

WEST MIDLANDS ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL

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WEST MIDLANDS ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS-SHEET NO. 4, 1961

Edited by Brian Stanley, 34 Babbacombe Road, Coventry

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

INTRODUCTION

There have been two important developments during the year. The C.B.A. Group for Wales, No. 2, at last became organised into new life with an inaugural meeting at Shrewsbury. It is proposed to hold regular meetings at different centres and also to issue an annual news-sheet like our own. We welcome this new move and wish success to all concerned. There is room for collaboration along the Marches and we look forward to joint ventures to tackle some of the archaeological problems. No doubt some of our members, as societies and individuals will be attending meetings of both groups and this is all to the good. We are also pleased to hear about developments in Staffordshire. The Transactions of the North Staffs. Field Club are being revived under the auspices of the University of North Staffs., and also an informal C.B.A. "sub-regional group" has been formed to link together groups in that area which have hitherto been rather isolated. An annual news-letter has been started by the Keele Group and its first number appeared in November; those wishing to obtain copies are asked to write to Professor J.M.T. Charlton, North Staffs. University, Keele. This new venture means that there is no longer any need for us to publish items from North Staffs., we will however continue to include the work of the Lichfield Archaeological Society.

Mrs. Julie Sanders, Chairman of No. 8 Group

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 1962

Annual Conference at Droitwich

March 17th - March 18th

Preston Montford Summer Courses

Elementary (Wroxeter), directed by
Mr. S.C. Stanford

July 14th - July 28th

Intermediate (Wroxeter), directed by
Dr. G. Webster

Sept. 1st - Sept. 15th

Iron Age hill-fort (The Roveries), directed by
Mr. N. Thomas (Birmingham Museum)

Motte and bailey castle (Hen Domen), directed by
Mr. P.A. Barker

Training for
experienced students
Aug. 4th - Aug. 18th

Field-work and aerial reconnaissance

Aug. 18th - Aug. 25th

Archaeological surveying

The Romans in Wales - tours and background
lectures, directed by Professor D. Dudley

Aug. 25th - Sept. 1st

Industrial archaeology - field-work and
documents, directed by Mr M. Rix

Sept. 1st - Sept. 8th

Excavations for experienced students

Roman 1st century fort at Waddon Hill, Beaminster,
Dorset, directed by Dr. G. Webster

June 2nd - June 16th

Roman villa at Barnsley Park, near Cirencester,
directed by Dr. G. Webster

July 14th - July 28th

Iron Age hill-fort at Croft Ambrey, Herefordshire,
directed by Mr. S.C. Stanford

July 30th - Aug. 25th

Roman fort at Buckton, Herefordshire,
directed by Mr. S.C. Stanford

September

Martin-Clark Resistivity Meters

The two meters purchased by the No. 8 Group, by means of a generous grant from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, have now been available for a complete season. The demand for the loan of these instruments has been most disappointing; they have only been in use on six occasions throughout the season. Fortunately, two of these occasions have been on training excavations where students have received instruction in the use and application of the meters. There are two probable reasons for this poor demand. Firstly, it is possible that the sites investigated during the season have not been of the type where good use might be made of the instruments, although this is hard to believe, and secondly, that they are housed at the City Museum in Birmingham, and societies and research groups do not consider it worth while to make the journey to Birmingham to collect and return them. From personal experience with the resistivity meters in the field, it is quite certain that when used on sites where excavation is in progress, especially where irregular defences are not apparent on the surface, they are absolutely invaluable. The time and work saved by the use of one of these meters will more than repay the small inconvenience of collection and return. Now that the teething troubles have been overcome, the meters are quite reliable, they are extremely portable, weighing only about two pounds and if used by a team of three people a clear picture of a site may be obtained in a few hours. It has now been decided to make one of the meters available for use by groups outside the area of Regional Group No. 8. With this in mind, members of this Regional Group who may like to borrow a meter are urged to make application at an early date. Application must be made in writing to the Secretary of Regional Group No. 8 giving the required dates. Under the terms agreed by the Group Committee, a meter may be loaned for a period covering two weekends, after which it must be returned at once and if any extension of this period is desired application must be made as previously.

