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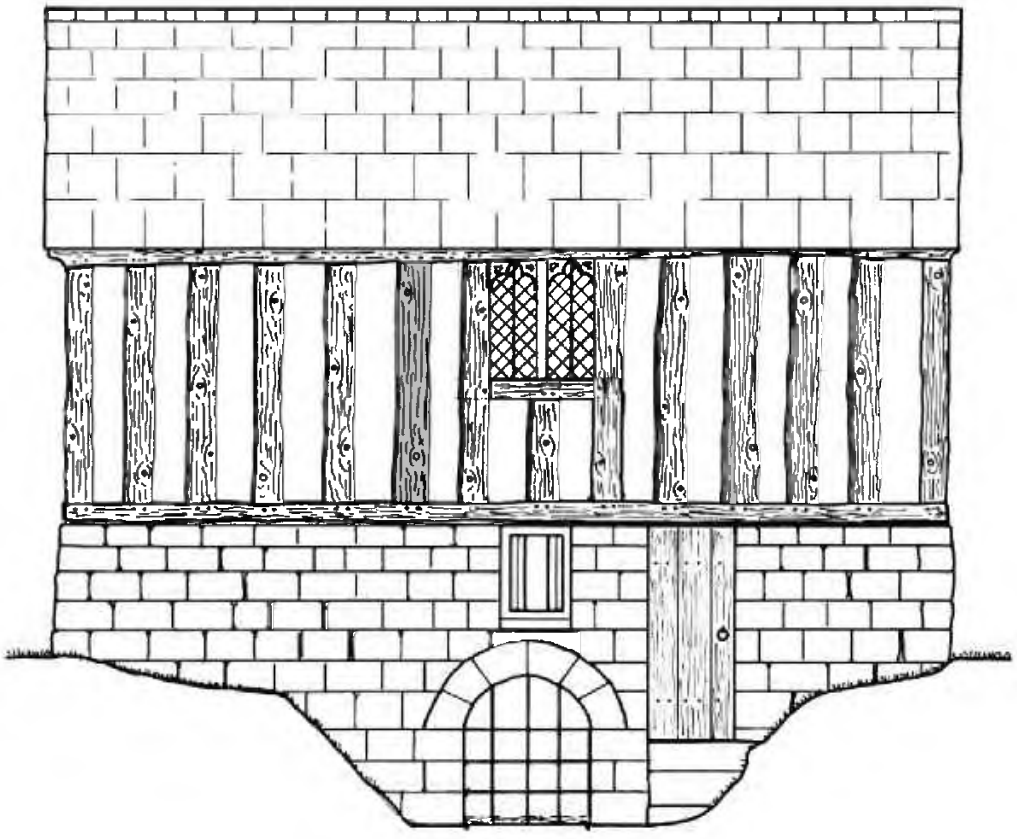

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Front cover: St Winifred's Well, Woolston: reconstruction of the north elevation of the Phase 1 chapel

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'The Old People Will Never be Happier Elsewhere': The Society of Friends World War II Evacuation Hostel, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire

By T. J. PETERS[1] and TAMSIN BAPTY[2]

Between 1940 and 1945, following the extensive bombing of the East End of London and other cities, the Quaker Friends Relief Service set up around 80 Evacuation Centres. These Centres provided shelter for displaced elderly people. The former Coalbrookdale Friends Meeting House was adapted and used as a hostel up to March 1945. With the strong and continuing support of Alfred ['Hal'] Simpson, managing director of the nearby Horsehay Iron Works and the Clerk of the Coalbrookdale Friends Preparative Meeting, resident wardens Nora and Bill Blake (and their successors) turned the Coalbrookdale Friends Evacuation Centre into one of the most successful and appreciated Society of Friends hostels. Surviving archival records and correspondence, as well as the contributions of local residents, have enabled us to build up a detailed description of the Centre from preparation to occupation. In so doing, this paper sheds new light on an often overlooked chapter in the history of Shropshire's Home Front.

INTRODUCTION

The Society of Friends had a longstanding presence in Germany. After the First World War the Society established the Berlin International Centre, staffed jointly by British, American and German Friends. The Centre aimed to interpret and support Quaker principles as an experiment in international reconciliation. However, with the rise of National Socialism in the 1930s, the Society became increasingly involved with the victims of Nazi oppression. The Germany Emergency Committee was set up in 1933. Members visited concentration camps, and established a Rest Home near Frankfurt where German Friends and other distressed victims could have 2–3 weeks of rest and support. They also facilitated the transfer of refugees from Germany, Austria and, other occupied countries to safe havens in England and elsewhere.[3] In Britain, agricultural training camps were opened. By 1939, nine agricultural centres had been set up to accommodate some 225 trans-migrant refugees. Here they received up to 18 months of practical training in farming, horticulture and bee-keeping in association with the local farmers. The cost of 12/6 (62.5p) per head per week was borne by the Society of Friends and other Quaker supporters. Nearly 500 refugees received training and support to settle in Australia, United States, New Zealand and South America.[4] However, with the declaration of war against Germany on 3rd September 1939 the reception of refugees by the UK was halted and the agricultural centres progressively closed.

Intense bombing in London from September 1940 caused widespread injury and displacement.[5] The government was not always able to respond. Whilst it made arrangements for the evacuation of children and mothers with babies, it was only able to offer limited use of other facilities (institutions such as former 'work houses') for the elderly or disabled. These, of course, had emotional connotations for many people. As a result, other groups had to step in to help. The Society of Friends responded to the crisis on two fronts: firstly, the Friends Ambulance Unit, at that time training for ambulance work abroad, suddenly found itself on the front line in East London.[6] Secondly, the Quaker Relief groups began to provide Rest and Evacuation Centres.[7] These groups were increasingly organised by specific committees, among them the Friends War Victims Relief Committee (FWVRC, November 1940 to February 1942), Friends War Relief Service (FWRS, February 1942–September 1943) and Friends Relief Service (FRS, September 1943–May, 1948). For simplicity, the last abbreviation will be used throughout this paper.

One of the most distinguished contributors to the FRS was Roger Wilson, a former BBC employee dismissed for conscientious objection. As full time Secretary he oversaw the establishment of some 80 Evacuation and other Centres (hostels). A training course for relief workers was initially set up at Woodbrooke, the Quaker centre for adult education on the outskirts of Birmingham. Plans for further centres on the outskirts of London (for example, Barking and Walthamstow) were rejected, as they were on the edge of the blitz area. Attempts to find private billets in Chester, Northampton and elsewhere were also unsuccessful, so rural Friends Meeting Houses were selected and modified as necessary. By the beginning of October 1940 Meeting House hostels were identified in Worcester, Luton, Rugby and Evesham, and hostels at Swindon, Redditch and Coalbrookdale were under consideration. By the end of October there were fifteen centres, supporting about 100 old people.

Roger Wilson's *Quaker Relief* provides a valuable overview of this work. However, it contains little detail of the individual hostels. The following case study aims to fill this gap by bringing together a number of sources for the first time. The discovery of two large folders of correspondence and notes between the Coalbrookdale hostel and the Birmingham and London offices provides an in-depth account of the establishment of this Quaker evacuation hostel, and gives an insight into the variety of issues encountered there. In addition, records in the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust Library, the Shropshire Archives at Shrewsbury, and personal information from Quaker colleagues and local residents, have enabled a detailed discussion of the life and times of the evacuation hostel. Finally, some consideration of the contemporary medical facilities available for Coalbrookdale residents has also been made.

BACKGROUND

Coalbrookdale Friends Meeting House

The Friends Meeting Houses at Coalbrookdale have a long and distinguished history.[8] The first Meeting House was within Dale House, the home built by Abraham Darby I (1678–1717) for the manager of the Coalbrookdale Company. It was licensed for meetings in 1716. The first purpose-built Meeting House was erected in 1745 by Richard Ford I (1711–63), manager of the Coalbrookdale Company, on land adjoining Dale House. It was enlarged in 1763 by Abraham Darby II

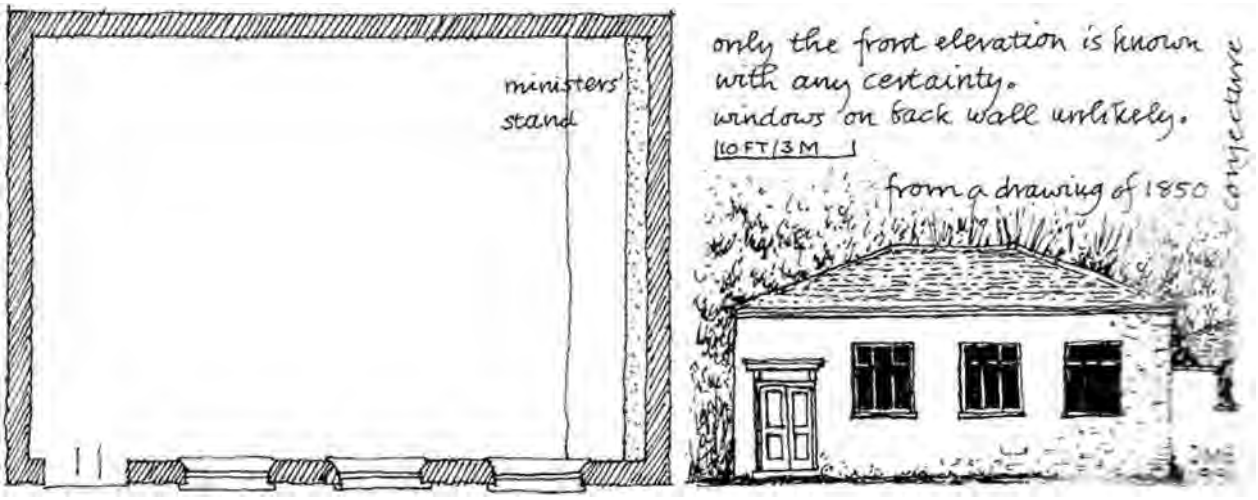

Figure 1 Plan of Coalbrookdale Friends Meeting House, *c*.1860.[8]

Figure 2 Coalbrookdale Meeting House, 1960. *IGMT Archives*.

(1712–63). In 1808 this Meeting House was replaced by another built by Richard Reynolds (1735–1816). A plan of Reynolds's Meeting House in the 1860s is shown in Figure 1. It was probably little changed up to the time of its conversion into an evacuation centre. In the 1860s, the interior was described thus:

> COALBROOKDALE
> Worship at the Friends Meeting-House.
> The outside of the meeting-house resembled a plain schoolroom that might have been built 80 or 100 years ago, and is still kept in clean and good repair. It has on the front side four wood-framed and lead glazed windows … The entrance to the room is through a lobby, running the width of the house, having also a door opening into the room … Nine or ten benches, with backs, which would sit seven or eight persons, occupied one side of the centre aisle and similar number on the other. At the far end, extending all across the room, is one elevated pew or rostrum. For about five feet high wood panelling line the walls all around the room; this, with the benches and the rostrum are oak grained, the walls stone or fawn colour, and the ceiling white, and are both guiltless of any architectural ornament … In the midst of the room are four slender pillars, likely sustaining beams, which are hid by the plaster of the ceiling. … Over the entrance end is a narrow gallery, reaching across the house.[9]

In the 20th century, membership of the Coalbrookdale Meetings consisted mainly of Coalbrookdale Company employees and their families with one Darby member, Miss Rebecca Darby. However, by 1938 membership had dwindled to only two families and the decision was taken to close the Meeting House (with meetings subsequently held in the home of Mrs Martin). However, the building was to gain a new lease of life in 1940 when it was reopened as an evacuation hostel (Figure 2). Prospective hostels were selected on the basis of both local support and practical considerations. At a meeting on the suitability of the Coalbrookdale centre, local enthusiasm overcame objections to the steep access to the hostel which had been regarded as quite unsuitable for 'elderly people'.[10] The FRS Evacuation Hostels Secretary, William K. Sessions, visited the Coalbrookdale Meeting House in spring 1941 and 'advised against its suitability for resident elderly evacuees principally because of the sloping site and differences in levels, with frequent steps up and down.' As for the facilities, 'Of course there was no bath, only one of each w. c., and only a gas ring for main-meals cooking'.[11]

Recent reassessment of the 225m footpath of Darby Road between Coalbrookdale and the proposed Evacuation Centre has confirmed an average gradient of 10.4% (Range 7.8 to 15.3) for twelve sequential measurements.[12] However, the reservations of the senior officials were successfully countered by the local members, including Hal Simpson and the hostel wardens. The hostel remained open until 1945, and was well regarded by residents and officials. In 1947 the building was sold for £850 to Mr. V. D. Grant of

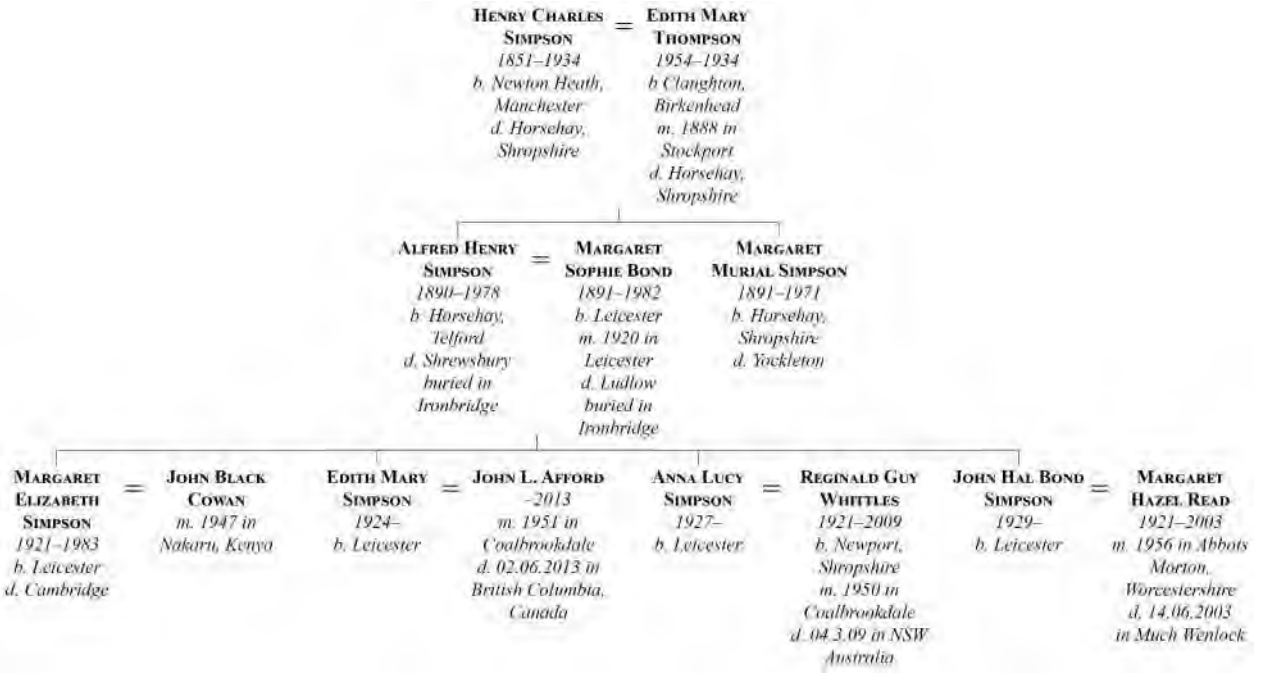

Figure 3 Simpson family tree, 2015.

Figure 4 Horsehay Cottage; rear view with stump of mulberry bush, 2015. *© John Simpson*.

Wellington. After interim use as a small business it was demolished in *c*.1965 and replaced by private dwelling.[13]

Horsehay Iron Works and Alfred Henry ('Hal') Simpson (1890–1978)

Alfred Henry ('Hal') Simpson was instrumental in setting up the Coalbrookdale Evacuation hostel. An active Quaker and a military conscientious objector, Hal was a director of the Horsehay Iron Works from 1913, and managing director and chairman until his retirement in 1958.[14] The Horsehay Works opened in 1750 as an extension to the original Coalbrookdale Company works. In 1884 Hal's father, Henry Charles Simpson (Figure 3), was appointed manager of the Horsehay Works, moving from Rotherham where he had been in charge of another ironworks.[15] He lived with his family in nearby Horsehay Cottage, which he considerably extended. Figure 4 shows the rear view of the extended cottage with the stump of the mulberry bush around which the Simpsons entertained the Coalbrookdale evacuees on summer afternoons.[16] Henry Charles Simpson purchased the Works in 1886 with his elder brothers, forming the Horsehay Company. In 1900 it was registered as a Limited Company with H. R. Bayley and Joseph and Herbert Simpson as directors.

Hal was destined to join the family firm. He attended Harrow school (1904–9) and the Manchester School of Technology (Mechanical Engineering apprentice course, 1909–10). After this he completed eighteen months of

Figure 5 Aerial view of Horsehay Iron Works, *c*.1950. *IGMT Archives*.

Figure 6 Horsehay company staff with 50 years' service, 1949: 'Hal' Simpson is sitting, 6th from the left. *IGMT Archives*.

apprenticeships with various companies including the pattern shop at the Horsehay Company, and the fitting shops at George Edwards, Broadheath, and Tilghman's Patent Sand Blast. He was also apprentice engineer with Messrs J. F. Wolff and Co. Ltd, Westminster (1910), after which he became a member of The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (1910).[17] Hal was appointed director of the Horsehay Company in 1913. Under his leadership, the specialist heavy engineering aspects of the Company flourished (Figure 5).

During the First World War Hal was active in the Friends Ambulance Unit (1914–9), and was Staff Sergeant of the Friends Ambulance Train 16 between 1915 and 1918.[18] When he returned to Shropshire, he continued his work at the Horsehay Company (Figure 6). Later, he became involved with other local Quaker organisations. He was clerk of the Coalbrookdale Preparative Meeting from 1935 to 1950, administrator and trustee of the Coalbrookdale Charitable Trust (including the Susanna Appleby (repairs) legacy, 1935–61), and representative to the monthly Shrewsbury meetings from 1940.[19] Hal was influential in securing funds for the Coalbrookdale evacuation centre (see Table 1). In 1939 and 1940 the Coalbrookdale Meeting funds increased their annual contribution toward the establishment and running of the hostel, namely fittings, repairs and coal. These costs were subsequently reduced and the total annual cost returned to the modest pre-war levels. Presumably billeting and other government contributions were then able to make up the rest. The reason for the single large 'Fittings and Repairs' cost in 1944 is probably related to the refurbishment of the Meeting House.

Table 1. Coalbrookdale Preparative Meeting Charitable Trust Accounts, 1938–1945.[19]

Cost Category	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Meeting House Expenses/Wages	–	£8 7s 11d	£13 14s 7d	£7 1s 9d	£5 5s 0d	£14 0s 0d	£14 0s 0d	–
Caretaker	£17 1s 1d	£1 0s 9d	–	£3 1s 0d	–	–	–	–
Cleaning	–	–	–	£3 1s 0d	£10 10s 0d	–		£8 17s 0d
Fittings & Repairs	–	£8 1s 8d	£11 14s 4d	£1 15s 9d	£0 12s 7d	–	£19 19s 4d	£3 1s 8d
Coal	–	£4 8s 2d	£2 2s 6d	–	–	–	–	–
Postage	£0 12s 3d	–	–	£1 2s 11d	–	–	–	£0 11s 6d
Total	£17 13s 4d	£21 18s 6d	£27 11s 5d	£16 2s 5d	£16 7s 7d	£14 0s 0d	£33 19s 4d	£12 10s 2d

WAR-TIME ACTIVITIES OF THE COALBROOKDALE EVACUATION HOSTEL

This section synthesises the contents of two folders of correspondence relating to Quaker Relief work in Coalbrookdale.[20] The contents were discovered in two bundles arranged approximately in date order but not paginated. They contain detailed information about several residents which have been anonymised.

1940

In September 1940, Roger Warner (Field Secretary of the Friends Relief Service) was transferred from the Quaker Spiceland Training Centre in Cullompton, Devon, to the Midlands Training Centre at Woodbrooke in Selly Oak, Birmingham. He recommended that an Evacuation Centre be set up in Coalbrookdale. On October 29th he sent an urgent request to the Clerk of the Coalbrookdale Preparative Meeting, Hal Simpson, to open the Meeting House as a hostel for elderly people evacuated from London. After some discussion the request was accepted and the necessary preparations were put in place. These included installation of a public water supply, gas supply and cooker, boiler and extra lights. Curtains had to be supplied to comply with 'Black Out' regulations and members of the local Women's Institute undertook to make and fit these. Costs were met by the Meeting House Trust funds.[21] There was a delay in the construction work, notably the water supply, as the local plumber was involved in repairs following the bombing of the neighbouring power station. However, in early November Warner visited Coalbrookdale to witness the arrival of the first evacuees. The first full time residential wardens were Bill and Nora Blake, also transferred from the Spiceland Training Centre to Coalbrookdale.

> *Letter, 8th November 1940, from Roger Warner, Coalbrookdale Meeting House, Rose Hill, Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge, Salop, to Paul Howard-Flanders:*
> Re the 6 old couples & 8 single persons who we had arranged to be escorted here on Wednesday next 13th November. Please note that owing to plumbing, &c., the premises will NOT be ready by then. I have therefore arranged that the escort will arrive on Monday 18th instead. … The names of the wardens who are to be in charge are Bill and Nora Blake & it is they who will be coming up to collect the party. Should you be able to send say 15 instead of 20 people here as a start, local Friends would be relieved as they want to start gently rather than in too large a way? However there is accommodation for 20 so I leave this to you.

1941

By January 1941 the Coalbrookdale Centre had received fifteen evacuees. For the local residents these early months were not without their difficulties. The Coalbrookdale Meeting House had closed for Monthly Meetings in 1938, after which they were held in Shrewsbury. Weekly Meetings were held in the house of one of the Friends, Pauline Martin. The shrinking Quaker community struggled to put up the initial funds for the hostel. Capital and repair costs seemed to have been shared between local Friends, the hostel centre and central Quaker funds. Hal Simpson used Coalport Preparative Meeting Charitable Trust money between 1938 and 1945 for repairs, supply of material and caretaking (Table 1).[22] Additional funds came from the National Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Fund and the British War Relief Society of America. Costs were largely covered by the billeting allowance of 5/- (25p) per head per week, plus a charge of 10/- (50p) from the Old Person's weekly income to cover the costs of communal feeding. There were, however, recurrent local issues relating to billeting and other allowances for the residents. Thus if an evacuee's furniture was placed in storage in London it was not clear how the 15/- per month charge was sourced. Similarly, the 34 year-old daughter accompanying her blind parents was not eligible for billeting or other allowances. The Society of Friends solved the problem with a donation of £5 and a supplementary pension.

> *Letter, 8th January 1941, from Bill Blake, Coalbrookdale, to Joyce Heaton, Evacuation Centre, London:*
> Dear Friend, We have so far 15 people from London [.] None has returned. We eventually expect 3 more to come. Reference to Miss C's financial position, who believed that she would get her keep in return for helping but this she misunderstood and the 30/- from her brother is now unavailable. …Mr. T's health has improved. Mrs H. is very keen to get her 66 year old husband here and possibly obtain work. … Mr. D. has made himself unpleasant to some of our people but I hope we have smoothed things over. Otherwise our people have settled down very well and it is our great hope that they will remain settled.

Unfortunately, it seems that the situation concerning the Ds did not improve, and a letter from Bill Blake dated 4th April, reported

> That Leonard [Broomfield, FRS] found it was not possible to arrange a satisfactory transfer for the Ds. However we got rid of them on Tuesday – to relief of everyone here. We gave them tickets to Paddington, a sum of £2, refunded their 18/- for food from last Friday

> and gave them a week's rations (except meat) without coupons … Their behaviour with Nora and me had been satisfactory on the whole. Mr D. in particular did some good work. But their attitude in relation to our people made the sad course of sending them away the only one open to us. Their departure caused general satisfaction. It is possible that Mr. D. will try to cause trouble in London somehow …

As Bill Blake anticipated, Mr D. complained strongly and requested another placement. Paul Howard Flanders (FRS, Friends House, London) responded 'The Friends War Victims Relief Committee cannot evacuate you again', and suggested that he applied to the LCC [London County Council].

On a day-to-day basis Bill and Nora Blake were kind and efficient wardens, meeting the challenges of caring for fifteen elderly people in wartime. These challenges included delays in the delivery of clothing, bedding and medical supplies for the evacuees, lack of facilities, and difficulties making arrangements for transport. Full medical and social details of potential evacuees were sent in advance to the Blakes by Joyce Heaton at the Evacuation Centre in London. For example, on 15th September 1941, Joyce Heaton informed them that 'Mrs E B aged 76 from Wood Green' appeared

> fairly good, stout, mentally normal, continent, good cleanliness but with weakness of her legs and inability to walk far. However, she has constipation + requiring occasional enemas with blood pressure 220/140 [markedly raised]. She receives an OAP of 10/- and must apply for supplementary support: Accepted.

Sadly, on 3rd April 1942, Bill Blake wrote to Joyce Heaton: 'I am sorry to tell you that Mrs E B died on Wednesday [in hospital]; we have had no pleasanter person here and we shall all miss her. Her daughter is here now.'

The pressure on medical service remained. In a letter dated 21st June 1942, Bill once again wrote to Joyce Heaton:

> Mr. R. should note that medical attention & supplies are not up to London Hospital standard in the country (say won't improve either). For instance our doctor always a very busy man – with 3 hospitals to supervise and lots of other work – now has to do his partner's work as well.

Despite this, the evacuation hostels continued to improve. Many received significant donations from individuals and commercial organisations. For example, Lingford and Son Ltd of Bishop Auckland (founded by Quaker Joseph Lingford) sent a monthly food parcel to all the evacuation hostels. The first parcel for Coalbrookdale, a splendid box of groceries, arrived on 17th July 1941. Improvements to the facilities in the hostel also continued. On 19th August Bill Blake wrote to Roger Warner, Equipment Centre, London: 'We now have one of the cubicles equipped as a bath room (we had only hip baths before) with a full size regular iron bath – a loan for the duration.'

The year ended with a Christmas party. Bill Blake wrote to William K. ('Bill') Sessions on 1st Jan, 1942, explaining the '2/6 per head for Christmas extras: Decorated Tree, turkey, plum pudding, carols and songs sung by the old people.'

1942

On 13th January 1942 Bill Blake reported, 'Mrs B is very upset as she has found livestock in her hair.' This seemed to have been a common problem in the evacuation centres, and it prompted Dr Gwendoline Knight of the Women's F.A.U. to produce a leaflet on 'Lice, Bugs and Scabies' to circulate to all FRS centres.[23] Discussions concerning the accessibility and facilities of the Coalbrookdale Centre continued, but for the time being its closure was postponed and further improvements were made.

> *Note, 20th April 1942, by Joyce Heaton concerning her visit to Coalbrookdale 11th and 12th April 1942:*
> I spent two nights here and found things going on pretty well as usual, with no particular feelings of unrest. The old folk are all looking forward to the summer and were in good spirits. One Mrs P. is in bed with bronchitis but slowly improving and most appreciative of the care and attention given her by the Blakes and her fellow evacuees. The distressing thing is the dark in the cubicles, which makes illness a real penance to the patient and the fact that, if he or she coughs all night the others are disturbed. Nevertheless, there appeared to be a very good spirit among them all in relation to this latter difficulty. Mrs P. begged not to be sent to hospital, and not really so ill as to make this imperative. The Blakes were looking forward to the visit of the extra helper; they are at present not overburdened, but have had a tough winter. Bill blew off a good deal of hot air about the organisation and the FRS structure, but did not seriously want a change just yet. At least that was my final impression. Nora had been able to go home to Stafford for the afternoon on the day I arrived. She is looking pretty well and as cheerful as always.

Memo, 16th July 1942, by Nancy K. Sherbourne:
Some impressions as shutting this hostel is being considered. The standard of accommodation I should put higher than Banbury, Exeter, Worcester or Low Leighton [Stockport] & in many ways than Cotebrook. Its greatest drawback seems to be that it is on such a terrific hill & that it is so remote but against this is the fact they are a very settled community there & have made excellent local contacts. If they are to move, the Blakes feel that the new premises & amenities must be very much better to make the upheaval worthwhile.

For instance could they at Bletchley walk along the road to a cinema & shops – preferably a Woolworths? It is said that no wardens but the Blakes could have survived so long but in spite of being very cramped I think they are better off than some others. They have no bath but buses to the nearest town do go every day. If they like it, the lovely country is probably as stimulating to the wardens as streets and shops provided they have friends in the district. Joyce [Heaton, FRS] adds that the Oaks at Langlan where she has evacuees is to be closed & they will probably fill vacancies at Bletchley – so please leave Coalbrookdale.

Note, 18th September 1942, from David S. Jeffery [FRS], The Midlands Work Party, to Joseph B. Sewell [FRS] & Eric Salway [FRS], Friends House, London:
Application concerning improvements, reconstruction and sundry repairs to Coalbrookdale Hostel including estimates of cost (£30–32).

The various concerns of the Blakes, especially Bill, (see the note dated 20th April) came to a head and he called a meeting with Roger Wilson.

Letter, 3rd September 1942, from Roger Wilson to Bill Blake following joint discussions of the pressures of being a warden:
Elizabeth Spurway [FRS] will have written to you about the practical details which we discussed at the Committee today. I would merely like to say that I thought the questions and observations you made yesterday were very much to the point and that I very much appreciated the careful way in which you and Nora are looking at the whole thing and attempting to see all round it and to see what was involved in the responsibility. I do not want to influence unduly, but I would like to say that I think you were perfectly right in recognising a year and three quarters in a job like Coalbrookdale must leave people with a good less freshness than they had at the beginning and that this question of finding a second wind is important. If you went from one fully responsible job to another I think that there would be a great deal to be said for having a break between jobs additional to ordinary leave.

I do not want this to develop into a sermon, but I should like to beg of you not to see so many trees that you lose sight of the wood in so far as things generally are concerned, After my visit to Coalbrookdale what impressed me was how much of your local difficulty you and Nora have managed to solve on the spot without referring matters continually to Birmingham or London. It is a fine and useful characteristic. … Kind regards to you both and I hope you may have a few days with less than the usual crises in order to think things over. Yours ever.

After these perspicacious and helpful discussions with Roger Wilson, the Blakes left Coalbrookdale and moved to Brentmoor House near Plymouth where there was an Evacuation Centre for deaf children. Victor and Gladys Kidd became the wardens at Coalbrookdale from November 1942 to May 1943. Vernon and Katherine Edwards then took over until the closure of the Coalbrookdale centre in April 1945.

Letter, 14th November 1942: From Gladys Kidd, FMH:
We've now done a week here on our own and are quite enjoying the experience. Of course it was grand working with Bill and Nora last week and we rather wondered how we could manage. Nora's a marvellous person & the old people think the world of her. They were almost in tears on Monday.

1943

Note, 21st April 1943, from Vernon Edwards to Joe Lewell, Friends House, London:
Dear Joe Lewell, My wife Betty and I have taken over this hostel from the Kidds & I should be glad if you would therefore write to the Westminster Bank Ltd, 29 High Street, Shrewsbury giving you authority for me to sign on behalf of the hostel … With many thanks, yours sincerely, Vernon Edwards.

The Edwards were effective wardens. Roger Warner wrote the following Report on Coalbrookdale Hostel to Richard E. Naish FRS of the Evacuation and Hostels Department on 19th May 1943:

> I spent the nights of the 3rd & 4th at this Hostel where Vernon and Betty Edwards, the new wardens had got themselves established about a fortnight before, and they had just got themselves thoroughly settled down to things, though I was their first visitor whether F.R.S or otherwise. It struck me that the Edwards are the best new recruits that the F.R.S have had for a very long time. They were thoroughly enjoying the job and were appreciated by the old folk, whom I have got to know quite well now as a result of visits to them during the last 2 ½ years.

An accompanying General Note by Roger Warner stated that:

> Should Coalbrookdale eventually closed or transferred, if it is by any means possible Bill Blake should be released from whatever other work he is doing to lend a hand in the details of it winding up, as having been there so long he knows exactly which articles are to be returned and exactly which people in the district should be thanked for all their help [...] Ernest [Hal] Simpson, the only really active local Friend, and whom we are indebted to a very great extent for the original setting up of the hostel, should I feel be kept in the closest possible touch with all matters concerning the hostel, as I feel this only a matter of courtesy, but am uncertain whether he was informed of the change over from the Kidds to the Edwards. The latter had already met him but from what they said I think possibly he had no intimation of their appointment, which is a pity, though nothing should now be done. Roger H M Warner.

Day-to-day business continued as usual. A letter of 21st August from Vernon Edwards to Frances Webb, Friends House said that 'Mrs O. is out of hospital and back at Coalbrookdale […] but would like to return home to Liverpool where their children live and would be supportive.'

Much of the correspondence over the next six months concerned the proposed move of the evacuees to Mowbray Lodge Hostel, Potters Bar, which was subsequently cancelled.

> *Note, 23rd August, from Christopher B. Taylor FRS to Hostels:*
> I had a very pleasant visit to Coalbrookdale last Thursday & stayed the night. The evacuees, what I saw of them seem happy and contented. I was not however impressed with the accommodation. In particular I think it must put a severe strain on the Wardens. I hope we proceed with closing as soon as possible. As however the group is very long established, moving them together is as desirable as ever it was. I was impressed with Vernon & Betty Edwards, who want to continue in some sort of social work after the War. They should be considered for a Selly Wood course as & when the hostel is closed.

> *Note, 15th October, from Frances Webb FRS to Vernon and Betty Edwards:*
> By the time you get this I hope [you?] will have heard from Leonard Broomfield F.R.S of the suggestion that you come and look at Mowbray Lodge on Tuesday the 19th. The idea is that this hostel which has now ceased to be a family hostel, might be used for your Coalbrookdale folks. I think this it is quite exciting, and hope the idea will appeal to you and the old people.

> *Letter, 21st October, from Vernon Edwards to Christopher Taylor:*
> Proposed transfer to Potters Bar. Having seen Mowbray Lodge & its possibilities after the suggested alterations have been made we are better able to realise how unsatisfactory such premises as these are. An essential part of the warden's job is, of course, to make the best of the accommodation available. This, we now see, leads to the danger of their thinking too readily that no improvement is necessary. Presumably by now you know that owing our fear of the effect of a long wait after telling the family of our proposals & the likelihood that the repairs will not be completed for some months.

> *Letter, 25th November, from Frances Webb to Vernon and Betty Edwards:*
> I hear that the work squad is getting on quite well and the hostel [Mowbray Lodge, Potters Bar] might be ready at the beginning of January […] At the Hostel Committee today we thought it would be a good thing if you could tell your family about the proposed move about a week before Xmas. The Committee feels that if your lot are scared of the thought of coming so near London, we shall need to be making plans for another group to use the Hostel.

> *Letter, 5th December, from Vernon Edwards to Frances Webb:*
> We celebrated the hostel's third birthday yesterday by a special tea followed by a concert party. The latter in particular was

a great success & the general mood was so happy that I took the plunge after supper without much hesitation. The idea was received with a really remarkable amount of glee; only slightly tinted by fear of raids. As I announced each advantage of Mowbray Lodge in turn enthusiasm mounted higher and higher. I have tentatively told them we'll move by the end of January.

1944

Arrangements were still in place for the move to Mowbray Lodge and the future of the Coalbrookdale Friends Meeting House was under discussion. The Ministry of Health agreed to assist with the transfer of the 10 old people from Coalbrookdale to Potters Bar.

Letter, 4th January 1944, discussions between Leonard Broomfield and Alfred H. [Hal] Simpson about the future of the Coalbrookdale premises reported to Bill Sessions in London:

He tells me that the local Friends would like the partition to remain in case of further need as they prefer the place used by us should any emergency occur in the future … Apparently they intend using the smaller of the two rooms for regular Meetings for Worship but the larger room will not be wanted until after the war, Coalbrookdale Friends have been very helpful to us in the past and I think if possible we should try to meet them by allowing the partitioning to remain. They would be willing for the emergency equipment to be stored there but I said we preferred equipment left in store where possible because there it had regular supervision.

Report, 19th January, by Roger Warner following his visit to Coalbrookdale:

Good welcome on arrival, knowing the hostel and group here better than any other hostel. Though we are right to be arranging for the group to be transferred to better premises, I am fairly confident the old people will never be happier elsewhere, and the primitive conditions at Coalbrookdale bring with them many compensations … Sunday morning Michael [Darby] and I attended the local meeting, held in a private house, only two people were there. My first time of ever going to a Coalbrookdale Meeting, which I liked but from the talk we had afterwards realised what a loss it had been to the meeting that all past wardens had not actually been Friends [...]

Vernon and I went to Horsehay Cottage for tea with Arthur [Alfred] H. ['Hal'] Simpson and family, he is Preparative Meeting Clerk and its thanks to him the hostel owes its existence. I had not seen him for about three years. After tea had a long talk with [Arthur] Simpson, explained just where FRS stood in likely future use of Mtg. House premises. … Mr Simpson has promised us all local transport we may need at the time of the move, and accommodation at his house if available at the time of the move. When all equipment is transferred I am to agree the FRS responsibility for redecorations, etc. This work and repairs to ceiling to be done by outside local contractors and the FRS will pay their part of the account.

Letter, 22nd February 1944, from Hostels Section to Miss Alice MacKinnon of Ministry of Health:

I would be extremely grateful if it would be possible for you to arrange for nine old people and two helpers to have reserved compartments on the train which is due to leave Wellington Shropshire at 11.05 a.m. on Thursday 16th March and which is due at Paddington at 2.40 p.m. I would further hope that it may be possible for our group to have road transport from Coalbrookdale to Wellington and again from Paddington to Potters Bar.

However, owing to increasing enemy air attacks, a meeting of the Evacuation Hostels Subcommittee on 1st March 1944 decided to postpone the transfer of evacuees from Coalbrookdale to Potters Bar. Further detail is given in the letter, 30th March, to Walter Metcalf, Clerk New Barnet Preparative Meeting, Potters Bar:

Dear Friend, I expect members of your meeting will like to know of the reasons for our change of plan regarding Mowbray Lodge, Potters Bar… We were able to call upon the National Lord Mayor's Fund to finance the adaptation and equipment of the house, which took longer than expected owing to delay in the issuing of licences for various building materials and fittings. Plans were, however at length made for the group to transfer in the middle of March and the Ministry of Health made special transport arrangements.

However during the latter part of February heavy raiding over the London area started again and there were several official pronouncements that this was likely to continue for a while in anticipation of the second front. In view of the marked change in air activity after a comparative lull of two and a half years, the Evacuation and Hostels

> Committee at its meeting on 1st March decided to postpone the transfer of old people until it was possible to see the direction of military operations on the Continent and decided to review the matter in the middle of April.

During the remainder of 1944 activities continued as usual. A letter, 30th June, from Frances Webb to Vernon Edwards summarised the current issues:

> It may seem to be going back on all we have said before, but providing people come on the understanding that they will leave when we think it fair to ask them to do or when you move to Potters Bar we might fill you up to 14 again. We are being inundated with requests for evacuation. We don't intend to take on new people above the limits of our present staffing resources.

Figure 7 shows a group of elderly evacuees [on the steps of the evacuation hostel] in 1943. The woman, third from the right may well be Elizabeth, wife of the warden Vernon Edwards.

> *Letter, 1st October, from Vernon Edwards to Richard E. Naish, FRS*
>
> Re burials; I have taken the opportunity of the census to bring my information re insurance up to date. All but one of our 10 evacuees are insured. Mrs B the exception, had to give up her policy several years ago & quite accepts the fact that she would have to be buried 'By the Parish'. As the others are all insured, this would presumably not affect them much. It seems fairly clear that among the London evacuees of Coalbrookdale burial insurances are considered essential. In most cases, sons or daughters now pay premiums that the parents used to pay, clearly in order to be saved the certain expense sooner or later of mum's funeral. With these people prejudices are so deep seated that I am sure any attempt to interest them in their right of parish burial would be a failure.
>
> *Note, 29th December, by D. Frances Waywell, FRS*
> Visited. Nothing special to report. All seem to have had a very good Christmas. Eliz. Waller looked as though she had found her feet very quickly. There are now 12 at the hostel of whom 5 or 6 need personal care. Vernon Edwards is approaching 3 for the remaining Bramshott vacancies. If these 3 are accepted & if & when we know that Chorleywood is likely to be permanent hostel, we could take 2 or 3 needing permanent care there, the closing of the hostel would be in sight. The remaining who intend to return home ultimately could be scattered between Swanbourne, High Meadow & perhaps Potters Bar, but that is perhaps looking forward rather far ahead.

Figure 7 Coalbrookdale evacuees at the entrance to the former Friends Meeting House, 1943. *© John Simpson*.

1945

The Coalbrookdale hostel was fully active until April 1945 when the last resident was moved to another hostel. The continuing threats to London of the Flying bombs (V1 and V2) meant that hostels near London were at risk; several were closed and their occupants transferred to centres that otherwise would have been used for re-located Coalbrookdale occupants.

Four of the old people were transferred to Bramshott, near Petersfield in East Hampshire.

> *Note, 23rd January 1945, from Richard Naish, Friends House, London to Brian Groves, Woodbrooke, Selly Oak, Birmingham:*
> I have asked Frances Webb her views on the possibility of closing Coalbrookdale and transferring the old people elsewhere. She tells me that the time is not yet ripe. Four out of the six needing permanent care are going to Bramshott but does not think it would be right to move the other two until we know of a Londoner's hostel which is more or less certain to be permanent. The other six are all flying bomb evacuees and have been warned that they may be split up and sent to other hostels until they return home.

Letter, 30th January, from Frances Webb, Friends House to Winifred Bayes, Woodbrooke, Selly Oak:
We expect that 4 people from Coalbrookdale will go to Bramshott in the second or third week of March …I agree that this might very well be the time to close the hostel, scattering the remaining six who are recent evacuees and who have been warned that they may have to go to another hostel before returning to London.

Closure of a centre was followed by necessary reparations, generally carried out by Friends (see Table 1).

Letter, 29th February, from Winifred Bayes to Frances Webb:
Dear Frances, Tom Crowshaw tell me that he and the work party are in danger of having to twiddle their thumbs from about 15th March. He asks what the prospects are of the Coalbrookdale move. Have you got any nearer in your plans for the old folk than when you last wrote to me last?

Some arrangements and concerns remained.

Letter, 5th March, from Ray Telkman, Coalbrookdale to Frances Webb, Friends House:
I have now heard from the Station Master at Wellington that he can only reserve seats on production of a doctor's certificate. I am approaching Dr. Whitney for one. The Station Master is quite willing to let us over the line if we arrive in good time. I saw Mr. [Hal] Simpson this afternoon & two cars will be available. They can take four in one and three in the other. There is a general feeling of unrest here now the old folks realise they really are going. They have been so happy here that they are funking new surroundings and fresh people. I think it very likely that Mrs J. will return to Hackney and Mr. S. with her. But those who do go to another hostel would like to keep together. They seem terribly afraid of being put somewhere on their own with strangers. I know it depends on what vacancies there are but could they not go somewhere together?

Some feedback about the residents in their new centres is recorded.

Letter, 4th April, from Ray Telkman, Coalbrookdale to Frances Webb:
We keep hearing from the old folk at Bramshott. They seem to like it. Mrs B. is said to be very ill with bronchitis. Miss M complains that she feel cold. Is the place not centrally heated? If no central heating they would certainly notice the difference after being here so long?

The last letters confirm the arrangements for the departure of the remaining residents and a rather terse letter from the General Secretary of the Friends to Hal Simpson.

Letter, 5th April, From Ray Telkman, Coalbrookdale to Frances Webb, the Friends House, London:
Dear Frances, The Midland Executive seem to have climbed down somewhat since I wrote to them. I enclose the letter I have received from Winifred Bayes [Woodbrooke, Selly Oak]. I think that they have not given much thought to escorts from London to Boscombe. If you have a word with the guard of the train and ask him to see them out at Boscombe, I see no reason why you should provide an escort […] I have today posted off their Medical Certificates to the Stationmaster at Wellington […]

P.S. Just to make everything clear the six old people will be on the 11.05 a.m. train from Wellington on 10th April.

Letter, 13th April 1945, to Alfred H. Simpson, Horsehay Cottage, Wellington, Salop, from the General Secretary:
Dear Friend,
Now that our hostel work in your Meeting house has come to an end we should like you to know how much we have appreciated the loan of premises, and how useful they have been. I think I am right in saying that they have been the premises with the longest continual use as a hostel [by?], and that, in spite of their weakness from a structural point of view. This is some testimony to the wardens who have been in charge, but also to the help and friendship that they have received from you and other members of Coalbrookdale Preparative Meeting, and we are indeed most grateful.

With very many thanks and all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

In total some 80 hostels were established by the Society of Friends in Britain during the Second World

War. This was done in response to the inability of the government to make ample provision for evacuated people other than children and mothers with babies. The Friends' hostels included 45 Evacuation Hostels for old people (of which fourteen were in Friends' Meeting Houses), seventeen Family Hostels, nine Children's Hostels, eight Evacuation Cottage Schemes and five Evacuation Welfare Schemes. The following discussion explores some of the issues associated with the Quaker evacuation hostels (identified above) and their contribution to overall war relief.

It is worth noting that before 1948 there was no National Health Service and medical facilities were largely supplied by self-employed general practitioners, physicians and surgeons. Hospitals relied on local and charity funding. Individuals without significant resources, including those with chronic and mental illnesses, were forced to apply to Public Assistance Institutions – essentially workhouses.[24] The relevant institution for Coalbrookdale would have been the Madeley Union Work House, subsequently known as Ironbridge Public Assistance Institution (1930). Elderly care was provided by Beeches Hospital (1948) and Madeley Infirmary, then known as Lincoln Grange.[25] Little has been recorded about 20th-century medical facilities for Coalbrookdale, although the extended family practice of 1770–1870 has been researched by Richard Moore.[26] The shortage and pressures on local practitioners during the two World Wars are well known and a comment in 1942 by Bill Blake about local practitioner availability is noted in the Quaker files. It has been possible to research the local medical services available to Coalbrookdale residents with the help of *Kelly's Directories* for 1937 and 1941 and the limited records available for Broseley and Much Wenlock Hospitals.[27] The results are summarised in Table 2.

Coalbrookdale and Horsehay (Dawley Parva) have no advertised medical facilities – no hospitals, dispensaries or medical officers are listed in the commercial or residential listings. Broseley was the nearest hospital to Coalbrookdale and, interestingly increased the number of available beds. However, the total number of admissions decreased between 1937 and 1941 with the number of medical staff remaining static. Analysis of patient details indicated that most Coalbrookdale admissions – with the exception of maternity and occasional acute admissions – were to Broseley rather than Much Wenlock. (Note that the Lady Forester Much Wenlock hospital had an associated Convalescent Home at Llandudno.) However the individual admissions from Coalbrookdale do not include any of the listed Evacuation Hostel residents, even 'Mrs E.B.' who was noted to have died in hospital in 1941. Unfortunately admission data for Wellington Hospital is unavailable and perhaps Evacuation Hostel patients were admitted here on account of its proximity to the station. Note that Wellington alone has facilities for psychiatric patients and a District Public Health Clinic with a medical officer of health. The Dispensary in nearby Ironbridge was established in 1828 and had an attendances rate of 1000 patients per annum. The number of listed medial officers decreased by two between 1937 and 1941. It is noted in the 1941 *Kelly's Directory* that many of the Dispensary patients visited the local doctors in their home surgeries.

In his autobiography Bill Sessions stated that 'it was the work for evacuated Old People that lasted longest and it was in this work that War Vics [Victims]' of World War II made the most long term sociological impact in this country.[28] It is worth exploring the basis of this claim and the basis of the highly successful and innovative contributions of the Quakers to these issues. Prior to the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948 there was little emphasis on preventative medicine and long term care of chronic illness. The Quaker establishment from its earliest days had the 'Good Samaritan' approach to dealing with social and other issues.[29] It thus had the background to deal rapidly and effectively with the sudden onset of bombing in London and other cities. Governmental responses were slower and as there were many other issues to attend to. An important factor in the Quaker response to acute emergencies, unlike other religious organisations, was the absence of an authoritarian hierarchy. At the weekly, monthly and annual Quaker meetings any and all members could attend and have their voices heard. In the case of the Coalbrookdale evacuation centre, strong local support overturned the decision of the Quaker offices in London and Birmingham to transfer residents to a new location. When Jon North discussed the relationship between staff at London Friends House and the outlying Quaker communities,[30] he did so with 'a mixture of nostalgia and incredulity'.

Other examples of the relationships between central and local Quaker communities are provided in the Quaker Relief reviews by Roger Wilson.[31] The Liverpool Personal Service Society had a particular issue with individuals with severe chronic neurological disorders who could not respond to bombing and evacuation alerts. A member, Mary Burtt, discovered an available village hall at Cotebrook near Tarporley in Cheshire. She approached Quaker headquarters for support but they 'forbade progress as they already had too many schemes on their hands; but Mary Burtt defied instructions and started one of the happiest of all evacuation hostels.' The hostel developed into an emergency hostel for ten patients with varying degrees of disability and, with the support of the villagers and domestic staff, soon became a model therapeutic community. The centre subsequently pioneered further work. It soon became clear that after the war there would still be a need for long term facilities, especially when local residents requested the return of their Community Hall. After a short period, Outringham House in nearby Lymm was purchased with Quaker

Table 2. Coalbrookdale: Associated Hospitals, Dispensaries and Medical Facilities.[27]

	1937	1941
Broseley		
Hospitals	Lady Forester Memorial Hospital (1907): 24 beds, 225 patient admissions; radium treatment facilities, 1 physician, 3 surgeons, 1 medical officer (p/t)	Lady Forester Memorial Hospital: 30 beds, 233 patient admissions; 1 physician, 3 surgeons, 1 medical officer;
Dispensaries	Nil	Nil
Additional Medical Officers	2 physicians ; 1 surgeon (p/t)	1 physician; 1 surgeon (p/t)
Coalbrookdale and Horsehay		
Hospitals	Nil	Nil
Dispensaries	Nil	Nil
Additional Medical Officers	Nil	Nil
Ironbridge		
Hospitals	Nil	Nil
Dispensary	Ironbridge Dispensary (1828): 1000 patients; 9 medical officers	Ironbridge Dispensary: 1000 patients; 8 medical officers
Additional Medical officers	1 physician, 2 medical officers	2 medical officers
Much Wenlock		
Hospitals	Lady Forester Memorial Hospital (1903): 24 beds, 332 patient admissions; maternity dept, Radium Treatment Facilities; 1 physician, 3 surgeons, 1 medical officer (p/t) Lady Forester Convalescent Home (1904), Llandudno	Lady Forester Memorial Hospital: 24 beds, 384 patient admissions; maternity dept; radium treatment facilities; 1 physician, 3 surgeons, 1 medical officer (p/t) Lady Forester Convalescent Home, Llandudno
Dispensaries	Nil: Dr. Barnardo's home (1930) for 50 boys	Nil: Dr Banardo's home for 50 boys
Additional Medical Officers	1 medical officer (p/t)	1 medical officer (p/t)
Wellington		
Hospitals	Wellington District Cottage Hospital (1912): 18 beds and 2 private wards; 9 surgeons Wellington Institution; 235 patients, 1 medical officer Wellington & District Public Health Clinic	Wellington District Cottage Hospital: 18 beds; 8 surgeons Wellington Institution: 235 patients, 1 medical officer. Wellington & District Public Health Clinic.
Dispensaries	Wellington Dispensary (1834); 400 patients; 11 surgeons	Not available
Additional Medical Officers	4 medical officers Medical Officer of Health (vacant)	1 surgeon; 4 medical officers Medical Officer of Health (1)

(p/t) part time
Dates indicate original opening date; patient numbers indicate total annual admissions.
Information: Kelly's Directories 1937 & 1941; hospital admission records. *Shropshire Archives; 8145*

support. The Centre, now renamed Cotebrook House, offers both continuing and short term care for 30 residents with a variety of physical disabilities. The need for long term care for the elderly and the disabled in suitable centres, rather than former Public Assistance Institutions, was identified by the Quakers early on. They were also able to continue their centres until the introduction of the National Health Service.

A final point relates to the sources of information about the hostel. The absence of correspondence by the erstwhile residents or their relatives is surprising although a photograph (Figure 7) of the occupants *c*.1943 is available The only letter in the files was written by Mr. D., the man who was asked to leave the Coalbrookdale Hostel as a result of his attitude towards his fellow residents. In other areas of Second World War history collections of first-hand stories are available from participants. Therefore, the picture here painted almost exclusively reflects the views of Quaker contributors and should be interpreted with some caution.

Nonetheless, this paper has shown that the Coalbrookdale evacuation centre was considered a success by residents and commentators alike. It made a significant contribution not only to the war effort, but also to the provision of health care in Britain generally. It is fitting to finish with the reminiscences of Roger Warner a Birmingham member of the FRS, who said:

> Of premises viewed and used as a hostel, the Meeting house at Coalbrookdale was probably the best, lasting as a hostel from 1940–1944 under the wardenship of Bill and Nora Blake. Although remote and with numerous drawbacks the sense of escape from danger of bombs in London gave the group of old people a stability lacking in many later hostel groups I have visited.[32]

ANNEX

Key Individuals mentioned in this paper

Blake, Bill and Nora, FRS; Coalbrookdale Hostel Wardens 1940–2.

Heaton, Joyce, FRS; Social Worker, 1941–5.

Kidd, Victor D. and Gladys M., FRS; Coalbrookdale Hostel Wardens 1942–3.

Sessions, William K., FRS Evacuation Hostels Committee Secretary, 1941–5.

Simpson, Alfred Henry (Hal); F M.H Clerk 1935–60 and Director of the Horsehay Iron Works 1913–58.

Vernon, J. F. and Elizabeth Edwards, FRS; Coalbrookdale Hostel Wardens 1943–5.

Warner, Roger H. M., FRS; Field Secretary and Equipment Officer, London Evacuation Committee, 1940–6.

Wilson, Roger C., FRS; General Secretary, 1940–6.

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NOTES

1 Ironbridge Institute, University of Birmingham, UK. Professor. Peters can be contacted at, Ironlock Cottage, Beeston Brook, Tiverton, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 9NH. Email, timothy@ironlock.f2s.com.

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28 W. K. Sessions, *Sessions of Sweet Silent Thought* (1999).

29 R. C. Wilson, *Authority, Leadership and Concern. A study in motive and administration in Quaker relief work*. Swarthmore Lecture (London, George Allen and Unwin, 1949).

30 J. North, 'The essence of Friends House: a view from the centre' in D. Blamires, J. Greenwood and A. Kerr (eds) *A Quaker Miscellany for Edward H. Milligan* (Blamires, 1985)

31 Wilson 1952, 35–6.

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Dr Samuel Butler and the Christening of Ernest Pontifex. New Light on *The Way of All Flesh*

By JAMES LAWSON

A few years ago Dr David Keep, a scholar from the West Country, wrote to Shrewsbury School about a letter of Dr Samuel Butler, headmaster of the school 1798–1836, and a collection of relics from the Holy Land and Italy, which had belonged to him, and of which he found himself the erstwhile custodian.[1] As it turned out, the relics had been collected by Dr Edward Daniel Clarke (1769–1822) and Dr Joseph Sams (1784–1860), the bookseller and dealer in antiquities, who had made a point of visiting all the sites in the Holy Land mentioned in the New Testament. Any intimacy between Butler and Sams probably sprang from dealings in antiquities and a late nineteenth century commentator described Sams as 'a plausible old hypocrite and unmitigated old rogue' although whether that relates to the authenticity of this little collection is another matter. The relics had an obscure recent history but curiously they are firmly embedded in English Literature through the medium of *The Way of All Flesh*, written by his grandson, Samuel Butler the author of *Erewhon*. The autobiographical nature of Samuel Butler's book is well known and during his lifetime it remained unpublished and unknown to his family. After death it proved, in the words of one critic, to be 'a devastating reprisal raid made across the generation gap.'[2] The target was largely his father, Canon Thomas Butler, son of the headmaster, who spent his declining years in Shrewsbury living at Wilderhope House, Belle Vue engaged in botanical pursuits.

In Chapters 17 and 18 of *The Way of All Flesh* Samuel Butler records the birth of Ernest Pontifex and the reception of the good news by the boy's grandfather Mr Pontifex. Pontifex accompanied by his butler, Gelstrap, scoured his cellar for a long treasured bottle of 'Jordan' water given to him by a Dr Jones, which he had expressly reserved for the christening of his first grandson. Disaster struck when Pontifex clutching the bottle, tripped over an obstruction and dropped it with catastrophic results. The resourceful Gelstrap sponged up the contents and filtered a half-pint with blotting paper 'and this was said to be sufficient'. In a, for once, genial letter to his son Theobald about the forthcoming christening Pontifex wrote:

> You will agree with me that though the efficacy of the sacrament does not depend upon the source of the baptismal waters, yet, ceteris paribus, there is a sentiment attaching to the waters of the Jordan which should not be despised. Small matters like this sometimes influence a child's whole future career.

Now Samuel Butler was born at Langar Rectory near Newark on the 5th of December 1835 and the news had reached his grandfather Dr Samuel Butler at Shrewsbury before the twelfth when he wrote to his son Thomas at Langar. Butler had just announced to the Trustees of Shrewsbury School that he intended to retire at Midsummer 1836 after thirty-eight years as Headmaster, and was in expectation of being made a Bishop.

