

Council for British Archaeology Group 8

# WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS SHEET

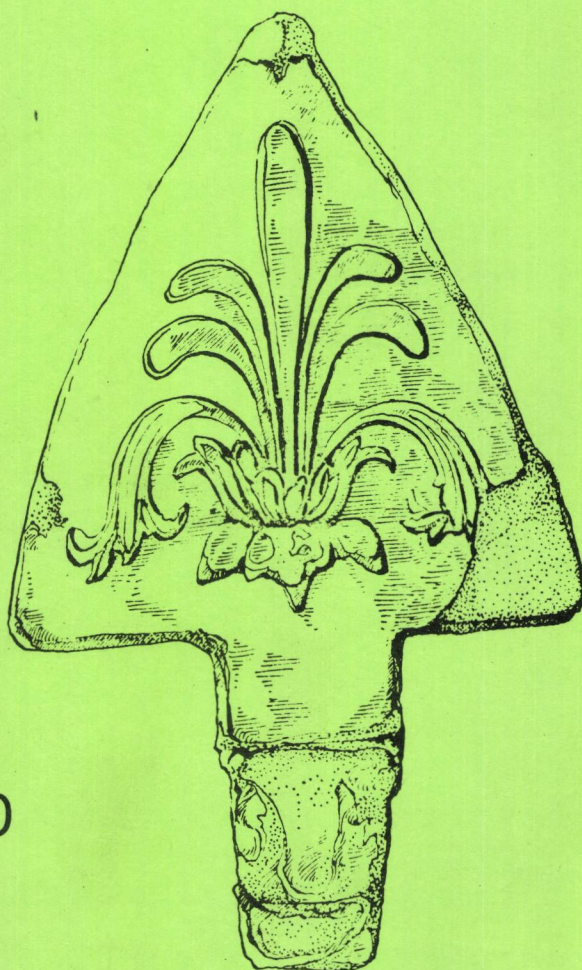


**worcestershire**  
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Cover drawing by Diana Bonakis - Fragment of a lamp found at Caves Inn

This fragment is said to have been found at Caves Inn c 1920. It is the upright handle attached to the back of the lamp bowl and is in a red colour-coated ware similar to ones made in N. Africa. Almost identical lamps have been found at Pompeii, indicating a mid 1st C. date. There appears to be some modern adhesive on the surface where it joined the bowl and this casts doubt on the authenticity of the find since it was complete in modern times. It could have been found, repaired and later fallen apart but is it likely to have been lost again where it was originally found? If it turns out to be a genuine find it could have come from a Claudian fort in the vicinity of Caves Inn for which a fine bronze military mess-tin provides evidence. (Trans. Birmingham Archaeol. Soc. 81 (1966), 143-144, and Pl. 30)

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C.B.A. Regional Group 8  
Chairman's Letter

1977 has seen archaeology in the Midlands, as elsewhere, seriously affected by cut-backs in government spending. This means that C.B.A. members will be called upon to assist in many spheres of activity where their skills can improve the archaeological record. Most County Museums need assistance in compiling their sites and monument record. I would ask members of groups and societies to offer their services for air photo plotting; Phil Barker's class in Worcester has been a great success and clearly shows there is a growing interest in this kind of research. I am pleased to inform you that, following the dissolution of WEMRAC, a new professional body has been formed - WEMARB. (West Midlands Archaeological Review Body) which has been set up to advise the County Field Officers and to act as a general 'thinktank'. It will also organise seminars to which all those interested in the particular subject will be invited. It was decided to affiliate to the Group and we have agreed that two members should sit on our executive committee and we look forward now to a greater degree of unity and collaboration between professionals and non-professionals. Our new policy of large public meetings held once or twice a year in conjunction with the University Extramural Department and the City of Birmingham Museum has been startlingly successful. If we adhere to this policy of securing only the most authoritative speakers on our subjects, we should reach out to a much wider public and help to spread information and adjust attitudes to our subject. So, I feel that a more optimistic mood prevails for the future after a somewhat pessimistic 1977.

I extend my best wishes to you all in 1978 and would voice my thanks to all the enthusiasts who have helped me in this year of office.

E. A. PRICE

## GENERAL

### West Midlands Archaeology

During the year the following additions have been made to the local collections of the Department of Archaeology and Local History: Roman coins from Atcham and Warley; silver pennies of Coenwulf of Mercia, minted by Eoba, of William I, minted by Baldric of Worcester and Ieglwine of Hereford, and of Henry I, minted by Ailwine of Warwick; a 13th C. lead seal-die of Cecilia Martin found in Alcester; an early 14th C. piece of horse-harness from Birmingham; and the published Roman pottery from excavations at 224 Wellington Road, Birmingham 1959.

In March a small-scale excavation was carried out at Blakesley Hall by S. Wrathmell, in an attempt to prove the existence of a moat, and from Sept. to Nov. at Broadclose, Mancetter, by K. Hartley. Watching-briefs were maintained for the landscaping schemes at Metchley Roman fort and Castle Bromwich motte and bailey. Emergency recording surveys were undertaken at Field House, Harborne Park Road, where the 'Roman' well was found to be late 17th C., and at All Saints' Churchyard, Birmingham. Work on the identification of stone axes for the CBA Implement Petrology Committee continues. A survey by J. Sage on the present conditions of churchyards in the Metropolitan District with a view to forming a rescue and research policy is nearing completion.

New displays in the West Midlands Gallery include cases on Roman towns and villas in the West Midlands and medieval pottery of the Birmingham areas. In preparation are displays of prehistoric goldwork, the palaeolithic and Bronze Age metalwork. In Nov. a small exhibition 'Romano-Celtic Temple at Wall?', based on the carved stones excavated by A.A. Round in 1976, was opened for three months.

RUTH TAYLOR for Birmingham City  
Museums

### Medieval archaeology in the School of History

Teaching, training and research in archaeology in the School of History began in the early 1960s as a follow-up to the School's Cotswold Survey, initiated by Rodney Hilton. The lecturer was appointed in 1963, and for many years they worked together on the excavation of the deserted medieval village of Upton, which became an important training (and social!) occasion for many past students.

Medieval Archaeology has changed considerably in the intervening years. It has expanded its former role as an ancillary discipline in the service of History, supplementing written sources with a fuller background and tangible illustration. Period divisions into medieval, Roman and prehistoric have largely broken down; collaboration with natural scientists and other specialists leads archaeology away from humanism; in order to understand the processes of human settlement in an area, one has to study it through time, and with a full understanding of the natural environment in which it flourishes (or doesn't). The classic medieval village excavation of Wharrah Percy has been, in recent years, as much concerned with its Roman and prehistoric antecedents as with its Saxon and medieval buildings. Archaeology is ultimately concerned with 3.5 million years of man on earth. The historian's pre-occupation with, at the most, 0.005 per cent of this period, appears to the palaeo-anthropologist as temporal chauvinism.

Medieval archaeologists do, of course, still dig medieval sites, and there has been some reaction from settlement archaeology to the original roots of the subject in the nineteenth century, the study of aristocratic buildings and especially churches, prompted in the latter case by the major threats to this rich heritage by redundancy, and paradoxically by restoration and drainage works.

There is an especial interest too in the earlier centuries of the Dark Ages and the Anglo-Saxon settlement. In these periods the archaeological evidence is paramount, and successes in these fields in recent years quite dramatic.

Archaeological investigation of documented societies such as those of the high middle ages has been increasingly used not so much for its intrinsic interest as for its value as a controlling model in the study of pre-literate societies. To know the precise manner of William the Conqueror's invasion of England may provide at least one possible model for earlier 'invasions' represented only by distribution of certain kinds of prehistoric pottery - if only one that must be instantly rejected.

These facets of the development of medieval archaeology are reflected in the activities in the School. Links with medieval village studies are maintained by Dr. Dyer's editorship of the Annual Report of the Medieval Village Research Group. Research into the traditional subjects of high medieval archaeology is promoted by our long-term examination of the Cistercian Abbey of Bordesley, near Redditch; but with the aim not of merely adding to the plan of the ruins (an approach which is still largely pursued in many of our 'ancient monuments') but rather of understanding the entire settlement history of this important monastic institution.

To this end we have surveyed its earthworks, fishponds and industrial area, excavated the floor levels of its church, and recovered the skeletons of its monks, as well as more traditional work on its church architecture with its glass and floor tiles.

Bordesley is now our main training excavation and we are able to run it on a reasonable scale because we receive finance, not only from the University but from the Redditch District Council and the Redditch Development Corporation, both of which see the cultural view of our work in the developing New Town. We are also financed by the University of Rochester, New York, whose students work with us in what has now become an Anglo-American field school. Professor David Walsh and his wife Ellen organise the participation of their students, and incorporate the architectural and art historical studies of Bordesley in their own research.

In the dark Ages we have been sharing with the University of Bristol in the excavation of the sixth-century site on the hill-fort of Cadbury Congresbury in Somerset, which promises to become a classic site of this period, where the interpretation owes little to the sparse written sources. We have also been involved in the total examination of the Anglo-Saxon Church at Deerhurst, near Gloucester, where again the study of the fabric is only one of many interdisciplinary approaches to the monastic (and Roman) complex.

In the post-medieval period, the School has been prominent in the promotion of grave-stone study and recording - the current standard work on this was written by one of our students, Jeremy Jones. The interest of this in terms of recent social and religious history is real enough, but this exceptionally well-dated class of material has proved of direct relevance to the understanding of earlier cemeteries whose gravemarkers, if any, have long since disappeared.

These are all research activities, and the finance available is relatively low, even with local authority and American help. The major source is from central government, for rescue archaeology. The School has made full use of this for research, and has at the same time contributed towards the salvaging of historical evidence from the needs of development. Outstanding among our rescue digs was the discovery of an Anglo-Saxon watermill of the eighth century at Tamworth, possibly in a royal Mercian context, the first of its kind in the country.

This year we have undertaken a major rescue dig at Kenchester near Hereford, on a site outside the Roman town of Magnis. It was hoped to throw some light on the relationship between the end of the Roman town and the origins of Hereford. The site proved to be a farmstead by a stream, with its origins in a pre-Roman period. It became highly Romanised in the second-third centuries with mosaics, hypocausts and painted plaster, and continuing into the fourth and fifth centuries. Although not necessarily part of the town, the fortunes of the two areas must have been closely linked. The finds suggested that beef and leather were the principal pro-

ducts, anticipating the steak for which Hereford is famous today.

The restrictions on finance from academic bodies make it necessary to seek funds elsewhere if one is to do work on the scale needed to ensure results of value. This year we have spent from £15,000 in this way, promoting Job Creation Programme labour schemes, providing cultural resources for a new town, and most importantly training our students and those of Rochester in the vocational skills for which there is an increasing demand in University teaching, and by which good job opportunities are secured.

PHILIP RAHTZ

### Computer Applications

#### 1. Graphics

I have continued to work in this area and I can now offer three different ways of presenting the results from a survey. First the three-dimensional projection drawing of a surface, where you can view the surface from each corner in turn and alter the vertical scale as required. Secondly a contour drawing of the area and here I had so much trouble with the programs provided that I set to work and wrote my own. It is simpler than those provided and draws each contour as a series of straight lines rather than a smooth curve, but it does avoid the problems of trying to produce smooth curves on a computer and ensures that contours never cross one another. The final type of presentation is a dot-density graph which can be useful in trying to visualise the results from a resistivity or magnetometer survey. This is not yet in its final form because the present version takes far too much computer time, but I am trying various ways of curing this and should have a final version very soon.

#### 2. Gazetteer Data Bank

The software to add new records to the data file for each county and make any corrections necessary is now finished and has been working smoothly for some time. I have two programs to extract information, one which produces a printed list and one which produced a distribution map of a given area. I do not expect to write any more programs to run on the 1906A computer for this project, but I shall produce a standard request form which can be used to extract information easily. When the new interactive computer is installed at Birmingham, I shall be able to provide some extra programs which allow you to come to the Computer Centre, sit down at a terminal and look at any records you wish. You could then request a copy of your final selection of records on the printer and only print the records you want. Such a session might appear something like this.

You come into the computer laboratory and sit down in front of a Visual Display Unit (This consists of a typewriter keyboard for you to use and a T.V. screen to display the conversation.) You type the following:

HELLO-X200, password.

The computer replies with the date and time and invites you to go ahead.

GET GAZPROG

RUN

The program GAZPROG to obtain information from the gazetteer files is now running and all the remaining messages come from this.

I HAVE INFORMATION FOR COUNTIES OF SALOP (SA), STAFFORDSHIRE (ST) AND WORCESTERSHIRE (WR). WHICH COUNTY DO YOU WANT ?

The question mark is your cue to type in a reply, which might be

? SA

I CAN SELECT RECORDS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

1. BY PARISH
2. BY GENERIC TYPE
3. BY NAME OF MUSEUM FOR FINDS ONLY
4. BY MAP REFERENCE

WHICH MODE OF SELECTION DO YOU WANT?

To which you might reply ? 1.

DO YOU WISH TO BE REMINDED OF THE 4-LETTER CODES FOR THE PARISHES? NO.

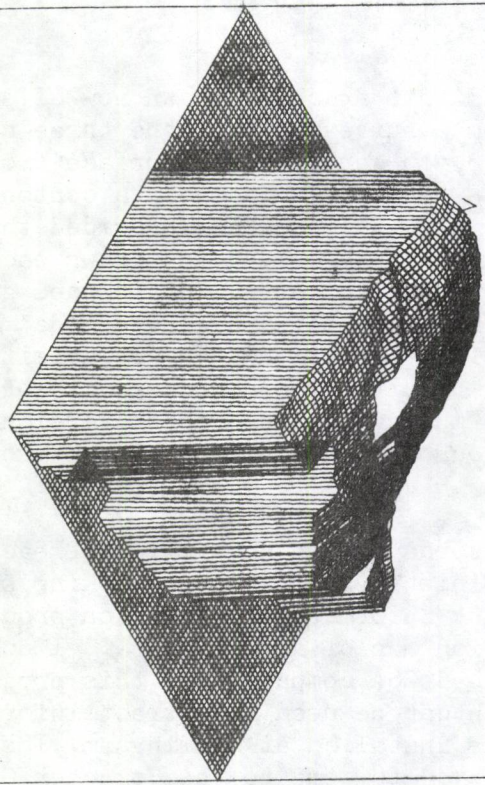
PLEASE TYPE PARISH CODE. ? MWEN.

START OF GRAPHICAL OUTPUT FOR CASLB3015

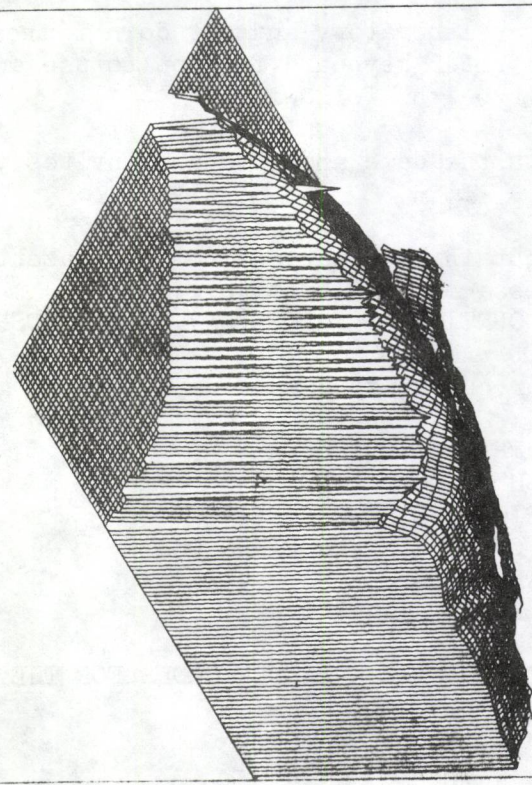
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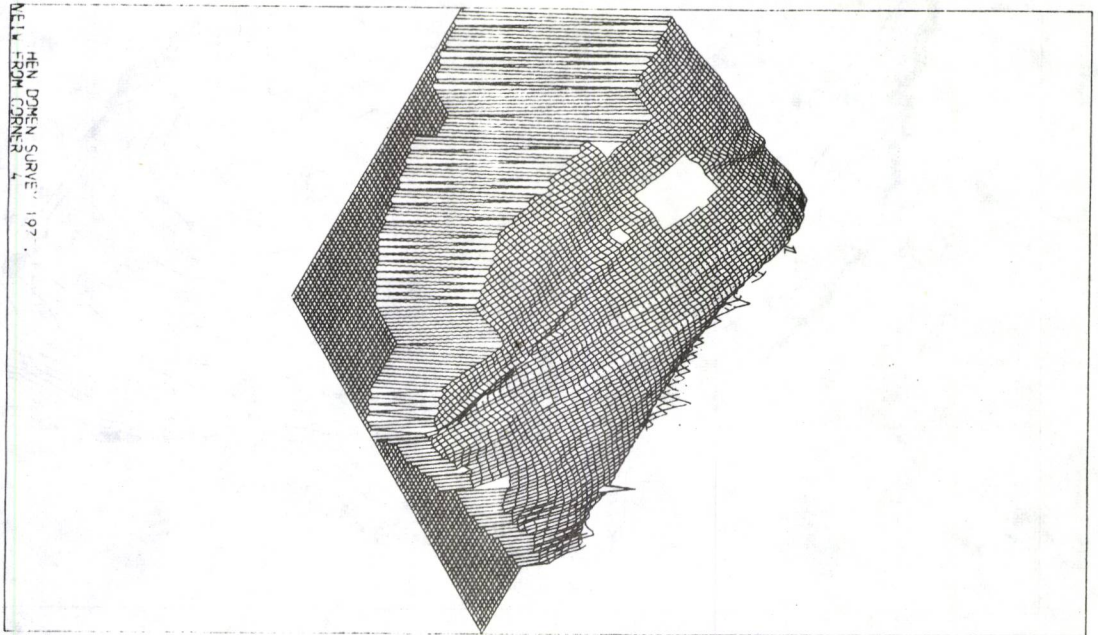
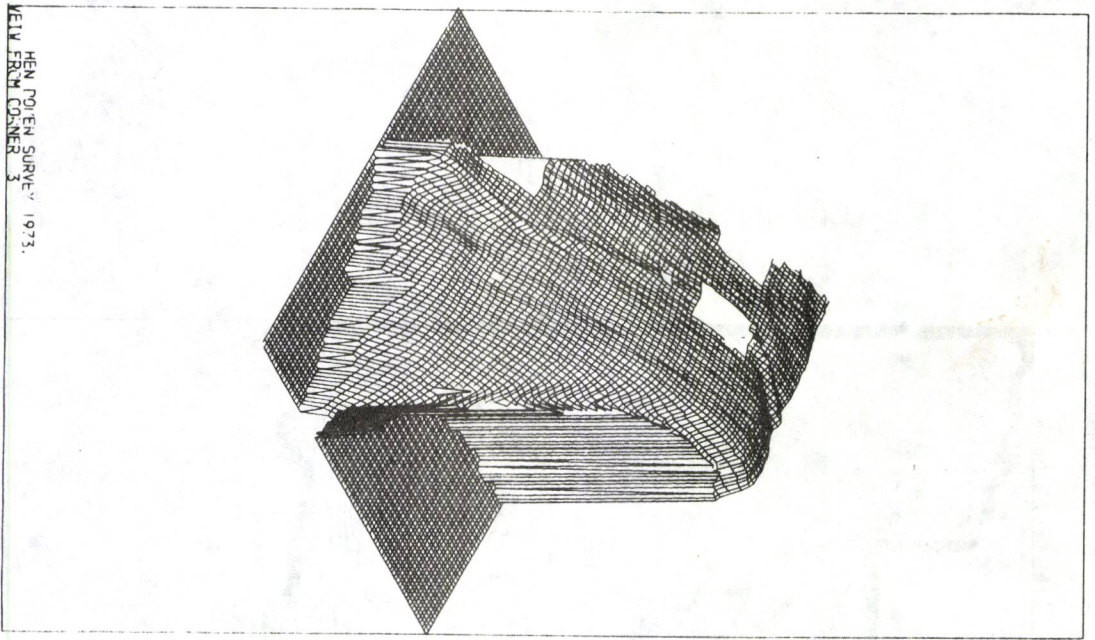
VIEW FROM CORNER 1  
HEN DOMEN SURVEY 1973.



VIEW FROM CORNER 2  
HEN DOMEN SURVEY 1973.

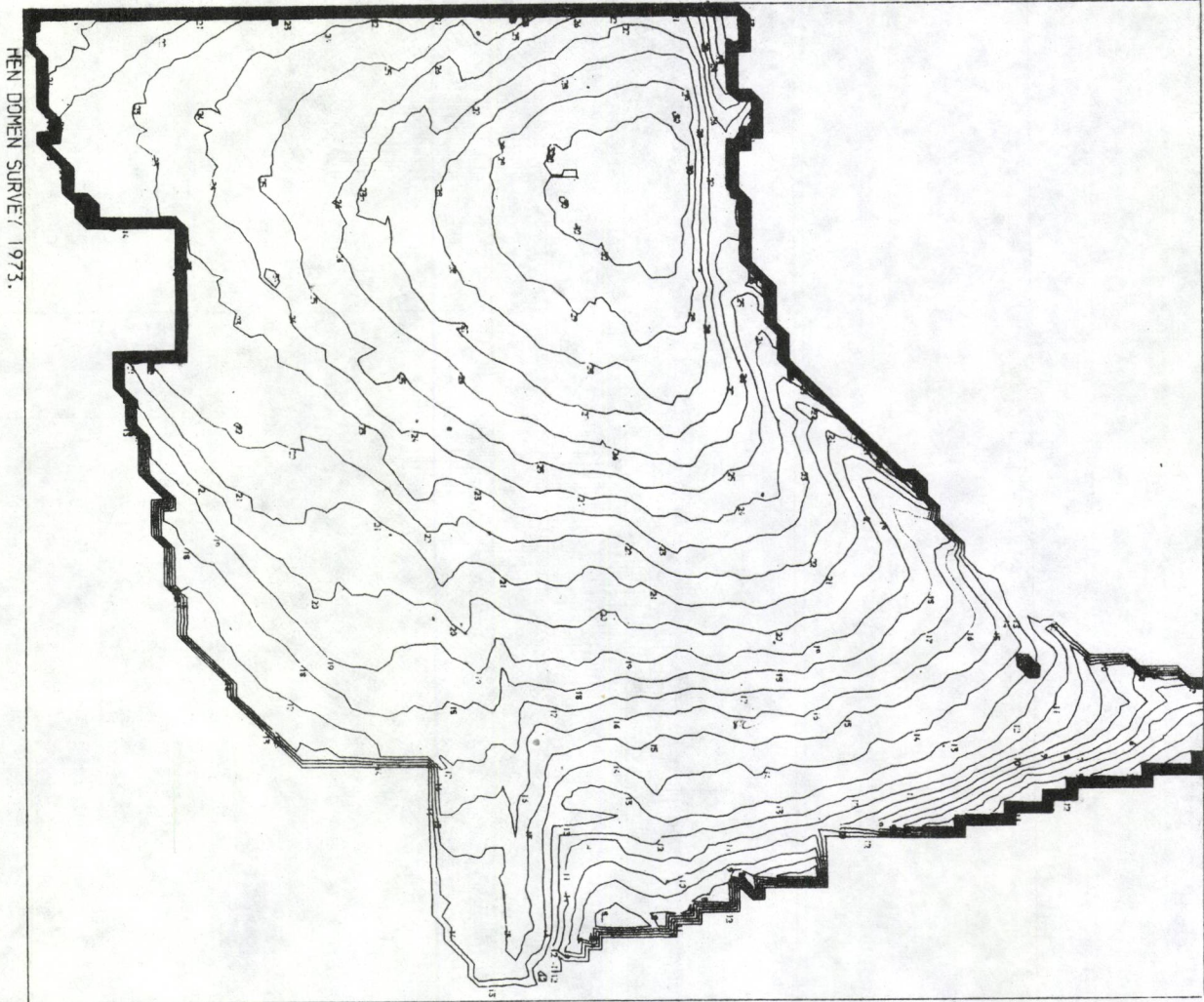






OUTPUT ENDS FOR CASLB3015 \*\*\*\*\* 1906 MILL TIME TAKEN FOR THIS PLOT 106.86 SECONDS \*\*\*\*\*

JOB=ARCHP21 USER=CASLB3015  
DATE=29/11/77 TIME=20/59/59



There would now be a delay while the program scans through all the data for Shropshire and selects the records you want. Then you would get the message 20 RECORDS FOR PARISH OF MUCH WENLOCK (MWEN). THEY WILL BE DISPLAYED ONE AT A TIME. PLEASE PRESS LETTER A WHEN YOU WANT THE NEXT ONE.

And you would then work through all the records, noting which are of interest. At the end you would get the message.

DO YOU WANT A PRINTED COPY OF THIS INFORMATION?

To which you would reply yes or no. If you replied yes, you would be asked to type in your name and address, so that the printout is easy to identify. In either case, you would then be asked if you wished to select any more records from the file. If you answered yes, you would return to the question WHICH MODE OF SELECTION DO YOU WANT? and if you answered no the program would finish with the message DONE.

You would then log out by typing BYE.

The printed copies you had requested could either be collected from the operator in charge of the line printer or be posted to you later on.

This is all in the future and the exact form of the commands will depend on the type of computer installed in the Computer Centre, but it is the sort of run you can get on an interactive system. At the moment, the only computer big enough to store the data files for the gazetteer is the 1906A. To use this you would need to complete a request form, post this to me, I will arrange for a run on the computer and post the output back to you. If you are a member of an archaeological society or registered as a student of archaeology, there is no charge for this service.

SUSAN LAFLIN, Computer Centre,  
University of Birmingham.

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The CBA has moved its office to  
112, Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE Tel. 01 582 0494

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### The CBA Diploma in Practical Archaeology

1978 will be a significant year in the archaeological annals with the launching of the CBA Diploma. This will be of great benefit to amateurs and professionals alike in establishing targets for their studies and practical work and raising and maintaining standards in excavation and fieldwork. This year examinations are being set for only the first four certificates and details of registration and syllabuses are now available from the CBA.

The excavation certificate (No. 3) is the only one of which candidates will be required to supply details of experience and the name of a referee. This is to make sure students do not waste their time and that of others in attempting something for which they are not yet ready. The examination involves each candidate working on a site, chosen for him or her, as a site supervisor for two weeks under continuous assessment of all the varieties of work, recording, interpretation, drawing, photography etc.

GRAHAM WEBSTER

Watching Brief on Water Pipeline Trench, Oversley Parish, Alcester, Warwickshire.

Situation

Oversley parish is a rural area (OS 090560), about one mile S. of the site of the large Roman settlement at Alcester. The high archaeological potential of a part of the parish, was crossed in August 1977 by a water pipeline, was known largely from air photographs (Fig.1). Ickniel Street, the Roman road from Cirencester runs S.-N. through the parish to Alcester and was to be cut by the pipe trench at OS 087560. The trench was also to cross the S. part of the mound of the medieval (12th C.) Boteler's castle complex at OS 084557. At OS 087561, a raised linear feature running W.-E. meets the Roman road, and seems to curve S. to be cut by the pipe trench about 40m E. of the road. This feature had been variously interpreted: as a rampart of a hillfort (it is well situated on a hill plateau); as the mound marking an enclosure of the castle, and as a road leading from Ickniel street to the castle (Chatwin, 1940).

A watching brief was carried out along a 630 m stretch of the pipeline trench, which was 2.5m wide and between 2-3.5m deep, between OS 084557 and OS 089561. The limit OS 084557 is marked 'Ob' on Fig. 1. The pipe trench excavation methods, using a single JCB hydraulic excavator with back-acter equipment, enforced limitations on the archaeological recording. Small features such as post-holes and beam-slots, were probably lost without trace.

Results of Observation

General geology: a stiff sandy loam topsoil overlying bands of red marl and decayed limestone on a bedrock of lias limestone.

Features (positions marked on Fig. 1):

At A - a wide shallow U-sectioned feature, 7 m wide and 2.0m+ deep, visible on both sides of the trench section lying NW/SE cut through from a cobbled layer (the extent of which is marked X in Fig. 1) lying 0.5m below the ground surface, down into bedrock. There were 3 fill layers; the latest contained modern land drains and pieces of limestone, the next charcoal and limestone chips; the earliest layer was clean. The matrix of all 3 layers was a stiff sandy loam of orange-brown colour, free of pebbles and stones. At this end of Field 19 the land is badly drained. No artifacts were found.

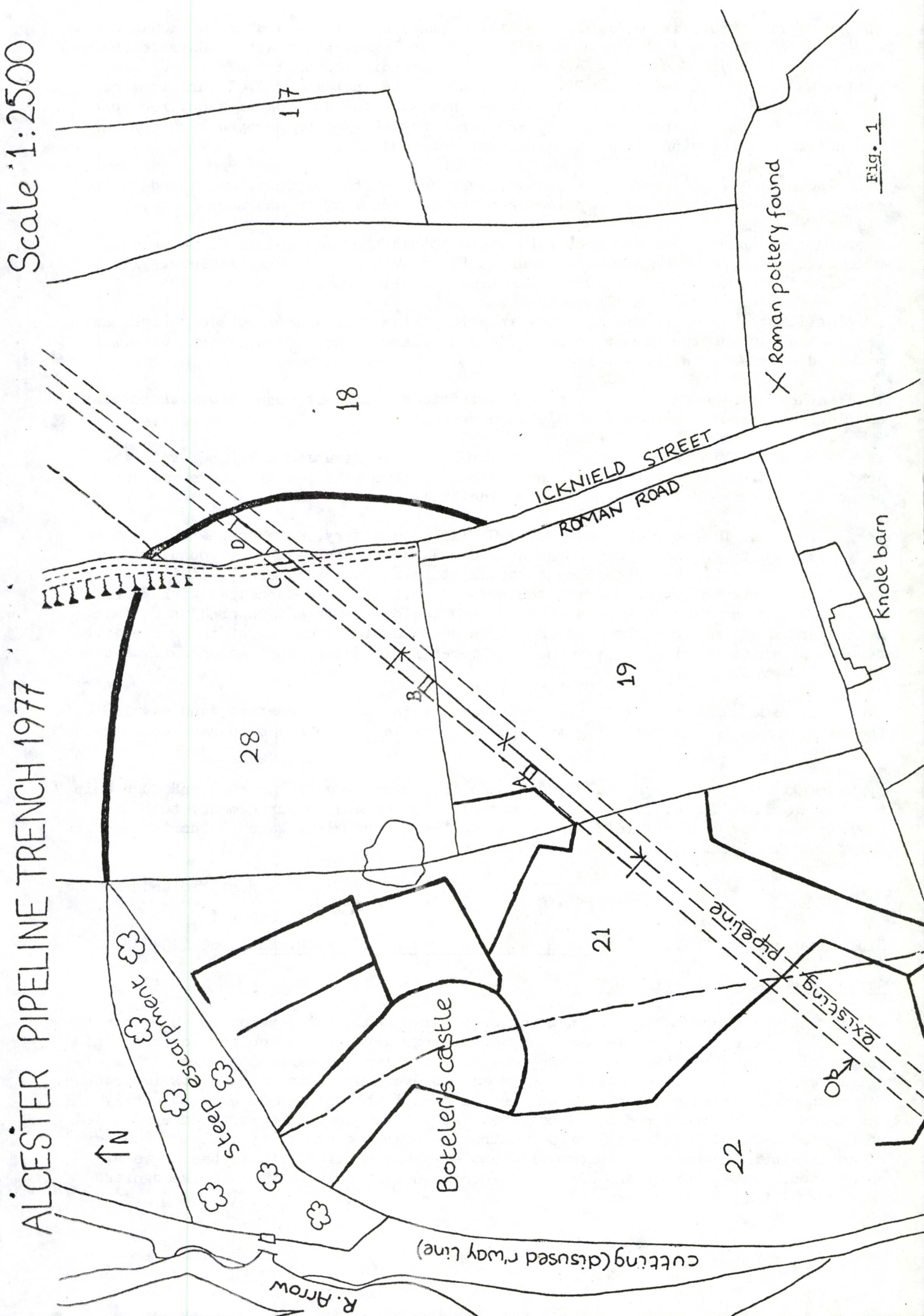
At B- a small U-sectioned feature, 2m wide and 1.5m deep (N. section) 1.7m wide and 1.2m deep (S. section) and lying NW/SE. It was also cut through from the cobbled layer, here lying at 0.8m below ground surface. There was one fill - a stiff dark orange brown sandy loam containing small pieces of charcoal, animal bone (bos) and many sherds of pottery. Except for 1 splash-glazed rim and patchily green glazed body sherd, the pottery was unglazed coarse cooking pot (there was fuming on the bases and the lower parts of vessels) with largish white shiny grits. A 13th C. date has been given for the pottery (M.O.H. Carver), with perhaps some sherds dating from the 12th C.

At C - a section through Ickniel Street, revealing a flat laid cobbled surface 8.5m wide (S. side), 8.0m wide (N. side), the cobbles reaching a depth of 0.7m at the road centre. There were 3 sherds of unglazed 13th C. (?) ware in the dark brown clayey road matrix. The road was lying on a N.-S. line, in the red marl, and was overlaid by 30 cm of rich humic topsoil containing animal bone, limestone pieces and many sherds of 13th C. pottery, much like that found in the feature at B. There was no evidence of ditches connected with the road.

At D - between 8-29 N.E. of Ickniel Street, the remains of 16 extended inhumations were found. They lay at depths between 0.2-1.3m below ground surface in the red marl below topsoil and were sealed by a layer of occupation debris (roof tiles, floor tiles, pottery, charcoal, of medieval and Roman date). The alignment of the bodies was W.-E., with feet pointing E. There were no grave goods, though two of

Scale 1:2500

ALCESTER PIPELINE TRENCH 1977



↑ N

Steep escarpment

cutting (disused r/way line)

R. Arrow

Boteler's castle

Knole barn

X Roman pottery found

ICKNIELD STREET  
ROMAN ROAD

17

18

19

21

22

28

D

C

B

A

OP

existing pipeline

Fig. 1

the grave fills contained sherds of pottery, (in one burial - a sherd of Roman rustic ware; in the other - 3 sherds of a soft orange unglazed fabric with reddish colour coat, also Roman). Study of the bones recovered indicates that 8 of the burials contained persons of less than 25 years of age (i.e. not mature), 5 burials were of adults and for 3 burials an estimate was not made due to lack of recovered bone. In some cases a U shaped grave cut, seen as a red marl/green decayed limestone mix against the surrounding clean red marl, was noticed.

Other points: The crop-mark in Field 18, just east of the burials, was found to be a natural ridge of limestone; no evidence of a man-made feature was seen.

Oversley is a parish without a church; Field 18 had the name Chapel Close, with a well called Lady Well on its S. boundary. Field 17 was Rough Chapel Close. Field 31, directly to the N. of Field 18, was Lower Chapel Close.

IMPLICATIONS: the feature at A, being in a low lying poorly drained field with many modern land drains throughout seems to be a drainage channel of uncertain date, with modern disturbance in the topfill.

The feature at B seems to be a Medieval domestic rubbish pit, connected with Boteler's castle. No structures of the castle were seen.

The feature at C is the Roman road, but may have been resurfaced in medieval times - just to the N. of the trench crossing, the road enters a hollow way where rain water seems to have washed away the road down the hill.

The features at D appear to belong to a Christian cemetery, date unknown. It lies very close to the Roman road, and about 250 m E. of Boteler's castle mound. If it is Roman, this could indicate Roman settlement in the Oversley area. It is too far from Alcester to be connected with the Roman town. If it is connected with Boteler's castle, which was said to have a chapel, this could give it a 12th or 13th C. date. Radio-carbon dating is to be carried out on bone samples from two of the graves, the results of which may indicate whether the cemetery is Roman, post Roman/Early Medieval or Medieval.

The field name evidence points to a Medieval origin for the cemetery, and may indicate the site of the chapel belonging to Boteler's castle, which may also have been the parish church.

My thanks to Martin Carver and Raymond Lamb for organising the project and much help, Don Sidaway and Dick Malin for invaluable aid, advice and encouragement; to Edwin Saville who provided the field names, and to the Severn Trent Water Authority and its employees for their interest and co-operation.

DEBORAH FORD West Midlands Archaeology Unit

Bibliography: P. Chatwin, Trans. Birm. Arch. and Warks. Arch. Soc., 60 (1940)

#### Aerial Reconnaissances in 1977

It was easier to predict areas in which crop marks would not develop in 1977 than to find areas where they could. Also many crop marks were of poor colour contrast and only visible from limited oblique angles. The clarity and ease with which archaeological evidence can be seen from the air is, however, no indication of its importance. Too much emphasis is being placed on the use of air photographs to extract easily recognisable features from the landscape. As a technique, this is no more advanced than using metal detectors to extract coins from their context. Aerial archaeology seeks to widen the range of information and evidence available to archaeologists, not to focus attention on the limited information available from easily recognised features without a wider context.

Although the Staffordshire Trent and Tame Valleys have been surveyed for more than 20 years, they continue to produce new evidence each year. More than 50% of the fields in the valleys have recorded 'sites'. There is a specific reason for any field having failed to produce a 'site' so far. It is becoming increasingly necessary to stress, from evidence in other areas, that the settlement pattern it is comparatively easy to record in crop marks on river gravels arises from factors that are not related to real distribution of sites. A combination of aerial archaeology and intensive field work on the heavy clay soils that went entirely under medieval ridge and furrow field systems is now producing evidence of R.B. settlements every few hundred yards over large areas as well as Iron Age sites and scatters of Bronze Age and Neolithic flints. Even the heavy clay soils are providing Mesolithic sites.

On the wider evidence available from such work (which is being currently carried out and is therefore not generally known), some areas of heavy soil with multi-period occupation do not, in contrast with both valleys and exposed higher ground, seem to have any of the large prehistoric ritual monuments. There is scope for speculation on whether this arises from ritual monuments being constructed on marginal land rather than the constantly occupied land. This is exactly the opposite of the current concepts of archaeology.

Whilst the weather permutations in the Shrewsbury area were unfavourable for crop marks, Wenlock Edge and the Ludlow area produced another small rash of new evidence.

Most of the known sites in the Warwickshire Avon did not develop crop marks, but here again, a number of unknown sites appeared for no obvious reasons and others were recorded in widely different soil contexts in different parts of the country.

Whilst study of the changes in soil moisture deficiencies throughout the growth cycle of annual crops can give a lead to some areas where crop marks are most likely to develop, deficiencies develop in soils of different structure at different rates when subject to the same amount of rainfall. Crop marks seem much less likely to develop where soil moisture deficiencies are small.

J. PICKERING

### The Regional Urban Survey

Following the completion of the text of the Iron Age study, M.O.H. Carver organised a seminar on the Iron Age in the West Midlands on February 23rd 1977 in which papers were given by those working on Iron Age projects in the region. Professor B. Cunliffe chaired the useful discussion session centred on research and rescue priorities. Approaches are being made to various journals about the publication of the Iron Age text with a view to bringing the West Midlands into the mainstream of Iron Age discussions at a national level.

Six chapters of the Roman text have been prepared and there is further work to be done on a subject which has proved to be much more complicated than the Iron Age section of the survey. The two central chapters on 'Urban Criteria' and 'The Economic, Social and Official Functions of the Roman Towns and Villages of the West Midlands' have been circulated, chiefly to members of the Urban Research Committee for the present. In these two chapters, I have redefined the 'town' and the 'village' in the Roman period in terms primarily of economic function (see 'Definitions' below) but also in terms of the very real physical distinctions which exist between the roadside villages, such as Tripontium and Letocetum, and the major centres, such as Alcester, Worcester and Kenchester. I have constructed a theoretical framework against which to place the development of these settlements and I have tabulated the provisional classification of these settlements according to economic, social and official functions on the basis of the evidence available at present (see Tables One and Two Below).

For the first time for some years, there has been a fair amount of work on a number of major Roman settlements - Droitwich, Worcester and Kenchester - and this new interest, together with the current analysis of Roman settlements for the Urban Survey, formed the background for The Roman Nucleated Settlements Seminar which was held on November 18th 1977 under the auspices of the Urban Research Committee. This was chaired by Professor J.J. Wilkes and the format followed that of the Iron Age seminar. It proved almost impossible to make any decision on priorities, largely because there were very few points of comparison between the settlements involved; each centre had a function and character which was unlike that of any other. But, the seminar did highlight certain points and one result has been the Urban Research Committee's decision to hold a seminar to bring together the information from various disciplines on Alcester.

The Urban Officer gave a paper on 'Settlement Growth in the West Midlands from the Late Roman to the Late Saxon Period' at the Oxford Conference on The Archaeology of Mercian Towns (15-17th April 1977) in which preliminary thoughts on the Anglo-Saxon text were explored.

On December 1st 1977, I was formally accepted by the University of Birmingham as a DOE funded Research Fellow in the School of History and I can be found on the 4th floor of the Arts Block, Room 444. I shall still be working under the direction of the Urban Research Committee.

#### The Urban Research Committee

The Urban Sub-Committee of WEMRAC has now become the Urban Research Committee of the University of Birmingham and extended its membership to include other members of staff from the School of History. The committee visited the excavation in Lichfield in May and those at Kenchester in September and members have been given illustrated talks on work in Worcester and Tamworth. It is hoped to make this a regular occurrence.

Coventry: Archaeology and Development by M. Rylatt with Historical Background by A. & E. A. Gooder. ed. J.N. Crickmore.

This report was prepared under the auspices of the Coventry Historic City Committee and appeared in print in September 1977. It has been an enormous success despite the current disillusionment with implications reports and of the 1000 copies printed over 900 have already been sold. Preparations are in progress for a reprint in the new year. In particular, the response from the local authority departments has been overwhelming; M. Rylatt has now been formally involved in planning procedures and gave a seminar to the architects' department at their own request. The report is on sale at 80p. For details, write to M. Rylatt, Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Jordan Well, Coventry.

JULIE N. CRICKMORE Research Fellow  
University of Birmingham

#### Definitions

##### Village

The definition of a village as it is used in this text with reference to the nucleated settlements of the West Midlands is based primarily on economic criteria. It is a settlement which functioned as a minor or purely local market centre for a fairly restricted area. Its economic basis was limited and geared to providing the means for the exchange of agricultural surplus and the purchase of basic commodities. Its industries were very small scale and were producing largely for the needs of the village community only. The economy of the settlement was based very much on agricultural pursuits.

##### Town

The definition of a town as it is used in this text is based primarily on economic criteria. It is classified as a settlement which functioned as a major market and distribution centre for a fairly large hinterland. It provided the means of exchange



for agricultural surplus and the purchase of basic commodities in the same way as the village or purely local market centre, but its commercial and industrial basis was geared towards catering for the needs of the surrounding population in a more positive and deliberate way. The range of industries would have been much wider than in the village and, although most of them would have been fairly small scale, they would have been a major element in the diversified economic basis which characterised the major market centre.

Table One

The Classification of the Nucleated settlements of the West Midlands according to economic functions

A. Regional Market and service centres (towns)

Centres which were important in the regional trade network either as consumer centres (Wroxeter) or as redistribution centres for major industries of the region and for imports from other areas. Both these centres have trade contacts on a regional basis.

Wroxeter	civitas capital
Worcester	port and distribution centre for major industries e.g. salt and pottery; also a production centre in its own right (iron).

