

CHESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BULLETIN



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EDITORIAL

This issue of the Bulletin reports archaeological research and discoveries made during 1982. Although this is a single issue, it is as large as the previous double ones. This is because there has been an upsurge in the County not only of research and rescue work but also of the reporting of chance finds. It is to be hoped that this happy situation will continue.

Following our previous practice, the Bulletin has been confined to reporting archaeology. We have deliberately maintained a policy of neutrality and of not reporting political issues although we are only too well aware that these exist in archaeology, more so perhaps than in some other disciplines.

We are sorry to announce the resignation of Patrick Greene from the Editorial Board, following his departure from Cheshire to become Director of the new Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. We wish him well.

The Editor would now be pleased to receive material for the next issue of the Bulletin. This should be sent to Rhys Williams at the Planning Department, Cheshire County Council, Commerce House, Hunter Street, Chester, CH1 1SN.

S R Williams

The cover design is by Kerry Maddrell and Jean Ashley. It shows the Dutch coin weight found in Nantwich. (See page 87).

The Editor is grateful to all those who have produced the many illustrations of objects etc. In particular, he would thank Jean Ashley and Elaine Bell of the County Planning Department.

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CHESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BULLETIN

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Coin weight from Holland found at Nantwich

Front cover

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Editorial</u>	1
<u>Contents</u>	
<u>Contributors to this issue</u>	5
<u>Short Articles:</u>	
A group of Roman hypocaust pilae at the Keeper's Cottage, Oakmere	6
Environmental archaeology of the Peckforton Hills	10
List of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Cheshire	12
Bucklow Hundred: The Domesday Survey and the rural community	15
<u>Excavation reports and sites observed:</u>	
Beeston Castle	22
Biddulph Moor : A Roman road	30
Bunbury : The Chantry House & Aldersey Grammar School	34
Chester : Congregational church cemetery	36
Grey Friars Court	36
Hunter Street	38
The North Wall	39
120 Northgate Street	40
Princess Street area	42
Shippgate Street	43
Stocks Lane, Great Boughton	43
Chester Castle	45
Church Lawton : Burial Mound (Church Lawton North)	46
Church Lawton : Burial Mound (Church Lawton South)	47
Dodleston : a former roadway	50
Eaton-by-Tarporley : Roman villa	50
Middlewich : Wych House Lane	52
Nantwich : The Bowling Green	53
Runcorn : Norton Priory	54
Sandbach : The Crown Hotel and Hawk Street	56
Tattenhall : Church of St.Alban	56
Tatton Park	63
Utkinton : Cropmarks in barley	65
Warrington : The Old Academy site	66

Stray Finds:

Prehistoric	70
Roman	76
Medieval	80
Post-medieval	83
Additional items	89

<u>News and items of interest</u>	90
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<u>Distribution map of finds and excavation sites in Cheshire</u>	92
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CELTIC HEAD OR A 17th CENTURY FOLLY?

A head built into the gable end of a 17th century cottage at Disley.

C O N T R I B U T O R S T O T H I S I S S U E

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- S.R.W. Mr Rhys Williams (S.R.W), Principal Archaeologist, Cheshire County Council.
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A GROUP OF ROMAN HYPOCAUST PILAE AT THE
KEEPER'S COTTAGE, OAKMERE, CHESHIRE

D J P Mason

During the course of research into the rural settlement of Roman Cheshire, the writer's attention was drawn to a collection of stone hypocaust pilae in the grounds of the Keeper's Cottage near Oakmere (N.G.R. SJ 57246820). Their existence has been known about for some considerable time and it has often been assumed, without any reasoned arguments being given, that they originated from the legionary fortress at Chester and had been moved to their present location at some period during the last three hundred years. As our knowledge of settlement in the countryside of Roman Cheshire is practically non-existent, it is obviously essential for the nature and origin of any such group of Roman material to be clarified in order to minimise the risk of misinterpretation. Consequently, the case for this assumption is now examined in detail.

Oak Mere is situated 16 km. east of Chester, lying just north of the A54 and 1.5 km. south of the Roman road which ran from Chester to Northwich, with the Keeper's Cottage set back a short distance from its north-western extremity. The surrounding area is rich in monuments of the pre-Roman period, with Eddisbury hillfort 2 km. to the north-west and the group of burial mounds known as the 'Seven Lows' lying 1 km. to the south-west, while on the north-eastern side of Oak Mere itself are the remains of a small promontory fort.

An exploration of the immediate environs of the cottage revealed a total of thirteen, sandstone, hypocaust pilae incorporated into the dwarf retaining walls of the garden. The majority have suffered only slight damage and are identical in form; originally being about 0.88 m in height, of square section, and with the points of transition between the shaft and the upper and lower expansions being reasonably well-defined. To these can be added one further pila which was found some years ago in Black Firs Wood at a spot between 50 and 100 m. from its colleagues. Their employment as decorative features of the garden retaining walls, however, constitutes a second re-use for prior to this they had formed part of the scullery wall¹ of the original cottage (constructed in 1782/3) from which they had been removed in 1931 during the course of re-construction work. In addition to the pilae, there is one other object of Roman date from the immediate vicinity, namely a small pottery flask of North African manufacture which was discovered 200 m. south-west of the cottage in 1966.

In order to test the possibility that these objects may have derived from some undiscovered Roman site nearby, a number of small, randomly positioned, exploratory trenches were excavated in May of 1980 on the land around the cottage, radiating out from the latter for a distance approaching 100 m. These failed to produce any evidence whatsoever for occupation or activity of Roman, or any other, date. Thus, the suggestion of the pilae having been brought here from some other location, presumably either Chester or Northwich, would seem to be

confirmed. Although the distance from Oak Mere to the latter is less than that to Chester, there are, in addition to the fact that there were far more opportunities for the looting of Roman material at the legionary fortress, strong grounds for believing they originated from Chester.

Firstly, it is obviously necessary to consider the construction date of the cottage at Oak Mere (1782/3) in relation to the known periods when elements of major Roman structures were uncovered at Chester. This reveals the first coincidence, for in the years 1778-9 portions of a very large and well-appointed Roman building, lying to the west of the fortress, were unearthed during works for the erection of houses on the north side of Lower Watergate Street. From the various accounts written at the time of the discovery² it is clear that many of the rooms in this building had been heated by means of a hypocaust system, while a few were even adorned with patterned mosaic flooring, features which have led to it being interpreted as an extramural baths complex.³

However, of even greater significance for our purposes is the fact that several of these contemporary descriptions refer to the removal of various types of material used in its construction to Oulton Park, a little under 3 km. south-east of Oak Mere. For example, that given by Barritt⁴, a Manchester antiquarian, concludes with the sentence, "A quantity of Roman tiles from this place were taken away by Philip Egerton, of Olton, Esq., to lay the floor of a Druid's temple at Olton". Similarly, Thomas Pennant⁵ reports the transportation of tiles and pillars from this building to the same location. Furthermore, both Broster⁶ and Pennant⁷ liken one of the hypocausts in this building to that which, in their day, could be inspected beneath the Feathers Inn on the eastern side of Upper Bridge Street, belonging to the internal bath-house of the fortress. This proves that some of the hypocausts in the Lower Watergate Street complex employed stone, as opposed to tile-column, pilae because those in the Feathers Inn example were undoubtedly of this type.⁸

As the objects removed from this building by Philip Egerton would have been transported to their new location along a route which passed within 400 m. of the spot where the Keeper's Cottage at Oak Mere was shortly to be erected, it is perfectly feasible for a number of pilae to have been offloaded at this point for use as building material. Whilst final proof of this having been the case is lacking, the possibility of this explanation being correct becomes overwhelming when one takes into account the fact that, at the period in question, Oak Mere was being leased from Thomas Cholmondeley by the very same Philip Egerton, and it was actually on the orders of the latter that the Keeper's Cottage was constructed. He apparently kept wildfowl at the mere and used the cottage as a fishing lodge. The small ceramic flask found in 1966 may have been part of his collection of souvenirs from the building unearthed in Lower Watergate Street, perhaps being lost by him during one of his visits to the mere.

The pilae at Oak Mere, and the tiles taken to Oulton Park, are an ideal illustration of just one of the many ways in which Roman material can be removed from its parent site and dispersed into the surrounding countryside. Nor are such instances confined to the 18th. and 19th centuries. For example, the extensive re-development programme carried out in Chester during the last two decades involved the extraction of many thousands of cubic metres of historic deposits, a large percentage of which were never subjected to archaeological examination. Some of this material is known to have been transported over considerable distances, being used for a variety of mundane purposes including the filling-in of old marl pits. It is to be deeply regretted that a lack of sufficient manpower and time precluded the possibility of recording all the locations to which this was taken. Similar instances of the dispersal of Roman objects could also be quoted in connection with the sites at Holt and Northwich.

Thus, it is not impossible that in a significant number of cases investigation of 'stray finds' of Roman material will fail to reveal an occupation site in the vicinity. However, despite the initial disappointment engendered by such occasions, it is clearly essential for our understanding of the nature and distribution of rural settlement in Roman Cheshire that the origin of all isolated groups of finds be determined. Hopefully, those instances where negative results are obtained will be more than compensated for by the detection of new sites, such as that recently discovered at Eaton-by-Tarporley.*

Acknowledgements

The author is indebted to Capt. J G Fergusson for permission to carry out the trial excavations at Oak Mere, and for providing many of the details concerning the history and tenure of the Keeper's Cottage. Thanks are also due to Mr & Mrs H Smith, the present occupants of the latter, for allowing an unhindered inspection of the pilae.

* See excavation report in this edition of the Bulletin pp.49-52

References

- (1) One pila was set over the entrance to the pigsty - information recorded by the late George Edwin Rock who lived at the cottage from 1911 to 1960.
- (2) Conveniently summarised by W Thompson Watkin, Roman Cheshire 152-7, (1974 reprint ed. with a new introduction by D F Petch, EP Publishing Ltd., Wakefield).
- (3) F H Thompson, Deva: Roman Chester, Grosvenor Museum, 1959, 34; idem, Roman Cheshire, Cheshire Community Council, 1965, 44; D F Petch, Deva Victrix, Ginn & Co. Ltd., London, 1971, 25; D J P Mason, "The extramural area", in T J Strickland & P J Davey (eds.), New Evidence for Roman Chester, Univ. of Liverpool, 1978, 35-6.
- (4) Bodleian Library, Watson MSS., Fo. 157
- (5) T Pennant, A Tour in Wales, I, 1784, 153
- (6) P Broster, Chester Guide, 1782, 24.
- (7) Note (5) above.
- (8) Watkin, Roman Cheshire, 131-41.

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PECKFORTON HILLS

James Schoenwetter

The University of Liverpool

and

Arizona State University

The Conservation Department of the Cheshire County Council sponsored a programme of environmental archaeology research in 1982 which addressed two questions : (a) did Bronze and Iron Age sites related to the hillfort sites of Maiden Castle and Beeston Castle once occur in the Peckforton Hills district, and (b) can an explanation be offered for the apparent lack of archaeological evidence of their existence? Environmental archaeology employs methods and techniques for reconstructing and dating changes in paleoenvironments. It is applicable to these problems because if settlements were common, their occupants are likely to have affected the regional environment in ways which could be identified by study of the pollen and magnetic minerals deposited in lake sediments at the time.

An earlier study of sediment samples collected from Bar Mere (three miles east of Malpas) had been performed, but was not designed to provide answers to the two questions of interest to the sponsors of this research. It suggested that Neolithic land use practices could be detected by pollen analysis and magnetic measurements, however, and that if related techniques were applied to deposits of Bronze Age and Iron Age date, evidence of forest clearance and cultivation would document the existence of agricultural settlements in the area at those times. This research programme sought recovery of such deposits and evidence at Peckforton Mere.

Magnetic measurements of sediment samples from Peckforton Mere identified periods of time when the rate of erosion in the Peckforton Mere catchment area was significantly increased, and dated them to the 18th century and the period of Roman occupation of Britain. Associated pollen records indicate that the cause of these erosional episodes was coincident intensification of agricultural activity. The Peckforton Mere deposits were not as old as the Bronze or Iron Age. They displayed palynological data patterns, however, which allow recognition of Bronze Age and Iron Age pollen records in the Bar Mere sediment samples.

The most recent deposits that have been examined from Bar Mere, those which produce the pollen records of Pollen Zone 6, can only be dated as younger than 1200 b.c. on the basis of internal evidence. They might represent the entirety of post-1200 b.c. time or only a fraction of that period. This research programme operated on the assumption that the Pollen Zone 6 palynological record extends from 1200 b.c. through the 18th century A.D., and sought to test that assumption by determining if palynological trends occurring in the Roman and post-Roman pollen records from Peckforton Mere also occurred in the post-1200 b.c. deposit at Bar Mere. The results of the test suggested this was indeed the case. Thus the Bar Mere pollen sequence appears to incorporate evidence of paleoenvironmental conditions which occurred during the Bronze and Iron Ages as well as during Neolithic and post-Roman times.

Re-analysis of the Bar Mere pollen sequence employed a method suggested by patterning which occurs in the Peckforton Mere pollen sequence. The re-analysis indicates that between 3000 b.c. and approximately 2000 b.c. the number of oak trees in the oak forest of the Peckforton Hills district diminished, but the amount of forested land was not reduced and cultivation seems not to have been a widespread practice. From about 2000 b.c. to roughly 1500 b.c. episodes of forest clearance and cultivation and episodes of forest recovery are indicated. Between about 1500 and 1200 b.c. the pollen record suggests major oak forest clearance took place. From 1200 b.c. until shortly before the Roman occupation of Britain, additional forest reduction seems not to have occurred but cultivation took place and soil erosion proceeded at a high rate.

The re-analysis thus provides evidence that the Peckforton Hills district was occupied during the Bronze and Iron Ages by people whose land use practices cleared a significant amount of oak forest from the landscape and replaced it with cropland and pastures. This supports the conclusion that agricultural settlements existed in the area when the Maiden Castle and Beeston Castle hillforts were constructed.

The Peckforton Mere pollen sequence suggests that additional forest clearance and plant cultivation has continued since Roman times. In addition, magnetic measurements of the Peckforton deposits indicate that a moderate increase in erosion took place during the Roman period and a very large increase in erosional intensity occurred in the 16th-19th centuries. This last is associated with evidence of increased subsoil erosion, and has been interpreted as a consequence of agricultural intensification in the 18th century. The conclusion drawn from this evidence is that the landscape surfaces of the portions of the Peckforton Hills district which were locations of Bronze and Iron Age agricultural settlements have been degraded or deeply buried, depending on their topographic positions. During episodes of high erosion rates, probably induced by agricultural intensification, the material culture remains of earlier settlements located on the slopes, low hills and ridges of the area were degraded and transported to dry valley floors and stream and mere margins. There they were buried by the sediments transported by subsequent erosion. Sites which escaped such destruction and burial previously, did not escape that process in the 18th century.

The study thus suggests that archaeological evidence of prehistoric sites in the Peckforton Hills district is lacking because it has been removed from its original position by a combination of cultural events and physical forces, and it has subsequently been buried too deeply for systematic recovery by existing techniques of archaeological surveys.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE
LIST OF SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AS RECORDED ON 31 OCTOBER 1982

Burial Mounds and Megalithic Monuments

64	Round barrow W of the Grove	Alraham	SJ 57559
56	Round barrow on Nab Head	Bollington	SJ 94078
94	Mound 260 yds (230m) NE of Rose Farm	Coddington	SJ 45355
4	The Bridestones, Buglawton	Congleton	SJ 90562
59	Seven rounds barrows at Seven Lows	Delamere	SJ 56767
69	Mound E of Rectory	Eccleston	SJ 41462
83	Round barrow SE of Meadows Farm	Horton	SJ 45448
91	Barrow at Castle Cob	Kingsley	SJ 53473
55	Two round barrows on Sponds Hill	Lyme Handley	SJ 97080
58	Round barrow SW of earthwork on Toot Hill	Macclesfield Forest	SJ 97271
73	Gallowsclough Cob, round barrow	Oakmere	SJ 57071
61	Round barrow SW of Birtles Hall	Over Alderley	SJ 85774
52	Round barrow W of Blackrock Farm	Rainow	SJ 95876
53	Round barrow S of Blue Boar Farm	Rainow	SJ 97176
54	Yearn's Low, round barrow	Rainow	SJ 96475
105	Round barrow 490 yds (450m) E of Brink Farm	Rainow	SJ 97279
60	Round barrow SE of Capesthorpe Hall	Siddington	SJ 84672
97	Long Barrow 250 yds (230m) SE of Somerford Bridge	Somerford	SJ 83063
96	Round barrow N of Beech Hall School	Tytherington	SJ 91474
27	Round barrow at High Billings	Utkinton	SJ 55566
109	Round barrow 100 yds (90m) N of Myddleton Lane and Highfield Lane	Winwick	SJ 61393
116	Cairn 200m SW of Sutton Hall	Sutton	SJ 92571

Camps and Settlements

92	Earthwork at Burton Point	Burton	SJ 30373
23	Maiden Castle	Bickerton	SJ 49852
8	Eddisbury Camp	Delamere	SJ 55369
12	Woodhouse Hill Camp	Frodsham	SJ 51075
51	Helsby Hill Camp	Helsby	SJ 49375
14	Bradley Camp	Kingsley	SJ 53967
CD 22	Camp at Oakmere	Oakmere	SJ 57667
26	Kelsborrow Hill Fort	Delamere	SJ 53267

Roman Remains

78	Two sections of Roman road between Appleton and Stretton	Appleton and Stretton	SJ 62883 -63783
13	Edgar's Cave and figure of Minerva	Chester	SJ 40665
SS 85	Roman amphitheatre	Chester	SJ 40866
103	Abbey Green Roman site	Chester	SJ 40666
25	Heronbridge Roman site	Claverton	SJ 41163
106	Earthwork at Bent Farm	Newbold Astbury	SJ 83762
30	Roman road, Thieves Moss, Delamere Forest	Oakmere	SJ 56369
110	Roman settlement at Wilderspool	Warrington	SJ 61286

Moated Sites, Deserted Villages

87	Moated site at Mill Hill House Farm	Eccleston	SJ 401625
40	Huntington Hall, moated site	Huntington	SJ 420635
68	Moated site S of Witney Lane Farm	Hampton	SJ 494491
88	Moated site 200 yds (180m) W of Fir Tree Farm	Marston cum Lache	SJ 393635
111	Foxtwist Moated site	Prestbury	SJ 896798
102	Tatton Old Hall deserted village	Tatton	SJ 756813
95	Moated site at Upton Grange	Upton by Chester	SJ 424691
79	Moated site 600 ft (180m) E of St Chad's Church	Wybunbury	SJ 703498
80	Moated site 1000 ft (300m) SE of St Chad's Church	Wybunbury	SJ 702496
112	Moated site at Elton	Elton	SJ 455748
123	Lovel's Hall, moated site	Widnes	SJ 478847
114	Barrow Old Hall, moated site	Bold	SJ 561895
115	Moated site 500m SE of Eaton	Rushton	SJ 579631
118	Moated site Booths Hall, Knutsford	Knutsford	SJ 770780
120	Moated site & Fishponds, Drakelow Hall, Rudheath	Rudheath	SJ 704701
121	Moated site Minshull Vernon	Minshull Vernon	SJ 689603
107	Moated site, Acton	Acton	SJ 629531
122	Moated site S of Huntington Hall	Huntington	SJ 429620

Industrial Monuments

93	Anderton Boat Lift	Anderton	SJ 647752
99	Bunbury Locks, Bridge and Stables	Bunbury	SJ 578591
108	Bank Quay Transporter Bridge	Warrington	SJ 597876
98	Wooden Lifting Bridge	Wrenbury	SJ 590480

Other Secular Sites and Buildings

32	Medieval Kiln	Ashton	SJ 507693
48	Moated site at Bruera	Buerton	SJ 437606
44	Manor House, Ince	Ellesmere Port	SJ 449765
104	Duck Decoy Pond SE of Marsh Bridge	Hale	SJ 478827
41	Quadrilateral Earthwork on Toot Hill	Macclesfield Forest	SJ 972721
72	Mound SW of Barthomley	Wincle	SJ 965658

Ecclesiastical Buildings

38	St John's Church (ruined parts)	Chester	SJ 409661
35	St Nicholas Chapel	Chester	SJ 405663
36	The Little Abbey Gateway	Chester	SJ 404665
100	Site of St Andrew's Hospital, Denhall	Ellesmere Port	SJ 301747
101	Stanlow Abbey (remains of)	Ellesmere Port	SJ 427773
16	Norton Priory	Runcorn	SJ 548830
76	Vale Royal Abbey	Winsford	SJ 639699
117	Site of St John's Chapel, Knutsford	Knutsford	SJ 765788
119	Site of Chapel, Chapel Farm, Wervin	Wervin	SJ 419718

Crosses

	71	Cross base in Churchyard	Disley	SJ 97484
	70	Cross heads at Lyme Hall	Lyme Handley	SJ 96682
	34	Three pre-Norman Cross Shafts	Macclesfield	SJ 91174
	39	Churchyard Cross	Prestbury	SJ 90076
SS	5	Sandbach Crosses	Sandbach	SJ 75860
	63	Cross N of Sutton End Farm	Sutton	SJ 95669
	65	Cleulow Cross	Wincle	SJ 95267
	50	The Bow Stones	Lyme Handley	SJ 97481

Castles and Fortifications

	47	Motte and Bailey Castles	Aldford	SJ 41959
SS	1	Beeston Castle	Beeston	SJ 53759
CDS	24	Chester Castle (part)	Chester	SJ 40565
	7	The City Wall, Towers, Gates and Posterns	Chester	SJ 40166
	9	Shocklach Castle	Church	- 40666
			Shocklach	SJ 43450
	43	Doddington Castle	Doddington	SJ 70847
	46	Dodleston Castle	Dodleston	SJ 36160
	86	Motte and Bailey N of Harthill Bank	Oakmere	SJ 56771
	66	Castle Hill	Oldcastle	SJ 46844
	45	Pulford Castle	Pulford	SJ 37558
CD	2	Halton Castle	Runcorn	SJ 53882
	11	Shotwick Castle	Shotwick	SJ 34970
	67	Castle Hill	Malpas	SJ 48647

Bridges

	17	Dee Bridge	Chester	SJ 40765
	21	Crossley Bridge or Colleymill Bridge	Congleton	SJ 89165
	113	Iron Bridge, Aldford	Aldford and Poulton	SJ 41860
	*-	Farndon Bridge	Farndon	SJ 41154

*Farndon Bridge links Farndon with Holt, which is in Wales. The English half of the bridge is listed as a Grade I Building of Architectural or Historic Interest, and the Welsh half is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. In practice, the whole structure is deemed by the Secretary of State for the Environment to be both scheduled and listed.

Key to symbols

- SS denotes monuments wholly or partly in the charge of the Secretary of State under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments & Historic Buildings Act.
- CDS denotes Crown or Duchy property wholly or partly in charge of the Secretary of State.
- CD denotes Crown or Duchy property NOT in the charge of the Secretary of State.

BUCKLOW HUNDRED: THE DOMESDAY SURVEY AND THE

RURAL COMMUNITY

N J Higham

Bucklow Hundred comprised an area of north Cheshire bounded by Macclesfield to the east, Northwich and Eddisbury to the south and the Mersey to the north. In the Domesday survey there were two hundreds, dividing between Grappenhall and Lymm on a belt of boulder clay running approximately north-south. The smaller, western hundred was called Tunendune in Domesday, and only the eastern area, Bucklow Hundred, but this is the only source for Tunendune which was hereafter incorporated in an enlarged Bucklow Hundred or described as Halton Hundred. Minor changes to the boundary have also occurred since Domesday, when it included Northenden, Snelson and Great Warford, since removed to Macclesfield hundred.¹

The area is a lowlying one, of undulating boulder clay, with elevations based upon keuper marl and sandstone covered by drift deposits of glacial sands and gravels. The northern fringe is occupied by lowlying sandstone and wind blown sand deposits and forms the alluvial basin of the Mersey, subject to flooding, and at that time largely composed of peat mosses of which Carrington moss is a survivor. Modern arable cultivation has spread outside the old arable lands of the well drained elevations, with cultivation of potatoes and vegetables on old moss land, but it is essentially a pastoral farming area, with a widely scattered farming community.