Heartened by the good news from Langar he wrote:

> My Dear Tom,
> I send you my entire stock of the water of Jordan. Be very chary of it. You may use it in two ways, either by putting a teaspoonful of it into a basin of common water, or by pouring half of it into a teacup, sprinkling the babe with that, in its pure state, and pouring the rest carefully back, then well corking and sealing the phial, and keeping it in a box till wanted next time. The latter plan I should adopt in my own case. If it should be fetid a piece of burning charcoal the size of half a walnut dropt into it will restore it, but this would waste it and I would rather in such case mix a teaspoonful with a bason of water.[3]

The phial has survived with Dr Butler's letter and a note by Dr Joseph Sams:

> The water in this phial was obtained at, and personally brought from the Jordan itself, in Palestine, during a recent extensive Tour in the East and presented to his highly respected The Archdeacon Butler-London 18.10.32.[4]

As it happened there was no immediate baptism for the infant Samuel and it was delayed until September 1836 when the sacrament was administered by his grandfather, by then Bishop of Lichfield.[5] Samuel Butler's friend and biographer, Henry Festing Jones, recalled that:

> Butler used to say that this postponement was a very risky business, for all those months the devil had the run of him.[6]

A hearsay account of the christening dinner at Langar was recorded by Samuel Butler in his Notebooks many years later. His grandfather had apparently ordered Groves, the fashionable, Bond Street fishmonger to send down a turbot. When it appeared at table the Bishop exclaimed to his daughter-in-law 'Good God, Fanny, its skinned'.[7] All this is echoed at the christening of Ernest Pontifex when old Pontifex helping himself to the lobster sauce suddenly flushed crimson and hissed in his daughter-in-law's, Christina's, ear 'It was not made with a hen lobster….'. Having recovered his equanimity and geniality,

> He told us all about the water from the Jordan; how it had been brought by Dr Jones along with some stone jars of water from the Rhine, the Rhone, the Elbe and the Danube, and what trouble he had with them at the custom houses, and how the intention had been to make punch with water from the greatest rivers in Europe; and how he Mr Pontifex had saved the Jordan water from going into the bowl, etc., etc.[8]

This recalls the adventures of Samuel's grandfather and father on their European tour in 1829 as told to Samuel by his father, Canon Butler. The Doctor

> …brought back with him four half-gallon bottles of water from the Rhine, Rhone, Danube, and P. to make punch 'aux quatres fleuves' on his return. This gave a good deal of trouble at the custom houses, the officials declining to accept the alleged reason for carrying four mysterious bottles so great a distance.[9]

NOTES

1 The curious more recent history of the relics is told by David Keep in *The West Country Writers' Association Congress News*, July 1 1996, p. 24, 'A Literary Relic'. Dr Clarke contributed a specimen of salt from the Dead Sea and an olive branch from the Mount of Olives, and Dr Sams rock from Mount Sinai collected in 1828 and water from the river Jordan.

2 Samuel Butler, *The Way of all Flesh*, R. Robinson (ed.) (London, 1976).

3 Shrewsbury School Archives, Papers of Dr Samuel Butler.

4 *Ibid*. For Dr Sams see ODNB.

5 Henry Festing Jones, *Samuel Butler. A Memoir*, Vol. I, 18 (London1919).

6 *Ibid*.

7 This story is told both in Henry Festing Jones, *Samuel Butler. A Memoir*, Vol. I, 18–9 (London 1919) and in *The Note-Books of Samuel Butler*, H.-P. Breuer (ed.), Vol. I, 1874–1883, 235 (New York 1984).

8 *The Way of all Flesh*, Chapter 18.

9 S. Butler, *Life and Letters of Dr Samuel Butler*, Vol. 1, 357 (London 1896).

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Writ in Stone. The Monumental Inscriptions on the Floor of St Mary's, Shrewsbury, 1790

By JANICE COX

In 1790 an unknown person transcribed the gravestones on the floor of St Mary's church in Shrewsbury. The transcript is important because all the gravestones were removed in the 19th century. The document is very neatly written and gives the impression that it is an accurate transcript of what was there at the time. However, when it was compared with other contemporary sources and with the synopsis that appears in Owen and Blakeway's A History of Shrewsbury published a few years later in 1825, it has been found wanting in a number of instances. It serves to underline the importance of comparing any relevant independent sources when transcribing a document.

Among the parish records of St Mary's, Shrewsbury, deposited in Shropshire Archives, is a manuscript entitled 'A Copy of the Inscriptions taken from the Gravestones which lay on the Floor of St Mary's Church before it was Paved with Stone.'[1] It is dated 1790. This small volume, very neatly written, records the inscriptions on the gravestones then extant.[2] In his 1808 publication *Some Account of the Ancient and Present state of Shrewsbury*, Hugh Owen a native of Shrewsbury and vicar of St Julian's in the town wrote of St Mary's 'The pews, pulpit, Mayor's seat and organ-loft, were erected in the year 1797. An entire new pavement and other improvements were then added. Most of the flat stones, indeed, were destroyed when the church was newly paved.'[3] It is fortunate that the opportunity was taken to record the inscriptions while they were still there. In 1864 a further restoration of the church began. The floor of the nave and aisles was taken up, and some of the vaults and graves were reported as having been 'secured'.[4]

The 1790 manuscript transcribes the inscriptions on 73 gravestones commemorating 142 individuals, some of which contain information which is contradicted by details found in other sources.[5] The inscriptions on some of the gravestones had obviously become worn over time and therefore difficult, and occasionally impossible, to read. There are relatively more errors in the manuscript entries for those buried in the chancel than in the rest of the church, probably because that was where many of the gravestones with the earliest inscriptions were located. The 1790 manuscript was not compiled with as much care as its handwriting would suggest. It is presumably a fair copy of rough notes made while going round the church. Some of the errors in this manuscript are glaringly obvious: see for example the gravestone in the chancel numbered 1, it records the age at death of Margaret, daughter of John and Sarah Price, as 19 in 1759, but her parents had died in 1710 and 1733 respectively. Also, on the gravestone in the church numbered 16, the age at death of Joseph Davies, who was born in 1691 and died in 1726, is given as 53 when it should have been 35.

In 1825 *A History of Shrewsbury* by Hugh Owen and John Brickdale Blakeway the minister of St Mary's was published. Among its contents are the names and abbreviated details of the monumental inscriptions of 266 individuals commemorated on 120 gravestones of those buried under the floor of St Mary's church.[6] They specify in which part of the church the gravestones lay, i.e. the chancel, nave, south aisle, north aisle, north transept, space between the north and south doors, vestry and chapel. In the chancel they listed the monumental inscriptions of Andrew Corbett 1644, six members of the Gardiner family of Sansaw 1757–1788, Orlando Fogg 1666, William Mintern and his wife 1703–1723, Thomas Morhall, his wife and youngest son 1743–47, and Erasmus Saunders 1724, none of whom appear in the 1790 manuscript. However, both sources record the inscriptions on the other 20 gravestones in that part of the church. In all the other parts, except the vestry and chapel, which were not included in the 1790 manuscript, the two sources list all the same

inscriptions, except for one of 1791 and another of 1805 which were obviously not included in the 1790 manuscript. There are also two inscriptions which are in the manuscript but not in Owen and Blakeway, i.e. that for Thomas Wynne who died in 1760 aged 41 (gravestone 41), and that for Anne Burney who died in 1773 (gravestone 15), although Hugh Owen says that she was mentioned on a tablet on the wall rather than a gravestone on the floor.[7] So, neither the manuscript nor Owen and Blakeway is totally complete, but together they record all the inscriptions on the gravestones which were legible. As Owen and Blakeway's book of 1825 records almost all the gravestones in the floor of the church they must have been transcribed before the re-flooring of the church which took place before Owen's book was published in 1808. Nevertheless, Owen and Blakeway's listing of gravestones under the floor of the chapel contains one dated 1816.[8]

In order to ascertain whether the entries in the 1790 manuscript are accurate, all the entries have been checked against the burials in St Mary's printed parish register,[9] the indexes to the probate records of St Mary's Peculiar Court,[10] and Lichfield Consistory Court[11] and the wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury,[12] together with the churchwardens' accounts for St Mary's.[13] Each year's churchwardens' accounts record the fees paid on behalf of those buried under the floor of the church. During most of the eighteenth century the fee for burial in the church was 6s 8d, for burial in the chapel it was 10s and in the chancel it was £2.[14] The fee for young children was, in some instances, 5s.[15] On 2 January 1806 it was decided to raise the fee for intramural burial to £5.[16]

The churchwardens' accounts of the eighteenth century show that there were many more people buried under the church floor than there were surviving inscriptions on gravestones as listed in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Many people may never have had a memorial inscription engraved on a stone or plate put on top of the grave, and of those who did, the inscription may have been worn away with the passage of time. During the third quarter of the eighteenth century there were, on average, seven burials under the floor of the church each year.[17] So, during the course of that century there could have been about seven hundred such burials.[18] If the practice of burying under the church floor was as popular in the previous century as it was in the 18th century, then there could have been many more than seven hundred such burials.[19] It is no wonder that in 1800 the churchwardens asked Thomas Telford for his opinion as to the cause of the pillars of the church being out of the perpendicular.[20]

On comparing Owen and Blakeway's transcript with the manuscript of 1790, it appears that they took a little more care in recording the inscriptions. Although their transcript is much more abbreviated than that of the 1790 manuscript, and not entirely accurate, it is a useful corrective to it. In addition, they did include inscriptions in the chapel and vestry, and state which part of the church the gravestones were in, which, considering that the plan corresponding to the 1790 manuscript is missing, is most helpful. Both the manuscript and Owen and Blakeway are a useful supplement to the parish register because they usually describe relationships to others and give the age at death.

The 1790 volume shows how vital it is for all those with an interest in history to check what they read against other sources. Just because something was written down in the past, does not mean that it was accurate. That applies to words written in stone just as much as those written on paper. *Caveat lector*.

Below is a verbatim transcript of the 1790 manuscript. Text from other sources is in italic and contains additional information about the people recorded on the stones, either in confirmation of the information in the original manuscript or in contradiction of it. Interpolations by the present author are in square brackets.

A Copy of the Inscriptions taken from the Gravestones which lay on the Floor of St Mary's Church before it was Paved with Stone

Inscriptions taken from the Stones which lay in the Chancel and according to the Numbers reffered [sic] to on the Plan

No. 1. Here lyeth interred the body of John Price of this Parish Gent. who departed this Life the 23rd of Novr Anno Dom 1710 Ætatis 46. Here lyeth the Body of Mrs Sarah Phillips interr'd by her first husband John Price Gent. she had to her second husband Thomas Phillips Gent.[21] and died his Widow 25th Jany 1733 Aged 54. Within this Vault also are deposited the remains of Margaret Price youngest Daughter of the abovenam'd John and Sarah Price who departed this Life Feby 17th 1759 Aged 19.[22]

26 November 1710, Mr John Price, in ye Castle Street buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 13s. 4d. Sarah Price, widow, relict of John Price, gent., cited to St. Mary's Peculiar Court to prove the will or apply for letters of administration and make an inventory on 27 April 1711, and cited again on 10 August 1711 and 14 December 1711.[23]

28 January 1733/4, Mrs Sarah Phillips buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid £2 0s. 0d. The will of Sarah Philips, widow, of Shrewsbury, proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 7 June 1734. A copy of her will dated 1733 is in Shropshire Archives.[24]

23 February 1759, Mrs Margt. Pryce buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid £2 0s. 0d. Her age at death, as given above, is incorrect. She was baptised at St. Mary's on 29 December 1708, so she was about 51 years old when she

died. Owen and Blakeway recorded her age as given on the gravestone as 49.[25]

[No.] 2. Here lyeth interred the body of Thos. Powel Gentleman who departed this life the 22d day of June in the Year of our Lord God 1694 Aged 63
26 June 1694, Mr Thomas Powell buried at St. Mary's. Rec'd for Mr Thomas Powells grave in the chancell, 13s. 4d. The will of Thomas Powell, gentleman, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 4 September 1696.[26]

[No.] 3. Here lyeth the Body of Bridget Pugh Daughter of William Pugh Esqr. who departed this Life the first day of December 1690 Aged 5 years
3 December 1691, Bridgett d. of William Pugh, Esq., buried at St. Mary's.[27] *The year given in the manuscript is probably incorrect.*

[No.] 4. Here lyeth the Body of Mary Mastyne Daughter of Roger Mastyne of Dolecosllyn[28] Esqr. which [sic] died the 26th Day of June 1694
20 June 1694, Mrs Mary Mostyn buried at St. Mary's. The day given in the manuscript is probably incorrect. Rec'd for Mis[s] Mary Morsons [sic] grave in the chancell, 13s. 4d.[29]

[No.] 5. Here lyeth the Body of William Corbett Gent who departed this life the eighteenth day of October 1689
21 October 1689, Mr William Corbett buried at St. Mary's. Rec'd for Mr Corbetts grave 13s. 4d. Will of William Corbet, gent., of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court undated grant of probate, but c. late 1689. His will dated 20 September 1689 noted in St. Mary's Peculiar Court Act Book, Margaret Corbet executrix.[30]

[No.] 6. No inscription.

[No.] 7. Beneath is Interr'd the remains of Mrs. Eliz. Phillips Wife of Thos. Phillips of this Town Gent. Buried 15th of June 1711
As also the said Thos Phillips, Gent. who died the 30th of May 1730 Aged 57
Likewise Mrs Mary Phillips youngest Daughter of the said Mr Phillips by Sarah his Second Wife who died the 22nd of March 1740 Aged 25
Also the Body of Mrs Ann Phillips younge-? daughter of the said Mr Phillips by Elizabeth his first Wife she died the 15th of January 1767 aged 55
15 June 1711, Mrs Elizabeth wife of Mr Thomas Phillips, an Attorney, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 13s. 4d.[31]
5 June 1730, Mr Thomas Philips buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid £2 0s. 0d. Letters of administration for Thomas Phillips of Shrewsbury, granted St. Mary's Peculiar Court 1 June 1730.[32]
26 March 1741 Mrs Mary Philips buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid £2 0s. 0d. The will of Mary Philips, spinster, of Shrewsbury, proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 29 April 1741.[33]
24 January 1767 Mrs Anne Philips buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for Miss Phillips in the chancel, £2 2s. 0d. The will of Anne Philips, spinster, of Shrewsbury, proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 30 June 1767.[34]

[No.] 8. Here Lyeth Interr'd the Body of Mr. Edward Cotton Master of Arts and Second Schoolmaster of the Free Grammar School in Salop who deceased the 10th day of October 1668
And also the Body of Mrs Elizabeth Taylor Relict of the said Mr Cotton and Mr Andrew Taylor she departed this Life the 27th day of November Anno Dom. 1698
13 October 1668, Mr Edward Cotton, Schoole Maister, buried at St. Mary's. Rec'd of Mrs Cotton for the grave of her husband, 10s.[35]
30 November 1698, Mrs Elizabeth Taylor, wid. of Mr Andrew Taylor, buried at St. Mary's. Rec'd for Mis[tress] Taylors grave 13s. 4d. Letters of administration for Elizabeth Taylor, widow, of Shrewsbury, granted St. Mary's Peculiar Court 3 July 1699. Probate inventory for Elizabeth Taylor, 1699, is in Shropshire Archives.[36]

[No.] 9 Here Lyeth Interr'd the Body of Edward Briggs Esqr. who departed this Life the 10th day of August Anno Dom 1669
Here Lyeth the Body of Dorothy Briggs Widow Mother of the aforesaid Edward Briggs who died the 21st day of September 1688 being above 80 years of Age
13 August 1669, Mr Edward Brigges buried at St. Mary's. Rec'd of Mr Baggott for Mr Bridges grave 10s. The will of Edward Briggs or Brigges of Shrewsbury proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 15 February 1670.[37]
23 September 1686, Mrs Dorothy Briggs buried at St. Mary's. Rec'd for Mrs Briggs grave 10s. The will of Dorothy Brigges, widow, of Shrewsbury proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 9 October 1686.[38] *Her date of death as given in the manuscript is incorrect, it should be 1686.*

[No.] 10. Here Lyeth the Body of Mr Andrew Taylor head Schoolmaster who departed this Life the 26th day of Jany Anno Dom 1687
Mrs Elizabeth Taylor died August 3rd 1730 Aged 55
26 January 1687 Mr Andrew Taylor, Head Schole-Master, buried at St. Mary's. Rec'd for Mr Taylors grave 10s. Elizabeth Taylor cited to St. Mary's Peculiar Court to prove the will of Andrew Taylor, gent. on 9 November 1688. She was cited again on 10 June 1690 to appear at the same court. Letters of administration for Andrew Taylor, deceased, of St. Mary's granted in St. Mary's Peculiar Court to his widow July 1691.[39]

Andrew Taylor's widow Elizabeth's inscription was recorded on gravestone number 8 above.
5 August 1730, Mrs Elizabeth Taylor buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid £2 0s. 0d. The will of Elizabeth Taylor, spinster, of Shrewsbury, proved Lichfield Consistory Court 29 October 1730.[40]

[No.] 11. Here lyeth the Body of Mary the Wife of Mr Samuel Lloyd who departed this Life the 4 day of August 1696
6 August 1696, Mrs Mary Lloyd, wid., buried at St. Mary's. Rec'd for Mrs Lloyds grave, 13s. 4d.[41]

[No.] 12. Inscription wore off.

[No.] 13. Inscription wore off.

[No.] 14. Here Lyeth the Body of Ann Stevenson the daughter of Samuel Stevenson and Ann his Wife of Burslem in the County of Stafford who departed this Life the 5th day of April 1703
8 April 1703, Jane Stevenson, spinster, buried at St. Mary's. Owen and Blakeway gave her Christian name as Ann.[42]

[No.] 15. In Memory of Edward Lloyd Esqr. who died May 24th 1764 in the 76 year of his Age
29 May 1764, Edward Lloyd, Esq., buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid £2 0s. 0d. The will of Edward Lloyd of Leaton which was then in the parish of St. Mary, proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 19 July 1766.[43]

[No.] 16. He[re] Lyes the Body of Mr. Humphrey Lloyd Draper son of Humphrey Lloyd of Aberbacken in the County of Montgomery Esqr and Jane his Wife who died the 23rd of February 1739 Aged 46
25 February 1739/40, Mr Humphry Lloyd, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for Mr Humphry Lloyd, £2 0s. d.[44]
Hugh Owen, in his 'Some Account of the Ancient and Present State of Shrewsbury' described some of the mural monuments in the chancel including: 'Humphrey Lloyd, Esq. of Aberbechan, in the county of Montgomery, 1705, and Jane, his wife, daughter of Edward Lloyd, Esq. of Berthllwynd 1737.'[45]

[No.] 17. Here Lyeth the Body of Mrs Mary Derwas who departed this Life the 15th day of April 1731
17 April 1731, Mrs Mary Derwas, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid £2 0s. 0d. Elizabeth Lyster was cited to St. Mary's Peculiar Court concerning the goods of Mary Derwas, deceased, 6 May 1731 and again 21 October 1731.[46]

[No.] 18. [blank]

[No.] 19. Here lyeth Interr'd the Body of John Kynaston Esqr who departed this Life Jany 4th 1702 and also the Body of Mrs Ann Kynaston his Widow who died 21st December 1735 Mor's Janira Vetae[47]
15 October 1702, Mr John Kynaston, a Draper in Dogpole, buried at St. Mary's. Rec'd for Mr John Kynastons grave in the chansell, 13s. 4d. The will of John Kinaston, draper, of Shrewsbury, proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 18 November 1702.[48] *The date of death given in the manuscript is probably incorrect.*
30 December 1735, Mrs Anne relict of John Kynaston, gent., buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid £2 0s. 0d.[49]

[No.] 20. Here Lyeth the Body of Elizabeth Lyster Spinster Daughter of Thomas Lyster of Rowton Esqr and of Elizabeth his Wife Daughter of Dr Beaw Bishop of Llandaff Ob[ii]t 21st January 1734 Ætat[is] [blank]
23 January 1734/5, Mrs Elizabeth Lyster, sp[inster], buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for Mrs Lyster, £2 0s. 0d. The will of Elizabeth Lyster, spinster, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 17 April 1735.[50]

Inscriptions taken from the Grave Stones which lay in the Church and according to the Numbers referred to on the Plan [missing]

The gravestones below, numbered 1 to 11 were in the nave, from east to west:[51]

No. 1. Sussannah the Daughter of Thomas Lloyd Anwyll and Margarett his Wife, died the 8th of August 1770
Frances another Daughter of Thomas and Margaret died the 29th of December 1773
Louis the 3rd son of the said Thomas and Margaret died the 13th day of February 1788
10 August 1770, Susanna Anwyle, an infant, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[52]
31 December 1773, Frances Eliz. Anwyl, a child, buried at St. Mary's.
16 February 1780, Lewis Anwyl, a child, buried at St. Mary's. 'Mr Anwyl's child', fee paid 6s. 8d.[53] *He was baptised 21 September 1779 at St. Mary's. Owen and Blakeway also gave his year of death as 1788,*[54] *however, this is probably incorrect.*

[No.] 2. Here Lyeth the Body of John Wood Esqr died 17th of January 1755 Aged 70
Also his Son John Wood Apothecary died 14th April 1763 Aged 49
20 January 1755, Mr John Wood buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will of John Wood, senior, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 10 May 1755.[55]
16 April 1763, Mr John Wood, apothecary, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will of John Wood, apothecary, of Shrewsbury, proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 21 May 1763.[56]

[No.] 3. Jeremiah Hillhouse died 2nd February 1777 aged 62
5 February 1777, Mr Jeremiah Hillhouse buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for 'Mr Jeremiah Hillous in the church' 6s. 8d. Will of Jeremiah Hillhouse, maltster, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 11 April 1777.[57]

[No.] 4. In Memory of Thomas Ride late of London Gent. who died the 18th of December 1756 Aged 71
Also two of the Children of Thomas and Ann Morhall of this Parish Aged about 2 years.[58]
Also Elizabeth Daughter of Thomas and Ann Morhall who died the 26th December 1757 aged 5 years
Also the Body of the aforesaid Thomas Morhall who died Decr 18th 1760 Aged 48
20 December 1756, Thomas Rider buried at St. Mary's. Fee for 'Mr Rider', paid 6s. 8d. The will of Thomas Rider of Shrewsbury proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 18 January 1757.[59]
27 December 1757, Eliz. Murrall buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[60]
18 December 1760, Mr Thos. Morhall buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will of Thomas Morhall, grocer, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 28 May 1761.[61]

[No.] 5. Here Lyes the Body of Mrs Dorothy Mynshall who departed this Life the 14th of May 1759 aged 66
Elizabeth Mynshall Spinster died 4th of Feby 1784 Aged 98
17 May 1759, Mrs Dorothy Furnshall buried at St. Mary's. The entry in the original parish register is difficult to read, but is definitely not Furnshall.[62] *It should be Minshall. Fee paid for Mrs Minshall in the church, 6s. 8d.*[63]
9 February 1784, Mrs Eliz. Mynshall aged 97, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Will of Elizabeth Mynshall, spinster, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 4 November 1784.[64]

[No.] 6. In Memory of Elizabeth Jaquet who departed this Life the 18th of May 1774 Aged 23
21 May 1774, Mrs Eliz. Jaquet buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[65]

[No.] 7. In Memory of Richd Gwynne of the School lane who departed this Life the 12th of May 1786 in the 55 Year of His Age
16 May 1786, Mr Richard Gwynn buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[66]

[No.] 8. Hic jacit [*sic*. jacet] Corpus Richd Manning Gent. obiit 12th May 1719 Æt[atis] 59
In Memory of Jane Manning of this Town who departed this Life January 3rd 1781 aged 84
13 May 1719, Mr Thomas Manning, Attorney at Law, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for 'Mr Manwaring' £2 0s. 0d. The will of Richard Manning, gent., of Shrewsbury, proved Lichfield Consistory Court 12 January 1720.[67] *A Richard Manning was baptised at St. Mary's on 3 June 1662 who is probably the gentleman buried in 1719. He had a brother Thomas baptised in 1665 at St. Mary's which may have led to the confusion.*
7 January 1781, Mrs Jane Manning buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Will of Jane Manning, widow, of Shrewsbury, proved Lichfield Consistory Court 27 April 1781.[68]

[No.] 9. John Son of Charles and Elizabeth Reynolds died July 22nd 1745 Aged 3 Years
Also the above Charles Reynolds who died the 17th of March 1771 Aged 54 Years
23 July 1745, John son of Charles Reynolds and Eliz., buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[69]
20 March 1771, Mr Charles Reynolds buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for 'Mr Reynolds in the church' 6s. 8d.[70]

[No.] 10. Here lyeth the Body of Edward Newell who died the 12th of September 1743 Aged 61
Also Mary wife of the above named Edward Newell who departed this Life 25th of May 1758 Aged 84
14 September 1743, Mr Edward Newell buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[71]
28 May 1758, Mary Newell, wid[ow], buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[72]

[No.] 11. Sacred to the Memory of Charles Jones Surgeon late of Ludlow who died the 9th Day of Novr 1782 Aged 30
12 November 1782, Mr Charles Jones buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[73]

The gravestones below, numbered 12 to 14, and 50 to 53 were in the space between the north and south doors:[74]

[No.] 12. Beneath is interr'd the Body of Mr Samuel Pearson who departed this Life Octr 10th 1772 Aged 47
Also Mary his Wife who departed this Life May 23rd 1773 Aged 46
10 October 1772, Mr Samuel Pearson buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Will of Samuel Pearson, cutler, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 28 November 1772.[75]
25 May 1773, Mrs Mary Pearson buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[76]

[No.] 13. Here Lyeth the Body of Elizabeth the Daughter of Thomas Edwards, Ironmonger and Mary his Wife, who died July 12th 1740 Aged 3 Years
Also Jeremiah their Son who died Novr 26th 1745 in the 3rd Year of his Age
Mary Wife of Thos Edwards died Feby 10th 1767 Aged 55

Also Thomas Edwards husband of the above Mary died October 1st 1775 Aged 63
12 July 1740, Eliz. d. of Thomas Edwards and Mary, buried at St. Mary's.
27 November 1745, Jeremiah s. of Thomas Edwards and Mary, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[77]
12 February 1767, Mrs Mary Edwards buried at St. Mary's.
4 October 1775, Mr Thomas Edwards buried at St. Mary's.

[No.] 14. Here Lyeth the Body of Bridget Rolt aged 3 Months died 26th Aprl 1729 Also here Lyeth the Body of James Rolt
18 April 1729 Bridget d. of John Rollt and Mary baptised at St. Mary's buried 26th.
Possibly 14 June 1733, James s. of Richard Rholt and Mary buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for 'Richard Rolt's child', 5s.[78]

[No.] 15. In Memory of Mrs Ann Burney Wife of Mr James Burney Organist of this Church she departed this Life Sepr 8th 1773 Aged 83
11 September 1773, Mrs Anne Burney buried at St. Mary's. 'In the nave is a tablet with appropriate musical emblems to James Burney, organist, who died 1789 aged 80 years, 54 of which he was organist of this church. Anne his wife 1772, aged 84, daughter of Basil Wood of the White Abbey, Esq. by Abigail, sister of Sir Edward Leighton of Loton, Bart. and grand-daughter of Alexander Wood of Shinewood, Esq. by Margery, daughter of Sir Walter Astley of Patteshull.'[79]

The gravestones below, numbered 16 to 19 were in the north aisle.[80]

[No.] 16. Here Lyeth the Body of Ann the Wife of Joseph Davies who departed this Life 16th March 1724. Josep[h] Davies born 19th december 1691 departed this Life May 8th 1726 aged 53
18 March 1724/5, Anne wife of Joseph Davies buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[81]
5 May 1726, Joseph Davies buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for Joseph Davies's grave, 6s. 8d.[82] *It is not possible to say with certainty which of the two days of his death and burial is correct. His age at death should have been recorded as 35 not 53.*

[No.] 17. Joseph Bradley in a Brick grave
29 January 1788, Joseph Bradley buried at St. Mary's.

[No.] 18. A Stone the Proprietor unknown, writing wore off

[No.] 19. Here lyeth the Body of Jno Gibbon Butcher who departed this Life 29th March 1760 Aged 56
31 March 1760, John Gibbons, Butcher, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will of John Gibbons, butcher, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 4 October 1760.[83]

The gravestones below, numbered 20 to 38 were in the north transept:[84]

[No.] 20. Edward Davies Baker died 5th Augt 1742 Aged 49
Mary his Wife died 10th Feby 1751 Aged 60
Also two of their Children. Mary their Daughter Wife of Saml Boats who died 8th November 1770 Aged 37
Mary the Second Wife of Saml Boats who died the 3rd Feby 1780 aged 43
Also the above Saml Boats died 23rd Augst 1781 Aged 60
27 August 1742, Mr Edward Davies buried at St. Mary's. The large gap between the date given for his death 5th August and the date of his burial 27 August suggests that the 5th is incorrect. Perhaps it should have been the 25th? Fee paid 6s. 8d.[85]
14 February 1750/1, Mary Davies, wid[ow] buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for Wid[o]w Davies, baker, 6s. 8d.[86]
14 November 1770, Mrs Elizabeth Boat buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[87] *The entry in the original parish register gives her first name as Elizabeth, which is correct. Samuel Boat married Elizabeth Davies at Holy Cross, Shrewsbury, 10 April 1755.*
5 February 1780, Mary Boat buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[88]
24 August 1781, Samuel Boat buried at St. Mary's.

[No.] 21. Here Lyeth the Body of Thos. Brown, Bricklayer who died 16th July 1724 Also his Wife Mary who died 18 Apl 1732
18 July 1724, Mr Thomas Browne, Freemason, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Mary Browne, widow, relict of Thomas Browne, deceased, cited to St. Mary's Peculiar Court to prove the will of Thomas Browne on 22 October 1724, 18 February 1724/5 and 29 April 1725. The will of Thomas Browne, bricklayer, of St. Mary's in Shrewsbury, proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 13 August 1724.[89]
20 April 1732, Mrs Mary Browne, wid[ow], buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will of Mary Browne, widow, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 27 April 1732.[90]

[No.] 22. Ann Davis died 10 Sepr 1774 Aged 79
No corresponding entry found in the parish register. The date 1774 given in the manuscript may be incorrect, although Owen and Blakeway also give 1774 as the date of her death. Perhaps it should be 13 September 1744, Ann Davies, wid., buried at St. Mary's? No corresponding entry found in the churchwardens' accounts for either year.

[No.] 23. Here Lyeth the Body of Phillip Hughes who died 17 March 1784 Aged 57
Also his Wife Mary died 8 Decr 1745 Aged 66
Also two Sons and two Daughters*
19 March 1734/5, Phillip Hughes buried at St. Mary's. Owen and Blakeway also give the date of Phillip's death as 1784, this is believed to be incorrect, it should be 1734. Fee paid for Phill. Hughes, 6s. 8d. Letters of administration and inventory of Philip Hughes of St. Chad's granted Lichfield Consistory Court 18 April 1735.[91]
11 December 1745, Mary Hughes, wid[ow], buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Letters of administration and inventory value £4 19s. 0d., revealing that she had a little shop, of Mary Hughes, widow, of St. Chad's, granted by Lichfield Consistory Court to her daughter Priscilla Hughes, spinster, 11 April 1746.[92]
**1707 Fee paid for Phil. Hughes's child, 5s. 0d.*[93]
**1711 Fee paid for Mr Phillip Hughes's 2 children, 10s.*[94]

[No.] 24. Here Lyeth Griffith Son of Griffith Heath clothier who departed this Life 13th Feby 1767 Aged 28 years
In Memory of Griffith Heath senr who departed this Life 6th November 1775 Aged 72
15 February 1767, Griffith Heath Infirmary buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for Mr Heath, 6s. 8d.[95]
8 November 1775, Griffith Heath buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[96]

[No.] 25. Here Lyeth the Body of Mary the Wife of Roger Blakeway who Departed this Life 8th February 1741 Aged 82
Mrs Margaret Shorney Sister of Roger Blakeway Interred 29th Sepr 1753 Aged 90
Also the Body of Eliz. Oakely a n[e]ice to the above who departed this Life 22nd March 1772 aged 75
The manuscript is misleading here, the parish register shows: 20 January 1733/4, Mary wife of Mr Roger Blakeway buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[97] *Mr Roger Blakeway was buried at St. Mary's 9 February 1741/2. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will of Roger Blakeway, gent., of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 20 Feb 1743.*[98]
29 September 1753, Mrs Margt. Shorney buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will of Margaret Shorney, widow, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 29 November 1753.[99]
25 March 1772, Eliz. Oakley buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for 'Mr Smith and Mrs Oakley in the church', 13s. 4d.[100]

[No.] 26. Sophia Anne Oldest Daughter of Wm Pigot Esqr and Sophia his Wife of Dodde[r]shall in Bucks died 27th Augst 1773 Aged 2 Years and 4 Months
29 August 1773, Sophia, infant d. of Wm. Pigot, Esq., buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for Miss Pigott's grave, 6s. 8d.[101]

[No.] 27. In Memory of Edwd Son of Edwd and Mary Powis who died 4 Jany 1784 Aged 4 Years, and of Lucy Martha their daughter who died 27 Augst 1784 aged 14 Months
8 June 1784, Edward s. of the Rev. Edward Powys & Mary, buried at St. Mary's. The month as given in the manuscript is believed to be incorrect. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[102]
1 September 1784, Lucy Martha Powys buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[103]

[No.] 28. In Memory of Edwd Leake he died 20 Octr 1765 Aged 69
Amey his [sic] Wife of the above Edwd Leake died 22nd April 1780 aged 72
22 October 1765, Edward Leak buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will of Edward Leake, chair maker, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 9 November 1765.[104]
25 April 1780, Amy Leake buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[105]

[No.] 29. Here Lyeth the Body of Elizabeth Ann Bert the daughter of Thos and Elizabeth Bert of London, she departed this Life Feby 12th 1776 aged 4 Years
19 February 1776, Elizabeth Anne Bertie buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for 'Miss Bertie' 6s. 8d.[106]

[No.] 30. James Peploe died 6th July 1779 Aged 37 Years
9 July 1779, James Peploe buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Will, dated 10 November 1775, of James Peploe, of Shrewsbury, victualler, proved Lichfield Consistory Court 17 July 1779. Everything bequeathed to his wife Catherine, executrix.[107]

[No.] 31. Here Lyeth the Body of John Warring Gent who died March 29th 1696 and Sarah his Wife who died 11th November 1698
Also Mrs Catherine Warring the only surviving Daughter and heir of the aforesaid John Warring Gent who died 24 Sepr 1724
1 April 1696, Mr John Waringe, an Attorney, buried at St. Mary's. The will and inventory of John Waring, gent., of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 7 October 1696.[108]
14 November 1698, Mrs Sarah Wareing, wid. buried at St. Mary's. Rec'd for Mis[tress] Warings grave, 13s. 4d. The will of Sarah Waring, widow, of Shrewsbury, proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 13 February 1699. A copy of the will of Sarah Waring, dated 1698, is in Shropshire Archives.[109]

27 September 1724, Mrs Catherine Waring buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Margaret Hayward, spinster, cited to St. Mary's Peculiar Court concerning the goods of Cath. Waring, deceased, 22 October 1724, and cited again 18 February 1724/5 and 29 April 1725.[110]

[No.] 32. Here Lyeth the Body of Margaret the daughter of John and Elizabeth Watkis she died 9 May 1766, Also the Body of Elizabeth their Daughter who died 11th Novr 1775 Aged 16
Elizabeth the Wife of John Watkiss died 12th April 1781 Aged 58
11 May 1766, Margaret Watkis a child buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[111]
14 November 1775, Eliz. Watkis buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[112]
15 April 1781, Mrs Eliz. Watkis buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[113]

[No.] 33. Elizabeth the Daughter of Joseph and Mary Williams died 17th of March 1754 Aged 23
Also the above Joseph Williams died Jany 10th 1763 Aged 67
Samuel Williams died 15th Octr 1767 Aged 43
Mary Williams died 22nd August 1771 Aged 72
25 March 1754, Eliz. Williams buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[114]
13 January 1763, Joseph Williams buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[115]
17 October 1767, Samuel Williams buried at St. Mary's.
25 August 1771, Mrs Mary Williams buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[116]

[No.] 34. In Memory of Elizabeth the Wife of Henry Podmore who died 9th Feby 1753 Aged 37
Also Henry Podmore who died 22nd June 1775 Aged 58
10 February 1753, Eliz. w. of Henry Podmore, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for 'Harry Podmore's wife', 6s. 8d.[117]
24 June 1775, Henry Podmore buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Will of Henry Podmore, maltster of Castle Foregate proved Lichfield Consistory Court 27 October 1775.[118]

[No.] 35. Here Lyeth the Body of Thomas Pemberton Bricklayer who died 1st August 1758 Aged 71
3 August 1758, Thomas Pemberton buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will of Thomas Pemberton, bricklayer, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 8 December 1758.[119]

[No.] 36. Phillip Vaughan died April 12th 1771 Aged 6 Years
No corresponding entry found in the parish register, but perhaps he was Philip Vaughan, an infant, buried at St. Mary's 28 March 1777. Fee paid for 'Mr Peter Vaughan's son in the church', 6s. 8d.[120]

[No.] 37. Here Lyeth the Body of Thomas the Son of Ellis and Martha Smith who died 29th Jany 1758 Aged 3 years
Also Ann their Daughter died 23rd Jany 1758 Aged 2 years
Also In Memory of Ellis Smith who died the 6th of August 1771 Aged 50
Also 2 Children who died in the Year 1770
Mary Smith who died Decr 26th 1774
No corresponding entry for Thomas Smith's burial found in St. Mary's parish register. There was a Thomas Smith buried at St. Mary's on 15 March 1757. He was baptised 17 April 1754 at St. Mary's.
25 January 1758, Ann d[aughter] of Ellis Smyth, buried at St. Mary's. Fees paid for 'Mr Smith's two children' 13s. 4d.[121]
8 August 1771, Mr Ellis Smith buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Will of Ellis Smith, baker, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 9 November 1771.[122]
16 April 1770, Edward Smith an infant, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for Ellis Smith's son in the church, 6s. 8d.[123]
No corresponding entry for Mary Smith found in St. Mary's parish register. There was a Mary Smith buried at St. Mary's on 11 February 1776.[124]

[No.] 38. Here Lyeth the Body of Martha the Wife of Arthur Davies who departed this Life the 26th Jany 1785
Also here Lyeth the Body of the aforesaid Arthur Davies who deceased May 11th 1710
Also their Son [Arthur] who departed July 1710
28 January 1705, Martha wife of Arthur Davies, a Shearman near ye Cross, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[125] *The year of death is also given as 1785 in Owen and Blakeway, but that date is incorrect.*
13 May 1710, Arthur Davies, Shearman near ye Cross, buried at St. Mary's. 1710, Rec'd from Widow Davies 6s. 8d. The will and inventory of Arthur Davies, clothworker, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 16 June 1710. A copy of his will dated 7 April 1710, is in Shropshire Archives.[126]
21 July 1710, Arthur s. of Arthur Davies, Shearman nigh ye Cross, & Sarah, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 'for the Widow Davies' child's grave', 5s. 0d.[127]

The gravestones below, numbered 39 to 49 were in the south aisle from east to west:[128]

[No.] 39. Beneath this Stone are deposited the remains of Margaret the Wife of Thomas Atkiss who died 17th July 1762 Aged 55
Also the remains of Thomas Atkiss who died July 10th 1767 Aged 50
Also Catharine Snead ob[ii]t 30 Augst AD 1777 Æt[atis] 2
19 July 1762, Mrs Margt. Atkis buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[129]

13 July 1767, Mr Thomas Atkis buried at St. Mary's.
1 September 1777, Catherine d. of the Rev. Samuel Sneade, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[130]

[No.] 40. The first part of the Inscription was wore off, the 2nd part thus: And also the Daughter Martha Wife of Andrew Thomas she Departed this Life May 14th 1712 in the 57 year of her Age
16 May 1712, Martha wife of Andrew Thomas, joyner, nigh ye Cross, buried at St. Mary's.

[No.] 41. Here lyeth the Body of Andrew Thomas joiner who departed this Life Novr 18th 1726
Also Martha Wife of Thomas Wynne who died the 29th day of November 1733 Aged 41
Also Thomas and [for 'and' read 'son of'] Martha Wynne died May 27th 1760 Aged 41 years[131]
Thomas Wynne senr departed this Life Octr 25th 1763 in the 74 year of his Age
20 November 1726, Mr Andrew Thomas buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for Mr Andrew Thomas's grave, 6s. 8d. Letters of administration and inventory of Andrew Thomas, joiner, of Shrewsbury, granted St. Mary's Peculiar Court 27 April 1727.[132]
30 November 1733, Martha wife of Mr Thomas Wynne, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[133]
30 May1760, Thos. Wynn, junior, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[134]
28 October 1763, Mr Thomas Wynne, grocer, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[135]

[No.] 42. John son of Edwd Ellesmere of Newtown[136] who died March 24th 1770
20 March 1770, John s. of Edward Elesmere & Anne, baptised. 24 March 1770, John Elesmere ye last mentioned child, buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d., in arrears.[137]

[No.] 43. Here Lyeth the Body of Jno Elsmere of Almond Park who departed this Life Feby 17th 1727 in the 64 year of his Age
Also here Lyeth the Body of Mary the Wife of Jno Ellesmere who departed this Life April 20th 1731 Aged 65
Also here Lyeth the Body of Saml Ellesmere of Almond Park who departed this Life April 27th 1770 in the 43 Year of his Age
26 February 1727/8, Mr John Ellismere buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Letters of administration and inventory of John Elsmere of Shrewsbury, granted St. Mary's Peculiar Court 24 May 1728.[138]
23 April 1731, Mary Ellismere buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[139]
30 April 1770, Mr John Ellesmere buried at St. Mary's. There is some confusion here between two brothers, i.e. Samuel Ellismere who was baptised at St. Mary's on 17 March 1725/6, and John Ellismere who was baptised at St. Mary's 27 April 1727. It is not certain which one of these two was the one buried in 1770. There is, however, a will for a John Elsmere of Coton Hill near to Almond Park, Shrewsbury, farmer, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 9 November 1770.[140]

[No.] 44. In Memory of Mr Samuel Ellesmere late of Almond Park who died 29 June 1777 Aged 72
2 July 1777, Mr Samuel Ellesmere buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will of Samuel Elsmere of Almond Park, gentleman, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 15 November 1777.[141]

[No.] 45. Richd. the Son of Samuel Ellesmere who died June 25th 1742
27 June 1742, Richard s. of Mr Samuel Elismere buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 5s. 0d.[142]

[No.] 46. In Memory of Mary the Wife of Mr Jno Weston of the Isle and daughter of Samuel and Mary Ellesmere of Almond Park departed this Life 18th April 1763 Aged 34
21 April 1763, Mary Weston buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. The will and letters of administration for Mary Weston, wife, of Shrewsbury, proved and granted St. Mary's Peculiar Court 18 May 1765.[143]

[No.] 47. MD. 1747
Could this refer to Mary wife of John Doncaster who was buried at St. Mary's 17 December 1747? She was buried under the floor of the church as she appears in the churchwardens' accounts for 1747 as 'Mr Doncaster's wife', fee paid 6s. 8d.[144]

[No.] 48. Also the Body of Robt Jeffries their Son who died 18th Day of Jany 1741 Aged 58
Mary the Daughter of Robt Jeffries died March 6th 1756
Robt Jeffries junr died June 11th 1765 Aged 42
Mary the Wife of Robt Jeffries senr died May 17th 1767 Aged [blank]
20 January 1741/2, Mr Robert Jeffries buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for 'Mr Jefries of ye Bear', 6s. 8d. Letters of administration for Robert Jefferys, of Shrewsbury, granted Lichfield Consistory Court 15 October 1742.[145]
28 March 1756, Mrs Mary Jeffreys buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[146]
13 June 1765, Robert Jefferis buried at St. Mary's. The will of Robert Jeffryes, shoemaker, of Shrewsbury, proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 3 September 1766.[147]
19 May 1767, Mrs Mary Jefferies buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[148]

[No.] 49. Thomas Son of Peter Leake Baker by Eliz. his Wife who departed this Life Sepr 20th 1748
Also Samuel their Second Son died June 6th 1751

Also Edwd Son of Edward and Mary Holme died Oct 18th 1776 Aged 1 Year and 5 Months
Eliz. the Wife of Peter Leake who departed this Life 10th of April 1782 Aged 64
21 September 1748, Thomas s. of Peter Leak and Eliz., buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[149]
7 June 1751, Samuel s. of Peter Leake buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[150]
20 October 1776, Edward Holmes a child buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid for Mr Ho[l]mes's son in the church, 6s. 8d.[151]
14 April 1782, Mrs Eliz. Leake buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Will of Elizabeth Leake, widow and baker of Shrewsbury proved Lichfield Consistory Court 22 April 1784.[152]

The gravestones below, numbered 50 to 53 were in the space between the north and south doors,[153]

[No.] 50. Here Lyeth the Body of Susannah the Wife of Jno Rogers and daughter of Jno Glover who departed this Life the 10th Decr 1711
Here Lyeth of Body of Jno Glover who departed this Life March 25th 1722
12 December 1711, Susanna, wife of John Rogers, Glover in ye High Street, buried at St. Mary's.
28 March 1722, John Glover, mason, buried at St. Mary's. The will and inventory of John Glover, bricklayer, of Shrewsbury, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 12 April 1722. A copy of his will dated 8 March 1721 is in Shropshire Archives.[154]

[No.] 51. In Memory of Jane the Wife of James Partridge who departed this Life June 5th 1759
Also the above James Partridge Schoolmaster who died 17th April 1782 Aged 53 years
8 June 1759, Jane Partridge buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d.[155]
21 April 1782, Mr James Partridge buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Will of James Partridge, schoolmaster, proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 16 November 1782.[156]

[No.] 52. Here Lyeth the Body of Penelope Wife of Humphrey Finch Glover who died May 25th 1700
There is a discrepancy between the date of her death as recorded in the manuscript and the date of burial recorded in the parish register: 28 January 1700/1, Penelope Finch, wid[ow], at ye Castle gates, buried at St. Mary's. 30 January, Rec'd for the Widow Finches grave in ye church, 6s. 8d.[157] *Her husband was buried 12 March 1699/1700 at St. Mary's. The will of Humphrey Finch, glover, of Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury, was proved St. Mary's Peculiar Court 12 April 1700.*[158]

[No.] 53. Here Lyeth Interr'd the Body of Wm Finch Son of Humphrey Finch Glover who depart'd this Life the 1st day of November 1692 Aged 31
Here Lyeth the Body of Richd Finch who departed this Life May 11th 1729
3 November 1692, William Finch buried at St. Mary's.
13 May 1729, Richard Finch buried at St. Mary's. Fee paid 6s. 8d. Letters of administration. and inventory of Richard Finch of Shrewsbury granted St. Mary's Peculiar Court 23 May 1729.[159]

The rest of the volume is blank.

NOTES

1 Shropshire Archives [henceforth SA]: P257/B/5/1.
2 The manuscript originally had a plan with it, which is now missing.
3 H. Owen, *Some Account of the Ancient and Present state of Shrewsbury*, 1808, 251, 262–3. On pages 254–64 Hugh Owen recorded the inscriptions on a few tablets on the walls and some gravestones on the floor.
4 T. B. Lloyd, 'The architectural history of S. Mary's Church, Shrewsbury' in *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society*, 2nd series, vi**,** 1894, 359.
5 Minor discrepancies in spelling have been disregarded. Occasionally the errors are in the other sources rather than in the manuscript.
6 H. Owen and J. B. Blakeway, *A History of Shrewsbury*, Vol. II, 1825, 405–9. They also recorded the mural monuments in the chancel, church and chapel on pages 309–405.
7 Owen, *op. cit.*, 261.
8 Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.,* 408, 411.
9 Shropshire Parish Register Society, Diocese of Lichfield, **xii**, 1911, *St. Mary's, Shrewsbury*; Where there is any discrepancy, the original parish register has also been checked.
10 Lichfield Record Office [hereafter LRO]: P/C/11; Also for St Mary's Peculiar Court, SA: P257/W/11/9, Copy wills and probates; SA: P257/W/12, Letters of Administration, 1691–1696; SA: P257/W/14, Probate Inventories, 1657–1703; SA: P257/W/1/1, Act book 1674–1697.
11 LRO: B/C/11.
12 The National Archives [hereafter TNA]: PROB 11.
13 SA: P257/B/3/2-5, St Mary's, Shrewsbury, church-wardens' accounts, 1627–1805. Most but not all the people named on the intramural gravestones have been found in the churchwardens' accounts.
14 J. Litten, *The English way of death, the common funeral since 1450*, 1992, 200, the preferred place for intramural burial was in the chancel.
15 SA: P257/B/3/5, passim.
16 SA, P257/B/3/6, p. 35.
17 Litten, *op. cit.,* 225, Christ church, Spitalfields, just outside the walls of the City of London, had an almost identical rate of intramural burials per year.
18 The only way of ascertaining who and how many were buried under the floor would be to search all the churchwardens' accounts from the beginning of the account books, 1544, up to the early 19th century. Even so, some of those buried under the church floor do not appear in the accounts.
19 Litten, *op. cit.,* 199, 'churches were put to excessive use for intramural burial'.
20 SA: P257/B/3/5, f. 367.
21 See gravestone number 7 below.

22 Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.*, 406, on this gravestone was also inscribed 'Mrs Elizabeth their second daughter, died 1780; [aged] 72'; St Mary's parish register says: 'Mrs Eliz. Price buried 10 April 1780'; The churchwardens accounts, SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 547, shows the fee paid for 'Miss Price' was £2; Owen, *op. cit.,* 263, 'In the chancel are some brass plates of the families of Price and Phillips.'
23 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 69; SA: P257/W/1/4.
24 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 258; TNA: PROB 11/665/296, will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury [hereafter PCC], the premier probate court in England and Wales prior to 1858; SA: 6000/11367 and 6000/12470.
25 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 115, she was named as 'Mrs Peggy Price'; Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.,* 406.
26 SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 444, towards the end of this volume, some of the pages are out of sequence; LRO: P/C/11.
27 SA: P257/A/1/1, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1691–1732.
28 Dol y Corsllwyn.
29 SA: P257/A/1/2, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1691–1732; SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 444.
30 SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 388; LRO: P/C/11; SA: 1041/Pec Act/1, St Mary's Peculiar Court, Act book 1674–1697.
31 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 78.
32 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 225; LRO: P/C/11.
33 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 311; TNA: PROB 11/709/168.
34 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 244; TNA: PROB 11/929/381.
35 SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 250.
36 SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 474; LRO: P/C/11; SA: P257/W/14/68.
37 SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 259. The 'd' in his surname is inserted above the line; TNA: PROB 11/332/258.
38 SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 361; TNA: PROB 11/384/439.
39 SA: P257/A/1/1, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1584–1691. The printed parish register gives the day as the 20th but this is incorrect; SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 367; SA: 1041/Pec Act/1; SA: P257/W/12/1.
40 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 225, entry says 'for Mr Taylor's grave'; LRO: B/C/11.
41 SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 443.
42 SA: P257/A/1/2, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1691–1732; Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.*, 406; The churchwardens' account for 1703 is missing from the volume SA: P257/B/3/2, so cannot be used for corroboration of either forename.
43 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 181; TNA: PROB 11/920/340.
44 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 297.
45 Berthllwyd, Llanidloes; Owen, *op. cit.,* 258.
46 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 225; SA: P257/W/1/4.
47 *Mors janua vitae*. Death is the gateway to life.
48 SA: P257/A/1/2, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1691–1732; SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 513; TNA: PROB 11/467/120.
49 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 263.
50 SA: P257/B/3/3/, f. 258; LRO: P/C/11.
51 Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.,* 406.
52 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 308.
53 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 547.
54 Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.*, 406.
55 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 49; LRO: P/C/11.
56 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 174; TNA: PROB 11/888/160.
57 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 447; LRO: P/C/11.
58 One of these may have been their daughter Ann buried at St Mary's 28 August 1752.
59 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 103; TNA: PROB 11/827/176.
60 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 109.
61 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 144; LRO: P/C/11.
62 SA: P257/A/1/3, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1733–1775.
63 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 115.
64 SA: P257/B/3/5, p. 21; LRO: P/C/11.
65 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 404.
66 SA: P257/B/3/5, p. 89.
67 SA: P257/A/1/2, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1691–1732. His given name, Thomas, in the parish register, is believed to be incorrect; SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 139; LRO: B/C/11.
68 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 583; LRO: B/C/11.
69 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 360.
70 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 308.
71 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 344.
72 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 115.
73 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 21 [pages misplaced at the end of the volume].
74 Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.*, 407–8.
75 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 356; LRO: P/C/11.
76 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 380.
77 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 360.
78 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 258.
79 Owen, *op. cit.*, 261.
80 Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.*, 407.
81 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 172.
82 SA: P257/A/1/2, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1691–1732; SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 200.
83 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 139; LRO: P/C/11.
84 Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.*, 407.
85 SA: P257/A/1/3, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1733–1775; SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 333.
86 SA: P257/A/1/3, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1733–1775; SA: P257/B/3/3. f. 414.
87 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 308, listed as 'Mrs Boote'.
88 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 547.
89 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 172; SA: P257/W/1/4; TNA: PROB 11/599/68.
90 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 236; LRO: P/C/11.
91 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 25; LRO: B/C/11.
92 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 360; LRO: B/C/11.
93 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 50.
94 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 78.
95 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 244.
96 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 434.
97 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 258.
98 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 318; LRO: P/C/11.
99 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 4; LRO: P/C/11.
100 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 328.
101 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 380.
102 SA: P257/A/1/4, St Mary's Shrewsbury, baptism and burial register, 1775–1806; SA: P257/B/3/5, p. 53.
103 SA: P257/B/3/5, p. 53.
104 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 547; LRO: P/C/11.
105 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 21 [pages misplaced at the end of the volume].
106 SA: P257/A/1/4, St Mary's Shrewsbury, baptism and burial register, 1775–1806; SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 434.
107 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 547; LRO: B/C/11.
108 LRO: P/C/11.
109 SA: P257/B/3/2, p. 474; TNA: PROB 11/449/278; SA: 6000/1208 and 6000/2704.
110 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 172, she was listed as 'Mrs Warring widow'; SA: P257/W/1/4.
111 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 244.
112 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 434.
113 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 583.
114 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 4.
115 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 174.

116 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 328.
117 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 446.
118 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 434, listed as 'Mr Edwd. Podmore'; LRO: B/C/11.
119 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 115; LRO: P/C/11.
120 SA: P257/A/1/4, St Mary's Shrewsbury, baptism and burial register, 1775–1806; SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 447.
121 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 109.
122 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 328; LRO: P/C/11.
123 SA: P257/B/3/4, unpaginated, but in account for 1769/70.
124 SA: P257/A/1/4, St Mary's Shrewsbury, baptism and burial register, 1775–1806.
125 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 14.
126 SA: P257/B/3/3/, f. 66; LRO: P/C/11; SA: P257/W/11/9.
127 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 69; Arthur Davies, clothworker of St Mary's had remarried on 26 March 1706 at St Alkmond's, Shrewsbury, to Sarah Turner of St Alkmond's.
128 Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.*, 406–7.
129 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 174.
130 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 472.
131 Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.*, 407, the entry for Thomas Wynne who died in 1760 aged 41 is missing from this volume.
132 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 200; LRO: P/C/11.
133 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 258.
134 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 144.
135 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 181.
136 Newton.
137 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 380.
138 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 206; LRO: P/C/11.
139 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 225.
140 LRO: P/C/11.
141 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 472; LRO: P/C/11.
142 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 333.
143 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 174; LRO: P/C/11.
144 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 384.
145 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 318; LRO: B/C/11.
146 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 77.
147 TNA: PROB 11/922/18.
148 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 244.
149 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 393.
150 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 428.
151 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 447
152 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 21 [pages misplaced at the end of the volume]; LRO: B/C/11.
153 Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.*, 408.
154 LRO: P/C/11; SA: P257/W/11/9.
155 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 115.
156 SA: P257/B/3/4, p. 21 [pages misplaced at the end of the volume]; LRO: P/C/11.
157 SA: P257/A/1/2, St Mary's Shrewsbury, general register, 1691–1732; P257/B/3/2, p. 488.
158 LRO: P/C/11.
159 SA: P257/B/3/3, f. 219; LRO: P/C/11.

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St Winifred's Well, Woolston, Shropshire, and the Stanley Family

By RICK TURNER[1]

This paper will re-assess the history and development of the timber-framed building over St Winifred's Well, Woolston. It will argue that the original and main phase of construction dates from the mid-1480s and its patron was Sir William Stanley of Holt. The building belonged to a resurgence of interest in the cult of St Winifred amongst Shrewsbury families, and the chapel at Woolston provided the first stopping point on the pilgrimage route from the abbey, where her relics were held, to St Winefride's Well, Holywell, the site of her martyrdom. Despite the efforts to suppress the cult of saints during the Reformation, two stone-lined basins were added to the north side of the original building at Woolston to allow bathers to immerse themselves in the holy water. This mirrors what happened at the later chapel built at Holywell, where religious and secular uses of the well have continued up to the present day. The paper will end by reviewing the role of the Stanley family and Lady Margaret Beaufort as patrons of a number of chapels and churches along the late medieval pilgrimage route, and whether these buildings may have been erected to celebrate their role in the victory at Bosworth in 1485.

INTRODUCTION

This beautiful site is tucked away down a narrow path a few hundred metres north-west of the hamlet of Woolston in north Shropshire. It consists of a rectangular timber-framed building set on a red sandstone plinth dug into the foot of a hillslope (Figure 1). Contained within the plinth is the well chamber where spring water flows out from the bedrock. The timber-framed building was extended to partly project over two cruciform basins made with massive stone slabs and flagged floors. The slabs closing the well chamber and the ends of the two basins are pierced with round holes and have semi-circular spillways on their tops to allow the water level in the basins to be raised, so that bathers could fully immerse themselves if they wished. The building is now owned by the Landmark Trust and is let as a holiday cottage, but there is open access to the well and the two basins. The tradition of pilgrims coming to bathe in the well water is not as strong as at St Winefride's Well, Holywell but continues on an informal basis.

