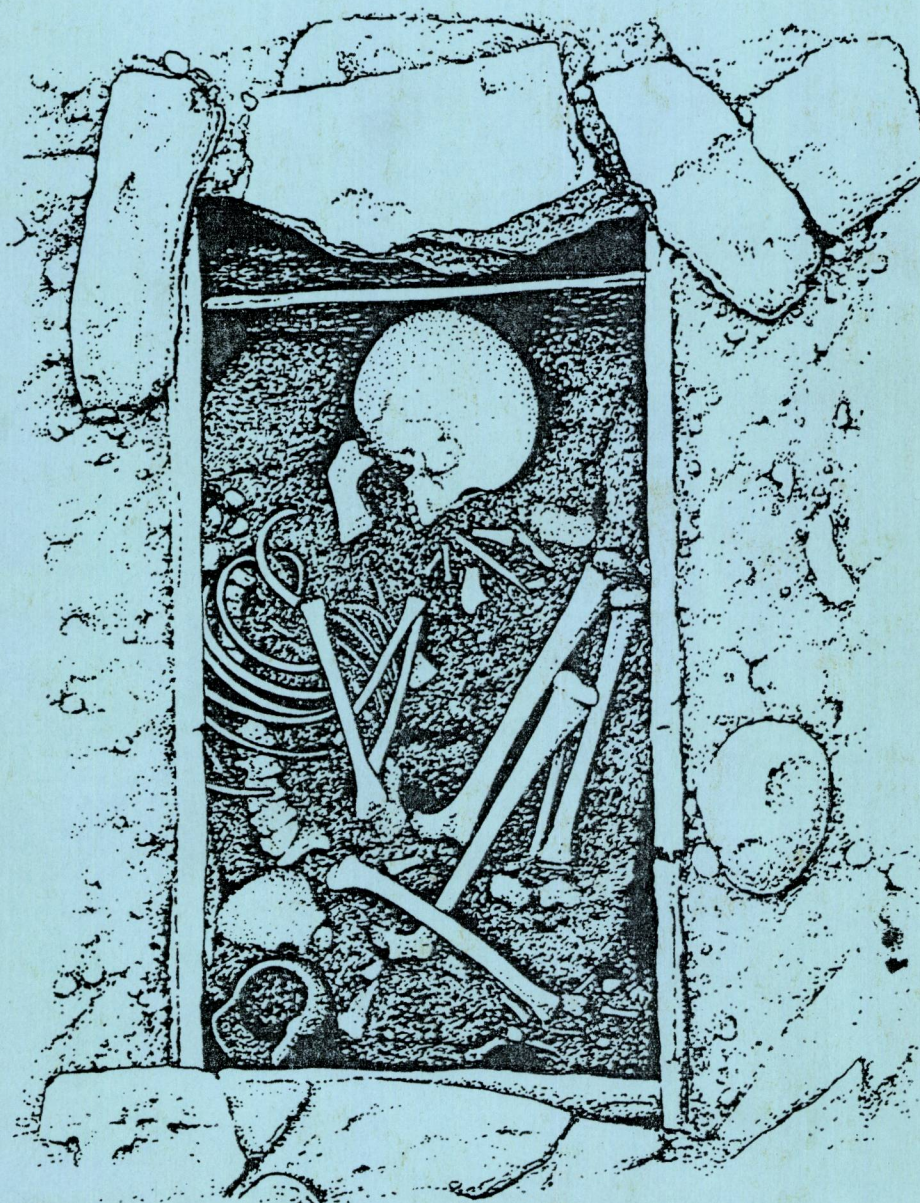


WEST MIDLANDS

ARCHAEOLOGY

30

1987



**worcestershire**  
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CBA Regional Group 8

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# **WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY**

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**30      1987**

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**Edited by James Dinn and Justin Hughes**

**CBA Regional Group 8**

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# Location of work reported



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

## Editorial

*West Midlands Archaeology* 30 contains reports on the very wide variety of archaeological fieldwork carried out in the region during 1987, ranging from the excavation of a mesolithic flint scatter to the survey of an industrial landscape. There are Forum articles on the Warwickshire dovecote survey and the methodology of the Hulton Abbey project, and the series on archaeological organizations is continued with a look at the work of SWAG, the South Worcestershire Archaeological Group. The judicious use of some very recently acquired 'new technology' has saved a considerable proportion of the printing costs (in typescript this volume would have run to nearly 150 pages), and has resulted, we hope, in a more attractive and easy-to-read journal.

However, not all is well in the world of archaeology, and it may well be that future volumes of *West Midlands Archaeology* will be rather slimmer. A number of factors are at work:

Virtually all of the 'rescue' excavation and fieldwork reported on in this volume, and much of that directed towards display and interpretation, has relied to a greater or lesser extent on the provision of funding and labour by the Manpower Services Commission, usually through the Community Programme, and many of them could not have taken place at all without MSC input. The trainees who have worked on these schemes are to be congratulated on the quality of the work which has often been achieved; many of them have indeed gone on to other employment in archaeology. It is not the job of MSC, however, to provide permanent jobs, or for that matter to manage the archaeological resource. A recent survey by RESCUE, of which a preliminary report is published in *Rescue News* 44, has shown total funding for rescue archaeology increasing from £5,700,000 in 1978-9 to £19,776,000 in 1986-7. The MSC slice of this has increased during this period from 22% to 28%, while central government funding, now channelled through English Heritage, Cadw and SDD (HBM), has declined (proportionately) from 49% to 33%. We will return to this below.

All the signs are that the so-called MSC 'honeypot' will come to an end in September this year. Government White Paper Cm 316, Training for Employment, published in February 1988, sets out the new programme, in which CP will be replaced by the Adult Training Strategy. MSC will no longer fund projects, but will provide finance for Training Managers and Training Agencies; trainees will have to spend at least 40% of their time on formal training programmes. They will be given 'income support' (benefit plus between £3 and £15), and, with the exception of Health and Safety at Work and Equal Opportunities regulations, will not receive any of the existing employees' rights, such as sick pay, national insurance, or occupational pensions.

It is unclear at the moment whether archaeological fieldwork would be seen as constituting suitable training within the new programme. Even if it was, it is difficult to see how useful and professionally acceptable (the word 'professional' is used here in terms of standards rather than employment status) work could be done, given the increased turnover of staff, who will be sent to workplaces on an individual basis rather than as teams. Archaeologists will sooner or later have to face up to the question of whether it is appropriate to run complex projects using totally unqualified labour.

When English Heritage (and Cadw in Wales) were set up in 1984 they took on the Department of Environment's role as the main provider for rescue archaeology. They inherited an enormous commitment to fund post-excavation work on the backlog of sites excavated during the rescue 'boom' of the 1970s, and an increasing proportion of the money available has been given to these projects. Very few new projects are now being supported, and these only on a partnership basis, where English Heritage grant is supplemented by MSC or developer funding. As the massive post-excavation projects reach publication, the money thereby freed is not being channelled back into new projects. Indeed, as the English Heritage corporate plan, also reported in *Rescue News* 44, indicates, as part of the package of cuts which are becoming necessary as a response to the decline in the level of grant aid from DoE, the rescue archaeology budget (which made up about 10.6% of English Heritage expenditure in 1986-7) will be expected to take 16% of the cut this year, increasing to 22% in 1990-1.

None of this is good news. Coupled with the increasing attacks on conservation, and on the local authorities and planning controls, it is hard to see a place for rescue archaeology, even with the increased pace of development and destruction which is now underway, except as part of the 'heritage industry', which can hardly go on growing indefinitely, and which has radically different aims to those of most serious archaeologists. The increase in developer funding documented by the RESCUE survey, from 1% to 17%, is most welcome, though four-fifths of it is concentrated in London and the South-east, and even there it is unusual for projects to be funded solely by developers. This source of funding has made only a very slight impact in the West Midlands. It is also limited almost exclusively to urban sites and mineral extraction, both of which are governed to some extent by bilateral codes of conduct; it can hardly be expected to apply to sites being destroyed by the plough or by small local developers existing on slender profit margins. The dangers of increased regional imbalance and the jettisoning of standards of archaeological value and priorities in favour of a 'dig it because the money's there' approach are obvious.

This paper has merely touched on some of the problems which are concerning archaeologists at the moment, but hopefully it will stimulate readers to inform themselves further about current trends. It is to be hoped that future issues of *West Midlands Archaeology* will still be able to report such a comprehensive range and high standard of work!!

To finish on a happy note, the editors and committee of CBA Regional Group 8 acknowledge with thanks an anonymous donation of £50 towards the cost of *West Midlands Archaeology* 30.

*Rescue News* 44 (1988) Current funding and structure in British archaeology: a preliminary report, by Judith Plouviez; 'Back to the future'; English Heritage and its corporate plan, by Harvey Sheldon

*Training for Employment* (HMSO, February 1988)

# 1 WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY IN 1987

## Hereford and Worcester

### AYMESTREY, ARC Pit (SO 428664; HWCM 7060)

A cist burial was discovered during stripping of overburden in advance of gravel quarrying. The well-preserved stone cist contained a crouched inhumation, beaker and flint artefact. It was probably covered by a mound but no sign of a ring ditch was detected. The skeleton was of a seven- or eight-year-old child. The beaker is similar to the North Middle Rhine group of Clarke's classification and the flint is retouched. Specialist comments on the finds are currently being prepared.

Simon Woodiwiss, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

### BECKFORD, Nettlebed field Romano-British site (SO 974373)

In 1987 cultivation adjacent to the trackway running down the east side of the field revealed a small concentration of unabraded Roman brick and tile fragments. These consisted of one *imbrex* (roof tile) fragment in an orange-brown sandy fabric, and a number of orange-brown brick fragments, some 35mm thick, including one possible *tegula* (roof tile) fragment. Two of the fragments possess mortar scars and keyed faces. One of the fragments might be a *bessalis* brick, often used in hypocaust *pilae*.

The bricks were probably either part of a string course in a masonry wall or hypocaust *pilae*. Excavation nearby in Nettlebed field (SO 97403773) during 1924-5 revealed undated wall foundations of indeterminate plan (Foll 1925, 351). The associated finds suggested that these walls were of Romano-British date (Price and Watson 1983, 8), a suggestion supported by the discovery of Roman building material. The presence of this material suggests that the remains of a Romano-British building of some architectural sophistication, perhaps a small villa with a hypocaust and a tiled roof, may be in the area. It is likely that this material was revealed only by ploughing unusually close to the trackway. The finds are to be placed in Hereford and Worcester County Museum.

Foll, H E, 1925 Roman Remains on Bredon Hill, *Trans Bristol Glos Archaeol Soc* 27, 350-2

Price, E A, and Watson, B, 1983 Elmont - A Romano-British Settlement in Beckford, *Worcs Archaeol and Local History Newsletter* 31, 6-9

Bruce Watson

### CLEEVE PRIOR, Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement east of Cleeve Hill (SP 074478)

Another uninscribed quarter stater of Dobunnic type has been uncovered by metal detector at this site (see *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 1). It was found by Mr B Harris of West Heath, Birmingham, during April 1987. The coin, in excellent condition, is of silver and shows light gilding; it probably dates to the early or mid-1st century AD (cf Mack 1975, Class F, plate XXIII, 382). In addition to the remains of the face, shown like an 'h' with loop at the base, there are seven pellets in annulets in the field. On the reverse the horse, facing left, has four similar pellets in annulets on its head and body. Weight 1.225g.



An unpublished *antoninianus* of Carausius (287-93) was found by Mr R Laight using a metal detector on this site in September 1987. The obverse reads: IMP CARAVSIVS P.F.AVG and shows a radiate bust of the emperor right, draped and cuirassed. The reverse reads: JVS[TITI]A and shows Justitia standing left holding branch and sceptre. There is no mint mark. Weight 4.02g. The only Carausian coin of Justitia in RIC (Webb 1933) shows a figure seated on a shield and holding patera and sceptre. Dr Cathy King at the Heberden Coin room, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, confirms that the Cleeve Prior coin is new to her.

Mack, R P, 1975 *The Coinage of Ancient Britain*

Webb, P H, 1933 *The Roman Imperial Coinage* 5, pt 2

W A Seaby, Warwickshire Museum

**DROITWICH, Vines Lane Roman cemetery (SO 899639; HWCM 6000)**

A small excavation was carried out on the Vines Lane Playground site during December 1986 - February 1987 in advance of development. The site produced evidence of a Roman cemetery, with fourteen inhumations in the excavated area. No grave goods were found, and only in one case was a coffin implied by the presence of nails in the grave. The general orientation of the graves was east-west, and their regular spacing suggested a well-organized cemetery. A palaeopathological report on the bone (partly sponsored by the Droitwich History and Archaeology Society) is currently being prepared at Bradford University.

During the medieval period a series of ditches was constructed across the site, probably denoting property boundaries. These seem to have continued in use in the post-medieval period when they probably defined areas relating to salt production, since they were associated with the foundations of a large furnace and extensive deposits of fuel waste.

Derek Hurst, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

**DROITWICH, saltworks building, Vines Lane (SO 896637; HWCM 7050)**

The last remaining saltworks in Droitwich was surveyed, prior to demolition. This 19th-century brick building was latterly used as an ice-cream factory, but evidence of its original function survived in the form of boiling, stoking and drying areas.

Derek Hurst, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

**DROITWICH, a prehistoric and Roman site at Bays Meadow (SO 899637; HWCM 3956)**

Between June and September 1987 an evaluation excavation was carried out on a proposed development site at Bays Meadow. The area was of potential interest because of its proximity to the Bays Meadow Roman villa and Dodderhill Roman fort, both Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The excavations revealed a drainage or boundary ditch, probably of early Roman date, sealed below a layer of hillwash. More unexpectedly, they revealed an extensive buried soil level containing a large assemblage of flintwork, possibly of mesolithic date. The assemblage has yet to be analysed, but the presence of cores and waste flakes indicates that flint-working was taking place on the site.

Derek Hurst, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

### **ECKINGTON, landscape survey (SO 9241)**

A field group of the South Worcestershire Archaeological Group have recently completed a landscape survey of the parish of Eckington, to the NW of Bredon Hill. As a result some interesting and previously unrecorded sites have been discovered.

To the W of Court Close Farm (SO 918411) lies a rectangular earth mound surrounded by a substantial ditch, although now somewhat eroded and partially backfilled. Its proximity to Court Close Farm would indicate that this moated site could well have been an administrative centre (Price 1985).

Two Roman settlement sites <sup>(1)</sup> have also come to light. Over 500 sherds of 2nd and 3rd century AD pottery were gathered from the first site prior to the field being grass-seeded. An aerial photograph of the area revealed the shape of a rectangular double ditch on this site. From the second site over 900 sherds of the same period have been collected but to date no systematic fieldwalking has been carried out. The predominant finds have been Severn Valley ware, with black-burnished and grey wares also being well represented. *Tegulae* have been discovered at both sites, and a fragment of samian ware at each.

A previously recorded deserted medieval village below Woollas Hall (SO 946408) has proved to be more extensive than originally documented (Dyer 1965). In recent years woodland areas have been cleared to reveal more earthworks, including platforms.

In the north-west of the parish (SO 916418) an embankment (average height 2.0m) together with the remains of sluices, brick walls and drainage channels, encloses approximately 80 acres of meadow land. Documentary evidence suggests a construction date for this Flood System of between 1840 and 1883. Its main purpose would have been that of a 'drowning meadow' with the added advantage of the high bank keeping flood water off the meadows.

Dyer, C, 1965 The Deserted Medieval Village of Woolashill, Worcestershire, *Trans Worcs Archaeol Soc* 3 Ser 1, 55-61

Price, P, 1985 Moated Site at Court Close, *Interim Report, South Worcester Archaeological Group*, 24

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

Nils Wilkes, South Worcestershire Archaeological Group

### **EVESHAM Abbey (SP 03784369; HWCM 6005)**

Several developments on this Scheduled Ancient Monument have necessitated archaeological involvement. This has included the recording of parts of the precinct wall, recording of part of the wall of the Great Court, and an evaluation excavation. The walls are attributed to Abbot Reginald (AD 1130 to 1149) and Thomas of Marlborough (AD 1207 to 1236) respectively. The evaluation excavation determined the depth of significant archaeological deposits, taken into account in the design of the development in order to minimize disturbance.

Simon Woodwiss, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

### **GOODRICH Castle (SO 577199; HWCM 349)**

Survey work has continued at this well-preserved border castle. The work of producing a detailed series of plans at 1:50 scale of each floor level is almost complete and further elevations have been drawn in advance of restoration work.

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

**HARVINGTON, Harvington Mill (SP 06674768; HWCM 2791)**

In 1982 survey work relocated a cinder bed, first recorded during the late 19th century (Tomes c 1898, 4). Iron slag was found weathering out of the northern edge of the island in the River Avon. The full extent of the deposit is unknown. There were no associated finds of pottery or other datable artefacts. Charcoal inclusions within the slag have been C14 dated to 350 ± 70 bp or ad 1600; the calibrated date is AD 1540 ± 85 (HAR- 6885).

The metallurgical interpretation of the slag is uncertain; however it may be derived from a smithing or finery/chafery operation. There is no known documentary evidence for an iron-working site within Harvington, so possibly the site operated only for a short period. The location on the riverside, in the vicinity of a post-medieval watermill, suggests that water power may have been utilized, perhaps to run a tilt-hammer. Between 1636 and 1639 the Avon was canalized and a lock built at Harvington Mill. This improvement would have allowed the easy shipment of cast iron from blast furnaces in North Worcestershire for processing at a finery/chafery plant at Harvington Mill.

A full report on the site and the analysis of the slag is under preparation.

Tomes, R F, c 1898 Contributions Towards a History of the Parishes of North and South Littleton, Worcs. Bound series of reprints from *The Evesham Standard* (Hereford and Worcester County Record Office. Hrq. 942.474)

Dr J Gerry McDonnell and Bruce Watson

**HEREFORD, 41 Bridge Street (rear building) (SO 507397)**

41 Bridge Street is part of a terrace erected in the late 18th century. The small timber-framed building at the rear is the only surviving part of what was a complex of medieval buildings on this backland site between bridge street and the city wall. It has thus provided valuable evidence of the layout of this part of the city in the Middle Ages.

The evidence of mouldings and framing date the main timbers of the rear building to the last quarter of the 14th century. At this time, the two-bay two-storeyed structure must have abutted a pre-existing building to the east. There is no evidence of partitioning on the ground floor and the first floor was open to the roof as is shown by the chamfered and stopped purlins and the cambered central tie-beam. The stone built cellar underneath, which is approached by a flight of stone steps and has a fine moulded window surround and door jambs of stone, was probably inserted during the 15th century.

On the south elevation, considerable effort was made in ornamentation. The frame braces are cusped and were originally symmetrical. Only three of the original six now remain. A 15th-century door-head carved with quatrefoils is carried on moulded door jambs in the eastern half of the facade. A series of mortise cuts in the western half apparently indicate the position of another doorway, now vanished. Both the end posts are cut to accept beams from a building or buildings to the south. It is suggested that the main hall was to the south and that the existing building formed a cross wing.

The evidence indicates that the large medieval wattle and daub panels were replaced by close studding on the north and west walls at some time in the 16th century. The building was again altered in the 18th century when all the wattle and daub panels were removed and replaced in brick. Reused frame members were placed in the north wall to frame the new panels. With the construction of the small brick addition to the west, the property assumed its present form.

As a result of the survey, the Department of the Environment recognized the importance of this building and, in December 1987, included it in the schedule of Listed Buildings with a 2\* rating.

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeological Committee

#### HEREFORD, 25 Commercial Street (SO 512402)

The new Mayford Orchards development includes Preece's Passage as one of its pedestrian entries from Commercial Street. Chadd's, who own no 25, the property on the east side of the passage, hope to renovate the rear part of the building to create additional shopping space. The earliest parts of the complex are the west, south and north frames of a long, narrow building of late 15th-century date which occupied a backland site in the area between Preece's Passage and the eastern boundary of the present property. The west frame of this building is almost completely intact and is a classic example of its type with close-set vertical timbering. In the early 16th century a substantial extension was constructed to the south, incorporating the 15th-century house. Further south towards Commercial Street are three later buildings, all of which survive. They have not been examined in detail but it would appear that the central bay on the site is a late 16th-century building which also originally fronted on to Preece's Passage. On the Commercial Street frontage is a 17th-century building which was substantially altered during the late 18th or early 19th century. Between the two is a late 17th-century infill development.

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

#### HEREFORD, Greyfriars (SO 506397)

A Franciscan friary was founded on low-lying ground to the west of the city in about 1228. Friar's Gate at the western end of St Nicholas Street provided access into the city. The friary was apparently relatively prosperous throughout its life until it was dissolved in 1538. Although all traces of the buildings had disappeared by the 18th century remains of stone walls, found whilst laying a gas main in 1898, were assumed to be the north and south walls of the chancel of the friary church.

Trial excavations were carried out between November 1986 and February 1987 in the small paddock to the rear of the gardens on the west of Greyfriars Avenue. The northern and western parts of this paddock are in a shallow depression from which the ground rises to the north and east to become level with the gardens of 8-20 Greyfriars Avenue. The large, level area includes the position of the friary chancel mentioned above. It was considered that the change in level could indicate the western boundary of the friary.

The lower trench was inaccessible through most of the excavation due to constant flooding and the very high water table. All that was seen, after removal of the topsoil, was a disturbed surface of cobbles, clay and small stones. It is possible that the surface formed part of an old yard for the adjacent tannery, with the disturbances being due to allotment digging during the First World War.

The excavation of a trench on the bank was more productive. The latest feature consisted of an infilled ditch running north-west to south-east across the trench. The upper levels of this ditch contained approximately 400 cattle horncores, associated with a great deal of late 17th- to early 18th-century pottery. The ditch cut through two distinct layers of rubble. Mixed in with the rubble fill were fragments of medieval floor tile, much of which was decorated. A small quantity of worked sandstone and a *jetton* were also found. A trial pit, which was dug to a total depth of 1.9m, exposed a thin patchy layer of grey clayey soil considered to be the ground surface associated with the friary.

A second small trial trench revealed similar layers of rubble. At this point the late ditch cut through an earlier, larger ditch running along a similar axis, which may have been of monastic origin. Both ditches lay on the line of a roadway still partly visible today running westward across the adjacent field.

No *in situ* remains of the friary were found in the area excavated and it must be assumed that the buildings were slightly further to the east. A contour survey has indicated that the friary must have been built on a plateau just above the general flood level and that any buried remains are now largely covered by the houses and gardens on the western side of Greyfriars Avenue.

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

**HEREFORD, Palace Yard (SO 509398)**

An excavation at 3 Palace Yard, almost adjoining the entry to the Bishop's Palace, was carried out between January and May 1987 in advance of a new housing development. Prior to demolition, the latest buildings to occupy the site were Victorian wooden sheds used by an early photographer, W H Bustin. These sheds were built on a thick layer of brick and stone rubble used to level the site. Underneath this make-up was a cobbled yard and a stone-lined cesspit, containing much early 19th-century pottery, wine bottles and environmental material.

The earliest structural remains on the site consisted of two stone walls forming the corner of a 16th-century building, with a clay floor which was later replaced with cobbles. Slightly earlier than the building were two deep 15th-century cesspits, one of which contained a rare example of a cucurbit distilling vessel and a pewter pilgrim's badge.

The excavation produced no structural evidence before the 16th century, despite being in a central part of the Saxon town. The natural gravels were at a very high level, similar to those found in a service trench excavated by the Unit through the entrance into the Bishop's Palace in 1985. This high level and the lack of early occupation evidence imply that the ground surface in this area has been substantially reduced.

King Street has a pronounced dip between the Cathedral and the junction with Bridge Street. This dip has been taken by some to represent the line of the 'King's Ditch', previously thought to be either a demarcation boundary or even an early defensive feature. It would appear likely that the 'King's Ditch' includes an old stream bed running into a marshy area to the east of Bridge Street. This marshy area was eventually filled in, apparently during the 16th century. It was about this time that the ground surface to the west of the Cathedral was lowered, and it is tempting to relate the two events.

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

**HEREFORD, 107 East Street (SO 511399)**

Excavation on this site was due to proposed building operations including the lowering of the present cellar floor level. Although the construction of the cellar itself would have destroyed much of the structural archaeology, deposits are known to exist to a considerable depth in this area close to the Saxon defensive line. The cellar is of stone and consists of two rooms separated by a stone wall.

Two trenches of restricted size and depth were excavated, one in each cellar. In the front cellar the latest floor consisted of early to mid- 19th-century handmade bricks and cobbles. It overlay the original earthen floor, which contained mid to late 17th-century clay pipes and pottery. A small trench, excavated through this earthen floor, revealed three early 17th-century pits which had been dug before the present building was constructed. The pits cut through a soil level overlaying natural deposits and 2.9m below the present level of East Street. The depth suggests that it forms part of the original Saxon ground level. Unfortunately, no Saxon archaeological features were evident, suggesting that any such features were removed together with the upper levels of the soil layer when the cellar was constructed.

Only a small area of the brick and cobble floor in the rear cellar was removed. Much of this floor had been relaid relatively recently where it covered a stone-lined well which had been reused as a soakaway and backfilled during the 1930s. The foundation pit for this well provided no dating evidence but it apparently belongs to a period prior to the construction of the present 17th-century building.

This small excavation has confirmed the results of earlier work and has indicated that archaeological levels do exist underneath the floors of the cellars on the south side of the line of West St/East St. A substantial amount of the material which originally formed the northern defence of Hereford lies buried underneath the line of the street and of the properties on the northern side, sealing and preserving some of the earliest occupation levels in the city at a depth in excess of 2.5m.

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

## HEREFORD, College of the Vicars Choral (fig 1)(SO 511397)

The City of Hereford Archaeology Committee was commissioned by English Heritage to survey the College, excluding the Deanery, to enable a rational rearrangement of the internal planning to be undertaken with minimal damage to the historic fabric.

### The original layout

On 18th October 1472, Bishop Stanbury obtained a licence from the King allowing him to provide a new site for the College of the Vicars Choral. The new site, to the east of the Bishop's garden, comprised a vacant plot on which had stood the house of the late Canon Wolston and the ground and existing house of the late Canon Greene. The College is an irregular quadrilateral with the south-western corner almost in contact with the wall of the Bishop's palace gardens. One possible explanation for this eccentric positioning is that the builders were required to make use of the great hall and ancillary buildings of Canon Greene's house and had to construct the quadrangle in association with these existing buildings.

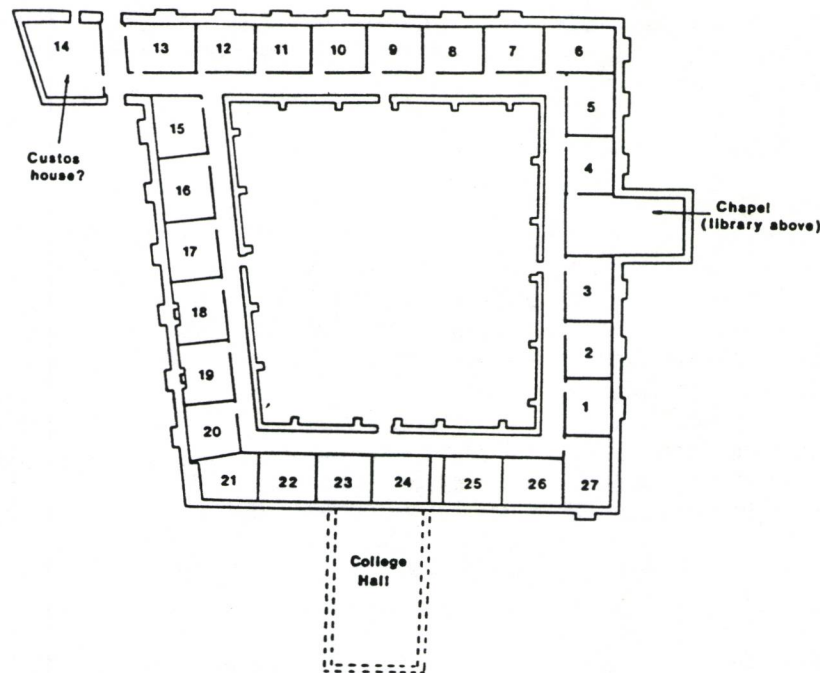


Figure 1 Hereford, College of the Vicars Choral: plan

### The constructional phases

Internal evidence suggests that the College was constructed in four separate phases, possibly corresponding to the four building seasons of the years 1472-5. The south range was almost certainly constructed first, adjoining Canon Greene's hall, which was probably in a similar position to the present hall. The east range was then built from south to north, including the College chapel and library, and adding a further six lodgings to the seven postulated in the south range. The north range was constructed next, being built westwards from the east range. This contained seven of the standard lodgings and a slightly larger house, assumed to be for the Custos, to the west of the entrance passage. The cloistral arrangement was completed with the construction of the west range between the extant north and south ranges. This was built at a slight angle, providing six further lodgings. The corridor joining the College to the south-east transept of the Cathedral was added probably towards the end of the 15th century. Early in the 16th century the south-east bay of the corridor was replaced by a two-storeyed porch and the adjoining bay rebuilt.

### The lodgings

When complete, the college provided 26 separate lodgings fronting on to the quadrangle, with a house for the Custos in an extension to the west of the north range. Each lodging comprised a ground-floor room and a first-floor hall. The lodgings were divided from each other by timber-framed walls of large wattle and daub panels beneath the main roof trusses. The first-floor halls were reached by internal stairs directly behind the doors leading from the cloister. They were larger than the rooms on the ground floor, continuing above the cloister walk, and were open to the roof. Overall, the standard of design and execution was extremely high. The College was undoubtedly a prestigious and expensive building.

Some time in the first half of the 16th century substantial alterations took place in the east range. The two lodgings immediately to the south of the chapel were incorporated into one house. The upper rooms had panelled ceilings, carried on moulded and stopped beams, inserted at wall-plate height. At approximately the same time, the two northernmost lodgings of the east range were also joined. Ceilings were again inserted and access was made to a second floor created in the roof space. In the 18th century this house was again extended to incorporate the easternmost lodging of the north range. The next major changes occurred during the 18th century when there were several amalgamations of blocks of two units into larger houses throughout the college.

To the west of the entrance passage is the partly demolished set of rooms which originally accommodated the Custos. By the 17th century the lower room had become the porter's lodge whilst the upper chamber was used for teaching choristers.

### The Chapel (now Chapter Room)

The present chapter room is midway along the eastern range and extends to the east beyond the line of the main wall. The north and south walls within the width of the eastern range are of close-set timber-framing, the remainder and the east wall being of stone. The western jambs of former ground-floor windows are apparent to both the north and south in the existing stone walls. However, the original masonry continues to the east underneath the window sills, indicating that these walls are an original feature. The west wall, which separates the chapter room from the cloister, has been much restored but still includes a series of Jacobean balusters.

There are in this room substantial traces of the 15th-century layout which, in its original state, consisted of a chapel on the ground floor with the College library above. Both floors extended some 12-14 feet beyond the present east wall. A doorway from the cloister, just to the north of this complex, led, via a lobby on the ground floor, into the chapel through a doorway which is now blocked. From this lobby stairs led up to a second doorway in the close-set timber-framing, now blocked, which provided access to the first floor library.

In the early 19th century these rooms were in a state of dilapidation and by 1835 the walls were beginning to bulge. The eastern part was demolished and the present east wall built in 1842. The chapel was disused and apparently neglected from about the middle of the 19th century until it was renovated about 100 years later to provide accommodation for the Chapter body.

### The College Hall

It has been suggested that the original College Hall may have been part of Canon Greene's house, refurbished for use by the College. The hall was rebuilt during the second half of the 17th century after 'a great part of the stone of the Castle was disposed of to the College of Hereford to build their new dining hall'. The only visible internal feature which could date to this period is the southernmost fireplace on the west wall, which was discovered and exposed in 1938. In 1750 the hall was enlarged and in 1817 the south window was replaced 'uniform with the others' after being blown down. The remainder of the windows were renewed in 1884.

### The reconstruction of the south-east corner

On Saturday 26th July 1828, at about 2 o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the south-east corner of the College. According to the Act Book of that time, it totally consumed the buttery, cellar, larder,

kitchen, and servants bedrooms, and materially injured a great portion of the building. It appears that the south range eastwards from the College hall had to be completely rebuilt within the surviving north and south stone walls.

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

#### **HEREFORD, 20 Church Street (SO 511398)**

Proposals to develop 20 Church Street and the surrounding garden area have been under discussion for some time and in August 1987 Dominion Estates Holdings Ltd commissioned a detailed analytical survey of the standing building to ascertain, as far as possible, the original form of the structure and its subsequent development.

The earliest building consisted of a three-bay first-floor hall and undercroft built entirely of wood about AD 1400. It had a crown-post rafter double roof with each of the crown-posts rising from massive tie-beams to support a collar purlin which ran the length of the building. The ceiling was apparently plastered on the underside of the collars and rafters, leaving the chamfered crown-posts, collar purlin and tie-beams visible from the below. The two intermediate crown-posts each had two concave braces to the collar purlin and two to the collar. The crown-posts in the end walls each had two diagonal braces going down to the tie-beam but none of these survive. The four tie-beams were supported on two massive plates with splayed scarf joints. In front of the wall-plates were moulded boards supported on shallow mortises cut into the tie-beams.

A timber and daub wall, which was inserted towards the centre of the westernmost bay, continues upwards to what would have been the line of the boarded ceiling. This partition may represent a widening of the screens passage, being later than the original construction. Ceilings have been inserted throughout the building at tie-beam level, thus concealing the crown-post roof.

The whole of the eastern wall of the hall below the level of the tie-beam has been replaced in brick. The western wall has suffered many alterations but is still basically timber-framed, although much is hidden by the external render. Two mortises on the western face of the south-western corner post suggest that there may have been a western wing before the existing 18th-century wing was built.