The Domesday survey records 24 identifiable place names in Bucklow Hundred (east) and 17 in Tunendune, comprising a total of 58 units described as manors. Obviously, problems arise in the correct ascription of units of a divided township to one or more specific centres. The most extreme example is that of Peover, where the multiplicity of modern names (Peover Superior, Peover Inferior, etc) is mirrored by the presence of 4 Domesday manors. Given the small and scattered nature of the available well drained soils, it is highly unlikely that these 4 manors were ever based at a single manorial site, but were the forerunners of the modern divisions. Elsewhere, the presence of two or more manors associated with a single place name might imply either local partition, or a situation comparable to that at Peover, where small scattered settlements exist under the umbrella of a locality name. At Tatton, for example, a second manor may have been the precursor of the distinct 13th century manorial unit of Norshaw in the north of the township area, and the same may have been true at Cogshall or Ollerton.

A substantial majority of places named lie on the elevated terrain of the keuper marl, sandstone or glacial sands and gravels. This is particularly true of those place names with a settlement element - 'ton', '-hall' or '-worth'. Forest names and the few names of Scandinavian origin occur more commonly on boulder clay (Ashley, Antrobus, etc.), or on or close to smaller areas of better drained soils, as at Mobberley, Baguley and High Legh. Names derived from topographical descriptions are scattered across both types of

environment but are concentrated in the eastern hundred. In general terms, the place names would seem to provide a description of zonal land-use which was accurate at some time previous to Domesday, and of which several factors are discernable in Domesday. The environmental awareness that appears to have been a hallmark of the selection of settlement site would in part explain the gaps on the distribution map, particularly in the moss lands north of Dunham and Bowdon, and elsewhere in areas of unrelieved clays. It would also explain the division into two hundreds: the broad gap in between is dominated by woodland place names of which only one is recorded in Domesday (Tabley, Over and Nether) and that as three manors, and so suggestive of non-nucleated communities. Otherwise this belt of clay lands is a primary candidate for an area of late clearance, with names like Arley, Litley, Crowley, Burleyheyes, Northwood, Bradley, Swineyard, etc. In 1086 it probably represented an area of intercommoning. There is no reason to think that it was in any way impenetrable, since several landholders in 1066 seem to have held manors in both hundreds, and this may even have been an advantage in the regulation of the use of 'waste' pasture. The record of woodland in the survey of 1086 is incomplete, and where there is no record of woodland this appears in most instances to be due to the waste or near waste condition (i.e. low valuation) of the manors. This factor excludes 18 manors from our attention. Elsewhere it is the well placed settlements which have small woodland areas or where these are not mentioned at all (Clifton, Bartington, Little Leigh, Great Budworth). At Middle Aston, Wincham, Norton, Rostherne, Ollerton and Dunham, woodland comprised 4 acres or less. Large woodland areas are not exclusive to the forest manors, although Mobberley has the greatest extent recorded (2 leagues by 2 leagues), but they are on the whole concentrated in those manors where substantial clay areas comprise a part of the resource territory.

Land holding in 1066

The pattern of land tenure in 1066 seems to have been diverse, although the extent of this diversity is overshadowed by the problem of whether or not one name represents only a single individual. For example, Alward holding a group of 5 manors in the Bowdon area was probably one person. If one name represents one individual in all cases, Leofneth and Dot with 7 manors each were the widest flung landholders, followed by Edward and Wulfgeat. In all, at least 27 'free men' held 59 manors (inclusive of the lost Alretun stall), but in practise there were probably more. For example, the Raven holding a part of Dutton is not likely to have been the same man as held part of Broxton on the Welsh border, and part of Warburton where the Bollin joined the Mersey.

The value of the estates in 1066 was rarely large. Halton (40s), Norton (16s), Middle Aston (16s), Appleton (16s), Lymm (20s) and Over Tabley (17s) were the greatest, but other than these none were over 10s. In 15 places no value was given, probably because the dislocation that occurred between 1066 and 1086 meant that the information could not be retrieved from local inhabitants. It is hardly surprising that this is a factor on many waste or near waste manors. The atypical value of Halton implies that it was the pre-conquest hundredal centre, as it was to be the hundredal and baronial centre in the Norman period.

In 1066 the total agricultural land was not great. The listed examples were probably representative of the remainder, mostly between 2-4 ploughlands. For some of the greatest we have no information, as was the case at Halton. Elsewhere, with the exception of Mobberley, concentrations of ploughs were associated with settlement names in primary locations. No totals can be estimated because of the fragmentary nature of the evidence, and the Domesday survey was probably a less accurate portrayal of this area than of most others for reasons that follow. However, the incidence of manors recorded as being waste in 1066, was small, and this was probably accurate.

Bucklow Hundred in 1086

The dominant factor in Bucklow Hundred in 1086 is the widespread record of 'waste', and this presents us with a problem of interpretation. In Bucklow Hundred (east) only the 2 manors of Tatton and the 2 at High Legh fail to mention waste; in Tunendune Hundred only the three Astons, Great Budworth and Little Leigh. Since the incidence of waste manors in 1066 is small, the high incidence in 1086 must be due to events between these two dates, and it is certain that the popular ascription of the wasting by William in the winter of 1069-1070 is generally correct? North-east Cheshire suffered more than any other part of the county. What is not clear is why the records for a handful of communities fail to mention waste. This is not likely to be due to a submission on the part of the inhabitants since the Norman forces would have taken no notice of such local incidents, and in any case Dot and Wulfgeat at High Legh and Egbrand and Leofwin at Tatton each had other landholdings which suffered wasting, situated in all directions. The most likely reconstructions must be that either these manors escaped wastage by accident, or mention of that fact failed to be recorded. In several cases these manors experienced the same general loss of value between 1066 and 1086 (as at Middle Aston and High Legh), although at Aston by Sutton and Little Leigh this trend is reversed. These factors may point towards a range of wastage with an impact varying from the few cases where none was recorded and none occurred, through those where there was no serious disruption, to the vast majority where a real dislocation in settlement and land-use was still either a fact or a vivid memory in 1086.

What is difficult to ascertain is what is meant by the common cryptic entries wast fuit (it was waste), wasta fuit 7 est (it was and is waste), and wast inuen (found waste)³ When land is described wasta fuit 7 est then we must assume that it was waste in 1086. However, it is unclear when the verb in the past tense should be applied. It seems not to refer to the property in 1066, since in most cases details which include a valuation, tenant and ploughlands have already been given for that stage. Similarly wast inuen seems not to apply to the condition in 1086, since it is used to describe land in use and with a valuation at that time. The key would seem to lie in a remark concerning Halton: 'Total value of the manor before 1066, 40s; later waste; now, what William (son of Nigel) holds 50s, what the men at arms hold 54s.'⁴ This clearly states the three periods for which Domesday is describing the condition of the manor, and it is only a single logical step to assume that the period of waste began in the winter of 1069-1070 and continued until the conversion of land to use

under the new Norman landholder. The phrase wast̄ inueñ presumably, therefore, applied not to 1066 or 1086, but to the period when the New Norman tenant took up his enfeoffment. For example, Weston, valued T.R.E. at 8s was worth 35s in 1086 but was 'found waste', presumably when Odard and Brictric took it over.⁵ Wincham, of unstated value in 1066 was worth 10s to Gilbert of Venables in 1066 but 'it was waste and he found it so'⁶ Presumably the subject of the verb referred to was Gilbert, not the Domesday surveyor, and the occasion was when he entered into possession of the manor.

If this is a reasonable reconstruction of the Domesday entries, the implication is that Domesday provides us with a view of a group of manors which have suffered widespread and deeprooted damage but which were in 1086 undergoing a process of restoration and revival under new landlords. This would at least explain the apparent widespread ignorance in 1086 of the situation on many manors in 1066, and the inconsistencies between value in 1066 and 1086: in no one case is the value the same. On aggregate, where ascertainable, the loss of value was only 4s 4d (94s 8d versus a gain of 90s 4d), but this hides important factors. Manors where there is a recorded loss in value outnumber those where there was a gain by 21 to 8. In addition, in the majority of those cases where no figure is calculable, this was probably due to wastage and the consequent lack of value. Those with a significant increase are very few, and the figures are distorted by the performance of Halton Manor with a value in 1086 of 104s, an increase of 64s. Nearby Weston and Aston by Sutton also had big increases, and it seems likely that here we have the first fruits of redevelopment by the new French landholders. At most there were, excluding earl Ranulf and the church, 16 named and 4 un-named French tenants for these estates, and of these William son of Nigel and 7 others (including Brictric at Weston) were established at or near Halton, and presumably following their own best interests in bringing back estates to profitability. Elsewhere, we can see other individual tenants involved in the process of renewal. Hamo of Mascy and by 1086 restored Dunham and Hale to something close to their 1066 value, but Bowdon was still worth only 3s, despite 2 French tenants and a mill, and his other estates were waste. Of the Cheshire barons, only Hamo and William had their major estates in Bucklow Hundred. Other tenants of the earl had been much more dilatory in re-organising cultivation on estates in the hundred which for many of them were outliers remote from their major interests. Jocelyn had failed to re-organise Nether Tabley, for example, and Osbern had done little to redevelop Appleton. In most cases, the new landholders appear to have been starting again from scratch after the wasting, and there are signs that both the earl and his tenants had experienced difficulties in attracting tenants at all levels. A significant number of manors were in 1086 still in the hands of the earl and these were all still waste. At the other end of the scale, Payne held a small group of unwasted manors at and around Great Budworth and had accumulated these from two feudal superiors, including William son of Nigel (of Halton). The latter had successfully tenanted part of Halton itself, Aston by Sutton, Weston and Knutsford, but his more distant holdings were largely untenanted and to a great extent waste.⁷

In some cases, the effort to wring some profit out of the ruins led the thinly spread Norman hierarchy into unusual avenues. For example, one part of Lymm had been held by an Edward in 1066, to the value of 10s, and with 4 plough lands. In 1086 we find an Edward who is highly likely to be the same individual holding it from Osbern son of Tezzo. Despite the record of wasting, there is a recorded population of 8 and the valuation has dropped by only 2s. Elsewhere Ranulf Mainwaring had tried the same expedient, enfeoffing the sitting tenant Godgyth (a woman) at Warford, and she appears to have either retained or attracted a better demesne work force (4 male and 2 female slaves) than her neighbours. Similarly Egbrand retained an interest in Knutsford under William son of Nigel, and we find that the earl has enfeoffed survivors of the 1066 landholding class with run down manors which he has presumably otherwise been unable to tenant (part of Bartington, part of Ollerton). In the face of the local population seed grain and livestock losses consequent on the campaign of 1069-1070, it is difficult to see how the new landholders could have done otherwise than to employ the remnants of this body of experienced and locally respected thanes and freemen to undertake some of the least profitable areas of reconstruction.

The level of dislocation that is enshrined in Domesday Book is probably also responsible for the otherwise unexplained absentee manors. It is, of course, likely that some of the unlisted manors were new foundations after 1086, perhaps headed by the occasional 'Newton'. However, there is a hard core of sites that, by local criteria, occupy primary settlement locations for which this explanation must be rejected. First come those place names recorded before 1086, absent from Domesday, but recurring as a location name at a later date. Only Runcorn, Thelwall and Middleton (Grange) fall into this category, but these imply the survival, if not of the places themselves, at least of their names. The unrecorded settlement names do as a general rule occupy agricultural land more limited in area or of lower quality than the best sites listed in Domesday, but all compare favourably with the smaller manors at Peover, or with Mobberley or Ashley. Barnton, for example, or Stretton, or Preston on the Hill occupy good agricultural terrain, and these are closely followed by Hatton, Altrincham and Walton. None of these are likely to be post-conquest in origin, and we should probably see settlements such as these and others named in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries as the unwritten casualties of the wasting. As a general rule, Domesday records a denser settlement pattern in west and south Cheshire (in particular in Wirral, Ati's Cross, Chester, Broxton, Eddisbury South and Nantwich Hundreds) and a higher recorded population per settlement. In Bucklow Hundred if we exclude the atypical baronial centre of Halton, only Lymm, Tatton, Dutton and Weston have a recorded population of more than 10, and of these all but Weston were 2 manors. In the difficult conditions of the Welsh borderlands, the western hundreds have a far higher incidence of manors with a population over 10, and several over 20. The same comparison applies if we consider the incidence in 1086 of ploughs or of mills. The inescapable inference is that Bucklow Hundred had a population and level of exploitation which had been artificially reduced between 1066 and 1086.

Conclusions

The Domesday record for Bucklow Hundred provides us with an overview of a settlement and exploitation system which had developed in a predictable pattern over a long period, but which had been severely affected by wasting at the orders of King William in the winter of 1069-1070. By 1086 considerable efforts were already being made to restore productivity, but the affects of the ravaging were still widely visible and it was a major factor in the relative poverty and underdeveloped nature of the area. It was probably a further generation before Bucklow Hundred can have regained the modest level of agricultural land-use and population that is implied by the fragmentary description of its status in 1066.

References

- (1) J McN Dodgson The Place-Names of Cheshire Part II, English Place Name Society Vol. XLV (C.U.P. 1980) p. 1ff. Unless otherwise stated, I have here used Bucklow Hundred in its later, wider sense.
- (2) e.g. D Sylvester A History of Cheshire (Henley on Thames 1971) p. 26.
- (3) P Morgan ed. Domesday Book: A survey of the Counties of England, Part 26 Cheshire from a draft translation by A Rumble. (Phillimore, 1978). This edition has been used in all reference to the Domesday Survey, which has been found accurate in all respects bar the location of 'Sunderland', in respect of which I would like to thank Mrs B Taylor for her comments.
- (4) P Morgan ibid 9,17.
- (5) P Morgan ibid 9,18.
- (6) P Morgan ibid 17,8.
- (7) A comparable picture of the rebuilding after the wasting is provided for Yorkshire and the north east in W E Kapelle The Norman Conquest of the North (Croom Helm 1979) p. 158 ff. See also T A M Bishop 'The Norman Settlement of Yorkshire' in Studies in Medieval History ed. R W Hunt, W A Pentin, R W Southern (Oxford, 1948) pp. 1-14.

BEESTON CASTLE SJ 515549

Recent Archaeological Research for the Department of the Environment

With a fifth season of excavation completed at the outer gateway, it is now possible to review with some confidence the achievements of the project so far. It began in 1978 with a contour survey of the area immediately in front of and adjacent to the gatehouse. The close examination of the modern ground surface in this area showed a greater complexity of earthwork remains than had previously been envisaged. There were two major results from this initial work. Firstly, it helped to provide the impetus for the re-survey of the whole hill along with the checking of the existing plans of the monument. This detailed earthwork and masonry survey has now been completed and will form the basis for the plan to be included in the forthcoming guide. It has provided invaluable and previously unrecorded detail as well as a permanent record and basis for future work. Secondly, it suggested that simple trenching of the area would provide little valuable evidence for the means of approach to the gatehouse. Indeed, it can now be demonstrated that any narrow trenching of the area would have led inevitably to misleading results.

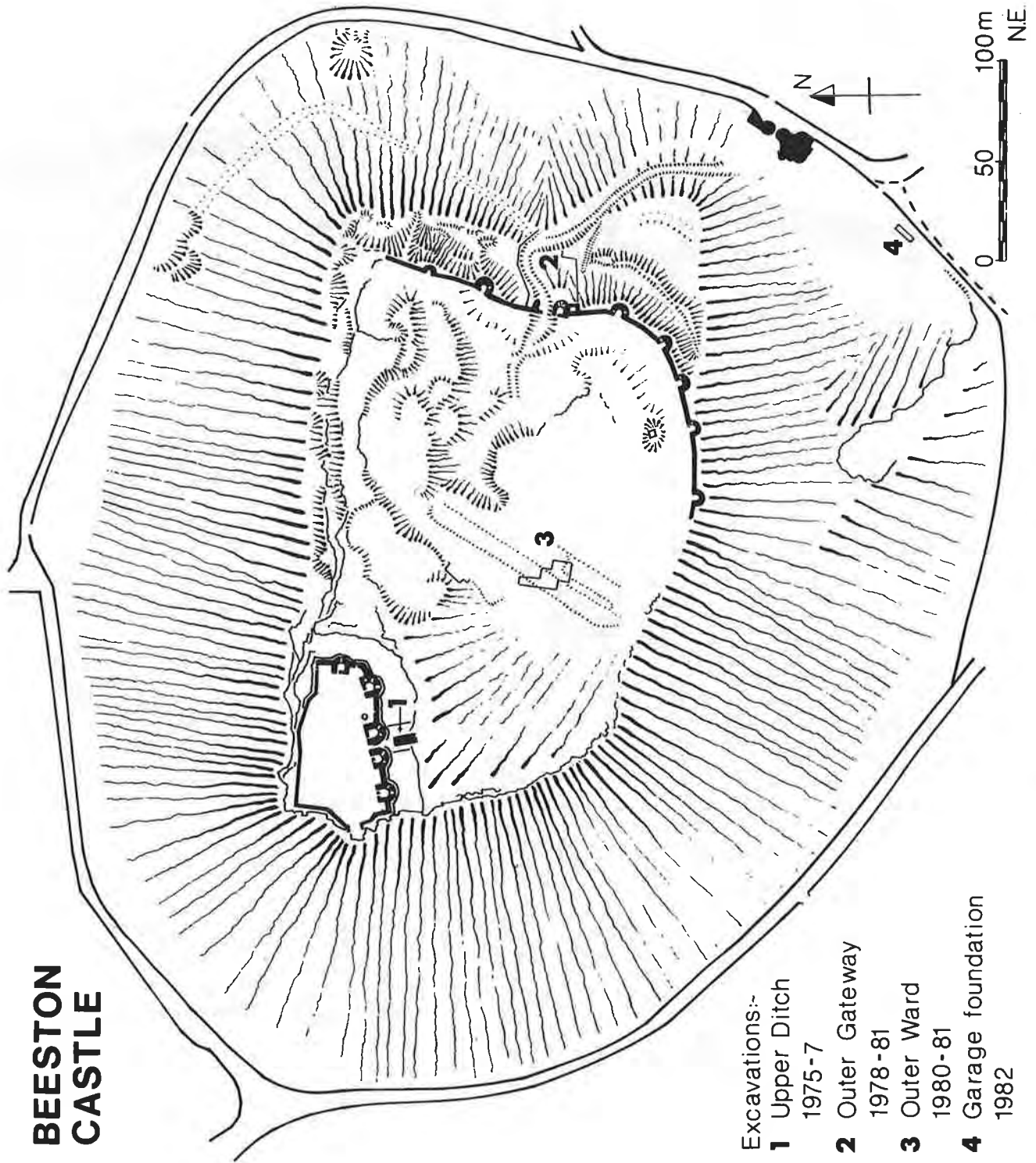
In fact, the resultant large-scale excavation is providing a detailed picture of an extremely complex sequence of approach roads, defences and occupation. Some fifteen different approach surfaces, probably representing continuous access to the hill since prehistoric times, have been identified. The outer defences have been modified many times; at least five major re-cuts of the southern arm of the ditch, and three of the northern arm, can be demonstrated and it is also probable that there were several phases of pre-castle earth and stone bank. In the gatehouse itself, floor levels associated with three different hearth positions have been found, as well as evidence of other phases of occupation.

The deposits encountered in the outer gateway excavations can be divided into three main periods, those being pre-castle, medieval and post-medieval.

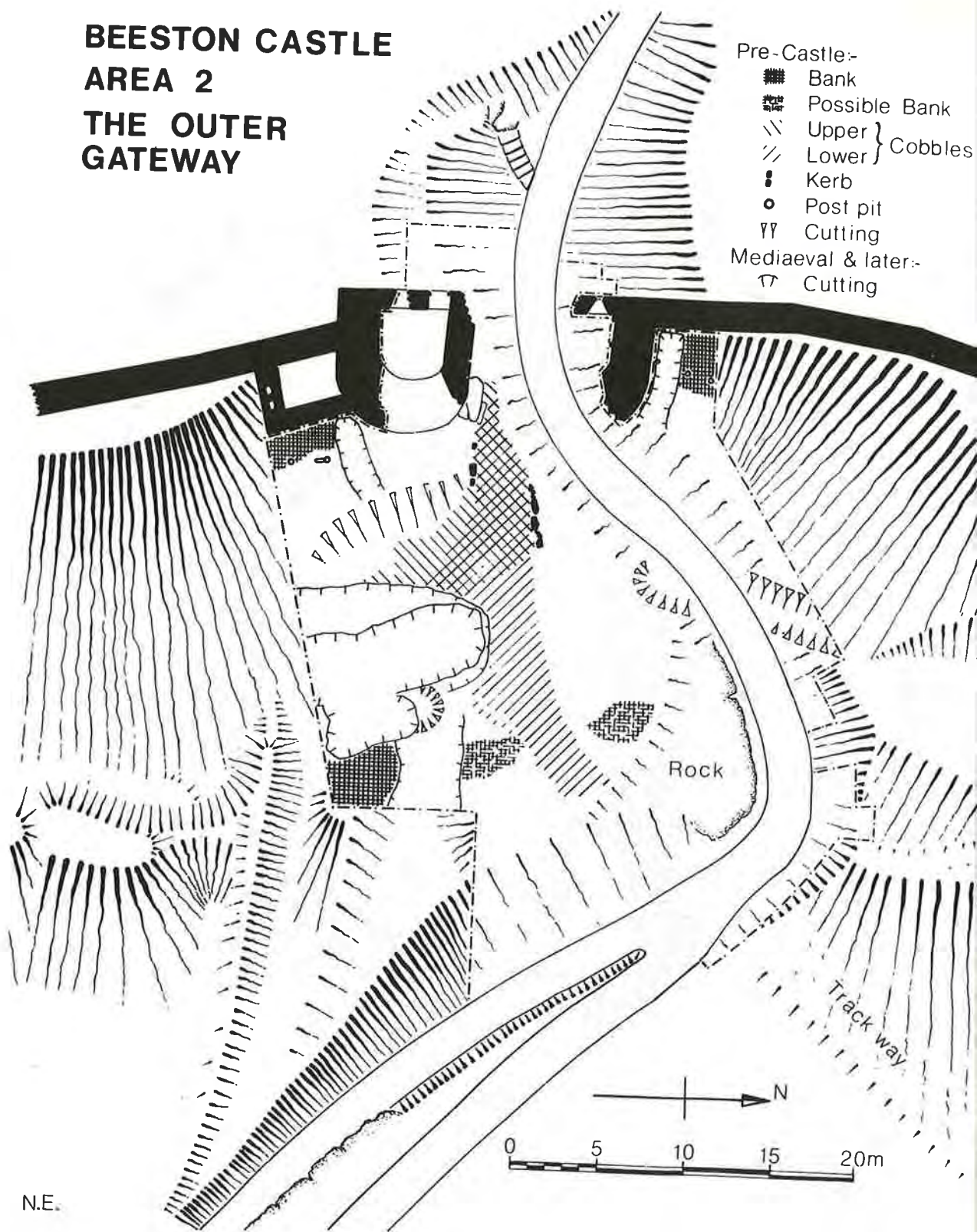
The Pre-castle Deposits

These can best be recognised in the approach surfaces as they run into the gate passage area. At this point, it is clear that a number of surfaces and deposits are incompatible with the medieval entrance level represented by the bottom of the portcullis slot and, indeed, in two instances these deposits are cut or sealed by the foundation of the south tower of the 13th gatehouse. At the same time, they do appear to follow the line of the later medieval passageway, a line which was probably dictated by the existence of a peri-glacial dry valley cutting through the natural rock at this point. The valley has left a natural scarp on each side of the entrance. In medieval times, these formed the bases for the north and south towers of the gatehouse and there is increasing evidence that, in a pre-castle period, they were capped with a bank of earth and stone. At their bases have been found very large sandstone blocks which probably protected some of the pre-castle approach roads from the erosion and collapse of the rocky scarp.