This paper arises out of wider research into the cult of St Winefride and the development of the pilgrimage route from Shrewsbury Abbey to Holywell in the late Middle Ages (Figure 2).[2] Along this route, there are two well chapels and at least five major churches, many of which have been associated with the Stanley family and Lady Margaret Beaufort.[3] At all these sites it has proved hard to disentangle tradition from documented evidence, and then to reconcile both with the structural evidence that remains. This article sets out to consider this problem for St Winifred's Well, Woolston.

HISTORY

St Winifred's Well lies in the manor of Woolston and Sandford. In the Domesday Book, the manor was part of Merset Hundred, but by the early thirteenth century it formed part of the Marcher lordship of Oswestry.[4] The lordship was held by the FitzAlans, Earls of Arundel, who granted the manor to the Constantine family from 1196, and later the Hopton family.[5] The lordship of Oswestry reverted to the Crown in 1397 when Richard Fitzalan, the fourth earl, was executed for treason by Richard II.

A number of surveys, rentals and extents of the lordship of Oswestry survive from the period 1393–1607 and they have been transcribed.[6] One of these

surveys dates from the period between the dissolution of Shrewsbury Abbey and the accession of Queen Mary (1538–53). It states that 'in ould time and not long sythence the Lord had two Wapentakes called Sandford and Wolston which late were annexed to the Castle of Lyons [Holt] and nowe the Chief rent is due to my Lord…'.[7] Slack's map of the lordship of Oswestry shows Sandford and Woolston as detached from Oswestry, and bounded by the lordships of Ruyton to the north and of Knockin to the south.[8] Holt Castle is in Denbighshire and was the caput of the Marcher lordship of Bromfield and Yale. It was held by the FitzAlans between 1361 and 1415 when it passed jointly to two sisters of Thomas FitzAlan, the fifth earl. In December 1484, the lordship of Bromfield and Yale was acquired from the Crown by Sir William Stanley (*c*.1435–95).[9] Among the additional properties included in this grant were a number of manors including 'Sonford', described as 'in the marches of Wales, adjoining the county of Salop'. This can be taken to be the manor of Woolston and Sandford. It, and the rest of his estates, was forfeited back to the Crown after Sir William's execution for treason.[10]

It was not until the post-Reformation period, in a survey made in 1602, that there is a documentary reference to a chapel at Woolston.[11] Evidence for the well comes even later in a late eighteenth-century antiquarian manuscript transcribed by a later historian. This describes a court-house being built over a well, which had been made into a bath by the Jones family when they were lords of the manor of Sandford. When they left the area, the well became a place for the locals to gather in the summer 'to bathe and dance and riot most of the night', fuelled by beer provided by the up to five temporary alehouses erected there, a practice that was to persist 'to about the year 1775'.[12] The first reference to this well having been dedicated to St Winifred comes in a brief entry in Charles Hulbert's *History of Salop*, first published in 1837.[13] Burne in her compilation of Shropshire folklore, published in 1883, says that this dedication had been locally forgotten, but that some chose to explain it 'by supposing that the relics of St Winifred may have rested here on their way from Gwytherin in North Wales to Shrewsbury Abbey, in the twelfth century; but it is easily accounted for by the fact that certain small stones spotted with indelible red marks singularly resembling blood stains are occasionally found in the water, which have obviously led to the former localizing here of the legend of the well which sprung up on the site of St Winifred's decapitation [at Holywell].'[14] The well water was famous for healing wounds, bruises and broken bones, and water from another spring close by was used for treating eyes.

Figure 1 A view of St Winifred's Well, Woolston from the north.

There are two twelfth-century lives of St Winifred. The longer and more comprehensive was written by Robert Pennant, prior of Shrewsbury Abbey in the late 1130s. In 1135, Pennant led a group of monks to the Welsh monastic community at Gwytherin, Denbighshire to negotiate for and then translate the relics of St Winifred, who had been the abbess here before she died in the seventh century. He was to add a section describing the translation of these relics to Shrewsbury to the saint's life. One evening they found a sick man in an inn, who was cured when given some of the dust from within the saint's skull mixed with water that had been blessed by the prior. The monks had many other signs on their journey that they were bearing a divine gift, and on the seventh day they reached Shrewsbury.[15] There is nothing in this account which can be directly associated with St Winifred's Well, Woolston. It is a later and an undocumented tradition that the spring at Woolston came forth when the relics of her body were laid here overnight. The same is true of the tradition that her bones were washed in the well prior to their entry into Shrewsbury, and that the red lichen on the flagstones of the main basin are traces of her blood (see the discussion below).

Following a site visit to meet with local people, Burne also outlines the site's post-medieval history in more detail. She describes:

> … a small half-timbered building on a stone foundation, now inhabited as a cottage, but erected sometime in the seventeenth, or possibly at the end of the sixteenth century for the Court-house of the manor, and so used up to the year 1824 or thereabouts, according to the testimony of persons lately dead or still living who have attended courts held there. Visitors may, if they chose, still be shown the chair of 'Councillor Dovaston' who is reported to have presided thereat, was placed in a square recess projecting over the well,

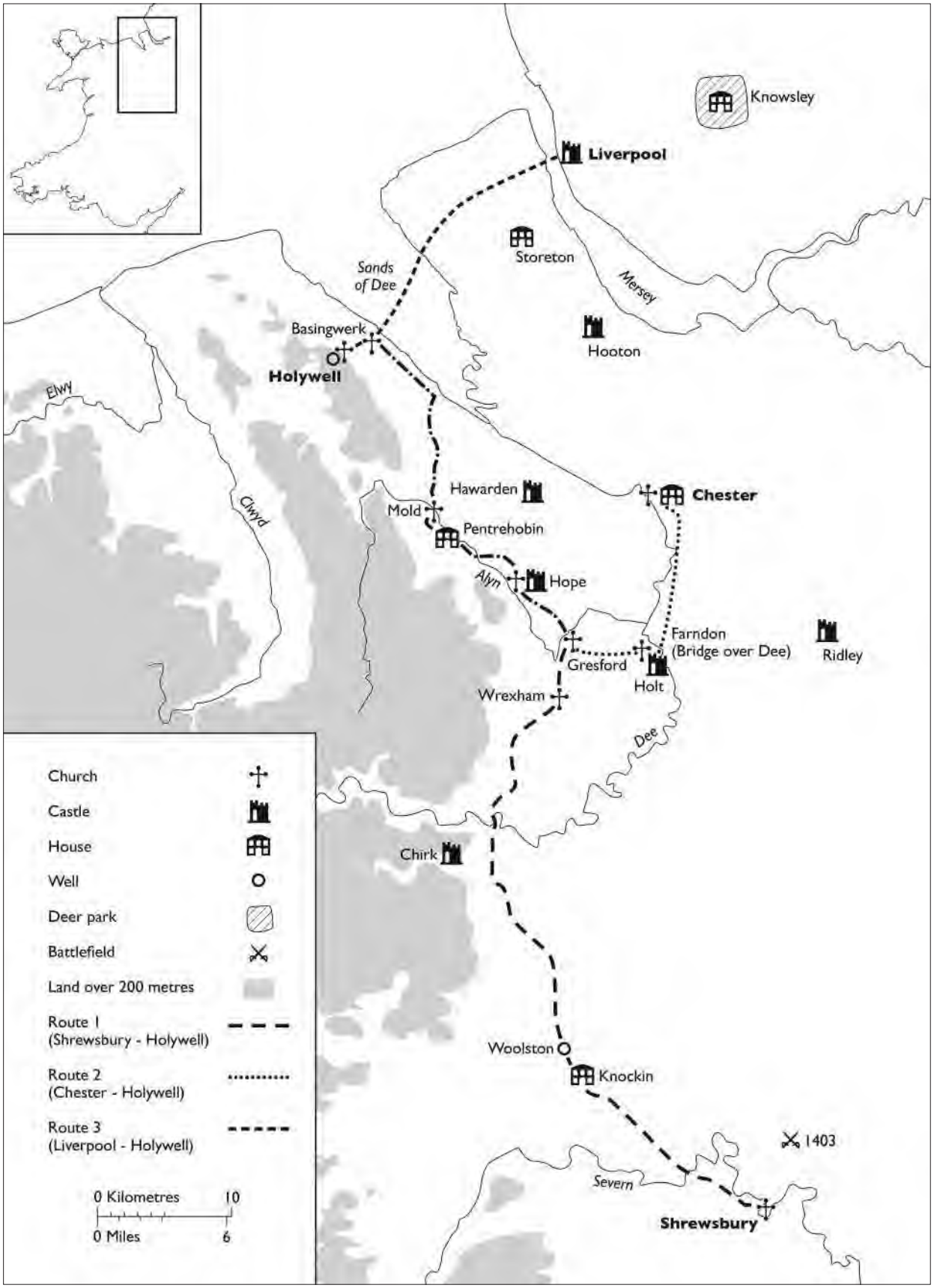

Figure 2 Medieval pilgrimage routes to Holywell and the buildings associated with the Stanley family. *Crown copyright (2016) Cadw*.

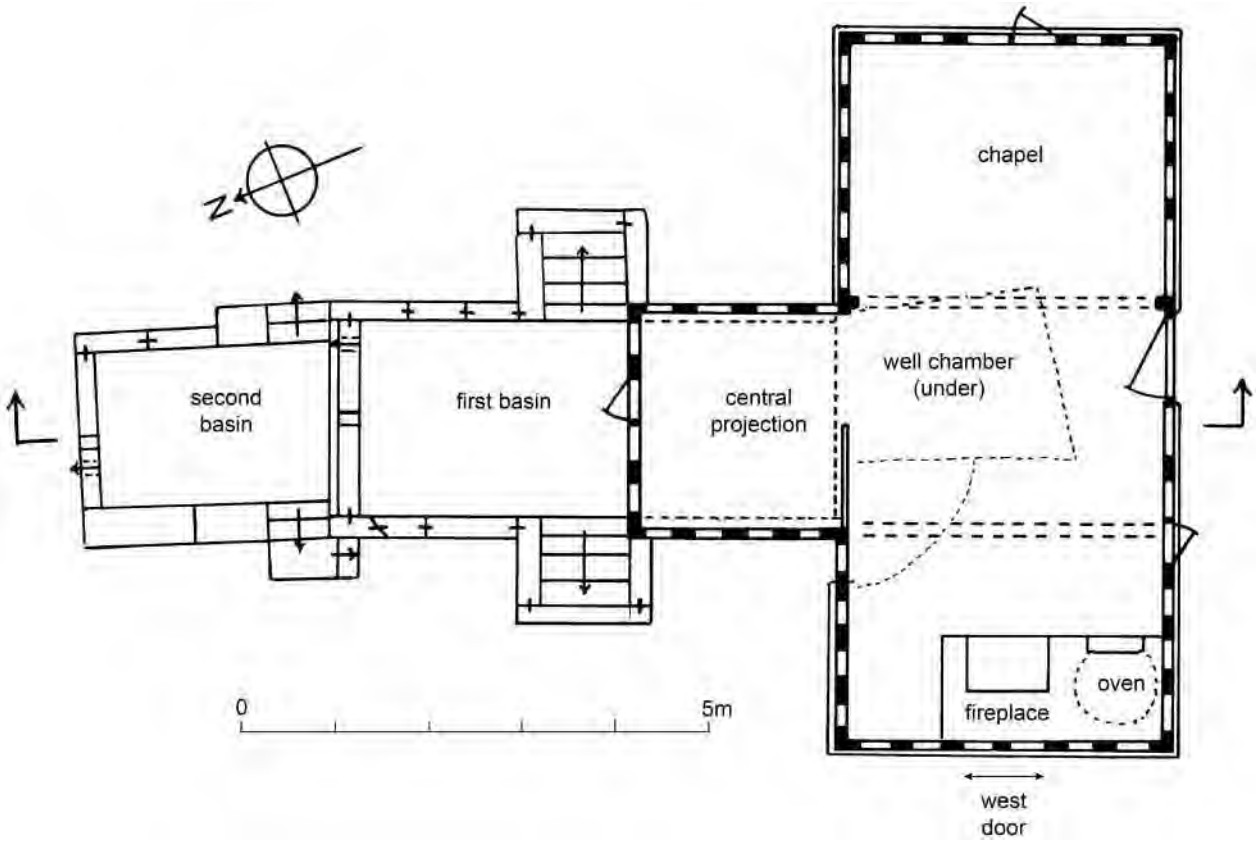

Figure 3 The plan of the chapel overlain on the well chamber and basins at St Winifred's Well.

> and, still more important! where the barrel of beer was kept, for use at the 'dinnering' which concluded the proceedings.[16]

After describing the construction of the well chamber and basins she says that the second bath was used as a sheep-wash.

In 1886, Adolphus Dovaston[17] writes what may have been intended as a riposte to those who suggested that the timber-framed building was used as a 'Baptistery Chapel'.[18] He looked in detail at the two trusses within the timber-framed building, noting the insertion of a tie-beam in the western truss; that the moulding was applied to the face of the principal rafters on one side only; and that the slots to receive the purlins were too large. He concluded that the timbers were derived from ecclesiastical structures that had been broken up, and saw nothing in its construction that suggested that it was built as a chapel. He was also sceptical about some of the features in the masonry plinth below the timber-framed building, arguing that the narrow door and curving passage on the west side of the well chamber had been cut through when the two baths had been added; and that the niche was also made of re-used components as only its jambs were finely moulded (see the architectural description and Figure 7).

It would be another one hundred years before some of Dovaston's arguments would be challenged. During the Landmark Trust's restoration of the 1980s, the building underwent detailed recording. This showed that the two main trusses had not been re-used, that the decorated door-head in the west wall was *in situ*, and there was evidence for an earlier door alongside that now in the south wall. There were some details at the east end that may have indicated the existence of a retable or altar back.[19] A dendrochronological survey was undertaken alongside the structural recording. In the main part of the building, six of the eleven timbers sampled produced a date. These consisted of three studs, a joist, a post and one of the tie-beams. These dates cross-matched and together produced an estimated felling date of 1478–82. A sill beam from a later repair produced an estimated felling date range of 1597–1642.[20] Oak for structural timbers was usually used green, for ease of working, and so would normally date to within a few years of being felled.[21] This provides a date for the construction of the timber-framed building of the mid-1480s. In late 1484, the manor was acquired by Sir William Stanley along with the lordship of Bromfield and Yale. The adjacent barony of Knockin had been held by his nephew, George Stanley, Lord Strange, since at least 1481 through his marriage to Joan Lestrange.[22]

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The upper part of this building is a rectangular timber-framed structure, measuring 7.7m by 3.6m. It has close-studded walls with vertical timbers 25cm wide and 10cm thick, with a mixture of plastered and brick infill (Figure 3). The only original opening surviving is the head of a doorway (0.85m wide) at the centre of the west wall (Figure 4). It has a shallow, pointed head with a carved rose and foliage in each spandrel. The doorway has been blocked with a stud and brickwork, and would have needed some external steps. There is a central projection from the north side, measuring 2.5m by 2.2m, which is also close-studded, but is carried on later masonry. During the repair of the building, evidence for a door (for a priest?) was found in the bay immediately to the east of the modern door, and of a window in the east end where the modern casement has been fitted.

Inside, the building is divided into three bays. Both trusses are largely original. That to the west has an arched collar with a running roll moulding on its underside, taken down onto the principal rafters. There is weak cusping in the apex. The tie-beam appears to be a later addition. The truss to the east forms a low round arch with a roll moulding running up the arch-braces onto the underside of the tie-beam (Figure 5). There are two, cusped, diagonal struts, forming a quatrefoil in the apex. The purlins have cusped wind-braces. Along the north wall the lower half of the wall-plate was coved with a linear roll moulding within each bay. On the opposite wall the original wall-plate has been lost, and the roof has been dropped onto a lower inserted timber.

The timber-framed building stands on a red sandstone plinth, which is slightly larger than the building above. On three sides the plinth is of rubble stone patched with brick. The north wall revets the downslope and consists of up to nine courses of sandstone blocks, standing 2.7m high. At its centre is an unmoulded semi-circular headed archway, 1.1m high and 0.9m wide (Figures 5 and 6). Above the arch is a rectangular niche with a projecting surround with cyma-moulded jambs, creating an opening 1.4m high, 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep. The interior of the niche and some of the walls around the arch are plastered. To the right of the arch is a narrow rectangular doorway, only 0.6m wide, which opens into a curving passage down to the well chamber. A small rebate shows that this had a door. The well chamber is

Figure 4 The blocked west door of the chapel at St Winifred's Well.

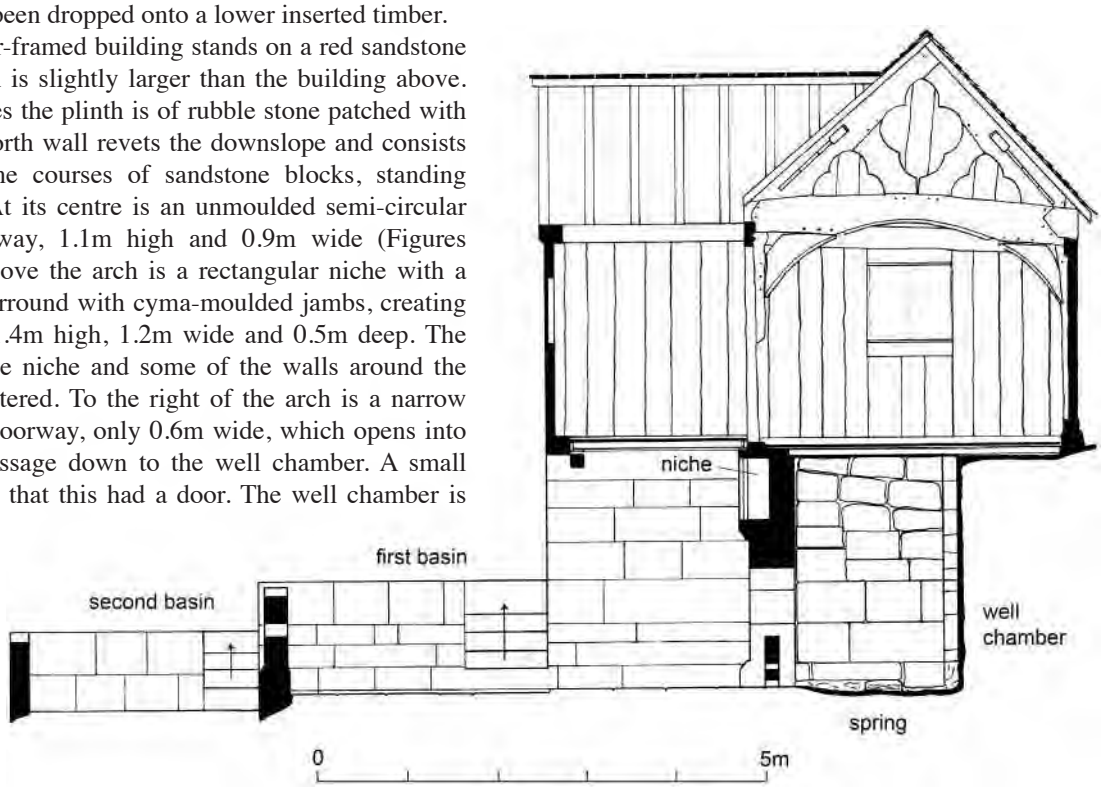

Figure 5 A long section through the basins, well chamber and chapel at St Winifred's Well.

a trapezoidal enclosure with stone revetment walls built off the bedrock. The spring bubbles forth from the base of the east wall.

Two cruciform-shaped basins were added to the north wall of the original plinth. The first measures 5.4m long and 2.5m wide, with a flight of four stone steps to either side. It is made of large ashlar sandstone blocks with distinct chevron tooling, the top course of which is secured by wrought iron staples (Figure 3). This stonework butts up to the earlier plinth to the left of the arched opening and partly overlies the threshold of the original doorway on the right-hand side. The floor of this basin is made of flagstones on which the red lichen, *Byssus jolithus*, grows. On the steps and on some of the adjacent stonework grows the fragrant liverwort, *Jungermannia asplenioides*. Both these species are to be found at St Winefride's Well, Holywell.[23] Water levels were regulated in the first basin by the two stone slabs at either end. The one within the arch into the well chamber stands 0.56m high. It has two 75mm diameter holes cut through it and a shallow groove runs across the top of this stone. At the far end the slab is more massive, standing 1.12m high, with an off-centre hole at the base, another midway up the slab and a spillway cut into the top, all 80mm in diameter. The second basin is smaller, lower and less well made, but it does appear to be bonded into the masonry of the first. It too can be entered down stone steps to either side, and has a slab at its far end, with a circular hole. These holes could have been blocked with wooden bungs, allowing the basins to be filled to different depths, so bathers could immerse themselves in the holy water.

There have been a number of modifications and extensions to the building and its basins. When the building was converted into a cottage a new doorway was inserted into the south wall and the windows were put into their present positions. The fireplace and oven were inserted. A brick-edged plinth was added to the west side supporting an extension to the cottage.[24] The water beyond the second basin was dammed in the 1930s.

THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ST WINIFRED'S WELL

Phase 1

The original structure consisted of the three-bay, close-studded rectangular timber-framed building on its sandstone plinth, set into the base of the hillslope to enclose a natural spring emerging from the bedrock. The building was entered by a doorway in the west end, whose head survives, with evidence for another doorway in the south wall. Evidence was found during repairs for a window at the east end and in the south wall. The timber-framed projection on the north side is an addition and the absence of any peg holes in the wall-plate in this area suggests that there was another window in this position. The interior was divided into three bays by two moulded and cusped timber trusses. The truss at the eastern end is more elaborate giving an emphasis to the bay beyond.

In this phase, the whole of the north plinth would have been visible and unencumbered (Figure 6). A

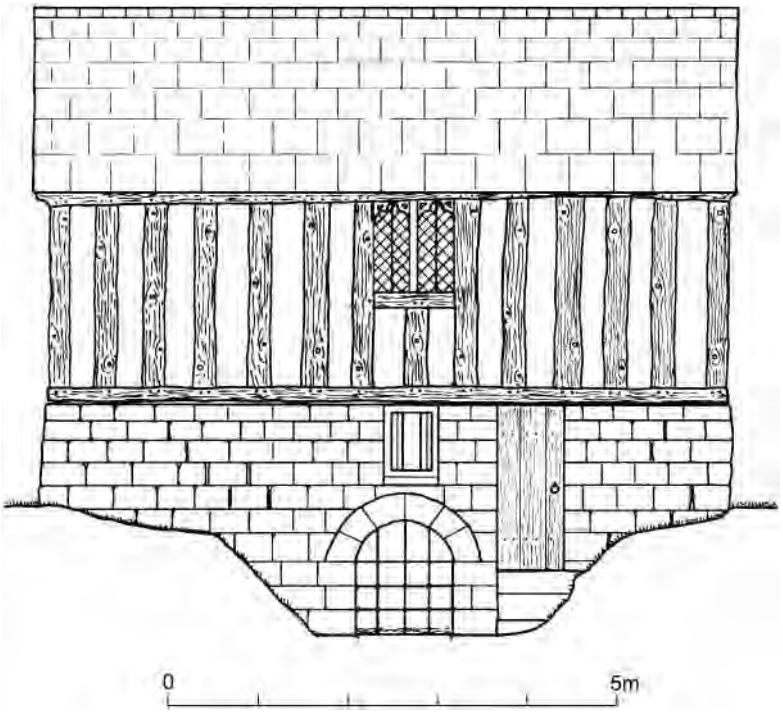

Figure 6 A reconstruction of the north elevation of the Phase 1 chapel.

Figure 7 Arch into well-chamber at St Winifred's Well, with niche above.

niche, possibly containing a small statue of St Winifred, stood over a round-headed arched opening out of which the spring water would have flowed (Figure 7). This arch may have been grilled as alongside is the narrow doorway opening into a curving passage, revetted by stone walls, leading to the well chamber itself. As constructed this building did not allow pilgrims to fully immerse themselves. This analysis concurs with that proposed by John Newman,[25] but is at odds with that given by Charlotte Haslam.[26]

Tree-ring dates were obtained from timbers used in this phase of construction. They indicate that the building was completed no earlier than 1478 but more probably within a few years of 1482, the outer limit of the felling date range. The layout of the upper building, with two bays to the west and a lower arched truss separating off the bay to the east, the west door, and no heating seems to confirm that it acted as a chapel built over the well chamber. Pilgrims may have purified themselves through prayer in this chapel before going down to the north side of the building where they may have kneeled in the water to pray before the statue in the niche. Access to the well chamber itself may have been restricted by the closed door to the right of the arch.

Phase 2

This phase saw the addition of the two basins to the north side of the chapel. It must include the timber-framed projection on the north side. The character of the stonework, which consists of large sawn blocks with diagonal tooling and iron staples, indicates a post-Reformation date but it is hard to be more precise. The basins allow for bathers to fully immerse themselves in the water which was retained at different heights by placing bungs into the various holes drilled through the end slabs. The occurrence at Woolston of the red lichen and fragrant liverwort associated with the pre-Reformation well chapel at Holywell must be a reflection of the chemistry of the spring water and the bedrock, and cannot be taken as confirming this part of the site to be ancient. It is tempting to associate this phase of the building with the chapel's conversion to the parish court house, and the creation of a bathing place by the Jones family. The single tree-ring date from the repair of the chapel suggests this phase may belong to the period 1597–1642, which corresponds to the date suggested by Burne for the site.

Phase 3

This phase includes all the alterations associated with the conversion of the site into a cottage about 1824, and the subsequent repairs up to the present day, including the sympathetic restoration by the Landmark Trust. These include the insertion of the fireplace and oven, leading to the blocking of the west door. The entrance into the south wall was changed and the frame modified in this area, perhaps with the brick infill dating to this period. The tie-beam may have been added to the western truss, and the loss of the southern wall-plate has led to the settling of the roof on this side (Figure 5).

DISCUSSION

Even though St Winifred's relics were translated from Gwytherin to Shrewsbury Abbey in 1135, it was the rebuilding of the west end of the nave of the abbey church by Abbot Nicholas Stevens (1361–99) in order to house a new shrine to the saint that seems to have reawakened interest in her cult.[27] Following the parliament which Richard II held in the nave of the abbey church in January 1398, the king is recorded as making gifts to her shrine in Holywell[28] and he agreed to the elevation in status of her feast day in the Christian calendar.[29] This royal interest was sustained by Richard's successor Henry IV and his son Prince Henry, later Henry V. Their devotion to St Winifred seems to have resulted from the victory at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, where the saint was credited with saving Prince Henry after he was seriously wounded above his right eye. Henry V is also recorded as visiting the shrine of St Winefride at Holywell on his return from his victory

at Agincourt.[30] He planned to found a chantry dedicated to St Winefride at Shrewsbury Abbey, but following his death in 1421 this ambition was not realised.[31] These actions suggest the king saw the saint as his personal intercessor at times of war.

The late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries also saw the promotion of St Winifred by two clerics based in Shropshire monastic houses: John Mirk at Lillieshall Abbey and John Audelay at Haughmond Abbey. Mirk's *Festial*, written in the late 1380s, consisted of 64 sermons to be used to celebrate the feast days of the most important saints. By including in this number a sermon to be read on the feast of the decollation of St Winifred, 21 June, he makes Winifred part of a special group in the *Festial*.[32] Only four other sermons were intended to be read on the feast day itself, rather on the Sunday preceding.[33] Mirk focused on those parts of her life as written by Prior Robert in the 1130s which concerned her translation to and the miracles occurring at Shrewsbury. Mirk's sermon also mentions that on the day of her translation into the abbey, a great man was cured of being deaf and dumb by drinking 'þe watyr þat Seynt Wynfryth bonus weren wasyn inne', which was then kept at her shrine where it was later to cure others.[34] This sermon seemed to be a conscious effort to promote her cult in Shropshire and more widely in England, and diminish her Welsh origins and cult sites.[35]

John Audelay was a priest employed by Richard, Lord Lestrange of Knockin (d. 1449), firstly in 1417 at his house in London, and later at the family's chantry chapel at Haughmond Abbey.[36] He was also a poet whose works are known from a collection he assembled between *c*.1426–31.[37] Amongst this collection are a carol and a salutation dedicated to St Winifred. The carol, poem 24, recounts the saint's legend and attests various miracles performed at Holywell and Shrewsbury. 'At Schrosbere me*n* dedon here schryne; mone a merakil þe*r* haþ be syne, of dyue*r*s pepul i*n* fer cuntre.'[38] The *salutacio*, which follows, focuses solely on Holywell and gives the indication that Audelay may have made a pilgrimage to the well there himself.

Neither Mirk nor Audelay mention a well or chapel associated with St Winifred elsewhere in Shropshire. This first appears in William Caxton's *The lyf of the holy and blessed vyrgyn saynt Wenefryde*, printed in the mid-1480s (STC 25853). This book seems to have been largely derived from a now lost English translation of Prior Robert's *Vita et translatio* of the 1130s. Caxton included the detail that where Robert and his fellow monks rested with Winifred's relics at a spot about 10 miles outside Shrewsbury, they decided to wash the bones prior to their entry into the town. Miraculously, a well sprung forth and when the bones were washed, stones submerged in the water became stained with her blood, just as happened at Holywell at the moment of her martyrdom.[39] The direction of travel and the distance from Shrewsbury could place this well at Woolston. Anne Sutton has demonstrated that William Caxton was associated with a group of London mercers, many of whom were members of prominent Shrewsbury families, and this may have prompted him to print his *Lyf* of this local saint.[40] In 1487, a royal licence was obtained from Henry VII to establish a Guild of St Winifred in Shrewsbury.[41] It is during this period that

Figure 8 St Winefride's Well, Holywell.

the tree-ring dating of the first phase of work places the building of St Winifred's Well at Woolston, and in 1484, Sir William Stanley had acquired the manor in which it lay. Sir William, his brother Thomas Stanley, earl of Derby, and his wife Lady Margaret Beaufort have long been associated with the patronage of the 'Stanley' churches which lay further along the pilgrimage route from Shrewsbury to Holywell and with the well chapel at Holywell itself.[42]

The Stanley brothers' great-grandfather, Sir John Stanley (*c*.1350–1414), was involved in the events at the turn of the fifteenth century which saw royal interest develop in the cult of St Winefrede. After making his reputation as a soldier, he was appointed by Richard II as the controller of the Wardrobe in 1397. He is likely to have been at the Shrewsbury parliament and was in the king's retinue for the next two years, accompanying him to Ireland in 1399. However in August that year, when the king was in flight to North Wales, Sir John switched his allegiance, submitting to Henry Bolingbroke at Shrewsbury. After Bolingbroke became king Henry IV, Stanley was made steward of Prince Henry's household, and fought and was wounded in the throat at the Battle of Shrewsbury.[43] Sir John had good reasons to have a devotion to St Winefride.

Subsequent generations of the Stanley family showed considerable political judgement in choosing the right side during the fifteenth century, and steadily acquired wealth, territory and titles as a reward. By the end of 1484, Sir William Stanley was lord of Chirk, Bromfield and Yale and the manor of Woolston and Sandford. His brother, Thomas, Lord Stanley, was lord of Mold and Hawarden, and his nephew, George, Lord Strange, was lord of Knockin. So, by this date, the majority of the land crossed by the pilgrimage route from Shrewsbury to Holywell was under the lordship of the Stanleys (Figure 2). There is evidence to suggest that the Stanleys were patrons of: the well chapel at Woolston, St Giles' Church Wrexham,[44] All Saints' Church Gresford,[45] and St Mary's Church Mold.[46] The badges of both the Stanley brothers, Lady Margaret Beaufort and Henry VII are very prominently displayed on bosses in the vault of the well chapel at Holywell. It has long been considered that Lady Margaret and/or the Stanleys acted as patrons of this building. However the evidence from a Welsh poem written by Sion ap Hywel credits the building of this chapel to Abbot Thomas Pennant of Basingwerk (1481–1522) in 1512.[47] Recent tree-ring dating of the roof timbers of the upper chapel has produced an actual felling date of summer 1525, suggesting the chapel may have taken at least thirteen years to complete.[48] By 1512, both the Stanley brothers, Lady Margaret and Henry VII had died.

A description has been recently discovered of the chapel over the well at Holywell, which preceded the existing one. It was written by the Augustinian friar Osbern Bokenham (*c*.1392–1464) of Clare Priory, Suffolk. He produced a collection of female saints' lives written in English verse. One manuscript has a *Lyf of Seynt Wenefrede*.[49] In it he mentions that he made a pilgrimage to Holywell in 1448. He describes the chapel that he saw:

> King henry the fourte for the tendyr love
> Wich he had to this virgin pure
> Dede maken a chapel over the welle above
> Myhty and strong for to endure
> On thre partys closing yt in sure
> And that no man presum*y* should to com ther ny
> A gret grate ys sette on the fourte party.

(King Henry the Fourth, for the tender love that he had to the virgin pure, did make a chapel over the well above, mighty and strong to endure, on three sides closing it in sure, and that no man should presume to come near there, a great gate is set on the fourth side.)[50]

This description is of a building of a similar layout and plan as Phase 1 of St Winifred's Well, Woolston. This latter building is therefore the second structure in a sequence that continues with the early-sixteenth century chapel built at Holywell (Figure 8), which itself may have inspired the phase 2 alterations to the Woolston chapel. Part of Henry VII's claim to the English throne came from his grandmother's, Katherine de Valois, first marriage to Henry V, and so back to Henry IV. It became a reality with his victory at the Battle of Bosworth on 22 August 1485, where it was the decision of the Stanley brothers to throw their forces onto his side that proved the turning point. Richard III was holding George Stanley as a hostage to try to ensure the allegiance of his father and uncle.[51] All three men had something to celebrate when Henry proved victorious. Perhaps they attributed some of this good fortune to the intercession of Winefride, and erected the chapel at Woolston in thanks and praise of the saint.

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NOTES

1 Contact details. Address: 175 Stanwell Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 3LN. e-mail rickturner62@gmail.com.

2 This forms part of the author's study for a PhD at Swansea University, entitled: *Sir Gawain, the Virgin Mary and St Winefride: cult and chivalry in the late Middle*

Ages (forthcoming). Note that the name of the saint has been spelt in various ways. The earliest form in the English lives is most commonly Wenefrede. For the well at Woolston, Winifred has been consistently used, and Winefride is the form most usually used at Holywell. In Welsh, the saint's name is Gwenfrewi.

3 See for example E. Hubbard, *The Buildings of Wales—Clwyd (Denbighshire and Flintshire)* (London: Penguin, 1986), 32–3.

4 F. and C. Thorn, *Domesday Book, Shropshire* (Chichester: Phillimore, 1986), 39–43.

5 R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire* Vol. 10 (London: John Russell Smith, 1860),378–80.

6 W. J. Slack, *The Lordship of Oswestry 1393–1607* (Shrewsbury: Shropshire Archaeological Society, 1951).

7 Slack, 13.

8 Slack, 16.

9 *Calendar of the Patent Rolls AD 1476–1485*, 516. The full Latin text of this grant was published in 'Patent Rolls, Richard III', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 4th series, 13 (1882), 150–2.

10 A. Palmer, 'The Town of Holt in County Denbigh: its castle, church, franchise and demesne: chapter II—section I, the Lords and Charter of Holt', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, sixth series, 7 (1907), part I, 1–34.

11 Slack, 68 and 73.

12 See C. Burne (ed.), *Shropshire Folk-lore: a sheaf of gleanings from the collections of Georgina F. Jackson* (London: Trübner and Co., 1883), 430–1.

13 C. Hulbert, *The History and Description of the County of Salop* (Shrewsbury, 1837), 222.

14 Burne, 429–30. She was interested enough to send a stone to the Natural History Museum where the red spots were identified as freshwater algae.

15, R. Pepin and H. Feiss, *Two Mediaeval Lives of Saint Winefride* (Ontario: Peregrina, 2000), 89–90.

16 Burne, 429.

17 A descendent of the councillor?

18 A. Dovaston, 'Woolston Well, Shropshire', *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society* 9 (1886), 238–43 (p. 238).

19 C. Haslam, *St Winifred's Well History Album* revised edition (Landmark Trust, 2010) a copy of which is kept in the cottage.

20 D. Haddon-Reece and D. H. Miles, 'List 43', *Vernacular Architecture* 23 (1992), 49.

21 D. Miles, 'The Interpretation, Presentation and Use of Tree-Ring Dates', *Vernacular Architecture* 28 (1997), 40–56.

22 *Calendar of Patent Rolls AD 1476–1485,* 218. A licence given on 26/2/1481 gave licence to George Stanley and his wife Joan Le Strange to take possession of her father's lands and properties.

23 T. W. Pritchard, *St Winefride, her Holy Well and the Jesuit Mission, c.650–1930* (Wrexham: Bridge Books, 2009), 33–4.

24 Verna Palmer, *Oswestry and District: a Portrait in Old Picture Postcards* (Market Drayton: S.B. Publications, 1989), page 76 shows a postcard of the north side of the site with a gabled extension on the brick-edged plinth. A photo from the 1930s in the history album on site shows a differently shaped extension with a corrugated iron roof.

25 J. Newman and N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Shropshire (*New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2006), 700–1.

26 Haslam, 2010, 5.

27 N. Baker (ed.), *Shrewsbury Abbey: studies in the archaeology and history of an urban abbey*, Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society, monograph series 2 (Shrewsbury, 2002), 28.

28 *Thirty-Sixth Annual Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, (*London, 1875), 214.

29 NA E403/559 and BL Cotton Charters XV/12, see N. Saul, *Richard II* (New Haven and London; Yale University Press, 1997), 310, and M. Bennett, *Richard II and the Revolution of 1399* (Stroud: Sutton, 1999), 131.

30 'The king most devotedly made a pilgrimage on foot from Shrewsbury to St Winefride's well in North Wales.' *The Chronicle of Adam of Usk 1377–1421*, 262–3.

31 Baker, 204.

32 *John Mirk's Festial*, Vol. 1, S. Powell (ed.) (Oxford, Early English Text Society, 2009), 162–6.

33 The others were St Stephen, John the Evangelist, the Holy Innocents and Thomas of Canterbury.

34 *Festial*, 165–6.

35 J. R. Gregory, *A Welsh Saint in England: Translation, Orality and National Identity in the Cult of St Gwenfrewy, 1138–1512,* unpublished University of Georgia PhD thesis (2012), 248–52.

36 M. J. Bennett, 'John Audelay: Life Records and Heaven's Ladder', in S. Fein (ed.), *My Wyl and My Wrytyng: Essays on John the Blind Audelay* (Kalamazoo, Medieval Institute Publications, 2008), 30–53.

37 Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Douce 302; E. Whiting (ed.), *The Poems of John Audelay (*Oxford: Early English Text Society, Original Series, 1931), 171–8.

38 *Audelay*, poem 24, lines 98–100, Whiting, 175.

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41 Sutton, 116–8.

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43 M. J. Bennett, 'Stanley, Sir John (*c*.1350–1414)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 2004) [http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/26275].

44 Sir William's hart's-head badge is on a corbel in the chancel.

45 Thomas is recorded as giving the stained glass in the east window in 1500.

46 Hubbard, *Clwyd*, 389–90.

47 Pritchard, *St Winefride*, 78–82.

48 D. Miles *et al*., 'List 227 Welsh Dendrochronology Project—Phase Thirteen', *Vernacular Architecture* 41 (2010), 116.

49 In Sir Walter Scott's library, Abbotsford. See S. Horobin 'A manuscript found in the library of Abbotsford House and the lost legendary of Osbern Bokenham' in A. S. G. Edwards (ed.), *English Manuscript Studies, 1100–1700* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007), 130–62.

50 Transcription and translation by Gregory, 291–2.

51 M. J. Bennett, *The Battle of Bosworth (*Stroud: Alan Sutton, 1985), 98–121.

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Investigating an Elite Landscape: Archaeological Survey at Bromfield Priory, Shropshire

By DUNCAN W. WRIGHT with contributions by STEVE TRICK and OLIVER CREIGHTON

The village of Bromfield near Ludlow is perhaps best known as the site of a Benedictine priory, first established in the Anglo-Saxon period and later re-founded by Henry II. Following the Dissolution, the priory was converted into an elite residence by the Foxe family, until this house in turn was destroyed by fire and the church returned to religious use. Archaeological investigation demonstrates, that, perhaps coterminous with the transformations of the church, the surrounding landscape at Bromfield was also subject to several phases of change from the late medieval period onward. Measured topographic and earth resistance survey, supplemented by desk-based cartographic and documentary research have revealed a complex, multi-period landscape including a previously unidentified moated enclosure, a dovecote platform and elements of a formal garden complex. The majority of the designed features are probably the work of the Foxe family, who in addition to appending their new property to the priory church, utilised the footprint of the former cloister to lay out a garden, and landscaped the area to the west of their residence.

INTRODUCTION

Approximately 4km north-west of Ludlow, Shropshire, (centred SO482768), the modern village of Bromfield is largely situated to the south of the A49, on a spur of land between 90m and 100m above Ordnance Datum which projects westward from the parish church of St Mary the Virgin. Bromfield and its environs were subject to an archaeological survey undertaken on the 17th and 18th September 2014 by a team from the University of Exeter.[1] The area chosen for survey was located to the west of the present parish church, previously the site of an important Benedictine priory re-founded in the twelfth century. The survey area is known locally as 'Crawl Meadow', and was considered of archaeological potential due to visible upstanding earthworks which extend for approximately 150m east–west, between the village access road and the moated side of Bromfield Grange (Figure 1). The entirety of the survey area possesses bedrock of the Raglan Mudstone Formation, formed of inter-bedded siltstone and mudstone, deposited by fluvial action during the Silurian period. Drift geology of alluvium, comprising clays, silts, sand and gravels underlies the majority of the investigated area (British Geological Survey 2000).[2]

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The parish of Bromfield boasts an impressive sequence of archaeological evidence from the prehistoric to the modern period. Approximately 1km to the north-east of the parish church on the site of Ludlow racecourse, a series of barrows probably represent the remains of an extensive Bronze Age funerary landscape centred on the rivers Corve, Onny and Teme. Some of these features have been subject to excavation in a project which also identified Neolithic and Iron Age features (Stanford *et al*. 1982). Indeed, Ludlow and its surrounding landscape is a focus of barrow cemeteries, and it is possible that the town itself derives its name from "*hlud-hlaw*", with Old English *hlaw* referencing a barrow or tumulus by the torrent (Gelling 1990, 186). During the Romano-British period Bromfield was the site of a temporary military camp, located 500m north of the parish church. The camp was first identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs, and was probably located alongside the minor Roman road between Wroxeter and Penyard which passed through the northern part of Bromfield parish. Since the identification of the camp, the entire site has been completely destroyed by quarrying.

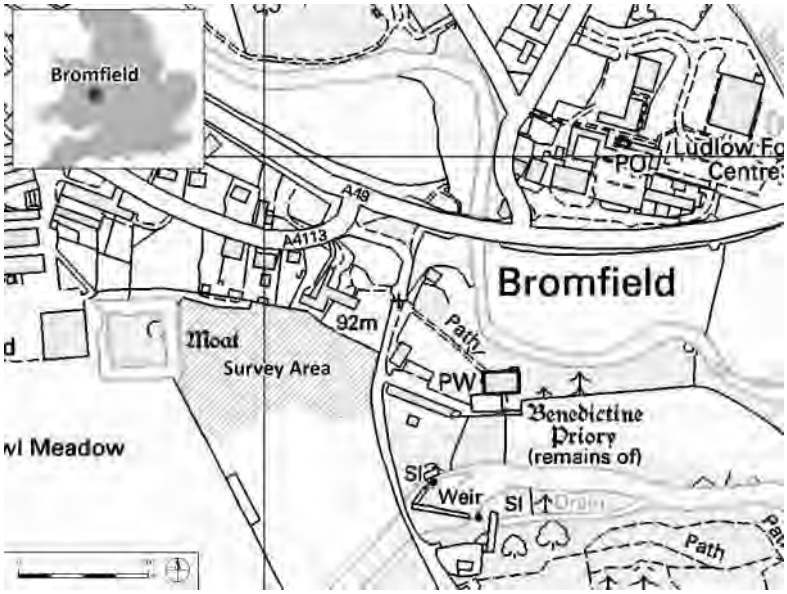

Figure 1 The survey area in central Britain, and in the local landscape. *© Crown Copyright and Database Right 2016, Ordnance Survey*.

Figure 2 St Mary the Virgin Church, Bromfield, viewed from the south. The remains of the Foxe family's residence can clearly be seen projecting from the south of the nave. *Photograph: Oliver Creighton*.

During the 1960s, in an area close to the Roman camp, excavation revealed an early medieval cemetery comprising 31 burials located within an Iron Age enclosure (Stanford 1995). The burials were orientated east–west and three contained grave goods. Dating evidence suggests the burial ground was in use between AD650–750, and the character of burial rites is typical of a Middle Saxon 'Final Phase' cemetery (e.g. Welch 2011).

The place-name of Bromfield is first recorded as 'Bromfelde' in a charter of Edward the Confessor dated to 1060 or 1061 (*S1162*, Harmer 1959, 101–2). The document details the gifting of judicial and financial rights to clerks of the king, demonstrating that there was a royal minster at Bromfield by at least the Late Saxon period (Croom 1988; Blair 2005, 356). The foundation was served by twelve canons that held an estate of twenty hides surrounding their church. It is probable that Edward's charter was given to a pre-existing rather than *de novo* institution, the significant endowment to which hints at an earlier church of royal foundation served by an extensive estate. An unusually detailed entry in Domesday Book states that by the Conquest a priest named Spirtes had seized half of the estate and that, although he was banished as a result, ten hides remained in lay hands until 1086. The character of the religious group during the late eleventh and early twelfth century is difficult to ascertain, but it is possible that a mixed community existed for some time as the canons were gradually replaced by those adopting a monastic lifestyle (Victoria County History 1973, 27).

In the sixteenth century John Leland was aware of a castle tradition associated with Bromfield, and identified the moated feature of Bromfield Grange as the most likely site (National Monument No: 108598) (Toulmin-Smith 1907, 79–80). Leland's interpretation is almost certainly mistaken, but the possibility that the moated site was developed on an earlier elite residence cannot be wholly dismissed. In 1155 Henry II re-founded the house at Bromfield apparently as an independent Benedictine Priory but the monastery quickly became dependent on St Peter's Abbey, Gloucester. There are strong indications that the clerics were hastened or coerced into becoming a dependent house, and Bromfield remained a cell of Gloucester until the Dissolution. Following the Reformation, the church and priory were leased to Charles Foxe who purchased the property in 1558 and converted the buildings into a private residence (Victoria County History 1973, 27–9). Elements of Foxe's conversion can still be seen to the south of the present church building which reverted back to religious use following a fire in the seventeenth century which destroyed much of the family home (Figure 2). To the south of the River Teme, but also within Bromfield parish, the estate of Oakly was emparked in the sixteenth century and was subject to significant landscaping by William Emes during the eighteenth century.

Figure 3 Detail from late eighteenth-century map of Bromfield, showing the parish church apparently furnished with a formal garden to its south. The garden may preserve the outline of the former cloister of the Benedictine Priory. *Shropshire Archives reference no: DP587. Reproduced with the kind permission of Shropshire Archives*.

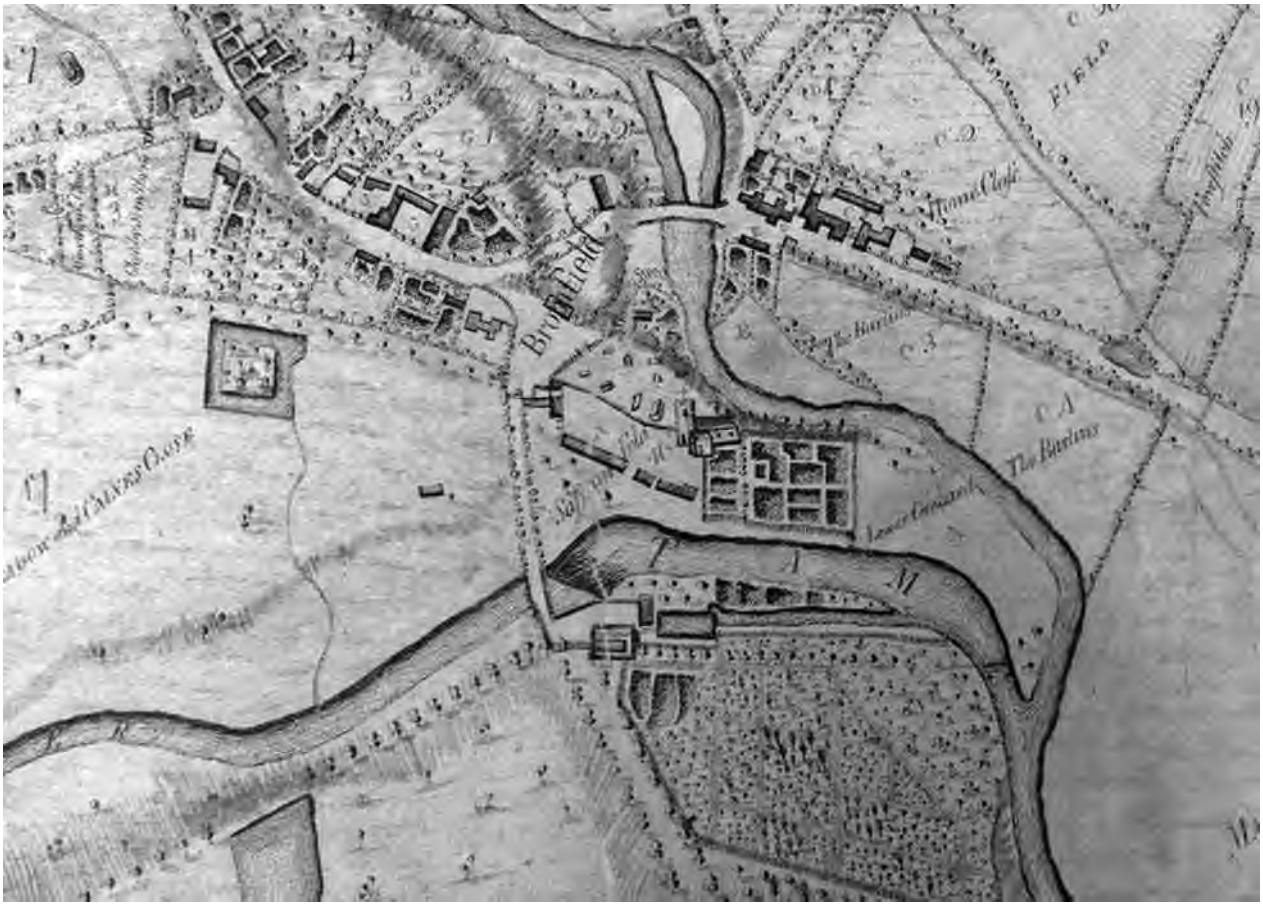

Figure 4 Late eighteenth-century map showing the church at Bromfield in its wider landscape. *Shropshire Archives reference no: DP587. Reproduced with the kind permission of Shropshire Archives*.

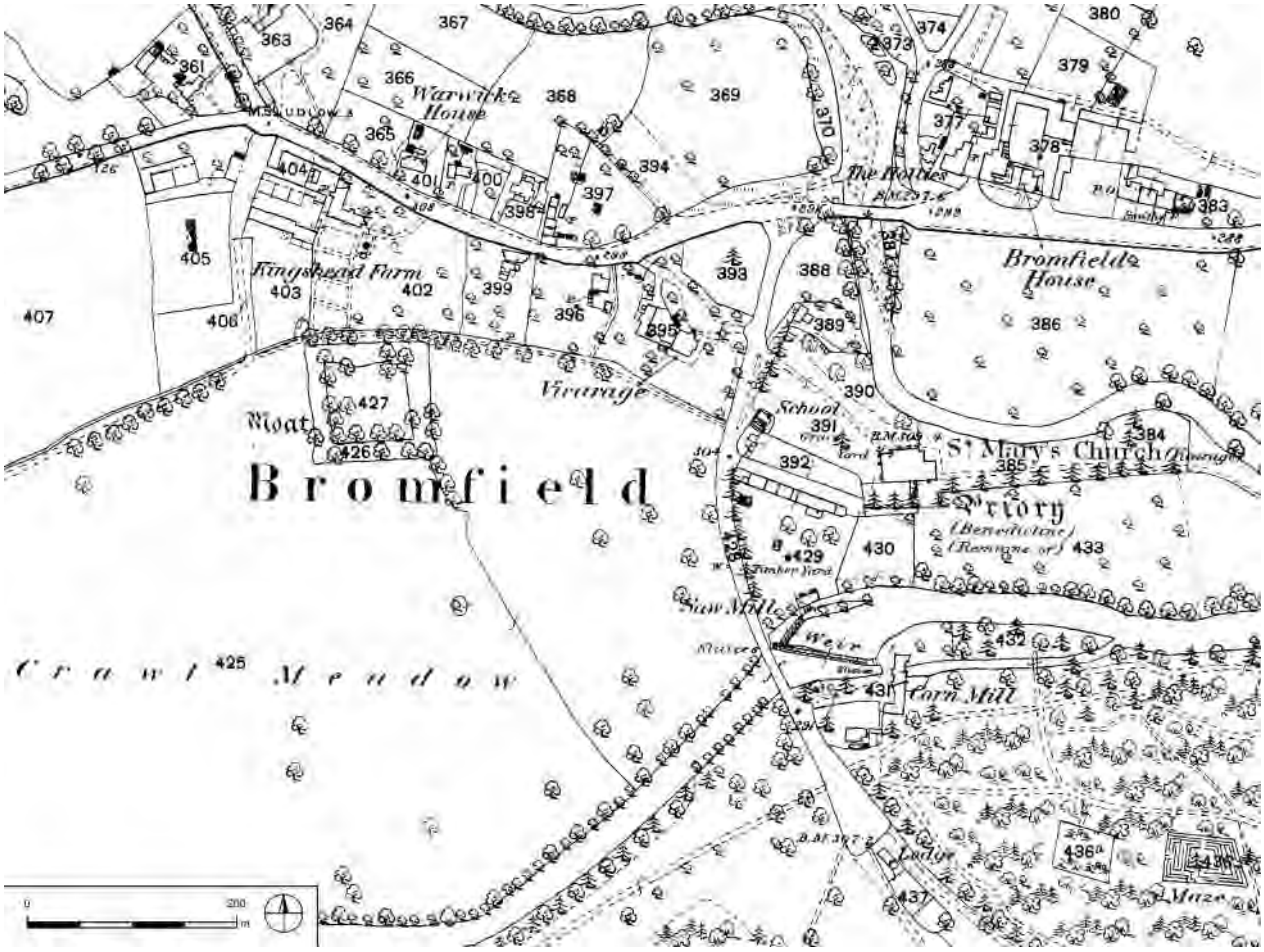

Figure 5 Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" of Bromfield dated to 1885. *© Crown Copyright and Database Right 2016, Ordnance Survey*.

MAP ANALYSIS

The earliest cartography for the Bromfield area is an undated estate map,[3] the style of which is similar to that of John Probert who worked during the 1760s and 1770s; it is however much more likely to be by one of Probert's stable of surveyors, perhaps Robert Hale which would give a date in the period *c*.1770–1785. The map provides a detailed depiction of Bromfield church and village, and even includes headstones and chest tombs in the graveyard (Figure 3). Although the remains of the Foxe residence are not shown, to the south of St Mary the Virgin Church a square enclosure is illustrated, within which are shown several blocked divisions apparently representing a formal garden. The garden is most likely to have been established by Charles Foxe or his descendants after they converted part of the church into a private residence during the sixteenth century. Intriguingly, the location and scale of the garden suggests that it may have reused the footprint of the former monastic cloister in a manner similar to that undertaken by the Tudor owners of Neath Abbey, Glamorgan (Creighton 2009, 205). To the west of the church the moated site of Bromfield Grange is depicted as tree covered and with water in the ditch (Figure 4). The moat lies within a field labelled 'Crul Meadow and Calves Close'. The Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 25 inch map dated to 1885 depicts Bromfield in more detail and reveals that the priory gatehouse was by this time being used as a school (Figure 5). A saw mill and corn mill are shown on either side of the River Teme, and a lodge and maze are illustrated within Oakly

Figure 6 Crawl Meadow taken from the banks of the River Teme looking northwards towards the survey area. The clear break of slope, running left to right in the middle distance of the photograph, is likely the product of fluvial action but has also been accentuated by landscaping.

