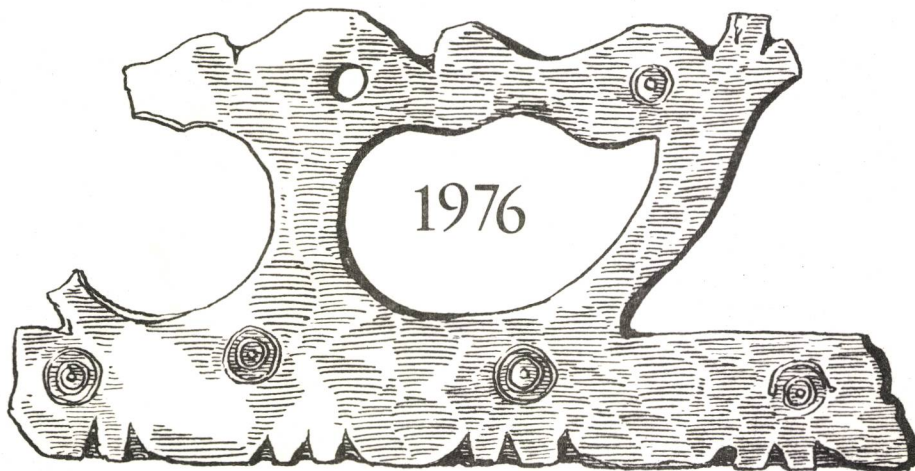


Council for British Archaeology Group 8

# WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS SHEET

NUMBER 19



**worcestershire**  
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CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

THE CBA AND WEMRAC	2
GENERAL	6
PREHISTORIC	34
ROMAN	36
SAXON	53
MEDIEVAL	55
POST MEDIEVAL	70
PUBLICATIONS	76
USEFUL ADDRESSES	78
ADDRESSES OF ORGANISATIONS	81

C.B.A. Regional Group No. 8  
Chairman's Letter

As your new Chairman, I will commence by thanking Graham Webster for the time and enthusiasm he gave to CBA Group 8 during his term of office. Now, more than ever, we need the enthusiasm to support the Group if we are going to contribute to archaeology in the West Midlands. Unfortunately, we, your committee, are not receiving your support. Our last quarterly meeting in Birmingham on October 2nd was distinguished by an attendance of 12 from a membership of 21 Societies; 9 Museums; 3 Universities; 1 Planning Authority and 12 individual members, a possible 80 contributors to discussion, argument or possibly agreement as to our contribution to archaeology in the West Midlands. We are taking steps to find out from all Societies and members the type of meeting which will secure your interest. However, I would remind you all that it is by the practical archaeological contributions that we make that our real reputation is made, not by becoming the best debating society. If, as I presume, many of you do not attend by virtue of your archaeological commitments, your reports of these activities will be welcome whether by report in CBA newsheet or by personal attendance.

I have no glib answer to the difficulties that beset us: transport and other costs continue to rise, money will be short but it may be worth considering that this is the time for CBA Group 8 to make its largest contribution. Much of the expansion of building and public works will be curtailed, giving a breathing space for fieldwork and similar activities. The D.O.E. policy in future will be to support fieldwork and similar activities to record the landscape and this is the sphere in which we can justify our interest in archaeology.

I would like to extend a welcome to the young archaeologists to attend our meetings. We are not represented enough by all periods or all ages. On my own behalf I hope to travel the circuit and visit all Societies in due course on their home ground.

Many Societies are suffering from declining membership and there is evidence to suggest that this is often related to their own decline in practical work. Many Museums would welcome assistance, admittedly based upon good sound archaeological reporting and you will find that if you can survey a DMV; produce a village survey; secure documentary evidence for a site; report on a vanished industry that your name will go before you. It is much more satisfying than becoming a 'horizontal' archaeologist on the lecture circuit, queueing up to grab the speaker during the tea and biscuits in the hope that your question will stifle your conscience.

In 1977 let us put aside the politics and get on with the work.

E. A. PRICE

WEMRAC Chairman's Letter

It has been a difficult year for WEMRAC with continually reduced resources and the committee is very grateful to its three hard worked officers and the honorary officials who have borne a heavy load this year, especially our Treasurer Geoff Taylor. It has taken most of the year to obtain charitable status and it has meant the necessity of agreeing on a constitution but having reached this stage there are now serious doubts being raised about the structure of WEMRAC and there must now be a further period of critical self examination before our shape can be finally determined. Our difficulties arise for the simple fact that we are wholly dependent on <sup>DOE</sup> both for financial support and had we funds from other sources we would have a measure of independence. For this reason I have been urging the need for closer links with the local authorities since there is much we could do to help them with advice and cooperation at a time of serious financial restraint. It would appear, however, that I have little support for our deeper involvement with local authorities. DOE policy now seems to be swinging away from regional structures towards direct channels of operation with the county authorities. WEMRAC thus has had to continue to justify itself. I see no serious difficulty here as I have always been convinced of the need for a body on which all archaeological interests are represented but there is now a strong group of young professionals who fail to appreciate this historic situation. This, I fear, may mean a conflict between the professionals and amateurs and already in some areas this

split has happened with serious consequences. It would be a great tragedy if this happened in the West Midlands where we have a reputation throughout the county of collaboration of effort over a long time. This may seem a pessimistic message this year but if the valuable structure of West Midlands archaeology is not to be undermined more people will have to be prepared to prevent it. Unhappily too many of our dedicated amateurs are unwilling to help in area archaeological organisation.

GRAHAM WEBSTER

### The Regional Urban Survey

The Iron Age text for the period by period analysis is now complete and is to be reviewed by the Urban Sub Committee in January 1977. This particular section of the survey is not concerned primarily with urbanism in the Iron Age, although the relevance of this approach is explored, but with an overall assessment of the available evidence from excavation on both hillfort and lowland sites in the West Midlands. Some attempt has been made to assess the relevance of this work in the context of excavation and fieldwork on Iron Age sites elsewhere in the country. It is hoped that the recommendations put forward in the survey will form the basis for a co-ordinated policy towards Iron Age sites in the region.

An individual synopsis of each Roman town in the region has been prepared. These are concerned to denote the urban status and function of each settlement as defined by characteristics such as street plan, defences, economy etc. These began originally as part of the initial data collection for the Roman section of the urban survey but are now intended to form individual definitions which could be made available separately from the period essay.

### The Urban Sub-Committee

The Urban Sub-Committee met only once in 1976. The Committee held a Day School on 'Recent Work in West Midlands Towns' in February 1976 and it seems likely that, in 1977 the activities of the Committee will be extended to include the initiation of a number of seminars on individual towns and urban problems in general.

### Implications Reports

The text of the implications report on Coventry has been completed but publication has been postponed for the present. It was felt that some restructuring of the report would widen its appeal. The text has been prepared by Margaret Rylatt under the aegis of the Coventry Historic City Committee.

JULIE N. CRICKMORE, Urban Officer  
of WEMRAC

### Report of Director of Excavations

This year the regional team has functioned for the first time in its new form: a small nucleus of full-time staff supported by undergraduates on vocational training from Birmingham University. We have naturally been aware of shortage of staff, but have been lucky in our first two undergraduates, John Clark and Nigel Baker, who have been prepared to see professional field archaeology as the art of maintaining an academic serenity whilst performing an infinite variety of practical tasks.

Excavations: Following Sue Hirst's trial excavations at Sidbury, Worcester, last year (WMANS 18 (1975), 53), an area excavation was carried out between June and September 1976 which explored the late Roman, late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval sequence (pp ). Salvage recording in the city also discovered a well-preserved 14th century barrel-latrine in Sidbury, and part of the Roman road to Droitwich at Lowesmoor. At the same time Phil Clarke and Jan Wills recorded part of the City Walls at Union Street, then under threat of demolition. Jan Wills continued her excavations of the Iron Age settlement at Beckford completing a successful season in horribly difficult weather (p ). Towards the end of the year trial excavations were carried out beneath the Theological College immediately south of Lichfield Cathedral (p ).

Publication: The Pride Hill report and Archaeological Definition of Shrewsbury are still in the press at the time of writing. Work has begun on the preparation of a monograph for the work that was done in Stafford in 1975 and earlier (WMANS 18 (1975), 55). The monograph is to begin with an introduction by Jill Walker whose post-graduate study for Bradford University, 'The Archaeology of Stafford to 1600 AD', was successfully submitted in December. The new late Saxon pottery, Stafford ware, is to be reported in Medieval Archaeology. The site at Ludlow (WMANS 18 (1975), ), has been shown to be a Beaker period settlement and is being prepared for publication by Madeleine Hummler. The Iron Age and Bronze Age sites at Sharpstone Hill, Nr. Shrewsbury, are being worked on by Regina Haldon (p ). Rob Poulton, another Bradford post-graduate student has published some aspects of his resistivity survey of part of the Roman Town of Alcester in Archaeologica Prosepezione. Notices of the Worcester-Sidbury excavations have been given to Britannia, Medieval Archaeology, and Post-Medieval Archaeology and reports of the late Saxon pit groups and most medieval fine wares have been prepared for the two latter periodicals by Elaine Morris.

Other Projects and Scientific Services: We have been impoverished this year by being unable to undertake supervision of post-graduate research either for Bradford or Birmingham Universities - a set-back which we intend to put right next year. But a fruitful co-operation has begun with the newly appointed DOE research fellows - James Greig (Birmingham) who undertook analysis of botanical samples from Stafford and Worcester, James Rackham (Durham) who is to analyse the Stafford bone groups and David Williams (Southampton) who has commenced the technical characterisation of Stafford ware. A most successful venture has been the appointment of a Birmingham graduate, Susan Colledge, as Environmental Supervisor. Working on site at Worcester and Beckford, and in the Birmingham Archaeological Laboratory, she has been able to evaluate the organic yield of feature-types while excavation is still in progress, providing guidance to the director as well as enhancement of the results. Her further work at King's Pool, Stafford, is designed to provide an environmental sequence with which to compare organic residues from the Roman-Saxon sequence excavated at nearby Clarke Street.

Training: Two undergraduates, John Clarke and Nigel Baker, were accepted for the first year of the vocational field training scheme which WEMRAC now runs with Birmingham University. They have performed as excavators, site assistants, planners, surveyors and salvage recorders at Worcester and Beckford where their help was invaluable. They have now come indoors for the second part of their course which is intended to cover all aspects of preparing archaeological sites for publication. In addition, three post-graduate students, Claire Butler, Polly Constantinou, and Phil Emery, gave very useful service at Worcester preparatory to joining their Birmingham MA course.

Research: The continual struggle to reconcile research aims with rescue opportunities has led to a number of formal and informal re-appraisals of priorities. Work in the region's towns has demonstrated the severity of damage from redevelopment from the 13th century onwards and emphasised the need for site evaluation strictly based on archaeological factors. Prime sites can be located through recent documentation, and mapping of ancient topography can throw new light on the early settlement. Progress in the study of the late Saxon town has greatly accelerated both through this mapping and the discovery of a wide range of late Saxon pottery types - sufficient to fill two classrooms at a seminar held at Wroxeter. Future work in the late Saxon town can now be determined by the location of prime sites containing pottery and the stalking of 'burh defences' - could profitably cease.

An awareness that prehistoric settlement studies are lagging behind those of the medieval period, coupled with the realisation that excavation on the desired scale on 'flat' sites is as expensive (or more so) as that in towns, has led to a re-appraisal of our Iron Age strategy. Efforts are being made to get into print what has already been done, and Julie Crickmore's survey, together with the Seminar planned for February 1977 should greatly assist the formation of an Iron Age Policy to guide future work. But a great deal of survey and evaluation work remains to be done in the earlier prehistoric period (and indeed in the Roman period), for both of which 1977 should see the birth of a wide range of projects.

Administration: The work of the regional team as a service to counties has been considerably assisted by the formation of COF (County Officers Forum) where detailed day-to-day management of the rescue programme is carried out. The regional team now employs, besides the director two analysts (Elaine Morris and Regina Haldon), an environmental supervisor (Susan College) and, during their year of vocational training, a number of undergraduates. This employment is administered by the last member of the team, Mrs. Hilda Wilmot, whose work as secretary has been directly responsible for much of our achievements in 1976.

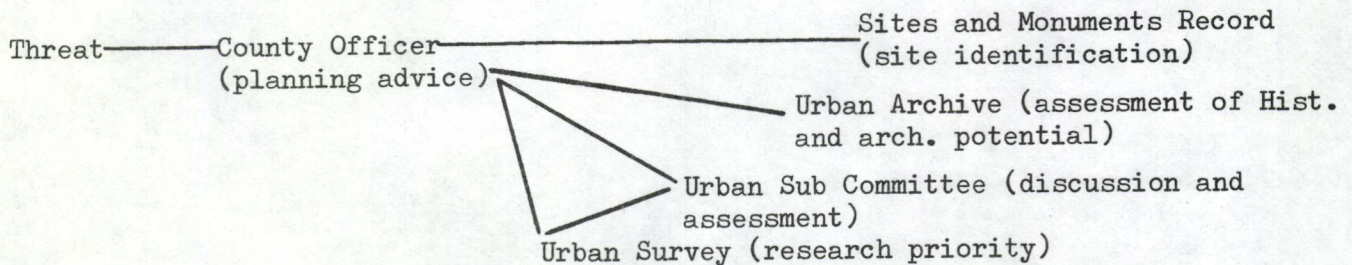
M.O.H. CARVER

GENERAL

Memorandum on Urban Research in the West Midlands

Lorna Watt's publication in 1974 provided much needed information for a regional policy towards rescue archaeology on the basis of detailed knowledge of threats. Since then, it has been decided that what was needed in the long term was, in the case of our towns at least, an academic assessment of the archaeological potential of urban sites independent of threats which impose their own limitations on site selection. The unpredictability of redevelopment reduced the validity of any assessment based on anticipated threats.

The selection of sites by the Urban Survey is based on one of academic priority related to both regional and national research policy. The threat merely determines the actual combination of sites to be considered by the Urban Committee. A system whereby the process of site selection can be related to a defined research policy has now been established.



- 1) The County Officer, notified of threat, refers to the Sites and Monuments Record where this exists for initial evaluation of potential
- 2) Consults Urban Officer for information from town files and urban archive for academic background and sources
- 3) Informs Urban Committee who provide regional assessment on basis of research policy formulated in Urban Survey.

The meeting of the Urban Committee in March of this year clearly defined the role of the Committee as an academic body providing specialist advice on towns. The research function of this Committee and the appointment of an Urban Officer to assist in the formulation of a regional research policy, maintain the archive for the use of the Committee, assist the County Officers in studying individual towns and acting as fact finder to the Committee is unique and should be exploited to better advantage.

The Urban Committee therefore has 2 very important roles

- a) to assist in the priority selection of threatened sites
- b) to initiate research studies with a view to assessing the historical and archaeological potential of certain crucial towns as defined by the Urban Survey. Such a programme of research should be formulated and agreed at the next committee meeting.

The following suggestions are offered for discussion:-

TOWNS where the most urgent assessment is needed of archaeological potential

WARWICK

Investigation so far suggests that much of the below ground evidence has been removed/heavily disturbed. Therefore an assessment of the area most likely to be undisturbed/give the highest yield is most urgently needed before a policy towards further excavation can be formulated. Anticipated scale of redevelopment-large numbers of small sites.

WORCESTER

Areas of greatest archaeological potential remain largely unknown as also is the scale of disturbance. Anticipated scale of redevelopment fairly high and likely to be continuous.

ALCESTER Possibility of waterlogged deposits. Scale of disturbance in medieval nucleus unknown but archaeological potential appears from work of Davis in 1920s and others since to be high. Rate and scale of redevelopment high.

STRATFORD  
UPON-AVON Investigation limited but suggests that much of the below ground evidence in the new town area may have been removed in 16th C levelling. Disturbance in Old Town (original nucleus) unknown. Scale of redevelopment-moderate but a number of sites known.

TAMWORTH Waterlogged deposits. Scale of disturbance undefined but archaeological potential appears to be high. Scale of redevelopment unknown.

Implications reports in one form or another have been prepared for each of the towns listed above (including a definition on Alcester for the Roman Towns section of the Urban Survey) but further definitions of specific problems are necessary. The detailed evaluation of the archaeological potential of the sites should be tackled as follows:

- a) gazetteer of archaeological discoveries to date accompanied by map of find spots.
- b) topographical study to define original nucleus and later development of the site, possible defence lines etc. based on study of geology, find spots, early place-names and street names (c.f. Early Shrewsbury - An Archaeological Definition in 1975, M.O.H. Carver).
- c) archaeological rating to be given to areas within the town based on assessment of
  - 1) continuity of occupation
  - 2) depth of archaeological deposits (recording depth of natural from past observations), amount of disturbance (artificial levelling and building up of the site)
  - 3) presence of waterlogged deposits
  - 4) area available
- d) assessment of documentary sources

#### TOWNS with the greatest research potential

The archaeological potential of the following towns can be determined as above but in each case an historical evaluation is essential.

EVESHAM 8th C ecclesiastical foundation; possible Anglo-Saxon 'port'. Likely to be well documented.

LEOMINSTER Early ecclesiastical centre-possibly British 6th C; Mercian refoundation 7th C; centre of huge ecclesiastical, later royal, manor.

PERSHORE Pre-conquest ecclesiastical foundation (7th?); possible burh; burgesses recorded 1086.

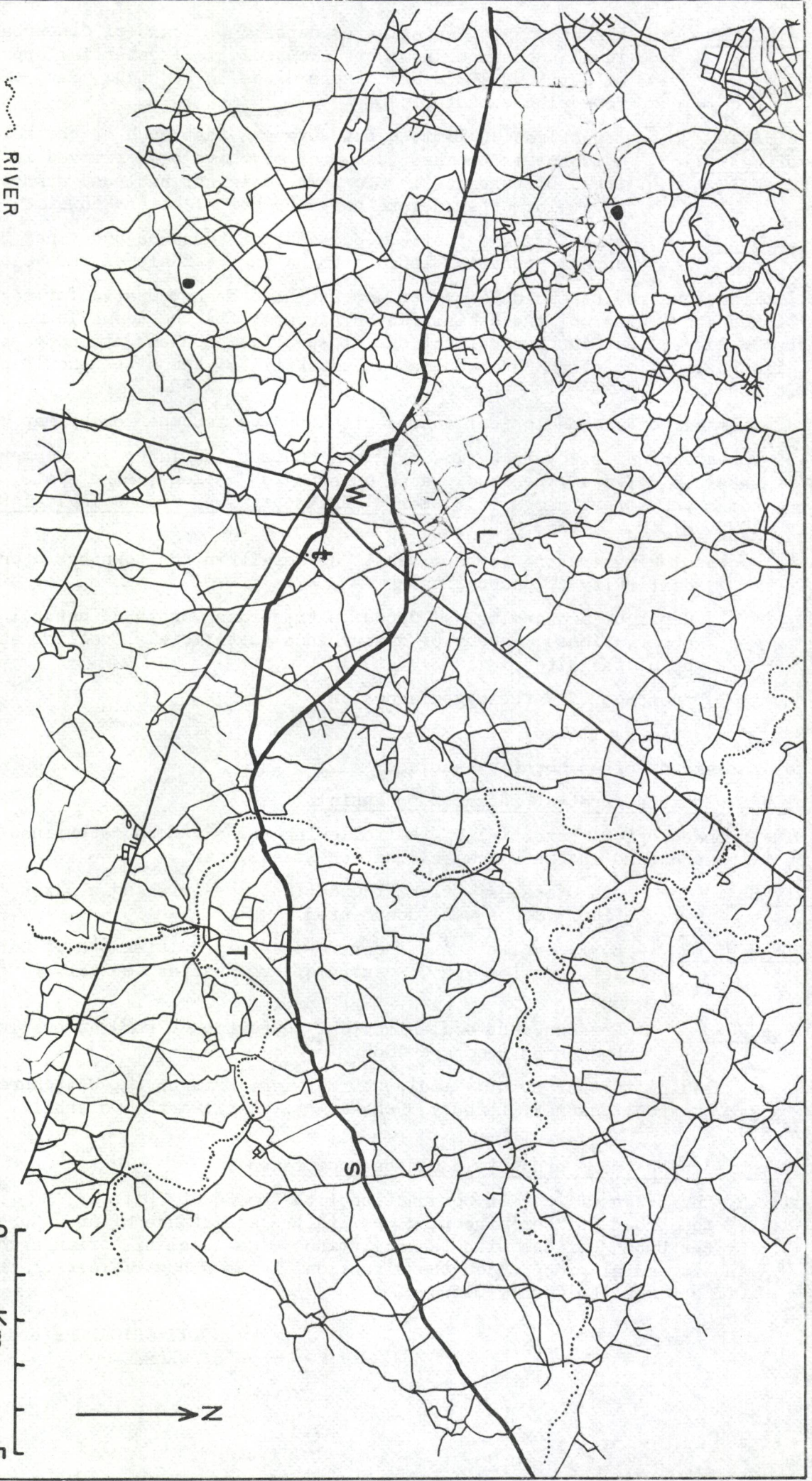
Towns needing further study:- Ludlow, Droitwich, Bridgnorth, Whitchurch, Newport, Market Drayton, Bewdley, Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye, Kenilworth, Coleshill, Much Wenlock etc.

#### Ways in which these projects could be undertaken:

- 1) by the Urban Officer in conjunction with the County Officer
- 2) by the Urban Officer directing or with the assistance of an undergraduate
- 3) by the Urban Officer with the assistance of a local historian/archaeologist
- 4) an extramural group under the direction of the Urban Officer or the Urban Officer and the County Officer.

JULIE CRICKMORE Urban Officer  
of WEMRAC





S - SECKINGTON. T - TAMWORTH. t - TUMULUS. W - LETOCETUM. L - LICHFIELD. ● - ENCLOSURE.

WAVY LINE RIVER

0 5  
Km.

N

### An early thoroughfare crossing Staffordshire and Shropshire ?

As part of the process of plotting the environment of Tamworth, Staffs., a tracing was made from the one - inch O.S. sheet 120 of all roads, lanes and paths, representing each with a single line, rather than 'weighting' their representation according to modern classifications. The first map shows part of the area covered. Watling Street and Rykniel Street strikingly represent Roman road alignments. But an additional through - route was made apparent by the above technique which, for the sake of clarity, is emphasised with a thicker line on the plan. Its sinuous course does not imply the work of a Roman engineer but there are factors which point to a very early date for this route:

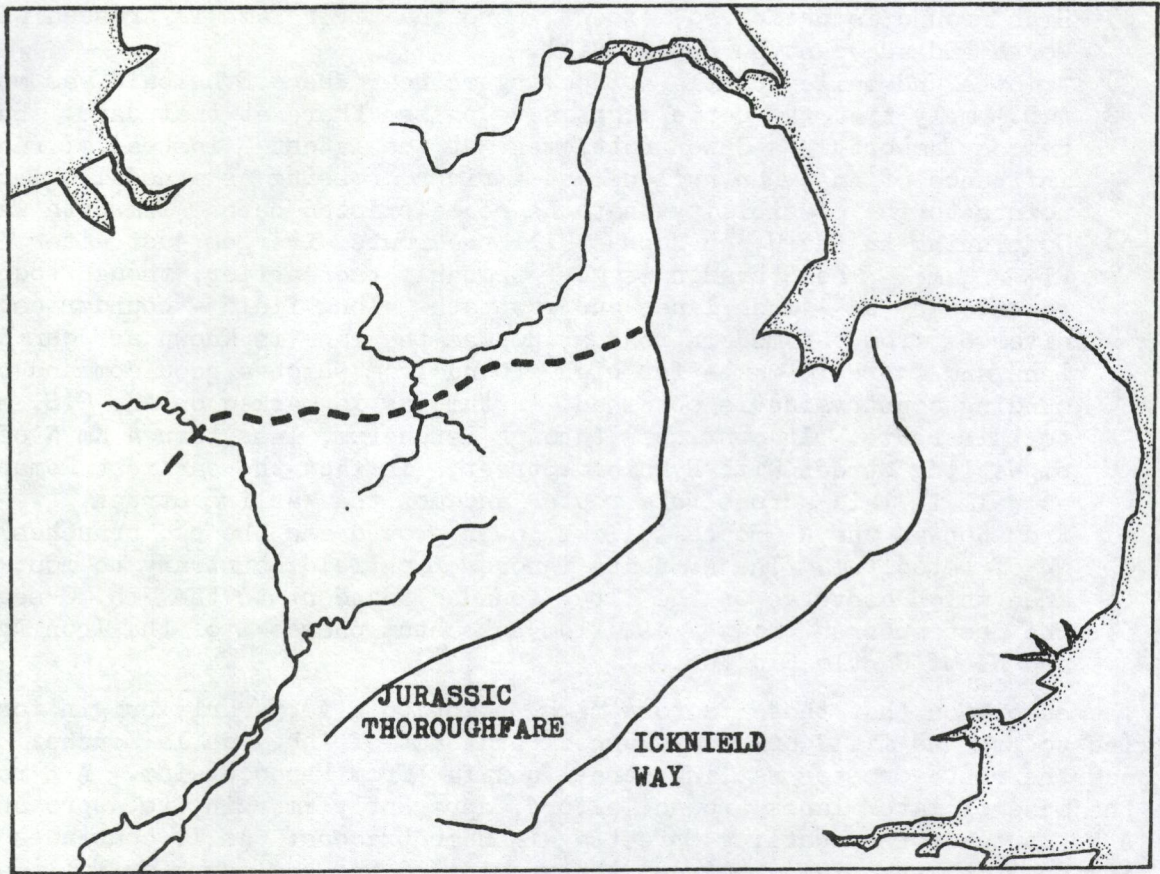
- 1) High ground is preferred, except where the River Tame is crossed west of Tamworth and adjacent to Hopwas Hill.
- 2) A motte and bailey castle at Seckington near where Ethelbald was murdered in 756 A.D. imply that the route might have passed there at that date. But it by - passes Tamworth - a Saxon settlement at the latest - instead of reacting to the influence of an urban nucleus and a river crossing as a nodal point. This points to the possibility that the route existed before Tamworth was established.
- 3) Continuing to the W, on Hopwas Hill the route diverges just after crossing the River Tame. The S branch is most probably the earlier, though today it is represented by un - made lanes and footpaths along field - boundaries. Where it diverges from the modern road at Hopwas the lane is known as John Knox Grave Lane and there it makes for high ground from which a good command of the surrounding countryside is obtained. A tumulus is marked on the O.S. map adjacent to this route. It continues through Letocetum, less than a Km N of the junction of Watling Street with Rykniel Street. In fact the earliest Roman enclosure at Wall is laid across this route, and not the Watling Street.
- 4) From Hopwas the N. route follows lower ground and the two branches converge again NW of Letocetum. The N. route ignores Lichfield, contrary to most roads in that area which converge on the city, founded adjacent to the 7th. C seat of St. Chad.
- 5) The most apparent route west from Letocetum passes S of the Iron Age Castle Ring and N. of Castle Old Fort.

The suspicion that these factors might point to a very early origin for the route has led to map and fieldwork W of Cannock and east of Ashby de la Zouche. West of Cannock the route crosses Watling Street not far from Penoccurcium. A S route crosses the maze of later lanes around Telford, apparently emerging to approach the Wrekin. A N. route crosses Watling Street again near Uxacona. As it continues N. of Wellington it passes midway between the Wrekin and the enclosure at Wall. Thereafter the route turns S., crossing Watling Street yet again where Wroxeter was sited by the Romans, and it continues towards the S Shropshire hills. One possible extension crosses the Long Mynd.

In the opposite direction, E. of Tamworth the route passes Ashby de la Zouche and one path leads directly past the hill fort at Breedon-on-the-Hill, but there is a more interesting factor. A good case can be made from the cartographic evidence for a direction route which connects with the Jurassic Way.

As will be seen from the small scale map, the alignment of the route described becomes credible as an important through road in an Iron Age context - 'The Midland Way' ? Skirting S of the River Trent, it crosses the central belt of raised ground between the headwaters of the Trent and those of the Severn/Avon. From there, numerous routes might extend into Shropshire and the borders of Wales. It links the territory of the Coritani with that of the Cornovii. It gives added significance to the alignment of Watling Street through Staffordshire and Shropshire, and to the siting of Letocetum and Uriconium.

BOB MEESON



The final Report on the excavation of this site is now available and appears as City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society Report No.9 1976 price £1.30 plus 24p p&p. It includes specialist reports on the Geomorphological setting and sediments, the vertebrate fauna, the land snails, the metal objects, the Romano-British pottery and coin, the prehistoric pottery, the neolithic and B/A artifacts, human remains, mesolithic artifacts and the radio Carbon dating of the mesolithic deposits.

J.H. KELLY

An Account of the Examination of the King's Clump at Swynnerton, Staffs(SJ/8460/3520)

During the search in North Staffs. for earthworks for recording before road widening and new housing estates obliterated them the KING'S CLUMP at Swynnerton was examined. This is a smoothly round tumulus, lying within about a hundred yards or more of the Cricket Club pavilion. It is roughly 80 yards in diameter but as it lies on a slightly sloping field it is difficult to estimate its height, about 3 or 4 ft on the west side to about 10 ft. on the east side. There are a few slight indications of a depression which can be called a ditch, but a broad impressive swathe of nettles 3 or 4 ft. high and 12 paces in width and about three quarters of the circumference of the mound almost certainly indicates the former presence of one. The mound is ringed by 14 large trees evenly spaced and about 6ft. inwards from the circumference. They are lime trees of great height. There is a 15th tree just inside one of the fourteen. And from the road form an impressive bowl shaped clump in the field. They were obviously planted by some former land owner to give dignity to an otherwise slightly unsightly heap, as this site is visible from the Hall. The stones of the heap could not have been piled up by a farmer - moved out of the way of his plough, - because the area they occupied was far too valuable to leave them there. The spot is the reputed place of 'SEVEN KINGS'. At that time there was evidence of a little digging into the top of the mound, and a number of smooth round stones were visibly scattered over the surface, suggesting that the Clump was a cairn. About four years later when, passing the field, the bright summer sun showed up a much larger quantity of light coloured stones than was noted previously. The farmer reported that a hole had been dug into the top for the rubbish of 'caravanners', and permission was given to find out the extent of the depredation. The hole was found to be about 9ft in diameter and 2½ft. deep, and the earth thrown out formed a bank on one side of it. There was no vegetation on the mound except a few small scattered clumps of nettles. The first material to be removed was the recent tipped rubbish; the hole had been taken through a mass of clean water worn stones, closely packed into a soil matrix. The soil is sandy and sandstone outcrops occur in this area. When the hole reached a depth of about 7-8ft. it was considered to be dangerous, as on each visit it was found that stones had fallen from the sides into the bottom. Even at this depth the soil matrix was so friable that it could be scooped out by hand. There could only be one conclusion to this fact. After about 3/4000 years, one could expect the soil and stones to be packed hard, but the opposite was indeed the case. The conclusion was that the mound had been entered before, and not only by the rubbish hole diggers. There was no possible stratification and no sign of a containing curb. The damage was probably done by a clandestine 'digger'. Reluctantly the hole was filled in and a number of newish pennies (old money) were dropped in here and there for the benefit of any future excavator. The stones found ranged from only a few quartz pebbles - not marked or scratched - to stones which could be classed into three sizes, small average 8/10lbs. in weight, medium average perhaps 20lbs. and a number of large ones in the base of the hole which could not be lifted out perhaps ½/¾ cwt. The soil matrix was dry, loose, and sandy. Most of the stones had a smooth light pale creamy brown cortex, and when broken were darkish green. They broke into flat planes with no conchoidal fracture. Dr. Roach of Keele University kindly examined them and the writer is greatly indebted to him for his expert opinion. In the samples submitted there were at least four rock types.