G.S. Taylor, Secretary of No. 8 Group, 5 Greenside Road, Erdington,
Birmingham 24. (Tel: Erdington 6818)

AERIAL SURVEY

Among the results this year is the suggestion of a marching camp possibly preceding the fort at Wroxeter, and a reduction in size of the fort at Stretton Mill, together with a new Roman road alignment crossing Watling Street east of Pennocrucium. A record of the alignment of the Wroxeter aqueduct was also obtained but the source is still in doubt. It seems doubtful whether photography will ever solve this last difficulty or the problem of where the aqueduct goes once inside the town. In early July it became evident that many of the well-known sites were showing little of interest and so the survey was extended to the Thames Valley. Sites at Stanton Harcourt and Lechlade, in the course of destruction by gravel digging, were recorded and followed in order to establish a positive relationship between crop-marks and sub-soil conditions. It is interesting to see that though many of the West Midland sites resemble the Thames Valley sites, the very complex occupation sites do not seem to extend further west than Bredon Hill. It appears that the early western settlements were generally of a more simple nature.

Arnold Baker, 5 Clerkenwell Crescent, Great Malvern.

Photographs, taken by Mr. J. Pickering of Hinckley, of the upper Avon Valley have shown round-barrow groups at Bretford (SP 435773) and Oakleigh Wood (SP 316593). Also a series of hut-circles at Hampton Lucy (SP 253567), a possible Saxon building at Longbridge (SP 266616) and several pit-alignments, and many other new occupation sites between High Cross and Tewkesbury.

Brian Hobley, 123 Cannon Hill Road, Coventry.

BIRMINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (FIELD GROUP FOR YOUNG MEMBERS)

Gannow Green Moat, Rubery (SO 985784) The site - a complex moat with a series of fishponds and overflow channels - lies in a broad, shallow valley. A section cut across the moat and edge of the platform revealed several layers of puddled clay and debris. The island platform was revetted with a substantial wall of sandstone blocks, backed with rubble and the clay build-up of the platform. The build-up overlay an old turf line and pollen analysis of this has shown that the moat was built in virgin alder-

hazel-oak woodland - very wet. Part of the north-east corner was stripped and a second section cut, but failed to show any signs of the sandstone wall. The second section produced late thirteenth century pottery, while a possible fifteenth century tile-built hearth was found in the corner. Small finds were limited to a knife and a whetstone.

B.K. Roberts, 43 Maple Road, Bournville, Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM CITY MUSEUM, DEPT. OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Weoley Castle (SP 022828) The season's work was devoted to recovering the plan of the wooden building whose north-west corner was discovered in 1960 standing to a height of 3 ft. Excavation was carried out below polythene tarpaulins. The building, of which the wood on the north and west was preserved, measured 41 ft. 6 ins. x 22 ft. 6 ins. It had two main periods. In the first there was a large stone hearth (12 ft. square) in the south-east corner, a chamber with an inner door at the west end and three other partitioned rooms. An entrance on the north, with a covered cobbled alleyway running from the stone hall was discovered in 1960. It seems probable that at this date, c. A.D. 1200 - 1230, the wooden building served as a kitchen to the hall. Circa A.D. 1230 there was a change in purpose. The hearth was abolished and all the inner rooms, except the chamber at the west end, were replaced with an aisled hall. At the same time the horizontal weatherboarded west wall was replaced by one of vertical weatherboards. Although there were only two structural changes the floor of gravel was renewed six times and the entrance level raised five times. Dating was determined by coins of John and Henry III, giving a probable range from c. A.D. 1200 - 1260. There was evidence of earlier and massive wooden structures but nothing to suggest a date prior to c. A.D. 1100. It was possible to recover and preserve the timbers of the entrance and many minor wooden pieces. There was a valuable association of pottery and small finds of iron, bronze and leather. The constructional details of the wooden building can be paralleled in eighth to ninth century dwellings at Burgdorf, Lower Saxony, at the Stellerburg in north-western Germany in the ninth to tenth centuries, and at Der Husterknupp in the Rhineland in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

