

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

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Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society

Edited by Barrie Trinder, 20 Garmston Road, Shrewsbury SY2 6HE.

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THE END OF  
THE  
SHROPSHIRE  
NEWSLETTER

This is the first Shropshire News Sheet, a publication which will in part replace the Shropshire Newsletter. The costs of printing the Newsletter have risen alarmingly during the last two years, and the expenditure of so much of the Society's income on a publication whose appearance was less than satisfactory can no longer be justified. It would have been possible to continue the Newsletter in another, cheaper form, but it is generally felt that a responsible learned society should not publish any reports which are intended to be of permanent value on loose, duplicated sheets. In future therefore the reports of archaeological finds, short articles, and similar items which have hitherto appeared in the Shropshire Newsletter, will appear under the heading of Miscellanea in the Society's 'Transactions'. Brief reports of most excavations in Shropshire are also included in the 'West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet' which is published by CBA Group 8, and is obtainable from the Department of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham.

The purpose of this News Sheet will be to keep members of the Society, and to some extent the general public, informed of all events of archaeological or historical interest in the county, whether promoted by the Society or not. We shall include details of lectures, courses, excavations and new publications, and shall attempt to keep members informed of the representations made by the Society to public authorities on archaeological matters. We do not intend that this shall be a publication of permanent importance, to be bound and filed away, but we hope that it will help our members and others to keep in touch with the many events of archaeological and historical interest taking place in Shropshire.

COMING  
EVENTS

The Archaeological Society is holding two further winter meetings to which all members and their friends are welcome. Both will be held in the Bear Steps Hall, Shrewsbury.

Saturday February 15th at 2.30 p.m.

Barrie Trinder: THE TURNPIKE ROAD SYSTEM IN SHROPSHIRE.

Saturday March 8th at 2.30 p.m.

Geoffrey Toms: LEA CROSS AND THE ROMAN 'VILLAS' OF SHROPSHIRE.

Full details of the Society's summer programme will appear in Shropshire News Sheet No. 2 which will be published in March.

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**SHREWSBURY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
UNIT**

The unit, the first professional organisation of its kind to appear in Shropshire, is now firmly established, and many members will have seen its important display in Bear Steps in Shrewsbury in December, which illustrated current archaeological work in the town, the overall threat to archaeological sites in the town and the need to organise rescue work permanently in Shrewsbury on a professional basis. The unit has completed excavations at Pride Hill, and has been undertaking exploratory work at St. Julian's Friars and the Sutton Farm estate. It is also hoped to start work on the site behind the Shrewsbury Club at Dogpole in the near future. Work is progressing towards a full publication of the excavations at Pride Hill from 1971-1974 and it is hoped that this report will be published by the Society and thus made available to members.

**DESTRUCTION  
AT  
WROXETER**

Much work goes on behind the scenes on behalf of members, and the Society became involved last summer in registering the strongest protests at development work in the village of Wroxeter involved with the extension of a cottage and the excavation of trenches for sewage and outlet drains. This work had been carried out without prior information to any responsible archaeological body on the site of one of the most famous of all Scheduled Ancient Monuments in England against all statutory requirements of protection of such sites. Before any action could be taken a key area of the city's history had been destroyed without record. Representations were made ultimately at ministerial level to the Department of the Environment and the Council for British Archaeology, and although the damage could not be undone, the Society have been the prime instigators nationally in moves to tighten up the provision of information from planning applications where Scheduled Ancient Monuments are concerned and to alert the Department of the Environment to ensure the provisions of the law are observed.

Locally, we have looked to our own house and a Planning sub-committee of the Society now has advance information of all planning applications for development within the county and can thus determine what action to take well in advance where any site of archaeological importance comes under threat.

**THE  
SOCIETY'S  
OFFICERS**

A number of changes in the membership of the Council are taking place. Mr Peele has indicated his wish to retire from the position of Chairman of the Society as from the next Annual General Meeting in June 1975. Miss Hill retired from the Council in December, as she is moving from Shropshire after her retirement as County Archivist; we thank her very warmly for her very many years of outstanding service to the County and to the Society, and we further congratulate Mrs Halford on being appointed to succeed her. We were sorry also to hear of the retirement of Mrs Moran from the position of Publications Secretary, she has carried out this work for a long time with much energy and conscientiousness, and has had to give up the work through increased personal commitments. We are glad to know that she will still be able to continue her important work in vernacular architecture.

We are also very pleased to welcome back to permanent residence in the county our Vice-President, Dame Kathleen Kenyon, and we are delighted to hear that she will be joining in the activities of the Society again.

**A SOURCE  
OF GRANTS**

The Cernegie United Kingdom Trust awards grants to amateur organisations engaged in original work in local history and the terms have been widened to include the cost of work done on documents as a preliminary to outdoor work. Details can be obtained from the Historical Association, 59a Kensington Park Road, London S.E.11.

OFFA  
ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY

The Offa Society's excavation at the Copper/Bronze Age Burial Mound at Ysgwennant, Denbs. (SJ 189305) was mentioned in Shropshire Newsletters Nos. 16, 21, 25 and 30 between 1961 and 1966. The work was completed in 1968 and the full report was published in Archaeologia Cambrensis for 1972. Offprints can be obtained price 35p from the Secretary CBA Group 2 (Wales), Miss Frances Lynch, Department of History, University College of North Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd.

COURSES AND  
SUMMER SCHOOLS  
AT  
ATTINGHAM  
PARK

Full details of all these courses can be obtained from The Warden, Shropshire Adult College, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury. All of the courses can be attended on a non-residential basis, and it is also possible to attend single lectures or sessions.

February 14th to 16th. "Historic Towns of the West Midlands". A study of the archaeology, history and conservation problems of Shrewsbury, Ludlow, Worcester and Chester in connection with European Architectural Heritage Year 1975. Speakers include Lewis Braithwaite, Philip Barker, Michael Law, Martin Carver, Tony Locking, Trevor Strickland, Roy McKee and Harold Berry.

March 21st to 23rd. "The Age of Chivalry". A study of the Middle Ages directed by KEITH POOLE.

Sunday, April 13th. "Towers, Domes, Theatres and Temples". A day conference on European and English architectural history held in connection with European Architectural Heritage Year.

May 9th to 11th. "Narrow Boat". A study of recent Midlands canal history directed by Andrew Jenkinson.

May 23rd to 26th. "The Age of Chaucer". The history and literature of the period, directed by KEVIN DOWN.

June 20th to 22nd. "The Cathedrals of France". A study in connection with European Architectural Heritage Year, directed by LESLIE HARRIS.

July 18th to 25th. "Prehistory of Shropshire and Wessex". This summer school, directed by GEOFFREY TOMS, may be taken in two parts: the first is the study of outstanding prehistoric monuments and museum collections in Shropshire; the second occupies four days in Wiltshire studying such sites as Stonehenge, Avebury, Silbury Hill, Windmill Hill and the West Kennet Long Barrow, and the museums at Devizes and Salisbury.

August 22nd to 24th. "Archaeology in the Field". A study of visual archaeology in the Wroxeter, Atcham and Long Mynd areas, directed by GEOFFREY TOMS.

COURSES  
ARRANGED BY  
THE ADULT  
EDUCATION  
SERVICE OF  
THE SALOP  
COUNTY  
COUNCIL

Saturday April 12th and Sunday April 13th.

THOMAS FARNOLLS PRITCHARD: AN 18th CENTURY SHROPSHIRE ARCHITECT

A weekend school, which will include lectures, a tour on foot of Pritchard buildings in Shrewsbury, and a coach excursion to view his work in other parts of the county.

The course will be based in Shrewsbury. Full details will be available early in March from College Hill House Adult Education Centre, College Hill, Shrewsbury.

Tutors: James Lawson, Robin Chaplin, Barrie Trinder.

This is one of the events organised in the county to mark European Architectural Heritage Year.

Shropshire Outdoors

It is hoped that the extensive programme of fieldwork courses in historical studies and environmental sciences which has been run in previous years will again be arranged this Autumn. Full details will be available from College Hill House in mid-March.

**COURSES AT PRESTON MONTFORD FIELD CENTRE** Full details of all these courses can be obtained from The Warden, Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1DX.

July 2nd to 9th. "Archaeology and History in the Welsh Borderland". An introductory course examining the rich variety of archaeological remains, historic buildings and industrial monuments in and around Shropshire, directed by DAVID PANNETT.

August 6th to 13th. "Archaeology and History in the Welsh Borderland".

August 27th to September 3rd. "Archaeology in the Field". The techniques of surveying and recording field monuments and earth-works, directed by TREVOR ROWLEY and DAVID PANNETT.

**SUMMER SCHOOLS IN ARCHAEOLOGY** Full details of all these courses and excavations can be obtained from The Director of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

July 26th to August 8th and August 9th to 22nd. "Romano-British Archaeology Excavation Techniques". Summer schools at Wroxeter, directed by GRAHAM WEBSTER, for beginners and novices.

July 26th August 1st. "Romano-British Coarse Pottery".

August 2nd to 8th. "Animal Archaeology", directed by RAYMOND CHAPLIN.

August 9th to 22nd. "Archaeological Surveying and Drawing", directed by TONY MUSTY.

These courses are all based on Attingham Park and Wroxeter.

Excavations:-

July (full dates to be announced). Hen Domen, Montgomery, directed by PHILIP BARKER.

August (full dates to be announced). Wroxeter Roman City - Baths Basilica, directed by PHILIP BARKER.

July 26th to August 22nd. Wroxeter Roman City - Market Hall, directed by GRAHAM WEBSTER.

**OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL COURSES** The annual conference of West Midlands Archaeological Research Groups will be held at the Shakespeare Centre Annexe, Henley Street, Stratford upon Avon on March 15th and 16th 1975. This is the main opportunity to be brought up to date with current archaeological work in the region. All are welcome. Details from the Director of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

The Oxford University Department of External Studies is holding a conference on 'The Medieval Market Town' at Oxford from May 2nd - 4th. Full details from Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.

**LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS** Throughout the season excavations are conducted by the following directors, who will be glad to receive enquiries:

M. Carver, c/o Rowley House Museum, Shrewsbury. Excavations in Shrewsbury for the Shrewsbury Excavation Unit.

Dr. A.W.J. Houghton, Oakwood, Pulverbatch, Shrewsbury. Excavations on Roman sites at Duncot and in the Wroxeter area.

W.E. Jenks, Trevarrison, Langford Avenue, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury. Excavations for the Shropshire Prehistoric Research Group mainly in the Shrewsbury area.

M. Wise, 139 Corve Street, Ludlow. Excavations in Ludlow.

**NEW GUIDES TO WROXETER** Members will be interested to know that a new edition of the Department of the Environment's Guide to the Roman City of Wroxeter has recently been published. The Guide has been completely up-dated by Graham Webster and also contains new photographs and plans. The Guide is obtainable at the site museum and from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Philip Barker has recently produced the most up-to-date report on his work at Wroxeter in the pamphlet "Excavations on the Site of the Baths Basilica at Wroxeter 1966-73"; this is obtainable both at Wroxeter and from the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, Birmingham University.

**REGIONAL & NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS** Members may like to be reminded also of three regular publications which provide up-to-date information on regional and British archaeology, specifically designed for the general reader. They are:-

**Current Archaeology**, 7 issues a year, obtainable from 9 Nassington Road, London NW3 2TX.

**Rescue News**, published by RESCUE, the Trust for British Archaeology, 25a The Tything, Worcester.

**West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet**, published annually by CBA Group 8 and obtainable from the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, Birmingham University.

The Council for British Archaeology, 7 Marylebone Road, London NW1, publishes a monthly "Calendar of Excavations". This provides information about all excavations in the country which require volunteer assistance, and also gives details of courses, meetings and conferences in archaeology open to the public.

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS** "A Guide to British Topographical Collections", by M.W. Barley, published by Council for British Archaeology. The Guide is compiled on a county basis and lists the repositories of topographical illustrations, such as drawings, prints and photographs.

"Two Ancient Marbles at Shrewsbury", by J.M.C. Toynbee. Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, Vol. 53, Part 2.

"Archaeology and Government" - A Plan for Archaeology in Britain. Published by Council for British Archaeology. Compulsive reading for all who are concerned with practical archaeology.

"Rescue Archaeology", edited by Philip Rahtz and published by Pelican. This book, written by twenty people involved in Rescue Archaeology, describes what sort of sites are being lost, who (and what) the agents of destruction are and proposes ways in which the situation can be remedied.

"Landscape Archaeology" - An Introduction to Fieldwork Techniques on Post-Roman Landscapes, by Michael Aston and Trevor Rowley, published by David and Charles.

"Shrewsbury - The Buried Past", by Martin Carver and J. Wills. Published by Shrewsbury Archaeological Unit and obtainable from them at Rowley's House Museum. This pamphlet illustrates the threatened archaeology of Shrewsbury and its recovery.

"Croft Ambrey", by Dr. S.C. Stanford, available from the author at Ashfield Cottage, Luston, Leominster, Herefordshire. This is the final report of Dr. Stanford's excavations at this important Herefordshire hill-fort and is directly relevant to the Shropshire hill-forts.

"An English Rural Community: Myddle under the Tudors and Stuarts" by David Hey. Leicester University Press. 1974. £5.80. Few parishes are more generously endowed with documentary sources than Myddle, and Dr. Hey has used estate records, registers, and inventories as well as Richard Gough's 'History of Myddle' to produce a work of scholarship of outstanding importance, nationally as well as locally.

"The Darbys of Coalbrookdale". By Barrie Trinder. Phillimore. 1974. £1.00. A short, popular history.

"Landscapes and Documents" edited by Alan Rogers and Trevor Rowley. Bedford Square Press. 1974. £1.50. A collection of essays illustrating the different approaches to the past of historians and archaeologists.

SALOP COUNTY LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS : The following are available from most branches of the County Library, or from Salop County Library HQ, Column House, London Road, Shrewsbury.

Brown. The Coalbrookdale coalfield: a catalogue of mines 1968 (original publication). 25p.

CATHRALL. History of Oswestry. 1855. 75p.

RANDALL. The clay industries ... on the banks of the Severn. 1877. 25p.

RANDALL. Handbook to the Severn Valley Railway. 1863. 25p.

RANDALL. Old sports and sportsmen ... with sketches of Squire Forester and his whipper-in. Tom Moody. 1873. 40p.

Church Stretton Borough Guide. c 1908. 15p.

Tourists' guide to Bridgnorth. 1875. 35p.

The route of the Shrewsbury and Hereford railway. 1860. 35p.

Shropshire in pictures : the street scene (a collection of old photographs) (original publication). 30p.

Market Drayton Borough Guide. 1908. 15p.

Two Shropshire Ironmasters - Reynolds, father and son. 25p.

BUCK. Six Shropshire castles : set of 6 prints. 1731. (Shrewsbury, Ludlow, Stokesay, Acton Burnell, Hopton, Clun). 37½p ea.

Sweeney prints (drawings and annotations of properties belonging to the Leighton family of Sweeney Hall in Oswestry in the late 1800's).

#### BACK NUMBERS

The Society carries a large stock of its own publications, many of which are difficult to obtain elsewhere except at a much higher price. Members of the Society can obtain a ten per cent discount on the prices quoted.

Back numbers of many of the Transactions of the Society are obtainable, including certain off-prints, among which should particularly be noted "Excavations at the Roman Fort at Walltown Farm, Shropshire, 1960-1961". Prices per part are:

First to Fourth Series - 37 pence.

Vols. 46-55 - £1.00.

Vols. 56 onwards - £1.50.

Parts 8 to 10 of Dean Cranage's "Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire" are still in stock. This is the classic account of the historic churches of the County and is a "must" for everyone seriously interested in church architecture. Copies are available at £1.50 each. The general survey and appendix costs 75 pence.

The Parish Registers of much of the county are in the Society's stock and these are essential reference for all who are interested in family history, genealogy or the history of their own parish. Prices vary according to the size of the volume, average £1.00. The price for a particular volume can be obtained on application.

Other publications for sale include:

- "Shrewsbury Burgess Roll", edited by H.E. Forrest. £1.00.
- "The Old Houses of Shropshire", by H.E. Forrest. £2.10.
- "Hearth Tax, 1672", edited by Dr. Watkins Pitchford. 75 pence.
- "Church Plate of the Archdeaconry of Salop", edited by A.S. Jeavons. £1.00.

A bookstall will be open at all future meetings of the Society and copies can be obtained there. Alternatively, copies may be purchased by post (post and packing extra) on application to The Secretary, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.



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SHROPSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
SUMMER  
PROGRAMME

Members will be aware that the summer programme was distributed at the end of March in place of this News Sheet which was originally intended for publication at that time. The following excursions are due to take place within the next few months. For full details contact the Hon. Excursions Secretary, Mrs C.A.Peele, 2 Muckleton, Telford. Tel: Shawbury 378.

May 31st:

Half-day visit to Upton Cressett, including the recently restored timber-framed house, and the Norman church. Led by Mrs M. Moran. Members' own transport.

June 14th:

Goodrich Castle, Kilpeck Church and Hereford Cathedral. Leader: Major J.G.Lees. Members' own transport.

July 5th, 12th, 19th:

These dates are reserved for an aerial photographic survey of Shropshire. All members are invited to take part, and to pursue their own particular interests. The date chosen will take account of Flying Club convenience, the state of the crops and the weather. Leader: W.E.Jenks.

August 1st-3rd:

Weekend in Norfolk. Bookings for this visit were due in early April, but it is possible that there may be one or two vacancies through cancellations.

September 6th:

Boscobel House, Moseley Old Hall, excavations at Letocetum (Wall), and Lichfield. Leader: Major J.G.Lees. Members' own transport.

September 20th:

Visit to sites of industrial archaeological interest in the Derwent Valley, Derbyshire. All day excursion by coach. Leader: Barrie Trinder.

ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Society will most probably be on Saturday, June 21st at 2.30 p.m. in Shrewsbury. Full details of the meeting and its Agenda will be sent to all members in due course, but as a number of important items of business are expected to be brought up at this meeting, the provisional date is mentioned now for members to put it in their diaries.

SHROPSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY:  
FUTURE  
ACTIVITIES

Over the last few months, officers of the Society have been discussing with some concern the activities of the Society and the low response which many activities are receiving. There may well be many reasons for this situation, and one may be the need for improved levels of publicity and communication. It is hoped that the new-style News Sheet will become a more direct form of information to members as to what is going on in the field of archaeology and local history in the county both inside and outside the Society. Because of the exorbitant rise

A full list of names of members of the Society is being prepared.

Information by the Registrar, Anthropological Society

Letter by Marie Perle, 20 Cambridge Road, Cambridge, MA 02142

Members will be aware that the summer program was discontinued at the end of last year. It is hoped that this year's program will be organized for publication at that time. The following organization was due to take place within the next few months, but will probably be postponed until the next year. The G.A.P. is planning to hold a conference in Cambridge, MA, in the summer of 1947.

PROCEEDINGS  
MEMBERS  
SOCIETY  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL

July 1947  
The day after the summer program, including the monthly meetings, dinner-dance, and the summer dinner, had by the end of the month. Members are invited.

June 1947  
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August 1947  
The day after the summer program, including the monthly meetings, dinner-dance, and the summer dinner, had by the end of the month. Members are invited.

September 1947  
The day after the summer program, including the monthly meetings, dinner-dance, and the summer dinner, had by the end of the month. Members are invited.

October 1947  
The day after the summer program, including the monthly meetings, dinner-dance, and the summer dinner, had by the end of the month. Members are invited.

MEMBERS  
SOCIETY  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL

The next Annual Meeting of the Society will meet on Saturday, June 7th at 2:30 p.m. in the morning. All members of the Society and the friends will be invited to attend. The meeting will be held in the morning and the afternoon. The meeting will be held in the morning and the afternoon. The meeting will be held in the morning and the afternoon.

Over the last few months, members of the Society have been discussing with some interest the activities of the Society and the low membership. It is hoped that the membership will be increased in the future. It is hoped that the membership will be increased in the future. It is hoped that the membership will be increased in the future.

PROCEEDINGS  
MEMBERS  
SOCIETY  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL

in postal rates and printing, the News Sheet will only appear twice a year, but it will contain information about all that the Society is doing in the coming months. As there will normally be no further information sent through the post about projected meetings and activities, it is essential that members note forthcoming events in their diaries to avail themselves of the full programme of the Society. The Secretary is always willing to give further information, when required, about items in the programme.

The future programme will be planned on the basis of a meeting every month. These meetings will be in the form of lectures, symposia, exhibitions and field meetings, and it is likely that the bulk of meetings will be held in Shrewsbury at the Bear Steps Hall. We have a situation where we have about 350 subscribing members and the number is increasing each year. The paradox is that only small numbers are attending the meetings of the Society and very rarely are ten per cent of the members present at any meeting. In that the Society exists not only as a publishing body but an organisation to bring together everyone in the county who has an interest in local history and archaeology, we want to promote as many meetings as possible to bring members together to meet each other and provide the opportunities for talk, discussion and the sharing of interests. Very frequently our meetings are concerned with topics which have not been published in any books or pamphlets, and there are many opportunities to be brought right up to date with what is happening in the county and to meet the experts in the particular field.

The Society exists to provide the service that its members want. It would seem that the low response to meetings is an indication that the programme that the Council prepares is not altogether what members want. It is very important that we know your views; the question was put to the last Annual General Meeting, but few suggestions were offered. Let us know your views now, and let me have a flood of letters with ideas from members - on the timing and venue of field meetings, potential lecturers, subjects for lectures, forms of exhibition, subjects for study-meetings etc. If we are to be a really active society promoting a full programme as described above and providing regular opportunities for you to meet, let us know what you are hoping to gain from the Society and the Council and its committees can then plan accordingly. Please write to me at Attingham Park and all suggestions will be fully welcomed.

GEOFFREY TOMS, Hon. Secretary.

**SHROPSHIRE  
ROMAN  
RESEARCH  
GROUP**

Since November, 1974 the Roman Research Group under the direction of Dr. John Houghton have been carrying out exploratory excavations at Duncot Fort, two miles north of Wroxeter and hard by the Roman road to Chester. The fort is of the double ditched type, about 825 ft x 112 ft., with rounded corners, three of which have been located. A complex of postholes at the south end has been discovered, but as yet none of the exits has been found. The site has now been left for cropping.

A note on the group's work at Horseshoes Lane, Wroxeter, appears in the current issue of the West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet.

**PREHISTORIC  
RESEARCH  
GROUP**

The group has been meeting under the leadership of Mr W.E. Jenks throughout the winter on Tuesday evenings at Shrewsbury Borough Library to carry further its work on an archaeological gazetteer for the county. Some weekend field work under the direction of Dr. Graham Webster has involved the investigation of the faces of gravel quarries, and there has been a programme of field walking in areas adjacent to quarries and on sites where aerial photographs have shown up crop marks.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:** Details were given in the last News Sheet of the stock of publications which the Society has in its possession and is available to members at special discount rates.

**BACK ISSUES:** There is a strong possibility that in the near future this stock will be disposed of by general sale because of the loss of storage space which the Society at present enjoys. If this proposal takes place, it will still be possible to obtain publications but no longer through the Society.

This possibility is drawn to the attention of members now, so that any potential purchases can be made at the discount rates while stocks last. Already the stocks of Dean Cranage's "Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire" are low, and members requiring copies of Part 4 onwards are earnestly urged to put in their orders now. A misprint in the last News Sheet suggested that copies are only available from Part 8 onwards.

There are still a very few copies of the First and Third Reports of J. Bushe-Fox's Excavations at Wroxeter, published by the Society of Antiquaries, available. Prices: First Report - £2.00 Third Report - £1.00.

It should be also pointed out that a small number of recent numbers of the Society's Transactions are still available, as well as Philip Barker's "Medieval Pottery of Shropshire". Intending purchasers are advised to place their orders now. Price - £1.50 per part.

All communications should be addressed to the Publications Secretary: Mrs J.M. Miller, Stonehouse, Picklescott, Church Stretton, Salop.

**SHREWSBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH UNIT:** The Unit's report on the excavations on Pride Hill is now in its final stages of preparation. The main structure turned out to be a 14th century stone building, erected on the 13th century town wall, and largely rebuilt in the 16th century. There was little evidence of occupation on the site before the 13th century.

In conjunction with the Wakeman School the Unit will be re-excavating and re-building the crypt of Old St. Chad's church from June 30th onwards. This project will be linked with the European Architectural Heritage Year Exhibition in Shrewsbury which starts the same day.

Mr P. Clarke will be continuing his programme of recording medieval stone and timber-framed buildings in Shrewsbury which are scheduled for demolition or renovation. Particular attention will be paid to Porch House, Swan Hill.

A 30 acre site on gravel terrace in the Sutton Lane area which is due to be developed for housing is the subject of a detailed geophysical survey being undertaken by the Unit. As yet the site is not proved archaeologically.

**COURSES:** The full programme of summer courses on archaeological and historical topics at Attingham Park Adult College and Preston Montford Field Centre appeared in News Sheet No. 1.

The Shropshire LEA's extensive programme of outdoor classes in landscape history, geology, geography, botany &c. is listed in a leaflet 'Shropshire Outdoors 1975' obtainable from libraries or from Mr A.M. Jenkinson, Adult Education Tutor for Environmental Sciences, Bircher Cottage, Little Stretton, Church Stretton, Salop. Many of the meetings are day or half-day walks for which no advance booking is necessary, and are particularly designed for visitors to the county.

The Institute of Extension Studies at the University of Liverpool is organising a weekend seminar on **MEDIEVAL POTTERY FROM EXCAVATIONS IN THE NORTH WEST** at the Mollington Banastre Hotel, Chester on November 7-9. Full details are available from Mrs E.I. Horne, Institute of Extension Studies, PO Box 147, 1 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 3BX.

Shropshire LEA are organising a two-day school at Ludlow on Saturday and Sunday November 1 and 2, following up a highly successful course held in the autumn of 1974. The emphasis on this occasion will be on the ways in which the planned medieval town was adapted to meet the needs of later centuries. Tutors will be Trevor Rowley and Barrie Trinder. There will, as before, be a mixture of indoor discussion sessions and practical field work.

**SHROPSHIRE  
COUNTY  
MUSEUM  
SERVICE**

The title deeds for the County Farm Museum at Home Farm, Acton Scott have now been signed, and the site will be open for a preview season from Sunday 22nd June. As many readers will know, Home Farm comprises a particularly fine set of agricultural buildings, and exhibited there will be some of the collection of implements which has been built up in the county over a considerable period, together with the collection of Mr T. Acton, owner of the site. Animals of rare breeds, including Longhorn cattle and a Tamworth pig will also be on view, and in due course demonstrations of practical farming of the days before electricity and the internal combustion engine will be staged.

**IRONBRIDGE  
GORGE  
MUSEUM:**

The Museum is open as usual from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Christmas Day. New attractions this summer include a Telford wrought iron toll gate, installed alongside the tollhouse from Shelton, and the Hay Inclined Plane, on which rails have been reinstated during the Spring. The Shelton tollhouse has now been fully restored internally as well as externally, and is now, on its own, sufficient reason for a visit to the Blists Hill Museum. During the summer a sawmill will come into operation on the upper part of the Blists Hill site.

Work is expected to commence in the near future on the Coalport Chinaworks site. Much of this will be of a voluntary nature and is being organised by the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. Details of this, and of excursions and other activities of the Friends, can be obtained from The Secretary, Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Southside, Ironbridge, Telford.

**RECENT  
PUBLICATIONS:**

The current number of West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet has recently been published. No. 17 covers work undertaken mainly in 1974 and is thus the most up-to-date report on all archaeological activities in our region. Copies (price 50 pence) can be obtained from

Miss M. McLean,  
Department of Extra-Mural Studies,  
University of Birmingham,  
P.O. Box 363,  
BIRMINGHAM B15 2TT.

Articles of particular importance to Salopians include:-

"Aerial Reconnaissance of the Midlands" by Arnold Baker and James Pickering. Reports are made of recent discoveries from the air in the regions of Shawbury, Ludlow and Wenlock Edge.

"Wroxeter Churchyard 1974" by Philip Rahtz. This is an important historical and sociological survey of the tombstones and graves in the village of Wroxeter, and is a model of the evidence that can be deduced from the scientific study of tombstones.

"Excavations on the Site of the Baths Basilica at Wroxeter 1974" by Philip Barker.

"Wroxeter 1974, Market Hall Site" by Graham Webster.

"Horseshoes Lane, Wroxeter" by John Houghton.

These three articles bring the reader completely up to date with work being carried out on the Roman city and its environs.

"Excavations at Hen Domen, Montgomery, 1974" by Philip Barker.

The latest information is contained about this nationally important excavation which has been carried out for so many years on one of the best preserved of early medieval motte and bailey castles.

"Pride Hill, Shrewsbury" by Martin Carver. Excavations, started in 1971 on this important medieval site in Shrewsbury, have now been completed and evidence from the site is now brought up to date pending the final report to be published in the near future by our Society.

The booklet "Shrewsbury-The Buried Past" (1974) by Martin Carver and J. Willis is the subject of a favourable review together with similar works on Hereford and Rescue Archaeology in the West Midlands.

Other recent publications of interest to members include:-

"Old Maps of Shrewsbury", published by the Field Studies Council, and obtainable from Preston Montford Hall, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1DX. Fine quality photographs reproduce the maps of Lord Burghley, John Speed, John Rocque, A. Hitchcock, Robert Baugh and early editions of the Ordnance Survey, with historical comment.

"The effect of man on the landscape: the Highland Zone". This is a forthcoming publication by the Council for British Archaeology at £7.50. For orders received before 31st May 1975 there is a concession price of £6.00. Orders can be made to:-

Council for British Archaeology,  
7 Marylebone Road,  
London NW1 5HY.

This is a report on the proceedings of the highly successful CBA Conference on this subject held at Lancaster University in March 1974 and is of the utmost value to all concerned with archaeology.

"The Towns of Roman Britain" by John Wacher. Published by Batsford, Price £9.50. This is the first definitive work on Roman towns and contains important material on Wroxeter.

The Royal Archaeological Institute has available a number of off-prints from The Archaeological Journal. These may be obtained from:-

The Assistant Treasurer,  
Royal Archaeological Institute,  
Miss W.E. Franklin, MBE,  
55 Silchester Court,  
London Road,

Thornton Heath,  
Surrey, CR4 6HT.

Articles of interest include:-

"Earl's Hill, Pontesbury, and related Hill-forts" by J. Forde-Johnston, from Volume 119 (1962). 26 pages, price 20 pence.

"Mediolanum: Excavations at Whitchurch 1965-6" by G.B.D. Jones and P.V. Webster, from Volume 125 (1968). 63 pages, price 45 pence.

"St. Giles' Church, Barrow, Shropshire" by H.M. Taylor, from Volume 127 (1970). 11 pages, price 20 pence.

The following publications of the Standing Conference for Local History are obtainable from Research Publications Services, Ltd., Victoria Hall, Fingal Street, East Greenwich, London SE10 ORF.

"Landscapes and Documents", edited by Alan Rogers and Trevor Rowley.

Documentary historians need the results of fieldwork and archaeologists need the documents. That is the message of this new booklet. The study of landscape history is used to show the need which exists for local historians to accept that all aspects of historical study can benefit from a study of material remains, and that no archaeologist can escape the need to look at historical documents.

Material contributed by Vanessa Doe, Staff Tutor, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Sheffield; David Dymond, Tutor, Board of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Cambridge; Tom Hassall, Director of Excavations, Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee; Max Hooper, member of staff of Nature Conservancy's Monks Wood Experimental Station; Rex C. Russell, Staff Tutor, Department of Adult Education, University of Hull; Christopher Taylor, member of staff of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments; Barrie Trinder, Adult Education Tutor, Salop County Council. Published November 1974. Eighty eight pages, sixteen illustrations. £1.50.

"The Logic of Open Field Systems" by R.C. Russell.

The method of investigation adopted in this new booklet should interest all who are concerned with common field systems. Its author, Rex C. Russell, uses the open field systems of thirty-eight parishes in Lincolnshire on the eve of enclosure to illustrate three points: that each common-field system was logically adapted to the geography of its parish; that different common-field systems co-existed side by side in the same geographical area, thus showing that whilst each parish unit made logical use of its land and of the geography of its parish, it was clearly possible to solve the problem which faced each parish unit in several different, but equally logical ways; and that the location and patterns of old enclosures within each parochial farming unit may be seen in relation to those in adjacent parishes. Published January 1975. Sixteen pages, sixteen maps. 90p.

A NEW  
RECORD OFFICE  
PUBLICATION:

The Salop County Record Office have recently published an "Abstract of the Quarter Session Rolls 1820-1830", which can be obtained from the County Archivist, Shirehall, Shrewsbury at £1, plus 35p post and packing.

This abstract is a continuation of the "Full List and Partial Abstract" of Quarter Sessions Rolls 1696-1820 published by the County Council about 60 years ago. This volume is much fuller and provides a wealth of detail about social conditions in the years 1820-1830. The year 1827 saw an attempt to make the criminal code more uniform and more severe as a deterrent in a period of violence and rising crime. These cases show how Shropshire magistrates acted both before and after 1827. There is a full analytical index of cases, and 25 black and white illustrations, mainly from prints and sketches, illustrating Shropshire in the early 19th century.

Other publications obtainable from the County Archivist are:-

Guide to the Shropshire Records (1952), unbound 50p.

Shropshire Peace Roll 1400-1414, edited by E.G. Kimball, M.A., B.Litt, Ph.D., (1959) - bound £1.25p.

Printed Maps of Shropshire 1577-1900, G.C. Cowling, M.A., (1959), bound £1.25p.

List of Canal and Railway plans 40p.

Gazetteer of Shropshire Place Names, H.D.G. Foxall, 2nd edition 60p.

List of Inclosure awards, duplicated list free.

Shropshire Parish Documents (1903), bound 25p.

Rowland, Lord Hill: A historical perspective. 5p.

postage extra.

SHROPSHIRE  
MINING  
CLUB:

The Mining Club Journal for 1973-74 contains an article written by the late Alderman Jones on his work in the east Shropshire Clay Industry, 1885-1953, and accounts of the Blists Hill Mine, Madeley, the Springwell Pit Disaster, Dawley, and Shropshire's lead-mining Klondyke of the 1870s. There is also a review of the club's work in Shropshire, Derbyshire and elsewhere. A4 size, 43 pages, illus. £1 post free from Ivor Brown, Hon. Treasurer, Shropshire Mining Club, 5 Beech Drive, Shifnal, Salop.

HENRY  
PIDGEON'S  
SHREWSBURY

The Salop County Library have recently published a reprint of Henry Pidgeon's "Memorials of Shrewsbury" which first appeared in 1837. This is a most useful account of the county town and its vicinity, and is obtainable from all principal branches of the library.

A  
CORRECTION

Dr. Jocelyn Toynbee's note on 'Two Ancient Marbles at Shrewsbury' mentioned in our last issue is in 'Antiquaries' Journal Vol. LXXXI pt. ii, (1973) pp. 263-64, and not in the 'Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries' which ceased publication in 1920.

FUTURE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EXCAVATIONS

Further to the details announced in the last number of the News Sheet of excavations to be held this season, the dates of Philip Barker's excavations have now been settled and are:-

HEN DOMEN. 30th June to 19th July.

WROXETER BATH BASILICA. 28th July to 30th August.

NEW A  
RECORD SERVICE  
FOR THE COUNTY



A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Edited by Barrie Trinder, 20 Garmston Road, Shrewsbury SY2 6HE.

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SHROPSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
WINTER  
PROGRAMME

As announced in our last issue, the winter programme will consist of monthly meetings on Saturday afternoons. All of the meetings will take place in Bear Steps Hall at 3.00 p.m. It is hoped that members will endeavour to attend as many meetings as possible. Guests are welcome. Refreshments will not be provided, but there is a coffee house adjacent to the hall.

Saturday 4 October:

Mrs M. Moran: CRUCK HOUSES IN SHROPSHIRE.

A survey of the latest information on one of the best known and most interesting vernacular house types to be found in the county.

Saturday 8 November:

Barrie Trinder: OPEN AIR MUSEUMS IN SCANDINAVIA & THE NETHERLANDS.

An account of what has been achieved during the last century in the conservation of peasant and small scale industrial buildings.

Saturday 6 December:

Geoffrey Toms: THE PALACES OF CRETE.

A review of what archaeologists have discovered about some of the most spectacular monuments of classical antiquity.

Saturday 10 January:

SHROPSHIRE'S HISTORY FROM THE AIR.

A symposium arranged by David Pannett in which various contributors will illustrate recent archaeological discoveries made as a result of aerial photography.

Saturday 7 February:

James Lawson: LANDSCAPE GARDENING IN THE 18TH CENTURY.

A survey of the ways in which the Georgians treated the parklands around their country houses.

Saturday 6 March:

JONATHON NICHOL: ROBERT CLIVE.

A review of recent historical thinking about one of the best known figures in Shropshire history.

SHROPSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY:  
ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING

The Annual General Meeting held in Shrewsbury on 21 June provided a long and important discussion on the current and future policy of the Society. Full minutes will be distributed to members in due course, but the following extract of business undertaken is offered as up to date information for those members who found that they were unable to attend:-

Council for 1975-76:

President: Dr. G.W. Webster

Vice-Presidents: Lrd Harlech

Lord Bishop of Lichfield

Lord Bishop of Hereford

Miss L.F. Chitty

Rev. J.E.G. Cartlidge

Dame Kathleen Kenyon

Mr H. Beaumont

Sir John Langford Holt, MP.

Sir Offley Wakeman

Mr M.C. de C. Peele

Chairman: Mr J.B. Lawson

Secretary: Mr G.S.G. Toms

Treasurer: Dr. N. Mutton

Editor: Mr G.C. Baugh

Council for 1975-76 cont'd:

Membership Secretary: Mrs M.T.Halford  
Librarian: Miss O.S.Newman  
Publications Secretary: Mrs J.M.Miller  
Meetings Secretary: Mrs C.A.Peele  
Editor of the News Sheet: Mr B.S.Trinder  
Members of Council: Mr T.S.Cole  
Mr W.Day  
Mr S.G.Hay  
Dr. A.W.J. Houghton  
Mr W.E.Jenks  
Mr J.G.Lees  
Mr J.A.Pagett  
Mr D. Pannett  
Mr G.S.Taylor

Membership of Society:

Current membership stood at 212 Full members  
20 Associate members  
9 Honorary members  
63 Corporate members

Treasurer's Report:

Current reserves stood at about £2500

Editor's Report:

The next part of the Transactions was ready for tender by printers. The following part would be a monograph on the Pride Hill excavations. Present inflated costs of printing and publication would make it impossible for the Transactions in their present form to be produced more frequently than every two years, particularly at current membership subscriptions. The old Miscellanea section would be revived for short reports on researches and finds of objects, etc., which had previously appeared in the News Letter.

Secretary's Report:

The Library: Members were reminded that after the reorganisation of the County Library Service, the Library of the Society remained in the Local History Section of the Shrewsbury Library under the direct surveillance of Mr A.Carr. Volumes of publications exchanged with other Societies were to be found there.

Planning and Conservation Matters. Close liaison now existed between the Society and local planning authorities over applications for development where archaeological sites were concerned. The Society had thus been given early warning and acted accordingly in the face of plans to develop Ellesmere Castle.

The Society was exploring ways of ensuring the recording of tombstones in the case of churchyard clearances, and for action over churches in disrepair such as Wroxeter.

Sale of Publications. Action was being taken to reduce drastically the stock of publications held by the Society, both to reduce storage space, which was now required for other purposes, and to increase the invested capital of the society. A bookstall would be a regular feature of each future meeting. The ultimate aim was only to hold stock of recently published Transactions and Monographs.

Future Organisation. To facilitate an efficient service to members and to cope with vastly increased business over archaeological and local history matters, with which the Society as the County representative had to deal, three sub-committees of the Council had been formed concerned with i) Publications, ii) Meetings, iii) Archaeology. A Publicity Officer would be appointed, and a representative to deal with ecclesiastical matters.

Future Meetings. Meetings would henceforth be on a regular monthly basis on a Saturday afternoon, meeting at Bear Steps, Shrewsbury. Summer Field Meetings would also be held monthly with a wide variety of programme: the majority of comments favoured a primarily Shropshire programme, but there would be some provision for meetings outside the county as well.

Members have asked to have the current addresses of certain officers of the Society, to facilitate direct contact. Relevant addresses are:-

CHAIRMAN: Mr J.B.Lawson, Wren Cottage, Pulverbatch, Salop.  
SECRETARY: Mr G.S.G.Toms, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.  
TREASURER: Dr. N.Mutton, 12 Manor Close, Shifnal, Salop.  
EDITOR: Mr G.C.Baugh, c/o Victoria County History, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY; Mrs L.B.Halford, c/o County Record Office, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.  
PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY: Mrs J.M.Miller, Stonehouse, Picklescott, Church Stretton, Salop.  
BOOKINGS SECRETARY: Mrs C.A.Peele, 2 Lane End, Muckleton, Telford, Salop.  
EDITOR OF NEWS SHEET: Mr B.S.Trinder, 20 Garmston Road, Shrewsbury.

RECENT  
PUBLICATIONS

"The Cornovii" by Graham Webster. Published by Duckworth, Paperback. £2.80.

This is the most important book to be written on Shropshire Archaeology since the first volume of the Victoria County History in 1908. The work is primarily concerned with all that we know up to date about Roman Shropshire and beyond, a field in which, of course, our President is the pre-eminent authority. However, the context of the Cornovii in Roman times is firmly placed in the situation of Shropshire in late Iron Age times and the evidence for the post-Roman Dark Ages also is handled with the acute scholarship that we have come to expect from the author. The Society can take an even more special interest in this volume, as Dr. Webster has coordinated the work which members of our Society and its research groups have undertaken over the last twenty years: for the first time the various activities which the Society has undertaken in field work and excavation have been brought together in one volume, and stand as an impressive record of the Society's contribution to Shropshire archaeology in conjunction with the incomparable original work which the Reader in Romano-British Archaeology at Birmingham University has produced in Shropshire and the West Midlands over the last 25 years. This book is a "must" for the bookshelves of every member of the Society, and it is hoped to publish a full review later.

Geoffrey Toms.

"Wales: An Archaeological Guide" by Christopher Houlder. Published by Faber and Faber. £4.50.

This book is one of the series of archaeological guides covering various parts of Britain and is designed for the layman visitor and traveller. The work describes all the major prehistoric, Roman and early medieval field monuments that are visible and accessible, and selects sites that can conveniently be visited in a day or two of motoring from 45 chosen centres. The author, who lives in Aberystwyth, is an official investigator of Welsh ancient monuments, with twenty-two years' experience of them in their natural setting and historical context.

"A Guide to the Roman Remains in Britain" by Roger Wilson. Published by Constable and Company Ltd. £2.95.

This book presents for the first time a totally comprehensive guide to the visible remains of Roman Britain. It is intended primarily for the non-specialist reader who has an interest in his country's past. Over 230 sites are described in full in the main text and an additional 130 are listed in an appendix. Of ten chapters, each covering a separate area of the country, one deals with Central England, in which Wroxeter takes pride of place.

"Medieval Pottery From Excavations" - Studies presented to Gerald Clough Dunning. Published by A. and C. Black/John Baker Publishers Ltd. £4.50

Medieval pottery is a subject which until recently was comparatively neglected and about which there is still not a wide knowledge. The book is designed for all who make a study of medieval pottery or have an interest in it, and the essays cover the whole field of recent research and understanding of pottery types from excavations covering the period, and include on the technical side an evaluation of the medieval potter, medieval pottery kilns and continental imports. Thus the Siegburg cup in Rowley's House Museum is put in its full context.

"Shropshire History Makers" by Dorothy P.H. Wrenn. E.P. Publishing Ltd., £2.50.

This book contains short and popularly written accounts of some of the leading figures associated with the History of Shropshire. Some of the biographies concern very well known figures like Robert Clive and Richard Reynolds, about whom it is difficult to say anything new in short studies of this sort, but in other chapters there will be much that is new even to readers already quite knowledgeable about Shropshire history. The account of Dame Agnes Hunt is particularly to be commended. It is salutary to be reminded that local history did not come to an end in 1914.

PREHISTORIC  
RESEARCH  
GROUP

Much of the group's time in recent months has been devoted to the compilation of the gazetteer of Shropshire archaeological sites and finds, and in consequence less field work has been accomplished, and, to the regret of leader and members, it has not been possible to carry out any excavations. The number of enquiries about the gazetteer is steadily increasing, and the input of material into the computer has now been resumed following a strike by technicians at Birmingham University. Several visits have been made to sites mentioned in planning applications during which some barrows and a prehistoric camp have been discovered at Medlicott on the Long Mynd, and the half-extant earthworks of an Iron Age farm at Stanway near Rushbury. Three flights have been made for aerial photographic purposes, all of them over north west Shropshire. For information about the group's work contact Mr W.E. Jenks, Trevarrison, Langford Avenue, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury.

ROMAN  
RESEARCH  
GROUP

During the summer the group have been excavating on the west bank of the Severn at Wroxeter, searching for the westward extension of Watling Street beyond the city. A well-cambered road surface, 17 - 18m. wide, with shallow ditches has been uncovered. It is clear that the roads leading to the river crossing at this point, which remained in use until c.1800, have an extremely complex history. The group's discoveries accord with the recent work by David Pannett on the island and fish weir at the site, which suggests that the site of the crossing moved considerably between Roman times and c.1800. The research group will be returning to work on the fortified enclosure at Duncote when the crop of swedes now on the site is lifted. For information about the group, contact Dr. A.W.J. Houghton, The Oak Wood, Pulverbatch, Shrewsbury.