The north wall of the original building suffered substantial alterations when the existing brick extensions were built. However, one post continues to ground level and includes a mortise for a door head in its northern face, suggesting that there were rooms or some form of aisle along the north side of the building.

The south wall contains several surviving features of historic interest, all at first-floor level. At the western end is the original doorway with an ogee-arched timber head. This entrance would have been approached by an external flight of stairs. In the centre of the south wall the external chimney stack is of stone. The large first-floor fireplace was blocked with brick in the 18th or 19th century, when all moulded stonework was removed.

Totally sealed in the south wall is a well-preserved timber window consisting of four cusped ogee-arched lights. They are slightly weathered on the outside indicating that this was originally an outside wall. However, the small room adjoining is timber-framed, with the sloping roof timbers pegged to the ends of the overhanging main roof rafters. It is suggested that this room leading off the hall was a chapel or oriel chamber, possibly including an access to a solar wing.

Apart from the Bishop's Palace, 20 Church Street is the only building to survive of the several ecclesiastical residences which once surrounded the Cathedral Close.

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee



**HEREFORD, the Precentor's Barn (SO 512398)**

Like many of the buildings in the centre of Hereford, the barn at the junction of St John Street and Cathedral Close conceals a long history of change and development behind a deceptively simple exterior. On the south side the barn is of timber-framed construction above a stone wall. The panels in the timbering are infilled with brick. On the north, the timber frame rests on a stone plinth at ground level and is weatherboarded for its full height. Weatherboarding also conceals the east and west gable frames, which also rest on stone walls continuous with the one to the south.

Internally, the ground floor is undivided and is now used as a garage. There are double doors at either end and a series of smaller doors in the north side. The more visually interesting elements are in the upper floor, which is on two levels, with a separate room at the western end. The oldest parts of the fabric are the wall frames which, with the exception of the eastern gable, originally formed part of a barn-like structure of probable 13th-century date. This may have been aisled and almost certainly had a scissor-braced roof.

In the 16th century the roof was removed during extensive alterations. The building was shortened, and the north-eastern corner rebuilt with some new timber. A first floor was inserted, the level of which is still reflected in the western upper room. It is likely that the south wall was underbuilt in stone at this time. The existing roof dates from this rebuilding, and is a textbook example of early 16th-century framing. There are six trusses, of three different types, which are braced by curved windbraces. Windows were inserted on the south side to illuminate the new first floor level.

In the early 18th century the building was again modified, possibly for use as a coach house and stable. The upper floor was raised and direct access from outside was gained via loft doors on the east and north. On the ground floor, the building was divided into three rooms. The western end was a separate room with a staircase allowing access to the upper floor. On the north and south sides, the previous wattle and daub panels were removed and replaced with brick.

The final changes to the building were relatively minor and included the weatherboarding of the north, east and west walls and the insertion of a double door in the west end.

Ron Shoemsmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

**HEREFORD, the Bus Station site (SO 515403)**

The City of Hereford Archaeological Unit continues to search for the elusive remains of St Guthlac's monastery, known to be in the area now occupied by the bus station, cinema and car park on the south-eastern side of Commercial Road and previously the site of the County gaol. In 1987, an area to the south-west of the cinema, in the angle formed by Commercial Road and Union Walk, was excavated in advance of building development. Considerable difficulties were experienced due to the presence of live electricity cables and the foundations for a proposed extension to the cinema which was never built.

A series of features which belonged to the County Gaol were next uncovered. They included a section of the original boundary wall built in 1797, large 19th-century pits containing builders debris, and a soil level which represented the garden of the late 19th-century prison governor's house. Below the gaol levels was a thick layer of garden soil associated with the late 17th- to early 18th-century house. A rectangular cesspit rich in pottery and environmental material also belongs to this occupation period. Underneath was a small mid-17th-century hearth associated with a great deal of iron slag.

The earliest levels found during the excavation consisted of a metalled yard and an associated large cesspit which contained much 12th-century pottery, animal bone and environmental material. The yard surface was on a similar level to features found during the exploratory excavations in 1986 and could well have been associated with St Guthlac's monastery.

Ron Shoemsmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

**HEREFORD, St Nicholas Street (SO 508398)**

Proposals to develop an area to the south of St Nicholas Street have been under discussion for some time. The western part of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (part of the Saxon and medieval defences) and trial excavations were considered necessary to provide information about the likely depth of archaeological deposits and their state of preservation. Four small trial trenches were excavated, one in each corner of the car park. In three of them, traces of late Saxon occupation were established. The small size of the trenches meant that it is impossible to establish the nature of this occupation, but the types of deposits were very similar to those encountered in the excavations at Berrington Street between 1972 and 1976. It has been recommended that the whole area which will be disturbed by building foundations, drains etc should be archaeologically excavated before any development commences, and work should take place during 1988.

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

**KILPECK, medieval village (SO 445305; HWCM 716)**

The graveyard which surrounds Kilpeck church is very small (less than 0.3 acre) and in about 1919 it was extended westwards into the bailey of the castle to include a further 0.3 acre. This extension is now almost full and for some years the Parochial Church Council have been attempting to find a further area. It was hoped to use the part of the bailey to the north of the present extension but, after trial excavations in 1982 (Sawle 1982), it was appreciated that the area was of considerable archaeological importance, and an alternative site north of the churchyard was chosen.

Following a resistivity survey, the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee was commissioned by English Heritage to prepare a contour survey and excavate four trial trenches in this chosen area. Within the confines of the trial trenches it was not possible to identify conclusively the pre-occupation ground surface. However, traces of burnt timbers should, if they are correctly interpreted as the remains of sleeper-beams, be of medieval date. The extent and nature of the building associated with these burnt timbers is not known and does not show on the resistivity survey. However, it is apparent that some if not all of the building will be within the area of the proposed graveyard extension. It is anticipated that work will continue in 1988.

Sawle, J, 1982 *Excavations at Kilpeck Castle, 1982: an interim report*, Hereford and Worcester County Council

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

**LEINTWARDINE, the Old Barn (SO 40357393; HWCM 1062)**

A watching brief was carried out as part of a Scheduled Monument Consent requirement and entailed the recording of foundation and service trenches. Walls, and possibly plinth ditches and a cobbled surface, all probably of Roman date, were recorded just below the topsoil. The good state of preservation of the deposits and their proximity to the ground surface has prompted English Heritage to offer a management agreement. This will entail the raising of the ground surface to protect the archaeological deposits from further disturbance.

Simon Woodiwiss, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

**A Roman villa in the Lugg valley (HWCM 5522)**

The Archaeology Task Force, a Community Programme project, has undertaken an evaluation of a site suspected to be a Roman villa in the Lugg valley. Its location has been kept temporarily confidential at

the request of the land owners for reasons of safety. Sandstone walls had been revealed during soil-stripping and the evaluation was designed to provide an indication of the extent of the complex and to supply dating evidence for its occupation.

The soil stripping uncovered two main walls running parallel to each other, branch walls running at right-angles to the main walls, and a corn drier (fig 2). There was evidence of alteration and addition to the main building though its form is as yet undetermined.

The most significant aspect of the site is the c 1m of silts that seal it. Though this makes geophysical prospection and aerial survey impossible it indicates that substantial undisturbed deposits are extant. The area of the site is likely to extend over at least 4ha.

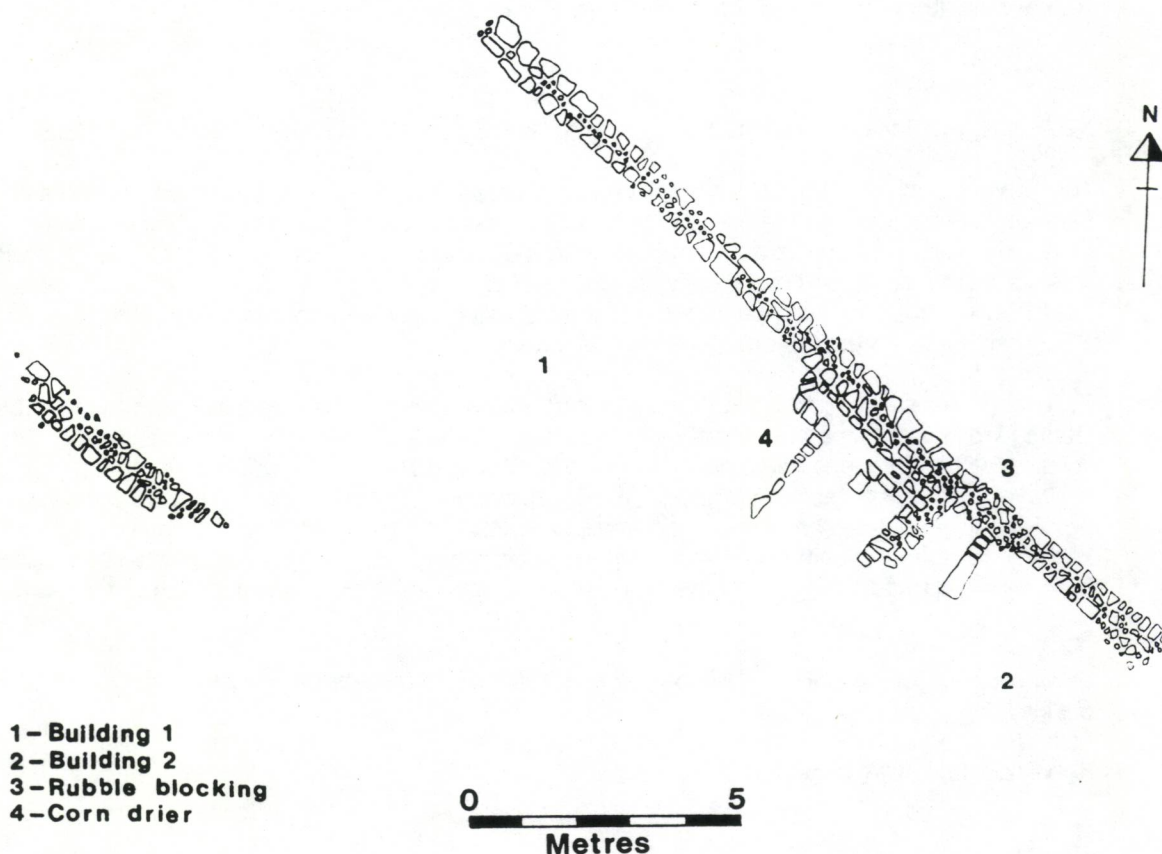


Figure 2 Lugg valley: Roman villa

Three main phases were identified:

(i) a late Iron Age occupation characterized by pottery sherds in limestone-tempered Peacock group B1 fabric.

(ii) the villa phase follows a period of abandonment. Flue tile is abundant implying the presence of a hypocaust, and the pottery and coins suggest occupation from the late 2nd to 4th century AD. A noteworthy find is a complete iron knife possessing a lathe-turned bone handle.

(iii) is represented by a number of cuts of late Roman or post-Roman date. The fills of these are generally clean and devoid of finds so only relative dating is possible.

A report with recommendations for the future of the site is in preparation.

Gary Taylor, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

**NORTH AND MIDDLE LITTLETON, Middle Hill Iron Age and Romano-British site (SP 074480; HWCM 3916)**

An archive report on the 1960-62 and 1981 excavations at Middle Hill Iron Age and Romano-British site (Price and Watson 1981) has been deposited in Worcester City and Birmingham University libraries (Watson 1985). Reappraisal of the 1960-62 excavations suggests that the large ditch found beneath the Romano-British building was backfilled during the late Iron Age or early Roman period (Watson 1986). The precise date of this ditch can only be determined by re-excavation. Surviving finds and photographs from the 1960-62 excavation are in Evesham Almonry Museum. All finds and records from the 1981 excavation are to be deposited with the Hereford and Worcester SMR.

Price, E A, and Watson, B, 1981 Middle Hill, Hereford and Worcs. Field work and trial excavation on a Prehistoric and Romano-British site, *West Midlands Archaeol* 24, 90-4

Watson, B, 1985 *Middle Hill - A Prehistoric and Romano-British Settlement in Hereford and Worcs* (Unpublished archive report)

Watson, B, 1986 Ballard's Orchard - An Iron Age and Romano-British Site in North Littleton; A reappraisal of the 1960-62 excavation, *Worcs Archaeol and Local Hist Newsletter* 37, 1-5

Bruce Watson

**REDDITCH, Bordesley Abbey (SP 045687; HWCM 10)**

This was the nineteenth season of the current Bordesley Abbey excavations. During July and August 1987 work continued on the church and the industrial site and watermill.

**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 2 (c early to mid-13th century) phase of the 2-3A emplacement for the timber-based south choir stall was excavated, as were the slight remains of the period 1 north-south timber slots which had held timbers supporting the period 1 choir stalls. No trace of a period 1 pulpitum was found.

The period 1 floor levels were removed and the underlying builders' levels excavated. The layers of builders' debris used to make up the floor level at the east end of the church thinned to nothing in the retrochoir. A large number of postholes in the south aisle and choir/retrochoir were excavated: several included fragments of oolite (the stone used in the period 1 cloister) towards the base; many were of such a size as to suggest that they had been used for scaffolding employed during the erection of the south nave arcade, south wall and roofs.

Excavation of the foundation trench for the south nave arcade was begun; this was discovered to be a continuous trench in which the piers were built (possibly on a continuous foundation raft). The unweathered and unworn surfaces of the footings of the period 1 (c 1150s) piers revealed by this excavation had retained scribed setting-out marks for the position of the sub-bases above. The remains of footings for the south aisle wall (almost entirely robbed out above) were revealed and will also be of considerable interest for the general study of setting out and the relative alignments of foundations, footings and superstructure. One of the earliest features revealed, but not yet excavated, was a north-west/south-east drain across the south aisle.

Excavation of the new area to the north (eastern part of north aisle, north-western choir and retrochoir, and north-eastern nave) was continued. The masonry of the first and second north nave arcade piers west of the crossing survived below the topsoil to a height of nearly 2m; the third pier was also visible but at a much lower level. The parts of the piers now visible among the Dissolution destruction debris gave further information about how far west the 15th-century rebuilding extended: on the second pier west of

the crossing, the new base was added to the west face of its Romanesque fabric as a respond to the third pier of the arcade which in the 15th century was rebuilt totally down to its sub-base.

The uniform height and profile of the rubble between the first and second piers suggests a surviving blocking wall here, extending the blocking one bay further west than that of the south nave arcade. Falling away from this blocking wall to the north, west and south was a rubble spread interpreted as the Dissolution destruction debris. The rubble to the north and west of the wall was composed of larger fragments than the rubble in the choir (to the south) or that previously excavated on the south side of the church. There was no trace of the north wall of the church here and the destruction debris appeared to slope down away over the line of the wall with no sign of any disturbance by a post-Dissolution robbing trench such as was found on the line of the south wall. It is thus possible that the north wall was robbed out, to at least below the 16th-century floor level, at the Dissolution, rather than later.

In the north-west corner of the new excavation, immediately north of the supposed line of the north wall, were some extremely large sandstone blocks and slabs, perhaps the remains of an external buttress.

### **The industrial site**

This year work concentrated on the excavation of the earliest mill buildings and the pre-mill levels. The excavation of four-fifths of the site (squares B, C, D, and E) is now complete.

#### **The mill buildings**

Much detail about the earthfast structures was recovered. In last year's report we suggested that the 13th-century padstone mill building replaced a post structure of the same size. It is now clear with further excavation that this was not the case. The long axis of the earlier post building was in fact parallel with the mill leat, whereas the first padstone structure was built so that its gable end faced the leat. The post building was constructed of timber uprights, 400-500mm square; it was c 4m wide and at least 7m long (?three bays). Its southern wall was built immediately north of the wheel-pit. Subsidiary posts argue for a series of lean-to extensions on the west and north sides of the main building; these would have increased the size of the structure to 5.5 x 10.5m. Intercutting postholes show that there were at least three phases of modification to this building. Its plan proved difficult to establish because most of the posts had been removed or cut off close to their bases; both the original postholes and the robbing holes had been backfilled with the clay dug out on each occasion.

The majority of the upright timbers had been placed in holes cut through the clay platform, which had been created with the upcast from digging the mill leat. The bottoms of the timbers often survived, and in most cases these rested on timber pads which had been placed at the base of the postholes; these pads perhaps represent an attempt to compensate for different lengths of timber used. However, the pits for the corner posts of the main structure had been dug into the old ground surface prior to the construction of the clay platform, along with trenches for massive horizontal timbers which originally extended into the wheel pit; these must have anchored the timber wheel cage. The founding of the major structural members of the mill on the buried ground surface, and the piling up of the platform around, may have been an attempt to provide additional stability for a building which would have had to survive considerable vibration. These major timbers also rested on wooden 'pads'. One upright rested on a collection of reused structural timbers laid haphazardly in the bottom of the postpit. It was these timbers which were misinterpreted last year as evidence of pre-mill buildings.

The pottery recovered from these levels confirms last year's suggestion that the first mill was in use in the late 12th century and the associated hearths (excavated last year) show that this mill was also used for metalworking.

#### **The surroundings of the mill building**

The ditch, which ran diagonally across square A, and which had been sampled in 1982, was completely excavated. It proved to be a vertically sided channel, some 1.5m deep and c 1m wide, which had been dug through the platform on which the mill building stood. It had a gently curving course which skirted

the mill and appeared to head in the direction of the tail race of the mill. The channel also drained east, towards the tail race. No trace of a timber lining was found. This suggests that the channel was in use for a short time, because without some protection the vertical sides would have eroded quickly in the clay. With such a small length (15m) of this large feature exposed it is difficult to suggest its function, but the most likely interpretation is that it was for drainage, perhaps even a by-pass channel which took water from the mill pond to the tailrace when the first mill was not working. The channel silted up partially and was then used as a rubbish dump. The fill produced a much smaller quantity of worked wood than the 1982 sample, but a further four wooden gear pegs, similar to those recovered from the leat in 1985, were found, and there was an extensive bone assemblage (with a high proportion of sheep and pig jaws).

The end of the north bank of the mill pond was examined. It is now clear that the original bank did not extend to the west side of the earthfast mill building, nor to the north-west of the mill. It was a clay bank, c 2.5m wide, which overlooked the leat and stopped short of the building leaving a space of c 1.5m. Shortly after the padstone mill was built, sometime in the 13th century, the bank was doubled in width and lengthened to meet the new mill building. The enlargement of the bank sealed some of the hardstandings associated with the early occupation of the padstone mill. This remodelling of the bank end correlates with the raising of the main body of the bank discovered in the valley transect excavation in 1985.

#### Pre-mill phases

A small proportion of the clay platform and bank was dug by hand and then the rest was excavated using a small machine. The mill was clearly sited to take advantage of the topography of the valley (this was also the case with the siting of the mill pond - see the discussion of the valley transect in the 1983 interim). The bank and platform were located on a slight eminence which overlooked the low-lying areas of the valley of the River Arrow. Extensive trenching of the low parts of the site demonstrated a complex sequence of abandoned river channels and ponds.

The thick layer of pebbles that had been deposited on the floor of the valley during the immediate post-glacial period (and located in the valley transect and the mill leat excavations) had in some places subsequently been eroded and redeposited in sinuous banks through water action. These banks appear to be associated with water channels or ponds which contained thick deposits of silt interleaved with layers and lenses of organic material such as twigs and branches. On the sloping side of one of these channels was a collection of unabraded early Roman pottery. This included bead rimmed jars and a near-complete carinated bowl of the 1st century AD; Roman pottery had been found in residual contexts in 1986 (*West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 8). No occupation layers associated with this pottery were found within the excavated area; the pottery appears to have been thrown into a river channel. This, however, is strong evidence for Roman settlement in the near vicinity, and it is interesting to note the early date of the pottery and the lack of late Roman material.

The channel in which the Roman pottery was found silted up, but was subsequently cut into by a meander of a stream. This stream course also silted up, and was sealed by the clay platform of the mill. This stream bed appears to have caused the subsidence of the north-east corner of the mill building (*West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 9).

A deep channel was also excavated on the north side of square C. This had steep sides and appeared to have been dug in the course of preparing the ground for the construction of the mill, perhaps to aid drainage. It silted up partially, and into the silts was cut a trench which was filled with branches and tree stumps - the residue from clearing scrub wood (see *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 8 for evidence of ground clearance). The channel was then sealed with a thick layer of gravel laid to create a hardstanding.

Next year the buried ground surface under the mill platform in square A will be excavated, and the valley transect will be resumed.

We are grateful to the Secretary of State and HBMCE for permission to excavate on this scheduled ancient monument, and to Dr Anthony Streeten of HBMCE for assistance and advice. We are indebted to Redditch Borough Council for financial support for the excavation. Student grants were allocated to the excavation by the Universities of Birmingham, Reading and University College London, while student fees were administered by the University of Rochester, New York. Grants for post-excavation work were

received from the British Academy and the Royal Archaeological Institute. We are also grateful to Isis Plant Hire and their depot manager, Jim Brown, for the hire of machinery.

Grenville Astill, Susan Hirst, David Walsh and Susan Wright

#### **RICHARD'S CASTLE, St Bartholomew's Church (SO 48437028; HWCM 5538)**

Late in 1987, the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee excavated a series of new drainage trenches to the south and east of this redundant church, and cleared part of the postulated crypt underneath the chancel. The Unit also organized detailed surveys of the east window and of the north window in the north chapel in advance of restoration works.

Foundations exposed to the east of the church indicate that the building was originally longer than at present, possibly extending beyond the west wall of the late 14th-century detached tower. A detailed examination of the east wall of the present chancel and the excavations in the crypt have demonstrated that the eastern part of this church is of far greater complexity than is suggested by the Royal Commission entry. Although the crypt was used as a burial vault after the 16th century, the plastered walls and lime-washed interior indicate that it had an earlier function, perhaps as a hermit's cell. Further investigation and research is needed before a more complete story can be proposed.

Ron Shoesmith, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

#### **WARNDON survey (SO 880560)**

1988 will see the start of a major residential and industrial development between Worcester and the M5 motorway. In response to this Worcester City Museum have set up an MSC-sponsored survey team to record the visible landscape features and to assess the archaeological potential of the area.

The survey area consists of some 3 square miles of largely unimproved farmland within the former parishes of Warndon and St Martin's County. Four farmsteads are known to be of Saxon date, with the estate of Lyppard being particularly well documented in 10th-century charters. During the medieval period Warndon and Lyppard developed into moated sites, with that at Warndon containing a Norman church with a fine 16th-century half-timbered tower. Nearby during the same period a squatter settlement developed along the lane leading to Trotshill Farm. In recent years large parts of the area have been turned over to pasture, and the population has shrunk considerably, leaving a wealth of archaeological features.

The initial survey has revealed concentrations of ridge and furrow in the areas adjacent to the farms, and a number of deserted trackways and building platforms. The next phase of work will consist of a programme of trial excavations designed to determine the nature and date of the features mentioned above, as well as the possible lines of early estate boundaries and various cropmarks visible on aerial photographs.

Stephen Webster, Worcester City Museum

#### **WELLAND, Quabb Meadow (SO 80504130; HWCM 7349)**

Several features were recorded in a single field during a field-by-field survey of the parish of Welland (fig 3). Having been left as a meadow it has retained many physical features. It is situated on fairly level ground with a stream running through from south-west to north-east.

Today the stream is some 50m west of its original meandering course, which is still visible. The change in the stream's course may be a deliberate attempt to improve drainage, or a result of the stream break-

ing into a hollow-way which had been eroded to a level below that of the stream. Two of the hollow-ways, if continued, would follow the present course of the stream to explain the sharp right-angle bend at what would have been the crossroads.

The northern corner of the field has clearly defined ridge and furrow running south-west to north-east, with a slight headland at the south-west end where the ridge and furrow curves sharply. In the north-eastern part of the field, to the east of the hollow-way, some more ridge and furrow can just be seen running north-west to south-east (ie at right-angles to the other more defined ridge and furrow). In the central western area of the field there is a complex of garden enclosures, hut platforms and hollow-ways of a small deserted settlement. One of the platforms is clearly defined by a dog-legged hollow-way and is approximately 5m wide and 16m long.

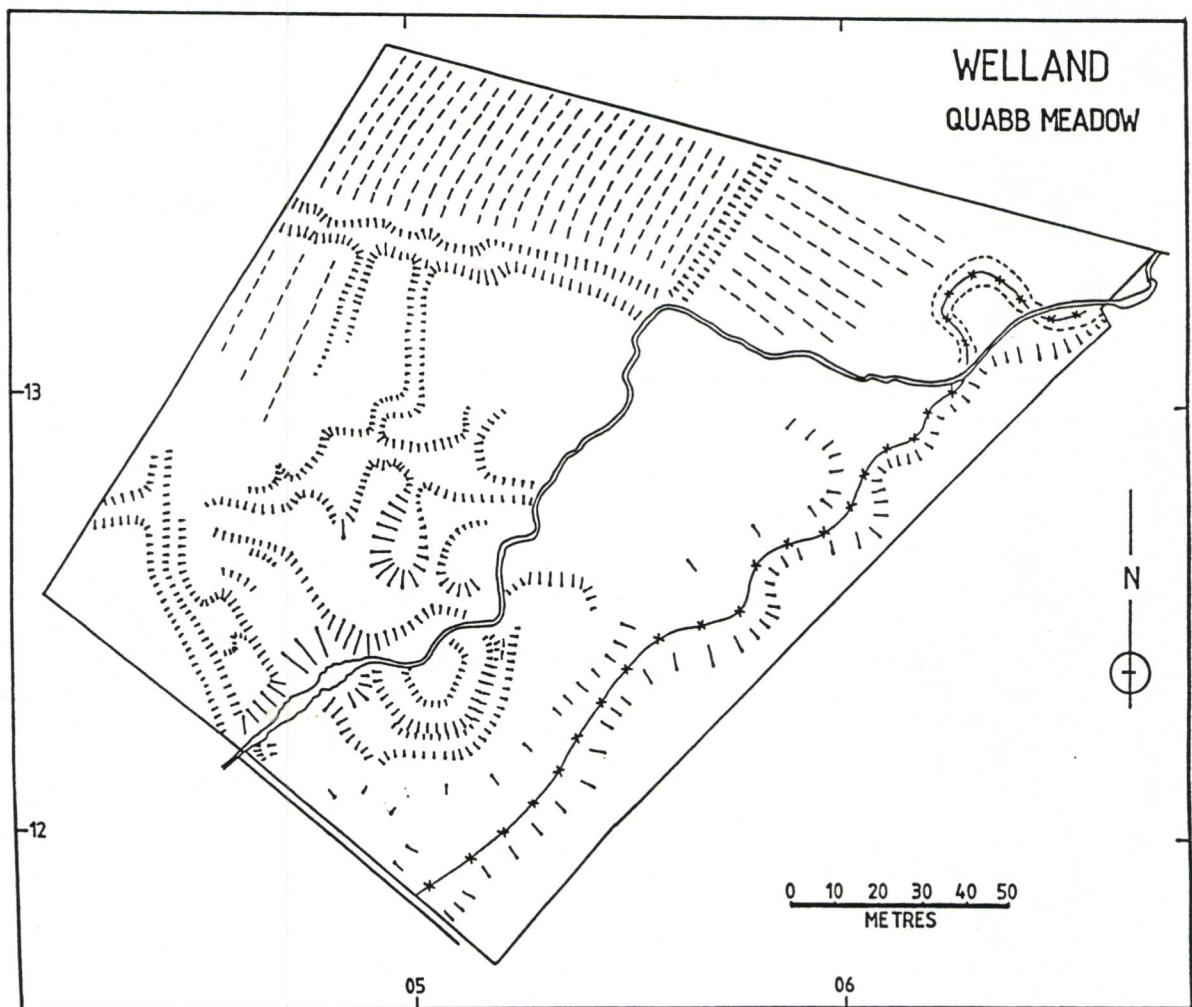


Figure 3 Welland: Quabb Meadow

A more interesting feature is situated just south of, and partly destroyed by, the present-day course of the stream. This is a platform c 10m across, surrounded concentrically by a ditch 4m wide, a bank 1-2m wide, and finally by another ditch 3m wide. It would appear to be a small moated site with ditches on the south and west side only.

A curving hollow-way near the western corner of the field, running north-westerly then northerly, follows the boundary of the old Welland Common clearly shown on the 1842 Tithe Map. The common land was



enclosed by an act of parliament in 1851. No buildings of the settlement are shown on the Tithe Map so it was presumably deserted long before 1842. The Tithe Map does however give the field a name - Quabb Meadow, believed to mean it was (as it still is) a damp or marshy meadow.

Tithe Map, Welland 1842: WRO X760/613

R M Embleton, South Worcestershire Archaeological Group

#### **WELLAND, medieval pottery (SO 806415; HWCM 7346)**

In the course of field survey during April 1986 in the vicinity of Tyre Hill near Hanley Swan by the South Worcestershire Archaeology Group, a pottery spread was located, just to the north of a deserted medieval settlement at Quabb Meadow (HWCM 7349). The assemblage consisted mainly of medieval pottery of local Malvern area manufacture, but there was also some slip-decorated floor tile and glazed roofing tile. The principal pottery forms represented were cooking pots and jugs. Some of the former were oxidized, with traces of internal glaze, dated by Vince (1977, 265) to the late 14th to 15th centuries, while several strap handles from jugs exhibited a distinctively high fired purplish finish reminiscent of Midlands Purple ware of late medieval date. There were also fish dish sherds dated by Morris (1980, 245) at Sidbury, Worcester to the 15th to 16th centuries. The range of pottery forms represented and their associated characteristics, therefore, consistently indicated a late medieval date for the group.

Morris, E, 1980 Medieval and Post Medieval pottery in Worcestershire, in M O H Carver (ed), *Medieval Worcester : an archaeological framework*, *Trans Worcestershire Archaeol Soc* 3 ser 7, 221-54

Vince, A G, 1977 Medieval ceramic industry of the Malvern region, in D P S Peacock (ed), *Pottery and early commerce - characterisation and trade in Roman and later ceramics*

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

#### **WOLVERLEY, possible bloomery site at Birds Barn (approx SO 822826)**

In the course of fieldwalking to the north-west of Birds Barn, it was noticed that there was a considerable amount of a slag that looked as if it had flowed in a partly liquid state. It is understood that this is a typical bloomery slag; this suggests that there may have been a bloomery nearby. The more usual granular is absent from this site, as it lies in an area of intensive later activity in the iron industry; bloomery cinders contained a considerable amount of iron that could be extracted by re-smelting then in a blast furnace.

There is documentary evidence of Richard Foley being interested in mills in this area. A mortgage dated 1639 (Foley 737 and 656) mentions him as tenant of Compton Mill. A deed of 16th April 1638 (Foley 909) granted him perpetual licence to impound Berrys Brook. In 1643 he gave a pasture called Hobhills, probably by Compton Mill, to his son John who sold it ten years later (Foley - Compton Hallows Manor Rolls). He also owned the manor of Kingsford from 1633 (VCH 3, 571), including Birds Barn itself.

Richard Foley was primarily an ironmaster, and while the full scope of his activity is not yet clear, it does not seem he was at this period investing in landed property on any substantial scale. It is therefore likely that his activity at and north of Birds Barn has some connection with his industrial activities.

There is no reference to a furnace or forge here, nor is there any appreciable quantity of furnace or forge slags; further John Foley, unlike some of his other sons, was not so far as we know engaged in the iron industry. On the other hand the licence to impound water implies that a mill was being built or enlarged in about 1638. The most likely explanation seems to be that Richard Foley had bought up a bloomery to close it. This accords with what has been deduced as to his general policy in developing the iron industry around this period.

Foley      Foley collection, Hereford County Record Office, quoted by kind permission of Mr A T Foley of Stoke Edith, Hereford

VCH      *Victoria History of the County of Worcester*

P W King and L E King

**WORCESTER, 15-17 Fish Street (SO 84985468; HWCM 7040)**

Trial excavations were carried out at the request of Worcester City Planning Department to assess the archaeological requirement of the site with respect to future development. The site, previously occupied by the tenements nos 15 and 17, Fish Street, but presently in use as a surface car park, lies within the historic core of the city, between the churches of St Helen (founded by AD 690) and St Alban (founded AD 721) and just within the northern bound of the Roman defensive circuit. The aim of the assessment was to determine the survival and depth of archaeological deposits.

Beneath the construction horizons for the latest buildings, a relatively undisturbed archaeological sequence was found to extend to at least 2.5m below the present surface. At this depth the deposits were highly water retentive and contained organic remains, indicating that ideal conditions exist for the survival of environmental evidence and organic artefacts. Of particular note was a substantial sandstone structure, probably a wall, approximately 2.5m below the present ground surface.

Dating evidence from the archaeological deposits was rare (two sherds of 14th-century Malvern Chase-type ware); however, residual Roman material was conspicuous by its absence, and this implies that all the deposits observed beneath the construction horizon were of medieval or post- medieval date.

C Mundy and T Clarke, Archaeology Section, Hereford and Worcester County Council

## Shropshire

### **BENTHALL, Benthall Mill (SJ 672032)**

A 'rescue' survey of the Benthall Mill standing structures was carried out early in 1987, following the collapse of part of the mill building. Measured drawings and a detailed photographic record were completed. The mill building consists of an L-shaped structure with a stone-built core which has been raised in brick. The mill was famous in the 19th century for being powered by reputedly the largest waterwheel in Britain (60 feet in diameter); as such it is well documented for this period. The wheel was dismantled in the 1930s and no trace of it remains. The survey recorded features associated with this phase of the mill's use, including the unusual measure of taking the power take-off from the wheel through a right-angle and into the side of the mill building. Evidence was also found to suggest the existence of an earlier phase of use, with an original, single-bay, stone building operated by a more conventional wheel of about 18 feet diameter adjacent to the gable end of the building (Trueman 1987).