- 1) an acid igneous with crystals of felspar and mafic minerals in a highly silicious matrix. Some have been deformed by crushing. Could be from a lava flow

or a minor intrusion. The nearest site for such Pre-Cambrian is about 30 miles away on the Welsh border, Church Stretton or even Lilleshall.

2) The presence of silt stones, ie a slate but coarser.

3) Another igneous with enplats of felspar in a finer matrix - a minor intrusion.

4) A highly indurated acid (?) tuff.

Three pieces of granite were also found. The only thing found in the mound that can be ascribed to human agency, is an ovoid stone slightly flattened on one side and of weight  $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb.,  $6\frac{1}{4}$ ins. long and 5ins broad and pale creamy brown in colour. The entire surface is pitted with the thumb sized indentations similar to those found on hammer stones.

W. P. RICHARDS

#### Kempsey Common

Field walking on Kempsey Common to the E of the Farmers Arms public house revealed two ring ditches on high ground looking north to Worcester and W to Malvern. The two ring ditches were on a W-E orientation. The W. feature was 20 m in diameter and with an external ditch of 3 m in width. The easterly feature was 25 m in diameter with a ditch again 3 m in width plus the remains of an external bank. Further investigation revealed a similar ring ditch partially destroyed by a boundary hedge S. of the first two.

The W ring ditch contained the foundations of a wartime observation post, plus a dead tree in the centre and tree stumps surrounding the periphery. The E. ring ditch also had the remnants of tree stumps on the periphery. The third ring ditch to the S. was considerably eroded.

The possibility of these ring ditches being barrows must be considered; they appear as tree rings on the O/S map; but it is not unknown for later tree plantings to occur on barrows. The intrusion of a wartime building onto one of them could be explained by the observation offered by the high ground and the ditches are not uniform in construction due to their siting on Kempsey Common. They will soon be eroded by the recreational activities of the public.

E. A. PRICE

#### Newland, Droitwich (SP/90306010)

Earthworks adjacent to Newlands Farm, south of Droitwich were noted this year. Covering an area of at least 10 acres there are numerous house platforms and holloways. A vertical photograph supplied by the Potato Marketing Board, taken at 1000 ft at 18.00 hrs on June 15th, 1975 has outlined the area of the site satisfactorily. Infilling of the site by motorway rubble has destroyed some of the features. However, a survey of the site will take place in winter 1976 and documentary evidence is being sought to date this D.M.V. Report to Hereford and Worcester Museum.

E. A. PRICE

#### Old Well Farm, Childswickham( /07203932)

The report of an interesting stone drain by the owner, Mr. D. Hustler, occasioned a visit to his farm. The drain was broken during the laying of a gas pipe across his land NNE of Old Well Farm causing considerable embarrassment to the contractors who were working in sand.

The drain underlies ridge and furrow of considerable height and depth and Mr. Hustler traced the drain for some 400 SSW from the original point of contact by a series of trial holes from between 2-3 m in depth. The construction is of lias limestone slabs approx. 40 cms wide in the form of a box and having capstones on top. In front of the farm there is a paddock containing a rectangular pond or well constructed with stone slab sides and floor. The drain passed under this well either preceding its construction or contemporaneous with it.

The possibility of this drain being pre-ridge and furrow was considered as none of the trial holes showed any evidence of post-ridge and furrow trenching. However, reference to Birmingham University air photo index revealed that two photographs, by Arnold Baker in 1967 and 1969, showed a parch mark through the ridge and furrow on the line of the drain.

Stone culverts of this type pre-dated the late 18th C tile drains and in this case indicate an early improvement of drainage which played such a large part in the improved agriculture of the late 18th early 19th C.

#### Evesham

Observation of the construction of a new water main running from Greenhill in the north, parallel to the River Avon and crossing the river to supply the Four Pools Estate to the S. of the town has not revealed any occupation evidence to date. The pipe trench has now reached the River Avon and further observation will be kept upon the trench, during its construction through Hampton to Four Pools.

#### Church Lench (SP/03655185)

Further evidence of Romano-British occupation in this area has occurred following the enlargement and excavation of a spring fed pool on land belonging to Mr. S. Montandon. Substantial quantities of Severn Valley wares with some samian fragments have been dated to 2nd-3rd C by Dr. Graham Webster. The site is in the bottom of a narrow combe or valley and is in conjunction with previous finds in 1953 in the area (See Trans.Worcs.Arch.Soc. 30 (1953), p.81).

It is hoped that field work in the area of Rough Hill will produce further information as to the occupation zone.

E. A. PRICE

#### The Kinver Edge Area: Third Interim Report of an Archaeological Survey.

Work has continued during the last year on a study of the area round Kinver Edge (SO 88 SW and adjoining areas). Field-walking has been combined with historical research.

#### Prehistoric.

During two years, small flint-scatters have been collected from the surface of the following fields:-

1. SO 858812 (Caunsall): site of cropmark of enclosure in air photographs SO 8581/1 of 1962.
2. SO 852814 (Caunsall): site of cropmark of enclosure in air photograph SO 8581/2 of 1961.
3. SO 797807 (Shatterford).
4. SO 833811 (Blakeshall).
5. SO 836810 (Blakeshall).
6. SO 836814 (Blakeshall).
7. SO 834812 (Blakeshall).
8. SO 838814 (Blakeshall).

It is now seen that the known flint-scatter/<sup>at</sup>Blakeshall covers three or four fields.

Almost all the flint-work seems to be either certainly or probably Mesolithic in type. It is hoped to publish these flints in more detail later.

#### Romano-British

Material from this period remains very sparse, but a few sherds have been collected from the ploughsoil, as follows:-

1. Benson's Pool Piece, Caunsall (SO 858812): about 28 sherds (found on site of cropmark with above flint-scatter, plus about 3 medieval sherds).

2. Big Field, Caunsall (SO 852814): about 5 sherds (found on site of cropmark, with flint-scatter and about 2 medieval sherds).
  3. Lower Birch Farm, Shatterford (SO 797807): about 10 sherds (found with flint-scatter).
  4. Hall Field, Blakeshall (SO 838811): about 4 sherds (found with flints and about 3 medieval sherds).
  5. The Lydiates, Blakeshall (SO 836810): 2 sherds (with flints and 2 medieval sherds).
  6. Hawkers Nab, Blakeshall (SO 838812): one possible R.B. sherd (with flints and several medieval).
  7. Hightrees Farm, Arley (SO 802831): 2 sherds.
- All these sherds are extremely abraded.

L. E. KING

### Medieval

#### Open Fields

Work on the Manor Court Rolls (1) and other documents has established that most of the townships of both Wolverley and Kinver had their own open-field systems; but there was inter-commoning between the different townships. The exact arrangements of the field-systems have not yet been fully established, since for some townships more than three field-names have been found. There is evidence that in Kinver and its townships in 17th C. some open fields were being enclosed but new ones created. The scatter of medieval pottery mentioned above is probably the result of manuring of open fields. Benson's Pool Piece was, however, on the Common; finds there are hard to explain.

P. W. KING.

#### Kinver Borough

The first royal market charter was granted in 1221, but lapsed on the death of the grantee c. 1235. A second permanent one was granted in 1257 (2). It is noted that Stebbing-Shaw (3) has published the original seigniorial Borough charter for Kinver. This is a confirmatory charter similar to the first Manchester charter, which Tait (4) regards as confirming a borough which had been previously created. From the names of the grantor and witnesses, the Kinver charter must have been granted between 1250 and 1286, but possibly round c. 1276, when the grantor and two witnesses were all associated at an Inquisition at Stafford (5). The apparently planted town of Kinver may therefore date from a period prior to 1276. This charter is also of interest as it grants the Kinver Burgesses the same customs as were enjoyed by the Burgesses of Kidderminster, confirming further the antiquity of the Borough of Kidderminster.

Work is proceeding on documentary evidence to establish the bounds of the actual Borough, and to trace the development of the community. 19th C and early 20th C development outside the Borough has been predetermined by the availability of freehold land (as opposed to copyhold), and it is noteworthy that development on copyhold land did not begin until Parliament made it possible for owners of copyhold to enfranchise compulsorily.

J. W. KING

#### References

- 1) Kinver Manor Court Rolls: Foley Collection, Hereford Record Office.  
Wolverley Manor Court Rolls: from transcript in MS notes of the late Mr. Preece.
- 2) Rot. Litt. Claus. in Tur.P 464 and Cal.Ch.Rolls Vol.1 HyIII 9, 474.
- 3) Stebbing-Shaw: History and Antiquities of Staffordshire (1798)
- 4) James Tait: Medieval Manchester (1906; 1972 edition), p.60 et seq.
- 5) Inquisition re Royal Deanery of Wolverhampton: William Salt, 1911, p.166-7.

#### Acknowledgements.

The members of the Group wish to express their gratitude to Dr. L. H. Barfield for

**DISTRIBUTION OF PLACE NAME  
FORMS ROOTS and ELEMENTS**

OE/ME PRE 1066 ORIGIN

+ - ge-haeg - HAEG/HEIA

x - ...ingas

φ - Leah

• - Tun

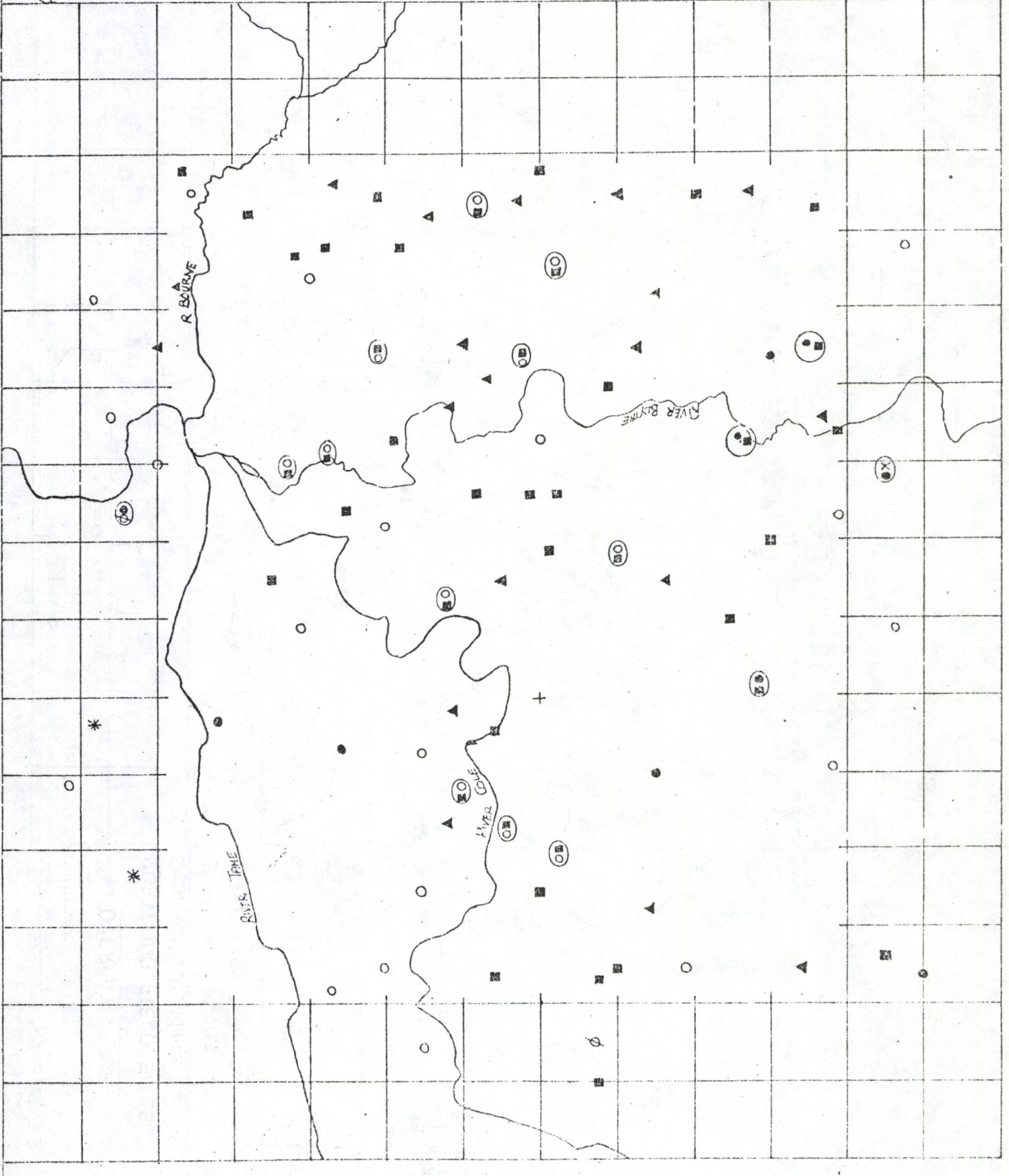
\* - Worde|worthe

o - Others (see text)

POST 1066 ORIGIN

■ - having a Geographical or  
Topographical form

▲ - deriving from the Personal  
name of former holder





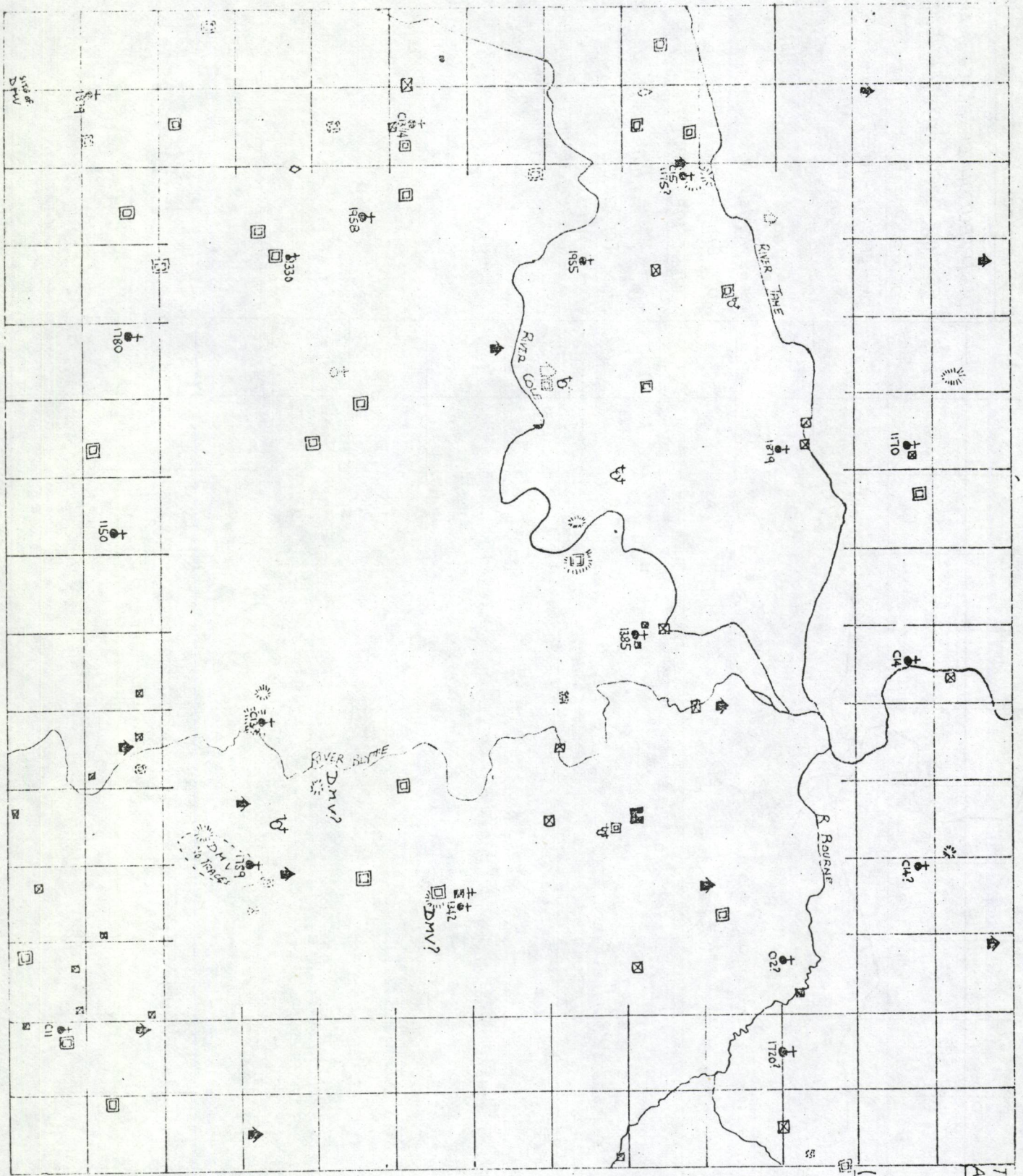
The Chalmersley Castle Bromwich & Colston  
Area, Historical & Archaeological Survey

OVERLAY FOUR

SURVIVING FIELD SITES

(Crop Marks, Buildings, Earthworks &c)

- ☐ - Medieval Moated Site
- ▲ - 16th-19th Century Country House
- ⬇ - Ditto — " — in Ruins.
- 🏰 - Castle
- ⚡ - Do in Ruins
- ⚡ - Priority or Abbey.
- ⚡ - Church or Chapel (Date of Origin)
- ☀ - Crop Marks or Earthworks
- ☒ - Building of Historic/Architectural  
Archaeological Interest: (Other  
than above) Preservation Orders.



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The Chelmsley, Castle Bromwich & Coleshill  
Area: Historical & Archaeological Survey

**OVERLAY TWO**

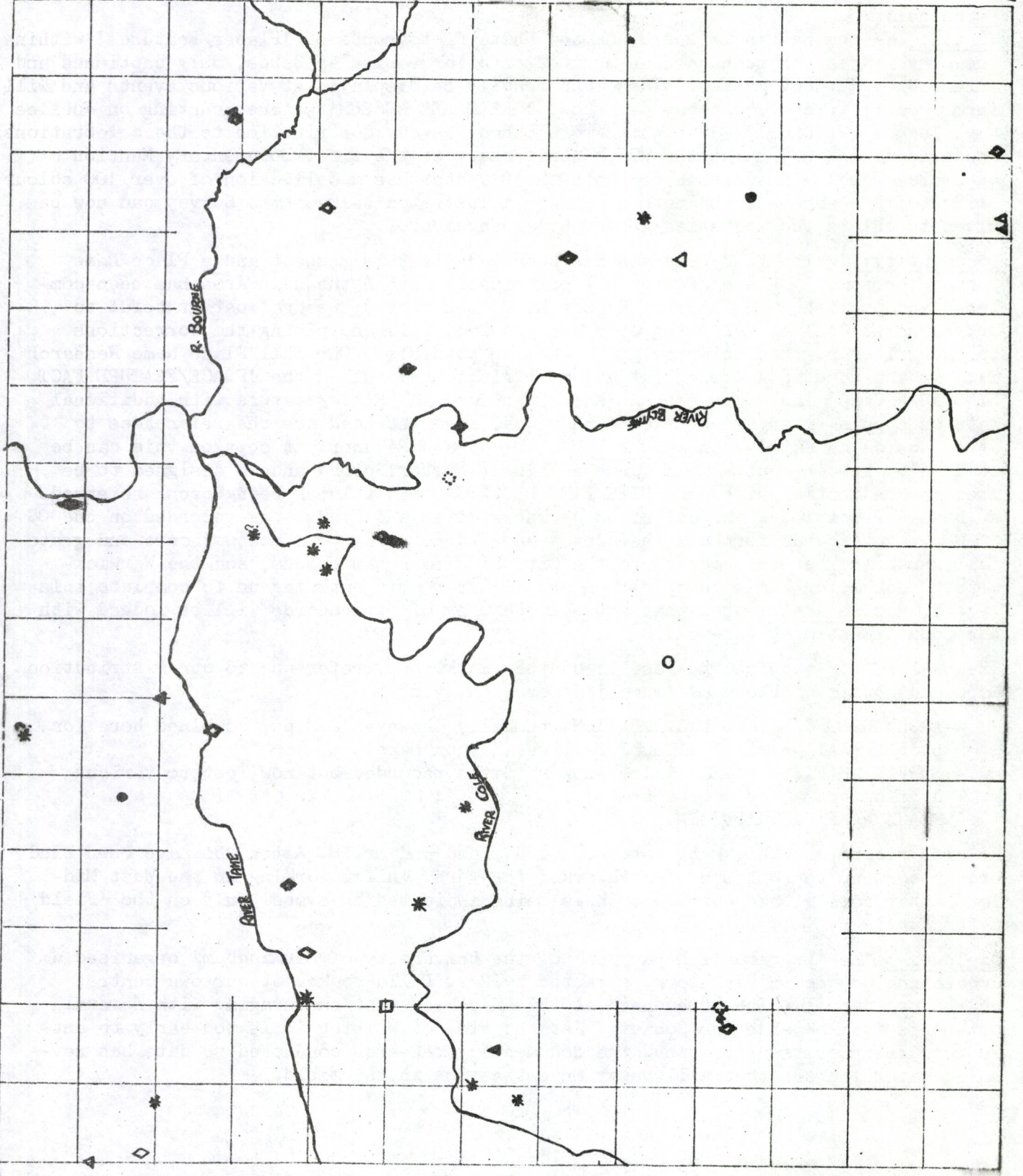
**FINDS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ITEMS**

**1 Palaeolithic to Romano-British**

- - Palaeolithic - 250,000 to 12,000 yrs ago
- ◊ - Mesolithic - 12,000 yrs ago to 3500 BC
- - Neolithic - 3500 to 2000 BC
- △ - La.NE.BA. - 2400 to 1600 BC
- ▲ - Bronze Ages - 1600 to 700 BC
- - Iron Ages - A & C - 700 BC - 43 AD
- \* - Romano British - 43 to 410 AD

**2 Dark Ages / Saxon to Modern**

- ★ - Dark Ages (5/6Cs) 410 to 650 AD
- ◻ - Anglo-Saxon / Danish - 650 to 1066
- - Norman - Angevin - 1066 to 1150
- ◇ - Medieval - Plantagenet 1150 to 1485
- - Tudor - Stuart 1485 to 1715
- ◆ - Georgian or Later 1715 onwards



BASED UPON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY 1:50,000 MAP  
WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CONTROLLER OF  
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identifying the flints; to Miss A. M. Wilson for identifying the pottery; to Mr. A. T. Foley of Stoke Edith for the use of the Foley documents; to the work of the late Mr. J. S. Preece, and to Mr. A. J. Caswell for the use of his M.S. material; and to all landowners who have allowed access to their fields.

The Stour and Smestow Archaeological  
Research Group.

The Chelmsley, Castle Bromwich and Coleshill Area:  
Historical and Archaeological Survey:

Our 'Second Interim Report - work completed up to 31 October 1976' was published by our Society in December 1976 and formed the major part of our Journal, Chelmsley History No. 4. Copies of this are available from the Society at 50p. each. Obviously it is too lengthy to reproduce here and a brief summary is given in lieu.

Practical:

Visual: We now have numerous Black and White Photographs of 'Places/Features' within the Survey Area, these have been mounted onto large Display Cards, duly captioned and arranged by Subject Matter. These can readily be displayed at various events and will form a centre piece for a one day show; 'CHELMSLEY MUSEUM' we are mounting on Jubilee Day (Tuesday 7 June 1977) at Whitesmore School as our contribution to the celebrations, and also since 1977 marks the 777th Anniversary of the first Documentary Mention of Chelmsley Wood. In addition to these the Director has a collection of over 100 colour slides of the same Places/Features and an illustrated talk on the Survey can now be given to interested societies/groups by arrangement.

Documentary: Quite good progress has been made in this respect and a Place Name Survey for some 91 Places/Features - principally within the main area has been completed and published in Interim Report No 2 (see above); we are most grateful to Dr. Margaret Gelling for going over the proof of this and giving the corrections to the writer so that it is as up to date as possible. Our full Place Name Research data is included in a loose leaf volume (Triplicate) called the 'PLACE/FEATURE FACT FINDING RECORD' and comprises one Main Page for each Place/Feature with additional data on supplementary sheets for each place, also included are the references to other source material such as the VCH (Vol 4) and Pevsner. A copy of this can be studied by appointment. This forms a Main or Master Record and is designed to be used in conjunction with our 'SITE/FIND RECORDS' both volumes being cross referred. We have now completed the collation of known Sites and Finds - as recorded on the OS 6" Map record cards for both the Survey and Fringe Area. Our most sincere and grateful thanks are hereby recorded to the City of Birmingham Museum, and the Warwick County Museum for their co-operation and assistance in enabling us to complete this record. It is anticipated that a Duplicate Copy of our records will be lodged with the County Museum at Warwick.

The best way of showing the results of this work is by reference to our Distribution Maps and copies of these are supplied herewith, viz:

- ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND DISTRIBUTION: (Usually shown as 2 Maps, combined here for brevity; All periods allowed for; see Key on Maps.
- SURVIVING FIELD SITES: (Also showing Sites recorded but now lost to various developments - by dotted symbols.)
- PLACE NAME DISTRIBUTION:

We also record our thanks to both Mr. C. J. Bond and Mr. M. Aston who have been kind enough to send up copies of 'earthworks' they drew whilst working in the West Midlands that come within our area, these being indicated by symbol only on the 'Field Sites Map'.

Fieldwork: The 'Extramural Department of the University of Birmingham' organised a 20 meeting Course in Fieldwork, directed by Mrs. Della Hooke, at our own centre, Whitesmore School. The attendance at this has been most encouraging with several attenders from outside our Society. At the time of writing it is too early to anticipate the results of this but the documentary research conducted to date has revealed several areas that will repay investigation in the field.

We are hoping to carry out our first practical exercise in fieldwalking on the proposed line of the M42 Motorway from its current terminus at Coleshill to the Junction with the A5. This will probably be a combined exercise between ourselves and our neighbours the Sutton Coldfield Archaeol. Group, who have already done some preliminary work on the Kingsbury Section. This stemming from a letter to the writer from the Midlands Road Construction Unit in November 1976.

We also have a plan for an exercise on preliminary recording of Vernacular Architecture within our Survey Area to involve as many members of the Society as possible, and partly to cater for those not wishing to go in for the Field Walking aspects; further details of this yet to be finalised.

Full details of the 1977 programme, areas where help is needed or other details may be obtained by enquiries to the Director.

Excavation: In July 1976 our society was actively involved in organising the Volunteer Digging Side of the Excavation of PARK HALL MOAT (SP 158904). This site - within our Survey Area was the ancestral home of Shakespeare's maternal ancestors, the Ardens and we reported the threat to it (from a housing project) in October 1975 to the Birmingham Museum. The excavation was financed by them and direction by Mrs. Susan Wrathmell who will be issuing the official report in due course. May we express our thanks to all the volunteers who came along to help in the excavation. We are grateful to the Museum and Mrs. Wrathmell for the opportunity this 'dig' afforded us, and our thanks to them are also recorded.

J. G. DUTTON Survey Director  
Chelmsley Local History Society.

#### West Midlands Archaeology

During the year the following additions have been made to the collections of the Department of Archaeology and Local History from excavations in the West Midlands: Roman pottery from Pennocrucium 1953-54; Hobditch Causeway 1965-69; Shenstone Hall Farm 1930-36 and various sites on Bredon Hill including Elmont 1938 and 1948-54 and the Iron Age pottery from Bredon Hill Camp 1935-7. Other acquisitions include the prehistoric material formerly in the possession of Mr. Foden of Shenstone Hall Farm.

Records have been made of a medieval pilgrim's badge found near Clun Castle and an early XVth C. lady's head from a monument in Little Malvern Church, revealed during restoration.

Conservation work has continued on material from local excavations such as Beckford and Sydenhams Moat. Particular attention was given to the medieval alabaster carving from Cookhill Nunnery, Worcs. At Weoley Castle the fifth phase of the restoration of the stonework has been carried out, yielding further information on the construction of the N.W. wall.

In July an excavation was carried out at Parkhall Moat, Castle Bromwich, by S. Wrathmell and field surveys made at Peddimore Hall, Sutton Coldfield, of the earthworks and associated ridge and furrow by D. Spolton and at Broadloose, Mancetter, by K. Hartley. An emergency recording survey was also undertaken in St. Saviour's churchyard, Saltley, Birmingham.

Display work has continued in the West Midlands Archaeology Gallery with cases on the Roman farm at Shenstone, the Malvern potters, Iron Age crafts, and Bronze Age funerary pottery, and also in the Coin Gallery where new displays were mounted on the local mints in the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods and Roman coin finds from the Birmingham area. In November the exhibition 'Castles of the West Midlands' was opened for three months, based on drawings and sketches from the Department's typographical collections, and a brief catalogue was produced.

RUTH TAYLOR for Birmingham City  
Museums.

## WEMRAC Shropshire Survey

In contrast to the other counties in the West Midlands, and to many other counties outside the region, Shropshire lacks a professional local government archaeological appointment either in its museum service or in its county planning department. In order in part to improve this situation and to help to ensure that the vast archaeological heritage of the county may be recorded and where possible preserved, the Department of the Environment and WEMRAC appointed a Field Officer for the county in December 1975, to work with the County Planning Department. The County Council have provided accommodation and a wide range of other facilities to assist the work of the survey.

The central need in the county is for a readily accessible and comprehensive data bank containing the archaeological information from the county in a single location. The Chief role of the post has therefore been to organise and compile a Sites and Monuments Record for the county, chiefly using the large amount of published material which already exists, and partly by original fieldwork. This record is now well under way with approximately 1000 sites already indexed. With an eye to future regional and national needs considerable agreement has been reached among the West Midlands Archaeological Records systems which are now in frequent contact to ensure a degree of uniformity between county and county.

As a non-local government post it has been difficult to participate very actively in the planning process, but the amount of archaeological 'input' into planning is increasing, backed up by the increasingly comprehensive data on the record.

There is still much to do however. Far too many sites are still being destroyed, and various rescue activities have had to be undertaken. By close liaison with the Shropshire Archaeol. Soc. it is possible to co-ordinate such activity to some extent and to obtain advance warning of threats to sites.

Detailed fieldwork is needed over the whole county, both to check on the condition of known sites and to survey the multitude of unrecorded sites which are still to be found. An important part of the Shropshire Survey is therefore in the encouragement of the formation of local fieldwork groups upon whom much of the future of archaeology must depend.

Much can, however, be done by local government, and it is to be hoped that eventually there will be a strong and direct local government commitment to Shropshire's archaeology, through its planning processes and its museum service, thus releasing the Department of the Environment's hard-pressed finances for the proper investigation of sites that local government is unable to preserve.

IAN BURROW for WEMRAC

### Mancetter, Warwickshire (SP/321963 SP/323962) Fieldwork to the S. of Mancetter

Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  km to the S. of the Church, recently ploughed fields have revealed several sites in the soil, with evidence of intensive occupation and activity.