SHROPSHIRE FARM  
MUSEUM:  
ACTON SCOTT

The farm museum opened to the public in June as announced in the last News Sheet, and visitor numbers during the preview season have been encouraging. Work on facilities on the site has continued, and there have been several demonstrations of country crafts. The preview season ends on September 28th.

IRONBRIDGE GORGE  
MUSEUM

The museum is enjoying another highly successful summer season. Restoration of the toll-house on the Iron Bridge is now complete, and it was opened as an information centre on 4 August. At the Blists Hill open air museum the steam winding engine began to wind a cage in the clay pit shaft at the end of June. In Coalbrookdale the Museum has purchased the Grange, otherwise the Abraham Darby Hotel, the house begun by the first Abraham Darby but uncompleted at the time of his death in 1717.

SHREWSBURY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
UNIT

After very promising beginnings, the Shrewsbury Archaeological Unit has received a major set-back by becoming yet another casualty of the shortage of public funds to meet essential historical and archaeological services. The Director, Mr Martin Carver, has written fully to the Society to explain the unfortunate position in which the Unit has found itself, and the following extracts from his letter will clarify the situation:-

"The Unit began its official existence on 1 October 1974. Its task was to evaluate future threats to the town's rather neglected archaeology, investigate current threats, and gather together and bring to publication past records. In addition, I, as its Director, through the Shrewsbury Rescue Archaeology Committee was to encourage participation in the venture by local government. This, as we suspected from the beginning, was the point on which the continuing existence of the Unit primarily depended.

Accordingly, work began with the execution of a rapid survey of archaeological potential and threatened sites. 61 examples of threatened archaeology were located, of which 48 were standing buildings and 11 were open sites available for excavation....Of the eleven sites available for excavation, 7 were chosen for evaluation; these were St. Julian Friars, Raven Meadows, Wyle Cop Meadow, 21 and 22 Dogpole, Carline Fields and the Sutton Lane development. Trial excavations were carried out at all of these, but in no case was the survival of medieval occupation layers satisfactorily demonstrated. These excavations did, however, throw some light on the early topography of the town, and on the survival of archaeological deposits in general.

The excavations at Pride Hill were concluded in November, and the report, now in draft, is to be published by the Society towards the end of this year. Analysis was also begun on material recovered from earlier excavations in the town, much of which is now gathered at Rowley's Mansion.

Local participation was encouraged in two ways. Firstly, an exhibition was held at Bear Steps in December, and a reception given for the local press and dignitaries; secondly, two projects were initiated with local schools - the re-excavation of Old St. Chad's crypt with the Wakeman School, to be carried out under Mr Clarke's direction in July, and the excavation of Sutton Mill, which has begun with Belvidere School and is directed by Mr Alan Wharton, formerly a member of the Unit.

The District Council, and especially its planning department, has been extremely helpful and cooperative during the Unit's short life. It has not, however, been able to make a direct offer of financial assistance, although facilities have been provided in kind.

.....In April this year, the continued existence of the Unit was questioned by its only sponsor, the Department of the Environment. I was required to justify this, either on grounds of a local commitment, or of threatened sites which had a regional or national priority. I felt unable to do so in either case, and the Unit was accordingly disbanded. Its members either left, or were reemployed by WEMRAC to carry out excavations elsewhere in the region.

.....To return finally to the question "what now for Shrewsbury?", many people who have supported the Unit will feel a sense of waste and a sense perhaps that a small active force of dedicated workers living in the town is to be replaced by promises and hot air. I understand this feeling but no longer feel it to be fair. For reasons I have given, the initiative lies mainly with the town to turn the Unit's experience to good account. There is, it seems to me, a good opportunity for the Society and District Authority to participate in its archaeological future by giving immediate support to a specific project which has already been selected as being of regional significance. This project is the recording of its buildings, and is, as I have mentioned, and hope to demonstrate in detail, the main archaeological necessity in the town. The work has received an excellent basis from Mr J.T.Smith, and for the past year has been continued by Mr Philip Clarke. Houses continue to be demolished, and continue to reveal their fossilised timber-frame interiors. Thousands of pounds are spent annually in excavating medieval postholes and timber-slots; yet here we have buildings of the same period which are all but intact. To record them is inexpensive - £5000 would keep two recorders in the field for a year, and half of this sum would be found from central government. If ever a District had, in Architectural Heritage Year, an opportunity to make an economical contribution of general appeal to the national culture, I believe that Shrewsbury has it now.

It remains for me to thank the members of the Society for their support during the year, and to assure them that Shropshire will not, while WEMRAC flourishes, become an unfavoured or neglected province in the archaeological region."

As a postscript, Mr Carver's Progress Report (August 1975) on the activities of WEMRAC includes the following item:-

"Shrewsbury. Geophysical survey of the Sutton Lane (housing estate) by R. Poulton of Bradford University proved negative, and it is recommended that the site be surrendered as of insufficient priority. Salvage recording by P.J.Clarke continues in the town itself on the site of Porch House, Swan Hill. Post-excavation work continues on the Pride Hill monograph: 8 chapters (out of 10) and 22 figures (out of 41) are now complete."

Members of RESCUE will have read the important article by Mr Carver in RESCUE NEWS No. 9 on "Archaeology in Shrewsbury", which contains particularly interesting new findings on the topography of the town. All who are interested in Shrewsbury will find this article essential reading. RESCUE NEWS can be obtained from RESCUE, 25a The Tything, Worcester. Price 15 pence.

AERIAL  
RECONNAISSANCE

Mr James Pickering is now complementing the work of Mr Arnold Baker in making annual systematic surveys of the West Midlands in general. Last year particular discoveries of importance were new Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure sites in the region of Wenlock Edge, Corvedale and Ludlow, which continue to confirm the very widespread settlement of this period in all the river valleys of our region.

To date this year, Mr Pickering has reported on two flights made in July. A good number of previously unknown sites were easily visible around Shawbury and intensive observation added to the number. On land usage Mr Pickering reports that "the low lying land between Wem and Prees, from the nature of the crop marks, must have been swampy in medieval and pre-medieval times and it seems that only more recent drainage has made the land usable. The peat bog of Fenn's Moss however seemed to have some earlier divisions or ditched fields that had controlled its more recent exploitation." A few more entirely new sites were recorded along Wenlock Edge and none of the known sites recorded in previous years were visible. Both Mr Pickering and Mr Baker report exceptionally good crop marks at Wroxeter this year.

**FUTURE  
ACTIVITIES**

In the last News Sheet members were invited to pass on their ideas for what they would like from the Society and what form of programme a really active Society could promote. It was hoped that "a flood of letters" with ideas would emerge. Four months later only four members (out of 243 individual members!) have replied, and I am grateful to them for some very helpful and constructive points. From the lack of other data, one can only presume that their views represent those of the membership generally. The main valid criticism was of a lack of sufficient up to date information about the activities of the Society and archaeological and local history matters in general; it is hoped that through the new-style News Sheet and regular monthly meetings at Bear Steps, together with the appointment of a Publicity Officer, the information service to members will now be much improved. The other generally agreed point was that Field Meetings and all activities should concentrate on Shropshire rather than outside the county, and this important point, so relevant to a county archaeological society, will be taken into account by the Meetings Sub-Committee planning the programme for Summer 1976.

**EXCAVATIONS  
AT WROXETER**

The annual excavations at Wroxeter directed by Philip Barker (on the Baths Basilica) and Graham Webster (on the Macellum of the Baths) continued this year through the month of August. Though the season has not yet ended at the time of writing, it can be reported that on the Baths Basilica further work has been carried out on the intermediate levels between the dismantlement of the Basilica and the last post-Roman occupation. Further extensive timber buildings have been found together with an important complex of hearths, and the herring-bone tile floor of the original Basilica has been exposed where Thomas Wright's trenches have been re-excavated.

On the Macellum the most interesting finds are a large concentration of late fourth century coins in the forecourt of the Macellum indicating that trading was continuing there at a late stage in the city's history after the colonnade facing the street had been dismantled and timber buildings set up. The military levels are being examined below the store rooms of the macellum and there is some evidence to suggest the discovery of a legionary turf rampart running parallel to the main street just to the east of it. More work has been done on the main drains and latrine of the macellum and the build-up of the main cobbled courtyard and herring-bone tile floors of the verandah.

**SALOP COUNTY  
COUNCIL:  
ADULT CLASSES  
IN HISTORY**

The following classes have been organised for the coming autumn and spring terms. Full details are available from adult education centres and branches of the Salop County Library:

Evening classes:

Clee St. Margaret: Local History in the Clee Hills Region. Mondays. Fortnightly from October 6. Village Hall. Tutor: Barrie Trinder.

Longden: Local History: An Introduction. Mondays. Weekly from September 29. Longden C.E. School. Tutors: Dr. Ivor Brown, Mrs M. Moran, David Pannett, Barrie Trinder.

Ludlow: The Social History of Housing. Tuesdays. Weekly from September 30. Ludlow F.E. Centre. Tutor: Barrie Trinder.

Shrewsbury: History of Shrewsbury. Thursdays. Weekly from September 25. College Hill House. Already fully booked.

Shrewsbury's History through Documentary Sources: A Research Class. Tuesdays. Weekly from September 30. Borough Library. Tutor: George Baugh.

Victorian Shrewsbury: A Research Class. Wednesdays. Weekly from October 1. Borough Library. Tutor: Barrie Trinder.

Wellington: The Social History of the Telford Area. A Research Class. Wednesdays. Weekly from October 1. Walker Technical College. Tutor: Barrie Trinder.

Weekend schools:

Ludlow: History Through Townscape. November 1 & 2 at the Ludlow F.E. Centre. Tutor: Trevor Rowley.

Agricultural History in Shropshire. Saturday 28 February 1976. At Church Stretton and the Shropshire Farm Museum, Acton Scott. Tutor: Dr. David Hey.

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM DEPT.  
OF EXTRAMURAL  
STUDIES CLASSES

Much Wenlock. History of Wenlock Research Group. Thursdays. Weekly from 25 September. Corn Exchange. Tutor: Malcolm Wanklyn.  
Newport. Exploring Midland Country Houses. Mondays. Location to be decided. Weekly from October 6. Tutor: Robin Chaplin.  
Oswestry: Old Houses in Shropshire. Thursdays. Weekly from November 6. Centre North West. Tutor: Mrs M. Moran.  
Shrewsbury: Discovering 18th Century Shrewsbury through Records. Tuesdays. Weekly from October 7. County Record Office. Tutor: Mrs M. Halford.  
Early Medieval Archaeology. Mondays. Weekly from 12 January 1976. College Hill House. Tutor: Martin Carver.  
Ironbridge: Theory and Practice of Industrial Archaeology. Thursdays. Weekly from October 9. Ironbridge Gorge Museum Offices, Southside. Tutors: Neil Cossons & others.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT FOR  
EXTERNAL STUDIES  
WEEKEND & OTHER  
COURSES

Beginnings of Urbanism in Barbarian Europe. 10-12 October 1975.  
Planning - An Introduction for Archaeologists. 25-26 October 1975.  
Medieval Forests, Parks and Gardens. 5-7 December 1975.  
The Archaeology of Monastic Sites. 2-4 January 1976.  
The Historic Landscape - An Introduction. 25-28 January 1976.  
Archaeology and Conservation. 28-30 January 1976.  
Offshore Islands - Britain in Prehistory. 23-25 April 1976.  
Urban Archaeology. 30 April - 2 May 1976.

Full details from The Director, Oxford University Department for External Studies, Rowley House, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.

ATTINGHAM  
PARK ADULT  
COLLEGE

As the closure of the Adult College at Attingham in November of this year will affect the Society both directly and indirectly, a few comments from me in my dual role as Warden of the College and Secretary of the Society will not perhaps be out of place.

As the decision has now been taken that there is no immediate future for residential adult education in Shropshire or concentrated summer schools and shorter courses, it means that what had become traditional summer schools dealing with the history of human settlement in Shropshire will now go by the board, as will numerous other courses of this type covering a wide range of archaeological, architectural and historical topics concerned with Shropshire, and in which members of the Society had found one particular way in getting to know their county intimately. While regretting the obvious loss to the county of such courses, I should like to thank most sincerely our many members and other Shropshire colleagues who made these courses possible. Among them I particularly include Barrie Trinder, Neil Cossons, Andrew Jenkinson, John Pilgrim, Graham Webster, Philip Barker, Ernest Jenks, John Houghton, Joan Miller, Madge Moran, William Price, Stanley Stanford, John Norton, James Lawson, Malcolm Wanklyn, Norman Mutton, Martin Carver and Chris Musson. Through them we have all had a remarkable opportunity of getting to know the veritable wealth of history that this great county so proudly possesses. I should also like to express my particular gratitude to Miss Chitty, whose willingness to pass on her expertise and personal researches has made the subject-matter of these courses possible.

My own future in the county will now inevitably be a short-term one; while I hope to continue to be able to serve the Archaeological Society as its Secretary for the next months ahead, an honour of which I am particularly conscious, it will be necessary for members now to consider whom they would wish to see as Secretary of the Society in the forthcoming future years.

GEOFFREY TOMS.



SALOP COUNTY  
SITES & MONUMENTS RECORD

SHROPSHIRE NEWS SHEET

No. 4. March 1976

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

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Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Edited by Barrie Trinder, 20 Garmston Road, Shrewsbury SY2 6HE.

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A. MAJOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
DISCOVERY -  
DARK AGE  
PALACES AT  
ATCHAM

Over recent years the knowledge of Shropshire's early past has been enormously enhanced by aerial photography, and widespread evidence for prehistoric and Roman settlement in our region has been presented by this medium. But, in the post-Roman period up to the time of the emergence of the Anglo-Saxon villages some five hundred years later, evidence for virtually any form of settlement has been almost impossible to find. As Trevor Rowley states in "The Shropshire Landscape", "The Dark Ages are nowhere darker than in Shropshire". Recent excavations at Wroxeter on the Baths Basilica site have shown some continuing settlement after Roman times for perhaps a century or so, but in the Middle Severn Valley there has always remained that tantalising gap between the end of Wroxeter and the formation of Shrewsbury as a Late Saxon town. It has always seemed that the Wroxeter-Shrewsbury area never entirely lost its role as the focus of influence and control of this region. Up to now only the dimmest hints had come from a few surviving pieces of Dark Age history and poetry. The presence of the kingdom of Powys, the hall of Pengwern, the arrival of St. Oswald, the death of Cynddylan and his burial at "Bassa's Church" (probably Baschurch), and the earliest Christian foundations at Wenlock, Wroxeter and Atcham have been almost the sum total of evidence for Dark Age activity in central Shropshire, between the 5th and 9th century AD.

Thus an aerial photograph taken by Professor J.K.St. Joseph in July 1975 of the field immediately south of Frogmore House at the northern end of the parish of Atcham (Grid Ref: SJ 552115) is of great significance. This photograph was published in the December 1975 number of "Antiquity" and was selected as the most important photograph out of many thousands taken in 1975 over the whole of Britain. The field in question, immediately to the west of the Atcham-Upton Magna road, shows a complex array of crop marks, most of which can be interpreted as enclosures, ditched tracks and field systems of the Iron Age or Roman period overlain by medieval ridge-and-furrow, while on the other side of the road the ploughed-out traces of the Shrewsbury Canal are prominent. But there also appears quite unexpectedly and markedly, the outline of two (or possibly three) timber halls, approximately 20 metres long, the shape and layout of which leaves very little doubt that they belong to a Dark Ages palace, probably of the 7th century AD. A very close parallel from a site, which has been fully excavated, is to be found at Yeavinger in Northumberland, an area which is not without significance. Very few other Dark Age palace sites have been revealed in Britain: two other sites, which have been examined by Philip Rahtz, are the Saxon palace at Cheddar and a similar site at Hatton Rock, near Stratford, while another Northumbrian palace at Millfield is well known. The identifying characteristic in each case is one or more massive timber halls with the roof supported by great timber uprights forming aisles. Certainly the Atcham site is quite unique in the West Midlands, but as with the other sites it must represent the centre of power of some important Dark Age or Saxon overlord.

It is at Atcham that we have one of the first of all the Christian churches in Shropshire, and its dedication to St. Eata is again quite unique to this part of Britain. When we realise that Eata was a Northumbrian saint and that the foundation of the church has always been put in the 7th century, is it more than coincidence that we appear to have a Northumbrian-type secular building of importance less than two miles away in the same parish and probably of the same period? Is there too an immediate topographical connection with the seventh-century kingdom of the Wroecensaeten, whose very name implies the continuation of the Wrekin-Wroxeter area as a focus of influence in this little-known period? Until the site of Frogmore is carefully and scientifically excavated, these many attractive ideas must remain hypothetical. But in trying to interrelate the little that is known about the kingdoms of Northumbria, Mercia and Powys, the role of Wroxeter in its last phases, and the emergence of early Christianity in the middle Severn Valley, this new discovery must represent a major breakthrough. It is not the "missing link": rather it is a rare link, and almost the only piece of purely archaeological evidence throwing light on the Dark Ages in an area of profound importance in the early history of Western Britain.

GEOFFREY TOMS

A NEW  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
APPOINTMENT

It is with great pleasure that we welcome to the county Ian Burrow as a full-time professional archaeologist, whose work is concerned with the compilation of a Sites and Monuments record of the county. The appointment, which is initially of a temporary nature, is financed by W.E.M.R.A.C., and office facilities have been provided by the County Planning Department at Shirehall, Shrewsbury, where Mr Burrow can be contacted. This long overdue position at last allows work to begin on a detailed record of the large collection of archaeological sites in the county, particularly with a view towards their identification and appraisal of their potential by public bodies concerned with planning and development and future survey and excavation work, especially when a site is threatened. All who have been concerned with recording in the county know what a massive task it is to acquire all information, and Mr Burrow will be pleased to receive any offers of information particularly in cases where sites are newly discovered or not otherwise recorded in published form. We welcome Mr Burrow and look forward to a period of mutual cooperation in this important work.

EXCAVATIONS AND  
FIELDWORK

The present policy of the Archaeological Society is to provide in the News Sheet accounts of current archaeological work in the county which do not pretend in any sense to be interim reports, which will now normally appear in the 'Miscellanea' section of the Society's Transactions. The following notes are to be regarded as a general round-up of recent and current activities in the county. Fully documented and referenced accounts will in due course be appearing elsewhere.

WROXETER

During the summer of 1975 both Philip Barker and Graham Webster continued their work, the former on the Baths Basilica and the latter on the Macellum (Market Hall) of the Baths. While Mr Barker continued clearing the late-Roman levels overlying the Basilica, perhaps the more significant finds this year were those on the Macellum site. Dr. Webster reports as follows:-

This season has been made significant by the discovery of an alignment of military defences below the western edge of the Macellum. Although this took us by surprise at first it was not entirely unexpected since a possible line of the western side of a fortress had been postulated following new developments in the study of the military problems which can be briefly summarised:-

1. The southern projection of the corner discovered by Professor St. Joseph in 1950 would bring the S.W. Corner of a fortress into the middle of the present river course and David Pannett who has been working on the changes in the course of the river, has rejected the idea of erosion on this scale.
2. A chance discovery on the edge of the river cliff this year suggests that the civil defences followed this existing edge, and that this was a re-entrant angle to include the buildings N.W. of the forum.
3. A fresh look at a crop mark noted by Arnold Baker on a slightly different alignment and to the east of Professor St. Joseph's corner, show that there are two ditches, and they turn a sharp corner at their junction with the civil defences on the W. side of the town.
4. During exploratory work earlier this year carried out by Steven Johnson of D.O.E., one of Kathleen Kenyon's trenches of 1936 was emptied and extended. This revealed the early defences she had shown in her published section (Arch. 88 (1940) Pl.LXX), but in greater detail, and there now seems no doubt that there is at this point a substantial turf rampart with a vertical front.

A projection of a fortress on the Gloucester model from this N.E. corner and the alignment of its north side gives a line for its westerly defences along the main N.S. street of the town, now apparently confirmed by the discovery this year. There are also buildings cut into the back of the rampart of two and possibly three periods, the last being in stone. One puzzling aspect is the apparent absence of an intervallum road. The space between the rampart buildings and the barrack blocks E. of the baths piscina is occupied by timber buildings some of which have thick pebble floors. The area is large enough to contain centurial blocks providing they are of the small size of those at Inchtuthil (i.e. only 20m. long).

The macellum itself produced some new and interesting evidence of a large scale re-modelling c. A.D. 300, the dating being given by a slightly worn coin of Tetricus II (c. A.D. 270) found below the herring-bone tiles on the colonnade floor and confirmed by a few pottery sherds of equally late date. The stylobate of the courtyard was clearly rebuilt with reused stones above the tiles course and this probably involved a new internal arrangement, but there is very little evidence left of the original scheme. The build-up of material below the tiling produced a large quantity of pottery which appears to be early second century, however this pottery has been redeposited.

Work continued on the street colonnade with more timber buildings extending into the street itself as far as the excavation could be taken. Here late coins were found including four of the House of Theodosius (A.D. 388-402) which takes the use of this area as a market town to the end of the fourth century and possibly later.

ROMAN RESEARCH  
GROUP

Dr. John Houghton with the Roman Research group has been examining the Roman road south-west of Wroxeter (the Watling Street West) at three points; where the road immediately approaches the west bank of the Severn. This work has been carried out in conjunction with David Pannett who has been studying the changes in the course of the Severn at this point. The road appears to be aligned on an ancient ford, whose site has moved further downstream. A romano-British dolphin brooch was found in the build-up of the road and the

upper levels contained respectively fragments of medieval tiles and 18th/19th century pottery. A tree growing on top of the road is about 140 years old, thus dating the period of final desertion. A possible Iron Age settlement exists by the site.

A second site about half a mile away, which is currently under excavation, is south-west of Lower Brompton Farm, where a remarkably well-preserved agger with side-ditches curves away to the west in the direction of Brompton Hamlet and Cronkhill in a field where medieval ridge and furrow, again in a remarkable state of preservation, aligns the road on both sides. Three sections have been cut through the road indicating a number of cobbled surfaces of various widths. The road may prove to be the final extension of the Roman road from Forden Gaer and Westbury into Wroxeter, and some Roman material has been found in the make-up. Because there is no obvious straight alignment the Roman date of the road remains in question, but it does seem that it cannot be later than early medieval.

The Roman Research Group has enjoyed an active season and their work has included examining the ploughed surface of WROXETER FORT, where finds of bonding and voussoir tiles and other masonry significantly suggest permanent buildings and the possibility of a bath-house. Fragments of 1st century glass and a stamped mortarium were also found. Earlier the Group had been working at DUNCOT Roman fort site, where 17 sections in all across the defences were excavated; the two ditches proved to be V-shaped with cleaning slots at the bottom. There was evidence for a large array of living thorn in and between the ditches and just into the interior, and slight evidence of internal stone structures.

Dr. Houghton also reports on the discovery in 1974 of a large gate, almost completely robbed out, entering Wroxeter by Horseshoes Lane. The gate appears to be of the 4th century. Eighteen sections were cut further east along Horseshoes Lane, exposing the cobbled surface and foundation material of the Roman road. Three cremation urn burials were found under the southern hedge line west of the modern houses.

#### THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

In the medieval period a number of excavations have taken place in and around SHREWSBURY. Alan Wharton examined the cellar area of Maddox' Stores at the corner of Pride Hill and High Street, where stratified pottery in medieval rubbish pits was found. Mr Wharton, together with the Medieval Research Group carried out limited excavations at 96-101 and 143 Abbey Foregate. At the former site post-medieval pottery was found and the excavations revealed some unusual builds in the construction of the 18th century cottages, which had been on the site prior to demolition. Below the foundations of these cottages there was evidence of 16th-17th century timber framed buildings, which were probably removed during the widening of the Foregate.

Elsewhere in Shrewsbury, West Midland Rescue Archaeology Committee report that Philip Clarke continued salvage recording at Porch House and that he and Elaine Morris continued work on the analysis and publication of the Pride Hill monograph, which will shortly be published by the Society. At the Sutton Lane site R. Pulton undertook geophysical work for Bradford University, but results proved negative. Alan Wharton conducted excavations on the Sutton Mill site: he reports that the excavation of the Mill was undertaken firstly to establish the extent of the remaining mill foundations still in position, secondly to produce an accurate drawing of the mill-bay area, thirdly to try and find evidence to complete the history of the Mill from the Dissolution to the 19th

century, and lastly to try and locate evidence of the medieval mill. The excavation was successful on the first three points, and whilst timber was located under the first stone phase, because of the depth of trench plus spoil on top of the trench, it was not possible or safe to excavate the timbers further.

PREHISTORIC  
RESEARCH  
GROUP

The Prehistoric Research Group under the leadership of Ernest Jenks has concentrated fully this year on the long-term project of the gazetteer of archaeological sites in the county. Meetings continue to be held regularly each Tuesday evening in Local History Library in Shrewsbury and individual work at home and in the field is coordinated from this centre. Further aerial surveys of North Shropshire have been undertaken by the group, discovering a few new sites and gaining further information about others previously recognised. Some work on early trade and other routes in Shropshire and its environs confirmed early definitions of prehistoric traffic directed towards the Severn Valley and the Trent Basin.

HAUGHMOND  
ABBEY

At HAUGHMOND ABBEY the Department of the Environment under the direction of Geoffrey West reexcavated and newly excavated an area from the east transept of the latest church to the western side of the cloister walk. The earlier church, of the 12th century, was shown to be standing to a considerable number of courses in height, and the internal wall of the cloister walk was revealed. The site of a number of early burials to the east of the first church was also opened up.

EXCAVATIONS AND  
FIELDWORK AT  
LUDLOW

W.E.M.R.A.C. under the direction of Martin Carver undertook exploratory excavations on the line of the proposed Ludlow by-pass, although interpretation was hampered by the exceptionally dry weather conditions. Mr Carver reports that a sector of the eastern run of the large rectangular enclosure, photographed from the air by Arnold Baker in 1969, was located. It proved to be a square-bottomed ditch or post-setting cut into bedrock, and accompanied on its inner flank by a narrow slot; the filling of the ditch was of clean silt with some flecks of charcoal and pottery sherds, not so far identified. Elsewhere the site yielded a hearth deposit containing pottery attributed to the Beaker period, and among surface finds were a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead of flint, half a dozen worked flints, a Romano-British brooch and two sherds belonging to the Iron Age or Romano-British periods. SA 3018

Also in Ludlow in 1974 Michael Wise examined the area for a new car park at 14 Castle Square. In an 18th century garden a linear bank 10 metres behind the town wall was tested, but it was felt that this and other features on the site were part of the 18th century garden landscaping scene. A 14th century residual strap-handle from a pitcher was also found on the site. Work on the archaeological landscape of the Ludlow area began in 1975 and will continue in 1976.

BREIDDIN  
HILLFORT,  
POWYS

Chris. Musson of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust reports as follows:

Emergency excavations in response to quarrying have continued intermittently since the autumn of 1969. A 60 metre length of rampart and associated occupation deposits has been excavated, along with two substantial areas in the interior. Excavations in an ancient pond within the defences have produced quantities of organic material, including an almost complete wooden sword (Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age?); a globular wooden jar, the base of a wooden bowl, a mallet head, several pieces of worked timber with mortice and tenon and other joints, and various lengths of knotted and twisted rope, including a bucket handle (all probably late Bronze Age or early Iron Age). Studies of the archaeological and environmental evidence from this pond will be of

national or even international importance. The excavations have shown that there was occupation on the hilltop at the end of the Neolithic period; the first hillfort defences were erected in the 9th or 8th centuries BC, towards the end of the Bronze Age; there were at least two phases of Iron Age occupation, each with distinctive material equipment and structural types; finally, the site was reoccupied on a fairly extensive scale towards the end of the Roman period. Interim reports have been published in Current Archaeology 19 and 33 (March 1970 and June 1972). The draft final report on the 1969-74 excavations, circulated for comment at the beginning of the year, will now be up-dated to include the results of the 1975 excavations (with the exception of the pond deposit) and publication should take place in the middle of 1976. It is hoped that the archaeological and environmental information from the pond deposit will appear as a separate volume late in 1977 or in 1978.

#### WHITTINGTON CASTLE

Press reports in December 1975 indicated that there would be excavations by the Department of the Environment in the grounds of Whittington Castle early in the current year, although at the time of going to press no further information is available. The excavation is to take place in the three holes left after the removal of several trees from the grounds, and it is hoped to find evidence concerning the wooden structure which pre-dated the present stone castle.

#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

Directors of all groups undertaking fieldwork and excavation are very keen to enlist the support of enthusiasts in the area. Further details of individual 1976 programmes in which members can join can be obtained from the following addresses:-

Department of Extramural Studies, Birmingham University, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT. Excavations at Hen Domen and Wroxeter directed by Philip Barker and Graham Webster.

Roman Research Group. Dr. A.W.J. Houghton, Oakwood, Pulverbatch, Shrewsbury.

Prehistoric Research Group. Mr W.E. Jenks, Trevarrion, Langford Avenue, Lythwood Park, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury.

Medieval Research Group. Mr A Wharton, c/o Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury.

Ludlow Group. Mr M. Wise, 139 Corve Street, Ludlow.

Further details about other forthcoming excavations can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr G.S.G. Toms, 29 Mount Street, Shrewsbury.

#### REPORT ON THE LONG MYND

Recent archaeological publications have been mainly of general importance to all who profess any interest in archaeology, rather than dealing with specifically regional matters. However, attention is particularly drawn to the article by Graham Guilbert, of the Rescue Archaeology Group, published in the Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies, Vol. xxvi, part 3 (November 1975) on "Ratlinghope/Stitt Hill, Shropshire: Earthwork Enclosures and Cross-Dykes", which is one of the very rare modern surveys of a part of the Long Mynd with its wealth of surviving archaeological material.

#### CBA RESEARCH REPORTS

The Council for British Archaeology continue their important series of Research Reports; the most recent will be of interest to all members.

12. Aerial Reconnaissance for Archaeology (edited by D.R. Wilson). The report contains the finest collection of aerial photographs ever assembled in one volume. Price: £8.00.

14. The Plans and Topography of Medieval Towns in England and Wales (edited by M.W.Barley). The proceedings contained in this volume represent the current state of knowledge on medieval town development and planning, based on the archaeological and historical source data. Price: £4.00

13. The Archaeological Study of Churches (edited by P.V.Addyman and R.K. Morris). Price: £3.00.

These three reports can be obtained from the Publications Department, Council for British Archaeology, 7 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HA.

BRITISH  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
REPORTS

British Archaeological Reports continue to appear with great regularity; a full list of titles and orders for reports can be obtained from British Archaeological Reports, 122 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2, 7BP. Recent reports of special interest include:

4. "Coins and the Archaeologist", edited by John Casey and Richard Reece. Price: £3.50.  
6. "Anglo-Saxon Settlement and Landscape", edited by Trevor Rowley. Price: £2.00.  
14. "Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist", by Adrian Oswald. Price: £3.80.

REPORTING  
RESCUE  
ARCHAEOLOGY

The Department of the Environment has recently published a Report on the principles of publication in Rescue Archaeology, which is a "must" for all who take any active part in field archaeology. The report underlines the long-established principle that "everyone who by excavating destroys the evidence contained in the ground undertakes the responsibility of restoring that evidence on paper.... fully but concisely." The peculiar problems that rescue archaeology raises in terms of rapid and authoritative publication for a general readership are discussed in this report and guidelines are given for all excavators. A copy of the report may be seen in the Society's collection in the Local History Library at Shrewsbury.

SHROPSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
PUBLICATIONS

News Sheets 1 and 2 gave details of the current stock of publications, which the Society has in its possession. Sales since then have been brisk, and now only the later volumes of Dean Cranage's "Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire" remain for sale to members. The Society now has no stock of any monographs remaining except for a few copies of Phillip Barker's "Medieval Pottery of Shropshire" and a rather larger number of copies of A.S.Jeavons' "Church Plate of the Archdeaconry of Salop". Stocks of recent numbers of the Transactions are depleting fast and a number of recent parts are now completely out of stock. Anyone contemplating buying past numbers is earnestly encouraged to do so now while stocks last.

The stock of Parish Registers is also dwindling and for the benefit of all members we are listing those parishes, whose printed registers can still be obtained from the Society. The price varies according to the size of the volume. Full details about these and any other publications can be obtained from the Hon. Publications Secretary, Mrs J.Miller, Stonehouse, Picklescott, Church Stretton.

ABDON. 1554. Hereford. XIX.

ACTON BURNELL. 1568. Lichfield. XIX.

ADDERLEY. 1692. Lichfield. IV.

ALBERBURY. 1564. Hereford. VI, VII.

ALBRIGHTON nr Shrewsbury. 1665 (with some entries from 1649).  
Lichfield. I.

ASTLEY. 1695. Lichfield. V.

ATCHAM. 1621 (Baptisms) 1619 (Marriages & Burials). Lichfield. XIV.

BADGER. 1713 (but earlier transcripts from 1660). Hereford. XVI.  
 BATTLEFIELD. 1663. Lichfield. I.  
 BEDSTONE. 1719. Hereford. V.  
 BERRINGTON. 1559. Lichfield. XIV.  
 BILLINGSLEY. 1625. Hereford. III.  
 BITTERLEY. 1658. Hereford. IV.  
 BOLAS MAGNA. 1582. Lichfield. XIII.  
 BROMFIELD. 1559. Hereford. V.  
 BROUGHTON. 1705. Lichfield. I.  
 BUILDWAS. 1666 (but a few entries from 1659). Lichfield. XIV.  
 BURFORD. 1558. Hereford. XVI.  
  
 CARDESTON. 1706. Hereford. V.  
 CHELMARSH. 1558. Hereford. III.  
 CHIRBURY. 1629. Hereford. VIII.  
 CHURCH PREEN. 1680. Hereford. XVI.  
 CHURCH STRETTON. 1662. Hereford. VIII.  
 CLAVERLEY. 1568. Hereford. X.  
 CLEOBURY MORTIMER. 1601. Hereford. IX.  
 CLIVE. 1611. Lichfield. VII.  
 CLUNBURY. 1574. Hereford. II.  
 COLD WESTON. Hereford. XX.  
 CONDOVER. 1570. Hereford. VI.  
 COUND. 1608. Lichfield. II.  
 CRESSAGE. 1722. Lichfield. II.  
  
 DAWLEY. 1666. Lichfield. XVIII.  
 DIDDLEBURY. 1583 (defective 1599-1683, but Bishop's Transcripts  
 from 1661). Hereford. XV.  
 DONINGTON. 1556. Lichfield. III.  
  
 EATON CONSTANTINE. 1684. Lichfield. XIII.  
 EATON-UNDER-HEYWOOD. Hereford. XIX.2.  
 EDGMOND. 1668. Lichfield. XIII.  
 EDGTON. 1722. Hereford. III.  
 EDSTASTON. 1712. Lichfield. X.  
  
 FITZ. 1559. Lichfield. IV.  
 FORD. 1589. Hereford. I.  
 FRODESLEY. 1547. Lichfield. IV.  
  
 GLAZELEY & DEUXHILL. 1654 (early entries defective). Hereford. V.  
 GREETE. 1728. Hereford. V.  
 GRINSHILL. 1592. Lichfield. II.  
  
 HABBERLEY. 1598. Hereford. V.  
 HANWOOD. 1560 (transcript of register destroyed). Hereford. I.  
 HARLEY. 1745. Lichfield. II.  
 HIGH ERCALL. 1585. Lichfield. XX.  
 HODNET. 1657. Lichfield. XI.  
 HOPE BAGOT. Hereford. XX.I.  
 HOPESAY. 1678. Hereford. XVIII.  
 HOPTON CASTLE. 1538. Hereford. II.  
 HOPTON WAFERS. 1729. Hereford. IX.  
 HORDLEY. 1686. Lichfield. V.2.  
 HUGHLEY. 1576. Hereford. I.  
  
 KENLEY. 1682. Lichfield. II.  
 KINLET. 1657. Hereford. XVII.  
 KINNERLEY. 1677. St. Asaph. III.  
 KNOCKIN. 1672. St. Asaph. III.  
  
 LEEBOTWOOD. 1548. Lichfield. V.  
 LEE BROCKHURST. 1566. Lichfield. XIX.  
 LEIGHTON. 1662. Lichfield. XIV.



LLANYBLODWELL. 1695. St. Asaph. III.  
 LLANYMYNECH. 1666. St. Asaph. VIII.  
 LONGDON-UPON-TERN. 1692. Lichfield. II.  
 LONGNOR. 1586. Lichfield. V.  
 LUDLOW. 1558. Hereford. XIII, XIV.  
 LYDHAM. 1596. Hereford. III.  
  
 MELVERLEY. 1723. St. Asaph. I.  
 MEOLE BRACE. 1681. Hereford. XVIII.  
 MIDDLETON SCRIVEN. 1728. Hereford. V.  
 MILSON. 1706. Hereford. XVI.  
 MONKHOPTON. 1698. Hereford. III.  
 MONTFORD. 1661. Lichfield. VII.  
 MORE. 1569. Hereford. II.  
 MORETON CORBET. 1580. Lichfield. I.  
 MORETON SAY. 1691. Lichfield. VIII.  
 MUNSLOW. 1559. Hereford. XV.  
 MYDDLE. 1541. Lichfield. XIX.  
  
 NEEN SOLLARS. 1678 (Bur.) 1707 (Bap.) 1754 (Mar.). Hereford. XVI.  
 NEENTON. 1558. Hereford. III.  
 NESS MAGNA. 1589. Lichfield. XX.  
 NEWTOWN, WEM. 1779. Lichfield. X.  
 NORBURY. 1560. Hereford. XIX.2.  
 NORTON-IN-HALES. 1572. Lichfield. XVIII.  
  
 OLDBURY. 1582. Hereford. XVI.  
 ONIBURY. 1578. Hereford. XVIII.  
 OSWESTRY. 1558. St. Asaph. IV, V, VI, VII.  
  
 PITCHFORD. 1558. Lichfield. I.  
 PONTESBURY. 1538. Hereford. XII.  
  
 RATLINGHOPE. 1755 (Mar.) 1794 (Bap. & Bur.). Hereford. V.  
 RUYTON-XI-TOWNS. Lichfield. V.2.  
  
 ST. MARTINS. 1603 (Bap.) 1579 (Mar.) 1596 (Bur.). St. Asaph. VIII.  
 SELATTYN. 1557. St. Asaph. I.  
 SHERIFFHALES. 1557. Lichfield. VII.  
 SHEINTON. 1711. Lichfield. II.  
 SHIPTON. 1538. Hereford. I.  
 SHREWSBURY. ST. CHAD. 1616. Lichfield, XV, XVI, XVII.  
 SHREWSBURY. ST. MARY. 1584. Lichfield. XII.  
 SIBDON CARWOOD. 1582. Hereford. II.  
 SIDBURY. 1560. Hereford I.  
 SMETHCOTE. 1612. Lichfield. I.  
 STAPLETON. 1635. Lichfield. I.  
 STIRCHLEY. 1658. Lichfield. V.  
 STOKESAY. 1558. Hereford. XVII.  
 STOKE ST. MILBURGH. Hereford. XIX.5.  
  
 TASLEY. 1563. Hereford. I.  
 TIBBERTON. 1719. Lichfield. XIII.  
 TONG. 1620. Lichfield. IV.  
  
 UFFINGTON. 1578. Lichfield. V.  
 UPPINGTON. 1650. Lichfield. IV.  
  
 WATERS UPTON. 1547. Lichfield. XIII.  
 WELLINGTON (Incomplete). Lichfield. XXI.  
 WEM. 1582. Lichfield. IX, X.  
 WESTBURY. 1637. Hereford. XII.  
 WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE. 1565. Lichfield. XI.  
 WHITE LADIES. 1816. (Bur.). Lichfield. III.  
 WHITTINGTON. 1591. St. Asaph. II.

WILLEY. 1644. Hereford. XVI.  
WITHINGTON. 1590. Lichfield. V.  
WOLSTANTON. 1601. Hereford. I.  
WORTHEN. 1558. Hereford. XI.  
WROCKWARDINE. 1591. Lichfield. VIII.  
WROXETER. 1613 (defective till 1618). Lichfield. XI.

NONCONFORMIST REGISTERS (Shrewsbury, Whitchurch, Wem, Bridgnorth, Oswestry, Oldbury & Ellesmere).

ROMAN CATHOLIC REGISTERS.

A NEW BOOK ON  
SHROPSHIRE  
CANALS

'The Ellesmere and Llangollen Canal' by Edward Wilson. 148 pp.  
Illus. Phillimore. 1975. £3.50.

This is a very personal account of one fieldworker's discovery of one of the most varied and interesting canal systems in Britain. When the late Edward Wilson first began to take an interest in the canal at Ellesmere it was as a naturalist, but he soon began to investigate the history of the navigation, and to make a valuable record of the system as it was a quarter of a century ago. This book begins with a useful account of the history of the Ellesmere Canal, although the complexities of its affairs in the 1790s were such that this cannot be regarded as a definitive history. The researches of Mr Charles Hadfield in particular are likely to show that the responsibility for the Pontcysyllte aqueduct was rather less clear-cut than appears here, and everyone with an interest in the subject will await with interest Mr Hadfield's forthcoming book on William Jessop. The great value of Edward Wilson's book is in his fieldwork, industrial archaeological recording of a high standard at a time when the term industrial archaeology was not even in use. His accounts of the tramway at Sweeney, the canal depot at Ellesmere and of his cruise on the canal in 1952 will be of lasting value to historians, while the book as a whole will fascinate all who sail on the canal or walk its towpaths.

B.S.T.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
COURSES AT  
OXFORD

The following courses are arranged by the Oxford University Department for External Studies, and full details of the them may be obtained by writing to the Director, Oxford University Department for External Studies, Rowley House, Wellington Square, Oxford.

24-25 April 1976. THE OFFSHORE ISLANDS -- BRITAIN IN EUROPEAN PREHISTORY.

1-2 May 1976. REFORMATION AND RENAISSANCE OXFORD.

17 July-7 August 1976. MIDDLETON STONEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRAINING SCHOOL, directed by Trevor Rowley.

31 July-20 August 1976. OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMER SCHOOL (to be held at New College, Oxford).

22-24 October 1976. THE 3rd OXFORD ANGLO-SAXON SYMPOSIUM.

SHROPSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY SUMMER  
PROGRAMME

You council has organised a full programme of events for the summer, and this list comprises the main source of information on the Society's activities. YOU ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW, and to take note of further application procedures where these are stated and necessary.

Saturday 10 April

PUBLIC MEETING ON CURRENT WORK IN SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

This is an all-day meeting to be held at College Hill House, Shrewsbury from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Entrance is free and no prior booking is necessary.

The meeting is designed to show everyone the present work being undertaken by various groups in Shropshire, and for members and the public in general to meet group directors, particularly to learn the opportunities for personally joining in archaeological work through the summer months. The Mulberry Theatre has been hired for a large display of archaeological finds, photographs and plans associated with the work of the speakers and others who are also working in the county. In addition to the subject-matter of the speakers, the exhibition will include displays of current work at Wroxeter, historic buildings in Shrewsbury, Lea Cross Roman Villa, and prehistoric sites in the Shrewsbury area. The talks will be given in the Walker Room at College Hill House, beginning at 11.00 a.m. and continuing to 5.30 p.m. with breaks for lunch and tea. Those coming to this important meeting are asked to make their own arrangements for lunch, but tea will be available at College Hill House. The programme of talks is ---

Excavations on the Breiddin Hill-Fort. Christopher Musson.  
The Last Long Mile of the Watling Street. John Houghton.  
The Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites in Shropshire. Ernest Jenks.

Excavations at Pride Hill, Shrewsbury. Martin Carver.  
Excavations in Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. Alan Wharton.  
Landscape Archaeology in the Ludlow Region. Michael Wise.

The meeting will be chaired by Geoffrey Toms.

#### SUMMER FIELD MEETINGS

The Society has organised the following all-day field meetings. In each case coach transport is included in the cost, and prior application to the Field Meetings Secretary is essential, together with a remittance, payable to 'Shropshire Archaeological Society'. It is regretted that no remittance can be returned in the event of cancellation by the member within seven days of the visit. The Society reserves the right to cancel any field meeting seven days before in the event of insufficient support. All meetings are open to members and their guests. Applications should be made to and further details obtained from:

Mrs C.A. Peele,  
Field Meetings Secretary,  
Shropshire Archaeological Society,  
2 Lane End,  
Muckleton,  
TELFORD,  
Salop.

Tel: Shawbury 378.

#### Saturday 8 May

THE ROMAN SITES of WALL-BY-LICHFIELD and THE LUNT at COVENTRY, concluding with a visit to KENILWORTH CASTLE. Leader: Geoffrey Toms.

The outward part of the tour will be along the A 5 (the Roman Watling Street) and a commentary will be given from the coach on all the Roman sites along the road from Wroxeter to Wall. Mr Bert Round will conduct the Society around his excavations at Wall on behalf of the South Staffordshire Archaeological Society. The coach will leave Shrewsbury and will also pick up participants at Wellington and along the A 5 by arrangement.

Cost: £2.00 (including admission charges to sites)

#### Saturday 12 June

CHURCHES AND HOUSES IN CORVEDALE. Leader: Roy Beard.

The main part of the meeting will be an architectural and archaeological study of The White House, Aston Munslow; in the event of bad weather the museum on the site will also be visited. The White House has a long and involved architectural history before achieving its final form. While being a very early house,

reputedly the oldest house in Shropshire is Upper Millichope Farm and this will also be studied in detail. Visits will also be made to the churches of Diddlebury, one of the best Saxon churches in Shropshire, Aston Eyre, with its remarkable 12th century carved tympanum and Morville, a substantial example of the Norman period.

