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NEWS-SHEET No. 3, 1960

Edited by Brian Stanley, 34 Babbacombe Road, Coventry

(Produced by the No. 8 Group (West Midlands) of the Council for British Archaeology and by the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, The University, Birmingham 15, from whom copies may be obtained.)

FOREWORD

This edition of the News Sheet is the first published under the aegis of the No. 8 Group of the C.B.A. It was felt that this organisation which represents nearly all the archaeological societies in the West Midlands, was the right body to sponsor this useful work. Mr. Stanley is going to continue as editor but the net result should be a still wider coverage of the area, and the information which accrues to the quarterly meetings of the C.B.A. Group will become available to a wider public.

Adrian Oswald, Chairman of No. 8 Group.

INTRODUCTION

The decision to incorporate the News Letter into the C.B.A. Group organisation is a natural step towards the more complete integration of archaeological effort in the area. It will of course have no effect on the working arrangements of the groups and societies assisted by the University. This we hope will flourish as before, especially with the welcome addition to the staff of the Extra-Mural Department of Mr. S.C. Stanford who is now Resident Tutor for Herefordshire and South Shropshire. We also offer our congratulations to Phil Barker on his appointment as Tutor Organiser to the Shropshire Education Committee. In this position he will be able to develop the archaeological excavation and field work which he has so notably started in that area. These moves will I hope enable me to turn my attention more to the south-eastern part of the area which hitherto has had to be neglected with the growing demands elsewhere.

I wish all of you a very good digging year with the hopes that we may have better weather.

Graham Webster, Staff Tutor in Archaeology,
Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 1961

Annual Conference, at Droitwich March 25th - March 26th
Birmingham Conference on Industrial Archaeology in the Midlands (details will be issued later by the C.B.A. Group Secretary) March 8th

Preston Montford Summer Courses

Elementary (Wroxeter), directed by Mr. S.C. Stanford July 15th - July 29th
Intermediate (Wroxeter), directed by Mr. G. Webster Aug. 19th - Sept. 2nd
Iron Age Archaeology & Excavation, directed by Mr. N. Thomas (B'ham Museum) July 29th - Aug. 12th
Archaeological Techniques in field & workshop, directed by Mr. K.J. Barton (Worthing Museum) Sept. 2nd - Sept. 9th
Study Tour of Roman sites in North Wales, directed by Prof. D.R. Dudley (University of B'ham) Aug. 12th - Aug. 19th

Weekends

Romano-British Coarse Pottery directed by Graham Webster. May 26th - 28th
Archaeology from the Air directed by Arnold Baker. June 16th - 18th

The Wroxeter Advanced Course is now to be held only in alternate years. For the growing numbers of trained students, it is intended to publish a list of selected excavations where they can widen their experience under direction:

<u>Romano-British Villa</u> , near Cirencester, directed by Mr. G. Webster	July 15th - July 29th
<u>Roman 1st Cent. Fort</u> (timber buildings), Waddon Hill, nr. Beaminster, Dorset, directed by Mr. G. Webster	June 10th - June 24th
<u>Iron Age Hill Fort</u> at Croft Ambrey, Herefordshire, directed by Mr. S.C. Stanford	July 30th - Aug. 31st
<u>Preston Montford Weekend Schools</u>	
Romano-British Coarse Pottery, directed by Mr. G. Webster	May 26th - May. 28th
Archaeology from the Air (with flights), directed by Mr. A. Baker	June 16th - June 18th
<u>Weoley Castle</u> , in association with the City of Birmingham Museum, Medieval Excavation, directed by Mr. P. Rahtz	July 29th - Aug. 12th
<u>Tamworth</u> . Excavation and Survey of Saxon Tamworth, directed by Dr. F.T. Wainwright	July 29th - Aug. 12th

Other Excavations in the Area

It is anticipated that, during May, Mrs. K. Hartley will be completing her work on the Romano-British pottery kilns at Hartshill, near Nuneaton.

Also during May, it is expected that an emergency excavation will be undertaken, by Mr. G. Webster, on the Romano-British posting station at Chesterton-on-Fosse, Warks., in advance of road construction.

Martin-Clark Resistivity Meters

Two of these meters have been acquired by the No. 8 C.B.A. Group and will be available, on loan, to groups active in the field. Applications for loan should be made in writing to the Secretary of No. 8 Group, Mr. G.S. Taylor, 5 Greenside Road, Erdington, Birmingham 24.

BIRMINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (FIELD GROUP FOR YOUNG MEMBERS)

Berry Mound, Solihull (SP 095778) During the early summer of their first season the members of this group began the investigation of the hill fort at Berry Mound. Two sections were cut across the defences on the north and south-east sides, while the causeway across the south-east ditch was examined. The north section revealed a rampart of gravel, on a clay base, 24 ft. wide with traces of a turf wall and post holes for a timber revetment at the front. A shallow V-shaped ditch, 15 ft. wide and 6 ft. deep (once re-cut), lay outside the rampart. The south-eastern section, where the original profile was better preserved, revealed a rampart of similar construction except that on this more vulnerable side of the site, the ditch was 22 ft. wide and 7 ft. deep. The causeway proved to be post A.D. 1660. Work has been temporarily suspended because the site is under cultivation.

Gannow Green, Rubery (SO 985784) Persistent bad weather has hindered work on this low-lying site. The section across the defences (not yet completed) has revealed, on the inner slope of the moat, a massive wall of rubble faced with well laid dressed stone still standing to a height of at least 4 ft. A second wall, of slighter construction, was discovered but its relationship to the outer wall can only be determined at a later stage in the excavation.

Miss M. Archibald, City Museum, Birmingham.

DEPT. OF ARCHAEOLOGY, CITY MUSEUM, BIRMINGHAM

Weoley Castle (SP 022828) Initially work was begun, with volunteers, in the north-east corner. This revealed stone footings of a building earlier than the standing walls (A.D. 1276 - 1280). Later our labour problems were solved, thanks to the kindness of the Governor of Winson Green Prison. An oblong building was disclosed, built of reused stone and with two internal partitions. This had twice been destroyed by fire, finally in c. A.D. 1260 on the evidence of a halfpenny of Henry III from the upper floor. To the south, across an apparent farmyard, was a wooden building 20 ft. by 30 ft. with the wooden sleeper beams and walls preserved in places to a height of 3 ft. This building also had two periods and was built subsequent to A.D. 1210 - this on coin evidence. It had four floor levels and was destroyed c. A.D. 1260. In its first period the walls were of horizontal weather-boarding, replaced in the second period by vertical boards. Preceding these structures was an enclosing gravel bank with a substantial ditch and wooden palisade. Apparently contemporary with this bank was a wooden building combining sleeper beams and post holes. Pottery suggests a date of c. A.D. 1150 - 1200. Small finds include an excellent pottery sequence from A.D. 1200 - 1270, metalwork, leather and wood.

Adrian Oswald, City Museum, Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM RESEARCH GROUP

Roman Alcester (SP 087571) This year's work has been mainly in the allotments to the west of Bleachfield Street. A further stretch of the east-west road was sectioned and dated to c. A.D. 125 - 150. As has been found further to the east, the road had subsequently been built on and six rooms of a large building have so far been exposed. It is of the corridor type with good quality concrete floors and decorated plaster walls. On one gravel floor was a quantity of burnt grain, while a well has yielded material of the third and fourth centuries. Three pits in the earliest occupation layer have yielded samian and coarse wares dating from A.D. 70 - 120. A resistivity survey indicates further extensive remains in this area. Another small excavation on the site of the Alms Houses exposed a first century pit and building foundations. Among the finds was half of a silver bracelet with a remarkable zoomorphic terminal of very unusual form, probably dating to the seventh century.

H.V. Hughes, 4 Turville Road, Birmingham 20.

BROMSGROVE

High Street (SO 957705) Trial trenches in the angle between High Street and St. John's Street produced two securely stratified groups of pottery, associated with large quantities of clay tobacco pipes which date from c. A.D. 1640 - 1670 and c. 1670 - 1710 respectively. Significant points are the absence of tygs, orange yellow and plain yellow slipwares after 1670, when tin-glazed earthenwares become increasingly common.

Roman Road (SO 973726) The road connecting Droitwich and Metchley was traced intermittently from Stoke Heath, south of Bromsgrove, to Rednal and was sectioned in five places. Ditches were absent from two sections and at one point the agger was made up over a brushwood foundation. No dating evidence was found.

D.B. Whitehouse, "Delville", Wildmoor, Bromsgrove.

