

# HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 16      December 1969

WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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**HEREFORDSHIRE NEWS SHEET  
WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

**No. 16     December 1969**

**Edited by:     Ron Shoesmith**

**CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

At this time of the year we sit back to become armchair archaeologists, read our un-read report and meditate upon all the red herrings that have flashed across the last year. Those of you who have heard or read the Section's report for the year will be aware of the quiet but steady activity going on in the county, from major excavations like Midsummer Hill to the more modest ones of Cothill and Dorstone. Two useful surveys were carried out in 1969 – one of Rowland Vaughan's "water works", a much neglected subject which gave us particularly interesting days, and a limited one on the Leominster Canal, features of which are rapidly disappearing. A good start has also been made by section members on a pre-medieval guide to sites in the county. Peter Leach is the editor, and anyone willing to help with the card index recording of suitable sites for inclusion can contact him at the Museum. A list of such sites will shortly appear in this newsletter for your appraisal.

To give us a good start to the New Year, two indoor meetings of general interest have been planned for January and February, and we hope that this will encourage you to leave your fireside and join us. We celebrate the first day of Spring by getting out and doing an assessment of Herefordshire's part of Offa's Dyke. As new active members will be very welcome, why not bring someone else along in 1970?

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Jean O'Donnell  
Hon Chairman**

**EDITORIAL**

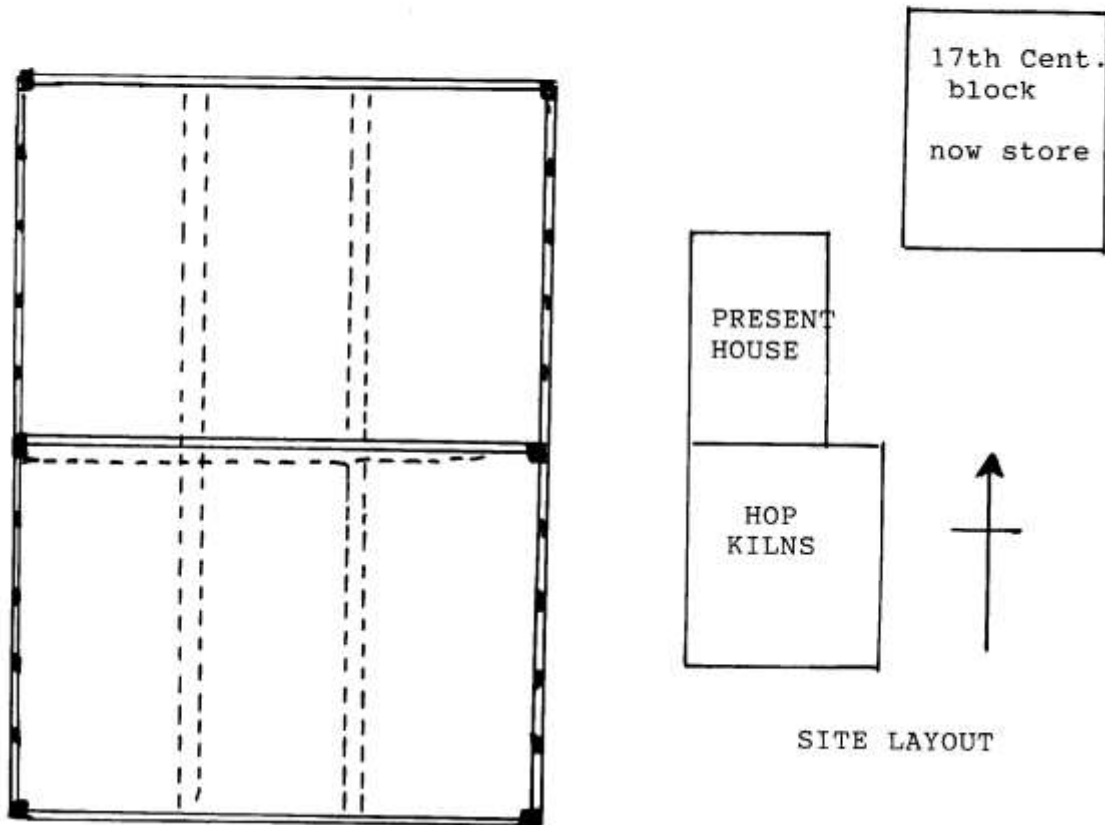
A lot of material always turns in for the Christmas issue of the Newsletter, and I hope you find this issue of interest.

