

WEST MIDLANDS ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL

NEWS SHEET No. 5, 1962



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Produced by the Council for British Archaeology (Group 8)  
and The University of Birmingham, Department of Extra Mural  
Studies.

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Edited by Graham Webster

(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

This Annual News-sheet now in its fifth year, is published jointly by the University of Birmingham and the Regional Group No. 8 of the Council for British Archaeology. Group 8 is very happy to be associated with the News-sheet and is grateful to the University for the actual production and circulation.

The News-sheet, quite rightly, devotes most of its space to field archaeology. However, since the C.B.A. is a partner in the enterprise, it must be remembered that excavation is only one facet of British Archaeology. The C.B.A. is mainly concerned with preservation, not only of field monuments, but of everything connected with the prehistory and history of Britain.

This Regional Group is very much alive to the fact that only the small number of old and historic buildings included in the Statutory Lists enjoy the protection of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. The great majority of buildings, which include many beautiful cottages and farm buildings, are only on provisional lists and have no protection whatsoever. It is these buildings which can be altered or demolished by their owners without notice with which the Regional Group is most concerned. We ask all readers of this News-sheet to make every effort to keep a particular watch on these types of buildings, and to report at once should any of them be threatened, when steps will be taken to try and save them. If it is not possible to preserve them, then records will be made by means of measured drawings and photographs prior to demolition.

Industrial Archaeology, although a new branch of study, is just as important as the preservation of historic buildings. Many buildings of the Industrial Revolution are still standing; these mainly consist of mill buildings, easily recognisable by their height and many small windows with cast iron frames. Relics of the Industrial Revolution are disappearing at an alarming rate, far quicker than the buildings mentioned above.

This Regional Group is organising a survey covering the whole of the West Midlands, and record cards are available from the Hon. Secretary for the recording of any examples of this important period. The Group is also preparing a travelling exhibition of photographs illustrating the type of buildings and other objects which should be looked for. This exhibition will tour societies, groups and other organisations in the West Midlands, and it is hoped that members of these bodies will come forward to search out these relics and to record them.

The Regional Group has purchased a proton gradiometer, a junior development of the magnetometer. The advantages of these instruments are well-known but the gradiometer has certain limitations. It is primarily intended to reveal kilns, pits, hut sites and in some cases ditches, although ditches may only be discovered if they are filled to some extent with organic material. Extraneous magnetic fields caused by overhead power lines and underground cables, wire fences etc., may seriously affect the operation of the gradiometer. The gradiometer is no substitute for the resistivity meter where structural remains are present. A circular has recently been sent out detailing the limitations of the gradiometer, and it will be appreciated if those requesting survey service (applications to the Hon. Secretary) will make quite certain that their sites are suitable for its use.

In conclusion, we make an appeal to all societies and groups. To those who are members of the Group, we ask that their representatives try and attend Group meetings a little more often than they do at present. It is essential, if the C.B.A. is to carry out its work, that the area should be fully represented at all times. To the societies and groups not at present members of this Regional Group, we ask that you apply for membership without delay. There are advantages to both sides: you can get help from the C.B.A. and we want your help.

Mrs. Julie Sanders, Chairman  
Geoffrey S. Taylor, Hon. Secretary } C.B.A. Regional Group No. 8  
4, Greenside Road, Erdington,  
Birmingham 24

