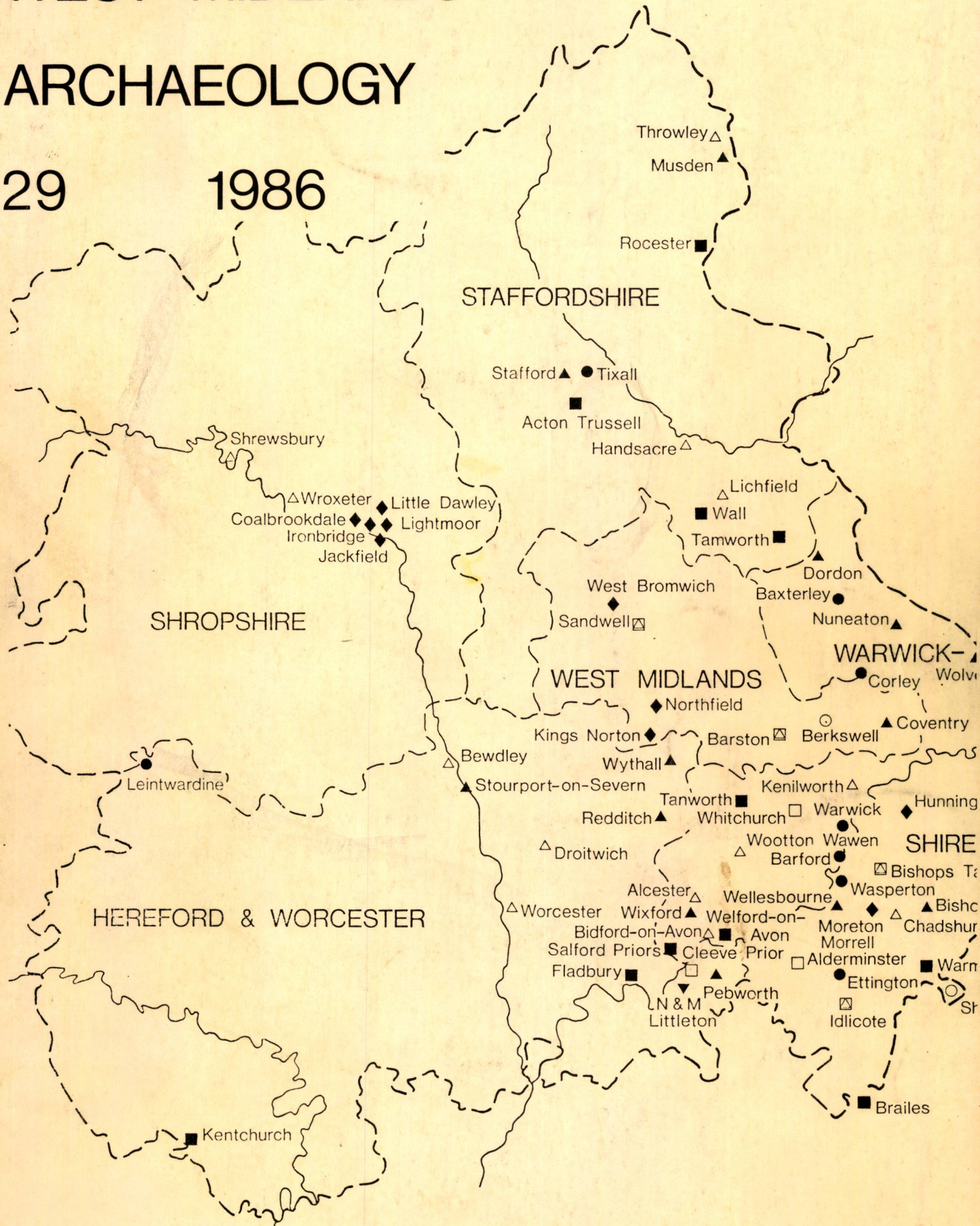


WEST MIDLANDS

ARCHAEOLOGY

29

1986



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ISSN 0141 - 301 X

WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

29

1986

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Assistant Editor J Dinn



worcestershire
countycouncil

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service:
Historic Environmental Record

Source No:

WR11765

CBA Regional Group 8

Location of work reported



- Prehistoric ●
- Roman-British ■
- Saxon ▼
- Medieval ▲
- Post-medieval ◆
- Multi-period:
- Prehistoric to Roman □
- Roman to Post-medieval △

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1 WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY IN 1986

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

BEWDLEY, Bewdley Bypass

During 1985-6, a watch was kept on the construction of this road. Fieldwalking in 1985 had found a scatter of 17th- to 20th-century pottery on the two miles west of the River Severn, and Roman pottery at Winterdyne, near the river. Only one field east of the river had been ploughed; it yielded flints. The other mile east of the river was in pasture and a few pieces of brick were found in molehills. At Winterdyne Roman pottery was found in upcast from fencepost holes, and Roman tile and amphora sherds were found a little way off the line of the roadworks.

C I Walker, Kidderminster and District Archaeological and Historical Society

CLEEVE PRIOR, Roman site east of Cleeve Hill (SP 074478)

In addition to the many Roman coins found on this site by metal detectors in recent years, Mr Frank White of Redditch in August 1986 turned up a billon quarter stater of Dobunnic type, dating from the early years of the 1st century AD. Although not in very good condition, traces of the face with pellets in front can be seen on the obverse and on the reverse is a horse to right with many pellets below the body. It is nearest to Mack, The Coinage of Ancient Britain (1975) pl XXIII, no 384.

W A Seaby, Numismatic Section, Warwickshire Museum

CLEEVE PRIOR (SP 074479)

In September 1986 a fragment of a Bronze Age dirk was found by Mr R Laight, a metal detector user. The blade has the flattened mid-section of Group IV dirks and rapiers, and a notch can be seen in the surviving side of the butt; these attributes suggest it belongs to the Penard metalworking phase (c 1100-950 BC) although dirks of this form could have continued into the subsequent Warburton-Willington phase. The dirk is of some regional importance as items of this type were previously unknown from the Worcestershire and Warwickshire Avon. It has been donated to the Hereford and Worcester County Museum.

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

DROITWICH, Vines Lane playground (SO 899636; HWCM 6000)

The Droitwich Archaeological Project has completed excavation in advance of Wychavon District Council's sheltered housing development. From at least the 1930s Roman burials have been located in an area stretching from the railway bridge in the west to the Gardener's Arms in the east. The entire area was suspected to have been the burial area for the Roman town. No excavation had previously been undertaken in this area and the development presented the opportunity to establish the presence of an organized cemetery.

The potential of the site was fully realized and a total of 13 burials were recorded, dating to the Roman period. The spatial organization of the burials indicated a planned cemetery. Dating at this stage cannot be more precise as datable finds are not numerous. The excavation also appears to have located the southern extent of the cemetery.

The excavation also recorded later activity including medieval pits and ditches and the foundations of a probable 19th-century saltworks. Finds of note include Roman tesserae, probably from the villa at Bays Meadow, and pre-conquest Stamford ware (found in a later ditch).

Simon Woodiwiss, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

FLADBURY, late Roman coin hoard (SP 00094712)

In 1935 earthmoving and landscaping of hole number four on Evesham golf course, Fladbury revealed a number of Roman coins scattered throughout the topsoil. There was no sign of the coins having been in a pot or any other container.

The number of coins discovered is not known as the finds were divided amongst the three men present. One of the finders has the following coins in his possession (coin identification by Richard Reece):-

Three silver siliquae, of Valentinian II (388-392) Mint of Trier
 Arcadius (392-395) Mint of Trier
 Honorius (395-400) Mint of Milan

None of these coins are clipped.

Twenty-five copper coins of Constantine, Theodosius I and Valentinian I. There are also three corroded fragments of copper coins.

Three pieces of evidence show that these coins were part of one or possibly two small hoards deposited in about AD 400. The silver coins are

unclipped - clipping did not become common until about AD 410 (Burnett 1984). Firstly, all the coins are of similar date range - late 4th century AD. Secondly, three silver siliquae of this date are very unlikely to be found together except in a hoard as stray finds of these coins are rare. Thirdly, some of the copper coins show signs of having been concreted together. A full report on the coin hoard is to be published in Trans Worcs Archaeol Soc 11, 1988.

Burnett, A 1984 Clipped siliquae and the end of Roman Britain,
Britannia 15, 163-8

Bruce Watson

Herefordshire Air Survey 1986/7

In excess of twenty previously unknown sites were located during this summer's introductory season of work. Herefordshire has never been systematically covered from the air and these preliminary results bear out the need for this coverage. Survey centred on the larger areas of well drained soils around Hereford, Leominster and Leintwardine as these were most likely to give good results. One of the new sites was fieldwalked by Mrs R Roberts (see below). Processing and recording is still underway and this material will be added to the County Sites and Monuments Record. The project is grant-aided by the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments.

Christopher Cruikshank and Simon Woodiwiss, Archaeology Section,
Hereford and Worcester County Council

KENTCHURCH, Castle Field Farm (SO 427237; HWCN 7041)

The Monmouth Archaeological Society has been investigating a new Roman fort at Castle Field Farm near Kentchurch in the Monnow Valley. The river is the boundary between England and Wales so it is in the extreme southwest of the county of Hereford and Worcester. The site was first noticed by Steven Clarke since part of the rampart is still shown as a slight earthwork. Roman pottery including Claudio-Neronian samian was collected from the plough soil. A small scale excavation in 1986 provided evidence of timber buildings of two periods, but on the same alignment. The excavation included a section through a defence ditch and the rampart, from which it could be deduced that the two forts were of different sizes. This is a welcome discovery which fills a gap in the Scapulan frontier system. It was thought at one time that Monmouth may have been the site of a fort but no trace has ever been found. The new fort would appear to be protecting an ancient route southwest across the hills to Abergavenny,

a known fort on the Scapulan frontier. The route may be aimed northeast at Stretton Grandison, another fort known from air photographs. The route up the valley would connect with Pontrilas, a suitable fort site, and Kenchester which has produced early military finds.

Graham Webster

LEINTWARDINE, Little Heath Farm (SO 379765; HWCM 6014)

A large sherd of prehistoric pottery (fig 1) was found by Mrs R Roberts while fieldwalking an area of cropmarks discovered during the Herefordshire Aerial Survey in 1986 (see above).

The fabric was tempered with moderate angular fragments of dolerite rock (up to 7mm in size), and therefore closely resembles the main fabric present at the Bronze Age cemetery site at Bromfield in south Shropshire (Stanford 1982, 309). The rim was perforated at 14-16mm intervals. Three flint artefacts were also found in the vicinity, including an unfinished barb and tang arrowhead. Full publication is forthcoming in the Trans Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

Stanford, S C 1982 Bromfield, Shropshire - Neolithic, Beaker and Bronze Age sites, 1966-79, Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society 48, 279-320

J D Hurst, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

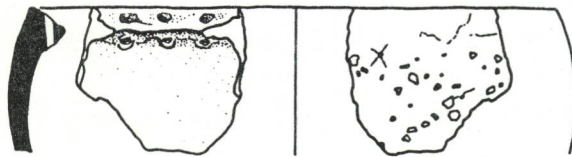


Figure 1 Prehistoric sherd from Leintwardine (scale 1:4)

NORTH & MIDDLE LITTLETON, Blackminster (SP 07054477; HWCM7042)

An Anglo-Saxon gilded bronze saucer brooch with spiral decoration was found in March 1986 by a metal detector user. There are no records of a contemporary cemetery in this area.

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

PEBWORTH, Ullington deserted medieval village (SP 110471; HWCM 868)

In 1986 salvage recording of earth moving operations (in the course of the erection of an agricultural building) on the edge of Ullington deserted medieval village (SP 10824713), revealed a completely infilled linear feature, 3.9m wide and aligned east-west. This feature was probably a hollow way as several possible wheel ruts were visible in section.

Limited excavation of this feature failed to produce any dating evidence. The upcast from this feature had been used to make a low bank on its north side. Beyond this bank were the remains of a half timbered building with an internal hearth. Examination of the daub from the wall line of the building indicates that it was either burnt down or damaged by fire. Unstratified pottery of 12th-13th century date and a fragment of rotary quernstone (conglomerate) were collected from the vicinity of the building.

The main area of the settlement (SP 110471) is a series of irregular low earthworks. This area was under cultivation during the 1960s and early 1970s, but is now pasture. Survey of this area has revealed a number of house platforms and quarry pits.

All finds and site records are to be deposited with the Hereford and Worcester SMR. A full report on the site is under preparation.

Bruce Watson

REDDITCH, Bordesley Abbey (SP 045687; HWCM 10)

The eighteenth season of the current Bordesley Abbey excavations took place in July and August 1986 when work continued on the church, the industrial site and watermill.

Sue Hirst and Sue Wright directed excavation on the church, David Walsh was in charge of architectural analysis, while Iain McCaig was responsible for the recording of the masonry and surveying; Lesley Collett and Guy Halsall assisted in the supervision of the church excavation. Grenville Astill directed work on the industrial site, with supervisors Steven Wass and Verna Wass. Paul Cannon, Julia Green and Ellen Walsh were responsible for the finds, assisted by Kathy Baker and Jenny Stopford. In addition David and Ellen Walsh, together with Jenny Stopford, worked on finds from St Stephens chapel where excavation by an MSC team, supervised by Barry Mead and Mark Newman, is now ending.

We are grateful to the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England for permission to excavate on this scheduled ancient monument, and to Graham Fairclough and Dr Anthony Streeten of HBMCE for assistance.

The third phase of the Manpower Services Commission scheme for the investigation and display of the gatehouse chapel of St Stephen finished in October 1986; excavation of the chapel has ended and the site has been backfilled. A three-month extension is now under way (supervisor Mark Newman) to enable the excavation report to be completed; the chapel is to be laid out for public display as part of a further MSC scheme. We would like to thank all those who have worked on the scheme, especially Barry Mead who has supervised since the scheme began three years ago.

The Church

Excavation of the south side of the western choir and retrochoir, the east end of the nave and the south aisle was continued. In the choir the period 3C (c 1330) tiled floor and the earliest phase (period 3B, c 1300) of stone-based choir stalls were removed, and the backfilled emplacement slots for the preceding (period 3A c 1260/80) timber-based stall excavated. The contemporary, 3A, tiled floor in the choir had remained in use in 3B with only a rough floor over the backfilled and abandoned timber slots.

In the area to the west, separated from the choir by the pulpitum, the sequence of floor levels was rather different, presumably because this area was much less affected by the repeated building work, centred on the northwest crossing pier and carried out in the later 13th and first half of the 14th century. In the retrochoir the tiled floor contemporary with the period 3C choir stall which was first exposed in 1985 was removed, together with some underlying make-up, to reveal dirt floor levels interleaved with, in places very thin, limey spreads and elsewhere thin spreads of mortar debris. This may represent the period 1 (c 1150s) floor level in this area, probably first replaced in period 2 as a continuation of the floor remaining in the south aisle and this in turn replaced in period 3A by a tiled floor which continued in use until c 1400. In period 1 the south aisle also had a dirt floor.

Excavation in the south aisle of the construction trenches associated with the major rebuilding of c 1400 of the south nave arcade exposed sections of the period 1 work (c 1150s), providing important new evidence for the building at the junction of the south aisle with the south transept and east cloister alley. The lower courses of a cut-down pilaster survived on the south face of the first nave arcade pier. It is likely that an

analogous feature projected from the interior face of the robbed-out south aisle wall. These pilasters must have functioned as the responds of an arch thrown across the eastern end of the aisle adjacent to the ceremonial entrance to the aisle from the cloister. In period 2 (13th century) in the nearby entrance to the transept from the south aisle there was a narrowing of this door with jambs with crow's foot chamfer stops. This change was accompanied by the laying of an elaborate tiled floor throughout the south transept and the south aisle. Viewed with contemporary arrangements in the choir, these alterations can be interpreted as expressing a change in the entrance arrangement to the choir stalls. In period 1 the stalls probably did not extend eastward very far into the crossing and their principal entrance from the south transept was at their east end (superior introitus). In period 2 the stalls were extended eastward through the crossing and it would seem that the way to the stalls through the south aisle and the pulpitum door and into the western end of the stall (inferior introitus) was emphasised. This route presumably continued to be more important even when the stalls no longer extended through the crossing (from period 3B). The filling of the arched opening between the south transept and the crossing and the creation of a small but elaborate door in this filling (period 3B) need not be seen as related to stall arrangement or a change of emphasis of choir access; the position of the door is in alignment with the door in the south wall of the south transept.

Further work at the west end of the excavation showed that part of a lime based screed survived in the western part of the south aisle dug by R T Rowley in 1967-8; this may represent a higher surviving level than elsewhere in that part of Rowley's excavation which comes within our current excavation. Three graves in this area were excavated this year, one that of a baby of c 6-12 months buried in a wooden coffin.

The area under excavation was extended to the north this year to include the northwestern end of the choir, the northern half of the retrochoir, and the north aisle (including the remains of the north aisle wall), and removal of 1967-8 spoil and turf and topsoil was begun. Masonry of the second north nave arcade pier lay immediately below the turf, suggesting that the arcade blocking wall between the first and second piers will also survive to a considerable height (c 2m).

The industrial site

Work concentrated on the mill site this year. Excavation of the head race, wheel pit and tail race of the earliest mill is now complete. As in previous interims, the two parts of the site, the water channel and the mill building, will be treated separately.

The head race, wheel pit and tail race

Important evidence was recovered for the immediately post-glacial era in this part of the site. A shallow depression was found within a layer of pebbles which had been deposited by streams issuing from a glacier to the north. This depression is interpreted as the edge of a pond-like feature which was formed between two periods of pebble deposition. The pond was filled with a mass of organic material which still has to be identified, but a variety of woods was present as well as leaves, hazel nuts and acorns. A bovine vertebra was also recovered. This suggests an interval of warmer weather which allowed woodland to become established in between periods when the pebbles were deposited. A layer of pebbles had been seen in the valley transect excavations of 1984, and it had been assumed then that these had been deposited at one time. Clay deposits overlay the pebbles.

The first mill, and presumably the wheel, was constructed in the late 12th/early 13th century and in the area of the leat evidence was found for the clearance of the ground prior to building operations. Roots and stems of bushes had been cut off at the same level. The channel for the head race, wheel pit and tail race had then been excavated out of the clay; it appeared to have a regular gradient, and that part which formed the tail race had been cut through the thickness of the clay and into the pebble layer. The upcast seems to have been used to create a platform on which the mill building was constructed. Trenches were then cut into the clay and pebbles to take the timbers of the water channels; pits were dug on the south side of the leat to accommodate the uprights of a timber structure.

The timbers forming the sluice gates and bank revetting of the head race now appear to have been part of the original mill and remained unchanged throughout the time the site was occupied. No timbers survived from the original wheel frame. The massive timber tail race, which was first uncovered last year, was excavated and lifted. One of the major timber seatings of the bottom of the tail race showed clear signs of reuse. There is thus a possibility of an even earlier tail race which was dismantled and reused.

The mill building

Previews of the pre-mill ground surface, sealed by the clay platform, on which the mills stood, suggest that there were earlier timber buildings on the site. It is impossible to suggest a date for them, other than that they are 12th century or earlier. The amount of residual Roman pottery increases in the early mill levels, and may hint at some Roman occupation nearby.

It is now clear that the first mill building was earthfast, and the most substantial part of the building (the southern half) had uprights which were founded in post pits 0.4m square and faced the wheelpit. The northern part of the building was less sturdy and appears to have been more like a lean-to. This phase has yet to be fully excavated, but already charcoal lined pits, interpreted as hearths, have been located in that part closest to the wheel pit. It therefore seems that the earliest mill was, like its successors, being used to provide power for metal working.

At some time in the 13th century the post building was replaced by a padstone structure of the same size; it was of a similar character to those already excavated. The major uprights of the early mill were removed and the pits filled with clay, iron slag, charcoal and daub. In the northeast corner of the building there was a thick charcoal layer containing many globules of melted lead. These do not appear to be residues from industrial working, but may instead suggest that that part of the mill caught fire; that corner of the building seems to have been rebuilt soon after.

Since the last season a collection of thick ceramic tiles (which had been built into the pitched tile hearths of the later mill building) has been identified as kiln furniture of a tile kiln. While this does not prove that tile making took place within the excavated area, it provides further evidence for tileries in the vicinity.

Next season the earliest mill and the pre-mill features will be excavated.

G Astill, S Hirst, D Walsh and S Wright, Bordesley Abbey Project

STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN, Areley Kings Church (SO 802710)

Early in 1986 ivy was stripped from the tower during conservation work, and Mr P D Turner photographed lettering cut in the east face of the lower, 13th-century, part of the tower. The letters are in two groups and there are two isolated stones. There are three different styles of letters, all about 4" high. None make a complete line. The stones appear to be reused. All letters are the right way up. No previous reference to these inscriptions has been found.

C I Walker, Kidderminster and District Archaeological and Historical Society

WORCESTER, Blackfriars (SO 84775505; HWCM 378)

Between April 1985 and May 1986 the Archaeology Section of Hereford and Worcester County Council excavated two sites (T6 and T7) just to the north of the multistorey car park in the Blackfriars area of central Worcester. The results from T6 and those from T7, covering work up to December 1985, were reported in West Midlands Archaeology 28 (7-14). The following is a brief summary of the results from the work carried out between January and May 1986; essentially the excavation of the Roman stratigraphy in T7. Since the project is still without the funds to employ a finds analyst and since HBMCE have deferred the analysis of the samples for radiocarbon dating and other specialist work, the dating and interpretation of the results presented here is provisional.

The underlying geology of the site comprised mixed sands and gravels, over which was a naturally formed soil comprising a light brown sandy loam.

No evidence for prehistoric activity was found nor were any residual prehistoric finds recovered.

The earliest evidence for Roman activity comprised a north-south pebble and stone road bounded by ditches (0.8m wide and 1.0 - 1.2m deep). Although a post-medieval cellar had removed the eastern edge of the road (surviving to a width of 10m), the survival of the roadside ditch beneath the cellar floor provided an idea of the road's likely maximum width; some 12m. The road, initially of mid to late 2nd-century date, was resurfaced three times, the latest surface comprising iron (tap) slag.

Extending some 3 - 5m from the western edge of the road was a sequence of floor surfaces (the first three of pebbles and stone, the latest of iron slag) each associated with alignments of postholes representing several phases of timber founded buildings fronting the road. Though heavily disturbed by cellaring, evidence for several phases of timber founded buildings was found to the east of the road, the demolition of the earliest associated with the laying of the second road surface.

The ditches bounding the road were only in use with the earliest surface. However the line of the infilled westernmost ditch was preserved throughout the roadside sequence, representing a consistently redefined division between the two. No such evidence was found to the east of the road due to cellar disturbance.

On the western side of the road, associated with the latest surface (of probable 4th-century date) were the remains of a clay founded building (measuring 10m from east to west and 4m from north to south). The nature of its survival appeared to indicate that the building had been left to

decay and this might explain the apparent absence of internal divisions and surfaces within it. The abandonment of this building was probably contemporary with the abandonment of the road, the latter represented by a sequence of industrial rubbish dumps (iron tap slag, fragments of furnace lining and charcoal) overlying all but the extreme western part of the latest surface. Radiocarbon samples of material burnt in situ within this sequence, as well as from the industrial rubbish itself, will provide a date for this abandonment, a matter of great importance in helping determine the nature of the late Roman (or even post-Roman) settlement.

Aside from two pits and a pair of slots of possible late Saxon date there was no evidence for the use of the site between the abandonment of the road and associated buildings and the site wide dumping of a dark grey coarse sandy loam (some 0.25 - 0.40m thick). This was almost certainly a 13th- or early 14th-century event carried out for agricultural purposes, the decayed Roman ground surface of slag dumps and surfaces being totally unsuitable for cultivation or pasture. Such a gap in the sequence is not surprising considering the position of the site in relation to the core of the town, reflecting the contraction and expansion of the settlement which might be expected over this period.

A summary of the medieval and post-medieval stratigraphy on the site can be found in West Midlands Archaeology 28 (12-13).

A grant from HBMCE in 1986/87 has enabled the Project to begin post-excavation analysis of the Blackfriars sites, although further funding will be necessary to see this work through to completion.

The Project has also been involved with negotiations for a series of major excavations in the area between Bull Entry and Powick Lane (HWCM 3899), scheduled for redevelopment by Centrovincial Estates plc (shopping precinct). Although the commencement date for this work has yet to be finalized, a start is likely to be made in 1987, with a contribution of £350,000 coming from the development scheme. It is also worth noting that, thanks to the support from HBMCE, the CBA Urban Research Committee and the initiatives taken by J P Roberts (former Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology Officer) and P Barker, the traditionally notorious attitude of the City Council towards the archaeological heritage has undergone a transformation. In July 1986 the Amenities and Recreation Committee approved a plan entitled 'Towards a strategy for Archaeology', the major recommendations of which were: to establish an Archaeological Advisory Committee, to establish regular funding for archaeology, and to create a permanent post of Field Archaeologist.

Charles Mundy, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

WYTHALL, Blackgrave Moat (SP 066755; HWCM 1870)

In the summer of 1986 a survey was conducted at Blackgrave Moat as part of a study of the remaining moated sites in the former parish/manor of Kings Norton.

Blackgrave is situated about half a mile to the northwest of Wythall and about two miles south-southwest of the Maypole roundabout on the Birmingham City boundary. The moat is square, enclosing an island between 40 and 50m wide on which stands a 19th-century farmhouse. The width of the moat varies between 12 and 17m and it is crossed on the west side by a stone bridge. The separate farm buildings lie to the west between the moat and the stream which feeds the moat.

The survey was divided into four parts:

1 Southern outer bank (fig 2a and b)

The moat is surrounded on three sides by outer banks and the largest and most accessible to the south was surveyed. It declined in height from east to west and its southern limit, according to early maps, was a field boundary (a tree stump survives), which may also have contained a drainage channel.