B. Major market and service centres (towns)

The economic basis of these settlements is varied and involves to some extent specialisation in particular industries, although not necessarily on a large scale. These centres were also responsible for providing an impetus towards the exploitation of local resources. Its industries catered for the needs of the town but probably also provided in varying degrees for the requirements of a fairly large agricultural hinterland and this would involve items and services other than the basic necessities. These settlements were often also distribution and marketing centres for large industrial concerns or rural based industries and their trade contacts would have been at a regional or possibly wider level.

Alcester  
Chesterton/Holditch  
Kenchester

Other likely candidates in this category: Chesterton-on-Fosse, Whitchurch and perhaps also Rocester and Blackwardine.

C. Local market and service centres (villages)

These are settlements whose economic basis includes a large involvement in agriculture together with small scale industrial activity. It would provide market facilities for the exchange of agricultural surplus from an agricultural hinterland which was probably fairly restricted and undemanding in terms of the services it required on a regular basis. The local or minor market centre would therefore provide only basic commodities and its level of economic competence would be geared to self sufficiency rather than producing goods for a large rural population.

Letocetum  
Manduessedum  
Pennocrucium  
Tripontium

Other likely candidates in this category: Leintwardine, Rutunium, Stretton Grandison, Tiddington, Uxacona, Venonae. This probably also includes Droitwich.

D. Industrial complexes

Settlements which have primarily an industrial basis although they may also be market and service centres.

Ariconium, iron - Droitwich, salt - Mancetter/Hartshill, pottery.

Table Two

The Classification of the Nucleated Settlements of the West Midlands according to official/central place functions.

A. Mansiones

Leintwardine

Letocetum

Tripontium

Other sites which have been suggested for this category: Chesterton-on-Fosse.

B. Religious centres

Letocetum?

C. Administrative centres

Wroxeter

civitas capital

Kenchester

possible pagus centre/later civitas capital

Letocetum

possible pagus centre/later civitas capital

Tripontium

Later civitas capital?

Other sites which have been suggested for this category: Whitchurch.

Maesbury Marsh Pipeline Project

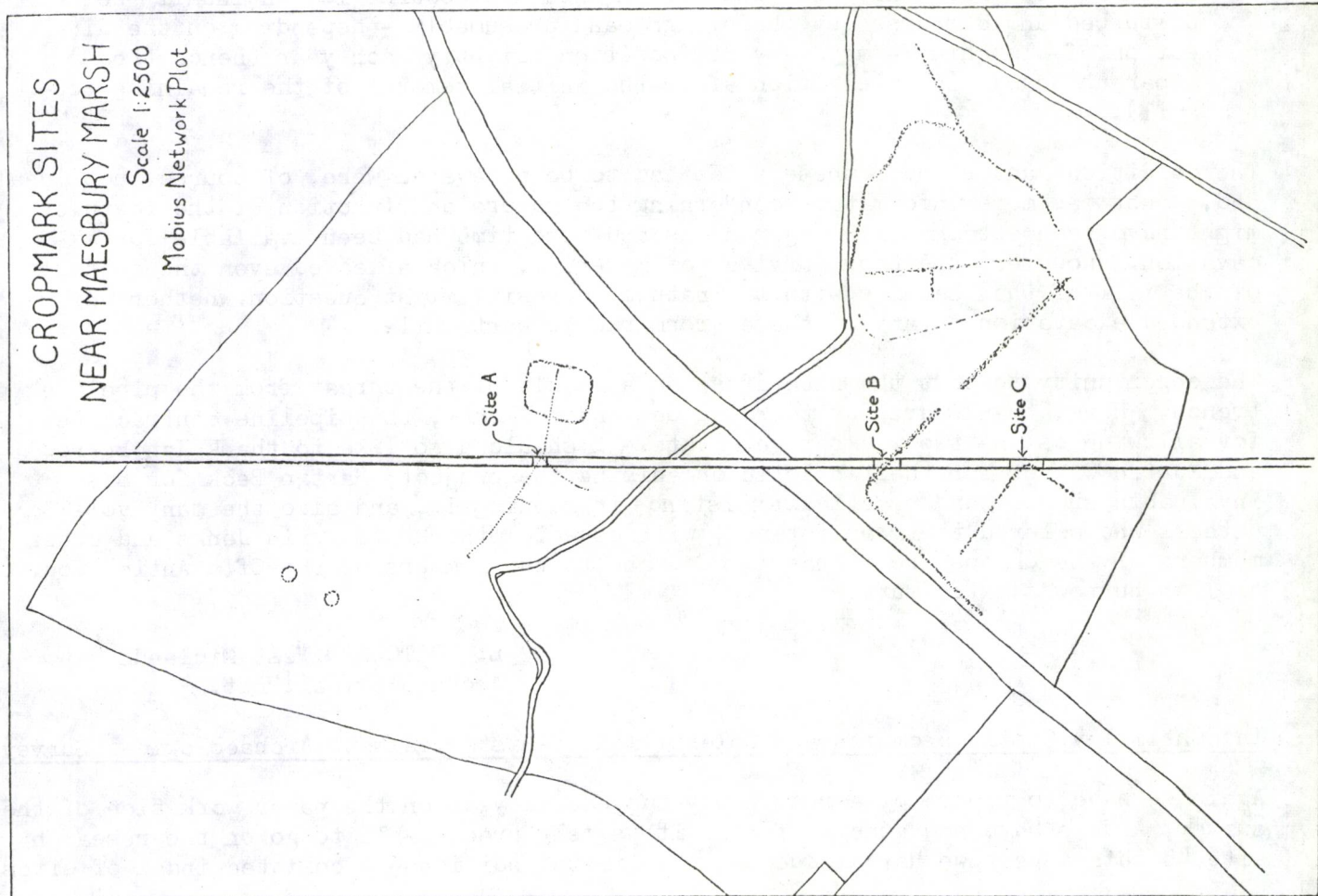
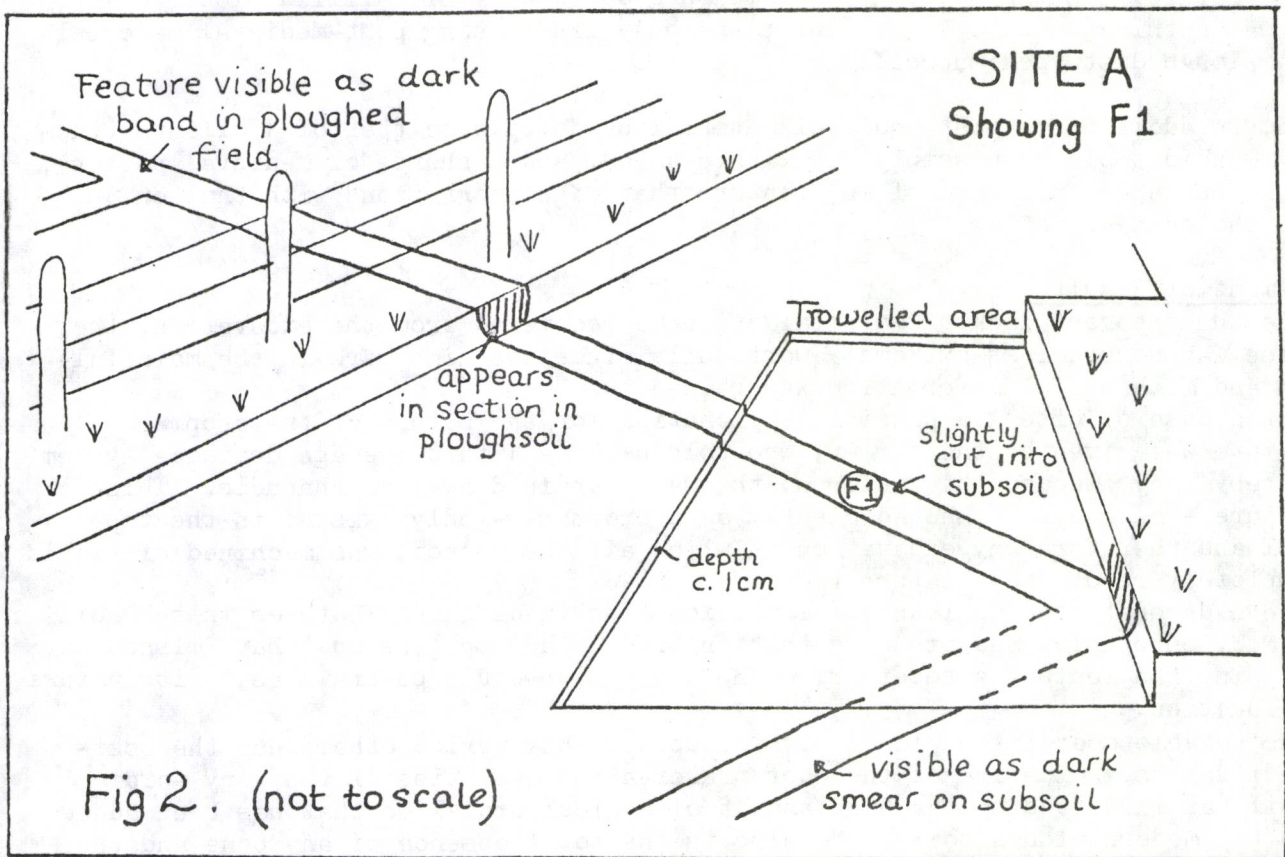
A series of air photographs (taken by Arnold Baker and Barri Jones) has revealed numerous crop mark sites in N.W. Shropshire. Three such sites at Maesbury Marsh (SJ 314 261 & SJ 314 263) became available for investigation when threatened by a gas pipeline running from Oswestry to Welshpool. Wales Gas allowed two weeks for three small excavations to be carried out.

The aims of the excavations were four-fold:-

- i) to determine the nature of the cropmark features and to find out how they are distinguishable in the soil.
- ii) to ascertain the extent of preservation both of features and finds on such sites.
- iii) to determine how much damage is being done by the plough.
- iv) to relate any information gained to the many other, as yet unexcavated, crop-mark sites in Shropshire.

The cropmarks were transferred from the air photographs to a 1:2500 map (Fig.1) by Ian Burrow using the Mobius network method and their positions on the ground were measured in from the road along the pipeline easement. A 5 m. strip along the easement had been cleared of topsoil by the pipeline contractors and on first examination of the sites the feature of Site A was already clearly visible in the area predicted although there was nothing in evidence on Sites B or C. On Site A (Fig.2) appeared two dark apparently charcoal-rich bands orientated NW-SE (F1) and NE-SW respectively. The initial clearance and cleaning of the site removed all the remaining topsoil and also resulted in slightly changing the orientation of F1 and in totally removing the NE-SW orientated feature. A section through F1 proved it to be cut only about 3 cm. into the subsoil. After the adjacent fields on either side of the easement had been ploughed, and before harrowing, it was noticed that the whole extent of the linear feature seen from the air (except the enclosure which was not so readily visible) could be traced as darker lines in the ploughsoil. There was nothing to date the feature conclusively, however, since the only finds consisted of a few sherds of post medieval pottery such as littered the whole field.

On Site B no feature was recognised until the end of the first week when an alignment of pebbles and differential drying of the subsoil indicated one possible edge of a linear feature that seemed to correspond in orientation and position to the cropmark. Definition of the feature proved difficult due to the apparent lack of contrast between the supposed fill and the natural subsoil. In section however it was just possible to distinguish some sort of S. edge where the pebble-filled subsoil sloped



gently down and was overlaid by a compacted silt layer which may have been the fill of the feature. In the bottom of the feature appeared a silt-filled slot. Again, there was nothing to date the feature; the only finds being post-medieval material in the plough disturbed subsoil.

Site C, in addition to post medieval material produced a scatter of 13 flints (including worked tools of possibly Mesolithic date), and 3 sherds of medieval pottery, but here there was no trace of any feature that might correspond with that on the aerial photograph.

#### Assessment of Results

Despite the apparent lack of material evidence recovered from the excavation, the exercise was nonetheless extremely worthwhile since its aims were in the main fulfilled and much useful information was gained.

i) in the case of Site A a possible explanation for the nature of the cropmark feature was given by the farmer, who told us of a 19th C. sewage drainage system whereby they flooded the field and the waste drained away in channels. This feature - although it showed clearly as a cropmark - only existed in the topsoil and therefore any excavation in which all the topsoil was machined off would completely remove the feature too.

Site B demonstrated admirably the difficulties in defining features in the soil of N.W. Shropshire and it seems that on Site C the pipeline must have missed crossing the feature altogether, so no conclusion could be drawn as to its nature or function.

ii) The notable scarcity of finds attributable to any period other than the post-medieval is indicative of the poor preservation qualities of the very acidic soil (as indicated by the high amount of agricultural lime that has been added to the modern plough soil). So also is the total absence of any bone and the highly corroded state of the three medieval sherds from Site C.

iii) Long sections of each of the sites showed that the plough damage to these areas must be considerable. The features occurred immediately under the plough soil if not in it and such finds as there were, were in a position to be greatly disturbed by ploughing. The feature on Site A of course is continually being disturbed and dispersed by the plough, and presumably - depending on the direction of ploughing - may vary its position slightly each year (hence the apparent change in orientation after the initial removal of the remaining topsoil).

The conditions under which these sites had to be excavated were, of course, not ideal and, doubtless more information concerning the nature and function of the features might have been obtained if larger areas and more time had been available for excavation. However, the poor survival of material, which affected even the contrast of the fill of the features with the natural deposit, might question whether an extended excavation on any of these cropmarks is worthwhile.

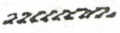


The opportunity to test the site arose as a result of the threat from the pipeline trench. Here, thanks are due to Wales Gas and to Monks, the pipeline contractors for allowing us the two weeks to excavate. I should also like to thank Ian Burrow and Martin Carver for their help in organising the project; Martin Beck for his invaluable support and practical assistance in running it, and also the many volunteers who offered their assistance, with especial thanks to Ernie Jenks and other members of the Shropshire Archaeol. Soc. and to the members of the Offa Antiq. Soc. and Ian Burrow's Extra-mural class.

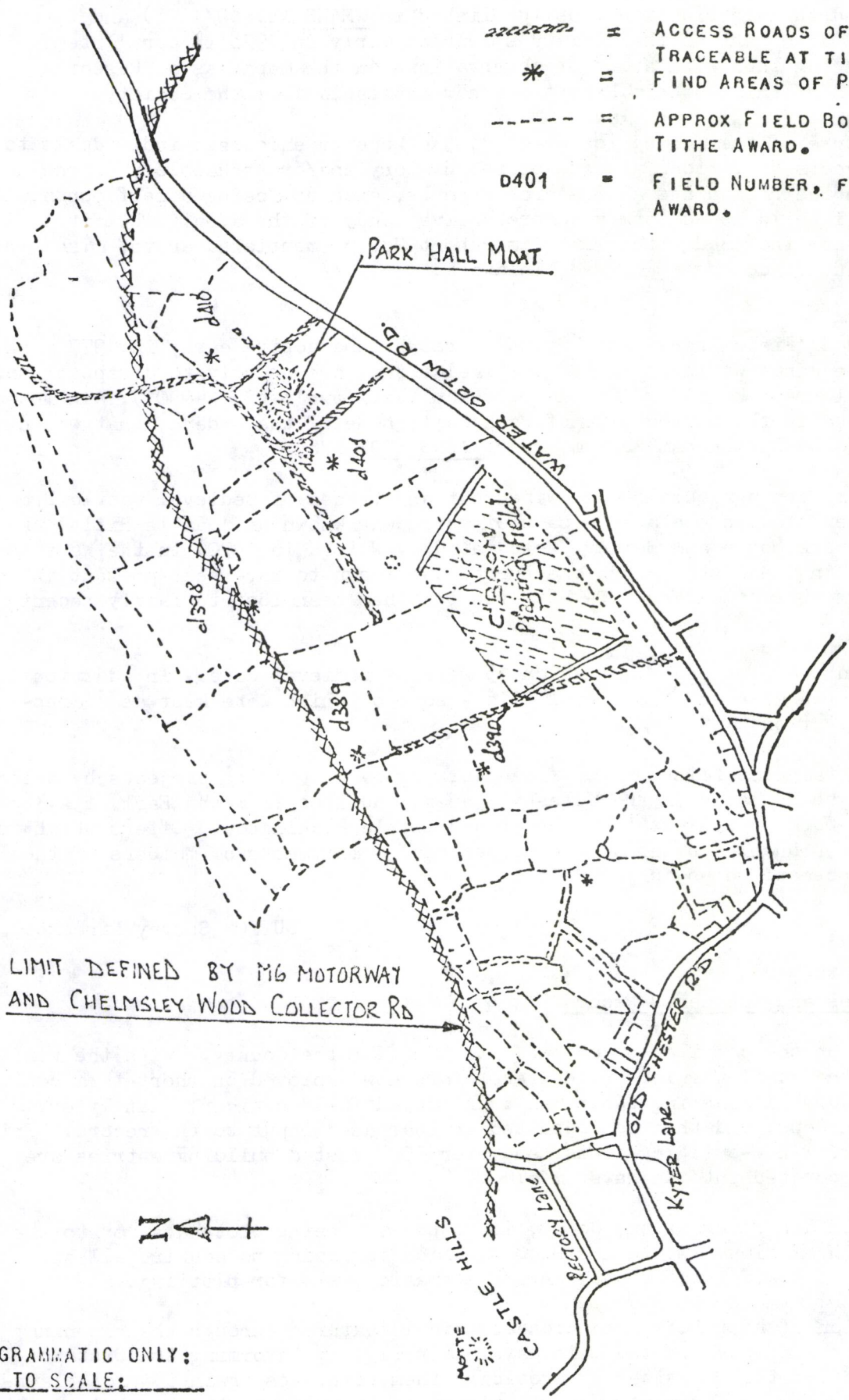
E. PRITCHARD West Midlands  
Archaeological Unit.

#### The Chelmsley, Castle Bromwich and Coleshill Area-Historical and Archaeological Survey

Again we have to report of a reasonably successful year on the paper work side of the survey, and we have now gone as far as it is felt practicable to go on the research site. To this aspect we have issued - in a limited edition - a collated index of sites,

SKETCH MAP OF THE AREA INVOLVED:

-  = ACCESS ROADS OF 1848 - TRACEABLE AT TIME OF EXERCISE.
-  = FIND AREAS OF POTTERY ETC
-  = APPROX FIELD BOUNDARIES OF TITHE AWARD.
- D401 = FIELD NUMBER, FROM TITHE AWARD.



LIMIT DEFINED BY M16 MOTORWAY AND CHELMSLEY WOOD COLLECTOR RD



DIAGRAMMATIC ONLY;  
NOT TO SCALE;

finds, features and facts arranged by Parish of all the data we have amassed. Copies of this have been sent - by way of thanks - to the various sources who have nobly assisted us in compiling this survey. These have been named in our previous reports and our thanks are again recorded here.

We have updated the distribution maps (published in WMANS No. 19/1976) and these were published as a part of the Society's Journal early in 1978 in our 'Interim Report No. 3', together with a set of observations on the maps, as a Research Report. Copies of this Interim Report are now available from the Society.

The future nature of the Survey is two-fold. We hope to encourage individuals to undertake projects on various aspects of the History and/or Archaeology of the area and to publish their findings as Research Reports, each one being a self contained whole that will build up to form a comprehensive study of the area. The first of these reports are included within Interim Report No. 3, mentioned above. The other facet of the future course is active fieldwork.

#### Fieldwork

Our newly formed 'Field Archaeology Group' first became active early in 1977 when over several weekends we investigated the fields that are shortly to disappear under a housing development known as 'Castle Bromwich Mini Town': (SP 140901). Included within this area is the moated site of Park Hall, home of the Ardens, that was excavated in 1976 by Birmingham Museum, (See WMANS 19/1976).

Unfortunately modern agriculture has wiped out any traces of medieval Castle Bromwich that may have existed in the area - part of which was known as 'Castle Hills' and stretches from the Motte and Bailey, (excavated by W Ford in 1970) in the West to Park Hall Moat in the East. Ridge and Furrow was known to have been present in this area - to one member of our group - but even this has been lost to fairly recent ploughing.

56 surface finds were recorded, of which 15 were of medieval date. In addition to these were numerous pieces of medieval tile - some of which were kept as a 'representative selection'.

We have also obtained permission for field walking over building projects by a local building firm who operates in the Coleshill area, and also from the Earl of Aylesford for field work on his estate in Great and Little Packington. Offers which to date we have been unable to pursue due to personal commitments of members of the group, but we hope to do so during 1978.

J. G. DUTTON Survey Director  
CLHS

#### Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record

Work continues on the compilation of the data-base for the County. With the winding-up of WEMRAC, the staff working on the record are now employed on short-term contracts by the County Council Planning Department. A second field officer, Alan Tyler, started work in Sept. and this has resulted in increased input to the record. This now comprises 2000 non-building items, and over 3000 listed building entries are partially incorporated into the system also.

The considerable air cover of the County is at present being plotted at 6" to the mile scale by the National Monuments Record, which is hoping to acquire all air photographic material for the County on a systematic basis for plotting.

Better protection of historical and archaeological features through the planning process is being attempted in two main ways. Firstly, by informing the District Councils of the location of sites by providing them with maps against which planning applications may be checked. Consultations now occur on a fairly regular basis concerning sites potentially affected by planning proposals. Long term

policies for preserving the archaeology of the County are contained in the County Structure Plan, at present at draft stage, which contains a commitment to ensure the preservation or, failing that, adequate excavation and record, of important archaeological and historic features.

A number of individuals have generously made their original fieldwork and other material available, and we are grateful to them.

IAN BURROW Salop County Council

### Field Survey Work in Warwickshire

Two Extra-mural classes organized by the University of Birmingham are currently carrying out field survey work in Warwickshire. One group, based in Solihull, is concentrating on the area around Oldberrow, Ullenhall and Moreton Bagot. Scatters of medieval pottery have recently been found near Blunt's Green, floor and roof tiles in the bank of the Alne and Roman pottery in the river-bed. At present documentary material is being examined prior to detailed field work.

### Luddington Building Survey

The Stratford class have completed field work in the parish of Luddington by carrying out a building survey. This work was undertaken last summer when the gable-end of a fine 17th C. timber-frame house was revealed for the attentions of Rentokil. The house is of 2½ storeys with close-studded timbers. Close-studding below square framing had also existed at Sandfield Farm in the west of the parish but this 17th C. L-shaped house may not be on its original site. The accompanying drawings were completed with the help of Nicholas Molyneux of the Birmingham City Museum, and the class then proceeded to draw all the surviving timbered buildings in the parish, a number of which had originally been single storey cottages. The Manor House has a mid-19th C. front but has timber framing at the rear and a clasped-purlin roof.

### Crop-mark sites

This autumn several cropmark sites have been in a suitable condition for field-walking, although the suspected Roman fort site at Orchard Hill in Old Stratford remains under grass.

- An apparent multi-period settlement site at Alveston Hill has produced no surface evidence of any kind.
- Site No. 69 (Webster and Hobley) at Wellesbourne, where an 'Iron Age urn' was found in 1823, produced no evidence from the actual cropmark site. Nearby, however, in the bank of the River Dene, not only were sherds of Roman pottery and a number of worked flints collected, but part of a Saxon vessel.
- In spite of the presence of numerous cropmarks revealed by aerial photography in the parish of Milcote, surface finds have again been limited to a number of flint wasters.
- A cropmark site in the parish of Old Stratford, on the N. bank of the Avon near the Luddington boundary, was first examined in 1976. Quantities of Romano-British ware were found several hundred yards away from the actual cropmark, which probably indicates a field boundary. The latter had been picked up on terrace gravels whereas the main site lies on Lias clay, here several feet thick above Binton Stone and obviously less susceptible to air photography. As this is a relatively undisturbed site it was felt worthwhile to plot accurately the location of the pottery. The accompanying map shows the occupation area to have been situated within the bend of the stream. Pottery ranged in date from the 2nd to the 4th C. AD, with large quantities of Severn Vallery Ware and lesser quantities of 2nd C. mortaria and 2nd C. samian, including part of a Dr. 37. A few 4th C. sherds have also now been discovered, including fragments of colour coated ware and a late 4th C. flagon base.

# VILLAGE EARTHWORKS, LONGDON MANOR, TREDINGTON

Manor House

Modern Access road

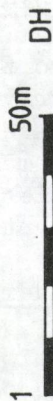
area of  
pottery scatter

pond

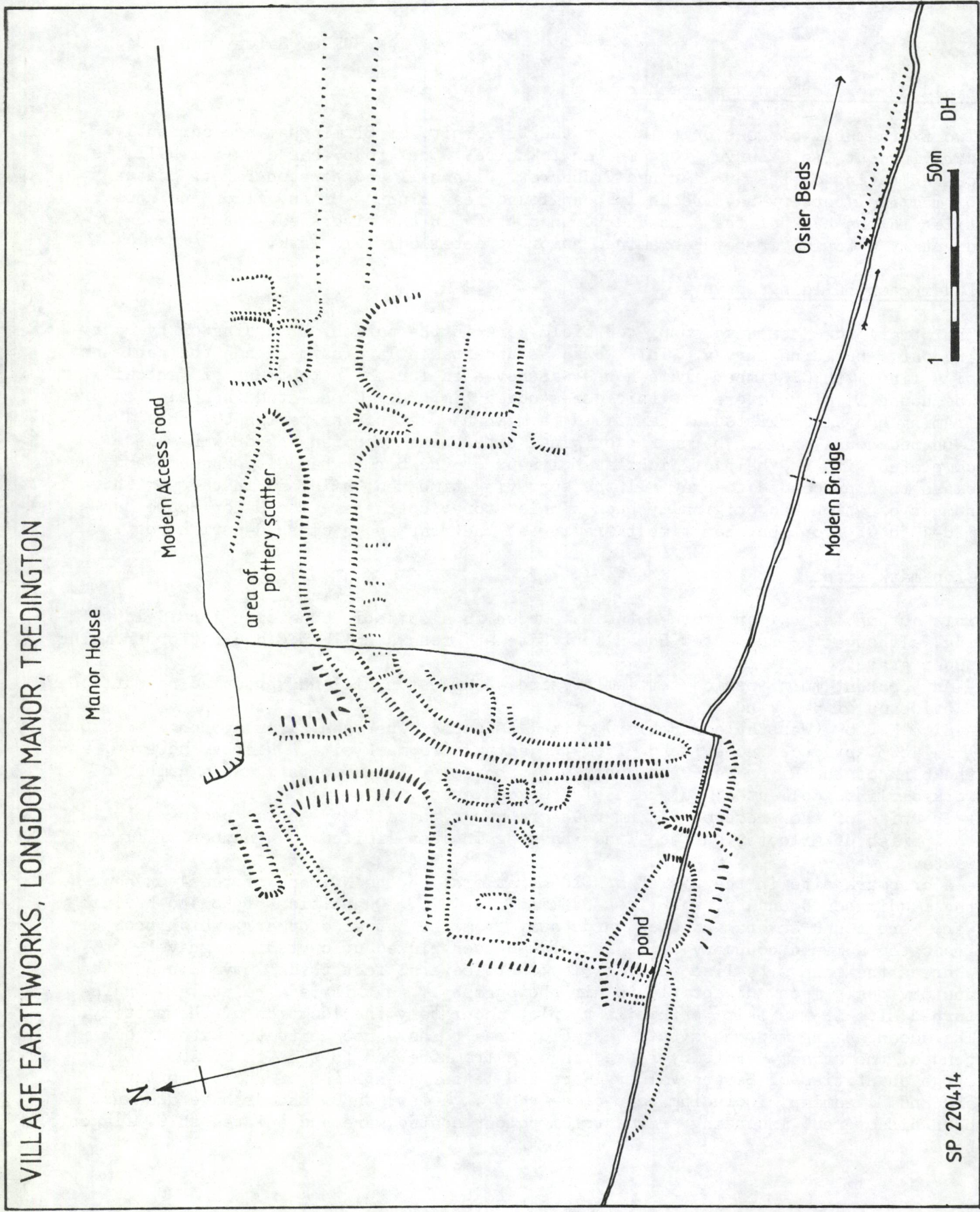
Osier Beds

Modern Bridge

N



SP 220414

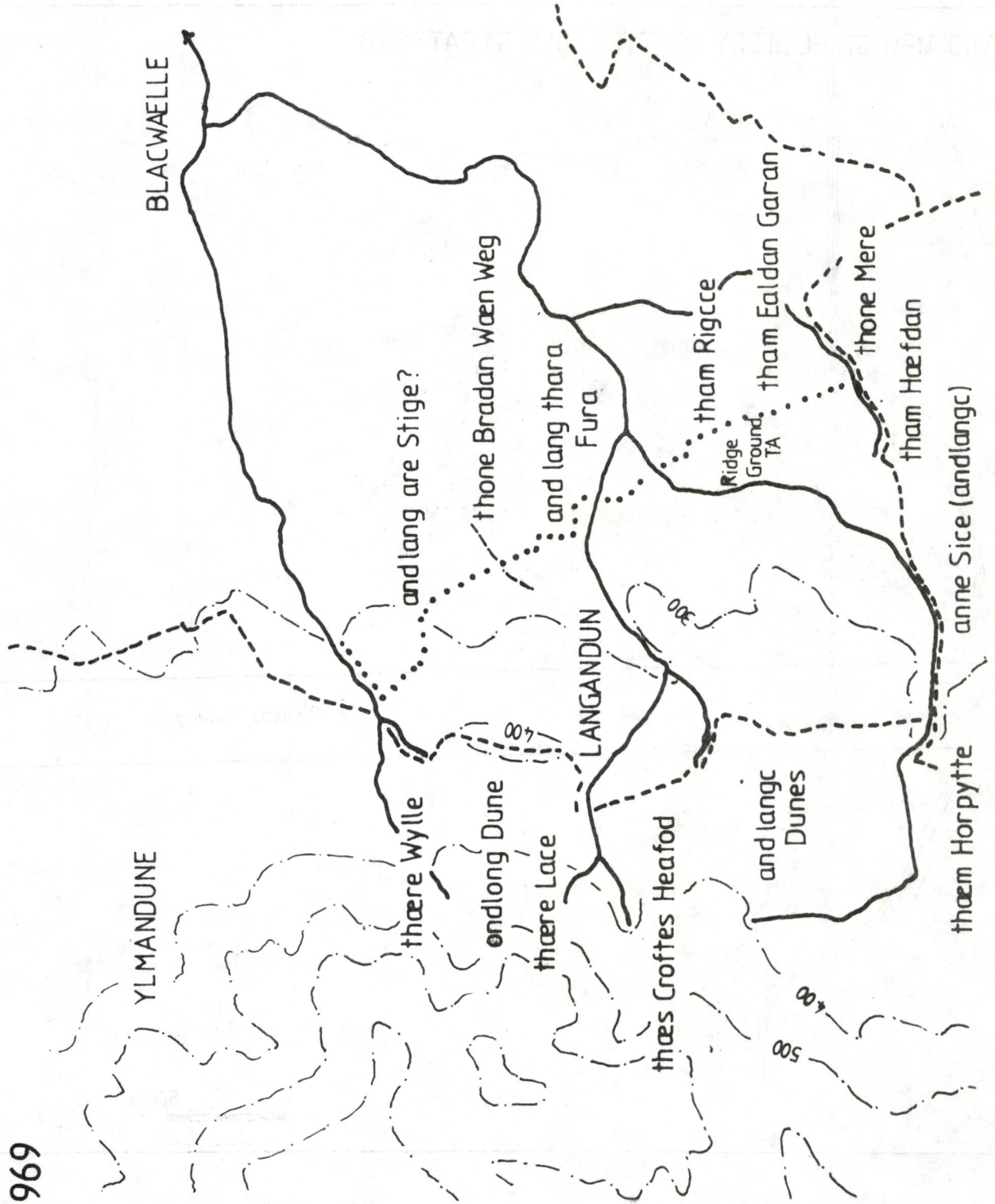




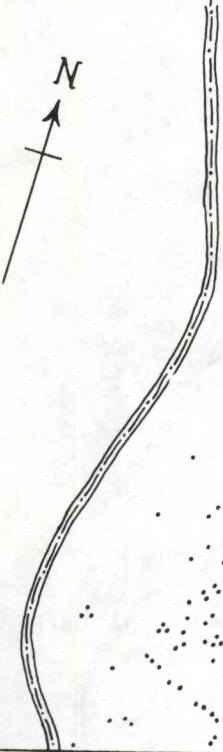
LONGDON, TREDINGTON

B 1243, AD 969

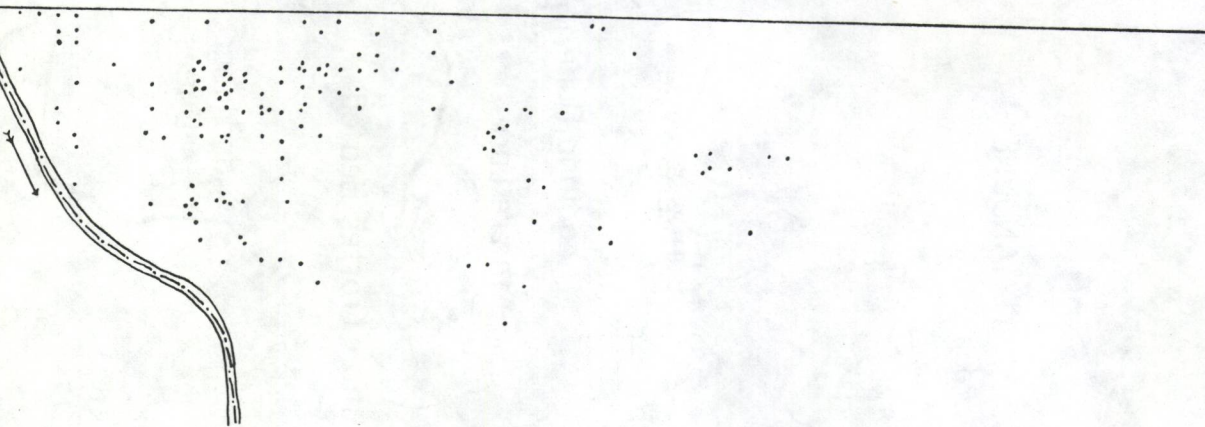
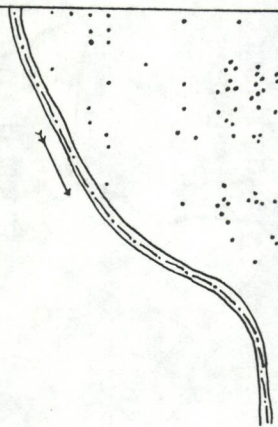
Longandun



ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY SCATTER, OLD STRATFORD



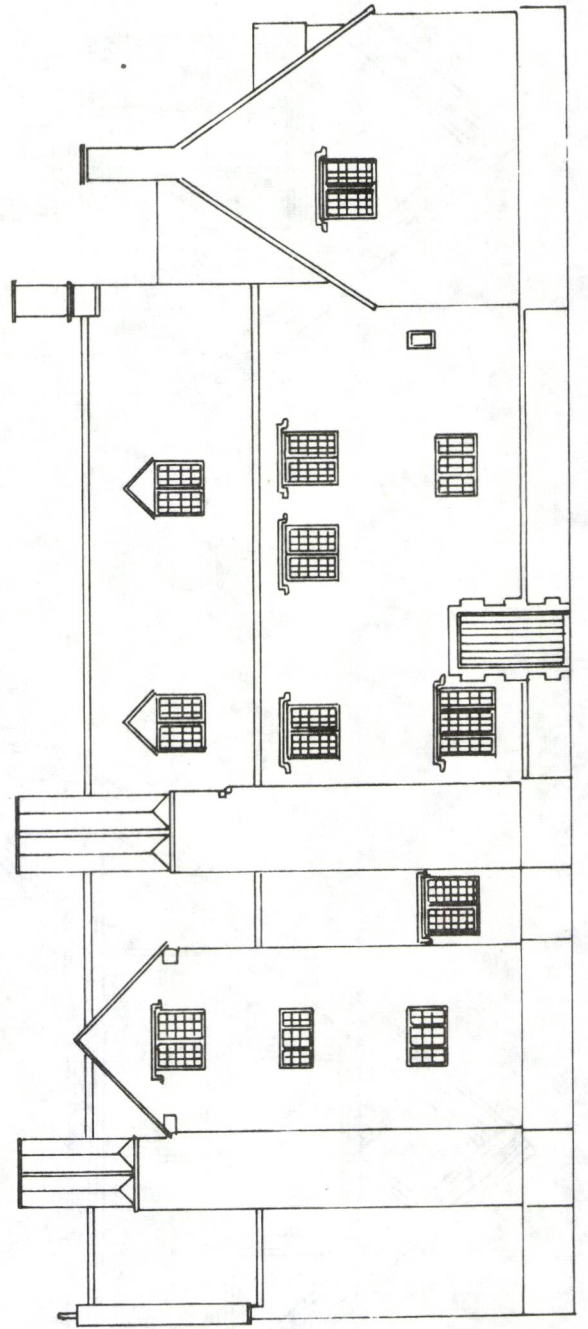
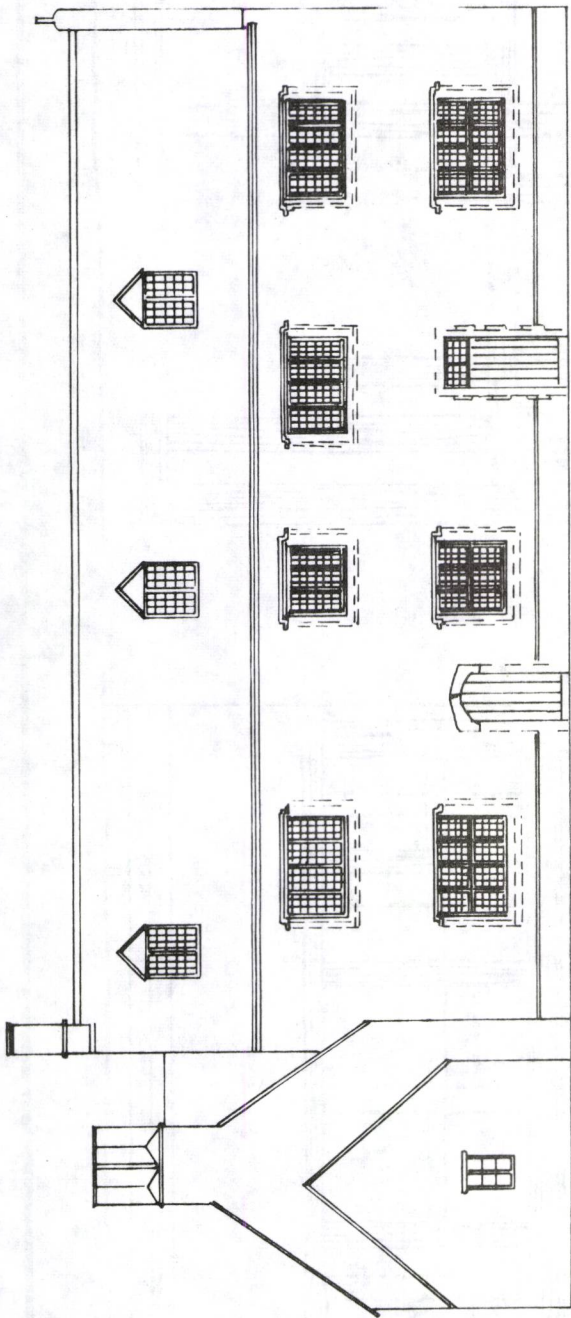
Disused Railway

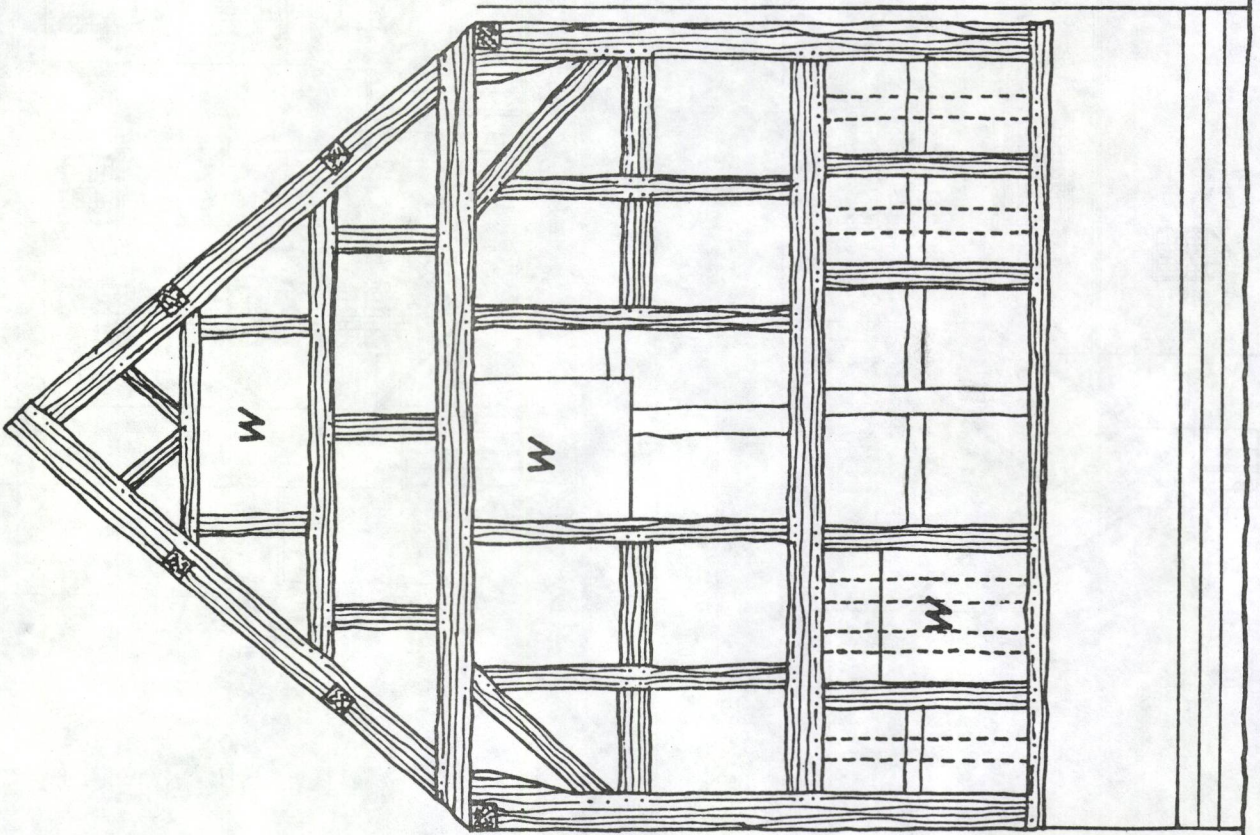
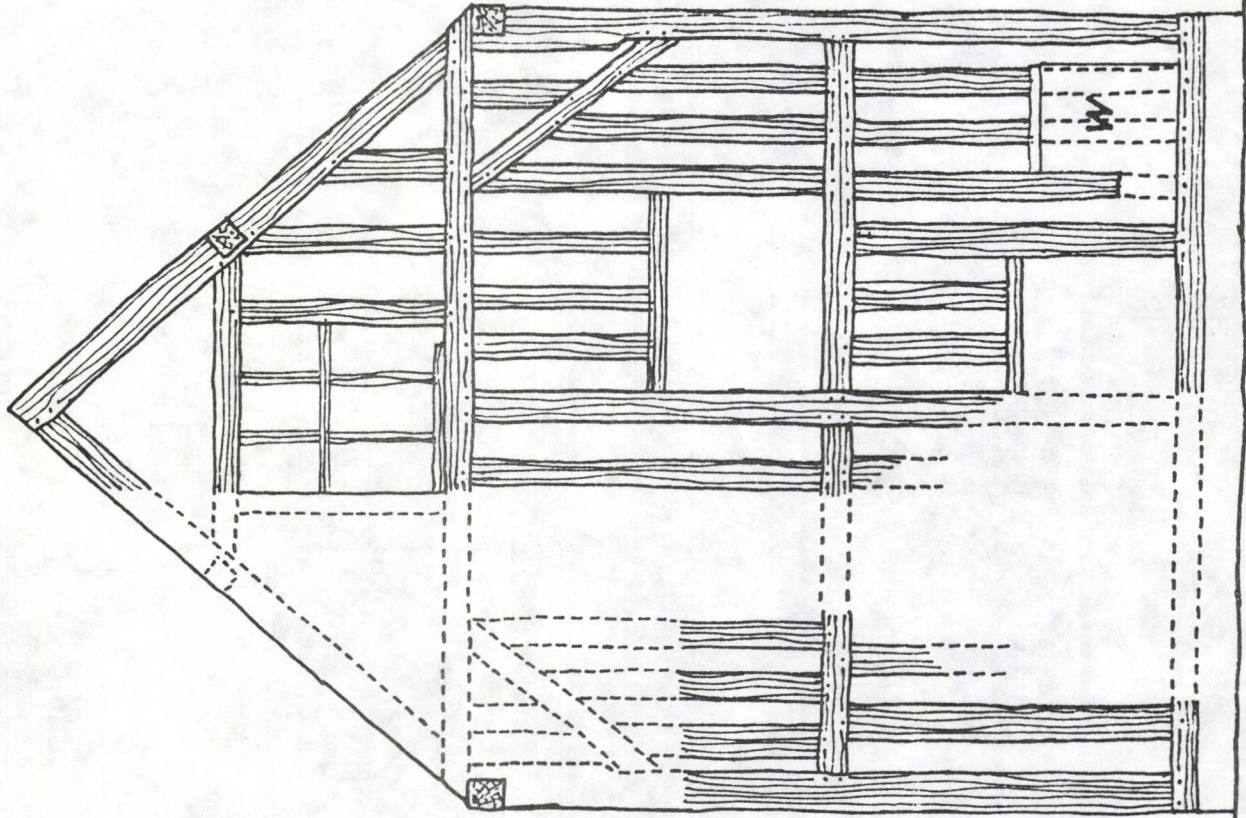


SP 177535



DH





## Medieval Sites

The class were asked to attempt the survey of a deserted medieval village site at Longdon Manor, Tredington, part of which had recently been ploughed for the second time. In the circumstances no satisfactory plan could be produced although it is felt that additional features may become visible as crops begin to grow. A measured but tentative plan accompanies this report. Pottery, much of it of 12th and 13th C., was restricted to the N. part of the site but a sherd of Roman samian, possibly Antonine, was found to the S. of the village street. The date of enclosure of the open fields of the township is unknown but an early 17th C. house, built of Oolitic limestone, stands beside the village and one suspects desertion by enclosure. A new access way was made to the Manor house but the hollowed-out village street is still visible, with the house platforms beside it. At the W. end of the village one track led N. to the manor-house and a second hollow way led down to the stream which had been dammed to form a pond. Ridge and furrow has been virtually removed from the area but remains on the hill-slope to the W. of the village.

