

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
WOOLHOPE
NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB
HEREFORDSHIRE

"HOPE ON"



"HOPE EVER"

ESTABLISHED 1851
VOLUME L 2001
PART II

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Charity Regd. No. 521000

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Proceedings, 2001

SPRING MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING: 13 January: Mrs. R.E.Skelton, president, in the chair.

Mrs. R.E.Richardson, B.Ed.,M.Phil.A.I.F.A., gave an illustrated talk on Dore Abbey. She explained that it was a Cistercian abbey founded in 1147 on the frontier with Wales and surrounded by good farmland. She suggested that the bank around the site could be the wall of the large outer precinct. The tower commissioned by Scudamore in 1636 had a spire. The screen was designed by John Abel. There was a galilee at the W. end, the sacristy had a barrel roof with dormitories above and the chapter house was twelve sided, similar to that at Buildwas. Other notable features are the sundials on the side of the porch, the font, the late 13th-century hinge with a wolf's head on it, the Gwillim gravestone, the foliage on the capitals, the tiles, the three inscribed stones, the altar stone and the bosses. Very little excavation had been carried out. She drew attention to the recent publication on the abbey to which a number of members had contributed.

SECOND MEETING: 3 February: Mrs. R.E.Skelton, president, in the chair.

This was the thirty-eighth F.C.Morgan lecture. Mr. S.H.Clarke, M.B.E., F.S.A., M.I.F.A. gave an illustrated talk on 'Pots, Pans and Demons in clay - Ceramics of the Welsh Border.' He had been in charge of many excavations in Monmouth, viz. in St.Mary's Street at Gloucester House and Cadogan House, 22-4 Monmouth Street and under Lloyds Bank. He described the various types of pottery which have been found e.g. Malvern ware, Cotswold ware, Bristol ware and Ham Green ware dating from Roman times through to the 15th century. Other artefacts discovered include medieval tiles, flat roof tiles and Venetian glass. Excavations have shown that a Norman town existed beneath Monmouth on the flood plain. Many of the finds are known to be the first of their type to be found in Wales.

THIRD MEETING: 13 March: Mrs. R.E.Skelton, president, in the chair.

Mr. R.J.Tyler, B.Sc., Director of the Herefordshire Nature Trust gave an illustrated talk on 'The River Wye and its Flood Plain.' He explained that ancient woodland had been replaced by conifers, that intensive agriculture such as potato growing was taking water from the rivers for spraying, and housing development on flood plains was causing rivers to flood and bringing some two or three inches of silt onto the meadows. The rivers were no longer natural due to drainage in the upland areas, banking and the loss of trees on the flood plains. As a result habitats were changed and so have all forms of wildlife. Mr. Tyler said that careful planning was necessary along the whole course of a river from its source to the sea. To set up certified habitats and to influence farmers to have grants for small-scale schemes would be helpful. He gave some examples on the Avon in Hamp-

shire where in cooperation with the farmers woodlands were coppiced on a seven-year cycle and hurdle-making and charcoal production was set up.

SPRING ANNUAL MEETING: 31 March: Mrs. R.E.Skelton, president, in the chair.

The assistant-secretary reported that the club had 748 members.

Mrs. Skelton reported on the club's activities during the year. She gave her address 'Dispersed or Nucleated? Settlement in the parish of Little Hereford north of the river Teme 1086-1845.' Mr. B. S. Smith, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S. was installed as president for 2000/2001.

FIELD MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING: 10 May: CIRCENCESTER AND CHEDWORTH AREA

Members stopped for coffee at the Stratton House Hotel and then proceeded to Cirencester to see the town, church and the Corinium Museum. The church is the largest in Gloucestershire founded in the early 12th century with additions and rebuilding from the 13th to the 16th century and continuous restoration work. The tower was built between 1400 and 1460. The three-storey, fine, S. porch dates from about 1490.

Corinium was the Roman name for Cirencester where many excavations have taken place and where so many remains of the Roman civilisation have been found and where a museum to house them was needed. The Bathurst family of Cirencester Park gave Abberley House in Park Street for this purpose where a building has been erected on its lawn. It houses tessellated pavements, sculptures, pottery and earthenware.

The afternoon was spent at Chedworth visiting the Roman villa and church. The villa is administered by the National Trust and dates from the mid-2nd century A.D. It is situated at the head of a wooded valley and is one of the largest in the country. The buildings occupy three sides of a rectangular courtyard. The W. wing contains the bath suite for damp heat, Turkish bath, the N. wing for dry heat, Sauna bath, and the S. wing is partly uncovered. The excavations directed by James Farrer commenced in 1864 and the museum to house the finds was built by 1866. Fine mosaics, hypocausts, a water shrine and a latrine were also seen. The Roman cooking demonstration was interesting with snails which had lived on the site since it was built.

The final visit was to Chedworth Church which is late Norman with a Perpendicular S. facade. Inside were seen the Norman font, a 15th-century pulpit and fragments of medieval glass in two of the chancel windows.

SECOND MEETING: 7 June: MALVERN

This was the president's choice when the whole day was spent in the area. At the Priory the president gave a brief history of it and said that it owes its origin to Aldwin, a monk from Worcester Priory, in 1155. The church is mainly Norman with the tower and

E. end rebuilt between about 1400 and 1460 in the Perpendicular style. Features noted were the large number of medieval locally manufactured tiles and medieval glass, the tombs of the second prior, Walcher 1135, and of John Knotsford who purchased the monastic buildings in 1545. He lived in the prior's lodgings which stood on the site of the Abbey Hotel. The abbey gate, now a museum, is the only surviving conventual building.

After coffee at the Mount Pleasant Hotel which was rebuilt about 1817 members made the very steep and winding climb to the site of Aldwin's hermitage and St. Ann's Well. The well house was built by the Foley family of Stoke Edith and lords of the manor of Malvern, in the early 19th century. Other buildings erected by the Foleys are the Foley Arms Hotel, large houses in Worcester Road, the Coburg Baths and Pump Room and the Royal Library. Also seen was the former Lyttleton School founded in 1814 as a Sunday School by Apphia, Lady Lyttleton.

After viewing the development of the Malvern area from the low-lying ground and the common the party visited Little Malvern Court and Priory which is still lived in by descendants of John Russell who acquired it at the Dissolution. The house which has been restored in recent years contains the monastic refectory with a fine early-14th-century roof and W. window. Only the 12th-century tower and choir of the church remain but ruins of the transept and chapels to the E. can be seen.

A walk around Great Malvern saw the changes from 1845 when Dr. James Wilson and Dr. James Gully selected the small spa as the site in England to begin the hydropathic treatments. Mr. Smith pointed out the establishments of Wilson, Gully, Edward Johnson, J. L. Marsden and R. B. Grindrod, the last two now demolished, and large lodging houses of Victorian Gothic, cottage or neoclassical, Italianate, Tudor and Jacobean styles. These were laid out on the Mason estate which was sold in 1846. The walk ended at Great Malvern Railway Station of 1860-1 with its exotic decoration of cast-iron columns with clusters of local plants and Lady Emily Foley's private waiting-room. It was linked to the Imperial Hotel, both were designed by E.W.Elmslie.

THIRD MEETING: 7 July: LLANDEILO AREA

At the Gnoll Estate near Neath members saw the restoration and reconstruction work carried out by the present owners, the Neath Port Talbot Borough Council. In the 18th century the Mackworth family on this 200-acre estate created a landscape of ponds and cascades.

The afternoon was spent at the National Botanic Garden of Wales. This 600-acre estate in 1776 was sold by the Middleton family to William Paxton. He, between 1789 and 1824, built a new house described as one of the most splendid mansions in South Wales. He died in 1824 and the estate was sold. In 1931 the house was gutted by fire and the estate deteriorated. In 1978 Carmarthen County Council acquired it and a scheme was set up to restore it and now it is in the hands of the Welsh Historic Garden Trust. William Wilkins of Carreg Cennen, the artist, was the originator of the idea for such a garden for the new Millennium. Much has already been accomplished but more projects are planned including a woodland on the hillside beyond the lakes. In addition to the variety of plants

and habitats members saw the exhibition to the legendary Welsh healers of the middle ages, the garden in honour of the Welsh botanist Alfred Russel Wallace and perhaps above all the Great Glasshouse. This was designed by Foster and Partners. It is the largest single span glasshouse in the world using panels on its domed roof to help keep the interior climate ideally suited to Mediterranean conditions. Inside there is a ravine, rock terraces, a waterfall and a lake as well as Mediterranean plants.

After tea some members climbed up to the imposing ruins of Castle Carreg Castle situated on a limestone crag. The ruins comprising an inner ward, barbican and outer ward date from the late 13th and early 14th centuries. In 1283 it was granted to John Giffard of Brimpsfield, Glos. By 1340 it was owned by the earl of Derby and it remained a Lancastrian stronghold until slighted in 1462. Henry VII granted it to Sir Rhys ap Thomas from whom it passed to the Vaughans of Golden Grove. At the beginning of the 19th century they bequeathed it to Baron Cawdor whose family in 1932 placed it in the hands of the Office of Works. It was last visited by the club on 26 June 1971.

FOURTH MEETING: 9 August: READING AREA

This meeting was a follow up to the talk given by Mr. Hillaby on 28 October 2000. He explained the site at Reading Abbey and compared it with that at Leominster which had been a cell of it. Reading Abbey was founded in 1121 by Henry 1 with 100 monks from the abbey of Cluny, a reformed Benedictine Order. The church was laid out in the form of a cross with eight massive round pillars down each side of the nave with round arches of the Romanesque style. The Lady Chapel was added to the E. end in 1314. The abbey was dissolved in 1539 and became a ruin. In 1831 Reading Corporation began purchasing the Forbury Gardens and the abbey ruins.

The first visit was to the Town Hall which was built in 1875 by Charles Poulton on the site of the Hospitium to which was added in 1882 a museum and art gallery designed by Thomas Lainson. Of great interest were the exhibits, especially the reconstruction of the abbey cloister arcade with its decorated capitals. The abbey ruins indicated that it had once been a vast building. Dr. Slade has conducted excavations and research continues.

In the afternoon a visit was made to Cholsey Church, now a parish church, but once a medieval priory. It is Norman constructed of flint and stone, and cruciform in shape. It has recently been restored in a modern style. Outside were seen the grave of Agatha Christie, and a long range of farm buildings of the nearby Manor Farm. The tithe barn of about 1200 which was 303 ft. long and 51 ft. high was demolished in 1815.

FIFTH MEETING: 1 September: BOURNVILLE, BIRMINGHAM

The theme of this meeting was to see the work of the Cadbury family and the philosophy of the Quakers. After coffee in the Meeting House a visit was made to the carillon which is on top of the Junior School and erected there in 1906. The carilloneurs explained that it is one of the finest musical instruments of its kind in the world and a rarity in the British Isles. There are three flights of steps up to see the bells played. Originally there were twenty-two bells cast by John Taylor of Loughborough. Twenty more were added in

1923 and 1925 and in 1934 a major reconstruction took place and six were added making a total of forty-eight. In 1988 important restoration work on the clappers, springs and wires and a new clavier was installed.

The Rest House built in 1914 was modelled on the Dunster yarn market. In 1879 Richard and George Cadbury decided to move their chocolate business from a cramped site in the centre of Birmingham to the rural site at Bournville which had access to the canal and railway. The estate became known as Bournville as the style of the houses was based on the villa. In 1894 the architect, W. Alexander Harvey was employed to design the model village. By 1900 there were 300 houses, in 1955 3,500 and today 8,000 on 1,000 acres of land. Unlike Port Sunlight the houses are not all reserved for factory workers, but the Trust has covenants on them and an annual management fee. During a tour of the area various styles of architecture were seen, the shops of 1905-8, the church dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi in the Romanesque style completed in 1925, the Junior School 1902-5, the Infants School 1910, the Day Continuation School 1925 and the Ruskin Hall 1902-5. A stop was made to view the Serbian Orthodox Church which was built in memory of three Serbian soldiers of the First World War.

Visits were made to two buildings rescued by the Cadbury family. In 1907 George Cadbury bought Selly Manor which stood about a mile away and re-erected it on the village green using the original timbers and heavily restored it to look like a house dating from about 1600. It is furnished with items dating about 1500-1750 collected by his son Leonard Cadbury. The other house, Minworth Greaves which stood to the N. of Birmingham was saved in 1911 by Leonard Cadbury and rebuilt in 1929 alongside Selly Manor. It is a two-bay, 14th-century cruck hall with a modern bay and gallery added.

The present-day employees are well paid and looked after by the Trust. For many years the late George Cadbury had made an annual generous donation to the club.

AUTUMN MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING: 6 October: Mr. B.S. Smith, president, in the chair.

Mr. J. W. Tonkin, B.A., F.S.A. gave an illustrated talk on 'Houses in the Diocese of Hereford but outside Herefordshire, 13th to 20th centuries.' This talk covered the 13th century to the end of the Tudor period. He explained that the diocese comprised 174 parishes outside Herefordshire viz. 126 in Shropshire, 25 in Worcestershire, 2 in Gwent, 12 in Radnorshire and 9 in Montgomeryshire. The area of the diocese was almost the same as the Celtic pre-Roman kingdom, that is the valley and catchment area of the river Wye. The surviving houses are those of the better-off, those of the ordinary man, one up and one down, were flimsy and have disappeared. The materials used were mainly oak and sandstone with elm for outbuildings especially barns.

Explaining the development of the house he said that only the sites of buildings dating from the 12th century remain, but for the 13th century there were the great halls, the houses of the lords of the manors with their undercrofts with one or two rooms above and the abbots lodgings of the monastic orders. For the 14th century there are first-floor

halls and open halls with service and parlour ends or cross-wings, some of which contain early crucks, the quarter-round moulding and crown-post roofs. In the 15th century decorative carving and close-set framing is evident whilst in the 16th century these features and plasterwork are seen in the improvements and rebuilding as well as the influence of the Renaissance.

The talk was illustrated by slides of exteriors and interiors of houses throughout the centuries which included the Forester's Lodge, Upper Millichope, Upton Cressett, Aston Eyre, Lower Spoad, Throckmorton, Pitchford Hall, Monaughty and The Feathers, Ludlow.

SECOND MEETING: 27 October: Mr. P. Thomson, senior vice-president, in the chair.

This was the thirty-ninth F.C.Morgan lecture when Dr. N. W. Alcock, F.S.A. gave an illustrated talk on 'The Medieval Peasant House in the Midlands: dating and development of Cruck Houses.' He referred to the paper on crucks by the late F. C. Morgan published in the *Transactions* in 1938 and the distribution map of 1981 showing some 3,500 crucks in England and Wales. They are found in the midland counties and eastern Wales with heavy timber in Herefordshire and poorer timber in Lancashire and the eastern counties. He explained the recent dendrochronology project on crucks in the counties of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Lancashire, and said that a core with at least fifty tree rings was necessary to be sure of matching. Results show that in the midlands crucks date from 1270 to 1587 with the 15th century being most important. It seems that after the Black Death houses were built to new standards with upper storeys becoming popular but two-bay halls were dominant. They were the homes of the middle social status and their origin is still to be discovered probably by archaeology, but so far no evidence. He illustrated his talk by examples from the counties covered by the project. Documentary evidence for crucks is rare but in the 1180s there is a reference to a barn at Glastonbury Abbey.

THIRD MEETING: 10 November: Mr. B.S.Smith, president, in the chair.

Dr. K. Ray gave an illustrated talk on 'Archaeology Past, Present and Future.' He was appointed in 1998 as the county archaeologist and paid tribute to the archaeological work done by the club as early as the 1880s mentioning the survey of hillforts by Clarke, Alfred Watkins, Jack and Hayter on Roman Kenchester, the work of individuals including Frank Noble, Richard Kay, Kathleen Kenyon, Cyril Fox and more recently Ron Shoemith. The Field-name Survey of the county is a great asset to the Sites and Monuments Records.

He referred to various field projects such as Mere Hill, Aymestrey, Wellington Quarry during the last fourteen years, a Bronze Age barrow to the west of Kingsland, a Roman villa at Westhide, Bronze Age platforms at Frith Wood, Ledbury, Bronze Age and Roman at Ariconium, a Saxon palisade at Marden and early christian cemeteries, 340-540 A.D. at Ashgrove, Marden. Also mentioned was the discovery of a medieval village at Dippersmoor and boroughs at Lyonshall and Brampton Bryan.

Ploughing for arable and potato farming in the county was a threat on its archaeology.

WINTER ANNUAL MEETING: 8 December: Mr. B.S.Smith, president, in the chair.

Officers for 2002 were appointed. The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2000 were presented and adopted. These are printed on p. 143.

Mr. T. Hoverd, B.A., A.I.F.A., a member of the county archaeology service gave an illustrated talk on The Archaeology of Herefordshire Woodlands with special reference to the Malverns A.O.N.B. He explained that archaeology in the woodlands was necessary to draw up management plans and that English Heritage and English Nature were involved. The winter months was a good time to work in them as the growing season was over and features could be seen better. The transect method and along contours were used.

In Frith Wood, managed by the Forestry Commission, there are lynchets 5 m. high and a ruined farm-house abandoned in 1910-20, 100-150 year-old oak trees and evidence of charcoal burning platforms. At Mere Hill, an Iron-age enclosure, there are charcoal platforms and small-leaved lime growing on bank boundaries. It seems that there were numerous charcoal sites in the woodlands in groups of four or more of various dates and circular in shape. Badgers and rabbits throw up the charcoal providing the evidence. For charcoal making a good draught was needed but a slow burn was essential.

In the Cradley-Mathon area 2 km. of the county boundary is 4 m. high in some places.

150th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

To mark the 150th anniversary of the Foundation of the Club over 100 guests and members attended a dinner on 16 March 2001 at the Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford. The president, Mrs. Rosamund Skelton, welcomed the Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Richard Thomas and the Mayoress, Mrs. Sheila Thomas, the Right Reverend John Oliver, the Lord Bishop of Hereford and Mrs. Meriel Oliver and the Chairman of Herefordshire Council, Councillor Peter Harling and Mrs. Susan Harling.

All the anniversary dinners of the club have been held at the Green Dragon Hotel and the menu apart from being three courses instead of nine was the one used in 1926.

The Secretary gave a brief history of the Club which was followed by the Bishop proposing the Health of the Club. He referred to the original enthusiasm and motivation of the club shown in the recent publication *Herefordshire Miscellany* written by members on a variety of aspects indicating their vast knowledge of the county.

On behalf of the Herefordshire Council Mr. Harling thanked the club for all it had done for the county and presented it with a cheque for £150.

Mr. Hillaby paid tribute to the secretary and editor, Jim Tonkin and the assistant secretary, Muriel Tonkin, for their devoted work for the club for 36 years and presented them with a cheque, flowers and a framed print of members at work on a fungus foray in 1874.

Jim and Muriel Tonkin thanked members for their generosity and said that they had no idea that such a surprise for them had been organised.

The committee expresses thanks to Mr. Clarence Attfield and Mrs. Jean O'Donnell for arranging such a successful anniversary dinner.

NEWSLETTER

The committee decided to introduce an Occasional Newsletter in the Spring to be circulated to members at the same time as the Field Meetings details. As this first one was well received, it was further agreed to issue another with the Winter Programme. This means that twice yearly members will receive up-to-date information of the activities of the club.

WEBSITE

The committee decided that the time had come when the club should have a website. As the result of an appeal to members for a volunteer to construct one, Mrs. Brenda Allan offered, and at present there are three pages with a free site. The club is very grateful to her for this and for keeping it up to date. It is www.woolhopeclub.org.uk

WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2000

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2000

	1999	£. p.	£. p.	1999	£. p.	£. p.
INCOME						
Interest on Investments	3,211	6,905		1,040		1,040
Income Tax Refunds	--	2,979		40,670		42,782
	<u>3,211</u>		<u>9,884</u>			
General Subscriptions	7,188	9,732		--	124,891	
Sale of Publications	1,719	181		219	1,192	
Grants, Donations & Legacies	95,775	--		117,741	984	
Natural History Section (net surplus)	8	--		272	261	
Victoria County History (net surplus)	989	601		936	944	
Archaeology Research (net surplus)	--	8		2,849	1,946	
Field Meetings (net surplus)	--	167		1,658	954	
	<u>105,679</u>		<u>10,689</u>	<u>123,675</u>		<u>131,172</u>
	<u>108,890</u>		<u>20,573</u>			
EXPENDITURE						
Subscriptions	26	--				
Insurance	333	350				
Stationery, Printing & Binding	762	7,857		4,150	4,750	
Meetings Expenses	82	--		643	284	
Postage & Telephone	763	301		<u>4,793</u>		<u>5,034</u>
Subscriptions & Donations	203	139		170,178		<u>180,028</u>
Repairs & Renewals	408	510		249	--	
Miscellaneous	159	28		(215)	--	
Honoraria	300	300		34		
Archaeological Research (net deficit)	45	--				
Field Names Survey (net deficit)	1,600	902				
Field Meetings (net deficit)	1,855	--				
Natural History Section (net deficit)	--	11				
George Marshall Fund (net deficit)	--	359				
	<u>(6,536)</u>		<u>(10,757)</u>	<u>4,170,212</u>		<u>£180,028</u>
	<u>£102,354</u>		<u>£ 9,816</u>			
TOTAL SURPLUS in the year						
				64,045		165,420
				101,375		9,574
				<u>165,420</u>		<u>174,994</u>
ASSETS						
Herefordshire County Council Loan						1,040
National Savings Investments						42,782
Bank Accounts						
Reserves						124,891
General						1,192
Subscriptions						984
Natural History Section						261
Archaeological Research Section						944
Field Names Survey						1,946
Field Meetings						954
						<u>131,172</u>
Victoria County History						4,750
George Marshall Fund						284
						<u>5,034</u>
						<u>180,028</u>
Debtors						--
Less Creditors						--
						--
Note: £933 3/4% War Loan current value approx. £660						<u>£180,028</u>
CAPITAL						
General Funds						165,420
Balance brought forward						9,574
Add Surplus in the year						<u>174,994</u>
Designated Funds						
Victoria County Fund b/f						4,149
Add Surplus in the year						601
						<u>4,750</u>
George Marshall Fund b/f						643
Less Deficit in the year						(359)
						<u>284</u>
						<u>£180,028</u>

Presidential Address

Dispersed or Nucleated? Settlement in the Parish of Little Hereford north of the river Teme 1086-1845

By ROSAMUND E. SKELTON

INTRODUCTION

This is a study of the evolution of settlement in the part of the parish of Little Hereford which lies N. of the river Teme from 1086 to 1845. The part lying S. of the Teme is the township of Upton which is separately identified in medieval tax documents. Studies



FIG. 1
The parish of Little Hereford c. 1832.

of settlement evolution in England have shown that there are two basic forms, dispersed and nucleated and archaeological evidence shows that nucleated settlements were not introduced at the beginning of the Anglo-Saxon period but developed in association with related open-field systems between the 9th and 12th centuries and are characteristic of the central midland counties of England.¹ Other areas such as Essex and the S.W. Peninsula have a dispersed settlement pattern of small hamlets and scattered farms. It has been suggested by some² that Herefordshire has a dispersed settlement pattern, but those who are familiar with the tithe maps of the county will be aware that many of them display the late survival of unenclosed open-field strips indicating the likelihood that there were originally associated nucleated settlements. In *A Herefordshire Miscellany*, Joan Grundy has discussed a fine example of documentation relating to two such small nucleated settlements with their classic midland open three-field systems, at Upper and Lower Ullingswick, each township having about 622 acres.³

SOURCES

I have used various documentary sources and surviving landscape features including houses. I am deeply indebted to the owners who kindly allowed me to look at their houses and to Sir Richard Lloyd and his tenants for permission to look at fields in Easton and Middleton.

LOCATION OF THE CHURCH

The church sits alone on the bank of the river Teme just to the N. of the remains of the medieval motte and bailey castle, both surrounded by the banks of a triangular earthwork.⁴ This may be an early minster church as it was valued at £20 in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.

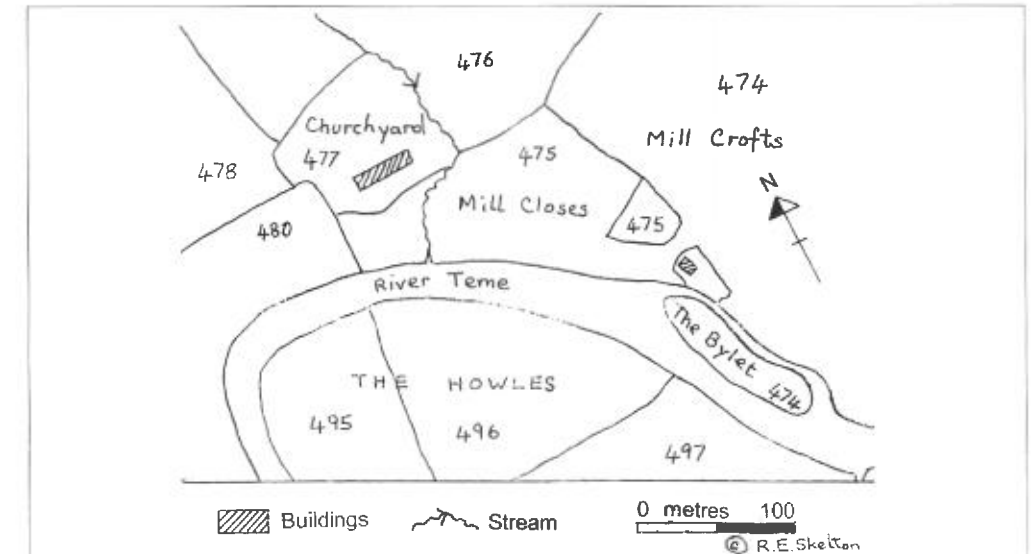


FIG. 2
Church and Mill 1775.

ticus, and in 1086 a priest held half a hide there,⁵ this large endowment would indicate an important and early church. There were also three chapels associated with it, Ashford Carbonel,⁶ Upton⁷ and possibly Rochford Chapel. The name Little Hereford is something of a puzzle, the literal explanation being 'the little army ford.'⁸ However there do not seem to be any major roads leading to a ford at this location, it is therefore possible that as the manor was owned by the bishop of Hereford in 1086 it may be this association that caused it to be called Little Hereford. The triangular earthwork has been variously explained as part of the De la Mare castle fee and later house site, a former village site,⁹ or by Paul Remfry as erected by the army of King Stephen which was present here on two occasions first in 1139 and again in 1140.¹⁰ I find this last suggestion the most likely as there is little evidence on the ground of the house platforms and toft boundaries which would be expected for a former village site and these can be seen on the former site of Easton village. Also the triangular earthworks seem too extensive for a minor castle fee where a small garrison would be expected to be able to defend it.

MEDIEVAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENTS

The *Domesday Book* of 1086 is the first tax record that gives us information about the manor of Little Hereford,¹¹ stating that there are seven hides of which three are waste, held by the bishop of Hereford, with a total of twenty-two heads of households on the manor and seventeen ploughs for the land being cultivated at that time. A manor is a land holding with autonomy to run its own agricultural affairs, it is not necessarily the same as a village. Some villages contain as many as five manors or a village may be only one part of a large manor. The information from the *Domesday Book* does not tell us where these people were living in terms of settlements on the ground.

The Lay Subsidy tax of 1334¹² and the Poll Tax of 1377¹³ which records 123 taxpayers in Little Hereford gives us no clues either, referring only to Little Hereford; whereas Upton the township in the parish lying S. of the river Teme, appears separately in both lists. Other documents throw more light on the matter. One, datable to the late 12th century by the style of writing, records that

'William de la Mare, son of Oliver de la Mare gave to his sister Ameline 6 virgates of land in the manor of Little Hereford, in Exchange for Werinch which Oliver, their father, gave her as a Dowry.

Viz: ½ hide which William son of Robert held in Estiton:

1 virgate which Reginald Cythred held in Middleton:

1 virgate which Alured son of Salomon held in Middleton:

1 virgate which Philip Forester held:

1 virgate which Reginald son of Godfried held.

To hold as dowry, by usual service owed to the crown and the Chief lord.¹⁴

This is the first documentary record of Estiton (now Easton) and Middleton and its early medieval date is interesting in view of the suggested development of nucleated settle-

ments and their associated open-field systems in the 9th to 12th centuries.¹⁵ A virgate is a standard form of holding of about thirty acres, that each of the villagers mentioned in the *Domesday Book* might have held.

The next document of significance to the question of the type of settlement is one dated 1509 and 1547, recording a complaint to the king at the Court of the Star Chamber by Richard Wygmore vicar of Little Hereford regarding the 'tithes of the townships of Woodhamton, Eston and Bryanton.'¹⁶ A township was a community inhabiting a territorial division of either a manor or a parish. Either would be applicable in this case. But the most significant aspect is that two more places each with their associated territories in Little Hereford, are named in 1509, Bryhampton and Woodhampton.

The presence of a moated site at Woodhampton shows that Woodhampton existed by about the 13th century. Some moated sites have been proved to have been created in the late 12th century, but the 13th and 14th centuries are their period of most prolific development.

There is now evidence that by the 13th century there were four townships in the manor of Little Hereford - Middleton, Easton, Bryhampton and Woodhampton. Dividing the 123 taxpayers of 1377 evenly amongst the four would result in about thirty taxpayers and their families in each village. However if two of the villages developed at a later period or on less fertile or extensive land they could be smaller.

THE ESTATE MAP OF 1775

Evidence of the physical location of these settlements is first found on an estate map of 1775 drawn by Joseph Powell for Dansey Dansey¹⁷ owner of the Little Hereford estate and resident in Brinsop Court near Hereford. This was followed in 1845 by the tithe map which also gave full information on owners, tenants and acreages. The 1775 map shows the survival here and there of unenclosed strips of arable land lying in the remnants of large open-fields together with an unenclosed area of common land called Bleathwood Common. By the time of the tithe map in 1845¹⁸ both the open-fields and the common have been enclosed. The open-fields were enclosed by agreement between the owners between 1775 and 1800, and the common by Act of Parliament in 1800.¹⁹

A schedule related to the map of 1775²⁰ identifies the fields containing the houses and homestalls (sic) some of which are not shown on the map because the properties were not part of the estate. This information has been used to prepare a plan which shows the location of every dwelling in 1775.

Figure 3 shows the existing dwellings in 1775 either recorded on the map or in the schedule by solid black squares. In addition the open squares identify the location of buildings shown by the existence of earthworks or the presence on the estate map of barns which may in the past have had associated dwellings. Also shown are the areas of surviving open-field and their proximity to the known township settlements with the exception of Woodhampton which does not seem to have a named open-field associated with it.

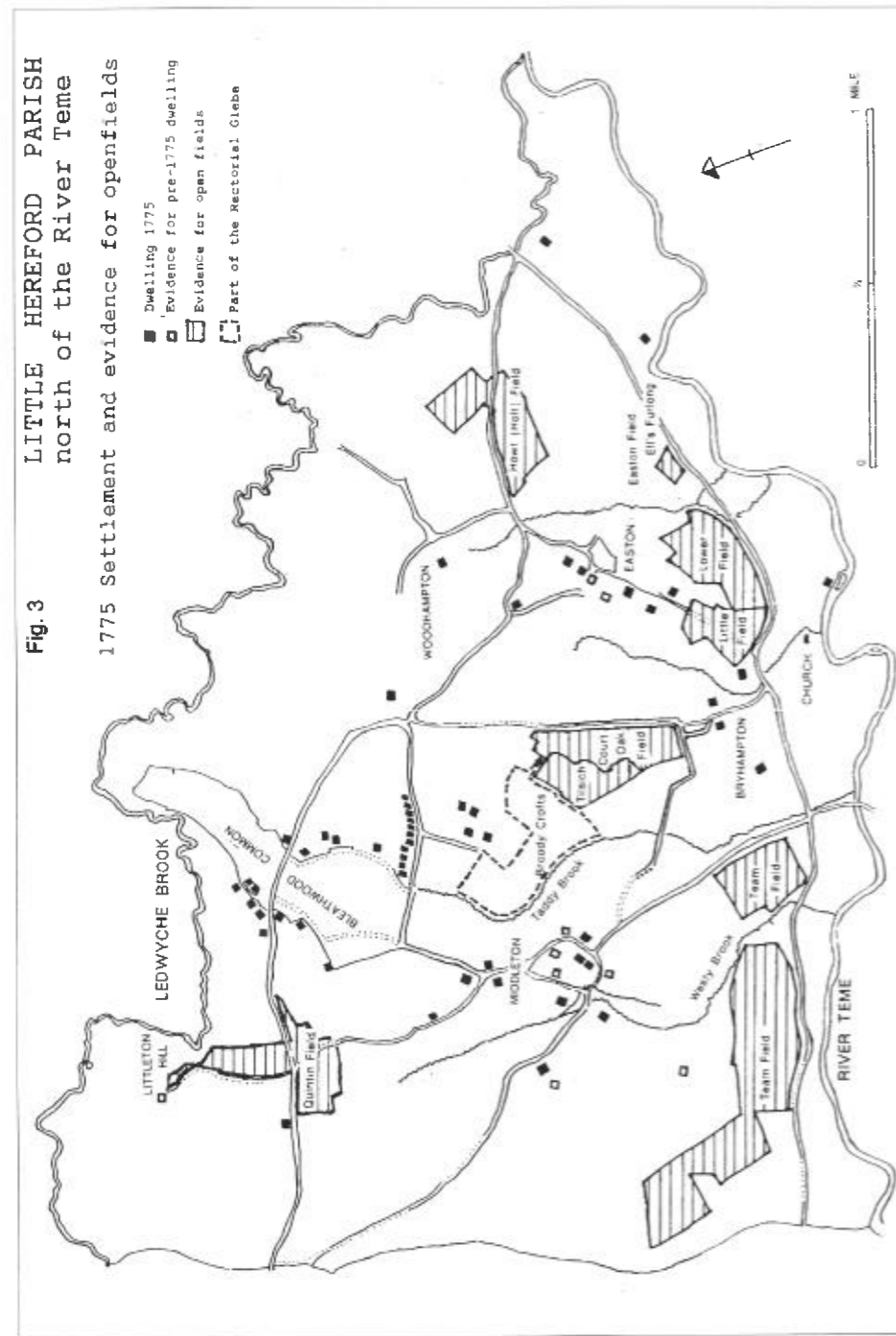


Fig. 3 Little Hereford parish N. of the R. Teme 1775. Settlement and evidence for open-fields.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE RIVER TERRACE GRAVEL

Figure 4 shows the location of the River Terrace Gravels²¹ of the river Teme and the surviving open-fields of 1775 are closely associated with these geological deposits. The gravels provide a well-drained deep loamy soil in contrast to the neighbouring soils devel-

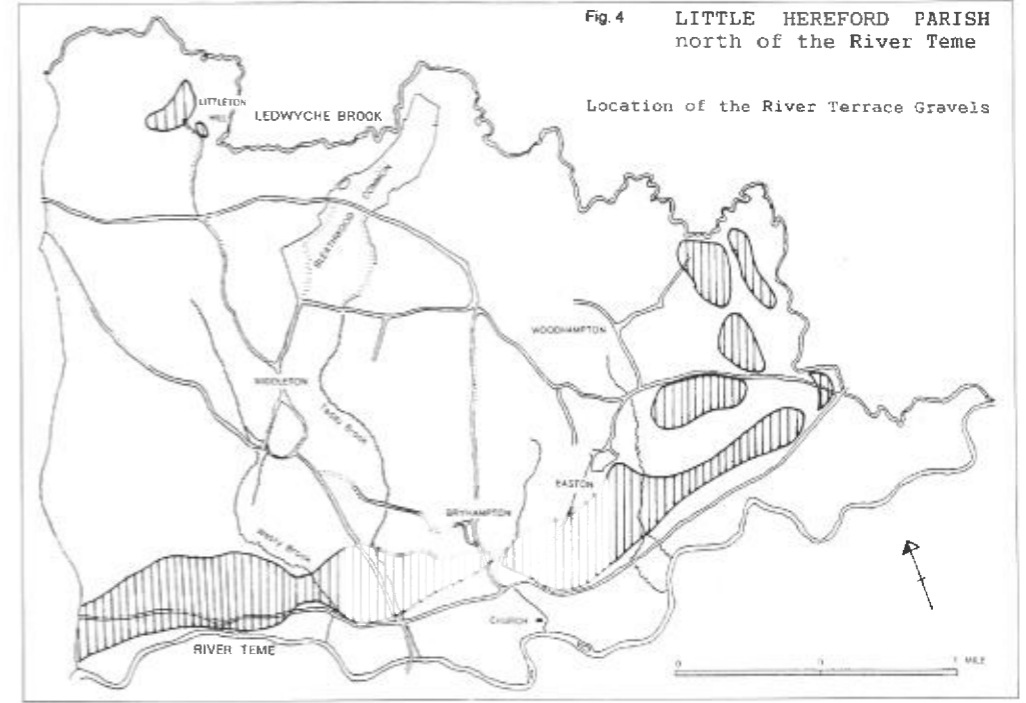


Fig. 4 Little Hereford parish N. of the R. Teme. Location of the River Terrace Gravels.

oped over the Raglan Mudstones which have a high clay content and easily become water-logged.²² The gravels being the most easily worked and productive soils in the area would have attracted the earliest settlement and also been the best arable land when the open-field system was established between the 9th and 12th centuries.

There is one small patch of Terrace Gravel in the N.W. of the parish near the Ledwyche Brook with a surviving piece of open-field lying to the S. of it called Quinton (FIG. 3). East of the gravel patch are two fields called 'Littleton Hill Hopyard' and 'Littleton Hill Meadow' (FIG. 5). These names suggest the possibility of an earlier small settlement here called 'Littleton'. On the 1845 tithe map there was one farm-yard on the gravel patch and there is still a farm building there today. A settlement in this location would make sense of Middleton's name as it would lie between Littleton and Bryhampton or Easton. That the open-field here was more extensive in the past is shown by the reverse S-shaped fields called 'Stocking' around what was possibly still a small enclosed wood called 'The Groves.'²³ By 1775 the land around Littleton was all farmed by various farmers living in Middleton.

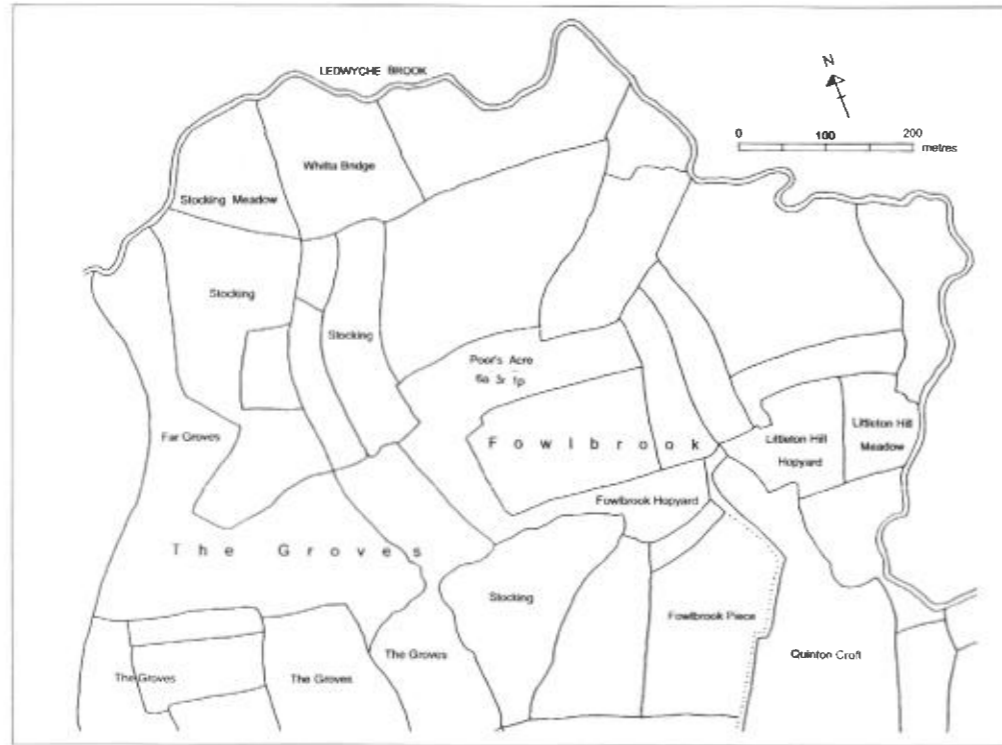


FIG. 5
Littleton Hill 1775.

THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE FOR THE SETTLEMENTS

The evidence to be seen in the landscape as well as in documents for the history of these settlements, will now be considered.

Middleton

Figure 6 traced from the 1775 map shows the layout of the village roads, nine farms and one tenement. Four of the farms had 160 acres or more, while two had about two virgates (sixty acres) and two had one virgate (thirty acres) each. In 1722 when kneelings for the new pews were allocated in the church there were ten kneelings allocated for named owners or tenants of property specifically in Middleton.²⁴ One of these is for Edmund Cheese of 'The Green,' which does not appear on the 1775 map except as a field-name, a field which 200 years later still bears indications of the former location of the Green Farm in its earthworks and also other house sites, see pls. XII and XIII. The name 'Green' suggests that the early settlement here may have developed around a green and Middleton seems to have been the focus of several roads some of which no longer survive. One shown in 1775 led N.W. to Burnthouse on the Ashford Carbonel road (FIG. 1). Another is visible mainly as a continuous field boundary leading to a field called

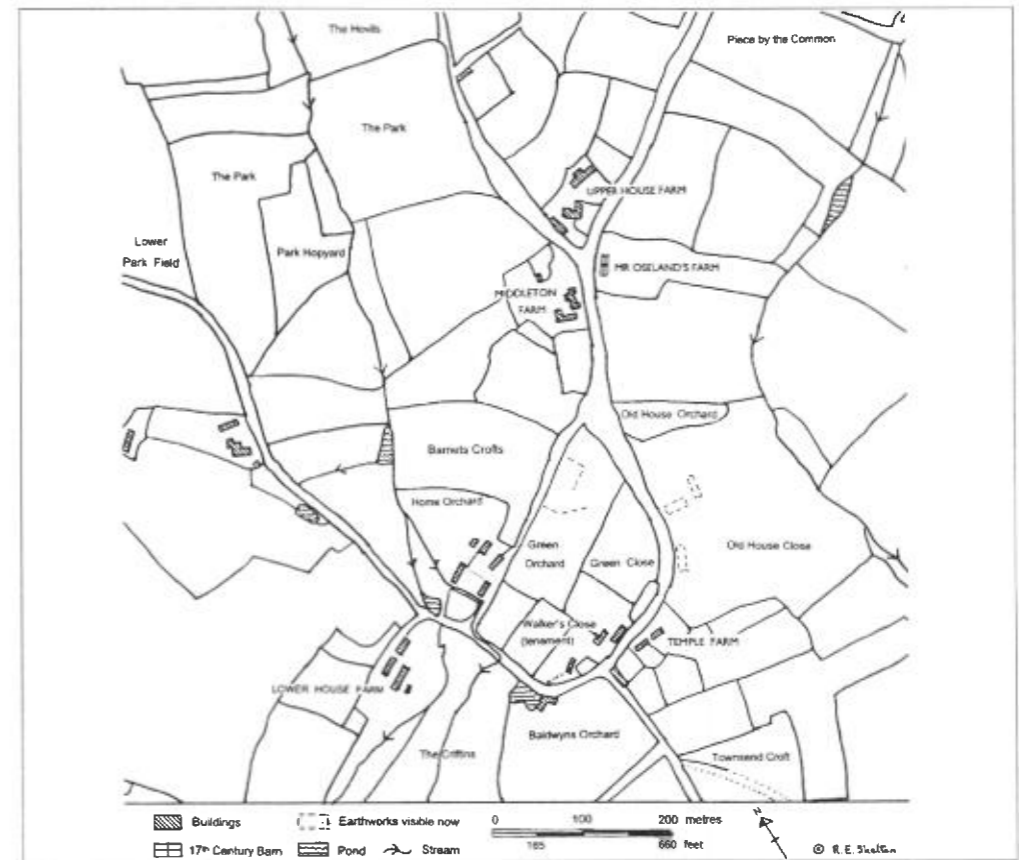


FIG. 6
Middleton 1775.

'Whitta Bridge'²⁵ (FIG.5) and which would then have crossed over the Ledwyche Brook towards Whitton village. Part of this road is still shown on the very first edition of the 1:63,360 scale Ordnance Survey Map, between Middleton Farm and the Halfway House (FIG. 1).

A Court Roll of 1754 lists forty-three people who owed suit and service at the Court Leet and Court Baron of William Dansey Esquire.²⁶ Amongst them was John Baldwin whose name appears in 'Baldwyns Orchard' a field containing farm buildings in 1775 which is probably the site of an earlier farm, possibly absorbed into an adjoining holding between 1754 and 1775. There is another site still visible on the aerial photograph as earthworks on 'Old House Close' N. of Temple Farm. Finally there is another set of farm buildings without a farm house to the N.W. of the farm at the N.W. end of the village. This brings the total possible farm sites to fifteen which is about half of the thirty taxpayers who may have been present in 1377 when there were 123 taxpayers in the parish N. of the river Teme.

Middleton is the only township for which it is possible to deduce where its boundaries were on the basis of the individual farm holdings in 1775. It occupied the western part of the parish with its eastern boundary along the Taddybrook and the western side of Bleathwood Common (FIG. 3). By then the whole of Littleton was farmed from Middleton. In 1775 half of the farms belonged to the Little Hereford Estate and ranged in size from 160 to 275 acres. The other four which were owner occupied, were much smaller, being between 35 and 79 acres.

Easton

Easton is a deserted settlement with only two dwellings one at Easton Court and one at Easton farm still on the site of the village. Between the two lies visible remains of old

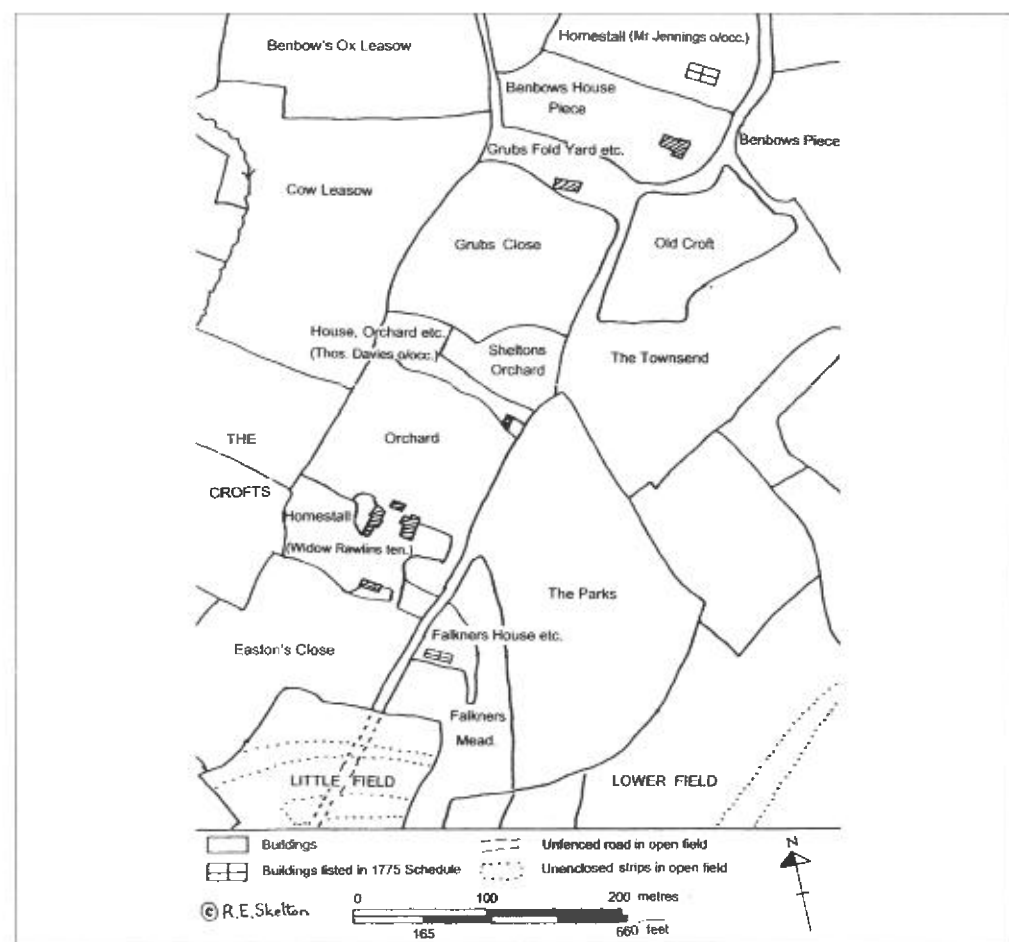


FIG. 7
Easton 1775.

roadways hollowed out in the grass fields and croft boundaries and house platforms some cut into the hillside. These show clearly on an aerial photograph from the Millennium Air Survey of Herefordshire.²⁷ There were six dwellings present in 1775, two cottages with a paddock each and four farms and surviving earthworks indicate the previous existence of two more farm sites. Again there must have been many more taxpayers resident in this village in 1377. Unlike Middleton, the layout of this village is linear and a document of 1703 gives details of a lease in the village stating that a heriot is owed on death, and that six days work per week has to be given to the lord.²⁸ These are the terms of a servile or copyhold tenancy and may indicate that some of the tenants in Easton were of a lower status than those in Middleton, and this might account for its desertion. Such tenancies were unpopular, people interested in improving their status would be unwilling to take them, which might explain why there are very few consolidated farms in Easton, unlike Middleton. In Whitbourne parish the copyhold village of Tedney went out of existence as people moved away and built cottages elsewhere.²⁹ I have not seen any records of the tenure of holdings in Middleton but several are freehold in 1775 and were later acquired by the Estate, but they were mostly of a substantial size by this time and the question is, why were only two farmers still resident in Easton village by 1775? In 1722 there were four kneelingings provided for 'William Lea for Easton Tenement, Martin of Easton, John Hill³⁰ of Easton and John Cheese of the Gate in Easton.'³¹ By 1775 there is no indication of the location of 'The Gate' in Easton.

Bryhampton

By 1775 Bryhampton has only one farm, the vicarage, and the buildings around the rectory, forming its nucleus. In the kneelingings list of 1722 the only farm mentioned is called Lower Bryhampton which suggests that in the not too distant past there had been an Upper Bryhampton. On the 1845 tithe map there are clearly two farm-yards, one lying within a field called Upper Orchard in 1775 and forming part of Bryhampton lands. The two lanes running through Bryhampton also suggest there might have been more houses to justify their presence.

The farm called The Furlongs (see FIG. 1) seems to represent the movement out from the old village centre of Bryhampton in the 18th century, to erect a new farm in the middle of the fields belonging to the farm. The farm is close to the river terrace gravels and occupies all this patch of good land which may have been part of Bryhampton township; it has also acquired a neighbouring portion of Teme Field across the Taddybrook which was probably originally part of Middleton township. This may be a recent amalgamation, because Mr. Lea who owned Furlongs in 1775 also owned a homestall in Middleton with only seven acres attached which he let to a tenant.³² The part of Teme Field which formed part of Furlongs in 1775, may well have belonged to the Middleton farm previously.

The fine 16th-century rectory sits at the foot of the raised river terrace of the Teme 300 m. N. of the church and close to Bryhampton. Evidence on the ground suggests that this building may have replaced an earlier building on a moated site. Figure 8 shows what looks like the eastern arm of a moated site lying between the Old Rectory and the

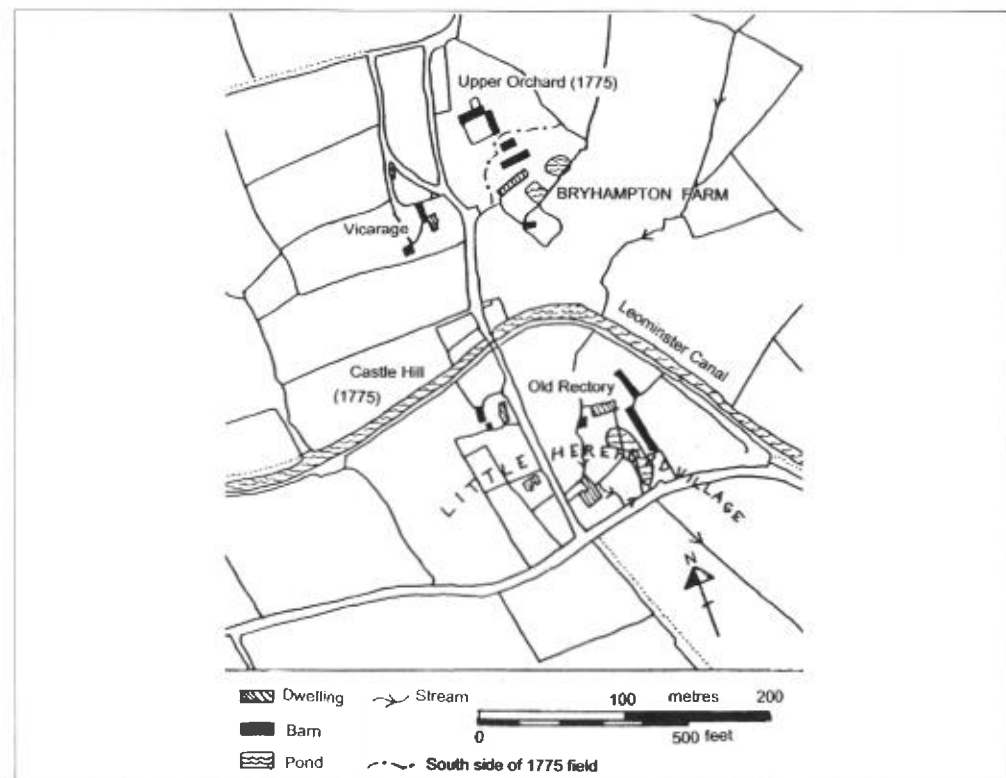


FIG. 8
Bryhampton 1845.

road on the 1845 tithe map, while a small stream still runs along the western and southern sides of the garden. At Domesday in 1086 a priest held half a hide of the manor, a holding which still survived as ninety-eight acres of rectorial glebe in 1775.

