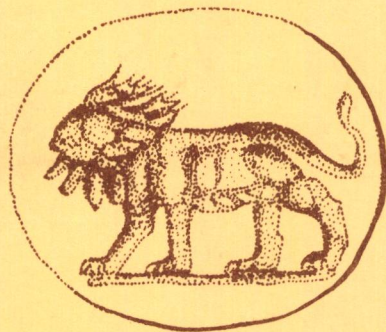


COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP 8

WEST MIDLANDS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
NEWS SHEET



Number 18 *1975*

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The frontispiece is an intaglio in yellow jasper(?) from the Macellum excavation at Wroxeter, 1975 showing a lion devouring a victim. Drawing by Diana Bonakis at 4:1.

Price 50p

EDITORIAL

Regular readers will notice in this year's News Sheet the number of excavations which have been undertaken by or on behalf of WEMRAC and this is a reflection of its increased contribution to the excavation programme of the region. But the majority of the reports are and, hopefully will continue to be, contributed by amateur groups and individuals and the value of the News Sheet is in this dissemination and exchange of information throughout the region. I cannot emphasise enough that the composition of the News Sheet relies upon the initiative of potential contributors to contact the editor with information about their activities. Readers are always interested in hearing about the work of those who are engaged in excavation or survey work in the region for the first time or whose work has never been reported in the News Sheet. Unfortunately, this year's News Sheet has been late in appearing and I must urge contributors to be prompt about sending in their reports and articles.

JULIE CRICKMORE



worcestershire
countycouncil

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service:
Historic Environment Record

Source No: WR.....1063.....

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THE CBA AND WEMRAC

Chairman's Introduction

Last year saw the separation of the CBA Regional Group from WEMRAC, a step which was considered essential for the development of both organisations. While WEMRAC has gained in strength and is now operating with reasonable efficiency, the Regional Group has become static. In spite of all my exhortations and efforts, very few have yet come forward to share the responsibilities for organising the Group and meeting the challenges and opportunities which now face us. The small number of devoted officers and committee members continue to do more than their fair share and unless the Group can be somewhat strengthened, we must continue to limp along in an ineffectual way and fail to represent the very considerable amateur strength which exists in the West Midlands.

The reasons for this unfortunate state of affairs are obvious. To most of the members of the societies and groups, archaeology is a leisure activity, to obtain the maximum amount of relaxation and enjoyment in healthy outdoor exercise in fieldwork and excavation. In the West Midlands for many years there has been well organised, purposeful work with a record of achievement it would be difficult to equal anywhere else in the country. Many have and continue to submit to the rigorous discipline of training and study to keep abreast with new developments. It is asking a great deal of these serious minded, dedicated amateurs to turn their attention to the organisation and administrative side of archaeology, especially as so many are already giving much of their time to doing precisely this in their own societies.

It is interesting to note that some of our West Midlands professionals have gradually withdrawn from the Group's activities and are now giving all their time to WEMRAC, which is now virtually a professional body. This is a sign of the times and is happening elsewhere, the gulf between the amateur and professional is apparent and ever widening. It is sad for me to record this, as I have strived so long to bridge this gap and maintain a balance between the 2 sides. We must now face reality and I regard it now as my main task to try to ensure that there remains at least strong representation of both groups in each other's camps.

The trend is evident also in the CBA Council and Executive, but in a different way. The CBA's Executive Board is still happily a well balanced body with both sides well represented, but the Council remains weighted towards the societies. This is why this body is so averse to the development of professionalism and wants the control of British archaeology to remain in amateur hands. Unless a balance is found, there is a danger of a professional break-away into separate organisations, which could be very serious to the future of British archaeology.

May I urge you all to obtain a copy of the CBA Report No. 25 entitled Archaeology in Britain 1974-75. It is a new style report well organised and presented. Read and study this carefully, especially the first 30 pages; this will give you a very clear indication of the present situation and its implications for the future. Spend sometime at your meetings reviewing the work and direction of your society or groups against this changing scene, so that you all fully understand where we are all going. I may then begin to feel that I am no longer a third rate prophet crying in a West Midlands wilderness.

GRAHAM WEBSTER

Annual Report of the West Midlands Rescue Archaeology Committee

Chairman's Letter

It will be clear to all who study the annual reports that WEMRAC, after a difficult and uncertain formative period, has now settled down as an

essential organisation for rescue archaeology in the West Midlands region. Our status and role have been accepted by the DOE and we have been able to establish satisfactory relations with its officers. The year has also seen the Area Advisory Committee begin its consideration of the wider aspects of the regional problems. Although its deliberations are confidential, it can be said that there is now a two-way exchange of ideas and information with WEMRAC, which will, I hope develop to mutual advantage.

A significant advance has been the acquisition of our own office in Worcester, having taken over the lease held by RESCUE. The present arrangements for manning the office are not satisfactory since there is no money for full time staff but we are hoping to have someone there to answer the telephone if only on a part time basis. There is also room for post-excavation work which has been badly needed.

The next advance will be the establishment of a closer relationship with local authorities. We already have excellent working arrangements between the local authority field officers in county museums and planning departments and our own officers, but the services we can offer should be more widely known especially by planning officers at county and district levels. In the present financial climate, when no new local authority appointments are likely for some years, we can be of help with advice and direct assistance in matters of conservation and planning in addition to fieldwork and excavation. This coming year should be one of consolidation and careful expansion into this area without straining our limited resources.

Heather Barnie left us to take up an appointment with Dyfed and we wish her well. We owe her a great deal for all the hard work she did for us in difficult circumstances. Her post has been filled by Ian Burrow whom we welcome and wish every success in his special responsibilities in Shropshire, a county with enormous archaeological potential. Martin Carver, in his new role as Excavation Officer for the region, is now providing the essential co-ordination of effort and resources. Julie Crickmore, our Urban Officer, has had a difficult year coping with many of the odds and ends which Heather used to deal with but her basic task of the Urban Survey is now almost complete. She has also been helping with implications reports for Lichfield, Stratford and Coventry and providing the necessary link work on historic towns and their development problems. We must not be lulled by the present period of quiet but use this opportunity to study the archaeological potentialities of our town centres and build up local contacts so we are ready when development speeds up.

We are grateful to our officers, especially those who are honorary: our Treasurer, Geoff Taylor, who has a particularly difficult task and our Secretary Lawrence Barfield, and all our committee members, amateur and professional, who joined together in a useful and effective team.

GRAHAM WEBSTER

Report of the Director of Excavations

In many regions in the country, and indeed abroad, the past year saw new approaches to rescue archaeology. The era of polemic began to give way to one of more constructive planning. It could be seen that support from Government, local government and from the people could be best earned through results. How could we, therefore, use the resources at our disposal to get these results - to achieve the most economical and effective exploration of the region?

As the independent regional committee, WEMRAC inevitably became the forum for this debate and evolved a sequence of practical policies. Its emphasis on survey work has brought vulnerable areas steadily into focus. The information we had from which to assess and evaluate sites was of far greater quality in 1975 than it had been in 1974. Now it is greater still. As this quality improves, so too will the decisions which lead in turn to new excavation strategies.

Thus it was the best information available which led in 1974 to the introduction of a small team in Shrewsbury, then considered to be the town in most pressing archaeological danger. The findings, based on a concentrated season of trial excavation and documentation were a little unexpected (Trans. Shropshire Arch.Soc., forthcoming). The upper part of the town, which should have contained the oldest strata had been largely destroyed in XIII and whilst valuable deposits certainly remained, none of these was threatened by current developments. By contrast, above ground level, a set of timber-framed buildings - one of the finest groups in England - was being gradually demolished without record. From April 1975 the Shrewsbury Unit therefore dispersed and continual efforts have since been made to get responsible bodies to support the work of recording the vanishing houses. No one acquainted with the variety of vernacular architecture can be unimpressed by its informative value. If a beam slot is worth rescuing, so surely is a beam.

Following the closure of the Shrewsbury operation, Martin Carver was appointed Director of Excavations for the region, with responsibility for the co-ordination of rescue work and its reconciliation with the needs of training and research. April 1975 saw the introduction of a new concept: the annual programme, which sought to submit all sites, whether attracting government money or not, to a rigorous selection based on their archaeological value and to match them with such expertise as could be found. The principles of the new system were sometimes contentious: no excavation without prior evaluation; no continuation without proven yield; and, in general, fewer sites excavated, with an increase of professional at the expense of non-professional supervision. But they were accepted by Committee members with generosity and vision and 1975 was also marked by a totally new style of co-operation between WEMRAC, which provided an excavation facility, and the 5 counties, for all of whom work was undertaken at some stage during the year. It was in reality the effort which counties provided in kind which enabled so much work to be done at so little cost: at Stafford, a site 30m x 15m x 2m deep was totally excavated at a cost of under £3,000; at Ludlow, a possible Beaker settlement was located for under £1,000; at Bidford, previous work was completed and areas to be affected by new development evaluated for under £1,000; at Worcester an intact pre-medieval sequence was recorded together with a stretch of the City Wall for under £1,000; a full survey of Stafford was carried out for £300; geophysical surveys were undertaken at Shrewsbury and Alcester for £300; many years work at Stretton was gathered together for publication for under £1,000; sites at Shrewsbury, including 3 years' work at Pride Hill were prepared for publication for £2,000; in addition (at no additional cost) small evaluation and salvage recording exercises were carried out at various times in each of the 5 counties. The productivity and cost of this method of working could perhaps bear comparison with many other archaeological enterprises currently operating.

Some aspects of the programme were however less successful. Skilled labour was in general not attracted due to the continued uncertainty of funding. We were lucky that such expertise as we had did not, in general, leave the region. But without formal arrangements the region is destined in the future to remain very short of experienced and committed workers. One solution would clearly be the appointment of more archaeologists in the field, but such appointments are slow in coming, both at county and regional level. In any case, they could never provide the mobile force of trained labour that the programmes demand.

It was partly with an eye on this problem that negotiations were opened towards the end of 1975 with the Department of Archaeology at Birmingham University. As a result of first exchanges, a loan and field training scheme has been put forward at both graduate and under-graduate level. The School of History, Science Faculties and the Extramural Department have also expressed a wish to participate; this should result in a great deal of new talent being applied to rescue work in the region annually.

It will not of course solve all problems. There is likely to remain for some time to come the necessity of appointing professional archaeologists to undertake regional post-excavation work. Whilst back on the ground, 1976 is likely to see a resurgence of demand for the involvement of the dedicated non-professional. This is not simply a question of economising; the intrinsic merits of the older system, provided it is carried out under rigorous direction, have often proved themselves to be more flexible than the new.

The programme for 1976-7 is now under discussion. Whatever the budget proves to be, it will see our excavation and post-excavation resources fully stretched once again. The Committee will again provide the chamber for the final selection of sites and a programme constructed accordingly. Major excavations will be carried out and there is likely to be an increase in post-excavation work and salvage recording, both of which will be co-ordinated from WEMRAC's new office in Worcester. Enquiries from any reader who would like to lend a hand to the programme will always be welcomed at this office(25A The Tything, Worcester).

M.O.H. CARVER, WEMRAC Director
of Excavations

Urban Officer's Report

In 1975, an urban committee was set up for Coventry and has been very successful in bringing together members from the planning and conservation departments of the local authority, the Civic Amenities Society and the Coventry and District Archaeological Society, interested architects and academics from Birmingham, Warwick and Leicester Universities and elsewhere, all of whom are making a contribution to the implications report (see below).

Implications Reports

Stafford A study has been prepared by J. Walker of Bradford University as part of her MSc and it is hoped that this will be available for publication.
Shrewsbury Martin Carver's report, 'Early Shrewsbury-An Archaeological Definition in 1975', will be published in June 1976 in the Trans. Shropshire Arch. Soc.
Stratford-on-Avon A report prepared by T. Slater of the Geography Department, University of Birmingham, should be completed in 1976. Lichfield J. Gould's study of Lichfield has gone to press and should be available from March 1976; the editing of this report and the preparation of the plans for publication were done by the Urban Officer. Thanks are expressed to the DOE and the South Staffs. Arch. and Hist. Soc. who generously gave financial support to this publication.
Coventry A report, to be published in mid 1976, is being prepared by M. Rylatt and J. Crickmore under the aegis of the Coventry Historic Town Committee.

The Regional Urban Survey

The final layout is being prepared for approval by the Urban Committee. The bibliography and site index provide essential back-up information for the survey; only selected parts will be published but a copy of the index will be kept at the WEMRAC Office in Worcester and will be available to those undertaking implications surveys or urban excavations. It consists of a separate bibliography for each town together with information on excavations, stray finds and other miscellaneous data and provides the basic information for more detailed studies of individual towns. The site index is arranged by period, from 1A to post-medieval, and subdivided into settlement types e.g. 1A hillforts, Roman towns, A/S burhs, and other features associated with urban activities e.g. kilns, quarries.

One of the aims of the survey is to enable research and rescue priorities to be assessed on an academic basis. This is particularly important at a time of increasing excavation costs when the annual excavation grant remains static or is threatened with reduction. The survey will show not only the changing settlement patterns, period by period, within the region but will emphasise also the areas where fieldwork and excavation are most needed. The main body of information

is contained on the transparent overlay maps. One set of maps, containing the historical information about urban settlements, has already been outlined (WMNS (1974)17, 7); a second set of overlays, again arranged by period, contains the archaeological evidence relating to urban activities e.g. kilns, cemeteries, industries, and other information not included on the historical overlay e.g. routeways. The 2 sets of maps can be used separately or on a period basis, bringing together the historical and archaeological information for that period. The accompanying text will be divided into 3 parts. 1) A period by period commentary on the current state of knowledge and research; conclusions drawn from the maps about the settlement pattern and the nature of urbanism in that period; an assessment of the archaeological evidence to date and its limitations; research topics. 2) A gazetteer of sites according to type, qualifying and explaining the information on the archaeological maps and indicating where excavations have taken place and where sites have been destroyed and therefore are no longer a potential source of information. 3) A paraphrased history of each town expanding the historical categories shown on the overlays together with additional information and a list of excavations.

Although it is expected that the form and content of the survey will enable it to be used by the WEMRAC Committees, planning officers, professional and amateur fieldworkers and historians alike, it is hoped that the information will be assimilated into the existing county sites and monuments records.

Bridgnorth

Liaison was established with the Chief Planning Officer of Bridgnorth District Council and his co-operation has enabled the Urban Officer to give advice on a number of sites which have come up for redevelopment in Bridgnorth.

If anyone engaged in fieldwork or research in the region feels that his/her work may be relevant to the Urban Survey, I would be pleased if they would contact me.

JULIE N. CRICKMORE, Urban Officer
of WEMRAC

The Rural Committee

The resignation of the Chairman, Dr. Susan Limbrey has caused this committee to go into abeyance for the time being while a clearer definition of its purpose is being considered.

GENERAL

Two Romano-British Sites on the Worcs/Glos Border

2 further RB sites in this area are reported. Aston Somerville Parish, Worcs (SP/03703785). Flying the area in August 1975, cropmarks revealed the site of a villa of courtyard type. Subsequent field-walking secured RB pottery of III-IV, Severn Valley wares, orange buff wares predominated but some sherds of black burnished ware were collected and a fragment of roof tile. Part of a colour coated Oxford ware bowl was also found. This field was stubble from the previous corn crop when walked and was undersown with grass so the pottery finds were somewhat concealed. Further investigation when the field is ploughed in autumn 1976 should provide more evidence. The area will be covered in the 1976 aerial survey as there is evidence in the 1975 photograph of a much larger zone of occupation. The siting of this villa has proved interesting as it lies on high ground on the east bank of the River Isbourne directly in line with the county boundary which here lies in an E-W direction.

The western end of the county boundary, NNE of Dumbleton (Glos) is an important junction of boundaries and footpaths and is on the line of the possible Roman road leading due north from Dumbleton to Stoke Prior (Worcs). It will be interesting to see if cropmarks and fieldwalking can produce evidence that the county boundary may have been the original access road to the villa. The parish of Aston Somerville was at one time in Glos. The confirmation of the previous county bounds will prove of interest here.

Evesham (SP/4454140). SE of Crab Farm, adjacent to the north boundary of Hinton on the Green. An aerial photograph taken in 1974 showed 2 ring ditches. Fieldwalking revealed RB pottery scatter and stone rubble in the plough. Pottery again Severn Valley orange buff ware, one sherd of black burnished ware and sherds of grey ware dating again III-IV. All finds to Tewkesbury and Hereford/Worcester County Museum.

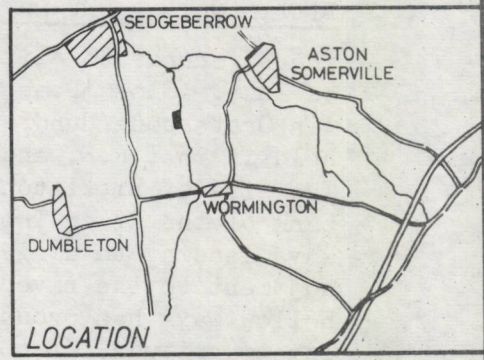
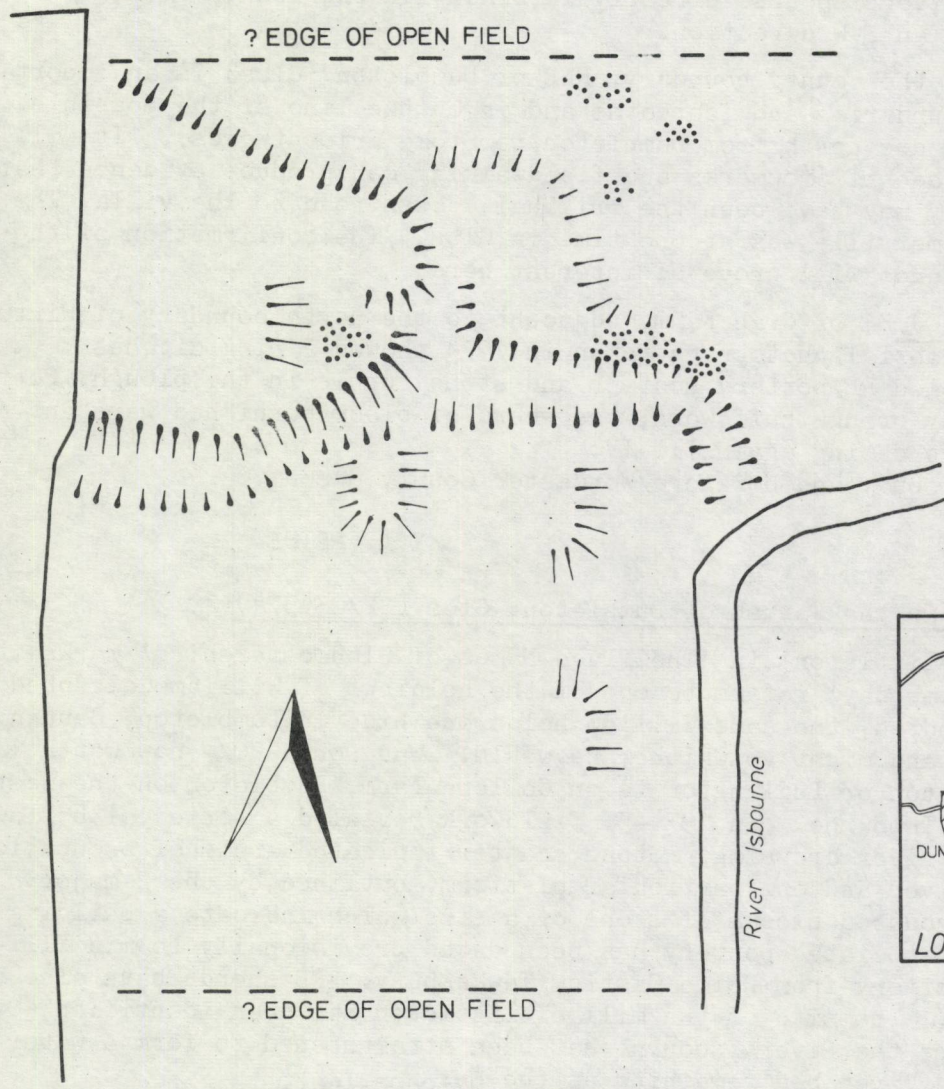
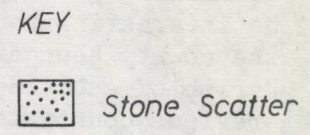
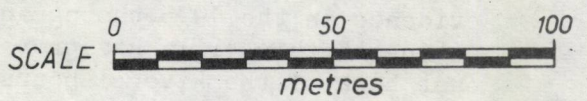
E.A. PRICE

Littleton. A DMV in the Parish of Dumbleton, Glos (SP/034374)

The reference to 'Littleton' in 'The Place Names of Gloucestershire' marks it as lost. Glos 'Domesday' refers to one of the holdings of William Goizenbedod 'in Gretestone Hundred, the same William holds one hide in Dumbleton, Sauuin held it in T.R.E. and might go whither he would. Was worth 20/- now worth 12/-.' The site of Littleton or Ludlington is on College Farm, Dumbleton on the west bank of the River Isbourne. In 1974-5, fieldwork revealed a series of hollow ways leading to a river crossing. Stone scatter indicated areas of occupation adjacent to the river and one particular platform, outlined by the 2 major hollow ways has produced blocks of stone of a size which indicate a building of some magnitude. Associated pottery has been dated provisionally to mid XIII-XIV, comparable with pottery from Holme Castle, Tewkesbury. RB sherds have also been found on the site. The site of the mill of Littleton has been identified 400m further north where the River Isbourne has been straightened to form a water pound with the old river bed remaining as the by-pass leat.

Documentary evidence to date reveals that Littleton was a separate estate in the manor of Dumbleton. Dumbleton according to 'Domesday' was held by St. Mary of Abingdon, an estate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ hides with its own mill. Also Cottonian MS Aug. II 48 is a charter of Ethelred AD 995, the original grant. The Chronicle of the monastery of Abingdon contains the details of the grant to St. Mary of Abingdon by William Goizenbedod of 1 hide in Dumbleton in 8 Henry 1. Charters by Robert Count of Mellent, or Melun, his feudal lord and the king support this grant to Abingdon. 1308 - an inquisition post mortem I Edw II of the deceased widow of Hugh Mortimer of Richards Castle, Hereford refers to the monastery of Abingdon holding the manor of 'Ludlinton' worth £10 by $\frac{1}{2}$ knights fee.

COLLEGE FARM, DUMBLETON, GLOUCS. Plan of Medieval Earthworks SP034374



T.A.C.

1346 - Walter D'Aston and Alice his wife from John Prouting all his lands in Dumbleton and Littleton etc.

1691 - lands of Richard D'Aston on demise of his wife Anne bought by Sir L. Jenkins and given to Jesus College August 1691. Estate map by G. King 1691, Jesus College, Oxford.

These are the lands of College Farm today, 157a and contain field names, Farr Littletons, Mischels Close etc. The accounts of the obedientars of Abingdon Abbey, 1433-34 refer to lands and rents in Lyttleton in the lordship of Dumbleton. 'The mill of Lyttleton in default of rent because in the hand of the lord of Beckford and wholly decayed.'

Littleton had certainly disappeared by 1691 and before as a jury held at that time stated that in their memory (50 years) it was as now. In 1433 the mill was decayed and in 1346 the deed transferring John Prouting's land to Walter D'Aston gives no indication of a community at Littleton. The pottery dating provisionally mid XIII/early XIV, is some guide to an occupation date. Further documentary investigation should provide evidence of the gradual decline of this community or some event of specific importance which influenced its desertion. The site is under the plough and is fast disappearing.

Survey and documentary evidence to be forwarded to the DMV Research Group. All pottery to Tewkesbury Museum. My thanks to Alan Hannan and the staff of Tewkesbury Archaeological Centre for help in the survey work and to Kevin Downe of the Department of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham for assistance in documentary research.

E. A. PRICE

Lichfield Cathedral Close Conduit, Staffs (SK/092092 - SK/114097)

Fieldwork and historical research was undertaken into this water system. The medieval conduit head (?XIII) still stands, overgrown and unscheduled. Historically, the system has now been dated to the early part of the second half of the XII, contemporary with the well known Canterbury conduit (a former bishop of Lichfield had been prior at Christchurch, Canterbury).

J. GOULD

The Kinver Edge Region: Second Interim Report of An Archaeological Survey

Work has continued on the survey of the Kinver Edge area, reported in last year's newsletter. Only brief notes can be included here, but a fuller version is being published in the Worcs. Arch. Newsletter 17.

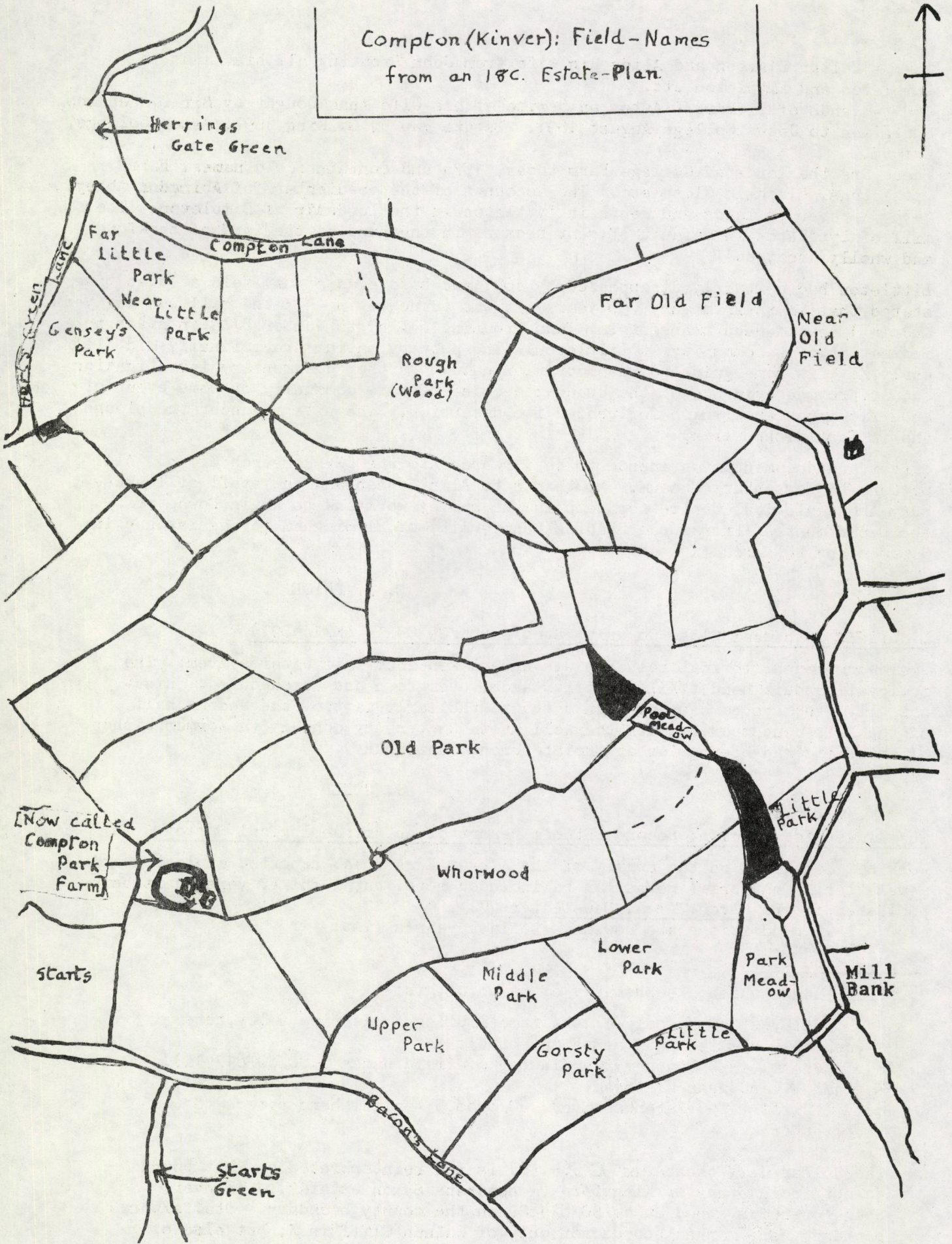
The following additions are now made to last year's list:-

Dark Age and Saxon

1. Place names which are probably of Saxon origin:-
 - a) Horseley (1149 Horselee): the name implies a clearing, -ley, here probably has its late sense 'pasture'.
 - b) Bodenham (1243 Bodeham): a cluster of field names c. SO/807817(1a). Hamm - land near a stream.
 - c) Austcliff (1240 Astenesclive). SO/848805 - cliff here refers to the river bank.

2. The Culnan Clif charter of AD 964 (2) is now reinterpreted so that bounds do not include any of Kingsford (a separate Saxon estate?). 'Kinver Stone' perhaps stood at c. SO/824822 on the county boundary. Staffs/Worcs boundary here marked bounds not only of Culnan Cliff in X, but also of Kinver Forest in 1300 (3). It has always divided dioceses of Worcester and Lichfield, so earlier may perhaps even have been boundary of sub-kingdom of Hwicce?

Compton (Kinver): Field-Names
from an 18c. Estate-Plan



Herring's Gate Green

Compton Lane

Far Little Park
Near Little Park

Gensey's Park

Rough Park (Wood)

Far Old Field

Near Old Field

Old Park

Pool meadow

Little Park

[Now called Compton Park Farm]

Whorwood

Lower Park

Middle Park

Park Meadow

Mill Bank

starts

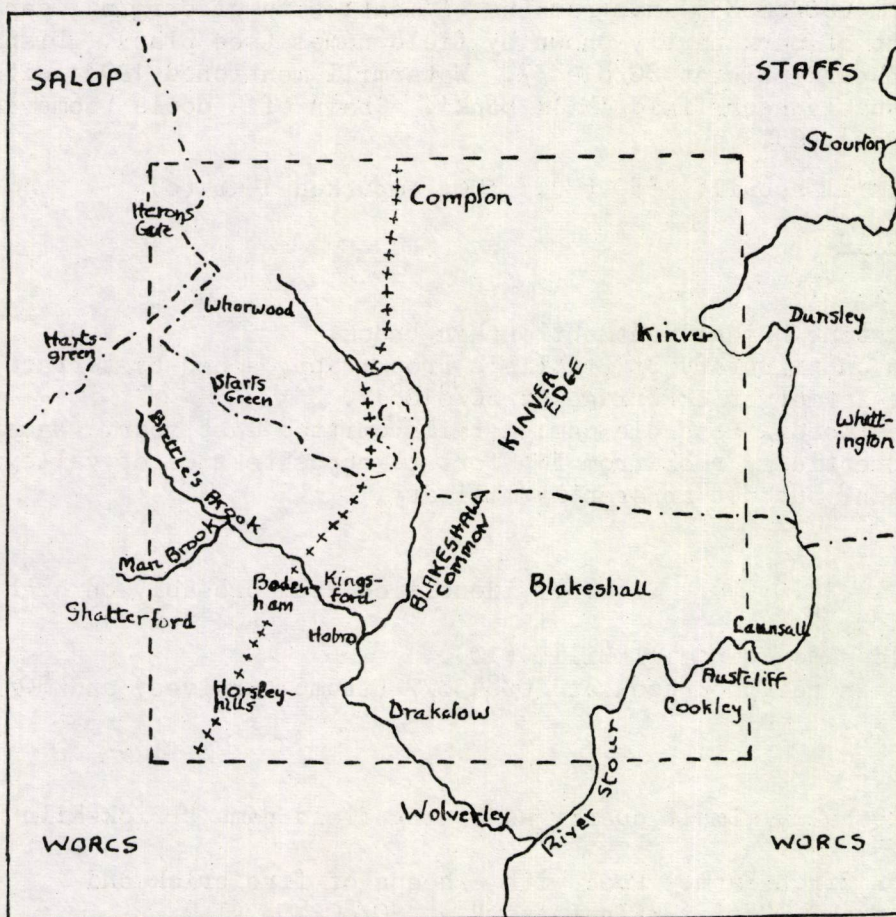
Upper Park

Gorsty Park

Little Park

starts Green

Balcon's Lane



- Area under survey
- +++++ Enville Fault (heavy land to west)
- County boundaries

Medieval Parks and Water Mills

1. Whorwood, 1269: first licence to assart (4). Manor with 3 carucates 1293, but only one in 1315 (5). The park shown on Speed's Map of Worcs 1677. Compton Park Farm (SO/806835) has remains of moat: site of original capital message? Extent of park partly shown by field names (see plan). Disparked by 1733. Traces of park pale at SO/814837. Watermill mentioned 1293: site not certain, but probably near field 'Mill Bank'. Chain of 4 pools (some are fishponds of 1293?) (6).
2. Stourton. Watermill rebuilt 1330 (7). 300a emparked 1446 (8).