Trueman, M 1987 Benthall Corn Mill, in C Clark and J Alfrey *Benthall and Broseley Wood*, Nuffield Survey third interim report, Ironbridge Institute Research Paper no 15

M R G Trueman, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

### **BROSELEY, Willey Round House (SJ 674007)**

This structure was surveyed in September 1987 by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit in advance of projected renovation. Two main phases of construction were detected: first, an octagonal brick building with a crenellated parapet and 'Gothick' windows and door, of probable 18th-century date; second, a 19th-century rectangular brick extension to the west. Located at the junction of four routeways, the building is known to have been used as a toll house in the mid-19th century. However, its original role may have been as a lodge for Willey Park, or as a payhouse to the nearby Willey ironworks (Winkworth *et al* 1987).

Winkworth, A, Edwards, H, Trantor, V, & Trueman, M R G, 1987 *Willey Round House: a building survey*, Ironbridge Archaeological Series no 10, Ironbridge Gorge Museum

M R G Trueman, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

### **CAUGHLEY, Caughley China Works (SJ 692002)**

In mid-July 1987 a small-scale resistivity survey was carried out on the site of Turners Yard Colliery, now a field under pasture. This site was associated with the 18th-century Caughley China Works. Maps of 1780 and 1795 in the Forester Collection suggest that the works (dating from before 1754) and the colliery were an integrated complex (SRO). The location of tramways and a horse gin could be seen as crop-marks on the site during the summer. The survey located the remains of two buildings shown on the maps. The clarity of the positive resistance anomalies suggests that there are substantial remains below the ground.

SRO - 1224/1/47. A survey of Caughley Estate in the parish of Barrow and the County of Salop, by Thomas Bryan, 1780; Plan of the township of Caughley, County of Salop, the Property of Ralph Browne Wyld Esq, by Joseph Powell Senior, 1795

M A MacLeod, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

**COALBROOKDALE, Upper Works (SJ 668049)**

Following the collapse of part of a structure attached to the Upper Furnace Pool Dam, in Coalbrookdale, in April 1987, emergency shoring was required to stabilize the structure. Two foundation trenches were excavated. The first trench revealed a 1m deep layer of stone chippings deposited by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum during construction work relating to the cover building for the Old (Upper) Furnace in 1982. The other trench uncovered remains of a red brick floor within a thick deposit of black casting sand. This clearly related to the complex of casting shops and sheds known to have been on the site until the 20th century. Below this was a brick drain which ran away from the dam, and carried a steady trickle of water. Drainage problems prevented further excavation.

A Jones, M A MacLeod & M R G Trueman, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

**COALPORT, Coalport China Works (SJ 695024)**

During the early months of 1987, a watching brief was maintained over uncovering of part of an early bottle-kiln base at the Coalport China Museum. Subsequently, excavation continued under archaeological conditions until June 1987, uncovering the whole structure. The brickwork of the bottle stood to a height of 1.5m and had been extensively patched. The earliest bricks were soft, handmade, and of coarse red fabric. Much of the oven structure had been demolished leaving fragments of the bottle wall standing between eight ash pits. The bottle had been reused for burning rubber offcuts in the early 20th century. The kiln was smaller than kilns known to have been used for the production of porcelain on the Coalport site, and is comparable in size to pottery kilns in Jackfield and Gladstone (Stoke-on-Trent). It is possible that this is a reused pottery kiln dating to the late 18th-century occupation of the site, or a very early porcelain kiln (MacLeod and Thompson, forthcoming).

MacLeod, M A, & Thompson, H, forthcoming *Excavations at Coalport, an interim report*, Ironbridge Archaeological Series, no 11

M A Macleod, H Thompson, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

**IRONBRIDGE, 33 Hodgebower (SJ 674037)**

This property is part of a terrace of four one-and-a-half-storey cottages on the upper slopes of Ironbridge. Externally of late-18th/19th century brick, the core of number 33 (and possibly 32) was revealed by renovation work to be timber-framed. An original box-frame construction of one storey with a queen-post roof and wattle and daub panelling, had been raised up, in timber, by a half storey. In the brick phase, the south-facing front wall of the cottage appears to have been entirely replaced with a brick frontage in keeping with the rest of the (new) terrace. Chamfered joists with 'cyma' stops, running from the ground floor ceiling beam, have been cut back, and rest on a long timber running parallel to, and 0.15m behind, the brick wall. The original cottage probably dated to the 17th century and may have formed a pair of cottages with number 32. Cladding with brick and extension into a terrace of 5 (later 4) houses in the late 18th or 19th century compares with similar developments in other parts of the Ironbridge Gorge and corresponds with the general increase of population at this time, resulting from industrial growth in the area (Trueman and Ryan 1987).

Trueman, M R G, & Ryan, J, 1987 *33 Hodgebower, Ironbridge*, Ironbridge Archaeological Series no 4, Ironbridge Gorge Museum

M R G Trueman, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

**IRONBRIDGE, 28 Waterloo Street (SJ 680033)**

This two-storey, two-bay, brick and stone building was demolished in April 1987. A measured survey was carried out as this work proceeded. The building, in its final form, is present on maps from the Tithe (1849) onwards. Although mainly of late 18th to 19th-century machine-made brick, a stone core to the building may be of 17th-century date. This early phase incorporated a stone-lined cell with a brick vaulted roof, set into an earthen bank behind a long stone retaining wall. Squeezed between two roads very close to the River Severn, the brick development of this structure may be a product of the squatter settlement that was one manifestation of population growth in the Gorge during the 18th and 19th centuries (Trueman 1987).

Trueman, M R G, 1987 *28 Waterloo Street, Ironbridge* Ironbridge Archaeological Series no 7, Ironbridge Gorge Museum

M R G Trueman, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

**LILLESHALL, structural survey of Lilleshall Abbey (SJ 739146)**

As the first phase of a longer survey, part of the nave and quire of this isolated abbey were drawn and described with a view to providing a permanent record prior to the consolidation of the impressive remains. The work was commissioned by HBMCE and undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit's CP Roving team. A copy of the archive is held at BUFAU.

Iain Ferris, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

**LITTLE DAWLEY, Ivy Farm Cottage (SJ 682060)**

A measured survey of this house was carried out early in 1987, in advance of renovation work, and was supplemented by a photographic record of both the house and the surrounding buildings. The house has a timber box-frame core of one and a half storeys, with a number of extensions in timber and brick. The roof is gabled, with a queen-post superstructure and a covering of clay plain tiles. The main chimney stack rises through the centre of the building. There were at least eight phases of construction, three of them in timber. The original box-frame had wattle and daub panelling and was extended to the south and to the west.

The main outbuilding, to the south-east, is a two-storey, two-bay brick building. The north bay is two storeys high with a steeply pitched gabled roof incorporating a queen-post truss in the south gable. The upper floor of this bay is supported by two chamfered beams, and studs resting on these timbers support the roof truss.

The cottage is one of a dwindling number of timber-framed buildings in Little Dawley that preceded the growth of the squatter settlements around the town in the 18th and 19th centuries. The later additions to the house may have been to accommodate a growing family within the increasing restrictions of a new industrial area (Ryan and Trueman 1987).

Ryan, J, & Trueman, M R G, 1987 *Ivy Farm, Little Dawley*, Ironbridge Archaeological Series no 5, Ironbridge Gorge Museum

J Ryan and M R G Trueman, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

**LONGNOR, Moat House (SJ 494003)**

In October 1987 a series of trial trenches were excavated around this late 14th- and early 15th-century timber-framed hall house, in advance of renovation work. The excavation demonstrated the survival of medieval archaeological deposits including traces of the outline of earlier plan forms of the building (Hislop and Horton 1987).

Hislop, M, & Horton, M, 1987 *The Moat House, Longnor: an archaeological evaluation*, Ironbridge Institute Research Paper no 25

M Hislop and M Horton, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

**RUCKLEY AND LANGLEY, structural survey of Langley Gatehouse (SJ 540003)**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit was commissioned by HBMCE and the Landmark Trust to carry out a structural survey of Langley Gatehouse, the only survival of the Langley Hall complex. The work was carried out by BUFAU's CP Roving team.

Little is known about the Hall, which was demolished in the 19th century, but the gatehouse has been shown by survey to be a multi-period structure. To a rough, sandstone enclosure wall, perhaps of the late 13th or early 14th century, was added a timber-framed lodge in or after the mid-15th century; this was subsequently enlarged to provide further accommodation. Soon after 1620 the gatehouse was upgraded and a fine stone facade erected to replace the timbering at the front. The gatehouse was lived in through the 18th century, survived the demolition of the Hall, and this century was turned over to its present use as a farm store.

A copy of the drawn and written records is held in archive at BUFAU.

Iain Ferris, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

**SHREWSBURY, structural survey of Shrewsbury Abbey church transepts (SJ 49851250)**

A measured survey of the remains of the Norman transepts of Shrewsbury Abbey Church, commissioned by HBMCE in advance of consolidation, indicated that the majority of the surviving masonry was late 11th-century, including two *armarii* (book cupboards) in the surviving south transept wall. Later work consisted of an early 14th-century traceried window inserted into the splay of an original window in the surviving north transept wall.

Cameron Moffett, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

**THE SHREWSBURY HERITAGE PROJECT**

The programme of excavation and watching briefs on the site of Shrewsbury Abbey, and in the town centre, initiated by Shropshire County Council in 1985, has been completed, and the project is now engaged on the post- excavation programme.

**Excavations at Shrewsbury Abbey****1 The Queen Anne House site**

The excavation of this site, directed by Malcolm Cooper and supervised by John Darlington, was completed in May 1987. The sequence of early precinct boundaries reported last year (Baker *et al* 1986, 20-1) has been refined, though dating is still provisional.

The earliest boundary within the precinct area was represented by two double post-settings cut into the gravel slope on the edge of the low-lying area containing water-lain silts. This early structure was replaced by the first stone precinct wall, built with green sandstone rubble from an unidentified source, and buttressed on the outside to absorb the thrust of the raised ground level within the interior. This wall went out of use, was demolished to its footings, and replaced by a second precinct wall, of red sandstone rubble, that encroached slightly into the wet area to the south. A long series of floors and burnt layers within this wall may represent a sequence of lean-to buildings, mainly outside the excavated area, within the outer court. As already described (Baker *et al* 1986, 21), the red sandstone precinct wall became unstable and was eventually demolished to make way for a new square, masonry building that is interpreted as a kitchen. The first stone wall is likely to have been built in the late 13th or early 14th centuries, the second wall later in the 14th century. The early timber structure is, as yet, undated. There is some evidence, from 19th-century observations; from further examination of the surviving 'Old Infirmary' buildings, and from the Abbey Mill excavation (see below); that this sequence of boundaries may be applicable to the Abbey precincts as a whole.

## 2 The Abbey Mill site

Excavation on this site began in July 1987, under the direction of Malcolm Cooper and the supervision of Hugh Hannaford, and was completed in January 1988. The excavation, in advance of the proposed English Bridge Gyrotory System road scheme, was designed to test the hypothesis that the post-medieval Abbey Mill at the south-west corner of the precinct (for location, see Baker *et al* 1986, 20, fig 3) represented the continuing use of the site of the documented monastic, and possibly pre-monastic, water-mills. This has proved not to be the case, and the excavation has, instead, provided evidence for a drastic re-appraisal of the landscape surrounding the precincts. A provisional interpretation of the excavated sequence is as follows:

1 Natural gravel-capped marl lay at a depth of c 4m below the modern ground level. Over the whole of the excavated area, the gravel was sealed by thick deposits of grey, clayey, riverine silts, accumulating in what is now interpreted as a former arm of the River Severn, at the confluence with the Rea Brook, flowing immediately to the west of the Abbey precinct. The length of time over which the silting took place is not yet known, though the process was complete by the late 17th or early 18th centuries. The location of the monastic mill is still, therefore, uncertain, though there are some indications that it lay immediately to the south of the Queen Anne House site.

2 In the late 17th or early 18th centuries (provisional dating) a new milling complex was established within the excavated area. The ground level was raised by dumping over the silts and the formerly broad channel confined to the course mapped by cartographers in the 18th century and later as the northern arm of the Rea Brook. A head-race was built, with a clay bank capped with reused building rubble, and an overflow to take excess water into the stream channel beyond the excavated area. The two mill buildings, known from a series of 18th-century illustrations, were represented in the excavated sequence by fragmentary foundations of reused sandstone masonry.

3 In c 1800, the final Abbey Mill building was constructed, initially reusing the earlier channels. The new brick building, as excavated, survived to a height of over 3m. It formerly contained two wheels, an under-shot wheel of Poncelet type in an end-bay, and an iron breast-shot wheel in the interior, the latter surviving *in situ*. In c 1860, following the construction of the railway viaduct across the site, the infilling of ponds to the south, and the final infilling of the stream-channel, a new head-race was constructed, with new tail-races, an overflow weir and sluice, running underground in brick culverts. The Abbey Mill was finally converted to use as a sawmill and was destroyed by fire in 1906.

Following the granting of Scheduled Monument Consent, the excavated area was extended to examine the area between the east end of the 19th-century mill and the south wall of the 'Old Infirmary'. Removal of 19th-century and later deposits in this area exposed a length of post-medieval sandstone rubble wall, first seen in trial work in 1985, butt-jointed to the corner buttress of the 'Old Infirmary'. Further excavation revealed the top of a second, thicker, red sandstone rubble wall a short distance to the east, running south-east and bearing a strong resemblance to the later precinct wall excavated on the adjoining site. It, too, was butt-jointed to the south wall of the 'Old Infirmary', which was originally constructed as a free-standing building in the mid-to-late 13th century.

### Shrewsbury Town Centre: Pride Hill and Raven Meadows

Work in the town centre in 1987 has concentrated on an extended watching brief monitoring construction work for John Laing Development's Charles Darwin Centre. The site covers a large area of the fringe of the medieval town, a short distance to the north of the Bennett's Hall site, reported last year (Baker *et al* 1986, 19).

Much of the Laing's redevelopment lies within the area known as Raven Meadows, a low-lying, badly drained area at the foot of the slope running under and to the rear of the buildings fronting Pride Hill and Castle Street. The 13th-century town wall formerly ran along this slope, as a terrace wall in the area under study, but climbing to the crest further to the north-east.

No pre-19th-century deposits, structures or finds were recorded in Raven Meadows, which was not built-up to any great extent before the 19th century. The development impinged on the hillside and up to the street frontage at one point: the Top Shop site, formerly 20-22 Pride Hill, and the adjoining alleyway known as Seventy Steps. Here, demolition of the standing building dating from the 1930s revealed two early stone-built cellars within the property that had been no 22. The first of these cellars to be found was constructed with reused medieval masonry, and was terraced into the hillside c 11m from the street frontage; only three sides had survived redevelopment in the 1930s. It was bounded on one side by Seventy Steps. A pre-First World War illustration shows this building under a square-panel timber-framed superstructure of 17th-century character. The second stone-built cellar lay on the Pride Hill frontage. This cellar was found to pass under Seventy Steps, at which point it was blocked off and filled in, and under the 17th-century timber-framed building on the adjoining property, no 23 (Dunn & Co). The rendering on the inside face of the back wall of the cellar where it passed through the party wall and under the timber-frame showed that there had been an earlier partition on the same line.

These observations are interpreted as follows: the frontage cellar exposed by redevelopment was the southern half of a larger pre-17th-century cellar, measuring c 16m by 5m, long side onto the street. In the 17th century, the wide tenement occupied by this building (probably a timber-framed terrace building) was subdivided longitudinally on an old internal partition line, and laterally, and the frontage rebuilt over the old cellar with provision for a new alleyway giving access to new buildings to the rear. This sequence parallels that known on the Bennett's Hall site, where the 13th-century hall was partially demolished, and its interior colonized by cottages with a square-panel timber framing of 16th- to 17th-century type, lining an alleyway known later as Leopard Shut.

A short distance to the south of no 22 Pride Hill, a cellar survey located a large medieval undercroft, measuring c 8.5m by more than 17m, terraced into the hillside c 13m behind, and parallel to, the street frontage. The upper part of the wall facing the street frontage contained blocked features, including the upper part of a door arch of probable 13th- to 14th-century date, and the structure as a whole shows clear evidence of two phases of construction. It bears a close resemblance to the Pride Hill Chambers undercroft, investigated by Martin Carver and his colleagues in 1972-74 (Carver 1983), on the property immediately to the south. Both buildings occupied wide tenements stretching from the street frontage, down the slope and across the course of the town wall, and into Raven Meadows (and the redevelopment area), where their boundary walls were mapped by the Ordnance Survey in the 19th century. The newly located building was subdivided between four separate properties in the post-medieval period.

Baker, N J, Darlington, J, Cooper, M A, & Moffett, M C, 1986 The Shrewsbury Heritage Project, *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 19-24

Carver, M O H, (ed), 1983 Two Town Houses in Medieval Shrewsbury, *Trans Shropshire Archaeol Soc* 61

The Shrewsbury Heritage Project is sponsored and assisted by: British Rail, The Community Programme, Erect-A-Scaffold, Hardanger Properties plc, HBMCE, John Laing Developments Ltd, Lichfield Diocese, Lloyds Bank plc, Severn-Trent Water Authority, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, and the Walton Survey Partnership.

Nigel Baker, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit



**TELFORD, Granville Country Park (SJ 711117)**

Following consultations with Wrekin District Council during the early months of 1987, Ironbridge Gorge Museum archaeologists were asked to prepare a report on the archaeological features of the area of Donnington designated for the creation of the Granville Country Park (Horton & Biddle 1987). These included 19th-century blast furnaces, part of the Donnington Wood Canal branch, the remains of several engine bases and houses, mines, and a complex system of tramways and railways. During coal reclamation on the site, the rope roll of a horse gin was discovered by contractors, and was moved to the Museum (Isaac 1987). A survey of the site of the Lilleshall Company's Lodge Furnaces was carried out, and the condition of the other features of the site noted. As a result of the work for the report, proposals were made for the retention of the archaeological features as a part of the Country Park. A watching brief is to be carried out during the development of the Park.

Horton, M, & Biddle, S, 1987 *Granville Country Park: An Evolving Industrial Landscape in Lilleshall, Shropshire*, Ironbridge Institute Research Papers, no 24

Isaac, S, 1987 *Granville Colliery Horse Gin*, Ironbridge Archaeological Series no 2, Ironbridge Gorge Museum

Mark Horton and M A MacLeod, Ironbridge Gorge Museum

**TELFORD, Newdale (SJ 673097)**

Rescue excavations of a mid-18th-century ironworking site at Newdale in Telford, funded by British Coal and English Heritage, were completed on 21st November 1987. The Ironbridge Gorge Museum undertook a large area excavation (over 11 acres) and a complete building recording programme on this important site (Cable *et al* 1987). Remains of reverberatory furnaces, a 3m square casting pit and other features were found in association with two purpose-built industrial buildings. Other buildings in this planned development by the Coalbrookdale Company included a row of back-to-back workers' housing, a school and an open-sided building that may have been a chafery. The site has now been destroyed, although funds were provided by British Coal to re-erect one of the buildings at Blists Hill Museum. Full publication of this large, complex and important site is planned for mid- 1988.

Cable, C, Horton, M, Morriss, R K, 1987 *Newdale, Shropshire, a preliminary report*, Ironbridge Archaeological Series no 12, Ironbridge Gorge Museum

Charles Cable and Richard K Morriss, Ironbridge Gorge Museum

**TELFORD, Madeley Court (SJ 695051; SA 1067)**

The manor house at Madeley Court, one half mile north of Madeley Village, is a derelict L-shaped building of Elizabethan appearance. At the core of the building is a 13th-century hall, extended in the 14th and/or the 15th centuries. The manor had been owned by Much Wenlock Priory and the house was probably used as a grange. It was bought at the Dissolution by a successful civil servant and courtier, whose descendants, entrepreneurs in the developing iron industry in Coalbrookdale, adapted and substantially extended the existing buildings between the late 16th and late 17th centuries.

Excavations undertaken by R Meeson for the Telford Development Corporation in 1978-79 concentrated on the courtyard area and exposed the foundation of a demolished Elizabethan wing, demonstrating that the Renaissance building had been C- rather than L-shaped. The foundations of two medieval structures were also revealed. The earliest was roughly contemporary with the 13th-century hall, and may have been its kitchen block, while the other, detached, structure was late medieval and is interpreted as a chapel. Mr Meeson also surveyed the major part of the standing building.

During 1987, a second phase of archaeological investigation, funded by English Heritage, has been in progress at Madeley Court, as a response to the conversion of the building into a luxury hotel. Excavation was undertaken at the west end of the building prior to the construction of a new kitchen wing, and the remains of a series of structures built within the first half of the 17th century were encountered.

Chronologically, these are: 1) an auxiliary building, with no access to the main house, and doors facing into the house's large brick-walled garden. This structure had a cobbled floor and was divided internally into two parts, the smaller of which was provided with a narrow door and fireplace, whilst the larger space was served by a wide door, presumably for carts. The structure is associated with the construction of the contemporary walled garden. This was followed by the construction of 2), a platform, which survived as a truncated mass foundation, and for which there is evidence of balustrading; this was probably for the viewing of further gardens beyond the brick-walled enclosure, and 3), a mid-17th-century brick-vaulted cellar. A garderobe constructed alongside the cellar at the same date contained part of a slipware plate made by Thomas Toft in Stoke-on-Trent in the late 17th century. Deeply stratified below these structures were late medieval garden deposits, sealing a stone-lined medieval drain.

A watching brief is in progress as renovations and repairs to the standing building are carried out. The initial results of this work indicate that one wall of the standing Elizabethan wing was formerly part of a free-standing medieval building, possibly late Norman in date, retained in the late 16th-century remodelling of the manor house.

The records and finds are currently at the offices of the Shrewsbury Heritage Project. Post-excavation is in progress, and the final publication will include the results of the 1978-79 excavations and structural survey, and the 1987 excavations and photogrammetric survey.

Cameron Moffett, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

#### **WORDSLEY, Red House glass works (SO 894865)**

A survey of part of the west range of this late 18th-century glass factory was carried out in September 1987, in advance of building alterations. The most impressive feature of this site is the well preserved glass cone associated with the factory buildings. The west range was probably used for storage, packing, offices and showrooms, although no trace of these activities survives in the surveyed area (Vernon-Smith *et al* 1987).

Vernon-Smith, M, Morriss, R K, & Trueman, M R G, 1987 *The Red House glass works*, Ironbridge Institute Research Paper no 22

## Staffordshire

### BEECHENHILL (SK 128522; PRN 3208, 3209, 3210)

Further survey work in the Manifold Valley has concentrated on land south of Beechenhill Farm, where air photographs taken by D N Riley show a complex of earthworks of several periods.

To the south-east and south-west of the survey area, where slight valleys hold soil deep enough to encourage arable farming, there are traces of ridge and furrow and strip lynchets. By contrast the main earthworks lie on land where the limestone lies close to the surface. They include two enclosures, of which the northern post-dates the southern. The latter contained a possible hut circle. There is a D-shaped feature on the western side of the northern enclosure, and a similar feature can be located on air photographs lying nearer to the farm buildings. Proximity to these has led to considerable erosion of features at the northern end of the complex so that several visible from the air are impossible to locate on the ground. To the south and west of the main enclosures are small banks and lynchets which appear to be the remains of 'celtic' fields, and it seems likely that a number of other features as yet unsurveyed relate to prehistoric rather than medieval land use.

Excavation prior to the laying of a farm track across part of the northern enclosure has revealed the footing of a stone wall lying on a bank of small stones and earth. The latter context contained fragments of bone, burnt limestone and pottery, suggesting that its material derived from an occupation layer. The smoothly rounded stones of the footing contrast sharply with the angular stones used in the overlying field walls and may have been the result of some of the surface stripping of weathered stone which had occurred at various places on the site. The large quantity of stone tumble suggested that a substantial structure once existed and that no robbing had taken place after abandonment.

The pottery found in the bank underlying the stone feature has been provisionally dated to c 600 BC, suggesting late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity in the vicinity.

Faith Cleverdon

### BASWICH, St Thomas' Priory (SK 065165; PRN 00124)

During the summer of 1987 a full survey was made of medieval and post-medieval features on the site of this 12th-century priory.

The Augustinian Priory of St Thomas the Martyr was founded on the banks of the river Sow c 1174 by Gerard Fitz Brian, a burgess of Stafford, and became well endowed with lands in the locality. Though latterly a small community, it survived until dissolution in October 1538, passing initially to the Bishop of Coventry, Rowland Lee. The site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The two stone ranges surveyed first lie to the south-west of the site of the priory church. They are situated parallel to each other, forming a small quadrangle closed at the western side by a similarly derelict modern building. Both have a sandstone ground floor structure and later brick first floor, with steeply pitched tiled roofs. Stylistically, particularly from the window mullions, these buildings seem to be of 16th- or 17th-century date. Their function is unclear, though the lack of chimneys and visible internal partitions suggest an agricultural function, despite their impressive construction of coursed ashlar blocks. The upper storeys are typical 18th to 19th-century brick structures for agricultural use, complete with circular pitching holes. The ground floor elevations also have roughly circular windows flanking the doorways.

The west wall of the south range seems to be of medieval date and includes the remains of an ornate window head at its centre. This wall may have been part of a structure associated with the priory mill on the adjacent River Sow, recorded in various documents. A mill stood on this site until the 1920s, when it was demolished, though the course of the mill leat and the waterwheel support blocks, plus a broken millstone,

remain visible, as do parts of two arches of the medieval priory bridge over the mill leat, now incorporated into the modern road bridge. Turf stripping across the quadrangle revealed a modern brick and sandstone surface to the yard.

In addition to 1:20 plans and elevations of the quadrangle buildings, the visible remains of the priory buildings were recorded. Those now visible above ground consist of the 40m long south wall of the south cloister range, which appears to survive for its full length and up to the base of the first floor, preserving the sill of at least one window, and a small, ornate carving of the Virgin and Child, now built into the roughly consolidated top of the wall and not in its original position. A handful of other moulded stones scattered around the farmhouse gardens were also recorded. At ground level the cloister wall preserves a small plain lancet window, an archway, and several buttresses, plus the base of a possible garderobe on the south side, close to the river. In the gardens between this wall and the river was found a bodysherd of 'South Staffs' ware (dating to the 13th or 14th century) as a surface find.

The centre of the site is occupied by the Priory Farm farmhouse which incorporates a 16th to 17th century and later fabric, and possibly parts of the priory itself; north-east of the farmhouse lies a 12m length of a 13th-century wall (fig 4) with a respond pier and possibly an aumbry, identified as the north wall of the north transept of the priory church.

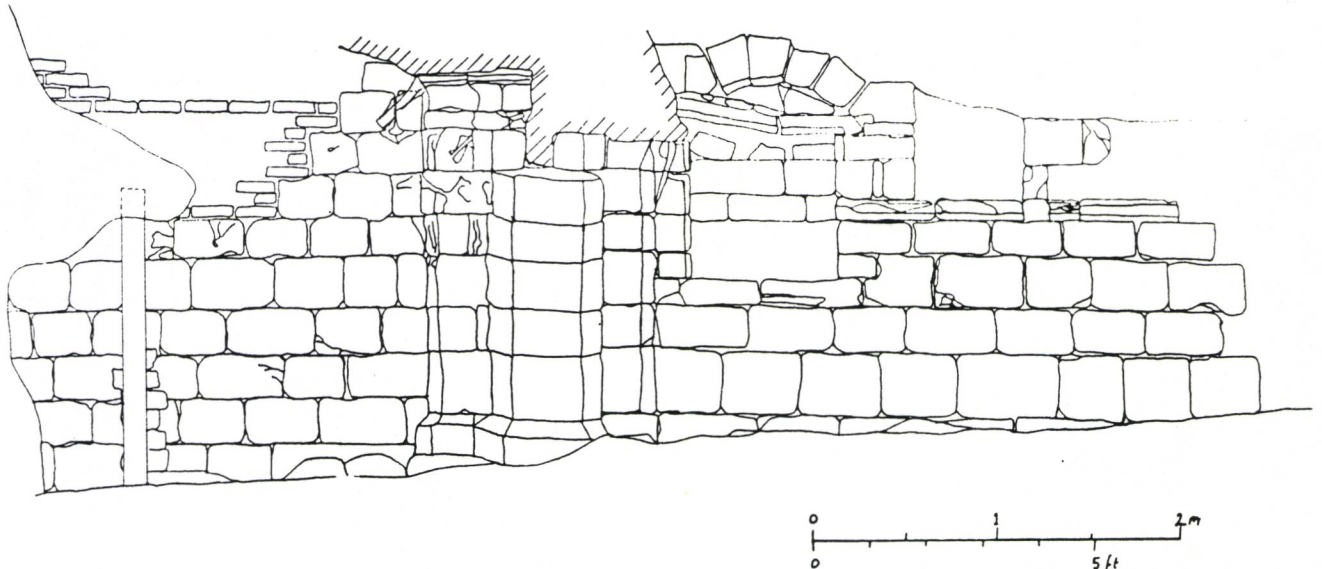


Figure 4 Baswich, St Thomas' priory: elevation of north transept wall

This and the cloister wall were originally recorded by Charles Lynam in the 1870s. In the 1960s, installation of a septic tank just east of the church site revealed several medieval burials, one in a stone-lined grave.

The base of a large pit, originally dug by children in the floor of an open fronted shelter on the west side of the site, revealed at the base the corner of a substantial sandstone building interpreted as part of the priory gatehouse, and sealed by 18th-century demolition deposits dated by pottery and clay pipe. This lay close to the present, and presumed original, entrance to the priory precinct.

Thanks are due to the site owners, Philip Collier and Norman Martin, for access and assistance.

Greenslade, M W (ed), 1970 The Priory of St Thomas near Stafford, *Victoria History of the County of Stafford*, 3, 260-7

Lynam, C, 1879 Two plates, of transept wall and cloister wall, St Thomas', *Trans North Staffordshire Field Club*

Andrew Simpson, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

**CURBOROUGH AND ELMHURST, New Farm Barn (SK 10431267; PRN 02108)**

Until final clearance in autumn 1987, this Victorian earth-fast post timber-framed barn stood in the corner of a field some 5km north-west of Lichfield. Excavation in the spring of 1987 was undertaken since this was an important site which could help with the interpretation of the remains of other excavated timber-framed buildings, through study of the structural techniques of the barn such as the postholes and post-settings.

The barn was a 2-phase mid-19th century building, L-shaped with a yard at the rear. The roof was of king-post construction with side purlins and framed walls, its principal (oak) posts standing in postholes. The building was partly collapsed after standing derelict for some 20 years. Preliminary survey and excavation had been carried out by R A Meeson in 1982 which indicated the importance of the constructional style of the building.

Excavation commenced with the removal of the barn floor, consisting of cobbles inside the south entrance and a thick bedding of wasters and kiln furniture from the nearby Armitage Shanks sanitary ware factory.

Removal of the floor make-up exposed the tops of the postholes and evidence of ridge and furrow running north-south along the long axis of the field, which has been under the plough for some 25 years. A few sherds of 'Midland Yellow' and manganese wares were found on the upper surfaces of two of the exposed sand/clay ridges.

All of the postholes were half-sectioned to expose the remains of the posts; some had survived quite well, others were little more than soil stains. Several rested on loose-laid house bricks, sometimes packed with blue clay and saggar fragments, to keep them level. One or two pits had been recut and the timber replaced, but in general the soil conditions made identification of features difficult. Levelling of the posthole bases indicated that, allowing for ground undulation, the post-pits had been dug in a remarkably uniform manner, and to similar depths.

The adjacent field was systematically walked, revealing localized scatters of 18th and 19th-century clay pipes, glass, and pottery.

Thanks are due to the landowner, Mr McGuffy, for his interest and assistance.

Andrew Simpson, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

**DRAYTON BASSETT, moated enclosure (SK 193002)**

A major rescue project on this site was prompted in late 1987, when a new housing development threatened this hunting lodge or manor house of the Bassett family. Topsoil stripping by the contractors revealed sandstone and cobbled foundations, and excavations began immediately.

The first features uncovered were a well-built mortared sandstone drain, running north-south from the edge of the moat (see below), across two-thirds of the excavated area, with a shorter branch running off it at right-angles to the east, immediately south of a large building, not yet fully excavated. The building was founded on well-constructed layered footings of roughly dressed sandstone blocks above mixed clay and cobbles, which lay over a layer of jumbled coarse sandstone blocks set within a construction trench which, allowing for natural ground slope to the south, was deeper for the south wall than for the north. A beaten earth floor formed the west part and a puddled clay surface, cut into by modern plough furrows, formed the eastern section.

Two small metalworking hearths, with wood ash and iron slag, have been noted sealed beneath the north edge of the clay floor. The south wall of the east part of the building formed a partition with a room to the south also with a puddled clay floor, provisionally interpreted as part of the main building on the site.

To the north of this building, contractors' trenches have followed the east-west line of the moat, cutting, at the south edge, deep domestic rubbish deposits of pottery and animal bone, including much deer antler

and wild boar remains, presumably originating from the nearby deer park. To date (December 1987), at least one almost complete medieval cooking pot has been reconstructed from these layers, together with a section of very high quality decorated glassware.

At the southern edge of the moat, a rectangular sandstone structure, interpreted as an abutment for a timber bridge over the moat, was uncovered. At least one stage of the rebuilding was indicated by a blocked masonry timber slot from which a large selection of green-glazed cooking pot has been retrieved and reconstructed.

Final filling of the moat in the late 18th-19th century was indicated by finds of pottery and glass in the upper ditch fill; occupation of the moated enclosure itself seems to have lasted no later the 14th century, from the pottery recovered so far.

The spoilheaps of machine-stripped topsoil have been checked by local metal detector users and the resulting finds, which include trade tokens, a bronze buckle, lead loom weight and a musket ball, together with a stratified hammered silver penny of King Stephen from a possible yard surface, are stored at the team base at Burntwood, together with all other material from the site.

