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(Part I)

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Edited by M.O.H. Carver

Council for British Archæology Group 8

Cover illustration: Grave goods in an early medieval inhumation at Wasperton, Warwickshire. (Hooper)

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Editorial Synopsis

Dominating themes among our contributions this year are Environmental Archaeology and Landscape Survey. James Greig and Sue Colledge give a review of the problems and achievements of environmental study which will serve as a blue-print for the region for many years to come. The results emerging from the Birmingham Archaeological Laboratory range from the evocation of the mesolithic lime woods to that of the diet of a 14th century Worcester burgess. A large proportion of the work has been undertaken over the past five years by James Greig's co-author, Sue Colledge, who has now been appointed to the "Origin of Agriculture" project at London University. Few excavations in the region are not in her debt for bringing to their sites her botanical initiative, her useful ideas and her tireless good will.

The question of woodland clearance is taken up in FORUM by Jim Gould who challenges the "traditional" view of neolithic clearance and later regeneration, pointing out that for SUTTON CHASE at least, the first clearance may have been medieval in date. Perhaps the Anglo-Saxon inroads into lime-woods suggested by place-names as cited by Greig gives some indirect support to thie view, as also, perhaps, does the identification of crop-marks as woodland enclosures rather than settlements mentioned by Hodder in his review of O. Rackham's new account of Woodland Management. (FORUM)

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Hodder's own work at SUTTON CHASE, Della Hooke's in the ARROW VALLEY and the School of History's at HANBURY continue to constitute the region's principal efforts at Landscape Survey. It is interesting to contrast Hooke's approach, which has so well served the Warwickshire SMR, with Michael Watson's excellent account of moated sites undertaken for the SMR in Shropshire. The latter provides positive historical results of regional significance which are immediately useable, and also gives a statement of survival and priority for a particular site-type which is invaluable for rescue archaeology. The ARROW VALLEY type of survey suggests less directly the ways in which archaeology can improve or alter the images of history, and Hooke gives important statistics on the limitations of her (high quality) fieldwork: only 24% of 74 new sites were located from field evidence alone. Hodder, in a FORUM parer, discusses the techniques of field-walking, which, it seems, is still the most accessible way of improving this yield.

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Della Hooke stresses that "the recognition of lost sites is only a small part of landscape survey", but the reconnaisance which fieldwork provides for settlement studies is bound to have an immediate attraction for archaeologists. The detailed flint plotting at KINVER EDGE

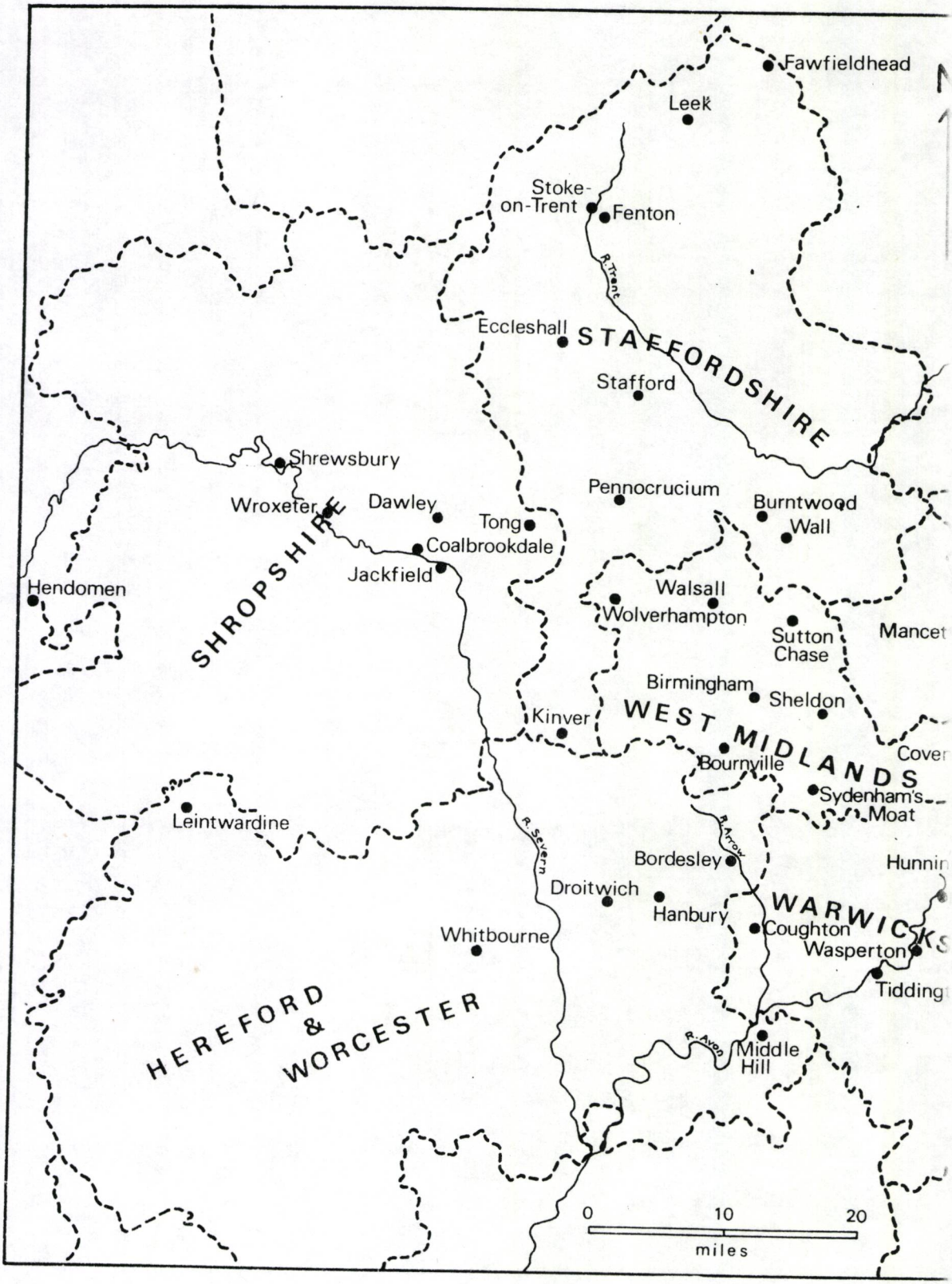

Fig. 1: The West Midlands, showing sites reported. (Hooper)

Guide to Work Reported

SITE		TYPE OF WORK REPORTED	PERIODS REPRESENTED									PAGE
			Meso.	Neo.	B A	I A	R S	E M	M	F N	Mod.	
Abbey Hulton	ST	chance find (wood object).										5
Arrow Valley	WA	survey (landscape)										2
Birmingham	WM	survey (burnt mounds)										5
Bordesley	HW	excavation/survey (abbey)										5
Bournville	WM	excavation (burnt mound)										5
Burntwood	ST	archit. recording (house)										5
Coalbrookdale	SH	salvage (furnace)										60
Coventry	WM	excavation (priory;defences)										61
Coughton	WA	survey (landscape)										64
Dawley	SH	chance find (flint)										67
Droitwich	HW	excavation (Upwich brine pit)										68
Eccleshall	ST	salvage (moat)										72
Fawfieldhead	ST	excavation (barrow)										72
Fenton	ST	excavation (pottery)										73
Hanbury	HW	survey (landscape)										73
Hen Domen	. (Mont.)	excavation (motte and bailey)										78
Hunningham	WA	excavation (moated site)										81
Hunningham	WA	trial exc. (pottery scatter)										81
Jackfield	SH	chance finds (pottery)										45
Kinver Edge	ST	survey (flint)										82
Leintwardine	HW	excavation (fort)										82
Little Dawley	SH	excavation (croft)										87
Mancetter	WA	chance find (tile)										88
Mancetter	WA	excavation (fort)										90
Middle Hill	HW	survey (settlement)										90
Myton	WA	salvage (settlement)										94
Pennocrucium	ST.	survey (forts)										94
Sheldon	WM	excavation (moat)										97
Shrewsbury	SH	casual find (coins)										100
Shropshire	SH	survey (moated sites)										35
Stafford	ST	excavation (urban)										101
Stoke-on-Trent	ST	archit. recording (urban)										147
Sutton Chase	ST, WA, WM	survey (landscape)										110
Sydenham's Moat	WM	excavation (moat)										112
Tiddington	WA	excavation (settlement)										17
Tong	SH	salvage (landscape)										115
Wall	ST	salvage (road)										118
Walsall	WM	salvage (church)										119
Wasperton	WA	excavation (landscape)										121
West Midlands Region	WM	documentary (environment)										153
West Midlands Region	WM	botanical (environment)										5
Whitbourne	HW	trial exc. (hill fort)										130
Wolverhampton	WM	casual find (axe)										131
Wolverhampton	WM	archit. recording (ice house)										131
Wroxeter	SH	excavation (macellum)										135
Wroxeter	SH	excavation (basilica)										137

is surely destined to locate settlements of the under-represented mesolithic and neolithic periods. A large Romano-British settlement found at the junction of roads near HANBURY was perhaps the predecessor of the medieval village. At MIDDLE HILL (North Littleton) a sherd density plot located another Romano-British settlement, and (less certainly) some prehistoric activity. The type of middle-range Romano-British "township" involved may perhaps be indicated by the excavations at TIDDINGTON where thanks to the determination of the County Archaeologist and the excavator, nucleated activity - apparently agricultural rather than industrial - was defined within an enclosure adjacent to Stratford-on-Avon. The intensity of RB studies in Warwickshire (including Paul Booth's work on the pottery) will soon make possible economic comparisons and a model of settlement hierarchy for the period. Work of similar character, on the more difficult terrain of east Shropshire, might provide a valuable setting for the Roman high urban civilization which continues to be brought to light at WROXETER.

Another Romano-British settlement, also in Warwickshire at WASPERTON, has been seen to be one element in an evolving landscape which so far includes an RB field system, a "ritual area", and a mixed inhumation and cremation cemetery of the early Anglo-Saxon period. Here, the opportunity provided by large-scale gravel quarrying is being used to try to "lift" an entire "landscape unit" by excavation. A different type of opportunity, that of large-scale urban redevelopment, is being taken at STAFFORD, where excavations within the historic centre are designed to study the structure and activity of a late Saxon burh. The subsequent post- Saxon sequence, reported here, indicates frequent decline of the town as a central place, a theme to be further explored in studies of the "hinterland".

One of the most exciting achievements of the year was the sucessful location of the Upwich brine pit at DROITWICH. It now remains to discover the medieval diagnostic analogue to briquetage - the medieval salt-container - which should have been reaching such places as BORDESLEY ABBEY. Like Droitwich, Bordesley has high quality deposits which are not only providing the region's best excavated medieval cemetery (with preserved wooden coffins) but potentially a full range of industrial and environmental evidence of the type called for by Greig.

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Much of this year's evidence has come, as always, from chance finds and salvage recording: at ABBEY HULTON part of a medieval underwater structure, at DAWLEY a flint blade, at ECCLESHALL a moated site, at WOLVERHAMPTON a bronze axe and so on. The TONG archaeological group, following the line of the new M54 motorway construction under difficult conditions, investigated two enclosures known from aerial photography and added to their recording at the medieval sites of Shakerly and Tong castle. Material from most periods, including evidence for medieval bronze-working was recovered.

* * * * * * * *

Lastly, two new campaigns of research demand special mention. At Ironbridge the Institute of Industrial Archaeology, after consultation with BUFAU, has put a digging team into the field under John Malam with the aim of bringing the techniques of modern archaeology to these post-medieval studies. Some of the first results are reported here: at JACKFIELD the discovery of an 18th century pottery industry formerly ascribed to Staffordshire, and at LITTLE DAWLEY the excavation of a "squatter's" tenement or "slang", which brought to light an assemblage of the squatter's pottery and evidence for th way the site had been claimed from the ploughland. The exceptional group of 18th century pottery from pit 13 at Stafford is another indication of the potential which conventional archaeology has for this period.

At Stoke-on-Trent, Cameron Hawke-Smith has initiated an MSC scheme in which he hopes to record all the historic buildings in the city. The team will include a structural surveyor, so that as well as producing an architectural record of the buildings, and synthesising a social history from them, reccommendations on preservation and display can be made at the same time. The scheme, an exceptional example of the integration of archaeology with the publi interest, is described in FORUM.

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As always, the editor is grateful for the wide range of contributions offered to WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY. Short reports and notes of archaeological work of all types are welcome, and it is hoped that FORUM will continue to develop as a place where research directions can be debated in print.

M.O.H. Carver
20th December 1981

Environmental Archæology in the West Midlands

by James Greig and Sue Colledge

(A review of past and present work)

Most of the initial impetus behind environmental archaeology in this region came from Professor F.W. Shotton (now Professor Emeritus) and from his colleagues like Peter Osborne and research students in the Department of Geological Sciences, many of whom are now prominant in various aspects of the field (such as P.C. Buckland, M.A. Girling, H.K. Kenward, A.V. and A. Morgan). Although the work in the Geology Department was mainly concerned with the environmental changes connected with ice ages, archaeological work was also done there. The study of insect remains was started and pioneered by Professor Shotton and Peter Osborne, the latter being responsible for the first concentrated work on insect remains from archaeological sites (Osborne 1965, 1969, 1971a &b, 1973). Other archaeologically relevant work by Professor Shotton and his associates includes mollusc faunal analyses (Shotton 1972), studies into prehistoric alluviation (Shotton 1978) and on the petrology of stone implements (Shotton 1959). The establishment of a radiocarbon dating laboratory in the 1960's enabled the Department of Geology to make a great contribution to archaeology not only in the form of dates, but also in the understanding of dating methods and how best to apply the technique. Botanical work has also been carried out in the Department of Geology, sometimes on material recent enough to be of archaeological interest, mainly by I. Strachan (Shotton & Strachan 1951, Rowlands 1966, Kelly & Osborne 1964).

In 1967 Professor Shotton was instrumental in organising the establishment of a Research Fellowship in the Application of Scientific Techniques to Archaeology. This lasted for three periods of tenure before ending in a University economy drive in 1975. The first person appointed, D. Peacock, studied the petrology of ceramics. The second, B. Noddle, studied animal bones while the third, J. Greig, studied plant remains. All three are still active in the archaeological field. Environmental archaeology has been done in some other parts of Birmingham University occasionally, such as the work J. T. Williams on plant remains (Williams 1971) and of T.F. Spence and M. Nellist on human skeletal anatomy (Spence 1967). Work of significance for environmental archaeology in the West Midlands has been done other than at Birmingham University, especially the pollen analyses. The meres of Shropshire have been studied by Hardy (1939), Turner (1964) and by Slater (1972). In Shropshire and Cheshire work has been done by Birks (1965) and by Tallis &Birks (1965) on meres. Work on river valley sediments has been done by Pannet & Morley (1978) at Shrewsbury, and is in progress on sediments from the lower Severn Valley (Tony Brown, in press). In Staffordshire the King's

Pool, Stafford, has provided an exceptionly long pollen sequence, with other results from insects etc. (D. Bartley and A. Morgan, work in progress).

In the early years only a small amount of environmental archaeology was done on archaeologically associated sediments in the regio H. Godwin and his students at Cambridge studied some material from Wall (Godwin 1964-5); medieval material from Chester was studied by G. Wilson (1975), and the contents of a Roman well from the adjoinin region, at Bunny, Nottinghamshire (Wilson 1968). Roman material fro Herford has been studied by Mitchell (1970).

With the appointment of S. Limbrey to a new lectureship in environmental archaeology in 1973, teaching in this field became part of the syllabus in the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology Dr Limbrey provides advice on soil problems on excavations in the re ion and has been working on the history of soil development associated with sites such as Beckford, and on the history of alluviation in Midland river valleys. This work is now associated with the project on the paleohydrology of the temperate zone in the last 15,0 years under the auspices of the International Correlation Programme, the Severn basin having been selected for the British contribution. Some of Dr Limbrey's students have been able to do useful work on environmental projects in the laboratory, which would otherwise not have been done for lack of time. The training of students in enviro mental archaeology has also meant that those who are now doing archaeological work in the Midlands have a reasonable understanding of what they need to do about environmental archaeology on site, which once again facilitates the work of the laboratory. There are on-site sieving programmes being carried out at two sites currently being excavated by BUFAU, and on material from a third one. Members of the BUFAU excavation teams are trained to carry out initial sorting as well, so that the material reaching the laboratory is in a state whereby it can readily be identified. The sieving and sorting provides good recovery of charred plant remains, and also small bones and artifacts. Dr Limbrey also has a charcoal collection which may be of great assistance when it is necessary to carry out charcoal identification.

In 1975 J. Greig was appointed to a new contract post in the Department of Plant Biology, University of Birmingham, funded by the Department of the Environment, to continue the botanical work he had started there, studying plant material from DoE funded archaeological excavations. In 1977 S. Colledge was appointed to a similar post in the same Department to concentrate on material from the midland area. This laboratory is one of the four places where plant material is studied for the DoE, the others being at York, London and Durham. Most of the various aspects of botanical environmental archaeology are carried out here at Birmingham with J. Greig specialising in pollen analysis, S. Colledge specialising in charred grain and seeds, and both studying plant remains preserved by waterlogging. A start has been made with the identification of

wood, charcoal and mosses but it will be some time before much work can be done - for one thing, it will be extremely time consuming to build up the necessary reference collections.

The botanical work is only a part of what needs to be done. Other aspects of deposits, such as the sedimentology, insect and mollusc remains etc. need to be studied in close collaboration with other specialists in order to achieve useful integrated results. Some of these specialists are working for the DoE as laboratory staff or contractors, others do work as consultants, and some work is also done in spare time, especially as student projects, (which is gratefully acknowledged). Thus, insect remains (for example) can be extracted here from samples and sent to specialists with their prior agreement. This collaboration works the other way round as well; some specialists send samples here (with prior arrangement) for the botanical remains to be studied so that the results can be integrated with the other data, such as that from insect remains. The extent of this collaboration can be seen from the frequent co-authorship of papers in the publications lists. This collaboration is harder to organise when people are working in different places, instead of together as at York, but it nevertheless greatly increases the amount of archaeologically useful information in the reports because the various lines of evidence often confirm each other, and increase the detail possible in interpretation. The area covered by the laboratory includes the West Midlands counties (Staffordshire, Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester, West Midlands and Warwickshire). In addition work is done on material from some of the surrounding counties such as Cheshire and Oxfordshire, Somerset, Surrey, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Humberside. The local sites are shown in fig.2 and table 1. The amount of excavation sponsored by the DoE rose sharply in the 1970's and the amount of environmental archaeological work needed is now more than can be dealt with immediately. It has become necessary to concentrate effort upon pieces of work which are likely to be of archaeological use and academic value, and hence the reports are usually fairly large pieces of work although few in number.

Work in Progress

Recent pollen analysis work here at Birmingham and at Southampton University has greatly increased the amount of background information available on the Midland landscape at various times in the past. Hitherto very little was known other than the fairly obvious statement that there was originally thick forest which was cleared by stages until the present slightly forested countryside came into being. It might have been thought appropriate for Mesolithic man, living in a very forested environment, to have sung "Hearts of Oak" but new results show that "Unter den Linden" would have been more suitable, for lime forest seems to have been the predominant vegetational cover. The evidence comes from pollen diagrams from unusual sites like river meanders which provide evidence from places which hitherto had none, like the

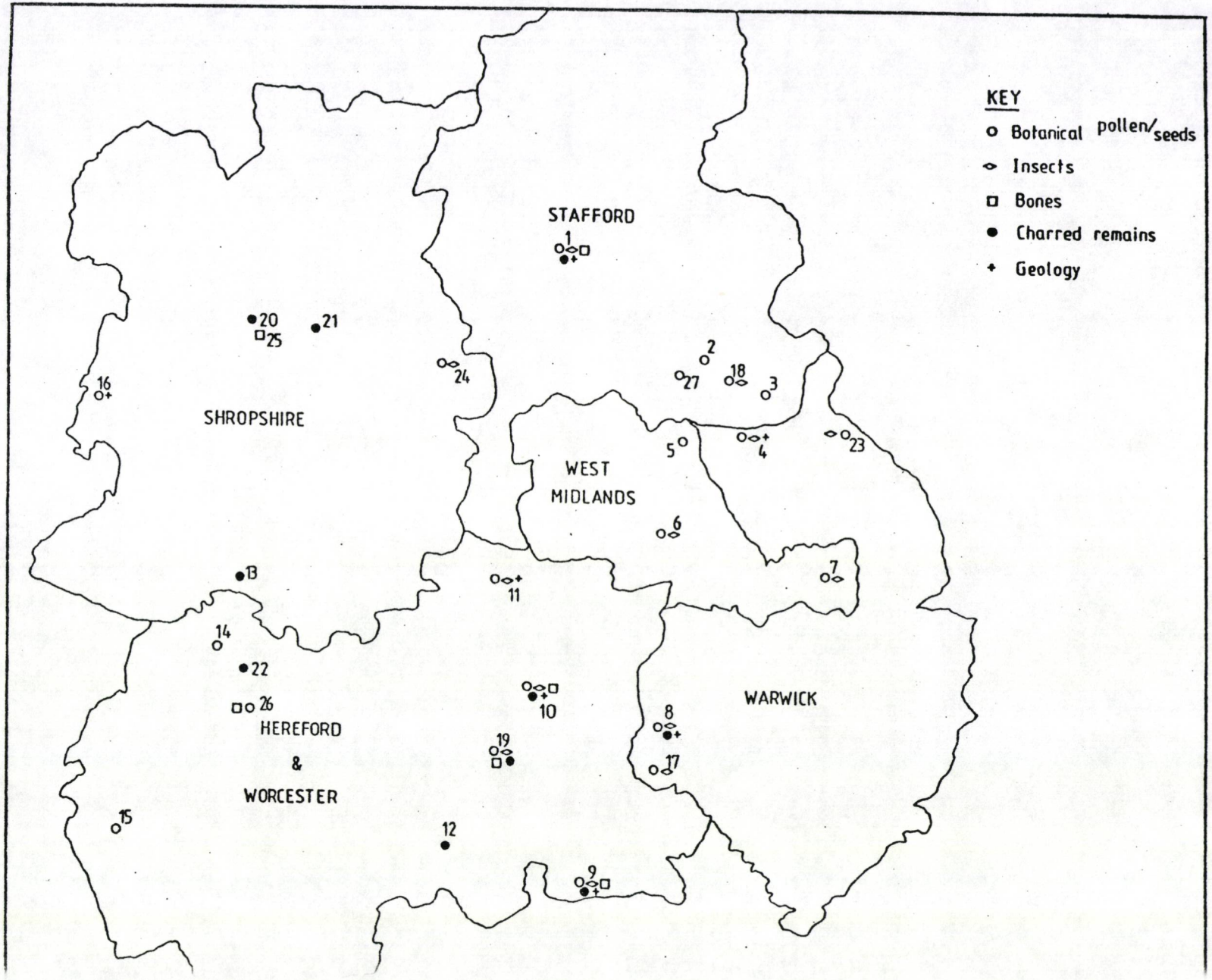
KEY
Botanical pollen/seeds
Insects
Bones
Charred remains
Geology
STAFFORD
SHROPSHIRE
WEST MIDLANDS
WARWICK
HEREFORD & WORCESTER
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Table 1.

LIST OF SITES

	Prehistoric (P,M,N.)	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Saxon	Medieval	Post-Med.
1) Stafford					✓	✓	✓
2) Lichfield					✓	✓	
3) Tamworth						✓	✓
4) Middleton	✓						
5) Sutton Park	✓						
6) Bournville		✓					
7) Coventry						✓	
8) Alcester				✓			
9) Beckford		✓	✓	✓			
10) Droitwich				✓			
11) Cookley	✓	✓	✓--→				
12) Midsummer Hill			✓				
13) Bromfield	✓N						
14) Wigmore	✓						
15) Gannols	✓						
16) Marton Pool	✓--→						
17) Bidford-on-Avon		✓					
18) Fisherwick			✓				
19) Worcester				✓	✓	✓	
20) Rigg's Hall					✓	✓	
21) Wrekin			✓				
22) Croft Ambrey			✓				
23) Mancetter				✓			
24) Shackley						✓	
25) Sharpstones Hill		✓					
26) Leominster						✓	
27) Wall				✓			

Fig. 2: The West Midlands: sites where environmental evidence

valley of the Severn (Brown, in press) and from the Stour, as at Cookley. Further evidence comes from the correction of the pollen results, because lime does not show up very well in pollen diagrams and its pollen records have to be multiplied several times before they give an accurate picture of its importance in forest cover. Further evidence still of this past forest comes from the present day woods with limes like Shrawley Wood, near Worcester. Place-name evidence may also provide evidence of lime woods present when Germanic-speaking peoples arrived, with names like Lineholt giving possible evidence of past lime woods.

Prehistoric forest clearance badly affected the limes, and also the deep soils which they grew best in. Large-scale soil change and movement is being studied by Dr Susan Limbrey in relation to sites like Beckford, which have affected and been affected soils. The changes after initial forest clearance must have often to the stripping of much of the rich soil, and the leaching of what remained to give heath in some places, like Hartlebury Common, and regenerated secondary oak woodland where the soil was too poor for sucessful farming, in others.

Prehistoric landscape change may also be shown by the organic material preserved at the Bronze Age Bournville site. This has proved rich in insect remains which are being studied by Peter Osborne, who has a particular interest in this period because of finds from sites like the Wilsford Shaft (Wilts.)of some insects which nowadays live in more southerly parts of Europe. Climatic change is extremely difficult to prove against the background of colossal landscape change caused by settlement, but this is a very promising study. At Bidford-upon-Avon some organic material dated to the Bronze Age has shown signs of a landscape almost deforested to present-day levels, although without associated signs of settlement.

The environmental results from more recent sites, such as Iron-Age and Roman ones, are providing evidence of the crops grown, as shown by charred remains. Sue Colledge is trying to find out what was being done in different parts of an Iron-Age building at Beckford, by an exceptionally detailed study of the charred remains from the whole area excavated, grid point by grid point. Several tons of soil were sieved because there were only a few grains per bucketfull, and hundreds of charred grain samples identified and plotted on the ground plan, hopefully to find out more about the Iron-Age.

At Droitwich and Alcester, deposits with charred grain will prove valuable; these have large amounts of chaff, and it should be possible to tell at which stage in processing this grain/chaff mixture was burnt, and consequently why and where. It might have been chaff used to fire a bread oven, or the residue from grain drying prior to threshing - it will certainly provide more information about activities in these Roman settlements, (Fig.3,4).

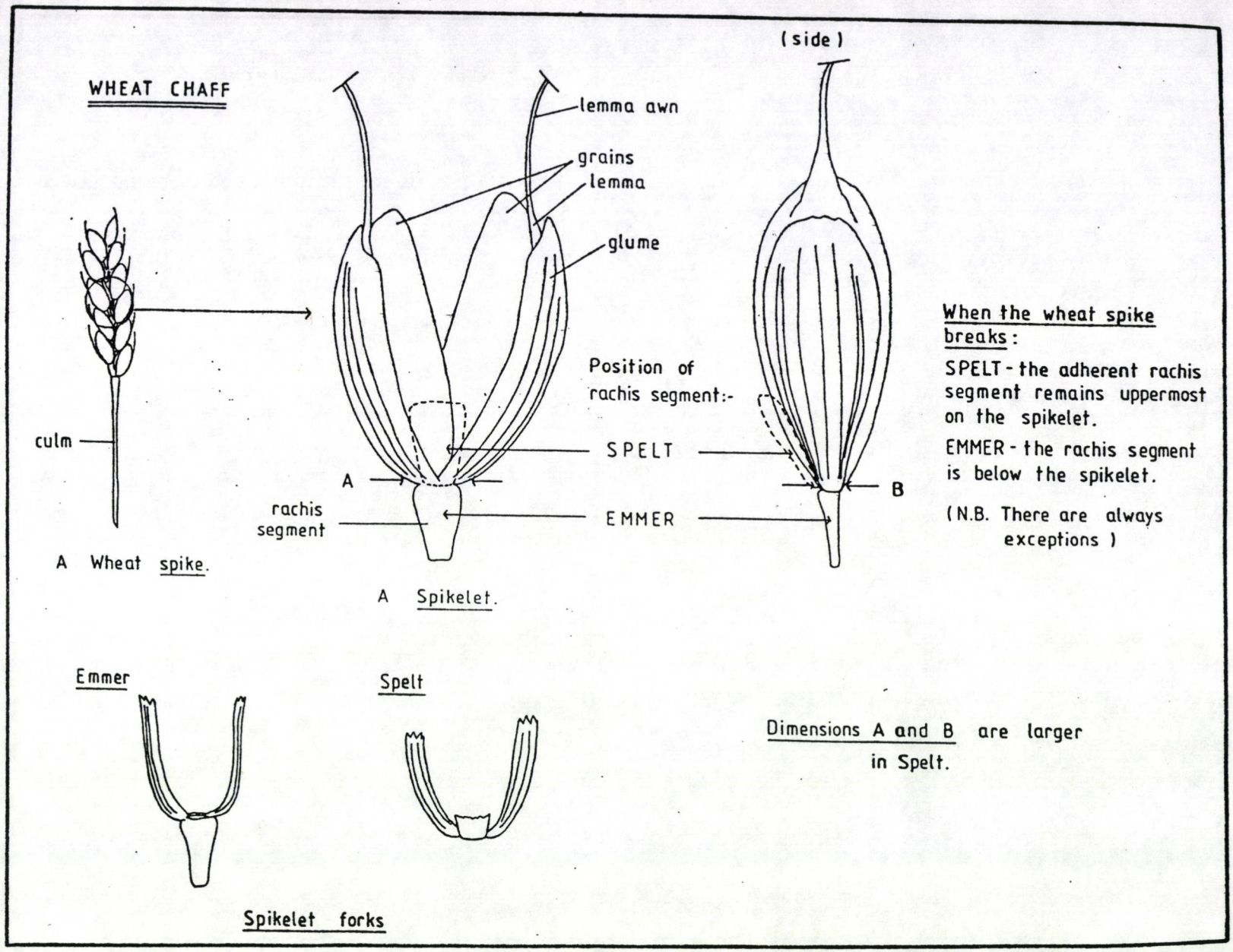
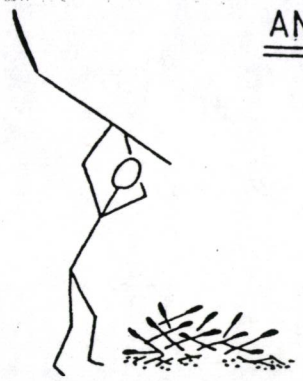
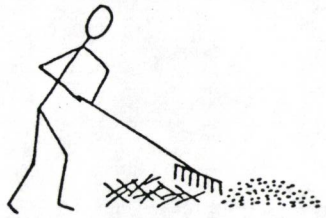


Fig. 3: Environmental archaeology in the West Midlands: the components of wheat chaff. (Colledge)

AN OUTLINE OF CROP PROCESSING (after G. Hillman)



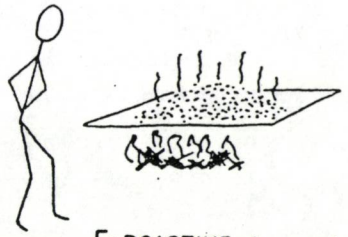
1 THRESHING



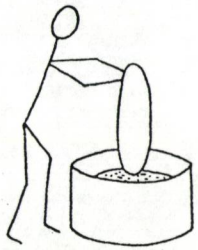
2 RAKING to remove straw

3 WINNOWING

4 COARSE SIEVING



5 ROASTING to render chaff brittle



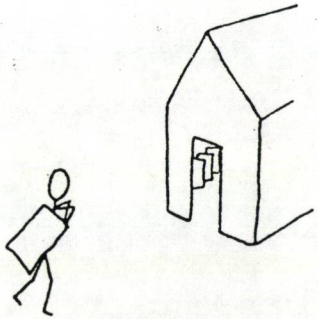
6 POUNDING to release grain from hulls

7 WINNOWING

8 SIEVING

9 FINE SIEVING to remove chaff and weed seeds

10 SUN DRYING to prevent



11 STORING

Food for thought, and even more direct evidence of human activities is provided by the study of the contents of a medieval latrine at Worcester (Greig 1981). Pollen analysis showed that the material was excrement with the eggs of intestinal worms (all long dead), and signs of bread or porridge remain as cereal pollen grains. Borage flowers (or honey) may have been present too. Some of the seeds are from fruit which would have been eaten whole, like figs, grapes (were they locally grown, perhaps?) and strawberries. Other seeds must have come from household rubbish as they would not have been swallowed, such as cherry, damson and food remains like chicken, herring and eel. Another site of this kind about to be pollen analysed (in association with Dr Mark Robinson at Oxford) has even more personal interest - the latrine is that formerley used by the sixteenth century Provost of Oriel College, Oxford.