Tredington was held by the Church of Worcester from the mid-eighth C. and in 969 AD land at Longdon was leased by Bishop Oswald to Byrnric, his fidelis. The boundary clause accompanying this charter has not previously been solved and an investigation of the recorded landmarks in relation to the local topography suggests the following solution:

1. A rest on Thone mere  
    thone mere, 'the pool', is still represented by a pool near the SE corner of the township.
2. Thonne of tham mere west be tham hæfdan
3. Thonne innan anne sice  
    the sice, a 'water-course', is the brook running along the southern boundary.
4. Thonne and lango sices thaet cymth to thaem hor pytte  
    with habitation so near the SW corner of the estate it is not surprising that nothing survives of the hor pytte, 'the boundary pit'.
5. Thonne north and lango dunes  
    the dune is the marked hill on the western boundary.
6. Thonne ut aet thaes croftes heafod thaet sticath on thaere lace  
    the croftes heafod, the 'head of the croft', refers to that projecting area between the boundary and the village stream, and the lace is the stream itself.
7. Thonne up ond long dune ufewardre ꝥ cymth to thaere wylle  
    the dune is again a well-marked hill, rising to over 400 feet, and the wylle, a 'spring' or 'stream', must refer to the stream at the NW corner of the township.
8. Thonne and lang are stige ꝥ cymth on thone bradan waen weg  
    after following a stige, a 'path', the boundary crosses bradan waen weg, the 'broad cart-track', which may have followed the line of the present road to Darlingscott, either from Southfield in Ilmington or from Longdon.
9. Thonne and lang thara fura ꝥ hit cymth up to tham rigcce  
    the fura or 'furrow' probably ran along the E. boundary between the arable fields of Longdon and Darlingscott. Although this boundary has not survived its line may be suggested by the limits of the open fields of Darlingscott prior to enclosure. The rigcce, the 'ridge', is a marked ridge between two streams and the field name 'Ridge Ground' is recorded on the Tithe Award map of 1847.
10. Thone of thaem rigcce ꝥ hit cymth to tham ealdan garan  
    tham ealdan garan 'the old gore', refers to the triangular-shaped area of land in the S part of Darlingscott.
11. Thaenne of tham garan innan thone mere.

DELLA HOOKE, for Birmingham  
University Extramural Dept.

## Sutton Coldfield Archaeological Survey

The purpose of the survey was to compile a sites and monuments record for the area

contained in the former borough of Sutton Coldfield, and to augment this with a period-by-period analysis of settlement in the area, from earliest times to c.1500 AD. Five sites, the Ancient Encampment, Ryknild Street, the Manor House, Sutton Park Boundaries, and Ennis House have been selected for individual notes, the first two in the Prehistoric and Roman sections respectively, and the others in the Medieval section.

The following general conclusions have been drawn concerning the development of settlement in the area:-

- i) Prehistoric - There are few finds or sites, though chance finds, mainly flint implements, are concentrated on the upland, the Sutton Plateau, in the W. of the area. Peat deposits in the valley of Longmore Brook in Sutton Park, reaching a maximum depth of c. 1 m. should supply valuable environmental evidences. The only outlier from the general distribution pattern of chance finds is a polished stone axe of Group VI from the Tame Valley, in the S.E. of the area.
- ii) Roman - There is little evidence for settlement, possibly partly because of degeneration of soils on the upland area after early deforestation and subsequent cultivation, the only site attributable to this period being the well-preserved stretch of Ryknild Street in Sutton Park. A coin hoard of the 3rd C. near Wigginshill, though, implies some activity in the Tame Valley.
- iii) Early Medieval - Sutton is mentioned in Domesday Book, but there is no material evidence for pre-Conquest settlement. A charter of 12th C. purports to confirm the rights of manorial tenants as they were established in the reign of King Athelstan, and refers to a watermill and a windmill.
- iv) Late Medieval - Several structures survive. There is a marked spread of rural settlement onto the Keuper Marl to the E. of the town in the form of individual homesteads, including four moated sites.

I am grateful to my tutors Dr. L. H. Barfield and Dr. S. Limbrey in the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham, and to Mrs. R. Taylor of the City Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, for their help and encouragement in the compilation of this survey.

MIKE HODDER

PREHISTORIC

Ebury hillfort SJ 546 164

A very small-scale excavation at 3 points inside the hillfort in advance of the construction of Camping Club service areas failed to locate any ancient structural features. A few abraded nondescript sherds of red prehistoric (?) pottery were found.

S. C. STANFORD for the Department  
of the Environment and Shropshire  
Archaeological Society

Lichfield Theological College SK1160 0972

In the trench described in the medieval section the discoveries included two struck flint artefacts and a large number of flakes, in association with three sherds of pottery in dark flint-tempered fabric with grooved decoration - probably Peterborough Ware A. No positive features were observed with this presumed Neolithic assemblage which had apparently been disturbed by tree roots and later burials.

M.O.H. CARVER

Leigh, Salop (SJ 3333 0340)

'Some remains of the fortified mansion anciently called Lee Castle are still discernible on a rocky knoll above Leigh Hall' (Eyton, Antiquities of Shropshire VII 41n). Investigation of the wooded area revealed a probable promontory fort of Iron Age type with triple defences cutting off the promontory on the SW side. The other sides of the knoll are defended by steep natural slopes and the NW side has been extensively quarried. The earthworks comprise an inner bank about 2m high with two much slighter outer banks and ditches. It is intended to investigate the site further.

IAN BURROW Salop County Planning  
Department

Stevenshill, Cound, Salop (SJ 5570 0360)  
Sites and Monuments Record SA1438

A possible defended enclosure seen on a Cambridge University Committee Air Photo (AJM 11) was visited in Aug. It appears to be a bivallate promontory fort of considerable strength defended on S. & E. by very steep natural slopes, and on the N-W. by artificial defences. The outer bank is degraded by ploughing into a bank about 30m wide and 1m high with a probable exterior ditch. The minor bank now comprises a wooded scarp 3-4m high. The interior is under cultivation. The site has been drawn to the attention of the DOE for possible scheduling.

IAN BURROW Salop County Planning  
Department

Church Lawford, Warwickshire (SP 437 766)

Over fifty flint fragments were found on this cropmark site as a result of periodic field walking over a number of years. The flints include many waste pieces, a few flakes - some with retouch, and four small polyhedral cores. All appear to be worked from local flint pebbles. Two small cores are in a dark grey-black flint, but most of the material is a light grey to brown in colour. Pieces with retouched edges are obviously crude tools. The small cores may indicate microlithic, and therefore perhaps a mesolithic industry, but so far no microliths have been found at the site.

JOHN BATEMAN

Brandon and Bretford, Warwickshire (SP 390 759)

A report on the 1970 salvage excavation at this (?) Iron Age/Early Post-Roman site is being prepared at the time of writing: copies will be deposited at museums in Warwick and Coventry. Copies may also be obtained from the writer.

JOHN BATEMAN

Cross Farm, Romsley, Shropshire (SO 781833)

Further flints from this site have now been identified by Dr. L. H. Barfield, and consist of 1 microlith, 11 cores (one re-used as a scraper), one other scraper, 2 broken blades, 1 bladelet and about 10 waste flakes.

These are additional to flints already examined by Alan Saville and pending publication in Trans. Shrops. Archaeol. Soc. The total now for this field is about 250 pieces of struck flint, with 24 and 33 from 2 adjoining fields.

P.W. KING AND L. E. KING for the  
Stour and Smestow Archaeological  
Research Group.

The Kinver Edge Area: Fourth Interim Report of an Archaeological Survey

As usual, progress has come, not from major discoveries, but from the slow accumulation and collation of finds.

Prehistoric

Surface-finds of flints made during the period from 1973 to spring 1976 have now been examined by Dr. L. H. Barfield. They are listed again here in greater detail than before, together with a few seen previously by Professor Shotton and Alan Saville. The list therefore supercedes previous references to flints found by the Group (e.g. in WMANS No. 17, page 22, and No. 19, page 13),

Blakeshall (Wolverley)

- |              |                            |   |
|--------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1. SO 822808 | Aylesbury Solcum hillfort. | 1 button scraper; 1 waste flake.  |
| 2. SO 828808 | Shrubbery Piece            | 2 retouched flakes (1 possibly an irregular tranchet arrowhead; 1 broken blade; 3 waste flakes.)  |
| 3. SO 831809 | Church Field               | 1 broken blade (retouched, and possibly utilised); 3 retouched flakes (1 not certainly prehistoric); 1 possible hammerstone).   |
| 4. SO 833811 | Hall Field(W. End)         | 2 cores (1 a Meso-type micro-core) and 1 possible burnt core; 2 retouched flakes; 1 blade; 1 small scraper; 1 discoidal scraper and 2 possible broken ones; 1 core-trimming flake; 22 waste flakes.                   |
| 5. SO 834810 | Hall Field(E. End)         | 1 possible burnt core; 1 broken blade; 1 waste flake. Also 7 more flakes found by Dr. Susan Limbrey (1 with bifacial working, but not a recognisable implement),  |
| 6. SO 834812 | Hawkers Nab                | 1 broken blade; 1 core-trimming flake; 3 waste flakes. This field has scarcely been examined yet, but is believed to be the find-spot of much of the late Mr. J.S. Preece's collection.                               |
| 7. SO 836810 | The Lydiates               | 1 blade   |
| 8. SO 836813 | Brick Kiln<br>Leasow       | 1 microlith (backed point); 2 single-platform bladelet cores, plus 1 possible attempted core; 1 discoidal scraper; 1 large blade; 2 small blades (1 retouched); 1 blade-fragment; 1 broken bladelet; 25 waste flakes. |
| 9. SO 838811 | Rye Piece                  | 1 core, possibly re-used as an implement; 7 waste flakes  |



**FIND-SPOTS OF FLINTS  
IN THE KINVER EDGE  
AREA**

Nos. 1-16 are listed in  
text

Flints found by other  
persons.

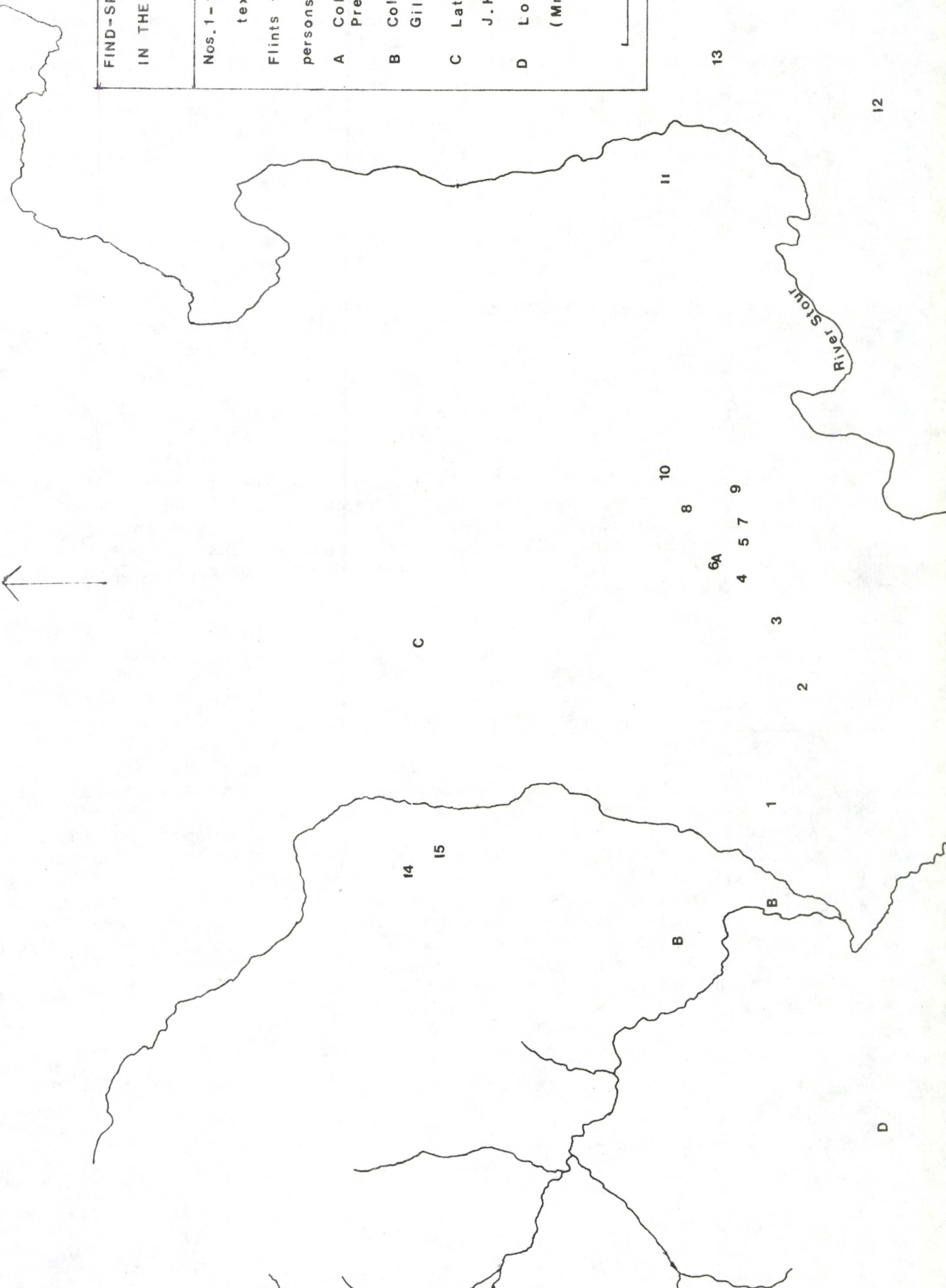
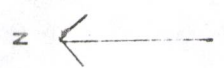
A Collection of Mr. J. S.  
Preece

B Collection of Mr. G. R.  
Gilley

C Late Neo knife (Mr.  
J. Handley)

D Lozenge arrow-head  
(Mr. Taylor)

1 km



12

13

10

8

9

6A

4

5

7

3

2

1

14

15

B

B

D

C

11

River Stour

10. SO 838815 Lower Vicarson 1 broken blade; 2 waste flakes.
- Caunsall
11. SO 852814 Big Field 1 core; 1 truncated flake; 1 bifacially-worked flake (possible rough-out for arrow?); 1 retouched flake (broken arrow?); 1 broken blade; 1 core-trimming flake; 17 waste flakes.
12. SO 856807 Common Barn Farm 1 core (2-platform, Meso-type); 1 core-trimming flake.
13. SO 858812 Benson's Pool 10 or 11 cores (including 1 bi-polar, 2 single-platform and several burnt or damaged); 1 core-trimming flake; 1 small end-scraper; 1 discoidal scraper (possibly Neolithic); 1 blade, retouched or utilised; 1 bladelet; 40 waste flakes.
- Kinver (Brown's Farm, Compton)
14. SO 820825 Brown's Meadow 5 waste flakes.
15. SO 819826 Slash 4 waste flakes.
- Wolverley (Lower Birch Farm, Horseley)
16. SO 797807 1 bifacially-worked edge (axe-fragment?); 1 burnt thumb-nail scraper; 1 broken blade; 6 waste flakes.

In addition, single struck flakes were found at SO 809839 (Compton Park Farm, Kinver), SO 809816 (Bodenham, Wolverley) and SO 84858280 (Wheathill, Kinver).

Almost all the above material seems Mesolithic in type. This sparse but widespread scatter seems likely to represent the seasonal encampments of hunter-gatherers in a forest environment. One or two sites, such as Blakeshall, may have been re-visited periodically, probably because wild animals would come to drink at the springs which break out in several places, and which later gave their names to Blakeshall ('black, miry pool') and Solcum ('miry valley').

P.W. KING AND L. E. KING for the  
Stour and Smestow Archaeological  
Research Group.

Ancient Encampment, Sutton Park (SP 105975)

During fieldwork a sketch plan was made of this earthwork site, but no light could be thrown on its date. The site is on the SE end of a ridge, with a shallow ditch c. 3 m wide running along the base of the slope. Within this, on the crest of the ridge, is an oval enclosure c. 30 m x 20 m defined by a low bank, inside and outside of which are several small depressions. The outer ditch can hardly be considered defensive, since it does not guard the easiest route to the site, along the ridge. It may, then, have served to prevent livestock straying into marshy ground at the base of the ridge. The inner enclosure may define a living area. There are no records of any chance finds from the site, though a stone wall around the base of the slope was said to have been found during the construction of the adjacent railway embankment c. 1870. However, no traces of this were found during fieldwork.

MIKE HODDER

Beckford

This most important excavation continued this year but no report has been submitted and we apologise for its absence.

Kenchester 1977  
Interim Report on Excavations

A complex of buildings 400 m. to the E. of Magnis has been known for many years from an air photography by Arnold Baker. One of the buildings appeared to be a double square temple, and it was in the expectation of recovering the history of a religious complex that the DOE arranged a large excavation in advance of rapidly encroaching gravel digging. In the event the air photograph was wholly misleading, and the site proved to be a secular 'villa'-type complex, with characteristics which may link it to the economy of Magnis, and with a history extending over all four centuries of the Roman period, and possibly earlier and later. Although not a temple site, the site is of considerable interest in landscape history, and valuable in any consideration of the nuclear sequence of Credenhill/Magnis/Hereford, which is one of the academic aims of DOE policy and of the Urban Research Committee of the University of Birmingham.

The excavation consisted of a trial fortnight at Easter, and ten weeks in July-Oct., with an average labour force of twenty, including ten from the Job Creation Programme. Some 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> of ground was opened and mostly totally excavated; an equal area remains to be dug, and it is hoped that this will be done in 1978. The work was directed by Philip Rahtz, with the assistance of Lorna Watts, Anthony Hirst, Mark Horton, and Sebastian Rahtz, with Roberta Tomber in charge of finds analysis. The area is on glacial gravels of the Stretton Sugwash Outwash; reddish gravels are overlaid by a multicoloured gritty clay which gives rise to a weathered clayey soil.

0) The earliest feature, is an ancient stream bed (E) with variegated silts and gravels, which were at least sometimes the result of fast running water, presumably derived from springs nearer Magnis. This stream in historic times was a boundary at which terminated at least two ditches of the Iron Age/Early Roman period (KK,MM), and which lay immediately S. of one of the most impressive features, an enclosure with a massive ditch (LL) (see (2) below) probably of the 1st C. AD.

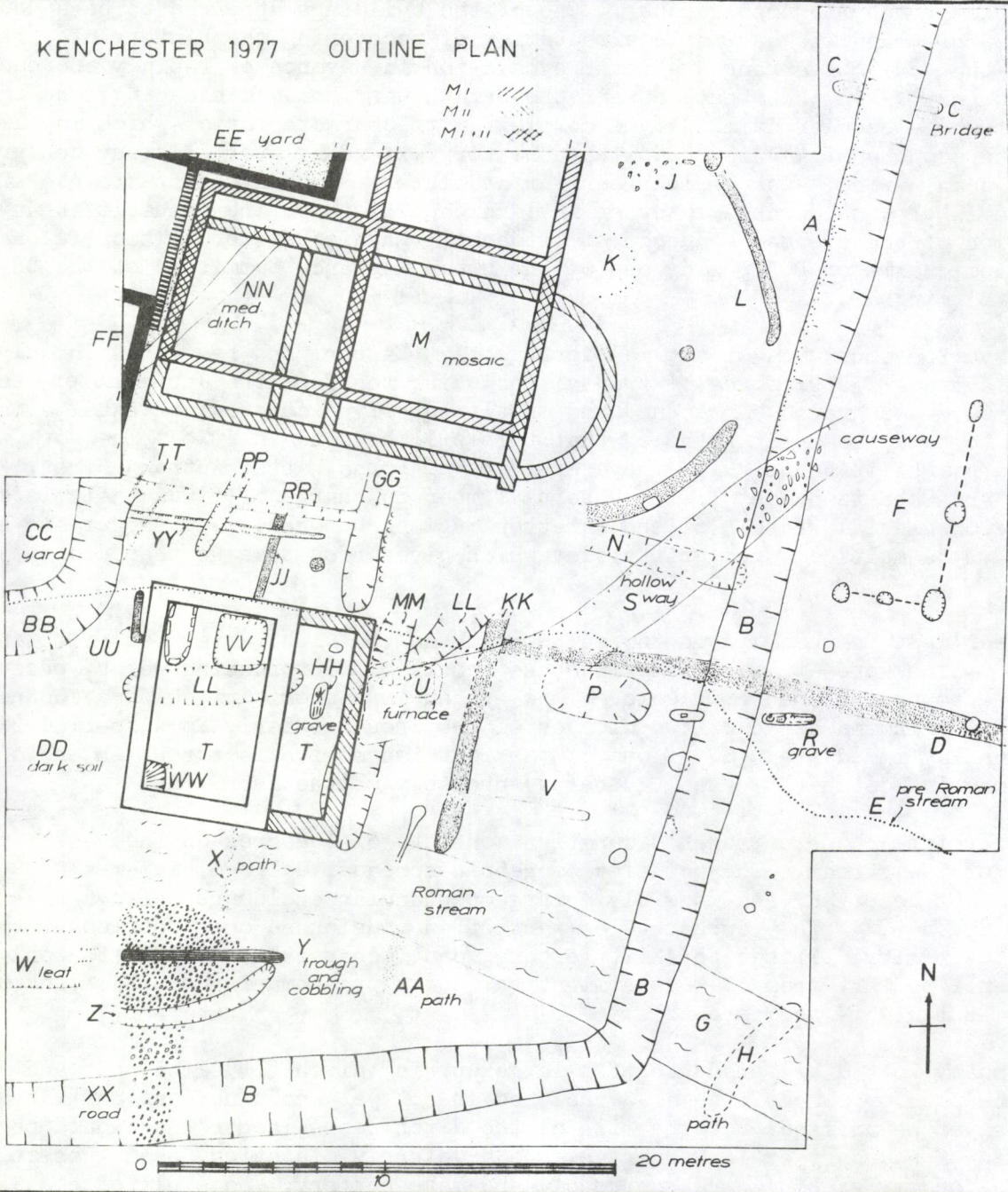
1) The earliest phase of human occupation consists of features defined only in the soil N. of the stream. They consist of pebble spreads, a large timber slot (JJ), a ditch 1.5m deep (KK) and possibly a large penannular enclosure defined by a shallow ditch (L). They appear to be part of an undefended open settlement by the stream. Finds are limited to a little bone, daub, charcoal and slag; the only dating will be that from C<sup>14</sup> determination, but a pre-Romanised culture and possibly pre-Roman date seem probable.

2) Secondary to (1) are elements of a large curving ditch (LL) 2m across and 2 m deep; the plan or size of the area enclosed is not yet known nor can any internal features yet be defined; but the size of the ditch seems larger than would be needed for a boundary or for drainage, and a defensive function, seems possible. In the secondary silting were sherds of hand-made pottery, (possibly of the 1st C. AD), charcoal, bone and slag. What appears to be a double entrance faces S., fronting on to the N. edge of the stream.

3) The next phase is witnessed by early Roman pottery and other finds in the gravels and sands of the stream (G), which is also the S. limit of a large N.-S. ditch (MM) of similar date. In the area of the angle defined by the stream and ditch, an area of redeposited glacial material is capped by a patchy burnt level (DD) extending to the edge of the stream. In this was found a fairly fresh coin of Trajan. Associated with this period are several timber slots for fences or light buildings (YY,PP), a set of burnt joist impressions (TT), postholes and cesspits (WW, VV); and there is little doubt that a major masonry building of the earliest 2nd C. remains to be discovered, probably with hypocausts, to judge by building material in the stream and black ash deposits cut by later walls.

KENCHESTER 1977 OUTLINE PLAN

Mi // // //  
Mii // // //  
Miii // // //



During the 2nd C., the stream seems to have dried up. What water remained, was led by a small leat into a trough (Y) some 8 m long, whose carefully-dug emplacement slot was found in the S. side of the stream bed. The areas to S. and N. were heavily cobbled in two patches of crescentic form. That to the N. presumably marked the termination of an approach to the trough from the building area. That on the S. side was the termination of a minor metalled and ditched road (XX) which was traced to the S. for a distance of some 20 m; it may lead either to further buildings or to field or farm areas.

The function of the trough is uncertain; there is evidence that it filled or was filled and then its contents used. Clothes washing or ordinary domestic use seem possible as does animal watering, though the small areas of metalling seem insufficient for this. It should be mentioned at this point that the overwhelming mass of the animal bones from this phase and also from all later periods is bovine, together with a smaller quantity of horse, and very few examples of sheep, pig, and bird. Another possibility is some industrial use such as fulling or tanning. The find of a leather-cutting tool in the vicinity of the trough may support the latter interpretation.

4) In the later 2nd C. there was a major change in layout; the E. boundary of phases 1-3 was extended c. 15 m and now defined by a N-S ditch (A) possibly also ending at the stream further E. The ditch was finally filling up later than a coin of M. Aurelius found on its base. It is probably to this period that some elements of the main masonry buildings (M, EE, FF) at present uncovered belong, with evidence of painted plaster, tessellated floors, hypocausts, and pitched stone footings.

5) In the 3rd C. the new E. boundary ditch was widened and deepened (B), and extended to cross and cut the silts of the now abandoned stream bed (G), and then to swing to the W. at an angle of 110° to become a well-defined S. boundary to the site, cutting through the road (XX) to the S.; the trough, however, remained in use, approached from the N. (X). Contact with the S. was at some later time renewed by cobbles being relaid across it (XX).

The main masonry buildings, mostly robbed out, (EE, FF, M) show evidence of major alterations whose chronology is not yet understood. In Building M what had been two roughly square rooms with cobble footings (in the area so far excavated) was shifted 2 m to the S., a corridor inserted across the middle, and an apse added at the E. end - the arch into which was supported by an exterior S. buttress. The room leading to the apse had a mosaic, of which a small area of border survived; of the rest about 1000 *teserae* in colours of white, grey, brown, red, buff and yellow were recovered from the area around. The new footings were of stone blocks. The superstructure was probably half-timbered with a stone roof. To the S. between the main building and the trough was another building (T), primarily a rectangle with cobble footings and, secondarily, a rough square with the addition made of stone rubble footings. The function of this is uncertain, but it was presumably a farm building such as dairy or granary. The superstructure was probably of cob.

Also of this later Roman phase was an area of industrial activity (U), E. of the farm building. There was a double furnace (U) and remains of crucibles, ferrous and non-ferrous slags, tools, and part of a stone mould. Probably also of this phase were two burials, one a 'normal' skeleton (R), orientated head to W., the other a decapitated elderly female, 'head' to S. (HH), with legs crossed and the head with cervical vertebrae laid to the W. of the knees, facing S.

6) The E. boundary ditch was filled with silt, bones and pottery deposited later than a coin of Victorinus found on its base, and to judge by the absence of any Constantinian coins or demonstrably 4th C. material in a 30 m length totally excavated, was full up by the earlier 4th C.; this conclusion was reinforced by the finding on the surface of the filled up ditch of a coin of Constans.

It was probably during the 4th C. that a causeway was laid across the E. arm of the ditch, which was the end of a hollow way (S) leading to an entrance in the E. side of the farm building. This was almost devoid of cultural material, except for a ring with a design of punched dots on the bezel. The way was clearly the latest feature in this area of the site. Occupation of some sort persisted through the 4th C. - there are several coins of Constantine or his sons, and two of Valens - but none was found in anything but the highest levels, and there is at present no evidence to show that there were any structural alterations in the 4th C.

The trough feature Y continued in use. There were at least three well-defined phases in its cobbled surrounds, and a large sherd of a late Roman cooking-pot in the mud around the latest phase, in which it was seemingly in a semi-wrecked state. Finally, the cobbling to the S. was cut by a deep ditch (Z) draining to the W., whose filling was also devoid of any artefacts. A layer of charcoal between primary and secondary silts may mark the site's destruction, and C14 determination may help in suggesting a date for this in the late or post-Roman period. Of this final phase may also be two stone objects found high in the stream bed silt E. of the trough. One was similar to a saddle quern rubber except that its wear marks were longitudinal not traverse. The other was a boulder decorated with hatched lines and other symbols, together with some bold incisions which look like a cursive inscription, perhaps of post-Roman date.

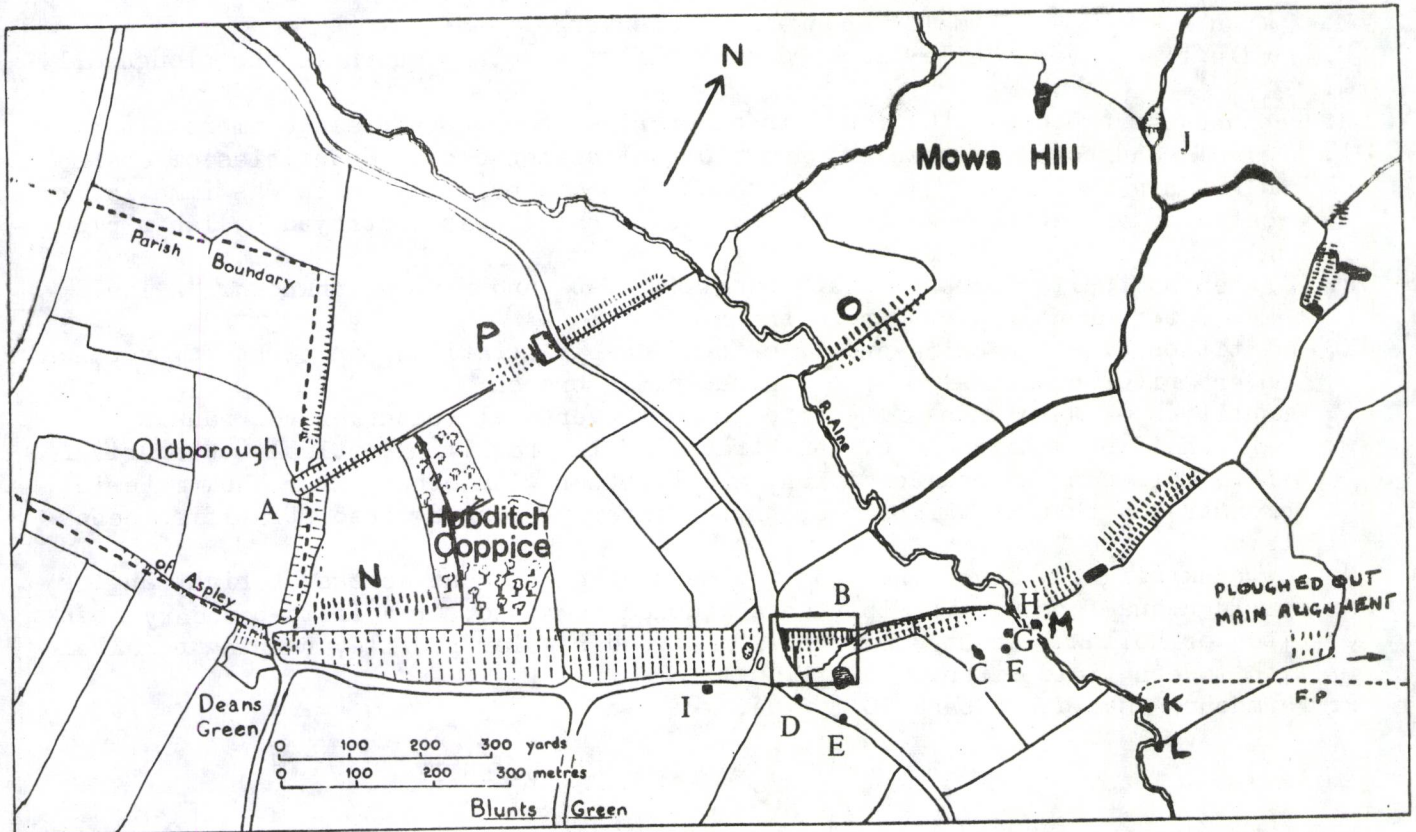
7) The final phase was medieval; a shallow ditch (NN) crossing the main building diagonally could be equated with one in the air photograph which marks the E. edge of a furlong of ridge and furrow, when at least the W. part of the building complex was finally brought under cultivation, a land use which has continued down to the present day, witnessed by finds of late and post-medieval pottery in the ploughsoil.

The principal problem is the extent to which the complex of buildings and other features is rural and agricultural, which comprise elements of the concept of farm/'villa'; or is an 'out-of-town' site ministering to the needs of the urban nucleus of Magnis. The two may not be irreconcilable. Much depends on whether the site can claim precedence over Magnis in origin - we know nothing of the possible pre-Roman origins of the town, and it remains to be demonstrated that any feature in the present excavation is pre-Roman. Air photographs suggest that the defences of Magnis represent a nucleation of an original elongated 'street settlement', of which the present site is the E. extremity. The existence of a stream allows an origin for the site independent of the town, and as a farm complex it may have included several acres of ditched enclosures and pits known from air photographs to the S.E., now destroyed by the quarry. Limited excavation at Easter in the gravel face showed that one ditch of this complex at least was Roman (2nd - 3rd C.) and there were also two Roman burials, one a 'bootnail' burial, the other another good example of decapitation. Even if one postulated, as seems most likely at present, that the complex was largely independent of the urban nucleus, its economy and fortunes must have been closely linked to those of the town. Dr. Webster suggests that the large number of ox skulls found, and the leather cutting tool, may hint at the supplying of meat and leather to the town. There can also be no doubt that any extramural site such as this was indeed outside the walls, and vulnerable to whatever threats from which the walls were a refuge. The dating of the town walls may well be of the later 3rd or 4th centuries, and the failure to find evidence of flourishing 4th-century occupation may reflect this vulnerability.

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

#### Notes on Recent Field Work carried out to date in the Hobditch area

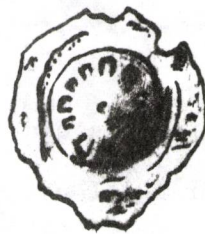
- A. Trench about 2 m x 0.5 m x 0.5 m deep. Rim of 4th C. colour-coated ware found on gravel bottom.
- B. Site of major sections across earthwork.
- C. Small trench dig just prior to ploughing. Black-burnished ware, tegulae and imbrices together with large sandstone blocks found just below the topsoil.
- D. Black-burnished ware and part of a rotary quern found in ploughsoil.



A. Locality Map

- A. Trench 6ft x 2ft x 18 ins deep. Rim of colour-coated ware found on gravel at a depth of 18 ins was dated by Dr J.J. Wilkes to 4th century.
- B. Site of major sections. C. Trench 6ft x 2ft x 2ft deep. Black burnished ware, stratified with parts of *tegula* and *imbrices* and 3 dressed sandstone blocks.
- D. Half of rotary quern (Roman) found together with black burnished ware in small trench under the hedge on the grass verge.
- E. Samian form 18/31 found in small sondage in grass verge.
- F. Handle of tankard of orange Severn-Valley ware found in ploughsoil.
- G. Part of rotary quern (Roman) found in ploughsoil.
- H. Penannular brooch (1st century) found stratified in east river bank by Mr T. Rowley (now in possession of Mr. J. Perry). Unworn *imbrex* found in river. Also unworn 4th century grey rim.
- I. Foundations of Mediaeval house. Quantities of coarse and green-glazed ware was dated by the Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester as 11th - 12th centuries.
- J. Reservoir with earth dam. Leat leading down to river. Date unknown.

Bronze enamelled brooch Strat. in River Bank, Blunts Green.



0 10 20 30 mm

- E. Samian rim 18/31 in small sondage in grass verge.
- F. Handle of a Severn Valley tankard and half of a rotary quern in the ploughsoil.
- G.
- H. Pennanular brooch 1st C. found in outer river bank. Unabridged imbrex in river.
- I. Wall of sandstone and pebbles, and floor of beaten clay. Quantities of coarse and green glazed ware 11th C - 14th C associated. This site was immediately backfilled and abandoned, but it is feared that it was destroyed by later ploughing.
- J. Earthen dam built across a deep 'Dingle'. Date and purpose unknown. A leet takes a torturous route down to the river.
- K. Quantities of Roman brick and tile found deeply stratified in eight ft. vertical (outer) river bank. Also an enamelled plate brooch
- L. Quantities of mainly box-flue tile found in vertical (outer) river bank.
- M. Nearly half of a late 2nd C. jar stratified in gravel in vertical (outer) river bank. This was in good condition, and together with other river bank material, demonstrates that at various points the river is cutting into stratified deposits.
- N. Low bank slightly diverging from the main alignment cut across at right angles by ridge and furrow. Possibly an abandoned headland, or a field-boundary bank.
- O. Ditch or holloway about 1 m deep with a good regular profile, running parallel with modern field ditch.
- P. Farmhouse astride a bank 18 m wide.

B. HUTTY

Mancetter/Witherley SP 323967

A rectangular enclosure/possible building crop mark (J. Pickering, summer 1975), the first structural feature to appear from the air at the Mancetter complex, was explored with a trench 72' 0" x 7' 0". Features located include:-

- 1) A rectangular cut pit which at 4' 0" depth had surviving vertical timber planks 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, set to make a circular 3' 0" diam. shape with clay packing behind the planks, appeared to go deeper after exposing only 1' 0" on one side.
- 2) A circular well 5' 0" diam. (7' 0" proved).  
(1) and (2) only part excavated because of complexities of depth and water etc.
- 3) A shallow pit cutting (4).
- 4) A palisade trench parallel to (5).
- 5) Ditch approximately 6' 0" wide and 2' 6" deep from which dating evidence includes samian form 24/25 stamped FELIXSEV, and form 27 stamped OFMEM?

Pot evidence from other features confirm a 1st C. date.

KEITH SCOTT Atherstone Group

Manor Farmhouse, Mancetter, Warwickshire SP 320966

Another trench 16' 0" x 11' 0" in the front lawn did not produce an iron smelting hearth as was hoped from previous slag deposits, instead the complex occupation was again confirmed with:-

- 1) Early medieval pit cutting (2)
- 2) Rectangular cess-pit with corner posts.
- 3) More post-holes.

A rare find of a tubular spouted jug with handle decoration is proving difficult for parallels.