Miscellaneous Features

Bridges and Dams

1. SO/800814: drystone bridge abutment on Man Brook.
2. SO/809581: dam on tributary of Brettles Brook; approached by terraced way, leading to former brick bridge at SO/810817.
3. SO/806819: Arley Wood. Possible dam; details omitted last year. Massive bank crossing Brettles Brook from E1A fort to opposite side of valley. Purpose uncertain, but not apparently military.

Windmills

1. "Wynmulnefeld" in 1420 (9). Site not identified, but probably on high ground c. SO/8185.
2. SO/829845: field name "Windmill Hill" (10).
3. Other windmills in neighbourhood at SO/845877 (stump survives) and SO/838884 (1b).

Brick Kilns

1. SO/834814, Blakeshall. Small quarry adjoining field name "Brick-Kiln Leasow" (1a).
2. SO/804801, Lower Birch Farm. Pool with 2 heaps of fire brick and stone, not far from a "Brick-kiln Leasow" at SO/802803 (1a).

Lime Kiln

1. "Lime Kiln Piece" at SO/804807, Horseleyhills, (1a), contains shallow, rock cut depression.

Stone Quarries

There are several references (11a):-

1. 1368 onwards: "lord's quarry" in Horseley. Site not certain; perhaps broken ground at SO/80358030.
2. c. 1377-86: "lord's quarry" at Alscllyne (Austcliff).
3. c. 1377-86: reference to taking stone from Colkeles Cragg (Cookley Crag).
4. 1498: parcel of land at Woodhamcote called "the quarry". Perhaps at SO/829797?

Rockhouses

1. SO/814805: Hobro Cottages, Sladd Lane.
2. SO/815802: The Sladd (3 rockhouses).
3. SO/819802: Rock Cottage, Drakelow (3 rockhouses).

Discussion

Physical evidence is often meagre: potsherds seem scarce and on the lighter soils earthworks plough away swiftly. Progress has so far perhaps consisted more in defining some of the problems than in solving them. The following are a few of the obvious ones:-

The Siting of Kinver

No real evidence of continuity from the E1A hillfort, nor remains of the Saxon village (probably on the hill, near the church?). Modern village, on flat land

near river, probably a planned plantation (in 1257, by John, son of Philip?) (8). Long, narrow burgage plots along both sides of High St. Footpath below "the Cliff" is a "back lane" on west.

The Development of Some of the Settlements

Many of the main ones lie on light soils of Stour Valley. Some Saxon penetration on to edge of heavy land around Kingsford (SO/820815), Bodenham (SO/807817), Horsleyhills (SO/808804), on place name evidence; Shatterford mentioned in X. Documents of XII show further clearing then around Horseley, also Hobro (SO/815807); and those of XIII, assarting at Shatterford, and also at Whorwood in Compton (see first page). See below for assarting implied by "green" names.

The Nature of Some of the Medieval Hamlets

1. Blakeshall: not by a stream, and on poor, high ground, but it had 9 villeins c. 1240 (12). Connected with grazing? Various references to "ruddings" from XIV (11a).
2. Woodhamcote: lost hamlet of Wolverley. Existed c. 1240 (12). Preece suggested Woodfield Farm; it may have been the part of Wolverley north of Brettles Brook (approx. SO/829795).
3. Horsley: existed before 1143, when new assart granted at increased rent (13). A manor in 1315 (14), but possibly never a nucleated village. XVIII farmhouse, possibly on earlier site, at SO/80758045, with cottage, foundations of 2 more, 3 fishponds, hollow way up hill. Fonterudding (14 and 11a) was large assart in Horseley by early XIII not yet located.
4. Kingsford: name occurs AD 964. Medieval sub-manor of Wolverley: in a different hundred in 1327. Bounds with Wolverley settled 1189-96 (14). Not clear if ever a nucleated village, but manor house was perhaps on Castle Hill?
5. Compton: sub-manor of Kinver, also known as Compton Hallows (from XIV, owner de Haudlo?) and Compton Whorwood (from Whorwood family, who took name from part of Compton). See above first page re Whorwood Park. 9 taxpayers 1332. Possibly a scattered township? (but see below re "green").

"Green" Names

These seem to fall into 2 types:-

1. Possible actual village greens, e.g.:-
 - a. Blakeshall (Inclosure Award shows open space).
 - b. Dunsley: references to encroachment in XIX (11b), c. SO/850830?
 - c. Compton Green: field name (10) and XIX references to encroachment (11b), (SO/819842). Not clear if village was ever round it. Lies between modern Compton and former Whorwood.
2. Some "Greens" are probable medieval assarts, e.g. Starts Green (SO/805830), Herrings Gate Green (SO/803845), Hartsgreen SO/791834) (15). These apparently round edge of Whorwood Park.

Authorities Quoted (1) Tithe Maps: a) Wolverley b) Enville (2) G.B. Grundy "Saxon Charters of Worcs". (3) Coll. Hist. Staff., XV. (4) Cal. Misc. Inqs. (5) Cal. Inqs. P.M., Burnell family. (6) Estate plan in Foley Collection, Hereford Record Office. (7) Cal. Close Rolls. (8) Cal. Charter Rolls. (9) I.H. Jeayes "Charters...at Hagley Hall", no. 289. (10) Bright's Plan, 1831. (11) Manor Court Rolls: a) Wolverley (from MS notes of Mr. J. S. Preece). b) Kinver. (12) Reg. Worc. Priory. (13) VCH Worcs 3, 570. (14) Worc. Cath. Cart. (15) T. Rowley "The Shrops. Landscape".

Acknowledgements The Group wishes to express its gratitude to the following:- to Dr. Margaret Gelling for help with the place name evidence; to Mr. A. T. Foley for the use of material from the Foley documents; to the work of the late Mr. J. S. Preece, and to Mr. A. J. Caswell for the loan of his MS notes; to the

various landowners; and to the Hereford and Worcester County Archaeology Department for much help and encouragement. The Group also wishes to acknowledge the work of its keenest members, the late Eric Philpotts, who died recently. His contribution to the project will be greatly missed.

PETER KING and LESLIE KING
for the Stour and Smethstow
Archaeological Research Group

Bridgnorth By-Pass

During the winter of 1971-2, a programme of fieldwork was initiated to cover the most likely route for the by-pass running from the A458 at c. SO/698934 and curving SE towards the River Severn at c. SO/718923. The area covered was c. 1 mile wide. No previous fieldwork was known to have been carried out in the immediate vicinity.

A458 to B4364. This section crosses several fields which, from surface observations, do not appear to contain anything of interest. However, a field immediately to the east of the proposed route contains a barn, probably XIX, in the centre of the field at SO/704930 and this field is covered with parallel features which are probably drainage channels to 2 pools on the northern edge of the field.

B4364 to B4363. From the B4364 the route descends a steep slope to pass immediately east of Conduit House. The fields to the south and NW of the B4364 were walked with the following results:

1. Field to NW of Oldbury - Bridgnorth road, next to new school. The O.S. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " map shows 2 fields but NE-SW hedgeline has been removed. The pottery was mainly post-medieval but with a small number of medieval sherds including a slashed jug handle. Several intact pipe bowls were found with the marks 'RL' and 'WS'.
2. Field to SE of Oldbury-Bridgnorth road next to limit of new housing to the east (SO/711923). Pottery scatter was noticeably less than in the previous field. Again SW-NE the hedgeline had been removed. The O.S. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " map also shows a small building at SO/710923 and this was probably located as a small area of dark earth towards the centre of the field.
3. Field SO/706923 - 707922 - 706924 - 709923. The hedge marked on the O.S. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " map had been removed. A strip on NW side of the field running NE-SW and parallel with the hedge contained darked soil with heavy pottery scatter. Rather more medieval pottery was evident in this field and several clay pipe bowls with marks 'SA', 'John Legg' and 'HB'. Also 3 flint fragments.
4. Field immediately SE of (2) and behind Eversley at SO/712923 was under grass but ridge and furrow running SW-NE was clearly visible. Possible traces of 2 low, wide banks, now ploughed out, were also observed near each end of this field and running at right angles to the ridge and furrow.
5. Field at SO/709921. Light scatter of late pottery, heavier in NW corner of field, perhaps suggesting that the field was at sometime divided by a hedge running SW-NE and continuing the line of the hedge shown on the O.S. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " map (1965) in the field immediately to the NE. One sherd of early date and part of a green glazed jug handle were found and a fragment of worked flint at SO/70959215.

These fields overlie the medieval open field known as Conduit field and the wealth of post-medieval pottery confirms the town's use of this field until well into XVIII (T. Rowley, The Shropshire Landscape (1972), 144).

Pan Pudding Hill. The proposed route crosses the B4363 at SO/715923 and passes through the field now occupied by the bailey of the motte and bailey known as Pan Pudding Hill. This field contains the following features:

1. Faint earthworks of indeterminate nature in the NW corner of the field. These would be destroyed by the road.
2. An earthwork suggestive of a track with slightly raised banks running from NW-SE across the field would be partially destroyed.
3. An earthwork on the knoll immediately south of the bailey consisting of

the scarping of the knoll summit to form a low rampart on all sides except the west. The summit is slightly hollowed and covered by trees. This feature was surveyed and tentative suggestions as to its purpose are as follows:

- a) A feature associated with the motte and bailey.
- b) A Civil War artillery emplacement commanding both castle and river.
- c) A feature associated with the construction of the railway or the present B4363.

Extensive cuttings involved in the re-routing of the present B4363 further to the north, as part of the by-pass scheme, would remove the southern half of this feature. It is recommended that this field be examined further by more experienced fieldworkers should the by-pass scheme go ahead.

River Bank. The proposed bridge abutment at SO/716923 would occupy part of a long spit of land between the Bridgnorth-Eardington road and the river; this spit contains several low banks probably built to reduce the effect of flooding and to create an area of rough pasture on the river bank. These features were sketch surveyed.

East of the River Severn. On this side of the river, a complex junction on the Kidderminster road at SO/722925, immediately south of St. James' Hospital, forms part of the scheme. The site of the hospital is partially occupied by modern housing and it is improbable that any medieval features extend this far south.

Acknowledgments. Thanks are due to the Shropshire County Council for providing plans of the proposed route and to landowners for allowing access to their properties.

W.T. BRYAN, C. HADLEY and
N. PLANT for the Stour and
Smethstow Archaeological
Research Group

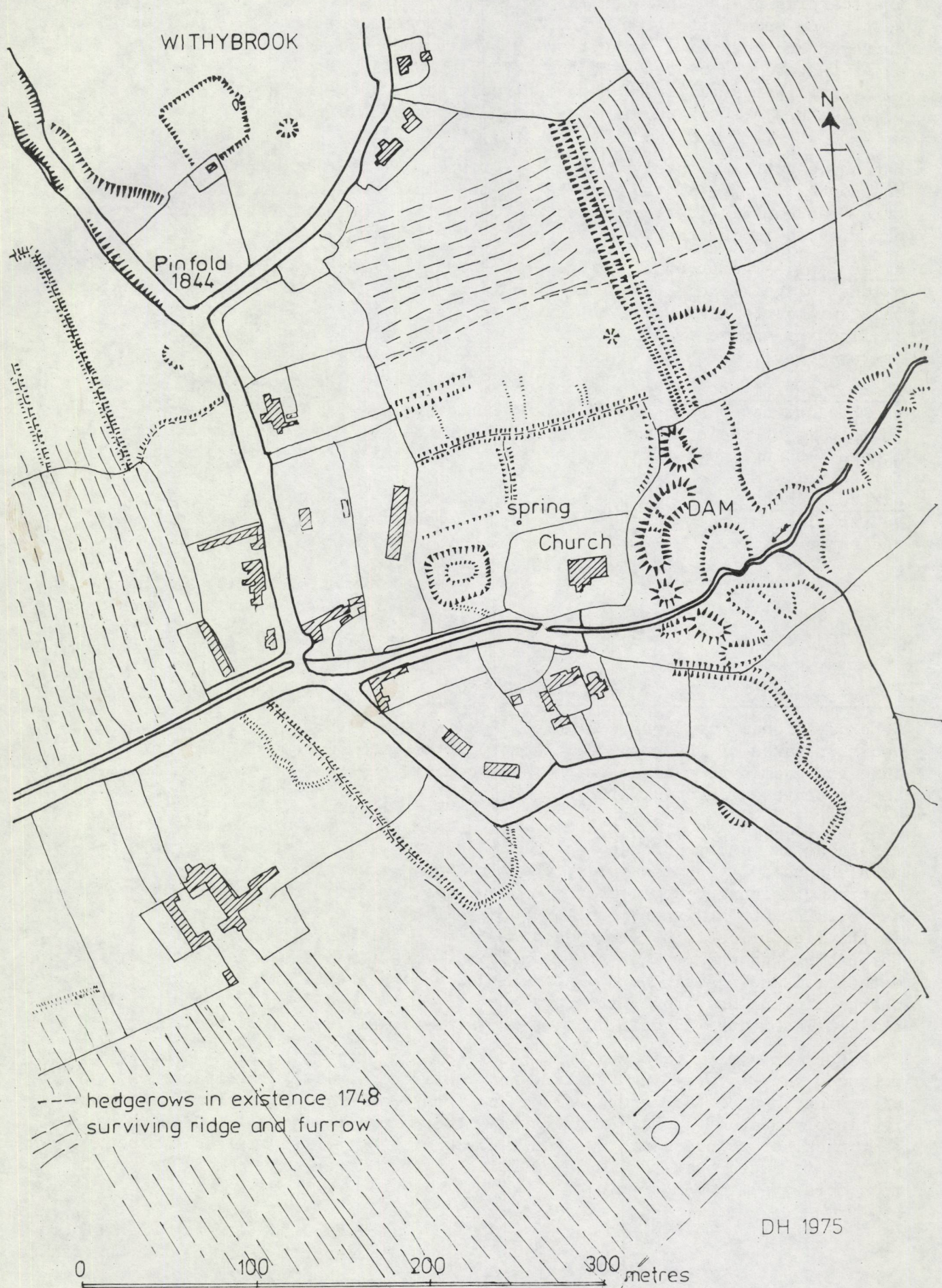
Research and Fieldwork in Shropshire

No excavational fieldwork was undertaken in 1975 although, following the decision taken by the group to channel our efforts, little as they now are, into the examination of cropmark farming enclosures, an attempt was made to negotiate a winter digging season at Lyth Hill Site B (SJ/467084).

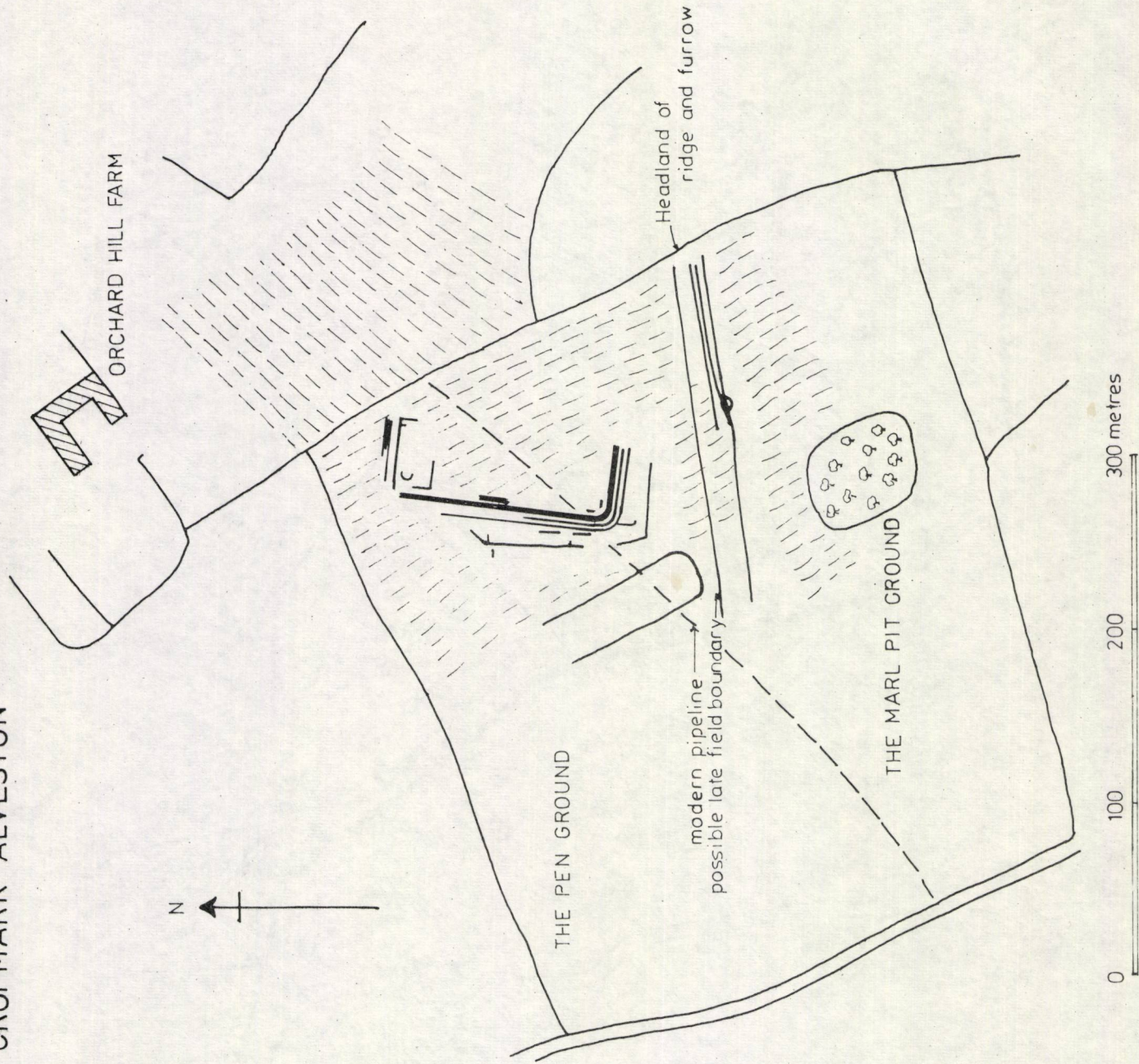
It has become a group policy to allocate a fixed amount of time and transport resources to general archaeological projects. Of late, these resources have been absorbed by the gazetteer, the sites and monuments record project and the vetting of planning applications. Group work is still carried out every Tuesday evening at Shrewsbury Public Library with individuals working at home and in the field, mostly at weekends. Another aerial survey, mostly of north Shropshire was undertaken in mid July and a few new sites were observed. Further details of known sites were also recorded together with the fact that continued change of land use, following the foot-and-mouth epidemic and recent reclamation, still necessitates surveillance in areas previously well surveyed.

Some work on early trade and other routeways in Shropshire and its environs has produced very interesting results, and confirmed earlier definitions of traffic diversion towards the Severn Valley and Trent Basin. The problem of increasing the involvement of society members and others in 'provincial' fieldwork has been tackled yet again and a formula for parish by parish liaison has been drawn up. It is hoped that the implementation of this during the coming year will lead to a more dynamic membership.

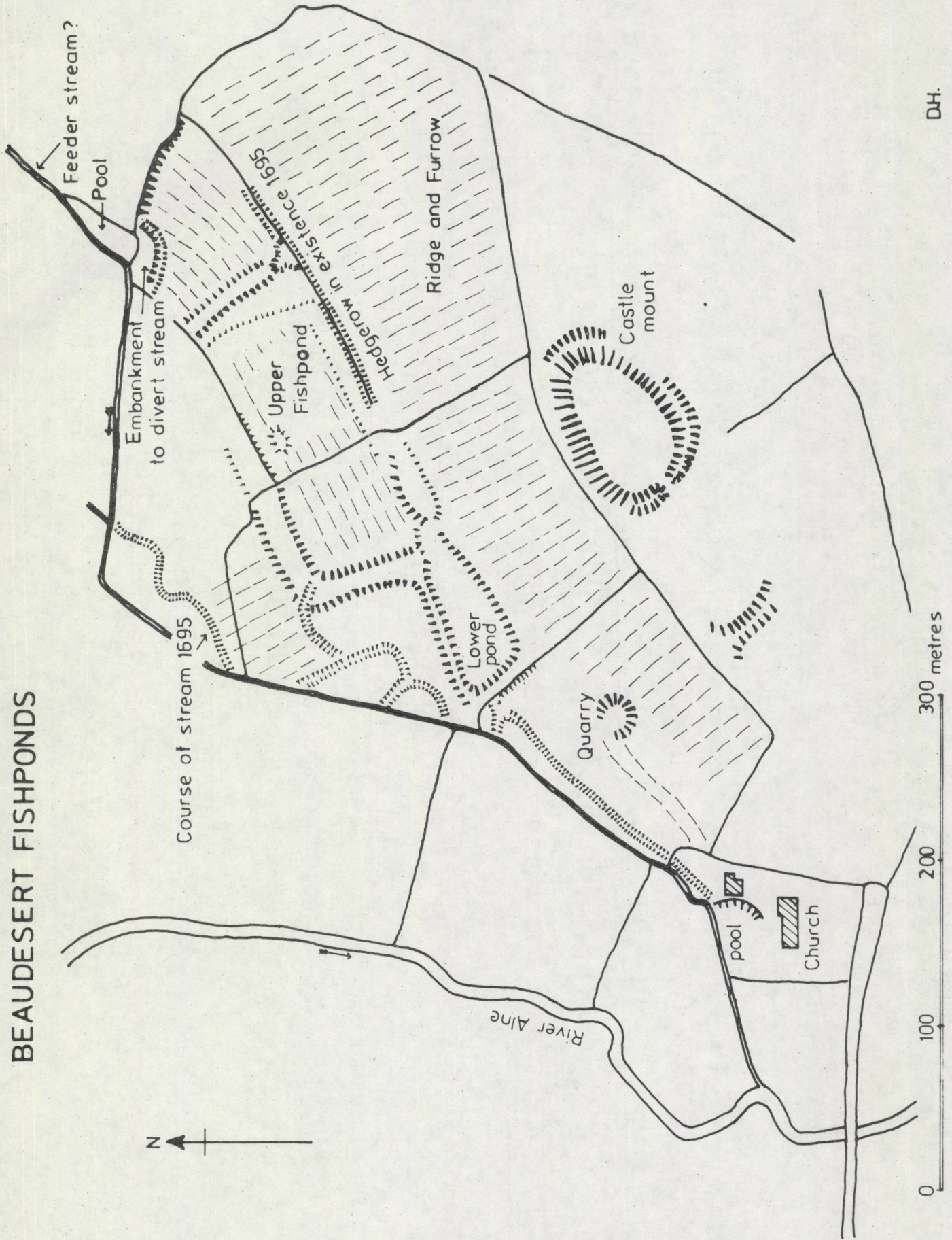
W.E. JENKS for the Prehistoric
Research Group of the Shropshire
Archaeological Society



CROPMARK ALVESTON



BEAUDESERT FISHPONDS



Old Milverton, Warks (SP/300666)

The early XIX maps show 3 distinct nuclei of settlement in this parish: Town Green and Upper Green, where the present village of Milverton is; Middle Green, represented now by only 2 houses and Lower Green, where there has been no occupation for at least 100 years. Much of the ridge and furrow in the parish is clear and earthworks at Lower Green indicate a small settlement with a hollow way, house platforms, enclosures for cultivation and/or stock and ponds and drainage channels. Recently parts of Middle and Lower Green were ploughed for the first time since enclosure (1805) and small quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from around the house platforms of Lower Green. The field south of the village church, where the earlier Manor Farm stood (shown on the 1805 Enclosure Map), was also ploughed, but there was no trace of the building apart from one small length of stone wall footing. The earthworks and ridge and furrow in this part of the parish have been planned and a full archaeological survey of the parish is in progress.

FABIAN RADCLIFFE for Bishop
Bright Grammar School Arch-
aeology Club

Field Survey Work in Warwickshire

Several field survey groups have recently been arranged on behalf of the University of Birmingham Extramural Department for Autumn 1974; a small group in Coventry succeeded in mapping the DMV of Hopsford in the parish of Withybrook and in reconstructing its medieval fields. Later recorded earthworks included banks associated with water control related to a mill in the SW of the parish and the embankments and basins of the Old Oxford Canal.

Withybrook itself (SP/437842) is a shrunken village and abandoned crofts and house platforms were surveyed. In addition more complex earthworks previously unrecorded included a large dam with a millpool beyond and a moated feature near the church (see plan of Withybrook).

This year a group in the Stratford area has been formed to train for field-work, especially in the areas where sites have been revealed by aerial photography (G. Webster and B. Hobley, Archaeol.J. (1964)121,1-22). Aerial photographs taken by A. Baker and J. Pickering have suggested a new site at Orchard Hill Farm (SP/209524) with the possibility of the presence of a Roman fort (see plan of Alveston).

A group based in Birmingham have been fieldwalking in the parish of Beaudesert and will continue to operate in this area. The fishponds to the north of the castle (SP/155662) have been surveyed and the later ridge and furrow recorded (see plan of Beaudesert). Ancient trackways in this area are proving of considerable interest.

DELLA HOOKE for Birmingham
University Extramural Depart-
ment

The Chelmsley, Castle Bromwich and Coleshill Area Historical Survey

The Chelmsley, Castle Bromwich and Coleshill Area Historical and Archaeological Survey Interim Report No. 1 was published in the December edition of the Society's journal, Chelmsley History. It was possible to include only a short section here to give some idea of the nature of the survey.

Objectives and Proposals

1. To be undertaken by members of the Chelmsley Local History Society, as a

group activity to provide an intensive study of their area throughout ALL historical periods, using whatever means available to them through local authorities, museums etc.

2. The area to be studied to be that enclosed by National Grid area SP Eastings 140 to 250: Northings from 830 to 920. In all a total area of some 99 sq km (38.67 sq miles). Finds of historical and/or archaeological interest from areas just outside these limits are to be included since these may well have a bearing on settlement and trade in the past.
3. The report to pay particular attention to the line of and construction of the M42 motorway where it passes through the above area and its approach to and exit from the same. N.B. It is understood that the DOE are aware of our existence and have agreed to communicate any findings during construction to us (The Chelmsley Local History Society).
4. The Survey Report to be subdivided into various sections covering:
 - i) General Topography: Parishes, geology, current population, industries etc.
 - ii) Pre-Conquest Patterns of Settlement and Culture
 - A Palaeolithic Period
 - B Mesolithic Period
 - C Neolithic Period
 - D Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Period
 - E Middle and late Bronze Age
 - F All Iron Ages
 - G Romano-British Period
 - H 'Dark Ages'; Anglo-Saxon and Danish Periods
 - iii) Post-Conquest Settlement and Development to Present Day
 - J Norman and Angevin Period, XI - XII
 - K Medieval Period in General, XII-XIV
 - L Tudor and Stuart Period
 - M Georgian to Modern Period
 - iv) Evolution of the Landscape

Since the area was until fairly recently mainly an agricultural one and at least 50% of it still is, it is felt that this aspect should be studied in depth in relation to (a) Inclosure Acts both Parliamentary of the XVII-XIX and earlier private ones where traceable of medieval, Saxon or Tudor period. (b) Any acts/ordinances or records dealing with the deforestation of this area of ARDEN.
 - v) A Record of All Buildings of Historic or Architectural Merit whether or not scheduled by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments Inventory (if not, why not? etc.) watching briefs etc. to prevent destruction of such. This to include data on all churches and chapels in the area, dates of their foundation etc. in relation to Redundant Churches Act (CBA Churches Committee) and grave yard recording system of P.A. Rahtz (WMNS (1973)16).
5. Particular attention to be paid to DMVs and all medieval moated sites etc. for which nationally organised groups may be interested.
6. Detailed research into origins and meanings of all place names within the area.
7. The ultimate collation, sorting, editing and publication of the finds and survey with interim reports through suitable media.

J. G. DUTTON for The Chelmsley
Local History Society

M40 Motorway Survey - Parishes of Bishops Tachbrook and Chesterton & Kingston

The survey of the M40 route through these 2 parishes is being undertaken by the Bishop Bright School Archaeology Club. We intend to record all the archaeological sites in the parishes, not simply those which lie on or near the routes. So far we have made a start on the documentary work and have had several fieldwalking expeditions, concentrating first on the end of the routes nearest to the end of the Warwick by-pass, in the area of New House Farm, NW of Bishops Tachbrook. Ridge and furrow occurs in a number of fields and this has been recorded but is not listed here. In the list below the numbers refer to the accompanying map.

1. 1A enclosure, Oakley Wood.
2. Tachbrook Mallory, deserted village. The desertion is recorded by Rous in XV.
3. Probable site of the deserted settlement of Naspis, recorded by Rous.
4. Cropmark of small rectangular enclosure (Site 8b in the Webster and Hobley list; Archaeol.J. (1964)121, 1-22).
5. Roman town, on the Fosse, near Chesterton.
6. Lodge Clump: Roman site. Much Roman pottery ploughed up.
7. Highdown Wood. Some slight earthworks are visible on the crest of the hill within the wood.
8. Windmill, Bishops Tachbrook.
9. Tachbrook Mallory Chapel: remains incorporated into a farmhouse.
10. Pounce Hill Farm, Roman villa.
11. Cropmark: conjoined enclosures (Webster and Hobley 88).
12. Cropmark: 4 well defined circles with entrances, and traces of a small rectangular enclosure. The largest circle has 2 entrances in opposition. Perhaps another circle in the next field to the east (Webster and Hobley 87; pl.1b).
13. Gallows Hill - significant name? Cropmark: rectangular enclosure overlying a group of pits and at least 2 small circular features and traces of linear ditches (Webster and Hobley 89; pl. Xb).
14. Chesterton Windmill.
15. Flint flakes in the plough soil.
16. Flint flake and Roman pottery.
17. Roman sherds.
18. Brickyard Cottages'. The field behind the cottages is several feet lower than those adjacent - presumably an old clay pit.

