

SALOP COUNTY
SITES & MONUMENTS RECORD

no 11

SHROPSHIRE NEWS SHEET

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

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Editorial

In my last editorial I made a specific request for contributions from a wider variety of members in the form of letters discussing either features or sites they had seen or comment on articles submitted in a previous issue. I have received nothing of this ilk to date and would like to remind you that the newsletter is what YOU make it. In addition it would be pleasant if some of the weight could be taken off the regular contributors who make great sacrifices in time and effort.

IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!

The Viking Exhibition

The Society is prepared to run a bus from Shrewsbury to the British Museum, London on Saturday 31st May 1980, leaving Shirehall at 8 a.m. (and leaving London about 7 p.m.). Admission to the exhibition, for which it may be necessary to queue, is £1.40 for adults, 70p for students and O.A.P's and this is not included in the fare which will be £4 per person. 40 people are needed otherwise the Society will be in debt and friends and relations are welcome.

FIRM BOOKINGS accompanied by a cheque for £4 should be made BY SATURDAY 17th MAY to Mrs J.E. Beard, 6 English Bridge Court, Shrewsbury. Money will be refunded in the event of insufficient numbers.

The remainder of the Summer Programme is as follows:

SATURDAY 17th MAY: All day visit to LUDLOW. Book by 3rd May. Cost 50p. Leaders: David Lloyd, Peter Egan, Madge Moran, Dr. Martin Speight. Meet 10.00 a.m. The Feathers Hotel, Ludlow, Prince Charles Room, for coffee and introductory talk by Dr. Speight, followed by tour of the town. Lunch break: 12.45 - 2.00 p.m. Members to make own arrangements.

2.00 p.m. FOUR SPECIALISED TOURS OF THE TOWN. Please indicate 1st and 2nd choice when booking, as the size of each group is limited to 20. 1. The Palmers' Guild; 2. The Council of the Marches; 3. Shops and Houses of Medieval Ludlow; 4. Fashionable Ludlow in the 18th Century. Each tour will include 2 or more buildings not normally open to the public. Tour ends 4.30 p.m. approx.

SUNDAY 15th JUNE. FAMILY DAY: All welcome. Book by 7th June. Cost 50p adults, Children free. Leader: David Pannett. Excursion to Caer Caradoc, Cardington and Acton Burnell. Meet 10.30 a.m. Shirehall, Shrewsbury (own cars). This will be an exploration of an area of outstanding archaeological and geological interest. Please bring packed lunch and tea (if required). Refreshments, toilet facilities etc., will be available at the Royal Oak, Cardington. Come prepared for rough walking. Tour ends 5 p.m. approx.

SATURDAY, 5th JULY: All day visit to BRONZE AGE SITES IN S.W. SHROPSHIRE. Book by 28th June. Cost £2. Transport: Coach. Leader: Alan Tyler. Coach departs The Cock Hotel, Wellington, 9.30 a.m; Shirehall, Shrewsbury 9.50 a.m; St. Chad's, Shrewsbury 10.00 a.m. Please indicate boarding point when booking. Sites to be visited include Black Marsh/Hoarstones Stone Circle; Mitchell's Fold Stone Circle; Shelve Stone Circle; Corndon Hill Round Barrows and Stone Axe factory; Whitcott Keysett Standing Stone; Pen-y-Wern Stone Circle. Please bring packed lunch and come prepared for rough walking. A stop will be made at the More Arms, where liquid refreshment and toilet facilities will be available. Tour ends 5.30 p.m. approx. Shrewsbury, 6.00 p.m. Wellington.

SATURDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER: Half day visit to SHREWSBURY SCHOOL LIBRARY. Book by 30th August. Leader: James Lawson. Meet 2.15 p.m. at main entrance to Shrewsbury School. Plenty of parking available near the library and in the grounds. This will be an unrivalled opportunity to examine the School's collection of medieval manuscripts, historical records, archives etc. Tour ends 4.15 p.m. approx.

INTERIM EXCAVATION REPORTS

MADDELEY COURT, TELFORD 1979-80

A second season of excavations at Madeley Court for Telford Development Corporation has clarified the plan of a stone building located in 1978.

During the 1978 season a hall, possibly of the 13th century with a lateral stone hearth, was carefully excavated. That hall had been succeeded by a seventeenth century south wing which projected from the north range until its demolition in the 18th century. However, it was clear in 1978 that a phase intermediate between the ?13th century hall and the 17th century south wing was represented by a third stone building on a contiguous site within the courtyard. That rectangular building, set at an awkward angle in relation to the main north range, was aligned exactly on an east-west axis. A column capital was found in close association with this structure. There was clear evidence of a boundary fence south of this building. There may have been a tower adjacent to the hall, in the north range, and there are very substantial foundations beneath the (later) Elizabethan porch.

All of the medieval and post-medieval masonry has now been recorded in detail within the standing ranges. The inserted, mainly 17th century timber partitions and all surviving roof trusses have been recorded.

The remarkable gatehouse has been drawn on a stone by stone basis, and the timber framework within an enormous brick barn? has been surveyed.

A detailed interim report has been published by Telford Development Corporation and post excavation and survey work is continuing.

Bob Meeson.

STIRCHLEY CHURCH, TELFORD.

The small stone chancel at St. James's Church, Stirchley, has long been regarded as a fine example of late Norman craftsmanship. During restoration work by the Telford Development Corporation plaster was stripped from the chancel arch wall. This work revealed a second, larger, earlier arch, and a semi-circular headed window or door above. It was also possible to note a chamfered plinth on the west face of the chancel wall - an external feature. The entire chancel has been recorded in detail and the implications of this important discovery are being assessed prior to the compilation of a report of survey for the Shropshire Archaeological Society Transactions.

Bob Meeson.

ROMAN

The Roman Fort at Eaton Constantine, Salop.

In 1975 Professor J.K.S. St. Joseph when carrying out aerial reconnaissance of the Severn valley found a triple ditched fort on the left bank of the river about three miles downstream of Wroxeter. (O.S. S.J.600050). Traces of marching camps were visible in the flat land near the river in an area still subject to flooding.

The greater part of the fort is on a river terrace with an average slope of 1 in 26, the area enclosed being about 6 h. It is rectangular, the long sides following the slope and an entrance is seen on the short N side where the fort lies on the flat summit of the terrace commanding a direct view to the Wrekin and the Watling street. The nearest modern roads are those from Wroxeter to Ironbridge and from the Eaton Constantine cross roads to the bridge at Cressage. These are nearly parallel to the N & W sides of the fort. There is a series of lanes from the Watling street Wrockwardine cross roads via Pushton and Upper Longwood which, taken together, form a straight line to the Ironbridge road in the valley N of the fort.

GEOLOGY: The fort is set on a glacial deposit of gravel, compact sand and reddish clay, the underlying solid rock being the Upper Cambrian Shineton rather soft, blackish shales.

From a tactical point of view the site could not have been better chosen having regard to the serious military situation then prevailing. There is a 180° view to the whole W highland zone. It appears likely that Ostorius Scapula built this great road in his N.W. advance and probed towards the Severn in this area in the early fifties with a view to the destruction of Caratacus.

The site is wet and modern field drains are seen in the aerial photographs. The only artefacts consisted in the lower half of a corn grinding mill and a few brick sherds. A section 2 m wide was cut across the ditches 25 m E of the N entrance. Here, at the top of the terrace the topsoil was only 0.3 m thick and the glacial deposit weathered so that the ditches had to be cut into the soft black shale. All were lined with clay which contained quantities of burnt wood fragments of small size. The work seems to have been done in a hurry or else not well supervised for with the exception of uneven "ankle breaker" slots in the inner and outer ditches there was no attempt in the outer two ditches to cut them in the prescribed V shaped military fashion. A scrutiny of the aerial photographs confirms these findings at other points in the perimeter. Only in the inner ditch was there any evidence of a V shaped profile. The outer ditch was 4.8 m wide and 1.3 m deep.

The primary fill consisted of a dense greyish anaerobic gley (very fine silt) into which large stones had rolled. Next came a leached pale mass of turves and earth and small stones the uppermost layer being finely gritty.

The middle ditch was 3.4 m wide and 1.4 m deep but here the fill was much more sandy and the clay lining set on this insubstantial foundation had largely collapsed into the bottom of the ditch. Only in the inner ditch, 3.2 m wide and 1.9 m deep was there any attempt to cut a true V profile. A stony base which had supported an inner turf rampart had partly collapsed into the ditch.

A stony surface, about 1 m wide separated the outer and middle ditches whereas a compact mass of sand and some clay, containing burnt wood fragments itself lying on blackish shale lay between the inner two ditches. It appears that there was not sufficient time to permit the growth of a thorn hedge between the ditches as was found in a striking decayed root pattern at Duncot N of Wroxeter. But turf ramparts, judging from the ditch fill, may have provided a substitute for the thorny equivalent of barbed wire.

The only artefacts were a few scraps of brick and burnt wood but it is hoped to continue the trench into the interior of the fort next season.

The group is much indebted to Professor F.W. Shotton F.R.S. for his help in interpretation.

THE COUNTY SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD - BUILDINGS

In September 1979 the main bulk of surveying threatened buildings had to end due to the completion of the STEP programme for recording, although of course many such buildings remain and work remains to be done on the drawings themselves. A special thank you is due to Barry Dodman-Edwards who stayed with the project for a year.

The old problem of rescue versus research is still with us and there is always a temptation to deal with building which will yield rewards in the latter field. It is the density of small yeoman farmhouses and their types, however, which is one of the most important issues and it is through the medium of parish surveys that most of this information is to be gained. A recent extensive survey of buildings in Melverley Parish should yield profitable results.

Since August 1979 work has progressed, under the aegis of another STEP scheme to complete the very tedious task of plotting and locating over 5,000 listed buildings and punching data on those buildings on a manual computer. This is an essential task and again special thanks is due to Frank Warren, and to Colin Wallsgrove who is continuing for a further 26 weeks.

Buildings of interest which have been brought to the attention of the Sites and Monuments Record staff in recent weeks include:-

- 1) Sunnyside, Baschurch - a two unit baffle entry house with the second unit housed in a crossing - an unusual format.
- 2) Clive Cottage - a one unit house with stone gable walls and an entrance in the gable. Unusual curved principal rafters - possibly reused timber.
- 3) Barn - Venus Bank, Cound - L shaped range of barn, open fronted cartshed, and cowhouse - threatened by quarrying and hopefully to be moved to another site.
- 4) Farmgroup - W of The Laurels, Baschurch - a barn and cartshed - both timber framed, and former timber framed stables.
- 5) 6, 8, 10 Dodington, Whitchurch - 3 unit baffle entry containing a fragment of a cruck building.
- 6) 19 - 21 Chapel St., Wem - a two unit central stack with part of the stack removed to make a clever 18th century conversion.
- 7) Blacksmith's Shop, King St., Grange, Sherrifhales.
- 8) Padmore, Upper Walton, near Onibury - a medieval hall with open solar and spere truss - found by Fred Powell and notified by Alan Snell.

These are just a few examples of the wide cross-section covered by the record. It is essential that any building which is under threat from disuse or demolition be notified to the Sites and Monuments Record Staff on Shrewsbury 222332 so that some form of recording may take place.

Domestic Architecture in the County

After the spate of measuring work during the summer of 1979 the winter months were used mostly for drawing up. Preparation for another season of recording is now in hand and members who are interested in this work - especially those who have free time during the week - are invited to contact either Carole Ryan or Madge Moran who need much more help than is currently available.

Ludlow: The work of the Ludlow Research Group is concentrated at present on the Bull Ring. Most of the buildings in that area have now been investigated and although no startling discoveries have been made each building has yielded some feature of interest. The most significant was the Tolsey. This is known to have been the Toll House and the building which housed the Court of Pie-Powder (Pie & Poudre). Jettied on all four sides, the westernmost bay was found to have moulded

wall-plates - a feature normally associated with only supra-vernacular buildings. As traces of wall-paintings were also noticeable in the bay it seems reasonable to conclude that this bay was the courtroom. Before the Corporation took over the Guildhall from the Palmers' Guild the Tolsey would have been the only public building which could be used for court cases of any kind.

"The Bull Ring through Eight Centuries" is the theme of the historical exhibition to be held in the Town Hall Ludlow on 1,2,3,4 & 5th of July, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. It is hoped to produce a scale model of the Tolsey to form the centre-piece of the exhibition.

A programme of Historical Tours of Ludlow has been planned as part of the Ludlow Festival. See local posters for details or contact David Lloyd, Martin Speight or Madge Moran.

Dr. Speight's book on "The Great House" (112 Corve St.), the 4th in the series of "Historic Ludlow" will be published shortly. There is a wealth of documentary evidence for the building and it is also architecturally very interesting. The book follows the policy already established of bringing together the two disciplines.

Rigg's Hall: Work is currently in hand on the archaeological/architectural assessment of the site and the standing buildings. It is hoped to publish shortly a monograph which will include the Pride Hill Chambers site and Rigg's Hall under the title "Two Medieval Halls on the Town Walls".

Binweston Farm: The discovery of a cruck house in use as a cattle-shed and containing 6 pairs of crucks brings the Shropshire Cruck count to 159. The 16th century house which clearly superceded it is at present undergoing renovation by the owner. It too has some very interesting features including a jettied porch which has marked similarities to the one which was removed from Rigg's Hall.

Double-Pile Houses: Professor M.W.Barley, author of "House and Home" and "The English Farmhouse and Cottage" is carrying out a nationwide survey of double-pile houses of a pre-1750 date. These are houses which are two rooms deep in the main part and can include the West Midlands U-shaped house which has a short hall, the wings only being two-roomed. He has asked for help with this count. If you know of any in your own locality please send details of Grid Ref., name of house, parish, building material, suggested or known date, and an outline of the external roof shape (birds' eye view) noting where the ridges are placed to Madge Moran who will pass the information on. We have been able to give him 45 Shropshire examples to date.

Erratum-wrong date: The date of the series of lectures, fortnightly, on "Old Houses in Shropshire" to be held in College Hill House and sponsored by the Extra-Mural Dept. of Birmingham University was wrongly given in the last newsletter as winter and spring of 1979/80. This should have read winter and spring of 1980/81. My apologies to the editor and to members.

M. Moran - April 1980.

FINDS

A number of very important finds have been made during the winter period, although some of the objects had been found previously and have only just come to light.

An Unlooped Palstave: This was found at a farm in Prees during the winter of 78/79, during ploughing, the object being noticed when it became jambed between the coulter and share. The palstave was thrown into the tool box on the tractor as a piece of scrap metal but was fortunately kept and recognised as an antiquity after a visit by the Sites and Monuments Record staff on other business. The original finder could not be sure in which of two fields it was found, but the study of remaining soil on the palstave might suggest which it was. Research on this aspect is being carried on by S.Limbrey, Department of Archaeology, University of Birmingham. The object is being conserved by the British Museum/Institute of Archaeology Laboratory, and is defined as being a Middle Bronze Age, Ndríb type.

An Unlooped Palstave: Found with a metal detector, whilst searching for a dress ring on the lower slopes of Haughmond Hill in September 1979. It is fairly certain that the object was a stray find and not part of a hoard. It has been sent for conservation to the British Museum and is Middle Bronze Age of Shield Pattern type. Coin Hoard: A most exciting find was made in March 1980 whilst stripping topsoil in conjunction with the construction of a lagoon in Child's Eccall. Approximately 2,100 Roman coins were discovered initially when the hoard was struck by an earth-moving machine and moved partly to the south. The finder and the landowner recovered as many of the coins as possible, as well as part of the jar which had contained them. No subsequent disturbance of the site took place prior to investigation by the Sites and Monuments' Record staff. The impression of the jar, which had been lying on its side, was clearly visible in the clay sub-soil (base impression 80 mm diameter and 140 mm of side). The landowner cleaned 15 of the coins in a dilute solution of hydrochloric acid to confirm that the hoard

was in fact of coins and the provisional dating of the hoard is based on this. A subsequent search of the site by the Shrewsbury and District Metal Detecting Club under archaeological guidance and at the specific request of the Sites and Monuments Record. This produced a further 83 coins and 3 sherds of pottery. It was deemed likely that other coins and more of the container were buried deep in the spoil heap, as the discovery had been made initially, whilst clearing up loose soil, and a further 682 coins were found in this way. Preliminary restoration of the container vessel suggest that it was either an earthenware bottle or a flagon.

Palstave: A shield pattern type palstave of the Early Middle Bronze Ages (Acton Park Phase I) was brought into the museum in Shrewsbury in December 1979. No location other than Baschurch was given and the finder removed it almost immediately obviating any further research being done.

Sites and Monuments Record.

THE WORK OF LOCAL GROUPS

THE WHITCHURCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP - ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

Prior to January 1979 excavation work at the Yardington site was completed, but by the good offices of the owner, Mr John Vickers, it was possible to carry out further observations during re-development, levelling and digging-out of foundation trenches. The report on this site has, therefore, been delayed so that the results of these observations could be included.

The closing of the excavation at Yardington meant that work on the backlog of washing, marking and preparation for publication of the pottery and small finds from the several completed excavations could begin. Richard Griffiths, the former field officer of the group reports that post excavation work on the last two excavations are nearing completion.

The group's committee is now in negotiation for other sites in the town. One of these will be a long term rescue dig in advance of development. The other, a smaller site, will probably be used as a long term research excavation, better suited to training purposes with no development pressures.

A small excavation behind Watergate was well supported over the Easter weekend. It is hoped that the excavation may eventually section the main Roman road south from Mediolanum, with a possibility of early cremations alongside.

Another project in its early stages is a recording system for the Group's area for inclusion in the County Sites and Monuments Record. Volunteers are required to help with this work.

Spring Meetings: May - A Group visit to Cirencester and to the site of Kingscote Roman excavations.

Future meetings - Geoffrey Toms has agreed to conduct a tour around St. Albans on Saturday, September 20th.

Details about both of these meetings from -

Mrs M.C.James, 21 Bathfields Crescent, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Tel: Whitchurch 2110.

THE BORDER COUNTIES ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Prior to January 1979 the group drew and recorded the major finds from the Oswestry town walls dig. A small exhibition was mounted in the Britannia Building Society, Oswestry.

Oswestry TOWN WALLS by Mike Edwards, Manchester University.

During the weekend 29/30th March 1980, Border Counties Archaeological Group investigated three trenches with the aim of locating the course of the Medieval town walls. The first two investigations were carried out in the Cae Glas park near the Park Superintendent's house, where in one of the sondages earlier in the week, workmen had uncovered the corner of a brick building. This structure, some four courses high and three bricks width thick, was resting on the natural boulder clay and is absent from any of the local plans of the park. One of the local residents has suggested that this brickwork belongs to a swimming pool that was owned by the tenants of two stone cottages built in the park grounds after the large estate house was demolished. This probably dates the structure to some point in the last century.

One factor which supports the interpretation of this building as a swimming pool is the existence in the second trench of a brick lined channel, resting on the natural clay, which may have been used to carry the water into or out of the pool. Also the park authorities found that the corner of this brick structure was overlying the course of the local water supply.

The third trench was positioned outside the park in the garden of the Walford Cafe which backs on to Welsh Walls. An area 1.20 mts wide by 5.5mts long was chosen at the back of the garden within a metre of the present footpath. Immediately below the cobbling that formed the surface of the trench was found a 10 cms thick level of reddish gritty clay, and this in turn was covering a line of

Large stones and cobbles that stretched across the width of the trench and was almost two metres in breadth. No stone blocks were present, yet the uncovering of part of the wall near the Golden Tankard several years ago that was "almost seven feet wide" gave reason to connect the two finds. Additionally, the "wall" was resting on what appeared to be natural clay and it was also in a position where the wall was supposed to run. No pottery was associated with this find.

At the other end of the trench, a semi-circular line of hand made bricks was traced down to their base revealing a funnel-shaped structure lined with red clay which led into a stone lined and bottomed pit, 75 cms below the level of the "wall" and full of ash and burnt debris. The massive stone blocks seemed more characteristic of a town wall than the cobbles and stones found at the higher level, so attempts were made to trace them down. The outcome of this was the discovery of the end of a building constructed from large stones and resting in the natural boulder clay. The pit described above seemed to belong to a second phase of building construction. Associated with this structure were a small number of pottery sherds and a little bone. The pottery has been identified as late medieval (15/16th century) dark green/brown lead glazed ware. The sherds which are of a coarse ware, seem to belong to wheelmade vessels, one possibly from a long necked jug.

This discovery and its date obviously prove that the structure originally interpreted as a "wall" cannot be so, and possibly should be more correctly interpreted as crudely cobbled passageway. The failure to locate the course of the wall during this investigation suggests that the line of the wall is perhaps to be found running much closer to the course of the road, which would mean that it may be running underneath the present footpath, something that was hinted at during the first investigation in Cae Glas park when the line of the wall was directly underneath the present park wall.

It is highly unlikely that the wall runs to the south of the building discovered since this would suggest that there were buildings constructed against the outside of the wall.

The opportunity to work under the two houses at the junction of Willow Street and Welsh Walls, where Willow Gate is thought to be situated should provide valuable information on the size, construction and course of the town walls and gates.

The Border Counties Archaeological Group would like to thank Oswestry Borough and Town Councils for their help and co-operation, particularly Park Superintendent, Mr Terry Main and Mrs and Mrs Gordon Jones of Knockin Heath who are the new owners of the Walford Cafe and who plan to re-open the cafe later this summer. Thanks to their interest we have been able to leave the excavation open. They plan to cover it so that anyone visiting the cafe can see our work and will put on a small display of plans, photographs and finds in the cafe.

Note: The Border Counties Archaeological Group has members in the Oswestry and Wrexham areas. We are a group of amateurs who work under the direction of trained archaeologists. We are not experts, and we welcome members who are interested in archaeology, or who feel they would like to learn more about excavation and interpretation techniques.

Contact Mrs Carol James, Joint Secretary, 44 Vyrnwy Road, Oswestry, Shropshire for more information.

Programme for the Border Counties Archaeological Group -
Sunday May 11. Tour of ancient Flintshire sites.

Monday May 12. Mottes and Moats by Derrick Pratt.
Queen's Hotel, Oswestry 7.30 p.m.

Saturday May 24. Mold market charity stall. Meet at Mold traffic lights 9.30 a.m. (Items for sale can be dropped off at the head office of the North Wales Newspapers Ltd in Oswestry for attention of Mrs Carol James).

Sundays in Field walking in Gresford colliery area.

June Contact Kate Snowdon.

Sunday June 8. Oswestry town walk and earthworks. Leader Derrick Pratt.
Meet 10 a.m. new car park near the station.

MUCH WENLOCK LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The history of small country towns has been neglected by the recent boom in urban studies. They are generally only poorly documented, their urban status often marginal and yet numerous country market towns all over the country were the first rung on the ladder of the economy, the entrepôt into the market place for a large proportion of the population. In Shropshire for instance only the markets and

fairs at Shrewsbury, Whitchurch and perhaps Ludlow exercised an influence consistently more than merely local. There were more than a dozen other places where at some period regular markets and fairs were held and many of these are conceived now as being little more than villages. For the areas at any distance from the principal towns these local markets were of great importance; the focus of their small areas of interest.

The re-organisation of the Museum at Much Wenlock is providing the opportunity for an intensive study of one such town, which can trace its origins at least as early as the foundation of the Abbey in 680 and urban status to the early Middle Ages. Two series of winter lectures have fostered local interest in the history of the locality and an informal local history group has come into being.

This summer the group will be involved in several small projects concerned largely with the identification and surveying of significant buildings and features within the town. Already two medieval open halls have been identified behind unpromising limestone facades and there is much of interest still to be recorded. We also intend to survey the re-use of stone from the priory ruins, view evidence for shutters on cottage windows, survey and collate the evidence from apparent medieval burghage plots and record architectural details from old photographs.

The group also arranges visits to local museums and buildings of historical interest and is open to anyone interested in joining. Ring me at the Museum and add your name to the mailing list:

Sam Mullins, Curator, Much Wenlock Museum. Tel: Much Wenlock 727773.

PUBLICATIONS AND COLLECTIONS

A volume of Shropshire Probate Inventories

It is hoped to include with this News Sheet details of a pre-publication offer for 'Yeoman and Colliers in Telford', one of the most important records publications in Shropshire for many years, which is due to be published in the autumn.

Telford, the new town created in the Shropshire coalfield during the 1960s and 70s, encompasses many older communities. All were 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 Wrockwardine between 1660 and 1750. The texts of 265 of the most interesting are printed in full, and 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 the rising 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.'

'Yeomen and Colliers in Telford' is edited by Barrie Trinder and Jeff Cox, and is the work of an adult education research class which has been meeting since 1972. It is published by Messrs Phillimore, under the sponsorship of the Telford Development Corporation.

Archaeology of the Welsh Marches

Stan Stamford's 'Archaeology of the Welsh Marches' will be published by Collins on June 2nd 1980, priced at £12.50 in hardback. The content should cover many of the interests of the Society's members, encompassing the period from Palaeolithic to Industrial archaeology with special emphasis on the Iron Age and Roman period.

BRIDGNORTH BOROUGH RECORDS

Following the decision last year by Bridgnorth Borough Council to deposit their records in the County Record Office, Record Office staff have been gradually transferring them to the Shirehall. Much good work of sorting and arranging these documents had already been done in the past by Dr. Watkins-Pitchford and more recently by Dr. John Mason who is honorary archivist to Bridgnorth and who had arranged for the repair of some of the more fragile in the 1950's. However the conditions under which they were kept in College House Bridgnorth were undoing much of that good work and many of the items transferred to the County Record Office require treatment for damp, mould and silver-fish infestation before they can be made available to students. As far as the content of the records is concerned not much material earlier than the 17th century has survived, the exception being a very full series of Chamberlains' Bridgemasters' and Almshouse Treasurers' Rolls running from 1585, with an earlier fragment dated 1550, and three Court Leet books which begin in 1434. The Common Hall books begin in 1634 and the records of Bridgnorth Town Court proceedings run from 1625.

There is an interesting group of records dealing with Bridgnorth markets and fairs in the 17th century which are already proving a fruitful source of material for an agricultural historian, and the Charter of Charles I granting an annual 3 day fair is also amongst the records.

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

University of Birmingham - Courses in Archaeology - Summer 1980

WROXETER - Courses A and B Training Schools

A - 2.8.80 to 16.8.80

B - 16.8.80 to 30.8.80

Roman-British Archaeology Excavation Techniques.

Director: Dr. Graham Webster

Course Directors: Course A - T. Strickland; Course B - D. Mackreth.

Accommodation will be at Wrekin College, Wellington, Telford.
Camping facilities may be available.

Fees per fortnight : £20 U.K.

Accommodation : £120

Course C - Archaeological Surveying and Drawing - 16.8.80 to 30.8.80

Course Director: A. Musty

Accommodation as for A and B but camp site not available.

Tuition : £20 U.K.

Accommodation : £120

Course D - Archaeological Fieldwork in the context of Wroxeter -
9.8.80 to 16.8.80

Director - P.A. Barker

Assistant - A. Tyler

Accommodation - campsite - no charge except for meals.

Tuition : £10 U.K.

Application for these courses should be made to:-

The Director of Extramural Studies, The University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

Cheques should be made payable to the University of Birmingham.

HEN DOWEN

Training Excavation 29.6.80 to 19.7.80

WROXETER ROMAN CITY - BATHS BASILICA - August 1980

For further details write to P.A. Barker Esq., M.A., F.S.A.
4 St. George's Square, Worcester WR1 1HX

WROXETER ROMAN CITY - MARKET HALL

A small number of paid volunteers required.

For further details write to Dr. Graham Webster, Department of Extramural Studies,
University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.
Please mark enquiries 'Volunteers'.

MIDLAND CANALS IN TOWN AND COUNTRY - 26.7.80 to 2.8.80

Tutor: Lewis Braithwaite, MA, MICA, Keith Turns.

Accommodation - Avonscroft Residential College, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove -
cheques made payable to the City of Birmingham.

Fees : £70/£74 for shared/single room.

MISCELLANEOUS

ERRATUM

It would appear that it will be some time before Miss Chitty's Archaeological Library will be available for study in the local studies library as erroneously stated in the last newsletter.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that this will take place on SATURDAY 21st JUNE 1980 at 2.30 p.m. in THE WALKER ROOM, COLLEGE HILL HOUSE.

The speaker will be Trevor Rowley on THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE - A REASSESSMENT.

Trevor Rowley is the author of the "Shropshire Landscape" and his theories on the development of landscape in Shropshire covers a wide variety of disciplines and can definitely be recommended.

SALOP COUNTY RECORD OFFICE - REVISED OPENING HOURS

Mondays and Thursdays	9.00 a.m. - 12.40 p.m.
	1.20 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Fridays	9.00 a.m. - 12.40 p.m.
	1.20 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.



SHROPSHIRE NEWS SHEET

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society

Edited by Carole Ryan

CONTRIBUTORS - PLEASE NOTE THE EDITOR'S NEW ADDRESS:

6 Church View, Preston Gubbalds, Albrighton, Shrewsbury.

Tel: Shrewsbury 222332 (County Planning Department)

* * * * *

WINTER MEETINGS

The remaining Winter meetings are:-

Saturday 6th December 1980, 2.30 p.m., Bear Steps.

Dr. A. Winchester - "Medieval Settlement in North-West England".

Saturday 3rd January 1981, 2.30 p.m., Bear Steps.

Mr R.Meeson - "Madeley Court, Telford : An architectural and archaeological survey".

Saturday 7th February 1981, 2.30 p.m., Bear Steps

Speaker to be announced.

Saturday 7th March 1981, 10.30 a.m., Madeley Court Centre

"Telford before the Industrial Revolution".

A joint meeting with the Department of Extra Mural Studies, University of Birmingham - Details to be circulated shortly.

THE WORK OF LOCAL GROUPS

The Whitchurch Archaeological Group

President: Mr Geoffrey J.J.Owen, J.P.

Chairman: Mr Dennis Earnshaw, "Gerharden", Alkington Road, Whitchurch.

Treasurer: Mr Douglas Barnard; 3 Church Meadows, Whitchurch. Tel: 3905

Secretary: Mrs M.C.James, 21 Bathfields Cresc., Whitchurch. Tel: 2110

Vice-Chairman: Mrs Joan Barton, 15 Gorse Meadow, Heath Rd., Higher Heath. Tel: 840 760

The Council for British Archaeology: Having been affiliated for three years to the Midlands Branch of the Council for British Archaeology, the Whitchurch Group have recently been appointed to full membership of the C.B.A. This qualifies them to be represented by two members at the twice yearly meetings of the Council in London, where they will have the opportunity to raise any matters concerning archaeology in Whitchurch and area. The Committee have nominated the Field Officer, Don Stewart, and Doug Wise as representatives. Full membership of this national organisation further enhances the reputation of the group in the field of archaeology and local history.

Photographic Recording: The group are seeking the assistance of a good photographer who would be able to help with the vital task of copying pictures of old Whitchurch in the form of black and white prints and/or colour transparencies. The Group has purchased a Zenith TTL 35 m.m. camera and a tripod and have access to a dark room. Professional advice is available to anyone interested.

Documents and the history of Blakemere: During the last year or so members of the Whitchurch Group have been doing research on the 'Bridgwater Papers' at the Record Office and have investigated three 'theses' or papers done for degrees by Latin/local history scholars, which with one small gap cover the years 1380-1660.

Of these, the first one - 'The Accounts of Blakemere 1394-1425' by Mrs Barbara Ross of Australia, seems to be the most interesting. It not only gives the first detailed description of Blakemanor and Park, a deserted site, but many facts of food, drink and trade of those years. In addition to this it is of great import for the study of vernacular architecture in a national context and many other aspects of historical studies.

Winter Programme 1980/81 - Whitchurch Group:

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Lounge, Whitchurch Civic Centre. Speakers and their subjects are as follows:-

- November 20th: Mr S.C.Clifford, Secretary of the Shropshire Family History Society - Family History.
- December 18th: Mr & Mrs K.P.Craddock - Magic Lantern with slides of old Whitchurch.
- January 15th: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Speaker : our Field Officer, Mr Don Stewart - "Where my Caravan has rested".
- February 19th: To be announced later.
- March 19th: Mr Derrick Pratt of Clwyd : Writer and Local Historian - "Disused Waterways on the Llangollen Canal".
- April 16th: Mr Nigel Gasper of the Clive House Museum, Shrewsbury - Post-medieval English Pottery.
(Members are invited to bring any interesting pieces of china to the meeting and Mr Gasper will be pleased to discuss them after his talk)

Border Counties Archaeological Group

Joint Secretaries: Mrs Kay Snowdon, 19 Northwood, Borrass Park, Wrexham. Tel: 261731
Mrs Carol James, 44 Vyrnwy Road, Oswestry, Salop.
Tel: Oswestry 5321 (Office)

In early Summer (May 1980) BCAG have taken part in another small excavation in Oswestry to try and establish the line of Oswestry town walls. Several trenches were cut in the park with the co-operation of the parks department, but these yielded nothing more than what is believed to be the foundations for a swimming pool.

However, thanks to Mr and Mrs Jones who are to take over the Walford Cafe in Willow Street, the group were able to excavate in their garden and although unable to find the wall, they did uncover what is believed to be a medieval building. The following is the report produced by Mike Edwards of Manchester University who led the dig -

An area of 1.20mts wide by 5.5mts long was chosen at the back of the garden within a metre of the present footpath. Immediately below the cobbling that formed the surface of the trench was found a 10cms thick layer of reddish gritty clay and this in turn was covering a line of large stones and cobbles that stretched across the width of the trench and was almost two metres in breadth. No stone blocks were present, yet the uncovering of the wall near the Golden Tankard several years ago that was "almost seven feet wide" gave reason to connect the two finds. Additionally, the "wall" was resting on what appeared to be natural clay and it was also in a position where the wall was supposed to run. No pottery was associated with this find.

At the end of the trench a semi-circular line of hand-made bricks was traced down to their base revealing a funnel shaped structure lined with red clay which led into a stone lined and bottomed pit, 75cms below the level of the "wall" and full of ash and burnt debris. The massive stone blocks seemed more characteristic of a town wall than the cobbles and stones found at the higher level, so attempts were made to trace them down. The outcome of this was the discovery of the end of a building constructed from large stones and resting in the natural boulder clay. The pit described above appeared to belong to a second phase of building construction, associated with this structure were a small number of pottery sherds and a little bone. The pottery has been identified as late medieval (15/16th century) dark green/brown lead glazed ware. The sherds which are of a coarse ware seem to relate to wheelmade vessels, one possibly from a long necked jug.

This discovery and its date obviously prove that the structure originally interpreted as a "wall" cannot be so, and possibly should be more correctly interpreted as a crudely cobbled passageway. The failure to locate the course of the wall during this investigation suggests that the line of the wall is perhaps to be found running much closer to the course of the road.

.....

Some of the group believe that the town wall could lie inside the garden, and this structure was perhaps built on the outside of the walls. They, therefore, continued work in the garden during the weekend of July 26th and 27th, under the supervision of Max Glaskin, an archaeologist who has joined the group from Wrexham.

Another activity of the group included:

A watching brief on the sewage scheme at the top of Willow Street, Oswestry at the junction with Castle Street.

Archaeological Society Members who live within travelling distance may wish to attend lecture meetings of the group and are welcome to do so. Members will note that the winter programme is full and varied and are reminded that speakers and rooms are costly and good attendance are necessary to justify these expenses.

Autumn & Winter programme -

- Wednesday 12th November: Yale Sixth Form College, Crispin Lane, Wrexham, 7.30 p.m.
Lecture by Jon James ARIBA (Clwyd Planning & Estates Dept.)
"The Setting up of an Industrial Trail"
- Monday 24th November: Queens Hotel, Oswestry, 7.30 p.m.
Lecture by Dr. Graeme Guilbert (Clwyd/Powys Arch. Trust)
"Hillforts of the Northern Marches"
- Wednesday 10th December: Yale Sixth Form College, Crispin Lane, Wrexham, 7.30 p.m.
Annual General Meeting followed by Lecture by Christopher Williams (Clwyd Deputy-Archivist) "The Industrial Archaeology of Lead Mining in N.E. Wales"
- Monday 12th January: Queens Hotel, Oswestry, 7.30 p.m.
Lecture by George Heald, Llangollen - "The Ceiriog Valley"
- Wednesday 28th January: Yale Sixth Form College, Crispin Lane, Wrexham, 7.30 p.m.
Lecture by D.G. Evans, B.Sc "The Lordship of Hope"
- Monday 16th February: Queens Hotel, Oswestry, 7.30 p.m.
Lecture by George and Gill Holme "Israel and the Holy Land"
- Wednesday 25th February: Yale Sixth Form College, Crispin Lane, Wrexham, 7.30 p.m.
Lecture by George and Gill Holme "Israel and the Holy Land"
- Wednesday 18th March: Yale Sixth Form College, Crispin Lane, Wrexham, 7.30 p.m.
Lecture by M. Barber, Cefnybedd
"Railway History and Remains in North Wales"

These meetings are open to all those who are interested.

Ludlow Historical Research Group

During the winter 1979/80 season the Group was engaged upon a number of activities. These included the processing of material on the Bull Ring in preparation for the 1980 Festival Exhibition; work on properties in Galdeford Ward; and the transcription of photocopies of Ludlow wills at Hereford, and of Court Leet proceedings. All Ludlow wills for the period 1600 to 1660 in the PRO and at Hereford have now been abstracted, as have a large proportion of those for the period before 1600. The Group owes a particular debt to its London-based member, Michael Faraday for his herculean labours at the PRO over the last two years, where he has been transcribing probate and judicial records.

As part of the 1980 Ludlow Festival the Group put on a programme of general and specialised walks around the town which were well attended, and mounted an exhibition on the theme of "The Bull Ring through Eight Centuries". This included detailed studies of outstanding buildings such as the Bull, the Tolséy and the Feathers, as well as displays on more general topics such as shops and industries. Grids showing the occupation and ownership of all properties at selected dates since 1270 were enlivened by acrylic colour panoramas by Stanley Woolston. Peter Howells' photographic panorama from the Church tower also excited considerable interest. Most of these exhibits are stored by the Group, and are available for display at conferences etc.

July saw the publication of the fourth Ludlow Research Paper. Entitled "The Great House", it is a study by Martin Speight of a medieval house in Corve Street with many surviving C15th features, and a wealth of documentary history since 1270. The book is lavishly illustrated with drawings and photographs, and is published by Studio Press of Birmingham. It is available from local booksellers, or from David Lloyd at 54 Pickwick Grove, Birmingham 13, price £2 (postage 30p).

The 1980/81 season of documentary work will be centred upon the Castle Ward, with particular reference to the old High Street area. This is vital to an understanding of the town plan, and contains the fine rows produced by market colonisation, as well as a number of important medieval and later houses. Work will also take place

completing Galdeford Ward, and it is hoped to continue with the Court Leet. Meetings are held at Ludlow Library every Friday at 7.30, and all are welcome - experience not essential. For further details contact David Lloyd (021-777-6684) or Martin Speight (0584-3858).

M.E.S.

D.J.L.

Excavation Reports (Interim)

The following is an interim report for an excavation which took place in August 1977, directed by Geoffrey Toms. A variety of events including the change of editorship and the author's move to London have precluded its previous publication in this Newsletter. Mr Tom's conclusions are in no way altered by subsequent excavation work in Whitchurch:-

National Westminster Bank, High Street, Whitchurch, Salop.

Trial excavations by Jeremy Connell in 1976 behind the National Westminster Bank had located stratified levels associated with 2nd century AD pottery. As there was the likelihood of the whole area of the back yard of the bank, which is in a critical archaeological position in the town, being converted into a car park, the Shropshire Archaeological Society, aided by a grant from the Department of the Environment, examined the area in July and August 1977 for a four-week season.

The site is one of a series of open yards which lie behind the houses and shops fronting High Street, the probable axis of the Roman town of Mediolanum; these yards run right back to the perimeter street known as Castle Hill and Newtown on the western escarpment of the plateau on which Mediolanum and the succeeding town of Whitchurch developed. The National Westminster Bank site is at the southern end of the town where the yards south of Pepper Street have been levelled into the natural slope and create a series of stepped terraces. As it was assumed that archaeological levels could have been destroyed by levelling the northern side of this and other yards, a six-metre strip was tested along the southern edge of the site.

Two particular areas were excavated. Area 1 was on the site of a raised 18th century garden in the south-west corner of the yard, and demonstrated that, whereas the yard today is quite level, the original ground level up to the 18th century had risen at a gradient of 1 : 20 from the High Street to the west. In the excavated area of 6 by 4 metres the main features were two square timber-lined wells (1.07 metres square), one of which was excavated to water level at a depth of 3.80 metres from the Roman ground surface and whose timbers remained intact at the bottom of the shaft. Associated with this well at ground level in the natural sand were postholes and stakeholes which suggested a small rectangular building and a fence around the well-head. Pottery found between the well timbers and the original shaft indicated that the well had been sunk not before the early 2nd century. The original well-head was a massive circular funnel at least 4 metres in diameter and 2.15 metres deep to the top of the shaft. Both shaft and well-head had been backfilled before the end of the 2nd century with general town rubbish which included building material of tiles, masonry blocks and burnt timbers together with a mass of pottery, none earlier than the late 1st century or later than the Antonine period. The conditions of the infill had not allowed the survival of bone material. There were very few Roman small finds, but the fill included a fine Early Bronze Age flint plano-convex knife. The whole area had been sealed with layers of closely packed lumps of clay and extensive levelling patches of small cobbles. Immediately above this level was the soil build-up of the garden and apart from a few sherds of residual 14th century pottery there were no finds whatever from between the end of the 2nd century and the 18th century.