BEESTON CASTLE



**BEESTON CASTLE
AREA 2
THE OUTER
GATEWAY**



Away from the gate passage area, it is also apparent that these cobbled surfaces are incompatible with the position of the medieval ditches. To the north, the ditch excavated last year has, this year, proved to be the latest of a sequence of at least three ditch cuts, all of which are of pre-castle date. There is now growing evidence that the counterscarp bank, prominent as an earthwork, is also associated with these early surfaces and ditches.

Although the complete pattern of these pre-castle features is not yet apparent, it is certain that they represent major efforts over probably thousands of years to adapt the natural approach route to the hill for the purposes of defence and ease of access.

The Medieval Deposits

The boundary between one period and another in the outer gateway excavation is never very clear cut. This is as much because of the lack of dating evidence as because of the inevitable continuity of the use of roads leading to what has always been the best vantage point in Cheshire. This is particularly true of the medieval approaches which, at their lowest levels, make use of existing deposits, and, at their highest levels, are modified by post-medieval activity. Thus the main means of access in the medieval period has proved to be enigmatic. Several cobbled surfaces can be shown to fit into the period between the pre-castle deposits and the main time of post-medieval activity but none are of the substantial nature expected of an approach to such a strongly fortified gateway.

Several explanations for this may be put forward, not least that of the transformation to which the area was later subjected. However, there is tenuous evidence that, in their final solution, the medieval builders avoided the use of cobbles altogether and resorted to a timber ramp or bridge despite the natural causeway. A massive post pit to one side of the mouth of the gate passage, and a much disturbed but symmetrically placed feature to the other side, may be considered as possible evidence for the end of a timber ramp which would have provided a sound footing, at a reasonable gradient, across a particularly intractable expanse of ground. Obviously, this explanation leaves much unanswered and, unfortunately, much may remain so, as the vital evidence was probably lost in the C18th when the hollow-way approach was cut.

Of other medieval activities in the area, one can speak with a little more certainty. In the southern part of the excavation, the butt ends of three rock-cut ditches have been found. Two are almost certainly medieval in origin and the latest of these has possibly been re-cut twice. The counterscarp bank would certainly have been a feature of the medieval defence, although it was probably earlier in origin. Immediately to the north of the excavation, these major re-cuts are absent although the modern ground surface, here not affected by post-medieval dumping, does present a profile resembling that of a broad ditch and counterscarp bank which may be the result of landscaping pre-castle features in the medieval period.

The surviving deposits in the C13th gatehouse itself, so badly damaged in the C18th, have revealed a number of changes in the south gate tower. It survives only as a ground floor plan although the height of the later rectangular tower, probably added in the C15th, suggests that the gatehouse once stood to three storeys. Occupation and floor levels were thin and only produced a scatter of finds. Associated features included stake-holes, post-holes, shallow pits and hearths. The earliest hearth was against the south wall and showed no sign of chimney or outlet for smoke. Later, the hearth was moved to the west wall and here there is some indication that the window opening above was modified as a chimney, although so little survives that all that can be said with certainty is that, in this phase, the window could not have served its original function.

These makeshift arrangements in the ground floor of the gatehouse may in fact belie the importance of the residential aspect of the gatehouse for, some years after its construction, a substantial latrine tower, providing facilities at first and second floor levels, was added. This contrasts with the inner ward where the latrine facilities were provided only in the subsidiary tower to the east of the gatehouse.

The post-medieval deposits

The earliest known documented reference to the occupation of the castle in the post-medieval period is that of 'two poore kynsmen' of Hugh Beeston living in the castle in 1627. Evidence of their presence in the archaeological record has not been distinguished. However, mid to late C17th occupation is marked by the occurrence in the stratigraphy of large quantities of distinctive black glazed pottery, slip wares, clay pipes, musket balls and window glass. In the outer gateway the levels producing these artefacts can be attributed to two main periods of activity.

Firstly, there is the Civil War period which at Beeston lasted from 1643-6. Several features in the outer gateway may be attributable to this phase. It is probable that at or before this period a flight of steps leading into the gate passage was constructed on what were then grassy slopes in front of a dilapidated gatehouse. At the same time, the route leading to these steps was revetted with low stone walling, creating the effect of funnelling those who wished to enter the castle along an ever-narrowing corridor. It is probable, at this time, that a shallow ditch was hollowed out of the much-silted medieval ditches on the southern side of the approach and that in the gate house a new hearth was constructed on the ground floor of the south tower. This time, the hearth was placed against the north wall.

Secondly, there is the occupation by a certain George Walley who, records tell us, was living 'in a cottage in the outer gate' in the 1690's and who moved into a newly-built cottage in Beeston Village in 1722. In the stratigraphy, as in the finds, there appears to be a break between the Civil War occupation and that of George Walley. The steps became silted up and probably grassed over as did the trackway and ditch. In the clay pipe assemblage there is a distinct hiatus between the mid and later C17th types. However, traces of his occupation, in what little remains of the gatehouse are difficult to define.

Following the abandonment of the gatehouse in the 1720's, there was probably a short period of natural decay. A chimney stack may have fallen at this time. Certainly tiles and slates became dislodged from the roof and embedded themselves in the ground below. Access to the gatehouse probably became impossible by the normal route, necessitating a less direct route which has left its trace in a deep rut in the southern corner of the excavated area.

This short period of decline was followed by the dismantling of the gatehouse, leaving a dramatic rubble deposit, over one metre deep, covering the approach road. This clogged up the direct approach once and for all and necessitated the cutting in the C18th of the existing hollow-way, which completed the reduction of the gatehouse to its present state.

Excavation in the Outer Ward

Excavations in the outer ward of the castle in 1980 and 1981 have clearly demonstrated the existence of a late prehistoric settlement on the hill. Broad dating evidence is provided by a large collection of Iron Age pottery including V.C.P. and rims of slack-shouldered situlate jars, whilst a radio-carbon date of 350 B.C. ± 80 for part of a charred post 'in situ' provides a more specific date. In addition, a quantity of bronze implements including four axes, a spearhead and a fragment of a sword blade, and fragments of crucible and clay mould, indicate that a bronzesmith was at work on the hill in the late Bronze Age. Flint tools and worked stone implements, although less reliable for dating purposes, provide a further dimension to the artefactual assemblage.

The structural evidence for the settlement is complex. At least three phases of post hole construction are evident, and in one phase the posts have been removed and the post pipe back-filled. Prehistoric soil horizons have not been preserved and, as yet, the area opened is too small to identify, with any certainty, the outline of specific structures.

A fuller discussion of this aspect of the site appeared in Current Archaeology last year (1982), but in any case, further work is required to process all the results. Further radio-carbon dates are also expected.

The Causeway to the Inner Ward

Work has begun on the consolidation of the remains of the medieval stone causeway to the inner ward. Archaeological excavations to expose this feature were completed in 1977 (Hough, J.C.A.S. 1978). However, the conservation work has necessitated further excavation into the core of the causeway. Where possible this is being carried out under archaeological constraints and it is hoped that this work will provide some of the answers to questions which remained unanswered by the earlier excavations.

Excavations on the Lower Green

A trench, 4m x 12m, the proposed site of a new garage, was excavated on the lower green of Beeston Castle below the outer medieval defences. Upper levels produced postmedieval, medieval and R-B finds in a mixed humic sandy soil. Probably of colluvial origin, the soil has certainly been cultivated in post-medieval times. Below this soil, and in part disturbed by its cultivation, a cobbled surface extended across the whole trench. A dark sandy silt on and between the cobbles produced R-B and occasional prehistoric pottery sherds. A few sherds of R-B pottery were also found on removing the cobbles which, in places, were 15-20cm thick. The underlying surface was a disturbed grey podsolized sandy soil into which had been cut two small post pits and a small trench, or ditch, filled with large stones. No finds could be attributed to the pre-cobble deposits with certainty. The cobbled surface was of a rough construction consistent with either an agricultural or even a domestic yard or road surface. The location of this discovery is quite possible as an early route and, indeed, the site is adjacent to the 'Sandstone Trail' which, at this point, follows a post-medieval track/road line between the base of Beeston Crag and the knoll of high ground above and to the west of Beeston Village.

The Finds

Prehistoric and Roman Finds

A number of sherds of prehistoric pottery and some worked stones have been found in the outer gateway excavation. The greatest concentration of these was in the precastle levels and, perhaps significantly, was not accompanied by any later finds. A single sherd of Samian pottery was found along with much post-medieval material in a trench also to the north of the gatehouse. The prehistoric finds from the outer ward excavations have been referred to in detail in a previous interim report.

The R-B pottery from the lower green includes a single very abraded sherd of C2nd Samian ware, black-burnished wares of mid C3rd dates (Peter Carrington pers. comm.) and mica-dusted wares and a sherd of a cordoned bowl, identical in form to an example from Holt, in a red-orange fabric. One curious characteristic of several of the sherds of black-burnished ware is the presence of iron rivets, or bungs, clearly representing repairs to one or more vessels. It is difficult to parallel this type of repair, particularly to such coarse wares, although there are a few examples now from recent excavations at Dinorben and Segontium (Graeme Guilbert pers. comm.). The prehistoric pottery from this excavation was small in quantity but similar in fabric to the large quantities found on the hill.

Medieval and Post-medieval Finds

To date, nearly 1000 post-medieval vessels have been identified. It is through this identification and reconstruction of vessels that all the pottery is being quantified, rather than by any of the less reliable but quicker methods of, for example, sherd count or weight. Some vessels may be represented by only one sherd but, in the case of the post-medieval pottery, most vessels are 20-70% complete. This fact makes possible a more complete study of the range of forms and pottery types than is normal. For this reason, considerable time has been spent in identifying and cataloguing the individual characteristics of each pot. In this way it is hoped that, amongst other things, it may be possible to identify or isolate the products of sources, workshops and even individual potters, to assess the proportion of individual types of pot and to compare the quality of pottery assemblage for the main periods of post-medieval occupation, i.e. those of the Civil War 1643-6 and George Walley, 1690's-1722.

The clay pipes from the outer gateway are at present under study but have already provided invaluable dating evidence, and, it is hoped, will also provide similar information to the pottery regarding the relative quality of the phases of post-medieval occupation.

Metalwork, including bronze, pewter and iron objects, glass, stone, brick and tile are also being examined as part of the overall assemblage of post-medieval and medieval finds. One notable discovery amongst the iron finds has been a quantity of perforated metal plates from a 'jack of plates', a C16th quilted jacket, or jerkin, used by soldiers as a primitive form of armour and a rare discovery on an archaeological excavation. They do survive into the C17th and it is assumed that this one was discarded or disintegrated at the time of the Civil War.

Documentary Research

Documentary research has continued in parallel with the excavations as an essential prerequisite to the understanding of the site. Research for the museum display has formed the basis for a comprehensive study of the monument through its documents.

Many documents have been consulted and many transcribed or photocopied, in particular the Estate records of the Mostyn and Tollemache families. Some of the results of the examination of these records have been referred to already and these will form a crucial element in the interpretation of the archaeological evidence. All written records, illustrations and photographs have been incorporated in an archive which will facilitate present and future research.

The Survey

The completion of the survey will mark the culmination of several years of intensive work on the earthwork and standing remains on Beeston Crag. It has established a framework for all future work, discussion and research, and the setting up of a permanent grid on the hill has given us a reference system based on that in use by the Ordnance Survey. As well as identifying areas of archaeological sensitivity, it has established the complexity and interest of the earthwork remains, on what has previously been regarded as essentially a stone-built monument. As well as a written description of the physical remains on the hill, which will be included in the Beeston Archive, the quality of the survey has been such that it has resulted in the production of a definitive plan of the castle which will be used in the forthcoming official DoE guide.

Perhaps most significantly, the survey has shown the importance of a thorough examination of the whole of a monument in advance of any work, be it excavation or conservation.

The Museum

The new museum at Beeston Castle, commissioned and financed by the Department of the Environment, opened in 1982. It is a tribute to the many people who have lived and worked on Beeston Crag and is a major addition to the attractions of the monument.

P R Hough

BIDDULPH MOOR SJ 9261

A Roman road on the Cheshire border in North Staffordshire

The 1978/79 Cheshire Archaeological Bulletin (No.6 pages 4 to 9) contained an article by D. Longley, concerning the archaeological potential of air photographs. Included amongst the list of features noted on existing air cover was a reference to a length of possible Roman road on Biddulph Moor, Staffs. (Op. cit. page 8).

My attention was drawn to this by George Taylor of Mottram, Hyde, who was also good enough to send a copy of the photograph. This had been taken in the winter of 1947, under the ideal conditions of a light snow cover and oblique lighting. The line of the road was inked in on the copy, so it was impossible to deduce the degree of preservation at that time. Fortunately the field boundaries were clear enough to enable the road to be plotted onto the map. (Fig.2).

A visit to the area in late November 1981 resulted in a disappointing lack of field evidence. Over most of the line there was no trace at all. However, near the northern end, at Hays farm, a low causeway was observed and it was noticed that where the line crossed Dingle Lane there was a distinct hump. This continued into the field beyond for 100 metres. Probing at Hays indicated at least 7.5 metres of



fig 1



fig 2

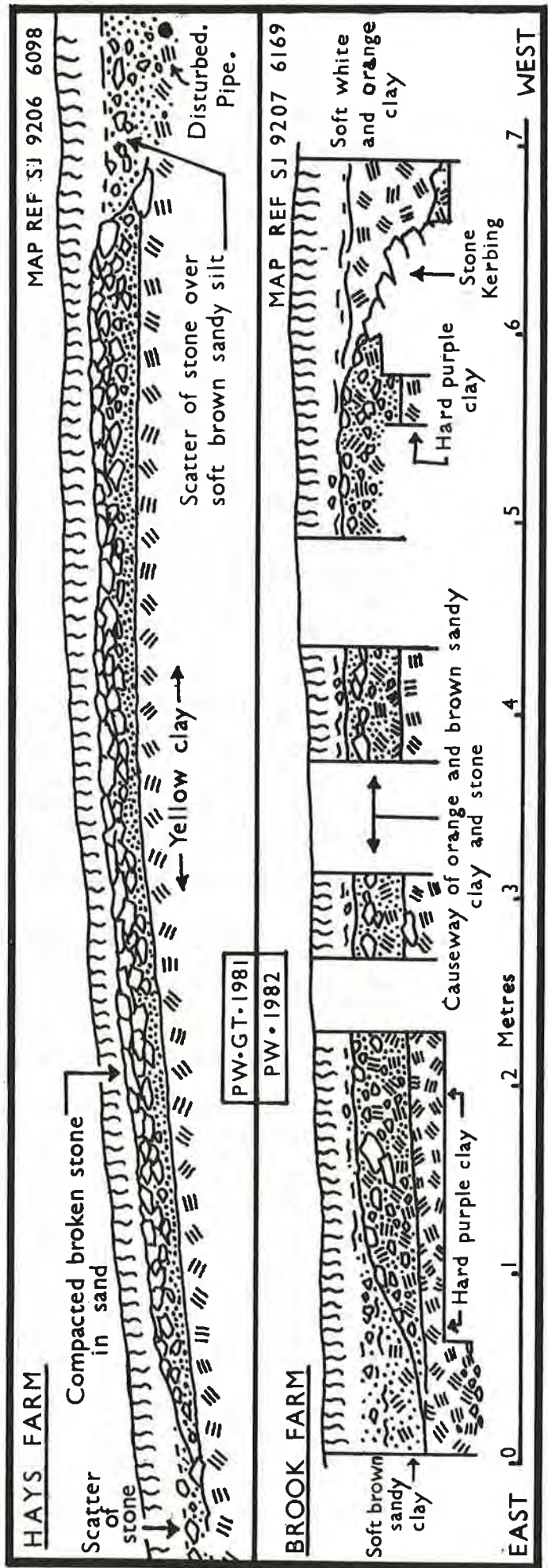


fig 3

metalling, a mere 15cm below the surface. The writer and George Taylor cut a section there revealing a substantial causeway. (Fig. 3) This was sufficiently encouraging to invite further fieldwork with a view to tracing the road north-eastwards, and the following is a brief description of the results of that work.

It should be mentioned at this stage, that surface features are virtually non-existent and a steel probe has been the usual means of confirming the course, apart from the sections cut.

Fieldwork started 100 metres north of the crossing of Dingle Lane. (Fig. 2). It is here that obvious traces cease and, although the next 60 metres is just visible, it is not at all easy to find, one reason being that a change of direction has occurred, the first of several. The road is at this point on the verge of some very broken country, with deep gullies barring the immediate way ahead. Beyond these, lies Dingle Brook, itself insignificant, but flanked on the north by steep and high banks. These obstacles explain the behaviour of the road from now on as it begins to turn westwards seeking an easier way through. One sharp turn south-westwards is needed to climb out of an unavoidable gully and gain the relatively even ground just above the 700' contour line. From now on it proceeds in short straight lengths northwards, then eastwards.

To the west of Brook Farm, the line is cut by recent quarrying and levelling to make an intensive farming area. The course has to be deduced from the previous alignment taken with the alignment traced beyond the small stream to the north-east of the Fox Inn. A section was cut to the south-west of Brook Farm. This showed a stony clay causeway with well defined kerbing on the west side. (Fig. 3). To the north-east of the Fox Inn, the line has been traced over the first field with the probe. It probably continued on that alignment until higher ground was reached but this theory has not yet been tested.

There is therefore an awkward gap between this north-easterly alignment and a length found by the probe a short distance beyond. To add to this lack of continuity is the fact that this most northerly length is not aiming north-east but roughly north-south and includes a change of direction. The layout here may be another instance of careful and laborious avoidance of low and possibly swampy ground.

The course northwards may be calculated with some confidence from the last known length as it is aiming over a low rise between two wooded valleys, Lee Wood and Oulton Wood. This alignment would descend the higher ground in the vicinity of Lee Farm. From there the only acceptable approach to the River Dane is towards the north, avoiding difficult hillocks and a small stream to the east. It is significant that if the original alignment set out from the top of Biddulph Moor be projected northwards, it intersects the Dane in the same area. It is also of interest that although the track of the road from the Moor to the Dane is continually changing, i.e. deviating first eastwards then westwards, it still maintains a reasonably direct course.

Although there can be little doubt that this is a Roman military road, it is hard at this stage to venture an opinion as to its strategic significance and purpose. To the south-west lies Chesterton, an important Roman base and the road could easily be laid out that way, once over the crest of Biddulph Moor.

The estimated crossing place over the River Dane lies 11 miles from Chesterton and 10½ miles from Buxton. There is therefore a strong possibility of the presence of a fort or fortlet. A military site on the Dane would complete a chain of posts stretching north-eastwards as far as Doncaster and would effectively block easy passage between the Cheshire Plain and the hills. (Fig. 2). However, it would be wise to keep an open mind about the road's purpose and destination.

To the south near Stoke-on-Trent are two more Roman sites. There was an early fort at Trent Vale, SJ 868433, and it is just possible that this was briefly linked into a cross-Pennine road system before Chesterton was established. In a way this is perhaps more likely, as the mere fact that no Roman material is recorded as having been found on the Dane is more indicative of a short lived early fort. The road as found could be associated with either site. Also near Stoke-on-Trent is a small settlement at Bucknall, SJ 900469, which has produced material of the early second century. Much depends on whether the road can be identified southwards over the top of Biddulph Moor. Its alignment from there will reveal its probable destination. As to the northern end, this is still open to speculation. Whether a fort exists on the Dane or not, the road may proceed either north-east for Buxton or even northwards, along the edge of the hills, towards an unknown objective.

The Sections (Fig. 3)

The two sections cut show some differences but are basically of similar type.

The 'Hays Farm' section has a dense layer of broken stone bedded in sand. The 'Brook Farm' section is more typical of sections cut across Derbyshire roads, with a stony clay causeway and well constructed kerbing. It had a ditch on the east, uphill side but not on the west.

'Hays Farm' had some kerbing but unfortunately any possible ditch was obscured by a pipe trench.

To gain a fuller understanding of the constructional methods it would be advantageous to cut more sections. Past experience in Derbyshire shows that at least six are needed to acquire a balanced view of width, ditches, metalling and general state of preservation.

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Finally, thanks are due to Messrs. Geoffcot, Robinson, Felton, Goodwin, Woolley, Heath and Storey for allowing access to their lands.

P Wroe

Chantry House and Aldersey Grammar School

Preliminary work carried out in 1982 consisted principally of documentary research, an exploratory geophysical survey (Fig. 4) and a contour survey of the whole school field, supported by Cheshire County Council Planning Department and the generous co-operation of Mr F Large and Mr & Mrs J Vollmer.

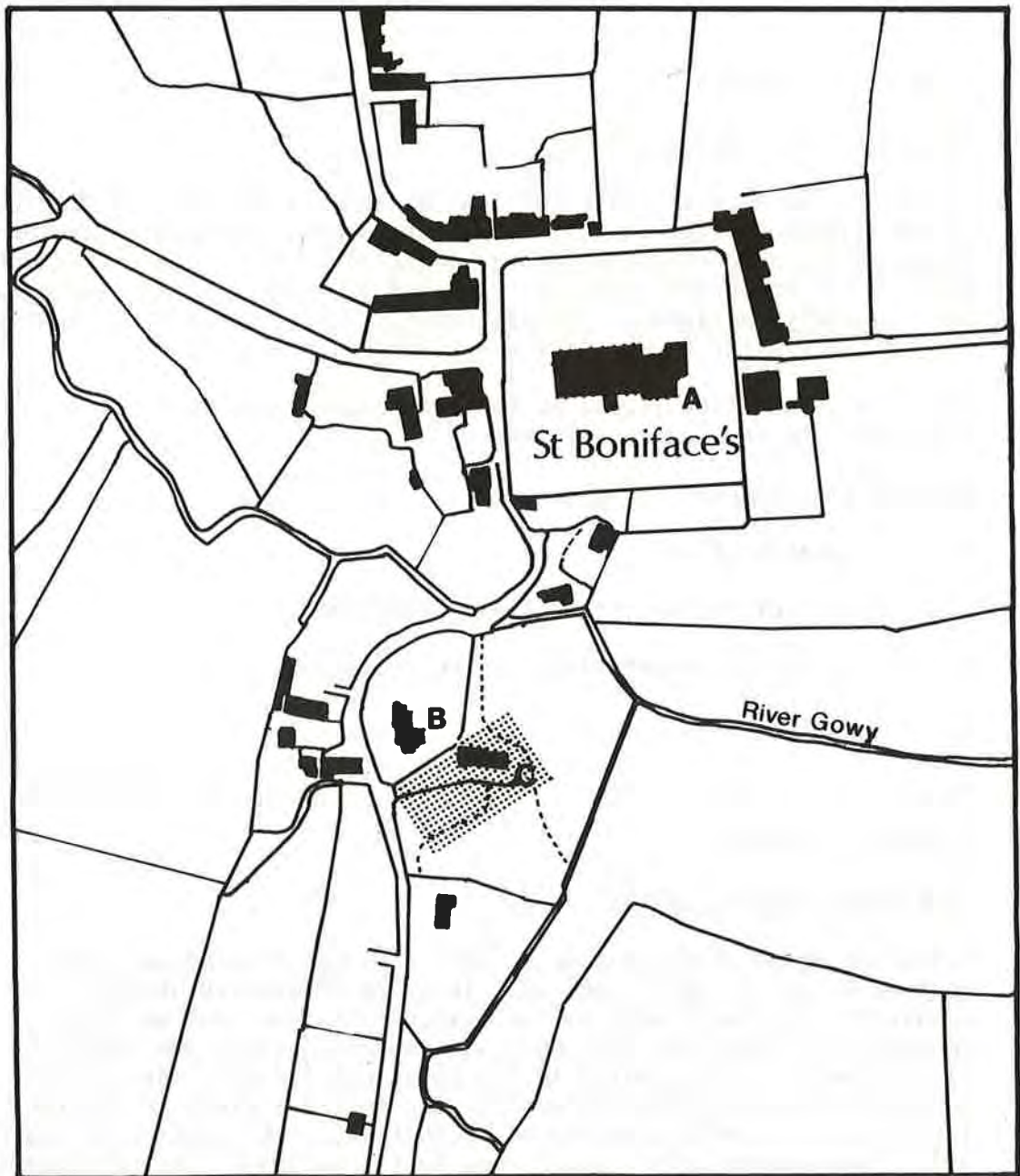
The Chantry House was built in 1527 (Fig. 4 , B), for two priests attached to the Ridley Chapel of Bunbury Church (Fig. 4 ,A) under the terms of the Chapel founder's will. At the time of the Dissolution and suppression of the Chantries the property reverted to the Crown. It subsequently became incorporated in Thomas Aldersey's endowment of the Grammar School, administered by the Haberdashers' Co., London, and was given as the school master's lodgings from 1594 upon the formal establishment of the school and also used for boarding pupils. The house was purchased from the Company in 1966 and restoration begun and largely undertaken by Dr A.J.P. Campbell with the Architect, Mr C.Wright. This saved one of the finest, small, close-studded timber framed buildings in the County and produced a quantity of material connected with the school. A fragment of a 16th century Latin Grammar is at present at the Bodleian Library, Oxford and part of a late 18th century wig (presumably the school master's !) and a small cloth ball are being conserved at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Pottery and glass chiefly of 18th - 19th century date, gaming counters, a goose quill pen, slate pencils and the locking piece from the chiming mechanism of a turret clock are some of the other finds that were recovered. It is hoped to do further record work on the structure of the Chantry House in 1983, in particular a plan of the surviving original stone and timber framework.