Cost: £1.30 (including house entry charge)

Saturday 3 July

HOUSES AT MARKET DRAYTON AND EDGMOND. Leader: Mrs Madge Moran.

The meeting will consist of two parts: a general tour of the town of Market Drayton, concentrating on vernacular architecture, with interior visits to three interesting buildings, and a study of the Provost's House at Edgmond, an early 14th century stone structure, with traces of even earlier features.

Cost: £1.00

Friday 13 August

A WEEKEND IN YORK. Leader: John Salmon.

to

Sunday 15 August

The great success of last year's weekend in East Anglia led by John Salmon has prompted a similar visit, this time to the historic city of York, and we are very fortunate to obtain Mr Salmon's services as leader again. Full details can be obtained from the Field Meetings Secretary. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT APPLICATIONS ARE MADE TO HER BY THURSDAY APRIL 8th, to ensure the reservation of places in the hotel at York. The cost of the weekend will be approximately £22, inclusive of transport, hotel accommodation and all meals.

Saturday

25 September

HOUSES AND CHURCHES IN THE CLAVERLEY AND BRIDGNORTH AREA

Leader: John Lees.

The south eastern corner of Shropshire is little explored, and this visit is designed to break new ground in an area with which most members are probably unfamiliar. Full details can be obtained on application, but one of the main visits will be to Claverley church, one of the most interesting and important in Shropshire.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
FIELD MEETINGS

An additional series of meetings throughout the summer to excavations in progress and a day of flying for aerial photography are also being arranged. At the time of going to press, dates for these meetings are not yet available, but it is hoped that meetings will be arranged to Hen Domen, Wroxeter, Haughmond Abbey, Tong Castle and other sites currently under excavation in addition to the flying day on Saturday, July 10th or 17th. For a full list of these meetings and all opportunities for joining in archaeological excavations, please apply to the Hon. Secretary, 29 Mount Street, Shrewsbury. (Tel: Shrewsbury 61622). In all these cases transport will need to be by members' own cars. Anyone interested in the Flying Day is asked to inform the Field Meetings Secretary as soon as possible, giving a preference for one or the other date.

WROXETER &  
HEN DOMEN  
EXCAVATIONS

The dates for the annual series of excavations and training schools in archaeological techniques organised by the University of Birmingham Department of Extramural Studies are as follows. Applications should be made to: The Director of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

Hen Domen. June 26 - July 18. Director: Philip Barker.

Wroxeter Baths Basilica. July 24 - August 28.

Director: Philip Barker.

Wroxeter Macellum. July 31 - August 28. Dr. Graham Webster.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological Society will be held on Saturday 26 June at 2.30 p.m. in Shrewsbury. The agenda will be circulated to members in due course.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXHIBITION

Shrewsbury Civic Society and the Planning Department of Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council are promoting an environmental exhibition in Bear Steps Hall, Shrewsbury, from 4 July to 15 August. The Society has been asked to contribute to the archaeological section, and its main display will be on view from 4 July to 17 July. Members are invited to help in the manning of the exhibition, and the Secretary would be glad to hear from volunteers able to assist.

SHROPSHIRE MINING HISTORY

The following field visits are arranged by the Salop County Council adult education department. Full details can be obtained from College Hill House, Shrewsbury, from branches of the County Library, or from the Adult Education Tutor for Historical Studies, Barrie Trinder, 20 Garmston Road, Shrewsbury.

The South Shropshire Mining District.

A series of four field trips led by Kenneth Lock.

Tuesday May 4, 11, 18 and 25, at 7.00 p.m.

This series offers an opportunity to study the remains of the lead and barytes mines of the Snailbeach area, and the coalmines of the Hanwood coalfield under expert guidance. If there is sufficient demand the series will be repeated in June commencing Tuesday 8 June. Prior enrolment is essential. For starting points see detailed publicity.

The Old Park Mining Area.

A coach trip around the extensive open cast workings now in progress in the Old Park district of the Coalbrookdale Coalfield, during which it is hoped to see much of geological interest, as well as the remains of old mine workings and the Old Park ironworks, which in 1804 was the second largest in the world.

Leader: Dr. Ivor Brown.

Monday 14 June commencing at 7.00 p.m. from Telford Town Centre. Prior enrolment essential.

EXPLORING SHROPSHIRE

A full programme of field trips of historical, archaeological, geological, botanical and agricultural interest will be arranged by the Salop County Council adult education department during July and August 1976. It will include town walks in Ludlow, half and whole day walks in the Ironbridge Gorge, tours by car of geological sites and deserted medieval villages, botanical excursion on Wenlock Edge, and walks on the Stiperstones and Clee Hills. Full details will be available in due course from libraries and information centres throughout the Midlands, or from Andrew Jenkinson, Adult Education Tutor for Environmental Sciences, Bircher Cottage, Little Stretton, Church Stretton, Salop.

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM

The Museum hopes to complete two major projects during the summer of 1976. The Gothic Warehouse on the Wharfage at Ironbridge, built at the terminus of the Coalbrookdale Company's railway system, is now in course of restoration, and will be fitted out as an information centre for visitors to the area, with a display featuring the role of the River Severn in history. At Coalport part of the chinaworks is being restored, and should be open to the public as an exhibition area in July. The Museum is open every day from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. Membership of the Friends of the Museum gives free admission to sites during normal opening hours, and full details may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Southside, Ironbridge, Telford.

ACTON SCOTT  
WORKING FARM  
MUSEUM

1976 will be the first full farming year at this living and working museum of agriculture in Shropshire. Here you may see demonstrated life on a Shropshire farm prior to the advent of electricity and the petrol engine. Working with heavy horses and skilled manpower, the farm demonstrates nineteenth century arable techniques, and is stocked with breeds of animals rarely seen today. The site includes car parking, toilets, picnic area and shops, one selling local craft material. Traditional crafts are demonstrated throughout the summer. The Museum is open from 1 p.m. till 5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, and from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

KINGS SHROPSHIRE  
LIGHT INFANTRY  
MUSEUM

This museum is situated at the Sir John Moore Barracks, Copthorne, Shrewsbury, and for many years has been open for the benefit of members of the Regiment. It is now intended to make it fully available to the public. There is no admission charge, and normal opening times are from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays. Arrangements can be made with the Curator to open it at other times or to show around organised parties, by telephoning Shrewsbury 4427 (extension 271).

It is one of the finest and largest Museums of its kind, conveying the history of our County Regiment throughout the two hundred years of its life. It is essentially Shropshire and we feel has a definite part in the history of this County. We are fortunate in having an unusually large collection of Regimental Colours and a large collection of Silver, not to mention the very many other varied and interesting exhibits including a lock of hair of the Emperor Napoleon, the Regimental Colour of the James City Light Infantry of the American Army captured in 1814, and a very rare Royal Standard of King William IV, together with an excellent display of Medals, Weapons and other items all having a direct link with the men of Shropshire.

SHROPSHIRE  
MINING CLUB  
PUBLICATIONS

The 1975 Journal of the Shropshire Mining Club consist of 76 pages, and includes articles on the reopening of the Blists Hill Upper Mine shafts, the Bryndyfi mine, Mineral Working in Clee Hills, Underground Iron Ore Mining in Britain and the Speleological Possibilities of the Eglwyseg Escarpment. The journals cost £1.00 plus 20p postage.

The Mining Club is also able to supply copies of 'The Mines of Shropshire' by Ivor J. Brown, to be published by the Moorland Publishing Company in April, which is a valuable collection of 161 photographs, printed on high quality art paper, of the mines of coal, ironstone, clay and limestone on which the prosperity of East Shropshire has been based, as well of the lead, zinc and barytes mines in the west and south of the county. There are photographs of both underground and surface installations, as well as steam engines, housing and social conditions. Price £3.95 plus 40p postage.

The Club additionally has copies of 'The Shropshire Lead Mines' by F. Brook and M. Allbutt, previously noticed in the News Sheet at £1.20 plus 12p postage.

All the above publications can be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer, Shropshire Mining Club, 5 Beech Drive, Shifnal, Salop.

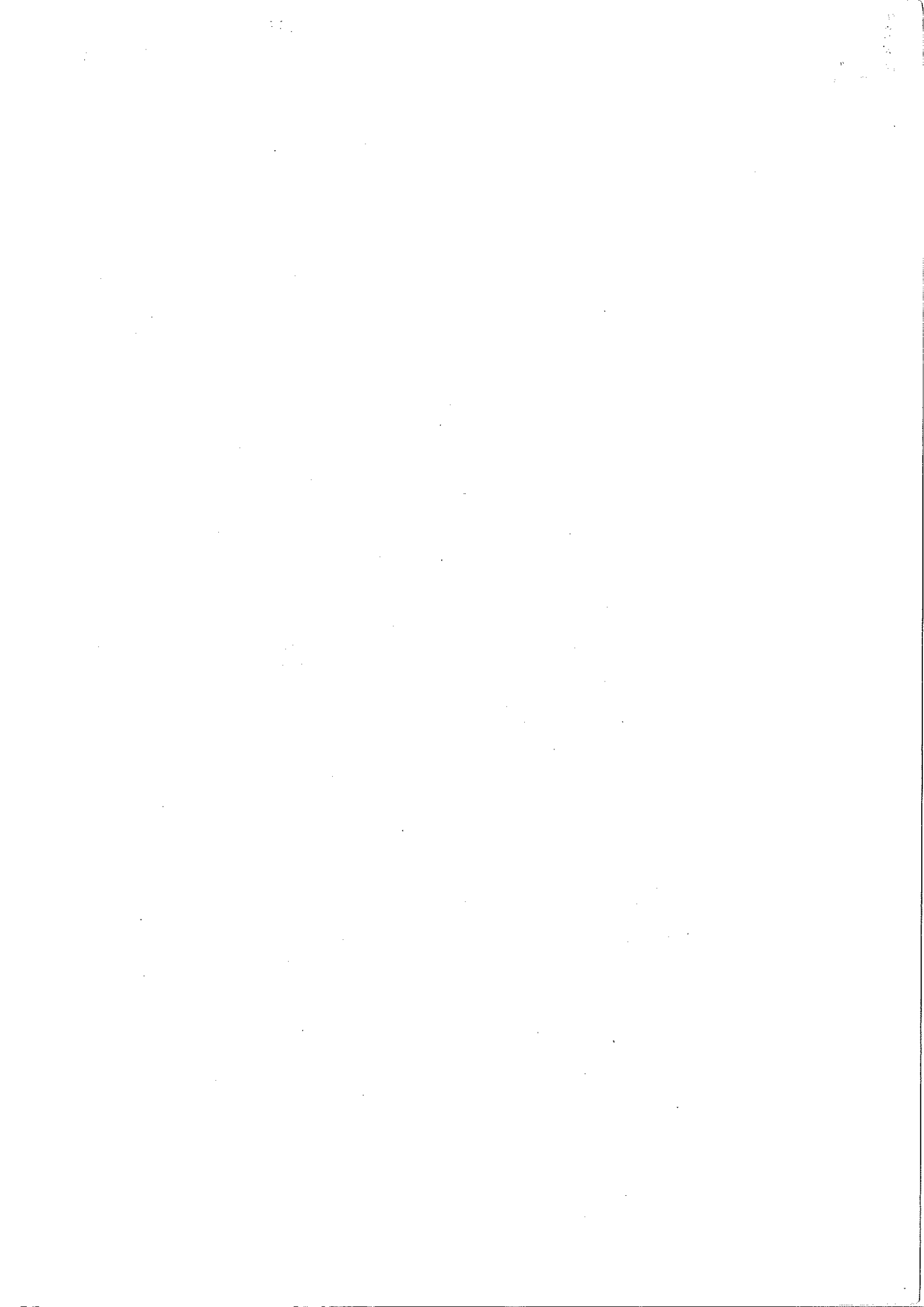
SHROPSHIRE  
RECORD  
OFFICE

The outstanding deposit in the record office during the last year has been the old records of Shrewsbury Corporation deposited by the Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council. The Borough is retaining its royal charters and its books, rolls and papers relating to the admission of burgesses. All students of Shropshire history will be delighted that this most important collection of documents is now fully available for study. The lists below, showing material deposited up to January 1976, give some indication of the great wealth of material in the collection.

Minutes of House Meetings 1732-1836; Subsidy Rolls 1296-1786;

Assessment Rolls including land tax, house and window tax 1605-1784; Bailiffs' Accounts 1256-1638; Mayors' Accounts 1638-1849; town public stock vouchers 1715-1836; Town Rate vouchers 1800-19; Relief of the Poor & Highway accounts 1580-1824; Court Leet rolls 1272-1844 Court books 1487-1696; Salop Town Court Books 1677-1755; Books of Actions 1678-1826; recognizances, Process Book, warrants &c 1695-1821; Mayor's Court minutes and fines 1835-48; Watch Committee - wages, accounts, minutes Constables' Watch Reports, Superintendents Reports Book, 1820-36; Piepowder Court 1435-53; Suit rolls, fines, &c 1504-1771; Court of record - pleadings, summonses, panels of jurors, proceedings 1508-1836; Writs of Right Patent James I to George III; Court of Record (Curia Parva) 1527-1746; Quarter Sessions - Rolls 1564-1834, Order Books 1680-1839, files 1779-1835, papers 1655-1836, recognizances 1753-66, oaths of allegiance 1691-1830; Sheriffs' accounts 1444-1793; Quietus 1610-1766; High Courts of Justice including Assizes, papers 1549-1821; Agreements re Bickton Heath including inclosure; deeds for property in Churchstoke, Knighton, Llangunllo, Clun, and High Street, Shrewsbury 17th-19thC; leases of Kingsland Farm 1564-1787; deeds re Mardol Quay 1790's; lease &c re Claremont Buildings 1792; deeds of Rousehill area 1680-1729, Woodcote 1765 and re site of new St. Chad's church 1790; Returns of MPs 1796-1847; Town Bye-Laws 1706-1842; Military Papers including Muster Rolls and assessments 14thC-1730, 1821; Shrewsbury School - deeds of premises in Ratten Lane 1574-1699 (37), and of tithes, with accounts 1664-1847; Petitions and letters to Bailiffs and Mayors Henry VI-1760; Horse and Cattle Fairs - sales 1525-1674; Trustees of the Shrewsbury Street Act - folder of plans and maps 1822-31, minutes 1795-1856; plan of sewers 1866; Toll books 1796-1812; Trustees of the Stone Bridge - Minutes 1765-84; Assize of Bread 1759-1816 and prices of grain 1759-1800; Alesellers' & malsters' licences 1620-1737; papers re the Welsh Bridge 1793, 1832-33; Chamberlain's account book 1756-92; coroners' roll 1295-1306, inquests 1591-2, 1760-2; appointments of town officials, certificates of communicants 1695-1780; papers re town property - the Quarry, Elizabeth to 1778, and Kingsland; prisoners 1583-1695; names of papists and their property 1706-22; bonds of bailiffs, councillors and Serjeants-at-Mace 1558-George III; documents possibly borrowed for cases - Court Book of the Manor of Ruyton 1699-1702; overseers' accounts for Eaton Constantine 1778-1837 and for Shawbury 1696. In all about 2,680 bundles and books. Deposited by Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council 3365.

Minute Books: of the Council 1835-1921 (10); Improvement Commissioners 1879-1927 (11), of Committees; Market and Fairs 1874-1930 (5); Lighting 1900-27 (3), Sanitary 1874-1930 (10); Estates 1874-1930 (5); Finance 1874-1930 (7); Rating and Valuation 1926-30 (1), General Purposes 1920 (1), Water 1856-1930 (8); Watch 1880-1930 (6); Housing 1909-29 (2); Burial Board 1854-1909 (2); Cemetery 1909-30 (1); Baths 1887-1930 (3); Attractions 1905-8 (1); Maternity and Child Welfare 1919-48 (2); Education:- Committee 1891-1945 (11), School Management Sub-Committee 1927-31 (1); Higher Education 1903-11 (1); Elementary Education Sub-Committee 1903-12 (3); Shrewsbury School Board (Accounts) 1881-1903 (3); Shrewsbury School of Art 1886-1901. Reports to Council 1864-1872 (1); Reports to Committees 1874-97 (5). Papers relating to Shrewsbury Station; Shrewsbury Water Undertaking; Electricity Undertaking; Shrewsbury Gas Light Co., Deeds of property of Samuel Withers in Bridge Street, Hill's Lane, Barker Street, Bugle Lane, Welsh Bridge and St. Chad's School. Records of Shrewsbury Quarter Sessions to 1971. Various minute books for special occasions. 3465.





SHROPSHIRE NEWS SHEET

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

Published by The Shropshire Archaeological Society ISSN 0308-6410

Edited by Barrie Trinder, 20 Garmston Road, Shrewsbury SY2 6HE.

SHROPSHIRE SOCIETY: All meetings will take place at 3.00 p.m. at Bear Steps Hall, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, (Shrewsbury).

WINTER PROGRAMME Saturday October 9. Ian Burrows: HILL FORTS IN THE DARK AGES.

A review of a subject on which important new evidence has been revealed by excavations in recent years.

Saturday November 6. Martin Carver: IMAGE AND ILLUSTRATION: PICTORIAL EVIDENCE FROM ANGLO-SAXON MANUSCRIPTS.

A description of one of the most important sources of information on Anglo-Saxon architecture.

Saturday December 4. George Baugh: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTY - SQUIRES AND THE PEOPLE'S WILL.

New light on the workings of the court of Quarter Sessions which results from work on the forthcoming volume of the Victoria History of Shropshire on county administration.

Saturday January 8, 1977. John Pilgrim: FOREIGN INFLUENCES IN ENGLISH ARCHITECTURAL DECORATION, 1520-1620.

Saturday February 5. Margaret Gelling: SHROPSHIRE PLACE NAMES.

Saturday March 5. Symposium on aerial photography.

Meetings are open to anyone interested in the history and archaeology of the county, whether members of the Society or not. Society publications are usually on sale. Refreshments are not provided but there is a tea and coffee house adjoining Bear Steps Hall.

THE FUTURE OF WROXETER:

The Department of the Environment has recently published a Feasibility Study of proposed development at Wroxeter, now that most of the site is in the ownership of the Department. The Study puts forward proposals for the development of the Roman city as a major archaeological and tourist attraction, and has made the document available to Salop County Council, Shrewsbury and Atcham District Council, and the Shropshire Archaeological Society, among other interested bodies, for comments and observations. A copy is with the Hon. Secretary, who will welcome comments from members, and these comments will be incorporated into an official observation to be produced by the Society. As the proposals are of vital interest to all members a summary of the report is produced overleaf (as prepared by the Department), and it is hoped that this will stimulate comment from various directions. Without prejudicing the final report from the Society, it should be mentioned now

that there is a strong feeling among many practising archaeologists in the county that the whole of the Wroxeter collection in the Rowley House Museum at Shrewsbury should be transferred to Wroxeter where it is envisaged that a more professional and archaeologically-orientated staff with full laboratory provisions for conservation will more effectively display and contain the collection for public benefit. For the first time the entire Wroxeter collection will be housed under one roof, and it is considered that the present staffing at the museum in Shrewsbury is too small to administer the collection as it deserves. The confidence of the Society in the present administration has been severely shaken by the appearance of a new and expensive model of Wroxeter, which is not only grossly misleading but contains a large number of basic mistakes; as the price for the display of this model has been the banishment (albeit temporarily, but for some months) of the exceptionally important prehistoric collection to an ill-lit and unheated back room of the museum, only opened at personal request, there are real grounds for a lack of confidence in the present facilities of the museum at Shrewsbury.

The summary is as follows:-

Present Programme:

The present programme of excavations and consolidations is concentrated on the Baths and Basilica, but at the present rate of progress it is likely to be another five seasons before these buildings are completed, cleared and consolidated. At present the Museum consists of a purpose-designed timber building, which also contains the salespoint, stores and works accommodation and the lavatories. The display is very small and the bulk of the finds are in Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury. Apart from toilet facilities there are no other amenities, but it is hoped to provide a car park in the near future, between the area of the Baths and Atcham Ironbridge Road.

Future Programme: The Potential

It is considered the site has a tremendous potential for extended archaeological research and training, and is ideally situated as a tourist attraction and with proper expansion will rank second in the country to Hadrian's Wall as a major Roman monument accessible to the public. The foremost object is to protect and preserve the archaeological deposits and the Department considers that the development of the site for the research and tourism must take second place to this constraint. To this end, it has been agreed to change the pattern of farming at Wroxeter by turning the whole of the scheduled area over to pasture, phased over a period of three years. Thus the site will be protected and preserved in one of the best ways known at present.

The Programme

Within the limitations imposed by the availability of funds, work force and consequent consolidation, it is planned to extend excavations outward from the existing area and the first phase will require the closure of the lane running north from the village. The proposed works will represent an ambitious programme, involving an increasing excavation fund, but the labour for consolidation will be provided by the transfer of Department of the Environment staff from work at Haughmond, Wenlock and Buildwas. Farming is expected to continue at Wroxeter on a diminishing scale well into the 21st century, as the proposed excavation programme will take many years to complete in view of the limited financial resources and archaeological expertise available.

The Department of the Environment is also prepared to consider favourably any proposal put forward regarding the suggestion that the excavations at Wroxeter could be associated with the training of much needed archaeologists, although it is conceded that there is no likelihood of such training facilities being established in the immediate future. Similarly, it is considered very unlikely that there will be, in the short term, any significant expansion in the area open to the public, except perhaps the forum, because current excavations are restricted by lack of funds. It is, however, intended shortly to provide interpretative material at the site of these excavations, and in due course, to extend this arrangement to other areas being excavated.

Consolidation of remains is not expected to pose many problems unless mosaic or tessellated pavements are discovered because the protective buildings needed to preserve and display them could present a 'shanty' town effect which the Department is anxious to avoid. Clearly, conservation methods have considerable bearing on the appearance of the site, initially only in the central area, but eventually over a considerable acreage.

#### Roads and Access.

Access to the site is at present obtained from the lane running north of the village to the Shrewsbury-Ironbridge road, the excavation of the centre of the city will require the closure of this road to traffic, although so long as public transport uses the main road, it will be necessary to obtain a public footpath on this alignment. In the immediate future, apart from the museum and any future amenity buildings the public will be restricted to those areas now consolidated and, under supervision, to those areas under excavation. It is, however, proposed to provide a footpath along the line of the city's defences to enable visitors to appreciate its size. The prior permission of the Department will be required for any work likely to affect physically any part of the site and a balance between the academic interests of excavating a certain area, convenience of access and the effect on farming activities and public access will have to be achieved. A possible long term development is the closure of all roads crossing the site except that serving the village; this would involve the diversion of the Shrewsbury-Ironbridge road round the line of the fortifications to the north and to the east of the city, with parking, &c. concentrated in an area outside the fortifications. Such a long term possibility however poses a considerable problem since land outside the fortification is also archaeologically sensitive.

#### Museum and Interpretation.

Considerable museum space is and will be needed at Wroxeter to exhibit finds made there, to put them and the site in their proper context and to explain the nature and means of excavation. The present small temporary building on site, which is expected to have a further life of at least 15 years, is capable of enlargement, although this may not be desirable on planning, archaeological or other grounds, but during its life it will play a full role in the interpretation of the city. A group of farm buildings opposite the present museum building could be adapted to provide new galleries and a study and training centre, and possibly the transfer of the whole of the Wroxeter collection, now in Shrewsbury, to a Museum in these buildings. The existing museum building could then be devoted to the display of plans, models and other interpretative materials. The Department will encourage excavation teams working in the city to provide appropriate information about their activities in order to relieve pressure on the present museum, and it is proposed that other interpretative material will be provided in connection with the proposed perimeter footpath.

### Amenities

Present public amenities are basic and just about adequate for the present number of visitors but will need to be improved and extended as development proceeds, possibly in farm buildings if they were to be developed as a museum &c. Alternatively the suggested diversion of the main road might enable a comprehensive amenity area comprising car parks, toilets, restaurants, lecture rooms, working areas, &c. to be provided at the western entrance of the city. However, these proposals must depend on limitations of foundation and drainage imposed by the sensitive nature of the site.

### IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM

The outstanding event of the summer of 1976 at Ironbridge has been the opening of the Coalport Chinaworks Museum. The engineering firm which formerly occupied the western end of the former chinaworks has moved to other premises, and the area which they used, which probably includes all of the oldest parts of the chinaworks has been made available to the Museum. The visitor enters the new Museum through a highly imaginative display illustrating the variety of techniques in the ceramic industry. He then proceeds through a series of restored workshops in which he can see how the various techniques were actually practised. The next display sets out the history of the Coalport works, and beyond it is a small auditorium where a sequence of slides may be seen, accompanied by a taped commentary provided by a former employee of the works. Members of the Friends of the Museum have made contact with many former employees, some of whom have visited the site in recent months, and another feature of this part of the display is a range of photographs of chinamakers and former chinamakers. The next stage of the itinerary is the pièce de resistance, a dazzling display of the products of Coalport in one of the bottle ovens. This is a triumph of museum design, beautifully executed by the Museum's craftsmen, and is a fitting setting for some of the most splendid works of art ever conceived in Shropshire. From the kiln the visitor can go to a sagger maker's shop, and then to a most interesting 'archaeological room', where he can see trenches dug during excavations in 1975, and some of the finds which came from them. He may then tour a further range of ovens, kilns and workshops, which have been consolidated but not restored, and the visit concludes in a well-stocked sales area, where literature and a range of modern products of the Coalport Company may be purchased. The Coalport Chinaworks Museum is open throughout normal Museum hours: 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. in summer, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. in winter, every day of the week.

### SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

1977 will be the centenary year of the Shropshire Archaeological Society, and the committee are planning to mark the occasion in a variety of ways. A range of publications is planned which will bring the Transactions series up to date. A particularly appropriate item will be a comprehensive account of the career of the Shrewsbury architect Thomas Farnolls Pritchard, the bicentenary of whose death falls in 1977. In addition to the normal summer and winter programmes, there will be a special centenary lecture meeting, and a centenary excursion. Full details will be announced in the next Newsletter.

### RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

The overall archaeological picture of a county as large as Shropshire ultimately depends on the corporate work of local archaeologists and interested individuals, bringing their finds to the attention of a central body such as the Archaeological Society. The archaeology of Shropshire is far more than just

the spectacular and glamorous excavations. Much of the bread-and-butter work of archaeology is produced by those prepared to walk the fields, particularly after ploughing, travel about with their eyes open, fly aerial sorties over both well-traversed areas of the county and virgin territory (large tracts of Shropshire have still not been flown over in the search for archaeological sites), and through hearsay bring to light artefacts which may have resided in people's homes for many years without record. As excavation without publication is no excavation at all, so no archaeological discovery exists until it is reported and brought to general notice. The News Sheet is the ideal medium for the first mention of any new find, and I am grateful to a number of correspondents, who have drawn my attention to their work, and whose results are reported here for the first time. It is hoped that this article will encourage others to undertake similar work and also perhaps report on objects, which may have been sitting at their own home for some time and are otherwise unrecognised. Now that the county has a Sites and Monuments record being prepared by Ian Burrow, WEMRAC Field Officer, all such finds automatically are passed to a permanent official record.

Finds in the field constitute a major area of discovery and often for the first time record human settlement in a region previously devoid of any evidence of ancient occupation. The most important find in this direction was made by Mr C. Rasdall, of the Albrighton and District Historical Society, in the Boningale area in 1973. Not only did he find two Romano-British settlement sites, evidenced by pottery scatters, and a number of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint tools as well as Iron Age pottery (still a rare commodity in Shropshire), but also revealed one of the first concentrated Mesolithic working areas in Shropshire from a site which has produced up to a thousand pieces of flint from an industry on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border. The importance of this discovery lies in the fact that up to very recently there was no real evidence of human activity in Shropshire before the Neolithic. These sites, which will be fully reported in a forthcoming part of the Transactions, are all within a mile of each other in the parish of Boningale, which hitherto had been a complete blank on archaeological maps.

Unusual weather can produce new sites. The extensive gales of last January caused a number of trees at the foot of the Wrekin to fall, and in the revealed earth around the base of one tree (Grid Reference: SJ 63600913) a number of sherds constituting the majority of a 2nd century grey-ware Romano-British cooking pot were collected by a local forester and reported to Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury. Mr W.E. Jenks subsequently visited the site and found that the ground had been extensively disturbed and no other objects were present; it seems that the pottery had been carried down from a higher site and may represent a burial in the area, if the pot was in a complete state at the time of deposition.

For all the problems the drought may have caused to others this summer, parch-marks produced by the lack of moisture over buried masonry foundations have produced some phenomenal results. Although neither site can be considered a new discovery in any sense, Wroxeter and Wenlock Priory revealed astonishing markings of buried buildings visible at ground level. It was possible to walk down city streets and through the corridors and rooms of large houses in the field immediately to the south of the Baths at Wroxeter in August, as if a vast plan had been laid on the ground. At Wenlock broad yellow lines of parching of the grass within the existing 13th

century priory building showed up clearly the plans of St. Milburga's original 7th century abbey and its 11th century successor, generally now attributed to Leofric; in the latter case the apsidal east end and a long stretch of the south wall, hitherto unknown, were most prominent.

Mr G.T. Davies, of Moat Hall Farm, Hanwood, for the first time in living memory ploughed the field known as Weir Meadow, which is adjacent to the field containing the Roman building known as "Whitley Chapel". Removal of the turf revealed a large circular area of jet-black soil associated with slag and other traces of burning surrounded by a large scatter of building material suggesting two or three buildings on the site. Pieces of recognisably Roman tile and a few sherds of Roman pottery were associated with the presumed buildings, and excavations are currently in progress to attempt to evaluate the date and nature of a site which from documentary sources appears to have been under permanent pasture for at least two or three hundred years.

It might be thought that we at least know all the extant sites in Shropshire, but Mr C. Musson's discovery, of another hill-fort in the county at Colstey Bank, between Bishop's Castle and Clun, goes to show that there is more to come of even our most substantial antiquities. In this case the site might have continued for years to be unrecognised had it not been for forest clearance on the site.

Although much of the area of the Roman military sites at Red Hill, Oakengates, has been swallowed up by the reservoir for Telford New Town, it is clear that extensive Roman occupation of this general area and the adjacent civil settlement of Uxacona can still be traced by intelligent field walking. Reports are at hand from Mr D.B. Corby and Mr L.E. Elwell of separate work carried out in 1972-4. The former covered fields on both sides of the A5: to the north a possible road surface was found together with a large quantity of Romano-British pottery including a stamped mortarium of the potter SECONDUS, of the Flavian period. South of road was seen an upstanding bank and a large collection of coarse and Samian pottery. Mr Elwell found north of the A5 evidence for iron-smelting, concentrated areas of pottery and bone, and small finds including part of a brooch and the bronze edging of a knife handle. It is intended to make a fuller report of all these finds in a future volume of the Transactions.

Mr W.J. Palmer, of the Kidderminster Archaeological Society, reported on field walking on the possible line of a Roman road between Greensforge and Wall Town forts in 1974. Discoveries of apparently otherwise unrecorded sites included a possible series of fish-ponds at SO 787835, a nearby ploughed-out moated site, and a destroyed chapel at Pomsley (SO 785829). A subsequent excavation of this latter site, situated in a small paddock known as the "Chapel Yard", undertaken by Mr E. Tipler in 1975 revealed medieval floor and roof tiles, worked stone, and pottery from the medieval to 19th centuries.

A remarkable re-discovery concerns the Roman villa at Lea Cross, Pontesbury. Mrs Radcliffe Evans drew my attention to a silver denarius which was found just after the war together with some tesserae in the hedge of the field immediately above the excavated site. This had remained for some years in her possession until the recent excavations of the site prompted her to produce it for identification. The

full description of the coin, as identified by the British Museum is:-

Obverse : Head of young Jupiter.

Reverse : Jupiter and quadriga (Legend GAR OGV VER)

Fully interpreted, the coin was issued by the moneyers Gargilius, Ogulinus and Vergilius at the Rome mint c. 84 BC. Assuming that the coin is not an intrusion, it is thus astonishingly early for the site which has otherwise produced nothing before the mid-2nd century AD. Republican silver coins were frequently in circulation with the Roman army in the 1st century AD; on present evidence one cannot claim earlier settlement at Lea Cross before the Hadrianic period and the coin may then represent an unusual survival in Roman times.

A number of aerial reconnaissances have as usual been made over Shropshire during the season. But it must be admitted by all who flew that a golden opportunity was missed in this remarkable summer; judging by later reports from other parts of the country, the dry summer was in many regions producing spectacular cropmarks, but the drought had also the effect of accelerating crop growth. Consequently, by the time flights were made in Shropshire in mid-July, normally the optimum time for crop mark differentials, crops were already advanced to maturity and earlier marks had vanished. However, the season was not without its results: James Pickering, whose recent article in the "Sunday Times" many will have seen, reports on his flight of July 6th -- "A few sites were recorded around Worcester and at Bridgnorth, but the best area in a long day's flying was around Ludlow. Wenlock Edge produced a number of new sites and the Roman fortlet with annexe was recorded at Drayton Lodge (north of Shifnal) in good detail." Arnold Baker reports on his flight over the West Midlands on 16th July -- "...The response in pasture remains where the effects of drought were well established, showing road systems and farm enclosures. Pasture at Wroxeter is showing buildings and roads reasonably well and the site appears to recover fairly quickly after rain, but this area has always been exceptional in this respect."

Chris Musson and Geoffrey Toms on 20th July covered a general area including the Breidden region, SW Shropshire, NW Herefordshire and the Rea valley. Most crop mark sites had disappeared with the exception of some interesting enclosures in the Long Mountain area. However, the Roman fort at Forden Gaer was showing exceptional detail with much of the street plan inside the fort together with some buildings, and the road running from the south-western gate of the fort through the extra-mural settlement to the Severn crossing was clearly seen. The preserved stretch of Roman road on the hill above Marshbrook, north of Craven Arms, showed up dramatically with its parched agger and deep green side ditches. Cover of the Lea Cross area brought two unexpected discoveries -- two circles, probably ditches of Bronze Age round barrows, at SJ 422086, 500 metres north-east of the Roman "villa", and an apparent Roman road seen as a parch mark in five consecutive fields immediately west of Lea hamlet running in a north-south direction towards Pontesford.

A number of important excavations have taken place during the season at Whittington Castle, Haughmond Abbey, Tong Castle, Hen Domen, three separate sites at Wroxeter, and Whitley. Fuller details will be given in our next News Sheet, but mention should be made now of the rediscovery of the early

12th century church at Haughmond, medieval structures and occupation at Tong together with the 18th century stables, the legionary fortress rampart and interval tower at Wroxeter and a late stake-hole building on the Baths Basilica site also at Wroxeter, as the outstanding discoveries this year. Visits were arranged to all these sites, but very few members took the opportunity provided; surely one of the most important excavations in Western Europe can attract more than four members of our Society to visit it, when the general public come in their hundreds?

GEOFFREY TOMS.

**WEST MIDLANDS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
NEWS SHEET No. 18**

The current number of West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet contains a large number of reports on Shropshire archaeology, most of which have not as yet been published elsewhere. The following list gives the contents relevant to our county. Copies 50 pence (plus 11 pence postage), can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 29 Mount Street, Shrewsbury.

Pages 14-15. Fieldwork on the proposed Bridgnorth by-pass route. Various finds of medieval pottery and field systems. Pan Pudding Hill. The Severn river bank. (Stour and Smethstow Archaeological Research Group).

Page 15. Research and fieldwork by the Prehistoric Research Group of the Society. (W.E.Jenks)

Page 42. Excavations on the Baths Basilica at Wroxeter, 1975. (P.A.Barker)

Pages 42-43. Excavations on the Eastern Defences, Wroxeter, 1975. (J.S.Johnson)

Page 43. A Roman Fort at Duncot, north of Wroxeter. (A.W.J.Houghton)

Pages 44-46. The Watling Street, near Wroxeter. (A.W.J.Houghton)

Page 71. A possible abandoned church site, Romsley, near Bridgnorth. (E.Tipler)

Page 76. Shrewsbury Buildings 1975. (P.J.Clarke)

Page 81. Haughmond Abbey, Uffington. (J.J.West)

Page 81. Sutton Lane, Shrewsbury. (A.Wharton)

Pages 80-81. Sutton Mill, Sutton Lane, Shrewsbury. (A.Wharton)

Page 81. Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. (A.Wharton)

Page 81. Car Park Site, 14 Castle Street, Ludlow. (M.Wise)

Other publications on Shropshire Archaeology

Antiquaries Journal. Volume 54 (1974) -- "Three plumbatae from Wroxeter" -- J.Musty and P.A.Barker.

Britannia. Volume 6 (1975), pages 106-117. "Excavations at the Baths Basilica at Wroxeter 1966-74: interim report" -- P.A.Barker.

**TRANSACTIONS  
WANTED**

Transactions Volume 59, Part 1. The Society has an urgent need to replenish its stocks of this part of the Transactions.

About 10 copies are required and the Society is offering to repurchase these copies from members, who may have no further use for their own copies. If you would be prepared to return your copy, it will be purchased by the Society at the annual subscription cost, namely £2.10 per copy. Please contact the Hon. Secretary, 29 Mount Street, Shrewsbury SY3 8QH.



HERALDRY

Our member, Mr W.A. Peplow, is undertaking a check of all the hatchments in churches in Shropshire, and is appealing for help with this survey from all who have an interest in heraldry or churches in general. There is a particular opportunity here for members to offer their experience with their own local churches, and all who would like to know more about how they can help with part of this survey are asked to contact Mr Peplow at Wych Garth, 16 Dingle Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge, Worcestershire, DY9 ORS.

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Apart from visits to excavations mentioned earlier, the summer programme drew a most encouraging response from members. The season began with an open archaeology day in April at Shrewsbury, which combined lectures on current work by a number of speakers and an exhibition of finds and aerial photographs, and which was attended during the day by more than a hundred people. The Annual General Meeting at which our Vice President, Dame Kathleen Kenyon, gave a memorable talk on her excavations at Jericho was the best attended for a number of years. Visits to Wall, the Lunt and Kenilworth (under Geoffrey Toms), houses and churches in Corvedale (under Roy Beard) and vernacular architecture in the Market Drayton area (under Madge Moran) attracted an average of 30 participants, and 14 travelled to York for an excellent weekend led by John Salmon. The continuing success of our field visits over a number of years has been primarily due to the excellent and most patient work of our Field Meetings Secretary, Mrs C.A. Peele. She is retiring from this position at the end of the season, and we all give her our warmest thanks for all her meticulous organisation behind the scenes. Quite simply without her this important side of the Society's programme just would not have taken place, and her successor will have a challenging example to follow. The Secretary would be grateful to hear from anyone willing to undertake the work.

The Society also provided a fortnight's exhibition on behalf of Shrewsbury Civic Society in Bear Steps Hall, Shrewsbury, in August on the theme of "Archaeology in the Landscape". A large number of appreciative visitors to the county as well as local residents saw this exhibition, which was incidentally excellent publicity for the Society. The only worrying note was that appeals for assistance to man this exhibition for short periods met with a nil response apart from one new member who lives outside the county. Surely our membership can be more active than this?

TREASURE HUNTING

At the risk of starting up again a heated discussion which eventually found its way into the exalted columns of "The Times" last time, members might like to note that the first suspended prison sentence has recently been passed on a metal-detector "treasure-hunter" in Lincolnshire, who concealed the discovery of a hoard of Roman coins from the rightful owner, the landowner. One can only reiterate that metal-dectors are archaeologically destructive, and unless they are under rigid expert archaeological control, only serve to swell the pockets of the operator at the cost of permanent archaeological loss. Even on excavations hard graft with the trowel still remains by far the most effective way of recording the presence of metal artefacts correctly.

RESCUE PUBLICATIONS

Many of all ages constantly ask what steps they can take to make archaeology their career or what areas of archaeology they can follow, while remaining "amateurs". The recent publication Opportunities for Archaeologists, by J. Bishop, answers many of

these questions; it describes the way in which the current structure for British Archaeology has grown up and gives an account of the options open to those interested in furthering their archaeological commitment. The Appendices contain useful lists of addresses for contacting archaeological centres throughout the country. 52 pages. 90 pence plus 12 pence postage.

No excavation is complete until it is adequately published. Production costs make an economical and adequate report all the more essential, and The Written Record on Archaeological Excavations, by S. Hirst, contains an up to date account of the best methods of presentation. This booklet is a "must" for all excavation directors and supervisors, as well as for those working on digs and are aiming towards the end product. Approx. 36 pages. 90 pence plus 12 pence postage.

RESCUE and CBA are jointly publishing a new venture, which covers a field of increasing popularity, the recording of local history through tombstones and memorials. The contents of How to record graveyards, by Jeremy Jones, cannot be better summarised than by quoting Rescue's publicity:

Here Lyeth was an individual  
a decaying body of historical evidence  
that should be recorded before it crumbles  
into dust or is destroyed by the work of  
vandals and vandals  
Stand still reader, and let fall a tear  
For the facts engraved here  
And then make haste, transcribe these lines  
Learn while ye may the meaning of these signs.  
Preserve these stones, avert the crime  
Snatch history from the hands of time.

These publications can be obtained from: RESCUE, 15a Bull Plain, Hertford, Herts.

**FURTHER  
READING**

Romano-British Coarse Pottery: A Student's Guide, by Dr. G. Webster. The first edition of Council for British Archaeology's Research Report No. 6 was a best-seller, and sold out rapidly on publication in 1964. A second edition appeared in 1969 and sold out just as quickly. This third edition has involved very substantial revision and addition in the light of the considerable work done in the field of RB coarse pottery studies since 1969. Copies at £1.25 can be obtained from CBA, 7 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HA.

The Victorian Society is producing two new occasional papers. The Future of the Past examines the history of attitudes towards preservation from Tudor times to the present day. Names such as Pevsner, Betjeman, Lancaster and Casson among the contributors ensure a happy blend of wit and learning. Pre-publication £4.50; after publication £7.50.

Seven Victorian Architects combines biography and architectural criticism; the architects dealt with are the Hardwicks, Burn, Smirke, Waterhouse, Pearson, Bodley and Lutyens. Pre-publication, £4.50; after publication, £7.50.

Both these Papers can be obtained from The Victorian Society, 11 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, London W4 1TT.

The Bedford Square Press of the National Council of Social Service has just published Building Stones of England and Wales, by Dr. Norman Davey. Copies of what will become the standard work on the subject can be ordered from the Press at 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU, price £1.00 plus 15 pence postage.

A monumental work has appeared, which is essential reading for all concerned with prehistory and especially the magnificent range of hill-forts in Shropshire. Although the price will inhibit most from purchase, it is likely to be available at libraries in Shropshire. Hillforts of the Iron Age in England and Wales, by J. Forde-Johnston, contains in a definitive study the first comprehensive survey of the surface evidence relating to some 1400 hillforts which are still to be seen in England and Wales today. An introduction to the subject is followed by a detailed geographical survey, which shows the range of positions in which individual hillforts are located. The central chapters describe the interiors, defences, layout, and entrances of the forts; and the third part of the work introduces a new typology on the basis of the evidence, and argues for a revision of the accepted chronology of hillfort construction. Price £25.00, published by Liverpool University Press, 123 Grove Street, Liverpool, L7 7AF.

'Local History and Folklore' is the title of a 40 page booklet newly issued by the standing Conference for Local History. Written by Charles Phythian Adams, the booklet is available at 85p a copy, plus 11p forwarding charge, from Research Publications Services Ltd., Victoria Hall, Fingal Street, East Greenwich, London SE10 0RF. The booklet traces the growth of the schism between folklorists and local historians in their approach to the evaluation of evidence about social customs. Much is now known by local historians about the topographical, economic, demographic, religious and social structural factors which characterised past communities, yet they have barely considered the relevance to social studies of what at first sight appear to have been superfluous and exotic social customs. Conversely, folklorists have until recently been preoccupied with the study of such observances in isolation from their immediate social context. Mr Phythian Adams outlines a number of popular beliefs and practices, involving fire, trees, Lords of Misrule and specific days of the year such as Plough Monday and May Day. He discusses the importance of the location of ritual observances, their calendrical timing, and the social positions of the participants, and concludes by posing a number of questions to which the reader may wish to address himself in the hope of gaining a greater appreciation of the historical contexts of certain customary social practices.

The Standing Conference has also produced a Directory giving the names, addresses, telephone numbers and short descriptions of national organisations which local historians may wish to consult. The organisations listed include the Baptist Historical Society, the Historical Manuscripts Commission,

the National Association of Local Councils, the Oral History Society, the Ordnance Survey and Rescue. The 'Directory of National Organisations' is available at 20p (including postage) from The Secretary, Standing Conference for Local History, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.

**FURTHER PUBLICATIONS**

The University of Southampton Department of Adult Education has produced a 'Catalogue of Films on Archaeology and Related Subjects'. It is 61 pages long and lists films available up to October 1975, with descriptions, mostly those provided by the distributors. Full details are given of distributors' addresses, and there is in addition a list of videotapes, and the main source of slides, tape-slide programmes, filmstrips &c. are included. The subject areas of the Catalogue are: Europe and the British Isles (Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval); The World; Archaeological Methods; Museums; Ancient Skills and Traditions; Classical Studies; Miscellaneous films of possible interest; Miscellaneous items. The Catalogue is available at 50p from The Staff Tutor in Archaeology, Department of Adult Education, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH.