By 1291 the rectory had been impropriated to the endowment of the office of the Chancellor of Hereford Cathedral³³ and this office would probably justify a moated site for the occupant. The church of Little Hereford and its adjacent chapel of Ashford Carbonel were a 'Peculiar' which according to the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* meant that 'the parish was visited by the Bishop in every Primary and Tiennial[sic] visitation, according to ancient usage: the vicar has the privilege of granting Marriage Licences, proving wills, and granting administration within the peculiar.'³⁴ Evidence of the vicar using these privileges appears in 1331 when 'The Bishop issued a mandate to cause John de Grette, vicar of Little Hereford to appear before the Justiciar at Westminster to answer the plea of William Burge de Harleye that he with other executors of Reginald de la Mare, is in debt to him of £300.'³⁵ The vicar in 1775 had glebe lands of about sixteen acres (half a virgate)³⁶ most of which lay close to Bryhampton and probably therefore within the township. The vicarage was at the N. end of Bryhampton and was replaced by a new rectory in 1874 on the same site.

Little Hereford and Bryhampton are a bit of a puzzle – Little Hereford is clearly marked on the tithe map as the small group of houses S. of the line of the Leominster Canal while the group of houses to the N. contains Bryhampton Farm. Bryhampton is identified as a 'township' in the 1547 document³⁷ referred to earlier but this then begs the question as to the status of Little Hereford.

As a name this has always been associated with a manorial estate from Domesday onwards, but it may be that the estate has always consisted of the above mentioned townships, and that the name has never been specifically applied to any one part of the estate but only to the estate as a whole. The application of the name to the parish as a whole is consistent with this interpretation. The problem of trying to see Little Hereford as a separate 'township' or village is that it has no identifiable associated 'township' lands or fields, whereas these exist for each of the other townships.

Woodhampton

This is referred to in documents of 1609 and 1714 as a 'moted' site³⁸ and two arms of the moat are still visible on the tithe map of 1845³⁹ (FIG. 9). However they have all now

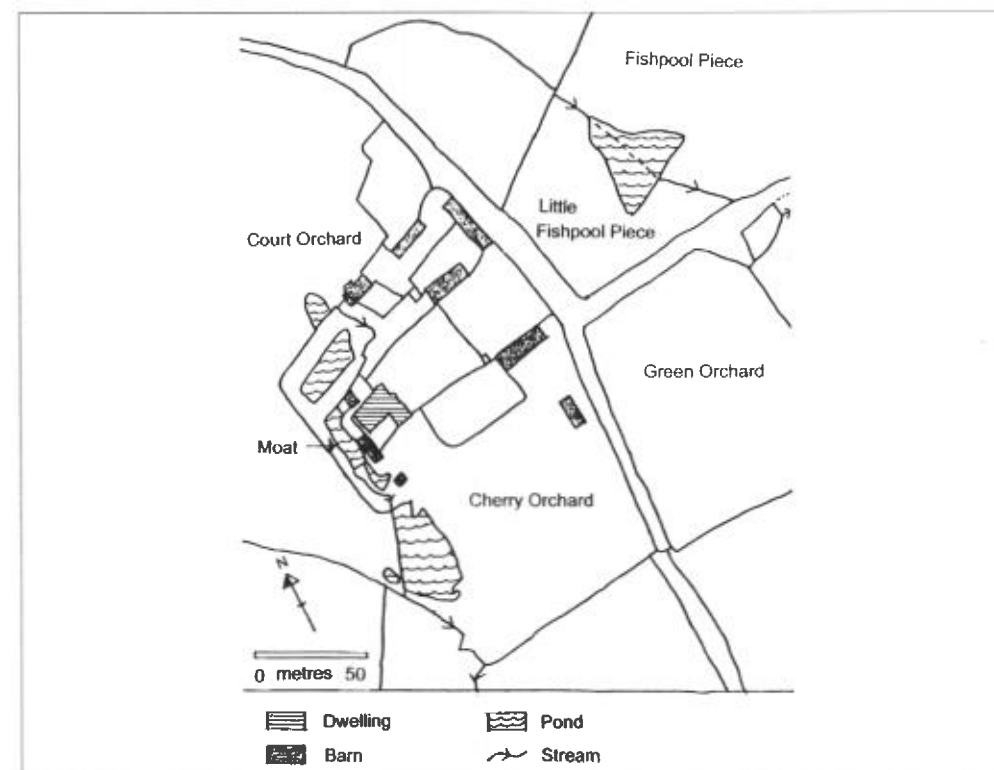


FIG. 9
Woodhampton 1845.

been filled in apart from one rectangular pond on the N. side which might perhaps have enclosed an annex. The extensive gardens and later barns have obliterated any earth-work evidence for other houses in the vicinity of the moated site. The only potential clue is a plot of land called 'Green Orchard' in 1845 which incorporates an area called 'The Waste' in 1775, this may have been the focus for a small hamlet. Whether or not Woodhampton had an open-field is not clear. The nearest one is Howt Field with a few unenclosed strips in 1775 (FIG. 3). All the other lands called Howt (a corruption of Holt⁴⁰ meaning wood) belong to the Woodhampton Estate, so this might suggest that originally this field was also part of the estate. There are documents in the Public Record Office which 'concern Maud late the wife of Richard Archer, esquire, [owner of the Woodhampton Estate] attainted, versus Thomas son and heir of Jane wife of John Dansey [owner of the Little Hereford Estate].'⁴¹ Someone who was attainted in the mid-16th century might well have found their estates being whittled away by payment of fines for recusancy i.e. failing to attend church services, often because of adherence to the Roman Catholic faith. It seems possible that this might have occurred here and supports a view that the 241 acres of the Woodhampton estate in 1775 does not represent the whole of the original township.

There is evidence from the list of kneelings in 1722⁴² for two ring-fence farms near Woodhampton, 'Mr J. Davies for the Frith' (fifty-seven acres⁴³) and 'Richard Andrews for Stonyhurst.' Adding a neighbouring field called 'Andrews Rough' to the plot called 'Stonyhurst' on the 1775 map makes a holding of thirty acres i.e. one virgate. These are isolated farms near Bleathwood Common. It is possible that the township of Woodhampton consisted only of such isolated farms, most of which have vanished from the record. This would be more likely if the township were created by late clearance of the wood, when the protection of having near neighbours might be less of a concern.

'Holt' as a place-name is thought by Margaret Gelling to be applied to single species woods.⁴⁴ As a field-name it occurs only in this part of the parish and is quite closely linked to the location of the River Terrace Gravels which as a well-drained loamy soil may have supported woodland of a particular species of tree. The 'Frith' is also a 'wood' name meaning 'land overgrown with brushwood' or 'land on the edge of the forest.'⁴⁵ 'The Frith' adjoined 'Stonyhurst' in 1775. 'Stonyhurst' is now called 'Bleathwood Coppice' and is the largest wood in the parish although it has been substantially converted to a conifer wood. The reference to brushwood suggests earlier clearance, perhaps it was some of the land that was 'waste' in 1086.

Bleathwood Common

The Common was enclosed in 1800⁴⁶ but the 1775 map shows it before enclosure (see FIG. 3). The scatter of houses on the edge of the Common are typical of common edge settlement. The difficulty is knowing when this took place. There are some very well-built 17th-century timber-framed houses, Woodyatt being one of the best (PL. XIV) but by 1775 there was very little land associated with this property, and in 1861 the occupant was an agricultural labourer. It is quite possible that these well-built houses have replaced earlier cottages established in the medieval period. Many of the cottages shown on the 1775 map survived into the 20th century.

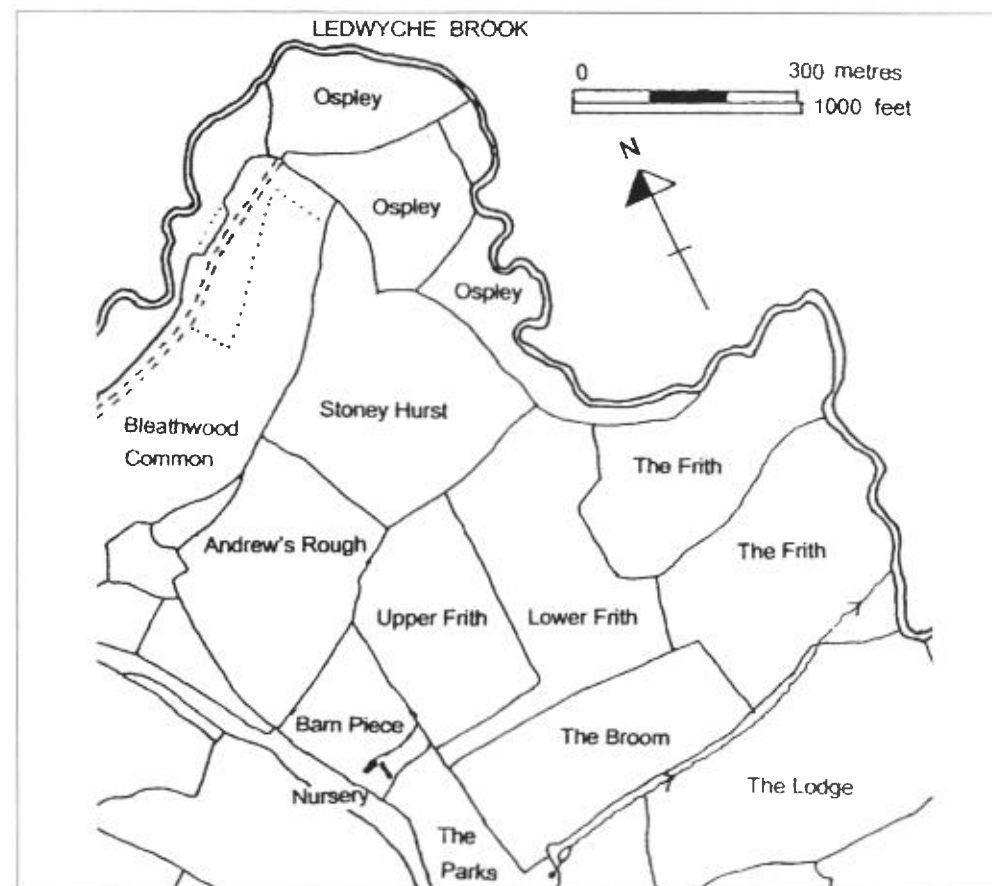


FIG. 10
Frith and Stonyhurst 1775.

Bedlam Row

This is the only settlement for which we have a well documented start and finish date. In 1748 Dansey Dansey exchanged part of Philips Wood Leasow adjoining the Common and a road leading from Middleton to Bleathwood Manor, for a field called 'Poors Land'⁴⁷ close to Littleton, (FIG. 5) owned by a parish charity called the 'Unknown Donor's or Bedlam Charity'... 'for the Parishioners to erect houses upon for the use of the Poor of the aforesaid parish.' In 1769 the Vicar, Churchwardens and Overseers of Little Hereford leased for ninety-nine years to Thomas Harper of Little Hereford and his wife, a tenement with a house and garden situate at Bleathwood's Common for one shilling per annum. There was a similar lease in 1773 to Thomas Tyler and his wife.⁴⁸ More than a 100 years later, on the 10 February 1876 in consideration of £152 paid by Sir Joseph Russell Bailey of Glanusk Park, Brecon, M.P. (owner of Little Hereford Estate) to the Trustees of the Unknown Donor's Charity, Henry Morgan Vane of Westminster, Official

Trustee of Charity Lands, conveys to John Crawshay Bailey of 41 Avenue Road, Regents Park, Middlesex⁴⁹ 'a parcel of land called 'the Poor's Land or Bedlam' part of a larger parcel now or formerly called Phillips Woodleasows in the parish of Little Hereford with twelve cottages thereon.'⁵⁰ On 10 August 1877 notices to quit were served on behalf of J. R. Bailey on the tenants of Bedlam Row.⁵¹ In 2001 there is only one cottage remaining of Bedlam Row, the rest are hummocks in the grass of the little meadow, with one cast-iron gate as a reminder of the vanished cottages. In 1769 the parish was entirely responsible for the support of their poor, however in 1830 The New Poor Law established workhouses to provide for the poor and in 1866 a law was passed allowing for the demolition of unfit dwellings. These two Acts may have sealed the fate of Bedlam Row. The 1861 census shows that on the whole the inhabitants of the cottages were elderly, out of the nine inhabited cottages five had occupants over the age of sixty-three.

Isolated Dwellings 1775

There are another six isolated houses in the parish N. of the river besides Woodhampton. These are shown in FIG. 1.

Bleathwood Manor Farm is a 17th-century timber-framed house⁵² faced up with brick at a later date. In 1775 it is no longer occupied by the estate owner or his family but let to a tenant farmer and at 404 acres was the largest farm on the estate. It does not seem to be related to any of the township settlements, being set on what was probably the edge of Bleathwood Common at the time it was built, it may have bordered both Woodhampton and Bryhampton townships. Proximity to the Common may have been an attraction at this time, as being close to suitable hunting territory. The Woodhampton estate claimed a right 'to keep gunns and greyhounds and to fowle and course' on Bleathwood Common in 1714.⁵³

The other isolated farms seem to represent movement by landowners away from the old centres of settlement to sites on their own land. These are Ledwyche (Leddige) Bridge Farm (now Broadfields) a house containing 17th-century panelling⁵⁴ with 158 acres⁵⁵ and The Cliffs, both on the alluvial land beside the Teme. The Furlongs is previously mentioned under Bryhampton. Halfway House on the road to Ashford Carbonel had a smallholding of twelve acres in 1881⁵⁶ but is a 17th-century timber-framed cottage,⁵⁷ said to have been a pub at one time; a need to serve travellers may account for its isolated position. The last is the Mill, located for practical purposes on the banks of the Teme just to the E. of the church in FIG. 2. The antiquity of the mill site is attested by the Bylet name given to the islet which would have formed one side of an early mill-lead.⁵⁸

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENT IN LITTLE HEREFORD

While the evidence for open-field systems is only present for Middleton, Easton and Bryhampton, the surviving evidence on the ground does indicate that these were originally nucleated rather than dispersed settlements which may well have been established before 1066. The assumption of a pre-Conquest date is based on the simple form of the early settlement names – Middleton, Easton and Littleton. Bryhampton and Woodhampton

as 'hamton' names seem likely to be smaller dependant settlements, in the case of Bryhampton, a nucleated settlement, as there is clear evidence of open-fields related to it. Woodhampton however may have always been a dispersed settlement as there is no clear evidence for the existence of open-fields here.

Perhaps the most significant conclusion to be drawn from this study is that it is not safe to assume from late evidence that settlements in Herefordshire have always been dispersed. There is a need for more detailed research throughout Herefordshire to establish the nature of settlement parish by parish.

REFERENCES

- ¹ N. Higham, 'Settlement, Land Use and Domesday Ploughlands,' *Landscape History* 12 (1990) p35 'the reorganisation of field systems seems to have taken place predominantly between the 8th and 12th centuries, with the emphasis on the second half of this period. The same period saw the reorganisation of some settlements into nucleated villages.'
- ² C.C. Taylor, *Village and Farmstead*, 125, 'along the Welsh Marches...they [nucleated villages] are only part of a much more complex pattern including many hamlets and isolated farmsteads.'
- ³ J. Grundy, 'Ullingswick: A Study of Open Fields and Settlement Patterns,' *A Herefordshire Miscellany* (2000), 292-9.
- ⁴ R.C.H.M., *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Herefordshire III*, (1934), xxix.
- ⁵ F. & C. Thorn *Domesday Book Herefordshire* (1983), (hereafter cited as D.B.)
- ⁶ *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, (Records Commission 1810-34).
- ⁷ Hereford Record Office (hereinafter H.R.O.) F/76/II/343. '...towards Upton churchyard ...' 1373.
- ⁸ E. Ekwall, *English Place-names* (1960), 236.
- ⁹ A. J. Stockham, *The History of Little Hereford* (1905), 7.
- ¹⁰ P. Remfry, 'Little Hereford Castle,' *Herefordshire Archaeological News*, 68,(1997), 43.
- ¹¹ *Op. cit.* in note 5, 2.51 'In LITTLE HEREFORD 7 hides. Of these, 3 are waste; the others pay tax. In Lordship 3 ploughs; 17 villagers and 3 smallholders with 11 ploughs. 2 female slaves; a mill at 6s 8d. 4 mills there, half of which rightly belongs to the above manor. Meadow, 5 acres; woodland 2 furlongs long and ½ furlong wide: it pays nothing. Of this manor a priest holds ½ hide; a rider ½ hide; they have three ploughs.'
- ¹² PRO. E179/117/5, E179/117/4 & 117/19 Lay Subsidies 1334.
- ¹³ PRO. E179/117/12,13,14,15, E359/8B Poll Tax, Herefordshire 1377.
- ¹⁴ H.R.O. AH81/8/33755.
- ¹⁵ *Op. cit.* in note 1.
- ¹⁶ PRO. STAC 2/23/215 Subject 'Tithes of the townships of Woodhampton, Easton and Bryhampton' Herefordshire 1509/1547.
- ¹⁷ H.R.O. C94/129 Map of the Manor of Little Hereford 1775.
- ¹⁸ H.R.O. C94/222-3 Tithe Map of Little Hereford 1845.
- ¹⁹ H.R.O. Q/R/30 Inclosure Award 1800.
- ²⁰ H.R.O. B84/3 Lands of Dansey Dansey: Survey.
- ²¹ British Geological Survey Ludlow Sheet 181 1:50,000 Series Solid and Drift Edition.
- ²² Soils of England and Wales Sheet 3 Midland and Western England, 541w Newnham 10, 571b BROMYARD 11.
- ²³ M. Gelling, *Place-names in the Landscape*, (1984), 194.

- ²⁴ Hereford Cathedral Archives A5029, Schedule of Kneelings Little Hereford Church, March 26, 1722.
- ²⁵ *Op. cit.* in note 17.
- ²⁶ H.R.O. B84/1-2 Suit Roll Precept 1754.
- ²⁷ H.R.O. Millenium Aerial Photograph 99-C-0835
- ²⁸ H.R.O. AG47/3 Lease between William Dansey of Hereford and John Hill of Easton, yeoman.
- ²⁹ P. Williams, *Whitbourne A Bishop's Manor* (1979), 51,52.
- ³⁰ *Op. cit.* in note 28.
- ³¹ *Op. cit.* in note 24.
- ³² *Op. cit.* in note 20.
- ³³ Hereford City Library Duncumb MSS of Wolphy Hundred.
- ³⁴ *Op. cit.* in note 6.
- ³⁵ *Register of Thomas Charlton*, ed. W. W. Capes (Cantelupe Soc. 1912), 44.
- ³⁶ *Op. cit.* in note 20.
- ³⁷ *Op. cit.* in note 16.
- ³⁸ H.R.O. A66/18/1 Deeds Woodhampton 1714.
- ³⁹ *Op. cit.* in note 18.
- ⁴⁰ *Op. cit.* in note 23, 196; *Op. cit.* in note 38 'all those two other parcels of pasture ground called the Upper and Lower Holts.'
- ⁴¹ PRO. C1/1096/55 Court of Chancery.
- ⁴² *Op. cit.* in note 24.
- ⁴³ 57 acres is the total acreage of all the fields called 'Frith' which forms a compact block of land on the 1775 map.
- ⁴⁴ *Op. cit.* in note 40.
- ⁴⁵ *Op. cit.* in note 23, 191.
- ⁴⁶ *Op. cit.* in note 19.
- ⁴⁷ H.R.O. AB24/2.
- ⁴⁸ H.R.O. T19/30, T19/32.
- ⁴⁹ 1851 Census shows Elizabeth Mary Bailey widow, age twenty-nine. Landed Proprietor, resident at Easton Court with four of her children, one of whom was Richard Crawshay Bailey, possibly John Crawshay Bailey was an elder brother.
- ⁵⁰ H.R.O. T39/34. Note that in T19/33 the valuer (Mr. Apperley) states that his work 'engaged going over the 16 cottages and gardens.' There is therefore a discrepancy between the number of cottages surveyed and the number involved in the final transaction.
- ⁵¹ H.R.O. T19/35.
- ⁵² *Op. cit.* in note 4, 67.
- ⁵³ H.R.O. A66/18/1.
- ⁵⁴ *Op. cit.* in note 52.
- ⁵⁵ *Op. cit.* in note 20.
- ⁵⁶ 1881 Census.
- ⁵⁷ *Op. cit.* in note 52.
- ⁵⁸ E. Taylor, 'An Investigation of the Byefield, Bylet, Cinder, Forge and Furnace, Cae Tref and Cover Names for the County of Herefordshire,' *Trans. Woolhope Natur. Fld. Club*, XLVIII (1996), 481,2.

Archaeological works on land on the east side of Church Road, Eardisley

By RICHARD STONE

SUMMARY

A watching brief and salvage excavation during the construction of fourteen houses provided evidence of domestic village or town settlement from the 12th century onwards, with an agricultural area to the east. Parts of two or more medieval buildings with stone footings were excavated, but the ground plans were not fully identified. There was also evidence for a property boundary and extensive pit digging. Settlement on the frontage ceased by the 17th century and possibly by the end of the 15th century and was later used for agriculture. The project refines the understanding of the 'urban form' of Eardisley as defined by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey which stated that this area lay outside the settled area.

INTRODUCTION

Planning permission was granted to Virgin Western by Leominster District Council for the construction of fourteen dwellings on land adjacent to Church Road, Eardisley (ref: L/97/0891/N) The site is situated at NGR: SO 321 492 (FIG. 1). A condition attached to the planning permission for this development was the provision of an archaeological watching brief during construction works with a contingency for up to five days full excavation. The archaeological project was carried out by Marches Archaeology.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The site lies on the E. side of Church Road, within the N.-S. ribbon development of the village of Eardisley. The soils on the site are alluvial and the land is prone to seasonal water logging as it is low lying and close to one of the brooks which traverse the settlement.

Stray finds of prehistoric and Roman date have been found in Eardisley but no conclusive evidence of settlement in the prehistoric and/or Roman periods. Indeed, although the place name indicates a Saxon origin (Coplestone-Crow, 1989, 77), no archaeological remains of this period have yet been found. Work at Castle Farm retrieved evidence of medieval ironworking (Topping, 1994; HSM 20661).

At Domesday the king held 2½ hides of waste land (the land having previously belonged to King Harold) and Hugh Donkey a further ½ hide of waste. The remainder of the land was held by Roger de Lacy, a member of one of the most influential families in the region (Thorn and Thorn, 1983). The description of the manor with a fortified house (*domus defensabilis*) and 'situated in the middle of a wood' hints at an unusual history in that it is exempt from tax and customary dues, probably reflecting a role in providing one of the early defensive centres between the major castles at Wigmore and Clifford.

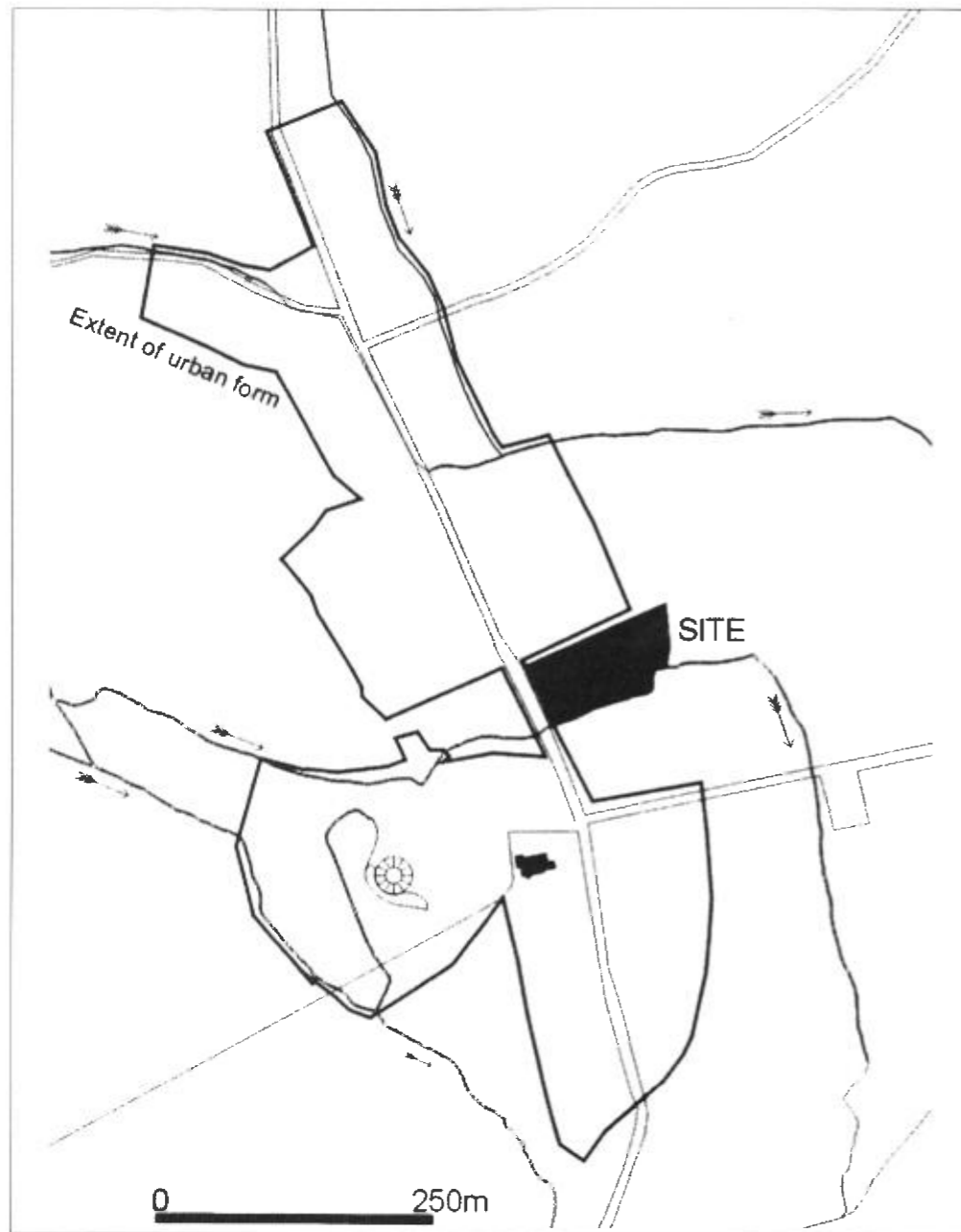


FIG. 1
Location of the site.

Eardisley Castle lies close to the church with the town lying beyond. This pattern is characteristic of the medieval small towns of northern Herefordshire (e.g. Kington, Lyonshall, Richards Castle, Wigmore), doubtless reflecting political control incorporating defence of the area.

In common with the apparent development of many settlements in this area Eardisley was granted a market and fair during the 13th century, in this case in 1233 (Stanford, 1980, 224). This has led to the definition of Eardisley as a town, or urban settlement in an archaeological assessment of the settlement, carried out as part of the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey (CMHTS) (Buteux, 1996). That study suggests that Eardisley began as a rural settlement and urban occupation developed in the 13th century. The historic core is seen as consisting of three major elements - an early settlement centred on the church and castle; an area of long tenement plots of the 13th century further N.; and short tenement plots at the N. of the settlement. In this model there is a gap between the early core and the long tenement plots, which includes the site which forms the subject of the present study.

The decline of Eardisley has not been dated by documentary sources and there has not been sufficient previous archaeological work in the area to give any indication of this decline. It is, however, commonly believed that the catalysts leading to the decline of settlements of this type throughout the country was a combination of famine and plague in the period between 1315 and 1360. A few buildings of the 14th and 15th centuries survive to show that the settlement was not deserted at this period, despite the postulated decline. During the post-medieval period Eardisley continued life as a village as the survival of many 16th to 18th-century buildings indicates.

The 1841 Tithe Map shows the site as Glebe Land, with a tramway at the eastern end of the study area.

METHODOLOGY

The watching brief was carried out intermittently over a period from 13 August 1998 to 7 July 1999 as the various groundworks associated with the excavation of foundations, roads and services progressed (FIG. 2). On the initial machine excavation of an area along the northern part of the road frontage a soil of apparent medieval date was exposed. It was agreed between the County Archaeologist and the developer that three days of the maximum possible contingency of five days should be allocated to the more detailed recording and excavation of this part of the site.

The bulk of the significant results of the watching brief came from this extremely short period of excavation, which was carried out by a team of four archaeologists. The watching brief on the remainder of the works was intermittent and it was clear that the bulk of the activity on the site was concentrated towards the Church Road frontage, with only occasional features being identified further E. On several occasions excavation works were carried out by the main contractor without the presence of an archaeologist so it is possible that significant archaeological information was lost, particularly in the area of house plot 4 directly S. of the area excavated archaeologically.

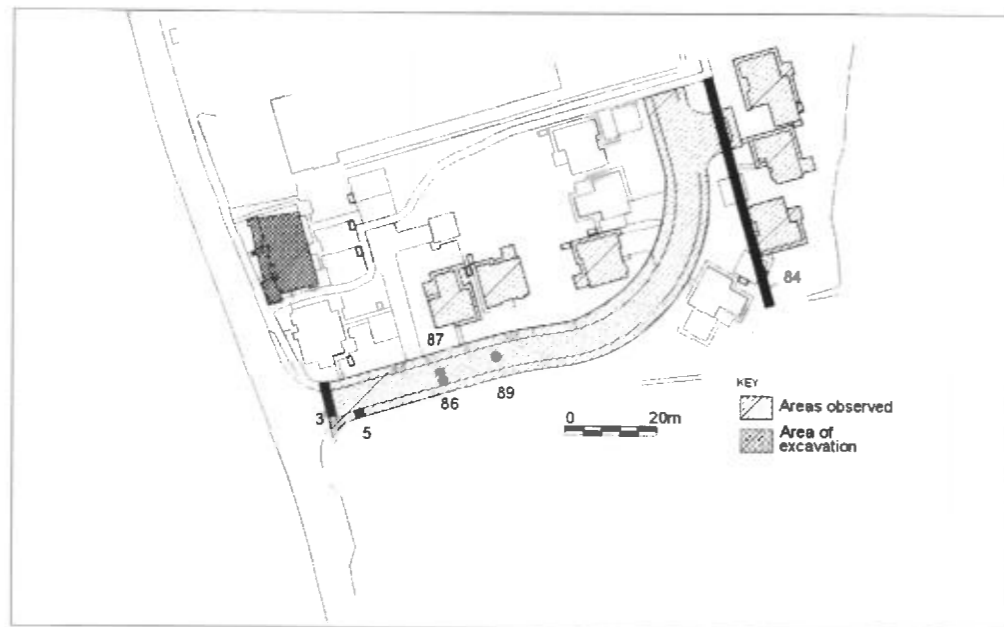


FIG. 2
Extent of archaeological investigations.

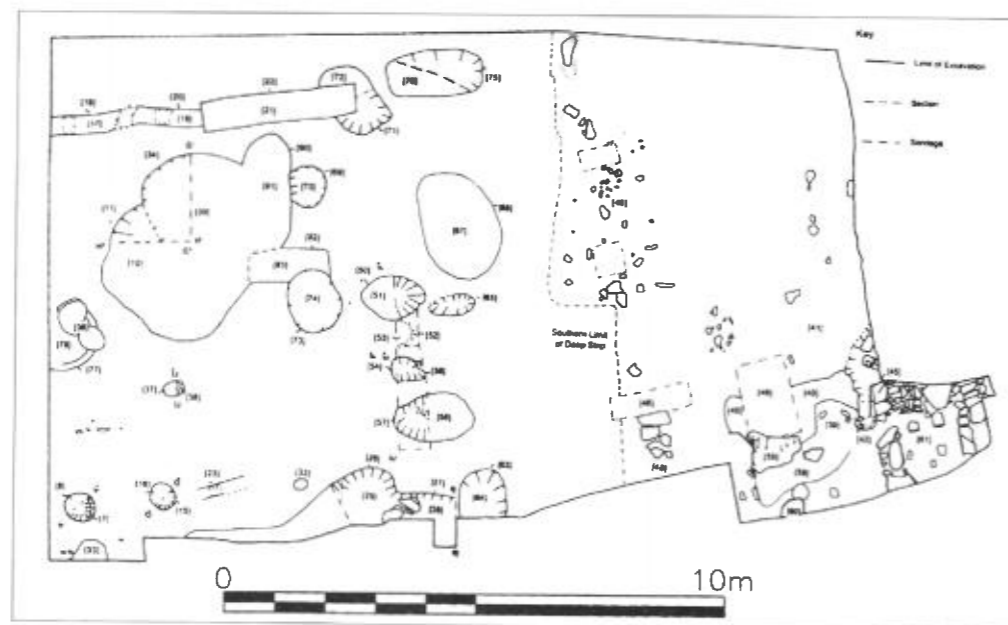


FIG. 3
Plan of the excavated area.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCAVATION

Because of time constraints the area was recorded in two distinct phases. Firstly an area approximately 16 m. by 10 m. (FIG. 3) was stripped by machine to the top of significant archaeological levels, removing a post-medieval ploughsoil [9(=47) and 29] to a level at which archaeological features were seen, summarily investigated and recorded (PL XV). The ploughsoil included pottery from the 12th to the 19th century suggesting that post-medieval ploughing had truncated most earlier stratigraphy, except deep features. Significantly, the lower part of the ploughsoil [29], contained no material later than the 17th century.

The second phase, on the third and final day, was a further machine strip in the northern part of the site to the natural subsoils to show any earlier features which were then summarily investigated and recorded. There was insufficient time to continue this strip into the southern part of the area excavated. It is likely that in this southern area features were present buried below the general soil level in a similar density to that found in the northern area.

Most features (FIGS. 4 and 5) were filled with a homogeneous mid-brown clay loam and where intercutting pits were found it was often impossible to determine the chronological sequence in the time available. The dating of the features was largely by artefacts rather than by stratigraphy because of plough damage to the upper parts.

Close to the road frontage, in the headland, at the S.W. of the area excavated, structural remains survived which allowed for a more detailed interpretation of the development of the area.

Throughout the excavation phase emphasis was placed on the basic definition of form, function and date of as many individual features as possible and on the stratigraphic sequence, with emphasis on structural remains. Deep features were only partly excavated because of the lack of time. Other features were, as far as possible, sampled with formal sectioning.

In such circumstances phasing and dating can only be tentative. Where features produced no dating evidence they have been assigned to a separate phase. Where datable pottery survived features have been assigned to the appropriate phase (Table 1). In several cases there were few sherds of pottery from features, so the dates are not always secure. Inevitably, there is some overlap in the date ranges used, so that, for example, some of the features dated to the 14th to 16th centuries could predate some of those dated to the 13th to 15th centuries.

Phase 1 - 12th to 13th centuries

In the northern part of the area vestiges of medieval soils survived, truncated by ploughing. At the N.W. a reworked subsoil of yellow orange clay [12] produced largely 12th and 13th-century pottery and a single sherd of intrusive 17th-century pot.

A shallow circular pit [77] with sloping sides and a flat base extended N. beyond the area excavated. Overlying part of this pit was a dump of charcoal and clay [36] representing material burnt elsewhere. Close by was a small pit [38], filled with [37] (FIG. 4).

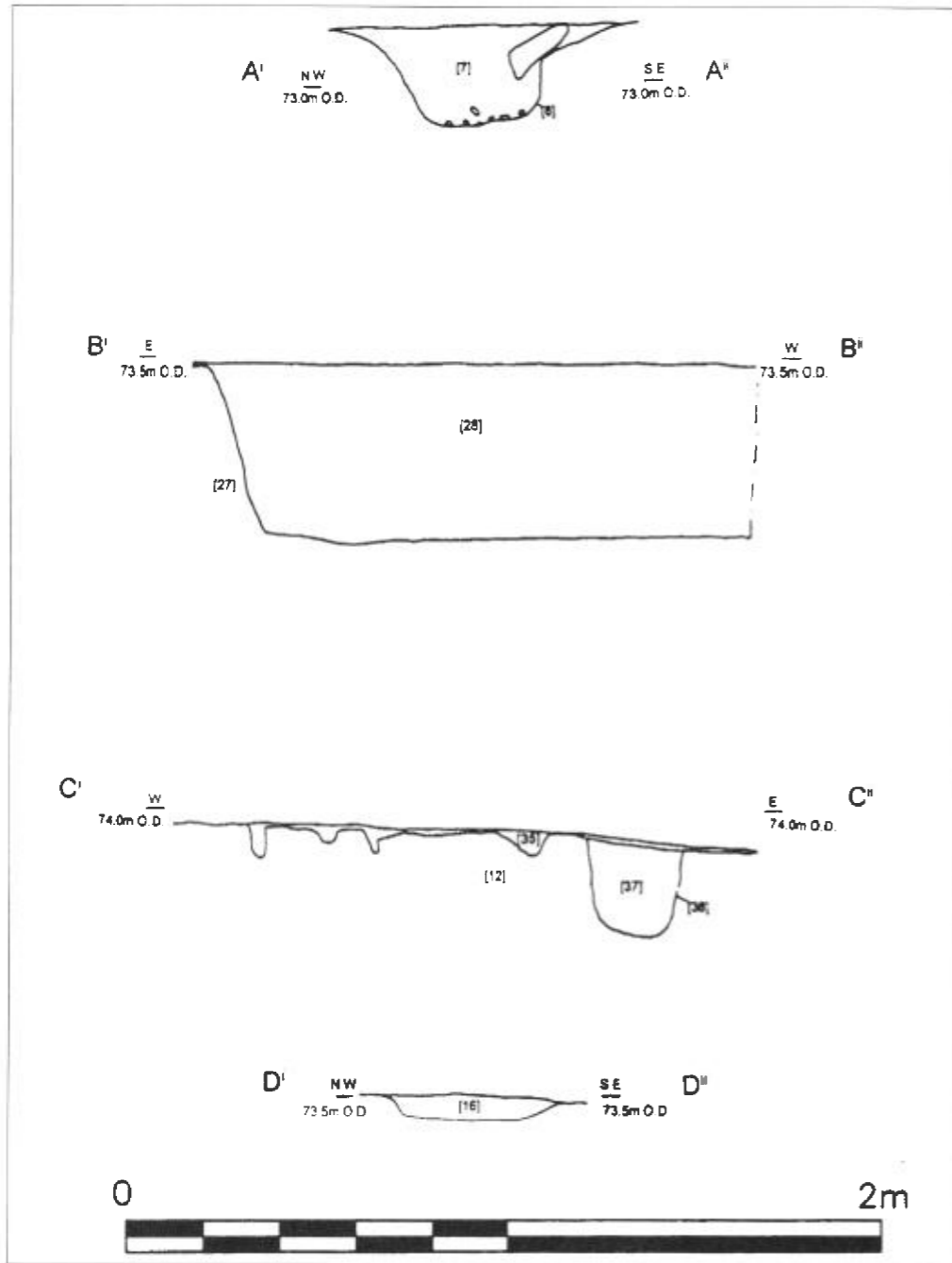


FIG. 4

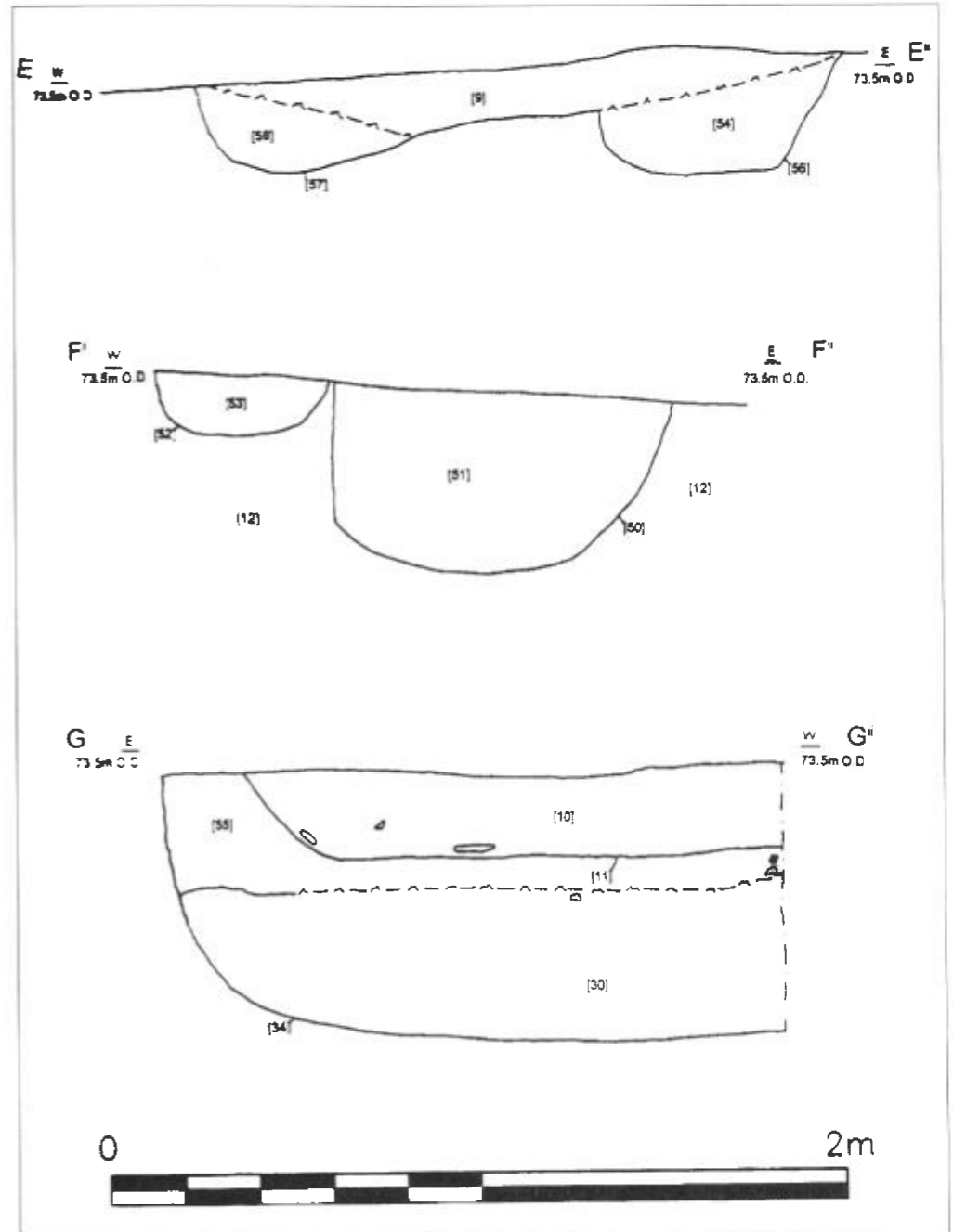


FIG. 5

Sealing this pit and the charcoal and clay layer was a clay spread [35] truncated by ploughing.

Other pits of this phase are [88], [57], [71] and [69] (FIG. 5). There was also a pit or post-hole [15] (FIG. 4).

Phase 2 - 13th to 15th centuries

At the S.W. of the area a reddish brown clay loam [46] was the earliest deposit. The bottom of this was not reached but the upper part produced two sherds of 13th-15th-century pottery.

A dark grey brown silty loam [41] covered this. It contained a large quantity of 14th-16th-century pottery, though the later stratigraphy indicates that the loam belongs in the earlier part of this range. Overlying layer [41] was a spread of burnt clay [40] which produced a single sherd of 12th-13th-century pottery, presumably residual. This appeared to be the first phase of a clay hearth which was later contained within a smaller area by a stone surround [60]. Many of the stones were missing, probably as a result of plough damage. The remains of the hearth included deposits of clay [59 and 62] within the hearth itself and fire waste and debris [39] nearby.

Cutting the clay of the hearth was the foundation trench [44] for a wall [45] (PL XVI). The backfill [43] included pottery datable broadly to the late 13th to the 15th century. This wall formed part of a larger stone structure [61] extending southwards and with a subsequent return westwards.

At the N. of the site were vestiges of an undated former ground surface of reddish brown clay loam [49], also affected by ploughing. Above this, at the N.E., was a brown clay loam [13 and 14], which was a soil accumulation and former ground surface. The pottery from this layer was also dated to the range from the 13th to the 15th century. Only small sample areas of these layers were excavated. Cutting this were four pits in the central part of the site. These were all oval [50, 68, 73, 75] (FIG. 5).

One of these pits [73] cut an earlier, rectangular pit [92] which is undated but stratigraphically of this phase or earlier.

Phase 3 - 14th to 16th centuries

The evidence dated to this phase consisted solely of pits [34], [11] and [63] and a post-hole [7] (FIGS. 4-6).

Phase 4 - 17th century and later

The demolished phase 2 building [61] was covered by a ploughsoil [42] which produced 17th-century pottery. Elsewhere on the site the lower part of ploughsoil produced pottery ranging from the 16th to the 17th centuries, while the upper part of the ploughsoil also produced later material including 19th-century pottery. It is therefore clear that the phase 3 building had fallen into disuse by the 17th century, if not significantly earlier.

A 600 mm. wide base of a stone wall [48], oriented E.-W. across the site, bisected the trench 1.6 m. N. of hearth [59]. This had been much disturbed by ploughing but sufficient

survived at the W. to show its alignment clearly. The distribution of loose stone further E. is suggestive that the wall continued for the full width of the area excavated (a length of 8.8 m). This was probably a property boundary rather than a wall of a building. A single sherd of 17th-century pottery was recovered from the top of this wall. However, the wall was much disturbed by later ploughing [9, 29 and 47] and it is believed that this relates to a period after its demolition. Accordingly, this structure has been assigned to the latest phase before the ploughing, though it is likely that it belongs in an earlier phase.

Also of this phase was a rectangular pit [26] truncated by a linear feature [27] containing several large (up to 0.5 m.) tabular stones set flat within the fill [28] (FIG. 4). The possibility that this is a robbed out foundation trench cannot be excluded but it is considered more likely that this was a drainage channel. To the E. of these features was a small pit [56] (FIG. 5).

A modern test pit [22] at the eastern side of the site was associated with the exploratory works for the present development.

Undated

Several features exposed in the northern part of the trench produced no datable finds. These have not been phased.

At the N.E. were two associated gullies [18] and [20] which may represent either shallow drainage or a beam slot. Other possible structural evidence was a single post-hole [31] and a possible beam slot or drainage gully [23].

Undated pits were [65], [52], and [90] (FIG. 5). The latter cut Phase 1 feature [69] but its relationship with pits [34] (Phase 1) and [92] (Phase 2) is unclear.

Although these various features are undated the evidence from the dated features in this area would suggest that they are most likely to belong to the medieval period (Phases 1-3).

DESCRIPTION OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

The initial phase of the watching brief, before the excavation phase, consisted of works for the new access road and the main service trenches which were routed along the road. The majority of this work was observed. The subsequent groundworks for foundations and service trenches were, however, only intermittently seen.

In summary, the area to the E. of the area excavation - to the rear of any frontage buildings - consisted of a cultivated soil overlying natural deposits. It is likely that earlier archaeological features in this area were disturbed by the cultivation, though deep features may be present.

Towards the frontage, in the area directly S. of the area excavated it was to be expected that archaeological deposits and features would survive well. Unfortunately, groundworks in this area were carried out without archaeological supervision so nothing is known of the remains in this area. In the area S. of this, an area of stratigraphy was seen in trenches excavated for the main access road and associated services. The lowest deposit was a layer of dark reddish brown silt [81]. A pit [2] cut through this, with a

shallow pit or ditch [80] cutting it. Soil [82] sealed this and was cut by the 0.35 m. wide unmortared stone footings of a wall [3] (FIG. 6). The robber trench [4] produced 17th-century pottery. This may relate to the date of demolition rather than construction.

Further E. was a 0.7 m. wide unmortared stone wall [5] (FIG. 6). This was 0.3 m. high and of uncoursed local stone and was parallel to wall [3]. This produced pottery of the 12th or 13th-century and was cut through a deep layer of reddish brown clay silt [83]. The construction cut for this wall was almost 1 m. in width.

In the backland area was a circular pit [86] with another narrow stone wall [87] to its N. Further E. was patch of soft mid- brown silt [89] may represent another feature.

The only feature E. of this area was a ditch [84] filled with burnt material [6] above modern silts. This ran the entire width of the site from N. to S. some 100 m. back from the road frontage and was clearly only recently fully infilled. It is presumed to represent an earlier field boundary.

THE FINDS

The ceramics, by S. Rátkai

All the medieval and post-medieval pottery was examined under x20 magnification. The pottery was divided into fabric groups which were then compared to the Hereford pottery type series (Vince, 1985) and to pottery from further N. in the county e.g. Leominster (Rátkai, 1998) and Wigmore Castle (Rátkai, 1998). Quantification was by sherd count, sherd weight, minimum number of rims and rim percentage (Tables 2 and 3). Details of form, decoration, glaze sooting and abrasion were also noted. Modern industrially produced pottery of the later 18th and 19th centuries was not examined microscopically and was recorded under the general heading 'modern glazed wares' (MGW). The unstratified pottery was quickly scanned but was not recorded.

A total of 437 stratified sherds, weighing 4,822 g. were recovered. At least 40 vessels were represented. Some of the pottery was abraded and there were comparatively few form sherds.

The Medieval pottery

Cooking pots

The medieval pottery was dominated by Malvernian cooking pots (fabric B1). The rim forms suggested that these were of both 12th and 13th-century date. The second most common cooking pot fabric had a fine matrix with mainly sparse limestone inclusions. The fabric closely resembles A2 sherds in the Hereford type series and the form of the cooking pot from Eardisley is paralleled in fabric A2 (Vince, 1985, fig. 29, 13). However, Eardisley is well outside the distribution area of this fabric recorded by Vince, although it is not impossible that distribution could follow the Wye, especially given that the Malvernian wares must have travelled by this route i.e. up river from Hereford. Vince suggests that this fabric could have been made in or around Hereford but notes that it is never common. On current evidence it is dated to the 13th century. Two sherds were

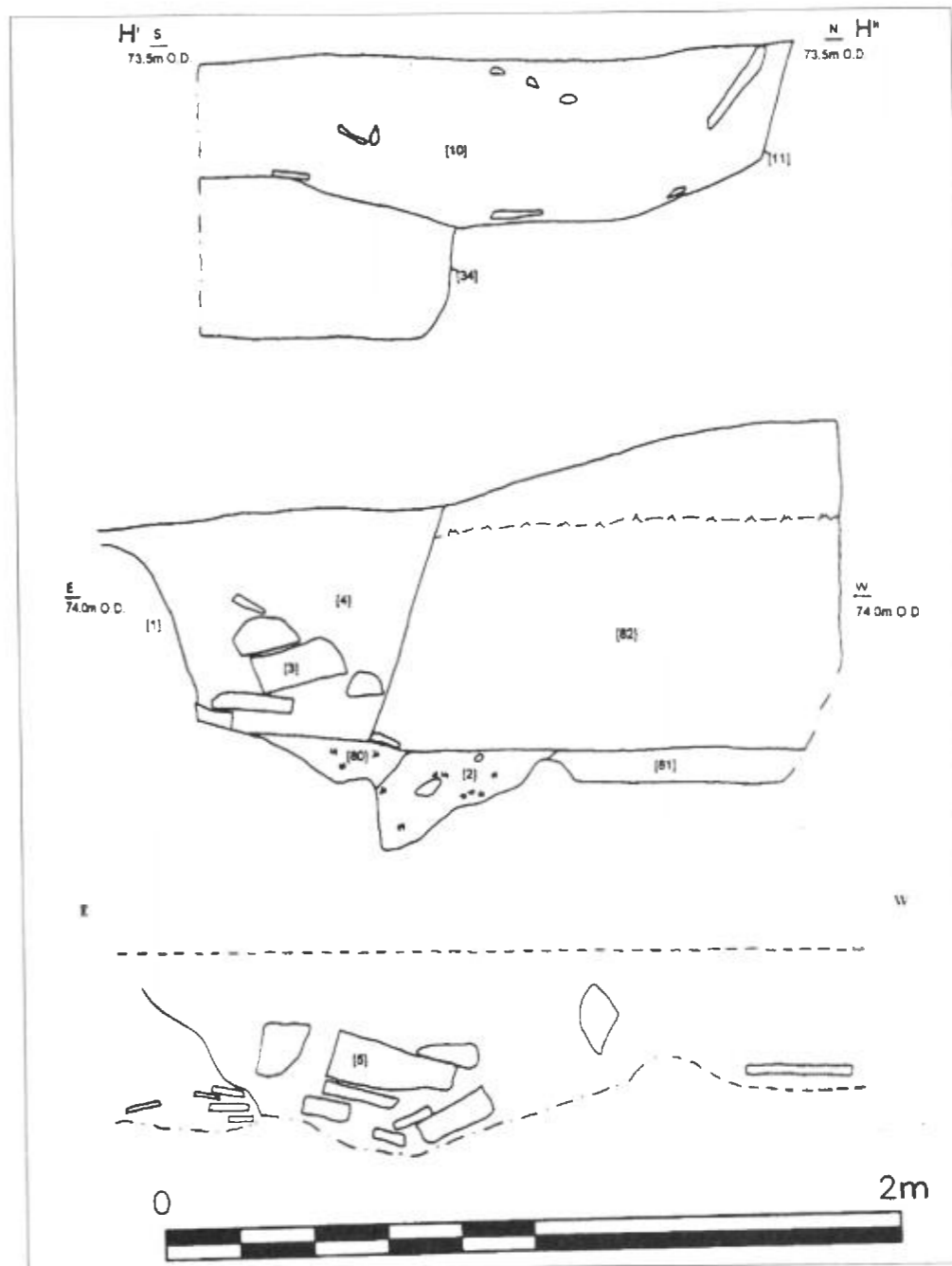


FIG. 6

matched to fabric A8 in the Hereford type series but, as with fabric A2, Eardisley falls outside the usual distribution of this fabric. It occurs infrequently at Hereford, its source probably lying in S.W. Herefordshire and surrounding area, although several are probably present (Vince, 1985). There were a few sandy Worcester-type cooking pot sherds (fabric C1). These have a wide currency in the W. Midlands and are dated to the 12th-13th centuries. In addition, there was a small number of siltstone tempered cooking pot sherds. These could be divided into two types; a fabric with moderate-abundant siltstone fragments up to 2 mm. (fabric silt) and a fabric with moderate-abundant siltstone fragments generally less than 1 mm. and abundant golden mica (fabric siltmic). The former fabric probably occurs as A4 in the Hereford type series although siltstone tempered cooking pots are uncommon in Hereford. However siltstone tempered wares and particularly the micaceous siltstone tempered ware, are frequently found in N. Herefordshire e.g. at Leominster and Wigmore. Petrological work (Williams and Vince in Rátkai, 1998) indicates that these fabrics are from N. Herefordshire or S. Shropshire. There is some evidence from Wigmore Castle and Hen Domen that siltstone tempered fabrics occur from the 12th century, although they appear to occur in Hereford in the 13th and 14th centuries only (Clarke, 1982 and Rátkai, 2000).