Area 2 was separated by surviving trees and bushes from Area 1 and its ground level was 1 metre lower. An area of 12 by 6 metres was only excavated down to 18th century levels where extensive remains of brick stable and workshop buildings associated with the Angel Hotel (the forerunner of the National Westminster Bank) were found, including a brick well and a pair of furnaces, which were interpreted as belonging to a smithy. The buildings had been demolished in the 19th century and a garden had been laid over them. The whole area and beyond was riddled with sewer and drain trenches, but an examination of the deepest trench showed that pre-18th century levels existed for a considerable depth and contained surviving intact timbers of buildings or collapsed fences; it was not possible to deduce whether these were medieval or Roman. The main finds here included coins of 1799 and 1816 and a quantity of clay pipe bowls of the 17th to 19th centuries.

The significance of the site is to be seen in the context of salvage excavations at Yardington at the northern extremity of the town, directed by Professor Barri Jones in March 1977. Here a sequence of structures has been interpreted as:-

- 1) a complex of ditches of two Roman forts, the second of which can be associated with the Flavian fort found at Newtown in the north-western part of the town in 1965-66 (Arch. Journ. CXXV 193-254).
- 2) timber buildings of the early 2nd century.
- 3) back-filling of the open ditches with demolished buildings soon after 170 AD, and the erection of a clay rampart as the defences of the civil town.
- 4) the insertion of a masonry wall grouted with clay in front of the rampart, probably at a later date in the Roman period.

At the National Westminster Bank no structures or artefacts earlier than the late 1st century were found: it thus seems that the southern limit of the forts is to be found perhaps at Pepper Street and from here the civil town had extended southwards. The drastic clearance and levelling of this site with demolished buildings and extensive rubbish at a date near to 170 AD implies a similar sequence to that at Yardington. It was not possible to prove that this levelling was for a rampart, but it can be suggested that either the site represents the tail of a late-2nd century rampart or that the rampart and its associated ditch was a few metres further south at the foot of the hill where the Tesco's site-excavation has completely removed the feature. The total lack of Roman material after the 2nd century with virtually no other finds prior to the 18th century could imply a contraction of the town until its revival as a coaching town in the early 18th century.

Geoffrey Toms

for Shropshire Archaeological Society

Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group

Observation at the north end of High St., Whitchurch revealed no sign of any Roman road surfaces.

Behind 34/6 Watergate St., a 17M SW-NE trench designed to intersect the line of the Wroxeter-Chester Roman road, has revealed no sign of this at depths up to c 1.5M. It has however revealed complicated timber structures and cobbled hard-standings on the W edge of the marshy pool which preceded White Lion Meadow. Heavy timbers and boarding 3M from the SW end of the trench appear to represent a demolished building, but further E the uprights, with surviving mortice and tenon joints of a timber 'Jetty' are in good condition. Pottery and stamped pipes suggest a construction date in the late C17, and a worn coin of Charles I, pipes and pottery from silt levels overlying the cobbled surface suggest that flooding continued over the period c1690-1720. Filling took place through the later C18 up to the early C19 when nearby buildings were demolished and further buildings (themselves recently demolished) erected on the debris.

Finds so far, mostly from the waterlogged peat of the mere, include parts of six shoes, a bone apple corer, a fragment of a wooden comb and two wooden bowls. One of these has the initials F.H. carved on its base, and documentary research (by Mr R.James) has revealed one Francis Heatley of Bark Hill (some 50M from the site), a skinner, but not a man of poor means, as he was involved in a property tenancy, whose floruit appears to have been c1680-1717 when he died.

Other finds are suggestive of leather working, dyeing and perhaps smithing in the area.

D.S.Stewart

Acting Field Officer, W.A.A.G.

Buildings - The Sites and Monuments Record

The vast task of checking secondary sources and classifying details of individual buildings onto a manual computer, continues, with the aid of a project based work experience scheme. One cannot stress how important this work is and how advanced, as a County, Shropshire now is in this field. Not only is it possible to consult all the information known about any building which has been placed on the record it is also possible to collate information on various building group characteristics. It is therefore important that information on any building not on the record is submitted within the next few months, in order that statistics on trends in vernacular and polite architecture which will be compiled based on the "computer data" are not distorted.

Carol Ryan

Finds

Unlooped palstave: The shield-pattern palstave from Baschurch reported in the last issue of the News Sheet was made available for recording during the summer. It had been found on the surface of the ground during potato harvesting in 1979 at Rookery Farm, Wem Rural. After study at the British Museum, it was returned to the finder who wishes to remain anonymous.

Socketed Axe: A late Bronze Age socketed axe was reported to the Sites and Monuments Record in early September this year. It had been unearthed by a potato harvester in August at New House Farm, Chetwynd, Newport. It has been forwarded to the British Museum for study and drawing. Its decorative motif consists of five ribs and pellets which would suggest a date of around 800 bc.

Silver Penny: A cut silver short-cross penny was found by Jim Perkins of the Shrewsbury & District Metal Detecting Club during September at Cross Hill, north west of Shrewsbury. It dates from the reign of one of the Henry's but further information is not as yet available. The coin is at present deposited with the Coroner.

Alan Tyler

The Roman Fort at Eaton Constantine Shropshire

by A.W.J.Houghton on behalf of the Roman Research Group.

This year work has continued on the NW or highest entrance (OS 118.600055).

On the south side the three ditches were identified and were found to be of V profile, cut in the natural clay, of average depth 1.6 m. and separated from each other by a width of only 1.4 m. The innermost ditch was 4.8 m. wide and the middle and outer ones 5.3 m. wide. These measurements are approximate for decay and collapse took place at a very early period in the life of the fort. The butt ends were identified with difficulty.

In the case of the inner two ditches this collapse had been consolidated at the cost of shortening the ends by about 0.6 m. On this had been laid a line of coarse rubble extending from the inner to the outer ditch forming an external support to a sleeper beam 0.4 m. wide which lay parallel to the entrance.

It is suggested that the purpose of this large and well supported sleeper was to support a busy entrance.

The rampart would have consisted of the upcast from the cut of the three ditches. It could have been 6 to 7 m. in width and beyond the inner ditch its base, consisting of stones 10 to 20 cm. in breadth, set in clay, was exposed only for 2 m. Collapse into the inner ditch and the adjacent entry had occurred at a time impossible to determine.

The entrance was exposed opposite the inner and outer ditches to a width of 5 m. but this did not reach the ditch ends opposite. Field drains had grossly distorted the rutted way and centuries of farming operations have added their toll.

Finds:

1) Glass. In the outer ditch below the collapsed end.

A handle of an oil flask. Mosaic type glass. Possibly Alexandria. circa B.C.50 - A.D.100.

2) Iron. In the heavy silt of the outer ditch. Fragments of an iron blooming hearth.

3) Pottery:

a) On the sleeper beam and below the rampart slip.

A fragment of thin hard fired greyishware with a pinkish slip. Common in military levels at Wroxeter but covering A.D.80 - 110.

b) Many fragments of soft pale red ware (sent for analysis).

SAMIAN

In the heavy silt of the outer ditch. A fragment of form Dr.18. South Gaulish. Fabric and glaze suggest A.D. 50 - 80.

Comments: These are cautious. The features shown by aerial photography coincide with those disclosed by excavation. Early collapse suggests early disuse. The finds do not oppose even if they do not support a period of use not later and even some years earlier than the military activities at Viriconium.

Publications

Forthcoming Publication

Shropshire Field-Names by H.D.G. Foxall

The Society will shortly be publishing a study of over 2,000 local field-names which will be of interest to Members and local historians both in Shropshire and elsewhere. The book will be 112 pages long and will contain three maps and four illustrations; there will be detailed indexes to field-names and parishes.

The book is being published with money bequeathed to the Society by Mrs C.E.Thickpenny and with a grant from the Walker Trust. The Council has approved the publication of this important contribution to local history as the first in a series of publications which will be on sale to the general public through bookshops and the Society.

It is anticipated that the normal price of the book will be £1.95, but Members of the Society will be entitled to buy copies for £1.75 (postage extra) from Mr A.M.Carr, Hon. Publications Secretary, Local Studies Library, St. Mary's Hall, St. Mary's Place, Shrewsbury. Copies will also be on sale at Society meetings wherever possible.

Recent Publications

Beresford, M.W. and St. Joseph, J.K. Medieval England: an aerial survey. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press, 1979. £10.00. The present edition incorporates much recent research, some of which was inspired by the first edition of the book in 1958 which was a pioneering work of interpretation of our medieval landscape and townscape. For anyone who is interested in knowing the reasons for curious earth-works in fields or puzzling features in town or village plans, this book will help to provide some of the answers. It is beautifully illustrated with numerous aerial photographs and reproductions of maps and plans to provide historical comparisons.

Girouard, M. Life in the English country house. Penguin, 1980. £5.00
First published two years ago this beautiful volume has now appeared in paperback at an extraordinarily reasonable price. Mr Girouard is concerned with the purposes served by English country houses from medieval castles and manor houses up to Victorian and Edwardian mansions - what was required of them, how they were built and how they worked. He has an amusing, informative style of writing which is a pleasure in itself, but the book will provide absorbing reading for those who enjoy visiting country houses as it casts much new light on the subject as a whole.

Hartley, D. The land of England. Macdonald, 1979. £6.95. This book describes in great practical detail how our ancestors lived in pre-mechanised England. Almost all aspects of day-to-day existence are covered in this highly informative, deeply researched work.

Shropshire County Council. Shropshire. 1980. £1.85. Those Members who have not yet acquired a copy of this handsomely produced guide are advised to do so quickly as very few copies are still available. The guide contains articles on many aspects of Shropshire's past and present as well as numerous illustrations, many of them in colour. Its information section will be useful to all residents in and visitors to the county.

Smith, W. and Beddoes, K. The Cleobury Mortimer and Ditton Priors Light Railway. Oxford Publishing Co., 1980. £5.95. The authors present a detailed account of the railway from its beginnings in 1900 to its closure in the 1960s. They have accumulated a splendidly varied collection of photographs documenting the entire history of the line including the quarry workings at Abdon Burf. Fortunately a few people who worked on the railway and at the quarries have been interviewed by the authors thus bringing an extra dimension to the book which will interest social historians and industrial archaeologists as well as railway enthusiasts and local historians.

Speight, M.E. The Great House, Number 112 Corve Street, Ludlow, 1270-1980. Ludlow Research Paper no. 4. Studio Press, 1980. £2.00. Another beautifully produced booklet based on the Ludlow Research Group's investigations into the history of that magnificent town. It deals with a single building from architectural, social and economic angles, but places it in the context of the town's history as a whole.

Stanford, S.C. The archaeology of the Welsh Marches. Collins, 1980. £12.50. This is a brilliant synthesis of our present knowledge of archaeology in the Marches from Palaeolithic to Modern times. Despite its price, anyone who is seriously interested in the archaeological aspects of the history of this area will need to acquire this book. Most of the information it contains is either published only in learned journals, as revealed by the invaluable bibliography, or not published at all. Dr. Stanford, a professional archaeologist, has the enviable ability to write intelligibly for the interested general reader.

Whitchurch Remembered: The Local History Section of the Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group are pleased to announce that this book of 80 photographs of the town, past and present was published on October 8th by the Shropshire County Libraries at a price of £1.95p per copy.

If you wish to secure your copy please return the slip at the end of this News Sheet to the Secretary, 21 Bathfields Crescent, Whitchurch, together with your remittance.

Courses and Conferences

Members should make a careful note in their diary of the Day School which will be held at the Madeley Centre on March 14th 1981. The subject will be the "Development of Telford".

Miscellaneous

Contributions are invited for the West Midlands Annual Archaeological Newsheet No. 23 due to appear on 1st February 1981.

A slightly new organisation and style is planned for this year and it would be very helpful if the Notes for Contributors could be carefully followed. I am anxious to improve the general standard of presentation for both text and figures, and invite those in particular who have no facilities for drawing to ask for help from the University if they would like it.

The NEW FORMAT will be as follows:

TITLE: WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

(The subtitles West Midlands Annual Archaeological News Sheet, and Bulletin of CBA Group 8 will also appear on the cover and the present volume numbering will be continued)

CONTENTS - Editorial

PART 1 - REPORTS AND PAPERS

PART 2 - WORK IN PROGRESS

(Comprising: Annual Report of BUFAU; Prehistoric Section; Roman Section; Medieval Section; Multi-period and Landscape studies; vernacular architecture; industrial archaeology)

PART 3 - PUBLICATION BULLETIN

(Comprising: Synopsis of archaeological papers in local journals; theses and parish surveys; reviews of books and articles)

Index of places

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

For all contributors:

1. Text should be typed on A4 paper
2. Please use Harvard style citation:
In Text: (PIGGOT 1965: 42)
At end of Text: list of references in alphabetical order.
No footnotes.
3. Please include statement of where records and material from the project may be seen, and name and address of contributor.
4. Figures should NOT be titled but have a separately typed caption. Figures should preferably be pre-reduced to A4, but help will be given if contributors have no facilities for drawing or reduction.
5. Photographs (clear examples only) printed to A4 or A5.

For Contributors to PART 1 only:

Contributions should deal with regional syntheses, technical innovations (including new methods of analysis), fieldwork reports (including urban and rural surveys when complete).

Normal limit: 5,000 words and 10 figures

DEADLINE: 1st October 1980

For Contributors to PART 2 only:

Contributions may deal with any archaeological project in progress and should summarise scope, preliminary results and future plans.

Normal limit: 300 words and 1 figure

DEADLINE: 1st December 1980

One copy of WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY will be sent free to all subscribers to CBA Group 8. Contributors to Part 1 will receive ten offprints of their contribution. Please send your contributions to:

Martin Carver,
Dept. of Ancient History and Archaeology,
University of Birmingham,
P.O.Box 363,
Birmingham.
B15 2TT

For enquiries, telephone 021-472 3025.

Notification of New Officers

The post of Treasurer has been filled by Mr H. Tranter of Oakengates, who is a retired accountant. His address "Lindum", Church Road, St. Georges, Telford. Tel: 612720

The post of Membership Secretary has been taken over by Miss Christine Carr and Members should note her address carefully -

It is 23 Oak Street, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury.

Tel: Shrewsbury 63023.

The new Meetings Secretary is Sam Mullins who can be contacted at

19 Albert Street,
Castlefields.

Tel: Shrewsbury 50338

"Whitchurch Remembered" order form (see page 8)

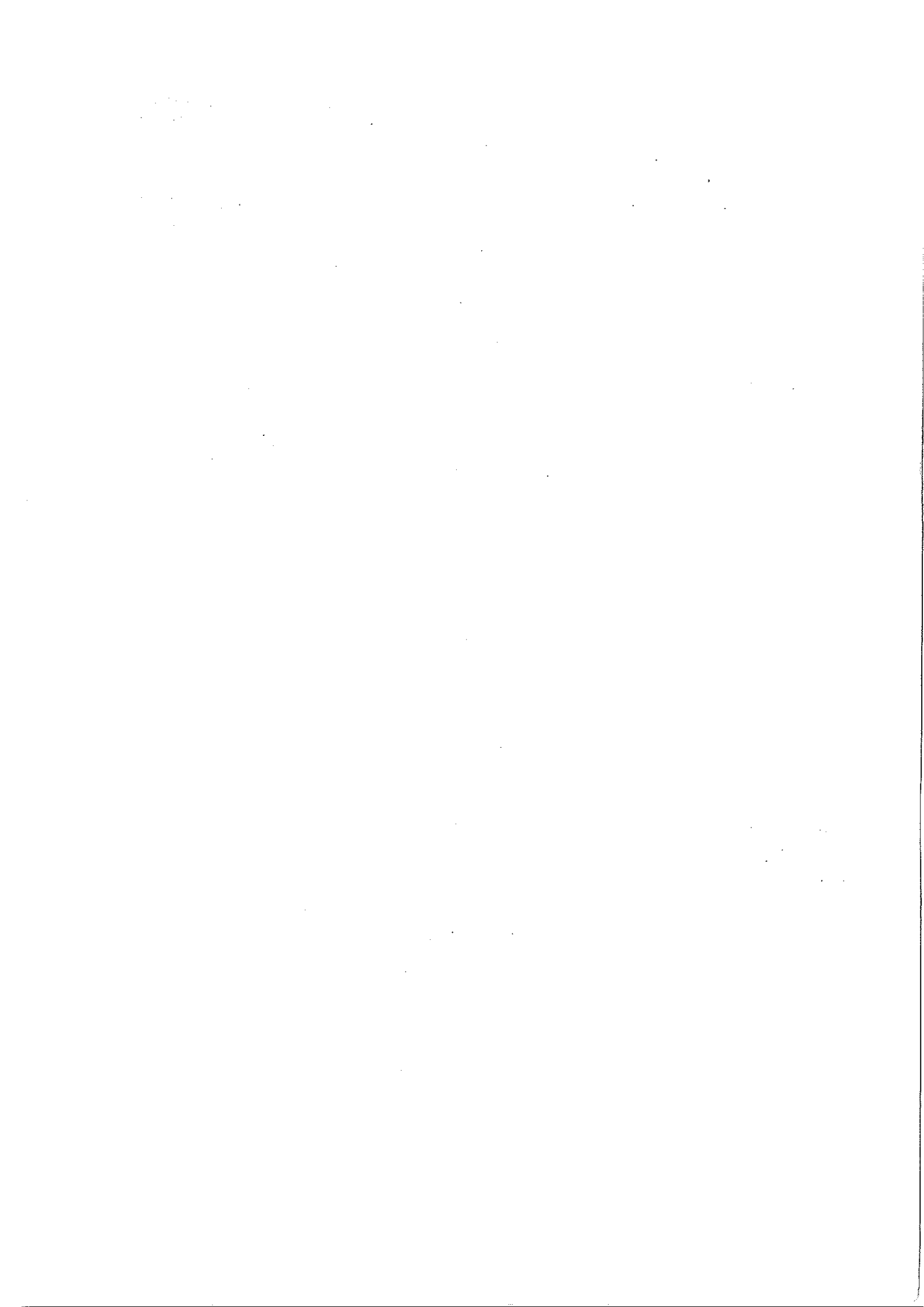
To:

The Secretary,
W.A.A.G.,
21 Bathfields Crescent,
Whitchurch.

Please reserve me a copy of the new publication, "Whitchurch Remembered", price £1.95p, for which my remittance is enclosed.

Name

Address



SALOP COUNTY
SITES & MONUMENTS RECORD

SHROPSHIRE NEWS SHEET

No. 13

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

(Spring 1981)

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.
Edited by Carole Ryan, 6 Church View, Preston Gubbals, near Shrewsbury.
Tel: Shrewsbury 222332 (County Planning Department)

SUMMER PROGRAMMES

- see the enclosed sheet for the Shropshire Archaeological Society
Summer Programme.

Border Counties Archaeological Group - Spring/Summer Programme.

MAY

Sunday May 3: Mr D.G.Evans will lead a visit of sites in the Lordship of Hope.
Meet at 10.30 a.m. at Caergwrle car park.

Sunday May 17: Derrick Pratt will lead a tour of Oswestry town in the morning,
and the earthworks of Old Oswestry in the afternoon. Meet in the large car park
by the old Railway Station at 10.30 a.m.

Saturday May 23rd: Medieval market stall, Oswestry. Contact Carol James,
Oswestry 5321 for details of meeting place for helpers.

JUNE

A reminder that the Beeston excavations are planned for June 8 - August 21
if anyone is interested in volunteering.

Moel y Gaer excavations from June 21 to July 4. Contact Carol James,
Oswestry 5321 for more details.

Saturday June 20: Sites in the Ceiriog Valley with Mr George Heald.
Meet Ceiriog Memorial Institute, Glyn Ceiriog, 11 a.m. Visit to Wynn Quarry,
Glyn Ceiriog in the afternoon.

JULY

Sunday July 19: Mr Derrick Pratt will lead a tour of moated sites in the
Overton area. Meet on Overton public car park, by public toilets at 10.30 a.m.

AUGUST

Sunday August 2: Mr Ted Waddelove will lead a walk along a stretch of Roman
Road. Two miles. Meet at lay-by SJO67442 at 2 p.m. on the Ruthin Road
above Corwen.

Sunday August 23 for two weeks: Trial excavation.

Stop Press: Work has started on the Gresford-Holt Road bypass and Kay Snowdon
intends to organise field walking. Please get in touch with her direct for details.

As in previous years the committee has arranged a short series of "Summer Walks" to
nearby places of historic interest, taking place on the third Thursday of May,
June and July.

Meet at NEWTOWN car park at 7.30 p.m. promptly, "doubling-up" in cars where
possible, or members may wish to go direct to the place of interest arriving
there not later than 7.45 p.m. please. Anyone who requires a lift should contact
the Secretary or one of the committee members.

The walks are as follows:-

Thursday, May 21st: Cholmondeley Chapel - guided by the Rev. Peter Roberts.

Thursday, June 18th: Whitewell Church - guided by the Rev. Thos. M. Hearn.

Thursday, July 16th: Hawkestone Hall - guided by Father O'Toole.

Shropshire Archaeological Society members wishing to attend any of these
meetings should contact - Mrs Carol James, 44 Vyrnwy Road, Oswestry, Shropshire
to discuss details and cost.

EXPLORATORY WORK IN SOUTH SHROPSHIRE

Trevor Rowley is undertaking a detailed survey of the parish of Heath during the last week of May 1981, involving a comprehensive survey of all the medieval earthworks in the parish together with some hedge dating and field walking. Details from -

The Staff Tutor in Archaeology, Department of External Studies,
Rewley House, University of Oxford,
3-7 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.

MUCH WENLOCK - GUIDED WALKS

A guided walk around the centre of Wenlock will be offered every Wednesday afternoon in July and August starting on July 8th. The walk lasts approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours and explores the evidence on the ground for the growth and role of this country market town.

Cost : 35p includes admission to the Museum.

NEW EXHIBITION at Ludlow Museum

On April 6th the County Museum Service opened the doors on the new exhibition in the Butter Cross, Ludlow. This has been in preparation since October and traces the history of the town from the building of the castle and the laying out of a new town to the Great War. Much of the latest work of the Ludlow Research Group has been incorporated and presented with the Museum's fine collection of antiquities and protoles.

Much Wenlock - Teachers Course on Local History June 11th 1981 -
Much Wenlock Museum.

A discussion on local history : where to find the documentation, how to use it in the classroom and project work.

Further details : Dereck Shaw : Telford Teachers Centre.
Sam Mullins : Much Wenlock Museum

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

Archaeology Summer Schools -

WROXETER

Courses A & B: Training Schools in Excavation Techniques

A: Sunday 2nd August - Friday 14th August 1981

B: Sunday 16th August - Friday 28th August 1981

Director: Philip Barker

Viroconium, the civitas capital of the Cornovii, was the fourth largest town in Roman Britain: its defences enclosed an area of over 180 acres. One of the most imposing building complexes still extant in the Province stands at its centre.

The training schools will be based on the long-term excavation of the Baths Basilica in which a major public building of stone is overlain by a long sequence of timber buildings.

Course C: Archaeological Fieldwork and Surveying in the Context of Wroxeter

Sunday 30th August - Saturday 5th September 1981

Director: Philip Barker

Tutor: Alan Tyler

This field course will concentrate on the survey of two earthworks in the Wroxeter area - the Roman aqueduct and the putative site of Wroxeter castle with its fish pond and mill dam. If circumstances permit, work will also begin on the detailed recording of the church. Students should bring pencils, erasers, rulers (in centimetres), set squares, compasses and dividers and a notebook.

HEN DOMEN, MONTGOMERY

Course D: Training Excavation

Sunday 28th June - Friday 10th July 1981

The excavation of this timber castle was begun in 1960 and is revealing a very complicated sequence of structures within the bailey. The excavation will be run as a training school, in which techniques of excavation recording, photography, surveying, finds and pottery processing will be taught.

There will be at least ten seminars on related subjects together with field visits to study the settlement pattern of the area in which the castle was built. Students who wish to develop specialist skills will be encouraged to do so. A booklist will be sent to students before the course begins.

Fees:-

A campsite will be provided at both Wroxeter and Hen Domen. The cost of Courses A, B and D (including all meals and tuition) will be £60.00 per fortnight. The cost of Course C (including all meals and tuition) will be £30.00.

Students wishing to arrange their own accommodation (which should be stated when applying) will be charged £30.00 for tuition on Courses A, B and D, and £15.00 for tuition on Course C. Meals may be taken on the site, but these must be booked in advance.

Details from The Director of Extra-mural Studies,
The University of Birmingham,
P.O. Box 363,
Birmingham B15 2TT.

THE INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY (The University of Birmingham and
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust)

Programme of Short Courses - Details from: The Institute of Industrial Archaeology
Ironbridge Gorge Museum
Ironbridge
Telford
Shropshire TF8 7AW
Tel: Ironbridge (095245) 3522

Fieldwork And The Serious Student: 16-17 May. £18

Sponsored jointly by the Conference of Local History Tutors and the
Conference of Regional and Local Historians.

Fieldwork is steadily forming a larger part of the education both of under-graduates and of adult history students. The object of this course is to raise questions about its effectiveness; how monuments and landscapes can be related to documentary evidence and how museums can be best utilised in fieldwork.

Based in the America Room at the Offices of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

Thomas Farnolls Pritchard: Architect and Engineer: 29-31 May. £32

Organised in collaboration with the National Trust; Trust members may attend for a reduced fee.

A study of the work of the son of a Shrewsbury joiner born in 1723, who became successively a surveyor, a designer of church monuments, the co-ordinator and inspiration of a team of talented craftsmen, and ultimately the designer of the first Iron Bridge.

At the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, the evening sessions being held in the Severn Warehouse. Tours on the Saturday will include a great variety of Pritchard's works.

Telford And The Transition From Canal To Railway Engineering: 6 June. £15

Telford's last two decades before his death in 1834 coincided with dramatic developments in transport engineering. This seminar will relate his late canals in the Midlands, works in the Highlands and North Wales, and schemes for the Exchequer Bill Loan Commission to his involvement in the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, its completion and the construction of the London to Birmingham line.

At the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. There will be a guided visit to the special exhibition on Thomas Telford at the Coach House Gallery.

High-Street Shopfronts: Good Design And Good Business: 17-18 June. £50

A conference aimed towards a reconciliation of the commercial requirements of retailers, building societies and banks with those of good townscape planning. After a historical introduction the use of various types of materials, lettering and overall design will be considered in the light of commercial and planning policies.

At the University of Birmingham. There will be a guided walk in the centre of Birmingham.

Limekilns: 27-28 June. £32

The design and regional distribution of lime-kilns and the economic history of their use in relation to the chemical and building industries. There will be comparative accounts of the lime-kilns of the North-East and East Anglia.

At the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. There will be tours of sites in the Ironbridge Gorge, elsewhere in Shropshire and along the Welsh Borders.

Art As Evidence For Industrial And Landscape History: 3-6 July. £65

A short summer school providing an introductory training in the study of paintings, drawings, prints, photographs and architectural and engineering drawings for historical evidence. The potential and pitfalls of these media will be considered using the Elton Collection of industrial art at Ironbridge, Boulton and Watt papers and illustrations of local history in Birmingham. Where possible the images will be related to physical landscapes or objects.

At the Ironbridge Gorge Museum for the first three days, the course visiting Birmingham on the last day.

Industrial Archaeology In Britain: 22-29 July. £150

A summer school organised jointly by the Institute of Industrial Archaeology and Concord College, providing a wide-ranging yet thorough introduction to Industrial Archaeology in Britain, showing the contributions which archaeologically-based studies are making to scholarship and something of what has been achieved in the conservation of buildings, landscapes and machines. The course will be centred on the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, but there will be visits to many other parts of the country.

The summer school will be accommodated at Concord College, Attingham Park, an eighteenth century mansion mid-way between Shrewsbury and Telford.

The Country House Of The Victorian Industrialist: 26-27 September.

A week-end examination of Victorian architecture and decoration, relating the owners' economic and social status to the design and functioning of their residences. Visiting houses in the Midlands and Welsh Borders including Wightwick, Bedstone and Adcote.

At Attingham Park and including accommodation.

The History Of The Coalport Company: 3-4 October.

The definitive history of the firm from its foundation by John Rose and Edward Blakeway, through the evolution of its designs and the relation with the local economy and settlement to the neglected later years.

At the Coalport China Works Museum, Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

The Market Town Foundry: 10-11 October.

The growth of important engineering concerns from millwright shops and small furnaces in ironmongers. The spread of the engineering industry across from the coalfields will be considered using case-studies in the Midlands and East Anglia.

At Attingham Park.

Colour: The Impact Of Victorian Ceramics: 24-25 October.

The Victorian Society Annual Conference.

Architectural ceramics and studio pottery in the context of the arts and sciences of the nineteenth century. The industry and products of the Midlands and the Potteries.

At the Ironbridge Gorge Museum with field tours and a full day in Birmingham.

The Structure Of Industry: An Historical Survey: 27 October - 12 November.

In conjunction with the Institute Diploma course.

The structure, financial organisation and accommodation of industry. Covering historical systems of management, capitalisation and accounting, and the basic forms of factory.

At the Ironbridge Gorge Museum and the University of Birmingham.

The English Household Before The Industrial Revolution: 7-8 November.

A course bringing together historians working on sources such as probate inventories, urban archaeologists, and authorities on such subjects as ceramics, pewter and furniture to discuss the state of knowledge of living conditions in England before 1750.

At Attingham Park.

Measurement, Precision And Machinery: 24-26 November.

In conjunction with the Institute Diploma course.

The science of distance, temperature and chemical measurement and its influence on the major industries such as iron, ceramics and engineering. The relation to the development of precision engineering.

At the University of Birmingham.

The Glass And Chemical Industries: 1-3 December.

In conjunction with the Institute Diploma course.

The technology and development of glass and chemicals. The relation to the coal and iron industries and their economic importance throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

At the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

A Brochure Request Form will be found at end of this News Sheet.

FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL COURSES IN SHROPSHIRE

From Castles to Country Houses and Village to County Town. A series of courses at the Preston Montford Field Centre:

- Castles of the Borderland. £43.50 1-4 May.
- Shropshire's Vernacular Architecture. £32. 5-7 June.
- Bridges. £32 17-19 July
- Ironbridge: Birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. £54. 20-24 July.
- Historic Shrewsbury. £32. 24-26 July.
- Archaeology and History in the Welsh Borderland. £84. 21-28 August.
- The Past At Work. £84. 4-11 September.
- Some Ancient Buildings of Shropshire & Staffordshire. £54. 7-11 September.
- What Makes a Village Tick? £32. 18-20 September.

All course fees include full board, lodging and tuition. For further details of these and other courses, please write to "Castles", Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Nr. Shrewsbury.

EXCAVATION AND FIELDWORK - Interim Reports

WROXETER - Annual Summary 1980

The main task of the season was the removal of the deep Hadrianic dump under the inner portico floors of the macellum. This was successfully achieved and a large assemblage of pottery recovered which should provide a useful group for the period. The level revealed by this clearance has a remarkable even appearance and consists of fine sandy material devoid of stones or artefacts. It was suggested by Phil Barker that this could be the humus layer formed over the demolished remains of the early city houses and, if so, it may indicate a lapse of time before the new building programme started; soil sampling may help to resolve this problem. Only in Area (91), the north corridor, were the early city and military levels explored. It is a very difficult area and the structures north of the stone rampart building still remain a problem. The season's target on the west portico was the removal of the 3rd century pebble floors at the south end down to the main construction level, but it was soon evident that this part of the portico was quite different from the north end; there are fragments of several structures and a series of large rectangular pits full of animal bones cutting through the mortar construction spread. There had been successive sinkages into these pits producing small patches of flooring which are not matched elsewhere. Clearly the history of this section of the portico is different from that of the north half. Work has continued on the south corridor in the three available areas. At the west end it is unfortunate that the modern drain has removed the junction between two quite different sequences of deposit. The western part of the two has a good pebble floor associated with an east-west beam-slot, while the eastern one consists of a thick dump of domestic rubbish. The smaller area to the east of this contains the robber trench of the main drain, evidence appeared this year of an apparent robbing of the drain from the piscina connecting with it, but this has yet to be proved. Area (80), further to the east, has always been a problem with its succession of pits, these now resolve themselves into a double row of long latrine trenches on each side of a central spine, reflecting the seating arrangement. The pottery from these pits is early 2nd - mid-3rd C. The Hadrianic filling has been dumped on a pebble surface which appears to be an early city east-west street, giving us a useful addition to the plan of that period. The south wall of the corridor produced a surprise, a working party building from the east had left an unfinished stepped end, but the construction trench continued to the west. The area was then filled in, raising the level of the floor and another wall foundation trench built into it and appearing to cut into the core of the earlier incomplete wall. This seems to indicate a change of plan and a time lapse; there may be, potentially far-reaching conclusions which it would be premature to draw. The second wall was a stylobate for a colonnade, which was later stripped and a third wall built on it

with reused materials including tufa blocks and therefore at a late stage in the history of the baths. Further work is clearly needed to study these three walls in more detail.

A six week season of excavation is planned for next year, starting in mid-July with subsistence-paid volunteers who will be camping on the site, at D.O.E. subsistence rates. We are now poised for a major advance in our knowledge of the first city and military periods.

Graham Webster

See end of News Sheet for an Interpretation of one period of military buildings under the macellum and piscina.

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD, 7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7DL
Tel: Welshpool 3670.

Last year was a very disappointing one for aerial survey, with less than half a dozen new sites found in western Shropshire by Alan Tyler and myself, Chris Musson, compared with an average of about 50 in previous years. After a dry and promising spring, the rains came and never ceased, so that crop-marks failed to develop at all in many areas. Numerous well-known sites were quite undetectable from the air in 1980.

The Trust's main excavation and survey projects in 1980 have been summarised in the Review of Projects, which is available - 50p post paid from the Trust offices (see above address).

This year, the financial cut-back has hit the Trust. Or rather, the money has stayed the same, but the inflation allowance (5 $\frac{1}{4}$ %) is patently inadequate and there is an ever-growing realization of archaeological losses over Wales as a whole - Carmarthen and the rest of SW Wales (Dyfed) have a particularly heavy programme this year. As a result all four Welsh Trusts have been forced back onto a policy of 'major projects + publication', with very little else. The above Trust, for instance, will have no Welsh Office money this year for further work at Newtown, or on the peat bog at Waun Fignen Felen, or on 'minor projects' (like sections through Offa's Dyke, watching briefs on developments in 'sensitive' areas within towns etc), or on aerial photography. We will, of course, seek research funds for some of these, and I hope in particular that we may be able to 'resuscitate' Waun Fignen Felen (through University College Cardiff) and aerial photography.

But there is little or no hope, for instance, of further work at Prestatyn, where the waterlogged Roman deposits could of course have much to offer. The Trusts 'project of the year' will be the multi-period-prehistoric and R-B enclosure at Collfryn, Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain (SJ222173) (back cover of the Review) where excavation will continue for at least the next 6 months and probably for the next 18 (MSC application permitting). We are also doing a small excavation up to Easter on the site of a Roman building in Flint, the bulk of which was excavated by the Trust in 1976/77. We hope that field survey and record work will be able to continue, though again this relies on a renewal of MSC funding after the present scheme runs out in mid-July.

For Shropshire specifically, I can report on our recent watching brief on pipe-trenching through the defences of Llanymynech hillfort, where already largely destroyed by the access-road to the golf course. The pipe-trench showed good evidence of a stone-rubble rampart standing well back from the visible ditches, and with a good 'old ground surface' beneath it. Behind the rampart, two strong layers of charcoal ran back into the interior for a distance of about 10m, clearly associated with a small metal-workers hearth (with bronze residue, 'crucible' fabric or vitrified clay lining, and plentiful charcoal for radiocarbon dating) and with a larger pit about 1.3m in diameter and 0.5m deep, again containing 'crucible' fabric. It will be interesting to know in due course through C14 dating whether this very specific activity, well stratified behind the innermost rampart, belongs to the Iron Age, or perhaps to the later part of the Bronze Age (the enormous size of the Llanymynech fort - 140 acres, invites comparison with the 86 acre Bronze Age defence at the Breiddin, across the Severn Valley to the SE).

C.R. Musson.

THE WORK OF LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUPS

Much Wenlock Research Group

Over the winter months, the Wenlock research class were introduced to the transcription and analysis of probate inventories for the period 1660-1750. Although this work is at an early stage, interesting parallels and contrasts emerged when the Wenlock material was set beside N. Telford, S. Telford and Bridgnorth inventories.

The small town of Wenlock at this date was a diverse community of some 1,000 - 1,350 farmers, shopkeepers, craftsmen and labourers with a small market hinterland of 5-10 miles radius, north and east into the coalfield south of the river and south and west into the agricultural vales of Apedale, Corvedale and the Clee Hills. It is thought that the opening of the Benthall and Broseley coal mines from the later 16th century and the attendant rapid growth of population in that area helped to maintain the town's importance and status following the dissolution of the Priory in 1540 and Wenlock was to the southern coalfield as Wellington and Shifnal were to the northern sector, a market town as well as an administrative and judicial centre.

Several individual research projects were pursued. The genealogy of noted families of appraisers and witnesses of wills and inventories was assembled; Littlehales, Mason, Newth, Morrall. Publicans and the surprising number of tobacco-pipe makers were examined, the latter indicating that Wenlock may have had a hitherto unrecognised importance in the pipe trade at this date. Samples of Wenlock makers work are now urgently sought to further this hypothesis. Two projects on the out-lying farming townships of the parish, Bourton, Callaughton, Walton, Atterley and Wyke, were started and will be continued by fieldwork this summer.

The group's summer programme will soon be available from the Museum. The priority will be the recording of three more open-hall houses identified this winter, including Harrisons in the High St. (crown-post roof), the Shoulder of Mutton in Barrow St., (base-cruck) and Wolmer House, Barrow St. The Museum is open once more for its summer season and all enquiries about activities should be addressed there. It is open 7 days a week from April to October, 10.30-1.00, 2.00-5.00, Sundays 2.30-5.30.

The Tong Archaeological Group

The construction of the M54 Motorway is programmed to start in June and work on the Tong Castle Excavations will finish at the end of April. Accordingly there will be a final open weekend - May 2nd - May 4th 1981 after which the site will be closed.

The five years of excavation have produced five major castles from the 12th century fortification to the 18th century country house/mock castle, with the excavation finishing in the 11th century defensive area on the site.

Alain Wharton,
Convent Lodge, Tong.

The Border Counties Archaeological Group

Joint Secretaries -

Mrs Carol James,
44 Vyrnwy Road,
Oswestry.

Tel: Oswestry 5321 (Office)

Mrs Kay Snowdon,
19 Northwood,
Borras Park,
Wrexham.
Tel: 261731

Work on the town walls of Oswestry has come to a halt. Excavations in the Walford Pine Shop garden backing onto Welsh Walls proved fruitless, though the walls did come to light during work on the new sewerage scheme on the junction of Castle Street and Welsh Walls. The group measured and photographed them and hope to produce a leaflet. Border Breweries who are extending and renovating The Golden Tankard have promised to involve the group if the Town Walls come to light during the work.

Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group

Secretary: Mrs M.C. James, 21 Bathfields Crescent, Whitchurch. Tel: Whitchurch 2110

Extracts from Newsletter No. 14 - April 1981.

As has been mentioned previously, it is still hoped that some exploration of the Yardington site may be possible ahead of imminent building development. Unhappily, the Department of the Environment has been forced to withdraw the previous allocation of funds owing to present financial stringencies, but Mr Paul Reynolds of Manchester University (Professor Barri Jones' representative) is making every effort to reach agreement with the developers in order that a geophysical survey may be effected on the site.

Local History Report by Joan Barton

As it seems that it will not be possible to publish the 'definitive' history of Whitchurch for some time, it has been decided to produce booklets on particular aspects of local history. The first of these, which I have been asked to write,

will be "From Whitchurch to Castillon", a short outline of the life and times of John Talbot, 6th Lord Talbot and 1st Earl of Shrewsbury. This is in preparation and will be published in the autumn in time for the proposed visit of the Castillonais to Whitchurch.

Next year R.B. James will produce a second booklet, "Some Aspects of Medieval Whitchurch", which will set out the results of his research into the Bridgewater papers at the County Record Office. These publications will be printed in a similar format to "The Short History" and will be on sale to members and friends at our monthly meetings.