FABIAN RADCLIFFE for Bishop
Bright School Archaeology Club

M40 Motorway Survey

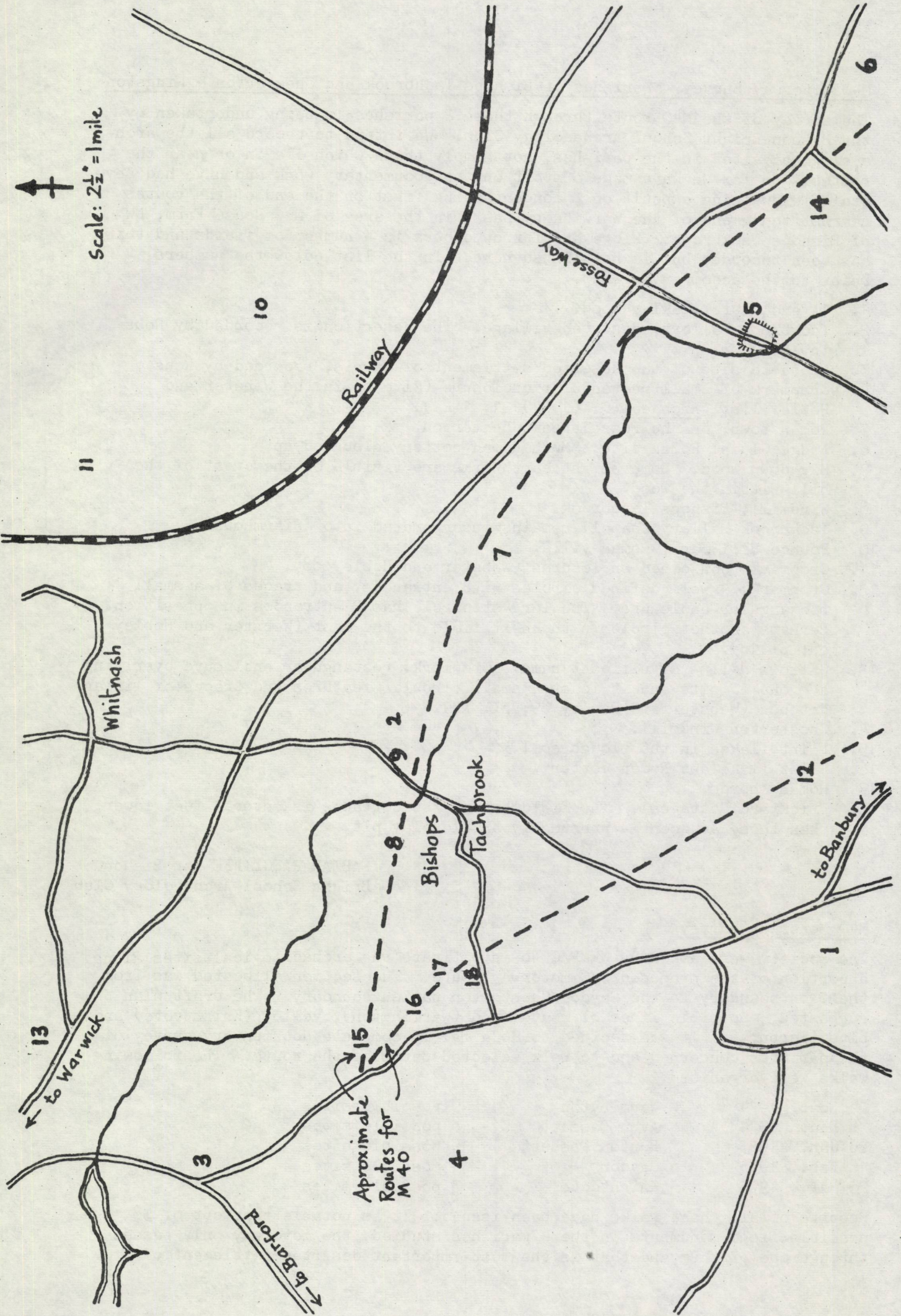
The society were asked by WEMRAC to investigate the archaeological sites along a portion of the proposed M40 motorway route. The section allocated was from the Oxon boundary to the Gaydon/Chesterton parish boundary. The draft plan suggested 3 possible lines of route: red (Warmington), yellow (Knightcote) and blue (Harbury). It was decided to do a fairly complete documentary survey of the parishes concerned and to walk selected parts of the route. The following walks were organised:

24 Nov., 1974	Warmington	9 possible sites
8 Dec., 1974	Avon Dassett	8 possible sites
26 Jan., 1975	Burton Dassett	14 possible sites
16 Feb., 1975	Gaydon	4 possible sites
23 Mar., 1975	Knightcote	3 possible sites

Reports of all these walks have been issued. It is notable that out of 38 possible field monuments in the 4 parishes studied, the motorway only passes through one of them and that is the most important deserted settlement of



Scale: $2\frac{1}{2}'' = 1 \text{ mile}$



Southend in Burton Dassett. The current financial climate makes it unlikely that a start will be made on this motorway in the near future. Nevertheless, it is planned to continue the survey next year with an investigation of Farnborough, Fenny Compton and Bishops Itchington. If time permits, it will then be possible to go back and look at the actual motorway in greater detail.

Field Survey of Grandborough

It was discovered early in 1975 that the Countryside Commission survey of selected parishes had not included field monuments. Again, WEMRAC were called in and we were asked to collect information on the parish of Grandborough to be included in the survey. A documentary search was carried out and 3 visits paid to the parish between 20 April and 11 May, 1975. The DMV at Calcutt is well known, but apart from this, Grandborough is not archaeologically recorded. At Grandborough Manor Farm, a previously unrecorded boundary bank of a small settlement was noted, together with a very unusual XVII 'chapel'. A bumpy field nearby appeared to be a fishpond complex. Although there are recorded XV depopulations at Woolscott, the surface indications are complex and it is not easy to determine the history of this hamlet. At Walcote End, there has been an appreciable depopulation in the last century, added on to a probable medieval depopulation.

Threatened Sites

- a) The proposed rotation of the DMV field at Kites Hardwick has been postponed due to the sojourn of the farmer concerned in Warwick gaol.
- b) The suggested southerly extension of Coventry to Hill Farm, Finham has been rejected by the Minister after approval by his Inspector. The DMV at Kingshill is safe for the moment but there is strong pressure to build here.
- c) The recently discovered deserted settlement at Grandborough Manor is being slowly obliterated by infill by the farmer, to level his field.
- d) The medieval homestead (?) called The Courtyard, in Southam Holt, is gradually disappearing under the effect of continued light ploughing. The banks are still just visible but are likely eventually to disappear.
- e) The similar 'earthwork' at Ladbroke, which is part of Upper Radbourne Farm is similarly being ploughed out. Requests to visit this have been refused by the farmer. She was also proposing to knock down her barn with the ecclesiastical pillars (formerly Radbourne church?) but has had second thoughts on it.

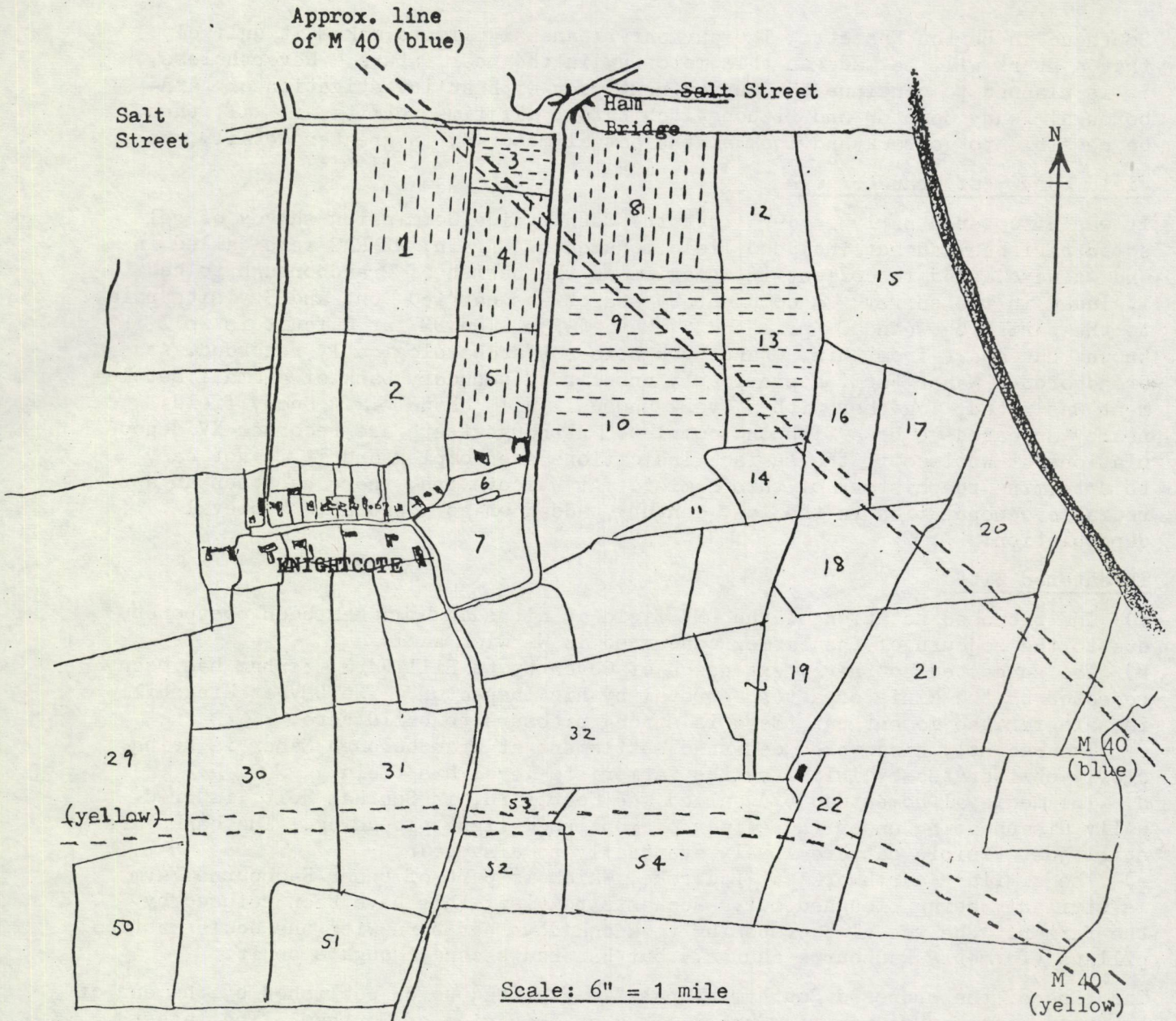
The line of the proposed Southam by-pass is expected to be published by the end of the year. There are very few known sites on this side of Southam. The latest estimated cost of the Oxford-Warwick section of the M40 is £122 million, so in view of the present financial stringency, it is more likely that minor road schemes will be approved. This may include the Marton, Southam and Ladbroke by-passes on the A423.

HOWARD USHER for the Southam District
Local History Society

M40 Motorway Survey - Knightcote in Burton Dassett

The hamlet of Knightcote in the parish of Burton Dassett was visited in March, 1975. Knightcote is unfortunately placed as far as the motorway is concerned, in that the blue route cuts through to the north and the yellow route slices through the south of the district. According to Dugdale, there was a chapel in Knightcote at the time of Henry III (1216-1272), but this has long disappeared. Mr. Yardley, whose family have farmed the manor for generations, gave us permission to walk his land and was a very useful source of information on the district. The fields over which the proposed blue route would pass all showed residual ridge and furrow. This is not as well marked as that at Warmington, as it is gradually being ploughed out. One small field called 'Ned's Farm' caught our interest, but the surface showed only straight plough lines and no sign of habitation. The Salt St from Droitwich to Northampton runs along Knightcote Bottoms and crosses the River Itchen at Ham Bridge, which is said

PROPOSED M 40 MOTORWAY ROUTES THROUGH KNIGHTCOTE



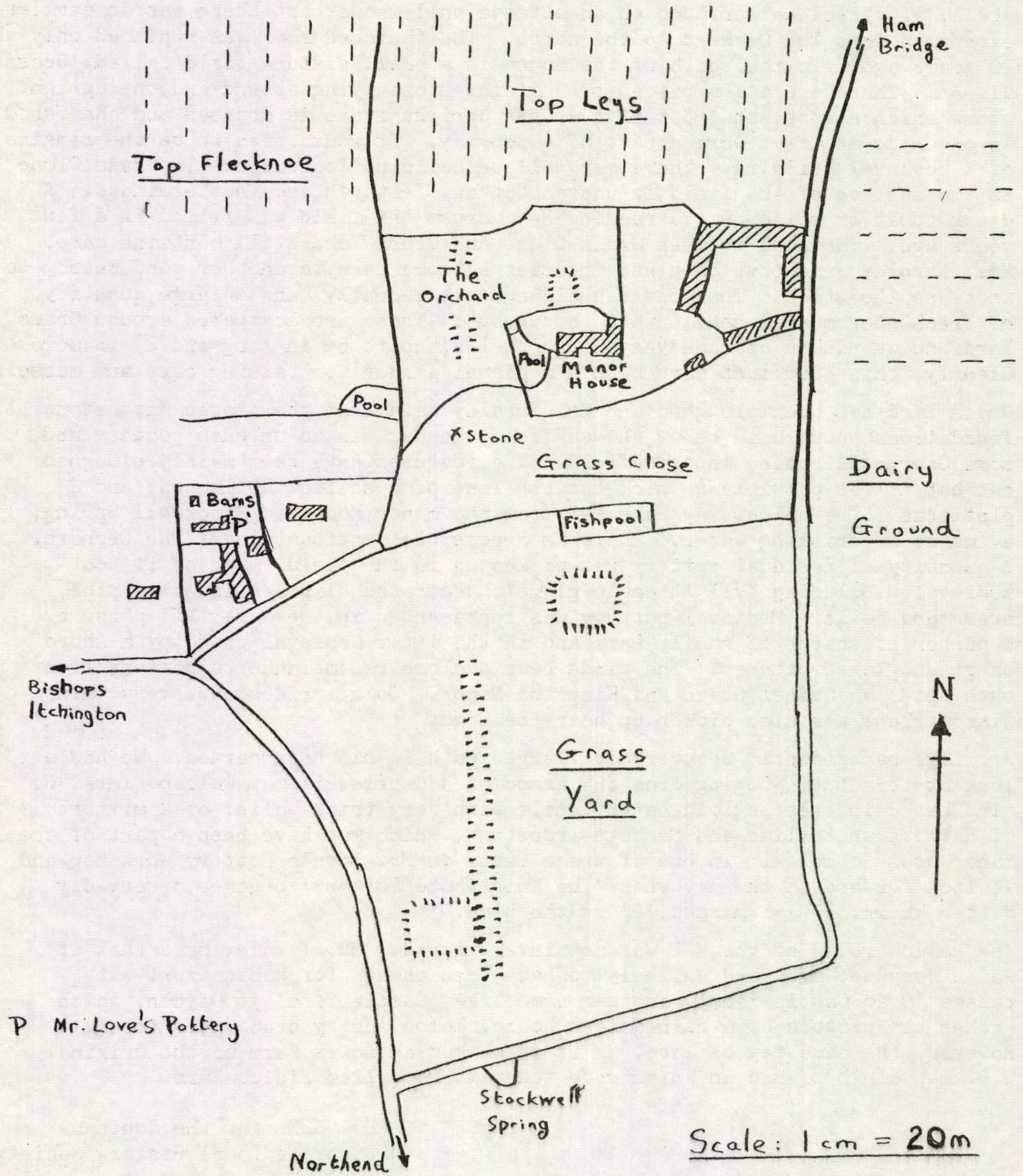
Field names supplied by
Mr. W. Yardley (1975)

P.N. Survey (Schools, 1934)

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Bottom Flecknoe | 31 | The Squire's Ground |
| 2 | Top Flecknoe | 32 | Barn Meadow |
| 3 | Ned's Farm | 51 | Bullock Grove |
| 4 | Bottom Leys | 52 | Church Piece |
| 5 | Top Leys | 53 | Road Meadow |
| 6 | Grass Close | | |
| 7 | Grass Yard | | |
| 8 | Bottom Cuckoo Ground | | |
| 9 | Top Cuckoo Ground | | |
| 10 | Dairy Ground | | |
| 11 | Mangold Piece | | |
| 12 | Little Meadow | | |
| 13 | Middle Thorn | | |
| 14 | Spinney Close | | |
| 15 | Big Meadow | | |
| 16 | First Briar Hill | | |
| 17 | Far Briar Hill | | |
| 18 | Old Ploughing | | |
| 19 | Greenslades | | |
| 20 | Briar Hill | | |
| 21 | Ongar Dairy Ground | | |
| 22 | Crab Castle | | |

KNIGHTCOTE in BURTON DASSETT

MANOR HOUSE



P Mr. Love's Pottery

Scale: 1 cm = 20m

March, 1975

to have given its name to Ambridge of The Archers. Below the bridge, the river sinks into fissures in the limestone and disappears; a curious fact noted by Dugdale.

The manor house is a fine, early XVII building with mullioned windows and 2 wings built of Dassett ironstone. Smaller windows suggest the possibility of an earlier shell. A fireplace surround on an outside wall shows that there was an earlier extension into The Orchard to the north. The thatched roof was replaced only about 20 years ago. To the south of the house is a small pasture field called 'Grass Close'. There are a few pieces of building stone lying around and one upright stone which stands about 3ft high. This upright stone is dressed and chamfered on one side as if it were a part of a doorway. It would seem to be the remains of a medieval building. There may well be building foundations in Grass Close as the surface of the field is uneven but any features are indeterminate. A ditch (moat or hollow way?) running N-S across the field was filled in a few years ago. The pond between Grass Close and Grass Yard still contains carp. Mrs. Yardley said that they had transferred some carp to another pond nearby to increase the stock. The pond was cleaned out recently, and a large quantity of freshwater mussel shells were thrown out. These are scattered around Grass Yard and we picked up some very large shells, up to $5\frac{1}{2}$ in long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in across. Clearly, this pond must have been a medieval larder for raising carp and mussels.

Grass Yard has been ploughed and Mr. Yardley said that the plough hits stone foundations about 6 in below the surface. He has picked up much pottery and some George III coins in this field. The features have been mainly ploughed out but it was possible to pick out the line of a shallow hollow way and 2 platforms. The hollow way runs N-S from the manor house to Stockwell Spring, a source of drinking water. There is a possible continuation of The Orchard. A quantity of residual pottery was picked up in the field, much of it post-medieval, including XVII 'treacle glaze', decorated slipware and clay pipe stems and bowls. Medieval pottery was represented in the early XII phase by a number of sherds of shelly ware and in the later medieval phase by a sherd of green glazed pitcher. The finds bear a close resemblance to pottery from such sites as Chapel Green and Kingston Manor. Some irridescent, very thin window glass was also picked up near the pond.

Mr. Love has recently uncovered a flagged path in his back garden. We had a look at this but, judging from the associated debris, it may well be late. He also has 2 interesting old barns, built with very thick walls, of a mixture of Harbury white lias and Dassett ironstone, which may have been a part of the manor house complex. In one of these barns is Mr. Love's pottery workshop and we look forward to the day when 'The Knightcote Pottery' becomes deservedly better known. It is marked 'P' on the plan.

The yellow route of the M40 was not investigated. Mr. Yardley said that it was a very wet area and unlikely to have been chosen for habitation. It passes 'Crab Castle Farm', another name like 'Castle Farm' at Gaydon, which evokes the picture of a ruined farm house, colonised by crab apple trees. However, the name may be late, as it is marked as Lowes Farm on the original O.S. map of 1838, and in Knightcote today it is called Fields Farm.

H. USHER for the Southam
District Local History Society

The M42 Motorway - From Stratford Road, Monkspath Interchange to Bickenhill Heath

Following the publication in 1972 of the proposed route for the M42, members of the Solihull Archaeological Group undertook to walk the route and research documentary and map references, covering the area between the Monkspath Interchange and the Coventry road. In part of the route the motorway keeps closely to the River Blythe which flows through a flat bottomed valley liable to flooding. Inspection of part of the route had been possible when sewerage work was carried out

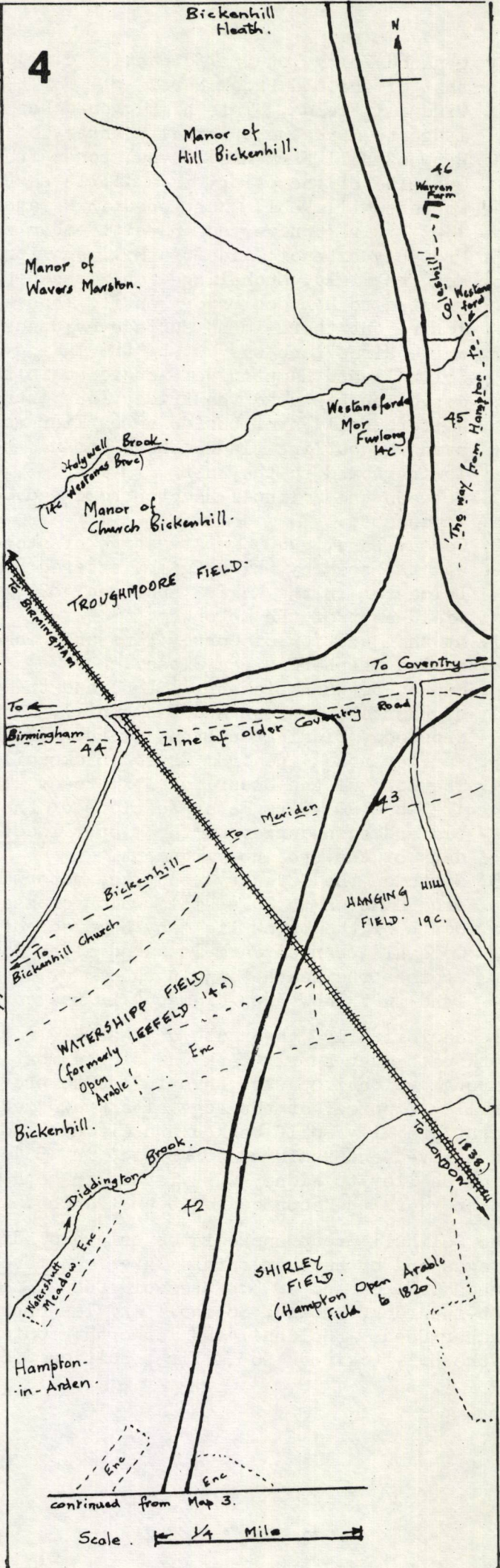
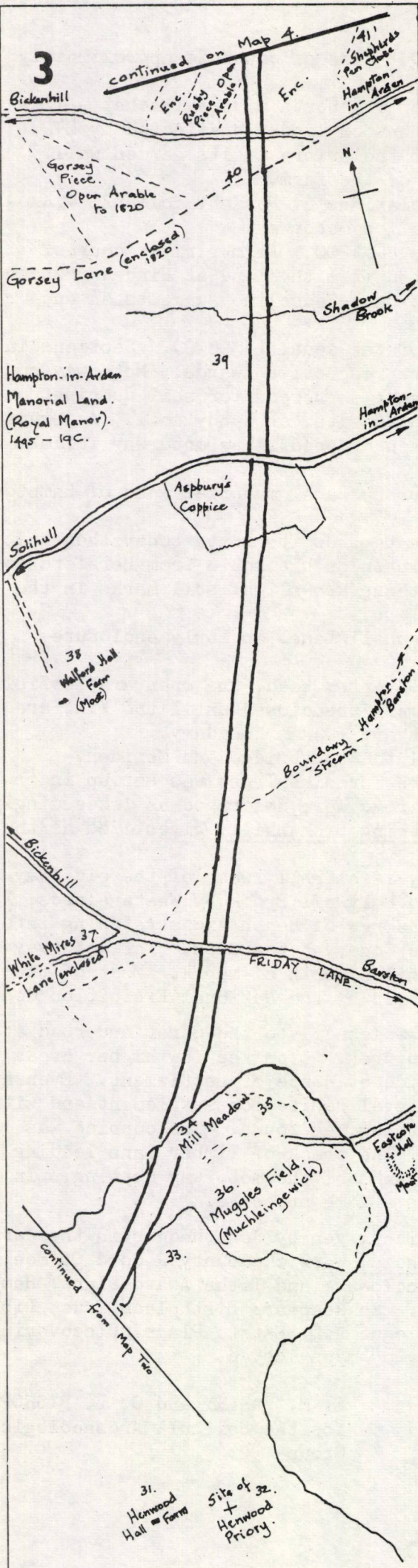
in the Blythe valley in 1971. Sections of the deep trenches were visible and prepared us for the unrewarding nature of the soil, for there is little alluvium and the basic thick keuper marl is all too near the surface of the ground.

Low, rounded outcrops of lighter drift soil lie approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ mile back from the river between small tributaries running in shallow valleys. Any early occupation would probably be found on these higher lighter areas and most of the 'knolls' do carry an isolated settlement. Skilfully, in this section, the route of the motorway avoids likely habitation areas of any period.

In medieval times there were 2 N-S routes passing through Solihull. From the high ground of Hockley Heath one, called sometimes The Portway, came by Four Ashes to skirt the manor of Widney and cross the Blythe east of the railway (map 1). From this crossing a way (20) called Stonistret (1327) led towards the manor of Cinton (Olton), while another led to Solihull. Also starting from Hockley Heath, the second route crossed to Blythe by Muchespathe Forde (1153) and, by 1339, by Munkespathe Brugg. It came to Solihull by way of the hamlet of Shelley. From this branched the route to Birmingham.

Reading the 6 in strip maps from S-N the numbered features are as follows (earliest recorded date in brackets)_{map 1}.

1. At the corner of Gate Lane; cross roads on a green, one being Mulne Lane to Swansditch Mill (1240). A second leads to a second ford, no.6 and to Shelley Lane.
2. Hill Farm, Monkspath. Destroyed to make interchange. Timbering, see report.
3. Moated Site. Not now threatened; under excavation. Preliminary dating XIII-XIV.
4. Ford crossing Blythe on line with earlier road. Cobbles in both banks of river.
5. Platform in field adjoining river. No evidence of occupation or use.
6. Ford on Shelley Lane - Gate Lane Way. Continued farm use.
7. Platform at end of mill pool Hard standing at junction of leat and main stream.
8. Leat to mill. Junction with river obliterated. Motorway ditches showed old drainage.
9. Shuttecatte Lane. Lane hedge giving 6 species. (Name: 1500 Survey of Manor).
10. Mill pool, fishpond.
11. Shelley Lane on causeway over stream from Smith's Pool, XIV fishpond.
12. Possible site Swansditch Mill (land of Nicholas de Swanedich, 1289).
13. Site of 'Lower Floodgates' crossing of XII boundary of manors of Monkspath, Solihull and Knowle (Widney).
14. Double hedgeline on boundary of manors. Outlet of stream from Smith's pool.
15. Deep marl pits. Filled in to make motorway.
16. Line of Timber Lane through Shelley Coppice. Coppice, banked and ditched, was arable land in XVI.
17. Hedge dating in western part of Timber Lane gives 6 species.
18. Scatter late medieval pot.
19. River course changed. Old course, mentioned 1327, visible.
20. 'Stoneistret' 1327. Cropmark and stone scatter visible.
21. Marl pits by side of Widney Road.
22. Old boundary bank. Southay lands. Occupation site probably to SE.
23. Scatter medieval pot.
24. Hytall. With Shelley and Libbards, one of the settlement sites on the ridge north of the Blythe. Hateley 1306, Heytale 1468.
25. Hytall Lane, enclosed 1820. Green Road, hedge dating 7 species.
26. Hytall Ford. Haytale Ford 1421.
27. Marlpits; possibly connected with Kiln Field.
28. Old lane from Solihull to Copt Heath enclosed 1820.
29. Rodbroch and Timbresceage; the western boundary of lands granted to



- Henwood Priory on its foundation c. 1160. Line of canal is approximately that of the old brook here.
30. Windmill Fields. This high ground has on its north side a lynchet - like ledge to mark the original boundary of Henwood lands, unaffected by M42.
 31. Henwood Hall Farm has carved stones from the priory in its garden wall.
 32. The site of the priory is a little east of the farm.
 34. Porters Mill Pool. Mentioned in Perambulations of Parish, Solihull & Knowle 1605. River culverted and site embanked for motorway.
 35. Probably site of Caldeford Mill and ford c. 1200. Former river course.
 36. Muggles Field. Muchelingewich was excepted from the land at Hincewudesheth granted to Henwood Priory on its foundation. Hedgeline suggests an enclosure but there is no surface evidence.
 37. White Mires Lane was cut by the making of the canal (1796-9). Sections in Solihull and Hampton were enclosed in the respective Awards. Motorway construction has used the Friday Lane entrance as access for soil dumping.
 38. Walford Hall Farm, beside an earlier moated site, on sandy soil. A service area was outline planned here but has been dropped. The motorway follows lower ground to the east.
 39. Between the Solihull-Hampton road and Gorsey Lane, manorial land of Hampton is crossed.
 40. Gorsey Lane. Hardly a vestige of stone to show its route today though it was the road by which Ogilby entered Hampton on his route from Hereford to Leicester in the XVII. Enclosed 1820, there are slight soil marks in the field east of the motorway.
 41. At the junction of Gorsey Lane and Bickenhall Lane, an early enclosure called Shepherd's Pen Close.
 42. Map 4. Between Bickenhill Lane and the Coventry road, the open arable fields of Hampton-in-Arden and Bickenhill, largely unenclosed until the XIX, are crossed. Diddington Brook is the parish and manor boundary.
 43. Earlier road line from Church Bickenhill to Stonebridge and Meriden.
 44. The line of the older Coventry road. The Turnpike Trust was set up in 1745 but 20 years later sections of the road were described as 'exceedingly bad and even dangerous'. Skipp (Discovering Bickenhill) gives 1788 as the date of the present alignment.
 45. North of the Coventry road, the motorway is slightly west of the old 'Way from Hampton to Coleshill' which crossed Holywell Brook by Westanefords, XIV.
 46. North of the brook lie many hundreds of acres of Heathland stretching into Coleshill. Warren Farm is named after the Conery hereabouts. The motorway crosses the heath to join the M6 c. 1½ miles north of map 4. Most of the land in the NW area of map 4 is now covered by the National Exhibition Centre.

Archaeologically, the route of the M42 from Coleshill to the Stratford road at Monkspath must surely rank one of the most barren. Even the few higher areas through which it passes have failed to provide evidence of settlement. Even at Shelley Coppice, at the edge of a known medieval habitation settlement and with light gravelly soil, banked and ditched, nothing was found. The coppice was 'destroyed and restored to arable' in 1551. The track of Timber Lane leading from Shelley to Widney was visible in both banks of the motorway cutting. In later years the coppice had been trenched as a game preserve.

The Solihull Group appreciates help and advice given by John Hedges in the early stages and by Heather Barnie later. References: Warwick County Record Office; Deeds C.R. 84 and 1095. Greswold Deeds. Enclosure and Tithe Award Plans, Hampton-in-Arden, Knowle, Solihull and Tanworth. Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Library; Archer Deeds - Solihull and Tanworth. Catalogue A.D. Estate Plans. Discovering Bickenhill (Skipp) 1963. First edition O.S. 6" maps 1885-6.

E. M. VARLEY and G. L. BISHOP
for the Solihull Archaeological
Group

West Midlands Archaeology, 1975

During this year the Department of Archaeology and Local History of Birmingham City Museums has made several additions to its collection of local archaeological and numismatic material. The principal acquisitions were 2 Anglo-Saxon silver pennies of Edward the Confessor minted in Worcester and Shrewsbury and one of William I minted in Worcester. Other additions include small RB bronzes and coins from Mancetter, Harbury and Sherbourne and some of the RB material from Parsons's Hill, Birmingham, excavated 1949-51, together with copies of the site records. Records have also been made of RB material not acquired from Alcester, Halford and Mancetter and a further 4 coins from the Coleshill hoard (1939).

The watching brief on the site of the de Birmingham manor house ended during the summer but revealed that a substantial section of the stone revetment wall on the south had been preserved in situ. Part of this wall was saved from destruction for future reconstruction. Watching briefs were also carried out at Park Hall and Codbarrow Manor where sections had been cut through the moats and observation is continuing at Weoley Castle where the fourth phase of the restoration of the stonework has given information on the construction of the north wall.

Priority has been given during the year to the preparation of new displays in the West Midlands Archaeology Gallery, using material from the museum's permanent collections. On the record side, the Department's collection of air photographs taken by Dr. St. Joseph and A. Baker up to 1962 has been marked onto 6 in maps and a check list of the Worcs material prepared.

RUTH TAYLOR for City Museums,
Birmingham

Fieldwork in Herefords and Worcs

1. The Field Surveys of E.A. Downman

E. A. Downman was active in both former counties during the first and second decades of this century, surveying a large number of major earthworks. The value of his work lies in the existence of a documentary record of sites made prior to the widespread destruction which is occurring in the post-war period. Inspection of a random sample revealed extensive damage or even complete destruction of an alarmingly high percentage. It is intended to resurvey and report on all the sites as part of the fieldwork programme of the County Museum.

ANNELISE WILSON AND LINDA BABB
for Hereford and Worcester County
Museum

2. Redditch New Town

Marlfield Farm: (SP/06096844)

A full survey has been made of the derelict farm house, and plans, notes and photographs are deposited in the County Museum.

LINDA BABB and ANNELISE WILSON

Batten's Farm: (SP/06566780) Listed Grade II

A full survey has been made of the remaining structure, which is in the process of demolition. Plans and photographs are deposited in the County Museum.

LINDA BABB and GRISELDA GILROY

Ryknield St: Hedgerow Survey

As part of a survey of a badly damaged stretch of the Ryknield St sample lengths of hedgerow were recorded, based on the Essex system. To test the usefulness

and validity of this particular recording method, it is planned to sample initially, dated hedgerows throughout the county.

LINDA BABB and ANNE LISE WILSON

The Hereford and Worcester Architecture Record Group

This new Group has been formed to provide a **focus** for the recording of vernacular architecture in the county. It has set up a File to receive notes, sketches and measured drawings of buildings, which is at present based at Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, near Bromsgrove, Worcs. The File is to be comprehensively cross referenced and will create an important repository of information on buildings both demolished and standing. HWARG also intends to promote an increase in the quantity and quality of recording through training courses. Since Herefords not only has the RCHM volumes, but an established recording group led by Jim Tonkin, the new group will naturally tend to initially concentrate its efforts on the former county of Worcs. Anyone interested in receiving further information about HWARG or wishing to join, should contact The Hon. Sec., HWARG, c/o The County Museum, Hartlebury Castle, Nr. Kidderminster, Worcs.