COVENTRY AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Baginton (SP 343752) A search trench, at the edge of a plateau called The Lunt, revealed a double ditch system - the inner one being 15 ft. wide by 4 ft. deep with three recuttings, while the outer one was 14 ft. wide by 6 ft. deep with a very steep outer slope. The site of the probable rampart has been removed by the plough but the remains of two palisade trenches showed on the inner lip of the inner ditch. To the rear of the probable rampart were a series of clay-filled sleeper trenches, apparently the remains of buildings. The pottery from the ditches appears to be first century in date. Below this Roman system was an earlier 'U' ditch containing pottery which resembles the local Iron Age 'C' wares.

Hartshill (SP 337936) A small Roman pottery kiln, 3 ft. in diameter, with a central pedestal of clay and stone, was excavated in advance of destruction by quarrying. The pottery included numbers of carinated vessels and plates in an orange fabric and mortaria stamped with the name of the maker - VITALIS 4. Date c. A.D. 100 - 120. (see also foot of page)

Princethorpe (SP 400703) A second section cut through the early Fosse Way again showed the 12 ft. wide trench-built road badly damaged by later Roman buildings - these probably of fourth century date. The western side ditch to the road contained late first century pottery.

Muriel and Brian Stanley

COVENTRY CITY MUSEUM

Medieval Town Defences: King Street (SP 332795) Sections cut with the help of the Archaeological Society. The footings of the Town Wall had been cut through a turf layer, containing twelfth and thirteenth century pottery, which in turn overlay a ground level containing thirteenth century pottery. This turf may represent the original bank, which had been removed by a bulldozer. The internal face of the wall and the core had been robbed out but the external face survives. A second section, some 50 yds. to the east, showed a wall of dressed masonry with a 2 in. foundation course laid directly on the natural clay. A gulley, 1 ft. deep by 2 ft. wide lay parallel to, and some 2½ ft. inside this wall.

Well Street (SP 332793) In two further sections, an early 'V' ditch, 17 ft. wide by 10 ft. deep, cut post A.D. 1250 (history suggests c. A.D. 1260), had been filled in the fourteenth century. A house, built in the fourteenth century, was destroyed post A.D. 1450 prior to the construction of the wall and bank. The second section, cut inside a semi-circular bastion, also showed the deliberate filling of the early ditch.

Whitefriars' Church (SP 340787) A preliminary trench cut the western part of the tower foundations and the corners of two successive north aisles. The first church had been 68 ft. wide while the later one (late fourteenth century) had been 82 ft. wide. An external buttress was also revealed, together with a burial and traces of a possible shrine. A further trench showed the nave must be at least 140 ft. long. Further work is planned.

Mrs. Charmian Woodfield (née Phillips), Coventry City Museum

DEYTON HALL, NEEN SAVAGE, SHROPSHIRE (SO 667796)

Excavation on a (?) Medieval village, on behalf of the Ministry of Works, prior to levelling operations. Trial trenching on most of the promising platforms revealed no structural remains, although a quantity of Medieval pottery (? twelfth to fourteenth century) was recovered. Topographically the site looks convincing as a deserted Medieval village, and the former presence of a chapel there (not, however, confirmed by excavation) lends support to the idea.

S.C. Stanford, Ashfield Cottage, Luston, Leominster, Herefords.

VALE OF EVESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Middle Littleton (SP 072475) A preliminary investigation was made of a suspected Roman pottery kiln on a site where vast quantities of pottery were found whenever ploughing took place. The dig proved without doubt that it was not a kiln, but a dry-stone wall was found, up to 18 ins. high and 13 ft. long, with no return walls in either direction. All the sherds found were Roman together with a second century brooch, part of a quern and many nails.

B.G. Cox, Fairways, Benges Hill, Evesham.

HARTSHILL (SP 337936)

Excavation for the Ministry of Works, in advance of quarrying, after a magnetometer survey had indicated the probable position of the 18 kilns. All of these were either circular or oval and of updraught

type. The following are the variations in internal arrangements:

- i) A single example with a removable pedestal and firebars.
- ii) 4 kilns had permanent clay floors, pierced with vents and supported by one or more free-standing pedestals.
- iii) Permanent radial bars of clay and stone.
- iv) A most unusual form, with permanent radial bars in its front half only. The pottery was apparently stacked at the rear of this on a solid shelf slightly higher than the furnace floor.