Site (1) Spread of local building stone, pot sherds and dumps of heavy slag close by.

Site (2) Spread of local building stone and pot

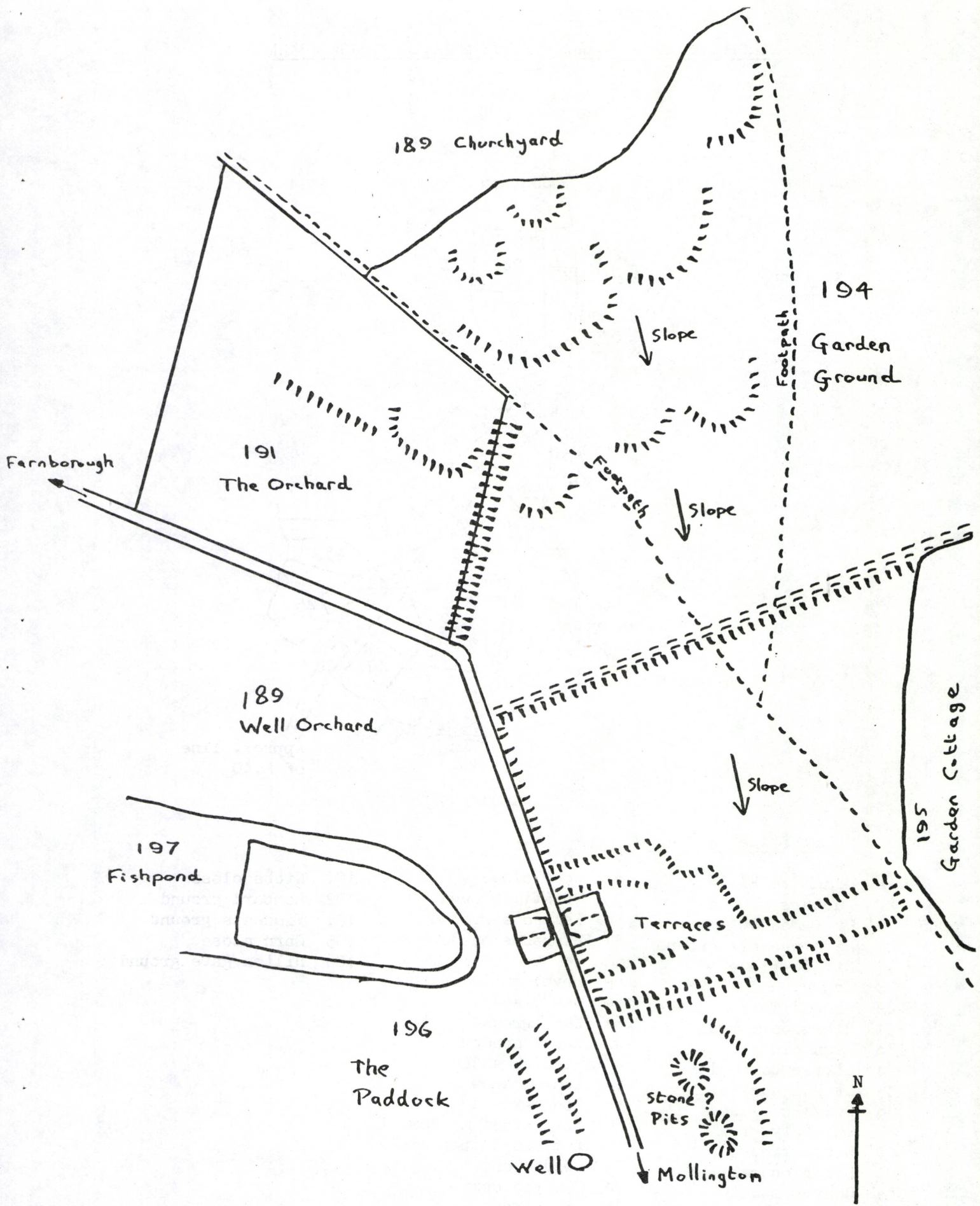
(3) Sherds alongside ploughed out road known as Blind Lane.

The large selection of pot seems to be confined to 1300  $\pm$  60 and is of Nuneaton types, some decorated including part of applied/incised face.

Site (2) also produced 9 sherds of 4th C. R.B. in creamy white fabrics including mortarium with red paint on the rim.

### M.40 Motorway Survey

During the winter, walks were organised in the parishes of Fenny Compton and Farnborough which lie on the 'blue' and 'yellow' routes of the motorway. Although both parishes are rich in historical interest, the motorway managed cleverly to avoid



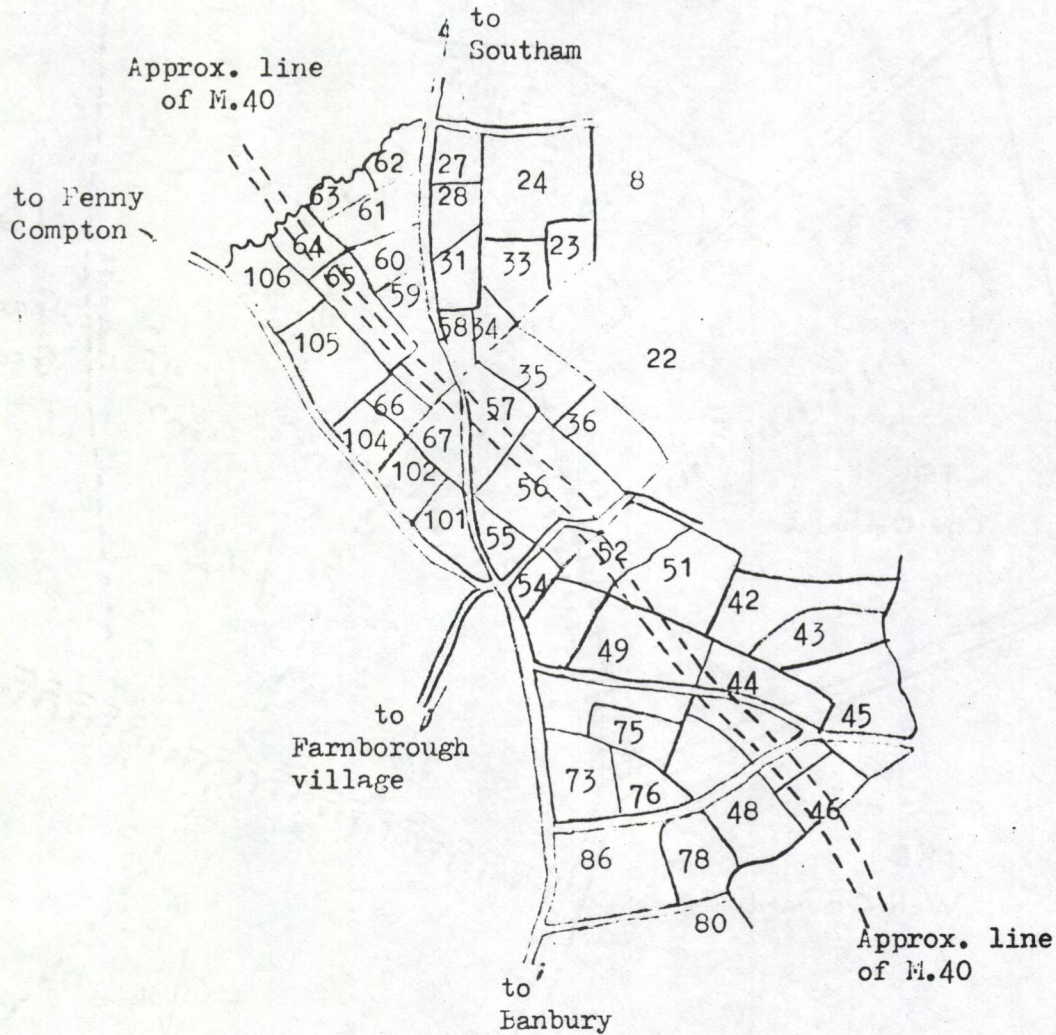
EARTHWORKS IN GARDEN GROUND, FARNBOROUGH, WARWICKSHIRE · Sketch plan

Grid ref: SP 434495

Approx. Scale: 1=1250.

14 Mar. 1976.

PROPOSED M.40 MOTORWAY ROUTE THROUGH FARNBOROUGH



Tithe Awards, 1841

8	Granmore Hills	54	Wood close	101	Nibbs close
22	Anchors ground	55	Thistly ground	102	Lombard ground
23	Over meadow	56	Hampsons ground	104	Vincent's ground
24	Headings big ground	57	Hampsons meadow	105	Corn close
27	Middle piece	58	Hovel ground	106	Hilton gate ground
28	Top ground	59	New piece		
29	Langel Wurzel piece	60	Rush ground		
31	Big plough ground	61	Lower meadow		
33	Barn close	62	Middle meadow		
34	Little barn close	63	Long meadow		
35	Greens quarter	64	Long ground		
36	Claydon close	65	Corn close meadow		
42	Casualty ground	66	Buttermilk pasture		
43	Lower ground	67	Seed close		
44	Lower churls	73	The paddock		
45	Churls meadow	74	New piece		
46	Calves close	75	Stone pit ground		
48	Upper churls	76	Big park		
49	Banky ground	78	Little park		
51	House meadow	80	Flat ground		
52	Wad meadow	86			

every archaeological site.

At Fenny Compton, earthworks in Hall Yard show the site of the Hall (in decay 1746) with its attendant fishpond and pond feeder. In the northern end of Hall Yard and the adjacent Middle Field, other earthworks appear to be medieval, as do a group around Manor Farm (Towne Furlonge 1778). Romano-British grey ware together with pieces of tile and post-Medieval pottery were picked up in Home Ground. From the description this appears to be identical with the Great Ground where RB pottery and samian ware were found in 1881 (VCH.) The highwayman's loot reputed to be buried in the Hen & Chickens field was not discovered - this field lies in the route of the Motorway, so there could be another chance! Gredenton Hill was chosen for a bracing walk, and it is felt that evidence for an Iron Age fort is rather flimsy. The whole hill is scarred by quarrying, and the terraces resemble drift roads rather than ditch and bank.

Farnborough is Ferneberge (1086) - the ferny hill. The ferns are no longer evident, but it remains a mild, moist sheltered place where spring flowers bloom early and pondweed grows on the hilltops. The houses are not as interesting as those of Fenny Compton, but many, including the 'Butcher's Arms', are stone-built of the 17th C. The church of St. Botolph is all ages from the Norman S. doorway through the tower with its datestone of 1611 to Gilbert Scott's N. aisle and steeple of 1875.

A Fine of 1246 gives a wonderful selection of early field names, including Bere-furlong, Sockebergh and Rouburgh. Sockebergh is presumably identical to Shuckburgh in origin. When the Tithe Awards were made in 1841, Sockebergh had disappeared, Rouburgh had become Rubborough, and a new name Stanborough had appeared. The 'borough' termination seems to refer to a hill, the names meaning respectively 'goblin's hill', 'rough hill' and 'stony hill'.

Two depopulations are documented. At the Wolsey Inquisition of 1517, Edwardus Raughley was indicted for destroying 1 messuage and enclosing 40 acres of land in Farnborowe, valued at 44s, on the 12th July, 1515. At the Inquiry held in about 1607, in Farnborough, Sr. George Rawley was said to have 'decaied' 13 houses and enclosed 200 acres of arable land, whilst John Bond 'decaied' 0 houses and enclosed 10 acres.

As at Fenny Compton, the proposed Blue and Yellow routes of the M.40 Motorway pass through the flat, N. portion of the parish. There appears to be little of archaeological interest in this area, the most interesting sites lying around the Park, the village and the hills.

#### 1. The Hall & Park

Farnborough is renowned mainly for its Hall, now National Trust property, but still leased to Mrs. Anne Holbeach, the sole remaining survivor of a family who have occupied the Hall since 1683. The Hall itself was closed for repairs last year and is closed again this year. The Terrace Walk laid out c. 1750 passes the 'Ionic Temple' and the 'Oval Pavilion' to terminate at the Obelisk which was rebuilt in 1823. Earthworks on the slopes of the hill here overlooking the Rubborough fields may be associated with the Georgian landscaping.

W. of the house are two large ornamental pools, Sourland pool and Lady pool. Overlooking the latter is a 'romantick' mound with stone cliff leading down to the lake. This was thought to be either an Ice-house or a Cascade, or perhaps even an Ice-house converted into a Cascade. To the E. of the house are two Fishponds in a field called Well Orchard, which is presumably the site of the Farnborough Chalybeate well. Nearby, the octagonal Deer Larder contains a wheel from which the game was hung. A little way W. of the house is the Conservatory, and a small walled enclosure called 'Graanie's Garden', the only flowers permitted in this park of lawns and trees. Produce for the house came from the much larger walled courtyard called 'Garden Cottage', which lies on the other side of the road. If any of the Raleigh depopulations were in the vicinity of the house, they have been entirely obliterated by the later landscaping.



The public portion of Farnborough Park has a variety of earthworks. There is a well-marked terrace running around the S. portion at SP433487. Further along is a double hedge where the parish boundary marches with Oxfordshire. A large mound here seems to be the spoil from the excavation of a small reservoir. At SP 435491 is a large shallow quarry, narrowing as it approaches the road. It appears to be one of the stone pits which are so very common in the district. The N. end abutting on to the wall of the private Park is overlain by ridge and furrow.

## 2. Garden Ground

This field which is adjacent to the church, contains the walled Garden Cottage mentioned above. It exhibits a wide variety of earthworks. Just outside the churchyard wall, platforms may be observed in both Garden Ground and the Orchard adjoining. A hollow way divides the two fields, and it may be that here is a medieval depopulation. However on the O.S. map, original 6", the Orchard is marked as containing two smaller crofts, so this depopulation could be very much later.

Further down the field, an ornamental archway under the road gives access to Well Meadow and the Fishponds. At this point in Garden Ground are a number of terraces which may have been part of the Park landscaping, or may have served the more mundane requirements for garden produce. Beyond the terraces are further earthworks which seem to be the remains of stone pits.

## 3. Oak Hill

Oak Hill is surmounted by a clump of Scotch pines together with a solitary oak tree; A brickworks in the Upper Lias Clays existed at SP 438492, but the large pit which remained is now being infilled by waste material from roadworks. Between the brick pit and the summit of the hill are a string of smaller pits, with exposures of a very soft sand. It was presumably in one of these quarries that in 1891 'part of an iron spearhead and two Anglo-Saxon beads (one melon, one amber) were found 2'6" below the surface during sand digging at Oak Hill'.

## 4. Windmill Hill

The Windmill Mount at SP 43375018 is well marked with a Trig. point and a clump of trees. It is surrounded by a circular ditch, about 40 metres in diameter. This seems enormous to be the ditch for the tail of a postmill. The mill is marked on Ogilby's map of 1675, but not on Beighton's map of 1725. It had definitely disappeared by the time of the Tithe Awards in 1841. In Windmill Hill to the S.E. of the Mount, there is a very extensive quarried area at about SP 432501. Like the Park, the quarries are quite shallow, but cover a large area. A large mound overlooks the quarries at SP 43145000. This is clearly visible from the village and has been mistaken for the Windmill mound. Other mounds continue the hedge boundary between Parsons hill and Garden plat to the road at SP42934980. These mounds are bound by tree roots, and may be the relics of a linear mound running along the crest of the ridge. A similar linear mound has been observed, but not previously reported, in Shooters Hill spinney running along the Fenny Compton - Avon Dassett parish boundaries from SP 41965048 to SP 41825040. This linear mound appears to be an artificial stone pile which has been partially quarried away, and may be an old boundary mark. The mound in Farnborough may be a similar boundary marker, but is more heavily denuded.

## Long Itchington West End

One evening at the end of May, Mrs. Grimes of Whitehall Farm rang up in some agitation to say that her son was ploughing up stones in Flax Close. The turf had been stripped from the field for sale to a Coventry turf supplier, and the field had then been rot-avated to a depth of 4 ins. in preparation for sowing winter barley. Flax Close contains earthworks which continue the important deserted settlement of Old Yards and Fore Yard. This part of the village appears as the West End in 17th C. records. A sketch plan was essayed a few years ago, but Flax Close was difficult to observe because of the height of the grass.

The field was visited as soon as we heard of the ploughing, but by that time the work had been completed. In a number of places, both limestone and sandstone rubble had been brought to a surface by the plough. A few fragments of pottery were picked up including a green-glazed jug handle, a black angular gritty rim and some generally well-fired middle medieval sherds. A fishpond in the Slanket was clearly exposed; this had been entirely overlooked on previous visits. Where the turf had been

stripped off near the river, it was obvious that the river bank had been artificially built up from a pile of building debris, bones and freshwater mussel shells. On this bank a large piece of Roman tile was picked up.

Half a mile to the N. at Snowford, surface finds of Roman tile and pottery have been made, and it is generally considered to be the site of a Roman building. However, as no features have been found at Snowford, these finds could also be debris from a built up river bank, and the actual Roman building site may be elsewhere.

#### References

- The Victoria County History of Warwickshire, 5, (1949), p.84.  
George Miller Rambles Round the Edge Hills (1896), p.38.  
I.S. Leadam The Domesday of Inclosures (1897), I.  
W.E. Tate, Trans.Birm.Arch.Soc. 65 (1949), Appendix 3, p.99.  
A. Meaney Gazeteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites (1964), p.260.  
Farnborough Tithe Awards (1841), War.Coy.Record Office, CR569/100.

Southam District Local History  
Society.

#### Air Photography Sources

First, beware of becoming too optimistic as to the information to be gleaned from vertical photographs. Some benefit can be gained from their study but only if the circumstances under which the survey was made were suitable and then only as clues to be followed by fieldwork. Time of year is important; time of flight; the possibility of stereo viewing all contribute to the success or failure of the result. Some sources of vertical air cover are as follows:-

- 1) D.O.E., Prince Consort House, Albert Embankment, London S.E.1. Register. Verticals from 1944. Also Ordnance Survey material prior to a certain date plus commercial photographs e.g. Hunting air survey - cartographical services etc. and D.O.E. photographs.
- 2) Royal Commission on Historical Monuments.  
National Monument Record, Air Photographic Unit, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB. Tel: 01-734 6010 Ext. 34, Mr. J. Hampton. Mainly archive for oblique air cover. Crop marks and shadow.
- 3) Director General Ordnance Survey, May Bush, Southampton. Vertical cover- R.A.F. etc.
- 4) Potato Marketing Board, P.O. Box No.55, Oxford OX4 3NA. Tel: Ox.72111. Vertical surveys taken for excess acreage checks by Regional offices in early June. Apply to Oxford for details. Recent as 1976.
- 5) R. Vango, J.A. Storey & Partners, Mitcham, Surrey. Tel: 01-640 1971 Commercial vertical surveys for all purposes.
- 6) Severn Trent Water Authority, Lower Severn Division, Southwick Park, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury, Glos. Tel: 0684 294516.  
1975 survey of flood plain of River Severn from Kidderminster to Avonmouth. Good overlap prints taken April 1975 and extending beyond the flood plain to east and west of River Severn.
- 7) Severn Trent Water Authority, Soar Division, Gilroes Water Centre, Leicester. Tel: Leics 352011.  
Vertical survey photographs available.
- 8) Severn Trent Water Authority, Upper Severn Division, Shrewsbury. Tel: Shrewsbury 51391. Mr. C. Ing, Survey Contemplated for Severn and Lake Vyrnwy complex.
- 9) West Midland Gas Board, Wharf Lane, Solihull, W. Midlands. No photographic archive.
- 10) Midlands Electricity Board, P.O. Box 8, Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 8BP. Small selection of motorway prints.
- 11) Chief Librarian, Birmingham Post and Mail, Colmore Circus, Birmingham. Library of photographs, town and rural areas available.
- 12) Picture Editor, The Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, Staffs. Photograph library.
- 13) Mr. Keith Parker, Editor, Shropshire Star, Tetley, Telford, Salop. Photograph Library.
- 14) Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd., Aerial Surveys, Waterworks Rd., Worcester. Tel: Worcester 29085. Also at Landford Manor, Salisbury, Wilts. Large

library of vertical air photographs compiled from surveys for local authorities and commercial companies.

- 15) Mr. J. M. Hodgson, Soil Survey of England and Wales, Woodthorne, Wolverhampton, Staffs. Tel: Wolverhampton 754190. Small specialist collection derived from many sources. Most available from the principal air survey companies.
- 16) The Planning Dept., Staffordshire County Council, Stafford. Verticals of whole county available as regular county surveys are conducted.
- 17) University of Birmingham, Dept. of Extramural Studies, Winterbourne, Birmingham.

The latest collection is the oblique air photographs take by Arnold Baker.

This list of source material is not complete. Further enquiry may reveal many more sources of air photographs which may prove of interest. I would emphasise that much of the material may already be at a central archive such as the D.O.E. in London who secure copies of air surveys made by the principal commercial survey companies. Please remember that if you contact a commercial air survey company for material this material is usually the copyright of the organisation instigating the survey and you will have to secure their permission.

Regarding other sources, local authorities; Water Boards etc., these organisations do not have facilities for students to study material so cut down the investigation time by indicating clearly the area you wish to investigate.

Finally, once again, I must remind intending researchers that a study of meteorological records will give you a date record for dry periods, similarly a time period must be considered if requiring crop marks, soil marks and shadow, although the last three do not often apply for vertical photographs.

E.A. PRICE.

#### Aerial Survey & Reconnaissances WEMRAC

The use of 'exceptional' to describe the opportunities available for aerial surveys and reconnaissances in 1975 and 1976 seems to have been largely misunderstood by archaeologists. The main bulk of information from air photographs has been accumulated year by year for the last 30 years. Quite narrow variations in weather in different soils at different stages of crop growth will produce or erase crop marks, but a wider variation of weather can produce some different information, or information of type that is less often available, particularly in areas where 'normal' weather permutations produce little crop mark evidence. The 'exceptional' opportunities are not necessarily related to the number of sites that become visible.

In 1975 the greatest number of sites recorded in the WEMRAC area were in permeable soils. In 1976, the greatest number of sites recorded were away from the river valleys, which were relatively unproductive. In fact the distribution of sites and features recorded in 1975 and 1976 would, if taken out the context of the accumulated pattern of the past 30 years, be quite contradictory to each other and also to the accumulated pattern.

It is necessary to understand these contradictions in order to give the proper weight to 'one shot' vertical surveys that are supposed to scoop the jackpot on a mystically decided peak recording day. This term is also largely misunderstood. It is not a day on which all is revealed, but when one single flight would hope to record the highest percentage of sites that became visible throughout crop growth in one year. The fact that this mythical day might only provide a small percentage of the total information that became visible over a longer period in that year or over many years and that a very high percentage of the available information might only be visible from a limited oblique angle on that day is an unfortunate limitation that is ignored by protagonists of this method of recording. The same appreciation is needed to assess the contribution of all casual flights and particularly those surveys in advance of motorway construction that rarely produce anything. A very high percentage of the new and significant information recorded in the Midlands was only visible this year for on two or three days. The incidence of this narrow time 'window' occurred mainly between mid June and mid July - much earlier and of much shorter duration than usual. The kaleidoscopic pattern of the landscape changed with great rapidity and the 'window' developed from a complicated permutation of

natural forces in different areas. Day by day plans on which areas to go to had to be constantly changed in the light of day by day reconnaissance experience and in trying to cover selectively specific areas between the Yorkshire Moors and the Cotswolds and between Peterborough and the Wye Valley, many narrow 'windows' were inevitably missed or seen too early or too late, but many sites were, of course, visible for longer periods than 2 or 3 days.

The area that I know best from the air, around an airfield from which I've made more than 4000 flights in the past 20 years produced an entirely new and unsuspected batch of sites. Another site that was first seen near to High Cross in 1938 (but not photographed then) is now recorded. I've waited for it for more than 25 years. The much more substantial Roman town site there remained invisible as it had done since at least 1938 as far as my surveillance of that area is concerned. It is quite enigmatic still why many of the known substantial Roman Towns and 'villas' with stone footings, with a comparatively thin soil cover produce neither crop marks, nor parch marks nor soil marks. Distribution maps of sites found from aerial recording must be understood to have this limitation.

In the WEMRAC area, substantial additions to the sites S.W. of Rugby were recorded, the whole area from Rugby to Frankton, including Church Lawford Airfield and the Bretford area is building up to a concentration of sites, some of which it is not possible to define typologically other than 500 B.C. + 1500. The ridge at Clifton on Dunsmore also has a nucleated I.A./R.B. group of sites. Another interesting group of sites was recorded between 1 & 2 miles N. of Manduessedum, but the extensive barrow group (that includes a polygonal shape) along the county boundary is on the Leicestershire side of the river. A Roman fort or camp near to Alcester was confirmed (last year's record was suggested from local knowledge at Alcester as being possibly a point-to-point race trace) and a number of scattered I.A./R.B. farmstead enclosures in Warwickshire help to reassess the relative importance of land use away from the river valleys, manifest in the new pattern emerging around Rugby.

The Wye and Severn Valleys were disappointing in the number of sites recorded but during the past few years, the accumulated build-up of I.A./R.B. (?) farmstead sites on both the river terraces and the higher ground of the Wye suggests a greater potential than has been recorded so far.

The Trent Valley from Rugeley to Burton-on-Trent, and the Tame Valley from Alrewas to Tamworth did not have the same profusion of evidence as last year, and to reinforce my earlier comments on the limitations of 'one shot' and casual recording, most of the sites visible last year were not visible and although this area has been systematically combed for 20 years, many of the sites recorded were new. One of these was a ring ditch with a radiating pattern of pit alignments or stake holes.

The sum total of all recording of the past 30 years is of a vastly more widespread and complicated land use than is as yet realised by archaeologists and of which there is still a lot more evidence to come. This evidence will become increasingly difficult to retrieve but it is just as important as the evidence already recorded. There is no possibility of investigating more than a small percentage by excavation. Most of the recorded sites are in cultivated soils and are therefore at the highest risk of erosion or total destruction.

This year's surveys and reconnaissances were assisted by grants from Warwick Museum and Herts. and Worcester Museum and these grants permitted an increase in the air cover it was possible to provide and which the 'exceptional' opportunities justified. I am very pleased to acknowledge the value of this support from them.

J. PICKERING.

#### Air Photographs Midlands

##### 1) Ordnance Survey.

Vertical photographs	Cover - 25 sq. kms.	
Contact print (9" x 9")	Scale 1:22,000	£3.00
Enlargements X3 (27" x 27")	Scale 1:7300	£4.60

The excellent detail resolution and print quality provides both for area studies and, by further enlargement through an episcopes, for examination of individual sites. Availability is now limited to photographs taken within the preceding 7 year period.

2) R.A.F. (per D.O.E.)

Vertical photographs	Cover - 6 sq. kms.	
Contact print (9" x 9")	Scale 1:10,000	£0.50
Enlargement X3 (24" x 21")	Cover - 4 sq. kms.	£3.50
	Scale 1:3300	

Details and print quality fairly good. Suitable for area studies and for site examination limited to X3 enlargements.

3) Motorway Survey (per D.O.E.)

M40 (Topographic Int. Ltd.)

Vertical photographs	Cover - 1 sq. kms.	
Contact print (9" x 9")	Scale 1:4500	£5.00

M6 (Hunting Surveys Ltd.)

Vertical Photographs	Cover - 0.5 sq. kms.	
Contact print (9" x 9")	Scale 1:3300	£4.32

Both sets of motorway photographs provide good detail and print quality. Being taken at lower altitude, the contact prints are at large scale and are suitable for further enlargements.

4) A. Baker and J. Pickering (per R.C.H.M.)

Oblique photographs. Cover and scale dependent on altitude and camera angle, typical figures being:-

Cover	0.25 sq. kms.	Scale 1:4000
Contact print (6" x 4")		£0.25

Applications to field work.

Through differences in cover and scale, the groups listed provide a range of applications, and are often complementary.

The O.S. and R.A.F. Photography are particularly useful for study of the inter-relationship of districts, field systems and individual sites.

It is disturbing to note that motorway survey photographs have received only cursory examination. The release of photographs to local groups responsible for sections of motorway route would enable proper checks to be made and correlated with field work.

Messrs. Pickering and Baker commented on both the special features and the limitations of their work in West Midlands News Sheet, No. 18 1975.

W. WESTWOOD

Additions to the Extramural Air Photographic Collection are 767 prints of Arnold Baker's flights in 1974 and 1975. These are divided into the following grid squares.

SJ	209
SK	28
SO	351
SP	139
ST	13
SU	40

a Xerox copy of these lists can be obtained from the Extramural Department for 65p.

GRAHAM WEBSTER

Hawkeswell, Warwickshire (SP/215865)

Fieldwork after recent ploughing revealed spread of building material. Surface finds including sherds of slip ware, black ware, portion of Medieval Tile, clay pipe bowls with base stamps and another with decorated bowl.

Medieval Tile detail

Heraldic design having shield base to R.H. corner three crosses in white slip on reddish background. As Chatwins Med, Floor Tiles of Warks. 'Trans. B'ham. Archaeol.

Clay pipe detail

Base stamps 'IOHN MATS' 'RICH LEGG 1687'. Palm of hand between initials T.A. Decorated bowl, left side crossed rifles, right side game bird standing; dogs head protruding forward at bowl base.

C.W. LEWIS

Field Survey in the Stratford Area

An Extramural class based on Stratford began practical work in the surrounding area in October and has so far studied several parishes to the west of the town. The object of the work is to locate, examine and record all sites of archaeological significance in the area and these are being recorded on overlay maps at a scale of 1 in 10,000 and at larger scales where applicable. Accompanying maps and notes give some indication of the work carried out in the parishes of Luddington and Bishop-ton, both included in the Manor and Parish of Old Stratford until the nineteenth C.

In Luddinton aerial photographs have shown the presence of early settlement sites on the sandy gravels of No. 2 Terrace beside the Avon and field-walking has resulted in the recovery of large quantities of Romano-British Colour-coated ware and roof tegulae at one of these sites (SP/157504). Field-walking of all fields within the parish will continue as occasion permits. Two small nucleated settlements existed within the parish in the medieval period, Luddington on the gravels beside the Avon and Dodwell one mile to the north on the heavier soils of the Lower Lias clays. They lay beside a north-south trackway which has virtually disappeared today but which can still be traced as a deep hollow-way running down to the Avon opposite the former hamlet of Lower Milcote. A second trackway also ran down to the river in the west of the parish at a point where islands in the river may have facilitated the crossing. In the early eighteenth century the main east-west route ran between the two hamlets but an older route from Evesham to Warwick appears to have followed the northern boundary of the parish and only further work in the surrounding parishes will allow the reconstruction of the early road pattern in this area. Dodwell is now a deserted site, replaced by a single farm, but the original village site was located during field work and an estate plan offered valuable corroboratory evidence. The village was not recorded separately in the 14th C. Lay subsidy Returns but houses still stood beside a field called Dodwell Green in 1704 and stone foundations are still visible. Within the parish ridge and furrow has been recorded and inclosure of the open fields seems to have been effected by an early date. Indeed, tentative attempts at hedge-dating suggested that some of the enclosing hedgerows were in existence in the late 14th C. but studies of this nature will need to be carried out over a wider area. Several outlying farms have been added to the settlement pattern since the early 18th C. and the village of Luddington has expanded in recent years. Eight 17th C. buildings remain, including Manor Farm, and terraces in the orchard behind the latter may be the remains of early vineyards. The present church is of 19th C. construction but carved stone abounds in the gardens in the vicinity of the old site at the eastern end of the village.