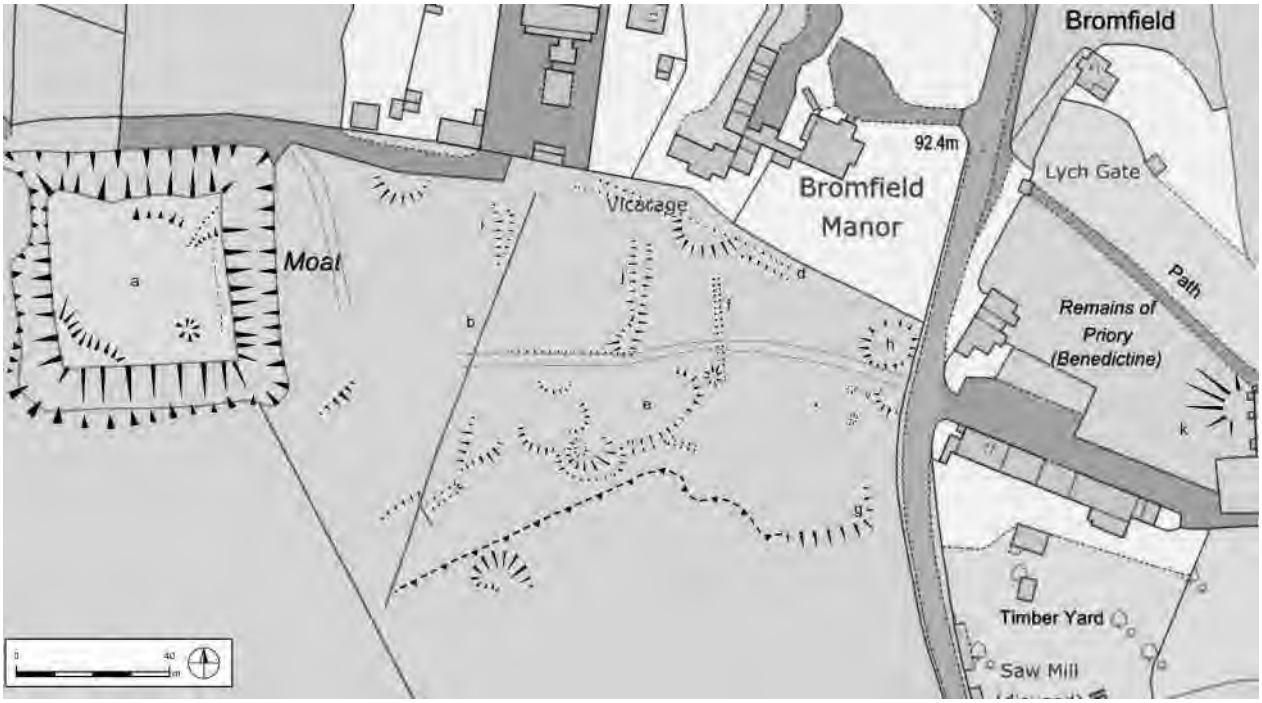

Figure 7 Labelled topographical survey of Crawl Meadow, Bromfield.

Park. The field to the west of the church within which Bromfield Grange is located, and previously indicated as 'Crul Meadow/Calves Close' is now labelled as 'Crawl Meadow', a name which persists today. By the end of the nineteenth century the priory gatehouse had been converted into a parish recreational and reading room, and later came under the ownership of the Landmark Trust who restored the property and continue to rent it as a holiday let. Beyond quarrying in the northern part of the parish and moderate settlement expansion of the village core, particularly to the north of the modern A49, historic mapping suggests that the landscape of Bromfield has remained otherwise relatively unchanged throughout the twentieth century.

EARTHWORK DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

With the exception of the Bromfield Grange moated site, the earthworks in the surveyed area are not scheduled and are not known to be transcribed elsewhere.[4] On the western side of the field there was a large rubbish dump which precluded this area from the survey, although important earthworks below this spoil heap were detectable though analysis of LiDAR data (see below). The survey area consists of a field known as Crawl Meadow, the northern part of which is largely flat, but the southern section of which slopes gently down to meet the River Teme. The boundary between the flat and sloping ground is defined by a clear break of slope, which although probably the result of natural processes may also have been landscaped. The large square earthwork at the western end of the survey area (Figure 7 'a') forms the Bromfield Grange moated site (Shropshire PRN 01171). The present survey identified features in the interior of the scheduled monument, which is raised above the normal ground level; a raised area in the south-west quadrant, a section of bank on the northern edge, and a possible long bank parallel to the eastern arm of the moat. Additionally, there is a circular ditch and an area of apparent modern disturbance in the northeast corner. Earlier surveyors have noted further features which are detailed in the schedule information for the site.

Also in Crawl Meadow is a north-northeast to south-southwest, raised linear earthwork with rough stone blocks and sand eroding from the centre, most likely the remains of a former wall (Figure 7: 'b'). Given

Figure 8 The low, circular earthwork mound (Figure 7: 'h') in the centre of the photograph is interpreted as the remains of a dovecote. The brick and timber building in the background is the former abbey gatehouse, which remains in use today as a holiday let. *Photograph: Oliver Creighton*.

the form and good state of preservation, this feature is considered post-medieval in origin, although the precise dating is uncertain and it does not appear on any historic maps. Along the northern edge of the investigated area is an east–west orientated bank (Figure 7:'d'). This feature shares an alignment with the medieval gatehouse and ancillary buildings and could be associated with these structures. It is possible that the bank represents an earlier field boundary or other property division. Another possible interpretation is that it consists of spoil from house and garden construction along the A4113 to the north. In the southern part of the survey area is a raised terrace with a curving boundary, projecting in an approximate south-west to north-east alignment (Figure 7: 'e'). A small section of the southern edge of these earthworks possesses a shallow ditch. Along the southern edge of this network is also an additional earthwork which forms a ring with a hollowed interior. This complex most likely represents the heavily denuded platforms of former buildings. Feature 'f' comprises a north–south ditch which shares an alignment with both the moated site and the church. It is possible it represents part of the same landform as platform/enclosure 'e'. The break of slope between the flat northern part of this field and the southern slopes appears to be a natural landform in all places apart from at 'g' where it seems to have been landscaped into a regular slope with a right-angled corner. This possibly represents a former building platform, or alternatively it may be a lynchet. Another possibility is that this is the result of artificial ground-raising related to the formal garden, as landscaping in such a manner would have created a restricted view looking in a southerly direction (see below).

In the north-eastern corner of the survey area is located a circular, domed mound 15m across and *c*.80cm in height (Figure 7: 'h'), most likely the remains of a dovecote platform (Figure 8). Features 'i' and 'j' are north–south banks of uncertain origin. Their common alignment, which is also shared with the moat, may be significant and it could be that they are elements of a related former enclosure. Immediately adjacent to the western end of St Mary's Church is a large mound, formed by gently sloping banks on all sides (Figure 7: 'k'), probably the result of landscaping within the churchyard.

LiDAR Analysis

Airborne Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is a method of remote sensing that collects three dimensional data points by using a laser mounted on an aircraft. This method provides detailed topographic point data over extensive areas which can then be processed using a Geographical Information System (GIS) in order to produce a series of models which can illustrate archaeological features. The resolution of data available for analysis varies, but as LiDAR is commonly deployed in flood management schemes, coverage tends to be better in areas around coasts and watercourses. Only the lowest resolution LiDAR data (2m) is available for Bromfield, although it is still sufficient to supplement the results from the measured earthwork survey. Analysis of LiDAR models identified a square enclosure in the western part of the surveyed area; this feature was only partially recorded by the measured earthwork survey as it was obscured by a dump of modern rubbish. The feature consists of a slightly raised bank forming a square enclosure with a break in the earthwork in the south-eastern corner (Figure 9).

The form of the square enclosure is consistent with a medieval moated site, and indeed this example seems to append the south-east corner of the scheduled moated site of Bromfield Grange. Approximately six thousand moated sites are known in England, with the greatest concentration found in central and eastern parts of the country. Moated sites primarily acted as prestigious aristocratic residences and helped cement perceptions of inequality in the landscape, with their role as status symbols usually seen as outweighing their military or defensive value (Johnson 2015). The peak period of construction in heavily moated areas of the country dates between 1250 and 1350, although the monuments continued to be built later in the medieval period and an alternative sequence of development may have occurred in peripheral areas such as Shropshire (Aberg 1978, 1–4). Identification of two moated sites in close proximity as at Bromfield is sometimes interpreted as evidence of two phases of occupation, with a smaller antecessor site succeeded by a more extensive and elaborate example. More often, however, it appears that both moated enclosures were utilised contemporaneously, with one site utilised for residential purposes and the other used for other buildings, gardens or orchards (e.g. Taylor 1978, 10–12; Creighton 2009, 92–3). The double moated enclosures at Bromfield probably conform to this pattern of use, together forming an elite residence most likely occupied from the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries. The identification of the more prominent moated site as a monastic grange appears erroneous, as it seems highly unlikely that such a high-status monument would have been occupied and utilised by lay brethren for agricultural purposes. More probable is that the Bromfield moats together formed the private home of a wealthy lord and perhaps patron of the monastery, or alternatively it may represent the former residence of the priors of Bromfield themselves.

EARTH RESISTANCE SURVEY

In addition to the topographic survey, the eastern end of the surveyed landscape was subject to an earth resistance survey.[5] The most notable features detected by the earth resistance survey are a series of linear, low

Figure 9 LiDAR hillshade plot of the Bromfield area. The white dashed line highlights the previously unidentified second moated enclosure, appended to Bromfield Grange with which it was probably in contemporary use. *© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency.*

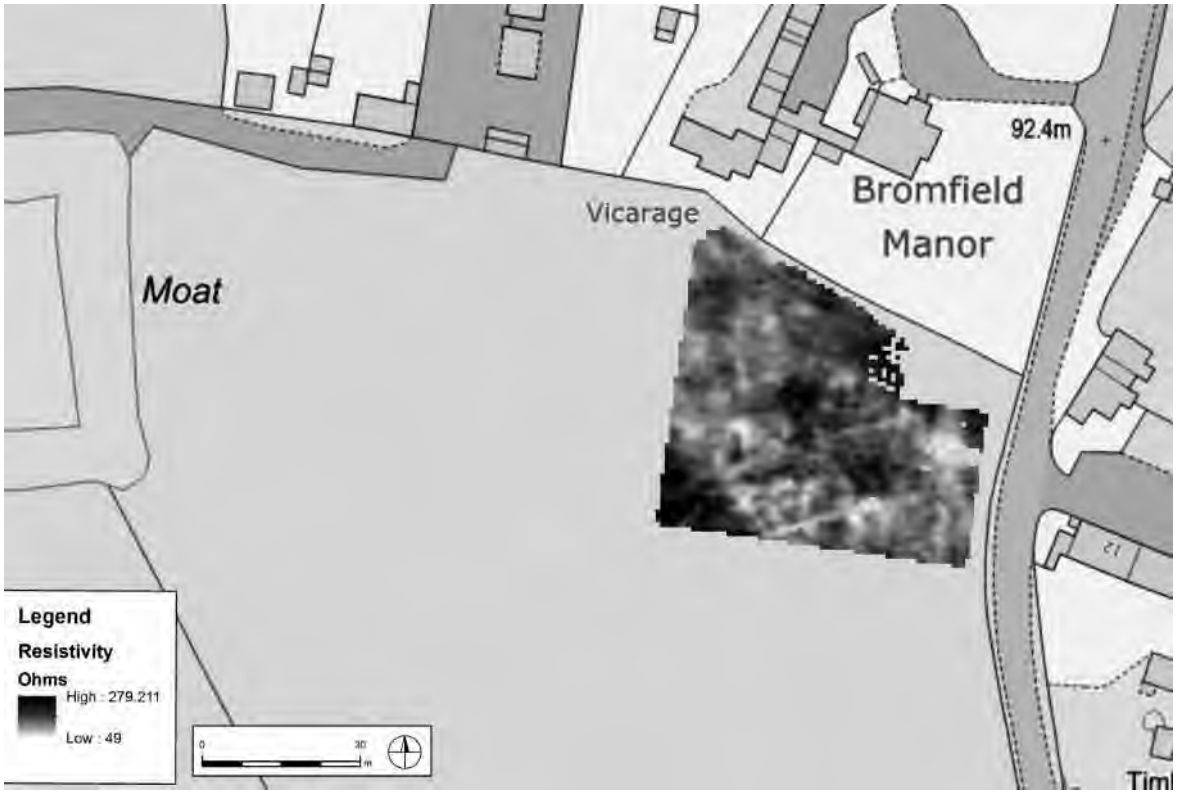

Figure 10 Earth resistance survey plot of Crawl Meadow. The series of linear, low resistance anomalies represent former ditches, delineating what appears to be part of a formal garden.

resistance features which apparently form a grid pattern enclosing areas of generally lower resistance (Figure 10). These anomalies, which probably represent former ditches, are likely related to a previous and hitherto unknown formal garden located within the bounds of Crawl Meadow.

DISCUSSION

Written sources illustrate the clear significance of the religious establishment at Bromfield from at least the Late Saxon period, and the re-founding of the priory by Henry II demonstrates the continued royal interest in the monastery throughout the twelfth century. The documentary evidence does not preclude that Bromfield was a royal minster of even earlier foundation though, and the identification of a Middle Saxon cemetery and other features within the parish confirms that the landscape was heavily utilised in at least sporadic fashion from late prehistoric times onwards. The most impressive and important archaeological remains identified by the current geophysical and topographical survey at Bromfield, however, date from the later medieval period onwards.

The current survey has been able to illustrate that the scheduled monument of Bromfield Grange was in fact just one element of a double moated complex, utilised from the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries. That the moated site is referred to as a 'grange' is somewhat misleading, rather it is more appropriately interpreted as a high-status residence perhaps owned by the priors of Bromfield. The earthworks, whilst denuded probably as a result of historic ploughing, are perhaps the remains of a formal garden related either to this complex, or indeed to the post-medieval development of the landscape by the Foxe family. During the sixteenth century the family converted the priory site into a secular residence, a substantial wall within which several stone mullioned windows survive can still be identified projecting from the south extent of the nave of St Mary's Church. It appears that building construction was accompanied by transformation of the surrounding landscape, with the former footprint of the church cloister remodelled to create a garden complex recorded on maps dating to the early eighteenth century. The Foxe family also seem to have created ornamental features to the west of their property, as results from earth resistance survey clearly reveal a series of anomalies most likely associated with further elements of a formal garden. The evidence from the archaeological earthworks is less convincing, but the remains of a dovecote close to the entrance of the priory gatehouse adds further weight to the idea that Bromfield was being modified as much for aesthetic as functional purposes from the late medieval period onward.

It remains challenging to accurately phase this sequence of high status activity at Bromfield, but it is almost certain that the double moated site was established while the priory was still in use during the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries. How much the priors of Bromfield transformed the surrounding landscape is unknown, although it seems most likely that the majority of the designed gardens identified by this survey relate to post-Dissolution redevelopment under the Foxe family. Until the destructive fire of the seventeenth century which gutted the secular residence, Bromfield had therefore been a focus of elite life for several centuries, making it a significant and important archaeological landscape which would benefit from further research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank the Leverhulme Trust who funded this research as part of the project *Anarchy? War and Status in Twelfth-Century Landscapes of Conflict* (RPG-2012-734). Our thanks are also expressed both to the Earl of Plymouth Estate for allowing us access to the survey area, and to the Shropshire Archives for providing access to historic maps.

NOTES

1 This research was funded as part of the Leverhulme Trust grant *Anarchy? War and Status in Twelfth-Century Landscapes of Conflict* (Grant No: RPG-2012-734). The project, which represents the most detailed study of the archaeology of King Stephen's reign, chose to investigate Bromfield given the significance of the twelfth-century church and the context of its re-foundation in the immediate aftermath of the civil war.

2 The geological profile of the study area severely impacted upon an attempted magnetometer survey as part of the same investigation, and as a consequence the results have not been reproduced in this article.

3 Shropshire Archives: DP587.

4 A topographic survey of the earthworks was conducted using differential GPS in a real-time-kinematic mode. The equipment consisted of a Leica SmartRover 1200 and Leica GPS500 reference. The measurements were processed and plotted using Leica Geo Office 4.0.

5 A Geoscan RM15 resistivity meter was used to survey four 30m x 30m grids in a zig-zag pattern. The sampling interval was 0.5m and the traverse interval 1m. The data were interpolated once in the direction of traverse, and the shade plot was clipped to provide contrast in the output. All geophysical survey data were downloaded and processed using the TerraSurveyor programme, and the results were imported into ESRI ArcGIS where they were geo-rectified using control points measured by dGPS. The survey encountered HCR (High Contact Resistance) issues towards the end of the survey caused by excessively dry and stony soils in this area.

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Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society 91 (2016), 51–101

Iron Age and Romano-British Occupation at Craven Arms Enclosure B, Shropshire: investigations in 2013

By TIM MALIM and THOMAS WELLICOME

The investigations at Craven Arms B exposed the north-western corner and a length of the northern ditches for a square enclosure, associated with external activity which spanned approximately 200 years. A double-ditched enclosure, external oven and V-shaped ditch for a timber stockade are interpreted as representing the first phase of activity, dating to late prehistoric times. During the first century AD the outer enclosure ditch was recut, and subsequent activity during the first to second centuries was evidenced by infill of the enclosure ditch, two corn-drying ovens, two possible timber structures, a ditch and a pit. The alignment and regularity of these features indicate a planned element to the site. Activity continued in the second to third centuries with a remodelling of the outer enclosure ditch, gullies indicating a fence line (possibly a parallel enclosure) and compacted surfaces around the entrance, other ditch features and decommissioning of the ovens and structures. The site appears to have been abandoned in the third century, with evidence for possible flooding interspersed with archaeological features across much of the site. Post-medieval activity consisted of two different types of land drain, indicating that water management on the site has been a recurring theme over the centuries.

Artefactual evidence consisted of pottery including prehistoric sherds, samian, amphorae, Severn Valley ware, Malvern ware, and Black-burnished ware. Dating from this pottery assemblage suggests activity can be attributed to a period from first to third centuries AD, whilst scientific dating from C14 and OSL have provided dates from the first century BC to third century AD and that the natural silt and gravel superficial geology was deposited between 5017–3275 BC. Bayesian modelling based on these dates and the stratigraphic sequence has modelled a probable period of 115 years for activity at the site, which started during the period cal AD 35–120 (68% probability) and ended during the period cal AD 90–165. Palaeoenvironmental analysis has identified charred cereal grains of barley and wheat (although no processing on site), as well as plant species that favoured wetland margin environments and meadowland, and timber and brushwood resources, which might have been used as fuel.

EXCAVATION

INTRODUCTION

Between January and March 2013, a programme of archaeological investigation was carried out on land south of Unit 16 Craven Arms Business Park, Stokewood Road, Craven Arms, prior to development. The programme consisted of investigation of a grassed recreational area to the south of the existing Highways Depot (Colour Plate 1), (NGR SO 4302 8327). A secondary phase of work, undertaken in September 2013, was carried out to reduce ground levels in the development area to working depth. This revealed further features that were not located during the initial phase of work because of the masking effect of silt deposited from flooding episodes. Finally in January and February 2014 a watching brief was undertaken during clearance of the boundaries around the north-eastern, eastern, and south-eastern parts of the site, the

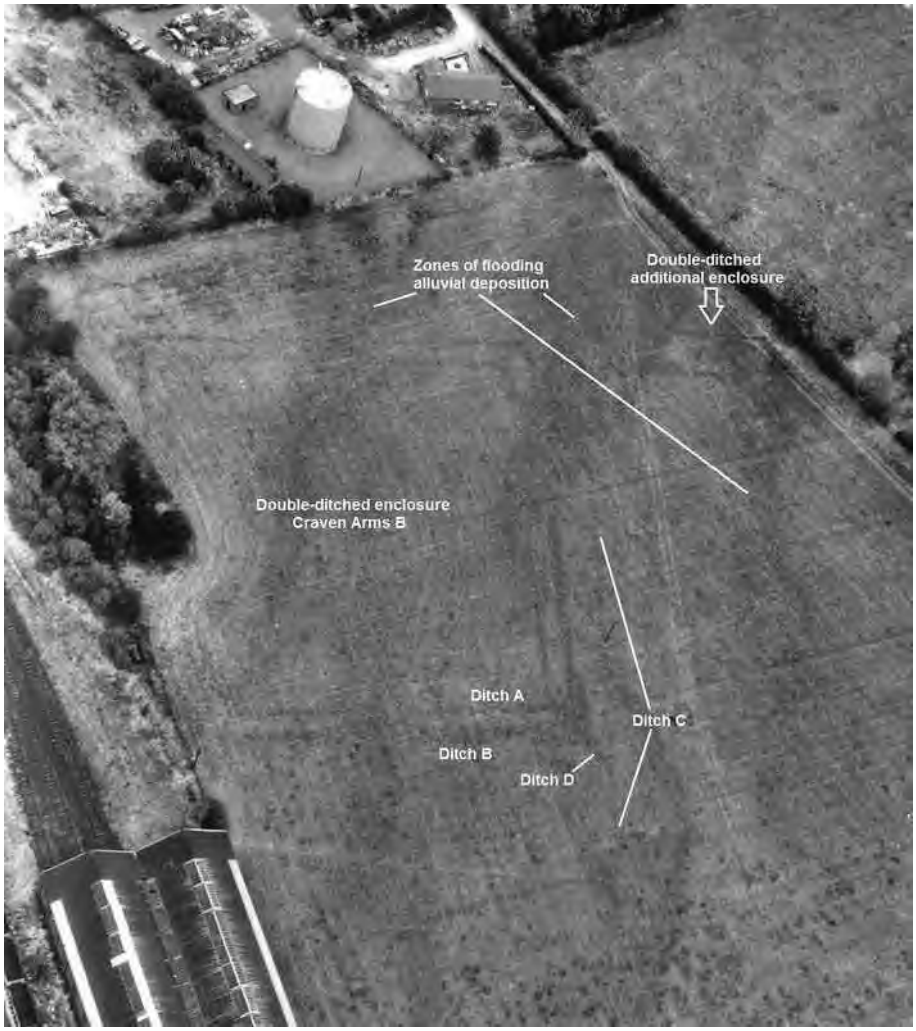

Figure 1. Air photograph looking south showing cropmarks of the Craven Arms B enclosure. *By kind permission of Cambridge university Committee for Aerial Photography: photo reference CBF017 taken 28.7.76.*

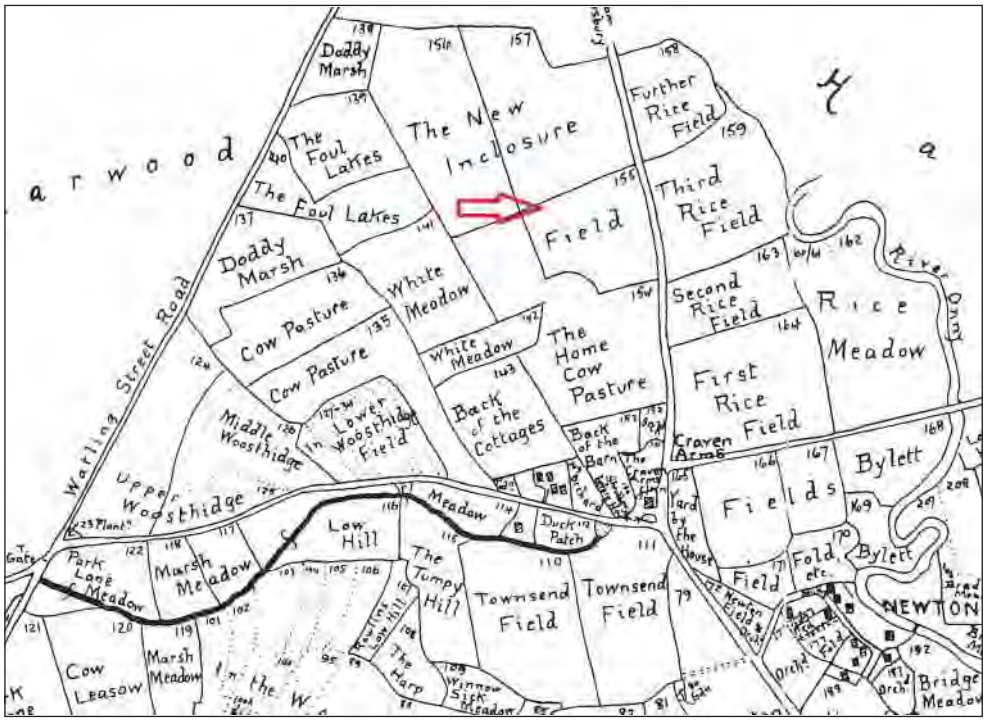

Figure 2. Extract from 1842 tithe map showing location of site. *Transcription by H. D. G. Foxall.*

excavation of an attenuation pond within Area A, and over the area of new build to the north.[1]

The proposed development comprised an extension to the existing Highways Depot totalling 7421m^2. Most of the development consisted of an extension for a *c*.80m long parking area, located to the south and west of the existing depot. The footprint of this extension is shown in Colour Plates 2 and 3. A mains electricity cable runs down the central part of the site, and running parallel to this in the east of the central area was a sewage pipe. The site was therefore divided into two parts, Area A to the east of the electrical cable and sewer, (which were left undisturbed) and Area B to the west.

The soils on the site consist of well drained sands and gravels overlying a solid geology of Wenlock Shale. The site is broadly level at 121m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), with the local topography dipping gently to the west/south-west, to 91m AOD on the Roman Road next to Oakfield, which lies approximately 400m from the site's western boundary.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The site was originally identified from aerial photographs (Figure 1) and is logged on Shropshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) as PRN 02046 'Rectangular enclosure north of Brook Road (Craven Arms B)'. The original Ordnance Survey entry records the site as lying on a level pasture field with drainage works in the southern part. It describes the site as 'cropmarks of a double ditch with a single ditch meeting them at an oblique angle' at least 50m in length along the north and 60m along the west, with an 8m separation between ditches. A 40m diameter ring ditch is also mentioned as located to the north of the enclosure ditches.

Transcription was undertaken in 1982 and the features interpreted as 'the formal precinct of a small Roman villa'. The plot of the features from the air photograph shows a double-ditched playing-card shaped enclosure, typical of Roman marching camps, and the site is in close proximity to another enclosure interpreted as a Roman camp 300m to the north (PRN 00620). Watling Street Roman road runs south-west/north-east 200m west of the site, on its route from Leintwardine to Wroxeter (see Colour Plate 1).

Two previous investigations have taken place on the site. The first consisted of geophysical prospecting and trial trenching (locations shown in Colour Plate 4) in 1991 by BUFAU (Ferris 1991) which exposed two massive linear disturbances and some internal features. Ten sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered, but the presence of iron sewage pipes and vandalism to survey points, led to confusion in the recording. In 2004 a watching brief undertaken by BUFAU during previous development at the Highways Depot just north of the enclosure, did not find any evidence for archaeological activity (Krawiec 2004).

Historic mapping for the area includes the Tithe Apportionments map for Stokesey *c*.1840 – prior to construction of the railway – (transcribed by H. D. G. Foxall in the 1970s). This places the site in a group of three fields (numbered 155–157) which are called The New Inclosure Field (Figure 2). To the west four fields between New Inclosure Field (156) and Watling Street Road are called Doddy Marsh and The Foul Lakes (numbered 137–140), showing the generally wet and unpleasant nature of the land, whilst to the south and south-west of the site the fields are named as pasture and meadow land. The eastern edge of New Inclosure Field is formed by the Shrewsbury road, and the northern side forms the parish boundary.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25 inch map of 1885 shows the site lying within what was called 'The New Inclosure Field', but now without sub-divisions, and with the railway cutting through the north-east corner. In the south-eastern corner an area of marshy ground and a pond is shown, and south of the field a gas works had been built.

By 1975 the 1:2500 scale OS map showed encroachment from the railway along the eastern edge of the field (Figure 3), and expansion of the built-up area of Craven Arms south-west of the site, although the gas works buildings were still extant due south. By 1999 aerial photography showed that the gas works had been built upon for further residential development, and the northern end of the New Inclosure Field had been developed as the initial phase of the business park. By 2009 aerial photography showed that the railway sheds to the east had been demolished, and that the Business Park had expanded south to form the existing arrangement.

By 2013 a small area of grassland remained with a west–east double hedge boundary, presumably a plantation for defining the area of the business park. The archaeological cropmark enclosure straddles both sides of this hedge, and the northern ditches lie within the area for extension of the highways depot.

THE 2013 EXCAVATION

Mechanical excavators with toothless ditching buckets were used under supervision of an archaeologist to strip the overburden from the site, stockpiling in the central zone where the services ran (Figure 4), and on rough ground to the north-west. Beneath the topsoil and modern disturbance, the underlying sedimentary deposits were very variable, and interleaved with archaeological activity. Identification of a consistent level from which cut features occurred was not easy to discern, especially in the south-western part of the site where a series of lower levels and test pits were

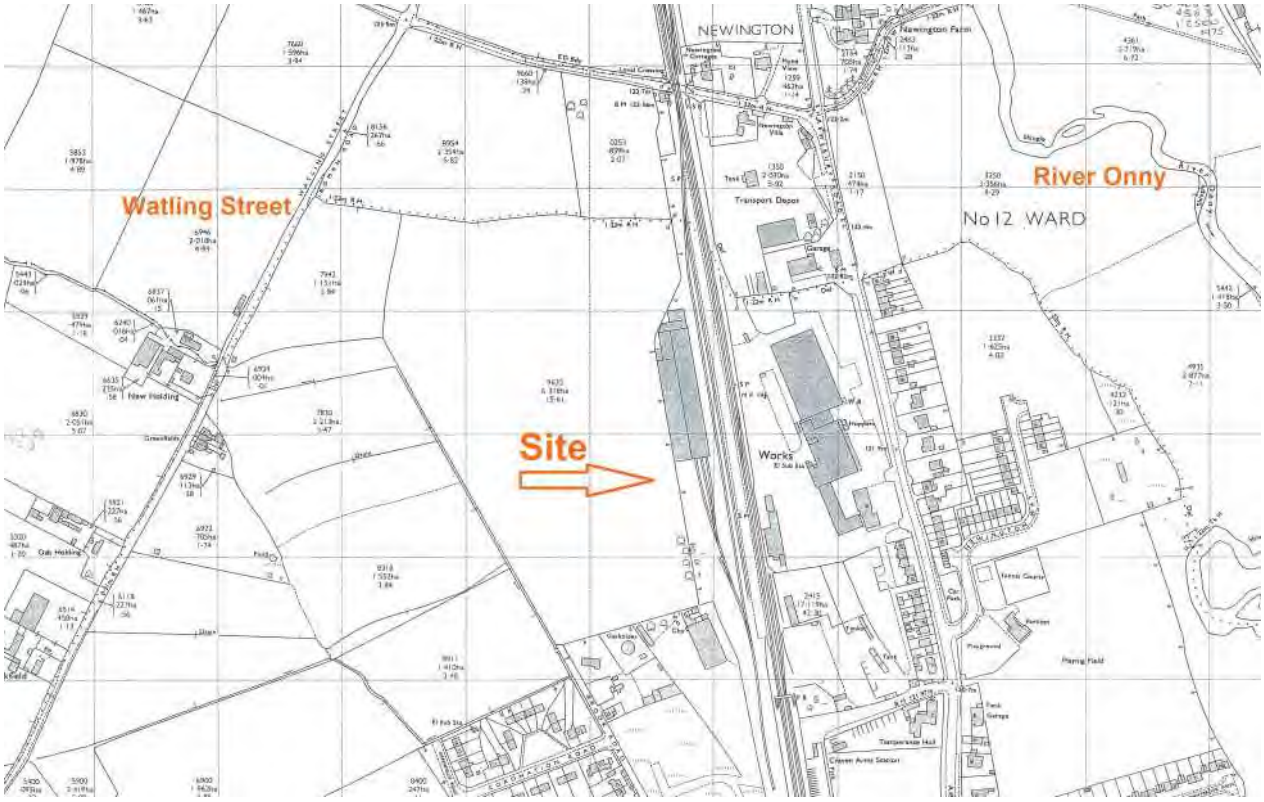

Figure 3. Site location on 1975 OS map.

employed to try and clarify the stratigraphic sequence. This area appeared to have been a zone of lower-lying land prone to flooding, which had eroded and obscured archaeological features and deposits. In addition the time of year in which excavation had to be conducted was far from ideal, with periods of heavy snow, rain, and poor light conditions (Figure 5).

General Stratigraphy

The general stratigraphy of the site consisted of topsoil (12), overlying a subsoil (13), which sealed the Romano-British features over most of the site. All the Romano-British features appeared to cut into natural deposits of clay sands (2) and gravel (11) which were dated by OSL to 5017–3275BC (OSL sample 9). Natural depositions (2), which consisted of light brown clayey sands similar to (13), were in places overlying Romano-British features, suggesting the accumulation of these sandy clays on the site was an ongoing process, both before and after occupation of the site. The reasons for deposition of this material is unclear, although given the gravelly low-lying nature of the site, and its relative proximity to an area at risk of flooding, it is probable that many of these clays could be alluvial in origin. Underlying the clays were a series of very fine silty gravels (11) that quickly became 'mud-like' on exposure

Figure 4. View of site under excavation with Ditches A, B, C and D in foreground and hills to the east beyond.

Figure 5. View of Area B looking south with Goat's Hill in background; note flooding over Ditches A and B.

to water. Cutting through all these deposits within the excavation area were remains of two of BUFAU's evaluation trenches (Trenches 1 and 4 respectively) numbered F9 and F175 in 2013.

Area A displayed evidence of having been landscaped, probably during the construction of the original depot to the immediate north. Topsoil (12) overlaid the remnants of a track, which originally led from the railway stock yard to the northeast and also part of hard standing (91) for the site hut used during the construction of the council depot. Underlying these features was an earlier topsoil (90), although over most of the area the differing levels of topsoil were poorly defined from each other and they no doubt represent re-deposition of the same material. Cutting through topsoil (12) were a number of small test pits, probably relating to geotechnical survey during construction of the depot or in advance of the planning application that has led to this archaeological investigation.

A heavily compacted layer of mid-reddish brown silty clay (115) was located in the northern quadrant of the site, within which were occasional flecks of charcoal, daub and small heavily eroded pieces of ceramic. It is notable the daub and charcoal deposits were not prevalent over the Romano-British features elsewhere.

In Area B waterlogging and bad weather made excavation difficult, and in the end it was decided that due to the depth of some of the archaeological features, which made them unlikely to be damaged by the car park construction, and the difficulties in excavating them, that some parts of this area should be left un-investigated or not fully excavated. They remain preserved beneath the new car park.[2]

Over the majority of Area B topsoil (12) overlaid subsoil (13), which overlaid what appeared to be a natural accumulation of silty clays (176). The majority of features were cut into natural gravels (11) below this layer, although in certain parts of this area low points in the natural gravels appear to have been filled by natural sediments of probable alluvial origin. Like Area A, this material appears to have been deposited mainly before the human activity on the site, although in several areas, notably the south-western corner of Area B, overlying the main enclosure ditch, there appeared to have been a later phase of deposition represented by (176), indicating later accumulation of natural origin.

Phasing

The phased plan of the site is shown in Colour Plate 4. This shows all features and main deposits, and has been colour-coded to show the various phases, given approximate periods by pottery evidence, and scientific dating. Slot sections are also illustrated to assist in cross-referencing the section drawings illustrated below. Where sequential deposition has not allowed direct stratigraphic relationships, the phasing has been based on dating evidence, or spatial relationships and morphology of features to assign them to a phase. This has provided a best fit to help with interpretation of the site. To avoid multiple context numbers for the same feature which were given during excavation for different slots through these features, during post-excavation analysis master descriptions and letters have been assigned (e.g. Ditch B for the outer enclosure ditch). The details of the different context numbers within master features are listed in Table 1 (pages 64 and 65), and the general layout of the site is shown in Colour Plate 4, with detailed plots of Area A and Area B shown as Colour Plates 4a and 4b.

CHRONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE[3]

Phase 1

Prehistoric: represented by residual pottery, an oven, the first phase of the cropmark enclosure (inner cut F84 (Ditch A) and outer cut F127/11016 (Ditch B)) and a V-shaped ditch located west of the enclosure, cut F6 (Ditch C).

Phase 1.1

Ditch A: cut F84 and use as enclosure ditch
Ditch B: cut F127/11016 and use as enclosure ditch
Ditch C: cut F6/21/23/25/006 (base) and use as ditch
Oven 3: charcoal-filled pit F11010 and primary use. Fired clay base and side 11009, charcoal-rich basal fill from use of pit 11008

Phase 1.2

Ditch A: fills 82, 83, 131
Ditch B: fills 58, 59, 124, 136, 140, 141, 142, 143, 11011, 11012, 11013, 11014, 11015
Ditch C: fills 5, 20, 24, 102, 105
Oven 3: F11010, upper fill 11007

Description

Ditch A. This phase includes a series of construction activities associated with a rectilinear enclosure visible as a double-ditched cropmark in aerial photographs. The inner ditch (Ditch A) was traced for a short distance within the southern edge of Area B, with a 5m length of its northern side exposed, extending from the east to the enclosure's north-western corner. It was investigated by two hand-dug slots which revealed two sandy-silt infill deposits, a compacted primary fill (83), and a looser secondary fill (82) which contained prehistoric pottery, and a single sherd of (intrusive) Roman pottery. The ditch was V-shaped and wider than 1.2m, surviving to a depth of 0.52m cut into the natural geology (Figures 6 and 7 and Colour Plate 4b).

Ditch B. The outer enclosure ditch (Ditch B) also originated in this phase. The earliest part of this ditch consisted of a gently sloping, wide-based feature approximately 1.4m wide at the top, and cut up to 0.5m deep into the natural geology. Slot 1 shows that the full sequence from present ground level to the base of the Phase 1 ditch was 1.2m (Figure 8 and Colour Plate 5).

This initial phase of outer enclosure ditch was only found in the base of excavated slots taken through its later phases, which was exposed for a length of 12m east–west, and 4m south–north in Area B. Five hand-dug sections investigated Ditch B, with up to five infill episodes recorded for Phase 1 comprising sandy-silt-clays with variable amounts of gravel content included within each infill episode, probably reflecting different erosion or flooding events and a relatively extended period whilst the open ditch accumulated these various deposits. From one of the primary fills (58) a sample was taken for OSL dating, which gave a date of BC 296–244 AD. A further partial investigation occurred in the extension to Area A during the watching brief, when the later phase of this ditch was excavated by means of a slot cut across it which revealed that it cut an earlier ditch beneath on a slightly different alignment.

Figure 6. Area B: Ditches A and B looking west.

Figure 7. Ditch A looking west.

Figure 8. Ditch B slot 4 looking east.

Figure 9. Ditch B slot 1 looking south.

Figure 10. Ditch C slot 1 looking south.

Ditch C. A third ditch was also constructed in this phase, oriented north–south 4m west of the outer enclosure ditch and extending the full width of Area B for a length of 24m, but continuing beyond the excavation area to south and north (Figures 4 and 22 and Colour Plate 4b). The southern part of this ditch was well preserved, whilst the northern section had been altered by a later ditch which cut into it and followed its alignment northwards. Ditch C was recorded in seven hand-dug slots as a V-shaped construction-cut, 0.45–0.8m wide and up to 0.5m deep (Figure 10), growing shallower towards the north. Prehistoric pottery and a piece of fired clay was found within the fill at (5) and (102) which was a sandy silt with charcoal and small pebble inclusions (Figure 11). A single sherd of samian was found as intrusive within the top of the fill at (20).

Oven 3. An oval pit F11010 in Area A had been cut into the natural geology to a depth of 0.27m, 1.7m east–west and more than 0.9m north–south (Colour Plates 4a and 6). This was filled by a primary deposit of charcoal, 0.6m thick (11008), and a silty clay capping layer 0.2m thick (11007). The base of the pit had been subject to heat which had left a 20mm thick orange-red clay lining (11009). No finds were recovered. The southern part of the infilled pit was destroyed when the Phase 2 enclosure ditch was cut demonstrating its association with the earliest phase of activity.

Interpretation and Discussion of Phase 1

Enclosure. This phase of activity has been assigned for the initial construction of a double-ditched enclosure which is represented by two parallel ditches running east–west, and their return to the south-west, to form the north-western corner of the enclosure. The surviving basal parts of these ditches were up to 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep, with the inner ditch V-shaped, whilst the outer ditch displayed a less pronounced profile. The ditches were set approximately 3m apart, presumably sufficient area for a small bank to have been formed from the upcast from the outer ditch, but there was no archaeological evidence for a bank. The phasing and relative association for the first phase of the two enclosure ditches is based on prehistoric pottery from the inner ditch fill, and an OSL date from the outer ditch fill. This does not provide definitive evidence for contemporaneity, and the possibility that the two ditches were in fact separated by a number of years, perhaps even a generation, cannot be discounted, but for the purposes of simplicity in his report the assumption has been made that the two ditches formed a single type of feature, a double ditched enclosure.

Palisade. To the west of the enclosure a much narrower V-shaped ditch had been aligned on a north–south axis, bisecting Area B. Within the short space visible within the excavation area, this ditch appeared to run parallel to the western side of the enclosure at a distance of 4m from it. The surviving profile was relatively sharp and suggests that erosion of the ditch sides and base had not occurred in antiquity. The function was clearly not one of drainage as evidenced by the lack of erosion, and that therefore the ditch had been rapidly backfilled after opening. It is therefore interpreted as the trench foundation for a palisade, and the ratio for how deep a post needs to be set in the ground is approximately the height of the post above ground divided by three. Calculating in reverse for the 0.5m-deep trench foundation represented by Ditch C would allow an assumption that the palisade would have been at least 1.5m high. As contemporary ground level, however, would have been higher than the surviving top of the feature as found cut into natural geology (because the contemporary subsoil and topsoil have been eroded or ploughed away), then an additional 300mm of ploughsoil could be added above the surviving top of the ditch, which would suggest that the palisade could have been 2.4m high.

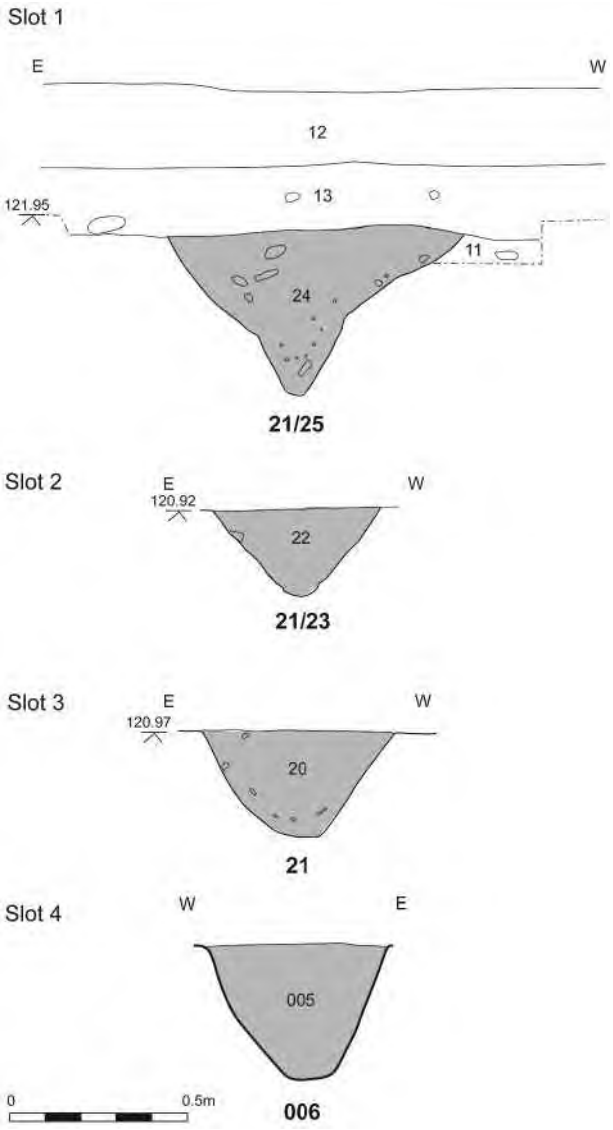

Figure 11. Ditch C section drawings of excavated slots south–north.

Oven. The pit found in Area A was clearly subjected to heat in order to form the hard red clay lining. The primary fill consisted of charcoal, which is interpreted as representing the residue from use as a fire-pit. The upper fill appears to have been deliberate backfill sealing the charcoal inside the pit, and the assumption is that this was relatively short-lived oven, the purpose which cannot be determined from the archaeological evidence available. The location is of interest, however, as it lay immediately outside of the enclosure, but was cut through when the outer enclosure ditch was realigned during Phase 2. The expectation would be that such activity would have been more appropriate within the enclosure, if the latter was

designed with a domestic or farmstead function, rather than external to it. Ovens are frequently recorded as having been constructed into the banks from evidence gathered during excavation of other enclosures in Shropshire, but this would seem unlikely in this instance.

Phase 2
Early Roman: represented by 1st century AD evidence including second phase of Ditch B.

Ditch B: F26/125/128/11006 representing a recut of Ditch 127/11016

Description
The evidence for this phase comes from the outer enclosure ditch in both Areas A and B. It comprises a recut along a slightly different alignment from the first phase of the ditch, so that the recut was located internally at the western end, but then crossed the first phase and diverged from it externally towards the east. The recut was very similar in dimension and form, consisting of a gently sloping wide U-shaped profile, but in two sections where the first phase and the recut follow the same alignment, it can be seen that the second phase was not cut to the full depth of Phase 1 (shown as an orange line on the section drawings on Colour Plate 5). The ditch was approximately 2m wide at the top and up to *c*.0.5m deep. Within Area A an investigation through Ditch B was undertaken by excavation of Slot 5, in the section of which Phase 2 of Ditch B can be seen cutting the infilled Phase 1 ditch.

Interpretation and Discussion of Phase 2
The phase is characterized by re-establishment of the outer enclosure ditch after a long period when the original ditch had become infilled. The alignment chosen for the recut did not follow the exact line of the previous ditch, but instead was cut on the inside at the western end and then gradually migrated slightly to the north (outside) of the Phase 1 ditch at its eastern end. The profile and dimensions appear similar to Phase 1.

Ditch C went out of use as a stockade/palisade before or during this phase. No evidence for destruction such as burning or physical removal of posts was recorded.

Phase 3
Roman: represented by 1st to 2nd century AD evidence including infill of Ditch B cropmark enclosure outer ditch. Contemporary with this phase is Ditch D F8/14, and a number of discrete features: Ovens F53/77 and F10006, vertical-sided, short-length trenches F31, F44, and F69, F10001 and F10003, and a pit F38. The trench features would appear to indicate a structural element due to the depth and un-eroded vertical sides of the features.

Ditch B: infill episodes 27, 57, 123, 134, 137, 138, 11004, 11005 of enclosure ditch
Ditch D: F8/14/106 and primary use of ditch, infill episodes 19, 101, 104, 110, 111, 149
Structures 1 and **2,** F31, F44, F69, F10001, and F10003 infill 30, 32, 33, 43, 45, 68, 73
Oven 1: F92 (and stoke-pit F77)**,** clay lining 53, and evidence of usage: fills 52, 53, 64, 74, 75, 76
Oven 2: F10006, and evidence of usage: fill 10011
Pit 38: backfill 37

Description
Phase 3 is assigned to describe an increase in activity in both Areas A and B. The evidence for this activity survives in the form of two ovens and some structural elements in Area A, and within Area B by infill of the Phase 2 outer enclosure ditch, as well as construction of Ditch D.

Oven 1 survived as a well-preserved, clay-lined trough F92 with fire pit and stoke-hole F77 at its southern end. The oven

Figure 12. Oven 1 looking north-west.

Figure 13. Oven 1 detail of southern end with stoke-hole and rake-out pit.

Figure 14. Oven 1 looking south-east.

was 1.8m in length, 0.6m wide externally, and up to 0.4m in depth. The main body of the oven had an elongated shape, filling a vertical sided cut F92 in the ground. The sides of the oven comprised a differentially fired orange clay lining (53), which was 0.10m thick and 0.20m in height (Figure 12, Colour Plates 4a, 7 and 8). This material contained some larger upright stones, which appeared to form an integral part to the lining of the oven. The colour differentiation on the clay lining reveals how intense the heat was for different parts of the structure, with the red areas having been exposed to greater temperature over a longer duration than the brown clay. The purple area at the top of the north-western end of the oven probably denotes the highest heat, whereas the grey areas along the lower parts of the structure (especially along the western wall) suggest lowest temperatures. The colours would suggest that during operation the heated air circulated along the eastern side and then up and out at the north-western end. The narrow opening next to the stoke-pit might have allowed air intake which lessened the heat along the western wall (Figure 13).

Filling the oven were a series of collapse deposits, the latest of which comprised of a firm dark brown silty clay, with inclusions of yellow clay, occasional angular stones and burnt clay, and moderate amounts of charcoal flecks (52). This material overlay a mixture of clay with some larger stones, which probably represents the collapse of the oven roof (63). The basal fill of the oven comprised of 60% charcoal flecks and fragments, mixed with brown silty clay with sand and burnt clay inclusions (64) (Colour Plate 9). This was probably the residue from the final firing of the oven.

To the south of the main oven body was an irregular cut F77 that formed a fire pit and stoke-hole area measuring 0.85m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. Filling this cut there was a series of flat, angular stones forming a rough surface or collapse material (75) which overlay a dark grey brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and fragments, attributed to leftover firing material (076) (Figure 14). Overlying the stones (075) was a dark brown silty clay with some charcoal inclusions and occasional burnt clay (74). This material could represent material raked out from the oven.

Bulk samples 5, 6 and 7 for palaeoenvironmental analysis and radiocarbon dating were taken from the fills of Oven 1, while samples 11, 12 and 13 were taken from the fills of the stoke-pit F77 adjacent to this feature. Detailed results are contained in the specialist report (see Mooney below), but the majority of charred material in sample 7 could be identified as either barley or wheat, such as six-rowed barley and emmer wheat, although bread wheat may also be represented in the assemblage. Oat and brome were also identified, as well as some other wild species, but chaff or other evidence for cereal processing was very rare. The wood charcoal included a range of different species, but was dominated by cherry/blackthorn and oak.

Two samples were taken from the fired-clay wall material for OSL dating, and these provided dates of 206 BC–AD 154, and 56 BC–AD 224. Samples were also taken of the charcoal from the infill deposit, and these gave 22–130 cal AD (SUERC-53994) and 73–225 cal AD (SUERC-53995) from within the oven, and a date of 56–215 cal AD (SUERC-53998) from the stoke-hole. The overlap between these dates suggests construction and use of the oven occurred during the 1st to 2nd centuries AD, and Bayesian modelling of the available data shows that for the oven a period of about 50 years between the late 1st and early 2nd century can be assigned for when it might have operated.

Oven 2 was less well preserved than Oven 1, and had evidently suffered greater damage from later activity. It comprised a reasonably solid southern side of burnt/heated clay, while the central and northern halves were fragmentary and in-filled with stone and burnt clay sides of the oven (10011) (Figure 15). The oven was contained in a roughly elliptical cut F10006, which had been eroded by later activity, while the base of the cut was slightly concave in profile.

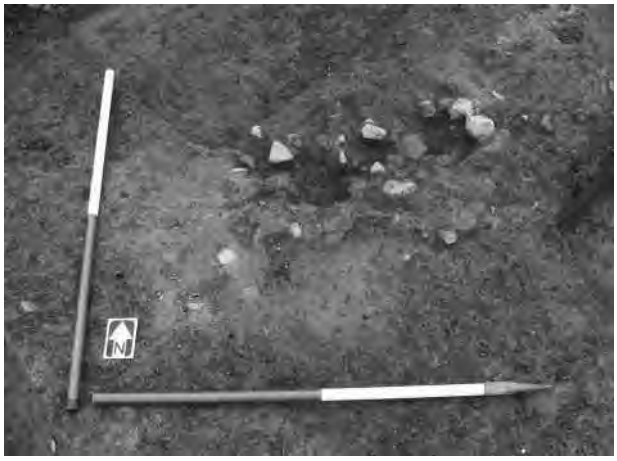

Figure 15. Oven 2 surviving remains of clay walls and infill.

Structure 1 To the south-east of Oven 1 were two short linear trenches, F31 and F69 orientated approximately east–west (Figure 16 and Colour Plate 4a). The earlier of the two, F69, was 4.8m long by 0.53m wide and 0.4m deep. The construction cut was slightly curved in plan, with steeply-sloping, at times vertical, sides, and a flat base. Running almost parallel on its northern side 0.5–1.5m away there was a second, similar structural feature F31. This was 4.6m long by 0.6m wide, with a north–south arm which measured 2.7m in length connecting it to feature F69. Cut F31 was therefore roughly L-shaped in plan with vertical sides and a relatively flat base, extending to a depth of 0.5–0.7m. These trenches were filled by a friable reddish-grey-brown clayey silt with

Figure 16. Structure 1 looking east showing deep foundation trenches.

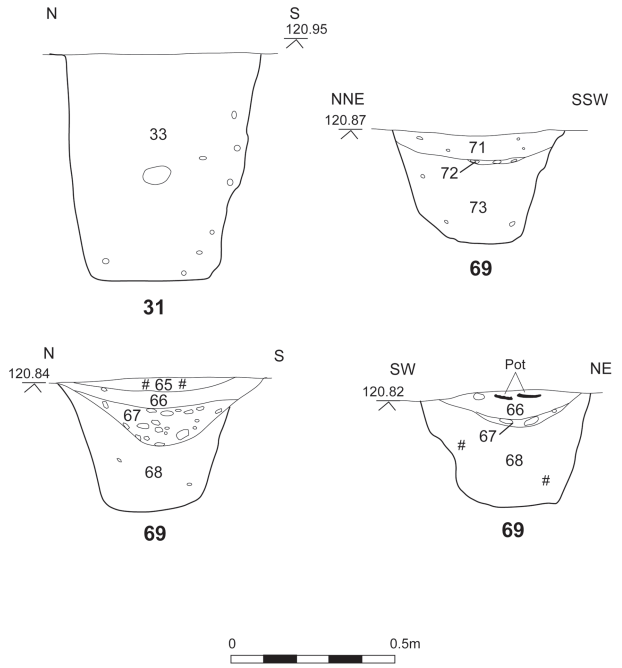

Figure 17. Structure 1 section drawings of excavated slots.

occasional charcoal and burnt clay inclusions (30), (32), (33), (68) and (73) (Figure 17). Artefactual evidence included pottery from (68) and eight sherds of amphorae, and a samian sherd from (73). There were also as seven pieces of fired clay from (73) and one piece of fired clay from (33) – significantly more daub than found at any other feature on site.

Structure *2*. Lying adjacent, and to the south-east of Oven 2 was a large deep pit F44, that was sub-rectangular in shape with near-vertical sides. The pit was oriented north–south, *c*.3.0 long by 1.0m wide, and up to 1.25m in depth at the southern end, but sloping up to 0.6m in depth towards the north (Figures 18 and 19). Within the pit there were a series of fills, of which the earliest was a compact mid-grey brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks (42), (43), (45). Second century Severn Valley ware was found in (42) and (43), and Black-burnished ware in (42). Two samples were taken from the primary fill (43) for OSL dating. The results were 306 BC–AD 134 and 326 BC–AD 54 (Figure 19).

In addition to the pit, two shallow ditches comprised a reasonably substantial foundation trench, forming an L shape (Figure 20 and Colour Plate 4a). The function of this foundation trench was probably for a timber structure which ran parallel and perpendicular to pit F44 as an L-shaped trench aligned for 7m north–south, and 9m east–west, with the corner to the south-east. The trench was constructed with steep sides and a flat base, up to 0.5m wide and 0.15–0.3m deep on its north–south arm, and 0.4m deep on its east–west arm (Figure 21). The distance from Pit 44 to cut F10001 was 2.4m, and from the southern end of Pit 44 to the east–west arm cut F10003 was 4m.

Pit F38 was located 2m south-east of pit F44 and lay between the eastern and southern wall lines created by gullies

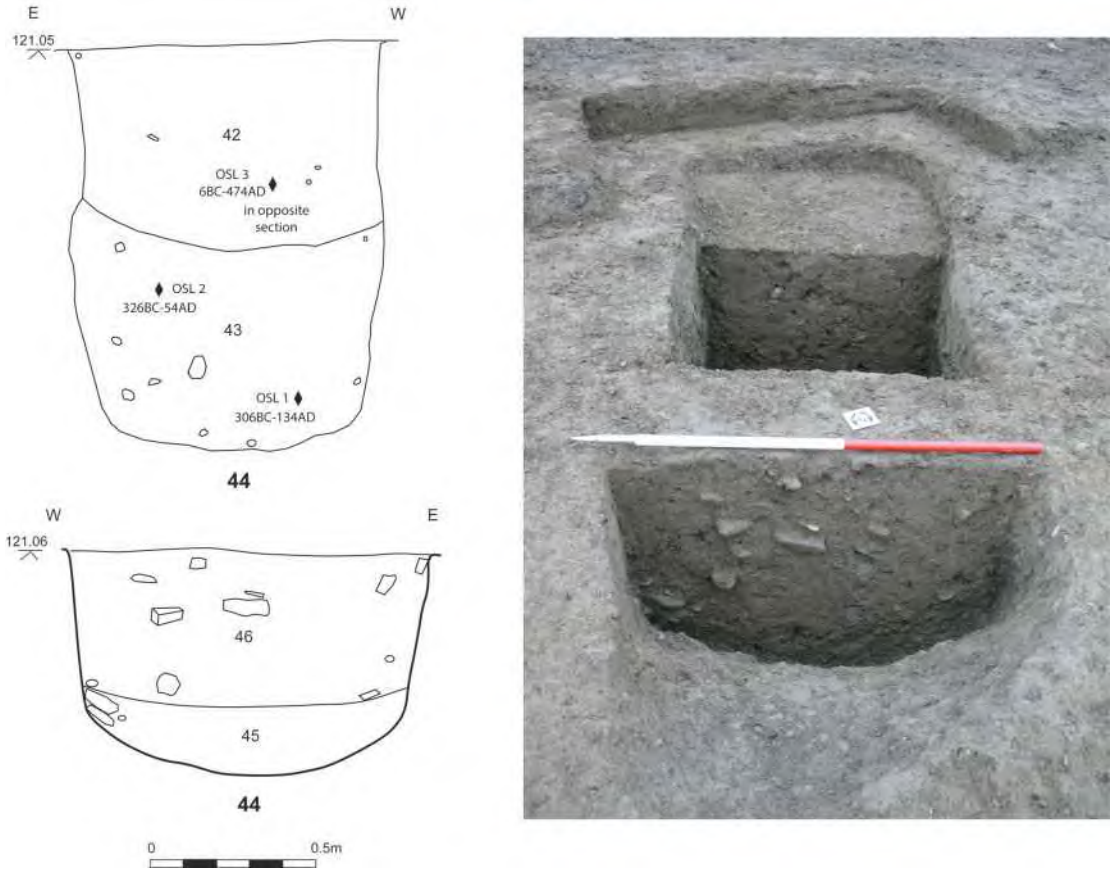

Figure 18. Structure 2 pit 44 section drawings and photograph of excavated slot looking north.