2 The moat profile (fig 2b and d)

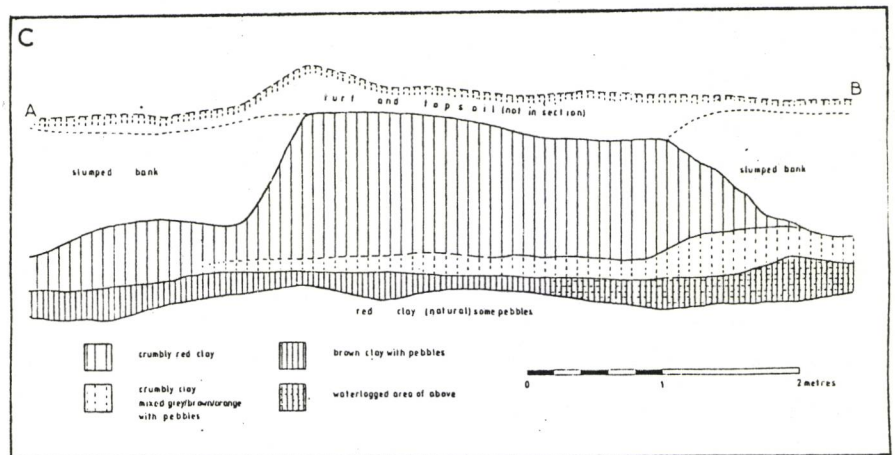
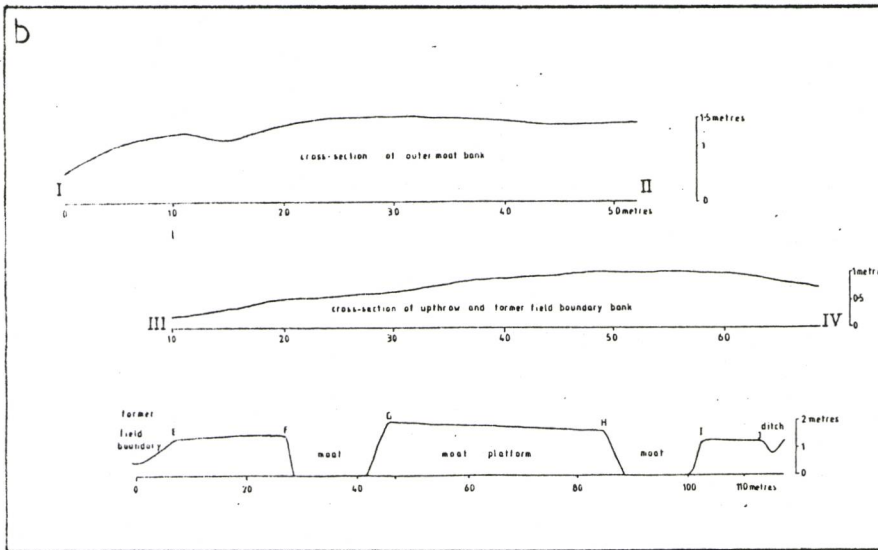
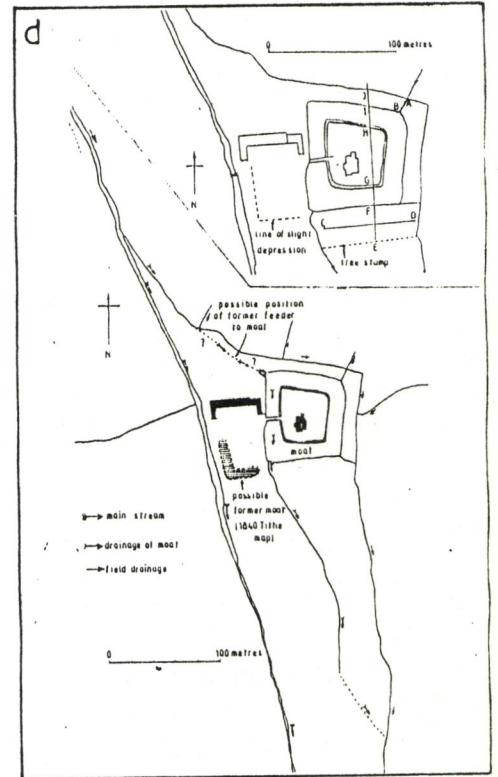
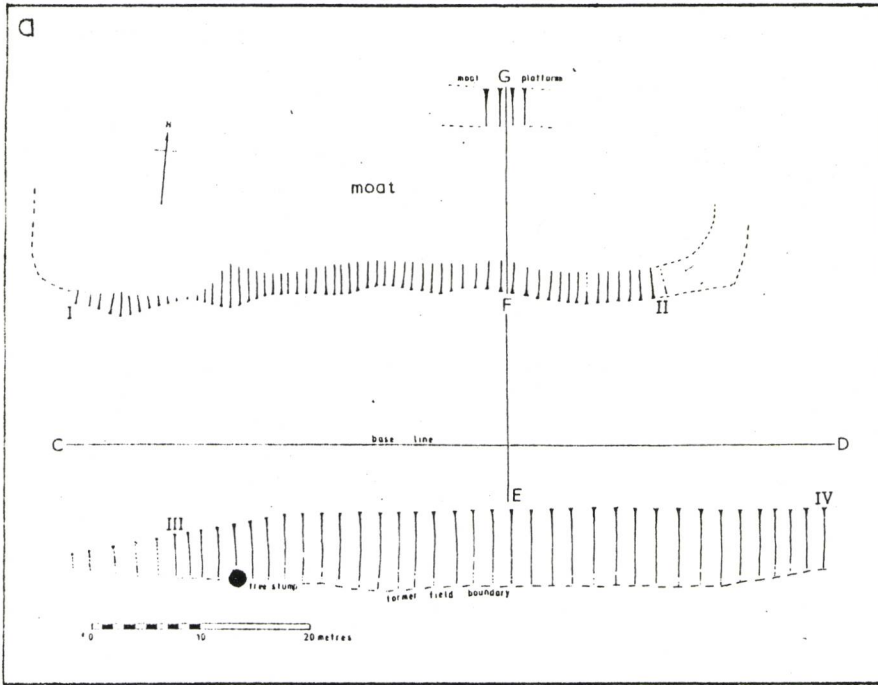
A south to north section was surveyed across the moat from point E to J. The moat platform sloped downwards in the same direction from a height of 1.95m above the water level to 1.65m. The platform stands generally higher than the outer banks, but no more than approximately 0.5m.

3 Outer bank section (fig 2c)

A recent recutting of a ditch allowed a section of the outer bank to be surveyed after it was further cleaned up (A-B). The first two layers were interpreted as natural (Keuper Marl) and its topsoil (brown clay). Most of the section (approximately 1.0m) consisted of loose crumbly red clay, which probably originated as the upthrow from excavating the moat into Keuper Marl. The section suggests that the original land surface lies about 0.5m above the present moat water level.

4 The drainage of the moat (fig 2d)

A leat carries water from the Cole, and the present inlet to the moat is situated in the north-east corner passing by section A-B. Water leaves by the southwest corner eventually returning to the Cole. Part of a channel surviving in the northwest corner suggests a more logical former inlet in this position. The 1840 Tithe Map shows an L-shaped pool lying between the moat and the pool which may have been the first moat. Faint traces of



GD 1986

Figure 2 Blackgrave Moat, Wythall

its features were surveyed and are marked on plan d.

Two moats complicate the history of the Blackgrave site and its attendant water engineering works.

George Demidowicz, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society
and Stephen Price, City Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham

SHROPSHIRE

COALBROOKDALE, Upper Forge (SJ 669042)

A trial excavation took place on this important site between 22 September and 6 October 1986.

The site was leased by Abraham Darby I in 1709, and may have been 'the Great Forge' which is mentioned in a lease of 1694. This included a steel house, two forges and a smithy, and was clearly an important steel producing site before Darby arrived in Coalbrookdale. By 1734, the site includes a 'malthouse, formerly a steelhouse' (Raistrick 1953, 286), one of the earliest documentary references to a malthouse in the area. This malthouse appears to have been progressively converted to tenements (known locally as 'Malthouse Row' or 'Old Forge'), which were demolished in 1967 by the local council.

The excavation attempted to determine the degree to which the malthouse and steelhouse building survived, with a view either to further investigation or protection of the site. A brick surfaced yard was uncovered, with a large, thin-walled cast iron cauldron set into its surface in the angle formed by two walls of the building. These walls survived to a height of approximately 1m, and contained a doorway, the threshold of which was formed by a continuation of the quarry tiles of the interior floor.

Resistivity survey of the unexcavated remainder of the site indicated that the walls revealed in excavation continue to the south, and also largely confirmed the map evidence for the outline and location of the building. It also located a small square structure to the north of the excavation, which may be the site of Fountain Villa, demolished in the 1930s, and also known as 'Mr Darby's Old House' (Clark and Alfrey 1986).

It is to be hoped that the entire site will be carefully protected, as it is one of the most valuable and potentially rewarding archaeological sites in the area of the Ironbridge Gorge.

Clark, C and Alfrey, J 1986 Coalbrookdale: Nuffield Survey, 1st Interim Report, Institute of Industrial Archaeology Research Report no 4

Raistrick, A 1953 Dynasty of Ironfounders, London

M A Macleod, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit, for Cambridge University Archaeological Field Club

IRONBRIDGE, Bedlam Furnaces (SJ 67780335; PRN SA 340)

A site within the scheduled area surrounding Bedlam furnaces was excavated prior to its development by British Gas. During the excavation the remains of a wooden waggonway dating from around 1760 were recovered at a depth of 1m. The excavated area was just to the west of the furnace and was extended to provide an assessment of the stratigraphy to a depth of 3m below ground level. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of layers of dumped material, the earliest being a thick deposit of clay which predated the construction of the furnace in 1756-7. A layer of coal above this suggests that the area was used to store coal prior to shipment along the Severn. Several layers of furnace slag, samples of which are awaiting analysis, indicate the period when the furnace was operational.

One of the slag deposits had been used as ballast for the waggonway, the preservation of which varied greatly, the positions of the timbers often only remaining as voids. The surviving evidence consisted of two oak sleepers measuring 5'6" x 6" x 3.5", centre-spaced at 2'4", and a short section of oak rails. These had been considerably worn, surviving to a thickness of only 2", the width being 3". The butted ends of adjacent rails were secured over a common sleeper, each held to it by a single wooden peg. The gauge of the rails was 3'9". A polyurethane foam mould was made of the waggonway prior to its being dismantled; individual plaster casts of the sleeper voids were also made. It is hoped that this may be used to produce a reconstruction incorporating some of the original timbers for a museum exhibit. Finds from the excavation were generally sparse although a small assemblage of clay pipes was recovered.

N W Jones, Ironbridge Gorge Museum

IRONBRIDGE, The Swan Inn (SJ 66830365)

A survey of a 19th-century floor maltings is being carried out in advance of building alterations. The three brick buildings which make up the maltings lie immediately west of the Inn, to which they are physically connected. The northernmost building is square in plan and two storeys high. It houses the well-preserved remains of a malt-drying kiln, consisting of malting tiles supported on a series of brick arches. To the south of the kiln are two long three-storey buildings in which the upper floors remain unimproved. Roof trusses, in the form of pairs of curved principals rising from first floor beams, form the basis of the roofs. In the western building, hoisting gear and fittings for a grain hopper are still in place. The building materials used and stylistic details of windows and roof timbers suggest a late 18th-century date for the buildings, which ties in well with documented use of the site as an inn

and maltings.

M R G Trueman, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

JACKFIELD, The Tuckies (SJ 691025)

The Tuckies is a large H-shaped house, currently divided into three dwellings, on the south side of the River Severn overlooking the Ironbridge Gorge area around Jackfield and Coalport. Improvements to the buildings have prompted the Unit, with the permission of the owner, to carry out a survey. The building has previously been described as of mid 17th-century build with considerable late 18th-century alterations, constructed in brick on a sandstone base (Muter 1979, 25). Collapsed rendering has revealed that all the exterior ground floor walls are mainly of coursed sandstone, and that the northwest wing of the building has a half-timbered upper storey overlaid with lath and plaster. The central portion of the building has evidence of stonework in its upper storey but any original fenestration seems to have been obliterated by inserted 18th-century windows. Inside the building there is an oak staircase, probably of the early 17th-century, which boasts a large newel post with integral pendant. Moulded timbers, now hidden from view in the basement, together with displacements in the joints of the timberwork, suggest that the staircase may have been relocated. The most exciting find so far is in the cellar at the southwest end of the house, where a doorway from the garden, constructed of mudstone, is in the form of a three-centred arch which may date to the early Tudor period. Close to it is a tall thin blocked opening which resembles a lancet window. If the dating of these features proves accurate then the chronology of the Tuckies will have to be revised, and it could be that the documentary evidence for the Tuckies estate, going back to 1505, also relates to this particular building. At present we are only permitted to survey the southwest portion of the building, and this work is continuing. Hopefully it will not be too long before a complete survey of the building can be carried out, which might prove that the Tuckies is a 'lost' medieval mansion.

Muter, W Grant 1979 The Buildings of an Industrial Community,
Chichester

R K Morriss and M R G Trueman, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

LIGHTMOOR (SJ 682053)

The construction of the Ironbridge bypass provided the opportunity for a detailed series of drawings of the standing remains of the Lightmoor

furnaces (a grade II listed building). The drawing was done by members of the Cambridge University Archaeological Field Club. Little structural damage appears to have been done to the industrial complex. Previous work by IGMAU suggests that the majority of the buildings associated with the furnaces are covered by deep deposits of tile waste and slag. IGMAU also maintained a watching brief in the Lightmoor area during the construction of the road. The presence of a number of mineshafts, which were capped by the contractors, was noted.

M A MacLeod, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

LIGHTMOOR, The Old Wind, Brierly Hill (SJ 671052)

A resistivity survey has been carried out at the head of the inclined plane at what was the terminus of the western branch of the Shropshire canal. A tunnel-and-shaft system is known to have preceded the incline, and it was hoped to pinpoint the exact location of this system. Several anomalies were noted, the most marked of which continues the line of two partly exposed parallel walls. This is believed to be one of four 'fingers' which formed the terminus of the canal. There is no evidence from the results of the survey for the position of the two, presumably infilled, shafts, and it is therefore possible that at least one lies under the metalled track which now leads to the house known as 'The Old Wind'. The survey is continuing in an attempt to locate the base of the incline and the associated railway terminus.

M A MacLeod, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

LITTLE DAWLEY, 15/15A Holly Road (SJ 683059)

Excavations at this site were concluded. Several features relating to the bloomery exposed in 1983 were revealed in the yard of the tenement suggesting on-site processing of iron after its production. These included a smithy with hearth and bellows areas, and an oven/furnace with a sandstone and clay floor, probably for roasting iron. Neither structure survived to more than one course in height due to later agricultural activity. Stratigraphically they are contemporary with the bloomery, and of medieval date. The yard itself was made up of crude cobbling. Much of this rubble was comprised of offcuts from sandstone quarrying. This industry is known from later periods to have taken place in the vicinity but is now shown to have been taking place immediately off-site prior to the operation of the iron industry. A site such as this on the fringes of the nucleus of the settlement indicates industrial diversification as an

alternative to agriculture on marginal land.

R M J Isserlin, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

SHREWSBURY, The Shrewsbury Heritage project

Investigations in the town centre

In 1985 Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit were invited by Shropshire County Council to undertake a series of excavations and watching briefs in the town centre, and on the site of Shrewsbury Abbey in advance of redevelopment. Two sites have now been excavated in the town: the Bennett's Hall site, between Pride Hill and Raven Meadows, and the Talbot Chambers site on Market Street.

Excavation, and a subsequent watching brief, on the Bennett's Hall site, found a large late medieval quarry (or rubbish pits) at the bottom of properties backing on to the 13th-century town wall. The town wall itself was recorded during construction work. It was found that the ashlar face had been almost completely rebuilt during the post-medieval period, though the original 13th-century rubble core survived behind it. The remains of Bennett's Hall, a mid to late 13th-century first floor hall, are now largely incorporated within modern buildings on the Pride Hill frontage. Demolition of 19th- to 20th-century buildings at the rear prior to excavation, exposed a remaining section of its back wall that incorporated changes made during the 16th or 17th-century when the hall was partially demolished and its interior colonized by timber-framed buildings, along an alley known later as Leopard Shut.

Excavation on the Talbot Chambers site, close to The Square, a new market place of c 1261, found no evidence of activity before the late 12th or 13th century. Late medieval pits were cut into yard areas behind modern cellars and the site of a medieval vaulted undercroft, known from an early 19th-century plan.

Shrewsbury Abbey (fig 3)

The bulk of the Shrewsbury Heritage Project's work has been devoted to the investigation of Shrewsbury Abbey, through excavation, the survey and analysis of standing buildings, and through the study of the landscape of the medieval suburb around it, the principal research goals being the illumination of the Abbey's economic life and its role in the development of the medieval town.

The Abbey was founded in 1083 by Roger de Montgomery, at the end of a spur

of dry ground projecting into marshy, flood-prone areas around the confluence of the Rea Brook with the River Severn. The site lay within the town's eastern suburb and had been occupied by a documented late Saxon 'homestead' and chapel.

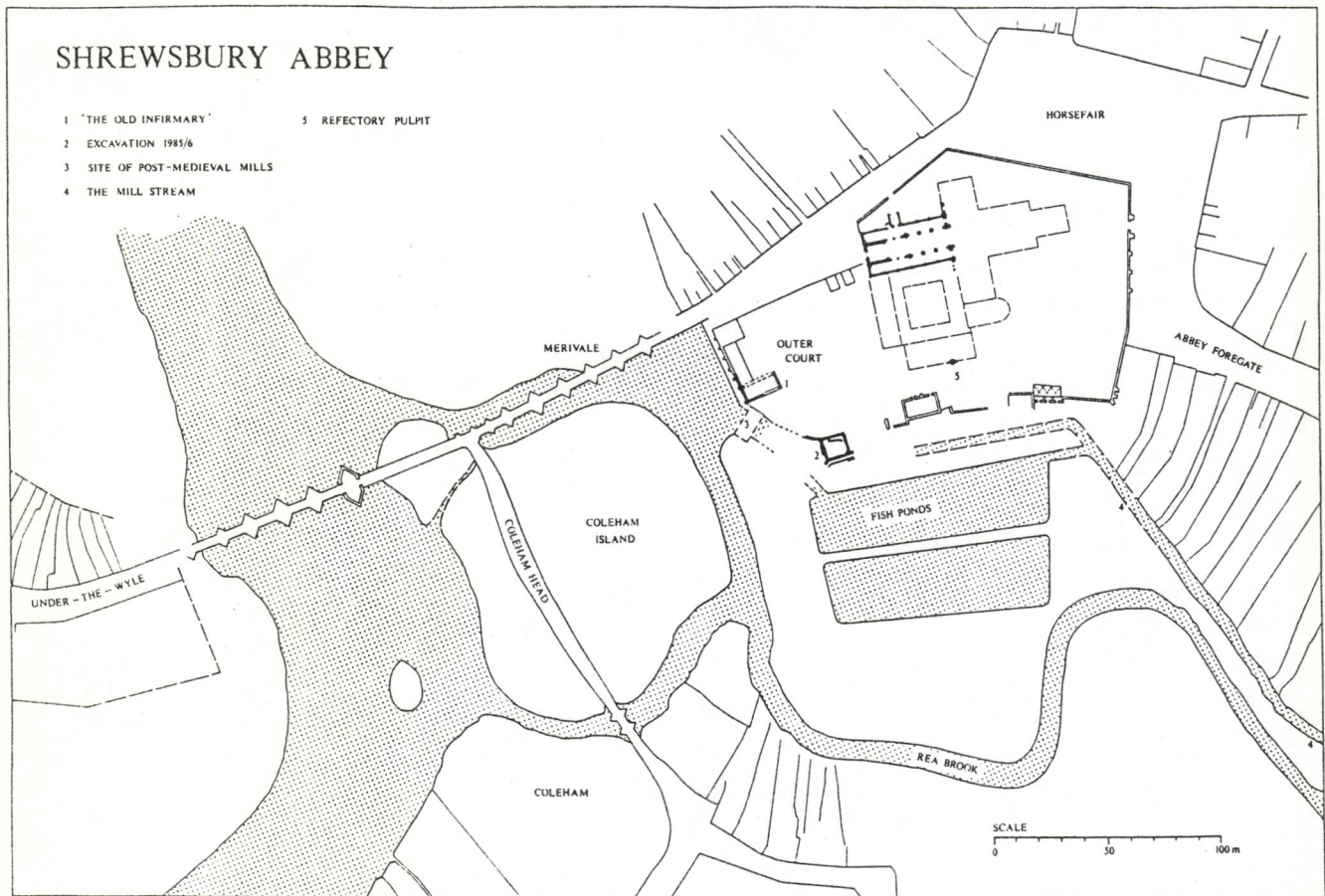


Figure 3 Shrewsbury Abbey in the Middle Ages

The Queen Anne House site

Early in 1985, a watching brief by Mike Watson, the County Field Officer, and an evaluation programme by Annette Roe for BUFAU, pinpointed the former monastic precinct as an area of high archaeological potential, with deep, waterlogged deposits, and buried walls of substantial masonry buildings. Area excavation began later that year; the first site is now nearing completion, and it is possible to outline five principal phases of development within this part of the Abbey.

Phase 1 12th-13th Centuries

The earliest deposit on the site, overlying the natural gravel-capped clay, is a silty-clay pond deposit formed in slowly-moving water within a feature whose boundaries, for the most part, lie outside the confines of the excavation. Within the northern edge of the site, the pond deposit ends against a sharp rise in the natural gravel, sloping upwards towards the higher ground to the north, at the core of the monastery. Possible early revetments to the pond-edge are currently under excavation. One find from this phase is of particular interest. This is a small silver bowl, stamped with a leopard's head, that may prove to be the earliest piece of English hallmarked silver yet known.

Phase 2 13th-14th Centuries (fig 4)

A mortared sandstone rubble wall, surviving in places to a height of 1.5m, running east-west across the site, is interpreted as a section of an early precinct wall. The wall was built over pond deposits and must represent an early stage in the expansion of the monastery into the wet areas to the south. Finds from this phase include pottery dateable to the 12th to 14th centuries, and a variety of wooden and leather artefacts.

Phase 3 14th Century (fig 4)

The early precinct wall, with insubstantial foundations, slumped southwards into the remaining wet area and went out of use. A large square building, with thick sandstone walls firmly supported on large timber piles, was superimposed over the earlier wall and the pond deposits to the south. Presumably the new building was not constructed to the north of the precinct wall because of pressure on space within the precinct. The damp conditions were overcome by backfilling the interior of the building to a height of 1.5m, before laying the floor surface. The same process of backfilling took place to the north, within the precinct, as protection against flooding.

The new building was carefully constructed, with finely-jointed ashlar in its exposed west wall; a projecting section in the centre of this wall probably marks the site of a fireplace. In the southeast corner was the base of a circular staircase. This may have given access to a garderobe tower, built over a drain channel to the south of the building. This drain, flowing from east to west, probably served a range of buildings along the southern edge of the monastery before discharging into the mill-stream.

Outside the building to the west was a lower area containing a hardcore path, parallel to the precinct wall to the north, bounded by a wattle fence on the edge of the slope down towards the mill-stream.

No direct evidence was found for the function of the 14th-century

building, all its floors having been removed when it was demolished. It lay on the south side of the Outer Court, that part of the monastery devoted to its public and economic functions. The provision of a fireplace and a lavatory tower hints at a domestic function, but the square plan, and the presence in contexts of this phase of half of a stone mortar, the base of a type of rotary quern, sherds of dripping-pan type vessels and small pottery bottles, and butchered animal bone, may indicate that it was a kitchen, possibly servicing guest accommodation.

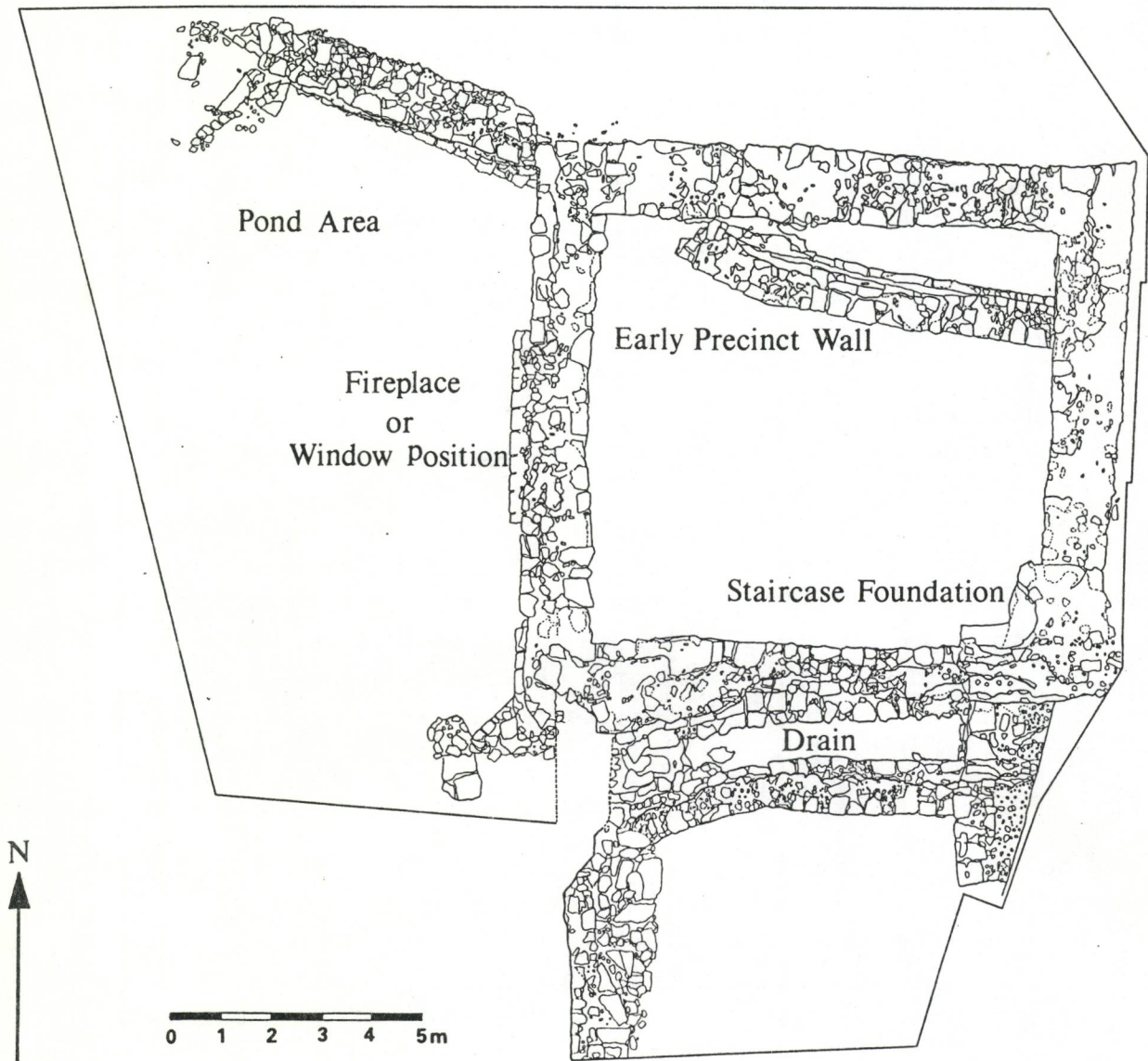


Figure 4 The Queen Anne House site: interim wall plan, phases 2 & 3

Phase 4 16th-17th Centuries

Shrewsbury Abbey was dissolved in 1540, and the precinct area sold into private ownership. The kitchen/guesthouse building was systematically

demolished, and the materials removed to be re-used elsewhere. Part of the area was sold or let to tanners, their activities represented in the excavation by the remains of five rectangular stone and clay-lined tanning pits, cut into the sub-floor make-up of the medieval building. A considerable quantity of bone and leather artefacts, including shoes and belts, were discarded in the lower, wet area to the west. The drain channel to the south was robbed of its masonry lining and survived in use as an open ditch.