'Planning and the Historic Environment' is the title of a collection of papers presented at a conference in Oxford in October 1975 which has been published by the Oxford University Department for External Studies. Contributors include Barry Cunliffe, Nicholas Thomas, Tom Hassall and Trevor Rowley. It can be obtained price £2.50 plus 30p postage from The Director, Oxford University Department for External Studies, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.

'The Mines of Shropshire' by Ivor Brown is the first of a series entitled 'Historical Industrial Scenes' and was published by the Moorland Publishing Company at £3.95 at the end of May. It has been warmly welcomed by everyone with an interest in the history of the county or in industrial history in general. In recent years historians have been paying increasing attention to visual evidence, not just for technological matters, for which its value is obvious, but for the investigation of many aspects of social history. People with an interest in the technology of mining, in steam engines, or in winding gear, will find much to interest them in this book, but there is also a great deal for those whose primary concerns are not with mining. The photograph of the employees of Preegweene Colliery in 1873 which shows young children; the view of Lord Forester's inspection of a foot-bridge at Benthall in 1916; the bicycle winder used on the Nabb during the 1912 coal strike, and the views of the Harris family pits in Old Park in the 1940s are important evidence of social as well as mining history. Ivor Brown's collection includes several of the well-known 18th and 19th century engravings of the Coalbrookdale area, and some, including the magnificent 'Parallel Section of Hadley Colliery' of 1812, which are published for the first time. The captions are lengthy and highly informative. This is no mere 'picture book' but a substantial and serious contribution to Shropshire history.

**HISTORY WEEKEND COURSES**

Weekend courses in history have for some years been a popular feature of the adult education programme in Shropshire. They give an opportunity for people from all parts of the county with interests in particular aspects of history to join together for one or two days' joint study. Often the tutors on these courses are distinguished historians from outside

the county. The first two weekends of the 1976-77 session are both concerned with the history of towns. On 15 and 16 October there will be a course on Bridgnorth for which Barrie Trinder will be tutor. On 6 and 7 November, Trevor Rowley of the University of Oxford, author of 'The Shropshire Landscape', will be the principal lecturer at the third annual study weekend in Ludlow. Both of these weekends will involve a good deal of outdoor work, in which the evidence of buildings and streets will be used to throw light on the history of the two towns. Many people interested in local history have used parish registers in their studies, and on Saturday 27 November there will be a day school in Shrewsbury in which the various ways in which they can be interpreted will be fully explored. The tutor will be Christopher Charlton of the University of Nottingham, who is a member of the editorial board of the journal 'Local Population Studies'.

A very successful day school on the history of farming in Shropshire was held in February this year, centred on the Acton Scott Farm Museum, and a sequel will take place on Saturday 26 March 1977. This course will be held at Harper Adams College, and will be concerned chiefly with the history of farming on the Weald Moors and the estates of the Dukes of Sutherland in that part of Shropshire. Tutors will be Dr. Peter Edwards of the Froebel College, and Dr. Ross Wordie of the University of Reading. A week later there will be an ambitious industrial archaeological study tour of Belgium for Shropshire students. It is hoped to visit the spectacular mining village of Le Grand Hornu, built in the classical style in the early 19th century by the architect Bruno Renard, the four canal lifts of c.1890 near La Louvière, the modern inclined plane on the Canal du Centre at Ronquières, and the open air museum at Bokrijk, one of the best of its kind in Europe. Finally, on Saturday 23 April, there will be a repeat of the very popular industrial archaeological study tour of Thomas Telford's Holyhead Road, first devised for the international Congress on Industrial Monuments, which met at Attingham Park in 1973.

Full details of the autumn courses are already available from libraries and information centres. Details of the later courses will be published during the autumn.

#### EVENING CLASSES

The following classes in historical and archaeological subjects have been arranged by the University of Birmingham Dept., of Extramural Studies and the Salop County Council Adult Education Tutors. Full details are now available at libraries and information centres.

Albrighton. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SHROPSHIRE: AN INTRODUCTION.

Geoffrey Toms, Thursdays, from 13 January 1977.

Alveley. LOCAL HISTORY: AN INTRODUCTION TO SOURCES AND METHODS.

Barrie Trinder, Tuesdays, from 21 September.

Bishop's Castle. HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP. James Lawson, Wednesdays, fortnightly, from 6 October.  
BISHOP'S CASTLE: A MARKET TOWN IN THE 19TH CENTURY. Barrie Trinder, afternoon school, Saturday 20 November.

LECTURE SERIES. Thursdays, from 24 February 1977.

Bridgnorth. AN INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY. Ian Burrow. Tuesdays from 28 September.

Church Stretton. THE CIVILISATION OF ANCIENT GREECE.

Geoffrey Toms. Mondays from 27 September.

LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY. Michael Wise.

Tuesdays from 28 September.

Clee St. Margaret. LOCAL HISTORY IN THE CLEE HILLS REGION.  
Barrie Trinder, Mondays, fortnightly,  
from 4 October.

Cleobury Mortimer. LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY OF S.E. SHROPSHIRE,  
D.J. Chapman, Wednesdays from 29 September.

Clun. OLD HOUSES IN SHROPSHIRE. Mrs M. Moran, Mondays from 4 Oct.

Ludlow. LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY. Michael Wise, Wednesdays from  
12 January 1977.

Newport. GEORGIAN HOUSES IN THE MIDLANDS. Robin Chaplin.  
Mondays from 4 October.

Oswestry. ROMAN SHROPSHIRE. Geoffrey Toms, Fridays from 1 Oct.

Shifnal. SOCIAL CHANGE AND CIVIL STRIFE IN SHROPSHIRE & THE  
WELSH BORDERLAND. Malcolm Wanklyn. Mondays from 27 Sept.

Whitchurch. EARLY MAN IN SHROPSHIRE. Geoffrey Toms. Tuesdays  
from 11 January 1977.

Shrewsbury. DISCOVERING 18TH CENTURY SHREWSBURY THROUGH RECORDS.  
Marion Halford. Tuesdays from 5 October.

THE ABBEY FOREGATE: AN HISTORICAL RESEARCH CLASS.  
A.M. Carr. Tuesdays from 11 January 1977.

VICTORIAN SHREWSBURY: A RESEARCH CLASS. Barrie  
Trinder, Wednesdays from 29 Sept. (Morning class)

GREEK AND ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY: THE ORIGINS OF THE  
WESTERN WORLD. Geoffrey Toms. Wednesdays from 29 Sept.

HISTORY OF SHREWSBURY. Barrie Trinder & others.  
Thursdays from 23 Sept. (Class already fully

booked for 1976-77).

PLACE NAMES OF SHROPSHIRE. Margaret Gelling.  
Saturdays, monthly, from 16 October.

Telford. HISTORY THROUGH LIVING MEMORY IN DAWLEY. Tuesdays,  
monthly from 5 October.

THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE TELFORD AREA: A RESEARCH CLASS  
(in Wellington) Barrie Trinder, Wednesdays from 29 Sept.

INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES: A STUDY IN SOCIAL HISTORY AND  
INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY. Barrie Trinder. Tuesdays from  
11 January 1977.

#### OXFORD RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

The following schools are organised by the Oxford University Dept.,  
for External Studies. Full details may be obtained from The  
Director, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.

ANGLO-SAXON SYMPOSIUM (on Church Architecture), 30-31 October  
1976, at Rewley House, Oxford.

A CONFERENCE on ROMAN ART (in honour of Professor Jocelyn Toynbee),  
19-21 November 1976 at Rewley House, Oxford.

MEDIEVAL INDUSTRY, 3-5 December 1976, at Missenden Abbey, Bucks.

PLANNING AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT, 9-14 January 1977, at  
Rewley House, Oxford.

ROMAN GEMSTONES AND FINGER RINGS: THEIR ARCHAEOLOGY, 19-20  
February 1977, at Rewley House, Oxford.

THE EARLY TOWNS OF MERCIA, 15-17 April 1977, at Rewley House,  
Oxford.

COINS AND ARCHAEOLOGY, 6-8 May 1977 at Rewley House, Oxford.

#### SALOP COUNTY LIBRARY LOCAL STUDIES SECTION

As many of our members will know, the County Library is vacating  
the former Shrewsbury School premises in Castle Gates, which are  
in urgent need of renewal. The Local Studies Section will be  
moving to St. Mary's Hall, and will be separated from the  
Shrewsbury lending library which will be going to a temporary  
building opposite the entrance to the Raven Meadows multi-storey  
car park. The move will take place during the autumn, and  
during the period of the move the collections will not be  
available to the public. Anyone intending to use the Library  
during September, October or November is recommended to ensure  
by telephone that the material required is likely to be avail-  
able. The repairs needed at Castle Gates are extensive and it  
will be some years before the Library re-occupies the premises.

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest

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CENTENARY  
YEAR  
PROGRAMME

Members will know already that 1977 is the Centenary Year of the Society. Apart from routine events of the summer, other special occasions have been particularly arranged to mark 100 years of the Society's active interest in the archaeology and local history of the county. The following is the complete list of organised events and members are asked to make a note of the dates now, as this list constitutes the Society's calendar to the end of October 1977. Details of the meeting of 7th May and the field meetings are enclosed with the News Sheet, and further details of the Annual General Meeting and the meetings of October 7th and 8th will be sent at the end of May.

Saturday May 7th Regional Conference of Council for British Archaeology (Group 8 - West Midlands) on "Industrial Archaeology in Shropshire". Various speakers. Meeting at Madeley Court Centre at 2.15 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Tea available. Prior booking on the enclosed sheet is essential.

CBA (Group 8) have invited our Society to host and promote this meeting, which is open to all members of the public and attracts members of the other constituent archaeological societies of the region. The last annual regional conference to be held in Shropshire was in 1972 when the theme was recent work in Shropshire archaeology from the prehistoric to the medieval period. In view of Shropshire's special position in the field of industrial archaeology and the Centenary of our Society, CBA (Group 8) thus wished the 1977 meeting to be again in Shropshire. The meeting will be jointly run with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, and displays of recent work will be on view.

Saturday May 14th FIELD MEETING. (Leader: Geoffrey Toms)  
Hawcock's Mount, Caus Castle, Westbury, the Long Mountain and Beacon Ring. This meeting will visit some of the most spectacular, but comparatively little-known archaeological sites of West Shropshire, representative of most major periods. On the Long Mountain we will see the Bronze Age ridgeway track and its contemporary burial mounds, and the Iron Age fort of Beacon Ring. The early medieval earthen castle of Hawcock's Mount lies on the Roman road from Westbury to Forden Gaer and was superseded by the massive and exciting earthworks of Caus Castle, a deserted medieval town with traces of its stone walling surviving.

Saturday June 18th. THE CENTENARY FIELD MEETING.

(Leader: James Lawson). Hawkstone Park and Bury Walls.

"The remarkable house....and the even more remarkable park." Thus Sir Nikolaus Pevsner describes one of the finest 18th century houses of Shropshire, built for the senior branch of the Hill family. Not only does the house contain very impressive state rooms, but the landscaped park is one of the most original and imaginative of its type in this region, and we shall spend much of the day exploring the follies, the grottoes and the other buildings which the "improver" added to the dramatic grandeur of Hawkstone Hill. The day will end with a visit to the nearby Iron Age fort of Bury Walls.

Saturday June 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CENTENARY LECTURE.  
Meeting at Colloge Hill House, Shrewsbury, in the Walker Room at 2.30 p.m. The Centenary Lecture will be given by Peter Fowler, M.A., F.S.A., on ARCHAEOLOGY - THE NEXT CENTURY.

Peter Fowler is Reader in Archaeology in the Department of Extramural Studies at the University of Bristol, and is nationally known for his publications and broadcasts. He has been closely involved with county archaeological societies, and is an ideal speaker for this centenary meeting of a society concerned with the "grass roots" of archaeology.

Saturday July 9th FIELD MEETING. (Leader: Barrie Trinder)  
Llanymynech Hill. This is one of the most interesting areas in the Borderland for the study of landscape history. Its features include a Roman copper mine, Offa's Dyke, varied patterns of enclosure and settlements, spectacular limestone quarries, and a profusion of fascinating railway and canal remains.

Sunday August 14th. Visit to the excavations at WROXETER Roman City. The annual visit to see the work being carried out at Wroxeter. All those wishing to be shown around the site should meet at the site at 2.30 p.m. Prior booking is not necessary.

Saturday September 10th. FIELD MEETING. (Various leaders)  
Houses of South Shropshire. Three widely differing and important houses will be visited on this day. We shall see Longnor Hall, perhaps the finest 17th century house in the county, first built for the Corbet family, and recently brought to a full state of restoration by Major and Mrs N. Lawson, by whose permission we make this visit. The house is notable for its fine interior woodwork and staircase.

Lunch will be taken at Stokesay Castle, famous throughout the country as a pure survival of a 13th century fortified manor house, and the visit will particularly concentrate on the architectural and archaeological evidence for the various stages of the structure.

In the afternoon we will visit Oakly Park, the residence of Viscount and Lady Plymouth, who have kindly agreed to open the house for our visit. Oakly Park is predominantly a house of the 18th and early 19th century with much interesting interior work by the celebrated traveller and archaeologist, C.R. Cockerell, whose experience of Greece strongly influenced his design.

The field visit will end at Ludlow.

Friday October 7th THE CENTENARY RECEPTION

The official centenary of the Society will be celebrated this evening at The Shirehall, Shrewsbury, and in the Council Chamber, when there will be a reception and a lecture by the Chairman of the Society, JAMES LAWSON, on "One Hundred Years of the Shropshire Archaeological Society". Full details will be circulated to members at a later date.

Saturday October 8th DAY SCHOOL ON WROXETER

The evening of the centenary reception will be followed by a Day School led by the Society's President, Dr. Graham Webster, and Philip Barker on the current state of knowledge of Wroxeter Roman City. The Society has been practically and intimately connected with the most important archaeological site in the county throughout its history and this Day School is being held as the most appropriate example of one hundred years' research in one aspect of Shropshire archaeology. The meeting will be held at College Hill House, Shrewsbury, and full details will be published later.

Exhibitions. The Society will be mounting two exhibitions in connection with the Centenary Year, at the Wellington Branch of the Shropshire County Library during the spring, and at the Bishop's Castle Show on Saturday, July 16th. There will also be exhibitions of sites excavated by the Society at various times in the summer months in Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury.



SUMMER  
PROGRAMME  
OF  
EXCAVATIONS

Volunteers are needed for all of the following excavations which are due to take place in the county in coming months. Anyone interested should make application to the appropriate director, who will give details of dates and requirements.

WROXETER. a) Baths Basilica. August.  
Director: P.A.Barker MA., FSA., 4 St. George's Square, Worcester.

b) The Market Hall. August.  
Director: Dr. G.Webster, FSA., Dept. of Extramural Studies, The University, P.O.Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

c) Wroxeter Fort. Saturdays through the season.  
Director: Dr. A.W.J.Houghton, FSA., Oakwood, Pulverbatch, S'bury.

TONG CASTLE. Weekends throughout the season to the end of August.  
Director: Alan Wharton, Rowley's Mansion, Shrewsbury.

RHYN PARK, ST. MARTIN'S. Roman campaign base. Season commencing 14th August. Director: Professor Barri Jones, FSA., Dept. of Archaeology, The University, Manchester M13 9PL.

BRIDGNORTH. Dates to be arranged. Director: Martin Carver, WEMRAC, 25a The Tything, Worcester.

WHITCHURCH. Late July to late August. Director: Geoffrey Toms, 29 Mount Street, Shrewsbury.

ROMAN  
MILITARY  
SITES IN  
SHROPSHIRE

One of the most striking advances in the knowledge of the archaeology of the county in the last 25 years has been in the field of Roman military sites. Prior to the campaign of aerial photography, which has revealed so many other sites for the first time, only one such site was known, the fort at Wall Town Farm, near Cleobury Mortimer, whose defences still survive. Even the legionary fortress at Wroxeter was only presumed to exist on the basis of the mid-18th century discovery of inscribed tombstones, now in Rowley's House Museum. To date, we now know of 30 sites, and there is good circumstantial (though as yet unproved) evidence for another 4 or 5. The latest published map (already inevitably, partly out of date) of the known sites appears in Graham Webster's The Cornovii, page 30.

The now famous droughts of 1975 and 1976 created optimum crop mark conditions for hundreds of new sites to be found throughout Britain, and it is a great fillip to Shropshire archaeology that for the second year running Antiquity (March 1977) should have published a Shropshire site out of all the others for prime mention as a site of national importance. The particular site is at Rhyn Park, near Chirk, (Grid reference: SJ 305370) where Professors J.K.St.Joseph and Barri Jones discovered a series of Roman military works, which throw light on the historical records of Roman military advances into North Wales in the first century AD. The main site is a massive 19 hectares (45 acres) double-ditched temporary legionary fortress or marching camp, enough to house most of the legion on campaign, and this overlies another temporary fort or marching camp at least 6 hectares (14 acres) in area, which itself could have housed a sizeable detachment of a legion. The smaller fort has overlapping entrances and the larger ones the titulus type of entrance, which consists of a traversing ditch masking the entrance. The sites have had intensive coverage in the national press and photographs and descriptions of the forts have appeared in The Times (22.10.76), The Sunday Times (24.10.76) and the Illustrated London News (February 1977).

Another new site of similar proportions is the marching camp, discovered at Uffington (Grid reference: SJ 523129) in 1975, where a single-ditched camp of 20 hectares (50 acres) overlies another marching camp, one side of which is 320 metres long. Thus we have two more marching camps in the general area of Wroxeter, which has already displayed much evidence of extensive military activity.

James Pickering also discovered that year a 2 acre triple-ditched site at Drayton Lodge, Shifnal (Grid reference: SJ 761096), which is a size suitable for a small auxiliary regiment in a fortlet.

Excavations at Wroxeter on the site of the Public Baths and Macellum (Market Hall) over recent years by Graham Webster have now firmly established not only the concentrated plan of timber barrack buildings of the legionary fortress, but also the western rampart with its interlaced timber base and turf construction with an interval tower and cookhouse-type buildings on the tail of the rampart. The excavations of 1976 also revealed the metalled surface of the intervallum road, and it is now clear that the fortress of the Fourteenth Legion now lies completely to the east of the main street running through the Roman city.

The pattern of military activity in Shropshire for the first century AD is now becoming clear. From about 50 AD the Fourteenth Legion with its attendant auxiliary cohorts arrived in the area of the Middle Severn for campaigns against the Cornovii, based on the hill-forts in Shropshire, and then further into Central and North Wales. The evidence for the army on the move rests with the temporary "marching-camps", large demarcated areas where the army would be in tented accommodation. In the majority of the marching-camp areas a more permanent fort of 4 to 8 acres would be established as a form of police-post, where a cohort detachment of usually 500 men in an auxiliary regiment, or occasionally a small detachment of the legion, would be on permanent duty. The legion itself received its permanent garrison fortress c.57 AD by the banks of the Severn at Wroxeter, where it and its successors would be accommodated, until the garrison was moved lock, stock and barrel to Chester in the late 80s.

A brief list of the currently known sites is now offered, and it is hoped to publish the full details of each site in a forthcoming part of the Transactions. The sites are arranged in geographical groupings.

1. BURLINGTON, SHIFNAL. SJ 779109. Marching camp with a smaller second camp within.
2. DRAYTON LODGE, SHIFNAL. SJ 761096. Fortlet.
3. RED HILL, OAKENGATES. SJ 725112. Fort and signal station?
4. WROXETER. SJ 563095. Marching camp astride A 5.
5. WROXETER. SJ 571099. Marching camp on Atcham airfield.
6. COUND. SJ 562050. Marching camp.
7. UFFINGTON. SJ 523129. Marching camp.
8. UFFINGTON. SJ 523129. Second marching camp overlapping site 7.
9. WROXETER. SJ 563076. Fort south of the city.
10. DUNCOT, WROXETER. SJ 576117. Fort.
11. WROXETER. SJ 565087. Legionary fortress under the city.
12. WROXETER. SJ 563088. Fort north of the Forum area.
13. EATON CONSTANTINE. SJ 599053. Large fort.
14. EATON CONSTANTINE. SJ 596052. Marching camp.
15. EATON CONSTANTINE. SJ 596052. Second marching camp superimposed on site 14.
16. WALL TOWN, CLEOBURY MORTIMER. SO 693783. Fort replaced by second smaller one.
17. BROMFIELD. SO 483775. Marching camp.
18. AFFCOT, WISTANSTOW. SO 444864. Marching camp.
19. WISTANSTOW. SO 430837. Marching camp.
20. STREETFORD BRIDGE, WISTANSTOW. SO 429842. Marching camp.
21. WISTANSTOW. SO 428847. Fort.
22. BICTON, CLUN. SO 292825. Fort.

23. BROMPTON. SO 249935. Marching camp.
24. BROMPTON. SO 249935. Marching camp superimposed on site 23.
25. BROMPTON. SO 249935. Marching camp superimposed on sites 23 and 24.
26. BROMPTON. SO 245931. Fort.
27. PERRY FARM, WHITTINGTON. SJ 351304. Marching camp.
28. RHYN PARK, ST. MARTINS. SJ 305369. Legionary fort or marching camp.
29. RHYN PARK, ST. MARTINS. SJ 305369. Fort or marching camp partly overlain by site 28.
30. WHITCHURCH. SJ 541416. Fort under the Roman town.

Geoffrey Toms.

STOP PRESS.

Since the above note was compiled road widening works at Yardington, WHITCHURCH in early March 1977 have revealed full and dramatic evidence of the early history of the town. A crash salvage operation over a weekend undertaken by Professor Barri Jones took place on the area bounded by Yardington and the High Street opposite St. Alkmund's Church, where 18th and 19th century houses had previously stood, and where Roman levels with no apparent intervening medieval phase were preserved beneath the structures and yards of the former houses. The Roman occupation, which had been revealed by the bull-dozer, is very tentatively interpreted at present as follows:-

1. Fort with turf rampart and outer ditch backfilled with turves, parallel to Yardington.
2. Butt-ended ditch inside the ditch of phase 1 and cut into the rampart.
3. Two or three ditches with parallel gullies of a second fort aligned along the High Street.
4. Corner of stone building aligned on the two streets.
5. Stone and clay wall with facing blocks rubbed away overlying all the previous features and parallel to Yardington. This is at present interpreted as a defensive wall to the town and may possibly be of the late Roman period.

More detailed chronological interpretations of the site will be possible when the considerable amount of stratified pottery is analysed.

THE  
RIVER  
SEVERN  
AT  
WROXETER

The great drought which gave good crop marks for flying archaeologists also gave low water levels in the Severn which helped others obtain a better understanding of some earlier research.

In 1926-1927, the late J.A. Morris excavated at Wroxeter in search of the Roman road at the river crossing (TSAS 11, 1926-7, 304). On the Brompton side he found that the road stopped several metres short of the river bank, which was made up of deposits of fresh silt, a pattern which has since been confirmed by Dr. Houghton. On the Wroxeter side he found a similar situation whereby recent silt deposits lay between the end of the road and the present river bank.

Our present studies of the river can explain this unusual situation as being produced by downstream movement of the patterns of erosion and deposition in the river channel: upstream, the head of the island is being worn back and the angle of the bend is becoming sharper and in step with this the ford has moved downstream of the original Roman crossing. At this point, the river is now deeper and has made itself narrower by deposition on BOTH banks (i.e. the area of the channel cross-section has maintained a constant value). Studies of the tithe map and old OS maps show that the bulk of these changes have actually taken place

during the last hundred and fifty years, so that much of the recent silt is not just post-Roman, but also post-eighteenth century. Dr. Houghton has already confirmed this by excavation on the Brompton side.

Under this silt on the Wroxeter side, Morris found a bed of 'concrete' (hard packed river gravel?) upon which lay a tumble of Roman masonry surrounded by oak piles. All this he interpreted as the remains of bridge piers. Now, studies in the adjacent river bed, first by R.A.F. Tern Hill Subaqua Club and currently by the Shrewsbury club have also found a line of old piles running diagonally across the near half of the river, exactly on the old road alignment. Erosion of the bed has already destroyed some parts of the line and the liberated piles include one rescued and stored in the Foyle hut at Wroxeter. Near the bank, the line runs towards a scatter of masonry blocks, while in the bank itself a bed of gravel outcrops at the present low water level, showing the original height of the ford before erosion had set in. The inter-relationship of these three elements is not very clear in the river channel, but their continuation under the adjacent bank would answer the description given by Morris.

The structure appears to have formed a fence which has since been pushed over by the force of water and so far there are two possible explanations:

The split channel and island pattern at Wroxeter is typical of a fish wier site (SNL 41, 1971) and one is recorded here in the sixteenth century. Camden (Britannica) also records that they found the remains of the Roman bridge while building the weir. A great flood of 1638 'brought down all the weirs on the Severn' and this could explain why there is no further record of this weir. The development of the river channel at Wroxeter and comparison with other sites (SNL 44, 1973) suggests that the original medieval weir should have been further upstream, but there is no reason why the sixteenth century rebuild should not have exploited the gravel banks at the ford. However, weir fences usually follow a zig-zag course to form a series of funnel shapes, but this one runs in a straight line exactly on the road alignment. Perhaps it was built, instead, to support a good road bed across the ford when the route was turnpiked in 1764. The route was subsequently declared useless in 1829 (VCH Salop viii 16) perhaps because of the difficulty of maintaining the crossing at a ford which the river was then beginning to erode.

The recent low clear water also allowed a more detailed plan to be made of the river bed a little further upstream, where other diving teams working in poor conditions had reported a pattern of stones, which had been interpreted as the foundations of a bridge (SNL 43, 1972). The new plan shows that no such interpretation is justified!

In view of this history of research, the present team will continue plotting features as accurately as the conditions will allow but will hesitate about jumping to rash conclusions about bridges!

David Pannet & Harry Purfit

WEMRAC IN  
SHROPSHIRE

The appointment of an archaeological field officer for Shropshire in December 1975 has added a new dimension to the role of archaeology in the county. The presence of an archaeologist in the County Planning Department will not of itself ensure that archaeological sites will be better protected, or even make certain that county council officers can be assisted to make use of the considerable powers available to build consideration of 'the historic environment' into planning procedures. There is still a long way to go, but archaeology is perhaps now a more commonly used word in the corridors of Shirehall than it was previously!

The chief purpose of the post has been to design and compile a comprehensive and detailed Sites and Monuments Record for the County. This Record is still at a very early stage of development, but even now includes over 1,300 items of all types and periods. The Record has been designed to resemble the records in other West Midlands counties, so that comparable information can be recorded regionally. Discussions are also being held to ensure an exchange of information between the Birmingham Computer Gazetteer and the Record. Where the Record will eventually be located is a matter for debate - clearly the County Museum Service has a powerful interest in it, both for the information it contains and for the educational role it can play. The Department of the Environment, who fund the Record, are, on the other hand, concerned that the County Planning Department should have rapid access to information on historic features, and some overall responsibility for dealing with these features as they may be affected by various land-use changes. There is no single solution to this problem, as it arises from the multi-purpose nature of a Sites and Monuments Record.

Although it will be some time before the Record has even a general overall cover of the known information from the County, enquiries may be made from it, and visits made by appointment to the Shirehall. The Record is in the Conservation Section, Planning Department, Shirehall, Shrewsbury (Tel: 222332). Anyone undertaking fieldwork or other archaeological work is urged to make information available to the Record. It will not be wasted, and will help us to understand and protect our vast archaeological heritage.

While this work of compilation is continuing, sites are being destroyed. The continual erosion of our hundreds of cropmark sites represents an appalling problem, which cannot effectively be dealt with by local government planning, or by the limited resources available from central government. Other areas hold more hope, however, The Forestry Commission are now very much aware of archaeological sites in their care, and work closely with planners on this matter. The new Iron Age enclosure at Colstey Bank, which was unwittingly to have been damaged in the making of a new car park and picnic area, is now protected, cleaned up, and is soon to have a descriptive noticeboard placed upon it. Mineral extraction too may be a problem which can be dealt with once the archaeological information can be made available.

A vast range of changes of land use now require planning permission. While we may rage at the bureaucracy this entails, it does provide an 'early warning' system when archaeological sites or features are likely to be affected, so that sites do not vanish beneath the bulldozer before the threats to them are known. To this end, the Planning Department have circulated the District Councils with sets of maps showing at least the most important sites, so that planning applications can be checked against them.

Essentially, however, these measures are only 'last ditch stands' - the real need is for overall policies for preservation and record so that the importance of the historic features is appreciated well in advance and incorporated in the various detailed local plans which are now beginning to be produced. These matters are for the County Council to decide, the chief role of the field officer is to ensure that they have the tools for the job.

As all members of the Society will know, the quantity of unrecorded material in our countryside is enormous. The role of the part-time archaeologist is crucial here, as the entire landscape needs detailed study in order to find and record new sites in every part of Shropshire before they vanish as if they had never been. The setting up of the Sites and Monuments Record provides a unique opportunity for ensuring that this information is recorded for all time, and that more of our vulnerable stock of important sites are saved for the future.

Ian Burrow.

WROXETER  
FEASIBILITY  
STUDY

The Society's views on the Department of the Environment Feasibility Study of Proposed Developments at Wroxeter were summarised in the last issue of the News Sheet. Anyone interested in seeing the full text of the Society's submissions to the Department on the subject should contact the Hon. Secretary, Geoffrey Toms, 29 Mount Street, Shrewsbury.

TONG CASTLE  
EXCAVATIONS  
1976

The site of the Tong Castle remains is to the west of the village of Tong on the route of the proposed M54 Motorway, which will destroy most of what remains. A survey and preliminary investigation showed the existence below the ground of buildings in front of the last castle building which was demolished in 1954. Excavations on the site with volunteer labour took place every weekend from May till October 1976. Periods of occupation from the 12th century to the 19th were revealed, though the earlier period has yet to be fully investigated.

The Earls of Mercia controlled Tong before the Norman Conquest after which it was conferred on Roger of Montgomery who was succeeded by his sons until they rebelled and were defeated. King Henry I then bestowed it to Richard Belmies, Bishop of London who was succeeded by his nephews, the last of whom, Phillip, was succeeded by his sons Phillip and Ranulf. Alice, their sister, married Alan la Zouche, who, in combination with the Belmeis family, controlled Tong Manor till the mid-13th century. The succession eventually passed to Alan la Zouche whose sister married William de Harcourt. The daughters of William de Harcourt succeeded to the title, and Orabel de Harcourt married Henry de Pembrugge of Hereford in the late 13th century. The Pembrugge family held the manor until the 15th century, when Elizabeth de Pembrugge, Lady of Tong, married Sir Richard Vernon of Haddon in Derbyshire. The Vernons held Tong until the late 16th century when the daughter of Sir George Vernon married Sir Thomas Stanley son of the Earl of Derby. Sir Edward Stanley succeeded to all the titles, and sold Tong Manor to Sir Thomas Harris, who was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth. She married the Hon. William Pierpoint of Thoresby, Notts., who was followed by his grandsons Robert, William and Gervase, all successively Earls of Kingston. The manor remained with the Pierpoints until the early 18th century when Evelyn, the last Earl of Kingston sold it to George Durrant who built the last castle of Tong. His castle was extended by his son George, in the 19th century. The manor was sold to the Earl of Bradford in 1855, and the castle was last inhabited before the 1914-18 war. It was demolished in 1954.

Excavations revealed the foundation of the north east tower of the castle which appears on an engraving of 1731. A section in the moat confirmed the use of the moat during the Vernon/Kingston period, after which it was filled by demolition of the old castle, and by builders' rubble from the Durrant building. Curtain wall foundations were traced to the south of the tower foundations,

and pottery found in the foundations dated from the 14th and 15th centuries. The foundations of a north-west tower from the 16th century Vernon castle were discovered, with evidence to show that it was demolished during the Civil War and subsequently rebuilt. Below the tower foundations and in the natural bedrock were beam slot cuttings suggesting an entirely different building during the Pembrugge period. During machine work, more of the curtain wall foundations were uncovered, and the gatehouse was exposed. Some work was done on a 12/13th century occupation area, and a domestic waste pit with 12th century pottery was investigated.

Further work at Tong will be carried out during 1977, and fuller reports of the 1976 excavations will appear elsewhere.

Alan Wharton

WROXETER  
1976

The heat and dryness of the summer added to the physical difficulties of the excavation, and at times it had an almost Near Eastern appearance, with a thick carpet of dusty sand, and the parched fields around. In spite of this good progress was made, but whereas at the end of 1975 we felt we understood the main military structures associated with the defences, another season's work has inevitably revealed complications which only a much larger area excavation can clarify. The position as now seen can be summarised chronologically as follows:-

- 1) There is now evidence from a ditch and other features of pre-legionary phases.
- 2) It now seems that there is only a one period rampart.
- 3) It is now possible to identify elements of what appears to be the early civil phases contemporary with the early baths below the forum on the other side of the street. It is evident that attempts were made to lay foundations of what may be the early civil phase immediately following the military withdrawal and demolition.
- 4) The next phase is the Hadrianic scheme for the insula contemporary with the Forum dated by its inscription. The south west corner had to be raised to allow for the floors to be level at the street front. There was a large scale re-building at the beginning of the fourth century when the other public buildings had gone out of use.
- 5) The excavation area of the main street portico has been extended to the south and more rubble platforms identified, but the pottery and coins do not add to the evidence. It has been a season mainly of drawing and interpretation, labour resources being inadequate for further serious work.

Graham Webster

SHACKERLEY  
MOUND  
SJ81100645

A ground contour survey was carried out during December 1976 and a trial excavation revealed a sandstone wall under the mound with material of the 13th and 14th centuries. Further investigations have located a large rectangular building immediately beneath the surface with soundings suggesting that the mound construction was the result of the building's demolition. Further work is continuing.

Alan Wharton

RESIGNATION  
OF EDITOR

Barrie Trinder will be resigning as Hon. Editor of the News Sheet as from the annual general meeting of the Archaeological Society in June.

WEIR  
MEADOW,  
WHITLEY,  
NEAR  
SHREWSBURY.  
SJ458097

The field immediately to the east of the Roman building known as "Whitley Chapel" (Grid. ref: SJ457097) was ploughed for the first time within recorded memory in May 1976. An area approximately 100 by 50 metres revealed on the surface very black soil associated with extensive Romano-British masonry, tile fragments, cobbles, clinker and a few sherds of Severn Valley Ware. The masonry elements on the surface were recognisable in straight stretches and appeared to represent demolished buildings which could be associated with Whitley Chapel. The site lies in a combe on a small plateau close to the south bank of the Rea Brook.

Excavations undertaken in September 1976 established that the Roman material, presumably from Whitley Chapel, was residual and was the filling of a series of early 19th century field drains, dated by two contemporary bricks; areas of dark soil were the result of waterlogging, and the clinker had been brought from the engine house of the 19th century Welbatch colliery, 800 metres to the south, to be the infill of a more recent pipe drain trench. Apart from one 14th century sherd, no artefacts or pottery were found earlier than the 17th century over the main area of about 300 square metres, except for a few scattered Roman-British sherds in topsoil.

Subsequent excavations 50 metres west of the main site and within 100 metres of Whitley Chapel revealed a surface of laid small stones and cobbles covering at least 35 square metres, in which were embedded more than 100 small sherds of late Romano-British pottery. The pottery was of two fabrics, Severn Valley Ware and a soft red ware. Another 19th century drain had cut through this surface and contained large fragments of Roman tile in its infilling. It is intended to continue the excavations of this area.

The site of Whitley Chapel (excavated in 1893 and briefly reported to be a building 12 by 10 metres) was exactly located by intensive surface investigation.

Geoffrey Toms

SHROPSHIRE  
INDUSTRIAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
FESTIVAL

Probably no county in Britain possesses such a wide range of industrial monuments of major importance as Shropshire. This summer the Shropshire adult education service is arranging an Industrial Archaeology Festival, which will be part of its summer walks programme. The Festival will last from 25 July to 6 August, and on every day of the fortnight there will be walks or other events somewhere in the county. Some will be in the Ironbridge Gorge, where they will supplement the facilities offered by the Museum. Others will be in less well known areas of industrial archaeological interest like the Cleve Hills and Llanymynech. Tours in Shrewsbury will give an opportunity to see the world's first multi-storied iron framed building, and there will also be guided walks in the lead-mining district around the Stiperstones. There will be some evening meetings with well known speakers. The Festival is intended as a 'do-it-yourself' summer school. Anyone with an interest in Industrial Archaeology can come to Shropshire during the fortnight, stay in whatever accommodation may suit him, an hotel, a guest house, a caravan site, camping ground or Youth Hostel, and know that every day, somewhere in the county, there will be walks taking him to places which he would probably not be able to see as an individual. He can choose whichever he finds interesting, and spend other days of his holiday visiting the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, the Acton Scott Farm Museum, or other permanent attractions.



THE NEW  
DOMESDAY

Everyone has heard of Domesday Book. Few know what it was, and in general local historians have not made good use of this unique source. One difficulty has been that texts have been difficult to come by, with the exception of the translations in the early volumes of the Victoria County Histories, which are beyond the pockets of many. This deficiency is now being remedied by the publication of the first cheap edition of Domesday, on a county-by-county basis, under the editorship of John Morris. The Shropshire volume has yet to appear, but among the first volumes to be published are those for Staffordshire and Warwickshire, which will be of interest to historians in this county as neighbouring shires, and also because in the time of Domesday they included several parishes now in Shropshire. The Domesday entries for Alveley, Brockton Grange, Cheswardine, Chipnall, Claverley, Sheriffhales, Kingsnordley, and Worfield are all to be found in the Staffordshire volumes, while the Warwickshire volume includes Quatt, Romsley, Rudge and Shipley. The Latin text and a modern English translation are printed side by side, and there is a comprehensive index, which includes grid references of places mentioned, some of which are no longer sizeable settlements. Domesday Book:23 Warwickshire and Domesday Book:24 Staffordshire, both edited by John Morris, are published by Phillimore, the former at £3.73 and the latter at £2.50. The appearance of the Shropshire volume will be anticipated with interest.

WROXETER -  
ILLUSTRATIONS

Mr J.A.Pagett, who is making a study of past illustrations of the Roman remains at Wroxeter on behalf of Dr. Graham Webster, would be interested to hear of, and if possible to see any photographs or other illustrations which members may know about or possess. His address is: Mr J.A.Pagett, 48 Park Road, Donnington, Telford, Salop. TF2 8LS.

OFFICERS OF  
THE SOCIETY

Miss O.S.Newman retired from her post as County Librarian in October 1976, and at the same time as Hon. Librarian for the Society. She has been succeeded as County Librarian by Mr A.J.Crowe, who has kindly agreed to become Librarian to the Society.

Mr C.A.Peele retired as Field Meetings Secretary in October 1976 after many years' service, and has been succeeded by Mrs J.E.Beard.

We are grateful to Mr Crowe and Mrs Beard for taking on these offices, and we give our warm thanks to Miss Newman and Mr Peele for all their help in past years to the Society.

OXFORD COURSES  
IN ARCHAEOLOGY

The following courses are organised by the Oxford University Department for External Studies. Full details may be obtained from the Director, Oxfordshire University Department for External Studies, Rewley House, 3-7 Wellington Square, Oxford.

15-17 April. The Archaeology of Mercian Towns (including Shrewsbury), at Rewley House, Oxford.

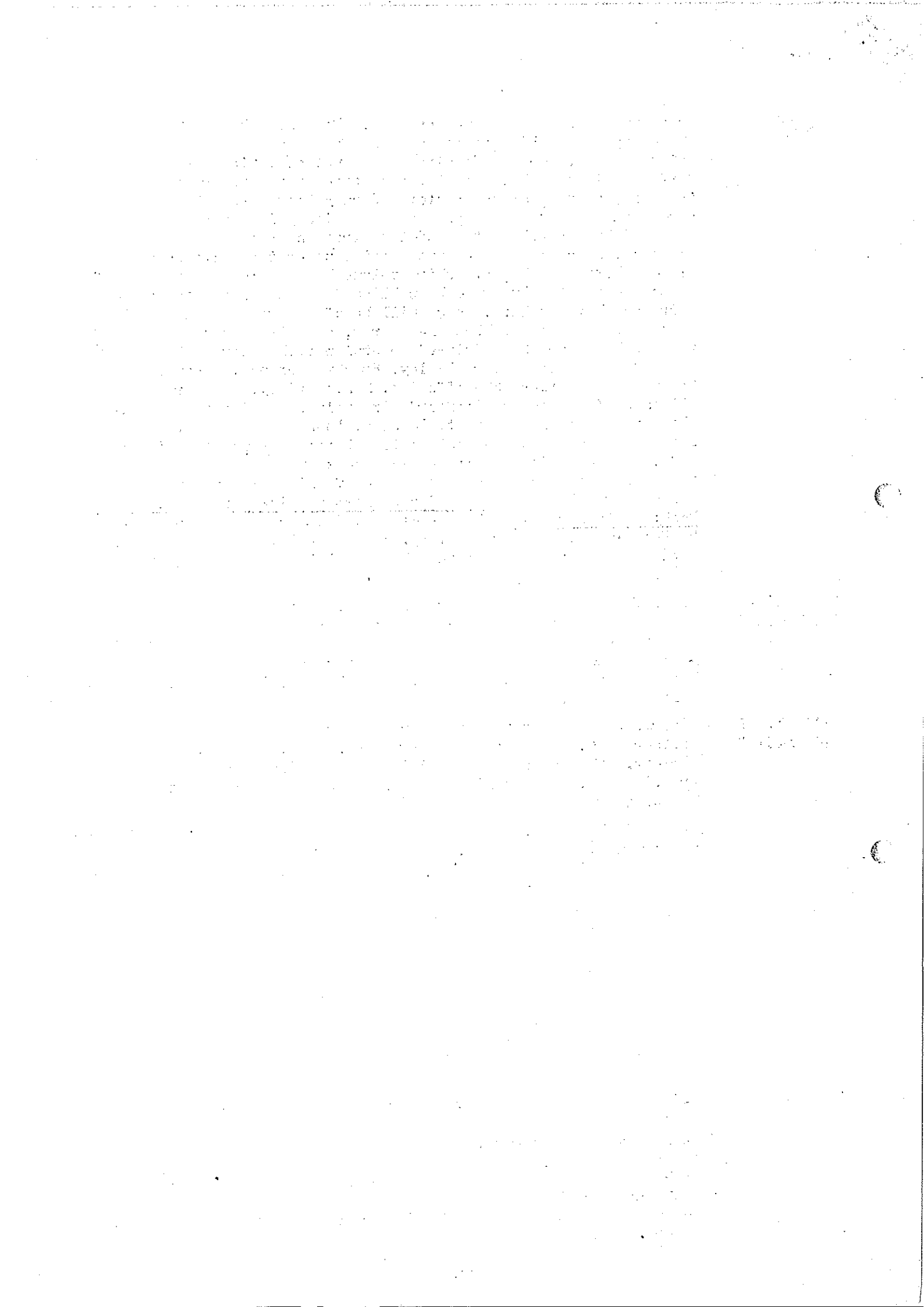
6-8 May. Coins and Archaeology, at Rewley House, Oxford.

14-15 May. New Approaches to the Archaeology of Cemeteries, at Rewley House, Oxford.

16-23 July. The Medieval Buildings of Oxford,

At Rewley House, Oxford, included in the Summer School for Adult Students.

16 July - 20 August. Training Excavations at Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire.



Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society

Edited by Carole Ryan, 4 Betley Terrace, Betley Lane, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury.

Tel: Shrewsbury 222332 (County Planning Department)

EDITORIAL

This is my first attempt at producing a newsletter and I hope members will forgive any lack of literary prowess which might be discernible. It is difficult to follow in the steps of one such as Barrie Trinder but I hope to uphold the same aims which he initiated by publishing as much information as possible on all aspects of archaeology, local history and vernacular buildings whilst not duplicating the work of the Transactions. As you will be aware I cannot do this without your help. It is essential in a newsletter of this kind to achieve as much variety as possible to cater for the interests of every member. When articles began to arrive they were few in number and my worst fear was that the end result would be somewhat biased in favour of below ground archaeologists. The final result has disproved this so to save further such initial fears could I make a plea not only for expedition in sending in information (at least four weeks before the proposed date of issue) but also that more members who are engaged on research send me a short report for inclusion without prejudicing their future publication plans. I note from the recent "Local History - Research in Progress in the West Midlands"\* that no fewer than twenty three research projects encompassing archaeological and documentary techniques have taken place in Shropshire in the last year. Whilst I tremble at the thought of editing all twenty three I would like to see even more variety of topic in the next newsletter.

\* Obtainable from Robin Chaplin, M.A., Staff Tutor for Midland History, Department of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT at a cost of 50p plus postage (15p).

Carole Ryan.

\* \* \* \* \*

SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD MEETINGS

The following field meetings have been arranged for 1978:-

- APRIL 28th-30th An Archaeological Tour of the Chilterns based at St Albans. This field trip is at present fully booked but anyone wishing to check for cancellations should contact Mrs J.E.Beard, 6 English Bridge Court, Shrewsbury on Shrewsbury 62895.
- MAY 13th Bridgnorth Town Walk and a visit to a country house in the vicinity together with a neighbouring church.  
Leader - James Lawson; Transport - Coach; Cost - £1.40 per person.
- JUNE 10th Visit to St. Fagans Folk Museum, Cardiff.  
Transport - Coach; Cost - £3.00 per person.
- JULY 8th Archaeological Tour of the Breiddens.  
Leader - Chris Musson, Director of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust; Transport - members cars.
- SEPTEMBER 16th The Mining Areas of the Stiperstones and Snailbeach etc.  
Leader - David Pannett; Transport - Coach; Cost - £1.40 per person.