Glazed wares

The predominant glazed ware (fabric A7b) had a fine micaceous oxidised fabric with few visible inclusions within the matrix. The fabric was indistinguishable from Hereford fabric A7b which is dated to the mid-13th-15th centuries. Vince suggests there were several sources for this fabric including Weobley, which is roughly six miles to the N.E. of Eardisley, where a late 13th-14th century waster dump was found. The next best represented glazed ware was wheelthrown oxidised Malvernian ware fabric B4, dating to the 14th-16th centuries. This fabric is generally very well represented in Hereford particularly in the 15th and 16th centuries and in Leominster from the 14th century onwards. The relative lack of this fabric at Eardisley, surprising in view of the large proportion of earlier Malvernian wares (see above), may then be caused by competition from another, closer kiln site e.g. Weobley. Other glazed fabrics were represented by only small numbers of sherds. These were Worcester sandy glazed ware (fabric C2, 12th-13th centuries), Hereford fabric A3 (13th century) and glazed siltstone tempered ware (fabric siltg, ?12th-14th centuries). A small sherd with traces of a decayed external glaze was tentatively identified as coming from a glazed Malvernian pitcher/jug (fabric B3?, 13th century).

Vessel Forms

Fabric B1 cooking pots were all in standard well attested forms (cf Vince, 1977 and Vince, 1985) with both in-turned rims of 13th-early-14th century date and simple everted and collar-type rims of 12th-century date. A single form was found in fabric A2, which is paralleled in Vince (1985, fig. 29, 13). Fabric C1 cooking pots were straight sided and were also in forms well attested in the W. Midlands (cf Hurst, 1992). Undiagnostic cooking pot sherds were found in the siltstone tempered fabrics and in fabric A8.

Fabric A7b sherds were mostly glazed although there were few diagnostic form sherds. There was a splayed base from a baluster jug and a frilled base with neat, regular

tear-drop-shaped impressions. A plain narrow (7 cm.) diameter base, with traces of a thin brownish glaze on the wall of the vessel, may have come from a small 'drinking jug' or bottle form. The external base of this vessel was noticeably abraded. An abrasion pattern such as this is unusual on such a form. There was a fragment of a slashed strap handle and a small sherd from a jug with complex decoration which consisted of an applied ring and dot motif framed by two oblique applied strips. Simpler decoration was represented by incised horizontal lines or rectangular roller stamping. There were even fewer form sherds in Malvernian wheelthrown ware. The largest section of a vessel was from a dripping tray with a broad pouring lip. This form is illustrated by Vince (1985, fig. 42, 1). A small unglazed bevelled rim fragment from a small jug was present and base sherds with an internal glaze suggested that at least one bowl had been present although no rim sherds survived. There was a single jug rim sherd in fabric C2. The rim had a thickened externally bevelled terminal below which was a slight carination. The interior of the sherd was covered in a thick white slip, whilst the exterior was covered with a thick dark green glaze. A micaceous siltstone tempered sherd was decorated with irregularly spaced horizontal lines and had traces of a decayed external glaze. In addition, there were two undecorated, glazed siltstone tempered sherds.

Post-medieval pottery

The post-medieval pottery consisted mainly of fine micaceous orange oxidized wares with a clean fabric with few visible inclusions (fabric A7d). The fabric was very similar to fabric A7b but differed slightly in colour and had brown-olive to mid-dark brown glazes. Vessel forms were also different from those in fabric A7b. Fabric A7di differed from the main group in having slightly less well prepared clay matrix which contained sparse quartz grains and angular sandstone. Vince dates A7d to the 17th century but at Eardisley some of this pottery looks from form and glaze evidence to date to the previous century. Again a local source is likely for much of this fabric which would account for the continued paucity of Malvernian wheelthrown ware (fabric B4) and 17th-century Malvernian wares (fabric B5). A kiln site is known at Whitney-on-Wye, just three miles distant from Eardisley (Vince, 1985) which was producing fabric A7e so it is far from improbable that there was a source for A7d very close to Eardisley.

A single coarseware sherd with a pale orange fabric and sparse cream inclusions was recovered, with an internal brown glaze. The fabric is similar to many seen in the region in the 17th century.

Vessel forms

Fabric A7d sherds were mainly from jars. These fell into four main types; a straight sided jar with an expanded rim with an internal bevel, a slightly rounded jar with a collared neck and stubby everted rim (similar to Vince, 1985 fig 40,14), a straight-sided jar with an expanded and flattened rim and a jar with a rounded flattened bead rim. Two bowls were represented but one was too fragmentary for an accurate determination of the form. The other was a flaring-sided bowl with a lid-seated or flanged rim (similar to Vince, 1985, fig. 42, 4). A plain neck-rim sherd with a small diameter of 9 cm., with an internal

and external toffee coloured glaze had a small horizontal groove *c.* 1 cm. below the rim. The form closely resembled that of German stoneware drinking vessels of the later 16th century and may be a copy in a local fabric. Other drinking vessels were represented including a cup and a tankard which were both glazed dark brown. The form of the latter is common in the 17th century. At least three jugs were represented, one with an expanded rim with an internal bevel. One jug sherd was decorated with incised horizontal lines. Two further probable jug sherds had a horizontal rib at the junction of neck and shoulder. A flat base sherd from a drinking vessel with an internal and traces of an external olive-tan glaze, had what appeared to be a graffito made up of three intersecting lines forming a star on the underside of the base. Part of a base from a chafing dish was found amongst the unstratified pottery. Fabric A7di was also made up mainly of jar sherds, one with a simple everted rim, with two or three possible jug sherds and a tankard sherd with an internal and external dark brown glaze. Later Malvernian ware contained two sherds from a chafing dish and three undiagnostic glazed sherds.

Other ceramic and related finds

Small pieces of daub were present in (9) and (41) and roof tile was found in (6) and (29). The tile from (6) was small and undiagnostic. However, the tile from (29) was part of a glazed crested ridge tile in a Malvernian fabric. The most intriguing find was a small roughly rectangular piece of sandstone from (28). The surfaces of this were largely covered in glossy olive-green glaze. In patches, a thin skin of fired clay was present. The most obvious explanation for this is that the sandstone had once been used inside a kiln, perhaps as a spacer. Whether, the kiln had been used for firing tile or pottery is difficult to determine as is the location of the kiln, since there is no other evidence of nearby pottery production in the form of wasters or kiln furniture in the assemblage. However, pottery production is known from this area of Herefordshire at Whitney-on-Wye and at Weobley (Vince, 1985).

Chronology

Owing to the nature of the excavation there was little clearly defined stratigraphy. However it was possible to group the feature fills using certain dating criteria. The undiagnostic Malvernian cooking pot sherds were given a 12th-13th-century date and rim sherds dated to the 12th or 13th century depending on form. A 12th-13th-century date range was also given to the Worcester-type sandy wares. This dating produced one 12th-century context, (47) and seven 12th-13th-century contexts, (5), (13), (16), (33), (35), (40), (58) and (70). A 13th century date was given to contexts containing Malvernian cooking pot, Worcester-type sandy wares and fabric A2 or which contained 13th-century Malvernian rim forms. This produced a 13th-century date for contexts (37), (72) and (78).

Contexts which contained fabric A7b were dated to the 13th-15th centuries and those containing wheelthrown Malvernian ware a date of 14th-16th centuries. The former date range contained the largest number of contexts consisting of (14), (43), (46), (51), (58), (68), (74) and (76). In the latter date range were contexts (8), (10), (30), (41) and (64). Contexts were assigned to the post-medieval period by the presence of A7d, A7di and B5.

Some of the forms in A7d and A7di were clearly 17th century and contexts which contained them were dated accordingly. In the absence of any clearly diagnostic material a date of later 16th-17th centuries was given. Fabric B5 was dated to the 17th century. Only one context (29) was dated to the 16th-17th centuries, the remaining contexts (4), (12), (25), (28), (42), (48) and (54) were dated to the 17th century. However, the pottery from these contexts was very similar to that from (29) and although no deliberate attempt was made to look for cross-joins (i.e. sherds from the same vessel found in different contexts) it was clear that there were cross-joins between the post-medieval contexts particularly between (25), (28) and (29) and so (29) may also be of 17th-century date. Two contexts (6) and (9) were dated to the modern period because of the presence of 19th-century pottery. Context (9) contained 71 sherds, mainly a mix of fabric A7b and fabric A7d. It is clear from tables 4 and 5 that there is a large quantity of residual pottery in many of the later medieval and post-medieval contexts.

Site status and function

The medieval assemblage is typical of ordinary domestic occupation with a preponderance of heavily sooted cooking pots in the 12th-13th centuries superseded by an increasing number of glazed wares particularly jugs in the 14th-15th centuries. There was little abrasion on the pottery and abraded sherds tended to be medieval sherds found residually in post-medieval contexts.

The post-medieval pottery is likewise fairly typical of ordinary domestic occupation. A certain amount of prosperity and fashionableness is suggested by the presence of a dripping tray and by the chafing dish but the majority of the pottery is of a utilitarian nature for the storage or preparation of food. Only a few ceramic drinking vessels are present which is perhaps slightly unusual and presumably indicates the use of either wooden drinking vessels or ones of metal. A small number of A7d and A7di sherds had thick internal limescale. The sherds were otherwise undiagnostic but as heavy limescale is often associated with cisterns in the later medieval and post-medieval period it is possible that the sherds are from this type of vessel.

Pottery sources

Most of the pottery both medieval and post-medieval, appears to be of local manufacture. The Malvernian pottery is not strictly local but it is pre-eminent in many sites in Herefordshire, the only site where it forms a minor component being Wigmore Castle in the N.E. of the county. Petrological work suggests that the siltstone-tempered wares, here a very minor element in the assemblage, originate in N. Herefordshire or S. Shropshire. It is possible that these fabrics represent trade along the Lugg and from there along the Wye. The source of the Worcester-type sandy wares may not lie within the eponymous city or its hinterland, since they have a wide distribution throughout the W. Midlands and the Welsh Marches e.g. at Hen Domen, Montgomeryshire (Clarke, 1982) and several production sites are likely. However, they are sufficiently different from the micaceous oxidized wares routinely found in and manufactured in Herefordshire to suggest that they are not local.

The range and proportions of the fabrics are very similar to those from Hereford and this suggests that the Wye must have played an important rôle in their trade and distribution. Since kilns sites are known at Weobley and Whitney-on-Wye, both very close to Eardisley, it is probable that the sources of fabric A7b, A7d and A7di are very local and, indeed, the sandstone ?kiln spacer may indicate production in Eardisley itself.

Discussion

The pottery assemblage shows Eardisley to have fallen into the regional tradition represented most clearly at Hereford and typical of central Herefordshire. Occupation on the site seems to have begun at some point in the 12th century and continued through to the 17th century. The assemblage has all the features of a typical domestic assemblage with some indication of at least a little prosperity in the 17th century. The presence of a crested roof tile indicates a building of some importance in the vicinity and the presence of a glazed spattered piece of sandstone hints at pottery production.

Appendix - Dr. D. F. Williams. A note on the petrology of two medieval sherds

[1]. CRE 98A (51)

A rim sherd from a tripod pitcher in a hard, rough, sandy fabric, lightish grey outer surface and rim [10YR 7/1], a slightly darker inner surface and dark grey core [10YR 4/1]. Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope shows that the clay matrix is composed of frequent generally well sorted quartz grains together with shreds of muscovite mica and sparse small pieces of chert. Moderately scattered throughout the fabric are fragments of limestone and sandstone. The limestone varies between cryptocrystalline and some pieces which are sandy limestones. The fragments of sandstone vary in texture from fine-grained micaceous sandstones to more coarse varieties.

[2]. CRE 98A (29)

A plain body sherd in a hard rough sandy fabric, light brown in colour throughout [Munsell, 7.5YR 6/4]. The sherd is somewhat micaceous and has a moderately sparse scatter of irregular-shaped voids. In thin section the fabric appears very similar to No [1], with the exception that it lacks the inclusions of limestone and sandy limestone that are present in the previous sherd. However, there are a number of voids present in the clay matrix of a somewhat similar size and shape to the limestone based inclusions in No [1]. It is possible, for example, that these voids may have originally held a similar range of inclusions that have been leached out during burial.

Comments

The site is situated in a region of Devonian Old Red Sandstone and Conglomerates, Sandstones and Marls [Geological Survey 1" Map of England Sheet No. 198]. The fabric of sherd [1] matches very well the description of Vince's Hereford A2 Fabric for which he postulates an origin close to Hereford [1985]. Certainly the range of inclusions in the fabric of the Eardisley sherd would fit in with a source derived from the Old Red Sand-

stone marl and associated glacial till. If the voids in sherd [2] were originally limestone based, the fabric of this sherd would also match Vince's A2 Fabric group.

Other finds

Aside from datable ceramic finds the assemblage of material from the site was of relatively little interest. Seventeen small finds were allocated. These included one decorative object - a post-medieval copper alloy strap ([25], phase 4). The remaining objects were either unidentified (and predominantly iron) or utilitarian. They included two or three blades, a horseshoe ([43], phase 2), a possible handle and a latch. A piece of trimmed lead ([10], phase 3), indicates working of lead in the area, but not necessarily on the site itself.

The other bulk finds were predominantly animal bone but insufficient was retrieved (just less than 2.5 kg.) to warrant any study. A small amount of ironworking slag was found from each phase, but only enough to represent a background scatter. Several nails were found, again from all phases, but no significance can be attached to these finds other than to indicate that ironworking was carried out somewhere in the vicinity, as would be expected in any sizeable settlement.

Two soil samples were taken. Both were wet sieved through a 500 micron flotation mesh with a 1 mm. mesh for residue. Sample 1 was from post-hole [8]. Sample 2 was from the charcoal and ash layer [39] within the hearth [59]. No significant environmental remains were noted in either residues or flots and on the basis of this assessment no further analysis was undertaken.

DISCUSSION

The nature of the archaeological work did not allow for detailed information on the layout of the area throughout the medieval period. It did, however, provide significant information to add to an understanding of the development of the settlement. Almost all the information retrieved came from the initial stages of the watching brief and the area excavation. This was in part due to the intermittent nature of the watching brief, with some areas not observed archaeologically. However, the absence of archaeological information is interpreted as indicating that the land use away from the frontage was always agricultural.

There was no evidence of any settlement or other activity earlier than the Norman Conquest. This may support the model of the CMHTS that the settlement at this time was S. of the stream which marks the southern boundary of the study area, though further archaeological work elsewhere in Eardisley is needed to test this.

The earliest evidence was of the 12th or 13th century and included ground surfaces which had been much disturbed by later ploughing. There were several pits of this period and a possible post-hole [15] near to the frontage. Stone footings [3 and 5], parallel to the road at the S. of the site, may represent a building of this period.

This evidence fits a common form of development within tenement plots which is indicative of a built up environment. This model is typically represented in the archaeological record by remains of buildings on the frontage with an area of pits and other deep

features to the rear, sometimes with old ground surfaces. This is usually interpreted as an open area of craft or domestic activity to the rear of the main building. It is common for the density of features to diminish towards the rear of the plot, further from the main house. Shallow features, including shallow founded buildings would not have survived plough damage, so absence of evidence for them on this site does not necessarily imply that they did not exist. On the other hand, the evidence is not sufficient to state unequivocally that this was a fully built up area.

In the period between the 13th and 15th centuries the land use of the site appears to have remained fundamentally the same, with significant amounts of pit digging. There was also evidence of a further building with stone footings though not enough was seen to establish the original ground plan. Some of these footings [61] were substantial enough to have been continued in stone throughout the building, though timber-framed construction was generally more common at this period. An open hearth [59], presumably associated with this building, was found.

The only structural evidence dating clearly from the 16th century was a single post-hole [7], though pits of the date range 14th to 16th century were abundant. The absence of structural remains of medieval date may be explained, particularly in the northern part of the area excavated, by the depth of plough damage.

The E.-W. stone footing [48] running across the excavated trench is interpreted as a boundary wall. This can only be dated by the ploughsoil above it which indicated it was demolished by the 17th century.

The function of the site had changed to farmland by the 17th century as the ceramic evidence from the ploughsoil suggests. This covered the demolished building [61] and boundary wall [48]. The only features of this period were two pits and a probable drainage channel [27].

Apart from a modern test pit [22] any other features were undated. Within the excavated trench these included possible structural features, such as two putative beam slots and a post-hole. The general sequence of the site would suggest that these, as well as three undated pits [52, 65 and 90], are most likely to date from the medieval period, though it is not possible to assign them more closely than to Phases 1-3.

Two undated features seen in the watching brief are also likely to be of medieval date. One stone wall footing [87] may represent a division in a tenement plot or could be part of a building. Further E., ditch [84] is on the alignment of the field boundaries to the N. and is clearly associated with that field system and may delineate the back of the bur-gage plots.

CONCLUSIONS

Despite the limitations of the methodology, very useful information was retrieved by the archaeological project concerning the use of the site from the medieval period onwards.

It is evident that buildings were present in at least two places along the road frontage of the site and that the earliest occupation can be assigned to the 12th or 13th century.

The extent of pits and other features further E. suggests that these were probably typical domestic dwellings with plots of land to the rear. Only one putative boundary between plots was identified so the size of the plots cannot be defined. It is quite possible, however, that they were standard tenement plots, such as those to the N.

This land use had changed by the 17th century, and possibly as early as the end of the 15th century, reflecting a decline in the fortunes of the settlement. In the 19th century the area was glebe land and this may have been the case at a significantly earlier date, perhaps even in the medieval period.

This archaeological work calls into question the extent of the historic core of Eardisley as defined by the CMHTS. The evidence of the recent fieldwork indicates a developed area of medieval settlement, with a pattern suggesting nucleated occupation, in distinction to the evidence of the CMHTS which excludes the area from this core area. The existence of a ditch in line with the eastern boundary of the properties to the N. further confirms that this site fits within the urban context of Eardisley, the rear of the site being within the rural hinterland.

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Cut	Fill	Phase	Pot spot date	Number of sherds	Feature type
7	8	3	14-16 c.	8	Posthole
11	10	3	14-16 c.	19	Pit
15	16	1	12-13 c.	1	Pit or posthole
24	23	-	undated	-	Beam slot
26	25	4	17 c.	33	Pit
27	28	4	17 c.	23	Foundation trench
31	32	-	undated	-	Posthole
34	30 + 55	1	12-13 c.	19	Pit
50	51	2	13-15 c.	39	Pit
52	53	-	undated	-	Pit
56	54	4	17 c.	7	Pit
57	58	2	13-15 c.	8	Pit
63	64	3	14-16 c.	9	Pit
65	66	-	undated	-	Pit
67	68	2	13-15 c.	5	Pit
69	70	1	12-13 c.	3	Pit
75	76	2	13-15 c.	1	Pit
71	72	1	13 c.	4	Pit
73	74	2	13-15 c.	9	Pit
77	78+79	1	13 c.	2	Pit
88	33	1	12-13 c.	1	Pit
90	91	-	undated	-	Pit
92	93	2	undated	-	Pit

Table 1
Dating and interpretation of features in northern area.

Fabric		Total	Fabric		Total
A2?	Sum of wght	267	A2?	Sum of wght	5.28%
	Sum of qty	48		Sum of qty	10.79%
A3	Sum of wght	3	A3	Sum of wght	0.06%
	Sum of qty	1		Sum of qty	0.22%
A7b	Sum of wght	543	A7b	Sum of wght	10.73%
	Sum of qty	70		Sum of qty	15.73%
A7d	Sum of wght	1,951	A7d	Sum of wght	38.56%
	Sum of qty	99		Sum of qty	22.25%
A7di	Sum of wght	189	A7di	Sum of wght	3.74%
	Sum of qty	16		Sum of qty	3.60%
A8?	Sum of wght	14	A8?	Sum of wght	0.28%
	Sum of qty	2		Sum of qty	0.45%
B1	Sum of wght	1,310	B1	Sum of wght	25.89%
	Sum of qty	152		Sum of qty	34.16%
B3?	Sum of wght	3	B3?	Sum of wght	0.06%
	Sum of qty	1		Sum of qty	0.22%
B4	Sum of wght	187	B4	Sum of wght	3.70%
	Sum of qty	13		Sum of qty	2.92%
B4?	Sum of wght	1	B4?	Sum of wght	0.02%
	Sum of qty	1		Sum of qty	0.22%
B5	Sum of wght	150	B5	Sum of wght	2.97%
	Sum of qty	5		Sum of qty	1.12%
C1	Sum of wght	64	C1	Sum of wght	1.27%
	Sum of qty	7		Sum of qty	1.57%
C2	Sum of wght	20	C2	Sum of wght	0.40%
	Sum of qty	4		Sum of qty	0.90%
cw	Sum of wght	9	cw	Sum of wght	0.18%
	Sum of qty	1		Sum of qty	0.22%
daub?	Sum of wght	18	daub?	Sum of wght	0.36%
	Sum of qty	4		Sum of qty	0.90%
flowerpot	Sum of wght	44	fpot	Sum of wght	0.87%
	Sum of qty	1		Sum of qty	0.22%
mgw	Sum of wght	25	mgw	Sum of wght	0.49%
	Sum of qty	4		Sum of qty	0.90%
silt	Sum of wght	12	silt	Sum of wght	0.24%
	Sum of qty	4		Sum of qty	0.90%
siltg	Sum of wght	8	siltg	Sum of wght	0.16%
	Sum of qty	2		Sum of qty	0.45%
siltmic	Sum of wght	66	siltmic	Sum of wght	1.30%
	Sum of qty	7		Sum of qty	1.57%
stone	Sum of wght	80	stone	Sum of wght	1.58%
	Sum of qty	1		Sum of qty	0.22%
tile	Sum of wght	95	tile	Sum of wght	1.88%
	Sum of qty	2		Sum of qty	0.45%
Total Sum of wght		5,059	Total Sum of wght		100.00%
Total Sum of qty		445	Total Sum of qty		100.00%

Table 2
Quantification of stratified ceramic and related finds.

Fabric		A2	A7b	A7d	A7d 1	B1	B4	C1	C2	Total
Rim count		2	1	14	2	15	3	2	1	40
%		5%	2.5%	35%	5%	37.5%	7.5%	5%	2.5%	100%

Table 3
Quantification of pottery by minimum number of rims.

fabric	12th c	12th- 13th c	13th c	13th- 15th c	14th- 16th c	16th- 17th c	17th c	modern	Grand Total
A2?			9.09%	43.33%	5.83%	1.67%		1.33%	10.79%
A3					0.97%				0.22%
A7b				20.00%	21.36%		14.94%	22.67%	15.73%
A7d						50.00%	50.57%	33.33%	22.25%
A7di						20.00%	4.60%		3.60%
A8?							2.30%		0.45%
B1	100.00%	92.31%	72.73%	36.67%	49.51%	21.67%	13.79%	22.67%	34.16%
B3?					0.97%				0.22%
B4					8.74%	3.33%	1.15%	1.33%	2.92%
B4?					0.97%				0.22%
B5							5.75%		1.12%
C1		7.69%	18.18%		1.94%	1.67%		1.33%	1.57%
C2					1.94%		1.15%	1.33%	0.90%
cw								1.33%	0.22%
daub?					2.91%			1.33%	0.90%
fpot								1.33%	0.22%
mgw								5.33%	0.90%
silt					1.94%		2.30%		0.90%
siltg					1.94%				0.45%
siltmic					0.97%		2.30%	5.33%	1.57%
stone							1.15%		0.22%
tile						1.67%		1.33%	0.45%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4
Occurrence of fabrics by period (quantification by sherd count).

fabric	12th c	12th-13th c	13th c	13th-15th c	14th-16th c	16th-17th c	17th c	modern	Grand Total
A2?			6.73%	33.44%	3.79%	1.45%		0.22%	5.28%
A3					0.38%				0.06%
A7b				15.76%	16.31%		3.07%	31.18%	10.73%
A7d						65.94%	63.23%	33.18%	38.56%
A7di						11.79%	2.22%		3.74%
A8?							1.19%		0.28%
B1	100.00%	94.64%	69.23%	50.80%	62.58%	8.03%	7.94%	15.26%	25.89%
B3?					0.38%				0.06%
B4					7.71%	7.81%	0.94%	0.78%	3.70%
B4?					0.13%				0.02%
B5							12.80%		2.97%
C1		5.36%	24.04%		2.28%	0.36%		1.45%	1.27%
C2					1.77%		0.26%	0.33%	0.40%
ew								1.00%	0.18%
daub?					1.01%			1.11%	0.36%
fpot								4.90%	0.87%
mgw								2.78%	0.49%
silt					1.14%		0.26%		0.24%
siltg					1.01%				0.16%
siltmic					1.52%		1.28%	4.34%	1.30%
stone							6.83%		1.58%
tile						4.63%	100%	3.45%	1.88%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 5
Occurrence of fabrics by period (quantification by sherd weight).

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An Interpretation of a Tudor Manorial Survey of Acton Beauchamp, with reference to the History of the Landscape

By C. W. M. PRATT

INTRODUCTION

Acton Beauchamp, Herefordshire is a parish of 1543 acres. It lies in undulating country adjacent to the border with Worcestershire to which it belonged until 1897. The parish is mostly bounded by streams which lie at about 100 m. with its land sloping down to these from a central plateau which rises to 180 m., (FIG. 1) and is crossed by Salters Way (Pratt, 1997). The plateau being H-shaped with the E. limb forming the northern end of the Ridgeway. There are two central valleys, a winding secluded one in the W. and one running N. to S. both are avoided by the Salters Way. The soil is described as an argilic brown earth (571), though it is lighter (541) to the S.E. of Acton Green.

Acton was a single estate in Anglo-Saxon times and continued so from Norman times through to the 17th century usually with an absentee lord of the manor (for details see V.C.H.). Its agrarian history is discussed later. It was owned by the Beauchamp family in the 13th century, who built the church, and later passing via the earls of Warwick to the Lygon family of Madresfield (Kingsford, 1929). William Lygon sold most of the estate to Rowland Berkeley of Spetchley (the great Worcester clothier) in 1602 to settle debts. However, previous to this the estate had been surveyed and valued in 1594 presumably with a view to its subsequent sale, which was the usual practice (Kerridge, 1953). This survey survives in the unpublished archives of Madresfield Court though it was partially translated in the miscellaneous roll volume of the Madresfield Calendar in about 1910 by C. L. Kingsford which is held in the Worcester Record Office. The first full translation was made from a photocopy in 1996 by Muriel Tonkin and a copy is held in the Hereford Record Office (BS75).

The manuscript, dated 17 Apr. Eliz.36 (i.e. 1594) consists of five folio leaves recto and verso in Latin with many abbreviations (see FIG. 2). Personal and topographical names are in English and 'le' frequently appears with field-names. There is an introductory paragraph naming the surveyor (Edmund Harewell of Hanley Castle) and listing fifteen witnesses (on oath), all being tenants but no women are included. Twenty tenancies are listed in some detail (see FIG. 3). The tenants are named and noted how they are qualified 'according to the custom of the manor.' The messuage (i.e. the dwelling house and its outbuildings) is then described and usually named together with its rent. The land is listed field by field which are again usually named, their acreage given (rods and poles are not used) together with their annual value, and their usage is also given (arable, meadow or pasture). The annual rent and value of the holding is given (with an additional rent of usually two capons). There is also an appendix listing six freeholders.

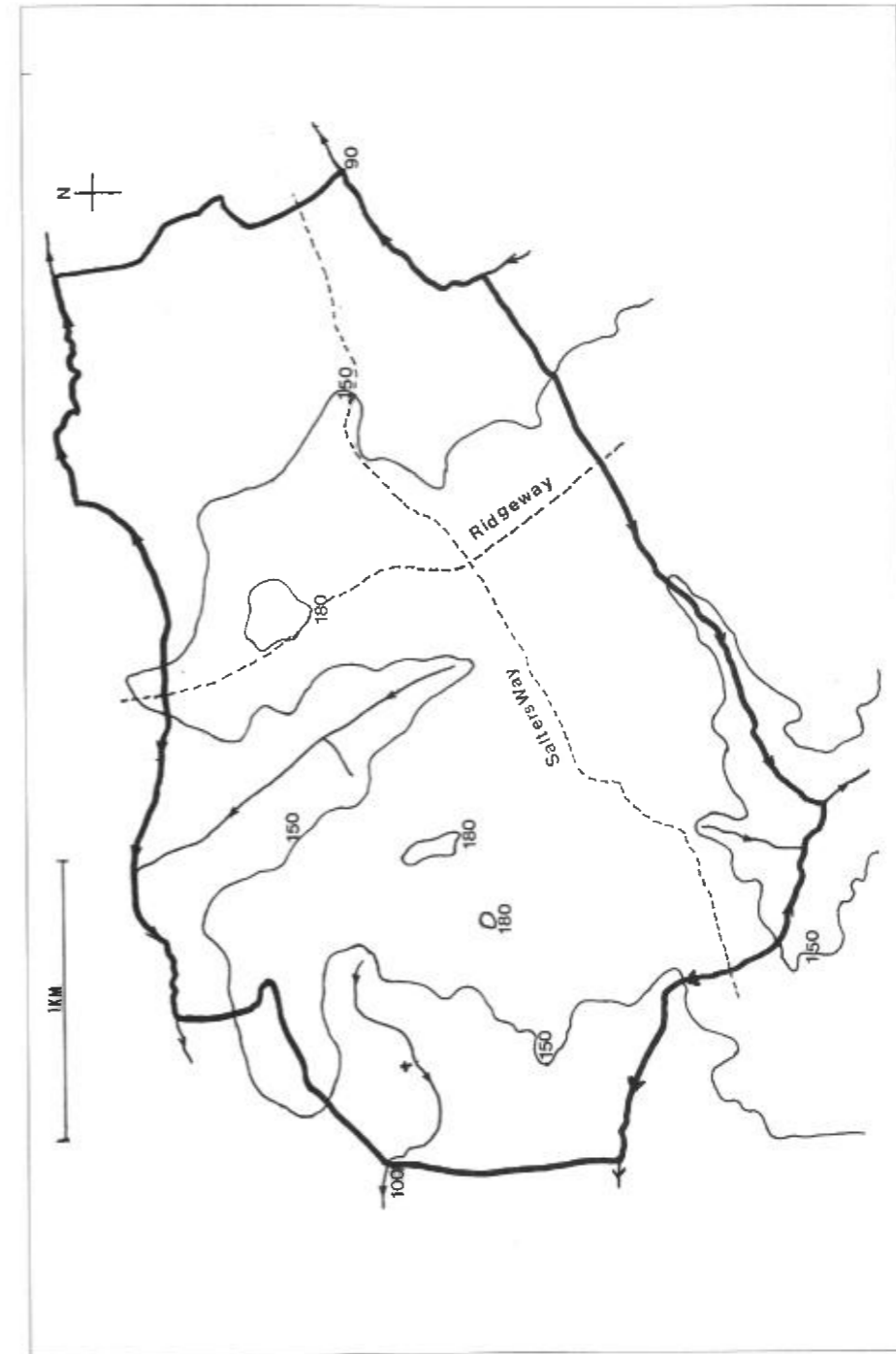


FIG. 1
Physical features of Acton Beauchamp. The heavy line is the boundary and arrows indicate streams. 150 and 180 metre contours shown. The cross shows the position of the church. The presumed courses of the Salters Way and the Ridgeway are indicated.

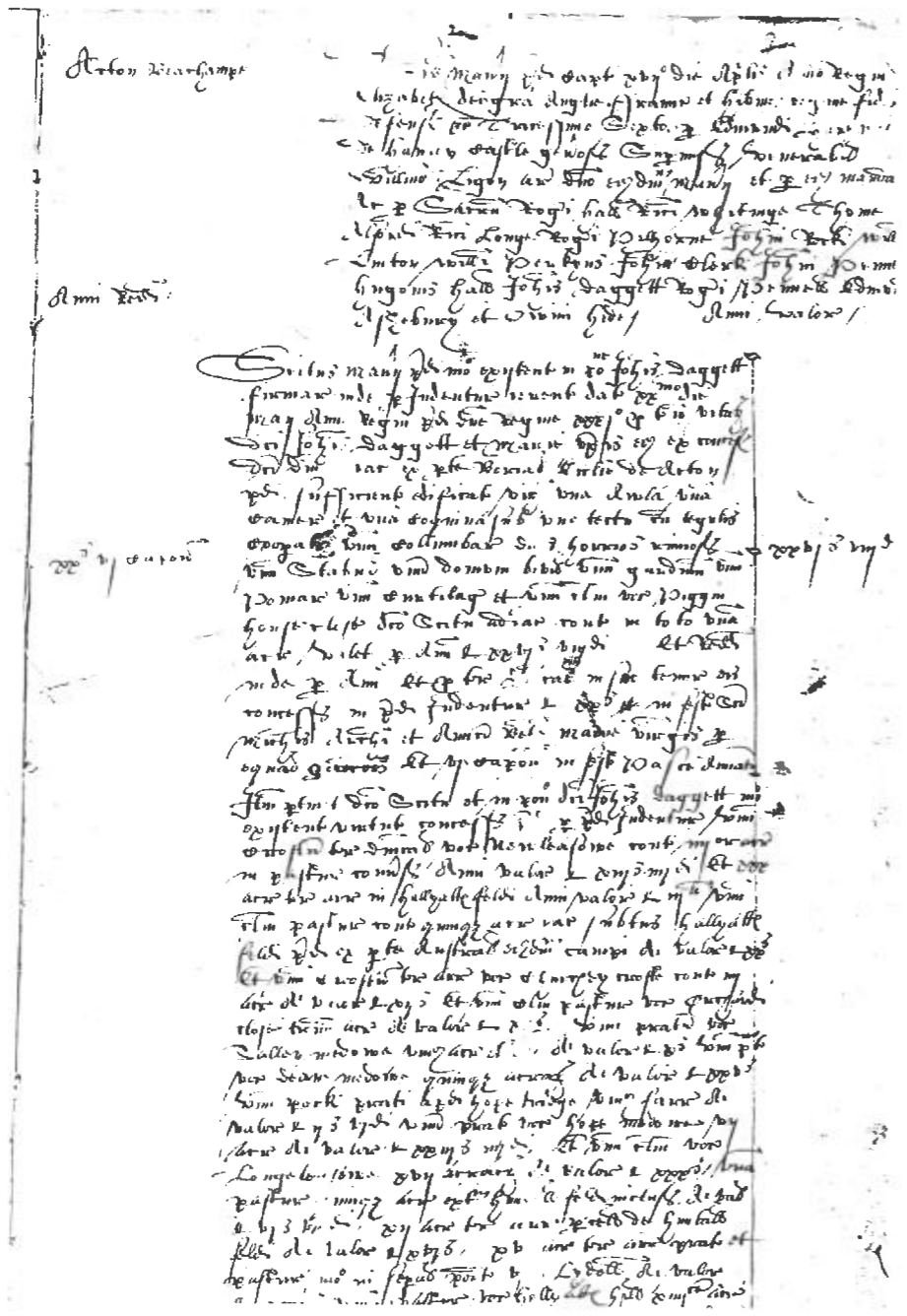


FIG. 2

First leaf of the manorial survey of Acton Beauchamp taken in 1594. This portion includes the preliminaries and the details of the Manor [A]. With the kind permission of the Trustees of the Madresfield Estate.

While manorial surveys are not uncommon, this one is important as it is particularly early and is detailed, and there are related Anglo-Saxon charters including that of 972 (Sawyer, 786) which lists the bounds of Acton Beauchamp.

PROBLEMS PRESENTED

Though no map is known to exist, maps were unusual in such surveys (Kerridge, 1953), it has been possible to reconstruct one which has given some surprising results and explains many of the features of the present parish.

- (a) *The Identification of the Holdings.* This was surprisingly difficult as many are unnamed. The tenant often being the only means of identification and even some of those holdings which are named are not easily recognisable though their field-names usually offer a clue. Fortunately the first holding to be described is easily recognisable with its position in relation to the church being noted. The placing of the subsequent easily recognisable holdings was found to follow a sequence in an anticlockwise centripetal pattern, and allowed those unnamed but with recognisable field-names to fall into place. Three unknown holdings appeared, as they had disappeared by the time of the 1839 tithe map and survey. The holdings have been lettered from [A] to [T] for convenience (see FIG. 3), where it will be noticed that they are largely arranged along the Salters Way and the Ridgeway (see FIG. 8).
- (b) *The Extent of the Holdings.* This was even more difficult to elucidate. Some assumptions had to be made. Firstly it would surround the messuage and would not extend beyond the parish or estate boundary, which today remains unchanged since Anglo-Saxon times (Pratt, 1997). Secondly that the 16th-century acre is the same as that of the 19th century. (The statute acre was always used when land was enclosed - Kerridge, 1953.) Thirdly that when a Tudor field-name persisted into the 19th century it related to the same field.

The 19th-century tithe map and survey has formed a very useful basis for it was found that the field pattern was little changed and field acreages were comparable, thus allowing the identification of most of the 16th-century fields. It then became apparent that the sequence of the listing of the fields followed a regular pattern. The first field to be listed was found to lie to the immediate N. of the messuage and then they usually followed a clockwise centrifugal sequence with outlying land being listed last. In the case of Church House Farm (A) it is unusual in that the sequence is in two circuits and is largely anticlockwise (FIG. 4).

When all of the holdings had been accounted for, (FIG. 5) there was a considerable residue of land which became apparent when it was mapped (FIG. 6). The interpretation of this gradually became clear and the sites of the named open-fields emerged in which the land was always designated as being 'in.' They were Hallyatts feld, Huntall feld, Gnawthorn feld, and Chestle feld and with the exception of Gnawthorn their names continued in some form into the 19th century. They were always listed in this clockwise sequence. Those names when they persisted confirmed their situation. The remaining

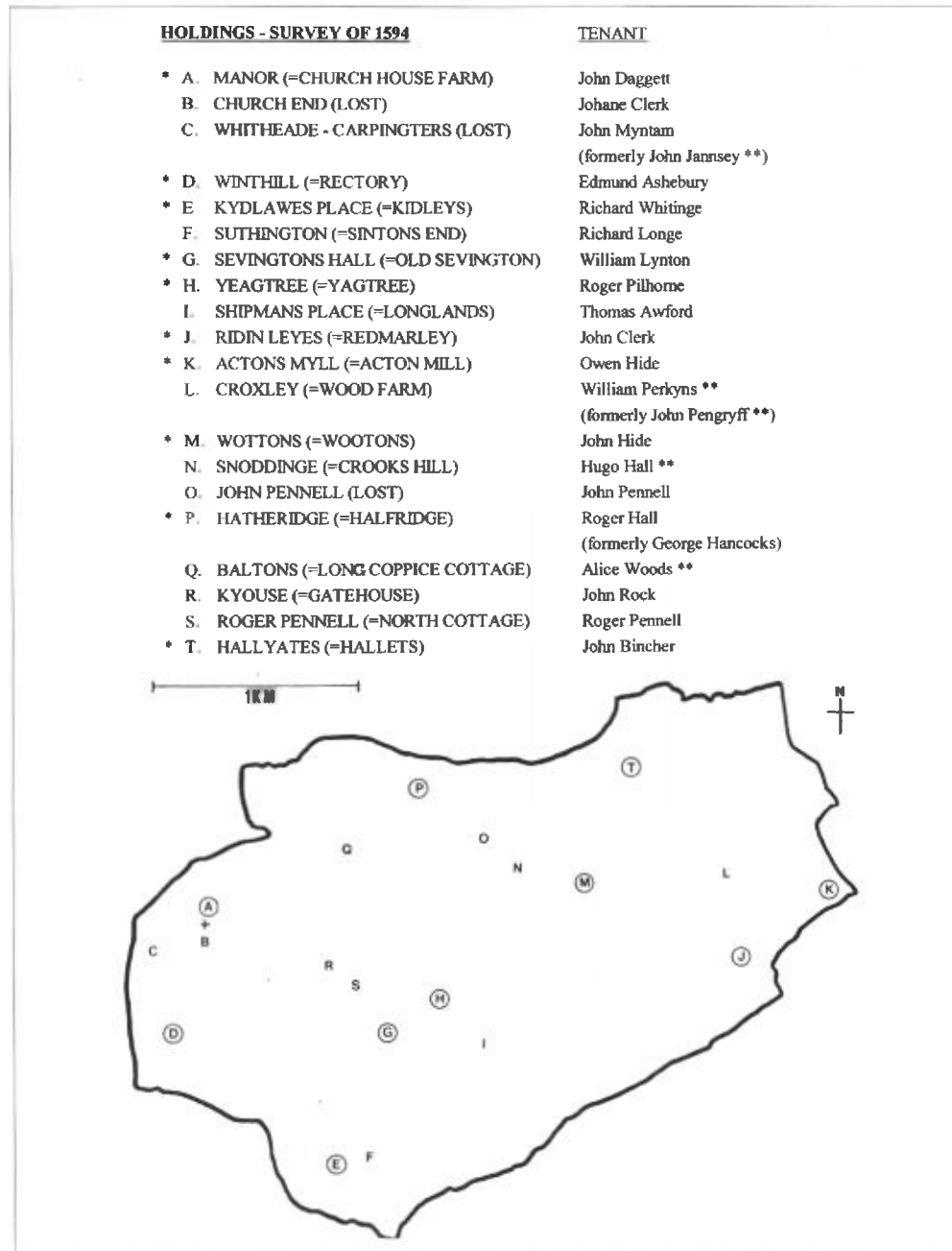


FIG. 3
Showing the locations of holdings with tenants in 1594. * = recognisable sites. ** = surnames persisting in 1839. The church is marked by a cross.

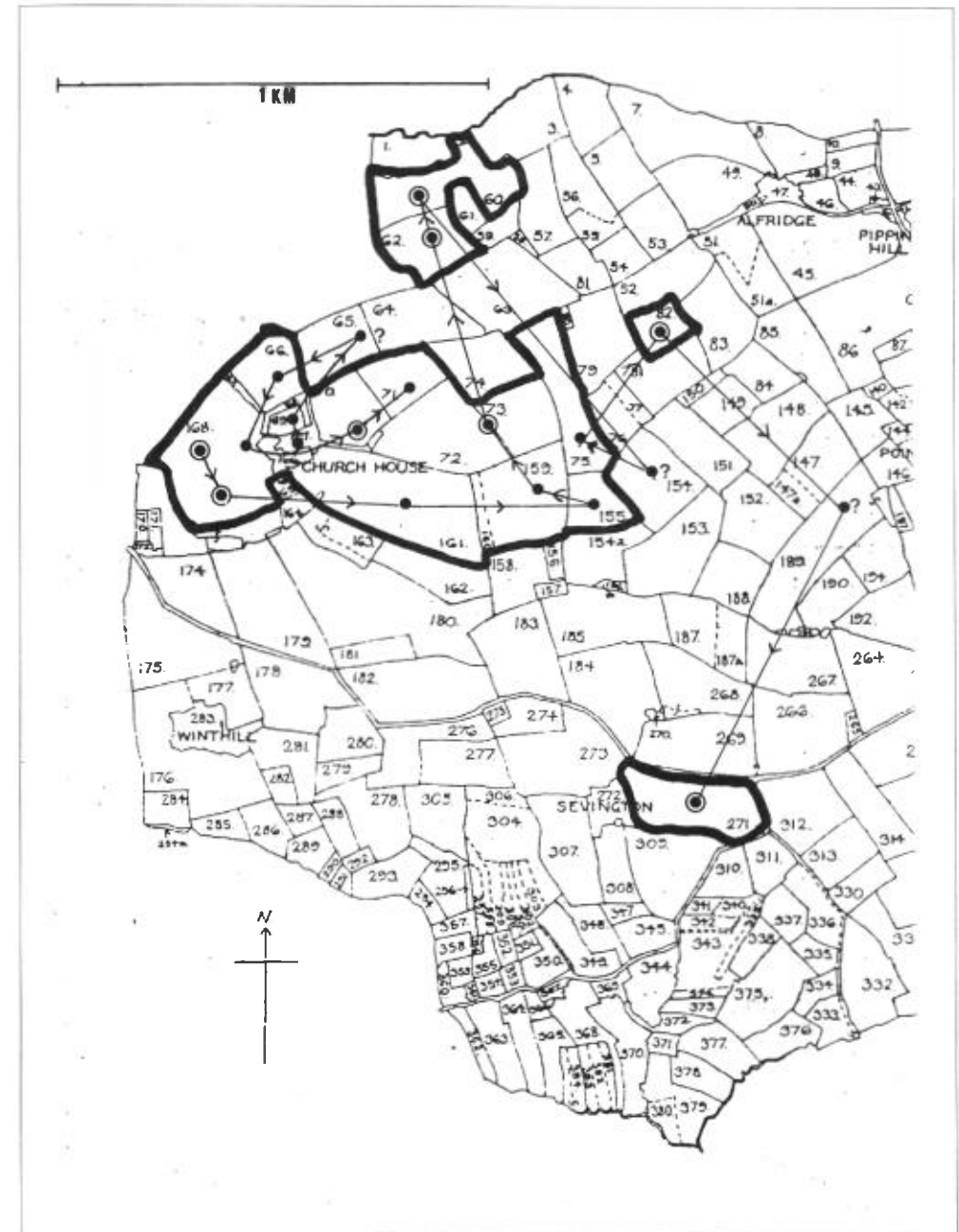


FIG. 4
Shows the sequence of fields in the 1594 survey of the manor [A]. Those fields whose names persisted in 1839 are encircled. ? = land in open-fields.

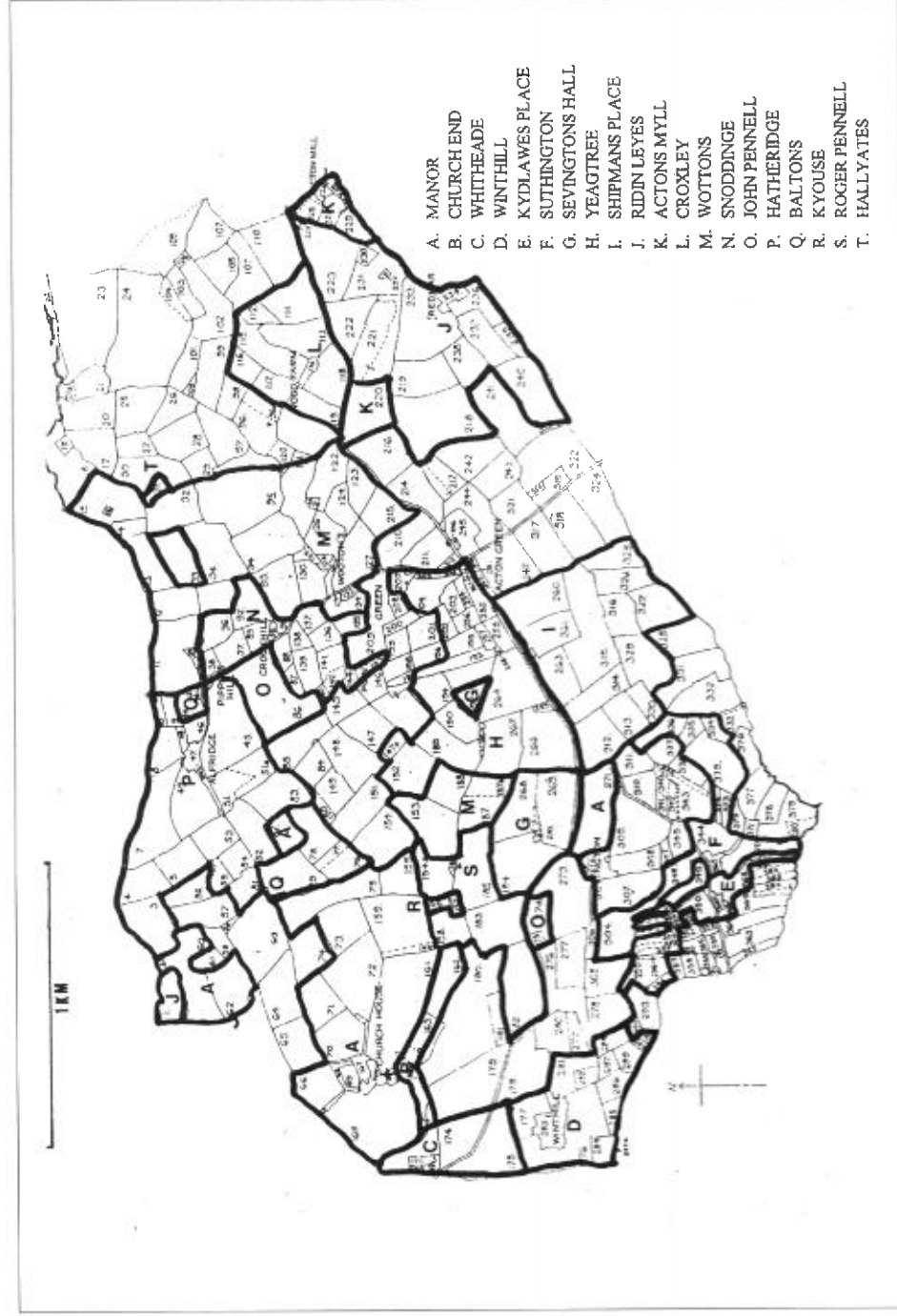


FIG. 5
 Holdings in 1594. (905 acres)

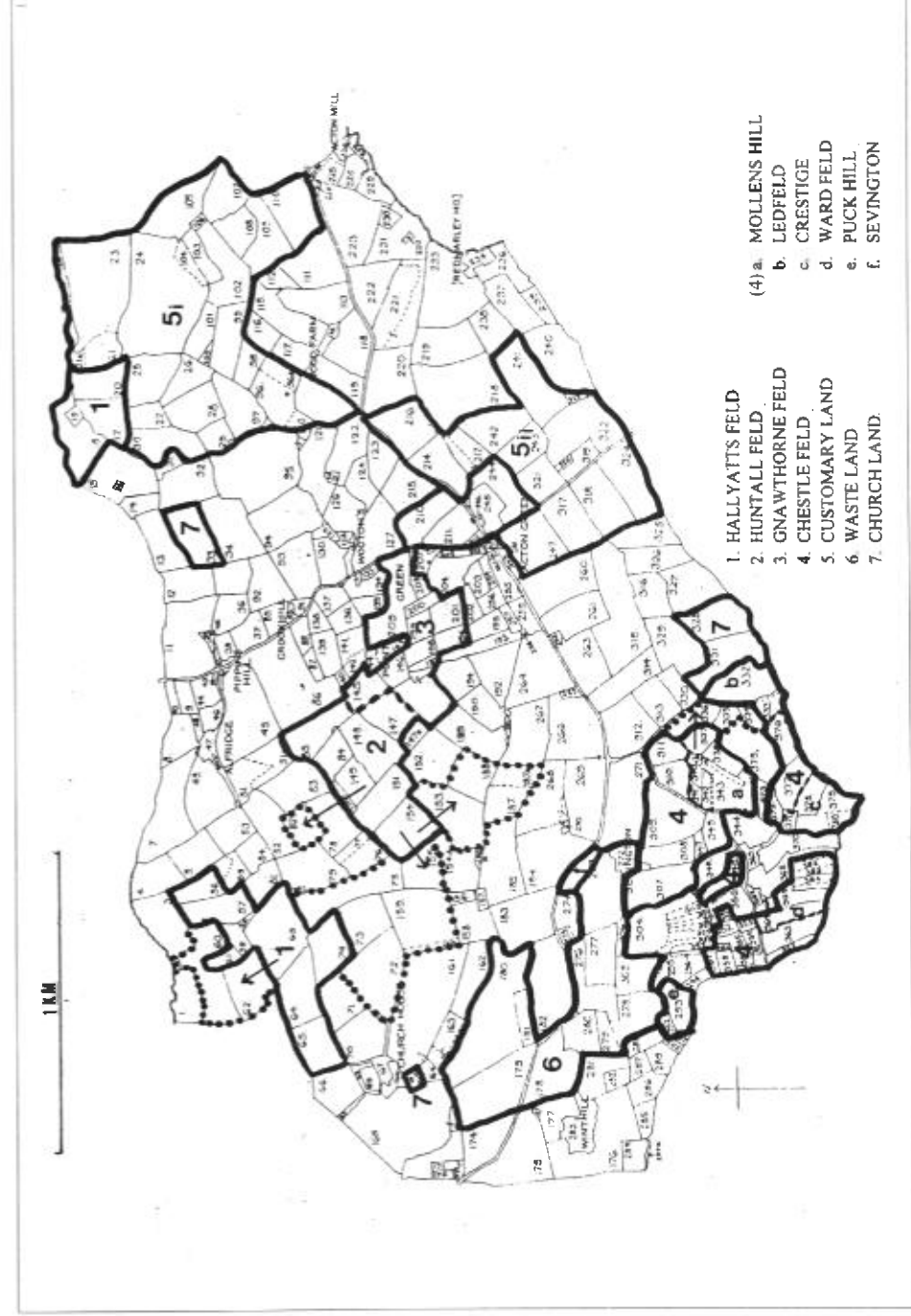


FIG. 6
 Open-fields, customary land and demesne waste 1594. (619 acres) Dotted lines indicate recently enclosed fields, the arrows showing their origin.

untenanted land formed the customary land (i.e. unenclosed common pasture) and the waste (i.e. unenclosed unoccupied land), the former always being allocated in virgates.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Tenure

Two of the listed tenants (FIG. 3) were widows (at B and Q) and another two were remarried widows (at C and L). Three of the tenants had the same surnames. Of the nineteen surnames only five continued into the tithe survey of 1839 and the census of 1841.