FINDS

A metal object found by Mr Tom Holden of Nantwich in the top soil of a field at Wrenbury owned by Mrs Alice Roberts has been examined. The field is crossed by an ancient footpath from Wrenbury Hall to the Church.

The object is of brass in the form of an irregular circle of some three and a half inches diameter. From the design it can be concluded that it was probably a military badge of the period of William IV. The noted Shropshire military historian, Mr G. Archer Parfitt of Shrewsbury, identified the object as a military badge or insignia and has kindly given the following description of the design content:

"The Garter of the Order of the Garter bearing the Motto 'HONI.SOIT.QUI.MAL.Y. PENSE' (Evil to him who evil thinks), surrounding the Cypher of William IV being the initials 'WR' reversed and intertwined, the whole surrounded by the English Military wreath of acorns and oak leaves."

The badge could possibly be the centre of a Shako Plate (Cap Badge) worn on the bell-topped Shako, a type of military cap in use from 1829 to 1844. The suggestion that the badge may have been associated with the "Whitchurch Volunteer Reserve" is unlikely as the Loyal Whitchurch Volunteer Infantry Regiment raised in 1803 had been disbanded long before the reign of William IV (1830 to 1837) and was not succeeded by the 3rd Shropshire (Whitchurch) Rifle Corps until 1859.

It is not possible to identify, with certainty, the Regiment to which the badge refers without access to other supporting evidence. However, the centre motif is that traditionally worn by the Grenadier Guards as a Valise Badge and in this use was surmounted by the Crown.

Dennis Earnshaw.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORK

Moated Sites in Shropshire - Field Survey

A comprehensive field survey of the medieval moated sites in Shropshire is currently being undertaken as part of the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record. There are around 120 known or postulated moated sites in Shropshire and each one is being visited in the field together with the research of relevant secondary sources, including the investigation of possible unrecorded sites through place and field name evidence, of which undoubtedly many more await to be discovered.

The main aims of the survey can be summarised as follows:-

- 1) To produce an interim record of the surface evidence, including ancillary features e.g. fishponds.
- 2) To assess the extent of damage or destruction of moats which has already occurred, and to evaluate future threats.
- 3) To eliminate features once thought to be moats which are of different origin.
- 4) To grade the sites according to the M.S.R.G. classification with a view to their possible scheduling.

At this stage it is not yet possible to comment in detail on the overall pattern and significance of moated sites in Shropshire. Most of the sites however have been visited in the field and it is hoped that the completed survey will provide a sound basis for further intensive studies of their density and distribution in relation to parish boundaries, settlements and soil types, together with an assessment of the relative frequency of occurrence of different types, and local variants.

Michael D. Watson.

Victoria County History

Work on Volume XI (the Telford area) has progressed far enough for the county editor to feel confident of going to press by the late summer of 1982. The histories of Dawley, Eyton upon the Weald Moors, Lilleshall, Stirchley and Little Wenlock have been written, as has a large part of Madeley. Several maps have been prepared for the press. Work is progressing on Wellington, the volume's largest parish, and on the 'Education' sections of the Oakengates area (Wombridge and Wrockwardine Wood).

It is hoped that next year two more volumes (IV and X) will be in progress.

Volume IV, the final 'general' volume of the Shropshire V.C.H., will consist of articles on 'Agriculture' and 'Architecture'. Miss Ann J. Kettle (University of St. Andrew's) and Dr. Peter Edwards (Roehampton Institute) have agreed in principle to contribute to 'Agriculture', and Mr Eric Mercer, C.B.E., has agreed to write 'Architecture' following his retirement at the end of next month as Deputy Secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) and Director of the National Buildings Record.

Volume X, the next intended topographical volume, will include the whole of Wenlock liberty and borough (apart from Madeley and Little Wenlock) and adjacent parishes of Munslow hundred: i.e. Wenlock Edge, Upper Corvedale, the Lawley, Caradoc, Ape Dale, and the Strettons, with outliers at Badger, Beckbury, Deuxhill, and Stoke St. Milborough.

Stocks of the V.C.H. booklet (based on Volume III) Shropshire and Its Rulers: a Thousand Years (1979, Shropshire Libraries, 65p) are now dwindling. A second V.C.H. booklet on Shropshire's monastic history (based on Volume II) has been written for publication by Shropshire Libraries.

All the Shropshire volumes are in print (I £30, II £30, III £50 and VIII £30) but stocks of VIII are now very low; when they are exhausted the second-hand price will almost certainly rise. Four slightly substandard copies of III are available at £20, £25, £30 and £32 (according to condition). Anyone interested in these should contact the county editor, George Baugh (Shirehall; Shrewsbury 222408), who may be able to arrange for a volume to be had on approval.

April, 1981.

The "Telford Old Buildings Records"

In January 1978, Telford Development Corporation initiated a project for the recording of old buildings within the designated area of Telford New Town. Two major stages were envisaged, a first stage of extensive recording of all buildings older than a specified date (General Records) and a second stage of more detailed recording of buildings or groups of buildings selected from the first aggregate (Detailed Records).

The major part of the first stage lasted for about two years. On completion, over 3500 standing buildings were recorded with a probable construction date before 1927. For all of these buildings a minimum amount of information was compiled within a one page survey sheet for each building. Each sheet includes at least one photograph and also information on the address, location (incl. grid reference), age (exact or period), ownership (if public), style, materials, uses, state of repair, later alterations of the original building, etc.

Since the majority of the recorded buildings represent examples of vernacular architecture, the method and terminology of Dr. Brunkill on recording vernacular architecture was used as a basis, although several points had to be modified and adapted to the local conditions. The dating of the buildings was initially based on early maps such as the O.S. series of the years 1927, 1902 and 1882, tithe maps of the 1840's and earlier estate maps. During the process of the work other sources were also used such as slates on the buildings and various documentary sources.

The survey sheets were grouped and filed together by area units (500 metre squares) based on the O.S. grid, together with location maps in scales 1/2500 and 1/1250. Thus, in terms of volume the General Records consist of approximately 900 files, housed in four 4-drawer filing cabinets. The whole project was designed and run by Corporation Staff but for the labour intensive survey part it relied on assistants financed by the Manpower Services Commission. For that purpose 8-10 research assistants of various qualifications were employed for most of the time.

Final part of the first stage was the transfer of the collected information into a computer file. This part had to follow a much slower pace due to a gradual limitation of resources and is now nearing completion. It is obvious that only after the creation of this computer file a more useful analysis of the records can be achieved. However, even at this stage of completion the Records have proved extremely useful. Because of their existence the Department of the Environment decided and gave priority to the revision of the list of Historic Buildings for Telford and the remainder of the Wrekin District. The revision is currently being undertaken and full use of the Records is being made.

A few concluding points about the second stage, i.e. the Detailed Records of selected buildings: The programme includes examples from various categories such as domestic, farm, religious and industrial buildings, communication tracks and related structures and in general any other significant buildings and structures. The detailed recording of the above is, of course, an open ended process. Under the present circumstances of limited resources it can mainly rely on occasional opportunities and on voluntary work. The Corporation staff who are still in charge of the project are making use of every opportunity that arises for the detailed recording of specific buildings, especially when such recording is required for other purposes as well. As for the voluntary work needed this is perhaps something, which the newly formed Telford Historical and Archaeological Society could consider and include among its initial interests and activities.

Jordanis Petridis

PUBLICATIONS

Penfold, A, ed. Thomas Telford:engineer. Thomas Telford Ltd., 1980 £10.00. Three of the eight papers published here deal with different aspects of Telford's work in Shropshire. These are his architectural work in and around the County town, the Shrewsbury Canal and the Holyhead Road.

Penfold, A. Thomas Telford 'Colossus of Roads'. Telford Development Corporation and Ironbridge Gorge Museum. 1981 £1.50.

This booklet has been produced as a catalogue of the comprehensive exhibition on Telford's work which may be seen in the Coach House Gallery, Coalbrookdale throughout this summer, but it is so arranged in sections that it will be a useful source of information after the exhibition has closed.

Trinder, B.S. and Cox, J. Yeomen and Colliers in Telford. Phillimore, 1980. £12.00. Much interesting work is being done at present by adult education groups on the probate inventories of the County. This volume is the first to appear which is based on these researches. It is based on the parishes of Dawley, Lilleshall, Wellington and Wrockwardine and covers the years 1660 to 1750. Many of the inventories have been printed in full, but the introduction contains an illuminating analysis of the social and economic structure of the area. The book is a splendid example of intensive work on a particular source producing a well-rounded, detailed reconstruction of the past.

Mitchell, F. Molly Morgan. 1980. £1.00. Molly Morgan was born at Corfton, Diddlebury in 1762, but her career thereafter took her to Australia on a convict ship (for stealing yarn) from where she escaped back to England, a further conviction and transportation and finally gave her an immortal place in Australian frontier folklore. The author has reconstructed her extraordinary life on both sides of the globe by using a wide range of sources.

Robinson, D.H. The wandering Worfe. Waine, 1980. £8.95. Based on the River Worfe, this is a historical and geographical examination of the area from Sheriffhales to Bridgnorth. It is illustrated by many photographs, drawings and maps. Dr. Robinson covers an immense range of subjects in his 120 pages making his book essential reading for this part of Shropshire.

Rivet, A.L. and Smith, C. The place-names of Roman Britain. Batsford, 1979. £45.00. Rivers, settlement and other Roman names for parts of Britain are discussed and identified. The classical sources of these names are also critically examined and discussed. The book will remain the definitive work on the subject.

Reid, P. Burke's and Savills guide to country houses vol. II. Burke's Peerage, 1980. £19.50. This volume deals with Herefordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. It contains numerous photographs of interiors and exteriors. In several cases the buildings no longer exist. The entries are arranged in alphabetical order of the name of the house. A brief description is given of each house and its history. A most useful reference book.

Shropshire Field-Names by H.D.G.Foxall. The Society published this interesting study of the county's field-names in late November. Sales are progressing well and it is hoped to produce further contributions to Shropshire's history in the future. The normal price of the book is £1.95 but members of the Society are entitled to buy copies at the reduced price of £1.75. The members' rate is only available from Mr A.M.Carr, Hon. Publications Sec., Shropshire Archaeological Society, 23 Oak St., Shrewsbury, SY3 7RQ. Please add 50p for postage and packing if ordering by post. Cheques should be made payable to Shropshire Archaeological Society.

The Council for British Archaeology is pleased to announce the publication of:

Recording old houses: a guide by R.W. McDowall. £1.95 post-free.

This booklet, published under the auspices of the CBA's Historic Buildings Committee, is designed to give information and practical guidance to all those who are concerned with recording buildings, whether this is being done purely as a historical study or as an aid to the making of planning decisions. It includes several drawings which illustrate various methods of recording; and a lengthy Appendix on the Peacock Inn, Chesterfield, which was threatened with demolition in 1974 and was therefore surveyed in a variety of ways for varying purposes, provides a valuable case-history.

Also still available

Historic buildings and planning policies by David Peace. £1.60 post-free.

This guide through the labyrinth of legislation which deals with historic buildings of all kinds is especially useful for local councillors, planning officers, and members of local societies and amenity action groups.

See order form at end of News Sheet.

MISCELLANEOUS

1981 Subscription

Members are reminded that their subscription (£4.00) falls due on January 1st each year. Members who have not so far paid for this year are asked to send their subscription to Mrs C.Carr, Hon. Membership Sec., Shropshire Archaeological Society, 23 Oak St., Shrewsbury, SY3 7RQ as soon as possible.

The Annual General Meeting

This year the A.G.M. will be held in the Walker Room of College Hill House at 2.30 p.m. on 27th June 1981.

The meeting will be addressed by Alan Aberg of the National Monuments Record who will speak on "Medieval Moated Sites - their form and associated buildings". This is a most interesting subject and members are reminded that this important event needs their support.

PARISH REGISTERS

The Archaeological Society and the Parish Register Society merged in 1922, and registers continued to be published from then until 1955 when the Wellington registers (baptisms to 1701) appeared. Nothing has been published since. A list of registers printed is to be found in volume 55 of the Transactions (for 1954-6), pp. 128-34.

Members will recall that I have brought forward the question of resuming publication at more than one A.G.M. The matter has also been discussed at meetings of the Society's Council. One view expressed in the Council is that modern developments make the resumption of parish register publication pointless. The principal modern developments referred to are (i) the concentration (by deposit, etc.) of original registers, transcripts, and microfilms in the Shropshire Record Office (Shirehall) and in the Local Studies Library (at present in St. Mary's Hall), and (ii) the existence of the Mormon microfiches and indexes. It is argued that there would be little potential sale for a published register - especially that of a small parish.

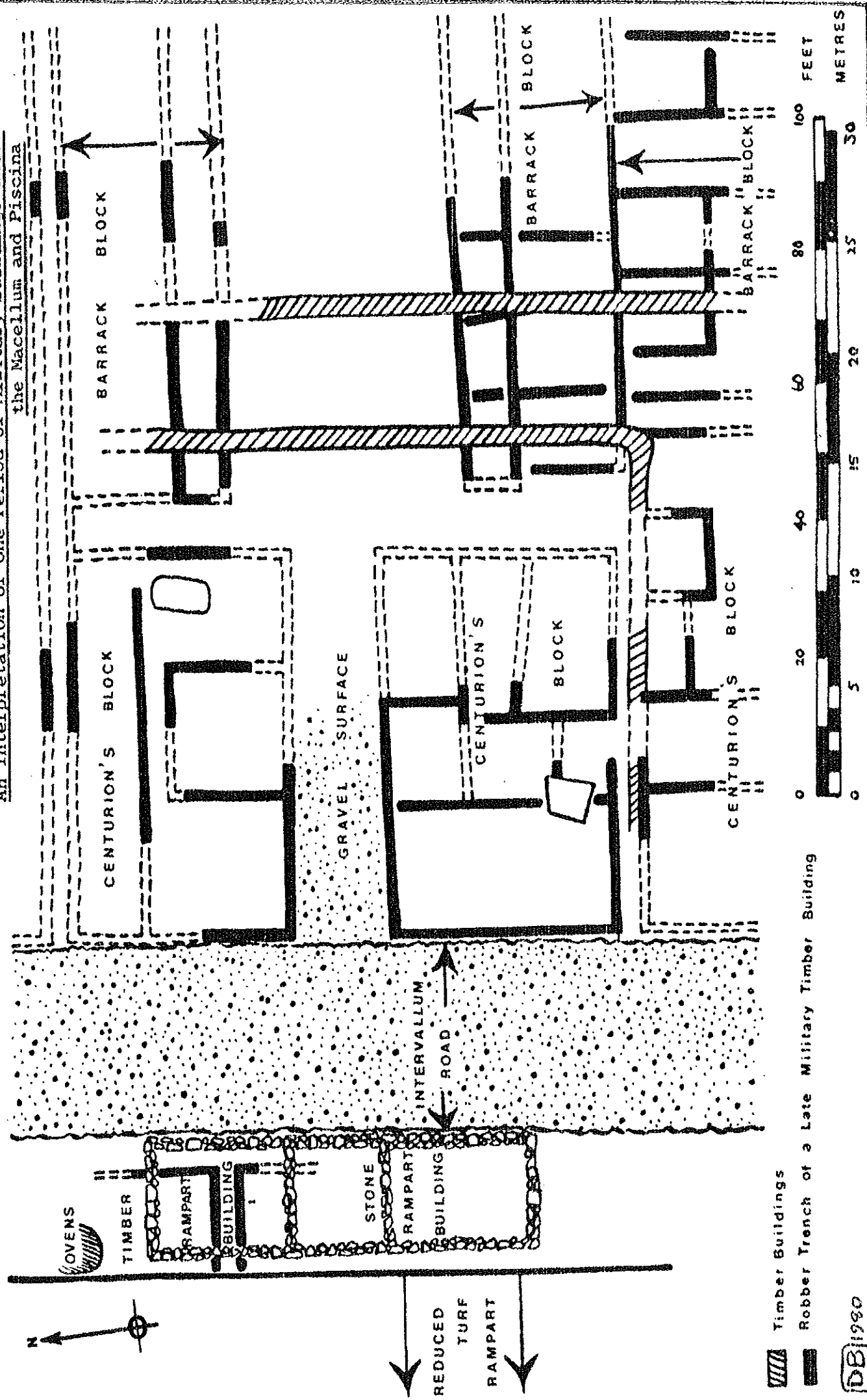
On the other hand, it must be noted that in other counties parish register publication continues - in Staffordshire and the West Midlands for example. The county archivist is moreover anxious above all to reduce use of the original registers - likely to be worn out by the pressure of present-day genealogical research.

Does the existence of transcripts and Mormon microfiches and indexes reduce use of the original registers? Would potential sales be increased by the publication of two or three small registers together or by the inclusion of research aids such as lists and locations of unpublished registers (including nonconformist and Roman Catholic ones)?

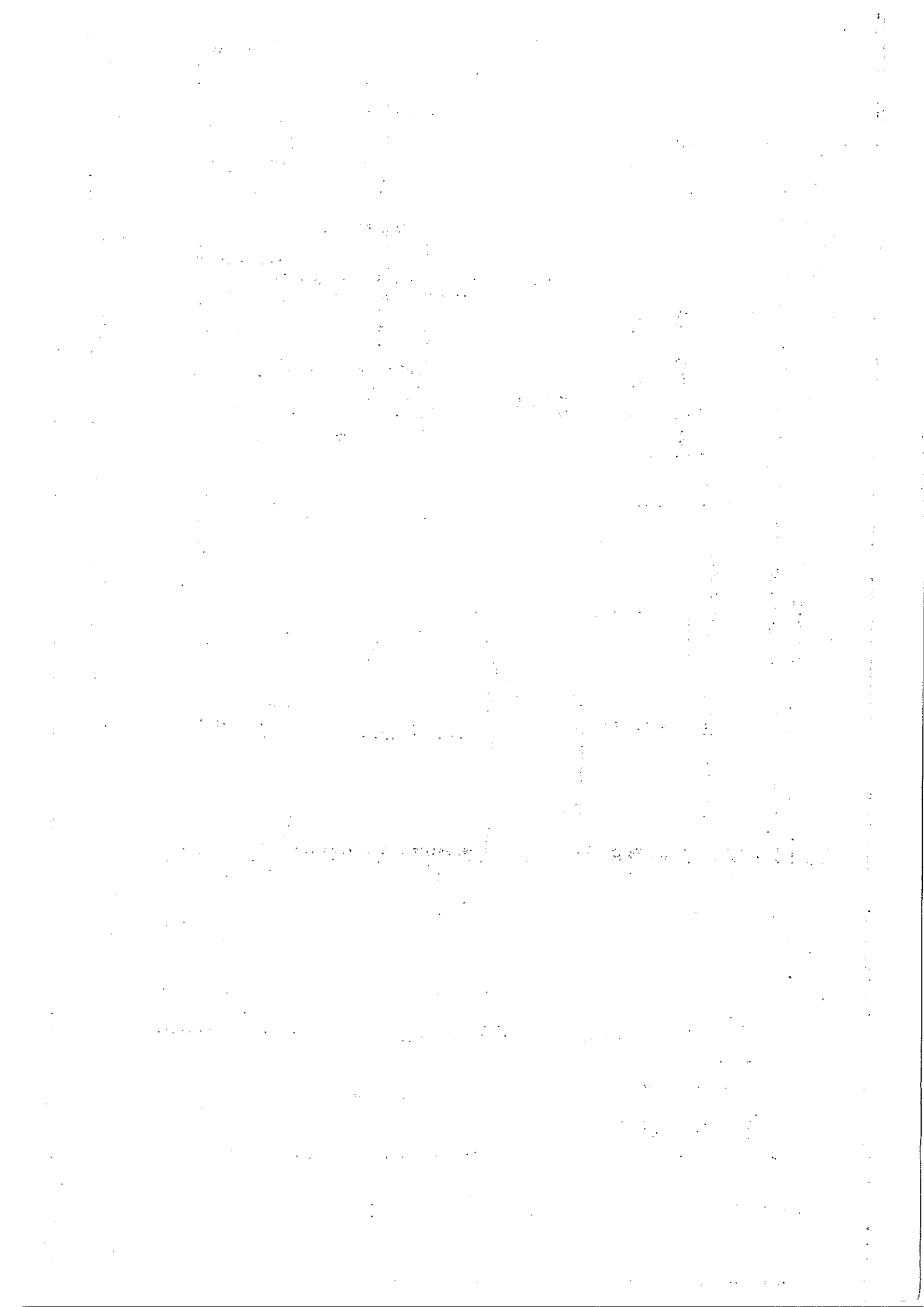
These are questions which I hope we may discuss at the A.G.M. on 27th June and over the next 12 months. I shall produce a discussion paper in time for the A.G.M. (though not in time to go out with the A.G.M. agenda); it may also be circulated with the next News Sheet. In the meantime I should be grateful for written views on these matters to be sent to me (at 28 Oak Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 7RQ). I shall be asking the Shropshire Family History Society to publish this notice in the next issue of their own Journal.

G.C. Baugh
April, 1981.

An Interpretation of One Period of Military Buildings under the Macellum and Piscina



DB 1980



A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.
Edited by Carole Ryan, 6 Church View, Preston Gubbalds, near Shrewsbury.
Tel: Shrewsbury 222332 (County Planning Department)

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

University of Birmingham - Department of Extramural Studies.
West Midlands Annual Archaeological Research Group's Conference.

As a result of the replies to the questionnaire circulated in May concerning the preferred meeting place for the above Conference, it has been decided to hold the 1982 Conference in Birmingham instead of Stratford, during the weekend 27th/28th March.

University of Birmingham : Department of Extramural Studies
Weekend Courses in Archaeology 1981/82

AH/7 EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

A one-day school in co-operation with C.B.A. Group 8 on Saturday, 17th October 1981 in the Lyttleton Theatre, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham 3. FEE: £2.50 for tuition only (no reductions)

AH/8 RECENT PROGRESS AT WROXETER, MARKET HALL SITE

A one-day school on Saturday, 31st October 1981 in Winterbourne, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham 15. TUTORS: Dr. Graham Webster, Donald Mackreth, Director of Excavations, Nene Valley Research Committee.

This school will be one of the continuing series on the recent discoveries at Wroxeter seen against the known historical background.

FEE: £3.30 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£1.80 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/9 RINGS AROUND THE MOON: STONEHENGE AND OTHER BRITISH STONE MONUMENTS
ASTRONOMICALLY CONSIDERED

A one-day school on Saturday, 21st November 1981 in the Vaughan Jefferies Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Education, University of Birmingham.

FEE: £3.10 including tea, but not lunch.

(£1.60 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/10 VILLAGES, SETTLEMENTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANDSCAPE

A one-day school on Saturday, 5th December 1981 in Winterbourne, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham 15. TUTOR: M.A.Aston, Staff Tutor in Archaeology, Department of Extramural Studies, University of Bristol.

Recent work by economic historians, historical geographers and archaeologists on post-Roman settlements is suggesting interesting implications for the development of the English landscape. This day school will examine the work that has been done on deserted Medieval villages and Saxon settlements and how it affects our appreciation of the origins of different features in the landscape. The importance of early estates and different land uses will be examined as part of this theme. In conclusion, some general suggestions will be made of how the landscape and its settlements may have developed in the post-Roman period. The school will be particularly suitable for people engaged in parish surveys or local fieldwork.

FEE: £3.30 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£1.80 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

RECENT PROGRESS IN BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

A residential weekend from 11th to 13th December 1981 in Pendrell Hall College of Residential Adult Education, Codsall Wood, Wolverhampton.

There will be six speakers who will talk on their research into subjects ranging from prehistoric to medieval times.

FEE: £34.00 for single room accommodation, all meals and tuition.

(£31.50 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

£30.00 for double room accommodation, all meals and tuition.

(£27.50 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

£26.00 for non-residents taking meals and tuition

(£23.50 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

For further details please write to Miss J.M. Lawson at the Extramural Department.

AH/11 ANGLO-SAXON PALACES

A one-day school on Saturday, 30th January 1982 in the Faculty of Arts, University of Birmingham. TUTORS: Professor P. Rahtz, Department of Archaeology, University of York, P.A. Barker, Staff Tutor in Archaeology, Department of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham.

There are few subjects in which such progress has been made in recent years as that of Anglo-Saxon settlement. Up until twenty years ago there was a baffling inconsistency between the descriptions of great halls in poems such as Beowulf, and the excavated evidence, which implied that most Anglo-Saxons 'lived in holes in the ground'.

Now two Anglo-Saxon palace complexes have been published - Yeavinger by Brian Hope-Taylor, and Cheddar, dug by Philip Rahtz.

This day-school will discuss these two excavations, while also bringing together the evidence, much of it from aerial photographs, of other unexplored or partly explored palaces. There will also be a discussion of the high-level technical methods used in the excavation of these complicated and difficult sites.

FEE: £3.30 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£1.80 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/12 RECONSTRUCTING ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL LONDON

A one-day school on Saturday, 20th February 1982 in the Faculty of Arts, University of Birmingham. TUTORS: B. Hobley, D. Perring and J. Schofield of the Department of Urban Archaeology, The Museum of London.

Since 1973 the largest team of archaeologists in the country have been excavating in advance of redevelopments in the City of London. The speakers will describe important recent discoveries which have radically changed previously held views on Roman, Saxon and Medieval London.

FEE: £3.30 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£1.80 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/13 MANCETTER

A one-day school on Saturday, 6th March 1982 in Winterbourne, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham 15. TUTORS: Dr Graham Webster, K. Hartley - one of the leading authorities on mortaria in Britain, K. Scott - Atherstone Archaeology Society

The work of Kay Hartley on the pottery industry and its marketing area and more recently that of Keith Scott on the military site has highlighted the great importance of Mancetter in the Roman period. This school will discuss the potentialities of the site together with the possibilities for planning future investigation.

FEE £3.30 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£1.80 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/14 UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

A one-day school in co-operation with C.B.A. Group 8 on Saturday, 20th March 1982 in the Lyttleton Theatre, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham 3.

FEE: £2.50 for tuition only (no reductions)

AH/15 WEST MIDLANDS ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUPS' CONFERENCE
A non-residential weekend on 27th and 28th March 1982 in the Faculty of Arts, University of Birmingham.

A round-up of the progress made on excavations in the West Midlands during the past year, providing an opportunity for amateur and professional archaeologists to meet and discuss excavation techniques and problems. In line with the new format introduced in 1981, the main theme of the 1982 conference will be the Roman period to which Sunday 28th March will be devoted.

FEE: £2.00 for one day (tuition only), £3.00 for the full weekend.
(£1.00 and £1.50 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)
For further details please write to Miss J.M. Lawson at the Extramural Department.

AH/16 RECENT RECORDING OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE IN THE WEST MIDLANDS
A one-day conference on Saturday, 24th April 1982 in Lecture Room 1, Faculty of Arts, University of Birmingham.

This annual conference includes a round-up of progress made in the past year in the West Midlands in the field of Vernacular Architecture. In 1982 the introductory talk will be given by Peter Smith, author of 'Houses of the Welsh Countryside', who will speak on 'The Architectural Character of the British Isles'. The general theme of the 1982 conference will be roof types and problems concerned with their recording.

FEE: £3.30 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.
(£1.80 for senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)
For further details please write to Miss J.M. Lawson at the Extramural Department.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY
Details (available in December) of this annual conference to be held on 26th and 27th March 1982 may be obtained from Mrs S. Laflin-Barker, (to whom offers of papers should be sent immediately) Computer Centre, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363 Birmingham B15 2TT.

APPLICATIONS AND ENQUIRIES CONCERNING COURSES AH/7 - AH/16 AND THE RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND AT PENDRELL HALL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MISS J.M. LAWSON, DEPARTMENT OF EXTRAMURAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, P.O. BOX 363, BIRMINGHAM B15 2TT. -
SEE ENROLMENT FORM AT END OF THIS NEWS SHEET.

In addition to the normal archaeology summer schools, there will be a study tour of the Isles of Scilly from Saturday 1st May to Saturday 8th May 1982. The leaders will be Peter Fowler M.A, PhD, FSA, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) and Philip Barker MA, FSA.

The Isles of Scilly constitute one of the most important area of well preserved ancient landscape in Britain. The range of individual monuments is impressive from megalithic tombs to Civil War Fortifications.

Details about this and the summer schools are obtainable from Miss J.M. Lawson, Department of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

LOCAL COURSES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL INTEREST

History of Shrewsbury - B. Trinder PhD and others. A repeat of a successful course which has run in conjunction with LEA for a number of years.

College Hill House on Thursday, 24th September, 30 meetings. Fee £18.00 (£9.00 OAPs).

Note - Fully booked.

Palaeography of Historical Documents - Mrs M. Halford MA

This course offers instruction both to those who already have some knowledge and to beginners with no previous experience of early handwriting. Guidance will be given in the reading of historical documents and their interpretation. Special interests in aspects of local history will be encouraged.

20 weeks from 30th September on Wednesdays at County Record Office
7.00 p.m. - 9 p.m. Fee £12.00 (£6.00 OAPs).

Exploring Old Houses - Carole Ryan BSc, MA

A different approach to architecture : regarding old houses as an historical document to be read in order to further the understanding of social history. The focus will be on the development of house types, how houses were lived in, the people who lived in them, and corresponding developments in the historic landscape.

10 weeks from 29th September on Tuesdays at College Hill House,
7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. Fee £7.00 (OAPs £3.50).

Other Courses -

Mondays

Tudor England - Mrs M. Williams BA LEA Course

Wednesdays

Victorian Shrewsbury - B. Trinder PhD. LEA Course.

10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. Local Studies Library, 30th September, 20 weeks £20.00.

Thursdays

Family History - an introduction. Janice Capewell. LEA Course.

7.30 - 9.30 p.m. College Hill House, 1st October, 10 meetings £10.00

Saturdays

Place names of Shropshire - Dr. Margaret Gelling, 8 monthly meetings

2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. at St. Mary's Hall, Shrewsbury from 17th October.
Fee £10.00 (OAPs £5.00)

FILM EVENING

"MAN, MITHAN AND MAJE" - Ursula Betts.

Save The Children Fund presents two unique colour films taken by an anthropologist on the northern border of India in the 1940s. The films portray the life and culture of the Naga and Subansiri tribes before the arrival of Western technology.

The first film concerns the Nagas and is of particular interest because it includes a sequence showing methods of man-handling huge stones, similar techniques may have been used in prehistoric Britain.

The second film features the Apa Tani people, untouched by Western influence in their hidden valley in the Himalayan foothills.

VENUE: The Bear Steps Hall, St. Alkmunds Square.

Thursday 15th October 1981, 7.30 p.m.

TICKETS (inclusive of Wine and Refreshments) £1.50p on the door, £1.20 in advance. may be obtained from C. Paskell, c/o Bear Steps Office, St. Alkmund's Square, Shrewsbury. Tel: Shrewsbury 56511.

THE INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The Country House of the Victorian Industrialist

The purpose of this course is to relate the tastes and social aspirations of the new upper classes to the design and functioning of their homes; to look at unfamiliar houses from an unusual viewpoint.

25th - 27th September at Concorde College, Attingham Park. Fee £50.

The History of the Coalport Company

A detailed consideration which chronicles the major styles of design, the artists, and the chequered history of the factories and their owners.

3rd - 4th October 1981 at the Coalport China Works Museum. Fee £35.

Ceramics in the Victorian Home

This conference will examine the designers, manufacturers and the products of clay workings in the context of the Victorian home.

23rd to 25th October at the Telford Hotel, Great Hay. Fee £75 (OAPS £40)

INTERIM EXCAVATION REPORTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

SHROPSHIRE MOATED SITES - RECENT DISCOVERIES

The comprehensive field survey of the medieval moated sites in Shropshire undertaken as part of the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record has now been completed. As a result of this three previously unknown moats have been located, the brief details of which are as follows:

Woore Hall, Woore (SJ720423)

Three sides of a rectangular moat survive surrounding Woore Hall. The surviving moat arms are now dry and measure up to c.8m. wide and c.1.5m. deep. The slightly raised island appears to have originally been c.35m. in width and is now occupied by the Hall and its gardens. A probable overflow leat runs from the N.W. angle and from here the owner recovered parts of a wooden sluice some years ago, a section of which remains in the garden. Earthworks of uncertain character lie adjacent to the N. arm of the moat.

Brand Hall, Norton-in-Hales (SJ692383)

Three sides of a large rectangular moat surround the garden on the S. side of Brand Hall. The S.E. and S.W. arms are water-filled and only measure c.4-5m. in width due to their having been narrowed as a result of gardening activity. The N.W. arm though is up to c.8m. wide and is now dry, while the moat island measures c.70m. E-W. Extending E. from the S.E. arm is a large and semi-circular water-filled pond/depression and abutting onto this is well preserved ridge and furrow.

Nickless, Milson (SO629726)

A large well preserved oval moat whose now dry shallow ditch averages c.5m. in width and c.1m. in depth. The island, large by Shropshire standards, covers $\frac{3}{4}$ acre and contains possible building platforms and a circular waterlogged depression. Running from the S. side is a possible overflow leat connecting to a stream course. A slight outer retaining bank is also evident on the S. side of the moat.

Michael D. Watson

EXCAVATIONS AT SHACKERLEY MOUND, SHROPSHIRE, 11-28 June 1981

Work by Alan Wharton and the Tong Archaeological Group in 1976-78 had demonstrated that Shackerley Mound near Tong in Shropshire is a medieval moated site, and that the remains of a timber bridge were preserved in the waterlogged moat. In June 1981, the Central Excavation Unit carried out a rescue excavation at Shackerley in advance of the construction of the M54 motorway. Since only the southern one-third of the site which lay in the path of the motorway could be investigated, and because only a very short period of time was available, the operation was directed primarily towards the exposure and removal of the bridge.

It was found that the moat round the site was of two phases, an earlier somewhat U-shaped one 4-5m. wide being succeeded by a later flat-bottomed one 6-7m. wide. The bridge was contemporary with the later moat. No traces of an earlier bridge were found in the vicinity of it. Opposite the bridge, there was a crude abutment of earth and sand revetted with sandstone rubble. Both this and the bank which enclosed the site had been levelled, and as a result it is difficult to say very much about their original form. No evidence was found for any revetment or palisading associated with the bank. Within the site, a layer of occupation debris and a few pits and postholes were recognised, but it seems clear that the main area of occupation lay to the north of the motorway line. A section cut by machine beyond the official land-take for the motorway picked up the edge of a cobbled pavement which, together with a large rectangular building, had been found by Alan Wharton in previous years.

A causeway running approximately east-west along the valley in which the Mound is situated, just to the south-west of the site itself, was investigated by cutting a trench through it and subsequently by observing its excavation by the motorway contractor. It seems to have been a late feature, overlying the boggy ground that occupied the area to the south of the site, and possibly sealing a former leat that would have acted as an outlet to the moat. It also functioned as a bank for the pond attached to Shackerley mill. Extensive deposits of silt uncovered to the south of the Mound show that this pond was once much larger than it is today and extended far up the valley. Considerable evidence was found of the site having been levelled since the end of the Middle Ages, presumably for agricultural purposes though it seems never to have been ploughed.

The bridge consisted of two trestles made of large sawn timbers. The more southerly comprised two uprights and two braces made of straight timbers. The northern trestle, that closest to the interior of the site and thus to where a gate would have been, was similar but more massively built and with two lighter intermediate uprights between the main ones. The bridge belongs to Rigold's type II, and according to his criteria should date from about the second half of the 13th century. So far, little other dating evidence is available for the site. The pottery, which totalled less than 350 sherds, has yet to be studied, but with the exception of a few post-medieval sherds, seems to be mainly of the 13th and 14th centuries. It may be provisionally concluded that the site was occupied from some time in the 12th century and abandoned by or in the 15th century.

EATON CONSTANTINE ROMAN FORT

Work at the northern entrance of the Roman triple ditched fort at Eaton Constantine has continued this season.

This entrance is at the highest point of the fort which is sited on a west facing slope on the left bank of the Severn. It is on a flattened summit and criss-crossed by many field drains which have intruded into ancient levels.

On the east side the decayed butt ends of all the ditches were identified. The outer ditch was 6 m. in diameter, the middle 4.8 m. and the inner about 4.5 m. and each was separated from the other by a narrow bank less than 1 m. in diameter. The entrance was about 9 m. wide and was metalled though farming operations had destroyed most of this. On the east side it had collapsed into the middle and inner ditch ends at an early period, probably soon after construction. To counter this a timber beam 0.2 m. in diameter was set parallel to the middle and inner ditch ends with ties extending 1.5 m. into the road make-up.

On the west side the edges of the inner ditch were found and work has commenced on the end of the middle ditch. When clay was the natural subsoil no additional lining was inserted but when a ditch was cut into sand or gravel a clay lining was a necessity.

FINDS.

In the outer ditch on the east side lumps of iron slag were found together with fragments of what may have been a hearth for iron smelting.

A fragment of the lug handle of a millifiori glass oil jar (Isings form 61) was also found. This object, probably of Alexandrian origin, would have formed part of the personal equipment of a well-to-do officer.

The pottery was in very poor condition due to the persistent damp. Most was colour coated red material closely similar to that found this season in military levels at the Wroxeter fortress not far away.

Grey gley, present in the bottoms of all the ditches, provided evidence of water filling and the action of anaerobic bacteria. This in turn had been penetrated by fine roots, certain evidence of neglect and weed overgrowth, indicating that the ditches at this point at least had not been back filled by the Army when the fort was abandoned.

Internal to the ditches the base of the broad inner bank was discovered but here as in the sections cut in the adjoining field it had collapsed into the inner ditch.

A.W.J. HOUGHTON FSA

September 1981

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Investigation and recording work on vernacular architecture continued during the summer, much of it in preparation for the Spring conference of the Vernacular Architecture Group which is to be held in Shropshire next year, April 13th-17th 1982.

Two houses of a special type have been discovered - Cleeton Court and Wolverton. Both have central cruck trusses of "Quasi-type W" form but which are typologically in the family of base-crucks. Wolverton also has the remains of a fine spere-truss and an elaborate chequer-board inserted ceiling in the hall.

Other newly-discovered cruck buildings are

Escob Farm, St. Martins

139a, Corve St. Ludlow (upper-crucks)

23, Barrow St. Much Wenlock (base-cruck)

2 & 3 Brookhouse Cottages Bitterley

1 Brookhouse Cottages Bitterley

"The Steppes" Clee St. Margaret (raised cruck)

Lower Brook House Clee St. Margaret

These bring the Shropshire Cruck Count to 167.

Houses fully recorded during the last twelve months include

Cleeton Court Stone-cased. 3 bays of a medieval T-F hall house survive. Later extensions and alterations. 2-bay hall with base-cruck central truss. Cusped V-struts, moulded crucks.

Wolverton T-shaped house, plastered over. 2-bay hall of medieval date, base-cruck central truss. Remains of spere-truss with cusping, quarter-round moulding and broach stops. Cusped windbraces. Chequer-board ceiling - late C.16(?) inserted in hall. Fine panelling.

Harton Manor Part T-F, part C.18 brick. Has 2 stone and wood moulded fireplaces with date-plaques 1615 CAW.

Upper Ledwyche Although of mid-C19 appearance the frontage represents a masking in 1860 by the Rouse-Boughton estate of the remains of a medieval hall-house. Six bays of the hall roof survive and have a rythm of 2 open trusses to each closed truss. Clearly the house had a cross-wing at the eastern end.

Bush Farm Chetton H-shaped, T-F, rendered over. This house represents a phase in the development of the hall, in this example it is 1½-storied and has a chimney bay.

Red House Lydbury North C. 1650, brick built, H-plan, 3-storied front, 2-storied rear, service rooms at ground level, main rooms at 1st-floor level reached by steps. Was once an inn, has stone-built cock-pit and associations with Lord Clive.

Kempton, Nos. 29/30 One house originally, late C.17, T-F. T-shaped with 2 gable-dormers. Has a hewn jetty.

Kempton, No. 25 Remains of a cruck hall house. Cruck truss is crow-stepped above the collar-beam. Has evidence of a cruck-framed spere-truss - the only one noted in Shropshire to date. They are extremely rare.

Kempton, Nos. 26/27 Typical early C.17 3-unit plan, baffle-entry type. Stone spiral stair on one side of stack.

Crow Leasowes Farm, Bitterley Very elaborate early C.17 brickwork on front of house. House is T-F. C.19 wing by Rouse-Boughton estates and fine model-farm layout of 1863 with a railway serving the complex.

Stoke Court 3-bay, 2-storied stone-built farmhouse with an applied early C.18 (?) fashionable brick front. The main interest lies in the survival of a complete malting kiln attached to the house.

Rushbury Manor T-F, triple-gabled, 3-bayed, early C.17 house with moulded stone and wood fireplaces and outbuilt stone stack.

Yew-Tree Cottage, Wheathill A Clee-commons Squatter's cottage, stone-built, originally one-up, one-down with outbuilt stack. Later extended to two-up, two down.

Golding, Cruck Barn Five-bay barn, originally 3-bay. Not a threshing barn. Late but good crucks.

