th century house, perhaps originally timber-framed, with early 19th century additions and a further added wing of 1846. Two date-stones WP 1677 and WJ 1846 probably give the first and last dates of building.

White House SO 387299

On Ewyas Harold Common a timber-framed, two-room plan house built as a plat house into the hill with an added stone bay with a corbelled stack. It is probably a late 17th-century house with an early 18th-century addition.

King Street SO 382286

A fine double-pile house of red sandstone from a quarry just up the road. front is of ashlar with a plat-band and flat-arched lintels, whereas the bay and sides are of rubble. It has two floors, attics and a cellar and probably dates from the early 18th century.

Elm Green SO 400290

Apparently a late 18th-century stone house. The front part, one-room deep one room on either side of a stairway and through passage leading to a lower still two-storeyed dairy and kitchen block. There is a long cellar under the front part and this and the ground floor have two bay-windows with fine glass. The granary, attached to the house, has an upper base-cruck type of roof.

Lower House SO 389282

A very similar house to Elm Green on the same basic plan with a granary and at right-angles to the house. The iron gate dates from 1828, but the house is to be earlier than this.

Malt House SO 387287

Part of this house is almost certainly of the later part of the 18th-century perhaps the same date as the barn, 1757. The front part received its mansard c.1900 and this could well mark the line and shape of an upper-base-cruck m kiln roof, especially as the remains of a big stack still exist against one House and barn are of stone.

Lower Prill SO 387286

A three-part plan, stone house probably of the late 18th century. The stack divides it into one-room and two-room ends and it seems as though the original entrance was into the part behind the stack rather in the long-house tradition.

Llanwarne

Lyston Court SO 495287

Much of this house dates from the mid-19th-century, but in recent alterations what is now an internal wall were found traces of a stone mullioned window probably of 16th or 17th-century date.

Peterchurch

Cottage SO 341376

Small stone cottage of two rooms only. They are divided by a timber-framed partition. The house probably dates from c.1800.

During the year the listed buildings sub-committee looked at 42 buildings, of which were for minor changes. However, nine of these concerned demolition and protests were made about the proposed demolition of 48 St. Owen's Street the rear of the Farmer's Club, both in Hereford, largely on the grounds that what was planned to replace them would be out of proportion with the surrounding buildings. Protests were also made about the proposed demolitions of 37 Etnam Street, Leominster, the Bell Turret at Aconbury and all the listed buildings in the Pagebar and Taylor-Woodrow development schemes in Hereford. It would seem that all these are now safe, at least for the time being. Protests were also made about the demolition of Leominster Town Hall, a plea being made for the retention of the facades, but this has been rejected by the Minister of the Environment. It was also suggested that if there was hope of saving them in situ the cruck barn at Black Hall, King's Pyon, and the Essex Arms in Widemarsh Street, Hereford should remain where they are. However, if they are going to be allowed to

down through neglect no objections would be raised to re-erecting the former at Leintwardine as proposed and the latter on a suitable site in the city. As far as is known only one listed building has been demolished during the year; that is Castle Cottage, Wigmore, as a result of a Department of the Environment enquiry.

I am very grateful to the many people who have drawn my attention to buildings during the year and to those who have sent me notes on them, especially Mrs.N. Elliott, Mrs. P.Williams and Messrs. C.H.I. Homes and G.Sprackling.

J.W. TONKIN

Birmingham Buildings 1974

For some time the Department of Archaeology and Local History of the City Museums, Birmingham, has been building up records of standing buildings within the city boundaries. The largest single source is that provided by the Birmingham and Five Counties Architectural Association Survey work during the Depression, when some 70 or so buildings in Birmingham were drawn and many of these in the central areas have now been swept away. To date files have been built up on 125 buildings, which are arranged by ancient parishes. It is planned to integrate relevant material in the Museum's rich topographical collections to build up a picture of vernacular architecture in the Birmingham region. During the past year the Department has been particularly concerned with recording the following buildings:

(1) Booths Farm, Booths Lane, Handsworth (SP062939) c.1700

A four bay 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ storey brick house of c.1700 with front porch and projecting staircase wing at the rear. Examination of the service crosswing, which was at a different room level, revealed remains of an earlier timber-framed house on the site which had simply been encased in blue brick during the late 19th century. This was the home of William Booth, the forger, in the late 18th and early 19th century, but the earlier documentary history has not yet been traced. The house had been wrecked by vandals and was finally demolished in August 1974.

(2) 473-475 Shirley Road, Hall Green (SP114818)

A four bay brick terrace of the late 18th century consisting of a pair of agricultural workers' cottages of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ storeys with dormer windows in the roof, dentilled eaves and segmental brick arches to the ground floor and single storey scullery extensions to the rear. The cottages were demolished in January 1975 to make way for building development on the site.

(3) Westbrook House, Aston Hall Road, Aston (SP084898)

Although a listed building within Aston Conservation Area the future of this building, now empty and wrecked, is obviously in considerable doubt. Beneath a stuccoed facade of c.1800 there remains a 3 bay late medieval timber-framed house. The roof is of the clasped purlin type with pairs of concave chamfered windbraces.

(4) Primrose Hill Farm, Sweetmeadow Road, Kings Norton (SP050778)

The farm consists of a very fine late 15th century timber-framed hall-house with arch braced roof and a 2 storeyed crosswing. During the 16th and 17th centuries this was the home of a branch of the Field family, for whom probate inventories describing the contents of the house, survive. Regrettably the single-storeyed farmyard range of c.1800, which consisted of cow-byres and a dairy together with a contemporary detached cart shelter have been demolished, now leaving only the house itself and a 4 bay timber-framed barn. Negotiations are in progress between the City Planning Department and the Developers to ensure that the most important elements of the remaining buildings are retained in their conversion to a country club.

(5) Bells Farm, Bells Lane, Kings Norton (SP064787)

The surviving buildings lie just to the north-east of a large sub-rectangular moated site, a home of the de Belne family in the late 13th century. The moated

platform was largely destroyed in the 1960's for the construction of the Druid Heath Estate. The house contains part of a late 16th or early 17th century timber framed building, which was radically enlarged and recased in brick in the late 17th century. Documentary evidence suggests that this was the work of Edward Field, a gentleman farmer, who possessed extensive estates in this and neighbouring parishes. Probate inventories survive for 1580 and 1742, the latter describing the contents of every room in considerable detail. The area around the farm is being developed for housing but the City Architect's Department is looking at possible future use of the house.

(6) Moat Farm, Woodgate (SO 992 821)

A 3 bay brick house of three storeys with dentilled eaves, and segmental arched windows, probably of the very early 19th century, but in part incorporating the sandstone footings of a much earlier house, built on what appears to be the site of this former moated site. To the east a three bay brick barn of the early 19th century. The house is now derelict and its future is in some doubt.

STEPHEN PRICE
for Birmingham City Museum

Worcestershire County Archaeological Inventory

One further Antiquity Checklist has appeared this year, No.7, which lists barrows and ring-ditches. In addition supplements have appeared to Checklist No.4 (Timber framed Buildings), No.5. (Moated sites) and No.6 (Pounds). For details see Worcester Archaeology Newsletter No.14 (June 1974) pp 5-8.

Hanley Castle, Worcs. (SO/838414)

The royal castle of Hanley was begun c.1210, and occupied intermittently for three centuries, during which it underwent several major changes. Leland described it as 'clene defacid', but at least one medieval tower stood till 1795, when demolished to provide stone for repair to the bridge at Upton-on-Severn. Today no trace of masonry is visible, and the site survives only as a large D-shaped moat enclosure. An 18th century house built on the very edge of the moat island in the north-west corner had been partly destroyed by fire in January 1904, and as the condition of its ruins had become increasingly dangerous, permission for demolition was recently granted by D.o.E. Examination of the remains showed that the original core was probably of late 18th century date, built of brick with footings of (? re-used) stone, and had cellars consisting of three parallel brick-arched vaults. A gabled wing had been added onto the north-west corner at a slight angle in the 18th century, built of brick covered with plaster; this survived to its full height and had quatrefoil-ornamented bargeboards at the gable. A lean-to porch had been tacked onto the side of this wing at a still later date, covering a round arched doorway giving admittance to the original block. These late buildings were mostly on the floor of the moat itself, with the cellars cut back into the bank of the moat island. Demolition of the upstanding walls therefore threatened nothing to the medieval levels and presented little opportunity for recording any new information.

JAMES BOND
Worcestershire County Museum

Pensham, Pershore

Field walking was carried out in the area between the village and the Avon; the only significant artefacts found were in the north-east of the area, adjacent to the former course of the River Avon, where some sherds of ? Romano-British pottery were found.

On the W. boundary of the area, formed by the River Avon, large pieces of dressed stone in the river warrant further investigation.

Extensive ridge and furrow was also recorded.

The site of the former 'Pensham House or Manor' (shown on the XVIII Enclosure

with a moat, ice house and dovecote were recorded, and also a possible mill. These buildings were demolished 80-100 years ago.

E.A.PRICE
District Correspondent,
for the Hereford and Worcester County Arch.Dept.

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PREHISTORICStretton on Fosse, Warks. SP 215384

A summer extension of the sand quarrying operations NW of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery, and adjacent to old workings where there was no archaeological supervision, revealed a number of Mesolithic and Neolithic features. First indications of these were a flint knife, a scraper and various blades from the fill of two R.B. ditches. A shelter in the same area was excavated which was initially thought to be Neolithic. Examination of the flint material by Dr Lawrence Barfield points however to a Mesolithic date for the material. The shelter had a central hearth containing a burnt grinding stone, and other grinding stones or rubbers and possibly a broken quern were found within the shelter. There were two large ramped post holes in the vicinity which had packing stones in situ.

Preliminary measurements of the flint material have been made, and the results are shown in the accompanying figure in graph form. The graph of F112 shows a marked clustering of flints with a length of 10 to 30 mm, breadth 10 to 20 mm. with a breadth:length ratio between 2.5 and 4.5. A similar pattern emerges for F114, except that the length shows a peak at 20-30 mm. A total of c.500 flints have been recovered.

PETER J. GARDNER AND REJ. HALDON
for WEMRAC

Brailes Hill, Warks. SP 39002955

Mesolithic and ?Neolithic flint material has been recovered from around Highwa Spinney, Brailes Hill after reports of flint finds from the farmer, Mr Chandler. Cores and blades were among the material recovered and the area will be searched further.

P.J. GARDNER, R. HALDON, H. BARNIE

Beckford, Worcester and Hereford SP 984364

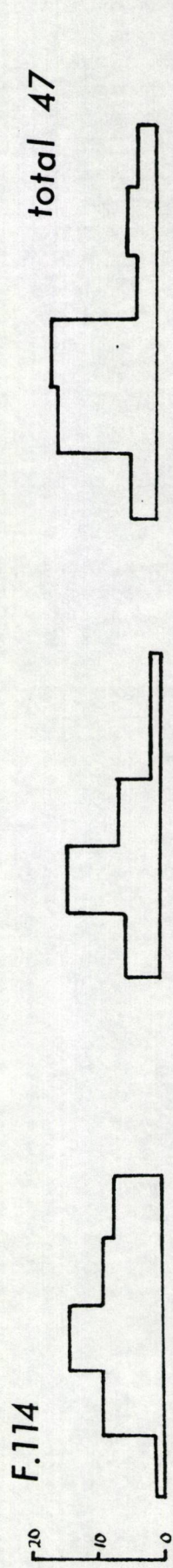
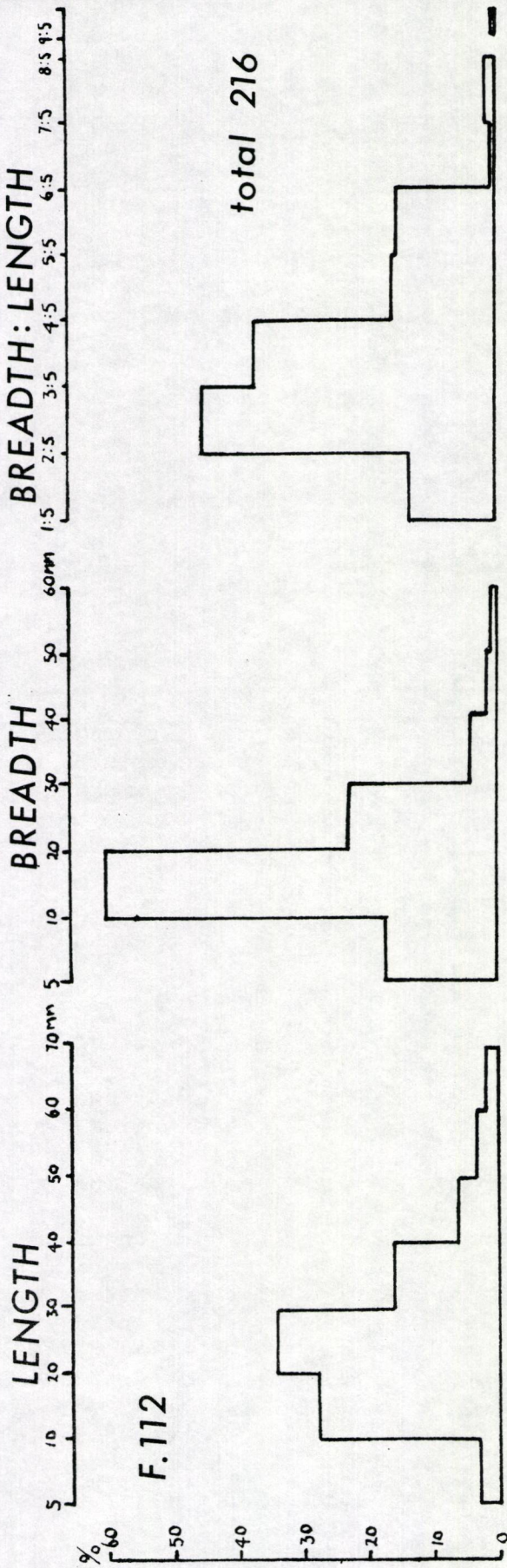
Excavations continued on the adjacent area (c. 250m by 21m) within the gravel quarry by a combination of salvage recording and hand excavation. At the north end a further area within the Iron Age enclosure sites revealed several additional roundhouses, probably of stake-wall construction with larger posts at the door porch. One building, of 7.5 - 8m in diameter had probably been rebuilt several times and was associated with finds of an industrial character, including slag small crucible fragments, whetstones, pounding stones, flint-work and waste. other roundhouses from the site it held several small clay-lined pits, possibly for water storage, and a hoard of 150 sling-stones was found near the door. A complex series of drainage ditches emanating from the area of the door were joined to the external enclosure ditches and other ditches subdividing areas within enclosure. This building was superseded by a sunken cobbled yard of Iron Age c. 11m by 9m, possibly divided into two elements separated by a fence and gate structure. The whole yard was partly enclosed by a curving ditch with an entrance causeway. Finds from the surface of the yard include several crucible fragments and small quantities of bronze casting waste. Unlike previous seasons few pits were found, but two four-post granaries, both c. 3.0m by 2.50m and constructed of timbers of c. 0.30m diameter, were placed in positions isolated from other buildings. Within the salvage area some further unstratified neolithic material has been found, and further parts of the multiple Iron Age settlement, and the ditches and trackways of the succeeding Roman settlement have been planned.