DETAILS of these meetings will be available in April from Mrs J.E.Beard, 6 English Bridge Court, Shrewsbury on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

\* \* \* \* \*

EXCAVATION REPORTS (INTERIM)WROXETER 1977

An excellent season was marred only by a few wet days at the end which hampered drawings and photography. The problem of relating deep structures in small disconnected areas was this year felt more acutely and there is now a pressing need to excavate as much as possible of the internal colonnade of the macellum. Our advances in knowledge this year can be summarised:-

1. The military period

a) The pre-fortress levels produced nothing new except more of the E - W ditch in both directions.

b) The light brush-wood laid in a criss-cross manner at the base of the rampart which had puzzled us on the S side of the site was located below the macellum courtyard, and is now seen as the actual base of the rampart, which we had previously considered to be at a higher level where more normal and substantial log strapping had been found. It is now clear that the base of the rampart was laid

prior to the placing of the interval tower, since its post-pits cut through it, but from this height the rampart was built round the standing structure. The N-E post of the tower was located below a macellum wall, part of the foundations of which had fallen into it as the post had rotted below the point at which it had been sawn away. The width of the tower is now seen to be 3.4m and was possibly intended to be 12 Roman ft. square. From this it could be conjectured that the full width of the rampart was between 9 and 10m and of this as much as 6m had been cut back for the insertion of the rampart buildings, leaving only sufficient space for the palisade and patrol track at the top. We do not however know as yet whether the fort had a front of a vertical timber revetment or if there was one with sloping turf. At the south end it was discovered that the cutting back of the rampart had gone beyond the S limit of the stone rampart building, but the length of the removed rampart had been replanned with new turfwork. Little of this had however survived, since there had been a further cutting away of the rampart in the form of a shallow scoop deepening to the S. The purpose of this is not yet known, but it may be related to the reduction of the rampart below the S. range of the macellum for the insertion of a layer of red sandstone, half a metre thick. This tails off to the E. where it is interleaved in to the intervallum roads covering the lower three but being overlaid by the final surface. This activity is also seen to be associated with the construction layer of the rampart building, for this is similarly positioned. No further light was shed on the earlier timber rampart buildings, since they did not appear in the E.W. trench in the macellum courtyard, although the rampart had been cut back to accommodate them; only the N. internal colonnade of the macellum can provide the answer. Nor is it yet clear how the vertical face of the cut-back rampart was held in position, since there is no evidence for a timber revetment. The intervallum road is now seen to have four periods and there appears to be a timber drain on the W. side of the early period along the E. edge of the foundation of the E. wall of the stone intervallum building, but this needs confirmation.

Work on the centurial block at the S-E corner of the site has been made difficult by the large number of features in a small area (3m by 6m). The latest count is seven timber and clay walls and eight pits. The final phase is a large V-shaped trench full of clay wall debris, a continuation of an alignment from the E. where it was conjectured that this and similar trenches were for demolishing a large building of the final phase.

## 2. Civil Period

The most important advance in knowledge was the clay and timber buildings in the N. corridor. These were built immediately over the military demolition and presumably are houses of the early town, built soon after A.D.90, and in turn demolished to make way for the Hadrianic development. At present these houses have been found only in the N. corridor and S. range and there is no trace of them in the central area of the macellum. Crossing the macellum is a N-S construction trench which continues the line of the E. wall of the large two-room building to the N. of the macellum. In places it is filled with red sandstone and was evidently intended as a foundation. Its depth is the same as the foundations of the macellum walls, and it cuts through the early civil features. This can now be seen to have been a change of planning in the Hadrianic scheme, the first plan being to continue the range fronting the street but this was altered for the insertion of the macellum, and this change is most probably to be associated also with sand-filled trenches found elsewhere. A new plan has been drawn by Barry Ecclestone bringing together the military buildings in the piscina area with those below the macellum.

Graham Webster.

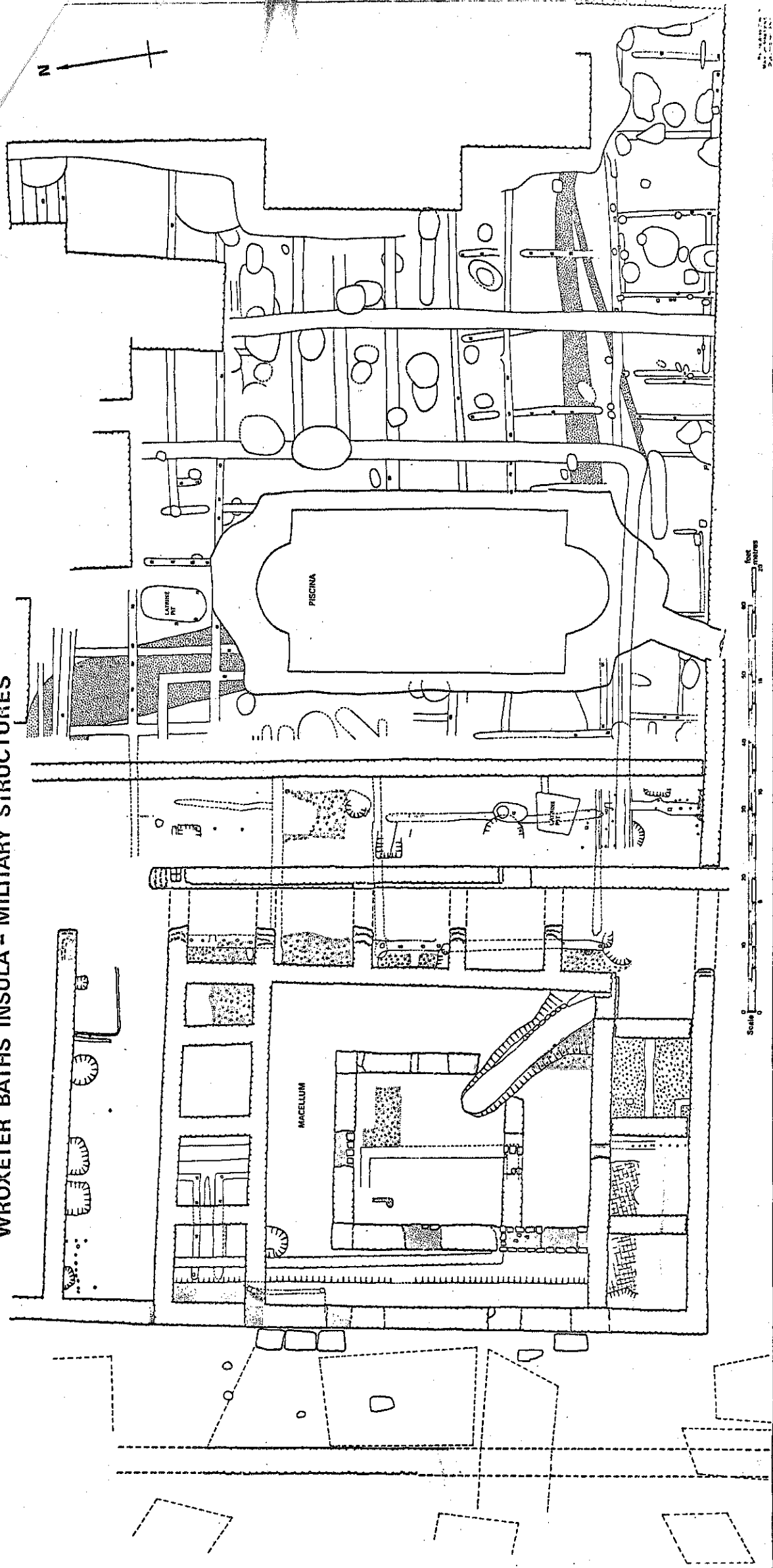
## TONG CASTLE - April 1978

The work on the site of the Keep continued with the excavation of the Well last September. The 14th and 15th century levels produced leatherwork wooden bowl sections, lengths of iron chain links, general iron and woodwork, pottery, a workman's knife, a key, horseshoes, a hammer, a stone chisel and a complete pewter ewer. The latter item was later identified as an ecclesiastical cruet for use during Mass.

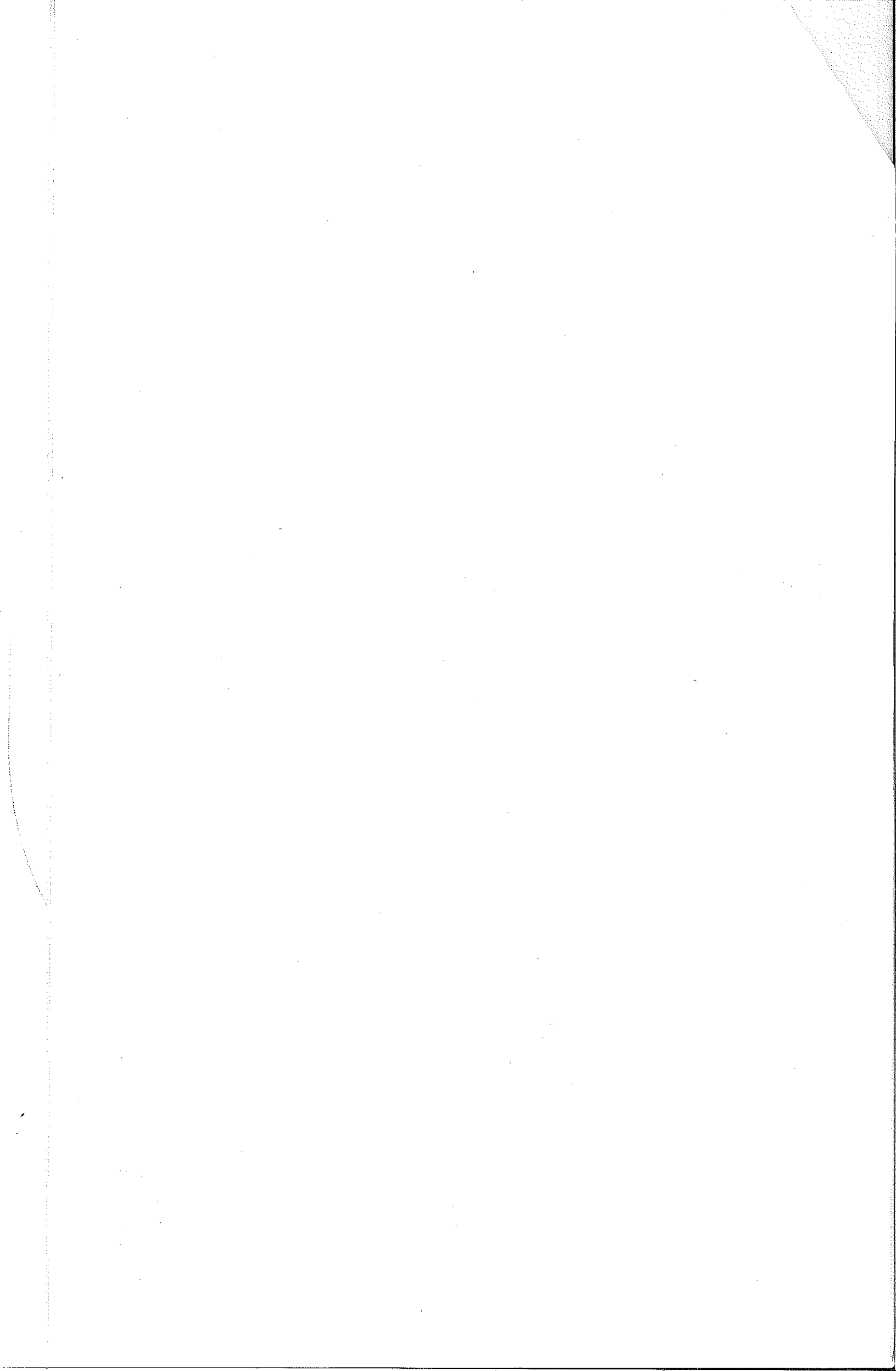
Further excavation during the winter located a small building with corner buttresses on the S.W. edge of the inner ditch cutting, which along with a cruciform patterned floor tile may suggest a small manorial chapel. The Lichfield Diocesan Records show a payment by Fulk de Pembrugge in the 14th century for services at Tong Manor and this may be the reason for the pewter cruet being on the site.

The winter weather has forced all the excavating towards the extreme western area of the site where the foundations of a 13th or 14th century tower have been located. Excavation continued at the weekends until Easter on the site of the Keep, when the well was further excavated in an attempt to find its construction date and that of the surrounding building.

WROXETER BATHS INSULA - MILITARY STRUCTURES



Dotted rectangles are late 4th Century platforms for small timber structures.



The site may be visited on any Sunday with access via the Convent Lodge on the A41 Newport to Wolverhampton Road where cars may be parked. Follow the track past the Lodge and through the woodlands onto the site and onto the footpath around the excavation to the current area of excavation. Please check with the Director of Excavations on Shrewsbury 61196 that it is convenient to visit the site prior to making a visit.

Alan Wharton  
Mediaeval Research Group of the Archaeological Soc.  
Rowleys Mansion,  
Hills Lane,  
Shrewsbury.

The Roman Auxiliary Fort downstream of Viroconium (Wroxeter) SJ 563077,  
centre of 5 acre fort.

Work done towards the end of 1976 revealed the entrance opposite the river. As suggested by the aerial photographs the outer small ditches had collapsed in this area but the wider inner ditch was found. A transverse section fortunately revealed the northern butt end, ragged and dished, the shallow extremity partly filled with those large cobbles which had originally been set round it. 15 metres opposite, across a depressed and rutted street, was a transverse section of the south continuation of this ditch. The ditch was 3 metres wide, V shaped, lined with thick red clay and 2.78 metres deep. From the silt of each section pottery was retrieved. The present river edge is 25 metres from this ditch. The natural slope from the present edge rises 3 metres in 19 metres and then only 9 metres to the Eyton-Wroxeter road. This final steep fall necessitated the placing of a compact mixture of sand and clean silt to produce a level surface on which pavé could be laid. This came to an abrupt end about 8 metres external to the inner ditch and on either side of the worn entrance this clean material was found and sectioned. It contained no artifacts. But on it, beyond the inner ditch, the intervallum road was very well preserved and showed a slight camber. The pavé was better preserved external to the inner ditch on the south side than on the north. Lying on the surface was a broken quernstone, a good voussoir and some masonry fragments. Further work in this area was prevented by excessive rain and the farmer's requirements.

We turned our attention to the grass verge opposite the river exit. Due to downhill ploughing in post-Roman times a lynchet had developed, beyond which the ground was practically level to the river's edge. A transverse section was set out internal to the lynchet and parallel to the fort exit. Below top soil a dense layer, growing blacker with depth, matched strange shadows on the aerial photographs. At a depth of 2.75 metres blue clay was noted. The black material seemed to be either rubbish thrown from the fort or the sludge produced by rocking boats in a creek or small harbour, or both. Therefore another section at right angles to this was laid out. Beneath the lynchet and other top soil two distinct flood levels were noted and at a distance of 5.5 metres the black sludge began to fade out as though the river had flushed the rubbish away. A fine champlévé belt buckle was found with quantities of pottery, glass, wood, ash, iron and furnace slag, the whole indicating occupation up to Hadrianic times. Samples are being examined for insect remains, food remnants, and ova and cysts of intestinal diseases of men and animals.

The fact that the street and build up ceases in a ragged fashion on a steep slope some distance from the closer, older river edge does suggest that a bridge may have existed here until or after Wales was contained by Roman troops in Hadrianic times. The later pottery possibly indicates civilian occupation for a short time.

A.W.J.Houghton  
Roman Research Group of  
Shropshire Archaeological Society

Aug. 1977

WHITCHURCH AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Excavations at the Horse and Jockey Inn, Whitchurch. March 1978.

When it was known that the land adjoining the Horse and Jockey Inn was to be developed into a beer garden and possible extension to the car park it was recognised that there was a possibility that archaeological levels would be revealed and destroyed.

The Committee of the Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group therefore felt that some limited trial excavations should be carried out on the land owned by John Smith's Tadcaster Brewery Ltd. Permission was granted by the Brewery and the Licencees, Ian and Sheila Campbell, who were very keen to co-operate with the loan of stables and other amenities essential for the running of the excavation. The 'dig' was entirely financed and run by volunteer members of the Group under the supervision of Richard Griffiths, the Group's Field Officer.

The extent of the excavation was limited to the land immediately adjoining the east wall of the Horse and Jockey. This site was formerly occupied by a cottage-cum-shop which had been built in the 1830's. The cottage had a cellar which was filled in between 1910 and 1928 and levelled up for the laying of a tiled floor, the archaeological levels in the cellar area having been thus destroyed down to the natural Whitchurch sand.

The east wall of the cottage had been built, utilising a timber framed wall belonging to a 17th century building destroyed by the builders of the later cottage, which also incorporated a more substantial early 18th century wall of the Horse and Jockey. The footing trench of this wall had cut through two levels of cobbled yard and contained a good group of late 17th and early 18th century pottery.

The upper layer of cobbles had been associated with the 17th century building and a sleeper beam complete with packing had still survived under the floor of the 1830's cottage. The scanty clay floor of the 17th century building overlay a burnt clay floor of an earlier 14th century medieval building, of which three of the wall packing stones remained. These stones represented the line of the N.W. and S.W. walls (it is hoped to include them in the lay-out of the proposed beer garden). The 14th century floor had been disturbed in the 16th and 17th centuries but a substantial amount had survived; its surface was of a hard packed clay which had been burnt in certain areas suggesting that they may have been hearths within the building. Daub from the walls still lay on the floor where it had fallen when the building was destroyed. To the north and north east was a cobble surfaced slope of the house platform. The cobbling was constructed to protect the platform from erosion and it had certainly done its job here, for the natural sandy subsoil still survived to almost street level.

The cobbled area had been cut by numerous pits in the late 17th and 18th centuries; from these were recovered some remarkable groups of post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipe stems and bowls with a similar date range.

Under the medieval cobbling was a broken 2nd century Roman wine flagon which had been buried in the natural subsoil,, but had been disturbed in the medieval period when the cobbling was laid and some of the fragments lost. When it was trowelled up for photography it was noted that there were traces of bone ash in and around the pot from which it can be deduced that it may have been a Roman cremation burial. The finding of this possible cremation may suggest that this site is outside the confines of Roman Whitchurch.

The area under the medieval features was investigated for signs of earlier occupation but this proved negative, the only sign of the Roman occupation on the site, apart from the cremation, was a coin of Constantine the Great and a few sherds of residual pottery.

These excavations have been of great archaeological interest and have produced some good groups of stratified medieval pottery, which are very rare in Whitchurch. It has also helped to define the extent of Roman habitation in the town.

It is hoped that in future when other sites come under threat they will be investigated by the Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group so that present gaps in the town's history may be filled.

Richard Griffiths.  
Site Supervisor and Archaeological  
Field Officer.  
W.A.A.G.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Since the last News Sheet a number of changes have taken place in the organisation of rescue archaeology in the West Midlands region. The chief of these has been the winding up of WEMRAC which has become a casualty of the financial constraints under which the DoE is now operating, and of a feeling that the time had come for a restructuring of the executive side of archaeological work in the area. It will be some time before a new structure emerges, but the latest DoE document Rescue Archaeology - the Next Phase firmly comes down in favour of Regional Units funded mainly by the DoE, with local authorities undertaking sites and monuments records, survey and small-scale salvage and rescue operations.

With the disappearance of WEMRAC, the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record has been taken more closely under the wing of the County Council. Most of the cost of the work is still funded by the DoE, but the staff who compile the Record are now employed on short-term contracts by the County. By the time this News Sheet appears a second Field Officer, Alan Tyler, will have started work in the County. Mr Tyler has been doing research on Roman mining in Wales at University College, Cardiff, and will be a valuable addition to the local archaeological scene.



The Record itself is progressing steadily. A welcome development has been the gradual integration of information on buildings into the system. The ingrained attitude which perceives 'buildings' and 'archaeology' as separate things stems largely from the separate way they are treated in law, but they are interdependent elements in the study of the past and need to be considered jointly, both academically and in local government policy-making. Much of the basic and tedious clerical work has been done by Job Creation labour and over half of the 5,000 or so Listed Buildings in the County are now on cards.

Small piecemeal threats continue. Several cropmark sites are affected by developments in the near or longer-term future. The important cropmark complex just north of the Wroxeter defences has been damaged by a farm drainage scheme - the sort of threat that cannot be countered by local government as it does not fall within planning regulations. Two sites at Maesbury are affected by a gas pipeline, and another at Ludlow is being destroyed by the bypass. The great frustration at present is our inability to react adequately to these threats once attempts to avert them have failed.

The involvement of the County Council in archaeology has also taken a step forward in that the County Museum Service has requested funds from the DoE for rescue projects in the financial year 1978-9. Thus for the first time the County itself is taking the initiative to record information on sites suffering damage, and this should be welcomed by the Society.

Ian Burrow.

Of the 25 planning applications referred to the County Planning Department since the issue of Archaeological Record Maps to District Councils, 6 have resulted in watching briefs, 2 in a limited investigation and the remainder have necessitated no action save for a reminder to owners to keep a watchful eye on the work for the presence of features or artifacts, in areas where the archaeological deposits are thought to be fringe and not warranting a watching brief. Statutory bodies also have copies of the maps and as a result Colstey Bank has been scheduled as an Ancient Monument; the laying of a gas pipeline at Maesbury Marsh has resulted in a small excavation, and a watching brief was carried out at Robury Ring, Wentnor in response to work being done by the Midlands Electricity Board.

Editor.

#### Buildings on the Sites and Monuments Record

The aim of adding buildings to the Sites and Monuments Record is to maximise the archaeological and historical perspective of rural and urban areas, particularly the former. The buildings are studied by necessity in relation to planning applications referred to the County Planning Department for specialist advice, and of the 30 or so buildings investigated from primary sources (i.e. the building and its context) 13 have been purely vernacular, 12 of an industrial archaeology nature, and two have been chapels, the remainder falling into the polite architecture category. The highest proportion of the vernacular buildings are small yeoman farmhouses which reflects not only their predominance in the County but also the popularity for conversion of small manageable units in a rural context. The high number of industrial buildings is accounted for by the many watermills still extant in the county and to their popularity for conversion to residential and other uses. It is therefore extremely important that all the watermills in the County are fully recorded in the near future as the condition of many of them is deplorable and it is often difficult to retain the machinery interacting with the structure in a conversion to residential use. The Record also acts as a clearing house for other recorders in the County, of which Mrs Moran is the most prolific. In addition to this, buildings previously studied by the Ordnance Survey Archaeological Section have been added to the Record.

It must be stressed that the reports are by necessity of a non-extensive nature and do not encompass measured drawings, except in a few cases where this has been warranted by events.

Editor.

#### THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF VERNACULAR BUILDINGS

Work continues on the appraisal and recording of vernacular architecture in the County. During the summer a number of domestic buildings in the Wrekin District and in the Clun Valley were examined together with outliers in other districts.

Minor records of buildings are passed on to the Sites and Monuments Record based in the County Planning Department, Shirehall, Shrewsbury, where the information is collated in a retrievable form in order to facilitate comparative studies. More detailed recording to the standards of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments is done whenever possible and passed on to them for inclusion in the national record.

There is a great need for assistance in this type of work and both the Editor and Mrs Moran would be grateful to hear from anyone who feels they could assist, particularly from those who have previously attended the courses of lectures in the subject given in various parts of the County in previous years. The following are a few of the buildings which have been closely examined in the last year.

X <sup>SA 12283</sup> The Old House Farm, Brown Heath, Loppington.

A full recording of this building was made in response to a threat of demolition. It was found to be partly of cruck construction with a later cross-wing. Fortunately the building was upgraded and added to the list of buildings of special architectural and historic interest as a result of the findings and the threat was averted. It has now been restored. An account of the recording will be published in a later volume of the Transactions.

X <sup>SA 13227</sup> The Old Shop, Somerwood, Upton Magna.

Again this was due for demolition and was found to be a small, late, open hall, quite low on the social scale and with crogloft at one end and an intact timber framed smoke hood (fumbrell) at the other, the whole representing a remarkable survival. This house was also upgraded and saved and it is hoped to publish an account of it in a volume of the Transactions.

X Holly Road, Little Dawley.

A group of buildings here were also threatened, recorded and upgraded as they proved to be of historic merit. One of the buildings was of cruck construction.

X <sup>SA 10648</sup> Nos. 73 & 73a Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury (continuation of the Henry Tudor House).

These buildings were in a dilapidated condition. They were bought privately and are being most carefully restored by the owner and his architect. An open hall, complete with louvre opening and smoke-blackened roof timbers was found at the rear, and a crown post roof at the front. An added bonus was the collection of medieval pottery and bones found on the site during excavation of trenches by the electricity board.

A Summer School on Vernacular Architecture in Shropshire will be held at Preston Montford Field Centre, August 7th-11th. It will consist of talks, visits and practical recording sessions and will cover manor houses, farmhouses and cottages. Details may be obtained from the Warden of the Field Centre. The Course Director is Mrs Moran.

A Weekend School on Shropshire Vernacular Architecture will be held at Preston Montford Field Centre, May 12th-14th and will be an introduction to Vernacular Architecture with visits to villages. The Course Director is Roy Beard, and details can be obtained from the Field Centre.

A Day Conference, the second of its kind, on the Vernacular of the West Midlands was held at the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Birmingham, in April. The meeting was addressed by Mrs Moran and the Editor.

Mrs Madge Moran

Salvage Recording

In November 1977 the unfortunate and precipitate demolition of Coleham Row, Shrewsbury necessitated a hurried and consequently a rather unsatisfactory recording. Despite the adverse conditions and falling masonry it was possible to take some fifty black and white photographs and produce a short report together with a ground floor plan of No's 3-6 to forward to the Royal Commission. Part of the row was found to be of an unusual interlocking construction, adjacent cottages sharing the same stairwell. Another unusual feature was the re-used timber frame, which had previously contained an infill of wattle and daub. The origin and date of the row is still obscure.

Liaison with the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments

The County Planning Department continue to liaise closely with the Royal Commission to ensure that they are kept fully informed of buildings under threat in order that maximum use can be made of their presence in the area. The need, however, for full measured drawings continues and an application was submitted to the Job Creation Scheme. This unfortunately came at the end of many such applications and was not successful. Attempts continue to obtain Government sponsored labour for this project. In the meantime I would be grateful if I could be kept informed of any building under threat, particularly from neglect and decay, in order that priorities can be constantly revised.

The Editor  
Shrewsbury 222332

## ALL FINDS

An unusual feature of 1977 and early 1978 has been the number of small finds which have made exciting press news. It is not the intention here to describe these fully as it is hoped to produce a more extensive report in the Society's Transactions. They are as follows:-

A Gold Noble found by Mr T. Gould of the Shrewsbury and District Metal Detecting Club on Haughmond fruit farm whilst searching for rings lost by strawberry pickers. The land was formerly part of Haughmond Abbey Estate and was an enclosed deer park covered with woodland and scrub. A special treasure trove inquest decided that the coin (used during the reign of Edward III, between 1356 and 1361) had been accidentally lost by its former owner and was not therefore treasure trove i.e. it had not been deliberately hidden or concealed. The coin was valued at £325.

Stone Axe and Mace Head found on land belonging to C. Bebbington, Dearnford Hall, Tilstock Road, Whitchurch, when harvesting potatoes in August 1977. Thought to be ceremonial in nature they are at present undergoing petrological examination after being brought to the attention of Whitchurch Archaeological Group.

Gold Coin of Corio, found by Mrs Janet Middle of Pontesford Hill in a ditch that was being dug on her land. The coin is gold stater minted by the tribe of the Dobunni, shortly before the Roman Conquest and of a high value even in the tribal area of its origin - Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds. It is unlikely that it was ever used for everyday transactions. It is thought to be a coin of Corio and dated within the limits of A.D 43 and 47.

Editor.

### Notes on topics related to small finds

The sub-committee of the Society has been in discussions with the curator of the Shrewsbury Museums over the possible greater use of Rowley's Mansion. The society has a great historical interest in the archaeological collections and hopes to take an active and constructive part in its future.

The growth of the hobby of metal detecting has led to the development of two metal detector clubs in the county. It is impossible not to feel some unease at this new pastime's growth, but rather than ignore it in the hope that it will go away, the sub-committee has decided to establish relations with the clubs, and Ian Burrow and Alan Tyler regularly attend evening meetings of the Shrewsbury Metal Detecting Club to give advice on areas the Club wish to search, and to identify finds. Some may regard any contact with a hobby that is devoted solely to the recovery of objects of historic or monetary value as unethical, but it is felt that an implacably hostile attitude on the part of archaeologists will only make the problem worse. The Shrewsbury Club have a code of practice which respects archaeological sites, and we must hope that this development will continue.

Ian Burrow.

### FUTURE EXCAVATIONS

It is hoped that the summer excavation programme will include the following sites:-

<sup>SA 10134</sup>  
Rigg's Hall, Shrewsbury - The County Council under the aegis of the County Museum Service are seeking a grant from the Department of the Environment to supplement the understanding of the above ground structure so far by an investigation of below ground deposits, in July/August 1978. It is now thought that the main L shaped range, which abuts the Town Wall, can be ascribed to c. 1589. The exact date and function of the earlier wing, which may be a solar for a hall structure (the latter having been replaced by a later range) is still uncertain. The proposed excavation represents an important advance in the desire to link below ground deposits with the above ground evidence, as does the proposed investigation of:-

<sup>SA 1067</sup>  
Madeley Court, Telford - Restoration work on this building has continued throughout the winter months and features hitherto undiscovered have come to light. The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments were invited to record the building and have suggested various building phases, viz a stone house of the 13th century, much altered and enlarged in the 16th century. It has a medieval wing running east and west, and another, medieval and later, running south from the eastern end of the first. It is two storeys and attic over a basement that opens onto ground level on the north side. Throughout the Middle Ages, Madeley Court was the property of Wenlock Abbey, and it is possible that it was a monastic grange.

In response to this the Telford Development Corporation are sponsoring a 'stone by stone' recording of the building and an investigation of the adjacent 'below ground deposits' in July/August 1978, under the direction of Bob Meeson who has done valuable work on the interrelated aspects of above and below ground archaeology in Tamworth, Staffordshire.

In both cases it is hoped to produce a monograph illustrating the 'total archaeology' of the sites. In the case of Rigg's Hall, Nigel Baker, the proposed Director of Excavation will be working closely with the County Architect's team responsible for the restoration of the building who have already produced detailed drawings of the structural elements.

Please note that neither of these sites will be 'open to the public' because they are potentially dangerous from the point of view of falling masonry. It may be possible for the Society to organise a group visit to the excavations at some point during the course of the investigations.

Wombridge Priory - Telford Development Corporation are also sponsoring a rescue excavation on this site in April/May. A possible medieval mill is threatened by a drainage scheme and the excavation will be under the direction of Martin Carver.

Tong Castle - It is possible that excavation on this site may continue in the summer months. Mr Wharton, the Director of Excavations welcomes visitors to the site, but please check with him for convenience on Shrewsbury 61196.

Wroxeter Fort - The Society normally sponsor a small excavation here during the summer months in addition to the work of Graham Webster and Phil Barker (see below).

Wroxeter - Baths Basilica - A training excavation will take place here during August. Subsistence will be paid to volunteers attending for a fortnight or more. Details from P.A. Barker, MA, FSA, 4 St Georges Square, Worcester WR1 1HX.

Wroxeter - Market Hall - A training excavation will take place during August. Terms similar to above. Details from Dr. Graham Webster, Department of Extra Mural Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT. Please mark - volunteers.

Hen Domen - 26th June - 15th July 1978. These three weeks will be a training excavation. Preference will be given to those with previous field experience. Details from P.A. Barker (as above).

#### THE WORK OF LOCAL GROUPS

One of the most pleasing aspects of the Society's recent functions has been liaison with local groups some of whom have increased their activities by leaps and bounds in recent months. One of the most active of these local groups is the -

Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group, with a membership of 90 which has more than doubled since December and is still increasing. This group interest themselves in all aspects of archaeological and local history research of the town of Whitchurch and its surrounding area. They hold monthly meetings in the winter which have ranged from quizzes on archaeological artifacts to talks on individual excavations and methods of studying local history and building history. During the winter months an active group has participated in a field walking programme on Sunday mornings and their proposed areas of work include the following:-

- a) Compiling an index to the Whitchurch Herald which will be useful for local history studies.
- b) A study of field names in the Whitchurch area using information in the County Record Office.
- c) An intensive study of the town of Whitchurch to decide on priorities for the investigation of historic buildings and below ground deposits.
- d) Excavations of small areas of Whitchurch which are about to be developed.

Regular monthly meetings during the summer will take the form of 'Village Walks' embracing features of archaeological and local history interest, as follows:-

Thursday, May 11th - A tour of the Maelor conducted by Mrs Sunter Harrison.

Thursday, June 8th - A visit to Malpas led by Mr David Hayns.

Thursday, July 13th - A visit to Ash under the guidance of Mr Ted Lewis.

For further details about the group's activities, membership and details of transport etc., for the Village Walks please write directly to the Secretary, Mrs Christine Kemp, 3 Rydal Avenue, Whitchurch, Salop. Tel: Whitchurch 3968.

The Alveley Historical Society. This group are particularly interested in cartographic and documentary research in Alveley and Romsley. They have held exhibitions of old photographs at local venues and in September 1977 they liaised closely with the County Planning Department concerning aspects of future research on the development of the settlement of Alveley and its environs. As a result of this they extracted sufficient information to mount a small exhibition in October 1977 to illustrate the need for a conservation area in Alveley. One of the members, Robert J. Tolley, has published a report on the architectural importance of buildings in Centre Place, Alveley and is keenly interested in the vernacular development of the settlement.

For details of membership please contact Mrs P.M. Valsler, 4 Bridge Road, Alveley, Bridgnorth.

## HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP AT LUDLOW

Under the auspices of the Ludlow Civic Society a small but enthusiastic Historical Research Group has been working in Ludlow for the last twelve months, studying two of the town's most important streets, Broad Street and Corve Street. The group has met fortnightly and members have worked principally on property deeds, tax assessments, directories and other records. Small groups have made visits to the Public Record Office in London and to the Herefordshire Record Office, to study wills and inventories, and to the Shropshire Record Office, where the voluminous archives of the Ludlow Corporation are lodged, and where private collections of deeds and other documents are available for consultation. A good deal of field work has also been undertaken, particularly to study and map particular buildings.

A large number of Ludlow properties once belonged to the Palmer's Guild, and at the Guild's dissolution in 1551 these passed to the Borough Corporation who retained them until the mid-nineteenth century. Relevant information has been abstracted by the group from nearly all the post-1552 leases which were issued at intervals of 31 years or less, and a start has been made on those of earlier date, most of which are in Latin but set out in standard formats. Many registers of leaseholders and rentals of their properties also survive, and before 1600 the latter also include all those who paid rent charges or sock rents. Burgage rentals for freehold properties also survive for 1470, 1482, 1619 and 1669, the latter two being especially informative, listing previous owners and often giving useful locational details. The information thus available is usually sufficient to enable leasehold and freehold properties to be fitted together in their correct sequence for each street and the various tax assessments - the poll taxes of 1667 and 1689, the hearth tax of 1672 and the window taxes, land taxes and poor laws rates of the eighteenth century - enable the resulting sequences to be checked and amplified. It is clear that these techniques, refined and modified in the light of the first year's experience, can be applied to the whole town and the town fields, eventually enabling town plans to be drawn for various periods - for no detailed map of Ludlow exists before that of John Wood made in 1835.

Using wills and inventories, parish registers and other sources, much work has also been done on the families associated with each property, and on their occupations, social class and lifestyles. Ultimately, this material will enable informed analysis to be made of many facets of the town's social and economic life, and of its demographic structure.

We see the continuation of this work as a long term project of great potential. Local 'Open Evenings' are being held in Ludlow this autumn to arouse further interest. Anyone who would like to be associated in any way, now or at some future date, should contact either David Lloyd (54 Pickwick Grove, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9LN, tel: 021/777/6684) or Dr. Martin Speight (21 Raven Lane, Ludlow).

D.J.L.  
M.S.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Harding, d.w. ed. Hillforts. Later prehistoric earthworks in Britain and Ireland. Academic Press 1976. £24.00

Sixteen experts contributed papers to this book. These include three of great local interest. H.N.Savory's paper on Welsh hillforts is a re-appraisal of the region in the light of recent research. Graeme Guilbert has written an account of an area excavation in the interior of Moel y Gaer in Flintshire, while Chris Musson reports on Excavations at the Breiddin, 1969-73.

Burl, A. The stone circles of the British Isles. Yale U.P. 1976. £10.00.

This book is the first comprehensive and serious account of an important and perennially fascinating group of prehistoric monuments. It contains a gazetteer of all sites in Britain including five in Shropshire.

St Joseph, J.K.S. ed. The uses of air photography. Baker. 1977. £9.50.

Photographs taken from the air are used for a great range of purposes from spotting diseased plants to detecting geological formations. However, the papers on Air photography and archaeology by Dr St Joseph and Air photography and history by M.D.Knowles will be of most interest to members of this Society.

Wilson, D.R. ed. Aerial reconnaissance for archaeology CBA 1975 £8.00.

This volume contains papers given at a Symposium in April 1974. The subjects covered include techniques, interpretation, availability and use made of information from aerial photographs. Though mainly concerned with this country, Belgium and France are the subjects of two interesting papers.

Biddle, M. ed. Winchester in the early middle ages. OUP 1976. £25.00.

For fifteen years the Winchester Excavations Committee has carried on the most comprehensive archaeological and historical enquiry ever attempted in an English or North European city. The results are being prepared by the Research Unit for publication in a series of volumes that will provide a full account of the life, buildings and natural environment of Winchester during 2000 years of its existence. This is the first volume to be published.

Brook, F. The industrial archaeology of the British Isles. 1. The West Midlands. Batsford. 1977. £6.95.

The author provides a short historical survey of the major industries of the area as an introduction to his lists of sites arranged by county. Shropshire is dealt with in 25 pages.

Trinder, B. "The most extraordinary district in the world". Phillimore. 1977. £4.95.

Mr Trinder has collected contemporary accounts by visitors to Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The book is illustrated by modern photographs of surviving sites as well as by early prints and drawings.

Cossons, N and Sowden, H. Ironbridge: Landscape of industry. Cassell. 1977. £15.00.

This is a pictorial record of details of street furniture, roofs, back yards and steps in Ironbridge. Mr Sowden's photographs have been beautifully reproduced.

Rayska, U. Victorian and Edwardian Shropshire from old photographs. Batsford. 1977. £4.25.

This book contains nearly 150 photographs taken in Shropshire before the first world war. They record life on the land, in industry, at school, in villages and towns.

Colyer, R.J. The Welsh cattle drovers. Univ. of Wales Press. 1976. £5.00.

The organisation of droving is described and the various drove roads identified and discussed. Though much of the information in the book relates to the nineteenth century, the trade is traced back into the middle ages. As the drove roads cross Shropshire, there is much information in the book to interest local historians.

Mumford, W.F. Wenlock in the middle ages. published by the author. 1977. £4.00.

Mr Mumford has produced a detailed account of the Priory and town of Much Wenlock in the middle ages based on his extensive study of the documentary evidence, much of which he includes in appendices.

All of these books can be seen at the Local Studies Library, St Mary's Hall, St Mary's Place, Shrewsbury.

#### NATIONAL NEWS

Members might like to know that the address of the headquarters of the Council for British Archaeology has recently changed to:-

112 Kennington Road,  
London SE11 6RE

The CBA has recently formed a new sub-committee which will be known as the Historic Buildings Committee. It is composed of architects, archaeologists, planners and historians. The Chairman is Mr F.W.B. Charles FSA. There are three sub-committees which are covering the following aspects.

- a) surveillance of the CBA's role in statutory procedures relating to historic buildings.
- b) The recording of buildings.
- c) The development of research programmes designed to increase collaboration between those concerned with standing buildings and below ground deposits.

Members may bring relevant aspects for Shropshire to the committee's attention via the above address.

Guardianship - Of the eleven monuments which were taken in to Guardianship under the Ancient Monuments Acts by the Department of the Environment during the year 1976/77 one only was in Shropshire - Cantlop Bridge, Berrington, under the category of industrial monument.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### Input into the Sites and Monuments Record

##### World War II Defences

As part of the Sites and Monuments Survey we are anxious to record the many minor defensive features built in the 1939-45 period - these include pillboxes, machine-gun nests, A.A. gun and searchlight batteries, tank obstacles, A.R.P. posts etc.

We would be grateful for information on any of these sites. Please send it to Ian Burrow or Alan Tyler, Sites and Monuments Record, Planning Department, Shirehall, Shrewsbury (22332) giving: 10.

SALOP COUNTY  
SITES & MONUMENTS RECORD

SHROPSHIRE NEWS SHEET

No. 8 October 1978

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society  
Edited by Carole Ryan, 4 Betley Terrace, Betley Lane, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury.  
Tel: Shrewsbury 222332(County Planning Department)

\*\*\*\*\*  
EDITORIAL

As members will see, this summer has been a fairly busy one in the excavation field in Shropshire. The combined excavations and building investigations taking place at Rigg's Hall, Shrewsbury and Madeley Court, Telford are particularly exciting in the context of archaeology as a whole, which for too long has ignored the possibilities of proving continuity by linking above and below ground evidence. Not all excavations are entirely explicit in their findings, and Wombridge shows that however carefully executed the fieldwork and excavation technique is, the possibilities that the exercise can still be abortive, cannot be ignored. This is the enigma of archaeology and is often the reason why those in authority who may be providing the funds become distrustful of archaeological methods, though fortunately this has not applied to Telford Development Corporation.

The Whitchurch Archaeological Group continue to be the most active of the local groups in the County and their enthusiasm is to be commended. If the whole of the County was covered in the same way our troubles would be over, apart from the fact that the Sites and Monuments Record at Shirehall would need to increase the number of staff drastically in order to cope with the inflow of information.

The Job Creation Project for recording threatened buildings is a particularly welcome step, and I am sure members will agree that every means should be found to continue this work on a less intensive basis when the project's allotted time has elapsed.

Carole Ryan

WINTER MEETINGS 1978-9

All meetings are in Bear Steps, Shrewsbury. Please note that NON MEMBERS will be invited to pay 20 pence (O.A.P's and students 10 pence) at each meeting.

Saturday October 7th, 2.30 p.m.

Mrs Madge Moran 'Crown Post Roofs In Shropshire'.

Mrs Moran is actively involved in research into vernacular architecture in Salop and many new examples of this interesting roof form have come to light recently.

Saturday November 4th, 2.30 p.m.

Dr. Peter Edwards on aspects of post medieval agriculture in Shropshire. The title will probably be 'The Reclamation of the Weald Moors in the 17th century'.

Saturday December 2nd, 2.30 p.m.

Mr James Lawson (subject to be announced)

Saturday January 6th, 2.30 p.m.

Mr Bob Meeson 'The Origins and Development of Tamworth, Capital of Mercia'

Bob Meeson's research on the topography of Tamworth from its origins down to recent times is important not only for its intrinsic interest, but also as an example of how such work can be done for other towns.

Saturday February 3rd, 2.30 p.m.

Mrs Heather James (Assistant Director, Dyfed Archaeological Trust)  
'Roman Carmarthen and the Demetae'

Recent excavations in Carmarthen (Mondunum) have revealed more of the character of this small cantonal capital, while field survey in the surrounding countryside is revealing more of the rural background of settlement.

Saturday March 3rd, 10.30 a.m.

ALL DAY MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY EXTRA MURAL DEPARTMENT

'Recording the Shropshire Landscape'

Speakers to include Mick Aston (Oxford University), David Pannett, Mr George Baugh and Ian Burrow.

This meeting is intended to emphasise the need for active fieldwork in Shropshire and the ways and means of doing it. As this is a Birmingham University Extra Mural Course there will be a charge, but members will get a concessionary half price rate. Full details will be circulated later, probably with the next Transactions

If you have any queries or suggestions about meetings please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary - Ian Burrow, 62 Oakley Street, Shrewsbury. Tel: 67022.

## Interim Excavation Reports

### Excavations at Wombridge, Telford.

The culverting of the stream adjacent to the site of the Augustinian Priory provided an opportunity to undertake some salvage recording, with a view to investigating the industrial aspects of both the priory and the post-medieval phases. The priory owned a molendinum ferrarium in 1535, and there were a number of subsequent early industrial activities in the area, details of which will be found in Barrie Trinder's Industrial Revolution in Shropshire.

Before investigation (by Tim Yarnell of the Birmingham University Archaeological Unit) a number of lengths of stone walling were visible flanking the sides of the stream. The remains of the nineteenth century corn mill are still present by the road NE of the priory. Excavation with a Hymac machine failed to locate any features earlier than the nineteenth century pit for the mill-wheel, other than disturbed graves on the eroding SW side of the ravine in which the stream lies.

The project was financed by Telford Development Corporation, whose growing interest in archaeological work is a happy recent development.

Ian Burrow.

### Leigh Hall Moat, Worthen.

A small-scale excavation was carried out in May 1978, in order to examine the moat deposits before the site was dredged to act as a reservoir for the adjacent farm. Prior to this the site had been surveyed at a large scale and a number of new features discovered.