Phase 5 18th-20th Centuries

During this last phase of the site's development, the landscape began to resemble that of the present day. In the early 18th century, a large brick house, known as the Queen Anne House, was built to the north of the excavated area. The low, western half of the site, and the open ditch to the south, were finally backfilled, and a formal garden was laid out with flower beds and dry-stone walls, some of which reflected the outline of the medieval building underneath. The garden survived, overgrown, until excavation commenced in 1985.

The Old Infirmary

The complex of buildings known as The Old Infirmary is shown in prints, paintings and maps of the 18th and early 19th centuries as a C-shaped arrangement of buildings at the western end of the Outer Court.

The Old Infirmary originally consisted of a north and a south range at right-angles to the northern channel of the Rea Brook, with a heavily-buttressed linking building between the two. The west elevation of this complex, possibly incorporating an earlier precinct wall, was pierced by a set of six arches opening onto the edge of a basin in the water-course. From the position and appearance of this elevation it can be suggested that The Old Infirmary functioned as part of a waterfront in the medieval period, an unusual survival within a monastic precinct. The southernmost 5m of the linking building's west wall survives to a height of 5.5m above modern ground level, and the tops of two of the arches are just visible above the great depth of late 18th- and 19th-century land fill deposited in this area. Excavation began in this area in December 1986 to investigate the river channel and the possibility of waterfront revetments.

The east, west and south walls of the south range represent the remains of a first floor hall of the late 13th-century. They also survive to virtually their original height. A large (approximately 7m wide) round or segmental-headed arch in the east end of the south wall raises the possibility that, at ground floor level, this wing may have functioned as a gatehouse for traffic entering the Outer Court from the south, while the

hall above may have provided accommodation for guests.

N J Baker, J Darlington, M A Cooper and M C Moffett, Birmingham University
Field Archaeology Unit

The Shrewsbury Heritage Project is sponsored and assisted by:
British Rail, The Community Programme, Erect-a-Scaffold, Hardanger
Properties plc, Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission, John Laing
Developments Ltd, Lichfield Diocese, Lloyds Bank plc, Severn-Trent Water
Authority, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, Shropshire County
Council, The Walker Trust and Walton Survey Partnership.

WROXETER, St Andrew's Church (SJ 56330825; SA 13416)

In West Midlands Archaeology 28 a preliminary account was given of the
rescue excavations conducted between September 1985 and February 1986 at
the partially Anglo-Saxon church of St Andrew. In post-excavation a small
number of sherds of handmade pottery have been identified as being of a
type not previously encountered in excavations in the Roman city, and not
known to local archaeologists.

These sherds, all bodysherds with the exception of one base fragment, are
from coil-built vessels and have a well-smoothed to burnished surface.
The fabric is a dull ash black in colour with a moderately high
concentration of calcareous inclusions and a small proportion of possible
rounded clay pellets.

The majority of these sherds were residual in the fill of post-medieval
graves. However, one sherd came from the upper fill of the latest feature
in a stratified sequence of negative features encountered c 1.5m below
modern ground level in the digging of a sump 8.5m west of the church. The
upper fill of this feature, a stave-lined pit, also contained Roman
pottery of the 2nd to 4th centuries, and considerable amounts of Roman
wall plaster, most of which was painted, and large amounts of building
demolition material.

Both the context and the appearance of this material would strongly
suggest that it is post-Roman in date, possibly of the 5th or 6th century.

C Moffett, Wroxeter Church Project, Birmingham University Field
Archaeology Unit

STAFFORDSHIRE

ACTON TRUSSELL (SJ 937175)

Introduction

Excavation on the Romano-British 'villa', first reported in West Midlands Archaeology 28 (1985), continued through the 1986 season. The work is being carried out by the Tong Archaeological Group, who after five years of field study, discovered the remains in 1984.

After a further season it is now virtually certain that the remains of the main complex lay predominantly within and under the graveyard and church of St James (fig 5), and that it is likely that only the extremes continue into the agricultural land bordering the churchyard.

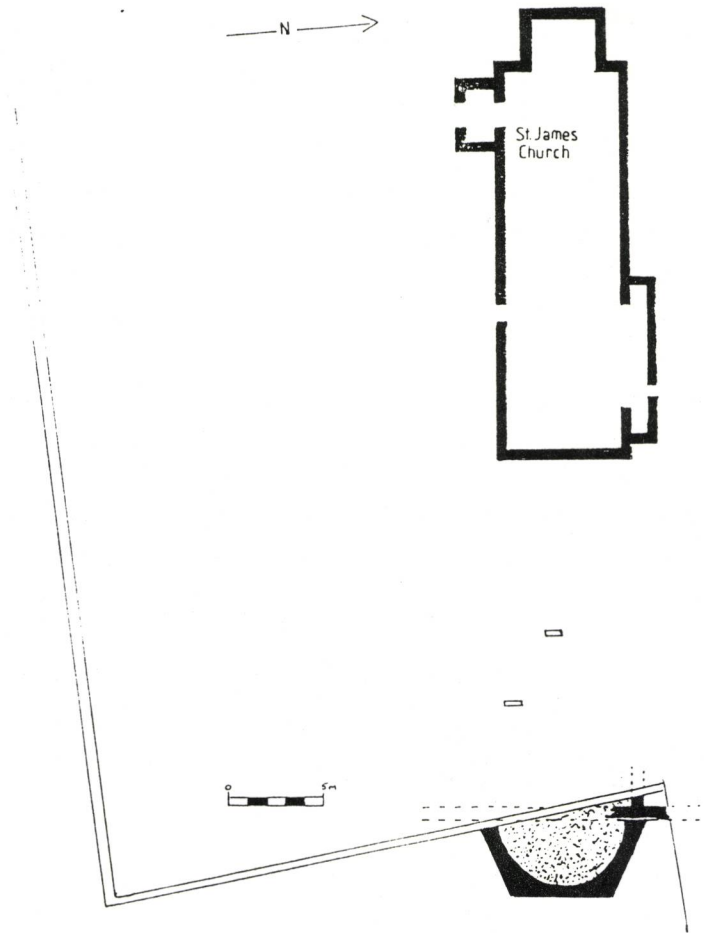


Figure 5 Acton Trussell church and 'villa'

The disappointment of course is more than compensated for by the possible association of church and 'villa'.

At this stage of the excavation no evidence is forthcoming to enable identification of activity on the site and therefore the term 'villa' is

being used in the broadest sense.

1986 Excavation

The excavation continued along the east boundary of the churchyard, in a southward direction from the apsidal wing (fig 6), excavated during 1985. This boundary continues for 21m before meeting the south boundary line. Within 3m of the wing were the remains of a possible entrance, two large postholes, between which was a laid area of stone packing. Over this packing was the remains of a mortar layer. Further excavation was restricted by the east boundary hedge. Other features included two iron encrustations, irregular in shape, c 1m long by 0.30m wide, and made up of what appear to be hollow square sections.

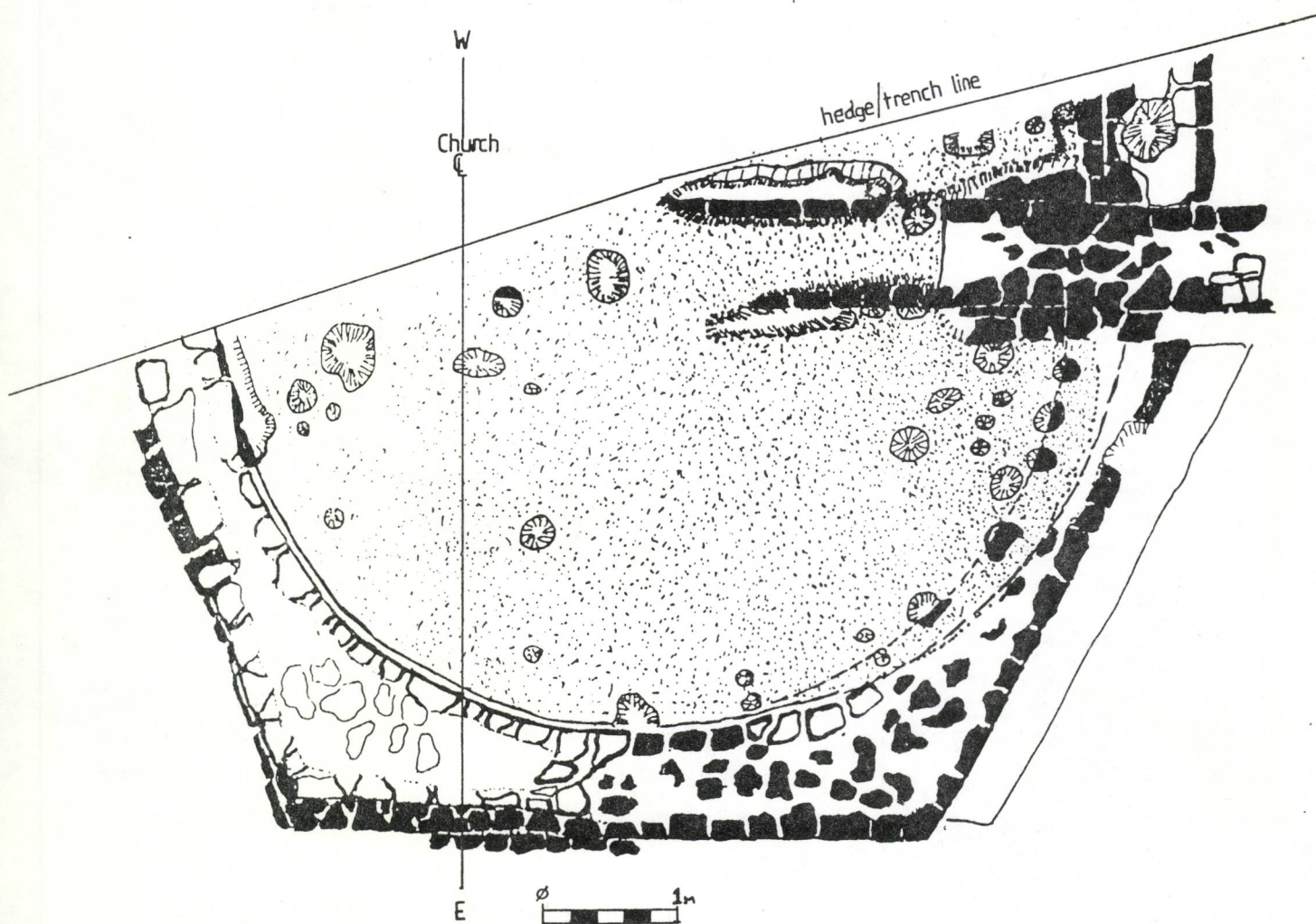


Figure 6 Acton Trussell: excavation plan

As with the area of the wing, there was considerable disturbance in the upper levels until well below surviving stonework, partly due to the shallow depth of the building, (the top stone levels are within the bottom of the plough depth), but also due to robbing/demolition activity. Stratified layers were therefore mainly destroyed.

Large amounts of tesserae, painted plaster, and pot sherds were recovered, together with pan tile fragments, and a small quantity of flue tile remains. Other than roofing nails no other metal objects have been found.

The pottery includes mortaria from Mancetter/Hartshill, plain samian, and a sherd of samian form 37. A very small sherd of Nene Valley white slip ware was also included, the remainder being typical 3rd/4th-century black and grey cooking wares, with possible 2nd-century types to be identified after full indexing.

During the removal of the topsoil along this boundary a little-worn silver coin of Septimus Severus (191-211) was discovered.

South boundary

As it seemed that the substantial part of the building was lying inside the confines of the churchyard, a 1.5m wide trench was excavated from the southeast corner along the south boundary, in order to confirm whether any of the complex continued out in this direction.

During the construction of the nearby M6 motorway, large amounts of waste was deposited in a quarry to the rear of the excavation. In order to provide suitable access for transport the plough and subsoil had been removed all along this south boundary. Metalling was then deposited by way of furnace slag. This was later in the main removed and the soil replaced, the result was of course even more disturbance than that on the east side.

At a depth of 0.40m stone packing was discovered and this continues under the boundary towards the church, but appears to protrude less than 1m into the field. It is possible that the remainder was destroyed by the earth moving equipment used to make the temporary roadway. The excavation will need to be extended into the arable land in order to confirm this. It is known that stone work does exist some 5m out into this field and this was located by probing during one weekend between harvesting and reseedling, in an area where crop marks had been noted earlier.

The work will continue along the full 60m length of this boundary, the intention being to identify the extent and position of any encroachment into the arable land and then obtain permission to extend the excavation in this direction.

General comments

The excavation at present is very restricted by the amount of land currently available, but it is quite likely that this will be remedied by further grants of land. Within these confines, it has been possible to confirm a complex at least 40m wide and 50m long in which mosaic floors,

painted wall plaster, and a hypocaust system were present.

The span of occupation is provisionally 2nd to mid 4th centuries. The evidence for this will be more certain after detailed examination of the pottery, but does include a sherd of samian type 37. This of course may be a survival and further evidence is only provided by two coins, both little worn, of Constantine I and Helena (340-370). These were recovered below the demolition levels, on an undisturbed level of sandy loam outside the wing, and there was of course also the silver coin of Severus (191-211).

Besides the traditional drawing of the excavation and pot sherds, the group are using computer graphic storage allied to data-base retrieval. Examples of this method of recording can be seen in fig 7. This is not used in place of traditional methods, but as an easily manipulated supplement.

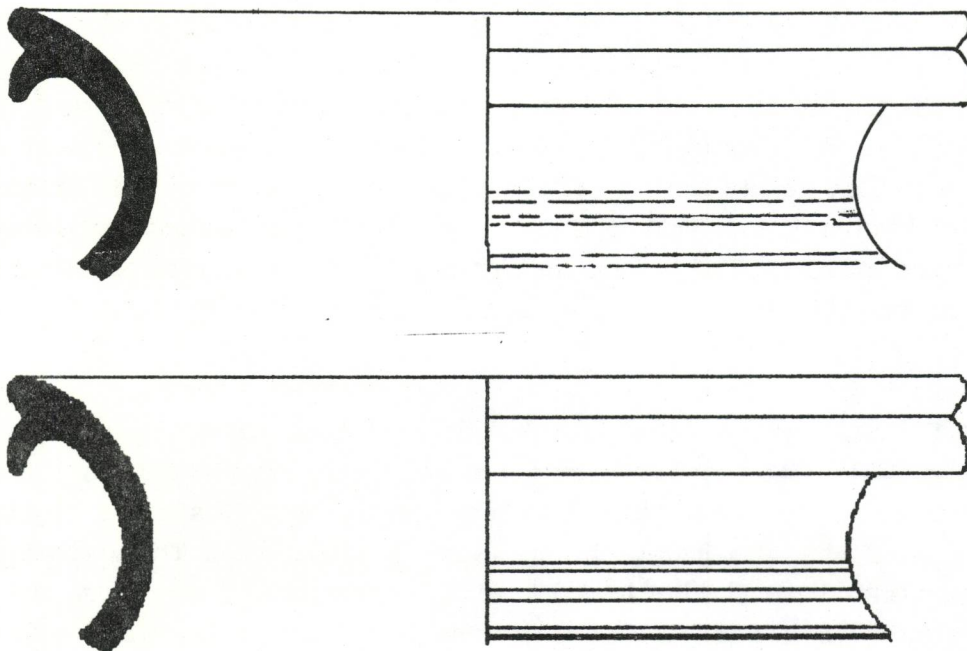


Figure 7 Acton Trussell: conventional pottery drawing and computer graphic storage

Artefacts are on display on site, which is open each weekend.

Tony Habberley, Tong Archaeological Group

ERRATUM The sentence at the end of the first paragraph of last year's report on Acton Trussell should read: '4 bronze barbarous radiates of the 3rd century AD, 2 of Helena (340-370), and one coin of the 2nd century'.

HANDSACRE, Handsacre Hall Moated Site (SK 090157; PRN 220)

Work on this Scheduled Ancient Monument commenced in October 1986. The site consists of a large rectangular moated enclosure, within which lies the collapsed remains of a 14th-century base-cruck open hall with later c 16th- to 18th-century extensions and final major replacement of rotted timbers in brick in the 19th century. The hall stood empty from the early 1960s, and by 1973 vandalism had reduced it to parts of the front walls of the wings, which have since fallen to leave only a low rubble mound. In 1973 parts of the medieval hall were transferred to Avoncroft Museum.

The present work began with the stripping of vegetation over the site and a detailed contour survey of some 9,000 readings. Rubble stripping then commenced down to the quarry tile and timber floor of the latest phase of the hall, the main aim being to record all surviving structural timbers to facilitate the compilation of reconstruction drawings, in liaison with the Community Programme Vernacular Building Survey Team at Lichfield.

Many of the timbers have already been lost through vandalism, though features such as the southeast staircase and east chimney survive in part. There have been few finds from the rubble except for recent pottery. The remains are being fully planned and work will continue into early 1987. The site is intended to be landscaped as open space at the centre of a proposed housing estate.

The site archive is deposited at the Community Programme Agency base at Slitting Mill, Rugeley, Staffs.

Jones, S 1974 Handsacre Hall, Armitage, Staffs. A note on its destruction, South Staffs Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions **XV**, 1973-4, 50

Andrew Simpson, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

LICHFIELD, Friars Alley (SK 116094: PRN 48)

In autumn 1986 excavations were undertaken on part of the north edge of the little-known Greyfriars Franciscan Friary, founded in the 12th century, suppressed in 1538 and mostly dismantled by the end of the 16th century. Parts of the Friary were excavated in 1933.

In 1986 planning permission was granted to rebuild and extend a former poultry store at the end of the scheduled area on the proviso that archaeological investigation was undertaken to check the survival of

deposits. A trial trench (fig 8) in the east garden of the poultry store revealed late disturbance (contexts 2, 3, 5, 6) and possible 19th-century privy footings F 02/3/4. Post-medieval deposits, (contexts 4, 7) were c 1m deep. They overlay an equal depth of medieval deposits, (context 1), a sandy orange-brown soil layer that yielded much pottery of 12th-century to 14th-century date plus a sherd of samian, the first Roman find from this part of Lichfield.

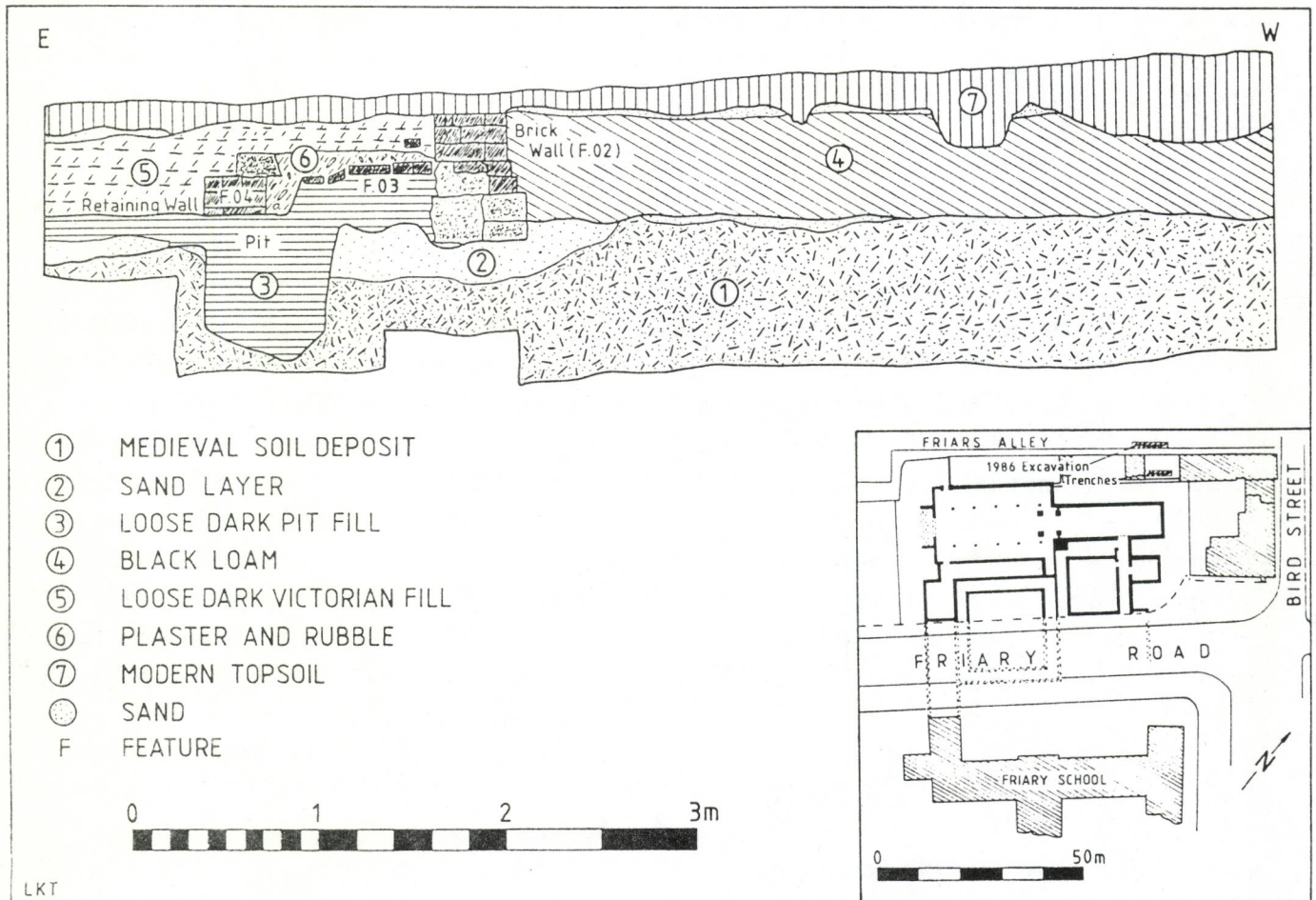


Figure 8 Lichfield, Friars Alley: section across site

At the north edge of the adjacent Friars Alley, an ancient entry to the city, clearance of undergrowth and the collapsed remains of a modern boundary wall revealed some 15m of well-mortared sandstone wall, running east - west with some dressed facing stones intact on the north face, the south edge being buried beneath the alley. Surviving up to 5 courses, the wall was butted by a much disturbed sandy layer containing pottery of a similar date to that in the garden trench.

The site archive is held at the Community Programme Agency offices, Rugeley, prior to probable display in Lichfield.

- Harwood, T 1806 The History and Antiquities of the City of Lichfield,
London
- Laithwaite, P 1937 The Lichfield Friary, Trans Birmingham Archaeological
Society LVIII, 1937, 53-5

Andrew Simpson, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

LICHFIELD, St John Street (SK 117092; PRN 3949)

In 1985 the 'Bikers Shop', St John Street, Lichfield, adjacent to the medieval St Johns Hospital, was severely damaged by fire. In 1986 planning permission was applied for by Masstype Properties Ltd to develop the site for sheltered housing for the elderly. The opportunity was taken to excavate this site, adjacent to the former Culstubbe gate, and lying just inside the presumed line of the city defences, on the probable site of the Hartshorn Inn, a major coaching inn (fig 9). The developers made a generous grant towards the cost of the excavation, undertaken by Staffordshire County Council's Archaeological Roving Team II, sponsored by the Council's Community Programme Agency with Manpower Services Commission funding.

As the 'Bikers Shop' and associated buildings were demolished, they were fully recorded. The oldest standing building was the main east - west range at the rear of the site with probable late 18th-century roof trusses.

The Hartshorn Inn is shown on John Snape's Lichfield map of 1781, and in 1793 Isaac Snape, victualler, is described as resident at the Harthorn Inn in the Staffordshire Directory, but by the 1818 edition of the directory the Inn is no longer mentioned.

Demolition rubble was removed to clear the remaining foundation of the World War II period Bikers Shop and projecting remains, including two saw pits and a cobbled rear yard (F.19) of its predecessor, a timber yard whose foundations, including outhouses on the southern edge of the site mirrored the buildings shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 plan of 1884.

Trial excavation at the eastern side of the site showed that the building of the 19th-century timber yard had involved the planing off of all deposits on the street frontage down to the level of the natural clay leaving no structural evidence of the Inn buildings.

A major purpose of the excavation was to locate the line of the city ditch, cut around the southern part of the city by Bishop Roger De Clinton sometime between 1129, when he was appointed Bishop of Lichfield, and

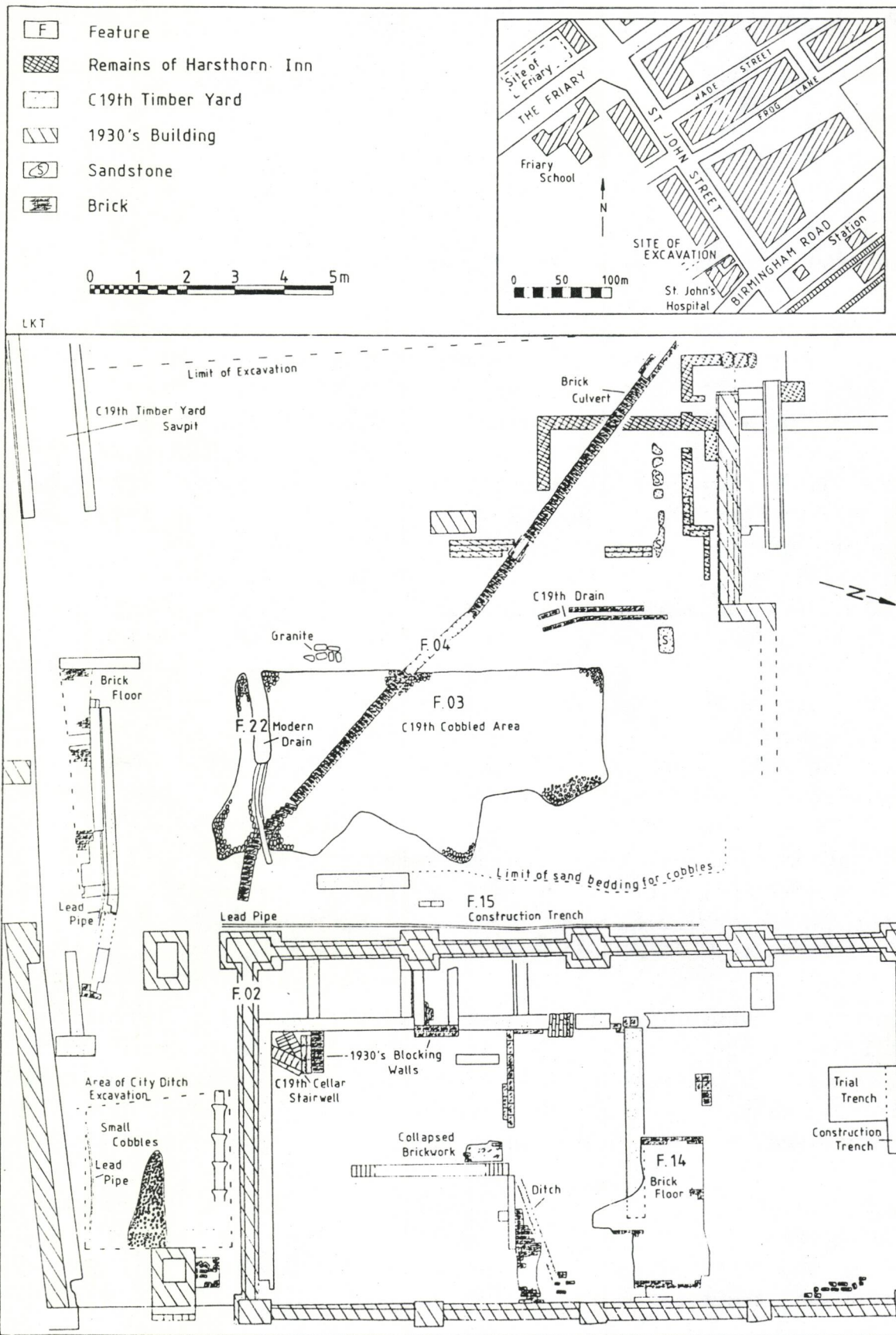


Figure 9 Lichfield, St John Street: location and plan

1135, the presumed date of the foundation of St Johns Hospital, which lies just south of the Culstubble gate, or 'barr', which may have been no more than a timber bar across the road.