W.J. BRITNELL
Rescue Archaeology Group,
on behalf of West Midlands Rescue Archaeology Committee

STRETTON-ON-FOSSE 1974

flint industry

GRAPHS OF DIMENSIONS & BREADTH:LENGTH RATIOS OF WASTE FLAKES.



total 216

total 47

Holt, Worcs. SO 824623

Rescue excavations continued at Holt, near Worcester, in July, in advance of destruction by gravel working. Aerial photography revealed a rectangular enclosure and associated features. Excavation showed that the enclosure was defined by a shallow ditch c. 1.5m wide and c. 0.5m deep. On the south side had cut through a ring ditch of an earlier period. Within the enclosure and aligned with it were the remains of a large, approximately square timber structure. The walls of the structure ranged from 7 to 7.5m. long externally, and had been set in trenches c. 1.5m. wide and c. 0.2m deep. Stone-packed post holes were found in the wall trenches, and two large closely-spaced internal post sockets were probably central roof supports.

Domestic debris - potsherds, bone, charcoal - found in the wall trenches and scattered outside them, suggest that this structure may have been a dwelling. Remains of a further structure of post hole construction were located between the dwelling and the south ditch. This could be interpreted as a barn or similar farm building.

Finds included Iron Age pottery similar to some of that found at Blackstone in 1972 and 1973, and metalwork.

I would like to thank Mr L. George of Ball Mill Sand & Gravel Co. for his kind co-operation throughout the excavation.

JAYNE WOODHOUSE

For the Department of the Environment
and Hereford and Worcester County
Archaeology Department

Aston Mill Farm, Kemerton, Worcs. SO 946353

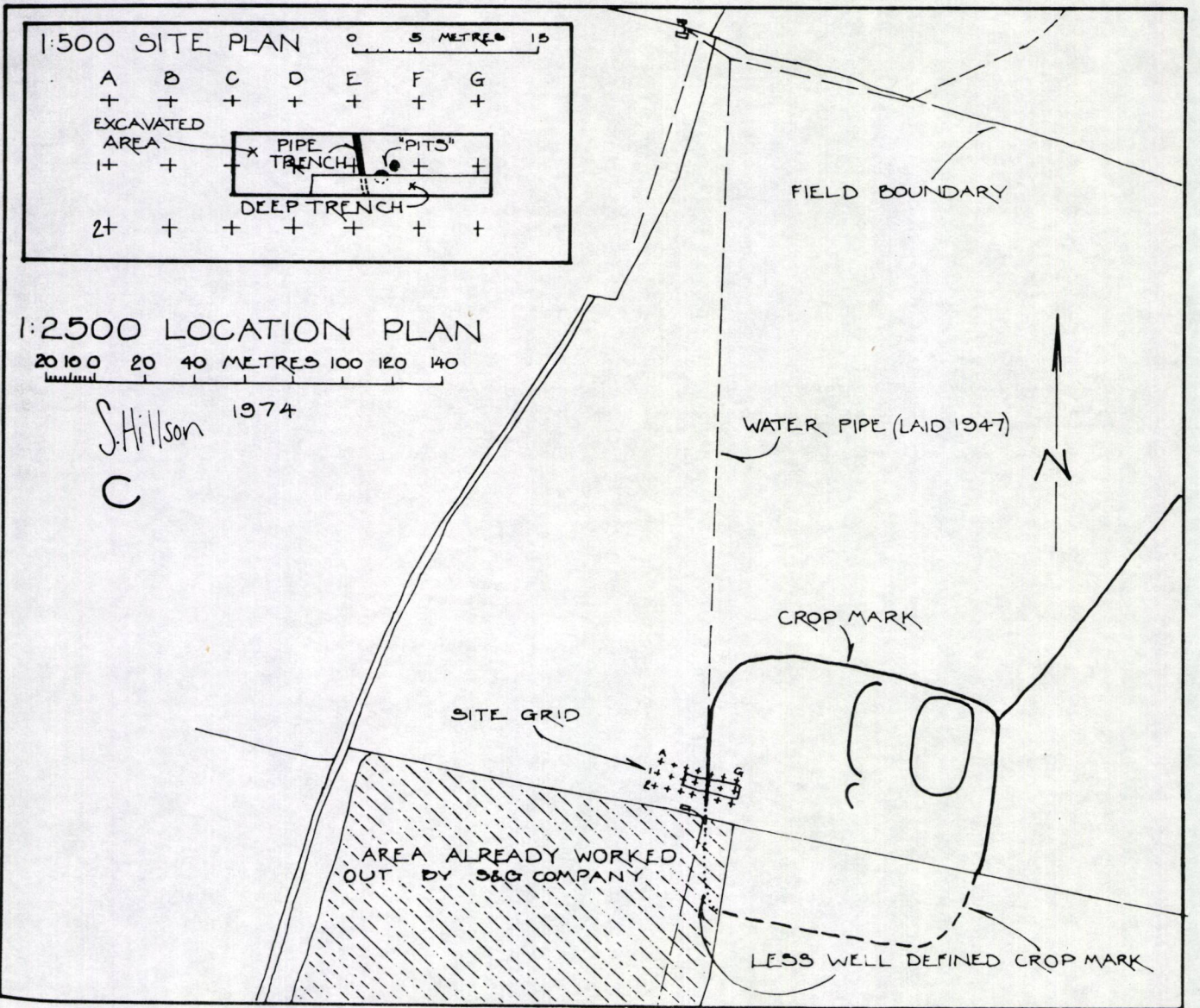
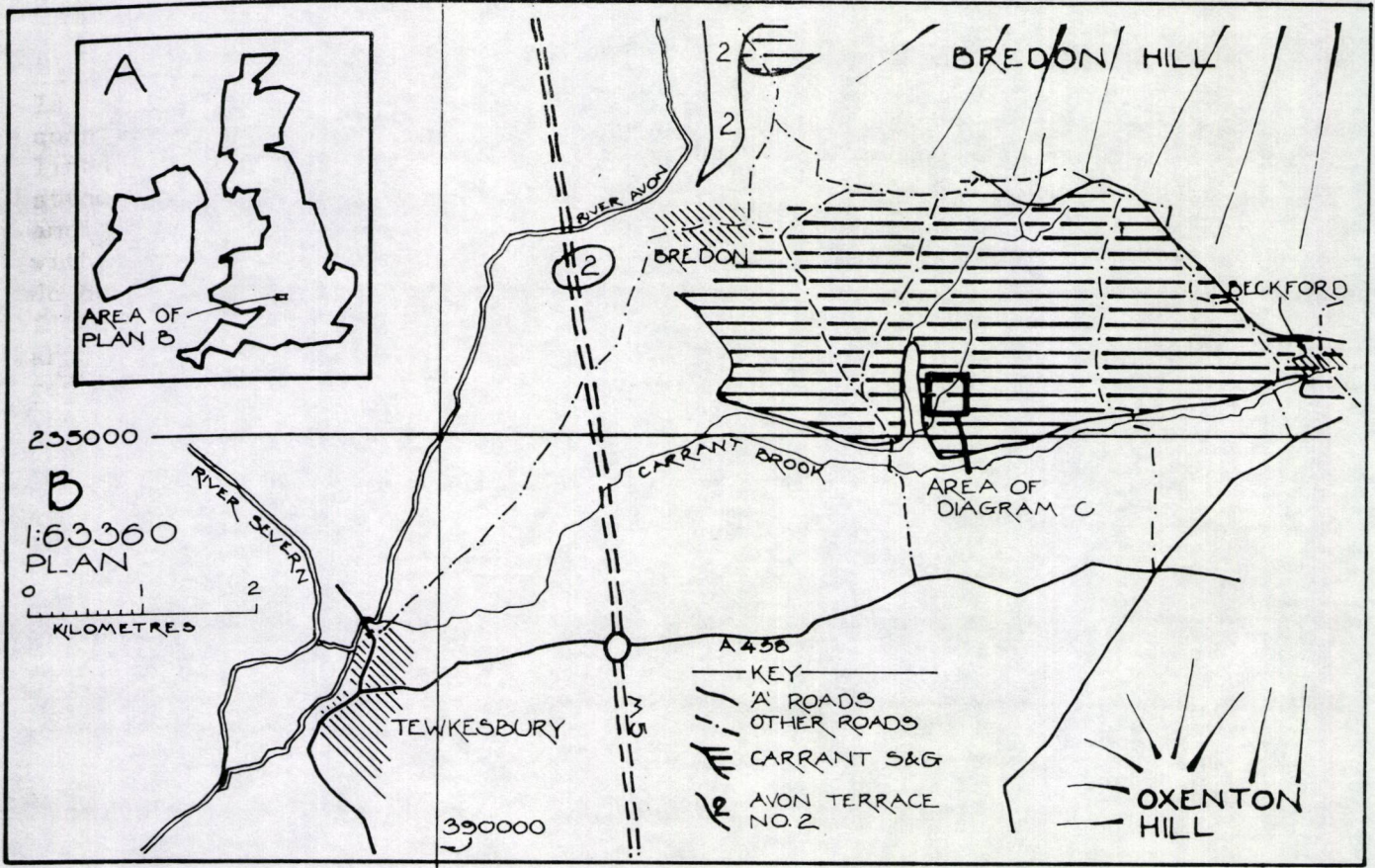
Excavations were carried out this summer on the crop mark site at Aston Mill, Tewkesbury (N.G.R. 947357). The site is in the path of the operations of the Gloucestershire Sand and Gravel Company, and the archaeological excavation was carried out, not only to investigate the part due to be destroyed this autumn but also to assess the necessity of mounting a larger scale operation on the site of the site next year.

The crop mark is shown on aerial photographs taken by Mr W.A. Baker in 1959 and is part of a complex designated Avon Site 4 by Webster and Hobley (Arch. J. 1965), and is rectilinear in form, straddling the junction of 3 field boundaries. Along the inside of the North edge of this rectangle are several circular crop marks.

Although moderately well marked throughout most of its length, the crop marks are never very wide, and in some places appear to fade out altogether. One of the faintest parts, the South-East corner, has already been destroyed, but before this happened it was investigated by Mr P.J. Reynolds (Vale of Evesham Historical Society Research Papers 2 (1971) pp. 1-4). This excavation produced no evidence for the cause of the crop mark, presumably because the final remnant had been ploughed away since 1959.

No more archaeological work was done on the site until this year, when the gravel digging reached the boundary of the most northerly field of the three. It is in this field that the crop mark is most evident, so that it was decided to mount a test excavation in advance of the gravel company's further extension. The site is situated on the broad sand and gravel spread which lies mainly on the North side of the Carrant Brook, along the valley between the hills of Bredon and Oxenton. The Carrant Brook is confluent with the River Avon, and its flat alluvial deposits probably correlates with the No. 2 terrace of the Avon Valley system (M.E. Tomlinson (1941) "Pleistocene Gravels of the Cotswold Sub-edge plain from Middleton to the Frome Valley", Q.J.G.S., Vol. XCVI, pt. 4, pp. 385-421), so that it is likely that the Carrant sands and gravels were laid down by fluvioglacial action during the latter part of the last, Devensian glaciation.

An extensive section covering the whole depth of the Carrant deposits is available in the working face of the pit at Aston Mill. It consists mostly of horizontal layers of coarse sands and gravels, but towards the top there is evidence of



glacial activity: festooning due to cryoturbation is well developed, and the occasional ice wedge pseudomorph is present. The formation of these structures can probably be dated to the very end of the Devensian. During the Post-glacial (Flandrian) period a soil sequence has developed in the top of this section. Highest is the modern plough soil, which lies on top of the truncated horizons of an older soil, an abrupt colour and texture change marking the dividing line between. The earlier soil lacks its organic A horizon, but an upper, lighter coloured and sandy Illuvial horizon overlies a lower, redder coloured, clayier Illuvial horizon, which tends to follow the edges of the pe glacial festoons.

This type of soil is known as a sol lessivée, and many people believe it to be the result of man's activity in clearing away vegetation and intensively cultivating an area of land (without the use of added fertilizers). This suggests a period of extensive agricultural activity prior to the building of structures on the site. No evidence of anything that might have caused the crop mark was seen in the section.

The method of excavation was to open an area of 22 x 5 metres over the estimated position of the West side of the crop mark (hopefully enough to cover any inaccuracy in transferring the position from the air photograph to the ground). This area was then cut down in a series of 5 flat spits, each about 8 cm. thick, spits 2 corresponding roughly to the modern plough soil, 3 to 5 extending down to the tops of the festoons. It has already been noted elsewhere that archaeological features can be confused with those of a periglacial origin (Antiquity, Vol. No. 185, pp. 19-31) and this caused problems at Aston Mill. To solve this, a section was cut down one side to the deposits which were unaffected by cryoturbation.

By this method 3 bonafide features were distinguished, one of them being a moor pipe trench, complete with pipe, and the other two being shallow depressions, possibly representing the basis of pits. No features were identified which could have caused the crop mark (the pipe trench was not dug in a rectangle).

Finds were not plentiful, small worked pieces of flint being scattered over most of the surface of the field, and the majority of the pottery coming from the top of spit 2 and top of spit 3, again with no concentration in any one place. The fabrics of the pottery fall into two groups, one being the Romano-British Sever Valley Ware type, and the other suggesting an Iron Age date. The sherds are, however, too few and too small for much to be done with them. Bone fragments were rare, and were spread throughout the deposits - most were unidentifiable. From this evidence it is very probable that a late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement of some kind was originally located on this site, but continuous ploughing over 1000 years may have reduced the rectilinear feature surrounding it to a state where it is no longer identifiable archaeologically. In 1959 it was visible as a crop mark; further ploughing since then could have destroyed the vestiges of whatever caused this, at least in the part of the site which was excavated. Another aerial photograph, and perhaps geophysical work would therefore be advisable before any further excavation is carried out.