Areas where more work is needed

Environmental material tends to come from fairly predictable types of deposit; Iron Age ditches, Roman wells and ditches, medieval and post-medieval ditches, moats, wells, organic floor deposits and latrines. All of these have their interesting points although some deposits, notably ditches, may show little of human activities in the surroundings, and are therefore now treated cautiously so as not to spend too much time on them unless the results seem to justify it . Most prehistoric deposits are of interest because of their relative rarity, as are Saxon ones. Charred grain is of interest almost anywhere where there is enough of it to be worth extracting, as are all latrine deposits.

Pollen diagrams from natural deposits are a very important source of information on landscape history, especially when done with an archaeological purpose from the outset. Hitherto there have been very few pollen diagrams covering the post-neolithic period from the midlands, but new work is adding new and unsuspected sites, often hidden under alluvium in river valleys. In the past, ideas of vegetational history have often come from pollen diagrams from the uplands of Britain, or from large areas of former wetland like the Fens. These are not very representative of the lowland dry landscape which was of most importance to the past occupants of this land. Some of the newly discovered pollen analysis sites in small wetlands have a much better chance of showing what the occupied landscape was like, and how it changed over the years, so this is a very worthwhile study in addition to the material from archaeological sites.

Fig. 4: Environmental archaeology in the West Midlands: model for open processes (Continued)

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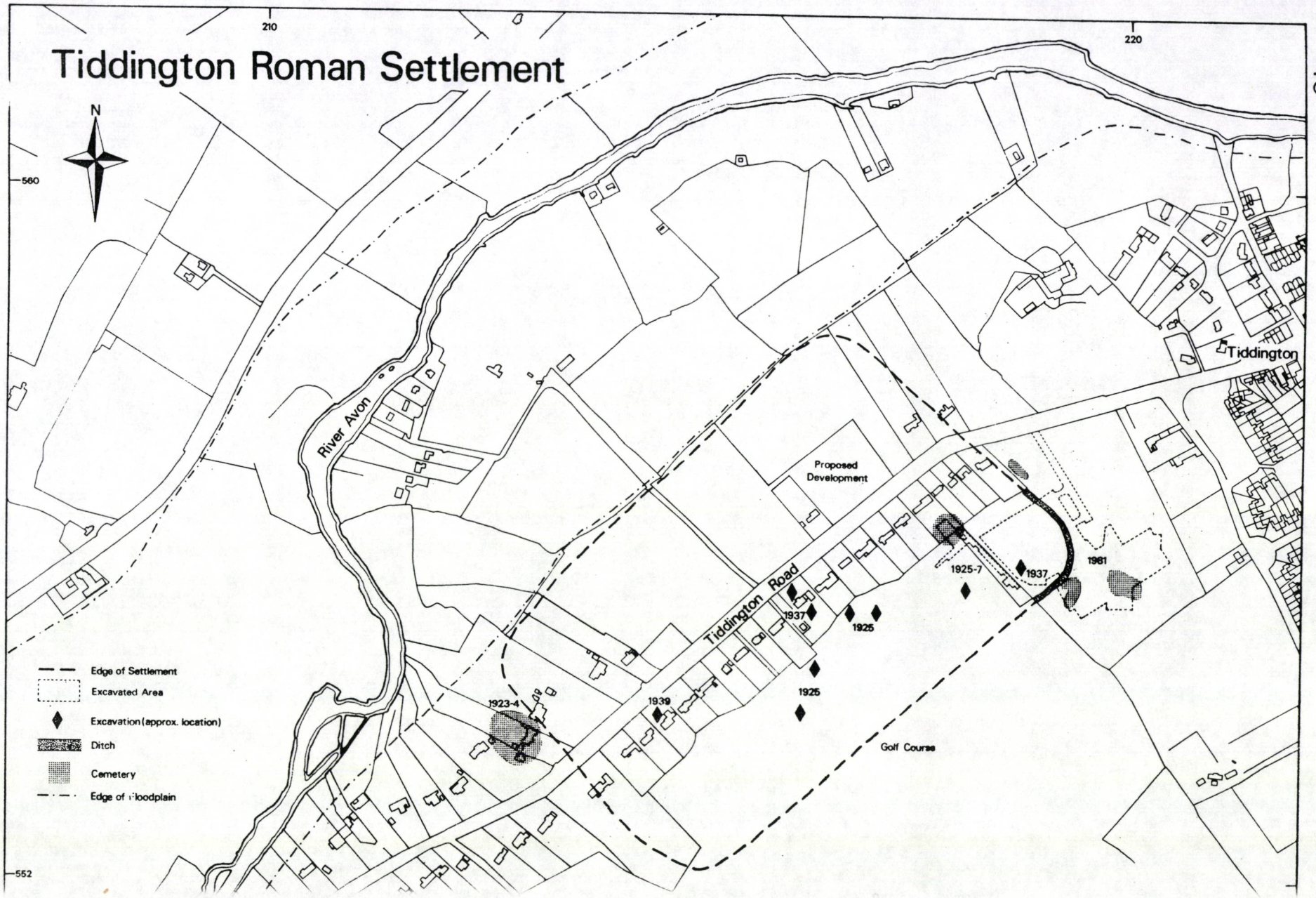
Tiddington Roman Settlement



Tiddington Roman Settlement: An interim report on Excavations 1980-81

by Nicholas Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

(Excavation of a Romano-British roadside settlement at SP 216555)

Introduction

Tiddington Roman settlement is situated on the edge of the gravel terraces, on the south-eastern side of the River Avon, about 1.5 km east of modern Stratford. It appears to be a 'roadside settlement' on a road running along the south bank of the Avon. Its exact position is curious in that the main Roman road from Alcester to the Fosse Way crossed the Avon 1.5 km west, at the modern bridging point, and one would have expected any settlement to develop there. However, it is possible that there was originally another ford at Tiddington around which the settlement grew up, but which later declined in importance, causing Saxon and later settlement to develop around the downstream ford.

Previous Archaeological Work (Fig. 5)

Chance finds from the site, mostly of coins, have been recorded since the eighteenth century, coming mainly from the field known as Church Leys, to the south of the Tiddington Road, west of the village. Collections of these made by Robert Wheler and Cuthbert Cove-Jones are held by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Systematic investigation of the settlement began in the 1920's when development along the Tiddington Road brought the site to the attention of F.C. Wellstood, Secretary to the Birthplace Trust. In 1923-4 he excavated a cemetery on the site of No.77 Tiddington Road (Bradley Lodge). The only records of this excavation surviving are a plan, showing about 20 burials, and a few photographs, but about 220 burials were excavated, mostly inhumations with some cremations. In 1925 when Stratford Golf Course was laid out much Roman material was found around the holes on the northern side of the course. Wellstood supervised this work and was able to excavate an L-shaped trench (c. 50m x 40m) in the north corner of the course. This uncovered dense domestic occupation and a group of ten inhumations including one 'headless' burial. In 1926 the work continued, and in 1927, when Wellstood was joined by Thomas May, a strip (c. 100m long) was excavated along the north-eastern boundary of the Golf Course. This encountered a stone building and features which were interpreted as evidence of tilemaking and iron and lead smelting. This excavation was published in 1931 (Fieldhouse, May and Wellstood 1931) and Tiddington entered the literature as an Industrial Settlement. However, in 1974, Graham Webster argued against this interpretation, suggesting that a supposed 'tile-kiln' in the stone building was more probably a corn drier, the iron working on the site was probably merely smithing, of a kind to be expected on any settlement, and that the evidence for lead working was unconvincing (Webster 1974, 53).

In 1937 Wellstood carried out further excavations in the fiel adjacent to the 1927 excavations. Finds from this excavation exis but no detailed records, although an amendment to the original 1927 plan suggests that the trench was opposite the 'tile-kiln' and unco more stone foundations. Later the same year Wellstood excavated th front and back gardens of 102, Tiddington Road, producing large quan of material, although again, no records survive. In 1938 work cont on another site, whose exact location is unknown, and a well and fu 'industrial' features were excavated. In 1939 there was another sm excavation at 86 Tiddington Road. Between 1939 and 1979 no further excavations took place, although occasional finds of Roman material accompanied building work along the Tiddington Road.

The 1980-81 Excavation (Fig. 6)

Preliminary Work

In 1979 when an application was made to build offices for the National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society on the 4ha field adjacent to the 1925-7 excavations, a magnetometer survey was carried out by Bradford University covering most of the field (Aspinall, Aspinall and Heathcote 1979). This showed a high density of feature over the northern part of the field dying away to the south. The mo prominent features were a large ditch, dividing off the north-west corner of the field, and a double-ditched trackway emerging from thi enclosure to the east. In 1980 trial trenches on the site were unde taken by BUFAU and Warwickshire Museum (Mather 1980).

Aims and Methods

As a result of this work and the granting of planning permissi for the new building, a major excavation was launched with the aims of discovering the extent and plan of the settlement and the buildi within it, deciding whether or not it was an industrial settlement a of collecting samples of artefactual and environmental evidence for analysis. It was also hoped that the excavation would be of more th regional significance since these 'roadside settlements' are a littl understood aspect of Roman Britain.

Since it was clearly impossible to excavate the whole threaten area, these aims were to be achieved by excavating selected represen ative areas before building work began. Initially, however, the ava able resources permitted no more than further trial trenches. Altho limited, these confirmed the feature distribution suggested by the m netometer survey, despite varying depths of topsoil, and showed that the survey was a legitimate basis for selecting the areas for detail work. According to the original development timetable, the north of the field was to remain available for investigation for longer, so t first four areas to be stripped were in the south part. One of thes was within the ditch where trial trenching had located a stone build and three were outside, one covering an area of rubbish pits south o the trackway and two covering areas of field system and burials (one

of these included a section across the ditch). It then transpired that the developer would require the whole field at once, leaving little time for further excavation within the ditch, which was now seen to surround the settlement proper. It was therefore decided that, since the magnetometer survey was much less sensitive here, because of a greater depth of topsoil (c.1m) a large area should be stripped so that the most promising part could be located for more detailed treatment. Eventually an area at the north end was selected, which provided a sequence of occupation and buildings from the first to the fourth century.

From the end of January 1981 an excavation team of about ten was provided by the Manpower Services Commission, which was supplemented from mid-march to May by up to twenty full-time volunteers financed by the Department of the Environment. With this team it was possible to excavate four of the five selected areas, to partially excavate the fifth and to clear and plan the final phase and selectively trench the large stripped area within the ditch. When building work began in June 1981, salvage recording was undertaken to plan features between the excavated areas. This proved effective outside the ditch, less so within, because of the complexity of the features and the destructiveness of the earthmoving machinery employed. Many features were also recorded in the sides of the contractors' drain trenches, although interpretation of these was often difficult.

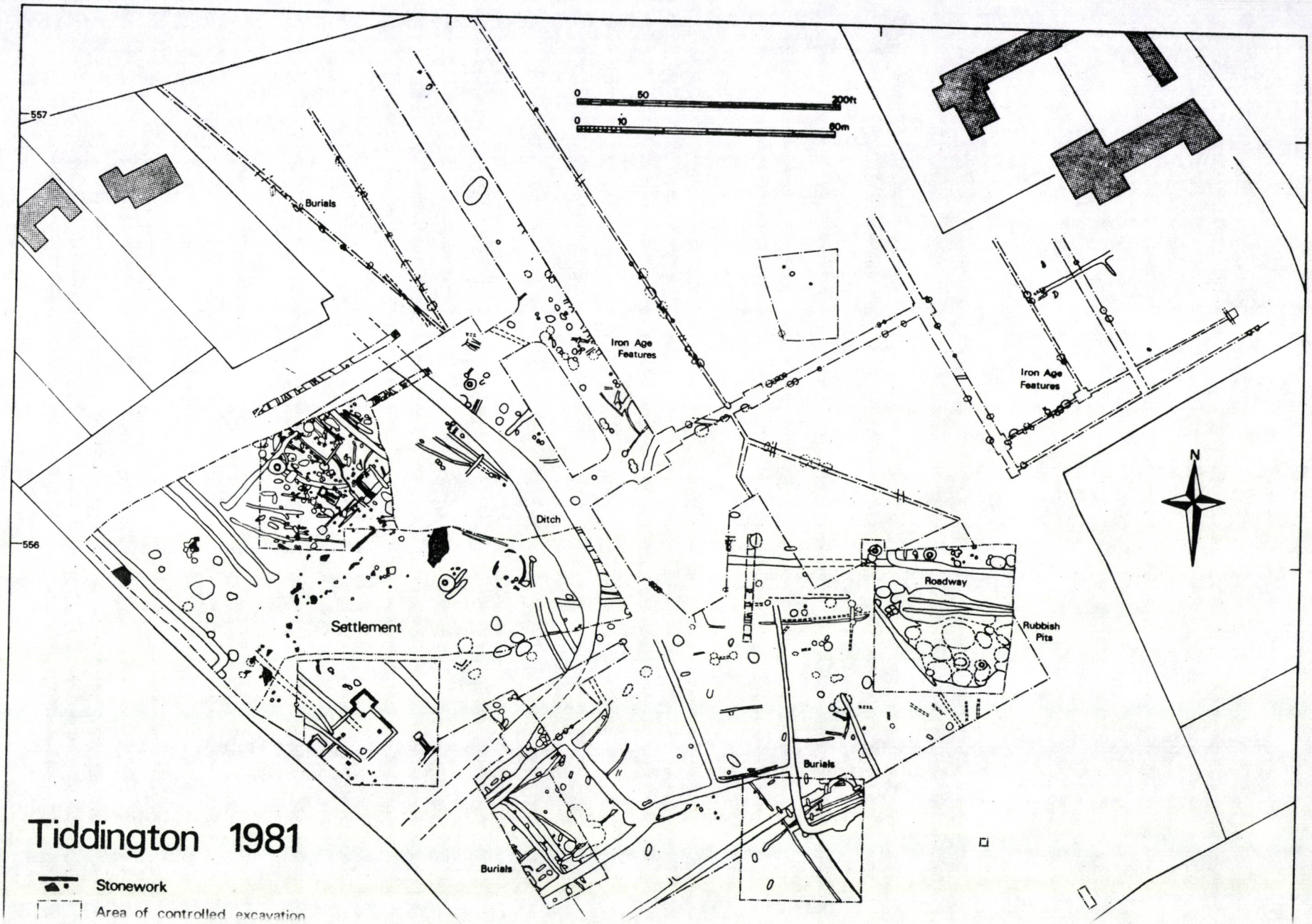
In spite of limitations in time and resources the 1980-81 excavations have considerably increased our knowledge of Tiddington Roman Settlement. Large representative areas were excavated and the salvage work produced a coherent general plan covering an unusually extensive area of settlement with associated rubbish disposal and burial areas and field system.

Iron Age Occupation

The earliest occupation on the site was Iron Age. The earlier excavations had also produced Iron Age material from over a wide area. This included four Iron Age coins which might suggest a settlement of some importance, but these may well have come from features of Roman date. The 1980-81 Iron Age features consisted of two concentrations of pits and gullies: one in the north-east part of the site, south of the farm; and the other further west to the north-east of the settlement ditch. The pits contained domestic rubbish, including, in many cases, quantities of burnt pebbles which were presumably used as 'pot boilers'. The extent and nature of this occupation is uncertain since it was recorded under salvage conditions, but the widespread distribution of material and discrete concentrations of features strongly suggest that it represents scattered farmsteads rather than continuous settlement.

Development of the Roman Settlement

The settlement seems to have come into existence in the first century AD along the predecessor of the Tiddington Road which is known to follow an ancient line (Slater and Wilson 1977, 25, 28). First century features, consisting mainly of rubbish pits and drainage or bound-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Stonework
Area of controlled excavation

ary gullies, were confined to the northern end of the settlement area. Presumably they related to buildings further north on the main road frontage.

The second century saw an expansion of the settlement. A roadway was laid out running out of the settlement to the east and extensive rubbish pits were dug beside it, both within the settlement and outside. In this period buildings began to spread into the northern part of the excavated area with the construction of a rectangular timber building (5.5m wide x over 11m long) set in a beam trench. Other buildings were supported on earthfast posts and post bases. These buildings were accompanied by more pits and ditches and a well. Occupation continued to spread southwards in the third century which also saw the periodic renewal of the post built buildings and the digging of more pits and wells. To this period probably also belong two stone built T-shaped corn driers. The northernmost of these was aligned north-west to south-east with a rectangular stone-lined stoke hole to the north-west. Its chamber was 3.4m long, 0.6m wide and 2m across the head of the T. It may have lain within a building. The southern one was similarly aligned, although its stoke hole was unlined and its head was cut by a later ditch. Its chamber, whose side walls projected inwards, was 3.6m long, 0.75m wide and 2.5m across the head.

In the mid fourth century the settlement underwent a major rearrangement. A large ditch was dug around the built-up area. This must have had a defensive purpose in spite of its irregularity, varying in width from 3-7m and in depth from 1-2m. It may also have had an internal bank, although no trace of one survived. The ditch ran across the roadway, whose line within the settlement was now obscured by new buildings. Overlying the northern corn drier was a long, narrow timber building (21m x 7m), set on rough post bases, with an internal partition and possibly a porch on its south-west side. Adjacent to this to the north-east was a small square building (5.5m x 5.5m), presumably timber built on a rough stone footing, with a paved floor. To the south was possibly another long building set on rough stone bases, at right angles to the other long one. Further south again was the only stone built building discovered. This was a badly robbed aisled building (15m x 11m), presumably domestic since its plan was elaborated with small square projecting rooms on its north-east and north-west corners. On the eastern edge of the settlement there were traces of two further structures: a rough oval stone foundation, which may have supported a stockade or rough building, and a rubble raft, with a stone-lined drain set into it, also presumably the base for a building, perhaps for animals.

The Area Outside the Settlement

Outside the settlement various fragments of field system were excavated. The most obvious of these formed small paddocks aligned on the back of the settlement and on the roadway. These contained a number of wells, presumably for the watering of animals.

Fig. 6: Tiddington Roman settlement: excavations 1980/81 (Palmer)

The area outside the settlement also contained burials. Thes apparently concentrated in the two southernmost excavated areas. Some were located in the area between them, but many more could hav gone unnoticed. Another group was located in the westernmost pipe back from the Tiddington Road and a single burial was found face do in the bottom of the settlement ditch. In all, about thirty-five b were excavated. Of these about six were cremations, half being bur in pots. Of the inhumations, two were crouched, the rest extended. Most of the latter were coffin burials. Two only contained grave g one a bronze bracelet, the other a cold chisel-like iron object; a third had a coin in the grave fill and a few others were buried in nailed footwear.

The other main use to which this area was put was rubbish dis The area round the settlement was dotted with pits and about 100m e (and downwind) of the settlement was an extensive area of pits, sou of the roadway and in use from the second to fourth century. These probably originally dug as gravel pits, to provide material for flo yard and road surfaces, and then filled with rubbish.

The Extent and Plan of the Settlement

The archaeological and topographical evidence does seem to pe a tentative reconstruction of the settlement. The fourth century d although a later feature, enclosed the existing settlement and give southern and eastern limit, which is confirmed by the cemetery/buri areas immediately outside. A western limit is given by the 1923-4 cemetery. If the ditch is projected an equivalent distance north o the Tiddington Road, the edge of the flood plain, which would have formed a natural limit to the settlement, is reached. It will be noticed that where the ditch would cross the road, there is a bend i the road of a kind common where roads cross settlement boundaries. There is another equivalent bend adjacent to the 1923-4 cemetery wh may, therefore, represent a western entrance to the settlement. Thi suggests that the settlement may have been roughly rectangular and covered an area of c.22ha. The main problem with this hypothesis i the 1925 cemetery which thus appears to lie within the settlement. However, the 'headless' burial suggests that this cemetery was very late and may therefore have been in use when this part of the settle ment had already been abandoned.

The alignment of features within the excavated part of the set lement also seems to support the theory about its plan. All the mai boundary ditches and buildings are aligned north-west/south-east, at right angles to the Tiddington Road west of the bend. This also sug gests that the property divisions within the settlement generally ru back at right angles to the main road. This pattern may have been complicated by the laying out of the road to the east, since some fe ures appear to run parallel to that, but the fourth century rearrang ment seems to have reimposed this rectilinear arrangement.

The Economy of the Settlement

The economy of the settlement appears to be based on mixed agriculture. Including that excavated in 1927, three corn driers are known within the settlement, and the paddocks with wells, the building with the drain and the possible stockade suggest the keeping of animals. There was no sign of large-scale industry. Although quite large quantities of slag were found among the general domestic rubbish, this appears to be smithing slag only. The small quantity of tile found is not consistant with tile making close by and there was no trace of lead working. Activities for which evidence was found include small-scale bone and antler working, spinning and weaving, and bronze working, although this last was probably no more than waste left by an itinerant bronze-smith.

The buildings of the settlement seemed to be mostly of timber. The only one of stone excavated in 1980-1 was the aisled building; this probably belonged to the same complex as that excavated in 1927. The buildings were probably generally thatched: relatively small quantities of tile were recovered. However, the occasional box tile fragment probably suggests the presence of a more substantial building elsewhere in the settlement. Two architectural fragments, a crude column base and a rough moulded plinth, were also found reused as rubble.

The finds generally reflected a middle level of prosperity. There were no outstandingly rich objects, although a good collection of brooches and bronze implements was recovered. The number of coins found (c.65) was not enormous, but a few imported luxuries were present. The querns were mostly local, from the Kenilworth/Coventry area, but included a few lava querns imported from North Germany. Samian represented very roughly 5% of the total pottery and there were small quantities of other imported wares, Lezoux, St.Remy and Rhenish. Thus while the economic level is less than that in towns like Alcester, it is higher than that of the rural settlements such as at Wasperton where the finds of coins, bronze work and glass are less and those of imported luxuries so far absent.

Further Work

Post-excavation work is proceeding on the material from the 1980-1 excavation. It is also hoped that the report will include some account of the earlier unpublished excavations and the finds from them. Permission has recently been granted for development of another site within the settlement immediately north of the Tiddington Road. It is to be hoped that excavation will be possible since it would enable examination of a large central area of the settlement interior; it would also cover the buildings along the road frontage, the one element in the settlement plan missing from the 1980-1 excavation, and would provide more information on the first century occupation, confined to the north end of the 1980-1 excavation.

Acknowledgements

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The Arrow Valley Project: An archæological survey

by Della Hooke, University of Birmingham

(Landscape history of the Arrow Valley SP 0862)

Field survey work in the Arrow Valley area of west Warwickshire has now covered a sufficiently wide area for a number of observations to be made concerning both the value of the survey methods used and the nature of landscape development in the area. To date four individual parish studies have been completed, covering an area of some 43 square kilometres. Complete parish studies cover the parishes of Oldberrow, Morton Bagot, Studley and Spernall, lying in the north of the study area, and work is now progressing in the parishes of Coughton, Sambourne and Kinwarton, parishes which lie to the north of Alcester. The work has been in progress since 1978 and combines a thorough documentary survey with detailed field study, while related sources of evidence such as early maps, air photographs, place-names etc. are also investigated. Although the study is no longer able to enjoy the backing of the Department of the Environment the field work continues to involve Extramural class students and a close association is maintained with Warwick County Museum.

The Study Area (fig. 7)

The River Arrow rises in north-east Worcestershire, its headwaters draining the Triassic Sandstones which fringe the Birmingham Plateau. For most of its course it flows over the heavy clay lands of the Keuper Marls but through an area in which interbedded sandstones give rise to varied relief. To the west a southward pointing spur of the South-Western Plateau Fringe forms the western watershed, much of it rising to 300-400 feet. The county boundary separating Worcestershire and Warwickshire follows this spur for part of its course. To the north-east the land rises steadily towards the Solihull Plateau, part of the extensive Arden Upland area of north-west Warwickshire, where again patches of upland rise above 400 feet in height. The eastern uplands are broken by the valley of the River Alne, which joins the Arrow at Alcester, but high land again lies between the Alne and the Avon in the south-east of the region. Here a relatively pronounced north-west facing scarp occurs where Lower Lias clays overlie a narrow band of Rhaetic Beds and Tea Green Marls. Beyond Alcester the River Arrow flows on for a further six miles or so before its confluence with the River Avon at Cleeve Prior and in the south of the region deposits of river terrace gravels are extensive.

That part of the Arrow valley in Warwickshire forms a clearly defined topographical region. Bounded to the west, north and east by high land, it lies open to the south. Here the river meets the

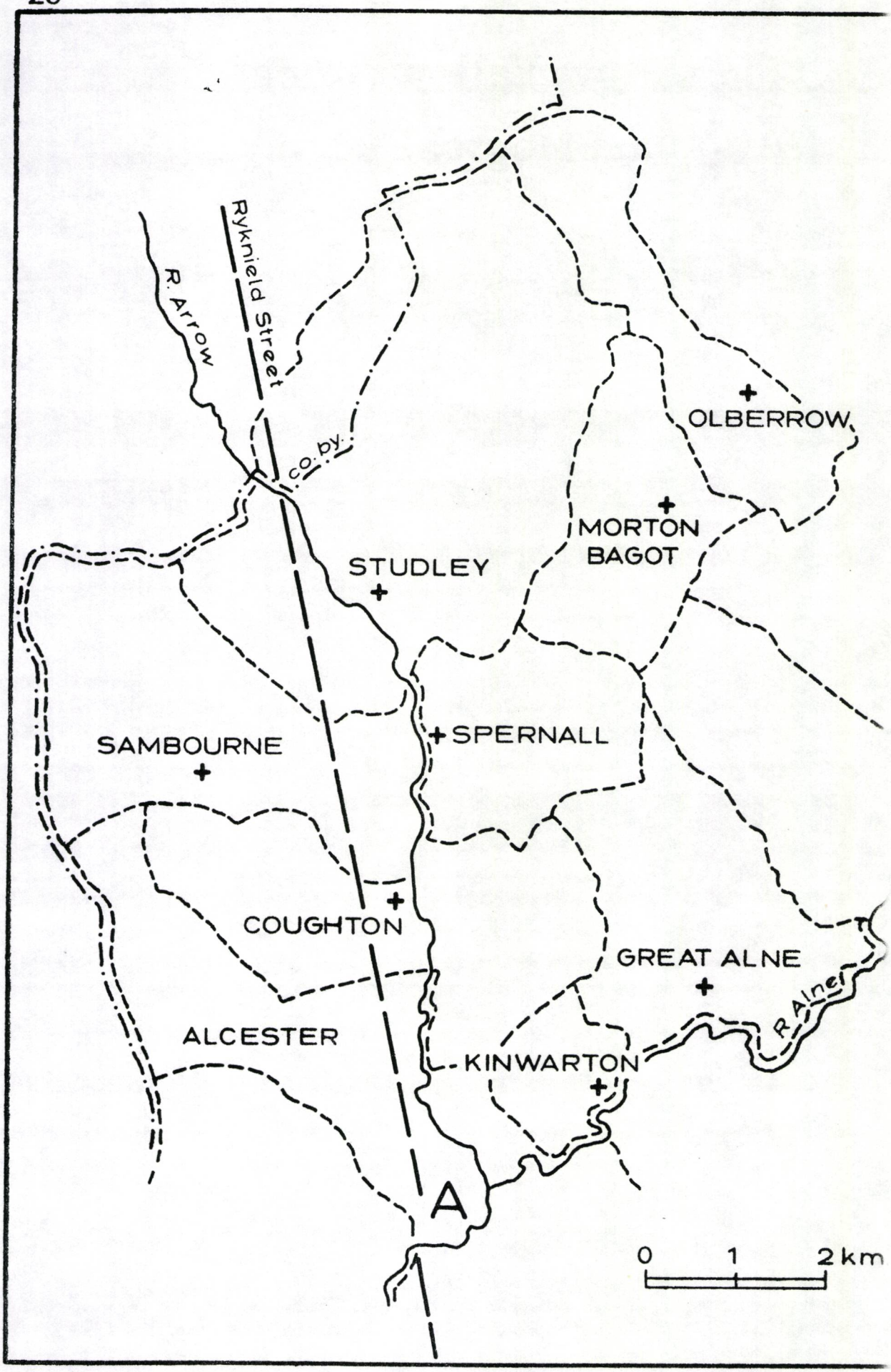

Fig. 7: Arrow Valley Project: study area. (Hooke)

main stream of the Avon, flowing across central Warwickshire and southern Worcestershire towards its confluence with the River Severn.

Historically, the valley of the Arrow lay between the heavily wooded areas of Feckenham and Arden. The royal forest of Feckenham in 1300 extended from Worcestershire into Warwickshire, its eastern boundary formed by the River Arrow itself. Arden was never a royal forest but the evidence of place-names and early deeds confirms the well-wooded nature of the area. Early settlement is at present most in evidence in the south of the area and development appears to have extended northwards along the Arrow Valley into the wooded areas of the Arden foothills. Alcester was to develop as an urban centre in the Roman period and the Roman Ryknield Street followed the valley northwards, crossing the Avon at Bidford. Romano-British settlement sites appear to have been concentrated upon the river gravels in the south of the region, but only further work will indicate whether the features known at present represent a true picture of the early settlement pattern.

Survey Methods

As the study is based upon both detailed documentary research and field investigation it is possible to make an evaluation of the relative value of these methods in contributing to an understanding of the landscape development (fig. 8). While source materials obviously vary in their availablity from area to area, it will be interesting to compare the results of this survey with similar ones being carried out elsewhere (Bond 1979).