Excavation is scheduled to continue into 1988; thanks are due to Lovell Homes (Midlands) Ltd (site owners), and Chasetown Civil Engineering (contractors) for revising construction schedules to permit excavation, and to Christine Smith of the Peel Society for invaluable assistance.

Andrew Simpson, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

#### **HANDSACRE, Handsacre Hall moated site (SK 090157; PRN 220)**

The excavation and survey of the site as reported in *West Midlands Archaeol* 29 (1986) has now been completed. The Hall was completely stripped of its overlying rubble, and plans and elevations were made of all surviving features, including two small brick ovens with their heat-retaining cobble bases in the east chimney base, which survived up to 2m high. Some decorated sandstone, with features such as heraldic shields, was recovered from the completely collapsed west brick and sandstone chimney, which served the west bay of the Hall and adjoining cross-wing.

An inspection pit from the 1973 survey was cleaned to reveal 17th-century pottery, glass and clay pipe in the grey clay floor make-up of the south-east corner of the central hall of the building. Moulding on the timbers suggest that the west cross-wing was added or rebuilt at a similar period (the mid-17th century) when the western part of the hall was rebuilt. Other dating evidence came from the west wing, when the

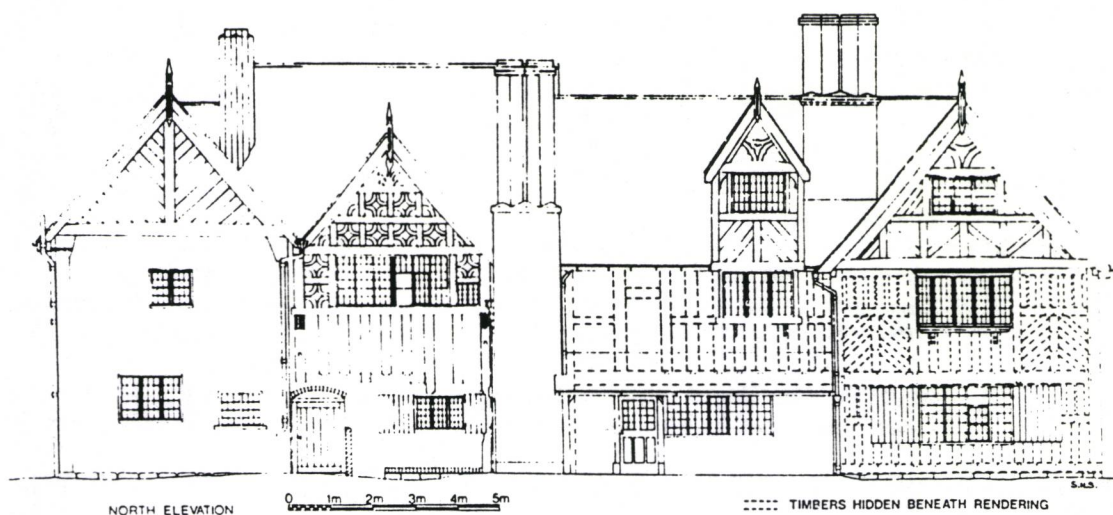


Figure 5 Handsacre Hall: elevation of north front

exposed ground surface within it was trowelled, to reveal thin occupation deposits overlying sandy natural. Items noted ranged from 19th-century domestic items to six sherds of 13th-14th-century pottery and three sherds of possible 12th-century pottery.

The Hall structure as recorded dates back to the early to mid-14th century, but the moated enclosure itself may be earlier. Also found at the north end of the west wing was a line of east-west sandstone footings which terminated at the east wall with a possible post-pad. This may indicate the front wall of an inner room in line with the Hall.

Parts of the framing of the later cross-wing have been removed to Avoncroft Museum. Computer contour maps of the site levelling have been produced, as has a 1:50 balsa model of the timber framing of the Hall. A series of retrospective elevations and cross-sections have been produced (fig 5) using data from excavation, RCHM, and Avoncroft Museum records. The archive is held at the Chase Terrace base of the team, pending copying for County and NMR records.

Andrew Simpson, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

#### **LEEK, Evaluation survey of town centre (SJ 989568)**

The excavation of three small sites and a series of trial holes in the town centre at Leek was undertaken by members of Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit and its CP Roving Team in autumn 1986, as part of an evaluation of the archaeological potential of the town, commissioned by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. A brief historical and topographical survey was also carried out and the results presented in a report produced for the sponsors. The selection of areas to be excavated was determined by plans for redevelopment in the Markets area and by the expectation of early strata survival, as suggested by the topographical and historical survey. The excavations in fact revealed a lack of any pre-19th century horizontal strata or features in any of the areas investigated. It seemed, too, that extensive post-medieval disturbance was to be expected throughout the central area of the town as a result of cellar digging (as evidenced by a limited cellar survey) and by terracing of the hill slopes.

A copy of the project archive is held at BUFAU.

Liz Hooper, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

#### **LICHFIELD, Dam Street**

During the summer and autumn of 1987, Staffordshire County Councils' Archaeological Roving Team II funded by the MSC Community Programme Agency undertook survey and excavation work at the three adjoining sites described below, all on or adjacent to the line of the ditch around the Cathedral Close in the area of its south gate.

##### **Muniment Rooms (SK 11640973; PRN 07523)**

The Muniment Rooms at the south edge of the close, overlooking Minster Pool, to the west of Dam Street, have been derelict for some years, and prior to their refurbishment a full internal survey was undertaken. This included plans and elevations at 1:20, with the walls being drawn before and after selective plaster stripping to reveal the ashlar (sandstone) structure beneath. Masons' tooling and other marks in the stone were carefully recorded (fig 6) as was 19th-century graffiti scratched into the leaded window panes. The building originated as an 18th-century stable block at the western edge of the former south gate to the Cathedral Close (see below) and in the ground floor the internal arrangement of aisle posts remains.

Part of the ground floor boarding was lifted in the hope of finding foundations of part of the close gate, but instead only a succession of vault-like brick structures and a large collection of Victorian beer bottles were found. However, the lower section of the south wall of the Muniment Rooms, bounded east and

west by later brickwork, could be medieval. The rest of the exposed fabric is of 18th- to 19th-century date and is cracking badly through subsidence, in the west wall particularly.

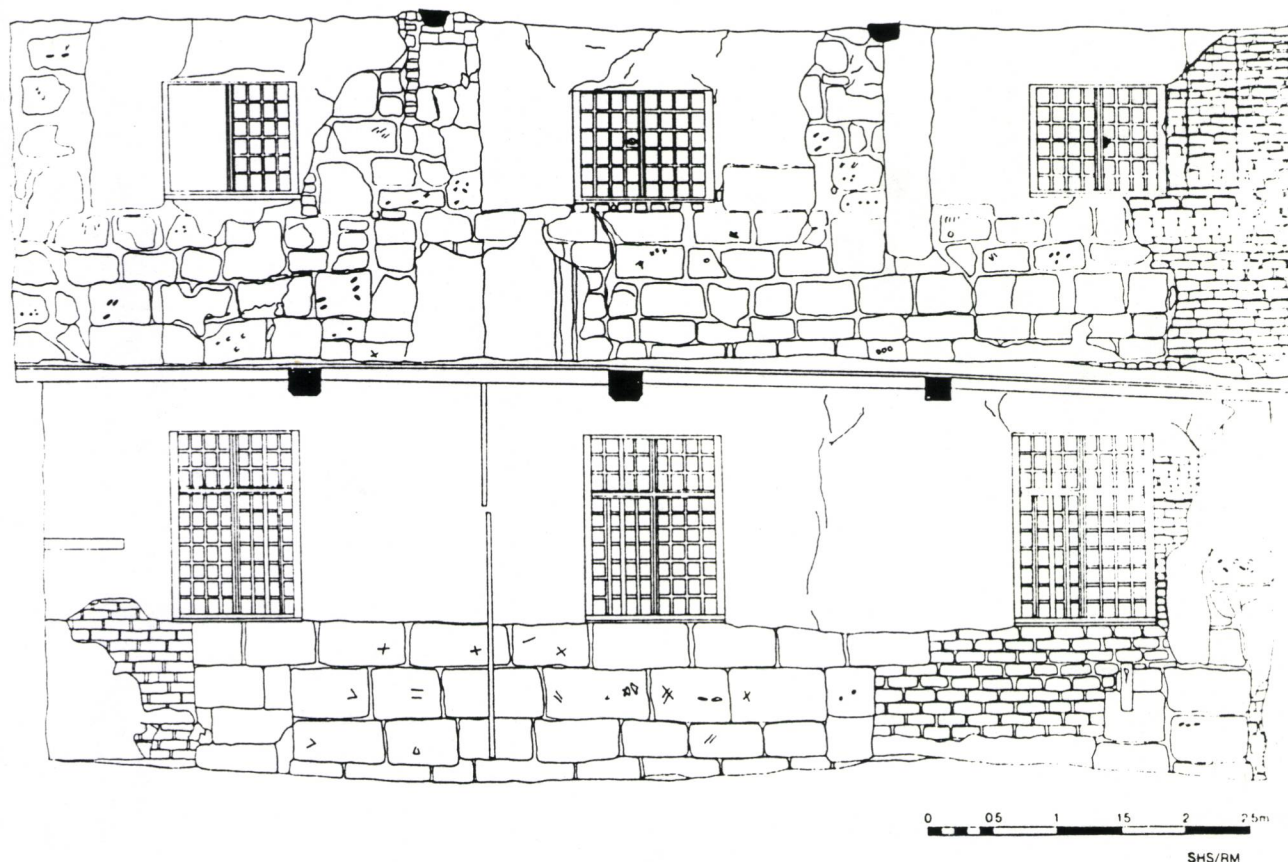


Figure 6 Lichfield, Muniment Rooms: internal elevation of south wall

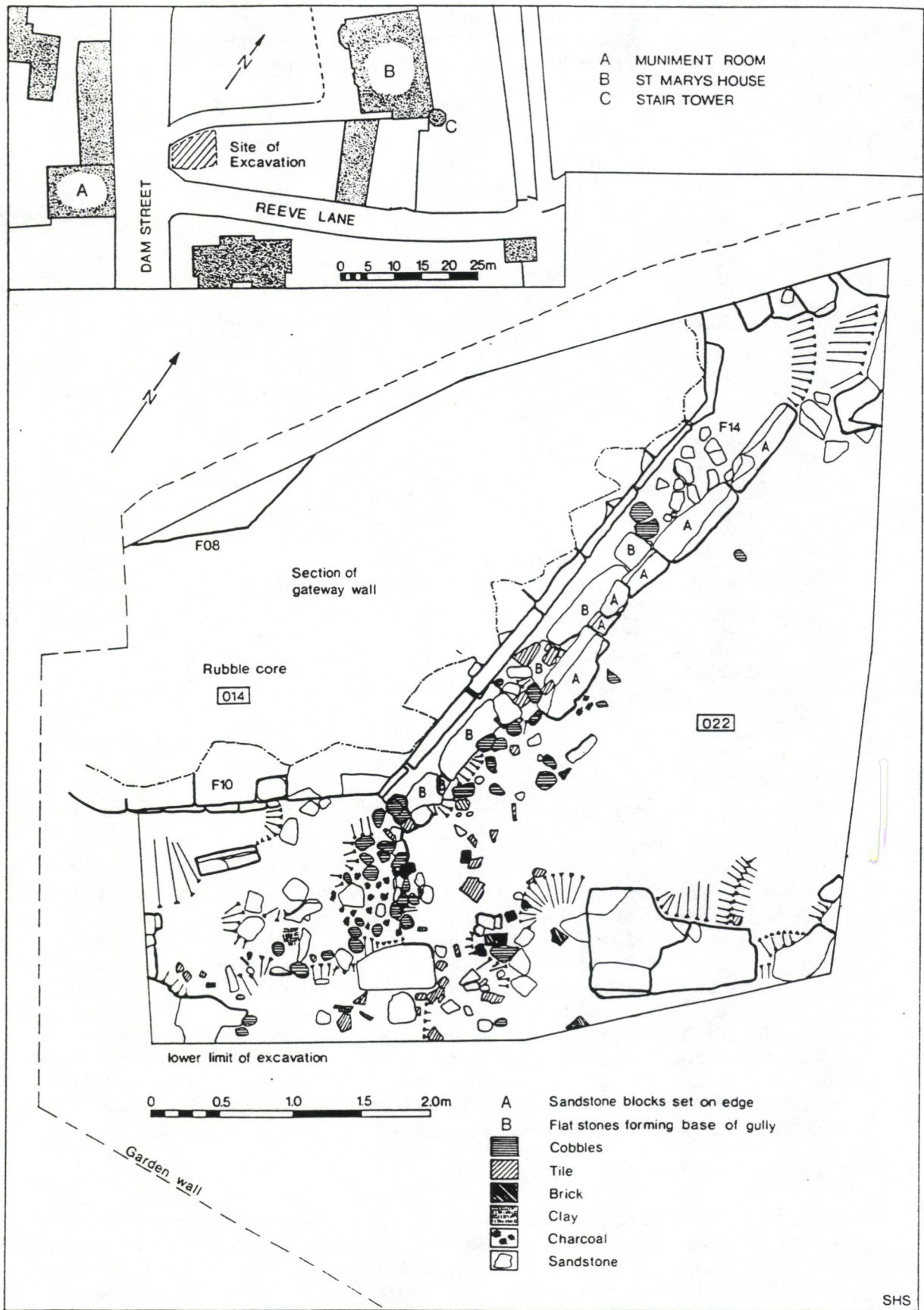
#### **St Mary's House** (SK 11670978; PRN 07522)

The survey of the sandstone built cellars of St Mary's House has added detail to the previous assumption that these substantial remains formed part of a medieval house, integral to and contemporary with the early 14th-century close wall, and sited within the south-east angle of the wall. Masons' marks noted on these cellar walls are similar to those found on the face of the south Close gate during excavation (see below), reinforcing the idea that the walls and house are contemporary. The house seems to have been built around the sides of a small courtyard set against the east curtain wall. Part of the lower south range was blocked and sealed during 19th-century rebuilding, but a shouldered-lintel door and west-facing window survive, as do large windows at first floor level in the east and south walls, a hexagonal stair turret at the south-east angle, a garderobe shaft and internal passage within the east wall, which also passes through the south wall. The building underwent substantial alterations in 1710 and 1804-5, and since 1965, after use as a vicarage, has been the Diocesan office.

#### **The South Gate of the Close** (SK 11650975)

The south gate to the Cathedral Close was excavated in part at the far south-western edge of the garden of St Mary's House, adjacent to Dam Street and Reeve Lane. An area of 35m<sup>2</sup> was hand stripped, removing deep dump layers of 18th to 20th century date to reveal (fig 7) part of the south face of the gate (F 8/10) sealed by demolition rubble of the mid-late 18th century. The gate structure is of coursed sandstone ashlar with a rubble core 1.85m wide, with a slight ledge part-way down, standing above the sealed pre-demolition ground layer 022 that was cut by a narrow drain or eaves-drip (F 14) following the outside of the gate wall.





SHS

Figure 7 Lichfield, Dam Street, south gate of Close: plan of excavated features

A rich collection of residual medieval pottery and large quantities of 17th- to 18th-century earthenware, glass, animal bone, and metalwork, including a musket ball was recovered. Also found were clay wig curlers, bloomery slag, and a lead trade token, all from the dump layers sealing the demolished remains of the gate.

Thanks are due to the Diocesan authorities for their assistance.

Andrew Simpson, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

#### **LICHFIELD, St Chads Cathedral School (SK 11420972)**

Prior to the extension of school buildings on this site at the north-west corner of the Cathedral Close, four trial holes were cut in the schoolyard, two against the back (south) edge of the close wall, and two further south closer to the existing school buildings.

In all four holes the uppermost layers were composed of material from the tarmac yard surface and its bedding of limestone chippings. The two southernmost holes were only 0.8m square, being cut to check the depth of any underlying made ground. Though both cut some 2.5m deep, neither natural nor the medieval surface was reached, though the deep sandy subsoil did yield much 17th-century or later tile, pottery, 17th-century clay pipes (pipemakers are known to have operated in the Close) and residual medieval pottery of 12th to 14th-century date. The layer from which these finds came is provisionally identified as 17th or 18th-century dumping on a very large scale to level up part of the Close area, possibly contemporary with the rebuilding of the Bishops' Palace (dated to 1686-7).

The two larger trenches, each approximately 3m north-south and 1m wide, exposed the top of the surviving structure of the 14th-century Close Wall, heavily damaged during the English Civil War. In both trenches the fairly rough-laid mortared core of the red sandstone wall was exposed to a depth of 1.8m, and to its full width of 2.5m in the easternmost trench; the remains of the wall were sealed by later dump layers, and on the outer (north) face by the present 18th century brick boundary wall.

All trenches were fully recorded and a 1:50 profile taken across the site to include the close wall and ditch. The site archive will be deposited with the County SMR.

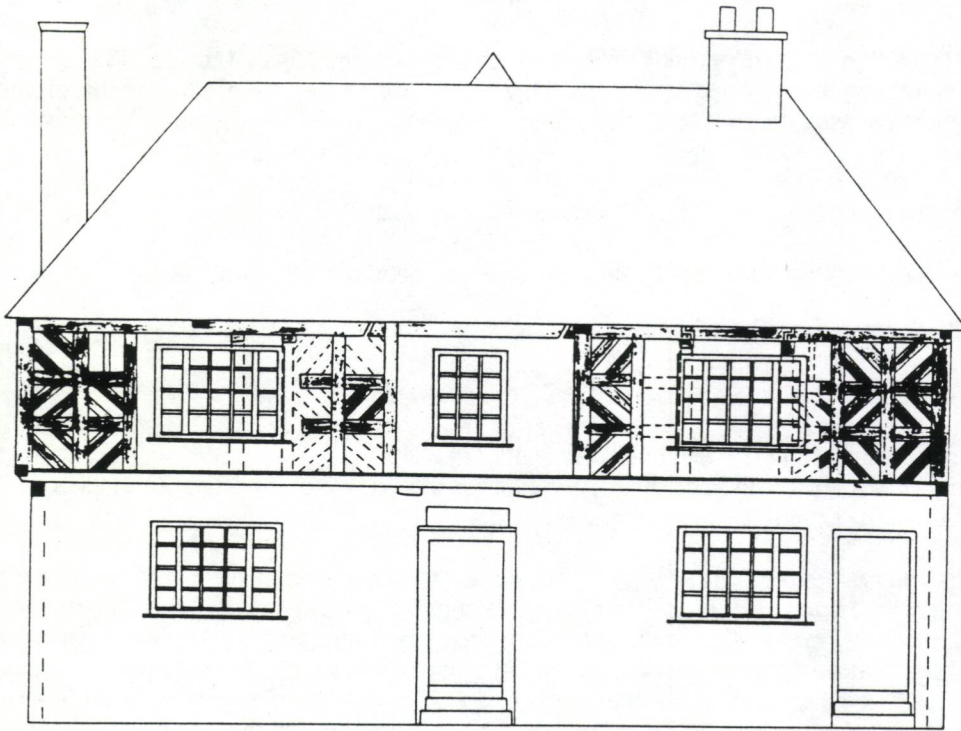
Andrew Simpson, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

#### **LICHFIELD, vernacular building survey**

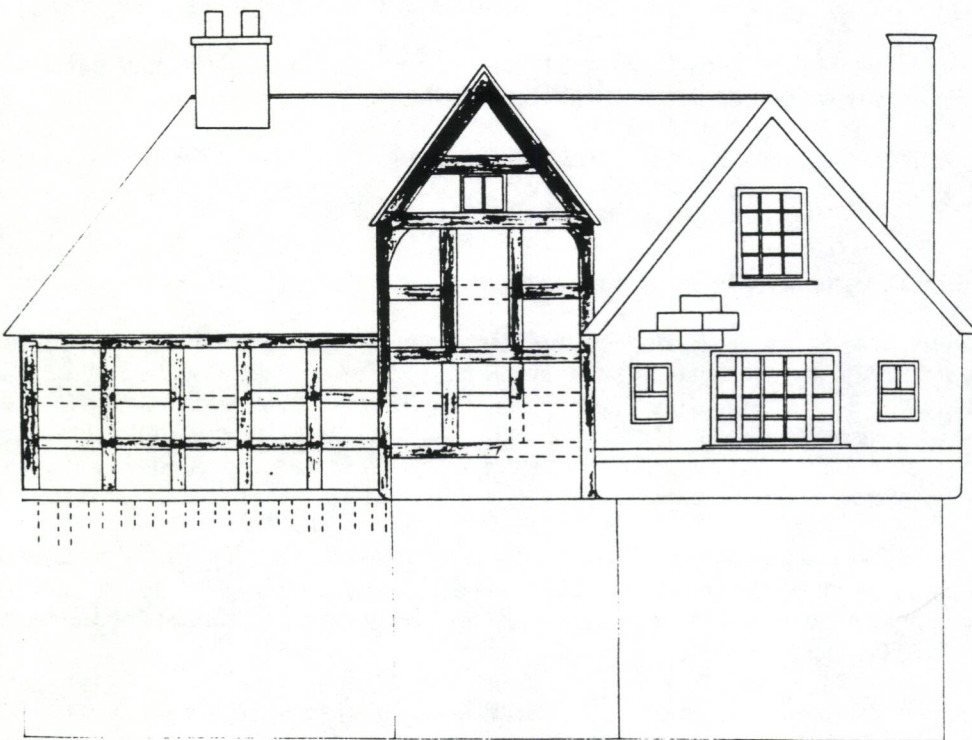
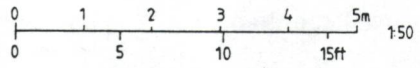
The Vernacular Survey is funded by the Manpower Services Commission through the Community Programme Agency offices at Uttoxeter and Rugeley. Staffordshire County Council is the sponsoring authority with Bob Meeson of the County Planning and Development Department's Conservation section acting as advisor. Starting in March 1985 with a team of fifteen based at Redcourt House in Tamworth Street, Lichfield, the survey team is now part of the CPA's Archaeological Roving Team 2, working from Springhill Middle School, Burntwood.

The team's first task was to record the frontal features of existing buildings in the medieval part of the city. Warwick Museum's Historic Buildings Record field sheets were of great help in choosing the correct descriptions for inclusion. The information gathered was then computerized and the records retained by the County Council.

The 1:500 1884 Ordnance Survey Map of Lichfield was then enlarged to a scale of 1:250 and cut up into street units. Frontal elevations of all buildings in the city centre were then measured and recorded. With the plan of the street in the centre a streetscape showing the front elevations of existing buildings was drawn at the top. Research of old drawings and pictures and access to a large collection of photographs allowed a streetscape of 1884 to be produced at the bottom of each drawing. These of course were some-



FRONT ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION

Figure 8 Rugeley, Market Street: Dr Palmer's House

times incomplete and notes were added to show any lack of information or detail. The streetscapes give a clear indication of changes over a 100-year period in the development of Lichfield's city centre and can also be of great use in future planning.

More intensive drawn surveys of many interesting buildings in Lichfield and its surrounding district have been carried out, with the ages of properties ranging from the 14th to the 19th century. These surveys have been mainly of timber-framed buildings, from single-bay cottages to an aisled hall discovered at Hill Top, Longdon. A retrospective survey of Handsacre Hall (fig 5), demolished in 1972, was successfully completed from photographs. The scope of the project was widened to include industrial buildings at Seedymill near Elmhurst, Sandsfields Lodge (originally an asylum), and 13-15 Sandford Street, which was Lichfield's hospital for many years. A building in Market Street, Rugeley (fig 8), which was the home of the infamous Dr Palmer, the last resident of Staffordshire to be hanged publicly, was included when it was found to have timber-framing and so became notable for more than just its historical background. The Norman font outside Hamstall Ridware church, now being used as a flower garden, was recorded and drawn.

The surveys were normally drawn at a scale of 1:50 and involved the co-operation and forbearance of owner-occupiers. The team members recorded all the internal and external walls as well as drawing floor plans and cross-sections at relevant points. When the timber-framed buildings were being surveyed, missing timbers were marked on the drawings using broken lines, and in some cases an axonometric drawing was produced to show how the building probably looked when it was first built. For exhibition use, balsa wood models at a scale of 1:50 were also made of the most interesting timber-framed buildings. The range of dwellings in Vicar's Close, Lichfield, and Handsacre Hall are the most impressive models produced.

The original drawings have been copied on microfilm. The drawings and a microfilm copy will be retained in the Sites and Monuments Record of the County Council. Film copies are also available for public inspection in Lichfield Library's record office and at the National Monuments Record. Individual booklets giving an architectural description and including copies of drawings are being produced. Photographic records of some buildings have been made and will also be available for inspection. The survey has been supervised by Jeremy Milne, Sarah Shaw and George Wallett during the two-and-a-half years of its existence.

Sarah Shaw and George Wallett, Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Roving Team II

### **ROCESTER, Excavations at New Cemetery, Church Lane (SK111395; PRN 1803)**

The third and final season of excavation at the New Cemetery, Church Lane, took place between April and September 1987. The work has been carried out by members of Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit and BUFAU's CP Roving Team, with assistance from Staffordshire County Council's CP team, students from the University of Birmingham and local volunteers; and the project was sponsored by JCB Excavators Ltd, English Heritage, East Staffordshire District Council, Staffordshire County Council and the Cole Charitable Trust (for earlier work see *West Midlands Archaeol* 28, 29).

An extension of the 1985-6 trench southwards to the hedge along Church Lane revealed further evidence for intensive late medieval activity represented by a large, stone-lined grain processing oven and, nearby, a number of irregular hollows and pits backfilled with quantities of charred grain.

A test trench to the west of the cemetery was cut in the hope of locating structures of the Saxon period (their presence having been suggested by the evidence of Dr Graham Webster's trenches) encountered three hearths and an elaborate oven that may indeed be of that date.

The examination of further deposits and features of the later Roman, civilian period now suggests that here were located animal/cattle pens within a cobbled farmyard and with rubbish pits to the south, this being part of a large farm complex.

However, excavation concentrated once more on the timber barrack-block, partially uncovered in 1986, within the late 1st to early 2nd-century fort. The southern limit of the barrack was found, backing onto a cobbled road to the south, and a number of postholes for the anticipated verandah to the west were located. To the north, where again a cobbled road was uncovered, it became clear that the original barrack had been 10m longer than the building dismantled at the time of the abandonment of the fort in the mid-2nd century. Indeed, the barrack had been shortened and a kitchen or canteen had been erected in the available space between the new northern end of the structure and the road.

A section through the northern road revealed a levelled turf and clay rampart, the existence of which were previously unsuspected. This rampart either forms the defences of a third fort at Rocester, or it belongs to an annexe of the first fort.

Post-excavation work is currently in progress with a view to publication of a full report in 1989-90.

Iain Ferris, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

#### **TAMWORTH, structural survey of medieval Deanery, Lower Gungate (SK 20830410; PRN 258)**

In February 1987 Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit was requested to carry out a drawn survey of the surviving walls of the medieval Deanery in the centre of Tamworth, prior to possible developments within the confines of the Deanery. In March 1987 an opportunity arose to excavate a trial trench to the north of the longest stretch of wall. Both works were carried out by BUFAU's CP Roving Team. In June 1987 a further study of the standing structures provided the basis for an interpretation of the initial survey drawings although this proved difficult because of limited access to certain faces of the walls and the masking of others by modern buildings.

In the excavated trench, post-medieval garden features overlay a possibly early medieval ditch (or pit) running north to south, with an interior dimensions of 4m x 1.5m x 1.7m. However, in the small area available for examination it was impossible to determine its relationship with the Deanery wall, running east-west to the south of it.

A copy of the survey drawings and interpretation, and the excavation archive are held at BUFAU.

Liz Hooper, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

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

Excavation at King's Low continued for a second season in 1987, funded by Stoke-on-Trent City Museum and the Museum Archaeological Society. The area of excavation opened in 1986 (*West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 42-5) was enlarged over all four quadrants of the barrow with an extension to the east running off the barrow edge. Interpretation was severely hampered again by the high degree of disturbance from tree roots and rabbit activity.

The stone surface discovered in 1986 was uncovered further beneath the mound, and still proved to be totally devoid of artefacts and features. The interpretation of this surface therefore, remains inconclusive. However, the material forming the body of the mound continued to yield a variety of flints, both waste flakes and worked tools. Stratigraphical interpretation of the sand barrow is extremely difficult because of the large scale of mixing by the rabbits.

The scatter of cremated human bone found towards the centre of the barrow (in 1986) has continued over a greatly extended area. The focus of the cremation now appears to be in the south-east quadrant approximately 2m from the highest point of the mound. This secondary burial may not contain a cremation urn, and has been spread over an area of about 4m diameter, presumably by rabbit movement. A bronze bracelet and a faience bead (fig 9) were found fairly close together about 2m away from the focus of the cremation, although their stratigraphical relationship is impossible to establish. The faience bead is spheri-

cal and shows evidence of having been exposed to heat on one side. The bracelet is of bronze with an iron hinge-pin still attached, although the small closing part of the bracelet that hinges is missing. This type of 'dowel catch' fastening and the distinctive knobbed decoration is not uncommon in Iron Age material, for example the Clynnog neck ring (Savory 1976, fig 36.1). Recent excavations at the Iron Age site of Mount Batten, Devon, have produced a virtually identical fragment of bracelet (Cunliffe, pers comm). The appearance of such a find at King's Low is potentially important because of the paucity of Iron Age material in North Staffordshire.

At the nearby ploughed-out barrow of Queen's Low (SJ 96342389; PRN 855) a 60m square contour and resistivity survey has been completed. The results are being processed using computer-based graphical techniques.

Excavation will continue at King's Low in 1988 between the months of May and July.

Thanks are due to the landowners, to Economic Forestry Group and to 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 Archaeological Society and other volunteers. Both King's Low and Queen's Low are on private land and permission should be sought to visit them.

Savory, H N, 1976 *Guide Catalogue of the Early Iron Age Collections*, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Dr Gary Lock and Dick Spicer for Stoke-on-Trent Archaeological Society

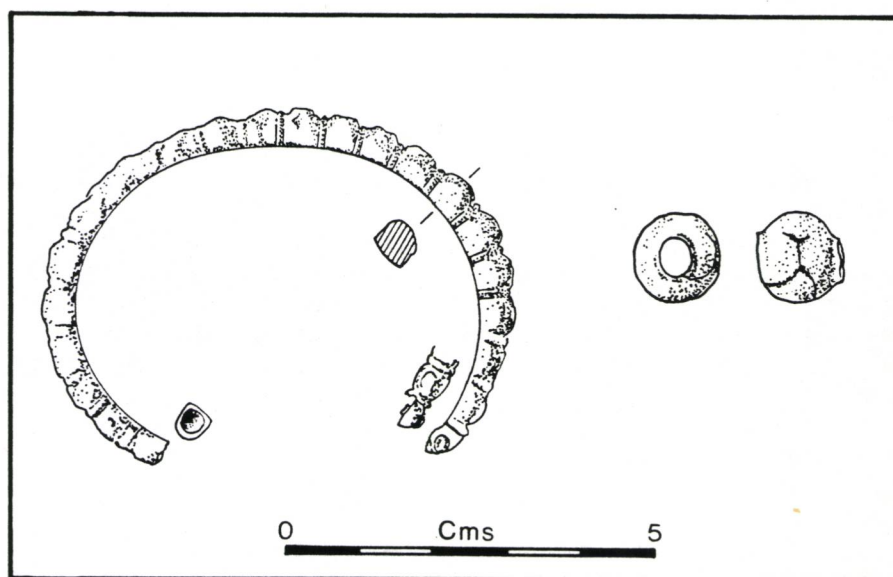


Figure 9 Tixall, King's Low: bronze bracelet (x1) and faience bead (x2)

## Warwickshire

(In the case of some Warwickshire sites which have been examined in 1987 accurate grid references have not been given in these notes to avoid looting by metal detector users.)

### **ALCESTER, Roman stone building at 64b-d Bleachfield Street (SP 089571; PRNWA6100)**

Salvage recording revealed traces of the Roman town including the foundations of a stone building, a dump of painted wall plaster, a small assemblage of 1st-century pottery, and probably part of the Alcester-Stratford road. The work was financed by Warwickshire Museum and the Manpower Services Commission.

Stephen Cracknell, Warwickshire Museum

### **ALCESTER, Roman stone building at 27 High Street (SP 089574; PRNWA6101)**

Salvage recording uncovered a stone-filled foundation trench 1.4m wide marking the external walls of a Roman stone building. One side, measuring 10.7m NW-SE, and two corners of the structure were identified. *Opus signinum*, painted wall plaster, and one *tessera* were also found. The work was financed by Warwickshire Museum and the Manpower Services Commission.

Stephen Cracknell, Warwickshire Museum

### **ALCESTER, possible Roman roadside ditches at Roebuck Inn Field, Birmingham Road (SP 085585; PRNWA6102)**

Small scale excavation in advance of road and housing construction failed to locate traces of the Roman Ryknild Street, which should have passed through this field, about 1km north of the Roman town. The field was covered by medieval ridge and furrow and it seems likely that the road has been ploughed out. Possible roadside ditches were noted. The work was financed by Warwickshire Museum and the Manpower Services Commission.

Stephen Cracknell, Warwickshire Museum

### **ALDERMINSTER, Possible Roman Settlement near Alderminster Farm (SP 2149; PRNWA5085)**

A possible Roman site was located during field survey. About 40 pieces of Roman pottery, animal bones and daub were recorded. In addition a number of flint flakes and one possible early Anglo-Saxon sherd were observed. This is the third probable Roman site to be examined in Alderminster parish in the past two years (see also *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 48).