I would like to thank the following for their help: Mr T. Holland-Martin, the owner of the site; the Gloucestershire Sand & Gravel Company Limited (especially Mr Sid Walkley the quarry manager); Dr Susan Limbrey; Mr Alan Hunt; and of course the digging team.

SIMON HILLSON

For the Department of the Environment
and Hereford and Worcester County
Archaeology Department

ROMAN

Blunt's Green SP 13776875

In the last issue of the C.B.A. Group 8 Bulletin it was reported that a large quantity of broken and weathered sandstone had been found in a rectangular wood-lined pit, and that some of this sandstone appeared to have been carved. An attempt has been made to reconstruct the original structure using the less ambiguous fragments. This has been tentatively reconstructed as an elaborate tomb, with a double-cavetto arched canopy supported by fluted columns.

No doubt other reconstructions are possible; on the other hand it is difficult to fit the two curved mouldings into anything other than a classical arch. Such an arch would preclude a wayside altar or native shrine. A classical temple would require far more masonry than has yet been recovered.

The oblique angle at which some of the pieces have been cut suggests destruction for purposes other than reuse. One piece shows numerous chisel marks which may indicate the removal of an offending feature or inscription. It seems unlikely that the monument was brought any great distance either before or after destruction and its significance lies partly in this assumption. It was found many miles from the nearest Roman town or fort; although the quality and scale of the mouldings are comparable with any from the larger centres of Romanization.

Although the bulk of sandstone recovered appears at first sight to be broken and weathered beyond recognition, there is still scope for further reconstruction. The main problem is in finding space for a semi-permanent layout of what must amount to over half a ton of broken sandstone.

B. HUTTY

Droitwich Bays Meadow

The Department of Ancient History and Archaeology of Birmingham University continued excavations on the Roman settlement in Bays Meadow, Droitwich, as a training excavation for three weeks in June 1974.

Work was carried out on two areas already opened, namely in the central part of the site and the area within the eastern rampart.

In the central area several linear ditches varying in size, shape of cross section and infill were investigated. These ditches are all roughly aligned along the axes of the site and most of them appear to have been used for drainage. The largest of the ditches is 1.60 m. wide and 0.80 m. deep and also appears to be the earliest. It runs parallel to the facade of the large corridor villa excavated in 1967 and extends across the whole site. The upper fill of the ditch contained two layers of clean sandstone fragments which were presumably residue from the dressing of stones for the construction of the villa. The clean Keuper marl which comprised the remaining infill of the ditch may likewise have come from the foundation trenches of the same building. An unworn coin of Allectus from the lower of the two sandstone rubble layers in the ditch gives us a terminus post quem for the villa construction, if our assumptions as to the source of the fill are correct.

In the same central area an alignment of three large post holes indicate the presence of a timber building adjacent to the villa.

Behind the eastern rampart a complex succession of phases can now be recognised. The earliest feature is again a linear ditch, perhaps contemporary with the one found in the central area, which predates the construction of the rampart. Later the rampart was constructed of earth covering the infilled earlier ditch and a line of large rectangular pits, probably originally intended to take post holes, were cut into the back of this rampart bank. Behind the rampart lay the massive but rough sandstone foundation of the outer wall of the annexe built behind the aisled building, first found in 1971. This annexe contained a mass of burnt grain and timber when it was excavated in 1973 and we can conclude that it was used as a granary. The same burnt debris was also found between this granary wall and the rampart; both filling the rectangular pits behind the rampart and a ditch dug along the outside of the granary wall. (cf. plan in West Midlands News sheet no.14).

It is possible that this destruction phase is linked with the destruction of the main corridor villa to the north of the site, for immediately on top of the ditch along the granary wall a pavement had been laid constructed of re-used blocks taken from the destroyed villa. Hypocaust tiles and plaster also from the villa were also incorporated in this paving. Although the villa appears to have been dismantled at this time, the aisled building and its annexe/granary were rebuilt and continued in use until well into the fourth century. At the same time an extensive cobbled pavement was laid in the area to the north of the aisled building.

Coins associated with the destruction phase of the granary comprised late 3rd century radiate issues whereas those associated with the reused sandstone and cobbles paving are for the most part of the house of Constantine. This sequence thus gives us an early fourth century date for the destruction of the corridor villa.

One of the most important results of the 1974 excavations has therefore been to tentatively establish the date of both the construction and the destruction of the main corridor villa, and we can now suggest that the life of this building was probably no more than the first two or three decades of the fourth century. The aisled building and granary which appear to have been destroyed at the same time as the winged corridor building, were subsequently rebuilt. These conclusions differ somewhat from the interpretation put forward in previous interim accounts in WMANS 14, 15, 16.

L.H. BARFIELD

Radford Semele Roman Villa SP34486285

Interim Report on 1974 Excavation

The villa at Pounce Hill Farm has been known since the early 1920's, when steam ploughing revealed building stone and tesserae. Many more Roman finds were revealed in subsequent ploughing, and were collected by the farmer, Mr Gibbs, and his family.

It was accordingly thought necessary to survey the field and make trial excavations to assess the character and extent of the site and that of plough damage. A detailed examination indicated areas of Roman occupation, which Dr Webster thought might be the remains of a courtyard villa. The work was carried out under the auspices of WEMRA in conjunction with Warwick Museum, with a grant from the Department of the Environment, and with the co-operation of the Gibbs family, who provided mechanical help and a headquarters building for the excavation team.

Resistivity and conventional surveying by Nick Molyneux defined areas of interest. Readings and breaks of slope which helped to define the extent of buildings. Results of these are still being processed. Excavation by hand and machine was limited to an area of 10 x 10 m. in an area of dense indications and trenches. A wide, extending from this area, a total of c.250 sq. m. With a few exceptions the excavated areas were only dug to the level of the base of the ploughsoil surface of the next layer being cleaned and planned.

It was found that the stony Roman levels representing destroyed Roman structures and metalled areas had been damaged firstly by medieval ridge and furrow ploughing and subsequently by the steam ploughing. Modern ploughing is disturbing the site to a relatively slight extent.

The Roman structures were seen to be complex, with several phases of timber and stone, extending over a period which may extend from the 2nd to the early 4th centuries A.D. There were 'courtyard' levels of pitched angular limestone; more than one phase; stone footings; robbed wall-trenches; post-in-trench walls; concentrations of sandstone and dark soil, possibly for ovens; ditches and hearths. The complex lies on Keuper Marl.

Building materials include limestone, sandstone, tufa, mortar, tesserae, blue painted wall plaster, flue tiles, imbrices, tegulae and floor tiles. Other finds include samian, coarse pot of the 2nd to early 4th century (including some glassware), iron objects (mainly nails), a coin of Allectus (A.D. 293-96), bone and mollusca.

In the field adjacent to the west (at SP 33956620) the agger and ditches of an east-west Roman road were pointed out by Mr Bellhouse; flat limestone fragments were observed on the crown of the agger. A mechanical section showed that the agger was composed of grit and clay and the ditch fill was of dark brown soil. Hand digging of another section 20 m. west of the first, defined the metalled surface 4 m. wide three layers of limestone blocks set on the agger. The road could not be traced near the villa site, but it probably skirted its north side, to join the Fosse Way at c. 90°. It may have been an access or drove road, but the finding of two large worked sandstone blocks by its side may indicate the cartage of building material to the villa site.

It has thus been demonstrated that a complex of Roman buildings of 2nd-4th century date exists over an area of at least 0.5 hectare, though its precise limits are not yet definable. The buildings are of stone-footed and timber construction, though there is no evidence yet of any extensive use of stone or brick in the superstructure. Roofing was at least partly of ceramic tile. There were hypocausts, tessellated floors, and the walls of one building at least were rendered in coloured plaster.

The status of the complex must remain uncertain, as must its plan; it does not seem to be a 'normal' late Roman villa site.

The site is not seriously threatened by current ploughing. Though there will be some disturbance and spreading of the upper storey levels, the main damage was done long ago. The site should nevertheless be legally protected, as much evidence still remains below the level of ploughing.

Finally we would like to thank Dr L.H. Barfield, Ms H. Barnie, Mr R.L. Bellhouse, Mr & Mrs N. Ellis, the Gibbs family, Dr S. Limbrey, Miss J.M. Morris, Mr P.A. Rahtz, Rev. F. Radcliffe, Rev. D.A. Round, Prof. R.A. Tomlinson, Prof. F.W. Shotton, Dr G. Webster, The Vicar of Radford Semele and to those who all worked with us and all those without whose help in many different ways this excavation could not have been conducted.

D. HAIGH, N. MOLYNEUX, M.D.J. SAVAGE
Department of Archaeology and Ancient History
University of Birmingham
for WEMRAC, Warwick Museum and
Department of the Environment

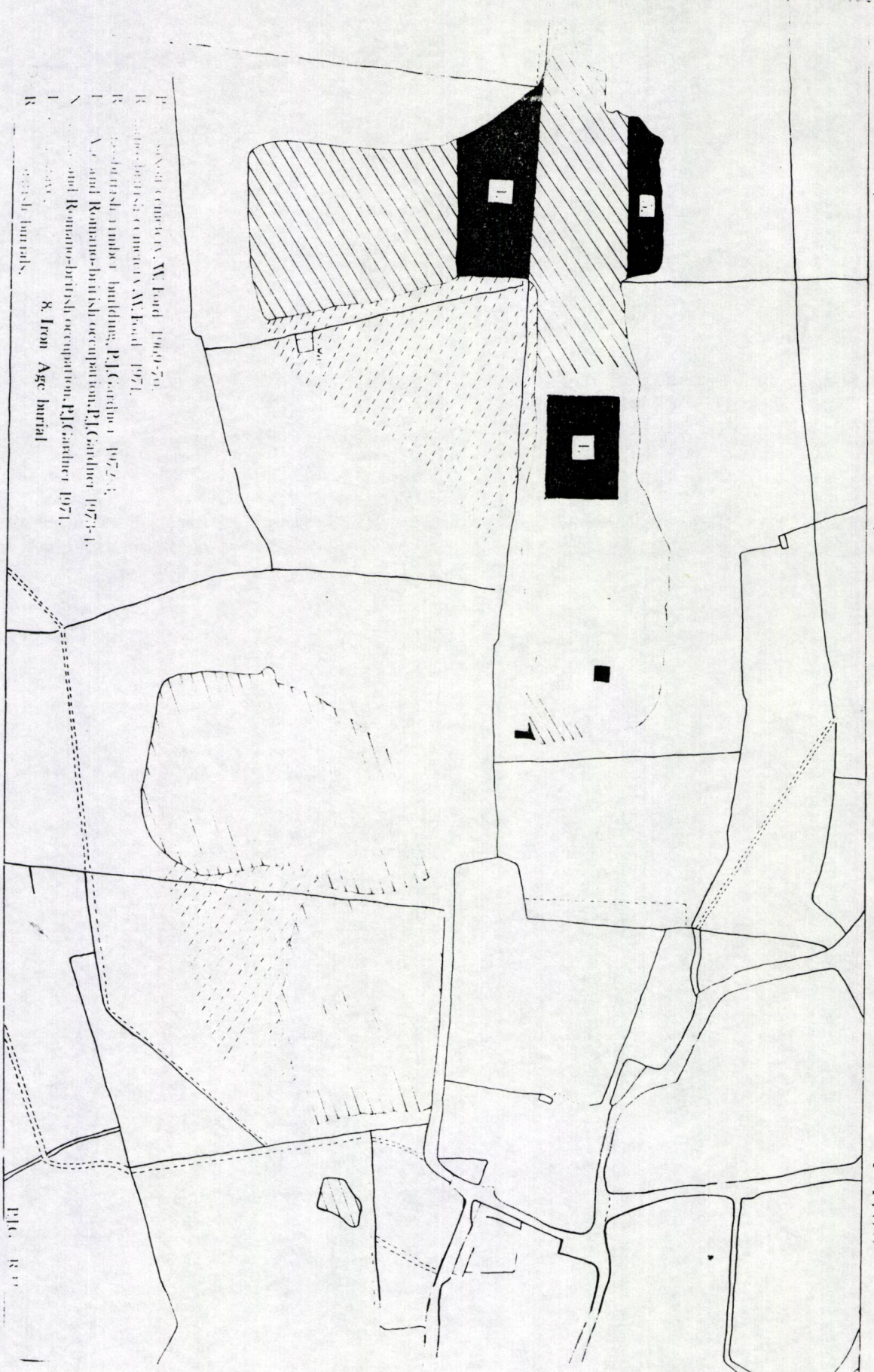
Stretton-on-Fosse, Warks. SP 215383

During continued sand quarrying W. of the village, an extensive area of R.B. occupation has been uncovered, also I.A. occupation. The area lies SW of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated in 1969/70.

The site consists of several enclosures protected by ditches and palisade trenches. Buildings of various constructions occur within the enclosures, including wattle and daub on shallow, random stone foundations. Pottery of CII and CIII A.D. has been recovered including Oxford mortaria, also part of an imported beaker of CI, with orange brown glaze on both sides, rouletted decoration and repaired with lead straps and rivets.

The presence of used stone and roof tiling in the various ditches would suggest a fairly substantial building in the vicinity. Excavation is continuing.

PETER J. GARDNER
for WEMRAC



- P. Roman concrete, M. Ford 1969-70.
- R. Romano-British concrete, M. Ford 1971.
- R. Romano-British timber building, P.J. Gardner 1972-3.
- A. Anglo-Romano-British occupation, P.J. Gardner 1973-4.
- N. Romano-British occupation, P.J. Gardner 1971.
- I. Iron Age occupation, P.J. Gardner 1971.
- R. Romano-British burials, P.J. Gardner 1971.

FIG. 100

Interim Report

This season's excavations showed conclusively that rubble from parts of the demolished basilica had been carefully laid to form a raft on which the principal symmetrically-planned timber-framed building X of the last occupation had been constructed. The rubble was in places laid in pitched rows and packed with painted wall plaster. Since the paintings seem all to be of one decorative scheme, of large circles containing stylized flowers with green lanceolate leaves surrounding the circles, all above a red dado, it is probable that the wall from which the rubble was derived was standing, still carrying its painted plaster, until just before the last period buildings were begun.

The strip of rubble lying at the foot of the Old Work on the northern side revealed slight traces of a penultimate rectangular structure leaning-to against the wall.

Elsewhere, within the baths precinct on the east, a further rectangular post-hole building was discovered, underlying the barn-like building VI of the last period. Outside the precinct wall, on the site of the earlier portico which ran between the wall and the street, a series of pebble floors, surrounded by stakeholes, and crude hearths of many periods seem to typify the conventional view of the decline of Roman towns in the 4th and 5th centuries. But they can be shown to be earlier than the great re-building, previously reported, in which the whole of this part of the city centre was replanned with large, classically-inspired timber buildings.