The next Newsletter will be issued in early March, so contributions should be sent before the end of February.

Best wishes for Christmas and 1970.

**Ron Shoesmith**

Plan of First Floor



Plan of First Floor

**BARROW CRADLEY, SO 716 497**

The editor of this Newsletter suggested I found a house with a ghost for Christmas. I was not able to oblige, but at least I can write about a house that is something of a mystery in that it has four floors and no stairs.

It has been used as a store for a long time, probably since the last century, but was clearly a house of importance in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when it was built.

There is a stone basement built into and along the hill and entered from the east. Above this, everything is of timber framing in square, regular panels. The ground floor is entered from the south and this wall is now encased in brick. There are two rooms, one about twice as big as the other, the larger apparently always having had a plastered ceiling. There is some evidence to suggest that this room had a lateral fireplace, clearly having been the most important room in the house. The room alongside it has a gable fireplace which appears to have been inserted later, and two heavily hollow-chamfered beams.

The floor above is slightly jettied with two equal-sized rooms, that to the south apparently having been plastered. Both rooms have two beams running north-south, set into a big central beam. The only access to these room is by a modern external stairway.

The attics have no access at all today but there is a re-used balustrade around a square well in the southern room. This is clearly a recent structure and does not appear to have been part of an original stairway. The roof is interesting. Originally there was a longitudinal roof over two-thirds of the building with two big dormers facing the east front. This was unusual in having clasped purlins at collar and upper-collar levels, a late use of a

type of roof rarely found in the county even in the late medieval period when one would expect to see it. At some later date, apparently fairly recently, this was altered and a gable inserted over the southern half of the west wall. The attic windows have diamond mullions.

Thus there is quite a big building of some apparent wealth with no stairs, and no definite evidence of original fireplaces. From the bressumer moulding, the shallow jetty and the hollow chamfer it would appear to have been built in the early seventeenth century.

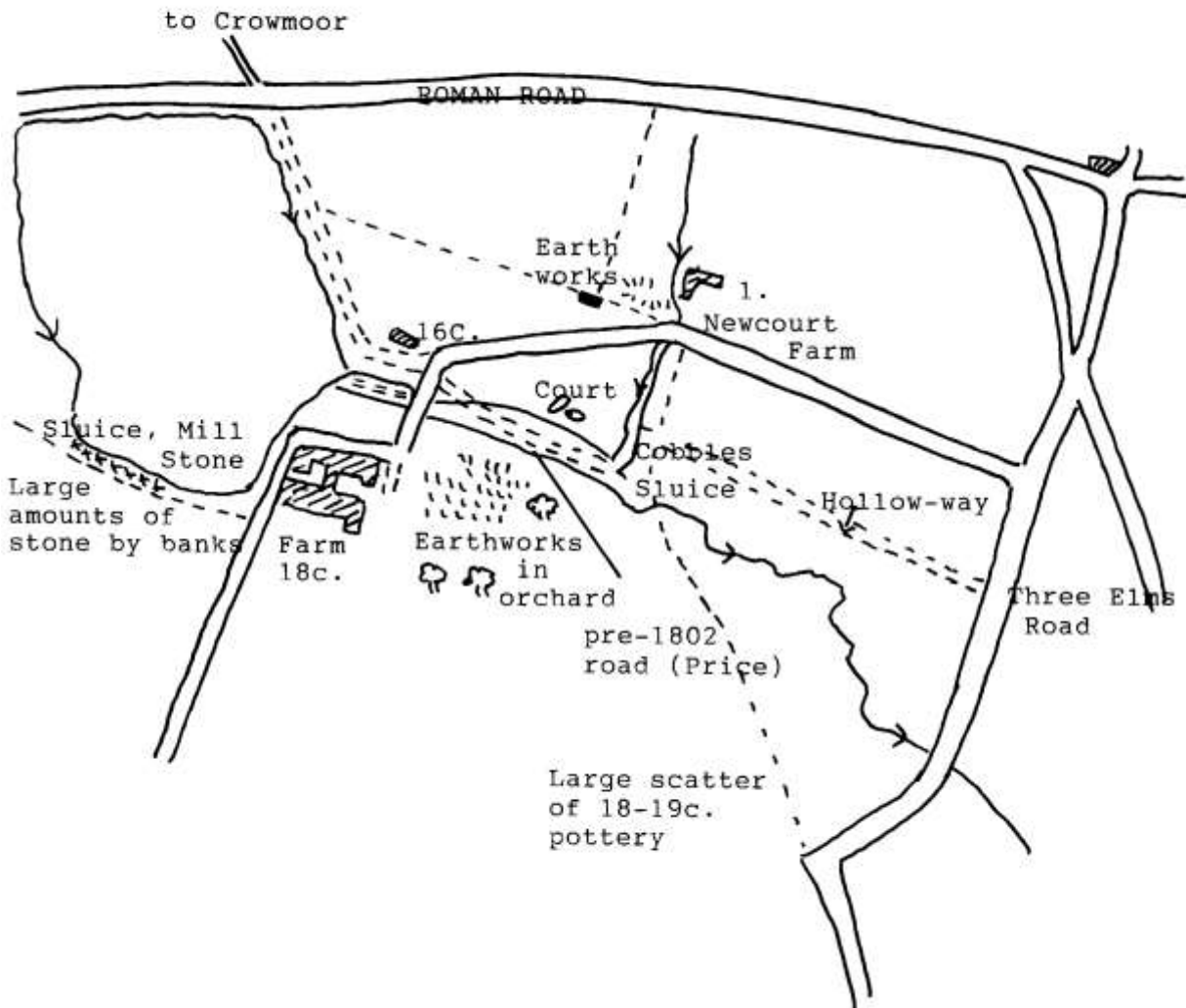
A few feet away is a cottage which on examination turns out to be a timber framed building encased in brick and which appears at one time to have extended westwards behind the seventeenth century structure. A possible explanation is that the building described above was built onto an existing house as a big parlour wing in the seventeenth century and that when the new farmhouse was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> the original house was curtailed in size and the link between the two parts destroyed. This may well account for the awkward, late gable, no chimneys and no stairs. If this is the case it was probably an interesting hall which was cut off from the original building.