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 1963

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| <u>Annual Conference of Societies and Research Groups</u> , to be held at the Regent Hotel, Leamington Spa                 | March 16th - March 17th                          |
| <u>Study Tour of Roman Sites on the Moselle</u> , led by Prof. D.R. Dudley and Dr. Graham Webster                          | April 11th - April 20th                          |
| <u>Weekend Course</u> to be held at Prince Rupert Hotel, Shrewsbury, on Post-medieval Pottery, directed by Mr. K.J. Barton | May 24th - May 26th                              |
| <u>Preston Montford Summer Courses</u>   |  |
| Excavation Techniques at Wroxeter, directed by Dr. Graham Webster:<br>Elementary   | July 27th - Aug. 10th                            |
| Intermediate   | Aug. 17th - Aug. 31st                            |
| Advanced   | Aug. 31st - Sept. 14th                           |
| Hill-forts of the Welsh Border, directed by Mr. S.C. Stanford  | April 10th - April 17th                          |
| Roman Sites in Wales and the Marches, directed by Prof. D.R. Dudley  | Aug. 10th - Aug. 17th                            |
| Industrial Archaeology, directed by Mr. M.M. Rix   | Aug. 31st - Sept. 7th                            |
| <u>Training Excavations</u>  |  |
| Motte and bailey castle at Hen Domen, directed by Mr. P.A. Barker  | April 13th - April 20th<br>and 2 weeks in August |
| Roman 1st century fort at Waddon Hill, Beaminster, Dorset, directed by Dr. G. Webster                                      | June 1st - June 15th                             |
| Romano-British villa at Barnsley Park, near Cirencester, directed by Dr. G. Webster  | July 6th - July 20th                             |
| Iron Age hill-fort at Croft Ambrey, Herefordshire, directed by Mr. S.C. Stanford   | July 29th - Aug. 25th                            |
| Roman fort at Buckton, Herefordshire, directed by Mr. S.C. Stanford  | To be arranged for<br>September                  |

AERIAL SURVEY

It has been a particularly good season for crop-marks and valuable information has been obtained about the buildings and street system at Wroxeter which has enabled a plan of the town to be prepared for publication in the Transactions of the Shropshire Arch. Soc. Details of a number of new sites have been recovered from the Severn and Avon Valleys.

Arnold Baker, 5 Clerkenwell Crescent, Great Malvern.

Observation of sites along the Warwickshire Avon has continued with many new discoveries, especially between Warwick and Stratford. These include enclosures and pit alignments, and one of the latter continues as a modern hedge line.

James Pickering, The Outwoods, Hinckley, Leicestershire

BIRMINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (FIELD GROUP FOR YOUNG MEMBERS)

Gannow Green, Rubery (49852784) The Group has for the past three years been excavating this moated site. It is a complex one, and, in association with three fishponds, occupies some half mile of a shallow valley. The work consisted of sectioning the moat and a portion of the platform. It was intended last season to complete the trenches already open but extensive flooding and collapsed sides made conditions difficult. A general sequence has been established. The moat was probably in existence by the mid-thirteenth century and was recut sometime prior to c. A.D. 1270. A wall of large sandstone blocks backed by rubble appears to be associated with an unfinished reconstruction, possibly fourteenth century in date. Beneath 6 ft. of island make-up there was a thick old turf line representing the original clearing for the site. In the area examined occupation continued until the late fifteenth century and with this phase is associated a large hearth formed of tiles set on edge. The work has shown that the history of Gannow is comparable in terms of sequence with other local moated sites such as Weoley Castle, Durrance Farm and Shareshill.

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

BIRMINGHAM CITY MUSEUM, DEPT. OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Weoley Castle (40222828) This season at Weoley was devoted to the completion of the squares begun by Mr. P.A. Rahtz during two successive teaching periods on medieval archaeology. They reached below the dump from the present moat of c. A.D. 1270.

- (a) Stone footings for a rectangular timber building with a cobble floor erected c. A.D. 1240-50.
- (b) The preserved timber remains of a large rectangular building with massive interlocking sill beams and horizontal weather-boarded walls. This building had three floor levels of which the intermediate one of green sandstone slabs yielded pottery of c. A.D. 1220-40. A doorway was traced on the east and there were some interior wooden features of interest. Water and weather conditions stopped the work with only the north-west corner exposed. Below this building were timber slots and postholes of unspecified date. The vast amount of carpenters' off-cuts outside this building on the north suggest, perhaps, a carpenter's shop.

Investigation was made of the bakehouse and brewhouse area on the south-west corner. Here was a vast complexity of superimposed circular dome-shaped ovens with cobbled floors dating perhaps from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century. A large internal tower, begun c. A.D. 1270 and out of use by c. A.D. 1350, was found on the south-west corner. Here also the inner lip of the twelfth century ditch and bank was sectioned. The outer abutment to the entrance on the north-west was traced and exposed. This proved to be a massive three period structure dating from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century. The remains of the external gatehouse were traced, as also were the frequent traces of the sixteenth century timber bridge with 20 ft. wide sill beams and a span carried on four arches of 55 ft.