The township of Bishop-ton lay to the north-west of Stratford, to the west of the Stratford - Birmingham road, with detailed perambulations describing its boundary in 1016 AD and 1857. In the 11th C. the Birmingham road appears to have been known as 'Done Feldene Stret' and the ancient Evesham - Warwick road from Miles Bush to Bishop-ton as 'Sa Sealtstret'. A site in the west of the township (SP/175573) has yielded large quantities of Romano-British ware in the past but the medieval village of Bishop-ton, again a deserted site now occupied by two farms, lay at the southern foot of Bishop-ton Hill. (SP/184571). Seventeen taxpayers were recorded in 1332 (no less than eight of them called 'John' - a change perhaps from the nine 'Williams' at Luddington).

D. HOOKE for the Extramural  
Department of Birmingham  
University.

# LUDDINGTON



Dodwell

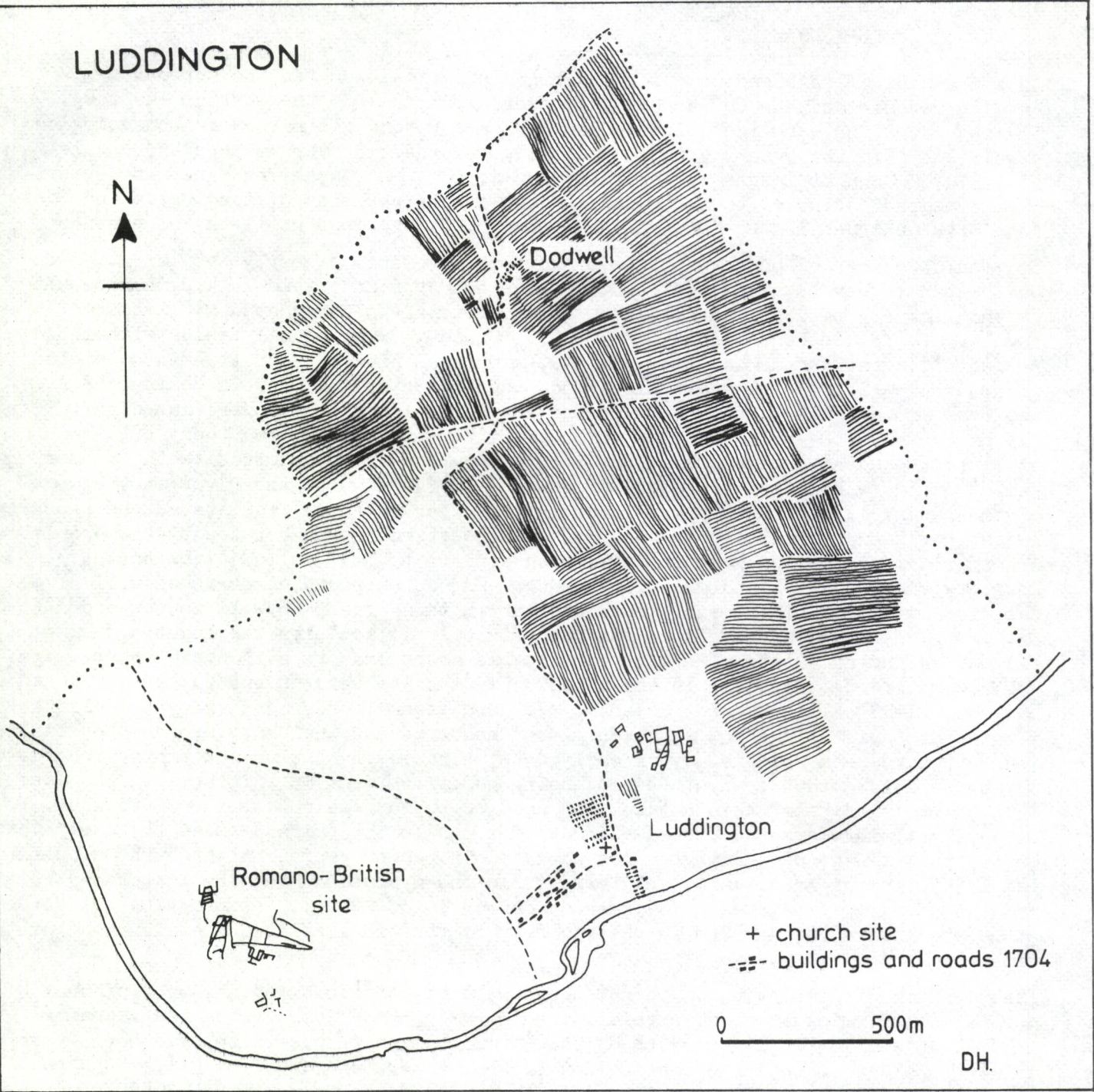
Luddington

Romano-British  
site

+ church site  
- - - buildings and roads 1704

0 500m

DH.



DODWELL



Town Furlong

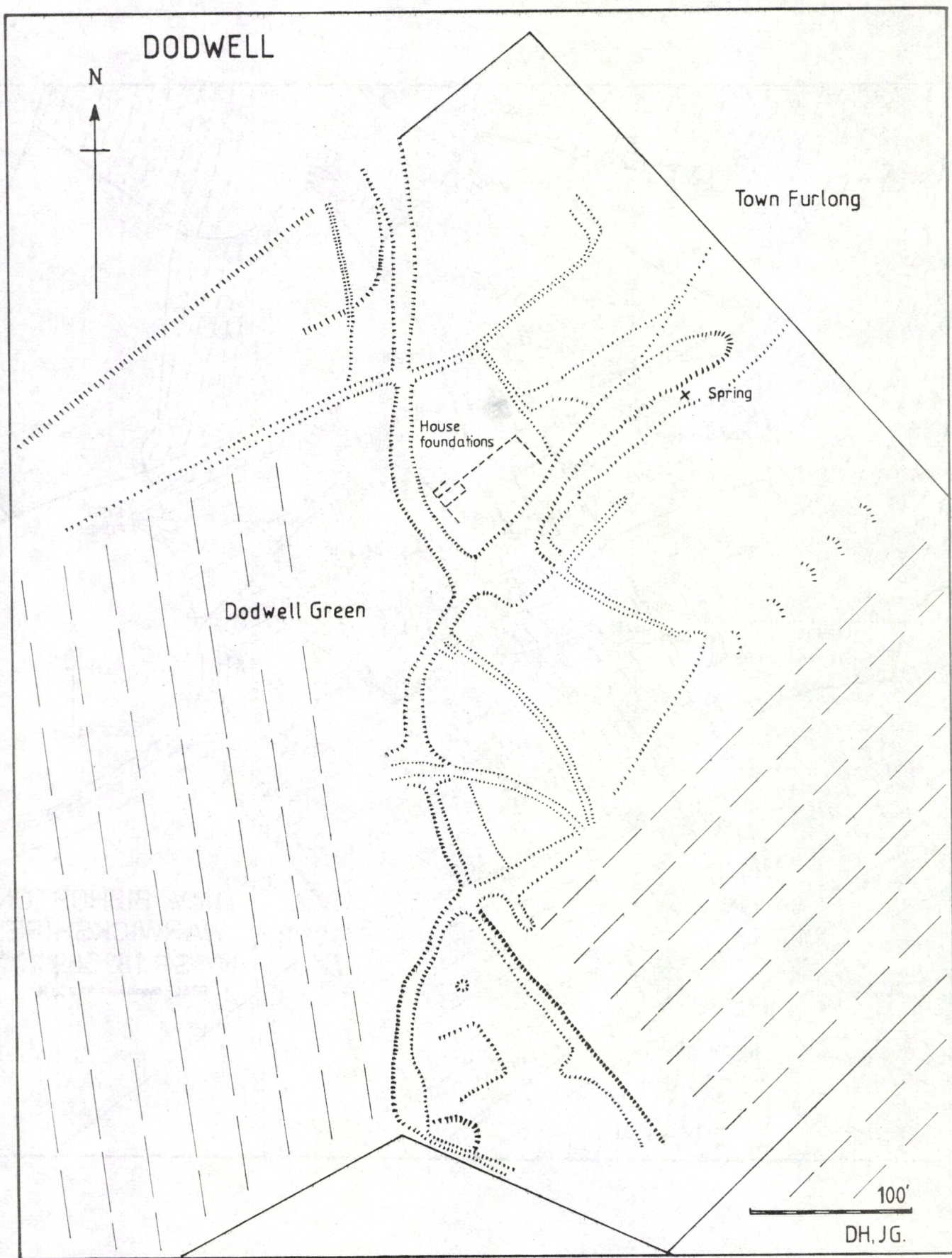
House foundations

Spring

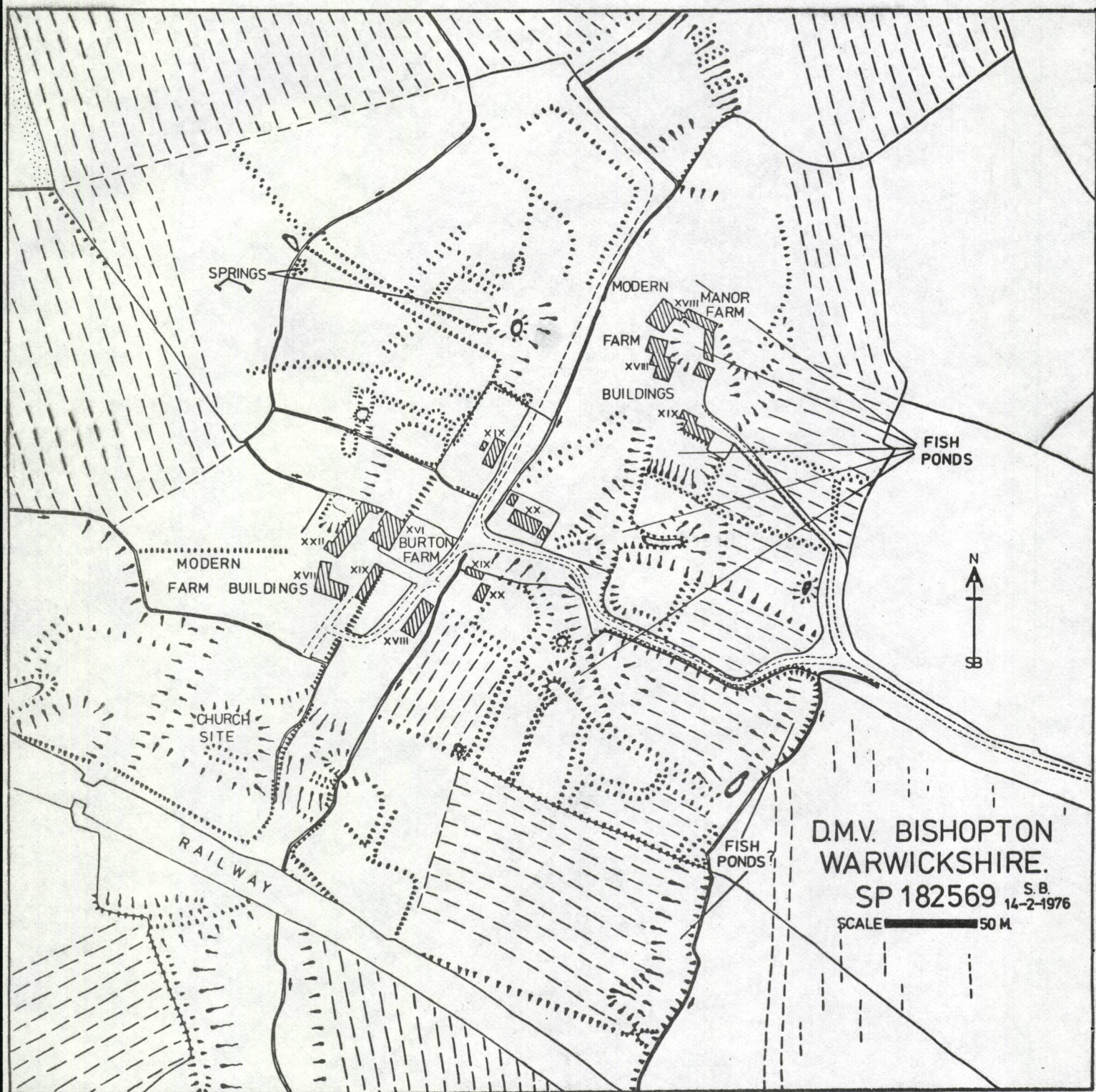
Dodwell Green

100'

DH, JG.







DM.V. BISHOPTON  
WARWICKSHIRE.  
SP 182569 S.B.  
14-2-1976  
SCALE 50 M.

Deserted Medieval Village, Bishopton (SP/182569)

A sketch plan of the DMV earthworks at Bishopton was undertaken in February 1976 as Burton Farm had new owners who had initiated a programme of modernisation. Since then the County Council have applied for planning permission to use a large area south of the present lane to Bishopton, then cutting across the field to the railway right through the centre of the church site. If permission is granted work on the site will be watched.

The original village nucleus seems to have been situated at the end of the present lane, but subsequently encroached onto the strips of the fields to the east. The area as a whole is now very wet with many springs and marshy areas and there are what could be a row of fish ponds running north to south between the original nucleus and the easterly expansion, beginning with a large pool which once lay to the north of Manor Farm and including the old farm yard itself which lies very low. There are also two long narrow depressions forming the east end of the earthworks on Burton Farm. These too are possibly dried up pools. Another area of large pond-like depression lies to the west of the church site.

The whole of the surveyed area is old pasture but a few fields were ploughed during the last war including Church Meadow; 'I only tried it once, broke so many plough shares on the walls.' The Church was demolished mid XIX.

Half a mile to the west (SP/175573) a good crop of R.B. sherds can be harvested annually.

STEPHEN BALL for Stratford Field  
Survey Group.

## PREHISTORIC

### Syerscote, Staffs (SK/227083)

An oval black patch 15 m by 8 m was observed by the landowner on a recently ploughed field near a small stream and the parish boundary. The landowner considered this to be due to charcoal burning but this was doubted. Consequently a small area 2 m square was excavated during the August drought. Below the ploughsoil was a layer of heat fragmented stones 15 cm thick which rested directly on the undisturbed clay subsoil. The interstices were filled with a black homogenous clay - probably wormcasts containing charcoal dust. The surface of the clay subsoil was not burnt and the heat fractured stones rested directly on the subsoil but were not pressed into it. This would seem to be a typical pot-boiling mound, levelled by the plough. The baked condition of the clay soil discouraged the opening of a larger area (parch cracks were 2 cms wide and 33 cms deep !) There was no surface indication of the exact site of the hearth or of any wooden trough that may have been used as at Killean or Bally-vourney.

JIM GOULD

### Sharpstone Hill Sites A to E (SJ/496104-SJ/57107)

Work is in progress of the publication of a group of sites near Shrewsbury in the valley of the River Rea at Sharpstone Hill, covering a period from Neolithic to Post Medieval but they are particularly important as a group of prehistoric sites, excavated by E.W.Jenks (from 1965 to 1971) with contributions by P. Barker and R. Livens on site A. A brief summary of the periods covered is as follows:-

- a) Neolithic
  - i) a ditch, F21, site D, which contained sherds of Neolithic pottery including one rim sherd.
  - ii) Sherds of similar pottery from a linear ditch, S68 and from a pit F8 site B.
- b) Bronze Age
  - i) a cremation cemetery, site B
  - ii) two ring ditches, presumably round barrows, site A.
  - iii) a ring ditch, site C.
- c) Iron Age + RB -
  - i) a rectangular enclosure containing the remains of circular houses and other domestic structures and ditches with 70 sherds of VCP + RB pottery.
  - ii) a circular ditch presumably iron age, site B.
  - iii) a rectangular enclosure with a circular house and timber slots or ditches for a rectangular house
  - iv) an area of cobbling, Site D.
- d) Medieval + Post Medieval
  - i) medieval house plans and ovens, mainly post medieval, Site D, Sutton Farm.

It is intended to publish these sites within the framework of a study of the known distribution of sites in the immediate locality. This will be in conjunction with work in progress by Ian Burrow, Field Officer for Shropshire using the Sites and Monuments record for Shropshire which is being compiled at Shire Hall, Shrewsbury. The report will appear as a WEMRAC monograph under the authorship of E.W. Jenks, P. Barker, R. Livens and R. Halden.

R HALDEN for WEMRAC

### Stretton-on-Fosse Site 7 (SP/221381)

Observations and rescue excavations continued throughout the year in conjunction with sand quarrying operations. As reported last year, quarrying is haphazard due to faulting, making continuity in observation difficult. One possible prehistoric feature was found at a depth of 1.60m in the marl overburden. The feature consisted of a saucer shaped depression 4 m wide, lined with packed light brown clay and small stones, two-thirds of which had signs of burning and a scatter of carbon.

The very limited area that it was possible to excavate produced two flint flakes and a thumb scraper. (See also Roman Section).

PETER J. GARDNER for WEMRAC

1. Colstey Bank, Clun, Salop (SO/3047 8410)

Sites and Monuments Record SA 177

A small (c. 1 acre) enclosure was located in woodland by C. R. Usson. The site lies on a saddle with land falling away to the N., S., and E. but rising quickly again to the east to the higher ground on which the hillfort of Bury Ditches stands.

The degraded defences consist of a scarp up to 2 m high fronted by a ditch on the west side. On the S. the defences have been destroyed by a forestry road. A proposal by the Forestry Commission to use this previously unknown site as a picnic area has been modified to take account of the archaeological interest. A survey is to be made by the Forestry Commission.

IAN BURROW for WEMRAC

Beckford, Hereford and Worcester (SO/984364)

Rescue excavations in advance of gravel quarrying continued on the extensive pre-historic and Roman settlement. A combination of area excavation and salvage recording was again used to examine this year's gravel concession; an area of approximately 0.9ha.

The focus of the 1976 excavation was moved from the northern Iron Age enclosure, sampled in previous seasons, to the central strip of the area under threat, where the aerial photographs, combined with the information from last year's salvage recording, suggested an exceptionally dense concentration of features. The excavated area lies within a large ditched Iron Age enclosure inside which several distinct groups of features were identified. In the central area a roundhouse of approximately 7m in diameter, and probably of stake wall construction, was excavated. A second penannular ditch enclosing an area about 12m. in diameter produced an unusually large quantity of stamped pottery.

The northern half of the same enclosure was occupied almost entirely by pits, of which over 120 were recorded. Another pit group, concentrated in the south east of the excavated area, produced environmental material at present under study at Birmingham University.

Further evidence of bronze working at Beckford, in the form of crucible fragments and slag, came from the interior surface of the larger of the two circular features. Two more concentrations of slag, charcoal and bronze fragments were found in a stretch of the outer enclosure ditch and in association with an area paved with oolitic limestone. On the surface of the latter a 'currency bar', similar in character to the previous group from Beckford, was found.

The settlement plan described above was interrupted, probably in the late Iron Age, by a ditched enclosure on a new alignment, which has produced very large quantities of a limestone tempered pottery not previously encountered at Beckford, in association with two small ovens. Two further major ditch systems, representing a radical reorganisation of land use in the Roman period, have been identified as field boundaries.

In addition to the area excavation, salvage recording continued on the remainder of the site. The rest of the northern enclosure, containing a small group of pits, was recorded during this work. The pattern of scattered inhumations within the area of Iron Age settlement continued; three burials were recorded in the fill of the enclosure ditch, and one in the top of a pit. To the south of the main concentration of Iron Age features further large boundary ditches of the Roman period were recorded.

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

Wroxeter, Viroconium Cornoviorum, Baths Basilica (SJ3565 085)

Work on the four areas of the baths basilica excavated in 1976 was contracted compared with 1975 due to the effects of inflation. Nevertheless, there was a good deal of progress in the understanding of the latest periods. On the site of the basilica itself the sequence of events is becoming clearer. Inevitably the number of recognizable episodes and structural sequences is increasing as more of the rubble raft of the last period is dissected. In at least one place there seems to have been a gap in the occupation, since a turf-line had developed on the surface of the latest of the sequence of basilica floors before the construction of the rubble raft. Nearby, a thick layer of sand had been laid for the foundations of two successive structures, one of post-holes packed with stones, the other a sub-rectangular building of smaller post- and stake-holes. These buildings were firmly stratified between the basilica floors and the rubble raft of the latest major timber-framed buildings.

The rubble foundations lying along the party wall between the basilica and the baths were also dissected and likewise revealed a prolonged and complicated series of buildings leaning-to against the wall.

N. of the E.W. street dividing insula 5 from insula 2, the massive facades of the post-hole buildings of the last phase were here shown to have been rebuilt at least three times which must considerably extend the time-scale of the last great redevelopment, reported previously. By how much this period should be extended is not certain, but in view of the very large timbers employed, a century would be a conservative estimate, especially as there was no sign of fire or other catastrophe.

This series of reconstructions together with the increasing complexity of the evidence from the central basilican area suggest that the date of the final abandonment of this part of the city must be put well into the 5th C., since it is becoming increasingly difficult to fit all these phases into the conventional strait-jacket which would place the date around 400.

The excavation of the complicated sequence of hearths lying on the south side of the street was completed and the latest lean-to buildings with pebble floors occupying the site of the portico were revealed.

Within the baths precinct beyond the E. end of the basilica the post-pits and construction platforms of buildings XXIII and XXIV were examined and some of the extensive pebble surfaces in this area were removed revealing a thick layer of bedding material, which had apparently been laid as a wet slurry.

A trench for a piped water supply was partially emptied revealing seven Iron collars approximately 1.5m apart. The pipe rose in both directions, showing that the water must have flowed under pressure, and there was thus no indication of the direction of flow. It is probably an inlet from the aqueduct to the baths or to one of the large houses to the south.

Outside the precinct wall to the E. the foundations of the series of wattle and daub buildings, I - IV, lying parallel to the N-S street, were further examined. Between them and the precinct wall lay two parallel systems of pits or tanks connected by channels. A large iron-riveted lead plate in one of the pits suggests that it had held a lead tank which had been repaired. The hearths or furnaces in the wattle buildings, the hard-standing in building I and this system of tanks suggest industrial processes such as dyeing, fulling, retting or tanning which leave no visible debris. Soil analysis may provide an answer to this problem.

PHILIP BARKER

Wroxeter Market Hall

The heat and dryness this year added to the physical difficulties of the excavation and at times it had an almost Near Eastern appearance, with the thick carpet of dusty sand and the parched fields around. In spite of this good progress was made

but whereas at the end of 1975 we felt we understood the main military structures associated with the defences, another season's work has inevitably revealed complications which only a much larger area excavation can clarify. The position as now seen can be summarised chronologically as follows:-

1. There is now evidence of pre-legionary phases in the presence of a) a ditch c. 5m wide and 1.3m deep, running E - W across the S range of the macellum and well below the later intervallum road. It has fragments of turf in the lower fill, indicating association with a rampart which appears to have been pushed in from S b) a small oven below the legionary rampart in the SW corner c) a dark layer 5m thick below the rampart on the W range d) small pits or post holes below the earliest rampart buildings in the NW corner.
2. It now seems that there is only a one period rampart. The position of its tail has now been found 7.6m E of the outer face of the W wall of the macellum. The rampart has thus been cut back 5m for the insertion of the rampart buildings, which would have created a vertical face of at least 5m and which presumably had some form of revetment, there may be three phases of these buildings, one in timber and two in stone, the latter with a timber partition. The post hole of a timber tower was also found, it had been sawn off almost 15 cms above the destruction level, connected to it was a horizontal cross member which had been removed leaving only its bedding and robbing trench. The position of this tower is valuable in helping to project the rampart profile, assuming that the tower was 10 Roman feet square and that its front was co-incident with that of the rampart top, i.e. at patrol track level. This projection gives a total width of c. 14m

The intervallum road has two periods and the thickness of the later one is 30 cms: its E edge is limited by the ends of the centurial blocks which are producing very complicated sequences of slots and pits, indicating the changes in the lives of these buildings. The few coins being recovered are not helpful, but there are fragments of good quality glass including a small piece of the rim of a millefiore bowl.

3. It is now possible to identify elements of what appears to be the early civil phases contemporary with the early baths below the forum on the other side of the street. It is evident that attempts were made to lay foundations of what may be the early civil phase immediately following the military withdrawal and demolition. They take the form of a) timber walls and b) trenches cut into the military levels, presumably for wall foundations which they never received, except in the one case of a NS wall the rest being back filled with clean sand.
4. The next phase is the Hadrianic scheme for the insula contemporary with the Forum dated by its inscription (RIB., 288) The SW corner had to be raised to allow for the floors to be level at the street front, this accounts for the depth of filling, over 2m in places. There was a large scale rebuilding at the beginning of the fourth century when the other public buildings had gone out of use. Our problem this year has been to attempt to distinguish these two periods in the surviving structures. In rebuilding the inner ambulatory with its herringbone floors, the earlier floors were completely removed, so it is not possible to determine their precise position except by their relationship with the stylobate walls, which would appear to have been raised by at least three courses of reused stones. It is difficult to understand why this removal of so much of the earlier layers was necessary, since it would seem that the level of the relaid floor was about the same as the earlier one, but proof is as yet lacking. To resolve this difficulty and also to understand the military buildings, it would be helpful to excavate the ambulatory but this cannot be done if it is decided to preserve the herringbone flooring, much of which is in a poor state.
5. The excavation area of the main street portico has been extended to the S and more rubble platforms identified, but the pottery and coins do not add to the evidence. It has been a season mainly of drawing and interpretation, labour resources were inadequate for further serious work. One important aspect is, however, now evident, the structures on the demolished portico preserve the original horizontal floor level while those on the street follow the slope to

# MILITARY AND EARLY CIVIL BUILDINGS AND FEATURES BELOW THE MACELLUM AT WROXETER

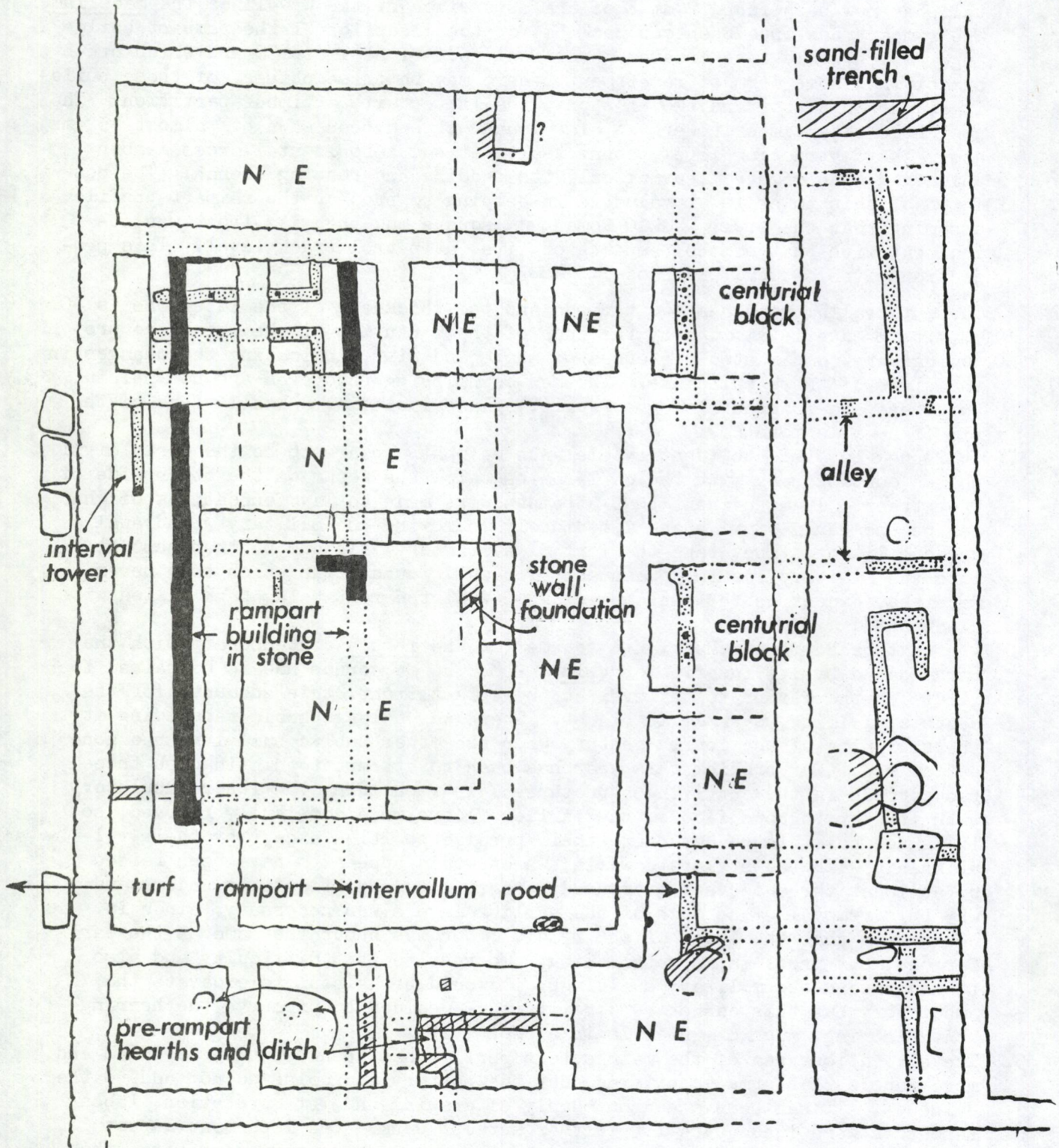
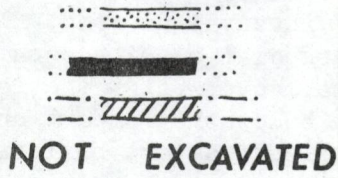
## NOTATION

MILITARY TIMBER STRUCTURES

DO STONE DO

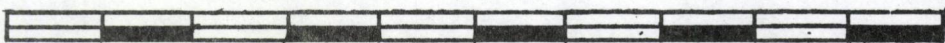
EARLY CIVIL DO

N E



SCALE IN METRES

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20



the S thus at the SW corner there is a difference of 35 cms, implying some kind of timber revettment.

GRAHAM WEBSTER

Wall (Letocetum), Staffs, (SK/098066)

Excavation of the so-called 'Villa' adjoining the Baths continued. An earlier phase of timber building than the one previously reported, and datable to the Neronian period, has been found to the NE of the 'Villa' and vestigial traces of its beamslots identified within the area of the latter. The sequence of events on the site now appears to be:-

1. Early ploughing, datable only by a few Neronian sherds.
2. Terracing and levelling of the sloping site with almost sterile red and yellow sand.
3. Construction of Phase I timber building on beam foundations in the Neronian period.
4. Destruction of Phase I building by fire.
5. Fairly thorough clearing of destruction debris, leaving only the lowest few cms of Phase I beam slots, and construction of Phase II timber building of a much more sophisticated kind, with deep foundation trenches with post-holes, and walls of wattle-and-daub faced with cream and red plaster, some rooms at least being highly decorated in a free floral style. This appears to date from the late Flavian period.
6. Dismantling of Phase II to make way for
7. Construction of the substantial stone Phase III 'Villa' in the early Hadrianic period.
8. Destruction of Phase III by fire in the late Antonine period, after which the site appears to be no longer occupied.