### **BREDWARDINE 1969, SO 336 440**

#### **By R Shoesmith**

Recent examination suggested a substantial, probably medieval site in addition to the two scheduled areas (Bredwardine Castle, SO 335 444, and Old Court Mound, SO 336 448). It was decided to investigate this larger area in an effort to establish its function and date, and its relation to the scheduled areas. A contour survey was made of the site and a small exploratory area opened. Three main periods of occupation were found, the earliest consisting of the completely robbed foundation trench of an early stone and mortar building. The main period of occupation, which presumably a farm complex of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, provided a reasonable collection of sandy red wares with varieties of green glazing, strap handles and thumb bases. Many fragments of ridge tile were found with both moulded and cut crests. After some period of disuse, a large shallow pit was cut through the debris. The usage was uncertain but within the part excavated were the remains of two fires and a pile of tufa-encrusted pebbles.

It is hoped to continue the excavation in 1970.



**THE TOWNSHIP OF HUNTINGTON**

**By Jean O'Donnell**

A settlement existed before the Norman Conquest on the rich meadowland beside the Yazor Brook. In the time of King Edward it was worth four pounds. It is mentioned in Domesday with the following entry:

“In Huntenedune are 10 hides. Of these 4 are waste, and the others pay geld. On the demesne is one plough, and (there are) 5 villeins and 4 bordars with 7 ploughs. There are 5 acres of meadow and in addition there could be 1 more plough on the demesne.

Of this manor, a clerk holds two hides and a Knight three hides. On the demesne they have 2 ploughs, and there are 3 bordars and a smith with 1 plough. T.R.E. and after as now, it was worth £4.”

Early in the thirteenth century the lands were impropriated as an endowment of a prebendal stall in the Cathedral.

There is mention of the burning of Huntingdon and the Moor in the Barons wars of 1264-5. It was then a township. The footpaths reveal a line of an earlier road to Burghill and Tillington, and from the changes made in the water system after 1802 (from Price's map and observation), the road was diverted to run north of the Court and Chapel. The stream was dammed and formed a large pond with a sluice at the south-east which can be seen. The earlier road must lie through the bed of this pond. The drive into Huntingdon Court must have been part of this early road. The house itself appears to have had some external alterations at this time. The chapel, a perpetual curacy of Holmer, was rebuilt in 1850 at a cost of £80. It was built as a replica of the former chapel: if so it represents a style of c. 1150 with a rounded apse.