Trenching approximately in line with the gate (fig 10) revealed the northern lip of the city ditch, cutting the natural sandstone, and at this point filled with a silty brown soil deposit, context 32 which contained some residual medieval and much 18th-century pottery. The proximity of the boundary wall did not permit further excavation.

On the city side of the ditch, at the centre of the site, was a small medieval pit, cut by an 18th-century pit on its south edge. The fill of the medieval pit, when wet sieved, yielded charred wood and seeds in the sandy soil matrix, together with large parts of a coarse grey-black fabric cooking pot, now reconstructed and currently housed with all finds and site archives at Slitting Mill, Rugeley (where the team's post excavation section is based) pending possible display in Lichfield.

The north edge of the city ditch was also found in the machine cut trench across the rear (west) of the site, the ditch again being filled with a sandy matrix containing much 18th-century pottery and animal bone, and bottoming on natural sandstone. There was no trace of any internal bank at either point.

This machine trench cut through Victorian footings and sandy matrix deposits, much disturbed by later pits, drains and footings. The sandy layers contained very large amounts of mid to late 18th-century pottery, glass, clay pipe and animal bone, probably contemporary with the latest phases of the Hartshorn Inn.

At the north end of the trench, the exposed 19th-century timber yard footings, running east-west to an angle at the centre of the trench, rested on a number of reused sandstone blocks, grouped at the wall corner, carved in probable Jacobean style. These are provisionally interpreted as demolition debris from an ornate frontage to the Hartshorn Inn, one of the indications of its structure.

The only other structural remains apparently from the Inn are rectangular brick foundations, with some sandstone blocks laid directly on natural clay, the foundations being cut by later walling of the timber yard and its associated drains. These may be the remains of a building shown on Snape's map of 1781, possibly a late phase outbuilding of the Inn. It was sealed by a deep deposit of demolition rubble containing much 18th-century pottery and a small silver button, possibly of the Napoleonic period Lichfield volunteers, one of few small finds from the site. Many

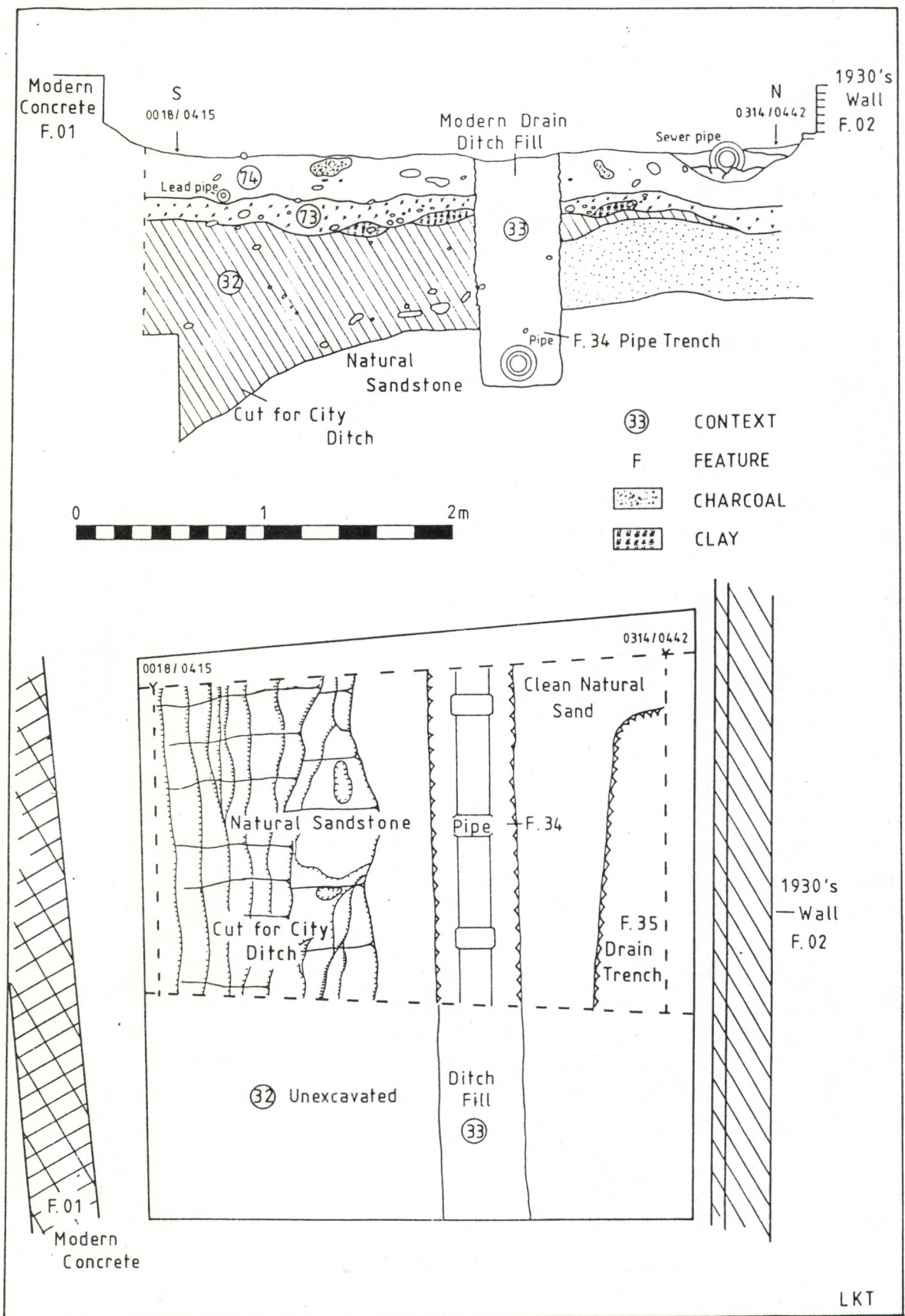


Figure 10 Lichfield, St John Street: section and plan of medieval ditch

of the vessels from this layer have been reconstructed virtually complete, and include Chinese porcelain, many manganese streak tankards and a little tin glaze, matching the documentary indications of closure and demolition between 1793 and 1818.

This rubble spread over much of the site, from the levelled off street frontage to the rear (west) end where large amounts of 18th-century slip trailed ware, presumably originating from the Inn, lay in mixed dump deposits overlying natural sand.

The excavation has indicated four main phases of occupation: the 12-century ditch, located at two points, with a roughly contemporary pit; foundations, demolition rubble, and pottery attributable to the latest 18th-century phases of the Inn; the 19th-century timber yard; and lastly the World War II Bikers Shop and associated structures.

Acknowledgements

Staffordshire SMR Officer Bob Meeson provided invaluable assistance, as did staff administering the Community Programme Agency from Slitting Mill, including Martin Harrison, Russell Dickerson and Bob Scowen. Thanks are due to the developers, Masstype, for their generous financial support, Kennings Garages for facilities supplied, the Staffordshire Regimental Museum, and the team members, including senior assistants Chris Welch and Lee Timmins, for all their hard work.

Andrew Simpson, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

MUSDEN GRANGE (SK 12355117; PRN 196)

In August 1985 a survey was made of earthworks lying to the west of the present farmhouse of Musden Grange. This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and believed to be that of grange buildings belonging to Croxden Abbey (Platt 1969, 222). The grange was based on a gift of land made by Bertram de Verdun c 1179 (Lynam 1911, i-ii).

The boundary of most of the land held at Musden has been established from the Tithe Maps; land held by the Cistercians before 1215 was exempt from the tithes (Kain and Prince 1985, 9). The area consists of about 600 acres and contains a number of earthworks including areas of ridge on low land by the River Manifold and a possible settlement site near Upper Musden. In contrast to the main site which was planned at 1:500 the majority of other features are being recorded at 1:2500.

The fate of the grange at the Dissolution is discussed in detail by Platt (1969, 119-120). Evidence from standing buildings, field boundaries and

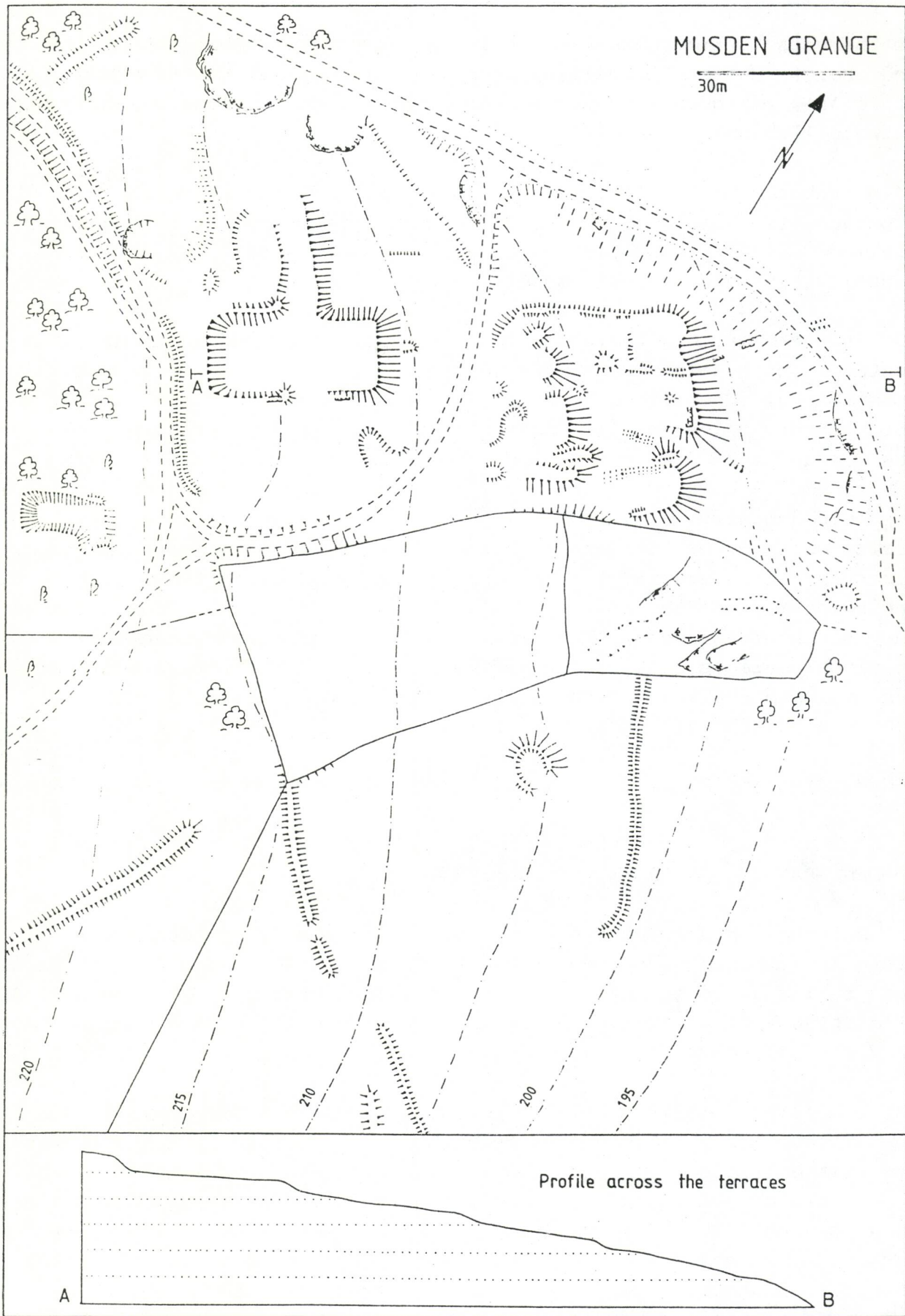


Figure 11 Musden Grange: earthwork survey

further documentary work suggest that the small farms of Dog Lane and Fieldhouse may be identified with areas leased out by the Abbey in the early 16th century, leases which remained valid after the Dissolution.

Kain, R J P, and Prince H C 1985 The Tithe Surveys of England and Wales,
Cambridge
Lynam, C 1911 The Abbey of St Mary's, Croxden,
Staffordshire
Platt, C 1969 The Monastic Grange in Medieval England:
a reassessment

Faith Cleverdon

ROCESTER (SK 111395; PRN 1803)

Excavation by the Field Archaeology Unit and the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham, continued in the New Cemetery, Church Lane. The area examined in 1985 was reopened and extended southwards, giving a total area of 430 square metres.

In the southern extension were found two large grain-processing ovens, partially sunk into the ground, with the remains of a clay dome collapsed

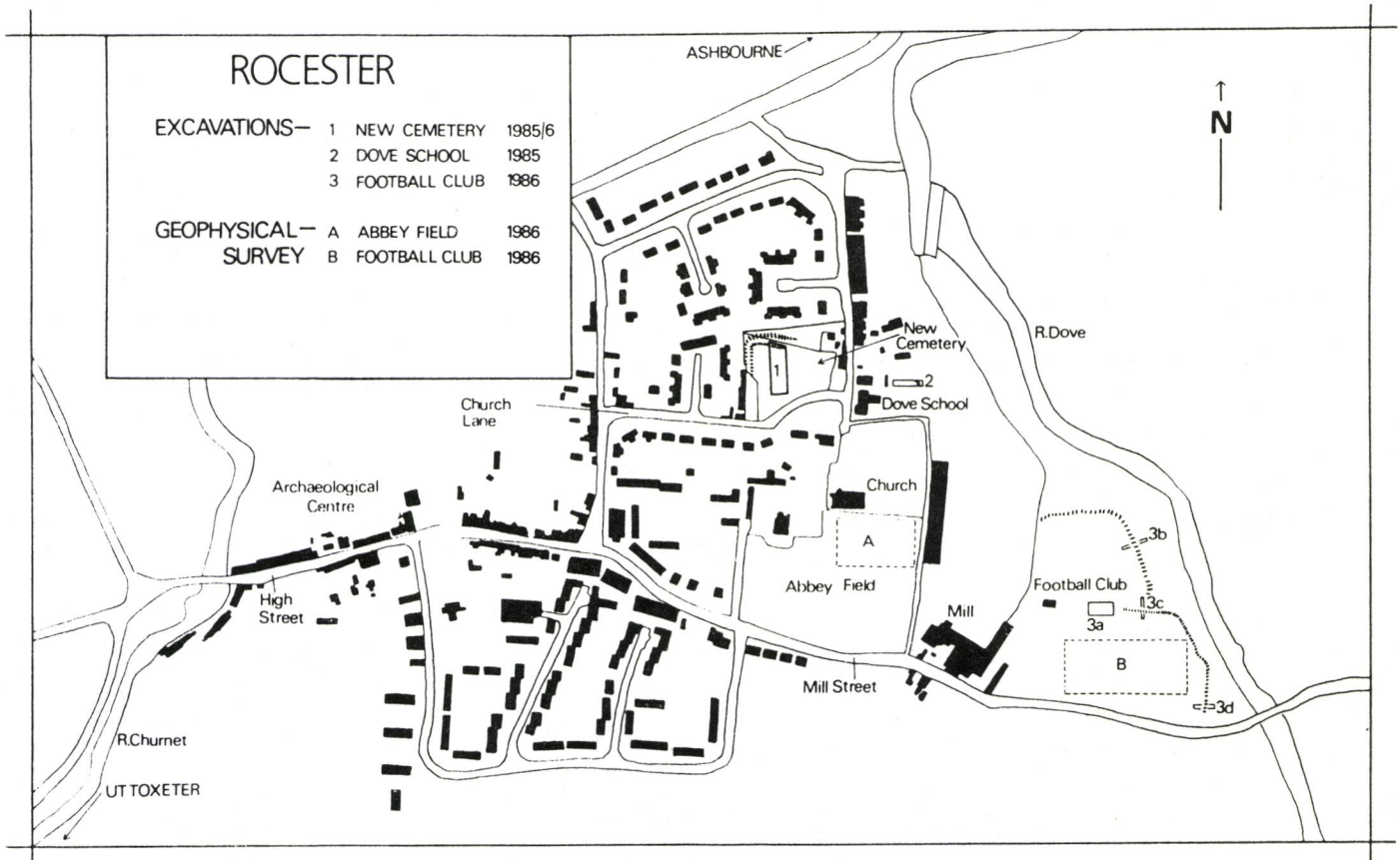


Figure 12 Rocester: location of excavations and survey

into one of them. The pottery from these features dated to the later medieval period, broadly contemporary with the 'smithy' examined in 1985.

In 1985 excavation in the main part of the site had uncovered areas of cobbling with associated beam-trenches, thought to be medieval. These were excavated in 1986 and shown to be Roman, probably of the 3rd or 4th centuries, as was a large gulley to their south. Removal of this phase revealed the beam-trenches of a Roman barrack-block. Only about half of the building lay within the excavation. It comprised a suite of rooms with attached latrine for the officer, and a series of clay-floored rooms for the men. Between the barrack and the rampart stood a 'cookhouse', so far only partially excavated. The fort was constructed in the later 1st century, and abandoned by the mid 2nd.

Prior to the construction of the barrack-block there had been a considerable amount of levelling-up, particularly in the southern part of the site. This was to counteract dishing into the tops of two large back-filled ditches. These, both 5m wide by 2m deep, form part of the defences of an earlier and more substantial fort at Rocester, perhaps of Neronian date.

Participants: BUFAU Roving Team (MSC), Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Team (MSC), students of Birmingham University.

Sponsors: JCB Excavators Ltd, HBMCE, East Staffordshire District Council, Staffordshire County Council.

I M Ferris, BUFAU, A S Esmonde Cleary, Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham

STAFFORD, Stafford Castle 1986 (SJ 902223)

During 1986/7 work at Stafford Castle has continued, funded jointly by Stafford Borough Council and by the Manpower Services Commission with a Community Programme of 26 persons. Following the completion of the excavation on the site of the deserted medieval settlement, the main emphasis of the project during 1986 has been directed towards the completion of the inner bailey excavation. The site has been dug on a seasonal basis between 1979 and 1983 and continuously from April 1986.

Prior to the commencement of the 1986 season numerous structures had been identified. Late medieval and post medieval structures included a multi-phase building initially interpreted as a counting house or chapel, timber framed buildings, stone and timber built buildings, and ovens and hearths. Two parallel rows of post pits were initially interpreted as the

foundations of a medieval timber bridge, and a robber trench on the crest of the rampart was initially interpreted as the position of a medieval stone tower.

From April 1986 many further structures have been uncovered, notably on or near the clay rampart in the southwest corner of the inner bailey. These include two circular structures, 3m in diameter, on the crest of the rampart which are associated with a series of three rectangular stone built hearths and a circular, partially stone built, oven 1.5m in diameter.

Quantities of lead and iron slag recovered from within these features and from associated layers of burnt material may indicate industrial activity. Also on the rampart a large funnel shaped pit, some 5m in diameter at the surface, tapering to 2m at a depth of 3.5m, is being excavated. This may be the site of a well, robbed of its stone lining and backfilled. Elsewhere on the site two further timber framed buildings have been identified and further stone walls have been uncovered.

There are large quantities of finds from the inner bailey, including pottery, tile, animal bone, and worked bone, painted window glass and vessel glass, iron and copper alloy objects and a fragment of cloth of gold. Some identification of imported medieval and post medieval pottery excavated in earlier seasons has been undertaken by John Hurst and these include archaic Maiolica (c 14th century) and various post-medieval imports - Ligurian ware, Montelupo ware, a Malling jug, Cologne/Frechen stonewares and Anglo-Dutch ware.

At the time of writing the site is still being excavated. It is hoped that the site will be finished in April 1987 prior to the commencement of two new Community Programmes, one designed to assist in post-excavation work and one designed to undertake restoration and renovation work of the fabric of the standing monument.

W D Klemperer, Stafford Castle Project

TAMWORTH, Romano-British enclosure (SK 195049; PRN 1308)

Aerial photographs taken in 1970 revealed a double-ditched enclosure, its north edge obscured by the Trent Valley railway line, lying on gently sloping ground approximately 1.6km west of the town centre and 1.6km north of the River Tame.

The site, on the western edge of the former Staffordshire Moor, is being developed as a new Territorial Army centre within the Lichfield Road

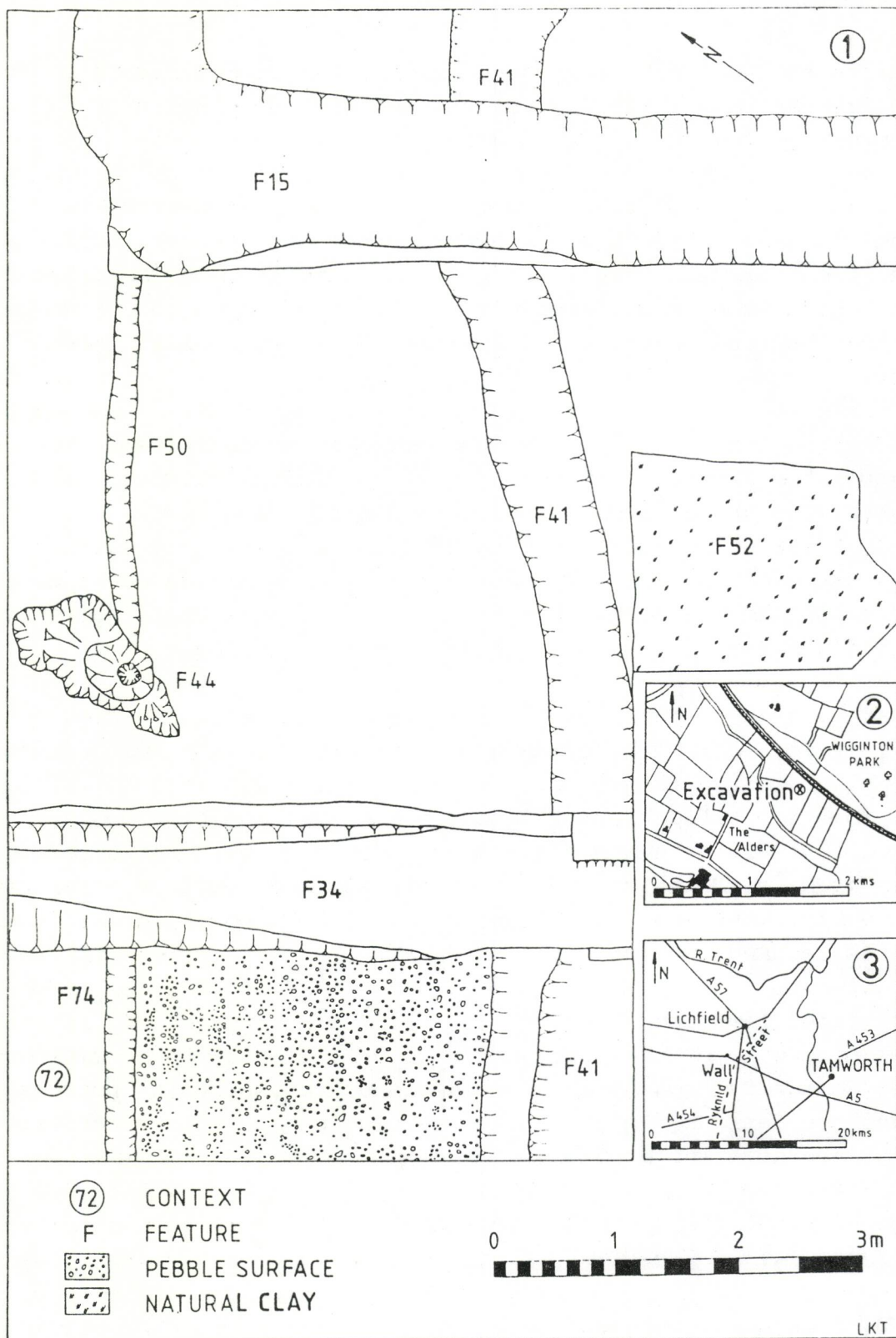


Figure 13 Tamworth: Romano-British enclosure

Industrial Estate. The centre's vehicle park encroaches on the southwest corner of the enclosure.

Following geophysical survey, over 300 square metres was excavated by hand during a 3 month period. Excavation centred on the threatened southwest

corner, plus trial trenching across the enclosure and ditches.

Fig 13 shows the inner (F34) enclosure ditches cutting possible beam slots F50/F74 and gully F41, indicating at least two phases of occupation. It was not clear whether the ditches are of different dates.

A pre-Flavian bronze brooch of c 50-60 was found in a residual context. The southwest angle of the inner enclosure ditch contained a waterlogged organic layer at its base, containing the leather uppers of a Roman shoe which has been conserved and deposited, with all other finds, at Tamworth Museum. These included 35 sherds of samian and grey wares, mostly from the upper fill of the enclosure ditches, of probable late 1st- to 3rd-century date. This is the first proven Roman site in Tamworth District, a short distance from the Watling Street and Ryknild Street.

The known later history of the site - moorland through medieval times and enclosure/ploughing in the 18th century to 19th century - is reflected in the pottery record.

Andrew Simpson, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

THROWLEY (SK 11005250; PRN 2630)

In April 1986 an area of land east of Throwley Hall was surveyed at 1:1000. It contained a number of medieval and post-medieval features including an area which may be part of the 'vill of Throughleg' mentioned in 1306 (SHC 1921, 18). This is linked by a hollow-way to an area with the remains of a small farmstead. Prior to its emparking in 1508 (SHC 1931, 64-5) the majority of the area was arable land. A double fishpond overlies one of the furlongs (PRN 3132).

Recording work is in progress on the remaining field systems and other archaeological features within Throwley township. This includes several flights of lynchets (Robinson et al 1969, 92-102) and a number of furlongs of ridge and furrow. Much of it lies on steep land which has seen little or no arable use since the sixteenth century and it should be possible to gain a reasonably comprehensive picture of the medieval land use. The area includes two deer parks and the probable sites of the park-keepers cottages (SHC 1931, 194-5). The general survey is being carried out at 1:2500 and it is hoped to complete it in the course of the next two years.