Dr Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

**BIDFORD-ON-AVON, medieval find from Barton Cross Roads (SP 103509; PRNWA4982)**

A pewter ampulla was found by R Laight of Studley. One side is impressed with a scallop shell design and the other has a single 'I' monogram; these are the symbols of St James of Compostella whose shrine was in Galicia (Spain). The ampulla is probably 14th-century in date.

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

**BIDFORD-ON-AVON, neolithic/Bronze Age finds, Iron Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon settlements near Marcliff (SP 1050; PRNWA4946)**

This site was examined in 1986, when a number of stone and tile built Roman buildings were recorded (*West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 50). Further information on the site was obtained with the assistance of Mr R Laight of Redditch.

Several neolithic/Bronze Age flints including a leaf-shaped arrowhead were found in the fields around the Roman site. In addition a scatter of Iron Age pottery was found over the area of one of the Roman buildings and this presumably indicates a settlement of this date.

In the Roman period it would appear that at least five buildings existed on the site. In addition around 300 coins and over 100 metal objects, mostly brooches, have been found. The status of the site is uncertain, and there is no certain evidence that it represented a villa.

In the 5th-6th centuries a cemetery may have existed on the site, as a number of metal objects, of types normally associated with burials, were recovered. In the 7th-8th centuries a settlement existed to the south of the possible cemetery, indicated by a scatter of pottery and two *sceattas*. This is only the fourth convincing settlement site of this date to have been found in Warwickshire; the more important Anglo-Saxon finds are briefly described below.

**Anglo-Saxon coins**

Two Anglo-Saxon *sceattas* of the 'porcupine' series have been found, both belonging to the late 7th-early 8th centuries. One, fairly worn, is of Style G (Metcalf 1966, 189, fig 1), and shows on the reverse a pellet in oval annulet in centre with four strokes around, the whole within a beaded rectangle. Weight 0.715g. The other in fine condition is Metcalf's Style F, a rare variant in England (Metcalf 1966, 188, fig 2). Besides the beaded outline to the crescent on the obverse, the reverse shows a central annulet with four crosses around, a pellet above and below, the whole within a beaded rectangle. Weight 0.88g. The coin is not unique, for the Heberden Coin Room at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, has recently acquired from A H Baldwin Ltd, the numismatic dealers, an almost identical coin in extremely fine condition. It is out of old stock and the find spot is unknown. Weight 0.98g.

**Anglo-Saxon metalwork**

Five items of Anglo-Saxon metalwork have been found during 1987 (fig 10).

1. Sword decoration in the form of a hollow bronze pyramid, 15 x 15mm and 10mm high. The faces have identical incised line design and there are settings in the corners and at the top for enamel or stones. Pyramids occur in a number of 6th-century Anglo-Saxon graves but are uncommon in the Avon valley. The three bronze pyramids from Faversham, Kent provide a close parallel for this piece (British Museum 1923, 45).
2. Diminutive gilded bronze saucer brooch, 16mm diameter. Plain rim with a decorated central zone consisting of a chip-carved cross patee. 5th-6th century.
3. Bronze belt plate, 20 x 17mm. The face has irregular, zoomorphic chip-carved decoration around a central, square boss and there are traces of surface gilding. The central boss could be interpreted as a



local imitation of the stone and glass settings common on Kentish buckle plates. The only local parallel is the buckle plate from Alcester (Stokes and Brownsword 1984).

4. Sword mount? End fragment of a bronze plate, 8 x 5mm, with an iron back. The plate is decorated with a gilt-outlined zoomorphic design. There is no local parallel for this piece but it is currently assumed to be 6th-century in date.

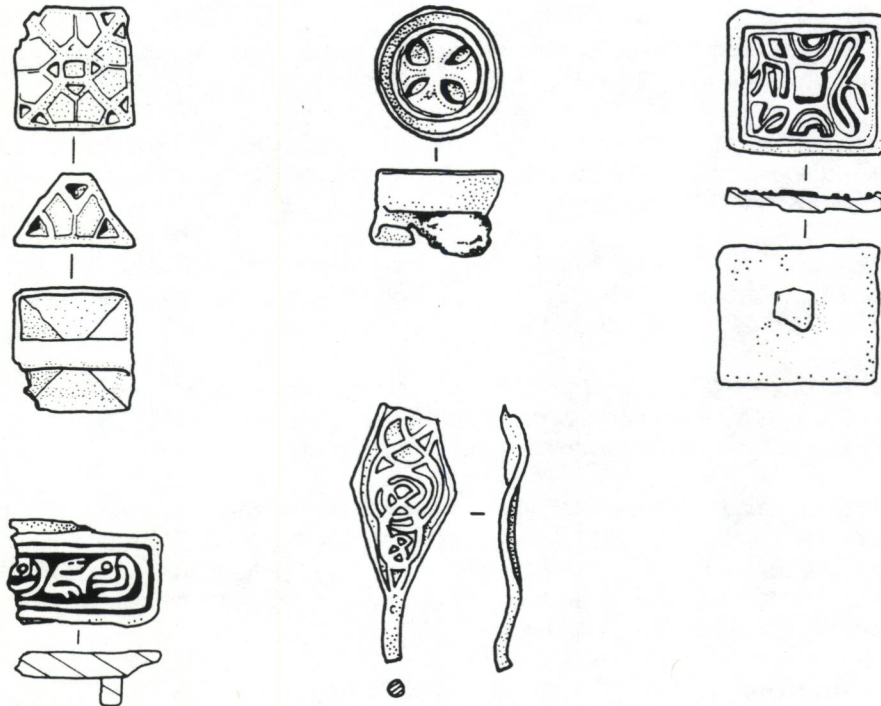


Figure 10 Bidford-on-Avon: Anglo-Saxon metalwork

5. Bronze piece, probably a 'garter hook'. The hook is absent as is the top of the plate above. The plate itself is flat with an interlaced spiral decoration in relief. The piece has no local parallels and the decoration suggests a slightly later date than the other Anglo-Saxon metalwork from Marlcliff. It is possible that it could be contemporary with the two *sceattas* (late 7th-early 8th centuries).

British Museum, 1923 *Guide to Anglo-Saxon Antiquities*

Metcalf, D M, 1966 A Stylistic Analysis of the 'Porcupine' *Sceattas*, *Numismatic Chronicle* 6, 179-205

Stokes, M A, & Brownsword, R, 1984 An Anglo-Saxon Belt Fitting from Alcester, *West Midlands Archaeol* 27, 97-100

Dr Richard Hingley, John Pickin and W A Seaby, Warwickshire Museum

#### **BISHOPS ITCHINGTON, Deserted Medieval Village of Nether Itchington (SP 39315634)**

The site of Nether Itchington was depopulated by Thomas Fisher in 1547. He enclosed the field system and demolished the mother church of All Saints. In its place he built a manor house. Nether Itchington subsequently became known as Old Town Farm and many of the surrounding fields Old Town Fields. The site lies on clayey soil and is under pasture. For the purposes of the excavation it was divided into a 10m square grid moving progressively from west to east. At each corner a level reading was taken. Intermediate levels were taken within each square if features were prominent. The area surveyed was from

Bishops Itchington to Knightcote Road in the west (SP 3900) to a stream flowing from south to north in the eastern extremity (SP 3980) and from the north (SP 5690) to south (SP 5970), a total area of about 32 ha, including 25 ha of field system.

Evidence of the field system was found in and through the boundary hedges. The distance between the ridge and furrows was 5.9m over each ridge, making each strip 11.8m wide.

#### **Area 1**

Along the east of this area runs a wall partly of brick and probably of 16th-century date. The remaining 13.5m of the wall is built of local limestone and is 2.2m high and 0.5m thick. It is partly in ruin and has fallen eastwards into Area 3. To the north is a circular wall line with random coursed limestone. The wall is 0.5m thick and its opening diameter 1.5m.

The house, largely reconstructed, is of two storeys, 22.5m long by 10.5 wide. There is evidence of the manor being divided into two residences on the eastern wall. Recent renovations by the owner have revealed features which suggest that some of the original church construction may have been incorporated into the manor house. Stripping off the old plaster and a limited clearance of the basement have revealed an arch of hewn and dressed stone. The dimensions are 2.34m wide and 0.93m deep from the arch soffit to the existing floor level which had been raised, in time, to its present level. In the same wall west of the arch is a door opening 1.14m high from arch soffit to existing floor level and 0.8m wide. The stonework to the wall is 0.5m thick. 1m north of the door opening on the eastern external wall is a niche in the stonework 0.37m high by 0.24m wide. Limited clearance of the basement has revealed stone vaulting. Many pieces of stone have been found to the east of the house and have been incorporated into the building. During the survey one stone measuring 0.36 x 0.36 x 0.36m was found north of the residence. One side is carved and the remaining sides flat.

#### **Area 2**

This area dips from west to east. A trackway passes through the hedge on the south side, measuring 3.5m wide by 0.33m deep, and extends 23m to the north, curving to the west.

#### **Area 3**

This area dips to the south-east and has a farm track running diagonally south-east, passing over a stone bridge at its extremity. Earthwork evidence indicates a platform extending the length of the wall west of the site measuring 35m long and 0.33m high. To the north-east there are earthworks about 0.4m deep and appear to be trackways passing through the hedge into Area 4. In the south-east a trackway 3m wide by 0.33m deep extends 45m from east to west. 45m from the northern boundary is a well-defined trackway 3.5m wide and extends 23m long.

#### **Area 4**

Area 4 dips 4m north-easterly to the river boundary. To the north is evidence of trackways and fishpond earthworks. To the south there is evidence of four earthworks with building platforms (A-D).

The fishpond earthworks are 60m long, and 32m at their widest point, and at their deepest point 1.5m. At the eastern end the slope is dammed, the dam earthworks being 5m wide and sloped as an embankment. A recess is cut into the dam to form a sluice 0.5m deep and 4.5m wide. To the north the fishpond is embanked to retain its shape against the slope.

Building platform A extends north to south 30m long with a flat base 5m wide. The platform is embanked on its eastern side against the slope of the site. The two earthworks of platform B have been cut into the slope of the site in order to produce a flat base. Platform C is cut into the slope of the site and opens to the south. Its dimensions are 14m long by 11m wide and 0.8m deep. Platform D, east of the site, is rectangular, 30m long by 12m wide.

**Area for further study**

The survey has revealed that the Nether Itchington site probably extended to the south of the site investigated. Evidence of this is:

- 1 A high proportion of trackways extend north to south, some abutting the boundary of the area surveyed.
- 2 Platforms open to a southerly aspect.
- 3 A bridge, probably of pre-depopulation date, together with its track, passes over the river and fishponds are oriented to the south.

I wish to acknowledge the help given by the Sites and Monuments Record Office for Warwickshire, Warwickshire Public Records Office, the goodwill and kindness of Mr David Tinney who farms the area surveyed and Mr and Mrs Michael Thwaites, owners of Old Town Farm.

Kimberley Trollope

**BRAILES, Roman settlement near Vicarage Barn (SP 3130; PRNWA2318)**

Further fieldwork was conducted on the site examined in 1986 (see *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 51). One further field with pronounced ridge and furrow was ploughed for the first time in 1987 and a further 3ha of Roman settlement located. The total area of the site would now appear to be at least 25ha, and may represent a Romano-British 'small town'.

Dr Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

**BURTON DASSETT, deserted village at Dasset Southend (SP 387520; PRNWA660)**

Part of the extensive deserted village/market town 'Chipping Dasset' at Burton Dasset will be destroyed by the construction of the M40 during 1988. A major excavation began in 1986 and will continue into 1988 in order to investigate the threatened area in advance of destruction. Parts of five properties, all apparently laid out together in the late 13th century, perhaps in association with the development of the market, have been investigated so far. An interim report has been published (Burton Dasset Excavations) and is available from Warwickshire Museum, costing 65p.

Nicholas Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

**ETTINGTON, Iron Age settlement near Rattleborough Plantation (SP 279479; PRNWA1269)**

Further fieldwork on the site mentioned last year (*West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 53) produced a quantity of additional Iron Age sherds from the two double ditched hill top enclosures. This pottery is predominantly shell-gritted, like the material from other Iron Age sites in the south of Warwickshire (*West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 84).

Dr Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

**FILLONGLEY, medieval dagger from SW of the Coventry Road (SP 28458645; PRNWA1848)**

Mr R Parkinson of Kenilworth found a medieval *guillon* dagger in a recently ploughed field. The dagger is of wrought iron and complete, with slightly upturned *guillons* and a single-edged blade about 390mm

long. The blade length is exceptional for a dagger but still falls short of a true sword. The date is probably late 15th-century.

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

**HALFORD, Iron Age settlement near Glebe Barn (SP 271461; PRNWA6103)**

A pair of subrectangular features and other linear features and small enclosures were photographed from the air by Jim Pickering in 1986. Field survey produced a scatter of Iron Age sherds, including a preponderance of the shelly wares which appear to typify the early and middle Iron Age of south Warwickshire (see *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 84). In addition quantities of animal bone, burnt stone and daub were noted in the ploughsoil. This appears to be a settlement site of Iron Age date.

Dr Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

**HALFORD, Roman Settlement near Glebe Barn (SP 2746; PRNWA6104)**

Close to the Iron Age site at Glebe Barn a discrete scatter of Roman pottery appears to indicate the site of a Roman settlement. As with the other sites in the Stour valley area the buildings were presumably of timber and daub construction with thatch roofs, as tile and stone are absent from the site.

Dr Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

**HUNNINGHAM, building recording (SP 372680)**

Members of the Leamington Archaeology Group completed the survey of the timber-framed buildings of the parish (see *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 53) by recording, through measured drawings, photographs and written reports, three buildings: part of Hunningham Hill Farm (early 17th century), the Old Hall (probably c 1509, in part), and the church roof (late 16th-century). The surveys, with a historical introduction, have been published by the writer in a booklet 'The Timber-framed Buildings of Hunningham' (cost £1.50).

S G Wallsgrove, Leamington Archaeology Group

**ILMINGTON, palaeolithic handaxe found 500m SE of Ilmington (SP 217430; PRNWA6105)**

A lower palaeolithic bifacial flint handaxe, found in Ilmington some years ago, was lent to Major P Gardner and brought to the County Museum for recording. One edge has been worked by opposed serial flaking but the other edge and part of the butt are unmodified and retain the original cortex. This asymmetrical work gives the tool the appearance of a segmental chopper. The implement is of interest as it is the first palaeolith found in this part of the county. Although it was found at the grid reference above there is some doubt as to its original provenance and R J MacRae (pers comm) has suggested that it might have come from the collection of a local antiquary which was broken up in the mid 19th century.

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

**ILMINGTON, Iron Age quern find from village centre (SP 213435; PRNWA6106)**

The complete upper half of an Iron Age rotary quern of beehive type was found by Major P Gardner incorporated in a garden wall. The quern is fashioned from a medium coarse millstone grit and was probably brought from one of the many quarry workshops in Derbyshire or South Yorkshire. It is 230mm high and has a conical profile tapering from 280mm (base diam) to 230mm. There is a circular grain hollow, 55mm deep, sunk in to the top of the quern which connects with a rectangular-section handle socket; an angled hole runs from the hollow to the centre of the base. The base itself is well polished but is unusual in being flat rather than concave. Beehive querns are uncommon in Warwickshire although at least two, also of millstone grit, have been recorded at Meon Hill.

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

**KENILWORTH, building recording (SP 287725)**

Members of the Society have continued to record the timber-framed buildings of the town by way of measured drawings, photographs and written reports of historical analysis. Those recorded this year include 23 New Street (early 17th-century), 60 High Street (17th-century), part of Spring Cottage, Upper Spring Lane (stone-built with timber-framed end truss, late 16th/early 17th-century (pre 1618), the Bear and Ragged Staff, Warwick Road (late 16th-century), and Ivy Cottage, Coventry Road (early 17th-century style wall framing but probably 18th-century rebuild).

S G Wallsgrove, Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society

**LAPWORTH, Tapster Lane, Hobditch linear earthwork (SP 169704; PRNWA6107)**

Excavation in advance of the construction of the M40 motorway confirmed that a continuous hedge at Tapster Lane overlay part of the Hobditch earthwork previously excavated by Hutty at Deans Green (see entry for Ullenhall, Tanworth, Beaudesert and Lapworth, this volume). At Tapster Lane the remains consisted of a ditch about 2.7m deep (measured from the contemporary ground surface), with a bank on its northern side. A smaller ditch to the north of the bank was also investigated. The only find recovered was a sherd of undatable pottery but radiocarbon samples were taken. The work was financed by English Heritage and the Manpower Services Commission.

Stephen Cracknell, Warwickshire Museum

**LAPWORTH, Roman site south of Dick's Lane Bridge (SP 186698; PRNWA6108/6109)**

A field 100m to the south of the Lapworth Roman tile kiln was systematically fieldwalked in advance of the M40 motorway by Steve Cracknell. Over 30kg of tile and small quantities of Roman pottery were recovered. Much of the tile was concentrated in a relatively small area near the south-west corner of the field but outside the line of the motorway. No burnt daub was collected so it seems likely that the concentration of tile was either a waster dump or possibly a building. Subsequent field work by Dave Adams and Derek Jenkins located a scatter of Roman pottery over a part of the field not previously examined. Further field work by Richard Hingley indicated that this scatter consisted of grey ware sherds, including a waster, and kiln debris possibly indicating a Roman pottery kiln. This kiln is situated on the motorway route and it is hoped that it will be possible to conduct an excavation before motorway construction commences.

Dave Adams and Derek Jenkins, using metal detectors, recovered from this site a silver 'stater' of Corinthian style in November 1987. At the same time a silver denarius of Trajan dating to the period 103-111 was found (RIC 2, 256, no 183). The 'stater', which is of South Ferriby type, dates to the first half of the first century AD. It has on one side a boar right, only the hind legs being distinct; on the reverse is a

horse, with chest and girth straps, prancing right (Mack 1975, no 410b, Plate XXXI; Allen 1963, nos 313 and 333, Plate VII). A quarter of the coin's flan has broken away of which two tiny fragments remain. Weight 1.09g.

Mattingly, H and Sydenham, E A, 1962 *The Roman Imperial Coinage*

Mack, R P, 1975 *The Coinage of Ancient Britain*

Allen, D F, 1963 *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles: The Coins of the Coritani*

Stephen Cracknell, Dr Richard Hingley and W A Seaby, Warwickshire Museum

**LITTLE LAWFORD, Bronze Age flint knife from 100m SE of Little Lawford (SP 47057705; PRNWA6110)**

A fine Bronze Age plano-convex flint knife was found by Mr M Deakin on the south bank of the River Avon in 1986 and brought to the County Museum for identification in 1987. The knife, which is in the possession of the finder, has bifacial serial flaking and an incipient tang at one end. Although a stray find, it is of interest in being one of the few complete examples of this type of artefact from central Warwickshire.

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

**MORTON BAGOT (SP 1166)**

**The Arrow Valley Survey 1977-1987**

After many years of detailed field survey work carried out by University of Birmingham (1977-84) and by University of Warwick Extramural class students (1984-86), individual parish studies are now being published for the area of the Arrow Valley of Warwickshire, together with its tributary valley, the Alne. The first of these, for Morton Bagot, is appearing in two parts, the first now published as University of Birmingham Department of Geography Occasional Paper no 24.

**Settlement and field systems**

Work began in the watershed area between the Arrow and Alne drainage system in the parish of Morton Bagot on the southern fringes of Arden. The parish contains the only known ring motte in the county (fig 11), an earthwork probably of early Norman construction which stands beside the parish church in a roughly central location within the parish. A cemetery of possible Anglo-Saxon date was discovered in the 1830s and seems to have lain about 0.3km distant from the parish church. One of the north-west to south-east routeways, here a ridgeway, crosses the northern part of the parish and is referred to as a 'broad road' in a pre-Conquest boundary clause of the adjacent parish of Oldberrow. The motte, however, lies some distance off this route near springs draining into a headwater of Morton Brook, an east-bank tributary of the Arrow.

The moat is oval in shape, with a broad enclosing ring-work and a possible internal bank. The complex measures some 80 x 120m, with an internal platform approximately 56 x 45m. The moat is now silted on the upper side and it is difficult to estimate its original depth. The entrance to the site runs through a deep hollow-way, in part probably formed by a natural fault-line. A causeway has now been built across its western side to give access to buildings on the central platform and part of the earthworks have been destroyed by the construction of a large fishpond, one of numerous man-made ponds in the parish.

This was not the only moated site in the parish, for a rectangular moat surrounded the site of Netherstead further to the south. This settlement may have developed as the result of a division in manorial ownership in the 12th century. The site is now occupied by a 16th-century house.

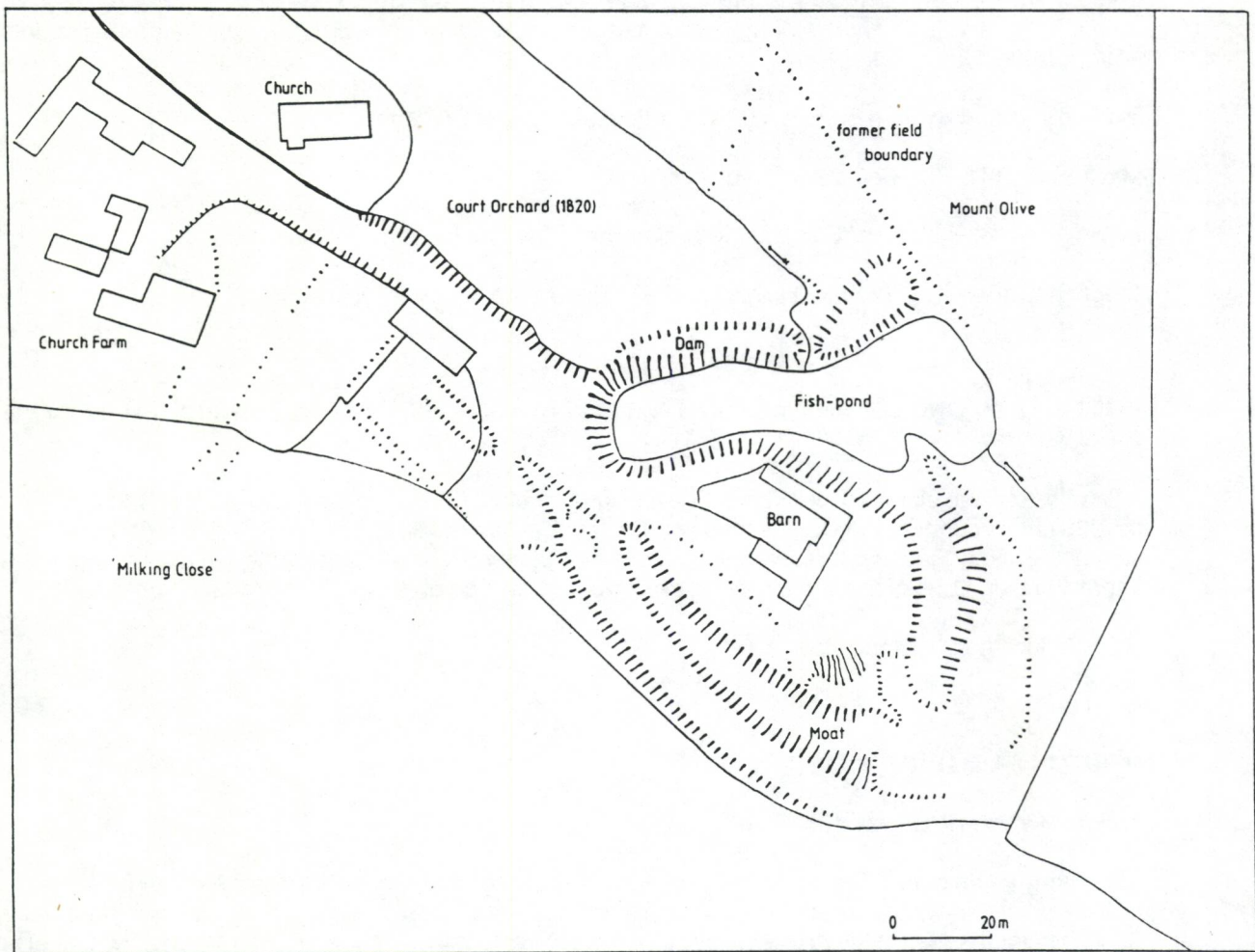


Figure 11 Morton Bagot: moated site, possible ring motte

It has been possible, by detailed study of surviving deeds and historical maps, to reconstruct much of the medieval settlement pattern and the related agrarian organization. The open fields lay to the north, west and south-west of the manorial nucleus, while an area to the south-west became the enclosed holding of the farm which developed near parish margins but a large area in the south of the parish known as Morton Common remained as an unenclosed wasteland until the early 19th century (Hooke 1978, 26). Other smaller patches of waste survived at road junctions and became the sites of small squatter settlements, many of which were to become deserted as landless labourers moved to the growing industrial towns, again mostly in the 19th century. In 1820, for instance, two families were resident at Warnap, a road-side waste at the extreme north eastern corner of the parish, but only one cottage was standing in 1863, referred to as 'the thatched cottage', and there are no houses here today (fig 13).

#### The use of water

In addition to the large fishpond noted above, field survey work and documentary research has yielded considerable evidence of the use of water in the parish. The parish mill stood near the western boundary and is recorded before 1290 when 'Henry the Miller of Mortone Bagot' acquired one acre of land. It stood beside a now disused road which ran from Morton Bagot to Studley and which was constantly impaired by the milling activities: in 1640 Thomas Bullock, miller, was prosecuted for 'stopping up of an old water course and also raising of an ancient water course whereby the water is much quarried up to the great damage of some of the inhabitants of Moreton' (WRO). In the 19th century, water from the boundary stream fed into a linear leat which provided a head of water to drive a wheel at its south-eastern end, immediately beside the Morton-Studley road. This is now dry and the mill went out of use soon after 1868

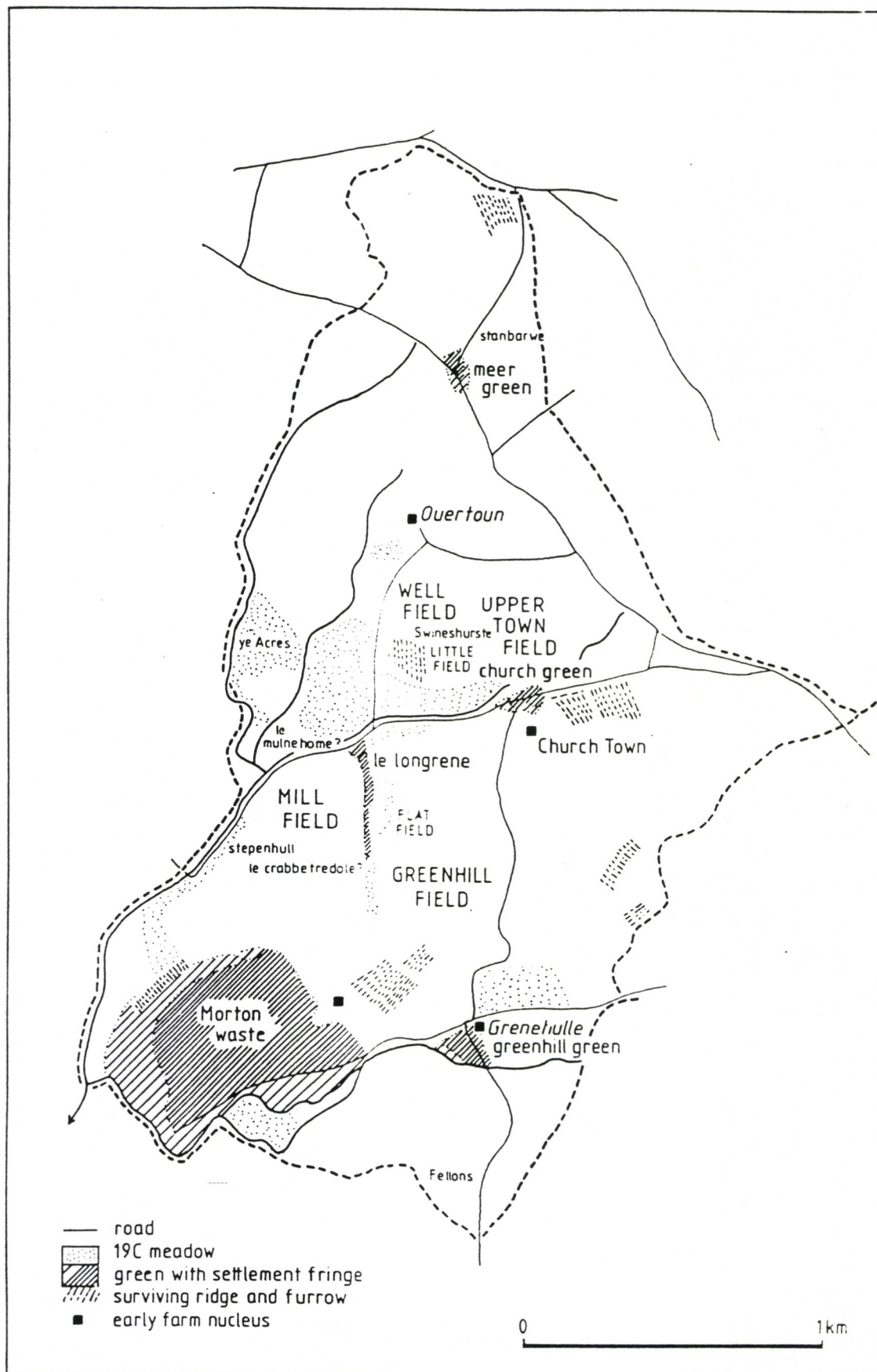


Figure 12 Morton Bagot: medieval land use



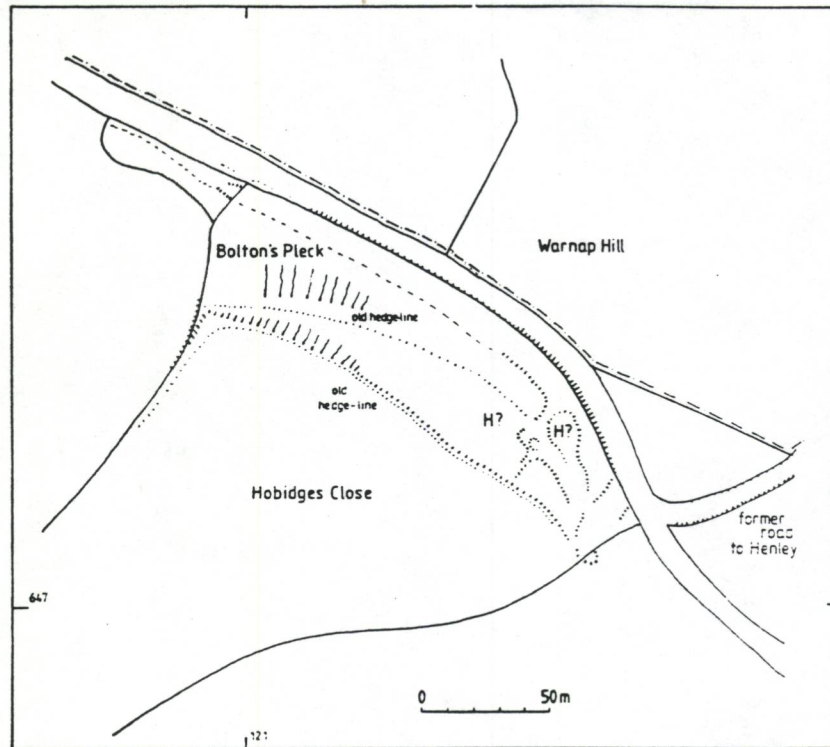


Figure 13 Morton Bagot: Warnap deserted settlement

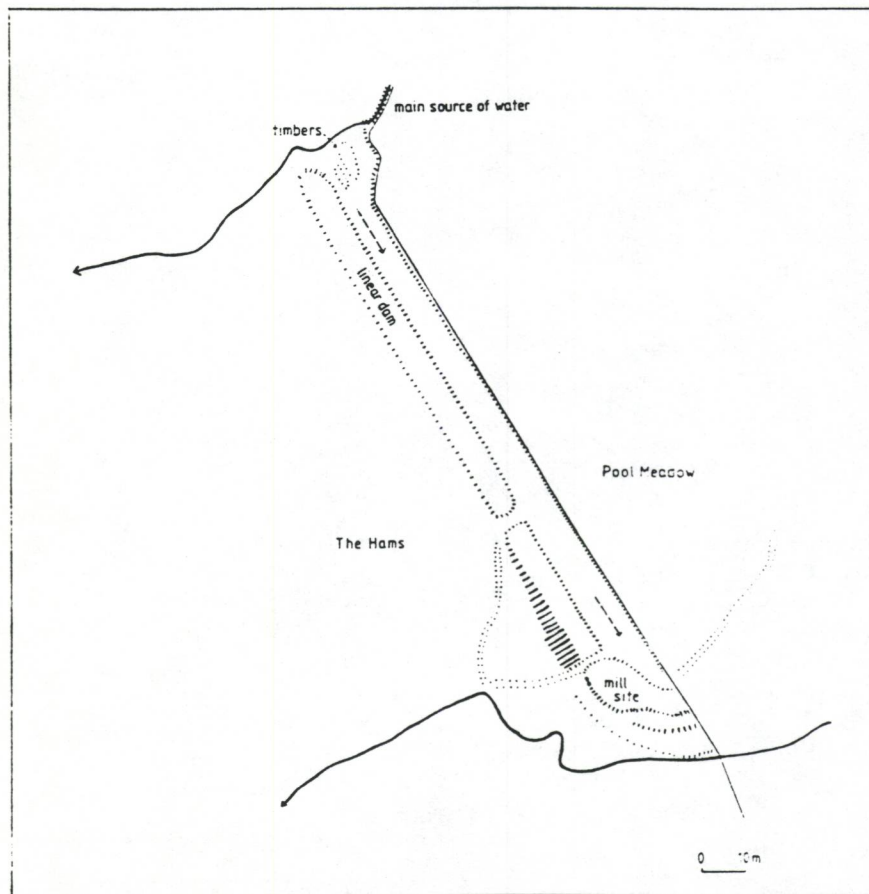


Figure 14 Morton Bagot: Morton Mill site

(fig 14). Further earthworks at Manor Farm appear to have been connected with an ironworking site operative in the 18th and early 19th centuries, while other uses of water seem to have included flax-retting and tanning. Lime-burning was also carried out on the outcrops of Lower Lias which now lie within Bannum's Wood.