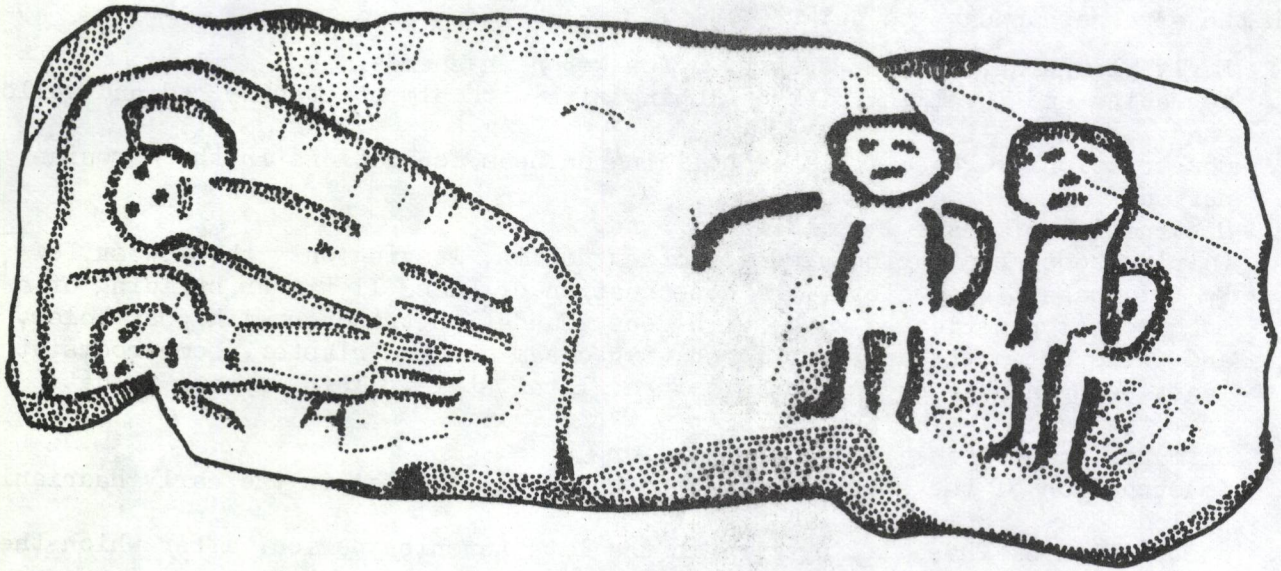
The 'pit' reported earlier under a wall of the 'Villa' was found to be an unusually large well, trapezoidal in plan, about 2.5 by 2m and 7.5m deep, filled almost completely with wall plaster and clay debris from Phase II.

Parallel to and 2.5m from the NE wall of the 'Villa' was a rectangular building of similar construction to and contemporaneous with Phase II, at least 30m long and about 5m wide, with cross walls at about 4m intervals. After the dismantling of this building, but while fragments of its plastered walls still stood a few cm high, four small furnaces were constructed in four of the rooms. Associated with these were nails and iron fragments, suggesting that they were used to recover ironwork from the Phase II building for re-use in the 'Villa', a suggestion confirmed by the almost complete absence of nails in the 'Villa' construction trenches. The NW end room had a concrete floor, and apparently a stone outer wall which appeared to have been robbed to construct the 'Villa'. The upper part of the robber trench contained much ash and domestic rubbish including Hadrianic pottery, lying as it did close to the side entrance of the 'Villa'.

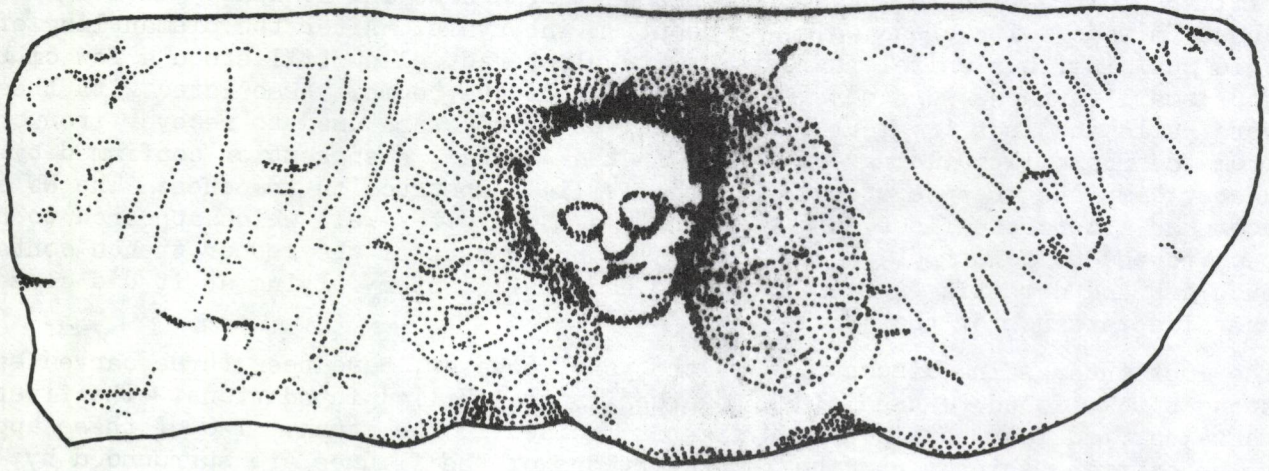
The most interesting discoveries of the year, however, have been three carved sandstone blocks found re-used close together in the 'Villa' foundations. The first of these carried four outline human figures incised in the stone. Two of these appear to be carrying shields and the lower portions of the figures are surrounded by a 'pecked' background suggesting water. The other two figures, possibly male and female, are at right angles to the first pair and are surrounded by a trapezoidal frame reminiscent of the plan of the large well already mentioned. The second stone has a hemispherical hollow in which is carved in relief a human head, while the third carried a head incised in outline with open deep-cut mouth, and two horns. All three stones were upside down, suggesting deliberate desecration. These stones, with their unmistakably Celtic-type carvings, together with another bearing two horned heads found close by in 1912, strongly suggest a Romano-Celtic temple in the vicinity. Excavation continues.

BERT ROUND for DOE and South  
Staffs. Arch.Soc.





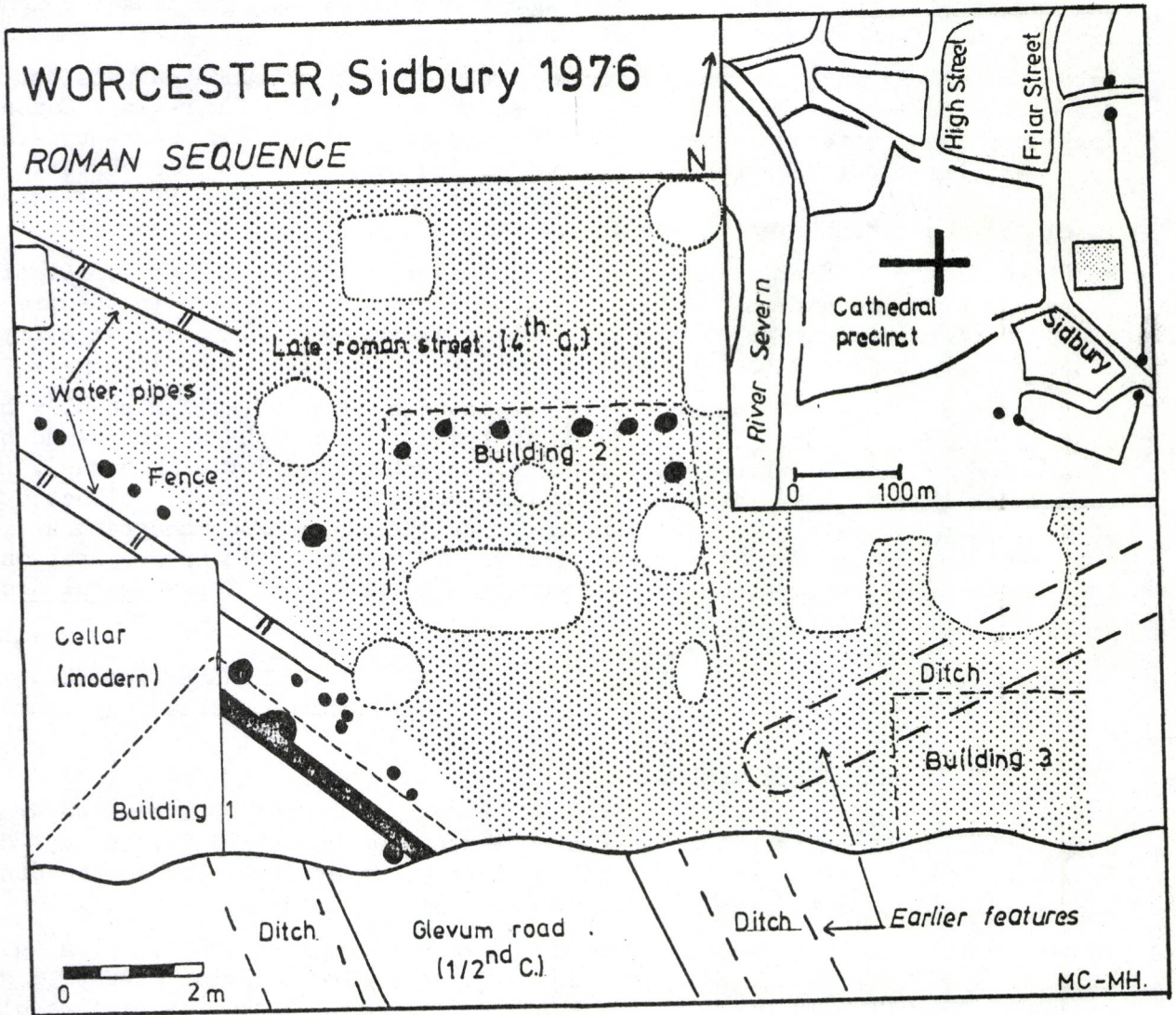
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# WORCESTER, Sidbury 1976

## ROMAN SEQUENCE



An area excavation was undertaken in 1976 at Sidbury E. of the Cathedral and within the medieval walls with a view to defining the Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlements. The earliest Roman levels (yet to be excavated) contain the frequently surfaced metalled road from Glevum (Gloucester) and at least one hearth, possibly industrial. The road became covered over with a fine compact sand on top of which was laid an uneven pebble and slag cobbling on a similar alignment to the Glevum road, but nearly 10m wide. Along its W. flank the few post-holes and timber slots that had survived subsequent cellaring indicated a street frontage parallel to the street boundary, which was marked with a stake fence. Between fence and frontage had run wooden water pipes, surviving as metal collar-joints buried at regular intervals in shallow trenches. On the pebble surface itself, unworn zones and shallow post-holes indicated ephemeral structures, about which were spread large quantities of butchered cattle bone. This scene, interpreted as the remains of a street market, was buried by 20-30 cms of green-stained loam containing pottery of the 4th C. and earlier, deposits later than this had been removed by levelling for redevelopment in the 16th century.

Evidence for the intermediate period was recovered from truncated pits cut through the pebble surfaces; the earliest of these to be identified were late Saxon in date contained pottery of Chester-type (Hereford variant), St. Neots type, Stamford-type, and limestone-tempered fabrics paralleled at Oxford and Gloucester. New groups of 12th C. pottery were recovered from pits and wells. Pits of 13th C. and later followed boundaries in use until 19th C.

A 16th C. redevelopment, identified from latrine, rubbish and industrial pits, stone culverts and a possible tile kiln, was destroyed by fire in the mid 17th C. Among the terminal pit groups were a Spanish lustre-ware plate and an early Midlands yellow chafing dish; development continued thereafter into 12th C.

Excavation of the early sequence will continue in 1977 and will hopefully be followed by others in Sidbury. It is also intended to undertake an above-and below-ground 'Definition' of the town after the Shrewsbury model (forthcoming). The results of this and of excavations unpublished to date are to be collected into a 'Worcester Excavations' volume intended for the CBA/WEMRAC monograph series. Notice of the group of post-medieval imports from Sidbury is in preparation for Post Medieval Archaeology and of the late Saxon pit groups for Medieval Archaeology, by Elaine Morris in both cases.

M.O.H. CARVER West Midlands  
Rescue Archaeology Committee

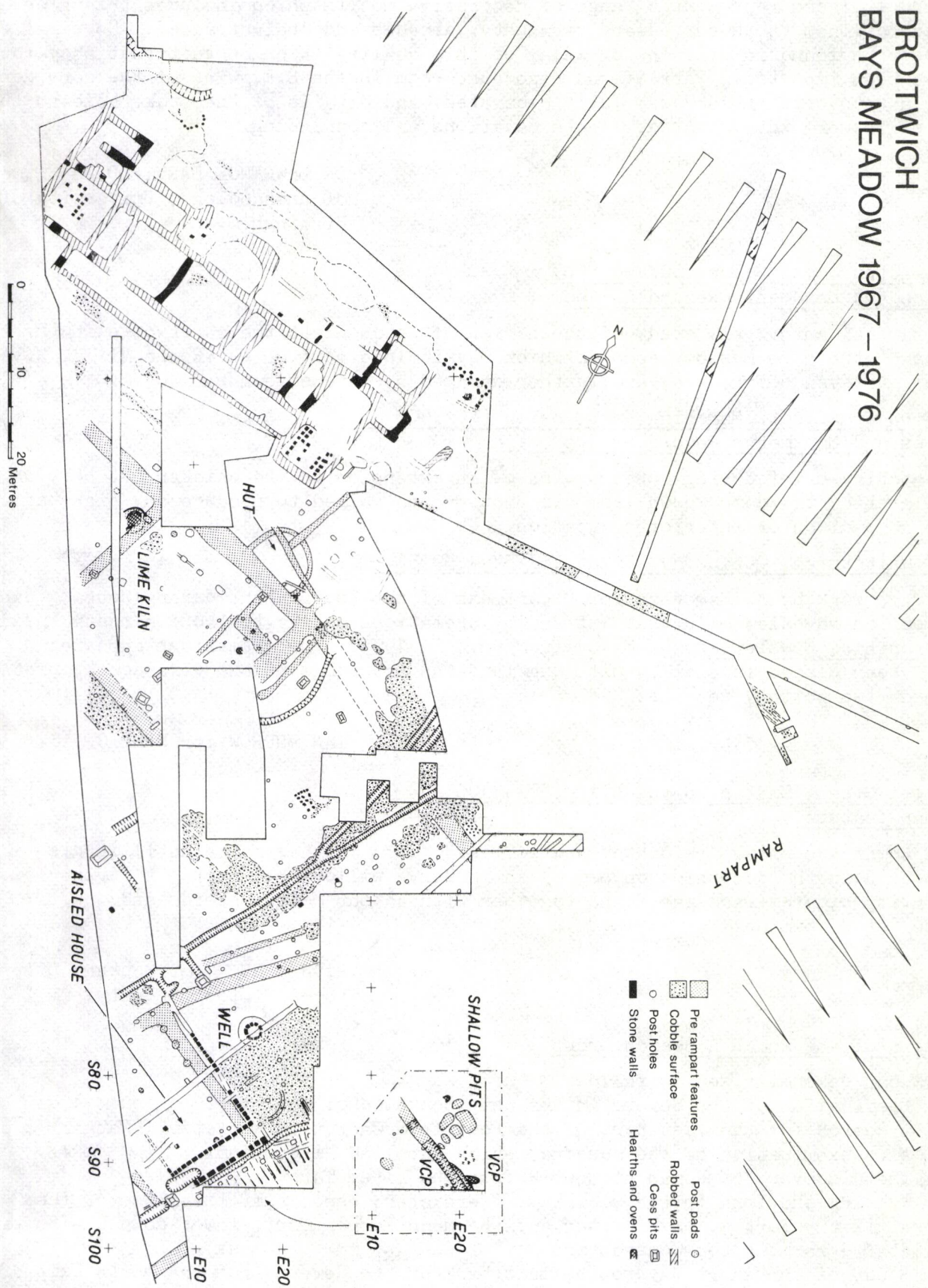
#### Excavation at Bays Meadow, Droitwich

The annual training excavation of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, Birmingham University, was again carried out in June 1976, in Bays Meadow, Droitwich. Work was concentrated on the E. rampart and the area in the centre of the settlement immediately S. of the main villa building.

The E. rampart sealed an earlier ground surface containing an oval oven and a scatter of VCP, or briquetage, identical to that found in Friar Street excavation in 1975. The VCP consisted for the most part of small fragments of fire clay, tempered with chaff and grain, which included a few pieces recognisable as being parts of rough conical vessels; the first evidence of brine evaporation on the Bays Meadow site. Confirmation of the use of the oven in connection with salt production was provided by a droplet of salt glaze from inside the oven. A series of shallow pits, lying immediately behind the rampart and excavated in 1975, appear to be related to this salt processing area and may have been used as pans for solar evaporation.

In the central area the presence of a circular hut, consisting of a drainage, or wall bedding, trench, but no other structural features, was confirmed. It measured 7m in diameter and the S. side had been destroyed by a later ditch, which had probably also removed evidence of an entrance. A number of post holes were identified and excavated which clarified to some extent the arrangement of timber buildings in the central area of the site.

# DROITWICH BAYS MEADOW 1967 - 1976



A further cesspit, one of a series lying to the E. of the main villa building and all containing late 3rd C. material, was excavated, it contained burnt debris from the 3rd C. destruction of the site, including a coin of Carausius. Among the other material from the infill of the cesspit was a collection of finely carved bone inlay, which had presumably been part of a box or a piece of furniture. The individual pieces represent a range of decorative motifs which includes triangles, hatched lines (both curved and straight), arcades and 'balustrades'. No parallels have been found in Britain for inlay of this quality which suggest that they could have been imported. Part of the hypocaust room in the S.E. wing of the corridor villa uncovered in 1967 was fully excavated, and details of the stoke hole to the E. of it were investigated. The excavations are continuing.

DR LAWRENCE BARFIELD Department  
of Archaeology, University of  
Birmingham.

1. Acton Scott, Salop (SO/458 898)  
Sites and Monuments Record SA 168

As part of an overall study of the parish of Acton Scott the earthworks in the area of the Farm Museum, some of which may include part of the Roman Villa, have been surveyed before they are further damaged by intensive use.

2. Upper Affcott Marching Camp, Salop (SO/4400 8637)  
Sites and Monuments Record SA 175

A watching brief during construction of an extension to the chicken hatchery in the area of the camp known from air photographs failed to produce any signs of the camp ditch or interior occupation.

3. Whitchurch, Queensway, Salop (SJ/5444 3995)

Salvage work by A. Rogerson for Department of the Environment during housing construction revealed 4 further 1st/2nd C. cremations adding to those already known (Shropshire Newsletter 44, 8-10) from work in 1973. The cremations appeared to have been placed in shallow pits dug into the natural sand and were accompanied by one or two pottery vessels.

IAN BURROW for WEMRAC

Chapel Green, Napton-on-the-Hill (SP/461603)  
Roman feature

The Roman trench was relocated and followed for a further metre until it disappeared in the confusion caused by an intrusive willow tree root. A further quantity of grey ware was found together with colour-coated sherds and one of late 1st C. Samian.

H. J. USHER for Southam District  
Local History Society.

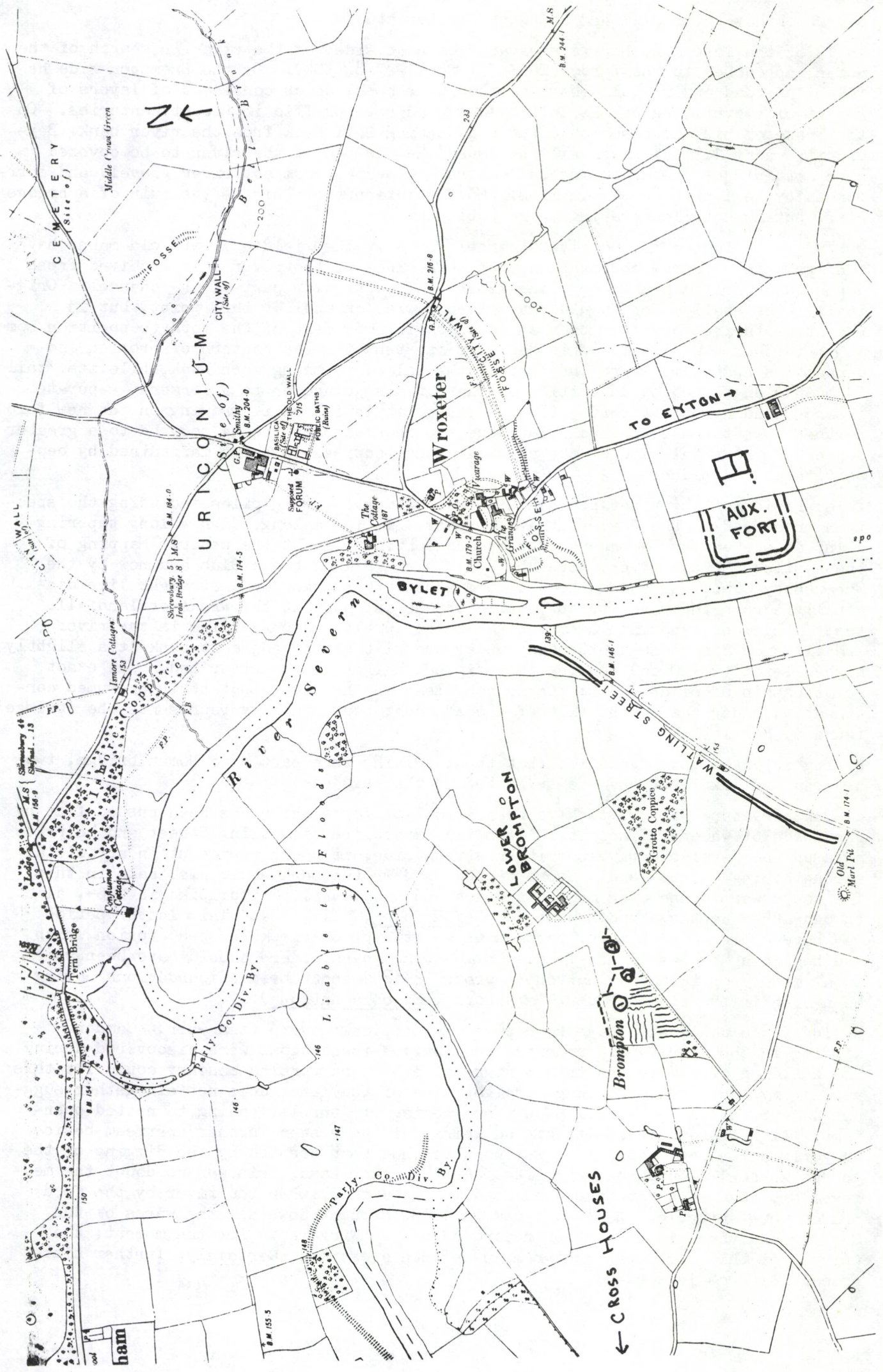
Report of the Roman Research Group

Work can be summarised as follows:-

1. Examination of the Severn in the neighbourhood of Wroxeter.
2. A search for the last part of the road from Caersw to Wroxeter. (Margary's 64)
3. A re-examination of the aqueduct which supplied Viroconium.
4. The discovery of Roman stonework from the river Tern.
5. Walking the land in the vicinity of Wroxeter, especially the sites of the Auxiliary fort E. of Wroxeter and the much larger fort, lower down the Severn, at Eye Farm, Eaton Constantine.
6. Study of the short way to the left bank of the Severn from the south exit of the Auxiliary fort.
7. Examination of the beds of Bunter red sandstone at Eyton-on-Severn.

1. The River Severn at Wroxeter

The low water levels of 1975-6 have allowed observations to be made of the river



bed which have clarified and added to earlier studies.

In 1926, the late J.A. Morris excavated on both sides of the river in search of the Roman approaches to the ford. (TSAS, II for 1927-8, 304). On the Brompton side he found the road ending well short of the river bank, which consisted of layers of recent silt overlying debris left by wharf and road traffic in recent centuries. On the Wroxeter side he also found the road ending well back from the river bank. Beyond it, under 1.5m of fresh silt he found the old bed of the river to be covered with a tumble of masonry lying on 'concrete' (perhaps compact river gravel) and surrounded by well preserved oak piles. Morris interpreted this as the ruin of a bridge pier, but no detailed drawings were published.

Our present studies of the river channel, both in the field and with old maps, have confirmed the general observation that BOTH sides of the river have received fresh deposits of silt since Roman times along this particular part of the channel. Originally, the shallow ford would have given a wide channel at this point, but in recent centuries there has been an accelerating movement of the ford to position some 100 m further downstream. This has been in step with the pattern of erosion and deposition upstream, where the head of the island is being worn back while its 'tail' is being lengthened by deposition so that it has joined on to a formerly separate island standing on the ford. (Today, a new little island is growing on the new ford further downstream). On each side, the two channels are being scoured to a greater depth but the total size of the channel cross-sections is being maintained by deposition at the sides.

This erosion of the river bed has liberated several wooden piles including the specimen preserved in the Foyle hut at Wroxeter. It is 5m long, with a long tapering point at one end and a squared 'head' and mortice hole at the other. Mapping of these piles in the river, first by R.A.F. Tern Hill Subaqua Club and now by the Shrewsbury Club, has shown them to form a network running in a straight line diagonally across the river to the 'tail' of the island. At the Wroxeter landfall, their alignment runs into a concentration of tumbled masonry lying in the river gravel which can be seen extending under the silt of the adjacent bank at a slightly higher level (20-50 cm) showing the original height of the river bed. The exact relationship of piles and blocks is not clear in the river, but their presumed continuation under the recent silt of the adjacent bank probably represents the 'bridge' found by Morris.

Having rejected the suggestion that these remains were part of a Roman bridge, two alternative explanations are suggested by the evidence:

a. The structure appears to have been a sort of fence which has been pushed flat by the force of water. Since it follows the exact line of Watling Street and helps to hold up the level of gravel on its upstream side, it could represent an artificial strengthening of the ford. Stone tipped in down the bank would also help in this. The route was in use over many centuries and was actually a turnpike in 1764, although subsequently abandoned in 1829 (VCH Salop, VIII, 16). This latter period may have promoted such work, perhaps in an attempt to check the bed erosion which was beginning to damage the ford. On the other hand, there should have been some local memory of this when Hartshorn wrote in 1841 about bridge foundations having been seen in the river. (C. H. Hartshorne, Salopia Antiqua)

b. The fence could also have been part of a typical Severn fish weir. Camden writing in 1586 (Britannia) reported that bridge foundations were discovered during the building of a weir and this mixture of piles and tumbled masonry could fit this very story. However, the long straight line of the fence does not altogether suggest a weir, since the normal plan was a series of funnels leading to netted openings. Also the expected site of the weir would have been further upstream beside the originally separate larger island which had been created by the digging of the 'barge gutter' around the weir site. On the other hand, this was no doubt the medieval site but need not have been used in the 16th C. when the river by the ford proved more suitable. A great flood in 1638 'brought down all the wares of the Severn' and there is no further record of one at Wroxeter. For the moment, the purpose of this structure must remain an open question. Certainly, further historical research is needed.

About 40m upstream of this site, divers working in 1964 reported a pattern of stone blocks which were interpreted as the foundations of a timber bridge. However, the low clear water of 1976 revealed only a few glacial boulders and odd blocks of masonry randomly distributed along this stretch of the river. In view of this history of research, the present team will continue plotting features as accurately as the river conditions will allow.

DAVID PANNETT for Shropshire  
Archaeology Society.

2. The Roman road from Caersws has been traced as far as Meole Brace village, but beyond that point its final course to the Severn opposite Wroxeter has never been proved! An obvious alignment would be to turn S.E. over Sharpstones ridge (SJ/495094) and thence via Betton Abbots to Cross Houses and Lower Brompton Farm. Eight years ago the writer examined an excavation in the stable yard of the Fox Inn, Cross Houses and at a depth of about three feet was a level cobbled surface which could be associated with the lost road. The first edition O.S. map, 1839, shows an irregular lane leading from Brompton in the general direction of Grotto coppice very near the Watling Street West (SJ/585078) as it approaches the right bank of the Severn. At this date Lower Brompton farmhouse was not built and this lane is not aiming in that direction. The field W. of the farmhouse is remarkable for its magnificent areas of ridge and furrow and it seemed possible to trace the course of a road between these patches of arable cultivation. The farmer at Lower Brompton kindly showed us where, parallel to a hedge going E. from the farm in the direction of Cross Houses, he had ploughed the surface of a rough road running under the hedge into the area of ridge and furrow. A trench was set out at this point and two others to the E. in gaps between the ridge and furrow. Each disclosed a roughly made road at about 70 cm depth. The width varied between 2.5m and 3 m. Shallow silted ditches, clay lined, were on each side and the road make up consisted of cobbles and quantities of Roman tile set on firm clay. The average thickness was about 60 cm. A quantity of kiln debris was found in the S. ditch of the easternmost trench but, in spite of extensive search, no pottery or kiln was found.

Mr. G. Toms excavated a pit in field (SJ/555071) which contained Roman pottery and he felt that there could be a Roman farmstead nearby. If this is so it could be that Roman material used in the road came from that source.

Here is evidence that the road was constructed in post-Roman times and moreover when the three sections were aligned it was clear that the road was not straight although lying on a flat surface. We felt that we had found the winding lane shown on the first edition O.S. map giving access to the areas of medieval cultivation associated with the township of Brompton in the parish of Berrington. It should be noted that Cross Houses and Brompton are now, in effect, joined.

4. It came to our notice that the Severn-Trent river Authority had deepened and in places straightened the river Tern which joins the Severn a mile and a half N. of Wroxeter. A great spread, chiefly of glacial debris, lay for nearly a mile on the left bank. Here the Group found several fragments of Roman carved and worked stone. This assemblage consisted of part of a cornice moulding about 0.75 m long, the lower part of a tombstone inscribed H(1C) s(itus) E (st), a 1st C. formula, many worked building stones, some with lewis holes, and part of a column drum tapered at one end. All were brought to Wroxeter by the D.O.E. The Severn-Trent River Authority has given permission for the Shrewsbury Sub-Aqua Club, in conjunction with the Group to examine the Tern from its junction with the Severn upstream for as far as we wish. Such massive stonework may have come from a Wroxeter cemetery perhaps along the Roman road to Chester which runs hard by, possibly to make a ford or to give a foundation to the railway bridge.

5. The 5 acre Auxiliary fort downstream from Wroxeter (SJ/53563077 Centre) and the much larger fort, close to the left bank of the Severn at Eye farm, Eaton Constantine (SJ/599052 centre) have been repeatedly examined. Each is sited on a glacial river slope and from each, the wide expanse of hill and mountain country far to the W., the homelands of the Ordovices, could be watched.