Cound Smithy Cottage A T-F cottage set at the rear of the blacksmith's shop, currently in use as a pig-sty. Originally a single-cell, gable-entry, end chimney cottage but well carpentered. Later extended in two phases to become two-up, two-down.

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THE GUILDHALL, LUDLOW

Investigation and documentary research on the Guildhall is well in hand and it is hoped to present the results as another in the series "Historic Ludlow" next year. It was found that the remains of the bases of two of the arcade posts are in situ beneath the floor and though much mutilated are capable of being "reconstructed". A small exploratory archaeological investigation led by Bob Meeson yielded little of significance but established that the original medieval floor was entirely destroyed in the area of the surrounding aisle posts.

PADMORE

Many members have expressed concern regarding the outcome of legal action taken following the demolition of this listed building, a particularly fine timber-framed hall house. The position at present is that the matter is sub-judice, the owners having pleaded "not guilty" at the first hearing, the case was adjourned. An article on the architecture and history of the house is almost completed and it is hoped to publish this shortly.

My thanks go to all who have helped and continue to help with the searching out and recording of buildings, from organised groups at Ludlow, Whitchurch and Much Wenlock to energetic and enthusiastic individuals who give generously of their time and local knowledge.

Madge Moran.

THE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD - BUILDINGS

The current work experience programme continues to add a significant number of buildings to the Sites and Monuments Record. The main work of adding knowledge from secondary sources has now been completed, although results from individual field workers in the County, in particular the Ludlow Historical Group, are eagerly awaited. Work has begun on the extensive survey of South Shropshire.

To date the following parishes have been surveyed -

1. Mainstone upland area
2. Bedstone upland/lowland area
3. Milson upland/lowland area
4. Lydbury North intermediate zone
5. Burford lowland area
6. Hope Bagot intermediate zone
7. Stanton Lacy lowland zone

LOCAL HISTORY

The Skin Mill - Condover

The field names skin mill meadow (393) and skin mill yard (390) appear on the Tithe Map of 1840, and information concerning the skin mill appears in the Parish Registers for Condover. The Registers quote on Forward Page V that the Skin Mills are recorded in the Manor Court Rolls which were maintained from the 12th century to about 1600. The Parish Registers also reveal that the Tomkiss family kept the Skin Mills. From before 1701 to 1782 the occupants being John and Hannah Tomkiss, Thomas their son, Elizabeth Tomkiss (daughter of John and Hannah) and John Gammon, and Sarah Tomkiss (presumably daughter of Thomas Tomkiss). Witnesses at the wedding of John Gammon and Elizabeth Tomkiss included a currier (a man who dresses and colours leather, after it is tanned), who lived and traded in London. The second witness was a member of the Wood family who may have been also closely involved with the Skin Mill, perhaps the owners.

In all events such an activity of tanning animal skins in villages is a subject worthy of further investigation.

Joan Wood - Ivy Cottage, Condover

THE WORK OF LOCAL GROUPS

TELFORD HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Welcome

The group have embarked on two practical projects, Archaeological and Field Walking (which has concentrated on the line of the M54 between Priorslee and Tong), and Architectural Recording, which has concentrated on the area to the north of Telford. It was intended to begin documentary research in the winter, when it is too cold/wet/dark to do field work, but in fact a documentary group has already sprung up and is successfully providing a back-up service to the other two groups.

Winter Programme - Venues

For the first season of winter lectures the group are using halls in different parts of the town, so that everyone should find at least some of the meetings near their home. It is important, therefore, to consult the programme carefully before each lecture to get to the correct venue!

Friday 4th and Saturday 5th Sept. Madeley King Charles II weekend. On the Friday evening there will be a dramatised reading of King Charles' escape. (In the Madeley Court School lecture theatre, Madeley at 7.30p.m.). On the Saturday a joint walk with the East Shropshire Ramblers from Boscobel to Madeley. Meet at Madeley Centre bus stop (junction of Court St., and High St.) at 8.55a.m. to catch 9.02 service X96 bus.

Thursday 8th Oct. Belmont Hall, Wellington. 7.30p.m. The Victoria County History. George Baugh, the editor of the Shropshire V.C.H., will give an account of progress on the Telford volume, currently being researched and written.

Thursday 12th Nov. 6th Form Common Room, Madeley Court School, 7.30p.m. New Light on the Severn Navigation. Dr. Barrie Trinder will talk about recent research on the use of the River Severn for transport purposes.

Thursday 10th Dec. Christian Centre, Dawley High Street, 7.30p.m. The History and Archaeology of Woodlands, a talk by Oliver Rackham of Cambridge University, the leading authority on the subject.

Saturday 19th Dec. Overley Hall, Wellington. 8.00p.m. Christmas Party. A wine and cheese party will be held at Overley Hall, near Wellington, a fine Victorian house, suitably decorated for the occasion. By kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Brown. Tickets at the Nov. and Dec. meetings or from the Secretary.

1982

Thursday 14th Jan. Aerial Photography, a talk by Chris Musson, the Director of the Belmont Hall, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, which deals with rescue Wellington. 7.30p.m. archaeology for most of the eastern part of Wales.

Thursday 11th Feb. Yeomanry and Volunteer Units of the Telford Area. Geoffrey 6th Form Common Room, Archer Parfitt, author of Vol. 4 of the History of the K.S.L.I. Madeley Court School, will give a talk on local military history. 7.30p.m.

Thursday 11th March Design of New Towns - an Historical Perspective. Sir Frederick Christian Centre, Gibberd, the architect/planner of Harlow, will talk about Dawley High St. design of new towns with special reference to Harlow. 7.30p.m.

Thursday 13th May Annual General Meeting

All meetings except the Christmas party will be free to members; non-members will be charged 50p per meeting from October onwards.

Detailed reports on the groups activities now follow --

ARCHITECTURAL RECORDING

The work of the Architectural Recording Group has got off to a steady start. The decision was made at the outset to concentrate on the area to the north of the New Town, since by comparison with the New Town itself the rural area is much neglected. The group members are examining the buildings of the area in progressive stages, working from the superficial to the intensive. As skills in recording develop this work should go ahead faster.

In the area under examination the pattern of rural housing and other agricultural building is dominated by the pressure of the property of the Leveson Gower family, Dukes of Sutherland. Their east Shropshire estates extended from Cold Hatton in the north west to Sherrifhales in the south east, including the Weald Moors and Lilleshall. It is probable that their vigorous undertaking of improvements to farms and cottages resulted in much concealment of earlier construction under a facade of eighteenth and nineteenth century building. This is one of the reasons for concentrating on this area.

The estate archives collection offers possibilities for a self-contained study of aspects of building improvements on the estate in recent centuries. The studies of surviving buildings can thus be correlated with documentary evidence for the former state of farms and cottages. Work is therefore also being started in conjunction with members interested in documentary research, on disentangling the history of growth and dismemberment of the estates. When this has been done it will be possible to make sense of the material dealing more specifically with estate building improvements, and to link this with the evidence from the groups survey work as this develops.

The main effort on the field recording work so far has been concentrated in Lilleshall itself and in the Weald Moors. Systematic superficial recording will be arranged to feed information back into the County Sites and Monuments Record.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND FIELD WALKING GROUP

Although the long-term aim of the group was to examine the area of Telford and district by field walking and to provide the manpower should archaeological excavation prove necessary, the advent of the M54 made surveying the line of the motorway between Priorslee and Timlett Valley a priority.

For some six weeks the group has been acquiring skills and knowledge. We have studied maps, handled pottery from Roman to Woolworths and talked about the recording of information on site visit sheets kindly provided by the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record. We have plunged cross country, tramping across ploughed fields, along the edges of barley crops, penetrated thick hedges and coppices in an attempt to make sure that nothing obvious was missed.

We hope to co-write a report which will include the record sheets together with photographs of the parts of the landscape which are destined to disappear. We are conscious of the need to study the whole of the landscape and in the interest of making certain that ecological features were not missed, Bob Tobin joined us on a couple of evenings.

Though we have met regularly, we are conscious that there is much to be done. Results, in terms of exciting new discoveries have been small but this has not dampened the enthusiasm of the group since we were not expecting to turn up a wealth of sites. Unfortunately, about half of the fields along the motorway link were still

under crop and the farmers, who have been most co-operative, were naturally reluctant to have us on their cornlands. However, once the contractor's scrapers and diggers get to work our survey should provide valuable information to the full-time archaeologist when he/she is appointed.

Although A.Monk and Co. of Stamford, Lincolnshire will not be starting work for a few weeks yet, we have already had some idea of the work needing to be done. Sheldon's, on a separate contract, have begun work in the fields behind the Lion Inn in Priorslee. Their scraping uncovered an old railway line, which had been put into a green way, some time after 1820 and cut a superb section across it for us.

To give the group some experience in archaeological techniques, a section has been cut across the turnpike road line which lies in the fields between Priorslee and Knowle Bank. This is still in progress and has proved both useful and interesting. We hope to produce a proper report on this too and also on the site of the two cottages on its line - when we can find them.

Any help would be gratefully accepted, particularly once the contractors begin their work.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

Chairman	John Pagett
Hon. Secretary	Sula Rayska, 28 Oak Street, Shrewsbury. (Shrewsbury 59108)
Treasurer	Jim Tranter
Archaeology & Field Walking	Bob Cromarty, 3 Beech Drive, Shifnal. (Telford 461184)
Architectural Recording	Dr. Lance Smith, 37 Bridgnorth Road, Madeley. (Telford 594062)
Documentary Research	Alastair Penfold, 15 Forresters Close, Horsehay, Telford. (Telford 507310)
Newsletter	Bob Tobin, 16 Woodside, Coalbrookdale, Telford. (Ironbridge 3013)

Other members of the formation committee:

Pam Bradburn,	Richard Bifield,	Neil Clarke,	Joan Nickless,
Margaret Summall,	Emyr Thomas,	Tim Wastling.	

NEW MEMBERS WANTED

New members are needed so that the Society's events will be well supported, and to provide funds for lectures, projects etc. Please contact the Secretary for details of membership.

LUDLOW HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Although our Friday evening documentary sessions finished in April, several members of the group have been active during the summer.

Pride of place must go to our London member, Michael Faraday, who has now almost finished his transcription and translation of more than 1200 muniments of title of properties which once belonged to the Palmers Guild. These documents are essential for properties to be traced back into the early Middle Ages and they have yielded a great deal of other information, e.g. on the types of buildings being erected in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Occasionally early deeds have been firmly attached to standing buildings; in 1320, for example, the building which later became the Readers House was described as 'the house with two solars and a lantern under one roof'.

Work on wills proved at Hereford slowly continues and a total of just over 500 have now been transcribed or abstracted. We have now nearly finished all the pre-1660 wills and though all the Hereford diocese inventories have been lost for this period, careful analysis of the wills themselves yields important results. The general quality of inventories made after 1660 is not as high for Ludlow as for some parts of the county but a few very informative ones have come to light, and we are ever hopeful of major new finds as we work systematically through the boxes.

A preliminary perusal of estate and other collections in the County Record Office has produced a few exciting finds. In the Ludford Park collections, for example, there is a fine set of papers concerning the affairs of John Aston, the Puritan lawyer who became Bailiff and Member of Parliament during the Commonwealth and then escaped to London in 1660. He died in Hackney in 1665 and his will touches the depths of self-denigration:

'I beweyle the perverse disposition and sinfull inclination of my nature from whence cometh nothing that is good.....and for me the vilest of any he hath elected to salvation.....'

The Corbett papers contain a detailed list of the possessions of Edward Waties, father-in-law of Edward Corbett of Longnor and an important member of the Council of the Marches. Several rooms are mentioned in his Ludlow House and though this no longer stands (15 and 16 the Bull Ring) a very full picture can be built up of its layout and appearance. If any reader of this newsheet knows of other Ludlow papers which we may not have seen, please let David Lloyd know.

Some work has also been done on recording buildings. The outstanding achievement here has been the very detailed record made of the Feathers by Peter Howell and Margaret Richards. Detailed drawings have yet to be made but it is clear that the present building, dating from the early seventeenth century, contains the core of an earlier building. It is hoped that the Feathers will be the subject of the group's next publication.

Working on Friday evenings throughout the summer another small group has recorded No.2 Dinham (rebuilt 1654 following Civil War burning) and three houses in Old Street: the Preachers House (rebuilt 1622), Lane's House (a Tudor house refronted in the seventeenth century and later used as the town workhouse) and No.3. This last, containing a magnificent Tudor ceiling and a medieval range at the back, was once the Red Lion Inn and is certainly one of the most interesting houses in the town.

Work has continued from time to time on the Guildhall in Mill Street. Indications are growing stronger that this was an aisled hall, probably the only example still standing in Shropshire. Exploration under the floorboards has revealed the moulded bases of some of the arcade posts and we were recently able to take advantage of the partial stripping of those posts for maintenance purposes and find some mortices on the outward facing sides of those posts. Because of later additions, however, we have not yet been able to locate the mortices for lateral members which will confirm absolutely positively that this was once an aisled hall. Madge Moran continues to lead this particular project and we look forward to her coming publication on this remarkable building.

There has been much speculation during the summer on the early evolution of Ludlow's town plan and we have been greatly encouraged by the temporary residence in Ludlow of Professor Conzen of Newcastle University, whose articles on the analysis of Ludlow's plan are the only original work in print, apart from St. John Hope's article of 1909. Work to be done this coming winter on Linney will do much to establish whether or not the original planned town extended north to the River Corve.

During the first part of the summer and also during the Festival we provided guides for visitors to the town and hope that guided tours can be put on regularly in the future. A number of our members can now lead tours with authority and confidence. We have welcomed a number of archaeological and other groups to the town and are now looking forward to the visit of the Vernacular Architecture Group next Easter. It has been a quiet time for publications, though several are in the pipeline, but many readers of this newsletter will have enjoyed Christine Upton's article on the Readers House in the September issue of the Shropshire Magazine.

We resume our winter meetings on Friday, 25th September, and members from other parts of the county are always welcome. The more our work proceeds the more fascinating it becomes - and there are suitable jobs for those at all levels of experience.

David Lloyd, 54 Pickwick Grove, Moseley, Birmingham.

BORDER COUNTIES ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Joint Secretaries: Mrs Carol James,
44 Vyrnwy Road,
Oswestry.
Tel: 5321 (office)

Mrs Kay Snowdon,
19 Northwood Drive,
Wrexham.
Tel: 261731

It is with sadness that the Group have to report the death of Mr William Day of Oswestry, one of the area's most distinguished amateur archaeologists. Although Mr Day had retired from active work, he was nevertheless most helpful in the work on Oswestry town walls and he will be greatly missed.

The University of Birmingham Extramural Department has organised a series of eight lectures at Oswestry, beginning on Tuesday September 22 at 7.30 p.m. These will be held in the Library Lecture Room and the lecturers will include archaeologists from the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Bill Britnell, Chris Musson, Graeme Guilbert and Kenneth Brassil. The title for the course is Prehistoric Archaeology with special references to the Welsh Marches, and they are being geared to the beginner, though in view of the standing of the lecturers they should include enough to interest the more advanced too. Fee £6 (£3 Pensioners and Full-time Students).

It will be quite in order for members to turn up to enrol on the first night, and hopefully these will receive enough response to make the classes a success.

The Group have applied to join the Council of British Archaeology groups of our area, and the work on Oswestry town walls has been reported in the West Midland Archaeology report No. 23.

Oswestry Town Hall Report

This report not only details our archaeological work, but also details all the documentary evidence available on the walls. The reports are now on sale, price 50p and are available at the Advertizer office or from Mrs Carol James, by post, price 75p.

The Annual General Meeting of CBA Group 8 is to be held at College Hill House, Shrewsbury on Saturday October 31. There will be a business meeting before lunch and a lecture afterwards.

Autumn/Winter Programme

Queen's Hotel, Oswestry - 7.30 p.m.

Monday October 26. Alistair Penfold, Curator of the Telford Collection will talk about the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

Monday November 23. Derrick Pratt reveals more of his research into the origins and destruction of Oswestry's medieval town defences.

Monday January 25. Bruce Bennison, Education Officer for Clwyd/Powys Archaeological Trust talks on the Romano/British enclosure excavations at Collfryn, near Llansantffraid, due to be backfilled at any moment.

Monday February 22. Derrick Pratt on the Montgomery Canal development from Welsh Frankton to Welshpool.

(Archaeology class. Eight weeks beginning September 22, 7.30 p.m. Oswestry Library. Details in Community Education prospectus).

THE TONG ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

M54 Telford Motorway - Donington Section

Archaeological Investigation - Interim Report

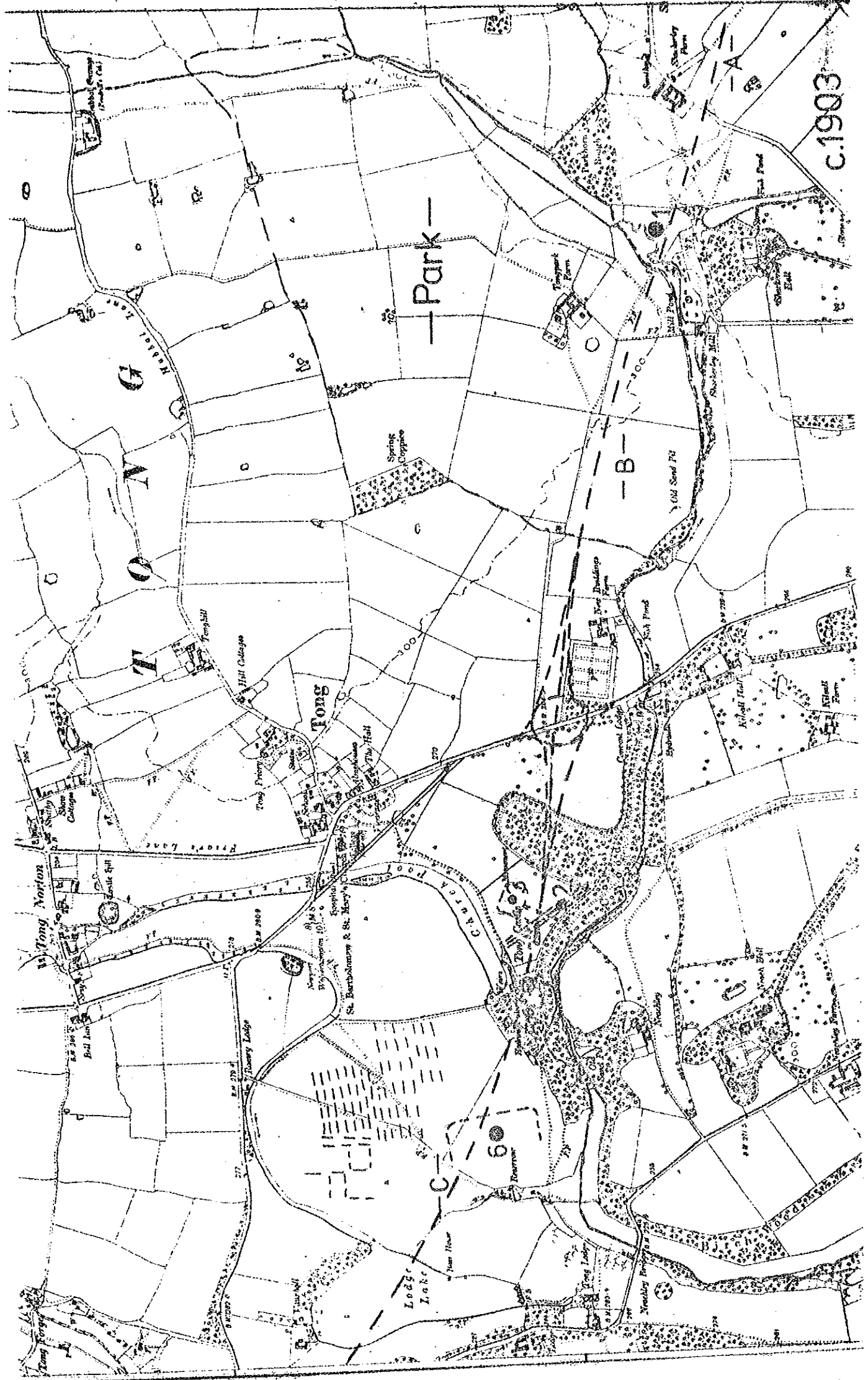
The archaeological sites under investigation when construction of the motorway started on June 1st 1981 were within the area of the Donington Section Contract, in the Shackerley/Tong area as shown on the attached map.

The start of construction coincided with the beginning of a Community Enterprise Programme sponsored by the Manpower Services Commission, administered by the Telford Development Corporation and directed by the Group and this enabled major excavation work to be carried out at the Tong Castle site.

Following this, a team from the Central Excavation Unit started the excavation and removal of the Bridge Timbers at Shackerley Mound and excavation of the adjacent areas within the motorway line, based on the Group's investigation and excavation work between 1976 and 1979.

It must be pointed out that conditions for a 'watching brief' during the initial machine scraping are far from ideal, with the scraping of the top soil being anything up to 50cm deep, this in turn being moved about before being taken from the scraping area, resulting in the re-deposition of the top soil.

The initial construction work started to the east of the A41 Newport-Wolverhampton Road - Site 1 and Area A - then about the Interchange at the A41 - Area B - then onto the Vauxhall Farm - Site 6 - and finally in the Tong Castle Area - Sites 2 to 5 - and adjacent fields used for top soil storage, especially in the western part of Area B.



— Park —

c. 1903

Area A...the recording of Romano-British pottery found in the fields near Wigmore Wood, to the west of Chillington Park, made a watching brief of the top soil scraping very important, but in spite of an almost continuous period of walking the area, nothing further was observed.

Site 1 - Shackerley Mound...(See also account by David Andrews). The Bridge Timbers were excavated and removed and no further evidence was revealed to that of a late C13 Moat cutting and Bridge construction. Excavation of the adjacent causeway confirmed that the construction material was the Moat cutting fill from around the northern area of the Mound.

Excavation of the area adjacent to the Bridge was within the medieval build-up used for the extension of the Mound during, or prior to, the C13 cutting of the Moat as observed during earlier trial excavations.

A machine cutting made to 'rescue a machine' at the north west corner of the Mound, revealed a 'baulk' section and excavation by the Group established the fill behind the 'baulk' as being of the late C12 origin.

The 'baulk' of grey/red marl was similar to that located in the north end of the earlier north/south drainage trench and was not seen in either end of the east/west trial trench, suggesting its use as a banking along the stream side of the Mound to stop flooding of the earlier wooden building and its surrounds.

Apart from the quantity of pottery from the 'baulk' section a worked flint was excavated from the overlay of the section and a flint flake found during later ground search and this brings the total of worked and un-worked flints from the Mound area to ten.

Area B...the area between the A41 and Shackerley Mound was considered of importance as the motorway route runs parallel to the medieval track from Tong Castle to Tong Castle Park, now Tong Park Farm, but machining failed to reveal any evidence of archaeological importance.

The two fields to the north and east of Castle Wood had their top soil removed to enable the area to be used for top soil storage and ground search of the whole area produced a Roman and medieval coins along with a medieval bronze pendant.

Site 2 - Earthworks...the initial top soil scraping down to the sandy pebble 'sub soil' revealed nothing of the double bank/ditching across the field which showed clearly on the aerial photograph. The deep motorway cutting through the feature has not yet been made which should reveal the extent and nature of the bank/ditches.

Within the motorway cutting area parts of the C17 Italian style gardens shown on the c.1739 Map were observed and this should be seen more fully during the machine cutting. A ground search of the same area produced a bronze cauldron sherd and a flint scraper and flake.

There was a complete lack of C18 or other earlier general spread of material in the fields adjacent to the Castle, and together with a shallow depth of top soil would suggest that part of the top soil was removed during the C18 landscaping to cover earlier ruins or buildings and with the land then being used just for parkland its agricultural quality would not have been revealed. It is in this century that it has been under plough and is now regarded as of poor quality farm land. This is contrary to the remaining farm land in and around Tong which is the main asset of the area.

Site 3 - Enclosure...the total scraping of the Castle Field down to the sandy pebble level enabled a watching brief to be carried out outside the motorway cutting area to try and locate the Enclosure with its banks and entrance from the Old Worcester Road, to the west of Neachley which shows clearly on the aerial photograph.

Although the machines were 'followed' over the whole of the area, no evidence of the banking or the entrance was observed but the motorway cutting may still reveal the trackway to the entrance. Various stone and brick features, along with numerous circular dark sand areas were observed and investigated and one sandstone feature was immediately investigated to avoid further scraping damage.

Excavation of the stonework showed it to be of white sandstone bound by marl clay built on top of the sandy pebble overlay in the form of a hearth or oven. The fill of the stoke-hole was excavated from which came pottery of the 11/12 century giving one complete section of a cooking pot. The fill of the hearth or oven was excavated but apart from a marl sealing of the deposits, very little further evidence was revealed.

The hearth/oven was left in position to be covered later by the returned top soil and it is hoped that it may be possible to make further observations of the effect of the hearth/oven on future crop marks now that its position has been recorded.

The dating of the Enclosure and its trackway places it before the 12th century stone Tong Castle and the medieval trackway from the Castle to the Park which, with new evidence from the Castle excavations, would have been there in the late C12.

Site 4 - Tong Castle... Work by the Community Enterprise Programme enabled the full extent of the 18C Cellars to be investigated, the Ice-house to be completely excavated and the 11th century Inner Ditch/Defensive area to be completed. Initial motorway machining across, and through the Castle enabled further work on the South Wall/Underground Chamber surrounds, and also located the medieval rubbish 'dump' below the North/West Outer Wall.

The tunnel entrance to the Cellars on the south side was further excavated into the Castle basement and a cross tunnel was located, joining the Cellars to the large Wine Cellar. The cross tunnel had been cut through the Vernon and Pembrugge wall foundations and excavation into the one room alongside the tunnel showed the extent of the foundations.

A machine cutting in the centre of the Castle broke the dome of a small room and this directed the excavation into this area and the north Underground Tunnel which provided access to the Cellars. The entrance to the small room was located which cut through an earlier Vernon wall. The excavation of the larder located a cross tunnel with a square "stone" arch into which was built a garderobe chute, with the cleaning out area in the cross tunnel.

The complete excavation of the Larder revealed a further entrance into a larger room than the first one located (large wine cellar) but both had partitions at the end for storage purposes, with the larger one going under the main part of the Castle with an earlier air vent under the west turret.

Excavation to one side of the Larder revealed the side of the Vernon Tower with a light vent and staircase into the base of the Tower having been blocked up to form the foundations of the C18 Castle. The sandstone foundations in the area showed the extent of the Pembrugge building but brick demolition rubble within the Cellars prevented further investigation work in this area.

Final excavation and machining showed the Tunnel running the full length of the Castle along the east side joining the Wine Cellar, and room on the south, with the Larder and storage rooms plus Underground Tunnel and Stables to the north end of the Castle.

The 11th Century Defensive Area - The excavation was completed with all the large post-holes along the western edge of the Inner Ditch being located and excavated. This confirmed earlier speculation that the entrance to the area was from the west or Old Worcester Road side of the Castle and not from the east as for the medieval Castle buildings.

A large pit inside the area was excavated but as with all the large post-holes so far excavated no positive evidence from the filling was found and this still required dating from the overlying C12 stonework found along the western edge of the Inner Ditch.

The remains of the C12 Outer Wall to a Tower at the north end of the Inner Ditch were excavated but later levelling of the site for landscaping had removed much of the walling.

Inner Ditch - The excavation started on the western edge to reveal the timber slots for a possible C12 wooden bridge, with a series of small post-holes parallel to the slots and the earlier large post-holes, but later re-building on the eastern side of the Inner Ditch had removed any evidence of bridge foundations within that area.

Although it was impossible to complete the excavation of the Inner Ditch down to the natural bedrock, excavation around the remaining C12 century bridge area included the bedrock cutting and produced pottery to confirm the initial cutting of the Inner Ditch being carried out in the C12.

A re-built Bridge or Causeway across the ditch in the C14 appeared to fill-in the south end of the Inner Ditch with a circular foundation for a Tower entry into the Keep Buildings. This reverses the filling of the Inner Ditch as concluded in the 1978/79 Report following the excavation of the northern end of the ditch. Although the excavation of the remaining stratified 'balk' against the North Inner Ditch Wall produced dateable artifacts confirming initial deposits in the Inner Ditch, recent excavations at the front of the Castle will revise the overall dating.

Ice-House - The excavation and recording was completed and all the bricks and other materials have now been removed to the Avoncroft Museum of Building for later reconstruction of the Ice-house. The excavation has revealed some novel innovations of the C18 building, such as a heating system to dry out the inner brickwork during the initial building and subsequent emptying of the Ice-house before re-stocking with ice.

The excavation was the first ever of such a structure and with the location of the circular Tower foundations at the front of the Castle it is possible that the Ice-house was cut into at an earlier circular cutting. This would explain the use of an 'awkward' site whilst there were easier building positions nearby.

Underground Chamber - The demolition and removal of the rusticated sandstone enabled the method of construction to be seen and also confirmed the building of the Chamber against the C14 South Outer Wall, with a re-building after the Civil War. The rear wall produced a brick with a 'mason' mark imprinted on one face and final demolition of the wall revealed the higher Vernon Castle Outer Wall cutting through a rough sandstone wall.

The complete excavation of the wall revealed the foundations of a circular Tower with an inside diameter of about 4 metres and a wall thickness of approximately 1.75m. The initial dating of the Tower would appear to be late C12 and whilst an earlier Gateway foundation was located inside the C14 Gateway it is too early to date the Tower accurately as it alters all the earlier outlines of the Castle.

Machine scraping of the surrounding area revealed the extent of the Vernon South Outer Wall's brick/stone foundations, as shown on the Buck's Engraving and the connection between the Pembrugge building foundations and the Vernon Castle.

North/West Outer Wall - The continuous ground search of the spoil heaps machined along the walling revealed bronze cauldron rim sherds and other bronze artifacts. Following the initial machine cutting through the Outer Wall the edge of a deep ash deposit was located and after initial excavation revealed this as the long sought after medieval rubbish 'dump'.

The numerous bronze artifacts along with bronze slag would suggest that earlier bronzes were smelted somewhere on the Castle site, but the deposit will have to be fully excavated before this can be determined. The large amount of medieval pottery so far excavated almost equals that already excavated from the whole site outside the Kitchen area.

The final cutting through the Castle should reveal the extent of the Courtyard Building which is immediately above the rubbish 'dump' and, with the amount of bronze excavated, should prove whether the hearth in this building could have been used for the smelting of the bronze.

Site 5 - Tong Castle Corn Mill....The early mill-stones found below the Castle near the Ice-house, suggested that the recorded C12 Mill was in that area prior to the construction of the C18 South Pool, when the Corn Mill was re-built downstream below the Pool dam.

Initial trench cutting for the culvert revealed stonework below the Pool silt which, from its position in relation to the original stream course, could only have been from the foundations of the medieval Corn Mill recorded as being below the Castle. The full cutting for the culvert has not yet been made and it is hoped that further evidence will be revealed when this takes place.

Site 6 - Vauxhall Farm Enclosure....This site was watched and reported on by Pat Bayliss for the Group. Aerial photographic evidence suggested the possible existence of a double-ditched rectangular enclosure of approximately 180mx300m, which may have been of sub-Roman or Roman date, and with contemporary or earlier features contained within it. The 'banks' of the Enclosure were visible in the field and soil changes evident during recent cultivation.

A watching brief was intended during the construction of the motorway to try and determine the date of this feature, and whether, indeed it may be due to the underlying geological formations, which vary considerable and change rapidly in the immediate area, within the deposits of the Triassic.

After the initial scraping of the top soil to a depth of between 50 and 60cm, an extensive ground search of the cutting area was made, and produced from the vicinity of the 'banks' on the western axis, a scatter of artifacts which included a Roman brooch of the 'Aucissa' type, dateable to the first half of C1 AD.

Watching during machine work on the deep cutting confirmed changes, across the 'banks', between bands of Keuper Marl and Keuper Sandstone, with a complete and immediate change to soft red sand to a depth of approximately 10 metres as soon as the interior of the 'Enclosure' was reached.

Two ditches, each one a metre deep were observed on a line projected in the aerial photograph, but due to the direction of the motorway cutting, and the way in which the work was carried out, these were only observed at an oblique angle across the 'defenses', and their exact width could not be determined.

A further long shallow ditch was observed on the inner 'bank', 15 to 30cm deep and 6 metres in length, with a post-hole at one end, which contained a C16 handle sherd and burnt material in the upper fill of dark sand and pebbles with the lower fill of sterile dark red sand.

Within the 'enclosure' several shallow pits were observed, varying in depth up to 35cm and in width up to 105cm, several of these contained C16/17 pottery sherds in the top fill, but were sterile apart from organic material grain and straw.

Also in this inner area, and in the vicinity of a feature interpreted on the photographic evidence as a possible small single-ditched enclosure, a blackened pebble layer was located. This was 4cm deep, after machine scraping, and joined a shallow pit filled with clean sand and pebbles. Charcoal and a pottery sherd was recovered from the blackened area, the full extent of which could not be determined as it was in a place where construction work was most intensive.

Interim Conclusions...No definite conclusions can be drawn at this stage, but indications so far would seem to favour a native enclosure, the siting of which took advantage of the natural landform. Pipe-laying trenches have still to be cut from the top of the 'banks' to the lower level of the cutting and will be watched, and further work in the area will concentrate on this, and open field-work during the present agricultural operations, in particular open areas where soil marks and other features have been observed, during the past two years adjacent to the motorway cutting area.

The Roman artifacts found on the site, and others known in the area, may only signify a Roman presence, and/or indeed a Romanised native element, in the area which must have been an important one, in the terms of grain production, the Roman Camp of Burlington being only 2 miles to the north.

Area C.....The machine work has so far stopped at the ditch to the west of the 'enclosure' and no work has yet started in this area, but with nearby early field patterns shown clearly on the aerial photograph it must be closely watched during the initial machining.

Alan Wharton, Tong Archaeological Group. 2nd Sept. 1981

THE WHITCHURCH AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Winter Programme 1981/82

Meetings to be held on the Third Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Lounge, Whitchurch Civic Centre. Speakers and their subjects are as follows:-

1981

Sept. 17th	Mrs Joan Barton, Chairman of W.A.A.G.	"The Changing Face of Whitchurch".
Oct. 15th	Mr Percy Wood of Cholmondeley	"Old Cheshire Customs".
Nov. 19th	Mr Peter Hough	"Recent Excavations at Beeston Castle".
Dec. 17th	Dr. A.J. Pollard of Teeside Polytechnic, Middlesborough	"The Life of John Talbot, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury".

1982

Jan. 21st	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
	Speaker: Mr Douglas Barnard	"Whitchurch Transport on slides".
Feb. 18th	Mr David Haynes of Malpas	"Field Work & Local Records".
Mar. 18th	TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.	
Apr. 15th	Mrs Sunter Harrison	"Introduction to Heraldry".

WENLOCK LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Work continues on the Wenlock probate inventories and anyone interested in being added to the mailing list of the local history group for a programme of autumn and winter lectures and workshops should contact Sam Mullins at the Museum, High Street, Much Wenlock. Lectures will include the Wenlock National School, local limestone flora, and the High Street in 1700. There is a monthly Wednesday afternoon and evening workshop for group members to pursue their own projects.

MISCELLANEOUS

Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978

Anyone interested in parish records and registers would be well advised to check with Shropshire Record Office at the Shirehall or with the Local Studies Library, St. Mary's Place, Shrewsbury before contacting or visiting incumbents. Since the beginning of 1979 staff of Shropshire Record Office have been busy inspecting the records of some of the 300 or more parishes in this county in accordance with the Measure. Large numbers of additional records - including parish registers - have been deposited here in recent months. Under the Measure all parish records over 100 years old either have to be deposited in a recognised diocesan repository or sophisticated safes provided for their keeping in situ.

SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

It was agreed at the Annual General Meeting in June that a new category of membership, to be known as FAMILY MEMBERSHIP, should be introduced.

For an annual subscription of £5.00 any number of people from the same household (over 21 years of age) can join the Society and receive all the benefits of ordinary membership with the exception that only one copy of each News Sheet and each volume of the Transactions will be supplied.

If you wish to change your membership to FAMILY MEMBERSHIP please complete the form below and send it to the Membership Secretary, 23 Oak Street, Shrewsbury SY3 7RQ.

----- Tear Off -----

Please alter my personal membership of the Shropshire Archaeological Society to FAMILY MEMBERSHIP to include

1)

2)

3)

(Signed) (Name)

(Address)

N.B. IF YOU PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BY BANKER'S ORDER PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT TO £5.00 FROM NEXT JANUARY. THANK YOU.

----- Tear Off -----

To: Miss J.M.Lawson, Department of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT

WEEKEND COURSES IN ARCHAEOLOGY 1981-82

I would like to enrol for

I enclose a cheque for £..... (Cheques etc., made payable to the University of Birmingham)

Please send me further details of

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

ADDRESS

Tel. No. (day) (evening)

MAPS OF THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

It was a very good year for the school. The students were very active and the teachers were very dedicated. The school was very successful in many ways.

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A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.
Edited by Carole Ryan, 6 Church View, Preston Gubbals, near Shrewsbury.
Tel: Shrewsbury 222332 (County Planning Department)

Summer Programmes - see separate sheet.

Important - Please take careful note of the other enclosed loose sheets.

IMPORTANT DATE -- THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year the A.G.M. will be held in the Walker Room of College Hill House, Shrewsbury, at 2.30 p.m. on 26th June 1982.

The meeting will be addressed by Dr Llinos Smith of the University of Aberystwyth who will speak on "SHROPSHIRE AND THE PRINCIPALITY OF WALES". This promises to be a most interesting lecture and members are reminded that this important event needs their support.

1982 SUBSCRIPTIONS

May I remind those members who have not yet paid their subscription that this was due in January. Individual membership is £4.00, family membership £5.00 and associate membership is £1.00. Please send to me as soon as possible -

Christine Carr
Hon. Membership Secretary
18 Kemps Eye Avenue
Shrewsbury
SY3 7QW

INTERIM EXCAVATION REPORTS AND FINDS

HEN DOMEN 1981

The excavations were continued from 26 June to 25 July and further work was carried out in the following areas:

1. The Defences

The main posts for the palisade and fighting platform had been renewed from time to time apparently while the superstructure, particularly the rear supporting posts, remained in situ. This was perhaps because the front of the palisade would take the brunt of the weather, especially as it faces north-west.

Excavation of post pits in the rampart revealed a softer dark layer lower down in the rampart structure.

The bulb of the rampart carrying the towers by the entrance has post pits which reveal a lower solid surface within the rampart, suggesting that the 'bulb' is a late addition.

2. Domestic buildings

The clay platform on which building LII had been constructed was removed, revealing slight but positive traces of an earlier, smaller rectangular building, LIII, which occupied the northern part of the area covered by LII. It had a central hearth and lines of stones suggested that it had timber ground cills. Beneath building LIII was a post hole building, LIV, the same size and on the same alignment. However, it is not yet clear whether building LIV, which immediately underlies LIII, is an earlier building or the same building revealed in greater detail. The two buildings certainly share the same hearth area. Both building LIII and LIV had clay floors and stood on a platform, apparently of buried soil, which had been scarped south of the buildings. The reason for this is not clear.

Gullies at the back of the rampart and at the north of building LIII and LIV led water to a previously excavated cistern. The gully below the rampart on the western side of the excavation lay close to a number of charred, apparently unworked, timbers, perhaps debris from a burned building, which had been laid in rows before being buried in clay and stones. No explanation can be offered for this curious feature.

Three further granary post pits were emptied and two samples of water-logged post bases were removed to the University of Birmingham for radio-carbon dating. The pits of two more of the posts were revealed, but not excavated.

3. Dating and Finds

The excavation this year produced very little pottery or metal finds, though a sherd of coarse fabric in one of the granary post pits implies that there was a small amount in use at the time of the building of the granary, which was probably very early in the castle's life. Otherwise we seem to be back into the virtually aceramic period which begins here on the Welsh border in the 4th or 5th century.

4. The Site Archive

Through the kindness of Montgomery Civic Society a room for storage and study has been made available in the recently opened Museum and Display Centre in The Bell, Arthur Street, Montgomery. Full records of the excavation will eventually be stored there.

5. The Settlement Pattern of the Area

Work continued on the study of the settlement pattern of the area around the site. One of us (R.A.H.) spent five weeks at Montgomery before the excavation began, working on historical and map evidence, and a synthesis of available information held in Sites and Monuments records, while also field-walking parts of the area which had hitherto not been visited. During the excavation a survey of two ridged fields, probably of Anglo-Saxon date, one close to the castle and one in Lymore Park, was carried out.

6. Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the Universities of Birmingham and Exeter for their continued support, to the Cambrian Archaeological Association for a grant towards the cost of tools, and to the British Academy for enabling R.A.H. to continue his study of the settlement pattern of the area. Once again we acknowledge the help of all those who worked on the excavation - students on the training school, volunteers and old hands - together with the kindness of Mr John Wainwright for allowing us to excavate the site, Mr Ivor Tanner, whose services are invaluable, and friends in Montgomery who make us very welcome each year.