Figure 19. Structure 2 pit 44 looking south with OSL sampling in process.

Figure 20. Structure 2 aerial view looking south showing all foundations of structure with excavated slots through the gullies and pit.

F10001 and F10003. It consisted of an oval cut with gradually sloping sides into the natural geology, which was 1.8m long north-south, 0.45m wide, and 0.12m deep. This was filled by a reddish brown sandy clay with stones and charcoal in it.

Ditch B infill deposition episodes. The infill episodes that comprise Phase 3 consisted of two discrete but similar deposits of silty-clay with a large proportion of stone, gravel and charcoal inclusions. The maximum depth of these infill

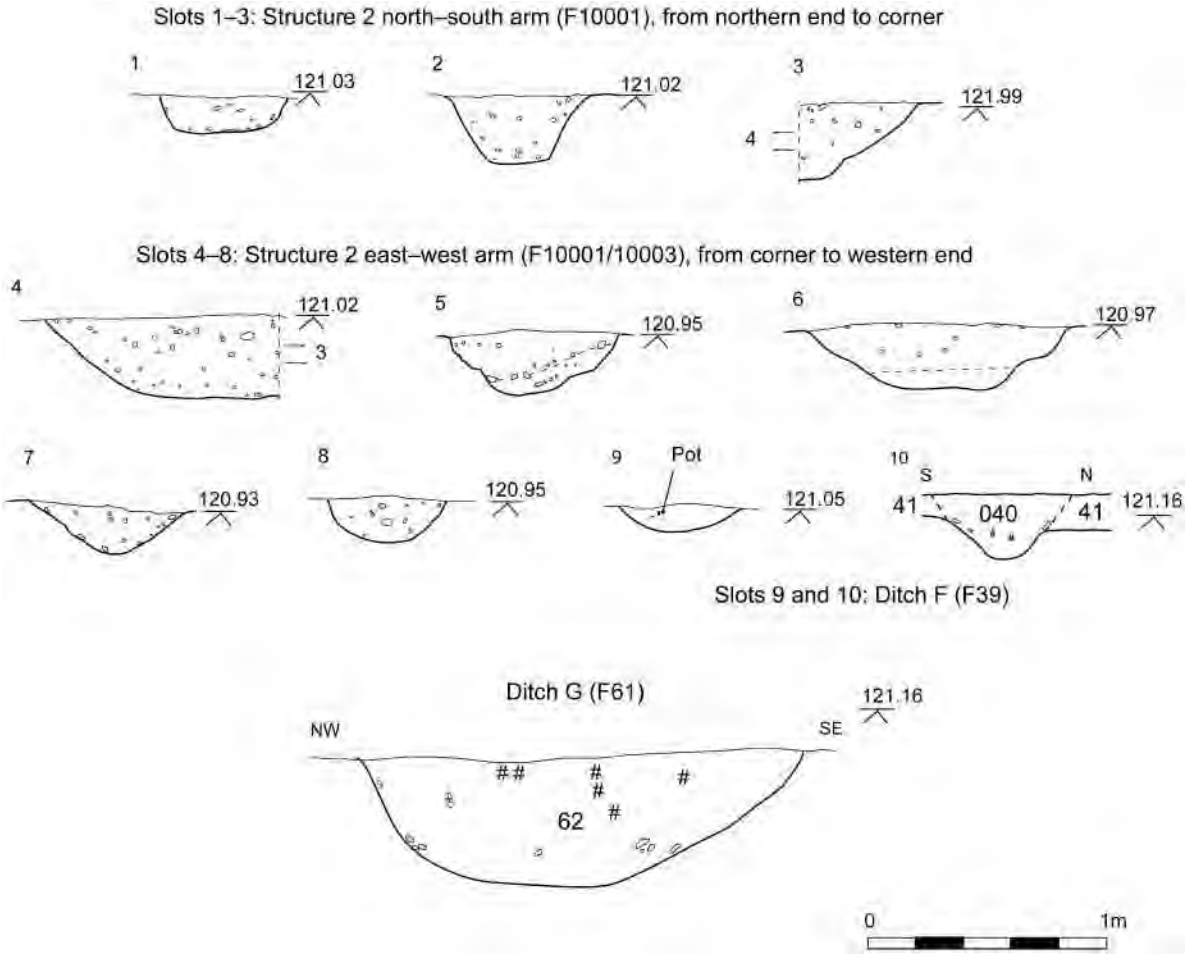

Figure 21. Section drawings of excavated slots through various ditches and gullies.

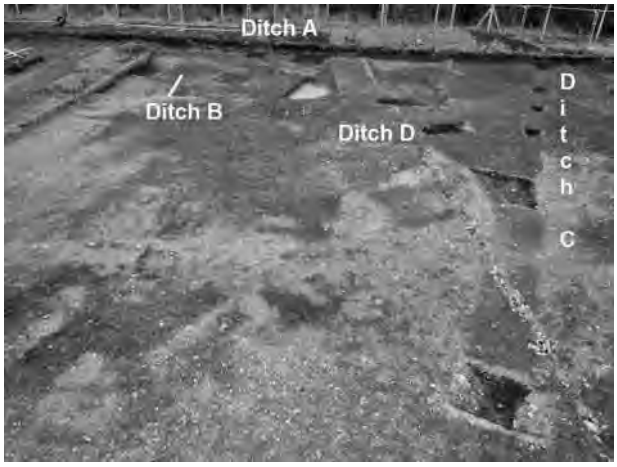

Figure 22. Area B aerial view looking south showing Ditches A, B, C and D.

Figure 23. Ditches C and D junction, slot 3, looking south.

episodes extended to 0.8m. Within the upper layer (27) second-century amphora and second-century Severn Valley ware were found as well as residual prehistoric pottery, whilst further Severn Valley ware was found in the primary fill and upper deposit in Area A (11005) and (11004).

Ditch D construction and primary use. A U-shaped ditch was cut during this phase, which spanned Area B from north–south in a curving alignment for *c*.24m. From the north, Ditch D was partially cut into, and followed the same alignment as, Ditch C, but after *c*.8m it began to diverge from the straight orientation of Ditch C (Figures 22, 23 and Colour Plate 4b,). From this point it was cut into the natural geology towards the north-western corner of the enclosure becoming wider and deeper, cutting across Ditch B, and cutting into Ditch A at the southern edge of Area B. The ditch was 1.2m wide and up to 0.5m deep with sharply sloping sides.

The primary fill for Ditch D comprised a sandy silt with a high percentage of small stones and gravel. Several of the excavated sections show this deposit slumping in to the ditch from the east, strongly suggestive that the primary infill derived from erosion of a bank on the eastern side of Ditch D (Colour Plate 10).

Interpretation and Discussion of Phase 3

The evidence for this phase shows that corn drying was probably undertaken on site for a short period in the late 1st or early 2nd century AD. The palaeoenvironmental analysis suggests that fuel wood including brushwood from woodland, hedgerow and scrub environments was used in Oven 1, which also contained remains of fully processed wheat and barley. This feature may have been used for a variety of purposes, including the drying of cereal grains prior to storage, bread making or other (industrial) activities. The evidence for grain could indicate the burning of cereal waste together with other fuel, but the most likely interpretation is that the function is that of a corn dryer, and by implication this has also been attributed to Oven 2. The variable heat intensity within the oven suggested by the colour differentiation and fired clay lining did not include evidence for vitrification or very high temperatures. It is therefore possible that the fire lay outside the oven (in fire pit F77) and the heat from this was conveyed through the oven by means of the stoke-hole.

In addition to the ovens constructed for corn drying, several short trench-like features were found which are interpreted as of a structural nature, perhaps foundation cuts for containing large timber uprights. The vertical sides and flat bases to these features demonstrate that they were not left exposed to erosion, and their narrow, well-formed design suggests their function was not that of quarry pits. The association of these features with ovens might indicate that the function of these structures was for grain storage, with the timber uprights supporting a suspended floor and superstructure and thus their primary infill is interpreted as deliberate backfill to pack around posts. The linear arrangements of these structures and ovens suggest a reasonable degree of regularity in layout of the site, indicating a carefully planned element.

A pit found in close proximity to Structure 2 and Oven 2, with the same orientation as Structure 2 and Oven 1, was probably excavated for a function which was associated with this other activity. Charcoal within the fill could have derived from waste from use of the oven.

The outer enclosure ditch which had been constructed during Phase 2 began to accumulate infill deposits during Phase 3. The silty clay and gravel material suggest natural causes rather than dumping or deliberate backfill, although within the deposit evidence of activity (possibly from the enclosure itself but more probably from external sources) included residual and contemporary pottery and charcoal. The depth of the deposit probably represents a long period of gradual infill. This was the only phase in which artefactual evidence was found in the outer enclosure Ditch B, until its final phase and termination of use in Phase 5.

Ditch D represents a change to the land division external to the enclosure, but linked directly to it. The ditch partially replaces the earlier Ditch C in the northern part of the excavated area, but instead of being aligned parallel to the enclosure, Ditch D was constructed to cut the outer enclosure ditch (Ditch B) and meet with Ditch A at its north-western corner. As this junction occurs at the limit of excavation, it is not possible to say whether Ditch D continued into the interior of what had previously been an enclosed area, but this would seem a likely hypothesis. The primary infill was very stony and appeared to originate from the east, which is interpreted as indicating a small bank would have run along the eastern side of the ditch. Its function may have been for drainage, allowing water to flow

southwards, and/or it demarcated different zones of external activity, perhaps related to the use of the land to the east for ovens and structures, while to the west lay a more open area.

Phase 4

Roman: represented by 2nd to 3rd century AD evidence and mainly consisting of ditches and gullies on alignments broadly parallel to the enclosure ditch, such as Ditches E and F (gullies F4 at the eastern end of the site and F29/39 further west), F10001 and F10003 – two ditches set at right-angles to each other located between F4 and F39 associated with compacted surfaces 115 and 10005, and gully F11002 west of Oven 1. Infill of Ditch D is also indicated, and a final recut in the top of the ditch infill similar in profile and matrix to curving ditch terminal F61. It is probable that the ovens and structural trenches were decommissioned by this point and were backfilled to level the area.

Ditch B: recut F126 and infill episodes 55, 56, 135, 11003
Ditch D: secondary infill episodes 7, 16, 17, 18, 99, 100, 103, 107, 108, 109, 129, 148
Ditch E: F4, infill 3
Ditch F: F29, F39, infill 28, 34, 40
Ditch G: F61
Ditch 11002: F11002, infill 11001
Structures 1 and **2:** infill, 42, 46, 65, 66, 67, 70, 71, 72, 10002, 10004, 10008
Compacted surfaces: 115, 10005

Description

Phase 4 records the changing nature of the site during Roman times as a continuation from Phase 3. The evidence includes additional construction activities with new gullies and recut ditches, as well as a series of infill episodes.

Ditch B. The infilled outer enclosure ditch constructed during Phases 1 and 2 was redefined by a recut F126 into the infill deposits. It was identified by excavation in two locations over an 8m length within Area B (Figure 24 and Colour Plate 5 slots 3 and 4). The new construction cut consisted of a very wide and shallow ditch feature, 3.2–4m wide by 0.3–0.5m deep, with a rounded ditch terminal at the western end which left a gap of *c*.2.5m between this and Ditch D. Where the two earlier phases of the enclosure had been separate but converging features, the new ditch construction embraced the width of both previous ditches. This phase was not identified in Area A further east.

Figure 24. Ditch B looking north-east.

During its period of use the ditch gradually filled with an orange-brown silty clay, with some gravel but few other inclusions or artefacts. An earlier and a later infill episode was identified in Slot 4, and from the earlier infill episode (56) a sample for OSL dating was taken. This provided a date range of 124–444 AD for the period when this episode of infill deposition occurred.

Ditch D. The upper fills of Ditch D comprised a sandy silt with lenses of stones and gravel, occasional charcoal and burnt clay (Colour Plate 9). In addition a relatively large assemblage of pottery for the site was recovered from these fills, consisting of second-century Severn Valley ware.

Ditches E and F. Ditch (or gully) E was traced for 6.6m from the eastern limit of Area A westwards to a point at which it had been removed by one of BUFAU's trial trenches in 1991. Unfortunately the relatively ephemeral nature of this feature was not recognized or recorded at that time. The gully was U-shaped in profile, 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep (Figure 21 and Colour Plate 4a).

On the same alignment but separated from Ditch E by a gap of some 7m without evidence for the gully, the terminus of a similar feature was found: Ditch F extended in a westerly orientation from this terminal for 16m. This gully also had a U-shaped profile, and was 0.5m wide, with a depth of 0.2 –0.3m.

The alignment of these two gullies runs parallel to the outer enclosure ditch (Ditch B), 22m to the south. Ditch E curved slightly northwards at its eastern end, and Ditch F appeared to have a slight curve to the north just where it disappeared into the northern edge of the excavation area.

The infill deposit within these gullies comprised a red-brown sandy clay with some stones, and a very large assemblage of second-century Severn Valley ware for such a slight feature, especially compared to the quantities found elsewhere on the site.

Ditch 11002. An ephemeral linear feature that ran in a westerly direction for *c*.4m. It was located 3m west of Oven 1 and comprised a concave profile, 0.24m wide and 0.08m deep. It was infilled by a silty clay (11001).

Ditch G. This curving ditch was traced for a length of 2.7m from the eastern edge of Area B to its terminal *c*.2m north of the outer enclosure ditch, Ditch B. It had a U-shaped profile, 0.85m wide and 0.25m deep (Figure 21). The ditch must have continued in a north-easterly direction, but this area lay within a zone that could not be excavated safely because of modern services that ran through the site.

Structure 1. The upper fills within features F31 and F69 comprised a stony deposit (67)/(72) with a sandy silt above (66)/(71) and reddish-brown silty clay with charcoal, frequent burnt clay and a greyish-white clay (65)/(70) (Figure 17). Pottery from the secondary infill (66) included Severn Valley ware, an amphora fragment, and late 1st to early 2nd century samian. A relatively large assemblage of Severn Valley ware dated to the 2nd century, was found within deposit (70). Two charcoal samples were also taken from this secondary infill deposit (70) and these gave dates of 86–239 cal AD (SUERC-53996), and 75–225 cal AD (SUERC-53997).

Table 1. Ditch dimensions and fills.

Ditch A
Phase 1 cut: F84
Dimensions. Phase 1: 1.2m wide x 0.52m deep

Sequence	*Phase*	*Cut*	*Context*	*Description*	*Inclusions*	*Dating evidence*
Basal Fill	1	84	82	loose grey orange brown sandy silt	occasional angular and sub angluar pebbles	4 sherds of prehistoric pottery
Secondary Fills		84	83	firm brown sandy silt	sub-angular pebbles	
		84	131	firm grey brown sandy silty clay	occasional gravel, pebbles and charcoal flecks	1 sherd of Roman pottery

Ditch B
Phase 1 cuts: F127/F11016; Phase 2 cuts: F26/F125/F128/F11006; Phase 4 cut with Phase 5 upper fill: F126
Dimensions. Phase 1: 1.6m wide x 0.5m deep; Phase 2: 1.3m–4.8m wide x 0.36m–1.12m deep ; Phase 4: 3.2m wide x 0.6m+ deep

Sequence	*Phase*	*Cut*	*Context*	*Description*	*Inclusions*	*Dating evidence*
	1	127				
Basal Fills		127	59	brown sandy silt clay	occasional gravel	
			124	firm grey brown silty clay	occasional small pebbles, moderate charcoal flecks	
			143	grey brown sandy silt	frequent gravel	
		11016	11015	mid grey brown clay silt	occasional sub rounded pebbles	
Secondary fills		127	58	mid grey brown silty sand	very occasional gravel, small sand component	OSL 6: 296BC–AD244
			136	grey brown sandy clay	frequent rounded pebbles, occasional small cobbles, occasional charcoal	
			142	grey brown sandy silt	very frequent rounded pebbles	
			141	brownish grey sandy clay	occasional gravel and rounded pebbles	
			140	sandy clay	very frequent pebbles	
		11016	11014	mid reddish brown clay silt	frequent gravel and sub-rounded pebbles	
			11013	mid grey brown clay silt	occasional sub rounded pebbles	
			11012	mid grey silty clay	frequent rounded pebbles	
			11011	mid brown grey silt clay	occasional sub rounded pebbles	
	2	26				
		125				
		128				
		11006				
Basal Fills	3	26	57	grey brown silty clay	very frequent gravel and rounded cobbles	
		125	123	firm sandy clay	frequent rounded pebbles, occ small cobbles	
			134	sandy clay	very frequent gravel and rounded cobbles	
		128	137	grey brown sandy clay	frequent rounded pebbles, occasional cobbles	
		11006	11005	mid grey brown firm clay silt	very frequent sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional pebbles, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material flecks	
Secondary fills		26	27	grey brown silty clay	very frequent gravel and round cobbles	1 sherd of prehistoric pottery; 3 sherds of Roman pottery
		128	138	grey brown silty clay	very occasional pebbles	
		11006	11004	mid grey brown clay silt	frequent charcoal flecks, occasional sub rounded pebbles	
	4	126				
Basal Fills		126	56	mid brown silty clay	occasional gravel	OSL 5: 124–444AD (Romano-British 2nd–3rd century AD)
			135	firm orange brown silty clay	moderate rounded pebbles, occasional cobbles	
Secondary fills			55	mid red brown silty clay	moderate gravel	
		11006	11003	firm mid brown silty clay	occasional rounded pebbles, very occasional charcoal flakes	
Final fills	5	126	54	red brown silty clay	occasional gravel and sub rounded cobbles	
		126	80	firm mid grey brown	occasional subrounded pebbles and cobbles and charcoal and burnt clay flecks	36 sherds of Roman pottery (2nd century AD or later)

Ditch C
Phase 1 cuts: F6/F21/F23/F25
Dimensions. Phase 1: 0.48–0.84m wide x 0.24–0.46m deep

Sequence	*Phase*	*Cut*	*Context*	*Description*	*Inclusions*	*Dating evidence*
Basal Fills	1	6	5	brown red clay silt	occasional rounded pebbles	2 sherds of prehistoric pottery
	1	21	20	friable mid red brown sandy silt	occasional sub-rounded pebbles, iron staining	1 sherd of Roman pottery (samian)
	1	23	22	friable mid red brown sandy silt	occasional sub-rounded pebbles, iron staining	
	1	25	24	friable mid red brown sandy silt	occasional sub-rounded pebbles, iron staining	
	1	6	102	mid reddish brown sandy silty clay	occasional charcoal flecks, occasional rounded pebbles	4 sherds of prehistoric pottery
	1	6	105	mid grey brown silty clay	occasional sub-rounded stones	

Table 1. Ditch dimensions and fills (continued).

Ditch D
Phase 3 cuts: F8/F14/F106
Dimensions. 1.12–1.8m wide x 0.22–0.63m deep

Sequence	*Phase*	*Cut*	*Context*	*Description*	*Inclusions*	*Dating evidence*
Basal Fill	3	8	110	light grey brown sandy silt	occasional sub rounded stones, iron staining	-
	3	14	19	mid grey brown sand	frequent sub rounded pebbles	-
	3	106	104	mid grey brown sandy silt	frequent closely packed sub rounded pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks	-
Secondary Fills	3	106	111	mid grey brown sandy silt	frequent closely packed sub rounded pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks	-
	4	8	101	hard packed mid grey brown silty clay	frequent pebbles, occasional cobbles	-
	4	8	100	hid grey brown sandy silt clay	occasional charcoal flecks	-
	4	14	18	mid grey reddish brown stony sand	frequent sub-rounded grit and pebbles	5 sherds of Roman pottery (mid 2nd–3rd century AD)
	4	14	149	grey brown sandy gravel	very frequent sub-rounded pebbles	-
	4	106	103	mid grey brown sandy clay silt	occasional sub rounded pebbles and cobbles	45 sherds of Roman pottery (1st–2nd century AD)
	4	106	109	mid grey brown sandy clay silt	occasional sub rounded pebbles and cobbles	-
	4	8	99	mid grey brown sandy silt	frequent sub rounded stones, occasional burnt clay and charcoal	-
	4	14	17	mid red grey brown silty sand	occasional sub-rounded pebbles	-
	4	14	148	brown silty clay	occasional sand and gravel	-
	4	106	108	mid grey brown silty clay	frequent pebbles, occasional cobbles	-
	4	14	16	mid grey brown sand	frequent sub-rounded pebbles	4 sherds of Roman pottery
	4	106	107	mid grey brown sandy silt	occasional charcoal flakes	-
Final fills	5	8	7	mid brown clay silt	occasional rounded pebbles, very occasional charcoal flakes	-
	5	14	15	mid red brown silty sand	rare charcoal flecks, occasional sub rounded pebbles	-

Ditch E
Phase 4 cut: F4
Dimensions. Phase 4: 0.5m wide x 0.12m deep

Sequence	*Phase*	*Cut*	*Context*	*Description*	*Inclusions*	*Dating evidence*
Basal Fill	4	4	3	orange brown clay silt	common rounded/sub angular pebbles, occasional charcoal	67 sherds of Roman pottery (2nd–3rd century AD)

Ditch F
Phase 4 cuts: F29/F35
Dimensions. Phase 4: 0.55–0.6m wide x 0.2–0.29m deep

Sequence	*Phase*	*Cut*	*Context*	*Description*	*Inclusions*	*Dating evidence*
Basal Fills	4	29	34	firm brown clay	sub-rounded pebbles	-
		29	28	compact mid reddish grey brown sandy silt	occasional sub-rounded stones, charcoal flecks	-
		39	10010	mid red brown silty clay	occasional charcoal flecks, occasional sub-rounded pebbles	-
		39	40	mid red brown silty clay	occasional charcoal flecks, occasional sub-rounded pebbles	83 sherds of Roman pottery (2nd century AD)

Ditch G
Phase 4 cut: F61
Dimensions. Phase 4: 0.85m wide x 0.25m deep

Sequence	*Phase*	*Cut*	*Context*	*Description*	*Inclusions*	*Dating evidence*
	4	61				
Basal Fills	5	61	62	brown grey silty clay	occasional sub rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	-

Ditch H
Phase 4 cuts: F10001/F10003
Dimensions. Phase 4: 0.5m wide x 0.2–0.3m deep

Sequence	*Phase*	*Cut*	*Context*	*Description*	*Inclusions*	*Dating evidence*
Basal Fills	4	10001	10002	dark brown sandy clay	occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks	15 sherds of Roman pottery (1st–2nd century AD)
		10003	10008	dark brown sandy silt	frequent angular pebbles	1 sherd of Roman pottery
		10003	10009	dark brown sandy silt	moderate angular pebbles	-
Secondary Fill		10003	10004	sandy clay	occasional rounded pebbles	5 sherds of Roman pottery (2nd–3rd century AD)

The similarity in date range of the two samples increase the confidence that can be placed on the deposit being undisturbed and that the charcoal within it was contemporary with the backfilling event.

Structure 2 and compacted surfaces. The secondary deposit in pit F44 consisted of silty sand with charcoal flecks, burnt clay and small stones (42)/(46). A single sherd of Black-burnished ware was found in (46). A sample from the secondary fill was taken for OSL dating, and this gave a result of 6 BC –AD 474.

The gullies of the L-shaped structural feature, F10001 and F10003, were filled with a dark brown sandy clay, with occasional stones and charcoal. There was also a relatively large ceramic assemblage found in the infill, including an amphora sherd, Malvern ware, and Severn Valley ware, indicative of a second century AD date. These gullies enclosed a zone of compacted reddish brown silty clay (10005) measuring 7m^2 and 0.08m thick, which included five sherds of Severn Valley ware. To the south a similar compacted surface (115) was observed extending *c*.5m from the ditch.

Interpretation and Discussion of Phase 4

During Phase 4 the enclosure was partially redefined in at least one location in Area B, by a wide, relatively shallow cut, which became gradually infilled by a silty clay. The lack of artefactual material or charcoal within this fill suggests a decline in domestic activity in close proximity. The form of this ditch and the nature of the infill deposit appear significantly different from the preceding phases, arguing for a change in function for this long-lived element of the site, and the fact that a ditch terminus was found at its western end is attributable to the existence of Ditch D cutting through the corner of the enclosure.

This change is also evident in the formation of gullies to the north which ran parallel to the enclosure, and may define a new smaller enclosed area at the northern edge of the site in Area A. The nature of this enclosure would have been less substantial than the main one to the south, and perhaps Ditches E and F represent a gully foundation trench for a fence line. A gap between the gullies show that an entrance faced south.

Ditch G and Ditch 11002 provide incomplete evidence for additional division of the site, but little can be interpreted from what has survived and was visible within the excavation area. Part of the activity during Phase 4 probably included decommissioning Structures 1 and 2. The evidence for this is in their uppermost fills which include a stony layer, burnt clay, charcoal and a white deposit which may have been decayed plaster, as well as residual pottery.

A large amount of Severn Valley ware was recovered from Phase 4 contexts, with the largest concentration of pottery on the site being found in the small extent of Ditches E and F (fills 3 and 40). The implication is that the fenced area, perhaps enclosure, represented by Ditches E and F might have separated a domestic zone from other activities. The fill of Ditch D also contained a large assemblage of Severn Valley ware, which stands out in contrast to the lack of artefactual evidence from the near-by Ditch B.

Phase 5

Post-Roman: represented by a spread of material including small abraded Roman pottery sherds and charcoal, recorded as contexts 41 over much of the eastern end of the site, and the final infill of Phase 4 features; probable demolition and ploughing in of the concentration of Phase 4 Roman activity; infill of top of Ditch D and Ditch G; limited construction of new features.

Episodic flooding recorded widely over the site (masking earlier features) recorded as deposit 13, 41, and 113.

Spread of demolition debris: 41
Ditch B: final fill 54, 80
Ditch D: final fill 7, 15
Ditch G: infill 62
Ditch: F85:
Features: F87, F116, infills 86, 88, 117
Oven 2: final fill 10007

Description

During Phase 5 the archaeological evidence included the final infill to Oven 2, a loosely compacted dark brown silt (10007) which sealed the clay lining. This deposit contained oak charcoal and 1st to 2nd century AD pottery – a sherd of Malvern ware and a sherd of Severn Valley ware. In the eastern part of the site in Area A deposits included a 0.2m thick spread of abraded pottery contained within a pale orange silty clay matrix (41), which extended over an area approximately 20m^2. This deposition event appears to have been related to the development of an orange-brown silty clay subsoil (13) elsewhere within Area A, and also large areas in Area B that suggest alluvial deposition (113). These deposits varied in thickness up to 0.35m.

The Phase 5 Ditch B final infill episode consisted of a silty clay deposit with small pebbles, fired clay fragments and charcoal, *c*.2m wide and 0.2m deep. An assemblage of second-century pottery was found in this fill. Ditch D had an uppermost fill that comprised a brown silty clay to a sandy silt deposit with small pebbles and charcoal flecks. Ditch G had a very similar fill, a brown silty clay with pebbles and charcoal.

Two other features have been included within this phase located within the south-eastern quarter of Area A. These are Ditch F85 and a larger feature F87 which were cut through the demolition deposit (41). Ditch 85 was 1.22m wide and 0.45m deep and at least 1.7m long oriented north-east/south-west, with a possible terminal at its eastern end – although a feature found by BUFAU in 1991 could have been a continuation of Ditch 85 further east. Feature 87 was 0.8m wide and 0.21m deep and extended for 4m northwards from the southern edge of excavation. In addition a pit F116 located south-west of Oven 1 has been assigned to this phase. It was an oval shape with a west–east axis, 1.55m long, 1m wide and 0.48m deep.

The fills of these features are also included within Phase 5 and consisted of a brown clay silt with some gravel inclusions (86), and a more sandy silt (88) within feature 87 that also contained some charcoal and burnt clay flecks, as well as two sherds of Severn Valley ware and single sherd of samian. The fill of the oval pit consisted of a silty clay (117) very similar to the natural accumulation (13) deposit that was recorded over parts of the site.

Interpretation and discussion of Phase 5

This phase represents the termination of Roman domestic activity on the site, a period of demolition and levelling which resulted in a spread of abraded pottery, associated with flooding within the lower parts of the site in Area B. The development

of layers masking earlier parts of the site can be attributed to natural agency, such as erosion and flooding. The duration of this phase could have been relatively rapid, but equally it might represent a long period with little human activity affecting the accumulation of a subsoil over much of the site.

Phase 6

Post-medieval: drainage ditches, plough activity, represented by east–west oriented gully/drain F48/93, and later pebble-filled drains aligned north-south, F118 and F119. Build-up of subsoil and topsoil, and conversion of the eastern part of the site into a compound prior to expansion of the depot.

Description

An east–west oriented gully ran across the northern part of Area B. Differential machine excavation had removed parts of this feature before it was recorded, but it had formed a continuous feature 0.42m wide and 0.18m deep at its western end, and 1.45m wide and 0.11m deep at its western end. It was not very regular as a cut feature, but the profile included a concave base. It was filled with a brown silty sand with infrequent pebbles.

Two pebble-filled gullies were recorded in Area B, oriented approximately north–south and traversing the full width of the excavation. They were 0.3–04m in width with a steep side, but were not excavated to full depth: the more eastern of these two gullies had been identified previously in BUFAU's Trench 4.

Interpretation and discussion of Phase 6

Post-medieval drainage features set on very different alignments from the earlier archaeological ditches. This provides evidence for on-going water management issues with the site, which was susceptible to flood risk from rising ground water. The depth and nature of these features are unlikely to have seriously damaged underlying archaeological remains.

DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS FROM THE FIELD INVESTIGATION AND POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS

Nature and duration of activity at Craven Arms B

The site at Craven Arms B has produced evidence for pre-Roman and early Roman activity including the construction of a double-ditched enclosure, ovens, stockades, fence lines, drainage ditches, pits and surfaces. The related artefactual assemblage consists almost entirely of ceramics which date the majority of the site to the first and second centuries AD, and ecofactual remains which consisted of charred cereal grains, weed and wood species.

Scientific dating from radiocarbon determination of charcoal and charred grain, and from Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating of fired-clay oven walls and sediments, has corroborated the general date range attributable from the pottery (Table 2). The OSL samples also provided a date for the deposition of the natural gravels on site into which the archaeological features had been cut, between 5017–3275 BC. Bayesian modelling of the various scientific dates and stratigraphic sequence has suggested that activity started during the period cal AD 35–120 (68% probability) and ended during the period cal AD 90–165, and that the main duration of activity probably spanned up to 115 years. The range at 95% probability extends the possible start of activity into the first century BC and the possible end of activity is extended to the mid-third century AD.

Parallels for the evidence found at Craven Arms B can be drawn from a number of local, regional and national sites.

Enclosures

The small enclosures of the Welsh Marches have been the subject of several studies (e.g. Whimster 1989; Jones 1991; Wigley 2003), mostly from air photographic evidence and some field survey, but comparatively little excavated evidence. Whimster's analysis concluded that the vast majority of enclosures were single-ditched and rectilinear, and that half (43) of the bivallate enclosures were rectilinear in form (see the distribution of these enclosures mapped as Figure 29 on page 40 in Whimster 1989). Jones's analysis of the hinterland around Wroxeter suggested that bivallate enclosures were more common before the later Iron Age–Roman period, and that the enclosed areas were generally 0.2–0.4ha. Wigley

Table 2. Scientific dating concordance.

Sample No	Context No	Description	OSL	C14 (2σ)	Ceramics	Phase and Period
OSL 8	53	oven clay lining	206BC–154AD	-	-	3? RB 1st–2nd C
OSL 15	53	oven clay lining	56BC–224AD	-	-	3? RB 1st–2nd C
SUERC-53994	64	fill of oven 53	-	22–130 cal AD	-	3? RB 1st–2nd C
SUERC-53995	64	fill of oven 53	-	73–225 cal AD	-	3? RB 1st–2nd C
SUERC - 53998	74	fill of stoke-hole 77	-	56–215 cal AD	-	3? RB 1st–2nd C
OSL 1	43	pit 44 primary fill	306BC–134AD	-	RB 2nd C	–
OSL 2	43	pit 44 primary fill	326BC–54AD	-	RB 2nd C	–
OSL 3	42	pit 44 secondary fill	6BC–474AD	-	RB 2nd C	–
OSL 5	56	Ditch B recut phase 4	124–444AD	-	prehistoric	4 RB 2nd–3rd C
OSL 6	58	Ditch B primary fill	296BC–244AD	-	-	1 prehistoric
SUERC - 53996	70	primary fill structure 69	-	86–239 cal AD	RB 2nd C	–
SUERC - 53997	70	primary fill structure 69	-	75–225 cal AD	RB 2nd C	–

Table 3. Enclosures and camps - relative sizes. Areas and dimensions have been taken from original report descriptions and/or plans.

Name	HER no.	Area (ha) approximate	Dimensions (m) approximate	No of ditches	Period
Craven Arms A	02045	0.2	40 x 50	1	RB?
Craven Arms B outer	02046	0.72	80 x 90	2	IA-RB
Craven Arms B inner	02046	0.35	55 x 65	2	IA
Halford	02375	0.3	48 x 60	1	IA?
Halford	04895	0.9	90 x 100	1	IA?
Stretford Bridge fort	02043	1.5	97 x 157	2	Roman
Craven Arms marching camp B	00620	0.9	90 x 100	1	Roman
Craven Arms marching camp C	02041	21.5	430 x 500	1	Roman
Craven Arms temporary camp	02024	0.15	30 x 50	1	Roman
Craven Arms temporary camp	02042	0.32	40 x 80	1	Roman
Craven Arms temporary camp	04189	0.17	10 x 170	1	Roman
Wistanstow fort	28736	–	No record	2	Roman
Bromfield E2	00488	0.11	32 x 34	1	IA
Bromfield E1 marching camp	00192	8.3	260 x 320	1	Roman
Duncote Farm	00046	0.56	75 x 75	1	Roman
New House Farm, Newbold	00009	0.25	50 x 50	1	Roman?
Sharpstones Hill A	00085	0.14	35 x 40	1	IA
Sharpstones Hill E outer	00015	0.72	85 x 85	2	IA-RB
Sharpstones Hill E inner	00015	0.36	60 x 60	2	IA-RB

suggested that univallate rectilinear enclosures were frequently located in lowland next to rivers, whereas bivallate enclosures were more likely to be set away from rivers.

Craven Arms B is a bivallate rectilinear enclosure securely dated through the recent excavations to the later Iron Age to early Roman period, in a location set back from the River Onny and enclosing an area of 0.72ha. These elements do not conform to the norm as suggested in the analyses above. Jones also made the point that many single-ditched enclosures were found grouped along Watling Street and around Roman military sites, and again Craven Arms B is interesting in being unusual as a large bivallate, rather than univallate, enclosure which is in close proximity to several Roman military sites and Watling Street. The excavated evidence from Craven Arms B, however, helps in refining some of the general hypotheses that earlier studies of cropmark evidence have produced. For example, although the site started as a bivallate enclosure in the later Iron Age, by the early Roman period it was a univallate enclosure, which would perhaps create a better fit with the models that Jones and Wigley have suggested than if the site was seen purely as a double-ditched enclosure.

Comparative excavated evidence is available from a handful of sites (see Table 3), including the 1965–7 and 1968–9 investigations at Sharpstones Hill A and E respectively (Barker *et al*. 1991), the later excavations at Sharpstones Hill E in 2005 (Bain 2007), Duncote Farm 2.5km to the north-east of Wroxeter excavated in 1990 (Jones in Ellis *et al*. 1994), Day House Farm, Newbold excavated in 1995 (Gaffney *et al*. 2007), and Bromfield excavated from 1978–80 (Stanford 1995).

Sharpstones E is probably the closest in date range to activity at Craven Arms B, and also comprised a double-ditched enclosure of almost identical proportions. The interpretation given to the excavated evidence was that the inner ditch (flat-based, 6m wide by 2.6m deep) and its primary fill preceded the outer ditch, which was of broadly similar dimensions and shape. The initial phase was ascribed a late Iron Age to early Romano-British date, whereas the second phase was Romano-British. A roundhouse and a possible four-post structure were found on the interior, as well as a palisade trench that ran parallel to the inner ditch, but the investigations did not look for any external archaeological evidence. Further excavations were undertaken in 2005, however, which confirmed that a second century AD recut had occurred into both of the enclosure ditches, and that the earlier phase had been of first to second century AD. The eaves-drip gullies for two roundhouses (12m in diameter) which predated the enclosure ditch, were found within the interior of the area later enclosed. The inner enclosure was square, each side 60m in length with sharp corners, with a 5m wide ditch of varying depth from 1.1–2.6m deep, whereas the outer ditch was set 12m further out, with each side 85m in length and rounded corners, 5–6m in width and from 1.5–2.4m in depth. A small external area was stripped during this phase of investigation, but no features were recorded.

Sharpstones Hill enclosure A was a single-ditched enclosure located to respect and reuse a pre-existing field system ditch along its northern edge. The enclosure was irregular but measured approximately 35m at the narrowest, and 48m at its widest external dimensions. The ditch profile was V-shaped with a width that varied

from 2m–5m, and a depth from 0.5m–1.75m. The enclosure contained a roundhouse, and a timber entrance structure or possible four post structure, but only VCP sherds were recovered from the ditch fill. A recut into the top of the ditch fill, however, contained second-century Romano-British pottery. Apart from the entrance structure no external features contemporary with the enclosure were identified, although curiously an external bank was detected along the southern side.

Duncote Farm was a single-ditched enclosure approximately 75m square, with a V-shaped ditch *c*.2m in width and 0.5m–1.5m in depth. Internal and external hearths were found as well as stakeholes suggesting some form of occupation, and the possibility of pottery manufacture within the vicinity, although no kilns were found. The pottery contemporary with the enclosure was dated to the third–fourth centuries AD, but an earlier field system was also identified.

Day House Farm was a single-ditched enclosure *c*.50m square, with a V-shaped ditch 3m wide and 1.3m deep. Evidence for an internal bank was obtained, and some internal structural features, consisting of postholes and a line of stones. There was no dating evidence, but two enclosures further east together with Day House Farm, appear to form a row set back 600m to the north of the road from Wroxeter westwards to Forden Gaer and Caersws, whilst proximity to the settlement at Meole Brace, as well as Roman villas at Whitley Grange and Cruckton, have led to a suggestion of these enclosures forming an integral part of a Romanized landscape (Gaffney *et al*. 2007). More recent excavation of the road from Wroxeter, however, has proved that it was engineered during the late Iron Age (Malim and Hayes 2012) and so these enclosures could, by analogy, also be of late Iron Age origin, located parallel to the road.

The Bromfield enclosure consisted of a single V-shaped ditch, *c*.2.5m wide by 1.3m deep, with a conjectured internal bank 3.5m wide and 1.2m high. The enclosure contained two four-post structures and a large number of post-pits and larger pits (many of which were clay-lined) and described as boiling pits. Large quantities of heat-fractured stones had been deposited in the upper-fills of the enclosure ditch, and radiocarbon dating suggests that activity occurred during the later Iron Age and Romano-British period. Some iron-working was identified external to the enclosure, and carbonized seeds of emmer and spelt together with a quern, suggested the processing of cereals on site (Stanford 1995, 114).

In contrast to Craven Arms B the ditches at Sharpstones Hill E were considerably more substantial, although both sites contained evidence that have been interpreted as palisade trenches. Beyond these morphological similarities and the occurrence of fairly standard ceramic assemblages for the region, there is little that can be gained from further comparison as the evidence from Craven Arms B is all external, and sheds little light on what lies within the interior of the enclosure. Duncote Farm is of too late a date to act as a useful comparison, but there is some similarity with this and Sharpstone Hill A in that field systems pre-existed, and at Craven Arms B some external features suggest that the enclosure was also fitted within a field system (e.g. Ditch C, which can be seen as a cropmark beyond the limits of excavation, ran parallel to the western side of the enclosure). The evidence from Bromfield provides comparison, with a similar sized enclosure ditch, carbonized cereals found on site, and evidence for pyrotechnic activities, whilst the enclosure ditch at Day House Farm could also be argued as of a type and dimensions perhaps similar to the inner enclosure of Craven Arms B.

Ovens

The closest excavated site with evidence for ovens is from Bromfield 1981–91 (Hughes *et al*. 1995) *c*.7.5km to the south. This investigation was of a Roman marching camp located on a terrace of the River Onny, between Craven Arms and Ludlow. Four ovens were found, three of which were located within the camp enclosure and formed figure-of-eight features, over 3m in length and each lobe *c*.1.8m wide, interpreted as dug into the rampart bank (which did not survive). They did not have burnt clay linings, and the depth of the features varied from 0.55–0.75m. Charcoal lenses were detected during excavation. Plant material was poorly preserved but charred remains of bread were found, and the interpretation given to the ovens was that their function was not that of corn-dryers, but were more likely used as bread-ovens. The date for the marching camp is *c*.50 AD.

At Rhyn Park north of Oswestry, *c*.60km from Craven Arms, ovens were found set into the rear of the fortress rampart during excavations in 1977 (Jones, 1978; Jones 1982). These were circular structures *c*.1.3m in diameter, 0.2m in depth, and lined by one or two layers of burnt clay. They were interpreted as short-lived due to the charcoal rakings found in them which ran down into the partially silted infill of the previous marching camp ditch, and the subsequent construction of a timber building on top of them. The date of these ovens, phased as intermediary between the marching camp and the more permanent fortress, would attribute the ovens to the early part of the second half of the first century AD. No specific function was attributed to them by the excavators, but a parallel with similar features found at the vexillation fortress at Longthorpe Farm, Peterborough noted that these features had been interpreted as field kilns for the production of pottery.

At Metchley Roman Fort in Birmingham, *c*.65km east of Craven Arms along the ancient route through Quatford and Greenforge, oven-like features were found during excavations in 2004–5 (Jones 2012, 27–31). One was described as ‘boat-shaped’ and the others as

oval pits which may have had industrial uses, within Phase 1D/1E (intervallum). The definite oven was 2.4m long north–south by 1m wide, 0.4m in depth, and with a burnt clay lining. Successive episodes of collapsed clay superstructure were interspersed with charcoal-rich layers and silts, showing repeated use of the oven. To the west of this feature a second oven was partially preserved. Three oval pits lined with cobblestones and filled with charcoal-rich silts were also found, at least one of which had been cut into the rampart. Their dimensions were 2.16–3m in length by 1.5m wide, and up to 1.6m in depth. All of these features were interpreted as ovens 'probably for breadmaking', although at one point in the text the oval pits are described as probably for industrial purposes such as quenching tanks. They are clearly very different in nature from the clay-lined ovens, which may well have been for baking bread. The date for this phase of activity is attributed to before AD 85.

Examples from sites further away include a similar oven to Craven Arms that was excavated at Showell Farm, Chippenham in 1999 (Young and Hancocks 2006). This was a T-shaped oven with the long axis *c*.4.5m long by 1.2m wide, with the T-bar *c*.2.75m by 1m, and lined along the base by limestone which was described as scorched. The depth of the oven is not given in the report but 0.14m of fired clay sealed it, presumed to be from the superstructure. There was a stoking area at the south-eastern end, and almost the entire assemblage of charred plant remains from within the T-bar consisted of cereal grain (emmer/spelt and barley). The site phasing attributed the oven to Phase 2d, dating to the period *c*.AD 150–200.

The small Roman town of Stonea in the Fens was excavated by the British Museum during the 1980s, and their excavations produced good evidence for ten ovens or kilns (Jackson and Potter 1996, 103–106). These were described as 'recessed only slightly into the ground' and were divided into two types, boat- or bottle-shaped, and figure-of-eight or dumbell-shaped. Both types had external measurements within 1.8–2.05m long, by 0.55–0.7m wide. Most of the ovens were oriented north–south with flues at their southern ends, and an arrangement that consisted of oven chamber, flue, with stoke-hole and rake-out material surviving to a shallow depth. Well-preserved examples of the flues consisted of 'a small rectangular clay-walled adjunct to the oven chamber' with a plinth of fired clay situated between the flue and oven chamber. Evidence for superstructure suggested a hull-shaped or domed shape made of fired clay 0.05–0.12m thick, and height from base of flue to springing for the roof was 0.32m. The colouring of the fired clay, yellow and red rather than purple, suggested a relatively low temperature, and there was no evidence for them having been used as pottery kilns.

In comparison the ovens at Craven Arms do not appear to closely resemble the evidence from these other sites, most of which have a bulbous, or cross passage, at the end of the flue. The dimensions of the ovens at Stonea, however, are broadly similar to Oven 1 at Craven Arms, which was 1.8 by 0.6 by 0.4m deep. It is possible that shallower parts of the ovens at Craven Arms may have been destroyed by later ploughing, but Oven 1 appears well preserved, revealing a feature with a narrow chamber. The clay lining of the oven reveals a pattern of differential heating through the changeable colouration of the fired clay and pockets where it has not survived, presumably because the clay in this area never quite reached the temperatures for irreversible change, above *c*.500°C. As there is no indication of vitrification the temperature would not have exceeded 1000°C, and so the function of the oven is unlikely to have been for pottery-making or smelting activities. The interpretation of this feature as having a corn-drying function is more likely than that of bread-making, when the surviving evidence is compared to the form of ovens excavated from the comparative sites.

Structural features

Metchley Roman Fort during the first century AD pre-Flavian period, included large pits which were interpreted as foundation trenches for a 5m^2 timber-post building – Structure 18.6 in Phase 3B–4B (Jones 2012, 55–57). These included four post-pits that were sub-rectangular or oval in form, vertical-sided and flat-based, ranging from 0.6–0.8m in width, with depths of 0.32m–0.85m, and 1.4m in length. These features appear similar to some of those from Structures 1 and 2 from Phase 3 as excavated at Craven Arms.

Following disuse of Structure 18.6 a later structure at Metchley consisted of an L-shaped arrangement, 9.7 by 6m in length, evidenced by shallow palisade trenches 0.45m wide and 0.1–0.2m deep – Structure 18.5 (*ibid*. 55–57). This feature appears very similar to Structure 2 from Phase 3 excavated at Craven Arms, and was also located across an entranceway, as was the case at Craven Arms.

Beam-slot foundations for timber buildings were also identified, defined as a series of parallel and perpendicular gullies 0.4m wide and 0.12–0.3m in depth – e.g. Structure 18.3, (*ibid*. 61–2), and structures 9.4, 9.5 and 9.6 (Jones 2011, 47–9). Structure 18.3 was defined as a long building with rooms located off a corridor, and the more incomplete plans for the other structures suggested rectilinear arrangements with a series of rooms. The evidence for timber buildings at Craven Arms is more fragmentary but some of the features would appear similar to those identified at Metchley.

Closer to Craven Arms, excavations at Pentrehyling Fort (Brompton), 2km south-west of Church Stoke, also had evidence for timber buildings (Allen *et al*. 2015, 26–34). Steep-sided, flat-based construction trenches for rectilinear structures ranged in dimension from 0.3–0.65m in width, and 0.03–0.38m in depth.

Postholes were identified set into these trenches, and pits were also described in and around the foundation trenches. The majority of structures were interpreted as barrack blocks, but Building 5 was interpreted as a store with a partially raised floor, with large postholes along the eastern wall required for supporting the structure. Unfortunately the report does not include sufficient detail to establish a definitive comparison with the features excavated at Craven Arms, but Structures 1 and 2 could have formed similar deeper post settings for supporting a raised building, the shallower elements of which might have been ploughed away.

INTEGRATION OF CROPMARK AND PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE AT CRAVEN ARMS

Correlation of Craven Arms B enclosure cropmark plot and ground evidence

The oblique air photograph taken in 1976 has been plotted against an OS base map by use of computer analysis in Adobe Illustrator using 1970s historic mapping (to correlate features visible on the air photograph with features surveyed on the map such as the corner of the Railway sheds, since demolished). This has allowed a reasonably accurate location against the modern map, and thus has allowed valid comparison of modern and historical mapping with the archaeological features revealed in 2013, and because two of BUFAU's 1991 trenches were found, it has been possible to plot these more accurately as well.

Excavation has shown the calculation of 8m between enclosure ditches from the aerial photograph cropmark evidence was incorrect, and that the actual distance was 3m. In addition to the main enclosure, part of a second double-ditched enclosure was plotted to the west, and an oblique ditch between the enclosures. This latter feature was recorded as Ditch C in the excavation, assigned to the prehistoric Phase 1, and interpreted as a palisade trench which ran approximately parallel to the western side of the enclosure.

Correlation of BUFAU investigations

Due to the problems with survey and vandalism in 1991 the excavation trenches and geophysical plot from BUFAU's investigations of Craven Arms B were inadequately and inaccurately mapped in their 1991 report (Ferris 1991). During excavation in 2013 two of BUFAU's trenches were located (Trenches 1 and 4) but there was little that could be correlated as evidence for the features that they had interpreted from the field investigations. Ditch D and the post-medieval drain F118 can be seen in BUFAU's Trench 4 trench plan (F9 and F11 respectively), and there is a ditch, F1, which matches with the projected alignment of the enclosure ditch at the southern end of BUFAU's Trench 1. Other features recorded in 1991 as of archaeological origin, such as a second ditch, two postholes and two 'irregular disturbances' further north in Trench 1, were shown to have been incorrectly interpreted by the results of area excavation in 2013. This comparison demonstrates the difficulty that small-scale trial trenching can have in providing robust archaeological evidence.

Of those features that appear to correlate with results in 2013, the double ditch F1 at the southern end of Trench 1 is on the projected alignment of the outer enclosure ditch, Ditch B. BUFAU recorded this as 3.5m wide and 0.85m deep, with four infill episodes and a small collection of Romano-British pottery. This compares well with Ditch B, Phases 4 and 5 from 2013, which measured 3.2m wide by 0.6m deep (see Colour Plates 4 and 5). In addition two small backfilled discrete features just north of F1 were also spotted during the 2014 watching brief along the southern edge of the site. A ditch within BUFAU's Trench 4, F9, was recorded as a 'weathered' V-shape, erroneously recorded as 2m wide by 0.8m deep, but BUFAU appear to have used an incorrect scale on their drawing, and the measurements were actually 1m wide by 0.4m deep, filled with clay-silt and pebbles. This compares to Ditch D from the 2013 investigations which was U-shaped, 1.2m wide and up to 0.5m deep, and with similar fill material (Colour Plate 10).

The distribution of camps and enclosures within the Craven Arms landscape

Analysis of cropmark enclosures in the Welsh Marches was undertaken in the 1980s (Whimster 1989), and double ditched rectilinear enclosures are examined on his page 45. This notes that the group comprises largely square enclosures with closely set ditches, and it specifically refers to Craven Arms B (PRN 02046) as being large, and resembling 'the formal precinct of a Roman villa', although the evidence for this interpretation is not referenced. The plot shows an entrance in the south eastern side of the enclosure, and therefore on the opposite side to the activity excavated and recorded during the investigations reported upon in this article. As shown on Colour Plate 1 Craven Arms B is located adjacent to the road from *Ariconium* (Weston-Under-Penyard), and cropmarks on the western side suggest that a second enclosure might have extended the enclosure complex as far as the road, divided from the main enclosure by a field ditch (or palisade). What significance this positioning between the enclosure and the road might imply is open to debate, but it would appear to have been of greater importance for Craven Arms B than Watling Street, which lies 0.4km to the west. Comparative data for selected other enclosures and camps is presented in Table 3.

A second square enclosure, Craven Arms A (PRN 02045), is located 0.6km to the south-west and close to Watling Street (Colour Plate 1). This has a single

complete ditch circuit but cropmarks suggested that three sides of a smaller enclosure also existed, and so this enclosure has been referred to as a possible temple. It was investigated by BUFAU in 1991 as Area A in their report, which could not locate the hypothetical interior ditches of the smaller enclosure. A single pit in the centre of the enclosure was discovered, containing slag and a few sherds of Romano-British pottery.

Two small enclosures have been plotted as cropmarks near Halford, *c*.500m (PRN 02375) and 750m (PRN 04895) to the east of Craven Arms B, on the far side of the River Onny. These were set back from the crossing point for the ancient routeway (the Hen Ffordd (see below)) which ran from Greenforge to Church Stoke and beyond (Colour Plates 1 and 10), and these formed a west-east linear pattern with Craven Arms B. The first was identified by Whimster in 1982 as a single ditched feature with four equal sides and attributed a prehistoric date, and the second was identified by Chris Musson in 1994, described simply as a 'rectilinear enclosure of prehistoric date'. On the top of the hill to the east of the Onny lies Norton Camp (PRN 00158), a D-shaped, double-ramparted, prehistoric hill fort. The fact that a site such as this lies within the area, demonstrates the strategic importance of controlling the route and the crossing point of the River Onny.

Military enclosures at Craven Arms include the fort at Stretford Bridge, Cheney Longville (PRN 02043), two 'marching camps' B and C (PRNs 00620, 04021) a 'temporary marching camp' (PRN 02024), and two 'temporary camps' (PRNs 02042, 04189). All of these (apart from Marching Camp B), together with Craven Arms A and the enclosures on the east side of the river, have been located on higher land surrounding the river valley (as can be seen on Colour Plate 1). The fort lies *c*.1.5km north of Craven Arms B located on the high ground overlooking the confluence of the Quinny Brook with the River Onny, and controlling the crossing of Watling Street across the latter. Between the fort and Craven Arms B lie both marching camps and also one of the temporary camps, at *c*.1km and 0.4km distance. Marching Camp C has clearly been built on a much larger scale than the other military enclosures and presumably reflects a specific campaign during the early years of the conquest. Marching Camp B is located on lower ground similar to Craven Arms B and is situated at the junction of Watling Street and the Hen Ffordd. The evidence for the other two marching camps is slim, based on incomplete cropmarks, and these lie *c*.0.7km to the west and *c*.1.6km to the north-east of Craven Arms B. All these camps can be seen to have been located with easy access to water sources, small streams or the River Onny.

Three major types of military installation have been identified in connection with the campaign to conquer Wales: marching camps, short-lived (temporary) camps, and forts or fortresses, often associated with campaign routes along river valley (Burnham and Davies 2010, 38). All of these categories are apparent at Craven Arms, and the assumption is that the camps were probably pre-Flavian constructed in the period 48–61 AD (*ibid*., 40; and see also 282 catalogue no. 52 for description of the fort). Marching Camp C could represent a campaign base and/or over-wintering, and could have been built at much the same time as Marching Camp B. The roads were probably also initially surveyed and constructed during this period of intense military activity and occupation of the frontier zone (*ibid*., 43), with a linear arrangement of military bases facing west into Wales being formed, to provide effective control of access into, and out of, Wales (*ibid*. 41).

Analysis of the wider landscape setting for Craven Arms B and its relationship to ancient routes and Roman roads

Various studies have included analysis of the communications network during the Roman period within Shropshire, the Marches and the West Midlands (e.g. Margary 1973, Webster 1991, Laflin 2001, Burnham and Davies 2010). Webster identifies Craven Arms as a nodal point in the roads network (Webster, 65 and Figures 13 and 25) and explains the reasoning for the east-west route from Greenforge to Forden Gaer (the Hen Ffordd) as being of prehistoric origin (63–4), continuing west as the Kerry Ridgeway.

Ivan Margary's studies of the Roman road system in Britain has formed the basis for an incomplete, but workable hypothesis of the main routes used during Roman times. A representation of the Shropshire system of Roman roads and Romanized prehistoric routeways is shown in Colour Plate 11, and this demonstrates the importance of Craven Arms as a crossroads as well as major river crossing. Apart from the prehistoric east–west route which forks to form two westerly routes, it is extremely likely that north–south routes following the river valleys ran through Craven Arms, which were formalized in Roman times by construction of Watling Street and the road to *Ariconium* (Weston under Penyard). Watling Street West has been given the label route 6b by Margary, to differentiate it from 6a which ran north from Wroxeter to Chester. The southern route 6b connected Wroxeter to *Bravonium* (Leintwardine) and on to *Isca* (Caerleon) (Margary 1973, 317, 320). As Colour Plate 1 shows this entered Craven Arms crossing the river from Wistanstow near the fort at Stretford Bridge, and then makes an abrupt turn south-westwards at the north-eastern corner of Marching Camp C. The line of the road survives as a green lane which passes the western side of Marching Camp B, before becoming a small road called Watling Street or Park Lane (Figure 25). The road to *Ariconium* (Margary route 613 (1973, 331)) is projected as heading for Craven Arms, although physical evidence is only traced by Margary as far as Ashton, Herefordshire. Various people have suggested

Figure 25. Watling Street at Craven Arms looking south.

its continuation through Woofferton and Ashford Carbonel towards the crossing of the River Ludd at Ludlow, and investigations in 2011 found a road foundation 5.8m wide by 0.1m thick comprising loosely compacted stones bedded on a *c*.0.2m thick foundation of sandy-clay (with possible mudstone paving slabs), typical of Roman methods (Colour Plate 12), but no definitive dating evidence was recovered (Malim 2012). At Craven Arms hedge boundaries and historical map evidence suggests the line of a road might have run close to the south-western corner of the enclosure. This has been interpreted here as the postulated route Margary 613 from *Ariconium*.

The east-west route that Webster called Hen Ffordd was labelled route 193 by Margary who described its origin as Greensforge near Stourbridge, via Quatt Bridge near Bridgnorth, and south-westwards along Corve Dale to Craven Arms (Margary 1973, 296). He then describes its route westwards 'as direct as the difficult country allows' towards Newtown and Caersws in Powys. This road (starting as Long Lane in Newington) would also have connected Craven Arms to the marching camps at Brompton and the forts at Pentrehyling (near Church Stoke) and Forden Gaer (near Montgomery), and prehistoric enclosures such as Wart Hill (Carwood) were located along its route. Its continuation west and south-westwards from Pentrehyling included the prehistoric Kerry ridgeway (Laflin 2001, 7). Military use of existing prehistoric roads is attested by classical sources as for example, quoted in Burnham and Davies (2010, 43).