In spite of a field-by-field study, little additional information has so far been forthcoming about the prehistoric settlement pattern of the area. Possible barrow sites, a site which appears to have been fortified in Iron Age times at Beoley, flints noted in Ipsley parish and several sites suggested by cropmarks, suggest some early settlement upon the southern fringes of the Birmingham Plateau, but field work has produced no further evidence. Known Roman sites occur along the gravel terraces of the Arrow where they have been detected by aerial photography and it appears that evidence of pre-Roman and even Roman activity in the parishes examined so far is only likely to come to light through below-ground activity. Pottery scatter has not produced a great deal of additional evidence and one suspects that the early levels may be well beneath the soil disturbed by successive ploughings, buried beneath layers representing both river alluvium and natural soil-creep. On the northern watershed, woodland clearance in the early and later medieval periods may have contributed towards excessive soil-wash and the River Arrow has been notoriously prone to flooding throughout the historical period. Although it has been deepened in recent years and its banks artificially strengthened, it is still often unable to cope with the amount of run-off it must carry, especially since the construction of Redditch New Town further upstream. Even sites suspected from cropmark evidence to have been Romano-British farmstead complexes have produced nothing

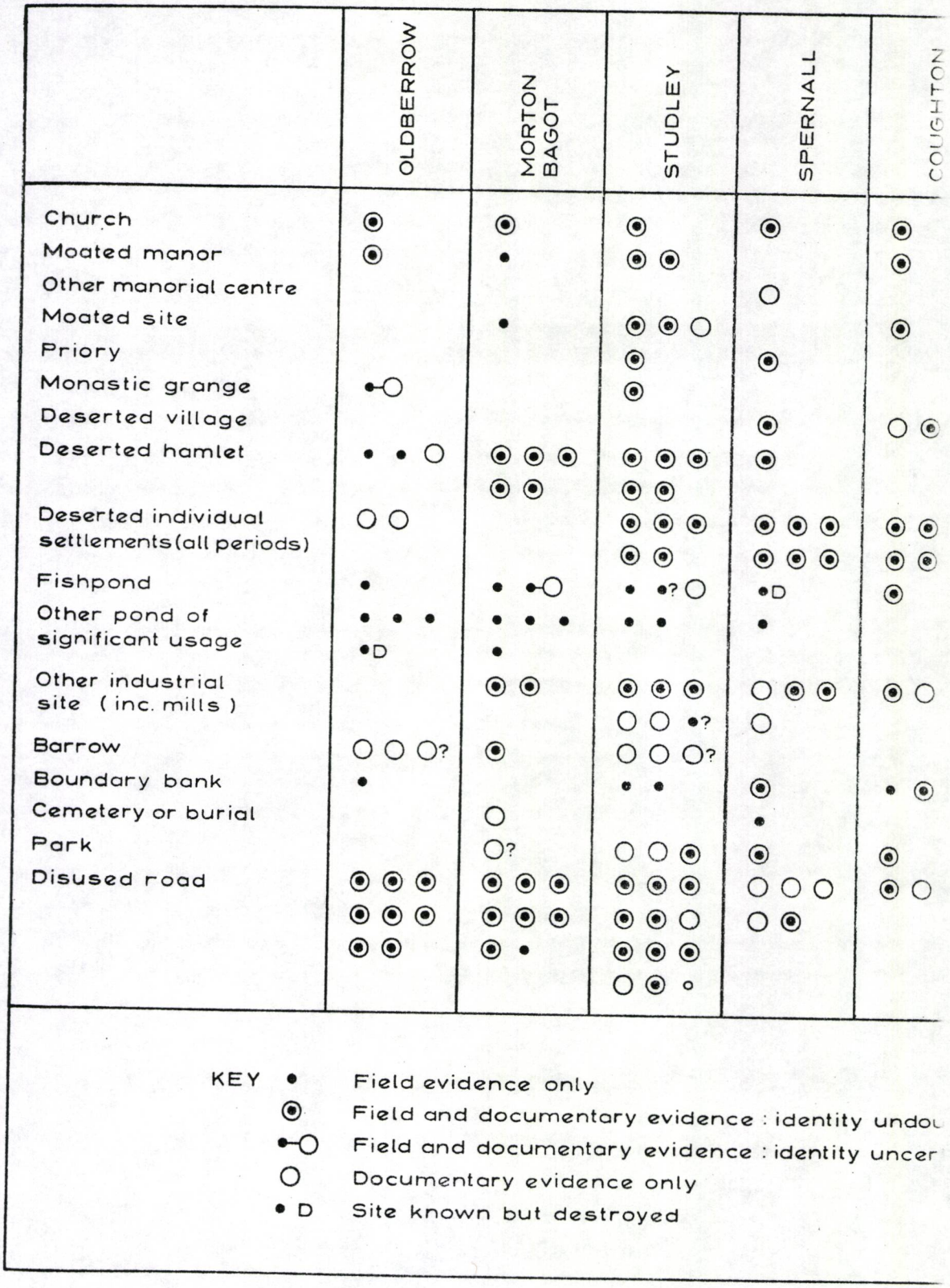

Fig. 8: Arrow Valley Project: relative yields from documentary and field su

more than small numbers of RB sherds. The only exception noted so far is a site in Sambourne where flue tiles and sherds of coarse pottery have been found in abundance. This lies upon a natural rise beside the Arrow where alluvium has not accumulated to the same degree as elsewhere and where regular ploughing is obviously reaching the foundations of a substantial Romano-British farmstead. Reports from "treasure seekers" using metal detectors in the north of the area suggest that many more sites may exist but it is unlikely that these will be found by field-walking. The survey has, however, succeeded in alerting landowners to the value of historical and archaeological evidence and to the need to report future finds to the county museum. In this area many fields are ploughed in the autumn for the sowing of autumn grain and it is only possible to cover a small area in the relatively short time available. Sherds of post-medieval pottery are found scattered at random throughout the area and can only be considered indicative of actual settlement if found in association with roof tiles or other similar building debris.

Most of the earthwork sites known so far date from the medieval and post-medieval periods. Much of the northern area remains under permanent grassland and many of the sites have escaped destruction because they lie in valley-bottom fields used as grazing land for cattle. Notable examples include a priory site in Spernall, the original site of Cookhill Priory, and the site of Spernall deserted medieval village. A number of valuable earthwork sites have been lost in recent years because farmers were not aware of their importance or identity. Sites lost in this way include a fishpond complex in Spernall and the foundation earthworks of a priory in Studley, but it is hoped that the interest aroused by the survey may help to ensure the survival of similar sites in future. Measured surveys have systematically been produced of all significant surviving earthworks. These include major village sites, one priory site and numerous features of other types, including fishponds, mill sites, boundary earthworks, moated farmsteads and minor settlement sites. Where relevant, plans are produced at a scale of 1:500, although several large sites have been recorded at a scale of 1:1000 in order to portray earthworks extending over a wide area. Field work has resulted in the recovery of the medieval road pattern and the recognition of numerous settlement and industrial sites which have failed to survive to the present day. Surviving features and buildings have not, however, been neglected and measured drawings have been made of many of the older or more important standing buildings,including a number of farm buildings whose future survival in their present form cannot be guaranteed.

Perhaps the greatest contribution of field work, however, is that it permits a more thorough understanding to be obtained of the general nature of the region and enables an investigation to be made of the relationship of settlement and land use to the natural terrain. How was the location of manorial nuclei influenced by access to water, routeways etc? How did factors of slope and soil-type affect the lay-out of arable land, woodland and waste? What factors were influential in determining the boundaries of an individual community?

Questions such as these are fundamental to a study of the landscap development of the area.

To be of value fieldwork must be accompanied by a survey of documentary and cartographic evidence, particularly, in the first instance, the latter. Within the study area 19th century tithe ma gave a complete coverage of the settlement and road pattern of the period for Oldberrow and Studley and were an invaluable source of name evidence. The Inclosure Awards available for Morton Bagot an Studley filled in details of limited areas earlier in the century estate maps of varying dates also provided comparative material. Particularly fine maps survive for the Throckmorton estates of Spe and Coughton, the earliest dating from the late 17th century and a fine series of eatate maps is available for the parish of Kinwarto (Slater and Bartley 1981). Additional information of value has bee obtained from a number of county maps such as the Yates' map of 17 the Greenwood map of 1822 and the 3rd edition one-inch map produce by Henry Beighton in 1750. The earliest Ordnance survey maps whic have proved most useful are the field-sheets, the reprints of the edition one-inch map (based on editions of the 1830's) and the 1st edition six-inch (1880's). On many occasions map evidence has bee available to confirm the nature of a site discovered by field work and examples include an 18th century iron-working site found in Mo Bagot and a mumber of mill sites where the surviving field evidenc was not entirely clear. Other sites have been located from the mo indirect evidence of changing field boundaries and converging foot noted from the cartographic sources. Air photographs have been fo to be less useful in identifying post-medieval sites apart from sh signs of ridge and furrow cultivation, largely because earthworks h often been obscured by vegetation growth. Where available, the pho graphs from the Cambridge archives taken by St. Joseph have given a excellent coverage of a number of previously-known sites. Photogr coverage of this area is still limited and the advantages offered b aerial photography cannot yet be fully exploited.

A thorough perusal of the documentary sources is a time-cons pursuit and the relevant documents for this area are now found in a number of different record offices and libraries. Although numerou documentary sources have been consulted in the present study, both published and manuscript form, it may be useful to note those which have been found to contain the most useful topographic evidence for landscape study. Amongst published sources, the ecclesiastical ter readily available in the volumes of the Dugdale Society often refer holdings of glebe land within a parish and may indicate the nature the post-medieval field pattern. Many of the more relevant sources of course, listed in the Victoria County Histories, which also on o asions quote details from documents in private collections or in t Public Record Office in London which are not so easily examined. M of the more relevant material has, however, been found in estate de and manorial records, much of it preserved in the archives of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust at Stratford-upon-Avon. The Warwick manuscripts have also been of use. Pre-Tudor deeds often give tant

alising details of messuages and fields which are very difficult or impossible to identify today but indicate the danger of assuming the antiquity of the patterns of land use which can be reconstructed from later medieval evidence. Manorial records such as court rolls, where they exist, are a joy to read, often providing not only detailed terriers of lands and tenants at intervals throughout the historical period but insight into the organisation of agricultural life on the late medieval and post-Tudor manor. Further details of this nature may be gleaned from Quarter Sessions Records. Estate deeds vary enormously in the quality and quantity of information they contain. It has been possible, for instance, to trace the growth of estates and the consolidation of holdings over much of the parish of Studley but such an exercise will not contribute greatly to the recognition of new field sites. Early histories and directories may contain material which could not have been obtained from any other source and may note 18th or 19th-century discoveries the details of which have not been published elsewhere. It is, for instance, a directory of 1874 for Morton Bagot which records the discovery of 24 human skeletons found some 40 years previously. Detailed 19th-century census returns permit an investigation of settlement at that time when used in conjunction with map evidence.

One rarely feels satisfied with the thoroughness of the documentary work carried out, but the amount of time and effort which can be expended on this will depend upon the aims of the individual survey. In any case it is important to retain a balance between detailed research work of this nature, the amount of field work undertaken and the time spent upon collating material and publishing results. Owing to the numbers of skilled and willing participants involved in the present study it is hoped that all sources of evidence have received a due share of attention. No study can be considered complete, however, until the results have been published in some form and made available to other workers in the subject. As an interim offering the following additional observations may be useful.

Work undertaken so far has confirmed the effectiveness of combining documentary and field investigation in any local landscape study, and it is quite obvious that neither would have been adequate alone. Excluding reference to the road or field pattern and to unverified place-name sites, the number of sites (as opposed to present-day features) recognised since the survey began has increased by some 71%. Obviously these vary in importance but of 74 major new sites noted 31 were notable sites of former settlement and others included mill-sites and substantial boundary banks. Of these 52 were located as a result of documentary or cartographic research and only 22 through field work alone. However, 42 of those suggested by maps and documents could have been located by their surviving field remains had no other evidence been available. When known sites are included in the list 74% of the total number are found to have been recorded in some written document, while 60% still showed surface indication of their existence. Only 24% were known only from field evidence.

The majority of sites may be classified under several s headings: Settlement sites: moated sites, manorial sites, mona granges, deserted medieval villages, hamlets or individual set sites, Romano-British (or earlier) sites; Other archaeological features: barrows, early defensive sites, cemeteries; Other ea work features: fishponds, other ponds, industrial sites, inclu mills, Park boundaries, boundary banks, woodland enclosures, l use features such as ridge and furrow, field evidence of the e road network, hollow ways etc. These form only convenient gro which will need adaptation as the evidence accumulates. The re nition of lost sites is after all only a small part of any lan survey, which must take into account present-day settlement an munication patterns and note the relevance of individual featu within the total landscape. Evidence of change within the lan is of course very often more noticeable than evidence of conti of land use.

Settlement sites

Each eatate in this area supported a manorial centre, u in close association with the parish church. Many of the manor sites were moated as at Studley, Mappleborough (in Studley pari Morton Bagot and Oldberrow. Two of these, the moated site nea Farm in Morton Bagot and Studley Old Castle, were apparently fo in the early medieval period, the moat at Church Farm resemblin ring motte rather than a motte and bailey-type castle. Moats a associated with holdings which were to become later sub-manors, Netherstead in Morton Bagot, Wick in Coughton and Studley Hay i the moat possibly considered a sign of status. The two priory known may also have been moated, the earthwork features survivi the original site of Cookhill Priory in Studley parish. Few mo vive in their entirety, the best preserved being undoubtedly th motte at Morton Bagot. A pool has been cut into one side and a earthen dam constructed, while a causeway has also been built a the moat to allow access, but the earthworks of the banks and m are still impressive, despite some silting of the latter. Only sides of the moat survive at Oldberrow Court in Oldberrow, Neth in Morton Bagot and Moat House Farm in Studley. Both square an shaped moats have been noted, perhaps indicating a different da origin.

Although the manorial centre was often to be replaced by farmstead by the late Tudor period, sometimes with an associate of smaller cottages, no sign of any sizeable village nucleus ha found in the northern parishes from either documentary or field evidence. The dominant settlement pattern remained one of isol farmsteads often occupied by substantial yeoman farmers. Sever hamlets appear to have developed beyond the original manorial n especially in Studley, where they included the hamlets of Haye, and Hardwick, the two former recorded by the 14th century. Num other hamlet communities developed as squatter settlements besi of roadside waste and more extensive areas of common, often hou

poorer members of the community. Many of the cottages were indeed erected in the 18th and 19th centuries to house the parish poor. Examples include settlements around Morton Common in Morton Bagot and Mappleborough Green in Studley. While depopulation has been most in evidence in such squatter communities some became the nuclei of 19th century artisan settlements associated with the growth of the needle industry in Studley. A new settlement focus had developed in Studley by the medieval period, established alongside the Ryknield Street in the vicinity of the Augustinian priory, but the growth of Studley town was largely a 19th century phenomena, associated with mechanisation in the needle industry and the development of associated trades. Today extensive industrial and residential development characterises the western section of Studley parish, part of which has been taken into Redditch New Town.

Village nuclei can be identified in the south of the area and most parishes appear to have supported at least one such community. Although depopulation is known to have affected Spernall by the 14th century some semblance of a village survived until the late 17th century, its earthworks preserved beside the River Arrow. A second hamlet cluster in the east of the parish survived until the same date. In Coughton field work has failed to locate the site of the presumed hamlet of Wick (if any hamlet nucleus did in fact exist) but has identified two deserted village sites in the east of the parish, one on the east bank of the Arrow which was probably the earliest settlement nucleus in the manor and a second near the present village, again beside the Ryknield Street. In Kinwarton a village formerly lay around the church rectory and surviving farm. Outlying farmsteads were also a feature of the southern parishes, although many of them were to be established at a relatively late date, those in Kinwarton post-dating enclosure in 1803.

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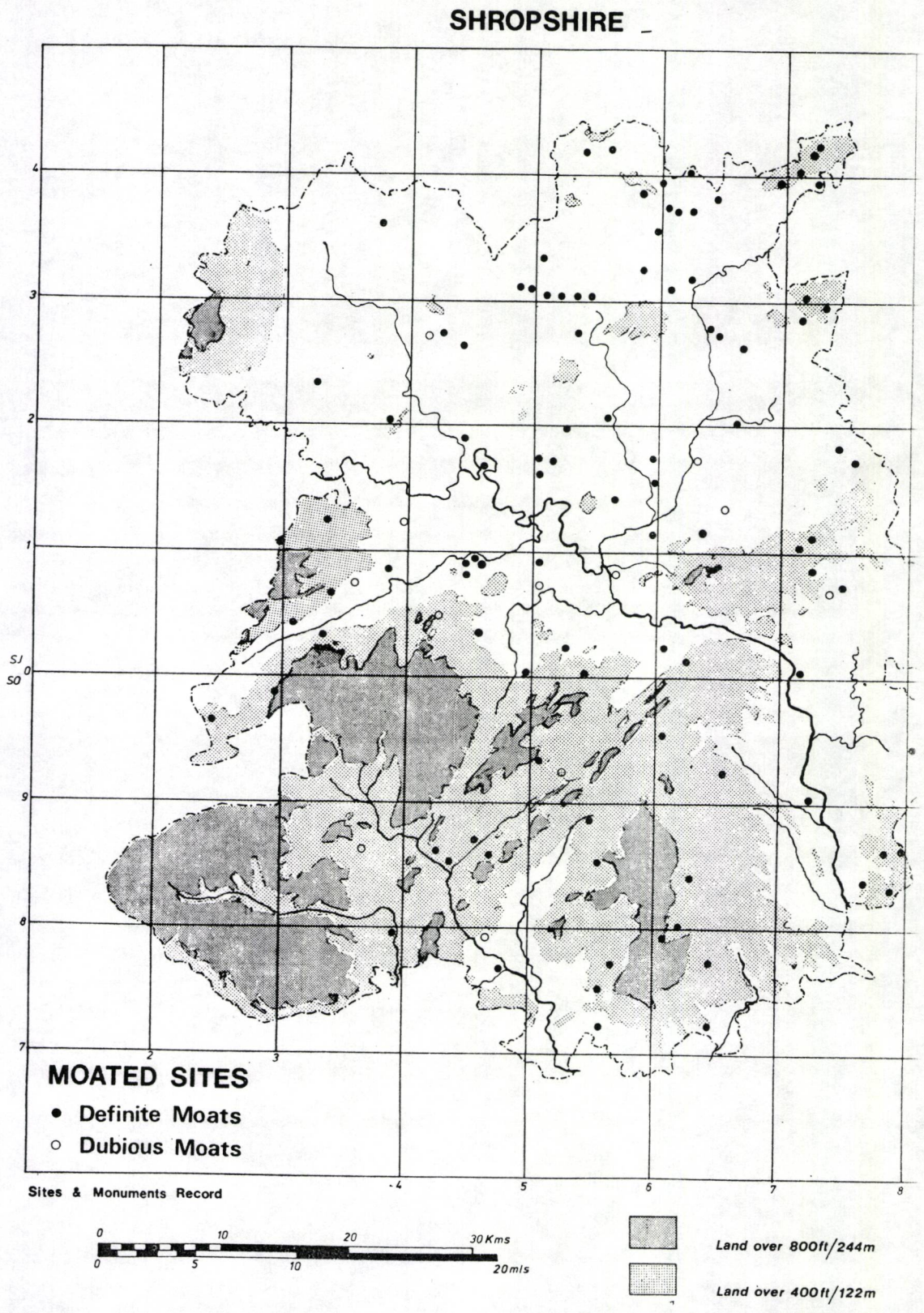

Fig. 9: Medieval moated sites in Shropshire: distribution. (Wa

Medieval Moated Sites in Shropshire

by Michael D. Watson, Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record

This report is the result of a survey of the medieval moated sites of Shropshire undertaken by the author as part of the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record during the winter of 1980/81. The principal aim of the survey was to provide an up to date record of the surface evidence of each moat to ascertain the extent of damage or destruction which has occurred since they were last surveyed, and to assess any future threats. Furthermore, a detailed field survey of each moat was necessary in the event of their being damaged or destroyed prior to any further investigation being carried out. For these reasons it was decided that the project would take the form principally of a field survey, with documentary research being limited only to certain secondary sources relating to known sites.

This is in fact the first comprehensive survey of every moated site in Shropshire to be undertaken, and its results have certainly been worthwhile. For apart from the aims outlined above it has also enabled the elimination of sites once thought of as moats but which are really of a different character e.g. mottes, dams, ponds, post-medieval garden features, etc. Moreover, the revised list of moats and their associated features has now provided a much needed basis for more detailed studies of such things as their density, distribution and morphology, and these various aspects will be discussed in this report.

PART A: FIELD EVIDENCE

In 1978 when the last gazeteer of moated sites in Shropshire was drawn up there were 114 known sites, 8 of which were dubious. (Burrow, 1978). The revised list resulting from the present survey reads as follows:-

Definite Moats:	104
Dubious Moats (where field and documentary evidence is uncertain):	11
Rejected Moats:	11

This makes a total of 115 known sites, 97 of which have upstanding remains. A number of new sites have been located since 1978 and the reason for the total of sites only increasing by one is that many more moats have since been rejected, not only those regarded as dubious but also sites once thought to be certain moats.

LOCATION

	A Definite Moats	B Dubious Moats
a. In village, near its centre	16	4
b. In village, near its edge	13	0
c. In deserted village site	4	1
d. Isolated	69	8

The majority of moated sites in Shropshire, 67%, are located in isolated positions i.e. at least half a mile away from a settle parish church. This concentration of the isolated moat is comm all the counties of the West Midlands (Roberts, 1962), and is g seen as being a reflection of the medieval assarting process. it would be dangerous to automatically assume that if a moat is isolated then it represents the home of a small independent col landowner, for manorial moats too can be situated in isolated p Nevertheless, in Shropshire it does appear that the isolated mo a meaningful relationship with assarting, and this will be disc more fully later. Conversely, not all moated sites associated settlements are of manorial status, although in Shropshire the of known manorial moats are so located.

When recording non-isolated moated sites it is important to not exact siting within the settlement i.e. whether central or peri to it, as this can often provide clues to the migration of mano sites and village growth and movement. A good example of this Acton Burnell, where the now destroyed manorial moat (SJ529021) sited at the present village edge. The peripheral siting appea the result of the construction c.1284 of Acton Burnell Castle a new manorial site c.500m. further east. In effect this transfe the manorial centre caused the village to move with it, as this formerly in the vicinity of the now abandoned moat.

However, if meaningful conclusions are to be drawn about the loc of moated sites it is essential that documentary research be ca out as well, for only when the physical and organisational aspe moats are studied together can we expect to truly understand the topographical relationships.

SITING

		A	B
a.	In valley bottom	11	3
b.	On level or gently sloping ground	76	7
c.	On hillside	2	0
d.	In elevated position on hilltop, ridge or spur	13	3

Level or gently sloping ground provides by far the most common s accounting for 72% of the total. The majority of these appear t originally been fed by rain-water, springs and seepage and tend located in ill-drained areas which would be condusive to water retention. But it is not uncommon to find them utilizing adjace streams as a source of water supply.

Only 12% are sited in valley bottoms, and in each case they lie close to streams or rivers, the island being just a few feet abo stream level. They are usually fed by diverting water from the directly into the moat, the overflow then being returned to the stream. The best example is at Westhope (SO466859) where the st itself forms one arm of the moat while an outer bank extends acr course to act as a dam bank, the stream also serves as a feeder adjacent fishpond.

Perhaps surprisingly there are more moats sited in an elevated position on hilltops, ridges and spurs than are sited in valley bottoms. But despite their elevated positions these too are usually situated to take advantage of impervious soils, existing spring lines, and water courses. The fact that these moats were indeed intended to hold water is emphasised by those moats at Sheinton (SJ623018) and Aston Rogers (SJ342065), both sited on ridge tops, whose moats were used as millpools for watermills sited below the moats at the foot of the ridges. It is interesting too to note that over half of the elevated positioned moats are of manorial status and we may be seeing here an example of status and wealth overcoming the limitations of topography.

MORPHOLOGY

		A	B
a.	Rectangular/Square	81	4
b.	Circular/Oval	11	0
c.	Triangular	1	0
d.	Concentric	2	0
e.	Miscellaneous	2	1
f.	Fragmentary survival	4	9

Simple rectangular or square moats far outnumber any other type, accounting for 83% of the total of those whose morphology can be determined. 11 moats are circular or oval in shape, and one site, Stanwardine (SJ427276) is the only representative of a triangular shaped moat in the county.

All but two of the moats are simple single island enclosures surrounded by a ditch, the two exceptions being the concentric moated sites at Court House (SO517948) and Northwood Hall (SJ493310). Both these sites have a central rectangular island surrounded by a much larger ditched outer enclosure, within which lie fishponds and various other features. Double island moats are totally absent.

Shropshire moats appear to be just as limited in size as in shape, for all but five of those whose original size can be accurately estimated have islands occupying 1 acre or less. Of the exceptions not one exceeds 2 acres in size. However, many moats have been subject to modification both in medieval and more recent times, so their present shape and size is not necessarily the same as their original form.

DITCHES

The size of moat ditches varies greatly but in Shropshire they tend to average between 6 and 10m. in width. Those which are exceptionally wide or narrow can often be shown to be the result of later alteration, as for example at Brand Hall (SJ692383) where the moat is only 4m. wide, and this is almost certainly the result of 18th and 19th century narrowing when the moat became a formalised garden. Others such as Petton (SJ443265) have partial widening of their moat arms due to recent sand and gravel extraction. However, some moats have very wide ditches which are clearly original, the best and most extreme example being at Cheswardine (SJ718300) where the ditch averages over 20m. in width. Documentary sources also attest to the widening of moat ditches

during the medieval period, for we have a reference to the wid the moat at Moat House, Longnor (SJ493002) by 12 feet sometim 1291 and 1298 (VCH Shropshire, VIII).

Ditch size also seems related to topography, and this is best illustrated at Shawbury Moat (SJ560211) which is sited on slop ground, and whose downslope ditch is much wider and deeper tha rest. This is repeated at many similar sited moats and is pro explained by the downslope ditch here acting as a dam for hold the water.

Original ditch depth and profile is often more difficult to de due to silting and dredging, and only excavation can really an these questions. The sectioning of the moat at Leigh Hall (SJ showed it to have been c.2m. deep (Burrow, 1979) and this appe an average ditch depth for moated sites, although a few Shrops moats such as Cheswardine and Syllenhurst Farm (SJ725427) are as 4m. deep to their present silt level.

Evidence for stone revetments lining the inner or both sides o ditch can be traced at 11 sites. These vary from a few surviv courses of rubble masonry along one moat arm as at Ightfield H (SJ599393), to a completely preserved ditch lining of ashlar m good examples of which are at Ludstone Hall (SO800945) and Moa Stapleton (SJ457035). It is quite certain that originally man moats had such revetments which have subsequently decayed or b robbed for their stone, and only proper excavation would deter their former existence.

A similar problem of survival is encountered when looking at o access to moats, as this was fundamental to every moated site. Evidence of some form of access remains at 40 sites, and by fa most common is that of a causeway across the moat ditch, usual form of a simple flat embankment between 2 and 5m. in width, t occasionally wider. At Court House and Hadnall (SJ522198) tra paving can still be seen along these causeway crossings. Howe would be dangerous to assume that all these causeways are original for some clearly post-date the abandonment of the sit others merely represent infilling of the ditch, again excavati be necessary to determine their true nature.

Evidence for bridge structures across moats is even more tenta the absence of excavation. In fact only four moats have physi remains, the most impressive being at Albright Hussey (SJ5021 the double spanned bridge crossing the moat is clearly medieva lower courses and contemporary with the ditch revetment. Exca however, has supplied information on two more bridges, each of being of timber. At Acton Burnell and Shackerley Mound (SJ811 remains of large and elaborate timber bridge structures were f one at Shackerley possibly having once formed the base for an timber gatehouse as at Lower Brockhampton Hall, Herefordshire.

BANKS, DAMS AND LEATS

It is quite common to find banks edging the moat ditch around the internal or external perimeters or even both. 30% of the m sites have these features, although the majority of these are c

banks. The few surviving inner banks tend to be fairly low and some of these such as at Park Hall Farm (SO557754) are clearly the result of deposited spoil from the cleaning out of the ditches. Others appear to be the foundations for enclosing curtain walls or fences, as is the case at Charlton Castle (SJ597112) for which a license to crenellate was granted in 1314. At Shifnal (SJ746073) excavation located a timber palisade running along the inner bank of the island, (Barker, 1964), while traces of stone perimeter walls were uncovered by excavation at the moated sites at Acton Burnell and Romsley (SO789832) (Tipler, 1979).

Outer banks are much more common and tend to be found on moats which are sited on sloping ground or level moats where the ground falls away to one side. These are usually located on the downslope side and appear to serve as retaining dam banks for holding water in the moat. Few totally encircle the moat, and those that do are much more substantial on the downslope than the upslope side. Generally these outer banks are much more substantial in size than the inner ones and can be anything up to 10m. wide as at Coston Manor (SO392798) and Alcaston (SO459870).

The problem of water supply has been overcome at a few moats by the construction of small dams and ponds isolated from the moat itself but connected to it by leats. These are usually in close proximity to the moat on slightly higher ground, but at Bellaport Old Hall (SJ709405) the dam is as much as 280m. away from the actual moat it once supplied. It is more common though to find leats constructed to channel water from a nearby natural water source into the moat, as for instance at Sheinton where such a leat carries water from an adjacent stream into the moat ditch. But in many cases the leats are outlet rather than inlet channels used for overflow and the control of water within the moat ditch.

INTERNAL FEATURES

Most moat interiors are flat and level with the surrounding ground but it is not unusual for them to be raised above the adjacent ground level. 22% exhibit a raised island, these usually being between o.5m. and 1m. in height, although at Blakemere the island was raised as high as 2m. A more common tendency is for moats sited on sloping ground to have their interiors raised on the downslope side but not on the upslope so as to form a level interior.

Where moats have no existing buildings on their islands it is still possible that traces of former structures exist in the form of raised platforms, and these can in fact be found at 11 sites. At Charlton Castle a whole series of well preserved building platforms are arranged around a central courtyard, together with the foundations of a probable corner tower. But not all such internal features are necessarily the remains of structures, for instance at Old Park Farm (SJ714005) there are a series of low banks and depressions which may be the remains of internal enclosures, paddocks or gardens, while at Court House there is a fishpond sited within the central island. It should not be assumed though that these remains are always contemporary with the moat, as was shown at Watling Street Grange (SJ722113) where limited excavation of internal banks and platforms produced no evidence for any structures pre-dating 1600, (Barker and Pagett, 1958).

BUILDINGS

	A	B
a. Medieval buildings	6	6
b. 16th to 17th century buildings	17	3
c. Later buildings	24	2
d. No buildings	54	3

Of the total of known moats in Shropshire 50% have or are kno had buildings on their interiors. Only 11 of these contain s medieval structures and these vary in size and preservation f lengths of walling as at Charlton Castle and Leigh Hall to co cruck built halls such as is to be found at Moat House, Longn addition to Longnor substantial timber built medieval houses at Aston Rogers, Crudgington (SJ629177), Whalleybourne Farm (and Wycherley Hall (SJ418272), while only recently a fine medi timber hall was demolished at Padmore (SO463794). Apart from ruined remains at Charlton Castle and Leigh Hall more substan domestic buildings of medieval date are confined to Apley Cast (SJ655132) and Silvington (SO620798). It is interesting to no that all of these stone built structures are of manorial statu there may well be here a correlation between building traditio social status. However, only a detailed survey of buildings w moated sites could really answer this, for at present the samp such medieval buildings is too small to make valid assessments almost certainly many more do exist hidden by later post-medie rebuilds and facades.

ASSOCIATED FEATURES

Apart from dams and leats which are an integral part of the fu a moat, there are also other external features which though no essential to its maintenance are nevertheless closely associat it. The most common of these is the Fishpond. 24 Shropshire have or once had fishponds attached to them, these usually bei single rectangular shaped pond separate from but closely adjac the moat. Others can be more elaborate consisting of a series interconnected ponds, a good example of which is at Little West (SO296987) with three such ponds. But the most impressive pond is at the moated ecclesiastical college at Battlefields near Shrewsbury, here, one third of the moated enclosure is given ov pond complex of 5 ponds each connected and containing small isl Similar ponds have been noted at other ecclesiastical sites, as instance at Bishop's Palace, Alvechurch, Worcestershire (Bond,

Not all these ponds were necessarily solely for the purpose of keeping, some may in fact have doubled up as millponds. For ex Romsley where sited c.180m. from the moat is a complicated syst fishponds set astride a stream course and which appear to have adapted for use as dams for a watermill. At three sites there attached lake features, the simplest form being a large extensi the moat into a wide mere as at Syllenhurst Farm and Ludstone H But the most impressive is to be found at Court House where an now dry lake covering c.6 acres adjoins onto the outer enclosur concentric moat.

All but two of the moats are simple single island moats, but at six sites there are additional attached enclosures or annexes bounded by small banks, ditches and scarps. Such an arrangement is best seen at Aston Botterell (SO631841) where two conjoined enclosures defined by scarps and low banks lie attached to the south and west sides of the moat. Partially ditched associated enclosures exist at Langley Hall (SJ540002) and Park Hall Farm (SO563773), the latter having a possible bridge or causeway across its ditch. These enclosures may once have had various structures within them though no trace of these now remain at any of the Shropshire examples. However, external associated structures were not necessarily always within adjacent enclosures, and indeed at four moats we do have building platforms lying just outside the confines of the moat, these are perhaps the remains of domestic or agricultural buildings. At Langley Hall a whole series of these external platforms can be traced though it is possible that they may represent the remains of a deserted settlement. In fact it is not uncommon to find moats associated with the earthworks of adjacent deserted settlements, even though the latter are not a strictly functional part of the moat. Nevertheless, a detailed investigation of their inter-relationship would certainly repay dividends, and in Shropshire we have particularly good examples at Upton Cressett and Heath (SO557856).

