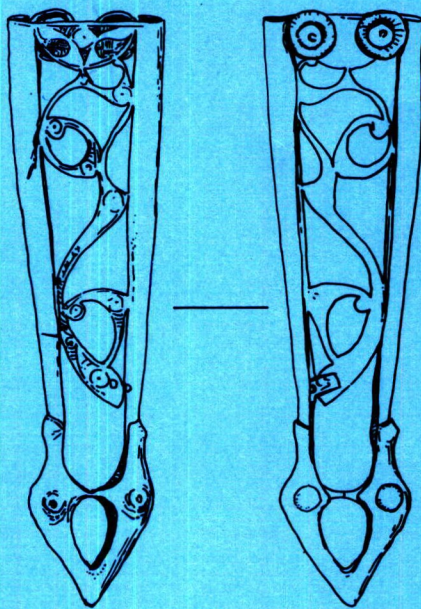


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GROUP 9

NEWSLETTER 9 1979



97, 98
102, 103

A REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY

in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire
Northamptonshire & Oxfordshire

Property of CBA South Midlands.

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

REGIONAL GROUP 9

(Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire)

NEWSLETTER No. 9 1979

Editor: David Hall

Chairman: John Williams,
Northampton Development
Corporation

Hon. Sec.: Dennis Mynard,
Bradwell Abbey
Field Centre

*Acting Hon.
Treas.:* B.C. Hastings,
The Folly, Tiffield,
Towcester, Northants

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Oxford University Department for
External Studies, Rewley House,
3-7 Wellington Square,
Oxford, OX1 2JA

EDITORIAL

The layout of this Newsletter follows that of previous years, i.e. a chronological sequence of excavations and finds followed by the results of surveys and the longer contributions by the county units.

I am glad to report that last year's misgivings about a fall-off in the work of part-timers were unfounded. The Chess Valley Society continues to make significant contributions, and there are more reports this year from societies, especially in Oxfordshire.

Collectively you have responded to my request for contributions to be presented earlier by being exceptionally late. It does make it difficult to get the Newsletter prepared in time for the Annual Reports Conference.

The range of techniques used by members this year is singular. Unless you have used a microptic alidade or a fluxgate gradiometer you are probably getting out of date. Nevertheless, the finest application of alternative technology has to be that of the Abingdon Society - the use of a water diviner to locate a ring ditch.

Archaeological work by members of the CBA 9 Region has been prominent in the media recently. Two of the top six entries of the Chronicle Awards TV programme were from our area. Jim Pickering, whose photographs of linear ditches have caused much discussion, came second, and John Bailey, whose excellent Elstow medieval-building survey was reported at the 1978 Annual conference, received a placing. We were glad to see John's efficient assistant, Maxene Miller, keeping an eye on him at Elstow - presumably stopping him from dashing off to the pub. Alan Hannan received an Award on behalf of his Northamptonshire Unit. This was from the Country Life Magazine, for 'the best contribution to rescue archaeology by a local authority or public body'.

Several of us attended the funeral of Bill Fowler last year. It is with much sadness that we miss Bill whose enthusiasm and energy contributed very significantly to the work of CBA Group 9 during his period of office as Secretary. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

Again I should like to thank Trevor Rowley and his secretarial staff for the production of the Newsletter and dealing so efficiently with all our tedious telephone calls and other enquiries.

David Hall

PREHISTORIC

MARSWORTH QUARRY (Tunnel Cement Co. Quarry No. 3), Buckinghamshire (SP 832 145) - Jean Davis, *Pitstone Local History Society*

A year ago I reported continuing activity in Marsworth Quarry, where Pleistocene mammal bones had been exposed by the Cement Company's excavations. During December and January the work was intensified, and Andrew Currant of the British Museum (Natural History) and several colleagues made a number of visits to the site, concentrating on the recording and excavation of a particularly rewarding section in the then exposed face, in which fossil bones occurred in six or seven successive layers of deposits. In the meantime, two or three members of the Society lifted newly-exposed bones nearby and continued the general exploration of the area where the highest concentration of bone deposit seemed to have occurred. After detailed recording, another large consignment of specimens was sent to the Natural History Museum for identification and reconstitution, as most had been fractured by frost.

During the spring several of us were forced to stop work by ill health, including Andrew, who since his recovery, has been diverted on to another site and we are still waiting for his final interpretation of the quarry deposits and complete faunal list to date, which now includes Dicerorhinus, sp. probably the narrow-nosed rhino. Samples sent for pollen analysis were too oxidised to produce results.

The deposit-bearing area has now been excavated by the Company, although scattered specimens may still come to light. In Andrew Currant's absence, David Parrish of Aylesbury Museum has given up much of his own time to help and advise us, and has supervised the monitoring of the site during the final excavation operation.

JORDANS, GERRARDS CROSS, Buckinghamshire - Bambi Stainton

Finds of Flint Tools and Flakes

In the past it has been assumed that the heavy forest believed to have covered the clay-with-flints, and other glacial deposits that patchwork the dipslope of the Chilterns, was too difficult for early man to penetrate. The lack of obvious surface water was also thought to have made the area unattractive for any kind of settlement. This was held to account for so few prehistoric finds known, and Jack Head in 'Early Man in South Bucks' makes the only mention of the little recorded evidence.

Following up his statements on finds in one valley and one record at the County Museum, the writer discovered two large collections of poorly recorded surface-finds of flint tools and flakes, and decided to make a complete report on these and any other finds in this valley, the subject of a dissertation for the Certificate of British Archaeology.

The area studied is a dry valley that runs down the dipslope of the Chilterns from Seer Green and Jordans to Hedgerley and Fulmer. It is considered to be of post-glacial origin, having been cut through glacial deposits to the chalk below by the River Alderbourne, whose much diminished remains still drain its lower slopes at Fulmer and runs thence into the River Colne.

One collection was made at Jordans over the past 25-30 years by the Wheen family and consists now of some 80 implements, cores and hammerstones

and over 1,000 flakes, including fine blades and core rejuvenation and trimming flakes. An unknown quantity went into the making of a gravel path! I was assured that the majority of these were found in their garden at 'Further Pegs', Jordans, with a few from Crutches Wood, Jordans.

The other collection had been made further down the valley by Mr. E. Clive Rouse about 50 years ago and consisted of 89 implements, cores and hammerstones and 20 flakes. He marked the walked fields on a map and put the same identification on the appropriate flints so that they can now be assigned to a field but not located more closely. Unfortunately few flakes were retained though a group of eight were recorded as being found in a rabbit's scrape and its position marked. The fields walked by Mr. Rouse have not so far been available for investigation but 14 implements and over 100 flakes have been found along nearby footpaths. An excavation at Fulmer carried out by Michael Farley in 1972 on behalf of the County Museum produced a quantity of unstratified Mesolithic flakes and implements in very fine condition.

An exploratory trench (2m x 1m) excavated in March 1978 in the garden of 'Further Pegs', Jordans, by kind permission of the new owners, revealed no buried archaeological horizon and the 19 flakes, one core and one blade that were found occurred only in the top-soil, suggesting that the pre-historic ground surface was similar to that of the present day. Limited gardening there continues to produce flakes and tools.

Some trees were felled and replanted in Crutches Wood, Jordans, in the summer of 1978 and in the churned-up areas were found three scrapers, one core rejuvenation flake, 52 waste flakes and one fine quality pressure-flaked implement, bifacially worked. It's smoothly worn end suggests a fabricator but its workmanship is more that of a plano-convex knife. Mr. Wheen recorded finding two Neolithic picks and at least two scrapers in this wood.

Bulstrode Park is now the only area in this valley with no recorded flint finds but this blank is likely to be illusory as it has been a park, as far as can be determined, for at least 400 years.

Most of the finds in the valley cannot be accurately assigned to any period but there are some that are diagnostic. Mesolithic finds include at least five microliths, one broken sandstone mace head, six pyramidal cores, one flake axe, one flake adze, one small tranchet axe and a number of fine blades. Two Neolithic picks, one leaf arrow-head and three reworked broken polished-axes have been found and Early Bronze Age finds include six button scrapers worked with varying skill, and one hollow-based, four barb-and-tang and one petit tranchet derivative arrow-heads. The majority of tools found are scrapers (55, end, side and hollow, varying from well made examples to those roughly made on crude flakes) and about 40 likely borers. Some of these were carefully worked but most appear to be conveniently shaped flakes only slightly retouched. Other implements include two 'laurel leaves', five fabricators and six bifacially worked tools. All the implements showed signs of wear except the Mesolithic adze, fractured possibly during manufacture, which is in 'mint' condition.

All the tools appear to have been made from surface flints, some from quite small pebbles, and at least half retain some of the cortex which is similar to that found on present surface flints. The great abundance of easily available flints may have been the attraction of this area. It is noticeable that the makers of the tools were content to use remarkably flawed material and four of the scrapers have been worked on thermal flakes. Three of the scrapers show later re-working suggesting that the material was still available on the surface, either during long occupation or when

revisiting the site after a considerable interval of time.

Speed of manufacture and expediency seem to have been the main factor in the manufacture of the many large crude flakes with irregular retouch, made to serve some immediate need and possibly soon discarded. The many broad, squat flakes found all along the valley do emphasise the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age working in the area.

These surface and unstratified finds are found in only selected available areas, but the quantity is so at variance with the previous record that it seems important that all possible information about the local geography and geology as well as the artefacts should be collected and analysed. These need to be compared with known industries as well as finds made in nearby areas and very systematic field walking must be done.

It is hoped to define some type series for the area and to give some indication of the type, period, frequency and extent of prehistoric activity when all possible research is completed.

Figure 1 illustrates a sample of the tool types found in the 'Aldersbourne valley'.

1. Mesolithic flake adze (broken).
2. Half a quartzite sandstone mace head with hourglass perforation.
3. Pyramidical core; many of the others are considerably smaller.
- 4-6. Microliths; No. 4, type A1, is a particularly beautifully worked specimen.
- 7 & 8. Blades with retouch along one or both sides.
9. Neolithic pick, one of two almost identical.
10. Polished Neolithic axe, broken and reworked as double side scraper in antiquity, also modern damage.
11. Circular scraper on thermal flake (similar to Nos. 17 and 24, Figure 1, CBA Group 9 Newsletter 1976).
- 12 & 13. Hollow scrapers; No. 12 with three neatly worked concavities.
- 14 & 20. Neatly made end-scrapers.
- 15 & 19. Button scrapers.
- 16 & 17. Borers.
18. Notched flake (one of many).
- 21-24. Arrow heads; leaf, hollow based, and barb-and-tang. Nos. 21, 23 and 24 bifacially worked.
25. Fabricator, one end worn very smooth.
26. Finely pressure flaked implement one end worn very smooth.

RAVENSTONE, Buckinghamshire (SP 8535 4895) - David Allen, *Buckinghamshire County Museum*
Ring Ditch

The excavation of a ploughed-out beaker round barrow (ring ditch) near Ravenstone, Buckinghamshire took place during September and October 1978. The site, discovered by aerial survey, is located some 400 m north of the river Ouse in an area soon to be disturbed by gravel extraction.

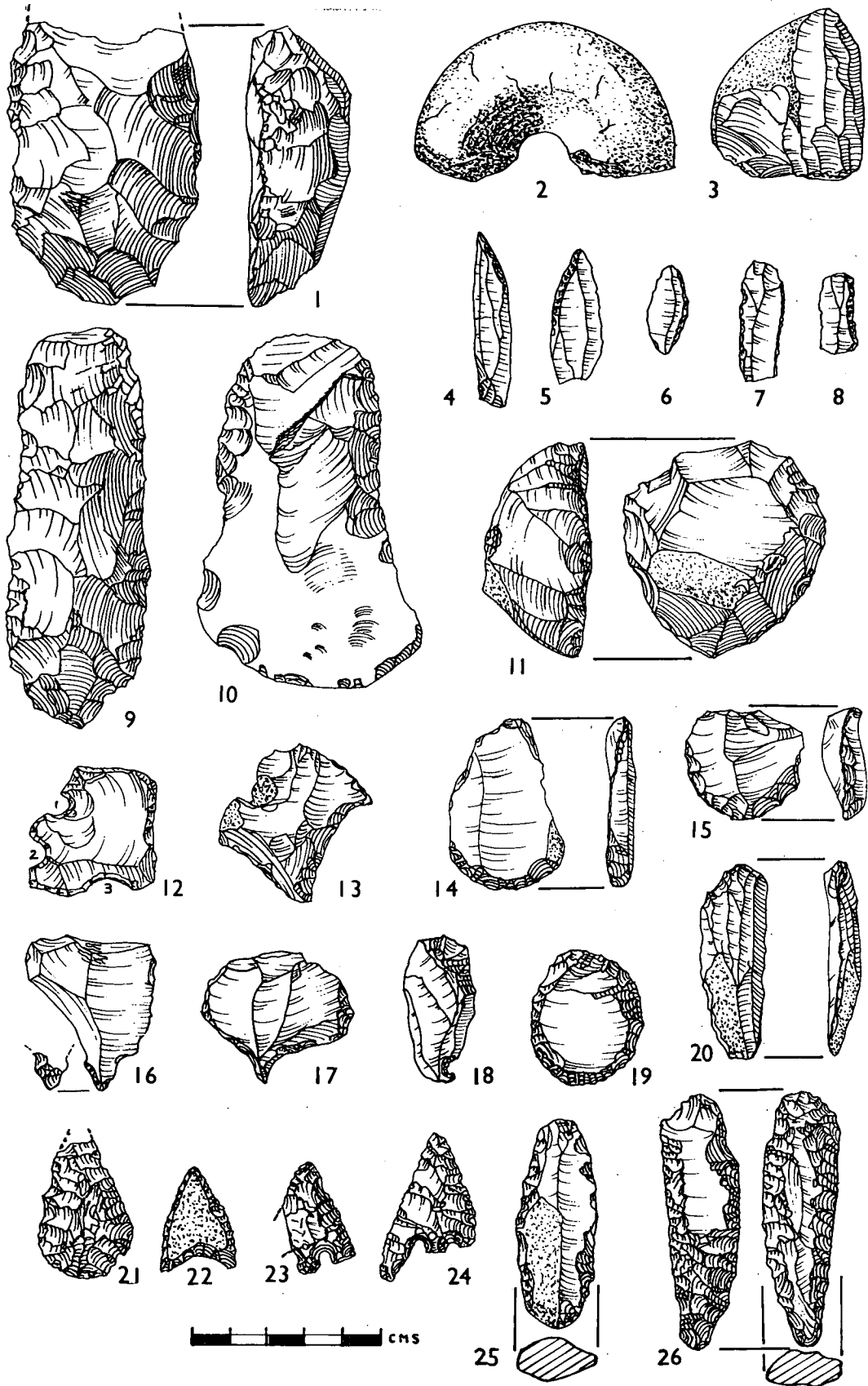


Figure 1

Worked flints from the upper Alderbourne Valley, Buckinghamshire

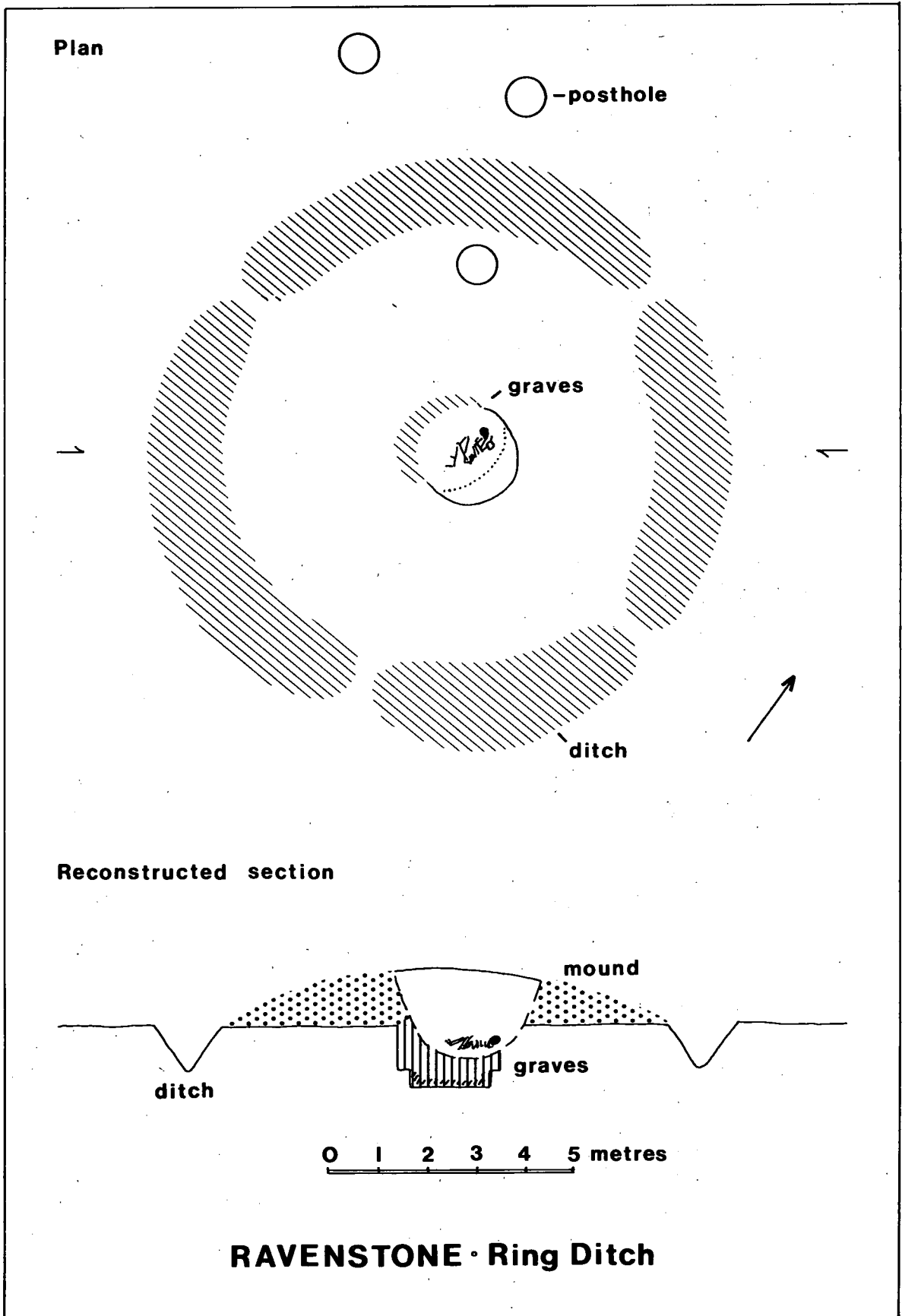


Figure 2

Excavation revealed that the largest surviving feature of the monument was the circular ditch (12.0 m diameter, 1.60 m wide, 0.80 m deep). This was not continuous, but broken by four narrow causeways (0.20 m wide). (Figure 2).

Two graves were located at the centre of the barrow. The primary grave was apparently a centopah, for although traces of a coffin and an antler spatula were discovered, no skeletal material was found. The secondary grave contained the crouched inhumation of a woman. She was accompanied by a long-necked beaker, bronze awl, 'V' bored, button flint implements, and a charred wooden object.

A four-post structure (3.60 m. square) may have existed on the site prior to the barrow's construction. A substantial quantity of flint waste came from the excavated area and small pits contained pottery of ?Neolithic and Iron Age date.

BRIAR HILL, Northampton (NGR 735594) - Helen M. Bamford, *Northamptonshire Development Corporation*
Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure (Site Code P76)

Excavation of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure continued during 1978, in advance of building on the site and is now finished.

Investigation of the western half of the inner enclosure was completed, a 30m wide strip across the outer enclosure and areas across the ditches on the north side were examined in detail, and the ditches on the west and south-west sides sampled extensively.

Neolithic

There were few further traces of neolithic activity in the interior, apart from several shallow pits in the inner enclosure, but evidence for extensive recutting of the ditches was again found.

The first radiocarbon dates received from Harwell suggest an origin in the 5th millennium BC (calibrated) and a prolonged use of the enclosure, and confirm a late Neolithic date for the timber structure found in 1977.

Bronze Age

On the south-west side of the enclosure was discovered a small group of Bronze Age cremation burials, some in urns and one accompanied by a flint barbed-and-tanged arrowhead, heavily burnt. This is the first unequivocal evidence of Bronze Age use of the site to be found.

Iron Age

One the west side of the enclosure and partly overlying the Neolithic ditches was a small rectangular ditched enclosure of Iron Age date, the third to be found on site. Around this were clustered numerous pits, many of which contained large amounts of metal working slag, as well as Iron Age pottery.

OXFORDSHIRE - A.G. Sherratt, *Ashmolean Museum*

Prehistoric finds have been reported from the following places: Worked flint flakes from Woolstone, near FARINGDON (1927.237); a bronze spearhead with double side-loops from MERTON (1978.323); and a polished flint axe from Juniper Hill, COTTISFORD (1978.341).

ABINGDON, Oxfordshire (SU 523973) - G. Jones, G. Wallace and W. Skellington
for *Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society*

Thrupp Farm

Rescue work by members of the Society has continued on this site ahead of gravel extraction. The following features have been excavated and plans drawn.

A small area of Neolithic floor with a scatter of flint and pottery sherds. A complex of Early Iron Age ditches and pits provisionally dated to the 3rd Century BC. Work has begun on a field before topsoil stripping commenced. A single ring cropmark was known in one corner and was located with the use of divining rods (alternative technology!) Field walking in previous years identified two distinct scatters of Neolithic flintwork with PTD arrows.

Excavation has now revealed: (a) a ring ditch of Neolithic date; (b) a complex of Early Iron Age features; (c) a shallow crouched burial, damaged by ploughing.

Work on the site is progressing well ahead of destruction, thanks to the help and cooperation of the gravel company, Messrs. J. Curtis and Son of Radley.

ROMAN

HIGH WYCOMBE, Buckinghamshire (SU 890931) - Pauline and Stan Cauvain

Romano-British Site at Micklefield

Observation of surface finds over several years lead to trial trenching in a back-garden on a housing estate in High Wycombe. This exploratory excavation revealed a 'floor' 15 cm thick, which covered an area of some 225 sq m. The floor was composed mainly of compacted flint and broken pottery together with soil and other domestic rubbish, although only a very small amount of bone was found. Only one feature was found and that was a post hole some 20 cm in diameter which cut through the floor at its southern end. The pottery was varied although in the main datable to the early 2nd Century AD. Over 50% of the sherds recovered were of a soft fabric with a smooth soapy feel. The other major fabric was coarser with the inclusion of crushed calcined flint. Both fabrics were brown to black in colour. Simple bead rims predominated although there were several examples of plain rimmed bowls, together with some forms reminiscent of Belgic wares. Decoration was sparse. Both forms and fabric suggest local manufacture. One coin, a Dupondius of Trajan (AD 106) was recovered from the make up of the 'floor' confirming a date in the first half of the 2nd Century AD.

On clearing a section of the 'floor' a pattern of shallow grooves cut into the natural chalk was observed. The grooves had been cut in two directions, running roughly at right angles to one another (Figure 3). No dating evidence was recovered from these grooves which were roughly V-shaped and up to 7 cm deep. Their interpretation as plough marks would seem reasonable.

The site lies on a small plateau about 75 m above sea level on the western side of a small, dry valley, one of several in the High Wycombe area that lies at right angles to the main valley containing the river Wye. The location is in contrast to the Penns Mead Villa about 2 km south - west and very close to the river Wye. The dating evidence from the 'floor' suggests

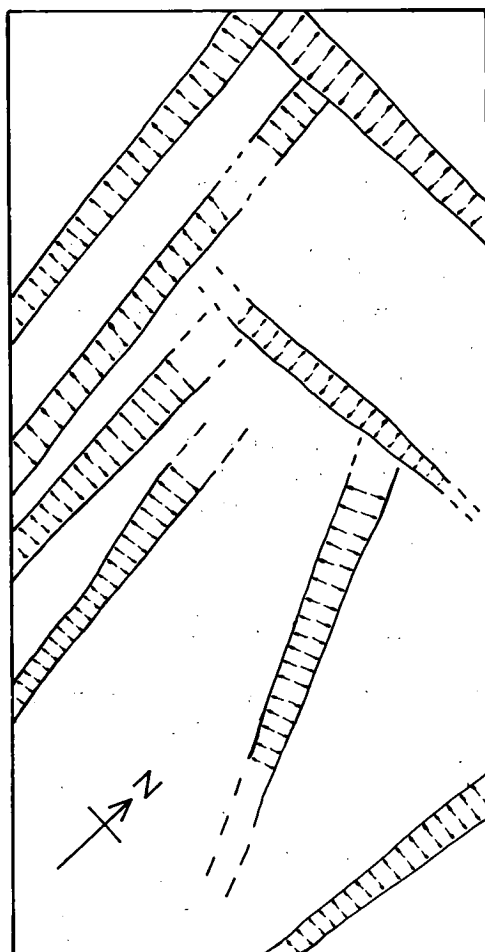


Figure 3

20 cm

Plough-marks HIGH WYCOMBE

that the Micklefield site predates the Penn's Mead villa by some 50-100 years.

The small scale excavations described here have now considerably altered the known Romano-British settlement in the High Wycombe area. The relation of the plough-marks to Romano-British or Iron Age use of the area must remain a matter of conjecture until further evidence can be obtained.

KILSBY, Northamptonshire (SP 57417233) - A.E. Brown for *Leicester University Adult Education Department*

A trench 25 m. long was cut across Watling Street in an area under a possible threat from gravel quarrying. This disclosed a central highway consisting of a smoothly cambered surface of gravel 10 m. wide rising to a height of 40 cm. - adjoining on the east was an identically constructed but narrower side lane 4.5 m. wide and 15 cm. high. The remains of a similar side lane adjoining the central highway on the west had been severely eroded by open field agriculture. No side ditches were encountered in the section, which was limited by the existence of an old gravel pit, but a machine cut trial trench 150 m. to the north disclosed the base of a ditch running parallel with Watling Street, some 18 m. to the west of the centre of the Roman road, lying under 50 cm. of plough soil. This might have represented all that remained of a Roman side ditch, the upper levels of which had been cut away by agriculture.

ANGLO-SAXON

KETTERING, Northamptonshire - David H. Kennett

All material from the cemetery excavated in 1903 and 1929 has now been drawn. Northampton Museum have 45 urns, including some in fragments, Kettering Museum have 38 urns, including those in fragments. The unprovenanced collection of Northampton Museum includes the major part of four decorated urns probably from the site and single sherds from another 50 urns. These last may also derive from the cemetery. Previous publication includes the illustration by J.N.L. Myres of 26 urns in Northampton Museum and 17 urns in Kettering Museum in his work A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period, (Cambridge, 1978); D.H. Kennett figures 11 of the pots in Anglo-Saxon Pottery, (Princes Risborough, 1978).

ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY SIZE AND MUSEUMS HOLDINGS - David H. Kennett

The previous note records work by the author on the material from the cremation cemetery found at Stamford Road, Kettering, in 1903 and 1929. About 80 or 90 urns were found in the first excavations, which were probably not the total for the part of the site examined: some urns undoubtedly lie underneath the houses built on the site. According to reports there were 16 pots found in 1929 but Kettering Museum have complete pots or sherds from 38 vessels. The total recorded from the two diggings is a minimum of 96 vessels; museum holdings are of a definite 86 vessels (Kettering Museum 38 pots, Northampton Museum 45 pots plus four probably from the site including one which is partly in Kettering Museum) and another 50 pots held in Northampton Museum which most likely come from the site. At a probable total of c.146 urns surviving, the site thus joins the group of sites classified in D.H. Kennett, Anglo-Saxon Pottery, (1978), as having 125 urns or more.

Another site from the region with comparable numbers of urns is Abingdon, Oxfordshire (formerly Berkshire), from which 89 urns are known but the site was only partly excavated. A map of the group of sites with the most cremation urns should equally include this cemetery. The question may be asked if the exercise of isolating the site with the greatest number of Anglo-Saxon pots has any further validity.

Other Northamptonshire sites with cremation urns are Burton Latimer and Rothwell, both of which have been studied by the author for papers now with the Journal of Northampton Museums and Art Gallery. From Burton Latimer there are seventeen pots including both cremation urns and accessory vessels to inhumation graves. Additionally there is a group of metalwork most easily interpreted as originating from a single female grave. As the forthcoming detailed publication makes clear this material may not be the full extent of the cemetery. The finds from Rothwell, may be from two sites and include a number of cremation urns and a number of accessory vessels. At Burton Latimer, it seems clear that only one portion of the site reached a museum; at Rothwell, the same may be true, particularly for the material found on ironstone workings (from which the items in the Ashmolean Museum are also derived).

If say ten men shared the Burton Latimer finds; there might have been a discovery of a cemetery with about 150 pots in it. This speculation raises the possibility that there were extensive cemeteries at three sites: Rothwell, Burton Latimer and Kettering, each a few kilometres distant on the Ise Valley, and probably yet another cemetery at Desborough, the next parish to Rothwell.

upstream. If indeed there are four cemeteries each originally of this size, each lasting 200 years (c.400 to c.600), the whole scenario of Anglo-Saxon settlement needs to be revised.

Archaeological evidence is partial; with the cemeteries of the early Anglo-Saxon period it is even more incomplete. There can be little validity in assuming full cemetery size from our incomplete evidence. St. John's College Cricket Field, Cambridge, has no fewer than portions of over 600 pots surviving, and that may be small in comparison to a site like Spong Hill, North Elmham, Norfolk with an estimated total of 7,000 urns. Assuming that the latter is an exceptionally large cemetery and that 600 to 1,000 urns may be the more usual size for an Anglo-Saxon cemetery in use for 200 years, the burial rate is only three per annum, representing a community of no greater numbers than about 250. It would, however, be a community capable of pro-creating without more than the level of interchange which demographers have observed for later communities of this size.

On this basis, the Kettering site may represent a smaller than average community. It still, however, remains the largest cremation cemetery in the region.

NORTHAMPTON CASTLE (Site Code M139), (SP 47492605) - M. Shaw and J.H. Williams for *the Northampton Development Corporation*

Further work on the site at Chalk Lane between October 1977 - May 1978 and September - November 1978 has clarified the nature of the late Saxon settlement and produced evidence for the Early-Middle Saxon and Prehistoric periods.

At least two phases of Late Saxon occupation can be identified, (see CBA 9 Newsletter No. 8, 1978, 40). The latest phase is represented by a posthole building, excavated in 1976, on the east side of the site while the areas to the north and west were used for the disposal of rubbish and as a yard. The area to the south-west appears to have been cultivated. In the earlier phase there was a substantial post-pit building, with a cellar, on the east side of the site and further post-hole and sunken featured buildings to the north and west. Metalworking (? bronze) either on or near the site at this time is suggested by a large number of crucible fragments found in one pit and furnace lining and slag from the pits.

Intensive Early-Middle Saxon occupation in the area is suggested by the large amount of pottery of that date although the only feature which can be definitely assigned to this period is a small sunken featured building.

Prehistoric occupation on the site is attested by the large number of flints recovered, as well as by pits and gullies (including two penannular shaped ones, presumably enclosing houses), of Bronze-Age date.

MEDIEVAL

AYLESBURY, Buckinghamshire - Brian Durham, *Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit*
Salvage work in St. Mary's Church

As part of a major internal renovation, 13 footings were to be cast at

the west end of the nave and in the north transept. Some excavation was possible, but essentially it was a salvage brief. There was no evidence of the religious foundation of 7th Century legends, and the earliest structures found, the footings of the nave, are attributed to the late Saxon period on the basis of the span (8.4 m b.c.) and the stone-sawn material. The nave appeared to have been laid out along a bank of cultivated topsoil 1.40 m deep, perhaps a field headland. The consequent depth to natural probably dictated the use of 'cob' footings with stone reserved for the corners.

A tower seems to have been added to the west end, again using cob footings but with a course or two of pitched stone. A robbed wall leading south from the tower is suggested as a cloister which, considered with a length of 90 mm base lead pipe, is perhaps evidence of a small 12th Century monastic community enjoying a water distribution system as is known at many 'great' churches. The tower seems to have been taken down well before the comprehensive rebuilding of the first half of the 13th Century, when the nave was lengthened by two bays, and north and south aisles added to create the basic form of the existing church.

The work was carried out for Buckinghamshire County Museum by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit and was financed by the Department of the Environment. A report has been lodged with the museum.

BUCKINGHAM - David Allan for *Buckinghamshire County Museum*

An excavation by Richard Hall in 1974 adjacent to the former parish church of Buckingham, Records of Bucks, 20 (1975), showed the area to contain no structures datable before the 13th Century. In July 1978 an opportunity arose to carry out two weeks trial excavation in back gardens in an area thought likely to have lain at the eastern end of the burh. The gardens lay adjacent to a site dug by the Buckingham Archaeological Society.

Three areas were investigated, there being 2-3 m of 'made ground' at each location. The first area was completely occupied by a sunken brick cool-store of Victorian date which prevented further investigation. The second contained the base of a large 13th Century pit but the remainder was heavily disturbed by Victorian pits. The third area contained 13th Century and later out-buildings and a boundary wall which superseded two massive pits. One of these was 13th-14th Century in date, the other of the late 17th Century and at least 3 m deep. Also present was a stone-lined pit of late medieval date. No deposits of burh date were present. Although the finds have not yet been fully processed, it appears that only a few Saxo-Norman sherds occur in later features. The results at present appear insufficient to suggest intensive occupation. The saga of the elusive burh continues!

BUILDINGS

DUNSTABLE HISTORY BUILDING STUDY GROUP - John Bailey

The Group has been actively recording buildings throughout Bedfordshire although, as last year, the work has been mainly in the north of the county. The surveys have generally been related to timber-framed buildings of the 15th to 17th Centuries. In addition to making meticulous measure surveys of threatened buildings the Group has taken every possible opportunity to obtain owners' permission to record in detail buildings which are being modernised.

In order to extend the general knowledge of the construction, form, use and carpentry of the timber-framed building, other selected buildings throughout the county have been examined in detail.

The investigation of buildings has not been limited to Bedfordshire. Certain timber framed buildings in Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire have been studied.

Voluntary assistance has also been given by the Group to the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Surveys for the Museum have been made of buildings which cannot be saved and which are scheduled for demolition, in the hope that funds or grants can be raised for them to be saved for the Museum. The catchment area for the Museum within the CBA Group 9 area is: Mid and South Bedfordshire, Mid and South Buckinghamshire and South East Oxfordshire. Voluntary survey work has also been carried out for the Department of the Environment. A complete survey and archaeological analysis was made on behalf of the DoE of the Gatehouse at Down Hall Farm, Abington Piggotts, Cambridgeshire, prior to restoration work being carried out. This is perhaps the best preserved example of the large timber-framed gatehouse in the south of England.

Bedfordshire Surveys

The Group's main preoccupation has been the surveying of threatened buildings in Bedfordshire, liaising closely with the county Conservation Officer. Major survey work has been carried out in the following parishes and towns on buildings either derelict or subject to modernisation:-

Riseley	Elstow	Totternhoe
Shillington	Kempston	Tempsford
Kensworth	Eaton Bray	Flitton
Dunstable	Sandy	Leighton Buzzard
Biggleswade	Potton	

Keysoe Field Surveys, Bedfordshire

Further field survey work has been carried out at Keysoe, north Bedfordshire to establish relationships between the surviving evidence of the medieval and later field patterns, roads and other features and the standing medieval buildings.

An extensive survey was carried out at College Farm which is on an ancient moated site. The various periods of build of the surviving buildings were established.

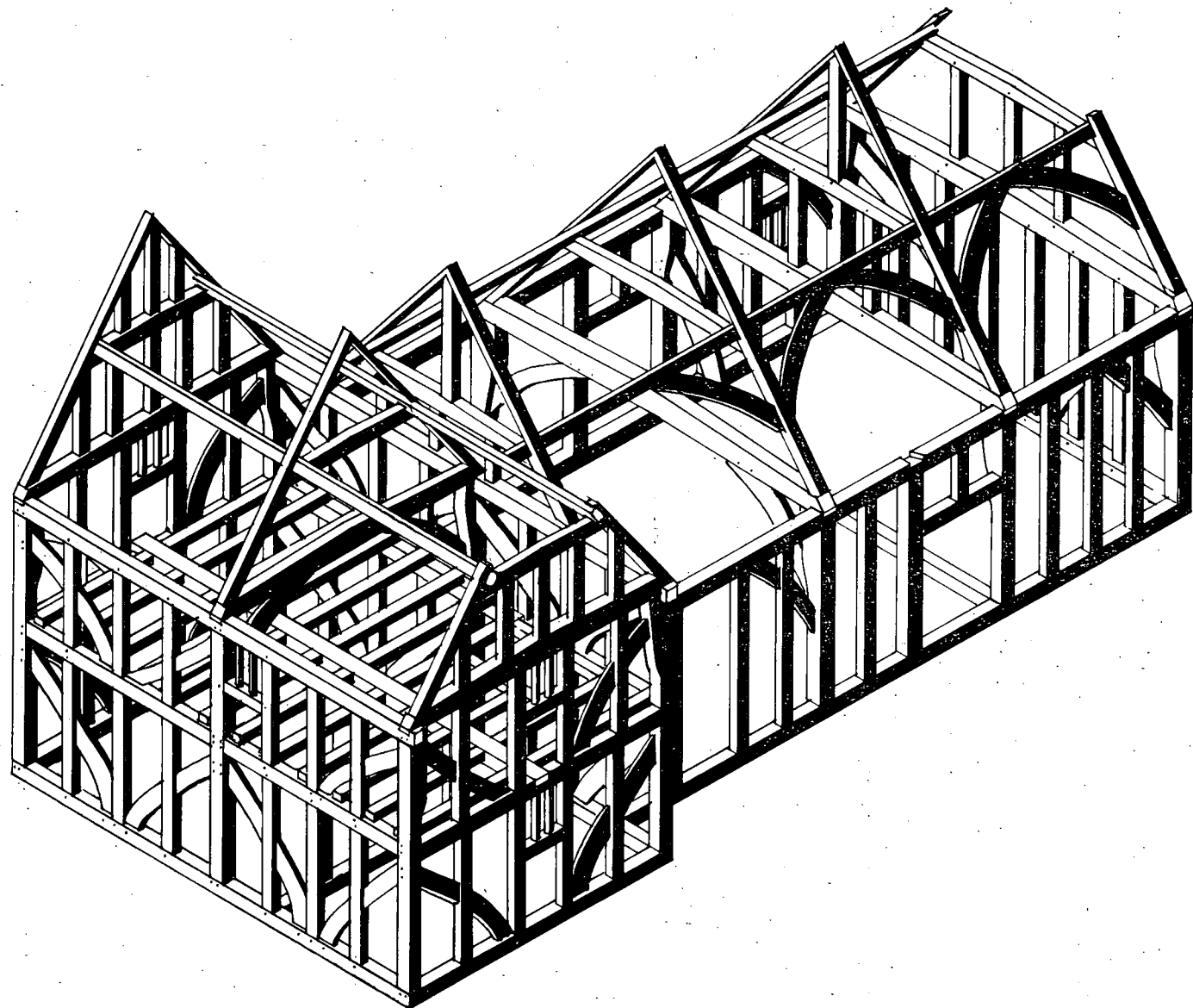
Further investigation was carried out at Buryfield Farm, which is an early 17th Century large timber-framed building of 'U' plan form. The building is abandoned and will soon be derelict. It is an important example of its type and we hope that it will be saved.

The field survey of Keysoe Park Farm cottage at Hardwick End is now complete and it is possible to reconstruct completely on paper the late medieval building on the site (Figure 4). This was a simple form of hall and crosswing at the lower vernacular level. The survey provided valuable evidence of living conditions in the area. It was possible to relate the building to the surviving medieval field layouts and establish the road, river and field boundaries following detailed field surveys of the surrounding area.

Shillington (Cawdershill Farm)

An in-depth investigation was made of this hall and crosswing building of manorial class. During modernisation work it was possible to make a

Figure 4



KEYSOE PARK FARM COTTAGE RECONSTRUCTION OF HALL AND CROSSWING FRAME

jmb

complete measured survey of all surviving details of the original structure. This survey yielded some very useful results as it was possible to reconstruct the Hall in almost complete detail. This is one of the rare occasions in Bedfordshire where it has been possible to do so, for a hall of this class. Generally because of rebuilding it is impossible to locate all the windows and doors. A perspective drawing showing the Hall in its reconstructed form is shown illustrated (Figure 5).

Buckinghamshire Survey

The Group has investigated buildings in East Buckinghamshire to establish the changes in style and carpentry of medieval and late medieval timber-framed buildings over a wider area than the confines of the county of Bedfordshire. Several buildings have been surveyed in detail to confirm their precise construction and form. Others have been surveyed elementally to establish their basic classification.

1979 Programme

During 1979 the Group hopes to expand its research activities. A detailed retrieval system is planned to allow cross-reference between the various buildings surveyed. The input to this will include carpentry and framing detailed etc. as well as general building typology. The system established and used by the Group will be used eventually as the basis for the Chiltern Open Air Museum retrieval system, and copies of all information would be passed into their hands. This will be a system covering counties in the broad area covered by the Museum, and extended into other counties where it is thought that comparative material can be usefully added. It will take perhaps two years to establish the bulk of information that will make it an effective consultative system. This will, however, be within the time scale of the build-up of the Museum administration on the site. Information will also be drawn from the National Monument Record and from the counties concerned. It is hoped that the Chiltern Open Air Museum will then be a useful regional source for scholastic information for students, historians, schools and members of the public.

During the first two years the records will be compiled and held by John Bailey of the Dunstable Historic Building Study Group who will establish a proven system before the information is passed to the Museum. The Group will, however, retain duplicates of the system evolved and continue to expand its own recording and academic researches, feeding back information into the NMR, county and Museum systems. This will be another regional source as members of the Group will provide information based on personal informed observation over a radius of 50 miles of Dunstable unrestricted by county or parish boundaries.

Publication

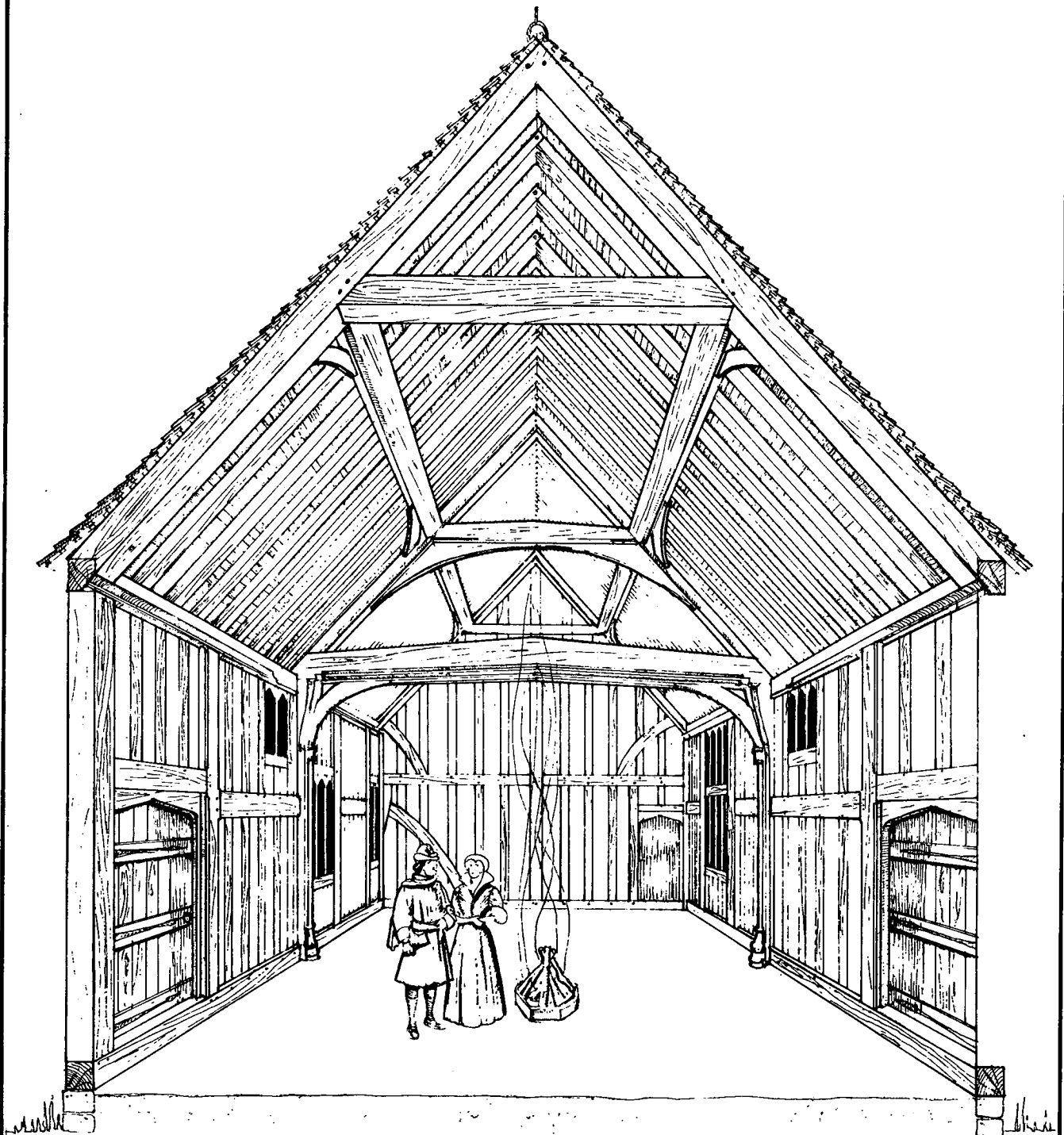
The Group is in the process of preparing two papers for Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal No.14. One paper will cover the investigation of the timber-framed buildings in Dunstable. The other will discuss the results of investigation of two hall and crosswing buildings.

Indepth Village Survey

During 1979 and 1980 the group will carry out a detailed survey of the adjacent villages of Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire and Eddlesborough, Buckinghamshire. Measured surveys will be made of the most important buildings where it is necessary to make reconstructed analysis of altered structures. Less detailed surveys will be made of the other buildings. Where possible they will be related to surviving medieval and post-medieval earthworks and field patterns.

THE HALL
SHILLINGTON

CLAWDERSHILL FARM
BEDFORDSHIRE



JOHN BARTON WIMBORNE 1978

Figure 5

Medieval tile survey (Bedfordshire)

The fieldwork for the medieval tile survey carried out on behalf of the Society of Antiquaries is now complete. During 1979 the results will be analysed and work started on preparing the Bedfordshire volume of the series for publication. The Census carried out under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Eames will eventually cover all Counties and provide valuable basic source information on the type and distribution of Medieval tiles. John Bailey has been responsible in Bedfordshire for gathering evidence of all surviving tiles. This has involved visiting all of the churches in the County and drawing every tile. Tiles from excavations will also be included.

BOLNHURST, Bedfordshire - David H. Kennett and Terence Paul Smith

Following the publication in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal 12, 1977 of Crowhill Farm, Bolnhurst, a survey is being made of the later Mavourn Farm. This is the second house on the site, a moated one. It is of two storeys with attics and in plan has a main range divided by a central entry and stairs into two rooms, with an adjacent, rear kitchen block, originally a single room on each floor. The house probably dates to the late 17th Century. The site was bought in the 1540s by the Francklin family having been leased since the late 15th Century. It was used as their home until 1640: there is an inventory of 1633, and in 1671 the house had 11 hearths. The present house has four hearths; it represents a high-class tenant farm of its date.

HARLINGTON, Bedfordshire - David H. Kennett and Terence Paul Smith

Numbers 59-65 Sundon Road, Harlington, are part of the conservation area of the village, but owing to the removal, in 1973, of the tiles from the front part of the building permission is being sought by the recent purchasers to demolish. A full survey is being carried out. The structure is of five bays, but the first building on the site had only the three front bays, ending in a close-studded gable end: stubs of 150 mm square are separated only by 150 mm of wattle and daub packing. During the late middle ages, a floor was inserted in this two storey building and a brick-built fireplace inserted against the truss dividing bays two and three. The floor joists have carpenters marks remaining. Bays four and five appear to have been added in the late 16th or early 17th Century; these have wide-spaced studs. Much of the walling has been rebuilt. By the late 19th Century the house had become five cottages, later four, then three and latterly two. Examination continues and will be conducted in close liaison with the anticipated demolition during the summer of 1979. Publication anticipated in a future issue of Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal.

LUTON, Bedfordshire - David H. Kennet

Considerable concern has been expressed about the possible demolition of the major part of the few remaining timber-framed buildings in the centre of Luton. These are on Park Street: they include

- No. 12 known to have a 16th Century wind-braced roof.
- No. 12A probably similar to the last-named and of similar size.
Both have later fronts with inserted shop fronts.
- No. 16 18th Century brick front with timber-framed range and rear wing; probably the house built for Daniel Brown in 1748 when it was licenced as the place of the Quaker Meeting. This building was briefly examined by D.H. Kennett and T.P. Smith in 1973.

It is hoped to survey these buildings in 1979. The historical background is being elucidated; the court rolls of Luton give property transfers 1732 to 1844, and the latest owners there recorded can be linked to the 1842 tithe map.

NEWNHAM, Northamptonshire - David H. Kennett and Terence Paul Smith

Church Farm, Newnham, property of Mr. T.R. Key, is being examined by the two authors. The roof structure is a base cruck with a crown-post roof above.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

WALLINGFORD, Oxfordshire - Judy Dewey, *Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society*

During the past two years TWHAS has been busy researching several aspects of Wallingford's history. In preparation for the Book of Wallingford* considerable work was done by John Stewart on the documentary and field evidence for the Castle, which was demolished by order of Cromwell's Council of State in 1652. Certain problems remain insoluble but diagrams of the three main phases of the Castle were included in the book and subsequently published separately with an explanatory text, in a pamphlet prepared to coincide with the opening of part of the Castle grounds to the public in May 1978.*

Other research for the Book of Wallingford pointed the way to further work, particularly on the medieval street pattern, Tudor buildings and the social, economic and political structure of the Victorian town. The book was published in October 1977 and traces the history of Wallingford from earliest times to the present day. It has 200 illustrations.