CONCLUSIONS

The investigations at Craven Arms B have accurately located the 1970s cropmark evidence and BUFAU's 1991 trial trenches as well as recovering important information as to the date and character of the enclosure, its possible duration of occupation and related external activity. The enclosure was first laid out during the late Iron Age as a double ditch on a square plan approximately 80 × 90m for the outer ditch, and 55 × 65m for the inner ditch. The sides were orientated approximately along cardinal lines, east-west and north-south. The inner ditch was V-shaped 1.2m wide and 0.52m deep, whilst the outer ditch was 1.4 × 1.2m for Phase 1 (Iron Age), but infilled and recut on at least two occasions during the first to second centuries AD, which also led to variations in dimensions and alignment. The enclosure had been located with respect to an Iron Age field division, interpreted as a palisade *c*.2.4m high. An oven was also identified for this pre-Roman phase. A relatively long period of infill occurred after the cutting of the Phase 1 ditches, and it is tempting to suggest that the military presence evident from the various camps at Craven Arms, could have caused a hiatus during the conquest period, before the second phase ditch cutting re-established settlement during the early Roman period in the second half of the first century AD.

During the first to second centuries AD physical evidence for activity external to the enclosure's northern side was discovered. This consisted of structural features such as ovens, timber-frame buildings, including some substantial post-settings perhaps suggesting raised structures (interpreted as possible granaries), and spreads of occupation debris, as well as fence-lines and ditches. The linearity of these features suggests a definite planned element to the activity north of the main enclosure. Demolition and abandonment of the site appears to have occurred during the second to third centuries AD, most probably during the later second century according to Bayesian modelling of the scientific dating and stratigraphic data.

During the Phase 1 Iron Age period Craven Arms B was not the only enclosure within the Craven Arms landscape, but was part of a known contemporary environment which included an east–west routeway, the Hen Ffordd connecting mid Wales with the Midlands, and with two other enclosures on the east side of the River Onny, as well as the hillfort to the south-east known as Norton Camp. It is probable that north–south routes also existed during this period following the river valleys through the hill country.

Craven Arms B was located on low-lying land about 0.5km west of the River Onny, but within poor quality land prone to flooding. Any settlement in this location would have necessitated the large enclosure ditches to help keep the central area dry (similar to medieval moated sites). The investment of effort in constructing this enclosure implies a wealthy patron, and an assumption that Craven Arms B might have been an elite residence.

The concentration of Roman military enclosures in the surrounding landscape reflects the strategic importance of Craven Arms during the first century AD as a nodal point in the road system, and base from which to launch attacks into Wales. The Romanisation

of prehistoric routeways probably occurred during the period 49–61 AD, and it is notable that Watling Street was constructed without apparent reference to Craven Arms B in terms of alignment or proximity, whilst the road from *Ariconium* does appear to respect the enclosure by passing just to the south-west of it. Cropmarks for a western extension to the enclosure abut the road, perhaps implying its existence before the extension was constructed. The planned nature indicated by the linearity of the features north of the enclosure reflects the axes of the enclosure rather than the road network.

The flourishing of activity in the late first and second centuries AD could well have been influenced initially by the presence of the Roman military and their needs, and later by proximity to a well-used road network. Craven Arms A enclosure could have been constructed during this period adjacent to Watling Street to benefit from the traffic along this arterial way, and further investigations within Craven Arms could well discover more extensive evidence for both the Iron Age and Roman periods. Industrial residues at Craven Arms A found in 1991 would perhaps support such a hypothesis, with ironworking activities to supply military patrons or travellers, but at Craven Arms B the excavated evidence would suggest a more agricultural function. Although local Severn Valley wares and Malvern wares predominate, the types of pottery found on site show wider connections within Britain and with continental Europe. Central Gaulish samian and Spanish amphorae are present in the assemblage, as well as Black-burnished ware from Dorset. The diverse origin of the ceramic evidence must owe much to the location of the enclosure in proximity to several roads. It also implies a relatively high status community.

The abandonment of Craven Arms B cannot be assigned to any specific or cataclysmic cause, such as a fire, and in general the Romano-British period during the second to third centuries AD was relatively peaceful. There could be a link between demise of early settlements, however, with the decline of a military presence within the area following pacification of the local population and when troops were sent to the north of the province. This would have affected the economic basis of some communities, especially those besides roads and who supplied services or products for the army. It might have been this factor that led to the eventual abandonment of the settlement.

SPECIALIST ANALYSES AND DATING

POTTERY ASSESSMENT
By Jane Timby 2013

Introduction

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 401 sherds of pottery weighing just under 3kg accompanied by three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) and sixteen small pieces of fired clay. Most of the pottery dates to the Roman period but there are also eleven sherds potentially of later prehistoric date and a single post-medieval piece.

Pottery was recovered from 31 defined contexts with eight unstratified finds. The assemblage was in fairly poor condition with slightly abraded, fragmented pieces reflected in a low overall average sherd weight of 7.4g. Surface preservation was poor. There were a few instances of multiple sherds from single vessels. Chronologically diagnostic sherds are rare.

Methodology

For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was scanned to determine the form and fabrics and the likely date of the pieces. These were quantified by sherd count and weight for each context. The fabric codes (in brackets) used for known named or traded wares reflect those found in the National Roman fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). Other fabrics are coded generically reflecting the firing colour and nature of the inclusions in the fabric. The resulting data is summarised in Table 4.

Results

Prehistoric

Eleven sherds of a thick-walled handmade ware were recorded from four contexts – (5), (27), (82) and (102). In three cases the sherds were unaccompanied by other sherds; in context (27) the sherd appears to be redeposited in a Roman layer.

With the exception of a base sherd from (27), the pieces are all unfeatured body sherds. The fabric contains very coarse sub-angular inclusions of quartzite.

The technology and the nature of the fabric might suggest this dates to the later prehistoric period. Very coarse rock tempered pottery, including one with a coarse quartz-temper, was recorded from The Wrekin hillfort (Morris 1984, 76) which might be analogous. These latter wares are dated to the later Bronze Age or early Iron Age.

Roman

The bulk of the assemblage dates to the early-mid Roman period and comprises a mixture of imported continental and regional imports, local native handmade wares, Severn Valley wares and Roman wares of unknown provenance.

The imports are restricted to six sherds of samian and twelve sherds of amphorae. The samian is poorly

preserved but comprises one South Gaulish sherd (La Graufesenque) (LGF SA) from a decorated bowl and five Central Gaulish sherds (Lezoux) (LEZ SA) which include a cup (Dragendorff type 27) and a decorated bowl (Dragendorff 37). Provisionally these would suggest a date span from the later first century AD into the second century AD.

The amphora include ten sherds from Baetican wares (BAT AM) imported from Southern Spain and used to transport olive oil; one sherd probably from a Gallic wine amphora (GAL AM) (Figure 26:5) and one unidentified sherd. The Baetican and Gallic vessels are the two commonest types to be imported into Britain from the first–third centuries AD. One of the Baetican sherds (73, SF1), probably from the globular Dressel 20 form, has a lead rivet repair with part of the rivet still *in-situ* suggesting re-use of the vessel.

Recognisable regional imports are limited to eight sherds of Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1) made in the Poole Harbour area. The sherds are largely from jars and of second century date.

Native wares account for 7% of the assemblage by count and are all handmade wares in fabrics typical of the Malvern area (MAL RE A) (e.g. Figure 26:4). This is a pre-Roman Iron Age production which continued to be used well into the Roman period. Vessels include a straight-sided dish with a burnished interior (Figure 26:10).

The main components of the assemblage are oxidised and reduced Severn Valley wares which collectively account for 69% by count. These wares can be divided into early variants distinguished by the presence of grog and or organic inclusions (here referred to as SVW EA); the more standard oxidised type (SVW OX) and a reduced (grey) variant (SVW RE). This ware is another long-lived one with probable pre-Roman antecedents (Timby 1990), which continued into the Roman period in increasingly standardised fabrics.

Forms present at Craven Arms included carinated cups which generally date to the first to early second century; tankards (Figure 26:7) wide-mouthed jars (Figures 26:3, 26:6, and 26:8); storage jars; bowls with horizontal handles (Figure 26:9); dishes and in a grey variant, a ring-necked flagon (Figure 26:1). In terms of date the vessels are predominantly first or second century although at least one, a pendant-rimmed jar from (18), is more likely to date to the mid-second to third centuries.

The remaining Roman wares largely comprise oxidised sandy wares which include a cornice-rim beaker (68) (Figure 26:2) of early second-century date. In addition there are isolated sherds of a fine micaceous grey ware, and single sherds of a white-slipped oxidised ware and a white ware which could be a Mancetter-Hartshill product.

Post-medieval

A single sherd from a post-medieval/modern unglazed red earthenware (flower-pot) came from the unstratified finds.

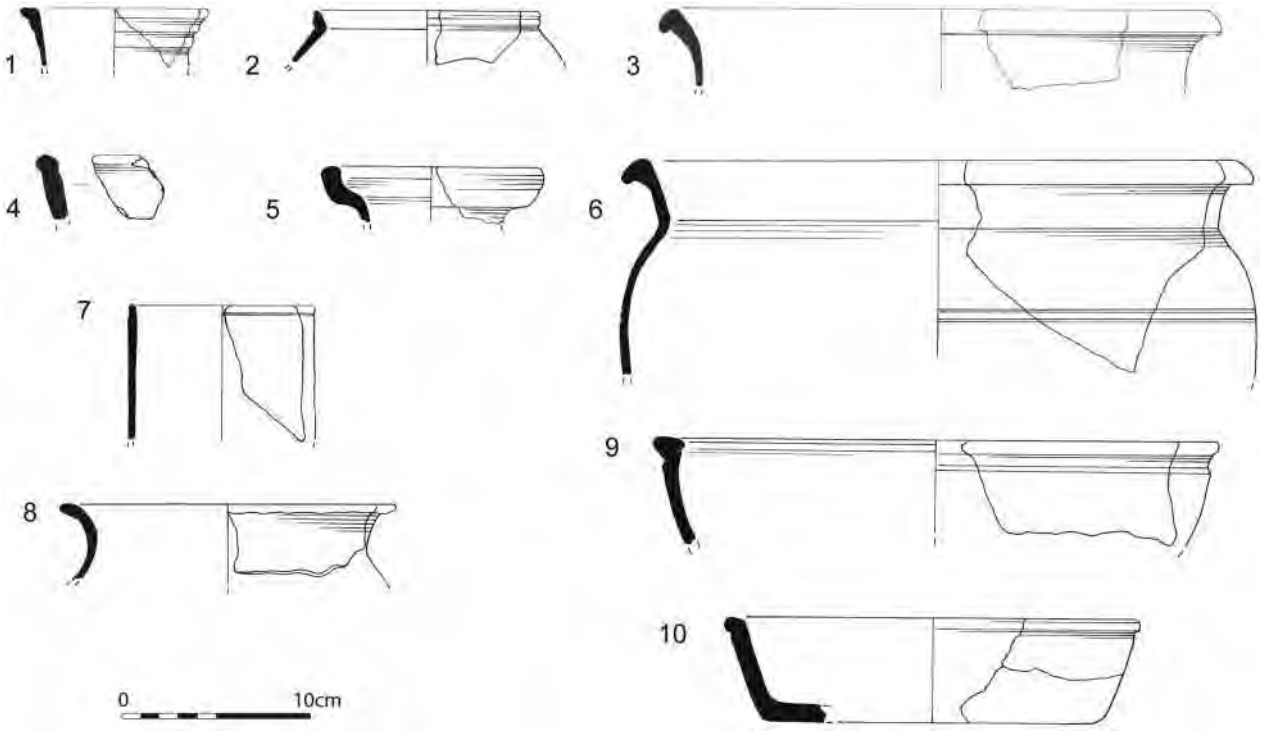

Figure 26. Roman pottery drawings.

Table 4. Craven Arms Enclsure B: pottery spot dates with phases.

Context	prehistoric	Samian	amphora	Malvernian	SVW	BB1	other	post med.	Total No	Total Wt gms	Date	CBM (No)	FC (No)	Phase	Feature
3	–	–	–	–	67	–	–	–	67	195	C2-C3	–	–	4	Ditch E
5	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	5	prehistoric	–	–	1	Ditch C
16	–	–	–	–	3	–	1	–	4	10	Roman	–	–	4	Ditch D
18	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	5	74	mid C2-C3	–	–	4	Ditch D
20	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	Roman	–	–	1	Ditch C
27	1	–	1	–	2	–	–	–	4	50	Roman	–	–	3	Ditch B
30	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	0.5	Roman	–	–	3	Structure 1
33	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	2	8	late C1-C2	–	1	3	Structure 1
40	–	–	1	–	81	–	–	–	82	475	C2	–	-	4	Structure 2
42	–	–	–	–	8	4	1	–	13	79	C2	–	-	4	Structure 2
43	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	4	67	C2+	–	-	3	Structure 2
46	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	2	24	C2	–	-	4	Structure 2
66	–	2	1	11	6	1	11	–	32	260	C2	–	1	4	Structure 1
68	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	12	C2	–	7	3	Structure 1
70	–	–	–	3	25	1	–	–	29	86	C2	–	-	4	Structure 1
71	–	1	–	–	3	1	3	–	8	246	C2	–	2	4	Structure 1
73	–	1	8	–	–	–	–	–	9	246	C2	–	-	3	Structure 1
80	–	–	–	–	–	–	36	–	36	106	C2+	–	-	5	Ditch B
82	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	4	prehistoric	–	-	1	Ditch A
88	–	1	–	–	2	–	–	–	3	11	C2	–	-	5	Feature 87
102	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	15	prehistoric	–	1	1	Ditch C
103	–	–	–	–	45	–	–	–	45	252	C1-C2	–	-	4	Ditch D
129	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	7	Roman	–	-	4	Ditch D
131	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	3	Roman	–	-	1	Ditch A
170	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	43	Roman	–	-	2	layer
603	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	–	3	57.25	C1-C2	–	1	4	Ditch D
10002	–	–	1	13	1	–	–	–	15	370	C1-C2	–	-	4	Ditch H
10004	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	5	121	C2-C3	–	-	4	Ditch H
10005	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	5	51	Roman	–	-	4	layer
10007	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	2	67	C1-C2	–	1	5	Oven 2
10008	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	6	Roman	–	2	4	Ditch H
c.0.	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	4	11	C1-C2	–	-	-	-
us	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	1	4	22	C2-C3/pm	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	6	12	29	277	8	57	1	401	2986.75	-	3	16	-	-

Pottery-type key: SVW = Severn Valley ware, BB1 = Black-burnished ware, CBM = ceramic building material, FC = fired clay

Ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay

Accompanying the pottery were sixteen fragments of fired clay weighing just 47g. The pieces were small and distributed across eight contexts. None appear to be featured or heavily burnt to indicate their original use.

Three small undated fragments of CBM featured in the unstratified material. Other material designated as possible CBM is probably sandstone.

Chronology

The earliest pottery appears to be of later prehistoric date. Three contexts (5), (82) and (104) produced this ware and are thus potentially of later Bronze Age–Iron Age date.

The bulk of the assemblage dates to the early Roman period suggesting a main phase of occupation spanning the second part of the first century AD into the second century. Occupation could have continued into the later second or early third century but evidence for this is slight and there is no later Roman pottery present.

As might be expected the assemblage is dominated by Severn Valley wares, a particularly long-lived industry spanning the first to fourth centuries and the main pottery supplier in the area. Previous work at Craven Arms (Ferris 1991) produced a particularly small assemblage of just thirteen sherds again dominated by Severn Valley wares. The only featured sherd, a local mortarium, indicated a second-century date which would be compatible with this recent assemblage. The generally low incidence of Black-burnished ware, which became much more widespread in the later Roman period in this area, also emphasises the focus of activity in the earlier to mid second century.

The site did have access to imported wares but the samian only accounts for 1.5% of the Roman assemblage, a percentage that would be regarded as very typical of a rural settlement of some form in this area. A higher percentage might be expected, for example if this was a military or religious centre or a major urban centre. The general paucity of samian and other specialised vessels such as mortaria, flagons and other fine ware imports and the preponderance of local native wares and Severn Valley wares would argue against this assemblage being of military origin.

Discussion

The pottery recovered is consistent with that to be expecfrom an early Roman rural settlement in this area. The site shows many parallels for example with the double-ditched enclosure investigated at Meole Brace, near Shrewsbury (Bain 2007). Although there was pre-Roman Iron Age activity at this site the Meole Brace enclosure dates to the early Roman period and seems to have been predominantly in use in the first and second centuries and abandoned around the same time as Craven Arms. The range of pottery documented at Meole Brace also shows many parallels with basically the same spectrum of wares as Craven Arms. This seems to be the norm for many of the sites investigated in the Wroxeter hinterland (Evans 2007).

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

By Dawn Elise Mooney 2013

Introduction

Twelve bulk samples were taken during archaeological excavations at the site to recover environmental remains such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca, to assist finds recovery, and to assess potential for scientific dating. Samples 5, 6 and 7 were taken from the fills of oven feature F53, while samples 11, 12 and 13 were taken from the fills of pit F77 adjacent to this feature. A further sample (not numbered) was taken from the upper fill (10007) of oven F10006. Sample 9 originated from a secondary fill (66) of structural ditch F69, while samples 8 and 10 were taken from dump deposits infilling the top of this ditch. Samples 18 and 19 originated from the secondary fill (11008) and basal fill (11009) respectively of pit F11010 These last two samples contained no charred botanical remains of any significance, and as such are not included in this analysis. Following assessment of these samples, further work was recommended to catalogue the macrobotanical and charcoal remains present in the relatively large assemblage recovered from sample 7. The results of this analytical work are presented in this report, alongside a summary of the results of the assessment of all twelve samples, in order to discuss the implications of the assemblage for diet, agriculture, fuel use and environment at the site.

Methodology

The bulk soil samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank, and the flots and residues were retained on 500μm and 250μm meshes respectively and air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7–45 magnifications and an overview of their contents recorded. Identifications of macrobotanical remains were made using modern comparative material and reference texts (Cappers *et al*. 2006, Jacomet 2006, Jones *et al*. 2004), and are recorded in Table 5. Charcoal fragments were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale and Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in

Table 5. Plant species identification

	Period	Roman								
	Sample number	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Context	52	63	64	65	66	70	74+75+76	74	76
	Parent context	F53	F53	F53	F69	F69	F69	F77	F77	F77
	Feature type	HE	HE	HE	D/ED	D	D/ED	P	P	P
	Flot volume (ml)	10	5	15	5	5	<5	15	5	10
	Flot weight (g)	2	<2	6	<2	<2	<2	2	<2	<2
Taxonomic identification	English name									
Crop cereals										
Triticum dioccum/spelta	emmer/spelt wheat caryopses	-	-	72	-	-	-	-	-	-
Triticum aestivum sp.	bread wheat caryopses	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Triticum sp.	wheat caryopses	9	-	21	1	1	2	9	-	7
Hordeum vulgare	barley caryopses	-	-	89	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hordeum sp.	barley caryopses	-	-	11	-	-	1	1	-	-
Avena sp.	oat caryopses	-	-	39	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cerealia indet.	indet. cereal caryopses	-	1	199	-	-	2	14	2	4
chaff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Triticum spelta	spelt wheat glume base	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
indet. rachis fragment	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
detatched cereal embryo	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
indet. chaff	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
indet. stem fragments (cf Poaceae)	possible grass stem fragments	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Wild grasses, arable weeds and waste ground										
Poaceae	large caryopses	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poaceae	small caryopses	2	2	5	-	-	1	11	5	1
cf. *Bromus* sp.	brome	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-
Avena/Bromus	oat/brome	-	-	74	-	-	-	-	-	-
cf. *Trifolium* sp.	clover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Polygonum cf. *aviculare* L.	knotgrass	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polygonum lapathifolium	pale persicaria	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Polygonum/Rumex sp.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	-
Asperula arvensis	blue woodruff	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-
Veronica sp.	speedwell	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Papaver sp.	poppy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Asteraceae	Compositae/daisy family	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripleurospernum inodorum (L.) Sch.Bip.	scentless mayweed	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arrhenatherum elatius var. *bulbosum*	couch grass tuber	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wild/weed plants common to wet ground										
Alchemilla sp.	lady's mantle	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carex sp.	sedges lenticular	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Carex sp.	sedges triangular/round	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indeterminate or unidentified plant parts		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unidentified weed seed		1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1

Feature-type key: HE = hearth/oven; D = ditch; ED = dump deposits in top of ditch ; P = pit

reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al*. 2004), and by comparison with modern reference material held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997), and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 6.

Results

Hearth/Oven features F53: samples 5, 6, 7; F77: samples 11, 12, 13; (10007)

Samples 5, 6, and 7 originated from the fills of oven F53. While like those from pit features the flots of most samples were dominated by uncharred modern material, sample 7 only contained a few small rootlets and was composed mostly of charred cereal grains. The preservation of these grains was generally poor, with many being broken, pitted and distorted. As such, just under half of the caryopses present could not

Table 6. Charcoal identification.

	Period	Roman			
	Sample number	7	9	9	-
	Context	64	66	66	10007
	Parent context	F53	F69	F69	F10006
	Feature type	HE	D	D	HE
Taxonomic Identification	English name				
Quercus sp.	oak	14	2	2	10
Fraxinus excelsior	ash	-	2	2	-
cf. Maloideae	hawthorn, whitebeam, rowan, apple, pear	3	-	-	-
Prunus sp.	cherry/blackthorn	60	-	-	-
Corylus avellana	hazel	3	-	-	-
cf. *Cornus sanguinea*	dogrose	3	1	1	-
Leguminosae	gorse, broom	2	3	3	-
indet. bark	-	5	-	-	-
indet. distorted	-	20	-	-	-

Feature-type key: HE = hearth/oven; D = ditch

be identified. The remainder of the assemblage was approximately evenly split between wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.), with some only identifiable as wheat/barley (*Triticum*/*Hordeum*). The barley caryopses were hulled, and the ratio of straight to twisted grains suggests that they originate from a six-rowed variety. However, it should also be noted that twisting of grains can also occur during the charring process. Most of the wheat grains were identified as spelt/emmer (*Triticum spelta*/*dicoccum*), however probably bread wheat (cf. *Triticum aestivum*) was also noted. Small numbers of wheat and barley grains were also noted in samples 5 and 6. Cereal chaff was rare in the assemblage. A single spelt (*Triticum spelta*) glume base was recorded, along with an indeterminate cereal rachis node and internode and a fragment of cereal/grass stem. A small number of detached embryos/coleoptiles of wheat or barley were also present.

The plant macrofossil assemblage from sample 7 also contained a significant number of oat (*Avena* sp.) and brome (*Bromus* sp.) caryopses. The assemblage seems approximately evenly split between the two taxa, however a large proportion of the grains could only be identified as oat/brome (*Avena*/*Bromus*). In the absence of any chaff it is not possible to see whether the oat grains derive from a cultivar or from a wild species. A variety of other wild seeds were also recorded in samples 5, 6 and 7, including speedwell (*Veronica* sp.), pale persicaria (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), common knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*), blue woodruff (*Asperula arvensis*), lady's mantle (cf. *Alchemilla* sp.), scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), seeds of the daisy family (Asteraceae), sedges (*Carex* sp.) and grasses (Poaceae).

Samples 11, 12 and 13 from the fills of stoke-hole F77 adjacent to kiln/oven F53 produced small quantities of cereal grains including wheat and barley, which again were generally poorly preserved. A single oat grain was also found in sample 11, which may be from a wild or cultivated variety. Small numbers of wild seeds were also present, including grasses, knotweed/dock (*Polygonum*/*Rumex*), blue woodruff, sedge, poppy (*Papaver* sp.), clover (*Trifolium* sp.), and pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*). A possible charred couch grass (cf. *Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*) tuber was also noted in sample 11.

Small quantities of wood charcoal were observed in the above samples. Charcoal from sample 7 was dominated by cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.) fragments, although oak (*Quercus* sp.), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and dogwood (*Cornus* sp.) were also present. Additionally, wood of the Leguminosae family (likely to represent either gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) or broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) was noted, along with wood of the Maloideae family, which includes hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), rowan, service and whitebeam (*Sorbus* sp.), apple (*Malus* sp.) and pear (*Pyrus* sp.). Amongst the assemblage small roundwood was common, especially of cherry/blackthorn and oak. Fragments of charred bark were also recorded. The preservation of the charred wood remains was generally poor, with many fragments displaying distortion or vitrification linked to the charring process. For this reason, numerous charcoal fragments from the sample could not be assigned taxonomic identifications. Wood anatomical analysis of the charcoal from pit fill (10007) revealed this assemblage to comprise only oak fragments.

Structural ditch F69: samples 8, 9, 10

Samples 8 and 10 originated from dump deposits (65) and (70) infilling the top of structural ditch F69, while sample 9 was taken from a secondary fill (66) of the same ditch. All were dominated by uncharred modern material. Small numbers of poorly-preserved cereals including wheat and barley were also noted, along with wild seeds including grasses, sedge and knotweed/

dock. Two charred grass/cereal culm nodes were also recorded in sample 9. Small to moderate assemblages of wood charcoal in samples 9 and 10 were assessed for taxonomic composition, and found to comprise Leguminosae, ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak and wild clematis (*Clematis vitalba*) fragments.

Discussion

Environment and diet

The quantities of cereal grain recovered from the site indicate strongly that crops such as wheat and barley, and possibly also oats, were being grown in an arable landscape in the vicinity of the site. However, the presence of only very small quantities of cereal chaff indicates the grain was not being processed on site. There was no evidence for the cultivation of other crops such as pulses or legumes, however this bias is likely to result from the provenance of samples from features associated with ovens, and that these crops are less likely to come into contact with fire during processing. The wild taxa recorded in these samples probably derive from either seeds brought in accidentally with the grain assemblage, or from plants accidentally included with the fuel wood, growing either in the areas exploited for fuel acquisition or close to the ovens. Most of the charred seeds recorded, such as grasses, speedwell, mayweed, knotweed/dock, woodruff and clover are common in anthropogenic environments such as pastures, cultivated land and wasteland. Seeds of pale persicaria, lady's mantle and sedges may indicate the presence of wetland or wetland margin environments, however these are few in number and are also found on cultivated ground and grassland.

Although cereal grain assemblage from the site contained a large quantity of unidentifiable cereal grains, a significant number were identified as wheat and barley. The wheat caryopses were mostly of spelt/emmer, however a small quantity of free-threshing bread wheat was also noted. The barley grains are likely to have derived from a six-rowed hulled variety. This mix of cereals is typical of Roman sites in southern Britain (cf. van der Veen 1989, Straker 1999, Helbaek 1964, Caseldine and Busby 1993, Stevens 2008, Campbell 2008). Oat grains were also common, however in the absence of any chaff remains it is impossible to distinguish whether these result from wild species or cultivars (Jacomet 2006). Brome caryopses, which are similar to oat grains, were also frequently noted. The presence of oat and/or brome caryopses has also been noted in grain assemblages from other Roman sites. At Caerleon in south Wales (Helbaek 1964), it is suggested that these taxa are wild species rather than cultivars, as while cereal grains from the same context were found to be sprouted, the oat and brome caryopses were not, which suggests unintentional inclusion. Additionally, at the Former County Hospital, Dorchester, assemblages of grain with significant quantities of oat and brome caryopses also contained wild oat (*Avena fatua*) floret bases, indicating that the oats are again likely to be wild rather than cultivated. The oat/brome component of the assemblage from Craven Arms is therefore likely to represent wild taxa which were not removed during crop processing due to their similar size to cereal grains.

The large quantity of cereal grain in features F53 and F77 suggests that the ovens at the site may could been used for drying grain. It is also possible that the cereal remains arrived in the ovens by way of straw being used as kindling. However, the large quantity of grains recovered compared to the paucity of cereal chaff make this interpretation unlikely. Corn-drying ovens can be utilised for a number of purposes, however the lack of cereal chaff and relative infrequency of wild seeds in these assemblages suggests that these may have been used for the drying of fully processed grain, prior to either storage or milling (van der Veen 1989). Such ovens are also used in the process of malting barley, wherein germinated grain is roasted to halt the germination process prior to the use of the grain in brewing (*ibid*.). While detached cereal grain coleoptiles, which can be an indicator of sprouting, were noted in small quantities in sample 7, none of the barley grains present showed signs of germination. It is therefore unlikely that this oven was used in barley malting.

While the oven F53 does not fit the most common T-shaped form of Roman corn dryers, there is known variability in these features. Most similar to the oven at Craven Arms are 'cigar-shaped' corn dryers found at Scamblesby (Brown and Field 1988, cited in Tipper 1994) and Cawkwell (Carruthers 1989, cited in van der Veen 1989) in Lincolnshire. The charred plant assemblage from the Cawkwell ovens was similar to that found at Craven Arms, with a mixture of wheat and barley and no evidence of germination of grain. These are interpreted as ephemeral, rural ovens of a local type (Tipper 1994), and oven F53 may represent this kind of feature. There are few published examples of Roman ovens which are interpreted as having not been used for corn drying. Figure-of-eight shaped ovens from Bromfield in Shropshire were found to contain low quantities of cereal grains, chaff and other plant macrofossils, and it has been suggested that these were used primarily for cooking (Hughes *et al*. 1995). Compared to these examples, the features at Craven Arms do seem likely to have been used at least in part for corn drying. However, grain assemblages are also known from bread ovens in the medieval period (Schuster and Stevens 2009). These assemblages of processed grain are suggested to originate from the use of cereal grain either to line the oven base to prevent the bread sticking, or from grain thrown in to the oven to test the temperature. Although the examples given by Schuster and Stevens (2009) are much later than the features at Craven Arms, similar practices may have been employed at the site.

Fuel

The preservation of charcoal overall at the site was generally poor to moderate, with fragments abraded and showing evidence of sediment infiltration and concretion linked to fluctuations in groundwater level. As most of the samples originated from ovens or pits immediately associated with these features, and the charcoal found therein probably comprised the remains of fuel wood used in the ovens. However, the samples taken from dump deposits (65) and (70) result from secondary deposition of burnt material, and are likely to contain material from a number of burning events of various purposes.

Generally, the charcoal assemblages recovered from the environmental samples were small, although samples 7, 9, 10 and (10007) produced assemblages of a large enough size to merit assessment for taxonomic composition. Samples 7, 9 and 10 produced charcoal fragments of a similar range of taxa, comprising cherry/blackthorn, gorse/broom, dogwood, oak, ash and wild clematis. These taxa indicate that a variety of environments were being exploited for fuel procurement including deciduous woodland (oak and ash), woodland margin or hedgerow environments (cherry/blackthorn, dogwood and wild clematis), and scrub/heathland (gorse and broom). These taxa are likely to have been found in the local area surrounding the site, however as many other taxa would also have been growing locally it is likely that these woods were selected as fuel. Additionally, a similar range of taxa was identified from Romano-British features at Perry Oaks (Challinor 2006), which may indicate continuity of fuel wood selection over a wide region. Small roundwood and twig fragments were common in all samples, which suggests that brushwood was being commonly utilised as fuel, possibly indicating adaptation of firewood collection strategies to periods of fuel shortage. However, the sample taken from oven fill (10007) contained only oak charcoal. Oak is known to be an excellent fuel wood, however it is also prized for use as timber in construction and joinery, and is unlikely to be used as fuel if it was in short supply (Taylor 1981, Rackham 1990). The exclusion of any other wood taxa from this deposit suggests that oak may have been specifically selected as fuel, and the disparity between this assemblage and those from samples 7, 9 and 10 may indicate that these assemblages derive from burning events from different purposes or periods.

Conclusion

Both charred plant macrofossils and wood charcoal from the site were often poorly preserved, however it has been possible to comment on agriculture and fuel use at the site and in the surrounding area. Barley, spelt/emmer and bread wheat are likely to have been cultivated near the site, however there is no indication of crop processing taken place on site. Fuel wood including brushwood from woodland, hedgerow and scrub environments was used in oven F53, which contained remains of fully processed wheat and barley. This feature may have been used for a variety of purposes, including the drying of cereal grains prior to storage, the use of grain during cooking activities, and the burning of cereal waste.

RADIOCARBON DATING

By Dawn Elise Mooney

Introduction

Six samples were submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre, East Kilbride (SUERC) for radiocarbon analysis from Craven Arms Stokewood Road Depot CASR13. The radiocarbon dating programme was designed in order to provide a precise date for activity related to Roman oven/hearth feature F53. Two samples of charred botanical material from each of three contexts were submitted in order to reduce the probability of inaccurate dating based on residual or intrusive material. A single charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopsis and a fragment of Leguminosae family charcoal were submitted from both oven fill F64 and ditch fill F70, while a charred wheat caryopsis and blue woodruff (*Asperula arvensis*) seed were submitted from pit fill F74. These samples were submitted on the basis of recommendations made following the assessment of environmental material from the site in April 2014 (see Mooney above).[4]

Results

The radiocarbon dating results are given in Table 7, and are quoted in accordance with the international standard known as the Trondheim convention (Stuiver and Kra 1986). They are conventional radiocarbon ages (Stuiver and Polach 1977). 2 Sigma calibrated dates, obtained using IntCal04 (Reimer *et al*. 2004), are also given at the 95.4% and 68.2% confidence levels.

Discussion

The five samples which contained sufficient carbon for radiocarbon dating all indicate a mid first to early third century AD date for the features, indicating that the oven was in use in the mid Roman period. All five dates are very consistent with one another, indicating that none of the material submitted is likely to be residual or intrusive. Furthermore, the similarity of the results may indicate that all the material examined results from burning events within the same season. It is possible that the oven F53 from which the material is likely to originate was only in use for a very short period of time, and that the charred assemblages from it and its associated features were all formed within this period. However, it must also be considered that these assemblages may only relate to the last period of use of the oven, with material from previous usages having been cleaned out.

Table 7. Results of radiocarbon dating.

Laboratory ID	Sample ID	Material & context	δ13C (‰)	Radiocarbon age (BP)	Calibrated date (95.4% confidence)	Calibrated date (68.2% confidence)
SUERC-53994	ASE_DS_00260	Charred *Triticum* sp. caryopsis from fill (64) of hearth/oven F53	-24.4	1923 ± 26	22-130 cal AD	55-90 cal AD (44.3%), 100-123 cal AD (23.9%)
SUERC-53995	ASE_DS_00261	Leguminosae charcoal from fill [(64) of hearth/oven F53	-24.8	1871 ± 29	73-225 cal AD	82-170 cal AD (59.0%), 194-210 cal AD (9.2%)
SUERC-53996	ASE_DS_00262	Charred *Triticum* sp. caryopsis from fill (70) of ditch F69	-24.4	1844 ± 29	86-239 cal AD	131-215 cal AD
SUERC-53997	ASE_DS_00263	Leguminosae charcoal from fill (70) of ditch F69	-22.8	1869 ± 29	75-225 cal AD	83-170 cal AD (58.4%), 194-210 cal AD (9.8%)
SUERC-53998	ASE_DS_00264	Charred *Triticum* sp. caryopsis from fill (74) of pit F77	-23.9	1891 ± 29	56-215 cal AD	70-134 cal AD
N/A	ASE_DS_00265	Charred *Asperula arvensis* seed from fill (74) of pit F77	N/A	Failed: insufficient carbon	N/A	N/A

OSL DATING – METHODOLOGY
By Jean-Luc Schwenninger[5]

Sampling for optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating (Huntley *et al*. 1985, Aitken 1998) was carried out using light-sealed stainless steel tubes hammered into exposed sections. In order to determine the attenuating effect of pore water on the environmental dose rate, additional soil samples were collected in the field and hermetically sealed. The modern moisture content of samples was determined in the laboratory by weighing the sample before and after oven drying at 50°C. These determinations formed the basis for the assessment of the mean water content of the samples throughout the burial period and were used in the dose rate calculations. Where possible, direct measurements of the natural ionizing radiation were obtained using a portable field gamma-ray spectrometer (EG&G Ortec Micronomad) calibrated against the Oxford blocks (Rhodes and Schwenninger 2007). Sample processing and luminescence measurements were made at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, University of Oxford under low intensity laboratory lighting using purpose-built amber LED lighting (emitting at ~588nm). Further details regarding individual samples are presented in Table 10.

The laboratory procedures adopted for the optical dating were based on standard methodologies and designed to yield pure sand-sized quartz mineral grains. After removal of the exposed ends of the sampling containers, the unexposed central portion of the sample was wet-sieved to isolate the different constituent mineral size fractions. The preferred grain size (180-250μm) was treated with diluted hydrochloric acid (HCl) to remove carbonates and then placed in concentrated (48%) hydrofluoric acid for 90 minutes. This latter acid digestion serves to dissolve feldspar grains and to remove the outer rinds of quartz grains which are exposed during burial to natural alpha radiation. Any heavy minerals present were subsequently removed by gravity separation using a sodium polytungstate solution at 2.68 $g.cm^{-3}$. Finally, each sample was re-sieved to remove heavily etched smaller grains. The prepared quartz samples were mounted as multigrain aliquots on 9mm diameter aluminium discs using viscous silicone oil. The aliquot size was reduced to circa 5mm in order to improve the detection of poorly bleached grains through the spread and symmetry of individual palaeodose estimates.

Various tests for sample purity were made including exposure of grains to infrared (IR) light during OSL measurement. No prolonged etching in H_2SiF_6 was necessary as samples were found to have very low IRSL/OSL ratios (i.e IRSL <1% of OSL signal). Luminescence measurements were made using an automated Risø luminescence reader (Bøtter-Jensen 1988, 1997, Bøtter-Jensen *et al*. 2000). Optical excitation for determining the quartz OSL signal intensity was provided by filtered blue diodes (emitting ~470Δ20nm; ~32mW/cm^{-2}) and infrared stimulation was provided using an IR laser diode. Detection of the emitted quartz UV signal (~370 nm) was made using an EMI 9635Q photomultiplier tube filtered with a Hoya U340 glass filter. Laboratory doses used for constructing the dose response curves were provided by a $^{90}Sr/^{90}Y$ ceramic beta source housed within the reader and calibrated against a gamma irradiated Risø National Laboratory standard (Hansen *et al*. 2015).

All OSL measurements were made at a raised temperature of 125°C (to ensure no re-trapping of charge to the 110°C TL trap during measurement) for 100s. The dose equivalent (De) was determined from the first second of the OSL decay curve, using the final five seconds as background noise (total stimulation time was fifty seconds). The OSL signal was corrected for sensitivity using the signal regenerated by a small test dose and following the single aliquot regenerative-dose (SAR) measurement procedure described by Murray

Table 8. C14 dates.

Laboratory ID	Sample ID	Context ID and Description	Material	δ13C (‰)	Radiocarbon age (BP)	Calibrated Date (95% probability)
SUERC-53994	[64] <7>	fill (64) of Oven 1	charred grain (*Triticum* sp.)	-24.4	1923±26	cal AD 20–130
SUERC-53995	[64] <7>	fill (64) of Oven 1	wood charcoal (Leguminosae)	-24.8	1871±29	cal AD 70–225
SUERC-53996	[70] <10>	dump deposit (70) at top of structural trench F69	charred grain (*Triticum* sp.)	-24.4	1844±29	cal AD 85–240
SUERC-53997	[70] <10>	dump deposit (70) at top of structural trench F69	wood charcoal (Leguminosae)	-22.8	1869±29	cal AD 75–225
SUERC-53998	[74] <11>	fill (74) of a stoke hole & rake-out pit F77 contemporary with use of Oven 1	charred grain (*Triticum* sp.)	-23.9	1891±29	cal AD 55–215

Table 9. OSL dates.

Lab ID	Sample ID	Context ID and Description	Luminescence age (years before AD 2013)	Calendrical bandwidth (95% confidence)
X6098	OSL 1	Pit 44 primary fill (43), lowest part	2100 ± 220a	530 BC–AD 360
X6099	OSL 2	Pit 44 primary fill (43), upper part	2150 ± 190a	520 BC–AD 250
X6100	OSL 3	Pit 44 secondary fill (42)	1780 ± 240a	250 BC–AD 720
X6102	OSL 5	Ditch B recut phase 4 (56)	1730 ± 160a	40 BC–AD 610
X6103	OSL 6	Ditch B primary fill (58)	2040 ± 270a	570 BC–AD 520
X6105	OSL 8	Oven clay lining (53)	2040 ± 180a	390 BC–AD 340
X6108	OSL 15	Oven clay lining (53)	1930 ± 140a	200 BC–AD 370

Table 10. Summary of the OSL dating. The results are based on luminescence measurements of sand-sized quartz grains (180-255μm) mounted on 5mm aliquots. All samples were measured using an automated Risø luminescence reader using a SAR post-IR blue OSL measurement protocol

Sample ID	Lab ID	Radioisotopes† K %	Th ppm	U ppm	Field water ppm	External γ-dose rate§ (Gy/ka)	Cosmic dose rate (Gy/ka)	Total dose rate (Gy/ka)	Palaeodose (Gy)	OSL (years before AD 2013)
OSL 1	X6098	1.49	9.4	2.4	17.0	0.937 ± 07.04	0.180 ± 0.015	2.37 ± 0.12	4.97 ± 0.47	2100 ± 220
OSL 2	X6099	1.40	9.0	2.4	19.3	0.886 ± 0.044	0.189 ± 0.017	2.24 ± 0.11	4.81 ± 0.35	2150 ± 190
OSL 3	X6100	1.45	9.3	2.5	18.7	0.943 ± 0.047	0.196 ± 0.020	2.34 ± 0.11	4.17 ± 0.52	1780 ± 240
OSL 5	X6102	1.72	10.4	2.6	18.6	0.963 ± 0.048	0.183 ± 0.015	2.53 ± 0.13	4.37 ± 0.33	1730 ± 160
OSL 6	X6103	1.68	10.3	2.5	16.7	0.924 ± 0.046	0.193 ± 0.018	2.50 ± 0.13	5.10 ± 0.61	2040 ± 270
OSL 8	X6105	1.74	10.0	2.3	15.0	*(0.950 ± 0.048)*	0.180 ± 0.015	2.57 ± 0.14	5.25 ± 0.37	2040 ± 180
OSL 15	X6108	2.15	10.3	2.4	13.8	*(0.950 ± 0.048)*	0.180 ± 0.015	2.85 ± 0.16	5.49 ± 0.25	1930 ± 140

† Measurements were made on dried, homogenised and powdered material by fusion ICP-MS with an assigned systematic uncertainty of ±5%. Dry beta dose rates calculated from these activities were adjusted for the saturation field water content expressed as a percentage of the dry mass of the sample.

§ Based on *in-situ* measurements using a portable γ-ray spectrometer equipped with a 3x3 inch NaI (Tl) scintillator crystal and calibrated against the Oxford calibration blocks (Rhodes and Schwenninger 2007). For samples X6105 and X6108 no *in-situ* measurements could be made and the external dose rate was estimated from two nearby spectra.

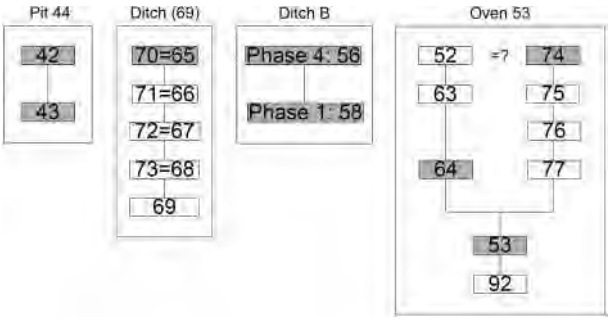

Figure 27. Context matrix: dated samples come from contexts in grey.

and Wintle (2000) and Wintle and Murray (2006). To ensure removal of unstable OSL components, removal of dose quenching effects, and to stimulate re-trapping and ensure meaningful comparison between naturally and laboratory irradiated signals, pre-heating was performed prior to each OSL measurement. Following each regenerative dose and the natural dose, a pre-heat at 250°C for 10s was used. Following each test dose, a pre-heat of 220°C for 10s was applied. All OSL measurements additionally incorporated a post-IR blue OSL stage in which each OSL measurement is preceded by an IRSL measurement at 50°C, to reduce the potential effects of any residual feldspar grains (Banerjee *et al*. 2001). For each sample a set of twelve multigrain aliquots were measured.

The concentrations of radioisotopes (potassium, thorium and uranium) within the sediment were derived from elemental analysis by ICP-MS/AES using a fusion sample preparation technique. The concentrations of parent isotopes were converted to dose rates according to the updated attenuation factors proposed by Adamiec and Aitken (1998), corrections for grain size (Mejdahl 1979) as well as water content (Zimmermann 1971). The cosmic-ray dose was calculated according to data reported by Prescott and Hutton (1994), taking into account the thickness and density of the overburden as well as the geomagnetic latitude and elevation of the site. The palaeodose was obtained using a central age model (CAM) and a systematic laboratory reproducibility uncertainty of 4% was added to the measurement uncertainty to account for uncertainties in instrument reproducibility and calibration of the beta source.

The yield of sand-sized quartz mineral grains derived from the samples was very good and the prepared aliquots also showed excellent response to laboratory irradiation (sensitivity). The initial signal intensity and the form of the decay curve show a fast decrease in OSL intensity which is characteristic of quartz. This is further evidenced by a well-defined 110°C TL peak and stimulation using infrared (IR) light also confirmed the purity of each aliquot with negligible contributions from potential feldspathic contaminants (<0.1%). In the SAR measurements a low irradiation dose was repeated (recycling point) at the end of the measurement cycle to test how well the sensitivity correction procedure was working. If the sensitivity correction is adequate then the ratio of the signal from the repeated dose to that of the initial regeneration dose should fall within the range of 0.9–1.10. Excellent recycling ratios close to unity were recorded for all the samples analysed in this study. A further test on the recuperation (thermal transfer) also showed that no significant recuperation of the OSL signal was detected. Dose response curves generally always pass through the origin when a 'zero' dose is included thus indicating that thermal transfer of charge from optically insensitive traps into OSL traps is not an issue.

These favourable signal characteristics combined with the low spread in individual palaeodose estimates provide considerable support for the veracity of the calculated OSL age estimates and their associated errors. A summary of the radioactivity data and the luminescence results is presented in Table 10.

ANALYSIS OF RADIOCARBON AND OSL DATING
By Anthony Krus (SUERC)

Introduction

Five radiocarbon and seven OSL measurements from archaeological contexts are available from the archaeological settlement at the Craven Arms depot, Shropshire. The radiocarbon results are from single-entity samples of charred grain and wood charcoal submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC).

The charred grain and wood charcoal samples were pretreated with acid-base-acid pretreatment (Stenhouse and Baxter 1983). Samples were combusted in the manner described by Vandeputte *et al*. (1996) and graphite targets were prepared and measured following Naysmith *et al*. (2010). SUERC maintains rigorous internal quality assurance procedures, and participation in international inter-comparisons (Scott 2003) indicates no laboratory offsets; thus validating the measurement precision quoted for the radiocarbon ages.

Conventional radiocarbon ages (Stuiver and Polach 1977) are presented in Table 8, where they are quoted in accordance with the Trondheim convention (Stuiver and Kra 1986). Calibrated date ranges were calculated using the terrestrial calibration curve of Reimer et al. (2013) and OxCal v4.2 (Bronk Ramsey 1995, 1998). The date ranges in Table 8 have been calculated using the maximum intercept method (Stuiver and Reimer 1986), and quoted with the endpoints rounded outward to 10 years. The probabilities shown in Figure 28 were calculated using the probability method of Stuiver and Reimer (1993).

The OSL sampling was undertaken by Jean-Luc Schwenninger at the Luminescence Dating Laboratory at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, University of Oxford using standard preparation procedures. While a final report on the Craven Arms OSL dating is forthcoming, the OSL methods are provided above, and the results presented in Tables 9 and 10. They are based on a combination of the field gamma-ray spectroscopy measurements and laboratory based ICP-MS analysis.

Methodology

The chronology of Craven Arms has been interpreted using a Bayesian approach (Buck *et al*. 1996). Although calibrated dates are accurate estimates for the dates of the samples, in this case we are interested in the

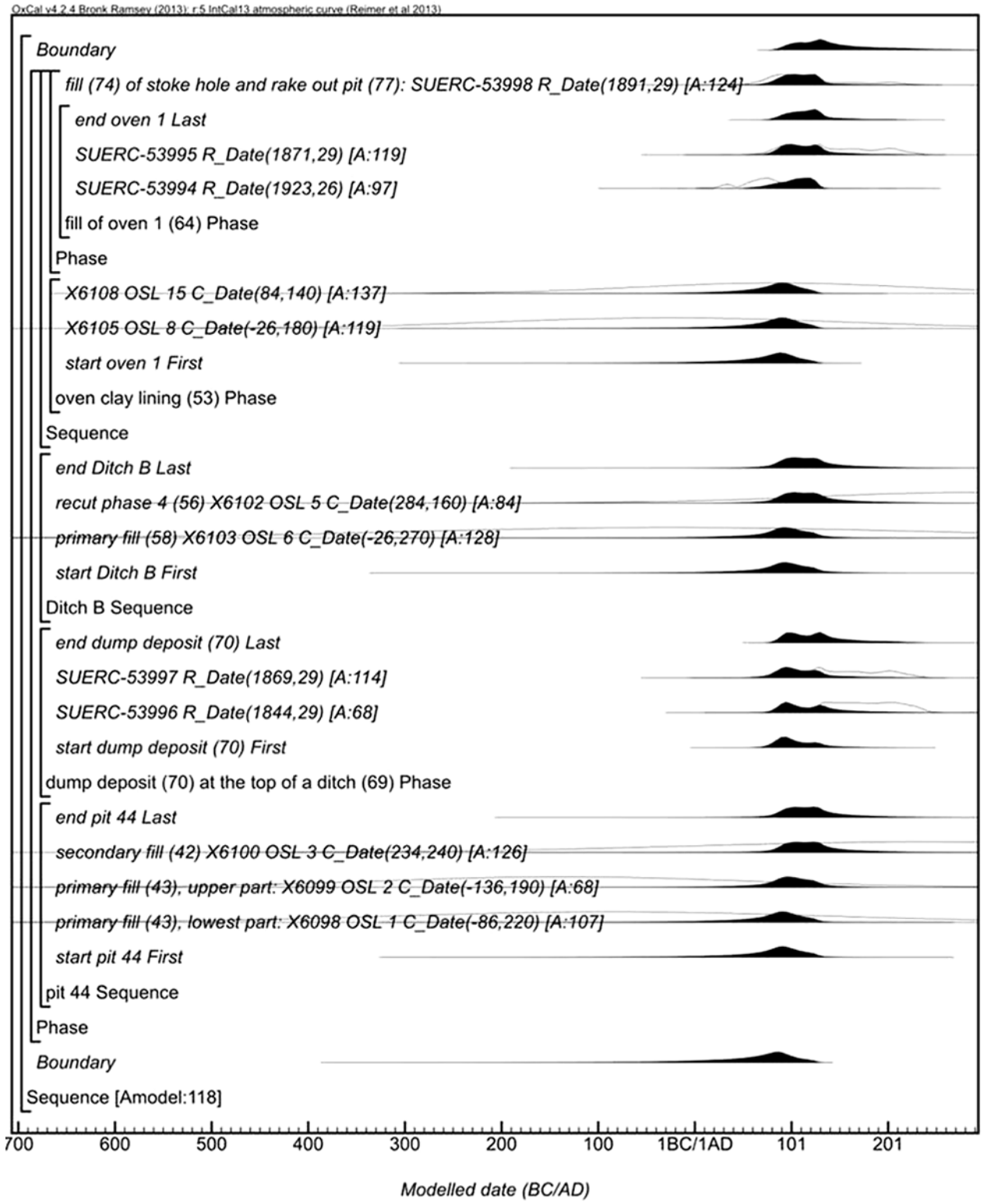

Figure 28. Results and structure of the Bayesian chronological model. For each of the radiocarbon measurements two distributions have been plotted, one in outline, which is the result of simple radiocarbon calibration, and a solid one, which is based on the chronological model use. The other distributions correspond to aspects of the model. The square brackets along with the OxCal keywords define the overall model exactly.

timing of the Roman and prehistoric activity. The date of this activity is estimated by using information from radiocarbon measurements on samples and sample context.

Methodology is now available which combines this information to produce realistic estimates of the dates of archaeological interest. The output of the modelling is the *posterior density estimate*. These are not absolute

but are instead interpretive *estimates* that can and will change as further data become available. Posterior density estimates are usually presented in *italics* to separate modelling and calibration results.

The methodology has been applied using the program OxCal v4.2, which uses a form of Markov Chain Monte Carlo sampling. Details and algorithms used in this process are described in Bronk Ramsey (1995, 1998, 2001, 2009).

The Samples and Models

Excavations at Craven Arms have identified a large square ditch enclosure and have recovered evidence for Roman and prehistoric activity. The excavations have identified two ovens, deep foundation slots for a probable building, at least three pits, and several phases of intercutting ditches. Diagnostic pottery from the second phase of Ditch B (27) and pit 44 suggest a date of the second century AD.

Two OSL results are available from the primary fill (43) of pit 44. OSL 1 (X6098) is from the lower part of the primary fill and OSL 2 (X6099) is from the upper part of the primary fill. An OSL result (OSL 3, X6100) is also available from the secondary fill (42) of pit 44.

Two radiocarbon results (SUERC-53996, SUERC-53997) are available from single-entities of charred grain (*Triticum* sp.) and wood charcoal (*Leguminosae*), respectively, from a dump deposit (70) at the top of structural ditch F69. This dump deposit was dominated by uncharred modern material but included small numbers of poorly-preserved cereals and an assemblage of wood charcoal, suggesting that it may have formed soon after a burning event. It is feasible that these two samples are the same age, as the measurements pass a chi-square test (T=0.4; df=1; T'(0.05)=3.8).

An OSL result (OSL 6 X6103) is available from the primary fill (58) of Ditch B, and an additional OSL result (OSL 5 X6102) is available from a Ditch B, Phase 4, recut (56).

Two OSL results (OSL 8 X6105, OSL 15 X6108) are from the clay lining (53) of Oven 1. It is feasible that these luminescence measurements are the same age, as the measurements pass a chi-square test (T=0.2; df=1; T'(0.05)=3.8).

Two radiocarbon results (SUERC-53994, SUERC-53995) are available from single-entities of charred grain (*Triticum* sp.) and wood charcoal (*Leguminosae*), respectively, from the primary fill and firing event (64) of Oven 1. It is feasible that these two samples are the same age, as the measurements pass a chi-square test (T=1.8; df=1; T'(0.05)=3.8).

A radiocarbon result (SUERC-53998) is available from a single-entity of charred grain (*Triticum sp.*) from the upper fill (74) of the stoke-hole and rake out pit, F77, contemporary with the use of Oven 1.

The algorithm used for this model can be directly derived from the dating matrix (Figure 27) and model structure (Figure 28). The radiocarbon and OSL dates are in good agreement with the model assumptions (Amodel=117.5). The model estimates that activity at the site began in *100 cal BC–cal AD 135 (95% probability*; Figure 28; *Boundary Start*) and probably *cal AD 35–120* (*68% probability*). The modelling estimates that activity on the site ended in *cal AD 80–255* (*95% probability*; Figure 28; *Boundary End*) and probably *cal AD 90–165* (*68% probability*). The modelling estimates that activity on the site spanned *1–320 years (95% probability)*, probably *1–115 years (68% probability)*.

Discussion

The Bayesian model for the site provides posterior probability estimates for the starting and ending of site activity, a span for the site, and refined starting and ending estimates for the individual dated features (Figure 28). The model largely reaffirms the notion that this is a Roman site, with activity beginning in *cal AD 35–120* (*68% probability*; Figure 28; *Boundary Start*) and ending in *cal AD 90–165* (*68% probability;* Figure 28; *Boundary End*).

It may be possible to enhance the chronological resolution for Craven Arms with further dating. More radiocarbon dates from samples that can be functionally related to their context should improve the precision of the chronological models. This positive effect of robust dating on archaeological chronologies is demonstrated in a study by Steier and Rom (2000) through computer simulation.

To understand the potential for future dating, a simulation was run with ten simulated radiocarbon dates spanning AD 100–150. With these simulated dates, the model estimates that activity at the site began in *cal AD 20–125 (95% probability*) and probably *cal AD 50–105* (*68% probability*). The modelling with simulated dates estimates that activity on the site ended in *cal AD 85–215* (*95% probability*) and probably *cal AD 95–175* (*68% probability*). The modelling with simulated dates further estimates that activity on the site spanned *1–180 years (95% probability)*, probably *1–95 years (68% probability)*. This simulation clearly demonstrates that more dating should enhance the chronological resolution for Craven Arms, as the posterior probabilities are more refined when the simulated dates are included.

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Watkins of Ringway Group, and John Friend of Pave Aways Ltd. The archaeological team that undertook the investigation included SLR staff Thomas Wellicome (Supervisor and initial post-excavation analysis) Helen Smart, and Marcus Headifen for the 2014 watching brief; Cat Rees and Matthew Jones (CR Archaeology); Richard Woolley (Formation Archaeology); Chiz Harward (Urban Archaeology); Adam Stanford (Aerial-cam). Specialist analysis was provided by Jean-Luc Schwenninger, David Peat, and Vincent Hare at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and History of Art, University of Oxford (OSL dating); Anthony Krus (SUERC for Baysian modelling); Dawn Mooney and Louise Raynor (Archaeology South-East for palaeoenvironmental assessment); Jane Timby for pottery analysis. The illustrations and comparative analysis of cropmarks and historic mapping were undertaken by Caroline Malim (SLR Consulting Ltd).