There were fourteen tenants whose leases are copyhold (according to the custom of the manor). The rent was paid annually except for the two largest rents [A] and [S] which were paid in two equal parts on Michaelmas and Lady Day. In addition two capons were due (except [A] where six capons were due at Easter). [L], [N], [Q], [S] and [T] were not required to provide any capons, while the two largest holdings [M] and [P] had to provide '4 best beasts' by name of 'heriot' (i.e. a death duty provided by the heir). All (except [A], [R] and [S] were required to provide suit of court (i.e. attendance at the manorial court) and 'all accustomed services heriot and fine them owing previously and of right accustomed.' However no further details are given.

Six freeholders are listed at the end of the survey (three, [E], [I] and [R] had been listed as copyholders). All of these were held by service of socage that is tenure with no obligation of military service. The three who did not appear earlier as copyholders were Thomas Abrahall, Thomas Lovell at Yesdford (adjacent to the mill) and John Bincher [T].

RENTS AND VALUE

The rents vary from 3s. 4d. to 40s (FIG. 7). A rent was charged for all land except for customary land and waste. While it is to some extent related to acreage some similar holdings are valued differently, suggesting that the rents were fixed at different times during the period when rents were known to be rising. A total annual rent for the estate of £11 6s. 7d. is given at the end of the survey and while the rent of each holding is given in the margin which totals £11 8s. 6d. The difference may be explained by the rent changes in the appendix or by a transcription error.

The annual value of each holding is given in the margin and totals £190 15s. 8d. This figure is nearly twenty times the annual rent, the usual amount in Worcestershire (Gaut, 1939). However the comparisons between individual holdings are inconsistent, probably reflecting the state of the buildings and unused potential in the land. It is interesting to note that the estate was finally transferred in 1598 (Madresfield Deed, 708) for twice this figure (£400).

BUILDINGS

Thirty-three dwellings are listed with two to be built at [P] (see FIGS. 7 and 8). Building must have been continuing as twenty messuages and twenty cottages are listed in

HOLDINGS	TOTAL VALUE	TOTAL ANNUAL RENT	DWELLINGS VALUE	TOTAL RENTED LAND (ACRES)	ADDITIONAL CUSTOMARY LAND (VIRGATES - NOOKS)	LAND IN OPEN FIELDS (ACRES)	BUILDINGS D - dwelling B - others
A. MANOR	£17/5/-	20/-	(1) 26/8	174¼	-	52	1D/5B *
B. CHURCH END	£5/2/-	5/4	(1) 16/-	28	½V	6	1D/2B
C. WHITHEADE	£6/15/-	8/4	(1) 16/8	57½	-	38½	1D/1B
D. WINTHILL	£6/13/-	8/-	(1) 20/-	45	½V + 1N	7	1D/2B *
E. KYDLAWES PLACE	£7/7/-	6/8	(1) 30/-	33½	-	26	1D/1B
F. SUTHINGTON	£7/11/2	8/-	(3) 33/4	60	1V	36½	3D/1B
G. SEVINGTONS HALL	£9/2/-	9/-	(1) 26/8	43¾	½V	7	1D/1B
H. YEAGTREE	£14/7/-	19/-	(4) 26/8	90½	1V	17	4D/2B
I. SHIPMANS PLACE	£16/3/4	13/4	(1) 40/-	77	1N	-	1D/2B *
J. RIDIN LEYES	£14/2/-	6/8	(3) 20/-	101	-	1	3D/-
K. ACTONS MYLL	£4/16/-	10/-	(2) 40/-	4½+?	¼V	-	2D/1B *
L. CROXLEY	£7/6/-	3/4	(1) 26/8	41	1½V	2	1D/1B
M. WOTTONS	£17/19/-	13/4	(4) 7	130½	-	2	4D/-
N. SNODDINGE	£9/10/-	6/8	(1) 20/-	39½	3N	4	1D/1B
O. JOHN PENNELL	£5/1/4	15/4	(1) 13/4	19	1N	-	1D/1B
P. HATHERIDGE	£24/2/-	18/-	(4) 40/-	117½	-	33½	2(+2)D/5B *
Q. BALTONS	£8/10/6	6/8	(2) 40/-	74	3N	37½	2D/1B
R. KYOUSE	£1/3/4	6/8	(1) 23/4	1	1V	-	1D/1B
S. ROGER PENNELL	£8/-	40/-	(2) 26/8	37	-	-	2D/1B
T. HALLYATES	-	4/-	(½)	-	1V	-	-/-
TOTAL	£190/15/8	£11/8/6	£24/6/0 +	1174¼ +	7¼V + 9N (=251 acres)	270	33(+2)D / 27B

FIG. 7
Showing rents, value, land distribution and buildings in 1594. Dwelling value includes all buildings and curtilages. Non-dwelling buildings other than barns include beast houses, dove-cote, smithy and mill (which are starred).

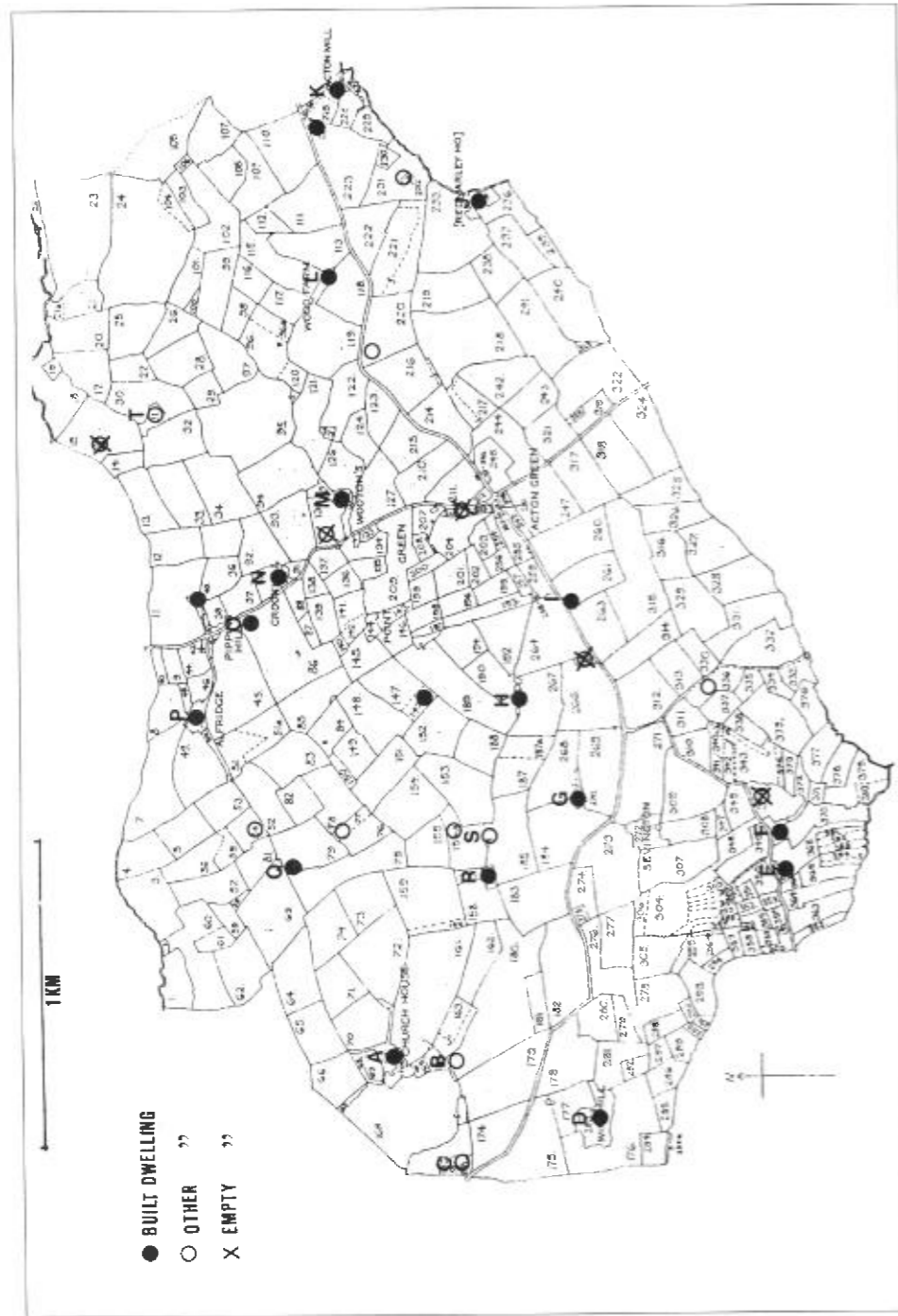


FIG. 8
Showing dwellings in 1594. The siting is based on known later buildings.

1598. The manor [A] is described as adequate and is the only dwelling described in detail. Most are described as 'built' suggesting a structured building as compared with a hut or shelter which was probably the situation at [B], [C] and [S]. Most of the associated dwellings of the holdings (cottages and tenements) probably occupied by labourers are not described as built with the exception of one cottage at [H] and another at [J]. Five associated dwellings are listed as empty probably as a result of engrossment. The buildings with their curtilages were valued at sums between 13s. 4d. and 40s. (FIG. 7), while cottages were not separately valued. The two barns of the manor [A] are described as ruinous. Other holdings with two barns are [H] and [P] while [S] has a newly-built barn with three spaces. Some holdings do not seem to have a barn ([J], [M] and [T]). It is interesting to note that only three holdings have a stable ([A], [I] and [P]) which suggest that plough teams were of oxen. The manor [A] had a beast house while [P] had two such buildings (possibly for sheep), and a dove-cote is listed at [A] and referred to in [H]. Three dove-cotes are listed in 1598. A blacksmith's shop is listed at [D] and the mill at [K] is described as 'sufficiently built.'

CURTILAGES

Curtilages are usually half to one acre and are always included in the total land area, value, and rent. These contained a garden, orchard and often a close. The only listed orchard is at Sevington Hall [G], which has a 'perie orchard' of half a quarter virgate (i.e. approx. 3¼ acres), and valued at 5s.

WOODLAND

The only woodland listed is at [G] as a wood vallet of three acres valued at 20s., which persisted in 1839. There are however numerous references to former woodland in the field-names, e.g. grove, wood, ash, hanley, and birch. Similar names in the tithe survey of 1839 suggest that there was an area of wooded manorial waste (Acton wood) of mediaeval origin and untenanted.

FIELDS

There is some evidence of earlier open-fields when strips are mentioned in several of the pastures. The word furlong (i.e. a parcel of strips) occurs only twice in [D] and at [J] and in these cases relate to former customary land or waste (see later). Many fields were quite small, of one to five acres. These small irregular fields are typical for Herefordshire (Gray, 1915). It must be pointed out that many of the fields listed in the tithe survey would have resulted from the enclosure after 1594 of the remaining open-fields and customary land. All would be demarcated by a fence (John Pennell had an agreement to repair fences), ditch or hedge, some of which remain to this day. They correspond to many of the fields of the 1839 tithe survey, having a corresponding acreage and following a recognisable sequence in the 1594 survey with a periodic matching of names. There are of course many instances in 1839 of amalgamation and of division of fields having occurred after 1594.

The persistence of the 1594 field-names into the tithe survey is surprisingly small, fourteen out of twenty holdings showed continuity of only a single field-name or none at all. While some of the holdings (e.g. The Manor, Wottons and Yagtree) had about one third of their field-names persisting to 1839. Amalgamation of fields and the later division of holdings may in part explain the change of field-names but it is difficult to explain why a large persisting holding such as Hatheridge [P] with eighteen fields in 1594 has only one persisting name in 1839. These findings question the weight often given to the historical significance of field-names. Another interesting finding is the occasional use of the prefix 'le', possibly an abbreviation of le champ suggesting a vestige of a Norman name continued from early deeds, though the name itself was always English. There were nineteen such fields whose distribution does not seem to follow any pattern, though there were two clusters at [D] and [M].

Some fields were divided in use and described as arable, meadow, and/or pasture. In such situations their use was estimated to be in equal parts though it was not possible to divide the given value into its component parts.

ARABLE

There were about 509 acres of arable land which forms 44% of the open and enclosed land (FIG. 9). When its distribution is plotted (FIG. 10), it forms a central mass about the open-fields with little in the eastern third, and appears unrelated to the contour of the land. About half lies in the open-fields (which contain little else). It is variably valued between 1s. to 6s. 4d. per acre. The variation in value might reflect the state of the land during rotation of crops. The less valuable land was usually in distant fields, which would have involved greater carriage of manure. The most valuable presumably had the greatest fertility and was always close to the messuage. The nature of the crops was never stated.

MEADOWS

The extent of the *Inquisition Post Mortem* of 1315 described a three-acre meadow in the demesne (i.e. the land farmed by the lord of the manor) worth 6s. which was a relatively high price. By 1594 many of the meadows were probably the persisting ancient pastures or meadows of the larger farms. Some could be the residue of the common meadows on the margins of the common fields as was the case in the lower meadows at Wooton [M] which was still in strips. Altogether they occupied about 127 acres which formed 11% of the open and enclosed land (FIG. 9). The distribution is uneven (FIG. 10), though often on sloping land which would allow better drainage, some lay adjacent to streams. They would have been fenced or surrounded by a ditch and they were often described as 'enclosed' or as a 'paddock.' Most meadows were small plots of a few acres lying fairly close to the messuage. There were two large meadows of 19½ acres at the Manor [A], and 22½ acres at Redmarley [J]. Some holdings did not have meadows, [C], [F], [L], [R], and [T], which suggest that here there was no over-wintering of stock. (It has been estimated that a draft horse required hay from ½ an acre.) With the exception of part of the meadow at [A] the larger areas were measured in virgates which suggest an origin from the customary land. This semi-waste had a very low value of a few pence per

HOLDINGS	LAND USE (acres)			
	ARABLE	MEADOW	PASTURE	NOT GIVEN
A. MANOR	90	26½	57	.
B. CHURCH END	8½	1½	18	.
C. WHITHEADE	32½	.	24½	.
D. WINTHILL	29	4	12	.
E. KYDLAWES PLACE	22	4	7½	.
F. SUTHINGTON	41½	.	18	½
G. SEVINGTONS HALL	15	3½	21½	¾
H. YEAGTREE	36¼	21¼	33	.
I. SHIPMANS PLACE	26	5½	42	.
J. RIDIN LEYES	22	24	54	.
K. ACTONS MYLL	2¼	2¼	.	.
L. CROXLEY	12½	.	27½	.
M. WOTTONS	46½	11½	71½	.
N. SNODDINGE	14½	1½	22½	.
O. JOHN PENNELL	4½	1	9	4
P. HATHERIDGE	67½	6½	40½	2
Q. BALTONS	20	10½	42½	.
R. KYOUSE
S. ROGER PENNELL	18½	4	14½	.
T. HALLYATES
TOTAL	509	127½	515½	10¼

NB. Excluding curtilages

FIG. 9
Showing the area of land cultivated in 1594.

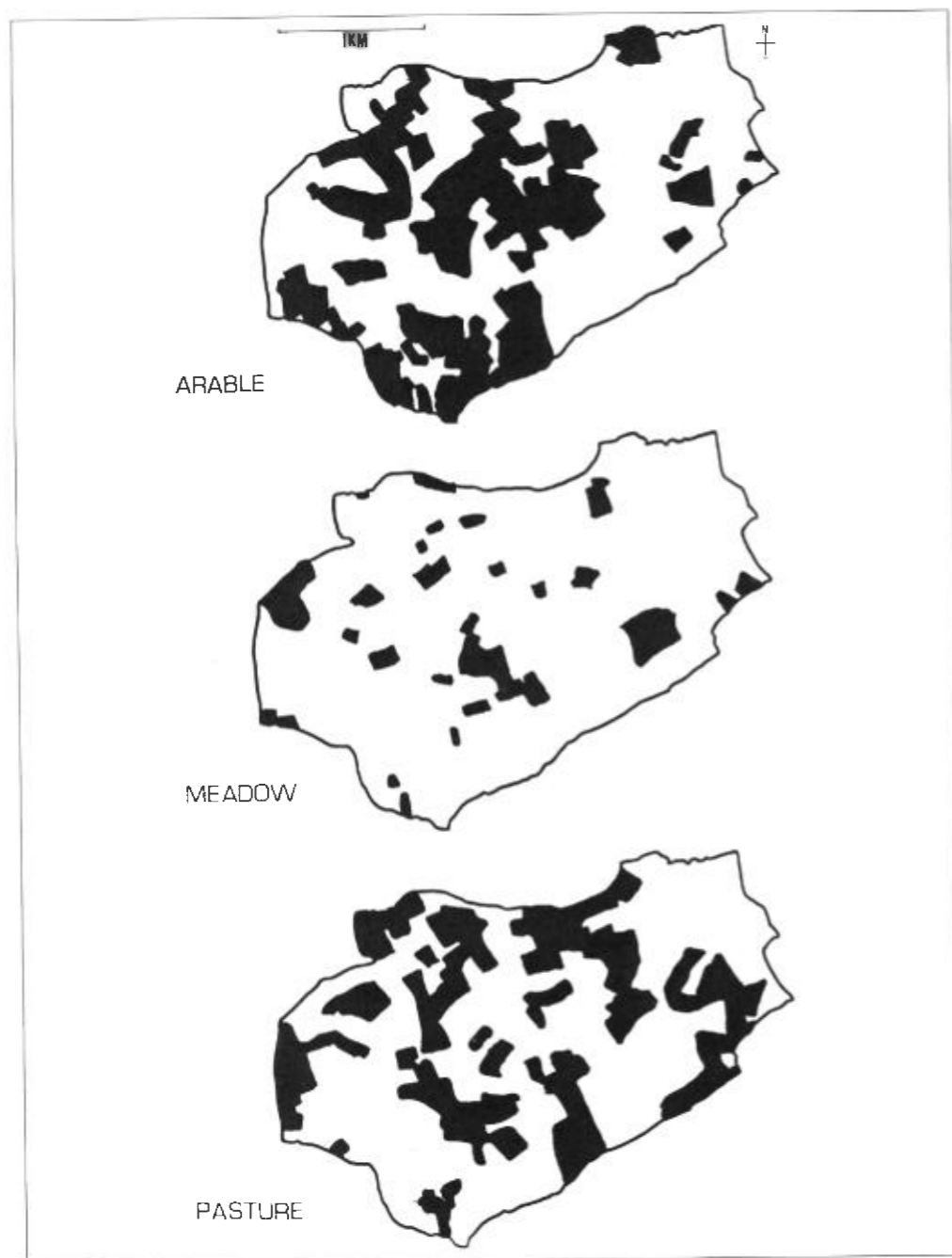


FIG. 10
Showing the pattern of land use in 1594.

acre. In the case of the smaller meadows the value was much higher than the other enclosed land and varied between 3s. 4d. to 30s. per acre which probably reflected its quality.

PASTURE

The waste and unenclosed customary land would have been the common pasture of earlier times, when the former was greatly reduced (see below) there would be a need for the replacement of this pasture. The enclosure of pasture took place in two ways. Firstly by an encroachment of the customary land and secondly by the peripheral reduction of the common arable fields. These together with the long-established pastures of some of the holdings amounted to about 515 acres, (equal to the amount of the arable land). This together with the customary land occupied most of the eastern half of the manor. The amount of pasture varied between farms and appears unrelated to the latter's size (FIG. 9). Usually there was some pasture adjacent to a messuage and commonly alongside the tracks which sometimes crossed blocks of pasture. Blocks of pasture were especially noticeable adjacent to the customary land (FIG. 10), suggesting their derivation from this. There are numerous references to pasture having been recently enclosed from the open-fields, sometimes still measured in quarter virgates. Other fields are described as converted into pasture or 'recently parcelled' suggesting an increase in stock (? sheep). There is another type of pasture called a close or a leasowe or occasionally as a tynynge – all suggesting recently enclosure probably from arable land which often is adjacent. These names are often given to the pasture lying close to the messuage, as in [A], [B] and [C]. The annual value varied from 1s. to 20s. per acre though these extremes probably represent some special feature. A value of 3s. to 6s. was more usual.

COMMENTS ON HOLDINGS [A-T]

Only the salient features of the holdings will be given. Further details will be found in the transcript at the HRO. The field numbers refer to those in the Herefordshire Field-name Survey. A list of the corresponding names of 1594 appears elsewhere, in the *Trans. Woolhope Natur.Fld. Club.* XLIX 1999, 458.

[A] MANOR (Church House Farm 1839, having been rebuilt in 1804)

Earlier it had been noted as the capital messuage of the manor (*Inq. P.M.* 1315). In the survey (FIG. 2) it is described as lying to the N. of the church and having a tiled roof and containing a hall, a kitchen and a chamber. Also present were a dove-cote (as in 1315), two ruinous barns, a stable and a beast house. The tenant with no feudal obligations was John Daggett – farmer, (the only one so described). The sequence of fields is confusing (FIG. 4), initially they are unusually in an anticlockwise direction, but the most outlying fields are then given in a clockwise order as in the case of most other holdings. Unusually several field-names persisted to 1839, including Hope, relating to the valley, Lydoll (Lydall), Rowleyes (Rowley) and Hollyatts (Hallets). This was probably due to a continuity of ownership. Strips are described in Lydolls (72, 73) and in what is later to be known as Long coppice (75). There is a reference to a paddock or meadow at Hope

Bridge measured as a ferendell (i.e. a quarter of a virgate), suggesting an origin from waste. This lies at the N.W. corner of the holding at the West Brook and suggests there was a trackway (that no longer exists), leading to the Frome Valley.

It is the largest holding of about 174 acres with relatively large amounts of arable. There are a number of outlying fields of pasture described 'recently parcelled' – presumably from the open-fields. By 1839 the farm had greatly increased in size to about 244 acres, having been sold in 1760. This had come about by the incorporation of two smaller adjacent holdings [B] and [C] and the assimilation of open-fields on the periphery. (See Pratt, 2004)

[B] CHURCH END (disappeared by 1839)

The messuage which was not described as 'built' but with a barn probably lay in what later became known as Church hop yard (164). The tenant was Johane Clerk who held it by 'freebench' after the recent death of her husband William Clerk. The holding of about 28 acres was mostly pasture with 11½ acres lying between the Manor and its waste with the rest in open-fields and enclosures from these together with a ½ virgate of waste. It lay in a sheltered hollow below the church. Roman and mediaeval pottery finds and a system of buried paved tracks strongly suggest that this was the site of the early settlement. The name end suggesting a hamlet. The latter had disappeared by 1594 and become a small holding which was incorporated into Church House Farm by 1839 as (162), (163), (164) and southern part of (168).

[C] WHITEADE (disappeared by 1839)

The messuage was not described as 'built' but had a barn. It probably lay on or close to the site of Grove Cottage (170 – 172). Early O.S. maps show an adjacent spring which flowed westward through a holding called Grove Farm in Bishop's Frome. There was also a former dwelling, indicated by a toft which was called Carpingters which probably lay in Hope orchard (169). The tenant was John Myntam in right of his wife Elizabeth, recently wife of John Jannsey gent. It was a holding of about 57 acres lying on the western boundary without meadow or customary land. There were 16 acres of pasture adjacent and to the S. of the messuage, the rest lying in open-fields. By 1839 the holding had been incorporated into Church House Farm as Hope orchard (169), Winthill meadow (175) and the western part of Oakes piece (174).

[D] WINTHILL (Winthill 1839 – now Old Rectory)

It lies on high ground close to the western boundary and described as 'built' with a barn. It appears as Wyndehulle in *Inq. P.M.* 1315 with a ½ a virgate and in the LSR (i.e. *Lay Subsidy Roll*) of 1327 as Wynthull. The name reflecting its exposed position. It is described as having a shop (i.e. a smithy). The tenant was Edmund Ashebury in the right of Johane his wife. A compact holding of circa 45 acres limited on two sides by the parish boundary passing down a southern slope to the South Brook. There was also ½ a virgate of customary land and a further 7 acres in open-fields, the latter persisting in 1839 as the Hurst (33), lying in the N.E. corner of the parish. While the holding and its individual fields continued to 1839, it had become the Glebe and the field-names had changed.

[E] KYDLAWES PLACE (Kidleys 1839)

It lies adjacent to the Salters Way appearing as Kydelow in LSR 1280 and again in *Inq. P.M.* 1315 (with ½ a virgate), 1327 and 1332/3. The meaning is not clear, probably an O.E. personal name together with reference to a tumulus. Surprisingly the property is not named in this survey though the name appears in the appendix. It is described as 'built' with a barn. The tenant was Richard Whitinge who held the messuage free of service. The scattered holding lying on a S.-facing slope was mostly arable with 7½ acres adjacent to the messuage and 26 acres in the open-fields. In the appendix Richard Whitinge became a freeholder and there is a reduction of the rent to 5s. The holding was apparently little changed in 1839 other than there had been incorporation of adjacent open-fields including some of the original one-acre strips, which were probably of an earlier date than the holding itself but still remaining in 1839.

[F] UNNAMED [SUTHINGTON] (Sinton's End 1839)

It is identified by its juxta position to [E] appearing as Suthington in LSR 1280 and Sodinton (with ½ a virgate) and with the right of pannage in *Inq. P.M.* of 1315. It is in fact the southernmost holding and is also adjacent to the Salters Way. Described as 'built' with a barn, in addition there is an empty messuage (adjacent to the farmhouse?) and a cottage (lying on the track to Evesbatch?), neither being described as 'built.' It is possible that the 'end' in its later name indicates a small hamlet.

The tenant was Richard Longe who was patron of the living with the permission of the lord of the manor (Nash). The holding was very diffuse, the circa 60 acres lying on a S.-facing slope largely in adjacent open-fields some of which had been recently enclosed. There was also a virgate of customary land. There was much arable and no meadow. The fields were small and also intermingled with those of Kydlawes Place [E]. Unusually the fields had retained their identity and names by 1839, but the holding had extended to the E. of the track to Evesbatch. There was no record in 1839 of the two additional dwellings.

[G] SEVINGTON'S HALL (Disappeared by 1839)

It lay on level ground in the centre of the parish and was shown as Old Sevington on Bryant's Map of 1835. There are no early references to it (Mawer et al were incorrect in this matter), suggesting that it was a late-mediaeval holding even though its name suggests an Anglo-Saxon origin. The tenant was William Lynton. It was described as 'built' with a barn. A compact holding of about 43 acres with a ½ a virgate of customary land. The fields were identified by anticlockwise sequence, some outlying ones being in common fields including a Perie orchard of half a ferendell, (persisting in 1839 as Pear orchard – 311), and a 3-acre Wood vallett (persisting within [H] in 1839 as part of Yagtree dingle – 192). The holding had disappeared by 1839 into (new) Sevington – a large and more recent holding lying to the S. which is not mentioned in the 1594 survey. (see Pratt, 2004)

[H] YEAGTREE [TRANSCRIBED AS GRAY TREE] (Disappeared by 1839)

It lay on high ground to the N. of Salters Way which forms its southern boundary. It appeared as Yagetre in LSR 1280, as Yaggetre in *Inq. P.M.* 1315, when John of Yaggetre held a ½ a virgate and also held fisfe (i.e. fish fee) which could relate to the

nearby Point Pool (197). He also had the right of pannage, (i.e. the feeding of pigs in the manorial woods). It appeared as Zaketre in LSR 1327. The name is a personal one (Mawer et al) or possibly cuckoo tree. The tenant was Roger Pilhorne. Described as 'built', unusually it has two barns and there is reference to a pigeon house (Piggin house close) which is adjacent to a cottage – Crowcrofte (?147A). There are also two other messuages, both empty, one called Greene Plocks (205) – on the eastern boundary – was this Walter atte grene (*Inq. P.M.* 1315)? The other was called Traynee (? 265 Paynes of 1839). The name Payne appears in the LSR 1280 and again in (L) as Paynes Old.

It was a large holding of about 90 acres of which 17 acres were in common fields together with 1 virgate in the waste and much meadow. There are some interesting field-names such as Clox hill (persisting in 1839 as Clocks hill – 152). The latter is a spur of high ground N. of the messuage visible from Salters Way which could be described as bell shaped. Another name was Dobbe feld (? Horse field, though there was a Willelmi Dobyn in 1340), persisting as a separate holding [V] in 1839 with the fields much divided, (see FIG. 16). Deeds of this property show this to be owned by a horse dealer in the 18th century though more recently the name has been changed to Daw fields.

Though Yeagtree was lost by 1839, having been incorporated into the (new) Sevington, the name has persisted in several of the field-names. The remains of the footings of the farm-house lying in a sheltered hollow with a well and its track from Salters Way are still visible. It is suggested that it was a very early holding lying in the waste and adjacent to the demesne; later it became surrounded by the open-fields (in particular Gnawthorne feld). Two field-names Rough heald and Helde leyes, both being Old English names for a slope suggest an early origin of the holding.

[I] SHIPMANS PLACE (Longerlands – Bryant 1835 Longland 1839)

A large holding of about 77 acres lying to the S. of Salters Way on level ground. The name and the large amount of pasture (42 acres) may indicate sheep keeping. The lack of earlier references suggest it was a new name or a recent holding. Described as 'built' with a barn and has a stable, two fields are called 'Horse croft' suggesting horse keeping as well. The tenant was Thomas Awford / Alford who held a messuage and one acre free from service. The field-names (Grove, Woodleys and Hanley) suggest that some of the pasture was wooded. There was a 4-acre Great meadow (? 261) which was highly valued at £4. There was nothing in the open-fields and little customary land. The fields were listed in a clockwise manner but the Horse crofts (312, 313) were given out of kilter possibly due to the central woodland causing difficulty for direct access. An 18-acre pasture in the southern corner named Le Lowe, (subsequently divided into 4 fields – 316, 325-7) may indicate an early burial mound. The name also appears in adjacent fields (314, 315, 263) in 1839, and in an adjacent farm outside the parish (Hidelow). The holding had lost its identity by 1839 being absorbed into (new) Sevington, Sintons End and the Green, though the message or its site persisted as Longland (262).

[J] RIDIN LEYES (Redmarley 1839)

It lies in the S.E. between Salters Way and the parish boundary. The name is O.E. for pasture cleared of trees. There is no earlier reference to it suggesting a late mediaeval

origin. The messuage ('built') unusually had no barn. There are two additional dwellings, Sextons (Adam and Roger Sexteyn were listed in *Inq. P.M.* 1315), which is now thought to be Redmarley Cottage (232), and Pexons (built) almost certainly a personal name, is now Judy's Cottage (224).

John Clerk was the tenant of the holding, which was large (101 acres), though the rent was inexplicably low. The fields are listed clockwise. There was a lot of pasture and meadow relative to the amount of arable land, but no customary land and little in the open-fields. An unusual name was Kenrycks meadow (218 and 219) of $\frac{1}{4}$ of a virgate suggesting recent derivation from customary land, which may explain its very low annual value. The word in Old Welsh means the chief, or is it a personal name? The names of several other fields suggest recent enclosures such as Old white field (233), and New tynynge (239). There was a small field adjacent to Salters Way, called the Lords acre which is no longer identifiable. There is an extraordinary distant field of pasture in the N.W. of the parish, which went with the holding called Whelpeley (1). This word is found both in the Anglo-Saxon charter (see Pratt, 1997) and the 1839 survey. The holding had enlarged a little to the W. by 1839 having absorbed some customary land, and it had joined with the adjacent Wood Farm (L).

[K] ACTONS MYLL (Acton Mill 1839)

The messuage (built) together with a 'sufficiently built' mill lay adjacent to a stream at the S.E. corner of the parish. There was no mention of a mill in the DB and the first reference was in *Inq. P.M.* 1298. It is again listed as in the demesne in *Inq. P.M.* 1315. The site appears in the bounds of the 972 Anglo-Saxon charter (Pratt, 1997) as Gyslanford (meaning ford of the hostages). Adam de Ilesford appears in the LSR of 1280 and in *Inq. P.M.* of 1315. (Probably he was the miller.) The appendix to the survey lists Thomas Lovall, a freeholder with land in shares in Yesdford, he also had a quarter part of a messuage. The tenant in 1594 was Owen Hide when the mill was described as an 'overshutt' mill, with a double watercourse (i.e. a mill-pond).

The holding was small ($4\frac{1}{2}$ acres plus the mill site), the fields were listed in a clockwise sequence, with no barns or pasture. There was however an additional holding, held by Owen Hide in right of his wife Margerie, of a ferendell ($\frac{1}{4}$ of a virgate), of customary land called a Hemp plock, together with a cottage, (now disappeared). It is described as near the highway and was probably Panks hill (220) which lies to the S. of Salters Way some distance from the mill. The mill remains today, though no longer functioning and at some stage changed to be an undershot mill.

[L] CROXLEY (Wood Farm 1839)

It lies to the N. of Salters Way in the eastern part of the parish on a N.E. facing slope. There is no earlier reference to this name, and the meaning is not clear. The tenant was William Perkyns by right of his wife Elizabeth recently wife of John Pengryff who held it by freebench (i.e. a widows right). The messuage is described as built with a barn. It was a medium-size holding of 41 acres with a very low rent. This and its extent suggest a recent incursion into the customary land, which is further supported by the adjacent pasture given as a ferendell (i.e. $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres) and another field described as a heath. Previous

allocations of this land are suggested by Paynes old (115), and Smythe leasow (111). The fields are given initially in a clockwise sequence with a reversal in the list of outer fields. There are two interesting field-names, Walfield (118) - the highest field, and Dichinge (part of 111) on the boundary. The one and a half virgates of customary land would correspond to the peripheral fields to the N. which had been added to it by the time of the 1839 survey, when also it had become conjoined with Redmarley (J).

[M] WOTTONS (Wootons 1839)

An ancient holding which lies on high ground sloping to the E. and N. It extends from Salters Way to the northern boundary of the parish. Its name (a farm or settlement by a wood) first appears in the *Inq. P.M.* 1315 and is repeated in the LSR of 1327. The 'built' messuage has an adjacent close called Comyeclose (? Coniger - rabbit warren). There was no barn but there are three other messuages, one nearby and empty (? in 130), another empty at Ffroggebach named in *Inq. P.M.* 1315 (? later Gittis - 16), and another built cottage (? later Pippin House - 39). The tenant was John Hide (and his heir with consequent heriot of four best beasts). It was a large holding of circa 130 acres second in amount to the manor, with a lot of pasture but no customary land and little in open-fields though there is evidence of recently enclosed fields as with Hanstall, a distant separate enclosure of 18 acres from Huntall field (i.e. 153, 187/8). There was a large meadow of a quarter of a virgate (32) still in separate strips. Several of the field-names continued to 1839 such as Mordens (Mardens - 15) which lay on the northern boundary. The holding persisted into 1839 but had extended to the S.E. into what was former customary land. There were 3 acres of arable land opposite the messuage (i.e. inferring a separating track i.e. the Ridgeway) which was in 1839 a separate holding - Perkins (133) later renamed Louvain cottage. While there was little evidence of its earlier wooded nature, there remains a 7-acre island of waste/customary land within the holding which was known in 1839 as the Hurst (33) i.e. a wooded hill, though by which time it was cultivated and belonged to Winthill [D].

[N] SNODDINGE (Crooks Hill 1839)

It lies in the N. and at the highest point in the parish, adjacent to Wottons partly on a W.-facing slope. The name is probably personal and first appears in *Inq. P.M.* of 1315 as Snoddyng with half a virgate and again in the LSR of 1332. The name continues in 1839 in the field-names of 135-7 as Snoggins. The tenant was Hugo Hall. It is described as 'built' with a barn. It was a medium-sized holding of about 39 acres and some customary land ('3 nooks'). The fields are listed in a clockwise manner. An unusual name is Hayfer wall (87, 139, 141). In spite of its age there was no continuity of field-names in 1839. By 1839 the holding was known as Crooks Hill with some land lost to adjacent farms. The N. - S. track, inferred in [M] which divided the holding would be the Ridgeway (now the B4220).

[O] 'JOHN PENNELLS' (disappeared by 1839)

Only the tenant is named in the survey, lying between [P] and [N] on a W.-facing slope. A small holding of circa 15 acres with little customary land (a nook) and nothing in

the open-fields, but with a relatively high rent. The messuage is described as 'built' with a barn and a meadow adjoining.

It was probably a recent enclosure with one field described as heath as were adjacent fields in Wottons [M]. At the end of the manuscript the same tenant was allocated a close of 4 acres of pasture called Monks crofte. It is likely that this was a distant field near Sevington (Letts orchard and Cottage 274/5) as an adjacent field (182) was named Moncks field in 1594. The lease of this holding was more strict than elsewhere, its rent was very high, and payable in two parts with a stricture payment within twenty-one days or he would be expelled. The main holding had been incorporated into Halfridge by 1839 where it was a single undivided field (Far pippin hill field - 86). There are no visible remains of the buildings.

[P] HATHERIDGE (Alfridge 1839 - later Halfridge)

The holding lies along the N. boundary of the parish on high ground extending westwards onto the sides of the central valley. There is no earlier reference to the holding. The location is given in the Anglo-Saxon bounds of 972 as heafoc tycg (Hawkridge).

The main messuage ('built') presumably on the present site, had two barns, a stable and two beast houses. There were three additional dwellings - one to be built on Flaxecroft (? cottage 42), also there is a reference to another to be built near Wyndshouse (another cottage). These would be on high ground (54) adjacent to an E.-W. trackway (along the N. boundaries of 45, 51, 52 and 79).

The tenant was Roger Hall (after the death of George Hancocks). It was a very large holding of about 117 acres, some 33½ acres in open-fields but with no customary land. There are several reasons to believe that it was a recent holding. Firstly the lack of earlier reference, secondly the two additional messuages described as to be built, and thirdly the evidence of recent enclosure such as the reference in the field-names to Heath, Holte (thickets), Stockyn (tree stumps) while Flaxecroft is given in virgates and there is a New tynynge i.e. new enclosure (51, 51a). The fields in 1839 are largely unchanged (except some have been divided). The fields are listed in a clockwise sequence. There is little continuity of the field-names in 1839. The holding had enlarged by 1839 to incorporate [O] and [Q] together with extension into the previously common fields to the W. and S.

[Q] BALTONS (disappeared by 1839)

There is no earlier reference. Its location on an inner sequence following Hatheridge [O] was probably about the site of Long Coppice Cottage (80) and the surrounding 14 acres, which is level with a rocky outcrop (77), the latter could be the origin of its name (a bald patch), though more likely to be a surname. The tenant was Alice Wood (widow of George Wood) who held it by free bench (a widow's right). It was described as 'built' with a barn. It was a medium-sized holding of about 74 acres with the rest of the land being in open-fields and enclosures from these or from customary land which are impossible to identify even though they are named. A tenement (? cottage) with a quarter virgate close adjoining is also included. It is surprising that such a large holding had disappeared without trace for by 1839 the fields had been incorporated into Church House Farm and

Halfridge. There are two acres to the E. of Halfridge which in 1839 are called Boltons close (43, 44). These were probably early enclosure of Baltons, (possibly the two acre pasture listed in 1594 as Le Porc).

[R] KYOUSE (Gatehouse 1839)

This lay on high ground to the S.E. of the manor (A). The site was known as the Gatehouse in the 19th century (156/7), which lay on a N. - S. track. There was no earlier reference. The name could mean a cow-house. There was a barn with the 'built' messuage but no beast house was listed. The tenant was John Rock and the rent was surprisingly high for only one acre and a virgate of customary land. At the end of the survey where it is named he is also listed as a freeholder (by service of socage - i.e. service without military obligations), and the rent was increased. It had been incorporated into Church House Farm by 1839 and there are still vestiges of a building at 157.

[S] ROGER PENNELL (North Cottage 1839)

This holding - unnamed and centrally situated in the western half of the parish lay on high ground with a W.-facing slope and crossed by a N. - S. track.

Two dwellings (tenements) are listed as is a new barn with three spaces. The tenants were Roger Pennell, Sibill (his wife) and Roger his son. The rent (set 5 years earlier) was the highest of all the holdings though the farm was only 37 acres. The rent was due twice yearly, with the threat of expulsion if not paid within 21 days. There was also a restriction as to the cutting of any trees in the adjacent Acton wood. This would be the unlisted wooded manorial waste [6].

It would seem to be a new holding with no land in common fields or any customary land. It is likely that it was derived from land which was earlier part of the demesne though one field, known as Moncks feld (? Pool field 182) could have been glebe in the past. By 1839 the holding had disappeared having been largely incorporated into (new) Sevington though North Cottage (186) remained, but has since disappeared.

[T] HALLYATTS (Hallets 1839)

This named holding lay in the N.E. corner of the parish on the edge of the customary land. The freeholder tenant John Bincher held half a messuage which was not 'built'. Its extent was not given. A farm with a similar name (The Hallets) appears on 19th-century O.S. maps which would be the unnamed cottage at 31. He also held a virgate of customary land and it is suggested that this is in fact the adjacent group of fields (25-30) all called Hallets which total 31 acres.

OPEN-FIELDS [1] - [4]

The open-fields account for about 270 acres that is approximately 1/6 of the manor in 1594 (FIG. 6). It would seem that by then piece-meal enclosure was well established which was the common pattern in Tudor Herefordshire (Gray). The great open-fields

were being reduced and there was frequent reference to enclosures being formerly in or still in strips. Also there were many references to enclosed pastures lying within the predominantly arable open-fields.

There were four large felds or common fields. Feld was an Anglo-Saxon word meaning cleared but uncultivated land (Finberg, 1972), so that here they would be named clearings. The land was always listed as being 'in' a particular feld and the four felds were always listed in the same clockwise sequence. The distribution of this land between holdings was unequal, some had none [I, R, O, S, and T], others had little. This suggests that here there had been earlier enclosures. The land of a holding usually lay in several of the felds but in unequal amounts (FIG. 11). There was no obvious pattern. It was not possible to interpret it working either as a two or three-field system. Roderick (1950) showed multiple common fields to be usual in Herefordshire.

[1] HALLYATTS/HOLLYATTS FELD

The map (FIG. 6) shows two areas of land adjacent to the northern boundary, one in the W. and the other in the E., which are not included in any holding (FIG. 5). Their areas of 45½ and 17 acres in the tithe survey closely corresponds to the 60 acres of arable land in Hallyatts (or Hollyatts) feld allocated to [A] and [C] in the W. and [D], [J], [Q] and [P] in the E. It is always the first open-field to be listed and in all cases the land is designated as being 'in' the feld. These two blocks of arable land would seem to be all that remains of a large northern common arable field. The recent enclosure from this of 14 acres of pasture (60, 62) is remarked upon in land adjacent to [A]. There is an outcrop of rock at the S.W. corner of 62 (SO 683 508) and fragments of Roman pottery have been found nearby (HSMR). Large areas of [P] and [M] would have been enclosed from this open-field.

The names Hallyatts and Hollyatts are almost certainly the same as is the name of the holding Hallyatts [T] which earlier was probably part of this open-field. It is thought that the name meant hall gate and might refer to an ancient E.-W. track which would have run through this land to Suckley Court (Pratt, 1997). The name continued into the 19th century as Hallets hill (60, 62) and the Hallets (25, 26 et al) both lying in this belt of land.

[2] HUNTALL FELD

There is a block of land to the S. and listed after Hallyatts feld and again not included in any holding (FIG. 6). The total area of 40 acres corresponds to that of the arable fields listed in [A] [B] [C] [H] [J] [M] and [Q] as being 'in' Huntall feld. This second open-field of arable land was much reduced by 1594. There are 51½ acres of adjacent fields most of which can be identified, which are described as being enclosed out of Huntall feld or simply called Huntall. These enclosed fields were mostly pasture - 24 acres being still in strips (72, 73, 75). It is also likely that some adjacent holdings e.g. [Q] were partly enclosed out of this field. Access would be by means of a N.-S. trackway (now lost). The name may be derived from the stream which runs through the field and passes through a field in [P] - (53), which was called Huntall bache in 1594, (meaning a land by a stream called huntall). The latter could refer to hunting. The name still persisted in 1839 as Hunting field (154/5).

OPEN FIELDS

HOLDINGS	1	2	3	4	a	b	c	d	e	f
A. MANOR	30	8	14							
B. CHURCH END		4	1	1						
C. WHITEADE	13	2*+7½	8	2*+4		2				
D. WINHILL	1		4	2						
E. KYDLAWES PLACE				10	5		4	2*+3	2*	
F. SUTHINGTON				10	5	7	4	2½*+2½	2½*+2½	½
G. SEVINGTONS HALL				7						
H. YEAGTREE		8	7							2
I. SHIPMANS PLACE										
J. RIDIN LEYES	1									
K. ACTONS MYLL										
L. CROXLEY		2								
M. WOTTONS		2								
N. SNODDINGE				4*						
O. JOHN PENNELL										
P. HATHERIDGE	2*+6		3	22½						
Q. BALTONS	7	7	1*+22½							
R. KYOUSE										
S. ROGER PENNELL										
T. HALLYATES										
TOTAL (270)	60	40½	60½	62½	10	9	8	10	7	2½

OPEN FIELDS

1.	HALLYATTS FELD	(4) a.	MOLLENS HILL
2.	HUNTALL FELD	b.	LEDFELD
3.	GNAWTHORNE FELD	c.	CRESTIGE
4.	CHESTLE FELD	d.	WARD FELD
		e.	PUCK HILL
		f.	SEVINGTON

FIG. 11
Showing the distribution of land in the open-fields in 1594.

[3] GNAWTHORNE FELD

Figure 6 shows that there was another 60½ acres of land not in a holding, lying on high ground in the centre of the manor and extending on to an E.-facing slope, and adjacent to what we will see is customary land on the S. This was Gnawthorne feld which was always listed after the adjoining Huntall feld which lies to its N.-W. The name doubtless refers to the hawthorn tree. The name Gnawthorne bathe is given in the survey to land lying by a stream running through a wood (Yagtree dingle - 192). The stream was probably known as Gnawthorne and passing through the feld may have given its name to it. The area corresponds to the 60½ acres of arable fields of holdings listed as being 'in Gnawthorne feld' [A] [B] [C] [D] [G] [P] and [Q]. Access would be by Salters Way and the Ridgeway both of which cross the feld. It is probable that originally it had extended southwards to include part of Yeagtree [H] and Shipmans Place [I]. The name Gnawthorne had completely disappeared by 1839 and two new holdings Green Farm/Acton Court [X] and Point Farm [W], had come to occupy most of this land (see FIG. 16).

[4] CHESTLE FELD (ET AL)

These are a group of open-fields which correspond to the 109 acres of largely arable land always listed after Gnawthorne. Many are described as 'in' Chestle feld which amount to circa 62 acres and are allocated to eight holdings [B] [C] [D] [E] [F] [G] [N] and [P], though it has not been possible to locate specifically the fields of individual holdings. These fields lie on a S.-facing slope adjacent to the southern boundary of the western half of the manor and are crossed by the Salters Way (FIG. 6). The name, sometimes spelt as Chestel, is continued into the 19th century as Chiswell (297 to 306), and was probably derived from a word meaning a heap of stones? ruin. The feld of 62 acres is broken up by the two closely-associated holdings of [E] and [F] which between them occupy a similar area. Both of these holdings date to the 13th century so Chestle feld must predate them.

The breaking of the feld by these early enclosures has also resulted in five further subsidiary and named small groups of open-fields, totalling about 46 acres, which are listed as 'in' and follow the same clockwise sequence, in both [E] and [F] to which they are almost entirely allocated. It has been possible to indicate their location (see FIG. 6-4a-f).

[a] Mollens hill (10 acres). It probably is a personal name and appears as Mullings hill in 1839 (337 et al) lying to the E. of Salters Way. An adjacent part of [F] (334-5-6) is described as being enclosed out of it.

[b] Ledfeld (9 acres). The name relates to the river Leadon and its name is continued in 1839 (332). It is probably the 'Lido' that appears in [C].

[c] Crestige (8 acres). The name suggests a place where watercress grew. In 1839 these fields are known as Winterpole (371, 378-80).

[d] Wardfeld (10 acres). The name relates to the hill on the opposite side of the valley. Ward meaning a 'look-out'. The name Ward persists in 1839 (381-4) when it was still in one-acre strips.

[e] Puck hill (7 acres). The name relates to a hill on the opposite side of the valley and persists in 1839 (293).

[f] Sevington (2½ acres). It is named after the adjacent holding. It lies in 273 between the manorial waste [6] and (old) Sevington [G]. Allocated to [F] and [H]. The isolated 9-acre pasture called Sevington in [A] and later House meadow (271) of [U] was probably enclosed earlier from this field as was Monks crofte a pasture listed under [O], later Leets orchard (274) of [U].

By 1839 all of the feld had been incorporated mostly into Kidley [E] Sintons End [F] (new) Sevington [U] and a few new small holdings resulting in a complex arrangement of land holdings which can only be understood by considering its earlier history. Interestingly some of the original furlongs can be seen to persist in the tithe map.

THE CUSTOMARY LAND [5]

This term was used in the survey to define land allocated to some tenants and would have been unenclosed common pasture, probably partly cleared woodland, and all that remained of a much larger area. It was always measured in virgates (which at this time would have been about 30 acres) and for smaller areas in nooks. The maximum number of nooks being three suggests there are 4 nooks to a ½ a virgate but a ¼ virgate (i.e. 2 nooks) was never used or was called a ferendell. Interestingly, 7½ acres (i.e. ¼ virgate) was a frequent figure for enclosed land. The total allocation of 7 virgates and 9 nooks to this land would equate to an area of about 245 acres. When all the holdings and the open-fields are mapped out (FIG. 6) there remain two large adjacent areas totalling about 252 acres in the E. of the parish [5] and a further 76 acres in the W. [6] (which will be discussed later), and it is suggested that the former was the customary land as the areas correspond. The northern portion [5/i] occupies about 161 acres and lies in the N.E. corner on an eastern slope which descends to the parish boundary until it reaches the Salters Way. Two large holdings [L] and [M] appear to have encroached into it at an earlier time and form the western boundary. By the 19th century these two holdings and [Y] had absorbed it. It contained only one message - Hallyatts [T] with its one virgate of free land (which probably corresponded to fields 25-31 and 97). The southern portion [5/ii] of about 91 acres lies mostly on high ground (over 150 m.) and would be crossed by the Ridgeway. Its bounds include Salters Way and part of the parish southern boundary, and two large holdings [I] and [J] appear to have encroached upon it. It is interesting to note that a stock pound (which only recently disappeared) lay adjacent to its boundary with Salters Way.

The land was rent free unlike the open-fields, and would have been licensed by the manorial court but it was not held by all (FIG. 7). Holdings with large amounts of pasture did not have such rights (e.g. [A], [C], [E], [J], [M] and [P]), while the tenant of [T] held only customary land. The amount allocated to each tenant no doubt reflected the number of animals he would be allowed on his share rather than indicating specific areas. This stinting would be determined by the manorial court and would require the tenant to have facilities for wintering the animals. It is almost certain that this land would be bounded by thickset hedges mostly provided by adjacent holdings. As there would be no enclosures then there were no field-names. By 1839 the land had been absorbed by adjacent farms [M] and [J] and by a later holding Green Farm or Acton Court [X].