Adrian Oswald, City Museum, Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM RESEARCH GROUP

Roman Alcester (SP 090573) Work has been mainly concentrated on Site T, Bleachfield Street. A further resistivity survey located a stone-lined well which yielded third to fourth century pottery, coins and wood. A series of pits, from first to mid-second century in date, has been cleared but there are no signs, as yet, of any later pits. This is despite the presence of the substantial corridor building, a further wing of which has now been identified - most of it outside the site. A worn coin of Honorius indicated occupation well into the fifth century. Trial excavations in gardens between High Street and the River Arrow showed no signs of permanent Roman occupation but a trench nearer to High Street showed a deposit which seemed to be a ditch filling and may possibly indicate part of the civil defensive system.

Birchfield (SP 067908) Mr. Jolley has continued his digging in the hope of finding the kiln. Several pits, full of pottery and kiln debris, have been found but no additional dating evidence has been noted and it now seems likely that the actual kilns are to the east of Mr. Jolley's garden.

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

CHESTERTON, WARWICKSHIRE (SP 341597)

An emergency excavation was carried out in advance of road widening at this small Romano-British town. A section cut on the north side of the town revealed all the main features of two defensive systems, the later appearing to date to the fourth century, but without firm dating for the former. The north gate was completely stripped revealing a small simple plan with two towers protecting a road 10 ft. wide. A section was also cut through the Fosse Way inside the town and this revealed a very complicated history with the first road well-made with a good camber and c. 30 ft. wide, which lasted with resurfacing to the central strip for some time. Later the road was built up to a level surface with heavy pitching and there was encroachment on to it by buildings on both sides of the road.

Graham Webster, 30 Portland Street, Leamington Spa.

COVENTRY AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Baginton (SP 342747) Work has been going on for a year, clearing and recording the south face of the Hall Pit in the hope of possible medieval connections. Sherds of thirteenth century pottery, associated with a possible earlier gravel pit, and probable footings of buildings have been found together with a sherd of Iron Age "B" pottery.

Miss G.G. Wilkins, School House, Baginton.

Baginton (SP 343752) Partial sections, cut through the south and east defences, have shown that the area of the Roman fortlet is c. 180 ft. by 280 ft. over the ramparts. The base of the rampart is everywhere of turf, revetted with timber - in one place the carbonised remains of timber planking are still in position. The eastern inner ditch is 5 ft. deep by 8 ft. wide with no berm between it and the rampart - the expected outer ditch has not yet been excavated. Inside the rampart the intervallum space contains clay-filled sleeper trenches, ovens and pits. One of the latter contained a group of samian (provisionally Neronic) and two mint coins of A.D. 64. The whole site appears to have been levelled shortly after this date and was not occupied again in the Roman period. The presence of this fort, occupied after the Boudiccan revolt, in a district previously thought to have been pacified in the early years of the Roman advance, suggests that the numbers and attitudes of the local Iron Age peoples will have to be reconsidered.

Muriel and Brian Stanley

COVENTRY CITY MUSEUM

Medieval Town Defences: St. Mark's Vicarage, King Street (SP 332795) Last year's work here was on the town side of the wall. This year a section across the ditch showed it to be small for a medieval city defence, for although 35 ft. across from the wall to the top of the counterscarp bank, it was only some 7 ft. deep, and flat-bottomed for $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft, the sides rising at about 45° . The ditch was dry in this sector and contained very little domestic material, but the counterscarp bank overlay a fifteenth century cesspit, which confirms last year's date for the wall, its bank and its ditch of post-A.D. 1450. There was no trace of the earlier "red ditch" in this sector. This excavation completes the programme of preliminary examination of the Coventry City defences.