The geophysical survey in the school field (Fig. 4 ; hatched area) was directed by Professor R.L.Wilson of Liverpool University and Ms. A.Alcock of Manchester University, using an electromagnetic resistivity meter and a proton magnetometer. In total some 1337 sq.metres were covered, including what for the moment is assumed to be the position of the original school building, where the last school was demolished c.1882 (Fig. 4 ,C). The object of the survey is not only to try and find traces of earlier occupation of the site but also to discover something of the underlying geology, particularly the factor which caused the subsidence of the Chantry House and also necessitated the buttressing of the east end of the original school, a drawing of which, done c.1810, survives.

In addition to those mentioned above, I would like to thank the following for their enthusiastic support and assistance: Mr S.R.Williams and Ms. H.C.Axworthy, Mr D.Eymond, Mr J.Rutter and Mr J.Burton for their help on the site. On the documentary side: Mr G.Bevan, Ms E.Simpson of the Cheshire County Record Office, Mrs.Y.Rodgers of the Haberdashers' Co., Ms.A.Kennett and staff of the City Record Office, Canon M.H.Ridgway, and in particular Mr.E.T.Wright, a former Headmaster, for access to his unpublished history of the school.

J.A.Rutter

Fig. 4



BUNBURY

(1st Ed. O.S. 1874)



N



Metres

J.A.R.

CHESTER SJ 40946655

Congregational Church Cemetery

During the Arrowcroft and Canalside Development Scheme, the frontage of the Congregational Church was preserved and incorporated in the new development. The church which was built in 1776-7, with alterations made in the early 19th century, was used in later life as a warehouse. Unfortunately, because of redevelopment, it was necessary to remove the cemetery prior to which it was recorded in detail.

All this information is now at the Grosvenor Museum with copies at both the City and County Archives.

The information consists of :-

1. Location Plan
2. Plan of the position of all gravestones
3. Copies of inscriptions on the gravestones
4. Photographs.

M.G.Morris

CHESTER SJ 402661

Grey Friars Court 1981-82

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A further phase of excavation on this site was carried out from September 1981 to April 1982 and, in spite of adverse weather conditions, provided more useful evidence of Roman and medieval occupation. The site lies south of the Watergate in the centre of the block of waste land granted to the Dominican (Black) Friars c.1236. In Roman times the site lay west of the fortress close to the harbour facilities. A small area, north of that excavated previously (Ward 1981), was opened and examined down to the natural. Further features were located by machine-dug trenches and during the subsequent building work.

The natural surface, which in this area is a heavy boulder clay, slopes down westwards to the River Dee and northwards to a small infilled valley whose north side was located beneath Norroy House (Kelly 1965,9). The earliest occupation dates to the early second century when a timber building was erected on the south side of this valley. It had a veranda on its south side. Some of the rooms were plastered and painted in imitation marble designs. The building only had a short life, for the substantial rubbish and silt deposit that sealed it was also early second century in date.

The southern half of the site was then covered with a large dump of clay, dividing it into two terraces. This is probably part of the mid-second century terrace extension found in the first phase of excavation associated with the stone building (Ward 1979). No trace of the bank built on the lower terrace of the first phase was found: instead there was a short section of the massive wall apparently built across the mouth of the small valley (Kelly 1965,9).

A stone building with projecting wings was built on the lower terrace, cutting into the edge of the dumped clay. This building had been extensively robbed in medieval times and it was not possible to satisfactorily locate further walls in the machine-dug trenches. Only small patches of the internal deposits survived, but they show occupation continued until at least the late third century. The identification of several sherds of late Roman Biv amphora amongst the finds of the 1976-78 phase of excavation may indicate that occupation continued past the later fourth century. The painted plaster in the demolition rubble indicates a high standard of accommodation.

A well or cistern was dug in the terrace at the corner of the eastern wing. At some period before the erection of the Friary buildings this "cistern" was spanned by an arch. The purpose of this fairly roughly-built but very substantial sandstone and mortar arch is uncertain, but one could speculate that it was part of an aqueduct system supplying water to the cistern.

Again there is little evidence of activity between the Roman and medieval periods. There may have been some cultivation on the slope of the little valley in Saxon times.

The first medieval activity discovered was the robbing of the Roman walls and the erection of a timber structure in the 13th century. The latter perhaps represents the Friars' temporary accommodation while the main stone buildings were being erected to the south. The line of the precinct wall around the Friary was established on the north and west sides. The area enclosed formed a court on the north side of the church, which had been located in the previous phase of excavation. Remains of at least two buildings were found in this area during excavation and building work. One narrow one with a substantial mortar floor was built against the northern precinct wall. The other lay 2.5 metres to the south across a small enclosed yard. It was probably built in the early 14th century. It had two phases of decorated tile floors and rather shallow, narrow footings, perhaps indicating a timber-framed superstructure. These discoveries confirm the impression given by documentary sources that the cloister lay south of the church (Bennett 1952, 36), since they would be hard to fit into the plan of a cloister, and the available space, north to south, of c.14.5 metres, is insufficient for two cloister walks and the cloister garth.

There is some reason for identifying the second structure as the disused building known as the "Old Hall" at the Dissolution. It could originally have been built as a Guest House and/or President's Lodging at the height of the Friary's prosperity around 1300. It is conveniently situated by the north entrance to the church and the proximity of the City Walls precludes the more normal position west of the church. By the time of the Dissolution in 1538, the Prior had a chamber in the dorter with the other Friars.

Post-medieval activity on the site was confined to the almost total robbing of the Friary walls and garden cultivation.

The excavation was conducted by the Grosvenor Museum Excavations Section on behalf of Chester City Council and the DOE. Thanks are due to the Methodist Housing Association and Bovis Construction Ltd. for permission to excavate and access to the site during building operations.

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S. Ward

CHESTER SJ 402665

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Hunter Street

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Due to the kind assistance of the County Council (Mr S R Williams) it has been possible to conduct a small-scale research excavation on the derelict land on the North side of Hunter Street, at its western end. The objectives are to ascertain the line of the Roman INTERVALLUM, to establish the existence or otherwise of legionary barrack-blocks aligned East-West (as suggested by the results of the recent excavations in the Princess Street Area), and - if not barrack-blocks - to establish the nature of occupation in this area of the fortress. The excavation can only be conducted at weekends and necessarily at a comparatively slow pace. That DEVA was somewhat larger than any other 'permanent' legionary fortress in Britain (Caerleon, York) is well known but has never been satisfactorily explained. Leaving aside the problems of interpretation in other parts of the fortress (e.g. to the South of Princess Street, and the Cathedral area) it is possible that part of the explanation may lie in the area North of Hunter Street. This is therefore a particularly important project, albeit a small-scale one at the present time.

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The results to date are at the same time rewarding and frustrating. The exact line of the INTERVALLUM has been confirmed with the discovery of the drain bounding the eastern side of the VIA SAGULARIS, much as was predicted. However, instead of the walling for the western ends of one or more barrack blocks (centurial quarters), the massive foundations of a substantial structure, as yet of unknown function, have been exposed. Owing to the location of the site, adjacent to the western defences, inevitably the speculation is that part of a granary has been found but this is far from certain; an alternative possibility being that this is the remains of an extensively robbed-out hypocaust. However, if the former possibility

turns out to be correct, one assumes the existence of a gate, for access to the granary, through the defences in the vicinity and this suggests a postern directly opposite the possible gate-structure found by Professor Newstead in the Deanery Field many years ago. Elucidation of this problem is of considerable importance and it is hoped to expand the area under excavation in the not-too-distant future.

T.J.Strickland

CHESTER SJ 405667

ECH 8155

CHESTER 8202/6

The North Wall (East of Northgate)

At the time of the recent work of consolidation of the masonry in the City Wall adjacent to the Shropshire Union Canal, as part of the City Council's conservation programme, it was possible to subject the supposedly Roman masonry to close-up archaeological examination and to record a detailed cross-section for the first time since 1887. This work has produced some important new evidence which has just been submitted for inclusion in the forthcoming volume of the Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society and can be seen as the latest contribution to what undoubtedly will be the continuing saga of research into the defences of Roman Chester. A summary of the most important of the recent findings is given below.

The remarkable moulded decorative cornice was clearly an integral feature of the wall's construction and not a later, even post-Roman, addition. Interestingly, some of the Roman parapet also survived atop this moulding but buried within the masonry of the modern-day breastwork. A sounding to the base of the external face of the wall revealed the chamfered plinth, a feature of the Roman wall which is well known from several different points on the circuit. The sounding also showed that the masonry survived in a vertical condition - but hidden below present-day ground level - to a height of a little over two metres above the plinth course. Above this, the 'batter', which has sometimes been assumed to be a feature of the wall's construction and considered by some to be of post-Roman date, could be seen to increase progressively upwards towards the cornice and to be the result, not of construction method, but of a gradual collapse southwards. Thus the North Wall can be said to have been originally vertical, a conclusion which is further supported by the evident irregularity of the 'batter' along the wall and also by the masonry nearer the Northgate which remains today close to its original vertical condition.

Part of the Roman walkway was also seen in a sounding beneath the present day walkway paving, at a height of approximately 4m 80 above the plinth. Comparison of the fortress rampart as found at Abbey Green (1975-8) with that recently found to be intact at the legionary fortress of Caerleon suggests that the Chester rampart and stone wall walkway-level were designed to coincide.

Since the Roman masonry in the North Wall is clearly the same as that seen elsewhere on the circuit, and because the 'batter' can be seen to be the result of a post-Roman collapse, it follows that no addition to the front of this wall was made late in the Roman period as has sometimes been suggested. Nevertheless, the epigraphic evidence from the tombstones re-used in the North Wall and recovered in 1887 may still point to extensive work on the defences carried out in the fourth century, but this can now be seen to have been restricted to repair of patches and not to be a general rebuild. If this repair work is of the fourth century, then the remaining masonry in the North Wall must be of an earlier date. On the other hand, the absence of any still earlier masonry than that which survives today may suggest that the latter is of Trajanic date. However, the style of the cornice could be early third century and it may be that the wall is of that date after all. If so, the absence of a Trajanic stone wall will need some explaining but there are several parallels for stone gates being built some time before the general wall-circuit (e.g. Caerwent, Colchester) and this may have happened at Chester.

T.J.Strickland

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120 Northgate Street *CHESTER 10639/3*

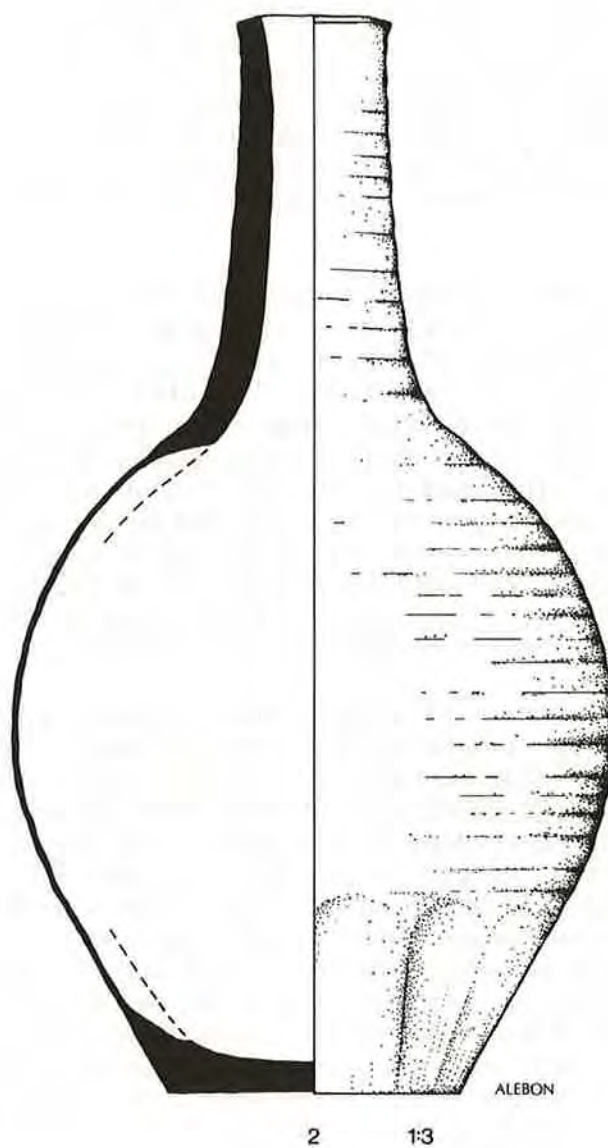
A jar (Fig. 5), was found buried at the rear of the building while a new drain was installed in 1981. The fabric is hard, gravel tempered and of a white streaked pink-brown colour. One in use locally by the second half of the 17th century, continuing into the 18th century, and resembling a ware that was made in Buckley at the time. Knife trimmed facets cut around the base are also a feature on the similar vessel mentioned below. The shape and size of the jar is related to German stoneware flagons being imported in quantity from the middle of the 16th century, and continuing into the 17th century. This type of vessel could well have been a locally made competitor for the same market in hard wearing impervious bodied wares. The closed, handleless, form suggests a storage function but the substance stored could have been anything such as food or a preservative in a domestic context, or perhaps it was a long-term storage container used by an Apothecary for one of his ingredients.

A very similar vessel (height 35 cms.) in the Grosvenor Museum collections (Acc.No.71.M.1973) has a slightly broader neck and a more Germanic looking rim but unfortunately is unprovenanced, though presumed to have been found locally.

I am grateful to P.H.Alebon for his drawing and to the Very Reverend T.W.Ingram Cleasby, Dean and Chapter of Chester Cathedral, who very kindly reported the find and gave permission to publish. The jar found in Northgate Street has been returned to the Cathedral.

J.A.Rutter

Fig. 5



Princess Street Area 1981-1982

A third phase of large scale excavations in the area to the North of Princess Street was carried out in 1981 and followed by selective excavation during contractor's works on the new Bus Exchange and County Library in the first part of 1982. Although the layout of this part of the Roman fortress had been revealed during 1979 and 1980 by the author's colleague, Mr.S.Ward (see C.A.B. No.7), the results of the more recent work have been remarkable not only for their contribution to archaeological understanding of the area but in their scale, an area of 1.28 hectares (12,800 sq.m.) being covered, over half of which was subjected to formal excavation. The full details of this work have just been submitted to the Chester Archaeological Society for publication in the forthcoming Journal but it may be useful to include here a summary of the more important results achieved.

The western part of the site was taken up with a series (possibly 6 for a legionary cohort) of barrack-blocks aligned East-West, originally entirely of timber-frame construction in the late first century, rebuilt as half-timber buildings on stone sills in the early second century, extensively rebuilt in the early third century, possibly due to their dilapidation ensuing from a period of abandonment. They had fallen into disuse and decay which led to their collapse - possibly aided by some removal of re-usable building materials elsewhere - in the period after c.250. There was some evidence for fourth century occupation on the site of one of them, which may have involved partial rebuilding of the earlier structure. Parts of four of these barracks were examined.

During the later first century and for much of the second century a large area approximately 50m. East-West by at least 70m. North-South to the East of the barracks was given over to rubbish disposal and the tipping of large quantities of metalworking debris, presumably from the legionary workshops to the South. At one stage, in the second century, access to and across this area was facilitated by the laying down of a roughly metalled track, alongside part of which a well-appointed timber building was constructed. Both track and building were no longer in use by the end of the second century when a large rock-cut pit (approx. 15m x 15m and over 2m deep) was constructed with a substantial timber superstructure. This appears not to have been used for its intended purpose (latrine? store?) and the whole open space was filled with a new building in the early third century. This was an imposing structure 35m wide by at least 72m long and set on massive foundations, and included a large walled compound. It may have been a stores depot. After minor alterations in the early fourth century it continued in use for an unknown period. In the fourth century part of its walled compound was occupied by a strip-building or a series of lean-to sheds which were at least partly used for metalworking. The building probably survived, albeit in a ruinous state, until the tenth century. Amongst its rubble was found a fine tenth century Norse brooch.

To the East of this building, from the second to the fourth centuries, existed a long narrow building, possibly used for wagons and stores, which fronted eastwards onto a major North-South thoroughfare, to the East of which existed an enormous building which appears to have been 157m long (North-South) by approximately 65m wide. The plan of this building suggests that what had earlier been tentatively described as the PRAETORIUM is in fact a part of it. It may have been the legionary hospital. Interestingly, it may have been first brought into commission in the later second century and was used throughout the third century. It did, however, continue in use in the fourth century but probably not with its earlier function. As with the possible stores depot to the West, this building can be demonstrated to have come down by the tenth century but not necessarily much earlier. Further work on its site is planned in Northgate Street in 1983.

T.J.Strickland

CHESTER SJ 406658

Shipgate Street

Recently, the seventeenth and eighteenth century houses at Nos.3 and 5 Shipgate Street (on the South side and adjacent to the point at which Shipgate Street meets St.Mary's Hill) were demolished owing to their dangerous condition and the impossibility of preservation, and the site became available for redevelopment in the form of residential housing. The developer, Mr W.J.Oliver of Design and Construction Limited, kindly allowed archaeological coverage of two deep trial trenches on the site. Neither has produced any conclusive evidence for the medieval and later occupation of the site. However, it was particularly interesting to discover that, even at the considerable depth (3.30m) to which the trenches were dug, no structures were revealed IN SITU although this area has been within the defences since the thirteenth century at least. However, a number of very large ashlar blocks of sandstone were found to have been redeposited in the organic refuse and other material which constituted the overburden here, and these may have once come from the medieval defences, from the Shipgate or even from the Castle at the time of its demolition. A quantity of seemingly well-preserved organic material was evident in one particular silty deposit and samples were retrieved for future analysis. An opportunity for more extensive archaeological examination will be presented in the near future.

T.J.Strickland

CHESTER SJ 422661

Stocks Lane, Great Boughton

A Roman cinerary urn was discovered at 21 Stocks Lane, Boughton on 9 September 1982 by the owner, Mr C.Lewis, whilst digging in the back garden. The burial lies on the east side of the street some 5.4m east and 2m north of the north-eastern corner of the house. The urn lay in a pit cut in the dirty soily sand to a depth of c.0.8m below the

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modern ground surface. The top of this sand, which is presumably natural, lay at a depth of 0.3m. The pit beneath the pot was filled with much charcoal and several sherds from another vessel. The urn was buried upright. No lid was found. It was filled with burnt bone and dirty sand similar to that in which it was buried.

This cremation burial is clearly related to those previously found in the area around Stocks Lane and the Cherry Orchard (Newstead 1899 and Mason 1978) with an outlier further south in Batchelor's Lane (Robinson and Carrington 1976). Like the others this urn was buried early in the life of the fortress at Chester and lies some distance from the furthest known extent of settlement. It remains a possibility that they are associated with an as yet undiscovered settlement much closer to them.

S.Ward

The Pottery

The vessel containing the cremated remains was a grey pyriform jar, having a triangular-section rim on top of a tall neck, separated from the shoulder by a single groove, and a plain base. The jar is complete apart from the rim, of which about one half is in fragments and one third now missing. The clay is well levigated and has a conchoidal fracture. The most frequent inclusions are occasional grains of angular quartz <0.6mm approx. Much of the outer surface is weathered: the unweathered areas, and parts of the inner surface are darker than the core.

The discovery of this virtually complete vessel is particularly pleasing as, on the evidence of sherds, it probably represents one of the most common coarse pottery forms in use in the early years of Roman Chester. The form is a 'Roman' rather than a 'British' one and is common on early military sites.

Inside the fortress there is evidence, unpublished in detail (but see Ward & Strickland 1978, 11) to suggest that black-surfaced brown and grey wares were the only ones in use from the foundation of the legionary fortress until the beginning of pottery production at Holt, probably a little before A.D.100. Thereafter in the fortress, and possibly also in 'official' extra-mural establishments, one assumes that the oxidised Holt wares replaced the earlier ones, although because of use and especially rubbish-survival it is difficult to obtain a clear-cut picture. In non-official civilian contexts there need be no such break c.100 and the same types of pottery could have continued in use from the first century until the appearance of black-burnished I in the 120s.

As the circumstances of the cremation are unknown, one can only date the vessel within the broad limits c.80-120, although it could be c.80-100 if the deceased was a soldier.

Accompanying the cremation vessel, apart from a nail, were ten body sherds and one four-ribbed handle, all apparently from one vessel, probably a flagon. The fabric varied from grey to orange, presumably as a result of secondary burning, possibly on the funerary pyre. The original colour was probably grey, but it is hard to be certain.

P.Carrington

The Cremation

The human bone comprised innumerable tiny fragments (total weight 826 gms), apparently the remains of an adult. One molar was intact, but otherwise the bones had all been broken after burning, either for ritual reasons or for ease of placing in the urn. Although a few of the fragments were identifiable, in general their size made study impossible. Most of the bones were white, a few greyish and there was evidence of distortion and fissuring, indicating that the funerary pyre had reached a high temperature.

M.G.Morris

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CHESTER CASTLE SJ 40456575
1982

Excavation for the D.O.E. at Chester Castle this year marks a further stage in a programme of archaeological investigation in preparation for laying out the monument for public view. In 1979-80 an extensive survey was carried out of the standing remains in the West Range of the inner ward including the site of the former C17th Armoury and the building thought to be on the site of the late C17th Chester Mint.

Early in 1982, after a careful appraisal, part of the West Range was demolished. During the whole process an archaeological presence was maintained, recording and photographing the building as it was laid low. Samples of brick were taken from every recognisable phase of alteration. Lying beneath were the foundation levels of the C17th Armoury and exposed behind was a section of walling on the line of the medieval curtain and part of a medieval square tower.

The excavation this year (1982) has involved the examination of the C17th Armoury foundations and deposits immediately below. Briefly, since the excavation has only recently finished, the removal of floor levels and the C17th Armoury foundations has revealed an extensive phase of C17th levelling, designed to create a terrace on which the

Armoury could be constructed. Such terracing was necessary because the underlying deposits, a dark stony soil over a heavy brown clay, slope away steeply from the newly exposed tower and curtain wall. Since it can be demonstrated that the clay is earlier than the foundations of the square tower, it is thought likely that this slope represents an early feature of the castle.

Finds from the excavation have been numerous, including an excellent pit group of early C18th bottles and clay pipes. The C17th levelling rubble, yet to be excavated, should also provide an interesting group with a terminus ante quem of 1686, the date of the construction of the Armoury. Medieval finds include a good part of a C13th-C14th Saintonge jug and numerous sherds of local pottery. Finally, the C18th pit group also included a single sherd of Samian ware.