The Society has also published its work in a Walk-Round Guide to Historic Wallingford* which directs the visitor on a one and a quarter hour walk indicating interesting architectural details and giving a brief guide to the town's history. A pamphlet on the history of the Wilder's firm has been prepared by the Society's Industrial Archaeology group and is nearing publication. Wilders have been famous for their agricultural machinery since the 18th Century and substantial records of the firm's past which were rescued by TWHAS a few years ago have formed the basis of the current research project.

Each year TWHAS has mounted a large exhibition in Wallingford Town Hall. These exhibitions have been open for several days and have attracted considerable interest from the public and local schools. In Jubilee Year, the theme was Royal Wallingford, tracing the town's long association with the Crown from its foundation as a 'burh' in the time of Alfred, to its first charter granted by Henry II in 1155 and on through the medieval centuries when the Castle was a royal possession visited by a succession of monarchs. After the Civil War, Wallingford became an ordinary market Borough removed from the main-theme of national affairs, but the last direct link with royalty was a visit by Queen Elizabeth II in 1956.

The 1978 exhibition presented the history of five Wallingford families: the De Stallis family of 13th Century merchants; the Norris family of the 16th Century, one of whom was Constable of Wallingford Castle and became

involved in political intrigues in the reign of Henry VIII; the Blackstone family, notably Sir William Blackstone, the famous judge and author of the Commentaries on the Laws of England; the Wilder family of ironfounders; and the Hedges family, whose prominence in legal and political affairs in the town have been a feature of its history since the 19th Century. A pamphlet entitled Five Families from Wallingford's Past was published to accompany the exhibition.

The 1979 exhibition will be on the theme Tudor Wallingford; there is a wealth of documentation for this period in the form of wills, inventories and property surveys which we are hoping to link together with existing buildings to form a picture of life in 16th Century Wallingford.

In archaeological matters there has been less scope for activity recently. The Society helped run a small dig behind 5 Market Place in 1977 (see Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit report in CBA Newsletter No. 8, 1978) and it has since kept a watching brief on several 'holes in the ground' around Wallingford.

The Society's most recent venture has been to lead the way towards the establishment of a Wallingford Museum on the upper floor of the 16th Century Flint House in the High Street. TWHAS has done a feasibility study of the project, and has estimated the cost of running such a museum. A public meeting in October agreed in principle to support the setting up of a museum, and a steering committee, which includes several TWHAS members, has been formed. A Trust is being established and it is hoped that the museum will open some time in 1979.

*Publications currently available:

The Book of Wallingford by Judy and Stuart Dewey. Pub. Barracuda Books £9.50
from Pettits of Wallingford or Colophon Bookshop

A Walk Round Guide to Historic Wallingford. Pub. TWHAS. Price 50p

Wallingford Castle - a brief guide. Pub. TWHAS. Price 12p

SURVEY

BEACONSFIELD, Buckinghamshire - Bambi Stainton

Ridge and Furrow

During snow in the winter of 1976 I was told by Mr. Gerald Elvey that he might have seen ridge and furrow on Beaconsfield Golf Course some years ago in melting snow. I went to the golf course where no.4 fairway looked like an endless zebra crossing, the tops of the ridges showing green grass, the furrows still white with snow. Failing light prevented photography and it could only be paced out. In the morning all the snow had gone and the shallow ridges were again invisible. This was reported to the County Museum but it was felt that in view of the unlikelihood of the find and the uncertainty of the surveying, visual proof was needed.

Eventually slight undulations were visible under normal conditions but very shallow and indistinct and the heavy surround of trees did not allow the sun to highlight them at any time. Adequate snow conditions did not recur until early in 1978 when photographs (less dramatic than in 1976) were confirmed by Michael Farley as only the second example of ridge-and-furrow to be recorded in the Chilterns, the other being at the Lee, near Chesham.

The possibility of later ploughing was considered, especially as no curves or headlands could be seen, but such research into past land usage indicated that this was unlikely.

Beaconsfield Golf Course was originally the private golf course of the last owner of Wilton Park, Col Dupre, and became a public course early this Century. In spite of considerable research it has not been possible to discover the whereabouts of any early estate records, but estate maps of 1770 and 1813 and the 1846 tithe map show the golf course area as part of the ornamental park round Wilton House at least since 1770.

A recent grass cut during this autumn drought allowed the slight undulations to become more distinct, the bottoms of the furrows showing greener, and more accurate measurements could be made.

The ridge and furrow on no.4 fairway runs at right angles to the fairway which is about 55m. wide and across the slight slope of the land, disappearing on both sides into the rough (which soon becomes thick scrub and trees) and it has been destroyed at both ends by the landscaping of tee, bunker and green. The strips measure approximately 6m - 7m from bottom of furrow to bottom of furrow; in some places they are only visible for part of their length, in others detectable as a double width of 13m - 14m. These have been plotted on a large scale map of the Golf Course and onto the 6" OS map and given to the County Museum.

Two other areas on the golf course have recently shown slight undulations and await suitable conditions for observation.

CHESSE VALLEY, Buckinghamshire - J.S. Milford (Field Group Secretary) for *The Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society*

Our report in the last Group 9 Newsletter ended on a note of despondency which happily was completely unjustified. It was unfortunate that our most experienced and keen members were subject to strong demands of job and family not to mention having just completed the 3 year Certificate of British Archaeology course. The most frustrating aspect of being amateur archaeologists is that we are always short of time.

One thing that remains constant is the regular monthly fieldwalks and evening meetings. Members have also been drawing finds at home.

Further work was done in the winter of 1978 to try and determine the extent of a large Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flint scatter on farms between Amersham-on-the-Hill and Hyde Heath. A high percentage of these flints exhibit retouch, and tools include scrapers, awls and spokeshaves of all shapes and sizes. Some, such as a 'Thames Pick', may be earlier. Three Acheulean hand tools had also been found by us on the same site.

In the spring of 1978 three small weekend excavations were carried out by the Society. One was at Jordans, near Beaconsfield, to further the researches of our secretary, Mrs. Bambi Stainton (report in this newsletter). Two were on Latimer Park Farm in the Chess Valley to try to establish the stratification of a Mesolithic industry, previously reported. (Over 1000 fine white patinated blades, flakes and cores were found associated with calced flints). However, one excavation struck a gravel bank all too soon. The other showed that the valley floor had been much confused and disturbed by the dumping of dredgings from the nearby river and lake. We were not able to duplicate the interesting section recorded previously from which soil samples were taken, where the flints were apparently associated with an almost black humic soil also containing pieces of bone and numerous snail shells.

In the summer cropmarks were observed and photographed at the junction of the two old lanes, Trapp's Lane and Bottom Lane, leading up from the Valley to Tyler's Hill. These had the appearance of buildings and house platforms of a former village. We plan to survey them thoroughly next summer using newly acquired instruments.

The society has acquired a Stanley level with tachometer and a staff, which has enabled us to start catching up with a backlog of earthwork surveying. Some riverine water-diversion features and the possible agger of a Roman road in Flaunder Bottom were recorded. A resistivity survey of the latter was also undertaken.

Our watchdog activities included several building sites, the water pipeline from Bovington to Ashley Green, and a new sewer being laid through the heart of Chesham.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PARISH SURVEY - David Hall and Paul Martin

Last season (the winter of 1977-8) saw the completion of 10 more parishes. Each was studied field-by-field, recording flint and pottery concentrations and the earthworks of medieval open-fields and related settlements.

One of the more interesting discoveries was the continued identification of many small early Saxon sites, i.e. Watford and Ecton. The most striking area, however, are the Welland gravels which abound in Saxon sites, some of them covering several areas.

The analysis of the large collection of flints (c.12,000) from Brixworth continues and the results will be published, probably in Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society (P.M.).

A general study of the large number of parish furlong patterns now available has led to a better understanding of how medieval field systems developed. This is to be published in the 1979 volume of Medieval Archaeology (D.H.).

Rather than provide a brief inventory of sites discovered we have used our allotted space this year to give a fuller article on the researches that are possible once a parish has had an archaeological survey.

CLIPSTON PARISH SURVEY 1976 - David Hall and Ruth Harding

This parish was surveyed as part of the Northamptonshire survey previously discussed (1). Each parish is studied field-by-field to identify early settlement patterns and to reconstruct the open-fields from the surviving furlong boundaries. The overall objective is to cover as large an area as possible to make an assessment of the real settlement pattern. Fieldwork is the only way to rise above the misleading constraints of aerial photography (restricted to light soils) and inventory collecting (biased towards regions where there has been previous work). Ploughed-out settlements on clay, scatters of flint or Saxon pottery, and most medieval furlong boundaries, are completely invisible from the air: fieldwork is therefore the only method of discovering them. The importance of fieldwork as an archaeological technique cannot be overemphasized.

Clipston contains 2,844 acres and lies in the north-west of Northamptonshire, on the uplands. The north part of the parish rises to about 550 ft OD and affords spectacular views over the Welland Valley. The parish has a high percentage of grass and much surviving ridge-and-furrow. To the west is the deserted village of Nobold. The river Ise rises here and the village of

Clipston lies outside the stream lower down.

Clipston is first mentioned in Domesday (1086). The name is of Scandinavian origin meaning 'Klyppr's farm' (2). The manorial descent is complicated. Of the four landholders in 1086 the Crown manor (1½ virgates) in the soc Rothwell is not mentioned after the 12th Century. It may have been incorporated in a manor of the soc of Geddington which itself is not identifiable after the 14th Century. The Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds held 2½ virgates which consisted of 200 acres of land in 1514. They were dispersed after the Dissolution. Another manor, Calme, was in possession of the Abbey in 1086 but it is not mentioned again. There were two other larger manors in 1086. That held by the Bishop of Coutance (1½ hides) became the fee of Huntingdon and was held by the de Clipston and Pilkington families from the early 12th Century to the end of the 15th Century. The chief lord in the 14th Century was the Prince of Wales, and a letter survives from Edward III to the Black Prince signed 'at our manor of Clipston'. The manor descended to the families of Buswell and Wade by 1558.

The other large manor belonged to William Peverel in 1086 (3½ hides) and descended to the earls of Lincoln. The local tenants were the Pedwardyn family from the early 14th Century until the manor became dispersed in the late 15th Century.

Sir Justinian Isham was Lord of the single manor of Clipston in 1720 and it was sold in 1774 to Charles Watkins after which it became dispersed amongst free-holders.

Nobold is first mentioned as a separate manor in 1295. It descended through the families of Swinford and Raleigh before coming to the Wades and Buswells. Francis Horton was Lord in 1752. It was held of the Earls of Lincoln and so was probably originally part of the Peverel fee (3).

No pre-medieval sites were discovered during the survey but the large area of grass may be hiding early occupation.

The medieval field-system was easily recoverable and is illustrated in Figure 6. As usual for the county almost the whole area had been subjected to ridge and furrow cultivation, leaving only small areas of flooding land adjacent to brooks. The documentation in the post-medieval period also demonstrates the usual contraction of ploughland area with an increase in the area of closes adjacent to the village (see Figure 7), and the reversion of far-distant quarters of the parish to permanent pasture (leys).

The furlong pattern adjacent to Clipston is complicated and seems to suggest a shift of site from high ground to the more sheltered lower aspect on the east. Thus on the east the crofts have ridge and furrow within them, demonstrating expansion on to former open fields. On the west there are deserted crofts leaving village earthworks and hollow ways. Adjacent to these, still farther west there is a complicated network of small furlongs (Figure 6). The lie of the land does not demand such complications, and there is the possibility that these are the ploughed-over streets and crofts of an earlier (Saxon?) siting of the village.

The deserted village of Nobold has fairly well preserved earthworks with a central hollow way. The county historian, Bridges, gives a description of early 18th Century finds there, showing his awareness of such archaeological sites (4). Even apart from the earthworks the site is obvious from the Inclosure Award and 19th Century field names. In 1700 it was described as about 215 acres of closes. From Bridges' description of the discovery of skulls there seems to have been a church at Nobold. It does not appear in the Bishop of Lincoln's institution lists, and so was probably a dependent

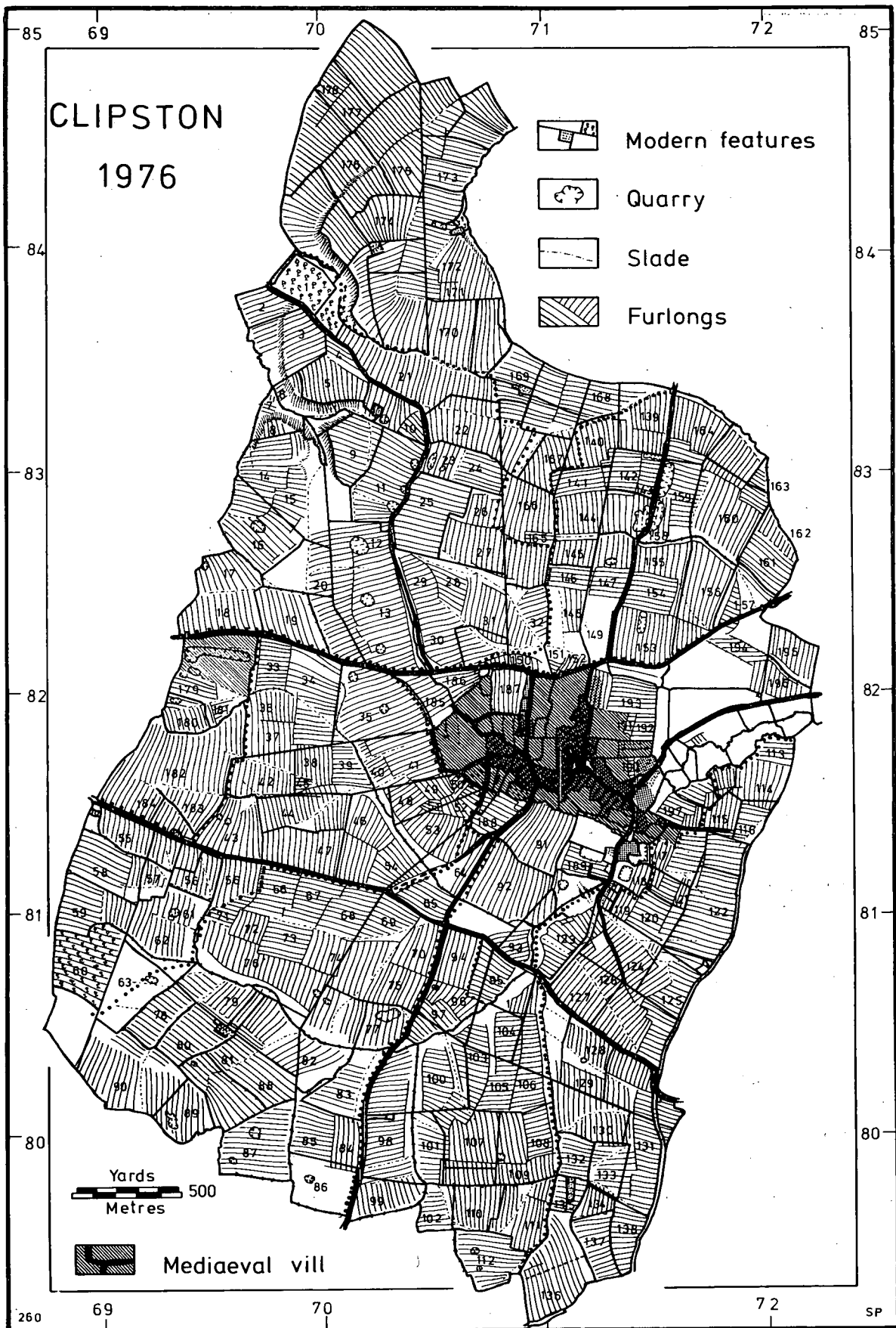


Figure 6

TABLE 1

CLIPSTON AND NOBOLD FURLONGS (Figure 6)

Compiled from various terriers and post-inclosure field names held at Northamptonshire Record Office. An asterisk indicates that the furlong identification is tentative. Names in brackets are the forms in 1381.

NOBOLD (1633 unless otherwise noted)

[illegible]

TABLE 1 CONT.

CLIPSTON (From terriers of 1700, 1732, 1739)

<u>Brich Hill Field</u>			<u>Port Way Field</u> (Lynch Field 1776)			<u>Caudwell Field</u>		
91.	Brickhill	NS	113.	-		139.	-	
92.	Fens	NS	114.	Prilly dam	NS	140.	Thistle marsh*	NS
93.	Broatonbridge*	EW	115-116	-		141.	Rickway	EW
94.	Salt marsh	NS	117-119	Behind inlands*	NS	142-143		
95.	Broad (ways) wong*	EW				144	Husby dale*	NS
96.	Hofalong*	NS	120.	Hounds lands*	EW	145.	Bandland	NS
97.	Rodnill Hole	EW	121.	-		146.	Coachwell heads*	EW
98.	Broddington	EW	122.	Akredick	EW	147.	Mill furlong	EW
99.	Rowleys	NS	123.	Rusli*	EW	148-152	-	
100.	Red rodnell	EW	124.	Waterbalks	NS	153.	Caudwell	NS
101-102	-		125.	-		154	Portway*	EW
103.	Flaxlands*		126.	Mad Rogers*	NS	155	Crindell*	NS
104.	-		127.	Coale pit way*	NS	156.	Long Oat hill*	NS
105.	Ranglands*	EW	123.	Shooting Port Way*	NS	157-159	-	
106.	Depslade	EW				160.	Cogborough	NS
107.	Middleton	NS	129.	Long towells	NS	161.	Flitwell	EW
108.	Between ways	EW	130.	Short towells	NS	162.	Fullbrooks*	NS
109.	Wet Middleton*	NS	131.	The Bretches	EW	163.	Cogborough	EW
110.	Stepping hill	NS	132.	Copnil	EW	164.	Broadmere*	NS
111.	Long mallow	NS	133.	Cross leys*	EW			
112.	Force hill	EW	134.	-				
			135.	Stony roods	EW			
			136.	Naseby down foot	NS			
			137.	Fernhill	EW			
			138.	Ranhill	EW			

PASTURE (shared between
the parishes) 165-173

170.	Bracombe
173.	Juggsham Leys
175.	Lumleys rick
176.	Twantry hill
177.	Twantry
178.	Marston hedge

Unlocated Names

Judland	NS
Wakely	NS

ANCIENT ENCLOSURES

Nobold 179-188

179-184	Old Nobold Closes
187.	Upper long croft
188.	Marecroft leys

Clipston 189-197

193.	Long croft close
196.	Hurst piece
197.	Wellcroft

chapelry of Clipston. Clear evidence of a church at Nobold comes from the Glebe terriers which state that the two parishes were united in 1667. (There clearly had been no church at Nobold for a long time before that. Clipston church itself was complicated in that from before 1229 to about 1530 there were two rectors (5)).

Little of the village's history has so far been studied, but it looks like the classic small DMV: not mentioned in Domesday and so it is probably a late settlement; always very small (c30 acres) and so vulnerable to the economic decline of the late medieval period. The village had only two tenants by 1459 (6).

Nevertheless, Nobold must have had considerable political influence causing the original parish to be split into two. There is no visible 'parish boundary' in the furlong pattern so the medieval fields must have been fairly well identifiable before any division was made. From the evidence of the 17th and 18th Century terriers it is clear that 'Clipston' was a double lordship consisting of two independent three-field systems - one for Nobold and one for Clipston. It is curious that this system was retained long after Nobold ceased to exist. The double parish is commented upon in 1752:

"The manor of Nobold is a distinct and separate manor from Clipston and has not only been so esteemed in the neighbourhood but in Mr. Horton's deeds and recoverys and as well as ancient as modern" (7)

Further complications are revealed by the township division, which runs up one of the lanes of Clipston (Figure 6). That part of Clipston within the Nobold parish area is still referred to as Nobold and was similarly described in the 1720s (3). This Nobold (End) is to be distinguished from the separate deserted settlement of Nobold to the west.

The Domesday survey mentions a manor called 'Calme' and this has been claimed as another deserted village. No physical evidence has been found to support this. It is more likely that the manor was sited within the village and perhaps had land in the area of the natural scarps called the Coombs.

The settlement sequence therefore appears to be a primary (late Saxon?) occupation in the area of furlongs 48-52 (and adjacent to the east) followed by a slow drift of the settlement farther east. Sometime before 1284 a detached village of Nobold was founded in the western half of the parish and the lordship split into two separate field-systems.

Nobold was deserted before 1459, but the two parishes survived until they were united in 1667 by agreement between the Rector, Christ's College, Cambridge, and the Bishop. The two three-field systems were distinct until obliterated by inclosure in 1776.

The actual manor-house sites are not easy to identify. The present Clipston House is on the site of the Isham/Watkins manor and may have been either the Pilkington or the Pedwardyn manor-house. A close next to the church was called Hall Yard in 1668 and is almost certainly the site of another manor-house. The Nobold (End) manor house still stood in 1752, presumably somewhere in the earthworks on the west of Clipston.

A windmill is mentioned in 1571 on Middlecroft in Nobold Toss Field. At the inclosure there was a mill in Frances Horton's main allotment (Figure 7, No.11). Another mill survives as an earthwork on furlong 147 called mill furlong in 1732.

There are former fishponds in several parts of the village.

TABLE 2

CLIPSTON NAMES (OTHER THAN FURLONGS)

Suelforth 1445
 (S)caldwell forthe (ford) 1445
 Kyrke Lane 1446
 Miller Lane 1446
 Hyerne Lane 1446, Horn Hill Close (1 acre) 1775, Cherne Hill 1669
 Maltyn(s) Lane 1448
 Hobbes Lane 1437, Hobbis Lane fote 1440, Hobbussot Lane 1450
 Stacies place c.1438
 Newbold broke 1443
 Persons Lane 1441/50, Parsons Close (6 acres) 1767
 Chery Lane 1450
 Jerestis Lane 1444
 Tews Yard Close (1 acre) 1779
 Hall Close (2 acres) 1692
 Hawthorne Close (30 acres) 1692
 Lovells Close (70 acres) 1692
 House Close (7 acres) 1737
 Bridge Close (2 acres) 1669, 1680, 1737
 Drove(r)s way 1592, 1737 ($\frac{1}{2}$ acre)
 Innland ($3\frac{1}{2}$ acres) 1737 (in Port way field)
 Alexander piece 1444, 1737
 Pools Nether close 1737 (3 acres)
 Weedy Croft 1775 (1 acre)
 Nether Close 1775 ($1\frac{1}{2}$ acres)
 Thorny Close 1775 ($1\frac{1}{4}$ acres)
 Hammar Close 1775 (3 acres)
 Pilkingtons medowe 1592 ($5\frac{1}{2}$ acres)
 Hurst Close 1592, 1660, 1686
 Wellcroft 1669 (7 acres), 1698, 1773 ($6\frac{1}{4}$ acres)
 Bancroft Lane
 Windmill (in Tost field) 1571 on Middlecroft furlong, 1600
 Upper Long Croft Close 1669
 Lumleys Close 1603 ($2\frac{1}{2}$ acres), 1669
 Church Croft 1519 (3 acres)
 New Close 1558 (35 acres)
 Dovecots 1573
 Wythey Crofte 1444
 Alleys Closes

No detailed medieval documents survive. A run of early 15th Century court-rolls describe orders to unblock dykes in the village lanes, to repair fords and villagers were presented for breaking the assize of beer and for debt. A survey of the Pedwardyn manor tenants in 1439 describes $33\frac{1}{2}$ virgates, i.e. more than a third of the parish (reckoned as 84 yardlands in 1776). In 1295 the manor was described as 40 virgates. Unusually for so late a date many of the tenants owed work service. Details of meal breaks and who was to provide the food are given.

The furlong names are given in Table 1. The location was reasonably identified by their survival as modern field-names, or from detailed abutals. No medieval terriers have been found for Clipston, and the interpretation of the names for this parish must remain tentative. Those for Nobold are clearer. As usual the meanings seem to be predominantly topographical. The danger of using late forms for etymological studies is well illustrated by the transformation of Moselow (1381) into Moseley (1660), and the metamorphosis of marecroft leys (c.1750) to market fleece (1926).

Nevertheless, of the 122 furlong names discovered (out of a total of 164) 10 are fairly certainly of scandinavian origin, and several others may be. This is an unusually high proportion and argues for a considerable Danish influence. Uglesdale is either 'owl-dale' or the personal name 'Uggi' (Norse).

The hill near the village (Moot or Toss) seems to have been used as a meeting-place and a look-out. Stogden (Stockedene 1381) and Stepping Hill suggest clearance from woodland (stocks and stumps). Middleton and Broddington (Braddington 1381) are difficult names and it may be worth looking for Saxon pottery on these furlongs as they could be settlement names.

The three fields of each parish were established early; those of Nobold being mentioned in 1381. The locations of the fields was established using the Inclosure Award and 19th Century 'modern' field names in conjunction with the terriers.

There was a contraction of the arable land in the post-medieval period: thus all the high ground to the north (Twantry) was a permanent pasture. In addition there were rick places, green ends and many leys within the arable furlongs (8). This is clearly evidenced by several terriers.

	<u>1700</u>	<u>1732</u>	<u>1737</u>	
<u>Cauldwell</u>	11	35	46 ½	arable lands
	2	25	20	grass (leys)
<u>Portway</u>	5	24	47	
	8	38	41	
<u>Brickhill</u>	5	23	39	
	6	23	32	

By the 17th Century there had been a certain amount of piecemeal inclosure, notably the 200 acres of Old Nobold Closes and various closes around the village.

The open-field system was obliterated by the Inclosure of 1776. No map survives and it had to be reconstructed to establish the whereabouts of the six great fields. This was done using the inclosure award, deeds of various properties, and the first addition of the Ordnance Survey map (1:10,560). The reconstructed plan is given in Figure 7 and the landholders are listed in Table 3.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to all the farmers of Clipston for so readily allowing access to their land; and to Peter Noble for arranging the necessary introductions, and to the staff of the Northamptonshire Record Office.

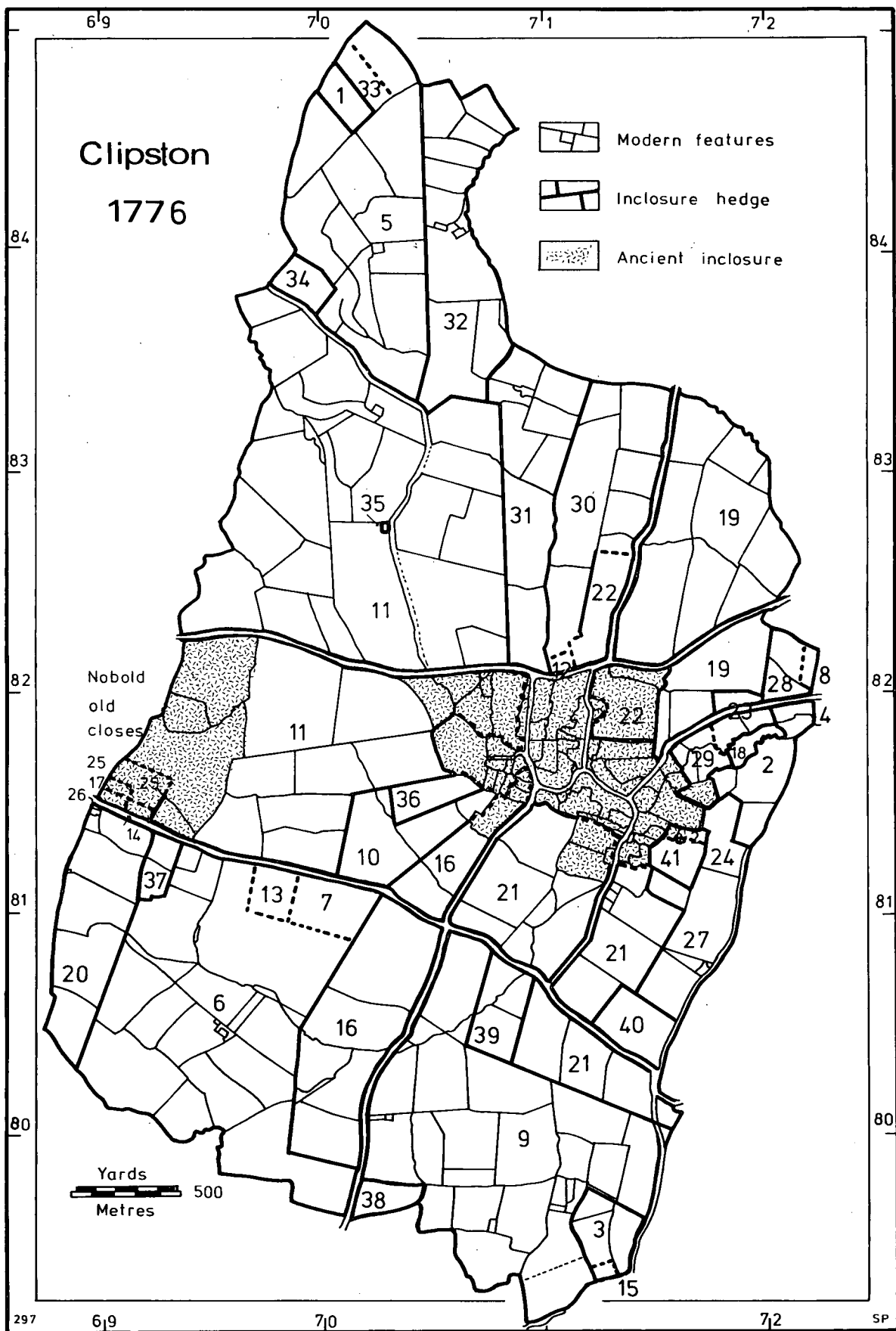


Figure 7

TABLE 3

<u>No. on Fig. 7</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Rectory, Churchwardens, Poor	P.	15- 2-13	
2	Rector	Ly.	15- 1-32	
3	Rector	Ly.	29- 2- 3	
4	Rector	Ly,Mw.	16- 2-11	
5	Rector	L. P.	158- 0- 0	121a in N, 21 in Tw
6	Rector	M, T.	268- 5- 0	252a in N, 15a in Clipston
7	Rector	M	22- 3-26	
8	Parish Clerk	Mw	1- 0-13	
	"	Mw	2- 1-27	
9	Charles Watkins	Ly,M,B	260- 2- 7	1a in Nobold rest in Clipston
10	Charles Watkins	T	40- 3-38	
11	Frances Horton	L,T,C	611- 0-12	599a in Nobold 11a in Clipston
12	"	C	5- 2-25	
13	"	M	16- 1-39	
14	"	T	4- 0- 0	
15	"	Ly	6- 1-16	
16	Thomas Wade	B,M	139- 0- 7	
17	"	T	3- 0-18	
18	"	Mw	9- 3-30	
19	John Nethercoat	C,Mw	183- 3- 0	
20	"	T	66- 3-36	
21	William Peppin	B,Ly	139- 0- 1	
22	Lewis Cave	C	51- 3-30	
23	"	Mw	17- 2-36	
24	Matthew Buswell	Ly	27- 3-28	
25	"	T	17- 3-31	
26	"	T	6- 0- 0	
27	"	Ly	43 -3 7	
28	William Baxter	Mw	11- 2- 6	
29	John Walton	Mw	9- 2- 2	
30	Mary Grant	C	75- 2- 1	
31	Thomas Ives	L,P,C	100- 3-29	1a in C, 60 a-P, 39a in N
32	Edward Langley	L,P	91- 2-39	6a- Nobold 82a - Clipston
33	Churchwardens	P	9- 3-34	4a in Clipston, 5a in Nobold
34	Penelope Bullivant	L	21- 1-18	
35	Thomas Buswell	L	1- 0-30	Windmill
36	Edward Hanbury	L	12- 1-17	
37	William Nervev	T	12- 1-28	
38	Thomas Underwood	B	10- 0-14	
39	Mary Hobey	B	22- 2- 1	
40	Matthew Peppin	Ly	19- 1-10	
41	Ann Eaton	Ly	13- 1-38	
42	Jonathan Underwood	Ly	7- 0-38	

L - Low Field; T - Toss Field; M - Moseley Field (Nobold); Ly - Lynches Field; C - Cauldwell Field;
B - Brickhill Field (Clipston); P - Pasture

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2. J.E.B. Gover, A. Mawer and F.M. Stenton, The Place-Names of Northamptonshire, (1933), 111.
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4. Bridges, op cit.
5. Clipston Glebe terriers 1667, 1684 and E.L. Fisher, Clipston, (1926), 55
6. K.J. Allison, M.W. Beresford and J.G. Hurst, The Deserted Villages of Northamptonshire, (1966), 43. The note in this paper that Nobold contained 35 virgates in 1284 under 3 owners is a misreading of Bridges: the reference is to the manor of Nobold and 15 virgates (in Clipston) 24 Ed. 1.
7. Northants Record Office, I.C. 2915
8. For a fuller discussion of these phenomena see D.N. Hall, Wollaston - Portrait of a Village (1977) Ch. 6.

STANDLAKE, Oxfordshire - Louise Armstrong (*Oxford University Department for External Studies*)

This account is a short version of a long project submitted for the Certificate in British Archaeology. Feature numbers referred to are for the purposes of this account; a fully numbered inventory and 1:2,500 plans will be deposited in the Field Department, Oxfordshire County Museum, Woodstock.

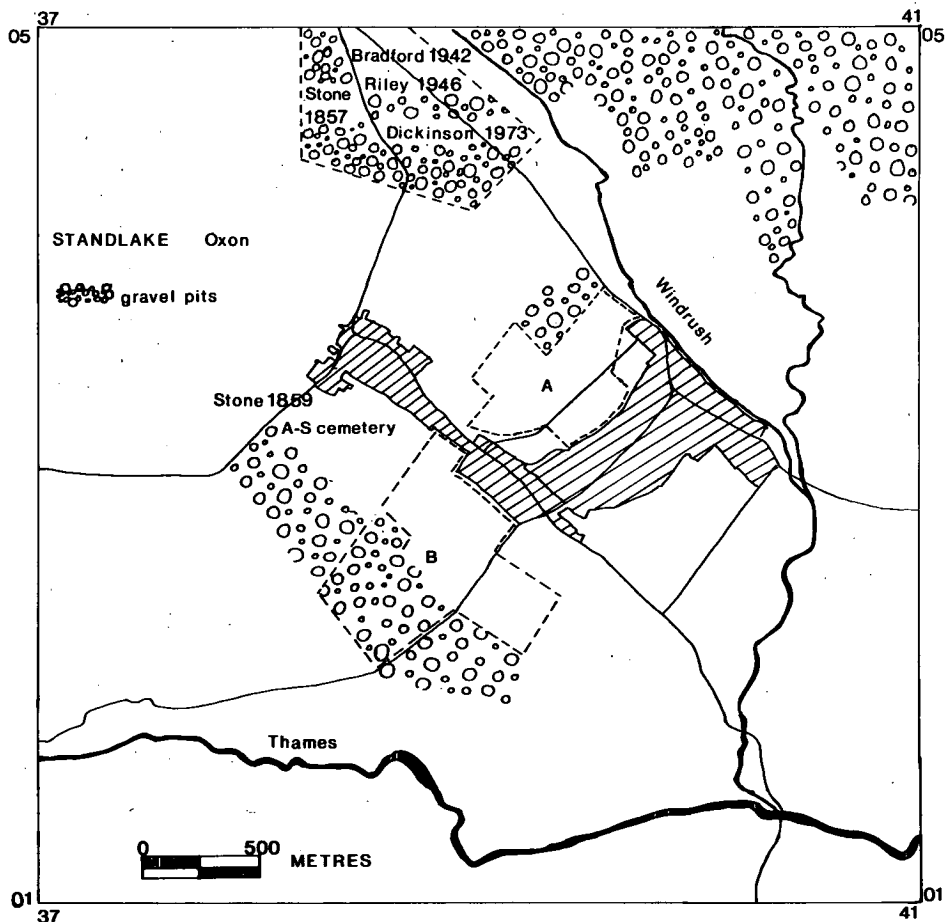


Figure 8

The study combined a cartographic inventory of two local areas of cropmarks, using greater precision and refinement than was possible in the Survey of the Upper Thames Gravels (Benson & Miles 1974), with a programme of field-walking over selected areas; it was hoped that by studying the surface finds a date range and possible chronology for the cropmark features could be suggested.

The Location (Figure 8)

Standlake and its hamlet Brighthampton lie between the Windrush and the Thames, about 1½km. north-west of their confluence at Newbridge. The Thames forms the southern boundary of the parish and lies c.2km. from the modern village. From here at c.60m OD wide alluvial flats rise to c.65m OD where the village lies on river gravel. To the north-west the land rises to the Summer-town-Radley and Wolvercote terraces at Standlake Down, where a long process of gravel extraction has revealed a rich series of archaeological finds and settlements, none of which now remain (Stone 1857, Bradford 1942, Riley 1946, Dickinson 1973). The two areas of the present study, A and B (Figures 9 and 10) lie close to the village in fields which until Enclosure in 1854 formed part of the open-field arable. Area A covers c.32 has. and Area B c.24 has. Both areas are flat and featureless save for conspicuous headlands; ridge and furrow has been almost entirely ploughed out. These features correspond closely with the furlongs on the Standlake Tithe Map of 1839. A high causewayed footpath, Horns Way, bisects Area A. Both areas have lost some surface land to gravelling: in Area B c.27 has. are now wet pits. The soil is loamy with a high gravel content.

The Survey

Standard plotting techniques (cf. Dickinson 1969) were used to transfer cropmarks from aerial photographs onto 1:2,500 OS base maps; the cropmark areas were then enlarged to double size. Checks using different aerial views were made, and accurate plotting was possible where cropmarks crossed field boundaries or hedge lines; nevertheless inaccuracies in drawing are almost certainly present. Photographic detail was seldom sharp enough to distinguish differences in tone in apparently closed circular features, or to show clearly the relationships between adjoining groups of features and their associated ditches. A controlled walking programme was planned over six selected areas in Area A and three in Area B, based on the 25" hectare grid. In most cases the chosen squares covered not only the cropmarks of interest but apparently empty areas adjacent to them as well. Each hectare was subdivided into 16 25m. parcels and walked at a steady pace, with regular samples of surface finds taken from corridors about 1½m. wide. The incomplete hectares in Area A abut on to permanent pasture; in Area B the western half remained unploughed and one hectare only was walked. (The finds from Area A only are discussed in this report.) The time taken for the largely single-handed survey was about 70 hours.

The Surface Finds (Figure 11)

In Area A 937 sherds were found of which 815 were satisfactorily identified. (In Area B 137 sherds were identified and 9 not.) The bulk of finds in Area A came from squares G and H, and of these a high proportion were coarse grey wares which outnumbered the post-medieval brown-glazed wares. Overall however, these latter sherds accounted for nearly a half of all identifiable finds. No grass-tempered ware and no medieval pottery earlier than the first half of the 12th Century was found in either area, nor any coins. A thin spread of small pieces of worn limestone laid over the ground surface, and a scatter of worked neolithic flints was found in squares C, D, E and F only.

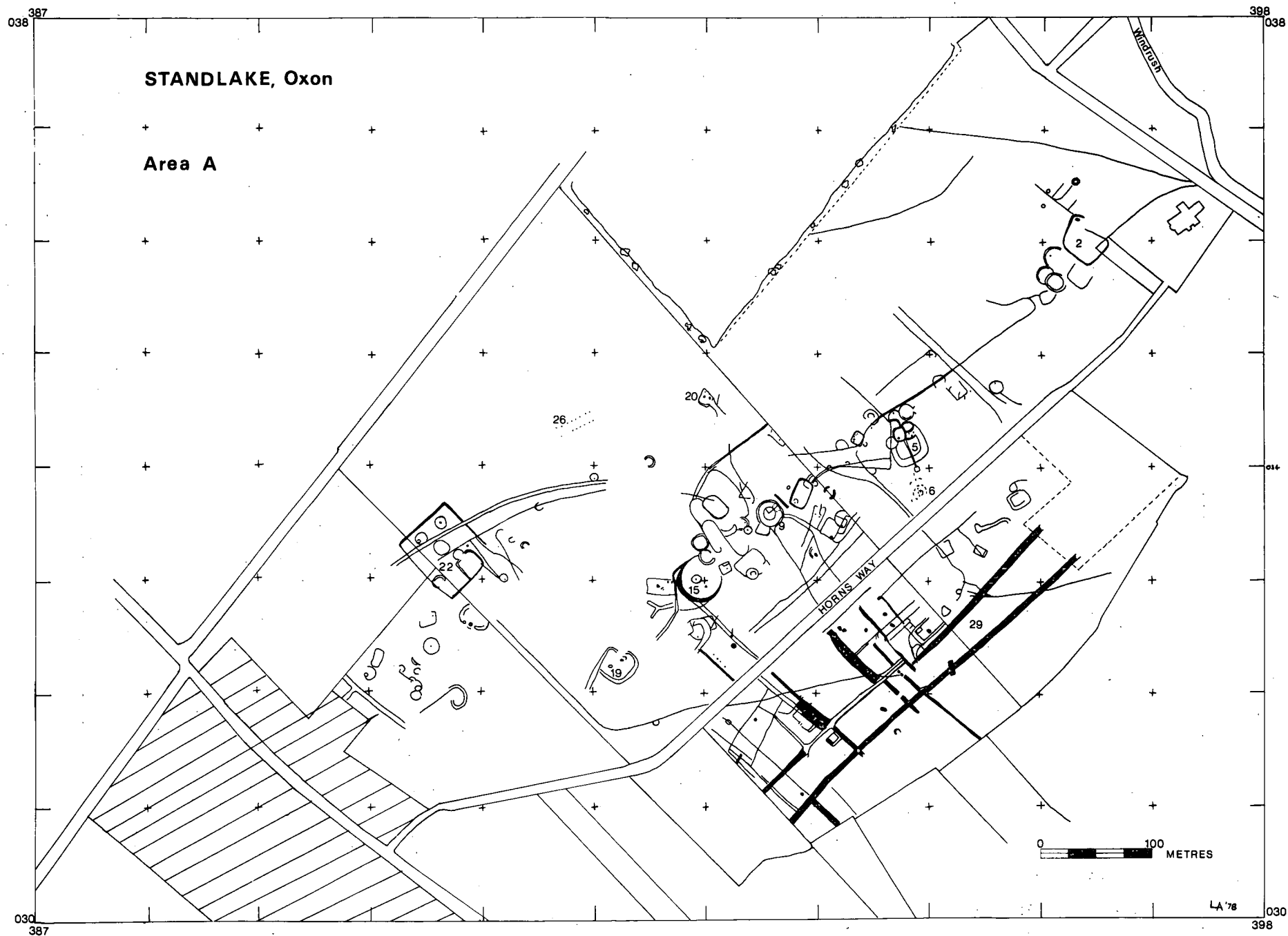


Figure 9

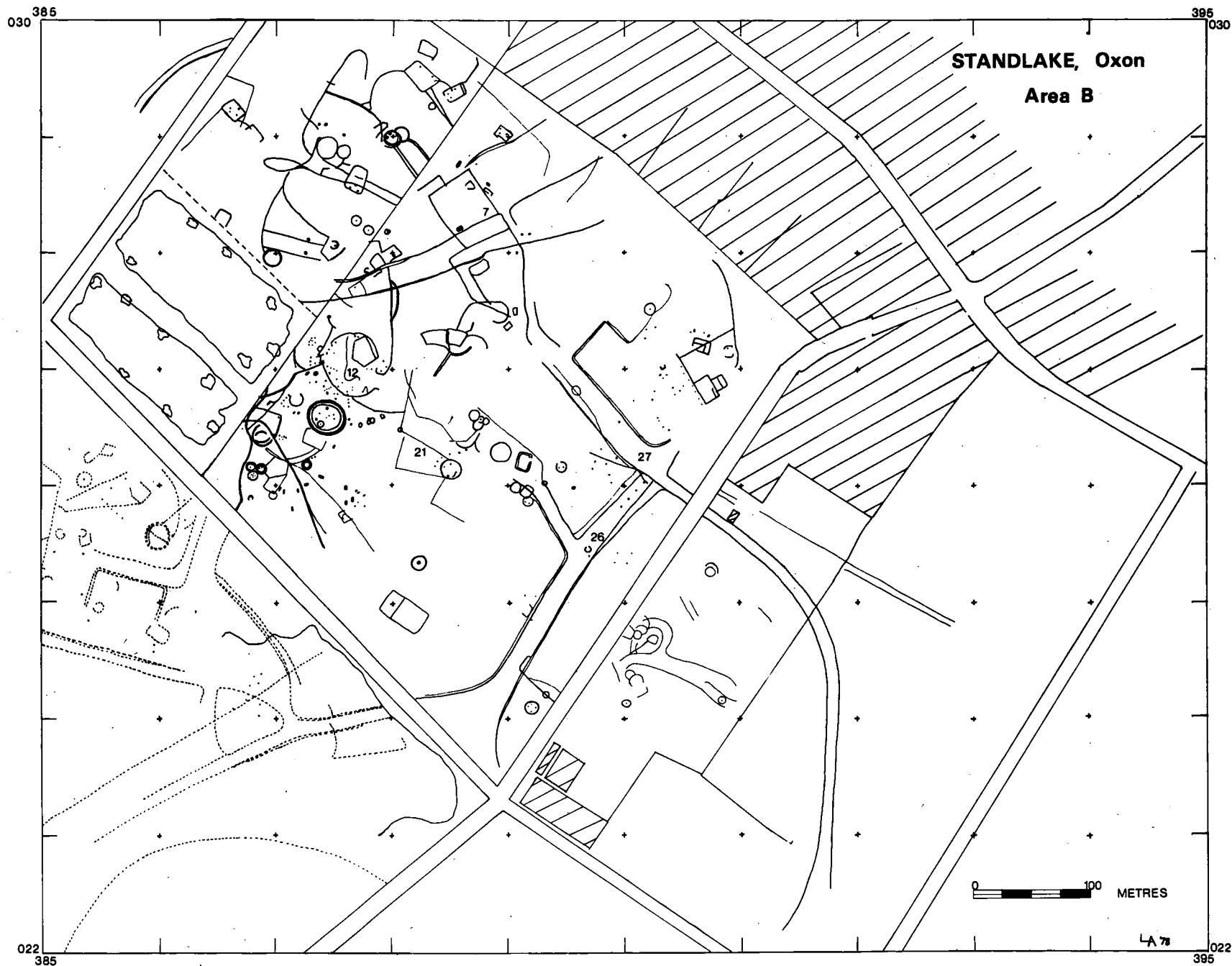


Figure 10

Iron Age pottery came from the whole of Area A with concentrations in squares D and G: in the latter it was mixed with Romano-British fine and coarse wares. The probable total of Iron Age sherds is 107, most of them very worn. Few Romano-British sherds were found north of Horns Way, but c.260 sherds, including a small number of tile fragments were found in squares G and H. The pottery is characteristic of fine and coarse wares of the 2nd - 4th Centuries AD of the Oxford region. (cf Young 1977).

Discussion

Circular features are seen to lie within a relatively narrow strip north of Horns Way; the major complexes appear to be c.100m. apart. At A9 the post-hole porch (facing NE) of a hut within a gully ditch is clearly visible (overall diameter c.20m.); at A15 a heavily re-cut ditch (diameter c.40m., entrance NE) has a central circle. There appears to be little variation in diameter of the majority of smaller circles throughout this area: it is confined to a range of c.10 - 15m. A complex feature at A5 has successive circles associated with a curving double-ditched enclosure (overall diameter c.35. x 35m) and overlaid by a rectangular enclosure; nearby at A6 a series of concentric circles (overall diameter c.25m.) appear to be composed of rectangular slots.

Rectangular structures fall into two main groups: first, three large-ditched enclosures, A2, A19, and A22 (c. ½ha., ¾ha., and 60m. x 60m. respectively), all situated on the fringe of the main cropmark area. The relatively large number of Iron Age sherds from the vicinity of A19, and the circular features in A22 combined with its resemblance to the large late Iron Age enclosure at Barton Court Farm (Miles, forthcoming) suggest that these features may have been homesteads. Second, there are a number of smaller sub-rectangular enclosures, c.20m. - 25m in length, which appear to relate to the major circular complexes outlined above. Other features lying apart from the main area are A26, where a double alignment of pits is suggestive of a rectangular timber structure. Buildings of this form have been recognised for the Neolithic and Anglo-Saxon periods (cf Benson & Miles 1974). This area needs walking after the next ploughing as does a possible 'banjo' enclosure with approach trackway at A20. The appearance of the features in the area north of Horns Way is reminiscent of the Iron Age although the date is unknown; however by analogy with the circular-hutted settlement on Standlake Down, Area A may date from the 6th Century BC. (Harding 1972).

South of Horns Way, the complexes are clearly those of a Romano-British settlement, where a native ceramic tradition (as seen in square G) is superseded by an influx of Romano-British forms in about the 2nd Century AD; however the possibility of a shift of settlement from the northern area in the pre-Roman Iron Age should not be discounted. The ditches at A29 which are c.30m. apart may flank a "very broad way". (cf. Bowen 1975).