Robinson, D J, Salt, J and
Phillips, D M 1969
SHC 1921

Strip lynchets in the Peak District
North Staffs J Field Studies, 9,92-102
Staffordshire Historical Collections 1921
Calendar of the Salt MSS

SHC 1931

Staffordshire Historical Collections 1931
Elizabethan Chancery Proceedings, series II,
1558-79

Thomas, H R 1931

The enclosure of Open Fields and Commons in
Staffordshire Staffordshire Historical
Collections 1931

Faith Cleverdon

TIXALL, King's Low (SJ 95452373; PRN 851)

Introduction

King's Low is situated to the northeast of Stafford in Blackheath Covert (see fig 14). The barrow is now approximately 30m in diameter and 1.8m high at the centre; there is no surface evidence of previous excavations. A second barrow, named Queen's Low (SJ 96342389, PRN 855), lies 1km away at Lower Hanyards Farm in a field of rough pasture. This has been badly damaged by the plough but appears to be approximately 26m in diameter and 0.5m high in places.

About ten years ago large areas of Blackheath Covert, including the entire surface area of King's Low were planted with larch trees as a commercial crop. The stumps of much larger trees are also visible on the barrow which, together with intensive rabbit activity, formed sufficient threat to the site to warrant excavation. A short season of survey and excavation took place in 1986, directed by the authors and financed by the Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society.

Historical background

Two 19th-century publications provide information of interest. Clifford and Clifford (1817) refers to two urns, possibly Bronze Age, being found in this area along with the existence of a third barrow:

these urns have not been preserved nor is the account very accurate, for only twenty years ago three Lows were visible, one of which has since been levelled by the plough but not until it had been dug into but without making any discovery (ibid, 86-7)

The urns (PRN 1844) are presumed to be destroyed and the third barrow is unlocated. A slightly later text (Erdeswick 1844, 70) describes the origins of the stone cross, the base of which still remains on the southern slope of King's Low (PRN 852).

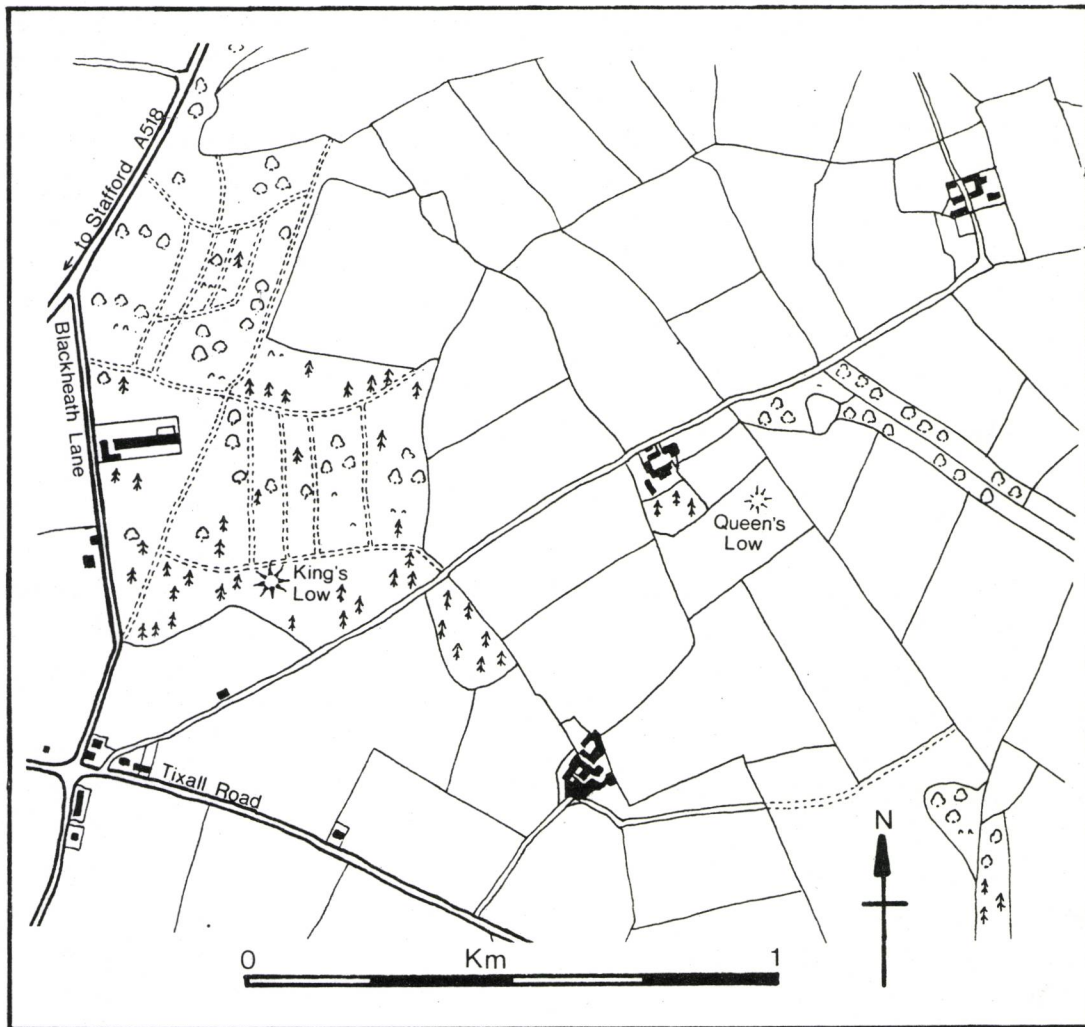


Figure 14 Tixall, King's Low: location map

More recently, in the 1970s, two very worn sherds of early Bronze Age pottery were found on the surface of either King's Low or Queen's Low. Both sherds are of a black gritty fabric with undecorated orange exterior surfaces. The larger sherd is approximately 35 by 40mm in size by 9mm thick and is very worn. The other, 25 by 10mm and 13mm thick, shows well preserved original surfaces. These are now in Hanley Museum, Stoke-on-Trent (accession number K38.1978).

The 1986 season

During the summer of 1986 a ten-metre square was opened in the southeast quadrant of the mound (see fig 15). This immediately confirmed the large extent of damage caused to the mound by tree roots, rabbit activity and, in particular, podsolisation due to the acid conditions of coniferous forest cover. In the northwest corner, close to the centre of the mound, a number of cremated bone fragments were found spreading over a distance of up to 3m at a level of 1m or so below the present mound surface. Rabbit

activity, though present here, was not found to be as intense as around the sides of the mound, where large holes led to horizontal burrows. Many old holes had collapsed and filled, undoubtedly causing disturbance of the stratigraphy above. Most serious, however, was the removal of any visible upper stratigraphy by soil leaching, resulting in a heavy hard-pan deposition, particularly thick and almost coal-like around the slopes, at various levels ranging from 0.5-1m below the surface. In the west and south of the excavated area, corresponding to the lower slopes of the mound, this hard-pan coincided with a horizon of stones, of sizes ranging from 10-300mm which has provisionally been interpreted as an old ground surface. In order to establish its depth, a 5 by 2m trench in the west was taken down further; the results were inconclusive. Apart from the scatter of bone, charcoal fragments have been found in many places, with one concentration. A few flint fragments, including a possible backed blade, have come from the material of the mound, and a good example of a large scraper came from an unstratified context near the surface (fig 16). The whole season's work has been of a tentative and careful nature as a

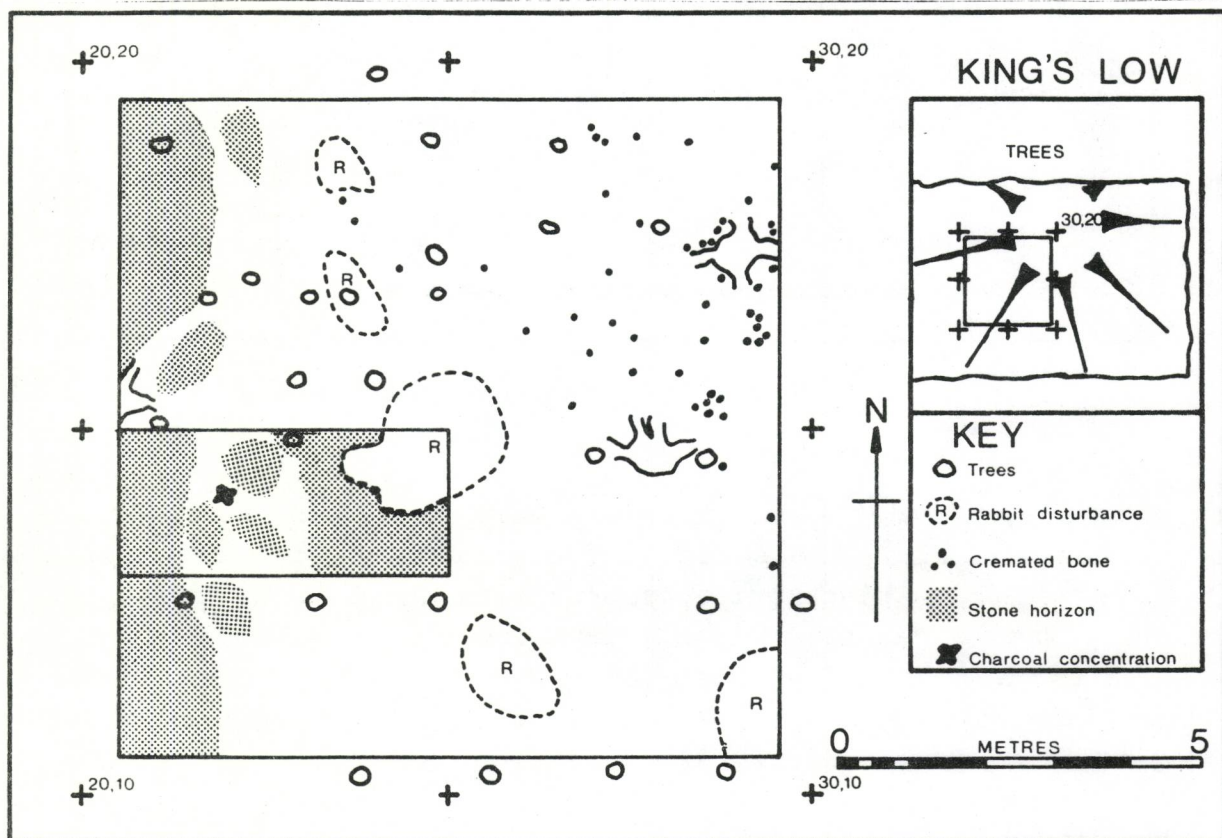


Figure 15 Tixall, King's Low: sketch plan of excavated area

result of the misleading effects of the false stratigraphy of podsolisation.

Future work

Excavation will continue at King's Low in 1987 between the months of April

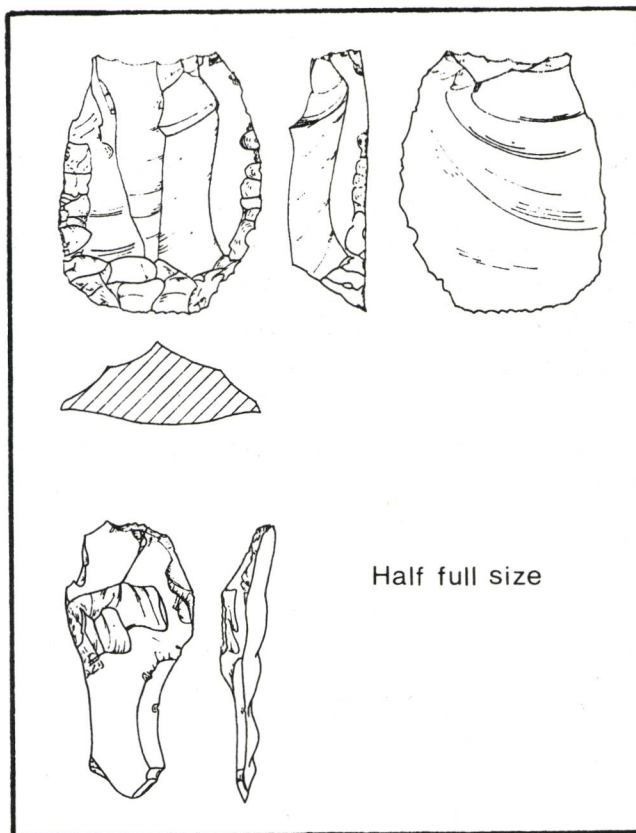


Figure 16 Tixall, King's Low: flint scraper and backed blade

and July. The opposing quadrant of the barrow (to the northeast) will be opened, together with areas off the mound to look for peripheral activity. An extensive contour and resistivity survey of Queen's Low will also be carried out in the late summer of 1987.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the landowners, Economic Forestry Group and Mr Nicholas Bostock, for permission to excavate. The excavation would not be possible without the support of the members of the Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeology Society and other volunteers. Both King's Low and Queen's Low are on private property and permission should be gained to visit them.

Clifford, T and Clifford, R 1817 A Topographical and Historical Description of the Parish of Tixall in the County of Staffordshire, published privately

Erdeswick, S 1844 A Survey of Staffordshire containing the Antiquities of that County, J B Nichols

Dr G R Lock and R D Spicer for Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeology Society and Stoke-on-Trent City Museum

WALL (SK 098066)

After completely removing the large feature (West Midlands Archaeology 27, 1984, 71), the remains of two clay and cobble foundations were revealed, the one aligned north-south being a continuation of the clay and cobble foundation incorporated into the stone mansio to the south. Relationships are difficult to establish as the original stratigraphy was destroyed by the 19th century excavators.

The excavations are now reaching the western limits where it is hoped that the overlying disturbance will not have totally destroyed any earlier structures or features.

Arrangements have been made with HBMCE for post-excavation processing of the quantity of painted wall plaster recovered from the mansio excavations carried out by Mr A A Round. A separate report on the plaster will be prepared for publication.

Assistance with the excavation is still given by members of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society and the Douglas Heritage Society.

Frank and Nancy Ball, for Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England and South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society

WARWICKSHIRE

ALCESTER, Field opposite Cherry Trees Motel (SP 102574)

During August 1984 a sceatta of the 'porcupine' type was discovered by Mr Robert Laight of Studley using a metal detector and subsequently it was brought to the Warwickshire Museum for classification. Dr Michael Metcalf, Keeper at the Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, who has seen photographs of this piece, confirms that it is a typical VICO or VOIC coin of his series E. It is in very good condition, as indeed are most if not all of these pieces with good silver content, and weighs 1.90g. Apart from a sceatta of C type found at Coventry in 1850 this is so far as is known the earliest Saxon coin discovered in the present county of Warwickshire.

For recent discussion on these coins see D M Metcalf, in Monetary circulation in Southern England in the first half of the eighth century, in Sceattas in England and on the Continent BAR British Series 128 (1984), 27-69

W A Seaby, Numismatic Section, Warwickshire Museum

ALCESTER, International Supermarket site, Moorfield Road (SP 088573)

Excavations in advance of the construction of a large supermarket and car park began in November 1985 and were completed in March 1986. Three trial trenches were excavated at the east end of the site. The most important of these was Trench B which cut across a clay and gravel bank taken to be part of the earthwork defences dating to the 2nd century or later. The main excavation (Areas D and E) concentrated on the remains of the 4th-century town wall and a substantial stone-walled structure discovered by Paul Booth in 1978. The stone structure, identified by the excavator as a possible store building, was constructed at the beginning of the 4th century, only to be demolished later in that century to make way for the new town defences. In contrast to the situation on the opposite side of the town, the two defensive circuits were not coincident, with the stone wall being some 25m southwest of the earlier bank. The wall itself had been totally robbed out but a timber pile foundation 3.8m wide was recorded, and the timbers themselves removed for dendrochronology. At some later date a bastion with a square foundation trench of similar construction was added on to the outside of the wall.

The excavation was funded by HBMCE and Warwickshire County Council

Stephen Cracknell, Warwickshire Museum

ALDERMINSTER, Iron Age hillfort and Roman site on Foxhill (SP 21424977;
PRNWA 3846)

The site was located as a cropmark by Jim Pickering and was fieldwalked by the author, with the assistance of Peter Foster, in 1985 and 1986. The hillfort is situated on marl and is in a hilltop location, with a slight downhill slope to the north and steep slopes down to a brook on the southwest, south and southeast.

The main feature on air photographs is an enclosure of about 1.4ha, with a large defensive ditch and a western entrance. The ditch on the southeast appears to be interrupted; ground inspection reveals that the interruption is the result of post-medieval or modern quarrying. To the southeast of the main enclosure is a smaller subrectangular enclosure and to the north are curvilinear features and possible penannular gullies.

The site falls into parts of two modern fields and both have been examined. The rampart has been totally flattened by subsequent cultivation; however, two clear concentrations of Iron Age pottery were noted in the interior of the hillfort enclosure. The pot sherds are all small and extremely friable, but may be of similar date to larger assemblages from two sites in Whitchurch (see this volume, 60-1). Burnt stone was also common on the site.

A sparse scatter of Roman sherds over the cropmarks to the north of the hillfort may indicate a Roman site close to the hillfort.

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

ALDERMINSTER, Roman settlement near Eversfield (SP 2347¹; PRNWA 3844)

A complex of cropmarks including enclosures and linear features was walked by the author and Peter Foster in October 1986. Roman pottery and a few pieces of tile were scattered widely across the cropmark complex. The densest area of pottery scatter is associated with dark earth and probably represents domestic settlement within a large rectangular enclosure. Three worked flints were found over the area of the Roman settlement.

(1 Accurate grid references are not given for Roman settlements to avoid giving the exact location of these sites to metal detector users)

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

BARFORD, possible Iron Age site near Park Farm (SP 29156963; PRNWA 700)

A cropmark enclosure and linear feature photographed by Jim Pickering will be destroyed by the construction of the M40. The site was fieldwalked by the author and Gil Crawford prior to an application being submitted to HBMCE for rescue funding. A concentration of burnt stone was noted over the enclosure and careful examination produced two sherds, one possibly of Iron Age date and one medieval.

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

BAXTERLEY (NGR unavailable)

A perforated pebble 'macehead' was found in a ploughed field at Baxterley in November 1986. The object is an oval quartzite pebble, 85 x 65mm, with a central hour-glass perforation; there are no obvious wear marks on the stone. Chance finds of 'maceheads' are notoriously difficult to date and may belong to the mesolithic, neolithic or Bronze Age.

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

BIDFORD-ON-AVON (SP 1051¹; PRNWA 4811 and 303)

The head and part of the bow of an Anglo-Saxon undecorated square-headed brooch was found in March 1986 by a metal detector user. A month earlier a fragment of a decorated gilded bronze saucer brooch was found, also with a metal detector, some 200m away. These two finds may indicate the presence of a second Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Bidford. It is interesting to note that the decoration on the saucer brooch is identical to that on a complete brooch (PRNWA 4555) found in 1984 near Grafton Lane, Bidford.

(1 An accurate grid reference has not been given to avoid giving the exact location to metal detector users).

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

BIDFORD-ON-AVON, Roman settlement site near Marlcliff (SP 1050¹; PRNWA 4946)

A Roman settlement site was fieldwalked on October 1986 after its discovery by metal detector users. The site produced a couple of hundred Roman coins and numerous bronze objects including a number of brooches. Field survey indicates a number of buildings which incorporated stone and

tile in their construction. A Roman villa may be indicated by finds, which included pottery which may span the Roman period.

(1 Accurate grid references are not given for Roman settlements to avoid giving the exact location of these sites to metal detector users).

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

BIDFORD-ON-AVON, Field in Grafton Lane (SP 109524)

In March 1986 Mr Robert Laight of Studley using a metal detector found one quarter of an early Saxon penny in two fragments and has kindly donated this piece to the Warwickshire Museum. The coin was submitted to Mr Christopher Blunt in the hope that he might identify the coin but he was unable to confirm that it was a coin of the Mercian king Offa (757-96) or any of the contemporary or later rulers of the 8th-9th centuries. All that remains to be seen is the letter .A. in the arc of a quatrefoil on reverse. Quite the most likely moneyer is (EOB)A who is found at Canterbury in Group I of Offa's coinage (c 784-7) but as Mr Blunt has pointed out all his known coins of this classification have ornaments in the spandrels of the quatrefoil (see North, England Hammered Coinage I, 54, no 273 and plate III.24).

W A Seaby, Numismatic Section, Warwickshire Museum

BISHOPS ITCHINGTON, Old Town Farm (SP 394564; PRNWA 4992)

Two fields east of Old Town Farm at SP 39675639 and SP 39505610 were systematically field-surveyed to locate any evidence of medieval occupation related to the deserted village of 'Old Town', PRN 4992. Only two sherds of medieval date were noted and the only feature to report was a pronounced tile scatter at SP 39565629, which failed to produce any dateable material.

R M E Fowler, for Warwickshire Museum

BISHOPS TACHBROOK, possible Iron Age hillfort or medieval woodland boundaries in Oakley Wood (SP 306592; PRNWA 715)

The site has been recorded by Nicholas Thomas and others as a plateau fort of Iron Age date (Thomas 1974, 21). However, the shape, location and structure of the earthwork are fairly anomalous in comparison to the other hillforts of Warwickshire and north Oxfordshire. Although the earthwork

is on top of a plateau its location is not obviously defensive as the ramparts are set well back from the hillslopes. In addition the shape of the earthwork is irregularly rectilinear, unlike other Warwickshire hillforts which are oval or rectangular. A field visit indicated that the 'hillfort' is part of a complex of ditched and banked earthworks in and surrounding Oakley Wood. Each of the sharp corners of the 'hillfort' has an earthwork leading off towards a boundary earthwork that surrounds Oakley Wood. It seems possible that the whole complex, including the 'hillfort', is related to medieval and post-medieval woodland management. However, an excavation across the rampart of the supposed hillfort would be necessary to prove this point.

Thomas, N 1974, 'An Archaeological Gazetteer for Warwickshire',
Trans Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeol Soc, 86, 16-48

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

BISHOPS TACHBROOK, Tachbrook Mallory (SP 32056234; PRNWA 4582)

Further field survey was carried out on two fields, one of which was previously investigated in 1984 (West Midlands Archaeology 27, 1984). The scatter of Roman pottery, tile, brick and metal at SP 32006218 can now be discounted as recent. However, further Roman material including a samian sherd of Antonine date was recovered from a wider scatter at SP 31056236. The field level at this point is notably lower (c 0.30m) than the adjacent waste land to the east, where ridge and furrow still survives. Considerable quantities of Victorian rubbish were noticed at SP 32166212.

R M E Fowler for Warwickshire Museum

BRAILLES, Roman site near Vicarage Barn (SP 3130¹; PRNWA 2318)

Fieldwork on a known Roman site by the author and Peter Foster in October 1986 produced evidence of 2nd to 4th-century occupation. Detailed work indicates that it may be possible to distinguish a number of distinct clusters of buildings in this extensive (approximately 20ha) site. It is hoped to undertake further work in 1987.

(1 Accurate grid references are not given for Roman settlements to avoid giving the exact location of these sites to metal detector users)

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

CHADSHUNT, Chadshunt House (SP 34995313; PRNWA 4987)

Recent work by Dr C C Dyer of Birmingham University has shown the presence of extensive earthworks of the medieval village around the existing hamlet and Chadshunt House itself. These extend into the field to the northeast of Chadshunt House. Aerial photographs taken in August 1986 showed cropmarks in the southern corner of this field which seemed to represent a building or buildings. A trial excavation was organized with the objective of establishing whether or not buildings had existed here and, if so, what date they were.

Two trenches were excavated, one 7 x 1.5m, the second 3 x 1m. The larger trench was sited directly over the line of one of the surviving earthworks. The archaeological evidence from the trenches consisted entirely of dumps of stone, clay and brick. There was no trace of structures as such. No dating material was recovered, but an 18th-century date is likely for this activity. The dumping was presumably connected with structural alterations to the house and with the excavation of the large fishpond adjacent to the southeast.

The earthworks in the southern corner of the field can thus be demonstrated to be of post-medieval date, and the same may be true of other earthworks in this field. There is no good reason to doubt, however, that the other earthworks identified by Dr Dyer are of medieval origin. The cropmarks remain unexplained but may possibly have resulted from drainage activity connected with the post-medieval dumping.

Paul Booth, Warwickshire Museum

CORLEY, Corley Rocks (SP 304851)

Members of the Coventry and District Archaeological Society have fieldwalked the interior of the hillfort at Corley and adjacent fields. Over 500 struck flints were collected, almost all from an area of about half an acre. Most if not all this material is mesolithic as was a previous collection from the same area (Saville 1981).

Saville, A 1981 Mesolithic industries in central England: an exploratory investigation using microlith typology, Archaeol J 138, 1981, 49-71

T Heyes

DORDON, Medieval site near Dordon Coal Mine (SK 253000; PRNWA 4822)

A complex area of cropmarks including a possible D-shaped enclosure was fieldwalked in August 1986. Fairly large quantities of medieval pottery were observed and a small quantity collected. It seems possible that this is the site of a deserted medieval settlement.

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

ETTINGTON, possible Iron Age site near Rattleborough Plantation (SP 279479; PRNWA 1269)

Two double-ditched rectangular enclosures in a hilltop situation have been photographed from the air by Jim Pickering. The northwestern enclosure was fieldwalked by the author and Peter Foster in November 1986. The area of the enclosure was marked by a dark patch of soil. This area was examined carefully and much burnt stone and animal bone noted. Only two sherds were found. These sherds are in shelly fabrics similar to Iron Age pottery from sites at Alderminster and Whitchurch.

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

HUNNINGHAM (SP 372680)

The Group embarked on recording the timber-framed buildings of Hunningham by way of measured drawings, photographs, and written reports of historical analysis. Five buildings have been recorded so far with one to check out, and the re-used trusses and wall-plates in the church to be recorded. The houses recorded include Sunrise Cottage, School Lane (early/mid 18th century), Moat Cottage, School Lane (late 16th century), Staddlestones, School Lane (early 17th century with a late 17th century extension), Little Thatch, Church Lane (early 18th century) and The Cottage, Hunningham (early 17th century).

S G Wallsgrove, Leamington Archaeology Group

IDLICOTE, possible Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement at Allgreen (SP 2844¹; PRNWA 2272)

Fieldwork by Peter Foster and the author on a known Roman site in September 1986 produced finds of various dates. Roman and medieval pottery scatters are dense enough to indicate settlement sites. In addition quantities of shell-gritted pottery probably indicate Iron Age

occupation (the fabrics of sherds are similar to Iron Age pottery from sites at Alderminster and Whitchurch - see this volume). Finally two or three sherds are in fabrics that may be of Saxon date. The evidence of Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement adds support to Dr Della Hooke's suggestion of Roman to medieval continuity of settlement on village sites in the Arden area of Warwickshire (Hooke 1985, 131).