Work has also begun on an exhibition to be housed in the Guardroom and the Agricola Tower.

P R Hough

CHURCH LAWTON SJ 8082 5581

Burial Mound (Church Lawton North)

This barrow at Church Lawton (SJ 8082 5581) is one of three known, of which two are still extant; the other was levelled at the beginning of the twentieth century when a garage was built on the site. There are local accounts of bones being found when the railway was cut.

The excavated barrow lay to the North of the B5077 and was situated on a belt of sand. There is a record, pre 1926, of urns etc. being found; however, there was little sign of any effective Victorian robbing.

The barrow was a two-phase structure. In phase 1, the turf was removed from the gravelly subsoil and a sand mound of dump construction was thrown up; there was no sign of any stabilising stakes or posts within the barrow fabric itself. A ditch circumvented the mound. This ditch was roughly circular in plan, but was irregular in its size and in its depth, and it must be seen as a marker ditch rather than the main source of the sand, most of which was scraped up from the surrounding area. The ditch had partially silted up prior to the construction of the mound.

A boat-shaped pit, (c.1.30x0.80x0.50m), covered with a wooden lid, was found at approximately the centre of the mound. This pit contained nothing but sand. It was, however, a suitable size for a crouched inhumation, although there was no sign of this, but it is possible that any bones had disintegrated in the acid sandy soil.

Eighteen cremation pits were dug into the mound at various points and depths, a concentration of them occurring in the South West quadrant. It appears that the cremations were rather ad hoc, being dug at any time during the construction of the mound, and cannot be termed satellite burials in the true sense of the word. Four of these cremations were outside the ditch and may be reassessed as secondary burials. On the other hand, if the ditch was no longer visible, through slumping of the mound, they can equally well stand as

contemporary with the phase 1 barrow. Some of these cremations were obviously foetal or infant burials, the rest being those of adults. At least two of the cremations were placed in a sack or leather bag in the pit, but most of the cremations were unurned. The pits themselves varied from shallow bowl-shaped depressions totally filled with bones and little charcoal, to cylindrical pits with the cremation placed at the bottom and much ash and charcoal shovelled over the top. Two pits contained small Food Vessels, one inverted and one upright. Neither of the two Food Vessels contained any cremated bones. At least three other urns were present. In the North West quadrant, fragments belonging to two or three different vessels were found in close proximity. One complete biconical urn, with overhanging rim, was set upright in its pit and was full of cremated bones.

The other bonus was the discovery of stone tools in two of the remaining cremation pits. One was a plano-convex flint knife burnt at the time of cremation and deposited in three pieces with the bones. The other was a battle axe, in perfect condition, which was placed behind the sack containing the bones.

The phase 1 barrow was 16m in diameter to the ditch lip and stood to a maximum height of 1.40m.

The phase 2 barrow enlarged the existing structure by a considerable amount to something in the order of 30m in diameter, although this barrow was probably more elliptical in shape than its predecessor. The enlargement consisted of more sand dumped onto the back of the earlier mound, which was then covered with a turf capping. Because of recent ploughing it is impossible to say whether this capping entirely covered the crest of the mound.

Only one possible cremation was associated with the phase 2 barrow, although others may have been lost in ploughing. However, three bowl-shaped pits, with stakes set into the bottom and the sides, are interpreted as fire pits. These were all found in the Eastern sector and were invariably filled with large lumps of charcoal and ash. The bottom and sides of the pits were burnt, although not heavily. It is probable that the body, or more likely the defleshed disarticulated bones, were supported over the fire until cremation was completed. In the top of one of these fire pits was a circular decorated pottery base, also damaged by the plough, which was possibly an urn awaiting burial or a vessel connected with the cremation rite. The pits themselves only contained minute residual fragments of cremated bone and were not intended to be used for burial.

Robina McNeil

CHURCH LAWTON SJ 808 557

Burial Mound (Church Lawton South)

This barrow at Church Lawton is part of a barrow cemetery, of which three barrows are known and two are still extant (Church Lawton North and Church Lawton South); the other was reputedly levelled at the beginning of the 20th century, when a garage was built on the site.

The barrow, Church Lawton South, lies to the south of the B5077 on a belt of sand which runs from Church Lawton through to Alsager. It was originally believed that the cutting of the railway in the 19th century damaged the barrow and that 'urns' and 'bones' were found, but the contour survey and the excavation have shown that the tail of the barrow lay some two metres inside the fence line and well clear of the railway cutting.

Barrows are a common occurrence during the Bronze Age of Britain (2200-1000BC) and are mounds built of earth, turf or stone, depending on the available material. They are sometimes constructed with an internal setting of posts and sometimes surrounded by a continuous ditch. The primary or main burial is usually found in the centre of the mound, and is often accompanied by satellite burials, which are contemporary with the main burial. Sometimes secondary or later burials are inserted into the mound at a later date. Burials can be either in the form of inhumations or cremations, with cremations generally replacing inhumations during the middle and late Bronze Age.

The barrow at Church Lawton South does not conform to many of the above descriptions. Essentially it consists of a sand mound, scraped up from the surrounding sub-soil and thrown up in a dump construction. This was partially surrounded by a small turf wall. There were no internal setting of posts and no external ditch, although in some areas irregular hollows had been dug for sand. Furthermore, there were no cremation or inhumation burials associated with the mound. A roughly rectangular turf and daub structure approximately central to the mound may originally have been intended as a mortuary house. Here the body was left in an exposed place to enable decomposition and disarticulation of the bones to take place.

The body might then be cremated in the mortuary house. One fragment of cremated bone, a piece of scapula, was recovered from the 'mortuary house', so the possibility of the cremated remains being removed and buried elsewhere cannot be discounted. Fluorine tests will confirm one way or the other whether a body was ever present.

However, a most unusual feature was the circular setting of nine massive boulders around the perimeter of the barrow. These boulders were spaced centre to centre approximately five metres apart, but this arrangement was broken in the north and south, giving the appearance of two separate semi-circles. Although the boulders were glacial erratics, they were carefully selected for their size and appearance and were probably imported into the immediate area. The good face of the stones was angled into the centre of the mound. The diameter of the ensuing mound and circle was between twenty two and twenty five metres; this means that it was on the large size for a barrow, but an average size for a stone circle. Two of the stones were upright, but the remaining seven were lying on their sides. These stones had been deliberately placed in this manner and had not fallen over. All the stones were set without pits, directly on the old ground surface.

Barrows built entirely, or partly, of stones with an outer ring of kerbstones are well known in the upland areas of Wales and the Peak District. Likewise, stone circles are fairly common in the Bronze Age in these highland zones. What is unusual, and possibly unique, is the combination of a stone circle and a barrow in a lowland area. The stone circle is seen as a necessary embellishment to the mound. As there is no central burial, it is probable that none was ever intended and as such the mound and the stone circle are currently viewed as some type of memorial or cenotaph to a person or persons unknown.

What is immediately obvious is that Church Lawton South differs from Church Lawton North, which was a two phase burial mound with 18 cremations. Carbon 14 dating and environmental studies of the pollen and soil may elucidate the chronological, spatial and sociological relationships between the two sites.

Robina McNeil

DODLESTON SJ 36206099

During the laying of a drainage system for the new playing field on the eastern side of Dodleston church, a "roadway" was observed immediately below the surface running south east from the church.

The roadway consisted of rectangular kerbstones on the eastern edge with a surface of very small cobbles.

This lane led to Dodleston Lane Farm with a branch going off to the south west crossing Pulford brook and on to meet a network of pathways over Burton meadows. Although now covered over, the route still remains a public right of way.

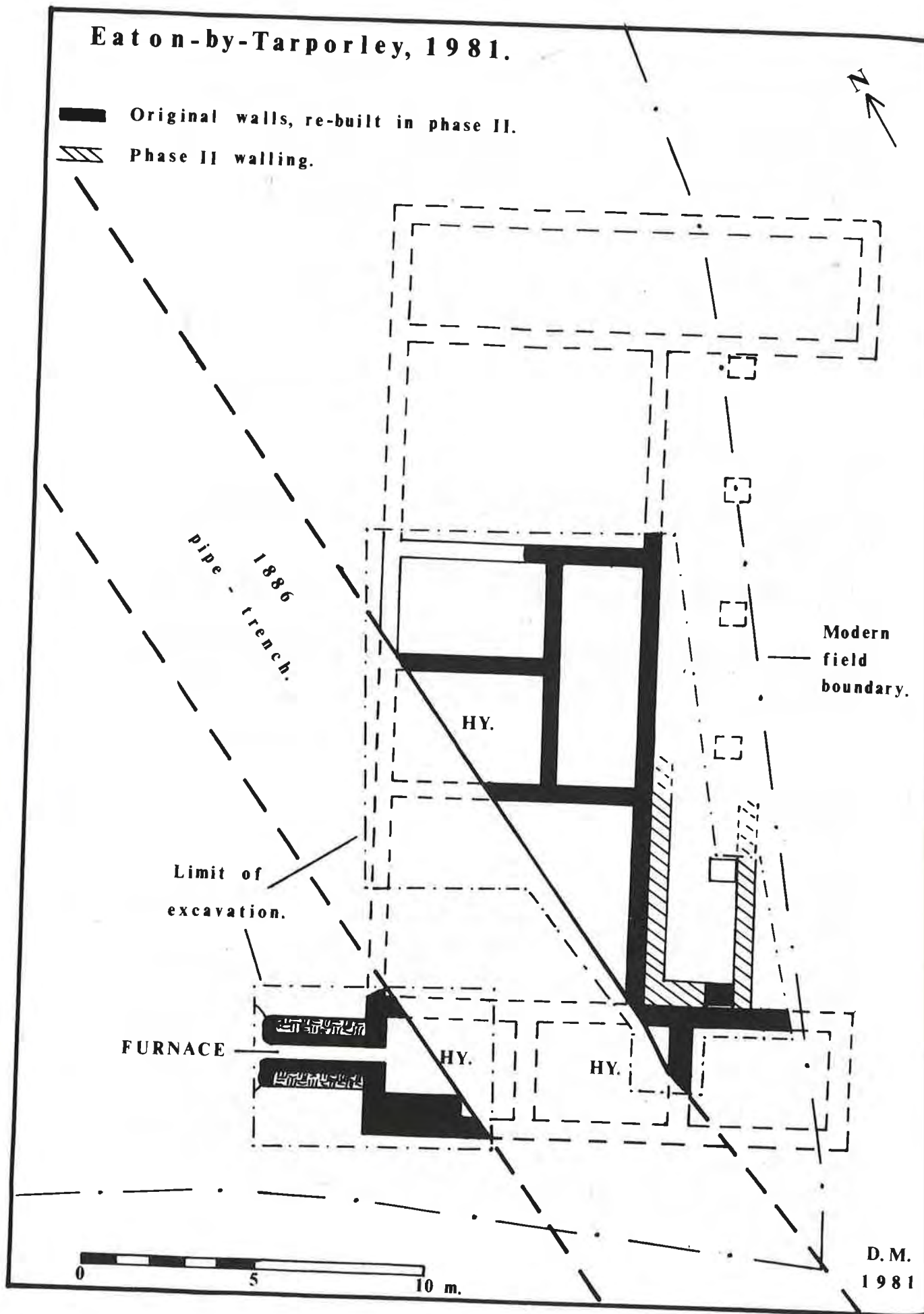
M G Morris

EATON-BY-TARPORLEY SJ 57176341
1980-81.

Roman

Among the few available clues as to the location of rural settlement sites of the Roman period in Cheshire, the discovery of tiles, mortar and a coin of Marcus Aurelius on the western fringe of Eaton-by-Tarporley in 1886¹ (during the laying of the Lake Vyrnwy - Liverpool water main) was considered by the writer to be one of the more potentially significant 'chance finds'. Consequently, field-walking was undertaken along the route of the 1886 pipe-trench during the spring of 1980. Whilst this was in progress, the rebuilding of a retaining wall behind the barn belonging to Eaton Cottage enabled the upper layers of backfill in this feature to be examined, revealing the presence of fragments of opus signinum flooring. Excavations during 1980-81² in the paddock immediately to the north have since uncovered the major portion of a substantial Roman structure whose character and (probable) winged-corridor plan suggest it had functioned as the main residential building of a villa complex, the first to be identified in Cheshire.

Fig. 6



The building is aligned with its long axis north-east/south-west and occupies part of a small plateau on the north side of a minor east-west valley, possessing commanding views to the south and east and lying close to a line of natural springs. Although the northern end of the building has yet to be exposed, the symmetrical form of the examined portion (see plan), together with the restricted area of level ground, suggest that it consisted of a main range 8.2m wide and 19.3m long, fronted on the east side by a 2.5m wide portico, with a 4.00m wide wing at either end projecting out for at least 6.00m beyond the front wall of the main range.

Constructed to a fairly high standard, its walls were composed of sandstone (both pink and cream) and limestone blocks, with each course being surmounted by a substantial through layer of hard lime mortar. Those of the main range averaged 0.50m in width with the outer walls being set on the inner portion of an 0.90m wide footing course. Roofing materials included clay tiles, micaceous sandstone shingles and, in a later period, slates.

Although the 1886 pipe-trench had cut through the structure, and despite considerable damage by Medieval robbing and post-Medieval ploughing, sufficient remained to enable its internal arrangements to be determined. Occupying a central position at the front of the main range was a long narrow room, probably an entrance hall, to the rear of which were two smaller chambers one of which had originally possessed a hypocaust. To the south of these, and presumably also to the north, was a single large room. All of these had been equipped with opus signinum flooring. The south wing contained a baths-suite, the furnace being located at its western end. The two westernmost rooms (caldarium and tepidarium) were hypocausted while that at the east end (frigidarium) was unheated and possessed a normal concrete floor.

At some later stage in its history the building had undergone a drastic reconstruction. Most, if not all, of the walls were re-built from ground level; modifications were carried out to the baths-suite; the sole hypocaust in the main range was demolished and its basement backfilled; and the colonnade along the eastern frontage was converted into additional rooms by the erection of a blocking or enclosing wall linking up and incorporating the column bases. Although the quality of this reconstruction was somewhat inferior to that of the original workmanship, there was no apparent decline in the standard of the building's interior decoration, fragments of brightly painted wall-plaster occurring in the latest levels of all rooms. When occupation of the villa finally came to an end, and under what circumstances, has still to be determined.

At present, dating evidence for the various structural phases is meagre. A small group of pottery from the construction trench of one of the later walls suggests that the re-building took place c.350 A.D. or later. As to the original building, the succession of floors found in several rooms together with the competent and durable nature of its construction could imply that it had stood without any need of major repairs for perhaps as long as a century, thus indicating a primary construction date around the middle of the third century.

There are also signs of earlier Roman occupation on the site in the form of patches of burning, linear ditch-like features containing pieces of micaceous sandstone roofing shingles and, as yet, an isolated post-pit. These features, taken together with the coin of Marcus Aurelius found in 1886 and a sherd of later second century Samian recovered during the present excavations, may hint at the presence of an earlier timber building.

Medieval

Overlying the south-west corner of the villa, and extending westwards from it, were the remains of a Medieval building whose walls, as one might expect, were constructed of re-used Roman building materials. As the majority of this structure has still to be excavated, nothing can be said regarding its function. However, that this was not the earliest Medieval activity on the site is indicated by the filling-in of the caldarium hypocaust, over which it was constructed, with debris from a demolished pottery kiln including a large quantity of 'wasters'. The latter suggest the kiln to have been in operation in the late thirteenth-fourteenth century and the discovery of this material should add considerably to our understanding of pottery production and distribution in Cheshire at this period.

Footnotes

1 W T Watkin, "Recent Roman discoveries in Lancashire and Cheshire", Trans. Hist. Soc. Lancs. & Chesh., III, 1889, 56.

2 Thanks are due to Cheshire County Council and Vale Royal District Council for grants towards the cost of these excavations.

Note: Since this article was written, the owner of the site has kindly allowed further excavations during the summer of 1982.

(Editor)

D J P Mason

MIDDLEWICH SJ 705 663

Wych House Lane

Excavations were directed by Rebecca Smart, on behalf of the Liverpool University Rescue Archaeology Unit, at Middlewich over a period of four months prior to redevelopment. Nine trial trenches were dug to determine the extent of Roman and medieval settlement. The Wych House Lane site was of most interest, producing a large quantity of medieval pottery and animal bones. A large clay-lined pit measuring about 6m x 5m had been dug into redeposited medieval layers which were excavated to a depth of 3m. Labour for the excavations was provided by a Manpower Services Commission CEP scheme and the work was grant-aided by the Department of the Environment.

It is hoped to publish a fuller report in the next edition of the Cheshire Archaeological Bulletin (No.9 for 1983). Further information from the Rescue Archaeology Unit, University of Liverpool, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SU. Telephone 051-709-6022 ext. 2819.

S R Williams

The Bowling Green
1981

With the proposed redevelopment of the Bowling Green, Liverpool University and Cheshire County Council decided to dig two exploratory trenches in the open land east of St Mary's church to assess the medieval presence in this part of the town.

In both excavations, a trench running in a north-east direction was uncovered. These shallow but wide trenches were found at depths of between 0.52m and 0.65m below the present ground. Both were levelled up with builders sand, brick and tile fragments. The likeliest explanation for these is that they are field boundaries as shown on the 1794 map of Nantwich and their filling in in the nineteenth century is a result of the planned orchard which is shown on the 1876 O.S. map. Probably associated with this recent horticulture, was a roughly laid brick footpath laid at a right angle to the field ditch and whose contemporaneity with the back-filled trench was evident from the finds.

Above these alignments, the soil was a uniform black loam containing some coal and brick fragments and, although there was no discernible layer change, there was an increase in the sand and charcoal content in the 30-40cms above natural. It is probable that some top soil was imported into the area in the nineteenth century. Therefore the natural soil profile is one of 30-40cms only. The natural subsoil was a loose wet sand with some riverine pebbles and was located, along with the water table, at depths of between 1.10m and 1.28m (38.75m and 39.12m above sea level).

Finds were not numerous, but there was a proportionate rise in medieval sherds in the lower levels. These were dropped casually as people crossed the open land and do not infer the existence of any medieval building in the immediate vicinity.

The excavation has confirmed what had previously been suspected; that the land beyond St Mary's church was always wasteland. This statement is further supported by place name evidence, with Church Yard Side being mentioned late (1465) and although Hospital Street has an earlier mention (1285), this can be easily attributed to the founding of St Nicholas's Hospital in the 11th century. Most of Hospital Street, except for a short stretch close to the town centre, was originally and for some time untenanted and the larger houses are a later and wealthier development along the eponymous street. The church itself marked the eastern limits of the town, and early Nantwich is therefore to be located between the church and the River Weaver.

R McNeil

Norton Priory
1981.

Excavation took place during July and August 1981 on an area to the south-west of the main claustral buildings of the Augustinian Priory. It was sponsored by Warrington and Runcorn Development Corporation, assisted financially by Cheshire County Council (Planning Department). The intention was to examine the area to the west of that excavated in 1979 and 1980, which had revealed the foundations of large masonry buildings, erected during the thirteenth century, that may have served as the priory's guest quarters.

It was confirmed that the main monastic drain ran westwards across the area. This was the second masonry drain to be built in the fourteenth century; its predecessor was installed in the early thirteenth century and has been located elsewhere during previous excavations. A substantial length of the fourteenth century drain survived here with its base, sides and capping intact, apart from the insertion of a manhole in the eighteenth century. It consists of base blocks cut to a semi-circular section, with one plain course of ashlar, and above that corbell blocks with a concave rounded angle where they projected over the drain sides, which, in turn supported the capping blocks. There is a possibility that the length of the drain which has the corbelled sides supported a masonry wall on the capstones. On either side of the drain, and contemporary with it, were found substantial masonry foundations. They belong to a building or group of buildings that extend beyond the area excavated in 1981 to the north, east and south. The area will therefore be enlarged during 1982 when it is hoped that the full extent of these fourteenth century buildings, and their use, may be ascertained.

Of earlier date was a small masonry drain (dating from the thirteenth century). Dating from the twelfth century were a number of post pits belonging to the temporary timber buildings erected to house the canons whilst their masonry quarters were being built - these post pits are associated with others found in previous seasons of excavation, and help to clarify the overall plan of these interesting remains.

The area was crossed by a trackway in the eighteenth century, and had been subjected to considerable gardening activities.

1982

Excavation took place during July and August 1982. The first three weeks formed the Teaching Excavation, organised in conjunction with Liverpool University Institute of Extension Studies. The later part of the excavation was supported financially by Cheshire County Council (Planning Department).

The first week consisted of a geophysical survey using a square-array resistivity meter, an EM31 induction conductivity meter, and a proton magnetometer. An important result of the survey was the discovery of the southern arm of the moat system that is known to surround the priory. Its position had been predicted on the basis of mid-eighteenth century map evidence; the survey enabled the moat to be located precisely.

Excavation took place on an area in the south west part of the site, adjoining that excavated in 1981. This continued the programme of research in the part of the monastic complex that lay to the south and west of the medieval kitchens. The southern portion of a major building was uncovered. Its western wall proved to be particularly massive - the foundations were 2.5m broad, and consisted of large blocks of sandstone bonded with clay. The southern footings, which were largely robbed out, had been much shallower and smaller, as had the eastern wall. The explanation for the size of the western wall would seem to be that it was constructed over earlier filled-in ditches; its breadth and depth would have enhanced its stability. The walls were constructed as one with the main medieval drain, which runs west across this area, and which was built in the fourteenth century. Levelling of the area as part of landscaping operations in the eighteenth century was found to have removed most of the layers within the building.

By good fortune, layers to the west of the building survived intact. Of particular importance was a layer associated with the demolition of the building. It consisted of fragments of sandstone roofing slabs, probably discarded during systematic dismantling of the roof in the sixteenth century. Amongst the roof fragments were hundreds of fragments of window glass, and pieces of lead came. There can be no doubt that the windows of the building were smashed to remove the lead for melting down at the same time that the roof was being dismantled.

The glass has all become opaque as a result of devitrification, but is nonetheless of great interest. Many of the quarries have survived intact, albeit in a very fragile state, with the original shape identifiable from the ground edges. Many pieces retain traces of painted decoration. Work on the recording and conservation of the glass is proceeding. Elements of decoration identified so far include geometric motifs, foliage including oak leaves and acorns, and a lion's face. It is hoped that a study of the glass will enable a more precise date to be assigned to the building. The discovery of the glass illustrates again the virtue of the long term excavation of a site such as Norton Priory. It is a class of material which in eleven previous seasons of excavation has been very poorly represented. The quantities recovered in 1982 are therefore of particular importance.

The presence of glazed windows provides some indication of the importance of the building. It might tentatively be identified as a hall forming part of the guest quarters; its orientation makes a chapel most unlikely. Other possibilities remain however, and further excavation will clarify the position.

On the westernmost limit of the museum's fenced area a 2.3 m wide trial trench, to the north of the monastic drain, revealed three walls of a completely unsuspected building. This will be worthy of future large scale excavation; meanwhile an extension of the area managed by the Norton Priory Museum Trust to take in these remains is being arranged.

The excavation took place after the new museum building at Norton Priory was opened to the public by HRH the Duke of Gloucester on 29 June 1982. The museum houses all the finds excavated since 1971, and uses many of them in the exhibition about the archaeology and history of Norton Priory. It is open every afternoon throughout the year (except 24 and 25 December) from 12 noon.

We would like to thank:-

1. All those who helped with the excavation, including the volunteers who tackled, amongst other work, the difficult task of excavating the layer which produced the medieval glass.
2. The staff of the Institute of Extension Studies, particularly Jenny Woodcock, for the organisation of the teaching excavation.
3. The Geophysics Department of the University for the loan of equipment and Professor Wilson and Dr Games for their advice.
4. Cheshire County Council Planning Department, especially Rhys Williams, for their assistance.