### Building survey

An important part of the study has been the compilation of a survey of all older buildings, including agricultural and industrial buildings. Many of the timbered barns in the area are now redundant for agricultural purposes and are likely to be demolished or altered, some of them converted to living accommodation. As an example, the barn which stands within the ring motte is presented here (fig 15). A second timbered

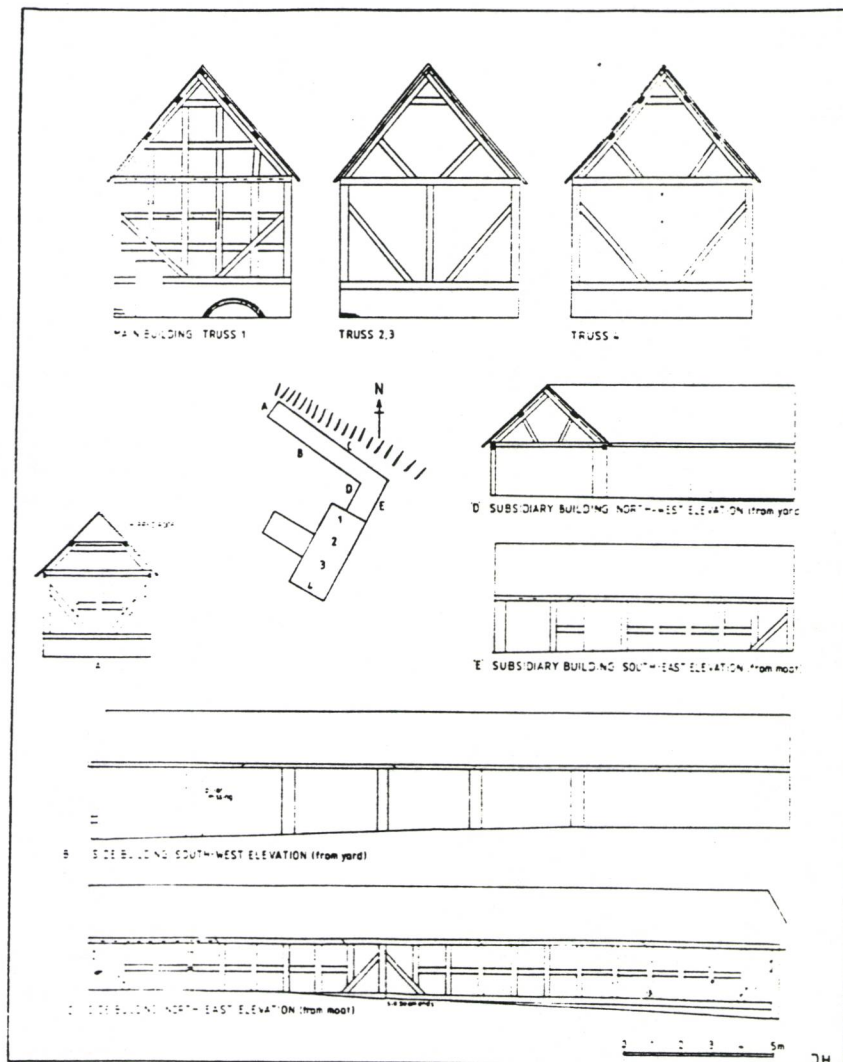


Figure 15 Morton Bagot: barn on moated site at Church Farm

barn stands beside Church Farm itself and one of its outbuildings was used as a 'court house' in 1744 reflecting the claims and aspirations of the then tenant, Francis Holyoake, to be 'lord of the manor'. Other surveys include mill buildings, needle works and dovecotes, in addition to farm buildings and cottages (Hooke 1985, 29). All surveys are being deposited in both the county and national Sites and Monuments Record.

Hooke, D, 1985 *West Midlands Archaeol* 28

WRO Session Order Book, Warwick Record Office

Della Hooke

#### **NUNEATON, St Thomas More School**

From the morning of July 2nd to the evening of July 3rd, a replicated four-flued Chilvers Coton type kiln was fired for a second time, having previously been fired in 1986. The fuel was primarily coal though some wood was necessary. A great deal was learnt of the technicalities of this type of kiln and this type of firing. The event was fully recorded, including 35mm slides and VHS video. Full information regarding the firings can be obtained from Peter Hiorns, Bridge Cottage, Ansty, near Coventry who constructed and fired the kiln.

Mike Stokes (for Peter Hiorns)

#### **OLD MILVERTON, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint scatter from 200m N of Guy's Cliff House (SP 293670; PRNWA5083/5084)**

Fieldwork by A McKay, S Partridge and G Crawford at Old Milverton in April 1987 resulted in the discovery of a flint scatter centred on the above grid reference. 151 struck and worked flints were collected over a two day period, of which 131 (87%) are unretouched flakes or production waste. The remaining 30 pieces are all worked and include a complete barbed and tanged arrowhead (Green Low type), two discoidal knives, a blade core and two edge-blunted microliths. The appearance of microliths among a predominantly neolithic/Bronze Age assemblage is not surprising as the large mesolithic site of Black-down Hill is only 500m to the north-west. It is possible that much of the later flint relates to an undated north-south pit alignment centred on SP 294672.

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

#### **POLESWORTH pottery (SK 263020)**

Members of Polesworth Historical Society observed large quantities of pottery appearing from a building foundation. After liaising with the builder, permission was given to remove the remaining pottery dump from between the concrete footings.

Large quantities of pottery waste, kiln bricks, kiln bobs, saggars, ashes, coal and burnt clay suggest a lengthy period of potting. A cursory examination has identified the following products: black wares, orange-red body, with iron-rich red slip under lead glaze, vessels include cups, jugs, pantheon, cistern, butter pot, flower pot, etc; slip wares, orange-red body, press-moulded dishes in various techniques of decoration with two- and three-colour patterns; yellow wares, cups, bowls, jars, with some red decoration. An inscribed cistern or plant pot with Polesworth Pottery 8th May 1--- confirms the name of the industry, and the missing year date is eagerly awaited.

K Scott, North Warwickshire Rescue Team

**TANWORTH IN ARDEN, Nuthurst Lane, possible location of Hobditch linear earthwork (SP 146712; PRNWA6111)**

Survey work and place name evidence ('Hob Daniels Coppice') may indicate the location of one of the linear earthworks which make up the Hobditch complex (see entry for Ullenhall, Tanworth, Beaudesert and Lapworth, this volume). An earthwork consisting of a bank and ditch runs down a hill alongside Nuthurst Lane, but a small machine dug trench on the line of the M40 failed to locate a ditch at the predicted location. It is still possible that the earthworks relate to Hobditch and further investigations will be conducted when the motorway is constructed at this point.

Stephen Cracknell and Dr Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

**TEMPLE GRAFTON, Hillborough deserted village (SP 127519; PRNWA1728)**

The site of Hillborough deserted village was located by Chris Dyer in 1958 and has since been photographed from the air. An air photograph taken in 1966 shows a series of well-preserved earthworks surviving in old meadow on the site. The earthworks consisted of a number of closes, rectangular stone walled buildings and hollow-ways. The village site was visited in December 1987. Although it has probably been ploughed at some time (?in 1967) clear earthworks still survive. These include the main street of the village and at least one well preserved house platform. The site will be assessed for preservation through Scheduling as part of the Monument Protection Programme.

Dr Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

**ULLENHALL, TANWORTH, BEAUDESERT, LAPWORTH, Hobditch linear earthwork (centred on SP 16/17; PRNWA1202)**

Fieldwork in advance of M40 construction has revealed additional lengths of this major boundary system. Previous investigation of the earthwork was conducted by Brian Hutty of the Solihull Archaeology Group, who sadly died last year. Mr Hutty recognised two major earthworks, which ran at an angle to one another, and cut a section across one of them (Hutty 1971; 1975).

Prior to the construction of the M40 a section was cut across the possible course of one of these earthworks in Lapworth parish (see entry for Lapworth, Tapster Lane, this volume). This resulted in the discovery of a major bank and ditch. Survey work was subsequently undertaken in the surrounding parishes in an attempt to locate additional lengths of earthwork. A number of additional lengths have been discovered and these appear to define a roughly triangular enclosure, approximately seven square kilometres in internal area.

The date and significance of the earthwork are uncertain. Its proximity to the possible Iron Age valley fort at Harborough Bank, Kingswood, Lapworth may suggest some form of connection between the two earthworks. Whether the Hobditch earthwork is more closely comparable to the so-called 'territorial oppida' of southern Britain, for instance Colchester, Selsey, Silchester and Bagendon (Cunliffe 1978), or Jim Pickering's linear dyke systems of the 'Jurassic Spine' (Pickering 1978), is uncertain.

Cunliffe, B W, 1978 *Iron Age Communities in Britain*

Hutty, B, 1971 Hob Ditch Causeway: Linear Earthworks in the Forest of Arden, *Trans Birmingham Archaeol Soc* 85, 1-6

Hutty, B, 1975 Hobditch Causeway: First Excavation Report (1965-69), *Trans Birmingham Archaeol Soc* 87, 89-110

Pickering, J, 1978 The Jurassic Spine, *Current Archaeology* 64, 140-3

Dr Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

**WARWICK, Warwick Castle (SP 284646; PRNWA1922)**

A small excavation was carried out inside the gatehouse and barbican of Warwick Castle during March-April 1987. This was in advance of a pipe-laying operation to supply central heating to the castle buildings. The excavation was confined to the eastern half of the entrance passage and measured 13m from north to south and 1.7m from east to west; it was emptied to a depth of 0.90m.

The earliest excavated levels consisted of layers of sand, loam, clay and gravel, deposited methodically from north to south. They probably represent the construction of an earthen bank and contained a small quantity of calcareous wares, tentatively dated to the 12th century, although the actual construction date could well be later. No trace was found of any timber defences but the foundations of an earlier stone gatehouse were partially uncovered cutting through the bank material. This may have been in contemporary use with the barbican which, on architectural grounds, appears to have been constructed during the earlier part of the 13th century.

The existing gatehouse (late 13th-century) was built over the top of the earlier foundations and reached further south into the courtyard. A rutted stone surface, made up of sandstone slabs, may be contemporary and showed signs of repair and resurfacing. Inside the barbican a subsequent levelling down and resurfacing removed all pre-existing levels down to the bank material, creating a much greater incline into the gatehouse and courtyard. This may be equatable with the landscaping activities of 'Capability' Brown who was taken on in 1753 to 'level the courtyard and make a coachway into it' (VCH 8, 461). The passageway of both gatehouse and barbican had been substantially damaged by the installation of numerous modern pipes and wires. The excavation was funded by Warwick Castle and English Heritage.

VCH Warwicks 8, 1969

Martin Jones, Warwickshire Museum

**WARWICK, post-medieval find from Warwick Technology Park (SP 295643; PRNWA6112)**

A large number of mainly post-medieval objects were recovered by metal detector users during the construction of the Warwick Technology Park. Of particular interest was a Russian bifacial lead seal brought to the County Museum for identification by Mr D Parkinson. The seal (fig 16) has a maximum diameter



Figure 16 Warwick and Ilmington: Russian seals

of 24mm and bears the personal name 'Zanov', presumably a trader, producer or customs official. On the reverse side are the letters 'SPB' -the monogram of St Petersburg- and the date '180[ ]'. The only comparable Warwickshire example is a previously unpublished seal from Ilmington (fig 16) which has the personal name 'Plotnik' and the date 1795. Both are similar to a group of late 18th century seals found at Abingdon, Oxfordshire (MacGregor 1985). The Warwick seal is in the possession of the landowner, and the Ilmington example in the County Museum.

## 1. Warwick

Obverse \* П Д / Д Г Л А / З А Ч О В

Reverse С Р В / [ ] К Р / 180 [ ]

## 2. Ilmington

Obverse Л Д / И П Л О / Т Н И К / Н 69

Reverse Н Р / [ ] Г : / 12 К / 1795

MacGregor, A, 1985, Russian Seals from Abingdon, *Post-medieval Archaeol* 19, 156-7

John Pickin, Warwickshire Museum

**WARWICK, BUDBROOKE, HATTON, SHREWLEY, LAPWORTH, The M40 Survey**

The construction of the M40 began in the summer of 1987 with earthmoving and levelling in an area between Longbridge Roundabout, Warwick and Shrewley Common. The route of the motorway has been examined before and during earthmoving by David Adams and Derek Jenkins with occasional assistance from Michael Longfield. A number of finds of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date have been recovered. These include individual flakes of neolithic/Bronze Age flint, the occasional Roman potsherd and coin and a number of medieval coins and objects. Sites are scarce so far, although a Roman settlement is being examined at Lapworth (this volume) and the motorway appears to have clipped the edge of another site near the Longbridge Roundabout.

It is hoped that it will be possible to continue survey work on the rest of the motorway route during its construction. All finds of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date are being accurately recorded and it should be possible to record relative densities of finds along the whole length of the motorway.

Dr Richard Hingley, Warwickshire Museum

**WELFORD ON AVON, Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Settlement at Welford Pastures Farm (SP 1251; PRNWA4708/4986)**

Mr R Laight of Studley has continued work on the probable Iron Age settlement and Roman villa site at Welford Pastures (see *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 57-8). Recent finds include late Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon material (fig 17) and indicate a longer period of occupation than was previously recognized.

Of particular interest are: 1. A 6th-century bronze disc brooch, 29mm in diameter, with decoration consisting of six ring and dot motifs around a central, countersunk dot. The catchplate is complete but the pin is absent.

2. A small Anglo-Saxon lead piece measuring 31 by 15mm, decorated with two chip-carved Style 1 animals. Examples of decorated lead are comparatively rare, and Mrs Leslie Webster of the British Museum has suggested that this could be a model for use in mould making or possibly a core used in the 'lost-lead' casting process. Although this may be a casual loss it does raise the possibility of an Anglo-Saxon metalworking site in the vicinity. The Style 1 decoration indicates a 6th-century date.

3. A very worn and damaged Anglo-Saxon bow brooch, with faceted decoration on the bow. It is unclear if this is the head and bow fragment of a small long brooch or a more complete equal-armed brooch of *anseate* type.

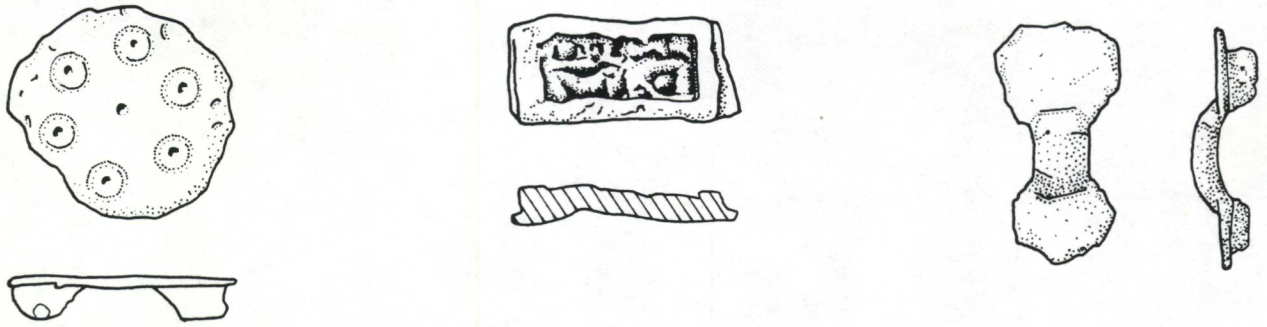


Figure 17 Welford on Avon: Anglo-Saxon finds

4. A gold-plated copper-cored Dobunnic stater, found in October 1987. On the convex face is the name BODVO[C]. On the concave reverse is a disjointed horse right with wheel below body and various symbols above. It dates to the later 1st century BC but could well have been in circulation during the first half of the 1st century AD (Mack 1975, No 395, Plate XXIV). Weight 3.365g. Many Roman coins have been turned up by metal detecting on these fields but nearly all date from the second half of the 3rd century or from the 4th century. Iron Age pottery was collected by Richard Hingley during fieldwork on the site and it seems likely that the site was occupied in the Iron Age.

5. An *antoninianus* of Carausius having on the reverse (PROV)IDEN D. AVG. and showing Providentia, standing right and holding two standards, facing Sol standing left, naked except for *chlamys* over his left shoulder, holding up his right hand and with globe in his left. The London mint mark is ML. Weight 2.87g. It is not recorded in RIC (Webb 1933) or otherwise published so far as known to Dr Cathy King, Herberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum.

It would appear that Welford Pastures is one of a number of Roman rural settlements in the Avon Valley which is producing evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation or reoccupation (Bidford-on-Avon, this volume).

Mack, R P, 1975 *The Coinage of Ancient Britain*

Webb, P H, 1933 *The Roman Imperial Coinage* 2 pt 5

John Pickin and W A Seaby, Warwickshire Museum

**WIXFORD, Iron Age coin from field west of the Three Horse Shoes Public House (SP 090543; PRNWA6113)**

A gold quarter stater of the Dobunnic Corio type, dating to the late 1st century BC, was found by Mr R Laight using a metal detector a few centimetres below the surface in February 1987. The convex side shows COR in the field. On the concave reverse is a triple-tailed horse right with large pellet in beaded annulet above and various other symbols around (Mack 1975, No 394, Plate XXIV, 394 var). Weight 1.115g. The coin has been purchased by the Warwickshire Museum. No other artefacts or definite signs of earthworks dating from the late Iron Age have been found in this field or in the near vicinity.

Mack, R P, 1975 *The Coinage of Ancient Britain*

W A Seaby, Warwickshire Museum

**WOLSTON, Iron Age coin from Vicarage Barn (SP 431764; PRNWA6114)**

Mr Gordon Large using a metal detector unearthed a late prehistoric gold stater on 8th November 1987. It is in good condition and weighs 5.77g. It seems not to have been associated with any other Iron Age or Romano-British artefacts. This coin is an example of British B (Allen 1958, 177), a forerunner of the Dobunnic inscribed coins, but having the convex side blank. On the concave reverse is a triple-tailed

horse right with eight-spoked wheel and zig-zag sling below the body, 'hands of victory' above and part of the vesica enclosing stroke to left (Mack 1975, Plate IV, 59).

Allen, D F, 1958 *The Origins of Coinage in Britain: A Reappraisal*, in S S Frere (ed) *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain*

Mack, R P, 1975 *The Coinage of Ancient Britain*

W A Seaby, Warwickshire Museum

### WOOTTON WAWEN (SP 1563)

The fifth season of historical research at Wootton Wawen was undertaken in 1987 by the School of History of Birmingham University. The stone-by-stone recording of the external wall-faces of St Peter's church continued, with the result that the whole of the east face of the tower's east wall has not been drawn (Bassett 1987, fig 1) as well as over half of the north wall of the chancel.

Inside the church, plaster removal at the west end of the nave revealed precisely the same structural sequence as the one recorded in the nave's east wall in 1983 (exterior face) and 1985 (exterior face), and showed that the (blocked) west doorway was inserted at the beginning of phase 2. As a result it is evident that construction of the present nave was suspended with its walls standing to no more than about 0.70m above ground level. After a pause, long enough for both faces of the partly built walls to need repointing, the new nave was completed. The inclusion of a west doorway in this second phase of construction suggests that St Peter's had by then been given to the Norman Benedictine abbey of St Peter of Castellion by Robert de Tosny, the holder of the manor of Wootton in 1086. The main buildings of the priory, which was established in the existing church, lay to the west of St Peter's. If this is so, it is tempting, if premature, to suggest that the work of constructing the new nave was already well under way in 1066, but was then abandoned when Wootton passed into Norman hands and was not resumed until the church had been given to Castellion and the alien priory established there.

The survey of St Peter's graveyard made very considerable progress, so that only one further season's work should be needed for its completion. Meanwhile, in a field adjacent to the graveyard a geophysical survey was made of the earthworks which appear to represent the remains of some of the alien priory's buildings.

There was also a most welcome addition to the project's activities with the start of an extensive survey of vernacular architecture in the study area, under the direction of Dr Gervase Rosser. A group of eleven buildings to the south of the A34 in the middle of Wootton Wawen was surveyed, the earliest of which proved to be a timber-framed house probably first put up in the 16th century. In addition a detailed study of the house at Merryman's Farm in Ullenhall revealed successive phases of construction between the 15th and 19th centuries.

Fieldwork was again concentrated on the land of Merryman's Farm, an area which, though small, is of great historical importance. The discovery in 1987 of further lengths of earthworks associated with Hob Ditch Causeway confirms the conclusion that they are all of early post-Roman or earlier date (Bassett 1986, 21-3). It now seems possible that they were constructed in the Iron Age as the counterpart, at the south-west end of Hob Ditch Causeway, to Harborough Banks (in Lapworth), a fortified enclosure of probable Iron Age date, at its north-east end.

Bassett, S R, 1986, 1987 *The Wootton Wawen project: interim report 4,5* (Birmingham University)

S R Bassett, School of History, University of Birmingham



## West Midlands

### ALLESLEY, Browns Lane relief road (SP 30803082)

Further fieldwork has taken place to update the earlier survey of this area by members of CADAS. One site was partially excavated in 1975 (Rylatt 1975).

Rylatt, M, 1975 Staircase Lane, Allesley, *West Midlands Archaeol* 18

Margaret Rylatt

### BAGINTON, The Lunt Roman Fort (SP 344752)

On June 17th 1987 the 'Last Sod' was laid to complete the reconstruction of a further 60m of turf ramparts by an MSC funded Community Programme team, directed by the writer. This completes the eastern defences of the fort begun with earlier experimental work in 1966 and 1970 under B Hopley. It is hoped that construction of the *Principia* will begin in mid-1988.

Margaret Rylatt

### BARSTON (SP 2078)

The landscape survey as reported last year (*West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 63-5) has been continuing. Approximately two-thirds of the parish has been recorded (fig 18). Fieldwalking has produced further flints of mesolithic character and a second 'burnt mound' has been located, and Roman material has been found for the first time. A concentration of Roman pottery, mainly mortaria and sherds of grey fabric, was retrieved near the hamlet of Eastcote. Dating of the pottery from rim forms suggest the finds belong to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. The quantity of pottery retrieved may indicate a nearby settlement. This contrasts with the rest of the parish where only single sherds of pottery have been found. These probably result from manuring activities.

Fieldwalking has also taken place on fields in the north-west of the parish including pasture recently ploughed for arable cultivation. Very little evidence for the medieval period and earlier has been found here. As has previously been suggested this area was probably heath or woodland which was cleared by 'assarting', resulting in irregular field shapes. Most of the material retrieved from this area was found near the moated site, the earliest parts of which date to the late medieval period (Salzman (ed) 1947, 22).

The field in front of the hall contains the remains of medieval ridge and furrow. This would suggest the settlement here was situated on the edge of woodland or heath with open fields to the north and east.

A measured survey has been carried out on earthworks located at Eastcote crossroads which are thought to indicate house platforms.

The Field Group has been assisted this year by Coventry Archaeological Society, Douglas Heritage, Solihull Archaeological Group, Stephanie Goodwin, Chris Jones, Maurice Ribbans, Jan Rutter, and Linda Stokes. Once again the Society would like to thank landowners and tenants in Barston Parish for their cooperation, without which the project could not go ahead.

Burnett, W, 1986 Barston, *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 63-5

Salzman, L F (ed), 1947 *Victoria History of the County of Warwickshire 4*

Wendy Burnett, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society

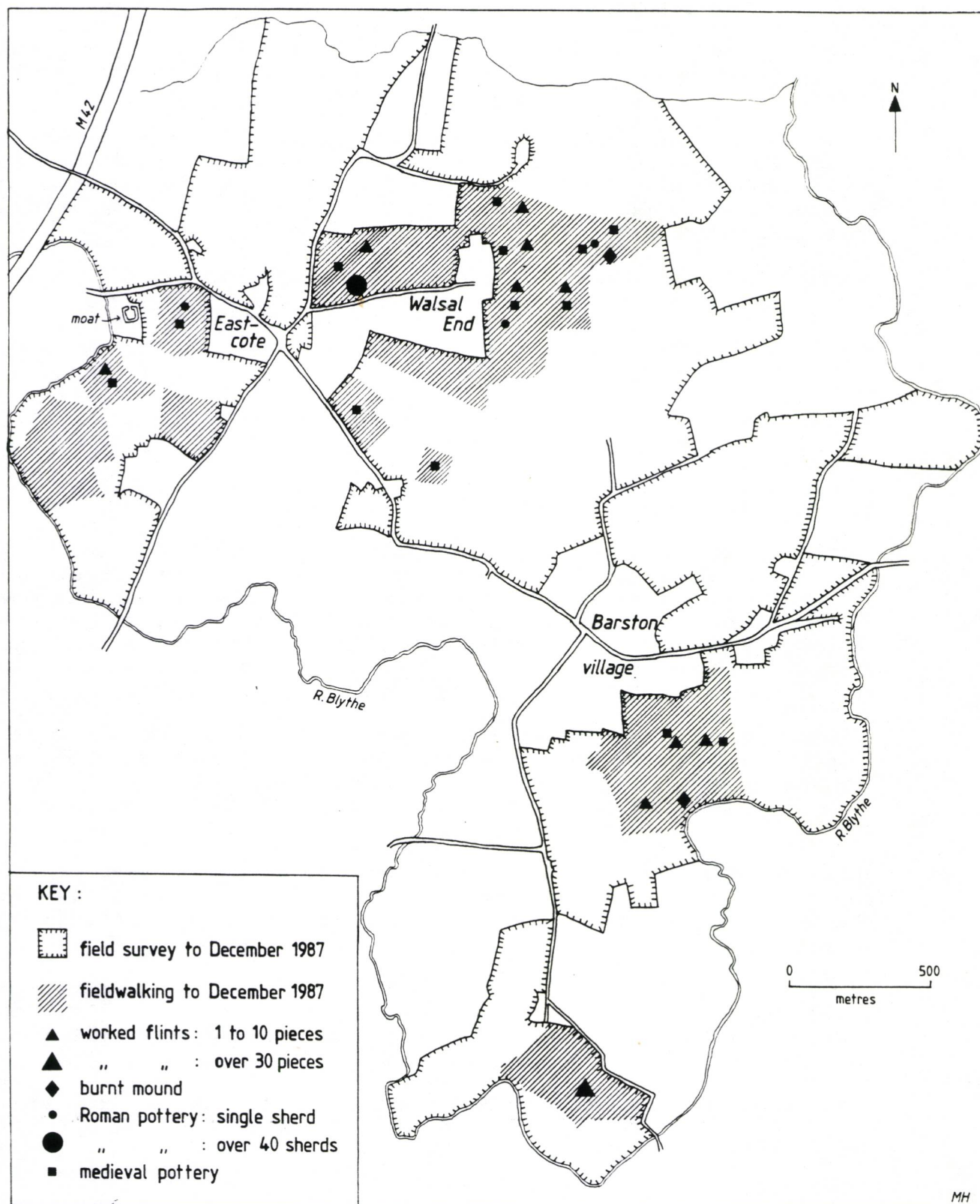


Figure 18 Barston: location of work done to 1987

**BIRMINGHAM, Ravenhurst, Bradford Street (SP 08328590)**

It is over fifty years since attention was first drawn to a possible moated site at the summit of Bradford Street near its junction with Camp Hill (Walker 1931). The evidence was a map which recorded a field, 'Mott Close', with 'High Banke' situated on part of its boundary (Bradford 1748). The bank enclosed a small sub-rectangular feature on two sides. The site was developed in the late 18th century and has only recently been partially cleared in advance of road works for the Middle Ring Road. The principal 18th century building on the site (178 Bradford St) was recorded and removed by Birmingham Museum for erection elsewhere at a later date.

The 'High Banke' appears in both sections of the first trench, but it is too early to confirm whether this formed part of a medieval moated structure. A second trench is underway to establish a possible 90° turn in the bank and work is expected to finish early in January 1988. Much of the area will then be removed by the much larger excavation for a dual carriageway. A fuller report will be available in next year's *West Midlands Archaeology*.

Bradford, S, 1748 A plan of the Estate of Ravenhurst at Camphill in the Parish of Aston... Surveyed and Drawn AD 1748 by Sam Bradford. Birmingham Reference Library

Walker, B, 1931 The Ravenhurst, Camp Hill in the Parish of Aston juxta Birmingham, *Trans Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeol Soc* 60

George Demidowicz, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society

**BIRMINGHAM Watermill survey**

Watermills are architectural and engineering structures which have had a significant impact on the landscape of river valleys, particularly in the Birmingham area. In view of their importance, the Local History Department of Birmingham Museum has commissioned a survey of all watermill sites situated within the City boundary. Over seventy have been identified and each mill is to be investigated in the field and in the historical record. The survey stems from earlier work on watermills of the River Rea, principally Northfield and Lifford, and the excavation of Hill Hook Mill, Sutton Coldfield (see *West Midlands Archaeol* 25 (1982), 26 (1983), 28 (1985), 29 (1986)).

Fieldwork is being carried out to establish the location of the site and the extent of surviving remains such as machinery, buildings and waterworks (pools, leats). Documentary research is intended to illuminate the history and development of each mill, particularly as a spatial form and a landscape unit. For most mills the last chapter is one of decline, abandonment and demolition, and this will be chronicled up to the present day.

There is no great single corpus of watermill records and, as a result, a wide variety of sources have to be consulted to obtain sufficient information. The most revealing are early maps and plans, but to these can be added aerial photographs, illustrations, sale particulars, property deeds, census returns, probate inventories, and trade directories.

Work began in January 1987 on the River Cole and its tributaries and the plan (figure 19) shows the sites which have been investigated in the field. In early 1988 the survey will move to the River Rea, working downstream from the upper waters at Rubery/Frankley. At most sites little is left on the ground, although archaeological deposits may survive in a number of cases.

All material collected will be deposited with Birmingham Museum and the results will be published.

George Demidowicz, Birmingham Museum

The table below summarizes the findings of fieldwork in 1987. A 'Y' indicates surviving features.

Watermill	Grid Ref	River	Buildings/ Machinery	Pools	Leats	Archaeol Deposits
'Old Mill'	SP 106782	Cole tributary	-	-	-	?
Trittiford	SP 097803	Cole/Chinn Brook	-	Y	Y	Y
Chinn Brook	SP 079797	Chinn Brook	-	-	-	-
Sarehole	SP 098818	Cole/Coldbath	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lady Mill	SP 090820	Coldbath	-	-	-	?
Greet	SP 099828	Cole	-	-	-	?
Hay Mills I	SP 107846	Cole	-	-	-	?
Hay Mills II	SP 108848	Cole	-	Y	Y	?
Spark Brook	SP 096847	Spark Brook	-	-	-	?
Medleys	SP 110851	Cole	-	-	-	-
Yardley	SP 120858	Cole	-	-	-	-
Stechford	SP 126879	Cole	-	-	-	?
Broomhall	SP 120820	Kington Brook	-	-	-	?

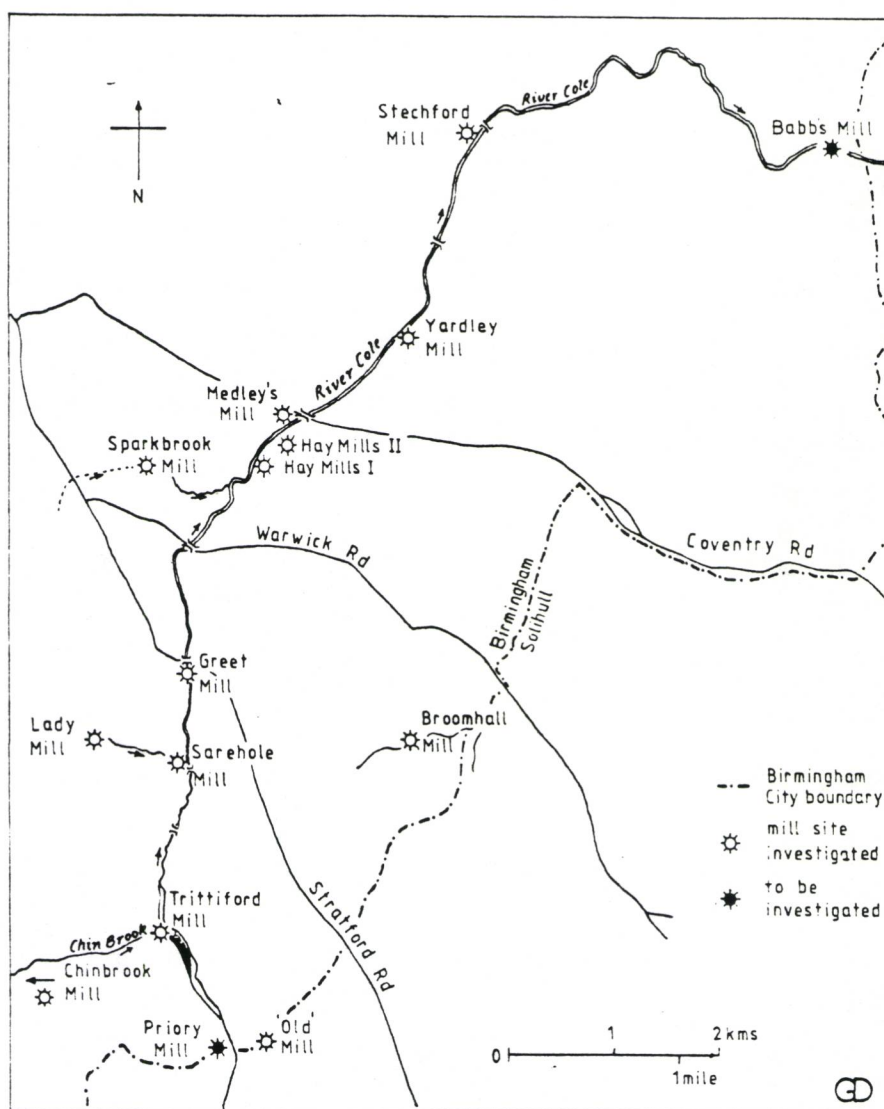


Figure 19 Birmingham: watermills of the Cole valley

**CORLEY, flints from Burrow Hill (SP 304851)**

In November 1986 members of the Coventry Archaeological Society field walking at Burrow Hill collected 519 struck flints. A previous collection from this same area has been published by Alan Saville (Saville 1981) and I am grateful for his advice on the classification of this much smaller collection. Tools number 8% of the total. Mesolithic material includes a scalene triangle, 2 points, 3 scrapers and among the waste a microburin, 14 cores and 15 core preparation flakes.