Whitefriars' Church (SP 340787) Work continued with Ministry of Works' assistance showed that what was thought from last year's trench to have been a widening of a first narrower church represented, in fact, the blocking of a doorway into the north-east of the crossing and the contemporary strengthening of what now appears to be the north-east crossing pier and the external angle between crossing and choir. The initial width of the church was therefore some 80 ft. internally. Some 4,000 sq. ft. over the crossing area was cleared mechanically. What was assumed to be deep foundations for walls in 1960 are now shown as two L-shaped resonance passages built for acoustic purposes under the choir stalls. These were some 4 ft. deep. The south wall of the church in the crossing has also been traced; the "lane" between the south wall and the north wall of the cloister is only $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in width. The two westernmost buttresses to the choir, and the position of some 14 graves have also been located. The tower does not lie opposite the east walk of the cloister as is usual, but to the west of it. Many floor tiles, very large quantities of moulded, limewashed (some gilded and painted) stone and much painted glass - all of c. A.D. 1400, have been discovered. There is also a large domestic deposit from the northern resonance passage, swept in when the building was a school between the years A.D. 1545 and 1558.

Mrs. Charmian Woodfield, Coventry City Museum.

VALE OF EvesHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Greenhill, Evesham (SP 040450) The Society carried out excavations on the legendary site of the Earl's Well - the reputed place where Simon de Montfort was slain at the Battle of Evesham. The spring is said to have healing properties and there are many references to the "shrine". Extensive trial trenches revealed no indication of structures or any medieval finds.

The main work has again been at the Almonry Museum, which is the concern of the Society, and it is hoped that many local societies will arrange visits in the summer when they will be made very welcome.

Benjamin G. Cox, Fairways, Bengel Hill, Evesham.

HARTSHILL (SP 337936)

Excavation for the Ministry of Works revealed a further 14 kilns specialising in the manufacture of mortaria, though the proportion of other coarse wares was higher than found last year. All the kilns were clay built, varying from 2 to 4 ft. in internal diameter. Types of internal arrangements were:

- i) Vented floor, supported by one or two free-standing pedestals.
- ii) One kiln had a slender tongue pedestal and 18 (?) corbels, projecting from the kiln wall, to support the oven floor which had been of the permanent vented type.
- iii) Another kiln had a floor of permanent radial fire-bars, some of them combined with stamped mortaria by the potter CEVANOS.
- iv) Two removable pedestals with both straight and curved fire-bars.
- v) A central free-standing pedestal and 9 (?) equidistant pilasters attached to the kiln wall.

The pottery, as last year, ranged from the early second to fourth centuries but, in contrast, at least half was of second century date. There was, however, still a marked absence of any identifiable late Antonine material. A new departure was a kiln producing colour-coated and painted wares in Nene Valley style. Two more potters can now be added to the Hartshill list - CEVANOS, hitherto unknown, and an illiterate potter. It is now clear that the kilns were confined to the top and slopes of the hill. No traces of buildings were found.

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

HEREFORD RESEARCH GROUP

Breinton (SO 473396) The cellared portion of the building on this medieval moated site, partly excavated in 1959, was found to be 8 ft. square with walls 3 ft. thick and an entrance at the south-west corner. A trench across the entrance to the earthwork revealed remains of the gateway foundations which extended as a narrow passage, 6 ft. wide, for at least 10 ft. beyond the perimeter. Coarse pottery of twelfth to early thirteenth century date was again recovered, confirming that the site was only occupied for a short period after which it appears to have been stripped and burnt.

F.G. Heys, 28 Hinton Road, Hereford.