The pottery shows that the kilns range from the early second to early fourth centuries with a marked emphasis on the production of mortaria. The mortarium potters C. ATTIVS MARINVS, VITALIS 4, LOCIVS VIBIVS, GRATINVS, MINOMELVS, BONOXVS, MOSSIVS and FIGOBATEVS were working on the site for at least part of their careers, while a clay name-die of MOSSIVS is the most important single find of the excavation. The coarse pottery should establish a useful dated local series.

Mrs. Katharine F. Hartley, 24 Shire Oak Road, Headingley, Leeds.

HEREFORD RESEARCH GROUP

Kenchester (SO 438428) The south gatehouse at the west gate of the town was excavated. The foundations were more extensive than those of the north gatehouse, uncovered in 1956. The edge of the semi-circular front lay over the filled-in early ditch while the later ditch, with evidence of two re-cuts and a culvert running through the gateway, were also examined. There is evidence to suggest that there was an earlier gatehouse, predominantly of timber construction and contemporary with the first build of the town wall. The foundations of the town wall were cut into a Trajanic hearth immediately south of the gatehouse. The gateway itself, the roads running through it, and the south-west corner of the town wall will be excavated in 1961.

Miss Mary Thomas, Hillside, Abbeydore, Hereford.
F.G. Heys, 28 Hinton Road, Hereford.

SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE (ARCHENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP)

Glasshouse Farm (SO 474230) This glassmaking site, thought to have been used in the sixteenth century by the Huguenots or the Lorraines, has been examined. Although the furnace has not been found, broken refractory crucibles and glass fragments have been found - the crucibles probably made of clay from the Stourbridge area.

Hentland (SO 543267) Excavation near the church, traditionally the site of the church of St. Dubricius, has shown the existence of a Medieval building. In the same area are several ancient trackways and a simple defensive earthwork.

Huntsham (SO 565175) Aerial photographs and trial trenches have shown this to be a Roman site covering several acres and containing several buildings. A section across the enclosure showed a robbed precinct wall, sealing native type pottery. Excavation of one building has found a main wall, with an adjacent T-shaped corn-drying kiln, dated on coin evidence to the late third century. Built into this wall, at a later date, was a small tank - the second to be found - which must be associated with a washing process.

Wallingstones (SO 503222) The lower building, ante-dating the mound, was of massive construction with internal butted walls leaving a free space of only 6 ft. by 8 ft. and was only part of a larger construction. The upper building was a substantial manor house - finds associated with this include glazed ridge tiles, a ventilating finial, imported French wares and pottery covering the period A.D. 1200 - 1350.

Norman Bridgewater, Tre-Evan, Llangarron, Ross-on-Wye.

KENILWORTH CASTLE (SP 278722)

In a short research dig, for the Ministry of Works, a trench was cut across the outer court, on the south side, in order to find the Norman defences. Between the fourteenth century White Hall and the outer curtain wall were found two 14 ft. deep ditches - one flat-based and the other V-shaped; the first was probably late-twelfth and the second (which replaced it) was probably dug in the reign of John. If this dating is correct, then the curtain wall, formerly ascribed to John, was probably built by Simon de Montfort Junior - pottery in its wall trench is consistent with this mid-thirteenth century date. In the filling of the second ditch was burnt debris and a 63 lb. catapult stone, which probably represents the siege of Simon's Castle by Henry III. Both ditches were obliterated by Tudor times and were finally capped by Civil War destruction material.

P.A. Rahtz, 27 Cotham Road, Bristol 6.

KIDDERMINSTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2962
Arley Wood/Coldridge Wood (SO 804822) A site marked as a Roman fort on the Forestry Commission map was surveyed and found to be an Iron Age Camp about 3½ acres in extent.

Larford (SO 812691) A second site - reported, examined and destroyed last year - has now been published in the Worcester Transactions. Some confusion may have arisen because the sites have been published as 'Astley' whereas they have been called 'Larford' in previous News-Sheets. The full site address in Larford Farm, Astley.

Newlands, Malvern (SO 480792) Potsherds, including kiln wasters, were found in a hop field near the main road. Surface examination revealed two scatters of about 30 yds. radius. The pottery is identical with a large group from Larford (Astley) and this is evidently a source of supply.