Comparatively little pottery came from the areas around these late hearths; there was very much more bone than pottery, and it is probable therefore that there was a long aceramic period at Wroxeter before the end, or that supplies of pottery fell off drastically, leaving only a few types available. The very great quantities of residual pottery make these difficult to isolate but the picture will become clearer as lower, sealed, levels are reached.

The external surface of the precinct wall still carried small areas of plaster painted with broad red stripes. The painted plaster was probably sheltered originally by a colonnade.

The dissection of the 'gravel' street was begun and showed that it was laid in layers tipped from each side, the northern half being gravel interleaved with darker earth, the southern being derived from the rubble of the basilica. The foundations of Building VII were also dissected and have begun to reveal traces of a structure beneath.

This season's work has underlined again the intensity of the occupation of the city centre after the destruction of its major stone buildings.

P.A. BARKER

Wroxeter 1974, Market Hall Site

This is the first year our excavation was organised with paid volunteer labour, camping on the site with the kind co-operation of Phil Barker. Difficulties were anticipated in the integration of this work with that of the training courses, but everything has gone very smoothly and a gratifying amount of hard work has gone into the stripping of the site. The work has been concentrated on the macellum and already the results are impressive. The old excavation boxes in the East corridor have been emptied and the whole area is now reduced to the military destruction level, except where it has been removed by the construction trench of the main cast wall of the macellum. The military level has also been reached in Room 3 and found to be a well consolidated pebble floor or yard, if this is indeed a military surface, it is the first to have been encountered. Above this was a mass of broken roof tiles under what appears to be a cambered street. This evidence of building activity following the levelling of this fortress is probably connected with the abortive attempt to create a new town on the site. If so, this evidence is now appearing as we reach this level below the macellum. In Room 12, which has been dug to a deep level by Wright, there is a N.S. wall 44 mm. wide with building

debris and joining it is a timber partition wall. This indicates the building construction was well advanced in this area.

In the northern half of Room 4 (the latrine in the S.E. corner) the herringbone floor was removed with the filling below it. This consisted of a three feet of domestic rubbish, from which was recovered a large collection of pottery, including decorated samian. The terminal date appears to be c.130 which suggests that the macellum was under construction at the same time as the forum on the other side of the road. The extra filling below the floor was needed since the ground sloped away at the corner of the insula frontage and its colonnade was planned as a unit. Thus the whole of this complex can be dated from c.130 and the bath house appears to have gone into use somewhat later.

The most interesting and important discoveries have been in the main street colonnade. Now that the earth has been removed, the rubble and mortar spread seen to consist of different areas and much of it riddled with stake and post holes of timber structures. At the time at which this activity was taking place the colonnade was no longer in existence, the columns and the stylobate on which they stood had been removed. At one point a layer of stone rubble overlies the stylobate foundation and at another, there is a wooden fence along the inner edge. Along the road edge of the stylobate is a robbed trench filled with loose stone and this is presumably where the stone guttering would have been. From this trench along the road edge, 62 coins were found, 33 of which belong to the House of Valentinian, the rest consisting of three radiates and earlier fourth c. issues. This scatter of coins may well indicate the presence of shops or booths on the colonnade at the end of the 4th c. and account for the timber structures.

GRAHAM WEBSTER

Horseshoes Lane, Wroxeter. 57000920

Horseshoes Lane, on the line of the Watling St., and only in modern times revealed by the present A5, was investigated along the last mile of its length this year. Further field evidence was recorded for a gate where the causewayed road entered the city boundary. A series of sections were cut further east along the lane exposing the cobbled edge and foundation material of the Roman road. Two cremation urn burials were found under the southern hedge line west of the mounds. Stratified pottery was obtained from two cuttings: a late C1, early stamped rim of the potter 'Bruccius' from Brockley Hill Middx. and an early rim from the Mancetter/Hartshill kilns. Thus the final stretch of the Watling has been shown to pursue a straight course as far as the ramparts of Viroconium and then turn south to join the street system of the City.

A.W.J. HOUGHTON

Shropshire Roman Research Group

Springfield Farm Fields, Upper Brailes, Warks. 31454002

Large amounts of R.B. pottery, bone, metal and glass were recovered by Mr B. in 1968/9 from the field north of Sutton Brook between Vicarage Barn and Lower Brailes, and published by the Shipston on Stour Local History Society. Excavation was carried out in 1974 in Leonardine field, south of Vicarage Barn which had been ploughed in 1967 producing a heavy surface scatter of R.B. sherds. A small area was opened up and a rough stone surface was exposed. The main concentration of material from this surface appears to be C2 AD.

G.T. LEWIS

Shipston on Stour High School

Wall (Letocetum), Staffs. SK/098066

During 1974 almost half of the so-called "Villa" superficially excavated in 1968 was completely excavated. The earlier excavations and stone-robbing in the area

13 c. had removed much of the occupation levels associated with the building, but the colonnade along the Watling Street facade retained the destruction level of broken tiles and burnt roof timbers. Below this, stamped mortaria suggest a destruction date of about A.D. 160. Sherds of B.B.1 pottery in the foundation trenches point to a date of not earlier than A.D. 110-120 for the construction, and the virtual absence of any sherds later than Antonine even in unstratified levels, where a few mediaeval sherds were found, suggests that the area was not reoccupied after the building's destruction. Much unstratified painted plaster showed its walls to have been decorated. In the destruction level of the colonnade were iron door fittings and a bill-hook, spearhead, axe and adze. An interesting find here was two iron wheel-hubs, each with its inner and outer rings in position. An infant burial was found in the internal corridor. The stone building was preceded by a timber building on the same alignment, whose beam-slots were largely destroyed by the wide foundation trenches of the later building, and in whose destruction layer was a coin of Domitian. Its wattle-and-daub and lath walls were covered with cream plaster, much of which was found in the construction trenches of the later building. In the colonnade area, at least one bevelled wall-opening was outlined in red, and patches of plaster were found lying face downwards, the back bearing the impression of rectangular keying apparently made with a wooden stamp on the surface to which the plaster had been applied. Fragments of window-glass associated with both buildings are of the matt-glossy type characteristic of the 1st-2nd c., and many slate fragments indicate that part of the stone building was roofed with this material.

Both buildings were largely constructed over a layer of sand dumped to level the surface of the hill-side, and to secure stability the foundations of the stone building were taken through this to the natural sandstone beneath, requiring fifteen courses below floor level in some areas. The inner corridor walls surrounding the central courtyard were also taken down to sandstone, suggesting that they did not merely support pillars of an internal colonnade, but may well have supported a second storey.

Pottery and military bronzes, and occasional post-holes found on the original ground surface suggest the area was within one of the first century forts.

A.A. ROUND
for DOE

MEDIEVAL

Birmingham Moat SP 074.864

In October 1973, Birmingham City Museum appointed a temporary field officer to carry out a watching brief on the site of the former moated manor house of the de Birmingham family which now underlies Smithfield Market, due itself to be demolished as part of a 24 acre redevelopment programme of the Markets. The manor house was in the heart of the medieval town, in a tight complex which also included the parish church of St. Martin's and the town market.

The appointment was with respect to one area within a vast redevelopment and was not that of a fully-fledged field officer, either for the City or, looking forward, for the Metropolitan County. The envisaged duties were 3-fold, recording on site, doing documentary research and writing up both for publication.

On site, what is recorded are the excavations cut mechanically, to carry foundations. These are frequently 3 metre cubes. Three areas have been recorded in detail, while the depths at which natural occur have been observed more widely in order to build up a profile of the original ground surface. The 1st area was outside the suspected area of the moat and clearly had not been occupied before the C18, an observation which confirms C18 maps of the neighbourhood. Subsequently, it had been used for industrial activities, producing leather cuttings, brick and coal dust, slag and 'country-ware' pottery. The life of a stream course was recorded, with a fast-flowing phase being followed by silting and finally by being filled in: the date of the latter correlated broadly with the infilling of the moat in 1815-16. Another area, parallel to the former Upper Dean Street, provided the first peat

exposure to be examined scientifically from the centre in Birmingham, due to help of geologists and environmentalists from Birmingham University. It is to be about 8,000 years old. Study of the insect remains and pollen it contains will be able to tell us about the environment in which it grew. A short section of the moat itself has been seen with much of the thick, black silt containing post-medieval material. There is some evidence that it was recut at least once. The edge of an intact structure of wooden stakes, each up to 15 cms, in diameter driven into the natural was clipped by the JCB. It has not been possible to investigate the rest and hopes of hand excavation are remote. It will be over by a road, which, as Martin Biddle has drawn attention to in the Pelican 'Rescue Archaeology' is tantamount to destruction. The only dating is in TAQ provided for a post-medieval structure.

Most of the last year has been spent on documentary work, on Birmingham history and topography, on the de Birmingham family and on moated sites - a gazetteer of the latter in the Metropolitan County is one by-product. The factors producing this work balance have implications for excavations, especially urban, throughout the region. Major delays did result from alterations in the construction programme, but, more worryingly for archaeologists are those caused by insurance difficulties resulting from the failure to coordinate the city's and the contractor's insurance at the beginning of the project and because of specifications in the 1961 Factories Act and in subsequent provisions about the depth at which shoring must begin on vertically-sided excavations. The existence of the latter has largely been ignored to date but the problem must be systematically examined now that archaeologists are increasingly likely to find themselves working with contractors on building sites. Insurance also is clearly a factor all excavations must make provision for. Here too there is an urgent need for an adequate standardised insurance policy. It should be noted that at Smithfield the contractor's insurance effectively cancels an archaeological watching brief.

Thus at present we are faced with a situation before excavation has even begun in the area to which the temporary field officer's brief relates in which we cannot carry out a systematic watching brief on one of the most important sites in Birmingham. Intact medieval stratification has been recorded and stratified pottery recovered. This and the quality of preservation of the wooden structures referred to above and of environmental data are very encouraging. Therefore there is every justification for continuing to attempt to make the brief operable, but we hope this will be a lesson to all, so that these mistakes are not repeated. Meanwhile, in the absence of a Metropolitan Field Officer, many areas in the district are not being watched at all.

LORNA WATTS

Bordesley Abbey, Redditch 1974

Work this year was on the ? sacristy south of the church, and on the 14th century levels of the choir and presbytery; considerable progress was made on the first report, which we hope to publish in 1975 or 1976.

Sacristy (J). This room, just outside the south entrance of the South Transept to the east of the doorway, has now been excavated to the pre-monastic surface; in this area are indications of a small ? grave, and another possible grave marked by a large stone. At this level can be seen the cobble raft under the exterior edge of the south wall of the South Transept; another spread of cobbles extending south of the transept, with a straight edge, may be a hard standing or a foundation of a ? timber building south of the Norman church.

South Transept. This has now been backfilled to the level considered suitable for display, which is, in effect, the 14th century ground level. Consolidation of masonry is not yet completed, however.

Choir. This was excavated to the level of the destroyed 14th-century tiled floor. About seven tiles remained in situ, but the remaining tile impressions enabled the layout to be reconstructed, which is remarkably similar to that of the late 15th century tiled layout, though two centuries and a dirt floor separate them; the layout presumably had some liturgical significance. Analysis of the broken tiles

fragments found in the area should enable some reconstruction of the patterns made by individual tiles.

The north choir stall was excavated to the same level; beneath it some postholes may represent the period 2 stall of c.1200. The south stall was excavated in its latest (per. 4) phase. Beneath fallen window tracery and glass was a thick dirt level containing many pins, points (lace-end tags) and pens, the latter including a bronze pen nib like a modern mapping pen.

Two graves were excavated in the choir; one between the stalls was in a wooden coffin of which several dozen nails alone survived; close by it, and unexcavated at present, was a stone coffin which seemed to have been disturbed when the floor was wrecked. The other was that defined in 1973 by a square tile setting. As expected the setting covered two graves, but they were separate, and of very different sizes; the order in which they were interred was not determined. The larger of the two, an eight foot long grave, contained a mature ? female skeleton, with severe vertebral fusion; surprisingly for a grave in such an important position there was no trace of a coffin.

An important discovery was that the N.E. pier of the crossing was secondary to the floor, but contemporary with its later use. This introduces a new structural phase, period 3c, not represented in the South Transept.

Presbytery. What remained of the higher floor levels of this were cleared; in a large area to the east they had been destroyed by 18th century stone-robbing. Here too there had been a tiled floor, much repaired and patched. In the 14th century it was reached by two steps up from the choir, found robbed of their sills. The same floor level served for the later dirt floor of the choir (? late 14th) but now with only one step up.

Two graves were excavated in the presbytery; one contained a male skeleton tightly packed in a small grave which had been covered by a stone slab of which only the ledge setting survived. The other, a large grave in a central position, had been cleared in the 18th century; only traces of a wood coffin remained and slight evidence of a brick surround.

The 18th century spoil was removed and the surviving presbytery wall inner faces exposed, badly robbed almost to the lowest course. Beyond the presbytery there are indications of another building of uncertain character.

A notable find in the 15th century make-up was a fragment of a large bell, of a high quality bell-metal.

The first monograph on the historical background of the site, the monastic earth-works, the boundary bank, and the South Transept, is now in an advanced state of preparation.