In Area B (Figure 11) the circular features form a broad arc on the western and southern sides; rectangular features form a less coherent pattern. The whole area is flanked by a system of trackways (average 15m across) funneling in from the Thames meadows to the south. Circles range in size from c.10m. - 35m. diameter. The complex at B12 is similar to the Wessex enclosure (cf Cunliffe 1974), and has features in common with those at Gussage All Saints (Wainwright & Spratling 1973); it is however much smaller, measuring c.55m. x 55m. as against 130m. x 115m at Gussage. Two possible field systems are visible: at B21 where there is a distinctive angular layout, with the upper boundary angle turning upon a small circle, and at B7, where a series of parcels seems to be associated with trackway B27, which itself clearly replaces an earlier trackway, B26. It is not yet possible to suggest a fine chronology for this large and complex area on the evidence available from this study; comparison of cropmark form however, shows that the western sector is

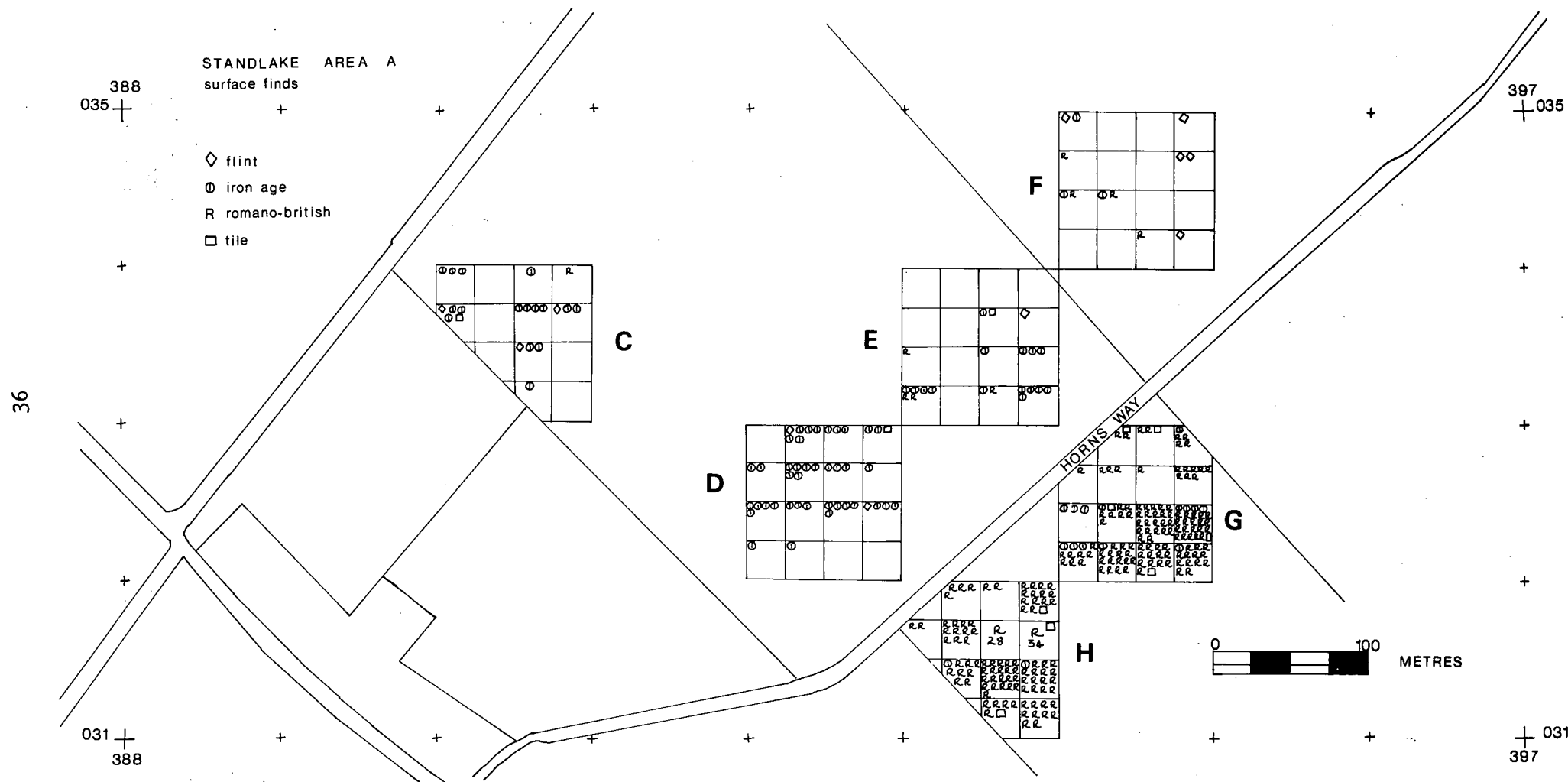


Figure 11

more likely to be Iron Age, and the eastern sector and possibly the trackways also to be Romano-British. (It is perhaps relevant here to say that previous years' uncontrolled field-walking produced large quantities of Romano-British material from the eastern and central areas of this field). There is at present no evidence to link Areas A and B, but it is clear that both complexes are strongly aligned NE/SW, (as is the modern village), and may have connected crossings of the Thames (at Sansom's Ford or Shifford) and Windrush: Horns Way continues as a trackway and footpath along the same alignment to the large multi-period sites at Stanton Harcourt.

This short report cannot hereenlarge upon the many questions of detail posed by the survey, but the interpretations above have been based upon typological comparison of cropmark form. It is felt that the controlled field survey has been valuable in reinforcing the observations with strong dating evidence for the Romano-British period and in providing a clear visual record of surface finds. It is hoped that other groups and individuals may be encouraged to make similar studies and so provide basic yet accurate information about local areas of interest.

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- | | |
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SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE - C. Graham Kerr for *South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group*

During the year the group has continued its usual mixture of activities, with the emphasis on parish survey. In the coming months work will be started on two more parishes. We also have a group led by Dr. B. Levy, examining the documentary records for the South Oxfordshire Area, recording known sites for general reference and parish survey. Two visits were made to Butser Ancient Farm, and the Director, Peter Reynolds has asked our assistance in finding certain plants.

Except for one member we are entirely an amateur group, so we are not undertaking any excavations, but our members have been helping with the excavations at Chalgrove and Pingewood.

Caversham - Redlands Gravel Pit - Ruth and Ernest Just

In the middle of 1977 Richard Chambers of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit asked us to keep an archaeological eye on the sixty acre Redlands Gravel Pit site between the Caversham - Henley Road and the Thames, because of planning permission for gravel extraction.

We have visited the site regularly, but have found little so far. Gareth Thomas reported seeing two linear features from the air in a neighbouring gravel pit area. They were found on the ground, and the O.A.U. are deciding whether to seek the landowner's permission for trial sections.

Mapledurham - P. Preece, M. Kift, and M. Fallowfield

Fields and Woods

A study has been made of the 1841 Tithe Award Map recording the field and woodland names. Some of them have been found to date back to the early middle ages, and their curved boundaries of the woods supports this. It has been possible to locate the common fields of the two manors of Mapledurham Chasey and Mapledurham Gurney, though no ridge and furrow has been found. It seems that much the same area has been under cultivation since the middle ages, and that woods also occupy the same area. Of the 35 acres recorded on the 1841 map as coppice little remains, though some areas appear to have been coppiced over a long period. In 1841 24 acres were under cultivation as osier beds, and one of these beds was still in use until about 1930. It now remains as a marshy patch of willows.

Banks, Hollow Ways and Hedgerows

Fieldwalking, started several years ago, has continued, and banks and hollow ways are being mapped. One stretch of double bank and ditch has been found in woodland on the parish boundary. Some hedgerows had a species count. One hedge along a hollow way has 10-12 species per 30 yd. stretch, including spindle and broom.

Houses

Work has also continued on the examination and photographing of the old houses in the parish, and whenever possible permission has been obtained to see the interior. In several cases this has shown the building to be older and more interesting than it appeared outwardly.

Water Supply

Owners of cottages in Nurey Green told us that water for all purposes was originally obtained from the two ponds in the woods, but that after an

epidemic, rain water collected from the roofs was used. This passed through three filter beds, one of sand one of gravel and one of charcoal and then was stored in a brick lined pit in the garden. When in times of drought these pits dried up the owners climbed down and cleaned them out.

Documents

Record cards are being filled in for all the houses visited. A study of parish records is being made and the Bodleian, Eton College and Oxford County Record Office have been consulted. The work continues.

UNITS AND INSTITUTIONS

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

BUSHMEAD (TL 116607) - Angela Simco

At Bushmead Priory, in the parish of Staploe the Department of the Environment is restoring the refectory, which is the only upstanding part of the priory buildings. An adjacent arable field has long shown rectilinear soil marks (e.g. St. Joseph AKM 142) which clearly indicate that underlying features are being regularly disturbed by the plough. Suggestions have been made that this was the main claustral complex, but field-walking has demonstrated that the light soilmarks are formed by the ploughing-up of underlying boulder clay, and not by masonry spreads. The field was known as 'Barns Yards' in 1624.

A three-week trial excavation was carried out in September 1978 to identify the nature of any archaeological features and to assess the degree of plough damage. Initially six trenches were dug by hand (including the plough soil) to investigate different surface phenomena, including apparent boundary features, spreads of cobbles, clay 'platforms' and 'blank areas'. Subsequently, some of these trenches were extended mechanically, and two mechanical trials opened.

It was soon evident that the soil-marks were created because the surface of the boulder clay was preserved at a higher level in some parts of the field than others and had been cut into by the plough. This clay surface produced no evidence of timber structures. Darker areas had a greater depth of ploughsoil which overlay cobble metalling, set straight on to the boulder clay. In a few places a thin layer of loam was preserved over the cobbles, but there was no other stratigraphy. Boundary ditches were sectioned but no dating evidence was recovered.

Excavation has demonstrated that no major monastic structures were located in the area examined. It is unlikely that any timber structures would have survived recent agricultural activities, but they may have stood on the higher clay platforms, surrounded by worn down and metalled yard areas. A likely interpretation therefore is that the site was an agricultural unit attached to the priory.

A secondary, though probably equally valuable, aspect of the excavation was the opportunity it gave to assess the effect of cultivation on a clay subsoil. By a happy accident, the field was mole-drained and ploughed in

preparation for a potato crop a matter of days before the excavation commenced. Ploughing-depth averaged 30cm, and in areas where the plough soil was shallower this included a slice of up to 2 or 3 cm of previously undisturbed boulder clay. Mole drains (regular tunnels of 10cm diameter) were encountered at 50cm, approximately 1.8m apart. Where the moling machine had gone through cobble areas, the stones had been disturbed and spread, but not actually lifted out into the plough soil. In other area, especially in the clay, there was usually no indication from above of the existence of a mole drain; the cut of the time to which the mole is attached had obviously closed up immediately. It was not possible to assess how far artefacts would have been displaced.

The field has been regularly mole-drained before every root crop, but there were no visible traces of these previous moling operations. It therefore seems unlikely that excavations on sites treated in this way are going to be able to identify, and thus make allowances for, this kind of cultivation disturbance. If, as in north Bedfordshire, mole drainage is an integral part of cultivation programmes, and has been practised on a wide scale for possibly 20 years, does this mean that we should be writing off the top 0.5m of all sites on heavy clay.....?

GROVE PRIORY, LEIGHTON BUZZARD - Evelyn Baker for *Bedfordshire County Council and the DoE*

Excavations continued on the alien Priory of the order of Fontevrault, concentrating mainly on the area containing substantial masonry structures. The barn area, first examined in 1973, was opened up in order to locate the north end of the principal building. Work was supervised by J. Moore, who found that the barn had been modified during its life, and had possibly been extended before collapsing into a drainage gully dug too close to the inadequate footings. There was further slight evidence for Saxon activity in this area.

An area excavation of 1500 sqm. continued in what has been called the claustral area in previous reports (see Figure 12). The present trench incorporates part of a south range (j) identified by H. Woods, and the trench partly excavated by D. Powlesland (a and d) (Newsletter 6, p.21). An extremely complex series of periods has been identified, dating mainly from the late 12th Century through to the 18th Century. Survival rate features such as floor levels and walls was poor, and the site became increasingly more complex with deeper stratigraphy downhill to the west. Painstaking excavation backed up by a very detailed recording system has been the day to day responsibility of the site supervisors Richard Thomas and Robert Mustoe. By means of an overlay series of coloured drawings, the following tentative interpretation has been constructed. More evidence is anticipated for the early Priory and pre-Priory periods.

Period 1

Residual sherds of Saxon pottery indicate the probability of activity. No discrete features have yet been positively ascribed to the Saxon period.

Period 2

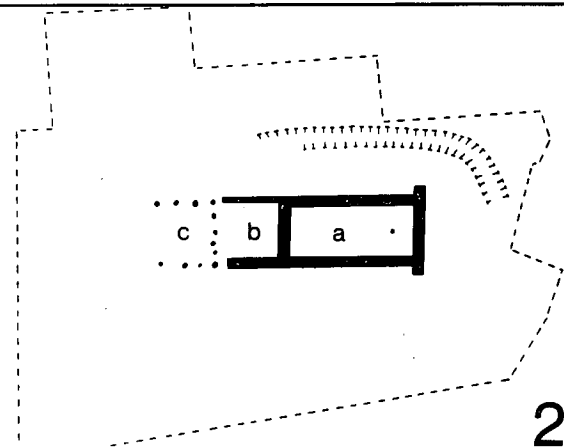
In the eastern part of the area, a late 12th Century chapel (a) was constructed with substantial foundation trenches. These were partly floored with pebbles embedded into the boulder clay to prevent slippage. It was separated from a posthole built timber hall (c) to the west by a passage room (b) which had pitched carstone footings for its south wall. A deep ditch to the north ran east-west.

GROVE PRIORY

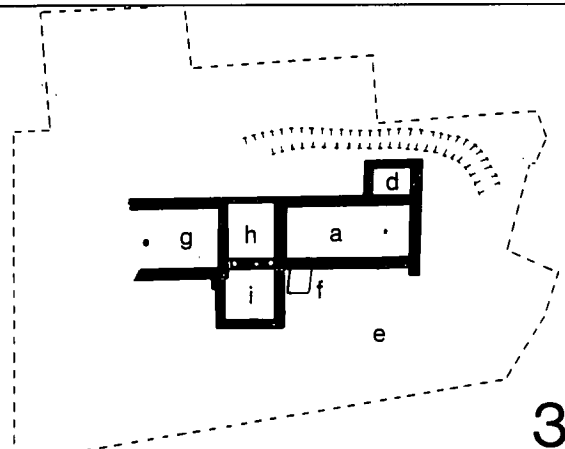
Main Buildings

Provisional period plan

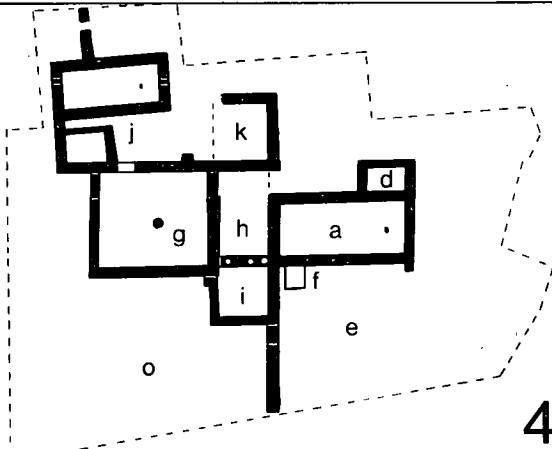
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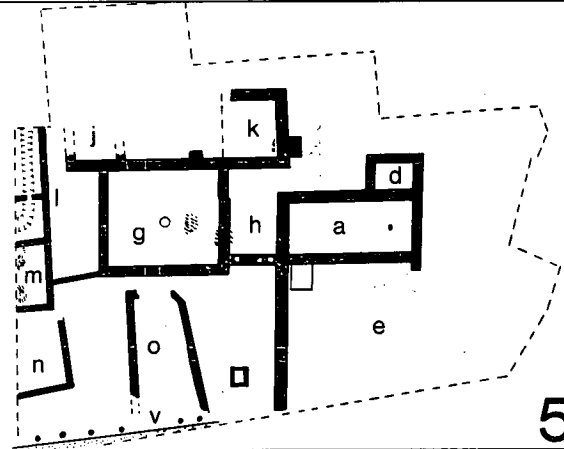
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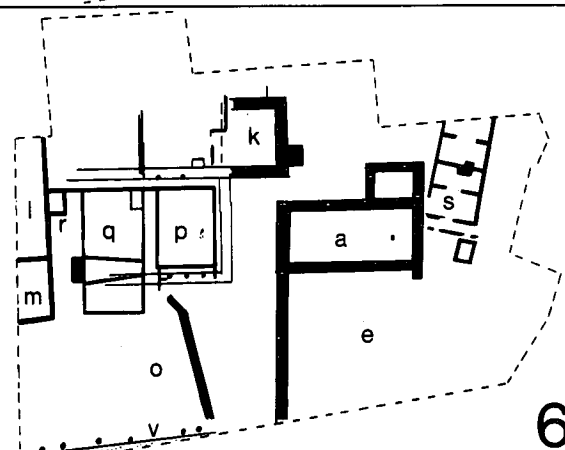
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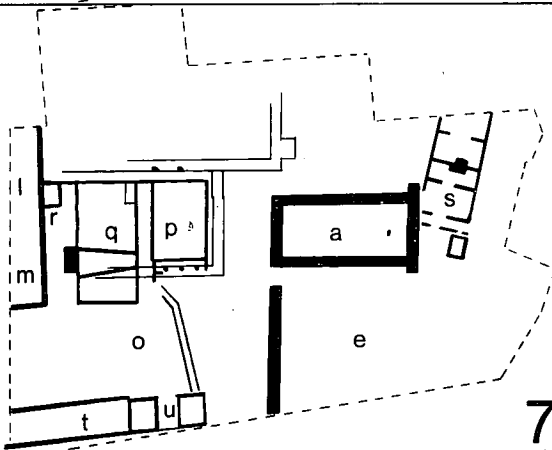
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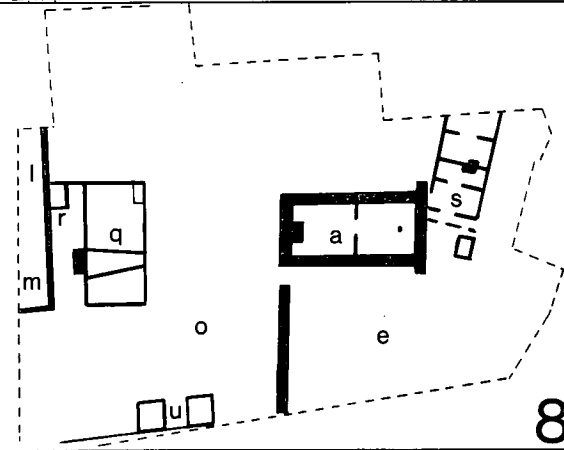
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7



8

Figure 12

Period 3

An oratory (d) was added to the north wall of the chapel (a). It contained a Totternhoe church altar footing, painted plaster, painted window glass and an amber bead of the type used to decorate reliquaries. The oratory (d), the cemetery (e) to the south of the chapel (a), and the structure within the cemetery containing stone coffins (sepulchre) (f) may relate to a document of c.1220. In it, the Bishop of Lincoln grants permission for all three within bounds of court at Grovebury. In the late 12th Century and early 13th Century the timber hall was replaced by stone (g). Ecclesiastic and secular functions were apparently divided by the construction of a vestibule (h) replacing the passage room (b); an arcaded entrance replaced the south wall giving entrance to a possible porch (i) to the south.

Period 4

In the late 12th or 13th Century the hall (g) was widened to the north. This latest stone footing also replaced the north rather flimsy wall of the vestibule (h). A range of buildings (j) came north from this extension to join that discovered to the west by Woods. Further east a second structure (k) also came north this time being built into and straddling the ditch at a point opposite the possible porch (i).

Period 5

At some time in the 13th - 14th Centuries a structure (l) roofed with clay tiles (? rere dorter) was built at the west end of the hall (g). It contained a drain, probably stone lined, which ran north-south for most of its length. It collected water from several periods of smaller tile and masonry drains. They converged near the north-west corner of the hall (g) which had been re-built or extended westwards. The main drain clearly carried a great deal of water, having been re-floored in stone; it emptied itself by means of a carstone sluice west towards nearby fishponds. Immediately south of the drain were the masonry footings of two buildings (m and n) which may have had timber superstructures. One (m) contained tile ovens. A large tile hearth with clunch edging was put into the hall (g), another in the opening to the vestibule (h), and one in the room to the north of the vestibule (k). A possible doorway in the south wall of the hall (g) led to an open space (o) bounded by the graveyard wall to the east and a roadway to the south. Traces of timber buildings here were associated with an unusual rectangular stone-lined well or cachement tank which contained an almost complete Potterspury jug. The top fill held the skull of a horse complete with articulated neck. The courtyard surface was subsequently divided by carstone walling. The separate areas thus created were covered with several re-surfacings of cobbling which made a series of terraced yards dropping to the west.

Period 6 - 14th to 15th Century

By this time the vestibule (h) and porch (i) had been dismantled, leaving the chapel (a) and remains of the hall (g) free standing. The eastern portion of the hall (g) was utilized to support a timber structure (p) on dwarf carstone walls) which was inserted neatly within it. A timber floor was laid down, its joists cutting into the period 5 hearth. Another, smaller hearth was constructed in the same position. A service wing (q) was added to the west connected to the new "inner" hall by a passage and porch leading south. Part of the structure re-used the footings of the period-5 hall. Attached to the northwest corner was a stone lined garderobe (r) apparently replacing the drainage system (1) described above. In the eastern part of

the site a range of rooms (s) with dwarf stone walls butted up to the north-east corner of the chapel (a).

Period 7

From about the 16th through to the 17th Century. A range of rooms (t), built in two phases and including a possible gate house (u), replaced a fence line (v) bounding the road which marked the south edge of the trench. Heavy duty cobbling laid to the north, which included part of a stone coffin lid. A second fragment had been used inside one of the rooms as a hearth-stone. The graveyard (e) was used for rubbish disposal.

Period 8 - 17th to 18th Century.

The east end of the chapel (a) was partitioned off, and appears to have been the only section of building to escape domestic use. Whether it retained any positive religious function cannot be established. The western portion was made habitable by the insertion of a chimney and fireplace. It seems that the chapel was the last structure to remain standing. This may be due to the strong foundations which appear to have been prepared with great care. Large blocks of carstone were used, and it may be inferred that the superstructure was strongly made from good quality material. This contrasts markedly with the majority of the other buildings which were poorly built from rubble and laid directly on the contemporary ground surface. Certain monies may have been allocated to its maintenance. Badly robbed as the whole site was, this building had been the most thoroughly dismantled. This may reflect the desirability of the constituent materials.

Discussion

The documentary evidence for the Priory is complicated. The history of the House is unextricably interwoven with that of the Royal Manor of Leighton, and their relationship is ambiguous. The Manor was granted to Fontevrault in 1164 by Henry II in place of an endowment made by Henry I in 1129. Material from France and England combine to support the theory that the monastic development never became properly established. So far, the earliest medieval period proposed is that in which the Priory takes the form of a chapel combined with living quarters for brothers. The Crown, having long had an interest in both Manor and Priory, maintained a direct link, using Grove as a Royal Residence during the 13th and 14th Centuries. The three Edwards all stayed there, and the manor was frequently in the hands of the King or his relatives, while still apparently being owned by Fontevrault. There is no indication that Grove suffered from the dire poverty that affected both the mother house Fontevrault and sister house Amesbury at the end of the 13th Century. Difficulties arose for this alien house during the wars with France. Certainly the status of the house changed to that of a chapel with resident chaplains living in a manorial complex rented to tenants. The chaplains were obliged to pray for the souls of the royal family, while the tenants were expected to maintain the clergy. There is no evidence of monastic activity after the end of the 13th Century. A chaplain was still in residence in 1392, and the continuing link with the Crown is shown by the lease of Grovebury to the mother of Edward IV in 1480. However, there is no date for formal dissolution, and it is not clear when the priory lost its religious functions and status to degenerate into a farmhouse.

ODELL (SP 956 568) - Brian Dix *for Bedfordshire County Council and the DoE*

Rescue excavation at this Roman farm site came to a close in March 1978. Occupation began in the pre-Conquest period and continued until the mid-4th Century AD. Further evidence was found of renewed activity in middle Saxon times.

A preliminary report will appear in Bedfordshire Archaeol J. 14, forthcoming; a full publication is anticipated for 1981.

WARDEN ABBEY (TL 120432) - Evelyn Baker

Christopher Taylor of RCHM(E) directed survey of this Cistercian site, the largest earthwork complex in the County, for Bedfordshire County Council. Among those assisting with the work were Alison Alden, Evelyn Baker, Angela Simco and Robert White.

The limits of the precinct were traced for most of the boundary length, taking the form of a bank with traces of limestone walling in at least two places. Outlying buildings and ranges of buildings were located, some of which had been ploughed. The complicated fishpond system was drawn, with post-medieval extensions and modifications. Associated with the medieval fishponds was a massive dam about 4 m high. Some ranges in the claustral area appeared to verify drawings made by Bradford Rudge in the 1850s. A post-medieval terraced garden belonging to the Gostwick mansion had been imposed on the east part of the claustral area together with an ornamental pond. The latest feature was an unusual bank laid over some of the fishponds, which revealed itself as the dump track from the construction of the nearby railway.

It is hoped that this survey will appear as part of the forthcoming excavation report by the writer, including detailed accounts of the Warden Abbey pavements. These have now undergone the initial stages of conservation and are in Bedford Museum awaiting further study.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM - Mike Farley

A considerable improvement in the staffing level of the Archaeological Section of the County Museum took place during 1978. The Sites and Monuments Record post, held by Andrew Pike, has become established and subsequently it has been possible to appoint on a contract basis David Allen as Assistant Field Archaeologist with DoE finance. In addition we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Denise Allen, appointed under the STEP scheme, to plot the county's crop mark sites on to large-scale maps - this last project being undertaken in consultation with the Air Photographs Unit of the NMR. The Museum also acted as a placement for OUDES In-Service trainees. Grateful thanks are due to members of the County Museum Archaeological Group who, as usual, have extensively supplemented museum resources through their time and skills.

Two formal excavations took place during the year, at Buckingham and Ravenstone, in addition to several watching briefs. The Museum was also pleased to have the services of Brian Durham of the OAU for a period, to cover work inside St. Mary's Church, Aylesbury, during which he recorded early structures probably relating to the Minster. Reports on these three sites will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The Museum continued to offer archaeological advice on planning matters where practicable but with the present staffing it is still possible to deal effectively only with major developments and matters of a strategic nature. Foremost among the latter was the County's Mineral Subject Plan, which has been the subject of full consultation, and some District plans. Under Andrew Pike's hand, the County's Sites and Monuments Record continues to be enhanced, and a thorough revision of information relating to three of the five District Councils has been completed. Continuing purchases of air photographs have meant that reasonable cover is now available for most earth-work and cropmark/soilmark sites.

Post-excavation work is progressing on a number of fronts and the report on the Early Saxon - medieval settlement at Walton, Aylesbury has now appeared as a single volume of the Records of Bucks. Aylesbury was the venue for a highly successful day-school on Anglo-Saxon Settlement organised by OUDES.

Attention must again be drawn to one aspect of the current archaeological scene which is less welcome, namely the activity of metal-detector users. The Museum frequently sees objects of significance which have been discovered by metal-detector users on land where they were operating without the knowledge of landowners. The bulk of such objects either remain in private hands or are disposed of elsewhere shorn of their provenance. Whilst every effort is made to co-operate with responsible metal-detector users there is no doubt that such people are out-numbered by those with fewer scruples.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

The Group has continued to meet day and evening on Tuesdays throughout the year, and has contributed in many ways to the county's archaeology. The programme of fieldwalking in Haddenham parish being virtually concluded, a start has been made on the Chilterns parish of Great Missenden, an area with a totally different geology and settlement pattern. The results of the Haddenham fieldwalking programme have been most impressive, bringing to light an unexpected density of prehistoric sites and one or two individually impressive finds including an ovate hand-axe - only the second from the Vale of Aylesbury.

The Group provided almost all the field assistance at the Buckingham excavation and considerably supplemented the work-force at Ravenstone. Several members turned out at very short notice to assist with work on an undated inhumation cemetery at West Wycombe. A number of individual field projects were undertaken, cover being given for instance to the laying of a new water main in the Long Crendon area which led to the discovery of a Middle Iron Age site and a Later Iron Age/Romano-British site also.

Within the Museum assistance has been provided towards improvement of the Sites and Monuments Record. A number of group projects are nearing completion, including preparation for publication of a 17th Century pottery site in the Chilterns, a complete gazetteer of all windmill sites, and the results of a field survey at Pitstone. Several members have also drawn pottery and small finds for individual sites. Other on-going projects include one on parks and another on watermills. Routine processing of excavated material has continued, including some pottery re-construction. The Museum and the county as a whole is much indebted to its part-time archaeological arm.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Archaeological Unit of the Council has continued a programme of activity related to rescue archaeology in Northamptonshire. The rapid development of the Sites and Monuments Record made it possible to hold a Seminar in Northampton in June, to discuss a paper on Archaeological Priority areas. This was conducted as the first stage in a process of public consultation, to assist in formulating a policy for the allocation of resources in rescue archaeology in the county. The seminar was under the chairmanship of Professor Cunliffe and a further meeting is planned in 1979 to take the choice of areas a stage further.

1. SURVEY - G. Foard

(a) Earthwork Survey

The Unit has carried out a number of earthwork surveys over the past 12 months on threatened medieval sites in Northamptonshire. The plan of Bury Yard Manorial site at Bozeat (SP 904591) will be published at a later date with details of the trial excavation and watching brief on the area destroyed by road construction. No further work is intended at the three sites mentioned below.

FISHPONDS, GREAT OAKLEY (SP 866859)

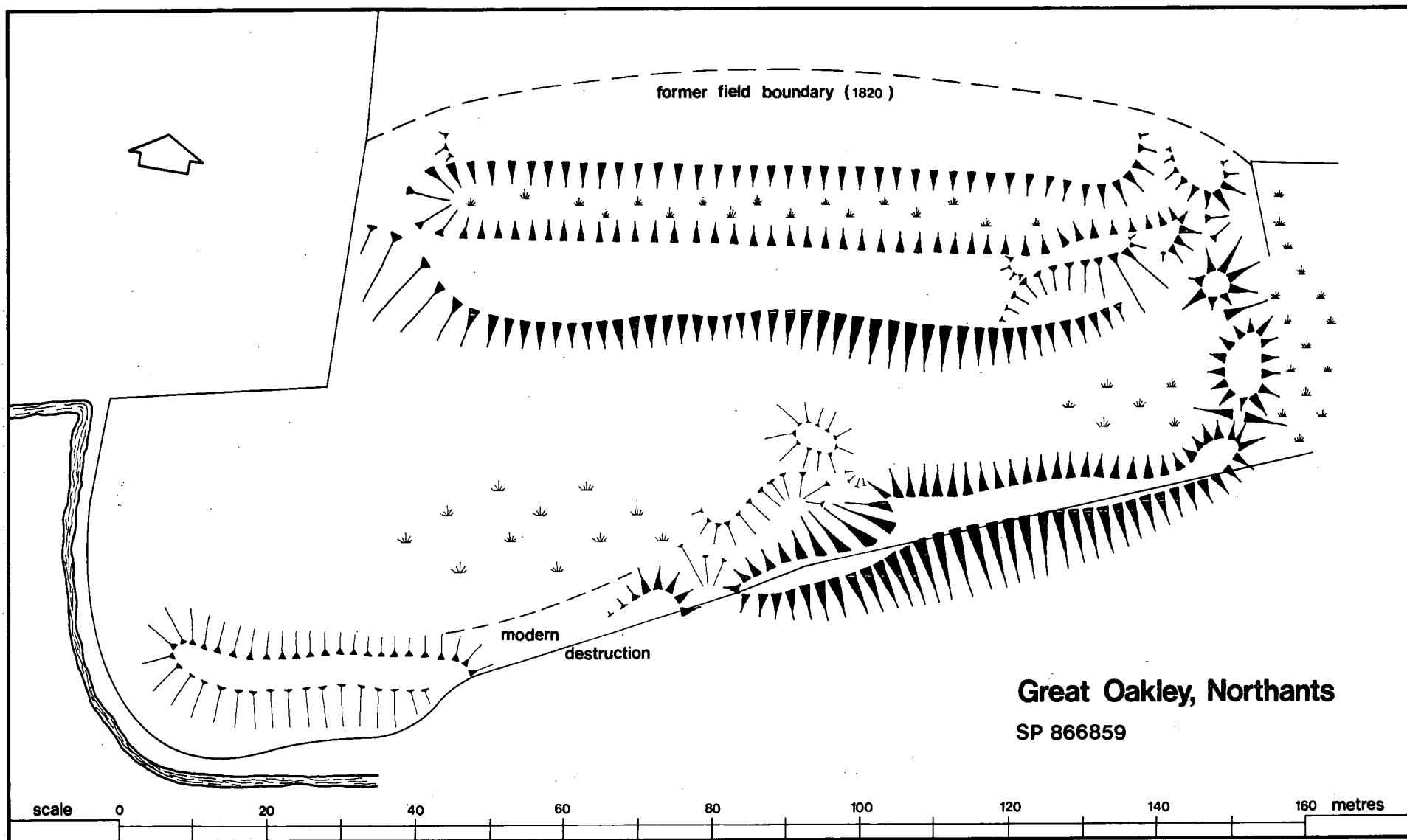
The fishponds lie in the valley of Harpers Brook, immediately west of Marsh Farm on Upper Estuarine Series geology. The RCHM record the site as a single pond (RCHM forthcoming: Corby site) but in fact it consists of at least two units, rectangular embanked pond to the north, about 1.5m deep and presumably fed by natural seepage; and a second formed by a large dam running half way across the valley with a further bank continuing upstream on the south side to form a large, irregular pond in the valley bottom (Figure 13). Both are now drained, the stream having been diverted around the pond in a deep culvert prior to 1820 (Northants Record Office: Map 898).

Although damaged in several places by modern pipelines the original line of the earthwork was generally recoverable. However, it proved impossible to survey what appeared to be a linear bank parallel to the recorded ponds in the dense scrub on the south because of both the vegetation and damage by the pipelines. Hence it was impossible to establish whether this represented an additional pond. The area has planning permission for residential development.

FISHPONDS, GREAT HOUGHTON (SP 797589)

The ponds lie near the head of a narrow slade to the east of the modern village on clay and limestone. They consist of two large embanked ponds with a small, very slight upper pond fed by natural seepage. The fourth 'pond' to the north is extremely irregular and, although possibly originally part of the series, it has been modified, the stone tumble at its edge perhaps being quarry debris (Figure 14). The ponds had been drained apparently by the insertion of the stone drain on the eastern side.

The survey was carried out before the slade was filled with spoil from the Little Houghton bypass under construction to the north.



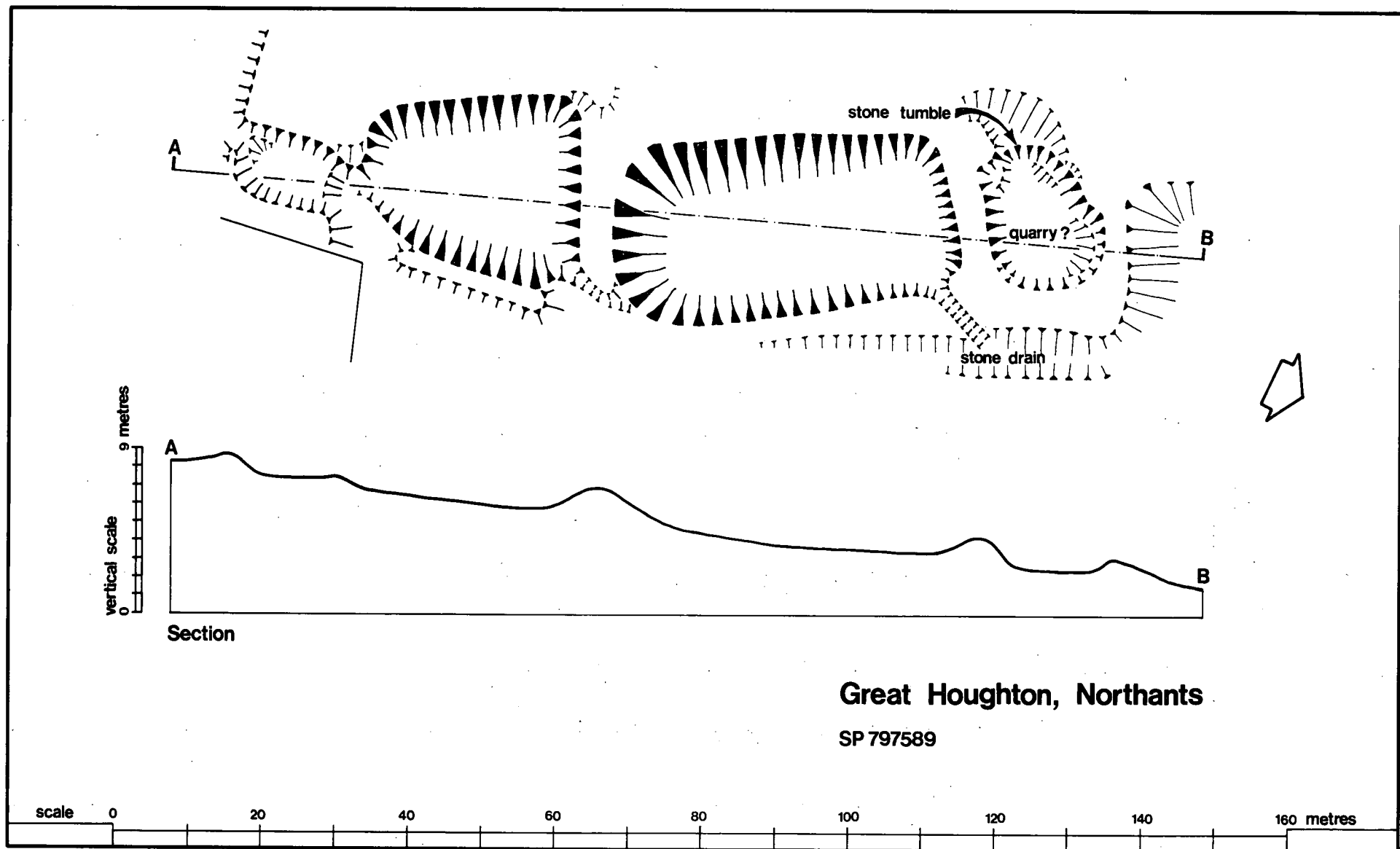


Figure 14

HALL MANOR, WOLLASTON (SP 905623)

A detailed earthwork survey of the site was carried out due to the threat of destruction by road construction, however, the proposed route of the by-pass has now been modified in part to preserve the manor site, which is now scheduled (Figure 15). The documentary evidence for the manor has been discussed in detail elsewhere, but a large scale measured plan of the site has not previously been published. The 'Hall Manor' is recorded at Domesday as the smaller of two manors of Wollaston. It appears to have occupied this site since at least the 12th Century, for the manorial boundary has been identified as that recorded in 1231 AD as already 'ancient', and the manor house is presumed to have continued in use until demolished in the late 15th Century (Hall 1977). The manorial enclosure has clearly been laid out over part of an earlier furlong, as the documents suggest, the fishponds clearly cutting the ridge-and-furrow. However, it is not certain from the earthworks whether the central manorial area was also laid out over the same furlong or if it indeed predates the laying out of the open fields.

References

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| HALL, D.N. (1977) | <u>Wollaston - Portrait of a Village</u> |
| RCHM (Forthcoming) | <u>'An Inventory of Archaeological Sites in Northamptonshire'</u> Vol. II |

(b) Air Photography

Approximately 25 hours were spent in aerial survey, primarily for cropmarks, between April and October 1978. New features were recorded on many well known sites and some new sites were discovered. Of particular interest is the major new complex at SP 726631 including a pit alignment trackway, enclosures and ring ditches. Important new information was also recorded at Irchester Roman Town where numerous buildings, minor roads, and enclosures were visible. Although generally a very poor year for cropmarks certain sites did develop very well, in particular those on the Northampton Sand north and east of Northampton, and the Northampton Sand and the Limestones in the south west of the county.

Full details of the results will be published in Northants. Arch. for 1979.

2. EXCAVATION(a) Quarries and watching briefs - D. Jackson

GRETTON

A considerable amount of early Iron Age pottery was recovered from two parallel ditches exposed by top soil clearance prior to ironstone quarrying. The earliest pottery dates to the 5th or 6th Centuries BC, but one of the ditches contained slightly later pottery and may have been re-cut. The two ditches were some 6m apart and, assuming they were originally contemporary, many have flanked a trackway. Little evidence of settlement was found adjacent to the ditches, but it was not possible to investigate the area as thoroughly as was desirable.

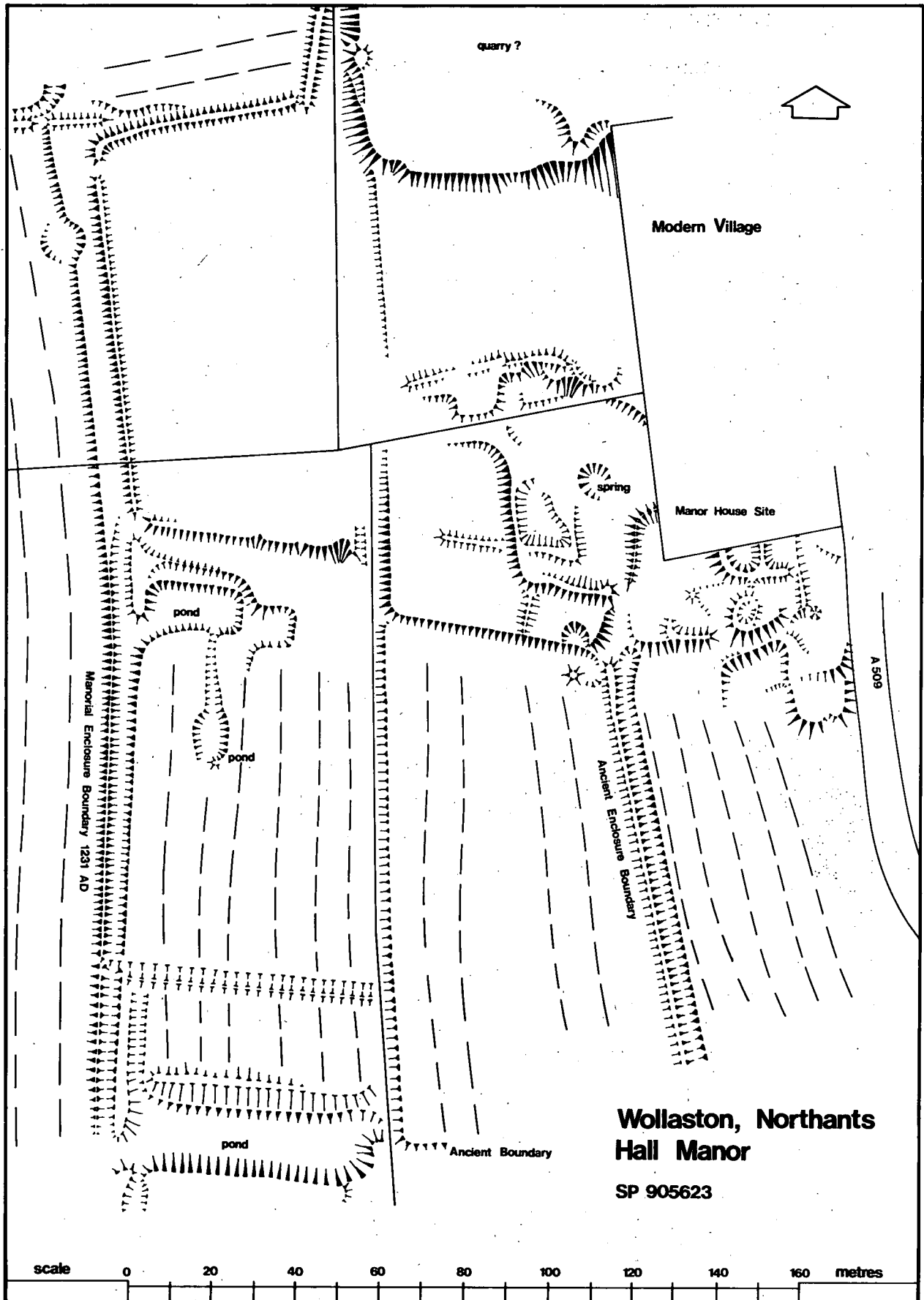


Figure 15

HARRINGWORTH (1)

Top soil clearance prior to ironstone quarrying exposed a scatter of Iron Age features extending over an area some $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent. The features appear to be of two periods, with a pair of parallel ditches dating to the 3rd or perhaps 4th Century BC, and a scatter of pits and ditches of the late pre-Belgic period, widely dispersed over the whole area. The pottery from the individual parallel ditches may not be contemporary, and this evidence, together with that from Gretton (above) questions the concept of all Iron Age parallel ditches being trackways.

HARRINGWORTH (2)

An iron-smelting furnace, probably pre-Roman in date, was revealed by ironstone quarrying. It was cut by a Roman ditch that contained some early painted pottery.

HARRINGWORTH (3)

A section was dug across the earthworks of an enclosure to record the bank and ditch before it was completely levelled by ploughing (RCHM I Northants). Nothing was found to date the enclosure, but a charcoal sample has been submitted for radio-carbon dating.

OAKLEY

Some 30 acres of top soil were removed at this quarry in 1978, exposing further early Iron Age features in the Boulder Clay subsoil. Of particular interest was a bowl-shaped iron-smelting hearth, which, if of early Iron Age date, could be one of the earliest furnaces found in the country.

An unusual find at this quarry was an isolated cremation burial accompanied by parts of an amphora-type vessel and about 200 nails. The burial was about 350m from a Roman barn excavated in 1965 by E. Greenfield, and totally destroyed by quarrying in 1978.

WEEKLEY

Excavations on this important Iron Age and Roman site were discontinued in 1978. There now appears to be no quarrying threat for the next four or five years.

WARMINGTON (Tansor Gravel Quarry)

Trial excavations were carried out at the site of a Bronze Age round-barrow to try to determine if a full excavation was justified at a later date. The barrow, still standing 1m high, had spread to a diameter of 55m, completely sealing the ditch. The pre-barrow land surface is roughly level with the modern ground level, but burrowing animals have disturbed much of the stratification. The work was carried out in conjunction with the Middle Nene Archaeological Society.

Oundle (1)

A new school, sited over an Iron Age enclosure, necessitated a watching

brief being carried out during soil clearance. The very wet subsoil conditions made salvage work almost impossible, but the pottery recovered suggests the site dates to the 2nd or 1st Centuries BC. The enclosure was first located from the air by the Middle Nene Archaeological Society who also carried out survey work and limited excavation on site.

OUNDLE (2)

A watching brief was arranged during partial reconstruction of the stone-built bridge on the A605, just south of Oundle. It was evident that, at some stage in its history, the stone bridge had been increased in width.

LITTLE HOUGHTON

A watching brief has been maintained during the early construction work on the Little Houghton by-pass. In addition to a number of features which it was not possible to date, the following sites have been recorded:

- (i) A late Neolithic-Beaker pit was found, dug into a sandstone bedrock. The pit, which was pear-shaped, was 2.8m long and 34cm deep, and can be assumed to have been associated with a settlement site rather than a burial. A quantity of decorated Beaker pottery was found which derived from several different vessels.
- (ii) A ?Middle Iron Age ditch was found, sited on Boulder Clay, but no associated pits or post holes have been located so far. The relationship between the ditch and later ridge-and-furrow was of interest. The ditch had been truncated to a depth of 40 cms. by medieval ploughing and it can be assumed that these furrows had destroyed any stratigraphy for at least 60 cms. below the Iron Age land surface.
- (iii) A Roman ditch was found, filled with black sooty clay, as well as some deep "quarry" pits dug into the Estuarine sandy clay. These features may be associated with a possible kiln site nearby (BNFAS 6 1971).

STANION

Re-alignment of the A43 at Stanion revealed several shallow ditches of Iron Age date, suggesting a settlement nearby. A major Roman road (Margary Route 57A) is aligned on the area, but neither the road or any roadside ditches were located after soil clearance.

BRIGSTOCK

A field with a number of surviving banks and ditches, including a small circular enclosure, is now under plough. Pottery from the surface of the field suggests the site is Iron Age in date.

TOWCESTER

A flattened mound on the Abbey Homesteads estate, south-west of Towcester was examined to establish whether it was a burial mound, associated with the earlier finding of a pagan Saxon scabbard mount in the immediate vicinity. A ditch of the Roman period was uncovered, but there was no evidence of a later burial.

(b) RAUNDS - A. Boddington

The excavation at Brick Kiln road began in 1977 with the machine stripping off 2,500 sqm. of topsoil. Removal of demolition rubble revealed the foundations of a medieval manor as well as two phases of Anglo-Saxon church. The existence of these had been hinted at from results of two trial trenches excavated by David Hall in 1976. The phase numbers used below are temporary; there is clear evidence of earlier periods but these have as yet to be excavated.

Phase 1

A small church comprising nave and chancel, the total length being 8m, was constructed with walls of rough-hewn oolite limestone fragments cemented with a ginger mortar. The walls are narrow, and some 0.45m thick and survive to a height of three to four courses above the rough stone floor. A white plaster face survives in the chancel, and a stone base at the east end may represent an altar base. This period of construction has not yet been fully excavated.

Phase 2

The phase 1 building was demolished and replaced by a much larger church some 18m long. Internally dimensions of the nave are 7.5m x 4.5m whilst those of the chancel are 4.6m x 3.4m. The floors were formed of layers of crushed stone and soil and survived in the west part of the nave only. The floors of the chancel must have been at a slightly higher level and had not survived. The foundations consisted of up to four courses of pitched stone, whilst the standing walls, which only survived in a few areas, were constructed of rough-hewn limestone laid in flat courses.

Phase 1 and 2: The Cemetery

The cemetery lies to the south and east of the churches and up to the present 82 burials have been located and excavated. It is anticipated that a further 100 burials could be recovered. Of the burials so far investigated 32 were buried with crude pillow stones beneath the skull, and several had stones beneath the feet. Eight burials have been found with stones across the body, apparently placed deliberately in this position. Two adults were found in stone-lined graves and one infant was buried in a stone cist. Two complete decorated grave covers bearing typically Saxon decoration have been found immediately south of the church, and also one stone coffin.

Phase 3

The east end of the nave and the chancel was demolished at least in part and replaced by a large rectangular chamber, measuring 8.0m x 4.2m internally. Whether the west end of the nave remains in use as a separate room 4.0m x 4.5m across internally, or whether this had also been demolished is not clear. It is probable that this phase of building represents the first stone construction of the manor house, occurring at the latest by the mid-12th Century. The churches of phases 1 and 2 are as yet not dated but are presumed to have been built and used before the Norman Conquest.

Phase 4

From this first chamber the manor expanded westwards with the addition of a hall, through passage and service wing. At a later date a central hearth was added to the hall. The building was now 28m long and a dovecote was added to the north of the service wing. This was 9m in diameter and

had walls 1.30m thick, containing nesting boxes on the inner face. The gap between the dovecote and service wing was later infilled with three more rooms representing a further phase of expansion.