Finally mention must be made of ridge and furrow and its relationship with moated sites. 21 moats, 18% of the total, are closely associated with ridge and furrow, and in most cases it lies around the perimeter of the site directly abutting onto the moat ditch. The importance of this is that it shows where contemporary arable land lay in relation to the moats. At five sites, Battlefield, Wollerton, Whixall, Moat House, Longnor and Lower Grounds Farm, the ridge and furrow actually overlies the moat itself, thus showing the abandonment of these sites and their incorporation into the local field system.

PART B: DISTRIBUTION AND SIGNIFICANCE

In order to make any meaningful study of the distribution of the moated sites in Shropshire it is essential to consider them against two distinct backgrounds. Firstly, topographical, their relationship with the relief and geology of the region, and secondly, historical, how they relate to settlements, manors, churches, tenurial boundaries, etc.

Geologically Shropshire is a county of great contrast and division. The major division being between the northern plains and the southern hills and dales, for which the River Severn acts as a barrier between the two. To the north of the Severn the Shropshire plain is made up of Bunter sandstones and Keuper marls overlain by a thick deposit of boulder clay giving rise to an undulating plain of 60-90m. above sea level. Towards the north are meres and marshy land where water is held by the impermeable sands and clays. It is on this northern plain that the densest concentration of moated sites lies, 47% of the total number of moats being located in this region.

Along the mid-Severn valley lies the carboniferous coal measures. In the vicinity of Shrewsbury these are overlain by boulder clay and

correspondingly here too we find a small concentration of moats. group extends south west along the valley of the Rea Brook where are sited along the sides of the valley which cuts deeply though hills.

To the south east beyond the Severn is the eastern sandstone pla which once originally formed the ancient Forests of Morfe and Wy here we tend to find moats located in small clusters rather than general spread.

The region to the south and west of the Severn has two basic landscapes. Firstly, there is the highland areas of south centr Shropshire, which are a succession of high moorlands, plateaux a escarpments dissected by long wide fertile valleys. In this reg moats are much scarcer and tend to be sited in the valley bottom the extreme south west of the county is the steep dissected sand plateau of the old Clun Forest, and from here moats are complete absent.

The second and final region of South Shropshire is that of the C Hills which covers the very south of the county. These form an undulating sandstone plateau capped by basalt. Once again moats not common here but where present tend to encircle the lower rea the plateau along its east, west and south sides.

When it comes to relief the distribution pattern becomes much cle For 67% of Shropshire moats lie between the 200' and 400' contour further 23% are to be found between 400' and 600', while only 6% between the 600' and 800' mark. Of the remaining moats two are s below 200' and just one above 800'. It can be seen therefore, th majority of moats are located between 200' and 400', and this pat is parallelled in many other counties. With the exception of a v few in the south of the county all these low altitude moats are situated on the low lying ill drained northern plain, where in fa densest concentration of moats is to be found, and where only thr sited above the 400' contour. On first reflection it thus appear the distribution of moats in Shropshire is purely a response to r and geology, with low lying ill drained land being the prerequisi However, it would be dangerous to rely solely on topographical evidence, for when we study the historical evidence as well it be clear that there may be additional reasons for their apparent distribution.

It has long been appreciated, particularly in the West Midlands, moated sites tend to be concentrated in areas which were formerly forested regions, and that these probably reflect medieval assart farms established within these wooded areas at the time of their piecemeal clearance during the economic expansion of the 13th and centuries (Roberts, 1962). Significantly these assart moats are usually found to be isolated, that is not within contemporary med settlements.

In the medieval period Shropshire appears to have been well cover woodland and forest areas, particularly south Shropshire, where l extensive Royal Forests (Rowley, 1972). It is quite likely too t the boulder clays of the North Shropshire plain also supported so woodland, and although not as extensive as in the south there wou

nevertheless have been large areas of ill drained marsh and heath marginal land open to the assarting process of the 13th and 14th centuries. Therefore, if we are to accept that isolated moats tend to represent assarts then we should expect to find a fairly even spread throughout the county. In reality though the opposite is the case. In north Shropshire 72% of all moats are isolated as compared to only 44% in south Shropshire. Clearly there must be some reason for this difference in distribution and perhaps the answer may lie in the tenurial and social arrangements of the period.

In Shropshire there appears to be a distinct correlation between non-manorial moated sites and dense concentrations of moats. For instance in north Shropshire where the greatest concentration of moats lies only 19% are known to be manorial, whereas in the south they make up 40% of the total. What may be happening here is a tighter manorial control over assarting in the south of the county, the majority here being undertaken as part of the demesne rather than that of individual freehold colonisers as on the northern plain. However, we do know that large scale assarting was taking place in south Shropshire throughout the medieval period, much of which appears to have been under monastic influence (Rowley, 1972), and it could be that these monastic estates also exercised a tight control over the colonising process by freeholders. It is interesting to note too that a moat associated with a monastic grange is exceptional in Shropshire, (Barker and Pagett, 1958). Indeed of the five moats with ecclesiastical connections, four are located in North Shropshire, and only one is a grange. Therefore, extensive monastic assarting in South Shropshire is not going to be reflected in dense clusters of moats as it probably would under secular influence.

For example, none of the manorial moats of south Shropshire are low lying, all are sited between 400' and 800' and mostly within medieval settlements. This seems to suggest that manorial moats are here being sited regardless of relief in the central places of their landed estates and being moated as a reflection of their seignorial status. The expense of moat construction in such a setting was obviously regarded as worthwhile in order to emphasise their social position. Thus, it could be that the expense of moat construction in South Shropshire where the relief and geology is not so condusive to their building might well account for the reduction in the moated assart homesteads of the lower classes of freehold coloniser, the majority of these remaining un-moated. Conversely, the seignorial landowners would find no such financial obstruction, therefore explaining the greater preponderance of manorial moats in the south of the county. In north Shropshire, however, the situation is completely different. Here, the ill drained boulder clay of the northern plain would afford easy and relatively cheap moat construction, attainable by most sections of society. Hence, when these marginal lands were brought into cultivation during the 13th and 14th centuries, the building of a moat to reflect their new status would have been an attractive proposition to the individual freehold colonisers.

Another important consideration is the correlation between population, wealth and prosperity and the distribution of moated sites. Despite the inherent problems of any study based on Domesday evidence, it is possible to draw a general picture of the settlement and economy of Shropshire in the late 11th century. At this period it appear that the

fertile Upper Severn valley of mid-Shropshire was the most dense populated area and also supported the highest number of plough t it is also an area where moats are quite common. Remarkably tho the northern plain where the greatest concentration of moats is found appears along with the upland region of north west Shropsh have contained both the sparsest population and the least number plough teams within the county. In stark contrast to this south Shropshire which has proportionately much less moats was a far m prosperous region supporting both plough teams and a population double that in the north of the county. By the time however of early 14th century tax subsides this overall pattern has changed these show that the formerly economically poor nothern plain are by now equally if not more prosperous than the southern region a is probably the result of the reclaiming of the northern ill dra marginal lands during the economic expansion of the 13th century Significantly this agrarian colonisation and economic growth in Shropshire was roughly contemporary with the peak period of moat building nationally, and it may well be that the prepondernce of Shropshire moats in the north of the county is a result of the combination of these two factors.

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VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY Shropshire, Volume VIII, 108-9

White Salt-glazed stoneware manufactured at Jackfield

by J.P. Malam, Institute of Industrial Archaeology.

(Discovery of 18th century pottery industry in Shropshire)

The purpose of this note is to bring to a wider public recently discovered evidence on the manufacture of white salt-glazed stoneware, at Jackfield in Shropshire. As this is as this is an important eighteenth century ceramic type, traditionally and repeatedly ascribed to a north Staffordshire origin, it is felt necessary to release an interim statement at this early stage, in order to convey the possible consequences and implications of the discovery.

Jackfield lies on the south bank of the Severn in east Shropshire, in an area of considerable historic ceramic diversity, where the local clay reserves have been comercially exploited almost without interruption since the seventeenth century. Documentary research among primary sources has hardly yet begun, but a useful secondary reference occurs in Jewitt (1883: 180), where he is quite specific about Jackfield pottery:

> "The kind of ware made at Jackfield was a white stoneware, very similar to the Staffordshire make, and on some examples flowers and other ornaments were incised and coloured, that is, the outlines were cut in while the clay was soft, and the flowers and other ornaments touched afterwards with colour. In 1763 Mr. Simpson carried on the pottery at Jackfield, and made yellow ware, and a ware the body of which was pipe clay and glazed with salt. This he sent down the Severn to the Bristol Channel for export to America - a trade to which the American war of Independance put an end. Maurice Thursfield made at Jackfield a very superior black ware, highly vitrified and glazed; indeed, so highly glazed was it that it had all the outward appearance of glass."

To ceramic historians, archaeologists and collectors, the name 'Jackfield' is today synonymous with Maurice Thursfield's 'black ware'. The emphasis given in the past to this one ceramic type has tended to overshadow its local contemporaries, which from Jewitt's account and now from artifact discoveries, hint at the co-existence of several ceramic types in Jackfield, which have a striking similarity to those better known from Staffordshire, with which there may have been synchronic development during the eighteenth century.

Along a length of Jackfield riverbank (centring on SJ 689029) has been found a black ashy deposit, up to 0.5m deep, which is being worn away by the river. From this deposit have come sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware, comb-decorated slipware and occasional pieces of 'Jackfield ware' (the latter two may be identified with the 'yellow'

and 'black' wares in Jewitt's account). Waster sherds occur for of these types, though evidence of local manufacture is far grea for the stoneware. There are numerous salt-glaze saggar fragmen and some items of kiln furniture and burnt flint, while 200m dow stream (in an area known as 'Salthouses'), a stone wall containi about ten complete salt-glaze saggars has been found. Randall (22) records that there is abundant evidence of salt-glaze manufa in the area and that "... the old seggars in which (the pots) we burnt often form walls of the oldest cottages in Benthall and Br Wood." The ashy deposit along the riverbank may be dumped kiln from both stoneware and earthenware manufacturers, though their sites remain unlocated.

Fabric

The white salt-glaze fabric is not consistent in every she macroscopic distinctions observed now, may be misleading for futu entifications, since this material is essentially waste. Howeve there are variations in the whiteness of the fabric, with some sh having a creamy appearance. Many sherds have frequent minute bla specks showing through the glaze, and in some cases the latter is quite crazed. The glaze is generally very well formed, with vari in its 'orange peel' pitted texture, being pronounced in some cas and not in others.

Forms (figs. 10,11)

No complete profiles have yet been recovered, but the fragm ary forms found to date indicate the production of unsophisticate remarkably similar to those from Staffordshire. The range appear be restricted to utilitarian vessels, comprising plates, bowls, j tankards and possibly tea and coffee pots. There are a range of rings on the globular hollow-ware forms, some being simple rings, angular of triangular in section, and others being splayed outwar A single lid (or cover) has an oval and pointed centre-piece (simi to Mountford 1971: pl.187).

Decoration and embelishment

The most striking decorative style is the 'scratch-blue' tec referred to by Jewitt, and which occurs in floral designs on bowl forms. The decoration is simply executed, resulting in externally incised flowers with circular and oval petals, frequently highligh by single or multi-directional hatching or stabbing. Some rims di a simple internal wavy blue band, incised by a combed tool. The b shading varies from pale to intense. Two decorated plate rim sher display patterns identical to those from Staffordshire. One is re moulded with seed ornamentation (Mountford 1971: pl.123), and the with raised dot and diaper, star and diaper and basket patterns in scroll-bordered panels (Mountford 1971: pl.149). Among the tankar forms there is a tendency for there to be lathe-turned band decora at the base. Strap handles are invariably ribbed, often with a pr

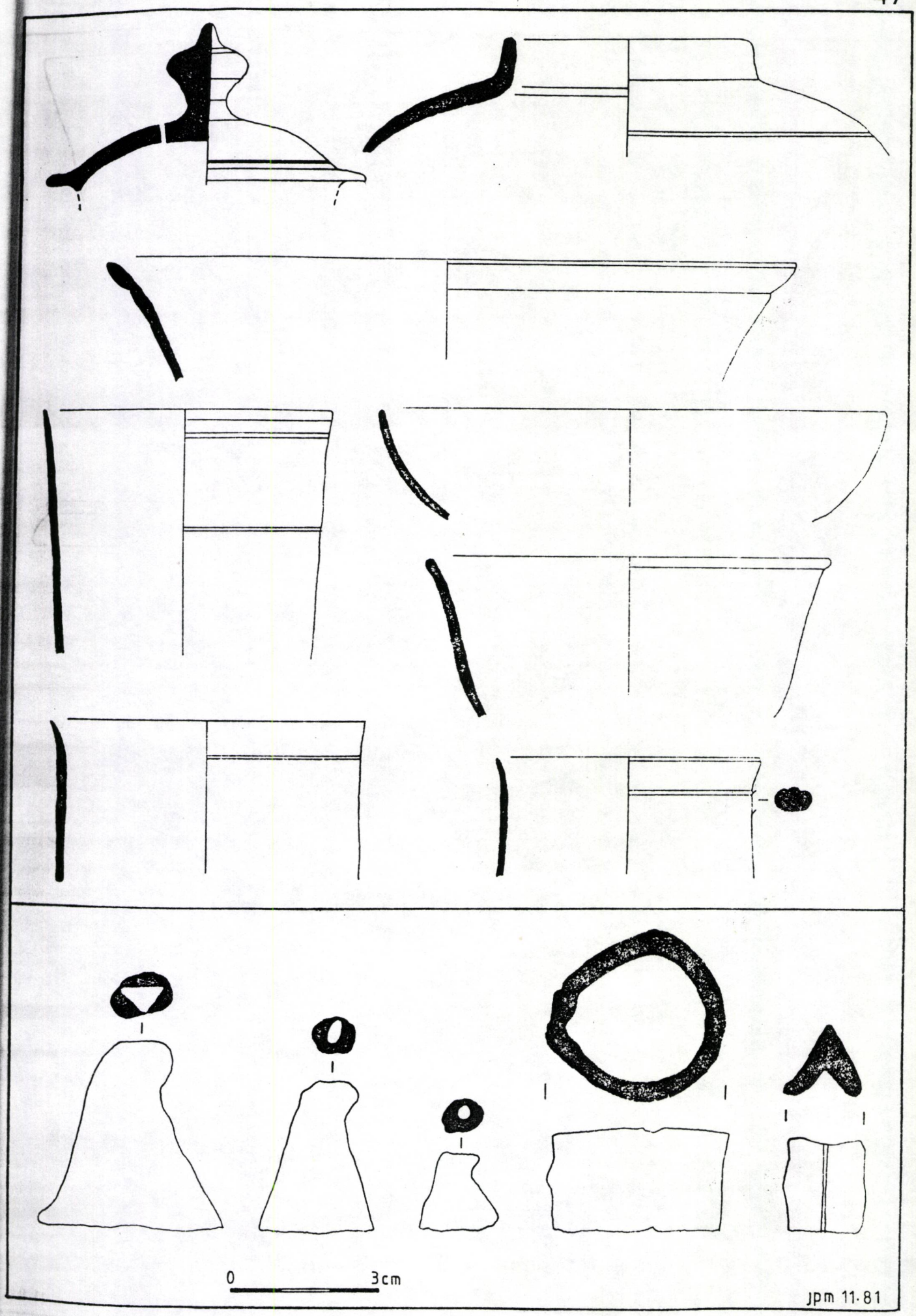

Fig. 10: Jackfield white salt-glazed forms and kiln furniture. (Malam)

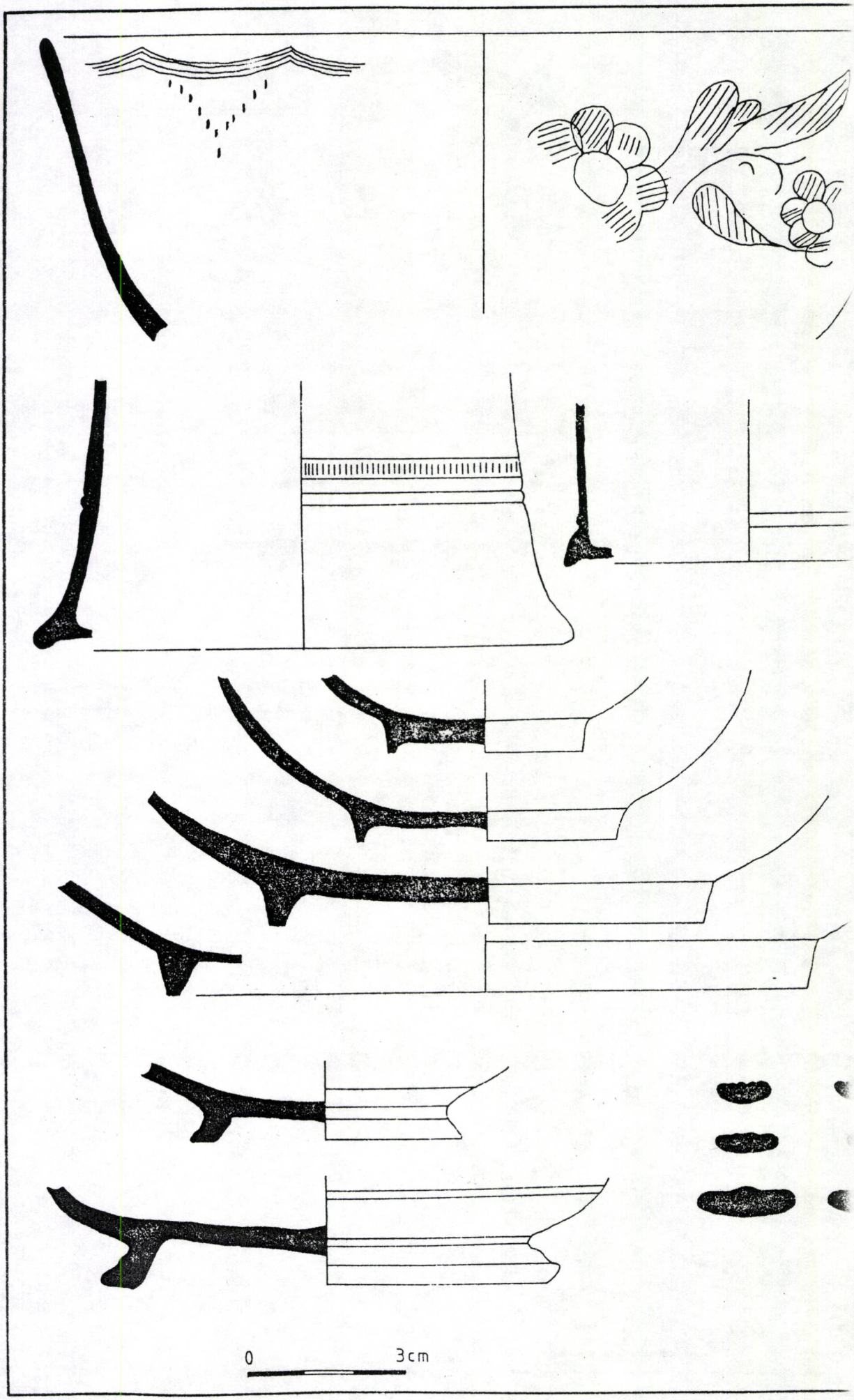

Fig. 11: Jackfield white salt-glazed forms and handle-sections. (M

central spine, and some display a folded back lower terminal (from unidentified forms). Among the body sherds, there are some with turned and incised linear decoration (similar to Mountford 1971: pl.81) and some with horizontal bands of shallow rouletted 'peck marks'. As yet, no pieces of enamel-decorated ware have been found.

Kiln furniture

Several conical bobs or stilts have been found, ranging in height from 1.5 to 3.5 cm. They are made from a buff-firing iron-rich clay, probably of local origin, and each has a small stone embedded in its apex. These were probably used to raise pots from the saggar base, and to reduce additional areas of contact adhesion each was tipped with stone. Not every vessel was so supported, since the crazed base of a small bowl has been found, bonded fast to a saggar base. Two V-sectioned pieces may also be vessel supports, both made from white pipe-clay and seemingly mould-formed in lengths and then cut to size, unlike the hand-rolled conical stilts. There is also a complete circular white pipeclay object, which may have been a support or a 'tester-ring' for inspection of the glaze following the insertion of the salt to the kiln.

Saggars

The salt-glazed saggars are circular, with several round or oval penetrations cut through their walls, and cut-out sections around the rim. They are made from a poorly-mixed grey or buff gritty clay, undoubtedly of local origin. Some damaged saggars have had their bases hastily repaired for reuse by a wad of grey clay thumbed over the cracks. Two sizes of saggar exist, being 35 x 18 cm and 35 x 24 cm respectively. These saggars invariably have a heavy crust of consolidated grit covering the inside base.

Dating

Direct dating of this material is not yet possible, either from documentary sources or archaeological stratification, and it is only by comparison with the Staffordshire ware that any dating is attempted, though this can only give it an assumed chronology. In the broadest possible terms it appears to belong to the period *circa* 1730 - 1760, and the scratch-blue probably towards the middle and end of the period.

Implications and origins

The scale and duration of white salt-glazed stoneware manufacture at Jackfield cannot yet be estimated, though if Jewitt can be believed, it enjoyed an export trade to North America, and this may indicate a successful product. That this Shropshire salt-glaze can be stylistically and technologically compared with that from Staffordshire is unquestionable. The similarities are striking, and it is tempting to speculate on its origins, which may surprisingly have a lineal Shropshire descent. Salt-glazed saggars containing white-dipped tankards with iron-banded rims have been found 3 km south west of Jackfield at the Old Vicarage,

Benthall, Broseley (SJ 668013), in association with brown lead-glaze wares, with the entire assemblage dated to c. 1700 - 1720 (Sandon 19 Very little white salt-glaze and no waste sherds were found here, an the excavators concluded that this early salt-glazed pottery founde following the advent of calcined flint to the Staffordshire stoneware around 1720. However, it now seems that rather than the Shropshire tradition dying away, it was simply relocated alongside the Severn Jackfield (though the interval, if any, between this move is not kno It was here that the manufacture of a high-quality white salt-glazed stoneware with a calcined flint body was commenced.

It is hoped that further work will reveal the nature of the du deposit and its artifact content, and microscopic analysis of the fa may help to define this Shropshire white salt-glazed stoneware. All material is at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire.

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West Midlands Archæology in 1981

ABBEY HULTON, Staffordshire

Hollowed Log at SJ 903 490 fig. 12

A hollowed log embedded in recent alluvium in the south bank of the River Trent has been recorded in conjunction with the National Maritime Museum (ref. Abbey Hulton 2). The object is 330 cm long with a maximum width of 50 cm and has an internal depth of 35 cm. The sides appear to have perished towards the east end (B), where the object projected above normal water level. At the west end (A) there are two borings into the base, but these do not penetrate the full depth. This end is open.

Positive identification as a boat is not possible and it is thought that it may be part of a Medieval water-control structure. The gardens, fishponds and mill-leat of Hulton Abbey lie immediately to the east of the find-spot.

C.F. Hawke-Smith
City Museum and Art Gallery,
Stoke-on-Trent.

BIRMINGHAM, West Midlands County

Survey of Burnt Mounds

As a sequel to the original fieldwork carried out by M. Nixon on burnt mound sites in South Birmingham, Dr. L.H. Barfield and M.A. Hodder have started a systematic survey of South Birmingham streams. In the period August 1980 to July 1981 six new sites have been discovered:

1)	Moseley Bog, Moseley, Birmingham on the Coldbath Brook	SP 094 820
2)	Moseley Golf Course A, Moseley, Birmingham on the Coldbath Brook	SP 085 819
3)	Moseley Golf Course B, Moseley, Birmingham on the Coldbath Brook	SP 084 819
4)	Bayston Road, Hollywood, Birmingham on the Chinn Brook	SP 077 796
5)	Walkers Heath on the Chinn Brook	SP 068 789
6)	Burcot, West Midlands, a hill slope site	SO 970 722

Two additional C14 dates have been processed from sites in South Birmingham; the Moseley Bog, Moseley, Birm. 1114, 880 ± 80 b.c. (2830 ± 80 BP) and Highbury Park, Kings Heath, Birm. 1099, 1025 ± 80 b.c. (2975 ± 80 BP). The two dates are close to the main cluster of the previous six dates from Warwickshire and West Midland sites (Nixon 1980 and Barfield and Hodder 1981) and within the usual range of other British dates (Hedges 1977).

L.H. Barfield and M.A. Hodder

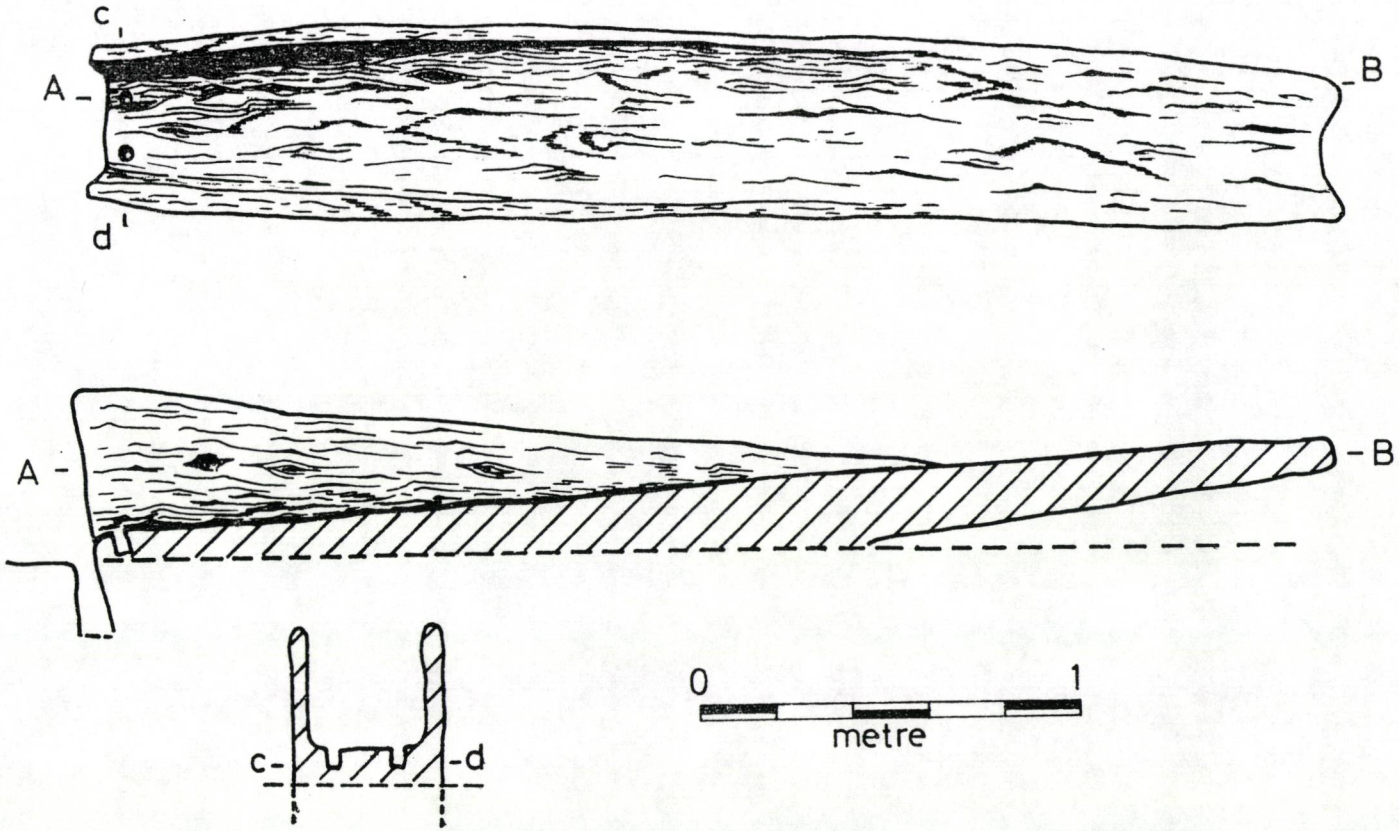

Fig. 12: ABBEY HULTON: medieval structural timber in river bed.
(Hawke-Smith/Hooper)

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BORDESLEY ABBEY, Hereford and Worcester

Interim report on the 13th season of excavation and post-excavation work SP 045 686

The 1981 excavation took place during the whole of August 1981. Susan Hirst, Susan Wright, Lorna Watts, David and Ellen Walsh, and Ian McCaig, worked on the preparation of the next major monograph. Sue Wright with the nelp of Patrick Harrison, Malcolm Lind and Stephanie Smith, completed the monastic cemetery excavation north of the Presbytery. The major work was however, on the Industrial Site, directed by Grenville Astill, with the supervision of Steve and Verna Wass, John Bateman, and Richard Kemp. A further extension of the Valley Transect trench was also cut, under the direction of Ken Dark. Katherine Baker was in charge of the Finds Department and Averil Martin-Hoogewerf worked on the pottery series.

The main labour force was again provided by students from the Universities of York, Reading, and Rochester (New York). Dick Snodgrass was camp manager, Zita Berrington and Ruth Watts provided the food, and general help was provided by other volunteers (including our veteran Joan Tanner), and by Community Service workers from Redditch. To all these we express our thanks for a fruitful and pleasant excavation; the weather was exceptionally dry and warm, which did however create problems in the clay and pebble layers on the Industrial Site.

Our thanks are again expressed to the British Academy for a second grant for the post-excavation work, to the Redditch Borough Council for financial help, a Portakabin and fencing. Redditch Development Corporation gave the use of a water spray tanker, financial help, and another splendid reception for the diggers. Mr. Dark kindly donated a hand water pump to the excavation.

The Valley Transect

Further excavation of the earthwork area south of the millpond again showed how little the surface morphology indicates of the stratigraphical complexities below. A buried cobbled roadway with ruts was found at a depth of c 60 cm, sealed by red clay, and below this were an early stream bed, and a ditch with preserved organic debris. Full understanding was prevented by the presence of a modern sewer trench, but hopefully this will be investigated further in 1982.

The North-Eastern Cemetery

A furtner twelve graves were excavated, finally completing the excavation of this cemetery area to natural subsoil. The graves were of the earliest generations of burial, in the twelfth century. This was shown by the absence of ceramic tile fragments in their fillings; this material is ubiquitous in period 2 after c 1200. Many of the graves contained preserved wood. Several cases were found where branches or small planks were laid across or by the body, these in turn being covered by lengthwise oak planks. In most cases there was one plank, in one case, two. They

were split from a trunk, with a triangular section, one side being left as cleft, the othe with a broad adze. A few had peg holes. We would reassert our hypothesis that these pl not made especially for burial, but were re-used from some dismantled wooden building, pro primary timber church. If this is correct, it is likely that the planks are the main upr studs, rather than vertical or horizontal weatherboarding. One particularly well-preserv example was 2 m long, 30 cm wide, and up to 12 cm thick; the longest one was 2.10 m. On postulate that these were either the full height of a side wall, or the lower half of a wa high; the absence of wear precludes their use as floor planks.

In another grave, blocks of partly dressed green sandstone, as that in the period 1 laid alongside the body. The only object buried was a ?hazel wand c 1.60 m long laid by side of a body (a more fragmentary one was also found in a grave in the South Transept). tion on its function ranged from status to flagellation, or that the monk was the Abbey's maker. The graves themselves were cut into the subsoil, in at least one case with a narr cut and a special recess for the head, similar to those in stone coffins.

Orientation of most of these graves, but not all, again showed a distinct tendency to to 20° away from canonical or church E-W, the west head end turning in towards the Choir ar

Over 100 graves have now been excavated at Bordesley Abbey; they provide a remarkabl of evidence of Cistercian mortuary practice, which, together with Bob Everton's biological be the basis of extensive analysis.

The Industrial Site (see 1980 Interim Report)

A further 300 sq m was opened this year with the intention of recovering the complete the mill building discovered last year in Area B. The three 10 m squares were west, south south of B and were also designed to take in the ends of the two banks which form the 'neck' triangular millpond, as well as the putative wheel pit and a length of the leat. The resu these new areas show the latest phases to be more complex and numerous than suggested by l year's season.