STUART DAVIES for HWARG

Rescue Excavation on Moated Sites

A memorandum on points to be considered when selecting moated sites for excavation was published in the Moated Site Research Group's Report no. 1 (1973). Since then a map has been prepared to show the distribution of excavated moated sites in England. It shows 2 categories only: major excavations and minor excavations. Where single trenches, small squares or casual excavation has taken place sites are not marked unless features of exceptional importance were noted. It will be seen that in some areas no excavation has taken place.

Many moated sites represent the houses of freeholders and in some of these cases the buildings may extend no further than the enclosed island, they are generally excavated. Many however, possibly the majority, are manorial sites and it cannot be too strongly stressed that no manor house in Britain has yet been excavated in its entirety. If documentary evidence is to be believed, the normal manor consisted of 3 or more enclosures: the house with its service buildings, the agricultural buildings (barns, cattle and sheep houses, piggeries etc.) and ancillary enclosures where not only some farm buildings, but also small building such as fish or fruit stores, tool and garden sheds etc. may be expected.

The Moated Site Research Group would like to draw the attention of the Area Advisory Committees to the need of full rather than partial excavation of suitable sites when their destruction cannot be avoided. The preparation of county lists of moated sites is an important part of the Group's programme, and it would willingly advise on the suitability for excavation of sites under threat.

Excavated Moated Sites in the West Midlands

* major excavations

Warks

Binley* (SP/3777)
Cheswick Green (SP/1376)
Garrow Green (SO/9878)
Griff (SP/3589)
Hawkesley (SP/0177)
Kingshurst (SP/1688)
Lapworth (SP/1769)
Sheldon* (SP/1486)
Walsgrave-
on-Sowe* (SP/3780)
Weoley* (SP/0282)

Salop

Acton Burnell (SJ/5202)
Harlscott Grange (SJ/4900)
Longnor (SJ/4900)
Shifnal (SJ/7407)
Thronglands (SO/5489)
Tretine (SO/5223)
Uppington (SJ/5908)
Staffs
Bucknall (SJ/9145)
Dimsdale (SJ/8448)

Herefords		Shareshill	(SJ/9406)
Breinton	(SO/4739)	Walsall	(SP/0098)
Leominster	(SO/4958)	<u>Worcs</u>	
Much Marcle	(SO/6532)	Alvechurch	(SP/0372)
Wallingstones	(SO/5022)	Beoley	(SP/0668)
		Upton Warren	(SO/9071)

Moated Sites Research Group

Medieval Pottery Research Group

A seminar on medieval pottery held at the Institute of Archaeology in London during 1974 instigated discussion on the problems of the processing and publication of pottery among people working on medieval pottery in the country. This led to a meeting at Knuston Hall, Northants in February 1975 after which a **working party** was set up under DOE auspices with J. G. Hurst as its chairman.

The vast bulk of medieval pottery from excavation, coupled with the development of scientific methods which have made possible more detailed analysis of pottery fabrics, pose enormous problems both of analysis and the method of presentation in publication. It is generally felt that standardisation of methodology is imperative in order to present the material in a way that is both comprehensive and comprehensible.

Sub-committees are working on principles and practice, scientific aids, data processing, publication and a glossary of terms. These committees gave brief reports of their work at a meeting at Fortress House on November 1975.

On principles and practice the discussion is concerned with the need to have some practical knowledge of pottery manufacture, the historical implications of the study of medieval pottery, the need to make provision for the immediate processing of pottery on site and the need to establish regional and national chronologies.

The committee on scientific aids is working on experiments to try and establish simple methods for the visual examination of pottery while still being able to assess, for example, the quantity and size of inclusions in pottery. A key for the identification of common inclusions in pottery is being prepared, which will be presented so that it can be used by a non-scientifically trained person, together with illustrations of the various types of inclusion. Side by side with these simple visual methods, specific projects on detailed scientific analysis such as thin-sectioning and heavy mineral analysis and neutron activation analysis will be conducted, although the considerable expense of these projects was highlighted. As with any scientific experiment these projects will be research projects with clearly defined aims. A pro forma has been drawn up for the standard presentation of information on the fabric of pottery.

Work on standardisation is also the concern of the data processing committee where the various types of graphs, scattergrams and other graphic analysis have been discussed. The Information Retrieval Group of the Museums Association (IRGMA) are working on a standard card for recording pottery. A project by a research student at Stafford has begun which aims to computerize all published medieval pottery.

The publication committee has discussed the reassessment of publication at present in progress, which is primarily concerned with the sheer quantity of material which is now presented for publication at a time which publication is becoming increasingly more expensive. The need to standardise drawing conventions has been discussed. In general a standard order of pottery descriptions is being set out together with the use of lists, tables and summary sheets for the quantitative analysis of any group of material. Work on a glossary of terms is in progress under the headings of general terms, fabric, terms of

manufacture, forms, various parts of vessels and decoration.

In brief the research committee is working on the standardisation of the analysis and presentation of pottery for publication. At the same time work is in progress by the Roman Pottery Research Group and both groups can benefit from each other's work.

The draft recommendations of the Medieval Pottery Research Group which are to be presented at a meeting in March 1976 will be of importance to the study of medieval pottery in the West Midlands. Postgraduate students at Southampton University are already working on the petrological study of type-fabrics of 'Malvern ware' and pottery from Chester and Stafford. Work towards the establishment of a local sequence of medieval pottery is in progress at Hereford and Shrewsbury. A major publication of the important site of Chilvers Coton, which has produced over 60 pottery kilns is to be published in 1976.

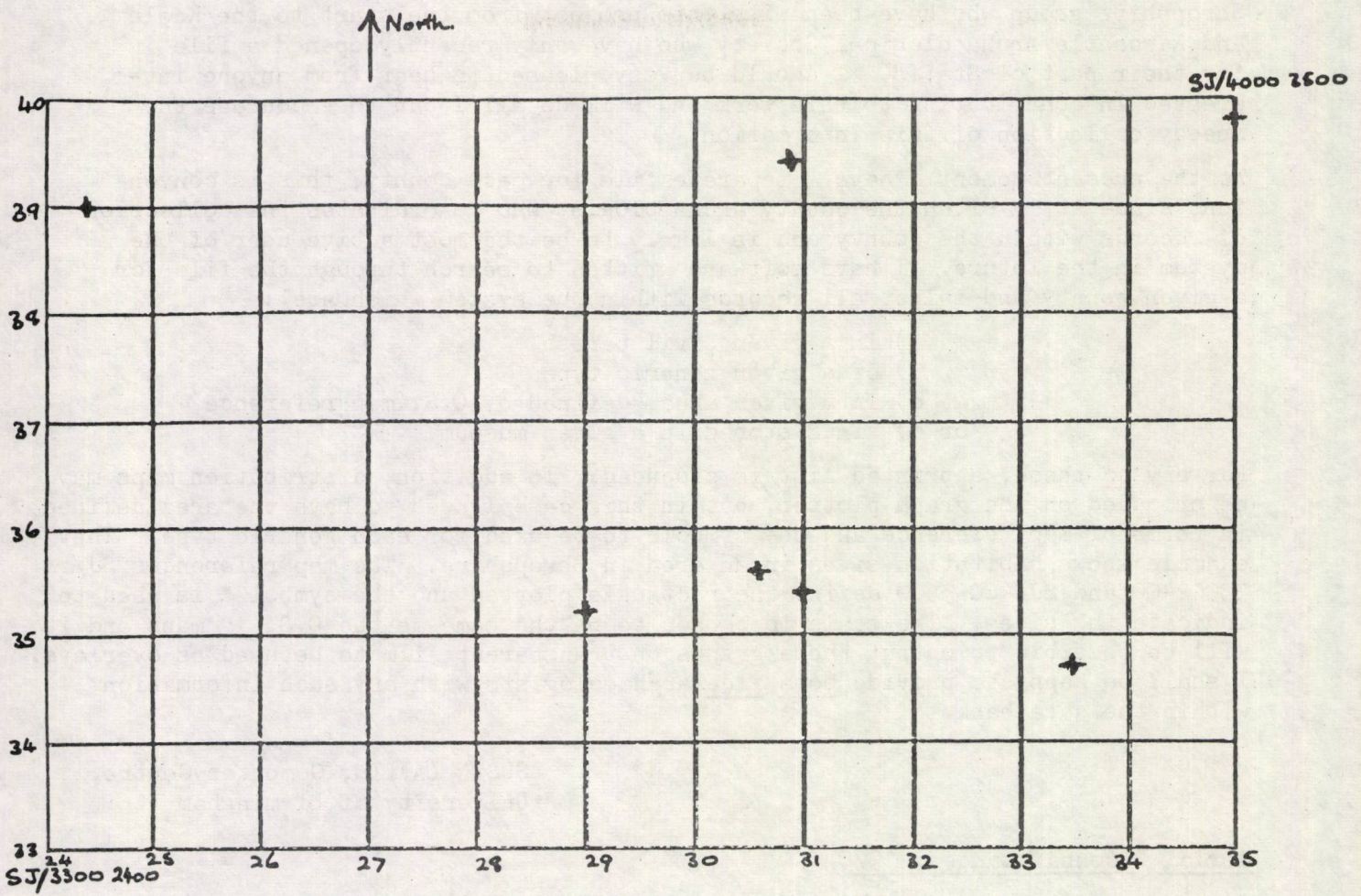
Some publications on West Midland pottery.

- P. Barker 1970 The medieval pottery of Shropshire, monograph of Shrops. Archaeol. Soc. 1970 (this includes a general summary of the state of knowledge in the West Midlands, county by county, pp.37-40)
- K. J. Barton 1968 'The medieval pottery of the City of Worcester, Part I', Trans. Worcestershire Archaeol. Soc. I, 3rd series (1968), 29-54
- K. J. Barton 1968-9 'Medieval pottery from Lichfield, Staffs', Trans. Staffordshire Archaeol. Hist. Soc. 10 (1968-9), 53-4
- P. Mayes & R. G. Thomson 1968 Chilvers Coton pottery kilns. Medieval Archaeol. 12 (1968), 208-10
- P. Mayes & K. Scott (forthcoming) Pottery kilns at Chilvers Coton, publication forthcoming, Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series
- A. Oswald 1962-3 'Excavation of a thirteenth century wooden building at Weoley Castle, Birmingham 1960-61. An interim report', Medieval Archaeol. 6-7 (1962-3), 109-134
- P. A. Rahtz 1963-4 'Kenilworth Castle 1960', Trans. Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeol. Soc. 81 (1963-4), 55-73
- R. Shoesmith 1971 'Hereford City Excavations', Trans. Woolhope Nat. F. Club 40 pt. 2 (1971), 203-214
- C. Woodfield 1963-4 'Coventry City Wall Excavation Report', Trans. Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeol. Soc. 81 (1963-4), 99-130

REGINA HALDON for the Medieval
Pottery Research Group

Data Bank of Archaeological Sites

The need for a comprehensive data bank of archaeological sites within the region has long been recognised, although the problems of collecting so much information are considerable. It is also desirable to have some means of searching through the data and extracting the required records as quickly as possible. This is where the speed and accuracy of the computer can be put to good use. For some years now, I have been working on a computer based system to store records of archaeological sites and finds and retrieve them on demand. I have now completed the basic software to store the records and hold them in a file on the computer and to produce either printed lists or distribution graphs as required. This has been tested with a comparatively small amount of data and is now ready for



Distribution Graph of recorded sites in area SJ/33002400 to SJ/40003500

serious use. There are several groups already involved, ranging from the Shropshire group who have been with this project from the start to the Keele and Newcastle Archaeological Society who have only recently opened a file for their part of Staffs. I should be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in contributing to this work and will do all I can to encourage the speedy collection of this information.

At the present moment I have a separate file for each county; this is convenient since it is often the county archaeologist who co-ordinates the collection of records within the county and is likely to be the most active user of the system in the future. I have software written to search through the file for a given county and select all records within the system which are :

- a) in a given civil parish
- b) of a given generic type
- c) in a given area, defined by O.S. map reference
- or d) finds stored in a given museum

For any of these, a printed list is produced. In addition, distribution maps may be produced on the graph plotter, but in this case I need to have the area defined in terms of map reference and the symbols to be used for each generic type. The example shows habitation sites in an area in Shropshire. The map references SJ/33002400 and SJ/40003500 define the rectangle plotted and the symbol * is used to indicate the sites. The scale is chosen to be the same as the O.S. 1" maps and it will be possible to output these graphs on transparent film to be used as overlays. I shall be happy to provide bona fide archaeologists with any such information within the data bank.

SUSAN LAFLIN, Computer Centre,
University of Birmingham

Aerial Reconnaissances, 1975

In approx. figures, an average Midland County has an area of 1000 sq miles or 640,000 a or 100,000 fields. To give one single second of observation to each acre (or 6.4 secs to each field) it would be necessary to be airborne 8 hours a day for 22 days. Current flying costs are £120 per day. There are 5 counties in WEMRAC. If, separately and jointly, our airborne time had been evenly spread over the whole of the WEMRAC area, we would have spent 45 secs on observation and photography of each sq mile.

There were substantial differences in the effect of the much drier than average summer weather on different parts of the country. Drought and parched conditions developed much earlier south of the Thames than in most of the Midlands and in any case there were a number of local thunderstorms in the Midlands, in late June. The Wroxeter area had been exceptionally dry but there was a substantial reduction in the amount of evidence visible in this area between mid June and mid July because of heavy rainfall. The Rugeley area of the Trent valley was not, however, effected by rain and much of the information available in mid July was additional to that visible in mid June. The area between Rugeley and Alrewas along the Trent Valley has, in the past few years, provided a build-up of information of a density and complexity as great as equivalent areas in the Thames Valley. In the Wroxeter area interpretation of the evidence is greatly complicated by the geological and periglacial features that produced cropmarks, but here also the accumulated build-up of sites produces an entirely different pattern to anything that could be suspected from the results of a single year's reconnaissance.

North and east Warks (like Leics) was relatively greener than many parts of the Midlands. Most of the known sites in the Avon Valley have shown at some time, in better contrast than this year, but a number of new details and new sites were recorded. Perhaps of more significance than these, however, are a number of additions to the pattern of single sites recorded in other than areas of gravel sub-soil.

A Roman fort (?) has been suspected from very faint cropmark evidence for a number of years at Atherston-on-Stour (SE of Stratford-on-Avon). This year's records show a rounded corner, 3 ditches and an internal rampart and other internal features. There is a concentration of 1A/RB sites around Alveston Hill, one mile to the NE. The Atherstone (Manduessedum) area was kept under almost weekly surveillance. In spite of many known features near to the surface, it has not produced cropmarks in the past 20 years, but it did not, this year, produce parch marks either. A number of other sites were, however, recorded in the area. The River Severn from south of Worcester to Shrewsbury was observed and a number of new sites recorded on the east side. The west side of the valley was devoid of any indication below Bridgnorth. The Wenlock Edge between Ludlow and Wenlock produced additions to sites recorded in previous years.

The number of sites and features recorded in the WEMRAC this year alone are vastly greater than could be excavated by the entire resources of British archaeology in the rest of this century. The WEMRAC area as a whole has probably no greater quantity than other areas of similar size in Great Britain. The problems raised by aerial reconnaissance cannot therefore be solved by excavation alone. It is necessary to develop new techniques to make use of the accumulating evidence, much of which is being eroded by normal agricultural processes. The main evidence that will survive will not be the sites but the air photographs.

A major conclusion from this year's recordings is that the belief in a peak recording period when a high percentage of the total cropmark evidence visible in any one year can be recorded in a single flight is based on a lack of knowledge of those factors that create cropmarks. It would be convenient if it was so, but it is not. There is no substitute for regular reconnaissances at carefully and continually recalculated intervals and for the experience required to do this. There are few signs that archaeologists as a whole appreciate this or the immensity, complexity and expense of giving proper air cover to the 3,700,000 a of the WEMRAC area. Or the years of training and experience needed to provide other than superficial results.

JIM PICKERING and ARNOLD BAKER

PREHISTORIC

Stretton-on-Fosse, Warks (Site 4 SP/215383)

During the excavation of a RB farmstead enclosure, it was found that the protecting ditch had cut and destroyed an earlier ditch, leaving a short section which it was possible to excavate. The ditch averaged 1m in width and 0.5m deep, with a rounded bottom. The fill consisted of very dark sandy loam with particles of charcoal and clay, badly decayed animal bone, some of which had been burnt, 2 flint blades with secondary working, a round scraper and 3 waste flakes. The flint material was located at the bottom of the ditch and has been identified as late Neolithic. See also Roman and Medieval sections.

PETER J. GARDNER and REG
HALDON for WEMRAC

Stretton-on-Fosse, Warks (Site 7 SP/221381)

This site is an extension of the sand quarrying operations and lies due south of the village within the probable boundary of the RB field system. Sand had been extracted by hand in the past and a total of 40 inhumations were reputed to have been uncovered and reburied. A limited area has been quarried and in a haphazard manner due to faulting, which makes the extraction of sand complicated. Salvage recording and hand excavations have revealed 2 1A pits and a section of double ditch. Finds from the pits and ditch include several rim sherds and bone. See also Roman and Medieval sections.

PETER J. GARDNER and REG
HALDON for WEMRAC

Beckford, Worcs (SO/988365)

In August 1975, the gravel company began removing sand and gravel from an area approx. 250m x 30m. Excavation followed the pattern established over the previous 3 seasons by W. Britnell and R.A.G.: salvage recording the greater part of the strip and reserving an area approx. 45m x 30m for detailed excavation. The salvage recording produced numerous features of 1A and Roman date. The Roman features, at the south end of the site, mainly consisted of several deep ditches. The 1A features, in the centre of the strip, represented the interior of a sub-rectangular enclosure, one side of which was identified by Britnell in last year's salvage area. Within this enclosure there were many pits and numerous internal ditches. Several of the latter may well have enclosed 'roundhouses', but under salvage conditions such structures are not readily identifiable. Careful examination of the aerial photographs of the site and of this year's salvage area plan, indicates that the quarrying next year will remove one of the densest patches of inter-relating cropmarks within the area of the gravel concession.

The area excavation was a direct continuation of R.A.G.'s work on the northern 1A enclosure. The density of features was much lower than in previous years. The outer ditch, which was excavated in an attempt to identify its many cuts and re-cuts, enclosed 2 pit groups of very different character and 3 internal ditches. Several isolated postholes were also excavated. One of these ditches was a continuation of a drainage ditch examined by Britnell last year; another represents a form of internal division; the third, although similar in shape, appears to suggest a structure different from those 'roundhouses' previously excavated. The earliest feature in this area was a shallow ditch apparently pre-dating the 1A enclosure (the outer ditch had clearly cut it). It is hoped to obtain a C-14 date from the charcoal found in it, since no other dating material was recovered.

From this year's work it has become apparent that the prime archaeological deposits are now in the centre of the quarry strip. The salvage area plan proves they are of high quality and the aerial photographs quite clearly confirm this, while the low density of features in this year's excavation

diminishes the importance of the northern end. Therefore, the policy for 1976 is to mount a larger detailed excavation in this central area, and to salvage record the remainder. Another 1A enclosure will then be sampled within this large prehistoric settlement area. This will complement the work done by Britnell (1972-1974) and by Oswald (mid 1960s) and will greatly enhance the value of the extensive outline plan that has been obtained by salvage recording over the past 4 years.

J. SAWLE and J. WILLS for DOE
and Hereford/Worcester County
Museum

The Stables, Castle Lane, Warwick (SP/285648)

In March 1975, a rescue excavation was conducted on the site of the XIX stable buildings in Castle Lane, Warwick, in an area which it was thought had not been disturbed since XVII. A map of 1806 shows the ground plan of the stables to be the same as that of the present day standing buildings, but an earlier map has a gap for this area. The present line of Castle Lane is mid XVIII and alters the medieval street pattern of the vicinity.

The excavation was financed by the DOE and administered by Dr. R. Lamb, Field Officer, Warwick County Museum. Permission to excavate was given by Crosbee and Atkins, Ltd., contractors, prior to the demolition of the stables. Volunteers were Michael Farr of the County Record Office, who also provided much useful advice and historical information, Margaret Green, Ronnie Hartwich, Ann Littleton, Alex Purnell, Fabian Radcliffe and the pupils of Bishop Bright Grammar School, Leamington Spa, Chris Ratcliffe, Peter Saunders, Sean Walsh. Excavation was limited by the need to work within standing buildings and the necessity of avoiding the corners of the proposed new buildings. Artificial lighting was used during the greater part of the excavation.

Phase 1. In 2 areas the original ground surface was preserved. This consisted of mixed sand and gravel, overlain by fine sand, to a depth of 2m, probably overlying sandstone. This surface produced a flint blade and a waste flake. There was also evidence for 3 stake-holes, one shallow depression and one isolated posthole. Neolithic material is often found in Warwick e.g. Market St 1966 and Brook St 1965-7 (WMNS (1966)9, 15-16; (1967)10, 24) where a Neolithic house, storage hollows and pottery were excavated and Brook St 1972 where Neolithic pottery, waste flint flakes and a leaf-shaped arrowhead were found but were out of context (M.W. Bishop, Archaeological Excavations 1973, 100. HMSO 1974). See also Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval sections.

REG HALDON for Warwick County
Museum

Bidford-on-Avon, Warks (SP/099519)

A possible prehistoric feature was found on the site of the pagan Saxon cemetery. The south end of a curving slot contained only flint chips and some sherds of very crumbly pottery which, at present, seem more likely to be prehistoric than Saxon. It is hoped that this feature will be picked up again when the road goes through. See also Roman and Saxon sections.

SUSAN M. HIRST for WEMRAC

Friar St, Droitwich, Worcs, 1973-5 (SO/897635)

Rescue excavations on the site for the proposed Droitwich Fire Station were carried out in 2 seasons during 1973-74 and 1974-75. The second season's work was supervised by D. F. Freezer. Work was suspended, due to flooding of the site, during the early months of 1975. About 300 sq m were stripped, the XIX and XX levels being removed by machine. Various phases of occupation and use of the site formed an almost continuous sequence from the pre-Roman 1A and to the present century. This sequence may be summarised as follows:

Pre-Roman Iron Age. 3 pits were found containing sherds of 1A pottery and briquetage, with large quantities of ash. 2 of these pits were large and, in plan, conformed to an elongated oval shape; they had evidently been lined with stakes (and presumably wattles). Careful excavation revealed in one case, a regular pattern of stake-holes around the pit bottom and stake 'ghosts' against the steep sides. It was apparent that the pits were primarily storage tanks for a liquid which needed to be kept in clean conditions (hence the lining). A relative lack of domestic debris seemed to rule out domestic water storage. The large quantities of ash, the briquetage (paralleled in excavated 1A saltings in Britain and on the continent) and the proximity of brine springs make it likely that these tanks featured in the process of brine boiling, possibly as storage and sedimentation tanks. A secondary use for these tanks may have been the pickling of animal carcasses. See also Roman to Post-Medieval sections.

ALAN HUNT for DOE and Hereford/
Worcester County Museum

Ludlow, Salop (SO/525752)

Exploratory excavations on the line of the proposed by-pass were carried out in September 1975. Interpretation was hampered by the exceptionally dry weather conditions and by the varied and disturbed Old Red Sandstone geological strata which lay 6-9 in below the surface; the latter gave rise to many features now assigned to natural causes. A sector of the eastern run of the large rectangular structure seen on an air photograph taken by A. Baker in 1969 was however located. It proved to be a square bottomed ditch or post-setting cut into bedrock, and accompanied on its western, inner flank by a narrow slot. It was filled with clean silt whose only inclusions were flecks of largely worm-deposited charcoal, and fragments of very soft brick-red, grog-tempered pottery not so far identified. The nucleus of the site which occupies c. 17a would thus appear to be a rectangular protected enclosure, containing a building, rather than a large rectangular building with aisles, as was postulated from the air photograph. Elsewhere the site yielded a hearth deposit containing pottery attributed to the Beaker period and among surface finds were a barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead, half a dozen flints, a RB knee brooch and 2 sherds belonging to 1A or RB periods. Further work to provide a more secure definition of the site will take place in improved conditions in 1976.

M.O.H. CARVER for WEMRAC

Berth Hill, Staffs (SJ/788391)

Berth Hill is an 1A hillfort approx. triangular in shape and covering c. 9a. The western defences are not well marked and contain a simple inturned entrance; the northern and eastern banks and ditches are much more massive with a complex entrance. Earlier excavations by the Society showed that the fort had 3 phases of construction.

1. The initial bank, ditch and counterscarp bank. The rampart was constructed of a light coloured clayey sand with timber facing (i.e. not muris gallicus).
2. The defences were heightened using red sand and the bank and berm revetted in stone.
3. It appears that subsequently the northern and eastern defences were subsequently improved by building up the bank and counterscarp bank with sand.

In 1975, an excavation was conducted at the junction of the northern and western ditches. It was felt that the third phase of construction may have been a response to the Roman invasion and an excavation at the point where the older and newer construction met might give some indication of date. The primary ditch was 'V' -shaped, rock cut and c. 2m deep x 3m wide. The ditch was not completed; the trenches located the vertical face where the work was terminated without continuing round the northern side. The ditch began to silt up rapidly and, in the second phase, no attempt was made to clear the ditch or complete it; instead the ditch was partly filled in and the counterscarp bank was extended both vertically and horizontally. Stakes were driven into the crest of the counterscarp bank at

approx. 0.5m intervals. On top of the normal silt of this second phase was a thick layer of large sandstone boulders suggesting that the defences had been slighted. The only possible indication of a third phase of construction was the further lateral extension of the counterscarp bank. No dating evidence was found.

Until the mid 1960s, the hillfort was covered by a dense coniferous forest; these trees were felled and the area replanted but, during the period between felling and colonisation of the slopes by grass, c. 30 cm of sand and pebbles were washed down into the ditches.

G. EMERY for the Keele and Newcastle Archaeological Society

Wredon Hill, Ramshorn. See Saxon section.
College Gardens, Warwick. See Medieval section.

ROMAN

Excavations on the Baths Basilica at Wroxeter, 1975

Excavation continued on the site of the Baths Basilica. Outside the precinct wall on the east side more detail of Building III was recovered, showing it to have been partitioned like Building I. A very young baby had been buried against the precinct wall. Within the precinct a complex of pits, both Roman and modern was dissected and it was confirmed that in places a series of floor levels within the basilican annexe survived in spite of extensive archaeological disturbance.

Excavation of the very narrow strip available between the N-S street dividing insula 5, in which the baths basilica lies, from insula 6, the adjoining insula to the east, revealed presumptive evidence of large building facades similar to those bounding the E-W street in insula 2. This suggests that the massive rebuilding of the last period, previously reported, was much more extensive than had been imagined.

North of the precinct wall, on the site of the disused portico, a series of crude hearths were perhaps those used by workmen engaged in the last period rebuilding. Quantities of decorated wall plaster were recovered. Further north, the massive facades of the last period buildings were shown to be of at least 2 and possibly 3 periods, extending the time scale of the latest phase beyond the single period previously envisaged. The rubble of the latest period was removed from the basilica nave and north aisle revealing a mass of earlier mortar, pebble and herring-bone tile floors with evidence of post-basilican buildings cut into them. The rubble removed from the portico area showed that a further rubble spread lay beneath. It was unconsolidated and had 4 longitudinal shallow grooves and lines of pebbles suggesting that in the penultimate period there had been a planked sidewalk on joists here. The space between the joists contained a number of whole or almost whole ox skulls. Emptying of earlier archaeological trenches in the precinct, the annexe and in the centre of the basilica showed that there were early features cut into the natural sand. These are almost certainly part of the underlying legionary fortress.

The most important single find was a bronze Saxon strapend dated to mid IX from the robber trench of the south Colonnade of the basilica. This find strengthens the theory that the Stylobates of the basilica were robbed for the building of Wroxeter and Atcham churches.

P.A. BARKER, Extramural
Department, University of
Birmingham.

Excavations on the eastern defences, Wroxeter, 1975 (SJ/570090)

The excavation on the eastern defences took place in order to determine the state of preservation of the remains and at the same time in an attempt to shed light on one of the most complex areas of the defences of the civitas. Aerial photographs of this area (A. Baker SJ/5608/242-4) show a road approaching the defences at this point and a ditch running roughly parallel to the road and E-W across the field and running southwards under the east rampart of the city defences. Although the excavation was to have examined a wide area in detail, excessively dry weather made this impossible. Excavation was therefore limited to 3 sections cutting the linear features which meet on the line of the eastern defences. These are a) the defences themselves in the area sectioned by Kenyon b) the road and ditch approaching E-W across the field and c) the linear features south of and following the line of the Bell Brook.

a) The large outer ditch was not sectioned, nor was it possible to trace the early ditches found by Kenyon (Archaeologia (1940)77, pl.xx,C.) but the wall and ramparts of several periods were located. (Cont'd)

Kenyon's innermost ditch, underlying all other features in the section, was fully excavated, presenting a 'V'-shaped profile, but it was still only 1.2m deep from the original Roman ground surface. A pair of stacked turves, 1.3m inside the inner lip of the ditch, were all that remained of the front of a military type rampart. Unfortunately its width could not be determined since the rampart and the ditch had been deliberately levelled after use and the later rampart obscured its inner face. Its rear, or at least a stage in its construction, was marked by a line of turves leading down to a gully (visible also in Kenyon's section; *ibid.*, pl. xx,B). Remains of buildings partially buried in the tail of the rampart were not examined. b) A trench parallel to the defences and c. 10m inside the tail of the rampart aimed to locate the road and ditch; the ditch was 'V'-shaped, 3.6m wide x 1.6m deep. It may be synonymous with the ditch under the features in the eastern section. The only trace of occupation above it was a series of rubbish pits containing II pottery. Only in the slumped ditch fill itself was there any trace of floor surfaces to correspond with the pits. The road had been resurfaced several times and south of it, cut into the natural, were beam slots of rectilinear timber buildings. But the levels were damaged by ploughing and erosion. Between the ditch and the road was a 10m gap, sufficient for a rampart. The timber buildings may therefore be of military origin since they lie inside the 'intervallum' road. c) A long section across the linear features along the slope overlooking the Brook was left unfinished because of the unexpected depth of the Roman deposits. At least 2 defensive ditches lay on the steep slope. At its crest was a clay and cobble foundation 3.7m wide and behind this (i.e. inside the town) a deep hole filled with silt which may be a sump connected with the aqueduct or a linear feature.

J.S. JOHNSON for DOE

A Roman fort at Duncot, north of Wroxeter (SJ/575015)

On the well drained terrace sloping gently to the left bank of the River Tern, a long rectangular double ditched enclosure, with rounded corners was identified from the air by Arnold Baker in 1963. Repeated photographs since have failed to reveal evidence of any street system or entrances although there is slight suggestion of structures in the mid western half and possible rubbish pits externally to the east. Excavation has shown part of a rutted road 4m across, approaching the enclosure from the SE. The long axis lies in a SW - NE direction in fields 5264 and 8276. Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the west is the road from Viroconium to Deva and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the south is the Watling St (A5). On level ground to the SE are traces of a marching camp. Due to the co-operation of the farmer, Mr. F. Griffiths, the SE, NE and NW corners were identified and a length of c. 240m on the ESE side and a width of 74m on the north side. A row of large stake-holes was found in the interior near the west side. About 12m beyond on the north side, a pair of ditches, possibly the remains of an annexe near the stream were traced for 38m.

The defences were formidable; 2 'V'-shaped ditches, c. 1m deep with slots in the bottom, were cut into the natural. The counterscarp of the outer ditch was covered with clay and the ravelin was c. 1.5m wide and had apparently been levelled after the ditches had silted up. Both sides of each ditch were thickly studded with large root holes containing a fine greyish white powder produced by interaction between decaying wood and ironpan. There were also indications of a possible thorn hedge type of defence inside the inner ditch like that found to a lesser extent at Inchtuthill (JRS (1953) 43,104), but this petered out towards the river. In this area, the ditches had been back-filled with turf and soil whereas on higher ground stratified silting was apparent. In the bottom silt was a possible sling stone and a split sherd in buff coloured fabric, silky smooth and bearing straw marks. In the upper fill on the west side was a fragment of a necked jar in BBI ware. The site seems to be that of a strongly built fort capable of accommodating a

couple of centuries and admirably situated to defend the Watling St and the Chester Road as they approached Viroconium.

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

The Watling St West, Nr. Wroxeter

This great Roman highway commences at Caerleon then skirts the highland zone and enters Shropshire near Leintwardine. Passing Craven Arms to the south, it lies under the Stretton by-pass and passing Frodesley, is joined by a quarry road which provides access to the source of much of the stone used in building VIROCONIVM. Proceeding between Pitchford and Acton Burnell it negotiated dips and rises in the Eaton Mascot region quite as steep as the Wroxeter river terraces (139 ft to 160 ft A.O.D.) Crossing the Bridgnorth road just south of Cross Houses, it rises to 171 ft and in a short distance commences the easy descent of the right bank of the Severn terraces. Opposite Grotto Coppice (SJ/555079) it drops to 153 ft and c. 200m from the present Severn bank the height is 148 ft. Finally, at the riverside the height is 139 ft.