PHILIP RAHTZ
School of History,
University of Birmingham

Broadgate, Coventry 1974. SP 335579

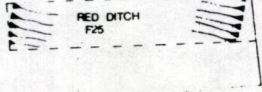
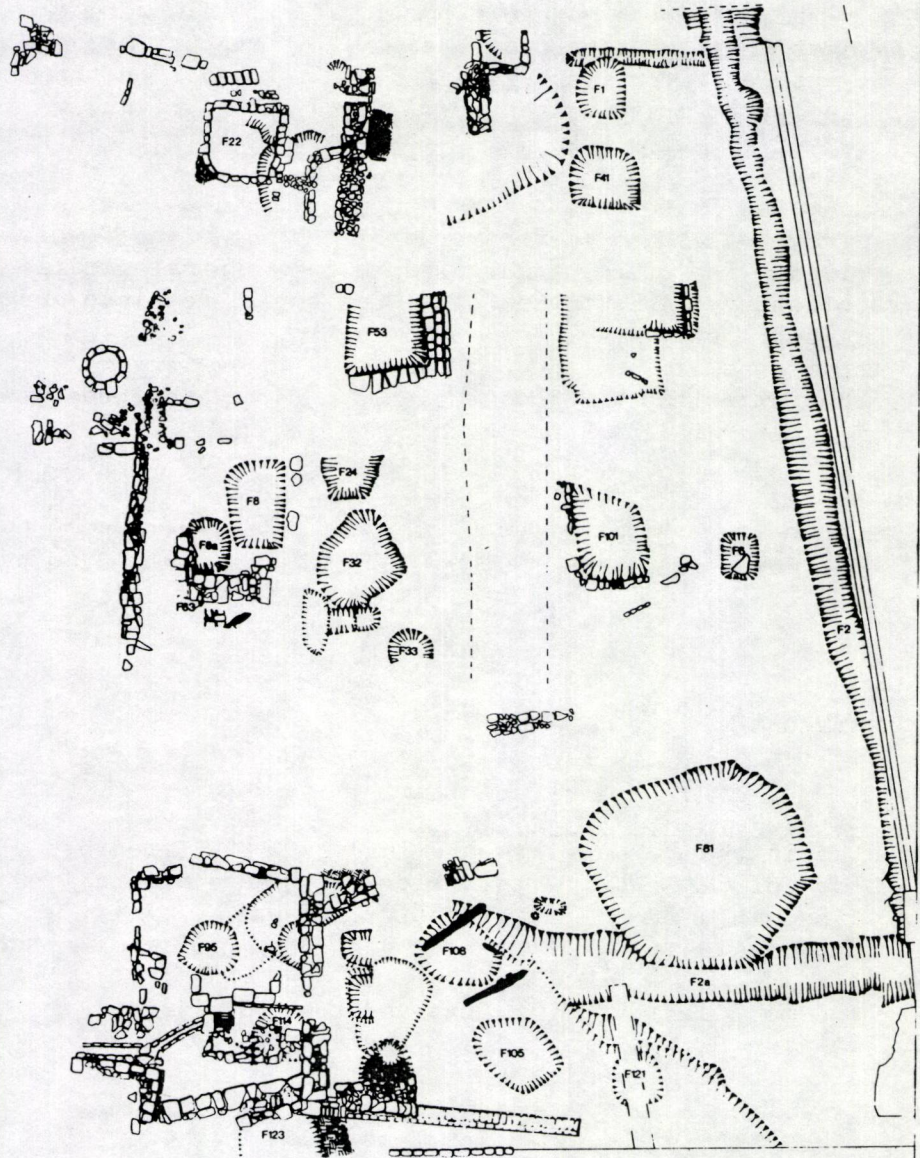
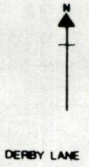
The site is situated in the city centre, and in July 1974, immediately after the demolition of a block of temporary shops, prior to the area being landscaped, a full-scale excavation was undertaken by Coventry Museum.

Most of the site had been destroyed by pre-war cellars, wartime air-raid shelters and the post-war clearance in preparation for the erection of the temporary shops - the latter doing the most damage. This involved the levelling of the site by removing as much as four feet of topsoil and bedrock on the Eastern side, while on the Western side, the frontage was moved back at least ten metres from the medieval alignment. The temporary shops themselves were placed on massive concrete foundations, which ran across the site from West to East.

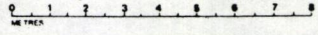
This left relatively few undisturbed areas for excavation. The surviving sandstone walls were either the very backs of the post Med. tenement buildings or part of the back-yards associated with them. In a number of cases pieces of worked masonry were found incorporated into them - probably reused stone from the Benedictine Priory of Saint Mary.

COVENTRY · 1974 ·
BROADGATE EAST
EXCAVATIONS ·

INFORMATION CENTRE



MODERN FEATURES REMOVED



The main discovery was a corner of the Red Ditch - The Bailey ditch of Coventry Castle - dating to the eleventh century. This has only been seen once before, in 1972, during the construction of the architects block in Much Park Street. The remainder of the line of the Red Ditch can be approximated from documentary sources.

In 1947, a local antiquarian, Mr Shelton, found the footings of what he recorded as a Saxo-Norman stone tower, suggesting it to have been a part of the Castle. The Excavators were able to locate this and it is now seen to be a much more recent feature, probably part of a nineteenth century garden. Beneath the so-called tower was found a curvilinear hole (six metres wide and two metres deep). Its purpose has not been established to date. It lies in the angle of two ditches (surviving in places to a depth of one and a half metres, and some two metres wide). These ditches, one running parallel to Derby Lane and the other at right-angles to it, are as yet of unknown purpose, although they may be drainage ditches, taking away excess water into Pool Meadow.

The pits, features 63 and 22, are stone-lined cess pits, which contained pottery of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These overlay two other pit complexes containing pottery of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Many of the pits contained large quantities of leather in the form of shoes and repair pieces, which have been dated to the thirteenth century and after. This bears out information in the Coventry Leet Book and in the Pittancer's Rental of 1411 on a number of cobblers and leather-workers residing and working in Broadgate. The Northernmost part of the site produced an end of a small building, the remainder of which awaits excavation after the demolition of the Information Centre. This may be a part of the early twelfth century Priory complex. In the South-east corner of the building a complete bowl of approximately this date was found deliberately set in a hole in the sandstone bedrock, it was, however, empty.

Excavations will continue until April, after which, a watching brief will be maintained during the redevelopment of the site.

MARGARET RYLATT
Coventry Museum

Droitwich, Friar Street SO 8974 6349

Excavations continue in advance of construction work to be carried out by the County Council early in 1975. Work has been mainly concentrated on the investigation of extensive late medieval levels. The widening of the western end of Friar Street shown on the 1790? plan of Droitwich was represented archaeologically by several phases of cobbles extending back a maximum of 5 metres back northwards from the present street frontage. The initial cobbling area seems to have been laid down in the 14th or 15th century, within which was found pottery and a considerable quantity of animal bones. Although cut through by later pits and post holes, and disturbed by contemporary wear and tear the street surface was in places fairly well-preserved and characterised by closely set small calibre cobbles. At least one building fronted on to the street within the area excavated, indicated by a line of padstones.

A 19th century well dug through the street at its western end was cleaned out and a large ditch-like feature about 2 metres deep was seen to be cutting the natural keuper marl, sealed by medieval make-up. No dating evidence has been forthcoming for this, although residual Roman sherds have come from the well and the street cobbles. The water-logged clay fill of this feature seems likely to produce valuable environmental evidence.

Set back from the street frontage a trench running East-West with a probable return at right angle to the South was excavated. This had been cut through late medieval garden soil and filled with keuper marl mixed with gravel. It is postulated that this is a building trench for part of the frontage of a large 16th century building, possibly Steynor's mansion, although this has yet to be confirmed from the documentary evidence.

D.F. FREEZER
for the Department of the Environment
and the County Museum Archaeology Dept.

Hawkesley Hall Moat SP 042774

Hawkesley Hall was part of King's Norton manor and is close to Hawkesley Farm where Adrian Oswald excavated on a limited scale in 1957. The two sites are difficult to separate in documentary references. The Hall now lies within the North Worcestershire Development Area and although not scheduled to be built up it will be landscaped as a leisure area. The C19 house which occupied the site was demolished in 1971. There are no clear indications of the moat.

Because of the number of moated sites within the West Midlands, there is a pressing need for an informed policy to determine which sites should be excavated and by what methods. This should take into account the intactness of the earthworks, both within the island and outside, the date of any surviving building within the island, the type and extent of documentation for the site and the existing knowledge of settlement patterns within the area (of policy of the Moated Site Research Group).

In the absence of such regional policy, ad hoc decisions have to be made as sites are threatened. At Hawkesley Hall the C19 building and the nature of the documentation did not recommend it for large scale or total excavation, as they agreed in refusing to fund excavations there.

In such a situation, should nothing be done, even if there is no evidence without excavation of the dates at which the moat was occupied? Are the alternatives total excavation or nothing; or is there an important place for problem-oriented cuttings, as many professionals are now advocating?

The latter policy was applicable here. Stephen Price had realised that there was a discrepancy between the position of the moat as shown on the 1840 Tithe Map on the 1st edition of the 6" OS map and he wanted to know which was correct. He thought that a narrow, mechanically-cut trench would test his hypothesis about the reliability of the Tithe Map, the OS showing not the moat but later landscaping, and could also provide information about the construction of both the ditch and platform, and even some dating evidence.

Over the weekend of October 18th 1974, this was done, with two trenches about 2m long, one 2m the other 1m wide, on the S side of the moat. The 1840 Tithe Map was shown to be correct. The shape and width of the moat were recorded. The only remaining stratification was slight, wilting against the inner and outer edges of the moat. The moat had been deliberately backfilled with clean marl, the material from which it was dug and contained virtually no dating and that of the C19. Nearby is a depression which looks like a marl-pit; this first appears on maps in the mid C19 and is a likely source for the backfilled material. This small-scale operation, costing little money and time, answered the main question posed as well as providing some additional information. Had there been more dating, it could not have been extrapolated to the site as a whole from such a limited sample.

Finally, what should always be borne in mind when undertaking such projects is the end for which we are recording.

STEPHEN PRICE AND LORNA WATTS

Excavations at Hen Domen, Montgomery, 1974

Interim Report

The excavation of the timber motte-and-bailey castle at Hen Domen, Montgomery Powys, continued in 1974 in the north-eastern sector of the bailey. Areas of latest layers of occupation were removed revealing, principally, traces of a rectilinear tower on the slightly bulbous end of the rampart, close to the present entrance. This discovery increases the possibility that the present entrance will prove to be the original one, especially as a cobbled layer run out from underneath the eroded end of the rampart was seen to be part of the surface at present used as the path on to the site.

In the interior of the bailey a pattern of damp marks, apparent under drying conditions, suggests that a series of very large rectangular buildings founded on beam slots awaits discovery.

The 'cess-pit' which had been back-filled unfinished in 1965 was re-opened with a mechanical digger. A large series of environmental samples was taken by Dr James Grieg of the Department of Botany, University of Birmingham. This, when analysed, will give a very clear picture of the flora and fauna of the area around the castle during the 13th century. This will very considerably enhance the information obtained from the upper surfaces of the site where organic remains are not preserved.

PHILIP BARKER

Berrington Street, Hereford SO 507398

The final phase of the excavations in this area were carried out late in 1973. Continuity was established with the previous areas and the occupation levels were tied in with the various defensive periods. Occupation levels associated with Chester Ware were again found lying on top of an earlier level without pottery. The outline of a second Saxon timber building was also established. As is normal with this type of site, the whole area was cut by medieval pits of various sizes. One of these produced a nearly complete black cooking pot together with a coin of Henry II which has been dated to the period 1170-83. A report on some of the animal bones from the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval levels in Berrington Street has recently been received from Barbara Noddle. The report deals with 5073 fragments from mammalian species and provides some very useful information which has been analysed statistically. The report is detailed and includes the following general information. In all periods, cattle bones form at least 50% of the total whilst sheep increases with the passage of time from 15% in the Saxon period to 23% in the post-medieval. Pig increases in the medieval period, but decreases thereafter. Other bones form less than 10% of the whole and include horse, goat and various species of deer. This indicates that hunted species formed a very low proportion of the meat consumed in Hereford throughout its history, as indicated by this particular site.

Castle Green, Hereford SO 512 395

This excavation during Easter and early summer 1973 was reported in the last issue of the News Sheet, but, since then, further details have been established. Charcoal from under two burials was sent to Harwell for radio-carbon dating and the results gave dates of ad 990 \pm 70 and ad 920 \pm 80. We can thus be confident that the burial ground was in use before the castle was built. The earlier burials are reasonably elaborate, over 50% being in coffins, of which only the nails remain. Later burials had no indication of coffins, and nearly all the latest burials on the site were children or infants. Further radio-carbon dates are being sought which should establish the period during which the graveyard was in use and the date of its earliest burial.

City Arms, Hereford SO 509400

Reconstruction of this building to provide a new branch for Barclay's Bank provided an opportunity to examine this important area at the northern end of Broad Street, close to the northern entry through the 8-10th century defences. The ground has been extensively disturbed during the post-medieval period but it was possible to examine the Saxon ditch fill in two small trenches cut by the workmen for underpinning. A timber framework had been constructed in the ditch during a later period in its life which included some wattle work fencing. Analysis of the soil samples from this area may indicate the use of this structure.

Bishops Meadow, Hereford SO 510393

A main drainage trench was dug by machine some 30 metres south of, and parallel to, Rowe Ditch, to provide drainage for a new swimming pool. The trench cut through a river silt which was presumably the result of continuous flooding of this low-lying area. The silt gradually merged into the natural silt of the area,

with no firm definition visible in the contractors trenches. No archaeological features could be seen during the work.

RON SHOESMITH
DoE and
City of Hereford
Archaeology Committee

St. Michael's Churchyard, Lichfield SK 124095

This huge medieval graveyard of 2.8 hectares (7 acres) occupies a hill-top overlooking the city of Lichfield. Documentary references show that the graveyard had long been in use by the 13th century. Two different 16th century writs refer to a local tradition associating the graveyard with St. Augustine which at least shows a belief at that time in its antiquity. Until recently the Roman town of Letocetum lay within the parish associated with the churchyard, and although there is evidence for Christianity at Letocetum, no Christian burials there are known. H.P.R. Finberg has recently stated a case on historical and topographical grounds for believing that in the 7th century St. Chad had his mansio remotior here, in this graveyard dedicated to St. Michael.

Consequently, at Easter 1974, a contour survey of the graveyard was made and a section was cut across the eastern boundary of the yard. The section suggested that the yard was not enclosed until the late middle ages and possibly not even then. There was no trace of any boundary ditch. The steep drop of 2 metres from the yard had been faced with turf. The drop was not due to any lynchet effect, for the natural undisturbed marl at the top of the slope had only a thin covering of soil whilst at the foot the ploughsoil was almost a metre thick. Charcoal and tile fragments suggested that marl may have been quarried on a small scale for making roof tiles in the medieval period.

JIM GOULD

Hall Court Farm, Much Marcle, Hereford SO 645353

This sub-circular moated site is threatened by ploughing. A section through the moat (2.5m deep and 9m wide) showed it to have been deepened (by cleaning-out operations?) during the early part of its life. Primary silts were clean, whereas later silting contained much vegetable matter (small branches, leaves, walnut shells etc.). No domestic rubbish was found in these levels, and no date can be given for their deposition. The sequence continued with destruction debris from the enclosed buildings and late medieval and 16th century pottery.

An area (20.2m x 13.6m) of the moated platform was examined, revealing a complex of late medieval structures, most of which had been demolished around 1600. The stone foundations courses, sometimes irregular in form and discontinuous due to robbing, probably supported timber-framed structures to which small scale alterations or repairs using brick had been made. The area examined was not large enough to show any one structural element completely in plan.