THE DEMESNE WASTE [6]

Figure 6 shows a further 76 acres remaining in the W. which are unspecified, unoccupied and unenclosed and will be referred to as the demesne waste. They lie on a N.-facing slope, and are surrounded by the manor [A] and several holdings [B, C, D, E, F, G, and S]. These satellite holdings could well have been enclosed in part from the periphery of this land. It is contiguous to the S. with Chestle feld. Lynchets can be made out on the lower northern part of the slope (SO 679501 and 179 and 180) which suggest that this was an area of iron age cultivation (see Taylor, 1975). Roman pottery shards have been found in its northern edge (HSMR). It is suggested that some time later it became a park and was allowed to revert to woodland as the field-names of 1839 suggest, e.g. Oakes piece, Stichens green, Dirty acre coppice (181), Row of oaks and Broomy field. It would have been the Acton wood referred to in the account of adjacent [S]. This parkland was probably used as pasture by the manor though strangely it is not included in the survey of 1594 probably as it was uncultivated and raised no rents, though it appears in the sale extent of 1598. By the time of the tithe survey this land was no longer wooded (except 181) and had been absorbed into [A], [E], [F] and new Sevington [U]. The area of the lynchets was listed in 1839 as pasture which probably accounts for their present survival.

CHURCH LAND [7]

As this land was not saleable it would not appear in the valuation survey and in the absence of any known terrier of this time it has not been possible to give a specific account of the church land which is thought to total 21 acres, excluding the churchyard, (see FIG. 6). Firstly there is an isolated unallocated area of 7 acres, probably woodland lying in but not part of Wottons [M]. Appearing in 1839 as 33 - the Hurst (i.e. wood), but then cultivated and 'owned' by the rector which suggested that it had always been church property. Another 14 acres of land (331-327) adjacent to Ledfields (also so named in 1839), were not included in the survey (or rather cannot be accounted for by any holding, open-field or customary land). Was this the land in the *Inq. P.M.* of 1315 when Reginald Clericus had an allocation of half a virgate (i.e. circa 15 acres)? The earlier ownership of manorial land by the church is recalled by field-names in the 1594 survey of Moncks felde and Monks croft (182 an 274).

(For supplementary data see Figs. 7, 9 and 11).

THE 1594 SURVEY IN ITS HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

There is little archaeological evidence of early land use in Acton Beauchamp however the documentary sources (summarised in FIG. 15) shed some light upon this and help to explain the situation in 1594.

Its name is thought to mean a settlement which was a source of oak trees - that is it would have been a well-wooded area, this is also indicated by the name of the early holding Wottons [M].

The finding of pottery shards from the Roman period onwards (HSMR) at the northern end of Dean meadow (180) which lies in a sheltered valley with a stream and close to the present church, strongly suggests that this was the site of early settlement.

This is further supported by the lynchets believed to be pre-Roman field boundaries (Fowler, 1983), which can still be made out running across the adjacent slope (180 and 179); also there is evidence in the field-names of 1594 that suggest a Celtic settlement in the E., Le Lowe (burial mound) - a pasture in [I] (316, 325-7) and Kenrycks (possibly a celtic chief) Meadow in [J] (218-9).

The first record of Acton is that of the charter of 727 A.D. (Sawyer, 85) when Aethelbald King of Mercia granted land at Aactune to Buca, his comes (count or earl) to hold strongly (i.e. defend) and keep diligently (i.e. farm) and provide an everlasting dwelling of gods servants (i.e. some form of monastery). However it must have been an established settlement before this date for three manentium are mentioned. These could have been either hides or celtic properties (see Morris, 1977). Acton then passed to the church of Worcester after the death of Buca. The Charter of 972 (Sawyer, 786) was made when the holding was passed to Pershore Abbey and three mansi are noted. Mansi are taken to be hides (see Finberg, 1972). It is interesting to note that the number of mansi in most of the other holdings listed in this charter correspond to the number of hides listed subsequently in the *Domesday Book*. At this time a hide is usually taken to be 120 acres, though it will be shown later that it could be 144 acres. This would mean that 3 hides or 360 - 432 acres (or only about a quarter of the holding) were being cultivated in Anglo-Saxon times, probably mostly in land about the settlement. It is likely that this land included some open-fields as this had become the established practice by this time. The lynchets which lie in this land would represent even earlier cultivation. There is no mention of the number of tenants.

It is suggested that this demesne land (FIG. 12) lay in the W. to the N. of Salters Way and included the block of land that was to become the holdings [A to D, G, R, and S], and the manorial waste, which would give this amount of land (360 to 432 acres). Its bounds would be the bounds of Acton on the W. One can only speculate on the eastern bounds but given the area involved, its limits are suggested by two landmarks. In the N. it probably followed the line of the later N.-S. trackway along the western borders of 75 and 155. Hoskins (1957) describes the frontiers of cultivation following ancient trackways. The southern part of it probably followed the alignment of later field margins which still remains in part as an ancient hedge. To the E. lay uncultivated waste, that part which had become cleared of trees (a feld) was to become later the open-fields. To the S. it would extend to Salters Way.

Over a hundred years later the *DB* (see Atkin - 1954, and Thorn - 1982) lists 6 hides i.e. 720 - 864 acres which is double the amount recorded in 972, - such an increase is unusual. Half of this land was untaxed and would be in the demesne and the rest (the open-fields) which was taxed would lie to the E probably extending to a track to Evesbatch, the Ridgeway and a E.-W. trackway (see [p]), and to the bounds in the S. (FIG. 13). This great expansion by the Benedictine monks of Pershore Abbey and later those of Evesham must have come about by assarting. At the time of the *DB* it was held by Urse D'Abitot, sheriff of Worcester. We do not know if the nine smallholders and one villein listed had individual holdings or shared in common fields or both. The O.E. names of the open-fields suggest an early origin. Also there were twelve slaves who probably worked on the demesne. Nevertheless half of Acton was now under the plough. There were six



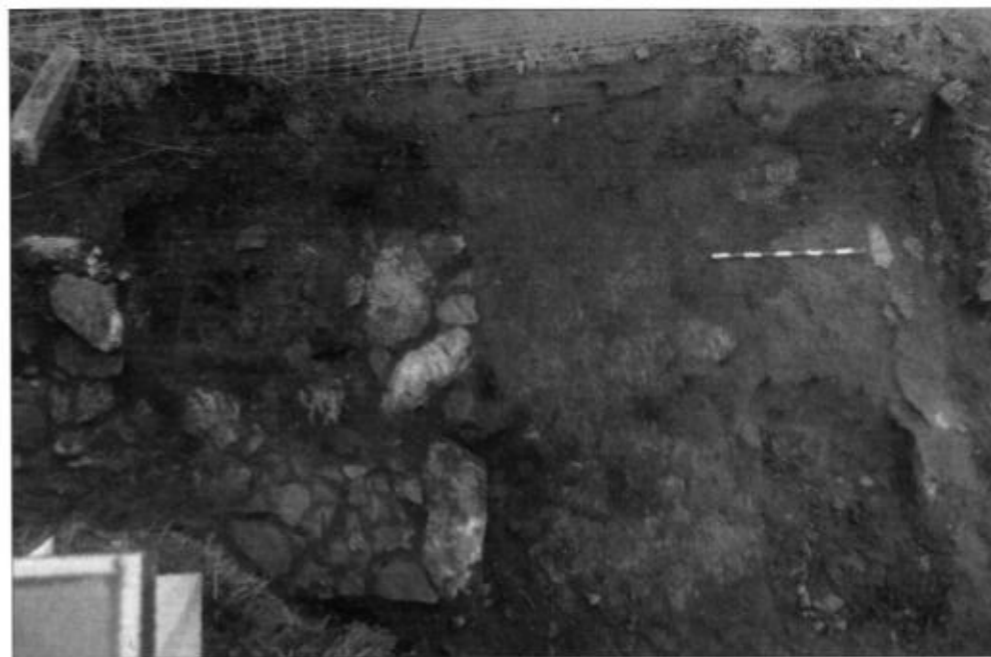
XII — Middleton, Little Hereford.



XIII — Easton Court, Little Hereford.



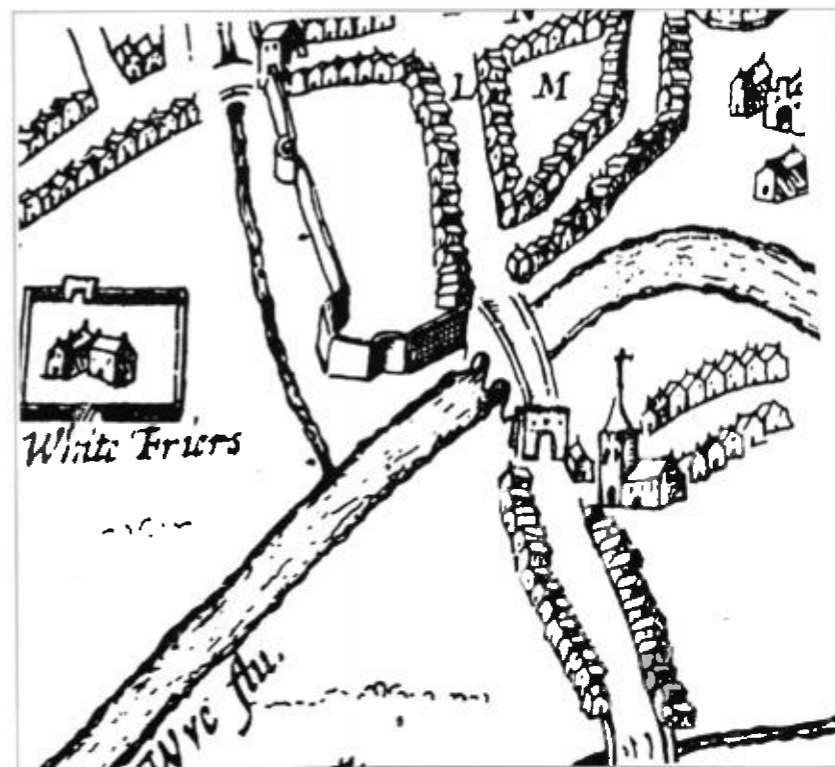
XIV — Woodyatt, Bleathwood Common.



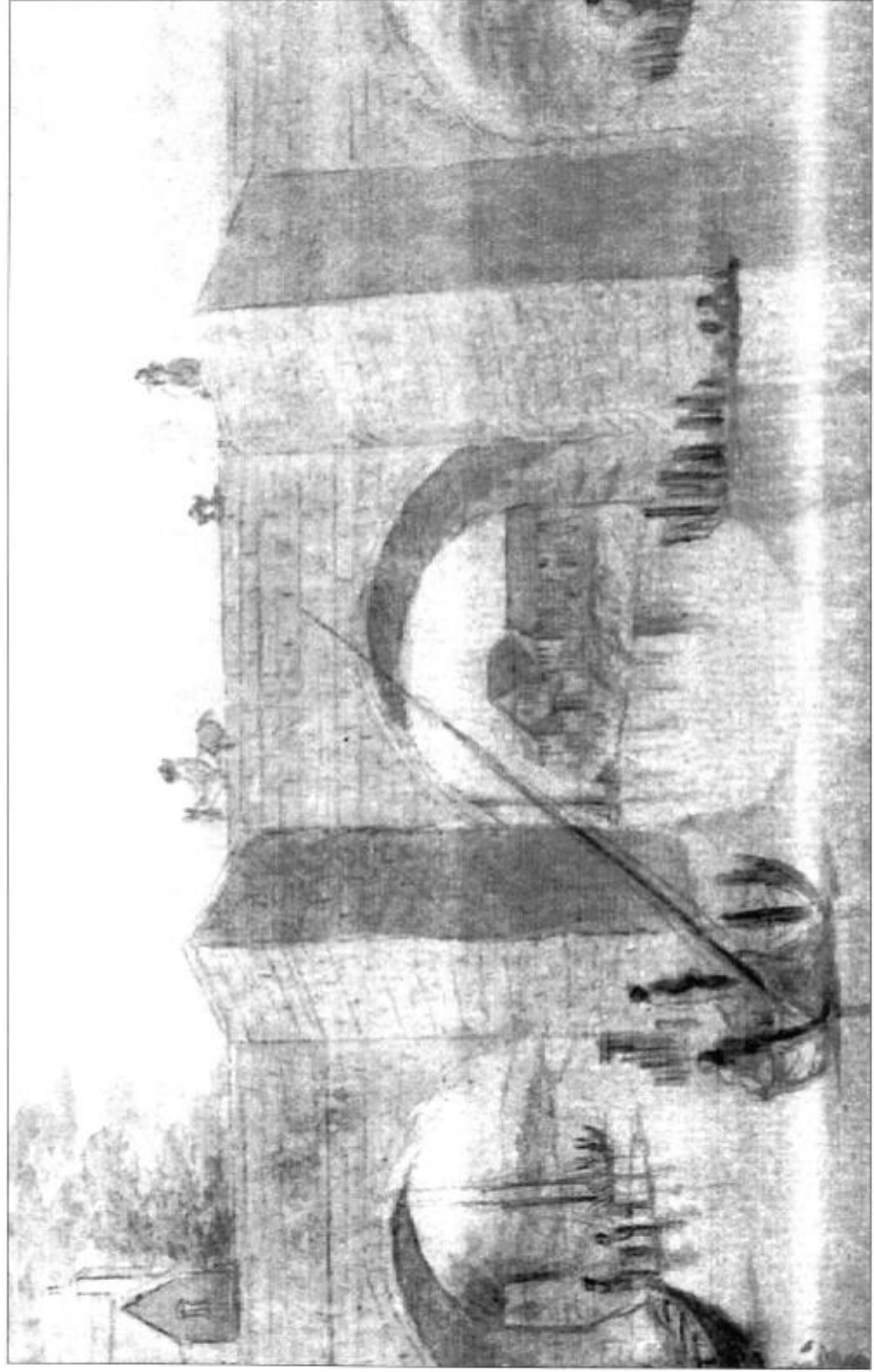
XVI — The Phase 2 Hearth.



XV — The excavated area, looking North.



XVII — Extract from Speede's Map of 1610.

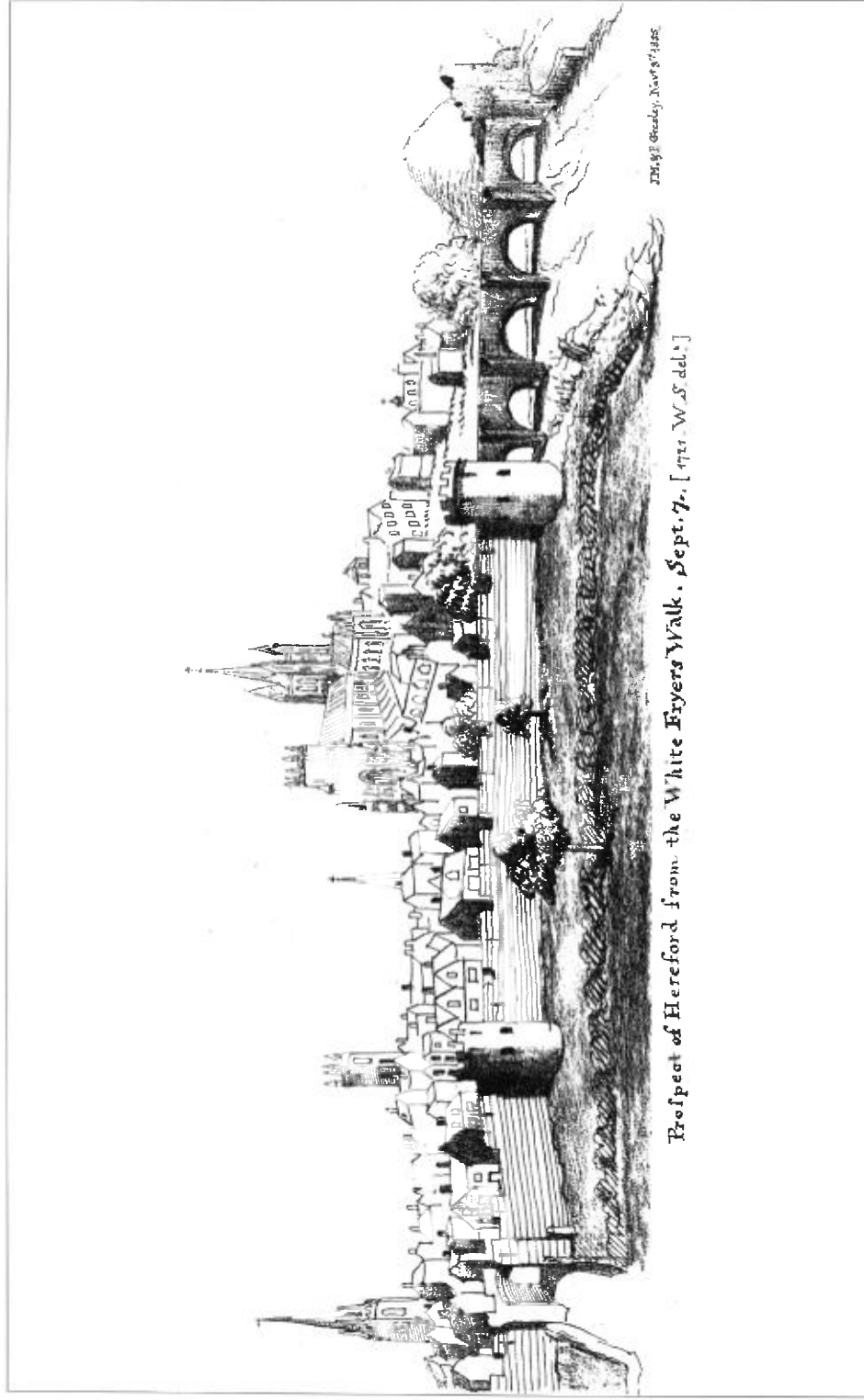


XX — Part of Wathen water-colour of 1794.



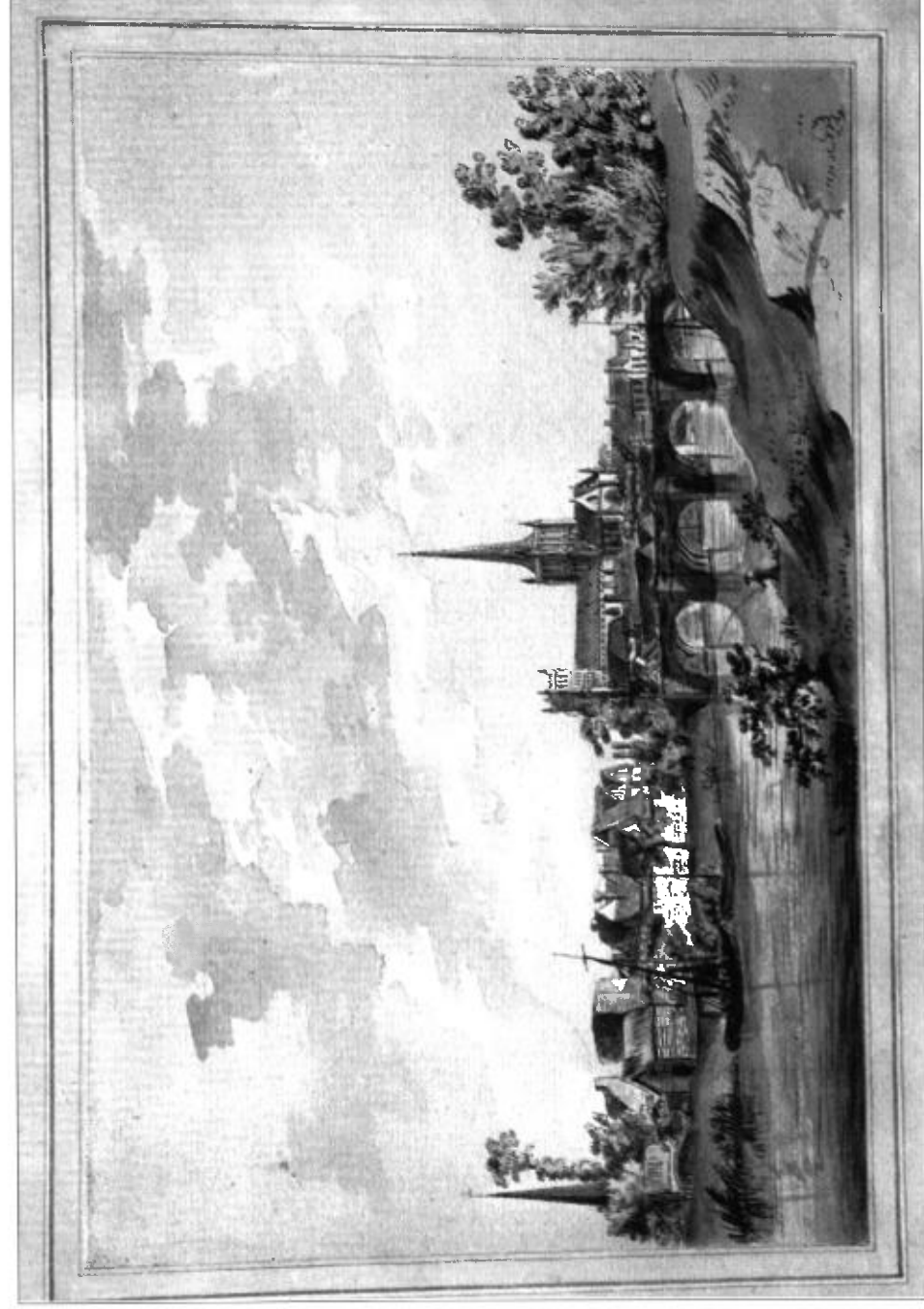
XXI — Aquatint of c. 1800.

(Hereford Museum)



XVIII — Stukeley's drawing of 1721, published as a lithograph in 1855.

(Hereford Reference Library)



XIX — Water-colour of c. 1775, published as an engraving in 1776.

(Hereford Museum)



XXII — Photograph taken in the great freeze of December 1892.

(Hereford Reference Library)

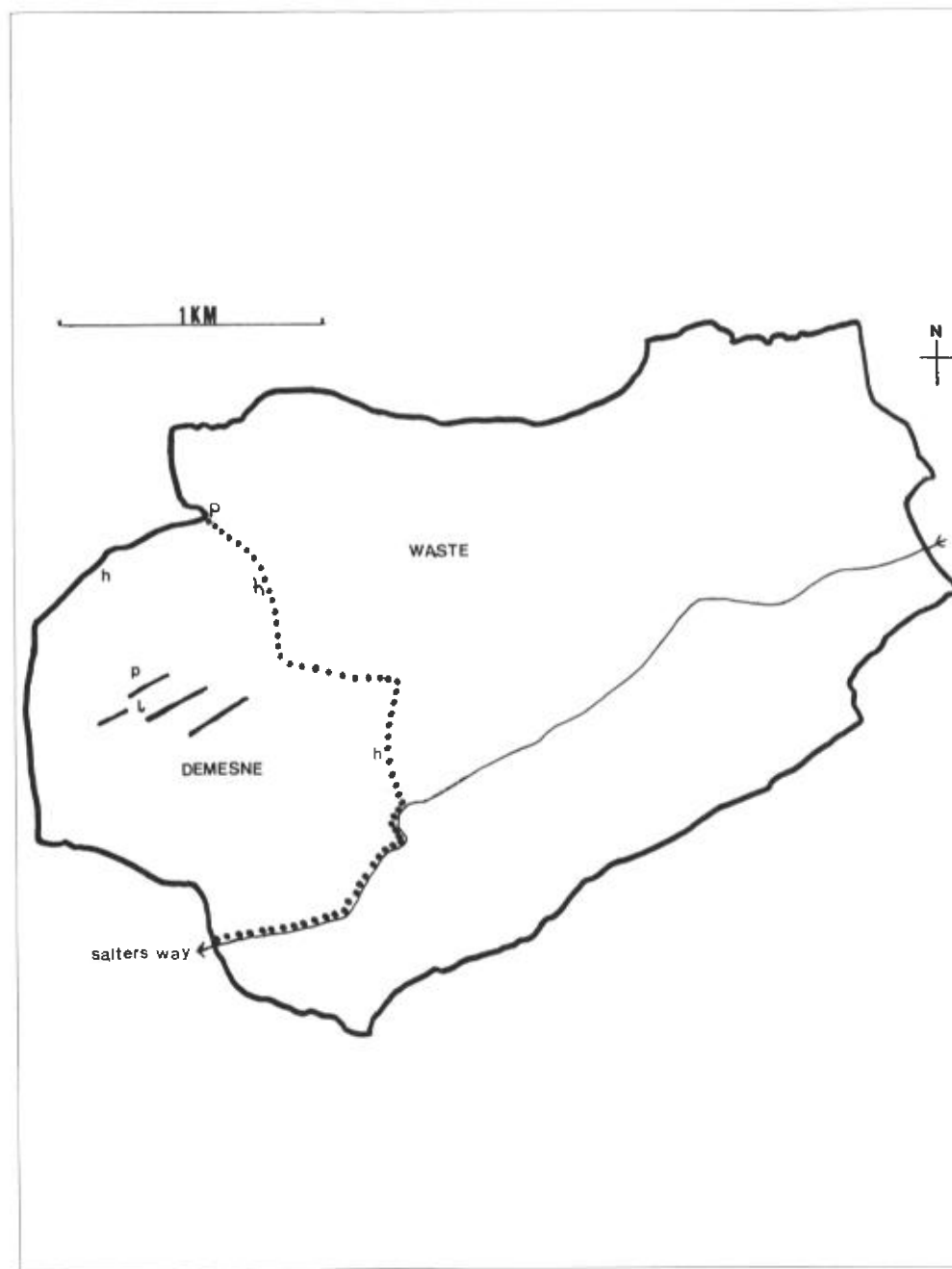


FIG. 12
Suggested land use 972. h = ancient hedges; l = possible lynchets; p = Roman pottery sites.

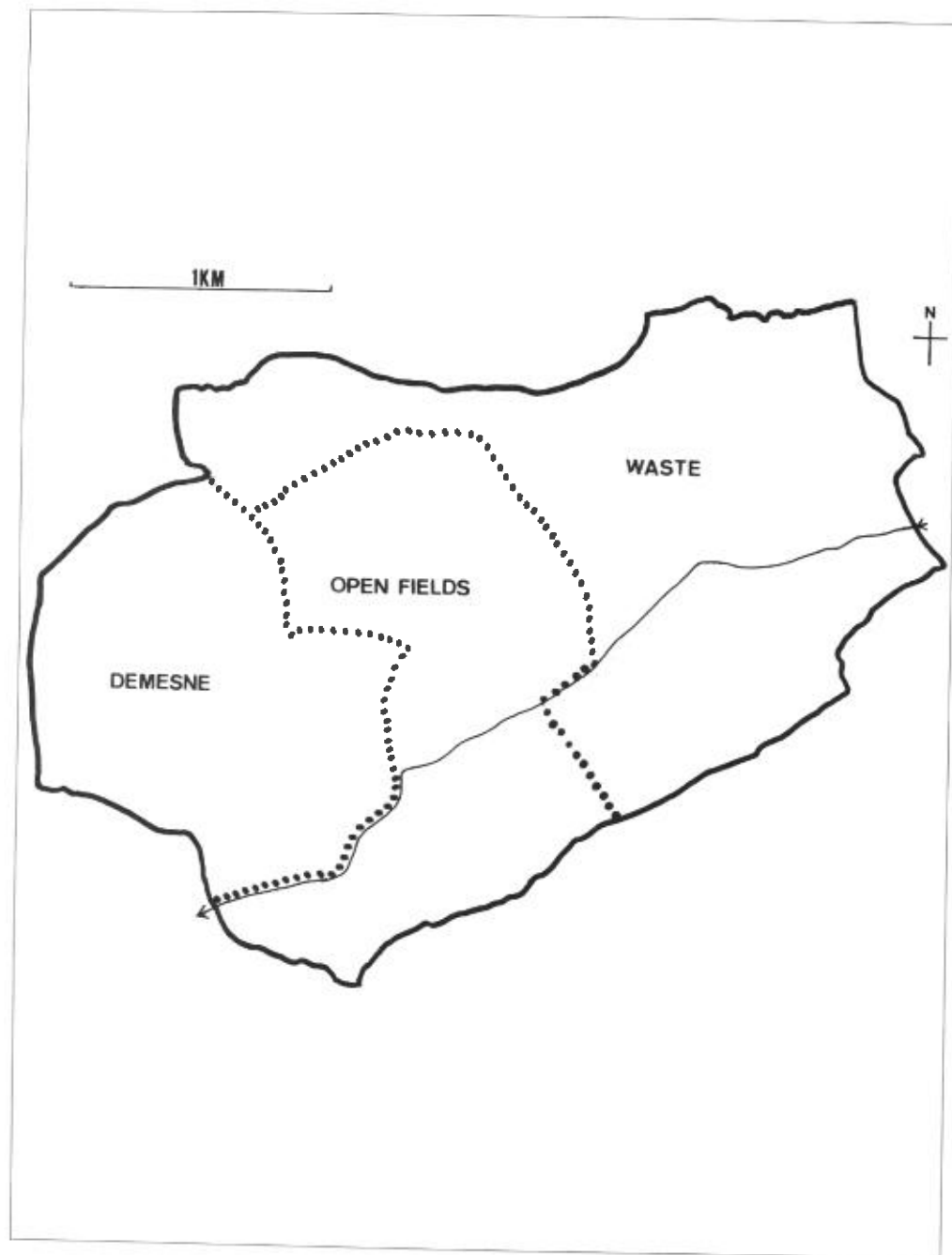


FIG. 13
Suggested land use 1086.

ploughs in the demesne and four outside, which would seem to be a low figure for this amount of land. The increase in value of the land from 70s. in 1066 to £4 in 1086 suggests that the assarting was continuing.

The Lay Subsidy Roll of 1280 was a tax on moveable objects (i.e. livestock, ploughs etc.). While it did not list land or rents it does have some information on the occupiers. By this time the manor had passed to the Beauchamp family (who later became the earls of Warwick). James Beauchamp (brother to the first earl was listed as 'domino' and resident presumably in the newly-built manor-house. The church had been built and the village shortly added Beauchamp to its name. James bought up all the existing freeholders and the land still held by the D'Abitot family (Hilton, 1967).

The nine smallholders in the *DB* had now increased to fourteen bondmen i.e. copyholders and there were probably others with chatels worth less than a mark (about 13s. 4d.). For the first time names appear (but in no recognisable order). Many Christian names are attached to placenames but it is not clear if these are places of origin or residence. Identifiable places include [E], [F], [H] and [K], this being the first reference to these holdings.

The *Inq. P.M.* of 1298 was a valuation of the land following the death of the lord of the manor, in this case William Beauchamp - earl of Warwick, and it is very brief without an extent. Its total valuation was £10.3s. which was more than the assessment of 1291 (Pope Nicholas IV) which was £6.13s. 4d. The demesne seems to have become very run down for only 100 acres of profitable land are recorded, together with a water-mill, meadow and wood. The 100 acres probably relates to land under the plough and could include the well defined cluster of fields in the tithe map lying to the E. of the manor (70-73, 159-161).

The land outside the demesne is not listed, but there are an unstated number of freemen and bondmen and or including ten customary tenants and cotarii who hold $4\frac{1}{2}$ virgates (i.e. 135 to 162 acres). For the first time there has been a commutation of feudal labour with the appearance of rents. In other words it does not tell us very much other than the estate had deteriorated since the time of the *DB* when it was held by Urse D'Abitot sheriff of Worcester and continued in his family until the late 13th century.

The *Inq. P.M.* of 1315/16 upon the death of Guy de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, is a much more detailed document and contains an extent. It is now called Acton Beauchamp. The total valuation had increased to £16. 16s. 10d. The demesne is described as a capital messuage (probably recently built) and now has a dove-cote. There are 2 carucates (i.e. hides) of about 288 acres of cultivated land and a 3-acre meadow. While more than in 1298 the cultivated land of the demesne is still less than it was in 1086. This could be explained by the loss of cultivated land to the S. which had become waste (FIG.14). Had this land become over worked?

Outside the demesne, the forty-six individual holdings listed total $13\frac{1}{2}$ virgates and 121 acres. The first time that the term virgate appeared was in 1298. Duplicate records in 1315 for the same holding let to the lord of the manor of Suckley give 1 virgate in one case and 36 acres in the other. This observation together with the findings that (with one exception) all the acreages of the smaller holdings are in fractions of 36 strongly suggests

this to be the size of a virgate at this date. As a virgate is a quarter of a hide, the amount of non-demesne land would be about 600 acres, giving a total area under the plough of about 900 acres. (This does not include the one furlong and two enclosures which are listed but not measured.) It is only a little greater than that given in the *DB* which means that there has been little further assarting into the waste. It is interesting to note that five villeins have right of 'takk' (or pannage) that is the keeping of pigs in this woodland waste - the first indication of its function as customary land.

There were forty-one free tenants and five villeins (whose feudal duties are given) compared with the ten listed in the *DB* (FIG. 15). Four tenants had two holdings, or were they father and son? This means that as the area under cultivation was the same the holdings would be much smaller than any in 1086. There were only three holdings of one virgate and twenty holdings of half a virgate (i.e. 18 acres) while the rest had a third of a virgate or less. It is probable that these holdings were mostly in open-fields (as the sizes were too uniform to represent enclosed fields which would have had to conform to geographical features). There is little reference to enclosure other than the name - worthine (suggesting a special case) and two instances of a croft. Perhaps the grouping of the tenants in the list and in two cases the duplication of holdings related to different common fields.

The forty-six tenants in 1315 were all named but these names did not recur in 1594. Thirteen had names of locality including dwellings listed in the 1594 survey [D, E, F, H, K, M, and N]. The inclusion of [D] here shows that the demesne was partly let out. There were five messuages and five cottages. Are these the surviving dwellings of the one villein and nine smallholders listed in the *DB*? Many tenants had no dwelling specified. Some might have shared dwellings. There were several holdings where the name of the tenant was localised but was difficult to place e.g. 'atte cros', 'atte hope', 'at the worthyne', and 'de gerenill'. Perhaps these dwellings had disappeared by 1594.

The LSR of 1327 and 1332/3 do not relate to land but they show a reduction in the number of taxable tenants to fifteen in 1327 and to nine in 1332/3. This is difficult to explain, being before the Black Death in 1349, possibly it was due to deaths following the great famine of 1316. Postan (1973) describes a national falling of the population in the 14th century.

By the time of the survey of 1594 the manor had passed through descent to the Lygons of Madresfield but Acton Beauchamp was still under a single owner though he was an absentee lord of the manor, and his feudal rights continued.

The actual demesne land had been reduced in 1594 from 291 to 174 acres and some of the latter was in open-fields or enclosed from them. This reduction in the demesne land was striking (see FIG. 5). This could be explained by the appearance or extension of the satellite holdings [B], [C], [D], [E] and [S], together with the allocation of some of its fields to other adjacent holdings and common fields. In addition there was a continuation of the reversal of a large area of cultivated land in the demesne to woodland waste. This could have been due to the earlier depopulation.

The holdings had increased from a total of 607 to 1022 acres. This must have involved encroachment of holdings into the waste in the E. A striking feature is the appearance of the large holdings [H], [I], [J], [L], [M], [N], and [P] from the open-fields and

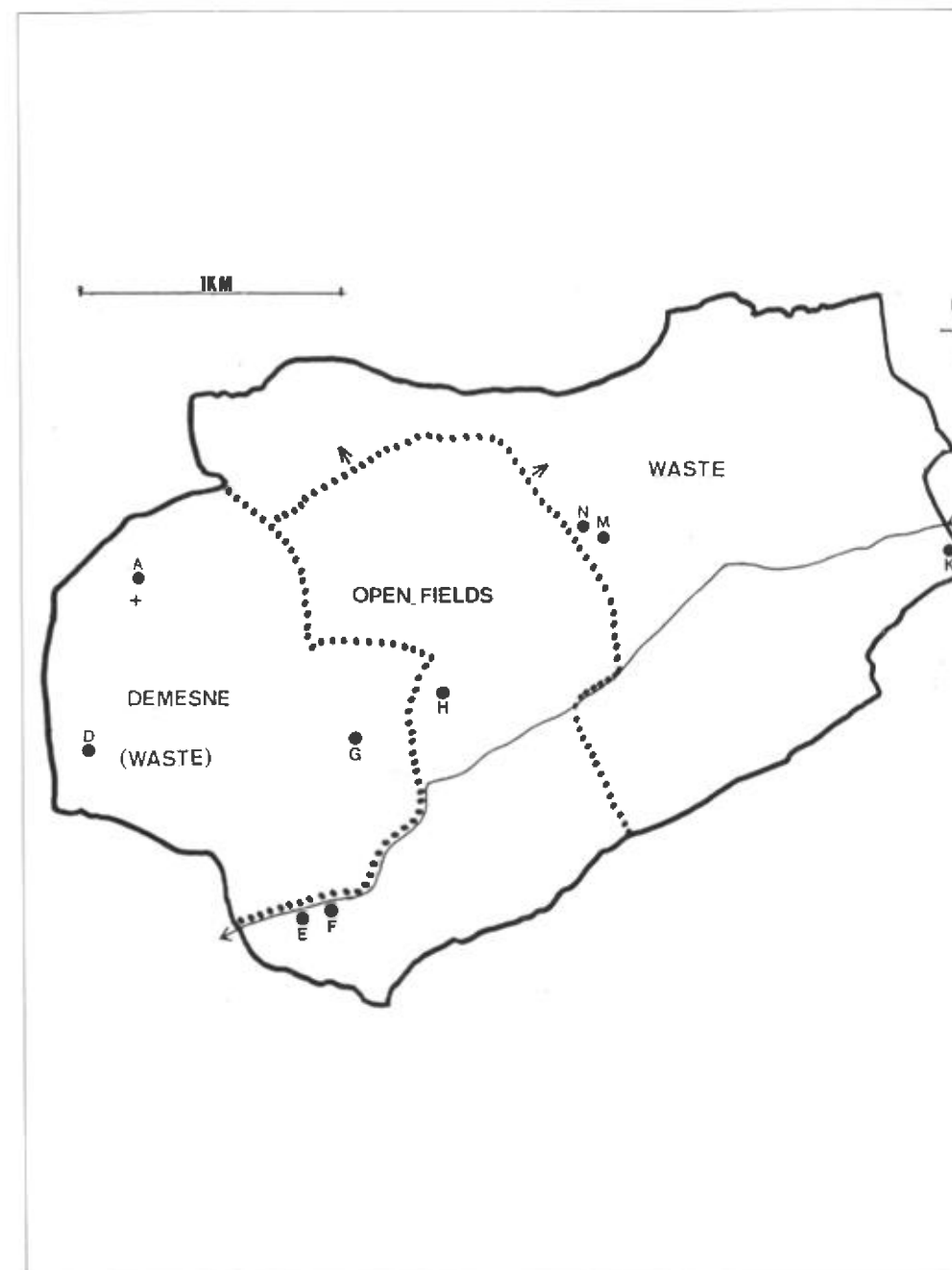


FIG. 14
Suggested land use 1315 showing holdings named in *I.P.M.*

SOURCE	FARMED LAND (in acres)			TENANTS	VALUE
	DEMESNE	OTHER	TOTAL		
727 (Charter)	?	?	?	23	?
972 (Charter)	360-432 (3 Mansi)	?	360-432	?	?
1086 (D.B.)	360-432 (3 Hides)	360-432 (3 Hides)	720-864	10 [+12]	£4
1280 (L.S.R.)	?	?	?	14+ ?	?
1298 (I.P.M.)	100	135-162 (4½ Virgates)	235-262	10c +?f	£10/3/-
1315 (I.P.M.)	291 (2 Carucates + 3)	607 (13½ Virgates + 121)	898	5c/f 41f	£16/16/10
1327 (L.S.R.)	?	?	?	15 (+?)	?
1332/3 (L.S.R.)	?	?	?	9(+?)	?
1594 (Survey)	174¼	1021¼	1195	16c + 6f	£190/15/8

FIG. 15

Showing farmed land and the number of tenants. c = customary tenant/villein; f = freeholder.

from the waste in the E. The small plots of the forty-six tenants in 1315 which occupied 607 acres and thought to be mostly in the open-fields had disappeared and had been replaced in 1594 by the nineteen new holdings [B] to [T] in 1022 acres partly derived from enclosure of the open-fields, or from the demesne or from the waste in the E. It is very likely that this rearrangement of the land holdings followed the depopulation in the 14th and 15th centuries with the over supply of land together with the shortage of labour (Postan, 1973). Vestiges of open-fields remained in 1594 but there are numerous references to their continuing enclosure no doubt related to the increase in sheep grazing as suggested by the name Shipmans Place [I].

While there were ten dwellings (possibly dating from 1086) noted in 1298 and 1315 (nine of which can be identified) but four times as many tenants were listed so that most of these must have lived in unlisted rough habitations. It is likely that the dwellings of 1315 whose names persisted in 1594 were on the same site. The sites of the dwellings in the tithe map of 1839 correspond closely to those of the thirty-six dwellings noted in 1594 indicating a continuity of the sites. These were scattered and there was never any evidence of a village centre. See FIG. 8.

The open-fields (i.e. the cultivated land outside the demesne) seem to have appeared in the great expansion of cultivation in the 100 years before the DB when a further 3 hides are listed - an amount equal to the land in the demesne. This would be in the central area of the village limited on the W. by the demesne land (see FIG. 13) and extending to the edge of the plateau to the E. where it met the waste. It would be divided into three great open-fields - the vestiges persisting in 1594 as Huntall feld, Gnathorne feld to its S. and Chestle feld in the S.W. While the fourth open-field - Hallyatts feld was probably the last to appear being derived largely from the waste some time between 1315 and 1594.

The waste lying towards the N. and the E. extended to about 700 acres at the time of the DB and was only a little less in 1315. In the period that followed it was reduced for the reasons already given to about 300 acres. In 1594 it was called customary land and measured in virgates.

There is a brief statement of the extent of Acton Beauchamp in a legal document of 12 June 1598 relating to the sale of the estate (earlier than that to Rowland Berkeley) for £400 which lists 20 messuages, 20 cottages, 3 dove-cotes, 600 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow, 300 acres of pasture, 6 acres of wood, 100 acres of furze and wood (Madresfield Calendar Rolls, Kingsford 708). While it is broadly in agreement with the 1594 survey it shows that over 300 acres were retained. It is probable that this would include church land and the customary land which in turn would explain the persistence of a Madresfield manorial court in Acton into the 18th century (Madresfield Calendar). It is not possible to discuss this any further due to the lack of available details.

After the sale of most of the estate to Rowland Berkeley in 1602 it later passed to the Berkeleys of Cotheridge, and over a period of time it was sold piecemeal to different owners, Sevington's Hall [G] in circa 1625, Dob Fields [V] in 1760, Manor/Church House Farm [A] in 1760. Meanwhile some of the individual holdings had become larger through amalgamation and absorption of common fields and customary land/waste, both of which having completely disappeared by 1839 (FIG. 16). Also largely due to the loss of the latter

was the appearance over the next 200 years of five new holdings mostly quite large, namely 'New' Sevington [U], Point House Farm [W], Green Farm/Acton Court [X], Dob Fields [V], and in the N.E. corner 53 acres of land owned by Edward Collis [Y]. Some holdings disappeared (e.g. [B], [C], [G], [H], [I], [O], [Q], [R], and [S]) having been incorporated into adjacent farms. In the period between 1594 and 1839 a small village centre had appeared at Acton Cross consisting of a number of cottages [Z] mostly owned independently of the major land holders. The period after 1598 with new ownerships must have been a period of rebuilding throughout the parish for pre-17th-century buildings do not seem to exist (R.C.H.M., 1932).

CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY

Acton Beauchamp provides an important insight into the agricultural evolution of a one-owner parish of about 1500 acres, with well-defined boundaries. The detailed study of a comprehensive Tudor survey of 1594 forms a missing link between the *Domesday Book* and the tithe survey of 1839 and also provides an understanding of the quite detailed extent of the *Inq. P.M.* of 1315. Together these illustrate the almost total loss of ancient woodland, the early advent of enclosure and the disappearing feudal system in a village. This confirms the observation of Gray (1915) that Tudor surveys form a most desirable starting place for earlier or later agrarian history.

While there is evidence of farming in Anglo-Saxon and probably earlier times - the great expansion occurred in the 100 years before 1086, when the abbey of Pershore and later Evesham held the manor and the amount under the plough increased from a quarter to half of the holding with the appearance of three common fields whose names, previously unknown, appear in the survey and relate to clearings. By the beginning of the 14th century (when the Beauchamp family were lords of the manor), the demesne was reduced and a demesne waste had developed. Meanwhile multiple small holdings and a fourth common field appeared.

An analysis of the details of the 1594 survey has allowed the identification of the holdings, the extent of the four common fields, the demesne waste and the customary land. It was found that enclosure was already taking place though the feudal system still persisted. The demesne was greatly reduced with the appearance of satellite holdings. Similar holdings (some quite large) were reducing the common fields and extending into the customary land/waste. It is suggested too that this relocation of holdings followed the depopulation in the 14th century. At the same time the amount of pasture and meadow is taken to indicate extensive sheep farming. There was no evidence of a nucleated village.

During the 17th and 18th centuries farms enlarged, and new ones appeared while the open-fields, customary land and the demesne waste disappeared as did woodland (with the exception of a small area of ancient wood). Gradually the estate was broken up as the farms were sold off as individual holdings. The fields in the tithe survey for the most part retained their 16th-century form, which was fundamental in the interpretation of the survey.

A number of more specific observations are made including the form of tenure and the rents, the types of buildings, the field-names and their persistence or otherwise, the

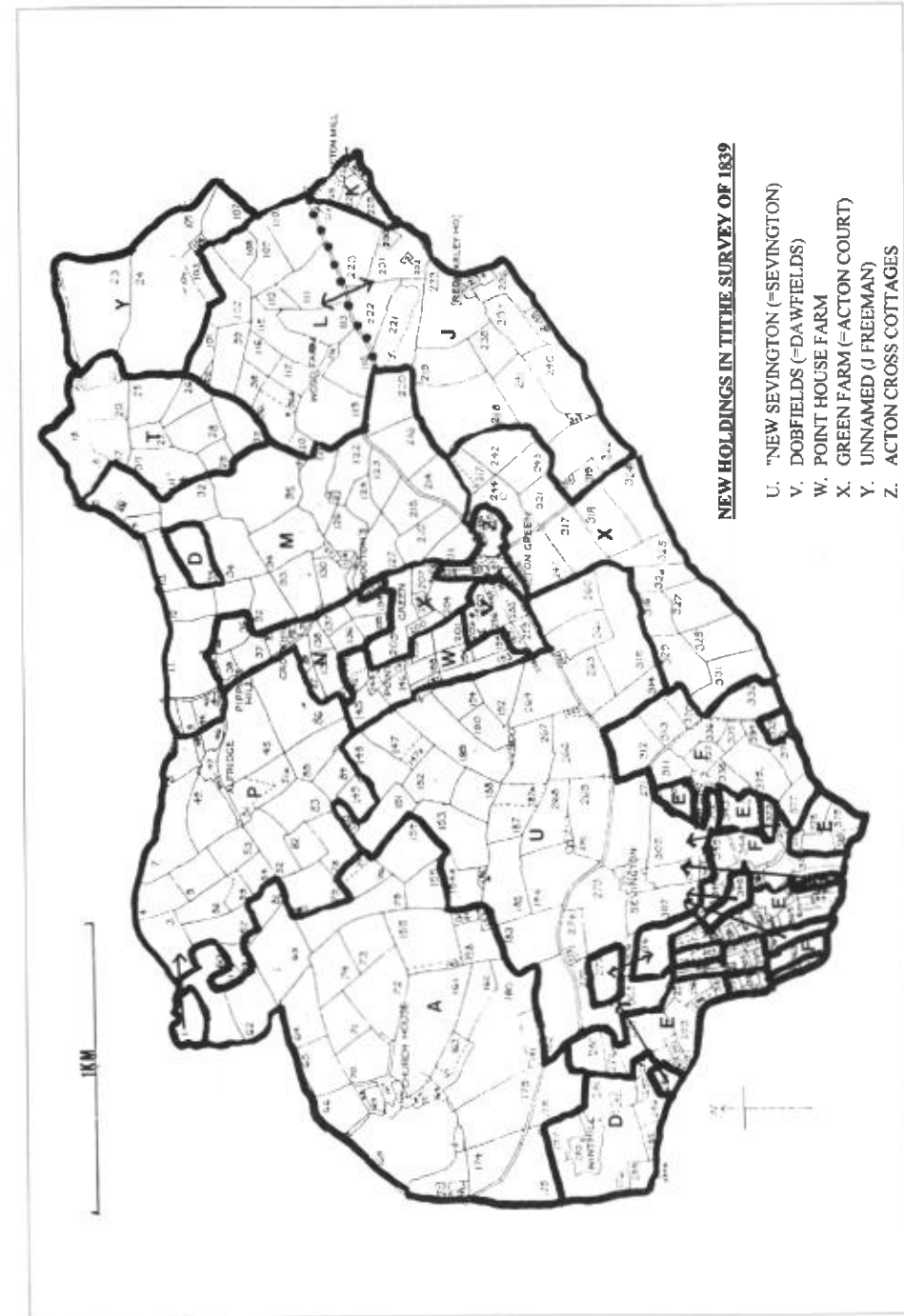


FIG. 16
Showing the extent of holdings in 1839.

uses of the cultivated land and the definitions of the measurements of the virgate, the ferendell and the nook.

When the various measured areas of land given in the survey together with the suggested amounts of unlisted land are added together i.e. holdings - 905 acres; open-fields - 270 acres; customary land - 251 acres; demesne waste - 76 acres; church land - 21 acres - a grand total of 1523 acres is obtained. However this excludes tracks so that the total area given in the tithe survey of 1529½ acres is in close agreement, thus validating this interpretation of the land use in 1594.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Paper submitted April 2001

The Historical Development of the Court of Noke Estate, Pembrige, with an Archaeological assessment of the Canal-Like Water features

By CHRISTOPHER K. CURRIE AND NEIL S. RUSHTON

INTRODUCTION (FIG. 1)

Court of Noke is a 17th-century and later brick house that is a Listed Building Grade II*. It stands half a kilometre S.E. of the small village of Staunton-on-Arrow (SO 37155958) in Herefordshire. It stands on the S. bank of the river Arrow at a height of about 106 m. AOD. From its size and nature, it would seem to have been the home of a member of the county gentry class. Robinson claims that it belonged to the Brace family in the 16th century, passing to the Weldish family in the 17th century.¹ The house appears to be of two main builds, the main front and N.E. wing being erected c. 1700, with the S.W. wing being of a later farmhouse appearance. The roof appears to have been renewed in Welsh slate in the later 19th century. The Department of the Environment listing states that it is a 'Rectangular plan with central entrance and axial stacks, extended to rear giving half-H-plan during C19. Two storeys and attics. Entrance front: string course, dentilled eave's cornice. Central pediment. Two C19 gabled dormers to attic with 2-light casement windows. 2:3:2 glazing bar sash windows. Central Doric portico with C19 part glazed inner door.'²

The house is surrounded by outbuildings and gardens covering approximately 2.4 h. (six a.). The gardens have been largely neglected during second half of the present century, and it is not possible to say much about their original form. It would seem that much of the garden area was composed of orchards in the later 19th century.

The most interesting feature remaining is a canal-like waterway on the N. and E. side of the property. This seems to have been a series of three ponds used to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the gardens, and may have had bridges and garden buildings associated with it. The feature leaves the main garden area to feed a mill building attached to a range of farm buildings on the S. of the site. The latter was created in the 19th century to grind feed for the cattle kept on the farm.³

This study is divided into three main sections. First, the historical context of Court of Noke is discussed, questioning a number of long-held beliefs about the estate and uncovering a more complex tenure than had been previously allowed. Secondly, the descriptive results of an archaeological assessment of the site, carried out as part of the recent restorations, are analysed.⁴ And finally, the historical and archaeological evidence are collected together in order to suggest an interpretation of the chronological and spatial development of the formal garden and water features.