NOTES

1. Context numbers were assigned from 001–200 for the initial phase of work, context numbers from 10000 for the second phase of work in September 2013, and context numbers from 11000 for the watching brief in early 2014. For the sake of clarity leading zeros have been omitted in this report.
2. Car park constructed with backfill into the excavated archaeological features, geomembrane and *c*.200mm of made ground above the excavated archaeological level, then 290mm of ballast and 90mm of tarmac above
3. Cut/feature numbers are prefixed by F – e.g. F24. Context numbers are in ordinary brackets – e.g. (67). Test pits excavated through ditch features are identified by slot numbers, shown on the site plan and labelled as such on the section drawings.
4. Radiocarbon dating of the samples was carried out by SUERC in summer 2014, with results delivered on 16th July 2014. The laboratory maintains a continual programme of quality assurance procedures, in addition to participation in international inter-comparisons (Scott 2003). These tests indicate no laboratory offsets and demonstrate the validity of the measurement quoted.
5. Dr Jean-Luc Schwenninger. Head of Luminescence Dating Laboratory, Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, University of Oxford, Dyson Perrins Building, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3QY

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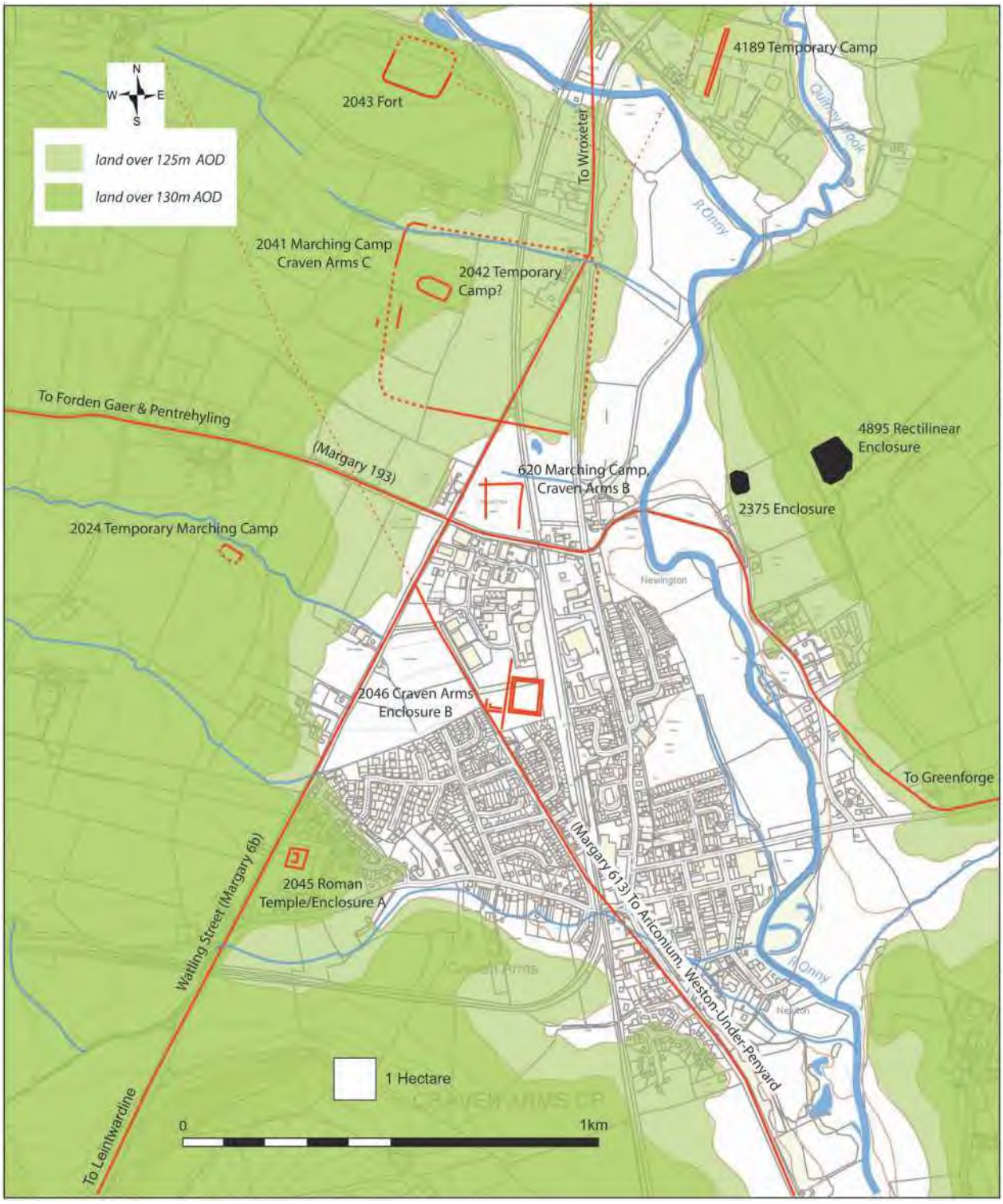
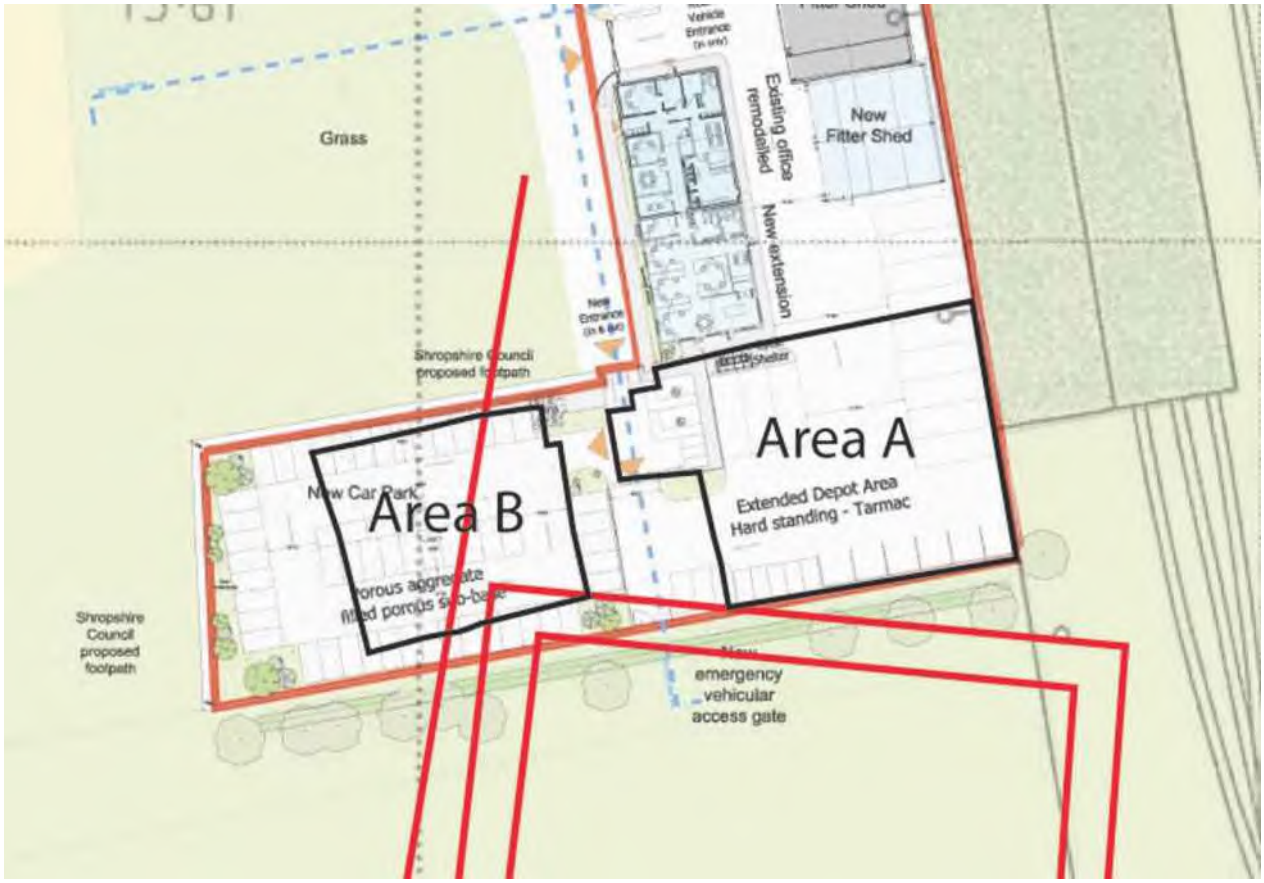
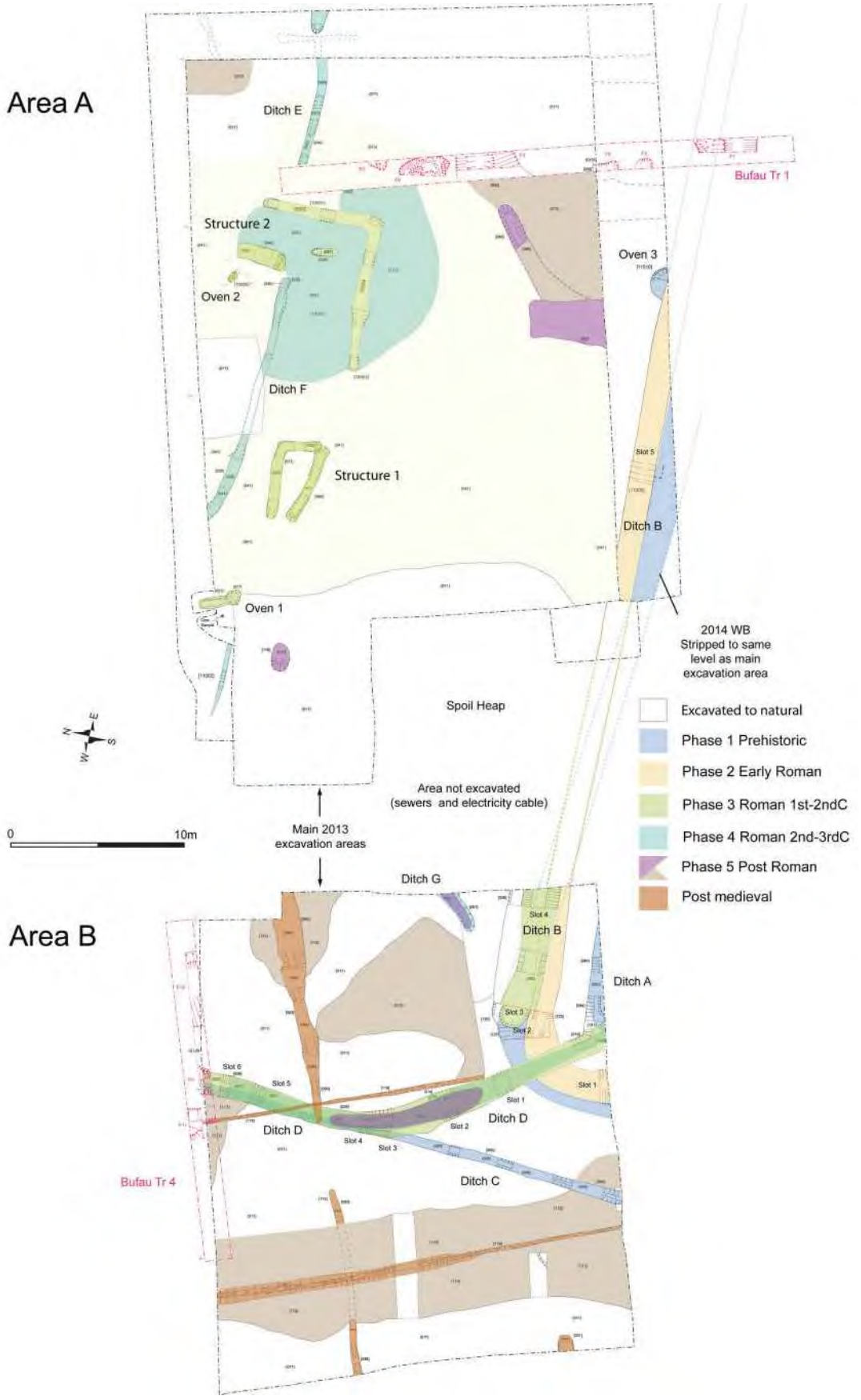


Colour Plate 1. Location of Craven Arms B, showing higher ground either side of the river valley, Roman roads and cropmark enclosures, and the excavation site in the centre. *Created by Caroline Malim.*

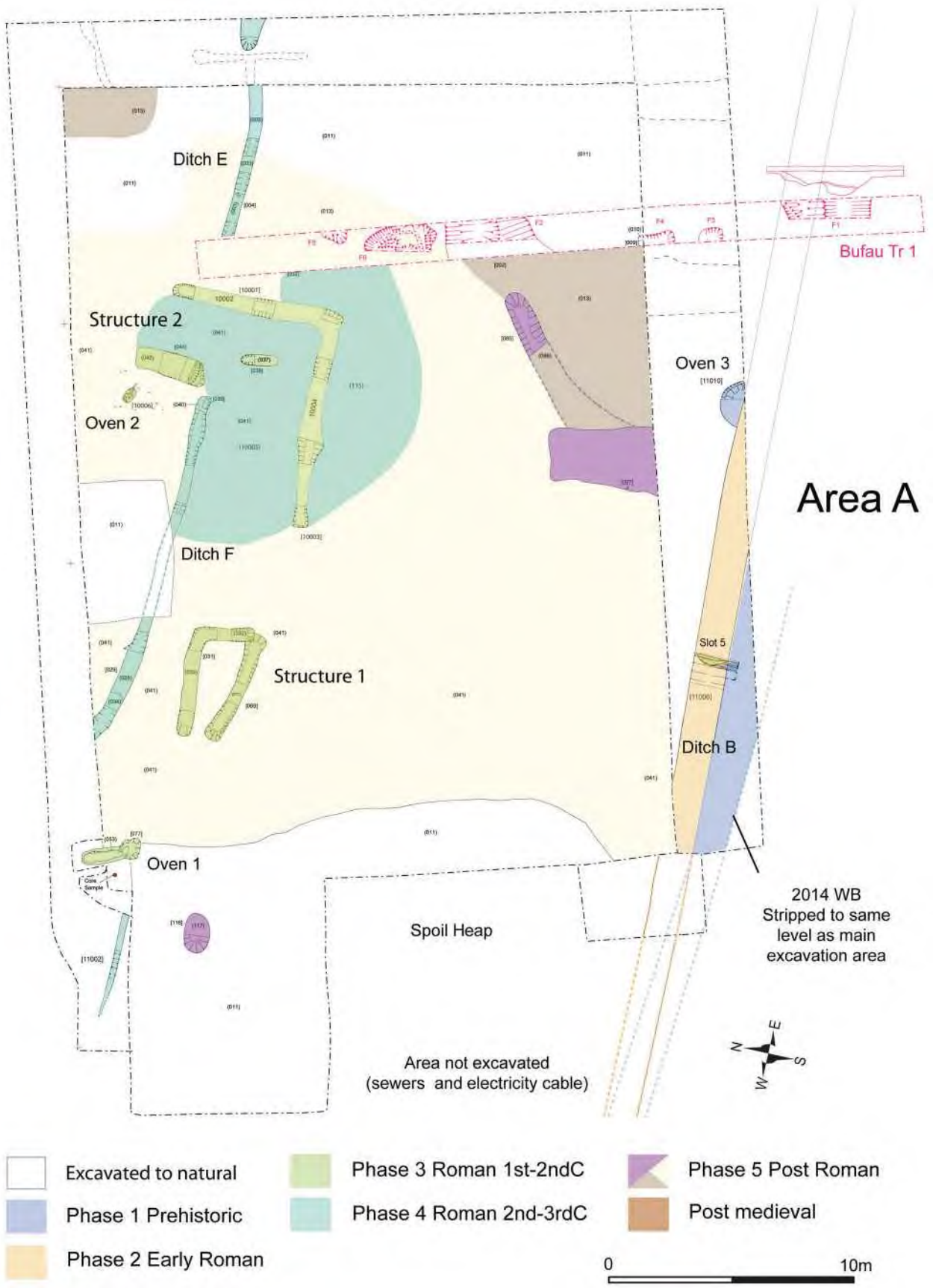
Colour Plate 2. Detail of cropmark enclosure Craven Arms B, plotted against development area with 1975 OS map as backdrop.



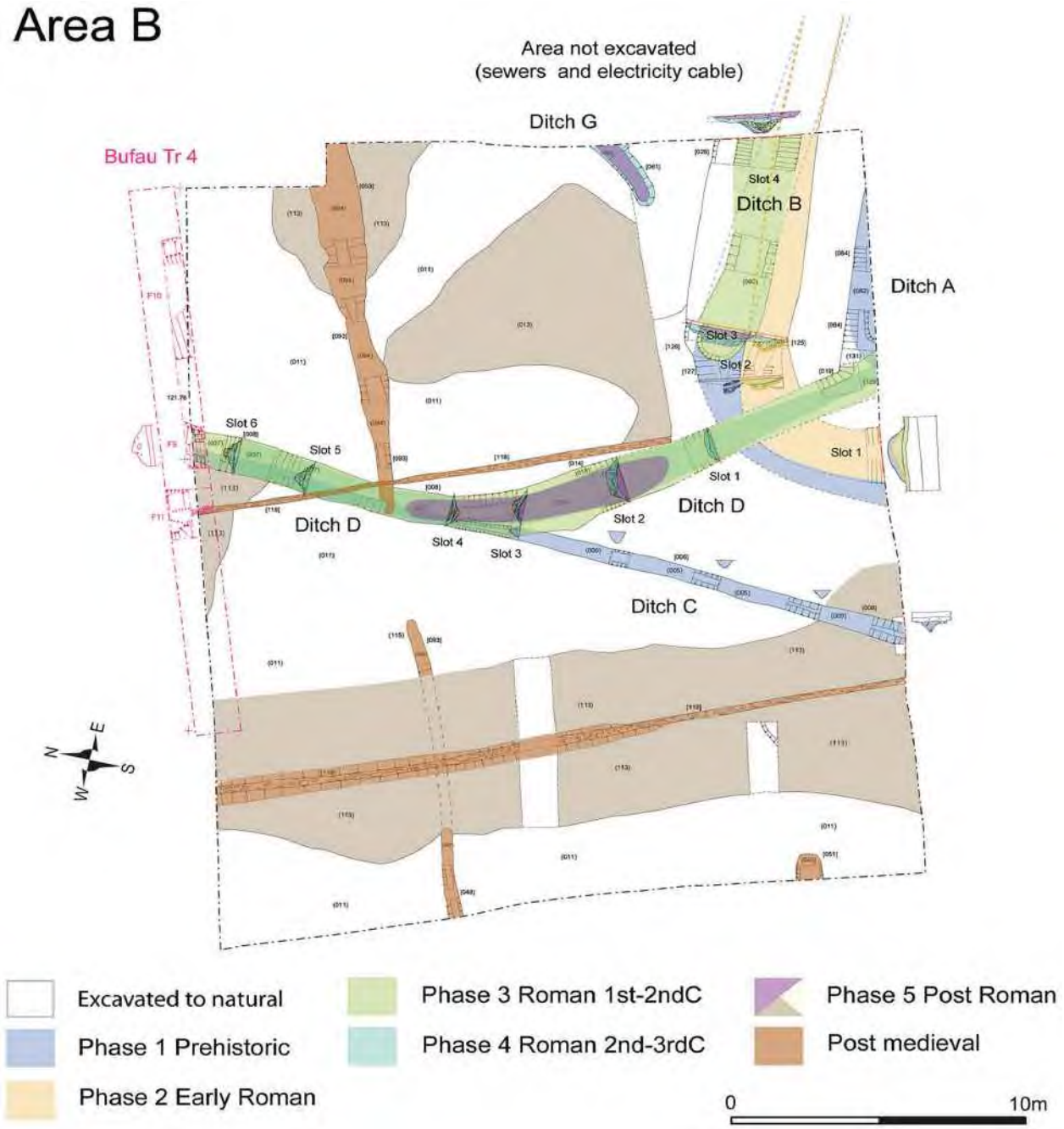
Colour Plate 3. Development scheme (car parking) with excavation areas shown and northern part of cropmark enclosure.



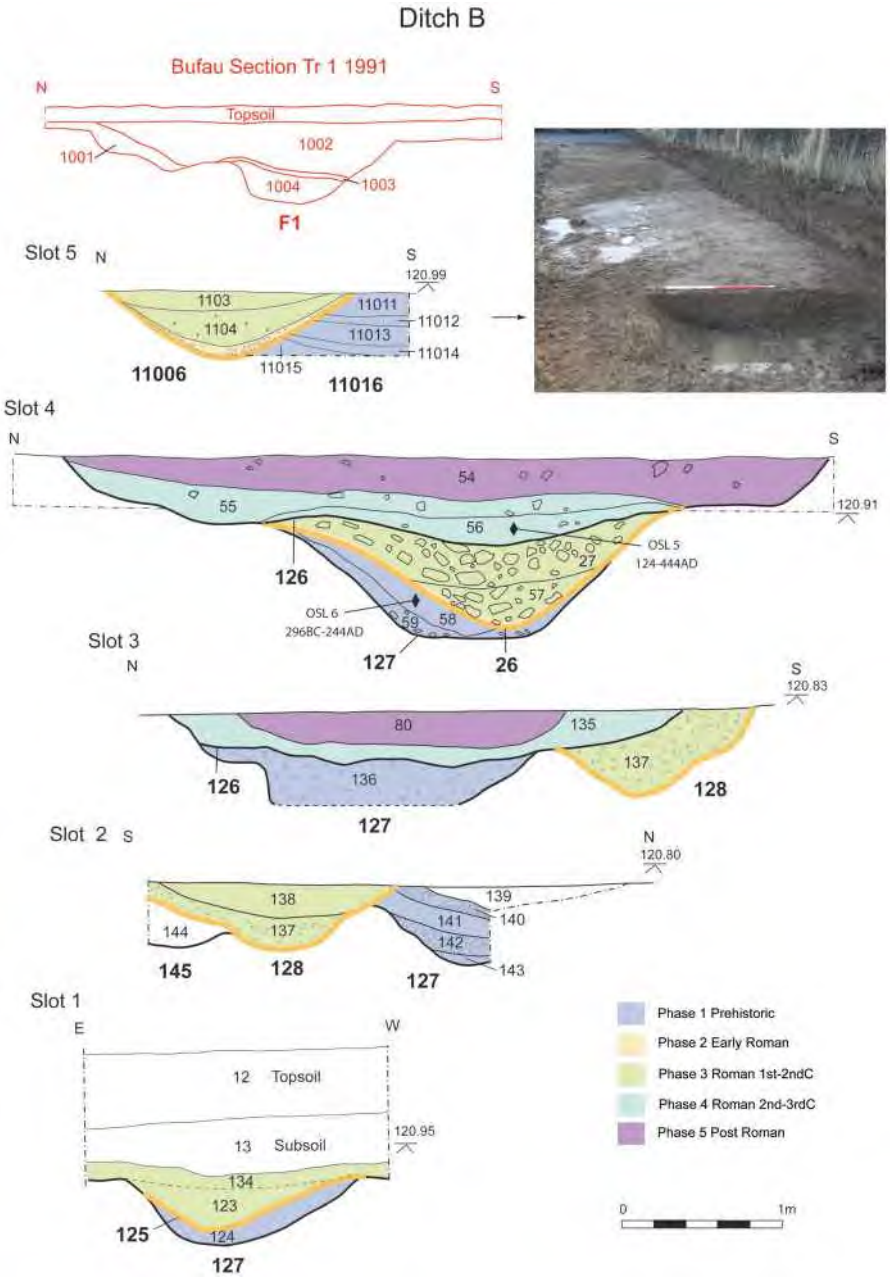
Colour Plate 4. Phased site plan showing all features, incorporating relevant 1991 BUFAU trenches.



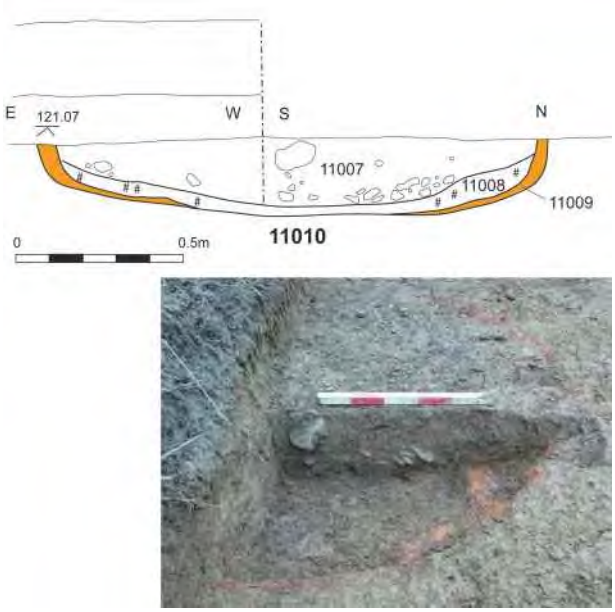
Colour Plate 4a. Phased site plan detail of Area A (with section through Ditch B superimposed).



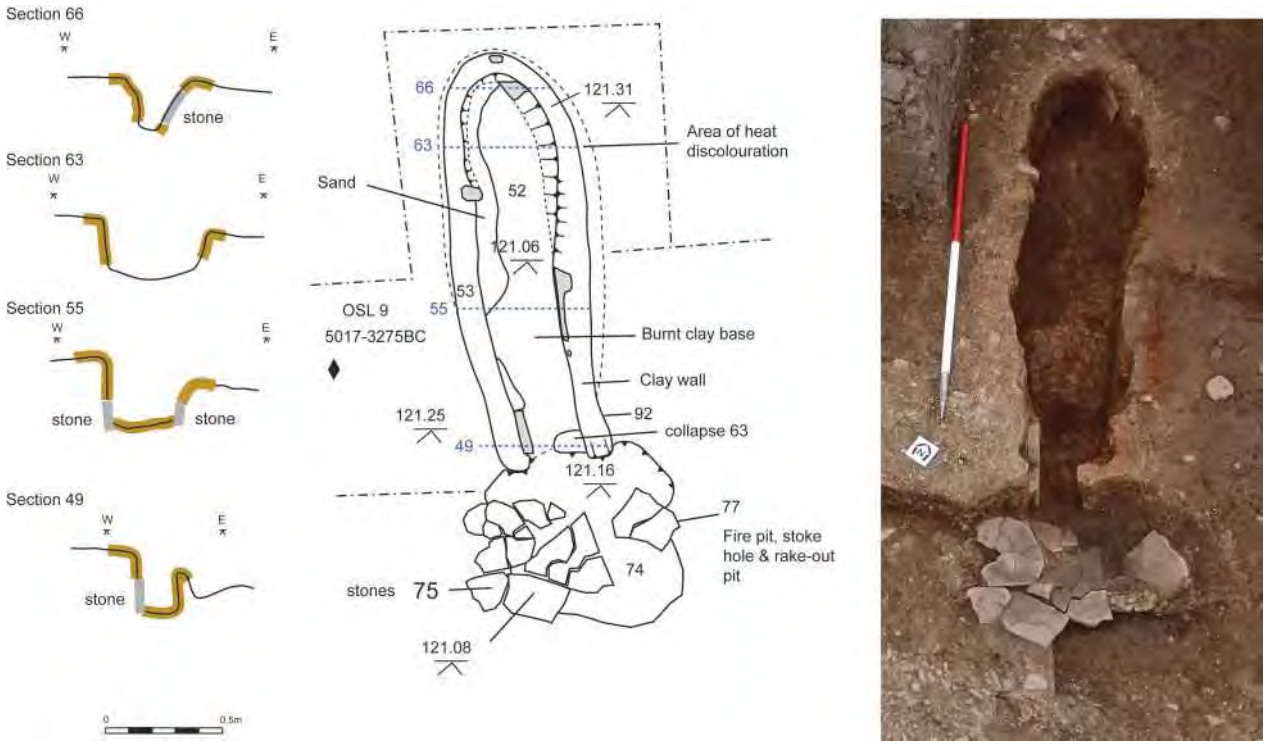
Colour Plate 4b. Phased site plan detail of Area B (with sections through main ditch features superimposed).



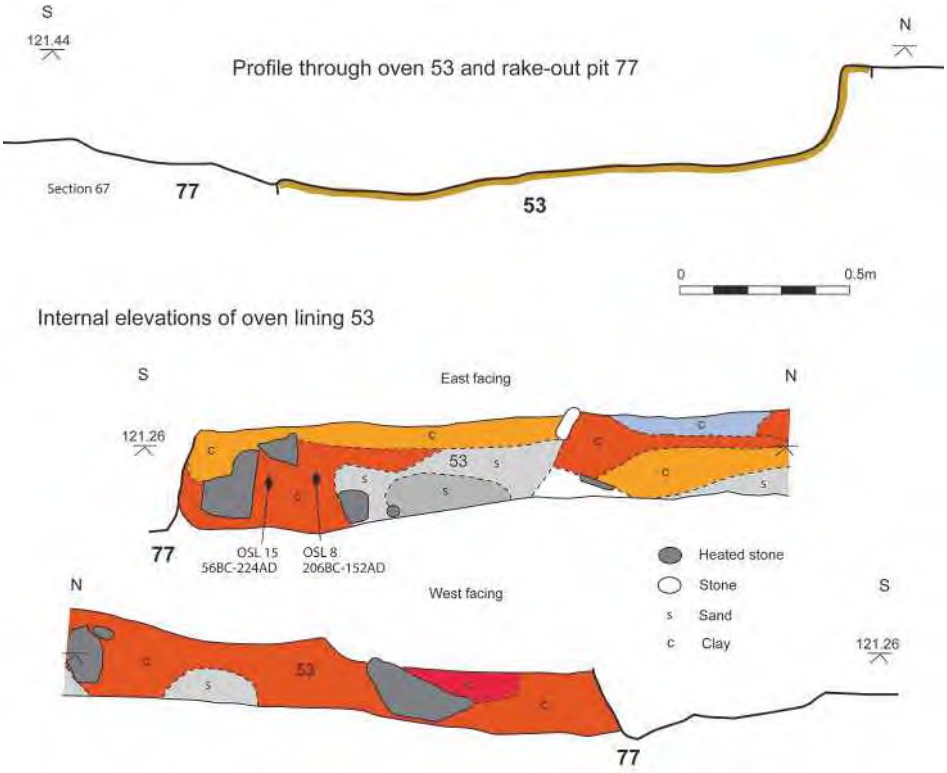
Colour Plate 5. Ditch B phased interpretation of sections from excavated slots across ditch.



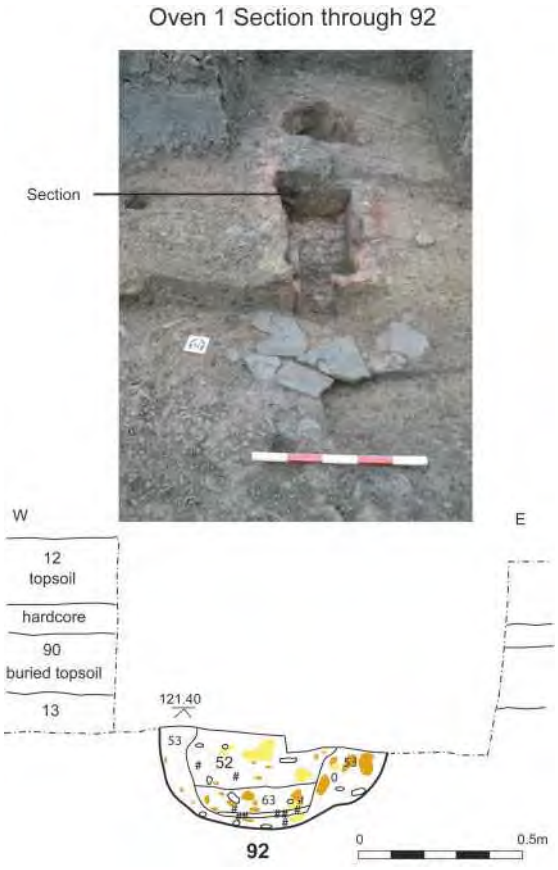
Colour Plate 6. Oven 3 section drawing and photograph.



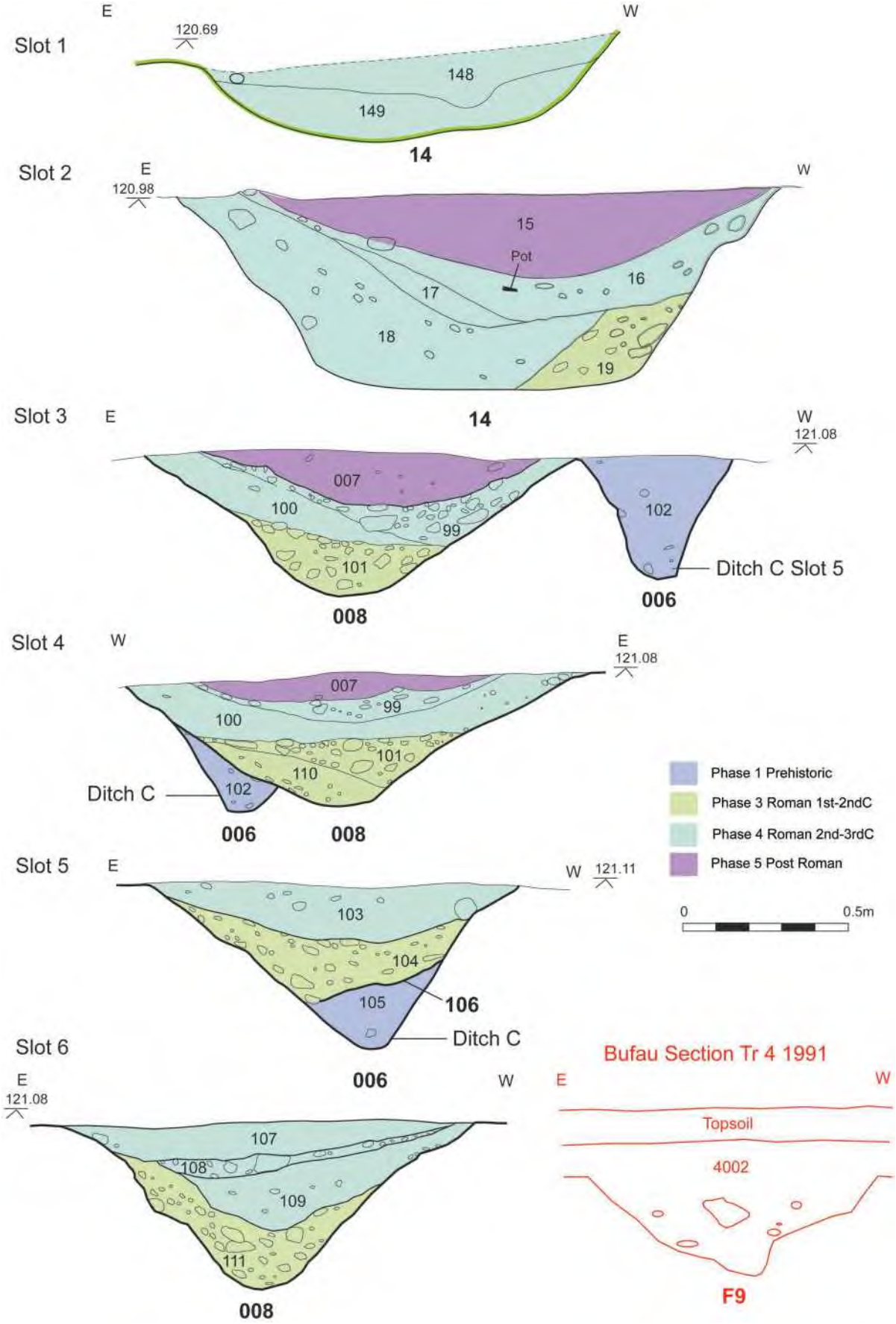
Colour Plate 7. Oven 1 plan, representative profiles through oven, and photograph of excavated feature.



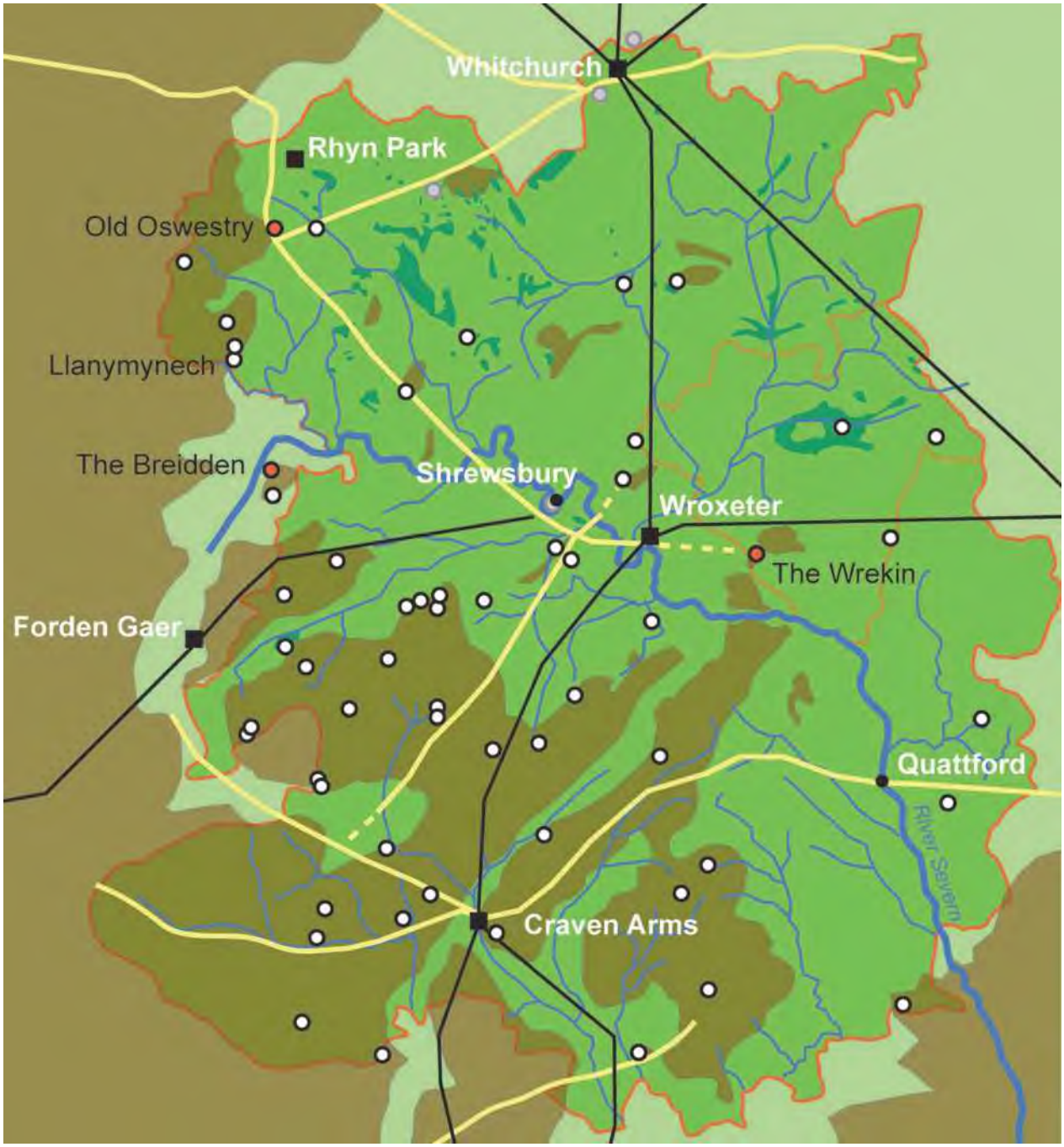
Colour Plate 8. Oven 1 elevations of internal walls showing varying colour of baked clay from different intensities of heat.



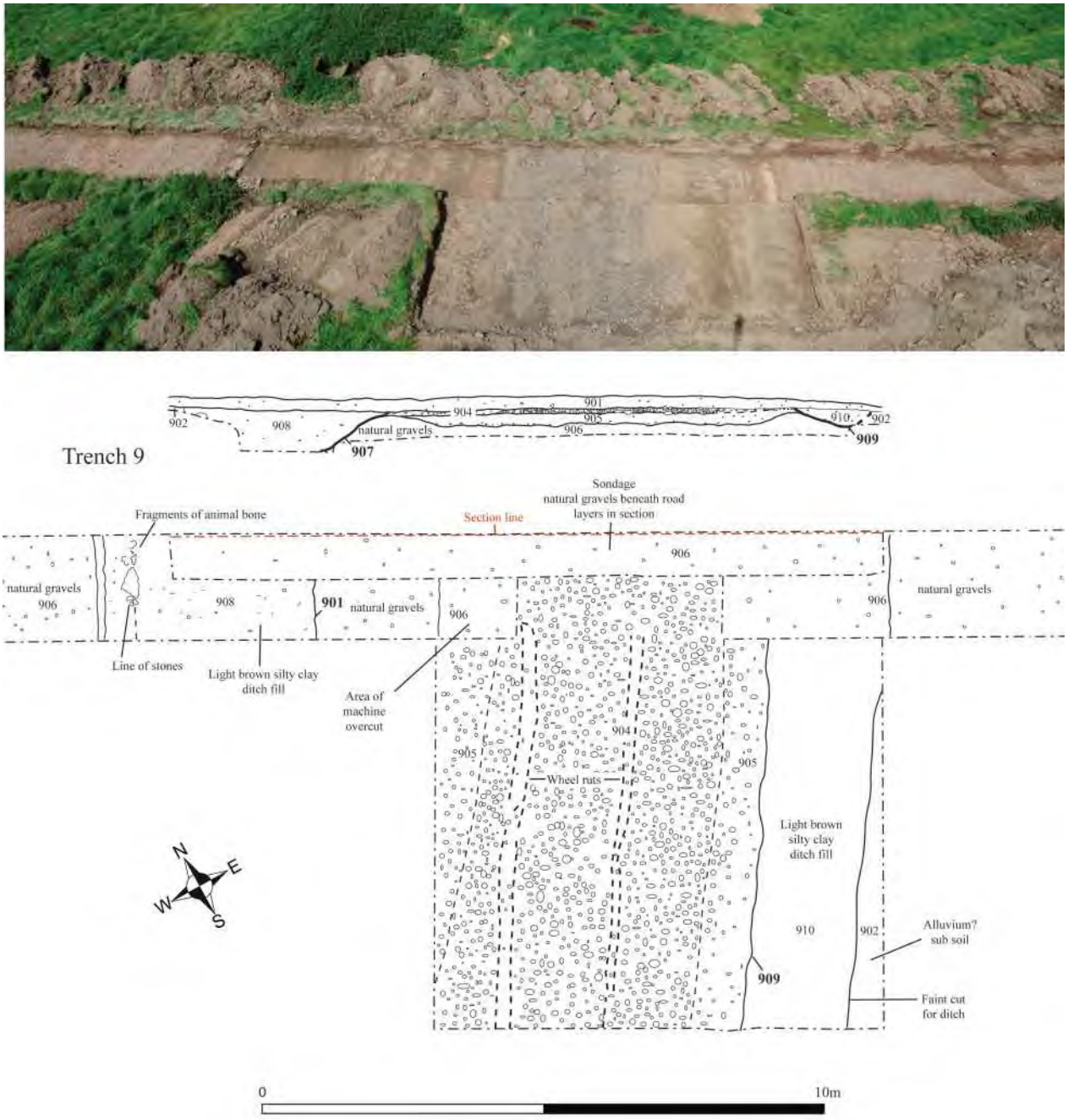
Colour Plate 9. Oven 1 cross section through mid-point of oven and fill, with related photograph.



Colour Plate 10. Ditch D phased interpretation of sections from excavated slots across ditch.



Colour Plate 11. Terrain map of Shropshire showing hillforts (white dots, major sites in red, mauve possible hillforts, names in black), Roman roads (Margary's in black, yellow for additional roads), major Roman military sites (black squares), location names in white. *Created by Caroline Malim.*



Colour Plate 12. Overton Road, Ludlow, excavated road plan, section, and photograph looking north.

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A Short Note on the Epona Stone, Oswestry, Shropshire

By GEORGE NASH[1], MAGGIE ROWLANDS[2] and RODNEY FARMER

The Epona Stone, formerly known as the Pegasus Stone is currently housed in Oswestry Museum. The stone was discovered within a hedge line in 2008, immediately west of the western entrance of Old Oswestry Hillfort. On inspection, the stone was heavily scored with deep grooves criss-crossing its surfaces, the result of successive historic ploughing regimes. At some point in the relatively recent past the stone was moved to the hedge line that flanks a lay-by west of Old Oswestry hillfort. Underlying the plough damage and best viewed using oblique lighting is a weathered bas-relief outline of a house; the date of which is difficult to determine. Such a discovery in the British Isles is extremely rare and as such the stone is of national importance. In this paper, the authors discuss the events leading to and beyond its discovery, and the implications of the engraving in terms of date, archaeological association and meaning.

INTRODUCTION

In December 2013 one of the authors (GN) was invited by Rodney Farmer to verify a relatively recently-discovered engraved stone which currently stands in the Oswestry Town Museum. The stone was recovered during an archaeological watching brief in February 2008 on the western side of Old Oswestry Hillfort, buried within a mature hedge boundary (Figure 1). Its location was probably the result of possible historic tillage/field clearance. It was initially examined by Heather Hidden, Maggie Rowlands (Oswestry and Borders History and Archaeology Group) and Bill Klemperer (English Heritage) prior to being moved during subsequent road works. Later inspection of the stone by Margaret Worthington and Maggie Rowlands in March 2008 noted engravings on two of its faces; one of these faces possibly had an engraved horse. The period in which this stone artefact may be provenanced is debatable, however, it is most likely to be of a later prehistoric date, probably Iron Age. It should be noted that this stone and the methods used to engrave the horse figure are considered by the authors to be unique.

This short note describes and discusses the history of the discovery, its probable relationship with Old Oswestry Hillfort and the implications of such a discovery.

CONTEXT

The horse was more than likely domesticated within the western Eurasian Steppes during the fourth millennium BCE (although the date for domestication could be much earlier). During the Iron Age, the horse was a much-revered animal possessing a god-like status. It was at this time horses were specifically-bred for warfare (Osgood 1998). Much of the archaeological evidence for this time reveals the presence of horse-harness, in particular bits and bridles; some of these items are elaborately decorated. The rise of the Wessex Culture from the mid-3rd millennium BC witnesses one of the first glimpses of the paraphernalia associated with a warrior-class society that included horse furnishings, personal adornment and weaponry.

The image of the horse features frequently within Iron Age artistic endeavour and occurs in a variety of contexts, usually engraved, moulded or shaped onto portable items made of metal and bone. In southern Britain giant horse effigies have been cut into the hillsides of the Chalk downlands of Wiltshire which suggest this particular animal was revered, although the majority of the sixteen known examples were cut in historical times. The horse, along with dogs, bovines, wild boar and *cervids* are the most frequent animals to feature within this period and arguably are incorporated into a number of Celtic and Roman myths (Aldhouse-

Green 2004). Clearly, the horse, along with other large non-domestic fauna was considered a commodity and was an essential factor within the economies of a number of Indo-European tribal cultures. It appears that the horse was used not only for meat but also as a prized status symbol, forming an indispensable part of the warrior's armoury and mindset (Nash 2011b).

THE EPONA STONE

The Epona Stone is so-named due to the presence of a probable later prehistoric bas-relief horse that is carved onto one of its faces (Figure 2). The stone measures *c*.0.75 × 0.40 by 0.30m wide and has an estimated weight of around 100kg. According to a preliminary report (Rowlands 2008), the geology of the stone is a cross-bedded Namurian Cefn y Fedw sandstone and was probably glacially-transported from a local source. The reverse face displays a large number of linear incision marks, the majority of which may be the result of successive scoring produced from a metal ploughshare during historical times.[3] Alternatively, but in our view unlikely, is that they represent glacially-scored striations; other unlikely suggestions include rune inscriptions, saw-marks, incisions formed by arrow sharpening and tally marks.

Initial inspection recognised several important engraving elements. The horse outline, located within the central section of one face appears to have been fully-shaped by human agency. Arguably though, it is probable that the original surface (a thin unit of hard mudstone) immediately around the horse outline had, during later prehistory, eroded away naturally, with the exception of the crust that survives immediately above the horse's back. It is more than likely that the natural crust formed an ideal shape for an artist to form a bas-relief image of the side view of the torso, legs and the head of a horse. Various attributes that distinguish a horse-shape can be clearly identified including an ear, the shape of the crest, forehead, muzzle, and the back (including the croup, dock and withers).

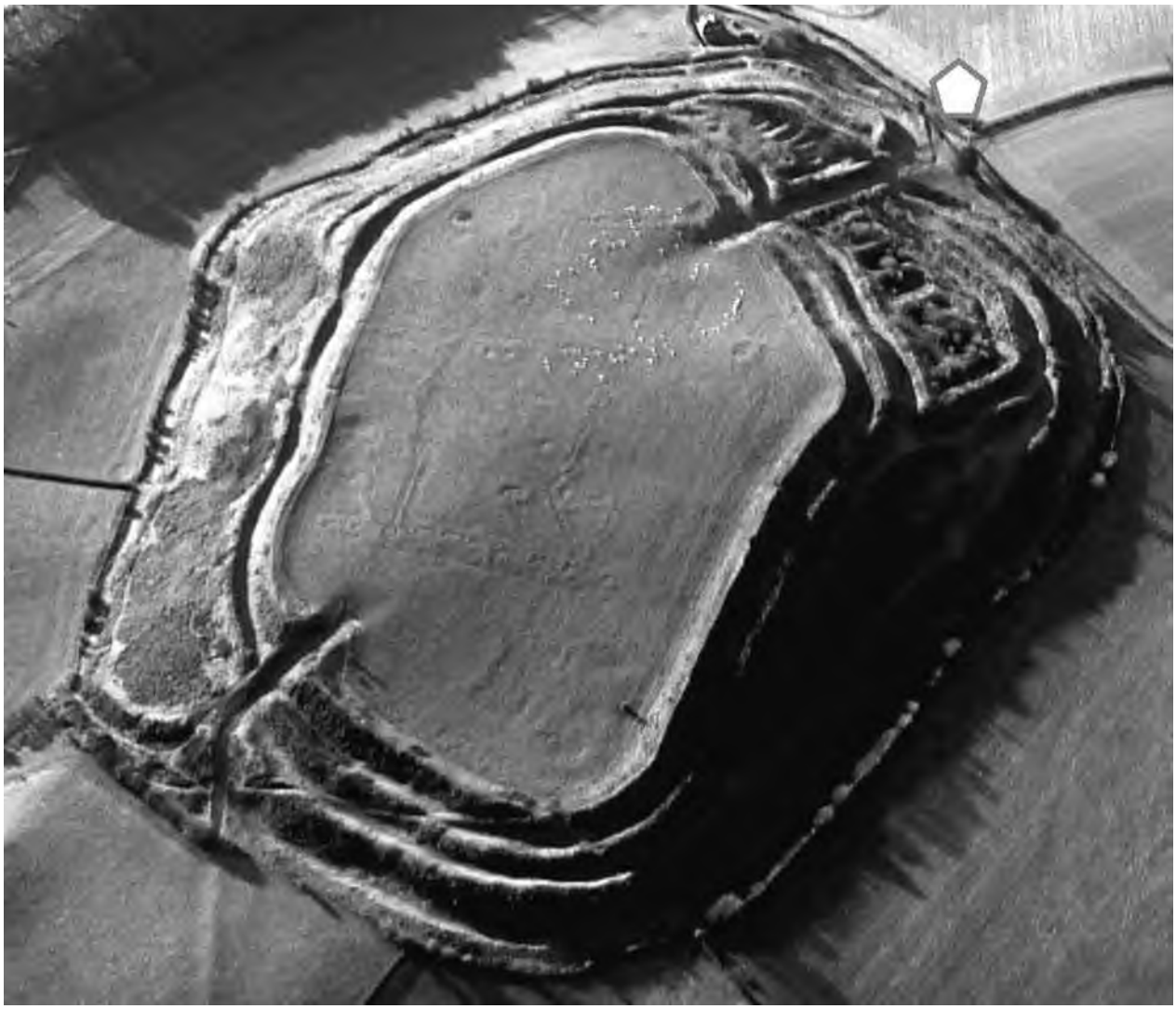

Figure 1 The location of the Epona Stone, prior to discovery in 2008. *Photograph: Alastair Reid*.

Figure 2 The central section of the Epona Stone showing the torso, legs and head of a horse. *Photograph: Rodney Farmer*.

The authors have identified two engraving techniques: bas-relief and incision; the latter using a metal tool. Indeed some area of the bas-relief appears to have been enhanced using this method of engraving. The use of such a method indicates that the panel could date as far back as the Early Bronze Age when metal objects for cutting and engraving are in circulation (*c*.2500–1500 BCE).

Between fifteen and twenty horizontal lines, probably plough-marks extend across the face, terminating to the right of the bas-relief line that forms the chest and shoulder of the horse. A distinctive incision line forms the withers, back and croup. This line is a clear intentional act of carving by an artist which successfully ties-in the head with the upper torso; it is certainly not natural or accidental. Despite the numerous plough-mark incisions, several other patinated linear marks are considered recent additions which are probably the result of damage caused by a toothed ditching bucket of a mechanical excavator, used during groundworks around the western section of the hillfort.[4]

One incision appears to run diagonally from an area above the back of the horse and terminates on the horse's crest. This incision is probably the result of the stone being turned and encountering further plough-mark scoring. Despite the damage made to both faces, the bas-relief horse engraving is clearly visible; both the bas-relief engraving and the (later) plough damage represent two distinct phases.

FUTURE TREATMENT AND RESEARCH

Given its potential rarity, the Epona Stone is of national importance. As far as the authors are aware there are no other engraved stones of this significance within the Marches region that date from the Iron Age, Roman or Early Medieval period. A proposed tracing programme to be undertaken at the museum of all surfaces using the *Valcamonica* technique will hopefully reveal further detail of the bas-relief horse, as well as the ploughshare-damage on both faces of the stone.

In terms of finding other engraved stones within the vicinity where the Epona Stone was found, we suggest further field-walking, in particular careful scrutiny of loose stones that occupy the hedgerows that run alongside Wat's Dyke, north and south of Old Oswestry Hillfort and within the fields to the west, between the hillfort and Brogyntyn.

DISCUSSION

The discovery of this rare bas-relief horse has identified a number of conundrums that include:

- The date/period of the stone;
- The use and meaning of the stone; and
- The original location of the stone.

It is probable that the full story of the Epona Stone can never be fully realised; this is mainly due its uniqueness, its tenuous association between its style and form and any surviving myths and folklore and the provenance in which it was discovered. Prior to removal, the stone was located close to two scheduled monuments: the Early Medieval linear bank and ditch known as Wat's Dyke and Old Oswestry Hillfort (see Reid and Marriott 2010; Dorling and Wigley 2012). It is more than likely that there was an association indirect or otherwise with one or both of these monuments. Wat's Dyke, the more recent of the two monuments dates to the early 9th century and extends *c*.63 km through the Welsh Marches to the River Dee estuary (Malim and Hayes 2008).[5] North and south of Old Oswestry hillfort, the Dyke abuts the outer ramparts on its south-western and northern sides. The western section of the hillfort formed part of the Dyke. At this time, during the Early Medieval period, the hillfort was probably redundant as a working site *per se*. Based on data present within the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), the area around Old Oswestry Hillfort has, not surprisingly, yielded a wealth of artefacts that date from the Iron Age, Roman and Early Medieval periods, suggesting that both the hillfort and its hinterlands were in use over at least 2000 years (Hughes 1993; Nash 2013). We would suggest that the bas-relief horse was in use within this 2000-year period, if not earlier. Based on the archaeological record elsewhere, the horse is a recurring symbol in all periods between the Bronze Age and the medieval period.

Later prehistoric (Neolithic and Bronze Age) engraved rock art can be considered a rare occurrence in Wales and the Welsh Marches. What survives usually comprises mainly cup-marked rock-outcropping or occasional portable stones with single and multiple cup-mark motifs (known as cup-and-rings) (Nash *et al*. 2005). Recently, Nash (2011a) has identified a possible correlation between later prehistoric abstract rock art motifs and hillfort activity with a number of portable examples being found within the curtilage of at least four Welsh Marches hillforts.