One building, or wing, in approximately the centre of the moated area appeared to have been a superior type of structure. Extensive robbing of the foundations and decorated tile floor had taken place. There was a quantity of roofing tile and window glass among the destruction debris. To the south lay an apparently separate building with a clay floor and a large pitched stone hearth centrally placed. A substantial external drain flanked its east wall. Although decayed, this building had evidently been repaired and maintained in use during, or even after, the destruction of the other structures. An apparently smaller building lay adjacent to, and to the west of, the first two, close to the conjectured position of the entrance to the site. Only a small part of this structure was uncovered: its nature and function could not be determined. Further excavation on a wider scale is necessary if a full interpretation of these and earlier phases of occupation is to be made.

No documentary evidence for the site has been found, although work on this is continuing.

A number of acknowledgements are due, particularly to Mr and Mrs R.D. Marcon, owners of the Hall Court estate, both for permission to excavate, and for their help and forbearance throughout. Mr Philip Powell of Hall End Farm helped greatly in the matter of accommodation, and I should like to thank him also. Mr C.J. Bond, my former colleague, carried out a survey of the earthworks and soil-marks around the site. Last but by no means least, my thanks to all who took part in the excavation, particularly to Eric Smith, Cliff Denham, Val Thomas, Mike Knight and John Clark, who carried much of the burden of supervision and recording on site.

A.M. HUNT
County of Hereford & Worcester
Archaeology Department

Chapel Green, Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwickshire SP 46076032

Chapel Green is a hamlet in the south of the parish of Napton-on-the-Hill. The field here known as Bayes Green contains a pronounced hollow way with a number of crofts, back lanes and pools. The earthworks spill over into the adjoining fields and the whole makes a large deserted complex. The chapel which gave its name to the hamlet has disappeared and its site has been lost. One earthwork is found within the Orchard of Chapel Green Farm, and it is here that the Southam Local History Society has been working for two years.

The earthwork is about 25 metres long and 12 metres wide, and shows a possible continuation in the adjacent field of Bayes Green. 61 square metres have been opened up and the features which have been exposed are shown in the sketch. The most interesting feature is a foundation wall (9) of fairly massive limestone rubble which turns at a right angle with a large corner stone. Superimposed on this wall is a later, more fragile wall (7), which appears to peter out after about six metres. At this point, the lower wall appears to have been partially robbed out, but it soon reappears strongly marked. Insufficient evidence has yet been uncovered to identify the type of building, but if it does continue into the next field, it must have been quite substantial.

Finds include a rebores bone needle, a stone spindle whorl and half a spindle whorl made from pottery. Ironwork finds were mainly a variety of nails with a hook and what may have been a bolt. The remains of several dinners were shown by odd pockets of charcoal, firebrick and bones found outside the walls.

Fragments of daub were found scattered over the site. The remains of at least 27 different medieval pots were found, of which no less than 14 were shelly. The pottery ranged from crude shelly ware to coarse green glazed ware, indicating an occupation of perhaps C12 to C15.

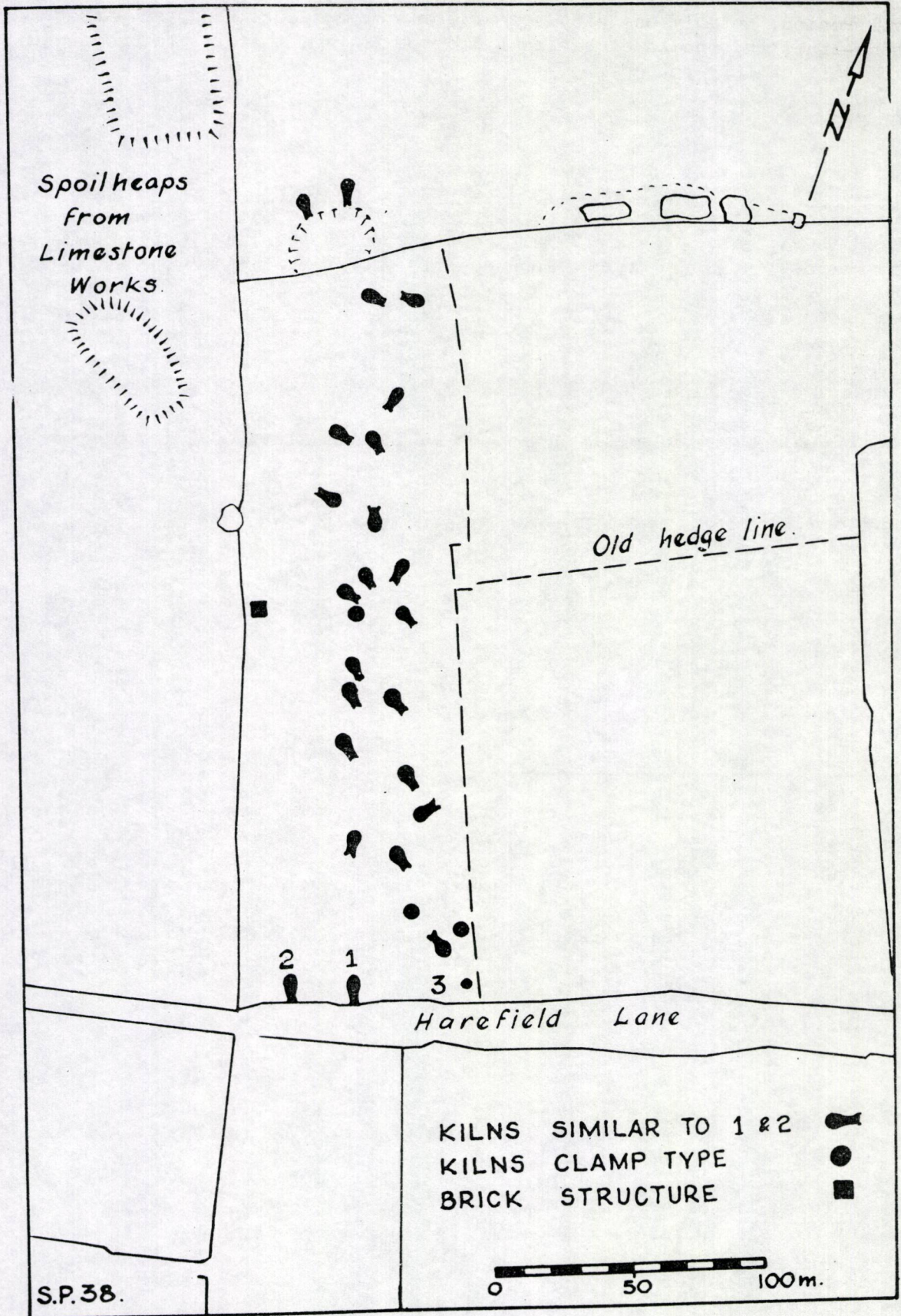
Most of the finds occurred either in the neighbourhood of the walls or in a rubbish pit (10) outside the angle of the walls, indicating that the floors had been swept well before desertion. It was in the excavation of the rubbish pit that access was made to an underlying trench (11) which contained Romano-British material. This trench was described in News Sheet No. 16.

HOWARD USHER
Southam District
Local History Society

Excavations at Newlands, Pershore SO 94654588

Excavations were carried out at Newlands, Pershore by members of the Birmingham Rescue Archaeology Group for Hereford and Worcester County Museum with a grant from the Department of the Environment. The purpose of the excavation was to test the nature, preservation and period of deposits in Pershore on a street which documentary evidence shows to have been in existence by the 14th century.

A 10 metre square trench was excavated. The earliest features on the site were two ditches each c0.8m wide and c0.6m deep dating to the Roman Period - the first



Spoilheaps
from
Limestone
Works.

Old hedge line.

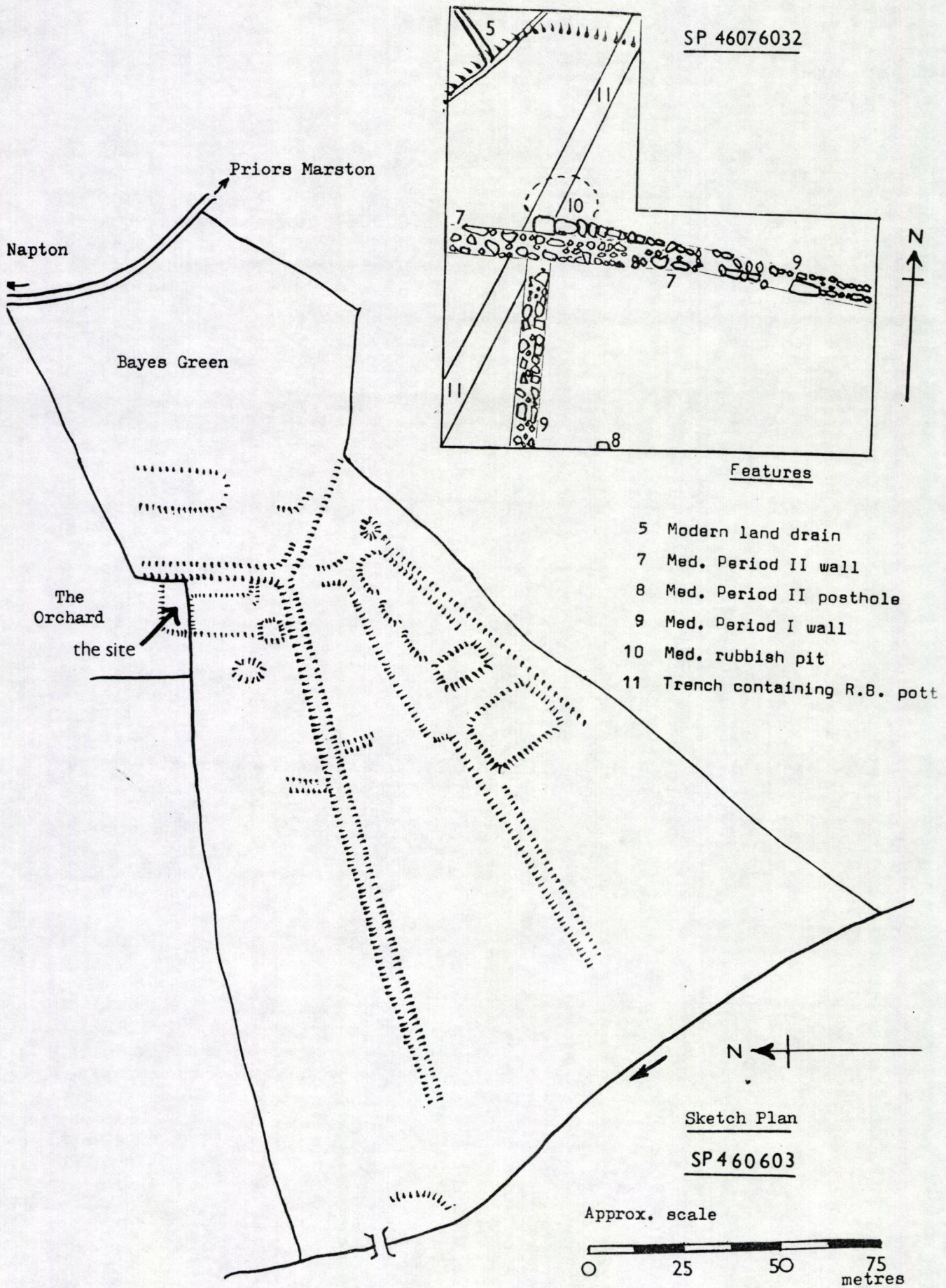
Harefield Lane

KILNS SIMILAR TO 1 & 2
KILNS CLAMP TYPE
BRICK STRUCTURE

S.P. 38.

0 50 100m.

CHAPEL GREEN NAPTON WARWICKS



evidence of Romano-British activity in Fersshore. A number of rubbish pits and pits interpreted as gravel scoops contained pottery of the 12th-14th centuries. The stone footings for a wall were found running along the front of the site parallel to the street line. Their date is uncertain and they were disturbed by later brick house foundations. Further rubbish pits belonged to the Post-Medieval Period, notably one pit 0.8m wide and 0.7m deep, the upper part of which was stone-lined and the lower having a fibrous lining, which contained a good group of 16th century pottery.

MICHAEL SHAW

Harefield Lane Brick Kiln/Lime Kiln Excavation, Nuneaton SP 344898

With reference to the previous report, the second of a pair of Kilns was excavated in September-October 1974. Contrary to average dry weather the period was the wettest for a few years, consequently interpretation at the Kiln entrance, the lowest point, was eroded by ever present water.

The oval kiln approximately 27'0" x 10'0" was constructed mainly of baked clay, at the entrance the walls were reinforced with limestone blocks, smoothed off with a daubed layer of clay.

On the floor of the kiln the well baked surface gave an outline of an internal structure, possibly for encouraging flow of gases to give even heat distribution. The remnant limestone lumps may have been an integral part of this internal feature.

Whatever process was taking place, fairly high temperatures were achieved, the heat transfer to the natural was substantial with remaining wall well vitrified. The lack of more permanent internal wall lining suggests the kiln was being relined, but because of the poor state of the walls it was easier to do a complete new kiln.

A feature with early C15 potsherds provides a terminus post quem for the kiln which cuts it.

Recent fieldwork has located 24 more similar kilns, all are adjacent to the limestone outcrop and it seems a fair assumption to call them lime kilns till further proof comes to light. See map.

Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton 1974 352907

The 1974 excavations followed the previous years pot layers illustrating the development of cistercian ware, from the earliest group came a decorated pancheon in red fabric painted with cream firing slip in the form of spiky foliage, similar sherds also for a cistern. These pot layers were sealed by a kiln and its waste, a multiflue (5 No), 8'0" diameter produced red fabric midland purple types including cisterns, cooking pots, pipkins lids and type 7 cistercian cups. The fine wares were fired in purpose made saggars with oval cut outs on the rim, a feature found on other vessels. The kiln had at least 2 superimpositions. Finds to be deposited in Nuneaton Museum.

KEITH SCOTT

Radford Semele, Warks. SP 343674

During 1970-71 a small excavation, previously unreported in this Newsletter, took place at Radford Semele. The village church and manor house stand separated from the rest of the village by two fields; and a surface scatter of medieval pottery in one of these fields suggested medieval occupation there. Excavation did not reveal any house structures, but there was a shallow gully roughly circular in plan cut into the sand/gravel subsoil, with one post hole in it. Finds included 12th-13th century pottery, hardly any of which was glazed; a medieval bronze buckle or strap-end; a fragment of hone; a fragment of probable Roman roof-tile; and a flint flake.

Offchurch, Warks. SP 358657

During trenching operations around the foundations of the village church in January 1974 some pottery was turned up:

Roman: one grey cooking pot rim, Wappenbury ware.