The post-mesolithic material includes a core used as a hammerstone, three disc and five end scrapers, a piercer, two knives and nine flakes with miscellaneous retouch.

There is a clear distinction between the dense patination of the mesolithic flint and the almost total absence of it on the later material. There is a curious exception of a knife which would normally be classified as post-mesolithic but has the strong patination of the mesolithic flint. All the material collected will be deposited at the Warwick Museum.

Saville, A, 1981 Mesolithic Industries in Central England: An exploratory investigation using a microlith typology, *Archaeol J* 138, 49-71

Tom Heyes

**COVENTRY, Eastern Bypass**

Construction work on this new dual carriageway, linking the M69 and A423 (north to south of the city), commenced in July 1987. At the time of writing the road corridor was being cut and archaeological survey has been completed. Consultation some years earlier with the former Midland Road Construction Unit resulted in the alignment of the corridor away from known sites and monuments. Fieldwalking, survey and excavation during construction was conducted by Coventry Museums' Field Archaeology Unit, members of Coventry and District Archaeology Society, volunteers and supervised detector users. We wish to thank all those who suffered the most appalling weather conditions to help us in this, and the staff of Budge Ltd for their time and assistance and interest.

Brief notes on two new Romano-British sites and two areas of ridge and furrow follow. Full reports will appear in due course through the Coventry Museum's Monograph Series.

**Site 1 (SP372762)**

Fieldwalking by P Woodward and P Hemsley identified a localized surface scatter of Romano-British pottery with settlement evidence, immediately south of Willenhall Wood, approximately 1.6km east of the Romano-British settlement at Baginton (Hobley 1975; Rylatt forthcoming) and 1.6km north-west of the cropmark site at Brandon Grounds (Bateman 1978). The site was subsequently excavated by Coventry Museum's Archaeology Unit aided by volunteers. Two of the wettest weeks of the summer with the heavy clay soil and disturbance by machinery made detailed excavation impossible.

A sinuous ditch c 1-2m broad and up to 1m deep was examined. At least two phases of activity were identified of probable 2nd-3rd century date. In addition to a substantial amount of pottery (coarse wares, samian, mortaria, and other fine wares), a quantity of building materials (daub, *tegulae*, and brick/tile, including a 'TC' tile) were recovered. Further work in the area has not yet located the source of this material, but fieldwalking will continue through the winter.

The archive and material are stored in the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry. Acc no 87/110, side code CEB 87/1.

Bateman, J, 1978 Brandon Grounds, a crop-mark site in Brandon and Bretford parish, Warwickshire. A report of salvage excavations undertaken in the late summer of 1970, *Coventry and District Archaeol Soc*

Hobley, B, 1975 Excavations at the Lunt Roman Fort, Baginton, Warwickshire, *Trans Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeol Soc* 87

Rylatt, M, forthcoming Recent excavations in Baginton, *Coventry Museums Monograph Series*

Margaret Rylatt

**Site 2 (SP 385773)**

Fieldwalking by Messrs Woodward and Hemsley located an isolated pit c 500m south of Brandon Lane which they subsequently excavated. Romano-British coarsewares of 2nd-century date were recovered along with a group of seven part-fired, triangular clay/loam loom-weights. The weights were pierced through each angle by a 10mm hole, c 40mm from the corner and central to the width; a semicircular channel also ran around each angle. The maximum length of the sides was c 150mm. These weights and several large pebbles had been laid edge-to-edge to form a pad or pads in the floor of the shallow pit (c 0.5m deep and c 2m in diameter).

The archive and material are stored in the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry. Acc no 87/11, site code CEB 87/2.

Margaret Rylatt

**Site 3 (SP 383793)**

In late September a small area of relict ridge and furrow was investigated by members of the Arlet Relic Hunting Club, led by Derek Webb, on behalf of Coventry Museums, in advance of destruction. A sketch survey and finds plot were produced. All finds post-dated c 1800 and included copper coins, a copper-alloy buckle, .303 cartridges and shrapnel.

The archive and material are stored in the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry. Acc no 87/112, site code CEB 87/3.

Mike Stokes

**Site 4 (SP 392807)**

Part of a large, well-preserved area of ridge and furrow c 300m west of Walsgrave Hill was surveyed by plane-table by Tom Heyes, with photographic and sketch records of the remainder. In excess of 90% has since been destroyed by the road corridor and the physical removal of much of the hill for constructional use. Close dating was not possible though several phases of activity were represented. Of particular interest were the clear signs of at least two main phases where furlongs intersected and a possible third phase, where low, flat-topped ridges were noted between many of the higher ones.

Margaret Rylatt and Tom Heyes

**COVENTRY, Draper's Fields (SP 333809)**

The Coventry Climax Company cut a deep section through the northern edge of this shallow bluff north of the city centre. No medieval features were revealed though a scatter of 19th-20th century pottery was recovered as well as a brick well, 2m in diameter and in excess of 10m in depth. Further work will take place on the site early in 1988 prior to housing construction, to add to work by R Wallwork for CADAS in 1978 at nearby Hill House.

Margaret Rylatt and Ray Wallwork

**COVENTRY, Hawkhurst Moor (SP 2679)**

Fieldwalking by Coventry Field Archaeology Unit staff, members of Coventry and District Archaeological Society and other local bodies has taken place in the area under threat by British Coal's proposed new super-pit. British Coal have recently indicated a willingness to fund a professional survey and subsequent excavation after permission to go ahead is received.

Margaret Rylatt

**COVENTRY, 38-39 Bayley Lane (SP 337789)**

In late July 1987 the Field Archaeology Unit was approached by the Economic Development and Planning Department of the City Council to locate and examine the listed medieval sandstone basement beneath the former 38- 39 Bayley Lane, destroyed during the Blitz of 1941. Part of the structure lies beneath a block of temporary timber buildings which are due for removal as part of the 'Cathedral Quarters' Development when a total excavation will take place. To avoid unnecessary disturbance a 3m x 3m area was selected. The upper surface of the rubble vault-infill was located approximately 0.4m below the modern surface; with a fragment of a stone sill-wall. A post-medieval entrance to the west was located and emptied of soil which had been deposited in the mid-1960s to prevent access. The interior was found to be in a fine state of preservation though the two-bayed, rib-vaulted structure had been added to by a range of brick storage shelving. The structure was measured and photographed by the Special Projects Section before being boarded up and backfilled with clean sand over polythene. Following the full excavation in 1988 the structure will be consolidated and displayed. The material is held in the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. Acc no 87/231, site code BL 87. Further information on the structure from R Gow, Economic Development and Planning, Coventry City Council.

Margaret Rylatt and Mike Stokes

**COVENTRY, Fleet Street (SP 330790)**

Over six months between the spring and autumn of 1987 CARP excavated a section across the line of the medieval Town Wall close to the recorded position of Spon Gate. This section of the wall was constructed in the last decade of the 14th century (Gooder *et al* 1966). A well-stratified sequence from the late 12th to the 20th century was recovered, commencing with a series of pre-wall ditches of uncertain function, and remains of a timber building on post pads, sealed by make-up layers prior to the construction of the wall. An important feature was the division of the wall material into town wall and the edge of the gate-bastion. Above the medieval ditch infill was good evidence of the enhancement of the defences during the Civil War, and their infilling when the walls were slighted in 1662. Finally, an excellent sequence of building layers completed the site to 1964, when it was levelled. Finds include leather, wood, ceramics and metalwork, which, due to the quality of stratigraphy, will prove to be extremely important. The archive/material is stored in the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry. Acc no 87/35, site code FS87.

Gooder, E, Woodfield C, & Chaplin, R, 1966 The Walls of Coventry, *Trans Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeol Soc* 81

Margaret Rylatt and Ray Wallwork

**COVENTRY, 114-115 Gosford Street (SP 338789)**

Renovation of this timber-framed building during its conversion into a 'home-brew' public house caused the proprietor, H Kleiner, to invite the Field Archaeology Unit to investigate an area to the rear of the structure, prior to the excavation of new cellarage. The structure itself has been fully recorded by P Vyse-Widcombe, Coventry City Property Services Department.

The post-medieval surfaces had been cleared away during recent floor-laying which sealed the medieval layers beneath. A series of pits producing 12th-13th century pottery and other finds, cut through an area of earlier ridge and furrow agriculture. Plough-marks were excavated and fully recorded. The ridges were at approximately 2m centres. Beneath the ridges were earlier pits, post/stake holes producing 11th-12th century ceramics. The sequence compares remarkably with the recorded stratigraphy at 7-10 Much Park Street, excavated for Coventry Museum by A Hannan in 1971 (Wright forthcoming).

The implications of the sequence have yet to be fully evaluated though the boundaries of timber structures follow the ridges, which is of great interest to students of urban property development.

The archive and material are stored in Coventry Museums. Acc no 87/144, site code GS87.

Wright, S, forthcoming Excavations in Much Park Street, Coventry, 1971-4, *Trans Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeol Soc*

Ray Wallwork and Mike Stokes

#### **COVENTRY, Gosford Relief Road (SP 3479)**

Construction of this dual carriageway link from the Inner Ring Road to Gosford Street was begun and virtually completed during 1987. The work was monitored by members of CARP (Coventry Archaeology Rescue Project) for the Museum. Documentary research had suggested the possibility of pottery production to the north of Gosford Street, but the road-line produced no evidence for medieval activity. An extensive flood-plain area lay outside the line of the Town Wall near Gosford Gate, but no artefacts came from the available areas.

Margaret Rylatt and Ray Wallwork

#### **COVENTRY, Parkside (SP 338785)**

During excavations prior to the construction of new accommodation for the 'Assembly of God'a watching brief was maintained. The suspected alignment of this stretch of the Town Wall was confirmed. The material/archive are stored in Coventry Museums. Acc no 87/232, site code PS.TW87.

Margaret Rylatt and Ray Wallwork

#### **COVENTRY, Queen Victoria Road (SP 329789)**

A watching brief was maintained during the construction of a new 'Co-op' store during 1987. The medieval and later flood-plain had been levelled up by c 2m of industrial debris in the c 19th century, resulting in the flooding problems experienced in Spon Street earlier this century. A large sandstone well approximately 5m from Queen Victoria Road and 10m from its junction with Fleet Street was noted but no dating evidence located.

Margaret Rylatt and Ray Wallwork

#### **COVENTRY, River Sherbourne (SP 329788)**

Prior to the 'Co-op' development referred to above, the course of the River Sherbourne had to be diverted and culverted. The river had previously been altered and regularly flushed to clear silts and debris. This had effectively removed all the archaeological deposits. Site code CR/87.

Margaret Rylatt and Ray Wallwork



**COVENTRY, West Orchard (SP 332790)**

In spring 1987 a 10m x 3m trench was excavated to establish levels of preservation prior to excavation in 1988 when almost one-quarter of the present precinct and car park will be demolished and redeveloped, potentially 10,000 square metres. Deposits to a depth of 2-3m were located with varying degrees of preservation. Lower levels appear to be subject to waterlogging. Beneath c 1m of stratified car park surfaces, remains of the Market Hall, built in c 1880 and destroyed in 1941, were recorded. These in turn sealed buried surfaces and pits which produced a useful ceramic sequence, including an unusual pot-oven of 13th-century date. This will be the subject of a paper by S Moorhouse in due course.

The archive and material are stored in Coventry Museums. Acc no 87/10, site code WO 87.

Margaret Rylatt and Ray Wallwork

**COVENTRY, Benedictine Priory of St Mary (SP 336792)**

On September 8th 1987 a rescue excavation was carried out by Coventry Museum's FAV beneath the English Studies Centre, Priory Row, Coventry. Relaying of cellar floors in the Centre disturbed a burial in the area believed to be a chapel to the east of the south transept of the Priory Church (Hobley 1971).

The burial was in a stone coffin, the lid of which had not survived, there being also some disturbance of the skeleton within. Although the coffin could not be moved, retrieval of the skeletal remains was necessary. Close dating was not possible beyond tentatively placing the burial in the 14th century. Dr J Cole has examined the remains and has indicated that the individual was a male between 35-45 years old, approximately six feet tall, with severe dishing of the spinal column and osteo-arthritis of the chest and shoulder area. The archive/material are stored in the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. Acc no 87/230, site code CBP 87.

Hobley, B, 1971 Excavations at the Cathedral and Benedictine Priory of St Mary, Coventry, *Trans Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeol Soc* 84

Margaret Rylatt and Iain Soden

**COVENTRY, St Anne's Charterhouse, London Road (SP 345783)**

Excavations at St Anne's continued into their fourth and final year, and concentrated on the western end of the nave with some attention to the open court to the north. Within the nave the heaviest sequence of occupation on the site (c 1500-1538) was identified. The entire west end of the church appears to have been an extension, built c 1500, and thus coinciding with the Phase III chapel construction and re-buttressing which took place as part of what is believed to be a general facelift of the church (Rylatt and Soden 1986).

The ground surface at the west end had to be made up considerably before the new floors could be inserted to cover the remains of the old west end and meet up with the floors further up the nave. Level readings suggested that this never in fact took place and, though the old west-end foundation was covered over, the *entire* nave was refloored; this had been suggested by the level of the Phase III chapel floors in 1986 but not proven.

The phase III tile floors of the west end were laid in patterns, consisting of 'bands' or strips running along the nave (fig 20) dividing it in half and almost in half again, giving the effect of the nave being aisled. Beyond this aisled effect each band was laid out in different 'chequerboards' based on one and four tile systems.

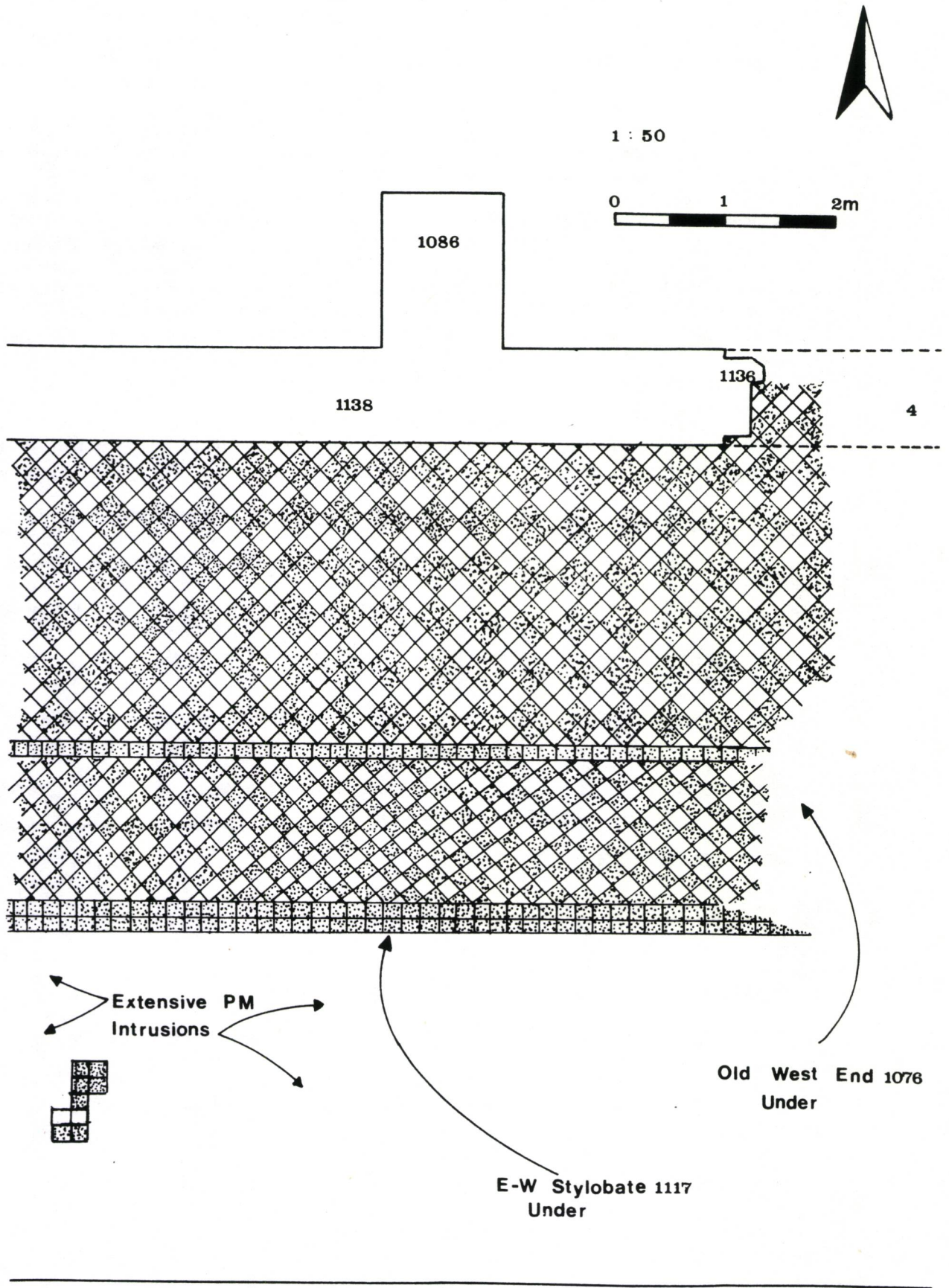


Figure 20 Coventry, Charterhouse: Nave floor III reconstruction

Evidence suggests that the 'new' west end extension was in use before the permanent floor and possibly before the roof was constructed. Several layers of make-up yielded an apparent turf-line, and a full contour survey of these layers revealed wear patterns which strongly suggest continuous and heavy use along a central west-east line. It is of note that no burial was cut through from this level. The burials in this area post-date the laying of the final floor and can be dated to the 16th century.

The burials themselves show a marked difference as a group from those further up the church (Rylatt and Soden (eds) forthcoming). Burial patterns here suggest a much more haphazard approach to the disposal of bodies than encountered further up the church in earlier phases. Previously there had been found only minimal disturbance of earlier graves by later graves or structures. Burials had been largely laid systematically, respecting other structural features. However, at the west end, within the extension, were graves which appeared to have been randomly constructed, and many were disturbed by later graves, some being reused, with some wholesale reburials. The haphazard 'clustering' of graves in this area may point to familial connotations; one such group (nos 33-35) being a prime candidate, where the secondary child burial (no 33) could have been buried up to 2m west, but appears to have been cut deliberately into the double grave of the two adults. Thereupon the cranium and two long bones of the now heavily disturbed primary burial were replaced 'skull and cross-bones' fashion on the child's legs, an act showing considerably more reverence than has been observed elsewhere in the nave extension.

One possible reason for so many burials in so short a time (c 1500-1538 max) is that a number of epidemics swept Coventry in the first decades of the 16th century (Whittingham 1746-81). That many benefactors of the Charterhouse may have died in a short space of time is a possibility.

As mentioned above, attention was given to the outer court, north of the church, since a wall, springing from the north-west corner of the nave extension, ran northwards for some 15m before turning west. It was therefore investigated as part of the church complex, and its excavation has shown that it served to delineate an area set aside for burials (three were located) and that it was possibly the boundary wall of a late c 1500-38 'little' cloister, perhaps for lay-brothers or a similar group living claustrally. Such a siting for burials, located only 200-300mm beneath the 16th-century ground surface, would suggest that the area, which was otherwise featureless, was not normally disturbed by day-to-day occupation. This is in keeping with the nature of a cloister garth.

A full report will appear in Coventry Museum's Monograph series and will include work carried out in 1968 and 1973 (trial trenching), 1980-1 (Great Cloister 1) and 1984-7 (Church and Great Cloister 2).

Our thanks to Coventry and District Archaeological Society for their work on the Church Quire; also to MSC (Community Programme) for their financial support for the excavation.

All finds and archival material are stored in Coventry Museums.

Hobley, B, 1968 *West Midlands Archaeol News Sheet* 11, 27-8

Rylatt, M, 1981 *West Midlands Archaeol* 24, 61

Rylatt, M, & Soden, I C, 1986 *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 65-71

Rylatt, M, & Soden, I C, (eds), forthcoming *Excavations at St Anne's Charterhouse, Coventry 1968-87, Coventry Museums' Monograph Series*

Whittingham, J, c 18th century *Diary (MSS) of John Whittingham (Estate Manager, Charterhouse) 1746-81, Coventry PRO. 201/1*

Margaret Rylatt and Iain Soden

**COVENTRY, enquires to the museum**

A number of interesting and important artefacts were reported to the archaeology unit for identification during 1987. A brief list follows:

Brownsover Hall (SP 505775): Lead ampulla (medieval); Silver penny (medieval); 5 AE coins

213 Allesley Old Road, Coventry (SP 315790): Barbed and tanged flint arrowhead (late neolithic?)

Wyken Croft, Coventry (SP 3780): Jetton (late medieval)

Galley Common, Nuneaton (SP 3192): Copper alloy terret (Iron Age, 1st century BC/1st century AD)

Hospital Lane, Exhall (SP 328863): Small bronze bust of Romano-British female deity or *genius paterfamilias* or part of steelyard weight

34 Roosevelt Drive, Coventry (SP 284786): Broad leaf arrowhead (neolithic)

Barratt's Farm, Exhall (SP 3485): Ae/Pb shield shaped weight, probably steelyard fitting, (medieval)

Warwickshire/Leicestershire border near Mancetter (SP 3397): Aberg IVb cruciform brooch, c AD 550-650?

Details of the items and their present whereabouts are held by the Archaeology Unit, Coventry Museums. It is hoped that other museums in the region will contribute similar brief listings in an attempt to make distribution surveys more meaningful and to improve SMR listings.

**GREAT BARR, Peak House Farm (SP 041957)**

The owners of Peak House Farm recently reported the discovery of part of a polished stone axe about 15 years ago, during gardening adjacent to the farm house.

M A Hodder, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

**GREAT BARR, Wilderness Lane (SP 039953)**

A subrectangular ditched enclosure of c 80m x 40m was located during field survey. It is provisionally interpreted as a medieval moated site.

M A Hodder, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

**HALESOWEN, structural survey of the 'Infirmary' Building, Halesowen Abbey (SO 979828)**

A detailed structural survey of the stone fabric and fine timbered roof of the so-called 'Infirmary' building at Halesowen Abbey was carried out in February 1987 by members of Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit at the request of HBMC. The earliest part of the fabric of this largely intact building was demonstrated to be late 13th or early 14th century in date. It may originally have been the Abbey's infirmary but this is uncertain. The building was extended some time towards the end of the Abbey's life or soon after the Dissolution, perhaps also changing its function to that of a dwelling house. Certainly, as shown by the provision of new windows in the 16th and 17th centuries, it was well maintained for some considerable time. In the late 17th or early 18th century it became a cartshed or barn, with brick trusses and new walling constructed as part of the conversion, and was used for agricultural storage until a few years ago.

An archive of proforma sheets, drawings and photographs recording both the fabric and roof of the building was produced for HBMC and a copy is held at BUFAU.

Iain Ferris, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

#### **MOSELEY, watching brief at 171, Alcester Road (SP 07558305)**

In February 1988 staff of the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography, Birmingham City Museum, carried out a watching brief on redevelopment work at the above site. The main ground disturbance resulted from the stripping of an area at the rear of the house to lay a car park. No material earlier than the 19th century was noted in the soil removed. Since the site was not stripped down to natural, it is impossible to say whether earlier features had been cut into it but the lack of pre-19th century material makes this unlikely. These results suggest that the medieval village of Moseley was tightly clustered around the church and the green (ie the junction of the Alcester Road with St Mary's Row and Salisbury Road).

David Symons, Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery

#### **OLDBURY, Church Street (SO 989896)**

Trial trenches were excavated in November 1987 to assess the archaeological potential of the area between Church Street and Freeth Street, due to be redeveloped for Sandwell's Civic Centre. These revealed a group of pits containing late medieval pottery, probably rubbish pits for houses along Church Street. It is hoped to undertake more extensive excavations on the Church Street frontage before the Civic Centre development. The assistance of Neil Lang, West Midlands SMR Officer, in the trial trenching is gratefully acknowledged.

M A Hodder, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

#### **SANDWELL, Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project**

##### **Sandwell Priory excavations**

In 1987 excavations to the east end of the church were completed, concentrating on the south chapels and south transept. A new area excavation was commenced in the nave area together with a small trial trench which endeavoured to recover evidence of the north chapels.

##### **Pre-Priory**

Worked flints of mesolithic type continued to be recovered, along with a single neolithic barbed arrowhead. A large number of heat-cracked quartzite pebbles, concentrated under the south transept floors, suggest the presence of a burnt mound in this area (Hodder and Barfield 1987). A short length of shallow ditch c 1.2m wide x 0.6m deep) was discovered running north-west to south-east across the chancel and a similar feature with similar orientation butt-ended under the north chapels, though both features contained small quantities of mesolithic flint it is impossible, as yet, to identify their period or purpose.

##### **South transept and south chapels (fig 21)**

Work on the south chapels uncovered evidence of their disuse after the insertion of blocking walls into the south transept arches (Hodder 1986). Wooden scaffold posts associated with the blocking walls were recovered *in situ* as well as broken fragments of tracery from windows which must have penetrated blocking walls into the south transept. These fragments appear to be of 14th-century style.

Evidence of earlier activity is limited, consisting of fragmentary stone drains, a stone step in the outer chapel and a partially destroyed stone altar within the inner chapels.

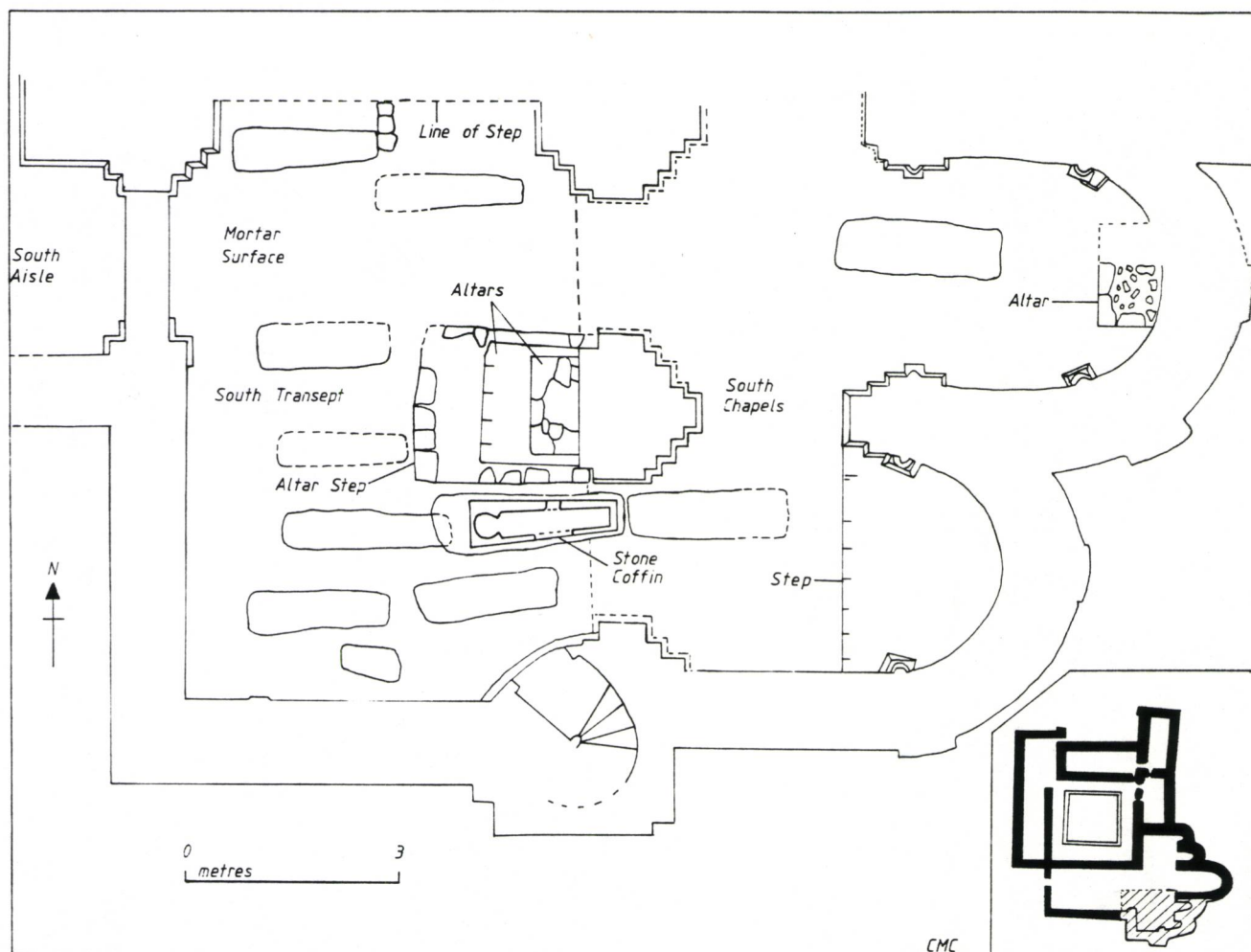


Figure 21 Sandwell Priory: early medieval features in the south transept and south chapels

Two graves were also discovered, the one in the inner chapel much disturbed, the other in far better condition. The second grave was partly covered by the southernmost of the south transept blocking walls, the body itself being sandwiched between two oak planks with a dendrochronological date of c 1252) and wrapped in a shroud, possibly of wool.

The south chapels contained a few small disturbed areas of mortar floor makeup in contrast with the south transept where such surfaces were both frequent and extensive. The south transept appears to have suffered extensively from waterlogging and to counteract this the floor was frequently patched and raised. The later mortar surfaces exhibit tile impressions (Hodder 1986), the earlier do not and may have been covered with sandstone flags, and along the north edge access to the crossing may have been down a step, only three sandstone blocks of which survive. Associated with the floor surfaces were a series of stone altars set against the western side of the east central pillar base. Originally the altar may have been of wood, but if so it was later replaced by a sequence of stone altars, one with a step leading up to it. At an early date fire appears to have damaged the south transept, implied by an area of charcoal spreading over most of the transept but centring on the site of the altar. A number of postholes cutting this layer may result from subsequent repairs (perhaps including the roof).

There is a considerable concentration of burials within the south transept with many associated finds including wooden crosses, staffs and coffins, leather boots and in one case a shroud, probably of linen. The pathology of the bodies has also proved of interest and preliminary examination suggests that many

may have been related to one another. The altars, richness of finds (one body was interred within a stone coffin with a relief carved cross slab as a lid), and the possible interrelationships of those interred imply that the south transept may have been a chantry chapel for a local noble family, and was in use continuously throughout the Priory's history.

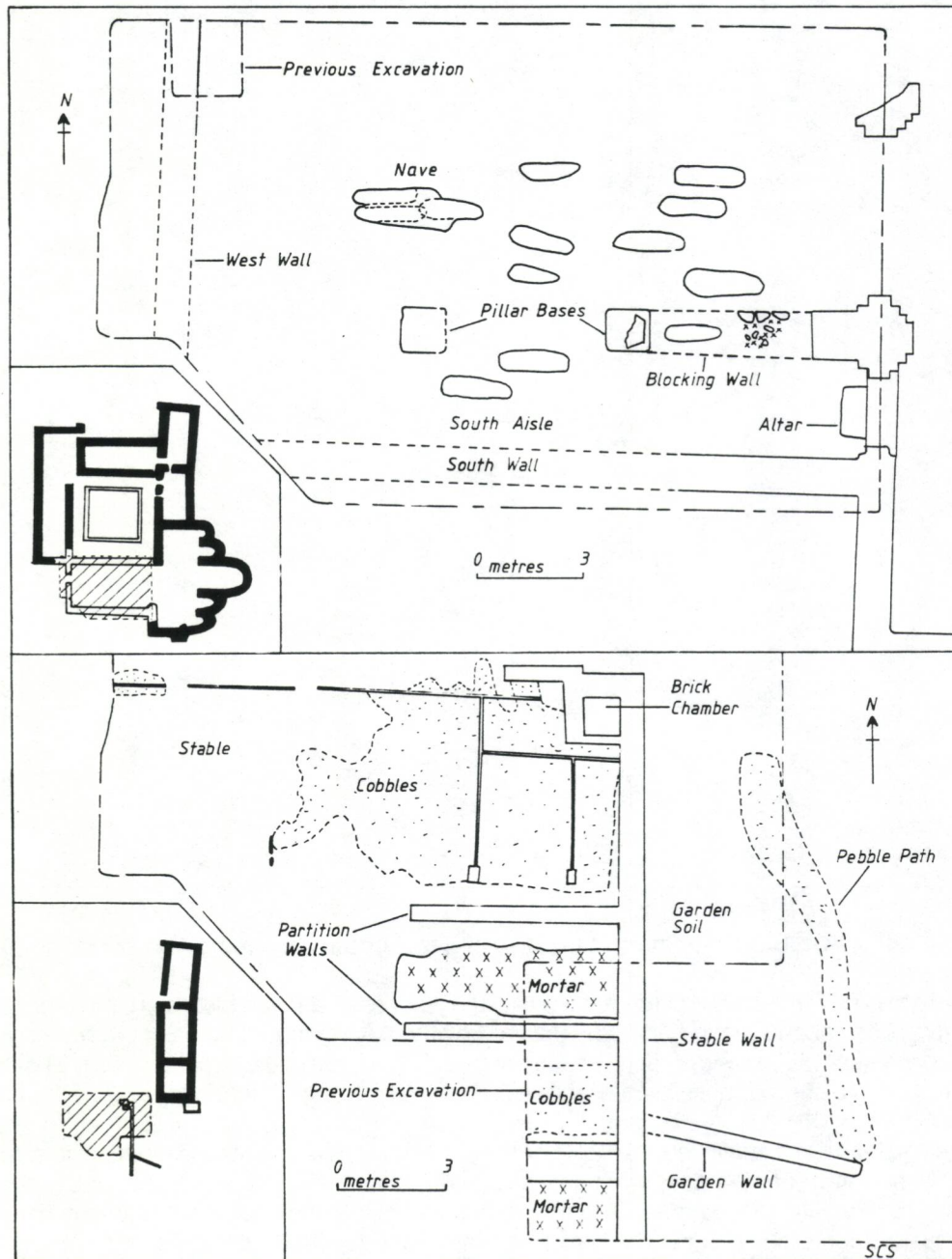


Figure 22 Sandwell Priory: the nave area - principal medieval and Priory House features

#### The nave (fig 22)

Excavations on the nave area await completion in the summer of 1988. Work so far has revealed two of the pillar bases which formed an arcade between the south aisle and the nave. Fragments of a wall blocking the arcade indicate that the south aisle went out of use in the later medieval period. The south aisle housed a sandstone altar against its east wall and at least three graves. The nave also contained a number of graves but those excavated have produced few finds other than skeletal remains.