The Mill Building (Areas B, C, D, E)

The entire building was uncovered down to the destruction levels. Padstones suggest structure was of timber which apprently had two elements: a larger 'room' (c 7 x 5.5 m - ? and an adjoining smaller section to the south (c 3.30 m square) fronting onto the wheel pit that the plan of the building was in the form of a 'T'.

A single large padstone, found inside the building close to the wheel pit, is provisi interpreted as the support for the axle-block of the mill wheel. It is clear that this 'w section is of several phases and it may possibly have remained in use after the mill and wh had gone out of use.

The outline of the wheel pit was defined as oval-shaped, but was larger than expected may suggest that there was more than one wheel, or more probably that a channel to one side wheel took the water when the mill was not working.

The banks around the mill pond had a clay core with a pebble revetment on the outside. were however no such pebbles on the sides of the banks which formed the leat, where the ban have been most vulnerable to erosion. The sinuous line of the mill leat and occasional bl

sandstone found in the fill of the leat suggest that the channel was stone-faced and subsequently robbed.

A paved area of pebbles surrounded the mill to the north; here much roof tile and some bronze and iron objects were found - the residue perhaps of the debris from the mill. Three early fourteenth-century coins were also found on this surface. These and the pottery imply that the main part of the mill - perhaps all - had gone out of use by the late fourteenth century.

Later, post-mill, phases

This year's work confirmed that flooding of the valley had been widespread and lengthy, and that it occurred in the later medieval period when the mill leat had become blocked. These extensive silt levels mark a break in the occupation of the area until the eighteenth century when this part of the Arrow valley was again exploited.

More of the steep-sided trench which was interpreted last year in Area B as a land drain was found; it ran into the wheel pit. One sherd of tin-glazed pottery was found in the fill and this feature still remains enigmatic, but is currently thought to mark a single attempt to drain the disused wheel pit and/or mill pond. This work is provisionally associated with other agricultural improvements in the valley such as the creation of hedged fields which do not respect any of the surviving earthworks. The area was probably enclosed in the 1770's. After the drain had been filled in a path, first located last year in Area B, and pebble surfaces were laid over the mill leat and parts of the banks. A slot, ?for a building, was cut into part of this surface.

Area A

Work continued on the 'pre-industrial' phases of the site with the excavation of the upper fill of the large ditch defined in 1980. This revealed a layer containing well-preserved organic material which included three sheets of leather, perhaps off-cuts, a leather sole from a shoe, pieces of sawn timber and many branches and twigs, some of which may have originally been parts of wickerwork or hurdles; animal bone was also plentiful. The discovery of this layer illustrates the very considerable environmental potential of the site; it will be excavated next year. At the north-west of the ditch remains of a timber sluice-gate were found - this may suggest that sections of the ditch were used as 'tanks', perhaps in view of the evidence above, for tanning.

Other events

Apart from the Development Corporation's party mentioned above, there was a final grand bonfire party on the site, and several excursions. These included visits to Hailes Abbey, Worcester Cathedral, Bredon barn and church, Pershore Abbey, Kenilworth, Coughton, Kinwarton, Repton - and Melbourne. The last two were a full-day excursion and the primary object was to see the important work at Repton Church, where Professor Martin Biddle and Dr. Harold Taylor gave us splendid guided tours. Lectures were given on earlier excavations at Bordesley and the background of the site; medieval industrial sites; Cistercian architecture; and Staverdale Priory excavations.

An outstanding event of 1981 was the visit for a weekend of the Schola Gregoriana under the direction of Dr. Mary Berry. The choir, appropriately dressed in white habits, performed the office at various times of the day, in the excavated South Transept of the Abbey Church. Dr. Berry had done extensive research on the Cistercian versions of plainchant, so that this was a highly authentic performance, the first in the Church for 443 years. The public were invited to Saturday and Sunday celebrations of Vespers, and many hundreds of people came to hear these. A programme was also given in the Kingfisher Shopping Precinct in the town centre on the Saturday morning. Dr. Berry gave a

lecture to the students on the background of the Chant, and the problems involved in giving an authentic rendition. We are grateful to her and to the choir for providing this memorable occasion, for which they had travelled long distances. We are indebted too to the Redditch Development Corporation for organising the publicity posters, and for providing accommodation for the choir.

Future Work

It is hoped that the new Amenity Complex centred on the Forge Mill will increase public interest in Redditch's past, and in the monastic remains. While the Industrial Site will continue to absorb our major resources at least until 1985, we hope to resume work on the Church in a limited way in 1982, with further areas in the Cloister and its E and N walks, the south aisle, and the Nave. We hope to recruit local volunteers for this work. Anybody who is willing to help, who can come to the site daily, and provide their own meals and refreshments, should apply to S. Hirst, Lower Linceter, Badley Wood Common, Whitbourne, Hereford/Worcester, or to either of us at the Universities of York and Reading.

Finally we hope that 1982 will see the completion and publication of our next major monograph on the Choir, Presbytery, and Vestry areas.

P.A. Rahtz, University of York
G.G. Astill, University of Reading
S. Hirst, Lower Linceter, Whitbourne

BOURNVILLE, West Midlands County

Excavations on burnt mound at Cob Lane (second season) figs. 13, 14 SP 034 810

Excavations were continued on the burnt mound site in Cob Lane Park as a training excavation for undergraduate students in the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham directed by L.H. Barfield and M.A. Hodder.

Prior to excavation a magnetometer and resistivity survey was conducted in collaboration with the Geology Department, which showed clearly the limits of the stone mound, allowing the area for excavation to be closely predicted.

The area of Trench A, excavated in 1980, was extended to the south to take in the edges of the mound on this side, and the stream bed to the north fully excavated. Trench B was considerably extended to the limits of the burnt mound as suggested by the resistivity survey and to trace the continuation to the east of the former stream channel located at the northern end of Trench A in 1980. In all a total of 64 m^2 was excavated.

The whole of the burnt mound deposit in both trenches was removed and wet-sieved, but again no artifacts were found. In Trench B the deposit in the central part of the mound was found to be very shallow, showing that the mound had accumulated on a natural knoll of alluvium, sloping down towards the present stream line, where, in Trench A, the burnt stone deposit was c. 40 cm thick. The knoll was bounded by two former stream channels to both north and south.

In Trench A the main feature was a pit c. 1m square cut into the former stream bank. It was vertically-sided and there was evidence for timber lining of its sides and two successive clay floors.

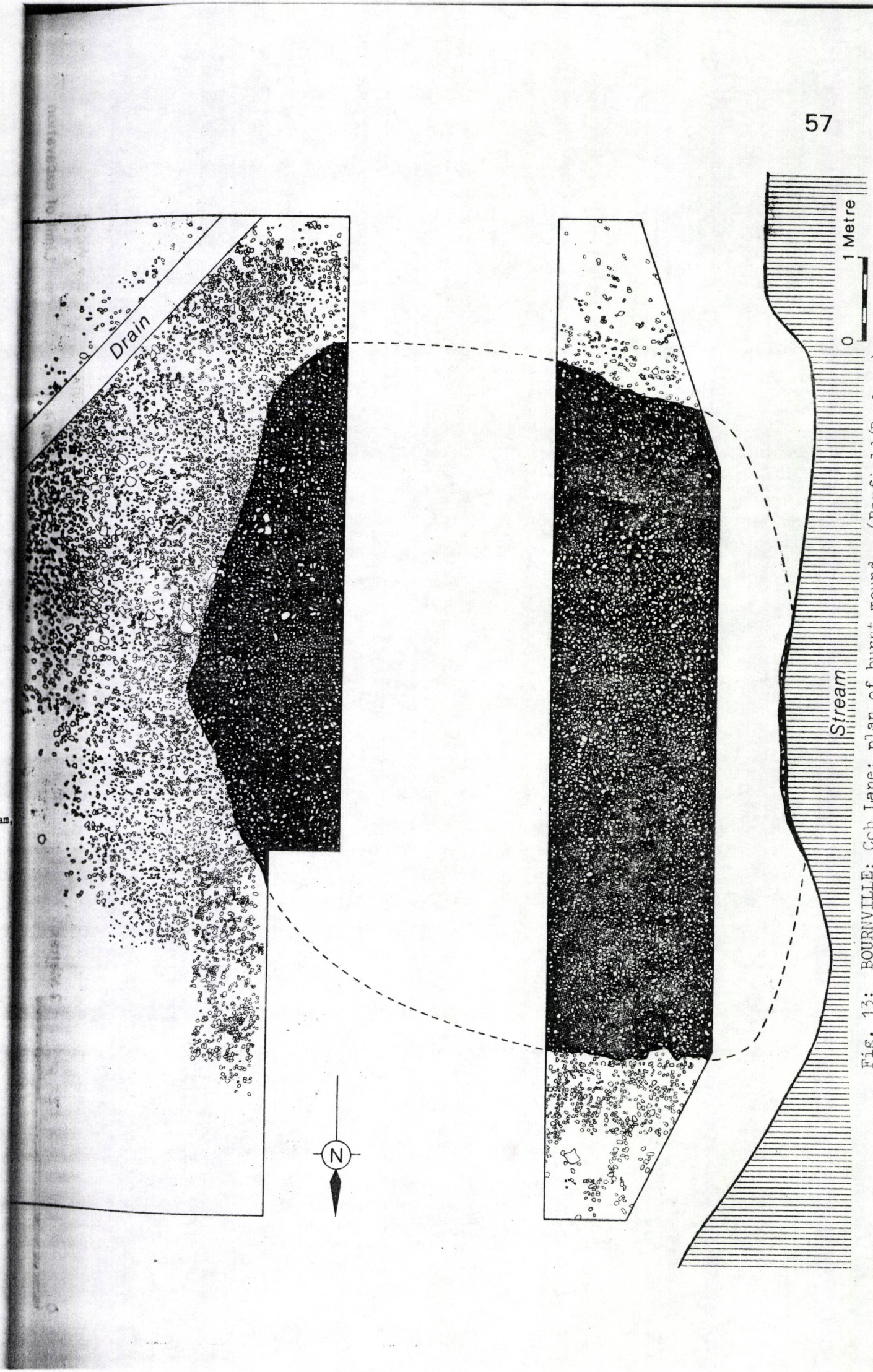
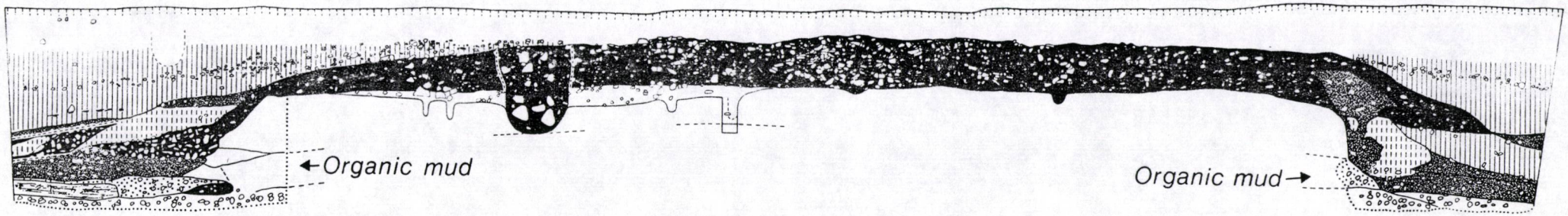


Fig. 13: BOURNVILLE: Ccb Lane: plan of burnt mound. (Barfield/Buglass)



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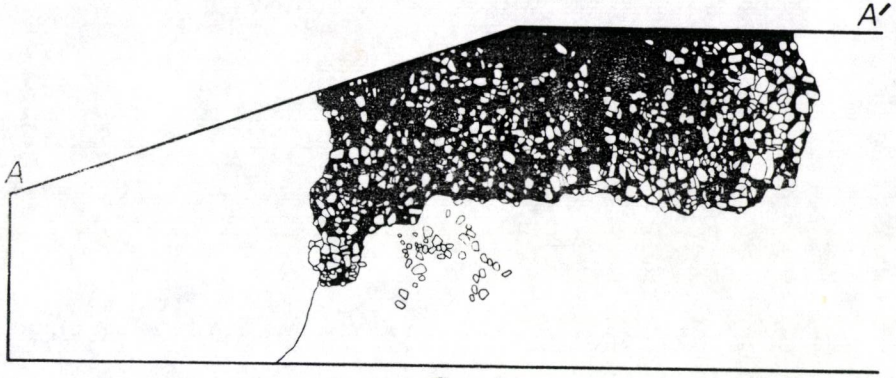

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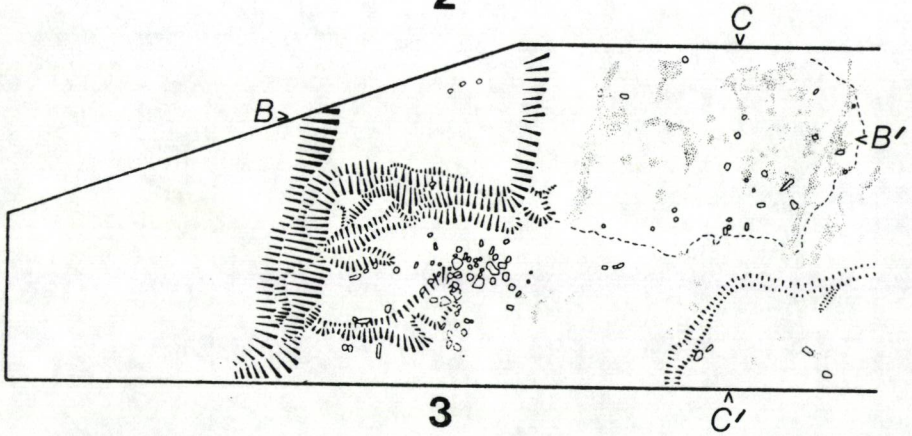

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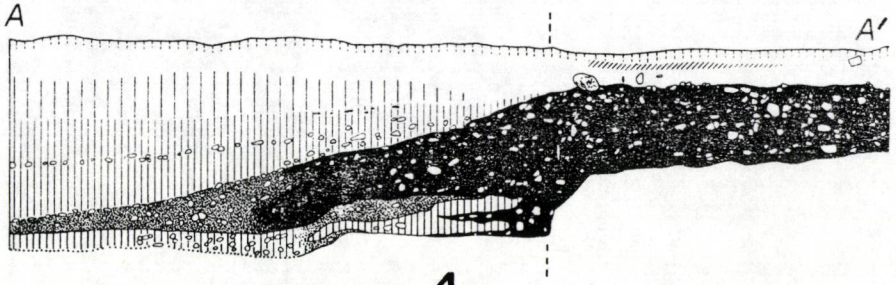

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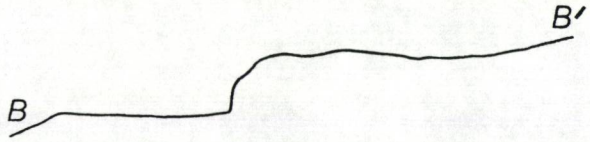

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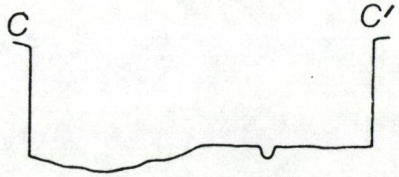

6

Burnt pebbles and charcoal
Washed burnt pebbles
Unburnt pebbles
Red clay
Yellow clay
Clean silt
Organic silt
Wood
Limit of excavation

On the side of the pit furthest from the bank was a shallow oval hollow, c. 2 x 1 m, whose sides and base were reddened by heat. These features are interpreted as a tank which was allowed to fill with water from the stream and then presumably sealed by some sort of sluice arrangement, with an accompanying hearth on which stones were heated for dropping into the water. The only other features under the mound were stakeholes forming no pattern; no continuation of the supposed stake revetment along the old stream bank was found. No features were found under the mound in Trench B except for a probable animal burrow.

The former stream channel on the south of the mound was only partially excavated but the sequence of deposits appears to be the same as in the north. Further excavation of the northern channel showed that the waterlogged wood interpreted as a stake revetment in 1980 was probably a series of roots, but the 'plank' was shown to be a substantial tree trunk which extended to the north beyond the limits of the excavation, and this was sampled for dendrochronological analysis. This wood is related to two other large tree trunks found in Trench B, lying parallel to the same stream bank and sealed by silt, and the initial slip of burnt mound material down the bank. The tree trunks of both trenches may be part of a revetment to the stream.

The only small finds from the site came from the lower levels of the old stream channel, consisting of a flint blade and two animal bones. It is probable that they antedate the burnt mound itself. A radiocarbon date of 1190 ± 90 BC (BIRM - 1087) was obtained for charcoal excavated from the lower part of the mound in 1980 (Barfield and Hodder 1980), confirming the Middle Bronze Age date of the site.

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References:

Barfield, L.H. and Hodder, M.A. 1980 The Excavation of two Burnt Mounds in South Birmingham: An Interim Report. West Midlands Archaeology 23 pp. 15-26

Barfield, L.H. and Hodder, M.H. 1981 Birmingham's Bronze Age. Current Archaeology 78

BURNTWOOD, Staffordshire

Flemish bond in 19th century brickwork at The Old School House, Rugeley Road SK 065 091

The School House, and adjacent school in Church Road were built during the last quarter of the 19thC, and are representative of many houses and Board Schools built then. The brickwork of much vernacular housing of this period remaining in Burntwood is often of characterless stretcher bond. What is pleasing therefore is the use of Flemish Bond in the brickwork of the School House, still in its original mellow multi-hued weathered condition. This can be seen in the outside chimney breast on the front elevation. Each end of an outside chimney breast has to make two right angle bends in order to join the main wall, and here will be seen the obligatory narrow header brick (in old English and Flemish bond a purpose-made half-brick, equal to a full size brick halved along its longitudinal axis). Note also the decorative effect of the chamfered end bricks. The bricks were probably purchased from a local brickyard (possibly owned by a colliery) and fired in a clamp. Uneven firing, because of the bricks relative positions in the clamp, result in uneven vitrification, and different colourings of varying shades.

Tax on bricks was repealed in 1850, after which brick sizes generally settled down t Imperial Standard brick size of 8.3/4" x 4.1/8" x 2.5/8" (219 x 102'5 x 65 mm). For compa present day Metric Standard brick to B.S.S. 3921 measured 215 x 102'5 x 65 mm. However, bricks in the house and school conform as far as length and width to the Imperial dimension are thicker averaging 3" (75 mm) plus. They appear to be made in moulds, and not machine

References:

Barley, M.W.	1961	The English Farmhouse and Cottage
Cossons, N.	1975	The "B-P" Book of Industrial Archaeology
Garner, A.H.	1947	Outline of English Architecture
Hinde, T.	1979	The Cottage Book
Major, J.K.	1975	Fieldwork in Industrial Archaeology
Woodford, J.	1976	Bricks to build a House

COALBROOKDALE, Shropshire

Salvage recording at the Old Furnace

The Old Furnace is a site of international significance, for it was here in 1709 th Abraham Darby I used coke instead of charcoal to smelt iron. The present furnace is of brick construction, replacing that of 1709, which in turn had modified a seventeenth centu furnace. It was blown-out about 1818, and was thereafter incorporated in the buildings o until it was uncovered and displayed in 1959. Deterioration of its fabric and inscribed beams necessitated the erection of a protective cover building, construction of which dist strata containing data pertinent to the life of the furnace and its immediate neightbourho

Approximately 600 cubic metres of deposit, removed to a depth of between one and th was excavated by machine in a continuous trench around the furnace, leaving nearly 195 m o section. The interpretation of the many stone and brick walls seen in section is impaire nature of the excavation, and only two structures could be clearly defined: a brick-lined and a core-drying oven belonging to the 19th century foundry, both lying to the west of th The south west area was marked by the presence of several 19th century drains, while to th furnace was an extensive red brick surface, possibly part of a yard, or an internal floor unidentified building.

The majority of the built features had truncated or removed earlier deposits, but w latter survived intact in section, several signficant points emerged. To the north west furnace, where the deposit was excavated to 2.50 m (without reaching the undisturbed clay the lower metre of material was composed of dumped layers of slag, clay and charcoal, seen backfilled into a large negative feature of unidentified form, but which continued beneath extension to the furnace. The dating of these layers is uncertain, but the presence of quantities of uncrushed charcoal suggests that they may be associated with the pre-coke fu that they are of 17th century origin. To the south east of the furnace was a large iron conglomerate, which has been identified as "bear", the concretion which develops inside a which is periodically scraped out. This deposit should be of pre-1818 origin, but its o dumping is not known. The layers contained towards the top of the exposed sections wer

entirely of 19th century formation, formed from much glassy slag and black sand.

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Institute of Industrial Archaeology
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

COVENTRY, West Midlands County

Excavation of Carthusian Priory, off London Road fig. 15 SP 345 783

Excavations on the site of the Carthusian Priory of St. Anne (founded 1381) in 1968 (Hobley 1968) established the site of the church. Work undertaken in 1980-1 has revealed traces of four of the five documented cells and gardens on the eastern side of the cloister. The inner cloister wall, from which the cells were entered, has survived to a height of one metre as the eastern limit of a bowling green. The reason for excavation was the proposed demolition of this wall in order to enlarge the bowling green. The cells, in common with those in the other eight Carthusian houses in England, were divided into a lobby and two small rooms, surrounded by an L-shaped garden. The pentice in each garden was either tiled or paved, leading to a well or tank. Each garden had a drain constructed of stone, tile or brick.

M. Rylatt
Coventry Museums

References:
Hobley, B. 1968 Charterhouse, Coventry. WMANS 11 p.27-8
Rylatt, M. 1981 Coventry - Archaeology and Development 2nd ed. pp.38-9

COVENTRY, West Midlands County

Excavation of Medieval Defensive Ditch at New Law Courts, Earl Street fig. 16 SP 336 787

Excavations, begun in 1980 (Stokes 1980), were completed in July 1981 with the aim of the excavation being achieved by the total examination of a section across the Red Ditch (Rylatt 1981). The Ditch proved to be c. 6 m wide and up to c. 4 m deep at this point, although only the lower levels had survived medieval and later re-use of the site.

A layer of primary silt, containing pottery datable to the last quarter of the 12th century was cut by an early 13th century V-shaped recut which contrasted sharply with the stepped profile of the original, probably attributable to the unstable nature of the bedrock at this point. There was no hint of any pre-conquest origins for this feature as has been argued elsewhere, (Rylatt 1981 - Gooder et al). The Ditch had been at least half-way backfilled when the cellars were constructed in the late 14th century. It was replaced at that time by a culvert c. 1 m wide which retained the name 'Red Ditch' for some two centuries thereafter. As yet it is difficult to assign specific functions to either cellar due to the lack of medieval floor levels, although the involvement of the owners - the Schipleys - in the international wool trade may give a pointer. The sandstone from these cellars has since been removed for re-use as a sill in the reconstruction, in Spon Street, Coventry, of 122 to 123 Much Park Street excavated in 1971 by Coventry and District Archaeological Society (Wright ed. forthcoming).

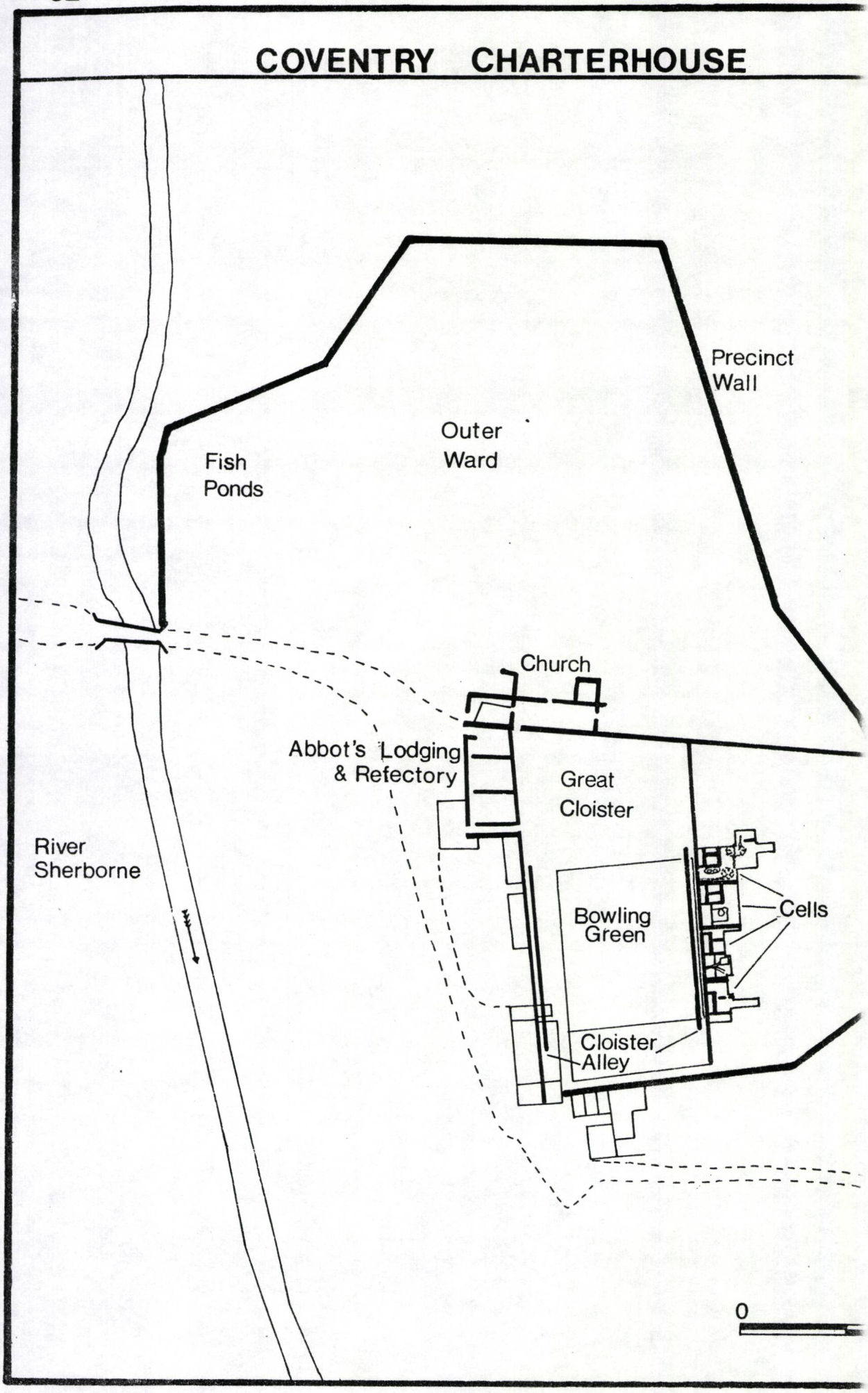


Fig. 15: COVENTRY: Carthusian priory. (Rylatt)

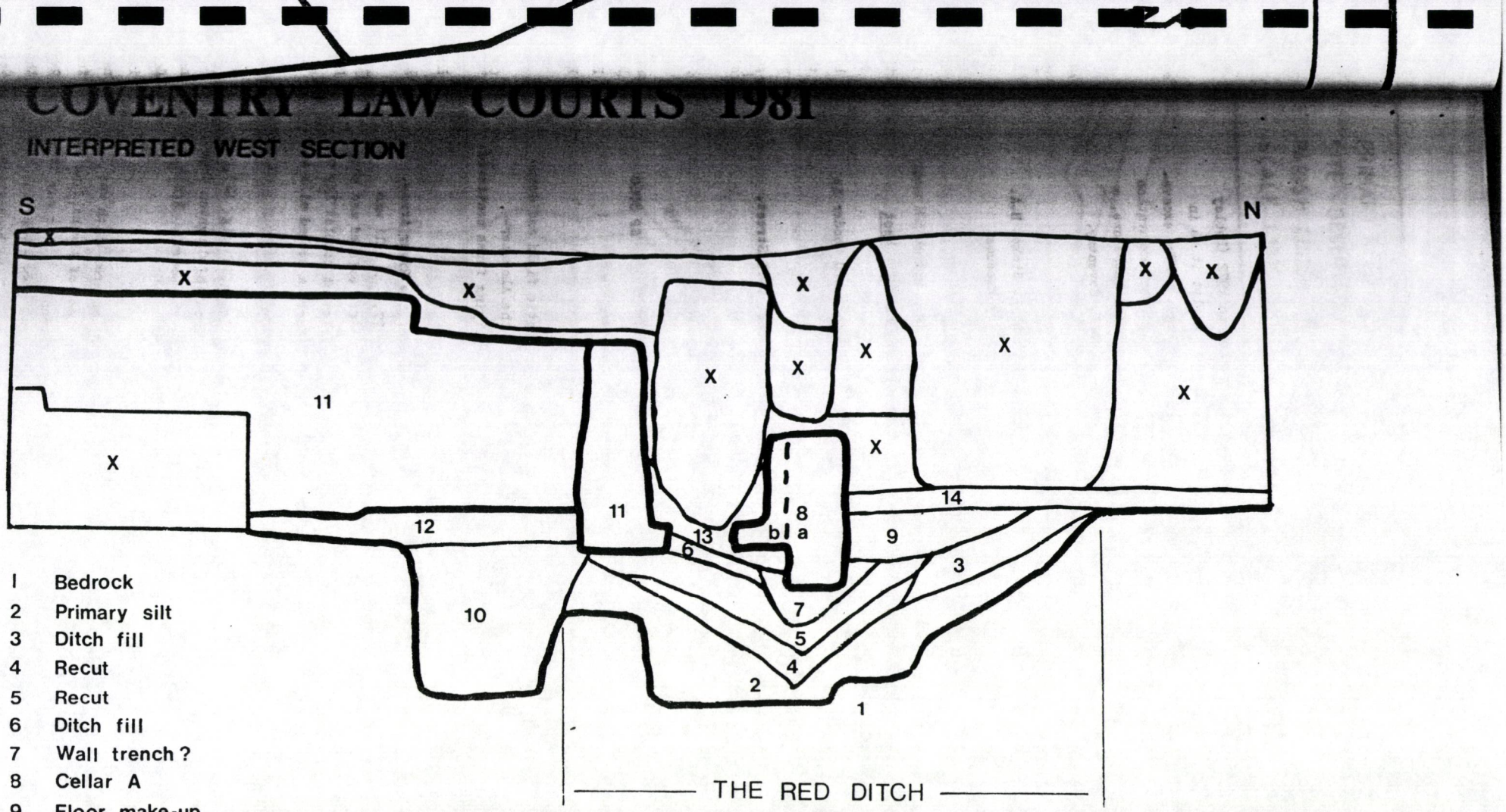


Fig. 16: COVENTRY: New Law Courts site; section through the "Red Ditch" (Stokes)

The Ditch profile at this point is comparable to sections recorded nearby in 1972 (Ho 1972) and in 1980 (Rylatt 1980) at Kirby House, all on the southern alignment, whilst it is strong contrast with that excavated in Broadgate East in 1974 (Rylatt forthcoming). The tion has, therefore, raised important questions which documentary research and further exca may help to resolve. Any opportunity for recording this feature in the future is, therefo matter of priority. The archive is deposited in the Herbert Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry Accession Number 80/265.

Michael A. Stoke
Coventry Museums

References:

Hobley, B. 1972 Warwickshire: Coventry. Medieval Archaeology XVL p.183

Rylatt, M. 1980 Salvage recording of medieval defensive ditch at Kirby House. W Midlands Archaeology 23: 83

Rylatt, M. 1981 Coventry Archaeology and Development 2nd ed. Also Gooder and Go above

Rylatt, M. Forthcoming Excavations in Broadgate East, Coventry. 1976-5

Stokes, M.A. 1980 Excavation of Medieval Defensive Ditch at New Law Courts, Earl St West Midlands Archaeology 23: 83-4

Wright, S. Forthcoming Excavations in Much Park Street, Coventry 1971

COUGHTON, Warwickshire

Field Survey 1980/81 Fig. 17, 18.

This season's work of the Arrow Valley Survey has continued with a systematic field mentary survey of the parish of Coughton. The present village lies alongside the Alcest Birmingham road, the Ryknield Street, near Coughton Court, with a number of outlying farm elsewhere in the parish.