P.A. Barker

R.A. Higham

July 1981

Excavations on the site of the Baths Basilica at Wroxeter 1981 Interim Report

Work in the 1981 season was concentrated on four areas - the northern portico with part of the adjacent north aisle at its eastern end; the robber trench of the north wall of the basilica, and part of the robber trench of its north colonnade; the annexe at the east end of the basilica; and the building frontages in Insula 2 to the north of the east west street.

A short rescue excavation was also carried out on the site of an extension to the post office which lies on the cross-roads north of the main excavation.

THE NORTHERN PORTICO

There has been evidence from earlier years that, at a late stage, the basilica's northern portico had been covered by a planked side-walk resting on longitudinal joists (Barker ed. 1-81, p.12). The surface of the portico had been levelled-up (for reasons which will be discussed below) with layers of sandy material, or, elsewhere, with mixed rubble. Further excavation of these upper surfaces revealed a mass of small post-holes. The post-holes had been cut into these levelling-up layers, and, for the most part, lay in rows between the joists, as if they were connected with the board-walk in some way. However, this was not the case everywhere, and it is possible that they had a purpose independent of, and later than, the board-walk, though what that could be is unclear.

The various layers of sand, earth and rubble were removed from the underlying pebble surface of the portico (the last of many, so far as one could see) and it was apparent that the levelling-up had been made necessary because the portico surface had collapsed in a number of places leaving depressions as much as six metres long and half a metre deep. These collapses had been so severe that they remind one of sewer collapses in modern streets and it seems most unlikely that underlying back-filled pits could have consolidated sufficiently to have caused such deep holes. It seems much more probable that the portico surface collapsed into voids. The only likely way in which this could have happened is if large open pits, such as cess-pits or settling tanks, were planked over instead of being filled in. When the planks eventually rotted, the portico surface would fall into

the spaces. If this was so, it implies a degree of sharp practice, or at least of thoughtlessness, on the part of the contractors who built the portico floor. Dame Kathleen Kenyon demonstrated in her 1940 report (*Archaeologia LXXXVIII*, 1940, plate LXIX) that at least one of these pits was 2nd century or later, probably contemporary with the building of the basilican complex, and our own emptying of earlier trenches tends to confirm this. The pits were therefore known by those who filled them in to lie on the line of the portico. (They could, for example, have been latrine pits used by the basilica's builders). If this is so, there is little excuse for leaving them as voids. Further excavation of the portico should be very interesting.

When the levelling-up layers were being removed it was found that long ridges of the material were much harder than the rest. These ridges lay in five equidistant parallel lines across the width of the portico, and seem certainly to represent places where the joists of the board-walk, carrying not only the planks but the weight of the traffic using the portico, had compressed the underlying material.

When the levelling-up material had been removed it was seen that the underlying pebble surface had, at an earlier stage, been covered with layers of hard sand and earth which had been eroded away almost entirely, except in a few places close to the wall of the basilica, where there would naturally be less wear. At one point, however, the sandy layer was worn right up to the line of the wall (since robbed out). Opposite this point, in the basilica's north aisle, was a large patch of sandstone blocks packed with small pebbles, very heavily worn. The implication must be that there was a break in the wall here, presumably at a late date, since the worn floor in the north aisle was among the latest of many.

At the extreme eastern end of the portico a hearth or oven, very late in the sequence, has been left for remanent magnetic dating, which, it is hoped, will be carried out this autumn.

THE NORTH AISLE

The eastern end of the north aisle has been very badly cut about by the trenches of earlier archaeologists which penetrated in most cases to the floor of the basilica. These trenches were emptied and the resulting islands of intact stratified material were excavated. They consisted of at least eight mortar or beaten earth floors, some of them worn as if crossed by paths. These floors seem to be confined, like the later mortar floors of the nave, to the eastern end of the aisle, though extending further westward than those in the nave.

The original floor of the basilica still carries fragments of mosaics, though much smaller in area than those published by Fox, (*Archaeological Journal*, LIV, No 214, 2nd series, IV No II, plate III op. p 166), probably due to recent robbing. However, it is apparent that most of the mosaic had gone in Roman times, since large areas of the mortar surface of the opus-signinum base were worn, and had been patched with spreads of pebble which were themselves worn.

Near the eastern end of the basilica a late mortar floor spread over a still-surviving fragment of the stylobate of the north colonnade and into the nave, forming the only surviving bridge between the two areas. Clearly there had been access at that time from the nave to the aisle between two of the columns of the nave.

The robber trench of the basilica north wall was emptied along its entire length. However, we know from previous work that the wall had been robbed out in Roman times and that the foundations of our massive timber building X overlay it (Barker, ed. 1981 p. 12). In 1981, from deep in the backfilling of the robber trench below building X came a coin of Valens (364-378), and a coin of Valentinian (364-375). The construction of building X must therefore date from very late in the 4th century, and since only a very few later coins have been found at Wroxeter, a 5th century date is possible.

Cut into the opus-signinum base of the aisle floor were a number of post-holes, three or four of them quite substantial. All but one appear to be for scaffolding or temporary structures, but one looks more permanent and some of the smaller ones are, inexplicably, in a half-circle.

THE ANNEXE

The excavation of the eastern annexe of the basilica was carried out by the students of two successive fortnight's summer schools, run by the Extramural Department of the University of Birmingham. The large number of earlier archaeological trenches which had destroyed much of the site had been emptied

during the 1980 season. Work in 1981 was therefore able to concentrate on three islands of intact stratification, one comprising what was left of a lime-slaking area which had perhaps been constructed in the corner of the then partly-standing building, another a small area with a late hearth, and the third a much larger spread of dark earth and rubble a metre deep. It might have been thought, from inspection of the exposed edges of this layer, that it was a homogeneous deposit of dumped earth, stones and tiles, but horizontal excavation revealed that it contained no less than three worn surfaces, perhaps paths, leading to a break in the precinct wall, all underlying a double path found at a higher level still. A coin of Valentinian sealed beneath the earliest of these paths shows that they were very late in the sequence of events on the site.

Preliminary examination of lime from the slaking area suggests very strongly that it is the same as that used for the late and very massive mortar base which lay near the east end of the basilica (Barker, ed. 1981, p 15). There seems to be no other purpose for slaked lime at this very late date in the occupation of the site. All the contemporary buildings were of wood, and if they were plastered no trace of the plaster has survived.

THE FRONTAGES OF INSULA 2

The northern edge of the excavation takes in a narrow strip of the frontages of the buildings lying in Insula 2 on the northern edges of the east-west street. The problem of where to draw the line in an excavation is always a difficult one. If we had taken the apparently logical step of making the edge of the excavation the centre-line of the street we now know that we should never have understood it, because of its extraordinary nature. Taking in the frontages of the buildings beyond the street has provided important information about the extent of the latest rebuilding of the city centre, together with an invaluable dating sequence (Barker, ed. 1981 p 13).

It was decided to extend the excavation northward only as far as the long east-west trench dug in 1967 and not to continue the excavation below the immediate penultimate layers, those of the buildings of the latest phases. The evidence thus exposed has been recorded and left intact so that future excavators of Insula 2 will be able to key their work into ours. In 1981 the excavation was confined to the western end of the strip previously dug and revealed the frontages or facades of further buildings, two certain and two possible. The evidence for the most westerly consisted of a rectangle of rubble with a beam-slot 2.7 metres long at its front edge and with recurrently appearing rectangular damp marks around and within it. Further east, a second building frontage of 6.7 metres wide was marked by two clay and pebble post-pads with a beam slot (not excavated) between them. There were fewer features east of this building though lines of nails and an edge parallel to the street between dark earth and a yellow clay/earth mixture suggests one or two framed buildings here.

The variety of building techniques used shows that each was constructed individually, although the use of red clay for post-pads and post-hole packing links most of the buildings north of the street.

DATING

The sequence of events and their dating is now becoming clearer.

The stratified coins of Valens and Valentinian (see above) are further evidence that the last extensive re-building of the city centre was at a date close to AD 400. The relative sequence of events is also becoming more certain. When the drains and water-pipes along the southern edge of the east-west street were excavated (in 1980) a large number of curved, moulded lumps of mortar were found associated with the wooden water pipes. Their function is uncertain, though the most likely suggestion is that they were chocks to hold the wooden pipes in position. However that may be, a number of them were found incorporated in the rubble which had been used to level-up the portico floor before the building of the wooden board-walk. In addition, much of the rubble used for this levelling-up looked very like the debris left over from the routine sifting of all deposits which is carried out during the excavation. It is not easy to understand how the water-pipe 'chocks' arrived in this rubble unless the drain in front of the portico colonnade had recently been dug out. The material used to level-up the portico does not include rounded pebbles such as those used to build the original streets, so that the digging out of the pebble street for the laying of the 'gravel' street may be a later operation. It is certainly difficult to

understand why the board-walk and the 'gravel' street should have been built simultaneously. Ultimately the board-walk was removed for the construction of the large timber-framed building X (Barker, ed. 1981, Fig. 4 pp 10-11) which extended to the northern edges of the portico and this is probably when the 'gravel' street was constructed.

Building X, therefore, also extended across the back-filled robber trench of the north wall of the basilica (which may have been still standing at the time of the board-walk, though with openings through it). The filling of this trench contained large fragments of human skull similar to those found in the rubble platforms which were laid as the foundation for building X. It appears, therefore, that the dispersion of the skulls, the robbing-out of the basilica's north wall and the laying of the rubble foundations were all contemporary, and it is likely that the demolished north wall provided much of the rubble for the foundation of building X.

The beaten earth floor immediately above the earliest mortar floor of the north aisle of the basilica floor contained a coin of Julia Mamaea (c. 218-235) and early 3rd century pottery, while the latest levelling-up dumps and paths over the aisle excavated in 1981 contained a coin of Constantine the Great dating from 330-335.

In 1979 a number of exotic sherds was found in one of two rectangular pits or post-holes on the extreme northern edge of the site in grid 48 alpha. One of these sherds, from a thin-walled ribbed jar, has been identified by John Hayes as being of Carthage, Late Roman Amphora Type 15, of Aegean origin and datable at Carthage to c. 425-440. Although the post-hole/pit from which the sherds came was not sealed nor cannot, at present, be linked to a particular building, it must have been open in the second quarter of the 5th century or later. This lends further weight to our assumption that the latest buildings on the site lasted well into the 5th century.

THE WROXETER POST-OFFICE EXTENSION

The writer was asked to organise a rescue excavation in advance of the enlargement of the Post Office at Wroxeter. The building, the old smithy, lies on the north-eastern corner of the modern crossroads, about 100 metres north of the excavation described above.

The Post Office excavation will be the subject of a report now in preparation, so that this note merely records the results briefly. Inevitably, this small excavation proved to be much more complicated than had been expected. The modern building had itself been rebuilt on a different alignment in the 18th century (presumably after the fire recorded by Thomas Telford in *Archaeologia* IX, 1789, p. 324). At least one of the rebuilt walls stood directly on a Roman wall, and, although our excavation was everywhere limited in depth to the minimum requirements of the rebuilding, Roman features were discovered in many of the trenches. Principally, two parallel walls lay at right angles to the line of the Watling Street. The trenches did not, however, reach the floors associated with these walls.

The digging of a soakaway in the north-eastern corner of the garden provided an unexpected sequence. The pit for the soakaway exposed the southern edge of the east-west street bounding the insula, together with an open drain (which may have been an open sewer, soil analysis pending) that had replaced a tile-built drain. What was most interesting was that the drain and the street so far as it was seen had been cut across by a wide and massive foundation, of alternate layers of keuper marl, river boulders and large pebbles. On the analogy of similar foundations discovered on the site of the main excavation, this must be the foundation for a very large timber building with ground-sills, which lay across the street at a very late date in the history of the city. This is further evidence, therefore, that the final rebuilding of the city centre extended at least into Insula 2 and probably beyond.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Once again thanks must go principally to those who worked on the site in all capacities from trowellers to supervisors, especially as the season was one of the best in the history of the excavation. Thanks also to the staff of the Department of the Environment for their help with the organisation of the work, to Mrs Sue Everall for permission to survey the putative site of Wroxeter Castle, and to those friends and colleagues who visited the site, giving their time to lecture to the training schools, or discussing the excavation and its implications.

Summary of the 1981 season of the excavation on the site of the macellum in the baths insula at Virconium (Wroxeter)

The most difficult problem presented by this season's work has been the identification of, and relationships with, the structures and levels of the period of the latest legionary fortress (c. AD 85) and those of the town houses of the first city (c. AD 85-125). The area at present under exploration below the Hadrianic macellum is that of the legionary defences and intervallum road above which lies the western sector of the early city. The uppermost intervallum road and the stone rampart building have been clearly defined. The latter had undergone changes which included an extension to the N. which more than doubled its length and which led to the demolition of two small timber cook-houses. The interior had several clay floors and the fireplace had been altered three times, each with a raising of the level. In the final phase, a new door was placed at the point where the building had been extended and there were two timber E.W. partitions with a third N.S. joining them to form an entrance vestibule. An interesting and unexpected development was an extension to the E. from the S.E. corner of the stone building in the form of a beam slot with a return which gave a width of 2.25m. to the added building. It had a clay floor abutting the outer E. wall of the stone building, but this floor extended even further to the E. beyond the N.S. beam slot. More beam slots from the N.E. corner of the stone building in Area (91) indicate the presence of a larger and more complicated building which would have effectively prevented any through passage along the intervallum road. At first it was thought that this was civil development using the E. wall of the stone building, but this was proved to be stratigraphically impossible. The E. part of the clay floor, E. of the Hadrianic trench had two levels over it. The earlier was a pinkish-white mortar bedding for a pebble surface, above this was a spread of broken amphorae, other pottery and tiles, including roofers, with pebbles and showing a well-trodden surface. The pottery from this layer has a distinctly civil flavour. When this was removed it appeared that the surface below had been disturbed and a stone and tile structure, possibly a hearth, dismantled. The evidence, although slight, seems to indicate a levelling and removal of the latest military deposits, including the demolition spread for the laying of a pebble surface in the civil period. On the W. side of the Hadrianic trench there were no indications of the civil period, the highest surviving deposits being military destruction.

In Area (91) (the N. corridor) there were greater complications. An E.W. beam slot extended from the N.E. corner of the stone building, with a return at a distance of 1.70m. and its N.E. corner 6m. from the corner of the stone building. This plan does not fit the added timber structure in the central macellum area, and it will be necessary to examine two of the square shop areas of the macellum between this and (91) to fill in the missing structural elements. At the E. end of (91), there is a building with clay and timber walls and a clay floor, previously considered to be civil, but the structural sequence combined with the difficult stratigraphical relationships, worsened by the cutting of the Hadrianic trench, seem now to indicate that it may be a military building, but this question remains open for further study next year.

At the W. end of (91), it appears that the undoubted civil buildings, the deep slots of which cut into the rampart and military structures, have no floors or demolition layers associated with them and a clearance and levelling must be presumed at an early stage of the Hadrianic building programme.

The discovery of a second abortive Hadrianic trench at the E. end of (91) gives some support for the suggestion that the first plan for the insula was that of a forum.

In the W. portico, work was continued in the Hadrianic construction layers with an effort to understand the original flooring arrangements. A plan of the emplacements for the stone blocks or slabs is emerging, but the problem remains of the floor in the strips against the W. wall of the macellum and E. side of the stylobate. The interpretation is made difficult by the presence of a number of large pits cut through the Hadrianic mortar construction layer after the stone paving blocks had been removed. One pit (101), was emptied completely and found to contain a large quantity of bone with a sterile sealing layer. The bones are mainly ribs, scapulae and skull fragments, suggesting the absence of prime joints and hinting at possible meat-pie or sausage production in the stylobate with a stall on the street side. The area at the S. end of the portico is full of very

large pits, exhibiting considerable sinkage which has preserved several layers of pebble floors. This should help considerably in building a complete sequence of the flooring which post-dates the pits. The dating of the pits is not yet secure, but No. 104 contained at least one vessel of the early-mid 3rd century. In the S. corridor, a sequence of timber structures was examined at the W. end, but beyond the modern septic-tank trench a large pit produced a quantity of animal bones.

Area (80) was the most satisfactory in producing conclusions. The two period stylobate wall was studied and it soon became evident that they both belonged to the change in the Hadrianic scheme, since the foundations of the second wall were entirely composed of re-used stones, presumably from the demolished first period bath-house, including a sawn tufa voussoir and pieces of flue-tile. At the base of the Hadrianic fill was a well-trodden pebble layer, assigned to the early civil period and below this, immediate contact was made with the demolished military structures and pits. This area has to date produced at last 5 palisade slots, 5 pits and 3 post-holes.

Among the small finds was a fragment of an oculist's stamp with remarkably fine lettering cut in a piece of fine grained schist and a sherd of pottery of unusual interest. Dr. Ian Kinnes reports that in outline the sherd is within the later Neolithic Peterborough tradition in the formative Ebbsfleet style. This material is rare in the west but the assemblage from Bryn yr Hen Bobl, Anglesey, provides relatively good parallels (*Archaeologia* 85, 253; *Megalithic Enquiries in the West of Britain*, 161; Lynch: *Prehistoric Anglesey*, 68). Form: necked bowl with everted thickened rim. Decoration: on rim 2 rows of close set 'comma'-shaped stabs; on internal bevel three rows of paired oval impressions accomplished by 'rocker' techniques; on exterior below rim what might be the edge of an impressed pit. The lower register is almost certainly accomplished by the use of a bird-bone, the distal condyles of a femur or humeruns; the upper 2 lines might well have been made by the proximal end of the same bone. Fabric: unusually well-fired; exterior surface wiped and smoothed; external light brown, core dark; sand filler with quartz inclusions and rare burnt flint. It was recovered from the Hadrianic levelling dump and can be reasonably assumed to have come originally from the vicinity of Viroconium, if not the site itself.

(see plan on page 8)

FINDS

The treasure trove inquest on the hoard of 3rd century coins found at Hatton Farm, Childs Ercall in March 1980 (S.N.L. XI,4) was held at Wellington on 5 March 1982. The delay was because an Appeal Court decision was awaited on whether the Crown's right to treasure trove was limited to articles only of gold or silver (*The Times* 19 November 1981). The hoard consisted of 2906 antoniniani ranging from Valerian I (AD 253) to Probus (AD 282) including 49 contemporary forgeries and 4 illegible; the likely date of deposition being AD 278-280. Of these 26 coins of Valerian family and Postumus were deemed to be treasure trove and were claimed by the Crown. The jar in which they were found is of Alice Holt ware from Surrey/Hants, and can be dated to AD 270-350. It is hoped to publish a full report on the hoard in the future.

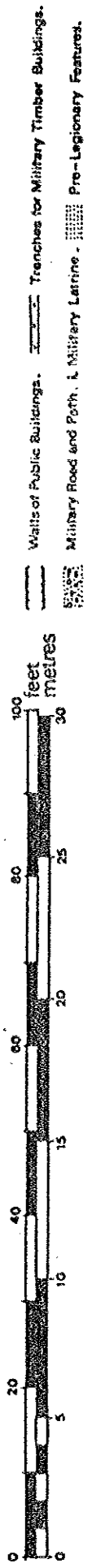
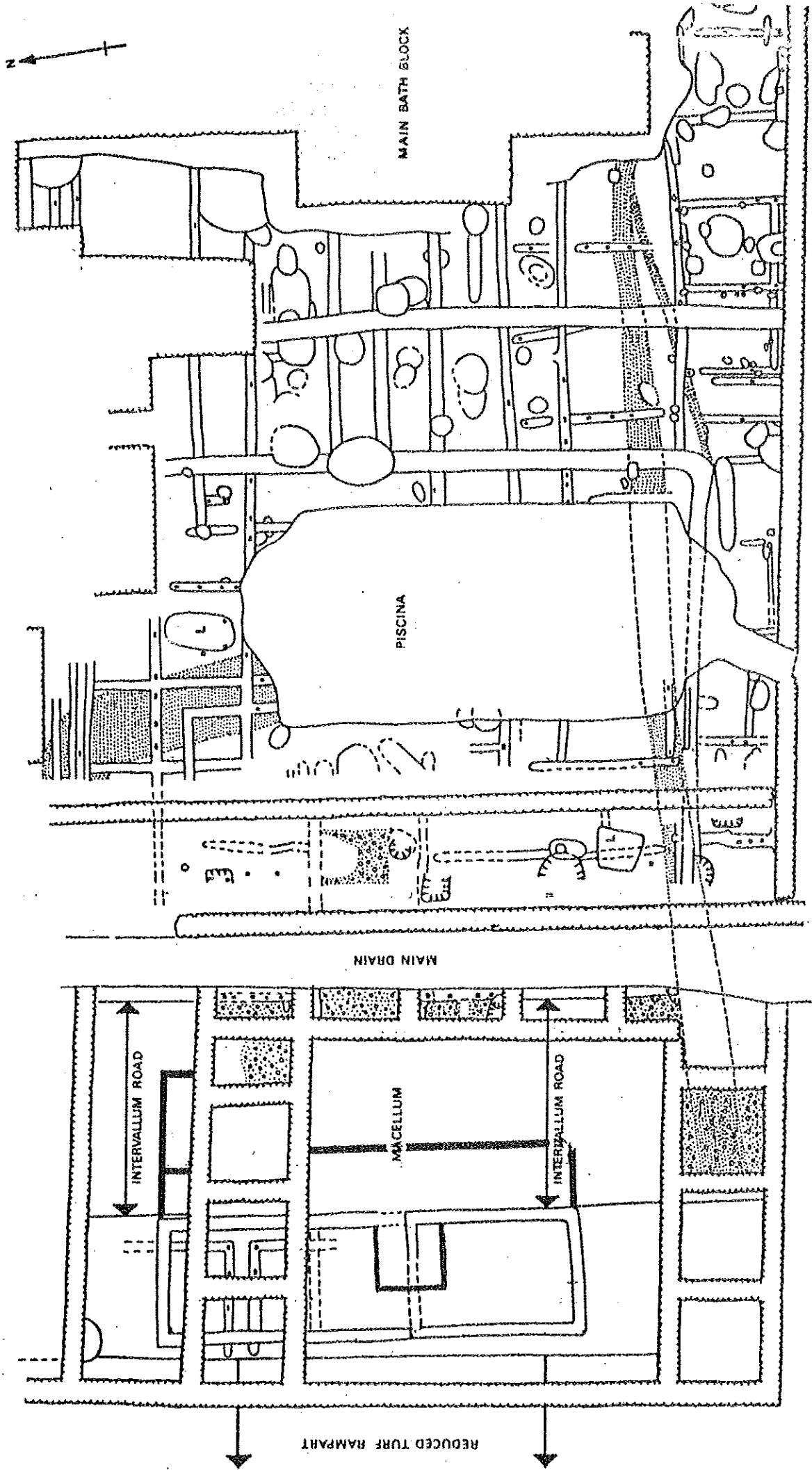
Alan Tyler 8 March 1982

THE WORK OF LOCAL GROUPS

Telford Historical & Archaeological Society Architectural Recording

The architectural recording group has continued its efforts in the area north of the new town, but with a fairly slow rate of progress during the harsh winter. An external examination of all the buildings in the parish of Kymmersley has been all but completed, and some similar progress made in Lilleshall. This has led on to a start on the measured survey of some brick cottages, and some timber framed agricultural buildings. In the parish of Cold Hatton (an outlying part of the Lilleshall estate) a very large farmhouse has been measured, drawn and analysed. Some cottages of the standard Sutherland pattern have also been measured, including one at Cold Hatton which incorporated the remains of a large domed ice-house, which evidently predated the cottage. The history of this remains to be clarified. (cont'd on page 9)

WROXETER BATHS INSULA. SOUTH WEST CORNER



Work has also been done on examining the Lilleshall estate archives in the County Record Office. The estate kept detailed records of landlord's work of repairs and rebuilding, especially from the 1830s. With these and the evidence of tenancy lists, collections of deeds, etc., it is hoped to work out much of the history of farms, cottages and other buildings on the estate.

Anyone who would like to join the architectural recording group will be most welcome. No previous experience is necessary, nor any special equipment. Anyone interested should contact Lance Smith on Telford 594062.

Documentary Research

Most of the work in this category has been tied to the work described above on the Lilleshall records. Other areas of research are planned for the future, however, and anyone who would like to get to grips with old documents, learning how to read and understand them, is invited to get in touch with Alastair Penfold, 15 Forresters Close, Horsehay, Telford. Tel: Telford 507310.

Archaeology

Work was continued through the autumn and early winter on sites near the route of the M54 motorway. A section was made in the old turnpike road, and much survey work was carried out. During the winter months obviously digging came to a halt, but members of the group attended a conference at Birmingham University in December on the subject of Villages, Settlement and the Development of the English Landscape. They also went on a 'church crawl' down Corvedale, visiting Holdgate, Tugford and Heath Chapel.

During the coming summer it is hoped to carry on working around the motorway and to survey a new house site and its surroundings near the Nedge. Anyone who would like to join this group is invited to meet in the Lion Pub Car Park, Priorslee, at 7.30 p.m. on the 22nd April, or to ring Bob Cromarty on Telford 461184.

Day School on Research in Telford - Autumn 1982

It is hoped to organise a day school in September or October 1982 at which members of the Society and others working on local history in the area could give a report on their progress. This would be a fairly informal gathering, and will possibly be combined with talks on research skills such as palaeography, dating in historical documents, etc. If you would like to contribute a report on your work, however brief, please contact Neil Clarke, Telford 504135, who is trying to organise this event.

1982 Summer and Spring Programme

- | | |
|--|---|
| Thursday, 1st April
St. Leonard's Church,
Malinslee
7.30 p.m. | The Design of New Towns - An Historical Perspective.
Sir Frederick Gibberd, the architect/planner of Harlow, will talk about the design of new towns, with special reference to Harlow. (Please note change of date and venue for this talk). |
| Thursday, 13th May
Belmont Hall,
Wellington
7.30 p.m. | Annual General Meeting. The business meeting of the Society, which is not expected to take too long, will be followed by a talk on Rural Change and Economic Development in Late Tudor and Stuart Telford, given by Dr. Peter Edwards of the Roehampton Institute. |
| Saturday 22nd May | Visit to Much Wenlock Shropshire Archaeological Society Members very welcome. A Saturday afternoon visit to Much Wenlock, when we will be taken on a guided walk round the town by Sam Mullins, Curator of the Much Wenlock Museum. We will visit the Museum and the remains of Wenlock Priory during the afternoon. Travel by private car (please ring the Secretary if you need transport) and meet outside the Museum at 2.30 p.m. |

Saturday 12th June

Day Visit to the Cardiff area by coach. Shropshire Archaeological Society Members very welcome. The Folk Museum at St. Fagans will be the main object of this trip, but it will also include a visit to either Castell Coch or the Roman sites at Caerleon and Caerwent. The coach will depart from the Town Centre at 9.00 a.m. and will depart from the Cardiff area at about 6.30 p.m. If you would like to come please fill in the enclosed form. Cost will be about £3.50 each for the coach plus admission charges. (see form at end of News Letter)

July, date to be arranged

The Military Museums of Shrewsbury. A tour of the four military museums in Shrewsbury, starting at Coleham Drill Hall at 9.00 a.m. The tour will probably take all morning. Car parking will be available at all of the sites, though car sharing where possible would probably make it easier. This tour will be led by Geoffrey Archer Parfitt, who gave the Society an interesting talk on the military history of the area in February.

Ludlow Historical Research Group

The group has met regularly on Friday evenings during the autumn, winter and spring, with an average attendance of 20. Much important work has been done at other times by small groups and individuals.

A good deal of the group's energy has been expended on tenurial reconstruction. The material accumulated during previous years for Galdeford and Castle Street has been processed while many of the documents on Mill Street, Dinham and Linney have been transcribed. In many cases links have been made with the remarkable 'Muniments of Title' collection which Michael Faraday has now transcribed, translated and indexed.

Grids showing ownership and tenancy of property are in an advanced stage of preparation for all these parts of the town. This has revealed useful information about the town plan and about patterns of tenure. In the seventeenth century, for example, the majority of properties along the north side of Castle Street were occupied by members and officials of the Council of the Marches. The sites of Nos. 54-56 Mill Street were occupied by the Shambles and when these were removed in the 1740s they were replaced by the three elegant brick houses which are still standing today. In the sixteenth century the southern side of what is now Tower Street was occupied entirely by bakers but in the early seventeenth century the property nearest to Galdeford Gate was converted into the House of Correction. From the Middle Ages until the eighteenth century the road parallel to Corve Street now known as Linney was called Broad Linney while Green Linney was a lane further to the west. The site of the medieval fulling mill in Linney has been identified on a branch of the Corve which still had water in it in the nineteenth century.

All this has provided the material for the reconstruction of medieval burgage plots. Earlier work on Broad Street, Corve Street and the Bull Ring had suggested a standard burgage width of 33' and such plots seem to recur in Tower Street. Along the north side of Castle Street the plots are 42' wide whilst in Galdeford they are 28'. In Linney, on the other hand, burgages were 56' wide. These discrepancies have obvious implications for our understanding of the early growth of the town. The University of Birmingham is arranging a day school in Ludlow in the autumn to examine these findings more closely and Terry Slater of the University Geography Department has been doing interesting work with students, measuring the plots of today.

Some group members have begun the great labour of transcribing all the Church Wardens Accounts while others have been working on 'the Norton papers', a collection of largely nineteenth century sale notices and other ephemera. All the pre-1660 probate material at Hereford Record Office has now been transcribed. With the wills already transcribed at the Public Record Office this gives us a collection of some 500. The last batch to be done included several wills of the pre-1560 period which give information about Ludlow's flourishing cloth trade, e.g. Roger Worre, who sent up to London '9 long whyte cloths' price £34 4s 4d; and also '7 other whyte cloths which I have at price £23.10s.' These may be 'the Ludlow Whytes' mentioned in a sixteenth century Chantry Case. We are now systematically working through all the

post 1660 material, which includes a number of inventories. Generally their quality is not high though useful inventories have been found for an ironmonger, 2 saddlers, a hat maker and a tobacconist, as well as the more usual mercers, innkeepers and tanners.

The visit of the Vernacular Architecture Group on 16 April has provided a spur for the recording of buildings. This summer we hope to continue the work by fully recording Barnaby House and by examining the complex of buildings around Quality Square. Documentary work has provided a number of useful building dates, e.g. the enigmatic Castle Lodge, described as 'recently rebuilt' in the 1590s from three earlier buildings. Early documents provide a number of interesting references to buildings, e.g. the Assize Rolls tell us that the 'fork' (presumably a cruck) which accidentally killed Peter Gelemin in 1272 was worth 6d!

The most exciting architectural work has been that carried out by Peter Howell and Margaret Richards on the Feathers, which has revealed an earlier house 'inside' the early seventeenth century building. This was probably the house of Thomas Hackluit, Secretary of the Council of the Marches until his death in 1537, who certainly owned the property. Ludlow Research Paper No. 5, due out this summer, will be on the Feathers, while several others are projected. One of these will be Madge Moran's book on the Guildhall, study of which has been facilitated by maintenance repairs recently carried out.

This summer members of the group will be organising guided historic tours of the town. These will take place each Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday, starting at the Cannon in Castle Square at a cost of 25p. We hope readers of this News Letter will help to publicise these tours.

David Lloyd,
54 Pickwick Grove, Moseley,
Birmingham B13 9LN

Tong Archaeological Group

Tong Castle Excavation

Phase I -- Nearly all the excavation work within the motorway cutting through the site is now completed with the Courtyard building on the top edge of the cutting being excavated in advance of the Keep excavation to avoid damage during fence erection.

The motorway cutting through the west Outer Wall just caught the end of the medieval rubbish dump below the wall and excavation of the dump has so far produced more 12 to 14C glass, bronze and pottery to date than has been previously excavated from the whole castle area.

Phase II -- The extent of the excavation work to the west of the Stables was far greater than was earlier envisaged and has produced an almost cross section of the various Castle buildings located on the site.

The whole area has now been conserved and access provided to the various excavated areas and this can be seen by approaching the Castle alongside the Church Pool.

Phase III -- The complete excavation of the Keep is due to start at the beginning of April and when completed the whole area will be landscaped leaving just the Well-head visible for reference.

Access to the Keep excavation is at present not possible from the Convent Lodge because the track has been removed by motorway work and although it will be re-routed this work will not be carried out till the summer.

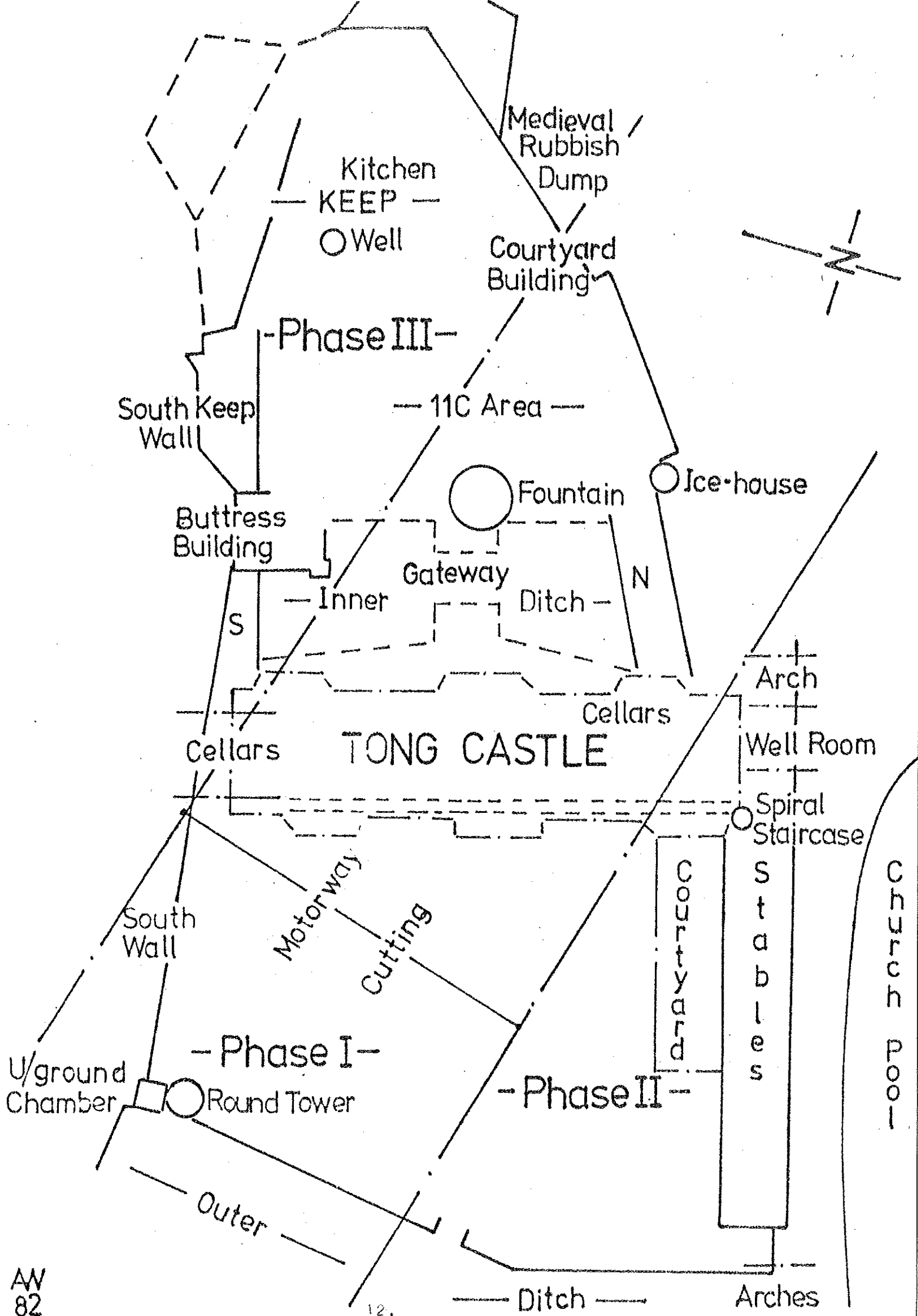
College of St. Bartholomew Excavation

Now that the Tong Castle excavation is being carried out on a full time basis by a Community Enterprise Programme, the group has re-started work on the College site.

Further extensive probing has indicated the possibility of a second parallel building, as shown on 1739 Map of Tong, and the Trial excavation so far has located a section of the north Outer Wall of the College.

Alan Wharton -- Director of Excavations

(see plan on page 12)



COURSES AND CONFERENCES

23rd - 25th April 1982
Westham Adult Residential
College, Barford,
Warwick.

ROMAN VILLAS IN BRITAIN:-- beginnings and ends. An exploration of their origins and the way British farmers adapted to the new economy. Also, the evidence for their decline at the end of the Fourth century will be examined, together with the possibilities of survival into Saxon England.

Details from Miss J.M. Lawson, University of Birmingham, Department of Extramural Studies, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

24th April 1982
Faculty of Arts
University of
Birmingham

RECENT RECORDING OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE IN THE WEST MIDLANDS. Starting with a nation wide survey of building types and concluding with details of buildings in the West Midlands with particular attention to roofs.

Details from Miss J.M. Lawson as above.

11th - 13th June 1982
Attingham Park,
Nr. Shrewsbury

RECENT PROGRESS IN BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY. During the weekend a number of distinguished speakers will describe their recent work -- some on specific sites, others on wider projects.

Details from Miss J.M. Lawson.

June 5th 1982
The Guildhall,
Much Wenlock

RESCUING THE COUNTY'S PAST. A one day seminar on the technique and uses of oral history arranged by the Museum Service. Speakers will include experts in the field giving advice on how to go about interviewing and will present examples of information gained from individuals in Shropshire and further afield. Coffee, lunch and tea will be provided at a covering charge.

Details from Sam Mullins at Much Wenlock Museum.
Tel: Much Wenlock 727773.

THE INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

In the Institute of Industrial Archaeology, the Ironbridge Gorge Museum and the University of Birmingham co-operate in organising research and course programmes which will advance understanding of industrial history and archaeology, and provide the professional skills necessary for recording, conserving and managing industrial monuments and collections of artifacts.

The Diploma Course

The Institute offers a one year full-time course leading to the award of a post-graduate diploma by the University of Birmingham. Through three terms of lectures, seminars and fieldwork, followed by a supervised dissertation, it provides the academic understanding and practical and managerial expertise now required for a career in the many fields related to industrial archaeology. Where the short courses consider important issues in industrial archaeology, they will form part of the diploma programme. This course may also be undertaken on a part-time basis.

Research

There has been close co-operation between the Ironbridge Gorge Museum and the Universities of Birmingham and Aston over joint research projects for several years. Valuable work has been completed on the industrial revolution in Shropshire and broader studies on the history of materials, designs, industrial and social organisation. To encourage the fullest use of its facilities and resources the Institute has published a list of the major subjects on which it would welcome proposals for postgraduate studies.

Programme of Short Courses 1982

Mon 5 - Thurs 8 April

SURVEYING AND RECORDING CANAL REMAINS. A practical seminar involving work on the Shrewsbury Canal, providing an opportunity to gain practical experience in the conservation and recording of the remains of navigable Waterways. Ironbridge. Director, Tony Clayton.

- Thurs 15 – Mon 19 April CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE. A study of the many varieties of archaeology in Shropshire. Attingham. Directors: Michael Stratton and Dr. Barrie Trinder.
- Fri 23 – Sun 25 April THE CLASSICAL TRADITION IN THE INDUSTRIAL AGE. How architects working in the classical idiom reacted to the challenge of designing shirehalls, railway stations and other public buildings in the early nineteenth century. Includes visits to Chester, Liverpool, Shrewsbury and Birmingham. Attingham. Directors: Michael Stratton and Dr. Barrie Trinder.
- Fri 7 – Sun 9 May THE RURAL ORIGINS OF INDUSTRY. A study of the scattered open communities of the North and the Midlands which during the eighteenth century grew into major centres of industry. Ironbridge. Principal Lecturers: Dr. David Hey and Dr. Marie Rowlands. Director: Dr. Barrie Trinder.
- Fri 14 – Sun 16 May THE LATER WORKS OF THOMAS TELFORD. The exploration of some of the mature works of one of the greatest British engineers. The weekend includes a tour of the Holyhead Road, visiting Pontcysyllte and Menai Bridge, and a cruise on a Telford canal. Attingham. Directors: Alistair Penfold and Dr. Barrie Trinder.
- Tues 18 May PERIOD PAINT. A seminar on the conservation and replication of historic paint finishes in buildings and works of engineering. Ironbridge. Director, Stuart Smith.
- Sat 12 – Sun 13 June THE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH COAL INDUSTRY. A review of current research. Birmingham. Directors: Professor John Harris and Michael Stratton.
- Fri 19 – Sun 21 June THE ZENITH OF SHROPSHIRE INDUSTRY. A review of the cultural and intellectual background of the age of Abraham Darby III, William Reynolds, Lord Dundonald, Charles Eage and Thomas Telford. Ironbridge. Director, Dr. Barrie Trinder.
- Sat 21 – Sat 28 August THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ENGLISH MIDLANDS. A summer school, with particular emphasis on field work in the Ironbridge Gorge, and visits to the Potteries, the Black Country and the Clee Hills. Ironbridge. Directors: Michael Stratton and Dr. Barrie Trinder.
- Sat 2 – Sun 3 October THE COALPORT CONFERENCE. The annual meeting for collectors and historians of Shropshire ceramics. Director, Denis Blake Roberts.
- Fri 8 – Mon 11 October THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION. The technology, construction and design of farm buildings and approaches to their conservation. Attingham. Director, John Weller.