Surface finds are more prolific on the smaller fort. These included a concentration of heavy building material in the central part of the lower half which



seems unlikely for a fort of this period and may belong to a later structure. Certainly there seems no evidence that this concentrated spread was material dumped from Wroxeter as has been suggested. Two large voussoirs were found lying in the SE part of the fort. Small finds included a deep blue glass gaming counter, small scraps of curved white glass, larger fragments of common flat pale green grozed window glass, melon bead and an assemblage of decorated and plain samian of forms Dr.29,30,27. all of South Gaulish origin. The coarse pottery was of first C. date and included two apparent wasters. There was also a good deal of iron slag. In both forts bonding tiles with imprints of animal feet and one with sandal nails were found and these finds suggest that pottery and brick were produced at or near these military sites. On another tile fragment there is what may be a graffito. By the river are heaps of building material, pushed down by successive generations of farmers.

The aerial photographs show dark lines thought at times to be approach roads, annexes or other ancient features. But the farmer informs us that about 1895 an extensive drainage project was carried out. He asked us to take care not to injure these drains and, being familiar with the APs, suggested that we could be misled by these appearances.

The chronological relationship between the Legionary Fortress at Viroconium and these other two forts together with more ephemeral sites found by aerial study may never be clear and possibly others await discovery. The lowest level of the Legionary Fortress contained very little pottery. It is possible that the smaller forts <sup>were</sup> occupied during the absence of the XIVth from 60 to 66. This could account for the size of the Fort at Eye farm, about 30 acres.

This means of access between the three requires consideration. The river, conveniently stable in that tract of country comes to mind as does the straight road to Eyton-on-Severn, which may follow the course of an ancient route, for it passes close to and parallel with the N. side of the Auxiliary fort.

With permission of the landowner and tenant and at the request of the D.O.E., examination of the exit near to the river of the Auxiliary fort has lately started. The width of this exit is 8.5 m and the distance from the old river edge is about 18 m. There is much rutting and little trace remains of cobble and gravel dressing set on a layer of clay. A silt overlay about 7 to 9 cm thick filled the ruts and covered the surface. Black burnished ware was found in the deeper layers of the top soil.

6. At Eyton-on-Severn (SJ/570059) beds of light red Bunter sandstone 20 m or more thick extend for a half mile or so parallel to the left bank of the Severn. Prof. F.W. Shotton F.R.S. had kindly seen identical stone collected from Viroconium and has identified it. A wide deserted hollow way, shown on no map, goes from the Eyton road to the quarried face. It seems certain that the Roman builders took advantage of the proximity of these great beds when building the City.

1. H.E. Forrest TSAS, XLIX 1937-1938, p.90.

2. G. Toms Shropshire News letter, No. 45, March 1974.

A.W.J. HOUGHTON and DAVID PANNETT  
The Roman Research Group of the  
Shropshire Archaeological Society.

#### Glasshouse Wood, Kenilworth (SP311718)

A fragment of tegula stamped TC between broken edges was found on a fieldwalk in the vicinity of the RB building reported in News Sheet No. 14. The letters are identical to the TCM stamped tiles, of which it is almost certainly another example. TCM tiles have been found at Hucclecote, Nr. Gloucester; Ebrington, Nr. Chipping Campden; wasters at Cherry Orchard, Kenilworth and at Baginton, Coventry. This find perhaps supports the view that the tiles were made at Cherry Orchard, and, as suggested by Dr. Graham Webster, were transported by the river system (T. Birm. & War. Arch.Soc., 86 (1974), 54).

HARRY SUNLEY Kenilworth History  
and Archaeol. Soc.

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

Observations and rescue excavations continued throughout the year in conjunction with sand quarrying operations. As reported last year quarrying is haphazard due to faulting, making excavation continuity difficult. A number of RB features have been uncovered, these consist of field boundaries, pits and parts of various enclosures. Pottery sherds, animal bone, ironwork and a coin of CARAUSIUS (AD 287-93) have been found. (See also Prehistory.)

PETER J. GARDNER for WEMRAC

Manduessedum (SP/326967)

In the week beginning the 6th September, David Haddon-Reece, working on behalf of the D.O.E., made a magnetometer survey over about one-third of the field known as 'Broadclose' where excavations have been conducted for several seasons on the pottery-making site which probably stretches from Mancetter to Hartshill. The results of the Survey are not yet available but two previously unknown kilns were found and it is hoped that the lines of the services aqueduct and of various ditches will have been located. Applications has been made to the D.O.E. for funds to complete the excavation of known features in 1977.

KATHARINE F. HARTLEY

Manor Farmhouse Mancetter Warwickshire (SP/320966)

One complete amphora with sherds of another and a flagon were discovered by Dr. Kelham when digging a foundation hole for erecting a cast iron lamp post. An attempt was made to study the context of these finds by trenching around the lamp post, and the following features were revealed:-

- (1) Foundation slot for a timber building.
- (2) Part of rectangular 5'0" x 2'0" storage area for keeping amphorae upright.

Finds included a few sherds and two fragments of bronze, a bent pin and a 2"x1" sheet with a pair of rivets, suggested date, 1st. C.

June 1976.

Very little known of this Roman military site so permission from Dr. Kelham allowed a trench 14' x 16' in his front lawn.

Immediately beneath the top soil and not expected appeared a complex of occupation of 13-12-11th C. including:-

- (1) Row of 13th C. post holes.
- (2) Numerous post holes for 11-12th C. structures.
- (3) Three pits, deepest 8'0" x 5'0" diameter.
- (4) Corner of stoke pit to furnace?
- (5) Slag, numerous large heavy pieces.
- (6) Baked clay with timber impressions.
- (7) Daub, sandy, with wattle marks and paint.
- (8) Pottery, selection for the period.
- (9) Bones, fair group of animals from kitchen waste.

Saxon-Norman features in some places disturb the earlier R.B. levels which overall are sealed by a top soil, suggesting a break in occupation from end of R.B. period to perhaps 11th C. The latest R.B. levels are represented by a gravel pavement (probably 4th C.) sealing at least 4 phases of 1st C. military structures. Finds include 6 coins (2 silver, 4 bronze), pieces of lorica segmentata, military bronzes, bronze dolphin jug handle, glass face mask from a jug and a few R.B. sherds. To be continued next year.

K. SCOTT

Report on Excavations behind No. 1 Bleachfield St., Alcester August 14th to December 10th 1976

Excavations were carried out in advance of redevelopment in an area 11m x 17m. The topsoil was removed by machine after trial trenching to establish the depth of

stratified deposits below the modern ground surface. The build up of material in the post-medieval period was remarkable - the average depth being about 1 m. The medieval levels lay directly on top of the Roman ones with no significant accumulation between. The latest feature on the site was a clay floor c. 6 m x 3m aligned E-W along the long axis of the site. Associated with it were post holes and flat stone blocks which served as bases for more posts. Clearly these features represent a small rectangular building (building I) of a simple type - the gaps between the load-bearing posts filled in probably with light wattle and daub screens. On the S. side of the building close to the W. end was a small patch of irregular but well packed and worn sandstone rubble. This fairly certainly represents the entrance, either the stone was laid to keep the entrance dry or it could have served as the base for a timber porch. There was tentative evidence for two phases of construction, one perhaps consisting of a series of post holes and the other of post bases, but there were not sufficient of either to make a coherent structure and on balance it seems most unlikely that the original construction employed a mixed technique. The date of the building is, however, certain, 14th C. pottery was found within and beneath the floor.

At the E. end of its S. side the floor of the 14th C. building was laid against a short length of drystone wall. There were two such lengths of wall - the other was actually sealed by the north edge of the floor. They were both almost exactly 2.5 m long, and 2.4 m apart at their E. ends and 1.9 m apart at the W. The S. wall had three courses with a face to the N. and rubble packed behind, the N. wall had only one course (but its top was at the same level as the S. wall) with its 'face' to the S. Clearly the two belong together. Their purpose is not clear but they may well be associated with the hearth which lay between their W. ends and projected still further W. This hearth was elliptical in shape with maximum dimensions of 2 m x 1 m and it had apparently been used several times. In its earliest form it consisted of a hollow cut right through several floor levels of building V. This hollow was later filled with a mixture of stones and sand and more burning took place on top of this. A stone backing seems to have been provided since there was a clear limit to the extent of burning to the E. of the hearth. There was a suggestion of a short length of wall connecting the two E-W walls, along this line. The 'hearth' produced no ash, charcoal or slag of any kind, but the discolouration of the relevant surfaces and associated stones showed that burning must have been quite intensive. The precise date of this activity is not certain but since it closely predates building I it is therefore probably early 14th C. or late 13th C.

The medieval features marginally impinged on the latest of a series of late Roman structures. The evidence for this (building II) was a spread of closely packed but randomly pitched sandstone rubble with a very clearly defined N-E edge. This edge was clearly retained by a timber of some description. Since only the N. corner of the building was recovered it is difficult to attempt a definite reconstruction, but the suggested structure had its long axis aligned N-W - S.E. and perhaps facing into a street (see below). The N-E edge could have been held in place by a large sleeper beam resting on top of the associated ground surface and therefore leaving no trace but such a timber would render the rubble unnecessary to the structure. More likely is that the rubble supported joists on which a plank floor was laid. This floor could have supported in its turn a timber frame for the walls and roof, with gables presumed at N.W. and S.E. ends. A planked wall could then have been applied to the timber frame, the lowest level of planking over-lapping floor and joists and holding in place the rubble underneath.

A variety of pits was found to the N. of the late buildings. There were at least four distinct types:-

1. Roughly rectangular (c. 1 m x 1.3 m and 1.5 m deep). There were two such, which may have been cess pits.
2. Larger round pit c. 2.5 m in diameter and 1.3 m deep - again two of these were found - function unknown.
3. Regular rectangular pit 4m x 2 m, maximum depth c. 0.8 m
4. Much larger pit c. 4.5m across interpreted as a gravel pit.

There was a direct link between the type four pit and building II. The pit was

filled shortly before the construction of building II since a spread of limestone roofing material, directly under the sandstone platform of building II and apparently an integral part of the make up for the building, ran over the top of the pit fill before the latter settled and was subsequently levelled with lighter soil. It seems unlikely that the limestone would have been laid into the slumped top of the pit fill, although the time lag between pit filling and the settling of the fill cannot be exactly defined. Unfortunately there are no other direct associations between pits and buildings, but from their position and alignment the type one, two and three pits all probably belong with the late buildings though it is not possible to say with which exactly.

Immediately underneath the limestone spread of building II was a row of three large postholes on the same alignment, with two (possibly three) slighter postholes parallel to this line further S. which are presumed to belong to the same period. This is building III, but its form and limits are uncertain and there was no floor surface associated. Apparently though the structure had two phases (on the evidence of the packing in the post holes) and was quite substantial (posts at least 20 cm square) with a partition inside.

Beneath this in turn was building IV - the evidence for which was even less substantial. It appeared to have been set a little further to the S. than buildings II and III therefore even more was lost underneath the S. baulk of the site. Only one small 'corner' remained - a surface of crushed, decayed stone and mortar had been set around a horizontal timber, but this did not look large enough to support an external wall so the nature of this building remains a mystery. Beneath it were pebbled surfaces, apparently external, associated with the late phases of building V.

Building V is the earliest structure so far examined on the site. It extends right across the site on the same alignment as buildings II-IV, but not in the same position. It is not possible to say how large building V was since only a part of it is revealed by the present excavation. It was a fairly substantial stone structure with a timber partition dividing two distinct parts.

The earliest surface revealed is a clay floor which stretches right through the building from what is taken to be its rear wall on the N-W side. The building in this form was then divided. The S.E. wall known at present appears only to belong to this sub-division, so a major rebuilding seems to have taken place. The sub-division was in the form of a timber partition - the beam for which was laid between the N-W and S-E walls (neither wall extended significantly beyond - i.e. N. of - the point at which it was touched by the beam slot, there is no evidence for how the N. part of building V was walled). On the N-E side of the beam limestone and sandstone rubble was carefully laid on the clay floor and in places against the beam and around another beam at right angles to the first. A mixture of mortar and pebbles was then laid on top of the rubble, thus forming a very hard surface. There was slight evidence for timber being laid subsequently on top of the rubble in a N.E. - S.W. alignment (i.e. parallel to the second beam) close to the line of the N-W 'wall'. The edge of the building could not be located here as it ran underneath an air raid shelter. Part of the surface was later used as a hearth, with large quantities of slag associated, and it was then cut by the two type two pits and also by a much larger irregular cutting, at least 8 m across, which runs under the N. baulk and completely removed the N. end of the building, as well as any possible evidence for the relationship between V and the wall which runs across the extreme N-E corner of the site and which may have been part of building V. In the S-W corner of the site many surfaces accumulated over the clay floor, usually only surviving in a very worn condition in small patches; one of these produced a coin of Licinius (307-324). At a later stage a wall was inserted through these floor surfaces, in the extreme S.W. corner of the site. The date of the construction of building V is not yet known. It was still in use at the time when the coin of Licinius was dropped. The N.W. wall and the floor levels were cut through by pit 3. The function of this pit is not known but whatever activity was associated with it was carried out from its S.E. end - it was stepped down from this end and there were several tip lines distinguishable in the fill at this end. This suggests that the pit was probably contemporary with, and approached from the timber buildings slightly further to the S.E. The pit contained in its fill an almost

complete black burnished bowl, and a black burnished cooking pot roughly dateable to the mid to late fourth century. This latter vessel was in a position to suggest that it was primary fill in the pit, and thus it gives a 'terminus ante quem' for the demise of building V. Also in the fill of the pit was a small quantity of calcite-gritted ware for which a date in the second half of the 4th C. seems quite reasonable, although it could be later. Calcite-gritted pottery occurs in all the pits, but is not apparently stratified earlier. It therefore appears (if the association of the pits is correct) to be roughly contemporary with the late timber buildings, but neither can be closely dated.

The possible date range for the timber buildings is quite wide. If building V fell out of use c. AD 350, and the three subsequent building periods only lasted c. 10 years each then the end of occupation on the site is still well within the 4th C. At the other extreme, however, occupation could be stretched well into the 5th C. On balance the latter view seems unlikely. Only two coins (one of Gratian, one of Valentinian II, neither securely stratified) are later than the house of Constantine; of the pottery the calcite-gritted wares could possibly be dated to the early fifth century.

Excavations ended when current funds ran out. It is hoped that work ~~may~~ be resumed in March to examine the earlier levels. Other projected work on resumption would include the cutting of a section down the length of the site as close as possible to Bleachfield Street. It is hoped that this would produce evidence on the following points.

1. The position of the 'front' of the building represented by the wall on the north east corner of the site.
2. The position of Roman levels in relation to the modern ground surface.
3. The possible presence of a road.

The structures on this site and on the Lloyds Bank site (1975) were aligned in such a way as to suggest an element of planning. It is postulated that a road may have run between the two complexes. Such a road was located by Christine Mahany S. of the main E-W Roman road, and also N. of that road by Stephen Taylor at the Baromix Factory in Bleachfield Street, and it may therefore be located in the proposed trench. A strip of gravel at the extreme E. end of the site may possibly have represented something of the sort. If so it was a late surface, since it overlay a general spread of late material and was of one phase only. A sherd of medieval pottery in an ambiguous position makes its date uncertain, but the argument of alignment suggests a late Roman rather than a medieval context.

PAUL BOOTH

Lichfield, Staffs (SK/114097)

The Stone cathedra found in Lichfield Close in 1932 and published that year but subsequently lost, was rediscovered stored in a mason's yard. It has been returned to the Cathedral where it has been possible to make a detailed examination of it. It is now suggested that this may not be a stone chair belonging to a Saxon bishop but is more likely to be part of a 17th C. niche.

J. GOULD

Atcham Timber Halls

In last year's News Sheet, I wrote a memorandum on the significance of the discovery of large timber halls at Atcham, Salop., in an air-photograph taken by D. R. Wilson, published by Professor J. K. St. Joseph in Antiquity for December 1975. I invited readers to comment on the points made, and also circulated the memorandum to interested parties outside the West Midlands. Several people wrote to me, commenting on the notes.

At that time, it was expected that at least a trial excavation would take place during 1976 to determine the quality of the surviving evidence represented by the air photograph, and the extent to which the site was being damaged by ploughing. Concern over the last point was intensified when a visit to the site in the spring observed what seemed to be natural yellow subsoil being turned up by new ploughing. In the event, no excavation took place, as the DOE thought it might be possible to preserve the site under grass; negotiations to achieve this are still proceeding.

It seems useful nevertheless to summarise the comments received in this further note, especially as some of the points I made were rather uninformed.

Philip Barker reminds me that the hypothesis concerning the settlement sequence in this area should take into account Bury Walls and The Berth, both of which have in the past been put forward as Dark Age power centres in the post-Roman centuries; from a ditch near the latter came the well-known bronze cauldron; excavations here some years ago by Peter Gelling unearthed Roman pottery sandwiched between two Iron Age layers. The Berth has been tentatively identified with Pengwern the British stronghold mentioned in 'Cynddylan' because of the proximity to Baschurch the 'churches of Bassa' mentioned in that poem. Philip Barker and Jim Gould point out that if the Atcham buildings are in fact British rather than English, they might be 'Pengwern'. They can certainly be seen from the Wrekin, a point which the Cynddylan poem specifically makes.

Jim Gould questions the concept of Eata or any other missionary operating in the area in the 7th C. His recent research (which he will elaborate in a future publication) leads him to believe that the area was largely Christian before Chad's arrival, and had possibly been so since late Roman times.

Graham Webster thinks that the hypothesis takes too little account of a strong British authority in the area in the mid - 7th C; the timber halls at Atcham may, he suggests, be later in the 7th C. or even later, representing the English overlordship after the destruction of Pengwern.

Ian Burrow points out that Rowley (in his Shropshire Landscape, p.51) puts the Welsh - influenced English dialect boundary as running through the Atcham area. The areas to the NE are 'pure' English, while those to the SW contain Welsh-influenced speech forms. Could one restrict the Wreocensaetan (assuming they were English) to the immediate environs of the Wrekin, with Welsh political units to the west? Both Atcham and the Berth lie close to this linguistic boundary.

Chris Dyer contributes the following note: 'In Domesday Book, Atcham, together with Uckington 2 miles to the E., appears as part of the estate of St. Alkmund's church (VCH, I, p.314). This Shrewsbury church was a royal collegiate church, founded, according to a twelfth-century tradition, by Aethelfleda, 'queen' of Mercia (VCH, II, p.71). These early collegiate churches are common in Shropshire and Staffordshire, and represent a type of Anglo-Saxon church organisation with groups of secular clerks, perhaps surviving in this area because it was not affected by the 10th C. reformation. The Aethelfleda tradition is not essential to an assumption that the endowment of a royal collegiate church could have come from a royal estate.

The odd thing about the site, if it is a royal residence, is that one would expect it to be in the middle of the parish, or near the church and not out on the parish boundary. Domesday shows that Attingham was rather a small manor, and there were separate manors of Berwick and Longner. The site presumably lay in the manor of Berwick. In 1086 Berwick belonged to Earl Roger, the dominant lay magnate in Shropshire, and Longner to the Bishop of Chester. It is possible that originally there was a much larger estate in this area, which was fragmented in the late Saxon period. Berwick means berewick, normally a subsidiary fragment of an estate, which presumably was originally attached to Atcham, and not held by a different landowner. It is possible that Upton Magna was named in relation to Atcham (like some other Uptons) and was originally attached to it. It is also possible the Uckington (in Wroxeter parish), as it also belonged to St. Almund's in DB, was also part of the same large estate. The attraction of the idea lies in putting the site in the middle of a large land unit.' With regard to Upton Magna, I think a case can be made out for its church (dedicated oddly to St. Lucy or Lucia a Roman saint associated with eight miracles) being of Saxon date. There are no decisively Saxon features, and as far as I know it does not figure in any list of Saxon churches of the West Midlands. But the fabric is largely of re-used large Roman blocks, some with visible lewis-holes; the appearance of ashlar is very like that of Atcham and Wroxeter. Closer examination might support a pre-Conquest origin.

The most fundamental comments on my memorandum come from Margaret Gelling, and it may be advisable to let her have the last word on the subject for the time being!

'Attingham and Atcham are alternative forms of the same place-name. The form Atcham has been influenced by the phenomenon known as palatalisation which sometimes caused - ing to become - inch or - indge. This is seen also in the local form Brummegem for Birmingham and in the spelling - though not the pronunciation - of Altrincham Cheshire. The forms Attingham and Birmingham may have been restored because literate people saw the - ing spellings in medieval records and felt that the written form was more 'correct' than the colloquial one. A similar occurrence in Shropshire of longer and shorter forms of the same place-name may be seen in the pair Diddlebury (the village) and Delbury Hall (at Diddlebury), though here the colloquial form is attached to the hall and the longer one has been restored for the village.

Atcham is either 'the Village of Eata's people' or (just possibly) 'land in a river-bend belonging to Eata's people'. Eata is/well-recorded personal name borne by (among others) a witness to a Worcestershire charter of A.D.770 and a witness to a Warwickshire charter of A.D. 757. (These two, and other signatories to charters of the second half of the 8th C., may be the same man). There is no reason why any of the recorded people called Eata should be directly connected with the place-name Attingham, and the personal name is not sufficiently unusual to justify the supposition that it refers to the bishop known from Bede. It is at least as likely that the dedication of the church to Bishop Eata arose from the place-name, as that the bishop or his disciples had any real connections with the place. Nobody looks for a saint Beorma to explain the name Birmingham, and most of the many names of this class must refer to people who do not appear in historical narratives. Bishop Eata is not the only person known to have borne that name in Anglo-Saxon times.

As regards the field in which the timber buildings lie, the Tithe Award maps (names from which are being systematically put on copies of the 6" maps by Mr. G. Foxall to provide an invaluable tool for place-name students and historians in Shropshire) make it clear that the nearest farm was called Frog Hall, now altered to Frogmore. Frog Hall is usually regarded as a derogatory name for a wet and unimpressive place. It is tantalising to note that back in 1924 (EPNS I, Part 1, p.149) O.G.S. Crawford suggested that Frog's Hall might have some archaeological significance. It has turned out to be such a widespread minor name, however, that it is doubtful whether it can be considered to contain a specific reference to a deserted ancient site.'

1. The name Adam's Field is not in fact that of the field in which the halls lie, (as in my memorandum), but is that on the E. side of the road. The field has in fact the same name as the farm (Froghall)(inf. I. Burrow).

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

## MEDIEVAL

### Berrington Street site 4 (SO/507398)

Previous excavations in 1972 and 1973 were concentrated on the more W. areas of the site where it was expected that the earlier levels would have been protected by the slip from the tails of the various ramparts. However the proposed extensions to St. Nicholas House gave an opportunity to examine a street frontage, the first in Hereford. Although continuous occupation of the site had caused many disturbances, the earlier levels remained in sufficient quantity for a reasonable assessment to be made.

Period 1: Earliest levels - 9th C. and earlier. Within the area examined, traces of post holes and gullies were concentrated along the east side close to Berrington Street. Fragments of buildings at both N. and S. ends of the site suggest a consistent frontage occupation throughout this, apparently aceramic period.

Period 2: 10th to early 11th C. This period is characterised by many fragments of Chester ware but in the main, without any other types of pottery. Clay floors and hearths sealed the post holes and gullies of period 1 and suggested larger buildings.

Period 3: mid 11th to early 12th C. Chester ware continued in use but other fabrics were present including limestone tempered wares, Stamford ware and occasional fragments of non-local early glazed wares. Further clay floors and the remains of metal yards were sufficient to indicate the continued usage of the street frontage part of the site for buildings. The whole of the area during this period was covered in a thick layer of ash. It is noteworthy that only 4 pits were found that could be dated prior to the mid 12th C. over the whole site.

Period 4: 12th and 13th C. A rapid increase of black Malvernian cooking pots, tripod pitchers and a gradual introduction towards the end of the period of glazed vessels.

Occupation along the street frontage can only be postulated during this and the following period. Any remains of these two periods were removed during levelling operations in period 6 except for the lower parts of some 12 large pits in various parts of the site.

Period 5: 14th and 15th C. Traces were again slight and consisted of pits. Industrial use is postulated for the whole site, possibly as two different properties. The N. part of the area was used for the manufacture of cauldrons, but unfortunately the furnace was outside the area examined.

Period 6: 16th to 18th C. A small cellar cut out earlier levels along the street frontage for about half the excavated area and this was superseded in the early 17th C. by a stone built house fronting on Berrington Street. Two small stone lined pits produced an excellent collection of whole glass wine bottles, clay pipes, pottery and useful environmental evidence from the first decade of the 18th C.

Period 7: 19th and 20th C. Several deep drains, foundations and such like crossed the area at various angles and considerably increased the difficulty of relating the different parts of the site.

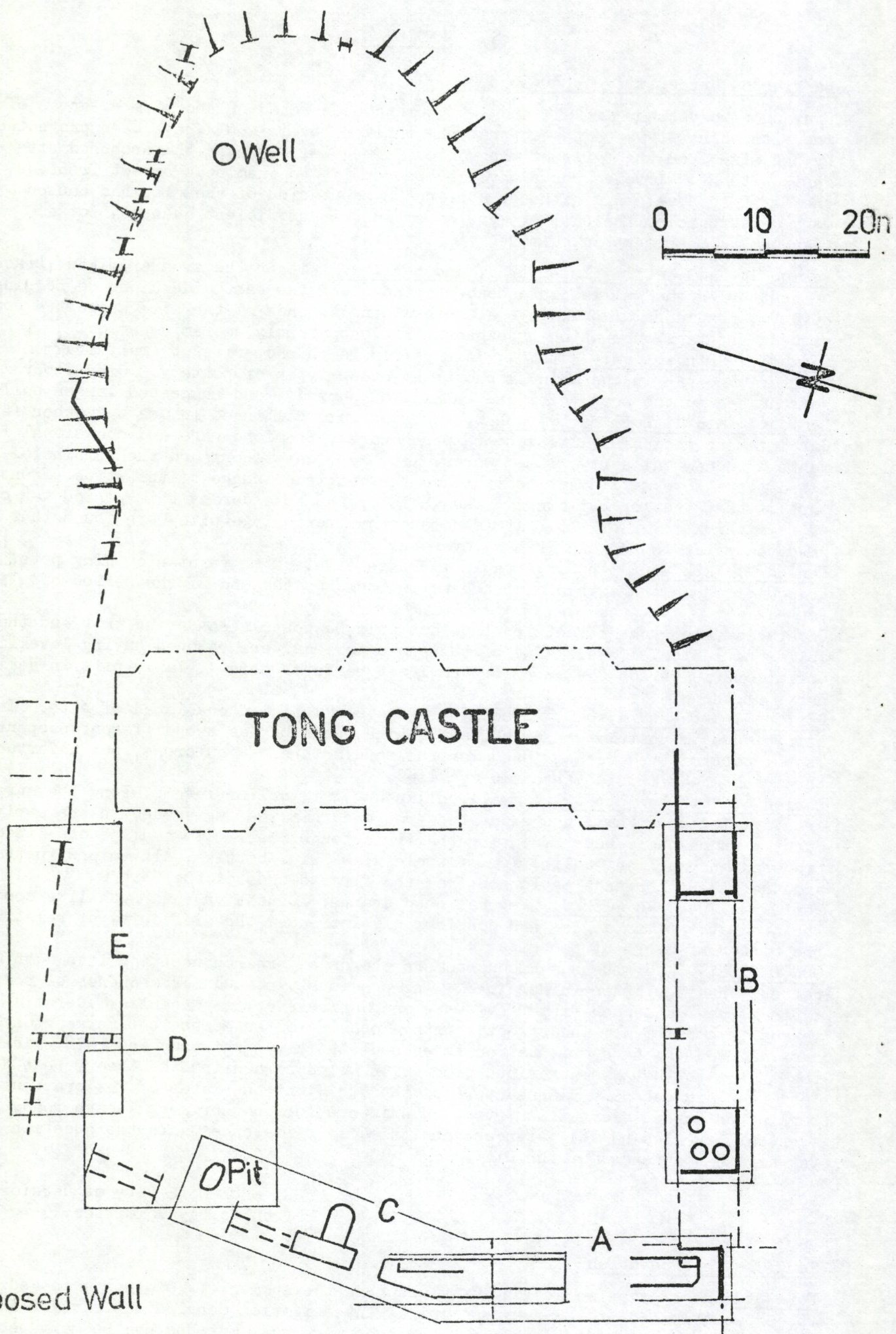
CONCLUSIONS. The site has produced more sherds of pre-conquest and late 11th C. pottery than any other in Hereford. The previously postulated sequence of pottery types is now based on firmer evidence and the presence of an earlier aceramic period is confirmed. The street frontage occupation suggests that Berrington Street has followed the same orientation throughout the city's history and this evidence, together with that from previous excavation helps to confirm the theory that Hereford was laid out as a planned town by the 9th C. at the latest. The previous Berrington Street excavations produced evidence for another north-south road, eventually sealed by the defences, and this may raise once again the question of the earliest defences of the City.

R. SHOESMITH City of Hereford  
Archaeology Committee.

### Tong Castle Excavation

Foreword The excavation at Tong Castle during the summer of 1976 has exceeded all the expectations of the Survey and initial Investigation carried out earlier in the year. The lack of official support has been more than matched by the many people





I Exposed Wall

who have given moral support and all are included in the circulation list. The success of the excavation has been due completely to the volunteer diggers, many of whom have never excavated before, and to them I say thank you. I am further very grateful to the Earl of Bradford for his permission to excavate the Castle remains and also to the Walker Trust, without whose help it would not have been possible to complete the season's excavation. In conclusion, the investigations at present being carried out at the rear of Durant ruins, suggest that the Castle site has even more to reveal in the coming months and if this is so, it will be a just reward for the many who have had faith in the project.

### Introduction

The site of the Tong Castle remains are to the W. of the village of Tong, near Shifnal in Shropshire and is on the route of the projected M54 Telford Motorway, which will cross the site through a cutting and so remove much of the Castle remains. The E. part of the site, where the main excavation work has been carried out, is on the line of the route whilst the W. area to the rear will be contained within an embankment.

A Survey and Preliminary Investigation on the site revealed the existence, below the ground, of buildings in front of the last Castle buildings on the site, demolished in 1954. Excavation on the site was started in May and continued, with volunteer labour, every weekend through till Oct. 1976.

This revealed periods of occupation from the last Castle building in the 19 C. to the earliest so far established in the 12 C. The earlier period has still to be fully excavated; the overall projected site now covers approximately 0.75 hectares.