These later features disturb the much earlier R-B levels including:-

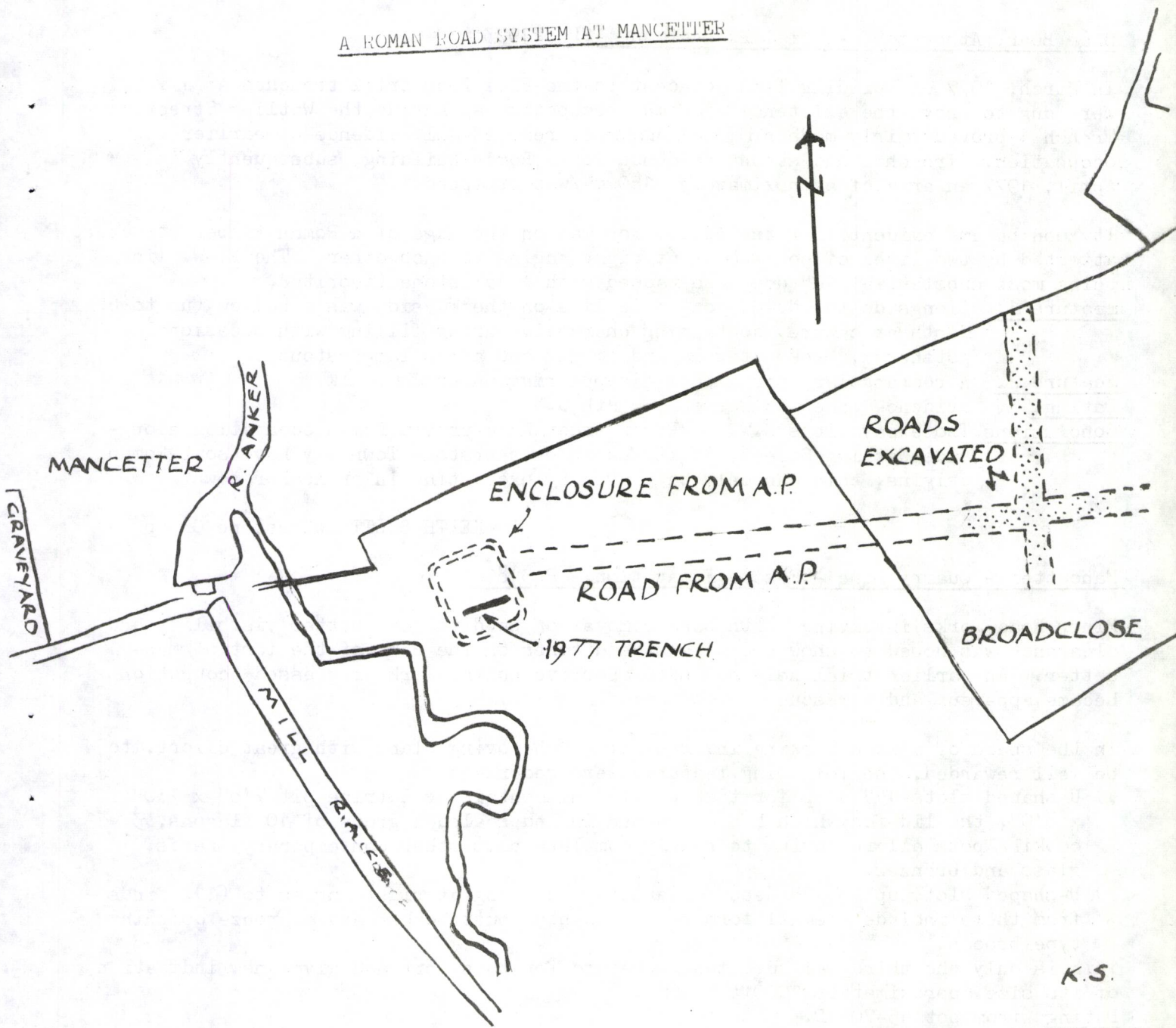
- 4) Gravel surface 4th C.?
- 5) Slots 1st C.
- 6) Rectangular pit 1st C.

Again military occupation proved from (6) which produced a fragment of LORICA SEGMENTATA, a lobate hinge on iron.

KEITH SCOTT Atherstone Group



A ROMAN ROAD SYSTEM AT MANCETTER



K.S.

Blue Boar, Atherstone - Trial Excavations, SP 321973

In March, 1977 on building land adjacent to the Blue Boar trial trenches at 1 & 2 were dug to prove the existence of Roman occupation alongside the Watling Street. Trench 1 proved fairly modern disturbances had removed all evidence of earlier occupation. Trench 2 had strong evidence for a Roman building, subsequently in April, 1977 an area of approximately 150 m<sup>2</sup> was stripped.

It soon became evident that the excavation was on the edge of a Roman timber structure attested by two lines of post-holes at right angles to each other. The E.-W. line being most substantial 16" deep and packed with local stone (deorite).

Feature 1. Alongside the N.-S. post-hole line on the W. side was a hollow (up to 6" depth at centre) containing charcoaly earthy filling with occasional potsherds, broken tegula and imbrex and a few large stones.

Feature 2. A rectangular shaped tank disappearing under the baulk.

Dating. Evidence based on pot only = 4th C.

Conclusions. Two excavations N.W. of River Anker have proved Roman occupation alongside Watling Street, it is feasible Atherstone Town may have some Roman origins, this can only be proved by excavating in or nearer town.

KEITH SCOTT Atherstone Group

Mancetter - Quarry Lane - Rescue Excavation, SP 318965

Minor Road works involving earth bank removal on bend to give better visibility and clearance was hoped to show the defensive ditches on the S.W. of the fort of Mancetter. An earlier trial hole had been abortive but as work progressed occupation became apparent and a rescue dig commenced.

In the space of a week working in front of earth moving plant with great effort, to be well rewarded, the following features were recorded:-

- 1) U-shaped slots 14" deep for timber building containing latrine pit 7'6" x 7'0" x 8'0", the lid for which had collapsed in and sealed a group of 10 flagons, 3 cooking pots all restoring to nearly complete plus other contemporary sherds, glass and bronzes.
- 2) U-shaped slots up to 17" deep for another building at right angles to (1), finds from these include a small form 24/25, painted butt-beaker and a bronze dolphin type brooch.

This is only the third well documented record for this fort and gives new indication of its size approximately 1000ft (305m.)

Dating from pot 45-70 AD.

KEITH SCOTT Atherstone Group

Mancetter

The Quarry Lane excavation was followed up with resistivity surveys aimed at locating the defences and thus defining the size of the fort. Numerous transects were surveyed with the Martin-Clark meter, but the soil conditions (a confusion of glacial sands and clays) produced too confused a graph for artificial features to be detectable.

V. WEBB University of Leicester  
and R. G. LAMB

Herefordshire

Leinthall Earls (SO 433677)

Two fragments of Roman coarseware, one being part of a storage jar, were found by the writer when the field was ploughed in 1974. The site lies some 800 yards E. of the Abergavenny-Leintwardine Roman Road.

These finds have been presented to Hereford City Museum.

Staunton-on-Arrow (SO 365605)

A fragment of the rim of a Romano-British vessel was found by the writer in 1975. This field is under intensive agriculture. It remains in the writer's possession.

Stoke Edith Park (SO605396)

A few fragments of Romano-British pottery were found by the writer when the upper portion of Stoke Edith Park was ploughed in 1974. The find spot adjoined the upper ends of a pair of lynchets, noted by the writer c 1970.

The pottery has been presented to the Hereford City Museum.

Stretford (SO 439588)

Three much abraded fragments of Roman coarse ware were found near The Firs Farm. The site adjoins the W. side of the Abergavenny - Leintwardine Roman road where a gold stater of CORIO was found some years ago (W.N.F.C.T. 1968, 367).

W.R. PYE Westfields, Lyonshall,  
Kington, Herefordshire.  
Extracted with the permission of  
the Editor from Archaeology in  
Wales No. 16, 1976 p.35.

The Auxiliary Roman Fort at Wroxeter - an interim report

During the past year an examination of the Roman auxiliary fort (126.563077) 500 m downstream from Wroxeter, close to the left bank of the Severn was undertaken.

The fort was first discovered by Professor J. K. S. St. Joseph during aerial reconnaissance in 1948. It is about 5 acres in area and for the general outline see fig. I. Professor St. Joseph cut sections on the N. and S. sides and located the ditches.

The site was skilfully chosen. The greater part of the fort lies on sloping land with a final short steep slope to the river. The subsoil is reddish sand and gravel - a terrace of the Severn. Upstream the land lies lower and is still subject to flooding: the same situation is found to the S. Far views are to be had to the W. and the Stretton gap.

The flat land immediately across the river often presented the appearance of a vast lake before a dam was constructed above Newtown, Mont. a few years ago. Field work included repeated walking the actual site and the vicinity together with more distant viewing from several vantage points. Aerial photographs enabled us to get fixes to locate the date nearest the river approached possibly by a pier: the fan-like spread from this exit to the river which raised the question as to the presence of a small harbour or creek, the possibility that the small outer ditches had collapsed at the exit, the presence of a modern drain which by chance went through the S. side of the exit and other lines external to the fort which we learnt from the farmer were field drains laid out last century. David Pannett pointed out that the river, here straight, has moved around 9 m W. since Roman times thus leaving a near flat area between the plough and the present river bank. A further post-Roman change was the presence of a sizeable bank or lynchet between the modern ploughland and the flat area once occupied by the river. Clearly one point that had to be settled was the position of the ancient bank. (see below).

To the E. of the fort is a lane which, having come from massive beds of Keele sandstone goes in a near straight line to Wroxeter so that there was both easy road and river communication with Viroconium.

Surface finds, including those pushed over the lynchet by generations of farmers included quantities of bonding tile, worked slabs of Hoaredge Grit, large cobbles,

soft Keele sandstone, floor tiling, tegulae, amphora fragments and much samian and coarse pottery, blue glass and faience beads, melted lead and lead strips, lumps of iron and iron slag and ash, window glass and blue-green bottle fragments.

#### Excavation: The Gate

It was correctly estimated that the ditches would be about 20 m up the slope from the lynchet. The small outer ditches had collapsed into the soft sand but the partially collapsed end of the N. inner ditch was found. The stones which had been set in its upper clay lining had mostly fallen to the bottom and were covered with dirty silt, wood fragments, gravel and pottery. As fast as the ditch was emptied it filled with water and overflowed for the red clay lining was fairly sound and was 30 cm thick at the bottom. Opposite, across the entrance the inner ditch was found but in section of military V-shape. Bad weather and the short time the farmer could spare militated against stripping the entrance. The ditch was here 3 m wide and 1.85 m deep. The clay lining was intact and in the heavy silt was half a white mortarium, samian ware and coarse pottery. When work was resumed in this area the S. butt end was found and the entrance width was c. 14 m. There had been a levelling up of the fort surface internal to and around the ditches by means of the deposition of a rammed cream coloured mix of clean silt, sand and clay, devoid of all artifacts. Though worn down and rutted between and external to the ditches and fort, cobbling remained on the edges and around the N. ditch end. This continued internal to the N. ditch as a well-preserved inter-vallum road which was neatly cambered and was exposed for a length of 2 m.

It consisted of a single layer of medium cobbles and broken stone with the top-dressing intact still, external to both inner ditches but so far this has not been traced.

A modern drain was, by chance, cut through the S. half of the exit on its way to the river but there was a small ancient drain, 20 cm wide with ledges still remaining which suggested that originally it had been covered with planks. It was blocked with silt and pottery. Lying on the cobbling on the N. side was a half quern of Niedermendig basalt with a handle slot and 3 small fragments of roughly carved sandstone, an as of Claudius, so worn as to be almost illegible, lay nearby. 1.75 m internal to the N. ditch was a circular posthole 52 cm in diameter and 97 cm deep with roughened packing stones. A shallow slot of average width 45 cm extended from it in a W. direction and it was as if a post of some weight had rotted off and fallen down and decayed. A post hole was found in the same position on the S. side.

The field now being needed for other purposes a slot one m wide was cut in line with the centre of the exit across the lynchet towards the river. At the same time another slot of similar width was cut parallel to and just internal to the lynchet.

The second slot is first considered. The topsoil was 1-2 m thick and this lay upon a sticky, black, sludge like deposit, 3.2 m thick below which was blue clay. For 10.5 m this black layer was followed to the N. and it still continued. At its S. end (opposite to the fort exit) the first mentioned slot was cut at right-angles and pointing at the river. Natural sand was reached at a depth of 3.5 m. The lynchet and older topsoil accounted for 1.4 m and two successive layers of silt showed two considerable river floodings over the black layer which, about a m thick beneath the lynchet gradually faded out about 6 m riverwards and 10 m from the present river edge. At its edge the present river is about a m deeper than the natural sand mentioned above.

The black sludge, now being analysed, contained quantities of decayed and burnt wood, small bone fragments, samian and coarse pottery, a buckle and plate of military type decorated 'en champléve' in blue and yellow enamel, an iron carpenter's bit, blacksmith's scrap, ash in quantity all in a conglomeration of dirty silt. This mass is precisely similar to the rubbish which accumulates in any creek, small harbour or river layby where boats anchor.

The area will be stripped and the boundaries of the creek determined. The fan-shaped exit may indicate the width, which increased as time passed. The pottery appears to be from late Neronian times until well into the the 2nd C. but specialists' reports are awaited. The coarse pottery is not earlier than Flavian and the B.B.I. types extend as far as the late 2nd C. (R. Farrer). It is of interest that some of the latest sherds are found in the deepest sludge.

A. W. G. HOUGHTON on behalf of  
the Roman Research Group of the  
Shropshire Archaeological Society.

#### A coin hoard near Much Wenlock, Salop

In Nov. 1977 a tractor driver noticed some coins when ploughing at Westwood farm, Much Wenlock (S 138.607983). The field adjoins the farmhouse and the find spot was adjacent to a lane leading to Stretton Westwood on Wenlock Edge.

An immediate search revealed about 200 Roman coins. This was helped by a metal detector lent by the farmer who uses it to locate buried rubbish. The detector also indicated the area of maximum concentration as well as the main direction of spread. Excavation consisted in stripping a rectangle 2 m<sup>2</sup> the topsoil being only 35 cm deep. The coins had been deposited in a woven basket, fragments of which were preserved by cuprous infiltration. No trace of a pot was found nor had there been a hole cut into the tough subsoil. The only pottery found in the field was a battered samian base (Dr. 37) and a few scraps of Severn Valley ware. All these were over 80m N of the hoard near the lane. The coins were mostly lying in a curve, thinning out from the main deposit. 80 years earlier the whole area had been under ridge and furrow and headlands could have been between the lane and the hoard. Thus the turning ox teams could have dragged the coins in a curve. About 2000 coins were collected and some 40 were cleaned and barbarous radiates of the Tetrici, Claudius Gothicus and Victorinus were identified, but regular issues of Tacitus and Aurelian were also present. The coins are now at the British Museum and the basket fragments at the B.M. conservation laboratory. There is to be a Coroner's Inquest in due course. There seems no doubt that the coins were hidden and not lost.

A.W.J. HOUGHTON The Shropshire  
Archaeological Society Roman  
Research Group.

#### HWCM 117 Worcester Sidbury Excavation - The Second Season

##### Background

The archaeological excavations of 23-29 Sidbury on the S. side of the Friar Street-Sidbury junction (SO 8522954534) carried out in advance of redevelopment, have now been completed. The site, just E. of the Cathedral, has revealed a complex pattern of occupation dating mainly to the Roman period, and much has been added to our knowledge of the early history of the city.

The second seasons work was begun in Feb. 1977, and completed at the beginning of Sept. with a two month break during May and June. A permanent team of five or six excavators was augmented by local volunteers at weekends and during holidays, and a group of Birmingham University archaeological under-graduates also gave invaluable help.

The whole of the available area was examined by Martin Carver during the first season, and it became clear that the E. half of the site had been greatly disturbed by 18th C. quarrying. Consequently the second seasons's work was concentrated upon the W. half.

##### The Excavation

Several phases of occupation were isolated in this second season, and all are dated to the Roman period:

Phase 1: the earliest feature was a large ditch running along the W. edge of the site, and butt-ending in the N.-W. corner. Only its E. edge could be examined, as the rest was outside the excavation. It was 1.5m deep and had a flat bottom at least 1.8m wide. There was very little pottery in it, and from its primary silts four pot sherds were recovered, which may date to the 1st C. A.D.

Phase 2: The ditch was sealed by a very compact and extensive pebble layer, which covered the whole site. The earlier ditch had caused these cobbles to slump along the W. edge, and a number of fault lines had developed. The maximum depth of subsidence was c 0.6 m. No distinct patterns could be discerned on the well-worn surface, but two parallel lines of stakeholes were observed, along the line of which the area had been consolidated with more pebbles at a slightly later date.

Phase 3: The first pebble surface silted over and was succeeded by a timber - framed 'platform'. Preservation of the wood was quite good, especially in the N.-W. corner of the site. Five parallel beam slots with associated stake and post-holes were found. The slots were c 5.5m long (although only one was preserved along its total length), 0.2 - 0.3m wide, and c 2.8 m apart. At the end of each there was at least one stakehole. The W. end of the structure revealed a complicated series of joists at right angles to the main beam slot, with smaller ones parallel to it. There was slight evidence of planking covering this support structure.

The W. half of the site was bisected by a ditch c 0.9m wide and c 0.3-0.4m deep, with five post-holes along its E. edge. A number of other features were found to the E. of this alignment.

Phase 4: Another pebble surface sealed the timber framed structure and the ditch. It had been removed by cellaring at the W. end of the site. A line of stakes ran across the S.-W. corner, and defined the limit of the cobbled surface which otherwise covered the whole area. No significant wear patterns were observed on this layer but it was deeper along a line running S.-E./N.-W. parallel to the fence line.

Phase 5: A series of sand and gravel layers were sealed, the phase 4 cobbled surface being dumped from the N. side of the site. They were c 0.8 m deep against the N. section.

Phase 6: A roadway was re-established along the earlier axis (S.-E./N.-W.), it was constructed of iron ore and slag laid in a trench cut into the dumped layers of the earlier phase and these materials had fused together to form a highly durable surface c 0.5m - 0.7m deep. A detailed analysis of the slag has still to be carried out. A number of rut-marks had been worn into the surface of this road way which had a camber towards the S.-W., thus making the ruts along this side more numerous. The surface became very uneven at the N.-W. end, with several potholes and humps.

A ditch was closely associated with this roadway, butt-ending at the road edge. The ditch, running to the E. was c 3.0 m wide, and 1.0 deep, and contained a large amount of pottery dated to the late 2nd - early 3rd C.

To the S. of this ditch and to the E. of the road, a rectangular line of stakeholes enclosed a 'roundhouse'. This consisted of a circular gully into which 12 stakeholes were set. Inside the gully a series of clay and charcoal layers were examined.

Phase 7: Sand and gravel layers were dumped on this roadway, and in the N.-W. corner these layers were c 0.4m deep, thus altering the topography of the site by creating a high point at this low-lying corner.

A square feature was cut into these layers and at each corner there was a post-socket c 0.3m in diameter, with a padstone at the base. The traces of a wooden waterpipe with iron collar joints, similar to those found in the previous season were also found.

Phase 8. This was represented by another external pebble spread, and had a band of

pebble and slag fragments running S.-E./N.-W., recorded at the end of the first season.

Later phases of activity. (This is a brief summary of the evidence recovered by Carver in 1976). The penultimate pebble surface of phase 8 was sealed by a homogenous layer of green-stained loam c 0.3m deep, which itself was sealed by another pebble surface, badly disturbed by later activity. Carver suggests that a major landscaping operation took place in the 16 th C., removing all layers above this pebble surface. This left only four truncated pits as evidence of Saxon activity, and a larger number of pits for the later medieval period. A good sequence of occupation from the 16th C. to the present day was established for the final phases of activity on this site.

#### Discussion

Our knowledge of the topography and layout of the Roman settlement at Worcester is based largely upon the salvage work carried out by Barker in the late 1960's (Barker 1970), and is obviously only slight. He recorded a major ditch (some 90ft wide and 25ft deep) on the Lich Street site (HWCM 545), which he interpreted as being part of an encircling defence around the high ground on which the Cathedral (HWCM 120) now stands. It was dated to the late 2nd C. by pottery in its primary silts. If this alignment is correct then it would just pass to the N.-W. of the Sidbury site (HWCM 117). He also suggested the existence of two suburbs outside this defensive circuit, one being in the Broad Street area, where he recorded evidence of iron working on a large scale and the other in Sidbury. The 1976 excavations have borne out this latter suggestion.

A study of the phase plans shows that the primary alignment in all phases is from S.-E. to N.-W. The earliest feature, the ditch of phase 1, butt-ended in the N.-W. corner, and the later roadways all appear to be aligned to this corner. The ditch is of great interest because it may be part of an early (1st C.) defence, but because of the limited opportunities for examining it in detail it is difficult to estimate its entire course.

There was a problem of subsidence into this filled-up ditch for the later roadways, and several attempts were made at consolidation, the most elaborate being that of being a timber-framed platform (phase 3). This might also have been part of a support structure over another ditch which did not appear on the site but may have been just to the N.-W.

Even in phase 6, when the pebble and slag road was constructed, problems of slumping were encountered at its N.-W. end. The construction of such a road attests the presence of industrial activity and judging by its thickness, a large amount of heavy traffic. The iron-smelting factory observed by Barker on the Broad Street site (HWCM 546) was dated by him to the late 2nd - early 3rd C., and he also encountered a roadway of similar thickness and constructed of similar materials to that found on the Sidbury site, which may also be dated to the late 2nd C. The wooden water pipes and the square four-post structure may have been built for industrial use, and the 'round-house' might have been an industrial, rather than domestic, building.

References Barker 1970 P. A. Barker, 'The Origins of Worcester' Trans.Worcs. Archaeol. Soc. 3rd Ser.2, 1968-69.

J. SAWLE Urban Excavator, Hereford & Worcester County Museum.

#### The Roman Campaign Base, Rhyn Park, Near Chirk

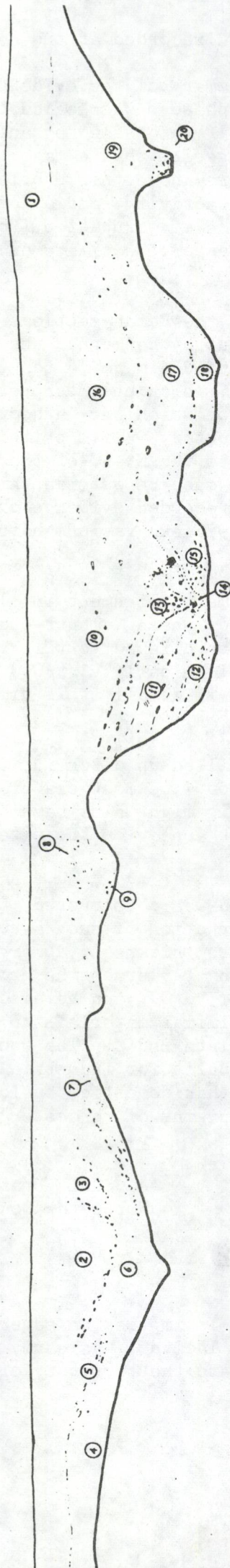
##### Excavation 1977

Roman military activity in the northern March is implied on several occasions in the early years of Roman Britain by the historian Tacitus. As early as A.D. 48 the governor Ostorius Scapula led an expedition into the territory of the Deceangli of

# EASTERN DEFENCES

# FORTRESS

DITCHES

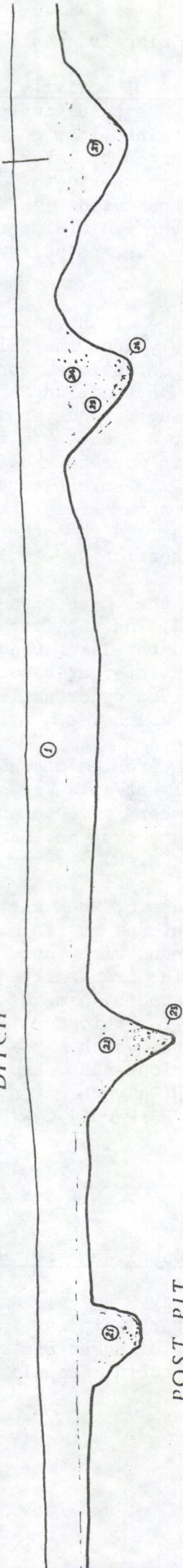


— RAMPART —

INNER  
DITCH

PIT

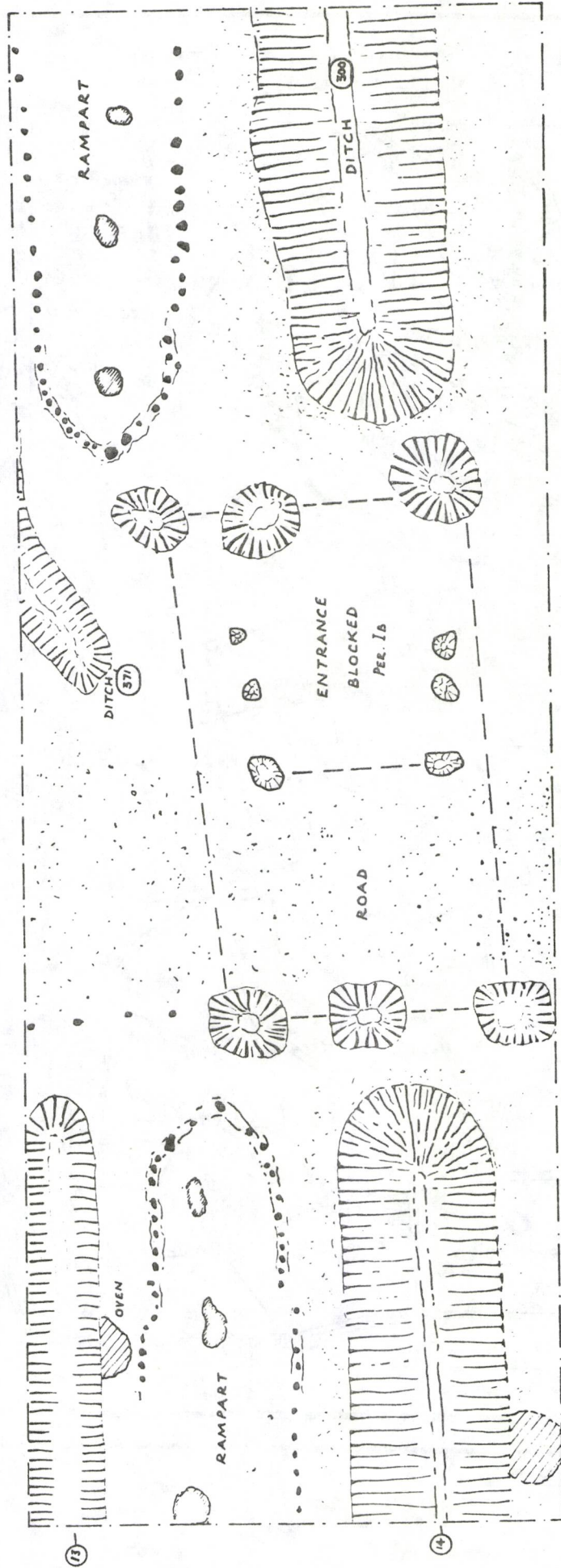
POST PIT





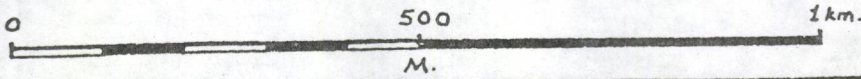
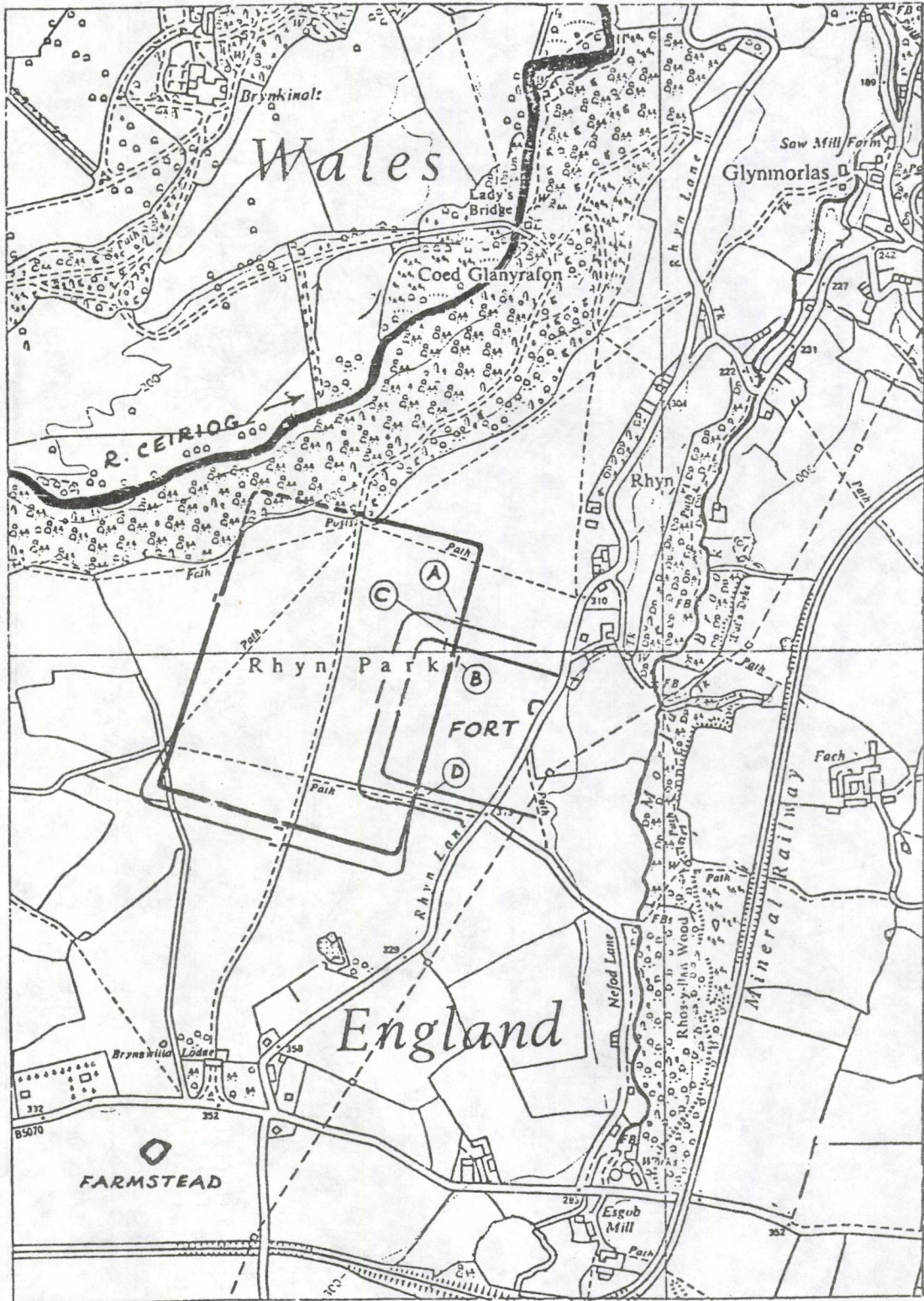
# EAST GATE

# RHYN PARK



G.H.H. D.M.  
G.D.B.J.

# RHYN PARK



Flintshire in a campaign the strategy of which was later copied by Suetonius Paullinus in his attack on North Wales in A.D. 60. Despite these literary sources until now there has not been any evidence for such activity on the ground, save the discovery of a marching camp near Whittington. The picture was transformed by the drought conditions of 1976. Evidence emerged, for instance, for the presence of an auxiliary fort in the territory of the Deceangli at Prestatyn. More important, however, evidence of a major campaign base controlling the approaches to the Vale of Llangollen was located at Rhyn Park, Chirk. The site clearly underwent a complex development because the main 48 acre (19.5 hect.) base camp was overlain by the remains of a later defensive ditch system associated with a second large fort.

The site is centred on SJ 305370 on the English side of the deeply entrenched valley of the River Ceiriog some one and a half Km. south of its confluence with the River Dee and a Km. S.E. of Chirk. The land in question is a flat plateau overlooking the steeply wooded slope to the S. of the river and further defended by the presence of a small tributary stream, the Morlas Brook, that branches from the Ceiriog and runs due S. through Glynmorlas and Rhyn. The site is thus screened by natural defences on three sides and can only be approached easily across level ground from the S. Its strategic role was to control the S. approach to the Vale of Llangollen and form the springboard from which attacks could be mounted along the inland route into North Wales.

#### The Legionary Fortress

The major camp occupies the central area of the plateau formed by the entrenched valleys. The position is therefore exceptionally strong except to the S. where an additional third defensive ditch was provided. The whole defensive circuit can be traced precisely save in the S.-E. corner where in 1976 root crops produced only a general indication of the rampart line. The camp is not a perfect rectangle in shape, being narrower (c. 360m.) on the eroded northern side than on the S. (410m.). The E. and W. sides measure c. 515m. giving an area of 48.45 acres (19.57 hect.) over the ditches. The four entrances are marked by the presence of a titulus, or external protective bank and ditch; the position of the E. and W. entrances in their respective sides shows that the camp faced N. and there appears to be some evidence for a road on the ground along the line that the via principalis should follow.

On the weak S. side there is evidence of a supplementary defence in the form of an outlying third ditch some twenty m. beyond the main defences. Its entrance way was again protected by a titulus. At the S.-W. corner this outer defence turned to rejoin the inner defences at an acute angle. While the entrance type is more usually associated with marching camps, the double ditches and the elaborate S. defences suggested that a more permanent site is involved, as proved the case upon excavation. The size of the site at 48.45 acres is larger than that of the early legionary fortress at Lincoln (41.5 acres) and compares closely with other early legionary fortresses known at Gloucester (46 acres), Caerleon (49 acres) and York (50 acres). The practice of brigading legionaries with auxiliary cavalry, however, is well attested in this period and it would be unwise to seek further precision prior to extensive excavation.

#### The Later Fort

The E. side of the plateau was occupied by a camp or large fort of unusual form. The enclosure lies immediately S. of the hamlet of Rhyn and takes advantage of the natural defences offered in particular by the tributary stream. The form of the camp is of particular interest; an outer ditch system with offset entrances, particularly clear on the western side, provided a defensive screen. This protected an inner fort indicated faintly by crop marks and set regularly within the area. In this case the outer ditch with its offset entrances is reminiscent of the perimeter defence guarding the site at Newton-on-Trent and is also paralleled at forts such as Caersws and Canon Frome. Overall the enclosure occupies some 14.48 acres (5.86 hect) to the natural edge of the scarp with the actual fort filling approximately 11 acres. Within this area there also occurs the crop mark of a small native-style farmstead lying close to the hamlet of Rhyn and probably post-dating the military phase. The slight causeway running N.E.-S.W. in the same area may represent traces of a roadway

running up to the **E.** gate of the legionary fortress.

#### The Excavations

The trial excavation ran for four weeks across Aug. and the site was visited by over 2,000 people during that time. Considerations of crop rotation and the presence of the second fort both dictated that all the season's work was conducted along the E. defences of the main site in the field adjoining Rhyn Lane. The strategy involved lay in cutting trenches to examine the defences of the large camp, to elucidate the structure of its E. gateway and to establish its chronological relationship with the smaller 14 acre site.

#### The Defences (see section)

Trenches A and D were both cut across the main E. defences of the large site. The former was extended into the interior to examine the remains of timber buildings immediately behind the rampart, while the latter produced the most comprehensive picture of the defences. In its secondary phase the main defences took the form of a double ditch some 6.2m wide. There was considerable evidence of recutting in the shaley ditch fill. Two m. beyond this lay a further ditch some 3m. across. Behind the main ditch the area of the rampart was defined by a number of features indicating that it had been timber revetted. Its width was slightly over 5m. with its rear defined by an inner ditch that has appeared as a crop mark from the air. 4.5 m. to the rear a smaller ditch also occurred. The puzzling location of these two ditches behind the main rampart was explained by the excavation of the E. gateway. The section revealed in Trench A showed a similar double-ditched defence lacking a third major ditch but supplemented by a form of defensive palisade.

#### The E. Gateway (See plate)

The E. gate of the large fortress was examined in its entirety exposing not only the structural layout of the gateway but considerable stretches of the internal ditch behind the main rampart. This feature, located in both trenches A and D, proved of especial interest. It measured an average of 2.6 m. across with a steeply defined 'ankle breaker' sump. What the air photographs did not reveal was than 7m. further into the interior lay a further small ditch. The purpose of these features was revealed by the intervening area which contained the post-pits for a timber revetment that had held a rampart 2.8 m. across. The rampart mass was further supported by three central posts and finished with rounded ends (see plate). When the main defences were built they were constructed beyond the main internal ditch (14) the edge of which was modified to accommodate a series of ovens both here and more particularly in Trench A. The ovens, on the evidence of their charcoal rakings, had been in service within a very brief interval at a time when the internal ditch was only filled with rapid silt. The easiest, though not necessarily the only, interpretation of these features is that the two inner ramparts marked the front and rear defences for a temporary marching camp running immediately inside the perimeter of the eventual larger site. The military engineers had therefore created a more permanent base by the simple expedient of constructing the main defences immediately outside the ditch of the primary camp. Rhyn Park, therefore, gives us an insight into the conversion of a marching camp into a more permanent base.

#### The Gateway (see plan)

The area of the gate was identified by the position of six massive post-holes, covering from centre to centre an area of some 9.1m. by 5.2m. The structure was designed not as two separate towers but as a single unit with two substantial, centrally-placed post-holes indicating that the gateway was divided up into two carriageways approximately 4.5 m. across. As the excavation proceeded it became clear that a shale and gravel spread existed only across the S. carriageway. The explanation for this anomalous situation lay in the presence of four further post-holes that had blocked off the N. entrance. That this was the correct interpretation finally emerged when it became clear that the small inner ditch (371) had been extended to run at an angle towards the central posts of the gate tower and so blocked off access to the N. side. The ditch also removed a line of small post-holes, which on the S. side had carried a small fence extending from the edge of the gate tower. The evidence for the blocking of one

carriageway represents a development that has hitherto only been demonstrated in stone structure in this country.

### The Interior

Within the excavated area four ovens (see plate) had been set into the rear of the main rampart. As at the E. gateway, their charcoal rakings indicated their use at a time when only primary silt had entered the inner ditch. In this way the ovens cleverly adapted the presence of a pre-existing ditch when the main fortress defences were built. The pattern, moreover, was found to extend along the inside line of the ditch in the form of at least two further ovens (10 and 18). The life of these internal ovens was again overtaken by events. A line of post-holes cutting through oven 18 formed the end wall of a building that was traced some 17 m. into the interior. This extension of the trench in fact produced two rows of post-holes in such contiguity as to suggest that the two lines belonged to a pair of 'back to back' barracks aligned along an E.-W. axis, an interpretation supported by limited area excavation (see plate). This showed that the structure involved was 7.2m. wide. Further lines of post-holes indicated the three divisions into which the building fell: the rear quarters 2.6m. across, with a central section of the same width and an outside space of 1.9 m. Like the evidence cited above, the three-fold division of the timber building immediately suggested that it should be interpreted as a barrack block with the last unit forming the verandah. The stratigraphy implied that the building had been built when the main internal ditch had been filled to create space for a narrow intervallum. The process of building the barracks, therefore, obliterated any traces that may have remained of the original marching camp. The presence of the internal timber buildings however brief their occupation may prove to be, indicates that permanent occupation was intended. The verandah of the legionary barracks had been partly destroyed by the outer perimeter ditch of the 14 acre fort, thus demonstrating the later date of the smaller base.

### The Later Fort

The outer perimeter ditch of the later fort recovered in Trench A was of the Punic type with a near vertical outer face. The main defences only appear indistinctly from the air, a fact explained on excavation of Trench C by evidence for several recuttings of the ditch system. Although the core of the yellow clay rampart was not well defined, the ditch system had undergone two periods of use. In the later one the rampart appears to have been extended and there is evidence for some kind of timber revetting, overlying the original inner ditch. Beyond this there was clearer evidence for a double-ditch system, the sumps of which were defined by stone fill. Considerable quantities of the clay rampart had ultimately been washed into the outer ditch fill. The defence section, therefore, suggested that the later fort had been in use for some time and had undergone structural modification. This was proved by the evidence of the later fort found overlying the E. gateway, though with a complexity that had not been suspected. Altogether over one hundred post-holes were recovered and could be divided into structures: one a simple shed-looking building, the other more substantially built. The plan of the latter appears to belong to the courtyard type with evidence of two entrance areas leading into a range of rooms that only partly lie within the area excavated.

### Chronology

A small quantity of pottery was found, comprising principally mortaria fragments from the oven rakings and amphora fragments from the internal ditch. These were not sufficient evidence on which to base a more precise chronology, save to say that they lay within a mid 1st C. context. The strategic role of the site could fit a number of historical contexts, while, of course, the presence of the later fort implies that more than one campaign is involved. Leaving aside the problem of where Caratacus fought his final battle with the Romans we know from Tacitus that the governor Ostorius Scapula advanced into the Cheshire Gap to attack the Deceangli in A.D.48. Air photographic evidence from the Welshpool-Oswestry area makes it clear that there was an abundance of native settlement in the area. This and the position of the site controlling the approach to the Vale of Llangollen

make admirable topographical sense. Yet in A.D. 60 the governor Suetonius Paullinus could also have used a base in this position for the campaign that saw the conquest of Anglesey, the effects of which were nullified by the Boudican Revolt. In tackling the same strategic problem in A.D. 77 or 78 Agricola mounted a brief and successful campaign against the Ordovices of North Wales. In theory the campaign base at Rhyn Park could fit any one of these three historical contexts. If the earliest one is perhaps the most attractive, then the full answer, perhaps involving more than one period of use, must await excavation.

#### The Future

The first season of excavation has therefore shown that Rhyn Park is the site of a legionary fortress representing a major campaign base at some period in the mid 1st C. It is conceivable that the base lay at the limits of Cornovian territory and was designed not only to act as a springboard against the Deceangli but also to exploit the silver-lead deposits known to have existed in the Ceiriog Valley 1 Km. to the W. Only further investigation can elucidate these problems and that in turn can only derive from large scale examination of the interior. Like the Agricolan fortress at Inchtuthil, Rhyn Park offers the opportunity to recover the detailed plan of the internal arrangements of a legionary fortress largely clear of superincumbent remains. The volume of visitors to the site during the excavation shows the degree of local interest, and indeed, the programme of work envisaged cannot proceed in future seasons without strong local support. Accordingly, for a full illustrated report and further information those interested should contact the Border Counties Archaeological Group, c/o 8 Windermere Road, Wrexham, Clwyd.

PROFESSOR G.D.B. JONES Manchester University.

#### Droitwich Bays Meadow

The annual training excavation of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology continued in Bays Meadow for three weeks. The investigation of the area of early salt working was continued revealing more shallow pits (brine pans?) and sparse dating evidence Roman and Iron Age 'duck stamped' pottery. Adjacent to the 3rd C. villa more details of the timber extension to the villa were revealed as well as a ditch underlying the villa.

L.H. BARFIELD

#### Radnal Bridge, Acton Scott, Salop (SJ 5250 0255) Sites and Monuments Record No. SA 290

The masonry abutments of the Roman bridge on Watling Street (see Trans. Shrops. Arch. Soc. 55 (1954-6)38-46 were cleared of vegetation and examined for signs of structural weakness. There has been some deterioration over the last 20 years but the basic structure is sound. The site was resurveyed on a large scale, a levelled profile taken across the ravine along the axis of the bridge, and a detailed photographic record made. A full account will be published in due course.

IAN BURROW Salop County Planning Department

#### Wroxeter Baths Basilica

As due to Government economies, the grant for this excavation was drastically cut in 1977, work was concentrated on interpretation of the previous ten year's work, and drawing for publication. Although showing up the progress of the excavation this pause was invaluable as it gave us a month in which to think about all that had gone before, to discuss, in a way impossible during a large excavation, the complexities of phasing where the relationships are horizontal rather than vertical, and are therefore more ambiguous. Nevertheless, there were sufficient funds to enable us to excavate in two small areas in the hope of clearing up problems which had remained

unresolved from the 1976 season.

On Site A excavation of the pits and gullies lying between the series of elongated wattle and daub buildings, I - IV, and the precinct wall was completed. They proved to be a series of tanks with interconnecting channels, almost certainly used for tanning. The evidence consists of three dog coprolites and tiny fragments of comminuted bone in the silting of the final soakaway. The bone has the character of fragments that have passed through the digestive system of a dog. Dog excreta, pigeon dung and sometimes human excreta were used in tanning until medieval times, chiefly for the removal of hair and the softening of hides. (Reed, R. 1972 Ancient Skins, Leathers and Parchments, London). Two complete pots, one with a hole drilled in its base, found in the primary silt of the soakaway seem to put the use of this system back into the 2nd C., and it is rather surprising to find such a potentially noisome industry in the central insula of the city, even though it was separated from the baths by the precinct wall.