Finally, the museum containing all the important finds since the inception of the work in 1930 was set up and will be formally opened at Easter 1963. It comprises one of the best medieval collections from a single site.

Adrian Oswald, City Museum, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM RESEARCH GROUP

Roman Alcester The main work this year has again been concentrated on the allotment west of Bleachfield Street (30882571). Early in the year permission was given to excavate the garden on the west side of the allotment and a further portion of the large building was exposed. Footings showed this to have been substantially built and assuming a more or less symmetrical structure of the 'winged corridor' type. About 120 ft. south of this building and near the well cleared in 1961, a further complex of walls is being exposed despite much destruction by tree planting and deep cultivation. There appear to be several buildings covering a long period, the earlier well-built with mortared masonry, while the later foundations are of unmortared sandstone. Four phases can be distinguished. A first century timber and daub structure, an early stone building overlain by a thick occupation layer of second century date, and above this a further complex of walls. Dating is well-established by samian pottery and coins ranging from Republican to late fourth century. Work is continuing on this part of the site.

A well at 16a Bleachfield Street was cleared but the stonework was post-Roman; the well had been thoroughly cleaned out and nothing earlier than the nineteenth century was found.

Students of the Dept. of Archaeology of the University of Birmingham conducted a fortnight's dig on that part of the Cattle Market (30862573) site adjacent to the garden excavated by Seaby (Trans. Birmingham Arch. Soc., 66 (1950), 36-48). Although the area had been much disturbed by recent pits, the site revealed post-holes and beam-slots of early occupation dated by finds of pottery and coins of the late first and early second centuries.

Field 275 (30852572), the site of an excavation of Ryknield Street in 1958, has now been developed as a housing estate. Builders' trenches have exposed over a hundred burials, a few in rough stone-lined graves, but in no case could the burials be accurately dated. A series of walls were plotted, late first and early second century pits were cut into, and many interesting finds were made including a small uninscribed altar.

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

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY, DEPT. OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANCIENT HISTORY

Berth, near Baschurch, Shropshire (34293237) Excavations at The Berth, carried out in conjunction with the Ludlow group of the Shropshire Archaeological Society, have revealed traces of both Iron Age and late Roman occupation. One sherd of 'duck'-stamped pottery was found, and a few other Iron Age sherds had irregular scored decoration. Metal finds included some iron knives and daggers and a La Tene III brooch. There was no definite evidence for post-Roman occupation, but there were certain features which seemed to indicate this which have not yet been fully assessed.

Peter S. Gelling, The University, Birmingham 15

COVENTRY AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Baginton (43422747) The exploration of the south face of the Hall Gravel Pit begun last year has been continued, revealing the floor of a possible Anglo-Saxon dwelling with associated pottery, a silt-filled ditch and a large ditch containing medieval occupation matter. Some robbed out stone features were also discovered. This excavation has now been brought to a close.

Miss G.G. Wilkins, School House, Baginton

Ryton Woods (43752726) The development of a gravel pit is being watched by members. Roman pottery of the third and fourth centuries has been found in association with enclosure ditches.

Brian Hobley, 123 Cannon Hill Road, Coventry

COVENTRY CITY MUSEUM

Recording of Medieval Buildings Coventry has again lost several medieval buildings through the course of this year. Two buildings in Much Park Street, both medieval timber framed houses of about A.D. 1450, were thoroughly recorded by Mr. P. Woodfield for the Museum before their destruction.

Walsgrave-on-Sowe (43802805) A small excavation was carried out with the help of the Archaeological Society, at intervals during the summer, on this moated site which is perhaps the deserted medieval village of Clifford. This revealed two thirteenth century buildings, one overlying another. They were of flimsy timber construction and may have been outbuildings, and it is possible the Hall still remains to be located and dated.