The entire building was demolished by c.1300 and the field was apparently resumed as pasture until the present day. The land is now consented for warehouse development. Work will continue until October 1979 by which time it is hoped that the cemetery will have been completely excavated, and the early church and pre-church activity will have been investigated.

(c) A45 NEW ROAD - A. Johnson

Preliminary survey and trial excavation has commenced in advance of A45 New Road construction. Tony Johnson has formed an excavation team with MSC support and trenching along the line of the road corridor has started, south of Earls Barton. It is anticipated that most archaeological work will take place along the western half of the corridor during the first half of 1979.

3. ARCHIVE/PUBLICATION - K. Brown

During the past 12 months work within this section of the Archaeology Unit has centred on three main areas.

Rushden Excavation Report

In 1971, Peter Woods directed rescue excavations on the extensive Iron Age - Belgic/Romano-British site near Boundary Avenue, Rushden (but in the parish of Irchester). A number of attempts to publish the material have been unsuccessful due to the quantity and exceptional nature of the Belgic pottery. Plans have now been made to prepare the material, in four parts, to the standard of a Level 3 Report. In addition a Level 4 Report will be prepared for publication in a Journal.

Work over the past 12 months has concentrated upon preparing the Belgic Fine Wares for publication. With financial aid/help from the Manpower Services Commission and, latterly, the Department of the Environment, the Unit has been able to employ a Pottery Illustrator and the drawing of the finds from this period is nearing completion. A draft text is also proceeding rapidly.

It is hoped to publish the report in Spring 1979 and then to continue with the second part of the full excavation report.

Northamptonshire Publication Backlog

As well as work on Rushden, the Unit will undertake the drawing of pottery from: Henrietta Miles' excavations at Cosgrove; Dennis Jackson's at Weekley and Gretton.

Faced with an extensive backlog of unpublished excavations the Unit has committed its resources to defining the problems and, wherever feasible, publishing. The initial stage of research is still being undertaken. An index of past excavations has been collated.

An Archaeological Archive for Northamptonshire

In response to the suggestions of the Frere Report the Unit has sought a way in which to best implement the archive concept. A paper, prepared by the Post Excavation Section, was circulated to Local Authority Museums and organizations within Northamptonshire. This outlined the situation vis-a-vis Northants and attempted to focus attention upon the problems raised by "rescue" archaeology, especially storage and access.

Acting upon the paper's recommendation a meeting of interested parties took place at County Hall in November in which general agreement was reached on the need for an archive. A second report is to be prepared giving the details of implementing an archive policy.

With the permission of Curator, the Unit, has through a Manpower Services scheme been able to accession the whole archaeology collection of the Borough Museum. Work has also been carried out on indexing Northants material held by Market Harborough Archaeological Society. This work will form part of a complete index of material excavated in Northants. It will contribute towards the Archive and the Priorities policy for rescue archaeology.

The Unit has also prepared graphic displays for the Open-days at Raunds, and publicity material highlighting the many facets of the Unit's work.

General

In November the County Council received an Award from Country Life Magazine as part of the Awards scheme sponsored by Rescue, for "the best contribution to rescue archaeology by a local authority or public body". The Award was a replica of an antefix of the XX Legion, from Holt, Clwyd. The County Council acknowledges the generous support of the Department of the Environment and Manpower Services Commission, which has made possible the expansion of the Unit's activities.

NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - John H. Williams

This year the Unit has been concerned largely with the completion of existing projects rather than the commencement of new ones. Excavations on both Briar Hill and Chalk Lane (see above) are complete and the lengthy business of publishing these difficult sites now begins. The St. Peters Street monograph was delayed but is now with the printer and will appear in late Spring 1979. The report on the Greyfriars excavations of 1972 was published in Northamptonshire Archaeology volume 13 as well as a parish survey of Great Billing by David Hall.

Work commenced on building up a card index of all medieval references to Northampton in the State Papers and this line of research will continue with a view to the greater integration of the historical and archaeological sources. Mary Gryspeerdt has started trying to define more precisely the medieval pottery fabric series through the use of thin sections.

A heavy programme of excavation and publication is in prospect for 1979 but it is also hoped to produce a general volume on the development of Northampton based on archaeological and historical evidence. (Specific excavations have been included under the period headings)

NORTHAMPTON MUSEUM**STONE IMPLEMENTS SURVEY - SE MIDLANDS - W.R.G. Moore**

Since 1972, petrological work in the counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire has been coordinated by Dr. W.A. Cummins, Department of Geology, University of Nottingham. About 250 Neolithic/Bronze Age stone implements have now been studied and the first report on the area is about to be published.

About 80% of the implements are axes, adzes or fragments thereof. The remainder consists of various shafthole implements, particularly pebble hammers, maces and battle axes.

As in the adjacent areas to the north and east, most of the implements assigned to established petrological groups belong to Groups I, VI, VII and XX. Implements of Group VI rock (Great Langdale) are by far the most abundant and account for more than half of all grouped implements.

A second report on the area is already in preparation as further implements are being discovered and recorded. We should be grateful if anyone knowing of implements which have not previously been recorded or sectioned would contact either myself or Dr. Cummins.

MILTON KEYNES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGY 1978 - D.C. Mynard

INTRODUCTION:

The staff structure outlined in last year's report has resulted in a more coherent and efficiently run Unit. In October Roy Atkins, our Fieldwork and Sites & Monuments Supervisor, left to take a post in London and has now been replaced by Bob Williams. Bob, who had been Supervising on the Caldecotte excavation, was seconded to Fieldwork during November, since Roy needed his last few weeks to complete Post-Excavation work, and the pace of current development in the City demanded a full time presence in the Field.

We have recently heard from M.S.C. that our STEP project has been approved. This project will enable us to employ four assistants to help with Landscape and Historical Studies and the production of the Survey of the Archaeology of Milton Keynes.

This year has seen the introduction of MKAN (Milton Keynes Archaeological News) a bimonthly summary of our work which has been well received by local, regional and national readers.

An excavation unit has a duty to keep the public informed of its activities, for it is they who are our paymasters, and it is on behalf of the community as a whole that a unit functions. This is especially true in a new town, where in-comers are particularly keen to discover new roots in their adopted home.

Press and television have during the year carried stories of the work of the various excavations which the unit has carried out, but naturally they concentrate on those aspects they consider newsworthy, not necessarily those things we would like to see printed. To overcome this, the unit has also produced programmes for Channel 40, the Milton Keynes cable-television channel. A series of programmes described every aspect of the Caldecotte excavation, including planning and pot-washing as well as the more numerous aspects of archaeology. In addition, single programmes were produced on the villa excavations and the 'medieval' kiln firing.

The acquisition of a set of Marler-Hayley Expo system display units has made it possible for us to mount exhibitions of a high standard most easily.

The units have been used as part of a semi-permanent display to explain to visitors to the Field Centre the history and topography of Bradwell Abbey and the excavations at Bancroft Roman Villa. The units are easily dismantled and re-assembled, and so have made it possible to arrange a touring exhibition of the Caldecotte excavations. It travelled around all the local libraries in the Autumn of 1978 and is scheduled for display in local schools in the opening months of 1979.

Other exhibitions prepared during the year included one in Great Linford Village School on the history of the village as illustrated by recent excavations and documentary research, and general exhibitions on the work of the unit for the open week at the Field Centre, and for the visit of CBA Group 9 for the Annual General Meeting in September at Wavendon Tower.

Open days at the two principal excavations of Bancroft villa and Caldecotte attracted well over 1000 visitors, creating problems of parking and guiding. Bradwell Abbey Field Centre continued to open during summer weekends, attracting public interest. Our flow of visitors at the Field Centre was increased by the fortuitous proximity of Milton Keynes greatest tourist attraction, the herd of concrete cows.

Talks to and visits by local archaeological societies have continued throughout the year; other groups requesting speakers from the unit, ranged from Rotarians to retired people.

In short everyone in Milton Keynes is reached by some sort of publicity, and our unit continues to attract a high degree of public interest.

FIELDWORK AND SURVEY

a) The A5D Road - Martin Petchey

An additional problem during the year was the start of work on the A5 diversion through the New City. The major site affected by the construction of this new road was the Roman town of Magiovinium, just outside the development area. The new road sliced through the suburbs, which were excavated beforehand by the Central Excavation Unit of the DoE (and the results noted elsewhere). It was the Milton Keynes unit's responsibility to watch its progress through the New City into Northamptonshire. Members of the three local archaeological societies, together with volunteers attracted by leaflets distributed throughout the New City, were forged into a team to observe the topsoil scrape. An average of 15 people took part in the work on a regular basis, and it was disappointing for them, though a relief in many other ways, that in the event only one new site was found: Belgic and Roman occupation, represented by pits and ditches, near Greenleys, south of Wolverton.

One of the Contractors for the new road opened a gravel pit to supply their works, just outside the development area in the parish of Broughton, immediately adjacent to the Bedfordshire border. The Unit was asked by the County Museum to watch this site also, as a natural extension of its work on the A5D. An examination before planning permission was given found only the usual scatter of post-medieval pottery and so no condition was asked for; however, when the topsoil was cleared over a third of the stripped area, some 45,000 M² was noticed to be covered with ditches, from the fill of which Roman pottery was recovered. A plane-table survey of the ditch system was the first step in the emergency recording of the site. The use of a microptic alidade enabling the large area involved to be surveyed extremely rapidly. The pattern that emerged from the survey was of some interest. A driveway, or trackway, marked by two parallel ditches, ran across the site. From each side of it opened rectangular enclosures, some small, others extending outside the cleared area. Such field systems are known extensively in the South Midlands from air photographs and excavations. Two recent examples in the CBA Group 9 area, are Odell in Bedfordshire, also in the Ouse Valley, and Farmoor in Oxfordshire. It is suggested by the excavator of another of the Thames Valley examples that these trackway systems are not field systems, but rather villages. The small enclosures mark the tofts, within which were the houses and barns, and the large the village closes. Beyond them it is considered, lay the large arable fields.

It was impossible to undertake a full-scale excavation, but obviously

desirable to further establish a date range for occupation. Accordingly a weekend rescue excavation was undertaken by members of the Bletchley and Milton Keynes Archaeological Societies in October. A selection of features, including trackway boundaries and various field boundaries, were examined. The pottery found suggests occupation up to the 4th century.

There seems to have been no correlation between this landscape and the relict medieval landscape in Broughton, but further analysis remains to be done.

b) The City - Bob Williams

Construction work in Milton Keynes is now at its peak, with many acres of land being lost every day. In the short time since my appointment all construction sites still possessing an archaeological potential have been visited. The negative aspects of this work, when concerned with a total landscape study of a finite area of 22,000 acres, are of equal importance as the actual archaeological finds themselves. Apart from the usual undated features, waste flint flakes and stray finds, a number of small, but significant, sites have been located.

Routine fieldwork on the Heelands grid square produced a flint barbed-and-tanged arrowhead in association with several other flint blades and waste flakes. This find is particularly significant in the light of the general paucity of Neolithic and Bronze Age sites in Milton Keynes. Several Late Iron Age and Roman features were found nearby.

Excavation for a car park at Bradwell Middle School, unearthed a very large Roman ditch, connected in some form with iron smelting, and judging by the large quantity of iron slag in its fill. At Downs Barn a road was found to have partially destroyed a small Roman settlement site. Construction of the new grid road, Standing Way, uncovered one new Belgic site and revealed more features on a Roman site discovered some years ago.

The digging of house-footings to the north west of Little Woolstone Church produced a medieval yard associated with a flimsy 13th century structure. Amongst the finds from this site was a 13th century decorated bronze-dagger chape.

It is hoped, that in the near future, all existing sites and find spots will be visited to re-assess their archaeological potential (in the light of the previous seven years work), and a new fieldwalking programme is to be initiated prior to development.

Schools Liaison - Rosalind Tyrrell

Over 500 children visited Bradwell Abbey and our archaeological sites in 1978. They were able to see an Iron Age, Roman and Medieval village site, a Romano-British Villa or the Medieval Abbey remains at Bradwell; whichever was most appropriate to their studies. At Bancroft Roman Villa and Caldecotte excavation was in progress and gave us an opportunity of answering some very searching questions about archaeology. We were also able to show them slides of the sites and a display of finds. Normally it was possible for the children to handle these objects under supervision. Almost without exception the conversations and resulting work were most valuable.

We were also able to help a number of teachers who were intending to do local history/archaeology. The plans, aerial photographs, estate maps, excavations records, finds and photographs etc. in our archives were made available to them. A group from Simpson Combined School, for instance,

has been looking at various aspects of Woughton on the Green, a shrunken medieval village.

We look forward to a continued relationship with local schools by which we are able to help many more children and their teachers find out about the past of the city area.

RESEARCH & SURVEY - Bob Croft

As part of the Archaeological Unit's general policy towards the understanding of post-Roman landscapes a rapid survey of the readily accessible published documents is being compiled for some 16 parishes.

A project of this type must, of necessity, have specific objectives. The sheer volume of information which could be covered would take one investigator many years to record and analyse.

The aim of the survey is to build up a picture of the manorial and ecclesiastical history of the ancient parishes of Milton Keynes, by incorporating the archaeological evidence into an historical framework. This is being tackled by investigating a variety of different sources and these are being assembled to form part of the documentary archive for the New City (held at Bradwell Abbey Field Centre).

CARTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

Almost all the known pre-Ordnance Survey maps for Milton Keynes have now been copied and indexed. This collection of maps forms an important link between the place-names referred to in medieval documents and their precise positions on the ground.

An alphabetical list of over almost 250 field names in the parishes of Shenley, Tattenhoe and Loughton was compiled, with the help of Alison Neveille of Bletchley.

A field-name and place-name list and index for all parishes is in progress. This will cover all the medieval documents looked at as the Village Survey progresses. The information is stored on a standard form designed upon a parish basis and records details such as source of information and date of reference, possible meaning, archaeological significance and an eight figure national grid reference.

DOCUMENTS & FIELDWORK

The survival of medieval documents in the parishes of Milton Keynes City is not uniformly distributed throughout the area. Some parishes, for a variety of historical reasons, are much better documented than others.

The parishes of Shenley, Tattenhoe and Loughton, for example, are particularly well covered by the Snelshall Cartulary. (Bucks., Record Soc. Vol. 9 1945). This group of charters has been the main source of information for recording and locating areas of the medieval field-systems.

From documentary sources it has been possible to understand how some of the medieval fields were utilised and this has proved particularly interesting for the parishes of Milton Keynes, Walton and Bow Brickhill.

I am much indebted to G.R. Elvey for discussion on and translation of a number of charters which refer to transactions of agricultural units

within the City.

From a charter dated 2 Aug. 1345, it is clear that the medieval field-systems of Walton and Milton Keynes parishes were in some way interconnected and the field systems paid little attention to the parish boundaries. In this charter, Roger de Grey, lord of Walton and other members of the parish, witness an agreement with Philip de Aylesbury, lord of Milton Keynes, and members of his parish over transactions of land in both parishes. The parties from Walton separately release and quitclaim, for themselves and their heirs, to the parties listed in Milton Keynes, all the rights which they had possessed to have common in all the lands and tenements of Milton Keynes. Similarly, the parties from Milton Keynes released to Walton all the rights, etc., which they held in Walton parish. (Bucks., Arch. Soc. Muniments 36/101.

The implications from this transaction are important to our understanding of medieval field-systems and to their relative chronologies and association with parish boundaries. It would seem that the purpose behind the exchange was to add the 'Milton Keynes' part of the Walton field-system to the fields of Milton Keynes proper. This would then give Milton Keynes its own three-field system without having any other re-arrangement of lands. A similar operation was then also carried out in Walton.

Walton is not listed as a separate settlement in Domesday and it is likely that it was once part of Milton Keynes. The creation of Walton parish must have occurred during the 11th century. The first documentary reference to a church there is in 1225, the existing structure appears to be mainly 14th century, but the Unit's excavation there before change of use in 1977 confirmed a late 12th - early 13th-century date for the erection of the present Nave.

The earliest known documentary reference to Walton is 1201 when a manor had been established and divided into two halves, held by Hugh Richepaut or Rixbaud and Roger de Bray. (VCH 1V p.486).

A late 12th to early 13th-century date for the manor and church suggests that Walton manor and parish were fairly late creations. Further evidence to support this idea is that Walton also held land in the fields of Caldecotte in Bow Brickhill parish.

The Walton parish boundary itself is a useful indicator of its late creation. Between Walton and Milton Keynes and Walton and Bow Brickhill, it shows a marked disregard to natural boundary divisions such as streams. Information given in several early Bucks. charters dated c.1230 - 50, describes land in the great marsh of Bow Brickhill, land near Caldecotte moat, some 20 roods of which belonged to Walton.

Discontinuity of parish boundaries is fairly common in the Milton Keynes area and it appears that the boundaries follow divisions within the medieval field-systems. The parishes which have the characteristics "dog tooth" boundaries are:-

Great and Little Woolstone,
Eradwell and Stantonbury
Great Linford and Newport Pagnell (Caldecotte part)
Willen and Newport Pagnell (Caldecotte part)

Almost all the parishes within Milton Keynes have now been covered in our ridge-and-furrow survey. The only parish still to be plotted is Bow Brickhill, which falls mainly outside the designated area. This parish includes the important multi-period site of Caldecotte and in order to

put the medieval site into its integral archaeological landscape all ridge-and-furrow is being recorded and plotted at 1:5,000 scale, which enables almost every ridge to be shown on the primary record sheet.

It is unusual to discover any new earthworks in Milton Keynes but recent work at Caldecotte in Bow Brickhill has located the site of a medieval water-mill, at SP 89033498. The documentary evidence for a mill at Caldecotte has been known for many years, but its precise position has been elusive. The earliest record is 1208 where reference is made to "mill of Caldecot in Bollerbrichill.. with 10 acres of arable, with all the meadow and with fishing and pond belonging to the mill". The owner was Geoffrey Chauncey who was the lord of the manor of Bow Brickhill and probably Caldecotte as well.

A mill is mentioned in Bow Brickhill in the Domesday Book and the Caldecotte part of the parish is the most likely site for a water-mill. It is common for watermill sites to remain in use for many generations, and at Caldecotte the descent of the mill can be followed through the documents from the 13th until the middle of the 17th century. The records of the mill are the chief way in which the descent of the manor of Caldecotte is distinct from that of Bow Brickhill. A watermill is last recorded on the site in 1653.

Fieldwalking has produced fragments of post-medieval bricks and two small pieces of millstone. A detailed field survey of the earthworks is in progress.

EXCAVATION

INTRODUCTION - D.C. Mynard

Our main activity during 1978 has been concentrated at the Caldecotte multi-period site, where a variable gravel threat has somewhat diversified our approach. This has meant, however, that we have sampled additional areas and increased our knowledge of its archaeological potential.

Further work has taken place at the Bancroft (formerly Bradwell) Roman Villa, which has been re-named since it falls within the Bancroft Grid Square of which it will become a major educational/tourist attraction. During the early part of the summer we recorded all the excavated areas prior to backfilling. The pavements were kindly drawn by David Neal to whom we are extremely grateful. Several other sites have been the subject of trial excavations and watching briefs.

At Simpson, three undated mounds appear, at first inspection, to be later than the ridge-and-furrow on which they are situated. However, their presence in an area of prehistoric activity and where occasional burial mounds have survived caused one to doubt their ready attribution to the post-medieval period. As all three mounds will be destroyed during the next year we carried out limited trial excavation of the most prominent example. The results have shown that it is pre-ridge-and-furrow in date and that it has early Roman pottery in its primary make-up.

Our other problem mound, the Secklow Hundred meeting place reported last year, has now been re-instated and will be a permanent feature of the garden behind the proposed City Centre museum. Immediately before the reconstruction of the mound we were able to carry out further work demanded by our first excavation. The mound would appear to be purpose-

built to mark the meeting-place of the Secklow Hundred. Last year we reported that sherds of possible Saxon date had been found in a feature immediately underlying the mound. Well, those sherds have been shown to fellow archaeologists from all adjoining counties. The general consensus of opinion as to their date is: Fabric - most likely Iron Age, Form - more likely Saxon! We have since despatched them to Oxford Research Laboratory where Dr. Martin Aitkin has kindly accepted them for thermoluminescent dating.

CALDECOTTE - Martin Petchey

Caldecotte, in the parish of Bow Brickhill, lies on river terrace gravel in the valley of the river Ousel at SP 8907 3545 half way between Fenny Stratford and Newport Pagnell.

The site is threatened by the construction of a lake in 1981 for the drainage and recreation of the New City and by its associated developments.

The earliest features of the site to be recognised were the earthworks of a deserted medieval village, and the moat of its manor house. Fieldwork in the 1960s by Richard Griffiths and Dennis Mynard, after ploughing of part of the site, located an extensive pot-scatter between the moat and the village with material from the late Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods. Trial excavation in the late 60s and early 70s confirmed the date range of occupation derived from fieldwork.

Aerial reconnaissance showed that the settlement continued farther south, including a large rectangular enclosure and pit alignments, and the gap between the crop-marks and the pot-scatter was bridged by the results of a magnetometer survey carried out by the DoE Ancient Monuments Laboratory in 1977.

The continuity of occupation on the site, from pre-Roman to medieval, led to its selection as one of the major projects of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit and a three-year programme of excavation was initiated starting in 1978 which it is hoped will deal with most of the areas of archaeological interest before work begins. Areas excavated are shown in Figure 16.

Our strategy has been upset by an intermittent but persistent threat over the whole of last year to dig some of the lake ahead of schedule to provide material for the A5D road.

The aim in the first season was to investigate the Iron Age and Roman occupation of the site (Area II). Realising that a first season might fail to locate the nucleus, the interior of the medieval moat was also investigated (Area I). The threat to extract some material ahead of schedule led us to investigate, on a small scale, some of the occupation in that area (Area III and IV) as a pilot to guide us if its full-scale excavation became necessary.

The results of our first season have been encouraging despite disappointments, and already a picture of the historic landscape in the Ousel Valley is beginning to emerge.

Occupation during the pre-Iron Age periods does not seem to have been intense: no features date from this period, and there were few flints in residual context. Noteworthy was a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead from Area IV. This contrasts with the surface flint scatter over the crop-mark area, which might be an earlier nucleus of settlement.

1978 CALDECOTTE AREAS I-IV

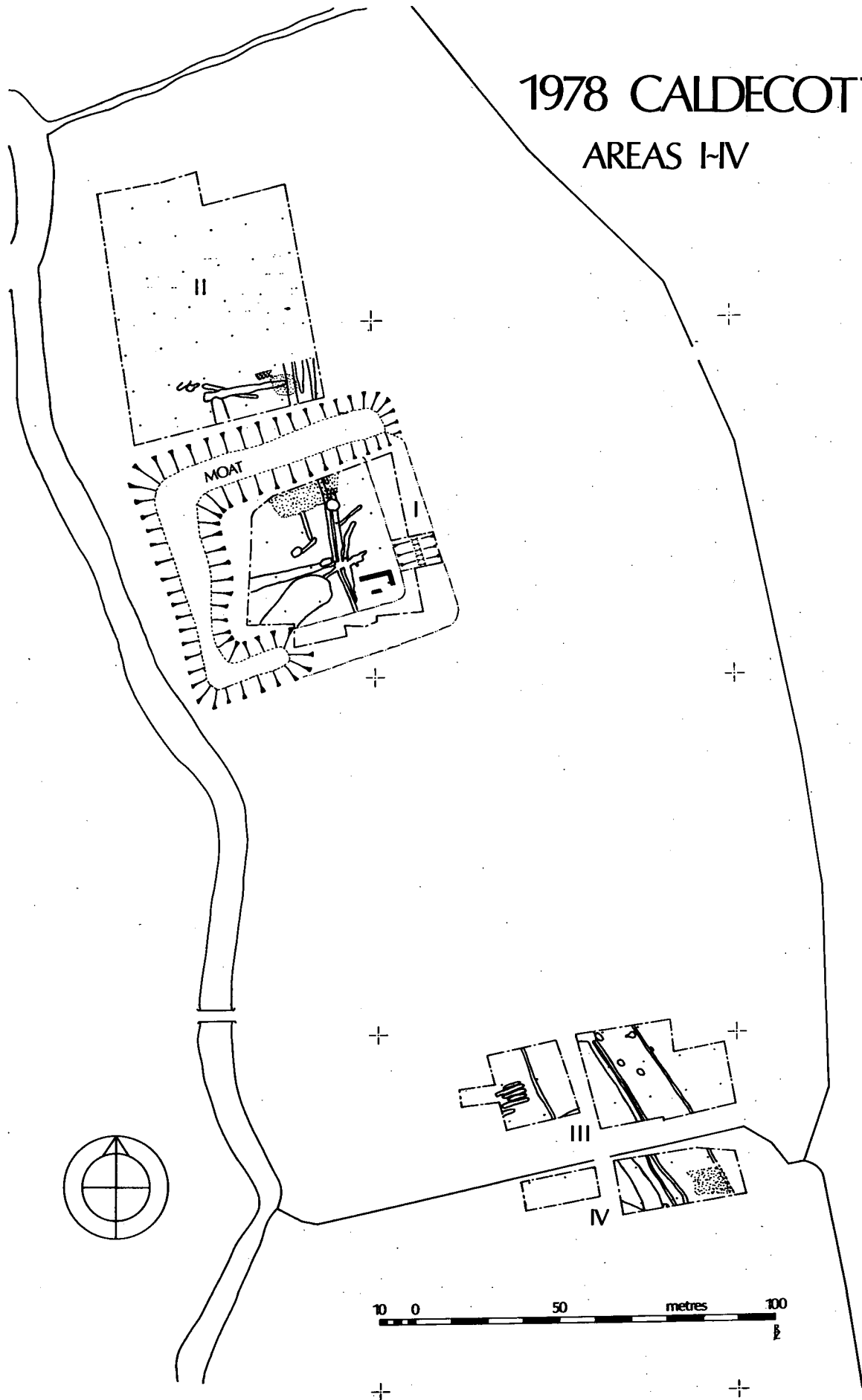


Figure 16

The late Iron Age/Roman occupation took the form of a small rural community of the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. of which structures, field-boundaries and industrial features were recovered. The earliest feature of this period is a large 2m deep ditch in Area IV: it went through several re-cuts. Each fill is aceramic. It seemed at first possible that this was the outer ditch of an Iron Age enclosed-settlement, but trial-trenching to establish the line of the ditch outside Area IV makes it seem that this is less likely. The excavation in the area was on too small a scale (as part of the pilot excavations in the south of the site) to understand either the ditch or the associated post-holes and stone spreads and their relationships. Work will continue here next season.

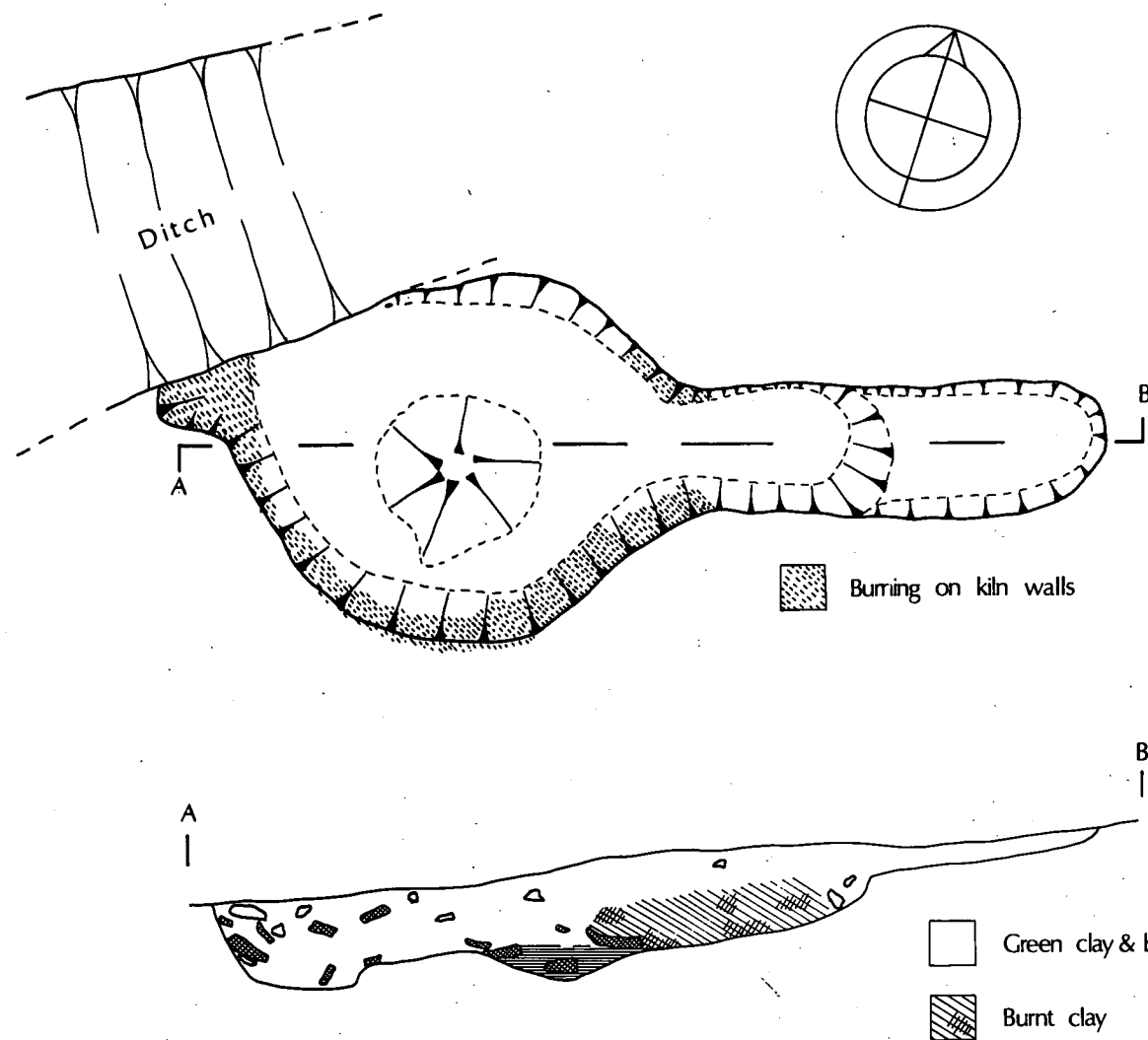
Although the complete plan will only be clear after excavation has finished, the field pattern is beginning to emerge. In Areas I and II a rectangular arrangement of boundaries, re-cut at least three times, must represent the closes of the settlement; the small enclosed fields immediately next to the houses. They were ploughed at least once. A patch of clay preserved the marks of an ard plough lying parallel to one of these boundaries.

Further out into the fields Area IV showed what may be part of a driveway running along the edge of the gravel terrace, just above the flood plain and separating meadow from arable. The village subsequently spilled over into its fields, for in Area II buildings of two types were constructed over the filled-in ditches of this part of the field system. At least one post-built wooden structure can be deduced from the pattern of post-holes. One of these was carefully stone-lined because it was cut into soft ditch silts. Next to the structure a sunken area and a cobbled surface are interpreted as a byre and crew yard respectively. The floor of the byre was not deliberately sunken, but eroded by the continual mucking-out of manure. The superstructure was presumably a sill-beam constructed timber-framed building.

Outside this area to the west laid a small, single-flued up-draught kiln (Fig. 17). The stoke-hole was short and narrow with one step down into a circular furnace 1.3m in diameter. The stump of a central pedestal remained; in the debris filling of the kiln were numbers of fire-bars, suggesting a radial arrangement from the central pedestal. An unusual feature, but one which experimental kilns have shown to be useful in promoting a through-draught when needed, was a vent in the kiln wall opposite the flue. The pottery in the fill of the kiln, which included wasters, was of 'Belgic' type, which has been variously estimated to range in date from 20 - 60 A.D. It included butt-beakers, girth-beakers, platters and pedestal bases, all in an oxidized fine sandy fabric, together with thick, everted storage jars in a coarser fabric with larger inclusions, often decorated with incised wavy lines.

Other evidence for industrial activity was for iron-working, away from the village to the south, in Area IV, where a quantity of slag was found. Associated with this were six parallel ditches, alternately shallow and deep, which contained much charcoal slag. No hearth was found, presumably because the area had been ploughed in antiquity, leaving the features intact only at a low level.

Trial excavation had already suggested that the nucleus of Saxon settlement was to the north of the area examined in 1978. It was therefore not surprising that no structures of this date were found, however, Middle-Saxon pottery in the top of some of the Roman field-boundaries may suggest that they were still functioning, or at least visible, at that period.



CALDECOTTE 1978

1st CENTURY POTTERY KILN

Figure 17

The excavation of the interior of the moat was disappointing in that much was shown to have been destroyed by ploughing in the last 12 years, since the southern and western arms were infilled. The entire interior of the 70m square moat was stripped. The only structure located was a 5m x 15m building whose ironstone footings were mostly robbed out. A cobbled surface on the opposite side of the moat was presumably outside the main building, as was an extensive spread of medieval pottery and tile.

Assuming the main building to be in the region defined by these areas, it occupied some 1,000 sq. m. This is not a large building, nor does the debris indicate wealth: the roof tiles, for example, are mostly plain rather than glazed. It may be that the Caldecotte moat was of the class that surrounded agricultural buildings rather than domestic. Two sections were dug across the moat, it was c.12m across and flat-bottomed, though in one section a deeper channel had been dredged in the centre. The paucity of medieval finds suggests that the moat was kept clear until abandoned. A preliminary estimate is that occupation lasted from the 13th to 16th centuries.

Beneath the moat's interior, and cut by the moat itself was a small fishpond, filled with the grey clay extracted from the moat. It must represent earlier manorial arrangements at Caldecotte.

Next season's work will concentrate on the 1st and 2nd century village and on the Saxon period on the site.

BANCROFT ROMAN VILLA - John Barnbrook

Previous seasons' work on the site had established the existence of a stone-founded, tiled main-building with tessellated floors and a stoke-hole for a hypocaust or bath suite, and three agricultural outbuildings, including a large rectangular barn and small granary, all represented by remains of stone foundations, Fig. 18. A continuous yard/road surface (now damaged by medieval plough furrows) connected these outbuildings to the main building. An enigmatic length of wall to the south was thought to be another outbuilding.

This season's excavations took place between January and September 1978 and an area of some 7,000 sq.m. was mechanically stripped using a JCB 807 excavator with a toothless bucket, and two large dumper trucks. Light scatters of stone and pottery beyond the previously excavated outbuildings suggested the existence of workers' hovels in this area, though detailed investigation was not possible due to labour shortages. The extent of the main building was ascertained and subsequent excavation by hand produced the results which will be discussed in more detail later, but which showed the building to have been a good example of a winged-corridor villa, (Fig. 19) with (less usually) a projecting porch, centrally placed along the corridor, and with two bath suites connected to the main building at its south and west sides. A reconstruction of this building is shown on (Fig. 20).

A small stone-founded octagonal shrine stood south of the main building and slightly apart from it, partly obscured beneath a new footpath/cycleway which was laid on top of the topsoil in the area of the villa, thus causing no damage to its remains. When required, this footpath will be removed to enable archaeological investigation to take place and will be relaid in a position more convenient archaeologically. The enigmatic length of walling between the main villa and the Loughton Brook was found to be

Bancroft Roman Villa

General layout

1:500 — n

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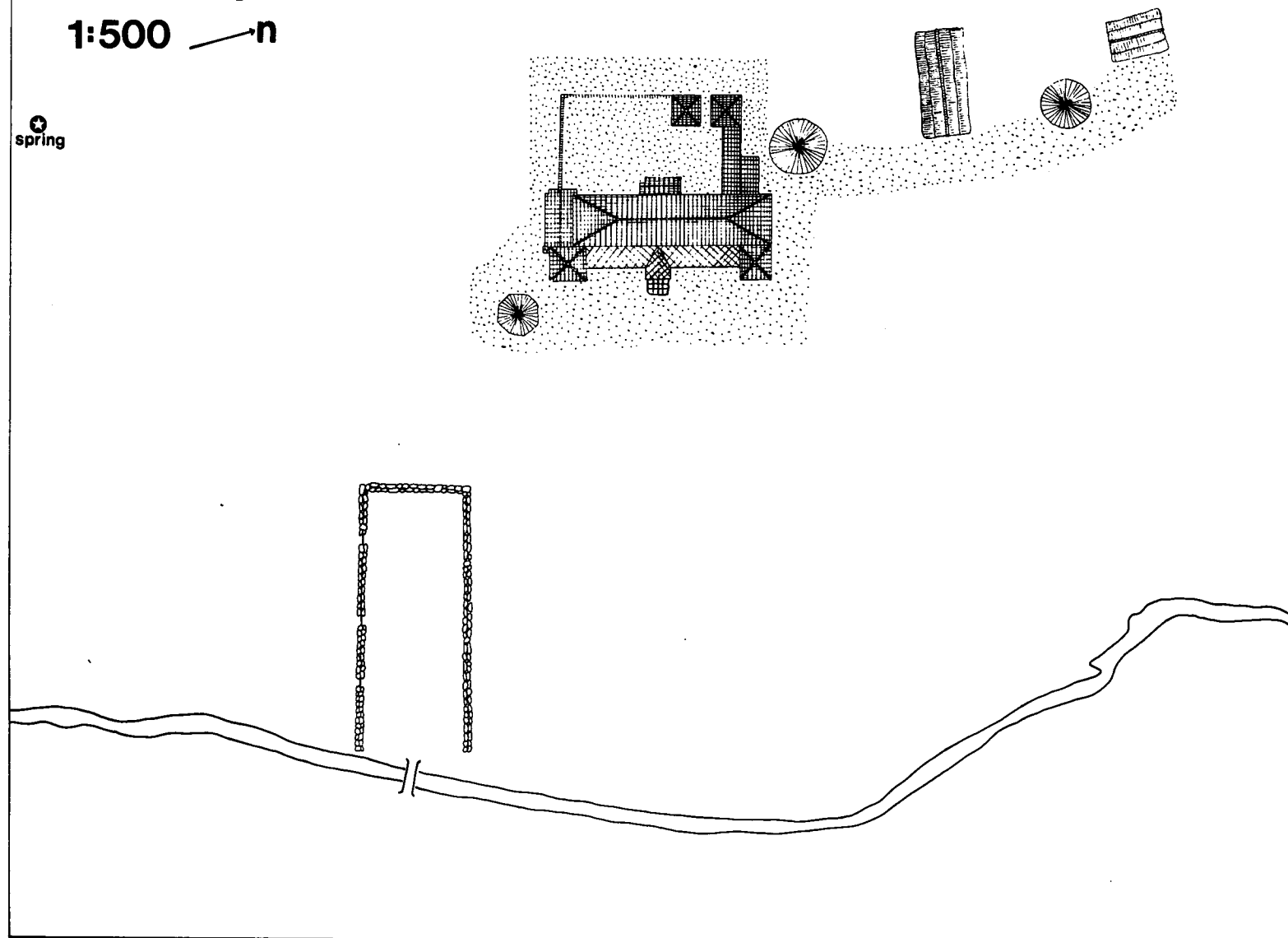


Figure 18

Bancroft Roman Villa

The main building

General Plan 1:50

(Mosaics reconstructed)

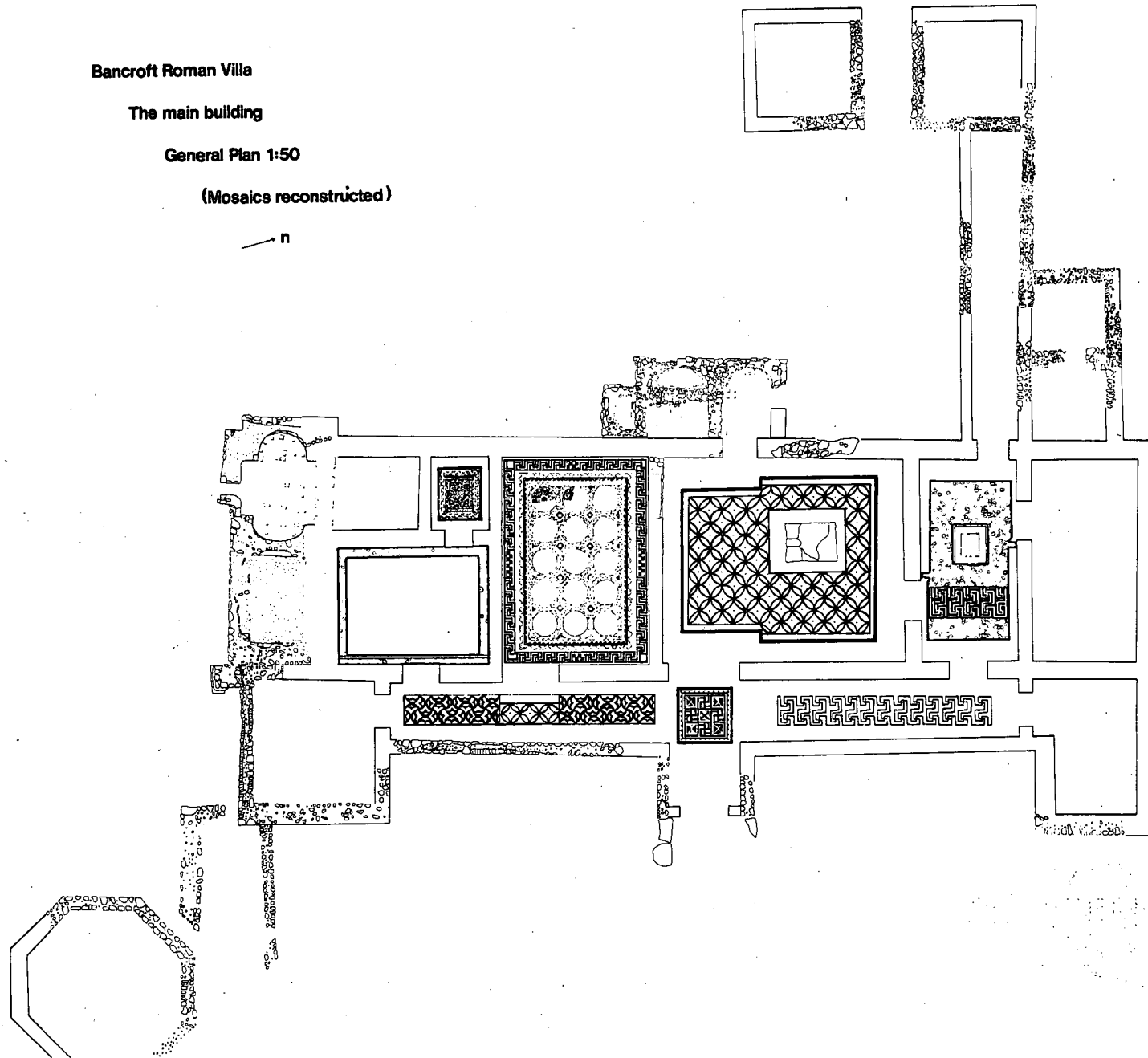


Figure 19

Bancroft Roman Villa
The main building
A reconstruction

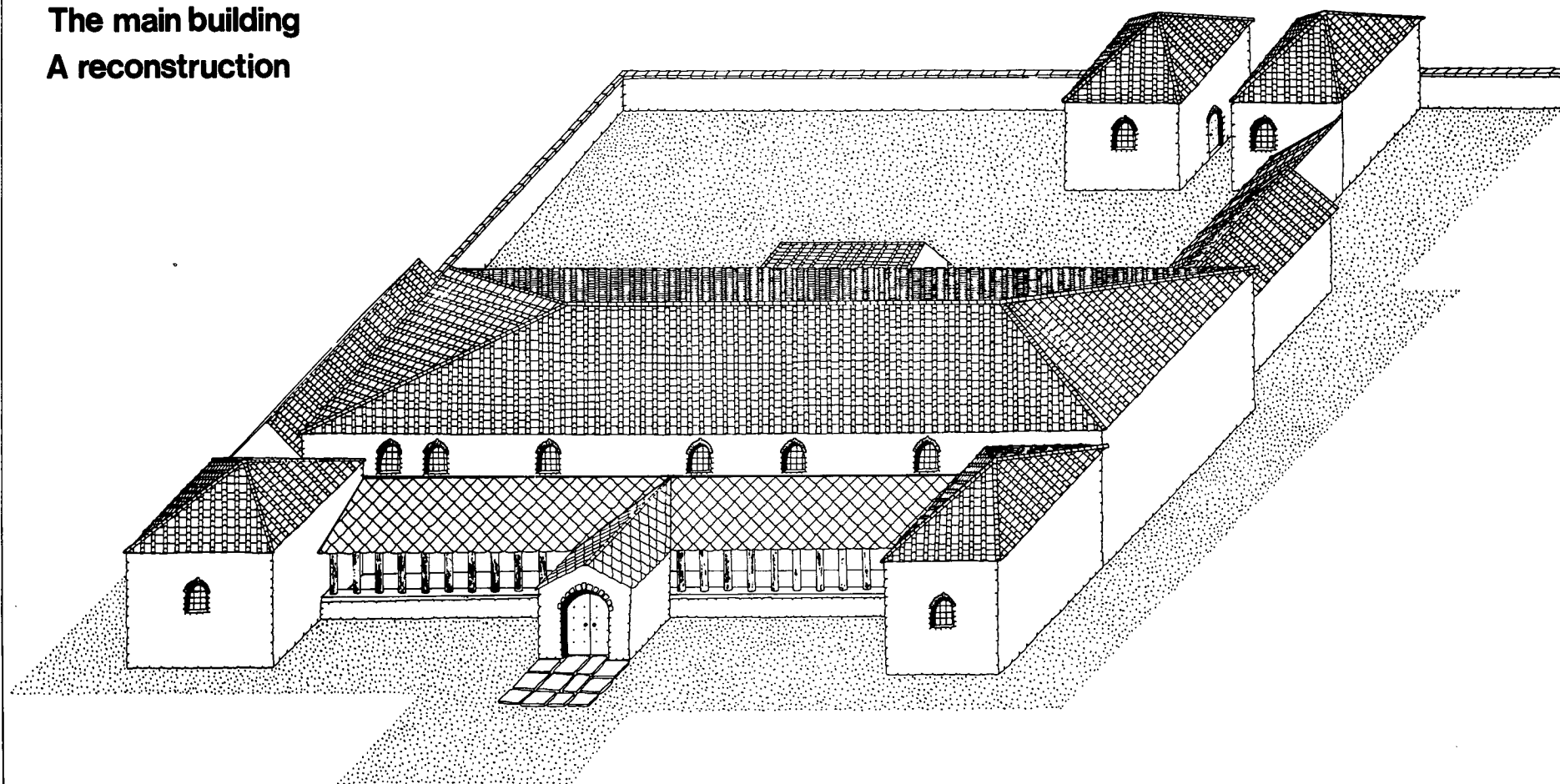


Figure 20

part of a large walled enclosure leading down the slope to what had probably been the line of the stream during Roman occupation of the villa.

This enclosure, measuring some 20m wide x 43m long, had well-preserved wall foundations at the west end and along the south side (though in most places only the bottom course remained), but even these petered out about halfway down the north side. The interior contained several soil mark features and rubble patches, investigation of which had to be postponed to a future season. A large patch of masonry centrally placed at the stream edge at the bottom of the enclosure, may have been the remains of a bridge foundation. The enclosure as a whole may be tentatively interpreted as a walled garden, possibly ornamental, or serving a functional purpose as a vegetable patch or even a small vineyard. It is hoped that future excavation of the interior will provide information enabling a more definite function to be assigned to this feature.

The octagonal building measured 7m in diameter and had stone walls 0.6m wide and 3m long. It was probably a timber structure on stone dwarf-walls, with a thatched roof and may best be interpreted as a rustic shrine. It is possibly associated with a find from the 1973 season of a small marble cockerel which may have formed part of a larger Mercury statue. The interior has been partly excavated and seems to have had a fairly rudimentary floor of beaten clay, which has barely survived the effects of ploughing. Nothing has so far been found which would provide conclusive evidence for its use as a shrine, but this does seem to be the most likely hypothesis.

Fragmentary lengths of walling extending eastward from the southern corner of the south wing room may be all that is left of two boundary walls of different periods of the villa's existence. That situated further south appears to have been cut off short in a line parallel to the nearest wall of the octagonal building, and may have gone out of use when that structure was built. Traces of yard surfaces have been found at the front of the main building, but have not been examined in any detail. It seems highly likely that the building would have been completely surrounded by areas of "hard standing" to keep the occupiers' feet clear of the mud to which the ground surface would degenerate during the winter months.

The main building was entered at the front, by way of a small porch 3m wide x 3m long fronted by a paved area, probably measuring approximately 4m x 2m, of which only two large slabs survived on the west side, and one in a fragmentary condition on the east. The porch itself was floored with a tessellated pavement of which only a minute portion survived, clinging to the east wall and quite insufficient to enable any reconstruction of its design to be made. It may well have been merely of plain red tile tesserae, perhaps within a border of white limestone.

Beyond the porch and centrally placed between two different panels of corridor mosaic pavement, was a 'threshold' panel 2.3m square. Within red borders and on a general background of red-on-white Greek key pattern, four squares composed of four blue and red triangles divided by white (chalk) diagonals were set around a central square consisting of blue intersecting semi-circles infilled in white and red.

The corridor pavement to the north contained a panel measuring (when complete) 9m x 1.4m. This consisted of continuous Greek key pattern in red on white. That to the south contained, within a panel which formerly measured 10.5m x 1.3m, a small length of three intersecting circles (a design also used in the large room described below) between panels of equal length consisting of continuous patterns of running pelta, in part a curvilinear version of/

the Greek key pattern used at the other end of the corridor. Each panel was surrounded by a red border and the entire pavement was laid in red tile tesserae against a background of white (limestone). Although the tesserae were quite coarse - between 2 and 3 cm, the workmanship, especially in the more intricate threshold and southern corridor pavements, was of fairly high quality. The positioning of the central panel of intersecting circles (which was narrower than the adjoining panels) opposite the south side of the eastern end of the room with the octagonal pavement (see below) suggests that here was the doorway to this room. The eastern wall of the verandah survived only along the southern length of the corridor. The western wall (the main front wall of the building) had been heavily robbed along its entire length except at the extreme southern end where it survived as the west wall of the southern wing room and a large buttress for the southern bath suite.