The Manor of Leigh is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, and until the early fourteenth century appears to have been relatively unimportant, held by the Hager family from the Lords of Caus, the site being one of those burnt by Llewellyn in 1263. With the extinction of the Corbet barony of Caus in the early fourteenth century a branch of the family established itself as holder of Leigh-juxta-Caus, and occupied the manor until 1622. On both general and specific grounds it is probable that the moated site was constructed by the Corbet family, perhaps by Roger (d.1368), to emphasise their status. There is ambiguous evidence which suggests that the Manor House of Leigh was destroyed in the Civil War, and it had certainly been burnt down by 1668. The Corbets sold the manor in 1748 and in 1762 it came into the hands of the Clives, at which time a survey was made which shows the moat intact. The manor house, by this time outside the moated enclosure, has remained tenanted until the present.

The moat itself survives as a trapezoidal ditched enclosure with parts of its SW and SE sides filled in and a causeway, apparently not original, across the ditch in the centre of the NW side. Exceptionally for Shropshire, the moat island is revetted with masonry, and on the SW side is a fragment of freestanding walling up to 2.5 m high. Clear traces of a rectangular gatehouse (?) are visible on the NW side and it seems probably that there were stone buildings ranged around a central courtyard. The site is set on a terrace on the S side of the valley of the Rea, with moderate slopes to the N and NE, and seems to have been so sited to take advantage of the water retentive glacial clay into which it has been dug. Immediately adjacent to the moat on the south west is Leigh Hall Farm, a complex T-shaped building with a timber framing in the cross wing and C16/C17 end stops on beams in the kitchen. The relationship of this building to the occupation of the moat is still unclear.

The excavation was carried out in the moat silt beside the present causeway, and consisted of a 1 m wide trench only. Below rubbly humus an extremely hard-packed rammed layer of stone and brick rubble about 50 cm thick was found. This lay on very clean grey clay silt, in turn lying on the natural glacial clay. From observations during the dredging of the moat it is clear that this rubble is the remains of buildings pushed and rammed into the moat from the interior. The bricks appear to be late C16 in type. Is this a clear-up after the Civil War fire?

Thanks must be expressed to Mr and Mrs Timmis of Leigh Hall, and to Lord Bridgman, for their co-operation, interest and hospitality.

Ian Burrow.

### Excavations at Riggs Hall, Shrewsbury.

Excavations have been taking place in and around Riggs Hall, one of the buildings of the Castle Gates Library, formerly Shrewsbury School, in advance of restoration work by Salop County Council.

Structural investigations by David Knight and David Tanner of the Architects Department have shown that the building consists of brick additions to a two-period timber-framed core. The earlier of these two parts is a two-bay structure of c.1400; a stone ground floor supporting a timber framed first floor open to the crown-post roof. This building certainly extended further to the north than it does now. The existing structure to its north is an L-shaped wing, dated by an inscribed beam and documentary evidence to 1589. Both the 15th century and 16th century elements incorporate the 13th century town wall in their western face.



Excavation has shown that the floors of the 1589 wing sealed a cobbled yard surface, external stair-tower and chimney attached to the reduced 15th century structure. These features were constructed over the remains of the demolished northern part of the 15th century house; a wooden floor (represented by joist-slot impressions) and a fireplace and doorway in the town wall, which had been refaced within the building. Similar evidence of an original wooden floor, with a door through the modified town wall was found within the surviving 15th century building. All features associated with this building were cut into or rested upon a thick layer of redeposited natural red clay.

Sealed beneath this clay, and cut by the construction trench for the rubble backing of the town wall was what is provisionally interpreted as a pre-13th century north-south rampart, consisting of tips of dark soils containing cooking pot sherds of probable 11th century date, and some late Saxon sherds of Stafford-type ware. No definite conclusions can be drawn about this feature as it was seen only in two limited areas, in one of which subsidence into earlier features had distorted the surface profile.

Cut into the natural sands and clays, and sealed by the "bank" material were a wattle-lined ditch and several pits, including one large, irregular pit possibly serving as a quarry for building materials, and another deep, square-sided pit possibly for cess or storage. Both pits yielded Stafford-type rims and body sherds; the square-sided pit also produced organic material, including grain, and a series of charcoal samples, which it is hoped will provide a firm date for this feature and its contents. This will be especially useful, not only in studying early medieval activity in this part of Shrewsbury, but in helping to date the use of the little-understood Stafford-type pottery which is found throughout the West Midlands in early medieval towns.

Nigel Baker.

#### Preliminary note on work at Madeley Court, Telford. NGR SJ 695051

Before the Dissolution, Madeley Court was a grange of the priors of Wenlock. Bought in 1553 by Robert Brooke, it was extensively rebuilt in the 17th century before coming into the hands of Abraham Darby I in 1709.

Although there were formerly many structures on the site the complex today comprises Madeley Court house, a fine gate-house with two polygonal towers, a large (?) Tudor brick range with an unusual and remarkable timber frame, and a nineteenth-century barn.

The main house is currently being rebuilt by Telford Development Corporation who have generously funded a detailed research programme into the development of the structures on the site. This research has involved the excavation of about one quarter of the courtyard and the compilation of detailed drawings of the standing structures.

The main building retains evidence of a thirteenth-century origin with two narrow, lancet windows, and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -round mouldings. The main hall, over a basement, has a lateral fireplace (altered but partly original) in the centre of the north wall and evidence of two original doors in the south wall. The crucial evidence is still obscured by plaster, but it is provisionally suggested that the hall was formerly open to the rafters but the entire building may have been heightened and an additional floor inserted very soon after it was first built. An east range, at right-angles to the hall, was also added not long after the hall was built, blocking off two gable-end windows which formerly lit the hall. The added range incorporates a two-level garderobe and more thirteenth-century details.

The excavation in the courtyard revealed footings of a substantial stone range of seventeenth-century date which had been demolished in the Georgian period. The demolition debris included fragments of fine plaster mouldings. Beneath were the partly-robbled footings of an earlier stone range with a lateral hearth. Three other substantial stone structures were evidenced during the excavation, two of which extend into the walled garden beyond the courtyard.

Recording of the standing structures continues on a part-time basis, producing detailed plans and stone-by-stone elevation drawings, sections, details and mouldings.

R.A.Meeson, F.S.A.

#### Tong Castle Excavation 1977-78

The excavation at Tong Castle started in the winter of 1977/78 with the aim being to establish the various areas of the castle already located by the earlier trial excavations.

The site of Tong Castle is to be found to the west of the village of Tong, near Shifnal in Shropshire and is on the route of the M54 Telford Motorway. The motorway will cross the site through a cutting and so remove the majority of the evidence for the Castle. The excavations since 1976, along with limited documentary evidence have enabled five distinct periods of Castle buildings to be established on the site and these are:-

Early Medieval - 12/13C ... Belmies, Zouche and Harcourt Families  
Medieval - 14/15C ... Pembrugge Family  
Late Medieval - 15/16C ... Vernon Family  
Post Medieval - 17/18C ... Pierrepont Family (later the Duke and Earl of Kingston)  
Modern - 18/19C ... Durant Family

#### Area N & T - Inner Ditch

The earlier machined trenches within the Inner Ditch had posed a number of unsolved problems and the deep hole at N cut to locate the bottom of the ditch, was extended towards the supposed position of the gateway across the Inner Ditch at T.

#### Area V - Inner Ditch

The machined trench which located the Inner Ditch edge at V and subsequently an ashlar faced sandstone wall, was opened out to reveal a corner buttress and further stonework. This latter stonework and buttress protruded into the Inner Ditch and the demolition material from against the stonework was of the Pembrugge period. A large amount of decorated stonework was taken out of the trench and it should be possible to reconstruct some of the window tracery.

#### Area K - South-West Corner Foundations

The outer wall had been cut by the extension of the 15C underground tunnel, which traverses the length of the Vernon/Durant Castle, for use during the landscaping.

#### Area M - Inner Ditch Building

The lower stonework of the Inner Ditch Building was well mortared and in very good condition. The 13C material from the cutting was in line with the earlier excavation along the outside of the building.

#### Area H - South West Tower

The walling found in the series of trial trenches in area G was further investigated and the base sill was located. A further trench located the outer wall of what was later confirmed as an angular tower. At the base of the 'original' outer wall was a burnt layer which contained 13C pottery.

An area on the slope, where the bedrock shale was close to the surface, was cleared and two large post holes were found and were identical in shape to those found below the Stable walling and by the Fountain foundation. Probing along the same line of the slope located a series of post holes.

Perhaps the most interesting area to be excavated was:-

#### Area W - Kitchen area

The trial trench inside the original outer wall led to a series of trial trenches in the area and the opening up of a large area for excavation. For the first time it was possible to identify a room within the Keep Building and with a burnt sandstone base of a large 'oven' a circular drying kiln and two open wall hearths it was obviously the kitchen for one of the periods of the Keep occupation.

A large area of burnt fill above the first floor level, and corresponding burnt sandstone found in the trenches down the slope, pointed to a burning of one, or part of one, of the earlier castles.

Underneath the burnt layer were thick layers of ash both from the excavated oven and from adjacent 'ovens' outside the excavated area. The ash contained 13/14C pottery with a variety of rim forms, without local parallel, and also carbonised grain. A cross wall was built on a marl and mortar surface and had been robbed or cut into at the eastern end of the trench. There was also evidence of a robbed wall alongside the large oven.

#### The Well

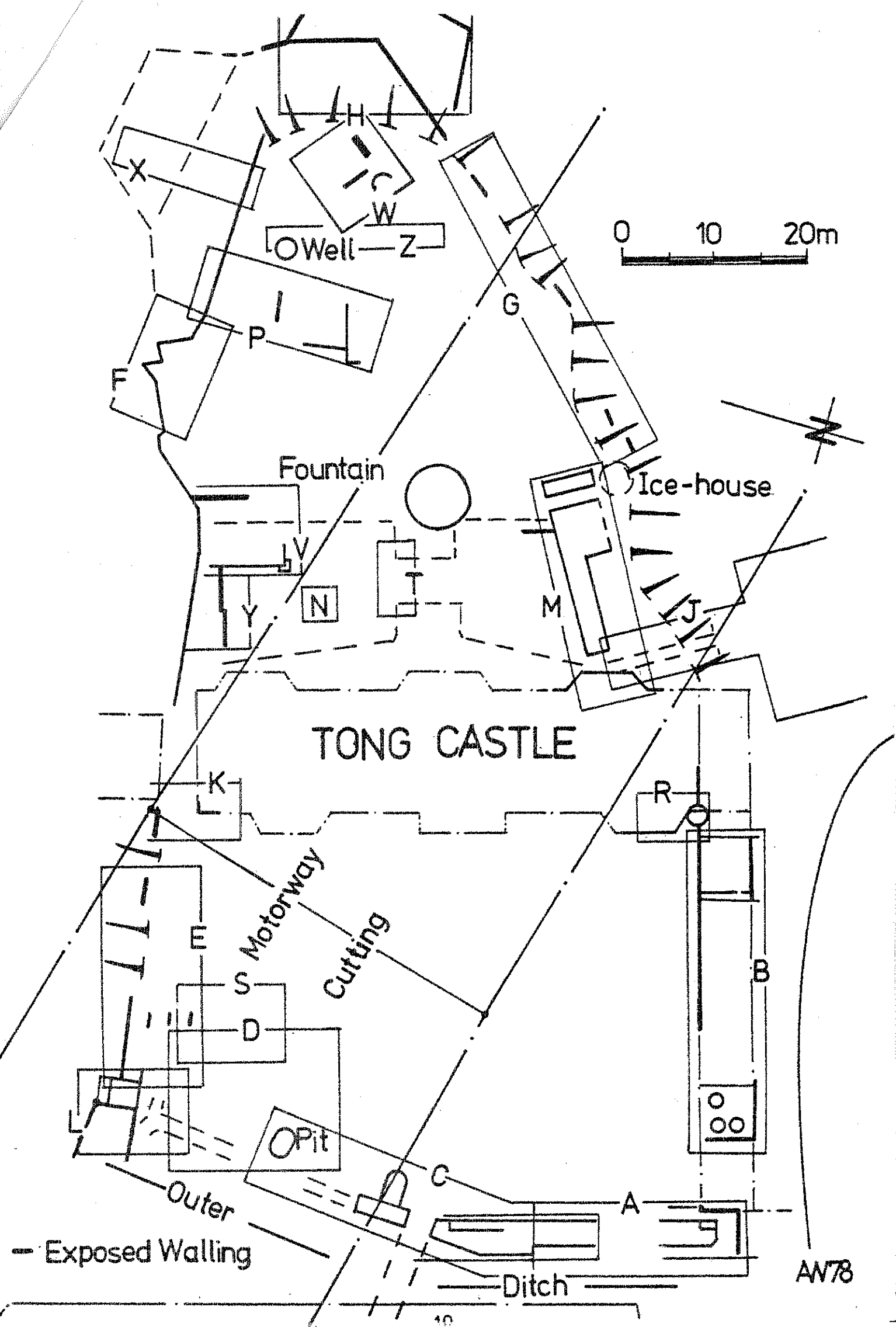
The masoned sandstone layer at which the previous excavation had stopped was broken up and removed to expose a black sandy silt layer from which came a complete small leather shoe. This was followed by knives, wooden bowls, a key and another leather shoe. A layer of masoned and broken sandstone rubble was removed to expose a dark sandy layer from which came a complete (crushed) well bucket, bucket rings, a brooch, pottery sherds, a gilt bronze ewer and a knife.

The layer changed to a pebble and sandy silt which contained a pewter patten, a kidney knife, bucket rings, a gold pin and wire and a key. The bottom corner was located at the 12.50 m level and a layer of hard packed sandy silt lay on the concaved bottom which contained a small amount of pottery sherds and pieces of roof tiles.

The bottom was cleaned to reveal a clean bedrock cutting and the excavation concluded.

#### Area X - South Outer Wall

The possibility of a tower similar to the angular tower having existed was investigated. The outer wall originally located was found to have been rebuilt and consequently the investigation was abandoned.



TONG CASTLE

0 10 20m

Fountain

Ice-house

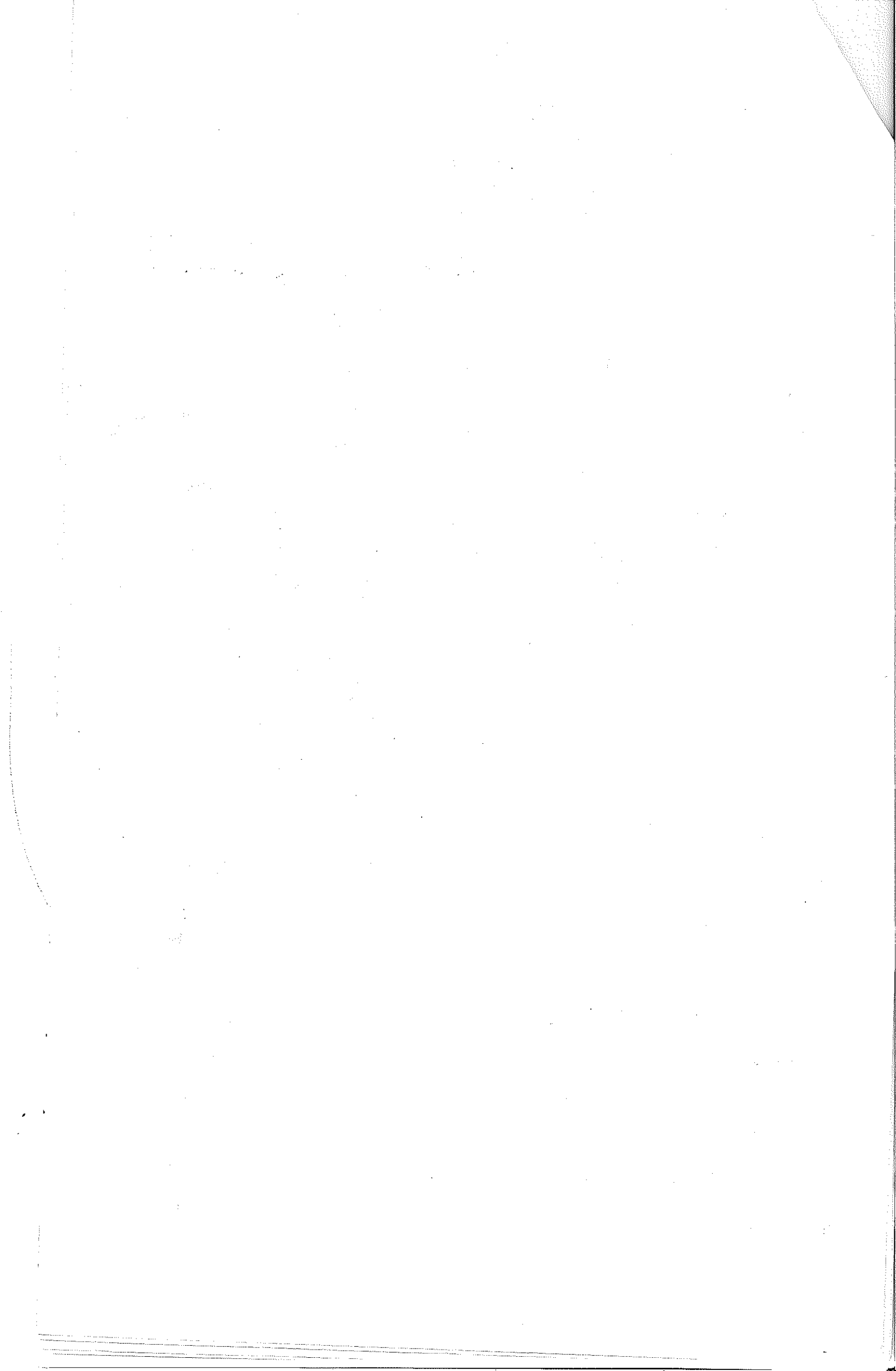
S Motorway Cutting

Outer

Exposed Walling

Ditch

AN78



#### Area J - Underground Tunnel area

Demolition rubble material was found and a further section produced 14-15C material. This proved that the castle had been built further out to the north than has originally been envisaged.

#### Area V & Y - Inner Ditch

The cross ditch wall was trenched and proved to be of two different construction periods, with the outside of one lining up with the inside of the other.

#### Area L - Underground Chamber

A sandstone wall across the ditch, with 17/18C surrounding material, was located and had been built as a landscape retaining wall.

Trenches at right angles to the chamber exposed the bedrock shale on which the chamber was built with the inside floor of the chamber cut deeper into the bedrock. This cutting extended outside the chamber to the end of the wall buttress and appeared to be the foundation of a corner tower similar to the north east tower found earlier.

The clearance of the demolition rubble from both inside and outside the chamber revealed the re-facing and re-building of the chamber, following the Civil War damage, by Pierrepont (Kingston) in the 17C. It was also possible to reconstruct the rusticated stonework arch over the doorway from the pieces of masonry found.

#### Area Z - Well to Kitchen Area

A substantial wall foundation was located which gave every indication of being the containment wall for the well. Its foundation cut across the corner of the excavated kitchen area and suggested that the foundation post dates the kitchen which, if correct, places the kitchen upper level earlier than the well dating of 14/15C. This would place the last use of the kitchen around the 1300 period and explain the earlier pottery dating.

Alan Wharton.

### THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF VERNACULAR BUILDINGS

Work continued during the summer of 1978 on the investigation and recording of domestic architecture in the county. It was particularly pleasing that members who attended the Birmingham University's Extra Mural course on "Old Houses in Shropshire" held in Whitchurch from October 1977 - March 1978 were keen to incorporate the vernacular architecture of their own area into the researches of the Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group.

Regular Field Days in Whitchurch have now been organised and investigations so far have revealed...

1. A medieval "solar over the shop" and possible hall-site at 21/23 High St.

2. Possibly a medieval upper-floor Solar at High Street Garage.

These have been the two most significant discoveries. Other houses in Whitchurch have yielded interesting features, e.g.

Dodington House ,, Concealed timber-framing and accommodation for fighting cocks.

28 Dodington .. A late C17 house showing the transition from timber-framing to brick and an advanced plan-form.

7 Dodington .. A good example of mid-C17 work, very little altered.

38 High St .. (Currys) .. A fine staircase of c.1677.

37 High St .. The remains of a similar staircase on a smaller scale.

17 St Mary's St .. A surviving plank-and-muntin partition (rare at vernacular level in Shropshire)

17 Green End .. Classical door-heads, door-cases and fireplaces in this once-elegant C.18 town house.

#### The Cruck Count

Cruck buildings in Shropshire continue to become recognised. Four discoveries this summer bring the total to 142. They are...

Maesbury, "Coed-y-Rae"

Munslow, Hungerford, No. 21

Norbury, Hardwick Hall

Oswestry, Pen-y-Bont, Pentre Mawr (Barn)

#### An Aisled Hall

Probably the most important discovery this year was "The Bold" in Aston Botterell parish which proved on examination to be a double-aisled hall. This is the only indisputably fully-aisled hall known in Shropshire to date. I am grateful to Mr Fred Powell of Wheathill for introducing me to this building and with the kind permission of Mr & Mrs Fiske I hope to begin work on recording it soon.

#### Preston Montford Field Study Centre

The summer school on Vernacular Architecture held at Preston Montford in August attracted people from Sussex, Nottinghamshire, Cleveland, Yorkshire and London. Three houses were recorded...

"The Crow's Nest", Harley

Nos. 1/2 Habberley

Fulway Cottage, Upper Cound

### Ludlow

Investigation into Ludlow's vernacular architecture continues under the aegis of the Historical Research Group - a branch of the Ludlow Civic Society.

Almost every building visited has yielded evidence of medieval, Tudor or Jacobean construction behind mostly C.18 frontages. Results are too numerous to mention, but the mammoth task of evaluating Ludlow's development is progressing satisfactorily. From time to time it is hoped to publish interim reports. The first two papers are listed below.

### Much Wenlock

Classes are to be held this winter in the Guildhall, Much Wenlock on "Old Houses in Shropshire". Sponsored by the Extra-Mural Dept., of Birmingham University the classes are fortnightly, on Wednesdays commencing October 4th 1978 at 7.30. For further details please contact College Hill House or Mrs Moran - Tel: Shrewsbury 53356.

### Recent Publications

Ludlow Research Papers No 1, "Ludlow Houses and their Residents" by M.E. Speight and D.J. Lloyd. (Giving documentary and other sources) Price £1.

Ludlow Research Papers No 2, "The Corner Shop" by David Lloyd and Madge Moran (A history of Bodenhams of Ludlow from the Middle Ages) Price £1.75

(Both books available from local booksellers)

M. Moran

### BUILDINGS AND THE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

Members will be pleased to note that the County Planning Officer is sponsoring a Special Temporary Employment - Job Creation Scheme for the recording of vernacular buildings in Shropshire. It is hoped to cover a wide variety of house types, including mills, large houses (upper stratas of society), small houses (farming community), cottages (landless labourers) and some urban houses, as well as paying some attention to the topography around them. The scheme has been in operation for just over a month and the houses recorded include as follows:

Cottage Plealey - a probable rare survival of a landless labourer's cottage.

Originally open to the roof but the evidence for the form of heating before the present stack has been removed. Normally it would have been a smoke hood.

Owlbury Hall, Nr. Bishop's Castle, Lydham - a large house type of immense complexity. Four building phases, encompassing late medieval (close studding), 17th century (cross beam ceilings and square panel partitions), early 18th century (brick phase), and mid-late 18th century brick skin and elongated windows.

25, 27, 29, 31 Willow Street, Ellesmere - two timber framed urban small house types encapsulated in brick cottages circa 1800.

45, 47 St. John's Street, Bridgnorth - Sandstone small house type encapsulated in brick, and extended in brick. Surprisingly for Shropshire they incorporated curved principals (rafters).

No. 4 Station Road, Minsterley - a two bay small house type, thatched and formerly open to the roof with fragmentary evidence for a smoke hood. As with the cottage, Plealey, the rear and side wall had been replaced with stone in this case destroying valuable evidence for entrances. A  $\frac{1}{2}$  bay framed addition had been added.

Sutton Farm, Tern Hill, Market Drayton - a small home type verging on something grander. Ogee headed doorways at 1st floor level demarcated the superior end of this baffle entry 3 bay farmhouse.

Editor

### Whitchurch Archaeological Group - Archaeological Investigations SSA 1169K

The Group were asked by the County Museum Service, on behalf of the Department of the Environment, to carry out the excavation of a series of Archaeological Evaluation trenches in the areas of Whitchurch which are archaeologically sensitive and under threat of future building development. The sites concerned were:

1. The Folly Lane area off Yardington - unfortunately permission was not granted here.
2. The sloping ground to the West of Newtown Street, now the subject of a competition organised by the Whitchurch & District Society.
3. On the site of Castle House at the corner of Pepper Street and Castle Hill.

All the features were recorded and drawn before being backfilled, on the day of excavating, due to safety regulations.

### Pepper Street ESA 75

One trench 20 metres long was cut at right angles to Pepper Street, in the hope of locating the Southern defences of the Roman fort and any possible remains of the medieval castle, which is thought to have been in this area.

a) The trench revealed some interesting features, evidence of a V shaped ditch running parallel to Pepper Street with an "Ankle breaker" gully in its base. This is typical of a defensive ditch, but unfortunately it could not be fully investigated owing to the unstable fill of the ditch.

) North of the ditch, the base of a clay rampart with the turf line sloping towards the ditch. This was sealed by a layer of red clay, with a narrow slot running along its southern edge near the ditch, which may have been the imprint of the base of a stone wall (this was very similar to the footings of the wall found in Yardington in 1977).

c) Between this feature and the ditch an earthen bank against the clay base and robbed trench of the wall. Finds from the upper surface of the clay footing were of the late 2nd century, so probably dating the destruction of the wall, and included were fragments of Roman tile.

A second trench 10 metres long was excavated parallel to Trench 1, in hope of tracing the line of the ditch and wall - the ditch was recovered but had been re-cut in the early medieval period, destroying the ankle breaker located in Trench 1. There was no evidence of the wall base, however, but this may have been destroyed by a general levelling of the area in the Middle Ages. It is interesting to note that the raised position of the site had protected the natural Whitchurch subsoil to within 30 cms. of the present ground level, and this indicates the amount of land erosion from the 12th and 13th centuries to the 20th, indicated by the present lower levels of Pepper Street and Castle Hill.

#### The Newtown Site ESA 2655

This site has always been considered to be one of the most interesting archaeological locations in the town. It occupies the summit of part of the natural escarpment which runs from the Castle Hill to Sherrymill Hill, and it was thought that if Whitchurch had a stone castle or a town wall it would have survived in this area. Also the extent of the Roman occupation outside the town's western defences might be located here. Unfortunately a great deal of the slope had been used to dump much of the demolition material from the destruction of the "Newtown". The only area which was least contaminated by modern clearance was on the line of the southern wall of No. 27. This latter building was the last of the houses in Newtown and was probably of the 17th century and timber-framed; it was demolished in the late 1960's. It was thought that the underlying layers would not be contaminated by post 17th and 18th century features.

The first trench was 24 metres long and was at right angles to the present Newtown Street, and this revealed evidence of gulleys and ditches running parallel to Newtown. Two gulleys ran under the timber-framed building. The two ditches, one of which was 5.50 metres wide and V-shaped and sealed beneath the early levelling of the site, may be of Roman origin. The only evidence of the town ditch was a large U-shaped depression 5 metres wide running parallel to Newtown some 21 metres west of the present street kerb. The fill was of a dirty silty loam and the upper levels contained a sherd of 15 century pottery.

The two ditches mentioned were sterile of finds, so therefore undatable, but the ditch fills were similar to that of pits and ditches of the Romano-British period in Whitchurch and are probably of that date.

A second trench was dug parallel to Trench 1, in hope of tracing the features described, but unfortunately the entire stratigraphy was destroyed by a 19th century wall and the cellar of one of the later Newtown buildings.

It is possible that all traces of the castle and town wall have been destroyed by the general erosion of the slope.

These trial trenches have been of two-fold value. Apart from the archaeological features found it was also noted that the subsoil was of sand on red boulder clay, and it was encouraging to find the clay which may have been used for the manufacture of the local pottery, tiles and bricks.

#### Claypit Street Flats (First Interim Report) ESA 2650

The Group continued investigations at the rear of the Horse & Jockey on land owned by the North Shropshire District Council and scheduled for development.

This phase of the excavations was supervised by Jack Field under the direction of Richard Griffiths.

The excavation consisted of a box 4 metres square some 15 metres north of the present Claypit Street, adjoining the area excavated in March by the Group. (Published in Newsletter No. 7). The object was to get the continuity of the levels located and to explore the possibility of any further house platforms. On the map of 1879 there is a small building in this area, and it was hoped that there may have been an earlier building as it also appears on the town map in 1761.

On the removal of the 19th century building footings, there was a deep layer of black loam which had been cut by 18th and 19th century pits. Pits had also cut into a level medieval surface, extending across the entire box.

The surface had been levelled by using clay rammed into any depression in the previous ground surface. At the eastern end of the box there was a series of pebbles set into the surface. Without a complete area investigation of it it can only be speculated what this feature represented. There was a series of early post holes in

the area and they may, together with the pebble area, indicate the doorway into a building represented by the medieval surface. Finds from here suggest a date of the 14th and 15th century.

The surface sealed a ditch of late Roman date and has yet to be completely investigated.

Finds from the site included two unusual lead spindle whorls and the rim sherds of a late 15th century date. These were from the medieval floor context and may indicate that this might have been a workshop used by weavers.

A trench was recently extended from the box across the site towards Claypit Street, to study the layers of occupation and to section the pathway found in March. This revealed the metallised surface of the pathway and various other later features. It is intended to extend the investigation by a trial trench to the outbuilding of the Horse & Jockey. This should reveal the section of the Roman feature located in the box, and also connect the standing buildings with the excavated evidence.

#### Archaeological Notes

ESA 79? During the past few weeks the Group has been engaged in a watching brief on the excavation of trenches for the water mains throughout the town. The route investigated to date is the Yardington area and so far nothing of archaeological significance has been revealed. The Group also investigated features and finds located when ESA 77 Mr Williams of the Old Shop in High Street lowered the floor level within his building. Finds included Roman and Medieval potsherds and a bone object used in weaving. Unfortunately, due to the dangerous conditions, further archaeological investigations were not carried out.

#### Recent Discoveries in Connection with the Sites and Monuments Record

A hillfort at Chetwynd Aston, newly designated Pave Lane Hillfort has been located at SJ 756164 from an aerial photograph. It is a trivallate enclosure which shows as a cropmark with the crop beaten down over the ditches. There is a possible entrance on the West side.

#### Chance finds reported to Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery during the last year.

- SJ 40 NE Bayston Hill/Meole Brace (SJ/487097) sestertius of Trajan (?). Reported by Mr E.J.Priestley, Clive House Museum, Shrewsbury.
- SJ 41 SE Shrewsbury (SJ/485124)  
Billon tetradrachm of Alexandria, obverse illegible, probably mid 3rd century. Found while diving in River Severn by boathouse in Quarry Park, April 1977.
- SJ 50 NW Atcham (c SJ/540093)  
Barbarous radiate, obverse illegible, late 3rd century. Found in River Severn. (Acc. no. N31'77).
- SJ 50 NE Wroxeter (SJ/552091)  
Flagon in white ware, late 2nd century. Found ten yards upstream from junction of Rivers Severn and Tern in river bank, c 1964. (Acc. no. A63'64).
- SJ 52 NW Wem (?)  
Billon tetradrachm of Diocletian, Alexandria mint. Reported by Mr W.J.Norton, Ludlow Museum.
- SJ 60 NE Telford  
Iron rondel-dagger, mid 14th - mid 16th century, and post-medieval pike. Reported by Mr S.B.Smith, Ironbridge Gorge Museum.
- SO 28 SE Clun (SO/299808)  
Leaden souvenir or secular ornament, 15th century. Found in River Clun near the castle, July 1976. (Loan in, Birmingham Museum).
- SO 28 SE Clun (SO/299808)  
Two antoniniani of Tetricus and Carinus. Found near Clun Castle, 1976 (?).
- SO 48 SW Craven Arms (?)  
Ae 3 of Licinius I, Alexandria mint. Reported by Mr W.J.Norton, Ludlow Museum.
- SO 57 Clee Hills
- NE/67 NW French jetton, minted in Tournai (?). 15th century, c 1970.
- SO 57 NE Angel Bank (?)  
Lead token, post-medieval. Ploughed up by Mr Hughes of Angel Bank some years ago. Reported by Mr W.J.Norton, Ludlow Museum.
- SO 67 SE Mamble (SO/67757055)  
Sestertius of Severus Alexander and foliis of Galerius as Caesar, Trier mint. Found in the garden of a cottage opposite Southnett Farm, 1953.
- SO 79 NE Badger Dingle (c SO/7699)  
Uniface lead token, medieval (?) Found on waste land. (Acc. no. N31'78).
- SO 79 SW Bridgnorth (SO/724943)  
Uniface lead token, post-medieval. Found on waste land. (Acc. no. N30'78)

Ruth Taylor



### Items reported to the Sites and Monuments Record.

A grey Neolithic stone axe was recently found on the land of Mr J. Kent, Eyton Farm, Baschurch. 137mm long with a maximum width, just behind the cutting edge, of 65mm which tapers to 25mm at the butt. Its maximum thickness is 27mm and its weight is 260g. It is an example of the type of axe which was only partially ground subsequent to flaking. The cutting edge has been damaged in the more recent past. The owner has agreed to permit the axe to be submitted for sectioning by the West Midlands Petrological Survey.

A partially perforated stone implement found some 20 years ago in the Dorrington/Longnor area has recently been submitted to the Borough Museum by Mr J. Castree, 7 Plealey, Pontesbury. 180mm long, it tapers from 82mm wide at the butt to 61mm at the other end. The thickness similarly tapers from 56mm to 29mm. The elongated hole is 42mm x 28mm x 21mm deep and is 63mm from the butt. Its weight is 1250g. Its colour is brown and it appears to be a natural sandstone pebble which has been utilised. Straight scratches radiating from the edge of the perforation may have been caused by a metal implement - "modern" handiwork?

Alan Tyler

### Air Photography.

This has not been a very good season for cropmarks, as the appalling summer weather has kept the soil moisture deficit low and contrasts in growing crops were not well-developed. Chris Musson was, however, able to fly over north and north-west Shropshire on 14th, 25th and 26th July, and 4th and 8th August. On 25th August a general reconnaissance was made over north-east Shropshire, an area where few sites are so far known. New sites were discovered in the Market Drayton area, and there is clearly potential here. In all 28 new sites were identified, most of them in the Knockin/Oswestry/Baschurch area, and including a major new complex at Wolfshead by the A5.

Plotting of air photograph information onto the Sites and Monuments Record Maps is now virtually up to date as far as archaeological air photographs are concerned. An overall county distribution map showing the pattern of enclosures, field systems, pit alignments and ring ditches has been prepared to show the present state of knowledge and where the major gaps are.

The Local Studies Library in Shrewsbury is hoping to purchase a considerable number of Ordnance Survey vertical air photographs of the county. The initial purchase will probably be of the area covered by Volume VIII of the Victoria County History, and the remainder of the county cover will be progressively purchased.

The Sites and Monuments Record now has about 1,000 oblique air photographs, mostly by Jim Pickering, Arnold Baker and Professor St. Joseph, arranged by kilometre grid square.

Ian Burrow

### Recording

The Sites and Monuments Record staff would like to thank all those people who submitted examples of World War II Defences for recording. As a result of your efforts six defences were recorded. They were all pill boxes with the exception of one gun pit.

In connection with the survey team now based at Shirehall to record buildings it would be very much appreciated if a similar response could be made to a plea for the whereabouts of vernacular buildings in danger from decay and neglect, as in view of the fact that the team are only available for six months, it is hoped to constantly reappraise priorities.

If there is a vernacular building in your area which is seriously dilapidated and possibly unoccupied, please send the following details to the Sites and Monuments Record (for the attention of Carole Ryan) Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.  
Type of building i.e. timber framed, brick, stone etc.  
Location (six figure grid reference if possible).  
Name and address of owner.

Editor.

### The Work of Local Groups

#### The Whitchurch Archaeological Group

Apart from the archaeological activities listed under the interim excavations reports the Group is also actively involved in liaison with the County Museums research team based in Whitchurch, who are engaged on the task of finding suitable premises and devising a museum best suited to Whitchurch and District.

This summer the Group engaged upon a series of summer walks in the Whitchurch area and visited Wroxeter. The project involving scanning 103 years' copies of the Whitchurch Herald in order to piece together the history of the town, has been completed, as has the recording of Fire Insurance Signs.

Editor.

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bird, A.J. History on the ground. Univ. of Wales P. 1977. £3.25.

Mr Bird will probably be remembered by many members. This book is an inventory of the archaeological records he made of the area around Clun on behalf of the Ordnance Survey. The book will be of interest to anyone interested in the history of the Welsh border.

Gelling M. Signposts to the past: place names and the history of England Dent. 1978. £6.50.

This book by a recognised authority on the subject will appeal to all local historians. So much of the early history of settlement is hidden in place names, but it is only comparatively recently that research has enabled reliable interpretations to be made. Dr. Gelling's book brilliantly synthesises current investigation in a most readable style. A particularly interesting chapter deals with place names and the archaeologist. There are numerous references to Shropshire including a lucid history of the name "Shrewsbury".

More, J. A tale of two houses. Published by the author, 1978. £4.75.

Ludlow's M.P. has written an account of his family's history in Shropshire and Ireland. There are interesting accounts of the Linley estate and the Bishop's Castle Railway as well as character studies of members of the family.

Reynolds, S. An introduction to the history of English medieval towns. Clarendon Press. 1977. £7.95.

This book surveys some eleven hundred years of English urban life - from the fifth to the early sixteenth centuries. By setting them against a European background, she casts light on the origins of English towns.

Sawyer, P.H. ed. Medieval settlement: continuity and change. Arnold, 1976. £19.50.

The papers in this book report and discuss recent discoveries, explain and comment on the various approaches to the subject and assess the limitations of the evidence. The first important collection of papers in the field, it both reflects the results and predicts the likely direction of studies in medieval settlement.

Wilson, D.M. ed. The archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England. Methuen 1976. £30.00.

In no field of British archaeology has our knowledge increased so rapidly in recent years as in that of the Anglo-Saxon period. This survey outlines some of the main advances which have been made in archaeology since the war. This is the first book to present a fully documented account of recent research in the field and in the museum.

Wymer, J.J. ed. Gazetteer of Mesolithic sites in England and Wales with a Gazetteer of Upper Palaeolithic sites in England and Wales. CBA. 1977.

These gazetteers list finds county by county. Many artifacts have not been published previously. These detailed lists state find-spot of each item and its present whereabouts as well as a brief description of it.

Tony Carr.

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest

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Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Edited by Carole Ryan, 4 Betley Terrace, Betley Lane, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury.

Tel: Shrewsbury 222332 (County Planning Department)

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### EDITORIAL

Readers will forgive the brevity of this newsletter. The winter season is somewhat devoid of excavation and the subsequent reports, so the ones included are those which missed the October newsletter. The harsh winter has obviously taken its toll on fieldwork, but those working on buildings have fared a little better. It is to be hoped that the summer weather will be more providential for the very interesting programme of field meetings arranged by Mrs Beard.

Editor.

### SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The following field meetings have been arranged for 1979:

- SATURDAY 28th APRIL Industrial Archaeology in the Derbyshire Area.  
Visiting the Cromford Canal and the Great Leawood Pump, remains of the High Peak railway, Middleton Top, Crich tramway Museum, etc. etc.  
Transport: Members Cars. Leader: J. Lees Esq.,
- SATURDAY 12th MAY Visit to the Museum of London.  
Transport: Coach. Leader: G.S.G. Toms Esq.,
- SATURDAY 2nd JUNE Visit to Medieval Houses of the Welsh Borderland.  
Transport: Members Cars. Leader: Mrs M. Moran.
- SUNDAY 17th JUNE A Family Day in the Montgomery Area.  
Exploring the monuments of the Welsh border. This is a meeting for members, their families and friends. Children and young people especially welcome.  
Transport: Cars. Leader: D. Pannett Esq.,
- SATURDAY 7th JULY Visit to Lichfield Cathedral. Leader: G. Baugh Esq.,  
Tamworth Castle, Museum etc. Leader: R. Meeson Esq.,  
Transport: Coach.
- SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER Vernacular versus Vernacular.  
Revival - A visit to the Moat House, Longnor,  
and Bourton Manor, Bourton.  
Transport: Cars. Leader: Miss C. Ryan.

### The Auxiliary Fort at Wroxeter SJ 563077

Work done during the past year has enabled us to collate areas previously excavated in isolation due to farming operations and to reconsider earlier suggestions. Only the S. half of the area between the fort and the Severn was available for examination and work was limited by the Severn-Trent River Authority. However test cuttings to the N. enabled us to determine the harbour boundaries. This military site is many miles from tidal waters, adjoining a river still subject to broad flooding.

### The Civilian Exit and the Military Ditches

The dished butt-ends of the inner ditch, 3m wide and 1.5m deep and the space between were covered with decayed pave which was found to be contiguous with what erroneously was thought to be an intervallum road. This patched pave sagged into the poorly consolidated fill of the ditch ends, the upper layer of the fill consisting of decayed turf probably being the pushed in remains of the rampart. To the S. the stony layers had undergone repeated patching but N. across the entrance this was merged with a rammed fill consisting of creamy silt, sand and clay all designed to ease the slope of 1 in 6 riverwards. This latest surface, about 14m wide, overlaid both ditch ends and would appear to have been associated with the civilian phase; associated pottery up to mid 2nd C. supports this.

The military road surface was revealed when these layers were lifted. A gravel dressing covered flat stones, about 9cm by 7cm, lying on natural sand denuded of turf. The military engineers may have done their work in a hurry for these W. ditches traversed a slope of 1 in 6 and faced with a natural water problem they created another, for the ditches became drains and overflowed with water breaching an insubstantial clay and stone bank about 26cm high, built along the outer border

of the inner ditch. The small outer ditch, about 5m S. was soon washed away and replaced by creamy mud. This water problem beset the excavators in a rainy summer.

A clay lined drain 27cm wide ran from the fort S. of the centre line of the entrance. Slots, as though to support planks, were cut in to either side, and fragments of carbonized oak were found in the drain which had been destroyed some 5m from the exit. The overflow undermined the above mentioned make-up for it too was flushed away down the steep slope.

#### The Quay

Outside the fort for a distance of about 23m S. of the centre line of the exit the make-up extended riverwards gradually broadening to a width of 28m in a distance of 14m down the slope. Here it stopped in a straight, though grossly eroded, edge. It presented the appearance of a quay. This structure was laid on decayed Keele sandstone or sand stripped of vegetation and though patches of gravel and cobbling remained, ruts had become rivulets and these broadened, washing creamy mud into black sludge over the quay edge. Such was the decay that the upper part of the make-up was washed away so that it was difficult to distinguish the military surface from the later one. Near the fort the average thickness was 30cm but at the edge where the original construction was repaired with dense clay and cobbles it was 80cm.

2.2m from the quay edge near the centre of the quay was a post-hole, probably for a Sampson post, 90cm by 70cm set squarely facing the harbour edge and cut in the corner of a shallower earlier rectangular pit, about 1.9m by 1.2m, the depth of the later hole being about 1m. This feature was associated with a small stony floor and a system of sleeper beam slots not yet fully excavated. However the post had been removed and all filled in with medium gravel, a little proud of the soft quay surface.

This was the only trace of construction in the S. half of the quay, the total area stripped amounting to 513sqm. Trodden into the surface was an As of Claudius (probably an imitation), a bronze key toggle and a dolphin type brooch. The depth of topsoil was on average 70cm.