Walltown Farm (SO 798692) A section through the southern rampart, near the south-west corner of a presumed site. This showed that here was a fort, occupied from the late first to late second centuries. Built originally with a turf and timber faced rampart, a stone wall was added later and the ditch system was altered.

Ian Walker, Larford, 5 Caldwell Crescent, Kidderminster.

LICHFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Roman Wall (SK 101066) Efforts this year have been concentrated on completing a section through the defences of the first century fort in Castle Croft. Two large ditches had previously been found and also what appeared to be a 'box' rampart. An extension of the trench revealed two clay-floored occupation levels with an oven, and below this came two small ditches with typical military gunnels at the bottom. A further extension revealed another V-shaped ditch and a second oven - the pottery in the oven was of second century date but the filling of the ditch contained early Claudian material. The full depth of this outer ditch could not be obtained as it was below the permanent water level. There was no room to extend this trench into the rampart and a parallel trench was started 30 ft. away. The front of the rampart was found again and a section through the body of the rampart was begun - this is still in progress - which appears to be 15 ft. wide with about 20 ins. of turf remaining. So far, the defences seem to fall into three phases, the original and two contractions with a final levelling in the second century but closer dating must await work on the pottery.

Frank Lyon, 27 Lyn Avenue, Lichfield, Staffs.

The Society published its first volume of Transactions for 1959/60, which included papers on the cruck-trussed houses in Lichfield and the Wyrley and Essington Canal.

MALVERN RESEARCH GROUP

Dymock (SP 700312) Excavations, in an attempt to find the defences of the suspected Roman town have not succeeded, but the trenches showed another section of the Roman road, which has been sectioned previously to the east of the village. Occupation material, found to one side of the road, included a second century coin and second to third century pottery. A site in the grounds of the school, where building operations had shown walls together with pottery, produced traces of another wall. The site had been very much disturbed but it is hoped to carry on this work in an adjacent field.

Paul L. Waters, 10 Cockshot Road, Malvern, Worcs.

ROWLEY REGIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Upton Warren (SP 911712) This excavation has now been completed confirming the results of previous years' work.

G.S. Taylor

SHENSTONE, STAFFS. (SK 117057)

The pit alignment photographed by Dr. J.K. St. Joseph and noted in A Matter of Time, 31, was investigated with a Martin-Clark resistivity meter and six pits were excavated. These were roughly circular with a diameter of 4 ft. and were about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep; they were not postholes. A scrap of Roman pottery came from one of them, but otherwise no evidence of date was found. The site is connected with the pit alignment at Wall. Neither the date nor purpose (? boundaries) of these monuments has been explained.

D.B. Whitehouse

SHREWSBURY

Dothill Park (SJ 648130) This site was first noted from aerial photographs, it appeared as a series of concentric dark marks. A trial trench produced large quantities of twelfth and thirteenth century pottery but no explanation of the crop marks. Further work is planned.

p.p. I.S. Maxwell, Dept. of Geography, University of Sheffield.

Hen Domen (SO 214981) Two cuttings of the motte-bailey ditch of this pre-Domesday castle were made in the hope of finding a series of stratified eleventh and twelfth century pottery. A good series was obtained from one cutting, though the stratification is suspect, but the second cut revealed a two-period timber bridge spanning the ditch between motte and bailey. The whole area is now being stripped in the hope of recovering the plans of the two bridges, which appear to be wider and more complicated than those shown on the Bayeux Tapestry.

Quatford (SO 738907) Excavation, for the Ministry of Works, on the outer edge of the bailey of this motte and bailey castle. A complex of more than seventy postholes, ranging in diameter from two inches to three feet, all undated and at present indecipherable, occupied one area. There were no floors nor hearths, nor was there any firm evidence of more than one period of occupation. The apparent rampart along the edge of the bailey had seventeenth to eighteenth century pottery in its base while there was no sign of a stockade or bailey ditch.

P.A. Barker, Church House, Annscroft, Shrewsbury.

Ismore Coppice (SJ 558090) Following a magnetometer survey, excavation revealed a Roman tiliary and brickyard. Over 500 sq. ft. of rough flooring was exposed together with slots, postholes and occupation debris. An unfinished oven was found together with a large pit filled with brick and tile wasters, but the kiln itself was not found. The pottery spanned late first to mid-third centuries.