### The north chapels (fig 23)

The north chapels excavation revealed fragmentary remains of the foundations for an apse ended chapel, outside the north wall of which was discovered the grave of a woman. Much disturbance by the cellars of Sandwell Hall accounts for the paucity of evidence.

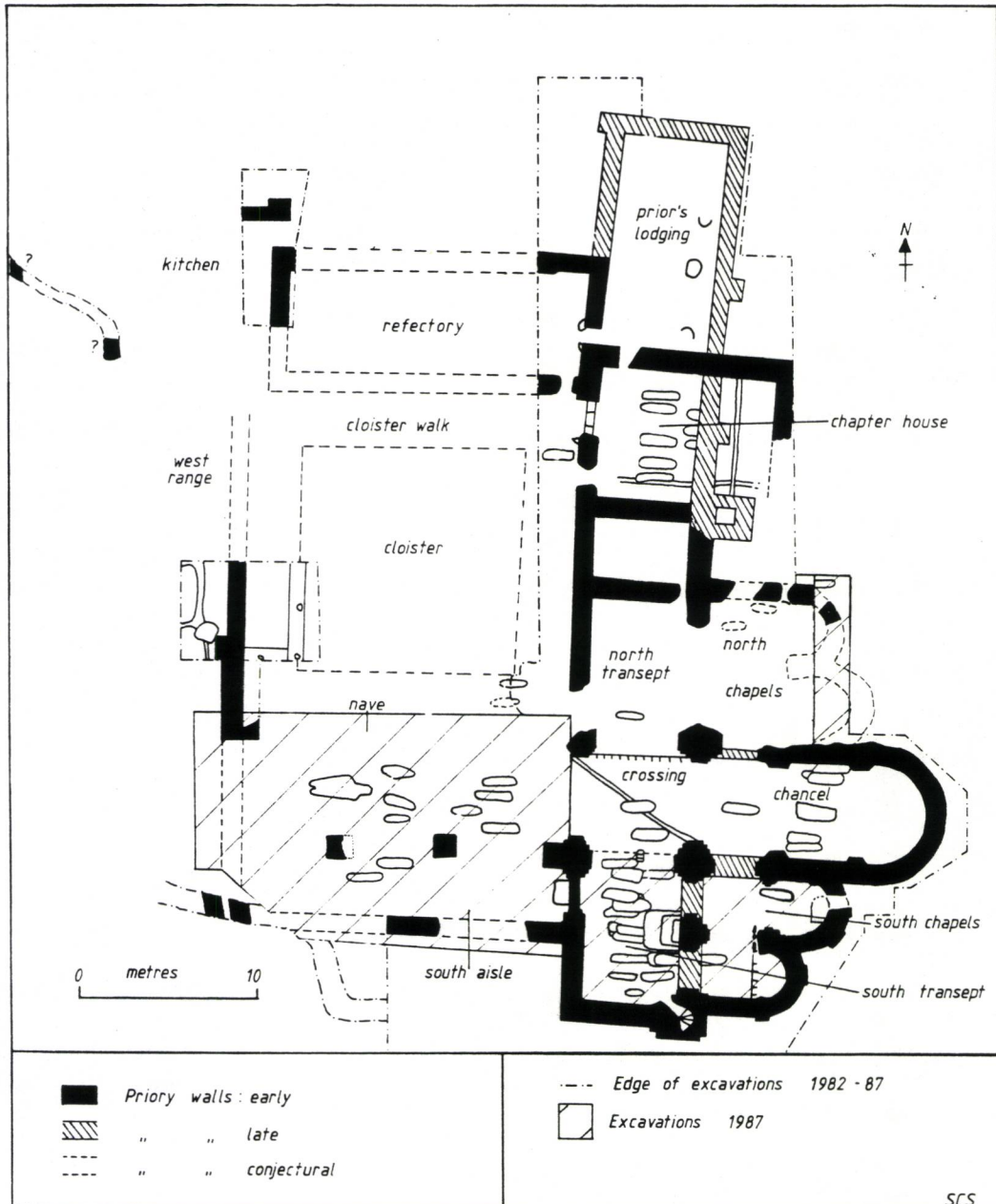


Figure 23 Sandwell Priory: principal medieval features

### Priory House and Sandwell Hall (fig 22)

Excavation above the nave revealed the pebble track and clay makeup, recorded in earlier excavations (Hodder 1986) and associated with the 18th-century access to Sandwell Hall. Within these deposits were a number of brick drains whose sandstone capping was in part made up of broken coffin lids ornamented with incised cross decoration. The style of decoration appears to be 14th-century and the fragments may originate from the much disturbed north transept.



The remains of the Priory House period are mainly from the 17th-century 'stable' block and consist of an east wall of mixed sandstone and brick construction, demolished internal partition walls and floor surfaces. The floors are made of quartzite cobbles or, in one area, of cobbles with a later mortar capping. In the north east corner a small brick structure with a south-facing doorway was added in the late 17th century, but its function remains uncertain. At the west end of the 'stable' 18th-century disturbance destroyed any structures. Outside the 'stable' to the east a garden soil was crossed by a pebble path running north-east to south-west, also recorded in earlier excavations (Hodder 1986).

### Consolidation

Repointing the excavated walls (Hodder 1985) of the Priory's east range has continued, along with the construction of drains and laying of gravel surfaces within the buildings.

### Publication

During 1987 Oakeswell Hall excavations, Wednesbury, 1983 and Sandwell Valley Ice House excavations 1982-3 were published (Hodder 1987; Hodder and Glazebrook 1987).

In 1987 excavations were supervised by Simon Jeffrey, Chris Jones, Jenny Hall, and Gary Higginson, finds by Adrian Cox and consolidation by Dalbir Sandhu and Ken Corbett. Figures were drawn by Chris Cooper and Steven Scrimshaw.

Barfield, L, & Hodder, M A, 1987 Burnt Mounds as Saunas and the History of Bathing, *Antiquity* 61, 370-9

Hodder, M A, 1985 Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project, *West Midlands Archaeol* 28, 32-7

Hodder, M A, 1986 Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project, *West Midlands Archaeol* 29, 75-81

Hodder, M A, 1987 An Icehouse in Sandwell Valley: Excavations and Restoration 1982-3, *Trans South Staffordshire Archaeol Hist Soc* 27, 78-82

Hodder, M A, & Glazebrook, J M, 1987 Excavations at Oakeswell Hall, Wednesbury, 1983, *Trans South Staffordshire Archaeol Hist Soc* 27, 64-77

G C Jones, Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project

### SANDWELL, Archaeological areas in Sandwell Borough

Areas of archaeological potential, based mainly on historical sources, have been defined for use in assessing the archaeological implications of planning applications. The area include the historic centres of Wednesbury, Oldbury, Tipton, Smethwick, West Bromwich, and Rowley Regis, and early settlement in Warley. It is intended to define their archaeological potential more closely through selective trial trenching, watching briefs, and further documentary research.

M A Hodder, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

### SMETHWICK, Bridge Street (SP 026888)

The remains of the housing of an 18th-century steam pumping station, excavated in 1984 (Andrew 1985) are being prepared for public display. A steel cover has been erected over the monument, and the brickwork of the structure will be consolidated and interpretative displays provided.

Andrew, J H, 1985 The Smethwick Engine, *Industrial Archaeology Review* 8 i, 7-27

M A Hodder, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

**SUTTON COLDFIELD, Midland Drive (SP 122964)**

Staff of the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography, and of Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, carried out a watching brief on redevelopment of this site, which lies behind known medieval houses in Coleshill Street. Much of the site had been destroyed by post-medieval activities. No features were recorded or items found which could be dated earlier than the 18th century. Subsequent to the watching brief a metal detector user reported the discovery on a spoil heap of a very badly worn Nuremberg *jetton*. No legends were visible but traces of *reichsapfel* in trilobe/3 crowns and 2 lys design could be made out, dating the *jetton* to the late 16th or early 17th century.

David Symons, Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery

**SUTTON COLDFIELD, Roman pottery kiln (SP 993116)**

A Roman pottery kiln was discovered in August 1987 at 16 Sherifoot Lane, Sutton Coldfield, by the owner of the property, Mr G Young, in the course of digging a hole for a garden pond. The discovery was brought to the attention of Birmingham City Museum, and the kiln was subsequently examined by D Symons and D Watson from the Museum, M Hodder (Sandwell Borough Archaeologist) and P Booth of Warwickshire Museum.

The kiln was aligned roughly north-west to south-east, with the oven to the south-east. The latter was roughly circular, and measured c 0.90m across and the vertical sides survived to a depth of c 0.80m. The stokehole had sloping sides and measured c 2.2 x 2.0 x 0.76m deep; it is joined to the oven by a short flue c 0.42m wide.

The kiln had passed through several stages of development. In an early, if not the earliest phase, the oven floor, whose exact nature is uncertain, was supported on 5 pilasters composed of clay and prefabricated 'brick-like' blocks. In the latest phase the floor was constructed of similar materials, reusing the earlier pilasters as supports. The only other feature located in the limited excavation was a circular pit c 1m in diameter and up to c 0.60m deep, lying immediately to the north of the stokehole. It contained a good group of pottery, including waste material, probably derived from the adjacent kiln.

The pottery from the site is very uniform in fabric; a light buff-grey in colour, slightly sandy and with occasional organic inclusions. The range of vessel types includes tankards, jars, carinated bowls, bowls, dishes and lids, more unusual forms being cheese presses, an indented beaker and a large part of a substantial mortarium. The pottery suggests a date in the second half of the 2nd century for the kiln, though scraps of evidence - including the likelihood that some of the 'bricks' in the earliest phase were reused from elsewhere, suggest that other kilns may be located in the immediate vicinity. The site lies c 2.5km east of the line of Ryknild Street, and c 7.5km south of Wall, the nearest major Roman settlement and very likely its principal market. Products from the kiln are known to occur at the temple and settlement site at Coleshill, 12km to the south-east. The finds and site records will be deposited at Birmingham City Museum.

P M Booth, Warwickshire Museum

**WALSALL, structural and historical survey of The White Hart, Caldmore Green (SP 013976)**

A structural and historical survey of the White Hart, Caldmore Green Walsall, Staffordshire was commissioned by Walsall Borough Council in advance of renovation work and carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit's CP Roving Team.

Originally built in brick in the 1660s or 1670s, this compact, minor gentry house may have incorporated part of an earlier hall building, a supposition supported by an analysis of the multi-period timber roofing arrangement. Built in a muted post-Jacobean style, with occasional archaic detail, it once stood, as picture research has revealed, within a spacious walled garden. The decline in the fortunes of the owners led to its sale in the early 19th century and its subsequent extension for reuse as a public house, the White Hart Inn, in which role, despite interim periods of neglect, it continued almost up to the present day.

A copy of the drawn survey, report and documentary records is held at BUFAU.

Iain Ferris, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

#### **WEST BROMWICH, Manor House (SP 005943)**

This well-preserved group of medieval timber buildings was discovered in the 1950s, since when it has been restored for use as a public house and the surrounding moat cleared. The buildings were recorded before and during the restoration (Jones 1977). A programme of sampling the surviving original timbers for dendrochronology has now begun, to refine the stylistic dating then proposed. The first part of the programme has involved the extraction of cores from the timbers of the oldest part, the Great Hall, which had been stylistically dated to c 1300. A probable felling date of 1275 was obtained for tie-beams in a base-cruck truss in the Hall. The other parts of the building complex will be sampled in early 1988.

Pottery and decorated floor tiles found during clearance of the moat are currently being studied. The pottery assemblage contained late medieval coarsewares, Cistercian wares, yellow wares, blackwares and early post-medieval coarsewares. The late medieval material includes some probable Wednesbury products, similar to types found at the Oakswell Hall site (Hodder and Glazebrook 1987), and the post-medieval coarseware includes wasters and fragments of saggars, suggesting the presence of a kiln in close proximity to the Manor House.

Public awareness of the archaeology and history of the building is to be further promoted by the mounting of a display in the chapel wing and the production of a new leaflet, both due to be completed early in 1988.

Hodder, M A, & Glazebrook, J M, 1987 Excavations at Oakswell Hall, Wednesbury, 1983, *Trans South Staffordshire Archaeol Hist Soc* 27, 64-77

Jones, S R, 1977 West Bromwich (Staffs) Manor House, *Trans South Staffordshire Archaeol Hist Soc* 17, 1-63

M A Hodder, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

#### **WEST BROMWICH, Sandwell Park Farm (SP 020915)**

Machine clearance prior to the restoration of a walled garden adjacent to the farm exposed the full plan of a heated greenhouse of 18th- or early 19th-century date, the outer wall of which had been located in trial trenching in 1985 (Hodder 1985, 34). The structure was shown to consist of a planting bed against the heated wall, and a central hotbed, outside which ran a flagstone path. The setting for a heating boiler was also found, together with traces of potting sheds outside the greenhouse.

Hodder, M A, 1985 Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project, *West Midlands Archaeol* 28, 32-7

Mike Hodder, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

## 2 Forum

### Warwickshire Dovecotes

It is now more than 40 years since Elwin S Sapcote surveyed the dovecotes of Warwickshire and published his summary (Sapcote 1946).

In 1987 it was decided at Warwick Museum that we would try to bring up to date the information contained in Sapcote's article. His list contained 19 free-standing buildings. He did not include nest holes in lofts or gable ends of houses or barns or nest boxes on poles. Two of his dovecotes have disappeared since 1946: one at Wilmcote (not the one at Mary Arden's House which is very well preserved) and one at Wasperton. We have to omit the one at Castle Bromwich which is no longer in Warwickshire. To the remaining 16 on Sapcote's list we have added a further 16: at Admington, Barford, Crimscote, Curdworth, Great Wolford, Ilmington, Kings Newnham, Little Compton, Shustoke (2), Stratford, Temple Grafton, Tredington (2), Weston-Under-Wetherley and Wootton Wawen. In addition there are ruins of dovecotes still visible at Baginton and Whichford. We would be glad to hear of any dovecotes not mentioned here.

All these dovecotes are privately owned (the one at Stratford is in the care of the District Council) and inaccessible to the general public. Most are in very good condition but we are concerned that two or three are unlikely to stand for many more years unless urgent repairs are carried out. The two circular dovecotes, probably the two oldest in Warwickshire, at Kinwarton and Hillborough, are in an excellent state of repair. The former is cared for by the National Trust and is one of only two still to have a potence (a ladder on a central, pivoted, upright post). The dovecote at Hillborough, Temple Grafton, needed repairs to part of its south wall in 1948 after World War II bomb damage. Another ancient dovecote is the square stone-walled building at Alvecote, Shuttington. Until recently the building was in danger of complete ruin but it has been saved by repairs to the west wall and roof. No doubt the need for economy made it necessary to use ultra-modern materials but it seems a pity when the old stone walls elsewhere still stand over 3.3m high.

Two of the Warwickshire dovecotes have now been incorporated into houses. The square brick-built one at Sherbourne, while retaining its outward appearance and glover (lantern), is now a feature of a new housing estate, and Warwickshire's only completely timber-framed dovecote at Snitterfield has also been incorporated into a dwelling. There are two dovecotes with timber frames in the gables, Wootton Wawen and Wilmcote (Mary Arden's House), but these are stone-walled buildings in origin, as are the majority in the limestone region to the south of the county: Barton-on-Avon, Bidford, Billesley, Little Compton, Shottery, Tredington and Great Wolford. Compton Wynyates, Idlicote and Offchurch Bury provide examples of octagonal brick-built dovecotes. Idlicote has over 1,000 nest holes as does the one at Packington but the largest of all is at Kings Newnham which has nearly 1,400 brick nest holes. This building started life as a huge stone barn. In the late 17th century it was converted into a two-compartment dovecote.

One of the most recently built buildings in the county designed specifically to house birds is the 19th-century dovecote at Barford. A few were built in the 18th-century but the majority in Warwickshire can be ascribed to the 17th-century.

Sapcote, E S, 1946 Warwickshire Dovecotes, *Trans Birmingham Archaeol Soc* 66, 123-6

Peter Foster, Warwickshire Museum

## The Use of SWAG



Outside in the wide world there are many people, encouraged by radio, television, museums and books to take an interest in the past beyond history, who would like to become involved in discovering their past. If the geologist, the botanist and the naturalist have their own following who enjoy and contribute to their chosen field, then why not the archaeologist? Some people have been heard to say that, as taxpayers, they should have some stake in a pleasurable pursuit which is increasingly expensive and does not contribute any tangible material benefit.

There is ample evidence from the work of other interests that public opinion can be influenced by informed pressure groups, and the saga of the birds' eggs is often quoted in contrast to that of the metal detector.

The question is therefore posed - should the vast public interest in archaeology be harnessed and made into something more than the passive admiration of 'goodies'?

Assuming that the answer to this question was positive, the South Worcestershire Archaeological Group (SWAG) was formed in 1981 to try out one possible solution.

The south and especially the south-west of Worcestershire is notorious for its lack of recorded archaeology. This is not because there is nothing to be found but perhaps because it is in a research hinterland, almost equidistant from the universities of Birmingham, Bristol and Oxford.

From a series of extramural classes on Landscape Archaeology a body of people has been recruited into SWAG, who for less than £5 per year receive a minimum of one meeting per month.

In winter the meetings take the form of lectures and workshops, in summer of visits to well-known archaeological sites and short walks to see the extent of archaeology remaining on the doorstep. Within the membership there are a number of people who take an active part, attempting to carry out the aims of the group, which are 'to study and record the landscape and settlement history of South Worcestershire'. Although worthwhile this is unfortunately not as exciting as the archaeology portrayed by the media.

The main work of the group is based on the Parish Survey. Parishes have been selected to represent the varied topography and potentially different settlements in the area. In the survey, each parcel of land is visited and questions are answered on its present land use, its boundaries and whether there is any archaeology to be seen. Large-scale maps and forms provided by the County Archaeologist will eventually be returned, to be added to the SMR. A survey of Eckington in the Vale of Evesham is nearly completed, and has confirmed the known sites and discovered a number of new ones. Welland, which includes part of Malvern Chase, is halfway to completion and is also producing very interesting new material. Eldersfield, one of the parishes surrounding the once tidal marsh of Longdon, has just begun. It has already produced more undisturbed information than has been found in the more arable countryside. Detailed surveys have also been made of a number of sites, including a large deserted village overlooking Longdon Marsh, since planted with trees. Some members have been sorting, recording and numbering the pottery found in the Malvern area earlier in the century and deposited in museums throughout the western Midlands. A start has also been made on mapping the sites of the medieval potters of Hanley (Castle). Fieldwalking is undertaken wherever and whenever possible. An experimental pottery firing site has been in use for three years; the clay used in the firings is collected locally.

Rescue recording has been undertaken from time to time. This has included a previously unrecorded cruck barn being converted to dwellings. In the absence of public funding, a watch was kept on the construction of the Evesham bypass, which led to some small excavations. In the adjoining fields at the south end of the bypass, fieldwalking revealed a Roman-type building with mosaics and wall paintings, and a resistivity survey showed that a triple ditch, seen on an aerial photograph, continued across market gardens.

Some members make their own special contributions. For example, one is able to provide aerial photographs, another records on computer all work done in South Worcestershire for updating the SMR.

There is now the beginning of an awareness in South Worcestershire that archaeology has wider implications than are evident from the media. However, when seen in comparison with other more successful organizations, SWAG is not yet sufficiently substantial to expect more than a very tiny influence in the local or central government arena.

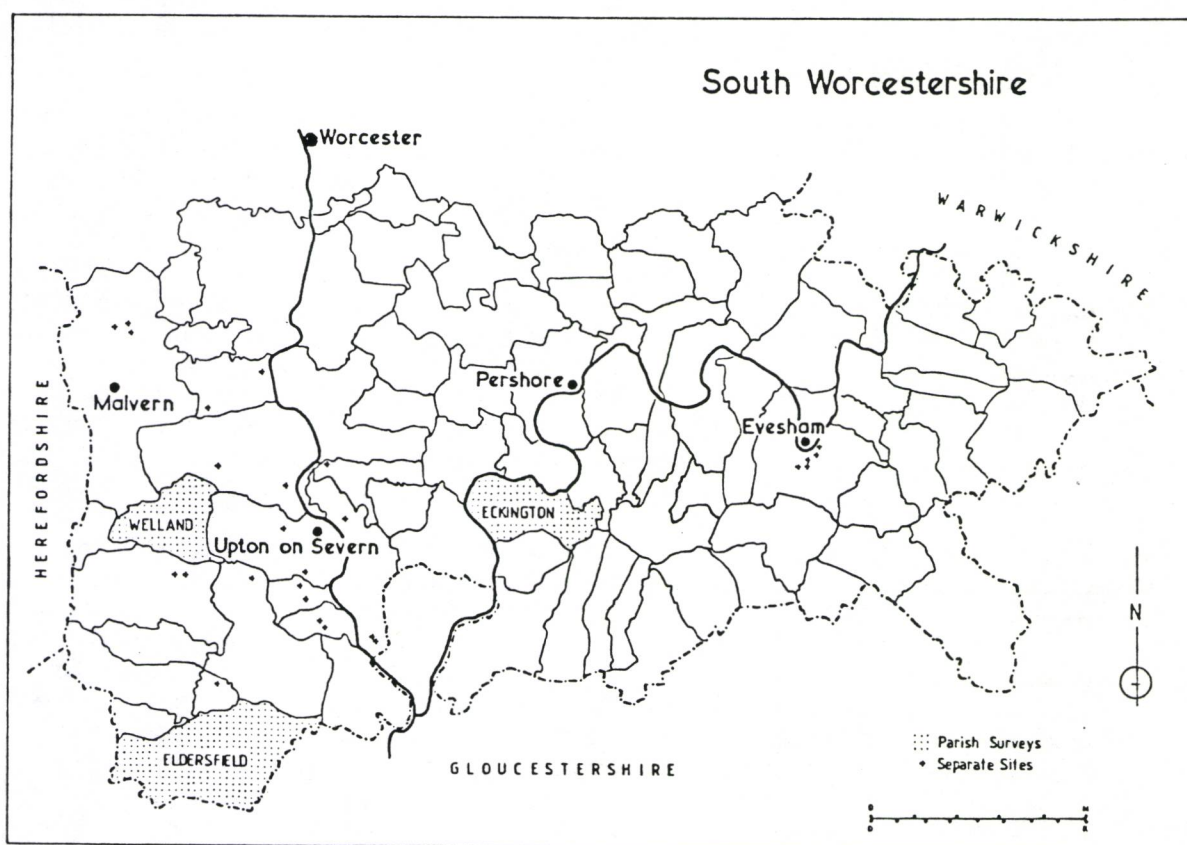


Figure 24 South Worcestershire Archaeological Group: parish surveys and other fieldwork

The finances of the group are self-generating and have been sufficient to provide a modicum of equipment. Although members mainly look for recreation or entertainment, their work has produced a considerable amount of useful information on South Worcestershire. The joy of walking about on other peoples property seems, in this case, to have provided adequate compensation. Unfortunately, SWAG has the problem of an increasingly geriatric driving force as its leader.

Faced with the situation that there is an area of some 200 square miles (500 square kilometres) in South Worcestershire which is archaeologically rich, how is SWAG to record the enormous amount of material which can still be seen, before it disappears? As a result of contact with landowners and farmers, a few sites have been rescued from destruction but as the time between decision and action can be as short as two days a policy of archaeological conservation should be a priority. If this can only be achieved by saturating the area with information and archaeologically minded people, then it is a task which is at present beyond the capacity of SWAG.

Within the next ten years, much of the visible archaeology in South Worcestershire will have disappeared. It may be that, by then, some organizations may have evolved for supporting small groups to do what can only be seen as somewhat pedestrian tasks. It will then be too late. But who, at this moment, has time to help till the outfield?

Peter Price, Chairman, South Worcestershire Archaeological Group

### **The Hulton Abbey Project. Origins and approaches**

The Hulton Abbey project started on site work towards the end of 1987, funded jointly by Stoke-on-Trent City Council and by the Manpower Services Commission. A long term programme of research, excavation, consolidation, interpretation, display and publication is intended. The first season is being largely devoted to evaluation.

Hulton Abbey was a Cistercian monastery founded in 1219 by Henry of Audley. It was a relatively impoverished house and never acquired great estates and wealth. The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* survey of 1535 shows only two Cistercian houses in England and Wales with a smaller income. The Abbey was surrendered on 23rd September 1538, bringing some 316 years of convent life on the site to an end. This period is reasonably well documented, unlike the post-dissolution period when the Abbey became rapidly ruined. By the 19th century nothing visible remained above ground when the Rev Walter Sneyd undertook excavation on the site. By 1884 Charles Lynam, a local architect and historian, was able to produce a typical Cistercian plan (partially conjectural) of the claustral precinct. Further excavations by T C Pape took place in 1930 on portions of the church, sacristy and chapter house. A trench was dug across the nave in 1949, and during the 1960s A R Mountford undertook excavation and wall consolidation, mainly within the church. From 1972-1983 Lacy and Green conducted a new series of excavations on the east end of the church. The available evidence from all of these excavations has been ordered and published (Wise 1985).

The Carmountside High School, built in the 1930s, included the site of the claustral precinct within its grounds. When this school was demolished in 1986, the question of what to do with the seven acre site within an urban environment had to be faced. The area contains a large scheduled area and planning permission for buildings would not be granted. One possibility was to cover the area with topsoil and grass it over. However, the City Council with the guidance of the Archaeology Department of the Museum opted for an excavation leading to the display of the site within a parkland setting. This projected cultural amenity will be developed around the consolidated footings of the abbey. Consequently much of the excavation effort will need to be directed towards the claustral precinct.

There is nothing unusual about an excavation of the site of a claustral precinct. Many abbey excavations have been concentrated upon them, and especially their churches. However, these excavations generally occurred on wealthier sites, and were often confirmatory in nature; walls and graves were recorded but few details were added to the overall understanding of abbeys. Basic layouts of claustral precincts had been understood for some time but details of origin, development and demise had been lacking.

Modern excavations have improved this situation and led to a greater realization of the implications of well stratified remains within claustral buildings. Detailed evidence for the development, rebuilding etc, of claustral buildings often does survive, as the detailed phasing of the church at Bordesley (Hirst and Wright 1983, 7-100, 207-89), and evidence for timber ranges in phase 1 at Sandwell (Hodder 1986, 5-7) illustrate.

The excavation of the claustral precinct at Hulton Abbey will be very much concerned with adding to our knowledge of abbeys. The recording system is based upon that used by the Central Excavation Unit, with the addition of an architectural stone record. This system is already wholly computer compatible and site specific glossaries have been prepared. Hard copy will be transferred onto an ICL PWS (DRS 300 Series) computer. Software has not yet been decided upon.

The structural evidence for origins, development and demise will be an important aspect of the investigation. Finds will, as a basic minimum, be plotted two-dimensionally within their context. A monastery can be viewed as a collection of households lay brothers, kitchener, cellarer, abbot, etc, and finds plots (for instance: Speciality Glass) may reveal information relating to varying activities and roles of these groups. Environmental evidence will be afforded considerable importance as monasteries are highly compartmentalized sites and it is usually straightforward to associate soil contexts with particular structures. It is hoped that sampling, particularly from drains leading from the various 'compartments' may improve our knowledge of what was going on within them. Similarly, it is hoped that environmental work on grave samples will improve our knowledge of funerary practice. Information derived from such lines of investigation will not only result in academic publications but will aid the display and interpretation of the site making it a more interesting and informative monument. During 1987-8 work in this area is to concentrate upon the church, removing backfill from and assessing old excavations, and then it will continue with the excavation of the church.

Excavation of claustral precincts is not thought fashionable at the moment. The prevailing opinion in monastic archaeology is that ancillary buildings are particularly worthy of study, having been all too often ignored in the past. Excavations within the outer courts of Thornholme Priory (Yorkshire) and Elstow Abbey (Bedfordshire) have illustrated the need to look in the area immediately around a claustral precinct where buildings such as infirmaries, guest houses, dovecotes and agricultural buildings, may well have existed. There is also a need to look further afield towards monastic estates. There has been little archaeological work on Cistercian grange sites or on other features supportive of the monastic economy such as fishponds, vineyards, sheep enclosures and industrial sites. It is now accepted that any long term study of an abbey should include such aspects which can greatly enhance understanding of how an abbey affected the landscape; how the monastic economy was organized and run; and how an abbey interacted with the secular world.

At Hulton, the area around the claustral precinct will be developed as part of the projected amenity. Before this occurs the area will be archaeologically assessed and future plans for excavation formulated. Ancillary monastic buildings would have existed in these areas although the locations of any such structures are unknown. There are no topographic indications as to the whereabouts of such structures and geophysical survey is impossible due to the demolition rubble covering the area. The only clues to assist the siting of evaluation excavations comes from comparison with other sites and from 1930s engineers drawings preserved in the stores of Stoke-on-Trent's Engineering Department. These show that when the school was built, some areas were truncated but others built up in order to produce a levelled area. It is hoped that evidence of earlier activity may be preserved beneath the made up areas. In an attempt to locate and evaluate any surviving archaeology in these areas, trenches are being dug.

Further afield the project will eventually undertake fieldwork on the former monastic estates, given to the Abbey by Henry of Audley in 1219. In most of these areas, the problem of an encroaching urban sprawl (on the site of a once rural monastery) is not such a problem and the techniques of magnetometer survey, resistivity survey and phosphate sampling will be available on sites identified by fieldwalking.

Hirst, S M, Walsh, D A, & Wright, S M, 1983 *Bordesley Abbey II*, *Brit Archaeol Rep* 111

Hodder, M, 1986 *Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project Report no 4*, 1985-6

Wise, P, 1985 *Hulton Abbey, A Century of Excavations*, *Staffordshire Archaeological Studies* 2

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## Notes For Contributors

1 *West Midlands Archaeology* 31 will consist of two sections. Part 1 will contain short reports on work carried out during the year. Part 2 will consist of thematic or discursive papers which would not easily find another publication outlet.

2 Text should be typed, double spaced, on one side only of A4 paper.

3 References should be in the Harvard style, viz:

(a) in the text: the name of the author(s), the date of publication and the page number(s) should be listed in parentheses for books and periodicals, for example (James 1982, 39) or (Pevsner 1968, 236).

(b) at the end of the article: the full bibliographical references should be listed in alphabetical order by names of author(s), giving, for periodicals, the name of the author(s), the date, the title of the article, the title of the journal (underlined) with volume number (and imprint date if different from the date which appears on the cover of the journal) and the page numbers; for books, the name of the author(s), the date, the title of the book (underlined) and the place of publication (if not London).

For instance:

James, H, 1980 Excavations in Wootton Wawen churchyard, 1974 and 1975, Trans Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeol Soc 90, 1980 (1982), 37-48

Pevsner, N, 1968 The Buildings of England: Worcestershire

4 Figures should not be titled but a caption should be supplied, typed on a separate piece of paper. Figures should preferably be pre-reduced to A4 size leaving a good margin (recommended maximum size 170 x 250mm).

5 Plans and sections should include a north point or other appropriate indicator of compass direction. All figures should include a metric bar scale.

6 National Grid References (eight figures), County Sites and Monuments Record primary record numbers, the current and intended place of deposition for artefacts and site records (with accession numbers where available) should be included for all sites reported.

7 Contributors should list their own name(s) and title(s) and addresses, together with the names and addresses of organizations, societies etc, who are involved in sponsoring or carrying out work reported.

8 The maximum length for contributions to Part 1 is 1,000 words and 3 figures for major projects, and 250 words and 1 figure for small projects or individual finds. The maximum length for contributions to Part 2 is 1,000 words and 1 figure.

9 Papers for consideration for publication in *West Midlands Archaeology* 31 must be received by the Editor by 1st January 1989. Late contributions cannot be guaranteed inclusion!

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