Medieval: four potsherds, of which three were grit or shell filled, and the other hard sandy; and one fragment of floortile with green speckled glaze over thin white slip.

FABIAN RADCLIFFE

and the Bishop Bright School Archaeology Club,
Guy's Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa, Warks.

Pride Hill, Shrewsbury

Excavations have been carried out at Pride Hill Chambers since 1971. It is mainly due to the tremendous energy of Ern Jenks that so much work has been done on this site, which contains a 14th-15th stone house of exceptional importance built on the Town Wall. Geoffery Toms who was the first to discover early medieval pottery in Shrewsbury (probably 'Chester Ware') also worked on the Pride Hill site in 1971 and discovered a fine pit of the same period there. The recording of the standing building was undertaken by the Unit, which also excavated outside the town walls to establish the sequence of building there. This short excavation was completed in October. The town wall with its chamfered plinth is datable to the 13th century and compares well with that excavated by Phil Barker at Roushill in 1959. The stone hall was added, probably in the 15th century, with its north wall founded on the levelled town wall and had an integral garde-robe tower. The hall may have been built round a timber-frame original. In the 17th century, the town wall and house were reinforced by large sandstone buttresses, and a system of terraces was constructed in the 18th century down the slope into Raven Meadows, where there was no evidence for any occupation before the 17th century. The evidence from the Pride Hill excavations is now being gathered together, and it is hoped to publish the first part of this in 1975, as the first WEMRAC monograph.

MARTIN CARVER

Shrewsbury Archaeological Unit

Clark Street, Stafford. SJ 925232

From the 17th to the 26th July, 1974, the Stafford & Mid-Staffs Archaeology Society under the direction of Mr A. Carter conducted an exploratory excavation on a small piece of waste ground on Clark Street, Stafford. Of six two-metre-square pits dug in a straight line, five proved abortive because of disturbance by 19th century drains, but the sixth yielded a 70-cms-thick deposit of potsherds datable mainly to the 12th and 13th centuries. The deposit was a rich one, containing 3720 fragments ranging in length from one to twelve centimetres. Glazed pieces increase in proportion from 0.2% at the base of the deposit to 23% at the top. The vast majority of the unglazed fragments are of rough and fairly soft-fired red fabric or of rather harder-fired grey fabric. Rims are mainly everted, of rounded section; a few are of squared section. Both types are well-known from previous excavations in Stafford. Some forty joins have so far been made. It seems probable that the material was deposited in a dump at the point where the ground-level in medieval times dipped towards the River Sow. It is hoped that a more thorough excavation may be carried out within the next few months.

Hulton Abbey, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. SJ 905493

Work has continued this year on the site of this early 13th century Abbey with the excavation and restoration of sections of the south transept and sacristy walls. Additional graves were revealed in the Chancel area, one of which

contained a Papal Bulla of Pope Innocent VI (1352-62) within a wooden coffin.

S.J. GREAVES
City Museum
Stoke-on-Trent

Sydenhams Moat, Monkspath, Solihull SP 144757

Clearance work has continued throughout the year until at present about 2/3 rds of the platform has been uncovered.

This has allowed a fuller examination of the 'chapel' (?) to be made and a later, less substantial building has been identified overlying its western end. North of the 'chapel' the wall and flue have now been proven to be later but they do not at present appear to be associated with any other structure. The remaining building in the western range could now be extended to the north-western corner, as further pad bases have been found. The size of this building is now about 18m x m. Along the northern range, sill walls of a rectilinear building have been recovered but further clearance work will be needed to establish its plan. Excavations along the southern edge have revealed remains of a possible entrance and central courtyard.

With the evidence so far recovered and the results of an earlier resistivity survey, it would seem that we have a central courtyard with buildings along the western, northern and eastern ranges, with an entrance to the south.

JEFFREY PERRY
for Solihull Archaeological Group

'Solihull Seeds', 116-120 High Street, Solihull SP 153794

This timbered building was examined during redevelopment in 1974 and was found to have a 'T' shaped plan. It was probably a late Medieval two bay house with heavy timbering, close panelling and a jettied upper storey. The rear bay was added in the XVI and an upper side bay of decidedly inferior construction in the XVII. Evidence of the original entrance, hearth or stairway was lacking.

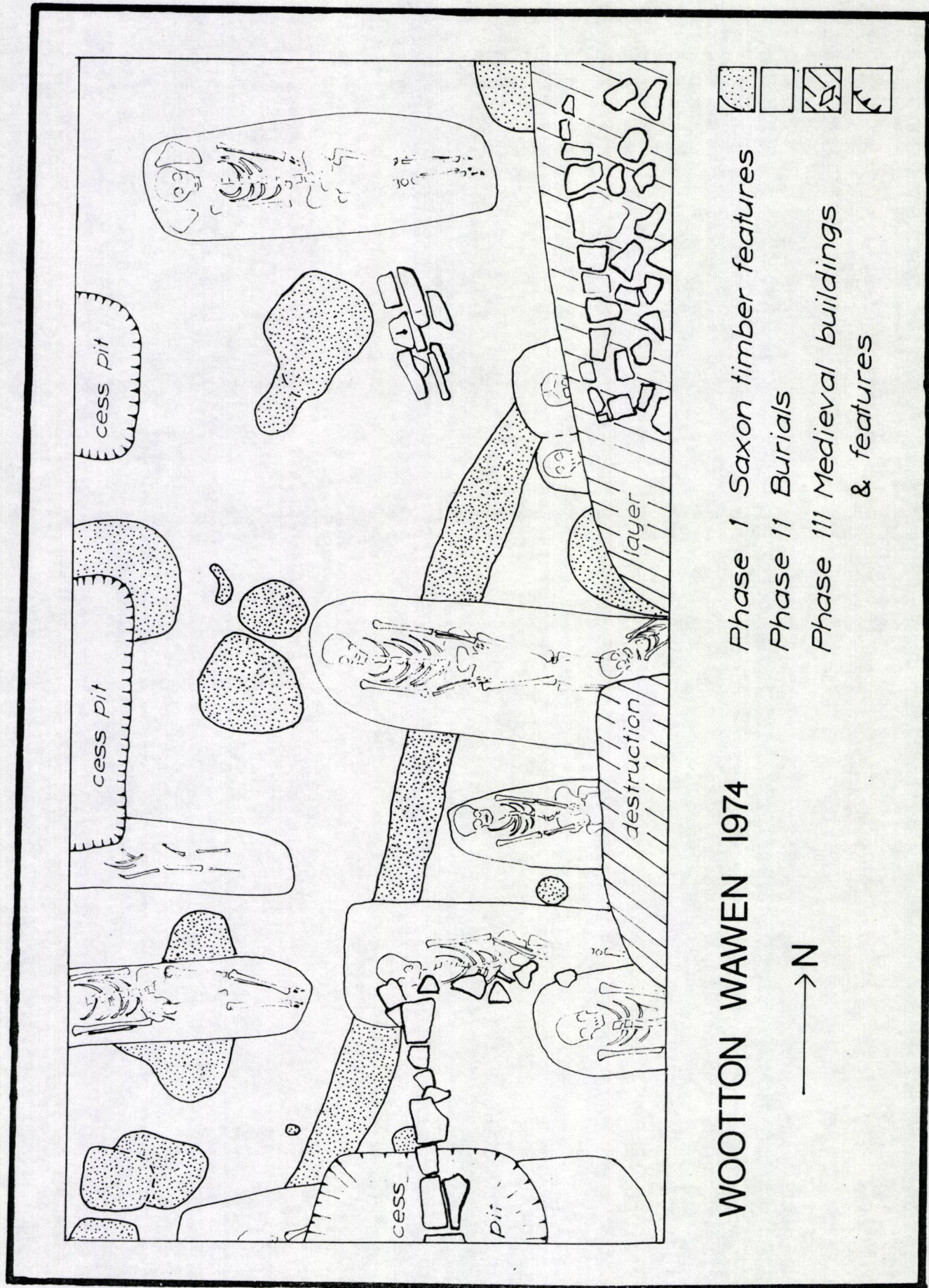
A 'watching brief' was also kept on the demolition and excavation of the sheds to the rear and a sandstone lined well, a sandstone hearth were observed and recorded, along with the remains of several pits. Most of the stratification had been destroyed by earlier development, although some well preserved XIX pits remained at the very rear of the burgage. These were filled with debris from the nearby slaughter house. No datable finds were recovered.

TREVOR ENGLAND AND JEFFREY PERRY
for Solihull Archaeological Group

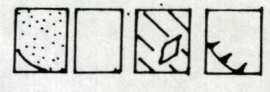
Wootton Wawen Churchyard, Warks. 1974 SP 15256325

The excavation took place during November and December 1974, under the direction of Heather Barnie, Field Officer of WEMRAC on behalf of Warwick Museum and the DOE. Staff included S. Hirst (recording), V. Worthington (finds) and I.G. Burrow (surveying) with A. Hirst, F. Condick and P.A. Rahtz as volunteers. We would like to thank them and other helpers, particularly Donald Graham, and the Rev. A. Southeard and the people of Wootton Wawen for their interest and support.

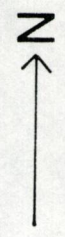
Wootton Wawen church is one of the few in the West Midlands with Saxon features. Close by is the site of the medieval alien priory in the glebe field to the west of the church. An eighth century land charter refers to a Mercian royal grant of land at Wootton Wawen 'ad usum monasticum'. A trial excavation was clearly needed to assess the stratigraphic potential of the site in view of the threat to areas to the north and west of the church from modern gravedigging within the post 1927 graveyard extension. A 6 x 3 metre cutting within this area was totally excavated with a depth of stratified deposits of about a metre. These



WOOTTON WAWEN 1974



- Phase I Saxon timber features
- Phase II Burials
- Phase III Medieval buildings & features



overlaid the natural glacial or alluvial pebbles and sandy clay over Keuper sandstone. About 70 separate stratigraphic units were defined and excavated, comprising three quite distinct phases of land use:-

1. Saxon Timber Buildings

Two parallel lines of post holes or post settings and timber slots cut into the natural and aligned N.E.-S.W. were found. There was clear evidence in some of the post holes of successive recuts, enlargements and slight resiting, indicating at least one and possibly two, replacements of the main timbers. The only finds associated with this period were some animal bones and a few fragments of Roman pottery and tile - too small an amount to suggest a Roman date for these features. They are most likely Saxon of an aceramic phase, some time before 1000 A.D. It was obviously impossible in so small cutting to recover the plan of the building(s) of which these features are part. Their significance in this excavation lies in their parallel alignment which is unrelated to that of the church.

2. Burials

There were 12 graves cutting or sealing the features of period 1, of a mixed population of male, female and immature skeletons in good condition. These were laid supine in an extended position, aligned with their heads to the west and c0.8 m deep. Several had lining or 'pillow' stones, the latter including a piece of quern. This area of graveyard was presumably in use for a fairly short period because of the relative lack of superimposition. The surprising fact of a graveyard 'sandwiched' as it were between two major building phases must have involved a period of time for the earlier timber buildings to have passed out of use, and similarly for the graveyard itself to be abandoned and memory of it to have lapsed since it is unlikely that the medieval priory buildings of Period 3 would be constructed over a recent graveyard. There were a few late Saxon or early medieval sherds in the fill of some of the graves, but no indication of building materials.

3. Medieval Buildings

At least three phases of medieval buildings sealed the burials of period 2. These are represented by a line of collapsed wall rendering, from a timber framed building with wattle and plaster infill, stone wall footings, roofing material of lias slates and ceramic tiles, ceramic floor tiles and window glass, three cess pits with fills of ashy debris, and a drainage ditch and sump. These latter features, together with the large amounts of animal and bird bone, suggest a domestic context for these buildings. The date range of the pottery appears to extend from early medieval to the C16 (i.e. the Dissolution period). Although the top layers are disturbed by post medieval material, they can be characterized as a Tudor destruction layer with a mass of stone and roof tile. Post medieval material is essentially casual in nature and totally in keeping with recent land use as a churchyard boundary.

Interpretation and Future Policy

The eighteen cubic metres of this trial cutting have produced a surprising amount of information and provide a good example of structural and stratigraphic sequence of some complexity in the unfamiliar context of a churchyard still in use, and an at present under-recognized rescue situation of modern grave digging. At the regulation depth of six feet this destroys all stratification. It is also something of an innovation in church archaeology to work 'in' towards the church from an adjacent area in the churchyard.

If the structures of period 1 are Saxon, they are only the fifth example of Saxon timber buildings in the West Midlands, (the others are at Hatton Rock, Tamworth, Fladbury and Catton). They may be part of a monastic or aristocratic complex associated with an early church, or of an early nucleated village settlement on the high ground near the church, prior to the ? later medieval linear roadside village of today.

The importance of the results and the quality of the stratification underlines the need to excavate every possible square metre threatened by grave digging. It is hoped that future excavation will relate the three phases of land use to the earliest building phases in the church. Further excavation is seen as part

of a programme of close study of the existing church fabric, with elevation drawing. Miss Worthington has already analysed the building stone used in the church. A contour survey of the priory earthworks in the glebe field to the west of the church, recently scheduled by DOE, is also planned.

H. BARNIE, S. HIRST AND P.A. RAHTZ

POST-MEDIEVAL

Old Hall Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs SJ 885475
Report No. 6 "The Excavation of a Kiln Base in Old Hall Street, Hanley" now available from the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum. Price 40p.

J.H. KELLY
City Museum
Stoke-on-Trent

Jaynox site, King Street, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. SJ 904441
Rescue excavation on the site of a demolished 19th century pottery manufactory was undertaken by the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society during 1973/74. Large quantities of saltglazed stoneware, creamware and red unglazed stoneware of the period circa 1760 were recovered beneath the remains of a later pottery kiln. Report forthcoming.

S.J. GREAVES
City Museum
Stoke-on-Trent

Woodbank Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs SJ 867497
A small excavation in advance of redevelopment within the bounds of old Burslem showed that the site had been used for the dumping of pottery wasters during the 17th century. The wide range of pottery types excavated included slip decorated wares, iron glazed ware, late "Midland Purple" wares, together with previously unrecorded vessels in the "Midland Yellow" ware tradition. Future research on this material may show that the wares were in production in the Potteries at an earlier date than has hitherto been thought. Report forthcoming.