Opposite Grotto Coppice significant changes occur. A hollow way passed to the river bank until it was filled in 5 years ago. The ancient road, however, under pasture and separated by a modern ditch and hedge from the hollow way to the south, turns a little to the north as it approaches the river bank.

In 1928, the late J.A. Morris (TSAS (1927-8)11, 304) was the first to show that the hollow way was relatively modern and proved the site of the Roman road by cutting sections. These points have never received proper recognition and current O.S. maps show only the hollow way. This feature terminates in a sunken broad area overgrown by willow and scrub, though coal scraps and pottery of XVII - XIX are abundant. Rocque, 1759, marks a ferry at this point and doubtless trows brought coal up from Ironbridge for Wroxeter and Crosshouses.

In 1975 the Shropshire Roman Research Group examined the final course of the road in field 374 (O.S.25"). In winter, when the sun was low, an agger was plainly seen gradually diverging from the hollow way till, at 17m from the river bank, there was a space of 20m between them. Ridge and furrow in this field butts up to the agger and it is instructive to note that repeated deep flooding of the whole field had obliterated none of these features.

Two problems present themselves.

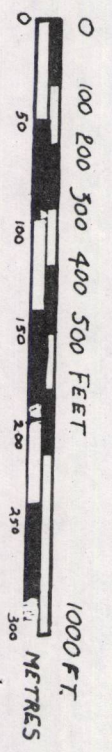
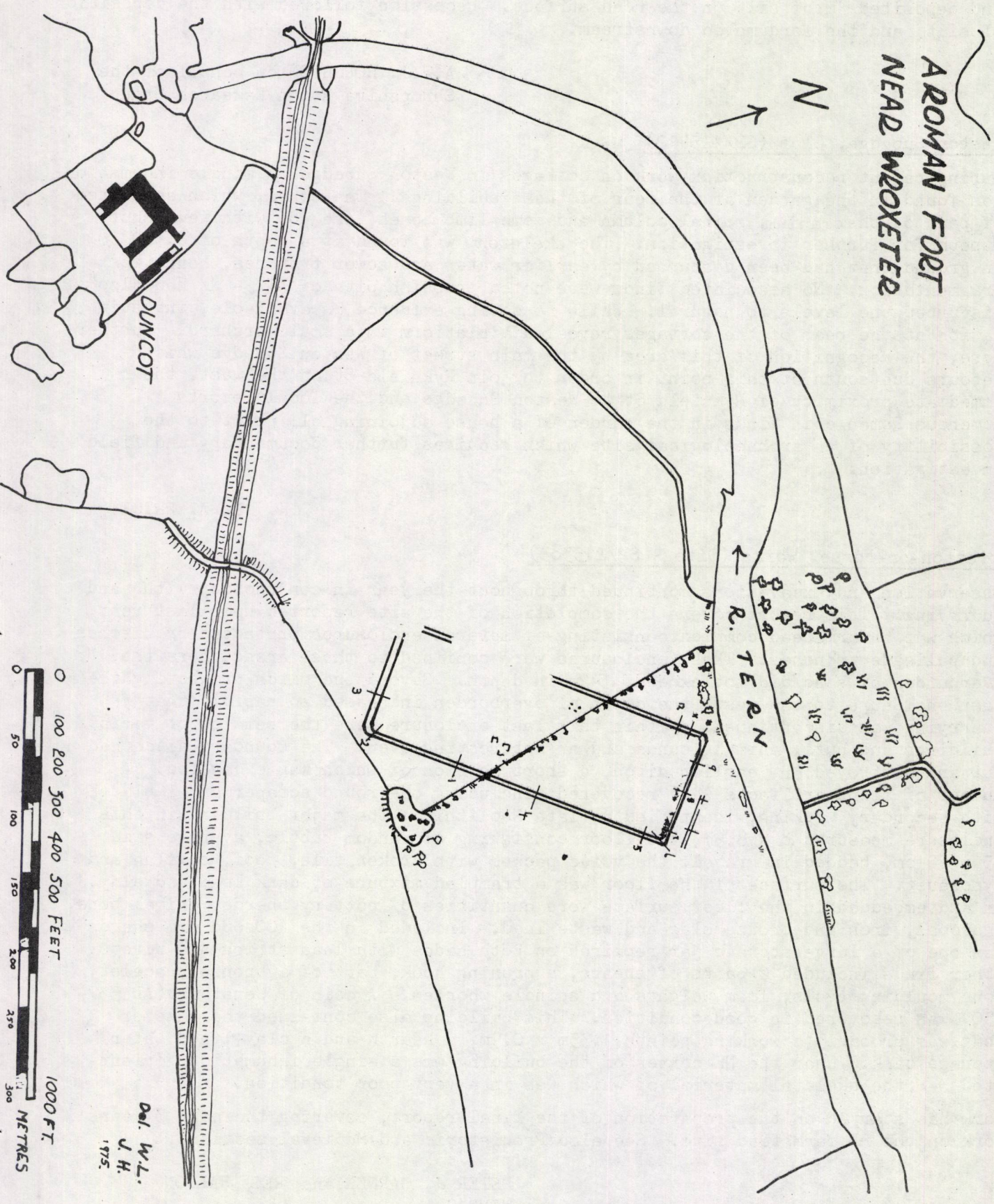
1. The course and construction of the Watling St West across the flood plain and how the river was crossed.

2. The historical geography of the river in this area.

1. The road. 154m from the riverbank an oak tree grows upon the agger. From measurements of girths at different heights the Forestry Commission (Research Station) kindly stated that the tree was between 120 and 140 years old and so it seemed reasonable to suppose that the ancient road was finally deserted c. 1850 at the latest. In section 1, 93m from the river bank, the modern ditch had cut into the south side but a shallow clay-lined ditch was present on the north containing Roman pottery from the Flavian period to early IV; a Dolphin type brooch was recovered from a local silty patch in a well preserved layer. The upper levels contained pottery ranging from Tudor to c. 1830. The whole road was neatly cambered, strongly constructed and c. 14.5m wide. Roman tile and brick was plentiful in a repair to the south side but not in the core, suggesting there was no waste tile available when the road was built. Section 2, 45m from the river, was 8m wide; the absence of a ditch on the north side indicated access to a level space where spare horses or oxen might be available. The road had been cut away to the south for the construction of an insubstantial road of mud and stones which aimed for the end of the hollow way and, deeply rutted, was soon disused. In section 3, a total width of 11m was stripped to within 17m of the river and here, aiming a little to the NE where the stone bases of a timber bridge were found in 1964 in the ancient river bed, the road came to a ragged end, dipping 19cm in the last 5.5m. (Cont'd)

A ROMAN FORT
NEAR WROXETER

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↑



Del. W.L.
J.H.
1975.

The construction was sound but worn down to the basal cobbles and a ditch containing pottery similar to that mentioned above was found on the southside. Here, as in section 2, the road was built on dense river silt whereas under section 1, natural bluish clay was found.

2. D. Pannett has shown that, in the Roman period, the river was situated at the end of the road and could be crossed by a ford. The river later widened at this point and deposited 1m of silt on the road surface. Recession followed with the deposition of silt, and the ford moved downstream.

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

Weston Subedge, Glos (SP/125412)

During recent reconstruction work on cottages in Weston Subedge, a single inhumation was found in the garden at the rear of these buildings. The bones, which consisted of part of the cranium, spinal column and some limb bones, are now with Tewkesbury Museum for further investigation. The skeleton was found at a depth of c. 60 cm in ground that had been disturbed by earlier water and sewer trenches, hence its fragmentation. No associated finds were noted, rubbish pits of XIX - XX had also disturbed the levels to natural. While no dating evidence is available, investigation at the rear of the cottages revealed a platform in a small orchard. Furthermore, the recognition of this area by the main street of Weston Subedge which detours due south at this point in order to join Rykniel St on the west, the immediate proximity of Rykniel St to Weston Subedge and the local reports numerous Roman coin finds in the garden of a house adjoining all point to the possibility of an archaeological site which requires further documentary and field investigation.

E. A. PRICE

Stretton-on-Fosse, Warks (Site 4 SP/215383)

Observation and excavations continued throughout the year in conjunction with sand quarrying. This report covers the completion of the site reported upon last year, which was a farmstead complex consisting of several enclosures protected by ditches and palisade trenches. These enclosures were confined to those areas where the overburden of sand did not exceed 1.5-2m in depth. Beyond the ditch protecting the last enclosure to the west, the depth of overburden increased so rapidly that quarrying was discontinued. Within this last enclosure were the remains of various buildings and huts, animal pounds and an interesting oven. The boundary ditch had cut and destroyed an earlier ditch, a short section of which was excavated. A number of flint artifacts were recovered, including one round scraper and 2 blades with secondary working, identified as late Neolithic. The major building in this enclosure measured 8 x 8.5m, the floor consisting of random rubble, average size 15 x 20 cm, bedded in gravel, the voids packed with broken tile, roof, boxflue and hypocaust. The surface of the floor was a trampled mixture of dark loam and clay. On and embedded in the floor surface were quantities of pottery sherds, animal bone, charcoal, iron and bronze slag and waste lead. Included in the 100 odd rim sherds was one of a large storage jar repaired on both sides with lead strips and rivets. Other finds included 2 pairs of shears, a pruning hook, part of a bronze bracelet, bone moulding tools, loom weights and spindle whorles. A coin of Constantine (AD 337-350) was recovered in good condition. This building also contained the base of what was probably a working plinth 1.35m x 0.9m, a hearth and a clay-lined water storage tank. Near the NE corner of the building was a single inhumation, orientated N-S, the skeletal material of which was in a very poor condition.

Work has started on the preparation of the final report, covering the past 3 years' work on the RB farmstead site. See also Prehistoric and Medieval sections.








PETER J. GARNER and REG HALDON
WEMRAC

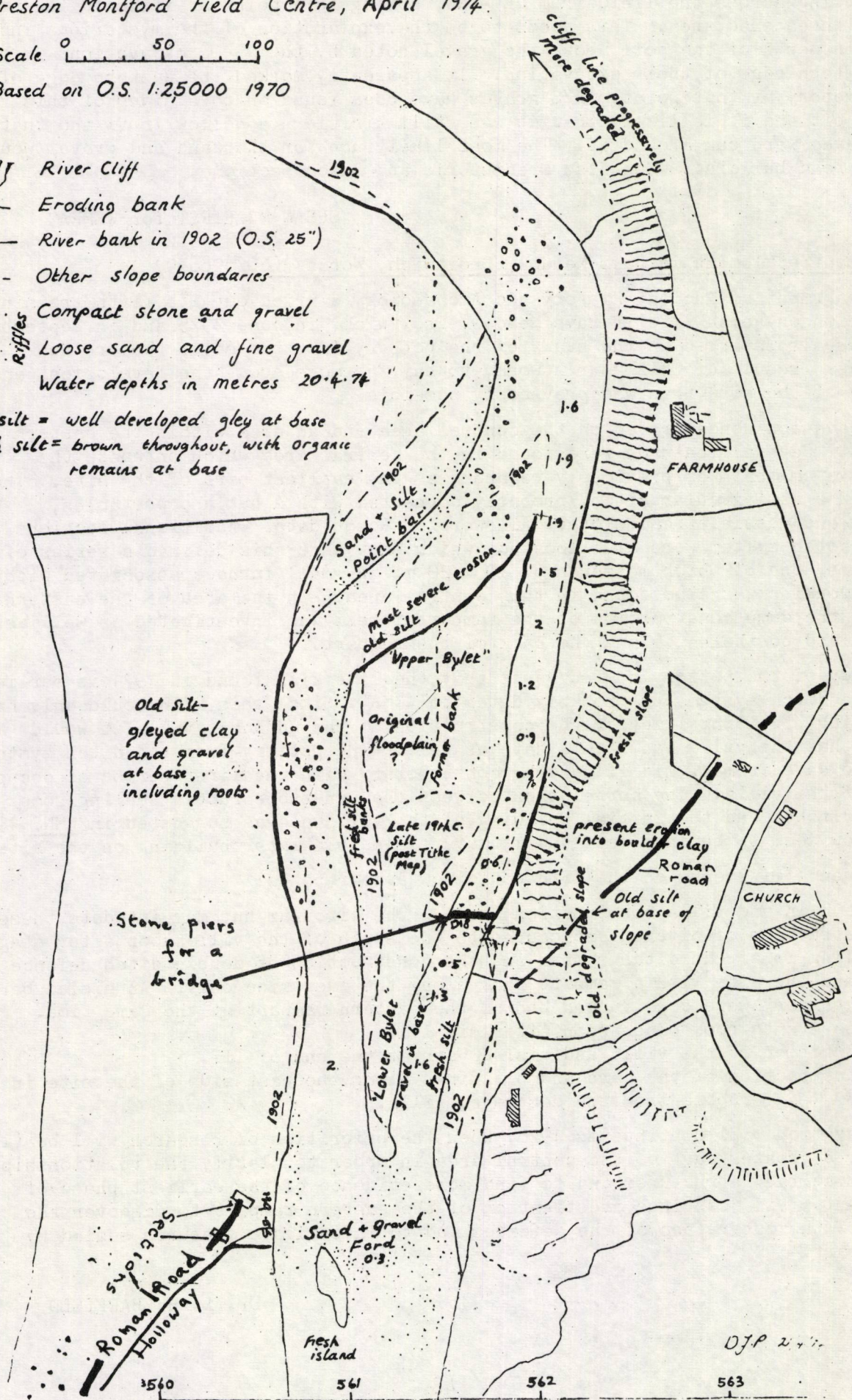
River Severn at Wroxeter

Survey by members of 'Physical Geography' Course
 Preston Montford Field Centre, April 1974.

Scale 0 50 100

Based on O.S. 1:25000 1970

-  River Cliff
-  Eroding bank
-  River bank in 1902 (O.S. 25")
-  Other slope boundaries
-  Compact stone and gravel
-  Loose sand and fine gravel
-  1.5 Water depths in metres 20.4.74
- Old silt = well developed gley at base
- Fresh silt = brown throughout, with organic remains at base



Bidford-on-Avon, Warks (SP/099519)

Most of the new area excavated was covered by part of a large quarry or pit 27m wide where it was sectioned, on the south side of the threatened area. This was apparently of Roman date (II from the pottery) and was a filled up sand and gravel pit cutting across the field from SE - NW, coming to a point a little to the north of the threatened area. This seems to be the explanation of the mysterious increase in depth of the soil above the gravel noted by the 1920s excavations along the eastern edge of their excavation. It apparently marked the eastern edge of the cemetery at that point. A/S graves have been found on both sides of this gravel pit and it is likely that it was still visible as a hollow in VI and that the graves were dug around it. The most likely use for the sand and gravel would be for road building. See also Prehistoric and Saxon sections.

SUSAN M. HIRST for WEMRAC

The Roman Settlement in Bays Meadow, Droitwich, Worcs (SO/898639)

The Department of Ancient History and Archaeology carried out its fifth training excavation on Roman site in Bays Meadow, Droitwich, in June 1975 and in September work was also started on the study of the pottery from the site. We are now able, as a result of this year's work, to say far more about the development and history of the site than was previously possible.

The excavation concentrated on the central area and an area within the eastern rampart. Several features were found in the central area which antedate the ditch system that was previously regarded as the earliest part of the site. They included a semicircular ditch, probably connected with a hut and postholes, ditches and possible beam slots. All were of Roman date. Additional sections of the ditch system were also located, which show that this defined a series of compounds, one of which measures c. 20 x 20 m. A small furnace associated with bronze working was also found in this central area. In the area of the eastern rampart the dump construction of the rampart itself was investigated as well as gulleys and postholes along the back of the rampart.

The study of the pottery now suggests that the lime kiln found in 1971 is earlier than the ditch system and probably dates to II AD. Since this kiln could only have served for providing lime for the construction of the adjacent villa it would appear that the villa is of this date as well. The pottery from the ditch system seems to date from c. mid III and be contemporary with the first period of occupation of the villa. The correlation between the sandstone rubble sealing some of the ditches and the initial building of the villa as was suggested in WMNS 1974 would now seem to be incorrect and it may relate to a later building on the site.

The sequence of events on the site would now appear to be:

1. Lime kiln and villa construction in II. The circular hut may antedate these.
2. Construction of ditched enclosures to the south of the villa soon after stage I.
3. Filling in of the ditch system and the construction of double ditch defence around the site with a rampart bank along the east side only. An aisled barn and granary were constructed behind the eastern rampart at the same time. These events took place soon after mid III.
4. Destruction of the villa and aisled barn at the end of III.
5. Reconstruction of the barn and buildings along the east side of the site in IV utilizing rubble from the destroyed villa.

The excavation will continue in 1976, when the priorities of research will be (i) to clear a greater part of the central area in order to clarify the relationship of the posthole structures and to find more evidence of the earliest phase of settlement. (ii) continue investigation of the eastern rampart to discover the nature of the outer face of the defences and to investigate features sealed by the rampart.

Dr. L. H. BARFIELD

Friar St, Droitwich, Worcs 1973-5 (SO/897635)

Two more pits, similar in size and shape to those of IA date described above, were dated to I or early II by the Roman pottery found in the fills. Briquetage and ash were again present in quantity and it is reasonable to infer that the exploitation of Droitwich brine continued on the IA model (using similar processes in the same location) into early Roman times. One of the pits contained a wooden lining and the remains of a wooden (?) superstructure, very well preserved in the water-logged conditions prevailing on the site. A number of stake-holes and a wall trench, again containing stake 'ghosts' were found but these formed no regular structural patterns. Stratigraphically, they might be contemporary either with the IA or Roman pits. Some of them, however, contained a few Roman sherds and seem likely to fall into this early Roman industrial phase. Industrial use was succeeded by domestic occupation. A break with the traditional location of the salt industry might imply that far reaching changes in the overall structure of the salt industry took place under Roman rule. The RB domestic phase was characterised by several large postholes, again forming no regular structural plan and a well, 2.8m deep, lined with red sandstone blocks and repaired at least once using more roughly dressed grey sandstone. The fill contained pottery of late II/early III.

A complete change of land use occurred in the late/Sub-Roman period; the site having been levelled with a compacted make-up composed of discoloured natural marl and pebbles. This layer and some of the stake-holes and small shallow hollows which were dug into it, contained a very few small, abraded sherds of Roman pottery. Shallow slots or gullies which may be interpreted structurally or, more probably, as field boundary ditches, also cut this material. There were also several shallow linear features, probably wheel ruts. All these features were parallel or at 90° to the medieval and modern Friar St alignment, implying that by this period the framework of land boundaries upon which the Saxon/Medieval town was to be superimposed, had taken shape. See also Prehistoric and Saxon to Post-Medieval sections.

ALAN HUNT for DOE and Hereford/
Worcester County Museum

Blackwardine, Nr. Leominster, Herefords (SO/535565)

A newspaper article reported that amateur archaeologists were at work on the 70a Roman settlement at Blackwardine. Coins dating from AD 96-365, Roman roof tiles and painted wall plaster have been dug up. Other discoveries included an intact stone hypocaust, 5 rooms, a courtyard and the possibility of a further hypocaust, all just over 1ft below the surface in fields which have been under the plough for over 200 years.

THE HEREFORD TIMES, October 10,
1975

Alcester, Warks (SP/091057)

Geophysical surveys have been carried out on the site of the proposed housing estate over the Roman town and suburbs by R. Poulton of Bradford University. The results were positive and indicate concentrated settlement in the open land to the east of Bleachfield St.

R. POULTON for WEMRAC

Gas House Lane, Alcester, Warks (SP/090573)

A trial trench was cut along the length of a plot extending between Stratford Rd and Gas House Lane. Roman deposits were encountered at 4ft below the surface. The uppermost Roman level was a cobbled surface with postholes and pits. A very small trial hole established that these deposits were 9in thick. No further excavation was done as the Roman material is below the level of disturbance by the development proposed for the site.

R. G. LAMB for Warwick
County Museum

Lloyd's Bank gardens, Alcester, Warks (SP/089573)

An area of c. 200 sq m was examined in the garden of the bank. There seems to have been activity throughout the Roman period but its precise nature is uncertain. Pottery of I was found but not securely stratified and this was true of the best small find - an 'Ancissa' brooch - which should be dated probably before AD 50 and is likely to be an indication of the presence of auxiliary (cavalry) units not far away. Considerable pains had been taken to level up the site with large quantities of gravel, perhaps to carry a timber-framed building. There was a series of gullies at the east end of the site, one of which had held a horizontal timber or sleeper beam. At the west end was a large enigmatic ditch, undated, which had been filled with clay to the level of the penultimate pebbled surface. There were 2 parallel ditches at the north end of the site, at right angles to the timber slot. One of these ditches was cut through the top filling of a shallow well, c. 1.75m deep. Close to this was a second well, in the top fill of which was a timber-lined rubbish pit of late IV. The timbers were very well preserved in waterlogged conditions and this second well was c. 2m deep. The nearer of the 2 parallel ditches contained burials of an infant and a decapitated young girl. In a slightly later period, the area beside this ditch was used extensively for infant burials, which probably represent the latest Roman use of the site in the late IV or later.

There was extensive medieval activity in the form of pits and alignments of stone-packed postholes and a stone-lined cistern but no structure seemed to be represented. There was also evidence of ploughing at the west end of the site where the Roman levels slope up to the modern ground surface.

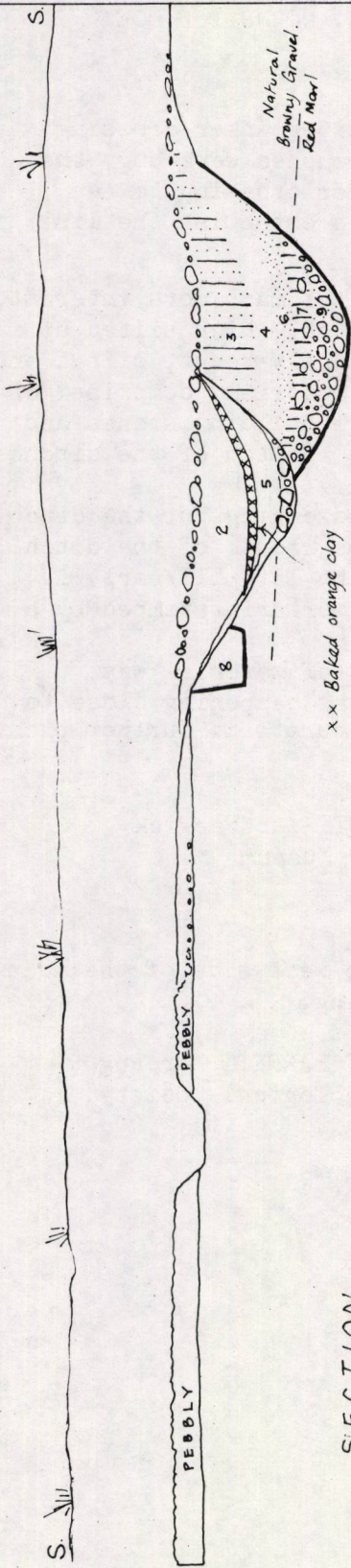
E. EVANS and P. BOOTH for Warwick
County Museum

Wall (Letocetum), Staffs (SK/098066)

During 1975, excavations of the so-called 'Villa' adjoining the Baths building was continued. Considerable disturbance attributable to the earlier 1870 and 1910 excavations was encountered within the building, most of the occupation levels of the stone building having been removed. The evidence of pottery and a coin of Hadrian in its construction trenches suggested a construction date c. AD 120. The earlier timber building on the same site appears to have been constructed after AD 95 and destroyed c. 110-120, possibly having been dismantled to construct the stone building. It appears to extend outside the stone building to the NE and this area is now under examination. The earliest features on the site are a series of NE - SW undulations, resembling medieval ridge and furrow, below which is a layer of dark sand overlying the sandy subsoil. The distance between ridge crests is c. 1m and the depth of the hollows c. 8cm. No actual plough marks were seen, possibly due to the very sandy soil but the features suggest ploughing in the immediate pre-Roman period, as observed at Rudchester and other sites on Hadrian's Wall. In an area where the 1910 excavator reported an arch in the stone building foundation, a pit c. 2.5m square was found, cut into the natural sandstone. The original foundation of the stone building had been cut through the fill and was followed presumably by sinkage and cracking or collapse of the wall above. The situation was remedied by the construction of a supporting arch which was later blocked with sandstone. The pit itself showed slight indications of a clay lining and may have been an unusually large water cistern. To a depth of at least 3.5m, the fill of the pit was entirely composed of debris and wall plaster from the description of the timber building. The area to the NE of the stone building was cobbled to at least 7m from its outside wall and, as no associated postholes were found, a cobbled yard is indicated. Immediately below this but above the destruction layer of the timber building, was a metal working furnace with much associated iron, including nails and lead fragments. It seems likely that the ironwork required in the construction of the stone building was forged here. The rooms on the NW side of the building were considerably disturbed in recent times and appear to have been filled with the wall plaster found in earlier excavations. (Cont'd)

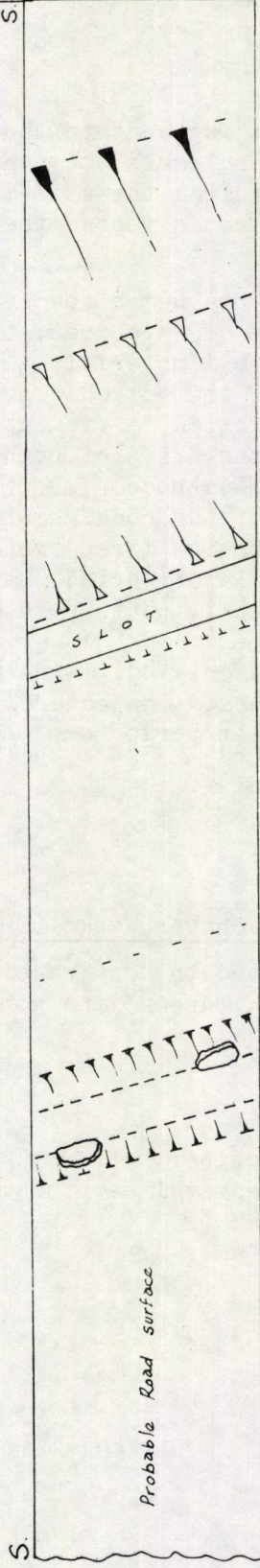
MANCETTER 1975 TRENCH 1

Scale 1" = 2'-0"

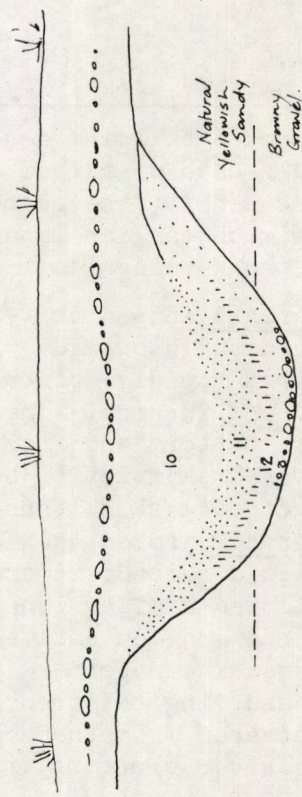


SECTION

PLAN



TRENCH 2



- Earthy charcoal
- ▨ Silty
- ▧ Clayey
- ▩ Gravelly

Where the partially robbed Roman walls were exposed by the natural slope of the ground, clay and cobble walling had been inserted suggesting that the ruins had been adapted perhaps for farm animals in later times.

A. A. ROUND for DOE

Mancetter, Warks (SP/323972)

Proposed building development adjacent to the A5 and the River Anker crossing could have disturbed any Roman levels etc. Exploratory trenches were dug, the first 180ft, the second 330ft from the existing bridge/river crossing to see how much earlier landscaping had affected the levels and to establish the line of the Watling St.

Trench 1 showed that some of the Roman road survived, and, of much more interest, the ditch alongside which was of 2 periods; the primary ditch, which silted up fairly rapidly, contained late I material. It was subsequently recut, offset and reduced in size. The fill of this ditch contained mid II material, comprised of much pottery and iron, Roman brick, a trumpet brooch, large building stones and several examples of hand querns. A slot running alongside the top of the ditches might suggest a 'fence' or balustrade.

Trench 2 proved that little of the road remained after landscaping but the ditch still survived; in contrast to the first trench the various recuts of the ditch followed similar lines. The later period was represented by late III/early IV sherds and the earliest by mid II pottery in particular a mortaria stamped by a lesser known potter NANLI?

Considering the trenches were only 4½ft wide a vast amount of material was recovered from the road ditches. Conjectures as to what was happening close to the river crossing in the Roman period can only be more accurate if further excavation is done.

K. SCOTT for Warwick
County Museum

Tripontium, Cave's Inn, Churchover, Warks (SP/535795)

In 1975, the Society excavated the drainage system on the west side of the main Roman building at Cave's Inn, Area 3 and work is continuing.

ALBERT BARNETT for Rugby
Archaeological Society

Worcester. See Medieval section.
Stafford. See Saxon and Medieval sections.

Worcester City Wall, 1975 (SO/852545)

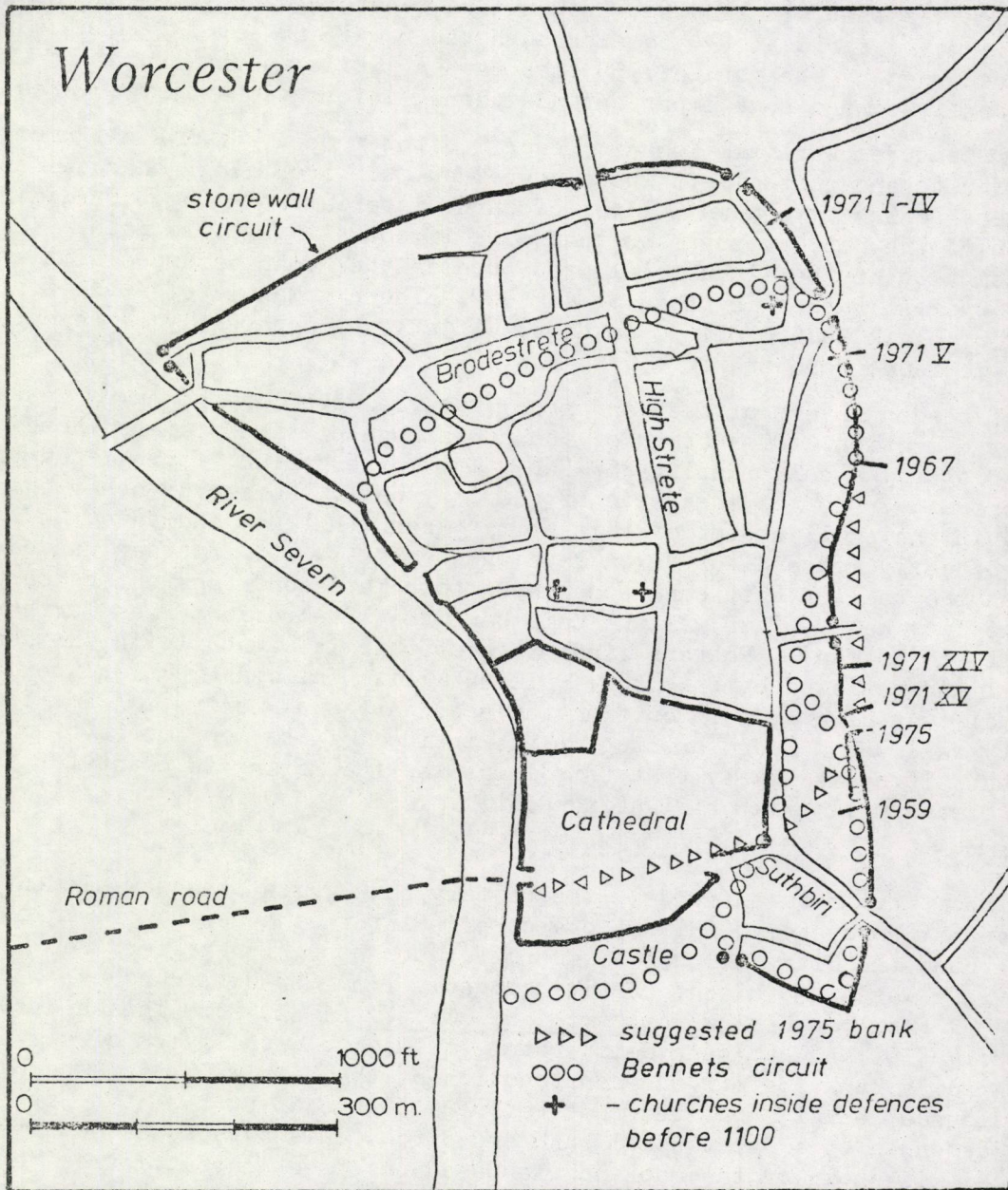
A triangular excavation made by the City Walls Road engineers on the inside of the City Wall at the south end of Talbot St (see map), exposed a vertical section of intact stratification. This met the Wall obliquely at an angle of c. 45° from the north. The section was c. 3m deep and 40m long. Preliminary observations by C. Beardsmore and P. A. Barker suggested that a salvage operation would be worthwhile. This was organised by WEMRAC and financed by the DOE through the agency of Worcester County Museum. 3 people, with occasional volunteer help, worked on the site for 2 weeks in November 1975. The 80m or so of the City Wall exposed here was recorded photographically and a plan of its line made by the City engineers. A short section at the south end of the cutting showed the construction trench for the Wall and a profile of its whole width extending down to the edge of the ditch. The main work was that of cleaning, drawing and recording the 40m long section and excavating a metre strip at its base through the remaining levels. The sequence of strata recorded by Shearer in 1959 (see map) a little to the south of this excavation, was confirmed and some important additional information was recovered.