Whitefriars Monastery (43402787) Excavation in 1962 has revealed most of the buttressed north wall of the six bay choir of the Friary Church and the south-east angle of the east end, with its diagonal buttress. It has also shown that the resonance passages extend eastwards for the first three western bays of the choir only. Three bays of the south wall of the nave have been exposed, and almost two bays of the north wall with their projecting external buttresses. Most of the west end is inaccessible at present, but sufficient area was available to fix its position, but a western porch like that of the Greyfriars is still a possibility. The total external length of the church is now known to be at least 303 ft. which puts it in the same class as the smaller cathedrals, e.g. Ripon 270 ft., Hereford 342 ft. The only Friary Church which appears to exceed it in length is the Greyfriars in London (some 318 ft.), the London Whitefriars being considerably smaller. The Whitefriary at Coventry therefore appears to have been an extremely important monastic house.

Very large quantities of glass and many patterned floor tiles have again been found, together with a reduced amount of stone mouldings. A further collection of finds from the early years of the grammar school include a pair of Tudor child's spectacles, and some fine silver coins.

Mrs. Charmian Woodfield, Coventry City Museum

VALE OF EVESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Harvington Mill ((40622)479) The site of a crop-mark was trenched and enclosure ditches found, but no datable material was recovered.

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

HEREFORD RESEARCH GROUP

Breinton (34732396) Excavation in the gateway area added little to information obtained last year. Walls of the main building were met with in two places and a portion of the south enclosure wall was exposed, but more extensive work must be done before an adequate ground plan can be prepared.

F.G. Heys, who has now moved to Eastbourne

Kenchester (34382428) The investigation of chronological and structural problems relating to the west gate was completed in April 1962, bringing to a close the excavations on the western defences which began in 1956. It has been established that there were at least three periods of development, the last taking place in the late fourth or perhaps early fifth century.

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

SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE (ARCHENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP)

Huntsham (35652175) The history of the aisled barn can be divided into three periods:

1. The main barn structure was built in the late third century, consisting of stone walls, probably with a timber superstructure, a stone tiled roof, drainage facilities and a soil floor.
2. Before A.D. 300 the corn drier was inserted and was in use until about A.D. 320.
3. Two tanks (possibly for wool washing) were built over part of the corn drier and in the western aisle, and were probably in use until the mid-fourth century.

In the eastern aisle an underground water collecting tank was inserted, in either Period 1. or 2. The barn was then demolished, and the water tank left open for a while as a refuse pit.

A residential building is now being excavated, and three rooms so far examined. Room A contains a single corn drier, in use before A.D. 350, and later covered by a floor. Room B has no features other than a floor base. Room C is almost completely occupied by a shallow pit, its surface being composed of a green material, and one end of the room contains a short length of channel formed by squared stones placed at floor level. The green material is being examined by chemical and physical methods, but the indication is that the room may have been used for treatment of hides preparatory to tanning. Ten coins, including those of the House of Constantine, Tetricus and Valens have been found.

Wallingstones (35032222) The sequence of this fortified manor house has now been established:

1. The thirteenth century land level, the surface of which contains occupation material, had been cut by a ditch, associated with which is a large post-hole.
2. Upon this was erected the mound, the material containing many thirteenth century objects. A manor house was constructed on the mound before the late thirteenth century.
3. At the base of the mound, a curtain wall was built around its periphery, including a guard tower, probably in the early fifteenth century.
4. A basement room, probably a workshop, was added to the manor house inside the curtain wall.
5. The manor house, which shows signs of reconstruction, was occupied until the early sixteenth century. Documentary evidence also exists for this.

The ditch and post-hole system will be further explored and the remaining line of the curtain wall examined.

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

KIDDERMINSTER AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Caldwall Hall, Kidderminster (38132762) Caldwall Hall, Castle Road, otherwise known as the Castle, is believed to stand on the site of the manor house of the manor of Caldwall. A seventeenth century brick building was demolished in 1961 and the fifteenth century stone tower to which it had been attached was left standing. Excavation in and around the foundations has revealed fourteenth century foundations (dated by a penny of Edward II) with accompanying clay floors, while earlier clay floors below these yielded twelfth century pottery. Excavation is to continue.