N. of the E.-W. street a small extension of the excavation was made to examine the area behind the group of massive post-settings found in 1976. Inevitably, the new area raised more problems than it solved but it is already clear that the sequence of very large timber buildings here is much longer than had been assumed. At the moment there is no evidence for any stone buildings underlying these large timber structures, whose terminus ante quem is not yet known.

The most important find was a small group of what is believed to be imported Mediterranean or Gaulish amphorae (now being examined by Dr. David Peacock). These sherds were discovered in a post-pit of the latest phase, and are the first such pottery recognised from Wroxeter.

It is hoped to resume large-scale work in 1978.

P. A. BARKER

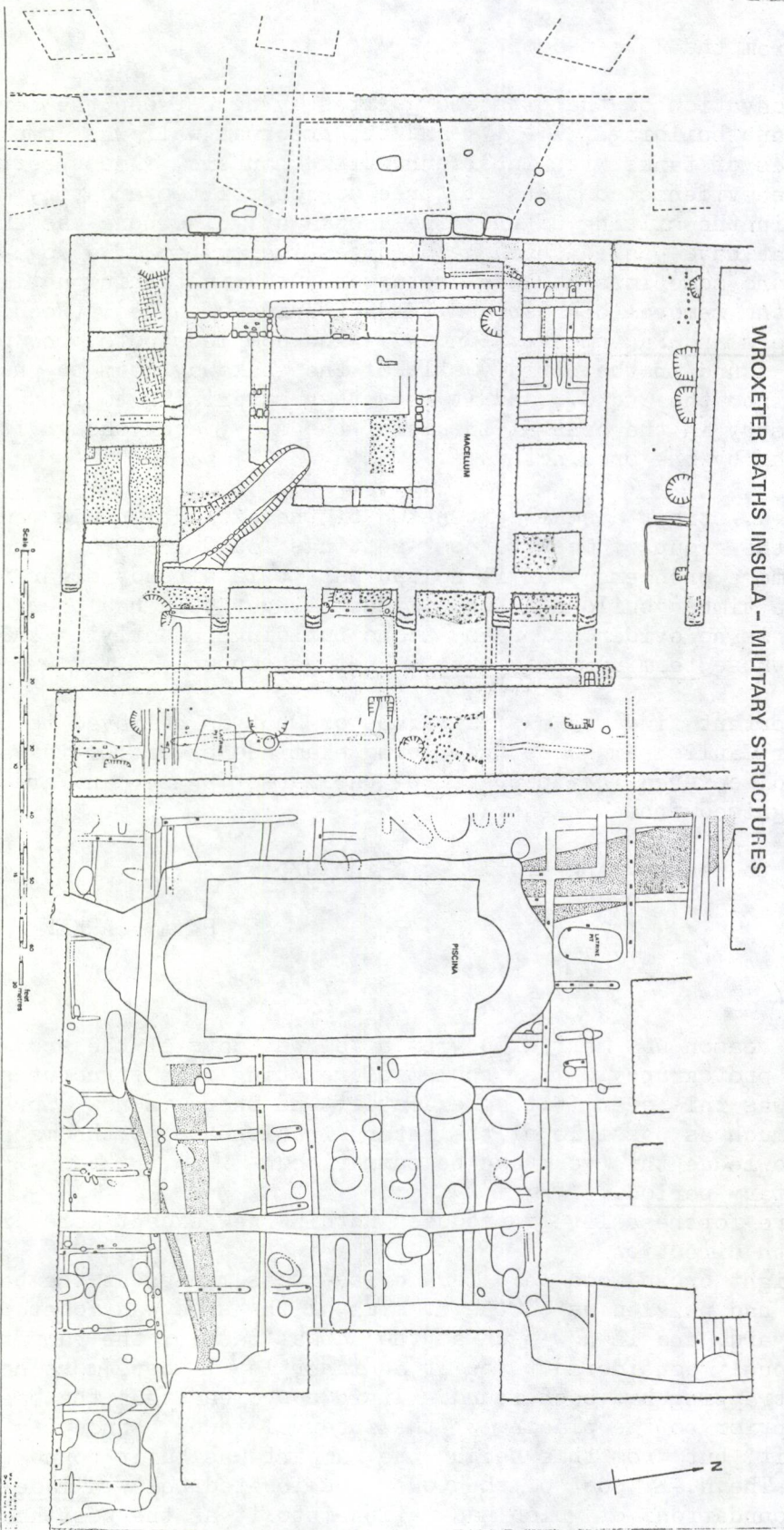
### Wroxeter 1977

An excellent season was marred only by a few wet days at the end, which hampered drawings and photography. The problem of relating deep structures in small disconnected areas was this year felt more acutely and there is now a pressing need to excavate as much as possible of the internal colonnade of the macellum. Our advances in knowledge this year can be summarised:-

#### 1. The military period.

- a) The pre-fortress levels produced nothing new except more of the E.-W. ditch in both directions.
- b) The light brush-wood laid in a criss-cross manner at the base of the rampart which had puzzled us on the S. side of the site was located below the macellum courtyard, and is now seen as the actual base of the rampart, which we had previously considered to be at a higher level where more normal and substantial log strapping had been found. It is now clear that the base of the rampart was laid prior to the placing of the interval tower, since its post-pits cut through it, but from this height the rampart was built round the standing structure. The N.-E. post of the tower was located below a macellum wall, part of the foundations of which had fallen into it as the post had rotted below the point at which it had been sawn away. The width of the tower is now seen to be 3.4 m and was possibly intended to be 12 Roman ft. square. From this it could be conjectured that the full width of the rampart was between 9 and 10 m and of this as much as 6 m had been cut back for the insertion of the rampart buildings, leaving only sufficient space for the palisade and patrol track at the top. We do not however know as yet, whether the fort had a front or a vertical timber revetment or if there was one with sloping turf. At the S. end it was discovered that the cutting back of the rampart had gone beyond the S. limit of the stone rampart building, but the length of the removed rampart had been replanned with new turfwork. Little of this had however

WROXETER BATHS INSULA - MILITARY STRUCTURES





survived, since there had been a further cutting away of the rampart in the form of a shallow scoop deepening to the S. The purpose of this is not yet known, but it may be related to the reduction of the rampart below the S. range of the macellum for the insertion of a layer of red sandstone, half a metre thick. This tails off to the E. where it is interleaved in to the intervallum roads covering the lower three but being overlaid by the final surface. This activity is also seen to be associated with the construction layer of the rampart building, for this is similarly positioned. No further light was shed on the earlier timber rampart buildings, since they did not appear in the E.W. trench in the macellum courtyard, although the rampart had been cut back to accommodate them; only the N. internal colonnade of the macellum can provide the answer. Nor is it yet clear how the vertical face of the cut-back rampart was held in position, since there is no evidence for a timber revetment. The intervallum road is now seen to have four periods and there appears to be a timber drain on the W. side of the early period along the E. edge of the foundation of the E. wall of the stone intervallum building, but this needs confirmation.

Work on the centurial block at the S.-E. corner of the site has been made difficult by the large number of features in a small area (3m by 6m), the latest count is seven timber and clay walls and eight pits. The final phase is a large V-shaped trench full of clay debris, a continuation of an alignment from the E. where it was conjectured that this and similar trenches were for demolishing a large building of the final phase.

## 2. Civil period

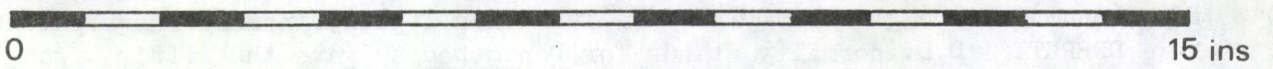
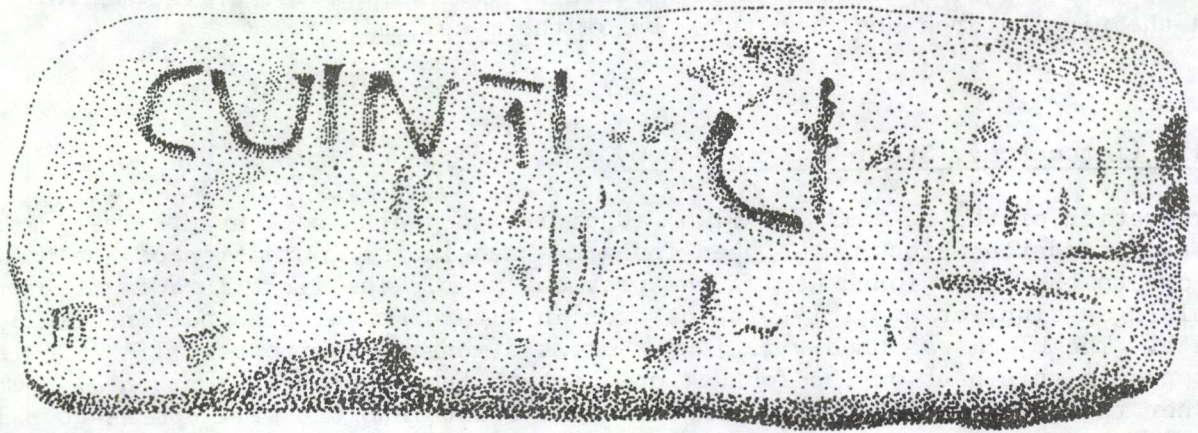
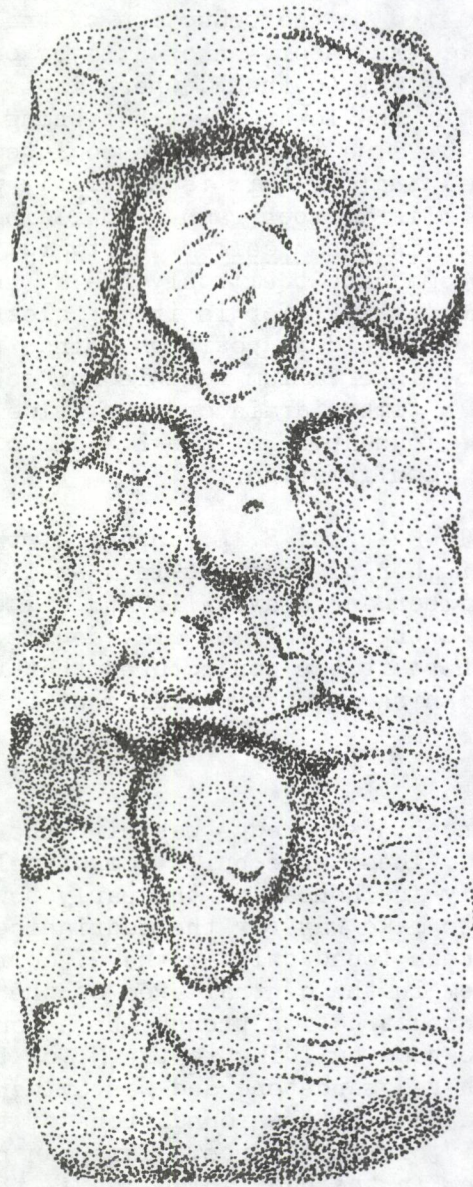
The most important advance in knowledge was with the clay and timber buildings in the N. corridor. These were built immediately over the military demolition and presumably are houses of the early town, built soon after 90, and in turn demolished to make way for the Hadrianic development. At present these houses have been found only in the N. corridor and S. range and there is no trace of them in the central area of the macellum. Crossing the macellum is a N.-S. construction trench which continues the line of the E. wall of the large two-room building to the N. of the macellum. In places it is filled with red sandstone and was evidently intended as foundation. Its depth is the same as the foundations of the macellum walls, and it cuts through the early civil features. This can now be seen to have been a change of planning in the Hadrianic scheme, the first plan being to continue the range fronting the street but this was altered for the insertion of the macellum, and this change is most probably to be associated also with the sand-filled trenches found elsewhere.

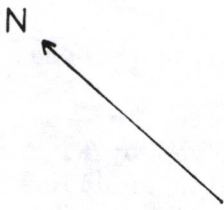
A new plan has been drawn by Barry Ecclestone bringing together the military buildings in the piscina area and with those below the macellum.


GRAHAM WEBSTER


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

Excavation of the so-called 'Villa' adjoining the Baths continued. Three more carved sandstone blocks have been found re-used in the foundation of the N.E. wall, close to the three found during the previous year. The first is a figure apparently holding a club, or possibly with hand on an altar, and with an outline skull beneath. The block was used with its greatest dimension horizontal, like all the stones in this part of the foundation, so that the figure was horizontal. The other two stones bear inscriptions and were built into the wall upside-down like the carved stones previously found. Mr. M. Hassall reports that a pecked inscription on one, CUINTUS CI, 'might be a Celtic name - on the other hand it might be just a misspelling of QUINTI, 'of QUINTUS', which on the whole seems more likely. The letters following look like CI - but if a backwards 'D' I suppose could stand for D(onum) - 'the gift of QUINTUS'. The other lightly incised inscription looks like DDBRUTI - D.D. normally stands for Donum Dedit 'gave the gift', often used

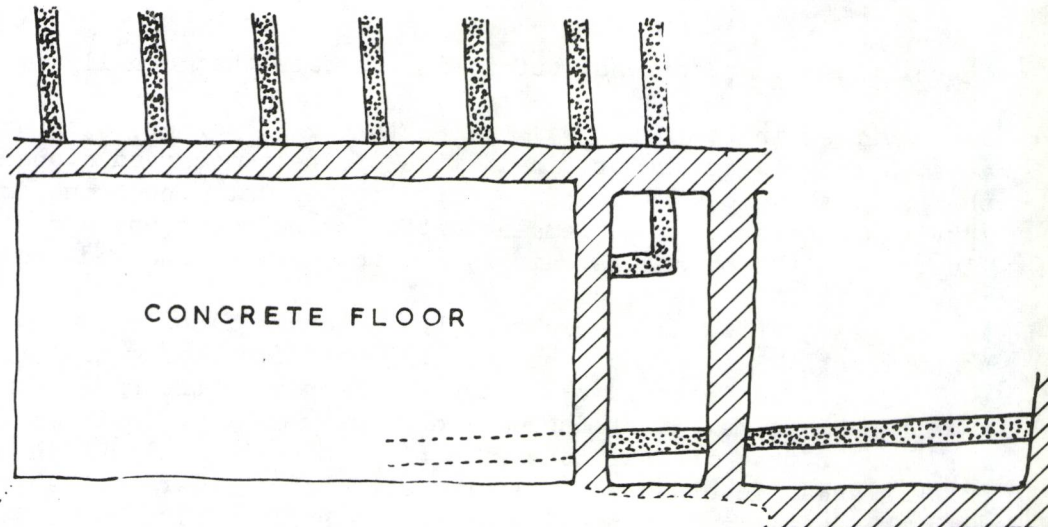




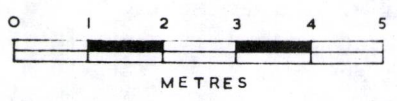
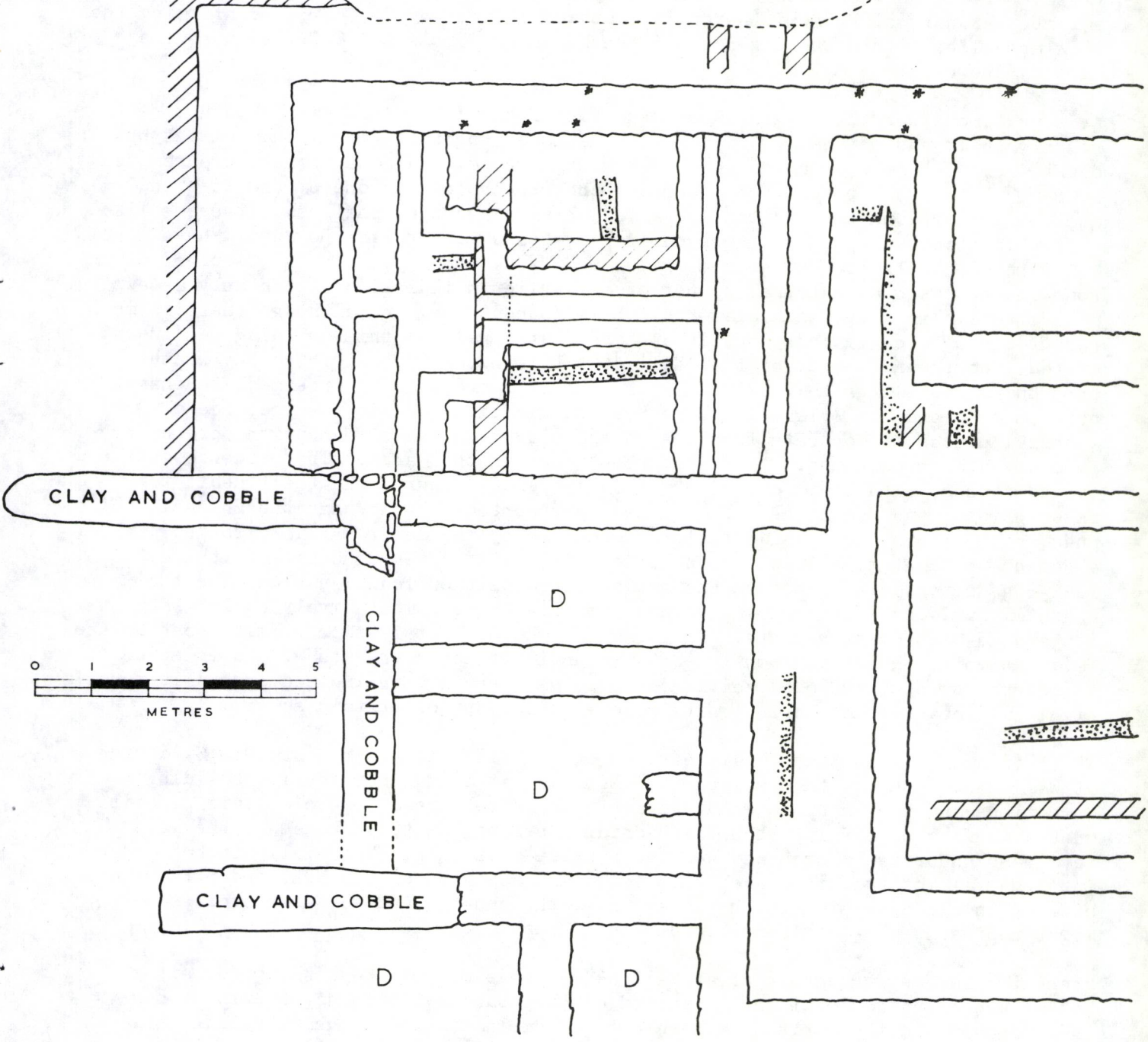
PHASE 1 

PHASE 2 

CARVED STONES \*



ROMAN ROBBER TRENCH



METRES

CLAY AND COBBLE

WALL (LETOCETUM)

on religious inscriptions, but it is a phrase that usually follows the personal name'.

Two cavities in the outer wall close to the NE corner, with associated late disturbance, appear to be the original sites of the two carved stones removed by R. Mott, the excavator who worked on the site in 1910-12. One stone, of which an illustration survives, bears male and female Celtic horned heads and a circle divided by a vertical line, while the other was said by him to carry an incised cross.

Further excavation has shown that the concrete floor close by, forming part of the predominantly wattle-and-daub walled Phase II building dismantled to make way for the 'Villa', was bounded by a stone wall only on the side nearest to the latter, and it seems likely that the carved stones came from this screen. Additional evidence for this is that several otherwise plain sandstone blocks in the 'Villa' foundations in this area had cream wall-plaster attached similar to that already found associated with the wattle-and-daub walls of the Phase II building.

Partly beneath the concrete floor of Phase II were found the foundation trenches of a timber granary of Phase I (Neronian), obviously destroyed by fire, confirming that this area lies within the defences of the Neronian fort whose S.E. defences are already known.

At some time after the original construction of the 'Villa' two walls much more roughly built and on shallow pitched foundations, together with a channeled hypocaust, were inserted into the large N.E. corner room, and some stones were removed from the outer wall to provide access to the stokehole. In one of the inserted shallow foundations was a pitched oval stone with a carved phallus. It seems likely that this stone was put in as a good-luck symbol by a workman who would have seen at least one of the carved stones whilst modifying the room. The N.W. corner of this room incorporates an external corner of an earlier building, of which only a few stones remain in situ, with clay-and-cobble foundations, and although there is much recent disturbance in this area it appears that a wall of this building was incorporated into the N.W. side of the 'Villa'. It is not yet possible to say whether this building belongs to Phase II or whether it represents an intermediate phase between that and the 'Villa'. A further complication here is the presence of substantial pieces of concrete flooring in the clay-and-cobble foundation, presumably from an earlier building. Excavation continues in this area. The evidence of the carved stones, with their characteristically Celtic figures and their dedicatory inscriptions, and the large well previously reported suggest that the Phase II buildings, both within and outside the area occupied by the later 'Villa', formed part of a Romano-Celtic temple complex. A horse-leg burial (often associated with Celtic religious sites) with bones in the articulated position found just outside the main Phase II building would be consistent with this. The comparatively early destruction and de-consecration of this building (c. 120 A.D.) raises problems. Most Romano-Celtic temples in Britain continue in use until at least the 4th C. and in spite of the carved stone (now lost) mentioned above as carrying 'an incised cross' it seems highly improbable that Christianity reached this part of Britain so early!

There is a tradition that a temple stood on the site of the present 19th C. church at Wall, and a report that a figure of Minerva was found there during building operations and broken up to mend a drain. If there were a temple on this site it must date from no earlier than the Hadrianic period, as the ditches of the last fort pass under the church and were open until that date. Two small ditches cut into the fill of the ditches of this fort, and apparent on the N.E. and S.E. sides but not in the S.W. side which passes under the church, and so far unexplained, might represent the enclosure boundaries of such a temple.

Present evidence suggests that at Wall we may have one of those religious sites, better known on the Continent, situated on the boundary between two tribes, here the Cornovii and the Coritani, where baths, temple and other public buildings were found without what would normally be regarded as sufficient resident population to justify them, and used mainly as fair and market centres.

If there were some political, military, or religious reason for the demolition and blighting of the Romano-Celtic temple with its associated head-cult it could well have been replaced by a temple dedicated to a specifically Roman deity on the more commanding site of the present church.

BERT ROUND for South Staffs. Arch.  
Soc.

Second Interim Report on Excavation Behind No. 1 Bleachfield St, Alcester

Work continued in the main area of the site (Site I), and also in an easterly extension 7 x 3 m (Site II) from which ran a trench 26 m long x 1 m wide extending E. almost as far as Bleachfield Street itself. Site II did not produce evidence for late Roman structures comparable to those in site I. There was a considerable amount of disturbance in the form of pits and a small part of what may have been an oven or kiln. Above the general spread of 'late Roman' build up were enigmatic traces of structures - a couple of very worn areas of pebbling, with patches, some well defined, of crushed sandstone. One such alignment of stone was very close to the line of an earlier wall (part of building VI) and had apparently been disturbed by the robbing of this wall. It may have been the foundation for some sort of timber structure but it is impossible to say what such a structure would have looked like. Likewise its date is uncertain, but the very mixed collection of pottery found more or less in association contained no medieval sherds, and so a late Roman date is suggested. Immediately beneath the general accumulation already mentioned was a pebbled surface which had also been encountered in site I (161) as well as site II (20). Thus we have a major stratigraphic link between sites I and II - the buildings in each were parts of the same complex.

It is now clear that building V in site I went through three major periods. In period 1 the building consisted of the clay floor and walls, the N. end of which was in timber. Horizontal beams on which a timber frame would have rested were raised above ground level on large blocks of sandstone along the edges of the clay floor. In period 2a the floor of the N. room was relaid in laid rubble with a mortar covering which was also used for two small rooms on the E. side of the building, their walls being rested on sleeper beams. The original E. wall was remodelled. The S. half was replaced exactly as it had been before but in the N. part the beam resting on stone blocks was removed and three large posts (c. 19 cm diam.) were inserted. Presumably there was an access at some point into the two new rooms from the original N. room. There may also have been an extension on the W. side of the building. Some time later the N. of the two added rooms went out of use, since beneath them was an early pit which had been covered by a pebbled surface (235) on top of which building V was constructed. After a time the fill in this pit settled quite considerably and the room above must have become unsafe. It either fell down, or (perhaps more likely) was deliberately demolished. The second small room stayed in use long enough for its floor to be resurfaced, and then it too was demolished, which marks the beginning of period 3. The beam which had carried the outer (E.) wall was removed and the slot carefully packed with rubble and large cobbles, then the whole of the area to the E. was covered with a thick makeup layer (up to 15 cm) of clean sand and gravel on which was laid the pebbled surface (161). This surface ran up to the original E. wall of building V which thus reverted to its original size. It was at this point, and most probably as part of the same general operation, that building VI was constructed, but its plan is not clear since in the area excavated only short lengths of wall were revealed. In fact it is possible that the stone walls themselves do not form a coherent plan but only a skeleton for timber structures. It does seem that from the beginning the major N.-W./S.-E. wall encountered in site II and in the extreme N. E. corner of site I (where it was originally thought of as part of building V - first interim) and the wall at right angles to it running N. had timber structures leaning against it. The beam slots for such structures were identified, although they were not very substantial. The structure to the S. of the main wall had a series of small pits within, and apparently more or less contemporary with it, one of which had contained a wooden box. In one comparable building N. of the wall and backed (on the W.) by the secondary wall was a square stone tank with traces of a clay lining, this was set into the pebbled floor and was pro-

bably a water container though it appeared to be too small for an animal trough, so some industrial function is likely.

Two short lengths of stone wall aligned N.W./S.E. were uncovered in the trench, and these probably also belonged to the building VI complex. They were parallel, and each turned a corner, the more S. at its W. end, the N. at its E. end. The effect was as of a small room on each side of a passage just over 2 m wide and c 5 m long at the N. W. end of which was a threshold of limestone slabs resting on the pebble floor. Exactly what all this means for the building VI complex is not clear, though it seems reasonable to project the wall running from the W. end of the S. wall of the passage to join the main N.-W./S.-E. wall at building VI. It is uncertain which parts were roofed and which open. The flooring consists throughout of pebbling.

There is no indication of what happened to building VI. There were no later floor surfaces of any sort, and it is possible that it fell out of use fairly soon after it was built and remained in that state throughout the remainder of the Roman period. Its walls must still have been standing to a reasonable height because they were robbed at a very late stage - possibly even in the medieval period.

The relationship of the building VI complex to the features further E. in the trench is quite uncertain. Here all the later Roman and medieval deposits had been removed, perhaps in the 18th C. What remained was a series of hollows, depressions, gullies and pits of 1st and 2nd C. The relationships between the N. of the parallel stone walls and these features was completely obliterated by a later Roman and a medieval pit. No trace was found of the possible road (first interim). This must therefore lie further E. than the trench (i.e. almost under Bleachfield St.) or perhaps have been of a later (maybe late 2nd C. onwards) and have therefore been removed by modern activity, though this is less likely.

Two of the gullies were parallel to each other on much the same alignment as the other Roman features on the site, and there were also two large pits of which only the edges were located running beneath the S. baulk of the trench. None of these features is likely to date from much after the middle of the 2nd C.

Building V was set almost directly on a major pebbled surface (235) which extended over most of site I. Cut into (or possibly sealed by - later pit disturbance made it impossible to be certain) this surface was a well c. 2.8 m deep with a clay lining. This had gone out of use and been filled in before building V was constructed over it.

It was clear that at several points the surface had sunk into the top of earlier pits - one of which has already been mentioned. In one of these sinkages was a curious feature consisting apparently of a large square ? post setting, with pairs of post-holes to the N. which seemed to be associated with it. This was situated N. E. of building V very close to what subsequently became part of building VI. Large quantities of tile came from this feature, along with two coins, one of Nero and one of Crispina - both apparently from the material which accumulated after the feature had gone out of use and therefore not very helpful for dating purposes, particularly as this area was never sealed by the major period 3 resurfacing (161).

On the extreme S. edge of the site was an area of intense disturbance with extensive deposits of clay and burnt material. Whatever activity was carried on here was apparently contemporary with, or perhaps more likely, shortly predated, the initial period of building V, but since only the very edge was located it is not possible to be certain. Nevertheless, it is tentatively suggested that we have here the edge of a round timber building similar to that on Christine Mahany's Birch Abbey Site E.

In general the site was taken down to the top of the pebbled surface (235) - though not all the clay floor of building V was removed. It was considered that anything below this level was likely to be safe from potential redevelopment damage. However, an effort was made to examine one of the early pits beneath the pebbled surface in the hope of recovering material to date the earliest occupation of the site. This

trial effort produced evidence of a sequence much more complicated than had been thought. Beneath the pebbled surface (in fact there were at least three - though one of these may have represented extra patching in the sinkage over the top of the pit) was an extensive 'destruction' layer, in character quite similar to the complex already referred to and interpreted possibly as a round building. Again the presence of a building is thought likely since the finds included quantities of tile. The pit itself had been fairly shallow but nevertheless its fill had settled quite appreciably producing the hollow above. On balance it seems that we have a timber building preceding the major resurfacing (235). Apparently preceding this building is the pit itself which, appears to be a primary feature on the site. Its date is not certain but the date of the major surface is probably c AD100. Two samian stamps of the potter PASSENVS came from the immediately preceding layers.

The date of the earliest features is not certain, but it need perhaps be no earlier than the Flavian period.

I would like again to thank Mr. David Burden, the owner of the site, for his patient toleration of our continued presence, my diggers and Sarah Adamson the finds assistant, and particularly Dr. Raymond Lamb, Dr. Graham Webster, Mr. Don Sidaway and Mr. Dick Malin for further help, advice and encouragement.

PAUL BOOTH

#### Alcester Excavations behind No.1 Bleachfield Street continued

Excavation on this site was continued, mainly in March and April, and then on a reduced scale in May. (For report on the 1976 season see WMANS 19). Work in the main area (Site I) opened in 1976 was directed towards elucidating the earliest history of substantial stone and timber building (Building V.).

This building was constructed initially in the first half of the 2nd C., and underwent 3 major periods. In period I it consisted of two rooms only, with clay floors as described in the account for 1976. In period 2a it was enlarged, two small rooms being added to the E. side and apparently another on the W. side, and the N. of the two original rooms being reworked.

In period 2b the N. of the two added rooms on the E. side went out of use, and its fellow was in turn demolished later (Period 3). At this stage the whole area E. of building V was resurfaced with gravel, and at much the same time a large new building (Building VI) was constructed at right angles to Building V. Most of the evidence for this building was found in Site II - a small area on the E. side of the main area. Not enough was recovered for the plan to be certain, and there was evidence to suggest that the parts of stone walls recovered did not in themselves constitute a coherent building plan, but represented perhaps a skeleton for timber buildings. There were certainly two such buildings leaning to against the stone walls. The floor of this complex was the same as the yard, suggesting that these were outbuildings, possibly for agricultural use, rather than domestic quarters. The surface was never replaced within Building VI, and it is quite uncertain when it went out of use, possibly not until well into the 4th C.

Building V had been constructed on top of a major pebbled surface which had been laid in about AD100. There was evidence for earlier activity which is tentatively interpreted as two periods of timber building. The uppermost of these apparently postdated the laying of the pebbled surface and so may have been the immediate predecessor of Building V. There was slight evidence for an early timber building beneath the pebbled surface which in its turn postdated an early pit. Exactly how early this and similar pits are is not yet certain. Early features were also encountered in the trench opened down the length of the site from Site II as far as Bleachfield St. All levels in the trench after about mid 2nd C. had been removed, probably in 18th C.

There was no trace of the road postulated in the 1976 account. If this road existed

it must therefore have been further E. still, probably beneath Bleachfield St. itself.

PAUL BOOTH

National Westminster Bank, High St., Whitchurch, Salop

Trial excavations by Jeremy Coppel in 1976 behind the National Westminster Bank had located stratified levels associated with 2nd C. AD pottery. As there was the likelihood of the whole area of the back-yard of the bank, which is in a critical archaeological position in the town, being converted into a car park, the Shropshire Archaeol. Soc. aided by a grant from the D.O.E., examined the area in July and Aug. 1977 for a four-week season.

The site is one of a series of open yards which lie behind the houses and shops fronting High Street, the probable axis of the Roman town of Mediolanum; these yards run right back to the perimeter street known as Castle Hill and Newtown on the W. escarpment of the plateau on which Mediolanum and the succeeding town of Whitchurch developed. The National Westminster Bank site is at the S. end of the town where the yards S. of Pepper Street have been levelled into the natural slope and create a series of stepped terraces. As it was assumed that archaeological levels could have been destroyed by levelling the N. side of this and other yards, a 6 m strip was tested along the S. edge of the site.

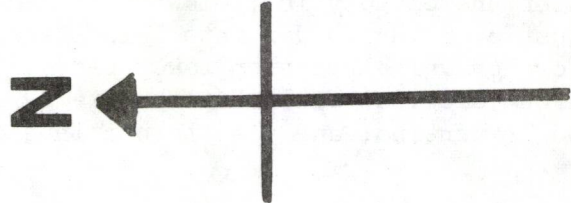
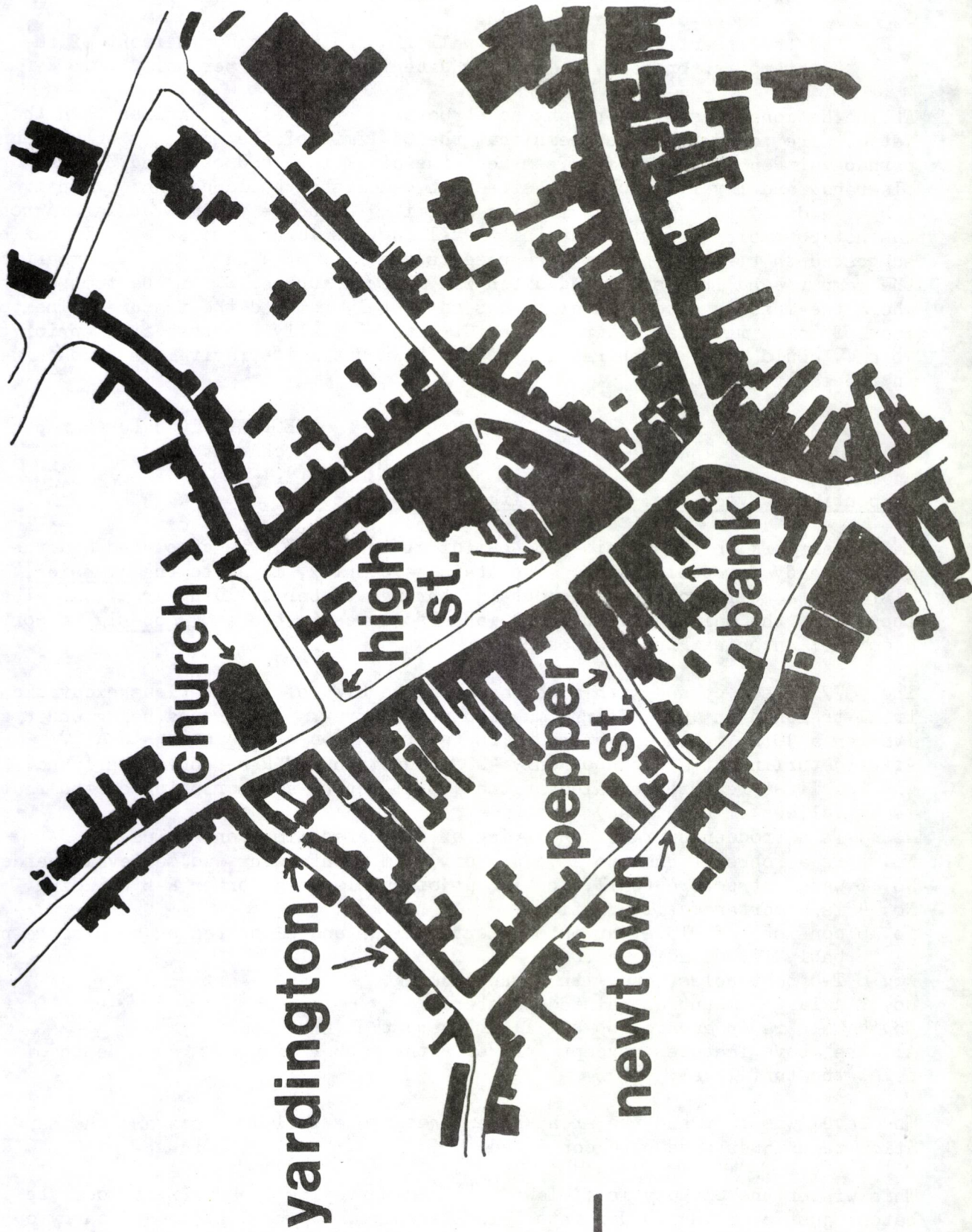
Two particular areas were excavated. Area 1 was on the site of a raised 18th C. garden in the S.-W. corner of the yard, and demonstrated that, whereas the yard today is quite level, the original ground level up to the 18th C. had risen at a gradient of 1 : 20 from the High Street to the W. In the excavated area of 6 by 4 m the main features were two square timber-lined wells (1.07 m<sup>2</sup>), one of which was excavated to water level at a depth of 3.80 m from the Roman ground surface and whose timbers remained intact at the bottom of the shaft. Associated with this well at ground level in the natural sand were post-holes and stake-holes which suggested a small rectangular building and a fence around the well-head. Pottery found between the well timbers and the original shaft indicated that the well had been sunk not before the early 2nd C. The original well-head was a massive circular funnel at least 4 m in diam. and 2.15 m deep to the top of the shaft. Both shaft and well-head had been backfilled before the end of the 2nd C. with general town rubbish which included building material of tiles, masonry blocks and burnt timbers together with a mass of pottery, none earlier than the late 1st C. or later than the Antonine period. The conditions of the infill had not allowed the survival of bone material. There were very few Roman small finds, but the fill included a fine Early Bronze Age flint plano-convex knife. The whole area had been sealed with layers of closely packed lumps of clay and extensive levelling patches of small cobbles. Immediately above this level was the soil build-up of the garden and apart from a few sherds of residual 14th C. pottery there were no finds whatever from between the end of the 2nd C. and the 18th C.

Area 2 was separated by surviving trees and bushes from Area 1 and its ground level was 1 m lower. An area of 12 by 6 m was only excavated down to 18th C. levels where extensive remains of brick stable and workshop buildings associated with the Angel Hotel (the forerunner of the National Westminster Bank) were found, including a brick well and a pair of furnaces, which were interpreted as belonging to a smithy. The buildings had been demolished in the 19th C. and a garden had been laid over them. The whole area and beyond was riddled with sewer and drain trenches, but an examination of the deepest trench showed that pre-18th C. levels existed for a considerable depth and contained surviving intact timbers of buildings or collapsed fences; it was not possible to deduce whether these were medieval or Roman. The main finds here included coins of 1799 and 1816 and a quantity of clay pipe bowls of the 17th to 19th C.

The significance of the site is to be seen in the context of salvage excavations at Yardington at the extremity of the town, directed by Professor Barri Jones in March 1977. Here a sequence of structures has been interpreted as:-



WHITCHURCH



- 1) a complex of ditches of two Roman forts, the second of which can be associated with the Flavian fort found at Newtown in the N.-W. part of the town in 1965-66 (Archaeol. J., CXXV, 193-254).
- 2) timber buildings of the early 2nd C.
- 3) back-filling of the open ditches with demolished buildings soon after 170 AD, and the erection of a clay rampart as the defences of the civil town.
- 4) the insertion of a masonry wall grouted with clay in front of the rampart, probably at a later date in the Roman period.

At the National Westminster Bank no structures or artefacts earlier than the late 1st C. were found: it thus seems that the S. limit of the forts is to be found perhaps at Pepper Street and from here the civil town had extended S. The drastic clearance and levelling of this site with demolished buildings and extensive rubbish at a date near to 170 AD implies a similar sequence to that at Yardington. It was not possible to prove that this levelling was for a rampart, but it can be suggested that either the site represents the tail of a late 2nd C. rampart or that the rampart and its associated ditch was a few m further S. at the foot of the hill where the Tesco's site-excavation has completely removed the feature. The total lack of Roman material after the 2nd C. with virtually no other finds prior to the 18th C. could imply a contraction of the town until its revival as a coaching town in the early 18th C.

GEOFFREY TOMS For Shropshire  
Archaeol. Soc.

Tripontium, Cave's Inn, Warwickshire (SP5348 7933)

Last year work on the mansio-type building, in Area 3, was completed and the report is now ready for publication. The drainage complex, local to the 'mansio', consisted of a series of trenches cutting through timber building area. An area to the S.E. of the main stone building was also investigated and an op-sig floor with a coin of Antonius Pius was found.