Kenchester (SO 438428) The west gateway, now almost completely stripped, was found to have been constructed in stone in the mid-fourth century with later alterations. The overall dimensions, including the flanking towers, were 51 ft. across the front and 17 ft. from front to back along the central spine. The width of the road area between the towers was 22 ft. Excavation continues to resolve certain chronological and structural problems.

Miss Mary Thomas, Hillside, Abbeydore, Hereford.
F.G. Heys.

SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE (ARCHENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP)

Glasshouse Farm (SO 474230) Following a magnetometer survey, the remains of the furnace have been excavated. Only the bed remained but numerous fragments of furnace, crucibles and glass were recovered. Also found were portions of brick walls of a building. The furnace was probably in use in the period A.D. 1580 - 1620, by Lorraine glass-makers.

Huntsham (SO 565175) The aisled barn has now been totally excavated, giving a length of at least 55 ft. and a width of 45 ft. A double T-shaped corn drying kiln in the north-west corner of the main hall contained late third century coins in its stoke-hole. The barn was disused by A.D. 320 and two opus signinum water tanks were built over the demolished barn. These tanks discharged into a culvert via lead pipes. A fine iron hunting spear (illustrated in J.R.S., li (1961) Fig. 20) came from the kiln ash.

Wallingtones (SO 503222) A massive curtain wall, 2½ to 3 ft. wide, on each side of the guard tower has been exposed. Inside the castle, robbed walls and remains of flagstone flooring were found. Probably associated with this phase is a curving ditch - revealed as a crop-mark in rushes - which may link up with a ditch which was later covered by a mound. The conclusion is that here is a small private castle, built at ground level at a date A.D. 1150 - 1200. Following this, in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, a manor was erected on the mound and the guard tower and rooms of the earlier castle were used as rubbish tips. In these were found a buckler-type shield boss, thirteenth century pottery, knives, carpenters' tools and bones. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries deep robbing of the walls took place - much pottery of this period is found in the robber trenches.

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

KIDDERMINSTER AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Caldwall Hall, Kidderminster Demolition of the eighteenth century brick building, attached to a still-standing fifteenth century tower, gave an opportunity to examine the site. Literary references suggest occupation from the end of the twelfth century onwards. Excavation has already revealed foundations of three earlier buildings, together with pottery going back to the Norman period.

Walltown Farm (SO 798692) Two cuttings, outside the fortifications examined last year, revealed evidence of Roman occupation but did not produce the expected further defensive ditch.

Ian Walker, Larford, 5 Caldwall Crescent, Kidderminster.

LICHFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Roman Wall (SK 101066) A section, cut across the northern defences of the town, revealed a wall 9½ ft. and still standing to a height of 4 ft. To the north, a narrow berm separated the wall from three clay-lined ditches which were probably wet and remained open into medieval times. Below the berm were the remains of first century bronze-working hearths. To the south of the wall was a rampart overlying a peculiar Claudian building with beam-slots at 4 ft. intervals. A further section, cut across part of the western defences, revealed a wall 8 ft. thick and standing 5 ft. high - the foundations of which cut into a Trajanic rubbish pit. The western face was of dressed sandstone with offsets and was separated from the inner ditch by a narrow berm. To the west of this wall were the remains of a turf rampart. The pottery is still being worked on, but the defences (the bank and ditches are all contemporary) cannot be earlier than the second half of the third century and may well be later. These two sections, together with earlier work, delimit the defended town which is seen to be a mere 5 acres in extent, while the public baths were outside the defended area. The south-west corner of the town wall was also exposed - no bastion ever existed at that point. No trace was found of any second century defences in any of the sections.

J. Gould, 307 Erdington Road, Aldridge, near Walsall.

MALVERN RESEARCH GROUP

Dymock (SO 700312) Further excavations were carried out on the floors of a building, alongside the Roman road. The upper floor consisted of hard-packed gravel over a foundation of larger stones - all this over the remains of an earlier floor which contained a worn coin of Trajan. Around the edge of the gravel were a series of irregularly spaced post-holes. Large quantities of iron slag suggest nearby iron working, but there is no space to continue further excavations on the site. Pottery is mainly second to third century in date.