Patrick Greene (Excavation Director)

Bevis Sale (Assistant Director)

SANDBACH SJ 758 608 and SJ 759 608

The Crown Hotel and Hawk Street

Excavations were directed by Rebecca Smart and John Samuels, on behalf of the Liverpool University Rescue Archaeology Unit, to assess the archaeological potential of Sandbach town centre, prior to the start of a large building scheme. Four trial trenches were dug. Both sites had extensive modern and post-medieval disturbance, but traces of medieval occupation were found in the form of shallow pits and gullies. At the Hawk Street site, a timber-framed building appeared to have been replaced by a brick cottage built on the same alignment. A small quantity of medieval pottery and a lead spindle whorl were recovered.

It is hoped to publish a report in the next issue of the Cheshire Archaeological Bulletin (No.9 for 1983). Further information from the Rescue Archaeology Unit, University of Liverpool, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SU. Telephone 051-709-6022, ext. 2819.

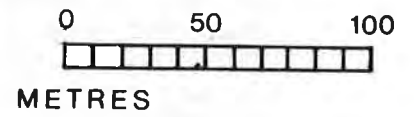
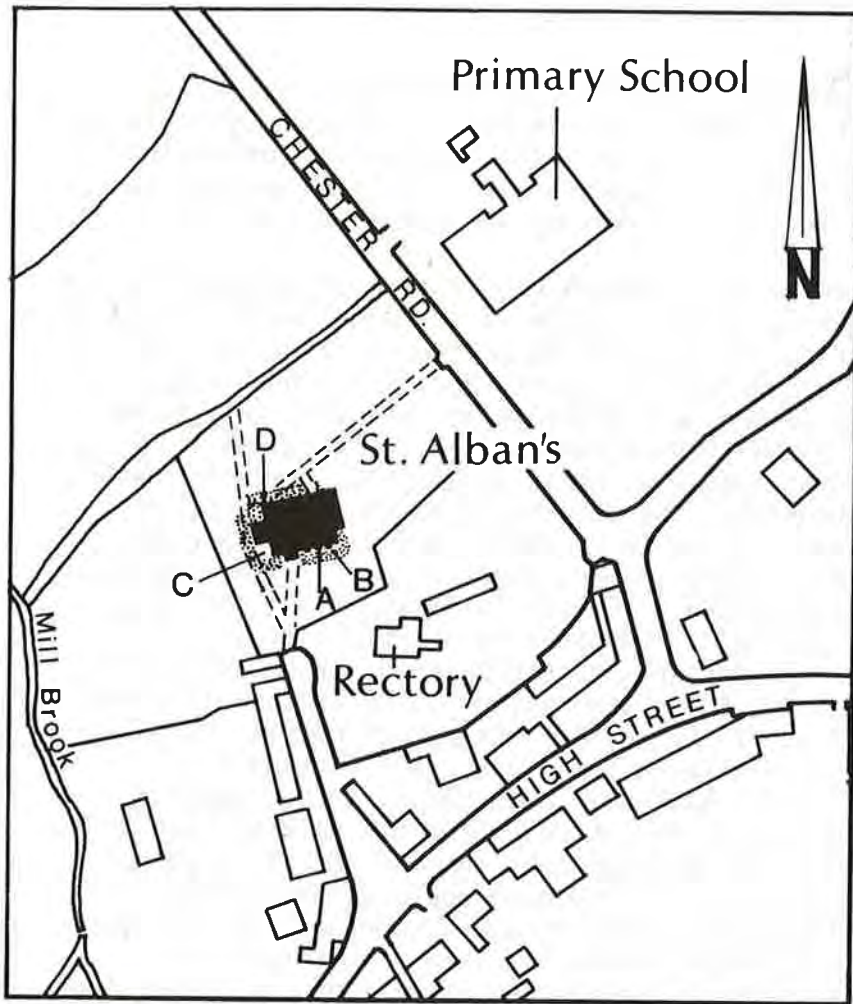
S R Williams

TATTENHALL SJ 487 586

Church of St.Alban

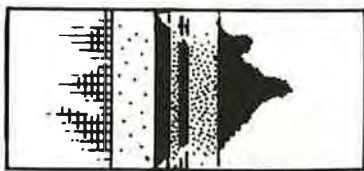
Work carried out from the middle of June until October 1982, to renovate the ground and rainwater drainage system within the churchyard, entailed the re-excavation of an area around the church

Fig. 7



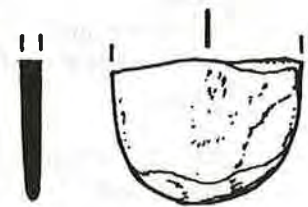
TATTENHALL

1



-  GREY
-  WHITE
-  RED
-  YELLOW

2



3



4



E. EVANS
TATTEN
HALL

5

1:1

ALEBON

walls and a trench partway along the line of the churchyard path (Fig. 7, 1). At the invitation of the Rector, the Revd. A.W. Fell, and acting on information from Mr S R Williams, the County Archaeologist, a number of visits were made by members of the Excavations Section of the Grosvenor Museum in order to examine and record discoveries.

One early find, within the foundations of a buttress uncovered by the trench along the south wall, was a block of sandstone with a layer of painted plaster adhering to its outer face (Fig. 7, 1A & 2). Two further less decorative but also plastered and red painted blocks were uncovered at the base of the next buttress to the east, just below present ground level and within foundations at the west end (Fig. 7, 1B & 1C). Both were very close to brick built sumps which extended into the workman's trenches. The decorative yellow, grey and red bands on a white ground, on the first block, are painted at right angles to its long axis and, if Roman, might be paralleled by plaster from the Legionary Baths found at Exeter (Bidwell, 1979, 155-161). The vertical banding perhaps corresponds to the sides of a multi-coloured panel-like design, which decorated a room above a red waist-high dado (*ibid*, fig.55). The dating of the Tattenhall finds, however, is debatable and if Roman they are not of regular type. At least one layer of mortar between the plaster and backing is characteristic (*ibid*, 157), but these have simply a thin layer of plaster immediately on top of the stone. Over the painted face of the polychrome block, and of the one found to the east of it, a thin obscuring coat of white lime wash had been applied indicating, interestingly, an altered appearance if not a secondary use for the room within which the painted plaster had been a feature. In addition, on the north side of the Church, as part of the foundations of the western corner buttress of the north aisle (Fig. 7, 1D), parts of several remarkably large dressed sandstone blocks, forming a right angle, were uncovered (about 60cm x 60cm high, length uncertain), together with another block which had a gully carved into it as if it had been part of some guttering. A photographic record was taken by the Rector as these architectural finds were made, and a piece of protective polythene was placed over the polychrome painted block prior to back-filling the trench. All the sandstone blocks were left in situ.

Artifacts recovered in 1982 comprise a variety of Roman to recent items which, with the exception of the bulk of the metalwork consisting mainly of very late and fragmentary pieces, are tabulated below and a small selection is illustrated (Figs. 7 & 8). The small group of Roman pottery falls into a broad 2nd to 4th century date range, largely comprising jar body sherds including some possible Severn Valley ware, the illustrated fine Nene Valley vessel and a piece from the base of a white Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium (identified by P. Carrington). Important remains from the medieval Church consist of three small fragments of painted window glass (Fig. 7, 4), and the pieces of locally made line impressed decorated floor tiles. A body sherd from a fine 13th or early 14th century copper green glazed jug, imported from the Saintonge region of south western France, could have been part of some domestic debris or a fragment of a vessel used in the Church. The few other medieval wares are contemporary local types, chiefly cooking vessels. Post-medieval pottery, ranging in date from the 17th century to very nearly the present, makes up the bulk of the finds and has been tabulated in approximately chronological order (Tables 1 - 3).

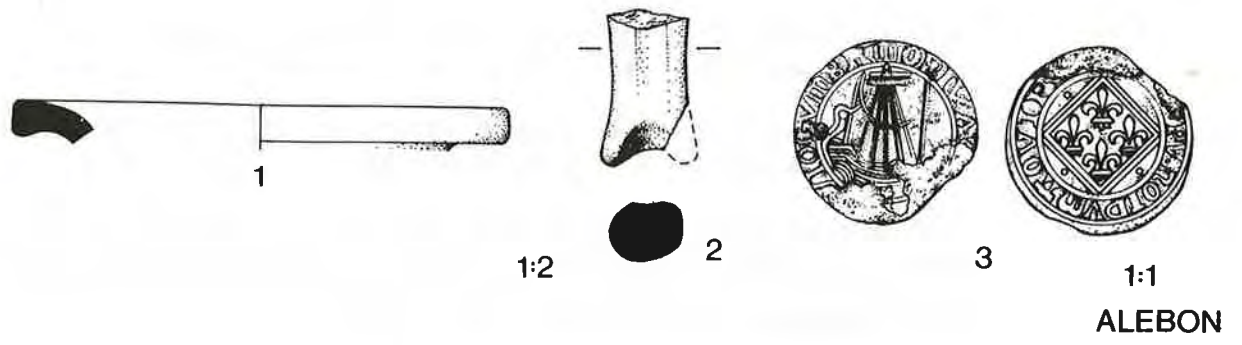


Fig. 8

Objects from Tattenhall

Illustrated Finds:

1. Painted plaster found at the base of a buttress on the south wall of the Church (Fig. 7, 1A & 2).
2. Flagon or jar rim. Nene Valley colour-coated ware with a metallic lustred green-brown slipped exterior; 3rd-4th century. (Fig. 8, 1).
3. Skillet handle with bifid terminal, red-grey clear glazed, locally made 13th - 14th century ware (Fig. 8, 2).
4. Three fragments of green tinged window glass, with red painted outline decoration on one surface. (Fig. 7, 4).
5. Clay tobacco pipe bowl with ink stamped inscription on the front 'E.EVANS/TATTEN/HALL'. Probably the mark of a late 19th or early 20th century shop or innkeeper, rather than the name of a pipemaker. Bore 4/64" (Fig. 7, 5).
6. Part of a ground-down blue slate gaming counter (Fig. 7, 3).
7. Nuremberg token: diameter 24.5mm. Description as for parallel token published from Waltham Abbey by S.E.Rigold (1976, 126, No.20) 'Lozenge of 4 Lys, pellets at sides/ship; neat but garbled Lombardic legends (c.1520s)'. (Fig. 8, 3).

Two Roman coins, found several years ago, are worth mentioning here because of their association with one another and their discovery near the Church. They were found in the grounds of Park Primary School (SJ.488 587). A description was published by Mr F A Latham in his book on Tattenhall village (1977, 12) but the first coin should read as follows (identification by D J Robinson):

1. Denarius: of Mark Antony, restitution issue under Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, 161 - 169 AD;
obv. ANTONIVS AVG VR
111 VIR R P C (Triumvir Raepublicae Constituendae)
Praetorian galley
rev. ANTONINVS ET VERVS AVG REST
LEG VI in field with -
Legionary eagle between two standards

Type No.443 in Mattingly & Sydenham, 1968a, 248. Found in 1970 and now in the possession of the school (See drawing of this coin; ibid.,38).

2. Denarius: Galba. Hispanian reverse, 69 AD. Type No.7 in Mattingly & Sydenham, 1968b, 196. Found in 1977, now in the possession of the finder.

A third coin found recently in Tattenhall, a medieval long-cross penny of Henry VI, was published in C.A.B. No.7 (1982, 68).

Discussion:

The dedication of the church to St. Alban is rare and implies an early establishment, perhaps Saxon and contemporary with that of the Benedictine Abbey founded by Offa at St. Albans in 793 AD. The earliest reference, however, is to the gift of the Church to the Abbey of St. Werburgh about 1100 AD, by William Malbedeng, 1st Baron of Wich Malbank. Part of an earlier structure 'evidently destroyed by fire' was discovered during the work that was carried out at the end of the 19th century (Richards, 1973, 324-328). Douglas's reconstruction, done in 1869 and 1870, followed the plan of the medieval building and was not as extensive as has been previously published, (*ibid*). With the exception of the porch on the south side that was added in 1893, the north and south walls stand much as before, with only the refacing of interior stonework in many places. (Personal comment by Rev. A W Fell). Although many of the old furnishings were put back into the new building, the flagged floor was replaced by the present wooden one. During the course of this work an exceptionally large skeleton was found, just outside the north wall, and beneath the skull a coin or token (*ibid.*). The token found in 1982 came from roughly this area, together with fragments of an extremely thick skull (personal comment, Revd. A W Fell). Whether the finds in 1870 were re-interred at this spot, only to be rediscovered now, is uncertain but it seems more than coincidence and that the two are in some way connected. The accumulating evidence from a scatter of Roman finds round about the Church, whether some of the building material was originally of this period or not, points towards Roman occupation of the site or somewhere nearby. Quite what form this took remains to be discovered, but in connection with this, if there was any use of an area adjacent to the site as an extension to the burial ground, or further redevelopment nearby, it might well bring to light rather more substantial evidence for any Roman occupation and indeed, perhaps the establishment of the earliest Church. All the finds have been returned to the Rector.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank, in particular, the Rector, the Revd. A W Fell, S R Williams, T J Strickland, D J Mason and Dr. A J P Campbell. Also P M Alebon for his drawings, Dr P Carrington, E Brotherton-Ratcliffe and D J Robinson for examining various finds and D Roberts, without whose efforts much of this material would not have been found.

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J A Rutter

TATTON PARK SJ 757813

Excavations at Tatton D.M.V. 1982 : A Preliminary Report

As part of the continuing project to evaluate the settlement history of the township of Tatton in Rostherne Parish, Cheshire, a variety of surveys and an excavation occurred in 1982.

Survey Work

To augment the subsurface radar, proton-magnetometer and resistivity surveys already undertaken on the village site, Dr A Clarke of the Ancient Monuments Laboratories kindly ran a range of surveys on the site, encompassing resistivity, magnetic susceptibility and magnetometer techniques. The results of these will be analysed and plotted by computer. A further resistivity and contour survey was carried out in June and July under the direction of J McPeake of Central Manchester Colleges.

Excavation

An excavation was carried out over four weeks in June/July with the permission of the Department of the Environment and National Trust, and the generous financial support of Cheshire County Council, the Pilgrim Trust, British Academy and Granada Foundation. 600m² was excavated, bringing the total area examined on the village site to 1500m².

Structures

- a) The northern end of the 'longhouse' discovered in 1981 was uncovered, although the end of one side had been destroyed. Root damage and plough erosion had removed all but the slightest trace of this feature. The full length of the 'longhouse' is approximately 28m.
- b) Traces of two further structural timber alignments located in 1980 and 1981 were pursued to the north. These were approximately parallel to each other and to the 'longhouse' and may represent a comparable structure, although certain inconsistencies in their form and the absence of ends detracts from this hypothesis. No dating evidence was found, and the 'drip' trenches recorded in 1981 are best seen as the impact of ploughing. Stake fences were associated with one of these structural alignments.

- c) One end of a well-defined posthole structure was found at the northern corner of the excavation. Post holes up to c.70 cm deep contained post sockets, and two contained sufficient charcoal or rotted timber to attempt a C.14 date. Prior to the results, it is anticipated that this building is of medieval date. Occupying the same area but on a slightly different alignment were a series of shallow pits, possibly the result of another phase of building. The floor levels from this area had been eroded by ploughing and stray finds of prehistoric and medieval date were randomly distributed, but the degree of erosion was far less than had occurred on the 'longhouse' area.

Ditches

- a) Two ditches close to this (possible) medieval building had been backfilled when in a clean condition. Pottery from the backfill dated from the 12th-13th centuries, and had been redeposited, suggesting an in-fill date shortly after 1300. The relationship between structural alignment and ditches suggests that at least one phase of the former was contemporary with the latter. One of these ditches was wrongly interpreted as a storm ditch or eaves drip trench for the 'longhouse' in 1981. Further excavation showed that it slighted one of the 'longhouse' long sides at the northern end, and so must post-date it.
- b) This ditch also slighted the terminal end of the ditch located in 1981 crossing the 'longhouse'. The lower, southern end of the ditch was excavated in toto for a length of c.5 m, but no dating evidence was recovered. It served a drainage function, carrying water off the boulder clay onto the sand, where it petered out. Evidence suggested that silting with clay in this area may have caused bogginess, and numerous stakeholes had been driven through the clay silt to allow easy drainage.

Pits

- a) A series of cleanly-cut, rectangular pits c.2m x 1m and up to 2m deep were dug into the area in the mid-18th century. Two were tested and found to contain individual cattle skeletons, and these may have been casualties of a local cattle plague in the 1740's. In case it had been anthrax, the majority were not excavated, but samples sent to Porton Down failed to support cultures.
- b) Several small pits (i.e. less than 1m across or deep) were excavated, none of which provided artifactual dating evidence. However, several contained burnt materials, in one case in large quantities, and C.14 dates are anticipated. At least one was comparable to the small pits found in 1981, which were initially interpreted as hearths. This analysis is now thought less likely, and some storage function is a possibility.

Artifacts

Few artifacts came from the site, although a small number of waste flint flakes were found scattered apparently randomly, providing some support for the initial C.14 date that at least one element of the site was in use C.2600 b.c. The subsequent loss of topsoil and erosion of subsoil may account for the scarcity of early finds, examples of which were recorded from the site earlier this century.

Pottery from surface re-deposition and from the ditches falls within a date range from the 10th-14/15th centuries, but the sample is very small. The plough soil yields quantities of 17th and 18th century wares which probably reached the site through manuring practises. The pottery from 1981 and 1982 has been examined by Janet Rutter of the Grosvenor Museum.

Dating

There are at least three episodes distinguishable in the occupation of the site. Initial C.14 dating and scatter of flint waste flakes points to some use in the prehistoric period. Whether or not this episode includes occupation of the 'longhouse' and associated possible structures is still unclear. However, the 'longhouse' was already totally demolished by the time the medieval ditches were dug. These were filled in probably about 1300 a.d. and we think were associated with a 'posthole' structure that may have gone through at least one total rebuild of its southern wall, implying a long occupation. We await the results of C.14 dating of these episodes, from Harwell, using funds very kindly provided by British Nuclear Fuels.

Acknowledgements

The work at Tatton is only possible with the support and sympathy of the National Trust, Cheshire County Council and the Department of the Environment and the staff at Tatton Park. The project would be a nonsense without the help of British Nuclear Fuels. I would like to acknowledge the help in the excavations of T Cane, J McPeake, B Lovegrove, R Longbottom, H Atkinson, R Matthews, A Mayer, C Fiddes, the students of Manchester Colleges and everyone else who helped to make the experience enjoyable as well as academically valuable.

N J Higham

UTKINTON SJ 557662

A complex of cropmarks (Fig. 9) were clearly visible in a sloping and undulating field of barley on 24 July 1980. They appeared to consist of agricultural drain lines which had been cut through ridge and furrow and in part at right angles to it. The latter stops against the cropmark of a long, narrow, curving ditch which is triple for part of its length (top centre of the drawing). Two short lengths of ditch also run diagonally across the ridge and furrow into the main ditch at centre right of the drawing. The ditch appears to be interrupted at bottom centre and either discontinued or again interrupted at bottom left. The cropmarks probably all represent drainage channels dating from various periods.

S R Williams

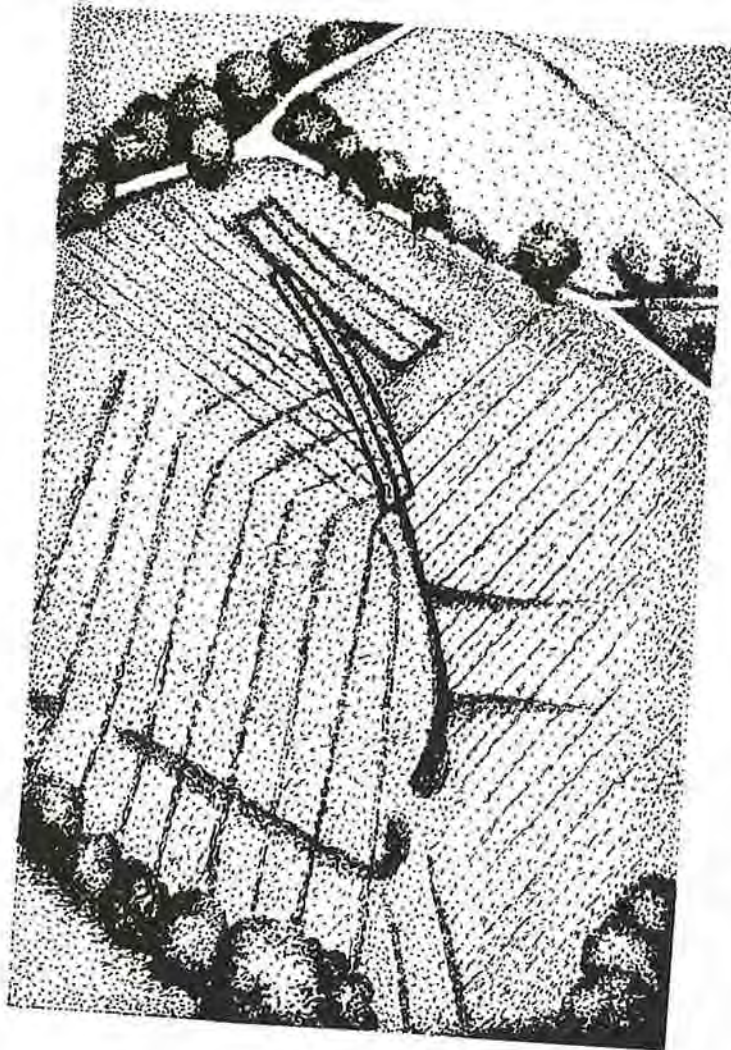


Fig 9.

Cropmarks at Utkinton

WARRINGTON SJ 606878

Old Academy

Excavations were directed by D.A.Higgins for the Liverpool University Rescue Archaeology Unit of c.34 sq.metres in the Friar's Green/Bridge Street area in advance of road widening. Stone steps had been found in an inspection pit and were shown to belong to the cellar of a tannery building first shown on a map of 1772. This area had been used since at least the late 17th century by tanners and the excavated structure was probably part of a skin yard built by the Whalley family during the 18th century. The cellar was brick built with a stone floor, although incorporating reused masonry blocks, perhaps from the nearby friary. Two windows had later been blocked up. Against one side was a coke filled bunker, possibly a filter, and drains were laid under the floor. One of these contained part of a barrel which had been used as a soakaway, and was marked with various symbols, names (personal and place; e.g. NEWRY) and the date 'SECOND JULY 1829'. The barrel is bound with bands of split withies at the base. On the floor of the cellar was found an unusual vessel, blackglazed inside with two handles and originally c.48 cm high. The body has two swellings in it, with a bunghole at the base, a carefully finished spout (? to take another fitting) on the upper part of the body, and a wide lid seating with two location slots and a vertical bridged cut. The building was demolished in 1885/6 and this upper fill contained an interesting group of clay tobacco pipes including an unusually high proportion of decorative French examples, mostly made by the Gambier firm of Paris.

A ditch c. 1.5m and 0.5m deep was found cutting the natural sands. It ran towards the Mersey and contained a build-up, starting around the 15th century, which included two mosaic floor tiles made locally for the Friary. One was green glazed and consisted of incompletely separated lozenges, while the other was part of an octagonal quatrefoil surround with a brown glaze. No other features were found around the watercourse. Some residual Roman sherds were found. The finds are to be deposited in the Warrington Museum. The labour was provided by an MSC CEP scheme and the work assisted by a grant from Cheshire County Council.

It is hoped to publish a fuller report in the next edition of the Cheshire Archaeological Bulletin (No.9 for 1983). Further information from the Rescue Archaeology Unit, University of Liverpool, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SU. Tel. 051-709 6022 ext. 2819.