The earliest features were all Roman: several ditches on a WSW-ENE alignment and a series of pits and postholes. These contained much iron slag, charcoal and burnt daub and were sealed by a general layer of burnt material and slag. Preliminary examination of the pottery suggests that most if not all is of II date. These features point to another industrial area outside the Roman defences similar to that found by P.A. Barker in Broad St in 1967. These Roman levels were sealed by a layer of black humic soil 30 cm deep. This layer apparently represents post-Roman, pre-medieval Worcester.

A series of banded layers of clay and stony material overlay the humus in the centre of the section. Dissection of the north edge of these layers showed that they were probably a bank running WSW-ENE. This orientation if projected to the NE would cross over to the east side of the City Wall. No sherds other than Roman were found in the small amount of this primary bank that was excavated and only one sherd of early medieval or Saxon date was sealed by it. Further banded layers abutting on the tail of this bank were shown to be a second bank on the same N-S line as the City Wall. This was the same bank that Shearer observed further to the south (1959 on map). Pottery finds suggest that it was built in the second half of XII and replaced by the stone wall in XIII. The construction trench for the City Wall was clearly seen cutting the secondary bank layers. A new feature of the City Wall was a ledge or step on the inside of its top course of one stone width. It seems likely that this ledge was the keying-in point for the base of a timber wall walk or fighting platform.

Discussion.

The most important feature found is the primary bank which is a new element in the defences of Worcester. Only at one other point in the series of small excavations around the City Wall has a linear feature possibly earlier than XII been located. This was a N-S ditch, curving slightly from SSW-NW, found by J. Bennet in 1971 (1971 V on map; see Worcs. Arch. Newsletter (1973)12). This had silted up before c. 1150 and had been deliberately filled up with layers of clay and gravel (? from a bank) before the construction of the City Wall. On the basis of this evidence Bennet suggested that before 1150 the NE part of the City at least was defended by a substantial bank and ditch. His hypothesis for its total circuit is shown on the map and was based on street layout, street names and various anomalies in the line of the City Wall. Bennet thought that this pre-1150 circuit might be that of the Saxon burh - its length could be satisfactorily equated with that suggested by the formula implicit in the Burghal Hidage. The XII bank seen in Sidbury by Shearer (and in 1975) was then interpreted as an addition to this circuit enclosing the later suburb. On this interpretation the City Wall follows this bank from Sidbury to Talbot St where it leaves it at the re-entrant (at 1971 XV on map) to meet the proposed Saxon circuit further to the north where there is another slighter re-entrant. It would then follow the Saxon circuit to St. Martin's gate where it diverges to go further to the north to enclose the (?) early medieval suburban development around Foregate St.



The primary bank found in 1975 provides additional evidence of a possible pre-XII defensive bank but it does not fit in with Bennet's circuit (see map). This bank runs to the north on a line east of the east edge of the XIII City Wall. This is difficult to explain. A possible solution is that as the east side of the City is on the east edge of the Worcester Terrace the ground became too eroded or too marshy after the construction of a bank and ditch and it was found necessary to put later circuits further west. The SW projection of the 1975 bank on the map is added to point out the possibility that earlier circuits may have enclosed a smaller cathedral precinct and have been closely related to the Roman road and former crossing point of the Severn. The solution to whether the 1975 and the 1971 ditch are, or can be, part of the same circuit, and the question of their relation to XII bank must await a closer examination of the available evidence and a study of the pottery.

It is now possible to put forward at least 2 different hypotheses for earlier defensive circuits in Worcester and it becomes more urgent to carry out further excavations in these crucial areas of the City, the SE corner and the northern part in particular, while there is still a chance to excavate intact levels. The site running west from the 1975 section through to Friar St, which will be available for excavation in 1976, covers the turning point of both suggested early circuits, and its excavation could be vital to our understanding of Worcester.

SUSAN M. HIRST for Hereford/
Worcester County Museum

The Stables, Castle Lane, Warwick (SP/285648)

Phase 2. XI AD. 3 rubbish pits were excavated and one other located which contained ash, charcoal slabby limestone, probably from the exposed outcrop at Ufton c. 10 miles east of Warwick (inf. Prof. W. Shotton) and slag. A quantity of animal bone was found in these pits, including almost complete sheep and dog skeletons (identified by Dr. J. L. Cole) Pottery was sparse, but compared as a group with material excavated on the site of the Mulberry Tree Inn, Warwick, 1966 associated with a silver penny of Cnut (WMNS (1966)9,15-16; Medieval Archaeol. (1967)11,294). See also Prehistoric, Medieval and Post-Medieval sections.

REG HALDON for Warwick County
Museum

Bidford-on-Avon, Warks (SP/099519)

A large part of the pagan Saxon cemetery was excavated in 1923 and in 1971, 2 further trenches were excavated by W. J. Ford and S. Ball. In October 1975, further excavation took place of 110 sq m at the west end of the site. No graves were found but finds of a II Roman brooch, a glass bead and an iron knife of Saxon type may suggest a destroyed grave. A few Saxon sherds were found but no definite Saxon features. Several features, probably of Roman date, were excavated as well as a number of pits and a shallow N-S ditch possibly marking the western edge of the cemetery located in 1971 was picked up further south. It seems likely that Saxon settlement nucleus, like the medieval one, lay to the east of the cemetery.

The relative scarcity of artefacts of any date and the absence of stratified levels make furtherhand excavation difficult to justify. It is proposed therefore that a close watching brief and salvage recording be carried out when the by-pass goes through in 1976. See also Prehistoric and Roman sections.

SUSAN M. HIRST for WEMRAC

Clarke St, Stafford (SJ/925232)

There was no evidence for the hoped for early medieval kiln. The sequence began, however, with Roman and late Saxon waterlogged deposits and a large amount of pottery dateable to between X - XII was recovered. A belt of natural sand showing signs of organic decay under reducing conditions indicated the pre-Roman limits of a marsh surrounding the site to the SE. On this was 20 cm of grey silt in which

unabraded pottery of the later Roman period had been discarded. This layer may, after analysis, prove to be reclaimed land. Above it lay a further stagnant water deposit which had in turn been partly reclaimed, this time by the dumping of sterile gravels at the limit of which the remnant marsh was demarcated by a partly extant wattle fence. Peat had accumulated over the marsh except at an area at the NW where a worn and disturbed surface suggested a water hole. Dumping took place on the marsh surface and excavated as incoherent spreads of animal bone, hearth material, pottery and daub. The largest of these 'cart loads', which still survived as a mound, contained a human skull broken in 3 pieces. A group of 3 pits was subsequently dug into the gravels; 2 of these showed structural features.

The earliest post-Roman pottery encountered, which occurred above the second marsh line, consisted of cooking pot of a mainly oxidised fabric with a simple roll rim. A few examples had a band of rouletting on the shoulder and/or the top of the rim. Its t.p.q. is provided by the Roman assemblage and a t.a.q. by the incidence of XII cooking pot of 'Hen Domen' style and 'splashed-ware' jug material which occurred amongst the stratigraphically later groups. In contexts dateable to the XIII by jug fragments from Coventry and Nuneaton, this early cooking pot was extremely rare. 10-20,000 sherds were recovered which exhibited some variety of rim form and rather less of fabric. It is proposed to designate the type as the Stafford Variant of the West Midlands Early Medieval Wares of which examples have now been recognised at Chester, Shrewsbury and Hereford. Of the few intrusive sherds amongst the Stafford Groups, only one (of Stamford ware) has been recognised. See also Medieval section.

M.O.H. CARVER for WEMRAC

Wredon Hill, Ramshorn, Staffs (SK/085473)

A 'tumulus', known as Wardlow, on Wredon Hill, Ramshorn, was excavated in advance of quarrying. The mound was a natural projection of the limestone and had previously been investigated by Samuel Carrington in 1848. It had been used for burial probably in Saxon times and traces of at least 4 inhumation burials, without grave goods, were found during the excavation. The rock surface on and around the 'tumulus' produced a scatter of prehistoric sherds and flints.

Dr. L. H. BARFIELD for WEMRAC

Bewell House, Hereford (SO/508402)

Pre-rampart features. 4 parallel ditches, cut into the natural gravel, crossed the site in an E-W direction. The southern one was slightly flat bottomed and c. 2 m wide and cut 70 cm into the natural gravel. 4m north, running parallel, was a shallower ditch or gully, up to a metre wide and 25cm deep. The third ditch, which ran under the rampart, was similar to the second in size and shape, and was c. 8m from the second. The fourth ditch, partly filled by rampart-like gravel, was found in the NE part of the site, in one of the trial trenches and was similar in size to the first. Except for the small area under the rampart, no occupation level survived contemporary with these ditches. Only one sherd of pottery was found in the fill of the ditches and this was thought to be of Saxon date. Samples of silt from 2 of the ditches were taken by DOE scientists for experimental dating by residual magnetic fields. Some animal bone from one of the ditches has been sent to Harwell for C-14 dating as a check and comparison. Several postholes and small gullies, only seen in the natural gravel, appeared to be pre-rampart and could be pre-ditch in date. There were no associated finds.

The gravel rampart which preceded the city wall as a defensive feature, was examined in a small area within the excavation near the NW corner. It sealed one of the period 1 ditches and approximately 40 cm of clean plough soil. The rampart consisted of clean, well packed gravel, very similar to the natural and presumably from an external ditch. Although very little of the rampart proper was within the confines of the excavation and no pottery was found within its fill, every indication suggests an XI date. Pottery definitely underneath the rampart included

early cooking pot and Chester ware and levels cut into the rampart contained pottery of XII. See also Medieval and Post-Medieval sections.

R. SHOESMITH for DOE and the
City of Hereford Excavation
Committee

5 Cantilupe St, Hereford (SO/514397)

Excavations were first carried out on this site in 1972 (WMNS (1972)15,20). The remains were recognised as being of national importance and, during 1975, the Hereford City Council bought part of the back garden containing the Saxon and Medieval walls. The original excavation trenches were extended to include the whole width of the gardens and the area of the Saxon berm within the grounds. The Saxon and Medieval walls were fully exposed and now await consolidation and eventual public display.

The Saxon rampart. The original soil surface, c. 30cm thick, survived over the existing Saxon berm. There were no signs of any previous occupation, confirming the 1972 results. The rampart was not examined, the rear of the Saxon wall being the limit of the excavation.

The addition of stone walls. The 2m thick wall supporting the original timber face was cleared; it was poorly constructed and without a foundation trench. The lowest facing course was of large blocks but above coursing and bonding was poor and the core was of clay, rubble and some mortar. Small mixing pits for the mortar were found on the berm. It is possible that the wall was built in sections as the timbers deteriorated. The wall stands c. 2m high and may never have been much higher due to its lack of structural strength. Signs of timber breastwork were seen on 1972 and a smaller wall was found at the rear of the flat fighting platform. The edge of the ditch associated with this or the previous period was found c. 3m in front of the wall. In the soil accumulation in front of the Saxon wall before its collapse was a single sherd of Chester ware. A rough stone face some 50cm in front of the original face in a small part of the area, suggested the wall had been refaced. There was rough stone packing between the 2 faces and a spread of gravel on the berm may indicate a 'clean-out' of the ditch. The wall was either deliberately slighted or gradually collapsed and the whole defence became a smooth bank which totally covered the walls. In 1972, there were signs that this was refortified with a simple timber palisade. See also Medieval section.

R. SHOESMITH for DOE and the City
of Hereford Excavation Committee

Drybridge House, Hereford (SO/507394)

The site is on the line of Rowe Ditch, which can be seen as a bank across Bishop's Meadow at a point where it would turn to the north if it were to join the rest of the City's defences. A machine was used to cut 3 trenches, 2 ft and 3 ft wide.

Pre-bank occupation. The partially robbed out foundations of a substantial stone building were recovered in 2 of the trenches. The walls were up to 1.2m thick and mortar associated with their construction ran under the period 2 levels. Pottery from this construction level was of late XI or early XII although only 3 or 4 sherds were found. A gully close by contained X Chester ware. To the north of this, a layer of charcoal and iron ore, in parts just above the natural clay, was again sealed by the period 2 levels, but had no dating material. A deep pit, still further north, contained more XI - XII pottery. X - XII occupation of the site is indicated although the developers restrictions and the time available meant that the lower levels were only partially examined. Although the stone walling was robbed in XV (see Medieval section) and this is not definitely sealed by the XII bank, a mortar level which appears to indicate its construction contained late XI pottery and was sealed by the XII levels of period 2. See also Medieval section.

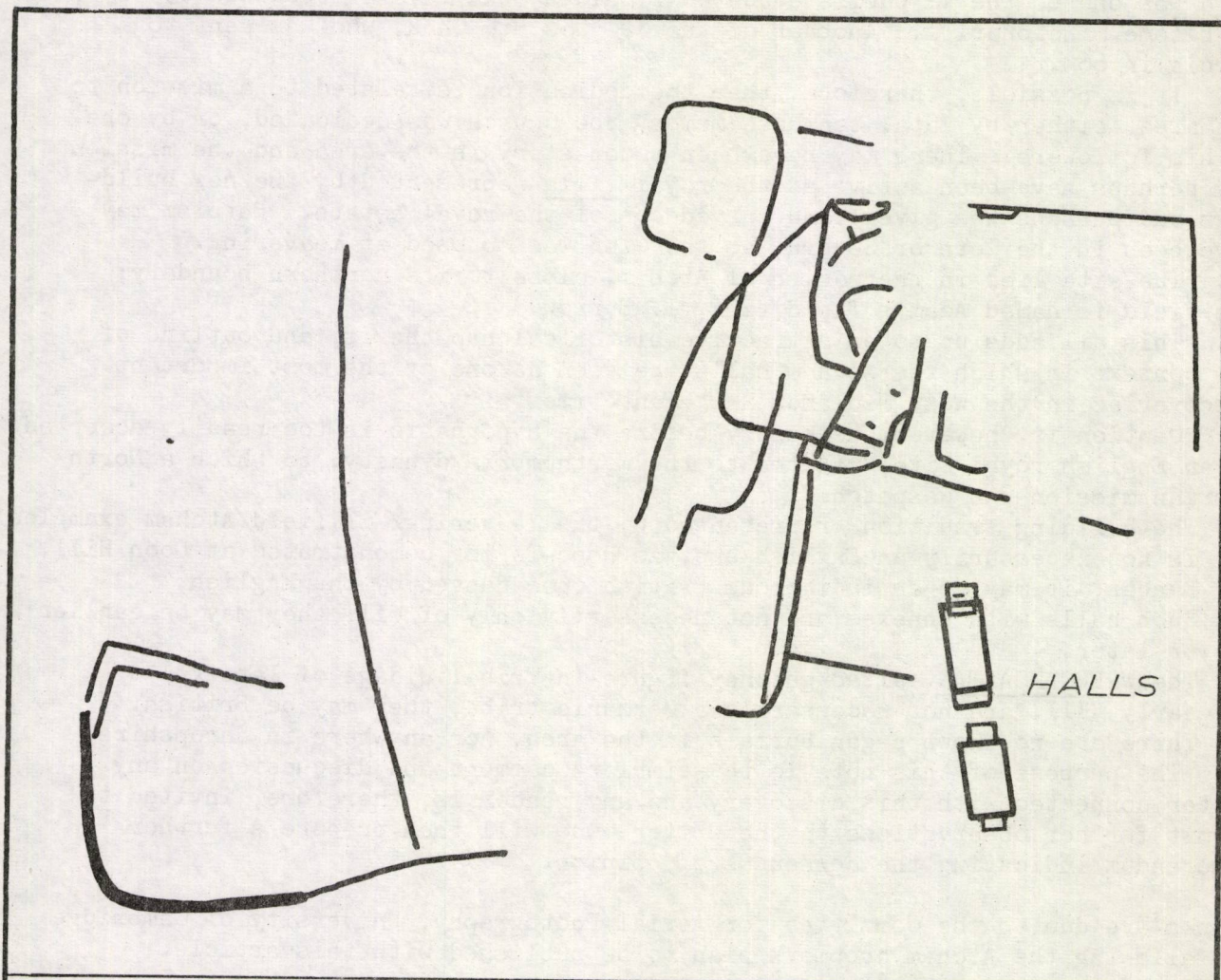
R. SHOESMITH for DOE and the
City of Hereford Excavation Committee

During the X and XI a tannery and (?) horn works was established on the site. Pits containing tan and elderberry seeds, small scraps of leather and horn cores were found. A crude structure of stout, irregularly spaced stakes c. 0.6 x 1.5m was also associated with this phase. Industrial use was again succeeded, still in XI, by domestic occupation. Part of a shallow timber slot, a trodden clay and earth floor and a small hearth, were all that survived of a rather rude domestic building. This was of indeterminate (though apparently small) size, and had a backyard of patchy cobbling, whose total area again could not be defined within the limits of the excavated area. See also Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval sections.

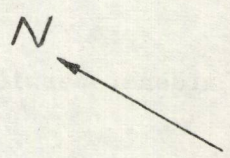
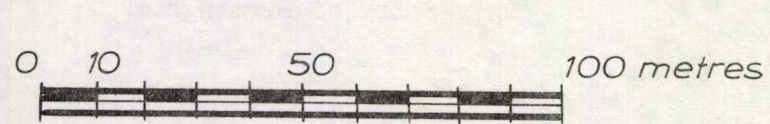
ALAN HUNT for DOE and Hereford/
Worcester County Museum

Atcham Timber Halls, Salop (SJ/552115)

1. In the December 1975 number of Antiquity Professor St. Joseph published an air photograph, interpretative drawing and text commenting on a site discovered during his sorties in the favourable summer flying season on 1975 (wrongly captioned 1965).
2. The photograph is a complex one with many linear features and enclosures, overlaid by medieval ridge and furrow. Among the features are 2 clearly defined 'halls', each some 20m long, one of which appears to be of more than one period; both have 'annexes' at each end. As St. Joseph points out these are closely paralleled at Yeavinger (Ad Gefrin), which excavation has shown to be a XII 'palace', with several phases which Hope-Taylor has related to dated historical events, including the mission of Paulinus to the court of Edwin. They are also like the unexcavated halls at Millfield (Melmin) which, if Bede is to be taken literally, succeeds Yeavinger in the later VII as the villa regalis of the court of Northumbria. He suggests, therefore, that the Atcham site is a royal palace and that it was founded by the incoming English.
3. Nicholas Reynolds suggests that more specifically the halls are related to the phase after 632, attributed to Oswald after his exile in Iona and could therefore exhibit Irish influence, as Bede hints in relation to Oswald's church building activity.
4. Atcham is close to the IA hillfort of the Wrekin, replaced by Wroxeter, where there is one piece of evidence of post-Roman date, the Cunorix inscription, which Raleigh Radford believes to be a Christian memorial stone of the late V or VI. There is also the strong probability that the major building complex above the Baths Basilica belongs to V, if not later.
5. It is also close to Shrewsbury, where there were 4 Saxon settlements which perhaps coalesced into a defended site in the loop of the Severn.
6. There is thus a possible nuclear sequence in this area of Wrekin/Wroxeter/the post-Basilica complex/Atcham/Shrewsbury; a concept which was formulated by Carver in 1974 before the present discovery.
7. The early English element in the sequence postulated by Atcham is further supported by the place name itself (? Eata's ham) and by the linked name of nearby Attingham, one of the few of this type in the area. What is the possible link with the Wreocansaetan?
8. The name of Eata is also that of the dedication of Atcham church, recorded as early as 1075 when Ordericus Vitalis was baptised there. The church has substantial pre-Conquest surviving masonry, of reused Roman blocks like that at Wroxeter Church. Although neither church has any distinctive datable characteristics. Taylor considers that they are of his period A, early in the Anglo-Saxon period. This may still be true and Barker had already suggested that their building was the occasion for the robbing of the Baths Basilica. In the 1975 season he found at IX strapend in the robber trench of one of these walls, which might suggest a later date than period A for the churches in their present masonry form. They may, however, have been stone replacements of earlier timber structures. (See Wroxeter, Roman section).



after St. Joseph 1975



Atcham timber halls

9. The name 'Eata' is, however, otherwise unknown as a dedication. The only Eata known to history is that Eata well known to Bede, who was Abbot of Old Melrose in 651, Bishop of Bernicia in 678, Bishop of Lindisfarne 681-685 and Bishop of Hexham in 685 until his death in 686. David Cox points out that Eata was one of the 12 pupils educated by Aidan at Lindisfarne between 635-651, to become missionaries. Another of the 12 was St. Chad, who was sent to Mercia in 669.

10. It is possible, therefore, that the dedication is related to a mission to the area, either by Eata, to whose memory the church was dedicated, or by one of his followers. There may have been a monastery in the area and the mission may perhaps have been active at the royal villa represented by the new buildings and perhaps was given land carved out of the royal estate. Baptism may have been in the Tern or Severn, as the Glen was so used at Yeavinger.

11. The site lies in the parish of Atcham, close to its northern boundary; the field is named Adam's field (inf. I. Burrow.)

12. This all adds up to an attractive historical hypothesis, and outline of the context in which the Atcham halls are seen as one of the most important discoveries in the West Midlands in recent times.

13. Caution is, however, necessary before the hypothesis is too readily accepted, of an English royal site, related to the Northumbria dynasty, to which a Northumbrian mission was despatched.

(a) The building tradition represented by the Yeavinger/Millfield/Atcham examples is not necessarily an English one, as Hope-Taylor demonstrated at Doon Hill, Dunbar; it may be an indigenous British one adapted by the English.

(b) Such halls with annexes are not necessarily only of VII; they may be earlier or later.

(c) The WREOCANSAETAN, although they figure in Tribal Hidage of late VII or early VIII, are not necessarily a Germanic tribe; they may be British.

(d) There are no known pagan burials in the area, nor anywhere in Shropshire.

14. The purpose of this note is to stimulate comment and discussion on any matter connected with this discovery and any reader is, therefore, invited to submit further observations to the writer, who will then prepare a further memorandum indicating the consensus of opinion.

Thanks are due to the Committee for Aerial Photography, University of Cambridge for allowing the Atcham cropmark plan to be published with this article.

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

College Gardens, Warwick. See Medieval section.

MEDIEVAL

Stretton-on-Fosse, Warks (Site 6 SP/224385)

No. 14 Church St is situated on the site of an early manor house, probably in the area of the stables or other outbuildings. Pottery sherds, cobbles and other occupational evidence were found in the foundation trenches for an extension to the modern house. As excavation was confined to an area 3 x 4m, it was not possible to determine the size or nature of the building. The floor consisted of worn cobbles, resting directly on the upper lias and covered in a mixture of loam, clay and sandy gravel with a sprinkle of limestone chips. A number of pottery sherds were recovered from both the surface of the cobbles and the immediate area above. These sherds have been dated to XII and XIII. A single rim sherd from a later posthole was dated to XV. See also Prehistoric and Roman sections.

PETER J. GARDNER for WEMRAC

The Stables, Castle Lane, Warwick (SP/285648)

Phase 3. XII - XVI AD. Material spanning this date was recovered from a large shallow pit which cut the phase 2 pits. This pit contained bone, charcoal and medieval pottery and was presumably used for domestic rubbish. Examination of a soil sample by B. Clayton of Warwick Museum for environmental evidence was negative except for the presence of elder seeds. These also floated to the surface whilst washing bone material. It is thought that elder was common in medieval gardens (*Oxoniensia* (1969) 34,18). Other medieval features include a small section of a XIII pit cut by the later quarry and 2 square (?) postholes/(?) pits. See also Prehistoric, Saxon and Post-Medieval sections.

REG HALDON for Warwick
County Museum

College Gardens, Warwick, 1975 (SP/283651)






The site lies to the east of St. Mary's Church and occupies one of the highest points in the town. The area was threatened with development by the Church Authorities and excavations took place to locate and confirm the plan of the XV college for vicars choral attached to St. Mary's and to examine areas directly threatened. The college had been demolished in 1882 and subsequent landscaping had created gardens over the foundations of the college buildings with tennis courts to north and south.

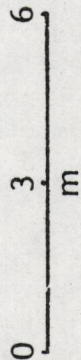
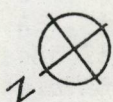
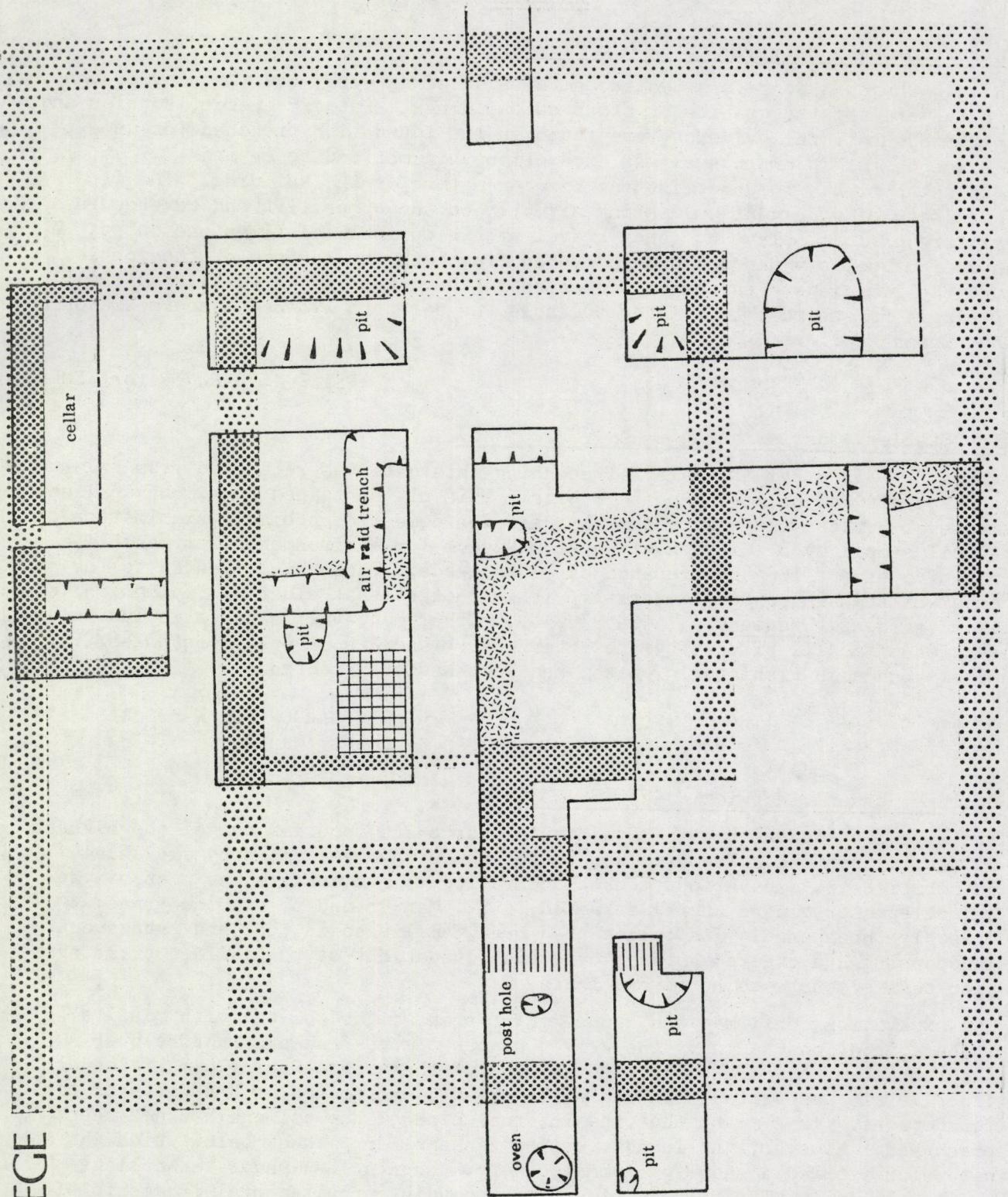
The excavation confirmed the quadrangular plan of the college with massive stone foundations to carry the weight of the timber-framed structure over the rubbish pits which occurred over much of the area. During demolition all floor levels associated with the college had been removed as had parts of the foundations. This meant that the internal plan of the college had not been preserved. However, the foundations cut an earlier pathway below which was a pit which yielded a sherd of Roman pottery. Running E-W under the college was a wall built with re-used stone and including architectural fragments of XII. The Norman crypt of St. Mary's church contains very similar fragments and it seems likely that those found on the site were taken from the church during the XIV alterations and rebuilding. To the north of the college an area was opened up and revealed stone buildings and boundary walls dating from XIV. Documentary evidence has shown that all these had been removed by the mid XVIII and only the foundations had survived later landscaping. Rubbish pits underlay the foundations. A well filled in during XV was excavated to a depth of 7m. To the south of the college, trial trenching was carried out to a depth greater than the foundations of the new buildings. Few features were found except a stone-lined XIII pit and a row of undated postholes. The archaeological investigations combined with documentary research show that the area was subject to massive planning and rebuilding in XV as a result of the bequests of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick. He left sufficient money to build a college for the vicars choral of St. Mary's who had previously had no fixed

WARWICK COLLEGE

Site A

KEY

-  College walls, excavated
-  College walls, conjectural
-  Brick cistern
-  Pre-college path
-  Pre-college wall



accommodation. He also commissioned the famous Beauchamp Chapel to house his tomb. Because the Deanery was on the proposed site of the new chapel, it had to be demolished and another Deanery was then built. It was situated just to the north of the college and built in a similar style but with only 3 wings, unlike the college's 4. This was not excavated because the part of the site in which it lies will not be affected by development.

Saxon occupation was implied by the presence of a rubbish pit containing a coin of Edward the Confessor. A coin of Cnut was also found but not in a secure context. No evidence was found of the Warwick mint, in operation from Aethelstan to Stephen, although XV chantry priest, Rous, thought that the mint had been on the site of the college. Evidence of prehistoric activity was in the form of unstratified flint flakes and a small sherd of Neolithic pottery.

H.C. MYTUM for Warwick
County Museum

Clarke St, Stafford (SJ/925232)

The first events certainly attributable to XII were the sealing off of the remaining marsh area with clay and gravel, the erection of a new set of wattle and post rail fences and a row of buildings. The latter survived as postholes and beam slots set into the natural or redeposited gravel and their alignment indicated a frontage onto Eastgate St. The structures and their associated fences were destroyed by fire in the early XIII and the site was then given over to agriculture. Subsequent ploughing and levelling, particularly in the XVIII, destroyed many features at the north (Eastgate St) end of the site where a series of large pits of XVII - XVIII were also excavated see also Saxon section.

M.O.H. CARVER for WEMRAC

Bewell House, Hereford (SO/508402)

Various postholes. Immediate post-rampart levels were confused by 2 factors; gardening during XIII and XIV and the tendency for slipping from the gravel rampart over most of the area. No occupation level survived but postholes cut into natural indicated the presence of buildings close to the rampart very early in XII. A group of large postholes, cut some 70 cm into natural suggests a building some 3m wide x 7m long. Other shallower postholes of the same period, were found, apparently at random, over the site. A large cess pit some 4m deep was of the same period and was re-used during the next phase.