Hooke, D 1985 Village Development in the West Midlands, in Hooke, D (ed) Medieval Villages: A Review of Current Work, Oxford 125-54

(1 Accurate grid references are not given for Roman settlements to avoid giving the exact location of these sites to metal detector users)

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

KENILWORTH (SP 287725)

The Society has continued to record, by way of measured drawings, photographs and written reports of historical analysis, the timber-framed buildings of Kenilworth. Those recorded this year include Purlieu Gate Cottage, Purlieu Lane (early 18th century), 24 New Street (late 15th/early 16th century), 22 New Street (17th century?), 25 New Street (early 17th century), and additional recordings of 4 Rosemary Hill (early/mid 17th century).

S G Wallsgrove, Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society

MORETON MORRELL, Little Morrell (SP 31535669; PRNWA 1180)

An aerial photograph of the field immediately east of Grange Farm shows a series of square enclosures flanking an east-west trackway, originally interpreted as medieval buildings bearing some relationship to the deserted village of Little Morrell. Fieldwalking and consultation with local inhabitants indicated that the cropmarks were made by sub-surface stone walls and paving of 18th - 19th-century date. Mr Coles of Brookside was able to add that his grandparents had been able to recall farm buildings at the site. Six Roman and early medieval sherds were nevertheless recovered and the farm manager also showed the writer a Roman spindle whorl he had found at an unspecified location.

R M E Fowler, for Warwickshire Museum

NUNEATON, St Mary's Priory (SP 355920; PRNWA 1655)

A small exploratory excavation was carried out by Warwickshire Museum within the scheduled area at St Mary's Priory, Nuneaton during February - March 1986. This was located some 50m east of the cloisters in the northeastern corner of the Abbey Field and was occasioned by a proposed building development by the Diocese of Coventry, who funded the work.

The stratigraphy was found to be relatively well preserved and revealed a sequence of at least five phases:

- i) A small pit and two overlying layers of dark brown loamy sand of uncertain date, possibly early medieval.
- ii) A phase of structural activity including a layer of sandstone rubble and a robbed-out wall running north-south for a distance of at least 9m. This evidently had footings measuring at least 1m across and 2m deep. Another wall of slighter construction extended westward beneath a surviving earthwork and may belong to the same structure. It had been laid on a levelled gravel surface which was cut by a pit containing late 15th/early 16th-century pottery. Both walls were aligned on the same orientation as the church and cloisters to the west and almost certainly belong to the extra-claustral layout of the Priory.
- iii) Abandonment occurred during the 16th century (the Priory was dissolved in 1539) and a layer containing debris of building stone, tile and slate accumulated to a maximum depth of 0.35m.
- iv) Part of the north-south wall was robbed out during the 17th century and a small feature of a similar date to the south may either be an irregular pit or an area of tree disturbance.
- v) More stone robbing occurred during the late 18th century and the only subsequent activity consisted of a small cinder-filled pit just below the turf-line.

Martin Jones, Warwickshire Museum

SALFORD PRIORS, probable Roman site east of Park Hall Farm (SP 0752¹; PRNWA 1499)

This scheduled cropmark site was fieldwalked in October 1986 and a very sparse scatter of Roman sherds was observed, but not collected². Finds were made by metal detector users in the unscheduled southern part of the

site. These include two Roman coins and seven sherds of Roman Severn Valley ware. The cropmark complex would seem to be Roman, although the quantity of material from the site is small.

(1 Accurate grid references are not given for Roman settlements to avoid giving the exact location of these sites to metal detector users).

(2 Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 it is an offence to remove material from scheduled sites without the permission of the Secretary of State).

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

SHOTTESWELL, undated enclosure 900m northwest of Shotteswell (SP 419463; PRNWA 4738)

Fieldwork by the author and Richard Fowler in September 1986 on an undated subrectangular double-ditched enclosure produced no evidence of dating.

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

TANWORTH, possible Roman tile kiln 500m southeast of Mows Hill Farm (SP 142689; PRNWA 4793)

The probable site of a Roman tile kiln was shown to the author by the late Mr Brian Huddy in August 1985. The site consists of a clay pit by the side of the River Alne, which was covered with trees until a few years ago. Recently the trees and bushes were cut down and the area ploughed over. This revealed on the southeast of the pit a spread of clay in the plough soil. Scattered amongst the clay were pieces of burnt clay and a fairly large quantity of flue, floor and other tiles. The tiles and burnt clay may well indicate the site of a Roman tile kiln. Whether the clay pit is Roman or later is uncertain.

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

WARMINGTON, undated enclosure 700m north of Warmington (SP 410484; PRNWA 4737)

Fieldwork by the author and Richard Fowler in September 1986 on an undated irregular enclosure produced a couple of Roman sherds. However, material

was not sufficient in quantity to indicate the date or function of the enclosure.

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

WARWICK, Heathcote (SP 31116343; PRNWA 1180)

An aerial photograph of a probable 'banjo' enclosure prompted a systematic field survey of the field directly northeast of Heathcote Home Farm. Only one worked flint, a retouched blade, was found, and there were no indications of soil marks or earthworks that tallied convincingly with the plot of the photograph. Recent tile scatters were found on the north edge of the field at SP 31106365.

R M E Fowler, for Warwickshire Museum

WASPERTON, Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon site (SP 265585)

In May 1986 Mr D Adams of Leamington Spa, using a metal detector on this excavated site, found a British stater of bronze, originally gold-plated, dating from the early to mid 1st century AD. On the obverse, convex side, no design could be seen. On the reverse, concave side, was a horse to right with curved tail, the head having gone; pellets and crescents above. It is possibly of Dobunnic or Coritanian derivation. The coin is in very poor condition but does not appear to be given in Mack, The Coinage of Ancient Britain (1975 edition).

W A Seaby, Numismatic Section, Warwickshire Museum

WELFORD ON AVON, Welford Pastures Farm (SP 1251¹; PRNWA 4708, 4986)

A Roman lead coffin, located by metal detector users, was excavated by staff of the Warwickshire Museum on May 29th. It proved to be the lining of a wooden coffin, containing the extended inhumation of an adult male (the skeletal remains are still being examined so no further information is available yet) on its back with the hands crossed over the stomach. The burial was aligned north-south, with the head to the north. The lead coffin lining was fairly well-preserved, but had been damaged on one side, probably by a subsoiling machine. It was quite plain, constructed of a single sheet of lead folded to form the base and sides. The ends and the lid (in two parts) were separate pieces. The coffin was c 1.90m long, and tapered slightly from the head to the foot end. The maximum width was 0.41m and the maximum height c 0.30m.

The coffin contained fragments of three conical glass beakers, a common 4th-century type. Fragments of one of these vessels were also found in the grave pit. 10 iron coffin nails were recovered, two from inside the coffin.

The hurried nature of the excavation allowed only a cursory examination of an area c 4.8 x 3.4m around the burial. The base of a possible posthole, and a gully, were the only features found. The gully, apparently filled in the 4th century, was cut by the grave pit and provides a terminus post quem for the burial - the glass vessels confirm the 4th-century date.

Extensive scatters of pottery, building material and other finds occur in the same field as the burial, and also in a field to the north. Aerial photographs show a rectilinear enclosure and various ditches and other features. This evidence, combined with that of the surface finds and excavated material, suggests the presence of a prosperous settlement, probably of Iron Age origin, but certainly incorporating a villa in the later Roman period.

(1 Accurate grid references are not given for Roman sites to avoid giving the exact location of these sites to metal detector users)

Paul Booth, Warwickshire Museum

WELLESBOURNE, Walton

Earthworks in a field known as 'Walton Close' or 'Walton Meadow', lying to the north of Walton in Wellesbourne were surveyed by a University of Warwick Extramural class in the winter of 1985/6. The field is low-lying beside the River Dene and the only present-day building is a barn which stands on rising ground beside the Walton-Wellesbourne road. The most prominent earthworks consist of the three pronounced ridges 'A', which may represent a strangely limited area of ridge and furrow cultivation. They are approached by a hollow-way 'B' but more amorphous earthworks beside this suggest further activity and the more regular platforms 'C' further to the south may show that the settlement of Walton Mawdicke was once more extensive. Walton Deyville, 1km to the south, is a deserted medieval village site (Hooke 1984). Although a field known as 'Mill Ham' lies across the river, no obvious indication of a mill has been noted in this particular field.

Hooke, D 1984, Medieval Village Research Group Annual Report 32, 11

Della Hooke

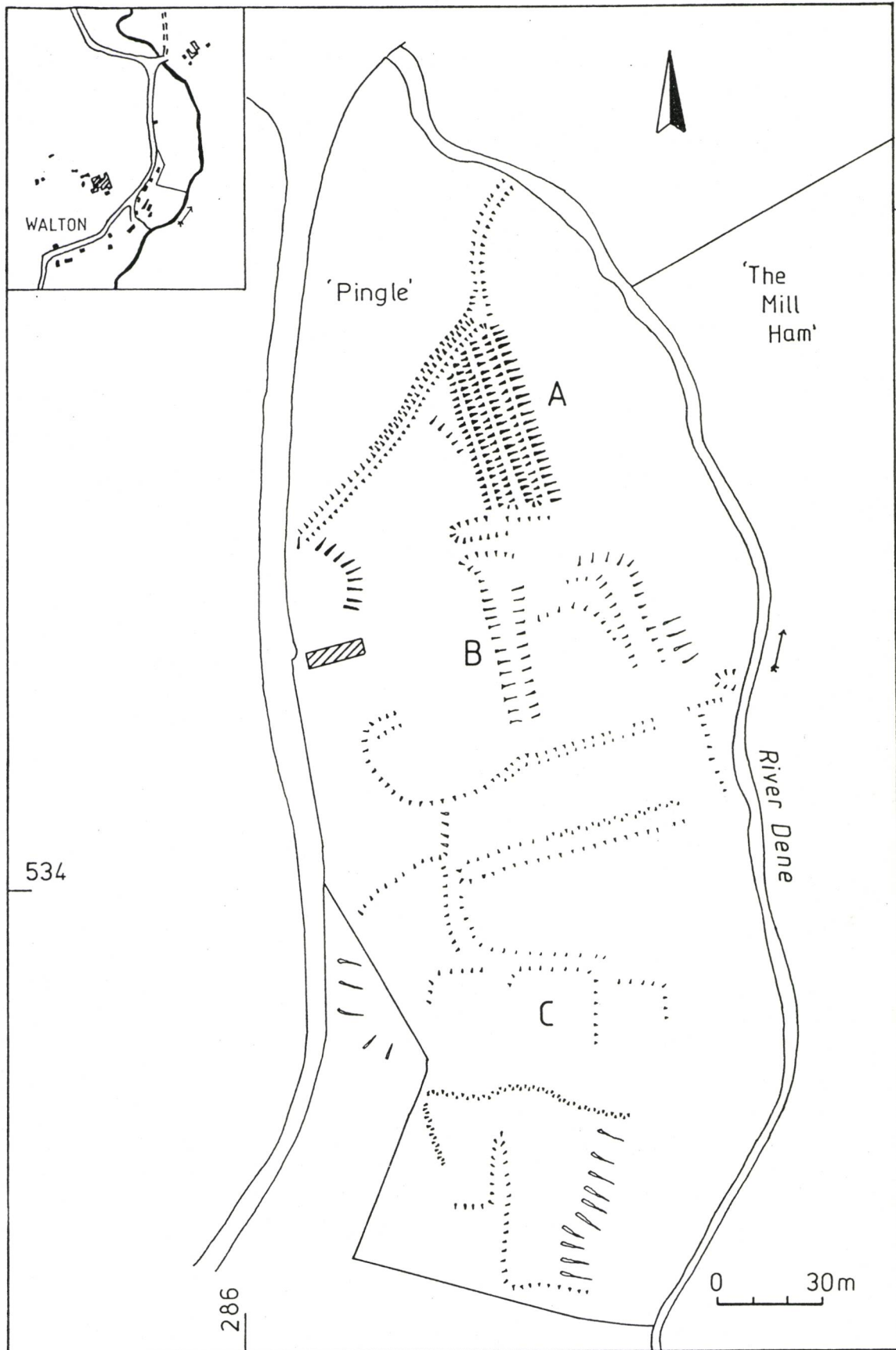


Figure 17 Wellesbourne, Walton Meadow

WHITCHURCH, neolithic/Bronze Age finds and an Iron Age/Romano-British site on Crimscote Down (SP 2269¹; PRNWA 4542)

This site was located and fieldwalked by Stephen Ball in Autumn 1984. The site was found by chance and no cropmark evidence exists. The middle section of a neolithic flint axe and 22 other flint flakes, probably of neolithic/Bronze Age date, were found. In addition an Iron Age settlement is indicated by 630 sherds of pottery, daub fragments and two pieces of possible loomweight. The pottery is primarily shell-gritted and coarse ware jars with shoulders decorated by fingertipping are represented. The sherds are similar to pottery from other Iron Age sites in the north Cotswolds (Marshall 1978).

Roman finds consist of 238 sherds of pottery; in addition a bronze spoon of possible Roman date was found on the site. Paul Booth has identified the assemblage as primarily of 1st/2nd-century date and a small farmstead is presumably indicated.

Marshall, A J 1978, Material from Iron Age Sites in the Northern Cotswolds, Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc, 96, 17-26

(1 Accurate grid references are not given for Roman settlements to avoid giving the exact location of these sites to metal detector users)

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

WHITCHURCH, an Iron Age site 300m west of Birchfurlong Cottages (SP 22744774; PRNWA 4885)

Part of a probable subrectangular enclosure and linear features show on air photos in Warwick Museum. When the site was examined on the ground by the author, Peter Foster and Nick Doyle in October 1985 a dense scatter of Iron Age pottery, animal bone and burnt stone was observed.

The site was gridded and material collected. 531 pieces of early Iron Age pottery, 361 pieces of animal bone and five quern stones were found. The pottery is shell-gritted and includes jars with fingertipping or rounded shoulders and vessels with decorative motifs formed by incised lines. The sherds are similar to pottery from other Iron Age sites on the north Cotswolds (Marshall 1978).

The main concentration of material lies over the cropmark enclosure and probably indicates a small farmstead of early Iron Age date. The occurrence of animal bone and quern stones probably indicates a mixed

economy.

Marshall, A J 1978 Material from Iron Age Sites in the Northern Cotswolds, Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc 96, 17-26

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

WHITCHURCH, probable Roman settlement near Whitchurch deserted medieval settlement (SP 2248¹; PRNWA 2596)

The site was located as a cropmark complex on air photographs in Warwick Museum. The site was fieldwalked by the author and Peter Foster in October 1985 and produced a thin scatter of Roman pottery and a single small flint scraper. A Roman farm may be indicated.

(1 Accurate grid references are not given for Roman settlements to avoid giving the exact location of these sites to metal detector users).

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

WIXFORD (SP 089549)

A bronze object found in a field next to Wixford Church by a metal detector user was identified by John Cherry of the British Museum as the head of a staff or mace. It has a circular top with an open-spoked wheel design and is set on a rectangular socket; this type of object belongs to the 12th century and only two other examples (London and Portishead, Somerset) are known.

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

WOLVEY, deserted medieval settlement at Copston Parva (SP 447887; PRNWA 3592)

The Wolvey History Society have been fieldwalking the medieval village site of Copston Parva during 1985 and 1986. The site of the village is indicated by the field name 'Township'. Although all traces of earthworks have been lost surface traces of the village survive in the form of a dense concentration of medieval pottery.

Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

Further seasons of work were undertaken at Wootton Wawen in 1985 and 1986 by the School of History of Birmingham University. At St Peter's church the stone-by-stone recording of the external wall-faces continued. Drawings and interpretations of the north wall of the tower and the north and west walls of the nave have now been published (Bassett 1985; 1986). Inside the church, plaster was removed from the west wall of the chancel to reveal the lower part of the outer face of the tower's east wall. Scars left by the removal of the north and south walls of the first (Anglo-Saxon) chancel were located, as well as sockets for the wall-plates and ridge-piece of its roof. This had a pitch of 45 degrees and was of simple, apparently king-post, construction. Close examination of the east tower-arch, together with further work around the head of the south tower arch in the Lady Chapel, showed that they were both original features of the tower. In the nave, removal of 19th-century panelling revealed evidence that, in the church's first phase, its nave and tower were of identical width. This work also confirmed an earlier discovery (Bassett 1983, 5-6, fig 4), to the effect that there are two early fabrics in the present nave; the later fabric is demonstrably Norman, but the earlier one is undated.

The survey of St Peter's graveyard continued. More than half the grave memorials have now been recorded. The variety and quality of their iconography is disappointingly limited, but valuable information has been gathered from the inscriptions and from studying the yard's physical development.

The fieldwork survey of an area about 1km² centred on St Peter's church is now almost complete. Selective fieldwork has also been done along considerable lengths of Wootton Wawen's parish boundary, and on the earthworks in Ullenhall (formerly in Wootton) known as Hob Ditch Causeway (SP 133689). At Warwick Record Office, detailed map analysis was made of an area of about 330km², comprising most of the drainage basin of the Arrow-Alne river system. This, together with the results of the fieldwork survey, revealed a great many previously unrecognized pre-medieval roads, as well as two different but related field systems (Bassett 1986, 12-20). The earthworks at Hob Ditch Causeway can now be tentatively identified as of early Anglo-Saxon date, constructed to mark the limits of one or more territories before the emergence of characteristic middle Saxon land-units in the area.

Bassett, S R 1983, The Wootton Wawen project: interim report no 1 (3, 4)
(1985, 1986) (Birmingham University)

S R Bassett, School of History, University of Birmingham

WEST MIDLANDS

BARSTON (SP 2078)

The Field Group of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society is conducting a landscape survey of the parish of Barston in Solihull. The parish is situated between Coventry and Birmingham and was selected because it is small, under 2,000 acres, and reasonably accessible from Birmingham. The parish boundary, for the most part, is marked by the River Blythe and one of its small tributaries. This gives us a natural boundary to work to. The survey started in May 1986 and work on the project is expected to continue for at least three years with the aim of covering the whole of the parish.

Three methods of recording are used: a field record containing information about topography, land use, vegetation and any features within the field; a feature record which may be followed by a measured survey; a fieldwalking record.

A number of fields have been recorded and fieldwalking has taken place (fig 18). Fieldwalking has produced two scatters of worked flint which appears to be mesolithic in character. One scatter was found in the south of the parish, the other near the village. A 'burnt mound' was also found just south of the village. Similar mounds of heat-cracked stones and charcoal have been found in other parts of the West Midlands and appear to be of Bronze Age date (Barfield and Hodder 1981). As yet no evidence from the Roman period has been found. Scatters of medieval pottery have been found in all areas walked except the extreme south of the parish. These scatters are probably attributable to manuring activity.

The open field system can be tentatively reconstructed from surviving ridge and furrow and field boundaries displaying the characteristic reversed 'S' shape, the result of medieval ploughing. From this it appears that most of the parish was under arable during the middle ages, except those areas close to the river subject to flooding.

An area of irregular fields to the west of the parish suggest assarting which is also indicated by field names such as Riddings. These fields are also associated with a moated site and the hamlet of Eastcote. Possible house platforms at Eastcote crossroads suggest that the hamlet may have been more extensive.

The other hamlet, Walsal End, to the north of the parish, contains a group of 16th-century timbered buildings and is clearly superimposed on the medieval open field system.

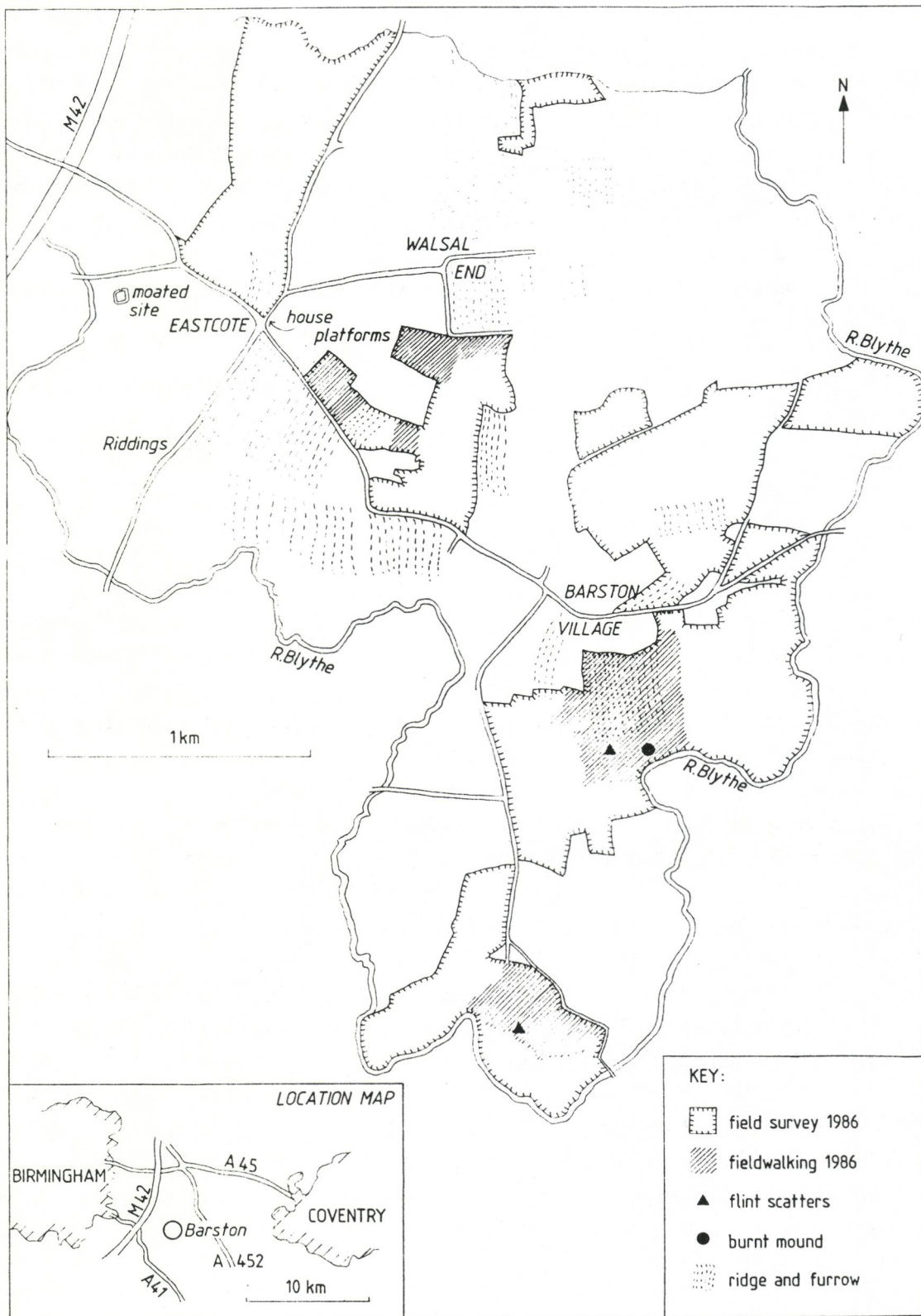


Figure 18 Barston, landscape survey

The field group has been assisted by Coventry Archaeological Society, Douglas Heritage, Solihull Archaeological Group, Chris Jones and Bob Farmer. The Society is also grateful to landowners and tenants in Barston without whose co-operation the survey would not be possible.

Barfield, L and Hodder, M 1981 Birmingham's Bronze Age,
Current Archaeology 78, 1981, 198-200

Wendy Burnett

BERKSWELL, Flints Green (SP 265795)

The Coventry and District Archaeological Society is fieldwalking and recording sites at Flints Green. The area is threatened by a large coal mine, tips, a road and railways.

Ray Wallwork

COVENTRY, Carthusian Priory of St Anne (SP 345783)

In this, the third year of the present series of excavations, work has continued to expose the full layout of the church complex, an area previously trial-trenched in 1968 by Brian Hobley for Coventry Museums, (Hobley 1968, 27-8).

Many of the early findings and interpretations have been vastly changed by the recent excavations which stripped an area of some 800m², covering about 80% of the church and associated features (the remaining 20% is scheduled for excavation in 1987).

Interpretation of monastic features has benefited from the knowledge of the dates of the foundation and suppression of the house, in both cases exact, providing a useful tpq and taq of 9th September 1385 and 16th January 1539 respectively. This has particularly helped with the study of the pottery from these and the earlier excavations of 1968 and 1981, (Rylatt 1981b, 61) helping to date a newly identified group of late medieval redwares (Soden 1985 12-13, cf also Redknap 1986).

The structural features revealed have been broken down into three main phases with minor alteration within each phase (fig 19). These are:

Phase I 1385- Rectangular church, c 48 x 10m, with three main internal divisions. Buttressed at intervals. Burials in nave.

Charterhouse 1986

Church Plan

0 Metres 10

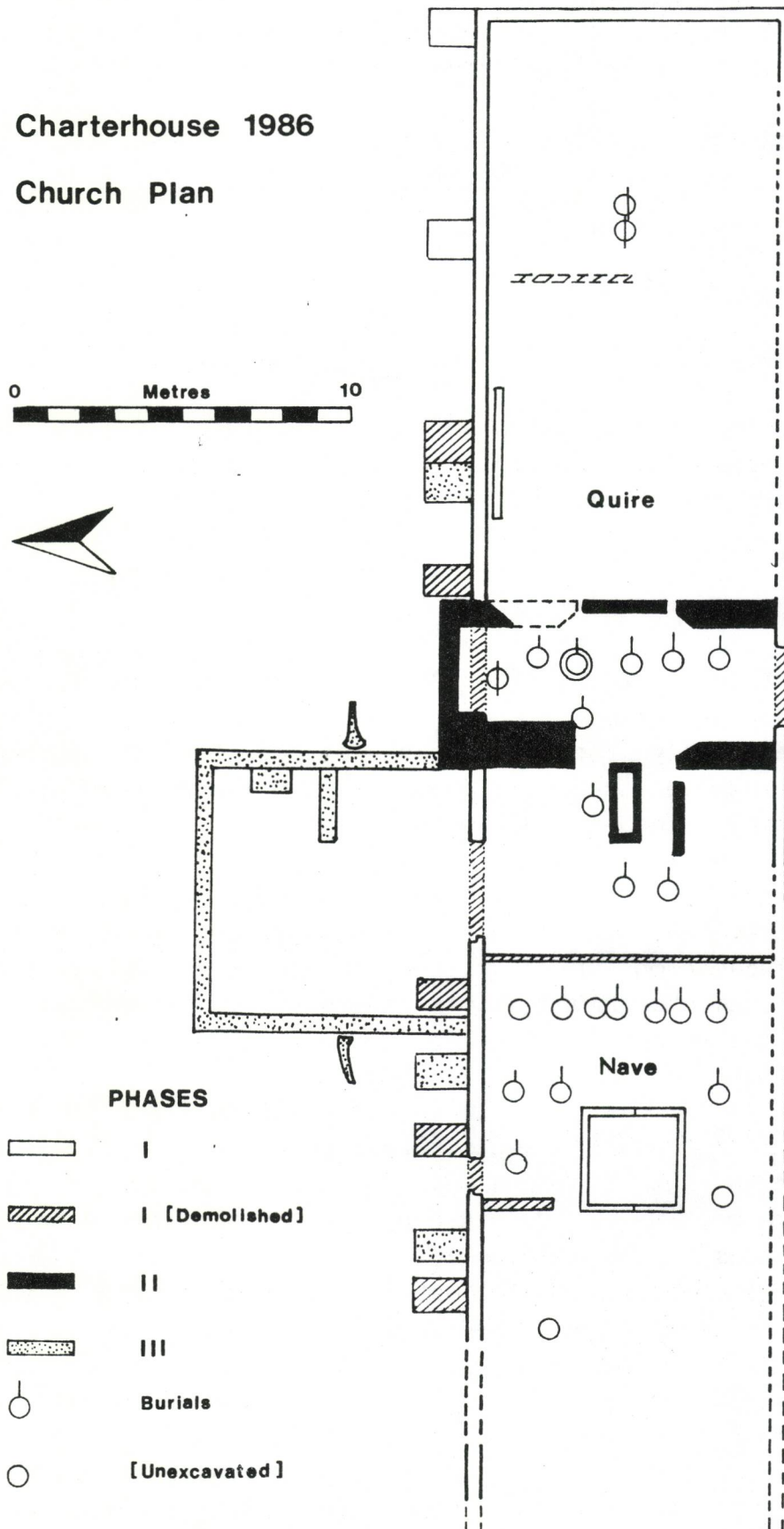
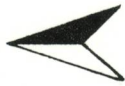


Figure 19 Coventry, Carthusian Priory: plan

Phase II early 15th Insertion of central tower, 11 x 5.5m. Burials
century within.