Roman Roads The road from north of Droitwich to Newtown, Montgomery, was sectioned at Winchester (SO 797924), at Beambridge in Corvedale (SO 535884) and at Newington (SO 432837) and at three points adjacent to Offa's Dyke. These showed that the Dyke had been so placed as to block the road (SO 259897) as did also the Lower Short Ditch (SO 224885). The branch road from Marshbrook, via Strefford, Ludlow, Wooferton to Ashton has been surveyed in greater detail. The alignment of the road through the town of Whitchurch (SJ 547415) has been found and over 100 ft. of its eastern surface exposed. A dupondius of Vespasian was found on this surface, while further to the east were a series of Roman tip lines containing first to fourth century pottery. In the neighbourhood was a rubbish pit with Flavian pottery.

Dr. A.W.J. Houghton, Wren Cottage, Pulverbatch, nr. Shrewsbury.

Tern Works, Attingham (SJ 553096) The whereabouts and scale of an eighteenth century industrial establishment referred to in contemporary sources, has not hitherto been known, but work on the Attingham Papers and in Attingham Park has enabled the works site to be located. Roque's map of Shropshire (1752) marks the site of Tern Works on the east bank of the Tern, a few hundred yards north of its entry to the Severn, and immediately north of the old Tern Bridge (pre-1780). There is no trace of the works on the surface of the ground in the area marked by Roque as the works site. Two hundred yards upstream however, between two bridges which connect Attingham Hall with its deer park, is a raised causeway 80 yds. long, and still 10 ft. above surrounding ground. I believe this is the remains of the Pool Dam which stored the waters of the Tern to provide power for the works. Documentary sources make it plain that there was a considerable pool, since equipment on the site included a brass rolling mill, wire mill, two corn mills, and water powered forge hammers. In this case the works must have been located south of this dam, and in close proximity to it. Since there are references to a community of at least fifty living on the site, and since it is claimed that £4,000 was spent on setting up the works in 1706, some traces may be revealed by excavation, although a local builder was employed to level the site in 1757, when Thomas Hill, then owner of the Attingham Estate, and landlord of the works, decided to remove this blot on his landscape.

Robin Chaplin, Attingham Park, nr. Shrewsbury.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NORTH STAFFS.

Work has proceeded with the excavation of the Romano-British settlement at Holditch (SJ 830480), while a small earthwork at Madely Park Farm, Whitmore has been excavated for the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. A small excavation of one of the outer walls at Eccleshall Castle proved it to be of relatively modern date.

Prof. J.M.T. Charlton, University College, Keele, Staffs.

TAMWORTH (SK 206039)

As part of its Charter Quatercentenary Celebrations, the Borough Council of Tamworth sponsored an excavation in an attempt to throw light on the early history of the town. Dr. F.T. Wainwright, Head of the Dept., of Anglo-Saxon Studies in the University of St. Andrews was invited to direct the investigation, assisted by Mr. Charles Green and Mr. J.J. Bagley. Dr. Wainwright reports that work in the Castle Grounds has thrown new light on the plan and developing structures of the old castle but has produced nothing to connect the well-known 'Ethelfleda's Mound' with Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians. He regards the mound as essentially part of the motte and bailey castle, built soon after the Norman Conquest. On the other hand, he would attribute to Aethelflaed the building of the great bank which has hitherto been credited to Offa. The line of this defensive bank and ditch has now been determined with some precision and one of the fortunate incidents of the excavation was the find of an Anglo-Saxon coin embedded in a paved road adjacent to and associated with the bank. Dr. Wainwright will continue digging in Tamworth in 1961.

TEWKESBURY

Shuthonger Common (SO 885350) A section was cut across the Roman road, which was originally seen from the air by Arnold Baker, where it crosses the Common. This work was carried out by a group from Tewkesbury organised by Mrs. M.G. Sanders. The main agger was overlain by another surface on the east side, from which was retrieved a coin of Constantius II.

Graham Webster

WELLINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Redhill (SJ 728109) About 5 ft. to the north of the gatehouse foundations, which were discovered last year, other foundations run parallel for 10 ft. then curve away northward - this is the main wall. The main ditch only just comes into the available area, but enough was found to enable its width to be estimated at 20 ft. with a berm of about 17 ft. A cobbled area appeared in front of the gate and near the edge of the ditch - its purpose is not yet known, but fourth century pottery is embedded in it. Also on the site is a possible nineteenth century well of cement-lined brick.