On the grounds are signs of earlier times. A hollow-way runs from the chapel due east to the main road. By the small ditch to the side of the chapel, which contains a rapid flow of water, are stretches of cobbles where the fast flowing water has washed away the bank. They appear to go with the hollow-way. In the orchard to the south of the pond are irregular earthworks. Some less noticeable ones are by New Court Farm (1). Opposite the farm (2) are some signs of millstones and sluices. On surrounding fields are a scatter of large stones and, during ploughing, blacker soils. Some of the larger stones have been collected and are ranged along the side of the footpath.

The population in 1841 was 115, although Price's 1802 map shows only 12 buildings in the township.

It would appear that the earthworks in the orchard are significantly related to the contraction of the village, and it would appear that the odd features of this settlement would repay a study in more detail.

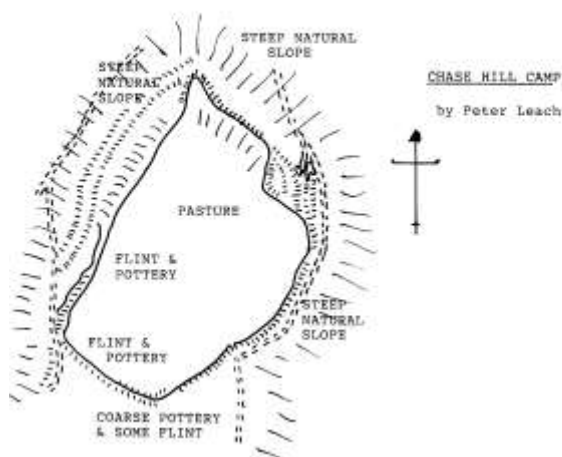
## HUNTSHAM, SO 565 175

### By Norman Bridgewater

In 1965, the southern wing of the main villa was completed. This consisted of 9 rooms, and the evidence from coins and pottery suggests five periods ranging from the late second to the late fourth centuries. The work this season has been to examine the eastern end of the villa, and it is fairly certain that this is leading to a northern wing which should yield the true courtyard type of villa. At the time of writing, only half the season's work has been completed.

This year also has seen the investigation of the precinct wall, on side of which is about 200 feet long, which obviously surrounds both the main villa and the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century cottage house excavated in 1964. This wall is free-standing and contains a gateway in the length examined.

This excavation is being carried out by the Archenfield Excavation Group and is directed by N P Bridgewater.



## CHASE HILL CAMP

### By Peter Leach

A small party of members and guests met at the Market Hall, Ross on the afternoon of Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Chase Hill was ascended and the north east entrance of the hillfort reached. The approaches here are considerably strengthened by a deep cutting through bedrock. Entrance to the fort is thus gained via a steep-sided bulge formed by a high reinforced natural bank on the outside and the steep side of the

hill on the inside. Chase Hill Camp is essentially a promontory fort of some 27 acres defended by steep slopes on all sides except the south. The fort is a univallate type but the surviving ramparts are not of great prominence. The east and south defences were examined along their length. The eastern consisted of a steepened outer bank only. At the southern end the ramparts were most visible, standing 3 or 4 feet above the inside of the fort and 5 or 6 feet outside. No clear indication of the ditch was observed along the perimeter examined.

The area enclosed by the fort defences is now undulating open pasture, reaching its highest point in the NW corner which is the summit of the hill. Only one area in the SE corner could be examined for surface finds, having been ploughed early in the year, and a few flint flakes were recovered. Flint implements of Neolithic character have been found previously in the camp along with a scatter of Iron Age pottery.

To the south of the camp an area of woodland was recently cleared and has produced sherds of coarse pottery and a few flints. The growth of summer vegetation has largely obscured the surface here now, but a few sherds were recovered, presumably Iron Age.

Leaving Chase Hill, the party then made its way across to adjoining Penyard Hill. Attention was drawn to a number of large earthen mounds containing many dead tree stumps, sited near the hill top. On closer examination it was concluded that these were the result of tree clearance and therefore quite modern.

A deterioration in the weather at this point called a halt to the proceedings. The party then returned to the welcome hospitality of Jerry Calderbank's home, situated most conveniently at the foot of the hill.