Set at either end of the corridor and projecting some 3m beyond it was a pair of wing rooms. That to the south measured approximately 5m square and had surviving walling complete on the south side and part of the west with more fragmentary remains on the east and north sides. The interior contained much burnt material, including a possible carbonised sill beam or roof timber lying near and parallel to the south wall. Excavation did not proceed to any great depth within the interior so it is not clear whether the burning was lying on a preserved floor surface or whether this had been destroyed, perhaps through collapse into a hypocaust.

The northern wing room measured approximately 5.5m in length and 3.5m in width for most of its length, widening out with an apparent "dog's leg" in the southern wall to a width of 4.3m at the western end. Little survived of the walls except as robber trenches, save for the eastern wall which had only suffered robbing below foundation level along its western edge.

The interior, which bore traces of having contained a channelled-hypocaust, had been almost completely robbed, leaving only tantalising fragments of the former mosaic pavement which had collapsed into the hypocaust before the later (probably medieval) robbing. The source of heat for the hypocaust was probably the stoke hole to the west, found during the 1976 excavations and thought then to have heated a bath suite on this side of the building.

The room immediately west of the wing room, measuring 8m x 4.3m lay between it and the stoke hole and seems to have had a similar channelled hypocaust, again heavily robbed and containing similar mosaic fragments. A small area of opus signinum remained in situ, though no trace of the pavement which it would have held survived.

The adjoining room, to the south, was the same length and 4m wide. This had a tessellated pavement of red tile tesserae within a white border with a small central area containing a mosaic of much finer tesserae but of very inferior workmanship. One corner survived, with part of a very irregular three-strand guilloche mat-border around a central panel, almost completely lost.

The eastern half of the tessellated area contained a fragment of geometric mosaic in white (limestone) tesserae against the general red background. This was probably a panel of the Greek key pattern used on the northern length of the corridor pavement. Slightly varying widths of the red area within the white border and narrow strips of red (probably one on each side) projecting outwards to the edges of the room probably mark the positions of the doorways between this and the adjacent rooms. No

walling around this room survived above floor level, and its size and position have been based solely on the surviving floor. It does not appear to have had underfloor heating and was presumably warmed by means of portable braziers which have left no trace.

Heating for the very large (10m x 8m) room to the south of that described above was provided by a large area of limestone paving (2m x 1.5m) placed slightly off-centre within a coarse mosaic pavement consisting of the kind of intersecting circle pattern used in the southern corridor floor, placed within broad and narrow borders, the whole design executed in red on a white background. A general coarseness is apparent both in the size of tesserae used and the irregularity of the design, though the overall effect is not unpleasing. The presence of a thin layer of very dark, organic soil containing a little bone and pottery (not found on the other floors) immediately on the surface of the pavement may have been due to matting possibly used in this room which lacked underfloor heating.

A large pit had been dug through the pavement at its eastern side, presumably for the stone which had been used to make the floor level. At the extreme eastern edge of this pit, just west of the eastern wall (itself very heavily robbed) a small area of earlier floor survived, of clay which seemed to have been burnt on the surface. It is possible that this represents an earlier villa building which was destroyed in the fire which had burnt down the subsidiary rooms at the west by about the end of the second century.

Walling around the large room only survived at the western side (a length of 3.5m, which was 0.8m wide) and between this room and the adjoining room with the octagonal panelled mosaic floor. This latter piece was 2.5m long, 0.6m wide and of less massive construction than the other, and contained at its western end a flue tile in situ with, above it, the impression of the keying pattern in the plaster of another.

Further evidence for underfloor heating in this room, which measured 8m x 6m was revealed when a quadrant was excavated through the rubble which filled more than two-thirds of the room beyond the fragment of very high quality mosaic pavement and its opus signinum bedding.

Heating had been provided by a stone-channelled hypocaust into which most of the floor had collapsed. Later robbing had caused great disturbance of this collapsed floor and had left a large hole filled with earth and loose rubble. It was this robber fill which had been removed in one quadrant revealing the very fragmentary remains of the stone channels.

The mosaic pavement had originally consisted of a series of octagonal panels c.1m in diameter, in five rows of three, separated by a two strand guilloche. Only two panels remained, both in a fragmentary state. The more complete octagon had a central four-petal flower in greeny-blue (? slate) tesserae surrounded by a circle of orange tesserae, one stone wide. Beyond this came a band of green laurel leaves tipped with white on a maroon background between circles of white and blue "dog's tooth" pattern. An outer band of "dog's legs" in white, orange and red on a blue background was contained within a white octagon with alternating blue and red triangles in the points.

The less complete octagon had a circular band of three-strand guilloche in red, orange and white on a blue background within the white octagonal outline and within this a fragment of a red star outlined in blue on a white background.

Triangular and diamond shaped spaces between the octagons were filled

with appropriate blue or red triangles and diamonds with white and orange borders. Bands of white-on-blue swirls and three-strand guilloche in red, orange and white on blue surrounded the octagon filled panel and were themselves contained within a border of red on white Greek key pattern similar to, but of higher quality than that used in the northern length of corridor. A thick band of red tesserae surrounded this border. The mosaic as a whole was of the very highest quality.

Of the two rooms adjoining the octagon panelled room on its southern side, the larger had fragmentary remains of a tessellated floor, while the other, very small room, had a well-preserved geometric mosaic of as high a quality as that with the octagons.

The larger room's floor consisted mainly of the remains of the opus signinum bedding with only two patches of tesserae remaining showing that the mosaic had a wide outer border of red and a border within this of white (chalk) tesserae. The rest of the mosaic was lost, and the bedding itself was disturbed in places by large robbing pits. The room measured 6.3m x 5m and had been constructed over an earlier cold bath, the opus signinum lining of which was visible along the southern edge. This bath had been filled in with earth and rubble and the level made up to that of the neighbouring rooms. A new bath had been built to the south of the new room and a tile drain which had once emptied the earlier bath was found to be blocked by the south wall of the later one.

The east wall of the room had been heavily robbed, but evidence remained at the eastern side of a stone-channelled hypocaust with some capping stones still in position. Heat for this probably came from the stoke hole which heated the southern baths (see below), the rooms adjoining it and the room with the octagonal mosaic.

To the north of this room was a very small room (2.5m x 3m) with a geometric mosaic of the highest quality. This was executed in tesserae of chalk (white), tile (red), limestone (white), slate (blue) and probably ironstone (orange).

A coarse border of limestone tesserae surrounded the fine mosaic itself which was bordered by a 5-stone wide band of blue. A three-strand guilloche mat in white, red, blue and orange on a blue background between narrow bands of white was situated within this border. Within this, between bands of "dog's leg" at either end (in red, white and orange on a blue background) a pattern of diamonds and triangles variously coloured in blue and red on white, between the bands, surrounded four 'L' shaped panels of continuous plait in different combinations of blue, red, white and orange on blue with a white border. Within this, perspective boxes made a four-pointed star pattern. Although damaged in the centre, the pattern is capable of accurate reconstruction.

The room adjoining the above-described room to the south was situated between that room and the caldarium of the southern bath suite. It measured 3.5m x 3m and had been heated by means of a hypocaust supported by tile columns (pilae) into which the tiled floor had collapsed leaving some of the pilae columns intact. The northern wall survived quite well below floor level. The hot air had come from the flue which heated the caldarium to the south, passing beneath the intervening wall through arches represented by the rectangular tile piers on which their bases had stood. The caldarium itself was apsidal at both the east and west ends, measuring a maximum of 4.5m long and 3m wide. The remains of the tile pilae showed how the floor had been supported, but little trace of the floor itself remained. Fairly heavy robbing must have occurred, probably during the medieval period,

though no dating evidence for this was found.

The flue was situated fairly centrally along the southern wall but the adjoining stokehole was not excavated. A water channel (or less likely, a drain) with stone sides and stone capping ran approximately north-south from a point just beyond the west wall of the caldarium. It was traced for a total length of some 10m in the general direction of the spring, nearly 100m to the south.

East of the caldarium was the later frigidarium - a large cold plunge bath measuring 3.5m x 2.2m, immediately south of its predecessor now under the adjoining room. The opus signinum floor survived almost intact, with the impression of the original floor tiles very evident. The tiles themselves had been completely removed during subsequent robbing however. The walls had been lined with opus signinum and this lining joined the floor with a shaped moulding. A lead drainpipe ran the total width of the exterior (southern) wall - a distance of nearly 1m. Very wide (1.5m) foundations between the bath and the adjoining room to the north may have supported steps leading down into the bath, as well as the southern wall of that room. A large buttress was situated at the junction of the south and east walls of the baths and the west and south walls of the southern wing room.

The other bath suite was situated at the back (western side) of the main building behind the very large room with the central hearth. Examination of the relationship between its side walls and the back villa wall show that they abutted; evidence that the bath was additional.

The suite was very much smaller than that to the south, suggesting use by one person at a time rather than the communal function, which the larger suite must have fulfilled. The frigidarium consisted of a cold plunge of semi-circular design running at right angles to the main villa walls and nearly 1m in diameter. The walls were lined with opus signinum with moulding sealing the join between the walls and the tiled floor.

The tepidarium was somewhat larger and ran parallel to the main villa wall, adjacent to the frigidarium and to its north. An opus signinum floor 2m x 1m separated the plunge bath from the main villa building. The plunge itself was semi-circular, 2m in diameter and of similar construction to the frigidarium. It was not itself heated, but probably open to the heated caldarium which was situated next to it to the north.

The floor of the heated bath (which had been of similar size and construction to the tepidarium) had collapsed into the hypocaust system and been almost completely robbed. A few pilae survived at the bottom of the hypocaust, and several fragments of flue tiles remained in the walls. A gap in the north wall suggested a flue, but the presumed stokehole beyond this was not excavated. After completion of this season's excavations, the site was backfilled to protect it from the elements and consideration was given to the site's future. It was felt that the nature of the site (the compact size of the main building, its good preservation and high quality of pavements) and its position in terms of both the Roman environment (with extant outbuilding foundations, walled enclosure, etc.) and current development plans (which place it in a linear park with remains of a medieval abbey at one end and a windmill, canal and disused railway at the other) make preservation beneath a cover building with future presentation a very attractive proposition which is probably more viable in an area of new town development than anywhere else.

A proposal is therefore being prepared for consideration by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation Executive and Board (many of whom have

visited the site) that the main building should, after any more excavation considered necessary, be consolidated, the mosaics taken up and relaid to modern building standards, and the whole covered by a building which will either resemble a Roman villa or be constructed of sympathetic materials and to the right scale so that the villa can be presented to the public in an interpretative way which will enable the layman to understand what life was like in a Roman villa. The garden area (when fully understood) would be suitably landscaped and the outbuildings laid out in plan within grassed areas. The whole would be a monument to the considerable contribution which the Development Corporation has made to archaeology in Milton Keynes.

THE SIMPSON MOUNDS - Roy Adkins

The site was first discovered in February 1978, by Bob Croft, who noticed a group of three low mounds on an aerial photograph of the proposed site for Caldecotte Balancing Lake. The mounds lie on the west bank of the River Ouzel, south of the earthworks of the manor at Simpson. Since the relationship of the mounds to the ridge-and-furrow could not be determined by fieldwork, a trial excavation was carried out on one of them in an attempt to establish their date of construction. The mound examined is located at National Grid Reference SP 8857 3565.

An L-shaped trench, each arm of which was 7m long and 1m wide, was cut through the mound, with one arm running from the centre across an adjacent furrow, and the other running from the centre into the ridge above which the mound stands.

The drift geology of the area is gravel, but the trench showed the site to be on heavy blue clay, and so a further trench was cut, away from the mound, to investigate both the nature of the ridge-and-furrow and of the drift geology in another part of the field. This trench revealed a gravel subsoil, and it was concluded that the mound was sited above a localised patch of clay within the gravel.

Unexpectedly, no clear relationship of the mound to the ridge of the furrow could be established. Beneath the topsoil was a light brown sandy soil of which the mound was composed. Below this was a thin layer of yellow-brown clay which lay immediately on top of the heavy blue clay. Several sherds of pottery and a fragment of a quern were recovered from this layer.

In the eastern arm of the trench, a shallow, very irregular hollow in the yellow-brown clay contained a mixture of soil, charcoal and minute fragments of burnt clay. It was not possible to determine whether this hollow had been deliberately cut into the surface of the yellow-brown clay.

The difference in colour between the natural blue clay and the yellow-brown clay, and the fact that the latter produced finds, suggests that the yellow-brown clay might be part of the construction material of the mound, but it is possible that ploughing, before the mound was built, could account for the difference of colour and the presence of finds.

No indication of a buried turf-line was observed, and this might be taken to indicate that either the mound was built soon after ploughing had ceased, before good turf cover was established, or that the turf was stripped prior to construction, or that the turf line was so degraded as to be invisible to the naked eye.

The interpretation and dating of the mound is still an open question,

but some observations seem worth making. If the mound post-dates the ridge-and-furrow, then either the mound was constructed very soon after ploughing ceased, or the area was stripped of turf before the mound was built. Neither of these possibilities seem likely. If, however, the mound pre-dates the ridge-and-furrow, any turf-line, if present, might not be expected to be visible. Soil samples have been taken to test the presence or absence of a turf line. Also, if the mound pre-dates the ridge-and-furrow, being built of soil, ploughing in the medieval period would tend to mix the plough soil and mound material, and might account for the fact that no clear stratigraphical relationship between the mound and the ridge-and-furrow could be established.

Finally, the finds from the mound material and the layer of yellow-brown clay were of 1st century A.D. date, while no finds of a later period were recovered.

At present, it seems most likely that the mound predates the ridge-and-furrow.

SECKLOW HUNDRED MOUND - Martin Petchey

The restoration of the mound was delayed, providing an opportunity to undertake further small-scale excavation on the site. The two principal objectives were to either locate a central burial or eliminate the possibility of there having been one, and to collect good sample columns for study by specialists in environmental archaeology.

There was certainly no central burial. The lack of it is significant, for mounds at hundred meeting-places are traditionally assumed to be re-used burial mounds. Of the specialist reports, the most useful was from Susan Limbray, of the University of Birmingham, whose study of the soils confirmed our preliminary conclusion that the mound was turf built (see CBA Group 9 Newsletter 8, 1978 p.49-52).

GREAT LINFORD - Bob Zeepvat

Trial excavations were undertaken in the stable yard of the present manor house, prior to the levelling of the site in preparation for the car park. The six figure NGR for the site is SP 851 422.

Some trial trenches were initially dug by machine down the length of the site, and around the north and east sides of the southern stable-block. An area measuring 19 x 7m was subsequently opened to the west of the stables, revealing the north side of a substantial stone-walled structure, of which at least two rooms were identified, one containing a brick hearth and limestone cobbled floor. To the north of this structure was found a well-laid limestone cobbled-yard surface, which showed signs of extensive use. Large amounts of limestone rubble encountered in the trenches to the north and east of the stables suggested that the structure extended well beyond the overlying building. Finds from the site mainly dated from the 17th century and this and the position of the structure suggests that it may be identified with the former manor house, shown on estate maps of 1641 and 1678, and demolished on completion of the present house, probably at the beginning of the 18th century.

The car park has not yet been constructed and further excavation of the site is planned for the 1979 season.

POST EXCAVATION

All of our excavation plans, survey plans and other archive drawings have now been microfilmed. Three copies have been made, one for Corporation archives, one to be held at Bradwell Abbey and the third we are depositing with the National Monuments Record.

During the year several reports have reached completion these include:

"A Roman Site at Walton, Milton Keynes" D.C. Mynard & C. Woodfield.

"MEDIEVAL FISHING BASKET WEIGHTS FROM THE OUSE & NENE" D.C. Mynard

"SALVAGE EXCAVATION at DANSTEAD WAY, MILTON KEYNES" R. Adkins

"RESCUE EXCAVATION of a MEDIEVAL MANOR HOUSE at WHADDON, BUCKS"
R. Griffiths and members of Milton Keynes Unit.

NEOLITHIC AXES from the MILTON KEYNES AREA of the UPPER OUSE VALLEY"
R. Adkins and D.C. Mynard

Reports on the point of completion include:

"The Secklow Hundred Mound" R. Adkins

"The Roman Settlement at Broughton, Bucks" M. Petchey

"A Roman Patera from Olney, Bucks" M. Petchey

Most of these reports will be published in Records of Bucks.

CONSERVATION - Sue Marshall

This year about 350 finds or groups of finds have received treatment in the Bradwell Abbey Conservation Laboratory. It is difficult to estimate the total number of objects treated when, for example, the innumerable fragments of wall plaster, or all the coins in a hoard count as one group.

The Bradwell Roman Villa has taken up a great deal of time in 1978. Tesserae on the edge of the splendid mosaics found there (see above) were noticed to be coming loose, and so, to prevent further deterioration, they were treated with latex. This was entirely successful in binding the loose tesserae to each other and to those more firmly established. An early find this season was a hoard of 76 4th century bronze coins, which were cleaned mechanically. Rather less satisfying to do, though equally important, has been the conservation of large numbers of fragments of wall plaster, each of which has to be cleaned and treated with PVA.

The new excavations at Caldecotte have produced their share of conservation work. The most challenging was a brooch decorated with mille-fiori work, some of which had worked loose and needed careful replacement.

Finds from excavations at Linford, Woughton and many other sites in the new city made up the rest of the year's programme.

MEDIEVAL POTTERY KILN EXPERIMENT - Bob Croft

One of the activities organised for Bradwell Abbey open Week, was the construction and firing of a replica medieval-style kiln. The kiln was partly based upon excavated evidence from kiln sites such as Olney Hyde, Potterspury and Lyveden.

Construction:

The kiln pit was dug by hand into the underlying boulder clay after the topsoil had been removed by machine. Clay removed from the kiln pit was puddled on site and used as the mortar for building the walls. The walls themselves were built of limestone collected locally. It may be estimated that a kiln built by an experienced potter would only take a couple of days to complete if all resources were at hand.

The flue arch consisted of two large blocks of stone: one of limestone, the other York stone. It is interesting to note that the limestone block at the front of the flue remained in one piece whilst the York stone block was found to be extensively cracked when the kiln was emptied. Although the stone cracked it did not collapse during the firing.

An internal raised floor of pre-fired tiles was used to support the pots in addition to a large limestone and clay pedestal. The tiles were supported on field drains, which are similar in form to kiln props excavated from Lyveden, Northants.

Once the kiln was loaded the dome was to be self supporting or open-topped. This consisted of a layer of tiles over the pots, which in turn was sealed by a layer of turves and then the whole "dome" covered by loose soil.

Firing:

Before loading the kiln was pre-fired to dry out the clay and stabilise the walls and flue arch. After loading, a small fire was lit in the flue and the firing sequence may be summarised by the following table:

Wednesday:	20.45 hrs.	Firing commenced.
Thursday:	04.00 hrs.	Firing increased.
	09.00 hrs.	Flames occasionally out of flue top.
	13.00 hrs.	Kiln at maximum temperature.
	19.00 hrs.	Stoking stopped.
Friday:		Kiln cooling.
Saturday:	11.00 hrs.	Kiln opened.

Results:

From the total kiln load, about 60% of the pots could be termed 'successful' although another 10 - 20% of the fired pots would still have been 'useful' within a medieval household. The pots and the wasters were on sale to the visitors of Bradwell Abbey Open Week and some are still on sale at the Field Centre. A short video tape showing the building and firing of the kiln has been made for the Milton Keynes local T.V. Channel.

Pots:

The pots were made by Jenny Poole of Woburn Sands and were copies of medieval Potterspury type jugs, bowls, storage pots and pipkins.

After firing it may be estimated that the kiln had reached a temperature of more than 900°C and possibly nearer 1,000°C at its hottest point.

The lead bisilicate on some of the pots at the back of the kiln had not fully fused, but the pots at the front were well fired and the glaze on one bowl in particular was a splendid emerald green.

A similar experiment is planned for the summer of 1979. The existing kiln will probably be modified into a double flue structure.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM SERVICES

FIELD SECTION - John M. Steane and James Bond

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

The addition of new material to the County Sites and Monuments Record continues, and at the time of writing the Record contains details of some 11,900 archaeological sites and buildings in the county.

The most important single accession to the Record this year has been the complete vertical air photograph coverage of the Vale of the White Horse District at a scale of 1:10,000, taken by Fairey Surveys Ltd. over a period from March to May 1969. Since October 3rd 1978 these have been scanned by Brendan Grimley, using a simple stereoscope. Ground conditions at the time the photographs were taken vary from ploughed soil to young crops. Consequently only sites existing as soil marks have been visible, particularly on the photographs taken early in the sequence, crop growth affecting visibility on later photographs. A number of crop-mark sites recorded elsewhere fail to show at all on this coverage. On the other hand earthwork sites are clearly shown, partly by lightly drifted snow and partly by low spring sunlight. A particular advantage of this series is the outstanding clarity of the field systems on the Berkshire Downs, which allows accurate plotting of the boundaries and additions to the already extensive cover on the record maps. Previously unrecorded sites include a number of ring-ditches, enclosures and trackways and one pit alignment, also four medieval occupation sites and three moated sites.

Elizabeth Leggatt and Ival Hornbrook have now almost completed work on the processing of the P.S. Spokes Collection of photographs, drawings, notes and correspondence on Oxfordshire buildings. All material capable of being handled under the Primary Record Number system has now been fully absorbed into the Sites and Monuments Record and comprehensively cross-indexed. A small residue of items of general and historical interest, including heraldic references and genealogical tables, remains to be indexed. Spokes' material from other counties, mostly photographs and guidebooks, will be catalogued and remain available for reference.

Elizabeth Leggatt has resumed work on the updating of the documentary and archaeological references for the City of Oxford in the Sites and Monuments Record. A distribution map of medieval sites and finds for the city is in progress of compilation, following the completion of maps for pre-historic, Roman and Saxon Oxford.

James Bond has continued to work through the papers of the late Frank Woodward on Oxfordshire parks. Details of all 43 known medieval parks in the county have now been collated and processed into the Record, and work is continuing on the post-medieval parks. It is intended to publish this material in due course when editing is complete.

Enquiries addressed to the Record continue at a high rate. Over 600 visitors have consulted the Record in the Field Section during the year, the highest total yet recorded; but the number of queries handled by post and telephone, about 900, shows a drop of 200 on last year's total.

PLANNING ASPECTS

The Field Section continues to be involved in various areas of

planning liaison with County and District Planning Departments in collaboration with the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. This has included the scanning of the weekly schedules of planning applications circulated by the Districts, comments on the implications of 8 mineral applications, and assessments of the archaeological content of two projected road corridors. Comments have also been submitted on five Local Plans and on the Oxford Inner Green Belt Area. The Museum has provided advice on proposed Conservation Areas at Northcourt (Abingdon), Charney Bassett, Cropredy, Cuxham, East Hanney, Great Tew, Towersey, Grove Street (Wantage), Warborough/Shillingford and Whitchurch.

PREHISTORIC FINDS

N.W. OF RAMS HILL, UFFINGTON (PRN 11,671) - John Steane

Field walking at SU 31238665, 300 metres to the South of the Ridgeway resulted in a small assemblage of flint implements and waste material being picked upon the surface of an unploughed field. No other unworked flint was present. The finds included a large core with several striking platforms, four bulbar snappings from blades, two retouched, a small hoe point, a thick wedge and two flake blades. They date from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. The site (not noticed in Bradley R. and Ellison A. Rams Hill, British Archaeological Reports, 19, 1975) is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of Rams Hill Camp.

RED BARN, ASHBURY (PRN 11,642) - John Steane

Field walking at SU 27608337, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the Ridgeway and north of Hailey Wood revealed a group of worked flints lying in plough soil. They were mostly made from frost spalls and included two scrapers (one discoidal) a knife edge and a small push plane.

ASHDOWN PARK, ASHBURY (PRN 11,643) - John Steane

Field walking at SU 28248085 within the circuit of the Abbey of Glastonbury's park pale at Ashdown produced a single large worked flint implement, probably a hoe with two long, sharp edges (protected by hafting) and a bruised working edge.

ROMANO-BRITISH

ROMAN FORD, ASTHALL (PRN 11,649) - John Steane

Akeman Street runs diagonally across the field north of Kitesbridge Farm, Asthall, and crosses the River Windrush by means of a stony paved ford. There is a hollow in the south bank, broken water by the site of the ford, and the road then proceeds up the hill by means of an agger or raised bank.

GILL MILL FARM, DUCKLINGTON (PRN 11,636) - John Steane

Mrs. Hudson of Fish House, Cokethorpe, noticed a large patch (approximately 100 metres east-west and 160 metres north-south) of dark brown earth, limestone, calcareous gravel, burned stone and a scatter of Romano-British pottery. This included 13 mortaria rims, 20 fragments of samian, several pieces of red tile, 50 oxidised sherds and 120 grey ware fragments. Despite

the fact that there had been a crop failure in 1978 and the land had not yet been ploughed, 15 members of Young Rescue carried out a surface investigation gridding the area with 20 metre squares. The finds await processing, but it is clear that there was a considerable Romano-British settlement in this part of the middle Windrush Valley. The thick alluvium cover will account for the lack of cropmarks which might have revealed this site from the air.

EARTHWORKS

BOZEDOWN CAMP, WHITCHURCH (PRN 1940) - John Steane

This camp was visited in the course of compiling information in connection with a Conservation Area designation at Whitchurch. It was also threatened with damage from motor cycle scrambling. Roughly quadrilateral in shape and 58 acres in extent, it occupies a spur of the Chilterns about 200 feet above the north bank of the River Thames as it flows through the Goring Gap (SU 643783). On the north-western side the rampart and external ditch are well preserved, planted with beech trees. The rest of the rampart is in a good deal worse state than it was when P. Wood wrote a description in Oxon-iensia XIX (1954) 8-14. In particular, the north-east part of the rampart is now ploughed out but there are cropmarks which show it on aerial photographs taken in 1956 and 1967. On the east side of the earthwork the rampart is clearly still visible as a bank two metres high above the slope of the hill-side. Wood describes the bank on the southern and south-eastern corner as being simple "scarping". Recent investigation suggests that the bank still survives at the south-eastern corner. The scheduling description claims that the entrance is "on the west". A road runs from the foot of this valley across the Thames flood plain to the river bank. There is, however, another entrance on the north-western corner and here there is a gap in the rampart.

BEAUMONT CASTLE, MIXBURY (PRN 1149) - John Steane

Following a retrospective planning application for permission to erect a stable building in the inner ward of this prominent and well-preserved earthwork, a visit was made to Beaumont Castle (SP 610341). In their present form the earthworks consist of a square moated enclosure with an outer court of sub-rectangular shape on the southern side. The larger northern enclosure is surrounded by a dry moat or ditch about three metres deep with an inner rampart one metre high. According to the present owner (Mr. W.J. Blackman) there was originally a "mound" at the north-west corner, levelled 12 years ago. It was some five metres high (children used to toboggan down it) and when it was levelled a well shaft about 0.5 metre square with timbers was filled in. The defences of the southern enclosure are stronger, with the ditch of a depth of four metres and the bank reaching two metres high on the south side. The two enclosures are connected by a causeway and the southern was entered by another causeway towards the north end of its western side. Mr. Blackman has picked up limestone and pottery on the east side of the castle where foxes and badgers have thrown it up in their excavations. Finds (identified by Maureen Mellor of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit) included a flattened musket ball, one late Pre-Roman Iron Age sherd, seven late, Pre-Roman Iron Age-early Roman sherds, one mid-Saxon sherd; ten medieval sherds including Potterspury, late Oxford, Olney Hyde and Northampton wares.

MOATED SITES - Brendan Grimley

Three possible moated sites, previously unrecorded, have been identified on the Vale of the White Horse aerial photograph cover by Brendan Grimley at Buckland (PRN 12,061: SU/33689844), Charney Bassett (PRN 12,076; SU/37919 406) and Stanford-in-the-Vale (PRN 12,071: SU/36909434).

DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGES - James Bond

Fieldwork on DMV's by James Bond this year has been concentrated on re-visiting 26 of the known sites in Oxfordshire which were regarded as the best examples in the county, including all the Grade A* or Grade A earthworks. In a number of cases the sites had not been checked for some 5-6 years or more, and the Sites and Monuments Record contained no recent information on their condition. It was found that Little Rollright, Yelford, Bainton and Buscot had all been partly ploughed within recent years, and Yelford had also been affected by a limited area of new building, but none of the sites had been totally destroyed, and most remain in reasonably good condition. Work on the aerial photographs of the Vale of the White Horse by Brendan Grimley has identified previously unknown earthworks resembling DMV's at Wicklesham (PRN 12,013; SU/299943), Gainfield (PRN 12,070; SU/356952) and Ardington Wick (PRN 12,085; SU/433898), together with evidence of village contraction at Longcot (PRN 12,032; SU/27159060); these sites have yet to be checked on the ground.

BUILDINGS

(1) Domestic Buildings

LANGLEY HALL, CHALGROVE (PRN 11,141) - John Steane

Following an application by the owner to demolish this Grade II listed building a photographic and descriptive record was made. It is possible that the present building is the west wing of a much larger building which may have faced south. If so the present south gable wall with handsome ranges of mullioned windows at first floor and attic storey levels makes sense as being part of a building dating from c.1600. The north gable wall seems to be of the same date and has a massive external chimney stack tapering at first floor level and terminating in a lozenge-shaped brick chimney. The material of this phase is largely coursed limestone rubble with limestone ashlar quoins. In the mid-18th Century the house seems to have been turned round and a front door cut through with two ranges of rectangular windows with narrow glazing bars and wooden lintels inserted. The fine staircase of c.1600 consists of four flights, with substantial newel posts with ball finials at each turn. Further alterations were made in the late 18th Century when the east wall was rebuilt in brick and a service wing added.

17 WEST ST. HELENS STREET, ABINGDON (PRN 11,554) - John Steane

The house is mentioned by P.S. Spokes in "Notes on the Domestic Architecture of Abingdon, Berkshire" (Berkshire Archaeological Journal, 58, 1960 p.9) as being 17th Century in date. It fronts on to West St. Helens Street with two gables set forward from the single pitched roof parallel to the street. There is a stone base-wall up to first floor eaves level visible in the entry to the side of the house which is otherwise timber-framed.

There is a long right-angled wing. The roof is of two bays with principal rafters and collar beams, the purlins are clasped under the rafters. Recent alterations to turn the house into a greengrocers shop revealed two interesting pieces of interior decoration. Above the fireplace on the first floor, front room, is a rectangular panel, 0.82 m. x 0.79 m. in size, of incised decoration, a rectangular frame with a lozenge set centrally. Between the side of the lozenge are small squarish settings for moulded roses now largely rubbed flat. The frame contains curvilinear floral decoration. In the centre is a boss with a large rose. On the principal ceiling where it is slotted into the wall is a further plaster decoration in moulded bas relief consisting of a pair of ionic spirals from which springs a stem with lemon-shaped fruits and a bunch of grapes amidst some formal curvilinear leaves and tendrils. The owner plans to preserve these pieces of 17th Century plaster-work.

"THE ABBEY", SUTTON COURTENAY (PRN 2830) - John Steane

Following proposals to convert and alter this building which was a grange of Abingdon abbey, a visit was made and several new aspects were recorded. The large triangular plot which lies to the south west of the church is clearly a very ancient element in the village plan. Church Street swings away slightly to the west to avoid it before resuming a more southerly direction in the main street of the village. It is likely that the foundations of other ancillary buildings such as a detached kitchen, accommodation for the servants, barns, a granary and buildings for stock lie under the garden and paths contiguous to "The Abbey". The medieval building extended at least round two sides of the present quadrangular plan. The earliest element was the north wing which originally took the form of an open hall dated by the roof construction to c.1300 - 1305 AD. It was a freestanding building as is demonstrated by the 3 ft thick stone wall on the southern (present hall) side. In its original state it consisted of three bays only; the roof with octagon-shaped crown posts has a span of 5.2m, the bays being 4.57m long. The building was an open hall at this phase because there are clear indications of smoke-blackening on the central crown-post and its braces. The situation of the fire was off-centre to the south-east. The eastern gable of this open hall has survived embedded in the later extension. The panel of wattle-and-daub and plaster, together with the timber showing external weathering forms the original apex to the gable. There is a gap between the double tie-beams in the flooring at roof level which confirms that the hall stopped here in Phase One. Phase Two came shortly after, in the first years of the 14th Century, when a new hall with a slightly lower roof-pitch was added onto the south-west corner of the first hall, which now became the solar. The roof timbers are described by Fletcher J.M. and Spokes P.S. in "The Origin and Development of Crown-Post Roofs", Medieval Archaeology VIII, 1964, pp.174-5. Probably at the same time a floor was inserted in the earlier hall, which was now used as a solar. Early in the 16th Century timber-framed east and south ranges were added, thus forming an inner quadrangle. A three-bay addition was made to the north range, probably in c.1550-1600 AD. The 19th Century restoration includes the alteration of the hall windows and the addition of the battlemented west front. Originally the hall windows went above eaves level and were accommodated in steeply-pitched dormers (cf. Winchester Castle Hall).

NORTH AUDLEY FARM, KINGSTON BAGPUIZE (PRN 11,510) - John Steane

At the invitation of the farmer who was proposing restoration, a photographic and analytical survey was made of this house, situated in woodland a

quarter-mile east of Kingston Hill Farm (SP 41230020). It faces south and is sheltered by the scarp slope of the Corallian limestone ridge. The date is c. 1690-1710 AD. and the front range is rectangular, of three bays, orange-red brick with chequer-work in blue vitrified headers. There is a brick string-course at first floor level and a cornice of projecting bricks at eaves level. The central portal has a heavily-moulded cornice and corbels with central rosettes. The ground floor rooms are lit by three-light elliptical-headed windows with original frames and iron casements. The upper floors are lit by windows of a similar design with a two-light central one lighting the staircase. The dormers were probably added in this century. The roof is now tiled but from the heap of stone slates piled behind the house there is a suggestion that the house was originally slated. Particularly attractive features are the scalloped and semi-circular headed gables in brick. The two symmetrically-placed service wings are built of greensand and some limestone rubble. The window design is the same as the front range. Little survives of interest of the original internal decorations except a wooden staircase, a workmanlike piece of early 18th Century carpentry with turned balusters. In recent alterations a smoke chamber on the first floor, complete with iron hooks for suspending bacon flitches, and connected with the ground floor fireplace, was discovered.

ASTHALL FARM (PRN 11,504) - John Steane

A survey was made of Asthall Farm at SP 29251145 by the request of the owners, and six building phases were noted in this three-bay building. In Phase One c. 1550-1600, the central bay was built, one large ground floor room with chamber above, chimney stack at west end. The roof trusses, principal rafters with tie- and collar-beams and butt purlins, suggested a mid-16th Century date.

The original entrance may have been from the north and the worn step leading now into an additional 20th Century wing may have been the original threshold. In the mid 17th Century another bay was added to the west, a door being cut through to link them. Originally this ground floor room was lit both north and south by square-headed two-light windows. In Phase Three (mid 17th Century) a stair-turret with steep gabled roof was added to the north and a single storey outshot was added. At the end of the 17th Century the house was further enlarged by the addition of another bay at the east end. The fireplace above with mantelpiece is c. 1680 in date. To give uniformity to what was now an irregular front of three dates, the whole southern front was plastered and a fine decorative scheme was incised and moulded, False plaster quoins (cf. Cogges Manor Farm, PRN. 4601) were impressed and the wall top under the gutters was created with half roundels and triangles. A photographic record was made of the strapwork panels, some of which are peeling off. In the 20th Century a large, two-storey extension was added to the north-east and a porch added. The pitch of the roof was lowered and thatch removed at an unknown date.

STONOR ALMSHOUSES (PRN 11,740) - John Steane and James Bond

A terrace of four 1½-storey cottages, flint-walled, with brick quoins and jambs, the roof tiled with dormer windows and brick chimneys, the windows with cast-iron frames (SU 73668866). Estate records show that the almshouses were built c. 1620. During alterations in November 1978 three surviving internal raised-cruck trusses were revealed, with tie-beams and

collar-beams into which vertical studs were slotted to provide internal partition walls. The principal rafters rested on the cruck blades at collar level and were socketed into the tie-beam. Wind-braces survived in the central bay, slotted into the single purlins. The fireplaces and chimney-breasts were found to be of chalk block construction. There were no foundations, the lowest courses of flint and chalk block resting directly on the earth.

CHILDREY, THE OLD THATCH (PRN 11,742) - James Bond

Renovations to this 17th Century two-bay box-framed thatched building (SU 36178743) in November 1978 uncovered a painted inscription on the plaster within one of the panels on the north side of the original north wall, which is enclosed by a single-bay 18th Century extension. The inscription is of seven lines, neatly ruled, in black lower-case lettering. The lower part has been badly affected by damp and is now illegible.

The remainder reads: 'Worship God; reverence they Parents; /Know thy Self; in Childhood be Modest in Youth Temperate ---/--- and in Old Age Prudent, that /?? thou might die ---/---/' (the last line may be a date, but only a figure 8 can be read). The whole is surrounded by a crudely-painted border of vaguely floral design in blue and red. Above the inscription in the centre is a naively-drawn face with wings in blue and grey on either side. The quasi-religious character of the inscription suggests a possible connection with the occupancy of the Rev. John Bowles of Great Coxwell, who inherited the property from his father and eventually sold it in 1772. His name and initials are carved prominently on various doors, timberwork and stonework throughout the building. I would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Coates, the owners of the cottage, for allowing me to draw and photograph the inscription and for showing me the deeds of the property.

(2) Industrial and Agricultural Buildings

CLEVELEY DOVECOTE (PRN 4928) - James Bond (Figure 21)

A dovecote at Upper Farm, Cleveley (SP 38832412) in Enstone parish was recorded by measured drawings and photographs. Probably of 17th Century date, it was a tall rectangular building of coursed oolitic rubble. The remains of stucco rendering with stimulated ashlar quoins, similar to that on the 17th Century wing at Manor Farm, Cogges, was still clinging to the south and west walls. There were just over 200 nestholes at first-floor level, with perching-ledges every three and four tiers. After the building ceased to be used as a dovecote the lantern was removed, and the present plain ridged roof is a 19th Century replacement in Welsh slate. The first-floor level was lowered and the bottom three rows of nestholes boarded up when the building was subsequently adapted as a granary, while the insertion of a fireplace and bread oven at ground floor level indicates another subsequent use as a bakery.

TADMARTON MANOR DOVECOTE (PRN 11,527) - James Bond

A rectangular dovecote was examined in the grounds of Tadmarton Manor House (SP 39263793). Rectangular in shape, the walls were of oolitic rubble with marlstone dressings. The ridged roof was still covered by stone slates, but no lantern survived, its place being taken by a weathercock. There were

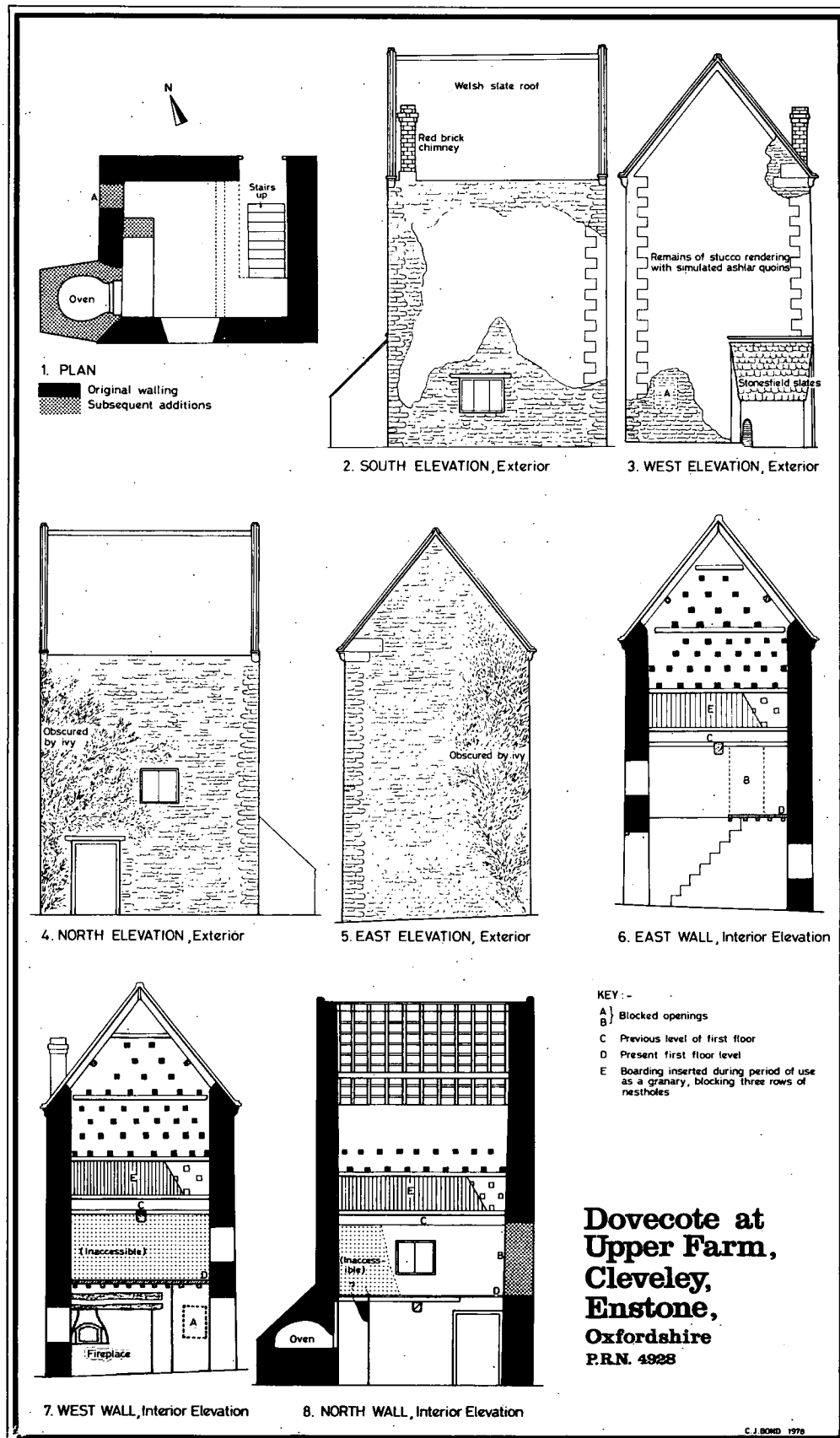


Figure 21

square lights high up on either gable, that on the west side blocked with a datestone inscribed '1752' above. The building seems to be of late 17th Century character, and this date probably indicates a period of repair or partial rebuilding. Internally the side walls had 16 tiers of nestholes curved into the wall in alternative directions for each row, with a perching-ledge to each tier, rising in the end walls to 22 tiers at the peak of each gable. The total number of nestholes was estimated at c. 530.

TADMARTON MANOR BARN (PRN 11,528) - James Bond (Figure 22)

A barn on the Abingdon Abbey estate at Tadmarton (SP 39273790), probably of late 15th Century date, was recorded by measured drawings and photographs. It is built mostly of middle liassic marlstone walling with angle buttresses and small slit lights and a thatched roof. The gabled west porch with its small round-arched doorway and the northern part of the west wall have been substantially rebuilt in modern times. The original buttressed cart opening remains on the east wall, with no evidence of a porch. On the east wall a quoined straight joint outside the fifth truss from the north may indicate a change of plan during construction rather than a subsequent extension, as it is not matched by a corresponding feature on the west wall but only by a buttress scar. Two similar scars on the north part of the east wall may represent either the traces of buttresses subsequently removed, or the keying for buttresses not subsequently found to be necessary and so never built. Internally the barn is of six bays, with trusses comprised of raised crucks with arch-braced tie-beams and collar-beams. Both upper and lower sets of purlins also have arched wind-braces.

BARN AT WEST FARM, EATON (PRN 11,489) - John Steane

An investigation was made to report to the farmer on the state of the thatched barn which lies on steeply-sloping ground, aligned north-south, to the north of West Farm, Eaton. There are three building dates. First, the main barn building of eight bays, unusually long for a "Berkshire barn" whose construction is timber-framed on a random-coursed limestone dwarf wall. It was entered through two pairs of opposed doors, each occupying one bay, namely the second and sixth bays from the south. The wall cladding is weather-boarding. There are cill beams ranged along the tops of dwarf walls. The main struts are of heavier scantling than the studs and have crudely-chamfered capitals. In each bay the principal rafters are attached to the tie-beams by corner braces. The main roof is supported by clasped purlins at collar-beam level and between the collar and tie beams. Secondly, the extension to the north is marked by a straight joint where it has been added to the main barn building (probably late 18th Century). Finally, a waggon porch was added to the upper entrance, re-used timbers on dwarf brick walls. At the same time (judging from the materials) a stud and braced partition on a brick footing was added at bay three from the south end.

MERTON BARN, EYNHAM (PRN 9937) - John Steane (Figure 23)

This listed (Grade II) building stands at the end of Acre End Street. It is threatened with demolition to make way for a housing estate. It is a three-bay barn with waggon porch and opposed entrances, built of coursed rubble. There are niches on either side of the waggon porch, 1.5 metres from the ground. The ventilation slits, now mostly blocked, have timber

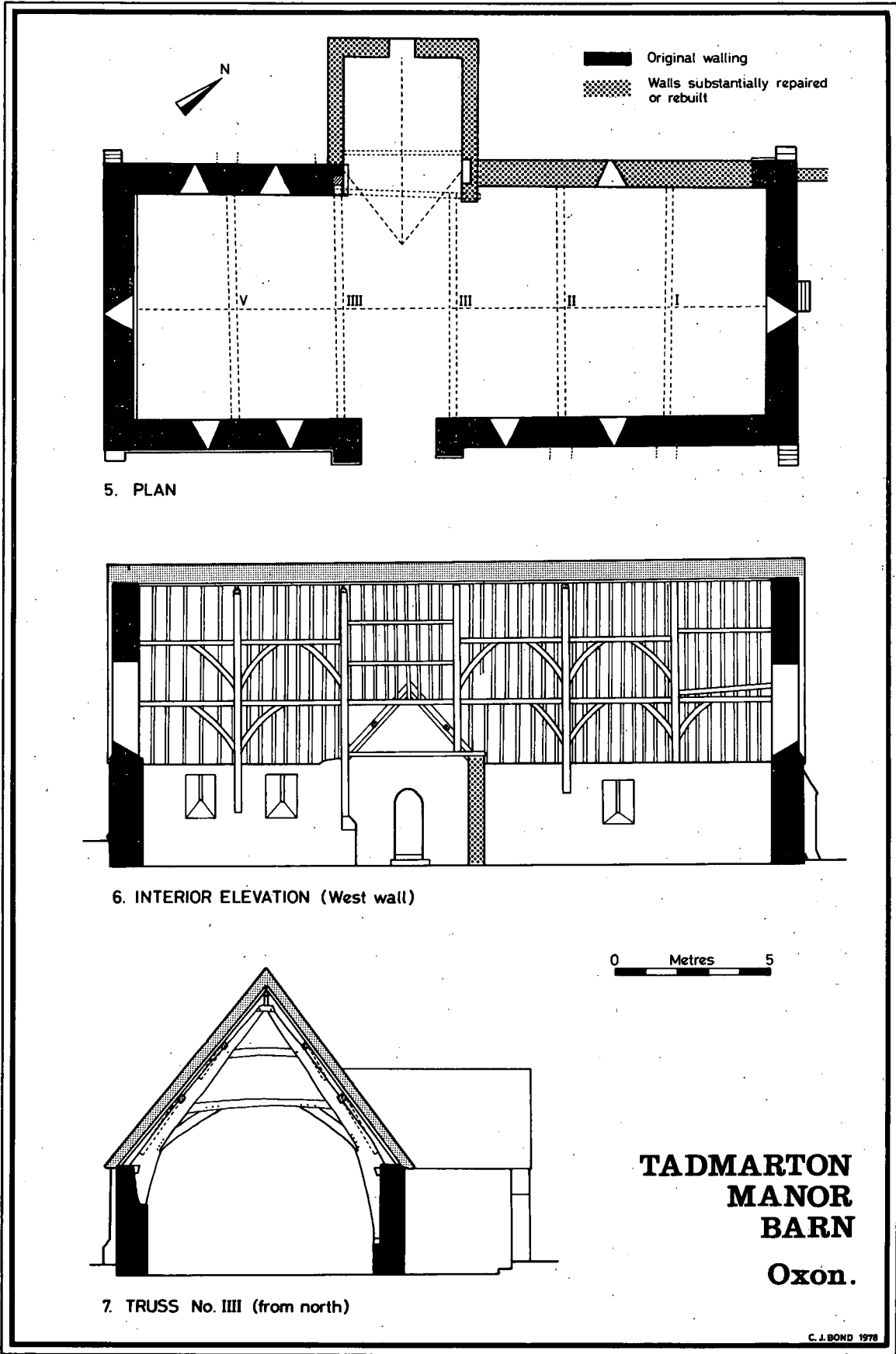
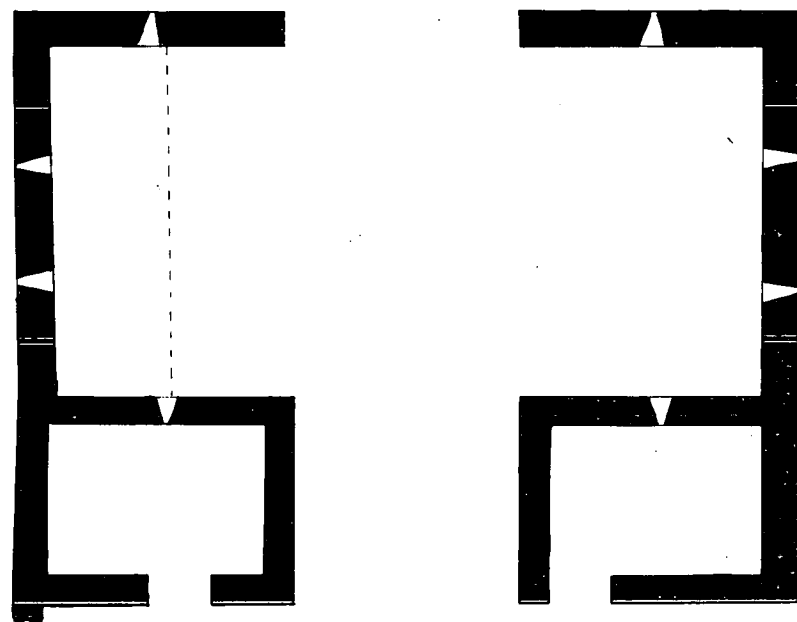


Figure 22



1 2 3 4 5 6 metres

MERTON BARN
EYNSHAM PRN 9937

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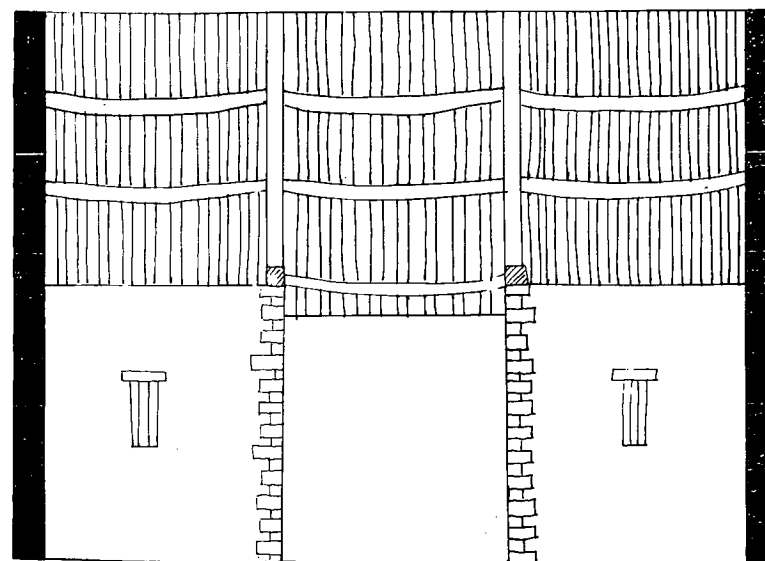
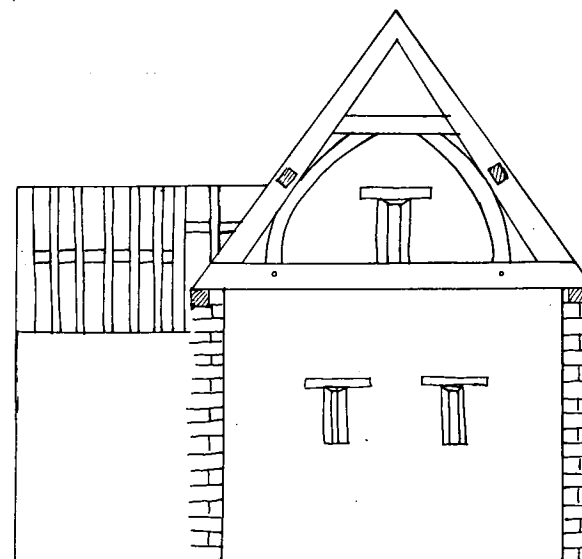


Figure 23

lintels. There is a brick outshot to the west and a stone outshot to the east. The roof construction is tapering principal rafters, joined by tie and collar beams. Curved struts joint the collars to the ties.