Brief History of the Castle The owners of the Tong Castle site have always been the Lords and Ladies of the Manor of Tong. The introduction of different families by marriage on the female side has resulted in the different Castle buildings found during the excavation. The Earls of Mercia controlled Tong before the Norman Conquest, after which it was conferred on Roger of Montgomery who was succeeded by his sons until they rebelled and were defeated. King Henry I then bestowed it to Richard Belmies, Bishop of London who was succeeded by his nephews, the last of which, Phillip, being succeeded by his sons, Phillip and Ranulf. Alice, their sister, married Alan la Zouche who, in combination with the Belmies family, who held other properties in the area, controlled Tong Manor till the mid-13C. The succession eventually passed to Alan la Zouche whose sister married William de Harcourt. The daughters of William de Harcourt succeeded to the Title and Orabel de Harcourt married Henry de Pembrugge of Hereford, in the late 13C. The Pembrugge family held the Manor of Tong through to the 15C when Elixabeth de Pembrugge, Lady of Tong, married Sir Richard Vernon of Haddon in Derbyshire. The Vernons held Tong Manor until the late 16C, when the daughter of Sir George Vernon, Margaret, married Sir Thomas Stanley, son of the Earl of Derby. Sir Edward Stanley succeeded to all the Titles and sold Tong Manor to Sir Thomas Harris, who was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth. Elizabeth Harris married the Hon. William Pierepoint of Theeresby, Notts., who was succeeded by his grandsons, Robert, William and Gervase all successively the Earls of Kingston. The Manor remained under the Pierepoints until the early 18C when Evelyn, the last Earl of Kingston, sold Tong Manor to George Durant. George Durant built the last Castle or Mansion at Tong and was succeeded by his son George, who added to the Castle in the 19C. The Manor of Tong was sold to the Earl of Bradford in 1855 and the Castle was last lived in by the Hartley family before the 1914-18 War. The Castle fell into ruins and was finally demolished in July, 1954.

Excavation The only remaining stonework from the Durant Castle was the stable wall, which had been built of re-used sandstone against and in front of earlier sandstone walls. Excavation was started at the E. of the stable wall, Area 'A' on the plan, to try and locate the N.E. tower shown on the 1731 Engraving.

The area confirmed the foundation of the tower, the major part being demolished during the building of the stable wall, which was built on a red sandstone foundation for an earlier curtain wall. The foundations were built on the natural red sandstone bedrock which was cut on the E. side to form the side of a moat. It was only possible to excavate the section to a depth of 3.50 m owing to safety limitations.

The section in the moat confirmed the use of the moat during the Vernon/Kingston

period after which it was filled firstly, by demolition rubble from the Vernon / Kingston Castle, secondly, by construction rubble of the Durant Castle building and finally landscaping and track foundations for the Durant Castle. Brick built arches to contain the fill of the moat and also to span the area for landscaping were built across the moat.

The curtain wall foundations were traced in a line to the S. from the tower foundations and a further area to the S. was excavated and confirmed this. Pottery found in the foundations of the curtain wall of the 14/15C period place it being built during the Pembrugge period. A trench was cut at right angles to the curtain wall with a machine to try and determine the depth of the moat at this position. Whilst it was possible to measure its width, 13m, at a depth of 5m the machine could go no deeper and was still in the Vernon/Kingston rubble. A shallow ditch was found outside the main moat, to the east, and this was possibly a much earlier and simpler defensive moat.

The very hot and dry conditions forced excavation to be continued at the W. end of the stable wall, Area 'B', to establish the earlier periods of build behind the facing wall. The stable wall was partly demolished over a 7 m length and revealed the remains of a north-west tower from the 16C Vernon Castle. Civil War damage on the inside wall of the tower indicates that the tower was demolished during the Civil War. The tower was re-built by the Earl of Kingston and remained until it was demolished to build the Durant stable wall.

Below the tower foundations and in the natural bedrock, were beam slot cuttings suggesting an entirely different building during the Pembrugge period. The stable floor was excavated and further bedrock cuttings, over 1m in size and depth, point to the need for strengthening the earlier sandstone walls with timber. Further demolition and excavation will be necessary to confirm these latter points.

Machine work necessary to back-fill part of Area 'A' enabled more of the curtain wall foundations, and subsequently the gatehouse, to be exposed. A further exploratory trench cut into a 12/13C. occupation area. The curtain wall foundations were excavated and revealed a change in direction which started a length of white sandstone faced wall in front of the curtain wall. This was later established as the N. end of the gatehouse. The facing stonework continued until it was cut by a Durant surface water drain just before the gateway corner stone. The gateway, with a shallow ditch, was in the centre of the gatehouse which continued southwards to complete the front wall faced stonework.

Excavation in front of the gatehouse showed a trackway to the gatehouse with the moat sloping away on either side. This would have made the moat one of increasing depth till it met the streams on either side and it would also have been a dry moat. An area of earlier stonework foundation behind the S. side of the gatehouse was later established as part of an earlier gateway connected with an earlier curtain wall around the 13 C period.

A trench cut to try and locate the latter curtain wall revealed the top of a domestic rubbish pit. This was excavated and from well stratified layer produced 12C. pottery, bones and a metal spur. The location of the 12 C. domestic pit indicated the possibility of further occupation still being available and the loan of a machine enabled the whole of the S. courtyard to be scraped, Area 'D'. Apart from revealing evidence of timber structures around the domestic pit, further pit surfaces were also located and one large pit contained Civil War demolition material and re-deposited 12C. pottery. The pit showed signs of being cut into a coarse sand deposit and then the ground levelled afterwards in the 17C.

The area around the large pit however produced further 12C. pottery and to the W. of the pit stone bases used as timber supports were located. The wet weather precluded any further work on the sandy surface. Excavation on the moat at the front of this area exposed the shallow foundations of the red sandstone curtain described earlier. Further excavation work will be necessary in this area to ascertain the timber/timber and stone period of Castle build.

A further trench cut across the site from N. to S. revealed a doorway? in the inside wall at the top of the stable wall in Area 'B' and in Area 'E' three periods of walling were exposed. The highest wall foundation, adjacent to Area 'D',

was a similar foundation to the red sand stone curtain wall foundation and contained 12/13C pottery. To the south, a wall of white sandstone and brick, built on a layer of mortar and rubble, was established as the outer wall of the Vernon/Kingston south wing. A further wall lower down and of white sandstone ashlar construction suggested a building of the Pembrugge period. Further excavation to the E. and W. not only confirmed this but also established the line of the wall.

The establishment of this line of walling led to the investigation, by probing, to the rear of the Durant Castle ruins and this has subsequently led to a series of trial trenches revealing an early red sandstone wall of 2.50 m thick. Apart from following the contours of the 'platform' to the W., probing suggests that it contains possible occupational area and pottery found at the W. edge of the 13/14C period. A red sandstone lined well has been located inside the wall to the S. and as the plan indicates there is more than a possibility of a complete area of stonework that can be excavated and investigation will continue in this area during the winter.

ALAN WHARTON Medieval Research Group.

#### A Natural Springhead (SO/772852)

Ground Owner:- Mr. A. J. Pagett,  
Allumbridge Farm,  
Allumbridge, Alveley,  
Nr. Bridgnorth, Shrops.

During the summer drought of 1976, Mr. Pagett improved the surround of a natural spring, during which activity, his aide, Mr. R. Taft extracted an iron arrowhead (Probably medieval) from the base gravel. The spring is situated in a meadow of old pasture, and the area has probably seen use over a long period, as instanced by the Field's Ridge and Furrow and other delvings, as yet unidentified. An examination of the immediate Find Spot yielded identifiable Medieval Glazed Sherds and a collection of coarse ware of a possible similiar date. A Cut-Penny of Richard II (1377-99) in fair condition was also recovered, these finds joining that of part of a medieval Hand Quern discovered earlier in the year. An active watch is being maintained on the site, and thanks are due to the ground owner Mr. Pagett for his interest.

E.W.TIPLER and W.PALMER for  
Alveley and Romsley Historical  
Society.

#### Abandoned Church Site, Romsley, Nr. Bridgnorth, Shropshire (SO/786829)

Ground Owner:- Mr. W. Rodenhurst,  
The Low Farm, Romsley, Nr. Bridgnorth.

Due to agricultural considerations- the ground being in active use, further investigations of this site in 1976 was limited to aerial survey, and an inspection of neighbouring farms in search of material converted to Farm use. The aerial project met with success. The unique drought conditions and a young grass ley probably contributed to providing a fair foundation outline, and suspected large moated site a few hundred yards distant (now partially ploughed out) was very clearly defined. Two adjoining farms produced worked stone material, a part wall corner base in two parts from Cross Farm Cottage, (Mr. G. Norgrove) and four carved works in Wall Stones at Low Farm (Mr. W. Rodenhurst), one presumably that of a lion, another of a centaur. Mr. Rodenhurst kindly produced a possible pillar head, which although not complete, bears well cut carving depicting a bird, probably a dove based by complicated tracery.

It is hoped to investigate further these sites during the coming season. I must thank the Ground Owner Mr. Rodenhurst for his continued interest, Mr. W. Palmer for his active participation and other Landowners in the area for the kindness of their reception.

E.W.TIPLER

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

Work has continued on this 13th C. Cistercian abbey in the presbytery and S. transept. The burials discovered in the presbytery included a skeleton wrapped in a thick layer of vegetable matter within a wooden coffin. The S. transept has been excavated and the walls, altars and night stairs restored. Excavation has recently revealed a burial to the W. of the night stairs.

S.J. GREAVES

Bordesley Abbey Excavations

1976 saw the publication of the B.A.R. monograph on the excavations of 1969-73, which is now available at £5.90; and a popular illustrated guide which has enjoyed an excellent sale. Copies can be obtained from the School of History, University of Birmingham at 70p. each. Apart from their academic value, the publications have been very useful in teaching to show students the way in which the excavation data are processed and brought to publication.

Further work in the Presbytery showed that in the 12th C. it had been subdivided by a screen; there was an altar to the east of this, and possibly another to the W. There were two piscinae in this area. Two successive lias floors could be identified, the second of which survived to carry a tiled floor in the thirteenth C.

The Choir area proved to be very complex. Below the 14th C tile floor bedding removed in 1975 were the remains of an earlier (13th C.?) tiled floor, but this had been extensively disturbed by a series of features, some of which were graves. One consisted of a group of very large stones arranged in a rough, coffin shape; in this was a well-preserved adult skeleton and some fragments of an incised decorated coffin lid of oolite, probably of 13th C. date. Other features included the robbed-out foundations of the 12th C. choir stalls, extending across the transept entrances, and massive construction trenches for the 14th C. SW and NW piers of the crossing.

In the east exterior, beyond the Presbytery, attempts to find a return for the 'timber church wall footing were unsuccessful; the end of the wall found in 1975 was defined but no further evidence was recovered. Excavation outside the N. Presbytery wall established the whole plan of the 12th C. E. end, and that of its remodelling in the 13th C. Neatly stratified between the two were lias roof slates, the first evidence of the 12th C. roofing arrangements that we have been able to define.

The monastic cemetery beyond the E. end of the church has now been located. A group of graves, including two pseudo-stone coffins was found with a well-defined western edge in the E. exterior; and in the NE exterior were many graves, superimposed, of different orientations.

David Walsh has been able to demonstrate the character of the Presbytery vault in the 14th C. and among his other interesting conclusions is the definition of the builders' foot used at Bordesley - 29.5 cm. It may be significant that this is the same as that known as the 'Burgundian foot'.

SUSAN HIRST and PHILIP RAHTZ  
School of History, Birmingham  
University.

A Note on Warwickshire Fishponds

In 1974, the pond at Manor Farm, Knightcote, in the parish of Burton Dassett (SP/401 85458), was cleaned out, it is adjacent to the ploughed field known as Grass Yard, which shows evidence of medieval occupation. The pond was found to contain carp, some of which were transferred to another pond nearby in order to increase the stock. A large quantity of freshwater mussel shells was thrown out, some of which were  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches across. References to oysters and crayfish can be found, but mussels do not seem to have been generally recognised as part of the medieval diet.

Further evidence came to light in the summer of 1976 when the turf was stripped

# SYDENHAMS MOAT

GENERAL PLAN

KEY: Provisional Periods

Period IIA

Period I

Topsoil

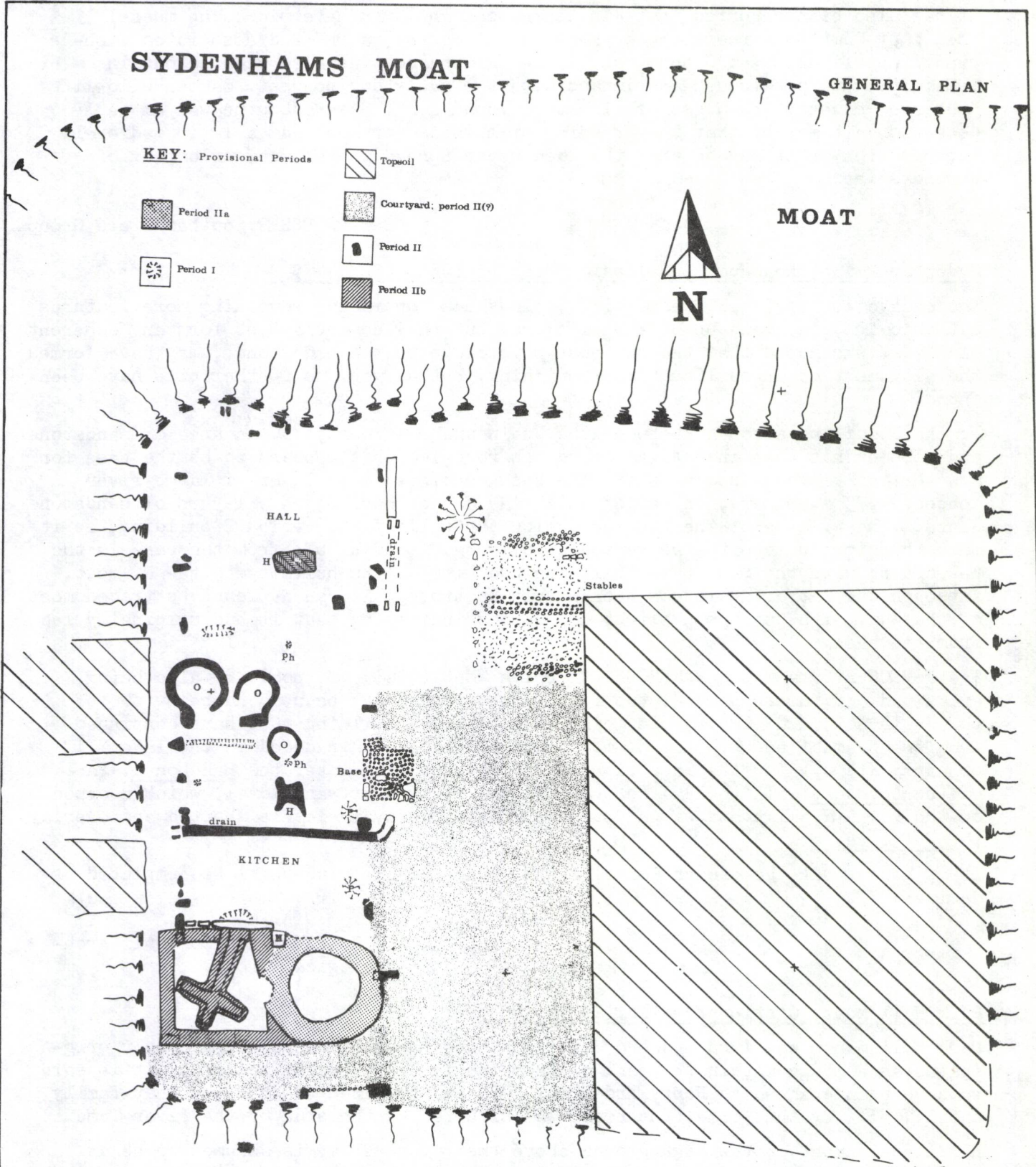
Courtyard: period II(?)

Period II

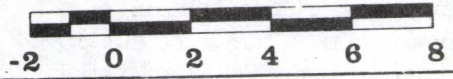
Period IIb



MOAT



Metres



JGP

1976

off Flax Close at Long Itchington. There is here a rectangular, dry fishpond close to the large deserted site of Old Yards (SP/39826552). The removal of the turf revealed that the bank of the River Itchen was built up artificially from general debris, including stone rubble, bones and a large number of mussel shells, which presumably came from the nearby fishpond.

It has also been reported that Kineton school children have picked up mussel shells at Compton Verney, where there is, of course, a DMV and associated fishpond. The fishpond at Chapel Bank, Lower Radbourne, was also cleaned out in 1976; it is to be flooded and linked with two newly dug ponds to make a wild-life preserve, however, no mussel shells were found here. As Radbourne was an early desertion, it may be that the breeding of mussels for food was a later medieval introduction, or it may be that the idea never spread to this remote corner of Warwickshire.

HOWARD USHER Southam Field Group

Sydenhams Moat, Monkspath, Solihull, West Midlands (SP/144757)

The excavation of the W. range of buildings has continued, revealing more features cut into the clay make up of the platform, but they do not as yet form any coherent plan. It was hoped that the two post-pits close to two pad stones, may have formed the alignment of an earlier timber building, but as yet, no further pits have been found.

To the E. of the Kitchen, between the drain and the courtyard, an area of sandstone and cobbles has been investigated and has revealed what appears to be the base for a water tank. The foundation for the base consisted of a layer of large river cobbles, 1.75 m. square, on top of which lay one or possibly two layers of sandstone slabs. The W. side of the base was below the wall of the Period 2 building, so it must therefore relate to the Period I building. Leading off from the base is the E-W drain, with the S-N drain following the line of the building to the N. moat. Although the latter drain has been partly destroyed, it can at least be traced most of the way, with perhaps a slight depression indicating that it had originally led from the base.

The DOVECOTE(?) and the BAKEHOUSE(?) (plan WMNS (1975) 18, p66) are also being excavated and, as suspected, two further padstones have been found below two of the walls (801 and 802). This means that the main building must have continued from the N. moat edge to the S. moat edge and have been reduced in the late XIII or early XIV C., for the insertion of the Dovecote and later the Bakehouse. Part of the Dovecote wall (802) also overlaid the early courtyard level, which stopped on the E., N-S alignment of pad stones. Later courtyard levels abutted and overlay the Dovecote.

It is hoped that the excavation of the W. range of buildings will be completed during 1977.

J. G. PERRY for Solihull Archaeological Group.

Park Hall Moat, Castle Bromwich (SP/158 904)

Park Hall manor was first recorded in 1365; but the settlement had probably originated as a lodge within the park of Bromwich in the previous century. It is said to have been granted to Henry Arden in 1373, and remained the home of that family until 1643. By that time, the house was situated by the side of the river Tame.

A filled-in moat on the high ground above the river valley is assumed to be an earlier site of the manor. It is threatened by housing development, and in July, 1976 trial excavations were undertaken in order to establish whether the site warranted extensive examination. The island measures about 50m x 50m, and approximately one eighth of the interior was opened up. The topsoil was 20-30cm thick, overlying 10-15cm thick of subsoil above sands and gravels. Plough marks were visible in the subsoil. There was no evidence of buildings, save a scatter of sandstone chippings. The finds were pottery of 16th to 17th C. date, and many roof tiles, some covered with lead glaze.

Trenches across three of the moat arms produced a few sherds of medieval pottery; but field drains had been run along the bottom of each arm in the mid 19th C; and probably much of the surface of the island was dumped into the moat at that time.

SUSAN WRATHMELL for Birmingham  
City Museum.

Lychgate Road, Kirby Corner, Canley, Coventry (SP/302768)

In July 1976, a find of pottery was discovered by the resident city engineer on the site of the new Sainsbury's Shop and Freezer Centre car park. The area had been graded, thus removing all archaeological features. On investigation the pottery was found to be all Kiln-waste dated by examples found in Broadgate and elsewhere in Coventry to the 13th C. The pottery was all of a uniform red fabric (clearly utilising the local red keuper marl) with a thick gritty dark green glaze, consisting mainly of jugs and dishes, examples of which have been found in Coventry. To date no documentary references have been found to any potter working on this site, although about 1 km away in 1538 there was a 'Potters field' (MIN ACCT PRO Wards 8). The name survived until at least 1845 on the enclosure map for Stoneleigh as 'Pottersfield Coppice' (Tocil Wood) now part of the Warwick University complex. Brick-making was also carried out in nearby Gibbet Hill Road where a substantial building, dated 1873, survives (W. Hopley - History in Brick, C.A.D.A.S. 1976). All the pottery is now in the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum (Accession number 76/108).

MARGARET RYLATT for the Herbert  
Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry.

Kenilworth Abbey (SP285724)

Work has resumed sorting out the mass of material from the 1922 and earlier excavations of the Abbey, stored in the Abbey Guesthouse ('The Barn'). It is hoped to have an exhibition of these in 1977. Massive blocks with lozenge patterns have been identified as the 12 m diameter vaulting of the Chapter House. Fragments of RB flue tiles found among the vaulting (I. Birm. Arch. Soc., 52 (1929), 184-227), have been positively identified from the comb marks as having been made at the RB tile kilns at Chase Wood, 1 mile to the W. No other RB finds have been made in the vicinity. It has also been possible to reconstruct a section of zig-zag Norman arcading. 441 of the 2000 fragments of stained and painted glass, opaque and heavily corroded, have been drawn.

The Abbey Gatehouse, the only other extant building, is deteriorating badly. With money raised from public subscription and other sources it is hoped that work can start in 1977 to prop up the vaulting and investigate and consolidate the structure lying under the heavy vegetation and clay sealing on the top of the building.

HARRY SUNLEY Kenilworth History  
and Arch. Soc. and Kenilworth  
Abbey Advisory Committee.

Ilmington, Warks (SP/211435)

In June 1976 an exploratory excavation was conducted to confirm the existence of a moat under existing fish ponds, and to investigate the possibility of buildings within the probably moated area. The excavation was limited to two days. Two sites were selected - Site I, a trench dug through what was thought to be the inner bank of the moat, and Site II, a 5 m square 100 m due S. of site I towards the centre of the probable moated area.

Site I (Supervisor, Stephen Ball)

In a trench width of 1m the turf and top soil was removed from the whole area, revealing a layer of small random rubble - imbedded in a yellow-grey clay, which extended all the way down the bank to peter out at the base, where considerable depth of peat had formed. On the upper slope of the bank this rubble layer, which contained some late medieval sherds and roof tile fragments was not excavated, but a small section was cut through on the top of the bank where the rubble proved to be



only a few cm in depth. This over-lay a fairly stone-free grey clayey soil - containing some sherds which have been provisionally dated c. XII - XIII C. This layer was however only excavated to a depth of about 30 cm where it showed evidence of burning.

At the lower end of the bank, the trench was taken down to expose a shelf of natural clay, but the moat itself was not bottomed. With such a small area of the natural exposed, it is difficult to imagine the original profile, but the moat almost certainly goes down to a much greater depth than that achieved. The fill of the moat consisted of a wet blue-grey silt with veins of ironpan. Continuing the slope of the natural clay shelf was a hard thick layer of very stoney ironpaning. This layer was almost certainly caused by the moat having been recut, the stones being washed down from the freshly cut banks. These and the clay silt from the original moat fill which lay below would then act as a natural barrier for all the ferrous oxide which would be leached out of the rocks and silt above in the waterlogged conditions.

Above the clay shelf were layers of clay with varying quantities of stone, tile, slate etc., these layers intermingling with the clay silt at the base of the slope, with some stones and tiles right down in the silt. A number of these tiles were glazed and decorated, of late medieval date, as were a number of pot sherds. Nothing was found of a later date other than a fragment of late XVI C. jug handle in the very top layer.

#### Site II (Supervisor, Josephine Holmes)

The removal of the turf and top soil revealed tightly packed random rubble in light brown soil, this tightly packed rubble extended to a depth of 30 cm and contained a scatter of pottery, animal bone and charcoal. Subsequent layers to a depth of 80 cm contained a diminishing quantity of rubble, but occupation debris continued in the loamy soil, which also contained patches of clay. At a depth of 80 cm the nature of the fill changed to a brown clayey soil, dark brown and sticky, containing pottery sherds, animal bone and traces of charcoal. This layer extended a further 40 cm but was not bottomed. Sherds recovered have been provisionally dated XII - XIII Cs.

#### Conclusion

The evidence suggests that here was originally a moated site surrounding a building of importance; that by XIVth C. it was in a state of disrepair, probably abandoned, and at about this time the moat, on the evidence of both excavations and fieldwork, was recut on at least two sides in order to provide fish ponds, into which sporadic dumpings of cleared material took place.

STEPHEN BALL  
JOSEPHINE HOLMES  
PETER J. GARDNER

#### College Gardens, Warwick (SP/283651)

From September 1975 to June 1976 work continued on the part of the site north of the College and nearest to the street frontage of the Butts. The relative sequence of the walls discovered there during the 1975 excavations (see NewsSheet 18 (1975) 61-63) was unravelled; but no building plans could be recovered in the area opened, and no floor levels remained. These walls however overlaid an undisturbed occupation layer containing XI-XIIth C. pottery, including Stamford ware and straight-sided cooking pot; and animal bone. This layer itself sealed the remains of a timber building and three pits, one of which contained much burnt daub. Another pit, likewise containing XI-XIIth C. material, was sectioned.

The picture presented is of a light timber structure, either the back of, or behind, a house fronting onto the Butts, and dated around the time of the Conquest or earlier. The burnt daub is probably the remains of a small oven.

Very regrettably the area could not be fully excavated before the new Vicarage was built over it. Though a fair amount of late Saxon and early medieval material has been found in Warwick, it has either been in pits or in unstratified contexts. This is the first time that an undisturbed occupation layer of that date has been

found stratigraphically related to earlier structures.

FABIAN RADCLIFFE and the Bishop  
Bright School Archaeology Club,  
in conjunction with HAROLD MYTUM  
and the Warwick County Museum.

#### College Gardens, Warwick

Work continued on the site of the college for Vicars Choral. Samples of mortar from the college (which was built with a bequest of Richard Beauchamp not of Richard Neville as previously stated) have been collected and are being analysed at Cambridge University. A number of pits and postholes were uncovered, all earlier than the stone college buildings and dating back to the XIIth C. The area north of the college was also excavated down to XIIth C. levels and a number of later pits were also examined. Further architectural fragments were recovered from walls where they had been re-used. Particular thanks should be given to Mr. M. Farr and Father Fabian Radcliffe for their help. The site has now been backfilled and the new Vicarage built.

H.C. MYTUM for Warwickshire Museum.

#### Polesworth, Warwickshire (SK/262 024)

Polesworth was the site of a nunnery from XIIth C., although all that now remains is the church of St. Editha and the timber-framed gatehouse on High Street. The Nunnery was known to be sited to the S. and W. of the present church. However, there had been an earlier nunnery in the area, founded in 827, the position of which was unknown. When therefore the local planner wished to zone the area for development they asked if there were any areas of archaeological importance around which they could design their scheme and thus preserved the remains. No earthworks were visible, and no indications of likely sites for the Nunnery were apparent so a random sampling procedure was adopted. A 20m grid was laid out over the site and a trench of standard 2m x 4m was excavated in each square. Its position within the 20m square was decided by using random numbers. This removed any human bias in choosing where to dig, and yet insured that all parts of the area were examined since every 20m square was sampled. Extra trenches were also dug to reveal more of features discovered in the random sample or to obtain a larger open area to check for evidence of more ephemeral structures. However, all layers and material from each trench were kept separate so that the material from the random sample could be used to assess the site as a whole.

No evidence of the Xth C. Nunnery was found. It is unlikely that very slight structures would have left sufficient remains for them to have been identified using the techniques of excavation employed, but no artefacts or spreads of refuse or charcoal were noted, and these would have been recorded. Therefore, it seems likely that the Nunnery was not within the two fields sampled. One can say this with more certainty having used a random sampling method than one could if the trenches had been arbitrarily decided. Some features were discovered. The part of the site nearest the river was found to have been used for open cast mining. A spread of rubble near the Vicarage could be associated with the restoration of the church in the XIXth C. since pottery of that date was found within it. XIIIth C. pottery was also found, presumably indicating the date of the stonework that had been removed. The boundary ditch of the later, Benedictine, Nunnery was located in two of the trenches, and a pit containing a group of Cistercian ware vessels was excavated.

An area on the High Street frontage adjacent to the Nunnery gatehouse was excavated in a more extensive manner. However, only the floors and foundations of late XVIII and XIXth Cs. cottages were found. They directly overlay natural bedrock although part of an earlier stone culvert was found. Excavation at the rear of the house plots confirmed the absence of Saxon and medieval occupation: not a single sherd of pottery of this date was found. The village of Polesworth does not appear, therefore, to have clustered around the Nunnery gateway, as might have been expected. It may have been centre on the river crossing to the S.E.

H. MYTUM

Medieval feature

The fourth wall of the building was uncovered, and found to be in a tolerably good condition. Another wall was found to butt against it, and this feature must extend into the next field. Most of the pottery associated with the wall is XI - XIIIth C. and a sherd of finger-marked, green-glazed pot resting on top of the wall hints at a destruction by XIVth C.

The dry summer caused strong parch marks to develop in the adjacent field, and this confirmed previous suspicions that the excavated building was the outer wing of a courtyard group of buildings. However it is not possible to be certain that the parch marks represent buildings of the same period. A highly compacted, sandy area over part of the site indicates hard standing in the late medieval or post medieval period, and the parch marks could associate with this feature.

H.J. USHER for Southam District  
Local History Society.