Brochures from Institute of Industrial Archaeology, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7AW

MISCELLANEOUS

International Society for Study of Church Monuments

Church monuments are a fascinating field of study which have received remarkably little attention compared with many other topics of historical and archaeological interest. Apart from the pioneering works of Mrs Esdaile and Rupert Gunnis in the fifties, little of note has been published on the subject until the appearance of Bryan Kemp's English Church Monuments earlier this year.

The ISSCM was founded in 1979 to provide a forum for the exchange of information among students of monuments of all periods through meetings, publications, and symposia. A Bulletin is published twice yearly, and both day and weekend meetings are held at various centres during the year. If the ISSCM is to succeed, it is essential that all who are interested in church monuments should join. The annual subscription is £3,50, and full details may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Mr P.J.Lankester, c/o Dept., of History, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow G3 8AG. M.E.S.

Shropshire Deeds in Glamorgan Record Office

Shropshire Record Office has recently been notified of the whereabouts of a very large collection of Shropshire deeds relating to property distributed throughout the whole of this county. The deeds form part of a vast collection accumulated by the former Cardiff City Library, now the Central Library of the South Glamorgan Library Service. They were transferred in 1976 to the care of the Glamorgan Archive Service and are stored in County Hall, Cardiff. The whole collection relates mainly to Wales and the Border Counties and was partially catalogued by the library, including a proportion of the deeds relating to Shropshire, the entries being arranged chronologically under the county to which they refer, regardless of parish or original source. The County Archivist of Glamorgan, Mrs Pat Moore, has very kindly supplied us with an unbound copy of the Shropshire section of the catalogue which covers a substantial proportion of those deeds which relate to this county. The unbound catalogue pages are being re-arranged where possible to indicate original collections. This process has revealed, so far, groups of entries for the Baldwins of Diddlebury, the Yonges of Caynton, the Tayleurs of Meeson and the Thornes of Shelvock. Where evidence of an original grouping is not apparent a topographical criterion is being substituted. The collection dates mainly from the 16th to the 19th century, but there are a few medieval deeds, for example, one for Sontsathe (? Sansaw) of 1318; and one for Aston (Munslow) of 1341.

Evidence of the provenance of these deeds is, in many instances, no longer available. The majority were bought from dealers between the 1920's and 1950's; others were deposited by the British Records Association.

Of the uncatalogued deeds there are eight large boxes which Mr Richard Morgan, our Assistant Archivist, has recently examined. They relate chiefly to the Whixall and Wem area, to Shrewsbury, Ewelith and Albrighton (nr. Shifnal), Eardington and Bridgnorth, Bishop's Castle, Holdgate and St. Martin's, and date mainly from the 16th to the 19th century. There are a number of early grants, namely of lands at Worthen, Cruckton and Aston Pigott by William Forster of Shrewsbury to David ap Meredith of (Stoney) Stretton, 1461; of lands at Othall in Colemere, 1430; of houses in Romaldesham (Barker St.) Shrewsbury by Thomas Felur c. 1400; and of lands at Munslow and Stanton Long, 1407, by John Wenlok, rector of Thonglands.

Anyone wishing to consult these records after using the catalogue in Shropshire Record Office, should follow the guidelines issued by Glamorgan Archive Service inserted in the front of the catalogue.

Marion T. Halford, County Archivist.

Wroxeter Photographs Appeal

Since the early excavations of the Baths and Forum at Wroxeter were undertaken the standards of archaeological recording have risen considerably, and it is now clear that a great deal is absent from the original excavation reports. Also, the Baths site has now been open for a very long time and therefore many details have eroded away and been lost.

Because of these two factors the Society has, at the request of Donald Mackreth and Dr. Graham Webster, decided to launch an appeal to the public for the loan of any old privately taken photographs of either the Baths or the Forum during and after excavation, be they simple family snaps or great set-piece single plates. Such photographs could provide a unique opportunity to see little regarded items that may well prove to be valuable in our interpretation of these sites. Members of the public may also have in their possession drawings and watercolours of the Baths and Forum sites, and while such pictures may not have the indiscriminating eye of the camera, they, nevertheless have a value in that they could have been done at a time when the camera was not as common. If any members of the Society have in their possession such material or know of anyone else who may have, would they please bring it along and deposit it with Mr Tony Carr, at the Local Studies Library, St. Mary's Church Hall, Shrewsbury. It is hoped too that copies could be made, with the owners permission, of any which may contain significant detail now lost, so as to make a permanent record that could then become available to the general public as well as for the purpose of academic research.

Michael D. Watson, Secretary, Shropshire Archaeological Society.

County Museum Service

Acton Scott, Much Wenlock and Ludlow Museums open for the summer season on April 5th. There are many changes in the exhibitions, notably a new display on shops and shopping at Wenlock and a Victorian naturalist's study at Ludlow. A programme of guided walks at Wenlock has been arranged for July, August and September and anyone interested should contact the Museum for a programme. Telephone: Much Wenlock 727773.

Shropshire Inventories in the PRO

A start has been made on tracing Shropshire probate inventories proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, now available at the Public Record Office. They are proving to be for the most part very detailed and easy of access at Chancery Lane. A list of all Shropshire inventories in classes PROB 2,3,4,5 has been compiled and once typed, copies will be deposited in the Local Studies Library and County Record Office. If anyone has the opportunity to work at the PRO on this source, contact Sam Mullins (tel: 50336) who has already transcribed and copied many Shropshire examples, to avoid duplication.

New Publications

An Illustrated History of Shrewsbury by E.J.Priestley, M.A., M.Phil., A.M.A., Curator Shrewsbury Museums published by Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council - £1 from local bookshops and Clive House Museum. An attractive booklet describing the growth of Shrewsbury from its origins to the present day including the Battle of Shrewsbury, in connection with which the author has done extensive research.

To: Miss S. Rayska, 28 Oak Street, Shrewsbury.

Outing to the Cardiff Area and St. Fagans

I/We would like to come on the outing on Saturday 12th June. Please reserve places for me/us. I enclose payment of £3.50 per person for the coach, and I understand that entrance fees to the St. Fagans Museum (30p) and to any other sites are not included. If the coach is full, a small refund on the fare will be made. Cheques should be made out to Telford Historical and Archaeological Society.

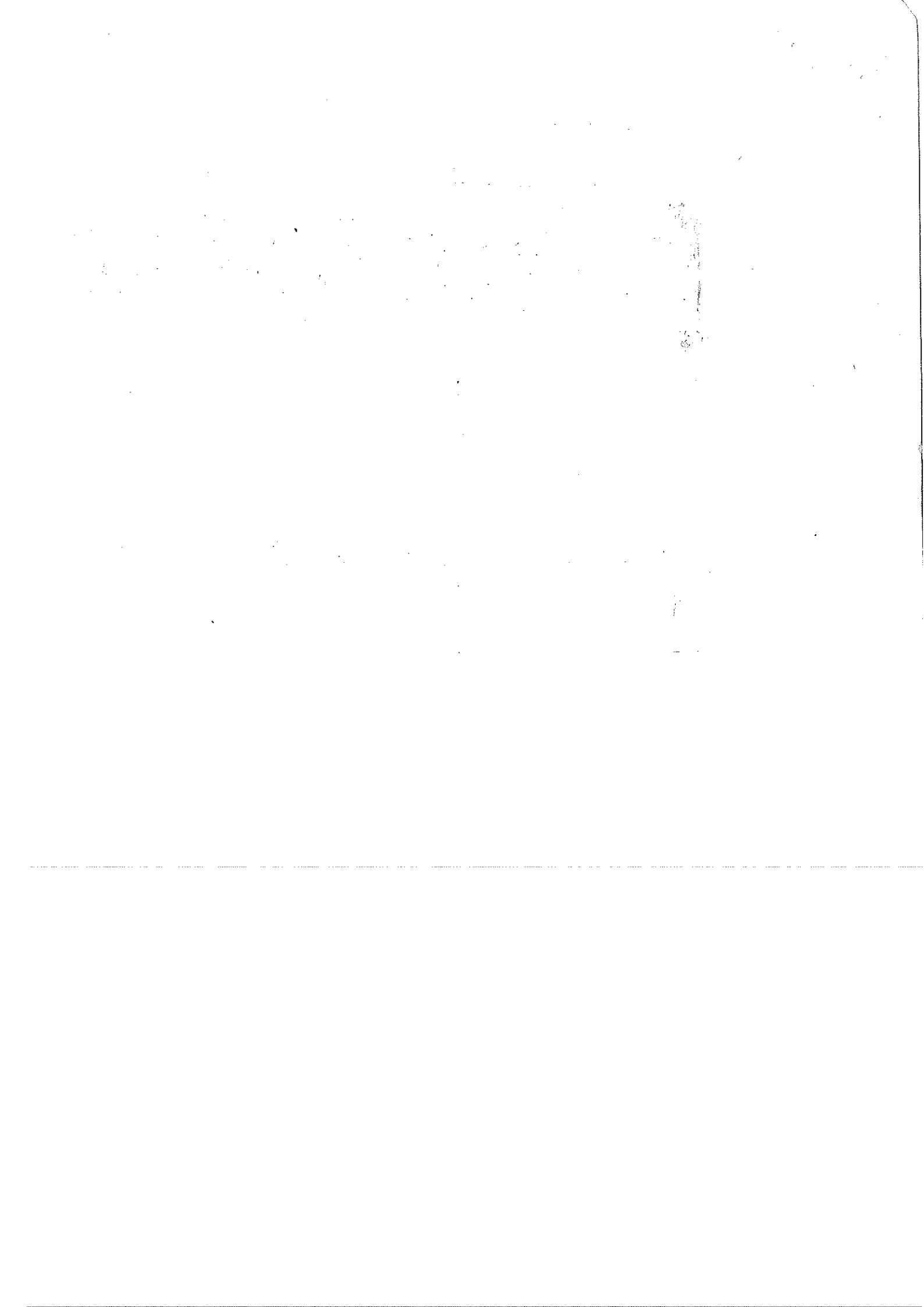
Name

Address

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PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY THE 15TH MAY 1982 AT THE LATEST



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS BULLETIN

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Edited by Carole Ryan, 6 Church View, Preston Gubbals, near Shrewsbury.

Tel: Shrewsbury 222332 (County Planning Department)

WINTER PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

All meetings will commence at 2.30 p.m. at the Bear Steps.

October 9th - Mr Derek Pratt

"Disused Waterways of North Shropshire, past, present and future.

November 13th - Mr Stephen Bassett (University of Birmingham)

"The Supremacy of Mercia"

December 11th - Mr John Manley

"Excavations of a late Saxon Burh at Rhuddlan (AD921).

January 8th - Post Christmas Members Afternoon -

All archaeological society members are invited to a members gathering to show and/or watch slides of interesting historic/archaeological sites and buildings seen at home and abroad this last summer. Tea and refreshments will be available at a small charge. Tickets will be available during previous winter meetings or from the local studies library up and until the day itself.

Note: It would be helpful if members wishing to show slides could contact David Pannet (Shrewsbury 850794) and give an indication of the number and subject of their slides.

February 12th - Dr. David Robinson (Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust)

"The Buildings of the Austin Canons in England and Wales".

March 12th - Mr T.J.Strickland (Grosvenor Museum - Chester)

"Recent Excavations in the Legionary Fortress at Chester".

Future Dates:

June 25th - Dr. Christopher Salisbury will be the speaker at the AGM describing research work on the gravel deposits of the Trent Valley.

Dr. Salisbury was runner up in the BBC Chronicle awards for amateur archaeologists in 1980.

INTERIM EXCAVATION REPORTS AND FINDS

Wroxeter Macellum - Summary of the 1982 Season - Graham Webster:

The 1981 season ended with the difficult problem of the relationship between the military and early civil buildings unresolved. This problem was tackled at the start of the season but, only after much detailed study and careful dissection of crucial structural elements, was a satisfactory solution reached. It can now be seen that the early civil buildings are confined to the north corridor (91), and do not extend south to the central area of the macellum (84). There are elements of two separate town houses. The western one has deep construction slots for vertical timbers (a typical military type of construction), two of which cut through the reduced legionary rampart. The clay floor of this house was laid over the demolished military structures. The eastern house, on the other hand, was of different construction, the walls being of clay and timber on timber sill beams, and the floors were at a lower level resting almost on the intervallum road. To achieve this the civil builders had removed at least a foot of military deposits, and it was this which created confusion last year. The two separate houses were later joined. The eastern part of the west house was altered for the insertion of a door with a clay threshold to allow the occupants to step down on to the lower floor of the eastern house, and there was some internal re-arrangement of the west house. The southern boundary of these early civil properties had been removed by the walls of the north range of the macellum, but it will be possible to record this in the west portico.

Work on the military features has been concentrated on the timber extension to the stone rampart building and the floors and fill under them. It became evident that the clay floor of the timber extension covered the full width of the intervallum road since it extended up to the foundation trench of the north/south main wall of the east range of the macellum. Nor was the south slot of the extension found, although the clay floor had a rough edge in line with the south end of the rampart building. The faint trace of an east/west slot was found in a central position but patches of clay were seen to the north of this. This was checked in the staircase well in the north macellum range, but the surviving levels here suggest that the early civilian levelling continued into this area and no military levels survive above the intervallum road.

The excavation inside the stone rampart building was taken down through the clay floor and build-up down to the clay walls of the earlier sequence of rampart buildings and fine details of the timber and wattle-work have been uncovered. The evidence also suggests that these may have been a timber extension to the early stone building prior to the extension in stone. In the original stone building before it was extended, evidence has appeared of a considerable sinkage into an earlier feature which can only be investigated when part of the east wall of the building has been dismantled.

In the west portico the object of the excavation has been to strip down to the Hadrianic construction levels and evidence is now appearing of the two stages of work, i.e. before and after the decision to interchange the functions of the two insulae. The positions of the three walls of the original west range of the forum of Phase I are now known and the widths of the rooms on the east of the courtyard side, are 4m. and those on the west side fronting the street, 12m.

Further information has been recovered of the long narrow bone pits in the portico, including from one of them evidence of a timber lining and cover. If these pits had been the rear of shops or booths, selling food over the stylobate, they could have been containers emptied from time to time and the covers needed to reduce the smell and fly nuisance. These long pits respected the stone blocks since they cut in the narrow vacant strips in front of the macellum wall. The scanty survival of the mortar bedding for thin slabs along the west side of the portico on the inner edge of the stylobate, has been studied in conjunction with a piece of worn stone paving 4 cms. thick.

In the south corridor, work has been mainly on the definition of a number of irregular bone pits cutting into one another and when this has been completed, it will be possible to remove the Hadrianic make-up over the early civil and military.

Area (80), also in the south corridor, was completed this year with further details added to the military plan.

Small finds were rather sparse this year and the only one worthy of mention is a very fine intaglio cut in sardonyx, of one of the Ptolemies, according to Martin Henig, very probably Ptolemy XII Cauletes, who was in exile in Rome from 58 to 55 BC. The problem is how a gem not later than the mid-first century BC could have found its way into a pit in the West Portico.

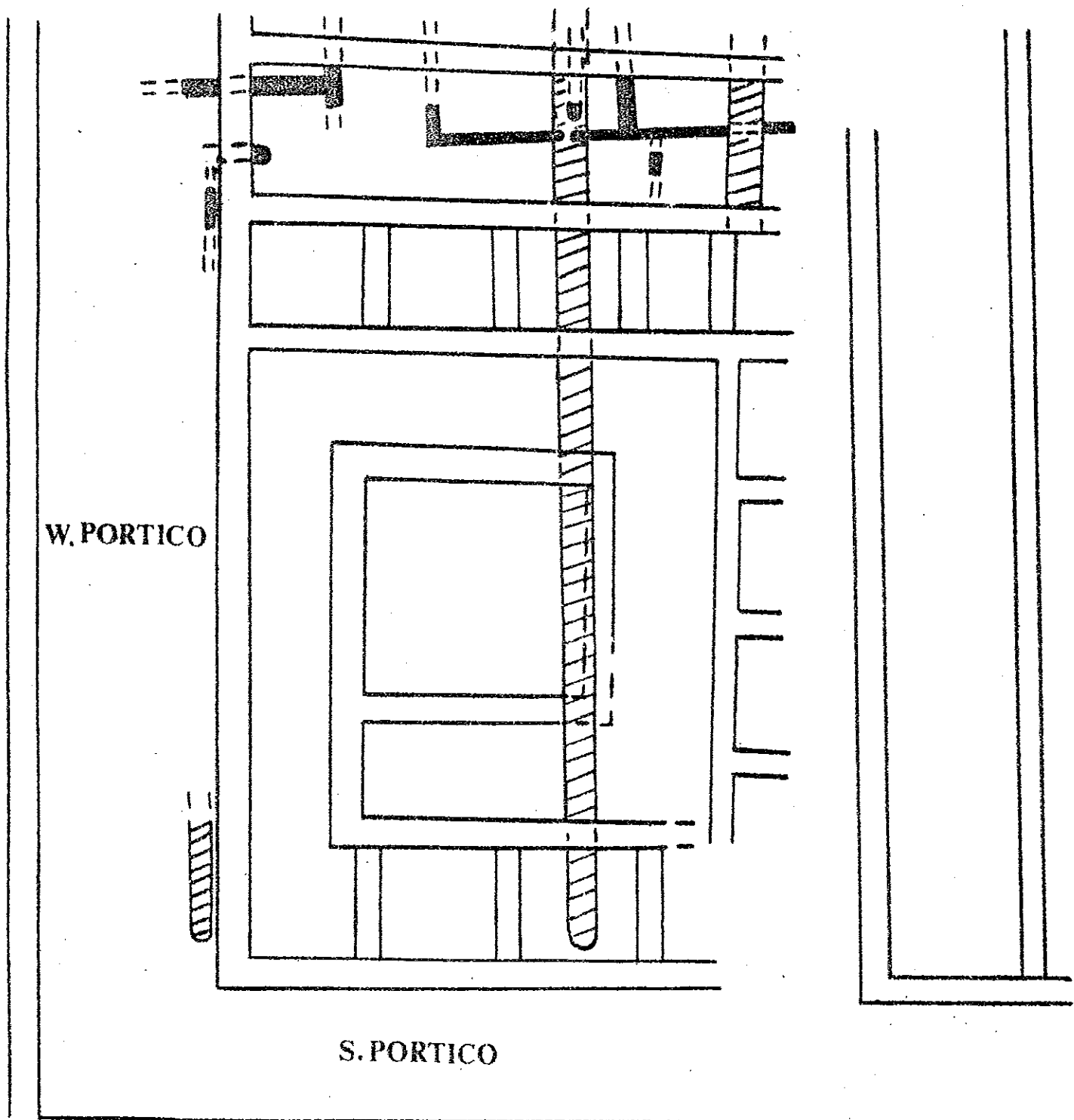
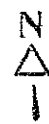
College of St. Batholomew GA1225. SBA 29900.

The ground plan of the College was drawn to scale by Mr N.W. Howard-McLean of Tong Priory in August, 1911. After the long dry summer, the lines of the foundations of the College buildings were plainly visible, and it became possible to make an accurate plan of them and Mr Howard-McLean has written the following account of his work.

"In August of the year 1911 my attention was drawn to the fact that the lines of these foundations appeared more distinctly than anybody living has seen them, accordingly, I then seized the opportunity of making this plan, as it might be many years before they would show themselves again".

By coincidence, and very appropriately, the same burn marks were visible during the month of May of this year and it was possible to see much of what Mr Howard-McLean was able to see in 1911 from which he drew his plan. Sadly, the subsequent wet weather has enabled the grass to grow again and the burn marks have now disappeared.

The excavation of the College was proposed for three reasons, firstly, to determine whether the Plan is a true representation of the actual remaining foundations, secondly, to see whether any other, or earlier, buildings within the College complex which had not been revealed by the burn marks, and lastly, to try and determine the earliest occupation on the site prior to the building of the College in c.1410.




W. PORTICO

S. PORTICO

MACELLUM

0 10 m

 EARLY CIVIL BUILDING

 UNUSED HADRIANIC FOUNDATION TRENCH

F-NB 1982

The excavation has so far revealed a further, and earlier, building in the west of the College Plan and the excavated building foundations now makes the original Plan of the College into a small quadrangle with four surrounding buildings enclosing the square and having a walled cloister or walking area alongside the buildings.

A sunken cobbled trackway was located to the west of the excavated building and a single doorway from the trackway into the College buildings appears to be in the north east corner of the earlier building. The curved stonework in the corner of the building could have been an elevated pulpit or rostrum if the room within the building had been the refectory or dining room.

The stone lined square, in front of the curved stone work appears to have been an access through the floor to a sunken water supply, possibly fed by a spring from higher up in the field which has now dried up. The large fossilised roof tile, laid to support the flooring or a cover, shows the size of the roof tiles which covered the earlier building roof.

Although earlier building foundations have been located to the west of the trackway, cuttings into the natural red sandstone bedrock, both inside and outside of the College buildings, would suggest a much earlier occupation of the area, although the date of such an occupation has still to be determined together with the reason for the occupation of such a site.

Two Norman Fonts with Wrockwardine Associations

In 1982, during the writing of the history of Wrockwardine parish for the Victoria History of Shropshire, Volume XI, it became clear that two Norman fonts could claim an association with Wrockwardine church. It is the purpose of this note to record these fonts, and clarify their histories.

The first font has been in the church since 1934. Before then it stood in the garden of Dr. Steedman of The Lawns, Wellington, whose successor, Dr. George Hollies, gave it in that year to Wrockwardine church.(1). At the time it was locally believed to have originally come from Wrockwardine, but this now appears unlikely as another Norman font can be securely provenanced there.

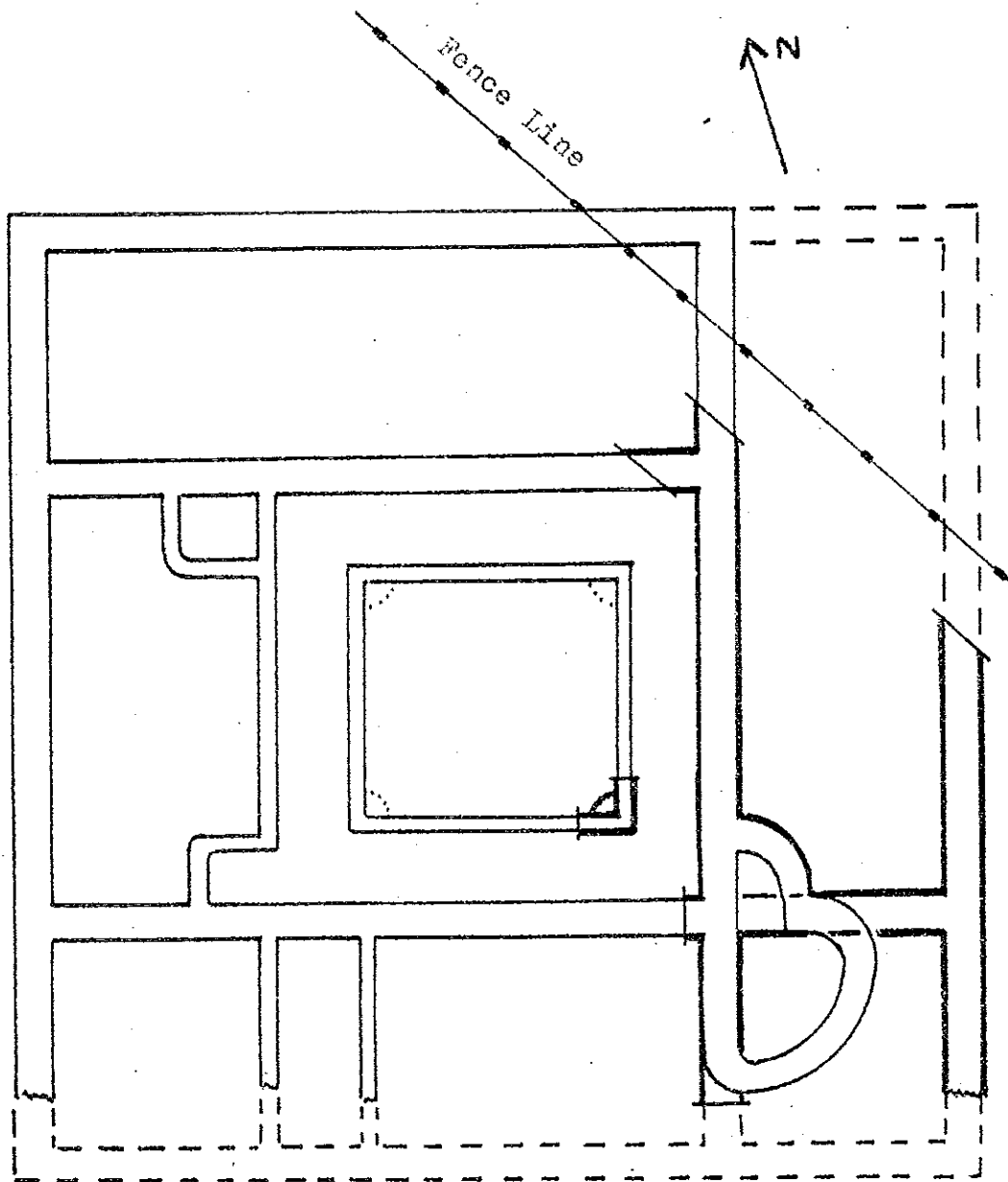
The font, of old red sandstone, is heavily chipped, and the pedestal does not survive. It is apparently a variant of a well-known, probably late 12th-century type, based on the square cushion capital. (2). The top is 0.53 m. d., the bowl 0.33m., with a narrow centre drain-hole. On diagonally opposing corners raised, plain shields 0.22m. are set across the angle. The other two corners are occupied by prominent lugs. On each side of the font is a circular panel, with the edge closest to the 'lug' corner deeply incised. This asymmetry may perhaps be linked with any painted design scheme that might have decorated the font in the Middle Ages.

The second font (fig. 1) today stands inside Old St. Chad's church, Shrewsbury. In July 1812 it was drawn and described by the antiquary David Parkes (1763-1833),(3) as it lay in Wrockwardine churchyard.(4). Parkes also commented on the results of John Carline's 1808 restoration of the church, which he said had been 'lately repaired in an incongruous style ... the doors worked up in a kind of fantastic Gothic'. Overall, it seems likely that the font was removed from the church at this time, four years before Parkes's visit; his tone certainly suggests that it was a recent action.

Sometime in the following fifteen years the font was apparently acquired by the Revd. Hugh Owen, M.A. (1761-1827), (5) co-author with J.B. Blakeway of A History of Shrewsbury (1825). Owen is known to have built up a considerable collection of ecclesiastical stonework and glass, much of it gathered from Shrewsbury's demolished churches.(6). These items were kept in his garden and summerhouse - itself partially constructed of ecclesiastic antiquities - in Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

This collection remained substantially intact until c. 1934, when it was dispersed and the summerhouse demolished.(7). Before this happened garden and summer-house were photographed, and the Wrockwardine font is clearly visible.(8) Some of the stonework is known to have gone St. Chad's, and amongst it appears to have been the font, as it was in the redundant Old St. Chad's that it was found in 1982.

The circular tub font is of old red sandstone. Externally 1.60m. in diameter and 0.6m. high, it has a bowl 1.10m. in diameter x 0.3m. deep. In the base is a circular drain-hole 0.18m. in diameter. Whilst the font itself is well made - symmetrical and robust - the decoration's unevenness suggests an unpractised hand. Around the upper band, and traces suggest originally on the flat lip of the bowl, is a band of lozenge and drill-hole decoration. The lower band, defined by semi-circular rolls, is undecorated. The main body of the font is divided into diamond-shaped panels, clearly not marked out before they were scored, as on the rear of the font several



— Plan of the College —

—	—	- - -
Excavated Walling	1911 Plan	Projected Walling

run together. Within the panels scored diamond-shaped boxes contain a variety of decorations or symbols. No plan is apparent in the application of these.

Opposed cover-fixing holes cut into the font's rim show that a lid was provided at some stage, perhaps in the 13th century.(9) This does not survive today, and no lid was mentioned in 1812.

It is therefore clear that of the two Norman fonts with claimed Wrockwardine associations only that in Old St. Chad's church (1982) has a proven historical association with Wrockwardine church. The reason why the late 12-century font in Wrockwardine church in 1982 was thought in the 1930s to have originated from there is unknown. It now seems possible that this font in fact originally came from Wellington old church, demolished in 1787, which is known to have had Norman features.(10)

P.A. Stamper,
V.C.H.Shropshire.

- 1 H.W. Pooler, My Life in Three Counties (1950), p.72.
- 2 e.g. Altarnon, Bratton, Launceston: F. Bond, Fonts and Font Covers (1908), p.p. 202-3, 151.
- 3 Dictionary of National Biography (D.N.B.)
- 4 B.L. Add. MS. 21,180, p. 60 (copy at Shropshire Libraries, Local Studies Dept., microfilm no. 60).
- 5 D.N.B.
- 6 M.O.H. Carver, 'Early Shrewsbury: An Archaeological Definition in 1975' T.S.A.S. lix, pt.3 (1973-4), p. 229. I am grateful to A.M.Carr, Local Studies Librarian, for his help with Owen's collection.
- 7 Shrewsbury Chronicle, 16 Feb. 1934, p.14; T.S.A.S. xlvii, p.xviii.
- 8 Shropshire Libraries, Local Studies Dept., Mallinson neg. no. 791.
- 9 Bond, op. cit. pp. 281-4.
- 10 V.C.H. Salop. xi, Wellington, Churches (forthcoming). I am grateful to my colleague Dr. D.C.Cox for this suggestion.

* * * *

FINDS

TWO RECENT COIN HOARD FINDS FROM SHROPSHIRE

In the spring of 1982 two coin hoards, both of post-medieval date, were found in widely separated parts of Shropshire, and both under totally different circumstances.

CLEE HILL COMMON COIN HOARD

This hoard was uncovered in March 1982 by a treasure hunter whilst metal detecting. It was found in a field on the south side of Clee Hill Common near Doddington. The hoard consisted of 21 gold coins of the reigns of Charles II (1660-1685) and William III (1689-1702), of which there were 13 guineas of Charles II, 4 half guineas of Charles II, and 4 guineas of William III. They were found at a depth of 6" to 12" together with the remains of an iron clasp and surrounded by traces of iron staining, which seems to suggest the hoard having been deposited in some form of metal container. The date of deposition of the hoard is thought to be c.1700.

At a Treasure Trove inquest held at Ludlow in July the somewhat surprising verdict of non-Treasure Trove was returned on the hoard.

PRIORSLEE COIN HOARD

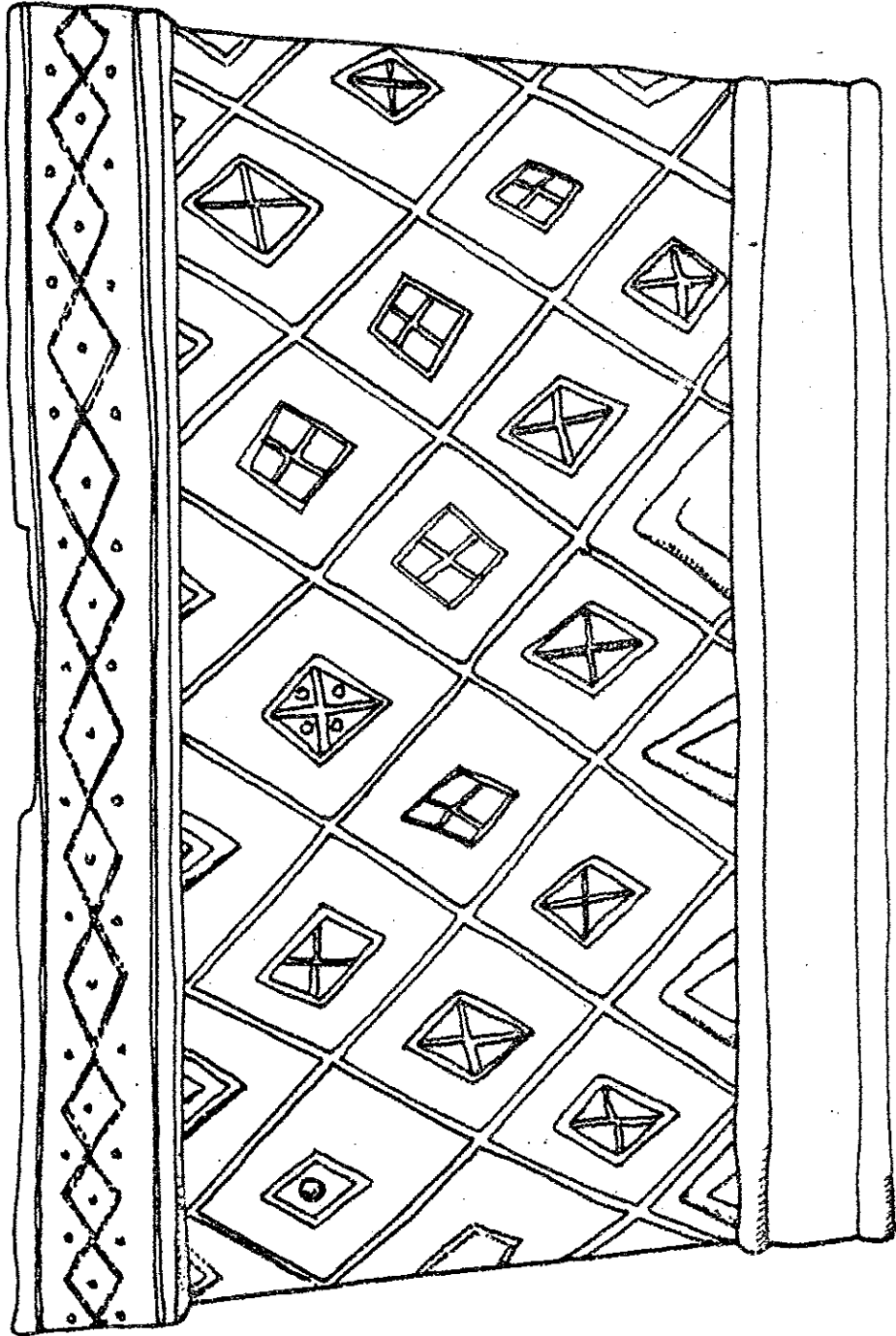
This hoard was found in April 1982 by workmen whilst stripping topsoil during M54 construction work at Priorslee. A total of 368 silver coins of the reigns of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) and Charles I (1625-1649) were found. The hoard appears to have been struck by an earthmoving machine and spread over a 5m. strip. There were no remains of any container in which the coins may have been deposited. The finders did however report that the soil surrounding the bulk of the coins was lighter in colour, and this could possibly have been caused by the erosion of a container of some kind for the coins.

It appears that prior to the motorway development the piece of ground where the hoard was found had remained relatively undisturbed, having been in use as a garden or fold attached to an adjacent now demolished house since at least the late 18th century. The hoard may well be linked to the uncertainty and disturbance connected with the Civil War (1642-1648), which is probably the approximate date of its deposition.

The coins have been sent to the British Museum for expert identification and analysis, and a Treasure Trove inquest is being awaited.
Michael D.Watson, Archaeological Field Officer, Shropshire Sites & Monuments Record.

fig. 1

50 cm



PROJECTS

PROPOSED A5 FIELD SURVEY PROJECT

The Secretary of State for Transport recently announced his preferred route for the A5 Telford-Shrewsbury road scheme. This is to be along the line of the Green Route alternative and it is expected that construction work will commence in 1986. Now that a definite route is known it is essential that a programme of detailed field survey is undertaken along its course in order to record both known and previously undetected sites and features likely to be affected by the road. Such a field survey would also enable any previously undetected sites to be assessed and evaluated with a view towards their possible preservation or excavation. In order to do this effectively it is essential that this work is undertaken as soon as possible, and the Shropshire Archaeological Society is therefore proposing to form a special group to carry out this work during the coming winter months. If any members are interested in being part of, or helping with this project would they please contact the Secretary, M.D.Watson, 4 Church Row, Condover, Shrewsbury SY5 7AF. Tel: Shrewsbury 222332 (Office hours only).

THE BRIDGNORTH BY-PASS

Volunteers are also required to carry out a similar project on the proposed Bridgnorth by-pass. Although smaller in extent, the by-pass may cut through early occupation sites on the plain surrounding this important hill-top settlement.

Local people living in the vicinity of Bridgnorth would be particularly welcome. Please contact the Secretary/Sites and Monuments Record, both on Shrewsbury 222332.

THE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

The Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record is presently engaged in a survey of the County's ridge and furrow, potentially a valuable tool in the re-construction of the medieval landscape and economy.

The first stage of this project is to assess the extent of the survival of ridge and furrow either by upstanding earthworks or as cropmarks or soilmarks. This is being pursued, primarily by means of detailed examination of all available aerial photographs.

Having plotted all the evidence, the second stage in the survey will be to study a few selected areas in greater detail, including intensive fieldwork.

If any members would like to assist in this project, either by looking through aerial photographs or plotting ridge and furrow in their locality (on copies of 6" maps that we would be glad to supply) please contact us on Shrewsbury 222332 or c/o County Planning, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND.

THE BUILDINGS RECORD

Work on the extensive survey of 12 South Shropshire parishes has been completed and the results of the survey presented to the District Council as background to their report of survey for the local plan. One member of the M.S.C. staff has now commenced a degree course in Architecture and wishes to make a career in study and conservation of historic buildings.

New recruits to the Sites and Monuments record under a Community Enterprise Scheme will engage in future survey activities concentrating on farm buildings and mills in the County as a whole and domestic buildings in selected parishes.

Sites & Monuments Record,
Shirehall,
Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury 222332

LOCAL GROUPS

WHITCHURCH AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP - WINTER TALKS PROGRAMME 1982/3

As in previous years, a series of eight talks will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Lounge, Civic Centre, High Street, Whitchurch.

1982

September 16th	David Wilson of Keele University.	Sutton Ho.
October 21st	Carole Ryan. Conservation Officer Shropshire County Ccl. Planning Dept.	Recent discoveries in Shropshire's Heritage.
November 18th	Mike Watson, Field Officer, Shropshire County Planning Dept.	Moated Sites in Shropshire.

December 16th Madge Moran of Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury History &
Development.

1983

January 20th Annual General Meeting

To be followed by a Group
social gathering.

February 17th Nigel Gasper of Shropshire Museums
Service.

Rowley's Museum,
Shrewsbury.

March 17th Jean Hughes, Shropshire Authoress

Shropshire Folklore.

April 21st Mrs Ainsworth of Market Drayton

Living in the Past
(BEC. T.V. Iron Age Series)

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM : DEPARTMENT OF EXTRAMURAL STUDIES WEEKEND COURSES IN ARCHAEOLOGY - BIRMINGHAM 1982/83 (Advance enrolment essential)

AH/10 RECENT TRENDS IN BRITISH PREHISTORY

Day School, Saturday 2nd October 1982, Faculty of Arts, University of B'ham.

Tutors: RICHARD BRADLEY MA, FSA; ANDREW FLEMING MA, FSA;;

STAN STANFORD BA, PhD, FSA.

The study of British prehistory has made rapid and in some cases spectacular advances in the last decade. The three speakers will discuss recent work on the societies of Britain from Neolithic times to the end of the Iron Age, using the evidence of fieldwork, aerial photography and excavation.

FEE: £4.40 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£2.40 senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/11 RECENT PROGRESS AT WROXETER

One-day seminar, Saturday 16th October 1982, Winterbourne, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham 15.

Tutors: DONALD MACKRETH; GRAHAM WEBSTER OBE, MA, PhD, FSA, AMA.

This seminar will be another in the continuing study of the site in the light of the annual excavations which are still taking place. The main subject on this occasion will be the City of Hadrian.

FEE: £4.40 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£2.40 senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/12 FRONTIERS OF ROMAN BRITAIN

Day School, Saturday 6th November 1982, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham 3. In co-operation with CBA Group 8.

Tutors: C.M.DANIELS MA, FSA; PROFESSOR G.B.D.JONES MA, DPhil, FSA;

L.J.F.KEPPIE MA, MPhil, FSA, FSA Scot.

Fee: £3.50 for tuition only (no reductions)

AH/13 THE ROMAN POTTERY OF THE WEST MIDLANDS

Day School, Saturday 13th November 1982, Winterbourne, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham 15.