Hawford (38442604) The rescue dig on a single-ditched enclosure in conjunction with Shenstone Training College was completed. The ditch was found continuing on the west side of the main road. The site is dated by pottery to the middle of the Roman period and a report is in preparation.

Ian Walker, Larford, 5, Caldwall Crescent, Kidderminster



LEAMINGTON SPA

A scatter of Roman pottery, probably second to fourth century, has been noted on fields by the Avon near Old Milverton (43052678). Crop-marks have been observed in nearby fields on the other side of the river.

Graham Webster, 30 Portland Street, Leamington Spa

LICHFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Roman Wall (41013066) Work in 1962 was confined to examining a small area north of the Watling Street but within the small area protected by the fourth century defences which were sectioned in 1961. The line of the Watling Street was found to have been immediately north of and parallel to the present A5 until c. A.D. 1640. It was not possible to cut a complete section through the Watling Street, but two part-sections were cut and coin evidence found dating the first surface to c. A.D. 70. Beam slots of an earlier (military?) phase were present. A number of substantial, but irregular, post-holes lined the Watling Street, but no building was found save for seventeenth century agricultural foundations. There were indications of metalworking near the road. A peculiar deep pit (unfinished well?) was found cutting an early ditch which ran in an east-west direction. A drainage ditch yielded a large group of coarse pottery together with a coin of Antoninus Pius (A.D. 154-5). Observation of building operations north of the church discovered the western ditches of the first century fort that had occupied the hilltop.

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

MALVERN RESEARCH GROUP

Leigh Sinton (37572515) A second season at Leigh Sinton has made it possible to draw the complete plan of the tile kiln discovered last year. The vicinity of the kiln has also been trenched with the discovery of two ditches containing Roman pottery. Further work has been restricted by the presence of fruit trees.

Paul L. Waters, 10, Cockshot Road, Malvern

OSWESTRY

Work has continued on the 'Bronze Age Burial Site' at Ysgwennant, Denbighshire (31893305). The 'A' beaker found in 1961 was restored by the National Museum of Wales and is now exhibited, on indefinite loan, in the Oswestry Borough Library. The principal find of 1962 was that of two jet buttons, with V-shaped perforations and two jet rings. These objects were found around a circle of 'hardpan' about 6 ins. in diameter, in which, near the top, was embedded a flint knife. Of this knife Dr. H.N. Savory reports, "the flint knife, with working down one edge, is of the rather coarse kind frequently found with beaker burials". Close to this complex of jet, hardpan and flint, were two stones, of local Silurian silt-stone. They are of the kind usually called whetstones, but show no sign of use. On the other side of the complex, but about 15 ins. away, was a circular patch about 4 ins. in diameter and 1/4 in. thick, of charcoal and finely broken, burned bones.

Plans are being prepared to take part in the survey of remains of the Industrial Age and one forgotten site has already been rediscovered

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

RUGBY (PERCIVAL GUILDHOUSE) ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Caves Inn (45342798) Excavations began at Caves Inn, Watling Street, the site of Tripontium, in September. A large ditch containing stratified pottery and coins, and a nearby well have been excavated during the winter. Plans are being made to investigate the area of the Roman settlement over the next few years.

Church Lawford (44432744) Work on this site was terminated during May; findings were sparse and inconclusive.

J.R. Foster, 122, Lawford Road Rugby

SHREWSBURY

Hen Domen (32143981) The third season's work showed that the motte-bailey ditch had been recut at least six times, and produced evidence of five successive bridges, all of different construction, spanning this ditch. At the bottom of the ditch, in a large timber slot cut to receive it, was found a sleeper beam of the earliest bridge, preserved by waterlogging. It was 14 ft. long and 10 ins. square, with large mortices containing the remains of tenons, in each end. There was some evidence that it had been re-used. It has been removed for treatment at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. There was a large pit 11 ft. square and at present 7 ft. deep, in the bailey on the edge of the ditch. It had been timber lined, with vertical planks, and the filling, which contains all kinds of preserved organic material, had been levelled off and a clay floor inserted at about 4 ft. 6 ins. The purpose of this pit is not yet clear. About 3,000 sq. ft. of the bailey have been stripped down to the first significant layer. A flimsy rectangular building, perhaps leaning to against a more substantial building, is appearing in the north-west corner of the bailey close to the ditch, while to the south of the bridge ends is a fine pebble floor whose limits are not yet known. A feature of the bailey structures elsewhere is a series of small, very shallow post-holes consisting of little more than rings of stones. These do not at present make a coherent pattern. Post-holes of the bailey palisade and the fighting platform are beginning to appear on the northern sector of the outer rampart. The most important find was a plaited strap handle of Stamford ware from the primary silting of the ditch.