A deserted village nucleus can, however, be identified on the east bank of the Rive set at the core of an open-field still operating in the late 17th century, fig. 17. A mi situated on the Arrow near the centre of the village. A regular pattern of tofts exist of the houses were still occupied in the mid-18th century. An additional settlement com the northern end of this village, in the 17th and 18th centuries comprising a farm, a sec several cottages. This, too, had been abandoned by the mid-19th century.

Similar depopulation occurred at a second site in the present village of Coughton (for abandoned house sites and tofts are revealed by earthworks in the field in front of Co their removal probably connected with the landscaping of the parkland adjoining the court the regular pattern of the tofts betrays the planned nature of the settlement.

A third hamlet appears to have existed in the western part of the parish, an area w included within the Forest of Feckenham in 1300. A moated site formed the nucleus of th 'manor' of Wike but no signs have yet been found of an associated hamlet settlement. T lain near Green Close beside Weeke Lane and arable lands are recorded here in the 15th c of the area was, however, to be incorporated within the deer-park of Coughton Court, the of which can still be traced for much of their length as banks and ditches today.

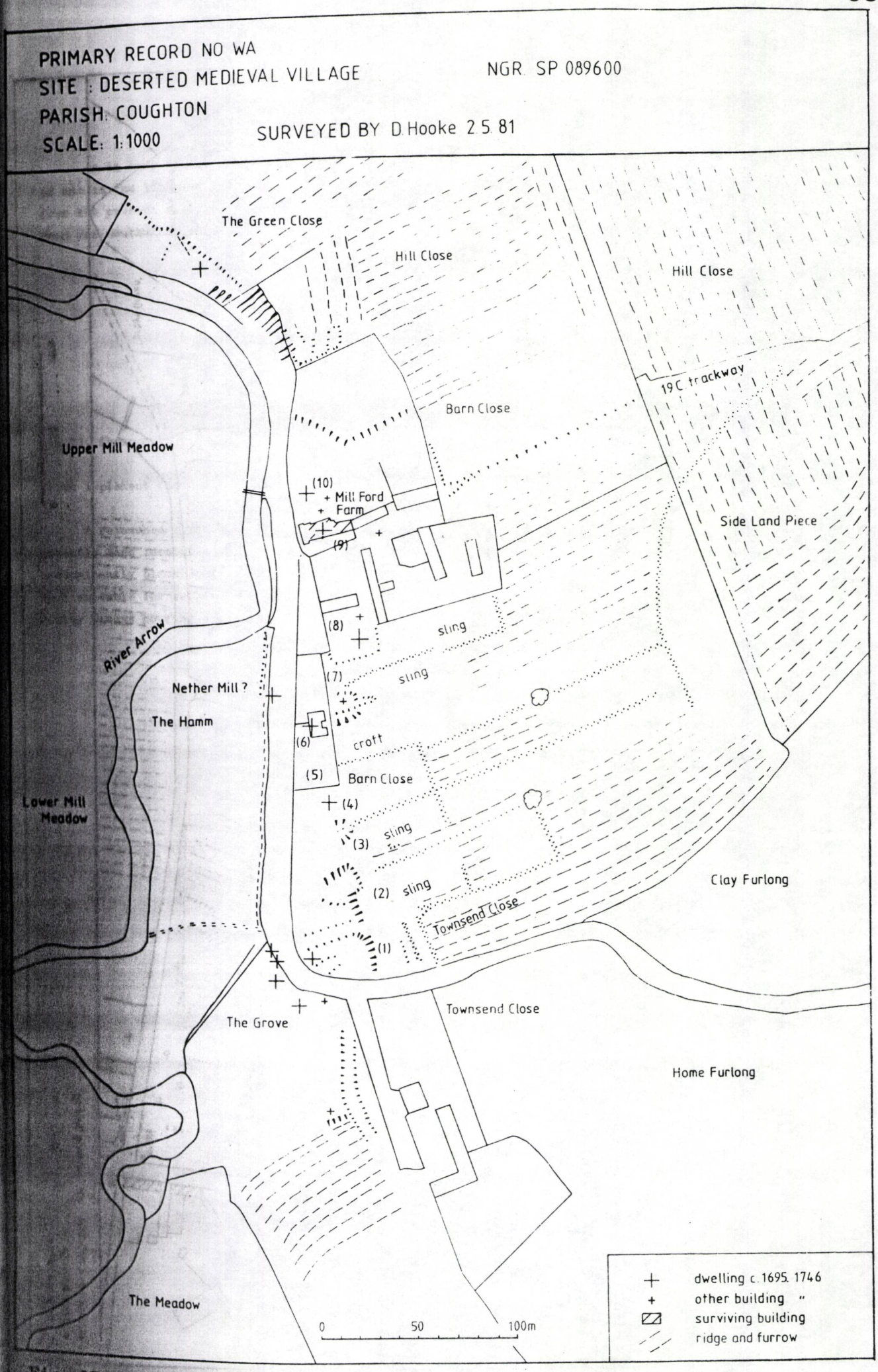
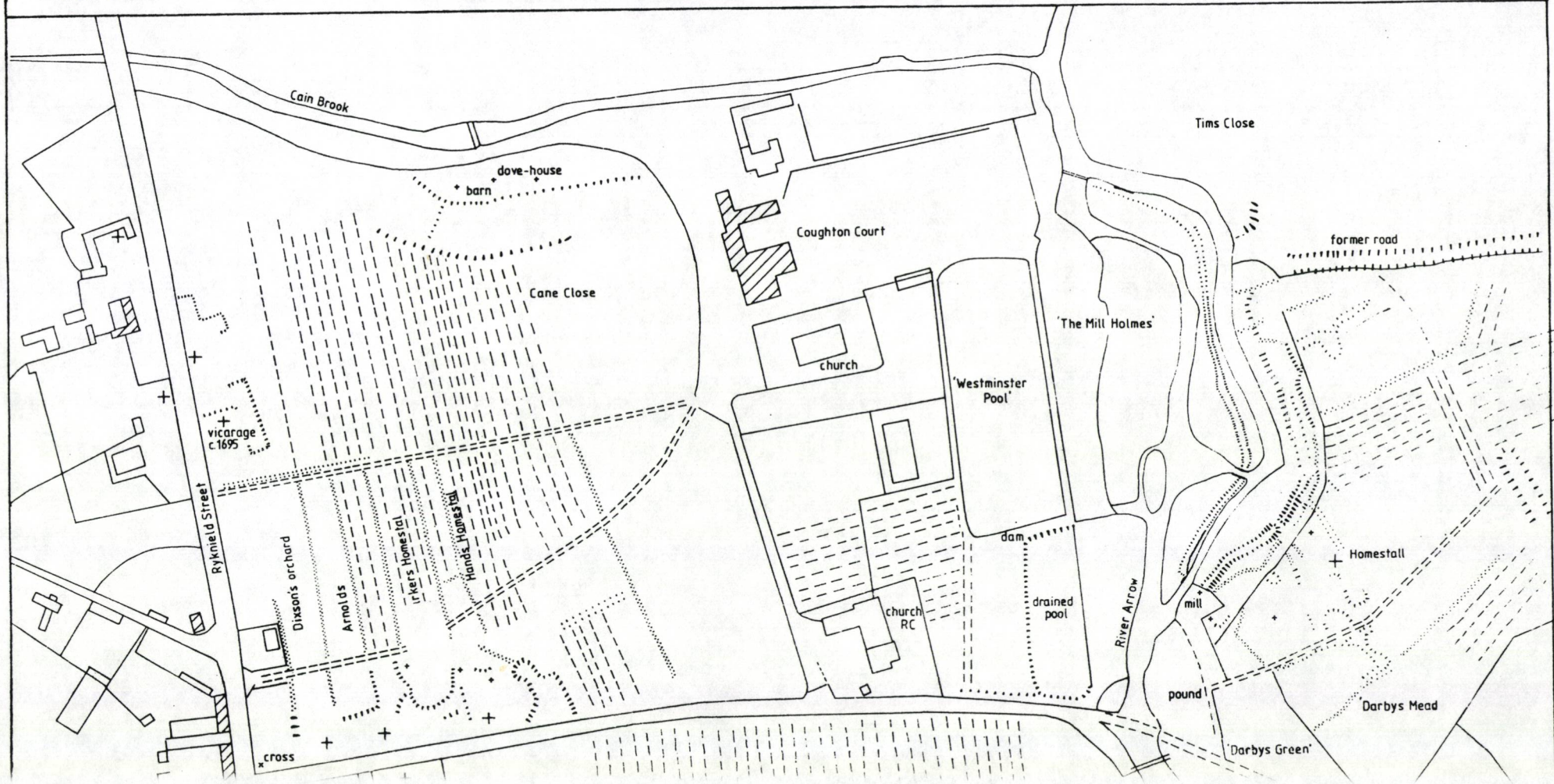


Fig. 17: COUGHTON: deserted medieval village on east bank of R.Arrow. (Hooke)

PRIMARY RECORD NO: WA
SITE: DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE
PARISH: COUGHTON
SCALE: 1:1000

NGR SP 081604

SURVEYED BY: Uny. of Bham ExM. class, Tutor D. Hooke 7.3.'81



As in many of the other parishes studied in this area a number of medieval roads were to go out of use in the 18th and 19th centuries. These include the Warwick Lane which ran through the parish from the present village towards New End in Great Alne and on to Little Alne. A second abandoned road ran southwards through 'The Town Meadows' to Kinwarton and a ford across the River Alne.

Della Hooke
Department of Geography
University of Birmingham

DAWLEY, Shropshire

Flint implement found at SJ 693 060 fig. 19

A retouched flint blade (5x2 cm) found in 1970 in a ploughed field in Dawley, Telford, has recently been identified as a probable Neolithic or Bronze Age artifact. The flint colour is predominantly blackish-grey, and the blade is extensively retouched along one edge, forming a tool suitable for cutting and/or scraping. The field in which it was found is now the site of the Dawley Grange housing estate. The flint remains in the possession of the writer.

M. Simmons
Dawley, Telford

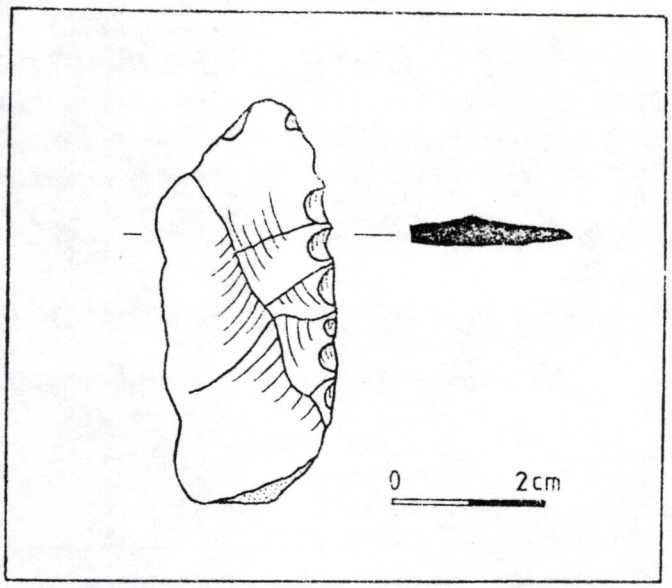


Fig. 19: DAWLEY: flint implement. (Simmons)

DROITWICH, Hereford and Worcester

The Great Upwich brine pit located in Vines Park , figs. 20,21

Recent archaeological and historical research in Droitwich has located the Great Bri Upwich, once the most important source of high quality salt in Britain, and upon which the prosperity was based throughout the medieval period at least. A major excavation is curre planned to commence in April 1982 before the site is destroyed by the cutting of a new can

Salt is one of the world's most important natural resources, and has always been of g significance to man, especially as a food preservative. It is also used for enhancing th of foods and for medicinal purposes, and a great deal of evidence is available to indicate as a medium of exchange in prehistoric Britain, a use that is reflected among many modern tribes.

Until the beginning of the 18th century salt production in this country was based up occurring brine, an abundant source of which can be found around Britain's coast - sea-wat ing about 3% sodium chloride in solution. In addition there are a few areas inland wher springs occur, and the commercial exploitation of those in Cheshire and Droitwich (Worcest is known from surviving documentation to have been economically viable from an early date. importance of these inland springs is that they are far stronger and much purer than sea-w therefore, far less fuel is required during the boiling process to produce equivalent quan much higher quality salt.

Along the Salwarpe valley in Droitwich natural brine springs reach the surface under pressure. They contain an almost fully saturated solution of sodium chloride (25 - 28%). very small quantities of otner salts (e.g. calcium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, etc.) whi much of the sea-salt to have a bitter taste. To obtain the brine, pits were dug around which then filled with the brine under artesian pressure. The brine could then be drawn to the boiling-houses, where it was evaporated to produce salt.

Archaeological work carried out by the Hereford and Worcester County Archaeological over the last seven years, has shown that this resource was exploited during Iron Age time throughout the Roman period - the town is referred to as Salinae in the Ravenna Cosmograph growth of the salt industry can be traced from Anglo-Saxon charters, Domesday Book, and ot documents to 1215 when King John granted a charter to the town and from this date until 16 industry was run as a monopoly by the Borough.

Upwich is first mentioned by name in a 10th-centry charter and by the 15th century i of only three brine pits in the town. When the production figures for these pits are co is quite clear that Upwich pit was the most productive by far, and that it was filled with consistent strength. In 1680 127 proprietors had shares in 387 vats (one vat equals 6,91 of brine at Upwich, 12 proprietors shared 20 vats at the better Netherwich pit, and 10 sha in the lesser Netherwich pit. Upwich pit was fed by three separate springs and the drawi brine was strictly controlled event - each shareholder was entitled to equal parts of bri top, middle and bottom of the pit to ensure that each had brine of equal strength. In 1 pit is described as being "30 foot deep ..... about 10 foot square, the sides being made w elms jointed in at the full length.", and a 17th century sketch plan of the town shows the surrounded by "seales" or boiling houses.

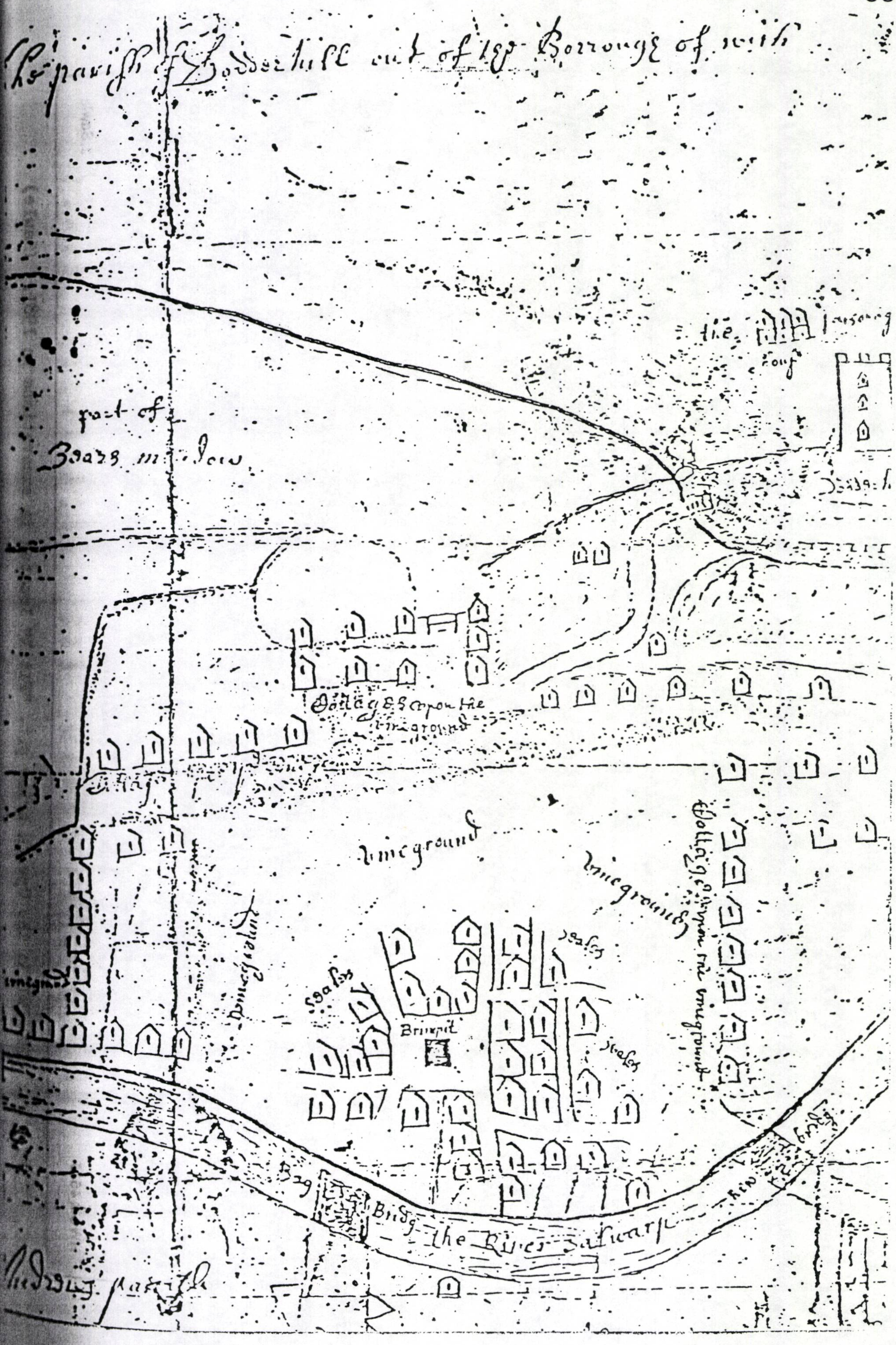
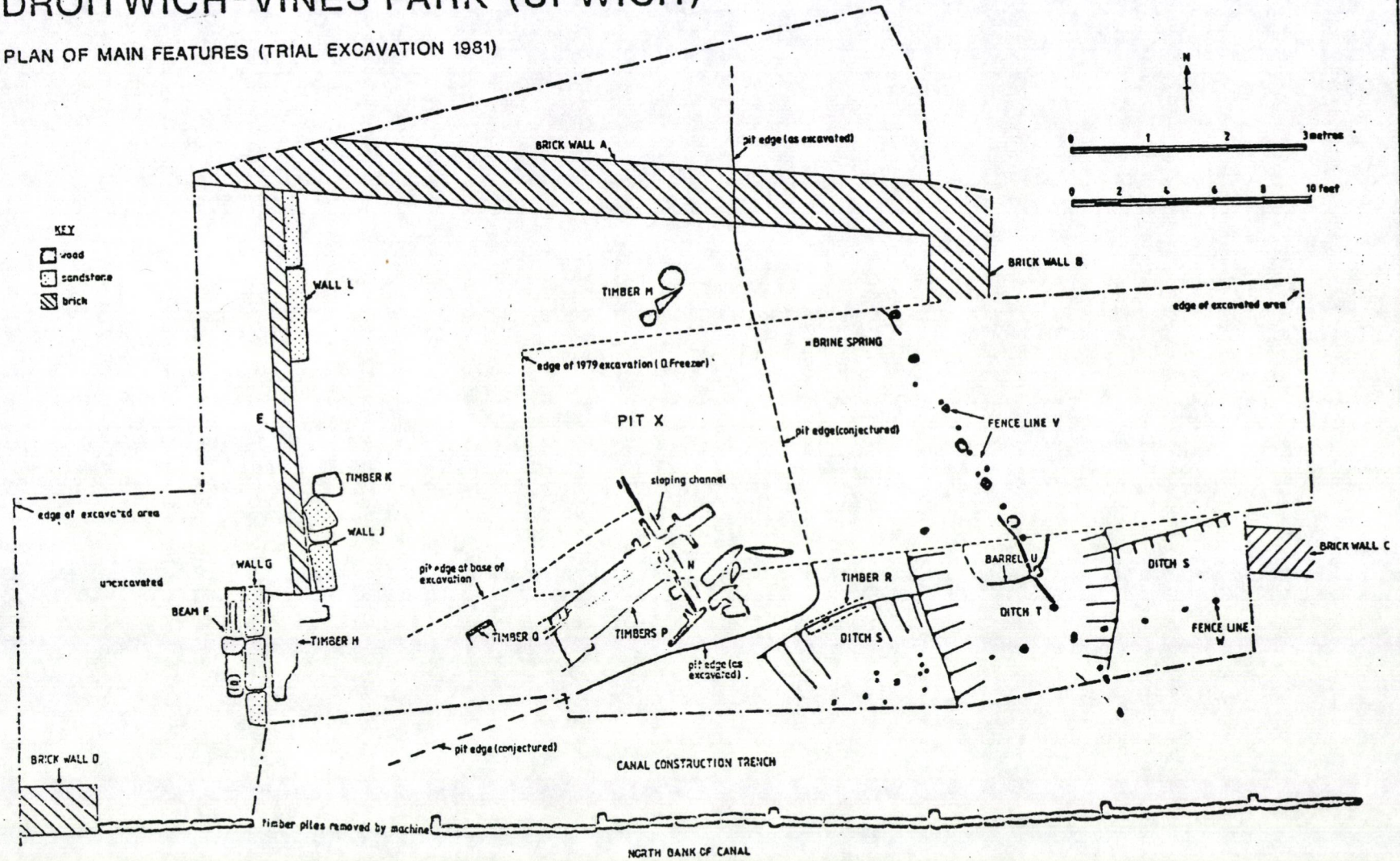


Fig. 20: DROITWICH: the Upwich brine pit as marked on a 17th century map.

DROITWICH-VINES PARK (UPWICH)

PLAN OF MAIN FEATURES (TRIAL EXCAVATION 1981)



J. Sawle

In 1695 the Borough monopoly was broken and commoners then sank pits on their own land which resulted in the price of salt falling, and although the proprietors of the old pits continued to work them, it was at some considerable disadvantage because they were burdened with heavy expenses. In 1725 a boring was made through the bottom on an existing pit which reached the underlying brine stream, enabling very large quantities of strong brine to be tapped. It is recorded that "from henceforth the old pit became of no value at all".

The precise location of the Great Pit has been lost since this period and major topographical changes in the area took place in 1768-1771 when the river was straightened out and a canal was constructed. Production of salt ceased in Droitwich in 1922 and the canal was filled-in during the 1960's. A search through the Borough records and through surviving leases of the Upwich area by Julie Crickmore, D.O.E. West Midlands Urban Research Fellow at Birmingham University, has located an area of land known in the 19th century as "Old Brine Pit", "Old Salt Pit", and "Corporation Pit". This recent revival of interest in Upwich has been generated by the decision to re-open the Droitwich Canal, which cannot follow its original course in this area because that has been encroached upon by a new road. The revised course will be about 10 metres to the north and will disturb any surviving archaeology to a depth of 3 metres. The area located in the 19th-century leases as the possible site of Upwich pit is included in this development.

A trial excavation, funded by the County Council, Wychavon District Council and Droitwich Town Council, was carried out in September 1981, in order to evaluate the importance of the archaeology. The south-eastern corner of a very large pit was found in close association with at least two brine springs. The extreme water-logged conditions had preserved the very substantial jointed wooden framework along the south side of the pit, and the base of wooden uprights of a structure immediately east of the pit, which may represent the wall-line of one of the "seales". The dating evidence recovered was consistent with the likely demise of the pit in the mid-18th century, and although the evidence from the small excavated area can only be provisional, it appears that continuity of use from at least the Roman period is possible.

The specific area of Upwich pit and its immediate surroundings should contain detailed evidence of the date, nature and extent of the salt industry on a scale not recoverable from elsewhere in the town, and because it was one of very few in land centres of salt production in Britain and Europe, funds are being raised to launch a major excavation, to maximise the recovery of this information. It is hoped that this will commence in April, 1982, under the direction of the newly-appointed Droitwich Archaeological Officer, Mr. John Price.

(A detailed, illustrated Interim Report on the recent trial excavations may be obtained from John Sawle, Archaeological Excavations Officer, Hereford and Worcester County Archaeology Department, Hartlebury Castle, Near Kidderminster, Worcs., DY11 7XZ, provided a 14" x 9" stamped (18p) addressed envelope is enclosed).

J. Sawle
Archaeological Excavations Officer

Fig. 21: DROITWICH: the Upwich brine pit "Pit X" located in excavations in 1981. (Sawle)

ECCLESHALL, Staffordshire.

Moated site at Eyeswell Manor

Following explorations by BUFAU, two new areas have been opened up by members of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society and S.A.R.A. (Keele University). One of areas, 5.5m x 10m, lies on the platform; the other, 1m x 8.5m, cuts across the moat an ment to the east of the platform. Removal of topsoil has exposed an extensive gravell spread across the platform.

C.F. Hawke-Smith,
City Museum and Art
Stoke-on-Trent.

FAWFIELDHEAD, Staffordshire SJ

Excavation of a burial mound at The Low

This excavation was carried out in 1979-80, on a site previously believed to have been Thomas Bateman in 1848 and stated to have been "not a burial mound" (Gunstone 1965). In f of these pieces of information were shown to be wrong.

The barrow had been damaged by a domestic kiln, trees, the construction of a small bui the cutting of a drive to the farm. A substantial amount remained, however, and tne excava in advance of the bulldozing of this remainder.

The mound was a single-period turf-stack, covering a primary cremation, off-set from t of tne mound, in a small pit c. 0.30 m deep, 0.27 m wide and 1.0 m long. Tne bottom of the lined with black organic material, and the unurned cremated bone occupied a central position bottom of the pit, lying on the organic material. The compactness of the bone, together wi fact that there was virtually no soil mixed witn it, would suggest that the burial had been from the pyre in a container.

On the southern side of the barrow, and cut into by an antiquarian trench, was a featu c. 3.50m long, 0.75 m wide and cut 0.35 m below the OGS. It lay beneath the mound and had cleaned out and backfilled by the digger of the antiquarian trench. Its shape and E - W or suggest a possible Anglian grave, an interpretation which is further supported by a piece of iron. The feature was damaged at its western end by both animal and antiquarian activity, increased its original length. If this <u>is</u> an Anglian grave, it will be the first to have in the gritstone area of the Peak.

Two further features were found, cut through the mound: these were adjacent and roughly semi-circular, with maximum dimensions of c. 1.80 m long, 0.50 m, 0.40 m deep and c. 2.10 m long 0.80 m wide and 0.35 m deep respectively. They were separated by a baulk comprising vertically-stacked turves. When this baulk was removed, it was clear that the two features had originally been dug as one circular feature, with the turf baulk being added afterwards. Phosphate readings within the features were higher than those without, which might suggest the decomposition of organic material, especially as the soil is highly acidic, giving a pH reading of 3.2.

A preliminary C14 date (HAR 4302) of 2270±90bc was earlier than might have been expected.

A total of seventy-three flints was found, forty of which were calcined. The total included scrapers, backed-blades and utilized flakes.

The only pottery on the site was a small undecorated sherd from the old ground surface.

David Wilson
Department of Adult Education
University of Keele

Reference:

Gunstone, A.J.H. 1965 'An archaeological gazeteer of Staffordshire: Part 2 The Barrows' NSJFS 5 : 38

FENTON, Staffordshire

Conclusion of excavation at William Greatbatch's pottery at Fenton SJ 892 446

Excavations have now been concluded on the pottery dump of the 18th century Fenton potter, William Greatbatch. A third phase of dumping has been identified and excavated in its entirety, being chronologically later than the pre-dump phase and earlier than the latest phase of the site, both of which were described in West Midlands Archaeology No. 23, p.67-71. Evidence suggests that we have, in this dump, a complete range of wasters produced by the Greatbatch factory between 1761 and the 1780's, while historical research has shown that Greatbatch probably never had two factories as has been previously suggested, but just one in the Lower Lane area of Fenton.

Work is continuing on the finds from the site.

David Barker
City Museum and Art Gallery
Stoke-on-Trent.

HANBURY, Hereford and Worcester

Documentation and Field Survey Fig. 22, 23. SO 9664

The first two years' work on a long-term investigation of the settlement and landscape history of a north Worcestershire parish was reported in the previous two issues (nos. 22,23).

In the winter months of 1980-1 field walking produced worked flints, RB and medieval p from a number of new sites, suggesting even higher densities of settlement and agriculture t previously realised. This impression was reinforced by further discoveries during the 1981 season, which included the discovery of two new major RB sites, bringing the number of RB si at least 12. Three sites produced sufficient quantities of medieval pottery to provide evi of deserted settlement sites for which no earthworks survive. This year we found a piece probably late Saxon pottery on Church Hill, the first find that can be dated to the Anglo-Sa period. We still lack finds of pottery of the pre-Roman period.

The Birmingham University undergraduates continued the field-by-field survey of the pa concentrating now on its southern half. Most of this area was seen; only the field of Up Middle Hollowfields Farms have still to be visited.

Large numbers of new settlement sites were recorded. These included a moated site at Court, and groupings of house platforms which can be regarded as hamlets at Broughton Green, Shell Brook in Temple Broughton Farm, and near to Lower Hollowfields Farm. In addition a f sites with three or fewer platforms were found scattered throughout the southern part of the As a result the total number of earthwork sites with evidence of former settlement has now r 30 to 48. One of these is rather unusual, since it consists of regular depressions cut int nounced ridge and furrow, in each of which it seems that a separate building was placed. S of the furrows became enlarged by use as tracks within the hamlet. We can only assume that represents relatively late settlement of a temporary nature; but we have no clue as to its purpose.

Two major fishpond systems were recorded this year, one a single large pond below Fish which is apparently associated with three small tanks nearby. The other consists of many s and tanks in a linked system along the Seeley Brook near Wards Farm, part of which is known Stews. In addition we observed the substantial leet of a former watermill (Lett's Mill) on Brook. This is a considerable piece of earthwork construction which brings water to the mi artificial channel along the valley side from nearly a kilometre further upstream.

We have added to our knowledge of the two major Roman roads which cross Hanbury parish A raised section (agger) of the north-south road has been found at Hollow Court. A similar of the east-west road may run through the area just south of Park Farm; and very close by, has brought a lot of stone to the surface on the road's probable course. Elsewhere it has traced in two or three short lengths of hollow-way through Park and Parkhall Farms. Many hollow-ways have been found, and as in previous years most of these are no longer in use as There is a particularly interesting group of them in the Broughton Green area. Two former distance roads have also been reconstructed running east-west along the top of the ridges re to north and south of the Shell Brook. These are largely preserved as 'green lanes'. Th road is best seen across Wards and Hill Farms, and the southern one for nearly two kilometre Lower Hollowfields Farm and east to Stonehouse Farm. We have also noted much evidence that the existing roads in the southern part of Hanbury were laid out as new or considerably impr at the time of wholesale enclosure, (as for example the road which runs across the parish be Shell Brook, which must largely have replaced these two green lanes).