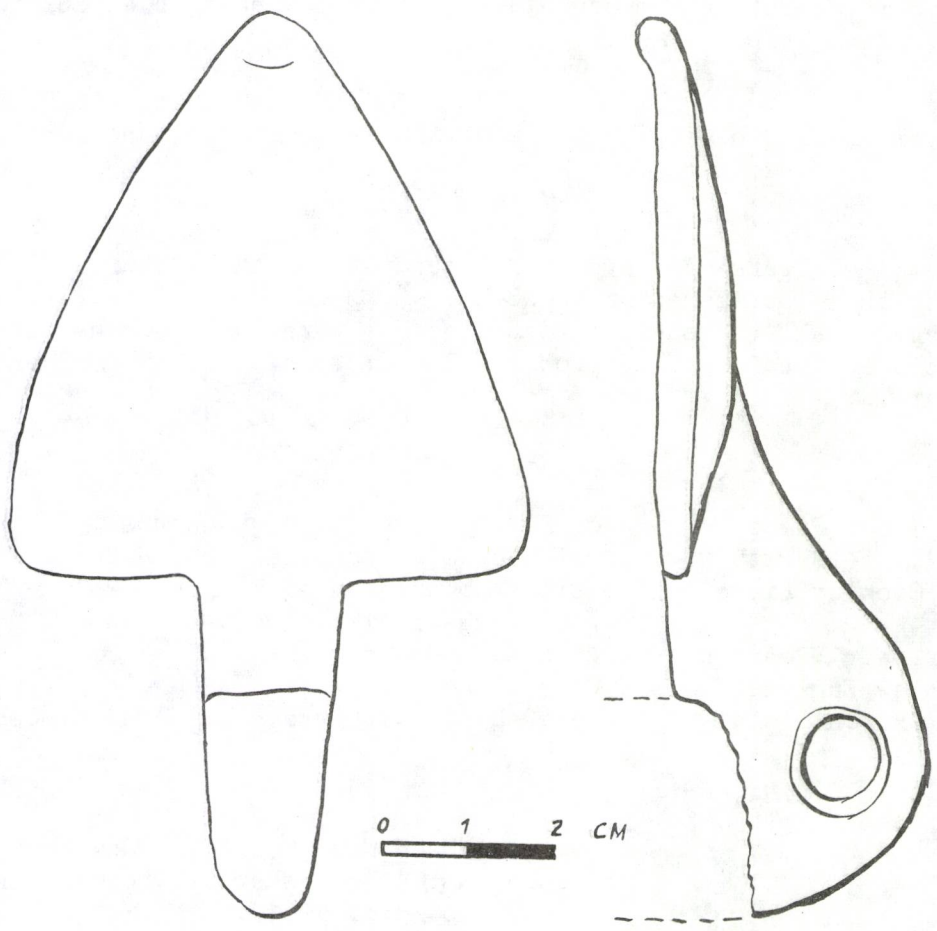
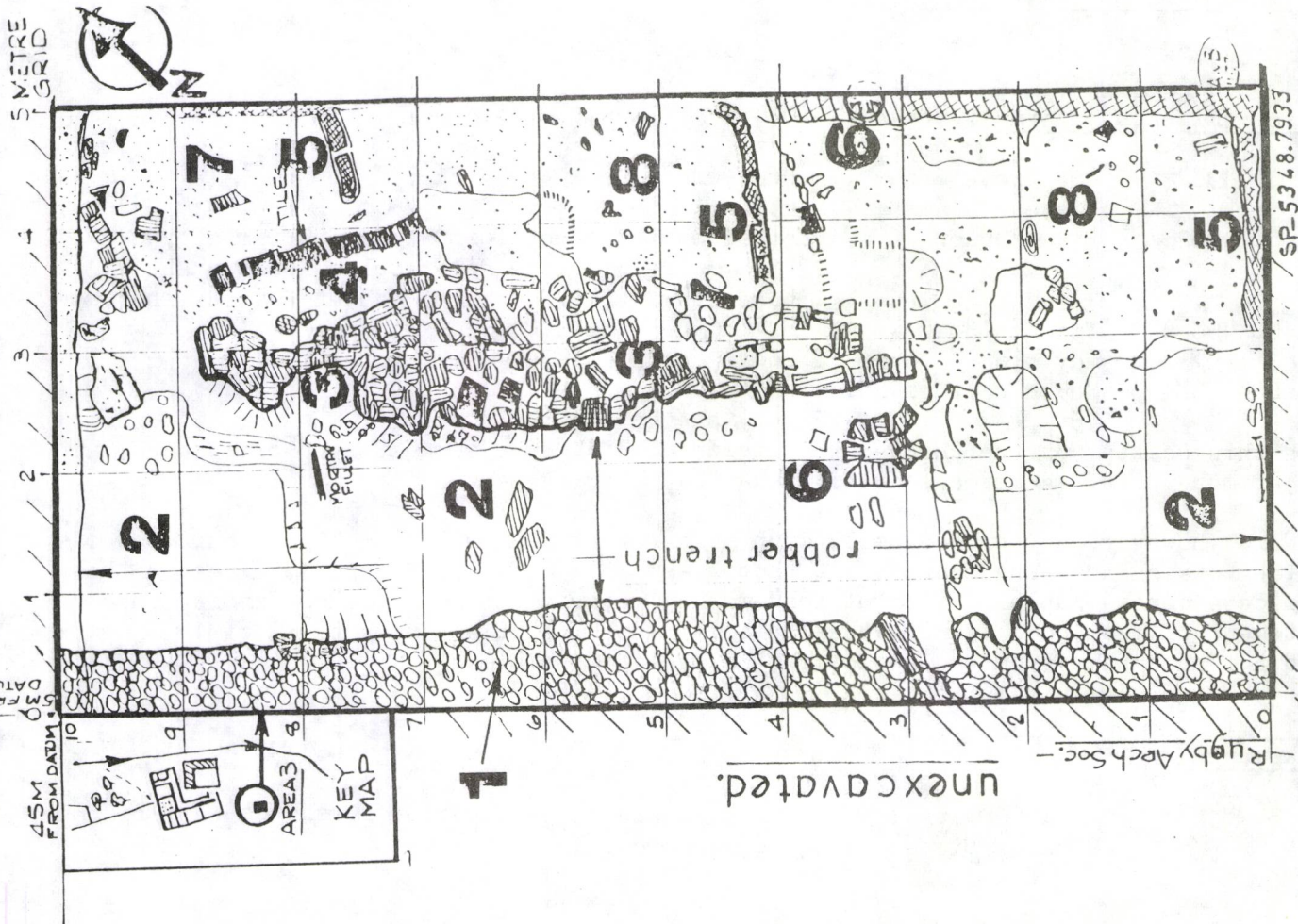
The 1977 season opened with a new area to the S.W. of the previous excavations trial-trenched in 1973 after a magnetometer survey. The ground being under cultivation a 10 X 5 m box was opened with the intention of extending to a 10m<sup>2</sup> area later. After deturfing at a depth of only 100 mm undisturbed R-B rubble was found. No. 3 was the first feature revealed at the 100 mm depth, a description of the features is as follows:- (see Plan)

- No. 1 is a trodden surface consisting of weathered limestone chips.
- No. 2 is a robber trench to a depth of 0.5 m, containing two medieval sherds.
- No. 3 was a structure (wall?) built out of rubble of a former R-B building.
- No. 4 is a mortared tile platform
- No. 5 consists of slots cut into a mortar floor and plastered on both sides probably for dividing a room.
- No. 6 Two post-holes, one with stone packing.
- No. 7 A large amount of painted plaster.
- No. 8 This is an area of op-sig floor, very pink in colour.

All the above features, except for No. 2, the robber trench are at a depth of 200 mm below the turf level.

The level was left and the area was extended to a full 10m<sup>2</sup> box and the same excavation techniques have been continued.

This winter the Society is fieldwalking and surveying the district local to Cotesbatch, just over the border into Leicestershire. We have agreed to carry out this work before gravel extraction takes place. The request was by the Leicestershire County Archaeological Field Unit and we agreed to help as the area may be an extension to Tripontium; and also to continue our good relations with this body.



**CAVE'S INN. (Tripontium) 1977.**

Lastly we have moved into new headquarters and we now have an exhibition room for the artifacts from Tripontium.

JACK LUCAS and ALBERT BARNETT

see also the cover drawing of a piece of a North African lamp found in the excavation.

#### Kinver Area

The following small scatters of sherds were found during the winter of 1976/77, and are additional to those published in WMANS No. 19, pages 13-14 (nos. 1-7 in the accompanying diag.). All the sherds are R-B coarse ware, unless otherwise stated. Many are very abraded, and are only probably Roman; some, however are certainly Severn Valley ware.

#### Blakeshall

- |              |                               |  |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 8. S0833834  | Trows Piece                   | 1 or 2 very doubtful body-sherds   |
| 9. S0838813  | L-Field with<br>Cookley Piece | 2 rim-sherds (1 doubtful, one S.V. ware);<br>possible colour-coated sherd of 2nd or 3rd C.<br>part of jug-handle; 4 body-sherds. |
| 10. S0839815 | Lower Vicarson                | 1 grooved body-sherd.  |
| 11. S0842819 | New England                   | 2 body-sherds  |
| 12. S0831809 | Church Field                  | 1 body-sherd (with trace of abraded boss).   |

#### Caunsall

- |              |                  |  |
|--------------|------------------|--|
| 2. S0852814  | Big Field        | Listed in <u>WMANS</u> No. 19 p.14. Additional are<br>2 rim-sherds; 1 body-sherd. (Cropmark in air<br>photo SO 8581/3 of 1961).        |
| 13. S0856807 | Common Barn Farm | 1 rim-sherd; 1 base-sherd with groove under-<br>neath (listed in <u>WMANS</u> 17 p. 22).<br>(Cropmark in air photo SO 8580/1 of 1959). |

#### Kinver (Brown's Farm, Compton)

- |              |  |               |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| 14. S0817825 |  | 1 body-sherd. |
|--------------|--|---------------|

#### Kinver (Highgrove Farm)

- |                |                              |  |
|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| 15. S0849822   | Highgrove Lane<br>Piece      | 1 body-sherd   |
| 16. S0849823   | Barn Meadow                  | Part of samian base, form 18/31R; 7 rim-sherds<br>(2 S.V. ware); 1 late Roman colour-coated sherd;<br>1 base-sherd (S.V. tankard); about 24 body-sherds. |
| 17. S0849825   | Windsor Hollow-<br>way Piece | 2 body-sherds  |
| 18. S084958195 | South part of No.<br>15      | 2 body-sherds.   |

This thin scatter of sherds over the fields S. of Kinver suggests the presence of one or more R.-B. farmsteads cultivating and manuring parts of the area.

One side, however, has proved to be much more recent. An oval parch-mark at SO 842819 in the Potato Marketing Board's air photograph No. 573/2 of 20 June 1976 has on the surface a considerable scatter of road-making material of 20th C., confirming the statement of two local farmers that this was the site of a 'dummy town' of 1939/1945 (and not an early farmstead enclosure, as seemed possible).

#### Medieval

##### Blakeshall

- |              |                               |   |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. SO 838813 | L-Field with<br>Cookley Piece | Part of slashed jug-handle; 3 rim-sherds part of base;<br>12 body-sherds. |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---|

ROMAN SHERDS IN THE  
KINVER EDGE AREA

- Over 20 Sherds
- 3-10 Sherds
- 1-2 Sherds

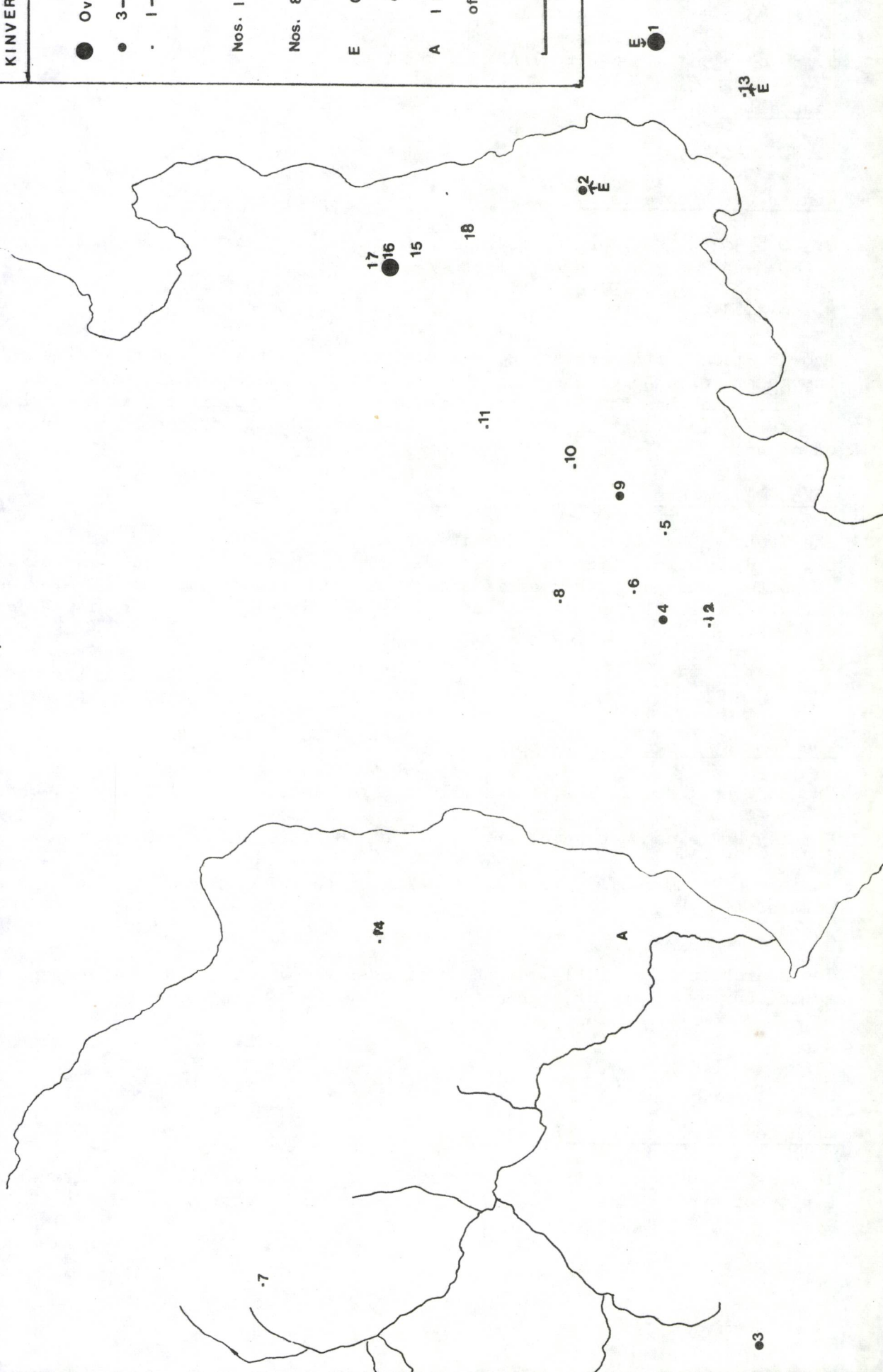
Nos. 1-7 listed last  
year

Nos. 8-18 listed in  
text

E Cropmark of  
enclosure

A 1 sherd (collection  
of G.R. Gilley)

1 km



- |              |                   |  |
|--------------|-------------------|--|
| 2. SO 833834 | Trow's Piece      | Part of rim and spout of green-glazed jug with stab-decoration (AD 1250/1350); 28 rim-sherds (1 with part of spout); 6 base-sherds; part of handle; about 49 unglazed and 17 glazed body-sherds. |
| 3. SO 836814 | Brick Kiln Leasow | 1 base-sherd; 1 body-sherd.  |
| 4. SO 842819 | New England       | 2 body-sherds.   |

#### Caunsall

- |              |           |              |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 5. SO 852814 | Big Field | 1 rim-sherd. |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|

#### Kinver (Highgrove Farm)

- |              |                      |  |
|--------------|----------------------|--|
| 6. SO 849823 | Barn Meadow          | 3 rim-sherds; part of jug-handle; 2 body-sherds. |
| 7. SO 849822 | Highgrove Lane Piece | 2 rim-sherds; 2 body-sherds.                     |
| 8. SO 847825 | Twelve Acres         | 1 rim-sherd; 1 body-sherd.                       |

Trow's Piece, with a rather denser scatter, is in the outskirts of Blakeshall, although now ploughed. The Tithe Map marks two cottages in this field, but in the N. corner, which has not yet been examined. It seems possible that Blakeshall was formerly a less scattered settlement than now, and that some of its buildings stood on or near Trow's Piece.

#### Acknowledgements

The Group wishes to acknowledge its gratitude to the following for their help: Dr. L. H. Barfield (identification of flints); Miss A. M. Wilson (identification of pottery and much other assistance); the work of the late Mr. J. S. Preece and Mr. A. J. Caswell for loan of the Preece MSS; and all landowners for access to their fields.

L. E. KING for the Stour and Smestow  
Archaeological Research Group.

#### The Romsley Ridge (SO 777838)

Ground Owner: Mr. Davies, The Bowhills Farm, Romsley, Nr. Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

Romsley Ridge commands a clear view W. to the Clee Hill and N. to the Wrekin.

During the summer of 1977, field walking on the W. slope of the Ridge produced a scatter of R.B. Severn Valley Ware, the significance of which is as yet not understood.

The search for a possible source continues, and arrangements are in hand for an aerial survey of the area in question.

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

#### Shrewley Common, Warks, SP 213672

In digging foundation trenches for a single new house, Mr. T. J. Batchelor cut into a pit containing Roman pottery. Subsequent investigations carried out by local

villagers and members of Solihull Archaeological Group, under the writer's direction, suggested a fairly substantial building. Excavation was confined to the narrow plot of the house site, and revealed a cobbled surface cut by post-holes and pits, one of the rubbish-pits having post-poles, with stone packing, secondary to itself. In the pits and on the cobbled surface were great quantities of roof and floor tile, limestone roofing-slabs, nails and some blocks of limestone ashlar. Pottery included local grey, Severn Valley, colour-coated and black burnished wares, with Mancetter mortaria fragments, and suggests occupation in the late 3rd C and 4th C. It is probable that most of the building lies under neighbouring properties.

DR. R. G. LAMB for Warwickshire  
Museum.

#### Alcester - Yew Trees, Priory Road, SP 087575

Observation of the foundation trench for a conservatory revealed a cobbled surface and pottery finds indicating intensive occupation this far N. of the town centre, from the 2nd. C. (Observation by Miss Deborah Ford for Alcester Excavation Committee). Bulls Head Yard, SP 089574. Observation of deep holes dug for car park drains confirmed that this area was marsh and lay outside the Roman town. Further palaeobotanical samples were taken by James Greigg. (Observation by Paul Booth and James Greig).

#### Alcester, Oversley Hill

The trench for a water pipeline was watched during its progress from the crossing of the old railway at SP 084560 to the Salt Way at 095570. A rubbish pit containing 13th C. pottery, presumably associated with the nearby site of Botelers Castle, was encountered at 086560. The section through Rykniel Street (here a bridle path) at 086569 revealed a flat laid cobbled surface 8 to 8.5 m broad, with three sherds of 13th C. pottery in the clay matrix; the 300 mm of soil covering the surface, was full of animal bone, limestone fragments, and many more 13th C. sherds. The cobbled surface therefore may be a medieval repair of the Roman road, the pottery apparently having been dumped there after the road went out of use. Immediately N.E. of here the trench cut through 16 extended inhumations lying between a 8 m and 29 m from the road edge. All were oriented E.-W. with feet pointing E., and lacked grave goods; depth below ground surface varied between 0.2 - 1.3 m. In some cases a U-shaped grave cut was noticed. This is a previously unsuspected Christian cemetery the dating of which awaits radiocarbon analysis; the name 'Chapel Close' is recorded for the field on Throckmorton estate maps of the 16th C. to 18th C. In the field centred SP 092566, the trench turned up quantities of limestone fragments and iron nails, and cut through two pits containing a rich deposit of 3rd - 4th C. pottery; suggesting that this field contained outlying Roman buildings. At Salt Way crossing there was heavy disturbance and no ancient features were seen. (Observation as far as cemetery by Miss Deborah Ford for the Alcester Excavation Committee, then by Paul Booth and Don Sidaway).

#### Rykniel St., Banners Gate, Sutton Coldfield (SP083962)

A brief field survey was carried out in February 1977 to determine the condition of the Roman road where it passes through a built-up area immediately S. of the well-preserved stretch in Sutton Park. In this area, formerly Barr Common, the road was traceable c. 1850. Following enclosure, the land was ploughed, though in 1906 it was recorded that the road was still visible as 'a broad band of sand and gravel' after ploughing. Within the sample included in the survey, however, only two small patches of compacted road surface were observed, in the rear of properties along Chester Road North. Most of the Roman road seems to have been removed by cultivation and subsequent residential development of the area.

MIKE HODDER

The main object of the 1977 season was to clarify various features partially excavated in the past.

Service Road System for the pottery-making area.

An area of the N./S. service road running from Watling Street to the centre of Broadclose Field was exposed adjacent to a section cut in 1970. The true line of the road was established at this point, two surfaces being apparent in addition to an initial marking-out layer of pebbles on the subsoil. The earlier road c. 6 m (20ft) wide at this point had a ditch on the W. side which drained into a disused well. The ditch is not continuous along the length of the road and the well had clearly been treated as a rubbish pit by the road-makers, timber and bones from at least five horses were thrown into it. The well was later filled completely and also the ditch before a second, wider road surface was laid. Little was found in the marking-out layer and nothing later than A.D. 160, but the finds for the make-up for the early road indicated that it could not be earlier than the 3rd C.

The exploration of the road system was continued in the centre of the field but with some difficulties owing to the width of the roads in this area (c.16 m - 55ft), and damage due to ploughing. The line of a second road running E. to Watling Street was confirmed, and another discovered heading W. towards Mancetter village. This road joined the other two roads in the centre of the field. It is possible that a fourth pebbled surface running S. represents a road to Hartshill but this needs confirmation.

The road to the W. seals mid-3rd C. pottery and the metalled surface over the water-channel is not likely to be earlier.

It thus appears that we are dealing with a late system of service roads, possibly constructed at the same time as the earthwork on Watling Street which caused diversion of earlier roads. The earlier system which must have existed at least from the mid 2nd C. if not earlier, may perhaps have been aligned on the possible roads noted by Adrian Oswald, P. W. Gathercole in a pipe-trench (Trans. Birm. Arch. Soc. 74 (1958)fig.1).

Features pre-dating the metalled road surfaces

The pebbled road surfaces at the road junction in the centre of the field, and the road, to Mancetter village sealed earlier features of great interest:-

- a) The line of the large water-duct discovered in 1971 was explored. Although the very end of it was not reached it was clear that there were no side channels from it but it could have provided a good accessible water supply along the whole of its length though it narrowed rapidly after turning. Its use probably fell mainly in the Antonine period.
- b) N. of the water channel in Area 34, the magnetometer had revealed the presence of a second channel roughly parallel to the water-duct. This, however, proved to be a whole series of at least four channels much smaller than the water-duct, which cut each other and whose fillings date from the 1st C. to the mid 3rd C. Other similar channels appearing further W. in Area 32 should be the continuation of these and the water-duct. The anomalies attached to at least some of these channels were further N. than had been anticipated and due to shortage of time and labour we were unable to explore them.
- c) Much of Area 32 was not excavated but several important features were located in Area 7/20. Yet another small channel possibly for water was filled at a date not later than A.D. 75/80: a series of boundary or enclosure ditches, filled with late 1st to early 2nd C. pottery, and possibly associated with part of a building located in 1971: a small channel of dubious purpose, possibly for drainage, filled in the 3rd C.: an infant cremation with two pots, possibly late 1st or early 2nd: the well already known in this area was excavated: the steining had collapsed in antiquity and the well had probably not been in use for a long time. This is the second well at Mancetter whose steining had collapsed: another shaft undoubtedly for a well but never used for it was not fully excavated.













Other features included:-

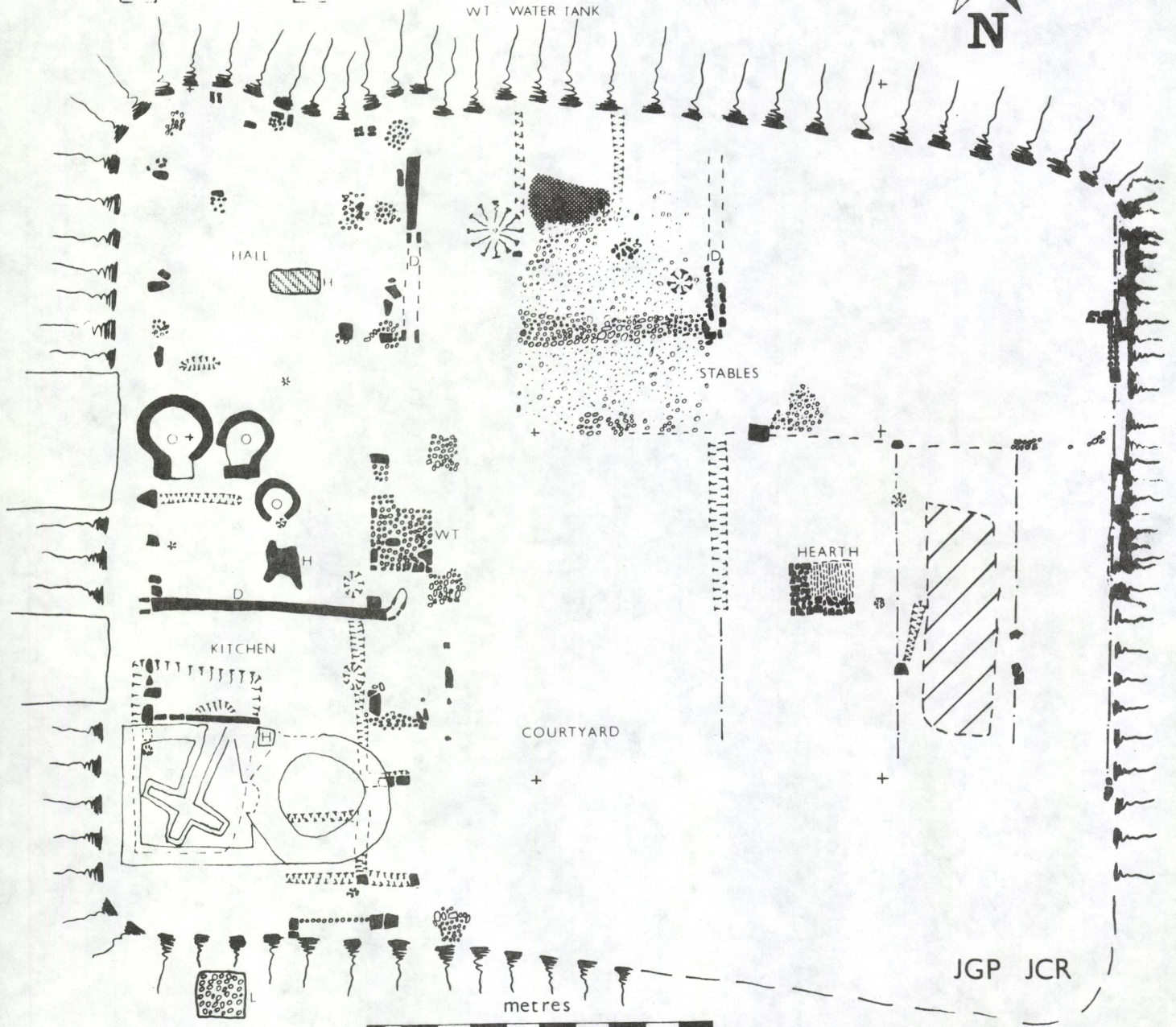
The remains of a long narrow furnace containing much charred wood and wood ash, but very slightly fired. A relatively large amount of glass fragments discovered, undoubtedly associated with the glass furnace explored in 1964 and 1969. Stamps of the potters Docilis on a mortarium likely to have been made at Mancetter and in 1971 Vitalis III. Both of these potters probably worked for most of their lives at or near Wroxeter. It now appears possible that they may have moved to or from Mancetter at some time but more evidence is required.

One of the most interesting results of the 1977 excavation is the growing evidence for 1st C. occupation, pre-dating the pottery industry, in the centre of the field. This points to a more widespread population of the area between Manduessedum and Mancetter village than had been expected.

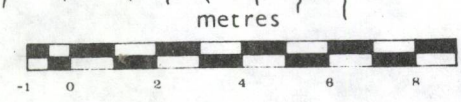
K. HARTLEY Leeds

# SYDENHAMS MOAT

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  POST PIT  |  LIMESTONE TILES    |  POST HOLE |
|  BEAM SLOT |  BURNING            |  CLAY      |
|  PAD STONE |  CERTAIN ALIGNMENT  | H HEARTH  |
|  COBBLES   |  POSSIBLE ALIGNMENT | O OVEN  |
|   |  | D DRAIN   |
|   |  | L LATRINE   |
|   |  | WT WATER TANK   |



JGP JCR



## SAXON

Stafford, Eastgate Street SJ 92442315

A late-Saxon kiln and associated reject-pits were recorded during a one-day salvage operation in May 1977. A large group of pottery with a wide variety of forms (cooking-pots, jars and bowls) was collected. This species of pottery, now designated Stafford Ware, is under comparative examination (at Southampton and Worcester) with other vessels of the type from the Midlands. I would be grateful to hear of other possible examples.

M.O.H. CARVER

## MEDIEVAL

Sydenhams Moat, Monkspath, Shirley, Solihull SP 144757

During the year more work has taken place on the W. range and the remaining top soil was cleared from the E. half of the platform.

### W. Range

A rectangular pit, 6 m x 4 m, has been located beneath the cruciform kiln, along with further 'timber' features in the S. part of this area. A cobbled filled latrine pit, which had an outflow into the S. moat was also found. These features perhaps formed part of an early timber building with, or possibly later than, the pit. An extension to this building may also exist as further pad bases, comprised of cobble stones, have been identified running up to the N. moat. These buildings were then replaced by the main (Phase III?) building, based on the sandstone pad stones as outlined in the WMANS No. 19 (page 62). Three square, cobbled areas to the E. of the kitchen have yet to be interpreted.

### N. Range

At least two phases of buildings have been revealed in this area, the earlier phase consisting of a cobbled floor between two parallel 'beam slots'. A later floor of re-used limestone roofing tiles overlies the earlier one, although they could be part of a collapsed roof. These features are beneath a later cobbled floor of a stabling or barn area. The central, cobbled gully of the stables has been traced to a sandstone drain, which flows into the N. moat. This drain may also form part of a partition of the building, as the cobbled floor finishes at this point and is continued by a clay floor. The S. edge to this building is defined by a series of cobbled pad bases, some of which join together to form what may be the remains of a 'cob' wall. Beneath this the line of the earlier phase can be traced again on the same alignment. The N. edge is, however, much more difficult to trace as subsidence into the moat has removed some of the evidence. A scatter of sandstone fragments may mark its line.

### E. Range

The existence of a building along the E. edge has proved more difficult to identify, as there are several possible alignments, based on 'beam slots' and pad stones. One part of the building contained a well constructed hearth built of sandstone and clay roofing tiles set on edge. A large area of burning may also indicate the existence of a 'workshop' or smithy.

J.G. PERRY for Solihull Archaeological Group.

Tong Castle Excavation Interim Report 1976/77

### Foreword

The excavation at Tong Castle started the winter of 1976/77 with the prospect of revealing a new and entirely different castle outline at the rear of the Durant Castle ruins. The continuous excavation through the winter and into the summer of 1977 has only been possible because of the stalwart efforts of the volunteers, in particular Bushy, Clive, Dave and Don, all of whom are well known to the many who have visited the site during the excavation. I am further indebted to the

Earl of Bradford for his continued support and interest and also the help given by the Bradford Estate in enabling the Convent Lodge to be used as a Site Headquarters for the excavation. The current excavation programme would not have been possible without the help of the Telford Development Corporation, Bridgnorth DC and Mr. John Pearson of Shifnal.

The encouragement and interest shown by the villagers of Tong and our many other supporters has enabled the excavation to continue when at times the lack of official support has caused the excavation to falter.

### Introduction

1976 - The site of Tong Castle remains are to be found to the W. of the village of Tong, near Shifnal in Shropshire and is on the route of the projected M54 Telford Motorway. The motorway will cross the site through a cutting and so remove the majority of the Castle remains. A preliminary Investigation and Survey on the site revealed the existence, below the ground, of buildings in front of the last Castle building on the site, which was demolished in 1954. On the findings of the investigation, excavation on the site was started in May and continued, with voluntary labour, every weekend till Oct. The excavated areas - 'A to E' - revealed periods of occupation from the last Castle in the 19th C. to the earliest, so far established, in the 12th C. The earlier period has still to be fully excavated. The excavation and subsequent investigations have proved not only the periods during which the Castle was occupied, but also the area on which earlier Castles were built. From the initial area in the front of the last Castle ruins, the overall projected site now covers approximately 0.75 hectares, nearly 2 acres. The E. part of the Castle site, where the main excavation work has been carried out, is on the line of the M54 route, whilst the W. area to the rear will be contained within the Motorway cutting embankment.

1976-77. The main excavation work through the winter, spring and the summer has in the main been to the rear or W. area of the site, where the overall outer walling line has now been located. Work has also been carried out on the Durant foundations and has enabled an outline to be established from amongst the demolition rubble. Whilst it had been hoped that the motorway cutting would leave the W. area alone, the establishment of the keep building area, projected onto the recently available detail drawings of the motorway, place part of the keep building within the cutting line. Discussions are going on to have part of the outer walling in the threatened area included in the cutting embankment and so possibly retain the possible W. gateway across the inner ditch.

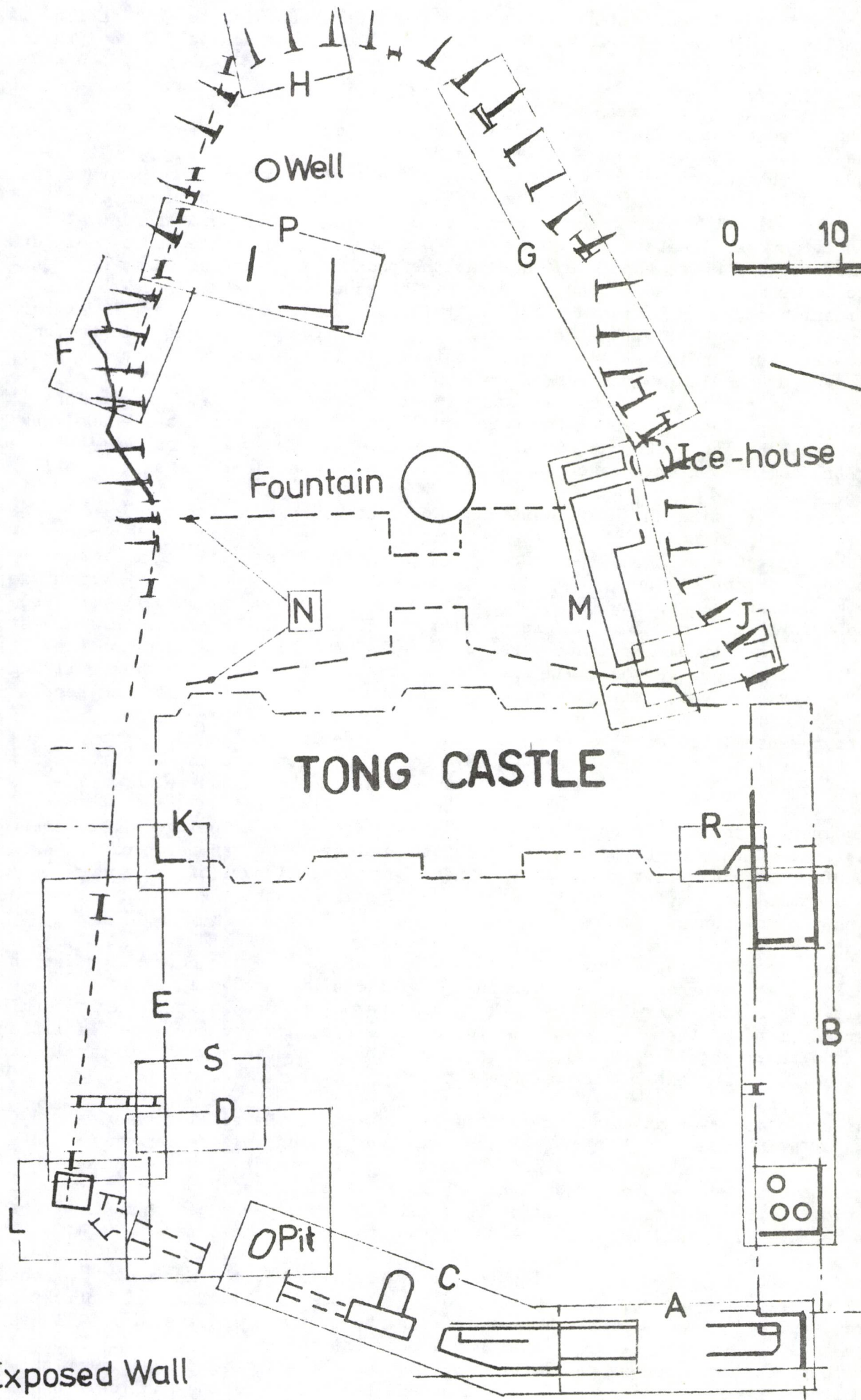
### Castle buildings so far located on the site

Excavations, with a limited amount of Documentary evidence available, has enabled five periods of Castle buildings to be established on the site and these are accordingly referred to in the the excavation text as:-

- |                |                |   |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| Early medieval | - 12th/13th C. | - Selmeis, Zouche and Harcourt families                   |
| Pembrugge      | - 14th/15th C. | - Pembrugge family  |
| Vernon         | - 15th/16th C. | - Vernon family   |
| Kingston       | - 17th/18th C. | - Pierrepont family (later the Duke and Earl of Kingston) |
| Durant         | - 18th/19th C. | - Durant family.  |


### Excavation

The earlier establishment of the line of the S. wall, by a series of trial trenches - Area F - omitted a section of wall because of the undergrowth conditions and during the winter the actual wall was followed down the slope to produce an irregular length of walling. The latest section was of 18th C. build with a short 17th C. linking the wall to the Pembrugge wall. The irregular shape of the lower part could possibly have been a rear entrance to the 17th C. castle from across the stream, where a path leads to the old Worcester road. The well excavation started in Oct.



I Exposed Wall

AN 77  
AN 76

and continued up to Feb., when the heavy rains interfered with the excavation at the 9 m level, and revealed a 17th C sealing level down through to a late 15th to 16th C layer. At the beginning of June a further attempt was made and after a 'demolition' layer of well head timbers, chains and bucket parts went into an early 15th C layer. This produced leather shoework, parts of wooden bowls, pottery, horseshoes and a carved stone head, in two parts, which had been re-used by carving out the inside. The appearance of the leatherwork and wooden bowls, with the need to conserve the same, brought the necessity for a further attempt to excavate the 14th/15th C layer completely. This took place in Sept. and produced complete, and part complete leather shoes, sections of wooden bowls, pottery rim sherds, a key, horseshoe, general ironwork and woodwork, a workmans cutting knife and a complete pewter ewer. The knife handle had a  at the back of the handle, which is identical to other marks found around the site of the same period and the pewter was later identified as an ecclesiastical cruet for use during Mass. The well at this point was 11.50 m deep, with approximately a further 2 m to take the well bottom to below the surrounding stream level. Fortunately the well is cut into the red sandstone bedrock after 7 courses of red sandstone blocks and the water level follows the excavation work down and only requires a minimum of emptying before each excavation stage. However the safety precautions necessary dictate the length of time between each weekend excavation down the well. The well should be 'bottomed' during the coming winter and so establish the date of the first use of the well.

Trial trenches to find the N.-W. outer wall were not very successful - Area G - and it was not until after the winter when it was decided to look further down the slopes that the outer wall was located. Investigations following this move led to the location of the bedrock cutting at the most W. point - Area H - which was some 6 m down and 12 m along the slope. The sill of the bedrock cutting was also located a further 12 m along the slope and was 7.50 m below the present average site level. With the stream immediately below the sill and the ground floor of the located castle buildings about 1 m below present ground level, the castle building would have presented a formidable task to anyone wanting to attack it from here.

The winter months also saw the 'emptying' of the underground tunnel - Area J - to the castle and whilst its last use was as a servants' entry to the Durant Castle from the ice-house, the brickwork of the tunnel was of the Vernon period. The entrance to the castle was however of stonework and later excavation at the opposite corner of the castle building - Area K - showed this as being of the Pembrugge foundations. Although the tunnel is one of the most spectacular parts of the excavation for the many visitors, it may be necessary to fill part of the tunnel in order to establish what part of the Pembrugge Castle it enters which involves demolishing part of tunnel side.

The opposite corner of the Durant Castle - Area K - revealed the corner foundations of the Pembrugge, Vernon and Kingston castle with the Durant Castle built on top of them all. This led to exploratory work within the Durant Castle itself to determine whether any more of the earlier castle foundations had survived the 1954 demolition. Apart from the removal of the demolition rubble the foundations were relatively easy to locate, following the Durant wall pattern.

The failure of earlier attempts to locate the S. wing of the earlier castles led to the use of a machine to follow the already exposed sections of the Pembrugge and Vernon walling - Area E. Instead of finding the S.-E. corner of the S. wing, an underground chamber was uncovered with part of the roof having been demolished. Later excavation of the chamber showed it to be a brick built rib-vaulted chamber of the Vernon period, with only the corbel and keystone being of sandstone - Area 1.

The roof of the chamber was 1 m below the site ground level, the inside of the chamber was 3 m square and 3 m from the keystone to the bedrock floor. The floor bricks had been removed, with traces of the mortar left on the bedrock, and the side walls set forward to allow for the floor bricks to surround the bottom of the wall. Floor bricks found earlier amongst the Durant rubble would have fitted perfectly on the floor of the chamber. Apart from being handmadethe bricks of the shallow ribs had

been further dressed by hand to removed any sharp corners from inside the chamber. The outside of the chamber had been faced with thin slabs of dressed white sandstone of the Kingston period and it can only be assumed that the building above the chamber had been damaged during the Civil War sieges. The doorway faced S. with the hinge and doorstep allowing the door to open inwards only. The provision of a squint hole at the S.-W. corner during the sandstone facing period further confused the possible use or uses of the underground chamber. Excavation to the N. of the chamber located the corner, and also a buttress of the early curtain wall alongside the 12th C in Area D. The rough sandstone walling at this point was very substantial when compared with the shallow walling found by the pit. The breaking away of section of the early suggested that the later Pembrugge curtain could have been built on top and subsequently broke the foundations when it was demolished. The trench between the early curtain wall and the chamber had a deep ash layer containing 18th C material similar to the N.-E. corner, and a post-hole amongst the early curtain wall suggested a secondary use for the building of the Durant Castle.

The spring of 1977 saw the preparation for the summer programme with the clearance of the trees and undergrowth at the rear of the site. The use of a machine to remove the tree roots provided the first clues to the earlier use of the area. A wide cutting was made through the Durant rubble for access to the area, located the foundations of the last castle as well as the cellaring connected to the underground tunnel from Area J.

A trial hole at 'N' to locate either the bedrock level or possible building level, resulted in the location of a possible inner ditch, the edges of which were found in later machine trenches. The depth of the ditch at this point was about 3 m with pottery from the 12 to the 16th C amongst the demolition rubble fill. The inner ditch line shown on the attached drawing is shown dotted and at this stage can only be an assumed line to the E., as the Durant rubble was pushed onto this area after the demolition of the castle. The removal of the tree roots continued over the area and it was decided to make a wide cutting from the S. wall inwards, adjacent to the - Area P. The cutting exposed a series of wall foundations and later excavations exposed different floor levels from one of which came the complete bottom of a large 15th C. water pitcher with intermittent groups of finger pinched feet. The top half had been 'sliced' off during a later levelling of the area and the thinness of the wall section, 3 mm, had allowed a clean cut to be made. Further work on the outer S. wall area has revealed the early keep outer wall and work will continue to find the extent of the walling.

Probing in Area M where the machine had entered the area, indicated an area of possible building foundations and on completing the tree-root removal the machine placed a cutting near the ice-house and exposed the top of a building. The sandstone did not appear too firm so only a small area was exposed, but this was sufficient to show that the building went across the inner ditch. The area was fully excavated and the edges of the inner ditch located. A series of building foundations, built against each other and all built against the outer curtain wall which went across the inner ditch. The lowest level to which the ditch was taken revealed a 13th C. occupation layer, but safety reasons stopped any further work on the inner ditch because of the trench depth.

The protrusion of the 18th C. fountain foundation into the line of the inner ditch suggested that this could possibly be built directly onto the gateway or drawbridge across the inner ditch. Excavation alongside the fountain confirmed this and produced another large bedrock cutting similar to those found at the base of the stable wall in Area B.

Work at the E. end of Area M-on the Durant Castle foundations, showed that they are built on an earlier Vernon tower foundation, itself built on shale bedrock. The top of the underground tunnel was also exposed and revealed a construction trench as having cut through the earlier curtain wall building. Clearance along the front of the Durant foundations in Area R revealed a step outside the castle walling and later large scale clearance of demolition rubble exposed a spiral stairway. The stairway

cut through the earlier Vernon foundation and provided an entrance to the cellars and stables without having to go into the castle building itself and connected to a long tunnel built parallel to, and along the inside of, the Durant Castle front wall. The S. end of the tunnel came out into one of the landscape arches, by Area K, and so making it possible to traverse the whole of the castle underground.

The season ended with further work on the 12/13th C. buildings at Area S, and this produced a pattern of laid foundation stones, for a timber-posted building, overlying an earlier timber framed building with a complex of post-holes in the hard red sand. The building of one foundations against a section of the early curtain wall was located in the S. area of the area.