Shifnal (37473074) This moated site was excavated by the Shrewsbury Research Group on behalf of the Ministry of Works in advance of housing development. A series of trial trenches revealed the mortared sandstone rubble foundations of a house on the east side of the site. They had been severely robbed, no faced stone being found. There was evidence, in the form of scattered post-holes, of timber buildings in the rest of the enclosure, while the bases of post-holes along the rampart on the west and north-west sides showed that there had been a timber palisade. Finds were few, but the pottery was closely comparable with that from Brockhurst Castle, Church Stretton, the majority of the cooking pot rims from Shifnal being of Brockhurst Type 3, dating from the first half of the thirteenth century. There was no evidence of more than one period of occupation, and the absence of earlier or later finds suggests strongly that the site was occupied for only a short while, probably for less than a century.

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

STRATFORD

Hampton Lucy (42532570) Work during 1962 on the site of crop-marks has shown that there was some human occupation on the small area excavated. Two pits were sectioned, but the lack of dating evidence is disappointing, and it is hoped in 1963 to extend the area under excavation in the disused allotments. Here it is hoped to section the ditch visible on the aerial photographs, and follow its course in the hope of recovering some dating evidence.

C.C. Dyer, Orchard Side, Welford-on-Avon

WARWICK

During the excavation for the foundations of new buildings in Barrack Street, Warwick, several wells were discovered and in the filling of one was found a Tudor figurine with brown and yellow glaze. A quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery was also recovered from the site for the Museum.

Miss J. Morris, County Museum, Warwick

WELLINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Overley Hill (36163606) An excavation to examine a hedge-bank between two fields to the south of the modern A5 was commenced in April. At least seven post-Roman road levels have been found with an extremely complicated ditch system to the north of them. This shows three phases of recutting in association with the uppermost road level. Below these, the northern edge and about 10 ft. of what appears to be the Roman road have been found. It is constructed of tightly packed cobbles. So far no traces of the southern edge of this road have been found. In association with the fifth of the road levels mentioned above, a piece of medieval pottery was found. Another piece, the precise date of which is not yet known, has also been found in these road levels.

R.A. Meeson, "Mostyn", Albion Street, St. Georges, Oakengates, Salop  
WELLINGTON (WREKIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP)

Ogof Llanymynech (32653222) While clearing fallen rock to open a passage in the interior of this cave, considered to have been a Roman coppermine, a piece of Roman pottery was found, together with two whetstones and a quantity of bones including a human thigh bone and lower jaw. The pottery is a rimsherd from a black burnished cooking pot, dated to the second century.

Messrs. D.R. Adams, C. Lears and M. James, The Shropshire Mining Club  
Redhill (37283109) Work on this site has ceased for the present since everything possible has been obtained from the available area. The following finds have however been made on the surface of a ploughed field to the west (37263109): (1) a legionary apron mount, found by Mr. C. Lears, and (2) a bronze brooch with a pierced catch-plate, found by Mr. M. James.

Wall Farm, Kinnersley (36813178) The site consists of about 30 acres enclosed by a multivallate earthwork, the main bank of which is about 8 ft. above the level of the ground inside. It is presumed to be of Iron Age date. A trench cutting through the main bank and at least two ditches are being excavated. The only information on the structure revealed to date is as follows. The outer of the ditches has been recut, the inner disturbed; the bank was faced by walls on both sides, that on the outside having been robbed. What appears to be the remains of an earlier bank on a different line has been found at the back of the bank inside. No dating evidence has been found so far.