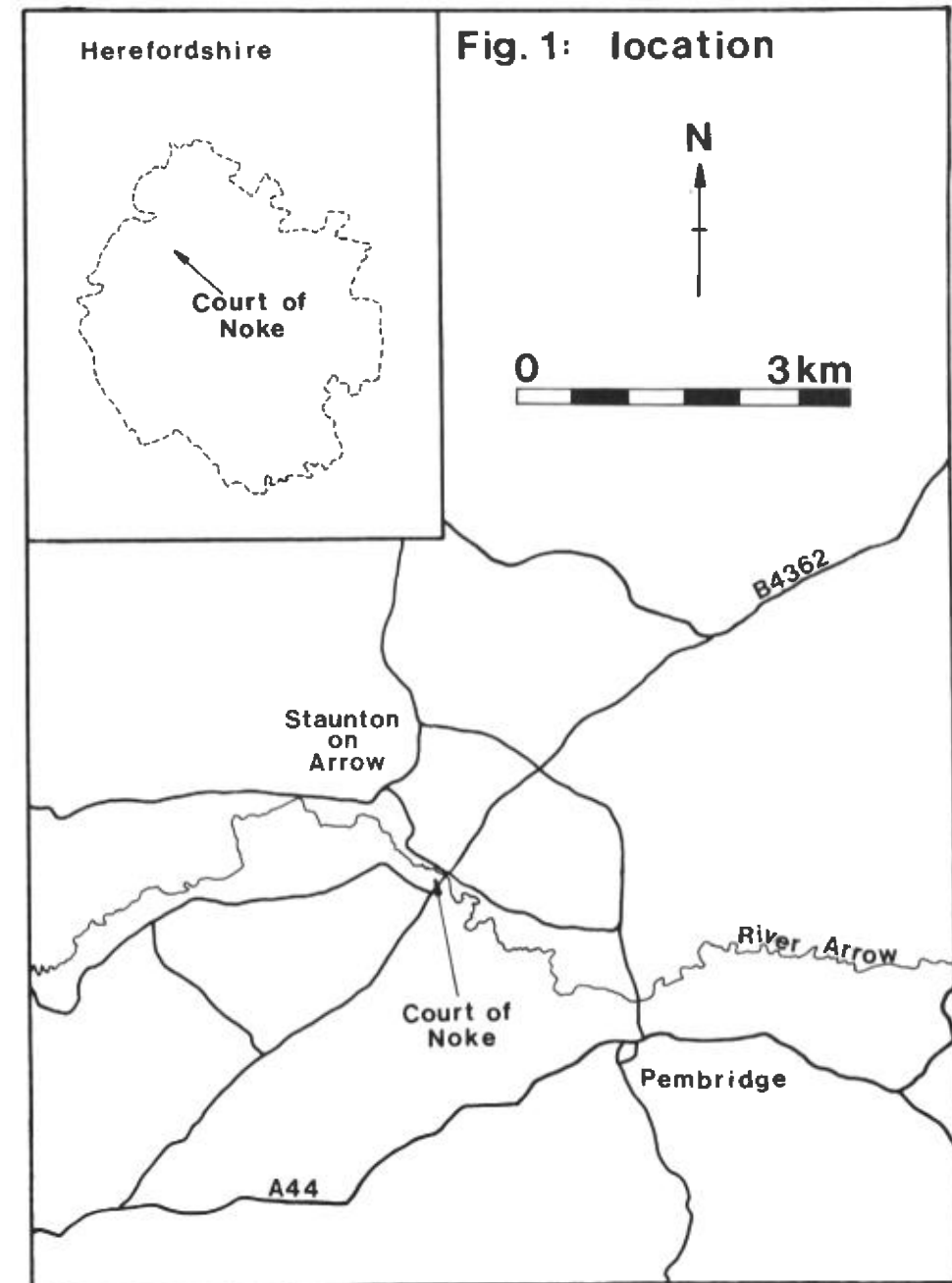


FIG. 1
Location map of Court of Noke.

1. A HISTORY OF THE COURT OF NOKE ESTATE

Research on Court of Noke is hindered by the lack of a serious study of the larger parish of Pembridge in which it stands. This parish suffers from the absence of a Victoria County History (V.C.H.) chapter for the hundred of Stretford. Neither did the 18th-century antiquarian John Duncumb's uncompleted county history reach this part of Herefordshire.⁵ Any study done on this property and its estate needs, therefore, to start from scratch, making many conjectures that only the benefit of a longer-term study may be able to clarify.

There is no known record for Pembridge in the Anglo-Saxon period, but a charter of King Edgar, dated 958, survives for the neighbouring parish of Staunton-on-Arrow.⁶ Considering the proximity of Court of Noke to this parish, it is possible that the boundary marks described follow the northern edge of the property. Whitelock has provided a translation of these bounds. That part near Noke states that:

First from the mill ford along the Arrow, then to Washford; from Washford along the arrow round the top of Holnig.⁷

The manor of Pembridge, of which Court of Noke was a part, had been held by Earl Harold before the Norman Conquest. From the description given in *Domesday Book*, it was a wealthy agricultural community. It had a value of £16 before 1066, but it later became waste, probably as a result of border warfare in the years immediately after the conquest. It had recovered somewhat to be worth £10 10s. in 1086.⁸ In this year Pembridge was part of the estate of Alfred of Marlborough, but by the time of King Stephen (1135-54) the de Penneburge family appear to have held the manor.⁹ They were succeeded by the Mortimers, who obtained a royal charter in 1240 to hold a market and a fair, thus making the settlement into a small town.¹⁰

This development suggests an element of centralisation within the manor. Common fields are recorded in historical documents. However, a study of the local map shows that there were a number of scattered farms within the large parish. Many of these may have had medieval origins, and might suggest that there was an element of dispersed settlement within the manor.

According to Coplestone-Crow there was at least one sub-manor within Pembridge.¹¹ This was the previously unidentified manor of 'Alac'. He identifies this with Noke. The argument for this is based on the origin of the word. Bannister's earlier study of the place-names of Herefordshire recognises that 'Noke' derives from the Old English, 'atten oke,' at the oak tree.¹² Coplestone-Crow traces the name 'Alac' to Le Aka by 1286. This latter seems to be a plausible alternative for 'The Oak.' Later medieval records change the spelling slightly again to '(La) Noke,' thereby completing what is a logical evolution of the name.¹³

There is strong support for Coplestone-Crow's deduction in the Lay Subsidy of 1334 for Hereford. This lists the following sub-manors under Pembridge; Weston and Bury, Morcote and Helde and 'Akes and Leone.' Post-medieval documents cited below demonstrate that Noke and Leen were intimately connected. A document of 1749 refers to a third part of the Court of Noke estate as being in 'Noke Leene.'¹⁴

This evidence would seem to show that Noke originated as a sub-manor within Pembridge. When Noke appears in post-medieval documents, it is found with survivals of its own common-field system. The hamlet of Nokeland Head records this in its name, the settlement standing at the N.W. end of a continuous boundary that represented the N.E. edge of these fields. This 'headland' not only occurs in the hamlet name, but in local field-names. Tithe map field 535 'Long Headlands Orchard' stands next to this long boundary, and further reinforces the description in its name.¹⁵ Noke is frequently referred to as a 'township,' and a study of the settlement pattern extending along Noke Lane is suggestive of an interrupted row community. Noke itself is not a single house site, but sits dominant amongst a scatter of cottages that were part of its estate at the time of the tithe map.

This is supported by 17th-century documents. The Hearth Tax returns of 1665 records 21 houses paying tax in the township of 'Noke, Leene and Strangway.'¹⁶ A Suit Roll for 1663 lists 35 inhabitants of the township liable to attend the manor court.¹⁷ It would seem that the 'township' extended beyond the immediate confines of Court of Noke to include settlements around Strangworth Mill and Farm, Northwood Farm, Nokeland Head, and Leen Farm.

The contentious Domesday manor of 'Alac' was held by Gruffydd Boy. Godwin held it from him, with Alward being the previous owner. It was rated as one hide, with one plough in lordship and two slaves, and was valued in 1066 and later at 10s. Gruffydd also held an unnamed ½ hide, that Alward held from him. This had one plough, but was waste after the conquest. It was worth 15s. in 1086. It is not known if the latter holding was connected with Alac, but the occurrence of the same personal names suggests a possible connection.¹⁸

Coplestone-Crow argues that by 1137-39 'Alac' had become part of the extensive estates of the powerful Marcher lords, the Braose family.¹⁹ The male line of the Braose family became extinct in 1230, and the third of their lands that contained Alac passed to the Mortimer family, and became part of another powerful Marcher estate. When Roger Mortimer died in 1354 an inquisition at Hereford found that his lands included 'Noke.' It records that he had held this 'manor' of the king in chief, but it was not known by what service he held it. The 'manor' was said to have rendered the abbot of Reading 40d. a year and suit at his hundred of Leominster.²⁰

This inquisition specifically refers to Noke as a manor. Despite the strong overlordship of the Braose and Mortimer, which might suggest centralised control, the settlement pattern is essentially dispersed. This suggests that the settlement pattern had developed before these powerful lords came into possession. The later minor nucleation, with open fields, around Court of Noke might be attributable to developments under these overlords.

A study of the medieval history of Noke should not be undertaken without some caution. Although both Coplestone-Crow and Bannister seem happy to attribute certain medieval documents with Court of Noke, the place-name 'Noke' or 'Oke,' derived from 'oak,' seems to have been a common one. A royal grant of 1334 gave Hugh Tyrel, a king's yeoman, free warren in all his demesne lands at 'la Noke'.²¹ Bannister considers this refers to the Pembridge Noke, but as there was an estate near Bromyard called 'Okes' that was

also held of the king, we should not overlook the possibility of confusing these two estates.²² Despite this caution, the present evidence does seem to suggest the present attributions by Coplestone-Crow and Bannister to the Pembridge Noke may be admissible. In 1459 the king allowed Cecily, Duchess of York, to retain certain lands for the relief of her children during her life, following her husband's treason. These included both the manor and borough of Pembridge and a tenement called 'Nook' in Herefordshire.²³ The correlation of these two names in the same document suggests that the Noke referred to here is that one in Pembridge. Furthermore, there are a number of Court Rolls in The National Archives in London and elsewhere attributed to the Pembridge Noke. These include rolls for 1529/30 and a series running from 1547 to 1552.²⁴

By the late 16th century, the Noke estate was in the hands of the Brace family.²⁵ Francis Brace, gent, and Dorothy Brace, a widow, appear as tenants in Walter Mason's house at Noke in 1651.²⁶ Francis was buried at Pembridge on 4 July of that year.²⁷ Exactly how the estate descended after the medieval period is not known, as it is often difficult to distinguish owner from tenant. This is further complicated by the other houses in the hamlet, all of which are referred to as at 'Noke.' The hearth tax assessment of 1665 lists six men holding houses of substance under the heading of 'Nooke, Leene & Strangway.' These are listed as follows, with the number of hearths given in brackets after the name: Thomas Hopwood (4), Walter Mason (5), George Penreece (4), Thomas Willish (6), William Wall (6), Miles Lurcott (6).²⁸ Which of these houses was the predecessor of the present house is uncertain.

However, it is known that William Halhead received a third part of the estate of 'Court of Noke Farm' in 1749 as part of his marriage settlement to Frances Caswall, daughter of John Caswall of Weswall in Oxfordshire.²⁹ That this refers to the capital message known as Court of Noke today is reasonably certain from the reading of this document, and another of 1757 concerning the use of certain watercourses on Court of Noke Farm.³⁰ The marriage settlement recites that property settled on William Halhead was derived from the estate of Elizabeth Halhead, his mother. Her right to the property seems to have originated in a document of 1718 referred to in the above marriage settlement.³¹ According to a family tree deposited with miscellaneous deeds relating to land at Noke, Nathaniel Halhead, of Petersham in Surrey, had married Elizabeth Mason, a granddaughter of Walter Mason, who held lands at Noke in the second half of the 17th century. Elizabeth was the daughter of George Mason, 'gent.'³²

Although it cannot be determined exactly, it would appear that the Halhead's had received their share in Court of Noke from the Mason family. It is possible, therefore, that Walter Mason's house of five hearths recorded in the 1665 Hearth Tax was on the present site. The parish registers record that this Walter Mason's son, Thomas, was baptised at Pembridge church.³³ Walter died c. 1673, and the property passed to his son, George Mason. A Court Baron for that 3 April 1673 records, not only this event, but the uncertainty, even then, that surrounded the origin of the estate:

Item, Wee present the death of Walter Mason gent & Dorothy his wife who holds certayne freehold lands & Tenements lying within this manor, but how much or what yearly Chief Rent is paid for the same wee cannott informe or solve. Therefor

whereas there happeneth to the Lady of the Manor one yeares Chief Rent for a relief. And that George Mason gent is sonne & next heire of the said Walter & Dorothy, The said George being of the age of sixteen yeares or thereabouts.³⁴

The Mason family seems to have had strong local connections. Walter Mason had married Dorothy Penrice of Noke.³⁵ She was probably the daughter of 'George Penreece,' who had a house of four hearths in Noke township in 1665.³⁶ Walter Mason's daughter, Ann, married Henry Taylor, a glover of Noke, and these held property in the area that included 'Kirwoods Farme' in 1678.³⁷ It is possible that these family connections may have helped the Masons to build up a substantial estate in the area.

George Mason seems to have been resident in the parish after succeeding to his father's property. The parish registers record a number of his children being baptised at Pembridge church before 1690. These include Edward (1679), Anne (1682), Francis (1686), and Dorothy (1690).³⁸ He also had at least two other children, George and Elizabeth.³⁹ He seems to have remained a resident of the parish until at least 1704 when another daughter, Mary, was buried at Pembridge.⁴⁰

Other records suggest that this George Mason was a resident of the manor. In 1681 and 1687 he was sworn in as petty constable for the 'township' of Noke Leen, Lowe and Strangworth. In 1688 he passed the position on to Thomas Vaughan, who was sworn constable 'in the room of George Mason.'⁴¹ Mason's name is also found signing the court proceedings, or as present at court, during the period 1677-92.⁴² Court records could not be found for the years following 1692, and so it is not possible to know how much longer he was active in the parish.

It would seem that if Walter Mason's house was on the site of Court of Noke, it was rebuilt c. 1700, but there does not appear to be a record of this action. The conjectured date ties in with George Mason I's residence in the parish, and so it is reasonable to suggest that he was the probable builder. When the property next appears in the records it had been divided into thirds. Such division of an estate usually occurs because there are only daughters left to inherit on the father's death. Although George Mason is known to have had three sons, George II, Francis and Edward, it seems likely that they had all died before their father, or been disinherited. Both George II and Edward were still alive in 1703, as they are cited, together with their father, in a local land dispute.⁴³ It would seem unlikely that the fine house presently standing was built when the property was in divided ownership.

Although events in Noke before 1749 must remain largely conjectural, it is possible that all of George Mason's sons died without issue leaving the property to be divided between three surviving daughters.⁴⁴ If this is true, then it would seem that George Mason I may have lived in Noke from 1673 until c. 1718. One of his surviving daughters, Elizabeth, who had married Nathaniel Halhead, seems to have inherited a third of her father's estate in 1718. It is only from hereon that it is possible to pick up the thread again with any certainty.

According to the marriage settlement of 1749, the Noke properties mentioned therein were leased to Thomas Harris, husbandman, from 1744 for £150 per year.⁴⁵ The

reference to Court of Noke as a 'farm' in this document might mean that from that date the property became a tenanted farm, and ceased to be lived in by a descendent of the Mason family.

Around 1770 the estate was reputedly sold to the King family by a Mr. Stanley.⁴⁶ However, land tax returns of 1811 suggest that King may have only come by the 'Brick House' from Stanley. Although previous researchers have equated this with the present property at Court of Noke, this may have been elsewhere in Noke. The name was not uncommon in the locality as there seems to have been another house in Pembridge called 'Brickhouse in Poolmeare' in the nearby manor of Marston.⁴⁷ At the time of the tithe map, there was a field called 'Brick House Orchard,' with a cottage (since demolished) adjoining on the S. side of Noke Lane 150 m. S.E. of Court of Noke. Adjoining this building was another plot known as 'Brickyard'.⁴⁸

By the 1790s James King was letting land at Noke taxed at £18 5s. 5/4d. to Thomas King, a relative.⁴⁹ At this time, there were only two other properties of any substance at Noke. These were taxed at £16 16s. 0d. and £12 6s. 0d. In 1811 they were held by John Hill and Lord Oxford, otherwise known as Earl Mortimer, respectively.⁵⁰ The latter title is interesting as it might reflect a reminder of when the whole of Noke may have been part of the medieval Mortimer lordship. The Oxford lands seem to have been around Leen Farm to the E. of Noke, and historically considered part of that township.

The Kings seem to have been taking a number of the smaller tenant holdings attached to Court of Noke back into their own hands during the later 18th and early 19th centuries. The Court Books record a number of instances of surrender to James King. The first of these is made by William Halhead himself in 1772, probably surrendering one of the subsidiary properties mentioned in the 1749 marriage settlement. This is referred to as 'the Kitchen being part of the House wherein John Taylor did lately inhabit'.⁵¹ It is not known if this was part of the present Mansion House, thereby suggesting it may have been inhabited as a divided property before this date. Other customary tenancies followed in 1774, 1778, 1780, 1782 and 1794.⁵²

Thomas King ceased to be the tenant of Noke Farm after 1817, and was replaced by John Turner, who still held the combined estate of 280 a. at the time of the tithe award.⁵³ By 1822 James King seems to have died, and the property passed to 'Mrs King' probably his widow.⁵⁴

An abstract of title traced back to 1822 refers to the estate as 'the Manor or reputed manor Mansion house farm and lands called the Court of Noke together with the Lower House and buildings then in the occupation of Mr John Turner with several cottages then in his occupation or his undertenants...' After 1831 James Simpkinson of Kingston-on-Thames in Surrey and his heirs, beneficiaries of Mrs. Margaret King, adopted the name of King, and was thereafter known as James King-King. The Noke lands came as part of the Staunton Park estate in the adjoining parish of Staunton-on-Arrow.⁵⁵

At the time of the tithe map for Pembridge in 1841, 'Noke Farm,' as it was known, contained just over 280 a.⁵⁶ There were six cottages on the estate as well as the main house. Five of these were grouped to the N.W. of the mansion, with the outlier being in

the small hamlet of Nokeland Head 800 m. to the W. The main house is referred to as 'Homestead, Lawn etc.' being the house, the lawn in front and area around the canal totalling 6-0-38 a. The 'canal' is shown quite distinctly on this map as three separate units, or ponds, but on later maps these merge into one sheet of water divided only by a foot-bridge next to a curious building that had half of its extent jutting out over the water. To the N.W. of the house, with the 'canal' on its N. side was a moderate sized enclosure called Barley Close Orchard, being 5-2-14 a. in extent.

The main group of cottages behind (S.W.) the main house was on the N. side of Noke Lane, the only cottage S. of the lane being next to Brick House Orchard. To the S. of this is a series of largish fields called Quicksetts, Cockshute Bank, Poke Field, Town Meadow and Sixteen Acres. Beyond these fields is an extended boundary stretching nearly all the way from the main road to Nokeland Head. This is the old boundary to the former common field of Noke. Its purpose is described by an adjoining plot of land called Long Headlands Orchard.

The King family continued to hold the estate until 1884 when it was sold to Joseph Charlton Parr. At this time the Noke estate was described as being 279-3-16 a. in extent. The Sale Particulars state that the Court of Noke is:

... a fine old red brick structure somewhat in the style of the Mansion, and was occupied by one of the King family up to 1818; it stands back from the road, is approached by a Carriage Drive through the Paddock, studded with Fine Spreading Oaks and other Timber, and ornamented by Deodara Cedars and a Sheet of Ornamental Water.

They also state that there is '... excellent Water Power with Machinery,' a reference to the feed mill created after 1841.⁵⁷

The estate continued to be held by the Parr family until 1924 when it was sold again.⁵⁸ From 1927 until after 1992 the Court of Noke portion was owned by the de Quincey family. The estate of around 280 a. survived largely intact until quite recently when the lands S. of the old headland at Nokeland Head were sold. The lands to the N. still remain in the hands of the Bulmer family, the present occupiers of the Court of Noke.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING DURING RESTORATION OF THE CANAL-LIKE WATER FEATURES

The archaeological recording carried out during 1997 has enabled a consolidation of the historical context of Court of Noke, and allowed for an assessment of the formation and development of the formal garden and water features on the site. This section describes the recording prior to and during the restoration of the garden.

THE SURVEY OF THE CANALS (FIG. 2)

Prior to restoration, a measured survey of the earthworks of the canal-like features was made. This is shown in FIG. 2. For a full description of the earthworks, the reader is referred to the archive report.⁵⁹

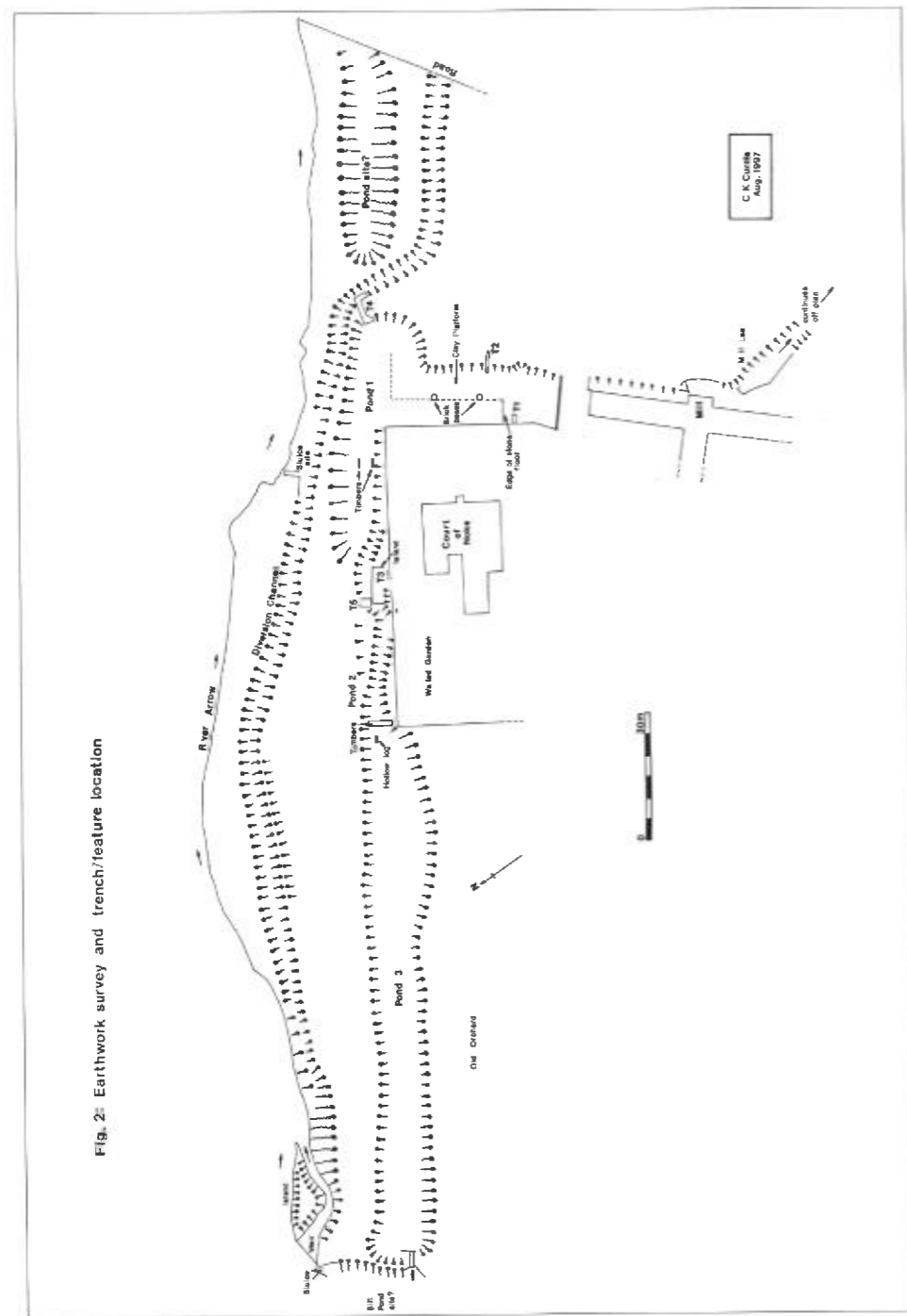


Fig. 2: Earthwork survey and trench/feature location

FIG. 2
Earthwork survey and trench/feature location plan.

THE RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING DURING RESTORATION (FIGS. 3-6)

Trench 1 (FIG. 3)

Dredging in Pond 1 revealed what appeared to be a cobbled surface on the bottom of the pond adjacent to the drystone revetment that faced the pond on the house (W.) side. A cleaned area (approximately 2 m. x 1 m.) revealed a surface of large stone cobbles similar to those still existing in parts of the adjoining farm-yard. This was made of mainly rounded blocks (c. 20 cm. x 8 cm.) of local stone, with occasional larger blocks (35 cm. x 14 cm.). These were set close together in clay less than 10 cm. deep which overlaid undisturbed gravelly soil.

The cobbled surface showed clear evidence of being artificially-laid, with the majority of the stones being laid with their long axis on an E.-W. alignment. The laying was neatest against the revetment wall, with the appearance of being butted up against it. The further E. from the wall, the cruder the cobbling became. Those which could be considered 'neat' extended to between a third and half way across the width of the pond. E. of this the surface became increasing crude, degenerating into a semi-natural layer of gravel with the occasional larger stone embedded in it.

Trench 2 (FIGS. 3 & 6)

Following the discovery of the stone lining to the main pond (Pond 1), a section was cut through the E. bank of the pond to see if any form of revetment existed on this side. This was not entirely conclusive, but the evidence seems to suggest the bank here had been given a slope of about 45 degrees without revetment, although there was some evidence to suggest that this may have been a later recut.

The section revealed a layer of loam (05) about 10 cm. deep on the surface. This overlaid a brown clay loam (06) that appeared to have slumped forward over the stone cobbling of the original pond bottom. This latter layer was 25 cm. thick nearest the pond, tapering down to nothing about 2 m. back from the pond edge.

At the E. end of the section a layer of brown clay (10) appeared to be the undisturbed soils into which the pond was cut. About 2.5 m. E. of the present pond edge there appeared to be a cut (18) through the soil horizons, although this may have been an animal burrow. However, the nature of the stratigraphy to the W. of this cut suggests construction of some sort.

This is suggested by the fact that layer 09, an apparently undisturbed clay loam, seems to have slumped forward over another clay layer (08) that contained human-introduced elements in the form of three separate lumps of charcoal and a piece of slag seen in the section. It would seem that this layer had slumped forward W. of the putative cut (18) at some time, as layer 09 above seems to have slumped, in turn, over it. This layer had then, also in turn, been cut (20) to form a sloping bank to the pond. Layer 06 had then slumped forward to form the present bank. This edge of the pond appears to have once been about 1.5 m. E. of the present alignment.

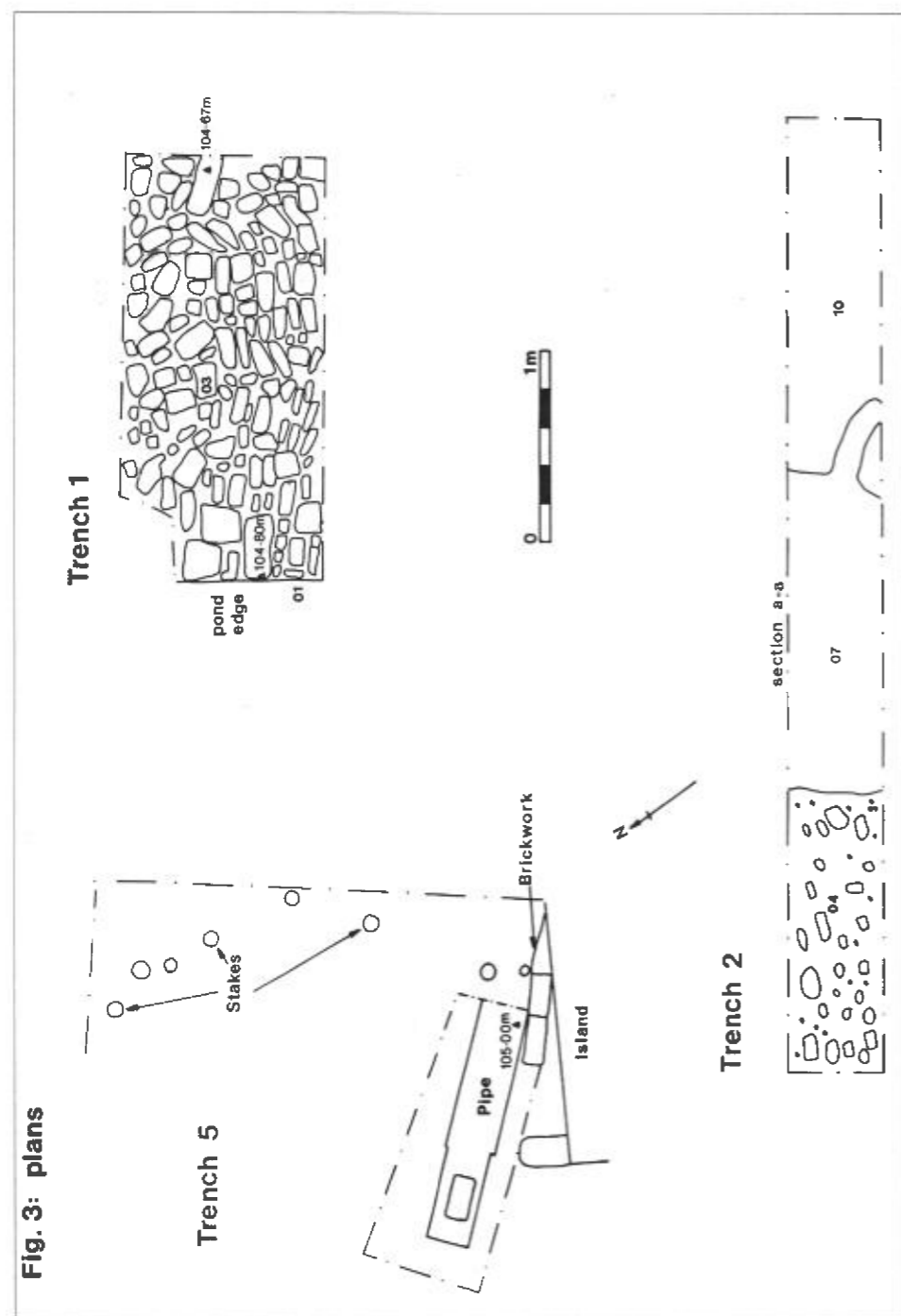


FIG. 3
Plans from trenches 1, 2 and 5.

Trench 3 (FIG. 4)

Trench 3 comprised a cleaning up of the surface layers on a small 'island' at the junction of Pond 1 and Pond 2. This 'island' was thought to have been extended eastwards, probably in the present century. Excavation revealed an earlier stone edge to the island that matched that shown on 19th-century maps. This edge was very crude, being little more than a line of stones at ground level, with soil below. Elsewhere, on the N., S. and W. sides, there was a drystone revetment along the edge of the island. In places this seemed to overlie a possibly earlier brick revetment. This was particularly notable on the W. side. On the S. side of the island was a narrow stone-lined channel, about 50 cm. wide, dividing the island from the southern edge of the pond.

Late-19th-century plans of the site had shown a small building on the island. Machine clearance of the undergrowth on the island revealed stone foundations of this structure. The topsoil was cleared to a depth of about 15 cm. around this structure to reveal the outline plan.

This excavation revealed two later phases overlying the ruins. First, an unmortared line of bricks (14) had been placed on top of the demolished S. stone wall of the structure, thus making a new top to the edge of the stone channel between the island and the garden. These bricks seem to have been reused from elsewhere on the site. Partly overlying the bricks a stone path had been laid from the garden across to a bridge on the N. side of the island. This partly overlaid the western wall of the structure, leaving the top portion of this more disturbed than elsewhere.

The structure (11) itself was of a curious design. The back wall appears to have been the W. wall. This was about 2 m. in length, 45 cm. wide, and made of irregularly shaped local stone mortared together with the faced edges outwards. The S.W. corner of the structure was not excavated, being beneath a heavy slab in the later path. However, this appeared to have a long southern wall extending E. from it. This may have extended all the way to the E. edge of the island, but, on present evidence, the wall seems to have stopped about 1 m. short of this. The S. edge of the wall was also the southern revetment of the island, and so it was not possible to be absolutely certain about the end of this wall. The wall was of similar mortared stone to that on the W. side, but it contained two brick fragments at its E. end.

The N. wall of the structure was only 1.2 m. long and 35 cm. wide. The E. wall crossed between this wall and the S. to form a rectangular cubicle 1.2 m. by 45 cm. internally. Such a narrow 'room' seems too small to allow people to enter it comfortably. It is thus possible it acted as a store of some sort behind the main body of the building.

Following the alignment of the N. wall, there was a gap of about 20 cm. between the N.E. corner and what appeared to be a mortared stone base (13). This was not a true square, having its S.W. corner cut across at an angle. However, the two straight sides of this structure were approximately 50 cm. square.

The tithe map seems to show a small building on the edge of the garden adjoining the site of the island. At this time only a dam or partition is shown dividing Ponds 1 & 2. An island is not shown until the O.S. 25 in. map of 1886.⁶⁰ This shows an L-shaped

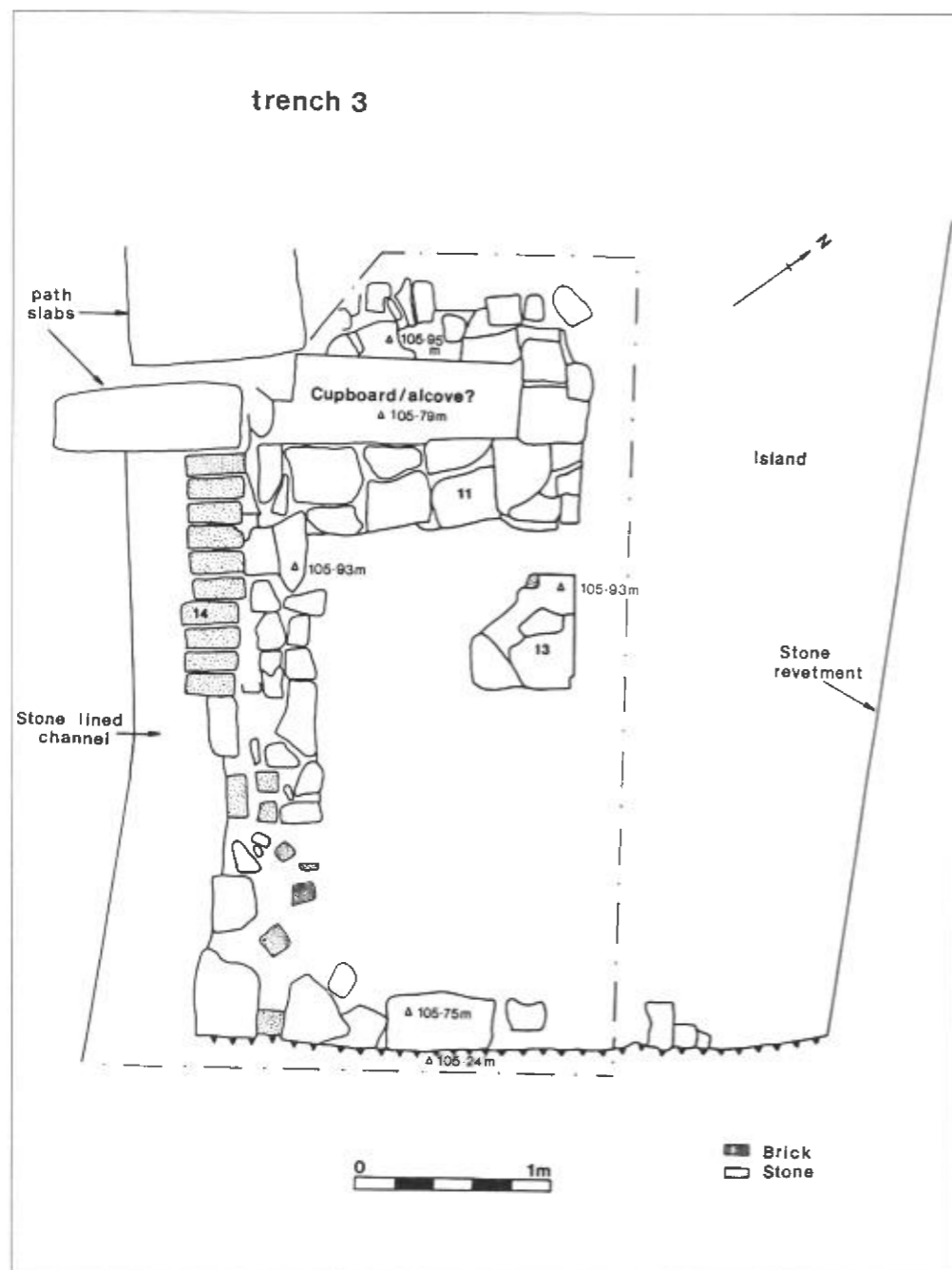


FIG. 4
Trench 3 plan.

building, with the largest part sitting over the channel between the island and the garden. This might suggest that the 'south' wall of the structure is not the S. wall at all, but the N. wall of a structure based on the garden side of the pond overhanging the channel, with the other arm of the structure on the island. This building continued to be shown on the 1903 O.S. 25 in. map. Such a structure could have been an outdoor toilet, although the elaborate ornamental nature of the ponds evidenced elsewhere may not correspond with this utilitarian function.

The stone base (13) on the island strongly suggests that there was a further structure on the island itself. This base seems to have been a pillar supporting a roof on a structure or room that was otherwise open on the N. and E. sides. This would imply that the 'room' beneath was a covered seat, giving a view eastwards to the end of the pond. The structure on the garden side of the channel may have been partly designed to shade the features on the island from the sun.

Trench 4 (FIG. 5)

This trench was cut to examine the remains of a possible sluice in the N.E. corner of Pond 1. The area was very heavily disturbed by large roots from mature trees on both sides of the conjectural sluice site. Excavation suggested that the sluice had been deliberately destroyed. A fine brown loam (16) that made up the topsoil continued to a depth of 60 cm. in places. This was full of large stones, apparently once part of the sluice structure. For the most part this was broken up and scattered over a large area around the sluice site. In some places it was possible to remove the debris to reveal intact structure beneath. The intact structure was embedded in a more clayey soil (17), with a redder colouration than the more disturbed soils above. This appears to have been part of the original clay bank that may not have been disturbed when the sluice was deliberately destroyed.

The structural remains comprised a mortared stone wall (21) lining the inner bank of the pond, and was up to 50 cm. high and 1 m. thick. It was set at a slight inward angle to the bank, channelling water towards the outlet. The N. end of this wall seems to have been deliberately made as an end, thereby suggesting that the sluice channel passed through it at this point.

A gap of about 35 cm. was on the N. side of this, followed by the rubble remains of a further structure (22). This had been considerably damaged, but that part excavated seemed to show that it was set at a similar inward angle to the corresponding wall to the S. The bank was 3.6 m. wide at this point. Excavation revealed a length of mortared stone wall about 70 cm. thick, with an apparently deliberate 'end' on its S. side (23). There then followed some large stones making up unmortared debris. These stones overlay what appeared to be a stone revetment (24) running along the back of the bank. Behind this wall an 80 cm. length of iron drain-pipe was found dumped under a rubble pile. The structures found seemed to be remains of a stone sluice. The stone structures (21, 22) on the inner face of the bank seem to be deliberately angled to form the 'wings' of a sluice. Angling wings in this way was commonly undertaken on sluices to channel the water towards the gate, and relieve the pressure on the bank.⁶¹ Many modern sluices incorporate

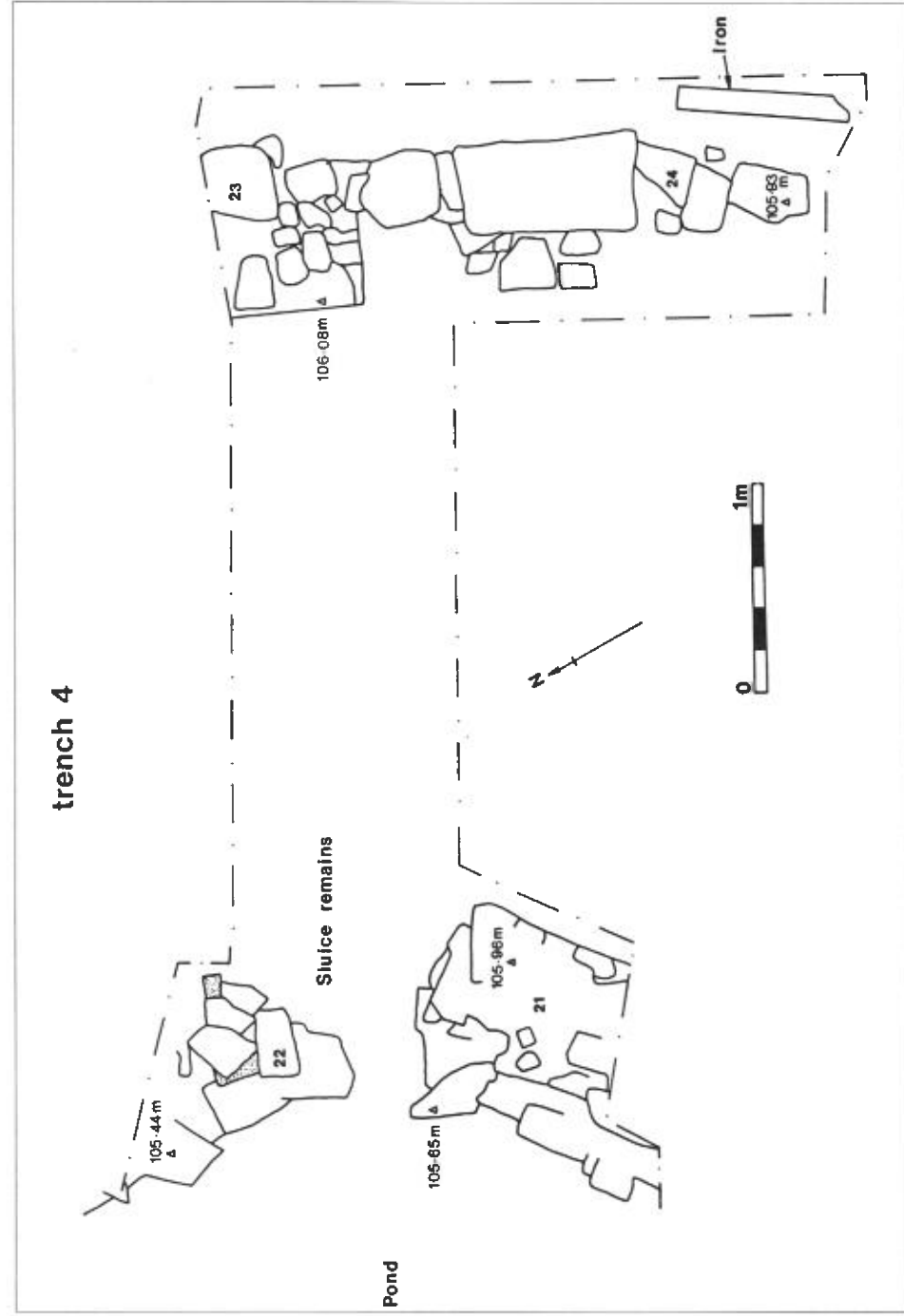


FIG. 5
Trench 4 plan.

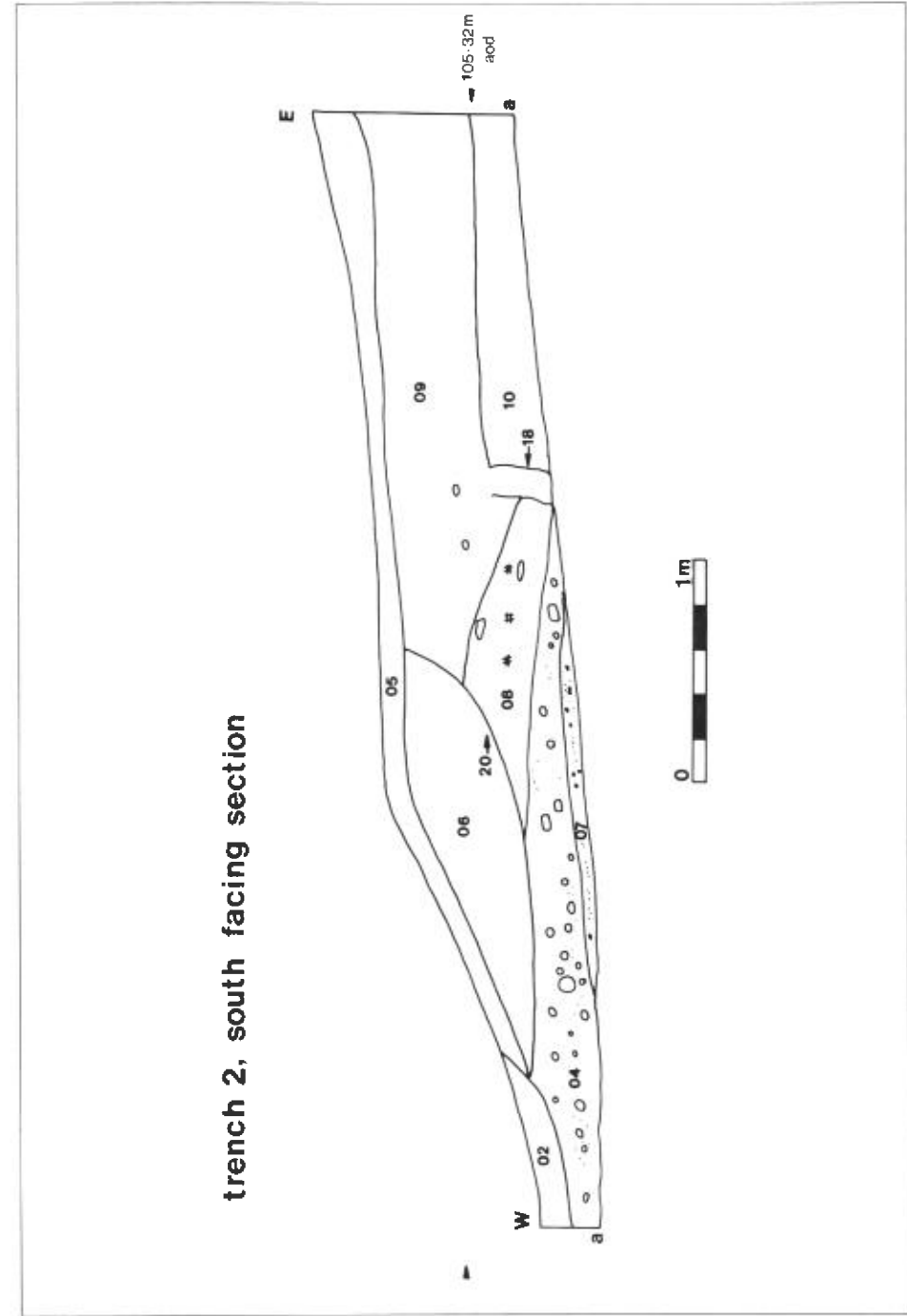


FIG. 6
Trench 2, S-facing section.

this feature, although historic wooden examples previously excavated by the authors did not have the angled wings found here.⁶²

The nature of the gate itself can only be surmised. It is possible it was a simple wooden gate, set between the two wings leading into an open channel behind. There was no direct evidence for this channel although the deliberate end in the back revetment wall suggests some sort of channel through the bank. It is possible that a length of pipe passed through the bank. However, an unobstructed pipe alone would not have made a sluice needing stone wings, and so we must assume a more complex arrangement obstructed the water before it was channelled into the pipe. There was probably a sluice chamber behind the gate placed across the wings, but all trace of this is now gone.

The evidence showed conclusively that there had been an early sluice here. Pottery found in the demolition layers was mainly of 18th-century date, but a large fragment of a transfer-printed bowl suggests the destruction had taken place after 1800. This would have tied in with the conversion of the main pond into a pool to feed a mill between 1841 and 1884. From this time, it may have been considered unnecessary to have a sluice exiting into the old diversion channel, and the structure was destroyed.

Judging from the substantial nature of the surviving masonry, the sluice had been a sophisticated structure that must have been the main water exit for the ponds. If this was the case, it confirms the important part that the diversion channel played in the control of water within the earlier system, and shows it to have been contemporary with the ponds in their pre-mill-pond phase.

Further reinstatement works after the watching brief had finished revealed an iron grill in the stone wall at the back of the sluice. This was at a greater depth than the present level of silt in the diversion channel, and demonstrates that the channel was a much more substantial feature than appears today from the surviving earthworks.

Trench 5 (FIG. 3)

Dredging on the W. side of the island between Ponds 1 and 2 revealed an *in situ* timber and a series of eight vertical stakes. These appeared to be part of a timber framework associated with a small dam between the two ponds. This filled the gap at the W. end of the island. The ponds narrowed down to a width of less than 2.5 m. here, making it an ideal location for a dam bank between them. The stakes did not seem to make any specific pattern, other than forming a roughly semi-circular alignment. Other stakes had been observed in front of these being removed by the machine before dredging was stopped. For the most part the surviving stakes were about 30 cm. in length, with sharpened ends pushed into the underlying ground. The stakes seemed to be surrounded by a layer of blue-grey clay, possibly the remains of the dam bank between the ponds.

To the W. of the stakes was a well-preserved water-pipe made from a hollowed tree-trunk. This structure was of some complexity, having chamfered edges, and a sophisticated 'trap door' cut into its upper surface near its W. end. That part of the pipe excavated was 1.3 m. in length, and was approximately 27 cm. square in its main body. 45 cm. before its W. end, the pipe had been deliberately cut to step in to a narrower width, being 25 cm. x 2.15 m. The hollowed area was off-centre, being 16 cm. in diameter, and only 3 cm. from

the top of the pipe, but 9 cm. from the bottom. The 'trap door' in its upper surface was set 13 cm. from its W. end. It was a rectangle cut out of the top of the pipe, being approximately 21 cm. x 11 cm. The wood cut out of this slot had been carefully fashioned into a close fitting 'lid', sealing it if required.

The dredging allowed the W. side of the island to be examined. This was a well-made brick revetment at the lowest level, up to five courses high. Above this was the drystone revetment to the island noticed elsewhere. The brickwork extended right across the entrance to the channel on the S. side of the island, but only two courses were observed here. These remains suggest a modification to the island at a later date. The brickwork would imply a date contemporary with the house, with the stone-work being possibly later. However, it should be stressed that there was no evidence seen that excludes the possibility of the brickwork and drystone work being of the same date. The extension of the brickwork across the face of the channel need not be significant on its own. It is possible that this represented the base of a sluice-type structure that might be expected at this point.

The discovery of stakes that may have been within the dam bank, rather than just riveting it, should not be considered unusual in historic contexts such as these. A large number of post-medieval treatises recommend the use of timber frameworks into which the clay is rammed to form a secure dam. These include Markham, Mortimer, and Hale.⁶³ This practice also seems to have been much-practiced in the medieval period.⁶⁴

The making of hollowed wooden pipes was also in keeping with construction techniques in historic times. Janus Dubravivus recalls how the Roman writer, Pliny, had recommended them.⁶⁵ In the early 18th century, both John James and Stephen Switzer record their use, the latter denting the rural tradition that elm was always used for water structures by arguing that oak was the 'superior' wood for these purposes.⁶⁶

Archaeology has recorded at least two published examples of pipes similar to that found at Noke. At Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire, nine such pipes were found associated with ponds and a moat. The Baddesley examples included a number of sophisticated variations. Pipe number 4 here contained a hole in the side, possibly for a bung. Pipe number 9 contained a valve device that opened when water was flowing forwards, but would close when water tried to flow back the wrong way. It was not possible to date these examples, but their similarity to those described in early 18th-century treatises made a contemporary date seem plausible.⁶⁷

Another similar wooden pipe was recorded within the water control devices associated with a large and complex formal cascade at Gnoll in S. Wales. This latter work was dated to the later 1720s, thereby increasing the possibility that similar pipes found elsewhere date from the period around 1700.⁶⁸ Such a date would accord with the conjectural date of c. 1700 for the Noke ponds.

The 'trap door' in the top of the Noke example was unique at the time of the discovery. Since this recording was undertaken, a similar example has been examined by the author at Arlington Court, Devon. This appears to date from the later 18th century, and although it lacked the recessed lid, can be clearly demonstrated from the estate archives to have been connected with water control.⁶⁹ It was not possible initially to see exactly how

this Noke example functioned, but the later discovery of a second pipe between Ponds 2 and 3 seems to have resolved this problem (see below).

OTHER OBSERVATIONS MADE DURING DREDGING (FIG. 2)

Brick debris in the main pond

Amongst the most interesting remains found during this work was the discovery of two patches of brick debris in Pond 1 E. of the house. The southern patch showed distinct impressions of a straight edge on the W. and S. sides. The brick debris had been disturbed by the machinery before it was fully appreciated but allowing for this, both patches seemed to be about 1 m. square, although the waterlogging of the bricks had caused some degeneration of their condition. What was most noticeable about these patches was their symmetrical positions, being equi-distant either side of the front door of the house. They were also roughly in the centre of the pond width ways.

These remains were not isolated. The area to the E. contained much stone rubble with patches of rammed clay that formed a large platform extending over most of the eastern half of the pond in front of the house. *In situ* structural remains were not found but its position suggests deliberate siting.

A stone edge to the area of cobbling on the floor of the pond was 12.7 m. from the southern edge of the pond, and extended from the stone revetment only as far as a line running through the brick debris noted above. The area to the S. of the stone edging was also higher than that to the N. in front of the brick debris, forming an L-shaped platform with the raised area to the N. of the brick debris.