Phase III c 1500 Addition of a chapel, 9 x 8m, on north side of nave
and west of the tower (fig 20).

The alterations which took place between the main phases are as follows:

- i) Early 15th century. Dividing cross-wall in nave destroyed down to foundations. Cut by P(I) burial.
- ii) Early 15th century. Reorganization of internal church divisions due to the nave being full of burials. The nave is extended eastwards into quire. The old divisional screen is removed and floored over; insertion of the tower may have followed soon after this.
- iii) Contemporary with P(III) chapel construction. Rebuttressing of old church wall on new 'bay' measurements. The reasons for this appear to be:
 - (a) Longstanding structural defects due to tower insertion combined with the unsuitability of the natural clay in supporting monumental architecture.
 - (b) Cosmetic facelift of the church as a whole coinciding with the erection of the P(III) chapel which is of far superior workmanship than that which preceded. Late 15th-century 'perpendicular' stonework has been found associated with P(I) walls in the quire. An overall clean-up and renovation appears to have taken place c 1500.

The Burials

Within the church, 25 burials have now been excavated, including one stone-lined cist, originally excavated in 1968 and found at that time to be empty of a cadaver (Hobley 1968, 27-8). It is to be noted that the original theory that this was the founder's tomb is still unproven. However, it can be said that all of these burials are probably those of the benefactors of the house.

Other burials of note were:

- G1 (Tower) 2 skulls but only one body. No sign of disturbance/recutting.
- G4/4A (Tower) Adult male below adolescent.
- G6 (Tower) Disarticulated reburial - disturbed by P(II) tower insertion?
- G23 (Quire) 2 disarticulated reburials in one grave at ?high ?altar position. Both skeletons very incomplete.

All (except G8 - the stone tomb) were coffin or shroud burials, the latter conforming to Carthusian preferences. Remains of one coffin were complete enough to allow reliable reconstruction on paper, revealing a wedge-shaped coffin, each face of which was a single plank. Nail plots of the other

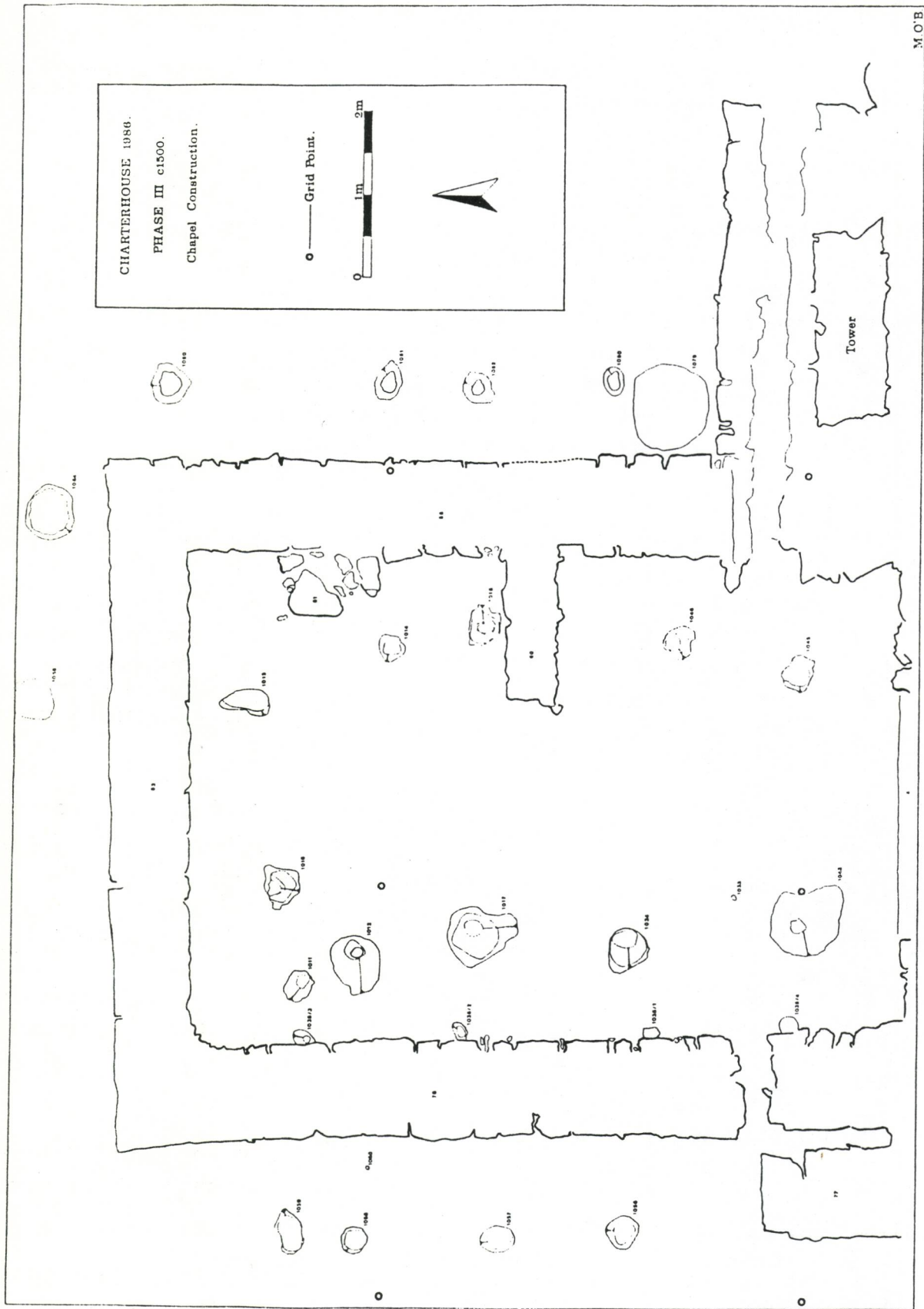


Figure 20 Coventry, Carthusian Priory: plan of phase III chapel (c 1500) construction levels showing posthole configuration for scaffolding

coffin burials have borne this out to be the usual shape utilized here.

More burials are due to be excavated in 1987 at the extreme west end of the nave. A fuller cemetery report may be given at that point.

Exploratory excavation on the site of the monastic cells (Cell 5)

As an adjunct to the 1981 cell excavations (Rylatt 1981b, 61) a small area was exposed behind cell 5 (southeastern corner of the Great Cloister and one of the first to be built c 1382-5). This was done in an effort to delineate the rear garden wall of the cells on this side of the cloister to back up assumptions made in laying out the plan of a monastic cell as part of a project to construct a series of historic gardens. The excavation was directed by Margaret Rylatt, Coventry Museums.

Excavation did, in fact, reveal the rear garden wall to cell 5 running some 18m away from the cloister on a parallel north-south alignment. Occupation features here were very sparse, mainly limited to edgings of roof tiles laid on end. Their exact function remains undetermined.

The most important findings from this area are thus:

- (a) Pottery within the wall collapse shows that the wall stood to some 1 - 1.5m height, at least until the mid 17th century, despite very comprehensive stone robbing elsewhere on the site.
- (b) The ground had to be made up before the cell could be built and within the clay makeup just above bedrock was found Tudor Green pottery. By the stratigraphy this was undisturbed. There was no worm or root damage at this level. The logical conclusion to this is to push back the appearance of Tudor Green in Coventry to c 1382.

The agenda for the 1987 excavations is to complete the church area and thereafter to diversify to the supposed site of the laybrethren's cloister (north of the church) and investigation of other parts of the Great Cloister.

The site records and finds are held by the Charterhouse Arts Centre, London Road, Coventry. Both will eventually be transferred to Whitefriars Museum (Herbert Art Gallery and Museum).

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Manpower Services Commission for their financial support for the excavation (Community Programmes). Thanks also to Coventry and District Archaeology Society (CADAS) for their continued work on and off site.

Hobley, B 1968 Excavations at St Anne's Charterhouse, Coventry,

- Redknap, M 1986 West Midlands Archaeological Newssheet 11, 27-8
C12th and C13th Coventry Wares, with special reference to a waster group from the Cannon Park Estate (Lychgate Road), Coventry, Medieval Ceramics 9, (1986), 65-78
- Rylatt, M 1981a City of Coventry: Archaeology & Development, 2nd ed, Coventry Museums 1986, 38-9
- Rylatt, M 1981b Excavations at St Anne's Charterhouse, Coventry, West Midlands Archaeology 24, 61
- Soden, I 1985 A Late Medieval Redware from Coventry, West Midlands Pottery Research Group Newssheet 6, 12-13

Margaret Rylatt (Director), City Field Archaeologist, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry and Iain Soden (Senior Supervisor), Charterhouse Arts Centre, London Road, Coventry.

COVENTRY, Much Park Street (SP 336787)

In May and August 1986 a rescue excavation and a watching brief were carried out on the site of the New Law Courts in Much Park Street.

The main area excavation was a 20 x 20m square. The remainder of the site was much disturbed by 15th - 18th-century cellars, including two fine sandstone examples. Documentary evidence locates this area excavation as part of 124-5 Much Park Street. The site produced industrial material from two series of intercutting pits, dated ceramically from the late 13th century to the 15th century.

No structures were found associated with either series of pits which lay at the north and south ends of the area, on east-west alignments, with a clean area, producing few artefacts, between them. After the 15th century all were filled in and sealed under clay as part of the construction of a sandstone lined well. The frontage of the plot had been destroyed by cellars.

The finds, as on other excavations in Much Park Street (Wright forthcoming), demonstrated that the area had probably housed small industrial work-shops. Artefact types produced included leather (soles, off-cuts, sheaths and scabbards were found in quantity); metal (six stone moulds for buckles, pins or spoons; bronze belt-chapes, a thimble, pins and furnace dross); bone (waste from button and bead production with knife handles and pins); textiles (various weaves and textures, some with coloured threads). The pottery is comparable to the pottery from elsewhere in the city, comprising three main types: Coventry A-D wares,

some shell-tempered C wares, Cannon Park (E wares) and Nuneaton products (H), the latter predominating, (Redknap and Perry forthcoming). The dates cover c 1150-1550.

A second rescue excavation recorded a section through the Red Ditch, the early medieval ditch (c 1150-1200 in origin) previously excavated on this alignment in 1970 (Hobley 1970) and 1980-81 (Stokes 1981). Two sherds from a Nuneaton vessel lying precisely at the bottom of the primary silt give further confirmation to the post-conquest date of this feature (Stokes forthcoming). The excavators would like to thank the staff of the Turriff Construction Company for their kind cooperation, assistance and patience in allowing access to the site and for altering their schedules to allow time to complete the work.

Hobley, B	1970	The Red Ditch, Coventry.	<u>West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet 13</u>
Redknap, M and Perry, J G	forthcoming	The Pottery, in Rylatt, M forthcoming,	<u>Excavations in Broadgate East, Coventry 1974-5</u> (Coventry Museum Monograph)
Stokes, M A	1980 1981	Excavations at the Law Courts, Coventry,	<u>West Midlands Archaeology 23, 24</u>
Stokes, M A	forthcoming	Early Medieval Coventry	
Wright, S	forthcoming	Excavations in Much Park Street, Coventry	<u>Trans Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeol Soc</u>

Brent Coates and Margaret Rylatt, Coventry Museums

KINGS NORTON, Lifford Hall (SP 056796)

Lifford Hall is an important site in the Rea Valley survey and work began in earnest in the summer of 1985 when the building became vacant and vandalism threatened its destruction.

The survey of the exterior was accompanied by documentary research. The findings of this work show that much of the folklore which had accumulated around Lifford Hall was false. Tunnels were believed to run from Lifford Hall to Kings Norton Church 1 mile away. Tunnels were indeed found running in front of the hall but these, when surveyed, were found to be underground mill leats. Part of Lifford Hall was a watermill, which may date at least from the 14th century when there is a reference to a watercourse leading in the direction of a mill at Lifford. Early 19th-century maps show a mill pool at the rear (south side) of the house of which there are no obvious remains on the ground. A second mill was built at Lifford at this time, away from the house, in the corner of Tunnel Lane and knowledge of the original mill was gradually lost.

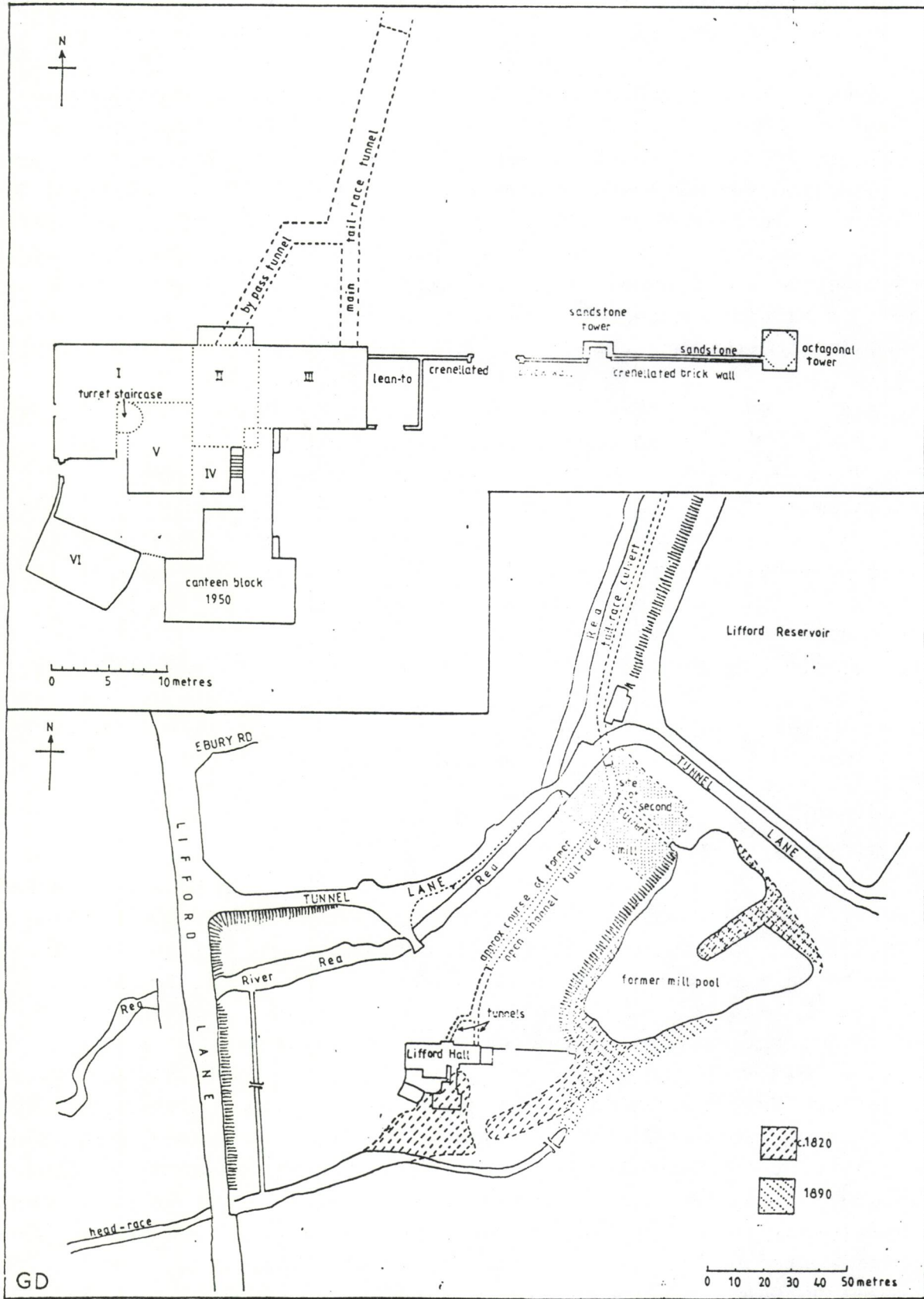


Figure 21 Kings Norton, Lifford Hall

In the early 19th century a crenellated wall and octagonal turret were also built, doubling the length of the frontage and introducing a grandiose aspect to what was formerly a mill building and residence. The 'Gothick' atmosphere created by the additions probably gave rise to legends of a Saxon chapel or monastic establishment at Lifford.

The Hall itself is essentially a two and a half storey 17th-century house (I), with contemporary outbuildings (II and III), and later additions (IV, V and possibly VI). The water wheel was probably situated in III, although there may have been other wheels within the building located to the front of the Hall, demolished in the early 19th century.

A second mill pool was already in existence by the early 19th century, which may have supplemented the first mill pool, but eventually fed the mill built away from the original site about this time. The pool survives, although shrunken and much polluted, being used as a sedimentation tank by the neighbouring chemical works.

The Hall is now occupied and its future seems assured. Work continues on surveying the interior in some detail to unravel the development of a fascinating building and landscape assemblage.

A more detailed preliminary report is available.

George Demidowicz, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society

NORTHFIELD, Northfield Mill (SP 023787)

In West Midlands Archaeology 28 the Northfield Mill scheme was briefly reported. In the summer of 1985 the Society initiated the removal of demolition rubble from the site of the mill. This was carried out through an MSC project, sponsored by the Birmingham City Planning Department, so that by the autumn the Field Group was able to conduct a survey.

A concrete floor, which postdated the demolition of the mill in 1958, was first removed. This revealed the original wheel pits and the dimensions of the building (approximately 5.5 x 11.5m). The water-wheel pit measured 2.7 x 5.5m, the pit-wheel pit 0.9 x 4.8m and an axle pit 0.6 x 1.5m. A small part of the pit-wheel pit was excavated to its full depth of about 2m. The water-wheel pit was not excavated to any large extent, but a ledge discovered at a depth of 0.8m provided the bearing point for the water-wheel axle. The channel bringing water to the wheel lay approximately 2.5m above this level. This suggests a wheel radius of about 2.25m and therefore a diameter of 4.5m, fitting neatly into its chamber 1m longer. The water left the pit by means of a culvert, the top

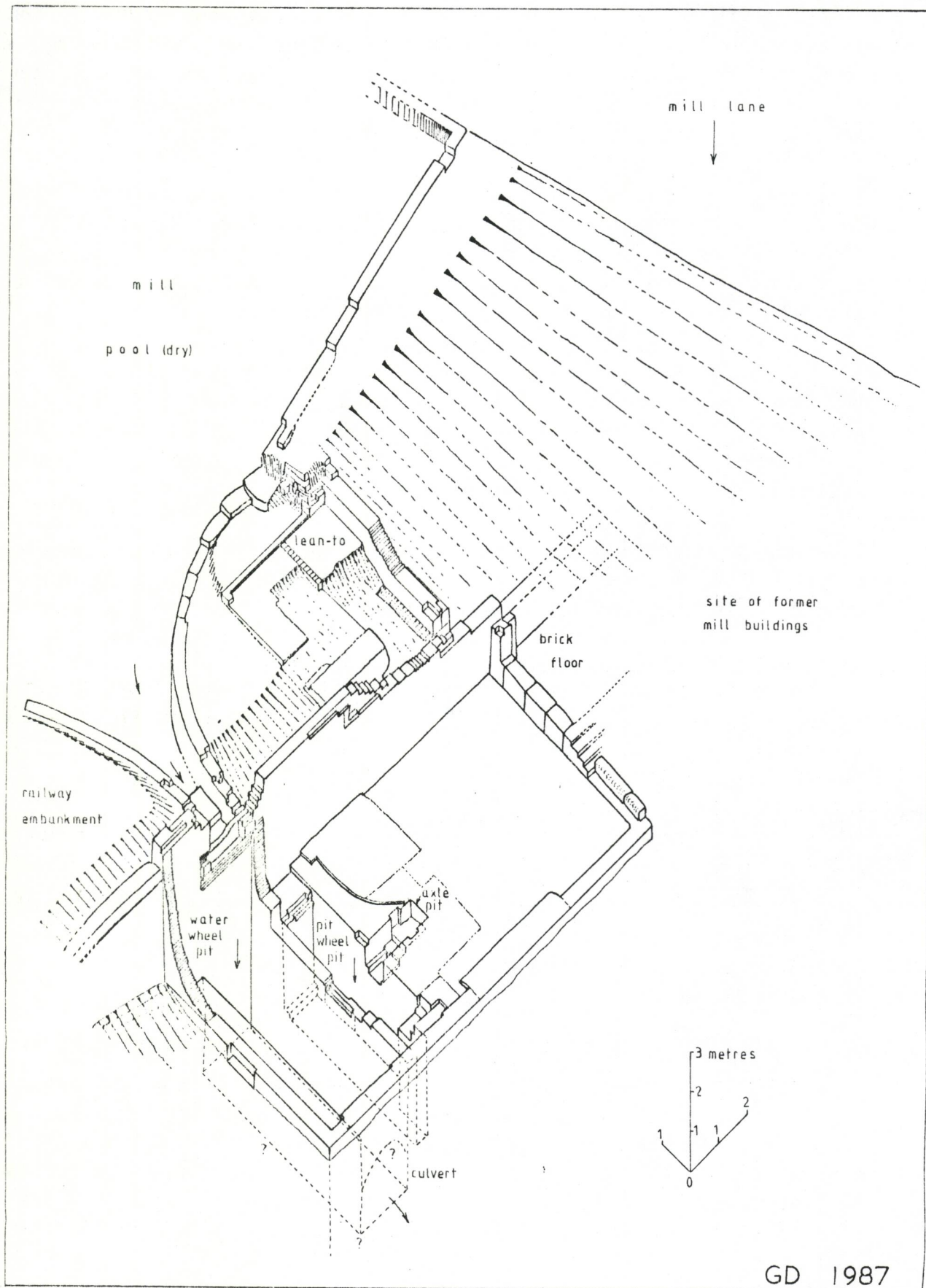


Figure 22 Northfield, Northfield Mill: axonometric projection

of which was found at a depth of about 2m in a trial area. The water-wheel pit was estimated to be 3.3m deep.

The main vertical element was the mill wall revetting the mill pool dam, standing to a maximum height of 3m. Its major element was the end of the channel funnelling water from the pool (now dry). The channel together with additional revetting of the pool was predominantly brick. Scattered throughout the whole of the mill remains, however, were large blocks of worked sandstone. Between the funnelled inflow and the mill was found the floor of a lean-to, which shows on an early photograph. Other buildings known to be on the site were not investigated. No remains of the machinery were found.

The site has been landscaped and surviving walls capped to conserve them. The dry bed of the mill pool has been colonized by sycamore. The whole forms an important part of the developing Rea Valley walkway.

George Demidowicz, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society

SANDWELL, Sandwell Valley archaeological project

Sandwell Priory and Hall excavations

In 1986, excavations took place on the eastern part of the Priory Church, an area which was formerly covered by a track which ran along the front of the 18th-century Sandwell Hall.

Prehistoric and Roman

Over 500 worked flints of mesolithic type have now been found, together with a large quantity of heat-cracked quartzite pebbles which may also be the result of prehistoric activity. A sherd of Roman mortarium was found in a post-medieval context.