#### The Harbour

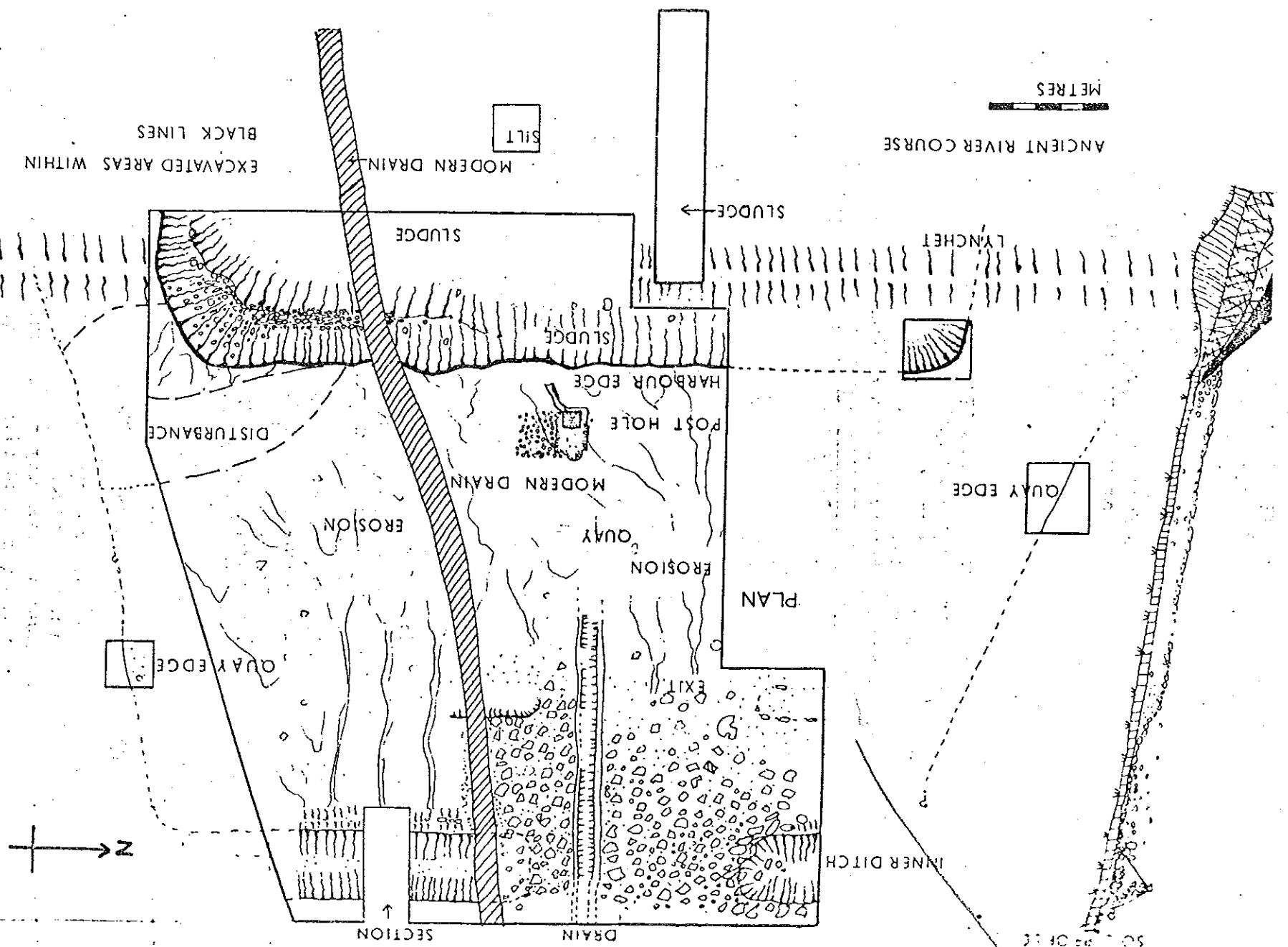
The presence of a basin or harbour was suspected because of the proximity of the W. exit to the river, the fact that a quay was present and that anchorage would be impossible in a fast flowing stream. Moreover the thick black sludge noted in work done last year could only have been laid down in still water. The removal of over 400 tons of soil which, since Roman times, had accumulated in the harbour was informative for it had occurred in three phases:

- 1) Soil pushed in and mixed in its lower part with black sludge and washed down mud.
- 2) Soil with ash and fragments of Wenlock limestone possibly used by farmers to reduce soil acidity.
- 3) Ploughed down soil forming a lynchet between the ancient river course and the present ploughed area in the tail of which was early Victorian cottage-type pottery.

The first two layers contained no artefacts. The edges of the harbour and quay were coincident but were not revetted with wood or masonry. The total length was 32m with a dished curve turning riverwards through 90 degrees at either end. This curve has been shown to be strengthened at the S. end by a strongly built bank of clay and stone 1.2m broad and 70cm high. This first appeared 9m from the S. end at a depth of about 2m and followed the curve. It seems likely that the harbour was cut back about 9m from the old river course but this has yet to be demonstrated. The harbour face was not vertical but sloped from the quayside at an average angle of 35 degrees to a depth of 2.8m, after which a more gradual fall continued for a distance of 5.8m riverwards.

On this slope a vessel could be laid for careening or repair or moored to a pulley at the top of the Sampson post for unloading cargo. The sludge close to the edge was so dry and dense that though small objects such as gaming counters and pottery sherds had fallen to the bottom, cobbles and a  $\frac{1}{4}$  kilo of lead scrap had barely sunk in. It seems therefore that river recession had commenced in Roman times causing first a marsh and then, with further drying, a harder surface. It seems that the harbour soon became a rubbish dump for the greatest density of material was opposite the fort exit and though in general the pottery along the edge is Flavian-Trajanic, later pottery does occur. It should be recalled that a military-type bronze buckle was found in the deepest part of the harbour, 7m from its edge. The river had flooded at least twice before the first soil was pushed in and had left clean silt to a thickness of nearly 2m. It is suggested that this was an early fort, perhaps set up by Scapula, to control the river crossing and as part of his western frontier.

# WROXETER AUXILIARY FORT



METRES

EXCAVATED AREAS WITHIN BLACK LINES

AWJH 178

PRESENT RIVER EDGE

ANCIENT RIVER COURSE

LYNCHET

SLUDGE

MODERN DRAIN

SLUDGE

SLUDGE

HARBOUR EDGE

POST HOLE

MODERN DRAIN

EROSION

QUAY

EROSION

PLAN

QUAY EDGE

QUAY EDGE

EXIT

INNER DITCH

SECTION

DRAIN

Scale of 1:100



The general view to the W. is excellent if trees are cleared. There was no pottery similar to that found in the legionary fortress which suggests that the auxiliaries were here earlier and had a different source for their pottery supply. The slighting of the defences, the rough wide entrance and the presence of quantities of later pottery up to mid 2nd C. suggests prolonged civilian occupation and that the crossing was kept in commission either as a bridge or ferry. But only excavation on a large scale within this 5 acre fort can further illuminate these problems.

A.W.J. HOUGHTON and E. WELLS on behalf of the  
Roman Research Group of The Shropshire Archaeological Society.

THE MOATED SITE AT CLEETON ST. MARY AND THE ASSOCIATED DESERTED  
MEDIÆVAL VILLAGE COMPLEX.

The Township of Cleeton was originally part of the Parish of Butterlie (Bitterley) but in Domesday the Butterlie entry makes no mention of a manor at Cleeton. It may well be that at the time of the Domesday survey that its value was such that it was ignored for taxation purposes. In 1296 John de Cleeton is recorded as being holder of the Manor.

There follows a description of the site of the township as it is today from which deductions concerning its development status and character have been made.

The site is roughly a crescent of high ground, running from W. to N.E. with a slope from the South running down from Titterstone Clee. The area is well watered and the ground heavy clay overlying the basalt of the Clee. There was at one time extensive scrub woodland covering the area and this has over a long period (into the 20th Century) been cleared for pastoral purposes. The southern boundary of the site is an area of marshy ground covered in vegetation.

The deserted village and the moat are situated on the eight hundred foot contour at the bottom of a steep slope, 1 in 6.

The moat which is recorded in VCH volume I is classified in RCHM in class A group 1c. A circular platform with a N. facing causeway and an incurved entrance is supported by extensive revetting of dhustone and conglomerate (the local stone). The revetting extends upwards to a height of 2 metres and is still in an excellent state of repair. The periphery of the platform is raised above the level of the inside and slopes inward, evidence that the revetting at some period extended upwards into drystone wall as the outer boundary of the house and farm buildings. The moat is fed by a stream flowing into the southern area. The stream had been forked 200 metres south. There is a steep outer bank but there is no sign of revetting in it. On the eastern side of the moat is a depression with a north facing slope into which water had been diverted. This may have been a leet to drive a mill. The platform which is larger than other house platforms accompanies the leet. South of the moated site are two well defined rectangular areas of reed parallel to the stream, possible fishponds. A third pond forms a northern feature of the moat. To the north of the site is an orchard with trees of considerable age and this is enclosed by a lesser but still well defined earthwork. A plan would give the initial impression of a ring work but this is not borne out when one examines the relief.

Proposed development

1. At the time of the Domesday survey the vill was merely a small assarted settlement deriving a mere subsistence, hence it does not feature as worthy of taxation.
2. By 1296 it has grown to the extent that the landowners de Ledwyche deem it necessary to bring it under a more formal control and John de Ledwyche takes up residence as Lord of the vill.
3. By 1316 he has so established himself that he takes the name John de Cleeton. The moat would therefore appear to have been built in the early 14th Century as the manor of a seignor.

The extent of the house platforms, fishponds and the mill leet all reinforce this view.

Peter Hewitt.

Bromfield, Salop. SO 483 776

Excavations have taken place in advance of gravel digging on and around a square single-ditched enclosure. Outside the enclosure were two pits, containing Western Neolithic sherds and three with Beaker sherds. In one of the latter the rider of a saddle quorn was also found. These pits are the first evidence for prehistoric settlement, as distinct from burial, on the Bromfield terrace although the nearby cremation cemetery 300m to the west, dug in 1966/67, showed continuous use through the greater part of the Bronze Age. Also outside the enclosure were two isolated four-post buildings and a pit containing many pot-boilers.

Work on the enclosure has so far been limited to the interior which measures approximately 34 x 32m (about 28 x 26m inside the estimated rampart position); the only entrance is on the east side. Two single-phase four-post buildings measuring 2.9m square and 2.8 x 2.4m overall are in opposite corners of the enclosure and in the south-west corner is a maze of post-holes that are probably to be interpreted as drying racks and single posts. Several small shallow clay-lined pits were set mostly in part of the central space. A hollowed area inside the northern rampart's position has been only partly excavated and its function remains unknown. Pot-boilers have been abundant in almost every feature but other finds have been rare. The few sherds of Very Convex Pottery and domestic pottery would be consistent with either an Iron Age or native Romano-British occupation.

The north angle of the 8-hectare Roman marching camp, 60m S.E. of the enclosure, has been planned and there is some promise that its excavation may allow regular ditch-digging lengths to be recognised and so permit an estimate of the number of men encamped there.

The native farm enclosure described above was re-used as a graveyard in the Saxon period. 21 graves, and another unused one, were orientated roughly east-west well within the estimated position of the rampart. So far the only grave goods have been two scramax-type iron knives and fragments of an iron buckle. It looks as though this was a Christian cemetery, presumably to be dated somewhere between the late seventh and tenth centuries. Several of the graves are paired and they are roughly arranged in three rows. Only traces of skulls and tooth enamel survive but silt replacement of the skeletons has allowed the general attitude of many to be established, showing both extended and crouched positions; several were provided with wooden coffins. The cemetery has thus provided some archaeological substance for the English settlement of the countryside in the Welsh Marches and extended the period of interest in this small area to at least 3,500 years.

The work has been sponsored by the D.O.E. through the Salop County Museum Service and has been undertaken by the writer with the assistance particularly of Mrs Yvonne Stanford and Messrs W.E.Jenks, R.C.Lett, D.Wilson, C.A.Stanford and P.Throssell. It has been made possible by the generous co-operation of Lord Plymouth and the quarry staff.

S.C. Stanford. University of Birmingham  
Nov. '78.

Site - Burrow Hill, Hopesay, Craven Arms, Shropshire. (SO 383831)  
Director of excavation: Hugh Föllner, Institute of Archaeology,  
31 Gordon Square, London W.C.1.

Sponsoring body: Little Brampton Estate. Period represented: Iron Age.

Summary: Topographical (form line) survey was started in 1978 of the interior of the multivallate hillfort and ramparts, in conjunction with a contour survey, to delineate the sizes and distribution of the many 'functional platforms' within. These may be hut platforms but cannot be presumed so; they are widespread over the interior and vary a great deal in size. Resistivity survey was undertaken to try and define the extent and form of the inner rampart circuit. As it appeared that several 'functional platforms' were cut into what might be the upper fill of a ditch outside this inner circuit, one of these ostensible platforms was selected for trial excavation. A circular platform cut partly into the bedrock and partly into the ditch fill has been revealed with two superimposed penannular gullies. Seven sherds of iron age pottery, including one 'duck-stamped' form, and a small flint scraper were recovered unstratified. Excavation and survey will continue in 1979. The site is on private land and access must be prearranged.

#### ANOTHER OF REYNOLDS' TUNNELS?

For some years the writer has been intrigued by references to metallic ores in the Silurian 'Wenlock Limestone' and to rather unlikely evidence of metal mines at Shipton on Wenlock Edge. Prestwich in his 'Geology of Coalbrookdale' of 1843 sets the scene with the statement that lead and copper have been found in Wenlock Limestone. Both M.B.Donald in 'Elizabethan Copper' and T.Rowley in 'Shropshire Landscape' quote documents which refer to permissions to work a mine of copper and silver within the Lordship of Wenlock Priory. For example James 'Mynor' of Derbyshire was granted permission in 1597.

According to H.E.Forrest in 'Old Houses of Wenlock' (1915) Shipton Manor belonged to Wenlock Priory up to the time of the Dissolution so that it could be this area to which the above evidence of mineral prospects refers. Forrest himself adds further intriguing information 'A tunnel near the Hall, now half full of water, has in modern times been described as an underground passage to Wenlock Priory'.



There is an old mining shaft on the hill behind some 500 yards away and the tunnel was no doubt connected with these old workings".

But the most interesting reference is to be found in Plymley 'Guide to the Agriculture of Shropshire' (1803) when in quoting "Mr William Reynolds" Plymley says "Lead is also found at Shipton in the road from Wenlock to Ludlow, but never yet in sufficient quantities to reward the adventurers".

It would appear from this therefore that metal ores have been found at Shipton, that mining trials were carried out before 1800 and that a tunnel and shaft exist near the Hall. Recently the pool near the road and east of the Hall has been drained and a tunnel entrance fully exposed. Although known for many years, access has not been possible due to the high water level, thick vegetation and the steep quarry walls which surrounded it. However, on 26th November 1978, with permission from the owner, Mr C.R.N. Bishop, who himself last entered the tunnel on a raft about 70 years ago, members of the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club carried out a site survey. The tunnel 6ft. high and dry at the entrance was entered. It was cut in solid Limestone, very flaggy and with some ballstone and had a band of shale/clay at about roof level. Further in the water and silt became deeper indicating that unlike any normal metal mine 'adit' it dipped into the hill rather than rising. At about 55yds. in a fall had occurred, but through fallen blocks it could be seen to continue. The fallen material could be climbed over revealing a roof cavity, possibly the former site of a 'ballstone' which in earlier times was used as a flux in smelting. The cavity had a total height of about 10ft. and a diameter of about 6ft. The tunnel at this point was about 4ft. 6in. high of which 3ft. was water and silt (which made movement very difficult).

No remains of any mining equipment, roof supports or blastholes were found although a few large bones were recovered for later identification. No evidence of any vein of metallic ore was seen.

At its furthest point the tunnel was veering northwards towards a 'Well' shown on the 1882 Ordnance Survey Map. This well was searched for but not found although Mr Bishop remembered it as a 'big hole' many years ago. It is situated about 500ft. from the Hall. Perhaps Forrest was wrong and indicated 500yd. rather than 500ft. However there seems little doubt that the tunnel entered and the 'well' or shaft indicated on the map are in some way connected.

The writer's hypothesis is that the tunnel and shaft were part of a mining venture carried out in the late nineteenth century and the most likely leader of the "adventures" was "tunnel-mad" William Reynolds. Any further clues to this isolated mining prospect would be appreciated.

The Mining Club would like to thank Mr Bishop for his assistance in this project which is still continuing.

IVOR J. BROWN

NOTE: Enthusiasts wishing to see this feature should first check with the owner, Mr C.R.N. Bishop.

#### WHITCHURCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP - ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

An investigation of the site near the Horse and Jockey Inn, Whitchurch referred to in the last newsletter has now been completed and a further exploratory excavation has taken place, by the invitation of Mr John Vickers, on the land to the north of Yardington near the former Queens Head Inn. This operation in a proved archaeologically "sensitive" area was hampered by the recent severe weather but the investigations so far have revealed a thin layer of destruction debris.

The Group have been engaged in a watching brief on the new water main throughout the town. Unfortunately the contracting method of excavation is limited to small sections being open at any one time and this makes it difficult to study the stratigraphy but we have been able to retrieve some fresh information from the Newtown Street section - this was a layer of burnt vegetable and wood which was similar to the layer which revealed the ditches of unknown date found in the evaluation trenches excavated west of Newtown Street. Out of this burnt level in the water main, we were able to recover some odd sherds of Romano-British pottery and it was uncontaminated by modern finds. This suggests that the ditches are certainly Roman.

In the Yardington area, near the old Queens Head public house a layer of packed red clay was noted but there were no finds whatsoever. It is therefore undateable but it is possible that this may be part of the rampart of the northern defences of the Roman fort.

The field walking programme commenced late due to the lack of access to ploughed land.

The Vernacular Group.

Buildings studied by the Group include -

- 1) Alkington Hall, by kind permission of the Fearnall family. The house is mentioned in Pevsner's "Shropshire" and in F.C. Duggan's "History of Whitchurch". Duggan noted that the house was probably built by Sir Alan Cotton draper and Lord Mayor in 1625, and that it is "almost square in plan" and had fine oak panelling of c.1592 inside. In fact the original plan was L shaped.
- 2) Nos. 10, 12 Dodington - these cottages, together with No. 6 comprise a 5-bay timber framed range.
- 3) No's. 12 & 14 Highgate - A pair of double pile, two storey box framed cottages (bricked over) sharing a central stack.
- 4) 43 High Street - a timber framed building, originally of two storeys.
- 5) 35 High Street - at one time the "Ring of Bells" inn.

#### FINDS

An error occurred in the Finds reported to the Sites and Monuments Record in Shropshire News Sheet No. 8 October, 1978. The partially perforated stone implement reported as found in the Dorrington/Longnor area was in fact found near Corwen, Clwyd. The stone implement which Mr J. Castree submitted to the Borough Museum was perforated.

It is a buff-coloured silt-stone pebble with a natural perforation, which has been ground and polished on two faces. The relatively soft centre has a series of score marks which pass through the hole - such as would be caused by a string passing through it. This suggests a possible use as some form of weight or counterbalance. Date unknown.

Length 121mm      Width 62mm      Thickness 40mm      Hole 31mm x 14mm  
Weight: 420gms.

#### A HOARD OF THIRD CENTURY ANTONINIANI FROM WENLOCK, SALOP.

In October 1977 a tractor driver noticed some coins on the field that he was ploughing at Westwood Farm, Much Wenlock. O.S. 138.607903. The field adjoins the farmhouse and the findspot was near the lane going from Much Wenlock to Stretton Westwood on Wenlock Edge. This country is high, cleft by deep valleys and difficult of access.

An immediate search revealed about 200 Roman coins and this was effected by the use of a metal detector used by the farmer to locate buried metal rubbish. The detector also indicated the area of maximum concentration as well as the main direction of spread. Excavation was rapid as the farmer needed to plough. A rectangle 4 metres square was stripped, the topsoil being here only 35cm. deep. The coins had been deposited in a woven raffia type of basket, fragments of which, were preserved by cuprous infiltration. No trace of a pot was found, nor had there been any hole cut into the tough subsoil. The only pottery found in the field was a battered Samian base (Dr. 37), and a few scraps of Severn Valley ware. All these were over 80 metres north of the hoard.

All coins revealed by excavation were left in situ till photographed. They were mostly lying in a curve, thinning out from the main deposit. It was found that 80 years earlier the whole area had been under ridge and furrow and headlands could have existed between the lane and the hoard. Thus the turning ox teams could have dragged the coins in a curve.

About 3000 coins and fragments were collected and the basket remains lifted and sent to the Jodrell Laboratory, The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for wood identification.

At the Inquest the jury returned a verdict of Treasure Trove, for it was clear that the coins had been hidden and perhaps in a hurry. Dr. Robert Carson, Deputy Keeper of Coins and Medals at the British Museum gave evidence and is still working on the hoard. I am indebted to him for permission to provide the following facts.

3064 coins were recovered and all were antoniniani. 563 were illegible, only 47 were imitations (frequent in Britain and Gaul) and there were 28 fragments. 642 were from the Central Empire and 1812 from the Gallic Empire. Of the Central Empire 286 were issues of Gallienus and 240 of Claudius II. Of the Gallic Empire 62 were issues of Posthumus, 2 of Marius, 547 of Victorinus, 851 of Tetricus I and 350 of Tetricus II.

There was a dramatic fall in the silver content of these coins which, in the past have been thought to consist of copper or bronze only. It is a matter for economists but your contributor suggests that here there exists a parallel situation between prices of commodities and inflation then and now.

This board demonstrates that a rapid fall in currency value occurred in the seventh decade of the third century on both sides of the Alps. From 215 A.D. when Caracalla introduced the double denarius, commonly called the antoninianus at 50% fine silver there was a drop to 1% in the space of about 60 years.

(From A.W.J.Houghton on behalf of The Roman Research Group of The Shropshire Archaeological Society.)

#### THE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

The Sites and Monuments Record based in Shirehall is progressing and particular strides have been made in the field of Aerial Photography, despite the D.O.E. funded staff having been depleted by the departure of Ian Burrow to Somerset.

The Job Creation Scheme initiated to record the backlog of threatened buildings in Shropshire has proceeded satisfactorily despite the adverse weather conditions. Additional houses recorded since the publication of the last newsletter include:-

#### Hinton Old Hall, Whitchurch

A building of many phases with evidence for the earliest being in a very fragmentary form. Attempts are being made to postulate a development using archaeological techniques borrowed from stratigraphical analysis. The first phase as yet undateable appears to be a massive stone structure with walls approximately 2½ft. in thickness, with later apertures punched through from roof to plinth where the later windows in the brick skin are now situated. The purpose of these openings is being investigated. Later phases include a brick structure with timber framed partitions, and a heightening of the whole structure in later brickwork, reusing timber from an earlier phase. The building is very decayed.

#### Sutton Farm

A three unit baffle entry with a later projection on its E. side to form a crosswing. There is evidence that alternative development took place with the former superior end becoming the inferior end. Thought to be early 17th C. in date the building has been empty for a number of years.

#### Woolferton Court Cottages

An L shaped range of timber-framed buildings, heavily restored around 1900, with a crosswing completely new at this date but using traditional timber framing techniques. The N.-S. range has been altered internally to form two cottages with standard platforms viz. living/kitchen, parlour, and pantry but retains its external framing, whilst the E.-W. range retains its original 3 bay baffle entry format but has been rebuilt in brick. The configuration has importance for the 'extended family' concept. The buildings are threatened by a road improvement.

#### 1 and 3 Oak Cottages, Ford

A two bay medieval open hall, with arched brace central truss (cupping above), reclad in a square panel timber frame which modifies the existing cruck construction to a post and truss format. A crosswing was added in the early 17th C. with a stack in an unusual position at the join, and the hall floored over. The crosswing has a fashionable close studded facade which faces the main approach from the Church. The building has been empty and decaying for a considerable number of years.

#### Middle Farm, Westley

A three bay structure, with a possible crosspassage, the third bay being refurbished in the 18th century. The building is encapsulated in brick apart from one gable. It is derelict.

#### Cruck House, 29 Whitchurch Road, Crudgington

Reused crucks? and reused close studding, with partitions in a single bay forming house part, parlour and pantry. The property is being rehabilitated.

#### No. 1 Cotton, Whixall

A two unit, small house type with a considerable amount of reused timber.

#### Earls Hill Farm

A two bay, end lobby entrance timber framed farmhouse, with a third bay added in timber framing and fourth bay in brick. In an advanced state of dereliction but conversion is being discussed.

#### Cottage Types

#### Stone House, Bomere Heath

Single cell, 1½ storey squatters cottage with outshot in sandstone blocks but with poor joinery.

#### Duffy's Cottage Ruckley

A single cell 1½ storey cottage, open to roof with smoke blackened timber, later floored over with stone wall fireplace connected to an external bake oven, and encapsulated in stone. A later bay added also in stone in late 17th/early 18th C.

Miscellaneous

17th C. brick summerhouse, with conical roof, and brick vault underground.

The project continues and buildings currently under investigation include Silvington Manor, a 14th C. stone hall with mid 16th extensions, (large house type), and Pound House, Wollerton, a timber framed small house type.

Urban

X 15, 17, 19 Watergate St., Whitchurch

Formerly a range of single fronted timber framed buildings, with a 'solar' over the shop, Nos. 15 and 17 with additional accommodation to the rear in a crossing of which only that for No. 15 survives.  
Threatened by redevelopment of the site.

X 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 Great Hales Street, Market Drayton

A three bay timber framed building adapted from an early timber framed building of which only No. 21 remains; later adapted again and added to to form five 19th century cottages.  
The range is due for conversion.

BUILDINGS CURRENTLY BEING RECORDED

Iron Farmhouse - a small house type adapted from a former open hall.

Silvington Manor - a medieval stone structure with an early form of ceiling frame. Southwall, Much Wenlock - origins still under discussion.

Horse Engine House, Haughton Farm, Ellesmere.

Beauty Bank Farm, Botfield Lane, Bridgnorth, one bay of a former small house.

Outbuilding at Rudge Hall, Patteringham, under discussion.

22-24 Frankwell, under discussion.

Felmongers, Frankwell, under discussion.

Workhouse Cottages, Morville.

Manor Farm, Stoney Stretton. Three unit with cross passage adapted from former open hall, cruck framed.

Aston Eyre, medieval hall range.

PROPOSED EXCAVATIONS IN SHROPSHIRE

Members may like to make a note of the following. An address is included for details for those who may wish to volunteer.

1. Wroxeter (Viroconium). Roman City (near Ironbridge) - Market Hall. Training excavation to take place from the 4.8.79 to the 1.10.79, under the directorship of Graham Webster on the main Roman town and under the directorship of Philip Barker on the site of the Baths Basilica (Dark Age - post Roman). Details from the Department of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 365, Birmingham B15 2TF.
2. Madeley Court (S.E. Shropshire). A medieval/post medieval building and site. Details from Bob Meeson, 16 Falna Crescent Coton Green, Tamworth. 69434.
3. Apley Park (S.E. Shropshire). A medieval/post medieval complex of buildings. Work mainly on stripping and recording the building. Details as above.
4. Haughmond Abbey - medieval (near Shrewsbury). Details from Geoff West, Department of the Environment, Ancient Monuments Inspectorate, Fortress House, Weston Rhyn - Roman Fort (Oswestry Area). Details from Professor Barri Jones, School of Archaeology, University of Manchester.
5. Bromfield (south Shropshire) - an Iron Age Enclosure, re-used as a Saxon Cemetery. Details from Stan Stanford, Ashfield Cottage, Juston, Leominster, Herefordshire.
7. Tong Castle (S.E. Shropshire). A medieval site - officially closed until further notice. Details on the possibility of re-opening from Alan Wharton, c/o Rowley's Mansion, Shrewsbury 61196.
8. Yardington/Folly Lane, Whitchurch - Roman and medieval. Details available from Professor Barri Jones (see above) or The Whitchurch Archaeological Group.
9. Burrow Hill, Hopesay - Iron Age Hill Fort. Details from Hugh Toller, Department of Archaeology, 31 Gordon Square, London W.C.1.
10. Eaton Constantine - a Roman site. Details from Dr. J. Houghton, The Oakwood, Church Pulverbatch.

## THE WORK OF LOCAL GROUPS

### The Whitchurch Archaeological Group

A sub-committee of the Group has been formed with the aim of putting into print some of the findings of our members concerning the history of Whitchurch. There are, as yet, many big gaps in this story, but by means of archaeological digs, local history research and vermacular architectural studies the group hopes to be able to produce the first written record of the town since Mr Duggan's book was published in 1934. The help of any member who might have information or documents such as wills, deeds or family records would be very welcome.

Please contact - Joan M. Barton, 15 Gorse Meadow, Higher Heath. Tel: Whitchurch 840760.

### The Ludlow Historical Research Group (affiliated to Ludlow Civic Society)

The group was formed in September 1976 under the leadership of David Lloyd and Dr. Martin Speight. Its initial purpose was to trace the tenurial history of all Ludlow properties, beginning with those in the two smallest of the town's four historic wards; Broad Street ward and Corve Street ward. The principal documentary sources used were the records of the Ludlow Corporation, which include those of the medieval Palmers Guild, but collections of title deeds and probate wills and inventories have also been extensively used. In its study of surviving buildings the group owes much to the leadership and expertise of Madge Moran of Shrewsbury.

The group has retained an active membership of about twenty-five with a wide range of ages and occupations. From September to April there are regular documentary sessions each Friday evening. In the summer small groups record buildings and four or five times a year group visits are made to the record offices of Shropshire and Herefordshire. But much important work goes on outside the formal meetings. Research on Broad Street is now virtually complete and that on Corve Street is in an advanced stage, so that over the last year work has started on Old Street and Galdeford ward. The group has been fortunate in recruiting Michael Faraday, a Ludlovian exiled in London who has transcribed wills, chantry cases and other documents in the Public Record Office. From all these sources a vast amount of information has been accumulated and our present priority is to organise effective systems of storage and retrieval.

For the two wards studied most closely the ownership and tenancy of virtually every property has been traced back beyond 1600 and in a large number of cases to the mid-thirteenth century. This information is transferred onto large grids and for the two wards clear and sometimes contrasting patterns of ownership and occupancy have emerged. New light has been cast on many aspects of Ludlow's history, e.g. the extent of house destruction in the Civil War, but thematic studies involving the whole town are not being made until the work of property reconstruction is completed for all four wards. At our present rate this reconstruction alone will take about six years. The architectural studies are also producing interesting patterns, e.g. there is growing evidence for a major period of building in the first half of the fifteenth century, but many of the town's oldest buildings have yet to be examined.

The work of the group has aroused considerable interest and goodwill in Ludlow. Two open evenings have been held, articles on Ludlow houses appear regularly in the local press and last summer an ambitious exhibition was staged as part of the Ludlow Festival. A second exhibition, probably concentrating on the Bull Ring and Galdeford, is planned for 1980. During the Festival the group annually provides guided tours of the town, leaving the castle entrance each day at 6.00 p.m. and on Saturdays and some other weekdays at 2.30 p.m. also. Through the good offices of one of our members, Gerald Acton, who is a director of Studio Press, Birmingham, we have been able to publish two booklets: Ludlow Houses and their Residents and The Corner Shop. The first is an introduction to the methods and sources used and the second is a case study of one timber framed building of particular interest. Two other publications are planned for 1979, one of them on Broad Street, the other on The Great House (112 Corve Street), and others are projected for the future, including a collection of Ludlow prints and photographs by Peter Klein, a former museum curator who is the group's expert in that particular field.

Members of the group will be pleased to arrange guided tours of Ludlow for any groups visiting the town or to give illustrated talks to groups in other parts of Shropshire. Anyone wishing to have further particulars should contact David Lloyd, 54 Pickwick Grove, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9LN (021/777/6684) or Martin Speight, 21 Raven Lane, Ludlow (0584/3858).

## COURSES AND CONFERENCES

University of Birmingham - Department of Extra Mural Studies  
The following training courses A,B,C,D,E are designed for serious students with a genuine interest in archaeology and some experience would be an advantage. Students under the age of 17 will not normally be accepted for the courses although exceptions may be made if an independent reference is obtained.

#### WROXETER

Course A and B

- A) 4 August - 18 August
- B) 18 August - 1 September

Romano-British Archaeology Excavation Techniques.  
Accommodation at Wrekin College, Wellington, Telford.

#### COURSE C

18 August - 1 September

Archaeological Surveying and Drawing

Accommodation as above but campsite not available.

#### COURSE D

11 August - 18 August

Identification of Pottery and Romano-British artifacts.

Accommodation as above.

#### HEN DOMEN

A training excavation of a timber castle

23 June - 14 July

For details write to P.A. Barker Esq., M.A., F.S.A.

4 St Georges Square, Worcester WR1 1HX

#### WROXETER ROMAN CITY - BATHS BASILICA

The excavation will take place during August.

For details see above.

#### WROXETER ROMAN CITY - MARKET HALL

A small number of paid volunteers required. Write to -

Dr. Graham Webster, Department of Extra-mural studies, University of Birmingham,  
P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT. (Please mark 'Volunteers')

#### INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Midland's Canals in Town and Country

28 July - 4 August

Application to (and accommodation at) Avoncroft College, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove.

#### ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - Archaeological Group

Vth Annual Congress - Ironbridge - 20 - 22 July 1979.

This year the Group is joining the celebrations of the bicentenary of Ironbridge in Shropshire. Without doubt this congress will be rich in photographic opportunities, and will be led by the leading authorities in the fields under examination. Here we will not be photographing shadows but the things that cast the shadows.

#### Programme:

Friday 20th July 1979

Reception at Attingham Park, Atcham, Shropshire.

7.00 p.m. Dinner at Attingham Park.

8.30 p.m. Introductory lecture by Dr Brian Bracegirdle on Ironbridge, and the photography of the Gorge.

Saturday 21st July

All day spent in the Ironbridge Gorge commencing at the Museum of Iron at 9.00 a.m. (before it opens to the public), and continuing to Coalbrookdale sites, Coalport Pottery, Blists Hill open air museum, and Maw's Tile Works (not normally open to the public).

7.00 p.m. Dinner at Attingham Park with principal guest Neil Cossons,

Director of the Museum Trust.

This will be followed by a social evening.

Sunday 22nd July

Delegates may choose whether they wish to return to the Gorge or to attend a programme devoted to WROXETER.

10.00 a.m. Lecture on Wroxeter by Geoffrey Toms.

This will be followed by a visit to the site.

4.00 p.m. The congress will disperse after lunch.

Convenor: John Stubbington LRPS

Chairman: Tony Pearce B.Sc., C.Eng., MICE, AMBIM

Lecturers: Brian Bracegirdle Ph.D, FRPS (Ironbridge)

Geoffrey Toms MA (Wroxeter)

In the event of inclement weather other lectures including one on  
Photogrammetry by George Nicol will be provided.

Accommodation has been arranged in Attingham Park, near Wroxeter and Ironbridge. The price of £25 includes full board and meals from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. For those on limited budgets we can assist with alternative accommodation ranging from small hotels to youth hostels.

Fees - covering all additional expenses and miscellaneous charges:

£8.00 to members and/or subscribers to 'archaeology',  
£10.00 to non-members/subscribers  
£7.00 to student members and/or subscribers to 'archaeology'

#### PRESTON MONTFORD (Field Studies Council)

Fieldwork Techniques in Archaeology - Parish of Shrawardine.

11th - 15th June inclusive.

Details from Preston Montford Field Centre.

#### EXPLORING SHROPSHIRE - 1979

A programme of guided walks throughout the county is again being planned for the summer holiday period by Salop County Council's adult education tutors for environmental and historical studies.

It is anticipated that the programme will run from 14th July to 2nd September. Walks will cover the usual wide range of subject matter - landscape history, archaeology, natural history, farming and towns - and be spread across all parts of the county. There will be a good choice of walks throughout the programme, but to cater for those wishing to make a more specialised study of particular aspects of will also follow last year's successful lead of walks devoted to special themes in particular weeks. Those planning ahead might like to know that these will include: natural history, 23rd to 29th July; Shropshire towns, 30th July to 5th August; geology, 6th August to 13th August; industrial archaeology, 13th August to 19th August; landscape archaeology, 20th to 26th August, and archaeology, 27th August to 2nd September.

At this stage the programming must be provisional, dependent as it is on the availability of specialist tutors to lead the walks. Those who would like to receive the full detailed programme when it is published in the late spring should send a s.a.e. to the Adult Education Tutor for Environmental Sciences, Bircher Cottage, Little Stretton, Church Stretton, Salop.

Andrew M. Jenkinson.

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Victoria History Of Shropshire, Volume III (1979), edited by G.C.Baugh. Published by Oxford University Press. ISBN 0 19 722730 9.

This volume, which appeared in March 1979, is a general volume covering in great detail the history of county government in Shropshire from the Anglo-Saxon period to 1974, and the history of parliamentary elections in Shropshire from the 13th century to October 1974. Apart from the history of administration itself, there is a great deal of new information on the political and social fortunes of local families, and on social conditions generally. The volume has 399 pages (including 7 maps) and 9 pages of photographs. It is a quarto, bound in red cloth, costs £50, and can be ordered from any bookseller.

Shropshire And Its Rulers: A Thousand Years by G.C.Baugh and D.C.Cox. Published by Shropshire Libraries. ISBN 0 903802 09 0.

This 35-page booklet contains a condensed history of county government in Shropshire, based on Volume III of the Victoria County History and by the same authors. Their aim is to provide an authoritative and readable account of the subject in a popular format. The price is 65 pence, and copies are on sale at local booksellers and branch libraries.

#### NEW OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Honorary Secretary - Alan Tyler B.Sc.

48 Lansdowne Crescent, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury SY3 0JD.

Membership Secretary - John Lees,

The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Coalbrookdale, Telford.

Treasurer - still vacant. Any enquiries regarding subscriptions to James Lawson, the Chairman.

OBITUARY

Members will be sorry to hear of the death of Miss Lillian Frances Chitty who died on 10th February 1979. Lal, as she was affectionately known in the Society will be remembered as a good friend and active participant in the Society. Her interests extended to many aspects of Shropshire's history but she will be particularly well remembered for her work in the Prehistoric field.

NOTE ON ADDRESSES

Please check your address on the envelope and inform the Secretary, Mr Tyler, if it is incorrect, including your postcode. This is a vital exercise, as due to the changeover of Membership Secretary the list of addresses is being updated.



A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Edited by Carole Ryan, 4 Betley Terrace, Betley Lane, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury

Tel: Shrewsbury 222332 (County Planning Department)

### Editorial

I hope that members will forgive the lateness of this newsheet, but I have been very tied up this summer and autumn with the production of a rather extensive piece of work. In recompense it is intended to try and make the newsheet more diverse in future. We are fortunate in Shropshire, that despite having very little money for archaeological investigation, we have a body of very willing people who give of their own time to further archaeological research. It is therefore only fair that they should have as good a medium as possible to chart their progress in. I would therefore like to suggest that the newsheet be used as a medium for discussion in the form of a letters page, for a trial period covering two issues. Members should bear in mind that lengthy epitomes will not be suitable due to limited funds for printing, and neither will unfavourable comments directed at the Editor under the many hats she wears, or archaeological funding in the County. The latter is largely the responsibility of the Department of the Environment to whom all correspondence on the matter should be addressed. Many of you will be familiar with a magazine called Current Archaeology and I would hope that any letters received for publication will be in a similar style and ilk. The idea is particularly aimed at those members who have seen something interesting which they would like to bring to the attention of fellow members but which would not warrant a full article. The greatest value will be gained by comment on the articles submitted in the previous issue. Also in line with Current Archaeology I would like to invite the sponsors of conferences and courses to send details directly to me and not to hope vainly that I will pick them up in the course of my work. Finally, I would like to make the usual plea for contributors to offer articles unprompted in time for the future deadlines of May and September.

### Winter Meetings

I am sure that members will wish to thank Mrs Beard for the excellent summer programme which she worked so hard to organise. Four winter meetings remain - they are as follows:

Saturday 1st December 1979, 2.30 p.m.

Mr N. Balmer and a Salop County Council Architect "Riggs Hall Shrewsbury: The Architecture and Archaeology."

Saturday 5th January 1980, 2.30 p.m.

Mr W. Champion "Late Medieval Urban Decline? The case of Shrewsbury and some Marches towns".

Saturday 2nd February 1980, 2.30 p.m.

Mr N. Gasper "French Influence on Shropshire Ceramics"

Saturday 1st March 1980, 10.30 a.m.

"Current Work on Shropshire Archaeology" - a joint meeting with the University of Birmingham, Dept of Extra-Mural Studies.

### Interim Excavation Reports

#### Wroxeter Report 1979

The most important factors in this season were the DOE decisions that the disintegrated herring-bone floor of the macellum inner portico could be removed and that open working was better than in small heavily shuttered areas. This will provide the opportunity of removing the deep Hadrianic levelling dump of spoil from the excavation of the baths from the whole inner area of the macellum. The work has to be done in stages so as not to infringe safety regulations and it will take another season at least before it will be possible to begin to examine the early civil and military levels. These early levels, already uncovered, were cleaned up and re-examined. It soon became evident that, as suspected, there were no early civil structures in the central area, although a spread of buildings was identified. This suggests a gap between houses. The levels inside and outside the stone rampart building were studied and found to be more complicated than they seemed to be last year with the very limited examination then possible. There appears to be a used surface extending east from the stone wall and covering the W. edge of intervallum road, but whether this is an addition to the building or merely an open area in use, is not clear, and it has been cut through by a N-S abortive Hadrianic foundation. Inside the rampart building there is a succession of floors and the evidence suggests that they were of timber. An unusual feature is a small fireplace cut into

the E. wall. These new factors may indicate the use of this part of the building as an office. In the N. corridor (Area 91), work was started in examining the relationship between military destruction and early civil layers, but these will only become clear when the whole of the area can be integrated, but it is already obvious that there is a timber rampart building on the N. side of the trench which appears to be contemporary with the stone rampart building, the N. end of which is in this area. The timber building would appear to have been superseded by the series of ovens.

Work continued on the stripping of the W. portico and in the north half the primary construction levels were exposed. The southern area was taken down to a continuous pebble layer with evidence of much sinkage and patching. Coins of the late 3rd century were found above this, suggesting that it was the surface belonging to the renovated macellum (c.300). The western end of the S. corridor was stripped down to the undisturbed stratified layers. This area now extends up to the large N-S drain. The area of this corridor to the E. between the two huts (Area 80) is still very difficult to understand. The sequence of lateral trenches and pits is gradually being resolved, but it all seems to show that this corridor could not have been used to service the Praefurum, which must have had a separate entrance from the street. It should be possible next year to clear the whole of this area down to the military destruction layer and search with renewed intent for traces of the early civil period which have so far failed to materialise in the excavations of the piscina surround.

Graham Webster

Hen Domen, Montgomery - 1979.

Interim Note

The 1979 season at Hen Domen consisted of a three-week summer school in excavation techniques and field work followed by a week of excavation alone.

In general, it was a year of dissection of structures discovered in previous seasons. The post-pits into which the posts of the twelve-post granary building XXXVIII, had been inserted proved to be rectangular, very large and carefully cut with vertical sides and flat bottoms. There are reasons, to be explored next season, for thinking that they may be earlier in date than was at first suspected. They may even be part of Roger de Montgomery's first castle. Their massive and precise construction matches what has been seen of Roger's work in stage I of the excavation.

Continued dissection of building XXII on the back of the rampart confirmed its construction, with clay walls outside a timber frame.

Pit 15 on the north-eastern corner of the rampart was emptied and proved to be simply a large D-shaped pit cut through the rampart and the buried soil beneath into the boulder clay subsoil. There was no trace of timber lining or any other clue to its purpose. The pebble surface which lay diagonally under building XXXIX, discovered in 1978, was found to continue north-westward under the balk between stages 1 and 2 of the excavation and is now seen to be an extension of pebble surface 14 of stage 1. Its date is unknown, though it must be early and belong to the castle rather than an earlier occupation of the site.

The pebbles and cobbles of building XIII at the entrance to the site were removed and were found to have sealed the remains of a fine pebble surface which had elsewhere been eroded completely away.

The first volume of the report on the excavation covering the years 1960-1977 is complete and is with the editor. It will appear as a monograph of the Royal Archaeological Institute.

P.A. Barker - October 1979.

Wroxeter Roman City Baths Basilica - 1979

Interim Note

Work in the 1979 season was confined to structures overlying the western end of the basilica and the portico between it and the Watling Street, and in removing the remainder of the 'Gravel street', dissecting the 'Guard room' building at its western end, and continuing the excavation of the robber trenches of the portico colonnade and the great drain which lay along the northern side of the basilica.

The Basilican Area

By removing the public catwalk between the museum and the baths the western limit of our excavation was moved to the outer edge of the western portico. It will now be possible to examine the later development of the portico which Dr. Webster has shown, further south, to be complex and highly relevant to the history of the whole insula.

The removal of the rubble platformsof the last period buildings overlying the west end of the basilica was continued, revealing further worn surfaces and buried soils. The occupation surface lying over the western end of the basilican nave may prove to be of the greatest importance for the estimation of the length of the whole site's chronology. The surface consists of brown soil with pebbles and larger, flat stones all worn by continued use. There was a mass of bones from this surface, but only a small handful of pot-sherds and three or four coins. This contrasts markedly

with the quantities of pottery and coins from the superimposed, later, layers of rubble. This occupation therefore, only centimetres above the level of the original basilican floors, may already be aceramic and with few or no contemporary coins. Since it can now be demonstrated that all the rubble and soil layers overlying the basilican floors must have been imported from elsewhere (though not necessarily more than a matter of yards, say from the ruined baths) it now appears possible that the bulk of the pottery, coins and other finds from the previous nine or ten years' work on the site of the basilica is residual. This view, which is as yet only tentative, is reinforced by the discovery of late cross-bow brooches in these earlier layers, and by the memory of a bone-pit without pottery discovered cut into the basilican floor in 1967, when a long trench was dug by prisoners. Much more work will be needed on the coins, the pottery types and on the metalwork before this suggestion can be confirmed, but it is a most interesting possibility.

#### The 'Gravel Street'

The remaining length of the east-west 'gravel street' was dissected and removed, revealing the very large trench left by the digging out of the previous cobbled street. The 'guard room -like' building at the western end of the street was dissected and proved to have had a small room attached to its western wall. The building may also have been of two periods, though this has yet to be confirmed. The excavation of the robber trench of the east-west portico colonnade was continued, together with the examination of the spine of material left between the removal of the 'gravel street' and the robber trench. This spine which is, in fact, the filling of the trench left by the removal of the east-west stone drain, consisted of water-washed gravel and sand. This leads to the conclusion that the drain, and, subsequently, the trench left by its removal (at an unknown date) were the line of a conduit of constantly flowing water (probably from the aqueduct) rather than an intermittent drain.

Work continued on the small area in insula 2 north of the east-west street and close to the Ironbridge road. Here the massive clay and cobble-lined pits of the very large post-built structure discovered in previous years were emptied and examination of the features underlying them began. There was a very large and complex pit, perhaps fed by a gulley similar to those previously found on site A and shown to be industrial. Close by were the remains of a furnace which may be associated, as on site A, with this pit. A coin of Constantine I was sealed within the collapsed clay dome of the furnace. It is clear, therefore, that at some time after the early 4th century an industrial complex was cleared to make way for the succession of very large timber buildings of the last phase of this part of insula 2. This is consistent with the evidence of reconstruction from the baths insula, 5.