Tutors: KAY HARTLEY BA, FSA;; STEPHEN PIERPOINT BA, PhD;

GRAHAM WEBSTER OBE, MA, PhD, FSA, AMA; PETER WEBSTER BA, MPhil, FSA.

This school will consider the products, and their marketing, of the two major pottery industries in the West Midlands: Mancetter and the Severn Valley.

FEE: £4.40 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£2.40 senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/14 THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF PAST LANDSCAPES

Day School, Saturday 4th December 1982. Faculty of Arts, University of B'ham.

Tutors: STEPHEN BASSETT BA; CHRIS DYER BA, PhD,

The tutors of this School, who have been working for some years on a joint research project on landscape and settlement history of the north Worcestershire parish of Hanbury (near Droitwich), will talk about this work and on more general problems associated with such a study.

FEE: £4.40 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£2.40 senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/15 FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION TECHNIQUES:

SITE RECORDING IN BRITAIN AND EUROPE

Day conference, Saturday, 11th December 1982, Faculty of Arts, University of Birmingham.

AH/15 contd.

Believing that much mutual help will follow from sharing experience and theories, both good and bad, the University of Birmingham Department of Extramural Studies and Field Archaeology Unit intend to promote a series of conferences on Excavation Techniques, the first of which will be on the subject of Site Recording. The structure will be essentially one of open discussion, provoked by a chairman.

FEE: £6.00 including coffee, buffet lunch and tea.

(£4.25 senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/16 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CATHEDRALS

Day School, Saturday 12th March 1983, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham 3. In co-operation with CBA Group 8.

Tutors: PROF. MARTIN BIDDLE MA, FSA, FRHistS; DEREK PHILLIPS BA. DIP.ARCH, FSA; WARWICK RODWELL MA, DPhil, FSA.

FEE: £3.50 for tuition only (no reductions)

AH/17 WEST MIDLANDS ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUPS' CONFERENCE

Non-residential weekend, 19th and 20th March 1983, Faculty of Arts, University of Birmingham.

A round-up of the progress made on excavations in the West Midlands during the past year, providing an opportunity for amateur and professional archaeologists to meet and discuss excavation techniques and problems. The main theme of the 1983 conference will be the Medieval period to which Sunday 20th March will be devoted.

FEE: £3.00 one day (tuition only), £4.50 full weekend

(£1.50/£2.25 senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/18 RECENT RECORDING OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

Day conference, Saturday 23rd April 1983, Faculty of Arts, University of Birmingham.

This annual conference includes a round-up of progress made in the past year in the West Midlands in the field of vernacular architecture.

FEE: £4.40 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£2.40 senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

AH/19 PREHISTORIC ORKNEY

Day School, Saturday 7th May 1983, Faculty of Arts, University of B'ham.

Tutors: AUBREY BURL MA; DEREK SIMPSON MA, FSA.

The Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments on the Orkneys are amongst the finest in Europe and include not only tombs but also ritual centres and settlements. In consequence, it is possible to reconstruct a rounded picture of how people lived, mourned and worshipped on those islands five thousand years ago.

Note:- Although this Day School has been arranged for those taking part in the Orkney Study Tour in May-June 1983, it is complete in itself and anyone interested in the magnificent prehistoric structures of northern Scotland will be welcome to attend.

FEE: £4.40 including coffee and tea, but not lunch.

(£2.40 senior citizens, full-time students and unemployed)

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

The 1983 Conference will be held at the University of Bradford during the Easter Vacation. Details available from: John Haigh, School of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford. The 1984 Conference will be held in Birmingham.

N.B. An application form for applications and enquiries concerning courses AH10 - AH19 will be found at the end of this News Bulletin.

For those who missed the Severn Day School due to the adverse winter conditions here is another chance -

THE RIVER SEVERN: Its History and Natural History

Course Tutor: D.J.Pannett, B.A., and others.

12 weekly meetings, Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30 p.m. from 28th September 1982 at College Hill House, 13 College Hill, Shrewsbury.

Of particular interest to those who have previously attended courses on palaeography, vernacular architecture and other historical studies, a research course

THE EVOLUTION OF THE PEASANT HOUSE AND SETTLEMENT PATTERN

Course Tutor: Carole Ryan, B.Sc., M.A.

10 fortnightly meetings, Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30 p.m. from 5th October 1982 at the Ludlow Committee Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury, Enter by South Door.

Fee: £8 (£4 pensioners, full-time students and unemployed persons)

MISCELLANEOUS

A FORGED MANOR COURT ROLL

Shrewsbury Public Library, Deeds 9136, membrane 18r., purports to be the record of a session of the Conover manor court held on 10 May 1432. In fact, as was first noticed by Sir Thomas Leighton (who was appointed steward of the manor in 1498), the membrane is an interesting example of the forger's art. It was presumably Leighton who wrote the words 'a forgyd Roll' in the left margin of the membrane and added his signature to one of the entries.

All but one of the events supposed to have taken place on 10 May 1432 in fact took place fourteen years earlier, having been transcribed from Deeds 13477, membrane 21, recording a session of the court on 18 April 1418. One of the events never took place at all, and it supplies the reason for the forgery.

The motive is apparent from the entry to which Leighton added his signature. It records that Richard Alcock, vicar of Conover, and Richard Harris became feoffees to a settlement of the property of Thomas Botte alias Allfield. Botte (it states) settled his property in Allfield, Conover, Ryton, and Dorrington on the two men to the use of himself and his wife Alice and their heirs and assigns for ever. The entry is the only one on membrane 18 not to have been transcribed from the 1418 roll, and the transcripts are simply 'padding' to provide the false entry with an authentic-seeming context. How much easier and quicker to provide the 'padding' by transcribing entries from an old roll (no longer of current interest) than to make up a whole series of fictitious entries.

When was the forgery made? Probably in the mid or later 15th century. Thomas Botte's widow Alice managed to convey her late husband's estate, the largest copyhold estate in the manor, away from his right heirs (V.C.H. Salop. viii. 45), and the forged '1432' entry gave a root of title for that conveyance. There was, however, a prolonged dispute which dragged on into Sir Thomas Leighton's time.

When the Conover court rolls for Henry VI's reign were eventually sewn together (in their present form) the forged roll was included in its chronological place, between authentic rolls for 1431 and October 1432; only Leighton's warning note stands to alert the later student of the rolls to the falsity of this membrane.

G.C.Baugh
V.C.H. Shropshire

* * * * *

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Trinder, B.S. The industrial revolution in Shropshire. Phillimore 1981 £12.00.

This is a second edition, considerably revised and partially re-written, of Dr. Trinder's detailed and authoritative history of industrial activity and society in East Shropshire in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It is a measure of the book's national status that a second edition should be required within ten years of publication. For anyone interested in almost any aspect of Shropshire's history in the period covered, the book will provide absorbing information as well as stimulating further research.

Francis, R. and Klein, P. The organs and organists of Ludlow parish church. 1982

£2.00 (including postage. Cheques payable to PCC of Ludlow Organ Fund. Copies from P.Klein, 32 Corve Street, Ludlow).

An illustrated account of a notable instrument (now restored) in a splendid building for which a series of accomplished organists wrote excellent music. Ludlow's role as a regional seat of national government is reflected in this history of church music which rivals that of many cathedral churches and far surpasses the average parish achievement.

Boon, G.C. Cardiganshire Silver and the Aberystwyth Mint in peace and war.
Nat. Museum of Wales. 1981. £20.00.

Concealed by the title is a considerable amount of information about Civil War Shropshire particularly the Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth mints.

Guilbert, G. ed. Hill-fort studies. Essays for A.H.A. Hogg. Leicester U.P. 1981
£19.00.

Our understanding of this class of monuments is extending, due to a large extent to the work of the contributors to this festschrift. Surrounded as we are by hillforts, this volume will have much of interest to anyone who would like to know more about the impressive earthworks of Shropshire and the border.

Telford Community Arts. The Hadley book. 1982. £2.50.

This is a handsomely produced workers eye view of Hadley, now part of Telford, during the last 80 or so years. It captures the spirit of the community in old photographs and in the words of those who remember the past.

Cartlidge, J.E.G. The vale and gates of Usc-con. New ed. 1982. £10.50.

The Rev. Cartlidge's history of the Oakengates district was first published in 1935 and has long been out of print. Mrs J.Beard has enlarged the original work and published the new edition.

Watkin, I. Oswestry 1920 repr. 1982. £12.00 + £1.50 p. and p. from Newgate Books, 59 Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2SZ.

Oswestry has had several historians, but Watkin was the only one who concentrated his attention on the buildings and inhabitants of the town itself. The book was becoming scarce and expensive, so Newgate Books are to be congratulated on this handsome facsimile reprint.

The following three reprints have been produced by Candle Lane Books, 28, Princess Street, Shrewsbury. They are also beautifully produced hardback facsimile reproductions of the original publication.

Hobbs, J.L. Shrewsbury street-names 1954. £6.50.

This has long been the standard work on this interesting subject but has been unobtainable for many years. The book is based on extensive research in medieval and later documents. It also contains a reprinted article by L.C.Lloyd on the shuts of Shrewsbury.

Jackson, G.F. Shropshire word-book, a glossary. 1879. £20.00.

Miss Jackson made her scholarly records of Shropshire dialect when it was still commonplace throughout the county though she noted words that were even then becoming obsolete. Her work has never been superceded. It is to be hoped that this reprint will make her delightful book better known.

Garbet, S. The history of Wem. 1818. £16.00.

Like Oswestry, the town of Wem has had several historians. Samuel Garbet intended to write a history of North Bradford hundred but concentrated on Wem. His work dates from the mid-eighteenth century but was not published until 1818.

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Edited by Carole Ryan, 6 Church View, Preston Gubbals, near Shrewsbury.

Tel: Shrewsbury 222332

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual General Meeting - 25th June 1983.

Please remember to come.

Subscriptions

Members are reminded that their annual subscription was due on January 1st 1983. Individual members £4. Family members £5. If you have not already paid would you kindly send your subscription to:

Mrs C. Carr,
Hon. Membership Secretary,
18 Kemps Eye Avenue,
Shrewsbury
SY3 7QW

THE HAUGHMOND ABBEY CARTULARY

Dr. Una Rees is in the last stages of her work on this important document, editing the index.

The only quotation so far secured for its printing and publication is in the region of £8,500-£9,000. A grant of £1,000 has been secured from the Twenty Seven Foundation, and the University of Wales Press has agreed to become joint publisher with the Society, bearing one quarter of the cost. Applications for grants have been made to the Marc Fitch Fund and to the British Academy.

Even if these latter applications should meet with the success we hope for, there is still a great financial gap to be filled. Subscription income cannot be diverted from the Transactions and News Sheet, and the Society's revolving fund for occasional publications, if it can contribute anything (a matter not yet decided by the Council), could manage only a token sum. I am therefore still engaged, with Dr. Rees, in looking for more benefactions. At the same time I am looking for cheaper methods and lower quotations. A fuller report on these searches will be made at the A.G.M. The Haughmond Abbey Cartulary, when it appears, will, I believe, be the most distinguished and useful single contribution to the county's history and topography ever to appear over the Society's name.

The Cartulary contains almost 1,400 property deeds from the mid 12th to the later 15th centuries. These have been dated and abstracted or printed in full; where a Latin or Old French deed is printed in full it is preceded by a brief English abstract. The volume has a brief introduction and a full index.

The Cartulary will, of course, be sold, but it is planned to offer it to members at a concessionary price. It would be a great help to the Society and to the University of Wales Press, as joint publishers, if any member interested in acquiring a copy at the concessionary price would complete the enclosed form at the end of this news sheet (which is not a commitment to buy), and return it to the Hon. Editor, G.C.Baugh, c/o Victoria County History, Shirehall, Abbey Foegate, Shrewsbury.

PARISH REGISTERS

In 1923 the Shropshire Parish Register Society (founded 1898) amalgamated with the Archaeological Society. Parish registers continued to be published until 1955 when some two thirds of the county had been covered. None has appeared since, though the Society's present Rules continue to specify the publication of registers as one of its objects. At the 1978 A.G.M. I raised the question of a resumption of register publication, and indicated that voluntary work would be needed. I received many offers and tried to acknowledge all such.

While details of a scheme of resumed publication were being worked out the long-expected Betton Bequest fell in to the Society. The Bequest is for the printing and publication of the county's unpublished registers. The Council therefore has decided to employ a part of the Bequest's income on the issue of two more parish

registers: Upton Cressett and Silvington, in Hereford Diocese. The registers will be similar (though not identical) in format and appearance to those issued between 1898 and 1955. They will be prefaced by some brief editorial comment and by an article on the history of the Cressett family by Mr W.N.P. Cash, of Upton Cressett Hall.

The issue of Upton Cressett and Silvington registers is intended as something of a 'pilot scheme' to test opinion with the Society. The volume containing them should appear in the autumn and the Council has decided to issue it free of charge to all members. Members will, however, have to write in to ask for it, enclosing an appropriately stamped envelope; alternatively they will be able to collect a copy at the Society's meetings or from the publications store. Details of issue and collection will appear in the next News Sheet.

I must stress that the registers will not be a charge on the subscription income. Indeed it is hoped that the resumption of parish register publication will in various ways help to increase the subscription and sales income, and therefore the amount of money available for the Transactions and other publications.

G.C. Baugh,
Hon. Editor.

Members will be interested to read of the newly formed British Association for Local History, the General Secretary of which is David Hayns of Malpas. Individuals may join, and the address is as follows:-

British Association for Local History,
43 Bedford Square,
London WC1B 3DP.

INTERIM ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS & FINDS

Hen Domen Montgomery - 1982

Interim Report

Work was concentrated in the north eastern sector of the bailey and two sections were cut across the waterlogged part of the bailey ditch close to the area excavated within the bailey. Another Section was cut across the apparent ditch on the west side of the long mound which lies in the field immediately to the north of the counter-scarp rampart of the bailey ditch.

Within the bailey, the site of building LIV was investigated and it was found that the platform of mixed clay and earth on which it had been founded contained no excavatable features. The apparent post-holes on the north-eastern edge proved merely to be the underlying layer of charcoal and earth showing through. Similarly, on the south side the clay platform was extremely thin so that the underlying darker layer showed through in large patches which were at first thought to be post-hole fillings. The only wall of building LIV which had any post-holes, therefore, was the north-west wall; the other walls were merely indicated by the edges of the mixed clay, stones and earth platform. Along the north-west and south-west walls there were many patches of bright yellow clay of a colour uncommon on the site. These suggest that here clay walls were used, though there was very little trace of the yellow clay on the other two walls. The large area of burnt clay and earth mixed with charcoal lying slightly to one side of the centre of the building seems to be the site of a hearth which moved from time to time, burning the surface of the floor.

Granary post-pit 1352 was emptied and proved to be more complex than the other other granary post-pits. There is evidence, visible in the sides of the pit to the north-east and north-west, of a probable later pit cut into this pit. One of the first tasks in 1983 season will therefore be the investigation of this area horizontally between this post-pit and the next, F1357. Post-pit F1353 was half-sectioned to the natural subsoil, and contained no unusual features.

Further work was carried out on the crest of the rampart. In particular two very deep post-holes at the back of the rampart may have supported an interval tower which rose above the general level of the fighting platform. Work on the west of the rampart showed more post-holes in the general area of the supports for the palisade and fighting platform and also showed that an earlier palisade trench which underlay that excavated some years ago was very much deeper and more substantial.

A section was cut across the bailey ditch at its lowest and widest point on the north western side where a breach has presumably recently been made in the outer rampart. An area some 6 metres wide was cleared of about a foot of slurry, revealing a very compact cobbled surface. This had previously been discovered in a ditch section out further west, where it had been assumed to be a hard-standing for

cattle. This was here confirmed by the presence of 19c pottery and brick in the cobbled surface and the farmer, Mr John Wainwright, said that the ditch had probably been converted into a pond because there is no water on the farm, and that without the hard standing, cattle would have sunk into the underlying silt. Now that the farm has piped water there is no longer any need for such a pond and it appears that in the recent past a channel has been cut through the outer rampart to drain off the bulk of the water. The cobbled surface was removed to reveal an unexpectedly wide and deep ditch, 00m wide and 00m deep. The fill consisted of fine silty material interleaved with more organic material, some layers of which, near the bottom of the filling, were extremely dense black and appeared to contain a great deal of charcoal or a reaction caused by sulphides. Soon after being exposed to the air the layers changed to a more uniform pale brown, sometimes reversing their colour from light to dark and dark to light. The number of these layers which could easily be counted amounted to about 50, but since there was no sign of a re-cut it seems most unlikely that the ditch filled from top to bottom within 50 years, unless it was simply left full of soft silt into which an attacker would sink. The pottery from the lower silting of this ditch was of middle-to-late date in the site's chronology, ie 1150-1200. Lower in the silt a complete tub like a wash tub or bran tub was found. The tub, made from oak, is of barrel stave construction held together with at least four oak straps. It has a diameter of c. 50cm and a height of c. 44cm. The maximum capacity is in the order of 70 litres (15.5 gal). This has been lifted and taken to the University of Exeter for conservation. Other fragments of preserved woodwork such as stakes and pegs were found together with half the sole of a shoe and fragments of what could be a leather jerkin or breeches. Near the top of the silting a large part of a bronze prick-spur, perhaps of the 12th century, was found.

On the northern side of the ditch the profile was cut in blue clay and stones quite unlike the undisturbed boulder clay which is found elsewhere on the site, even in the ditches. As a result this blue clay was pursued in the belief that it may have been the filling of an even larger ditch. However, when it was seen that yellow clay of the normal type overlay it for some distance and that the junction sloped downwards and outwards away from it, Mr Wainwright was asked to cut a machine trench through this material in order to establish its nature. It soon became clear that the blue and the yellow clay were both undisturbed subsoil and that there was some geological reason, probably due to water seepage, for the change of colour and texture which the blue clay represented. The very great size of the bailey ditch at this point led to some speculation that there might have been an original entrance here. The evidence supporting this, apart from the large size of the ditch, is the presence outside the rampart of the long mound. The large gap in the rampart, which seems unlikely to be simply the work of the 19th century farmer, and the fact that it is close to this point that the Anglo-Saxon road runs, curving up from Siglen and turning through the field back to the hamlet from Hen Domen. However, there is little evidence at present of anything on the inside of the bailey to support the presence here of an original entrance, except perhaps the very large circular pit F000 which lies behind the bailey rampart very close to the section in the outer ditch. In order to pursue this line of thought a section was cut across the apparent ditch of the long mound on its western side. The section revealed a V-shaped ditch 00 metres deep. In the bottom of the ditch was a quantity of 12th or early 13th century cooking pot sherds and a mass of iron slag or clinker, probably from smithing. The presence in the primary silting of this ditch of pottery later than the first period of the castle's occupation seems to preclude this long mound from being the barbican to a first period entrance, though again it is possible (though on the face of it improbable) that this ditch has been re-cut to the bottom. At present, therefore, the presence of an earlier entrance on a different alignment is unresolved, but further work on the bailey may produce more supporting evidence. It was clear when the ditch section had been completed that the defences here had been formidable and must have been about 12 or more metres high from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the palisade. A ledge cut into the boulder clay at the level of the cobbled surface suggested at one point that there might have been a vertical timber revetment above the ditch and below the level of the rampart. It will be very difficult to prove the presence or absence of such a revetment on the basis of post-holes or other structural evidence since the rampart is everywhere heavily overgrown, and it may be that because the boulder clay retains a very steep profile such a revetment was felt not to be needed. In addition, when a revetment eventually rotted or was removed a very great quantity of clay would have been free to collapse into the ditch and there was

no trace of this. It either therefore never happened or had subsequently been completely removed from the ditch.

A second ditch section cut 10 metres west of the first showed a similarly steep V-shaped profile, though here it was even narrower and not quite so deep. Although the second ditch section was cut very close to the point where two structural timbers had been discovered in 1968 the preserved timber found in this second ditch section was insignificant. It was interesting that both the upper ditch fill of clay and pieces of preserved timber showed very clear evidence of their having at some period dried out considerably before becoming waterlogged again. This drying out led to the shrinkage of the wood and also the shrinkage of the clay which had formed polygonal lumps in the interstices of which many tree roots had grown. It is probable that the droughts of 1975-76 had caused this severe drying.

Simultaneously with the excavation, further surveys of the fields west and north-west of the castle were carried out. In the field to the north-west a closely levelled series of transects failed to pick up the ridging visible on a recent aerial photograph, but in the very large field to the west an extensive series of profiles showed that it was ridged in the shallow manner now familiar from Hen Domen, Sarkley and Lymore Park. It appears that almost the whole area around the castle on the east, north and west was ridged in the same manner, which we believe to be pre-Conquest. There is no trace of such ridging on the southern side where it seems to have been replaced by reversed-S-shaped fields without ridges and probably of post-Conquest date.

A5 Field Survey Project

Field survey along the line of the proposed A5 Telford to Shrewsbury by-pass has progressed steadily over the winter months. 80% of the total length of the 18 mile route has now been field-walked, the remainder being those fields that were under winter crops, and these will be investigated at the earliest opportunity.

The section between Cluddley and Duncot was field-walked by members of the Telford Historical Society, and no new sites or finds were forthcoming. It is however planned to do further fieldwork along this section in the autumn and also hopefully to fly over it in the summer.

Field-walking of the section between Weeping Cross and Hookagate was undertaken by members of the Prehistoric Research Group. In the field centred at SJ 490096 was located a ploughed out linear feature of unknown function aligned E.-W. and still traceable as a stone scatter. The field also produced Roman pottery, mostly coarse wares, including mortaria, though a few sherds of samian ware were also found. Some possible Roman glass and tile was found too in the field. This material may be associated with the three linear cropmark features that have been previously recorded in the same field. In addition to this the possible agger of a Roman road was located just E. of Sutton Hall.

The remainder of the route was investigated by the Archaeological Field Officers, and a number of new sites and finds came to light during this. At Upper Edgebold (SJ458123) a medieval Moated Site was recorded for the first time. This appears to have originally been rectangular in shape and to have surrounded Upper Edgebold farm, part of which is timber framed. Only the NW and SW arms of this moat now survive, and the NW arm is still waterfilled. A well preserved stone ditch revetment survives along the inner face of the SW arm.

On the W. bank of the R. Severn at Emstrey Rough (SJ520109) a large disused sandstone quarry was found. Documentary research has shown this stone quarry to have been in use by 1634 when it is recorded that "40 tons of stone from a quarry at Emstrey for the repair of English Bridge" was carted to Shrewsbury. It seems to have gone out of use by 1796.

A stretch of agger was recorded at Day House (SJ465123), near Nobold. This forms part of the Roman road from Wroxeter to Foden Gaer, and consists of a low bank c.2m. wide and about 100m. in length.

The field walking of ploughed areas produced little in the way of archaeological material. Apart from the standard 18th/19th cent. pottery the only material found was two worked flints, one medieval jug handle fragment, and one piece of Roman pottery. Areas of permanent pasture were however more productive, for in addition to those sites already mentioned, previously unrecorded areas of ridge and furrow were located and plotted, particularly in the Sundorne/Battlefield area.

Fieldwork will continue during the coming months and a further progress report will be made in the autumn.

Michael D. Watson,
Archaeological Field Officer.

SA 2468

SA2967

The University of Oxford . Department for External Studies have completed a survey of the threatened fields at Padmore and have come to the conclusion that there was possibly a few houseplatforms but almost certainly not a moated site. A plan is in preparation.

They were not able to undertake any serious work at Caus although a preliminary assessment lead to the confirmation that the site has earlier prehistoric fortifications. Some sherds of pottery were recovered from a section revealed by root action close to the north western entrance which are clearly of pre-Roman Iron Age date. They actually came from very close to the ground surface on which the wall was built

R.T. Rowley,
Staff Tutor in Archaeology.

Pepper Street 1982, by Don Stewart. (Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group).

Work to widen the Pepper Street/Castle Hill corner took place in the period 15th to 21st March 1982. Observations on earth removal and recovery of features were carried out on Monday to Wednesday by the writer and Mike Watson (County Archaeological Field Officer).

It was apparent that the excavator was cutting a series of sections across a ditch or series of ditches running more or less parallel to Pepper Street. Two sections were photographed and drawn, and a short length of ditch partially emptied. This confirmed that an initial ditch had been recut, the second phase being a clay lining on its south (outer) side. Black-burnished, and buff/red Severn Valley type pottery confirmed the date. The earliest ditch fill produced the rim of a bowl, possibly of Malvernian late Iron Age type.

On Saturday and Sunday 20/21 March the writer was joined by W.A.A.G. members, to whom my grateful thanks for turning out at short notice and for their hard work. A scrape of the now level site revealed the remains of one ditch, and this was half-sectioned, producing further Romano-British sherds, and completing a half profile, all that could be recovered as the North side was disturbed, possibly by the building of Castle Hill house, or by a medieval or late pit. Time did not allow investigation of this. There were other features, gravel patches, etc., but these could not be investigated and were only seen in profile. Nothing that could be construed as evidence for the medieval castle was seen.

Our knowledge of the defences Mile Cl fort and the topography of the Romano-British, Medieval and modern town now enables the size and facing of the fort to be worked out and this will appear in a forthcoming article by Don Stewart and Margaret Poulton.

One intriguing small find is a flint or chert core, from the ditch fill, worked for flakes. In the light of a discarded knife from Geoffrey Toms' excavation, one must ask questions about pre-Roman occupation.

Vernacular Architecture (Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group)

Houses visited -

Ash Wood, Ash (Mr Richard Hughes)

The house is a modest-sized farmhouse, one end of which is a Victorian replacement of part of a much older house. Embedded within the older part are the substantial remains of a cruck truss. The apex is visible within the roof space and - like several other Shropshire apex joints - conforms to no given category. Part of the truss was removed during alterations and Mr Hughes possesses a section which has the date 1856 and "R. Heap" inscribed on it. Clearly this relates to the re-building which took place then. Also preserved are the stylobates - large stones, sometimes called padstones, on which the feet of the crucks rested. These are the first stylobates to be discovered in Shropshire. Usually the feet of crucks are inaccessible and the evidence lost. Stylobates appear to have been used more in Cheshire, so perhaps this is a Cheshire influence reaching into north Shropshire.

The crucks appear to be late in form, comparatively crude, and they relate to an internal truss.

Mr Hughes has family documents which show that his family have farmed at Ash Wood since 1515 and probably earlier. The date may be significant. If a major family event took place then - such as an important marriage - it could well date the crucks. Evidence of cheese production was very clear. One of the ground-floor rooms has always been called the Cheese Room and appears in an inventory of 1726. There are witness marks to show where the cheese-press stood and the stone base of a large press survives in the garden.

This is only a brief outline of some of the points of interest which Mr Hughes drew to our attention. Mr Hughes, who is a W.A.A.G. member, is a skilled craftsman and a knowledgeable historian. His house and its contents reflect his absorption in local and family history.

The Horse & Jockey, Church Street (Mrs V. O'Hanlon).

The building began as a timber-framed, two-storied range of uncertain date. Within the roof space is evidence of at least four phases of construction, the third of which employed two upper-cruck trusses, probably associated with 18th century work.

Nos. 6-12 Dodington.

This is a timber-framed range at present being stripped out. From the exterior the framing appears to be of 17th century date with later roof-raising towards the street as occurs frequently in Whitchurch. However, within No. 6 there are the substantial remains of a full-cruck truss which indicates that the range has medieval origins. There are three horizontal members: a low tie-beam and two collars between which is an integral king-strut which measures 6'2". Short cruck spurs connect the cruck to the wall-post but the focal point of interest was again the survival of one large stylobate, in situ, at the rear.

The Old Eagles, Watergate Street (Mr & Mrs Kirkham).

Externally this is a two-storied, two-bayed brick structure, Victorian in appearance, but there is a timber-framed transverse truss within the building which, if my interpretation is correct, makes the Old Eagles the site of the earliest framed house to be discovered in Whitchurch - and the most important.

The truss appears to be a base-cruck. This is a variant of the full-cruck truss, used to get unrestricted floor space in the hall and to dispense with the obtrusive posts of an aisled hall. They are usually associated with high social standing. Only four others are known in Shropshire. The characteristic features of base-cruck construction is that the crucks rise only to collar-beam level above which the roof can take one of several forms. Unfortunately at the Eagles the upper structure is plastered over but it may be possible in the future to uncover it. The crucks have a hollow chamfer on the edge - again the decoration bespeaks a hall-house of importance - and a few original components of the truss survive, e.g. the cruck spurs, principal rafters, the collar and a short connecting strut between the back of the cruck and the principal rafter.

In the family of base-crucks the truss at the Old Eagles is comparatively crude and probably late in date. The truss shows none of the features normally associated with classic base-crucks: double ties, aisled features, crown posts, deep arch-bracing etc., but this is not to underrate its significance to Shropshire's quota. It is still a very important discovery. I suggest, tentatively, a date c.1400. We hope to make a full measured drawing of the truss and perhaps invite comments from distinguished experts.

Madge Moran.

October 1982.

FINDS

A perforated axe hammer of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date, unearthed while potato harvesting in Rookery Field, New House Farm, Wem, was submitted to Rowleys House Museum for identification during October 1982. The object is of a mid-brown colour, ground to shape over all its surface about one third of which retains its original brown/green polish. The axe hammer is assymetric, there being a distinct flat on one side, but it is concave in outline when viewed in profile. The slightly expanded edge was chipped in antiquity and an attempt appears to have been made to regrind it. The shafthole is just off-centre towards the butt and is slightly oval. The butt is rounded. Some surface damage is modern and almost certainly results from the object being struck by a plough and/or passing through the potato harvester.

Length	227mm	Thickness (edge)	74mm
Width	88mm	(hole)	61mm
Weight	2200gm	(butt)	72mm

The object is retained by the finder Mr M.Stokes.

Shropshire County Sites & Monuments Record No. SA2920.

A flint axe of Neolithic date which was found on the surface of Mill Meadow, Bourton, Much Wenlock, while ploughing, was submitted to Rowleys House Museum for identification during November 1982. It is of mid-brown mottled flint, ground over all its surface. The edge is sharp and, except for one chip, undamaged; the section is oval. Slightly convex sides extend to a rounded, thin butt. This object is retained by the finder Mr C.A. Pinches.

Length	137mm	Thickness	30.5mm
Width (edge)	59mm	Weight	310gm

Shropshire Sites & Monuments Record No. SA2966.

Alan Tyler.

HISTORICAL REPORTS

'Tunnel Mad' Reynolds and the Wrockwardine Wood 'Navigable' Level

The infamous Donnington Wood Colliery map is well-known to local industrial historians as a tantalising tracing of a map, the original of which is now lost, but which was clearly a palimpsest of 1788 and later (Shropshire Record Office 691/1). Until now it has been the only source to suggest the existence of a 'navigable level' under Wrockwardine Wood, the map showing it to run between Donnington Wood furnaces and the area north-west of the Nabb, a distance of just over a kilometre. At both ends the level is shown to have several short forks.

A recently noticed memo of c. 1787 at the Staffordshire Record Office both substantiates the existence of the level, recites the circumstances of its construction, and suggests its intended function (Staffordshire Record Office. D.593/L/4/4). The memo states that the Donnington Wood Co. (William Reynolds and Joseph Rathbone) took the Wrockwardine Wood mines in 1781 (from Earl Gower & Co.) for either £600 p.a. or 8d. per ton for the coal and 3s. per dozen for the ironstone, whichever was the greater sum. Subsequently the Donnington Wood Co. contracted with the Ketley Co. (Richard Reynolds) to supply it with 10,000 tons of clod coal from Wrockwardine Wood a year at 2s. 11d. per ton delivered at Donnington Wood furnace, as well as all the ironstone raised there at 3s. a dozen. Additionally they were to supply 8,000 dozens of ironstone from Donnington Wood at 10s 6d. a dozen.

The memo proceeds to state that since the preceding contracts were made (it is unclear when the memo was written but internal evidence suggests c. 1787) the Donnington Wood Co. had spent about £5,000 in making a subterranean cut or level with an intent to drain the clod coal in Wrockwardine Wood. This would indeed represent a considerable investment; by comparison, in the first years of the 19th century a large blowing engine cost c. £1,500 and a small winding engine as little as £100-£200.

The level though had not fulfilled its intended purpose as far as the Donnington Wood Co. was concerned, as it drained the ironstone but only an estimated 6,000 tons of the coal. However, the Ketley Co., which had paid £500 of the cost, had benefitted considerably, perhaps far more than had been intended, or so the Donnington Wood Co. claimed, as the level had drained the clod and sale coal and ironstone in Wombridge where the Ketley Co. held mineral rights. The Ketley Co. had apparently (the wording of the document is slightly ambiguous at this point) had its chartermasters sink a shaft in Wrockwardine Wood, probably near or at the western end of the level, which gave the company access to the coal and ironstone deposits under Wombridge. It is uncertain but likely that this Wrockwardine Wood - Wombridge working was linked to the main level.

The Donnington Wood Co., facing an imminent demand for 10,000 tons of coal from the Ketley Co., was faced with the prospect of paying a further £1,500 to erect an engine to drain the clod coal in Wrockwardine Wood. This would be sited 'at the outside of Donnington liberty', and would raise water 90 feet to the surface, allowing it to drain away via the 'Cut or Top Level brought up from the Wildmoors', presumably the Donnington Wood canal, built between c. 1765 and 1767 (Trinder 1981, 75).

The memo ends with a series of calculations showing that the Donnington Wood Co. was at that time raising the coal in question at a loss, and reciting the terms of a lease of 1783 of ironstone in Donnington Wood to William Reynolds. Nowhere is the purpose of the memo stated, but its tone is clear, that the original 1781 agreement between the Ketley and Donnington Wood companies had proved unexpectedly disadvantageous to the latter. Presumably a renegotiation of the contract or a financial settlement was being considered.

The only other fairly certain facts known about the level were recorded in 1935 by the Revd. J.E.G. Cartlidge. He stated that near Wrockwardine Wood church was a shaft down to the level. This had a bell-shaped bottom, allowing boats to be lowered on end down to the level and then righted (Cartlidge 1935, 89-90).

It is clear that in the 1780s William Reynolds was actively constructing canals, and that tunnels and shafts were, particularly until the adoption of the inclined plane, an integral part of the local canal network. Indeed, Reynolds has been said to be 'tunnel mad' (Brown 1976, 63). Dr. I.J. Brown has recently surveyed the evidence for the tunnels of the East Shropshire coalfield, dividing the tunnels into four groups: a) for transport systems, including navigable levels; b) for drainage purposes as soughs and sewers; c) for getting minerals etc; d) for miscellaneous purposes, generally as the most convenient way of gaining access over short distance obstructed by physical or other constraints. The evidence for most of the navigable levels and soughs is scanty, and it is rarely clear whether they carried boats as well as acting as drains (Brown 1979).

The Wrockwardine Wood level clearly had this dual function. It remains unknown, however, how successful it was in either capacity and how long it remained in use, what cargoes were carried, and the means of extracting them from the level. It is to be hoped that research in the future will answer these and other questions about what was clearly one of a number of major underground tunnels built mainly in the 1780s to link mines with the developing canal network.

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The Life & Times of a Yeoman Farmer in 1800. - Whitchurch Archaeological Group. - Autumn 1982

Through the kindness of Mr Richard Hughes of Ashwood, the group were able to 'dip into' the life of one of his ancestors, a yeoman farmer, at the turn of the century. The group has been permitted to use it as we think best, and I have rashly undertaken to summarise what I consider to be the most interesting passages.

Mr Hughes was fortunate to inherit a number of letters and documents, as well as some antiques, but most importantly, perhaps, a 'Farm Account Book' - kept by William Hughes from the year 1798 until 1837 - all of which gives us the most detailed information regarding farming, food, animals, transport, labour, and many other intriguing facets of daily life in that period.

To set the scene of this period so to speak, there had been a great upsurge of farming in which national wheat prices were rising rapidly - partly due to the Corn Laws - while labour costs were only rising slowly.

William Hughes, born in 1774, was the oldest son of Richard Hughes of Ashwood and while still a bachelor of 25, he took over a farm on the Cheshire side, known as the 'Barhill' at Tushingham, three to four miles out of Whitchurch. It was about 200 acres in extent and was part of the estate of George, Earl Cholmondeley. William's father died in 1801, when a younger son, also Richard, took over farming at Ashwood. Then between 1808 and 1809 William married an Ash girl - Mary Jones, daughter of Richard and Sarah Jones, farmers. This Richard made a Will in 1806, leaving various items amongst which was an unusual 'Turnip-watch', using the twelve letters of 'Richard Jones' round the dial instead of the usual figures, while 'Ash' also appeared on the dial. The case is silver, hallmarked for 1775, the movement being by D. Clowes of Liverpool. Sarah Jones had also bought two acres of land, said to be in Green-end from a Mrs M.M. Griffeth. Whether she intended to build and retire there is not known, but she died not long after in 1823.

Before we consider details of the farming, it should be mentioned that amongst the Ashwood papers were those of the Dutton family, who had previously farmed at Barhill, and who willed various items of silver and furniture, left at the farm -- (Richard Hughes thinks William's mother must have been a Dutton). John Dutton, at age 69, had made a Will, drawn up by Horner & Knight, Solicitors of Whitchurch - in which the two witnesses were Edward Braban, Clerk, and John Brooks, a Shoemaker, of Dodington. In his Will, he left his wife an annual income of £50, paid in four

instalments, which was to come out of the Barhill Farm income, after the rent had been paid to Earl Cholmondeley.

The important 'Farm Account Book' opens in the late autumn of 1789 - with an entry 'To enter on 2nd February 1799, having had the liberty to work before the time of entry'. Then he records that he paid for work done in 1798 - the 'in-going' of £379., but does not record what the sum covered, except that the labour was being paid at the rate of 1/6d. per day - 7 new pence!

The cash account is very detailed until 1802, when there is a break until 1810, but in between some odd entries make interesting reading. For instance, there are records of a contract with and payment to a Blacksmith for a year's work; and the same for a 'rat-catcher', one Thomas Fouls - 'to kill them for 10/- p.a. - to be paid every Xmas for 5 years' and to attend once a month until 'he has killed them all'! Also, agreements for piece-work harvesting - 'to cut it within 6" of the ground, clean and upright, not to cut in the wet, and to keep it up whilst they are in the field, I am to give them bread and cheese every day, and 2 quarts of ale to the acre'. And all this for 7d. per acre!

Though the farming was mixed, one of the main products was milk, most of which was made into butter, but cheese was also made all through the period, much of these two being consumed on the farm.

Cattle: Although details of the £379 ingoing are not given, it is thought this must have included the value of cattle and other animals. No doubt he sold the poor ones each year, and bought in or bred to improve the stock. This is shown in the prices, starting with 1799, when a bull and cows made a total of £54.12.6d - that is an average of £7.15.6d; by the third he had sold 11 cows and a bull for £107.12.6d, pushing the average up to £8.19.0d each. These increases are thought to be due to better stock, rather than inflation.

Pigs: The sales of pigs show rather a different picture as he appears to have killed steadily for the family, with only one sale in 1799 - 3 fat pigs for a total of £12.19.6d. This price was never exceeded but varied considerably. That he must have kept a fair stock is shown from the sales in 1801, when 31 were sold for £61.10.6d. Very few other pigs and bacon products were sold, except a few within the family. Some however were given in kind, as were other products such as ale, cheese, hay etc., Accounts show that a very large amount of salt was used, and one old cookery book reveals that beef, pork and mutton were commonly salted. When animals were killed the hides were sold to a local tanner. Thus entries for a cow and bull show hides between 68 and 84 lbs. each, at 5d. a lb, sold to a tanner named Pritchard. Today such skins would be worth £15 - £30 depending on quality.

Sheep: Sheep were kept but in what numbers is not clear. In 1799 nineteen were sold for £26.9.6d and in another year 57 were sold, but no figures of the total flock were given. In the next three years sheep were bought in, and some weavers and spinners were employed for several weeks with a great deal of wool being converted through to the finished product. Some figures here may be of interest, for in 1799 a Mary Hussey and Mary Davies were together paid 6/- for spinning; while in 1800 a Mary Parker and Molly Lith, £1.0.8d, and these indicate about two week's work in the year involving a good deal of wool. Also throughout the period, a George Meredith was the weaver, being paid 11/- to 16/- per year for about 12 day's work. The price of yarn seems high, 8 lbs. being sold for 9/4d., with a total of 65 lbs. in one year.

Regarding clothes : a pair of britches cost 18/-; a pair of shoes one year - 7/9d, and another 2 pairs at 8/6d. An interesting small item is the mention of 'spur leathers' at 4d.!

Horses were bought each year, a colt (probably unbroken) in 1700 costing £10.9.0d, then in 1800 a 'broken horse named "Dragon"' cost £22.19.0d. William then lashed out, probably with a breeding programme, buying a stallion for £62.9.6d. There are also payments for 'breaking a horse', which was a professional job. 'Foules' were kept and a few sold - 4 in 1799 and 20 in 1800, making about 1/3d each. Eggs were constant, and mostly for home consumption, while a few were sold at 2 for 1d - a price that did not alter for 25 years.