MAWLES WAREHOUSE, BANBURY (PRN 11,563) - John Steane

Following a planning application to demolish Mawle's warehouse SP 456 24047 a field investigation involving measure drawings and photographic record was made of this red brick and slate-roofed warehouse facing directly onto George Street. It consists of four stories, an underground basement room and three floors above. The basement is stone-flagged and the first floor is supported by a row of three cast iron columns running down the centre of the building. Access to each floor is by means of double doors on each level. The roof structure consists of tie-beams, queen-posts, collar-beams and struts tied together with iron cramps. The roof covering is half-hipped, deal boarded and blue-slatted. There is an iron crane, hinged out in gantry fashion, and worked by a hand-cranked winch from the top floor. A sack hoist with a pair of trap doors is situated by the double door openings of each door. The building used to be a wholesale warehouse and there were stored stacks of currants, raisins, flour and latterly lawnmowers. The date 1854 is painted on the side. Its future may be as a car park in the lower levels. It is one of the few surviving distinctive Victorian industrial buildings in Banbury.

(3) Ecclesiastical Buildings

CEMETERY CHAPELS, SOUTHAM ROAD, BANBURY (PRNS 4786-4787) - John Steane

These two chapels, which lie in the southern part of the municipal cemetery, (SP 45224101, 45244105) were recorded before demolition by Cherwell District Council. They were erected in 1860 and were designed by C.H. Edwards of London; they were built by Messrs. Orchard of Banbury. The more northerly was an Anglican mortuary chapel, the southerly one was designed as a Nonconformist mortuary chapel but has recently been used as a store. Both are of identical design and are three-cell buildings consisting of nave, chancel and porte-cochere. A feature of note is the sculptured corbels and capitals with naturalistic leaves carved on them. The window label heads are carved with oak, ivy, chestnut, grapes and roses. The exteriors of the buildings show considerable ingenuity and idiosyncrasy and features include sculptured heads on the bell turrets, spikey ridge tiles, alternate bands of blue and red tiles, strongly gabled porte-cochere and nave and chancel, receding buttresses, wide jutting eaves and cast-iron guttering. Full photographic records were taken and parts of the Anglican building will be taken to the Banbury Museum. The Banbury Burial Board ran the cemetery from 1858 - 1897. Its records are in the cemetery office. The Borough of Banbury ran the cemetery from 1897 - 1974 and the Cherwell District Council has run it from 1974.

VILLAGES

SHILLINGFORD, FORMER SITE OF VILLAGE STREET (PRN 11,433) - John Steane

During investigation of a proposed Conservation Area at Warborough-Shillingford it was noticed that the former course of the village street at

Shillingford at SU 59369237 originally curved at the southern end of its present course round to the south-east and was cut by the River Thames between 1797 and 1850. It is shown in John Rocque's Map of Berkshire (1761) with the Thames already abutting. By the time the Davies map was surveyed (1797) an alarming bend was developing a quarter-mile to the west. This ultimately came nearer and eroded the southern end of the street away. By 1850 when the tithe award map had been surveyed this part of the street had vanished under the waters (Oxfordshire Record Office QSD/A vol. 57).

MUSEUM RESEARCH PROJECTS

The project on working-class housing in Oxfordshire begun in 1976 was brought to a conclusion during the year, and the results of this will be published in due course.

A new project begun this year is the examination of the brick and post-medieval pottery industry of Oxfordshire. During the initial stages a bibliography of published references on bricks and a checklist of the 61 brickworks sites known in Oxfordshire up to July 1978 were prepared by James Bond. Subsequent work has added many new sites to this checklist.

STONOR HOUSE (PRN 2095) - John Steane and James Bond

The bricks of Stonor House, which cover a broad date-range from 1416-17 up to the present century, have been the subject of a detailed study by John Steane and James Bond. The shape, size, colour, texture and bond of bricks in various parts of the building have been recorded within a series of sample half-metre x metre squares. This has enabled some 14 different phases of brickwork to be identified within the building.

NETTLEBED BRICK KILN (PRN 414) - John Steane

A visit to Mr. Charles Leverett of Nettlebed has elicited some new information about the working of the brick, tile and pottery works in the first half of the 20th Century. Mr. Leverett recalled how the clay was dug from Nettlebed Common in winter and stacked to weather; it was brought down to the works by a mineral tramway which operated by gravity. It was mixed with water in the pug mill powered by an old fashioned traction engine. The water came from a big pond on the common called "the sea". The clay now went into a brick-making machine which ran 10 or 12 pieces of clay into the moulds, and wires levelled them off. The bricks, 9" x 4" in size were taken to the drying-ground and put on their sides to dry off. Over them was put a framework covered with straw. They were left to dry for a fortnight and then were loaded onto one of the three kilns for burning. Formerly there were three brick kilns in Nettlebed situated at the top end of the yard; they had a roof surrounding them, the kiln was in the centre and the chimney poked out of the top. A picture postcard of 1936 showed this. The kilns made 16,000 and 12,000 bricks at a single firing. The main market areas in 1912-21 were Reading and Maidenhead. The other principal products were pottery and tiles. Very large vessels, glazed internally, were used as bread pans, washing bowls or simply for holding water. The glazing was a lethal mixture of linseed oil and red lead. The brick kiln (PRN 414) which has been restored by the Oxfordshire County Council, was used for making bricks after 1927. It was adapted for burning lime, by adding a square brick lining. The chalk came from an old pit near "the Roman Road" on the way to Reading, and the fuel used was coke. In the restoration

only the kiln itself was preserved; it was originally surrounded by a wooden tile-roofed building which has now disappeared.

OXFORDSHIRE FIELD-NAMES SURVEY

The Oxfordshire Federation of Womens Institutes have continued to collect and map the field-names of Oxfordshire parishes from local enquiry and from documentary sources on behalf of the Museum. Several surveys have also been received from individual workers. The completed surveys are plotted onto transparent overlays to the basic Record Maps of the Sites and Monuments Record. During the year surveys have been deposited from Bodicote, Finstock, part of Leafield, part of Great Haseley, Pusey and Westwell. Complete surveys have now been deposited for 59 parishes and partial surveys for a further 22.

GREAT TEW VILLAGE SURVEY - J.M. Steane

Village: Great Tew

Civil Parish: Great Tew

District: West Oxfordshire

Former District: Chipping Norton Rural District

Hundred: Wootton

O.S. 1:10,000 SP 43SW, 32NE, 33SE, 42NW

O.S. 1:2,500 SP 3928, 3929, 4028, 4029

Air Photographs: Fairey Air Surveys Oxford 29 June 1961
14065, 14066, 14067, 14119, 14120, 14121, 14122

PHYSICAL SETTING

1. Geology

The village stands on a band of clays, silts, silt stones and marlstones, at the junction of two broad geological regions. Marlstones and clays dominate the parish to the north. The strata outcropping in the southern part of the parish are Chipping Norton and Great Oolite limestones. Both limestones and marlstones cross the parish in a WNW - ESE direction. There are narrow exposures of Clypeus Grit in the valley to the south west near Hookerswell Farm.

2. Soils

There is no soil survey map but the two geological components give rise to two main soils as Loudon and before him, Young notes. The "Stone Brash District" of the undulating and elevated south of the parish tops the Chipping Norton limestone. It gives rise to large areas of grade 2 land. It exhibits according to Loudon "an irregular surface, a stunted vegetation and good road". The north-western part of the parish is the so-called "red earth" and this lies above the marlstone and produces again grade 2 land. The Great Oolite limestone and Sharp's Hill beds gives grade 3 land. The clays in the north east of the parish and the valley near Hookerswell Farm give rise to the poorest land, grade 4.

3. Physical

The village stands on a ridge above 600 ft which slopes steeply towards the north to a small stream flowing east towards the River Cherwell. The

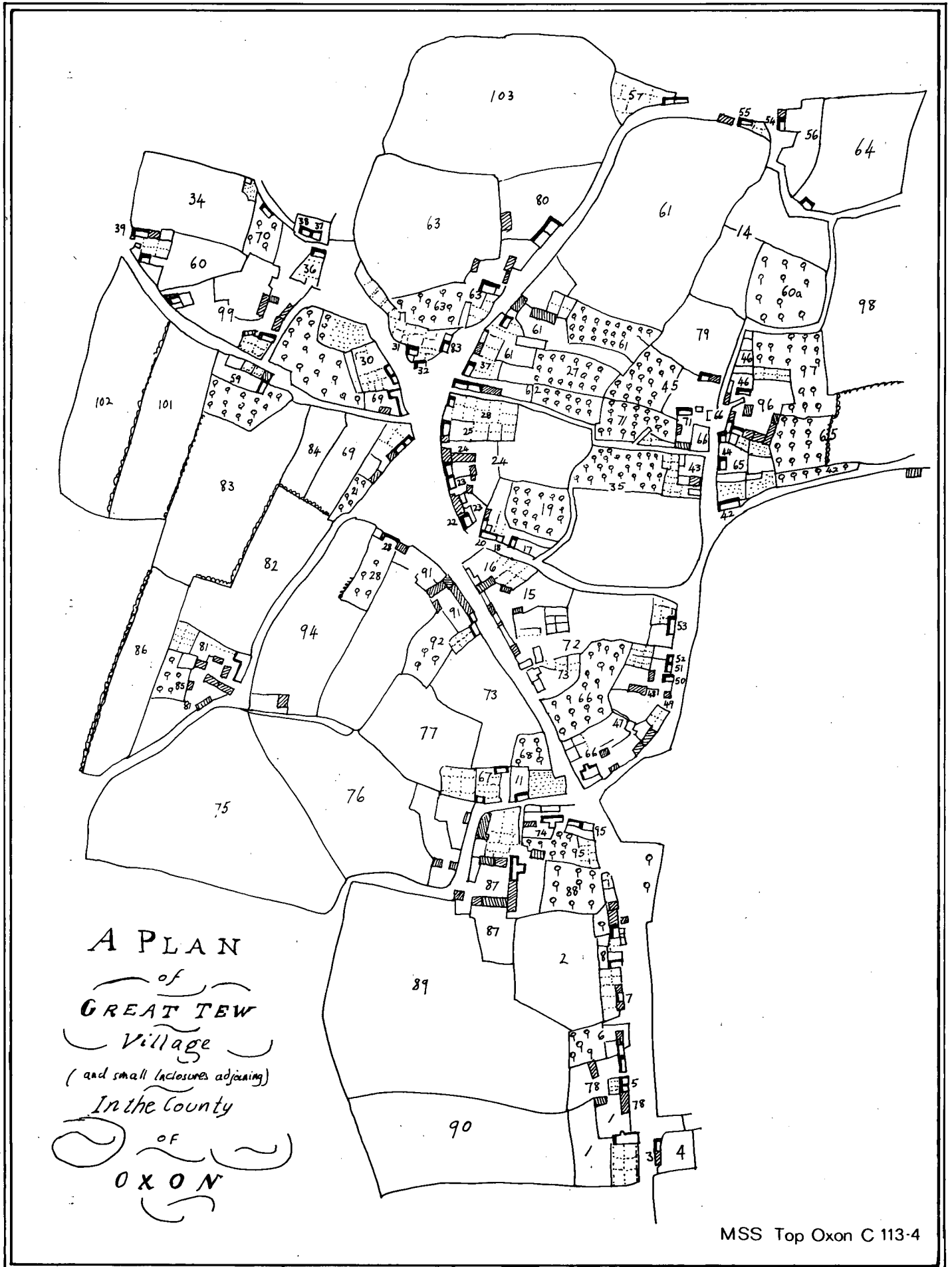


Figure 24

northern half of the parish is deeply dissected by small tributary streams and many of these valleys are thickly wooded. To the south of the parish the land is much more gently sloping and is open with woodland only on the eastern boundary. Much of the land is on a plateau about 500 ft. above sea level.

4. Drainage and Water Supply

There are two streams, both tributaries of the River Cherwell which traverse the parish in a west-east direction, one to the north of the village, the other flowing past Little Tew towards Sandford St. Martin. There are also numerous surface springs which caused problems to Loudon: "on the steep slopes of the hills, the detached springs were carried off by drains cut in a slanting direction across the declivity". There were formerly areas of ill-drained land as the 1767 Enclosure award mentions "Hollow Marsh", "New Pool", "Little Tew Marsh Gap", and "The Great Pool".

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

1. Prehistoric

Isolated finds indicate that prehistoric man was present in the area. They include flint flakes and cores picked up from ploughsoil to the north by Hookerswell Farm (PRN 8809). A Bronze Age barrow has been recorded south east of Hookerswell Farm (PRN 8807) Bronze Age pottery, including a collared urn was found in a pit under Romano-British levels at Beaconsfield Farm (PRN 2338).

2. Romano-British

Apart from an isolated find of a 4th Century Roman coin in a garden in the village (PRN 8810) and the reported discovery of Roman remains when London was excavating a pit for the water driven threshing-machine in 1809, the main centre of Roman settlement seems to have been at Beaconsfield Farm. Here an elaborate and large villa with courtyard and bath house and decorated with painted wall plaster, detached columns and geometrically patterned tessellated pavements was found in 1810 and has subsequently been partly excavated in 1827, 1950, 1951 and 1965 (PRN 2336).

3. Anglo-Saxon

A Saxon inhumation (PRN 2337) was found during rescue excavations at Beaconsfield Farm.

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

The place-name is perhaps derived from an Old English word (? tiewe) which may have meant 'row', whence 'lengthy object'. Tew may have been the name of the long ridge at which the places (Little Tew and Duns Tew as well) are.

The first documentary record is in an Anglo-Saxon will of 1004. It was bequeathed by Aelfric, Archbishop of Canterbury to the abbey of St. Albans but by 1086 had passed to Bishop Odo of Bayeux when Domesday Book records that there were 16 hides there and land for 26 ploughs. The Domesday information about the three Tews - Great, Little and Duns is entered under one name only and their district appellation dates from the 12th and 13th Centuries. Tew had apparently by 1086 doubled in value to 40 pounds since

King Edward's time. In the Hundred Rolls of 1279 Great Tew appears under its distinctive name and three owners have shares in it. John de Perwes held two thirds from the Earl of Arundel. Another estate belonged to the four daughters of Roger of Somery; a third portion was carved out for Baldwin de Ver.

Anthony à Wood, the 17th Century antiquary, traced the descent of the manor to his own time (Bodleian MS Wood E1). The manor came into the possession of the Tanfields and Lucius Carey, Viscount Falkland, inherited in 1625. Falkland's intellectual salon at Great Tew attracted some of the most brilliant men of the age and the "sessions of the poets" are described by Clarendon in his History of the Rebellion. On the death of the sixth Lord Falkland c.1698 the Keck family established themselves and were the landowners at the time of the first (private) inclosure act of 1767. Col. George Frederic Stratton bought the estate before 1790 from the Keck family. He pulled down the Jacobean house and employed John Claudius Loudon to manage the estate at Great Tew between 1809-12. His changes in the estate are amply documented in his numerous published works especially in 1812 his "Observations on laying out Farms in the Scotch style, adapted to England". Stratton also employed Repton to make designs for landscaping the park and for a new house but these were never carried out. Matthew Robinson Boulton bought Great Tew from Col. Stratton and the Boultons extensively remodelled the house, and enlarged the park, removing no less than five streets with houses in the process. An 18th Century map in the Bodleian shows the village before this radical transformation.

The population figures of Great Tew are somewhat uncertain until the 19th Century. Domesday records 53 heads of households. The hearth tax returns for 1665 record 39 ranging from Henry Lord Viscount Falkland with 40 hearths down to Edward Snelson with one. Judging from Visitation Records there were 95 houses in Great Tew in 1738, about 80 in 1768 and 114 houses (including Little Tew) in 1778. From the census figures of the 19th Century it is possible to know accurate numbers. 1801:402, 1811:457, 1821:531. 1831:440, 1841:459, 1851:541, 1861:454, 1871:504, 1881:479, 1891:433, 1901:334.

VILLAGE ECONOMY AND FIELD SYSTEM

Today, a high proportion of the population of Great Tew is still employed on the estate which consists of 14 farms and nearly 5,000 acres. It is however a declining economy. Half of the estate's farms are no longer tenanted, their buildings and tied cottages are left to ruin. Life at Great Tew, however, has always revolved round agriculture.

The agricultural topography can be reconstructed with some certainty from the middle of the 18th Century onwards. Before this we have field names and tantalising glimpses only from such sources as the abbey of Oseney's cartulary.

Domesday Book records that there was land for 26 ploughs. In demesne there were six ploughs and in smaller holdings a further 16 ploughs. This suggests a degree of under-cultivation. Vinogradoff considers that there was considerable continuity of tenurial holdings at Great Tew between 1086 and 1289 because nearly all the six demesne carucates can be recognised in the Hundred Roll tenancies. Medieval methods of farming were very long lived. Three court rolls which survived from 1756, 1759 and 1761 show the detailed regulations in Great Tew whereby open-field farming had been carried on from time immemorial. The jurors directed what crops and grasses were

to be raised; the commons of pasture were marked off for every kind of animal from year to year, partly on pasture grounds, partly on fallow. They laid down how many cows, sheep and horses could be sent on to the common fields by the owners of yardlands and by cottagers. This system ended with the inclosure act of 1767 whereby the owners of yardlands and common rights were given consolidated holdings and ditched-and-hedged enclosed fields began to spread across the open-field landscape.

The economy of the village was transformed in the period 1809-12 by the Scottish agricultural reformer, John Claudius Loudon who was employed by Col. Stratton to take in hand nearly 2,000 acres of Redland and to make it profitable. "His intention was to create there a model estate, demonstrating in miniature the new principles for integrating the farmland, farmhouses, outbuildings and park" (Emery). These principles were enunciated in his richly illustrated "Observations on laying out Farms in the Scotch Style adapted to England" (1812). This work has two valuable maps which show the estate before and after his work. The effect of it is still apparent in the landscape in and around the village. The most obvious are the splendid exotic trees and rhododendron plantations with which he ornamented the fifty acres of parkland around his model farm. He also uprooted the old hedges and made new fields from 15 to 25 acres apiece and connected them to his new roads which were carefully designed to follow the contours. Their ditches served as drains and woodland was cleared, being replaced by neat hedges. Not much more than the site of Tew Lodge remains; a few traces of brickwork and driveways but channels and sluices remain of his drainage systems to the water meadows and ponds. Farm buildings of fine ashlar masonry and original design, all of one piece, are dotted over the Great Tew estate.

PLAN ELEMENTS (Figure 24 & 26)

Great Tew is a polyfocal settlement with four possible nuclei situated around a series of greens most of which have now been filled by development, and linked by winding lanes. It is remarkable in that a considerable proportion of the old village has been swallowed up by an extension of the park and by the rebuilding of the Great house in the 19th Century. The four nuclei are as follows:

1. A triangular green with six converging roads is seen on the 18th Century plan of Great Tew village (MS. Top Oxon C113-4 p.313). The original shape of the green is that of an hourglass; it has been considerably encroached on by the building of the school in 1851 (MS Oxf. Dio Pp. b70). Only four of the roads mentioned remain.
2. A quarter of a mile to the east, and separated by a steep valley and a dividing stream down to which stretch cottage gardens, is a second focus of settlement known as the Square. This now consists of eight cottages but in the 18th Century there were ten. It was surrounded by orchards and irregularly shaped enclosures.
3. To the south of this and bordering on a wedge-shaped piece of land, perhaps a former green, was a further group of buildings including eight more houses. This was destroyed when the mansion known as Tew Park was built and the Park extended in the Victorian period.
4. To the south of this again along the western side of the street only is a linear spread of settlement. Judging from the extremely narrow plots seen

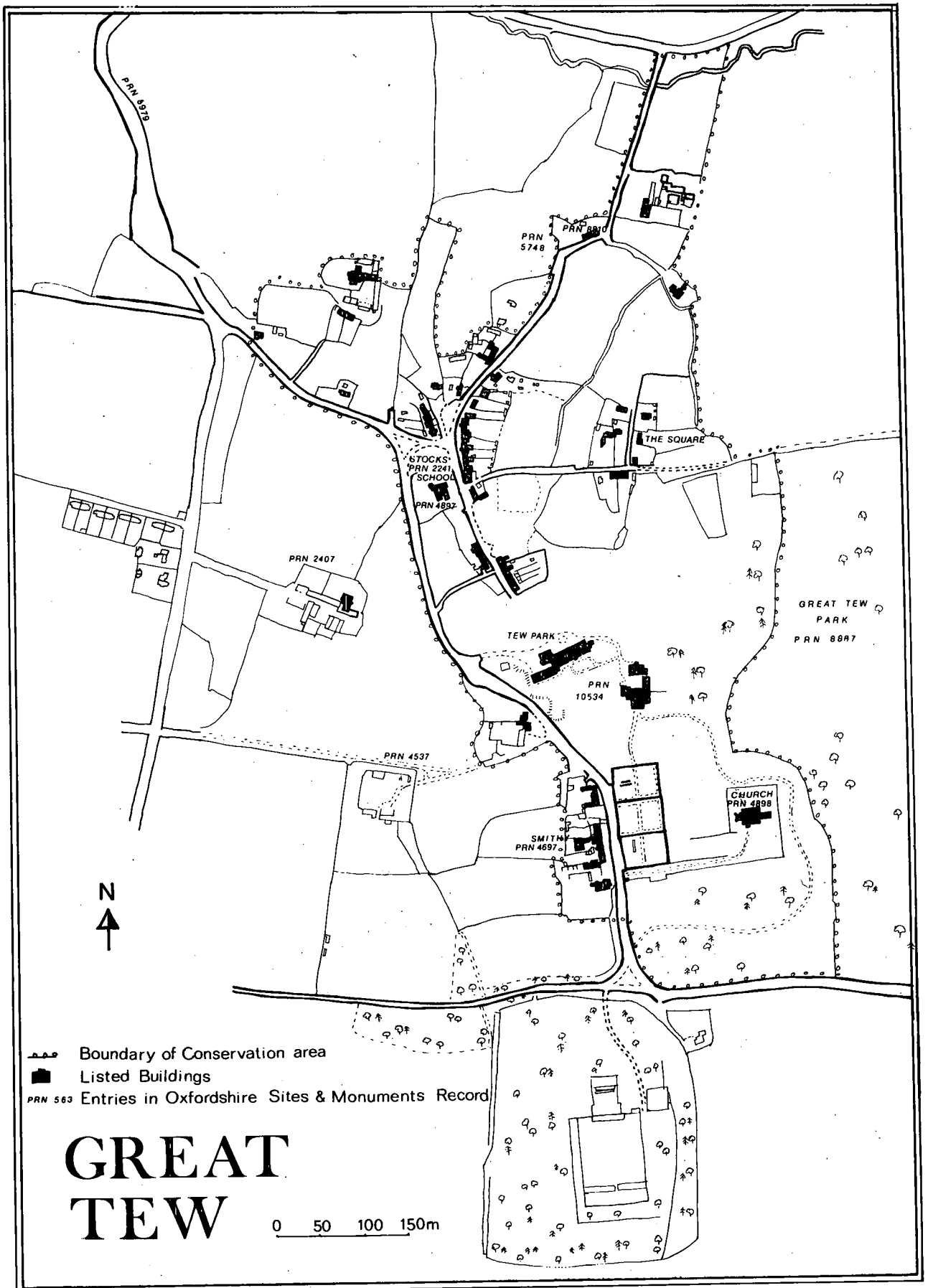


Figure 25

in the 18th Century map this may have been a line of squatters settlements or at least a late development. Opposite are the walled gardens, remnants of 17th Century manorial layout.

5. The manor house, the site of the Jacobean house, stable and the 19th Century successor to this complex Tew Park, together with the church and the Great Park itself are to the east of the village and isolated from it.

6. There are several isolated farms quite near the village centre: 6a Court Farm, 6b Round Leys Farm and 6c Park Farm.

BUILDINGS (Figure 25)

The church (PRN 4898) of St. Michael and All Angels, situated in a curiously isolated position behind walled gardens to the south east of the village is mainly 15th Century in date. It has a fine Norman doorway and some good early 14th Century windows. Chantrey's monument to Mary Anne, the wife of Matthew Robinson Boulton is the most remarkable feature. The three great walled gardens probably date from Falkland's time and have three enclosures, surrounded by red-brick walls and connected by doorways with carved pediments. The gateway leading to the churchyard is classical, 17th Century, rusticated and vermiculated; it may have been designed by Nicholas Stone. The Jacobean house, according to Repton stood to the north east of the walled garden. It was removed by Col. Stratton but a stately stable-quadrangle remains a little to the North. Built of golden ashlar, the intricate wrought iron gates and piers with sumptuous urns are probably the work of Francis Keck and date from Queen Anne's reign. Tew Park (PRN 10534) stands on the sites of streets and houses removed to make way for it. At its core is a small Georgian dower house but extensive additions including a Gothic library (c.1825), a Gothic porch and a Tudor addition with two flanking towers (c.1850) were made by the Boultons. Plans for alterations at the house enable the changes to be followed in full even to letters detailing the installation of a Turkish bath.

The village contains an exceptionally large number of listed buildings, 69 in all and has been claimed as one of the most picturesque in England. Nos. 19 and 20 (Falkland Arms) are 16th Century in date, stone built with stone slate roof and two dormers, two storeys, with moulded arched doorways and two three light stone-mullioned windows on the ground floor and two wood mullion and transom windows on the first floor. A number of the other cottages date originally from the 17th Century and this rebuilding probably took place in Viscount Falkland's time (c.1625-40). Certainly his predecessor Sir Laurence Tanfield who bought the manor in 1614 and enclosed the commons is attributed with denying his villager-tenants timber for repairs. "They now found themselves denied their customary timber yet liable to be fined for failing to keep their houses in repair". It has been suggested that Falkland supplied the tenants with stone and reconstructed practically the entire village. Only one of the houses is actually dated to this period (No. 12, 1636) but the style of many of them is consistent with this date. They are built of random-coursed rubble with thatched or stone-slate roofs, stone-mullioned windows, with dripmoulds and lead lights (e.g. Nos. 1-5, 7, 8-12). Nos. 13-18 are of two or three storeys and are a row of 17th Century stone built cottages with continuous thatched roof, stone-mullioned windows with drip-moulds on the ground floor. Nos. 21-28 make a row of picturesque 17th Century cottages with thatched or stone-slate roofs. Occasionally there is an 18th Century house such as Tulip Tree Cottage, of coursed stone, with stone-slate roof and two dormers

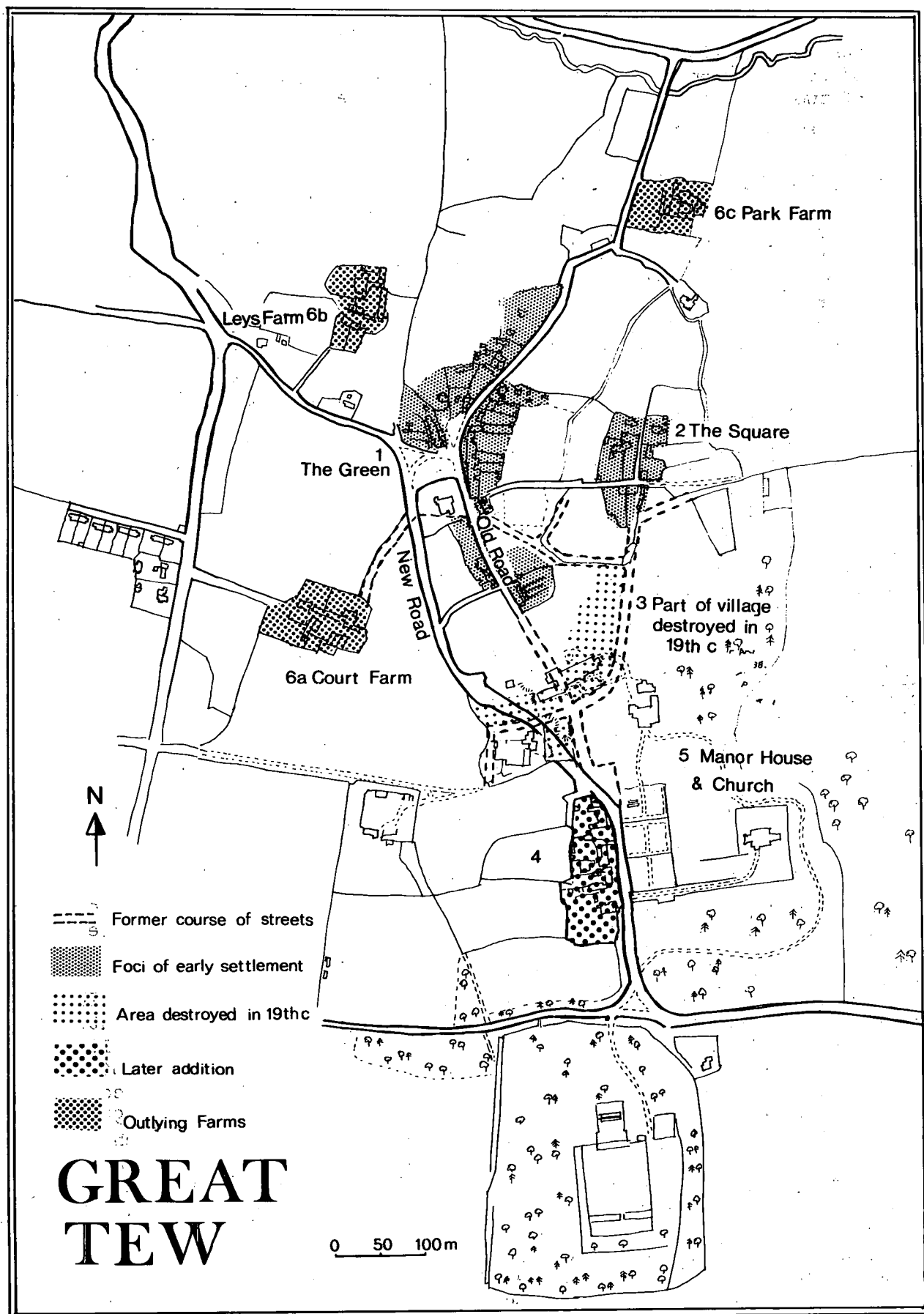


Figure 26

with four wood mullioned and transomed windows. No. 6 is an 18th Century house of coursed stone, with a stone-slate roof, stone verges and ball finials; it is of two storeys with one storey wings on either side. The date is 1728.

When the houses are closely inspected it becomes apparent that many of them have been refurbished with additions and restorations in the early 19th Century. The porch of Porch House was given wooden Gothic tracery in the 19th Century. Other cottages received further embellishments in the form of new dripstones to the windows and doorways, often with exaggerated diamond stops. 19th Century cottages with stone slate roofs were added either end to Nos. 1-5. The school building dated 1851, also of stone with a stone-slate roof perches on the area of the former green. Clipped box hedges give a homogeneous treatment to the front gardens. It is likely that this refurbishing began under London's short but remarkable régime but was consistently applied during the Matthew Boultons who followed Stratton in 1827. There are several designs for cottages "proposed to be erected on the Tew Park estate" in the County Record Office which are labelled "For M.P.N. Boulton Esq." They have steep gabled-roofs some half-hipped with wooden porches and mullioned windows.

Finally there are two eccentric buildings. The first (PRN 5748) is known as the Dog Kennel and is so mentioned in the 1767 inclosure award. It has a series of gothic arches within a stone frame and is reputed to be the site of an animal burial, possibly "Lord Falkland's horse". There is also an icehouse (PRN 5373) which originally had a brick vault. Now only the mound remains.

The origin of Great Tew Park is not known (PRN 8887) but it is likely to be at least 17th Century. The place-name occurs frequently in the 1767 inclosure award. Davies in his map of 1797 shows it lying to the east of the village with a long avenue stretching from its centre to the Swerford-Hampton Road. London's plans of 1812 show a road built bordering it on the north. A considerable extension at the expense of the village was made c. 1850 when the mansion was rebuilt.

INDUSTRIAL FEATURES

There used to be a brick, tile and drain pipe works in the field to the east of Little Tew (PRN 197). Formerly there were limestone quarries (marked on O.S. 6"/ 1 mile map, 1955), west of the New Gardens, west of the turnpike road near Quarry Farm and on Round Hill. The ruined site of a water mill can be seen in the wood south of Cottenham farm (PRN 191). The remains of another, including stone foundations, a large bank and a leat, can be seen just south of Mill Lane (PRN 194). This was probably supplied with water dammed by the bank across which the road runs to the west of the mill site. This area is called Great Pond Tail Beds (PRN 4538). Tracey Farm had a water mill and the decayed wheel is in the building (PRN 198). At Court Farm there was a saw mill with a beam engine (PRN 2407) which was originally a laundry: it was closed in the 1930s. A large beam-engine house with chimney (PRN 4537) is situated to the south west of the village. Within the village is a smithy (PRN 4697) now ruined. There were two turnpike roads which traversed the parish, the Witney-Great Tew road dates from 1800 and runs north-south to the west of the village (PRN 8970). Along its course is the site of a tollhouse (PRN 10,156) and two surviving milestones (PRNs, 10,041, 10,042). A second turnpike road ran east - west from Swerford to Aynho along the northern boundary of the parish (PRN 8956).

OPEN SPACE

There is a small village green, now much reduced by the building of the school. The village stocks are on one side of this (PRN 2241). There are a number of gaps between the houses particularly between the group in the south of Old Road and the Falkland Arms. There is a possibility that the vacant part of the street frontage could produce archaeological evidence of medieval or Saxon occupation. In future development it should be possible to organise planned archaeological excavation in advance of development in these key areas which include the part of the village destroyed in the remodelling of the mansion and the extension of the park.

The most considerable private open space is Great Tew Park. Here there are features which date back into the 18th Century, in particular the avenues. The trees are now badly afflicted with disease and priority should be given to replanting these features which have been an integral part of the Great Tew landscape for 200 years.

LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION

There are no scheduled ancient monuments in the parish. All of the most important buildings in the village are now listed as being of Architectural or Historic importance under Section 54 of the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act. There is an important group of outlying Farms such as old Quarry Farm and Gyles Farm which now require consideration for listing.

The village centre was designated in 1978 as a Conservation Area under section 277 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971 as re-enacted by Section 1 of the Town and Country Amenities Act, 1974. This means that land and buildings with their respective outbuildings and curtilages fronting the Avenue, Brookside, Brook Road, The Lane, The Gree, The Square, New Road and Old Road are now recognised of great visual amenity. The Department of the Environment has recognised Great Tew as an outstanding Conservation Area. Nothing however has been done to extend protection of any kind to the area of landscaping by John Claudius Loudon.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Great Tew is nationally important for four reasons: the exceptional number and quality of its listed buildings; the lack of any extraneous modern development; its association with a number of important historical features; the quality of the documentation of the large-scale landscaping which took place 1808-12. Five suggestions for the future may be made:

- (1) A detailed record, involving measure survey needs to be made of every building, starting with those undergoing renovation and reconstruction.
- (2) Any opportunity to examine the earlier archaeology in the centre of the village and the area built over in the 19th Century and absorbed in the park should be taken. This is in view of the general historical importance of the village and our lack of information about its early development.
- (3) Any development proposed either in the village or in the northern half of the parish which was subject to Louion's landscaping should be closely monitored by the planning authorities with a view to preserving the essential integrity of the village fabric in its landscaped setting.

(4) Some measure of protection to the park and areas of amenity woodland within the immediate environs of the village should be discussed. Consideration should be given for an extension of the Conservation Area to include these features.

(5) Trees in the estate and especially the avenues in the Park should be replaced.

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COGGES, Oxfordshire - John Blair and John Steane

MEDIEVAL BUILDINGS

The hamlet of Cogges (Figure 27) retains three standing medieval buildings: the church, the priory house (now the vicarage) and the manor-house. These are now being studied as part of a research project under the auspices of the Oxfordshire County Museum.

The manor-house includes a 13th Century hall, with original windows and door and interesting mid 16th Century fittings (plan Margaret Wood, Thirteenth Century domestic architecture, 56). Recent excavation along the line of a pipe-trench in the orchard has produced pottery dated 600-750 AD.

The priory was founded before 1103 as a cell of Fécamp Abbey, and became the administrative centre for Fécamp's English properties. The present house contains a small stone-built open hall with lancet windows, retaining its early 13th Century trussed-rafter roof. The abutting range has hitherto been considered post-medieval but close examination reveals two basement lights which show that it may be the remains of an undercroft range contemporary with the hall. Detailed inventories of the contents made in 1294 and 1324 have been found, and the building is of major importance as a well documented non-conventual alien priory. Investigation still proceeds.

The church (Figure 28) was appropriated to the adjacent Priory, and unusual architectural features probably reflect its combined use by the parishioners and the monks; the Priory house contained no chapel in 1324. The original (presumably two-cell) church was enlarged with aisles in the late 12th Century (phases A - B). In the early 13th Century the chancel was rebuilt on a large scale; the very unusual feature of a crypt underlying its eastern half may have had some monastic function (phase C). In c.1340 a magnificent north chapel with lavish carving was added (phase D); heraldic evidence suggests a connection with the local family of de Gray, and it may have been a chantry chapel served from the Priory. Shortly afterwards the north aisle was rebuilt with an oddly-positioned angle tower (phase E), and a heraldic window (now lost) bearing the name of William Hamon, prior in the 1340s, may have been in this aisle. A door led northwards towards the Priory, and the aisle was probably screened off from the nave and used by the monks for their own services.

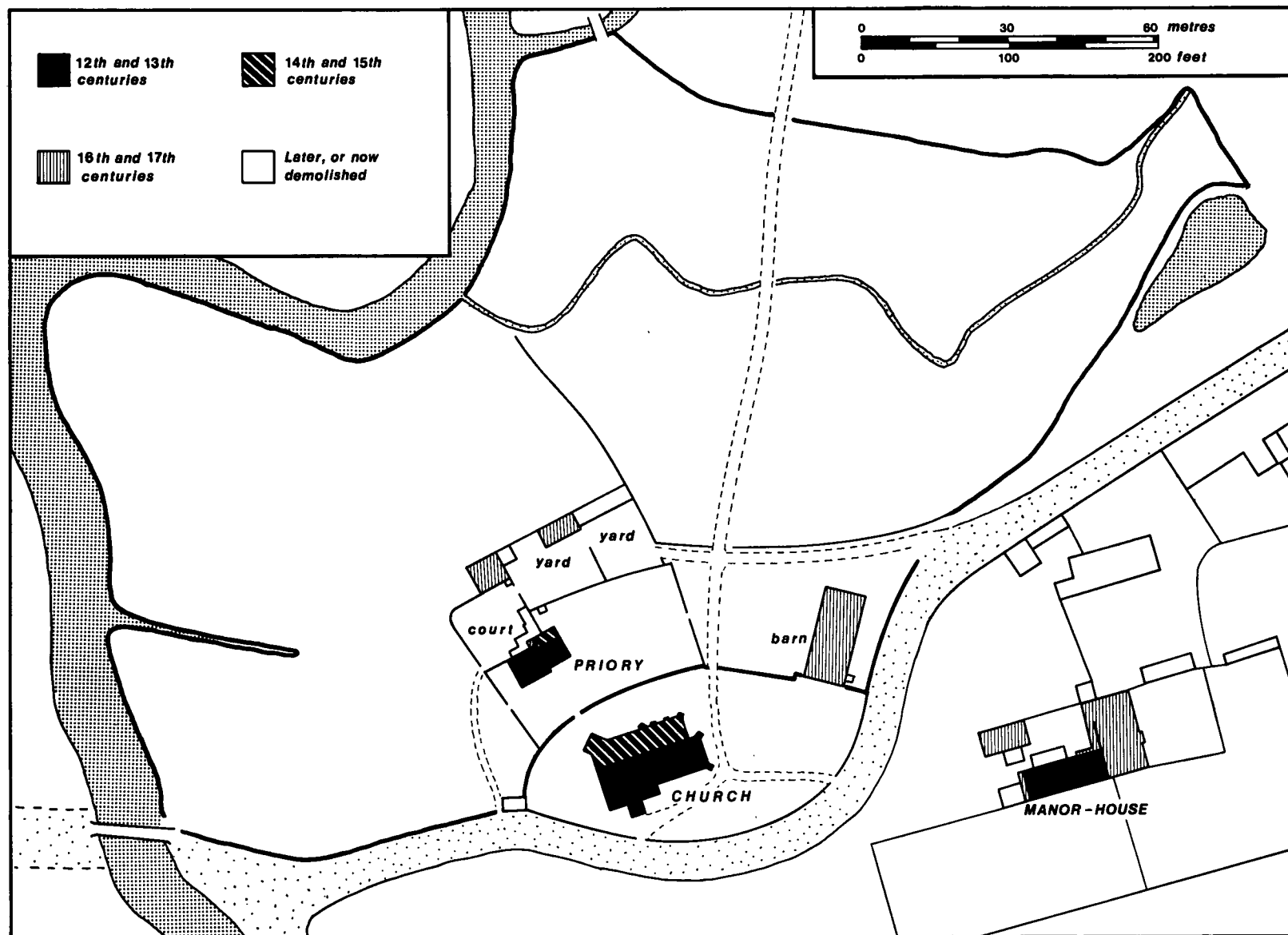


Figure 27

COGGES: The manorial centre in 1859 (reconstructed to scale from plans in Bodleian MS Oxf. Dioc. Papers c 1779 and in the keeping of the Rev. R. Leaver, and from the O.S. 25" 1st ed.). The boundary of the Priory property sold by Eton College to the diocese in 1859 is indicated by a heavy line.

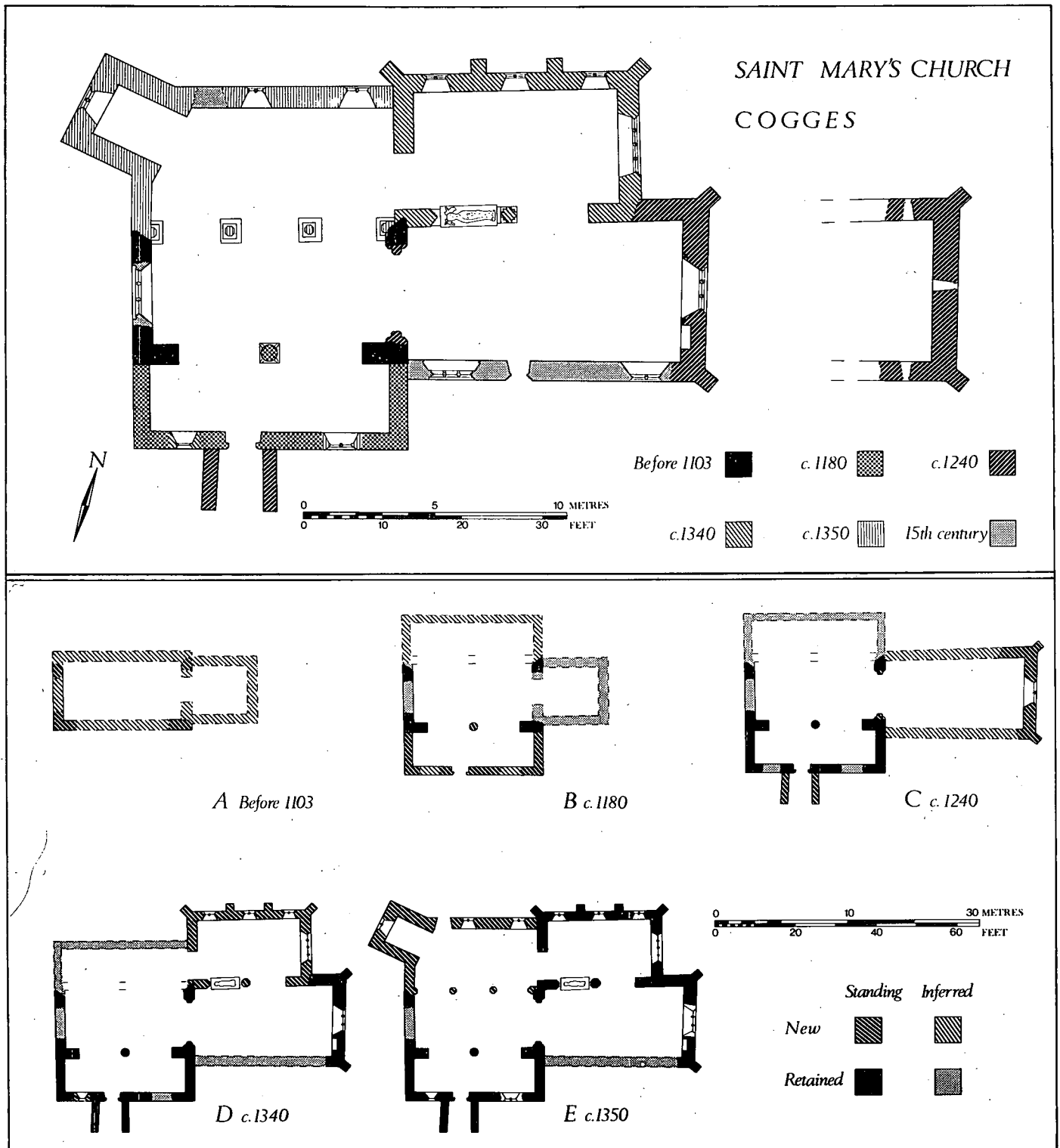


Figure 28

COGGES: The parish church. Above: plan as existing (with ground-level plan of east end to show surviving crypt windows). Below: Phase plans

OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT 1978

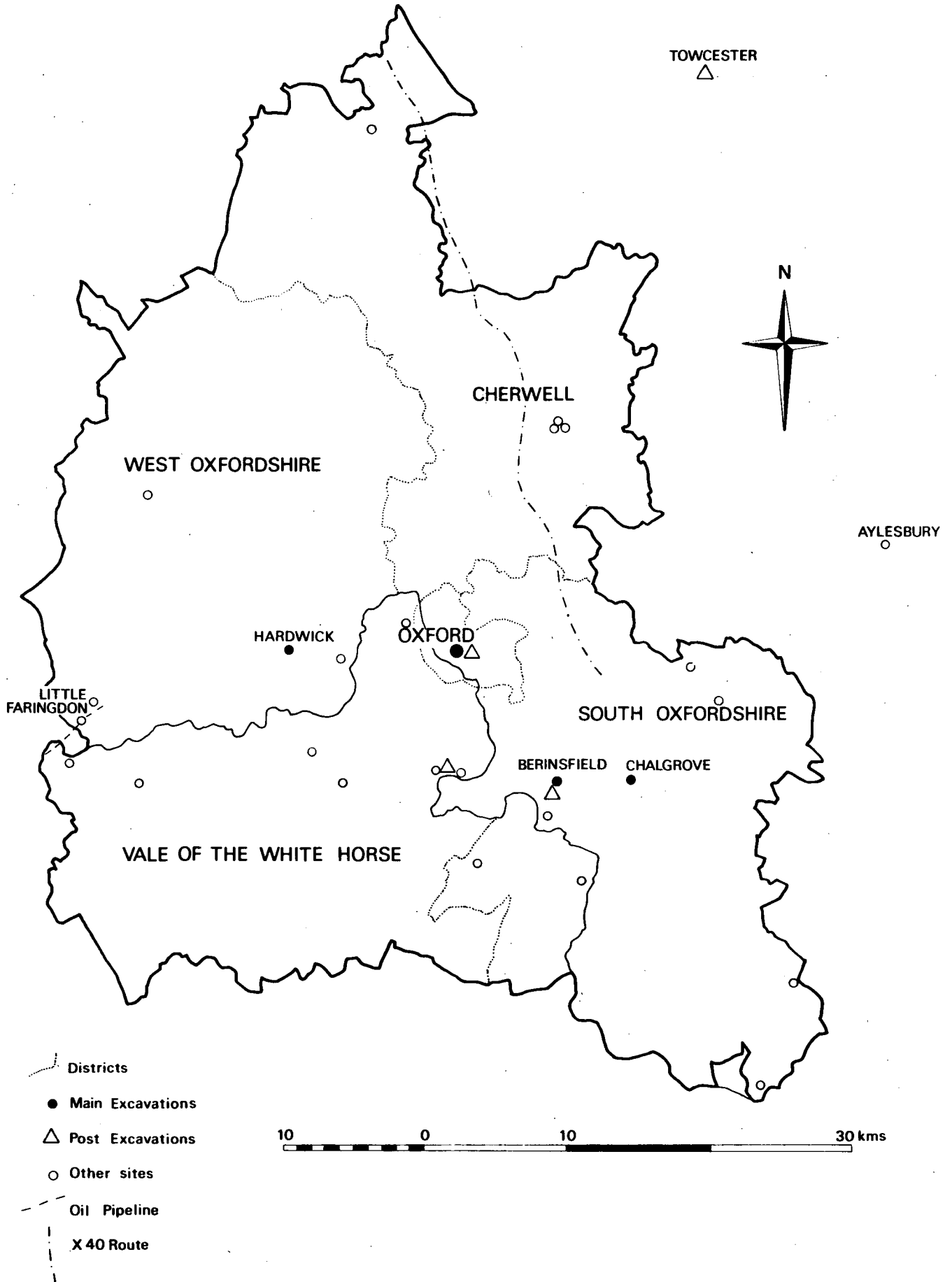


Figure 29

THE OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT 1978 - Tom Hassall, *Director*

In 1978 more Rescue Archaeology was undertaken by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, the executive arm of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee, than in any year since the Unit was established in 1973. This increase, particularly in excavation, was due to the injection of additional temporary labour to the Unit through substantial grants made by the Manpower Services Commission as part of the Job Creation Programme. This help which provided up to 16 workers for nine months of the year has masked the continued financial problems of the Unit caused by the eroding effects of inflation. Inflation has increasingly reduced the value of the Unit's regular grants, only one of which, the County Council's, has been increased annually to take account of inflation. As in previous years in order to survive the Unit has had to keep its permanent staff at as low a level as possible. So far actual redundancies have been averted, but staff who leave through natural wastage have not been replaced: two staff left in 1977 and one more in 1978. Unless additional guaranteed funds can be found this slimming down of the core staff of the Unit will inevitably continue. Two ways have been sought by which to maintain the financial viability of the Unit: first, further funds have been and are being sought from local sources, and, second, the Unit has continued to take on commitments outside the county.