It seems that the L-shaped platform of shallower water and the brick debris were related in some way. The most obvious solution to the symmetrical brick debris was the site of plinths for statues, or a similar form of ornamentation. Such structures were commonplace in garden pools c. 1700. Examples can be seen locally on the National Trust property at Westbury Court, Gloucestershire. The poor condition of these remains can be explained by earlier dredging of the ponds. Furthermore, the features may have been deliberately removed in the past, possibly when the pond was altered to feed the mill to the S. after 1841. Pottery found in the pond around the clay platform was largely of 19th-century date, seemingly supporting this dating. Furthermore, the N. patch of brick debris contained a sherd of salt-glazed stone-ware embedded within it. This type of ceramic was common in the period c. 1720-90. Although it may have been associated with the building of the conjectural plinth, it was more likely to have been deposited after demolition. However, if the sherd was associated with the construction of the plinth, it makes a date of c. 1720-40 most likely for these features.

This may have once seemed late for the making of the formal ponds overall, but recent research has shown that formal gardens continued to be made later than previously thought. The dating of parts of the walled gardens at Castle Bromwich to the period c. 1730-47 initially caused much controversy. This was only finally accepted when a newly discovered account book was found to support the archaeological findings.⁷⁰ Since then a number of late formal gardens have been worked on by archaeologists. The substantial formal cascade at the Gnoll in S. Wales was begun c. 1727-28, with the report on this site

citing a number of similarly late parallels, including the large formal cascade at Stanway, Gloucestershire dated to c. 1730.⁷¹ Although it should be stressed that an individual sherd should not be seen as good evidence for a post-1720 date, the possibility cannot be discounted.

Part of a wooden structure in the main pond

This was found on the bed of the northern arm of Pond 1. It was about 7 m. W. of the garden corner, and about 2.5 m. from the stone revetment edging the pond here. It comprised a single thick wooden plank or 'sleeper' 2.35 m. long and 25 cm. wide, that seemed to be deliberately embedded into the floor of the pond. It contained three rectangular slots (14 cm. by 7 cm.) equi-distant along its length. These were possibly supports for vertical posts.⁷²

Although it is possible that these timbers came here by chance, it is a coincidence that they seem to be exactly opposite where a small thatched building is shown on photographs dated c. 1880-90.⁷³ The 1886 O.S. 25 in. map also shows a small rectangular building on the edge of the pond at this point. It is possible therefore that the timber structure was associated with this building.

A second timber in line with the other suggests the feature was a bridge, although it is unlikely a bridge was necessary at this point, when the ponds could have been crossed more easily at the dams between them. If it was an original feature, it might have been an ornamental arch, framing the view to the sluice at the E. end of the pond, and Noke Bridge beyond. It is possible that it was a later feature put after the ponds had been merged into a more continuous waterway, or after its more ornamental phase had ended. That is, it was a 19th or early-20th century feature. The conclusion, therefore, is that the feature dates from before 1884. This would seem to suggest it was contemporary with the formal garden phase, although it is not impossible that it may be a relic of an earlier, possible medieval, system such as a bridge over a moat. Although there was no other evidence for this latter suggestion, it cannot be entirely disregarded.

The division between the middle pond and the third pond

The tithe map seems to show a dam bank between Ponds 2 and 3. Observation here expected to find a similar clay and timber dam to that found between Ponds 1 and 2. Although no clay was found a spread of stone rubble amongst brownish loamy soil, and the remains of two vertical timbers with the remains of a more substantial wooden beam (within 50 cm. of the N. edge of the pond) would tend to confirm that there was some type of revetment here. This was probably removed during the 20th century to make a single, continuous waterway.

A further hollowed timber, similar to that found between Ponds 1 and 2, was found approximately 1.6 m. farther W. than the western end of the walled garden, and about 3.5 m. from the southern edge of the ponds. This made it roughly half way across Pond 3. The timber itself was 1.61 m. long, 35 cm. wide at its W. end, but only 30 cm. wide at its eastern end. The latter end appears to have been damaged in some way, truncating the timber. This suggests it may have been originally about the same length as the timber

between Ponds 1 and 2. There was a square opening near the W. end with a recessed lid. Again, this was similar to the design of the other hollowed timber. There was a split along the entire N. side of the feature, and a wooden bung in the W. end.

The discovery of the bung allows us to determine how the pipes functioned. It prevented free flow of water, although the recessed lid could be removed to allow water out of the pond. Under normal conditions the weight of the water kept the recessed lid in place. It would seem that the lid had to be removed by hand, possibly by somebody wading into the pond, and reaching down to remove it. This suggests that water flow between the ponds was only occasional, as required, the system being closed at other times. From this discovery, it would seem that the front of the dam was near the W. end of the pipe. The timbers that were found behind it during the watching brief were probably part of a revetment at the back of the dam.

3. INTERPRETATIVE CONCLUSIONS

This final section attempts to harness the available historical and archaeological evidence discussed in the first two sections in order to frame an interpretation of the site. The archaeological evidence suggests that the ponds at Court of Noke made up a series of ornamental water features on the E. and N. sides of the house. It could be suggested that the gardens at Noke be considered 'water gardens' as the water element would have dominated the overall design. This does not exclude the possibility that the ponds may have been converted from earlier fishponds serving a conjectured medieval manor, or even a former moat.⁷⁴ However, as there was no evidence for any medieval activity on the site, it must be considered that the water features were largely of a post-medieval date.

The exact date must remain conjectural at present. An earlier report by Currie suggested the house and the ponds in their present form were contemporary, and very likely to be the work of the Mason family.⁷⁵ A date of *c.* 1700 was given as the most likely, although this can be stretched to include the period *c.* 1660-1740. In stylistic terms, formal features of this type were most common between 1680 and 1730, although it is not impossible to find them in the years either side of this range. There is some very tentative evidence that one of the conjectured statue plinths in front of the house may have dated to after 1720. Although these plinths could have been added to a pre-existing design of 20-40 years earlier. On balance, a date *c.* 1700 is preferred, with the entire design being executed in one build during the occupation of George Mason.

It would seem that the main pond was a T-shaped canal, forming a much more formal shape than in the 19th century or later. The use of the E. side of Pond 1 as a cattle drink has since eroded the original form of the banks here. These may have had timber revetments originally, but there is no reason why simple sloping grass banks were not present. The contemporary garden writer, Stephen Switzer, seems to prefer these to stone-edged ponds, and recommends an even gradient sloping down to the pond bed.⁷⁶

Pond 1 would have been an impressive sight in front of the house -- a partly stone-lined T-shaped pond kept relatively clear of silt by the diversion channel. This would have meant that in its early days the water would have been clear. Rising symmetrically from the pond would have been two statues, probably depicting mythological figures associated

with water. Behind these there seems to have been a large platform. From the stone debris found on this, another structure may have existed here. This was possibly a partially submerged wall or balustrade on which other ornaments may have sat, although this remains conjectural. A fountain might be suggested, but this would need a raised reservoir to work it. In the northern arm of the T there may have been an ornamental bridge, with a covered seat or summer-house on an island between Ponds 1 and 2. We cannot ignore the possibility that these features may have been 19th-century additions, but they have a good chance of being contemporary with the formal garden. The 'covered seat' may have given a view along the northern arm possibly to Noke Bridge beyond. This was probably clear of the invasive tree growth now covering the area in the early 18th century. At the far (E.) end of this arm was a stone sluice. The nature of the stone-work here was substantial, possibly more so than was necessary for the sluice alone (although such features were often built to thorough specifications in historic times). Some form of stone ornamentation intrinsic to the sluice is suggested.

Beyond Pond 1, it is not possible to describe how sophisticated the ornamentation may have been. It is possible, as this was at the back of the house, that it was minimal. Ponds 2 and 3 do not appear to have been stone-edged, nor do they seem to have deliberate cobbled linings. The bottom is made up of more natural stone and gravel, although even this may have been deliberately introduced. From early maps it seems that the third pond extended into an oval basin originally, but as the sides do not appear to have been stone-lined, this may have quickly lost its shape.

Some suggestions concerning management of the original ponds can be attempted from the evidence available. Water passed from Ponds 3 to 2 and Ponds 2 to 1 by way of relatively unsophisticated wooden pipes. Although these were extremely interesting in their own right, they were a crude method of water control compared with the elaborate stone sluice exiting Pond 1 into the diversion channel. This would suggest that the two most westerly ponds merely emptied into one another when required. Although they could be separately drained if necessary, the crude water exits suggested that for most of the time they were a closed system. That is, water is unlikely to have flowed through the system freely except at times of draining down. The ponds, therefore drained into one another, with the final exit being from the stone sluice in Pond 1 into the diversion channel. However, it must be stated that the system as seen would be prone to flooding during heavy rain. It was probable that a simple emergency overflow existed in the dams of Ponds 2 and 3, but the wooden pipes were necessary to drain the ponds down. It is possible the channel behind the island in Pond 1 acted as one of these overflows, with water falling over the brick wall blocking its W. end during times of flood. A similar feature may have existed between Ponds 2 and 3, but this had been entirely removed before this present work commenced.

It would seem, therefore, that only Pond 1 was connected directly to the diversion channel. There would appear to have been a gradual drop in levels between Ponds 3 and 1 that would have aided the passage of water through the system should it have been required to open the sluices, either for drainage (for fishing and repairs), or to revitalise stagnant waters in hot weather.

The elaboration of ornamentation and sluice control in Pond 1 suggests it may have been of greater importance than the other two. Its position near the house and size seems to confirm this. It would seem the primary purpose of the ponds was ornamental, although it is not impossible that the sub-division aided fish-keeping. It was sometimes necessary to keep different species of fish separate. For example, pike for the table were often kept separate from other fish because of their predatory nature. Carp and pike were the most popular table fish in the post-medieval period, and it would have been useful to have separate ponds to keep them in.

The overall impression of the Noke canals was probably similar to the formal canals at Westbury Court. The way the ponds turned around the house, encompassing what would have been all the main garden areas, is reminiscent of Roger North's contemporary lament for the revival of moat gardens:

The View of it [the moat] is a Delicacy the greatest Epicures in Gardening court, and we hear of it by the Name of Canal. Then the moving upon it in boats... after a Romantick Way; and thus Circling an House, taking in the Variety of Walks and Gardens here and there... are Pleasures not given to be understood by any, but Statesmen lain aside for their honesty, who by their Experience are taught the Variety of Greatness, and have an understanding to distinguish the true Felicities of Life.⁷⁷

By 1749 the property had passed into divided ownership, and by the end of the 18th century, it was little more than a tenanted farm. The 'window' in which it had pretensions as a gentleman's residence was therefore probably restricted to the occupation of George Mason senior (c. 1673-1718). As Mason was only sixteen years old when he inherited the estate from his father, it is unlikely that he started on improvements until after he reached his majority (in 1678).⁷⁸

At some time between 1841 and 1884, the diversion channel was abandoned as the exit for the ponds. A new leat was dug to the S., feeding a mill for grinding animal fodder, and the emphasis of the ponds shifted to a more utilitarian function. It is possible that the ponds were neglected before this date, but it seems likely that the symmetrical statues, and what was on the platform behind them, had been removed by 1884.

From 1886 onwards the ponds seem to have been gradually neglected as ornamental features. By the 1930s the buildings adorning the N. arm of the T-shaped canal had disappeared, and the ponds gradually silted up. Any attempts to halt their decline after this date were merely holding actions, and no effort seems to have been made to undertake more than the minimum maintenance. Within the last thirty years or so, they became almost entirely neglected.

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Cch. Rolls -- *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, 6 vols. (1903-27).

IPM -- *Inquisitions post-mortem*, 15 vols. (1904-1995).

PR -- *Patent Rolls*, 73 vols. (1901-86).

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The Hereford Beam Engine A Forgotten Aspect of Hereford's History

By JOHN C. EISEL

The redevelopment of the site of the house called Greyfriars has caused much discussion in recent years, and at the time of writing the ultimate form of this has not been decided. However, the site has had an interesting history, an outline of which is given below. In this paper the use of the site for the Hereford Subscription Flour Company is explored in detail.

EARLY HISTORY

A Franciscan Friary was established in Hereford by Sir William Pembrugge about the year 1228, on a site to the N. of the area under discussion. The foundation clearly flourished, and a number of important persons were buried there, including Owen Tudor, beheaded in hereford after the battle of Mortimer's Cross in 1461, and Sir Richard Pembridge, who died in 1375. The friary was dissolved in 1538 and it is likely that the friary church was demolished soon after this. It is known that the tomb of Sir Richard Pembridge was moved to the nave of Hereford Cathedral after the dissolution.¹

POST-DISSOLUTION HISTORY

In 1540 the remaining premises were leased out, together with associated land, and then in 1545 the premises were granted to Mr. James Boyle in whose family it continued until early in the 17th century, when their property in Hereford was alienated.² The subsequent history of the site is given by Duncumb.³

'The premises have since had various possessors: in the year 1670 they were given in dowry with Elizabeth, daughter of John Byrth, of Whitbourne, in this county, to Ralph Bucknell, of London, brewer, in 1709 he bequeathed them to his two daughters, and only children Elizabeth and Hester, to be divided in moieties between them. Elizabeth married Mathew Howard, of Hackney, in Middlesex, merchant; and Hester married Joseph Smith, of St. Andrew's, Holborn, gent. In 1712 Mathew and Joseph sold the premises to Nicholas Philpott, of St. James's, Westminster, esq. whose widow Mary, conveyed them, in 1737, to Blayney Baldwin, gent. by whom they were afterwards sold to Mr. William Moore, of Hereford, who at the same time purchased a fee-farm rent of one shilling five pence and three farthings per annum, payable to the crown, and issuing from the premises. In 1791 Mr. William Moore left them, by will, to his two sons, Francis and William, by whom they were disposed of in 1802, to a company, incorporated for the purposes of carrying on a manufactory, which is not yet complete.'⁴

PICTORIAL AND CORTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

The first pictorial evidence of the site is given on Speede's picturesque map of 1610 which shows a building of some type, surrounded by a walled precinct (incorrectly labelled as 'White Friars'), but with nothing marked between the precinct and the river. To the E. of the precinct was the town ditch, fed both N. and S. from the Eign or Yazor Brook. (PL. XVII).

It is likely that much damage was caused to the surviving buildings of the friary during the Civil Wars in the middle of the 17th century. Buildings close to the walls were cleared in case they gave protection to attacking forces, and it is possible that part of the friary was so treated. During the siege of Hereford by the Scots in the summer of 1645 the area was the scene of heavy fighting. The Scots attacked the gate on the S. side of Wye Bridge, but the attack was repulsed and an arch of the bridge broken down by the defenders to prevent access to the city over the bridge. The Scots then turned their attention elsewhere, as was reported in a letter by Barnabas Scudamore, the Royalist Governor of the city:

'The enemy, frustrate of his hopes here, raiseth two severall batteries one at the Fryers, the other on the other side of the river Wye, and from both these playes his ordinance against the corner of the wall by Wye side; but we repair and line our walls faster than they can batter them, whereupon they desist.'⁵

By the beginning of the 18th century the buildings on the site had disappeared. The antiquary William Stukeley visited Hereford in 1721 and on 7 September in that year made a sketch of Hereford from 'White Fryers Walk,' not published until 1855. This shows the city ditch, and the city walls substantially complete beyond, but no buildings in the foreground. (PL. XVIII). Stukeley remarks on the loss of the buildings in his *Itinerarium Curiosam*, published in 1724, but mentions that there were then persons still living who remembered the gate-house and other parts of the friary still standing.⁶

When Taylors Map was published in 1757 the approximate position of the friary was marked as 'The Scite of Black Fryers' but no buildings were marked. The view across the site, given in a cartouche on the map, is picturesque but adds nothing to the detail. There is clear evidence that the situation had changed within a few years. A watercolour of the cathedral from the S.W., with the Wye Bridge in the foreground, was painted c. 1775 and published as an engraving in 1776. The S.W. bastion is visible, with a thatched building in front of it, and another building to the N. Two boats are moored on the river-side, one against a timber jetty. (PL. XIX).

Further development took place within the next few years. In 1794 James Wathen painted a water-colour of Wye Bridge from downstream, and visible through one of the arches is a development on the N. Bank of the river.⁷ (PL. XX). This development was presumably built by William Moore, and was left to his two sons. It was advertised for sale on 14 August 1799:

HEREFORD

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT.

All those desirable Freehold Premises, called or know by the name of

THE FRYARS

Situate in the parish of St. Nicholas, close adjoining to, and within the liberties of, the city of Hereford, the property of the late William Moore, deceased, and containing by admeasurement Nine Acres and Three Roods, (be the same more or less) comprising First, - One large commercial and substantial quadrangular Warehouse or Building, capable of containing a very considerable quantity of Cider or other bulky goods, on the ground floor, with Lofts or Granaries above, laid on capital oak beams and joists of extraordinary strength, with Sheds, Offices, a Counting-house, and a comfortable Habitation for a small family within the same, easily convertible at a small expense into a Brewery or Manufactory requiring extensive accommodations, joined to the navigable river Wye, by a good firm Quay, in a great depth of water, and now in the several tenure of Mr. Richard Westwood, Mr. James Weaver, and Mr. Porter, as tenant from year to year.

Second, - A very capacious Wharf or Loading Place, capable of holding several hundred tons of Timber and Bark, with every convenience for stacking, housing, and preparing it for the Chepstow and Irish markets; commanding by its situation a very wide circle of a fine woody country, and has been the most frequent deposit for those kinds of goods for a number of years. Timber of the greatest dimensions may be shipped from thence, there being a sufficient depth of water at its lowest state to admit several barges with their sides close to the bank to load at one time, and to lie moored when loaded, in the same situation for any length of time that may be necessary. Together with Two Meadows, one behind the said Wharf and Building, and the other adjoining to the said river Wye, both well watered by a brook and springs in several places, divided in various parts for the pasturage of Cattle, &c. with roomy Sheds and other Appurtenances thereto belonging, all in the tenure and occupation of Mr. William James, as tenant from year to year.⁸

Third, - A good Tenement or Dwelling-house, a three-stalled Stable, and a Garden, parted from the last mentioned premises by a road-way leading to the Wharf, and now in the several tenures or occupations of Mr. Richard Evans, Mr. John Pearce, and Mr. Edward Jones, or their under-tenants, as tenant from year to year.

For view of the Premises, apply to Mrs. Moore, Wybridge Street, Hereford, who will appoint a person to show the same; and for particulars, apply to John Frere, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

August 12, 1799.

A view of Hereford taken from the river-bank near the present Greyfriars' site was published as a fine aquatint. (PL. XXI). Its date is uncertain, but another print of the cathedral in a similar style was published in 1800, and it is assumed that both were published at the same time. On the left side of the print is a weather-boarded building, probably associated with a timber-yard in the foreground. Beyond is the building closest to the river, behind which the corner bastion is visible, which had lost much of its upper part since Stukeley's sketch.

THE HEREFORD SUBSCRIPTION FLOUR COMPANY

At the end of the 18th century and beginning of the 19th century there were repeated shortages of corn, and this was reflected in the pages of the *Hereford Journal* by reports of theft from barges and elsewhere. Thus on 23 April 1800 James Biss, of Castle Wharf, Hereford, advertised that his granary had been broken into and four bags of wheat stolen and that he was offering twenty guineas reward for the apprehension of the culprits. It was with some relief that the paper reported on 23 July 1800 that the harvest was early in Cardigan and that the price of wheat was down. With this background, a proposal was made to establish a flour company on a co-operative basis, with the idea of reducing the cost of flour. A draft set of articles was produced and the Hereford Subscription Flour Company was established at a meeting on 26 March 1801. The Articles stated that it was 'for the Purpose of Reducing the Unexampled Prices of Bread & Flour, and to Prevent the Adulteration of these Articles with Materials of Interior & Pernicious Qualities.' On 1 April 1801 a large advertisement appeared in the *Hereford Journal*, announcing that a wharf and buildings had already been purchased and that an engine was being constructed by Mr. Bolton (*sic*) 'which will be erected with all despatch.' Technical details of this steam-engine are to be found in the Boulton and Watt papers in the Archives Department in Birmingham Central Library. These show that John Allen, the bookseller of High Town, a prime mover in this scheme, wrote to Matthew Boulton immediately after the meeting on 26 March and together with his millwright visited him at Soho on 6 April, and ordered a 20 horse-power beam engine. There is a pencilled sketch relating to the site in

the portfolio which also contains drawings of the proposed engine and plans for the engine house.¹⁰

On 22 April an advertisement in the *Hereford Journal* stated that the articles of the company (now called the Hereford Subscription Flour Company) were being printed to be circulated to subscribers, but could be bought by the public at sixpence each. The articles gave the names of the select committee for the current year, the names being Robert Phillips, Esq., Thos. Cooke, Esq., Mr. John Allen, Mr. Thos. Bird, Mr. James Lane, Mr. John Coren and Mr. Thos. Miles, with Mr. John Perry as Treasurer. The articles also states:

'Also that the Contract made by Mr. John Allen with Messrs. Francis and William Moore, for the purchase of the Buildings, Wharf Timber and Bark Yard, and a Parcel of Meadow Ground, situated at the Friars, within the liberties of the city of Hereford, at the sum of 1700l. for the use and on behalf of this Society, be accepted by this Society. And also that a proper Mill or Mills, Store-rooms, and other requisites, shall be erected with all convenient speed, upon the said premises; and the said joint trade or business shall be carried on as such place.'¹¹

After a general meeting took place on 26 June 1801, an advertisement placed in the issue of 1 July stated:

'The purchase of the Friars being now finally arranged and settled by the Committee, and the property in the Buildings, Wharf and Meadow, secured to the sole use and benefit of the subscribers at large....'

N.B. Persons wishing to contract for Timber, Stone-masonry and Carpenter's Work, will apply to Mr. F. Thomas, Bye-Street, who is empowered to receive Proposals.'

Meanwhile, negotiations about the steam-engine continued, and there were various alterations to the plans, recorded in the portfolio and elsewhere. On 2 December 1801 the manufacture of the engine was suspended, but on 21 December 1801 John Allen wrote to Matthew Boulton and manufacture continued. When it was delivered to Hereford is not known, but this was not reported in the pages of the *Hereford Journal*.

It is clear that the business did not go as well as had been expected, probably the amount of capital subscribed being inadequate, and on 6 April 1803 a list of subscribers wishing to dissolve the company appeared in the *Hereford Journal*, together with a notice of a meeting

'To be holden at the New Inn, in the City of Hereford, on Friday, the 6th day of May next; and that the Premises at the Friars, with the Engine and other Effects of the said company be Sold by public Auction, or otherwise....'

The meeting evidently decided to dissolve the company, and an advertisement of 18 May stated that the auction of 'Those desirable FREEHOLD PREMISES, called or known by the name of THE FRYARS' would take place on 13 June 1803. There were four lots:

'LOT 1. Two Acres of rich PASTURE LAND, of an oblong form, the longest side adjoining the said River, together with a Shed erected on the same.

LOT 2. An extensive CIDER CELLAR, and WAREHOUSES, WHARF, and BUILDINGS, now let to Mr. Westwood, of which possession may be had in October, 1804.

LOT 3. Another BUILDING, adjoining the last Lot, consisting of a Warehouse, and Cellaring, together with large Buildings, nearly complete, intended for a Flour-Mill and Engine-House, upon an extensive scale, with land thereto belonging.

LOT 3 (*sic*). A BARK-HOUSE and SHED, together with land thereto belonging, contiguous to the River.'

This clearly identifies the various buildings on the site. The Mill was on the E. side of the complex, and other evidence shows that the cellar now under the later 19th-century additions to the Friars was the lower stage of the Engine House. The courtyard itself was let to a cider merchant. The pasture to the E. of the Friars contained a shed, probably that shown on the 1775 water-colour or its successor, while the other building to the N. was a bark-shed.

The auction of the property was evidently unsuccessful and on 20 July 1803 The Friars was offered for sale by private treaty. Part of the advertisement stated:

'Likewise to be Sold, A STEAM ENGINE, made by Messrs. Boulton and Watt, and in the same state as received, having never been used....'

The engine was disposed of in June 1804, being bought by the Bootle Water Works Company, and it was installed in 1805 by themselves.

The sale of the Friars itself was a prolonged affair, and it was not until the issue of 12 July 1809 that there was a notice for a general meeting of the Hereford Subscription Flour Company, to take place on 25 July for the purpose of discussing the accounts and the sale of the Friars. With this the record of the Hereford Subscription Flour Company comes to an end. However, it left a legacy in the form of the mill building attached to the courtyard. Pigott's *Directory* of 1830 gives John Benbow, a glove manufacturer, as being in occupation at the Friars, and this is confirmed by the survey made by Wood in 1836, with the complex marked as a Glove Manufactory.

LATER HISTORY

The tithe map of 1843 records that the premises, together with the land to the E., were used as a residence and timber yard. To the W. a further building had been constructed on the bank of the river over the watercourse, which was presumably used to power a water-mill.¹²

In the early 1840s the occupier of the Friars timber yard was Mrs. Pearce, one of a well-known family connected with transport on the river. On 23 March 1842 it was advertised that that barge *Martha*, of about twenty-six tons, was for sale, complete with oars, rigging, bark boards, etc. and could be viewed by applying to Mrs. Pearce at the Friar's timber yard. It could be inferred that the business was being run down, but the area continued to be used as a timber yard for some while after, for on 23 September 1846 the *Hereford Journal* reported that Robert Crompton, bargeman, had been killed by accident while forming a raft of timber at The Friars.

Curley's Map of 1858 still shows a mill pond to the N. of the water-mill, and the two buildings on the water-colour of 1775 are still evident.

The whole property was offered for sale by Mr. Sunderland sen. On 10 December 1874. Evidently this was not successful and it was again offered for sale - by Mr. Shellard this time - on 24 September 1875. This also seems to have been unsuccessful, and plans were drawn up showing the land divided into a number of building plots.¹³

When the Ordnance Survey Map was published in 1885, the mill-pond had been totally filled in. A photograph of 1892 shows a three-storey building fronting the river to the W., with the house to the E.¹⁴ (PL. XXII). The courtyard seems to have been demolished in stages, with the rear part being demolished by 1894. By January 1899 the three-storey building fronting the river had been replaced by the two semi-detached villas that now occupy the site, and although initially these were linked to the Friars, the connecting structure was later demolished. At the time that the pair of villas were rebuilt some of the chimneys of Greyfriars were also rebuilt in the same style and the building over the cellar on the E. side replaced. With this the site assumed its present form, except for the unfortunate alterations of some twenty-five or so years ago, when the now-demolished single-storey extension was built on the river frontage of the Friars, and the lower windows mutilated.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- ³ *Op. Cit.* in note 2, 380.
- ⁴ The transfer took place in 1801, not 1802 - see below.
- ⁵ *Op. cit.* in note, 2, 276.
- ⁶ *Op. cit.* 68. There is a copy in the Hereford Reference Library (H.R.L.), PPC 985.
- ⁷ David Whitehead and Ron Shoesmith, *James Wathen's Herefordshire 1770-1820* (1994), unpaginated.
- ⁸ William James lost oak planks from his timber yard, washed away by a flood in the river, and advertised for information about his property in the *Hereford Journal* on 13 November 1799.
- ⁹ H.R.L., Herefordshire Tracts, vol. II.
- ¹⁰ Ref. PF 122b. Details from the portfolio are given without further reference.
- ¹¹ *Loc. cit.* in note 6.
- ¹² H.C.R.O. Ref. X145/6 & 18.
- ¹³ Details from sale particulars in the possession of Dr. Derek Foxton, who kindly let me have copies.
- ¹⁴ In H.R.L.

Paper submitted February 2002

Reports of the Sectional Recorders Archaeology, 2001

By R. SHOESMITH

In the following report I have once again provided a section for each archaeological group or unit working in Herefordshire in which all their main sites are recorded alphabetically. Sites that have not produced any archaeological evidence are listed at the end of each section. The reports on some sites may be or have been included in a variety of national journals, but inclusion here is the only simple and straightforward summary for people living in Herefordshire. In each section I have indexed each report by city, town or parish and site name with a six-figure grid reference where appropriate. References and further reading, again where available, are included at the end of each entry. Several refer to internal unit publications, some of which are available in the City Library; others may be consulted in the County Sites and Monuments Record. Where County Sites and Monuments Record numbers are given they are prefixed by HSM; Scheduled Ancient Monument numbers are prefixed SAM. The report of the County Archaeological Service is treated separately.

Once again I would like to offer my most grateful thanks on behalf of the members of the Woolhope Club to the staff of all the organizations who willingly provided the information that has made up this report.

GROUP AND UNIT REPORTS

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL

The 1993 New Library Building excavation.

Progress continues to be made in establishing, with help from English Heritage, how to complete the assessment of the material from this site. The skeletal material is all stored at Worcester and recently the remainder of the material has been collected together and deposited in a store at Brampton Bryan under the supervision of Marches Archaeology who have produced an inventory. A specification for a full assessment of the archival material has also been produced.

Lady Chapel

Work continues on the total re-facing of the external E. face of the Lady Chapel.

College Hall

The large bay window on the S. side of College Hall has been renovated. Much of the structural woodwork had to be replaced, but the windows themselves were kept. Plans are being made for the restoration of the interior.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS LTD.

HEREFORD, Causeway Farm, Belmont, Road (SO 505 393) [HSM 31946]

An archaeological evaluation took place near the Greyhound Dog Inn and the former Causeway Farm. The site belonged to Hereford Cathedral from 1190 until the 20th century; presently it is waste ground. A N.E.-S.W. running earthwork crosses part of the site, part of a 19th-century horse-drawn tramway. The scope of the archaeological work included geophysical survey, soil survey, trial trenching/pitting, assessment and analysis of the results. Archaeological features were identified in four of the 17 trenches excavated and finds and features from the early Neolithic period, 12th-13th centuries, and post-medieval periods were recovered. (Rouse, D., Hereford Archaeology Series, henceforth HAS, 500)

HEREFORD, Chapter House Yard, Hereford Cathedral (SO 510 398) [HSM 31051]

Prior to work commencing the site was planned and areas of walling that were to be obscured were recorded. Only 25% of the gravestones shown on Havergal's 19th-century plan could be identified where he recorded them; the inscriptions on many more were so worn that they could not be read. Several of the stones had been moved since Havergal's inventory. It is assumed that none of the stones relate to burials in the Yard.

The investigations revealed a surface of crushed sandstone associated with pottery and roof tile of 13th to 14th-century date, possibly contemporary with the construction of the chapter house. This had been cut by later graves. The position of a wall predating the 14th-century Chapter House, and referred to in the Royal Commission Survey was also recorded. (Crooks, K., HAS 490)

HEREFORD, County Hospital (SO 516 402 & 516 401) [HSM 31956]

Continuing evaluations in advance of the various stages of the construction of the new County Hospital revealed the base of a ditch surviving in the bottom of a cellar in the old Work House. It was on the line of the parish boundary and its size and location imply that it may be part of the precinct boundary for St. Guthlac's Priory, founded on the site in the mid-12th century. Burials were also recovered to the N. of this feature and were clearly laid out in columns and rows with no signs of disturbance from later burials. There was no evidence for structures associated with the priory. Elements of the Work House were recorded in advance of demolition. (Crooks, K., HAS 503)

HEREFORD, General Hospital, Nelson Street (SO 394 514) [HSM 31947]

A desk-based assessment was undertaken that considered the archaeological evidence for the Castle Mill, Castle Mill Ford, the Infirmary and John Nash's Lunatic Asylum. A preliminary analysis and provisional phasing of the 18th century and later buildings was also undertaken demonstrating a good degree of survival of some elements. A large vaulted cellar built of red sandstone was uncovered. It is possible that the stone used had been robbed from Hereford Castle. (Boucher, A., Eisel, J., and Morriss, R.K., HAS 489)

HEREFORD, Green Dragon Hotel Car Park, Aubrey Street (SO 508 399) [HSM 31948]

Documentary research and a field visit were made to assess the significance of the standing buildings. The site occupies an area near a marsh that originated in prehistoric times. There is some potential for occupation of a Saxon date within the site; surrounding observations indicate that any marshland is likely to have been reclaimed by A.D. 1200. A house of some status is known to have occupied part of the site in the late medieval and post-medieval periods (Wroughthall). The most likely location for this is on the Aubrey Street frontage. A number of buildings occupy the northern part of the site; they are part of the stables built after the 1863 sale of the site and demonstrate a good degree of survival in two out of the four ranges that originally surrounded the courtyard. The southern frontage and buildings date to 1914. (Boucher, A., and Eisel, J., HAS 499)

HEREFORD, Former B.P. site, St. Martin's Street (SO 508 393) [HSM 31842]

Following the evaluation excavation undertaken in the late summer of 2000 [HSM 31841], a more detailed excavation was undertaken. The work involved planning the upper archaeological deposits followed by the excavation of areas to be affected by piling. Initially three trenches, with a total area of c.54 m.², were dug; a fourth trench, along the street frontage established that later buildings had destroyed all archaeological deposits in this area.

The excavation demonstrated a high degree of preservation of medieval deposits across the site, with some early post-medieval deposits also present. A series of surfaces were associated with pottery of 13th to 14th-century date; between were layers of silt clay, possibly deposited in order to raise the floor levels in response to flooding. Part of a substantial N.-S. road or track was discovered together with post-holes and stake-holes suggesting the presence of structures, although these may have been of a temporary and insubstantial nature. (Crooks, K., HAS 513)

HEREFORD, Victoria Eye Hospital, Eign Street (SO 505 401) [HSM 31950]

A desk-based and historic building assessment of the site was made. The site has potential for occupation of Saxon and medieval date, and could be near where Civil War siege works might be expected. A number of buildings of 19th-century date occupied the N.W. corner of the site but no longer survive. The main core of the original hospital was phased and demonstrated a good survival of original layout and features. It was also established that the grounds contained 'trenches' relating to the use of the hospital during the Second World War. (Boucher, A., & Morriss, R.K., HAS 493)

LUGG BRIDGE, Quarry site (SO 535 423) [HSM 31951]

The Unit is co-ordinating an ongoing programme of work; the Phase 2 and 3 work covers a large open area on the E. side of the quarry. The environmental assessment has demonstrated that a complete range of environmental indicators are preserved within the sediments on the site. These are likely to provide evidence for the way in which the landscape has altered during the last 8,000 years. The site is important as it demonstrates a much more complete and unaltered profile of sediments as compared with other sites in

the Lugg Valley and will thus provide a more accurate picture of environmental change. The pollen and sediment work has identified that the sequence of deposits contain information about major periods of environmental change. A key factor is that the two water-courses, Lugg and Little Lugg, had different regimes with the Little Lugg being more 'flashy' at one time—possibly indicating that the area forming its catchment had been cleared more than that of the Lugg. A line of raised gravel separates the two river courses. The pollen has exhibited a good assemblage that is not masked by local riverside vegetation and thus provides a relatively unbiased picture of environmental change along the valley sides and in the catchment of the two water-courses. (Boucher, A.R., & Jordan, D., HAS 510)

MADLEY, The Parish Rooms (SO 430 387) [HSM 31952]

Both building recording and a watching brief were organised; the coach-house and stable building has Grade II listed status and the proximity of the building to the parish church meant that remains associated with the medieval village might have survived in the vicinity. The areas of ground disturbance, which in some cases were very close to the boundary of the present graveyard, exposed a thin and intermittent layer of broken stone associated with two fragments of medieval roof tile. (Crooks, K., & Rouse, D., HAS 497)

No features of archaeological significance were encountered during the following excavations and watching briefs.

HEREFORD, St. Peter's Square (SO 512 400) [HSM 31863] (Crooks, K., HAS 508)

HEREFORD, Quay Street (SO 511 397) [HSM 31949] (Crooks, K., HAS 509)

WELSH NEWTON, Pleck Farm (SO 349 219) [HSM 31953] (Mayes, S.R., HAS 491)

ARCHENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY

BROMYARD, The Tanyard (SO655 545) [HSM 31059]

An evaluation of a site near the centre of Bromyard was undertaken in April 2001. Lying between Pipe Street and Frog Street, the site was most recently occupied by a car-park, and had been, at the end of the 19th century, a Tannery. It also lay within an area thought to have been within the medieval borough as described in the late 12th-century Red Book of the Bishop of Hereford.

The field exercise took the form of three trial trenches distributed across the site and a brief examination of the standing structures. Although few in number, the animal bones and horn-cores recovered from the Tanyard provided useful information regarding the morphology of the cattle during the post-medieval period. The horn-cores represent the kind of deposit to be expected in an industrial area of a town where tanning and allied trades such as horn-working would have been practised. No deposits or structures of a definitely medieval date were observed, but nonetheless, the broad conclusion of the project was that the area had been occupied during the 13th and 14th centuries. (Pikes P.J., & Sherlock, H.D., Archenfield Archaeology, henceforth AA/01/29)

CALLOW, Dewsall Court (SO 486 334) [HSM 31060]

In June 2001 a team from Archenfield Archaeology and the University of Birmingham excavated human remains at Dewsall, Herefordshire. These bones represented at least 11 individuals and included both sexes and a range of ages from children to adults. Carbon 14 dating indicated a likely period in the 7th to 9th centuries for two of the burials. However, charcoal from the base of another grave suggested a date between the 2nd and 4th centuries. It is considered likely that the cemetery contains a significantly greater number of individuals.

The burials were towards the southern edge of a large oval enclosure measuring approximately 270 m. E. to W. and 150 m N. to S. A stream bisected this enclosure. Also within this enclosure, against its northern boundary, is the parish church of St. Michael. The northern boundary of the graveyard forms part of the larger enclosure.

Dewsall was within the Welsh kingdom of Ergyng in the late 6th and earlier 7th centuries. This had passed into the control of the kings of Glywysing in the mid-7th century. Some time in the 9th century the area became part of the English kingdom of Mercia. The cemetery, or at least part of it, may have survived all these changes, to continue in use up to the present time. (Pikes P.J., & Sherlock, H.D., AA/01/30)

HEREFORD, Former Kwik Save, 49-53 Commercial Road (SO 514 402) [HSM 31053]

An evaluation excavation was carried out inside the former Kwik Save building in August 2001 to establish the potential for the survival of human burials associated with the Baptist Chapel and also to test for the presence or absence of medieval deposits and features.

Two trenches were opened by machine and then excavated by hand. A large inspection pit, probably associated with H. A. Saunders, Ltd., the former motor car repair garage that occupied the site in the 1960s, was revealed which had truncated all deposits within one trench, but in the second trench a human burial was exposed within the known area of the burial ground. A post-medieval stone-lined cesspit was also uncovered. A well-preserved oven type feature consisting of upright stones flanking half a quern stone set in the ground and covered in a baked clay daub was found to have been dug into the natural gravels. In form this seems to have close parallels with the type of feature discovered during excavations at the nearby cinema site (Thomas, A., & Boucher, A., 2001). This feature was dated by archaeomagnetic analysis, conducted by Paul Linford of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory. This gave a date range of between 1255 and 1305. Several deep pits containing different fills, all of which contained medieval pottery were also discovered.

HEREFORD, St. Peter's School, Gaol St. Building recording (SO 512 400) [HSM 31056]

Detailed building recording and analysis of the late Georgian school building and teachers accommodation was carried out in advance of demolition. The school was built at the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign in the polite vernacular of Hereford at that time, with a pediment above an advanced central western façade. The Rev. John Venn, a prominent force for the improvement of Hereford, who found the existing parish school

facilities inadequate, commissioned St. Peter's school. The foundation stone was laid the on 19 July 1837 and the school was enrolled on 11 January 1839.

Due to measures passed in the Education Reform Act of 1872 various improvements were made to the school and it is therefore almost impossible to identify the complete sequence of individual phases of construction and alteration of the building.

The original building seems to have been erected with an eye to minimising costs. Brickwork on the upper walls of the west internal face of the wall that divided the E. and W. range has sections where bricks are missing and are replaced with lathe and plaster. There seems to be no other evidence as to why this occurred to disprove this theory. Also the roof of the W. range has only two trusses within the whole of this roof area, the rest being made up of short studs supporting the roof purlins.

The use of random timbers within the brickwork on the internal faces also indicates a conservative use of bricks especially as when the school was built the brick tax of 1784 to 1850 was still in effect.

Later improvements to the school indicate that the E. range was changed from an open plan area to sub-divided classrooms and the western range gradually changed from teacher's accommodation to classrooms. Alteration to ceilings, gradually lowering them in height, was a natural heat saving device. In later years a natural progression of buildings built on the western side of the school housed new toilets, an enclosed porch, boiler room and further classrooms.

HEREFORD, St. Peter's School, Gaol St., Archaeological Recording. (SO 512 400) [HSM 31056]

Within the portion of the site excavated to mitigate the impact of the proposed new building a series of features including a well, cesspits, rubbish pits and the footings of two buildings were discovered. Some of the cesspits were over 3.5 m. deep and several of the rubbish pits contained significant assemblages of very well preserved pottery. Evidence that a highly developed horn-working industry was present on the site in the medieval period was abundant, as large numbers of off-cut pieces of deer antler were recovered, as well as small objects made of worked bone such as dice. A regular rectangular pit was uncovered that had been dug into the underlying gravels and was filled with burnt residues and clay daub. The sides of this feature had been carefully lined with clay, which had been baked hard through exposure to exhaust gases from a fire pit. The exact nature of the function of this feature is unclear but it produced one of the earliest assemblages of pottery from the site (which has been identified as being of late 12th century to mid-13th century in date). This feature was therefore in regular use between the early and mid-13th century.

The assemblages of material recovered from the St. Peter's School excavation are comparatively large for sites in Hereford. Figures from the recently published report on excavations in the city between 1976 and 1990 (Thomas and Boucher, 2002) demonstrate the significance of this material in a local context. The analysis of these additional assemblages will add vastly to our understanding of Hereford's archaeology.

The material recovered from the St. Peter's excavation not only reflects the importance of this area within the context of Hereford in the medieval period, but also its subsequent history, culminating in the Georgian and Victorian 'Improvements' in education and infrastructure which laid the foundations of the society which we now inhabit. The relevant analysts are conducting a series of assessments of the assemblages of environmental and artefactual evidence and the results of this phase of the project, together with a subsequent programme of analysis will ultimately result in a full publication of the results of the excavation.

The excavation supported the cartographic evidence that the area under investigation was a paddock adjacent to the farmhouse in the early 18th century and had subsequently been a garden area for the house. (Pikes, P.J., & Sherlock, H.D., AA/01/26)

LEOMINSTER, Wharton Court (SO 511560) [HSM 31058]

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in a field immediately to the N. of Wharton Court, an early 17th-century Grade II* listed building. Wharton was a Domesday Manor that appears to have originally belonged to the Anglo-Saxon Abbey at Leominster prior to its dissolution in 1046. It was returned to the church in 1123 and remained a property of the re-founded Priory at Leominster until the dissolution in 1539. Although no archaeological structures or artefacts were found during the excavation, the documentary and cartographic research carried out for this project enabled the creation of a plan on which the various elements of the medieval hamlet of Wharton and subsequent changes in land ownership could be displayed for the first time. (Pikes, P.J. & Sherlock, H.D., AA/01/28)

TARRINGTON, Swan House (SO 618 405) [HSM 31055]

An archaeological building survey and watching brief was carried out in March and April 2001. The building survey showed that, in its current form, Swan House is a typical late 18th or early 19th-century building, although a number of features tend to support the Royal Commission inspector's suggestion that it has a 17th-century origin. The watching brief revealed only one feature of possible medieval origin — a wooden beam found *in situ* during the observation of groundworks associated with the construction of a new double garage. (Pikes, P.J., Sherlock, H.D., & Williams, R.C.W., AA/01/25)

No features of archaeological significance were encountered during the following excavations and watching briefs.

MORTIMERS CROSS (SO 424 631) [HSM 31054] (Pikes, P.J., & Sherlock, H.D., AA/01/23)

WESTON UNDER PENYARD, Hunsdon Manor (SO 634 233) [SMR 31057] (AA/01/27)

LONGTOWN, Greyhound Farm (SO 324 387) [HSM 31727] (AA/01/32)

NORTON CANON, The Limes (SO 367 479) [HSM 31728] (AA/01/33)

PEMBRIDGE, Garage House (SO 319 582) (AA/01/34)

KENCHESTER, Lady Southampton's Chapel (SO 438 449) [HSM 31730] (Pikes, P.J., & Sherlock, H.D., AA/01/37)

CLEHONGER, Tuck Mill (SO 457 392) [HSM 31731] (Sherlock H.D., & Williams R.C.W., AA/01/38)

HEREFORD, Former Davies Brooks Works, Coningsby St. (SO 512 400) [HSM 30347] (AA/01/8)

LEOMINSTER, Mill St. (SO 499 594) [HSM 31729] (Sherlock H.D., AA/01/35)

MARCHES ARCHAEOLOGY

ABBEY DORE, Dore Abbey (SO 387 305)

Detailed recording of the Sacristy and remaining fragment of the Vestibule and Chapter House was carried out. The E wall of the Sacristy is in bond with the N. wall of the North Transept and thus probably contemporary. Both faces of the W. wall of the Sacristy also have stones in bond with the North Transept. Where the W. and N. walls of the Sacristy meet in the N.W. corner, the internal faces share stones in bond, demonstrating that the surviving elements of the N. wall are contemporary with the W. wall. This contradicts the information shown on some of the plans published by Roland Paul, where the internal faces of the W. and N. walls of the Sacristy are shown as modern. The opening in the E. wall of the Sacristy has been much modified. The southern outer jamb of the western doorway may be largely original, but the other three jambs are later insertions. The lower masonry courses of the surviving fragment of the Chapter House are in bond with the E. wall of the Sacristy. Minor clearance works re-exposed a doorway through the N. wall of the Sacristy and also a plinth forming part of the Chapter House; Roland Paul had illustrated both in the 1890s. (Tavener, N., *Marches Archaeology Series*, henceforth MAS 205)

HEREFORD, Friars St. (SO 508 399)

The excavation of six evaluation trenches found some evidence of low level medieval activity on the site and uncovered a series of undated gullies. (Appleton-Fox, N., MAS 200)

LEOMINSTER, 6-8 Broad St. (SO 496 515)

An evaluation was carried out on a small plot of unoccupied street frontage on the E. side of Broad Street close to the position of the old Town Hall and at the heart of the medieval core of the town. However, a deep cellar occupied the entire plot and the only old features encountered were two cellar walls, one along the frontage and the other dividing the plot into two exact halves. It was not possible to date the walls, but the last buildings standing on the plot probably dated to the 17th century. This still leaves a possibility that the cellar walls relate to earlier buildings. It seems likely that the plot was originally two burgage plots, each a mere 3.2 m. wide. (Tavener, N., MAS 204)

LONGTOWN, Land south of Pontilla (SO 320 293)

Seven trenches were excavated within the area of the proposed development. Undated evidence of quarrying was found at the W. of the site while towards the road at the E. the footings for two medieval buildings were uncovered. Pottery evidence suggests a date for occupation from the 13th to the 14th century. (Appleton-Fox, N., MAS 177)

MUCH COWARNE, The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin (SO 618 472)

A watching brief during restoration work to the W. tower included an inspection of a nearby vault. Removal of one of the panels revealed that the structure was in fact a retaining wall.

A watching brief on a new drainage system along the N. side of the church and on the S. side of the W. tower revealed no significant archaeology to the S., but on the N. side, W. of the vestry, four shallow graves were uncovered. Three were located inside the area that was thought to have structural remains from the demolished N. aisle, but no remains of the building were seen within the trench. The other grave was between the vestry and the former N. aisle, very close to the W. wall of the vestry. It is possible, though not proven, that the foundations of this late 13th-century wall could truncate the grave. The shallow depth of the graves encountered would suggest that the graveyard has had its surface reduced to the current level, probably in the 19th century. The absence of structural remains could be due to stone robbing that occurred when the site was re-levelled. (Nash, A., MAS 214)

WALFORD, Walford Fold Yard (SO 390 726)

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken, including a watching brief and building recording. There are two principal phases, the first being a late 17th-century multi-purpose building, used as an animal shed with storage for hay and straw at first-floor level. The second phase consisted of the addition of a six-bay multi-purpose building. This was presumably both a cart shed and animal shelter. A foundation excavated in one area is probably the footing for a lean-to attached to the earlier building, perhaps dating from the 18th or 19th century. Two other foundations seen in the same area are probably internal divisions within the mid-19th-century barn. (Wainwright, J., & Stone, R., MAS 189)

No features of archaeological significance were encountered during the following excavations and watching briefs.

EARDISLEY, The Abattoir (SO 312 496) (Stone, R., & Tavener, N., MAS 167)

PEMBRIDGE, Land at East St. (SO 391 581) (Williams, P., & Stone, R., MAS 171)

ORLETON, St. George's Church (SO 494 672) (Nash, A., MAS 168)

HEREFORD, 4-6 St. Martin's St. (SO 508 395) (Stone, R., MAS 173)

KINGTON, Burton Hotel (SO 296 566) (Wainwright, J., MAS 172)

HOLME LACY, The Church of St. Cuthbert. (SO 569 348) (Appleton-Fox, N., MAS 223)

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

The county archaeological service for Herefordshire Council moved offices to Hereford Town Hall during the course of 2001. The year was dominated by the impact of the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak which began in February and disrupted fieldwork and especially archaeological survey programmes. In the event, the service mounted the only comprehensive field response to the large scale construction events associated with culling to halt the spread of the disease. The results of some of the interventions are noted hereunder. A general account of the response has been published: T. Hoverd 'Foot and Mouth Disease in Herefordshire: An Archaeological Perspective,' *West Midlands Archaeology* (Council for British Archaeology) 44, 2001, 54-7.

A series of collaborative projects such as the Malvern Hills AONB woodlands survey continued in 2001, and further new survey projects were developed. One of these was the beginning of a survey of the Croft Estate for The National Trust, although this was interrupted by the outbreak. Later in the year two further projects took place. The first featured new fieldwork at Westhide to support the Oxford Archaeology 'Arable Landscapes' project, but also involved an assessment of sites previously examined at Cradley and Sutton in reference specifically to the impact of potato-growing. A project report was produced, and a summary article has been published: P. White 'The Impact of Potato Growing on Archaeological Sites in Herefordshire: A Preliminary Study,' *West Midlands Archaeology* (Council for British Archaeology) 44, 2001, 63-7.

The second project was the first of a planned series of seasons of fieldwork investigating the immediate environs of Croft Castle, with grant-aid from and in collaboration with The National Trust. To coincide with the Trust's 'Gardens Year' celebrations, the focus for the 2001 fieldwork was the formal gardens, traces of the site of which survive as earthworks (see below, and: K. Ray 'Gardens Archaeology at Croft Castle, 2001,' *West Midlands Archaeology* (Council for British Archaeology) 44, 2001, 61-3).

COLWALL, British Camp (SO 760 440)

The Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) made a new earthwork survey of this major Malvern Hills monument as part of the collaborative AONB survey. Mortimer Wheeler's (1953) phasing of the fort into two main periods was largely supported by the survey, although there is also a suggestion of a small early summit enclosure underlying the medieval ringwork. Up to 118 possible hut circles were located in the interior, and some of these have rectilinear 'platforms' alongside them, perhaps to support four-post structures. (Bowden, M. 'Midsummer Hill and British Camp: New Results from the Malvern Hills Archaeological Survey Project,' *West Midlands Archaeology* (Council for British Archaeology) 44, 2001, 96-8).

CRADLEY, Whitman's Hill (SO 751 480)

Field survey as part of the Malvern Hills AONB survey revealed traces of field banks, lynchets and ridge and furrow. These represent former medieval cultivation, but the earthworks belonging to square fields arranged on a S.W.-facing slope may be late

prehistoric in origin. (Hoverd, T., *Vinesend, Storrige: An Archaeological Survey of Woodlands*. Herefordshire Archaeology Report, henceforth HAR 32).

CRADLEY, High Grove Wood (SO 746 466)

Field survey as part of the Malvern Hills AONB survey recorded a bank 3 m. wide fronted by a ditch to its N. 3.5 m. wide running N.E. to S.W. through the wood. Beyond the wood to the W. this linear feature is picked up by a massive N.-facing lynchet some 6 m. high. The feature as a whole conforms to the Mathon-Cradley parish boundary for much of its length, and represents either a major early estate boundary or a boundary dyke pre-dating the parish boundary. (Hoverd, T., *Vinesend, Storrige: An Archaeological Survey of Woodlands*. HAR 32).

CROFT AND YARPOLE, Croft Castle (SO 450 655)

Site surveys and excavations in September 2001 explored the earthwork remains of the formal gardens associated with and principally to the S. of the post-medieval mansion. A sequence of construction from the later 16th century to the early to mid-18th century was deduced, and many details of construction were elucidated. (Ray, K., *Gardens Archaeology at Croft Castle in 2001*. HAR 42).

DORSTONE, Dorstone Hill (SO 330 424)

Some 300 m. N.E. of the excavated Neolithic to Iron Age settlement, and on the ridge top facing towards the Wye, a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) pyre site was created. Linear pits up to 200 m. long were dug. Some turf stripping was observed, and observations were made when pits were dug deeper during the incineration process. A scatter of worked flints and a grouping of (unworked) quartz were recovered, and a feature perhaps representing the slot for a standing stone was noted. (Hoverd, T., *Foot and Mouth Disease in Herefordshire, 2001: Archaeological Impacts*, HAR 36).

DOWNTON, Burrington Bridge (SO 432 721)

A site visit was made to a location where earthworks had been recorded from the air during the Millennium Air Survey. A series of platforms and rectangular earthwork enclosures can be traced adjacent to the road leading from Adforton to Burrington, on the hill to the W. above Burrington Bridge. These may represent a deserted medieval township within Downton parish, since below them to the N. and on more level ground above the river Teme there exist in unimproved pasture extensive traces of broad ridge and furrow earthworks. (Hoverd, T. and Ray, K., *Archaeological observations on sites in Herefordshire, 2001*. HAR 41).