Arable Crops: The Barhill Farm must have been good, well-drained arable land, as a good deal of cereal was grown, wheat, barley and oats being recorded. In 1799 47 measures of wheat were sold at 13/6d per measure, making £31.14.6d. By 1800 production was in full swing and the total income for oats alone was £184.17.8d. Wheat, as might be expected, was a good deal dearer - 60 measures making £43.10.0d, or an average of 14/6d per measure. Barley was cheapest, rather surprisingly considering how much was used in the brewing of ale - but there may have been some over-production; however, the volume grown was only just under that of oats, making

£86.13.0d, or 5/- per measure. A year later (1801), wheat was making double the price, at 26/6d. per measure, while barley had gone up to 17/- per measure. From another source it is clear that 1800 was a period when bad harvests at home and the Napoleonic war in Europe, had caused severe grain shortages. However, it must be realised that a great deal of hand-labour was involved: ploughing by horse, stooking, carting, threshing and winnowing by hand.

Labour and Occupations: By our standards labour was a large item, payment was sometimes made weekly but quite often delayed three months or so, and since most of the workers lived in, they probably requested cash only when they needed it. There were at least three dairymaids and up to nine men, some working on part-time or contract basis. Before his marriage William had a housekeeper - 'Moly' Mathers who, besides many household duties, looked after the making and selling of all the butter. Few of the men seem to have worked the whole year: for instance, one Thomas Vaun, in 1799 worked for 292 days for a wage of £19.10.0d which on a 5½ day basis works out at 1/6d per day. Another man, Thomas Ely, worked a variable number - in the same year 187 days at £10.18.7d, but in 1800 62 days. Since most lived in this is puzzling, but possibly they might have been farmed out by arrangement with local farmers. All the other labourers worked considerably less, mostly about 40-50 days per year. Other labour was done on 'contract', one entry reading 'agreed with John Anson for my Blacksmith from Feb-Feb, for the sum of £8.0.0d, and 2 measures of wheat! After that the blacksmith took 4 payments throughout the year and is also recorded as having a cheese weighing 40 lbs. - exactly the size of a Cheshire cheese today, then valued at 6d per lb. This represents an increase of 37 times, compared with a wages increase of today of 365 times. Another entry shows payment for 'reaping' of wheat at 7/- per acre - with bread and cheese and 2 quarts of ale to the acre. A foot-note shows that in place of the 'earnest shilling for hiring', a half to 1 meal of wheat may have been given.

A 'Thom. Dod' was the 'moul' man, which reminds Richard Hughes that as a boy he can remember a mole-catcher calling at Ashwood twice a year by the name of Hobson - and being paid 1d per acre, whether any were caught or not. The moles caught were skinned, the pelts being part of his 'perks', while the carcasses were hung up on a fence or gate as evidence.

Hiring was not without its difficulties, for on 20th December 1799 payment was made to Reece, the Attorney, for 'ousting John Lee - 10/6d', and on 6th December for drawing up a lease for a part-time worker, Dimelo - £1.9.6d, after which he continued to work from his leased property.

Fuel and Transport: A considerable amount of hot water would be used in the dairy, and apart from odd wood lying about, coal was the fuel. This had been taxed until 1793, and it was about then that the old fire-place was changed to a chimney-piece for coal burning. William stocked coal in mid-summer, buying 11 wagon loads at 17½-18½ cwts. at a time. The total cost was £9.4.1d or 14/6d per ton! Since the nearby canal did not open until 1805, it must have come by road, probably to some depot from which the farm carts would fetch it when free. There is also a record of 'turf-bricks' being bought from a Mr Clay, a turf-cutter, probably from nearby Bickley Moss.

Transport: As regards visits to markets, it appears that most of his shopping and trading was done at Whitchurch, being 21 times in 1799; 20 in 1800 and 16 in 1801. Chester was visited 5 times in 1799 and 8 times in 1801. Apart from this he went to Fairs twice yearly in Drayton, Malpas, Newcastle, Tarporley, Ruthin and Shrewsbury.

Food, Drink and other Items: One surprise as far as the house was concerned was the consumption of vinegar, for at the end of July 1799 four measures (4 gallons) were bought plus four quarts a week later, a total of 5 gallons at 10/-. Perhaps the pickles went with salt beef and pork; or it may have been cheese and pickles. The amount of salt was also greater than expected, this being bought either from a Mr Gouge in Nantwich, or from a traveller - Mr Yond. For instance in 1799, 192 gallons were bought at a cost of £13.1.6d, and although this varied over the three years, the average came to 19 bushels per annum. Ale, of course, was the 'in' drink but no exact figures of home brewing are given. In 1800 malt bills amount to £6.13.0d while this rose in the next year to £19.11.6d, which would account for a fair number of gallons of home-brewed ale. Very little tea was drunk, only 2 quarter lbs. being bought per year, at the price of 1/3d per quarter, or roughly a man's daily wage! The only other drinks recorded were:- a bottle of wine at 1/6d, and a bottle of gin at 3/-. An odd recipe book has one paragraph to the effect that in order to economise with flour, it was better to bake 'the great game and meat pies' in earthenware containers made by the Staffordshire potters - notably Josiah Wedgwood, in imitation

of a pie-crust! Not a great deal was recorded about furniture, but there is one entry for 'bed furniture' at £10.10.8d. quite a price - plus hangings at 7/6d, which sounds as if it may have been a four-poster. Other odd figures include a gate and a new kennel - £2.5.0d and a new scythe- 5/-; also a side-saddle for 'Moly' at £1.9.6d. One interesting item was the purchase of 305 poplar, larch and fir trees from a Mr John Parsons of Wirswall, for Lord Cholmondeley's land at a cost of £16.

Local Notes and Comments: That concludes Mr Hughes' story, but perhaps a few comments may be allowed. For, although Barhill is not strictly in Shropshire, it is close enough, I feel sure, to be fairly typical of mixed farms in this area. This period saw the beginning of the mechanical revolution in farming, but here we see the old hand methods in full-swing - the reaping of corn, the spinning and weaving of cloth, the making of shoes, and the 'dairy maids' making large quantities of butter and cheese. Then in one place Mr Hughes asks - with reference to rope and cord - if any 'Rope-walks' were known in Whitchurch. The answer is that several have been noted. The first concerns a reference to a 'Rope-yard' in Yardington in the 18th century; another is shown on a town map of 1790 as lying between the Chester and Tarporley roads, on the west side of the Hollies Hotel; again on the 1841 Field map, one is shown near the corner of Dodington and Rosemary Lane - behind Dr. Clayton's surgery - and this was owned for some time by the Kempster family. The best known, of course, was that in Green-end, running roughly from the 'bus depot across to St. John's Street.

With reference to John Parsons of Wirswall, from whom he bought trees, it may be of interest to note that in the Brooke's family tree, we find that one of J. Parson's daughters - Theodosia - married Joseph Lee of Redbrook. From their issue Theodosia married William Wycherley Brookes, from whom two branches emerged, one being the Vaudreys - some of Tushingham Hall - and the other involving William Lee Brookes, grandfather to the well-known Harry Richards.

R.B. James.

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

The Institute of Industrial Archaeology - all enquires for courses should be directed to:

The Institute of Industrial Archaeology,
Ironbridge Gorge Museum,
Ironbridge,
Telford,
Shropshire TF8 7AW.
Tel: Ironbridge 3522

1983 Courses

- Fri. 22 April - Sat. 23 April - Decorative Architectural Glass.
History of stained, coloured, engraved etc., glass in 19th and 20th centuries, and its conservation.
- Sat. 7 - Sun. 8 May - Fieldwork on Turnpike Roads.
A study of the Ludlow Turnpike Trusts including field walking, recording of toll houses and documentary studies.
- Sat. 14 May - An Industrial Archaeological Expedition to Anglesey and the Greenfield Valley.
- Tues. 17 May - The Inventory and the Object.
Use of probate inventories in research of obsolete technologies and period interiors.
- Sat. 4 June - Sun. 5 June - Building Stones and the Industrial Revolution.
Quarrying, transport, carving and architectural use of stone over the last 200 years; restoration of stonework on buildings of the period.
- Tues. 14 June - Moving Historic Buildings.
Practical problems of dismantling, moving and erecting buildings - vernacular, industrial, country houses.

Sat. 18 - Sun. 19 June - Industrial Sources for Local Historians.

Use of records to study the history of mines and manufacture, organised in conjunction with the British Association for Local History.

Tues. 20 Sep. - Non Destructive Techniques for Surveying Historic Buildings.

Techniques for measuring damp, monitoring cracks, use of x rays and lasers.

Sat. 1 - Sun. 2 Oct. - The Coalport Conference.

Fifth annual meeting for collectors and historians of Shropshire Ceramics.

Sat. 15 - Sun. 16 Oct. - Agricultural History and Architecture.

Second conference on the history of farming practice and buildings including approaches to their conservation.

Oxford University Department for External Studies and the Field Studies Council -
Field Surveying in Archaeology

To be held at Preston Montford, Shropshire from 22nd - 29th July, 1983. Tutors: Richard Chambers and Trevor Rowley.

This course has been designed to provide basic instruction in field surveying techniques. During the week instruction will be given in sketch surveying, hachure planning and levelling. Most of the work will be based on the deserted medieval borough of Caus. No previous surveying experience is required.

For further details please apply to: The Warden, Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, SY4 1DX (0743 850380).

Details for the following courses are available from:

The Archaeology/Local History Course Secretary,
Oxford University Department for External Studies,
Rewley House,
3 - 7 Wellington Square,
Oxford OX1 2JA

Lutyens and Jekyll - a one day school to be held at Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford on Saturday 16th April 1983.

This one day course will look at one of the more recent and increasingly appreciated phases of English architecture and associated landscape gardening. It will concentrate on the partnership of the architect Edwin Lutyens and the gardener Gertrude Jekyll.

Park and Garden Landscapes: the past, present and future - to be held at Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford on Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th May 1983.

This conference is being held to celebrate the bicentenary of the death of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in 1783.

Many of our historic parks and gardens may be considered to be of considerable historic, botanical and scenic value. Whilst some are maintained to the highest standard others are in decline, which can range from almost complete dereliction to simple neglect. There is an urgent need to draw resources together to make possible long-term restoration and management programmes, as merely arresting the decline is not enough.

Accordingly apart from papers outlining the origins and development of historic parks and gardens in this country, the conference will hear of the problems concerning restoration, management and future protection of what comprises a significant element of our historical landscape.

The Seventeenth Century English Village - 13th May - 15th May 1983.

The seventeenth century has long been recognised as a key period in English history, a period of conflict and tension and of political and constitutional change of far-reaching consequences. In recent years the life of local communities and ordinary people at this time has come increasingly under the scrutiny of historians. This weekend conference will look at the seventeenth century rural community and its inhabitants through the work, in social history and local studies, of historians currently active in this field.

Capability Brown and Blenheim - a one day conference to be held on Saturday 21st May 1983 in The Riding School, Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxon (by kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Marlborough).

1983 will mark the bicentenary of the death of Capability Brown, the central figure of British landscape gardening. This conference will trace the development of one of Brown's best known works, that at Blenheim Palace. The precursors of Brown's landscape will be considered, together with his transformation of the medieval park, and the present day conservation and management of this heritage.

The University of Birmingham -
Recent Recording of Vernacular Architecture in the West Midlands -
Saturday 23rd April 1983.

A one day conference in the Faculty of Arts covering both urban and rural buildings. It allows opportunity to hear and review an interesting hypothesis on medieval buildings and includes practical details on recording.

PUBLICATIONS

The Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group are pleased to introduce the Group's latest publication - namely, "Eminent Men of Whitchurch" by Kathleen Barnard.

The book contains five short essays on the lives of well-known men connected with Whitchurch, and is intended to form part of the Group's comprehensive history of the town, now in preparation.

Mrs Barnard is to be congratulated on her lively and graphic descriptions of her subjects, representing considerable research and study, and I recommend this little book to all members of W.A.A.G. and their friends.

It is now on sale at Group meetings, and for those wish to order copies by post the price is £1.00, plus 25p p. and p. An order form is included at the end of this news sheet.

M.C. James.
Hon. Secretary.

Recent publications (Local Studies Library)

Turner, K. and S. Shropshire and Montgomeryshire Light Railway. David and Charles, 1982. £4.95. This is a retelling of the extraordinary story of the railway which ran from Shrewsbury Abbey station to Llanymynech. A small section of a grand plan to connect the Potteries with a new port for Ireland to be built in Mid Wales. Interesting new material has been added to this account on the lines military phase 1941-60.

Trinder, B.S. The Making of the Industrial Landscape. Dent, 1982. £12.95. This is an account of the impact industry has made on the landscape and townscape of Great Britain during the last three centuries. It will be of interest to everyone who enjoys observing the scene before them when travelling around the country, but Salopians will find numerous local references which may alter their perception of our own county.

Rowley, N. ed. Drayton Court Leet : an introduction to the bye laws, 1545-1727. A valuable record of Market Drayton's past is here printed for the first time. There are 3 illustrations, 2 plans, an introduction and glossary besides the transcript of the document itself. Copies available from N. Rowley, 'Blue Gates', Weston Lullingfields, Shrewsbury SY4 2AA (Baschurch 260616). Price £1.65 post free.

Forthcoming publications (Shropshire Archaeological Society)

Members will recall that the Society published H.D.G. Foxall's Shropshire Field-names in 1980 with money left to the Society by Mrs Thickpenny together with a grant from the Walker Trust. (Copies are still available to members at £1.75). The rapid sales of this book have enabled us to recover our costs, so the Society can now make another contribution to local history publishing.

The Council has decided to reprint Robert Baugh's Map of Shropshire of 1808 in facsimile. This, the first 1 inch to 1 mile survey of the county, is an important source of information on numerous aspects of Shropshire's history. The map is with the printer and will be reproduced as the nine original sheets in a slipcase with an introductory essay by Dr. Barrie Trinder. Members will be able to buy copies at a reduced rate. Details will be given when available.

Forthcoming publications (other bodies)

The Shropshire Conservation Trust is to publish a new Ecological Flora of the Shropshire Region next year containing c. 360 pages with some coloured illustrations and over 700 maps. Anyone wishing to become a subscriber should send a £10 cheque made out to "Shropshire Conservation Trust Flora a/c" to Clive Tate, Bear Steps, Shrewsbury. Subscribers will be asked to pay a balance of approximately £5 in the autumn of 1984.

Miscellaneous

Grinsell, L.V. (1980) - Mitchell's Fold Stone Circle and its folklore. West Country Folklore No. 15. ISBN 0 85695 218 9.

As one has come to expect of the author, the text of this small (10 page) monograph is excellent with sections on the archaeology, the folklore and a very comprehensive bibliography. The production however does not do him justice. In the reviewer's copy, the cover picture has been included with the other figures - as Fig. 8, the reproduction of the photographs, Figs. 3 - 5, is poor and the pagination is unusual in that the front cover is page 1.

Alan Tyler.

SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER MEETINGS PROGRAMME 1983

Saturday May 14th: LESSER EDWARDIAN CASTLES AND BOROUGHS OF N.E. WALES.
A tour of Overton-on-Dee, Holt and Caergwrle led by Derrick Pratt.
Meet in Shirehall car park at 10.00 a.m. for sharing cars or in the
car park behind the church at Overton at 10.45 a.m. Bring packed lunch;
pubs will be available. Fee 60p.

Saturday June 11th: PITCHFORD AND ACTON BURNELL.
A tour of villages and landscape which have been researched for the
Victoria County History, led by James Lawson.
Meet in the Shirehall car park at 2.00 p.m. (for sharing cars) or at
2.30 p.m. at Pitchford church. Fee 50p.

Saturday June 25th: Annual General Meeting. 2.30 p.m. at College Hill House,
followed by an illustrated talk on recent research in the Trent Valley
at Nottingham by Dr. Christopher Salisbury... (who was runner up in the
B.B.C. Chronicle awards for amateur archaeologists).

Saturday July 9th: ARCHAEOLOGY ALONG THE SEVERN : WEIRS, FORDS and BRIDGES.
An exploration of the river channel between Shrewsbury and Wroxeter by boat,
led by David Pannett, in conjunction with the 25th (Shrewsbury) Sea Scouts.
Departure will be from Castlefields at 10.30 a.m. and the finish at
Wroxeter or Cound Lane should be about 4.30 - 5.00 p.m. Numbers will be
limited to 16 and prior booking is essential... final details will be
discussed nearer the date. Participants must come prepared to get wet
and help with the rowing. A lunch stop will be made at Atcham. Fee £3.50p

Saturday September 17th: DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OF THE CLEE HILLS AREA
A guided tour of small farms and cottages led by Madge Moran.
Transport will be by minibus departing Shirehall 10.00 a.m.
Bring packed lunch which can be eaten at Wheathill Y.H. or a
local pub. Prior booking is essential. Fee £3.00.

The autumn meeting programme will begin on Saturday October 8th in Bear Steps at
2.30 p.m. when Miss Ann Harden of the Keele University Archaeological Society will
give an illustrated talk on recent excavations of a Prehistoric site at Chelford.

Any problems contact: David Pannett (Meetings Sec.) Tel. Shrewsbury 850794.

Reply slips: To David Pannett (Meetings Sec.) 53 The Oval, Bicton, Shrewsbury.
Tel: Shrewsbury 850794 (evenings)

NAME _____ Tel. _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ PLACES on Severn boat trip - July 9th.

I enclose cheque for _____
Cheques should be made out to 'Shropshire Archaeological Society, Field meetings a/c

To David Pannett (Meetings Sec.) 53 The Oval, Bicton, Shrewsbury.
Tel: Shrewsbury 850794 (evenings).

NAME _____ Tel. _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ PLACES on the Clee Hill Excursion - September 17th.

I enclose cheque for _____
Cheques should be made out to 'Shropshire Archaeological Society, Field meetings a/c



A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Edited by Carole Ryan, 6 Church View, Preston Gubbals, near Shrewsbury.

Tel: Shrewsbury 222332

WINTER MEETINGS PROGRAMME 1983-84

The following meetings and illustrated lectures will take place on the second Saturday of each month, at 2.30 p.m. in Bear Steps, Shrewsbury (except where otherwise stated).

Saturday October 8th.
EXCAVATIONS OF A PREHISTORIC SITE AT CHELFORD, CHESHIRE;
Ann Harden.

Saturday November 12th.
THE HAUGHMOND ABBEY CARTULARY AS A SOURCE FOR LOCAL HISTORY;
Dr. Una Rees.

Saturday December 10th.
THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS OF ROWLEY'S MUSEUM;
Bruce Bennison. (Meeting will be at the Museum).

Saturday January 14th.
NEW YEAR SOCIAL WITH MEMBERS' SLIDES;
(Meeting will be at the newly restored County Library, Castle Gates).
A small charge will be made for refreshments.

Saturday February 11th.
EXCAVATIONS AT STAFFORD CASTLE;
Charles Hill.

Saturday March 10th.
CASTLES OF THE WELSH BORDER;
Dr. D.F.Renn.

Further information can be obtained from:
Hon. Secretary - Yvette Staelens: Much Wenlock 727773.
Meetings Secretary - David Pannett: Shrewsbury 850794.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES FROM JANUARY 1984

Members are asked to note that increased annual subscriptions were approved at the Society's Annual General Meeting. From January 1984 the rates will be:

Individual members	-	£6.00
Family members	-	£7.00
Institutional members	-	£6.00
Overseas members	-	£7.00

Members who pay by bankers order are particularly requested to notify their banks of the increase as soon as possible. This will save the unnecessary expense of posting individual reminders to members. Thank you for your help in this matter,

Mrs C. Carr
Membership Secretary
18 Kemps Eye Avenue
Shrewsbury SY3 7QW

NEW PUBLICATION

The Society has just published a reprint of Baugh's Map of Shropshire of 1808. For details and order form please see separate sheet.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

RECRUIT "A MEMBER"

In common with many other Societies facing increased costs, we find it is necessary to increase subscriptions in order to stay still. This has been aggravated by the falling number of members and we therefore urge all members to try and recruit one additional member to the Society.

RECRUIT "THE TAXMAN"

This Society is a registered Charity and one of the benefits of Charitable Status is that when members pay subscriptions by Deed of Covenant the Society is entitled to a refund of tax from the Inspector of Taxes. At the basic rate of 30% for every £1 of subscription income received from a covenanted member the Inspector of Taxes will pay the Society 43pence. The benefits to the Society are obvious. Our income is increased (without members paying any more) and we, therefore, can provide more benefits to members and also keep subscriptions at the same level for longer periods. We therefore urge every member to consider this very carefully and a suitable covenant form is enclosed for completion.

This form may be completed now, even if your current year subscription has been paid and used for future years subscriptions. We would, however, remind all members who have covenanted their subscriptions that further covenants will be required each time the subscription is amended. Please help to increase the Society funds by this method. A full response could be most gratifying. The Treasurer would be happy to answer any queries you may have but would mention in particular, that there would be no financial penalty if members are unable to complete the full period of the Deed of Covenant (i.e. four years).

Action

1. Pay your subscription promptly.
2. Sign a Covenant.
3. Recruit at least one new member.

LEGACIES

The Committee ask all members who desire to do so to consider including a provision in their Will for a legacy to the Society. Such legacy to be applied to the aims of the Society.

FOR FURTHER NEWS LETTERS

1. Have your covenanted your subscription.
2. Have you recruited a new member.

LOCAL GROUPS

Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group - Winter Programme 1983/84.

As in previous years, the winter lectures will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Lounge of the Civic Centre, Whitchurch. Thanks to Janet Forster, our Programmes Secretary, we have a good season of talks to offer our members, with some interesting and distinguished speakers. These are as follows:

1983	September 15th	Mrs Madge Moran	The History of Shrewsbury, Part II.
	October 20th	Mrs Margaret Gelling	Place Names of Shropshire.
	November 17th	Mr Tim Strickland	Recent discoveries in the history of Chester.
	December 15th	Mr Percy Wood	Old Cheshire Customs.
1984	January 19th	Mr Richard Hughes	The History of Ash.
	February 16th	A.G.M. and Supper.	
	March 15th	Representative of the Llangollen Railway Society.	
	April 19th	Miss Jean Hughes	The Life of Archdeacon Allen of Prees.

Border Counties Archaeological Group

Border Counties Archaeological Group have elected new officers:

Chairman: Derrick Pratt, The Grange, Welsh Frankton, Oswestry. (Tel: Elles. 2207)

Secretary: Miss June Jones, 'Silverdale', 14 Kendal Way, Little Acton, Wrexham.
(Tel: Wrexham 364124)

Programme Secretary: Mrs Kathy Lloyd, 19 Middleton Road, Oswestry,
(Tel: Oswestry 661708)

In addition they have welcomed Steve Greuter, Sites and Monuments Records Officer at Clwyd County Council, to the committee as a replacement for John Manley who has resigned due to pressure of work.

The Group are anticipating the publication of Professor Barri Jones' Final Report on Rhyn Park, the project which initiated the formation of the Group.

The remaining Winter programme lectures are:-

Saturday, 15th October 1983 - Visit to Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury.

2.00 p.m. - Meet at Rowley's House, Barker Street, Shrewsbury to look round this interesting museum, which contains many artefacts from Wroxeter.

Bruce Bennison (Assistant Curator) will address members. There is an entrance fee of 20p each.

Wednesday, 2nd November 1983 - Talk on "The Local Studies Library, Shrewsbury"
by Mr Preston.

7.30 p.m. Queen's Hotel, Oswestry.

Wednesday, 7th December 1983 - Annual General Meeting followed by talk on "Aerial Reconnaissance of Archaeological Sites in BCAG Area" by our President, Professor G.D.B. Jones of Manchester University.

7.30 p.m. Queen's Hotel, Oswestry.

Wednesday, 25th January 1984 - Talk on "Records of Sites and Monuments in Clwyd (with particular reference to Deeside and Wrexham Maelor)" by Steve Greuter, Sites and Monuments Records Officer, Clwyd.

7.30 p.m. Yale 6th Form College, Crispin Lane, Wrexham.

Wednesday, 22nd February 1984 - Talk on "Buckley Pottery" by James Bentley of The Buckley Society.

7.30 p.m. The White Horse Hotel, Overton-on-Dee.

Wednesday, 14th March 1984 - Talk on "Moated Sites in Shropshire" by Mike Watson, Planning Department, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

7.30 p.m. Queen's Hotel, Oswestry.

Wednesday, 18th April 1984 - Talk on "Edwardian Castles in Clwyd" by our Chairman, Derrick Pratt.

7.30 p.m. The White Horse Hotel, Overton-on-Dee.

In connection with previous investigation on Offa's Dyke, Dr. David Hill of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies at Manchester University has arranged a Reunion for Border County members on the evening of 15th October 1983, revolving around a weekend of fieldwork and excavation! It will be centred on the Blue Bell, the Dykes and possibly the Roman Fort at Brompton. No-one need dig unless they want to but all may join the party for the Celebration on 15th. There will be a meal and entertainment. If anyone is interested "to meet old friends and spend a bracing weekend in the beautiful Welsh Marches" please let the Hon. Sec. know and an application form will be forwarded.

INTERIM ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

Tong Castle Ice-house - Autumn 1983

The Ice-house at Tong Castle was built into the north side of the Landscape gardening created in c.1765 by Capability Brown for George Durant who purchased the Tong Estate inc. 1760. The Ice-house was within the line of the proposed M54 Telford Motorway and on confirmation of the motorway route, discussions took place between the Group and the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings into the feasibility of dismantling and re-constructing the Ice-house in the Museum at Bromsgrove.

When it had been agreed that the project was possible, permission was sought and given by the Bradford Estate for the Ice-house to be removed in advance of the Motorway construction. Because the Ice-house was built into, and against the Keep of the medieval castle buildings on the site, it was decided to excavate the outside before dismantling work started to determine the position and construction of the Ice-house in relation to the medieval Keep Buildings.

The Ice-house was found to have been built on the north east corner of the Keep and the Inner Ditch and utilised an existing 12th century Round Tower foundation into which the Ice-house structure was built. A possible Cellar or Dungeon within the base of the Tower was deepened to ensure that the Ice-house was below the ground level of the above Castle Lawns, and at the bottom of the cutting into the natural bedrock a drainage channel was cut to the South Pool which went around the promontory on which the Castle was built.

The machine work necessary to clear the massive amount of rubble and spoil overlay, on and around the Ice-house, further revealed the extent of the 12th century Keep Curtain Wall and the 13th century Inner Ditch Building which abutted the Round Tower. The earlier 17th century Landscape walling which was built alongside the first South of Mill-pool was also located by the machining.

The Ice-house was dismantled layer by layer with the brickwork and profile of each layer recorded and wherever possible the bricks were cleaned for re-use, and the Ice-house was photographed in stages as the dismantling progressed. The Ice-house was found to be egg-shaped construction i.e. a parallel section with dome shapes at the top and the bottom, with the parallel section being some 3,40 metres in diameter and the inside height being 5,85 metres.

The doorway was cut into the top section of the parallel section and the dome top, and around the outside of the parallel section was a series of vertical cavity slots, which kept the inside brickwork dry. The slots continued down, and into the drain or sump with the drain outlet being higher than the water collection level to allow the draught of cold air from the stored ice to draw air down, and out of the cavity slots. The drainage channel into the South Pool had a steep slope to stop water collecting and with the drain outlet being above the surface of the South Pool, the flow of air from the Ice-house was un-interrupted which was necessary to avoid damp condition in the Ice-house which would cause the stored ice to melt.

The ice stored in the Ice-house was cut from the North or Church Pool, created during the 18th century landscaping, the still waters being created by the water going into lower level culverts within the dam of the pool. The water from the culverts went into the lower South Pool and this enabled the drainage from the Ice-house to be fed into the South Pool without contaminating the waters of the North Pool from which the ice was cut.

The ice was moved from the Ice-house on a wheeled cart into the Castle via the adjacent Underground Tunnel, which connected with a series of tunnels leading to Cellars, Wine Cellar and large Larders under the Castle. The ice was almost certainly used to keep fish and vegetables cool as well as for medicinal purposes, with drinks and general cooling in the very hot summers experienced in the 18th century.

The Ice-house has now been successfully reconstructed at the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, Bromsgrove and open to the public and, being built in a similar way to the original 18th century construction, has incorporated many of the irregular facets of the original structure and apart from the different location above the ground level, because of drainage difficulties, it is almost as if the original Ice-house had been moved in one piece from the Tong Castle site to Bromsgrove.

Alan Wharton
Tong Archaeological Group.

Reference - T.A.G. Report No. 2 - C.C. Records Office
S&M. Records Office
Reference Library.

Also available from Alan Wharton M.R.G. Report No. 1 - Water-mill Survey of Shropshire

FINDS

Two Fragments of Roman Glass from Upper Hayfield, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury.

During field walking by the Prehistoric Research Group on the line of the proposed Shrewsbury by-pass in field centred SJ 490096 two fragments of natural blue/green glass were recovered (Watson 1983,4). These were probably from the same vessel: a Roman prismatic or cylindrical bottle. One fragment from the shoulder, the other from the lower support of a multi-reeded handle. These bottles were common from c. AD 70-120, though manufacture probably began c. AD 60 and continued until c. AD 140 (Charlesworth 1966).

Charlesworth, D. (1966) Roman Square Bottles, J.Glass Stud., VIII, 26-40.

Watson, M.D. (1983) A5 field survey project, Shropshire News Sheet, XVII, 4.

Louise Monk,
Univ. of Leicester.

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

University of Birmingham - Department of Extra-Mural Studies.

Local Courses

Shrewsbury

Archaeology in Museums - Man, Materials and Technology.
B. Bennison B.A.
10 meetings on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. from September 28th at College Hill House,
13 College Hill, Shrewsbury.

Place Names of Shropshire.

Margaret Gelling B.A. PhD.
8 monthly meetings on Saturdays 2.00 - 6.00 p.m. from October 15th, at the Local
History Library, Shrewsbury. Research group with a few vacancies for new members,
who may attend the first meeting without obligation. Details from Dr. P. Toghill,
College Hill House, 13 College Hill, Shrewsbury. (55137)

Telford

Roman Britain and the Rise of Civilization.
Stephen Pierpoint B.A. PhD.
10 meetings on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. from October 5th at Telford College of Art and
Technology, Haybridge Road, Wellington.
Further details from Mrs J. Cooksey, Extra-Mural Dep. University of Birmingham.

Weekend Courses/Conferences

Recent Progress in Wroxeter (Macellium Site)

Graham Webster O.B.E. M.A. PhD. F.S.A.; Donald Mackreth
Day School. Saturday October 8th - Winterbourne. Fee £6.40 including refreshments and
lunch.

Recent Recording of Vernacular Architecture in the West Midlands.

One day conference Saturday April 7th, 1984, Faculty of Arts,
University of Birmingham. Fee £4.40 including refreshments but not lunch.

31st March and 1st April 1984 - West Midlands Annual Archaeological Research Group's
Conference - a round up of the progress made on excavation in the West Midlands during
the past year to discuss excavation techniques and problems.

Summer Schools 1984 - advance information

Hen Domen, Montgomery, Powys.

Training Excavation - 2 weeks, July 1984.

Wroxeter, Shropshire.

Two training schools in Excavation Techniques each lasting for two weeks,
August 1984.

Possible course "Archaeological Fieldwork & Surveying in the content of Wroxeter".
1 week, early September.

Contact Miss F. Lawson in December 1983 for further details.

The Institute of Industrial Archaeology - Ironbridge

Monday, 7th November.

The Steam Engine and the Industrial Revolution.

The relationship between the advances in the technology of the steam engine, from
Newcomen to Watt and the high pressure engine of the 19th century, and their use
in industry and transport. Based at Birmingham.

Director : Professor John Harris.

ROWLEY'S HOUSE MUSEUM, SHREWSBURY

The continuing maintenance and development of the archaeological collections at
Rowley's House is now assured by the provision, by the Borough Council, of a Museum
Archaeologist post.

In the 8 months since the post was established, the assessment of priorities has
clearly indicated a need for urgent reorganisation and improvement of the storage and
research facilities for archaeological material of the Museum.

The Museum possesses major collections of artifacts from all periods of the history of Shropshire. The prehistoric metalwork, which includes some of the local bronze implement hoards, was the inspiration of Lily Chitty. From the Roman period the huge collection of material from Wroxeter has, to date, lain largely unrecognised and neglected in recent years. Work is under way to bring it back into the limelight as a valuable source of research material for scholars at a national level.

From the medieval period the, all but brief, period of urban excavation in the 1970's in Shrewsbury, has left a collection of medieval and post-medieval pottery yet to be properly catalogued and related to pottery studies elsewhere in the region.

There is much work to be done at the Museum. It would be greatly appreciated if anybody who has deposited excavation material at the Museum in recent years would send details of their work, in order that a proper excavation archive may be created. The work of identification of objects brought into the Museum continues and in fact, appears to have greatly increased since the 'new' building was opened.

Full details of all archaeological material donated or brought in for identification will be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record at Shirehall.

Corrections to News Sheet No. 17

I notice in the News Sheet No. 17 that one or two errors have been transmitted from the Whitchurch AAG Newsletter, and I would appreciate it if they could be corrected in the next issue, thus to make a little more sense of the report.

They are : line 8 '....second phase having (del. being).

line 21 '....knowledge of the defences of the C1 fort...'
(del. Mile).

line 26 '....discoidal knife...' (del. discarded).

Don Stewart

A History of Bridgnorth

A member of the Society, Miss Christine M. McCarthy has recently expressed an interest in writing a book on Bridgnorth and the surrounding areas (ie Worfield, Much Wenlock, Norton, Hughley, Alveley and the daughter settlements). She hopes to include accounts of local people, local legend and folklore. Any previously untapped sources would be much welcomed and should be sent to her at -

4 Ash Road,
Bridgnorth,
Shropshire.
WV16 4PL

Tel: Bridgnorth 3677

ROBERT BAUGH'S MAP OF SHROPSHIRE 1808

Robert Baugh of Llanymynech published the first 1 inch to 1 mile survey of the county in 1808. It is a major source for numerous aspects of the county's history as it records turnpike roads, industries, canals, settlements, archaeological antiquities, parks, enclosures and other features of landscape history at an important period of the county's historical development.

Copies of the rare original map have only been available to students in libraries and record offices, but this reprint will enable this important map to receive the much wider use it deserves.

The nine original sheets of the map have been reproduced in facsimile. Accompanying them is a twelve page pamphlet introduction in which Dr. Barrie Trinder has provided an informative commentary on the map and its value to students of Shropshire's past. The folded sheets and introduction are contained in an attractive slipcase which enables the map to be kept on a bookshelf.

This is the second title to be published with money from the Society's revolving publications fund, the first being H.D.G. Foxall's Shropshire Field-Names. Publications in this series aim at making useful contributions to the study of Shropshire's history which will appeal to as wide a range of local historians as possible. All proceeds from sales will be used to publish further titles in the series.

The map will be on sale at £9.00 to the general public. Members of the Society may buy copies at £8.00 each. It is hoped to have copies on sale at the Society's meetings, or members may buy copies from the Publications Secretary at the Local Studies Library, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury. Members wishing to order by post should use the order form below.

.....

To: Publications Secretary, Shropshire Archaeological Society, c/o Local Studies Library, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AS.

I wish to purchase a copy of the reprint of Baugh's map of Shropshire at the member's rate of £8.00. I enclose payment to Shropshire Archaeological Society for the sum of £9.20 to include packing and postage (in U.K. only).

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....

Post Code

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice to ensure transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, it is noted that regular audits are essential to identify any discrepancies or errors in the accounting process. This helps in maintaining the integrity of the financial data and ensures compliance with relevant regulations.

In addition, the document highlights the need for clear communication between all stakeholders involved in the financial operations. Regular meetings and reports should be conducted to keep everyone informed about the current financial status and any planned changes.

It is also stressed that the financial team should stay updated with the latest market trends and economic indicators. This knowledge is crucial for making informed decisions and adjusting the financial strategy accordingly to meet the organization's goals.

Finally, the document concludes by stating that a strong financial foundation is key to the long-term success of any business. By following these guidelines, the organization can ensure its financial health and sustainability.

For more information, please contact the finance department at [contact information].

The information provided here is for informational purposes only and should not be used as a substitute for professional financial advice.

We appreciate your interest in our financial operations and look forward to continuing our partnership with you.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]

SHROPSHIRE PARISH REGISTERS

As advertised in the last News Sheet the registers of Upton Cressett and Silvington are being prepared for printing, and the Council has decided that each will be issued free of charge (save that of postage) to any member requiring it.

In order that a realistic print run can be fixed, members who wish to be supplied with one or both of these registers should complete and return the form below by 1 December 1983.

Failure to return the form by then may mean that a member who wishes to acquire a register may find the stock exhausted.

.....

To: G.C. Baugh,
Hon. Editor, Shropshire Archaeological Society,
Glebe House,
Vicarage Road,
Meole Brace,
SHREWSBURY.
SY3 9EZ

I wish to acquire

..... copy/copies of Upton Cressett parish register

..... copy/copies of Silvington parish register

on publication.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....

Post Code

ELLESMERE 1983 FESTIVAL, 2 - 5 JUNE 1983 - PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Over 3,000 people visited the Local History Exhibition mounted in the Town Hall as part of this Festival. In response to an appeal for display material over 300 photographs, postcards etc., were sent in to the organisers of the Local History section. Each one was immediately photographed and returned to the donor. Accepting the kind offer of Mr Anthony Carr, the Local Studies Library, Shrewsbury, provided enlargements from each negative from which a selection was made for mounting and display. After the Exhibition was dismantled, the negatives were provisionally numbered and captioned and, along with the photographic enlargements, deposited at the Local Studies Library to form a unique photographic archive.

The collection right now is being incorporated into the library's own catalogue and reference system, a process tht will be slightly delayed while the Local Studies Library returns to its original premises. When completed, it is intended that part, if not all of this archive, will also be on file at Ellesmere or Oswestry Libraries, with the usual facility for the public to obtain prints.

Published to coincide with the Festival, and a valuable memento of it, is A Pictorial History of Ellesmere and District, 1790-1950 by Derrick Pratt, Chairman of the Festival's Local History Sub-Committee. This sumptuously produced 64-page booklet contains 99 historic photographs, maps and prints, and is the first book to appear on the history of Ellesmere for nearly 90 years. It covers all aspects of the town's past - mere, church, streets, shops, inns, schools, 'workhouse', hospitals, military (Volunteers to National Service), Fire Brigade, canal, railways, early cars and garages, carnival, sport, hunt, A.D.S., houses great and small, and the surrounding villages of Dudleston, Cockshutt, Welshampton and Welsh Frankton.

The book should be available from bookshops in Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Ellesmere. A 20% reduction is offered to members of the Shropshire Archaeological Society who wish to order by post. Reduced price is £2 plus 27p postage and packing. An order form is printed below.

.....
To: Mr D. Pratt, The Grange, Welsh Frankton, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 4NX

ORDER FORM FOR "PICTORIAL HISTORY OF ELLESMERE AND DISTRICT"

Please send me.....copy/copies of "A Pictorial History of Ellesmere and District", for which I enclose my remittance for £.....

Price per copy £2.00 plus 27p postage and packing.

Make cheques payable to 'Ellesmere Local History Booklet A/c'.

Name.....

Address.....
.....
.....

Post Code.....

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This ensures transparency and allows for easy verification of the data.

Additionally, it is noted that regular audits are essential to identify any discrepancies or errors early on. This proactive approach helps in maintaining the integrity of the financial statements and prevents any potential issues from escalating.

The second section focuses on the role of technology in modern accounting. It highlights how software solutions have streamlined various processes, from data entry to report generation. This not only saves time but also reduces the risk of human error.

However, it also points out that while technology is a powerful tool, it should not replace the expertise of a professional accountant. The human element is still crucial for interpreting the data and making informed decisions.

In the third part, the document explores the challenges faced by small businesses in managing their finances. Limited resources often make it difficult to invest in advanced accounting systems or hire a full-time accountant.

To address these challenges, the text suggests several strategies, such as utilizing cloud-based accounting services or outsourcing specific tasks. These solutions can provide small businesses with the same level of accuracy and efficiency as larger corporations.

Finally, the document concludes by reiterating the importance of staying up-to-date with the latest accounting standards and regulations. Continuous learning is key to ensuring that all financial reporting remains compliant and accurate.

The following table provides a summary of the key points discussed in the document. It serves as a quick reference for readers who want to review the main takeaways.

In conclusion, effective financial management is the cornerstone of any successful business. By following the guidelines outlined in this document, businesses can ensure their financial records are accurate, reliable, and compliant.

The document also includes a section on the importance of clear communication between business owners and their accountants. Regular meetings and open dialogue are essential for understanding the business's financial needs and ensuring that the accountant is providing the most relevant advice.

Furthermore, it stresses the need for businesses to have a clear understanding of their own financial goals and how their accounting practices align with those goals. This alignment is crucial for long-term success and growth.

Overall, the document provides a comprehensive overview of the various aspects of accounting and financial management. It offers practical advice and insights that can be applied to a wide range of business scenarios.