Leigh Sinton (SO 757515) A Roman tile kiln has been located and partially excavated. The central flue chamber was built of tiles and bricks on a rock foundation, while the main flue arch was still standing to a height of 2 ft. The cross walls were of tiles. The kiln products were, principally, roofing tiles but bricks and box tiles were found. Pottery from the stoke-hole suggests a third century date for the kiln, but samples taken by Dr. Aitken may give a more precise date.

Paul L. Waters, 10 Cockshot Road, Malvern.

OSWESTRY

The numbers of the Group had run down from a variety of causes but the Extra-Mural Department has arranged for a course of lectures early in 1962 in archaeological techniques and over twenty names have been put down for the series. This raises a hope that the group can be revived.

The only active excavation work done in 1961 was over the border in Wales and outside the area of the West Midlands, but it may perhaps be said that in what was meant to be a final clearing-up operation on a Bronze Age barrow the greater part of an "A" beaker was found and a fresh doubt arose as to whether the position of the centre of the barrow had been established. Apart from this a certain amount of field-work has been done. For example, the site of an early seventeenth century iron forge has been traced and a quern stone handed in by a local farmer has been identified as pre-Roman, this, with some other local indications, suggests that the area may be worth further exploration.

T.W. Rogers, 65 Oakhurst Road, Oswestry.

RUGBY ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Watling Street, Crick (SP 578716) A section cut across Watling Street, at a point where the modern road avoids the steep hill, revealed a 14 ft. road of 4 to 6 in. cobbles over a foundation of smaller stones. A ditch, 1 ft. deep by 6 ft. wide was found 20 ft. out from the south-west side of the road. The total depth of metalling is never more than 1 ft. which contrasts with the agger of the road a mile to the north. It is proposed to cut a further section, to the north of this excavation, in order to see whether there is a diversion of the main Watling Street.

J.R. Foster, 122 Lawford Road, Rugby.

H. Cameron, c/o Percival Guildhouse, Rugby.

SHREWSBURY

Ismore Coppice (SJ 558090) The excavation of a pottery factory, on the left bank of the Severn west of Wroxeter, was completed at the beginning of the year. An unknown part of the site had been washed away by the river, an area about 30 ft. by 40 ft. being all that remained. This comprised a rough floor with waster sherds thick upon the ground, two rubbish pits and two hearths. The tall, slender black-burnished cook pot with oversailing rim and the straight-sided vessel with high internal bead had been extensively used by the workers and therefore afforded presumptive evidence of the late date of manufacture of the types of wasters recovered. These included the following types:

1. Large wide-mouthed bowls in buff or reddish ware, some with pale red colour-coating (cf. Wroxeter Forum, p. 292, Fig. 45, Nos. B5 and C5, and Atkinson's comment p. 293 - "its commonness at Wroxeter strongly suggests a local origin".)
2. Narrow necked jars in similar ware to 1.
3. Imitations of samian forms 23, 29, 31, 37 and 38.
4. Tankards in buff ware.
5. Colanders.

Dr. A.W.J. Houghton, Oak Wood, Pulverbatch, near Shrewsbury.

Hen Domen (SO 214981) The two bridges, connecting the motte and the bailey, have been stripped though the work is not yet complete. The bridges, though of differing dates and construction, both appear to be of the narrow flying type, as shown in the Bayeux Tapestry and are not, as was thought last year, wider and more complicated. The upper, motte end of each bridge appears to have been laid in a radially cut gulley. A section, cut into the motte, showed that turf and humus had been piled onto the central motte area and the clay from the ditch excavation then placed on top of this to form the mound. A large structure of posts set in a beam-slot has been found in the bailey near to the end of the earlier bridge, together with a 15 ft. wide twelfth to thirteenth century pit.