S R Williams

Fig. 10

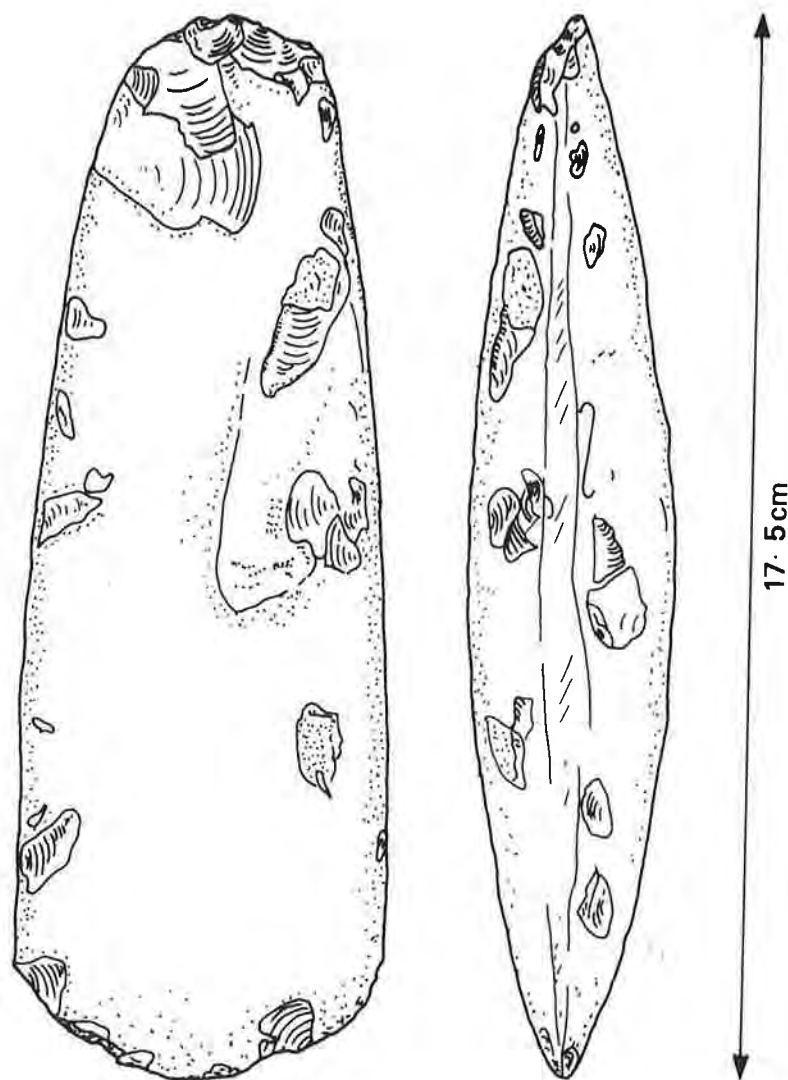
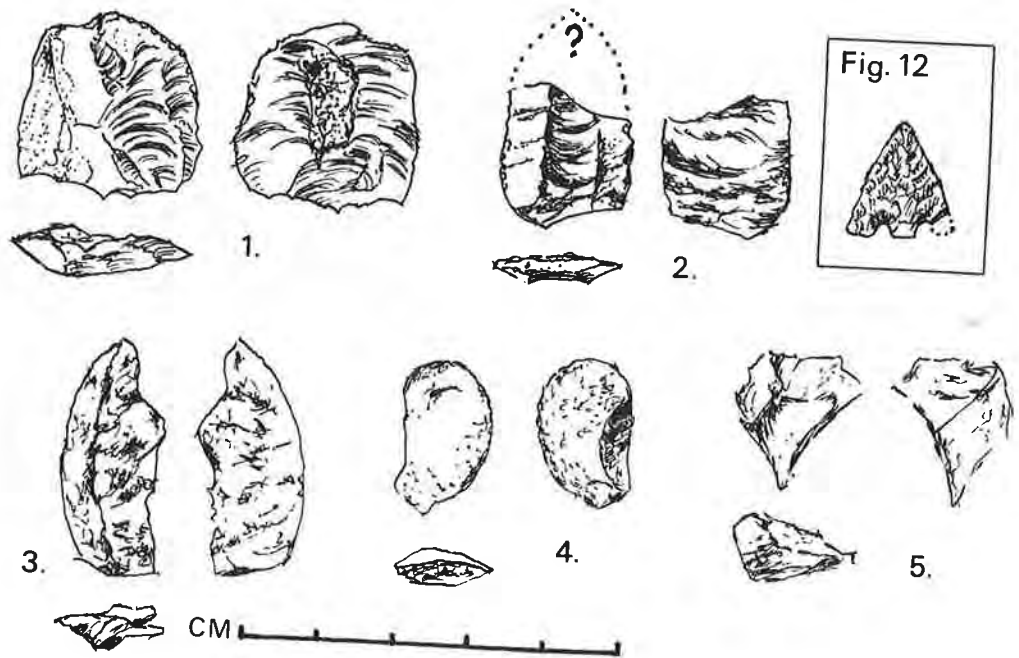


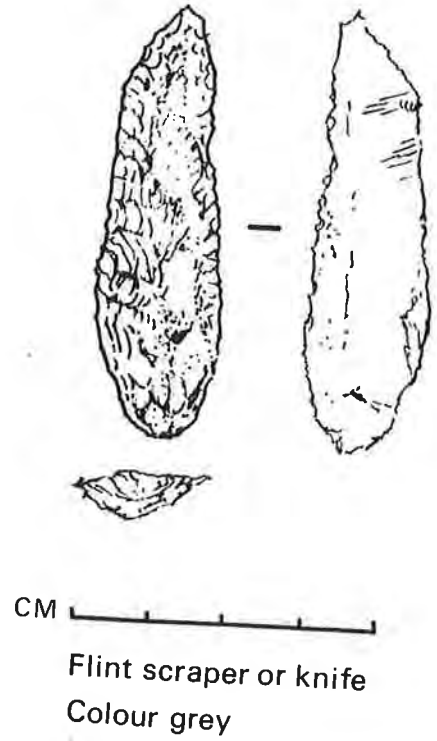
Fig. 11



Flints. Found SJ 8892 8691

**Flints from Bramhall
and Hazel Grove**

Fig. 13



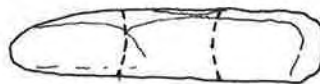
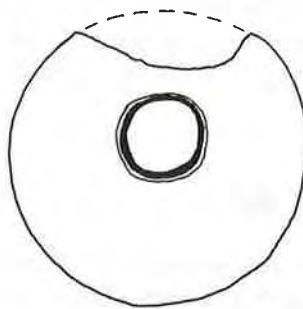
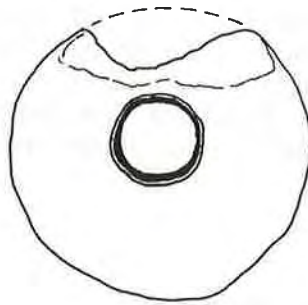


Fig. 14
1:1

Spindle Whorl
from Congleton

STRAY FINDS

PREHISTORIC

ANTROBUS SJ 643798

Polished axe of grey-white flint with a patina suggesting a possible origin in Kent. Some flaking particularly at the edge and butt. Length 17.4 cms; maximum width 6.2 cms; maximum thickness 3.4 cms; weight 403.7 gms. Found by Mrs Janice Foster in the back garden of her house, 26 Knutsford Road, Antrobus, Northwich, and retained by her. (Fig.10).

A.J.N.W.P.

BRAMHALL SJ 8892 8691

Collection of 12 flints, mostly waste flakes or utilised pieces, in a honey-coloured stone (except fig.11.1 which is of a blackish brown colour).

Fig.11.1 is a scraper worked on a flake and fig.11.2 is the butt end of a blade, of indeterminate length, with retouched edges. Found in the late 1920's and in the possession of the finder's son, Mr P Wroe, 46 Aldwyn Crescent, Hazel Grove, Stockport. (See also following item).

S.R.W.

BRAMHALL SJ 8892 8691

Tanged and barbed arrowhead, of honey-coloured flint, found in the late 1920's and part of the above collection. The arrowhead has been lost but has been drawn from memory by the finder. Reported by Mr P Wroe, 46, Aldwyn Crescent, Hazel Grove, Stockport. (Fig. 12).

S.R.W.

CONGLETON Area of SJ 858625

Spindlewhorl made of mudstone. 39mm dia. with 10mm hole. Found in the Howey Hill area of Congleton. In the possession of the finder, Mr R Booth, 64 Farm Crescent, Congleton. (Fig.14).

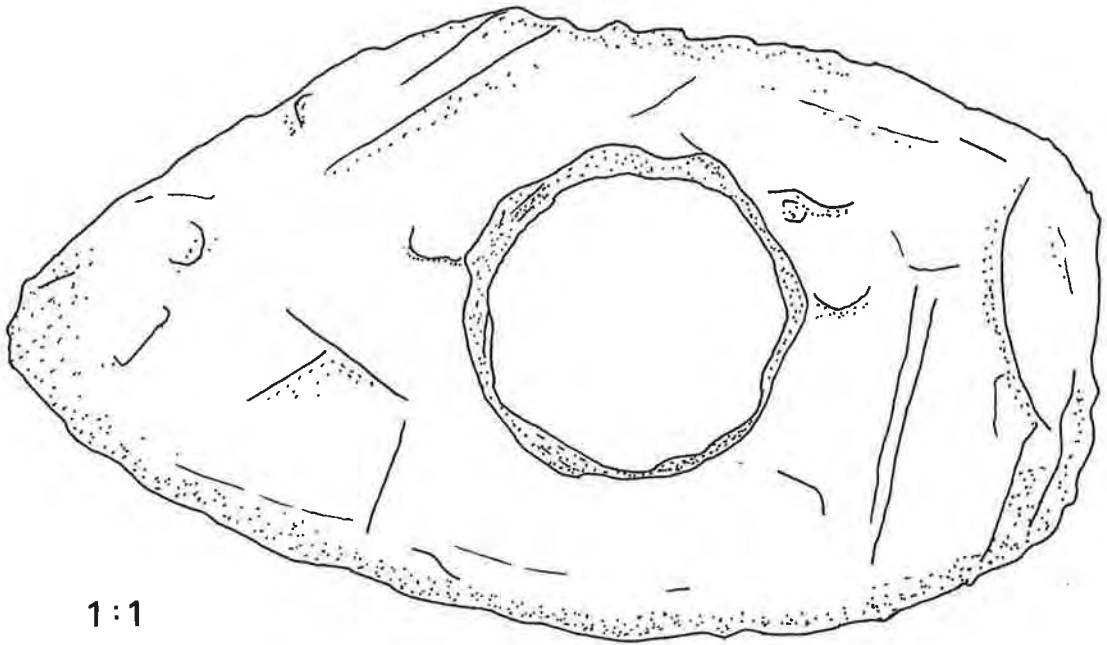
S.R.W.

HAZEL GROVE SJ 9244 8627

Knife made of a grey flint blade with trimmed butt and retouched edges. Found in 1957 during the making of a garden for a new house. In the possession of the finder, Mr D Smith of 18 Edale Close, Hazel Grove, Stockport. Reported by Mr P Wroe, 46 Aldwyn Crescent, Hazel Grove, Stockport. (Fig 13)

S.R.W.

Fig 15



1:1

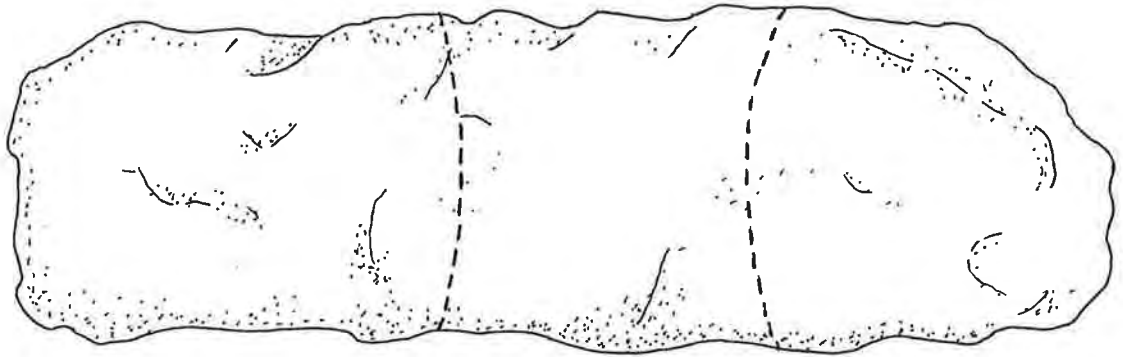
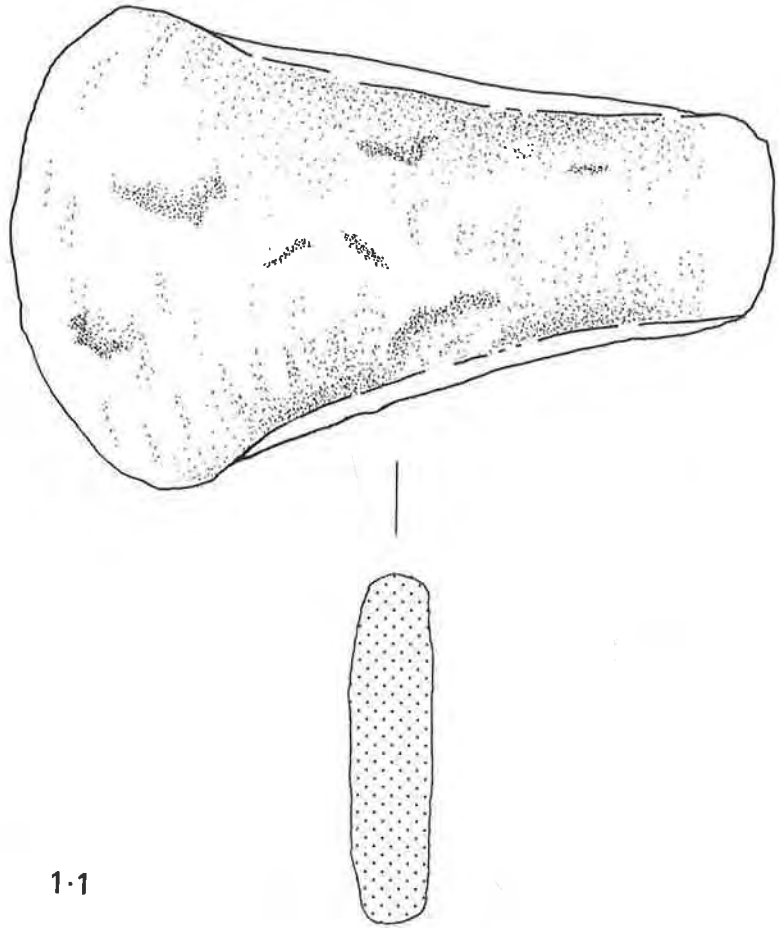
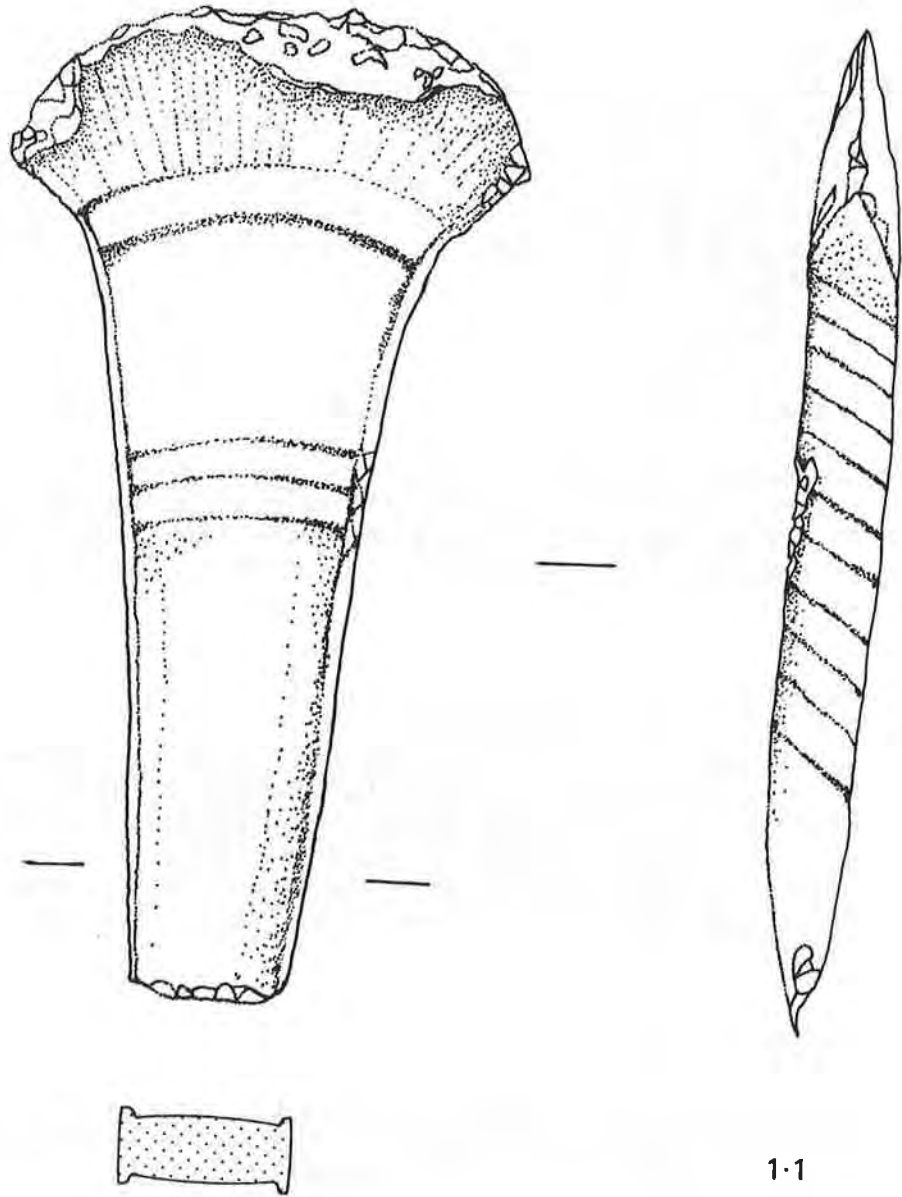


Fig 16.



1-1

Fig. 17



LYMM SJ 691 867

Late neolithic/early bronze age plano-convex knife of pale grey-brown flint. Length 5.2 cms. Worked from a blade and retouched for scraping or cutting. One edge has heavy wear or possibly an inverse retouch. There is a possibility that the knife was imported with topsoil brought from Sale. In the possession of the finder, Dr N N Hancock, 119, Higher Lane, Lymm.

A.J.N.W.P.

MOTTRAM ST. ANDREW (Find spot confidential)

Undecorated bronze flat axe of Early Bronze Age type. In good condition, with some encrustation and incipient bronze disease; slight wear at the blade edge. Length 9.9 cms; maximum width 6.5 cms; thickness 1.2 cms; weight 260 gms. Found, after heavy rains, in the bed of a stream in an area where rubbish had been tipped. The axe may therefore have been recently deposited near the find spot. In the possession of the finder, Mr Bracken, 75, Chestnut Drive, Poynton, Stockport. (Fig 16).

A.J.N.W.P.

NEWBOLD ASTBURY Area of SJ 856595

Axe-hammer made from a crystalline stone, probably an erratic piece of gabbro. The inside of the shaft-hole has clear peck marks suggesting it was enlarged from an original hour-glass perforation. Found by Mr A Potts, Bay Tree Farm, Newbold Astbury, Congleton. (Fig 15).

S.R.W.

SPURSTOW (Find spot uncertain)

Bronze axe, of Early Bronze Age type, with low flanges and diagonal fluting; transverse furrowing between the flanges. Length 12.9 cms (approx. 5 inches); max. width across blade edge 6.9 cms; thickness 1.2 cms. Bronze disease at blade and butt ends. Found just below the turf in a formerly ploughed field, now pasture. Reported by Mr Stephen Murphy, 34, Ruskin Road, Crewe. (Fig 17).

S.R.W.

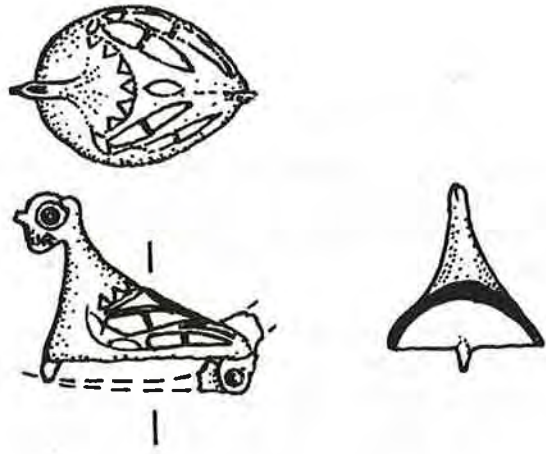
TARVIN SJ 4857 6705

Bottom stone of a rotary quern found at edge of footpath where it had been deposited after ploughing. The sides are chipped and the bottom face has probably been used as a whetstone.

Found and reported by Mr J A Cutter, 29, By-Pass Road, Tarvin.

D.J.R.

Fig. 18
1:1



Rear of head
showing remains
of pin twisted
around shaft



Fig. 19
1:1



5.5 cm.

WHITEGATE SJ 6405.6890

A looped palstave was found in 1981 by Mr D Townley (of 59 Moss Bank, Winsford) on land belonging to Parkside Farm, Mill Lane, Whitegate. The farm is owned by Cheshire County Council, and is farmed by a tenant, Mr Wright.

Mr Townley made the find when prospecting with a metal detector, having sought the farmer's consent. The palstave is said to have been only a few inches below the surface - less than the depth of the plough would have been. No associated material was found. The field is pasture, but has been re-seeded in the fairly recent past. It lies immediately west of the farm: the indicated find-spot was 75 m from the east hedge, and 25 m from the roadside hedge (both approximate).

The palstave has been presented to Cheshire County Museums (3538.1981) and may be seen at Weaver Hall, Northwich.

D.F.P.

ROMAN

CLAVERTON SJ 4028 6411

CMBR
8600/32

Circular bronze Roman brooch with traces of gilding, and with central setting for a glass gem now lost. Badly corroded, pin and edge lost. A third century type dia. ca. 2.3 cm.

Found and reported by Mr Dennis Price, 26, William Street, Hoole.

G. LL-M

CLAVERTON SJ 413654

CMBR
8600/26

Roman bronze brooch in the form of a cockerel inlaid with blue, red, yellow and ?white enamel panels. The pin is missing, and some details have been lost.

Length ca. 3.5 cm Width 2.1 cm Height 3.5 cm

There are several examples in the collections of the British Museum including one from Lincoln, and another from Brough Castle, Westmorland. This latter has traces of red and other enamels (Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain (British Museum, London second edition 1958) p.20 no.40 fig.11 reg.no.57.12-14, 1922). Other examples are reported from York (R.C.H.M. Eburacum (1962) pl.34 p.91a (no.H139a)), London, Colchester and Caersws. A further piece was found during excavations at Wroxeter, and has the wings inlaid with blue enamel). (J P Bushe-Fox Third Report on the Excavations on the site of the Roman Town at Wroxeter, Shropshire 1914 Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London no.4 (Oxford 1916) pl.XVI no.13 p.25-6). The general date for brooches of this type seems to be around the second century A.D.

Found in the garden of Mr A Masters, at 6 Beeston View, Handbridge. (Fig.18).

G LL-M

DARESBUY SJ 578 829

Worn Denarius of Hadrian rev. MONETA AVG compare R.I.C. vol. II
No. 256 p. 369.

Found and reported by Mr Keith Tustin, Daresbury Fruit Farm,
Daresbury, near Warrington.

G. LL-M

NESS SJ 31727577

Sestertius, probably of Marcus Aurelius. Very badly worn. Possible
identification R.I.C. Vol III no. 1249 or 1250 p. 313. A second
unidentified coin has been found nearby. Found by Mr E Bell and
deposited at the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Birkenhead.

S.R.W/G.LL-M

NESS SJ 31737574

Trumpet fibula, probably 1st Century A.D. Reasonable condition;
spring still attached but no pin; foot damaged; catchplate intact;
decorated probably with niello inlay. Further information obtainable
from the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Birkenhead. (Fig. 19).