XII - XIII Industrial period. In the mid XII, the rampart was encroached upon by small timber buildings or lean-to structures. They were used for metal-working and can be equated with the same period in the 1968 Brewery excavations. The western of the 2 buildings found in the excavated area, c. 5m long x 3m wide, was cut into the gravel rampart. The northern postholes, within the rampart, were very slight, suggesting some form of lean-to structure against the rampart. Most of the floor of the building was taken up by a pit cut into natural and used as a furnace. A millstone was re-used as the base of the flue, on level with the hearth and firing chamber. There were 2 distinct period of use, shown by relining of the furnace bowl. Dirty gravel finally filled the pit about the middle of the XIII. The eastern building surrounded a well preserved clay floor and was of a sleeper beam construction. Within the building, the cess pit of the previous phase was re-used and clay-lined to a depth of c. 1m. The clay lining was renewed several times and the pit continued in use throughout the life of the building. Impressions and colouration on the clay floor indicated the positions of internal partitions and furniture. The whole of the floor and pit was covered with a thick layer of charcoal, suggesting its final destruction by fire. The nature of the processes carried out in these buildings is uncertain, but must be associated with metal melting, probably one of the copper alloys. Samples are being examined by the DOE laboratories. A rough gravel path joined the 2 buildings, but was confused by dirty gravel from the rampart which covered the whole area of the buildings and pits.

XIII-XVI. Gardening may well have taken place in the southern part of the area excavated during XII and XIII and this extended over the furnace area. Although there was some slight pitting, there was no evidence of structures and relatively few finds from this period. See also Saxon and Post-Medieval sections.

R. SHOESMITH for DOE and the City
of Hereford Excavation Committee

5 Cantilupe St., Hereford (SO/514397)

The Medieval defences. In 1972 it was thought that a gravel rampart finally covered the Saxon works but in 1975 it was shown that the gravel was contemporary with the medieval wall, presumably waste material from the city ditch. The wall, c. 2m thick was partly coursed and massively constructed. The foundations were within the Saxon ditch, and continued some 2.5m below the then ground level. The dimensions of the Saxon ditch were not found and it may have been that the medieval wall filled most of the ditch. As the wall was built, gravel from the new ditch was used to fill the foundation trench and the area between the new wall and the ruined Saxon ditch. Bands of stone chippings in the gravel indicated successive levels in the wall construction. This wall was not strong enough to survive, and the weight of gravel pushed the top outwards and finally caused it to collapse. The medieval wall was not completely rebuilt, but was eventually refaced using the original heavier foundations, with a 0.75m wide wall of regularly coursed stones. Several stones of this period had previously been used as part of an arch, and it is suggested that this was part of the work carried out before the month's siege of Hereford during the Civil War. After the ditch was filled, the wall became the boundary between properties in Mill St and Cantilupe St and suffered little disturbance until properties on the Mill St side were demolished in 1971. These buildings had supported the medieval wall against the pressure of the gravel behind and on removal, the remains of the medieval wall were roughly shored as they can be now seen. See also Saxon section.

R. SHOESMITH for DOE and the City
of Hereford Excavation Committee

Drybridge House, Hereford (SO/507391)

The bank. Earlier levels were sealed over most of the excavated trenches by a clean clay layer up to 70 cm thick. This layer tapered to the south and tapered and eventually disappeared to the west. Deep pits in the north of the trenches totally removed this level. This layer corresponds in alignment with Rowe Ditch and if it can be equated with it, the taper and disappearance to the west would indicate a turn to the north. A deep deposit of dirty clay penetrating well below natural at the extreme south of the longer trench may possibly indicate a ditch. It contained XIII pottery, but the bank only had one abraded Roman sherd and a possible XII piece only. A number of pits cut through the clean clay of this period and robbing of the period 1 wall was encountered. One pit contained more charcoal and iron ore. Roof tile and pottery from this period covers XIV - XVI.

Later constructions. The top 60 cm of building debris from Drybridge House and the topsoil level with some flimsy walls covering the garden period. There was some late pitting, particularly to the north of the trenches. See also Saxon section.

R. SHOESMITH for DOE and the City
of Hereford Excavation Committee

Friar St, Droitwich, Worcs, 1973-5 (SO/897635)

A timber structure, of which only a small quantity of destruction debris remained, awaits more accurate dating from closer analysis of pottery, but seems to lie within XII - XIII. It was apparently destroyed by fire. A pewter christening spoon found in the debris may indicate that the building's occupants were more prosperous than

those dwelling on the site in the later XI. With this structure may be associated a substantial ditch, on the Friar St frontage, which seems likely to be a property boundary, presumably serving also as a drain.

In XIV, a very substantial domestic building was erected. It was constructed, in part at least, of stone, with a rectangular stone projection at its west, possibly the base of an external chimney. This structure was extended on its west side in the late XVI/ early XVII. In the process, a neighbouring XIV timber-framed building with a shallow cellar, was incorporated into it. Built into the wall was part of an incised tomb slab, dateable to c. 1470, of the Rudyng family. This had apparently been robbed, with other masonry and decorated floor tiles, from an ecclesiastical building, and some interesting questions are raised by this 100 kg 'small find' and its provenance. See also Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Post-Medieval sections.

ALAN HUNT for DOE and Hereford/
Worcester County Museum

Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs (SK/209043)

An area 20m x 10m was examined near the centre of the town and definite traces of 2 phases of medieval activity were found. The earliest phase comprised a beam slot (5.8m long), some postholes and 2 large rubbish pits (one 2.2m wide x 80 cm deep, the other 1.4m deep x 1.1m deep) in which were found numerous sherds of XII and XIII. Then a large ditch was cut through the structure, parallel with the modern road (its final width and depth unknown as it extended under the modern road). Then a cobbled area was laid down over the site, and in turn a rubbish pit (1m wide x 80cm deep) was cut through the cobbled area. In XVIII, a large sub-rectangular pit (5.2m long, 1.4m wide and approx. 2m deep) was dug through part of the site, which contained a large amount of cinders.

P. R. FIELD for Tamworth Castle
Museum

Aldridge Parish Church, Staffs (SK/057009)

Excavations for the foundations of a new vestry were observed but no evidence was seen for buildings earlier than the Victorian period when much of this medieval church was rebuilt. The opportunity was taken to examine the rest of the church in detail and to work out building phases from the XIII to the present day.

J. GOULD

Blore Ray Parish Church, Staffs (SK/138494)

The southern half of the wooden floor of the nave had been taken up for renewal. This exposed many tightly packed, disturbed medieval burials, all apparently later than the XII south wall. The burials were rapidly recorded but not excavated as the new floor would not disturb them further.

J. GOULD

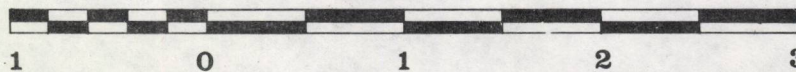
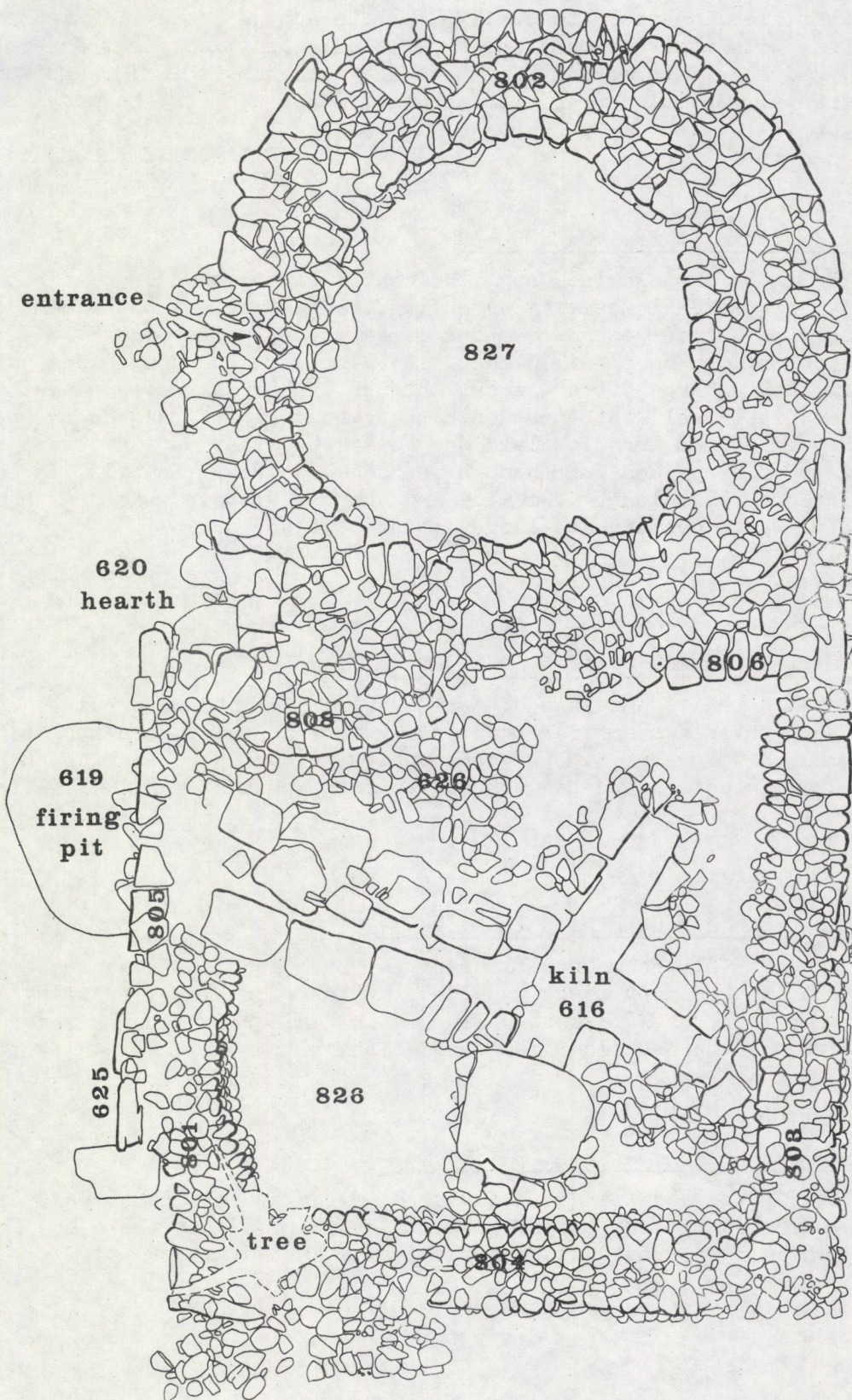
Haughton Parish Church, Staffs (SJ/865205)

Excavations for the addition of a buttress to the ancient north wall of the nave were observed but any interesting stratification that there may have been in the past had been destroyed at this point by modern drainage.

J. GOULD

SYDENHAMS MOAT

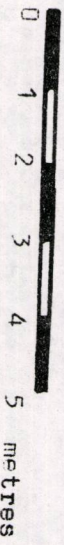
Buildings 826 & 827



Features.

- 5 Modern land drain
- 7 Med. Period II wall
- 8 Med. Period II posthole
- 9 Med. Period I wall
- 11 Roman trench
- 16 Late med. trench

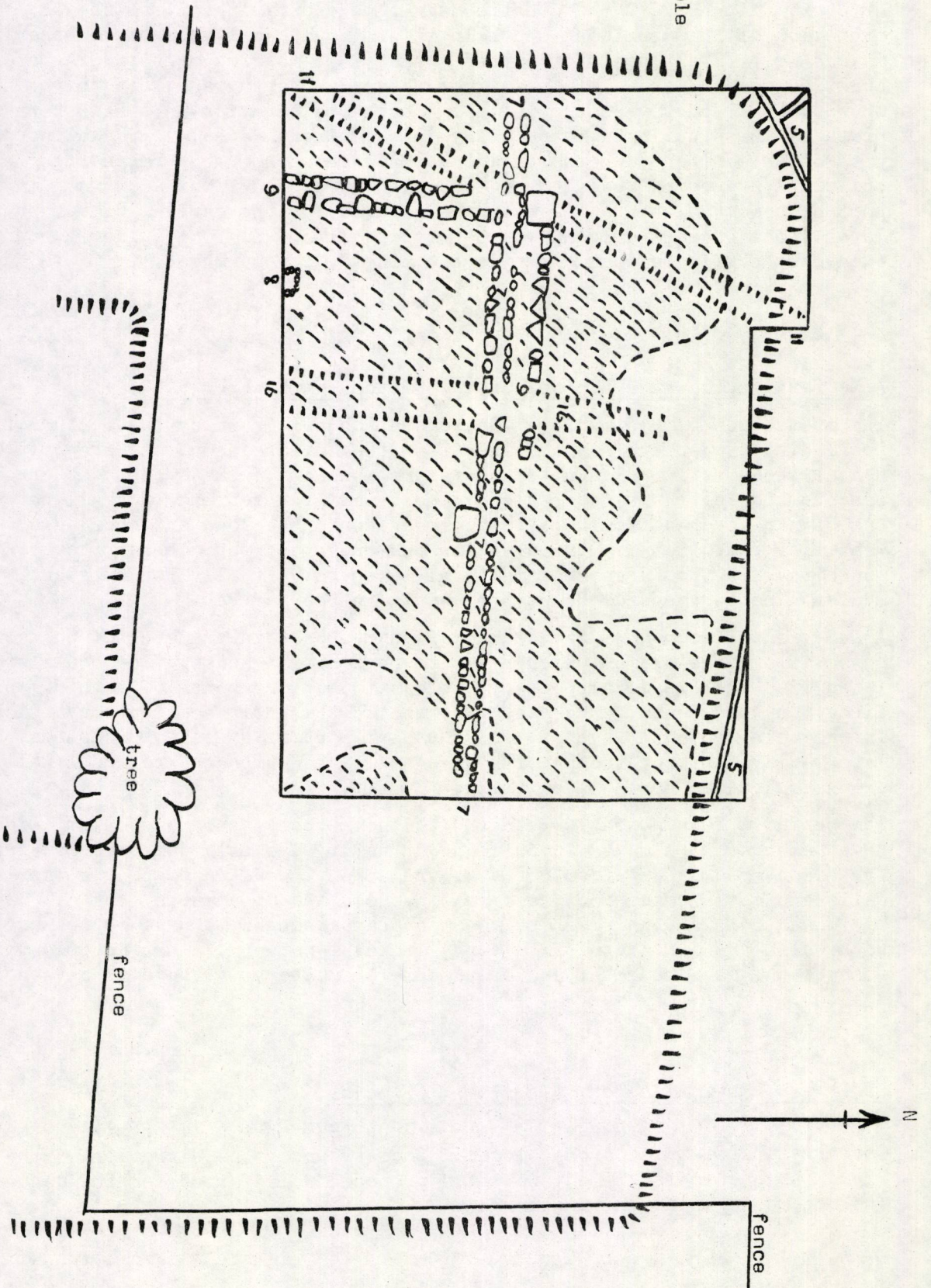
Stone scatter shown
stippled.



CHAPEL GREEN, MAPTON, WARWICKSHIRE

SP 46076032

Oct., 1975.



Sydenhams Moat, Monkspath, Warks (SP/144757)

The investigation of the apsidal ended building in the SW corner of the platform has shown it to be of 2 main periods and not a chapel as was previously thought (WMNS (1974)17,68). The earliest building was circular, with an internal diameter of 2.3m and a wall between 0.7m to 0.9m in thickness, with an entrance to the north and as such has been interpreted as a dovecote. This was subsequently demolished and a rectangular building, 4m externally, was added to the west. The west, south and north walls were built of cobbles with interlacing course of either limestone roof tiles or sandstone blocks. The east wall, however, had reused part of the foundations of the dovecote and only 2 short walls were needed. Inserted into this building, either on its' construction or afterwards, was a cruciform kiln or oven, aligned NE - SW with the main flue and firing pit to the NE. The interpretation of this building and kiln is difficult as I know of no other parallel but it was most likely used for either corndrying, malting or both. A later wall was built across the front of the main flue and a hearth was added to the north wall of the dovecote, partly destroying it. Further excavation in the western range to the north of these building, especially in the kitchen area, is revealing postholes and pits of an earlier timbered building. Along the northern range signs of other buildings are being revealed and one with a cobbled floor and drain may belong to part of the stables. No date can be offered for the earlier timber phase but the later stone phases would appear to be late XIII - XIV. A fuller account of the excavations will be found in a forthcoming S.A.G. newsheet.

J. G. PERRY for Solihull Archaeological Group

A Medieval Building at Chapel Green, Napton, Warks (SP/461603)

The excavation of the medieval feature at Chapel Green by the Southam District Local History Society has continued for the third season. An area of 100sq m has now been stripped down to the natural subsoil. The stone scatter on the eastern side of the site is rich in post-medieval debris. A small pottery figurine has been recovered from here, which represents the head and shoulders of a lady wearing a ruff. It is glazed yellow and brown and would appear to be XVII Staffordshire. In this area, the medieval layer is virtually non-existent, although medieval pottery sherds occur frequently in the scatter.

A N-S trench (16) was excavated and found to contain a number of pockets of the bones of a large animal which seems to have been a horse. The bones are associated with late medieval pottery; in particular fragments of a thin, white, well fired pot were found, which is quite unlike the early soft pottery which is found in the main medieval layers. The southern part of this feature seems to be a late medieval robber trench of stones associated with the period I wall, but its extension to the north is puzzling.

The period I foundations together with the robber trench are 65 cm wide and may have belonged to a domestic building or barn. The only domestic artefacts so far discovered, apart from pottery, are a bone needle and spindle whorls. The walls enclose a small room, a mere 3m across and of unknown length. The period II foundations are narrower by 40 cm and are thought to have been a croft wall. Both walls are associated with early medieval pottery. The features which gave rise to the late medieval and post-medieval pottery on the site have not yet been located.

HOWARD USHER for Southam District
Local History Society

Staircase Lane, Allesley, Coventry (SP/303814)

A trial excavation was carried out in June 1975 on a hilltop site by Members of Coventry and District Archaeological Society under the direction of the City Field Archaeologist in advance of a proposed relief road for the Jaguar Factory. The scheme has since been deferred.

The site is on the highest point (381 A.O.D.) of a Bunter sandstone ridge, 300m north of the River Sherbourne. Roughly circular (75m in diameter) with the remains of a ditch surviving on the southern and western sides while on the eastern side Staircase Lane cuts 2m into the sandstone. A trench, 30m x 2m, was laid out running N-S taking in the approximate centre of the site and the ditch. At the centre of the site and northern most point of the trench, below the turf at a depth of 10cm, shattered sandstone bedrock was revealed through which 2 groups of postholes, one of 4 and one of 5, together with a small pit had been cut. These could not be interpreted due to the narrowness of the trench, but were all regularly spaced. Over the whole area a thin scatter of post-medieval pottery and tile was found. The rock cut ditch was 1.50m deep and had a 12cm deep slot cut in the bottom widening from 23cm to 50cm. The upper levels contained a XIX pit. 5 flint fragments, one possibly worked, medieval pottery and a large piece of worked sandstone were recovered from the ditch.

The conditions under which the team worked were very difficult since the trench had to be backfilled every night because the field was used for grazing horses. It is recommended that should the proposed road scheme be revived, provision for a full scale excavation should be made.

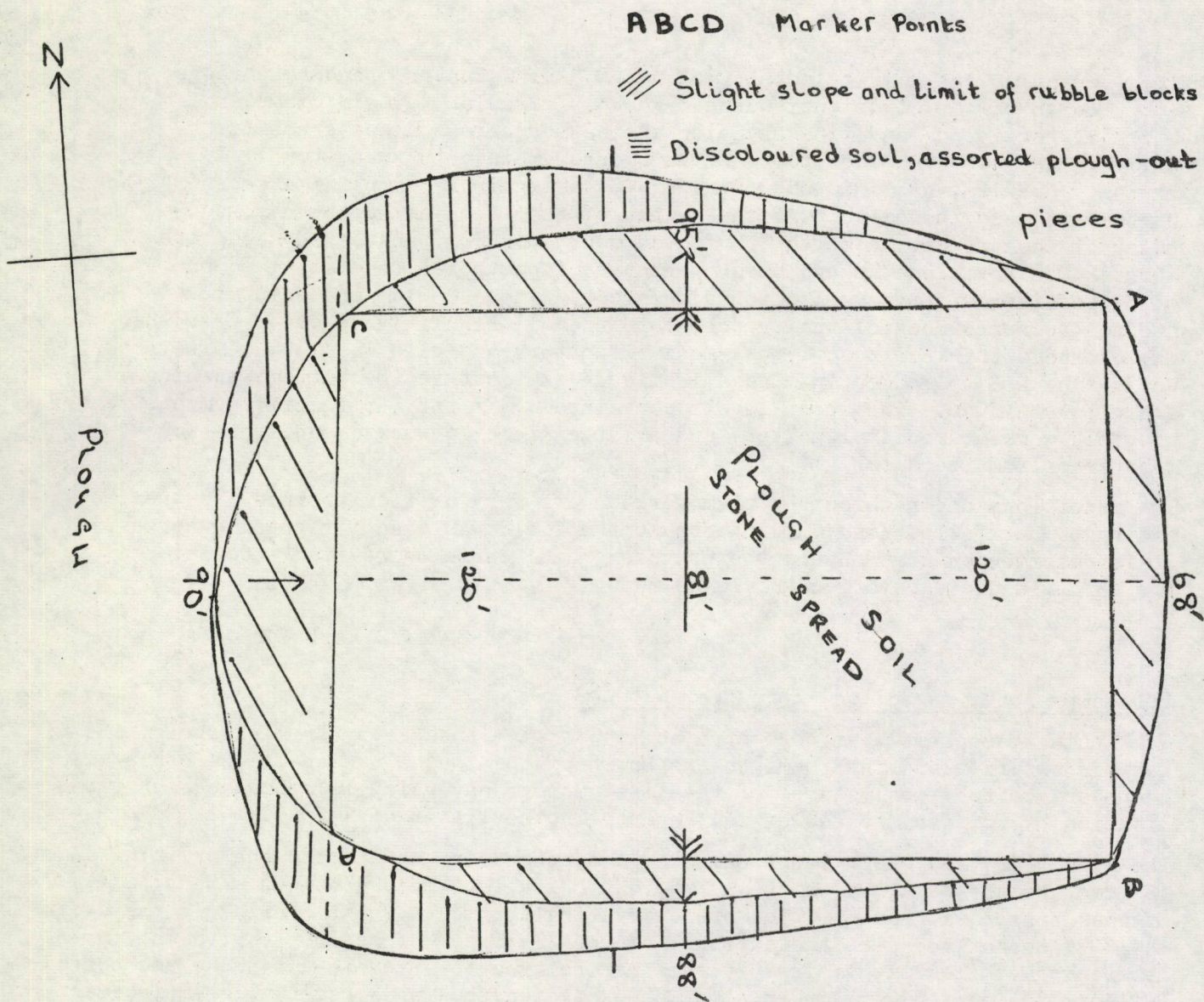
MARGARET RYLATT for CADAS

Bordesley Abbey, Redditch, Worcs (SP/045688)

Work this season has been concentrated in 3 areas- the Presbytery and Choir, the eastern exterior and the rooms to the south of the South Transept. There has also been work on the final stages of the first monograph, which is scheduled for publication by British Archaeological Reports in the Winter of 1975-6.

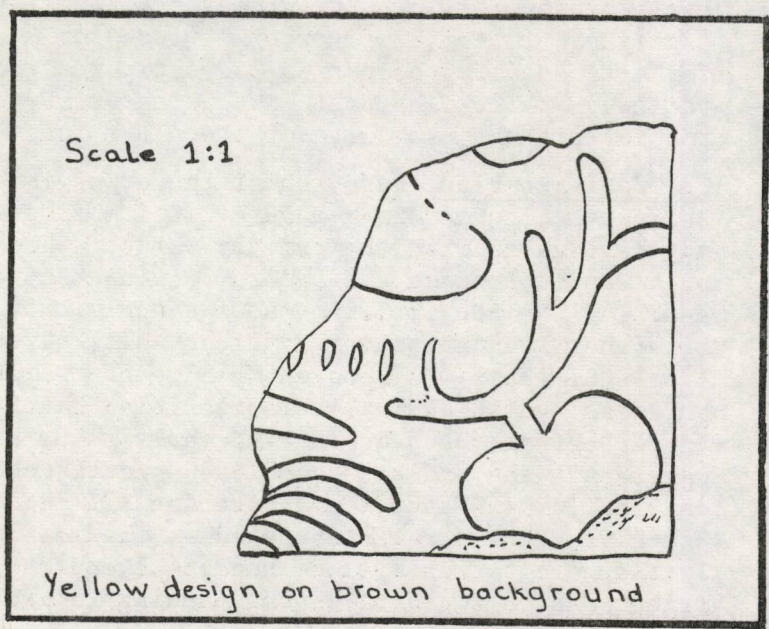
The Presbytery and Choir comprises the eastern end of the church, the crossing and the east of the Nave, in which are the Choir stalls. This area was supervised by Stephen Basset with Julie Crickmore excavating the south Choir stall. In the Choir the 1974 season had seen the exposure of the XIV floor of period 3, with the impression of a tiled floor; in 1975 this was removed to a level just above the period 2 floor; the period 2/3 screen slot was excavated, showing a remarkable emplacement for a plank in green clay. A stone coffin in the Nave area was excavated; a skeleton in it had displaced an earlier occupant whose bones were redeposited in the coffin on top of the second burial. The complex steps leading up to the Presbytery were dissected; on their west side was a skeleton in a wooden coffin, which was excavated and reconstructed on paper by Carol Simpson on the basis of timber impressions and the position of nails. Under the steps was a small grave, containing an infant skeleton, possibly of an important lay family such as the Earls of Warwick. In the Presbytery itself the clay make-up of period 3 was removed, exposing a fine lias floor of period 1 or 2, on which were traces of the bedding for a tiled floor of period 2. A piscina foundation and drain was found alongside the south wall. The east end of the Presbytery had been badly robbed; an XVIII robbing pit was probably for the altar foundation.

The East Exterior. Here, under the supervision of Steve Wass, the plan of the east end of the church was recovered in its first 2 phases. In the first one, which may be equated with the primary work of the 1140's, the east end had shallow corner pilaster buttresses and 2 more, equidistant along the east wall. Later in XII the east end was rebuilt with massive angle buttresses. A few metres to the east was a further foundation for a timber wall, extending most of the width of the Presbytery from N-S. This was apparently also of the primary phase. It may have been a builders' building but it is possible that it is the west wall of the earliest timber church, used during the early years of the Abbey's existence, until the whole east end had been completed and the church consecrated. It will be remembered that building planks found covering XII skeletons in the exterior area east of the South Transept were interpreted as the re-used timbers of such a temporary church. Further excavation will be needed beyond the east end: the discovery of the first timber church would be of outstanding interest.



Approx. measurements only

Site of Possible Abandoned
Church, Low Farm, Romsley,
Nr. Bridgnorth, Salop.



The rooms to the south. Ian Burrow completed the excavation of these to the natural and demonstrated the succession of events here between the Norman building levels, the primary use of the area as a slype, and its later enclosure as vestry/sacristy/library. In the final wall, which blocked the south doorway, a Norman quadruple column base of oolite was found in mint condition. These rooms are now being prepared for final publication.

Architectural study. Professor David Walsh of the University of Rochester continued his study of the architecture of the church based on the surviving structural remains and those found loose or re-used in later structures. He has been able to demonstrate that there was a major rebuilding of the Presbytery in the later XIV though nothing of this period has so far been found in situ anywhere in the church.

The first monograph edited by P.A. Rahtz and S. Hirst is now nearly ready for the press. David Walsh has added a chapter on Woodward's attitudes to archaeology and architecture in 1864-6 in relation to those of XIX. The monograph will have c. 300 pages, 6 figures, 12 tables, and 28 plates, including 3 in colour. The latter are of XIX reconstruction of the Abbey and St. Stephen's Chapel. The monograph is expected to cost about £5 and anyone interested in obtaining one should write to B.A.R. at 122 Banbury Road, Oxford or to P.A.R. at the University.

We are indebted to Sooh Hirst for the supervision of the recording, to Susan Wright for doing the planning, to Lorna Watts for managing the finds, to Margaret Hirst for her excellent catering and to the students and other helpers, who in 1975 included several from the U.S.A. and Canada. A new feature of the 1975 season which proved very successful was a series of daily afternoon half hour, seminars on historical, architectural, and archaeological topics related to Bordesley Abbey.

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

A Possible Abandoned Church Site, Romsley, Nr. Bridgnorth, Salop (SO/786829)

In July 1975, Mr. Rodenhurst kindly told me that he intended to put down to grass a small paddock known locally as the 'Chapel Yard'. The site, situated near a lane junction, is a gentle hump, previous occupation being evidenced by soil discolouration, a heavy stone spread and a few odd pieces of worked stone, these of some size, i.e. 18in x 12in and of good workmanship. It seems however, that the bulk of stone, surfacewise at least, has long since been robbed out. As the ground was already being prepared for use, an exploration of the site was made over some days. 2 broken tiles were found, c. XIII - XV, of identical design, in yellow on brown tile, depicting an animal's head, with leaf and stem; other types were recovered in plain yellow face on black. A coarse type red roof tile, with lip, slag and a fair collection of pottery, from medieval to XIX, also materialised.

Little is yet known of the church history, although it is reputed to have had connections with Alveley Church, some few miles distant. Arrangements are in hand for aerial photographs, which with a young grass crop, may give some indications of possible foundation work. An interesting site and worthy of study in future years.

I thank the owner, Mr. Rodenhurst for his interest and Mr. W. Palmer of the Kidderminster Society for his able co-operation in the investigation.

E. TIPLER.

Hen Domen, Montgomery (SO/214980)

Excavation continued on the north eastern sector of the bailey. The building lying behind the rampart were examined and considerable detail of their construction was recovered. The eastern entrance to the bailey was shown to be paved with large pebbles which may prove to be the floor of a building defending the entrance rather than simply an open cobbled surface.

Work began on the dissection of a longitudinal damp mark which had been seen in previous seasons and which probably foreshadows the eastern wall of a very massive building guarding the approach to the earliest motte bridge. A rectangular pit, perhaps a cistern, lying behind the rampart, was emptied, and further evidence of

the bailey palisade, in the form of postholes and timber slots was recovered from the crest of the rampart. A most important aspect of the season's work was the repeated appearance, when the site was drying after rain, of damp marks which show that very large rectangular buildings, probably of 2 periods and with clearly visible partitions, lie parallel to and behind the rampart on the eastern side. It is becoming apparent that the castle's earliest buildings were of great size and massive construction. The next 3 or 4 seasons work should, therefore, recover a coherent sequence of major buildings from this part of the bailey,

An illustrated interim report covering the whole excavation from 1960-1975 is in preparation and publication by January 1976 is intended. Work is also proceeding on the first volume of the definitive report.

PHILIP BARKER, Extramural Department,
University of Birmingham

Newton, Nr. Cave's Inn, Churchover, Warks (SP/531781)

Fine dressed sandstone ashlarS have recently been unearthed after the demolition of a cottage in the village of Newton, Nr. Cave's Inn. This may be part of the Chapel mentioned in 1535 (VCH Warks (1951)6,71). Excavation was not possible because the cellars of the last building on the site had destroyed all the stratification. However, a photographic record of the stone was made.

ALBERT BARNETT for Rugby Arch-
aeological Society

POST-MEDIEVAL

The Stables, Castle Lane, Warwick (SP/285648)

Phase 4. (?) XVII standing structure.

Phase 5. Late XVIII quarry. This feature covered $\frac{2}{3}$ of the site. An edge was located at the extreme south of the site. The quarry was backfilled to a depth of 2.5m with debris from demolished buildings, oyster shell, post-medieval pottery with a date range mid to late XVIII and late XVIII beer bottles and some dressed stone, which was probably waste from repairing the sandstone walls which bound Castle Lane. A layer of dressed stone, lime and mortar was probably also from repairing the walls. Quarry waste, consisting of clean sandstone rubble and sand was seen at the bottom of the trench.

Phase 6. 1806 standing stables and stable yard. Several layers of make-up for the stable yard were excavated, including a cobbled surface, ash and gravel layers. See also Prehistoric, Saxon and Medieval sections.

REG HALDON for Warwick County
Museum

Theatre St, Warwick (SP/279650)

A XVI timber-framed barn with later additions, at 17 Theatre St, was photographically recorded before demolition. A small trial hole was excavated to the south of the barn. Bedrock was found beneath the top soil. The foundation trenches of the housing estate around The Firs, Theatre St were observed and were found to cut no features. It seems that much of the western slope of the town beyond the line of the town walls has been denuded of whatever archaeological deposits it may once have had.