Sandwell Priory (fig 23)

The Priory Church has been shown to consist of a nave, south aisle, crossing, north and south transepts, chancel and two north and two south chapels. The chancel and chapels all had apsidal ends. The ground surface existing at the time of the church's construction in the 12th century has been exposed in the western part of the chancel and is visible in the edges of graves crossing the south transept. Holes for scaffold posts were found in the chancel. In the centre of the chancel there was a stone coffin, which had been disturbed by a later feature but was probably originally covered by a life-sized effigy of a knight in chain mail; the head of this effigy was found in demolition rubble nearby. The position and quality of this grave suggest that it was the burial place of the Priory's founder, William Fitz Guy de Opheni. Further graves were found

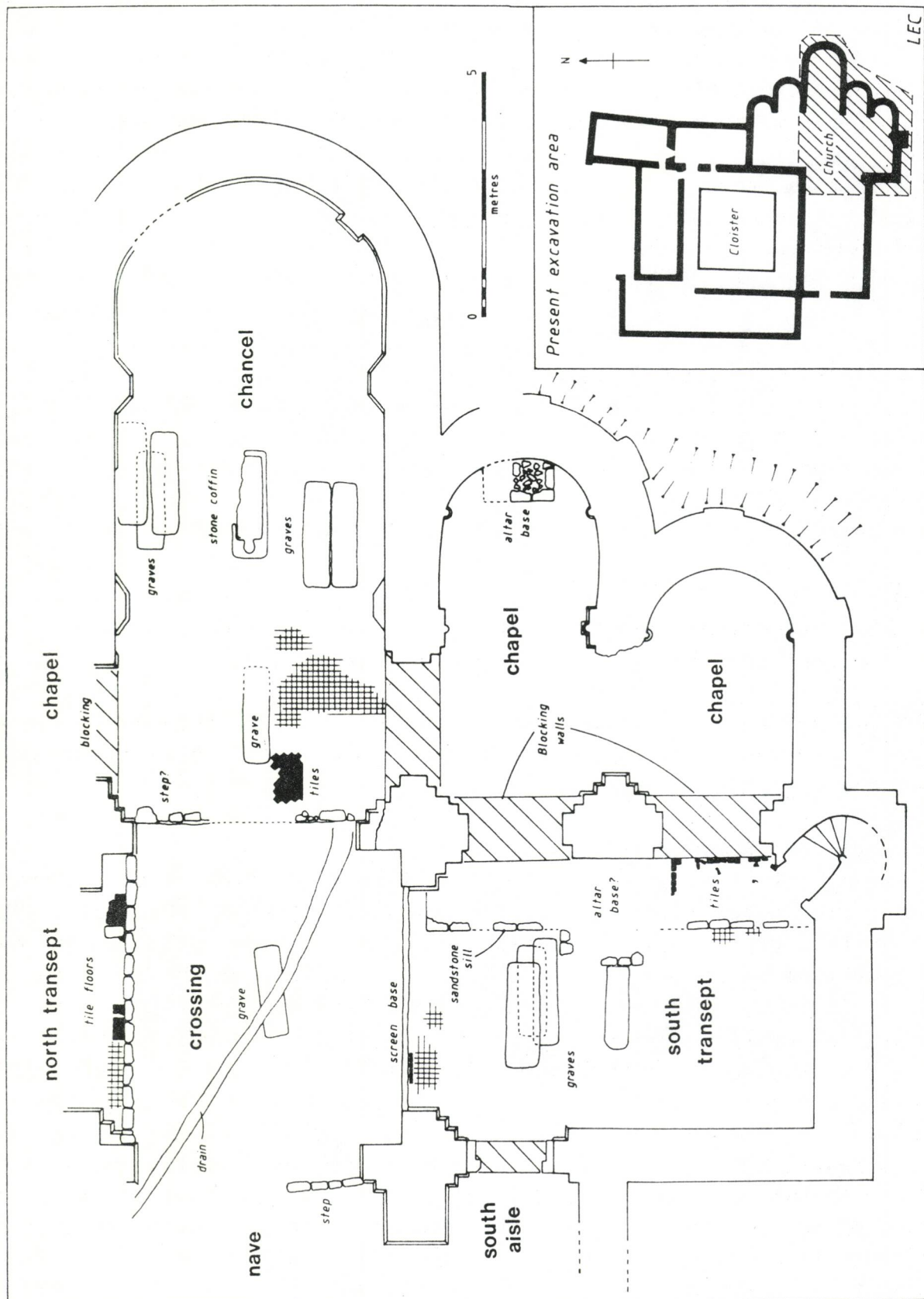


Figure 23 Sandwell Priory: principal excavated features in the priory church

to the north of this. The south chapels are still under excavation, but the base for an altar has been found in the northernmost. At a later period, the entrances from the south chapels to the chancel and south transept were blocked off, together with the entrances from the chapel to the north chapels and from the south transept to the south aisle. The blocking walls contained architectural fragments, including a stone with a carving of a lamb and cross. A dump of material in the now obsolete south chapels included pieces of timber and fragments of a traceried window. Piers supporting the church tower, at the corners of the crossing, were cut back, and the floor levels of the crossing and south transept were raised with rubble dumps. Tiled floors were laid in the chancel, south transept and north transept. Only a small area of tiles survived in situ, in the chancel; elsewhere the floors were represented by tile impressions in their mortar bedding. Pottery found under floors suggests that they were laid in the 15th century. The south transept, which was divided from the crossing by a timber screen, contained a number of intercutting graves. In each of these a wooden staff had been laid on the right hand side of the body, and one had been buried wearing leather boots. A grave in the centre of the crossing and one in the west of the chancel similarly contained staffs. Both of the bodies in graves to the south of the stone coffin in the chancel were wearing boots or shoes, and one was accompanied by a staff broken into three pieces.

The latest medieval phase was represented by a timber-lined drain running diagonally across the crossing, and small patches of tiling, probably repairs, in the chancel and north transept.

Priory House and Sandwell Hall (fig 24)

The post-medieval sequence mostly consisted of the continuation of features previously excavated (Hodder 1983, 113-15; 1984, 30). The earliest post-Priory period was represented by a brick wall built over demolition rubble, between the pier bases on the west of the crossing. To the west of this, postholes cut into demolition rubble of the nave and south aisle continue those excavated in 1984. These features were overlain by a garden soil and a pebble path of 17th-century date. The garden soil may have occupied an enclosed garden area bounded by the surviving wall of the Priory Church. The alignment of the pebble path suggests that the north or west ranges of the Priory buildings were still in use at this time. A square masonry base may be the remains of a porch of this period, or may be related to the documented refurbishment of the buildings in 1704.

The construction of Sandwell Hall in 1705-11 involved the dumping of clay, derived from the construction of cellars, over the garden soil. The clay dump was overlain by a gravel roadway along the front of the Hall and by a cobbled yard to the south. The roadway was subsequently cut by drains and

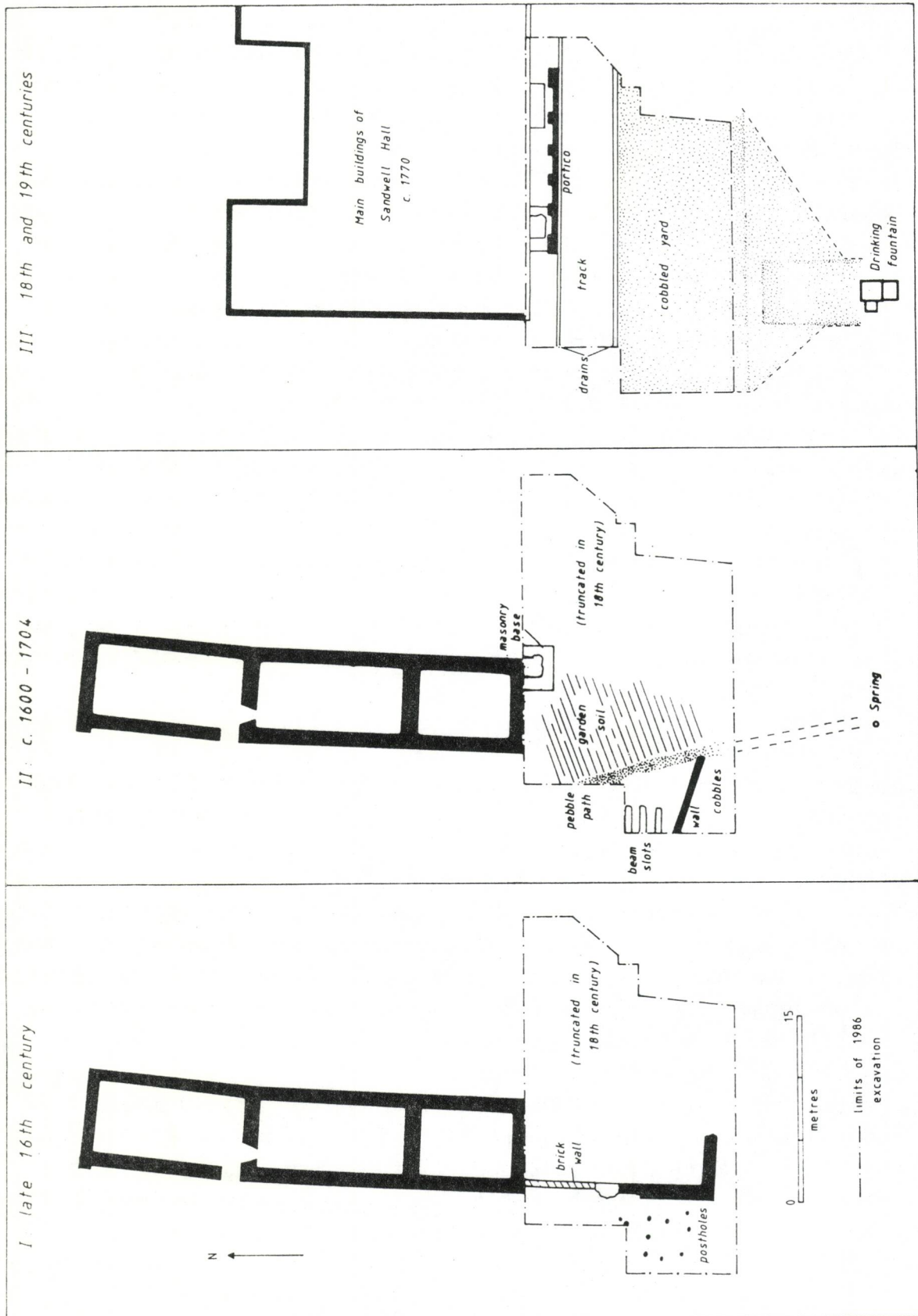


Figure 24 Sandwell Priory and Hall: the post-medieval sequence

by the brick bases of a portico constructed in front of the Hall c 1800.

The current excavation is expected to be completed in early 1987, when it is hoped to begin excavation of the church nave.

Consolidation

The 18th-century drinking fountain excavated in 1982-83 (Hodder 1982, 96) has been partly restored, and the area around it will be landscaped. In the east range of the Priory, excavated in 1983-85 (Hodder 1984, 29; 1985, 32) re-pointing of the surviving medieval walls has begun.

Excavations to the east of the Priory and Hall site (fig 25)

Further excavations were undertaken on the features visible as grazing marks (Hodder 1982, 94; 1983, 115; Hodder and O'Donnell 1985) to test the hypothesis that the 18th-century ha-ha (fig 25, lines A, D) used part of an earlier ditched enclosure (lines A, C). A trench excavated across line C (fig 25, Area 3) revealed a ditch c 4m wide and c 0.5m deep. It had a symmetrical profile and was therefore not like a ha-ha ditch. Clay lumps on each side of its base may have resulted from the erosion of an accompanying bank. This was covered by a sandy soil which is interpreted as the deliberate backfilling of an existing ditch, possibly part of the Priory precinct boundary, in the 18th century. The east-west line of the ha-ha (fig 25, Area 6) could not be defined.

Publication

Reports have been published on Sandwell Priory's medieval landscape (Hodder 1986a) and on the Project's education work (Hodder 1986b).

Acknowledgements

In 1986, excavations were supervised by Simon Jeffery and Chris Jones, post-excavation work by Lesley Collett, finds by Jenny Glazebrook and Adrian Cox, landscape survey by Nicky Hewitt, and consolidation by Dalbir Sandhu. The figures for this report were drawn by Lesley Collett.

References

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Hodder, M A 1982 | Sandwell, <u>West Midlands Archaeology</u> 25, 90-96 |
| Hodder, M A 1983 | Sandwell Valley, <u>West Midlands Archaeology</u> 26, 113-17 |
| Hodder, M A 1984 | Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project, <u>West Midlands Archaeology</u> 27, 25-37 |
| Hodder, M A 1985 | Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project, <u>West Midlands Archaeology</u> 28, 32-37 |
| Hodder, M A 1986a | Sandwell Priory in its Medieval Landscape, <u>Staffordshire History</u> 4, 52-61 |

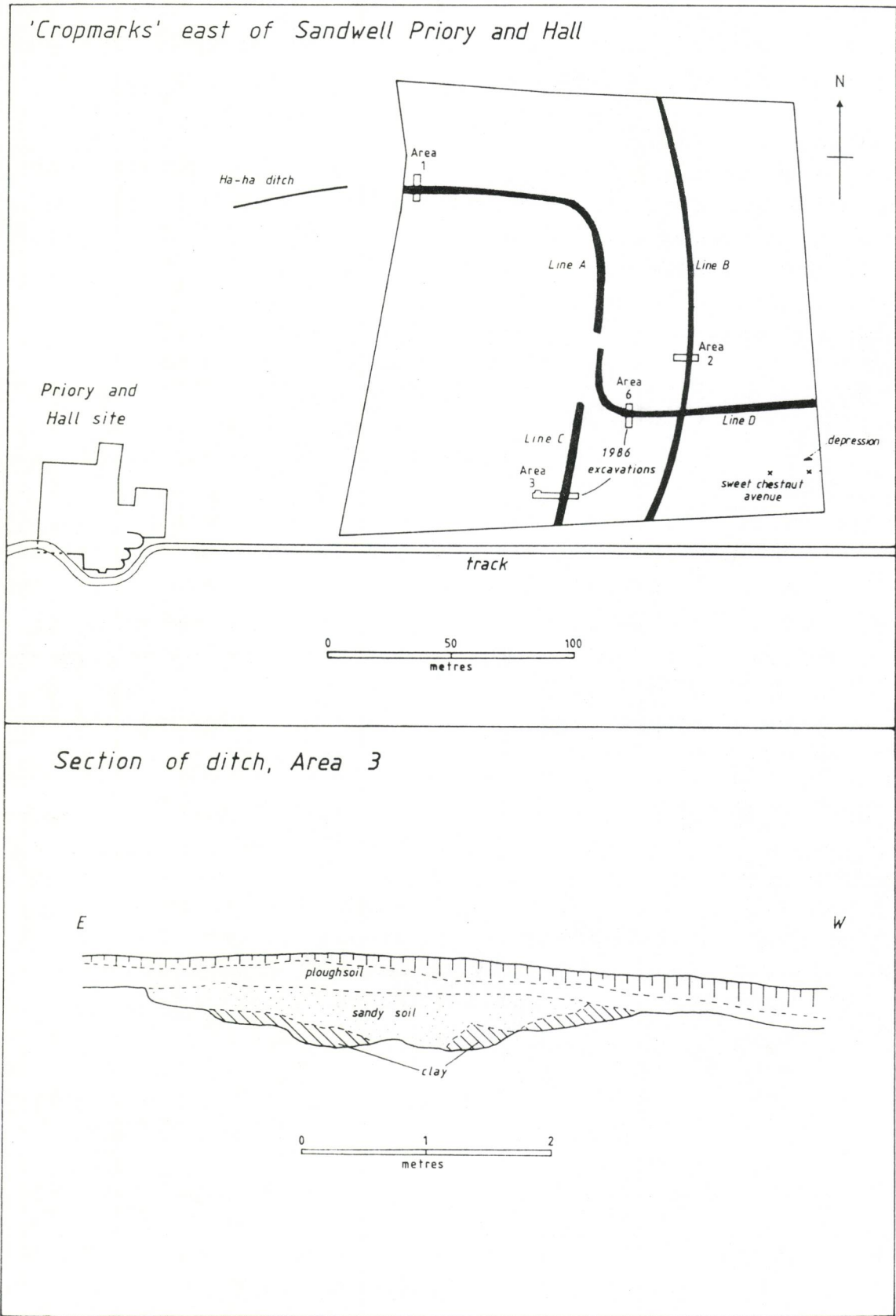


Figure 25 Sandwell: excavations to the east of the Priory and Hall

Hodder, M A 1986b

Site visits for schools: the experiences of the Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project, in S Cracknell and M Corbishley (eds), Presenting Archaeology to Young People (Council for British Archaeology Research Report 64)

Hodder, M A and
O'Donnell, S 1985

Graze-marks in the Sandwell Valley, West Midlands Archaeology 28, 76

M A Hodder, Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project

WEST BROMWICH, The Oak House (SO 998908)

The Oak House is a well-preserved 16th-century timber building with later extensions. It has recently undergone extensive renovation work, much of which was concerned with the reinforcement of structural joints with steel pins and specialist resins. A large section of the sillbeam (soleplate) was removed and replaced with new timber, as was a post in the back bedroom.

Access to the joints required the lifting of the majority of the floorboards on the first floor, which allowed the recording of carpenters' marks and of the bridging and dragon beams themselves. Two disused jetties were uncovered, one in the back bedroom, the other over the kitchen fireplace.

Holes made in a wall adjoining the back staircase from the rear bedroom have uncovered brickwork which has preserved the impressions of close studding. The bricks had been inserted between studs when the wing was extended out in brick. The timbers were then removed at a later date.

M A Fearon, Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project

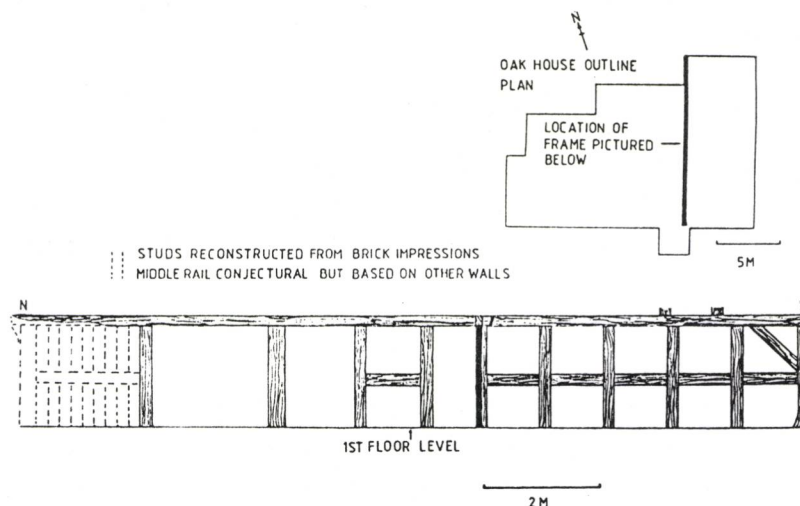


Figure 26 West Bromwich, the Oak House: wall details

2 FORUM

Warwickshire Museum Historic Buildings Record

Since November 1984, the Warwickshire Museum has sponsored a Community Programme scheme to make a record of the remaining buildings, however modest, from the first edition Ordnance Survey plan (approximately 1885). The format of the record has taken into consideration similar surveys in the region, particularly Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire and Staffordshire¹.

The Warwickshire record (HBR) follows closely the format of the sites and monuments Record (SMR) with access gained through banks of 1:2500 maps, and film overlays for each archaeological period. Access may also be gained through a parish index or a numerical index, if these details are known. The design has also taken into consideration possible computerization, to provide indexes of all the major box categories. (fig 27)

In compiling the record a detailed set of guidebooks is used². These enable newly recruited building recorders to quickly begin work with minimal supervision. The apparent rigidity of the design is compensated for by ample space for freehand descriptions, sketches, plans and contact prints.

Enquiries concerning the HBR can be made to: Warwickshire Museum
Market Place
Warwick
CV34 4SA
Tel (0926) 493431

Notes

- (1) Stoke-on-Trent Historic Buildings Survey, City Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley; Staffordshire County Council Historic Buildings Survey, currently based in Lichfield; Shropshire County Council, Planning Dept, Shire Hall, Shrewsbury
- (2) A compilers guide to the Historic Buildings Record, produced by Warwickshire Museum, can be consulted at the museum

Philip Craxford, Warwickshire Museum

WARWICKSHIRE		BUILDINGS RECORD CARD		04 CARD 1	02 PARISH AATHERSTONE			01 PRIMARY RECORD NUMBER		
SITES & MONUMENTS		OF 2		03 DISTRICT NORTH WARWICKSHIRE			WA			/A
05 SITE NAME & ADDRESS 20 WELCOME ST.		08 BUILDING TYPES DATES HOUSE			89 RELATED BUILDINGS					
					56 DATE IMP C.19		56a EXACT DATE			
					57 HOW DATED TYP		55 PLAN			
17 SITE STATUS		13 1:10,000 SP		14 O.S.N. 3 9 NW		15 1:2,500 SP		3 0 9 7 3 1 9 7		
LISTED BUILDING N°		16 N.G.R.			87 IMPORTANCE					
Grade 1 11* 11		SP			3 1 0 7 9 7 5 8					
Redundant										
18 AREA STATUS		19 BLDG. CONDITION MAINTAINED ✓		52 ZONE VERN		51 No. OF UNITS 2				
Cons. Area				53 CONTEXT URBAN		59 STOREYS 2				
N.Trust		DILAP. IN USE		54 STRUCTURAL TYPE A.T.O.B.		60 WALL PROFILE STRAIGHT				
A.O.N.B.		DILAP. DISUSED								
N° 23 REFERENCES / 22 REMARKS					C RECORDS LOCATION					
<p>This is probably the oldest house in the street apart from the 'Old Swan Inn'. The owners bought part of the 3 storey building which was attached to it at a later stage. The two buildings share a chimney.</p>					INDEXED					
					F1/DET.RECS					
					PLANS					
					CORRESPONDENCE					
					B&W PHOTOS					
					SLIDES					
					OTHER					
					H.B.R. PHOTO N°s. E 1196 - E 1199					
					24 COMPILER & DATE P.D.C 9/9/86					

WALLING	61 MATERIAL	RED BRICK	
	62 TECHNIQUE	FLEMISH BOND	
	63 SPECIAL FEATURES		
ROOFING	64 PROFILE	GABLED	
	65 MATERIAL	SLATE	
	66 SPECIAL FEATURES		
CHIMNEYS	67 EAVES	BRICK DENTILS	
	68 ROOF LIGHTING	/	
WINDOWS	70 NUMBER	TWO (ONE SHARED)	
	71 MATERIAL	BLUE BRICK	
	72 SHAPE	RECTANGULAR: SQUARE	
DOORS	73 SPECIAL FEATURES	Top course stepped out.	
	74 SHAPES	TALL	
	77 LIGHTS AND FRAMES	2: WOOD CASEMENTS, GLAZING BARS	
	76 HEADS	STONE LINTEL	
DOORS	75 BAYS	3	
	78 MOVEMENT	V.S.S	
	79 SPECIAL FEATURES	STONE SILLS	
DOORS	80 HEADS	STONE LINTEL	
	81 FRAME	PLAIN WOOD	
	82 PORCH	83 DOOR PANELLED	
DOORS	84 SPECIAL FEATURES	FANLIGHT	
	86 ARCHITECT	85 PLANFORM RECT: - : SINGLE	
86 MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES No windows at rear of house Built on slope, hence steps up to front door.			

Figure 27 Warwickshire Historic Buildings Record form

Field survey in Warwickshire 1984-86

An attempt is being made to survey a range of cropmark sites in the county. In addition a number of other known sites have been examined in an attempt to collect additional evidence. The aim is to collect information on the chronology and function of sites of various dates.

Twenty-three sites have now been surveyed in detail (see figure and table), and the results of the survey are discussed briefly in this note. Details of individual sites are given in the form of notes in West Midlands Archaeology 27, 28 and 29 (Table).

Sites of mesolithic, neolithic and Bronze Age date are yet to be located, although isolated neolithic/Bronze Age flint flakes have been found on a number of sites.

Seven Iron Age sites have been walked in the south of the county. Five of these sites have produced sizeable quantities of pottery and the three sites that have produced the most pottery (Whitchurch, Crimscote; Whitchurch, Birchfurlong and Alderminster, Foxhill) are within a 5km² area of the Stour Valley. All five sites have produced shell-gritted pottery, probably of early to middle Iron Age date.

Thirteen Roman sites have been examined and the evidence indicates a variety of site types. Possible villas have been examined (Welford, Welford Pastures and possibly Bidford on Avon, Marlcliff). In contrast to these, in the area of the Stour Valley that has been surveyed, five probable settlement sites have been found, and all would appear to represent farmsteads rather than villas. In addition to villas and farms a couple of more extensive settlements at Princethorpe and Brailes are under investigation.

Saxon sites are scarce, although possible Saxon material has been found at Idlicote. A couple of medieval sites at Dordon and Wolvey have also been investigated.

It is hoped that it will be possible to conduct further fieldwork in future years to supplement the evidence already collected and to add to our knowledge of the chronology and nature of past settlement in Warwickshire.

R Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

Parish/Site Name	Period and Site Type	Reference
Alderminster - Knaven Hill	Not archaeological	WMA 27, 54
Alderminster - Foxhill	Iron Age hillfort/Roman settlement	This volume
Alderminster - Eversfield	Roman settlement	This volume
Barford - Park Farm	Probable Iron Age settlement	This volume
Bidford-on-Avon - Marlcliff	Roman settlement (possibly villa)	This volume
Bishops Tachbrook - Oakley Wood	Iron Age hillfort or medieval woodland boundary	This volume
Brailes - Vicarage Barn	Roman settlement	This volume
Dordon - Colliery	Possible medieval settlement	This volume
Ettington - Rattleborough	Iron Age settlement	This volume
Fulbrook - Castle Hill	Medieval castle	WMA 28, 57
Idlicote - Allgreen	Iron Age, Roman, ?Anglo-Saxon, medieval settlement	This volume
Kineton - Brookhampton	Roman Villa	WMA 27, 58
Moreton Morrell	Iron Age and Roman finds	WMA 28, 61
Princethorpe	Roman settlement	WMA 28, 61
Salford Priors - Park Hall Farm	Roman settlement	This volume
Shotteswell	Undated enclosure	This volume
Tanworth	Roman tile kiln	This volume
Warmington	Undated enclosure	This volume
Welford on Avon - Welford Pastures	Roman villa	This volume
Whitchurch - Crimscote	Iron Age and Roman settlement	This volume
Whitchurch - Birchfurlong	Iron Age settlement	This volume
Whitchurch	Roman settlement	This volume
Wolvey - Copston Parva	Medieval settlement	This volume

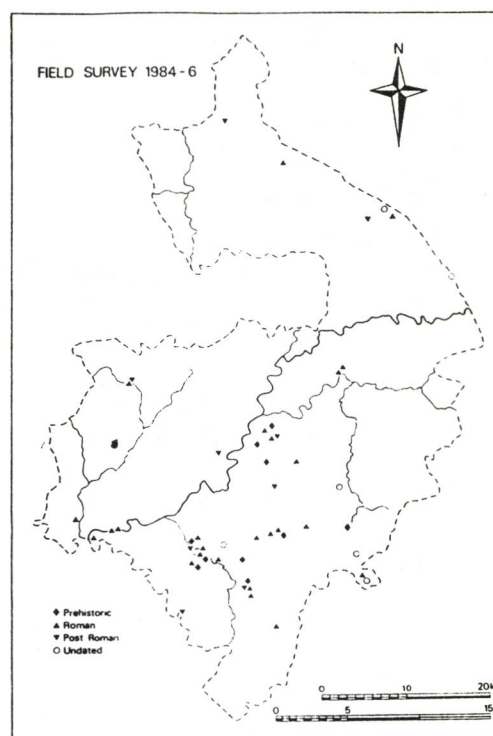


Figure 28 Warwickshire field survey

ACT - For Archaeologists

Most people involved in archaeological rescue work in Great Britain are aware that the person in the field - the dirt archaeologist - performs a crucial professional role in the recording and the preservation of our heritage. Fewer people are aware that to carry out such technical work, archaeology like any other profession, requires a career structure, with the expected concomitants of a living wage and some job security.

In response to this regrettable ignorance a group of archaeologists met in Southampton in October 1985 to form a new association called ACT. The national body aims to speak with an institutional voice on issues which directly affect the welfare of the many archaeologists who wish to forge a career but are prevented from doing so because grant-giving bodies and managers employ workforces on a very temporary basis, with no long-term vision, and therefore with little conscious consideration of their needs.

In the short term ACT will progress as an advisory body and pressure group open to all field archaeologists. It has no formal constitution but does have formally agreed policies. As an information service its national headquarters in Manchester, and its satellite regional groups, are providing advice particularly on employment conditions and the help which can be acquired from professional bodies and trade unions. In the long term there is a possibility that ACT itself will become a trade union. For the moment it encourages all archaeologists to join an appropriate Union, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in order to further publicize the serious shortfalls of MSC schemes and of HBMCE project funding, and to lobby for legislative changes to remedy the mess.

The new association has been welcomed by three of the major British professional bodies - the Council for British Archaeology, the Institute of Field Archaeologists and the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. It is recognized that ACT wishes to work with these bodies on matters which affect the public face of archaeology, and that the majority of archaeologists - who work below management level - need a coherent voice which cannot be provided from elsewhere.

To this end, a national committee was elected in October 1986, and regional groups have already been formed, in numerous areas, but many more are needed to supplement the progress made so far.

For general information and for copies of ACT's structure and policy documents, and subscription details contact:

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The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
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