Probably the most important event during the year for gaining additional local funds was the creation of a formal agreement between the Unit and the Oxford University Department for External Studies (OUDES). However the link is also of much wider significance to the Unit. The OUDES' involvement with Rescue Archaeology predates the formation of the Unit and goes back to 1969 when Trevor Rowley was appointed full-time Staff Tutor in Archaeology. Indeed in many respects the Unit could only have come into being because of the OUDES active and practical role in stimulating an awareness both of the local archaeological heritage in its regional and national context, and of the threats facing that heritage. During the first five years of the Unit's existence a close institutional and personal relationship between the Unit and the OUDES has developed and this relationship was formally recognised on 1 January 1978.

Henceforward in addition to regular course teaching by Unit staff, the Unit and the OUDES intend to develop five specific areas of mutual interest. The first area covers the organisation of a summer school based on a rescue excavation, now that the OUDES' own research/training excavation at Middleton Stoney has come to an end. An initial trial project was run at Hardwick this year where students, mainly drawn from those taking the OUDES' Archaeology Certificate Course, were able to attend the rescue excavation of the Iron Age site and in the process receive the kind of comprehensive instruction which is not normally available. The second area is involved with the Archaeology In-Service Training Scheme. The Unit is offering housing and teaching as well as some administration of this scheme, and is in particular organising the monthly seminars, making use of the expertise of the Unit's staff. Thirdly the OUDES' students, particularly those taking the OUDES' Certificates, now have automatic access to Unit excavation and post-excavation work and will receive training by Unit staff. Fourthly the Unit is providing a teaching room for some of the OUDES' archaeological courses, particularly those requiring immediate access to primary source material, as well as providing a students' room for use by In-Service Training students. Finally the Unit's Director, Tom Hassall and Assistant Director, David Miles, are providing the OUDES'

Staff Tutor with regular assistance on policy making for the development of archaeology, local history and planning.

The link will provide the OUDES with the services of a first-class range of expertise and with access to teaching material. The link will also allow the OUDES to continue to develop its archaeological courses. From the Unit's point of view the arrangement will allow it to fulfil the main clause in its constitution - viz. the furtherance of archaeology in education. At the same time the link augments the Unit's chronically deficient financial resources. A further aspect of the relationship, apart from the formal link between institutions, is that the Director of the Unit has become an Associate Tutor of the Department, thus confirming a personal connection with the Department which goes back more than a decade.

In addition to seeking funds in Oxford and Oxfordshire itself the Unit has continued to undertake work outside the county when staff or expertise were available. This process began in 1976 when George Lambrick undertook an excavation at Towcester in Northamptonshire, the report of which is nearing completion. In 1978 Brian Durham carried out a small excavation in Aylesbury. The Unit has also been asked to advise on a major multi-period site at Wasperton in Warwickshire. Of much greater potential significance for the future the Unit has undertaken responsibility for the archaeology of a 320 acre Iron Age and Roman settlement site at the Claydon gravel pit at Lechlade just over the Gloucestershire border.

Also of significance for the future development of the Unit is a proposal by the Department of the Environment that the Unit's three environmental specialists, Mark Robinson, Bob Wilson and Martin Jones, should form the nucleus of a Regional Archaeological Environmental Centre. The work of the Unit's environmentalists is now nationally recognised and the proposal is that the current ad hoc arrangements for their funding and their accommodation should be replaced by a properly funded Environmental Centre. The research of the environmentalists would no longer be exclusively Oxfordshire orientated. The actual form that the Environment Centre might take and where it might be housed is currently the subject of discussion.

While 1978 has seen many discussions and proposals for the future of the Unit the year has been an extremely active one for the Unit's normal activities of survey, excavation and publication of sites (Figure 29). Survey work has been the least time-consuming area for the Unit's own staff and yet survey continues to play a major role in the county. The Oxfordshire Parish Survey which is serviced by Richard Chambers of the Unit and John Steane of the Oxfordshire Department of Museum Services continues to provide a framework within which many local groups and individuals carry out non-excavational fieldwork. Training of local field workers remains a problem and during the year two extremely successful day schools were held, sponsored by OUDES, to assist those active in the field. The first school given by Derek Roe and Mark Newcomer was on the subject of "The Identification of Worked Flints", while the second on "The Identification of Post-Medieval Pottery" was tutored by Maureen Mellor, Michael Farley and Josephine de Goris. The results of one local survey at Frilford and Garford by Richard Hingley, a student at Durham University, is printed below.

The Unit's own direct involvement in survey work tends to be related to sites specifically affected by development or development proposals. Richard Chambers continues to survey sites as part of the general Rescue Archaeology Service in the county which the Unit hopes to provide, for instance a survey of North Weston is printed below. Two in-service trainees

working with the Unit also carried out survey projects: Neil McGavin made a preliminary survey of the Claydon gravel pit at Lechlade referred to above, while Deborah Priddy collated all the material relating to the Cassington and Yarnton area where gravel may take place in the long-term, if the County's recent proposals for gravel extraction in the county are accepted by the Secretary of State for DoE. The Unit has not been able to make staff-time available for the proposed Oxfordshire Village Survey, to be carried out jointly by the Unit and the Oxfordshire Department of Museum Services. The Village Survey is intended to highlight the archaeological potential of those villages most likely to see in-filling and further development in the future. The flow of planning applications affecting potential archaeological sites both in these and other villages as well as the County's towns continues. The regular monitoring of the lists of applications remains a fundamental exercise.

During the year three main excavations were undertaken. At Mount Farm, Berinsfield, George Lambrick completed the excavation of the large crop-mark complex. As his interim report (below) shows the site contained material from the Neolithic to the Saxon period while the techniques of sampling employed by Martin Jones on the site have aroused much interest nationally. Excavation would not have been possible on this site had it not been for the labour provided through the Job Creation Programme which enabled excavation employing paid labour to continue throughout last winter and spring. At Hardwick the traditional cooperation between the Unit and the Oxford University Archaeological Society (OUAS) was maintained. Mark Robinson of the Unit and Tim Allen of the OUAS brought the excavation of this extremely interesting Iron Age site to a successful conclusion. Most of the labour force was once again provided by the OUAS. At Chalgrove Phillip Page undertook his first major excavation for the Unit. Again using labour funded by the Manpower Services Commission it has been possible to expose the entire latest plan of this medieval moated manor house which promises to be one of the most completely excavated in the country.

Apart from these three major projects the Unit endeavours to retain a Rescue Archaeology Service throughout the county. The results of this work are listed under 'Other sites recorded in 1978'. From these accounts it will be clear that most of the responsibility falls on the shoulders of Richard Chambers. The sites involved a range from Small-Scale Watching Briefs to major undertakings like the Iron Age and Roman site on the oil pipeline at Little Faringdon or the Roman cemetery at Stanton Harcourt excavated by Neil McGavin, an in-service trainee. In this type of work the role of the part-time groups and individuals remains vital. In the list of sites the names of many groups and individuals appear without whom much information would be lost. In some cases the sites may not themselves be individually important, but taken together they set the context for the far fewer, large-scale excavations. There are, however, still areas of the county where sites are being destroyed, particularly by agriculture, without any records being made. In Oxford itself Brian Durham continues to coordinate the salvage excavations, although at the time of writing he has at long last begun the excavation at 65 St. Aldates where the Post Office have eventually given consent to the DoE for a trial excavation.

The publication and the ordering of the archives of excavations continues to be the ultimate goal of the Unit. David Miles has continued to strive towards the publication of the villa at Barton Court Farm, Abingdon and a number of the Unit staff particularly the environmentalists and Wendy Page, the Unit's permanent draughtsperson have been also actively

involved in this project. George Lambrick has begun the analysis of Mount Farm, Berinsfield and Duncan Wilson has been assisting Mark Robinson by working on the Iron Age pottery from Hardwick. The excavations at Oxford continue to be the major backlog problem. However, Maureen Mellor, assisted by Frances Cox has made major inroads into the pottery from Church Street and John Huntriss has made visits to the Unit from Cardiff to help advise on problems of the stratigraphy. Geoffrey Egan, an in-service trainee, has been working on the small finds from this site. Brian Durham has been preparing the report on All Saints while Nicholas Palmer has been employed on a short-term contract to write up the Hamel. Rob Wilson has worked on over five thousand bone fragments from these two sites, while Eleanor Beard has continued to work as the draughtsperson for the Oxford sites.

Various projects were actually published during the year. Most notable was Michael Parrington's account of the excavations at the Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon, which was a joint CBA and Unit publication. The 1978 volume of *Oxoniensia* also contained a number of reports by the members of the Unit, especially the report by Brian Durham on 79-80 St. Aldates. Members of the Unit have also seen a number of more general papers by Mark Robinson and George Lambrick on, respectively, the environment and settlement of the Upper Thames in the Iron Age, a paper on Unit organisation by Tom Hassall, and on sampling techniques by Martin Jones.

As in previous years the work of the Unit continues to receive attention in the local and National Press and Radio. Members of the Unit staff are often called upon to talk to local societies while Tom Hassall and David Miles were actively involved with the visit to Oxford by the Royal Archaeological Institute. Two excavation open days were held at Hardwick and Chalgrove, both were marred by bad weather, but this proved a blessing in disguise, since it would have been difficult to have coped with greater numbers than those who actually braved the rain. A feature of the Hardwick open day was a small display by Young Rescue who reconstructed an Iron Age Kiln under the guidance of Margaret Herdman of the Oxfordshire Department of Museum Services. Small exhibitions were mounted in connection with both open days and at the opening of the ARC Trout Hatchery at Lynch Hill, Stanton Harcourt while in the spring an exhibition entitled 'Aethelred's Oxford' was arranged by Brian Durham and Maureen Mellor to celebrate the millenary of the accession of Aethelred. However, the most important exhibition during the year was that entitled 'ARC and Archaeology' organised by David Brown at the Ashmolean Museum. The exhibition portrayed the long tradition of involvement with archaeology of the Amey Roadstone Corporation and it made a particular feature of recent Unit excavations at ARC pits. The exhibition received much attention locally and nationally and it is hoped that part of it at least may go on display outside the county.

A number of changes have taken place amongst the membership of the Committee and the staff of the Unit. Trevor Rowley retired as Chairman and his place has been taken by Professor Frere. During the year the Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee finally ceased to exist; all that Committee's executive functions had been carried out by the Unit since 1973. For most of the Oxford Committee's life it had as its Hon Secretary Constance Preston who remained an invaluable help to the end. It is hoped however to establish an Oxford Archaeological Advisory Committee to assist the Unit in its choice of priorities within the City.

Diane Hofdahl left the Unit when her husband moved to a new job in Dorset. Throughout the Unit's existence she had had the duty of supervising the finds. Paola Lawrence who joined the Unit in 1977 as Unit Secretary also left when her husband moved to London. She has been

succeeded by Sarah Richardson. The Unit also celebrated its first staff marriage when Wendy Lee married Phillip Page.

It is a pleasure once again to thank all those people who assist the Unit both as professional and part-time colleagues. Many names have already been mentioned while others appear under the site reports. It is however appropriate to mention here the County Treasurer and his staff particularly Russell Worsley who have continued to administer the Unit's finances. The Unit is also grateful for the advice and encouragement of Brian Davison and Paul Gosling of the DoE.

The Unit could not operate at all without financial backing notably from Central Government: the DoE and the Manpower Services Commission; from Local Government: Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, The Vale of the White Horse District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Abingdon Town Council and the following parish councils: Appleton with Eaton, Cumnor, St. Helen Without, Sunningwell; and from outside central and local government the Amey Roadstone Corporation, the British Academy, the Oxford Preservation Trust and other donors.

MAIN EXCAVATIONS

BERINSFIELD, Mount Farm - George Lambrick

Further investigation of this multi-period site (SU 584968) first excavated by J.N.L. Myres and the OUAS in 1934 was undertaken in advance of gravel quarrying financed by the Amey Roadstone Corporation, the Manpower Services Commission and DoE (Figure 30). Various sampling methods were devised and tested to consider how information might most efficiently be recovered from such sites, and to see whether useful new information could be obtained by analysing the distribution of domestic refuse (pottery, bone and carbonized material), both around the site at different periods, and in the topsoil. The results are still being processed.

Neolithic activity was indicated by five small pits widely scattered over the site. One of the pits may have had a circle of post holes associated with it which might be interpreted as either a building or perhaps a small henge. In the southern part of the site there was a crouched burial with some very fine flint knives. Also in this area was a small oval or elliptical ring ditch with a Beaker burial in the middle of it.

In the middle to late Bronze Age a ring ditch with an external bank and a very flat-bottomed ditch was constructed. There was no sign of any central burial, but a small cremation pit with a complete vessel was found just inside the ditch and traces of other cremations were also found. Another cremation was discovered a few metres north. Just to the east was the junction of two pairs of small ditches apparently forming droveways or tracks at the corner of a more extensive field system. In plan this association is similar to features discovered at Fengate, Peterborough. The ring ditch initially filled up with gravel and loam from the bank outside, which was possibly deliberately levelled. A thick layer of fine loam then developed when the ditch became a grassy hollow. At this stage a large waterhole was dug on its northern side. Waterlogged deposits from this should provide valuable information about the natural environment at this period. The waterhole at first silted up, but the site was then converted to arable, and its remaining fill was plough-soil. The surviving hollow of the ring ditch also became filled with ploughsoil and in one place plough marks were visible in the underlying gravel. The ploughsoil was overlain or cut by

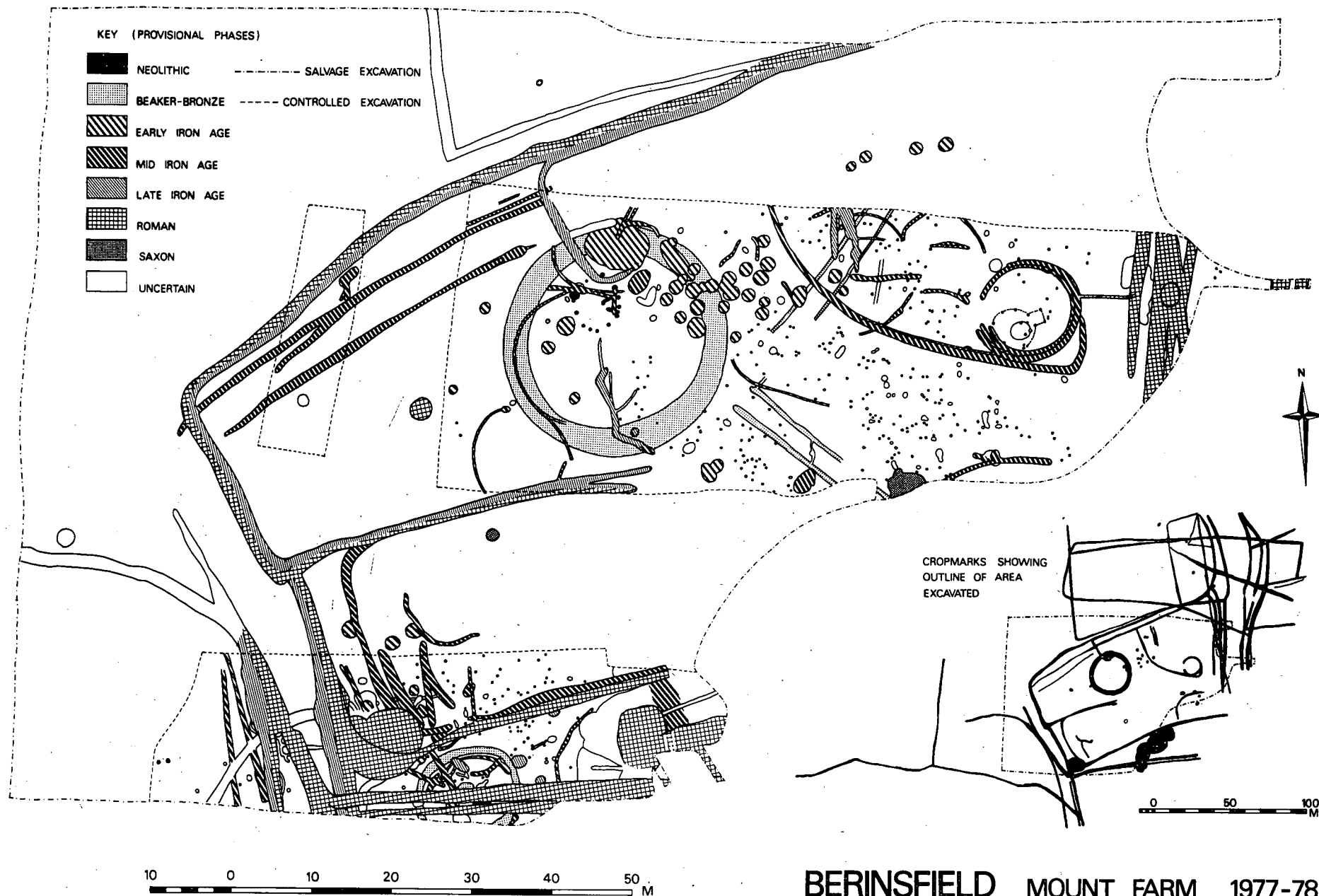


Figure 30

various early Iron Age features, including the ubiquitous pits which, as on other sites, were the most common features at this period, and indicate a change of use as a settlement developed on the arable land. Some pits appeared to contain their original fill of fine loamy soil occasionally containing articulated animal limbs; others were filled with what had probably been the surrounding topsoil.

In the middle Iron Age a circular house enclosure was constructed with a small round house on one side of it and a ditch running out to the west possibly bounding a yard. Numerous other shallow curving gullies may have marked other structures of which no trace survived. Also dating from this period were further waterholes in the southern part of the site; and the beginnings of a roughly rectilinear field or paddock system which survived, only slightly modified into the Roman period. Apart from more waterholes and a wattle lined well the field ditches and a few pits were the only features belonging to the late Iron Age and early Roman period. The survival of the layout of the middle Iron Age fields into the Roman period is of interest in comparison to the movement of the nearby nucleated settlement from Wittenham Clumps to Dyke Hills and thence to Dorchester. It also contrasts with the lack of continuity between middle and late Iron Age apparent at the Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon.

Only a few ditches and two burials were datable to the late Roman period, but it was of interest that there were various Saxon features, including a well re-using a barrel. These traces may indicate more extensive settlement in the area possibly associated with the cemetery excavated nearby at Wally Corner in 1974-5.

HARDWICK with YELFORD, Mingies Ditch - Tim Allen and Mark Robinson

A second and final season of excavation was carried out from late June to mid August by the OAU and the OUAS on the Iron Age settlement at Mingies Ditch (SP 391 059).

Last year excavation uncovered the south-eastern entrance, the southern half of the interior and a large strip through the northern part of the interior and enclosure ditches. This year, the areas excavated were the remainder of the interior, (largely consisting of the central strip covered by the hedge bisecting the site), a large segment on the west of the area between the ditches out to the Iron Age course of Mingies Ditch, and parts of the attached compound (Figure 31). Trenches were also laid down to investigate the possibility of outlying features suggested by hollows on the ground not showing on the air photographs.

In the interior two more huts, an oval building and two further four-post structures were found.

Hut 5 was a rough oval of posts with a central hearth enclosed to the north and west by a circular U-shaped gully and to the east by the inner ditch and bank. The doorway was to the south-west. It possibly predates the inner enclosure ditch or was constructed just after it, as upcast from the ditch spilt over the lowest hut-gully fills. It is probably the earliest structure on the site, and is perhaps the construction-workers' hut. The floor was not made-up, but was clearly visible as a darker area of clay.

Of Hut 6 only the south-east entrance, represented by two large posts, could be positively identified, but it seems from the scatter of post-holes to have been an oval structure similar to Hut 1. Short lengths of hut gully were found to the east, but did not extend farther. Despite the

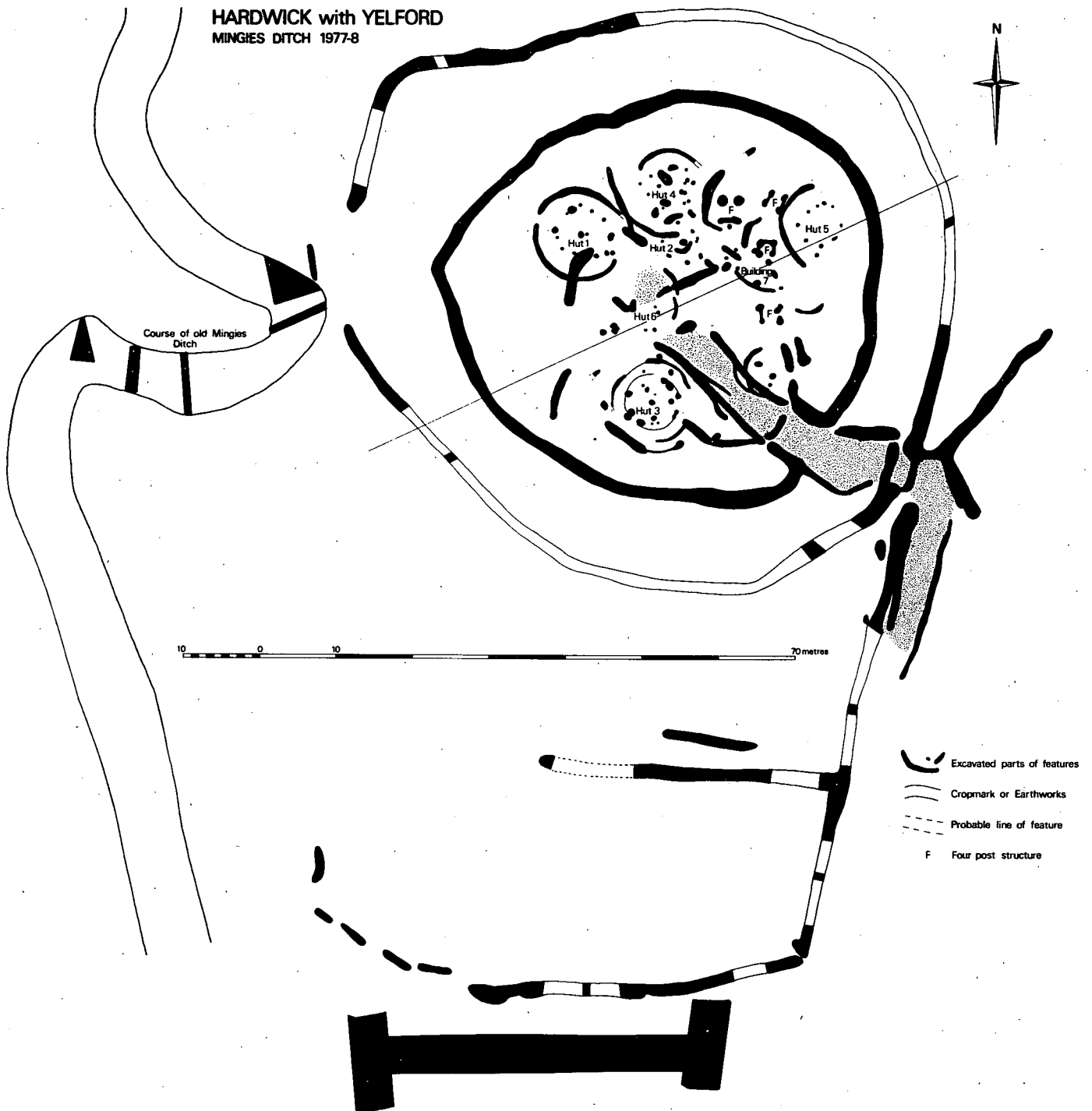


Figure 31

paucity of its remains this hut perhaps had a long life, as both phases of roadside ditch and the subsequent metalled roadway seem to lead to its door.

Two further four-post structures were found in the eastern half of the site. Both had massive posts and in common with those found last year, two or more posts were joined by shallow gullies (a peculiarity of this site). They respected the gully of hut 5.

Building 7 consisted of a line of four posts forming the east side of the structure and an arc of more posts backed by a stake-wall trench, which, curving round to join the southernmost of the four posts, formed the west and south sides of the building. The posts are too large to be regarded merely as supports for a windbreak, and the building must be seen as a roofed structure open to the north and east, possibly a barn or workshop. The tips of the stake holes penetrating the bottom of the wall trench were found.

Emptying of the second halves of postholes in Hut 3 produced no less than four complete quernstones in one pit: the feature is now best interpreted as an internal pit rather than a posthole.

Another 'bath-shaped' feature was discovered this year, used secondarily for a hearth and it's rake-back. The primary function of these features remains uncertain.

In the space between the ditches an area of burning was found containing three small bronze objects and a quantity of fragments of pottery and burnt bone. This could represent a cremation burial. No other archaeological features were found in the area, supporting last year's suggestion that the space was used for animals. Further evidence was provided by the discovery of a gap in the outer ditch left to allow access to a former meander of Mingies Ditch, which the outer ring had obviously been planned to accommodate. The course of the stream which showed up as hollows was first surveyed and then checked by excavation at several points.

Another gap in the outer ditch was found providing an exit to the land north of the enclosure: no field boundaries were visible from the air in this area, and despite both machine and hand-trenching no man-made boundaries of Iron Age date have been identified. It is probable that pasture was enclosed by the natural barrier of Mingies Ditch to the west and north, and by the River Windrush to the east.

Examination of the southern compound which replaced the antennae ditches at the entrance revealed several phases of use. While the north-south arm underwent no change, the southernmost arm, originally a V-shaped ditch, 40m in length, was subsequently replaced by a series of intercutting oblong pits. Another series of pits on average 4m in length was found extending the boundary to the west. This line ended in a large pit at right angles to the rest. How they functioned as a boundary is not clear.

The roadside gully on the east side of the metalled trackway running alongside the compound ended 22m from the entrance, but a rough metalled surface, created from the gravel upcast from the field ditches, continued around the full length of the original north-south and southern east-west arms. Excavation within the compound was undertaken to look for ploughmarks, but none was found. However, a second cremation was located just inside.

Trenching north of the enclosure did encounter later ditches apparently channelling water from one part of Mingies Ditch to another: these produced Samian pottery, an early Roman Brooch and a Saxon spearhead. No related structures were found.

CHALGROVE, Hardings Field Moated Site - Phillip Page

After the trial excavation in 1977 by Richard Chambers a large scale excavation commenced in early June 1978. Finance was provided by the Manpower Services Commission, Oxfordshire County Council, the Oxford University Department for External Studies and the Amey Roadstone Corporation.

The site consists of two moated islands (Figure 32). One, a small rectangular enclosure, the other a large trapezoidal-shaped island. The northern arm of the former and the north and east arms of the latter are still wet while all the other arms of the moats have been backfilled.

Until the County Council purchased the site the land belonged to Magdalen College. Research in the Magdalen College Archive suggests that before their ownership, it was held by the Quarterman family, who were presumably responsible for building the Manor House.

The entire area is to be levelled for a playing field. The County Council had stripped off the topsoil, by heavy machinery, before excavation. A delayed construction allowed the archaeological excavation to take place, although in some places, particularly in the inside of the most northern arm of the moat, some of the later archaeological layers had been destroyed by the Council's stripping. The excavation concentrated on the interior of the greater island, most of the northern half of which was covered by layers of 15th century destruction. A reference in a rental book of 1666 shows that the Manor House had gone by this date although a barn and a 'Culberhouse' remained. The removal of the debris and modern disturbance revealed the plan in Figure 33.

At this stage of the excavation only the plan of the latest levels has been uncovered so that there is little absolute dating evidence for the various phases. The following is an attempt to provide a chronology based mainly on the structural evidence and the stratigraphy so far established.

The earliest structure (Phase I) was a cob-walled building, containing a large hearth that had seen considerable use. It was sealed by about 20cm of clean silty clay-loam, covering the area beneath a later hall. This clay loam sloped off to the south, and is interpreted as moat upcast. Possibly contemporary with this cob building was another, with rubble stone footings. This second building was not sealed by the moat upcast but was cut by the northern arm of the moat. Both these structures were built directly on top of the natural clay and represent the earliest known use of the site. The date of the building is provisionally not earlier than the later 12th century.

It appears that a hall was built soon after the excavation of the moat because its earliest floor levels seal material interpreted above as the upcast. This first post-moat phase (Phase II) is shown in Figure 34. The hall appeared to have a porch on its northern side. Two post sockets at the eastern end may have been part of a timber screen dividing the hall and a chamber. A door on the eastern side gave access to the detached kitchen. The kitchen building was constructed of slight stone walls with an interior east-west partition. The larger, southern room contained a central tile-on-edge hearth and an oven set into each of its eastern corners.

Immediately to the south of the kitchen was a rectangular, lightly founded building containing a central hearth. There appeared to have been another structure with dwarf cill walls on the south-east corner of

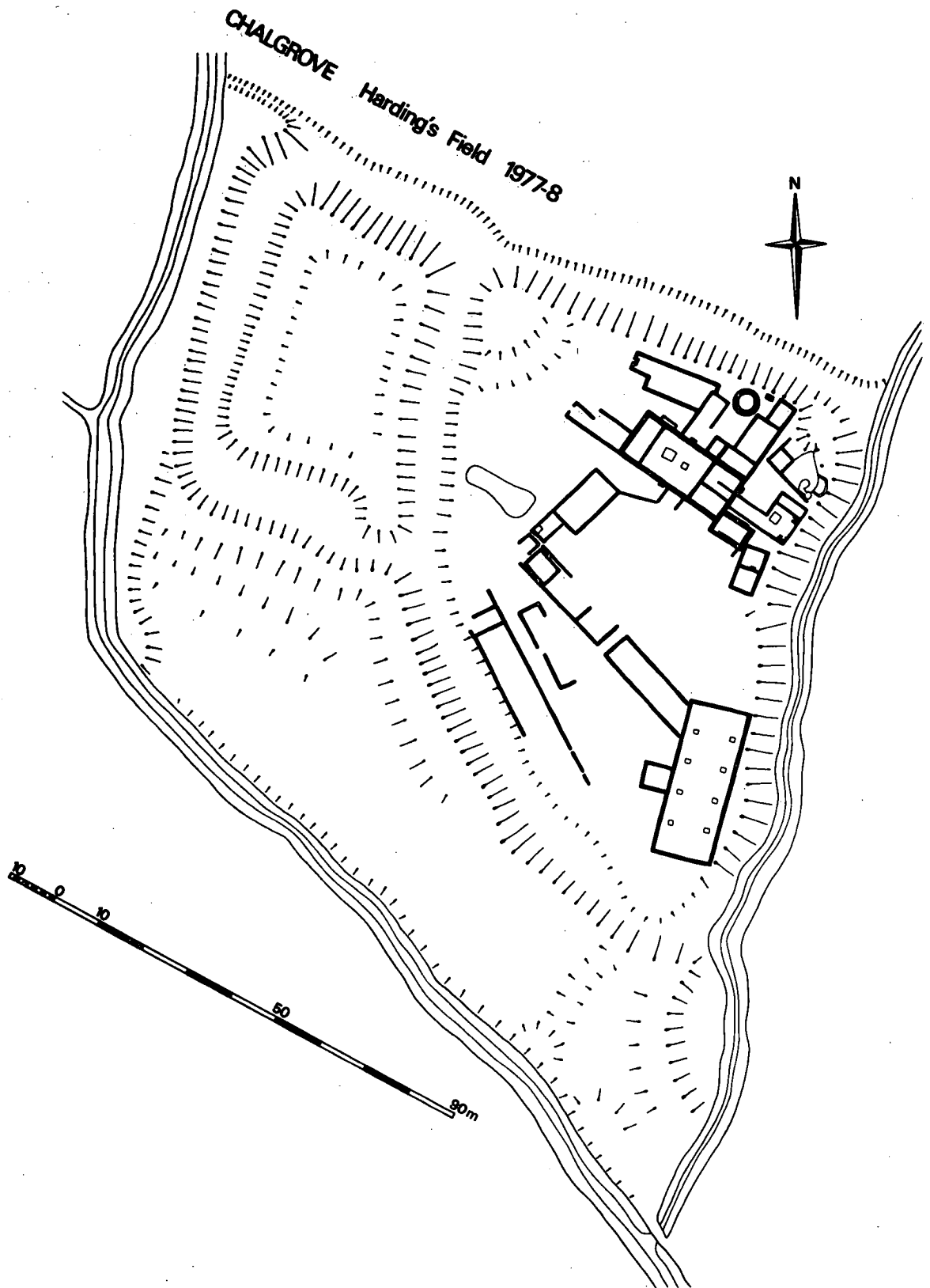


Figure 32

Location Plan

CHALGROVE Harding's Field 1977-8

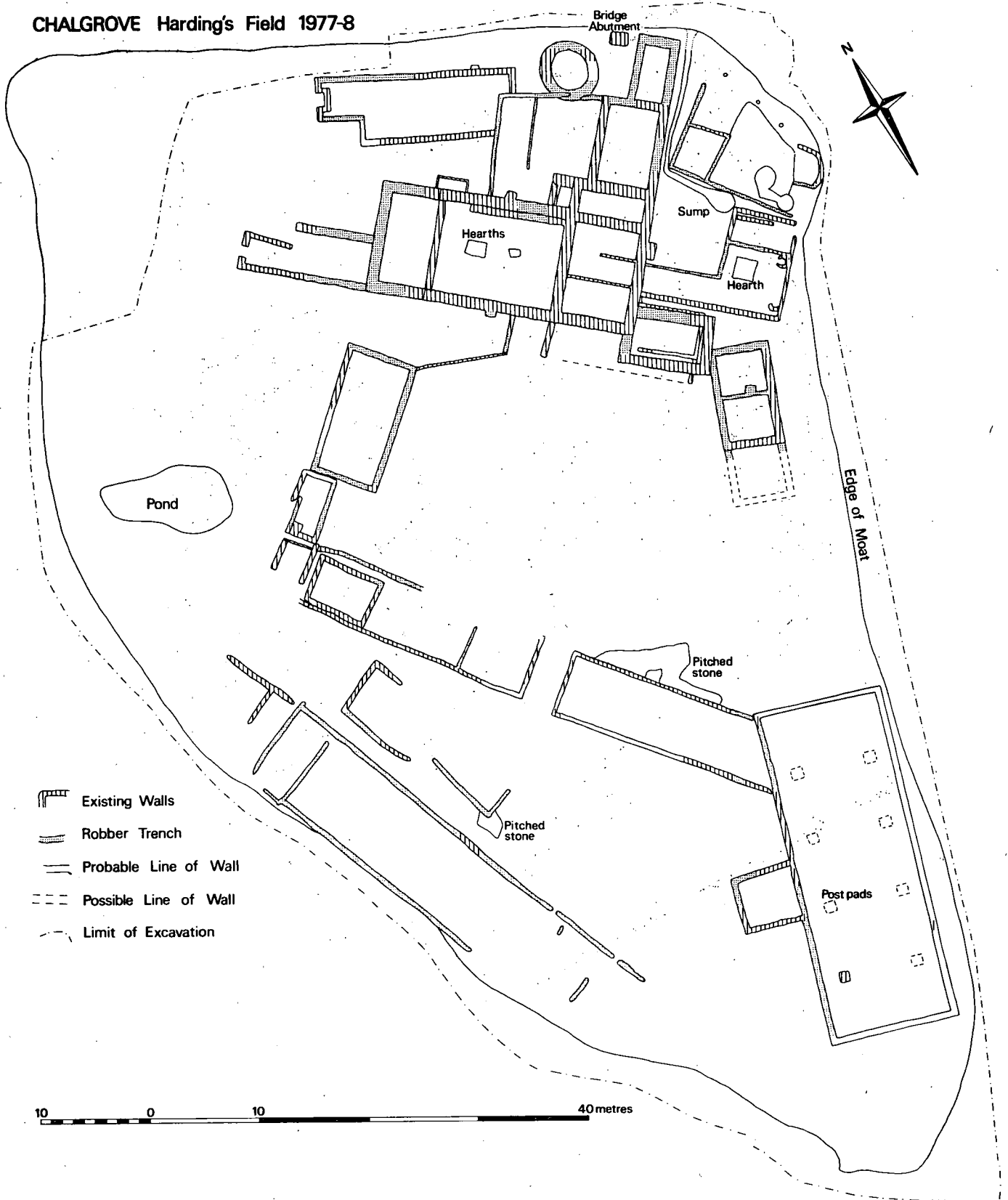


Figure 33

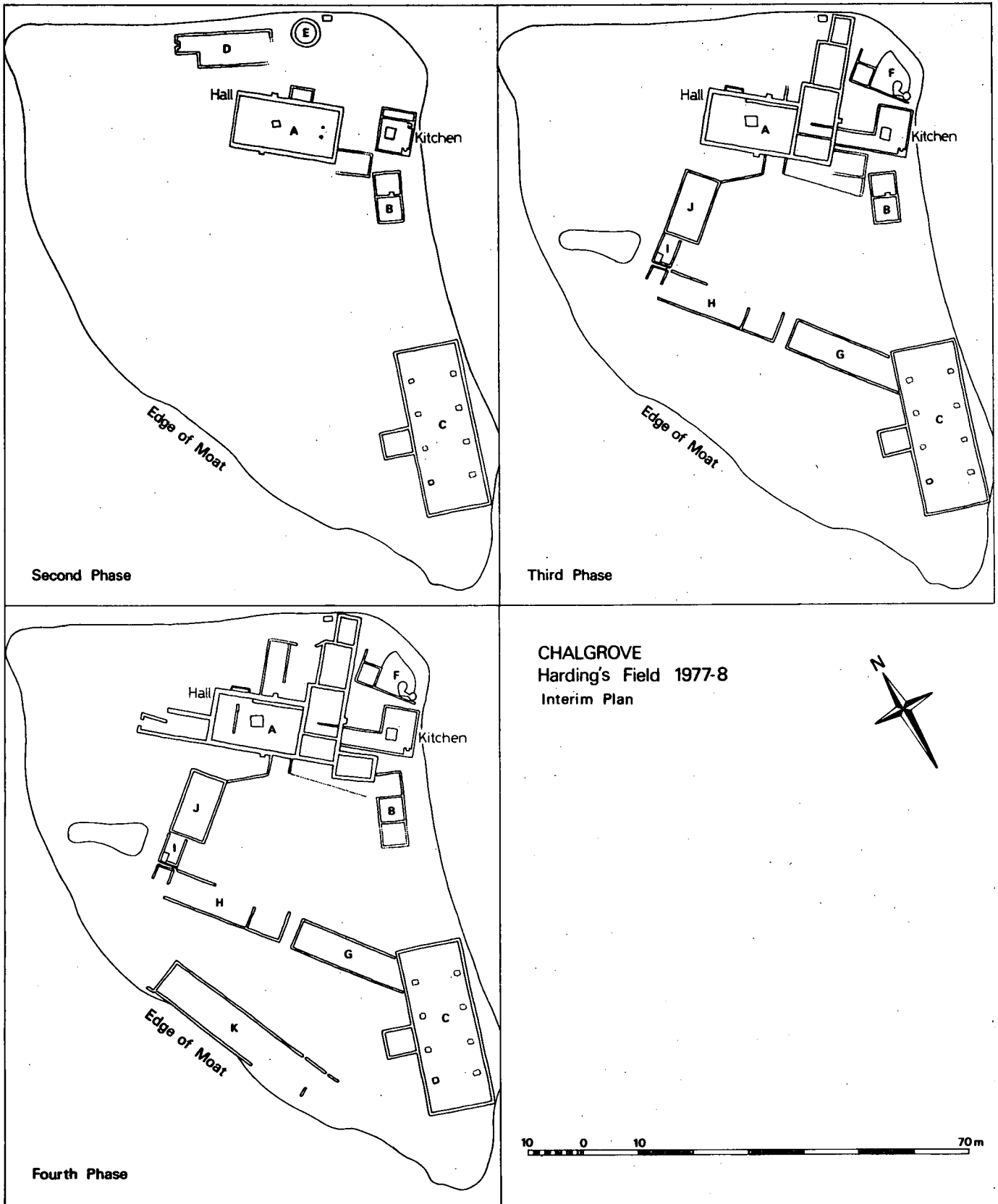


Figure 34

the hall. A rectangular stone footing to the north of the hall was interpreted as a bridge abutment which may have belonged to this phase; unfortunately the layers sealing the footing were destroyed by topsoil stripping. The round structure, presumably a dovecot, and the building to its west, have not yet been placed in sequence. Both were sealed by layers associated with later phases of the hall. A large aisled barn with a ford shown on the south-eastern edge of the island was, from the archaeological evidence, in existence during Phase II.

In Phase III considerable alterations were made to the plan (Figure 34). A cross-wing was inserted at the eastern end of the hall extending northwards. The insertion produced an enlargement of the chamber next to the hall which was divided by an east corridor, presumably after the removal of the timber partition. Also the hall was extended westwards and the hearth moved to its new position. Although there is no evidence to date this extension it is suggested that, since the insertion of the cross-wing shortened the hall, it was added to compensate for this loss. The construction of the cross-wing entailed the removal of the porch on the north side of the hall and it is likely that the porch on the south was constructed at this time. Possibly at the same date the kitchen was joined to the main building; also by a corridor. The buildings to the north of the kitchen were very ephemeral and may have been contemporary with Phase II, but since they fitted into the space between the cross-wing and the kitchen they may have been later insertions belonging to Phase III. During Phase III it is assumed that the dovecot and sub-rectangular building were destroyed as they were sealed by a courtyard which respected the cross-wing.

To the south of the hall laid the farm buildings. The largest was the aisled barn; butted against it was a building, which together with the other buildings, enclosed a courtyard. All the buildings were probably in use during Phase III as the crudely cobbled courtyard respected both them and the southern porch of the hall. The Phase II bridge was probably still in use, but since Phase III generally saw a shift of emphasis from the northern side of the hall to the south side, it is presumed that there should be an entrance across the moat either on its eastern or southern arm. A post-medieval causeway ran across the south-eastern corner of the moat and it may respect an earlier crossing point.

The final phase, Phase IV, is shown on Figure 34. A small, probable single-storey service-wing was added to the western end of the hall. This wing may well have been contemporary with the partition of the hall. The simple dwarf stone-wall structure on the south-east corner of the hall was replaced by one of similar dimensions but with much more substantial walls and foundations. The construction of this building probably resulted in the demolition of part of the western wall of the northern bay of the two bay building to its south-east. The northern bay presumably survived as an open-footed building but, perhaps to compensate for any loss of space, a third bay was added to the south.

To the north of the hall a long narrow structure was attached only by its western wall. The thinness of the wall suggests that it had a timber superstructure. On the mortar floor there were the impressions of tiles and one was found *in situ* while others were in the destruction debris. The function of the building is unknown; its entrance gave access only to the yard on the east. The building on the southern edge of the island was another barn, inserted in the only space remaining by Phase IV.

Investigation of the smaller island revealed no structures and little occupation, suggesting that perhaps this was an enclosure for either animals or a garden or orchard.

A number of machine-cut trenches were excavated across the moats. They all revealed the same wide, flat-bottomed 'U'-shaped profile, with much modern disturbance in their upper layers. No attempt was made during this year's excavations to look for sluices or water gates because considerable water diversion would be necessary.

The current excavations were completed in December 1978. The future of the site is under discussion pending a decision on preservation or further excavation.

OTHER SITES RECORDED DURING 1978

Unless otherwise stated these sites were recorded by Richard Chambers.

ABINGDON, 37-41 East St. Helen's Street, 40-46 West St. Helen's Street, St. Helen's Mews

Following the demolition of a garage which occupied nos. 37-41 East St. Helen's Street and nos. 40-46 West St. Helen's Street (PRNs 12,000 and 12,101; SU 497 968), a watching brief was kept with the Abingdon and Area Archaeological and Historical Society whilst contractors stripped extensive areas of the site to a depth of approximately 1m.

Beneath accumulations of post-medieval debris there were many medieval and post-medieval rubbish pits mainly confined to the properties facing onto East St. Helen's Street, indicating that this ground was open for a long time. The boundary between the former properties facing on to East and West St. Helen's Streets was still visible as a soil change forming a clear line between an area of intense medieval soil disturbance and a less disturbed area. It was quite clear that this boundary line had existed from, at the latest, the early medieval period.

The upper portions of many of the underlying Romano-British features which were expected to show on this site had been destroyed by later soil disturbance and almost all of the Roman pottery came from medieval and later levels. The only late Anglo-Saxon material were two sherds of coarse pottery, unfortunately from unstratified levels. Work is still in progress.

BICESTER, Kings End Farm

The extensive Romano-British settlement 1.5km west of Bicester (PRN 11,204; Centred SP 573 227) has yielded further material as building work progresses. A ground survey conducted in advance of Building Phases 3a and 3b was undertaken by Basil Turton using a fluxgate gradiometer. Two and a half hectares of ground were surveyed by traverses 6m apart and the results were sketch-planned with reasonable accuracy. This exercise had the value of creating a plan of the major ditched boundaries to the settlement and areas of internal occupation disturbance on a site which could not be expected to provide cropmarkings.

The recording of settlement features as they are exposed during building operations continues to be undertaken chiefly by Peter Riebrach assisted by other local volunteers. A summary of the results so far is given by the plan Figure 35. This exercise in recording should finally enable a general examination of not only well over half of the Romano-British settlement but also well over half of the perimeter area to the settlement.

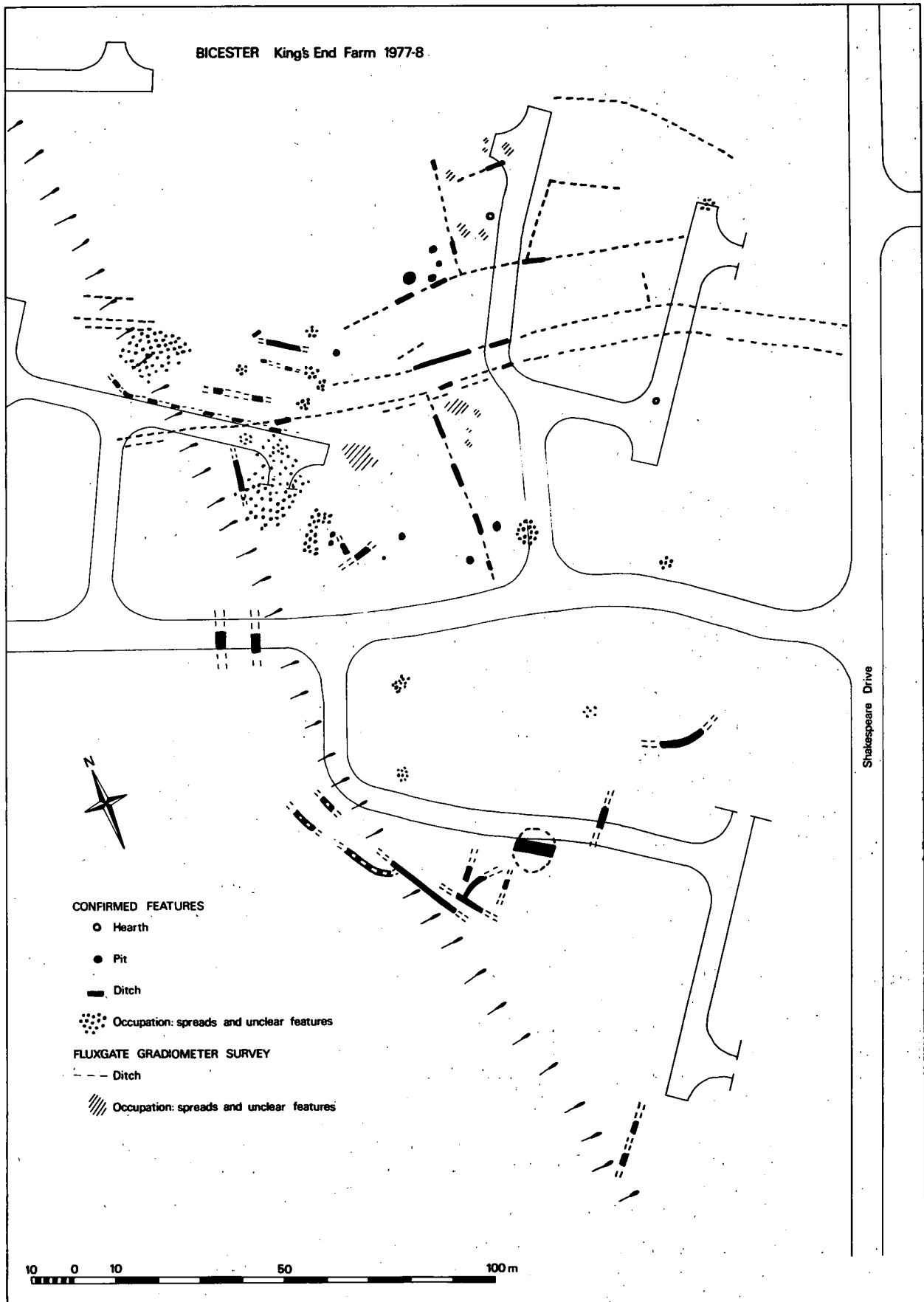


Figure 35

Plan of the Romano-British features superimposed on the new road outline.