As before, great numbers of ridge and furrow systems, with accompanying headlands, hav found. In one area of Temple Broughton Farm the ridges and furrows are so uncharacteristic large and well-preserved as to resemble a classic east midland system. Several more length

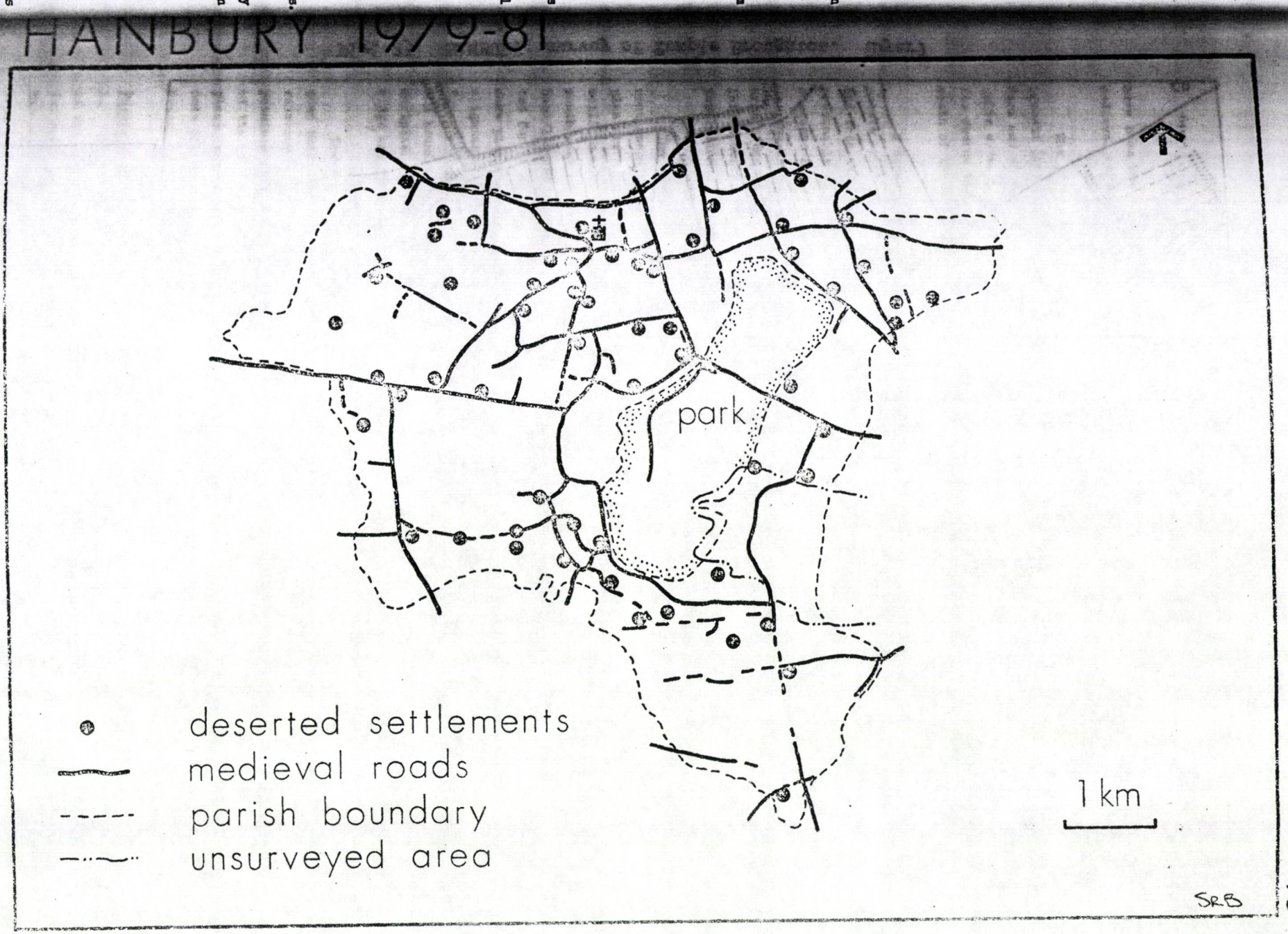
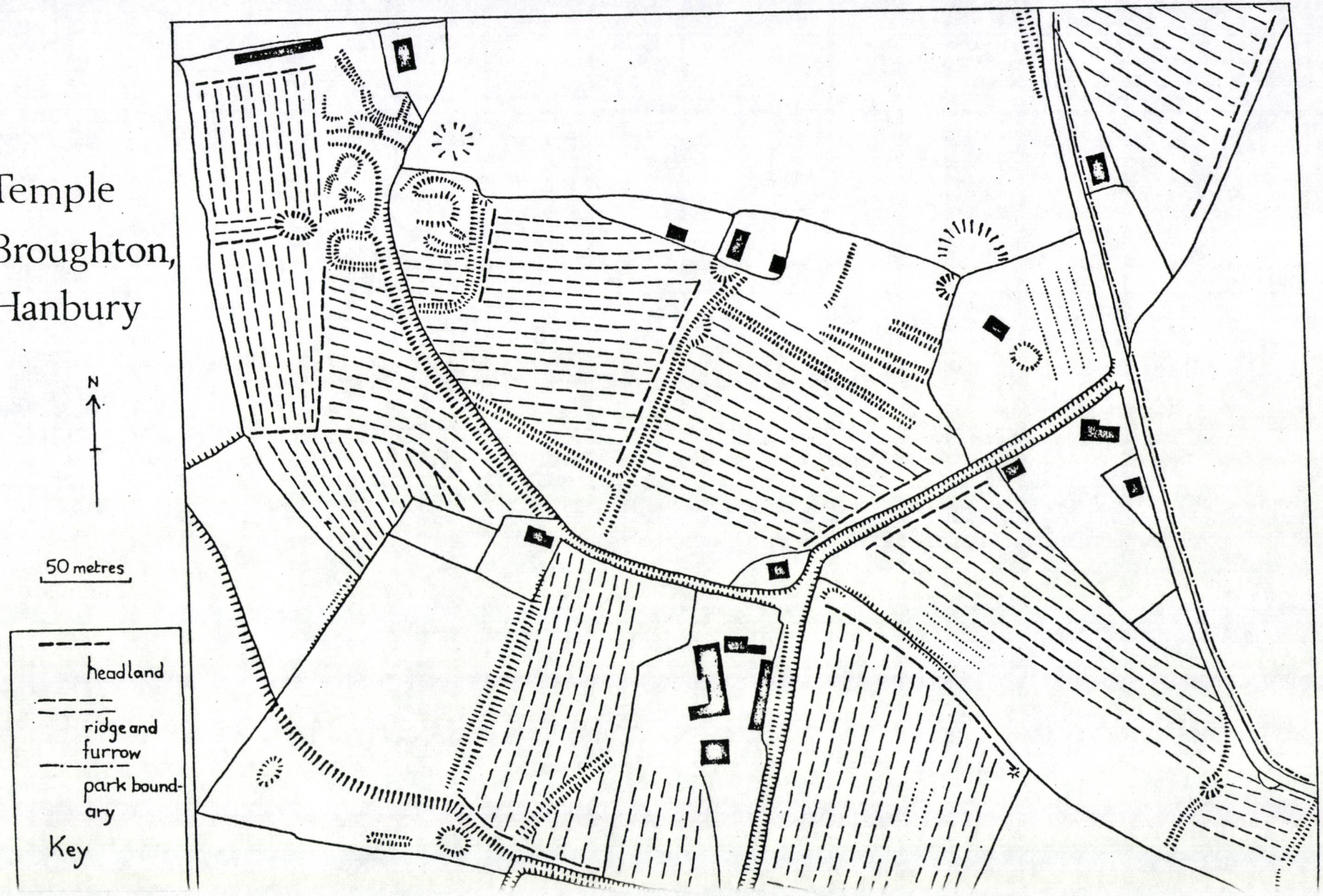


Fig. 22: HANBURY: settlements located to 1981. (Bassett)

Temple Broughton, Hanbury



have been traced which, like those found in the north of the parish, may have been formed by pre-medieval cultivation.

The parish boundary has again been studied with care. In several areas we noted that its present line has replaced an older, far more substantial course, as for instance by Stonehouse Farm and at Earl's Common. Along much of the parish's southern edge the boundary was formerly quite wide, often up to 15 metres and once perhaps about 50 metres wide. This accords well with its course through an area of relatively late assarting, with much old woodland still intact immediately south of Hanbury parish in Himbleton, Grafton Flyford and Dormston.

A detailed study was made of Broughton in Hanbury which formed part of the main Hanbury estate until the early 12th century, when it was granted out to a branch of the Beauchamp family, and then was held successively by the Templars and Hospitallers until the Reformation. A settlement presumably existed before the creation of a separate estate; the name 'brook town' (from OE broc) suggests an association with the Shell Brook, which runs well to the south of the present hamlet. It was assessed in the 12th century at 5 hides 3½ virgates, which implies a sizeable place, though its area seems to have been less than 400 acres. The numbers of people from Broughton who appear in the late medieval Hanbury court rolls, notably as brewers, suggest that it had no more than a modest population.

The quality of preservation of earthworks at Broughton is very high, with a large number of contiguous fields containing features of all kinds. The most prominent earthworks shown in the plan are a network of hollow-ways converging in the vicinity of Temple Broughton Farm, some of them still in use as roads and farm tracks. Evidence of cultivation includes a prominent lynchet in the south-west of the plan, marking the bottom of the hill on which the farm stands, with a substantial bank/lynchet running north up the hill forming a boundary of an area of ridge and furrow. The ridge and furrow systems tend to be on a small scale, so that in some cases the ridges were so short as to make ploughing difficult. They are often bounded by ditches or hollow-ways; many of the hedge alignments coincide with divisions in the ridge and furrow systems. Perhaps some of the ridge and furrow originally lay in enclosed crofts, and certainly the tendency of modern hedges to respect the old boundaries points to a process of piecemeal enclosure. The planned area includes at least four marlpits, two of which (in the south-east and north-west corners) lay at the junction of systems of ridge and furrow, suggesting that the pits were dug while the field systems were in use.

There are a number of indications of shifts in settlement. In the north-west corner of the plan there are at least three building platforms grouped at the end of a hollow-way, so that the still existing half-timbered cottage is evidently the last survivor of a small hamlet. There is another possible platform in the south-west corner, near the junction of lynchets and hollow-ways. A number of the other cottages of the modern hamlet (notably one to the north and another to the east of the plan), and the modern chapel (north-east corner) have associated enclosures that cut and clearly post-date the ridge and furrow systems, demonstrating that they are relatively late encroachments. The modern farm probably stands on the site of the medieval manor house.

Points of discussion:

1. It is now apparent that at the centre of Hanbury lay a large Roman settlement, at the junction of the Droitwich-Alcester and Bromsgrove-Cirencester Roman roads. Finds of Roman pottery extend for more than a kilometre along the east-west road, perhaps representing a series of settlements. The subsequent history of both the settlements and the associated roads is remarkable. The settlement area became the centre of a large royal park, already in existence by 1086 and probably earlier in origin.

The Roman road system was disrupted by the park, so that the passage of the Roman roads thr the area can now be traced only with difficulty.

It is possible that the place came into royal hands, like many other important former settlements, but that its use, for reasons that can only be guessed, was changed radically later Saxon period. The estate to which the park belonged in the 11th century, and which to exist as a separate entity throughout the middle ages, was called Holewei, ie. the hollo This must refer to an important route - probably the north-south (Bromsgrove-Cirencester) r But it is odd that a road which was so important that it gave the estate its name should ha out of use so completely, probably early in the medieval period.

Both the Roman road system and its successors continue to pose problems. It seems li both the north-south and east-west Roman roads changed direction in order to climb the stee of Middle Hill, (sharply in the case of the former). To what extent did these roads cease exist after the creation of the royal park? It is possible either that the park was closed entirely, so that travellers had to make a long detour round this major obstacle, or that pa it was allowed by a single route, represented by the modern road, and that this route accomm both east-west and north-south travellers.

2. The distribution of settlements and field systems is now known over most of the parish the completely separate and distinctive history of the Holewei estate, which was a property Cistercians of Bordesley Abbey for 400 years, we might have anticipated that its medieval la would have been substantially different from that of Hanbury and Broughton. Instead we f same variety of ridge and furrow, hollow-ways and settlements as in the rest of the parish. Holewei had tenants much like those of Hanbury manor.

But it is also apparent that the settlement pattern was by no means uniform throughout There were some quite large groupings of houses at Goosehill, Broughton, Blickley (Ditchford Lower Hollowfields, while hamlet settlements of more than three houses are apparently absent north and west of the parish, i.e. Hanbury proper. If confirmed by future work, this obser call into question the often assumed coincidence between late (i.e. 12th and 13th century) c and dispersed settlement patterns.

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Excavation of motte-and-bailey castle fig. 24

The excavations were continued from 26 June to 25 July and further work was carried out following areas:

The Defences

The main posts for the palisade and fighting platform had been renewed from time to tim while the superstructure, particularly the rear supporting posts, remained in situ. This wa because the front of the palisade would take the brunt of the weather, especially as it faces west.

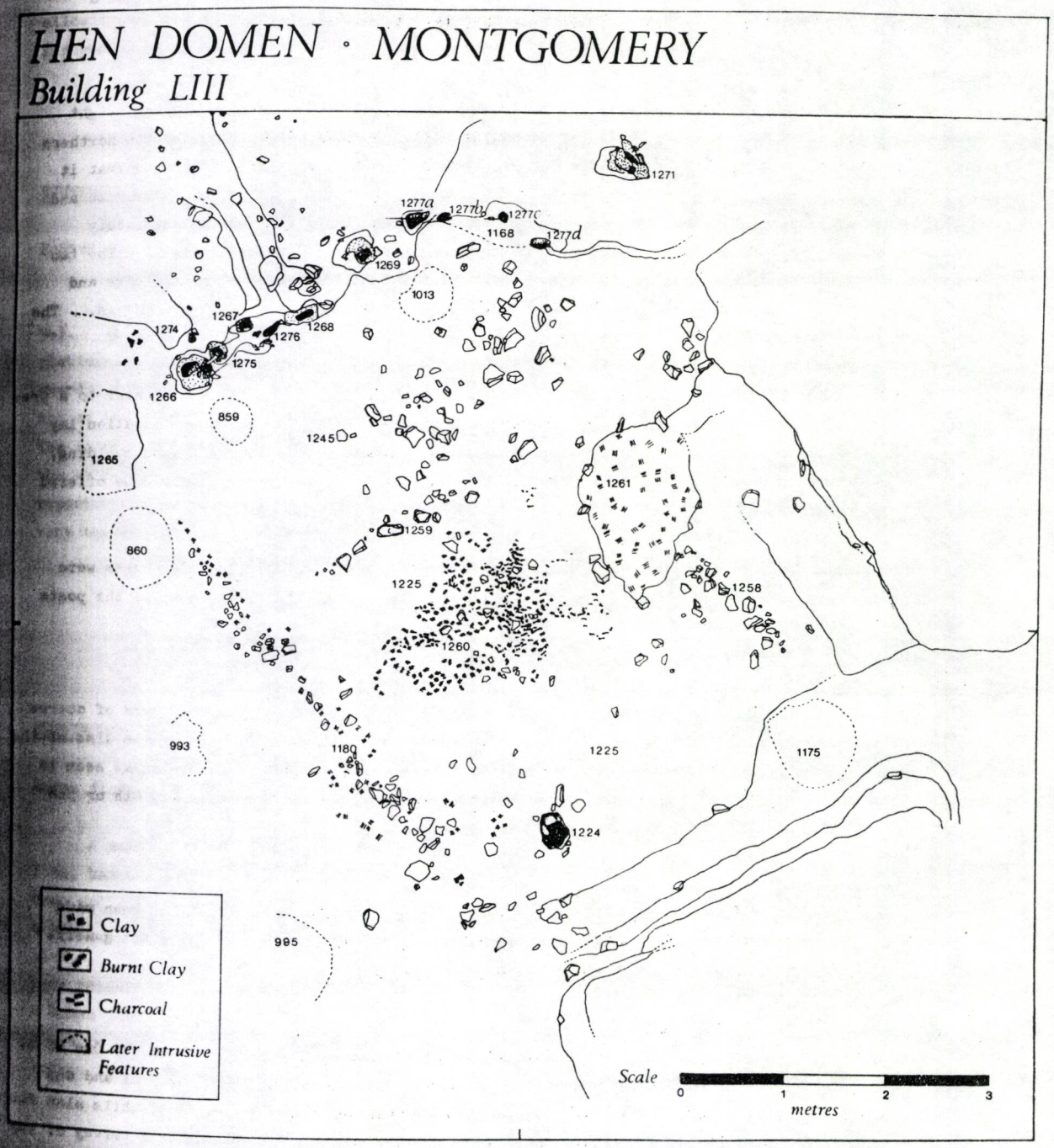

Fig. 24: HEN DOMEN: plan of excavations. (Barker)

Excavation of post pits in the rampart revealed a softer dark layer lower down in the rampart structure.

The bulb of the rampart carrying the towers by the entrance has post pits which reveal a lower solid surface within the rampart, suggesting that the 'bulb' is a late addition.

Domestic Buildings

The clay platform on which building LII had been constructed was removed, revealing sli but positive traces of an earlier, smaller rectangular building, LIII, which occupied the no part of the area covered by LII. It had a central hearth and lines of stones suggested tha had timber ground sills. Beneath building LIII was a post hole building, LIV, the same siz on the same alignment. However, it is not yet clear whether building LIV, which immediatel underlies LIII, is an earlier building or the same building revealed in greater detail. Th buildings certainly share the same hearth area. Both building LIII and LIV had clay floors a stook on a platform, apparently of buried soil, which had been scarped south of the buildings reason for this is not clear.

Gullies at the back of the rampart and at the north of building LIII and LIV led water viously excavated cistern. The gully below the rampart on the western side of the excavatio close to a number of charred, apparently unworked, timbers, perhaps debris from a burned buil which had been laid in rows before being buried in clay and stones. No explanation can be o for this curious feature.

Three further granary post pits were emptied and two samples of waterlogged post bases removed to the University of Birmingham for radiocarbon dating. The pits of two more of the were revealed, but not excavated.

Dating and Finds

The excavation this year produced very little pottery or metal finds, though a sherd of fabric in one of the granary post pits implies that there was a small amount in use at the ti building of the granary, which was probably very early in the castle's life. Otherwise we s be back into the virtually aceramic period which begins here on the Welsh border in the 4th c century.

The Site Archive

Through the kindness of Montgomery Civic Society a room for storage and study has been available in the recently opened Museum and Display Centre in The Bell, Arthur Street, Montgo Full records of the excavation will eventually be stored there.

The Settlement Pattern of the Area

Work continued on the study of the settlement pattern of the area around the site. C (R.A.H.) spent five weeks at Montgomery before the excavation began, working on historical an evidence, and a synthesis of available information held in Sites and Monuments records, whil walking parts of the area which had hitherto not been visited. During the excavation a surv ridged fields, probably of Anglo-Saxon date, one close to the castle and one in Lymore Park, out.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the Universities of Birmingham and Exeter for their continued suppor

Cambrian Archaeological Association for a grant towards the cost of tools, and to the British Academy for enabling R.A.H. to continue his study of the settlement pattern of the area. Once again we acknowledge the help of all those who worked on the excavation - students on the training school, volunteers and old hands - together with the kindness of Mr. John Wainwright for allowing us to excavate the site, Mr. Ivor Tanner, whose services are invaluable, and friends in Montgomery who make us very welcome each year.

P.A. Barker and R.A. Higham

HUNNINGHAM, Warwickshire

Moated site at SP 371 680

Excavation has continued on this site (WMANS 21 (1978) 95; WMANS 22 (1979) 77; WMA 23 (1980) 94). Waterlogging has prevented further exploration of the possible entrance on the NE side of the platform. But the area of buried topsoil which was being examined has now yielded some medieval sherds, as well as the Roman and neolithic finds reported in WMA 23. Work is progressing on the top of the platform, in an effort to understand the character of the building(s) that were there. The scatter of building stone (red sandstone) as well as all the other finds, is being plotted; and the evidence suggests a smaller building alongside the possible Dutch barn mentioned in the previous report. But until the whole area of the platform has been examined, interpretations must remain very tentative.

Fabian Radcliffe
The Trinity School Archaeologists and
The Leamington Archaeology Group,

HUNNINGHAM, Warwickshire

Roman finds at SP 392 670

A small field bordering the River Itchen, and lying in the angle between the river and the railway line, has regularly turned up Roman sherds when cultivated. During the past year this pottery has been collected; and in the autumn of 1981 an attempt was made to explore the nature of the site by a small trench, but continuous rain coupled with solid clay subsoil prevented the work from being completed. The pottery includes Samian, black-burnished, grey wares and tile. Field walking produced more pottery from the fields to the west and to the east across the river. Nearby are the sites of a Roman building at SP 397 668, and a villa at SP 397 670. Aerial photographs suggest that in the field on the other side of the railway, banks and ditches of indeterminate date cut across a river loop; but cultivation has destroyed all traces of these on the surface.

Fabian Radcliffe
The Trinity School Archaeologists

KINVER EDGE AREA

Eighth Interim Report of Survey Work at SO 8080 and vicinity

Work has continued in the last year on the systematic collection of flints from plough fields in the area round Kinver Edge, drained by the River Stour and some of its tributaries. usual sparse scatters have been found with one or two concentrations which seem related to t sources.

Increasingly, it seems necessary to consider such scatters in terms of flints per unit area per visit, in order to arrive at as objective a quantitative assessment as is possible many variable factors are involved. So far, the flint-scatters located range from one or le about twenty-five to thirty per acre (c. 10 per hectare), with a very few blank areas.

Much of the material found continues to seem Mesolithic in character. Microliths are geometric, with the exception of one scalene triangle and one rod-like form. Some finds fr periods have now been made, including one Upper Palaeolithic knife, a few leaf-shaped, lozen and barbed-and-tanged arrowheads, and a certain amount of black flint which may be imported not petrologically confirmed).

We are, as always, grateful to Dr. L.H. Barfield for his help with the identification flints.

LEINTWARDINE, Hereford and Worcester

Rescue excavation at SO 4035 7406 HWCM 1061 figs. 25,26

Introduction

The rebuilding and enlargement of the abbatoir at the rear of 22 High Street, Leintwa involved the encroachment onto part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (HWCM 1061; SO 4035 An excavation, funded by the County Council and the Department of the Environment anticipat destruction, and a team of six was employed for three months in the autumn of 1980. A tot c. 500 square metres was fully excavated.

Background

Fig. 25 shows the position of Leintwardine in its regional and local settings. The either side of the Roman Watling Street West, being almost equidistant from Wroxeter and Ke on the northern bank of the River Teme, just to the east of its confluence with the River Cl strategic position is emphasized by the identification of seven marching camps and another within the immediate area. Dr. S.C. Stanford has examined the sites of the three forts (J Buckton and Leintwardine Village) and has suggested the following sequence (Stanford 1968):

At Leintwardine apparently non-military occupation of first and early second-century (Stanford period I) beneath the modern village was contemporary both with the Jaw Lane Fort SO 3990 7445) occupied between c. AD 50 and c. AD 78, and with the one at Buckton which wa

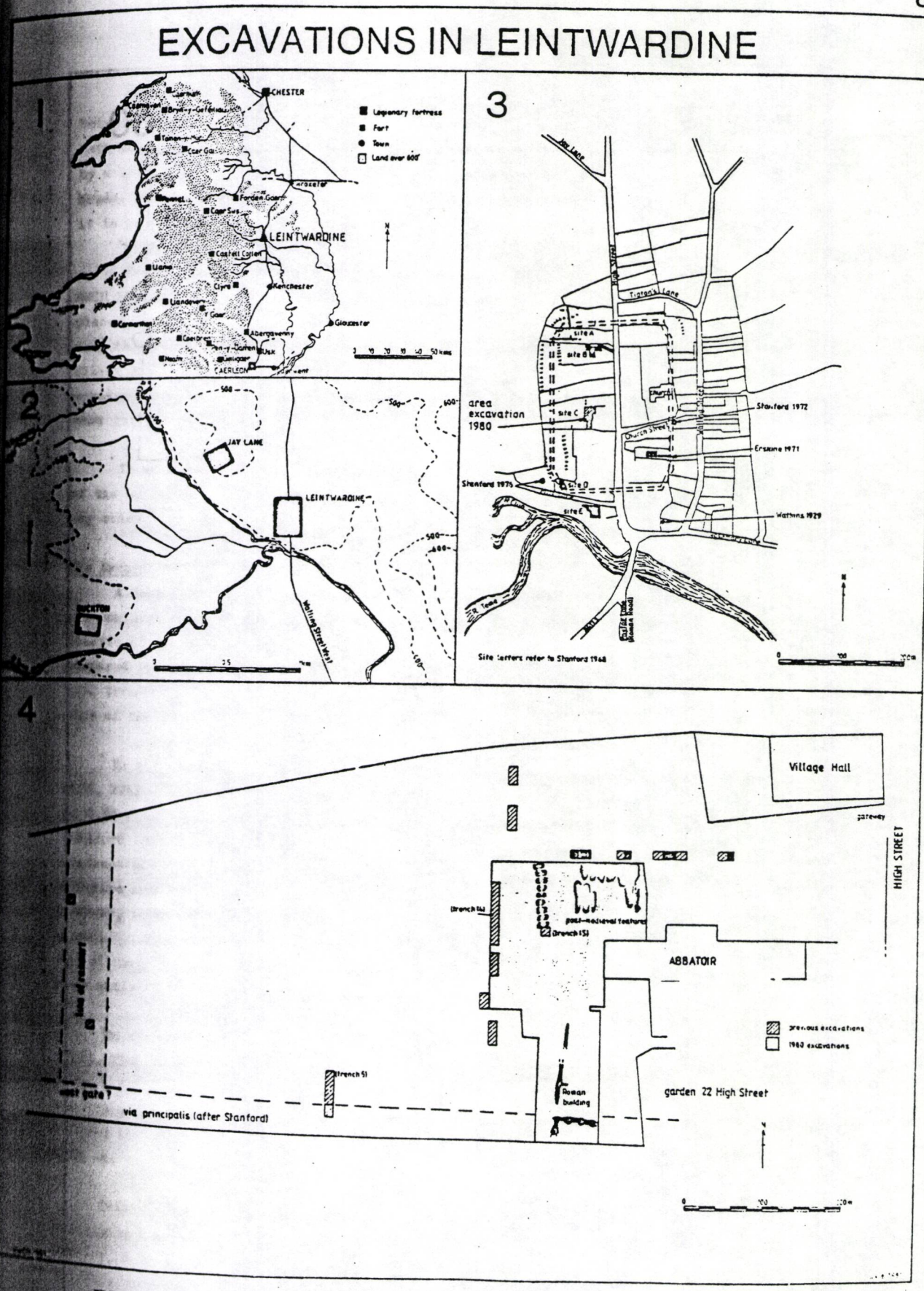

Fig. 25: LEINTWARDINE: location of excavations. (Sawle)

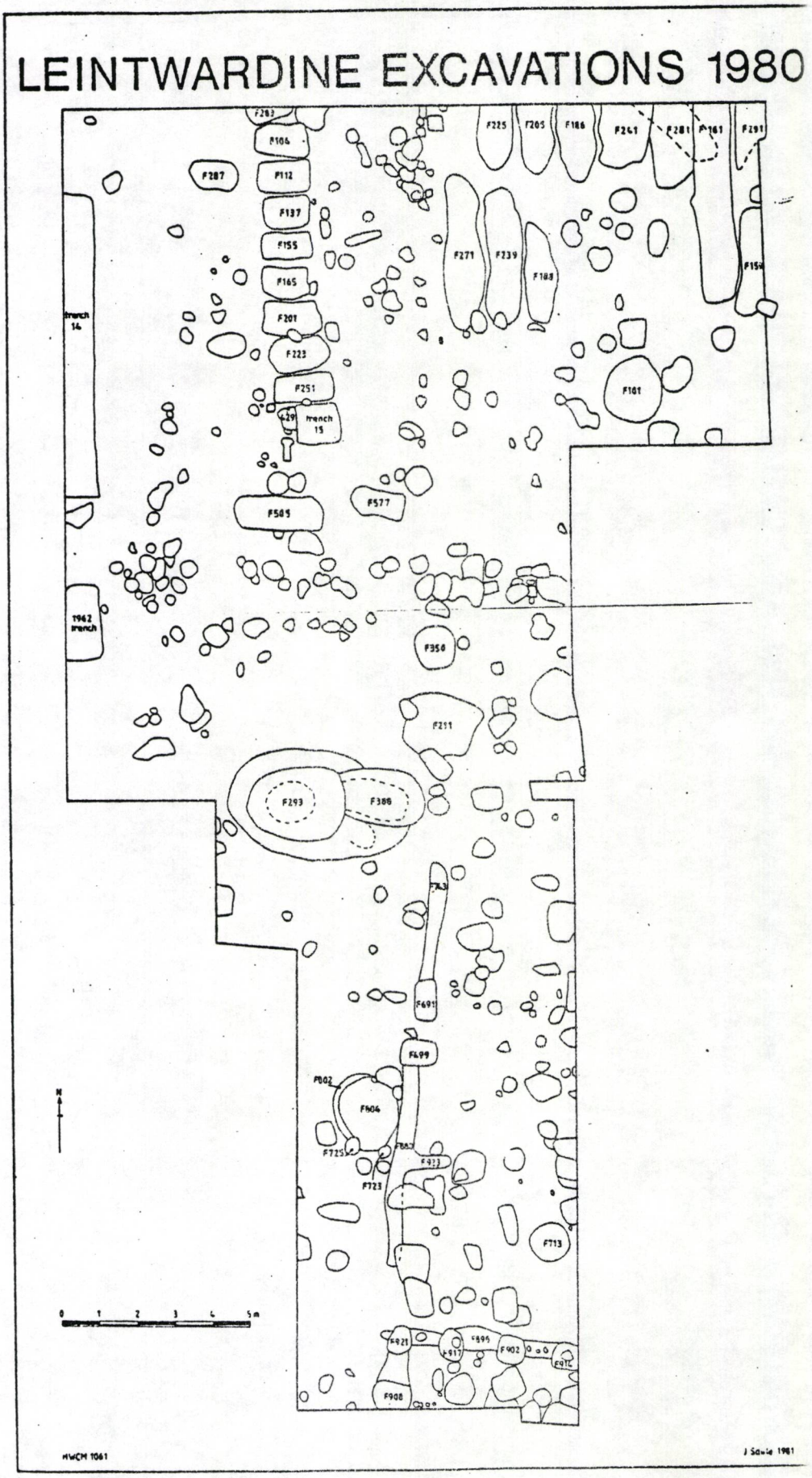

Fig. 26: LEINTWARDINE: plan of excavations. (Sawle)

between AD 90 and AD 130. In c. AD 160 the non-military Leintwardine occupation, of which a small bath house and a possible mansio have been identified, was succeeded by a fort of c. 3.5 ha, enclosed by a timber-laced rampart and a ditch with an annex on the south side containing the improved bath house. Evidence of intermittent occupation in the third and fourth century has been recorded, and it is possible that the settlement was finally destroyed by burning.

Excavations and a resistivity survey in the field behind the butcher's shop (22 High Street: HWCM 1061; Fig.25.4) in 1959 and 1962 led Stanford to the conclusion that a roadway, appropriately placed for the via principalis, ran along its southern boundary (trench 5: Stanford 1968 p.276) and that the principia itself might be located on its eastern side, where a number of shallow stone-filled gullies were found, running north-south (ibid p.278). The alignment of the via principalis appeared to be confirmed when observations in 1972 revealed evidence to suggest the existence of an east gate some 8.5 m south of Church Street (Stanford 1972).

It was therefore anticipated, that the work in 1980 would confirm the locations and functions of the buildings within the central area of the settlement and would examine the via principalis and any other structures along its northern side.

The Excavations

A detailed plan of the excavated area is shown on fig. 26. The field slopes quite steeply, the northern end of the site being c. 2.3 m higher than the southern end. It appears likely that erosion of the subsoil has occurred at the top end of the field, where the topsoil is c. 0.40 m deep, compared to a depth of c. 1.0 m at the southern end, against the field boundary. Three of Stanford's 1962 trenches were located, the western side of his trench 14 fortuitously aligning with the western edge of the 1980 area excavation. His other trenches, shown in fig.25.4 are plotted from these.

In the north-west corner of the site a series of parallel gullies were excavated (F225, F205, F186, F241, F281, F161, F291, F159, F188, F239 and F271); most were of unknown length but were c. 0.98 m wide and 0.15 m deep. These gullies appear to be the same as those excavated by Stanford (Staford 1968 p.278), as illustrated in fig. 25.4. He was unable to date them on their own evidence but suggested that they were the remains of wall foundations sited within the central administrative area of the fort. A number of large stone slabs were contained within the gullies, but however, in the 1980 area, although the gullies contained stone slabs, none were dressed or laid as a wall. Some twenty-three sherds of post-medieval pottery were associated with these gullies, and although several contained only Roman pottery it must be concluded that they all represent the same activity and must date therefore to the post-medieval period.

On their western side the gullies appeared to be confined by a row of ten shallow pits (F283, F104, F112, F137, F155, F165, F201, F223, F251,and F429)c.1.40m long, 0.80m wide and c.0.14m deep. Although some of these contained only Roman pottery, others contained post-medieval potsherds and therefore they are all likely to be of this later date. An east-west line of postholes possibly defined the southern limit of this complex, but only a few scraps of Roman pottery were associated with it.