J.A. Pagett, 48 Park Road, Donnington, Wellington, Salop.

WOOLHOPE CLUB

Castle Green, Hereford (SO 514396) The west wall of the nave and part of the north wall of the chancel of a mid-twelfth century church were uncovered. The church is probably St. Guthlads, which was established before the Conquest, although further excavation will have to be undertaken to settle this beyond doubt. An extensive graveyard surrounds the church; in the small area excavated, twenty-five burials were examined in whole or part. Some of these were earlier than the church foundations and lay partly below the walls. Pieces of iron strap from one of the wooden coffins were recovered. The burials associated with the life of the twelfth century building were those of infants - eleven were recorded - some in stone coffins.

F.G. Heys

Buckton, Roman fort (SO 391733) The excavation of the east gate showed that timber gate-towers had been demolished when the fort was reconstructed in stone. The (?) Hadrianic stone gateway is remarkably large for an auxiliary fort, measuring 73 ft. x 20 ft. over the foundations, the external dimensions of the guard-rooms contained in this unit being 24 ft. x 20 ft. It now seems certain that this refurbishing involved also the insertion of the stone fort wall in front of the original turf rampart. This modifies the conclusion drawn from the 1959 trial trench (Woolhope Club Transactions for 1959, p. 216), but has provided further proof that the fort was deliberately dismantled by the Romans, presumably when the local garrison was transferred to the Leintwardine site c. A.D. 160.

Croft Ambrey, Iron Age hill fort (SO 443668) It has been shown that an early (? Iron Age A) hill fort was levelled when the existing defences were constructed by Iron Age B people with stamped pottery similar to that known from Bredon Hill, Worcs., and Sutton Walls, near Hereford. At least two phases have been recognised in these defences which were originally univallate, and were subsequently rendered multivallate by the digging of an outer ditch and the construction of medial and counterscarp banks. Abundant occupation material behind the main rampart shows that the site was occupied by this 'B' group as a fortified village. The discovery of storage pits, and finds of grain, a sickle, and fragments of rotary querns indicate a corn-growing economy. No evidence has so far been found to suggest occupation during the Roman period or subsequently. The excavation will be resumed during 1961.

S.C. Stanford

WORCESTER, SEVERN VALLEY STUDY GROUP

The study group is still searching for the early defences of Worcester and work has continued on the Lichfield St. site, which is scheduled for redevelopment. Modern overburden, made dangerous by deep Medieval disturbance, has made the work very slow and complicated - the average depth of the trenches is 15 ft. It is hoped to complete the pick and shovel work by Christmas and then get down to the task of interpretation.

David Shearer, Public Library, Museum & Art Gallery, Worcester.

A great deal of archaeological material was collected during the extensions to Marks and Spencer. This included a collection of burnt samian which appears to be of consistent date and the study of this, now being undertaken, may add information to the chronology of this ware in the mid-second century.

Graham Webster

SUMMER SCHOOLS

The Roveries, Bishops Castle (SO 325924) This hill fort is protected by a continuous drystone-faced rampart, which crowns a steep-sided isolated hill. The area enclosed is about 8 acres. In places the rampart-facing still stands to a height of 8 ft. There are two entrances, of which the north-western one belongs to the earliest phase. It is inturned, with guard-chambers at the inner end. The more easterly entrance was built through the rampart during a later phase in the history of the site and was inturned, with an external outwork. At the end of the excavation, traces were found of an occupation inside the camp and this will be followed up in a second season. No dating evidence has so far been found.

Nicholas Thomas, City Museum, Birmingham.

Weoley Castle A very successful school in Medieval Archaeology was held under the direction of Philip Rahtz. Students studied the background history, visited local sites of interest and worked on an excavation on the Castle site. This excavation did not reach down into any significant Medieval levels, but it is hoped to continue the work, at another summer school, in 1961.