The skeleton of a young woman? was found in a shallow grave in the rubble overlying the north aisle of the basilica. It was orientated N-S and had no grave goods. A radio-carbon date is being determined, and should give us a terminus ante quem for the abandonment of the site.

The whole plan of the basilica has now been laid out in red sand, so that visitors to the site can appreciate the scale of this great building. A viewing platform near the Old Work with an explanatory text and drawings is promised. This will enable the public to follow the progress of the excavation from year to year.

P.A.Barker - October 1979

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES, SUMMER 1979 by Richard Griffiths (for Whitchurch Archaeological Group)

The results of our long delayed field-walking programme in the area of the suspected deserted medieval village at Belton on the fields under plough owned by John Beckett were very disappointing as the number of Group members available for this very important work was way below the average for similar activities last year. Although we had had a very bad winter the fields were in an ideal condition to walk, the vegetation was minimal, so we could have had an extended period to work. The field surfaces had been well washed making colour variations show up nicely but although we had this extended period we are well below our norm. Most Sundays it was disheartening to find so few members present. I would have liked to have walked all the available fields in that area and to have taken advantage of the conditions before the crops began to appear.

#### Suspected Deserted Medieval Village - Belton

Finds made this year were a few odd sherds of medieval pottery, a clay pipe bowl, which was of John Liff, who was active in Broseley in 1700. There was the odd selection of post medieval pottery to add to our distribution map. The only evidence of Belton being a deserted medieval village is the slight linear depression with the ploughed out platforms of at least three houses, which are to the south of Belton farm following the line of the small stream in the general direction of Whitchurch. Although there have been reports of Roman finds being made in the area, not one sherd of pottery of that date was found.

A new system of recording our field work was in operation this year, the method being to number each field visited and investigated. All features and finds are entered on the card index and a copy is sent to the County Sites and Monuments record at the Shirehall. We will also operate a similar system in Cheshire and Clwydd for the Group's areas in South Cheshire and the Maelor. We have been promised 6-inch maps for both these areas by the respective Sites & Monuments officers.

All the field work undertaken by the Group so far will have to be entered onto the official site visit forms and this will make a Group venture for the winter programme.

#### Prees Heath

On a recent drive from Shrewsbury to Whitchurch, when passing the junction of the A41 and A49 I noted that the area between the two roads near the roundabout had been levelled off by a bulldozer. Investigating I found an unusual stone which, after careful examination and research (reading different archaeological reports), was found to be a Whetstone made of a very fine sandstone, probably Lower Level Grinshill stone, and very similar to samples found in excavations at Savernok. No other finds were made and it can only be classed as a surface find so therefore undateable, but it is probably Roman as other finds of that date have been found on Prees Heath.

#### Pepper Street

The Group were asked to carry out a watching brief on a new gas main to be laid down the centre of Pepper Street and into the junction of Newtown Street. The trench revealed several features of various dates.

When the surface tarmac was removed, it was noted that the street was surfaced with square stone setts, a type very similar to the ones recently exposed when High Street was scraped and resurfaced. The stone setts were set into a made-up layer of dirty loamy sand of unknown depth. Near to the High Street, possibly on the line of the conjectured alignment of the Roman Road under the northern part of High Street, were several large fragments of Sandstone Ashlar, but unfortunately it was impossible to investigate the feature more fully. Some Roman potsherds were also found.

Opposite the main entrance to the Anchor hotel some more Ashlar was located - two large fragments were recovered and are now in the Group's storeroom; these samples resemble a large saddle quern and may have been used for this purpose. At the junction of Newtown Street the stone setts sealed a layer of rubble, this itself sealing the medieval street surface, which was of small Bunter pebbles placed on end and bedded into a layer of natural sand. This cobble layer may have been the original Newtown.

#### Yardington

When the occupier of 25 Yardington Street was making house improvements by extending to the rear of his property (situated on the corner of Yardington and Folly Lane) his footing trenches cut through a mass of unstable black silty subsoil.

The feature was in fact an early 18th century rubbish pit with all closely dated finds which included two clay tobacco pipe bowls of John Iff and John Hughes, both of Brosley and active in 1700, a body-shoulder of a drinking mug with the initials AR impressed under the brown glaze. This was probably an Excise Stamp and an abbreviation for ANNA REGINA (1702-1714) and this evidence should date the pit to her reign or just a little later. There was also a considerable amount of building stone, and it is interesting to add that the date of the fill of the pit coincides with the date when the old church fell down.

#### White Bear Inn

Recent extensions to the White Bear have revealed a very important feature which is at present being investigated. The extensions were in the rear yard of the inn and the footing trenches have cut through the early 19th century cobbled yard surface. This in turn had sealed an earlier occupation layer dating to the late medieval period, which in turn sealed a layer of peaty black silt of unknown depth.

#### Yardington (Queens Head)

We have now removed the consecutive layers of the mid 2nd century levelling and exposed one of the late 1st/early 2nd century features, which is a Clamp kiln, but its primary use is not known at the time of writing. The stoke hole was sectioned and a few sherds of a local 2nd century mortaria were discovered, one sherd being badly burned, but it is not thought to be a kiln-waster. The secondary use is more interesting, however. In the wall of the kiln was found a mass of chopped-up lead, some of which had been subjected to the heat of a furnace and intended to be melted down for recasting. Three complete objects were recovered, one being a recast unclipped votive object in the shape of a crescent moon. A fuller report will be published in due course.

#### Stone Objects

The stone objects which were found at Dearnford farm in the process of potato harvesting by Mr Bebbington have been returned to the Group with the accompanying notes written by Alan Tyler, who also comments on the object found in the garden of Moreton Cottage, Prees. The numbers distinguish the finds for the benefit of the county Antiquities survey.

SA3436 (Sites and Monuments Record Numbers)

Perforated axe-hammer found in a field near Dearnford Hall farm during potato harvesting in 1977. It has been sectioned in order to determine the source of the stone. It is a medium coarse micaceous sub-greywacke which derives from the Lake District, Group XV, in the national stone implement cataloging system. As is stated above, there is glacial material from the Lake District in the Whitchurch area, which might be used as evidence in support of local manufacture. Axe-hammers can be dated by association to the Beaker period at the end of the Neolithic through to the early Bronze Age (approximately 2200 B.C. - 1500 B.C.). This example however is most likely to be in the later part of this period.

Axe-hammers are generally considered to be prestige tools/weapons rather than objects intended for felling trees etc. Many examples are finely made and polished which would tend to support this view.

SA2614

Biconically perforated pebble found in a field near Dearnford Hall during potato harvesting in 1977. It has been sectioned in order to determine the source of the stone. It is a fine micaceous sub-greywacke which derives from the Lake District and is Group IV in the National stone cataloging system.

It is difficult to apply a date to an object such as this, perforated pebbles occurring in contexts from the Mesolithic (up to 6000 B.C.) to the early Bronze Age (2000 - 1500 B.C.). Another complicating feature is that there is material from the Lake District in the Whitchurch area as a result of glacial action. However, assuming that the pebble was transported by man from its source, then the later of the dates given above must apply.

The pebble is possibly intended as some sort of ceremonial macehead, although it has been battered at one end, which might suggest it was used as a Hoe? (See W.A.A.G. Newsletter No. 2 for reference to one found locally in the last century). The argument against the latter is the difficulty in hafting a tool with an hour-glass perforation and then using it without the handle working loose.

SA 2616

Sandstone, horse-shoe shaped object found in the garden of Moreton Cottage, Prees. It is most likely a natural formation which has been utilised, subsequently broken and the breaks have been abraded.

It is impossible to suggest any use to which this stone might have been put, nor is it possible to indicate a date.

Primary Report on the Excavation at Castle Hill, Whitchurch - April 1979  
by R.W.Griffiths (for Whitchurch Archaeological Group)

After it was noticed that a layer of packed clay had appeared in a section of the new water main in Castle Hill near the Archibald Worthington Club, it was decided to excavate a series of trial trenches on land previously occupied by a terrace of Victorian cottages (3-11 Castle Hill). This site is opposite to the club and gave the Group the opportunity to examine the possibility that the feature of packed clay continued east and could be examined more fully.

Permission was granted to excavate by Mr Roger Eardley, the owner of the land, which is bounded by High Street in the east and Castle Hill to the west. This area has always been thought to be archaeologically sensitive owing to its close proximity to the supposed site of the town's castle as marked on the O/S map of 1871. Several large blocks of ashlar have been found by Mr Eardley when levelling off the area for rear access to his premises.

The area available for excavation contributed more knowledge to the pattern of Roman and Medieval Whitchurch. The site lies midway between the possible line of the southern defences of the 1st century Roman Fort located by the Group in 1978 on the site of Castle House at the corner of Pepper Street, and the two 2nd century walls found in 1977 west of the National Westminster Bank. It might have been possible to find a continuity of the stratum between the two sites. Secondly, it might have been possible to find some evidence of the long lost castle and it also gave the Group the opportunity to examine the sites of at least two burgrave plots, one off High Street running west, and the other going east off Castle Hill.

The excavation was carried out over two weeks following Easter, and fuller investigation continued when the site was completely levelled in mid summer. The primary excavation consisted of two trial trenches. Trench I was situated under the site of the Victorian cottages as mentioned above, and Trench II was under the site of the lodging house, which had been demolished in the 1960s. This was to the south of the Anchor Inn, Pepper Street.

Trench I

Two metres wide and 4 metres long was placed on the site of the cottages in the hope of tracing the packed clay feature mentioned above.

After removal of the demolition rubble the back-yard and footings of the cottages were located, the area of yard uncovered had a surface of neat Staffordshire blue brick lattice treaded pavement tiles (a reference to this kind of tile can be seen in an article by Richard James in the March issue of W.A.A.G. newsletter, where he refers to the surface of Yardington Street in 1893). Where these tiles had been

robbed out by the demolition contractors an early 19th century rubbish pit was found. This had been cut by a mid 20th century pit and most of its contents lost. The first pit had been sealed by the yard surface and was the only pre-cottage feature found.

The footing trenches and majority of yard surfaces were cut directly with the natural subsoil, which ranged from a very fine sand to a very clean red clay, a sample of which was fired for the Group by Mrs Coates, a Whitchurch potter, and it was found to be a very good quality clay and ideal for pottery manufacture. When fired at about 1,000 and reduced the fired pot was a buff colour, the fabric had a fine sandy finish so therefore no further tempering agent was required. This experiment in the firing of the local clay is a very valuable asset to the researchers of the manufacture of Roman and Medieval pottery, and may suggest that much of Roman material attributed to Wilderspool and the Wirral and the Medieval from Audlem and Ashton was in fact made locally. If so, we will probably find evidence of this in our Winter Field-walking programmes and researches into the Parish Registers for any potters who were working locally in the Medieval and later periods.

#### Trench II

Cut at right angles to the property boundary wall at the rear of the Anchor Inn.

The trench was placed in a position where it would section any under-lying features of the lodging house and a building shown on the 1761 map of Whitchurch. The footings of the lodging house were encountered with the demolition rubble. There was a substantial amount of timber used in the construction of the building and this included a sleeper beam 'in situ'. This may suggest that the building was timber framed and was possibly the one shown on 1761 map. The lodging house had been extensively rebuilt in the 19th century, when brick walls and tiled floors were constructed, but still preserving some of the earlier building features. When the floor was removed it exposed a small pit of mid 17th century date, and a series of well-built brick drains. The bricks used in their construction were of a type manufactured in the mid 16th century and contemporary in date with a well located at the north end of the trench.

The well was completely excavated and yielded more useful information about post-medieval Whitchurch, in particular with regard to the clay tobacco pipe industry. For the first time in Whitchurch we also have a sequence of pottery from the 16th century - about 1580 - to the late 17th century, or about 1700. We also have clay tobacco pipes with every dated level. The date of these ranged from the late 16th century to the late 17th.

The fill of the well was in four distinct layers. The first was cut into the natural clay and contained an almost complete cooking pot of circa 1580, the fabric being of very hard grey sandy ware with internal glaze and having almost the same density as "Widland Purple". Its presence in the base of the well may easily determine the date span of the "Widland Purple" ware. Recent finds, similar to our well sample, in various parts of the country and in America suggest that this type is being found in much earlier context than first thought. The structure of the well was of Tudor bricks, usually manufactured in the mid 16th century and the pot was probably lost in its first year of use. A clay tobacco pipe bowl of the late 16th century or early 17th century was in the upper part of the same level.

The main period of use was in the 17th century, with several almost complete jugs which were lost along with a few 17th century clay tobacco pipes, three of which may have been William Partridge of Broseley, who worked from 1680 - 1742.

The well was completely filled in by the end of the 17th century, the later fill containing pottery characteristic of the 1690s and an abundance of clay tobacco pipes. These included 9 samples of bowls with the maker's mark of W.E. and the only possible maker with these initials within this period being William Evans of Bristol, circa 1660. It seems that William Evans left more evidence of existence here than in any other town so far. (Several archaeological reports on post-med. excavations have been examined - so far, only one report refers to one pipe made by William Evans). It is possible, however, that these pipes were made locally, but research in the local Parish Registry and trade directories can determine this. It seems unlikely that Whitchurch should be on the trade route from Bristol in the mid 17th century as the nearest point for contact with the river Severn trade is Shrewsbury, but even Shrewsbury has not produced many of his pipes on excavations. It is essential that there should be more research into the pipe makers of Shropshire and Cheshire.

The well has been sealed with a layer of sand - probably at the time when the building shown on the 1761 map was erected. It was 2 metres 6 centimetres deep with the present water table at 1m. 80 cms. deep, and the head of the well was of four slabs of re-used sandstone. These ashlar slabs were chiselled in the medieval style and may have come from some substantial nearby building.

### Conclusions

There was no trace of the packed clay feature to be found anywhere on the site, but it is probable that this feature was lost with the construction of the cottages, so its date and use remain unknown. The depth at which the subsoil was located suggests that the ground had been eroded or levelled off throughout the medieval period. The strata was similar to that which was encountered under Castle House. (See W.A.A.G. newsletter No. 5).

The only evidence of any Roman occupation of the area was two Roman potsherds and one fragment of tile found in the construction level of the well. We cannot rule out any Romano-British occupation in this area as only the deepest footings or pits would have survived. It is surprising that no pits or large quantities of Roman pottery were found owing to the site position, but the only recorded find previously was a 2nd century coin found on the surface in 1977.

There were no stratified finds of the medieval period but the finding of the reused building stones may indicate that there may be the site of a substantial stone building nearby. The immediate area has produced evidence of this with the noting of large stone blocks on the site of the Westminster Bank by Mr Geoffrey Owen, our President, when the bank was constructed in the 1920s and also a section of walling was noted by the writer when the bowling green retaining wall of the Working Men's Club collapsed in the 1950s and again in the 1960s. Mr Duggan in his "History of Whitchurch" quotes that in 1760 "some portion of the walls of the Castle were standing on the Castle Hill, on the side next the Mill just above the brook that now runs under what is called the Lock-up House". There was also evidence of the Castle when the canal was extended into the town in 1808. A map showing its proposed route is marked with the "Castle Well", the modern site of both these references is W.H. Smith's showrooms.

It is interesting to note that both the writer and J. Connell visited the site of the former "Swan Hotel" when it was re-developed into a modern supermarket and no evidence of any substantial stone building was found. The only remaining evidence of the medieval burghage plots is the shape of the property lines on maps showing buildings on the street fronts with plots to the rear. All material evidence of these buildings was destroyed by later development.

The most important and interesting feature located on the site was the well - from this we can gain important information from the finds and this will help in the evaluation of all post-medieval excavations in the area.

### Tong Castle Excavation - 1978 to 1979 Interim Report

The excavation season at Tong Castle started with the large scale machining of the South Outer Wall and continued through the summer along to the Keep area to expose about 150 metres of walling down to a depth of between 4 to 5 metres.

Further machining across the site enabled excavation to uncover a 13th century Courtyard Building in the Keep from which came bronzework including a Matrix Seal and a bronze cauldron rim sherd, the second from the site.

The season ended with the machine excavation of the Inner Ditch and Gateway, which involved the removal of over 1000 tons of rubble from the Ditch, and has at long last revealed the full extent of the 12th century defensive Castle on the site. Conservation of the excavated Well material is now completed, which, along with excavation finds from the Group's last five years work, will be on Display at the Bear Steps Hall from Thursday, 27th December through till Monday, 31st December inclusive.

### Excavation

South Outer Wall - A machine was used to clear the Underground Chamber through to the west end of the Inner Ditch. This led to the excavation of the large Wine Cellar and the Garderobe Pit under the east Landscape Arches.

The rubble from within the Wine Cellar was gradually removed to reveal a flight of stone steps from the Cellar into the last Durant Castle. Work at the top of the steps revealed the existence of early timber edged steps cut into the bedrock which had survived all the subsequent building alterations.

During the excavation of the Cellar, a Well was located at the rear and in the corner of the Cellar which, from its position, had obviously been cut into the sandstone bedrock prior to the construction of the Cellar. The top was covered by demolition brick rubble overlying a deposit of sterile building sand which extended to the bottom of the Well, a depth of only 0.8 metres. The bottom cut had partly cut channels ready for removal of further bedrock to deepen the Well further and was therefore left unfinished.

The position of the Well and the 18C clearance suggested that it was originally the 16/17C Well for the Vernon/Kingston Castle.

Work in the Landscape Arches to the east revealed a sealed pit under the floors and was identified as being the remains of an outside garderobe chute of the Vernon Castle. The re-building of the South Outer Wall following the Civil War damage had sealed the pit exit and the artifacts from the pit, including a quantity of fine glassware amongst a large amount of pottery, will be the subject of a Report on the Garderobe Pit currently under preparation.

Clearance of the remains of the Landscape arches to the west revealed a large quantity of early 18C glazed and un-glazed decorated pottery sealed under the arch floor. The large holes in the bases suggest their use as flower pots, but the variety of shapes and sizes causes speculation as to the reason for the quantity and depositing in one small area.

Inner Ditch - Excavation work at both ends of the Inner Ditch and by the Butress Building, revealed steep bedrock cuttings, details of which are within a separate Inner Ditch Excavation Report for which lack of space does not permit publication.

Keep Courtyard Area - Clearance of the Durrant ruins and an east to west trench by a D6 Bulldozer, enabled the excavation of part of the Courtyard area. The machine scraped over the top of stonework, being the north and only remaining wall of a building within the Courtyard. Excavation inside the building revealed an area of laid cobbles against the wall forming the base of a hearth.

Artifacts from the overlying layer place it as a 13C building and the layers against the outside of the wall contained bronze work including a bronze matrix Seal in very good condition. Amongst the pottery was a thick coarse fabric partly glazed bunched pot base with holes in the bottom. Their function is unknown.

Excavation of the robbed west wall of the building led to continuous excavation towards the Kitchen area and lined up with the earliest stonework so far located in a previously excavated trial excavation trench.

At this stage in the excavation investigations were carried out at the end of the promontory in the area of the previously excavated large post hole. Further adjoining large post holes were located and their relative positions suggest a palisade type of structure on the promontory, part of which had been removed by later bedrock cuttings.

The possibility of an encircling palisade, which would have gone under the later Keep Buildings, lead to the restarting of excavations within the Kitchen area, previously held up because of the extreme wet conditions in the area.

A JCB 6C machine located a length of the West Outer Wall, but the depth of the walling down the slopes prevented further excavation of the wall. The machine went on to clear the South Outer and the Keep Outer Wall to reveal firstly the ballustraded area at the angled Outer Wall area, secondly, the cutting of an earlier South Wing structure, and lastly, the filling in of various sections of the Keep Outer Wall to maintain a flat wall for the 17C hanging Wall Garden.

South Outer Wall - It was possible to reconstruct one of the ballustrade pillars from the rubble of the machine excavation and this was placed in the mid-17C period for use during the re-building of the Vernon Castle by Pierrepont. The ballustraded platform would have provided an unrestricted view of the entire length of the South Outer Wall, which has previously identified as a Hanging Wall Garden.

South Wing Building - From outside the Keep Plinth area the foundations of a building could be seen cut into the bedrock with the building removed and the bedrock cut back to line up with the re-built South Outer Wall in the area. Inside the wall, adjacent to the early Keep Batter Wall, the north end of the building was located and was built prior to the nearby 14C Keep Buildings.

The remaining Keep Outer Wall showed areas where a later sandstone filling had either filled or replaced earlier structures, but it is impractical at this stage to consider removing the re-built sandstone for conservation reasons.

The possibility of excavating the Inner Ditch led to a series of other investigations on the site whilst plans were made for the excavation of the Inner Ditch. The excavation was carried out and is detailed in a separate Report which covers the whole period of excavation from 1977 to 1979. This report can be viewed at Salop County Planning Department, Shirehall or Rowleys Mansion.

In conclusion, it is worthwhile reflecting on our excavations to date which have progressed from a small Trial excavation area to the ambitious machining programme this season.

This has involved the removal of approximately 2,500 tons of rubble from against the South Outer Wall and the Inner Ditch and along with the 'normal' excavations has revealed, at long last, a defensive castle for all to see.

Alan Wharton

#### Bromfield, Salop SO 483 766 - Excavations in 1979

Rescue excavations have continued on this multi-period gravel quarry site.

No other features of the Neolithic and Beaker periods have been found to add to the pits excavated in 1978. A nearby ring-ditch has been discovered by drag-line by Mr F. Ellis, bringing the total of probable barrows on the Bromfield terrace to 20, a concentration unparallelled in the Welsh Marches. No artifacts have yet been obtained from this new feature, nor from the excavated part of a nearby barrow ditch which was first recognised from the air in 1974.

Work on the interior of the square single-ditched enclosure is virtually complete. An irregular hollow in the northern half proved to be an ancient gravel quarry, probably for flooring since there was a heap of discarded large stones in



its deepest part. This leaves the two four-post buildings (2.9 m square and 2.8 x 2.4 m overall) as the only possible house structures for which any evidence has been recovered.

The enclosure ditch is V-shaped and about 1.1 m deep from the natural gravel surface. A small internal rampart would have left a space of about 28 x 26 m for buildings, racks and pits. So far two and a half sides of the enclosure ditch have been emptied; a fourth side is inaccessible under a modern topsoil dump. Although finds have been few their position may be significant in reflecting the function of internal buildings. Near the larger building the ditch yielded sherds of several different Iron Age pots and a grey silt with charcoal flecks was found down the inside as though ashes had been thrown down the rampart over a long period. Around the ditch corner flanking the smaller four-post building no such ashy deposit was found and sherds of only one pot have been recovered. These observations are consistent with the larger building being the dwelling and the smaller one the store building. A similar pairing of large and small four-posters has been argued for hillforts like Croft Ambrey and Midsummer Hill and it is interesting to see the same family (?) unit represented at Bromfield.

The record of the boiling stones (or pot-boilers) from the ditch shows they were in use throughout the occupation of the enclosure. They have been found in all parts of the ditch as though derived from several different working sites inside but the only large concentrations have been in the south-west and south-east sides, furthest from the conjectured four-post dwelling. This is seen to indicate that although they were probably used for boiling potfuls of water they were more commonly utilised for boiling larger quantities, perhaps for cooking meat or preparing hides. Unfortunately no bones of this period survive; nor has any carbonized grain been recovered. It is possible, but not proven, that the shallow clay-lined pits found in the interior are related in some way to the operations for which the boiling stones were required.

As neither four-post hut was rebuilt the occupation is unlikely to have lasted more than about 50-90 years. Only Iron Age pottery has been found so far; but it is not known whether the site is Iron Age or Roman in date.

A second unused grave, next to and parallel to the first, has been found in addition to the twenty other Anglo-Saxon Christian graves found within the enclosure in 1978.

The excavations, which will continue in 1980 have been undertaken by the writer for the Shropshire County Museum Service and the Department of the Environment with the assistance particularly of Mrs Yvonne Stanford and Messrs W.E.Jenks, R.C.Lett, D.Wilson, C.A.Stanford and P.Throssell; Lord Plymouth and the quarry staff have been generous with their help and interest.

S.C.Stanford - University of Birmingham

Madeley Court, Telford, Shropshire. SJ695051

An archaeological excavation was begun in 1978 at Madeley Court, Telford, and was continued during August 1979. During 1978 and 1979 a complete, detailed survey of the complex of buildings has been undertaken.

In the first season, the foundations of a substantial (? thirteenth-century) stone hall were uncovered (S.N.L. 1978). A Jacobean range with elaborate plaster ceilings was eventually built over the site of that early structure and subsequently demolished. It is now clear that there was a major, intervening structural phase, when another stone building was erected on a site adjacent to that of the early hall. The hall was demolished before this structure was raised at an awkward angle to the other buildings on an east-west axis. There was no surviving evidence of domestic or agricultural use and the orientation of the building gives rise to speculation that it might have been so aligned for liturgical reasons.

NE of the early hall is a substantial range which probably replaced the first hall. It is possible that the site was occupied by a priory grange which prospered during the thirteenth century and there was an early need for the provision of more substantial accommodation. A further addition was made to the east end of the hall range and at an unknown stage the range was also extended to the west.

Following the Dissolution the complex was sold to Robert Brooke and converted for residential use. It is possible that the east-west aligned building was still standing when the Elizabethan porch was built on the south side of the hall range. The porch may occupy the site of a former tower.

Only one of the three substantial Jacobean ranges now survives.

A unique twin-towered Elizabethan gatehouse has been surveyed in detail, as has a most unusual brick barn with stone dressings and a remarkable timber frame.

Bob Meeson, for Telford Development Corporation

The Roman Fort at Eaton Constantine, Shropshire, by A.W.J.Houghton.

In 1975 Professor J.K.S.St Joseph when carrying out aerial reconnaissance of the Severn valley below Wroxeter found a triple ditched fort on the left bank of the river. (O.S.S.J 600050) Traces of Marching Camps were evident in the flat land near the river.

The greater part of the fort is on a river terrace with an average slope of 1 in 26 and encloses an area of about 6 hectares. It is rectangular with the long sides following the slope and entrances are visible on the short north and the longer west side. The nearest modern roads are those from Wroxeter to Ironbridge and from the Eaton Constantine cross roads to the bridge at Cressage. These are roughly parallel to the north and west sides of the fort. The Drift map (O.S.) shows that the fort is set on a glacial deposit of boulder clay, sand and gravel.

From a tactical point of view the site could not have been better chosen having regard to the serious military situation then existing. There is a near 180° view to the far west highland zone. The Wrekin and the Watling street are a mile or so to the rear. It is likely that O.Scapula built this road in his north-west advance and here turned aside to the Severn in the early 50's A.D. with a view to solving his prime strategic problem - the destruction of Caratacus. This fort, possibly the earliest base from which to direct the necessary operations, was well placed for this purpose. Previously Rome had made the mistake of dealing with Wales piecemeal but this great fort gives the impression that at last a well thought-out plan had been evolved.

Field work revealed a rather wet site and surface finds were very few. A transverse section 2 metres wide was set out across the ditches at the highest or northern side. All three ditches were cut into brown stiff clay. The outermost was 4.8 m wide, with an "ankle breaker" slot cut into the base. The primary fill consisted of an anaerobic gley (silt deposit) into which stones averaging 15 cm by 10 cm had rolled. Above was a leached pale grey mass of turves, earth and odd stones the upper part being gritty.

The middle ditch was 3.4 m wide and 1.4 m deep. Apart from the great stones and gley in the bottom the fill was much more sandy but this may have been due to a local change in the subsoil. Only in the inner ditch was typical military construction found in the shape of steeper sides. It was 3.2 m wide and 1.9 m deep. A stony base which had supported a turf rampart, traces of which still remained, had partially collapsed into the ditch.

A stony surface about 1 m wide separated the outer and middle ditches whereas a compacted mass of sand and some clay provided an irregular surface between the inner two ditches. Time did not permit the growth of a thorn hedge between the ditches as at Duncot north of Wroxeter but small turf ramparts provided a substitute for the thorny equivalent of barbed wire.

The only artifacts were a few scraps of brick and fragments of burnt wood. Pending the stripping of the Porta Praetoria it seems possible that this great structure had a very short life. It may be that in that time the defeat of Caratacus occurred, the strategic position was radically changed and there being no further need for the fort abandonment naturally followed.

#### The Town Walls, Oswestry

Members of the Border Counties Archaeological Group, based in the Wrexham and Oswestry area, and under the supervision of Manchester University, spent two weekends in October 1979, excavating the site of the former town walls of Oswestry in Cae Glas park. These were last seen by Mr William Day during renovations to a hairdresser's near the Golden Tankard, on the opposite side of Church Street to the Park. The walls are believed to have been constructed during the 13th century and to have contained four town gates. They were demolished after the Civil War.

A trench, 2 m wide was dug near the tennis courts on what is believed to be the site of the town walls. This revealed a cobbled surface lying under a layer of topsoil used to landscape the park. Finds during the first weekend included a thin silver coin, clay pipes, animal bones and pottery. The coin has since been identified as a 13th or 14th century forgery with the name of Edward distinguishable, and is still under examination at Manchester University.

Further investigation revealed a destruction level below the cobbled surface which appears to have been laid down in the 16th century after demolition of the walls. This included large stones measuring from 27x38x29 cm, possibly derived from the walls and part of a pit which contained a group of stones laid flat and possibly part of a revetted bank running at a tangent to the existing wall. This latter feature is very much open to question.

Subject to approval from Oswestry Town and Borough Councils it is hoped to be able to carry out other excavations in the future, possibly where the walls turn along Welsh Walls towards Willow Gate, in order to elucidate the features already found. Carol James (Border Counties Archaeological Group)

The Archaeology of Standing Buildings.

September 1979 has seen the completion of survey work under the Special Temporary Employment Scheme designed to cover those buildings in the County which needed recording because they could not, for one reason or another, be guaranteed a much longer life. The emphasis is on the word survey, as the processing of the information is still proceeding. When buildings are recorded under the aegis of the County Planning Department for inclusion into the Sites and Monuments Record the emphasis is on the analysis of the results and not on the quantity of buildings recorded. A vast range of information is computed for each building including not only planning and administrative factors but the actual attributes of the buildings ranging from building materials and planform to those features which render it in any way unique. It is only in this way that the long term aim of assessing the way in which people from the medieval period onwards lived and worked is achieved.

I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO APPEAL TO ANYONE WHO IS COMPLETING FULL MEASURED SURVEYS OF BUILDINGS IN SALOP OR WHO IS DOING ANY SUBSTANTIAL WRITTEN WORK ON INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS TO SUBMIT THEIR WORK TO THE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD WHERE IT WILL BE ANALYSED IN ORDER TO FULFIL THIS LONG TERM RESEARCH AIM.

In order to give a brief indication of how the fifty buildings recorded during the STEP programme have been analysed according to the single aspect of planform, a brief breakdown of this aspect is included.

Buildings recorded under the STEP Programme

Rural Small Houses

Two unit and stack

The Den - Flealey, Lower Home Farm - Westley, No. 1 Coton - Whixall, Earls Hill Farm (Phase 1), Beauty Bank - Bridgnorth, 39 Coalport Road - Broseley, Workhouse Cottages - Morville.

One unit (initially)

Open to the roof

4 Station Road - Minsterley, Duffy's Cottage - Richley,

Criftings - (Upton Magna) (lateral stack)

Ceiled over

Stowe House - Bomere Heath, Pound Cottage - Wollerton (Phase I) (plus pers crossing), 1-4 Church Terrace - Oswestry, 19-27 G. Hales St. (initially Phase I) - Market Drayton.

Medieval Open Hall

1 & 2 Oak Cottages - Ford, Silvington Manor, Southwall - Much Wenlock, Vron Farm - Duddlestone, Aston Eyre, Upper Lake - Asterley, Walleybourne Farm, Cheyney Longville, Manor Farm - Stoney Stretton.

Sub Medieval Homes

Retain some features of med. building but are basically of a post med. format.

The Bee - Stoney Stretton and 17-28 Church Road, Lilleshall.

Two unit, end lobby entrance - The Island, Lyneal, Nr. Ellesmere.

Baffle Entry

Three Unit - Middle Farm - Westley (pos. cross passage removed),

Stretton Farm, Nr. Market Drayton, No. 5 Tugford.

Two Unit - The Bee - Stoney Stretton, Bank Farm - Ford.

Large Houses

Cwlbury Hall - U shape; Hinton Old Hall - H shape; Colehurst - U shape.

Plan forms destroyed

Three Unit - 25-31 Willow Street - Ellesmere, Woofferton Court Cottages,

19-27 Gt. Hales Street - Market Drayton.

Three unit non standard - 29 Whitchurch Road, Crudington (pos. re-used crucks).

Two unit non standard - 17-19 Watergate Street, Whitchurch (pos. sep. living over shop unit), Day Home, Leebootwood, 1-2 Banton Cottages, Darliston.

Other non standard - White House, Hayton (rehash of earlier hall), 8 High Street - Ludlow, Reaside Manor - Cleobury Mortimer, 22-24 Frankwell, 4, 5, 6 Frankwell.

Agricultural Buildings - Barn - Dayhouse, Leebootwood, Haughton House, Engine House, Hemp House, Walleybourne, The Stables, Rudge, Patteringham.

CR/ACB - November 1979

Parish Survey of Westbury

In addition to the above, survey work on the above parish was conducted in order to satisfy the requirements of the Master of Arts Degree in Conservation, Vernacular Architecture and Historical Studies at the University of Manchester. In total 104 buildings were intensively studied using the system devised for the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record. The results are too extensive and diverse to be summarised here, but it can be said that the study of planforms was particularly fruitful, revealing the two unit baffle entry as the most prominent planform for the small house in the area. The thesis was aimed in particular at establishing a vernacular threshold for this part of the County (a point in time at which the bulk of small houses were being constructed in permanent materials). It is widely accepted that this varies from region to region and is a product of location, social status and survival. Two vernacular thresholds were indicated in the results of the study,

the late sixteenth century and the mid-late 17th century.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those members of the Society whom I may have visited in Westbury Parish for their kindness and co-operation in allowing their houses to be surveyed. They may be assured that they have furthered the cause of historical research by allowing the analysis of a tightly drawn area and providing results of the highest value.

A copy of the thesis may be available at the Local Studies Library in the New Year.

Carole Ryan

Note: Contributors to the section on vernacular architecture in the News Sheet are invited to concentrate on an analysis of the information they have collected during the pre-publication period with a view to bringing the reports in line with the archaeological articles.

#### Domestic Architecture in the County

Work continued during the spring and summer of 1979 on the investigation and recording of domestic architecture in the County. A few S.A.S. members offered to help in this work and were promptly and gratefully recruited, but there is still a great need of more volunteers.

A group of workers in Much Wenlock was set up following the course on "Old Houses in Shropshire" which was sponsored by the Extra-Mural Dept. of Birmingham University during the winter of 1978/9. Sam Mullins, at the Museum in Much Wenlock would be pleased to recruit in that area.

Houses recorded during the year include -

Asterley, Upper House Farm, (Barn)  
Upper Millichope, Forester's Lodge. SA 108914  
Cardover, Old School House SA 15252  
Cardington, Honeysuckle House  
Leebotwood, Penkridge Hall SA 13239  
Ludlow, Reader's House SA 11051  
Ludlow, The Bull Hotel SA 11031  
Ludlow, 112 Corve St., SA 11126  
Ludlow, Fosters, High St., SA 11167  
Rushbury, The Manor SA 11351  
Rushbury, Coats Farm  
Marshbrook, Hatton Farm  
Harton Manor SA 10940  
Wrickton Mill Cottage  
Berrington Manor SA 13209  
Bishop's Castle, Blunden Hall SA 13435  
Golding Farm  
Shrewsbury, The Council House SA 10226  
Shrewsbury, 114/115 Frankwell SA 10288/9  
Shrewsbury, The Draper's Hall SA 10537  
Bedstone, Manor Farm SA 13423  
Ludlow

The work of the Ludlow Research Group continues under the leadership of David Lloyd and Martin Speight. The third volume of "Historic Ludlow" was published in June. Entitled "Broad Street" by David Lloyd (price £2.75) it is a history of that famous street and contains a chapter on the houses and their builders. Four pull-out panoramic street/grid illustrations by Stanley Woolston are included. Four buildings in Ludlow currently under investigation and recording include -  
The Peathers Hotel and the Guildhall.

#### The Cruck Count

Cruck buildings continue to be recognised in Shropshire. The following recent

discoveries bring the total to 150 -

Erccall Magna Hall (upper crucks)	SA 1140
Stoke-on-Tern, Stoke Farm	SA 15004
Grinshill, Bromhaul	SA 12201
Wroxeter, 1 & 2 Glebe Cottage	
Ashford Carbonell Nos. 8, 9, 10	
Aston Botterell, Chatmore Farm (upper crucks)	
Wrickton Mill Cottage	
Lee Brockhurst Manor Farm (Barn)	(SA 105226) NOW DEMOLISHED

#### Glee Hills Area

Two important discoveries by Fred Powell of Wheathill have been noted this year. One is a complete malting house attached to a farm and the other is a set of "model farm" buildings with a railway. It is hoped to begin recording work on them next year.

M. Moran

### Recent Publications

- Lloyd, D. Broad Street its houses and their residents through eight centuries. Ludlow Research Paper no. 3. Studio Press 1979. £2.75. This is a beautifully produced report of the Ludlow Historical Research Group's detailed research into the development of this handsome street, its economic, social and architectural history. At last the town is receiving the intensive study it deserves.
- Muter, W.G. The buildings of an industrial community: Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge. Phillimore, 1979. £7.50.
- Mr Muter confines his attention to the houses, cottages, chapels, churches, schools and other public buildings in Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge, Coalport and Jackfield. Many buildings are illustrated by plans or photographs.
- Smith, Stuart B. A view from the Iron Bridge. Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust 1979. £1.95.
- Produced in connection with the current Royal Academy exhibition of the same title, this booklet is mainly an annotated catalogue of paintings and prints showing the bridge and its environs during the last 200 years. Though small, the illustrations are well reproduced, many in very good colour.
- Messenger, M. comp. Pottery and tiles of the Severn Valley. Remploy, 1979. £31.50.
- This is a detailed catalogue of the pottery and tile collection in Clive House Museum, Shrewsbury. The pottery is from Jackfield and Benthall, the tiles from Maw & Co., Craven Dunhill and Carter & Co. of Worcester. Many objects have been illustrated, some in colour.
- Elliott, D.J. Shropshire clock and watch makers. Phillimore 1979. £5.95.
- This is mainly an alphabetical list of local clock and watchmakers based on information obtained from manuscript records of guilds, from parish registers and churchwardens' accounts, census returns, wills, and from directories and newspapers. There are also chapters on the famous Whitchurch firm of Joyce & Co. and the local guilds.
- Haslam, Richard. The buildings of Wales: Powys. Penguin/University of Wales Press, 1979. £6.95.
- Many Salopians will welcome this volume as it is an essential aid to informed exploration of the beautiful country to the west of us. The volume follows the pattern established by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, but is divided into the three defunct counties of Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Breconshire.
- Milward, R. and Robinson, A. The Welsh Borders. Eyre Methuen, 1978. £7.95 (hardback) £3.95 (paperback)
- The authors have produced an extremely readable historical geography of the area from geological to modern times. It is very useful to have a current summary of research covering this large area. Shropshire is set clearly in its regional context; an illuminating exercise when so much local history is restricted to individual counties or smaller units.
- Taylor, Christopher. Roads and tracks of Britain. Dent, 1979. £6.50:
- Rowley, T. Villages in the landscape. Dent, 1978. £5.95.
- Anyone interested in knowing more about the historical development of the area around them will gain numerous insights from reading these two national studies, both of which contain several Shropshire examples.
- A volume of Shropshire probate inventories
- Although there are several collections of transcribed probate inventories in the Shropshire Record Office and Local Studies Library, those for St. Mary's Shrewsbury, and for Market Drayton for example, there is as yet no published volume for the county. A book 'Yeoman and Colliers in Telford', which is the work of an adult education class over the last seven years has just gone to press and should remedy this deficiency.
- The many older communities which make up the new town of Telford were all profoundly affected by the Industrial Revolution in the iron industry which swept across the area in the second half of the eighteenth century. This book explores the ways of life of the area in the century before 1750. It is one of the most thorough surveys of probate inventories yet published and is based on an analysis of 846 inventories made in the parishes of Dawley, Lilleshall, Wellington and Wrockwaine between 1660 and 1750. The texts of 265 of the most interesting are printed in full. There is a list of the rest, including the names of other inhabitants of the four parishes whose probate records are at Lichfield for whom no inventories survive.

Probate inventories have been used in this study not just as documents of antiquarian interest, but as a means of throwing light on a whole range of historical problems. Agriculture is thoroughly examined, and the large farms on the fringe of the Cheshire Cheese region contrasted with the smaller holdings on the coalfield. There is an exceptionally detailed analysis of the inventories of the mercers in Wellington, together with surveys of the dyeing, leather and other trades. New light is thrown on the developing coal industry, and one of the inventories actually lists a steam engine. A section on furnishings vividly demonstrates how standards of comfort were rising in the early eighteenth century. The changing nature of society is demonstrated by growing levels of literacy and the increased use of clocks. Telford, in the period, is seen not just as an area where the "preconditions of economic growth" were plainly to be seen, but as a series of communities which had a way of life which deserves respect on its own terms. As the editors conclude, "There are few historical explorations which better aid our understanding of our whole past and of our own society, than attempts to perceive the rhythms of life of our pre-industrial ancestors, and to sense the first stirrings of the changes which were so dramatically to alter the nature of their existence".

The book, 'Yeoman and Colliers in Telford' edited by Barrie Trinder and Jeff Cox will be published by Phillimore in the summer of 1980. Members of the Archaeological Society are advised to look out for details of a special pre-publication offer which will be publicised in the Spring of 1980.

Barrie Trinder

#### Courses and Conferences

##### The Archaeology Of Buildings

A fortnightly course of lectures, 12 in all, followed by a Field Trip will be held at College Hill House, Shrewsbury during the winter and spring of 1979/80 on "Old Houses in Shropshire". The course is sponsored by the Dept. of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham and the tutor is Madge Moran.

A weekend course in vernacular architecture will be held in the spring/early summer at Preston Montford Field Study Centre. Details from the Director of Studies, Preston Montford Field Centre, Preston Montford, Shropshire.

##### Discovering 18th Century Shrewsbury

Mrs M. Holford M.A. County Archivist.  
20 meetings, Tuesdays 7.00 p.m. at County Records Office, Shirehall. There is still room in this research class for enthusiasts wishing to familiarise themselves with documents and at the same time study the growth and development of Shrewsbury.

University of Birmingham : Department of Extramural Studies

##### Summer Courses in Archaeology - 1980

Wroxeter Director: G. Webster

##### Excavation Techniques

Course A - 2-16 August T. Strickland

Course B - 16-30 August D. Mackreth

Viroconium - the civitas capital of the Cornovii, was the fourth largest town in Roman Britain. Excavation is at present centred on the Macellum (Market Hall). The course includes training in excavation techniques on site during the day and lectures in the evening.

Accommodation is on a shared basis in Wrekin College, Wellington, Telford (or in the campsite for U.K. students only).

Fees: £20.00 U.K. \$40.00 Foreign per fortnight for tuition.

£120.00 per fortnight for accommodation.

##### Surveying And Levelling

Course C - 16-30 August A. Musty

Instruction will be given in techniques of surveying and levelling, preparing plans and sections for publication and some drawing of artifacts.

Accommodation is on a shared basis in Wrekin College, Wellington, Telford.

Fees: £20.00 U.K. \$40.00 Foreign for tuition.

£120.00 for accommodation.

Field Survey Director: P. Barker

Course D - 9-16 August A. Tyler

A six-day field course directed at a survey of the environs of the Roman City of Viroconium both from the ground and from aerial photographs. Accommodation will be on the campsite.

Fees: £10.00 U.K. £20.00 Foreign for tuition.

Meals to be paid for when taken on site.

Hen Domen

Excavation of 11th century timber castle from 29th June to 19th July. Seminars and field visits. Campsite is provided and the cost of tuition plus meals will be £80.00 for the three week course. In exceptional cases students may be accepted for two weeks in which case the fee will be £60. For further details apply to P.A.Barker, 4 St. George's Square, Worcester WR1 1HX.

Wroxeter - Volunteer Excavations

a) Baths Basilica: Training in field techniques and those who wish to specialise will be encouraged to do so. Subsistence paid to volunteers attending for a fortnight or longer. Excavation will take place during August.

b) Market Hall: Basic instruction in field techniques. Subsistence will be paid to those attending for a fortnight or longer. Excavation during August. Volunteers must bring camping equipment.

Full details of all these courses will be available in December. Further enquiries and applications should be addressed to Mrs M.Jones, MA, Department of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, B15 2TT.

Miscellaneous

No More Classes?

Members of the Archaeological Society resident in Shropshire may already have seen in the press the forecast that current cuts in public spending are likely to result in the scrapping of the county council's Adult Education Tutor service. This will mean no more historical research classes, no more weekend schools on historical topics, and no more of the 'Exploring Shropshire' programmes of guided walks in the summer months, and the effects on local history in the county are likely to be profound.

Barrie Trinder

The Shropshire Family History Society

The Society are taking an active interest in the recording of grave-stones and would like volunteers to assist with this very valuable aspect of archaeology. Anyone interested in doing this sort of work should contact Sula Raysha, 28 Oak Street, Belle Vue. Tel: Shrewsbury 59108.

Lily Chitty

Work continues on Miss Chitty's papers, and the Society is indebted to Mr Alan Tyler for his work. Miss Chitty's Archaeological Library is now available for consultation at the Local Studies Library.

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