Castle Mound, Pontesbury (SJ 402058) Excavation for the Ministry of Works carried out by Shrewsbury Group and subsequently by Mr. Peter Addyman. This has proved to be a circular enclosure surrounded by a 6 ft. deep ditch and clay rampart; no datable material was found associated with this phase. Later a secondary rampart of stones and clay was piled against the rear of the earlier rampart and associated with this was a heavy wall of unmortared stones. Finally, over this stone wall was a clay floor with four small post-holes. Pottery from these latest two phases can be dated to A.D. 1150 - 1225.

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

Watling Street Further sections were cut across the Watling Street West near the right bank of the Severn within half a mile of Wroxeter (SJ 558078), and in Pitchford Parish (SJ 540047). The width of the road could not be determined with accuracy at either point on account of hedges, but was probably about 23 ft. In each case the Roman levels had been deeply eroded and successive layers of post-Roman pitching provided a picture of patchy casual repair, carried out at long intervals.

Wroxeter Aqueduct (SJ 566089) This followed upon the published work of Dr. Graham Webster and Mr. D. Hollingworth (Shrops. Trans. lvi, Pt. ii (1957)), who traced the aqueduct in the fields east of the defences. A trench to the north of the Wroxeter post office was opened after a study of aerial photographs taken by Mr. Arnold Baker in 1959. This revealed not the aqueduct as was expected, but an end of a drain 10 ft. deep and 8 ft. across, constructed not earlier than A.D. 155, and robbed of its lining in Roman times, probably in the late third or early fourth century. Trenches on the possible line of the aqueduct within the east defences are now being excavated.

Dr. A.W.J. Houghton.

TAMWORTH

Due to the tragic and unexpected death of Dr. F.T. Wainwright, the excavation and survey of Saxon Tamworth did not take place.

WOOLHOPE CLUB

Buckton Roman Fort (SO 391733) In September the plan of the east gate was completed and work started on the south-eastern barracks. Like the defences these show two periods of construction, but were in timber throughout. There is a suggestion that the internal plan may have been altered when the defences and principal buildings were rebuilt in stone. Work will continue in September 1962.

Croft Ambrey Hill-fort (SO 443668) Excavations at the east gate confirmed the two-period nature of the main Iron Age "B" defence which at the gateway overlays an earlier ditch, belonging presumably to the timber-framed rampart of the inner camp. The intensive occupation of the site was convincingly demonstrated by the discovery of seven metallised road surfaces through the Iron Age "B" gateway and the eight building levels with eleven associated huts found in the Iron Age "B" quarry-ditch. Work will continue in August 1962.

Leintwardine, Jay Lane, Roman Fort (SO 400746) Excavation is proceeding on this latest Leintwardine find of Mr. Baker's.

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

WREKIN (PREVIOUSLY WELLINGTON) ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Redhill (SJ 728109) The principal discoveries this year have been the front of the gateway and a length of the Watling Street. Only the lower portion of the road remained and only half the width is available for excavation. It is estimated that the width must have been about 30 ft. and was constructed of sandstone rubble on a pebble foundation, the rubble containing scraps of pottery and broken tegulae. No signs of an agger were found though the road had been much robbed and/or denuded, the maximum remaining thickness being 9 ins. In one place, what appears to be a forge or furnace had been cut into the roadway. Stonework found in front of the construction trench of the gateway seems to indicate that it may have been partially blocked in its later stages.