EASTNOR, Midsummer Hill (SO 760 375)

A new earthwork survey was made of this major Malvern Hills monument by staff of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) as part of the collaborative AONB survey. The survey revealed evidence for a pre-hillfort enclosure, and demonstrated a complex relationship with the Shire Ditch. The latter linear earthwork

approaches the hillfort from the N. on two distinct alignments. While one of these comprises an earthwork bank that runs over the hillfort defences, the other line features an earthwork that emerges from underneath them, suggesting that this linear feature also is Bronze Age in origin. Up to 480 possible hut stances were recorded within the interior. Various other earthworks presumed to be or demonstrably later in date than the Iron Age were also traced. Besides the well-known pillow-mound, these included the earthworks of small enclosures or pens behind the main rampart near the 19th-century quarry edge. (Bowden, M. 'Midsummer Hill and British Camp: New Results from the Malvern Hills Archaeological Survey Project,' *West Midlands Archaeology*. (Council for British Archaeology) 44, 2001, 96-8.

ELTON, D.M.V. (SO 457 706)

A series of earthworks were noted in a newly-replanted orchard to the S. of St. Mary's church during reconnaissance for a walk as part of a community education project focused upon Wigmore. Although they were not surveyed in detail, the banks and possible platforms here appear to represent the site of some of the tofts of the medieval village. No previous SMR records existed for this site. Further traces of earthworks survive on the N. side of the Aston-Leinthall Starkes road here. The former village may have been a casualty of 14th-century pestilence, like many of these N. Herefordshire villages. The final clearance of the site may have taken place, however, when Elton Hall was rebuilt overlooking it in the 17th. century. (Hoverd, T., and Ray, K., *Archaeological observations on sites in Herefordshire, 2001*. HAR 41).

GARWAY, Little Garway Farm (SO 447 245)

During the foot and mouth outbreak, a trench was dug by machine to bury infected debris next to this farm on the southern flank of Garway Hill. This trench was recorded by an archaeologist after the machine had finished excavating, but it was not possible to enter the trench to make an inspection. Nonetheless, a stone-built structure intercepted at one end of the trench was photographed, and some pottery fragments were retrieved. Back in the office, the pottery was identified as sherds from a Beaker vessel, and this enabled identification of the stone-built structure, in turn, as a cist. The four retrieved sherds are conjoining pieces of the same Beaker vessel, the simple decoration of which is closely similar to that on vessels, also from cists, found during ploughing near Olchon Court in Llanveynoe parish (20 km. N.W. from Little Garway) in 1930 (*Trans. Woolhope Natur. Fld. Club*, XXVII (1932), 147. (Hoverd, T., *Foot and Mouth Disease in Herefordshire, 2001: Archaeological Impacts*, HAR 36).

HEREFORD, Bishop's Meadow (SO 511 394)

A hitherto unrecorded earthwork S. of the 'Row Ditch' linear earthwork was surveyed. This feature comprises a three-sided bank with its open side facing southwards. The suggestion that it may represent the remains of a Civil War bulwark facing Hereford Castle and used in the siege of Hereford in 1645 is supported by the testimony of local metal detectorists who claim to have found musket balls on the side facing the river. The earthworks of Row Ditch itself were surveyed, as were traces of ridge and furrow and of

former garden features to its N. (Hoverd, T., and Ray, K., *Archaeological observations on sites in Herefordshire, 2001*. HAR 41).

KENCHESTER, Old Weir (SO 44 41)

A length of the Roman road ('Watling Street West') that crosses the Wye at this point is remarkably well-preserved where it approaches the foot of the S.-facing scarp above the flood plain. The central carriageway takes the form of a raised causeway, and the flanking E. ditch features a small counterscarp bank, despite some disturbance associated with the later water-mill. More remarkable still is the relationship observable between the cut for the road up the slope, which obliterated part of a system of field lynchets that still survive as prominent earthworks along the scarp. This relationship provides a *terminus ante quem* for these fields, which must be at least Iron Age in origin. (Hoverd., T. and Ray, K., *Archaeological observations on sites in Herefordshire, 2001*. HAR 41).

KENTCHURCH, Great Corras (SO 419 248)

A disinfection lagoon was dug here during the FMD outbreak. The site was close to the eastern boundary of the well-known deserted medieval settlement. The 25 m. by 10 m. trench cut through a well-built stone-lined drain, in close association with which was found a sherd of medieval pottery. (Hoverd, T., *Foot and Mouth Disease in Herefordshire, 2001: Archaeological Impacts*, HAR 36).

MORETON JEFFRIES, D.M.V. (SO 604 484)

Reconnaissance survey prior to an historic landscape walk here noted previously unrecorded earthworks surrounding the church. Those on the N. side of the graveyard are particularly well-preserved and include a holloway and several prominent building platforms. (Hoverd, T., *Archaeological landscape observations at Moreton Jeffries, 2001*. HAR 45).

NEWTON ST. MARGARETS, Green Farm (SO 331 338)

During clean-up operations during the FMD outbreak, a stone threshing floor within a 16th-century barn was lifted. Archaeological recording of the floor by photographs and scaled drawing preceded this operation, and the stones were numbered for re-laying. (Hoverd, T., *Foot and Mouth Disease in Herefordshire, 2001: Archaeological Impacts*, HAR 36).

ORCOP, Moat Farm (SO 474 266)

A disinfection lagoon was created here during the FMD outbreak. The site, some 100 m. to the N. of the farm, comprised a series of intercutting pits, from one of which was retrieved sherds of medieval pottery. This medieval activity could be associated either with the moated site at the farm itself or with a known deserted settlement site to the E. (Hoverd, T., *Foot and Mouth Disease in Herefordshire, 2001: Archaeological Impacts*, HAR 36).

THRUXTON, Exchequer Court, earthworks (SO 438 346)

Earthworks N. of the church and close to the motte site were already known here. However, during reconnaissance for an historic landscape walk, well-defined earthworks were noted in pasture and orchard to the E. and S. of Exchequer Court. Earthen banks and level platforms represent the site of the tofts of the medieval settlement here (and extending westwards to the castle site) that was the subject of a market grant to John Pychard in 1294. (Hoverd, T., and Ray, K., *Archaeological observations on sites in Herefordshire, 2001*. HAR 41).

WINFORTON, Winforton Court (SO 288 473)

Four trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision in a field approximately 400 m. W. of Winforton Court prior to the construction of a pyre during the FMD outbreak. A series of circular pits were revealed and excavated in two of the trenches. Those in the most north-easterly trench were of particular note, since they were regular in shape, with a diameter of 1 m., and towards the base of each of them the fill included sparse charcoal fragments. Moreover, in plan these pits described an arc that, had it been possible to trace it beyond the limits of the trench, would have formed a circle approximately 8 m., in diameter. No artefacts were recovered from the site, but in neighbouring fields there are a suspected henge monument and a barrow cemetery. It therefore seems likely that the arc of pits represents a timber circle or pit-circle that on analogy with more securely dated sites could belong to the Neolithic period. (Hoverd, T., *Foot and Mouth Disease in Herefordshire, 2001: Archaeological Impacts*, HAR 36).

Botany, 2001

By PETER THOMSON

(Using records held by the B.S.B.I. Recorder for Herefordshire)

I am indebted to the following for records supplied.

Miss L. Blades, L.B., Mr. J. Davies and Mrs. A. Warne, J.D., Mrs. M. Godfrey, M.G., Miss J. Gwynne, J.G., Mrs. S. E. Thomson (B.S.B.I. recorder for Herefordshire) S.E.T., Mrs. J. Weightman, J.W.

The winter of the year 2000 to 2001 will be remembered as the wettest since records began to be taken. Flooding was frequent and spring came with soils already saturated.

The rest of the year 2001 will be etched on everyone's memory as the year when foot and mouth disease swept the country with devastating effects on the farms affected and on the movement of stock. An associated result was that access to the countryside was impossible and botanical recording minimized. Despite restricted access the following reports were made.

In late September a group of visiting botanists walked beside and in parts of Haugh Wood near Rudge End. One member of the party, Mrs. M. Godfrey of Kent, was a compulsive recorder and, together with Miss. L. Blades of Edinburgh and me, recorded plants recognisably in flower. Our walk lasted under two hours and was almost entirely on land underlain by Woolhope Limestone. It is a tribute to the sharp eyes of our visitors that over seventy species were listed.

Other interesting records of individual species were as follows.

Pyrola Minor. Common wintergreen. S.E.T.

The *Pyrola* site, found a few years ago by Dr. M. Harper in the Wigmore Rolls area, and mentioned in a previous botanical report, was found to have over forty flowering spikes.

Epipactis phyllanthes. Green-flowered Helleborine. Reported by J.W.

A small colony of six spikes apparently rising from five plants were found in early August growing in a characteristic situation in humus poor soil on a steep slope in mature beechwood. As far as I can discover this is the first record of the species in Herefordshire.

As species of *Epipactis* are notoriously difficult to identify and colonies often differ considerably from the norm, a sample, consisting of two individual florets was sent to Dr. John Richards, the B.S.B.I. referee for the genus, along with photographs of the plant. Extracts of his response read as follows:- 'I have to say this is a remarkable plant and I have never seen anything quite like it before. It is important to realise amongst the selfing (self-pollinating) members of this group that isolated populations often differ from each other considerably, so that it is sometimes necessary to rather 'force' a population into a taxonomic box although it may not be absolutely characteristic of the taxon concerned.

In this case we have a largely glabrous plant. The rhachis indumentum you mention seems to be mostly confined to the lower internodes, so that the upper part of the stem, and the ovaries seem to be glabrous. This is a character of *E. phyllanthes* alone, as is the green hypochile ... also the strongly drooping, completely green flowers, long narrow perianth segments and wavy leaf edges are all indicative of *phyllanthes*. Incidentally, the plants you saw in Surrey with closed flowers would have been var. *vectensis*. Further north we have var. *pendula* in which the flowers are more open as in your plant....

So far so good, but there are a number of features which are not typical for *phyllanthes* var. *pendula*. The leaves are too long and flaccid, so that they exceed the internodes; the lower internodes are indeed pubescent and the epichile is long, narrow and patent so that it resembles that of *E. leptochila*. In some sense this plant grades with *E. leptochila*, but the whole plant has the gestalt of *E. phyllanthes* var. *pendula*. However, should it turn out that there are a number of populations of this appearance in the West Midlands, there might be a case for describing a new variety of *E. phyllanthes*.

Dactylorhiza praetermissa. Southern Marsh-Orchid. Reported by J. D. and J. G.

J. D. reported two clumps of this species on the edge of recently developed willow carr near the entrance to the Wellington gravel pits. The site is not far from a well-known colony on a small remnant of the formerly extensive Wellington Marsh which could have been a source of seed. J. G.'s site was at the edge of an area of tipped soil covering an old refuse dump on Sutton Walls. The rains of last winter saturated the ground so much that it was still wet in June when in a 'normal' year it would have dried out. The rain would at least have produced moist ground in which the plants could grow.

Ophrys apifera. Bee Orchid. Reported by J. G. from the tipped soil area on Sutton Walls. These plants were mentioned in the report for the year 2000 but it was pleasing to note that this year there were over 40 flowering spikes. Populations of orchids vary greatly from year to year so in future numbers may increase, decrease or the plants may disappear altogether.

Buildings, 2001

By J. W. TONKIN

This year the Old Buildings Group had talks on the buildings of the Diocese of Hereford which as well as Herefordshire includes 163 parishes in the five surrounding counties.

A planned week-end school to have been based on Tenbury Wells had to be cancelled because of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease and this applied to all the planned outdoor activities during the summer.

In the notes below information in the R.C.H.M. Inventory has not been repeated though in some cases the two need to be read together.

FOWNHOPE

RINGFIELD. SO 581342 Tith No. 716

This house is of two storeys plus attics with a cellar beneath the parlour.

The earliest surviving part is the timber-framed wall at the N. end of the E. (back) wall of the house and comes around the corner on the N. wall. This has big jowled heads to the posts and vertical panels rather than the more usual square ones. It is now infilled with brick and appears to have had a central window upstairs above the doorway on the ground floor.

The remainder of the walling is of layered rubble in the local red sandstone.

In plan the building continues the earlier idea of parlour and service ends, but next to the parlour, between it and the entrance, is a dining room, a concession to Georgian planning and gentility. The sash windows have quite fine glazing bars typical of the early 19th century as is the semi-circular headed window in the attics of the wing facing the road in line with the dining room. Beneath the parlour is a cellar once approached from beneath the present stairway and also externally from the N. The entrance area is no longer just a passage, but what may be called a hall in the modern sense. It has a fireplace in the S. wall, a window next to the doorway in the E. wall and another in the W. wall. This has shutters with fielded panels. There is also wallpaper of the William Morris type, an unusual survival.

The windows in the dining room, parlour and hall have internal shutters with fielded panels, showing the fine craftsmanship of the very late 18th/early 19th centuries. Those in the parlour are tall in two tiers with three sections in each tier. There is also in this room a moulded frieze which could well have been taken from the timber-framed front to the house. The front door to the house in the E. wall of the hall is made up of fielded panels presumably collected from elsewhere in the building.

The cellar is in the usual place beneath the parlour because this necessitated a wooden floor and therefore gave more comfort in the ground-floor room above; most

ground-floor rooms had stone floors. In it the beams have a 3 in. chamfer with a plain diagonal stop and at the N. end is an arched support for the fireplace in the parlour above. The two-light cellar window has a 4 in. chamfer on its stone jambs and mullions, but is stepped for glazing. Four ins. is an indication of an earlyish chamfer, perhaps 15th century, certainly not later than mid-16th, and it seems possible that it may have been re-used.

In two of the bedrooms are Dale Co. fireplaces which must have been brought all the way from Coalbrookdale in Shropshire. There are not many of them in Herefordshire because of the distance they would have had to be transported. One room has a fireback dated 1682. Also in one of the bedrooms is some stencilled wallpaper, again an unusual survival and probably at the latest from the 18th century.

The roof has scratched carpenters' assembly marks about 3 ins. long which is typical of the early 17th century, just possibly late 16th. Some alterations were made in the late 17th century when marks were punched about 1 in. long and run in a series I-IIII. The end bay of the roof has a lot of re-used timber.

The porch is probably late 18th/early 19th century showing some signs of the Greek/Roman influence of the time. The wing immediately to the S. of this has a fireplace in the small room on the ground floor.

South of the hall is the kitchen and beyond it the dairy. The kitchen fireplace has a bake-oven and backs on to the hall. The chimney has on it the date 1707 I⁶E. This means that the family name at that time began with K and the Kidleys were living there.

West of the kitchen is another small room which could have been a study or office. These are all built of brick, but appear to be of different ages. The kitchen and study are of English Garden Wall bond whereas the single storey extension for the dairy is of Flemish Garden Wall. The former is probably 18th century while the latter is more likely to be a Victorian addition of the latter part of the 19th.

The outbuildings which run E./W. to the E. of the parlour are timber-framed in square, brick-filled panels with a stone plinth about the height of one panel and two panels above with stone gable walls. It is sometimes called a 'barn,' but it is not. The real barn was mentioned by the Old Buildings Recording Group in 1974 where the new churchyard is and has disappeared.

The present building is sixteen panels long in eight bays, each of two panels. The granary area at the E. end is approached by a flight of steps. The trusses are fairly unusual being of a jointed upper-cruck type which is found very late in some outbuildings in the county. The carpenters' assembly marks are about 13 ins. long and run across the joints, a fairly unusual form. Dating is difficult, but I would go for 17th century, probably the later part, but if it could be shown to be fairly early in the century I would not be too surprised. The western gable doorway into the stable is blocked. the cider-mill is still in position next to the stable and is a good example of the type where the power for turning it to crush the apples was provided by an animal, probably an ox in the earlier days and later a horse.

Thus here we have a timber-framed house of c. 1600, as shown by the carpenters' assembly marks with some work of the mid-17th century for which the evidence is the

plain stops. There were clearly some major alterations and renovations for which the evidence is provided by the date and initials on the chimney, 1707, and the fireback 1682. The house was altered again some time after c. 1740 when the hall was introduced, the porch was added c. 1800 and the Regency window in the wing to the S. of it is probably a little later. Clearly the house grew, changed and was adapted to meet changing fashions over a period of rather more than 200 years, from sometime c. 1600 to the Regency period probably in the early 19th century. Strangely this house and its associated buildings are not mentioned in the *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Herefordshire, II*, (1932), but should have been as they were recording everything pre-1715.

Perhaps not completely relevant to this report, but in the Fownhope Parish Register is the following entry '28 March 1878 Buried James Gordon Apperley, Ringfield, Infant.'

LOWER HOUSE FARM, TURNASTONE. SO 330357 Tithe No. 126

Surprisingly this house is not mentioned in the R.C.H.M. Survey of the county done in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

It is a timber-framed house of three bays aligned S.W.-N.E. probably built in the late 15th century or very early in the 16th with an added parlour on the N.E. with farm buildings to the W. and N., and is on the 725 ft. contour. It is approached by a track across Lower House Common which runs N. from the Michaelchurch Escley-Turnastone road. The cellar is now out of use.

The three-bay roof has a tie-beam and a low collar with a king strut between them, an unusual form of construction for this area and similar to those found in the Pennines and Peak District. There are two through trenched purlins on each side and a ridge purlin, typical of the Marches. The N.E. gable has a king post with two struts either side and diagonal framing, a sign of a reasonably wealthy builder and again a northern feature. The roof is covered with modern tiles as opposed to the lean-to at the eastern end which has local stone tiles.

The main transverse beam has a wide chamfer with pyramid stops on both post and beams, usually a sign of medieval work, though the same type of stop re-occurs for a short spell in the late 17th century. There is a roll moulding on the main beam which is again a feature of the late medieval period, c. 1485-c. 1530.

The post and panel screen has chamfered posts with curved, stepped stops and there is some evidence of there having been a high seat facing the present fireplace.

The carpenters' assembly marks in the main timber-framed partitions between the rooms on the first floor are about 8 ins. long, usually a sign of quite early marks, again of the same period as the roll moulding mentioned above. They are an interesting series running from I to III and then a separate run on the heavy beam, 12/3 ins. wide, with semi-circles on a cross matched with semi-circles on a line on the vertical timbers upstairs, and circles used in the same way on the ground floor. There are taper marks on a number of the timbers evidence of the medieval lighting in the house.

The salting slab is a piece of local sandstone with the typical groove cut around it close to the edge.

There is no evidence of smoke blackening in the roof which is ceiled above the cellar-beam level.

The lean-to at the S.W. gable has local sandstone tiles which overlap so that there is always a three stone overlay. This means quite a heavy roof, but there appears to be no evidence today of the pegs or nails or, as happens sometimes, small bones, which hold them in position; so probably they could slide quite easily if disturbed.

The grouping of the buildings is quite interesting with the house having its own little yard/garden to the E.

At one time this was part of the Michaelchurch Court Estate, but previously when working on houses of that estate I have found little documentary evidence.

Thus here there is a late medieval house with many of its original features still intact. The fact that there does not seem to have been an open hearth again points to the late 15th/early 16th century. Any earlier there would have been just a central hearth with a louvre in the roof. The post and panel screen is a typical western feature. Socially the occupier of a house of this class would probably have been a yeoman. The present kitchen fireplace with its sway and central grate with ovens is probably late 19th century in date, but I could not find an iron founder's name on it. This would have been built into a big, open fireplace intended to burn logs, rather than the coal which this later grate required.

During the year eighty-one planning applications concerning listed buildings were received. All were for comparatively minor alterations and none warranted objection.

As in the past my thanks are due to a number of people and especially those who have drawn my attention to buildings and those who have invited me into and allowed me to wander round and look at their houses and buildings.

Geology, 2001

By PETER THOMSON

The Regional Important Geological Sites group (R.I.G.S.) for Herefordshire and Worcestershire has been very active over the past few years under its Director, Dr. Peter Oliver and Chairman Mr. Les Morris.

The main work of the group is to record all possible geological sites and identify and designate those which are of particular interest and/or importance. Designation does not mean that the sites are freely accessible as many are on private land and permission **MUST** be obtained before such sites are visited. Details of location, accessibility and geological interest are held on a database at the R.I.G.S. centre currently based at University College, Worcester.

The designated sites vary in character. Some are, naturally, active or disused quarries where the underlying rock is exposed. Examples of this type include Howle Hill Quarries, from which Carboniferous Limestone was worked, and Mathon Gravel Pits.

Other sites, which are frequently much more difficult to define, are good examples of landforms such as the Dormington Landslip whilst a third is a view point from which geological features may be seen.

Pride of place in this category must go to Yat Rock from which landforms related to various horizons in the Old Red Sandstone and Lower Carboniferous may be seen together with parts of the entrenched valley of the river Wye.

Industrial Archaeology, 2001

By JOHN van LAUN

'You are not wood, you are not stones, but men' quoted by Sir Mortimer Wheeler of Mark Anthony in the market place (*Archaeology from the Earth* (1954), 3)

It is now over thirty years since Industrial Archaeology was accepted as one of the Club's areas of study.¹ Significantly it was not seen by the Club as a cadet branch of archaeology but a subject in its own right.² The rather clumsy title was coined in the 1950s and now, nearly fifty years later, it appears appropriate to provide an overview of the subject to date.³

This budding need to record the remains of industrialisation was fostered by the times: it should therefore be viewed as a cultural movement. Nevertheless it was preceded by a revulsion towards the immediate past. In the aftermath of the Second World War change was in the air and anything smacking of old industrial habits was seen as anathema. New Towns were springing up, Nationalisation was underway and new values were being forged. It was natural that a buoyant post-war enthusiasm should wish to sweep away the 'Satanic Mills' and the old practices which they symbolised. However by the late 1940s the mood of the times was swinging towards a moderated view of Britain's industrial past in the form of a nostalgic affection.

It is possible to speculate why. With the Nationalisation of the railways there was a rationalisation of the canal system which then, in their demise, took on a romantic appeal. This was fuelled by such writers as Rolt and Hadfield⁴ and the formation of the Inland Waterways Association in 1946. As wholesale modernisation of our industries took place to meet output there was a growing swell which felt some regret that old skills were being supplanted. The breakdown of class barriers was also an impetus towards the emancipated artisan finding self-respect in realising his history and culture. The playwrights Osborne and Sillitoe,⁵ characterised as the Angry Young Men, derided the old establishment and succoured the growing pride in working-class values and culture. Although Economic History can probably trace its routes from Malthus it received a status in the late 1940s⁶ comparable to political history. The climate was therefore right for the rediscovery and appreciation of the artefacts of the work place.

From this fertile ground sprouted the realisation of the significance of Britain's lasting contribution to world history - the Industrial Revolution. Whilst a rearguard action was being fought in defence of Colonialism, a new sense of British pride was emerging on the front of our industrial past. Although for many, post-colonialism represented a loss of pride, a small force found solace in Britain's inherited role as the 'Workshop of the World;' rather than that of carrying the 'White Man's Burden.' In the mid-1960s University places increased dramatically offering a variety of new courses. Sociology, although not new, became fashionable appearing to provide answers to remedy social ills: Industrial Archaeology was an obvious bed fellow.

In spite of this evolving ground swell there had already been a grassroots of railway and steam enthusiasts. The Patent Office in the 1850s (from which grew the Science Museum) had sought out and preserved the three locomotives involved in the Rainhill Trials of 1829. Around the same time Samuel Smiles (1812 - 1904) was eulogising the heroes of engineering in his 'Lives.' In 1919 the Newcomen Society for the Study of the History of Engineering and Technology was founded finding a home at the Science Museum. But the stigma of 'Victorianism' stuck and the conservation of industrial monuments was a rarity. Even so, as early as 1935 the Cornish Engines Preservation Society was founded and did sterling work but on a regional basis only.

Although the climate was right to gather these disparate elements into one subject, individual groups continued working in isolation in their own specialist fields. Like 'Art Deco,' which emerged as a reaction to the Great War and is now, with hindsight, an easily recognised style, Industrial Archaeology, as an all-embracing subject remained unrecognised. Even so the term had probably been knocking around for some years before it first appeared in print when Michael Rix used it in an article in *The Amateur Historian* in 1955. The germ that had lain dormant was at last christened and communication with other industrial archaeologists began. For instance the Railway & Canal Historical Society was founded in 1954 and produced a Journal. But a major influence in giving respectability, to what the *Economist* had called 'a hobby for harmless lunatics,' were the publishers David & Charles (David St. John Thomas and Charles Hadfield) who not only produced thoroughly researched regional histories of canals and railways but also gazetteers and subject histories directly aimed at the industrial archaeologist.

In some respects the throwaway title 'Industrial Archaeology' was perhaps unfortunate. 'Industrial History' has been offered up as an alternative, but whilst providing academic credence smacks of documentary research alone. Although the term Industrial Archaeology has an amateur ring about it ('blessed word!')⁸ it is nevertheless, like other archaeology, primarily concerned with physical remains: it too draws on all forms of evidence which help our enlightenment. Industrial Archaeology is therefore as good a title as we are likely to find if we accept it as 'the field-work aspect of the history of industry, technology and transport.'⁹

To complete the picture this summary should include a number of ancillaries such as: workers' housing and the commercial infrastructure which sustained industry. Even such unwholesome matters as sewage disposal can throw valuable light on workers' living and working conditions.

Much of the above suggests that Industrial Archaeology is the archaeology of a period - the Industrial Revolution. Necessarily, to a large extent, this may be true, but the practitioner is also an archaeologist of industry and his brief may extend back into antiquity.

The destruction of the Euston Arch (or more correctly 'portico') in the early 1960s resulted in a widespread wave of dismay. Ironically this act of vandalism did more to promote Industrial Archaeology than any single event. Industrial Archaeology had been seeking (and still is) academic respectability: the emphasis was turning from an enthusiasm to a discipline. However the emotions ran high when this icon of railway history bit

the dust. The emotional ties of Industrial Archaeology are still, as then, strong – methodology, recording and all the academic paraphernalia are vitally important in increasing the credibility of the subject, but we should never forget that Industrial Archaeology is concerned with people. What Sir Mortimer Wheeler wrote in 1954 concerning 'archaeology' is equally relevant to its industrial counterpart today

[The archaeologists is] not digging up *things*, he is digging up *people*: however much he may analyse and tabulate and desiccate in the laboratory, the ultimate appeal across the ages ... is from mind to intelligent mind, from man to sentient man.¹⁰

Sentience is a vital quality of the industrial archaeologist: not only does he need the unteachable abilities to read the landscape, understand technology and feel the work place but above all an empathy with the subject matter. Its inter-disciplinary nature is, in many respects, beyond the skills of the traditional archaeologists. Industrial Archaeology does not easily lend itself to the stultifying intensity, which disciplines, by definition, demand. Furthermore the romantic nature,¹¹ which is not permitted or admitted by those who would put Industrial Archaeology in a straightjacket of academic conventions, has considerable value when used intuitively. Beneath intuition there often lies experience. Here we must return to the workers from which all this stems. Working-class culture (the culture of those familiar with the work place) shows a striking regard for its associated heritage and working practices. This is a fountainhead of undisclosed knowledge which the academic dismisses at his peril. Industrial Archaeology is a catholic subject to which all are admitted as equal partners.

Apart from fieldwork aspects, Industrial Archaeology is also concerned with conservation. Unfortunately when an industrial building is no longer required for its built purpose, machinery and plant are generally stripped out and sold for scrap. The buildings themselves can be saved by listing if they are of sufficient architectural or historic interest. Even some obviously ugly examples can qualify for preservation if they 'illustrate some important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural or military history.'¹² In recent years even a number of 20th-century buildings have been listed including the late 1920s Lloyds Bank in Hereford. These stem directly from the hasty demolition of the 'Art Deco' Firestone building on the Great West Road on the verge of being spot listed. Listings have extended into the last two decades and it may not be long before the old Franklin Barnes building (Crystal Rooms) in Bridge Street, with its 1950s 'plastic' front, is considered as suitable. World War II survivals have rightly been subject to considerable interest from English Heritage including the Royal Ordnance Factory at Rotherwas which, although hardly a collection of beauty, played a vital part in both World Wars.

Many industrial buildings are vast and present a major maintenance problem. In an article published in *The Observer* (25 April 1999) HRH The Prince of Wales offered some solutions:

I have watched in despair as one great building [speaking of historic mills, factories, docks and public buildings] after another has been swept away, with no realisation of their potential for conversion.

The communities that flourish will probably be those where people choose to live and work. In many cities historic industrial buildings, many abandoned for years, can provide exactly that kind of environment.

...public and private policy-makers seem obsessed with putting up new buildings. All too often the presumption is for demolition.

Other alternatives are on- and off-site preservation in Open Air Museums such as St. Fagans Folk Museum and Avoncroft Museum of Buildings: both these include a number of structures of interest to the industrial archaeologist. One of the most successful conservation programmes has been at Ironbridge Gorge Museum, rightly titled 'The Birthplace of the Industrial Revolution,' where the first all-iron bridge survives and the blast-furnace where iron was successfully smelted using coke for the first time. The area has been inscribed as a World Heritage Site. Nearer home Blaenavon too, possibly the most dismal site in S. Wales, has joined it as a WHS.

If areas like Blaenavon can be ranked with the Taj Mahal as a World Heritage Site then the state of Industrial Archaeology is generally healthy. But rural counties, such as Herefordshire, may not feature highly in the industrial stakes. In spite of this the club has a history of awareness of things pertaining to industrial archaeology. Many of the rural artefacts which lie unseen in museum stores came from club sources and since the 1930s¹³ members have been quietly active in promoting Industrial Archaeology even in the most august places.¹⁴

Inett Homes's foresight saw the importance of Herefordshire's rural industries long before Industrial Archaeology joined the list of the Club's areas of study in 1972. But there are still many unsung gems which lurk in unseen corners awaiting rediscovery – tanneries, brickworks, cideries, hop-kilns, canals, tramroads, waterworks and drainage are but some of these.

As well as keeping a weather eye for these the aspiring Industrial Archaeologist can exercise vigilance in the planning process – shop fronts, door furniture, chimney-pots and rainwater goods are features which are all too often ignored, but it is these ephemera which help make a lively and drab free environment.

Through your recorder the Club has established on-going links with the Sites and Monuments Record (the archaeological list maintained by the County Council). We should not assume that it is by any means comprehensive: it awaits your contribution.

REFERENCES

- ¹ Inett Homes (1914 - 1987) was appointed recorder at the Winter Annual Meeting in 1972.
- ² The study of natural history and geology were the Club's primary aims when founded in 1851. In 1893 this was changed to 'the practical study, in all its branches of Natural History and Archaeology of Herefordshire and the districts immediately adjacent.' Information from Muriel Tonkin.
- ³ See also Neil Cossons, *The B P Book of Industrial Archaeology* (1975), 15 - 36. Neil Cossons and Kenneth Hudson, *Industrial Archaeologists Guide 1971 - 73* (1971), 15 - 22.
- ⁴ L. T. C. Rolt, *Narrow Boat* (1944). Charles Hadfield *British Canals: An Illustrated History* (1950).
- ⁵ John Osborne, (1929 - 1994), *Look Back in Anger* (1956), Alan Sillitoe (1928 -) *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* (1958).
- ⁶ *Economic History Review, New Series* 1948.
- ⁷ *Lives of the Engineers 1861 to 1862*.
- ⁸ Sir Mortimer Wheeler, *Archaeology from the Earth* (1954), 7.

⁹ Quoted in Cossons and Hudson *op cit.*, in note 3, 15.

¹⁰ Wheeler *op cit.*, in note 8, 2 - 3.

¹¹ There are similarities between the appreciation of industrial archaeology and the 18th-century aesthetic movement known as the Picturesque. The moneyed artists and tourists would search out the Picturesque, which was a middle path between the Sublime and the Beautiful - the Sublime being horrific and awe-inspiring; the Beautiful tending towards the insipid. In search for the Picturesque ladies would descend into coal mines and artists would draw ironworks or seek out the hovels in which the workers lived. The similarity of industrial archaeology to the Picturesque can be explained by our distance from the industries and living conditions of the past: we are safe from it, as was the artist or tourist who returned to his comfortable life, but was, nevertheless, fascinated by it. It was, and is, not a life we would wish to live but it is a sublime experience, just as going down Big Pit at Blaenavon is today.

¹² PPG 15, 6.10.

¹³ Captain F. B. Ellison, 'History of the Hay Railway' *Trans. Woolhope Natur.Fld. Club*, XXXII (1936), 76 - 87.

¹⁴ John van Laun and David Bick, 'South Wales Plateways 1788 - 1860,' *The Antiquaries Journal*, V 80 (2000), 321 - 31.

Mammals, 2001

By BERYL HARDING

Polecats have been classed as of poor conservation status in the past and by the early 1900s they were almost extinct in England but the Government is now putting money into studying British mammals - using survey methods followed by the British Trust of Ornithology for many years.

Polecats are solitary, nocturnal animals and leave no field signs, unlike otters, and their footprints can be confused with feral mink so their presence is difficult to detect. However, as a result of surveys in the 1990s they appear to be more abundant now outside Wales with an expanding range eastwards through the midlands. These surveys showed that there could be, on average, one to two polecats per km. square in Herefordshire farmland.

In Europe they are associated with wetland areas but here they are not specific to any habitat though usually more abundant in farmland areas, tending to be associated with the habitat of rabbits which comprise 85% of their diet. 70% of the polecat population tend to use rabbit burrows for themselves. In winter they are less active and spend much time in farm buildings with their accompanying rodent prey. Unfortunately, this leads to a build-up of pesticides within the body and 38% carry detectable poisons. Half the British population are subject to rat poison but nevertheless they are still expanding eastward in the numbers. (Ferrets are a domestic variant of the wild polecat and they can therefore mate as they are essentially the same species.)

Surveys in Herefordshire are being carried out by the Hereford Action for Mammals Group formed in 1999 by some members of the Herefordshire Nature Trust and others interested in active recording. The survey involves working within one or more km. squares using the capture, mark and release method with baited cages. Once set up these are covered with hay to hide and protect the animal caught so reducing stress and attempts to escape, which could result in broken teeth. The traps are checked every twenty-four hours. Most of the work is carried out by volunteers between October and March after the young have dispersed in September. In the county the maximum has been six per km. square but more usually averages one. A very successful area has been just outside Ledbury where 123 individuals have been weighed and marked with a short-term mark to check against recapture - and no one has been bitten so far.

As the animals are less active in January the optimum periods for trapping are October/November and February/March. If a particular area is attractive to polecats their population numbers will obviously be denser, for example in Eastnor Park and Stanage, where pheasant shoots occur so giving higher carrion food content. If there are several roads crossing an area the animals will hunt in the verges but can themselves become subject to road accidents. The survey makes provision for this in the population records.

As with so many things, the survey had to be abandoned in the spring and early winter due to foot and mouth restrictions but it will recommence again in 2002. If Woolhope members come across road fatalities I would welcome details of their whereabouts with a grid reference.

Ornithology, 2001

By BERYL HARDING

January produced no severe weather, apart from one light fall of snow. The month felt cold and damp but was in fact the sunniest since 1959. February was drier at the beginning but went out as the wettest since 1996. However, Robins had paired and were nesting in the first week of February and some Blackbirds also by early March - which was optimistic as the month was wet and cool with a fall of snow on 16 March and at the equinox. Nevertheless, the Chiffchaff was heard calling on 12 March near Ross, it may have overwintered, others were calling in early April.

Over the winter a wide variety of water birds continued to gather at the Wellington Gravel Pits (WGP), with Scaup, Common Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Dunlin, Ruff, Jack Snipe and Snipe, Redshank and Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Common Sandpiper. Unfortunately, most of these were seen in twos and threes or only singles. The Yellow-legged Gull, Great Black-backed Gull and Common Gull also appeared in small numbers with a Kittiwake, Great Skua and an Oystercatcher in transit. The Lesser Black-backed Gull flocked in numbers of fifty or more. Random Whooper Swans were noted and the Mute Swan peaked at sixty-eight on 1 February. At the end of December last, 432 Tufted Duck were seen - this is believed to be a new county record. Lapwing occurred in varying numbers throughout the county with flocks of up to 240 by Tidnor Mill in January and 450 by the Leominster by-pass in February.

The Waterways Bird Survey show that Lapwing numbers have decreased along the waterways over the last five and ten years - in line with their disastrous decline in other habitats. The survey shows an increase in the number of Mallard and Mute Swan. Twenty-five years ago the population of the latter was at reduced levels through lead poisoning from angler's weights. Lead has been banned and not generally in use for over ten years.

In Haugh Wood 400 Siskins were seen as winter began with groups of 40-50 over the county in varying sites but overall fewer were noted in alder-woods and in gardens which they now visit in increasing numbers. The Hereford Ornithology Club (HOC) records show one of the fewest March sightings for over twenty years. Are they leaving northwards earlier in the year than before as a result of global warming, or were they finding food elsewhere?

A juvenile Honey Buzzard, ringed and carrying a satellite transmitter, left its nest-site in Scotland at the end of September. It was monitored in the eastern part of Herefordshire on 6 October on its migration route southward.

April started wet with heavy showers and thunderstorms. By 1 April some wintering wild fowl, wintering thrushes and Waxwings were slow to disperse northward and mixing with the newly arrived and displaying spring migrants bent on claiming territory. A chilly beginning to May finally gave the hottest May for 100 years, which led to further drying

out of mud needed by the mud-nest building birds like House Martins and Swallows. As usual the main influx of summer migrants took place with Lesser Whitethroat in song by 3 May, Sedgewartbler by 7 May, Whitethroat by 10 May and Reed Warbler by 19 May. The song of Garden Warblers and Blackcap had been recorded by HOC members and the Willow Warbler had been heard from 6 April.

The call of the Cuckoo is becoming less widely heard nowadays, even after 23 April. Several Woolhope members have mentioned not hearing it all last summer. The numbers are dropping whether because of difficulties here, en route or at the winter site is not clear. However, one HOC member noted three all perched together at Wyevale Wood. Surely a record?

Researchers have shown that many bird migrants arrive earlier now in Britain in spring than at any time previously and that the start of the breeding season for a number of resident and migrant species has advanced. Little is yet known about the effects of climatic warming on the timing of autumn departure. It is difficult to predict whether they would leave earlier or later. If the breeding cycle starts earlier they could be free to depart earlier or make more breeding attempts per season so that adults and late-hatching juveniles depart later. For long-distance migrants, survival would mean rapid adaptation to changes in both the breeding and wintering areas as well as stopover sites and migration routes. Nor is it known how flexible migration behaviour can be in relation to daylength.

Red Kites continue to move eastward with an estimated 430 pairs nesting in the U.K. One of the best sites in England is the Chilterns and in Wales they regularly scavenge at refuse tips.

Bird surveys published by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) show a decline in Yellow Wagtail numbers of 81% over twenty-three years making it one of the birds being lost most rapidly from the countryside. This is particularly important as our form of the species *Motacilla flava flavissima* is almost unique to Britain. Only one pair was recorded by HOC members last summer.

A 'Farmer/Volunteer Alliance' is an initiative set up by the R.S.P.B. last year. It offers farmers a free bird survey on their farm, providing them with a map showing bird locations and additional leaflets describing how to manage farmland for these key birds. HOC volunteers are doing the survey in the county. The response from farmers has been enthusiastic and changes in farming practice will benefit birds as a result. Two farms were surveyed last year and six more are required in 2002, in fact twelve farms have responded.

The summer months from May to September averaged 10° C with a dry period in the latter half of June still affecting mud-building birds. The majority of Swallows breed on farms with cattle but it has been established that the colony size tends to be larger on dairy farms. This cow/swallow link will have been affected by the decline in the numbers of cattle due to B.S.E. and Foot & Mouth disease and also by the further need to reduce milk yields.

With the closure of footpaths and the countryside, due to F.& M. disease precautions, waterside and ground-nesting birds were much less liable to disturbance and verbal reports indicate that their numbers may have benefitted. However, the closure of the

countryside also drastically limited bird-monitoring so comparative results may not be attainable.

Many studies of Blue and Great Tit show that the breeding potential in semi-natural, rural woodlands - particularly where oaks are present with their huge caterpillar load - is enormous. In good years clutches of eleven youngsters can be raised. In suburban gardens fewer eggs are laid and the number of chicks reared can be less than five. This reflects the lack of proper insect food on non-native trees, however, woodland breeding success is counteracted by winter losses. Then garden birds are at an advantage with supplementary feeding.

The composition of bird types feeding in gardens and at bird-tables is always changing. A BTO report, as part of an ongoing survey for the last thirty-one years, shows that record-breaking winter rainfall, a super-abundance of certain forest seeds and changes in bird behaviour contributed to a different bird-table scene in the winter of 2000/01. The top twelve species were:-

Rank	Species	% of gardens	Rank	Species	% of gardens
1	Blue Tit	100.0	7	Chaffinch	95.0
2	Blackbird	99.6	8	Collared Dove	88.7
2	Robin	99.6	9	House Sparrow	88.5
4	Great Tit	98.2	10	Starling	88.1
5	Dunnock	97.1	11	Coal Tit	86.3
6	Greenfinch	96.0	12	Magpie	73.0

Plentiful beech mast and conifer seeds contributed to fewer Coal Tits, Nuthatches and Great Spotted Woodpeckers in gardens with a general scarcity of Siskins and Bramblings. This may have been the prime factor affecting the March numbers in gardens.

Winds remained from the W. and S.W. throughout October which proved to be the warmest since records began in 1669 with an average of 13.2°C instead of 10.2°C. The leaves were still on many trees by 1 November with little or no colour change. November had some rain at the beginning and end of the month and was mostly mild reaching a maximum of 14°C. at one stage. With light frosts in December the year concluded with most people feeling that the winter had not been too bad so far!

The Hereford Conservation Area Advisory Committee Report of the Club's Representative, 2001-2002

By JEAN O'DONNELL

"Local authorities have a duty to designate conservation areas in England in any area of special architectural or historic interest whose character or appearance is worth preserving or enhancing." These words are from an English Heritage leaflet. This annual report to the club usually deals with proposals in the central conservation area but there are other important developments that are in other city conservation areas. C.A.A.C. has made proposals for the enlargement of some areas to include buildings and roads such as those around the racecourse, Aylestone Hill, Kyrle Street and Widemarsh Common. So far the Planning Department has not seen fit to do this and some important parts of the city are unprotected.

In the central area the proposal by the Cathedral Junior School to demolish the pre-fabricated hut behind the wall on Castle Hill was applauded but its replacement by a two-storey classroom block of glass and metal was not. This would have compromised the view of the gazebos and backs of Castle Street houses. The residents were opposed to the scheme and, in the end, so were English Heritage. Another more modest scheme of a single storey building has been put forward and accepted.

In April there was an application for the demolition of the existing garage premises of the Green Dragon in Aubrey Street. The proposal then was for the erection of thirty-six flats and a car park. The site is of obvious archaeological interest as it is within the earliest part of the city. The garage was first built in 1904 to encourage the motor-car user to come to the hotel. There was also earlier stabling on the site. The scheme left much to be desired and it was refused. The development of this sensitive site has to be monitored as one recent proposal is for a bus station.

Throughout the year the question of Churchill House, its maintenance and use as a museum, was discussed. The house, bought in 1965 by the City Council for the use of its citizens, has been neglected for a number of years until the exterior window frames are now rotten and the stucco is crumbling away. Despite letters and a long statement from C.A.A.C. nothing happened. The club also wrote complaining about the neglect and proposed closure of the museum and Hatton gallery. In June a public meeting at the Bishop's Palace, chaired by Rt. Rev. John Oliver, sent a clear message to the Herefordshire District Council that those present wished the museum to be kept open. A steering committee was entrusted with the task of mounting a campaign to stop the closure. One year later the maintenance has not been done and the museum is closed. English Heritage did insist upon the repairs but one can only reflect that a private owner would have met the full force of the law when ignoring this demand. Campaigning will continue until the Georgian house is restored and reopened to the public.

Following on from this the former B.T. building in Friar Street was converted to a store for museum collections. It is intended that there should be an extension with educational facilities, which will be used for school visits. Public access will be by appointment. The contents of Churchill House and the Hatton Gallery are now held there. The small museum room in Broad Street will prove inadequate for the display of the costume collection and there is little space for more than a token display of the furniture and clocks. It is sad that the Hatton pictures are now stored away as they formerly revealed the development of the artist from young child to the mature painter. Further development in Friar Street is planned on the site of the Imperial Flour Mills. Much of it is for sheltered housing with forty-three units. This area needs replanning and enhancing as it is derelict at present.

The demolition of the cabbies' hut on the Bishops' Meadow tennis courts was regretted. This had been erected here after its removal from the centre of town. It appears in many old photographs. It was reportedly too dilapidated to restore.

In Church Street (Capuchin Lane) the 1930s wool shop adjacent to Marks and Spencer is a fine brick shop front in a rustic style. It is too small for most businesses so that its absorption into the Grapes public house was welcomed and it has been sympathetically done. Concern was expressed about the replacement of the old corner shop near St. Peter's Church with a badly constructed café with poor brickwork and curry coloured paintwork that does not accord with the conservation area. It is hoped to persuade the owner to change the colour but this has not happened yet. Shop fronts and signs are constantly changing and it is important that they conform to the principles laid down as planning policy. Chain stores and banks have their own logos and signs that they redesign and which can give a dull uniformity to the central area of High Town and Broad Street.

The Portman Building Society at 14 St. Owen Street, applied to redesign their interior space to enhance security. This required the panelling to be moved from the front office to another wall. When it was a domestic building it had six fine 16th-century painted panels of the muses over the woodwork on the first floor. In the 1960s these were removed to the Old House and are displayed there. The panelling was re-sited successfully.

It should be noted here that two stained glass windows from the General Hospital Chapel have been moved to the new hospital in Stonebow Road where they will be displayed. This is due to open in April 2002.

Application was made for the demolition of St. Peter's School in Union Street/ Gaol Street and the construction of new probation offices. It was closed as a girls' primary school in 1983. In advance of this Archenfield Archaeology explored the site. It was the first parish school in the city and was founded by Rev. John Venn in 1837. Constructed of red brick, access was from Union Street until c.1930 when the houses in Gaol Street that stood in front of it were demolished. On the western range pediment is a date-stone but it is too eroded to read. This is the earliest part of the building and the teachers' accommodation was here. Plans for the new offices are ready and it will be a high and impressive building.

In November the 2001 C.A.A.C. award for the best redevelopment was given for the Chapter House garden and new toilets. When this area was excavated by Archaeological Investigations Ltd. twelve 13th-century skeletons were recorded: three with chalice and paten. They pre-dated the wall of the 16th-century treasury extension. Later, a T.V. programme was filmed on this subject. The Mayor, Cllr. Sue Andrews, presented the award to the Dean and Chapter. There is also a memorial plaque on the outer wall of the Bishop's Cloister to Meriel Jancey for her work in the garden. She was a member of the club, a county and cathedral archivist, and for a short time, editor of these *Transactions*.

Natural History Section, 2001

By BERYL HARDING

Most of the planned field trips had to be abandoned due to the foot and mouth epidemic which closed most of the countryside from February onwards until the autumn.

28th June Half a day was spent plant and animal recording in Much Dewchurch, Callow and Dewsall churchyards.

Much Dewchurch. A church with Norman remains in the building and surrounded by gardens and shrubs. To the S. the new churchyard has no graves as yet and is managed as a hay meadow.

The older churchyard is mowed regularly with the grass cuttings removed so it is moderately herb-rich. Thirty specimens of herbaceous plants were recorded plus the fern, Wall Rue, in the stone walls to the S. Seven species of trees and shrubs, including some Box, and eleven species of grass were found. A Meadow Brown butterfly braved the rain and quite a few grasshoppers were heard and seen. The moles had been busy and House Martins and a Spotted Flycatcher were nesting.

Callow. The church is now privately owned but the churchyard is still consecrated. It is a very exposed site at the top of a hill in a tiny village and flanked by two roads with a seven foot retaining stone wall by the roadsides which carried abundant growth of red, white and pink Valerian.

The grass is cut frequently but not too low (although a huge yellow ant mound had been decapitated). Despite leaving the grass cuttings in situ it is fairly herb-rich with abundant clover although this never seems to have chance to flower. Forty-one species of herbaceous plants, six species of grass and two species of fern (the Rusty-back and Wall Rue) were found with thirteen species of trees and shrubs, including two very large Yews. Again mole activity was noticeable.

Dewsall. The church with its steeple of wooden shingles is isolated and surrounded by fields with Dewsall Court nearby. Its churchyard is surrounded by low walls with Pennywort growing where the mortar is broken and there is an adjacent pond on its W. side where sheep dipping took place in the past.

Again, this is mown regularly with the cuttings removed but the species were very miniature due to repeated cutting. Five species of trees were identified, including a large Copper Beech, thirty-nine species of herbaceous plants and a Hart's Tongue fern were found.

None of the church porches displayed any conservation details but the pretty porch at Dewsall served as our sheltered picnic site and the venue for our mini-A.G.M. previously cancelled.

21 August. A return visit was made to the Van Kampen gardens preceded by a walk downstream alongside the Lugg, both in the Hampton Court estate.

The previous visit was recorded in the 1999 *Transactions*. It was April then so bird-song and spring woodland flowers were abundant. This visit was later and the river-bank greatly overgrown. In addition to the large stones which fall from the steep hill-side above quite a lot of bankside slumping had also occurred making progress very difficult. We continued until the 'grotto' was reached. Mention of its beehive-shaped stoned roof was made in those *Transactions* and of the corbelling at the wall junction, all designed to give maximum dripping of the tufa-rich waters that had percolated through the bands of Bishop Frome Limestone (cornstones) of Dinmore Hill.

We realised on this occasion that the 'grotto' had been designed primarily as a petrifying-house with a central pillar on which to stand those objects that the Court owners wished to be petrified for their amusement. The corbelled projections would also serve that purpose. Members of the Woolhope Club visited the Court on 22 May, 1868, and were shown such petrified objects.

In the afternoon a visit was made to the now largely restored Van Kampen gardens to see how much progress had been made since 1999. Inspired by the enthusiasm of Ed Waghorn, the manager of the restoration, the team started work in 1996 and are implementing a local approach on a grand scale, designing formal layouts with informal planting, following organic principles and using recycled water as their main power source. Planting uses compost based on coconut fibre as the use of peat is regarded as 'devastating to the environment.' The kitchen garden was now restored and a riot of colour with yellow cucumbers, red-leaved beetroot and carrots, and coloured cabbages interspersed with iron-framed columns of sweet peas. The Victorian greenhouses remain as a reminder of the past. The maze has been planted and the water garden fully restored.

13 September. A field trip was made to the Malverns to examine some of the Regionally Important Geological Sites (R.I.G.S.) and led by Peter Thomson.

Despite the poor weather forecast and a suggestion that the visit be cancelled three hardy members met in the British Camp car park and sheltered from a torrential down-pour whilst deciding that theoretical geology - and meteorology - over a cup of coffee in the 'Singing Kettle' was preferable to a good soaking on the hills.

After about an hour the storm passed and the diminutive party set out for the Gullet Quarry. Before climbing to the exposure of the unconformity between the Pre-cambrian and Llandovery Beds (Lower Silurian) it was noticed that large lumps of Malvernian rock had been cemented to the top of a low wall which surrounds the lake in the bottom of the quarry. This made a formerly useful seat impossible to use but it had the advantage of displaying a variety of local rock types such as diorite, hornblende, granite and dolerite.

After a brief sandwich interval the group moved to the Hollybush quarries where the rain-soaked exposures proved difficult to interpret especially as they were becoming overgrown and were difficult to approach over the slippery scree.

Despite various setbacks the day was instructive if only to the extent of showing that interpretation of well-known and documented exposures are not always easy.

The climax of the day was a final downpour which drove us to the cars and back home.

Weather Statistics, 2001

Month	Max. temp. shade °C	Min. temp. shade °C	Nights air frost	Rainfall mm.	Max. rainfall in one day mm.	Days with rainfall
January	10.0	-2.0	11	47.1	16.0 (23rd)	11
February	13.0	-5.5	13	71.4	13.5 (12th)	14
March	14.0	-4.0	5	81.1	19.5 (16th)	19
April	17.0	0	0	74.0	17.0 (24th)	15
May	23.0	4.0	0	84.7	35.9 (13th)	10
June	29.5	6.0	0	22.4	12.0 (15th)	7
July	28.5	7.5	0	81.5	43.3 (17th)	11
August	27.0	8.0	0	67.4	13.5 (9th)	13
September	21.5	7.5	0	19.3	8.7 (27th)	10
October	18.0	4.0	0	142.6	29.2 (19th)	23
November	14.0	-1.0	2	30.1	8.3 (7th)	14
December	12.0	-5.5	6	13.8	9.4 (4th)	6
Total 2001			37	737.4		153
Total 1999			30	877.5		194
Total 2000			28	968.8		204

Warmest day 26th June (29.5°C)

Coldest nights 6 February, 31 December (-5.5°C)

Wettest day 17 July (43.3 mm.)

Wettest month October (142.6 mm.)

Driest month December (13.8 mm.)

October 2001 (142.6 mm.) wettest month since

December 2000 (153 mm.)

December 2001 (13.8 mm.) driest month since

July 1999 (7.4 mm.)

Recorded by E. H. Ward at Woodpeckers, Much Marcle.