H. C. MYTUM for Warwick County
Museum

Bewell House, Hereford (SO/508402)

XVII. Property boundaries running at right angles to Bewell St, consisting of simple fences were gradually constructed. The lines shown by these continued in use into the Bewell House period. Gardening continued and first traces of flower beds and lawns could be seen.

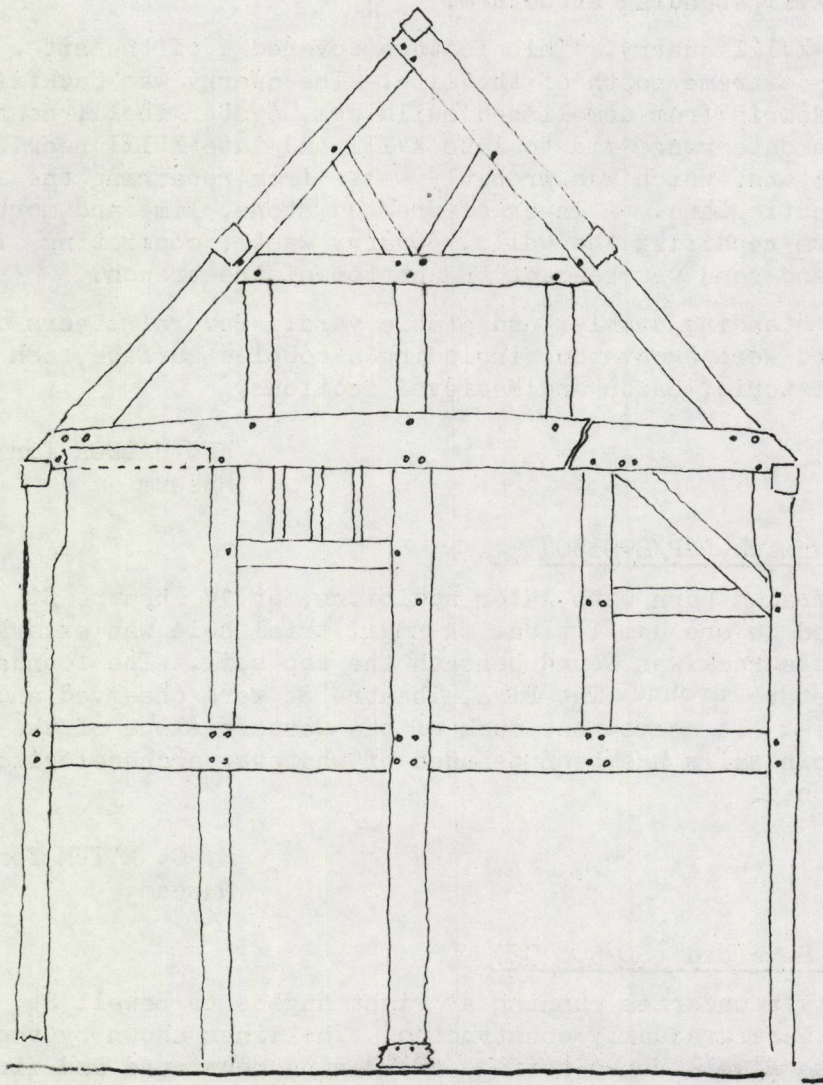
Bewell House. Most of the area within the trench was at one time part of the garden of Bewell House. Some early pitting may be associated with its construction but formal gardens were soon laid out and 4 periods of landscaping with paths, lawns and flowerbeds were identified.

Brewery and modern. The small Imperial Brewery which occupied the next plot to the east of Bewell House grounds gradually took over the gardens and house. The fortunes of the Brewery can be traced from the finds as it became The Hereford Brewery, The Hereford and Tredegar Brewery and then The Hereford and Cheltenham Brewery. Disturbances of this period were small and the gardens were gradually concreted over to make a yard. See also Saxon and Medieval sections.

R. SHOESMITH for DOE and the
City of Hereford Excavations
Committee

Friar St, Droitwich, Worcs, 1973-5 (SO/897635)

XVII-XX. The structural complex last described (see Medieval section) continued in its domestic use, with some rebuilding in brick, to c. end XVII. At about this time further extension and rebuilding in brick took place and internal drains were added. A wharf on the canal side was constructed within the curtilage of the building. Finds included a number of copper pins and very small thimbles. Evidently the site had again reverted to industrial use. Subsidence caused some



0 1 2 3 4 5 6
Scale in feet.

TIMBER-FRAME, HILL FARM,
MONKSPATH (SP/147757)

structural decay, which was repaired in part only. The whole building was demolished early in XIX, a t.p.q. for this event being given by a penny of 1810. By 1838, a badly constructed brick building, described in the St. Nicholas' Parish Tithe Award as 'tenements', stood on the site. The street by now had retreated from its XIV - XVIII width, a reduction of some 30%. The tenements were demolished by 1885 and the site was used as a dump for industrial waste. The latest buildings on the site were a church hall and a Guide/Scout hut, both constructed early in the present century. See also Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval sections.

Many acknowledgements are due in respect of this long excavation. The greatest help and encouragement, in many practical ways, was given by the Droitwich Town Development Committee, and by the County of Hereford and Worcester Fire Service. I am very grateful indeed to the officers of these bodies, as I am to all who took part in the excavation in whatever capacity. I should also like to thank Dr. G. Webster, and Messrs. P. A. Barker, P.A. Rahtz and A. Vince, whose discussion of the site and finds was invaluable.

ALAN HUNT for DOE and Hereford/
Worcester County Museum

Hill Farm, Monkspath, Warks (SP/147757)

The M 42 Interchange at the Stratford Road, Monkspath, affected the Hill Farm, almost the only building to be demolished in these road works. In the summer of 1974, aided by a grant from the Warwick County Museum, the Solihull Archaeological Group undertook an investigation of the house and buildings and some excavation on the site.

The farmhouse consisted of a brick front range of 2 rooms, one either side of a central hall, and of $2\frac{1}{2}$ storey height of XIX date and 2 rear wings, of which the more northerly was the older and was of timber-framed construction. It was thought that this wing was the oldest part of the building. However, sealed by the back brickwork of the front section of the farm, the external frame of an earlier framed building was found. This had an original window 3ft 3in x 1ft 6in with 3 octagonal mullions spiked top and bottom to the frame. There was no evidence of glazing. The less well constructed wing had been built on to what was originally the outside face of this frame. All evidence of the building of which this had been part had gone with the brick rebuild. Excavation to try to find the extent of the foundations of this was unsuccessful. The construction of cellars and of modern drainage outside the front of the farm had obliterated possible evidence. There was no farmhouse on this site in the Archer Survey of Monkspath in the year 1500. The frame would suggest a first building of c. 1600 with the extension wing built later in that century.

A report of the work is in the Warwick Record Office. Appreciation is due to the Warwick Museum and to Richard Harris of the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings for their interest and advice.

LANCE SMITH for Solihull Arch-
aeological Group

Leaford Cottage, Lea Marston, Warks (SP/206932)

Leaford Cottage was a small timber-framed peasant dwelling, thought on architectural grounds to date from the mid XVII or slightly later, in an isolated rural setting. The cottage has been dismantled by Avoncroft Museum and will be re-erected at the Hams Hall Outdoor Centre. The floors and foundations were excavated archaeologically, down to natural. There were in places 3 successive floor levels, all of them, however, XIX or early XX. The sandstone plinth on which the sill-beams had rested, was found to belong to the same late period; sealed beneath it were substantial deposits of XIX china.

There was no trace of earlier material anywhere on the site. It is possible

therefore that the cottage had been moved bodily on to a new foundation. Its original site may have been on lower ground which became subject to flooding as a result of mining subsidence.

R. G. LAMB for Warwick
County Museum

Clifton-upon-Dunsmore, Warks (SP/503763)

Most of the excavation work carried out by the Society this year has been at Clifton-upon-Dunsmore. The rescue dig was undertaken because the cleared site was scheduled for redevelopment at the end of 1975 and the rebuilding began in December. The Society became interested in the site because of documentary evidence contained in the publication 'Plague and Enclosure' (Coventry and North Warwickshire History, Pamphlet No.2). This suggested that the area covered by rebuilding could contain the house foundations of the crofts of Peter Hales and James Ruffet, who lived in the village in the year 1654 (see map 4, p.31 in the pamphlet). We therefore took the opportunity offered to attempt to discover the foundation of these crofts.

The last houses built on the site had been cleared to floor level and the first task was to clear and record these floors before lifting them. This task was carried out with difficulty. One floor consisted of 6 in of concrete, the rest being quarry tiles over a sand infill. Dating evidence for the last building was obtained when a fine Georgian shilling was found between the quarry tiles. The coin was dated 1816. From this and the building materials used, the later building gave a construction date of c.1800. The most outstanding feature on the site was a wall foundation not lying on the later building line, which was made up of river pebbles and contained fragments of green glass. There are reports of monastic buildings in Clifton village but the location is not recorded, this could be part of the remains. Unfortunately the wall could not be followed for more than 2m before it disappeared under the main road which formed one edge of the site. Plans were drawn of the XVIII house and the traces of the earlier building. The site had to be abandoned because the contractors were starting to sink wall foundations for the new buildings.

ALBERT BARNETT for Rugby
Archaeological Society

Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (SJ/866498)

Excavation in Greenhead St, Burslem has revealed part of the base of a brick-built kiln probably associated with the manufacture of salt-glazed stoneware c.1740. The layer above the kiln consisted of dumped factory waste and contained a quantity of black-printed creamware, saltglazed stoneware, pearl-glazed ware, blue painted and printed ware and peasant enamelled ware of late XVIII-XIX. Excavation continues.

Report nos. 7 and 8 of the City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society are now available at 50p. They describe and illustrate excavated pottery wasters from 5 sites within the City dating from the first half of XVII to the third decade of XIX.

J.H. KELLY for City of Stoke-on-Trent
Museum Archaeological Society

Shrewsbury Buildings 1975

Salvage recording has continued in the town this year. Total recording took place on the Pride Hill building, a XIV stone hall with additions and modifications into XX; also the XV timber hall at 1 High St, during renovation. Photographic recording and salvage work was conducted at The Old Crow, Frankwell, The Nag's Head, Wyle Cop and at Maddox, 25 High St, a 3 storey XVI timber-framed building, while extensive alterations were in progress.

Recording also took place at 19 Frankwell, a 2 storey XVI building, during alterations; Council House, a stone hall of c. 1500; a medieval stone building in the cellars of 15 Pride Hill; the stone walled cellars under 7 The Square. Various photographs were taken and notes made on other buildings in the town.

P. J. CLARKE for WEMRAC

Birmingham Buildings 1975

The Department of Archaeology and Local History of Birmingham City Museums has been involved with the following buildings during the course of the year.

Booths Farm (SP/062939)

Excavations by G. Semmens on the site of the brick farm house, built c.1700 and demolished 1974, have revealed stone footings of an earlier house associated with late medieval and XVI pottery.

Primrose Hill Farm (SP/064787)

This fine late medieval hall-house was wrecked in March 1975; vandalism did however completely reveal the hall trusses, including a magnificent spare truss, thus giving an opportunity for measured drawings and photographs to be made.

1 - 3 Wellington Road (SP/067853)

A pair of 3storey stuccoed Regency houses. Wrecked and demolished 1975. Architectural fragments removed by the museum; recorded by sketch plan and photographs.

Maypole Cottage, Hollywood (SP/076783)

A 2 bay timber-framed cottage of 1½ storeys which was most probably erected in XVII as an encroachment holding on the waste known as Kingswood. Wrecked 1974, its future is in doubt. Measured drawings and photographs have been made. Meanwhile work continues on building up files on the surviving and demolished timber-framed buildings of the city, integrating documentary and photographic material from the Birmingham Reference Library. Displays have been mounted at Blakesley Hall, Yardley, a Yeoman's farmhouse of c. 1600 and how a city branch museum, on timber-framed buildings of the City. A great deal of field-work remains to be done in Sutton Coldfield in the core of the old town and amongst the surviving farmhouses and cottages of this former royal borough.

STEPHEN PRICE for City Museum,
Birmingham

Buildings in Herefords 1975

European Architectural Heritage Year has meant a busy time for the Recording Group which has met regularly, its principal work being in the Huntingdon Hundred. This is not reported below as it is hoped to publish a full account of the work at a later date. As in previous years we are greatly indebted to the University of Birmingham and the WEA for encouraging this work. A University Extramural weekend course with the writer as tutor was based on Ross-on-Wye. Leeds University Extramural Department held a week's course based on Worcester, but spending half its time in this county where Mr. C.H.I. Homes and the writer lectured and conducted various visits.

In the notes below information in the RCHM Inventory has not been repeated, though often the 2 need to be read together.

Aylestone Hill House, Hereford (SO/517404)

Described as 'new erected' in 1789, but in fact completely encases a much earlier timber-framed building which had an open arch-braced roof. The remains of this still break the top courses of brick inside the present roof.

21 St. Owen St, Hereford (SO/512399)

A rare survival in that it is an almost unaltered early Georgian house. The roof structure is of upper, jointed-cruick type and looks as though it is continuous with that of No. 19.

Green Lane Cottage, Paytoe, Adforton (SO/414711)

A mid XVII timber-framed, 2-room plan house. This was extended in the mid XVIII and added to and altered again in 1814 and quite probably again in the mid XIX. Each of the big fireplaces has a seat at one side and what appears to be an early bake oven on the other.

Lower Hurst, Dilwyn (SO/392529)

Appears to have been a 3-part plan house with open great chamber. Posts and mortices for this still survive. Evidence in roof shows how house has been raised and fine stone chimney probably of XVI is now hidden.

Mill Lane, Dorstone (SO/314416)

A building here has a stone lower storey and timber-framed upper clad with slabs of sandstone pinned to the framing. It is a most unusual method of walling and probably dates from the early XIX.

Burton Court, Eardisland (SO/423572) (RCHM3)

An opportunity to inspect the gable trusses showed that the XVIII wings were replacements, there being no signs of weathering on the earlier timbers.

Brownsland, Hope-under-Dinmore (SO/506531) (RCHM35)

Hop-kilns, granary and cider-mill are in a timber-framed building of c. 1700 with heavy upper-base crucks.

Bury of Hope, Hope-under-Dinmore (SO/503525)

Walls of field close to farm are of vertical slabs of sandstone (cf. Dorstone above).

Gattertop, Hope-under-Dinmore (SO/482539)

Appears to have been L-shaped house of early XVII with cellar under parlour. Added to and changed to double-pile c. 1700. The roof of each half is hipped at each end. They have upper-base-cruick trusses with V-struts and the hip is formed by half a similar truss built at right angles to the main trusses; it is a most unusual form of roof construction.

Pervin, Hope-under-Dinmore (SO/498547)

Hop-kilns in building of c. 1750 with upper-cruick type of roof.

Stormer Hall, Leintwardine (SO/403755)

Earlier timber-framed house completely hidden by stone casing and alterations of 1796 and additions of 1881. Seems to have been hall and 2 cross wing house of XV11.

Mill Lane, Orleton (SO/489671)

A big barn was demolished late in the year. It was basically a 3-bay XVII barn with 2 added XVIII bays converting it to a threshing barn and linking it to a much altered 2-bay XVII building. There was an added XVIII bay at the other end of the original barn. The roof had been completely altered and the whole was in a poor state.

Upper House, Preston-on-Wye (SO/382423)

A base-cruick house was found here in October and will be written up in detail in the Transactions.

Priors Court, Wellington Heath (SO/697412) (RCHM10)

This is an XVIII house incorporating parts of a house c. 1600 and probably built on the same plan. The mid XVIII granary has fine upper-base-cruck trusses and its hop-kiln extension has jointed upper-crucks. A very interesting outbuilding is the timber-framed stable and pigeon loft probably dating from XVIII.

During the year members of the listed buildings sub-committee looked at 47 buildings, most of which were for minor changes. From the point of view of demolitions it has been a quiet year. As far as is known the only listed building to be demolished during the year was the Town Hall at Leominster as a result of a DOE 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 of them, especially Miss M. Bismanis and Messrs. C.H.I. Homes and N.C. Reeves. Mrs. Vera Perry was elected a member of the Vernacular Architecture Group.

J.W. TONKIN for Hereford
Recording Group

LATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Haughmond Abbey, Uffington, Salop (SJ/542152)

Excavations were carried out at Haughmond Abbey in September 1975 by J.J. West for the Department of the Environment.

A community of canons was in existence on Haughmond Hill by the 1130s. It developed an austere rule, but there is no evidence of any formal link with any of the reformed orders. It was under the patronage of the FitzAlans, who held the shrieval estate of Upton Magna and FitzAlan support of the Empress Matilda meant that with the accession of Henry II the prosperity of the abbey was to some extent assured. The later history of Haughmond and its almost Cistercian contribution to the agricultural and commercial development of north Salop and west Staffs has been recently and ably described by Marjorie Chibnall in the VCH.

The archaeological problems lie mainly in the earlier period. 2 successive churches were located by W.H. St. John Hope and Harold Brakspear in 1907 (Archaeol. J. (1909) 66, 281) and were dated by them to XII. Their interpretation of earlier church is not satisfactory and its site was therefore re-examined. It appeared to be a simple curciform structure. The 'transept chapels' were re-interpreted as transepts. The footings of the responds of a chancel arch were found, in line with the east walls of the transepts, but the arch, if it was ever completed, was removed when the church was still in use. Without it, the nave and chancel, which were of equal width, would have formed a single cell 18m long x 7m wide.

The evidence so far recovered suggests that when the later church was constructed on a site slightly to the north, the old east end, which lay immediately to the south of the new crossing, was converted into a transept. The south transept of the earlier church may have been reused as a porch. They were eventually replaced by the structure correctly identified by Hope and Brakspear as the south transept of the later church. The construction layers of this intermediate phase of conversion and reuse can be dated on architectural evidence to the end of XII or the beginning of XIII. Sealed in these layers was the base of an XI bronze candlestick, thought to be German, and a rare find in an English context. It was associated with pottery of types which have been recognised at Hen Domen, Powys. (In an assemblage of 45 sherds, Hen Domen type 1 glaze B, type 2 group 2, type 4, type 9 group 1, and types 10, 11, 13 and 14 are represented; I am indebted to Miss Pamela Clark and Mr. Philip Barker for this information).

2 phases of cloister arcade associated with the later church were identified; to the earlier of these may belong several unstratified early XIII double-shafted bases. Part of a tomb slab with an inscription in Lombardic lettering and an elaborately carved XIV coffin lid have been recovered, a large corpus of ex situ floor tiles has been collected and a XIX yard surface on the site of the later cloister has been identified and recorded. Samples taken from old group surfaces sealed by both the earlier and later churches are being examined by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory. It is hoped to complete the excavation of the early church in April and May 1976.

J.J. WEST for DOE

Sutton Lane, Shrewsbury (SJ/499110)

A builders trench revealed an enclosure type shape in the section, c. 30m in length, which was drawn and some early medieval pottery recovered, but redevelopment prevented any further opportunity of identifying the enclosure.

ALAN WHARTON

Sutton Mill, Sutton Lane, Shrewsbury (SJ/503108)

A large medieval mill, demolished in 1963, with a first recorded date of 1144 was in operation this century. The mill bay was excavated and a wooden framework was

located beneath the first stone phase of the mill built during XVI/XVII. The mill was then a corn mill. The mill was converted to a forge in XVII/XVIII and this was firmly established by the mass of forge and other finds in the bay. The mill was rebuilt in XVIII for corn milling again and further rebuilding in XIX added another mill for barium grinding (a barytes mill). Excavation against the south wall revealed the robbed trenches of a house/workshop associated with the XVII/XVIII forge period. Full excavation of the forge/mill house will be carried out in the near future.

ALAN WHARTON

Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury (SJ/503123)

96-101 Abbey Foregate had been demolished prior to development so it was possible to investigate underneath the foundation of the demolished XVIII cottages. 96 and 97 were excavated and, apart from establishing the varied building phases from XVIII, part of the earlier XVI/XVII timber house foundations were located. The remainder having been removed during XVIII road widening.

A household refuse tip was sectioned and this revealed a continuous occupation on the site from XVII - XIX including the period of the great fire of 1774 in the Foregate.

A medieval industrial site at 163 and 164 Abbey Foregate will be excavated in the near future.

ALAN WHARTON

Car Park Site, 14 Castle St, Ludlow, Salop (SJ/510746)

The car park is situated behind 14 Castle St. The house is dated to 1728 and the site before development was a walled garden, the construction of which probably dated to the building of the house. The northern boundary of the garden/car park is a section of the town wall 47.5m in length. Enquiries regarding the earlier history of the site have so far proved fruitless, but a local tradition has it that the town's archery butts were once situated on the site.

Running across the width of the garden c. 30m from the inside of the town wall and roughly parallel to it, was a substantial linear bank, c. 2m in width. Investigation of this feature showed it to be constructed of irregular limestone blocks. Shortage of time and labour precluded a thorough investigation of the feature, but it was probably part of the garden landscaping scheme.

2 sections revealed a substantial deposition of imported soil, possibly to level the site. Excavation disclosed clear evidence of XVIII and XIX usage of the site but the excavation was discontinued before possible evidence of earlier occupation could be established. Random observation of the development work in progress revealed no further evidence of occupation.

MICHAEL WISE

PERSONALIA

Margaret McLean is to be congratulated on her marriage to Dr. Robert Jones.

There were a number of changes in personnel in the West Midlands in 1975. WEMRAC's Field Officer, Heather **Barnie** left the region in August to become the Assistant Director of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. All of us in the region would like to thank her for her very valuable contribution in many spheres of activity. A new WEMRAC appointment was made in December 1975 when Ian Burrow became the WEMRAC Field Officer for Shropshire, where his first task is to establish a Sites and Monuments Record for the County. Alan Hunt has also left the Hereford and Worcester County Museum to become Lecturer in Archaeology at Weymouth College of Education; he was succeeded as County Archaeological Officer in November by Jan Roberts from **the** Castle Museum, Norwich. During the past year, Dave Freezer has acted as the archaeological officer for Droitwich and has been working from the District Council Offices.

On October 1st 1975, Mr. J.R.A. Greig took up his appointment at the Department of Botany, University of Birmingham, as Research Fellow in archaeological science. This post is funded by the DOE and lasts for 3 years, being one of a series established at various universities in order to extend the scope of operation of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory in London. Mr. Greig is a specialist in pollen analysis and the identification of seeds and is available to advise on these and other aspects of environmental archaeology before and during DOE funded excavations and to take appropriate action in recording, collecting and acting in liaison with excavators on sites referred to him in the Midlands and elsewhere in Britain.

Julie Sanders, who served the CBA Group so well over many years, has now left Birmingham to take up residence with Horace, her husband in France. Her address is now PINDRAT, MANDACOU, ISSIGEAC 24560, FRANCE and she would be pleased to hear from old friends.

David Pannett has left the Preston Montford Field Centre to take up a teaching appointment in Shrewsbury. His address is now 11 CARMEN AVE, PORTLAND NURSERIES, SHREWSBURY.

PUBLICATIONS OF WEST MIDLANDS INTEREST

Hereford - Archaeology in the City by Anne Sandford and Ron Shoesmith, 7½ in x 9 in
14pp.

This attractive little booklet has been prepared to raise funds and help for the City excavations and generally interest its citizens and young people. An outline is given of the recent excavations with illustrations of the sites and finds, including a useful series of sections through the defences. One would like to see this as the first of an annual series, keeping everyone up-to-date with discoveries and finds and acting as a vital link with the public. (Obtainable from the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee, Bewell House, Hereford).

G. WEBSTER

The Cornovii by Graham Webster, 1975, 154 pp., 46 figs., Duckworth, £2.80 paperback, £6.95 hard cover.

This is one of the civitas series on the tribes of Roman Britain and gives an up-to-date (i.e. to 1973) account of the sparse information about the tribe which occupies Shropshire and includes new thoughts on the evidence from the Wroxeter excavations, not hitherto published. Not all will agree with the rather imaginative interpretation of the post-Roman period.

G. WEBSTER

Weoley Castle: Hand List of Exhibits (Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery, 1974)

Weoley Castle: Guide (Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery, revised 1975)

North Worcestershire Development - Hawkesley and Walkers Heath:
An Interim Report by S.J. Price and R. Langhorne 1974

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <u>Antiq J</u> | 54 (1974) |
| J. Musty and
P. A. Barker | Three <u>plumbatae</u> from Wroxeter, Shrops (275-277) |
| <u>Antiq J</u> | 55 (1975) |
| K. S. Painter | A Roman Christian Silver Treasure from Biddulph, Staffs (62-69); One spoon with a Chi-Rho monogram was acquired by the BM in 1971. It is one of 3 or 4 spoons found before 1886 'in a lump of clay in a field' |
| <u>Antiquity</u> | 49 (1975) |
| J. K. St. Joseph | Air Reconnaissance: recent results, 39 (293-295, pl. 32) |
| <u>Britannia</u> | 6 (1975) |
| | Excavations at the Baths Basilica at Wroxeter 1966-74: interim report (106-117) |
| <u>Current Archaeology</u> | No. 45 (1974) |
| W. Britnell | Beckford (293-297) |

- Medieval Archaeol 18 (1974)
P. A. Barker, A. L. Cubberley Two burials under the refectory of Worcester
E. Crowsfoot and C. A. Raleigh Cathedral (146-151)
Radford
- Trans Birmingham and Warwick-
shire Archaeol Soc 87 (1975)
B. Hobley and The Lunt Roman Fort and Training School for
M. Rylatt Roman Cavalry, Baginton, Warwicks - Final
Report: Excavation (1972-73) with conclusions
K. Scott The Arbury Tilery
C. Flick Muntz Metal and Ships' Bottoms: The Industrial
Career of G. F. Muntz
B.D.F. Hutty Hob Ditch Causeway: First Excavation Report
(1965-69)
- Trans Shropshire Archaeol
Soc 59 pt.2 for 1971-2
Dr. V. J. Walsh The Diary of a Country Gentleman: Sir Baldwin
Leighton (1805-71)
W. E. Hutton The Burial-Place of Abraham
Darby I
M. A. Faraday The Ludlow Poll - Tax Return of 1667
T. A. Gwynne Domesday Society of Shropshire
- Trans S Staffs Archaeol
and Hist Soc 15 for 1973-4
Dr. H. Bamford and Two bronze implements from Tamworth
K. Sheridan
R. A. Meeson and Eighth Report of Excavations at Tamworth,
K. Sheridan Staffs 1971 - A Timber-Framed Building in
Market Street (5-12)
A. A. Round The Bath-House at Wall, Staffs.
Excavations in 1971 (Wall Excavation Report
No. 10) (13-28)
H. and T. Miles A Romano-British Site at King's Bromley,
Staffs (29-32)
Dr. J. E. Lally Master Ralph of Tamworth, Staffs. A royal
clerk of the 12th century
J. Gould Charcoal burning at Canwell and Drayton Bassett
D. and J. Gould Excavation on the Site of the Old Church at
Shenstone, Staffs and the Identification of Saxon
Stonework there (43-49)
S. R. Jones Handsacre Hall, Armitage.
A note on its destruction
- 16 for 1974 - 5
C. Smith Second Report of **excavations** at Fisherwick Staffs
1973: Ice-Wedge casts and a Middle Bronze Age
settlement

- K. W. Sheridan Ninth Report of excavations at Tamworth. A Section through the northern defences at Bell Inn Corner
- D. and J. Gould St. Michael's Churchyard, Lichfield. Report of an excavation
- A. Oswald Clay-pipes from the garden of the Bishop's Palace Lichfield
- S. and S. Wrathmell Excavations at the Moat Sites, Walsall, 1972-4
- V. F. Penn Wall-painting in a house in High Street, Walsall

Vale of Evesham Historical Society Research Papers Volume V (1975)

The fifth volume of this highly successful biennial journal has recently been published. By concentrating the attention of historians and archaeologists on a small and coherent geographical area (one exceptionally rich in archaeological remains and early documentary materials) Research Papers aims to achieve rapid cumulative advances in the study of local history. The volume contains 80 pages, measuring 10 x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in and is printed by traditional letterpress.

Price £2.00 plus postage. Please order from the Publications Manager, Vale of Evesham Historical Society, The Almonry Museum, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4BD. Please send no money with orders; an invoice will be forwarded with the volumes. Standing Orders for future volumes are welcomed.

Back Numbers of Volumes I-IV are available separately at £1.50 each plus postage.

Contents of Volume V

An Interim Report upon Excavations at Beckford, 1972-4 by W. J. Britnell

A large part of Webster and Hobley Site 14 reveals occupation from mesolithic times to III AD. Abundant remains of an 1A settlement contemporary with nearby hillforts (Bredon, Danes Camp, The Knolls), having enclosures, roundhouses, 4 - post structures and storage pits with pottery evidence of metalworking and animal husbandry. Finds include the first hoard of spit-shaped 'currency bars' from an excavated site.

A Romano-British Settlement in Ballards Orchard, North Littleton, Worcestershire by Helen E. O'Neill

A stone building overlying a very large ditch. Associated with the building was pottery suggestive of a late Roman date. The site is one of several discovered near the Roman road on Cleeve Hill.

Two recent Saxon discoveries in Fladbury by C.J. Bond

A human skeleton and a saucer brooch are described, accompanied by a review of all archaeological evidence bearing on this large parish, whose documentary history dates from AD 691. Emphasis is placed on the importance of such places in the study of settlement continuity in the West Midlands.

The Vale Estates of the Church of Evesham, c. 700-1086 by D.C. Cox

The growth and organization of the central estates of the Church of Evesham before 1086 is established by methods independent of the forged Evesham charters, including a new study of the origin, hidation and boundaries of the West Midland shires and of the origins of the Worcs hundreds and the rural deanery of Evesham. The Vale estates of c. 700 are related to the place names, archaeology and geography of the area and evidence is considered that their boundary and internal organization were of much earlier origin.

The Medieval Topography of the Evesham Abbey Estates: a supplement by C. J. Bond

Discoveries since the original survey in Research Papers, Vol IV, including an investigation of the Lenchwick pond system and further discussion of the early plan of Evesham town.

Churchwardens' Presentments from the Vale of Evesham, 1660-1717 : Pt. 1 by P. Brady

All surviving presentments from over 60 parishes and chapelries are surveyed. This part discusses the visitation policies of the bishops of Worcester and the practice and competence of church wardens in presenting defects in church buildings and furnishings, books, churchyards and ministers' houses. The presentments illuminate the state of the Church in the later XVII and early XVIII as well as the problems of many individual places.

Trans Woolhope Nat
Field Club

41 pt. 1 (1973)

C.H.I. Homes

Herefordshire Vineyards

A.H. Hogg

Hillforts and Herefordshire

T.A. Gwynne

Domesday Society in Herefordshire

R. Shoesmith

The Yeld, Pembridge

J. O'Donnell

A Border Knight

R. K. Morris

The Local Influences of Hereford Cathedral in
the Decorated Period

J. W. Tonkin

Penrhos Court, Lyonshall

M. A. Faraday

The Hearth Tax in Herefordshire

T. C. Hancox

Ludford Paper Mill

P. McDougall

The Birds of Burley Gate in the Parish of Ocle
Pychard

Trans Worcs Archaeol Soc

4 for 1974

J. Homery Folkes

The Victorian Architect and G. E. Street

J. T. Driver

Worcestershire Knights of the Shire, Pt.2

B. D. Giles

Worcestershire in the First Hall of the 19th
Century. Awards and Inclosure of five parishes

W. A. Peplow

Church Plate of the Archdeaconry of Worcester

F.C. and P. E. Morgan

Survey of Chantries, Free Chapels etc. in Worcester-
shire

G. R. Dukes

The Furnishings of Hagley Hall

J. S. Leatherbarrow

The Coningsby Wall

E. Matley Moore

Painted panelling from Ribbesford

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Nr Evesham
Worcs

S Price
Dept of Arch
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Guy's Cliffe Avenue
Leamington Spa
Warks CV32 6NB

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

A A Round
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Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands

M Rylatt
Herbert Museum & Art Gallery
Jordans Well
Coventry CV1 5RG

K Scott
39 Nursery Road
Atherstone
Warks

K W Sheridan
County Buildings
Martin Street
Stafford

R Shoesmith
City of Hereford Arch Unit
Bewell House
Hereford

S Stanford
Ashfield Cottage
Luston
Leominster
Herefords

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