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

WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Croft Ambrey Hill-fort (34432668) The excavation of the west gate of the plateau camp and a further section of the quarry ditch was undertaken. A long occupation before the construction of the Western Third 'B' main camp defences is indicated and the importance of corn farming throughout the 'B' occupation has been underlined by the recognition of granaries and the discovery of a storage pit containing much burnt corn.

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

WORCESTER

Post-medieval pottery collected by Mr. H.S. Russell from a site in Queen Street (38512569), can be dated by clay tobacco pipes to c. A.D. 1660-1720, and is broadly comparable with material of the period c. A.D. 1640-1710 from Bromsgrove. The earliest sherds include marbled slipware and a few tygs, both obsolete at Bromsgrove after A.D. 1670. Slipware dishes decorated in white on a red ground were made from a Keuper Marl clay, and may well be local. A few sherds occur at Bromsgrove before A.D. 1670, and in small quantities elsewhere at Coventry, Deritend (c. A.D. 1650-1700) and Hereford. They were replaced towards the end of the period by moulded wares from North Staffordshire, which had not reached Bromsgrove in A.D. 1710. A little sgraffiato ware was imported from the West Country. Other imports are stoneware from Frechen and Westerwald in the Rhineland, and Lambeth delft. Much of the manganese-glazed coarse ware differs from that at Bromsgrove, and seems to be another local product.

Three further groups of post-medieval material were recovered from Whiteladies Nunnery (38492564) by Mr. H. Sandon. The first contains a small group of buff-brown glazed cooking pots, paralleled at Weoley Castle and closely dated to c. A.D. 1539-50; the second, much pottery of the period c. A.D. 1760-90. Besides a quantity of local slipware, this includes five types of unglazed or undecorated lead-glazed coarse pottery, two of them unknown at Queen Street and the remainder significantly different. A start can be made, therefore, in establishing a typology for these seventeenth and eighteenth century wares. The final group dates from c. A.D. 1820.

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

#### WORCESTER, SEVERN VALLEY STUDY GROUP

In the early part of the year the group were fortunate to be able to cut a section through the south defences of the Roman settlement at Worcester (38502543). The work had to be done rapidly because of the constant threat from contractors' bulldozers. The section revealed a complex ditch system with one ditch showing of a Roman military characteristic. There was a second similar ditch, but not of the same phase as the first ditch. A third ditch of medieval date was observed cutting into the filling of the first Roman ditch.

Another excavation took place in the autumn on the line of the northern medieval ditch in an attempt to find its dimensions and relationship to the wall. Unfortunately, owing to confined space and serious disturbance, no worthwhile information was recovered, although the inner line of the ditch was found and recorded.

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

#### SUMMER SCHOOLS

The Roveries, Bishops Castle (33252924) A third season of training excavation was held at the Roveries hill-fort in August. A survey of the site was completed. Excavation was restricted to selective work at the north entrance and a wide trench across a causewayed ditch which cuts off the westernmost third of the camp interior. The causewayed ditch appears to be an unfinished earthwork which was destined to form the western side of the camp in its first phase. The rampart which must have been begun on its east side was presumably incorporated in the unditched extension to the west which took in the remainder of the hilltop, for no trace of it survives behind its quarry ditch. The vital junction of the north end of this unfinished work and the rampart of the camp in its final form, which appears to overlie this ditch, was surveyed but not excavated. Work at the north entrance included a new plan of the inturned rampart and guard-chambers, and enough excavation to indicate that at least two periods are represented in this construction.

Nicholas Thomas, City Museum, Birmingham

Wroxeter (35663086) During the course of the Summer Schools further attention was given to the timber buildings of the first century which preceded the stone-built Baths. The plans of these timber buildings which are now beginning to emerge show that they are large and complex, but their precise nature and the important question as to whether they are civil or military has yet to be answered.

A section was also cut across the street which runs along the northern side of the Baths insula. This revealed a succession of ten streets of varying widths and constructions with their respective drains on both sides. Below the earliest street were the remains of substantial timber buildings of at least three periods. There is thus a phase of occupation at Wroxeter which predates the street plan as it now appears.

Graham Webster

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