Hen Domen, Montgomery

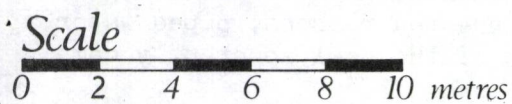
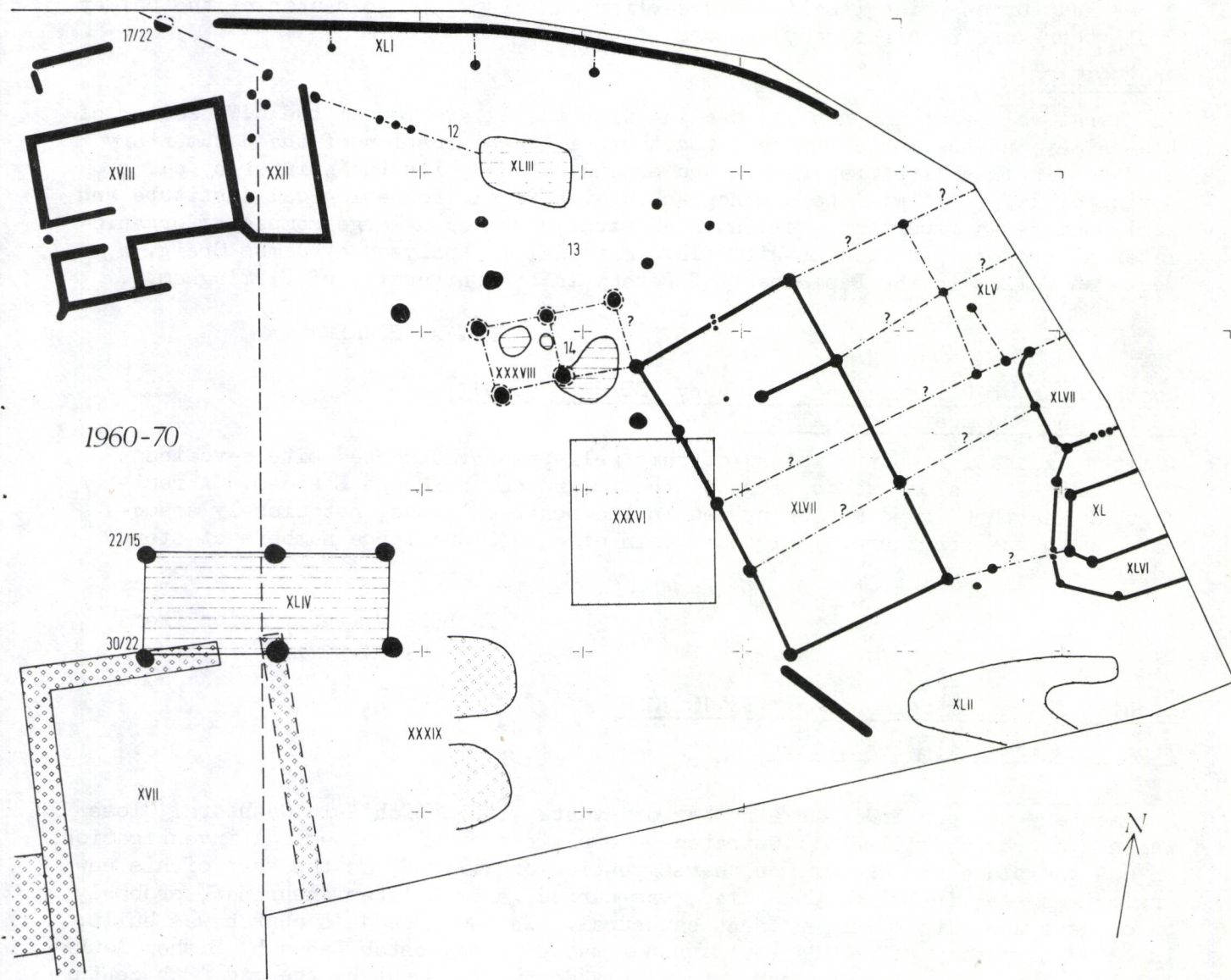
An Interim Interpretation of the N.E. Sector of the Bailey

Work on the N-E sector of the bailey has now, after a number of seasons of uncertainty in interpretation, produced the plans of a variety of buildings, some of which can be directly related to the phases of occupation of the north-western sector excavated from 1960-1970. Others are more ambiguously dated, and their position in the structural sequence will not be known until the area is totally excavated. The sequence of structures revealed to date is:

- XXXVI is the latest building (Phase Z) in this area. The evidence for it consists of a rectangular area of fine pebbles and two slight parallel gullies. It must have been a framed building standing on the pebble surface.
- XXXVIII This square structure with a possible porch is also late, but may not be as late as XXXVI. It is perhaps a granary since the post-holes are among the deepest ever found on the site. The large post-hole at the N-E corner is raking and may be a prop to the square structure. There is, also, no real evidence that this 'granary' is joined to the large rectangular building, XLVII.
- XLIII is a sub-rectangular pit which appears by its shape to have been lined with ? skins and used as a cistern. The line of post-holes, 12, may have supported a gutter or drain which led water from the rampart buildings into this pit.
- XLI is a shallow palisade trench with some internal post-holes. It is the latest defensive structure recognized on this part of the rampart but may be of periods Y or X. Its stratigraphical relationship with buildings XVIII and XXII cannot be demonstrated.
- XVIII and XXII These are two post-hole and wattle buildings of phase X lying behind the palisade and fighting platform.
- XLIV is a six-post-hole building, probably of phase Y.
- XL and XLVI are successive towers on the end of the rampart overlooking the entrance (of which XLII is part).
- XLVII and XLV are rampart buildings contemporary with XLVI.
- XLVIII is the major building of this part of the bailey. It is a 'hall', 10 m by 5 m (32 feet by 16 feet), with a partition at the N.W. end. It may have been structurally connected with the buildings XLV, XLVII, and XL lying behind the rampart.
- XLII which lies close to the entrance to the bailey, is one of the earliest structures so far revealed. It is a pebble surface with internal features which suggest that it is the foundation of a guard-room or

# HEN DOMEN • MONTGOMERY

## Stage II Structures Interim Interpretation



### Key

Phase T (and later?) Phases U, V, W, X, Y, Phase Z

something similar.

XXXIX is a pair of concentric arcs of large pebbles arranged like two flights of steps up the steepest slope in the centre of the bailey. They may be connected with XVII.

XVII is the largest building so far discovered in the castle. Its excavation is unfinished but it appears to be a massive rectangular building 16 m by 8 m (50 feet by 25 feet) founded in very deep timber slots. It dates from the first castle (Phase T, c. AD 1070) and was probably a two-storied forebuilding guarding access to the earliest bridge.

While the excavation has reached the natural subsoil in the centre of the bailey there are many indications that there is a wealth of structural evidence to be found on and in the lee of the rampart. In addition, we know from the excavation of the rampart in the N.W. sector, that it lies on a buried pre-Conquest field of ridge and furrow which itself seals earlier buildings. This sector of the bailey still therefore requires many seasons of work.

#### PUBLICATION

The first volume of the report, dealing with the excavation of the N.W. sector of the bailey and the motte bridges, together with a discussion of the documentary evidence is in active preparation and should be ready for the printer by early spring of 1977. It will be a monograph of the Royal Archaeological Institute and will include an important environmental study based on a large sample of organic material from a 17th C. cess-pit. This material is analysed by James Greig, a Research Fellow in the Department of Botany in the University of Birmingham.

P. A. BARKER

#### Moated Site at Priestweston, Chirbury (SO/2960 9875) (Sites and Monuments No. SA 1217)

Limited excavation on the island of this well-preserved moated site revealed well-made walls close to the edge of the island on the N and E sides. A rectangular hearth 4' x 5' was uncovered in the centre. Finds, not closely associated with the structure, included a coin of c.1430 and large numbers of stone roof-slates.

I. BURROW (information from  
Mrs. J. Roper)

#### Lichfield Theological College (SK116 100)

##### Archaeological Site Evaluation

##### 1. Documentation

Documentary sources indicate a number of events within Lichfield Cathedral Close which might be amplified, illustrated or explained by archaeological investigation. In 669 the place was chosen, on the suggestion of Wilfred, as the seat of his new anglicised see; in 672 S. Chad died, was buried, and was later enshrined, probably on or near the site of the present cathedral. In 700, Headda's church was built; in 822 a community of residential canons was possibly established by Bishop Aethelweald. The following 300 years are poorly documented, but by the mid 12th century the residential body had been reconstituted, the river dammed (and the Minster pool presumably formed as a result), and for perhaps not unconnected reasons, piped water had been provided to the close. The planned town south of the pool apparently came into being at the same time.

The perimeter of the close is supposed to have been quarried for stone in Norman times, and had been surrounded on at least three sides by a defensive wall by the 14th century. The existence of a wall on the south side is not certain, although it is implied by later maps. In 1411 a plot of land 60ft wide was granted for The New College, (a residence for Chantry Chaplains) (Fig.1.). The buildings were erected about 1414 and further extended and embellished in 1468. The site was flanked on either side by cannon's houses: Hugo Holbach to the east and John de Saxon to the west. The former site appears to be that chosen by Bishop Hacket for

his residence in 1662, since he is known to have added a banqueting hall which was apparently sketched by Stringer in 1817, as occupying a site opposite the south transept of the cathedral. The hall was pulled down in 1819, and a new house subsequently built which later became that of the Principal of the Theological College. In about 1871, students moved into the buildings of the medieval New College ('Cant-artist's College'), which were shortly converted to their needs.

(Sources: VCH, Staffordshire, III, 1ff, 140ff; Dugdale, Monasticon III, 239; J. Gould, Ant.J., LVI (1976); Staffs CC, Lichfield Maps; Stringer sketches through J. Gould).

## 2. Trial Excavations, 19-21 Nov 76

Four trenches c4m long were taken down to undisturbed natural sandstone inside and outside the Theological College. In Trench C1 (Fig 1), natural occurred at 1m below the floor level of a basement larder; here the sandstone had been levelled, slightly quarried, and backfilled with plasterers' waste after the erection of the sandstone vaults on which the Principal's house now stands. Only one 12th-13th century sherd was found, with no discernably later material, and it is not impossible that these vaults, like those of the college adjacent are medieval in origin. In Trench C2, the quarrying reached a depth of 2m below floor level, and the backfill showed that the building operations (presumptively of a similar date to those of C1) had here disturbed a cemetery. In Trench D1, a 60cms wide wall of sandstone ashlar stood in a foundation trench containing pottery of the 15th-16th century and earlier. It had cut a layer of loamy sand containing a group of 13th and ?12th century cooking pot, together with late Saxon Stafford ware. This layer sealed two shallow graves containing oriented skeletons in moderately good preservation without grave goods. In Trench D2, a 15th-16th century (-) septic tank had cut the same layer of loamy sand. There was no sign of disturbed or articulated human bone above the surface of the natural sandstone which here lies 1.40m below the grass and about 40 cms above the present water table.

## 3. Conclusions

The 15th century college and its extensions are incorporated into the fabric of the present Theological College west wing, which is scheduled for demolition in 1977. Parts of the original college, no longer standing, lie beneath the ground on the south west side of the garden (Fig.1, hatched). The close boundary given on the 1781 map implies that the south entrance to the New College is its point of contact with a defensive wall, and is also the point of an entry from the Minster Pool; a pilgrim route on a similar alignment is supposed to have been in use during the middle ages.

Part of the vaults beneath the Principal's House may also be medieval, but it is unlikely that intact occupation levels remain beneath. The earlier medieval surface is best examined to the south, where it overlies a cemetery. The shallowness of the graves and the change in land-use suggest that this could be quite remote in date from the 13th century deposit which seals it.

## 4. Recommendations

Demolition in 1977 will be accompanied by disturbance of the open garden areas, through landscaping, the building of a car-park and access ramp, and sewers.

The principle archaeological gains from excavation, as so far identified, are the date and limit of the pre-13th century cemetery, the defensive and water engineering sequences, the watergate to the close, and the activities within the out-buildings of the 15th century New College and their predecessors. To this may be added an environmental sequence derived from peat under the former shorelines of the Minster Pool, and the establishment of the material sequence in an early cathedral city which has not yet experienced a controlled excavation.

For these reasons, it is proposed to excavate an area of about 600 sq.m. in the west central part of the open site during April - May 1977.

M.O.H. CARVER for WEMRAC

## POST MEDIEVAL

### Weir Meadow, Whitley, near Shrewsbury (SJ/458097)

The field immediately to the E. of the Roman building known as 'Whitley Chapel' (SJ/457097) was ploughed for the first time within recorded memory in May 1976. An area approximately 100 by 50 m revealed on the surface very black soil associated with extensive Romano-British masonry, tile fragments, cobbles, clinker and a few sherds of Severn Valley Ware. The masonry elements on the surface were recognisable in straight stretches and appeared to represent demolished buildings which could be associated with Whitley Chapel. The site lies in a combe on a small plateau close to the S. bank of the Rea Brook.

Excavations undertaken by the Shropshire Archaeol. Soc. in September 1976 established that the Roman material, presumably from Whitley Chapel, was residual and was the filling of a series of early 19th C. field drains, dated by two contemporary bricks; areas of dark soil were the result of waterlogging, and the clinker had been brought from the engine house of the 19th C. Welbatch colliery, 800 m to the S., to be the infill of a more recent pipe drain trench. Apart from one 14th C. sherd, no artefacts of pottery were found earlier than the 17th C. over the main area of about 300 square m, except for a few scattered Romano-British sherds in topsoil.

Subsequent excavations 50 m west of the main site and within 100 m of Whitley Chapel revealed a surface of laid small stones and cobbles covering at least 35 square m in which were embedded more than 100 small sherds of late Romano-British pottery. The pottery was of two fabrics, Severn Valley Ware and a soft red ware. Another 19th C. drain had cut through this surface and contained large fragments of Roman tile in its infilling. It is intended to continue the excavation of this area.

The site of Whitley Chapel (excavated in 1893 and briefly reported to be a building 12 by 10 m) was exactly located by intensive surface investigation, and was identified by a concentrated spread of worked sandstone masonry, tile and stone roof-slabs; no mortar was evident. Other adjacent features including a hollow-way, ford, mill-stream and 18th C. weir in the immediate vicinity were surveyed and related to the general plan of the site.

GEOFFREY TOMS for Shropshire  
Archaeological Society.

### Buildings

Last year it was European Architectural Heritage Year which kept the Recording Group busy, this year it was the 13th centenary of the founding of the diocese of Hereford. The group met regularly and its work on the Huntington Hundred will be reported later as will also the lectures to celebrate the centenary. As always we are much indebted to the University of Birmingham and the W.E.A. for encouraging this work. A University Extramural weekend course with the writer as tutor was based on Kington.

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

### Peachey's Barn, Bridstow (SO/589242)

This 18th C. warehouse is built of brick with a kneeler at each corner and a little brick finial at each gable. A loading door on the first floor overlooks the road. This building is the last survivor of an important group which was a reminder of days of the important trade up and down the Wye. It was due for demolition but thanks to the efforts of some local people is to be saved. This is very good news for the it is the last reminder of the great days of Ross's river trade.

### Bidney, Dilwyn (SO/412561, R.C.H.M.60)

This was a house of some importance and is very interesting. In the original crossing is an upper-cruck truss and another with a sharply cambered collar-beam. The doorways into this wing are both ovolo moulded. The sills of the bay windows

are a combination of ovolo and ogee mouldings, the mullions and transoms being ovolo.

There is an interesting stone preserved outside the front door. It is octagonal and is decorated with a face, the whole perhaps dating from the 14th century.

Luntley Court, Dilwyn, (SO/393554, R.C.H.M.4)

The main block could be 16th C. rather than 17th. It is of four bays with heavily cambered tie-beams rather like the cranked variety found in the N.W. of the country, with curved braces. The ovolo mould is used in the house, in the cow-house to the east and in the pigeon-house. This moulding probably dates from the work of 1674 and 1673, the dates on the house and the pigeon house respectively.

Manor Farm, Leinthall Earles (SO/442676, R.C.H.M. 12 Aymestrey)

The original house of c. 1600 was built on a three-part plan. The hall ceiling follows the pattern seen in a number of other superior Herefordshire houses in that the joists in alternate panels are at right angles to each other with the result that the floor-boards in each room above are arranged in a chequer-board fashion. The plasterwork and doors in the original parlour appear to be early 18th C. work. There is a good stairway with turned balusters. Upstairs in the chamber over the parlour and over the wing are 18th C. panelled partitions.

1 and 3 Bridge Street, Leominster (SO/495594, R.C.H.M. 7)

In spite of refacing much of the original house can still be traced. It seems to have been a four-bay building with an open first-floor great chamber in the two central bays jettied towards the street. Evidence of the jettying still remains as does the arch of the main upper room. It was probably an early 16th C. building, much altered in the 17th.

Rodd Court, Rodd, Nash & Little Brampton (SO/321626 R.C.H.M. 1)

The granary has now been turned into a library thus revealing the late, upper-base cruck type of construction so often found in this type of building in this area.

Ashley (SO/334622 R.C.H.M. 12)

The cider-house in the W. wing still retains its stone mill which is still used.

Whitchurch

The W. wing may well be an earlier house with a first-floor hall. It could be a two-storey cross-wing of an earlier hall, but it seems big enough to have been a first-floor hall with undercroft much altered when the 16th C. house was built. There are three early roof trusses all of a cruck type. One springs from first-floor level and is a full raised cruck truss with the superior type of apex found in Herefordshire and on the Marches. The truss on either side has a yoke with an upper king-strut, a rare form of construction in this part of the country.

During the year 52 planning applications from within the old county of Herefordshire have been referred to the listed buildings sub-committee. Most were for comparatively minor alterations, in some cases, worthwhile restorations.

About five cases during the year have caused a fair amount of work. These were the alterations to the Fox and Badger at Bromyard; proposed demolitions at New Inn, St. Owne's Cross; Peachey's Barn, Wilton; barn at Church Farm, Madley; and an outbuilding at Merton House, Ross-on-Wye. As always I am very grateful to a number of people who have drawn my attention to buildings and sent me notes on them. As usual Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Perry and Mr. C.H.I. Homes have been stalwarts in this aspect of our work.

J. W. TONKIN

Woodbank Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (SJ/867497)

Excavations revealed quantities of sherds produced in Burslem throughout the 17th C. including hitherto unrecorded Midlands Yellow wares. Report No. 10 1976 price 80p. + 17p p&p.

S.J.GREAVES



## Wooden Cannon Ball, Newcastle-under-Lyme

It was while watching, from an archaeological point of view the levelling of a small patch of ground for car parking, that the bulldozer turned up from the soft clay a spherical ball of heavy wood. It is quite smooth, and has no saw marks which would show if it were the top knob of a gate post etc. It has become slightly flattened on one side due to gradual drying out, which is to be expected.

During the early 1940's a heavy cannon barrel was found in some waste land in Lower Street Newcastle, Staffs. After being given and sent up to Newcastle Museum, it was sent to the Town Yard to have a carriage fitted for easier showing and movement when finally put on display but it has since then, unfortunately, disappeared and has presumably been sold for scrap metal. It can most certainly be said that it was brought down from Scotland during the '45 rebellion as far as Newcastle, and from which town the later retreat started back to Scotland. The retreat could not be bothered with dragging a heavy gun back all the way so the supposition is that it was left behind, later to collapse from its carriage, become covered with grass and weeds and finally by a thin covering of soil, from which it was rescued 200 years later. As pointed out above, it went for restoration.

The find site of the cannon is about 300/400 yards from the find site of the wooden ball. The loss of the cannon prevents the calibre of the gun from being compared with the size of the ball. Is this part of the gun's ammunition? It is approx. 31 lbs. in wt. and 5/6 ins. in diam.

Wooden cannon balls would do as much damage in closed ranks as a metal one and would be easier to make, and easier to drag about. They were also apparently used at sea. Bored with a hole to hold burning pitch, a tremendous amount of damage could be done to rigging, cordage and sails.

The ball is now in the possession of the writer.

W. P. RICHARDS

## Birmingham Buildings

The Department of Archaeology and Local History of Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery has been involved with recording the following buildings during the course of the year. Typescript interim reports have been issued on each building.

### 1. The Old Crown Inn, High Street, Deritend (SP/079864)

Renovation work in December 1975 provided the opportunity to gain access to the roof space of this early 16th C. timber-framed building which Leland described as a 'mansion house of tumber'. The house comprises a 3-bay central range parallel to the street with two bay cross-wings; the roof is a mixture of clasped and tenoned purlins. Documentary evidence suggests building activity here c. 1517-18, a date which is quite compatible with the architectural history.

### 2. Sheldon Hall, Tile Cross (SP/165874)

The surviving buildings lie approximately in the centre of a large irregular shaped moated site and comprise a brick and stone hall range of early 16th C. with side wings in later timber-framing. The hall is currently on the market and the opportunity was taken to amplify the VCH account, with a measured ground plan, sections, and details of internal fittings which include a magnificent screen between hall and cross-passage.

### 3. Bogs Farm, Lutley (SO/944824)

An L-shaped timber-framed house of the early 17th C. comprising a 2-bay hall with kitchen heated by an axial stack, and parlour crosswing. The framing consisted of close studding to the ground floor with square panels above, strengthened by straight angle braces. A ground plan and sections were made prior to an extensive modernisation programme.

### 4. The Oak House, West Bromwich (SO/998908)

Although relatively intensively examined over the past 150 years, previous recorders have paid no attention to the roof structure, which provides clear evidence of the

continuing use of the clasped purlin through the 16th C.

5. Walkers Heath Farm Barn, King's Norton (SP/156781)

The fragmentary remains of 2 bays of this 17th C. barn were recorded prior to demolition.

6. Bells Farm, King's Norton (SP/156781)

The house, reported in News Sheet No. 17 1974 p.41-2, was damaged by fire in September 1976, involving part of the panelling and plaster ceiling in the first floor chamber of the rear wing. The Department has been working with the City Housing Department in a scheme to convert the house into flats.

7. Houndsfield Farm Outbuildings, Hollywood (SP/08587631)

An examination of the existing farm complex of this farmstead first documented in Domesday, was undertaken in the Spring of 1976. The earliest surviving building is a 3-bay timber-framed barn with arch-braced tie-beams, lower king struts and collars. To the north a later 17th C. 3-bay timber-framed barn with inset principals, no collars and angle struts. This was underbuilt in the 18th C. and extended by a granary. Between c. 1840-50 a horse wheel was built on to the north side of the barn.

8. The Old Nail House, Quinton (SO/993847)

A two bay brick cottage of two storeys-late 18th/early 19th C. with attached, but modernised, single storey nail shop.

STEPHEN PRICE and DEIRDRE WHITE,  
for City Museums and Art Gallery,  
Birmingham.

St. Saviour's Churchyard, Saltley (SP/097876)

A recording survey was carried out in May by Birmingham City Museums under emergency conditions as a faculty had been granted for clearance of approximately half of the churchyard. Of the 400 marked and 100 unmarked graves involved, 217 stones were recorded and photographed by L. Fletcher, C. Latta, R. Taylor and the Birmingham Photographic Society. A further 144 were recorded but not photographed by the incumbent and his parishioners. The dates of the stones range from 1856-1960, the latter an addition to an early XXth C. grave with over 28% of the burials in the 1860's. Copies of the completed survey have been deposited in the D.R.O. and the City Museums.

RUTH TAYLOR for Birmingham City  
Museums.

St. Nicholas Churchyard, Kenilworth (SP/285725)

Work started in the summer on recording the 1125 gravestones on the standard CBA forms. 500 have so far been recorded, the earliest date being 1621. The 17th C. stones are in poor condition and some are not decipherable.

IRENE M. POTTER for Kenilworth  
History and Archaeol. Soc.

The Churchyard of Bromsgrove Parish Church

'In Worcestershire there is not a churchyard found,  
with such a handsome pathway leading round;  
Full sixty trees, whose branches far extend,  
O'erspread the way, from summer's head defend,  
Prevent a falling rain, draw forth the breeze,  
And cause a pleasant walk beneath the trees;  
Whose grove like aspect to the distant eye,  
And in the midst a spire ascending high,  
The traveller admires when passing by,  
A view like this perhaps he had not seen,

Where'er his travels formerly had been.'

Joseph Facer author of 'A Morning Walk in Bromsgrove Churchyard'.

Bromsgrove (SO/9070) is well-known among Worcestershire churchyards for its two remarkable gravestones to engineers, killed in an accident in 1840 when the boiler of their railway engine blew up. Both stones have pictures of the engine on them, and one has a long epitaph in the form of an extended metaphor comparing the deceased engineer to his locomotive, beginning:

'My engine now is cold and still....'

(it is reproduced in full in Pevsner's Worcestershire, p.110). These two stones are tourist attractions and as such have been several times repaired and repainted.

The churchyard has, however, a greater claim to serious gravestone studies in its remarkable assemblage of 1,249 stones, nearly all of which are earlier than 1857. Since in this year a large new area was acquired for the burial by the town to the north of the old churchyard which has sufficed for its burial needs ever since.

As a result, the large churchyard of St. John Baptist has a very large collection of 17th, 18th and early 19th century stones. The growing interest in, and concern for gravestones, reflected in the CBA/Rescue publications by Jeremy Jones\*, prompted a preliminary survey in 1976 by the writer for an undergraduate study at the University of Birmingham. The purpose was to find out whether the stones really were a representative collection spread over 250 years and whether they were legible enough to warrant a full-scale study.

It was shown that among the 500 or so stones that could be read easily there were indeed due proportions of each half century which roughly corresponded in ratio to that of Bromsgrove's increasing population during this period; and that by comparison with dated ones, others could be referred to close periods by their iconographic detail. The stones do not of course represent the total buried dead of Bromsgrove during this period. Only a small proportion of people were commemorated by stone memorials; but at Bromsgrove enough survive to provide an excellent series for study of the local gravestone industry before the days of mechanisation.

In addition, such topics as the iconography of death, changing religious beliefs, attitudes towards the after-life, expectation of life amongst those commemorated, and local family history can all be studied with such a large and continuous series. Another aspect of gravestone study, that of the developing plan of the graveyard, and the orientation of the stones in relation to that of the church, is not, however, possible. Bromsgrove has, like many other West Midland churchyards, suffered from 'pruning' of its stones. Although they survive in such numbers, they are stacked along the edges of the paths no longer marking the graves of those they commemorate.

The preliminary survey has thus shown how worthwhile an extended study would be. It has also shown that the longer this is delayed, the less complete would be the result. The stones are deteriorating though air pollution, deliberate vandalism and, ironically, the over-zealous cleaning of inscriptions with stiff brushes by local schoolchildren who have been encouraged to record the epitaphs.

Bromsgrove has then in its churchyard a valuable repository of local and West Midland history, which like many features of our cultural heritage needs to be systematically recorded before it is lost.

\*How to Record Graveyards: obtainable from CBA or Rescue at 75p.

JOHANNA VAN DER TOORN, School of  
History, University of Birmingham.

#### St. Mary's Church, Warwick

Observation and recording took place during the excavation for the foundation for the extensions to the church on the N. side. Because the foundations were shallow, no archaeological deposits were destroyed except part of the path to the N. door, including broken tombstones. No fragments were in a condition to be worthy of preservation. Some fill was also removed, exposing the offset foundations of the

Chapter House. Any underlying medieval deposits are preserved.

H. C. MYTUM for Warwickshire  
Museum.

Linen Street, Warwick

Development of a vacant site on the N. side of Linen Street led to the discovery of several archaeological features. A brick-lined well was located, probably associated with the Victorian terraced houses previously on the site. Study of the foundation trenches for new buildings showed that there had been no occupation prior to XXth C. on most of the site. In the N.W. corner, however, several massive sandstone walls were uncovered, but no date can be given for them.

H. C. MYTUM for Warwickshire Museum.

PUBLICATIONS OF WEST MIDLANDS INTEREST

- Britannia 7 (1976), 284-285  
P. Woodfield An intaglio from Wroxeter
- Antiq J 55 (1975), 404 - 406  
Dorothy Charles worth A Roman Cut Glass plate for Wroxeter  
56 (1976), 73-79
- Jim Gould The Twelfth Century Water Supply to Lichfield Close
- Medieval Archaeol 19 (1975), 48-91  
S. E. Rigold Structural Aspects of Medieval Timber Bridges includes Weoley Castle, Acton Burnell, Bushwood Hall, Lapworth, Kirby Muxloe Castle, Castle Bromwich, and a brief record of Bingham Manorial Moat, Laynor Moat House, and Ernesford Grange, Coventry.
- Post-Medieval Archaeol 9 (1975), 212-218  
N. W. Alcock Warwickshire Timber-Framed Houses: a Draft and a Contrast
- S. Staffs Archaeol and Hist Soc Trans 16 (1976)  
Christopher A. Smith Second report of Excavations at Fisherwick, Staffs 1973.  
Stuart and Susan Wrathmell Excavations at the Moat Site; Walsall, Staffs, 1972-74  
K. W. Sheridan Ninth Report of Excavations at Tamworth, Staffs, 1972. A Section through the defences at Bell Inn Corner.  
Dorothy and Jim Gould St. Michael's Churchyard, Lichfield, Staffs.  
V. F. Penn Wall-Painting in a house in High Street, Walsall, Staffs.  
A. Oswald Clay-pipes from the garden of the Bishop's Palace, Lichfield, Staffs.

Site Recording

Review: Susan Hirst, The Written Record, 38pp + 7 figs., published by RESCUE (1976) and obtainable from them at 15A Bull Plain, Hertford, price 70p. + 12p. postage to RESCUE members, or 90p. + postage to non-members.

This is the first of a series of books to be published by RESCUE on site recording, intended to help all those working in the field. It will be followed by others on such subjects as site drawing, photography, and data organisation.

The book is the first on this subject to be published in Europe. One of the most valuable features of Hirst's book is that she puts the subject in a world-wide historiographical perspective. She outlines the background of discussion from the detailed diary type notebooks of earlier workers to the more impersonal recording forms which nowadays, at least, partly supplant or complement the narrative account. It is only in North America that the subject has, in recent years, been taken seriously. Most English writers of text books on archaeological field techniques tend to dismiss the problem as one whose solution is both self-evident and subjective - one merely describes what appears to be 'important' about any building, layer, or feature, and suggests its interpretation.

A review of the literature (including the crucial American material) leads to a discussion on the theory and practice of site recording; what is it that should

be recorded and why it is being done. In earlier days, the amount of data recording was often so small that it presented little difficulty in analysis. Where it was larger, the problems of analysis were formidable and were only successfully resolved in the hands of such masters as Pitt-Rivers, Petrie, Wheeler or Biddle. In **other** cases the day-book information was never digested and often remains today as the only source (albeit infuriating and enigmatic) of information about what was found where. Even in recent times the older system has been used disastrously. I took part in a £30,000 dig in Yugoslavia in the late 1960s where the daybook lovingly described the number of workmen present, but omitted to record the relationships between them.

In recent years the explosion of excavation and training has brought many inexperienced people into the field, and increasingly it has been found necessary to be quite explicit about what does need to be said about a posthole, a wall or a pit, and the need for it to be said in a logical order. This has led to the increasing use of recording forms; Hirst describes their growth and illustrates several in recent use in this country. Much of her own interest in the subject has developed as a result of her work on West Midland sites, and on the horrors of trying to write up excavations on the basis of ill-recorded features. It is her experience indeed of the processes of data analysis leading to publication that has determined her own approach to recording and the development of her 'model' forms which currently form the basis of the recording system at Bordesley Abbey. A basic arrangement of data-recording in her scheme has three variants - for 'positive' features such as walls mound etc; for 'negative' features such as graves and pits; and 'layers', covering a wider area more or less horizontally. These, in her view, demand slightly different treatment and are differentiated by a colour coding on the material of which the recording forms are made - pink, blue and white.

Not everyone will agree on the use of recording forms, supplemented to a greater or lesser extent by the 'director's notebook'; nor with the model recording form reproduced; but all excavators should seriously consider the problems of site recording, which Hirst describes so lucidly; the extent to which their own recording meets current requirements of recording and analysis; and whether they can improve on her system.

This is one of the most important statements on method to be produced in recent years. With its companion books which are projected by RESCUE, and with Philip Barker's great book on excavation technique now in the press, it will be crucial in the work of the next decade. We may be gratified that much of recent pioneering work on method in field archaeology originates in the West Midlands.

PHILIP RAHTZ School of History  
University of Birmingham

#### Lichfield: Archaeology and Development

This is the second report in the series published by WEMRAC. It is the result of many years' on Lichfield research by Jim Gould. Copies obtainable from J. Crickmore, 131 Alexandra Road, Birmingham B5 7NN. Price £1.00.

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SUTTON COLDFIELD ARCH GROUP  
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TAMWORTH MUSEUM  
Miss C Tarjan (Curator)  
Castle Museum  
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TRENT VALLEY ARCH RESEARCH COMMITTEE  
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VALE OF EVESHAM HIST SOC  
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WARWICK COUNTY MUSEUM  
Miss J M Morris (Curator)  
County Museum  
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WEMRAC  
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WOOLHOPE NAT F C ARCH RESEARCH SECTION  
Miss M Thomas (Sec)  
Hillside  
Abbey Dore  
Herefords

WOOLHOPE NAT FIELD CLUB  
Mrs M Tonkin (Sec)  
Chy an Whyloryon  
Wigmore  
Herefords

WORCESTER CITY MUSEUM  
Mrs G Owen (Curator)  
City Museum & Art Gallery  
Foregate Street  
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WORCS ARCH SOC  
Mr R F Panton (Sec)  
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