Other features in this northern half of the site consisted of a pit (F287) only 0.05 m deep but containing a large quantity of Roman pottery, two deeper pits (F505 and F577) containing only Roman pottery, a very deep (c.3.0m) circular pit (F101) containing Roman pottery and a rouletted sherd of "Chester Ware", and 132 post holes and small pits of varying sizes, profiles and dates.

The southern half of the site contained features which can be assigned more certainly t the Roman period. The largest was a circular pit, F293, c. 3.0 m in diameter and c. 2.14 m with a shallow extension to the east, F388, being c. 1.2 m deep. Both contained quantities large unabraded potsherds of second-century date. To their north-east two circular pits, F F211, also contained large quantities of second-century pottery.

At the south end of the site, the north-west corner of a building was discovered. I sisted of a series of large rectangular postholes (F908, F921, F917, F902, F914) c. 0.74 m l 0.63 m wide and c. 0.56 m deep, about 0.75 m apart connected by a steep-sided, flat-bottomed (898) c. 0.20 m deep. The alignment of the western side of this building was continued nor by a gully (F880) separated from the north-west corner by a gap of c. 1.5 m. At c. 1.0 m no wards a short gully (F923) branched off at right angles to the east of F880. The northern F880, and the southern end of its continuation F743, had been removed by two modern pits (F4 but there must have been a gap between the two. The postholes and gullies of the building, and F743 contained only Roman pottery of second-century date.

The other major feature in this area was a circular patch of grey clay (F804) which ha narrow gully (F802) around its edge. The gully terminated at two deep (0.30 m) stone-packe holes (F723, F725). Beneath the grey clay there was a circular depression c. 0.40 m deep evidence of burning at its base.

A circular pit (F713) contained a large quantity of unabraded late third/early fourth- pottery. The remaining features were either postholes or small pits, including twelve offa dating to the late 1960's.

Conclusions

Relatively few finds were uncovered during the excavation and there is a major problem many of the features because the pottery is often undiagnostic and abraded, and there was li stratigraphy. Further analysis of the material is continuing, so any statements made here accepted as interim conclusions.

It seems quite clear that the shallow gullies and pits in the north-eastern corner of are of post-medieval date, and cannot now be considered as wall foundation trenches for the or any other Roman building. From the nature of their profile and their fill they were unl be robber-trenches for walls of any date; some of the stones that remained were quite large were not dressed and there was no sign of mortar or clay bonding. One favoured interpretat that they represent some type of cultivation trench and that the shallow pits were, perhaps, of bush holes.

It is possible that most of the Roman features at the top of this field have suffered by ploughing. The pit, F287, which contained large unabraded sherds from three separate Ro pottery vessels and which is therefore likely to be of Roman date, was only 0.05 m deep. I therefore not unlikely that foundation or robber trenches might have been totally eroded or away and thus one cannot state with certainty from the excavated evidence whether there ever buildings in this central area of the settlement in the Roman period.

The Roman features that did survive were concentrated at the southern end of the site. pottery analysis indicates a date range for all the material from mid-second to the early fo century. The location of the building is obviously of great significance because it is dir

on the alignment of the via principalis, suggested by Stanford and based by him on the evidence recorded in trench 5 (fig. 25.4). In this trench three layers of packed gravel were seen, separated by deposits of silt and humus (Staford 1968 p.276). The earliest road was assumed to be contemporary with the construction of the rampart and ditch (i.e. c. AD 160).

No trace of laid gravel was seen anywhere within the 8 m width of the 1980 excavation. There was a considerable build-up of soil along this souther boundary and judging from the good survival of the building, it seems unlikely that much erosion had taken place at this end of the field. The pottery from the postholes and slots of the building suggests at least a mid-second-century date, and it is hoped that more detailed analysis will refine this. One pit (F714) contained much pottery of late third/early fourth-century date but it is not stratigraphically related to the building. On the evidence recorded in the 1980 excavation is is thought unlikely that the via principalis ran along this southern boundary and that the gravel surfaces found in trench 5 require another explanation.

As a result of the recent work it is clearly necessary to re-evaluate the status of the Roman settlement at Leintwardine; a study beyond the scope of this interim report. The absence of any evidence either for buildings within the central area or for the via principalis and associated structures on its northern side, invevitably raise the questions of whether these features ever existed, and whether the settlement was a defended civilian site rather than a fort.

Acknowledgements

Hereford and Worcester County Council and the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments provided the funds necessary for the work, and Mr. J.P. Roberts (County Archaeological Officer) and Dr. S.C. Stanford (Birmingham University) helped to set up the project and gave encouragement throughout. The active interest and co-operation of the landowner, Mr. D. Griffiths, and of his architect, Mr. J. Needham, were of considerable assistance to the project. Debbie Ford (Supervisor), Jane Page (Planner), James Dinn, Jane Cowgill, Rick McClean and Victor Burnside worked most ably throughout a very wet and often very cold season. John Williams of Bedstone School attended the excavation as often as possible, and there were many other occassional helpers.

John Sawle

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LITTLE DAWLEY, Shropshire

Excavation of an 18th/19th century 'squatter cottage' at SJ 679 061

A feature of the Shropshire coalfield during the 18th and 19th centuries was the establishment of squatter communities, building their small and usually insubstantial dwellings on the marginal land of lanes, fields and waste. One such community existed in Holywell Lane, Little Dawley, where by the 1770's there were up to six cottages and by the 1820's upwards of thirty. Of the original six, that at the east end of the lane (at SJ 679 061) was chosen for partial excavation, with the aims of establishing its foundation date and construction styles, together with the material lifestyle of its inhabitants through time.

The available map coverage reveals the presence of the cottage by the early 1770's, and it extinction during the period 1854-1881. The maps reveal a square or rectangular principal buil with individual outbuildings, situated at the eastern end of a long and narrow strip of land (Shropshire field-name = 'sland'), which is the characteristic encroachment shape along Holywell

The survival of positive cottage features was unexpectedly poor, and it has not been possi to define the physical evolution of this building. This is in part due to the later use of the site as a vegetable garden and as grazing land, and the robbing of the structure's building mate A short length of brick wall belonging to a late phase was the most substantial survival, and thi only preserved by its incorporation as a later field boundary. A small rectangular brick-lined shallow pit is identified as a 19th century outdoor privy.

An ash-filled ditch contained a substantial amount of 18th century ceramic material, and t assemblage is dated by marked clay tobacco pipes to c. 1740-1760, providing a settlement date so thirty years earlier than the first map reference. During the 18th century the ceramics were a exclusively of local manufacture, with coarse earthenwares and some fine black earthenware and w salt-glazed stoneware (both known to have been made nearby at Jackfield). The 19th century ass blage is not so distinct, formed largely from Staffordshire printed earthenwares.

Although the evidence for the cottage has been relatively slight, there is much informatio concerning the immediate pre-squatter phase. The cottage had encroached on the ridge and furro of a field still under the plough, and it is probable that this agricultural feature was instrum in the style of the encroachment, with the occupation of two or three ridges and their furrows. This may account for the slangs in Holywell Lane being long and narrow fragments of land. The of this system is unclear, the furrows producing only early 18th century pottery and the wavelen between ridges being c. 3-4 m may suggest a late date. Cut into the top of the principal ridge running east-west along the site was a shallow pit containing the disarticulated skeleton of a c No dating is possible for this, but it is of pre-squatter origin since it was sealed by the plou soil associated with the ridge and furrow.

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Institute of Industrial Archa

MANCETTER, Warwickshire

Roman features at Mancetter Farm SP

The farming activities of Mancetter Farm ceased in recent years and the new owner, a Mrs. was to modernise the property and landscape the farmyard. A presence on the fort was being mai in the research excavation by Atherstone Archaeological Society who were approached with an opti excavating the yard before levelling took place. A limited time was available, and funds were available by North Warwickshire Borough and the Department of the Environment. This speeded th process of overburden-removal and a two-stage dig followed:-

i) a trial area 900 sq. ft., checking survival of RB features,
ii) extension 1900 sq. ft. in remainder after success in (I).

Work commenced on 30th November, 1980 and continued on weekends plus evenings basis to final rest on 12th September, 1981

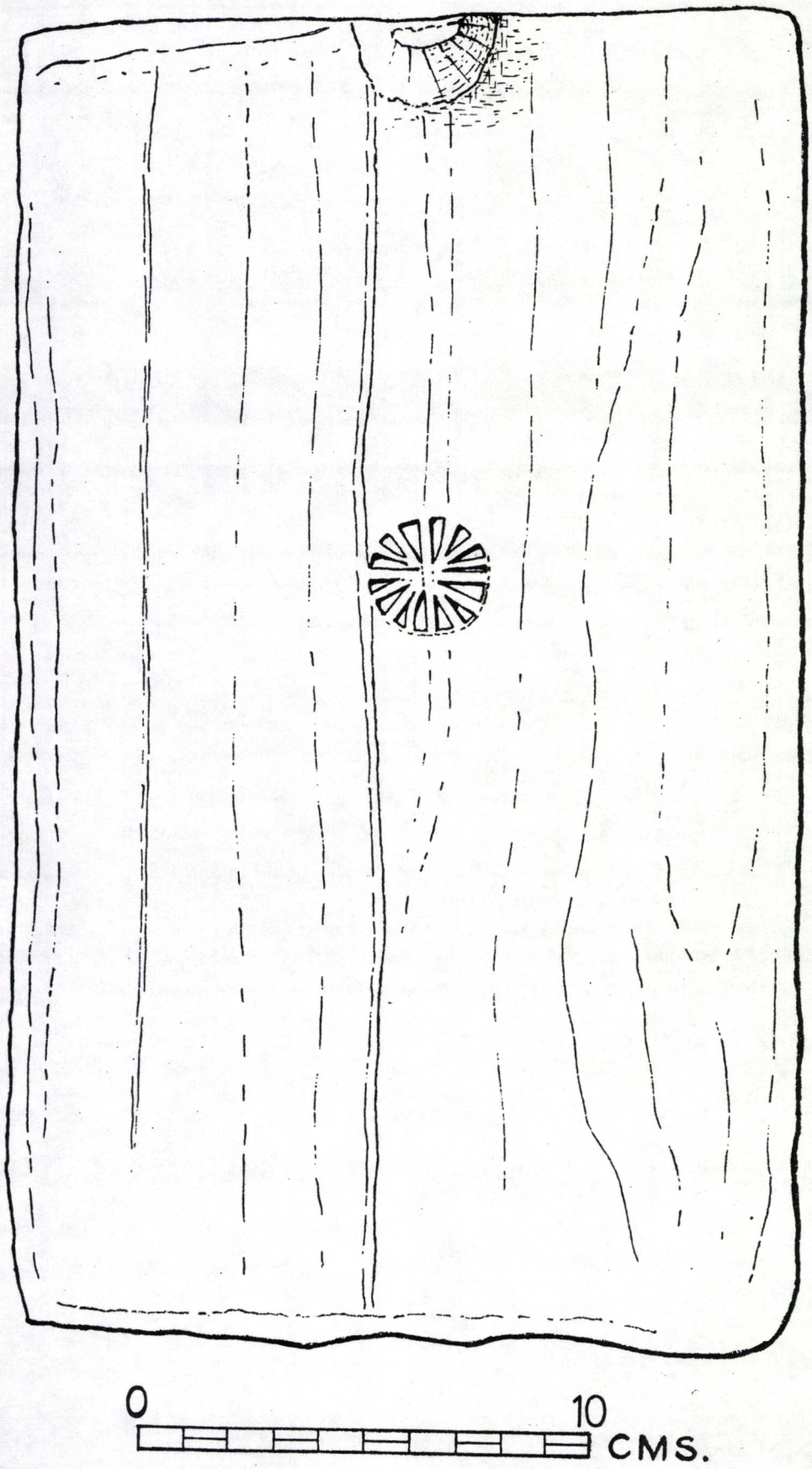

Fig. 27: MANCETTER: medieval roof tile from Mancetter farm. (Scott)

Preservation of the RB features was generally good, protection being brought about from a go thickness of top soil and subsoil. Some areas were much disturbed by farmyard burials, structura foundations and pipe trenches.

All RB features located are provisionally of 1st century date and include:-

1) Two parallel military style ditches cutting most of the following
2) Foundation slots for three or more buildings, one of which is an end to a barrack block with a urinal-type latrine.
3) Cauldron-type structure made in local stone (diorite) up to 1 metre surviving.
4) Several pits providing useful dating material.

Finds confirming a military occupation include lorica segmentata and bronze fittings. Seve rare and important finds include beads not seen in Britain before, Dobunnic silver coin, Samian F2 bowl with bear hunt scene classified as an unusual piece having no close parallels c. AD 40-60, an raw pigments now being analysed by the University of Bradford.

In conclusion, some answers were discovered but inevitably the work produced more questions the phases at Mancetter.

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MANCETTER, Warwickshire

Roof tiles from Mancetter Farm fig. 27 NG SP 320

Some of the outbuildings had roofs in a poor state of repair, these were made safe, in so doi good roof tile was stacked. There was a mixture of tiles some more recent with double nibs and others with single nibs. It was the latter type which sparked off a search after finding a tile a stamp (ten was total found). The stamp is approximately 26 mm diameter and is a 'cart wheel' ty centrally impressed probably while still in the tile mould. Tile size 290 x 173 x 17 mm.

Mancetter is only 6 miles from the Nuneaton Medieval Pottery Kiln complex where nothing like has been recorded on tile, although similar large complicated stamps were found on pottery circa la 14/early 15th century.

The tiles are probably re-used survivors from a similar date their longevity may have been he by the use of lime mortar which still adhered to the samples.

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MIDDLE HILL, Hereford and Worcester

Fieldwork and trial excavation on a prehistoric(?) and RomanoBritish site at SP 075 480 fig. 28

The site (SP 073 479 area) is on the dip slope, below the top of the Cleeve Hill escarpment.

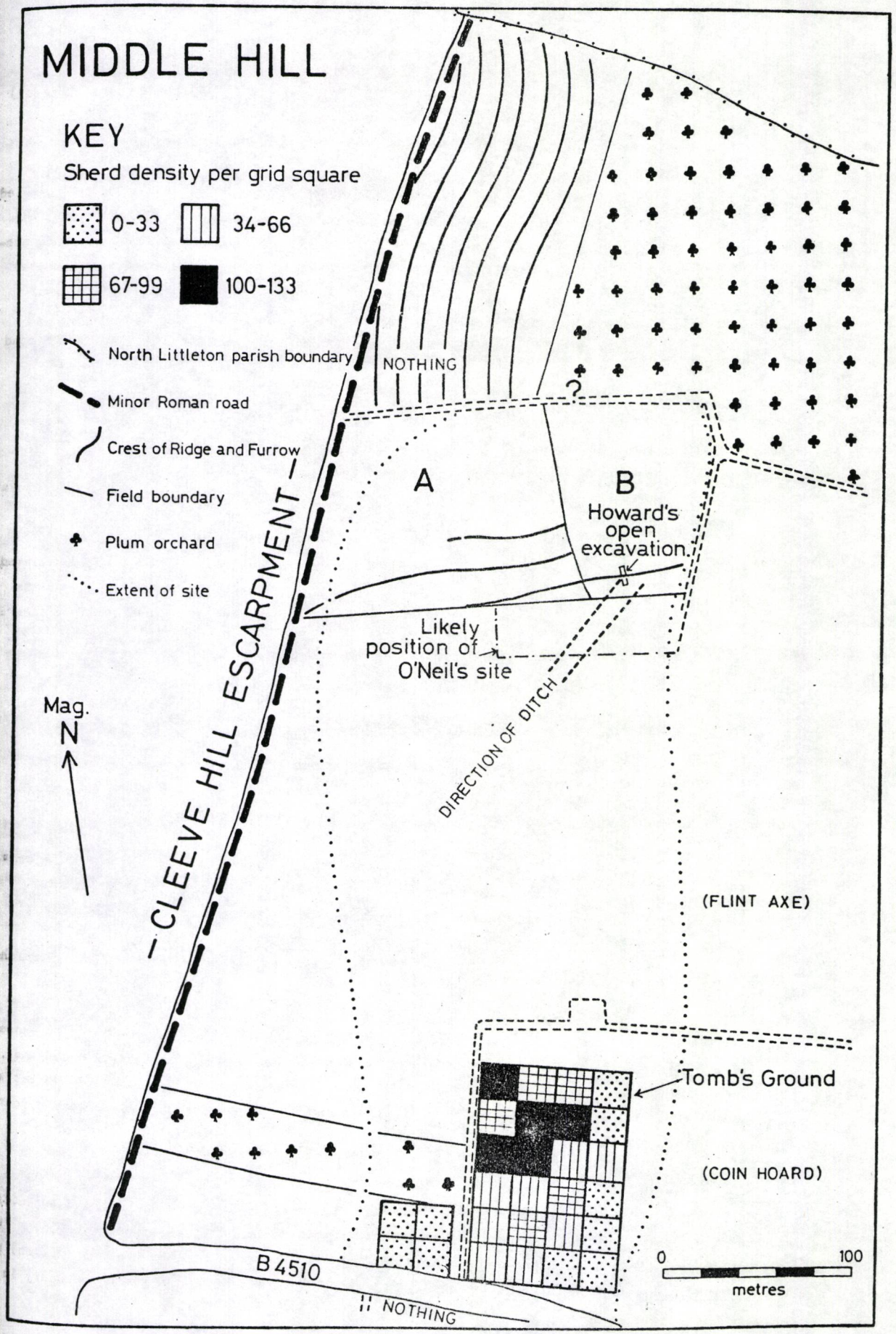

Fig. 28: MIDDLE HILL: plan of area surveyed, showing sherd density. (Price and Watson)

In the 1920's, during the digging of asparagus beds (SP 075 477), a hoard of about one dozen (bronz Roman coins, in a coarse ware pot, was found on the edge of the site. No record survives of the coins' identification, although some are believed to be of the Emperor Constantine.

Between 1960-62 O'Neil excavated a trial trench within the northern part of the site and reve two phases of building, overlying a ditch 8.5 metres wide and 2.4 metres deep. Its orientation, b not the actual location - which is unknown, is shown on the figure. The filling of the ditch and sequent occupation was dated to the 3rd C to 4th C AD (O'Neil, 1975). Since O'Neil's excavation t plum orchard has been grubbed out and the land has reverted to arable. The area of the site is provisionally 830 square metres, but might extend further north. The pottery scatter is dense in the southern part of the site, but peters out northwards as the topsoil deepens. A minor Roman r ran down the west side of the site.

Prehistoric

Scattered across the site are occasional natural flints and odd waste flakes of indeterminate age. Our excavation on Mr. Howard's land (called Howard's Open) produced several residual waste flakes, one with end re-touch. In 1979 a Neolithic, thin butted, flint axe (SP 075 478) and asso flints were found adjacent to the site (Whitehead, 1979: 25).

Systematic field walking of Mr. Tombs' ground on a 20 metre grid produced three sherds, belie to be wheelmade Iron Age pottery. The Howard's Open excavation produced one plain storage jar r sherd and three finger-nail-decorated sherds, (two jar rims) of red-brown-black, shell tempered f Very similar pottery of pre 4th C BC date is known from Leckhampton Hill Fort (Marshall, 1978B : 2 This finger-nail decoration is characteristic of Marshall's phase one Iron Age, 6th C to 3rd C BC later (Marshall, 1978A: 9).

Romano-British

Only the dense part of the surface scatter has been systematically field walked in 20 metre squares. Only the density of pottery is recorded, not post-medieval debris or fragments of bric tile and daub of uncertain age.

Fieldwalking yielded 1519 identifiable, abraded, Iron Age and Roman sherds, of which 95.5% w orange Severn Valley Ware. The other 4.5% included (in numerical order) unidentifiable sherds, Severn Valley grey ware, local shell-tempered ware, red colour-coat Oxford ware, local imitation o Dorset Black Burnished ware, red and brown colour-coated Nene Valley wares, undecorated Samian, Malvern Ware, local wheelmade Romano-British wares; White Oxford ware mortaria, Dorset Black Burn ware, red colour coat Oxford mortaria and White Mancetter mortaria.

The term "local shell-tempered ware" is used to describe a variety of unburnished fabrics, s times containing limestone temper. The size of temper fragments varies tremendousbly, as does th surface colour from brown to red-brown to black. The age is uncertain, for while some of the po forms are Roman, their fabric is very similar to the finger-nail-decorated Iron Age sherds and app to be an imitation of the Malvern ware.

Howards' Open Excavation

The northern part of the site consists of two 20th C lynchet-like fields (marked A and B) cu across three low, linear, ridges. These ridges have been almost levelled by cross cultivation. thought these ridges might be ploughed-out ramparts as there are references to the "Lyches (ridges the camp" (Burchlincas) on top of the Cleeve escarpment along the North Littleton parish boundary

series of boundary charters of Anglo-Saxon (Grundy 1931 : 92, 100 - 101). The charter evidence and O'Neil's ditch prompted Cox (1979 : 37) to state a fort existed in the area.

We sectioned one of the ridges (approximately 20 cm high and 10 metres wide) with an 11 x 1 metre trial trench in 1981 to see it it was a rampart (SP 07465 48042). The stratigraphy was:-

1. Modern plough soil
2. Unstratified, homogenous, soil accumulation, 50 cm thick.
3. Stratified occupation which consisted of two, unrelated, features, one being part of an uninterpretable linear feature and the other a lower lias limestone rubble wall, about 100 cm wide, set in a foundation trench. The wall was only recorded, not excavated. It appeared to be part of a free-standing, clay floored, 7.5 x 4 metre building, tentatively traced by auger. Both features cut natural clay sub-soil.

The soil accumulation is not rampart material, but judging by the profile, and the vague reverse S curve of the bank, it is ridge and furrow. Significantly the original length of the ridges would have been approximately one furlong. This disturbance meant the majority of the pottery was unstratified.

The stratified pottery consisted of small sherds of local shell-tempered pottery. The only datable sherd was the Iron Age, finger-nail-decorated sherd mentioned before, from the clay floor. There was Romano-British pottery immediately above - but not in situ. The building was provisionally dated to the Iron Age - Early Roman period, as we are not certain wnen Roman pottery was adopted. The animal bones and teeth were of cow, sheep/goat and pig.

The existence of an earthwork of some description in the area is likely on toponymical evidence, but it may have been obliterated by ridge and furrow, which is visible north-west of the site. We plan to trace O'Neil's ditch by geophycial survey to see it it is part of an enclosure or earthwork.

Conclusion

There was Neolithic activity, perhaps settlement, on the site. An Iron Age settlement was established before the 4th C BC and almost certainly continuously occupied throughout the Roman period. Increasing wealth is shown by the amount of mass produced pottery purchased and the stray finds of 3rd and 4th C AD coins (Haverfield, 1901 : 219). The date of abandonment is uncertain, but judging by coins from neighbouring sites is post AD 367, (Cox, 1967 : 16). If the Cleeve Prior coin hoard, deposited in about 395 AD (Archer, 1979 : 36) two kilometres away, was placed in orange Severn Valley ware pots, as Allies description strongly suggests (1852 : 91), then 5th C use of Severn Valley ware is plausible.

Acknowledgements

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E.A. Price and B. Watson

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MYTON, Warwickshire

Field Survey at Medieval Village SP 302652

The site of this village, as reported in WMA 23 (1980) 104, lies at Myton Grange Farm, Warwick and is currently being developed for housing purposes.

A watching brief is still continuing as development progresses but no stratification of finds (owing to previous ploughing of the site) has been discovered.

A further 83 items have been collected up to tne end of October 1981 (making a total of 196) and of these 21 are sherds of medieval pottery mostly dating from the 13th or 14th Centuries. The total also includes a substantial number of pieces of clay pipe stem (13 pieces) which have been collected, together with one clay pipe bowl.

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PENNOCRUCIUM, Staffordshire

Cropmark Plot and Field Survey at SJ 900 311 fig. 29

A period of fieldwalking followed by a study of cropmarks on air photographs in the Staffordshire Sites and Monuments Record has produced new information on the extent and distribution of enclosures at the Roman site of Pennocrucium, near Penkridge.

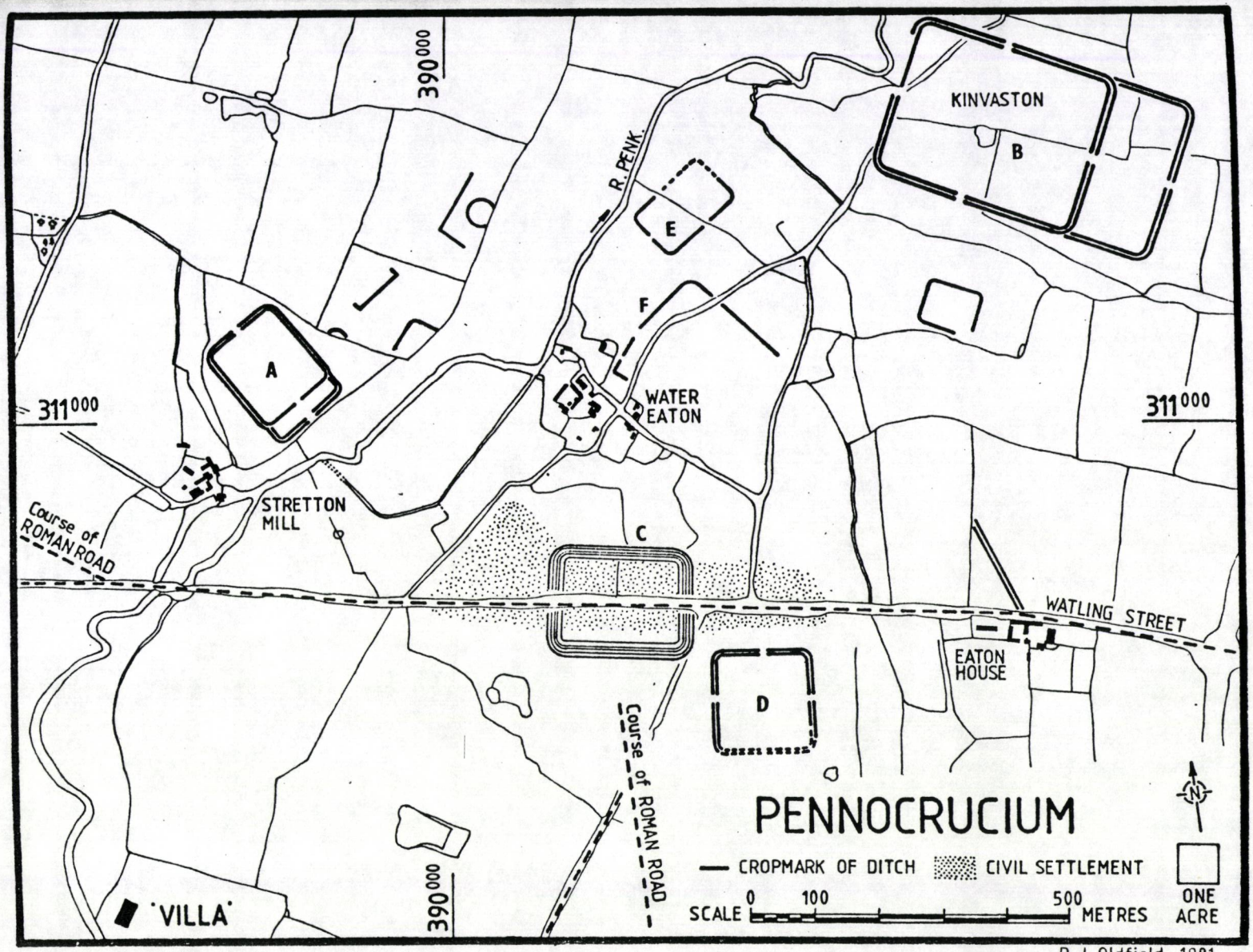

Fig. 29: PENNOCRUCIUM: survey of Roman forts. (Oldfield)

Since the discovery of the Roman villa at Engleton and its excavation in 1937 (Ashcroft 1938) a number of cropmark sites have been located. In 1946 air photograpny revealed three enclosures a Stretton Mill (A), Kinvaston (B) and Water Eaton (C). Excavations carried out in 1947 established the existence of Roman forts at Stretton Mill and Kinvaston (St. Joseph 1953), and excavations at Water Eaton revealed a triple-ditched enclosure (St. Joseph 1958a). Further work on this site in 1953/4 revealed occupation evidence (Barton 1958), and during road widening operations in 1956 it became evident tnat a settlement extended some distance to the East of the enclosure (Webster 1958)

The dimensions of the larger fort at Kinvaston were determined in 1954-6 (Webster 1956), and air photographs taken at the time demonstrated tnat there had been two successive forts (St. Joseph 1958b). More recent aerial photography has indicated the existence of a fort at Eaton House (D) and at least two temporary camps (E and F) : (St. Joseph 1965; St. Joseph 1973; St. Joseph 1977).

This complex forms the nodal point of a number of Roman roads. The Watling Street passes through the site and a branch road runs N.W. to Chester. It is known that two roads run South, on to Greensforge, the other to Metchley, and there is now evidence of another road running in a South Westerly direction. It seems likely that a road ran North towards Blythe Bridge, and a survey carried out in 1962 (Wilcock 1965) indicated the existence of a continuation from Blythe Bridge towards Leek.

The evidence above shows the occupation of a site of considerable area, and a close study of more recent air photographs suggests the presence of a number of cropmark enclosures which have not published hitherto. The date and purpose of these features is uncertain but in view of the proven date of the other enclosures in the immediate vicinity, the balance of probability is that they are also of the Roman period.

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SHELDON West Midlands

Excavation, survey and evaluation at Sheldon Hall, Tile Cross, Birmingham. Fig.30 SP164875

Sheldon Hall, Tile Cross (SP 164875) is believed to be one of the three documented manor house sites of medieval Sheldon. Of the other two, Kent's Moat, (SP 144863) has been located and investigated archaeologically producing the sandstone footings of a building and a certain amount of 14th and 15th century pottery (Dornier 1965), while 'Moat' or 'Mott' House (SP 159843) is believed to be the site of the Lyndon Manor. Although originally moated, the ditch of Moat House has been filled in and the site is occupied by an 18th century building.

In the 14th century the parish of Sheldon was divided into two manors: East Hall and West Hall, and it is probable from the descriptions of the demesne and perambulations of the parish that these two names may be given to Sheldon Hall and Kent's Moat respectively (Skipp 1960).

The extant hall at Sheldon (Fig. 30) is a long building comprising an earlier central range of brick and stone with two timbered wings at either side. It dates from the 16th century (Price 1976). There is also a single-storey service wing at the back of the house. At the western and northern edges of its grounds lie the two arms of a moat. At the south-western corner of the site the moat becomes much deeper than at any other point along its length and now holds a shallow pond. It is possible that the deep hollows at this end of the moat are associated with the mining of marl (Price 1976). There is also a much more substantial pond in the north-eastern corner of the grounds.

In November 1980 planning permission was given for the building of a set of squash courts behind the house and for the conversion of the house into a club house. The Birmingham City Museum commissioned BUFAU to carry out excavations on the site in advance of the proposed development and these took place in January 1981. Our aims in investigating the site were to ascertain the date of the construction of the moat, whether it was disturbed and to gain some idea of the nature of occupation prior to the existing 16th century building.

Evidence for the earliest occupation of the site was found in Area C in the form of about 40 sherds of 12th to 15th century pottery lying on a layer of silty soil with no associated structures. The 'moat' does not seem to be contemporary with this deposit. Its primary cut was revetted on the inner side by a wall of red and black brick similar to that used in the extant 16th century house. The bottom of the moat is level throughout its length but it is too shallow on the down-slope to function effectively as a defence. It was therefore probably constructed for ornamental purposes at the same time as the Hall in the 16th century. Construction work at some time after the 16th century had disturbed the medieval deposits in Area C, where a cobbled yard was laid. By the 19th century, when further redevelopment took place, the moat had silted up and been backfilled with rubbish. The identification of the site as the 'east Hall' occupied in the 12th century (Skipp 1960) must remain open since disturbances taking place after the 16th century have damaged earlier evidence in the area currently available for study.

Rowan Ferguson

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