S.J. GREAVES
City Museum
Stoke-on-Trent

Droitwich. Brine Pit Survey

Prior to construction of the Droitwich inner ring road early next year, attempts are being made by the road contractors to locate and consolidate with concrete (as a precaution against future possible subsidence), about eight former brine wells, known from 19th century maps and plans to exist in the path of the proposed road route, where it passes between the R. Salwarpe and the Friar Street/High Street alignment. A watching brief of this work has been undertaken. The last salt-works in Droitwich closed down in 1922 and since then the precise location of the majority of an estimated 32 wells in operation at different times during the 18th and 19th centuries has been lost. Trial trenching and drilling has so far revealed two 19th century wells of over 30m. depth, lined with circular cast-iron casing about 6 cm. thick, further surrounded by rectangular brick and timber casing and associated with vertical and horizontal cast-iron piping. Trenching in the area adjacent to these wells has revealed brine pipes of 2 different materials; wood and cast-iron. The pipes were found at a depth of c.2m. below present ground level beneath layers of ash, clinker and brick rubble. The wooden pipes comprise hollowed-out ? elm trunks and a length of 3 of these pipes was revealed in situ with each pipe

tapered at one end to fit into the adjoining pipe. The wooden pipes vary in length between about 4 and 5 cm., and have a maximum diameter (at the neck end) of about 30 cm., whilst the hollowed-out channel measures about 12 cm. in diameter. This wooden piping was found between two brick walls, which suggested a possible 18th century date. The cast-iron pipes are clearly of later 19th century date.

ROSALIND PRICE

for the Department of the Environment
and the County Museum Archaeology Dept.

LATE ENTRY

Tripontium, Caves Inn, Newton, Warwickshire SP 535794

The Society spent most of 1974 reducing the stone building in Area 3 to below foundation level looking for chronological evidence for reporting purposes. This third report should be ready this year.

We then stripped a 5 metre box on the South-West moving up the hill. A foot of the ground was overburden from the 1957 gravel workings. Below this is a turf line down to a slim plough layer; then 1 metre of disturbed residual R.B. material revealing the peculiar shaped ditches shown in the enclosed drawing. About 20 coins in good condition from various levels, all dated from 340 onwards, came out of this box.

This year we have almost finished a larger area. Another month will show whether we have a continuation of these (drainage?) ditches or, at last!, rubbish pits. We have yet to find the first rubbish pit attached to this large building.

JACK LUCAS

for Rugby Archaeological Society.

SECTION 4 - BOOK REVIEWS AND MISCELLANEA

- Lorna Watts, Rescue Archaeology in the West Midlands - Past, Present and Future
(WEMRAC 1974, pp iii - 37)
- Ron Shoesmith, The City of Hereford: Archaeology and Development (WEMRAC 1974,
pp 27 + 5 plans)
- M.O.H. Carver & J.Wills, Shrewsbury: The Buried Past (1974)

With these three very useful publications, the West Midlands Rescue Archaeology Committee have taken a big step forward in assessing the needs and potential of rescue archaeology in the five counties of their region, and in putting over their case to archaeologists, historians, local government and the general public. All three bodies, in their different ways, put cogently the case which Rescue and other organisations have been hammering at for some time - that town centre redevelopments, road schemes, intensive farming and other pressures are threatening our archaeological heritage on an unprecedented scale, that much of what is threatened is unexplored and unknown, that financial resources and archaeological manpower are inadequate on their present scale, and that time is short if much 'buried history' is to be saved.

Lorna Watts' booklet (with a preface by WEMRAC's Chairman, Graham Webster) is a general survey of the threats and potentialities in the region. Compiled in the amazingly short time of 11 weeks, it is based on readily available information and replies to questionnaires - there was no time for fieldwork. Nevertheless, it is an invaluable working document. The author summarises the position in each of the five counties, ranging from Worcestershire, 'the most successfully organised archaeologically', and Staffordshire and Warwickshire - with less successful work coupled with greater threats of development - to Herefordshire and Shropshire, with fewer threats but also less archaeology so far. One aim of such a speedy report was to provide estimates of money needed from the Department of the Environment for rescue archaeology, and she argues that at least £96,000 is needed in the year 1974-75 simply for immediately threatened sites and using available labour. But much more could, of course, be done if more money and more professional archaeologists were available, and her calculations show that £325,000 could justifiably be spent in a year in the region - a figure which is not unreasonable for a five-county region, if compared to the £186,000 a year needed by the London Unit or the £90,000 or so needed by the single city of York.

The emphasis of the report is on urban archaeology, and it is on this aspect that I shall now concentrate - partly because until recently archaeology had a rural bias, partly because threats from redevelopment are greater in the towns, and also because the first two reports on individual settlements commissioned by WEMRAC are urban. The prehistoric and Roman bias of pre-war archaeology meant that most excavations were either rural or, if in towns, went straight down to Roman layers. Admittedly, town sites tend to be less easy to dig than rural, are often harder to interpret, and are necessarily rushed if developers are waiting to move in. But our civilisation is an urban one today, and Britain, as the first country in the world to urbanise, has a unique story to tell. The later part of that story (from about 1200) can be pieced together largely from documents, although archaeological evidence remains important for later periods too. But - and I say this as a documentary historian myself - only archaeology can answer most of crucial questions about the origins and early growth of British town life. So we are fortunate that WEMRAC's first two studies are of two important West Midland towns - in fact, the county towns of the two counties which come off worst in Lorna Watts' survey of past work - and that of these towns, Shrewsbury now has its own Archaeological Unit and Hereford is expected to have one soon.

Both towns were important from a very early date - Hereford with a cathedral by 700 or so, Shrewsbury with up to half-a-dozen Saxon churches. Both became county towns around 1000 A.D., both acquired town walls, castles, and prosperity through the wool trade. Both were among the 14 largest towns in England in the 1330's. Shrewsbury has one of the best old town histories (Owen and Blakeway, 1825) and Hereford one of the best of the new (M.D.Lobel, in Historic Towns, vol.I, 1969). Yet much of their history remains unknown, especially of the earliest periods. Neither was a Roman town so far as we know, and the vital beginnings of each, probably early - or mid-Saxon, are completely obscure. At Hereford there has been much part-time archaeology of a high standard, some of it by Ron Shoesmith who wrote the WEMRAC report; but the archaeologists' limited time and money had to be spent in the zone of greatest redevelopment, the inner relief road. In consequence a great deal is known of the development of the

city defences, but very little of the early city within the walls: and it is the centre which is now at last threatened on a large scale (there are proposals to develop about 15 acres - a sixth of the medieval town - within the next 5 years). Shrewsbury has had even less archaeological attention despite some valuable amateur rescue digs, while suffering much more than Hereford from massive redevelopment. In both towns the urgent need is for adequately financed archaeology with a clear sense of priorities, to establish the period and area of the original settlement, the sequence of growth, and the small-scale for essential detail of individual house-types to show how people lived at different periods. Given the support they deserve, the two reports may help to salvage much essential 'buried history' just in time. The presentation and the contents of the two booklets make an interesting contrast. Ron Shoesmith's Hereford report (with a preface by Philip Rahtz) is aimed at archaeologists, historians and planners. A good historical summary with plans is followed by a brief précis of all excavations in the city in the last ten years; this is invaluable, because not all these findings have yet been published in full. Then he goes on to survey the threats from proposed redevelopment, again with the aid of plans, and finally he outlines the structure and financing of an Archaeological Unit for Hereford. The Shrewsbury report, by the Unit's Director, Martin Carver, and its Historian, J. Wills, is clearly aimed rather more at councillors and the general public; and the authors have persuaded the mayor to write a preface urging support for their work. A basic account of the potential of archaeology is followed by a racy description of the town's history and of its unsolved archaeological problems, and then by a brief sketch of the threats of development and the organization of the Unit. There are no details of the proposed developments or of the structure and financing of the Unit, as in Ron Shoesmith's report. On the other hand, the Shrewsbury booklet is attractively illustrated by photographs as well as sketch-plans. No doubt some members of WEMRAC will prefer one style or the other as a standard for future town reports, but both seem admirable at different levels of presentation. One surely needs attractive appeals for public support as well as reasoned arguments for planners and civil servants.

In conclusion, all three reports can be warmly recommended as giving a good idea of the overall situation in the region and of the detailed position in two of its most important towns.

Such errors and omissions as I have noticed seem to be minor and to be the inevitable result of haste in an emergency situation. It may just be worth pointing out that Ron Shoesmith is too modest in his claims for Hereford Castle, probably begun before 1052. This was not only 'one of the earliest castle erected within a town', but one of the half-dozen earliest castles in England, for the castle was a Norman innovation, and Hereford had one before the Conquest only because the Earl was a Norman appointed by Edward the Confessor. A major excavation on the site, while not a rescue priority, could perhaps be crucial evidence for the current debate on the origins of the castle in England.

D.M. PALLISER,
Department of Economic and Social History,
University of Birmingham.

Landscape Archaeology, Michael Aston and Trevor Rowley, David and Charles, 1974.

The subject of Landscape Archaeology, An Introduction to Fieldwork Techniques on Post-Roman Landscapes is what the title implies - an introduction for the absolute and near beginner, both student and adult (and with much useful information for the initiated!) on how to approach recording the total history of any landscape in England and Wales between the 5c and 18c A.D., though it must be said that most of the examples chosen are medieval and from the English Midlands. Both authors are basically geographers and the book is written with two basic beliefs: 'Essentially the landscape reflects the past' (p.15) and that systematic techniques can be developed to look at all, and not just selected, elements of any tract of country, to record these and later to synthesize the resulting hotch-potch of facts and observations into meaningful history. They call these techniques 'landscape fieldwork' which 'basically involves observing and recording mainly relic features with the aim of explaining the evolution of patterns and shapes in urban and rural landscapes' (p.23).

The book is divided into two parts: a general survey and history of the subject, and specific units of study. There are general chapters on maps, aerial photography and fieldwork techniques and in the second part of the book discussion of virtually all the features we are likely to meet in the field from hedges and churchyards to vernacular buildings and the regional characteristics of town plans.

Landscape Archaeology breaks new ground in suggesting what features to look for, how to record them and use the information to build up the history of a landscape. The authors build on, and make full acknowledgment to their antiquarian predecessors and the volumes of the Victoria County Histories and Royal Commission. The book is written at a time of immense threat to archaeological sites, and makes a good case for the value of field work in coping with this threat. The work is particularly suitable for amateurs with limited time, and Landscape Archaeology is a fine practical manual. It is firmly inter-disciplinary and places its subject firmly in the context of British Archaeology of the 1970's where excavation, documentary history and landscape history should be interdependent.

LORNA WATTS

Rescue Archaeology, P.A. Rahtz, Pelican, 1974

Rescue Archaeology is a unique collection of forceful personal statements on the current crisis in British archaeology. The contributors are all well known for their commitment to the programme and principles of 'Rescue' itself, and are actively involved in rescue archaeology and its organization. The book's range is enormous - from detailed advice on how to start digging, what to wear etc. to considered views on the principles and purpose of rescue archaeology.

Those of us who have been involved in 'rescue' excavations and survey work tend to forget what a radical departure from traditional university bound, academic archaeology the excavations of the 50's and 60's represent: unprecedented developments like the 2000 mile national motorway programme, vastly increased extractive industries to build them, deep ploughing and urban redevelopment, described by P.J.Fowler, Barri Jones and Peter Lewis, Professor St.Joseph, Martin Biddle and Peter Addyman, have pushed existing archaeological resources to the limit and engendered new ones. We have had to alter our whole idea about the density and complexity of the below-ground evidence on the past 6 millenia of British History. It is now a commonplace to talk of our countryside and towns as a single archaeological site. 'Challenge' and 'opportunity' have become 'cliche' words describing the post-war archaeological scene, but the varied contributions in Rescue Archaeology convey these two impressions very strongly.

Philip Rahtz, the editor, needs no introduction to readers of this Newsletter, and contributes two articles of his own on 'Rescue Digging Past and Present' and 'Volunteers', the latter somewhat marred by an uncharacteristic acerbity!

Graham Webster deals with a major problem in the expansion of archaeological excavation and survey work: the shortage of trained professionals and argues for Government financed training centres.

Philip Barker's paper 'The Scale of the Problem' puts figures to the vastly increased rate of development and numbers of known sites destroyed - a fitting prelude to his concluding article on 'The Origins and Development of Rescue', to whom the book's profits will go and, it is hoped, reach a wider audience through 'Rescue Archaeology'. The book is very much written from the 'front line' - perhaps its impact will be best judged by re-reading in 10 years time to see how many of its ideas have been put into practice. The contributors will hope that in 1985 it will be part of the history of archaeology.

In conclusion it may be said that to those involved in archaeology much in Rescue Archaeology is well known - but the writers do not want to preach to the converted. As a Penguin paperback it should reach and be of interest to a much wider audience.

HEATHER BARNIE

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N.Thomas, "An Archaeological Gazetteer for Warwickshire: Neolithic to Iron Age"	16 - 48
Graham Webster "The West Midlands in the Roman Period: a brief survey"	49 - 58
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<u>Trans Woolhope F.C.</u> 40, (1972)	
W.R. Pye, "A discoidal knife from Walford, Ross-on-Wye"	312 -314
A.E.Brown, "Round Barrows in Herefordshire"	315 -317
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B.T. Marples "The Niche in Mediaeval Churchyard Crosses"	321 -332
Rosamund Hickling "Deserted Mediaeval Villages, 1971, 1972"	400 -402
<u>South Staffs Archaeological and Historical Society</u> , 14, (1973)	
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Alan Savile "A Reconsideration of the Prehistoric Flint Assemblage from Bourne Pool, Aldridge, Staffs"	6 - 28
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Ken Sheridan "Seventh Report of Excavations at Tamworth: a section through the Northern defences excavated by Dr.F.T.Wainwright in 1960"	38 - 44
R.A.Meeson "A Four-bay cruck barn with outshot at Dusthill, Tamworth, Staffs"	45 - 50
J. Gould "Finds of Mediaeval leather and pottery from near Minster Pool, Lichfield, Staffs"	51 - 60

Obituary

The success of both WEMRAC and the newly formed BrumRAG excavation team in 1974 has been marred by the tragic loss of one of their most promising members : Rosalind Price, who was killed in a road accident on December 7th. Ros graduated last summer from the Archaeology Department at Birmingham, with a wide digging experience and the distinction of being the only undergraduate student at Birmingham to base her third year dissertation on an excavation she herself had directed - a rescue site threatened by a fullers earth mine at Combe Hay, Somerset. She was in the process of converting this into a full report for publication, during her work with BrumRAG at Pershore and Droitwich. Her main interest was in prehistory, but she had worked on a wide variety of sites, including the Tamworth Mill excavations. Ros's talents and good humour will be much missed on West Midland excavations. All her friends will miss much more a girl who enjoyed being young, was generous and warm, and seemed to live more intensively than most.

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