Wroxeter (SJ 567082) A section was cut through the defences of the town on the south side. The rampart was found to be 56 ft. wide at the face and had a sloping front, continuing the line of the ditch. This implies that the stone wall was a later insertion and was shown only by a faint trace of the robber trench. The bank was of one build and produced mid-second century pottery. The ditch system was of two periods, the first, associated with the bank, consisted of at least two ditches with the possibility of a third beyond the limits of the excavation, and the second phase was the cutting of a single ditch 64 ft. wide, which had in the lower silting a fragment of fourth century mortarium.

Work continued on the Baths, and the most significant discovery was a stokehole on the east side which had escaped the attentions of previous excavators. The story of alterations in this part of the Baths is extremely complicated.

Graham Webster

AERIAL SURVEY

Aerial reconnaissance this last season has produced much of interest in the West Midlands, in particular crop-marks at Greensforge have revealed the Roman fort and its annex in some detail. New features have also appeared at Wroxeter, Bredon, Grimley and Leintwardine. Perhaps the most noteworthy discoveries are in the Leintwardine area where a second corner to the temporary camp, south-east of the fort at Buckton, has been observed. In addition, a new fort has appeared north-east of Leintwardine village on a site overlooking the rivers Clun and Teme; although only two corners are visible

Is this Jay Lane?
 (Which is NE - no site
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 JPR 18.11.77

this fort must be at least as large as that at Buckton. Unfortunately the condition of the crops was such that no interior works could be discerned. Once again Leintwardine becomes a focal point in the West Midlands from the military aspect and no doubt a number of spades will eventually be brought to bear on this new addition to an already complex problem. Some work has also been attempted on the technique of crop-marks, with interesting results not all in general agreement with current theories, and more ground observation will be necessary before a real contribution can be made. However, the work carried out by Dr. Houghton at Wroxeter and Mr. Stanford at Buckton is most enlightening, and has shown what can be done in an endeavour to solve some of the complex problems in air archaeology.

Arnold Baker, 5 Clerkenwell Crescent, Great Malvern

PAPERS ON SUBJECTS OF WEST MIDLAND INTEREST, PUBLISHED IN 1960

Group or Society	Title	Transactions	Author
	A Paleolithic Implement from Beckford	<u>Ant. J.</u> xl (1960) 67	L.V. Grinsell
Birmingham	Recent Work at Roman Alcester	<u>Birm. Arch. Soc. Tr.</u> lxxvi (1958) 10	H.V. Hughes
Birmingham Museum	Hawkesley Farm, Longbridge	do. lxxvi (1958) 36	Adrian Oswald
Birmingham University	Excavation at Caynam Camp 1st Interim Report	<u>Shrops. Arch. Soc. Tr.</u> lvi (1959) 145	P. Gelling
Coventry	The Defences of the Iron Age Camp at Wappenbury	<u>Birm. Arch. Soc. Tr.</u> lxxvi (1958) 1	Muriel & Brian Stanley
Evesham	A Roadway Investigated at Cleeve Prior	<u>Worcs. Arch. Soc. Tr.</u> xxxvi (1959) 65	B.G. Cox
	2 Pottery Vessels from a Burial at Cleeve Prior in 1935	do. xxxvi (1959) 65	Graham Webster
Kidderminster	Excavations on a 2nd Site at Astley & Reports from the 1st Site	do. xxxvi (1959) 52	Ian Walker
Shrewsbury	The Wroxeter Aqueduct	<u>Shrops. Arch. Soc. Tr.</u> lvi (1959) 133	D. Hollingworth & Graham Webster
	A Note on the Roman Coin Hoard from Hordley Grange	do. lvi (1959) 138	Graham Webster
	The Excavation of an Enclosure at Uppington	do. lvi (1959) 158	P.A. Barker
	Medieval Pottery from Sites in Shropshire	do. lvi (1959) 164	P.A. Barker
	Excavations on Nescliffe Hill	do. lvi (1959) 129	C. Hume & G. Jones
Woolhope	The Roman Fort at Buckton, Hereford - Excavations 1959	<u>Woolhope Club Tr.</u> xxxvi (1959) 210	S.C. Stanford
	Ancient Buried Roads in South Hereford	do. xxxvi (1959) 218	N. Bridgewater
Worcester	Dating the Town Wall by Excavation	<u>Worcs. Arch. Soc. Tr.</u> xxxvi (1959) 60	David R. Shearer
	The Roman Military Advance under Ostorius Scapula	<u>Arch. J.</u> cxv (1958) 49	Graham Webster