G. CH

WESTON SJ 728524

Hoard of 12 Denarii scattered from SJ 72856 52427 to SJ 72852 52438
and made up as follows:-

- (1) Denarius of Domitian (RIC II, 171 no. 148) AD90
reads: IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM PM TRP VIII (obverse)
IMP XXI COS XV CENS PER (rev)
- (2) Denarius of Trajan (RIC II, 251 no. 102) AD103-111
reads: IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC PM TRP (ob)
COS V PP SPQR OPTIMO PRINC/PAX (rev)
- (3) Denarius of Trajan (RIC II, 268 no. 350) AD114-117
reads: IMP CAES NER TRAIAN OPTIM AVG GER DAC PARTHICO (ob)
PM TRP COS VI PP SPQR (rev)
- (4) Denarius of Trajan (RIC II, 253 no. 128 or similar) AD103-111
reads: IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC PM TRP (ob)
COS V PP SPQR OPTIMO PRINC (rev)
- (5) Denarius of Trajan (RIC II, 269 no. 361) AD114-117
reads: IMP CAES NER TRAIAN OPTIM AVG GERM DAC (ob)
PROVID (across field) PARTHICO PM TRP COS VI PP SPQR
(rev)

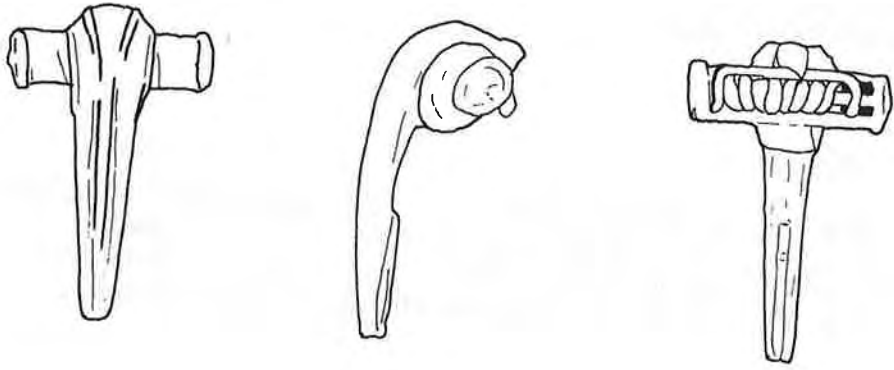


Fig. 20 a)

1:1

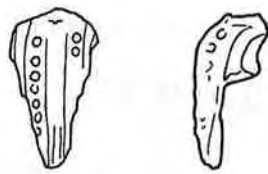


Fig. 20 b)

1:1

Fibulae from Weston

- (6) Denarius of Trajan (RIC II, 261 no.243) AD112-114
reads: IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC PM TRP COS VI PP (ob)
SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI / ALIM ITAL in exergue (rev)
- (7) Denarius of Trajan, similar to (4), and of the same date.
- (8) Denarius of Hadrian (RIC II, 355 no.127) AD119-122
reads: IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS (AVG) (ob)
PM TRP COS III / LIB PVB in exergue (rev)
- (9) Denarius of Hadrian (RIC II, 371 no.266) AD134-138
reads: HADRIANVS AVG COS III PP (ob)
ROMVLO CO (NDITORI) (rev)
- (10) Denarius of Hadrian (RIC II, 354 no.120) AD119-122
reads: IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG (ob)
PM TRP COS III / FEL PR in exergue (rev)
- (11) Denarius of Hadrian, reverse AEQVITAS or similar, but not identified.
- (12) Denarius in poor condition; the portrait bust could be Trajan.

The coins were found, together with the two brooches detailed below, by Mr J Morris, 9, Sherwin Street, Crewe, who handed them to the Police. A Coroner's inquest will determine if they are Treasure Trove.

D.F.P/S.R.W

WESTON SJ 72856 52427

Brooches (fibulae), found in association with the above coin hoard:-

- a. Dolphin brooch. Collingwood type H. Length 4.2cm. Rear facing chord hook, pin and foot of brooch, with catch plate, lost and damaged. See C.F.C. Hawkes and M.R. Hull Camulodunum (Oxford 1947) Type V p.311 pl. XCI-XCII with suggested date of not earlier than A.D.50. Another useful parallel can be found in S.S. Frere Verulamium Excavations I (Oxford 1972) p.116 no.10 fig.29, which was found in a context dated to A.D.115-130.
- b. Dolphin brooch. Camulodunum Type IV. Length 2.2cm. A badly damaged fragment, with only the upper part of the bow surviving, showing the original position of the decorative ridge which would have run down the centre. There are some traces of silvering/tinning.

Hawkes and Hull (1947) p.311 quote examples from London, Richborough etc. which had been dated to the late first century, though stratified finds from their own excavations at

Camulodunum take the type back to ca. A.D.50-65. Examples from Professor Frere's excavations at Verulamium (publ. Oxford 1972) confirm the overall date range (p.114 fig.29 no.6 context dated A.D.49-60; no.8 context dated A.D.60-75; no.9 context dated A.D.85-105).

Found and reported by Mr J Morris, 9 Sherwin Street, Crewe. (Fig 20).

SRW/G.LL-M

WINSFORD SJ 64186500

Rim of large jar (320mm diameter outside edge) in smooth grey fabric. Presumably Roman but fabric unrecognised. Found 2 feet below the surface while digging for sand. The ground has been deep-ploughed in recent times by the owner. Found by Mr R S Ayliffe of 35, Swanlow Lane, Over, Winsford and given to the Grosvenor Museum Excavations Section.

D.J.R.

WYBUNBURY SJ 6981 4935

Denarius of Julia Domna, wife of Septimius Severus. Obv. IVLIA AUGVSTA r. draped bust.
Rev. PIETAS PVBLICA. Pietas standing head l. by altar raising both hands.
RIC vol.IV (i) No.574 p.170. Mint of Rome AD.196-211. Weight 2.14 gms.

Found by Mr G Sandland, 18, Fairfield Avenue, Sandbach.

SRW/G.LL-M

MEDIEVAL

CLAVERTON SJ 404643

1190/24
Medieval lead spindle whorl, decorated with a zigzag raised line and dots between each angle. Diam. ca.3.0cm. Depth 0.8cm.

Found and reported by Mr Dennis Price, 26, William Street, Hoole.

G. LL-M

CLAVERTON SJ 408639

Silver penny of Henry III London mint, name of minter uncertain ?Iohan? c.f. North English Hammered Coinage vol.1 Class 5c as no.993 p.167.

Found and reported by Mr Dennis Price, 26 William Street, Hoole.

G. LL-M

DUTTON SJ 5904 7759

Handled ampulla, or pilgrim's flask, made of pewter decorated with a scallop shell on one side and a circular motif, possibly a Catherine wheel on the other. The scallop shell suggests an origin in the shrine of St. James of Compostella in Galicia, Spain. Found by Mr D Speechly, 15, Kent Close, Bromborough, Wirral within the area formerly occupied by the chapel and Elizabethan garden of Dutton Hall.

G.CH/SRW

DUTTON SJ 5908 7752

Long-cross penny of Edward I, II or III minted at Bury St. Edmunds (post A.D. 1279). A second penny (broken) was found nearby at SJ 59067754. This is also of the reign Edward I, II or III and was probably minted in London. (The coinage of the three reigns differs in detail and certain identification is sometimes difficult). Found by Mr D Speechly, 15, Kent Close, Bromborough, Wirral.

G.CH/SRW

DUTTON SJ 59327760

Short-cross halfpenny probably dated between A.D.1205-18 (i.e. King John/Henry III). The mint was probably Canterbury which was prolific in its production of coins. The moneyer's name seems to end in H, N or U. Found by Mr D Speechly, 15, Kent Close, Bromborough, Wirral.

G.CH/SRW

HENHULL SJ 6483 5297

A gold ring set with garnet of almandine type in an oval pie dish setting. The thin hoop of triangular section has two clasped hands at the back. The outside of the hoop is divided into four sections by four quatrefoils. Each section is decorated with Lombardic lettering and a wavy line either above or below.

The lettering appears to read:

AVN NMU AVI :MU

This unintelligible inscription may be a corruption of the words 'amo' or 'ave' which often occur in inscriptions on rings. The Lombardic style of lettering, the shape of the bezel and the use of clasped hands or "Fede" motif all suggest a 13th century date. The ring was found by Mr McAll near a footpath across fields and was brought into the Grosvenor Museum for identification 28 August 1981 by the Coroner, Mr John Hibbert, 158, Nantwich Road, Crewe. It was taken to the British Museum for detailed report 13 October 1981. (It is perhaps worth noting that a small gold ring set with a sapphire, inscribed around the hoop, and thought to date to the 14th century was found in Chester and reported to a meeting of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland on 7 November 1856 by Thomas Hughes F.S.A. Archaeological Journal 13 (1856) p.413. Regrettably its present whereabouts is not known).

G.LL-M/J.CH

HENHULL (Find spot confidential)

Seal matrix, circular 10mm dia., in bronze (latten), with pierced handle. Height 25mm. Slight corrosion but very worn condition. The recessed design is indistinct but appears to be of a four-footed animal with forward-looking head held high and one front paw or hoof raised. Presumably the seal of a private person. Mid to late medieval. Found by Mr Steven Bryant, 407, West Street, Crewe. (Fig 23.1).

S.R.W.

NANTWICH SJ 650530

Seal matrix, circular 26mm dia., in lead, unusually with a small tag on the rim for suspension. The matrix has not been examined but a photograph shows the design to consist of a simplified palmette within a border bearing an inscription with seems to read:-

+ S' ROB'T : DE BOSDO

i.e. the personal seal of Robert of ? Bosdo (possibly Bostock).

A 13th Century date is likely.

Reported by the finder, Mr R Tomkinson, 158, Minshull New Road, Crewe. (Fig.23.2).

S.R.W.

OAKMERE (Find spot confidential)

Horse brass or pendant, cast in brass with red enamel inlay, and bearing the Plantagenet arms of three lions: These royal arms are consistent with the reigns of monarchs from Richard I (AD 1189-1199) onto AD 1340 when Edward III claimed the throne of France and incorporated the fleur de lys.

Condition good. Found in plough soil and reported by the finder, Mr G Sandland, 18, Fairfield Avenue, Sandbach. (Fig23.3).

S.R.W.

SUTTON SJ 5405 7937

Silver penny of Edward I, rather worn, mint of Berwick on Tweed dated ca. 1298 as North English Hammered Coinage vol.II

Reported by Mrs Faulkner, Sutton Hall, Sutton Weaver, Runcorn.

C.N.M.

POST-MEDIEVAL

CHESTER SJ 409 663

St.Johns Church Gardens

Five clay tobacco pipes found in flower beds :

1. Bowl; form 15 in Rutter & Davey 1980, 216. Bore 6/64"
2. Border stamped stem, previously unrecorded geometric design. An unusual stamp for a Chester pipe and therefore may have been imported. Bore 5/64" (Fig.21) Scale 1:1
3. Two decorated stems with a variant of Border No.112 (ibid, 186-7) but there is not enough to illustrate the new design: Bores 5/64" x 2
4. Stamped stem decorated with Border No.108 (ibid, 186-7). Bore 5/64"

Fig. 21



Rutter J.A. & Davey P.J., 1980, 'Clay Pipes from Chester', in, Davey P.J., ed. The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe, III; B A R 78, British Series. Oxford 41-272.

I am grateful to Mr G Bevan for his drawing and to the finder, Mr A Whitehouse, for bringing the pipes to my notice. They have been returned to him.

J.A.R.

CLAVERTON SJ 4048 6446

Elizabeth I first issue shilling, initial mark lis 1558-1560 c.f. North English Hammered Coinage vol.II no.1985 p.106. Found and reported by Mr Dennis Price, 26, William Street, Hoole.

CHESTER
11190/30

G. LL-M

CLAVERTON SJ 406641

James I shilling with thistle initial mark, 1603-4 (North English Hammered Coinage vol.II no.2072 p.117).

CHESTER
11190/31

Found and reported by Mr Dennis Price, 26, William Street, Hoole.

G. LL-M

COOLE PILATE : SJ 658 457

Coole Hall Farm

Four clay tobacco pipe bowls (Fig.22). Two with previously unrecorded marks. The three later bowls show a good deal of North Staffordshire/Shropshire influence in form and may have originated from this area rather than being the products of a Cheshire based industry. (See Vickers, 1981 for a report on the North Staffordshire industry).

1. Unstamped bowl: 1630-1640. Bore 8/64".
2. Bowl with impressed makers mark on base 'TB': 1660-1680. Bore 8/64" (See Mountford, 1974, 6, fig.13, 91).
3. Bowl with impressed maker's mark on base 'TE': 1660-1680. Bore 8/64" (See Greaves, 1976, 16, fig.9,69).
4. Bowl, Brosley type 5B: c.1680-1720 (See Atkinson 1975). Bore 7/64".

Atkinson D R, 1975

Tobacco Pipes of Brosley Shropshire; Hart Talbot, Saffron Walden.

Greaves S J, 1976

A Post-Medieval Excavation in Woodbank Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, SJ 866497, City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society : Report No.10.

Mountford A R, 1974

The Sadler Teapot Manufactory Site Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, SJ 868499. City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society : Report No.7.

Vickers P A, 1981

'Notes on the Clay Tobacco Pipe Industry in North Staffordshire', ARC NEWS. 1, Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society 13-15.

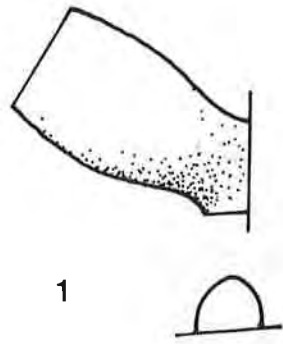
I am grateful to Mr G Bevan for his drawings. Finds returned to the finder, Mr G Goodwin, Coole Hall Farm.

J.A.R.

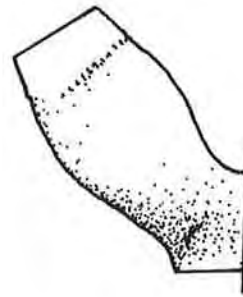
DUTTON SJ 592775

Silver shilling of James I. Not excessively worn but some damage. Coin not submitted for examination and date unknown. Reported by Mr D Speechly, 15, Kent Close, Bromborough, Wirral.

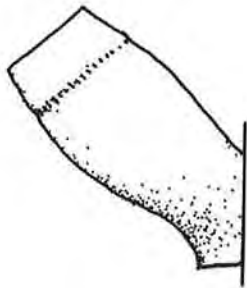
G.CH/SRW



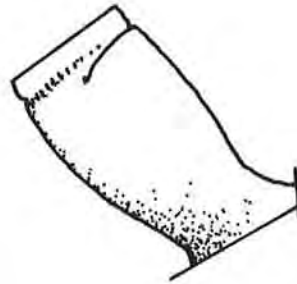
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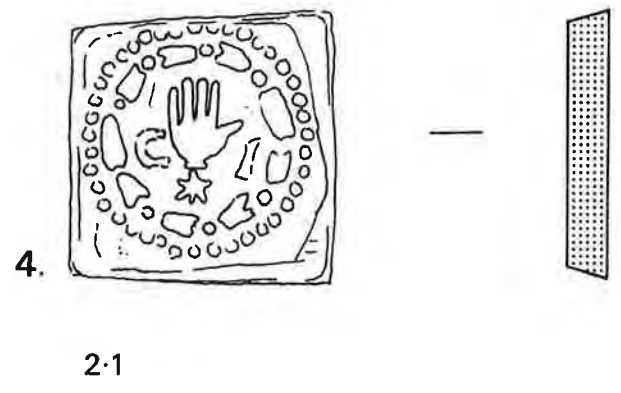
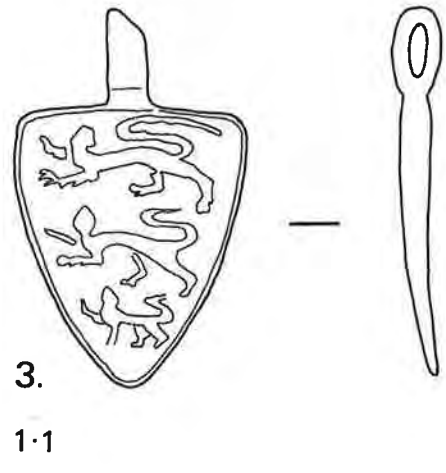
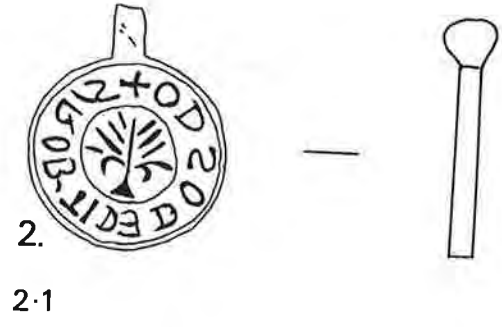
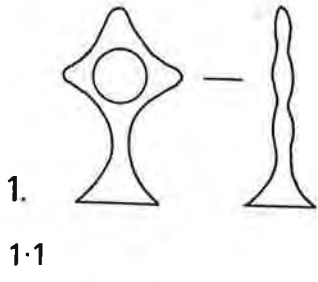
3



4

Fig. 22 1:1

Fig. 23



NANTWICH SJ 6475 5225

Bronze coin weight measuring 15mm x 15mm x 3.5mm thick. Probably from Antwerp or Amsterdam and dating from the last quarter of the 16th century to the first quarter of the 17th.

Obv. Cog type ship within a circle of dots.

Rev. Hand between the letters (?) C and I, all within an indistinct circular motif, probably a garland.

Condition worn. From the 14th century until the first half of the 19th century, coin weights were used to control the weight of gold, and occasionally silver, coins.

(See J Baart, et al, in Opgravingen in Amsterdam, twintig jaar stadskernonderzoek, Amsterdam 1977, pages 410-415, Fig.774). Found at the rear of Garden Hill, St Anne's Lane, Nantwich, at a depth of a few inches. Reported by Mr T G Holman MBE, 35, Millfields, Nantwich. (See cover design and Fig234).

SRW/JAR

NANTWICH (Find spot confidential)

Stamped metal jetton with figure seated at a counting board on one face and the alphabet on the other. 16th Century. Found and reported by Mr S Murphy, 34, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

S.R.W.


SAIGHTON SJ 449621

Elizabeth I Threepence dated 1580 over shield on reverse. (North English Hammered Coinage vol.II no.1998 p.107).

Found and reported by Mr Dennis Price, 26, William Street, Hoole.

G.LL-M

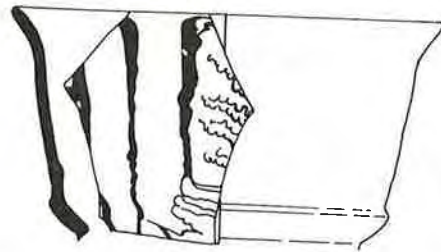
SAIGHTON SJ 44156188

Clipped shilling of Charles I, initial mark may be  (dated 1641-3), lace collar similar to Group F, compare North English Hammered Coinage vol.II no.2231 p.130.

Found and reported by Mr Dennis Price, 26, William Street, Hoole.

G.LL-M

Fig. 24



1-3



1-1

WRENBURY SJ 597 476

Nantwich Road

Collection of 25 fragments of pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipes from the area being developed as an enlarged Bowling Green and site for a Pavilion. Finds comprise a selection of late 17th century - early 18th century tablewares, slipware fragments, a few sherds of black glazed earthenware and a number of mottled or manganese glazed drinking vessels. There is one early 18th century wine bottle base. The clay tobacco pipes are in the main later in date, six fragments of mid to late 19th century pipes with, in addition, one later 17th century type.

Illustrated:

1. Rim of a slipware bowl, possibly a drinking vessel, pale buff fabric decorated internally with trailed dark brown slip stripes; possibly Staffordshire, late 17th-early 18th century (Fig.24.1)
2. Clay tobacco pipe bowl, 7/64" bore, stamped IH with a fleur de lys and hatchet motif within the cartouche. This is a late 17th-early 18th century Broseley form but the type was copied at a number of centres locally (see Atkinson D.R., Tobacco Pipes of Broseley, Shropshire, 1975, Hart-Talbot, Saffron Walden). (Fig.24.2).

I am grateful to Mr G Bevan for his drawings and to the finder, Mrs M Kyle, for bringing the finds to my notice; all the material has been returned to her.

J.A.R.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:-

SHOTTON (CLWYD) SJ 725315

A large fragment of an aurochs cranium was discovered while dredging the Dee estuary near to Shotton steel works. It was found in sand at a depth of 7.5 metres. Although badly damaged the surviving portion was in good condition through semi-fossilization and positive identification of aurochs, Bos Primegenius was possible.

Wild aurochs survived until the 10th century AD. However, in Britain they appear to be confined to interglacials (Hoxnian, Ipswichian, Flandrain). This specimen is presumably Flandrian : a closer estimate of its date is not possible.

Brought in for identification by Mr B Webster, 11 Gosmore Road, New Brighton, Mold.

My thanks to Dr AJ Stuart of Cambridge University for confirming my identification.

M.G.M.

NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Coole Pilate

It was reported in the last issue of the Bulletin (CAB No.7, page 89) that a number of small clay heads had been found at Coole Hall Farm, Coole Pilate, as well as in some places in the Midlands. All efforts to ascertain their true purpose have so far failed. They aroused nationwide interest and many possible uses were suggested for them. The most likely use was mentioned by Mr G Taunton of London who thought they were aunt sallies for use in fairgrounds. He suggested that the pointed stalks would have allowed the heads to be stuck into a line of slots in a wooden beam or log. He added that he recalls setting up lines of wooden pegs in this way in fairgrounds in France some years ago. The practice there was to place old wine bottles upside down onto the pegs and use them as targets.

S R W

Nantwich

Extensive sewerage and other works were carried out along streets in the town centre during 1982. Archaeological excavation in advance of these works was not possible but, with the co-operation of the Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council and the various statutory bodies concerned, a watch was kept on all trenches. This work was kindly undertaken by Mrs Paula Hutchings of Shavington, who was able to record a number of archaeological horizons and recover samples of timber, pottery etc., for examination.

The most interesting sightings were of the timber road surface seen on previous occasions beneath parts of High Street and Hospital Street, and what seems to be a cobbled surface (possibly a road), at a lower level than the timber one, in High Street. Contractors working on deep trenching and tunnelling in the Welsh Row area observed and reported a large timber-lined duct running diagonally across the road near the Cheshire Cat.

These observations will be reported more fully in the next issue of the Cheshire Archaeological Bulletin.

S R W

Norton Priory

At the 1981 Annual Conference of The Museums Association, held in Manchester, a new type of grant for museum construction projects was announced by Sir Arthur Drew, Chairman of the Museum and Art Galleries Commission. He named three museums that had been chosen to receive grants that year: Salisbury, Leeds, and Norton Priory Museum in Runcorn.

At Norton Priory an appeal by the Museum Trust had raised £190,000 towards the cost of constructing a purpose-built museum in which to house and display the important collection of objects that had been retrieved during 10 years of archaeological excavation of the medieval Augustinian priory. The new grant took the appeal total to within just £15,000 of the cost of construction of the new building which was opened to the public in 1982.

Norton Priory was first opened as an open-air museum in 1975. Monastic remains, medieval undercroft and woodland gardens already attract many thousands of visitors every year. The new museum building will make Norton Priory a major attraction.

Patrick Green
Museum Director

Worleston

Mr John Ray of 7 Laburnum Avenue, Nantwich, reports that he has succeeded, by fieldwork, in confirming the line of the Roman road, which passes north of Nantwich, from map reference SJ 653 550 (near Park Farm) to SJ 645 545 (North of Reaseheath Old Hall). Further details can be obtained from Mr Ray.

S R W

Excavations & Sites Observed

1. Chester Castle
2. Chester Princess St/Hunter St.
3. Norton Priory
4. Utkinton
5. Eaton-by-Tarporley
6. Beeston Castle
7. Nantwich
8. Biddulph Moor
9. Bunbury
10. Tattenhall
11. Middlewich
12. Warrington
13. Tatton Park
14. Sandbach
15. Church Lawton