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

WORCESTER

Pottery, collected by Mr. Russell from Queen Street (SO 851569) and dated by clay pipes to c. A.D. 1660 - 1720, is broadly comparable with material of similar date from Bromsgrove. The earliest sherds include marbled slipware and tygs (both obsolete at Bromsgrove after A.D. 1670) and slipware dishes decorated with white on a red ground, which may well be of local manufacture. This last type was replaced towards the end of the period, by moulded wares from North Staffs., which had not reached Bromsgrove by A.D. 1710. Other imports were sgraffiato ware from the West Country, stoneware from the Rhineland and Lambeth Delft. Much of the manganese-glazed ware differs from the Bromsgrove material and seems to be another local product. Three groups, collected by Mr. Sandon from Whiteladies Nunnery (SO 849564), include one containing buff-brown glazed cooking pots dated to c. A.D. 1539 - 1540 from parallels at Weoley. The second group, A.D. 1760 - 1790, includes local slipware and types of unglazed and plain lead-glazed pots which are different or absent from Queen Street. The third group is c. A.D. 1820, so a start can now be made on a typology for these post-medieval wares.

D.B. Whitehouse, St. John's College, Cambridge.

WORCESTER, SEVERN VALLEY STUDY GROUP

Work has continued on a very unproductive site near to Worcester Cathedral. This was more in the form of a request "dig" and it was not expected to make contact with any early defence work. However, the result has been an excellent exercise in stratigraphy with probably a new trend of thought being given to the early Saxon period in Worcester.

It is hoped to examine part of the castle defences in the Severn Street area early in 1962.

A site selected for the newly formed group at Pershore was a double-ditched enclosure, recognised from a crop-mark on an aerial photograph taken by Arnold Baker. The location of the site is just to the west of Bredon Hill almost mid-way between Bredons Norton and Cattsmore Farm. Trenches were laid out in an attempt to cut both ditches on the north side of the rectangular enclosure. The exceptionally dry autumn weather made digging rather hard from the start, and this had an adverse effect on the new group and accounted for most of its members failing to turn up after the first three digging periods. The Severn Valley Study Group who had agreed to assist in the initial stages of the excavation only, accepted the responsibility, and along with the few remaining local enthusiasts have attempted to produce an accurate field plan, and to date the site if possible. Unfortunately only one ditch has so far been found and emptied, this contained fragments of Iron Age pottery. It is hoped to complete this phase of the work very soon.

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

SUMMER SCHOOLS

The Roveries, Bishops Castle (SO 325924) In 1961 work was concentrated at the south-eastern entrance. It is now clear that the entrance was an addition to the plan of the hill-fort and that it had three structural periods, the last two probably following each other without a break. In period three we have an entrance with a simple gap in the original rampart, narrower than in period one, and a semi-circular arm springing from the rampart at the south side of the entrance and running out and down the hillside for about 50 ft. So far no convincing post-holes for gates or other timber structures have been found to indicate how the entrance was closed. This aspect of the entrance is to be studied in 1962. The plan of the hill-fort has now been completed and a new survey of the northern entrance was made. It is now evident that this exactly resembles the inturned entrances of forts like Titterstone Clee and the Wrekin. An unexpected - and important - discovery was a quantity of Western Neolithic potsherds by a hearth in the centre of the fort, and in an area beneath the Iron Age rampart just west of the northern entrance. This will be followed up in 1962.

Wroxeter (SJ 565086) Work was confined to the Baths and in particular to details of the timber buildings of the earliest phase. Although there is yet insufficient evidence to make a plan of these buildings worth publishing, it can be said that they appear to be rather more complicated than has been hitherto appreciated. Part of the floor of the caldarium of the eastern range of the Baths was stripped, and it is now quite clear that Wright was mistaken in his interpretation of a central sunken bath (Uriconium, 1872, p. 122). What he found was evidently a large hole in the upper suspended floor due to the activities of tile robbers who had broken open the floor to extract the tiles from the pilae. It was also noted that on the top of this broken floor were pieces of roofing, the collapse of which may have been due to further depredations. This roof debris consisted of lumps of tufa but not in any organised form of voussoirs, merely broken lumps cemented together. These may well represent the filling above a barrel vault which consisted mainly of tiles.

Graham Webster

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