Although limited investigation will carry on through the winter, principally on the keep and S. outerwall area, the uncertainty of the Motorway construction programme makes any long term planning impossible. The completion of 18 months of weekend excavation has seen not only the existence of an early medieval castle on the site, but has also revealed the overall archaeological potential of the site. If the small percentage of the site so far excavated, is representative of the site as a whole, then the excavation will go from strength to strength and is a just reward for all those who have had faith in the project.

ALAN WHARTON

Newlands Common Deserted Medieval Village SO 902602

This D.M.V. was noted in 1975 by E.A. Price. Subsequent enquiries to Hereford & Worcester Museum showed that this site was not recorded and it was surveyed by A. M. Wilson, Andrew Fielding and E. A. Price in 1977.

Further documentary research may add to the little recorded evidence. The site is c. 2 Hect. in area; the E. side of the site has been partially filled with motorway rubble, but mercifully stopped by the Estates Department of Exeter College, Oxford, the landowners. A further 1 Hect., to the N. is part of a neighbouring house and orchard where cultivation has levelled all contours. An air photo (Potato Marketing Board, 12th June 1975) reveals some features of this levelled area. S. of the site in the field S. of the road to Brownsheath Common, a damp mark suggests a moated site which must be investigated in the future.

Newlands Common lies on the E. boundary of the Parish of Salwarpe. This large parish lies immediately S. of Droitwich and is bisected by the Roman road from Worcester to Bromsgrove. A further Roman road from Greensforge enters Droitwich from the N. and could leave Droitwich directly S. by 'the holloway'. A series of terraces, noted by E. A. Price in 1974, appear upon the hill-slope N. of Primsland Farm parallel to the Droitwich/Tibberton road and indicate heavy traffic in and out of Droitwich. The modern Droitwich/Tibberton road follows the E. boundary of Newlands Common D.M.V. and enters Droitwich 150 m to the W. of the Primsland Farm terraces. A very early route is suggested to Pershore and the Avon crossings via Tibberton Bredicot and Drakes Broughton.

Worcestershire Domesday references to Salwarpe show two estates:

- (1) D.B. 176 A. 1-37. Earl Rogers land.  
Urso D'Abitot holds of Earl Roger 5 hides in demesne.  
1 plough and 6 villeins and 5 bordars with 7 ploughs  
There, are 3 serfs, 3 serving women, a mill of 10/- and  
5 salt works worth 60/- half-a-mile of wood and a park there, etc.

May we suggest that this estate refers to modern Salwarpe which lies to the W. of the parish upon the River Salwarpe and contains the church and mill.

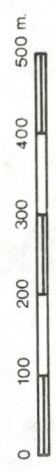
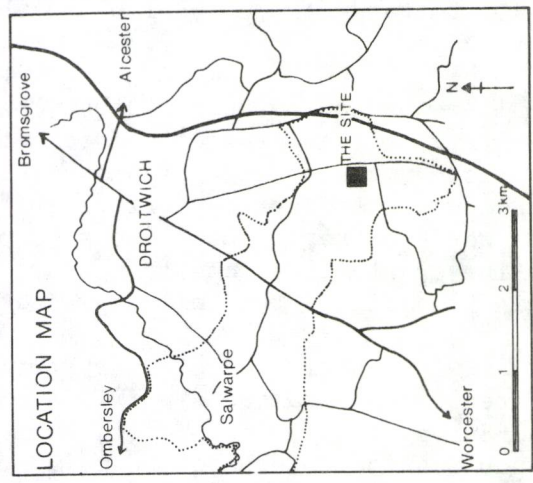
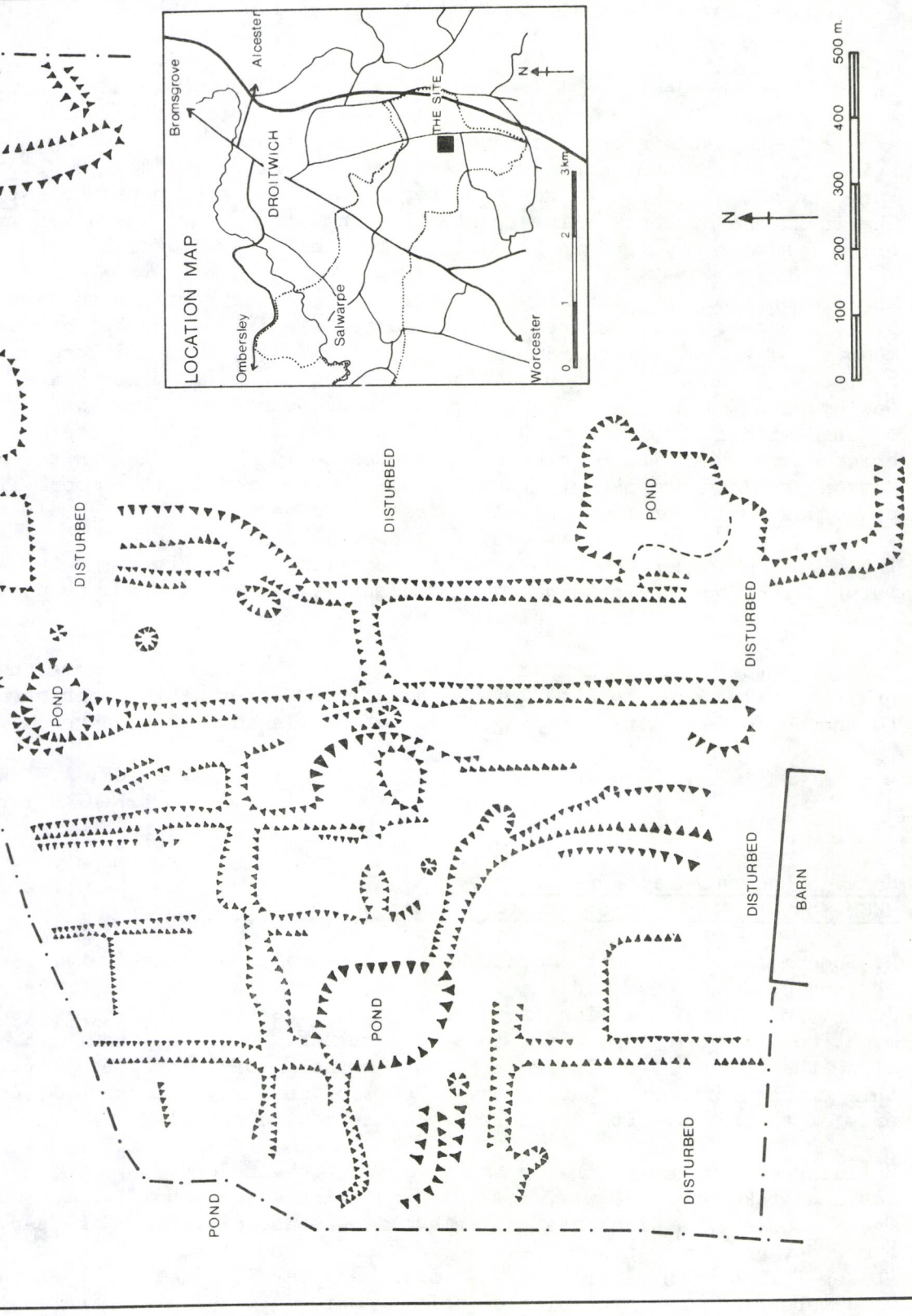
The park mentioned in D.B. could well be the area to the N. of Salwarpe village where we note High Park and Park Farm on the parish boundary, the Droitwich/Ombersley road.

- (2) Estate (2) D.B. 174 A.2-51. The land of the church of Coventry.

The church of St. Mary of Coventry holds Salewarpe. There, is one hide in Wich.



# NEWLANDS COMMON DESERTED MIEVEAL VILLAGE (SO 902602)



Urso holds of the Abbot and this land is in his park. He has  
4 burgesses and six salt works in Wich etc.

The site of this second holding in Salwarpe, the land of the church of Coventry, may only be recognised by one feature, the park and we do have a reference on the modern 1-50,000 O/survey sheet 150 to Park Farm which lies on the S.-E. of the parish boundary E. of the M5 motorway.

From this evidence it would be unwise to suggest that Newlands D.M.V. was contemporary with the Domesday entry, its name suggests late settlement. However, there are certain features produced by the survey which are interesting. A pit which is still subject to subsidence was noted by the farm tenant to the W. of Newlands Farm and six similar pits were scattered about the site plus three large ponded areas. The incidence of heavy brine crystallisation on the farm buildings was noted, also brine crystals appeared in the soil of the holloways and platforms of the site.

The presence of brine in Salwarpe parish at similar strength to that of the Droitwich pits is supported by references and analyses in 'Wells and Springs of Worcestershire' memoirs of the Geological Survey England and Wales, by L. Richardson Analyses No.622, 623, 624, P. 204. This publication refers to the main brine channel commencing at Oakley Farm which lies N.-N.-E. of Newlands Common D.M.V. This farm has been demolished within local memory due to the destructive action of the salt rotting the brickwork. Many blue bricks are in use as building material in the Brownsheath Common area and Brownsheath Farm has all of the ground floor rooms lined with timber boards as any other form of wall-decoration is destroyed by the salt in the plaster.

These circumstances could have caused desertion of a settlement through inadequate water supply but the pits noted in the survey have suggested the possibility of an industrial site involving salt boiling.

The few pottery sherds lodged in the sides of the house platforms and holloways are provisionally dated to late 14th - early 15th C. but again their stratifications due to the action of cattle grazing etc. must be viewed with a degree of caution.

E.A. PRICE, A.M. WILSON,  
A. P. FIELDING for Hereford  
and Worcester Museum.

#### Salvage Recording in Hereford 1977

HWCW 384 St. Martin's Street (Drybridge House) SO 5082 3937

R. Shoesmith and E. Smith conducted trial excavations on this site in 1975 (WMANS No. 18), and J. Sawle examined the digging of several test holes by site engineers in June 1976. The conclusions reached from all these observations were that there might be a large ditch, with a possible rampart to its N. running E.-W., approximately along the alignment of the Rowe Ditch, to the E. of this site. Little is known about this extant earthwork, but it may be part of an early defensive system on this S. side of the river. Its dating is somewhat controversial.

Building work began on the Drybridge House site in June 1977, and salvage recording was undertaken by J. Sawle, K. White and J. Price on behalf of the County Museum. The presence of a ditch was confirmed: it was approximately 4 m deep, and at least 8 m wide, and was running E.-W. across the S. end of the site. In its lower levels it was filled with waterlogged material, and several leather objects and pieces of wood were recovered. Samples of this organic material are being analysed by the York Environmental Unit. Along the bottom of the ditch a line of pointed stakes about 10 cm in diam. were recorded. The earliest pottery recovered was of the late 13th C. No evidence was seen of any rampart to the N. of the ditch; neither was it clear whether the ditch was turning to the N. at the W. edge of the site, to bring it into line with the W. defences of the City on the other side of the river.

J. SAWLE Urban Excavator, Hereford  
and Worcester County Museum.

## Trial Excavations in Hereford 1976

Background A programme of trial excavations was conducted in 1976 to assess the quality and importance, of the archaeological deposits in an area in the N. part of the walled town threatened with development. The site of the trenches was suggested by R. Shoesmith and was agreed with the DOE, a maximum size of 25 square m being set.

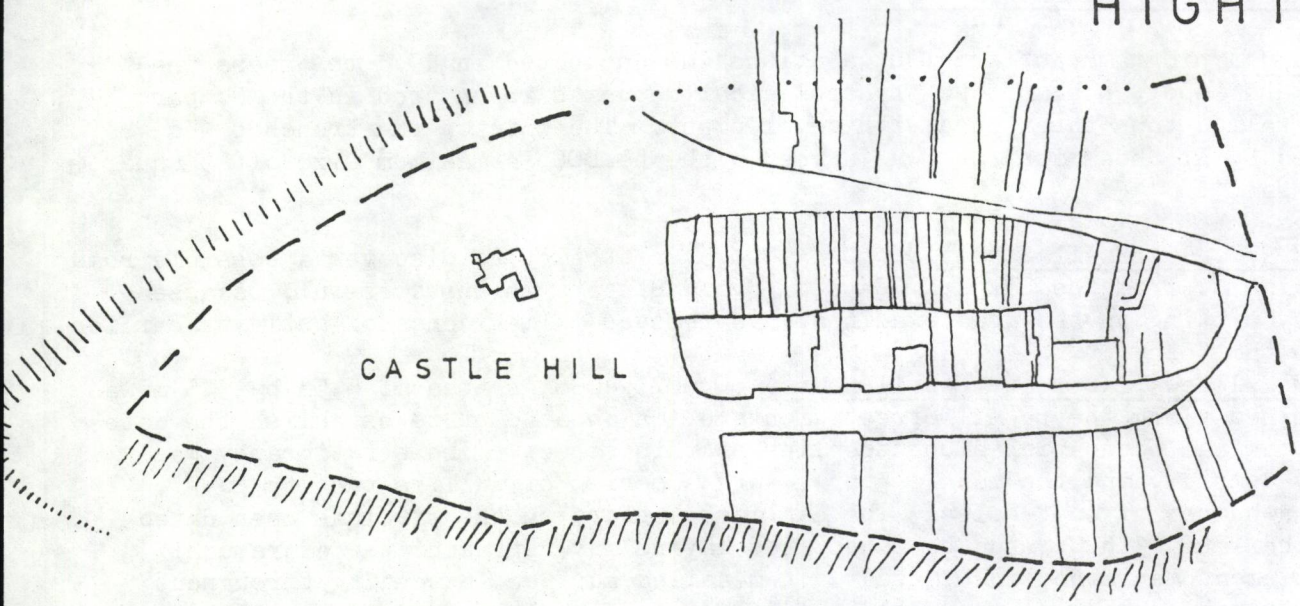
### The Sites

1. HWCM 270, 40 Bewell Street SO 5088 4008. An attempt to discover a possible road leading N. from the Saxon N. Gate on Broad Street was unsuccessful, because heavy pitting in the area examined, had removed all evidence of activity earlier than the 13th C.
2. HWCM 271 Bewell Street (Bewell House) SO 5073 4006 An area of 5.5m by 3.5 m was examined along the Bewell Street frontage, in an attempt to establish the date of original occupation along the line of this street. The stratigraphy was very complex, and the main features were a series of gullies running E.-W., and a number of post-holes. The earliest pottery on the site has been dated to the late 11th C. and the associated layers may represent the extramural settlement mentioned in Domesday. A metalled surface, extending throughout the trench sealed all the 12th C. features and was itself sealed by 14th C. material. The area examined was too small to identify any possible building lines.
3. HWCM 272, Between 27 and 28 Commercial Street (Trinity Almshouses) SO 5121 4015 An area 5 m square was examined along the Commercial Street frontage, known to be part of the 13th C. Jewish Quarter. Two parallel gullies, adjacent to Commercial Street contained late 11th and early 12th C. pottery, and the main one was suggestive in form of a palisade trench, but no signs of posts or planking were seen. Later occupation was represented by 13th and 14th C. pits, and a stone built house, the clay floor of which sealed 14th C. pottery.
4. HWCM 379 Wall Street SO 5094 4020  
A 5 m square trench was dug on derelict land behind 47-49 Maylord Street, parallel to Wall Street, about 10 m from the standing stone City Wall. The tail of a gravel rampart was found virtually intact, and it contained late 12th C. pottery. It sealed two features, one of which, a gully, contained a sherd of Chester Ware. Covering the rampart were a series of relatively undisturbed cultivated soil levels.
5. HWCM 380 Maylord Street SO 5104 4014  
A trench along the street frontage was dug by machine, and a strip at least 8 m long was examined. The whole area appeared to be modern factory foundation, and no earlier features were recorded.
6. HWCM 381 28-29 Commercial Street (Black and White Cafe) SO 5090 4013  
An irregular area of approximately 20 sq.m. was examined but pitting of the 13th C. and later periods had removed all evidence of earlier activity.
7. HWCM 383 27 Widemarsh Street (British Cannery) SO 5090 4013  
A series of small trenches were cut by machine in another attempt to examine the line of the possible Saxon N. road. In all the trenches modern make-up lay on top of a dark brown soil which contained a mixture of pottery dating from the 12th - 19th C. Only two small post-holes, and three post-medieval pits were found cutting the natural, and it appears unlikely that there was much Saxon activity in this area.

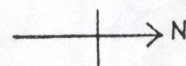
Conclusions These results diminish the potential of the archaeological deposits in this N. sector. The lack of any sign of the N. road, and of any evidence of Saxon occupation alongside it is particularly significant, and additional excavation is unlikely to add much. Furthermore, the scale of redevelopment is, at present, uncertain, but it is unlikely that all the area will be affected. Given the nature of other threats to archaeology in the West Midlands the N. sector of Hereford should be given a low priority.

JOHN SAWLE Urban Excavator Hereford  
& Worcester County Museum.

HIGHTOWN

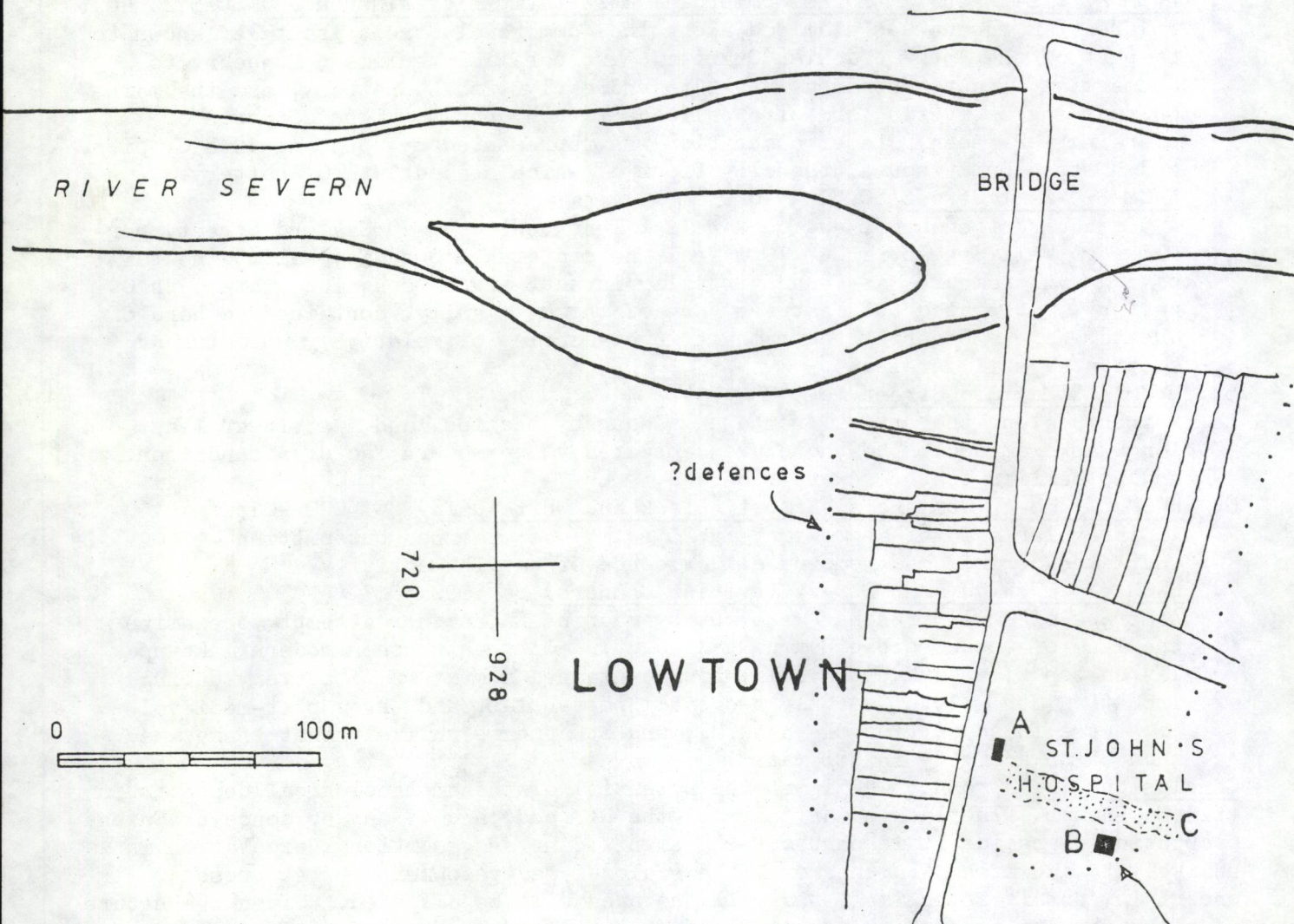


CASTLE HILL



RIVER SEVERN

BRIDGE



?defences

720

928

LOWTOWN

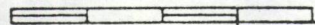
A ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

B

C

(no defences found)

0 100 m



Bridgnorth

mohc

Hen Domen Montgomery 1977

Work continued on the N.E.-E. sector of the bailey. The rectangular hall, discovered in 1976, now appears to be smaller than was at first thought, but to have an annexe or outbuilding at its N. end. On the other hand, the postulated six-post granary now seems to be a twelve-post structure with very deep symmetrical post-holes. A second cistern (?) is appearing close to the rampart in the N.-E. corner, while dissection of building 000 suggests strongly that its walls were of clay or cob. Clay walls had been suspected in other buildings excavated in the 1960s and it is apparent that a great variety of building techniques were used in the construction of the castle, often simultaneously.

The 1978 season will be extended to four weeks, the first three taking the form of a training excavation.

P. A. BARKER

Bridgnorth, St. John's Hospital (SA 383) SO 721930

Trial excavation in advance of development were carried out in 1976 at the site known from the 16th C. as that of St. John's Hospital. Said to have been founded in 1179 x 1195 by Ralph Lestrage, the hospital had substantial estates in Low Town in the later Middle Ages and was dissolved in 1539. A house ('St. John's') was built on the site in 1698. Traces of this were found in 1976, but the site was otherwise levelled to the alluvium and the only features attributable to the hospital were an inhumation cemetery (fig.00; A) and a thin scatter of building rubble including glazed tile (B). There was some indication of a variation in the depth of the alluvium over the underlying gravel from which was conjectured a disused river channel (C). The building of Low Town on the flood plain most probably followed the successful canalising and bridging of the present deep-water channel giving (in the 12th C.?) an alternative to the fordable river-bed at Quatford

M.O.H. CARVER

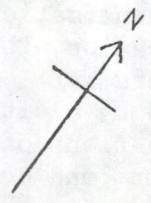
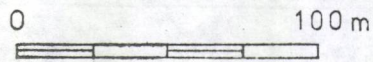
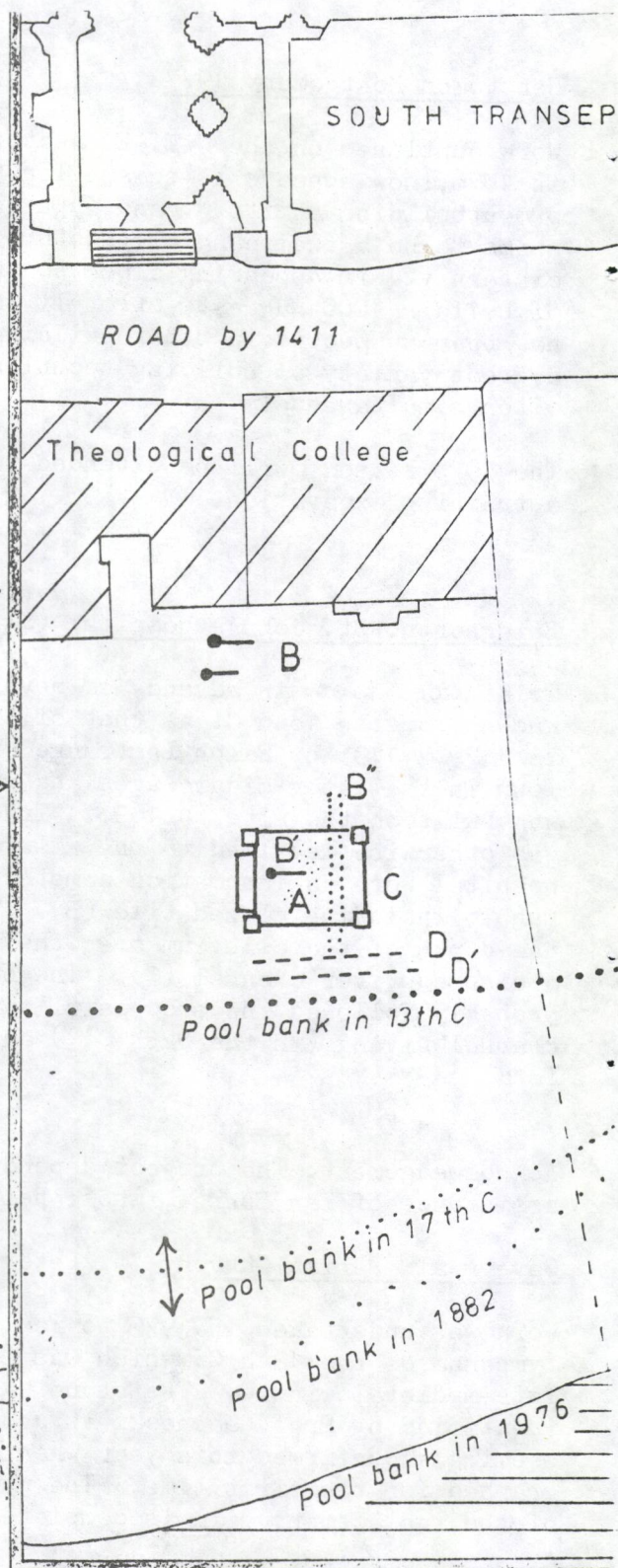
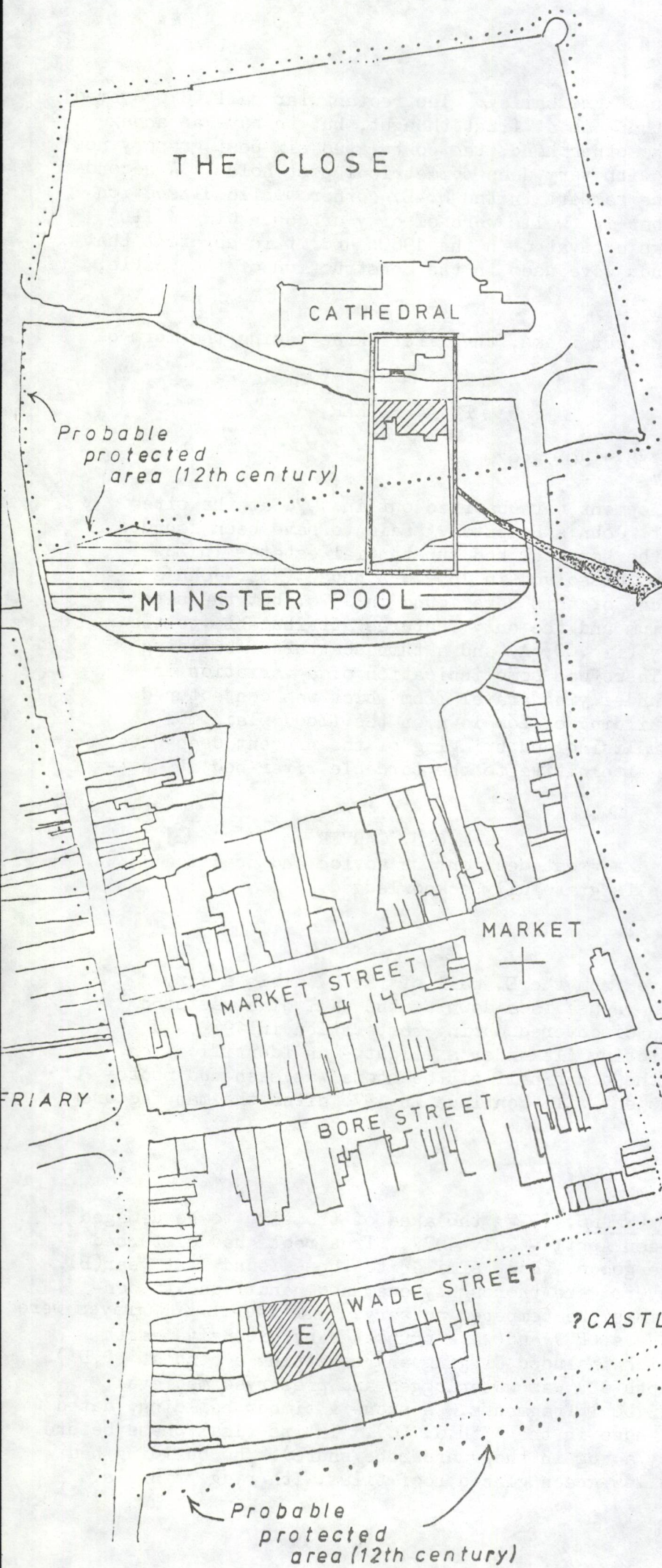
Acknowledgement: The project depended a great deal on the advice and practical assistance of Ian Burrow, whose help is gratefully acknowledged.

Caverswall Parish Church, St. Peter.

Work was undertaken in 1977 to remove from the E. wall of the N. aisle a carved tympanum of the 12th C. which was in re-use face-down as the sill of a restored late-medieval window. The stone was discovered during restoration in 1962 and identified by Prof. Zarnecki as depicting Alexander's flight - an identification seemingly confirmed this year when the other half of the stone was seen and photographed for the first time. The project will continue in 1978 after the manufacture of the replacement sill is complete.

Lichfield, Theological College SK 1160 0972

Following trial excavations in 1976 (WMANS, 1977) the area of the site to be damaged by a sewer trench was examined between April - July 1977. Tree roots had disturbed orientated inhumations without grave goods, (B'), similar to those found last year(B). On this occasion, the bracketing layers were thoroughly examined, and found to contain Stafford Ware and wheel-made limestone tempered pottery. These LATE SAXON graves were accompanied by a ditch of the same date (B'') and were truncated by extensive earth moving operations of the 12th C. which included digging and revetting a pond at (D,D'). The earliest pond deposit (before 15th C.) was waterlogged and preserved medieval leather shoes and sheaths and wooden bowl fragments. A stone & timber building, dated by pottery, was erected at the pond edge in the 13th C. (C). In its final phase before demolition, (dated to the 15th C. by a jug in the guarderobe shute), the building had internal red-plastered walls and yellow-green glazed roof tiles with ridge finials.



# Lichfield

Major demolition and construction debris were deposited and turfed in the 17th, 18th and 19th C. These may be attributed to the documented activities of Bishop Hacket and the early Theological College (WMANS, 1977).

M.O.H. CARVER

Lichfield, Wade Street (E on fig. 00)

Excavations by M. R. Hummler for West Midlands Archaeological Unit and DOE at no. 18-20, Wade Street, Lichfield, took place in July 1977.

An area c 30 x 35m was available for excavations (between no. 16 and 26), but it was decided to limit the investigations to a machine-cut trench (c. 30m long and up to 2m deep) perpendicular to Wade Street, and to a small area excavation (c. 9m x 4m) adjacent to it. In the area excavation, medieval features survived only at the back of the tenement. The earliest of these was a well-pit cut into clay and sandstone, abandoned at a depth of 2.95m without finding water and back-filled in the 12th C. This feature was later cut by two pits, under-cut into the clay seam and dug for its extraction and back-filled in the 13th-14th C. At the street end of the tenement, no medieval feature survived, due to levelling and to the laying out of a brick tenement. The trial trench enabled a record in depth of the natural strata, which survived to a high level (only c. 50cm below the modern ground surface at the street end). The sandstone bedrock was overlain by clay and gravel, possibly deposited by flood.

The Wade Street excavation, the first to have taken place in the town, suggests that no occupation earlier than the 12th C. can be shown, a conclusion in accordance with Taylor. But the survival was too poor to test whether planned tenements were laid out at that time.

I wish to thank Messrs. Bird, Miller and Birkenshaw of the Lichfield District Council Planning Department and Mr. Baugh of Sefton Property Investment Ltd. for giving access to the site and for their help.

M. R. HUMMLER

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Trans. South Staffs Archaeol. and Hist. Soc. X, 1968-69)

Lichfield, General Assessment

Work in Lichfield in 1977 has provided indication of a prehistoric background to the site, but so far no activity between the Neolithic and late Saxon times. The later Saxon cemetery was discontinued, on the S. side at least, on the occasion of the formation of the Minster Pool. A number of major events have now been independently conjectured for the 12th C. and might be referred to the energetic Bishop de Clinton. They are: the digging of the Minster pool, the installation of a mill at its E. end; the provision of piped water to the Close (Gould, 1976a); the building of the Norman Cathedral (on the present site: there are reasons for placing Headda's church elsewhere); the discontinuity of burial; the protection of the Close by a ditch; and the laying-out of the New Town S. of the pool (Taylor, 1968-69; now endorsed by the results from Wade Street).

Work in progress is intended primarily to improve and fill out this preliminary model of Lichfield's beginnings by publishing, with the excavations, casual finds of artifacts and observations of strata. It is expected to continue excavation and survey work next year, concentrating on the site of St. Michael's church, whose establishment is thought to predate that of the town (Taylor, 1968-69).

M.O.H. CARVER

## Acknowledgements

Our thanks are due to the Venerable Richard Ninis, Archdeacon of Stafford, Mr. Hives (Head Verger), Mr. Slater (Treasurer), Mr. Hastilow and Mr. Clarke, of the Cathedral Staff and Theological College Committee who gave advice and assistance in many ways. We were gratified by a very warm and helpful reception from the residents of the Close.

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Archaeol.&Hist. Soc. 16 (1974-75);  
J. Gould, 'Twelfth-century Water Supply to Lichfield Close', Antiq.J. 56 (1976)  
J. Gould, 'Lichfield, Archaeology and Development' (1976)

Leigh, Salop (SJ 3331 0362) Sites and Monuments Record No. SA 1611

A moated site is being surveyed at 1:150 scale in advance of clearance of the moat ditch to act as a reservoir for the adjacent Leigh Hall. The moat island is revetted by a massive stone wall and foundation stones of a probable gatehouse can be seen on the N.W. side on the inner side of the modern causeway. This is one of the few moated sites in Shropshire with surviving masonry.

IAN BURROW Salop County Planning  
Department

Coventry: 'Whitefriars' excavation (SP 340 787)

Nine months of excavations in advance of a landscaping programme with a Job Creation team were concluded on the 17th Nov. 1977. The first six months of excavation were supervised by Mr. Julian Barnard and the last three months by Mr. John Bateman. Work is continuing on Sundays with volunteers from Coventry and District Archaeol. Soc.

This excavation was concerned with the E. end of the friary church, the sacristy, chapter house and domestic buildings. Previously the nave, transepts, tower-crossing and part of the choir were excavated in the 1960's by Mrs. C. Woodfield (C. Woodfield, Med. Archaeol. XI (1967), 278-9). The W. end of the chapter house was excavated in 1973 by Mrs. M. Rylatt, Field Archaeologist, Coventry Museums, who is also responsible for the present investigation. The friary buildings - wall foundations and floors - have been greatly disturbed since the Dissolution in 1538 by subsequent building on the site, especially that of John Hales in the 16th C. and the Workhouse buildings of post 1804.

The Church The choir and presbytery were stripped of overlying debris: the chancel wall foundations are in fairly good condition, except where pierced by 'modern' drains. Several of the square-ended buttresses had suffered particularly badly in this respect. Although many glazed and decorated floor tiles were found none were in situ: the flooring appears to have been removed along with the standing stonework, when the church was sold for its building materials in the 16th C.

The major features in the choir were the resonance passages, first found during the 1960's excavations. The area between these passages had been greatly disturbed. No foundation evidence was found for the High altar in the E. end of the presbytery. The foundations of the W. wall are in very good condition. This wall was flanked by an almost parallel walling(?) of undressed sandstone blocks, abutting at the S. end only; the purpose of which has not yet been defined. Other features within the presbytery area include three stone-lined graves - one destroyed by modern disturbance - and three earth-dug graves with good coffin-stain and nail evidence. Six post-holes were found, four almost parallel to the S. wall - from 1 m to 0.60m from the inside wall face. Two similar post-holes occur close to the N. wall of the presbytery. It has been suggested that these may be scaffolding holes, but their purpose is not at all clear at present. The friars cemetery may be indicated by skeletal remains beyond the E. wall of the church, running beneath the hospital car park.



The Sacristy The building is about 10 x 5m, situated immediately S. of the choir/presbytery; and connected to the latter by a passage leading from the claustral range into the church. Only the substantial wall foundations were located, with their square angle-buttresses at the E. end. A stone-lined well and probable well-house foundations were uncovered E. of the building.

The Chapter House This rectangular building was 15 x 7.4m, and was built onto the E. cloister range mid-way along its length. The walls and especially the buttresses were much disturbed by 19th and 20th C. drainage trenches. The buttresses were different in this building, being of a rounded wedge form in plan. Again no flooring was found in situ. There were no graves in the E. part of the building to add to the eight found at the W. (cloister) end in 1973.

S.-E. range of buildings It was hoped that an area stripped by machine to the S.E. of the standing cloister range would yield evidence for the frater and associated buildings, or rere-dorter. Standing remains and foundations of a small building exist at the S. end of the cloister range on its E. side. A door leads out from the extant range to this small building, which includes a fragment of wall standing to over 1 m. Adjacent to this fragment is a small L-shaped stone-lined tank or pit, with a connecting drain to the stone vaulted ground-floor room at the S. end of the cloister range.

A few metres S. of this small building was found a rectangular building +12 x 10.5m and divided into two unequal parts by a N.-S. sandstone wall. W. of this wall the Workhouse and other post monastic building had destroyed the monastic floor levels. The E. room was saved from this disturbance by less post-Dissolution building and particularly by the fact that the monastic floor had a considerable fall to the E. The main room E. of the cross wall has four piers - one at each corner of the room. The two to the W. are independent of the walls while the E. pair are built into the E. wall. The floor between is paved with sandstone slabs which have a purpose-built fall from a central rib of stone at the W. side of the room to a 'sump-point' against the E. wall. The fall is symmetrical from the N. and S. sides of the room to the centrally placed 'sump-point' against the E. wall. There is no visible outlet through either the wall or floor at the 'sump-point', but it has been observed that water will quickly drain away. The purpose of this elaborate floor drainage had not been ascertained, but several suggestions have been made, including slaughter-house, stabling or animal stall. The remains of possible nib-walls abutting the cross wall, and the green 'cess-like' staining of the sandstone floor slabs, would not lessen any of the former suggestions. Work will continue through the winter in this area in an effort to answer some of the questions relating to these latest buildings.

The material from the excavation is housed in the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry (Accession No. 77/77).

JOHN BATEMAN for Coventry Museums

The Romsley Moat (SO788832)

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

This site is situated on the lower E. slope of the Romsley Ridge, based upon heavy clay common to the area. In the dry summer of 1976, a series of Air Photographs were taken in connection with the Romsley Church Site. The Church Field held priority, but the surrounding area was also recorded, revealing a moat platform some 400 yds from the Church. Field work was not possible in 1976, and the ground was down to Barley this summer (1977) - work was not therefore possible until the end of Sept. Briefly, the site was found to be a low rectangular platform some 20 x 45 m. in area, orientated N.-S., enclosed by a dry moat of token depth only, except on the W. side, where the depression is far more substantial. A squarish subsidiary arm to the moat is situated on the N.-E. side, possibly a fish pond extension. Water feed to the moat appears to have been natural from the ridge slope. Part of the mound surface was dozed into the moat some years ago,

and the whole feature carries the gentle rounded contours of much plough work. The surface soil produced a variety of Medieval, glazed and coarse gritted sherds and finger decorated pottery also came to light.

A trial excavation was commenced in Oct. to examine the construction of the S. bank of the platform, but was plagued by continual heavy rain, and this factor forbade trenching into the moat due to fear of water-logging.

At 30cm, however, the bank crest produced a rubbled stone deposit, probably having association with a wall foundation, this apparently running E.-W. along the platform edge, a dark rich silt showing on the S. side, clay on the N. Lime mortar was in evidence and a quantity of fragments were recovered. Three pieces of black gritted ware were found lying on the irregular stone surface, and a small piece of the same ware was discovered, firmly wedged between two rock pieces. Nov. brought very severe weather conditions, making further progress practically impossible this season.

I would offer my sincere thanks to the ground owner, Mr. Rodenhurst for permission to investigate the site, and to Mr. W. Palmer for his able assistance.

E. W. TIPLER

Long Itchington, Thorn Yard

Earthworks in this field at SP 416650 suggest a medieval occupation. The brook was scoured and land drains laid in the field in the autumn of 1977. The land drains missed the most dominant features, but building stone was brought to the surface near Glebe Farmhouse. No pottery was observed.

H. J. USHER

Kenilworth, St. Mary's Abbey Gatehouse SP 285723

Restoration of the Abbey Gatehouse necessitated lowering the ground level against its E. side, which work was carried out as an archaeological excavation. An average of 2 m of deposit was removed, all of which proved to be 18th C and later, the lower limit of excavation was still within this modern deposit. Several previously unsuspected architectural features were revealed, including walls of buildings abutting against the gatehouse. The gatehouse, of the 14th C. may originally have been of one bay only, but was later doubled in size, on which occasion the precinct wall was rebuilt on a new alignment. There was a building against the N.E. corner of the gatehouse, probably extending N.; this was originally of the 14th C, probably contemporary with the earliest part of the main structure and was later rebuilt, on a slightly different alignment, possibly in the late 15th C. (It is emphasized that all dating is based on architectural indications, not on archaeological deposits). All these masonry features have been consolidated and remain open to view.

DR. R. G. LAMB for Warwickshire  
Museum.

Sutton Coldfield Manor House (SP116959)

Part of the site of the manor house now forms the grounds of a modern house. A pipe trench dug recently along a track on the W. side of the area removed several large dressed sandstone blocks, presumably belonging to the outer wall of the manor house enclosure. Also part of a medieval patterned floor tile was found recently below the floor of the conservatory, on the S. side of the modern house. Its pattern includes an elongated fleur-de-lys motif, similar to that on a tile from the manor house, now lost, recorded by P. B. Chatwin. The design on the tile is similar to that on 14th C. tiles from Weoley Castle.

MIKE HODDER

Park Boundaries, Sutton Park (SP 1096)

The courses of a series of linear earthworks, each consisting of a bank with internal ditch, crossing the E. side of Sutton Park, were plotted during fieldwork in February 1977. Two phases seem to be present in the enclosure defined by these earthworks. The boundary of the first consists of a low bank c. 2 m wide, with a ditch on its E. side, and the second is apparently an extension to this, defined by a higher bank c. 1.50 m wide, again with an accompanying ditch. The earthworks seem to be the boundaries between the manorial park, for which there is documentary evidence in 12th and 14th C., and Sutton Chase. Leland mentions 'a Park and a chace', and says that all five pools attached to the manor house were within the park. The second phase of the enclosure appears to be an extension to include Bracebridge Pool, the last of the manorial pools to be constructed, probably in 15th C. The earthworks also seem to have protected woodland areas: the boundary of Holly Hurst, defined by a bank with external ditch 16th C., follows one of the earlier park boundaries on its W. side.