Finds of roof tile and comb-decorated tile indicate the presence of a villa building nearby, possibly occupying the blank space in the north-west section of the plan. Survey and foundation work has shown that the present marshy ground marked on the plan by the break of slope provided a western boundary for the settlement, although in places the slope has been advanced by refuse dumped during the last century or two.

RICESTER, 8-16 London Road

Following the demolition of nos. 8-16 London Road, a trial excavation was carried out to examine the stratigraphy. (PRN: 11,500 and 11,501; SP5865 2225).

Like other sites in Faringdon and Chipping Norton, towns similarly sited on limestone, there was little soil build-up from past periods and at Ricester, no medieval stratigraphy remained. Two of three 18-19th century cess pits found extended beneath the present pavement.

RICESTER, Sewage Treatment Works

A watching brief was maintained during the construction of a new service road to the sewage works, approximately 1.5km north of the Roman town of Alchester. The continuous roadside drainage ditch did not provide any archaeological material.

BUSCOT, Buscot Lock

The construction of a new weir around the lock revealed an old channel of the Thames. Mr. Wilson, the Lock-Keeper noticed a layer of peat in it and samples were taken by Mark Robinson. They contained evidence of a post-glacial woodland flora.

CAVERSHAM

During new workings at the Redlands gravel pit Richard Chambers found a flint flake and a Clactonian flint cove. The site is being watched by Ruth and Ernest Just of SOAG.

CUMNOR - Harold Mytum

Iron Age and Roman sherds were found during 19th century quarrying work on the southern slopes of Wytham Hill but it was only early in 1978 that fieldwalking by the Oxford University Archaeological Society located a site damaged only by ploughing (SP476072). A trench 11.3m long and 1m wide located a large ditch 5m wide and over 2m deep running approximately east-west. Its fill was alternate layers of clean orange gravel derived from the subsoil and containing few finds, and grey-black refuse with much pottery, bone, several iron nails and an iron ring. The trench seems to have cut across the terminal of the ditch since it was only 1m deep on the west section but over 2m on the east. Fieldwalking gridded on 10m squares showed that the pottery scatter only covered a small (c. 300 sq m) area to the south, but the ditch was not traced round this concentration of

pottery despite augering and a resistivity survey. The auger indicated the presence of other features which confused attempts at identifying the line of the ditch. A second trench 3m long, 1m wide, was dug south of the first and discovered two post holes or pits, also containing much pottery and bone. The fabric of the pottery is very similar to early Iron Age pottery from nearby at Farmoor. More fieldwalking and excavation in the region may define more closely the zone over which such pottery was in use.

DIDCOT

Joyce Hall of the Didcot Archaeological and Historical Society has been inspecting the foundations of new houses at Blagrove Farm Romano-British settlement.

DORCHESTER, 11 Rottern Row

Patrick Johnson of the Dorchester Archaeological and Historical Group reported that builders found a number of fragmentary human skeletons beneath the floor of a cottage.

FARINGDON By-pass

The whole of the Faringdon by-pass route was closely watched by members of the Faringdon Archaeological Study Group during the topsoil stripping stage. Although sites were known to exist close by no archaeological material was recovered from the route.

FRILFORD/GARFORD - Richard Hingley

A region around the Noah's Ark temple on the river Ock is being fieldwalked as thoroughly as is possible. The area examined lies between Nor Brook and the stream running north of Frilford village. This report is an interim. The following sites have been recorded so far (numbers refer to those on Figure 36).

1. Neolithic/Bronze Age Settlement

Scatters of flint have been observed on four sites (1 to 4 on the map). These scatters include Neolithic and Bronze Age tools and flakes. Two of the scatters (1 and 2) seem quite extensive. A barbed-and-tanged arrowhead came from the banks of the Ock near the Noah's Ark temple site (5 on map). Crop-mark circles probably representing Bronze Age round barrows have been recorded from aerial photographs (at 1 and 4).

2. Iron Age Settlement

An Iron Age settlement seen from the aerial photographs to consist of two or three round huts has been examined (at 6). Pottery collected dated from the middle to late Iron Age. A large village of up to 30 round huts has been recognised from aerial photographs (7); it has not yet been examined on the ground but some Iron Age pottery came from just west of the site (2). Two earlier Iron Age settlements have been traced, east of the Noah's Ark, on the Ock terrace (8 and 9). These restricted scatters probably indicate small settlements predating the Iron Age settlement excavated below the Noah's Ark temple (J.S.P. Bradford and R. Goodchild, 'Excavations at Frilford, 1937-8', Oxoniensia, IV (1939), 1-70). A small quantity of

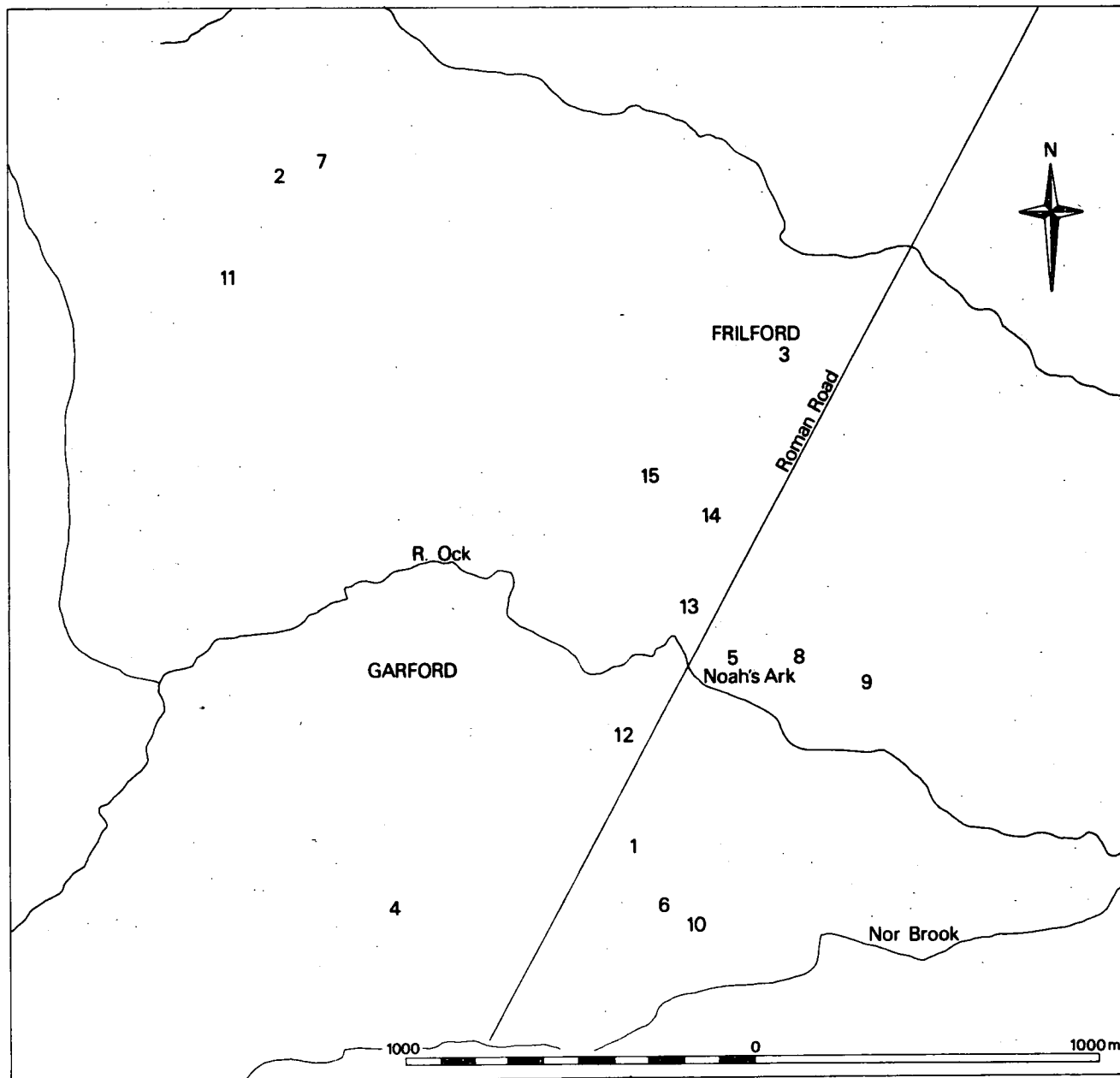


Figure 36
Results of fieldwork in the Frilford-Garford area, Oxon.

Iron Age pottery came from area 4 on the map.

Extensive crop-mark complexes represent Iron Age field systems at 4, 6 and 11 on the map. A drove way runs south from site 7 towards the Ock.

3. Roman Settlement

A villa has been discovered (10) which from aerial photographs appears to have been of corridor plan, similar in shape and size to the villa excavated in the last century near Hamfield Barn (11). Continuity of occupation from the Iron Age to Roman periods is indicated on both sites. Several other scatters of pottery (12 to 15) probably indicate other Roman buildings, probably less Romanised farmsteads. A settlement several acres in extent existed around the Noah's Ark temple. The densest area of pottery and tile (8) probably representing several buildings, lay immediately east of the temple temenos.

Field systems of probable Roman date occur on aerial photographs at 6, 7, 11 and 15.

4. Saxon

No Saxon settlement has been recognised, although some of the pottery from 10 could be Saxon. Some features cutting into Hamfield Barn Villa (11) field system could be sunken huts, this field has not been walked yet.

Large areas which have yielded no evidence of settlement after field walking lie east of the Noah's Ark, towards Marcham and east of the Nor Brook villa between the two streams.

It is hoped that further work over the next year or two will reveal as complete as possible a picture of prehistoric and Roman settlement in the area.

HANWELL

House building on a deserted area of the medieval village at Hanwell is now finished (PRN 5924; SP 437 438). The watching brief maintained by Susan Digby-Firth revealed several more features, chiefly ditches, none of which contained datable material and with the limited view provided by house foundations and drainage trenches, none of the features recorded could be related to previously excavated remains (Oxoniensia XL (1975), 218-37).

HENLEY ON THAMES, 87, 91 Bell Street

Trial excavations on the possible site of the late 17th century Ravenscroft glass works by the Henley Archaeological and Historical Group under the direction of Richard Chambers did not reveal any trace of the glass works (Area Centred SU 760 829). The out-building at the rear of no. 91 Bell Street, which might have housed the glass furnace, was shown by excavation to have been built in the second half of the 18th century, too late for the glass works which had closed down before the end of the 17th century. However careful scouting of the documentary evidence and the limited extent of these trial excavations does not completely rule out the existence of a glass furnace in this area.

In the adjacent gardens to the rear of the houses nos. 87 and 89 Bell Street, nine trial holes showed widespread 18 - 20th century disturbance of the garden soil all the way down to the natural gravel 1m below. Further

trial trenches undertaken by the Henley Group in a walled garden to the rear of these gardens also failed to locate any evidence for plan making.

At the rear of no. 91 where the ground had been protected by the 18th century out-building, traces of an earlier wattle and daub structure of the 15-16th century were found. Several fragments of coarse medieval pottery were recovered from beneath the compacted earth floor of this earlier building - apparently the first medieval pottery to be found in Henley (PRNs 11,477 and 11,478).

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE

Ron Cowell, an In-Service Trainee, undertook a survey of the parish of Kingston Bagpuize in connection with the Countryside Commission's Kingstonhill Demonstration Farm Project. Large amounts of Roman grey ware have been found during building operations around the farm.

LANGFORD

An inspection was made of the proposed site for the new village hall, east of the parish church at Langford. The site, which was under pasture appeared to contain slight, badly eroded traces of house platforms or small paddock boundaries farther back from the road along with a presumed pre-enclosure period pond (PRN 12,102; SP 250 026). The clearest earthworks belonged to the ditches of the 18-19th century hedged field-boundaries now partially cleared. Earthworks were still visible in the adjacent field to the south of the site.

LITTLE FARINGDON, Purton to Brize Norton Oil Pipeline

During the autumn the Property Services Agency working on behalf of the Ministry of Defence replaced corroded sections of the oil pipeline supplying the RAF aerodrome at Brize Norton. The existing pipeline cut across an important scheduled area of cropmarks on the river gravel in the south-east of the parish of Little Faringdon. Aerial photographs taken by J.K. St. Joseph in July 1959 show a complex of cropmarks, the earliest of which belong to the Bronze Age (PRN 1415; SP 240 006). At the request of DoE an excavation was mounted in advance of the new pipeline to record the parts of features that would otherwise have been destroyed by the cutting of the pipe trench. The excavation directed by Richard Chambers was financed out of the Contract which was awarded to Esso Petroleum whose own contractors were Laings. Although the contractors brought in to lay the pipe would normally have stripped topsoil from the whole of the 50ft wide easement it was agreed that within the limits of the scheduled ancient monument the top soil would be left in situ to protect the archaeological features beneath from damage by contractors vehicles. It was further agreed that the top soil would be made good only by cultivation to the normal plough soil depth and not by subsoiling. The length of the easement for which the top soil was left in situ was later extended approximately 500m to protect archaeological material at present outside the scheduled area.

The OAU stripped the topsoil along the line of the pipe trench to a width of 1m. The total length of this strip was 900m of which 400m lay across the scheduled area. The mass of features revealed within this scheduled area were planned both before and after excavation. All of the datable features belonged to the Iron Age and Roman periods. To the south-

west of the scheduled site another scatter of features was recorded including several possibly Neolithic in date.

NORTH WESTON

The deserted medieval village of North Weston (PRN 5914) in the Hundred of Thame, now lies within Great Haseley parish but until 1932 it was included in Thame. Although not mentioned in the Domesday Survey North Weston was described in 1279 as a hamlet under the Lordship of William Quatremain. A fishery mentioned in the same document may well be represented by the two ponds to the east and south-east of Manor Farm (VCH Oxon., VII (1962), 187). Enclosure at North Weston may have been completed by the 16th century as in 1542 a lease for the manor included 2,900 sheep and cattle. The effects of this enclosure caused the village to shrink and only ten persons are listed in the Hearth Tax Returns of 1665 (*Ibid.*, 190-1).

Of the settlement remains on the southern side of the brook only Manor Farm now survives. The present house and out-buildings represent part of the east wing and kitchen offices of the manor house which appears to have been rebuilt in the 16th century. The remainder of the manor house was demolished in the early 19th century and the roof timbers were re-used in a barn built on to the early, possibly 16th century brick built dovecote. A medieval chapel dedicated to St. James was in existence by 1390 and stood on the southern side of the 18th century walled garden until it was demolished early in the 19th century (*Ibid.*, 170 and 205).

Only a part of the village site remained as earthworks in 1975 when a series of aerial photographs was taken (figure 37). These showed that the centre of the village had occupied the two fields either side of the green lane to the west of Manor Farm. The earthworks in the eastern field had already been levelled although some soil and vegetation marks were seen. However the western field contained clear boundary ditches, some enclosing pronounced building platforms especially on the marshy ground near the brook, and there also appears to be some consolidation of agricultural strips in this field. Both post-medieval and medieval pottery has since been picked up from both fields.

More enclosure ditches were recorded farther north along the green lane to the west of North Weston Farm, and to the south of the village centre by a pond whose irregular shape suggests that it is a later water-filled clay pit. In both cases some of these enclosures appear to be overlaid by ridge-and-furrow. Not included on the plan are several rectangular soil marks centred 0.6km to the north-west of North Weston Farm suggesting a further extension of this settlement. However the overall pattern suggests that the green lane provided an axis along which this settlement grew.

OXFORD, Former Boys High School/New Social Sciences Library, George Street

During landscaping work two hand-dug trenches by Tony Dixon and the Oxford University Archaeological Society located a large ditch running under the city wall at right angles (Figure 38). It undoubtedly predated the wall, and was apparently backfilled in the 13th century with material firm enough to suggest that it was meant as a foundation for the wall. At the very least this changes our ideas of the early medieval topography of the west side of the tower. It suggests the north west corner of the wall formed a

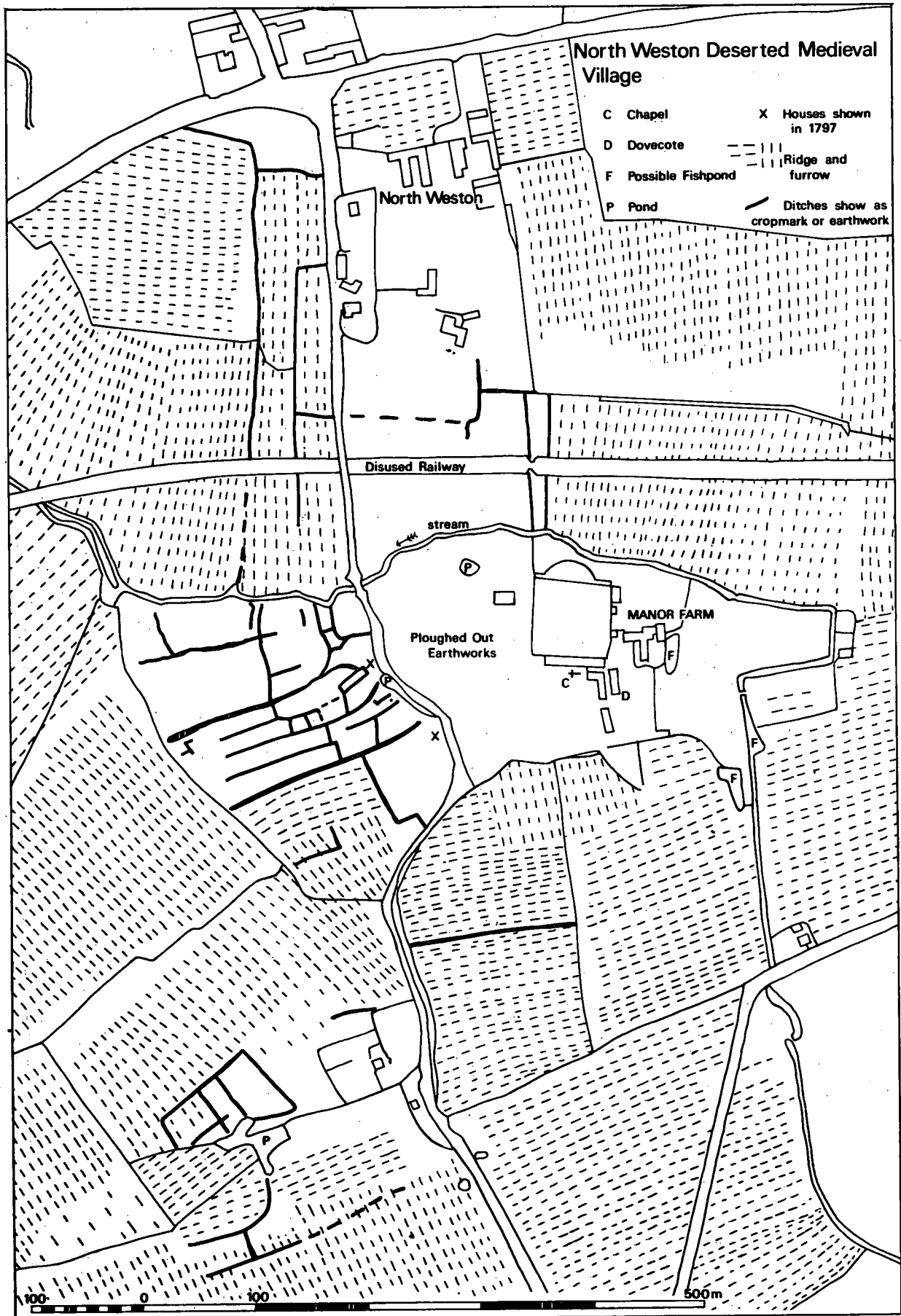


Figure 37

Earthwork patterns as seen from the air in July 1975

OXFORD : Late Saxon & early Medieval Ditches

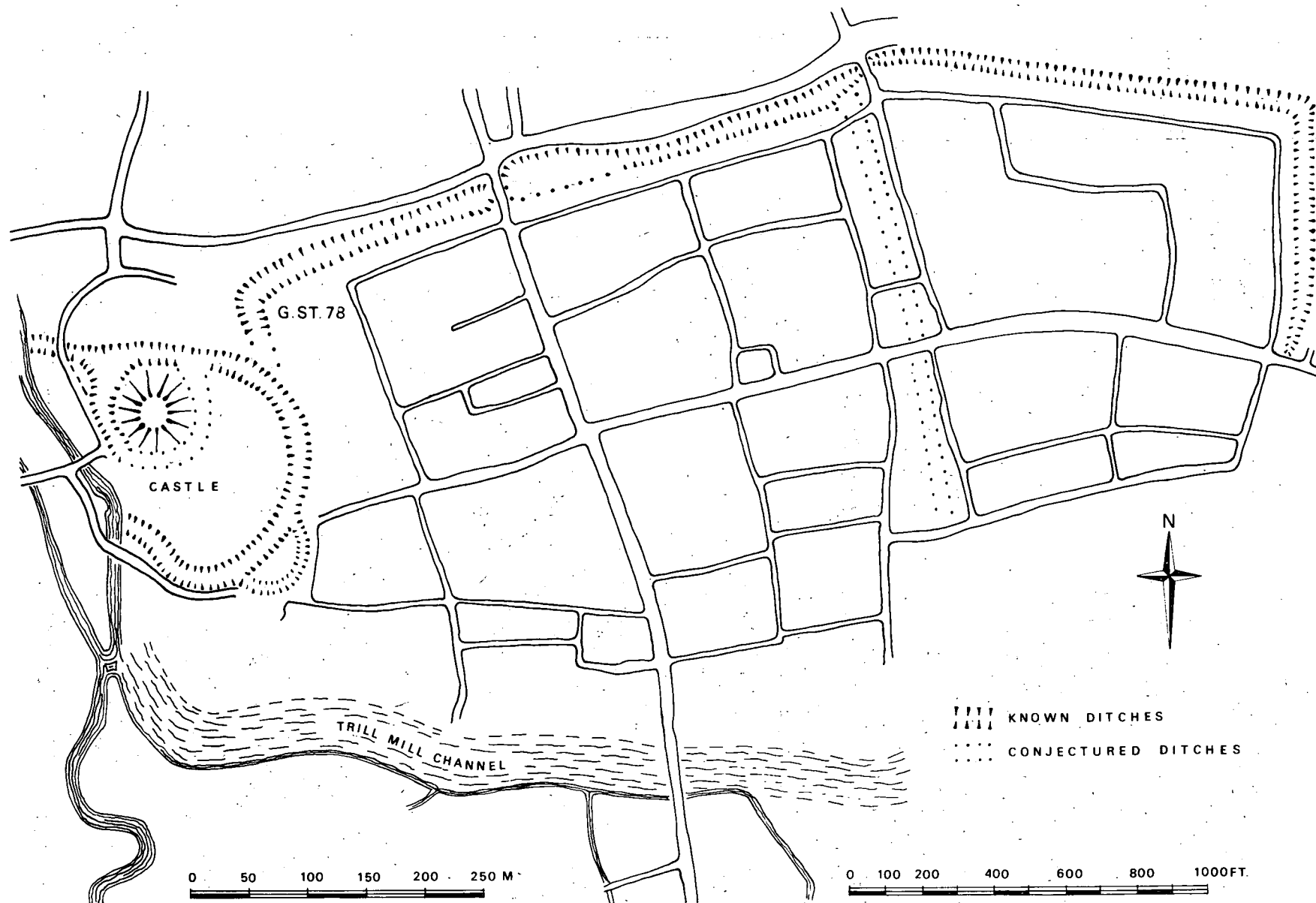


Figure 38

right-angle originally, and when the remainder of the town's stone walls were built in the 13th century, this corner was pushed outwards to partially 'embrace' the castle. This later alignment clearly respects the shape of the castle, but a right-angled ditch would not. There is therefore an a priori case for thinking that this corner arrangement may be older than the castle (c. 1071), and probably the long-sought western limit of the Saxon burh. On the presently established line of the western end of the late Saxon defences, all but the north end would have been obliterated by the broad ditches of the Castle and its Barbican which would explain why it was not picked up in the Westgate excavations. There are no prospects of re-development in this area, so it will be a long time before these findings can be confirmed with a deep mechanical excavation.

OXFORD, Turl Street

Workmen repairing a gas main reported a skull and neck bones apparently articulated, which must have been a burial associated with the Church of St. Mildred. This church was suppressed in 1429 after the founding of Lincoln College.

TETSWORTH, Attington

Since the survey of the deserted medieval village at Attington (Newsletter no. 8 (1978), 24-26) more medieval pottery has been recovered including a scatter from the ploughsoil in a field not previously investigated to the north-east of the present farm house.

SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

The housing estate which was reported in last year's Report as destroying house enclosures on the deserted south-eastern edge of the medieval village has now obliterated the whole of the site (PRN 4525; SP 281 176). When surveyed in 1973 by R.A. Chambers (Figure 39) the site was found to contain ridge-and-furrow running up against toft boundaries. Partial topsoil stripping revealed some medieval occupation debris and also some early post-medieval domestic debris indicating that at least some occupation continued into the post-medieval period. Unfortunately it proved impossible to locate the positions of any buildings within the tofts.

STANTON HARCOURT

Gravel extraction by ARC at Stanton Harcourt uncovered a Roman cemetery and trackway west of the village cricket ground (Figure 40). An excavation directed by Neil McGavin, an In-Service Trainee, recovered evidence of the Roman trackway, which was 4m wide, and ran north-south; the road surface had been stripped away, but the ditches on each side remained. To the east of the trackway was the cemetery.

Thirty-six skeletons were recovered from 35 graves. The graves were in rough rows, and were oriented north-south. Some burials were in coffins - suggested by the presence of coffin nails or silhouettes of rotted wood; others perhaps in shrouds. Finds from the grave included coins, an animal jaw, and a pair of hobnail boots. Three skeletons had had their heads cut

Shipton under Wychwood 1974

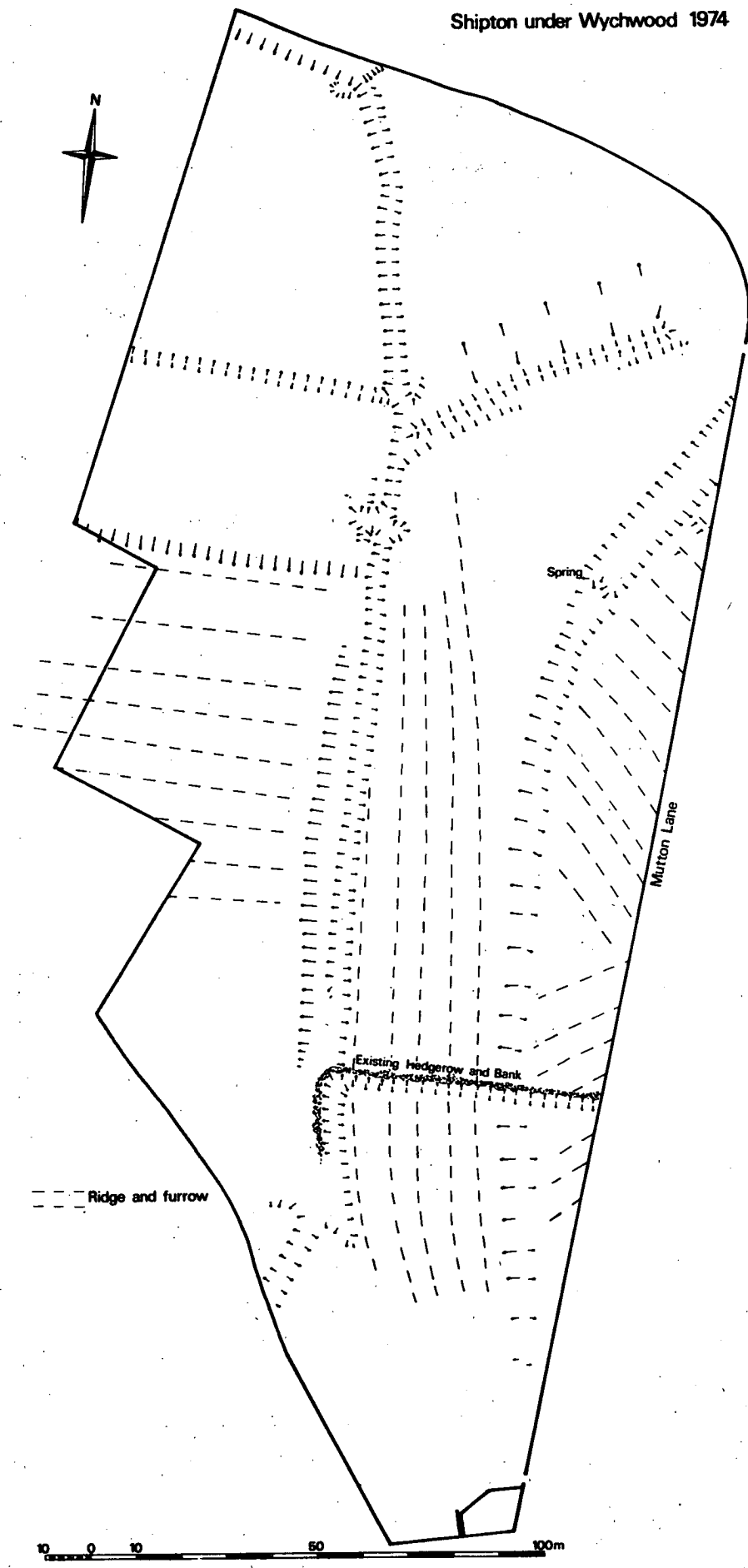


Figure 39

STANTON HARCOURT

Cricket Ground 1978

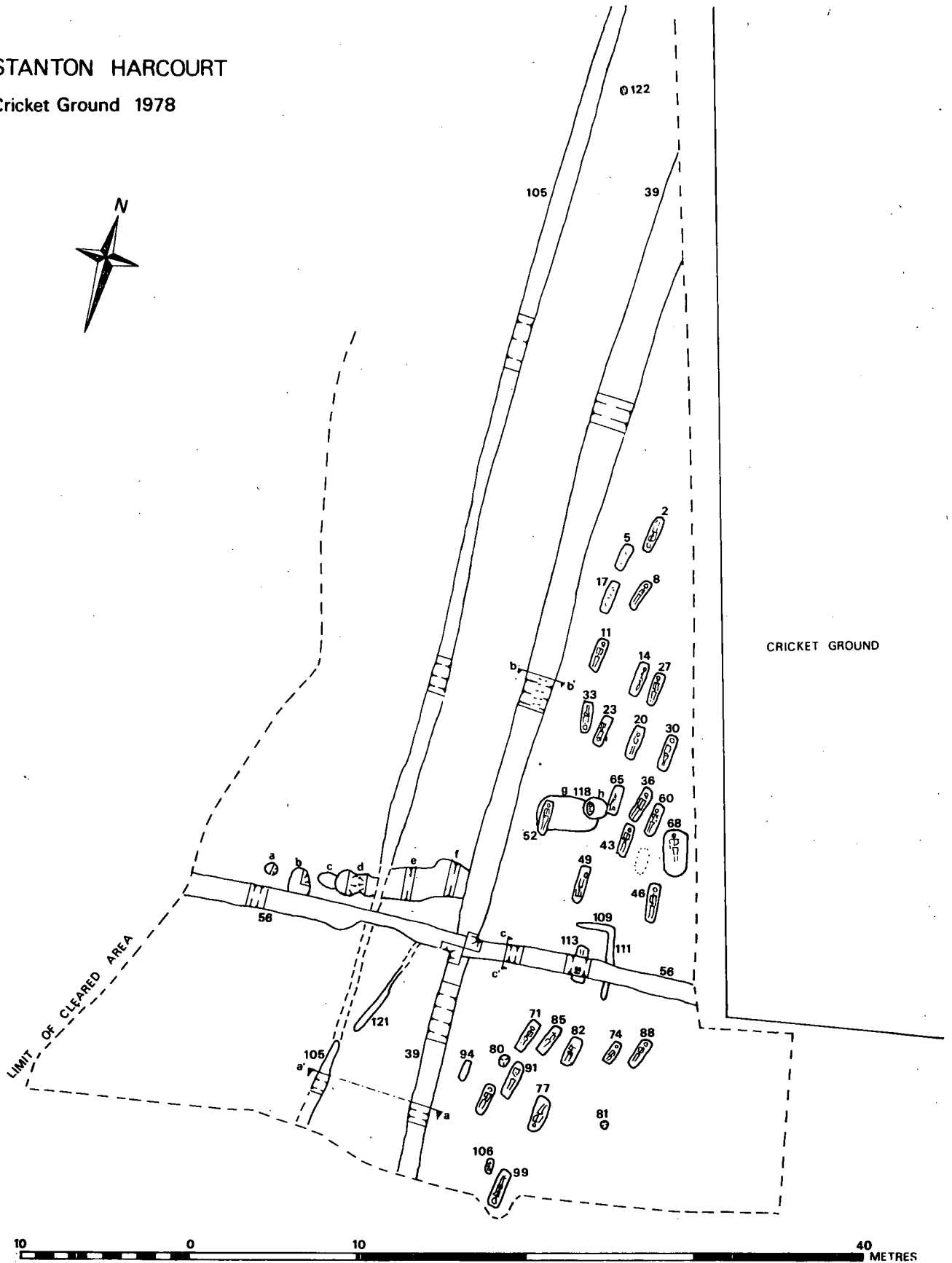


Figure 40

Roman cemetery and associated trackway

off and placed near the feet, either before or after death.

WALLINGFORD: New Road/Thames Street

T.J. Weare of the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society recorded further burials from the site of St. Michael's Church.

X40, New Road from Oxford to Birmingham

During the second half of 1978 and up to the time of writing three out of four contracts for preliminary survey of the preferred route have been completed for the Eastern Road Construction Unit. Each contract involved the excavation of a number of trial pits to examine the structure of the ground over which the motorway may be built. Each trial pit also provided an opportunity to check for archaeological remains in the area although so far no archaeological material has been noted in the sections. The fourth trial pitting contract will finish next spring. Incidental to the watching of these pits several pottery scatters have been noted.

EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

AN EXERCISE IN PRIMITIVE BUILDING TECHNIQUES - Richard Thomas, David Tabrett and Bob Mustoe (*Bedfordshire County Council Field Team*)

The construction of a primitive hut began in November 1977 during excavation of the alien priory at Grovebury Farm, Bedfordshire, and it was completed almost a year later, (1). Since work was carried out intermittently during free time no realistic estimates are available of the total man hours involved. While the project was not initially intended as a fully recorded building trial it was soon apparent that the skills and knowledge gained could bear upon the understanding of primitive construction methods. The hut was not built to specifications based upon an excavated example, although its construction, conditioned by materials to hand, is not unlike hut types known from the 'Highland Zone'. (2)

The hut comprises an almost circular dry stone wall, with an internal diameter of 4.50 m and contains a central wooden post supporting a conical thatched roof. The wall is of irregular 'Carlstone' blocks, an iron sandstone, which were laid directly onto the ground surface without a foundation trench. The wall is two stones wide and its five courses were laid in herringbone fashion to a height of about one metre. Gaps were packed with locally obtained clay to exclude draughts. The wall circuit was broken by an entrance facing east, 1m in width and strengthened on each side by horizontal blocks.

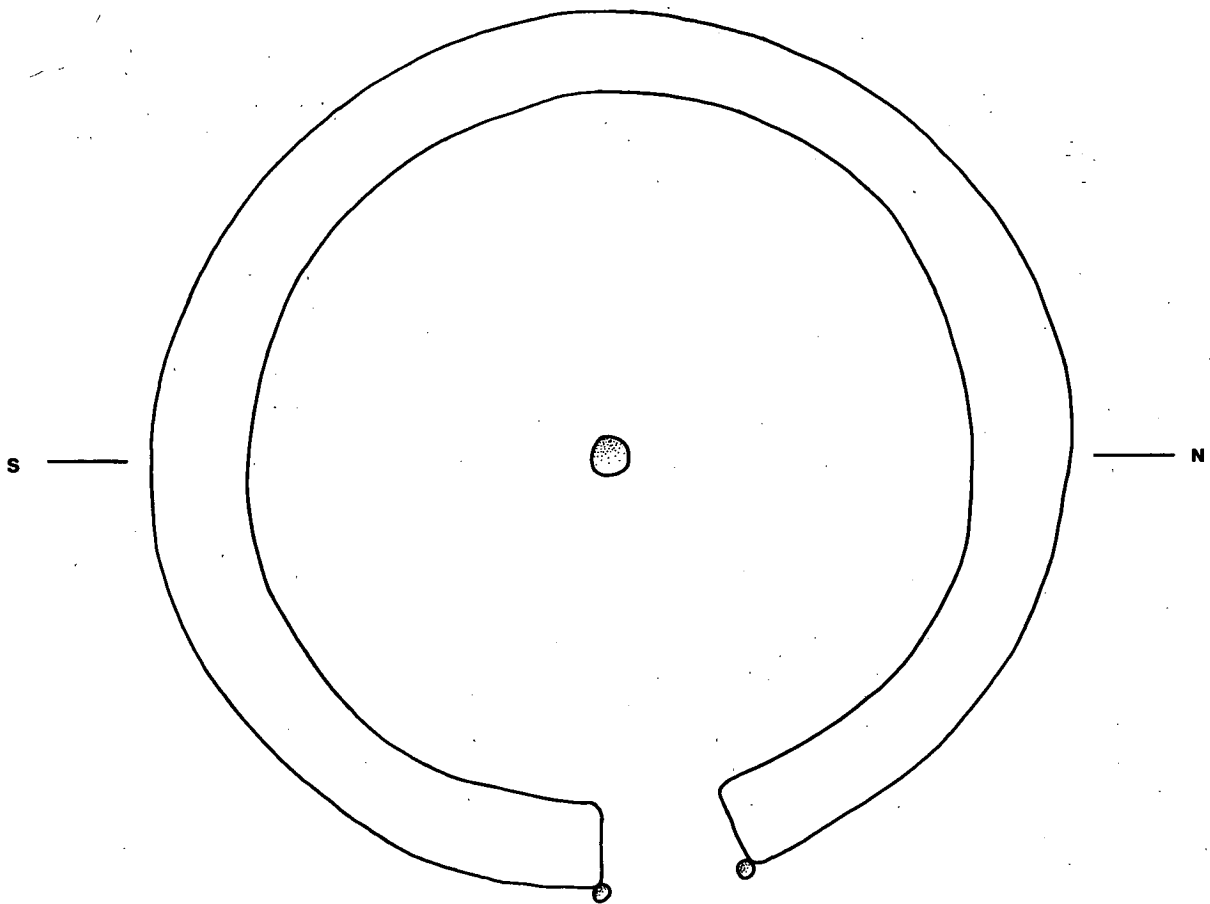
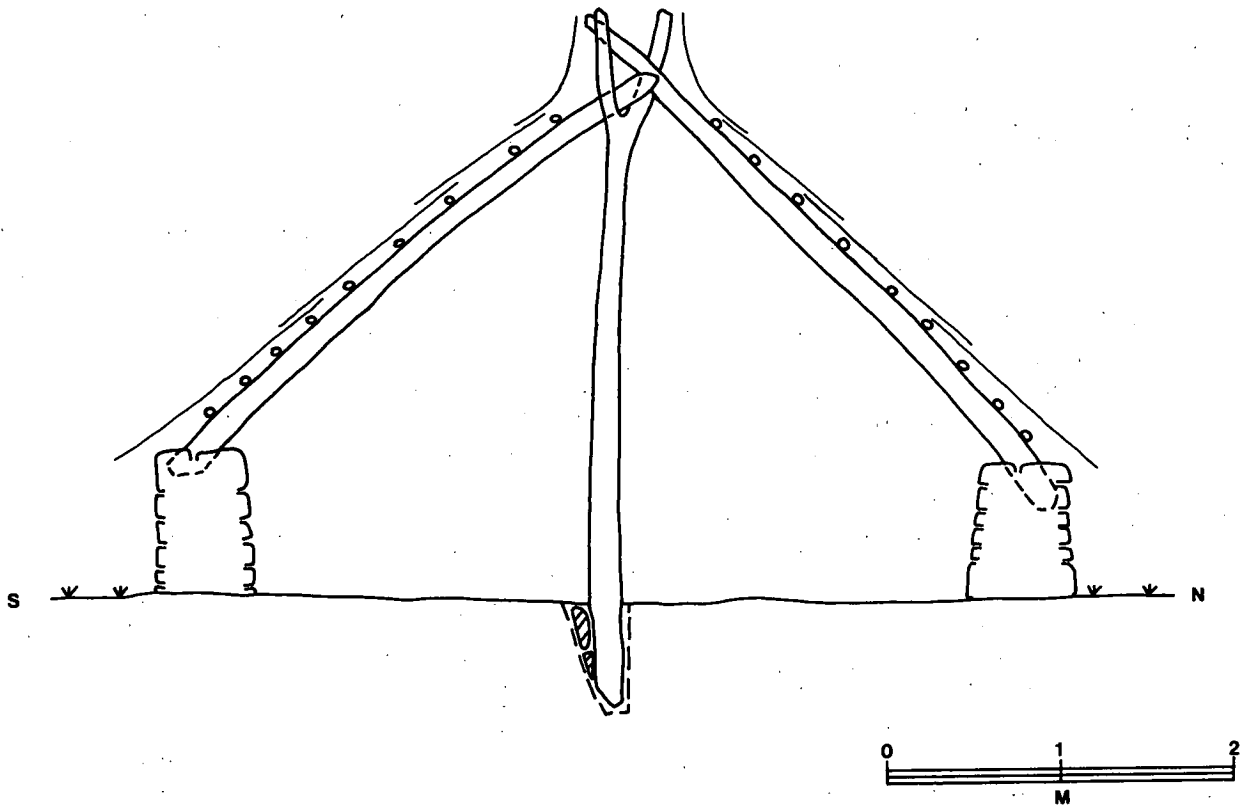
At the centre of the hut, a forked post was set against one side of a hole 60 cm. deep and stood to a height of approximately 3.5 m. The roof timbers were pollarded willows (*Salix fragilis*), which radiated downwards from the central post and were embedded in the top of the encircling wall. A series of horizontal lengths were bound onto the main timbers at 30 cm intervals to support the thatch. The entrance was protected by a thatched porch, resting on two timber portals.

An abundant supply of reeds growing nearby provided thatching material. Two species of the genus *Calamagrostis* were present: the small wood-reed (*C. epigeios*) and the purple small-reed (*C. canescens*). These are both inferior in size and quality to the more common thatching reed, *Phragmites communis*, (3). Bundles of reeds were harvested with short-handled sickles. Contaminants such as nettles, docks, common bur-reed and various grasses increased the bulk of material. Since cutting took place in season, it was necessary to dry the bundles in the sun before use.

The thatching bundles were fixed to the roof by willow battens tightly stitched with sisal to the underlying horizontal lengths. Sufficient reed was gathered to provide a moderate covering of thatch, 15cm. thick. A small opening at the top of the roof was left to allow the escape of smoke from a central hearth. The thatch successfully withstood heavy rain and strong gales. Unfortunately, its temptation as fodder proved too great for the local cattle and they devoured the lower part of the roof covering at the beginning of January 1979. Is this why so many round-houses are surrounded by a fence or ditch?

Notes

1. The authors would like to thank the Job Creation workforce and volunteers for their assistance, also Brian Dix for many helpful comments.
2. R. Bradley, *The Prehistoric Settlement of Britain*, RKP London 1978 pp. 60-62 is a recent review of the evidence from these areas.
3. J.E. Manners, *County Crafts Today*, David and Charles, London and Newton Abbot, 1974, p.70



EXPERIMENTAL HUT, GROVEBURY FARM, BEDS. 1977-78

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATION IN THE REGION

BEDFORDSHIRE

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal, the periodical covering all the work done in the county, is published by the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council, price £4.00 plus postage; available from the Hon. Treasurer, 63 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedford. Volume 12 appeared in late 1978; volume 13, 1978, being 'Excavations in Bedford, 1965-1976' is in the press and scheduled to appear in April/May 1979. Volume 14, 1979 is in preparation and it is hoped will be published in late 1979. Volume 15, 1980, closure date 31st August 1979. Editor: David H. Kennett, 55 Mount Grace Road, Stopsley, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 8EP (telephone 0582-24654).

General

David H. Kennett, *Anglo-Saxon Pottery*, (Shire Archaeology, 1978), includes figures of 173 early Anglo-Saxon pots, many from the CBA 9 region, especially Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire sites.

David H. Kennett, *Portrait of Bedfordshire*, (Robert Hale, 1978), includes substantial comments of the archaeological remains of the county, in particular those of the Anglo-Saxon period.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

'A Roman Veterinary Physician from the Thames Valley', R.P. Wright, *Britannia*, 8 (1977), 279-282.

(Graffitto on a sherd from Amerden, Bucks).

'Saxon and Medieval Walton, Aylesbury: Excavations 1973-4', M. Farley, *Recs of Bucks* 20 (1976)

(Available for £3.00 post paid, from Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, County Museum, Aylesbury).

See also under individual units.

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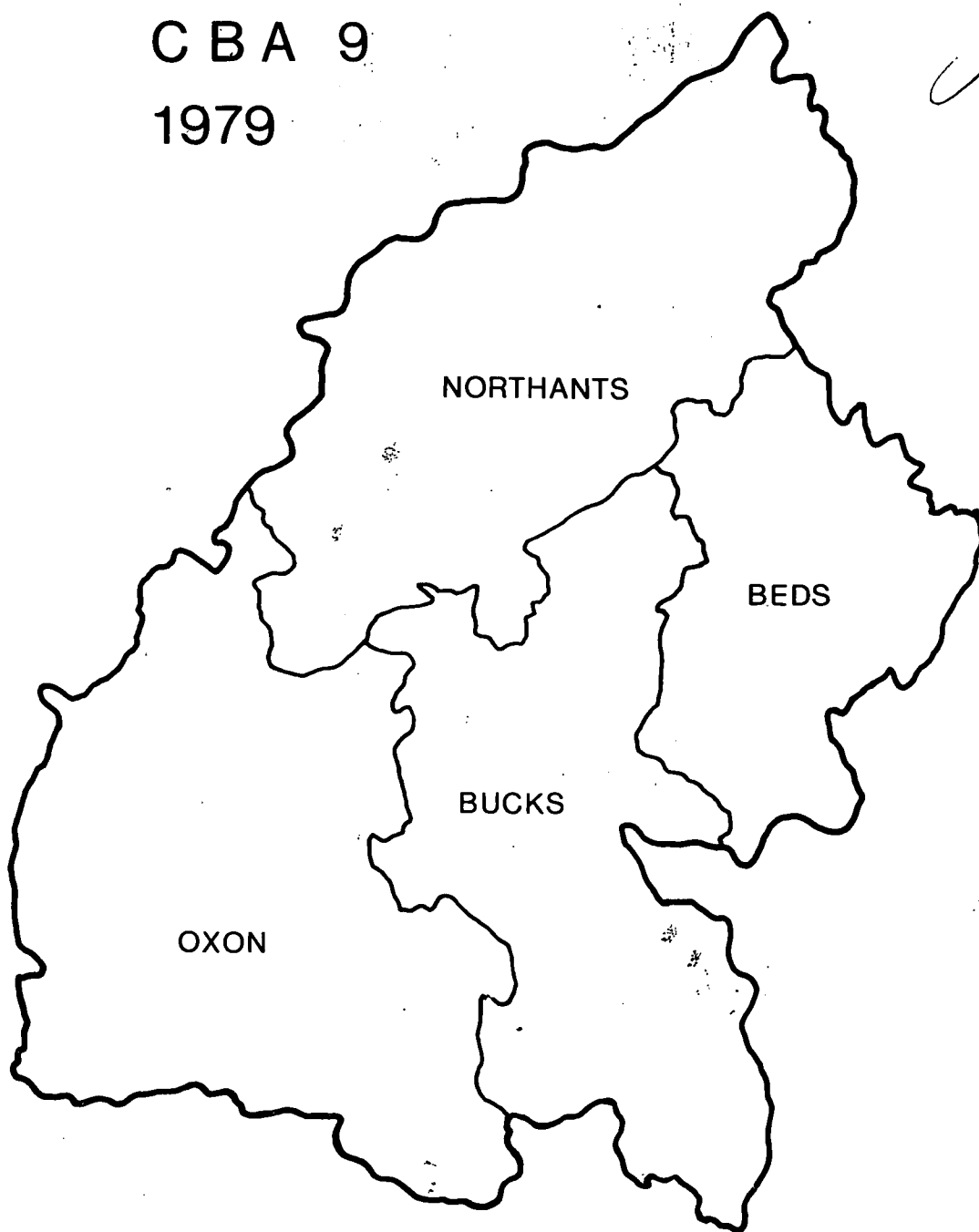
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