MIKE HODDER

Ennis House, Sutton Coldfield (SP 120965)

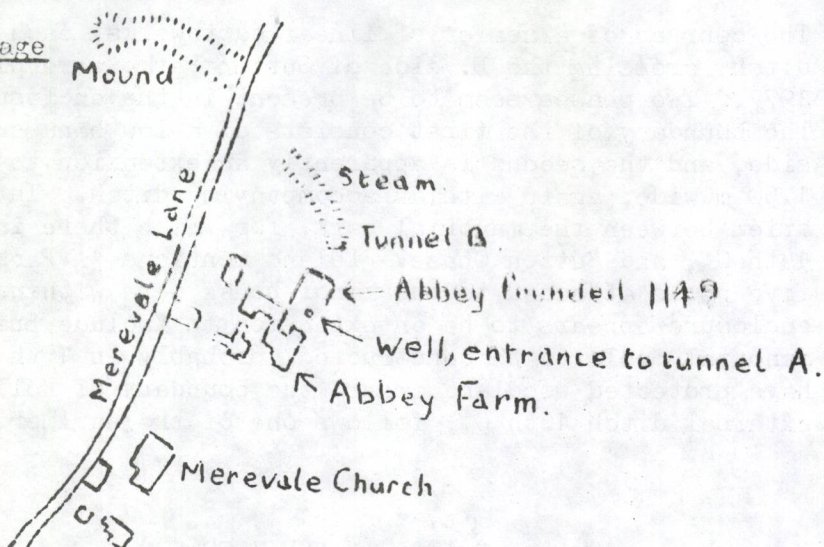
Ennis House, a brick building of 18th C. date in High Street, was demolished recently, and among rubble on the site are pieces of sandstone, including, at the N.E. corner of the site, a roughly squared sandstone block 36 cm long and 26 cm wide, with its shorter side parallel to High Street. Several pieces of sandstone rubble together near the S. E. corner of the site may be the crushed remains of a similar block. These blocks may be corner padstones for a timber-framed structure. The site is 120 m N. of the medieval market place.

MIKE HODDER

POST MEDIEVAL

Merevale Abbey Subterranean Passage

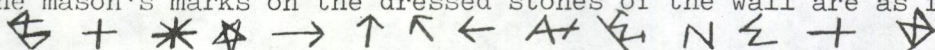
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Tunnel (A) can only be entered by climbing down an 18th C. well which is 3.80 m deep. It leads off at 90° for 35 m then changes direction to 40° for another 5.60 m where a cave-in has completely blocked further progress. This cave-in can be seen on the surface in the form of a crater and is situated inside an orchard. A temporary dry wall has been built from the fallen masonry to shore up a weak roof immediately edging on the cave-in. Earth has been brought down from the surface and packed solid behind the top of this wall to give further support.

From the bottom of the well the tunnel leads for 7m through sandstone, which is unlined and unsupported and in places is only one m high. From there it is dry lined with dressed sandstone corbelling and for the next 23 m is 1.80 m high. It continues at a reduced height of one m for the next 5 m, and there the change of direction occurs which continues for 5.60 m also at a height of one m.

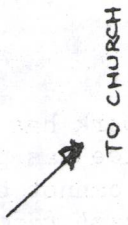
The mason's marks on the dressed stones of the wall are as follows:-



Of these marks there are 14 of N which appears in the first 7 m but do not appear again after that. There are 51 of \*, and only one of the downward-pointing arrow with a diagonal line through it which appears in the first m of the S. wall. The mark with a diagonal line through the cross only appears once which is also on the S. wall 28 m from the wall bottom; and the mark with a diagonal line through the downward-pointing arrow only appears once 7 m from the well bottom on the S. wall. That of the left-pointing arrow also only appears once in the same proximity. Another one which only appears once is the right-pointing arrow with a diagonal line through it which occurs 18.40 m from the well bottom on the S. wall. Whilst the mark with a diagonal line through the plus sign only appears once in the last section, one metre after the change in direction, on the N. wall. That of the star appears 11 times. Assuming the mark with a left-pointing arrow and a right-pointing arrow to be the same, depending upon the way the stone was laid, this appears 4 times. There are two of the upward-pointing arrow and also 2 of the right-pointing arrow assuming it to be the same as the left-pointing arrow. 5 marks appear as the cross with a diagonal line through it.

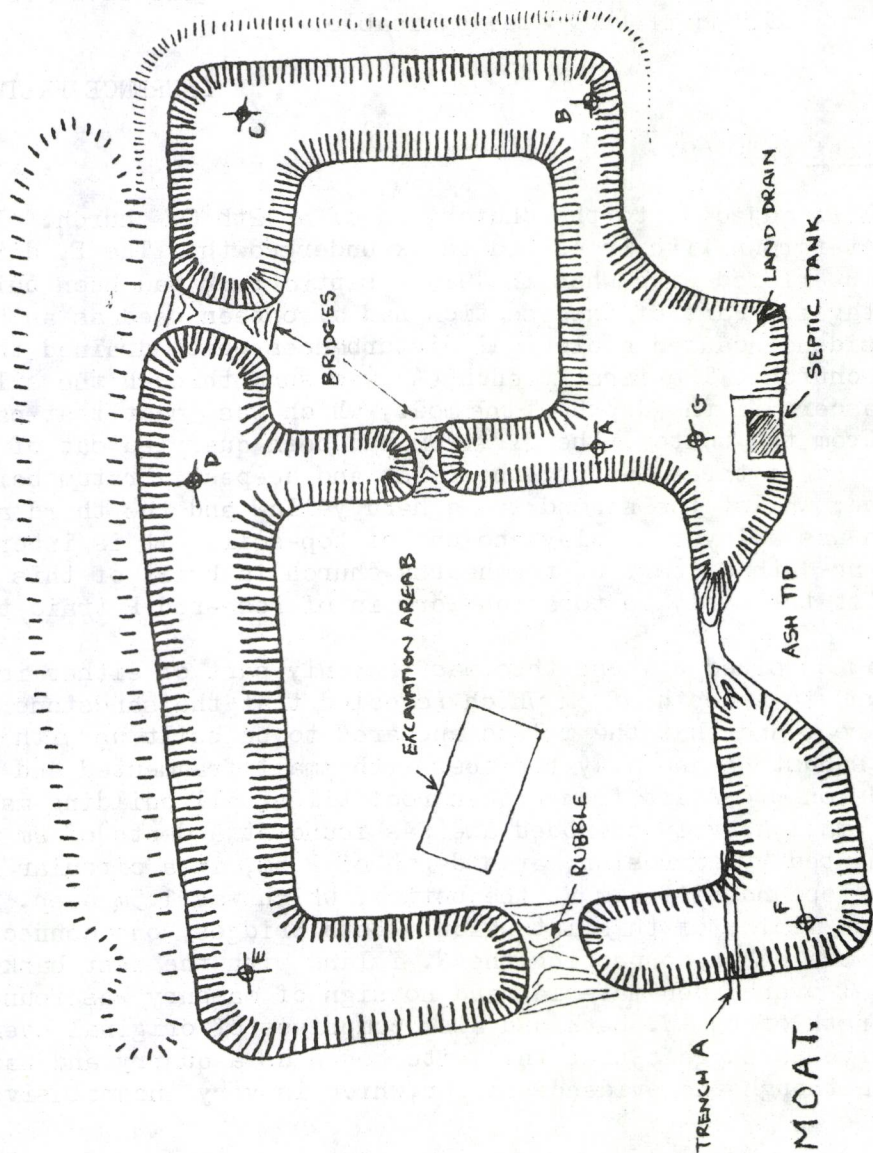
Tunnel (B) also has some of these same mason's marks, but this tunnel has been added to and restructured with 18th C. brick in order to re-route it to a nearby lake, from where it was made to serve as a water sluice for an iron industry. The mound, on the other side of the road, although marked on the Tithe Map as a 'Fish Stew', contains a large percentage of iron effervesce froth, which has solidified where it was poured out of the crucible, for it appears in flat pancake like lumps varying in size from 3 in. to 18 in. in diam. and are not found fused together but each splash lump is smooth on one side and impregnated with top-soil or clay on the other.

This Iron Industry had long ceased production when, in 1858, Howell visited this site for his 'Geological Survey' and observed that 'part of Merevale Park, near Square Spinny and Holly Park the Seven-feet, Slate, and Rider coals were wrought formerly to a depth of 9 yds, and another coal called the 'Smithy' was also partially wrought to the same depth. Ironstone was also raised at the same place, and smelted by charcoal'. This was confirmed in 1965-9 when opencast coal operations revealed these old workings and the extent of the ironstone band extraction. The



⊕ DENOTES SURVEY PEGS.

A-B	22.700 MM
B-C	22.350 MM
C-D	23.400 MM
D-E	32.400 MM
E-F	36.800 MM
F-G	33.420 MM
A-G	6.300 MM
A-D	26.420 MM



PLAN OF BAXTERLEY MOAT.

METRIC SCALE 1 : 500

age, however, cannot yet be determined. But much more work has first to be done to establish the purpose, or power, to which the water sluice was put. The method of smelting: charcoal or coke. Then even if an exact date cannot be found, the industrial techniques can give an approximation. The opencast records show that the longwall mining method was employed to extract the ironstone band, and this method began in this area after 1708; whilst smelting with coke began in the neighbouring parish of Oldbury in 1790, for which the production figures were later given by Longford. Even with these guides much more work in the field is required before it can be established if they are applicable.

LAURENCE FRETWELL and GRAHAM WYKES

Baxterley Moat SK202697

This moat lies adjacent to the churchyard of a 12th C. church. It has two islands which are overgrown with trees and thick undergrowth. The E. ditch of the moat had been much interfered with when in 1929 a septic tank had been built to service a row of cottages. Part of this section had also been used as an ash tip. In 1957 mining subsidence caused geological disturbances which drained the moat and damaged the nearby church. The first trench (A) was sunk through the silt and vegetational debris to ascertain the depth of the moat, which was 3m at that particular point and 4m wide. From the bottom, the first 2m had been quarried out of sandstone bedrock. This consisted of three layers: the first and deepest stratum being a hard rose-red Petraic type; whilst the second was a hard yellow and the third a semi-solid yellow. Above which was a layer of clay and one of top-soil. It is interesting to note that the remaining 12th C. part of the nearby church is built of this hard yellow sandstone, whilst the early restoration work is of rose-red Petraic type.

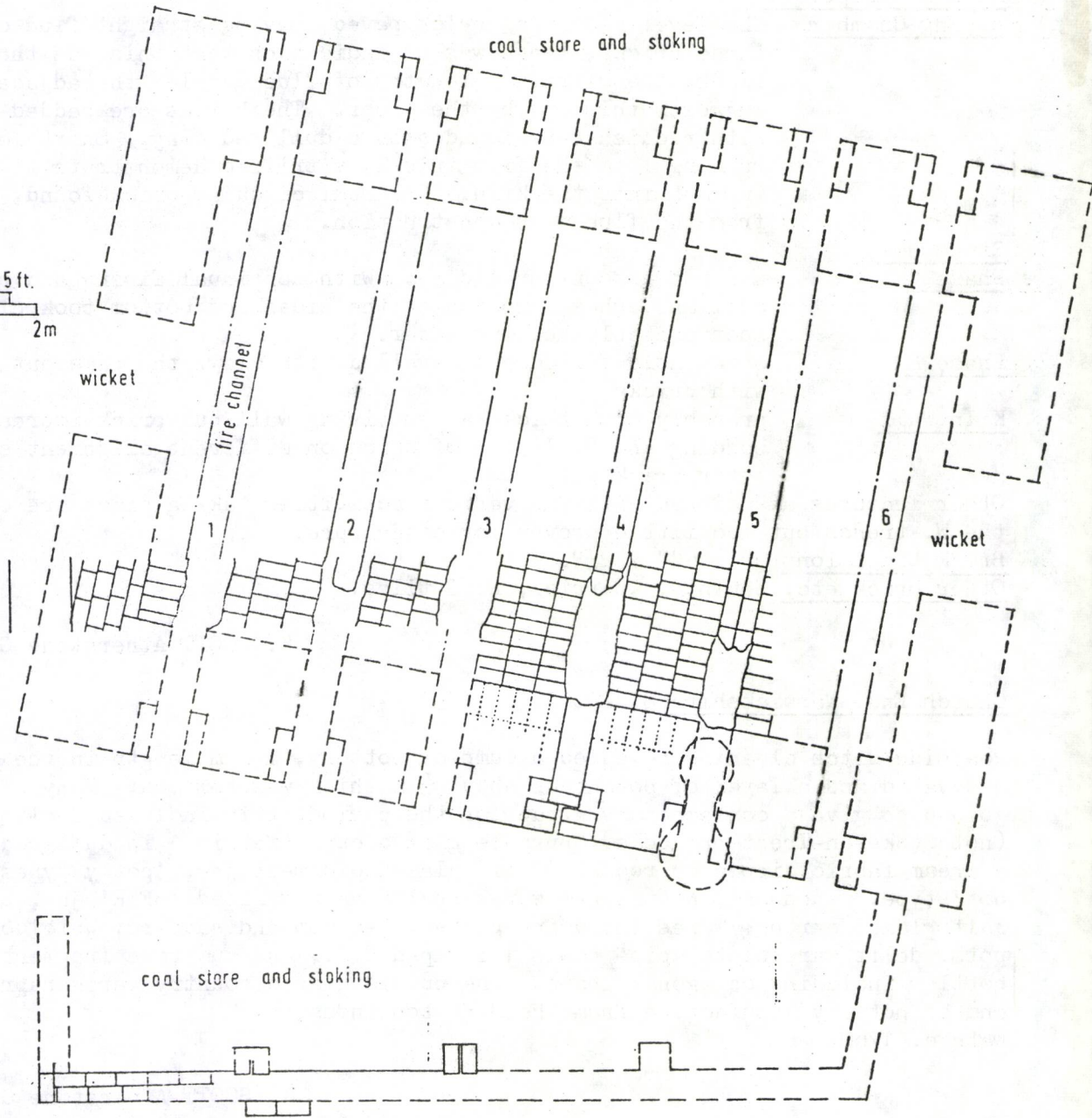
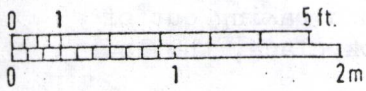
Trench B was so sited because this was the only part of either island clear of trees. This was sunk to a depth of 3m which revealed that the sandstone had been extracted from this area, and that the island appeared to be built up with overburden: that is, semi-solid sandstone and clay together with small fragmented and unusable deeper and harder sandstones. Apart from broken roof tiles, all building material had been robbed. A small heavily corroded axe was found at a depth of 2m and a small brass bowl, fragmented by corrosion, at a depth of 2.5m, in a circular intrusion of a m wide at the top and half a m at the bottom, which was 1.5m deep. There was no sign of masonry or lining of this intrusion. Both bridges, one connecting the two islands and the other connecting the N. island with the west bank, consisted of the same original overburden material and no sign of masonry was found. A mound extends the full length of the W. bank and also comprises of original overburden. It would be speculative to suggest that this site began as a quarry and was later utilized as a moat, although the evidence so far, which is very inconclusive, appears to indicate this.

Research into the documentation of this site has been successful and of the three 'Halls' built in Baxterley all have now been researched. Identification was helped by the fact that one of these Halls enclosed lands which included part of the village of Baddesley Ensor (1481). These enclosure banks have been traced although all that remains of this Hall is a well and two ice-houses. Another has been identified by the remaining Tudor chimney-stack. The moat (Hall) was built around 1343 but became unoccupied shortly after 1348 and the property was broken up and sold on lots to freeholders in 1517. This information has been presented to the Local History Society.

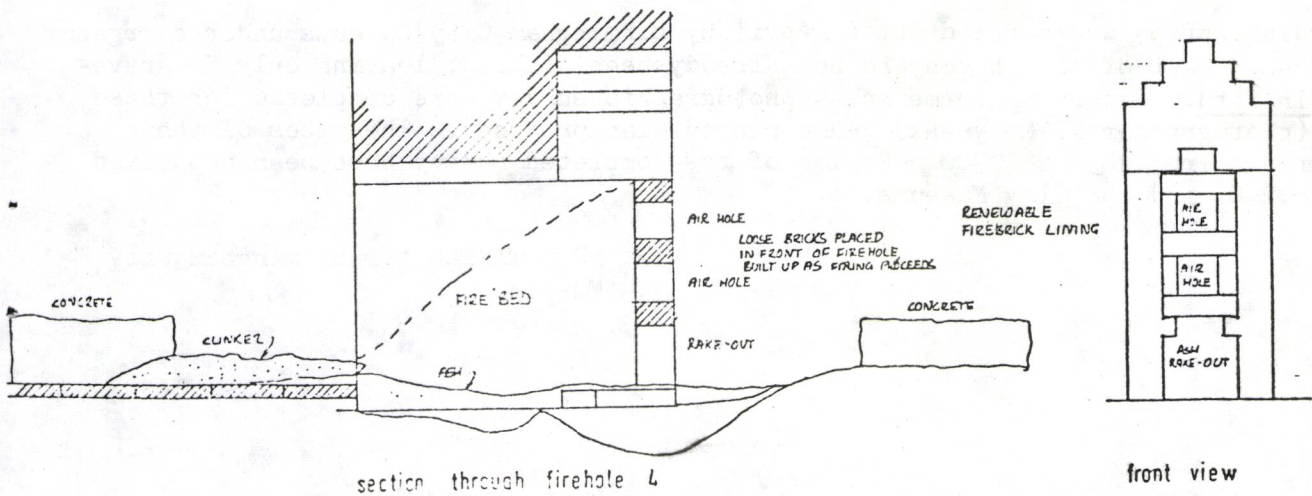
Our thanks to Mr. Dixon of Moat Close for his co-operation, patience and forbearance throughout this venture, and to all those who took part in it.

LAURENCE FRETWELL

18th CENTURY BRICK KILN,  
 WESLEY LODGE,  
 WATLING STREET,  
 AATHERSTONE, WARWICKS.  
 RECONSTRUCTED PLAN



Reconstruct by M.D.P. Hammond August 1977



Brick Kiln c. 17th C. - Atherstone, Warwickshire (SP 31389752)

Foundations for a garage exposed a brick pavement with channels of vitrified material, these were recorded before concreting commenced. Since there are no well documented kiln structures either nationally or locally for this period permission was obtained from the owner to excavate in the only other available space. This was ideally situated and revealed a stoke pit and flue line, but unfortunately not the wall thickness.

Kiln Description.

Firing Chamber - the level floor was brick paved, having straight flue channels every three bricks, there was no indication that this was the stacking floor, the vitrified lengths of flue overlap the adjacent brick which suggests this may be the floor. The bricks are bedded and 'mortared' with reddish sand founded on a dull red clay. Short lengths of flue running from the fire thickly vitrified demonstrate the draught pulling ash into the kiln. One semi circular brick found, probably came from the flue arch construction.

Stoke Hole.

Phase 1 was cut into natural clay. With continual firing and raking out of coal and ashes, erosion of the sides and bottom took place, the low spot probably holding water.

Phase 2 stoke hole filled and levelled with clay, the rake out strengthened with bricks.

Kiln Wall probably 3'0" thick, no surviving wall but brick impressions on sand bedding and E. limits of brick on different alignment suggest an outer brick wall.

Other features associated with the various activities taking place are evident from the W. trench but too little proven for conjecture.

Brick Dimensions 9" x 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Other brick etc. Squints, Quarries, Roof tiles.

K. SCOTT Atherstone Group

Church End, Warwickshire SP 290926

Roadside ditch cleaning revealed a dump of pottery, a 2 m length in the verge was excavated and a layer of potsherds about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m thick was removed. Many of the sherds joined to give a contemporary group for the period, this included 2 slip-ware plates (not Stoke-on-Trent products), purpose glazed cups (fabric 1 in dull red, fabric 2 a cream fabric dipped in red slip) tin glazed ointment jar, 'potty types', 'paint pot' type, pancheons, Nottingham wares including inscribed 'BEER' jug, Stoke-on-Trent salt glazed earthen wares including plates, tea cup and saucers, Whieldon type tea pots, delft ware plate, pipe bowls 1 stamped H.S., and numerous fragments of wine bottles including octagonal shape. The purple glazed country wares represent the end of pottery manufacture from the Nuneaton industry.

Date c. 1760.

K. SCOTT Atherstone Group

All Saint's Churchyard, Birmingham SP 054882

A recording survey was carried out in April by Birmingham City Museums under emergency conditions. Most of the churchyard had already been cleared, leaving only 50 grave-stones in situ. Recording forms and a photographic survey were completed for these stones (photographer N. Molyneux) and a sketch-plan produced. The dates of the stones range from 1838 to 1900. Copies of the completed survey have been deposited in the D.R.O. and the City Museums.

RUTH TAYLOR for Birmingham City  
Museums



## Birmingham Buildings 1977

Work continues by staff of Birmingham City Museums on recording the standing buildings of the City. This year particular attention has been paid to the historic town centre of Sutton Coldfield, since 1974 part of Birmingham. Messrs M.J. Dillon and N.A.D. Molyneux have been working for the Department of Archaeology and Local History under the government's Job Creation Scheme. The following buildings have been recorded and typescript reports issued on each building.

1. The Smithy 70 Birmingham Road, Maney (SP116953)  
Basically a late medieval cruck building and originally of at least 3 bays with timber-framed walls. Only two cruck trusses survive; the front to the road was replaced in stone in the 17th C. at the same time as the insertion of the stone stack. A small bay of square framing was added at right angles to the cruck house in the 17th C. There were a series of modifications and restorations of dubious quality in the 19th and 20th C.
2. Barn at Pype Hayes Hall Chester Road, Pype Hayes (SP131922)  
A 3 bay brick barn with a date-stone of 1762. The central open bay served as a cart entrance. One gable end wall is of timber-framing and was revealed during recent restoration. The truss was dismantled, restored and re-erected. The roof apparently had a king-post with an arch-braced tie. A 17th C. date is proposed.
3. Field House 110 Harborne Park Road, Harborne (SP 032841)  
The RCHM had showed that there were vestigial remains of an L-shaped timber-framed house of the 17th C. which had been completely rebuilt in the late 18th C., apparently removing all the timber-work except ceiling beams. However, recent work has revealed an internal framed wall of square panels, with two large straight tension braces, and a doorway connecting the two limbs of the L.
4. 183 Showell Green Lane Showell Green (SP 089933)  
A late 18th C. brick house recorded during demolition. The main elevation of 3 bays contained sash windows with segmental heads with keystones and springing blocks in stone - a type peculiar to Birmingham at the end of 18th C. The door had a segmental wooden canopy above engaged Doric columns of stone. The roof was of the typical 18th C. small angle, king post construction.
5. Slade Pool Farm 58-60 Stotfold Road, Maypole (SP 078787)  
A late 18th C. brick farmhouse of two storeys built soon after the local Enclosure Act 1772-74. It consists of a 3 bay main range with twin service wings to the rear.
6. Peddimore Hall Sutton Coldfield (SP153937)  
A two storey double pile house of brick with stone dressings, built c. 1660-70 on a double moated site. Radical alterations to the external appearance took place in the early 19th C., but the earlier form may be reconstructed from the fragmentary architectural evidence and early illustrations in the topographical collections.
7. Old Yardley Village Survey (SP 184863)  
A field survey of all surviving standing buildings has begun in this Conservation Area, recently upgraded to outstanding category. Fieldwork has been preceded by documentary research which is now complete. By using title deeds, combined with building accounts and probate records, it has been possible to accurately date several buildings; from this it is hoped that it will eventually be possible to establish guide lines for dating the brick buildings of the area. Most of the village buildings belong to the period c. 1780-1840, but documentary evidence proves that these cottages replaced small farmhouses and outbuildings with crofts behind and land in the open fields. No's 423-425 Church Road show the evolution from a 3 bay  $1\frac{1}{2}$  storey range built between 1709-1711 for Thomas Roades, Wheelwright, with a pair of late 18th C. wings to the rear, and further extended in the late 1840's as a slaughterhouse and butcher's shop. Work continues on the late 18th C. brick cottages.
8. Sutton Coldfield Historic Town Centre  
Every property in the town centre based on High Street, Coleshill Street and part of Mill Street is being inspected. The following have been recorded to date:

(a) 32 and 34 High Street

No. 32 has now been removed and replaced by a modern office building, but there is sufficient evidence to show that this was a stone building similar to No. 34. No. 34 was originally divided into two rooms on the ground floor by a close studded partition. The longer room had a fireplace in the wall adjoining No. 32, whilst the smaller room was unheated. There was a spiral staircase behind the stack against the rear wall, and at each floor there is a blocked door way that formerly connected with No. 32 via a triangular wooden head. The walls are of random sandstone rubble construction. A date in the 16th C. is likely. The building may well be one of Bishop Vesey's houses.

(b) 36 High Street

This house has an early 18th C. facade with sandstone rubble details to the window and door, and large sandstone pilasters at each end. The front wall is in fact of stone, the facade brickwork merely being a thin skin. The plan has a central entrance hall flanked by one room either side. A fine early 18th C. staircase with turned baluster shafts exists in this range. At the head of the stairs is an 18th C. painted window containing the arms of the Sadler family. One of the two rear wings is of 17th C. framing with a late 17th C. staircase of flat balusters.

(c) Vesey House 5 High Street

A heavily altered facade with 3 bay windows at first floor level which originally continued to the ground. A single entrance placed to one side of a central room or hall apparently formed a cross-passage. The house was arranged around a central courtyard, but a portion of the range at the rear has been removed leaving a building U-shaped in plan. At the rear the construction is clearly visible - English bond brickwork with sandstone quoins, buttresses and windows. The internal wall to the courtyard is apparently timber-framed on the second floor. The roof structure is partly 19th C. but with remains of original simple collar and principal rafter trusses. One of the first floor rooms is richly panelled. A date in the mid 17th C. is suggested.

Meanwhile work continues on integrating material from the Museum's topographical collections into the Historic Buildings files. Copies of the work of several individuals have now been added, including a magnificent series of photographs by Stanley Jones which cover the whole West Midlands county.

NICHOLAS MOLYNEUX  
MICHAEL DILLON  
STEPHEN PRICE  
for Birmingham City Museum

Warwick: The Butts

Building work on the site of the old Fire Station in the Butts and behind the gardens of properties on the N. side of Jury Street revealed that the whole area had been used as stone quarries. The fill was loose rubble with 18th and 19th C. pottery. The buildings recently demolished had subsided and cracked, but this was caused by the soft fill of the quarries and not by any medieval features, all of which would have been destroyed.

H.C. MYTUM Warwickshire Museum.

Priors Marston, Bury Yard

The grass field of Bury Yard at SP 489580 was ploughed in the spring of 1977. A sketch of the earthworks in this field was included in the WMANS No. 18, 28. (1973). The Spencer Estate map of pre-1758 shows ten buildings in this field. Before ploughing, land drains were laid at a depth of 2 ft and some sherds of early medieval pottery were thrown out. When ploughed, four patches of building stone were revealed

and seven sandy patches, which probably represented the buildings shown on the Spencer map. The pottery finds ranged from XVII to XIX C.

H. J. USHER

A 19th C. colliery labourer's cottage at Little Dawley, Salop (SJ/674056)

The Ironbridge Museum is carrying out the dismantling and study of a two room cottage of the poorest description built in the 1840's on a colliery tip in the Parish of Little Dawley. It will be reconstructed in its early form as an exhibit at the main museum site at Blists Hill.

Little Dawley was noted for proliferation of poor cottages, as colliery masters, tenanting small parcels of land under the Earl of Craven, permitted labourers employed at their pits to build their own dwellings. This cottage was on land known to have been vacant in 1839 and is first recorded in the Census of 1851, when occupied by a collier, his wife and five children. It remained in occupation until 1977.

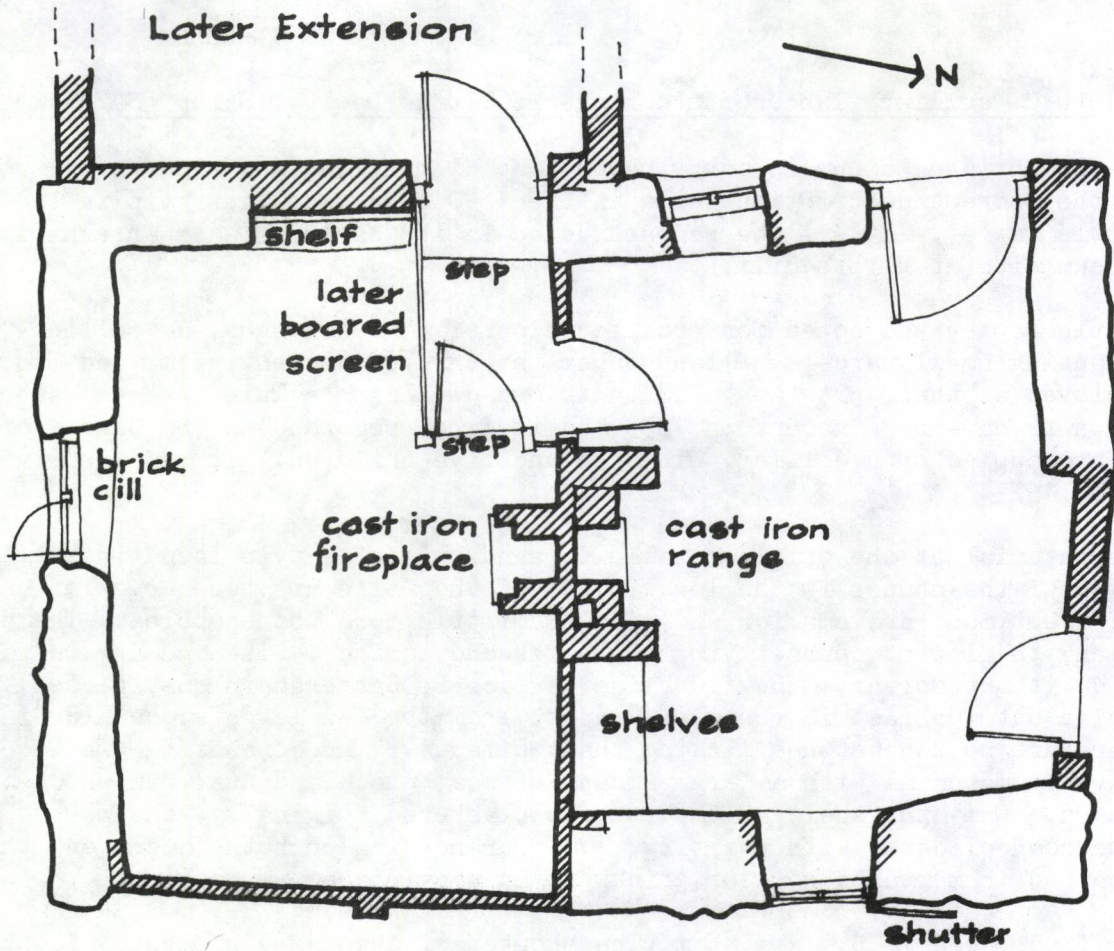
The material of the original walls is sandstone of a type found in the local pits. A few of the stones in the lower parts of the walls are too large for one man to lift, but most are smaller and many are little more than pebbles. There is no foundation, the lowest course lying on the ground surface. The masonry is random rubble laid without mortar. The flush inside face is battered in most places, and the irregular outside face is vertical. Apart from the few large stones low in the walls, there are no bond stones linking the two faces. The core of the wall consists of gravelly material with a large amount of coal slack and dust, in which the stones are bedded. Only the shelf at the top was plastered originally, though the walls were later consolidated with pointing and rendering on both faces, and they have been repaired in mortared work or brickwork in many places.

The floor area is 5.9 x 3.65 m (The shorter of these measurements, 12 ft, is a roof span dimension frequently found in cottages.) The original roof members consist of hip and common rafters, wallplates, and a tie beam of birch end ash timber, with much of their bark still adhering. Nailed lap joints are used throughout. Many of the rafters have been replaced and the tiles relaid several times. The ridge is a timber board made out of two short pieces nailed together. Similar pieces of board are nailed across the corner joints of the wall plates. During later alterations new purlins were added. The covering was evidently tiles from the first. They are hand-made tiles, with two nibs but no nailholes, one tile carrying a maker's stamp, as yet unidentified, in the form of a horseshoe. The hip 'bonnet' tiles and the ridge tiles are not original. There was at first no ceiling, the tiles being visible from beneath. Several types of hand-and-machine-made wrought iron nail were used in the roof carpentry; these help to distinguish the phases of alteration work.



The original partitioning arrangement in the cottage is not yet clear. At an early date a brickwork chimney was inserted centrally with a small cast iron kitchen range and a cast-iron fireplace. The tie beam and the ridge were both cut to admit the chimney. Later alterations, subsequent to the introduction of wallpaper in the cottage, include the addition of a ceiling on the underside of the rafters and the construction of a third room and wash-house, with a screen forming a passage to the extension.

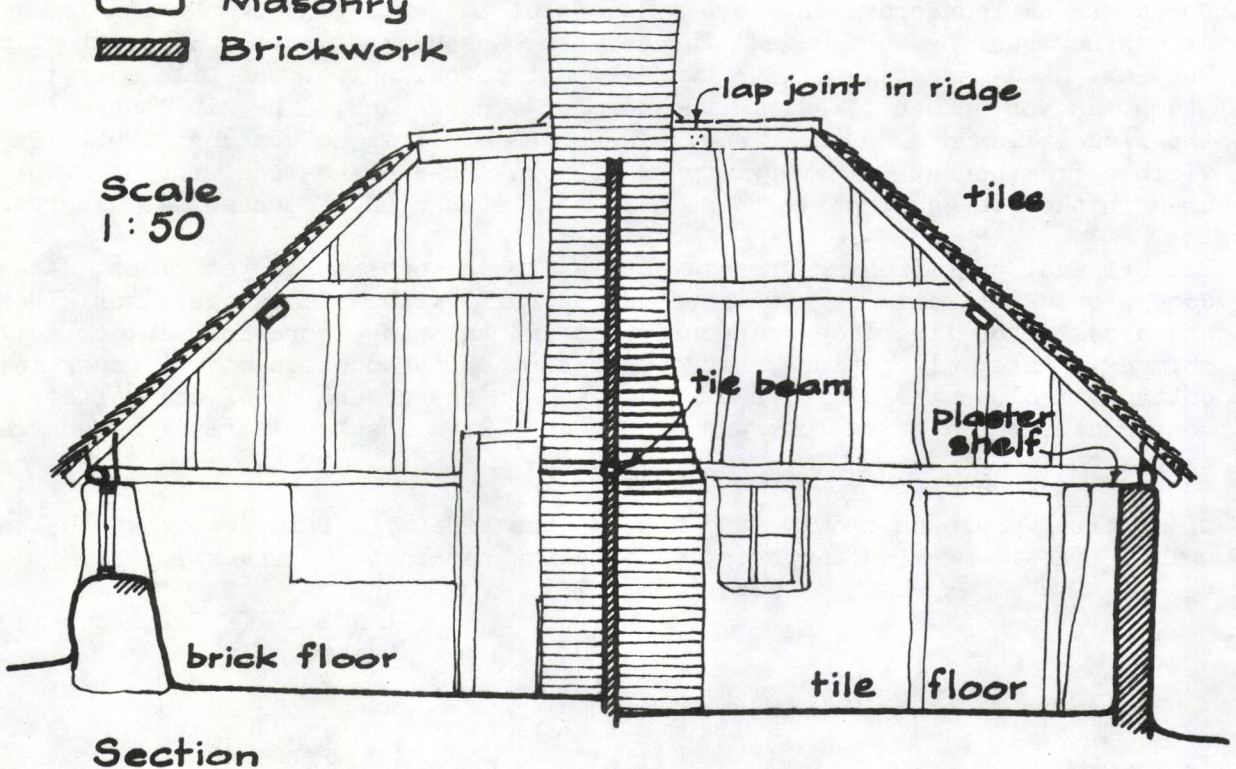
Dismantling proceeds slowly, and has, at the time of writing, reached the base of the walls. The floors and their sealed evidence remain to be investigated.

LANCE SMITH for Ironbridge Gorge  
Museum



COTTAGE AT LITTLE DAWLEY, SALOP.  
SJ 674056

-  Masonry
-  Brickwork



Scale  
1:50

## PERSONALIA

We are very sorry this year to lose Geoffrey Toms from the area. He has for so long been a figure in Shropshire archaeology and was recently Secretary of the Shropshire Archaeology Society. We wish him well in his new important appointment as Education Officer for the Museum of London.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Coventry: Archaeology and Development by M. Rylatt with Historical Background by A. and E. A. Gooder. ed. J. Crickmore Coventry Corporation 1977.

This publication is the most up-to-date statement on the history and development of the medieval city. Despite all that has been written on Coventry, this is the first attempt to bring together the evidence from the historical and the archaeological sources and to assess the contribution of each to our understanding of Coventry. There is also a section on future developments in which the archaeological potential of each site is explained in terms of a set of defined historical problems and there is a brief outline of the circumstances leading up to the present provision for archaeology in Coventry. The report is academic in its approach but the aim has been to inform and interest as wide a readership as possible. Maps, illustrations and select bibliography.

Price: 80p. plus postage and packing.

Write for details to: The Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Jordan Well, Coventry.

## Publications

T. R. Slater and C. Wilson

Archaeology and Development in Stratford-upon-Avon, 1977 published by the Department of Geography, University of Birmingham. 51 pages, 8 plates unpriced. This booklet is a very useful survey of our knowledge of the history and archaeology of this town, the importance of which was much overweighed by one of its 16th C. citizens. It is a little odd to find that the archaeology is tacked on to the Historical section as a kind of tail-piece instead of considering the human occupation of the site as a continuous development. It is otherwise well arranged with attractive illustrations, the modern plans are businesslike but not so appealing to the eye. One hopes that it will make some impact on the local planners and the citizen body: maybe it is not quite glossy enough. Price - 95p.

## PUBLICATIONS OF WEST MIDLANDS INTEREST

Pottery and Early Commerce ed. D. P. S. Peacock, Academic Press 1977. Includes a paper by Alan Vince. 'Medieval and Post Medieval Ceramic Industry of the Malvern Region. The Study of Ware and its Distribution', pp 257-306. It deals with pottery, floor, roof and ridge tiles from the 12th to the 16th C.

Journal of Roman Studies

J.K. St. Joseph

67(1977), 125-161.

Air Reconnaissance in Roman Britain, 1973-76, includes military sites in Wales and its approaches and remarkable new photographs of Wroxeter (Pl XV.2) and Kenchester (P. XVIII, 2). An offprint of this valuable paper can be obtained from the Secretary, Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1 for £1.50.

Anglo-Saxon England

P. Sims-Williams

5 (1976)

Cuthswith, 7th C. Abbess of Inkberrow, near Worcester and the Würzburg manuscript of Jerome on Ecclesiastes.

## LATE ENTRY

### Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit New Organisation

A year of administrative change has seen the completion of the evolutionary process whereby the former WEMRAC excavation team, a group of professional archaeologists controlled by a committee (cf Rescue News 12(1976), 9) has become a DoE-sponsored wing of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology at Birmingham University - an organisation led by a Research Fellow and staffed by undergraduate trainees, and so far unique in this country. From 1 October 1978, the new style Unit will be based at the University, and its intentions there will be to contribute to field archaeology, for the mutual benefit of rescue work, research and training, in whatever way should prove most useful to project sponsors.

#### Elaine Morris

After three years in the West Midlands, Elaine Morris left in 1977 to study ceramic technology at Southampton University with David Peacock. She has laid foundations of medieval and post-medieval pottery typology in Shrewsbury, Stafford and Worcester, and her work, which is either in the press or will hopefully be so soon, includes some fine new methods of submitting excavated pottery groups for systematic analysis.

#### 1977 Season

During 1977, excavations and salvage operations were carried out at Lichfield; Theological College, Alcester, Caverswall and Stafford, Tipping Street; trainees assisted at Worcester, Mancetter, Beckford, Kenchester and Droitwich and post-excavation work was carried forward on material from Droitwich, Stretton-on-Fosse, Lichfield, Mancetter, Kenchester, Worcester and Beckford. The new year is expected to include work at Bidford-on-Avon (early Saxon, under S. Hirst); Wombridge Priory (medieval iron foundry), Shobdon Court (undated earthworks), Stafford Castle (survey and earthworks), and Lichfield, St. Michaels (excavation and survey).

Our thanks to the Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Birmingham University for their support during the year, and to excavation directors, particularly Dave Freezer, Philip Rahtz, Jan Wills, John Sawle, and Kay Hartley, who have directly or indirectly contributed a great deal to our training programme.

Trainees during 1977: (until 30 June 1977): John Clark, Nigel Baker  
(from 1 July 1977) : Debbie Ford, Liz Pritchard  
Peter Wilson, Mike Hodder,  
Tim Yarnell, Roy Hooper.

### Birmingham University Course in Practical Archaeology

1. The course of training in Practical Archaeology provided by Birmingham University and the Department of the Environment is designed to educate undergraduate students in the supervising, analysing and publishing of archaeological excavations, by employing them to carry out necessary fieldwork. The course lasts 12 months, is directed by the DoE Research Fellow in Archaeology at Birmingham, and is intercalated between the second and third academic years, so that the special degree thus takes four years. On graduation, students who have successfully completed the whole degree receive an additional qualification of 'Special competence in Practical Archaeology'.
2. Curriculum The course begins on 1 Oct. with a short formal training session, and each trainee then acts as an apprentice employed as:-
  - a) a 'site assistant' on a major excavation, normally a DoE sponsored project,

Woolhope Club Trans.

C.H.I. Homes

A.H.A. Hogg

T.A. Gwynne

R. Shoesmith

J. O'Donnell

R.K. Morris

J. W. Tonkin

M. A. Faraday

T. C. Hancox

S. Staffs Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.

S. R. Jones

Keith F. Brown

R. A. Meeson

Alan V. Morgan

J. Gould

Helen Bamford

41 (1973)

Herefordshire Vineyards

Hillforts and Herefordshire

Domesday Society in Herefordshire

The Yeld, Pembridge

A Border Knight

The local influence of Hereford Cathedral  
in the Decorated Period

Penrhos Court, Lyonshall

The Hearth Tax in Herefordshire

Ludford Paper Mill

17 (1977)

West Bromwich (Staffs) Manor House

Two Walsall Charters

Cruck-framed buildings at Seisdon and  
Armitage, Staffs.

An antler artifact for Hinksford, Staffs.

St. Bartholomew's Church, Blore Ray, Staffs.

A barbed and tanged arrow-head from Hints,  
Staffs.

Vale of Evesham Historical Society - Research Papers Volume VI - October 1977

C. J. Bond and A. M. Hunt

M. Lapidge

N. I. Orme

P. Braby

Recent Archaeological Work in Pershore

The Medieval Hagiography of St. Ecgwine

Evesham School before the Reformation

Churchwardens' Presentments for the Vale  
of Evesham Part II

Obtainable from the Publications Manager, Almonry Museum, Evesham, Worcs.  
Price £3.50

b) a draughtsman and analyst engaged on post-excavation work, and  
c) as director and author of a small project of their own.  
At the end of the year, the following September, the trainees return to University with either a portfolio of post-excavation work, a copy of a report in the press or both. This, and the continuous assessment of the course director is the basis of their certification.

3. The Status of the final qualification gained (at the end of the fourth year) is to be reconciled with the Council for British Archaeology's new 'Diploma in Archaeological Practice' which comes into being in 1978.
4. Monitoring of projects by project sponsors (including DoE) is carried out at the West Midlands County Officers Forum, where the balance between demands of rescue work, the demands of research and the demands of research and the demands of training is theoretically maintained.

M.O.H. CARVER



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