As far as the authors are aware there are no examples of bas-relief engraved horses in the British Isles that date from Later Prehistory. Dispersed throughout north-western Europe is a wealth of figurative engraved art that includes both anthropomorphic and zoomorphic

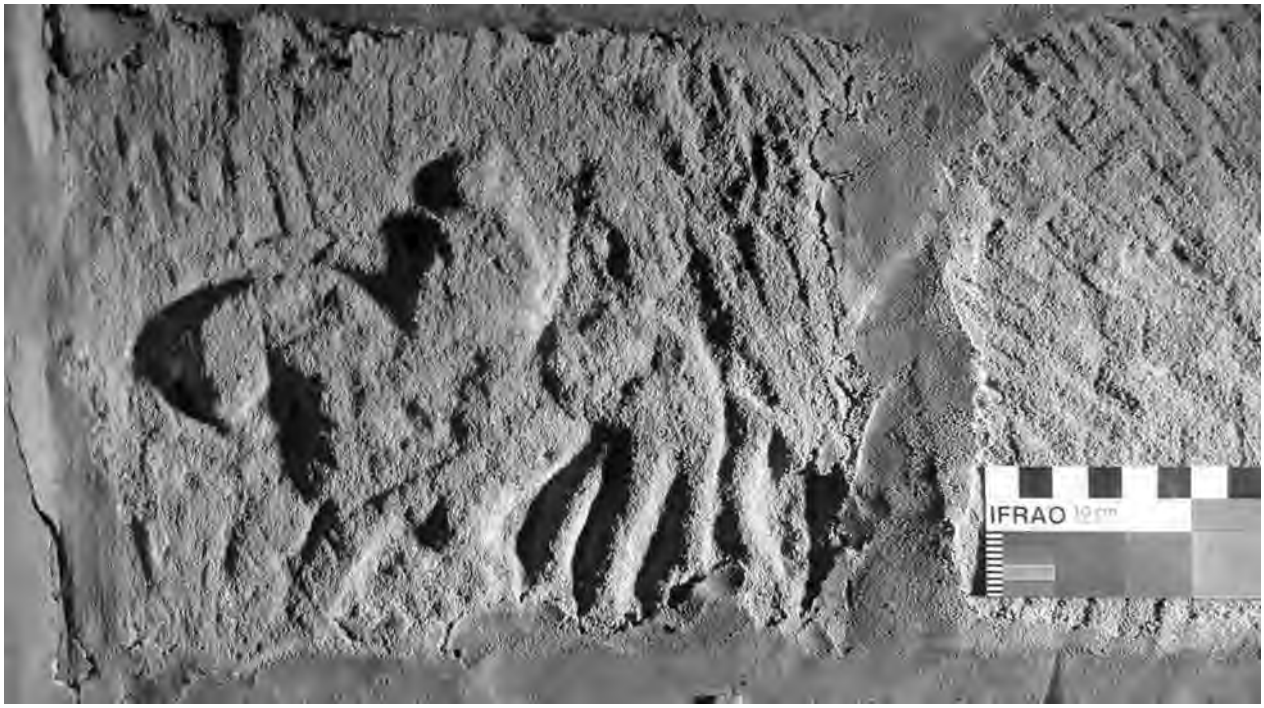

Figure 3 The medieval horse and rider within the parish church of St Edith, Shocklach, south Cheshire.

images using a variety of artistic styles; these examples have their influences firmly embedded within the Hallstatt and La Téne cultures in central Europe. The date range for this phenomenon extends throughout the Iron Age and Celtic periods (*c*.1000 BCE to AD 1000) and the subject matter usually includes deities, gods, mythical beasts and horses.

The horse is prevalent in later prehistoric and early historic mythology and various notable representations are found across much of the Celtic and Roman Europe. The shape and size of the horse varies and is found within a number of contexts including coinage, metalwork, pottery and stone. Gruffydd (1953) and, more recently Hutton (2014) have suggested a possible association with the veneration of Celtic goddesses Epona and Rhiannon.

A possible later association?

There are several examples of horses that are carved using the bas-relief technique, one of which is engraved onto a sandstone block within an internal wall at the 12th century church of St Edith's at Shocklach in south Cheshire (Figure 3).[6] This weathered bas-relief figure with accompanying rider is probably medieval in date (i.e. contemporary with the date of the church). The horse is engraved in an animated galloping stance, displaying at least seven legs. The style is considered to be of Norse influence where *Sleipnir,*[7] an eight-legged horse is mentioned in 13th century prose by historian and poet Snorri Sturluson.[8] A similar figure is found on a 10th/11th century sandstone Irbic Pillar Cross, located within the churchyard of St Dockdwys Church, Llandough, near Cardiff (Figure 4). Although the two church examples may represent a *Sleipnir*-type narrative, the Epona Stone is completely different in style and form, and so it can be assumed that it has a different meaning and is from a different age.

Figure 4 The Celtic sandstone Irbic Pillar Cross of St Dockdwys Church, Llandough, near Cardiff.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In summary, the majority of incisions on the Epona Stone are not natural but derive from either accidental or intentional human agency. Those incisions of accidental origin are probably the result of plough damage, whilst those that are intentional can be considered rock art, probably Iron Age or Celto-Roman in date. This artistic endeavour includes a bas-relief outline of a horse with good proportional elements around the upper torso and head. Many of the outline attributes worked by human agency define the crest, ear, forehead and muzzle of the horse; a clear and intentional line extends from the crest to form the horse's back.

The dating of the stone is problematic; however, according to Aldhouse-Green (2004) horse cults were widely practiced within the tribal area of the *Cornovii* and therefore one can consider the Epona Stone to be either of Iron Age or Celto-Roman influence. During use, probably acting as some form of (roadside?) shrine or ritual display, this unique engraving would have been a potent symbol of a warrior-dominant society, although its original provenance and date and use can only be surmised. The fact that it was found within twenty metres of the western entrance of Old Oswestry Hillfort, suggests a probable date and use.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank Timothy Malim for comments made to the draft. Also thanks to the editors of the *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society* and to Oswestry Borough Council contractors for carefully removing the stone. All mistakes are of course our own responsibility.

NOTES

1 Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol, and SLR Consulting Ltd., Shrewsbury.
2 Oswestry and Borders History and Archaeology Group.
3 One of the authors (RF) has suggested that some of the plough-scoring damage may have originated from a medieval ard.
4 Following removal from its location, the stone was stored at the property belonging to Rodney Farmer.
5 See discussions by Hannaford (1998) and Worthington (1997).
6 See Kirton (2010, 3–5).
7 Odin's steed.
8 Similar figures are found of crosses in the Isle of Man.

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The Archaeological and Palaeoenvironmental Potential of the Weald Moors, Shropshire

By SHELAGH NORTON

This article details the results of an archaeological, landscape and palaeoentomological study of organic samples collected near to the Iron Age fort of Wall Camp on the Weald Moors in eastern Shropshire[1] and highlight opportunities for further research. A former wetland, this area of low-lying farmland holds an impressive archaeological record covering a lengthy time span. Concentrating on prehistoric and Roman remains, finds include a range of lithics and metalwork, and known archaeological sites include ring ditches, burnt mounds and a number of Iron Age enclosures. Although the peat deposits on the Weald Moors are considerably wasted, this research confirms that an ancient archive is available for study (organic samples dated to 8550–8300 cal BC and 6370–6220 cal BC). Analysis of the insect remains provides a clear indication of the Mesolithic palaeoenvironment, and suggests a possible explanation for the numerous burnt mounds which cover the area.

BACKGROUND

The archaeology of the Weald Moors has been seen mainly through the lens of the large Iron Age hillfort of Wall Camp, Kynnersley (SJ 681 178)[2] (Bond 1991; Malim and Malim 2010) – this area of low-lying peat-based farmland contains a more extensive archaeological record however. A palaeoentomological analysis of organic samples taken near to Wall Camp, supported by radiocarbon dating, indicates that an archive of considerable antiquity is available for study, with the potential to shed light on some of the outstanding questions which arise from the known heritage – the usage of the area by Mesolithic hunter/gatherers, the presence of numerous burnt mounds, and, most obviously, considering its size and dominance, the purpose and usage of Wall Camp itself.

THE PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

The Weald Moors (SJ 647 170) comprise approximately 70[2]km of low-lying flattish farmland immediately north of Telford (Figure 1). The landscape is the product of the last (Devensian) glaciation and the area once formed part of the basin of pro-glacial Lake Lapworth (e.g. Murton and Murton 2012). The underlying solid geology (Kidderminster Formation Sandstone) emerges as 'islands' through the overlying deposits of glacial drift, peat and alluvium (Figure 2). The area is drained via a system of east–west flowing 'strines' (small rivers) which rise on the Aqualate esker, flowing into the River Tern, and thence into the River Severn near Wroxeter.

The natural history of the Weald Moors is recorded as a wetland of swampy fen which flooded frequently (Leah *et al*. 1998) and alterations to the drainage are documented from medieval times (e.g. *ibid*., 83). However, in spite of continued drainage resulting in peat-wastage that is obvious in the modern landscape (Figure 3), there are still substantial anaerobic deposits available for palaeoenvironmental study. The North West Wetland Survey for North Shropshire and Staffordshire (NWWS) (Leah *et al*. 1998) proposed that the natural history of the Weald Moors throughout the Holocene was fen-carr (*ibid*., 75). This author's research supports this conclusion, adding chronological detail to provide a backdrop for the rich archaeological heritage.

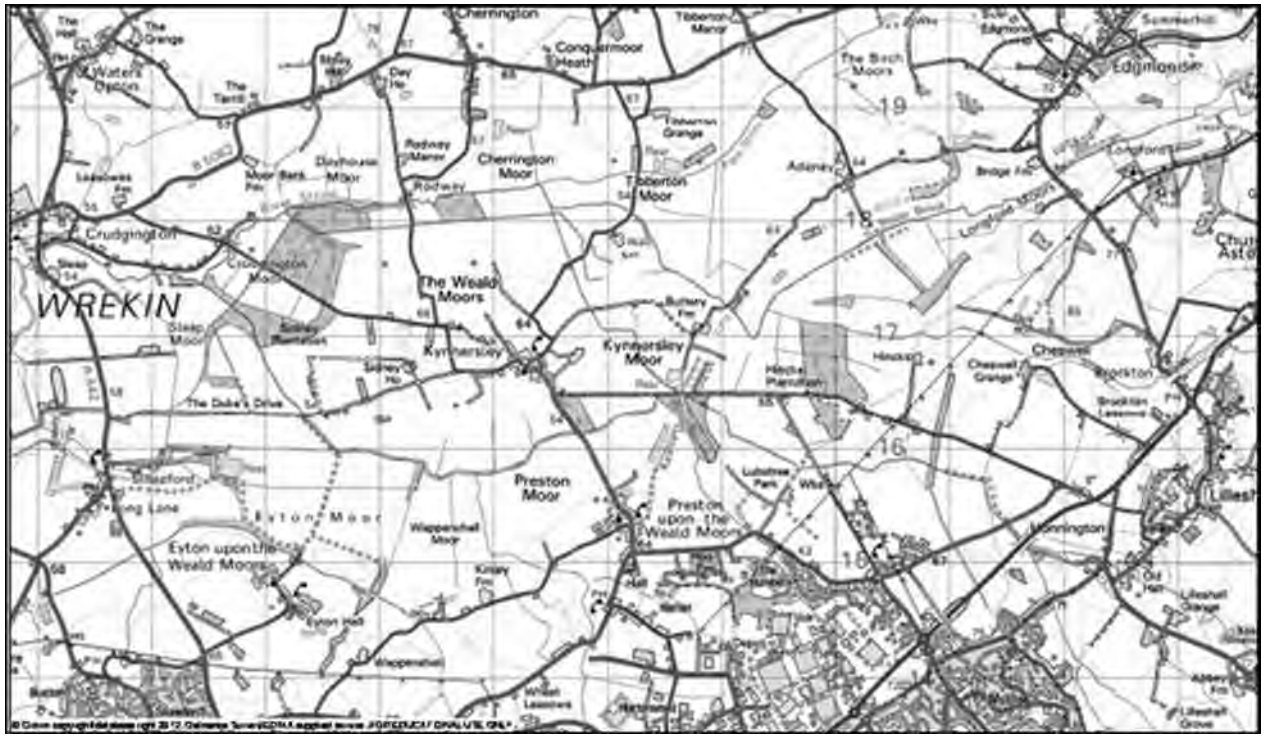


Figure 1 The Weald Moors Study area (Source Edina Digimap)

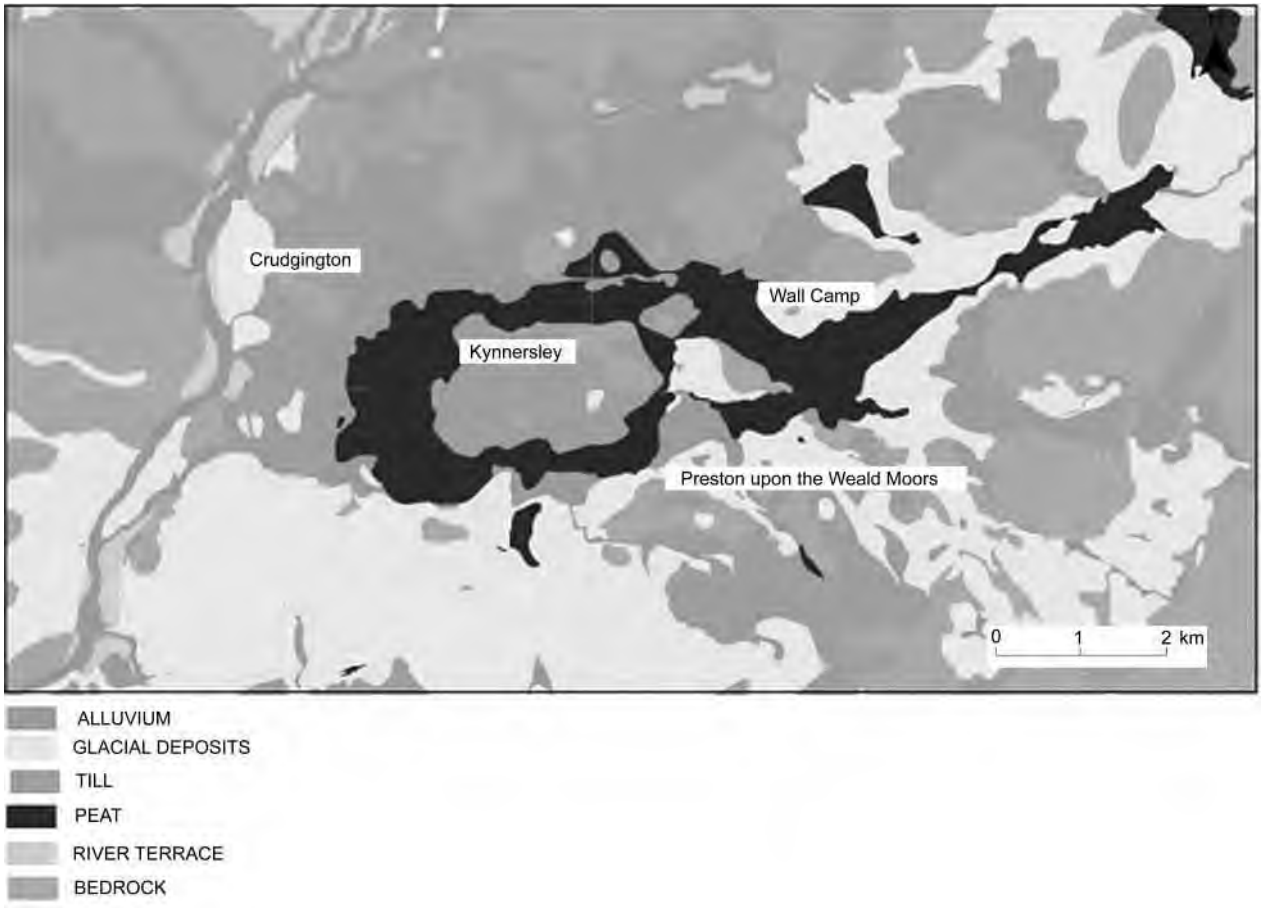


Figure 2 The Weald Moors: superficial geology (Source: Edina Digimap)

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

The prehistoric and Roman Historic Environmental Record (provided by Shropshire County Council), comprises 102 records, and includes a range of prehistoric lithics (37 records), indicating that the Weald Moors was a well-utilised environment from the Mesolithic onwards. The Bronze Age record is evidenced by ring ditches (the northern extension of a concentration along the Tern river valley) and metalwork deposition (including the Preston Hoard – five bronze palstaves recovered in the 19th century). The function (and dating) of burnt mounds continues to be debated (e.g. Ó Néill 2009), but their high concentration (35 recorded) on the Weald Moors is notable: the only excavated example (Hannaford 1999) produced a Bronze Age date, with the suggestion that it was possibly used for cooking. A number of enclosure sites are recorded which provide evidence for Later Prehistoric settlement activity, with metalwork deposition continuing into this period exemplified by the Telford Torc (Slarke 2009).

Figure 3 Root exposure on Wall Farm indicating peat wastage

Wall Camp Iron Age fort dominates the record by virtue of its size (12ha) and monumental ramparts. Excavation of one section of the ramparts in the 1960s indicated multi-phased development with abandonment by Roman times (Malim and Malim 2010, 85–94). An excavation in the 1980s in the interior (Bond 1991) revealed two possible roundhouses and a four-post structure. Finds included Malvernian ware and

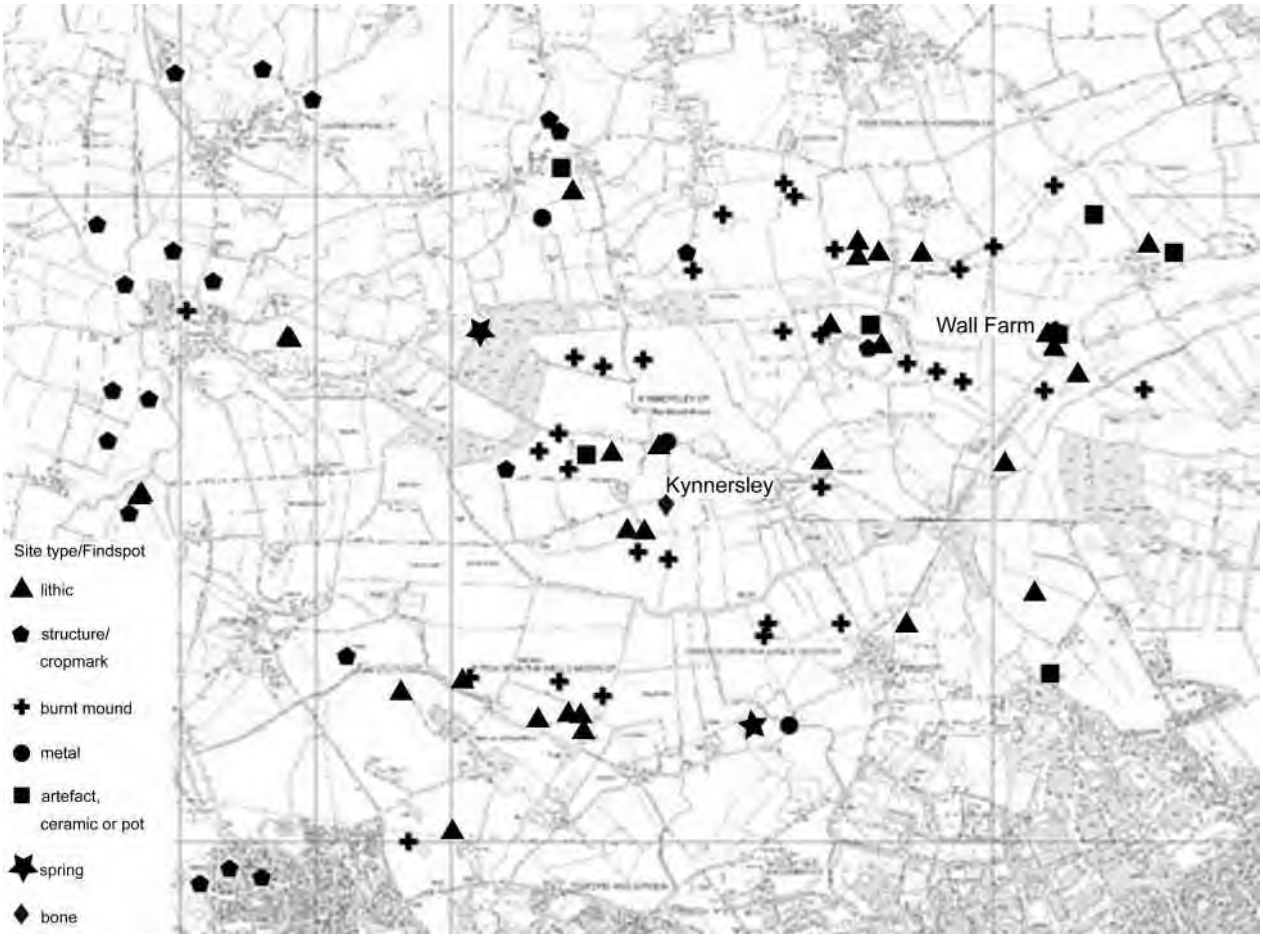


Figure 4 The Weald Moors; prehistoric and Roman sites and find spots

briquetage – used in the transportation of salt and originating in Cheshire (Morris 1991). A radiocarbon date obtained from the interior indicated middle to later Iron Age occupation (371 cal BC–cal AD 53 (2110±90BP Har-6392)). The excavation evidence implies straightforward domestic use, but this stands in contrast to the fort's size, monumentality and position on the Weald Moors, factors which imply an important centre with a possibly wider function. Wall Camp's monumentality and location in a low-lying, flood-prone environment is comparable with that of the marsh-fort of Sutton Common near Doncaster (Van de Noort *et al*. 2007, 172), which, with its mortuary rings and monumental east gate, has been linked to ritual purpose.

By contrast to the amount of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity, Roman evidence on the Weald Moors is limited.

FIELDWORK

The objective of the fieldwork on the Weald Moors was to establish the palaeoenvironmental sequence in the area adjacent to Wall Camp. It consisted of a desktop analysis of the peat deposits (including Leah *et al*. 1998), an auguring programme in selected areas, and the recovery of columnar samples for palaeoenvironmental analysis from just outside the Camp. The augur samples indicated that peat was present to a depth of *c*.1.7m, interspersed with layers of clay and gravel, and confirmed the presence of a palaeochannel running outside Wall Camp's ramparts (whereas the current channel flows within them). This feature had been identified previously during a soil and drainage survey undertaken in 2002 (the darker area shown in Figure 5). The recovery of columnar samples from this area was hampered by waterlogged conditions (a perennial hazard in this region) in the wet autumn of 2012, and the maximum depth attained was 700mm; nevertheless, the results were positive (Table 1).

Organic samples were selected for radiocarbon dating (Table 2) and the remainder was analysed for beetle (Coleoptera) remains; this discipline was chosen as it provides a localised signature of palaeoenvironmental activity, and therefore could indicate possible usage of the fort.

The source of the dating is shown in Table 1. The dates obtained from Samples 1 and 3 (Sample 2 was not viable) place the palaeochannel and associated deposits in the early Holocene, opening up a much deeper chronology for palaeoenvironmental study than

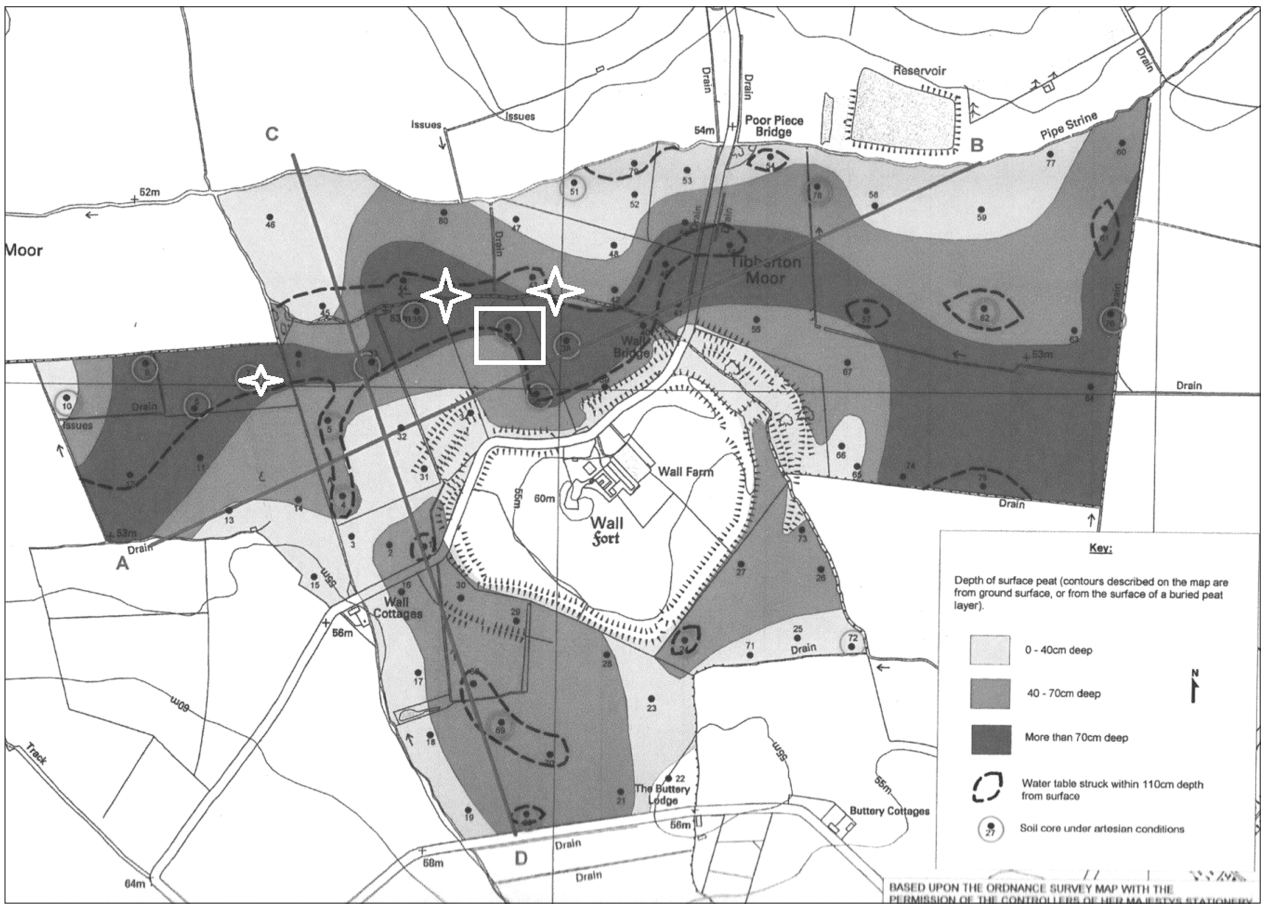


Figure 5 Wall Camp – palaeochannel, augur transect and test pit area (Source: Mike Harding Consultants 2002. Fig 5a Depth of peat and water table: Unpublished report)

Table 1. Stratigraphy for Test Pits 1, 2, and 3. Wall Camp, The Weald Moors.

Level mm	TP1	Insects MNI	Sample contents	TP2	Insects MNI	Sample contents	TP3	Insects MNI	Sample contents	Dates
0-100						turf				
100-200	-	-	-	TP2 <1>	Few (4)	Dark organic peaty soil; very desiccated and compacted with a few small stones and grit. Frass	TP3 <1>	N Y (16)	Dark organic compacted peaty soil; desiccated. Roots and organic material	
200-300	-	-	-	TP2 <2>	Few (3)	Dark organic desiccated. No inclusions. Gritty. Frass	TP3 <2>	Y (20)	Dark organic compacted peaty soil; desiccated. Frass	
300-400	-	-	-	TP2 <3>	Y (24)	Dark compacted peat; desiccated with no inclusions. Grainy. Less frass than TP1 <1> and TP2 <4>	TP3 <3>	Y (31)	Very compacted dark organic peaty soil; desiccated. Plant macrofossils	
									Clay layer	
400-500	-	-	-	TP2 <4>	Y (60)	Dark compacted peat; some gravel residue; no inclusions (stones, bone etc). Fine organics/frass /plant macrofossils.	TP3 <4>	Y (15)	Dark organic compacted peaty soil. Plant macrofossils esp. *Phragmytes* sp. Dating Sample 1	6370-6220 cal BC
500-600	TP1 <1>	Y (26)	Dark organic compacted peaty soil. Frass	-		Stream /Ground Water	TP3 <5>	-	Dark organic compacted peaty soil. Microscopic charcoal. Plant macrofossils esp. *Alnus* sp., *Phragmytes* sp. and *Lemna* sp. Dating Sample 3	8550-8300 cal BC
600-700	-	-	Gravel/Stream/ Ground water	-		-		-	Blue green clay and a small amount of gravel. Stream	

was previously envisaged. Drainage over the centuries has exacerbated peat wastage, leaving a shallow, highly compacted relict deposit of considerable antiquity (cf. Leah *et al*. 1998, 120); similar shallow but ancient deposits have been found at the multi-period prehistoric site of Sharpstone Hill, just south of Shrewsbury (Barker *et al*. 1991). Unfortunately, the shallowness of the profile suggests that the palaeoenvironmental information for the Iron Age is lost. It is just possible that, based on the dating intervals, the Iron Age is represented at the top of the sequence, with implications for Wall Camp's surroundings and possible usage, but further work is required to confirm this suggestion.

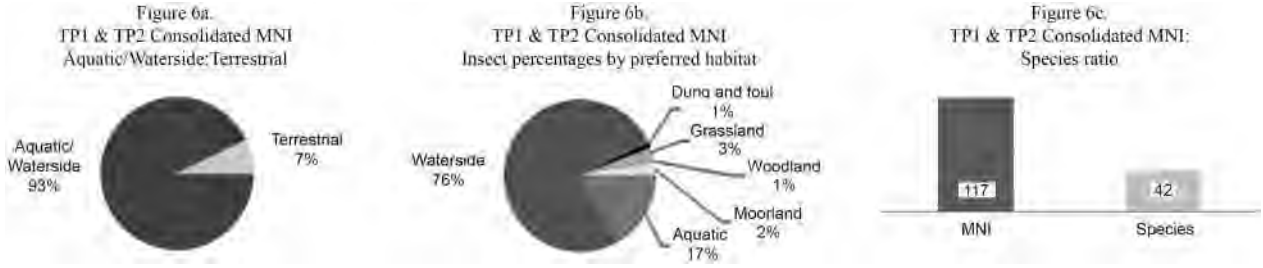
A brief review of plant macrofossils (including *Phragmytes* sp., *Alnus* sp., and duckweed (*Lemna* sp.)) indicate reed bed, with still pools or slow moving water, and some carr woodland;[3] this was supported by the beetle analysis. There are also some charred remains of grass or reed plant parts (at 8550–8300 cal BC). Although none were identified as charcoal, these remains do provide evidence of burning and possible human agency on the Moors during the Mesolithic (Table 1).

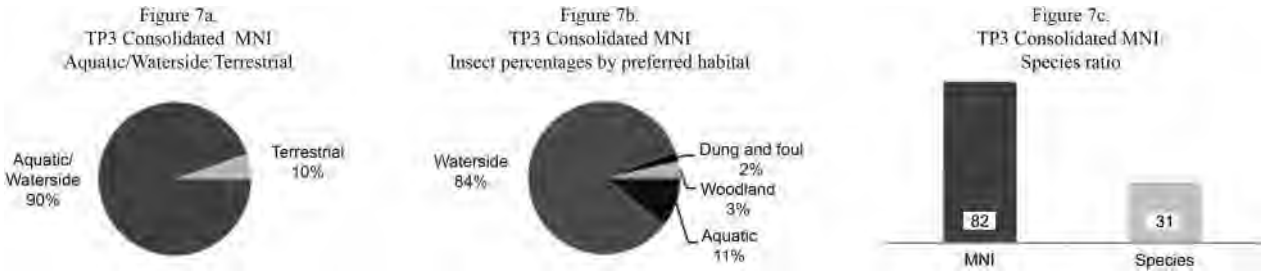
Insect analysis[4]

Of the beetle remains recovered, 75% of the minimum of individuals (MNI) in TP1 and TP2 and 68% in TP3 could be assigned a habitat preference. Aquatic/ waterside species dominate the findings (89%), indicating a reed-bed environment with slow moving or

Table 2. Radiocarbon dates. Wall Camp. The Weald Moors.

Sample	Lab Code	Nature of date	Material	13C/ 12C Ratio	Conventional Radiocarbon age (BP)	Calibrated dates (2σ calibration, 95% confidence)	Intercept Date(s)
Wall Camp TP3 Sample 1 (400-500mm)	Beta-341265	AMS radio carbon	*Phragmytes* sp. root + organic sediment	-27.0 ‰	7400±30BP	6370-6220 cal BC (8320-8170 cal BP)	6240 cal BC
Wall Camp TP3 Sample 3 (500-600mm)	Beta-341619	AMS radio carbon	*Alnus* sp. fragment	-27.0 ‰	9210±40BP	8550-8300 cal BC (10500-10250 cal BP)	8440 cal BC & 8350 cal BC





still water. *Bagous* sp., *Tanysphyrus lemnae* (associated with duckweed), *Ochthebius minimus* and Aquatic *Cercyon* spp. have a strong interpretive role, denoting still water and marsh (Hansen 1987; Koch 1992). *Plateumaris braccata* is associated with common reed (*Phragmytes australis* Trin. ex Steud.) (Koch 1992; Greenwood and Smith 2005:61–2) and *Notaris aethiops* (TP2<3> and <4>) is specifically associated with branched bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) (Koch 1992). Sweet grass (*Glyceria* sp.) is the host plant of *Notaris acridulus* (TP3) *(ibid.); Notaris* sp. also feed on sedges (Carex). *Limnobaris* sp. feed on a range of sedges and rushes (Juncaceae and Cyperaceae*) (ibid.),* and account for the highest percentage in the total assemblage (around 13%). *Panagaeus cruxmajor* is a species which inhabits lush vegetation and waterside/reed bed, with some affiliation to willow (Harde 1984). It is rare (RDB1), with modern relict populations found in South Wales, Lincolnshire, Sussex and Yorkshire. It is found in this assemblage in TP2<4>, between 400 and 500 mm, contemporary with TP3<4> at 400–500mm, dated 6370–6220 cal BC. Species associated with fast flowing water (i.e. some members of family Dryopidae and Dytiscidae) are absent from the assemblage.

Dromius agilis, *Polydrusus mollis*, *Rhamphus* sp., and one specimen of *Hydroporous* sp. are all beetles affiliated with woodland and with aquatic conditions in woodland (TP2<4>, 400–500mm). They are relatively rare in this assemblage (between 1% and 3%) indicating limited tree cover consistent with fen-carr (*Rhamphus* sp. is associated with willow, see also *Panagaeus cruxmajor* above). There are no indications of the presence of the 'wildwood' – the broadleaf deciduous woodland prevalent across much of Britain, including North Shropshire, throughout the Mesolithic and early Neolithic (e.g. Smith and Whitehouse 2005). There is one example of a species that lives in grassland – *Apion* sp. (TP1<1>) – and the 'reed beetle' *Plateumaris discolor* indicates moorland given its association with cotton grass (TP1<1>) (Luff 2007; Duff 2012). A combination of negative evidence for the wildwood, together with a small number of species associated with grassland and moorland, may indicate that an open environment surrounded the Weald Moors throughout prehistory. Several species also indicate disturbed ground e.g. the ground beetles *Clivina fossor* and *Pterostichus strenuus*.

There are two instances of *Dyschirius salinus*, a halophilous species associated with estuarine mud and inland saline waters. The sclerites in this assemblage were found between 400 and 600mm in TP1<1> and TP2<4>, spanning the dates 8550–6220 cal BC. Although only two sclerites were identified, the presence of *D. salinus* indicates salt/brackish water near Wall Camp during the Holocene. This finding is consistent with the presence of salt springs elsewhere on the Weald Moors, one of which was exploited commercially during the 18th century (at Kingley Wich; Shropshire HER 01369).

No species in the assemblage represents a dung and foul environment, however *Hister carbonarious* (TP2<4>) and *Anotylus rugosus* (TP3<4>) could be associated with these conditions (stratigraphic depth 400–500mm, dated 6370–6220 cal BC).

The total insect assemblage is homogenous, showing little variation throughout the stratigraphy, and provides evidence that, from the early Holocene onwards, the Weald Moors was a flat wetland of reed bed and fen-carr with slow moving, meandering channels. The presence of halophilous species in the assemblage indicates that salt springs/semi-saline conditions were present near to Wall Camp in prehistory, with possible implications for both the function of the fort and the numerous burnt mounds on the Moors (see below).

The beetle remains were generally quite fragmented – a reflection of the desiccated and compacted nature of the deposit, and the increasing drainage of the area.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The palaeoenvironmental samples taken during this research confirm that an early archive is available for study on the Weald Moors, which can be used to elucidate a rich archaeological heritage; however, indications of the later prehistoric environment have yet to be confirmed.

The evidence of burning in the reed bed during the early Mesolithic could be the result of lightning strike or human accident and may not reflect deliberate management of the environment. But, when pieced together with the lithic evidence from the Weald Moors and evidence from elsewhere in the North Shropshire wetlands (e.g. the lithic assemblage found near the Weald Moors at Newport (Leah *et al*. 1998, 121,195); ancient charcoal at Wolfshead Moss (*ibid*., 170); summary evidence of Mesolithic lithic scatters in the North Shropshire area (Myers, 2007)), a pattern of extended Mesolithic land management may be emerging, and may reflect similar early prehistoric wetland management as seen in such notable case studies as Starr Carr, North Yorkshire (Mellars and Dark 1998).

Although the dating evidence is incomplete, there is nothing in this study to indicate that the natural environment changed during the remainder of prehistory, and therefore this wetland landscape, with associations of liminality and ritual (e.g. Van de Noort, 2004) appears to have been the ongoing backdrop for Bronze Age ring ditches, metalwork deposition, and burnt mounds, and for Iron Age settlement and metalwork deposition activity.

Salt/mineral springs are recorded on and around the Weald Moors, and the salt spring at Kingley Wich, 3km south of Wall Camp was exploited commercially in the 18th century. The presence of halophilous species in the insect assemblage confirms that salt springs were also present near Wall Camp. By the Iron Age, salt was an important commodity used in a variety of domestic and industrial applications (e.g. Kinory, 2012), however, by this time salt was being imported to the Wall Camp, as evidenced by Cheshire briquetage from Bond's excavations in the 1980s (Morris, 1991). Two questions arise:

- Was salt extracted locally, and if so, how? And why, by the Middle/Late Iron Age, was Wall Camp importing salt from Cheshire?
- What was it used for?

In terms of salt extraction, a similarity has been noted between salt production sites in Droitwich and burnt mounds (Hodder and Barfield 1990, 63), and this could explain local production. The many burnt mounds recorded on the Weald Moors are found at the peat/mineral soil interface, following current or previous water courses, and Wall Camp is crossed by a line of burnt mounds. This may suggest that burnt mound technology was used on the Weald Moors for salt extraction until it became more viable to import salt from the major salt production sites in Cheshire, lending weight to the idea of Wall Camp as a livestock centre, using the lush grazing of the Weald Moors' wetlands to fatten cattle which were then slaughtered and the meat salted before either export or local consumption.

However, salt has also been linked to ritual activity (Kinory, 2012. 120ff.). The presence of salt springs on the Weald Moors may have influenced the placement of metalwork deposits – the Preston Hoard was recovered from near the spring at Kingley Wich. Taken further, this may suggest that Wall Camp was used for ritual purposes. Although the dating evidence is circumstantial and the excavation evidence points more towards domestic use, the insect assemblage provides no evidence for grazing animals or a human presence. Further work is in hand to obtain deposits of Iron Age date, taking the debate for the use of Wall Camp to the next level, and establishing whether the similarities with the marsh-fort at Sutton Common are more than just superficial (Van de Noort *et al*. 2007).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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NOTES

1 Administrative county: Telford and Wrekin.
2 Shropshire HER No. 01108; Scheduled Monument No. 1020282.
3 Dr W. Smith, University of Birmingham, personal communication.
4 For the MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) recovered from each sample, see Table 1. Processing follows Kenward (1980); classification follows Lucht (1987); habitat preference follows Robinson (1981, 1983). For a full species list, see Norton 2013, Appendix 6, p 170.

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James Pickering and the Search for Cropmarks in Shropshire: A Personal Memoir

By ROBERT F. HARTLEY

The results of aerial surveys – mainly photographs of cropmarks – are frequently used as the starting point excavations and other studies. However the process of finding this information is generally ignored, and the practitioners who have carried out the aerial surveys are sometimes not even mentioned in reports. The author was fortunate in being invited to join many flights made by the late Jim Pickering, who at his own expense carried out reconnaissance over the Midlands for more than three decades, and recorded many new discoveries which he made available to national and local archives. The intention in this paper is to explain the motivation and methodology of these flights, and to give some idea of what it was like to be involved in this almost unseen work of discovery.

INTRODUCTION

The aerial archaeologist James Pickering (1915–2004)[1] was quite a well-known figure in archaeology in the 1980s, featuring several times in *Current Archaeology* and being honoured at the British Archaeological Awards. He was however not by nature an academic, and he wrote relatively few published articles. As I was fortunate enough to accompany him on about 100 flights and observe him at work it seems appropriate, before memory fades, to place on record some account of his work and his methodology, and an appreciation of the contribution he made, at his own expense, to our knowledge of archaeological sites across the middle of England.

Flying initially from RAF Newton (Nottinghamshire) and Coventry Airport, and later from Leicester (East) he carried out numerous summer reconnaissance flights between the mid-1950s and 1997, making observations and taking photographs. At first he focussed on the gravel terraces of the Trent and Warwickshire Avon valleys, but by the 1970s his usual area of study extended outwards to an area bounded by Peterborough, Cheltenham, Shrewsbury, Matlock, Rotherham and Lincoln. At times of particularly good cropmark production he would go even further – to the Lincolnshire coast, Bridlington and Tadcaster in the north, and to Ludlow and Ross-on-Wye in the west.

If sites were showing he would photograph them, sometimes taking 300 or more shots on a flight, and, from about 1970, using colour transparency film in a hand-held 35mm SLR camera. When the films had been processed he would spend autumn and winter evenings in his study in Hinckley, going through the slides and noting the grid references of the sites, using a comprehensive set of 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey maps.

From 1965, when the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) founded its Air Photographs Unit, Jim would send them his photographs at the end of each year to have copies made. The National Monuments Record now holds the resulting archive of 24,291 photographs taken by Jim, and at the end of his life he rather reluctantly sold them his copyright. Duplicate copies of these photos were passed on to the Sites and Monuments Records in up to fifteen counties, where they are still consulted regularly as part of the planning process, and used by excavation units to guide their work.

BACKGROUND AND EARLY CAREER

Jim (as he was generally known) was born on June 4th 1915 into a reasonably well-to-do family in Hinckley, Leicestershire. The family business was printing, and Jim himself would enter it in due course. He was

educated at the Wyggeston Boys School in Leicester, going on to study at Dresden University in Germany. He was there in 1936 and visited the Berlin Olympic Games. Although his own experiences of life in Germany were pleasant he realised that the Nazi party's seizure of power had inevitably raised the spectre of another European war.

After his return home Jim joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve in April 1937, training at the No.7 Elementary and Reserve Flying Training School at Desford (Leicestershire), learning to fly Tiger Moths. He got his 'wings' as a Sergeant Pilot in April 1939.

Jim's RAF career was varied, fortunate and long, lasting (with special dispensation) beyond his 60th birthday to the end of the 1975 cropmark season! This was despite the fact that from August 1940 to April 1941 he was on the besieged island of Malta, flying Hurricanes and Gloster Gladiators against increasingly numerous Italian and German forces.[2] Four of his closest friends died in this conflict.

After eventual transfer to Alexandria, Jim was allocated an equally challenging task, flying newly-constructed aircraft from Takoradi on the Gold Coast to Egypt and India.[3] On one occasion he even flew over the Himalayas as one of a small group delivering aeroplanes to the Chinese Nationalist forces in Kunming.[4] This was followed by a spell with the Desert Air Force supporting the victorious Eighth Army, and a return to Belgium in the final weeks of the war. In between he spent time as a test pilot, based at Benson in Oxfordshire, flying new aircraft the length and breadth of Britain.

His career was remarkable for the variety of aircraft he flew, from Tiger Moths and Spitfires to B25 Mitchell Bombers. He also gained an unrivalled knowledge of Britain's landscapes, as seen from the air, and something of the landscapes of North Africa, the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent.

THE SEARCH FOR CROPMARKS

In the 1950s Jim took over the family business and developed it very successfully, which in turn allowed him to maintain a connection with flying, including membership of the Leicestershire Aero Club. He also remained on the RAF Volunteer Reserve, helping to train new pilots, initially at Desford (until 1953) and later from RAF Newton, east of Nottingham.

Jim's interest in archaeology may have been first inspired by his uncle Arthur Pickering, who was one of the first people to recognise Palaeolithic material in the Midlands, specifically along the Leicestershire/Warwickshire border. Arthur had been excavating at High Cross, alongside the Watling Street, and Jim photographed these excavations from the air in 1938.

At some point during the early 1950s Jim started photographing other archaeological features which he observed on his flights. This evolved into a systematic search for cropmarks on the gravel terraces along the course of the Warwickshire Avon, particularly the valley upstream from Stratford, between 1960 and 1963. The value of this work was recognised by Graham Webster, then Staff Tutor in Archaeology at the University of Birmingham, who published a report, with detailed plans and notes by Brian Hobley, in the *Antiquaries Journal* of 1964.

This paper, 'Aerial Reconnaissance over the Warwickshire Avon'[5] is one of Jim's most substantial contributions to published archaeology. The work also made use of numerous photographs taken by Arnold

Figure 1 James Pickering at Leicestershire Aero Club, 1988.

Baker, based at Pershore, and covering the lower reaches of the valley. Arnold and Jim did some flying together and learned a great deal from each other.

In the 1960s Jim gradually extended his flying area to include Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Rutland, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. As noted above, he began contributing photographs to the RCHM(E) Air Photographs Library, and giving illustrated talks on his finds to CBA groups and local societies.

Jim was still on the RAF Volunteer Reserve at RAF Newton, and also went on their Summer Camps, giving him the chance to monitor sites over a wider area. In the summer of 1974, in a six-week period he flew almost daily from Shawbury (near Shrewsbury), Leconfield (near Beverley), Benson and Bicester (Oxfordshire) and Cottesmore (Rutland). He had also started to produce typewritten reports on his flights and circulate them to other fliers and interested archaeologists.[6] It was also in 1974 that Jim arranged a flight for his fellow wartime RAF pilot Derrick Riley, precipitating Derrick's resumption of his pilot's licence. Derrick went on to record and map hundreds of sites eastwards from Sheffield revealing a previously unsuspected prehistoric landscape over a wide area between Retford and Doncaster.[7]

A strong motivation for all these fliers, and others, was the need to record sites which were being destroyed, most notably by gravel quarrying which was supplying aggregate for roads and buildings. The threat had been succinctly pointed out by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments in their publication *A Matter of Time* in 1960.[8] That threat was even greater than we realised. To take just one example, the gravel terraces around Alrewas, which had large arable fields with summer cropmarks, have been widely quarried and now bear no resemblance to their appearance when I first saw them in 1979.

In many locations, the fact that sites appear as cropmarks also indicates that they are being eroded each year by the plough and therefore contain a gradually diminishing amount of buried archaeological information.

In recognition of these threats to sites and the need to investigate them before destruction, Jim also made contact with local archaeologists, particularly in Leicestershire, where Terry Pearce of the County Museum Service's Archaeology Unit accompanied him on several flights in 1976–7, and the results of his surveys were passed to the Sites and Monuments Record which was being created by other staff of Leicestershire Museums.

The period from the 1960s to the 1990s saw arable farming extended widely across England, with evenly-spaced, beautifully consistent modern varieties of cereals allowing any variations in the subsoil to create clearly visible marks. Changes in agricultural policies appear since to have gradually reduced the acreage of cereals, with farmers being encouraged to embrace set-aside and diversification. A surprisingly large number of fishing lakes have also replaced former ploughland. This is in addition to the slow but continuing spread of housing, roads, distribution centres and golf courses, and even the creation of a new National Forest in Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

THE PATTERN OF RECONNAISSANCE

The short reports that Jim produced between 1973 and 1979 give us an idea of his programme of reconnaissance.[9] From August 1979 onwards he regularly invited me to join him and I have kept a record of the majority of his summer cropmark flights from then until 1996. He believed in regular and repeated observation throughout each summer. In July and early August there would usually be one flight a week, and if cropmarks started to appear in profusion this would increase to flights on two or three successive days at a time. At such times he occasionally pressed on to Yorkshire or Gloucestershire and even Herefordshire

Some parts of his flying area (notably around Birmingham/Coventry and East Midlands Airports) lay within controlled air space, and could not easily be visited. Jim rarely found it worthwhile to make special arrangements to get into these zones. Although there were several Military Air Training Zones, mainly on the Lincolnshire side of his search area, access could usually be arranged quite easily at weekends. Some parts, such as the built-up areas of Birmingham, Nottingham, Leicester and other towns, clearly had almost no potential to produce cropmark information.

This left the rural areas, with farmland, mainly arable, over a variety of geologies. Most of the marks appear because buried ditches contain soil which is more moisture-retentive than the surrounding subsoil. Cropmarks therefore are produced most usually on free-draining soils, especially gravel terraces along the major rivers and the Fen edge. (The first cropmark photo that I know of in this area was of the cursus at Barnack, near Stamford in 1935[10] and it still shows regularly each year.) Limestones and some sandstones can also produce a bonanza of cropmarks in dry summers, but often reveal nothing. Claylands seldom reveal anything at all, and as an example it took Jim over 30 years of regular searches before part of the Roman town at High Cross in Leicestershire finally showed as a cropmark.

At the time of our flights, wheat and barley were the dominant cereal crops and produced most of the information. Sugar beet sometimes provided cropmarks late in the summer. In dry summers parched grassland also revealed sites. In practice, the landscape is a kaleidoscope of fields which are planted with different crops each year, on different geologies and experiencing

different weather conditions. The appearance of cropmarks cannot be accurately predicted. One has to monitor the landscape and see what appears. Jim would search these fields and observe and record any information which seemed to offer clues to the past.

The ripening of cereal crops produces a dramatic change in the colour of the fields. If cropmarks are going to appear it will be during this period of change, which may take several weeks, or may happen virtually in a day. When an area is experiencing the right conditions at the right time hundreds of marks may appear and disappear within a few days. To get the most from this harvest the photographer needs to carry out repeated observation and when information appears to record it quickly.

Jim's method of searching was to visit the 'hotspots' on a regular basis, and when information started to appear he would extend the search out into adjacent areas. Some places were visited frequently as they were at the centre of a concentration of summer cropmarks. In Lincolnshire, for example, we would often visit Market Deeping, Billingborough, Sleaford and Long Bennington, and in Nottinghamshire the Cromwell Villa. In Northamptonshire we might head for Stowe Nine Churches and then the Nene Valley around Thrapston.

In Warwickshire there is the Dunsmore area and the Avon Valley around Stratford. Heading north of the Birmingham Air Traffic Control Zone over Staffordshire we would look at Alrewas and King's Bromley, and perhaps continue to Wroxeter in Shropshire and maybe Ludlow, returning on a southerly course to take in the Severn Valley from Worcester to Tewkesbury and the low-lying basin to the south of Evesham. If sites started to appear in less-visited areas to either side we might divert to investigate in more detail.

Shorter flights, perhaps in less reliable weather conditions, might check if anything was showing on the gravel 'islands' in South West Leicestershire, or the limestones of Rutland.

ON A FLIGHT

As one of the archaeological team of Leicestershire County Council I was in the fortunate position of being allowed to join Jim on his flights at almost any time. A lot of the flights were at weekends anyway as the RAF were less likely to be training. I would get a phone call a day or two before, or even sometimes on the day, if conditions had suddenly turned good. Then I would drive to Leicester East airfield at Stoughton and usually find Jim fuelling the aircraft and carrying out pre-flight checks in his methodical way. We both had 35mm SLR cameras with zoom lenses of about 45–135mm, and bags full of rolls of film. Jim invariably carried a spare camera. The 1:250000 Air Chart of the Midlands always proved useful for checking our location.

Once airborne we would cruise at about 2000ft and Jim would set off , navigating usually by well-known landmarks such as the Eyebrook Reservoir, Draycote Water, the Southam Cement Works Chimney, Rugeley Power Station and further afield Bredon Hill and The Wrekin, as well as major railway lines and motorways. By keeping to regular corridors we stayed well away from controlled airspace and other hazards.

Jim navigated, flew the plane, and took photographs. He did this in perfect safety, but only because of his considerable experience and well-honed sense of self-preservation. For example, he had a standard practice of flying at around 2000ft above the ground, to be clear of any radio masts. He kept out of controlled air space, and steered well away from gliding schools! There were plenty of cropmarks to be found in safe, open areas without looking for problems in the more crowded places.

From 1985 onwards we were usually joined by my colleague Steve Thursfield, who held a pilot's licence and was keen to gain flying experience. He would take the co-pilot's seat and deal with air traffic control when needed, allowing Jim to concentrate on the survey process. This allowed me to take the back seat, and improved my photographs as I could look out of Jim's side of the plane.

We flew with the windows closed, which is more comfortable and far less noisy, and enables the plane to be flown near to its maximum speed. This in turn allows more ground to be covered and more sites spotted and photographed. Providing one does not look through it at too much of an oblique angle the perspex window has a negligible effect on the resulting photographs.

On an overcast day during a poor summer our flights were at times quite monotonous, but it was part of Jim's fundamental philosophy that reconnaissance should be regular and sustained. In good summers, particularly on a clear sunny day at the peak recording time in the third week of July, the fields would be ripening, as Jim put it 'like toast'. We would sometimes find areas full of cropmarks and Jim would make orbit after orbit to photograph them. Circling like this has the additional advantage that the wing on the inside of the orbit has to be lowered, automatically giving a better view of the ground on that side of the plane.

Orbiting has another benefit, because a cropmark is a three-dimensional phenomenon, being the effect of differential growth on plants. Often cropmarks appear much more clearly when viewed from one side or another relative to the position of the sun. The view from a position vertically above the marks is often disappointing, which is why modern satellite photography, however good, cannot replace the best oblique views, even if the site should happen to be photographed in optimum conditions.

In certain favoured areas, just occasionally we would find ourselves over a spectacular landscape of

closely-spaced and in some cases continuous cropmarks stretching across several parishes. Places where I remember this happening include Alrewas and King's Bromley in Staffordshire, the basin south of Evesham, around Market Deeping and Maxey in the Welland Valley, and Long Bennington in Lincolnshire. In the very dry summer of 1976 Jim noted of this area 'the parishes of Harrington, Barkston, Syston, Marston, Hougham, Stubton, Claypole, Dry Doddington, Westborough and Long Bennington, comprising some 50 square miles (or 500 fields), can only be regarded as one single archaeological site.'

With just 36 photographs per film, it was necessary to wind films back and replace the cassettes several times in a flight, and Jim had an ability to do this whilst still maintaining good observation of his surroundings, keeping the aircraft on a steady, level course, and sometimes spotting the next two or three sites so he could plan a course to take them in.

There were occasions when the fuel range of the aircraft (about four hours with the Cessna 172) was not enough to make full use of the day. In the early 1970s he sometimes refuelled at Halfpenny Green near Bridgnorth, and on a couple of occasions when I was on board he refuelled at Bridlington. As late as July 15th 1995 he flew from Leicester to Gloucestershire, returned to refuel, then did a circuit of most of Lincolnshire. We were in the air for a total of six hours and five minutes – not bad for a man of 80!

Only rarely did he need to consult the map, and he had a remarkable ability to time the flight, so that having flown for three hours and gone nearly 100 miles from home, he would have the plane back on the ground just within the booked time for the next flier to use it.

THE DISCOVERIES

It is difficult to evaluate exactly how much new information was discovered by Jim. He seldom claimed to have been the first to see (or at least recognise) any given site. Throughout most of his search area, the core cropmark areas on river gravels had been photographed in the 1950s by Professor (as he later became) J. K. St Joseph of the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography. Jim had the advantages of flying himself, spending more time in the air, and studying a smaller area. He was also a free agent, able to fly where he wished, whereas St Joseph was often following a specific, non-archaeological brief and included archaeology because it was his particular personal interest. In general Jim by contrast was able to carry out repeated observations, filling in detail on the well-known sites and finding new ones in the less productive areas.

Because of his practice of repeated observation of areas, Jim gradually began to consider how widely-separated cropmark sites might at one time have been connected. The very hot, dry summer of 1976 provided an opportunity to see unprecedented numbers of cropmarks, giving individual sites more of a context. In particular he began to speculate about a number of linear cropmarks comprising three parallel ditches, which he called 'triple ditches'. He was able to see how these related in a few places to substantial surviving earthworks, particularly Stowe Nine Churches in Northamptonshire and King Lud's Entrenchments in North-East Leicestershire. In an unpublished paper dated October 1977 he noted that these various lengths of triple ditch might originally have formed part of a massive system of land boundaries, and also pointed out the vast amount of work that must have gone into creating them.

By March 1978 he had plotted out many of these sites and observed that they broadly extended along the Jurassic Escarpment from Stowe Nine Churches to the Humber. A short report on his theory appeared in *Current Archaeology*,[11] and by this date he was also pointing out that the sheer scale of the political organisation required to construct these boundaries required us to consider what he elsewhere called 'A New Model for the Middle Bronze Age'.

In 1985 I decided to publish a report on cropmarks in Leicestershire.[12] I discussed it at length with Jim and persuaded him to write some notes about them. I had catalogued and plotted all of the then-known Leicestershire cropmark sites, of which there were just over 200. About 30 of these had been recorded by Cambridge University (Professor St Joseph or Dr David Wilson). At least one had been found by Arnold Baker, and about a dozen by Glen Foard of Northamptonshire County Council (in parts of Rutland bordering on Northamptonshire). This left about 160 sites, or nearly 80% of the total, which had been first photographed by Jim. It is not surprising that he should dominate the results in his home county, but it is worth remembering that much of Leicestershire then was still regarded as an 'archaeological desert' in the prehistoric periods.

In 1988 I compiled an updated summary of the Leicestershire cropmarks sites, by which time an additional 70 sites had been found, some by Jim and some by me, using the techniques and knowledge I had gained from him.[13]

To establish some estimate of his total of new discoveries in other counties would require a search of the national and local archives and is beyond my intention here. He was clearly a pioneer of discovery in the Upper Avon valley. On other major river valley gravels Jim's contribution is probably to have added more detail rather than many entirely new sites.

More important is his role in areas where cropmarks show less regularly. The total for sites in Leicestershire (mostly found on small patches of gravel in the prevailing claylands) shows this very clearly. Most

of these are in places a flier from further afield would have little reason to search. Jim certainly repeated this pattern of surveillance in many other areas, particularly in the counties immediately adjoining Leicestershire. At a very rough guess I believe we could regard him as the discoverer of over 1000 new sites – from barrows and Iron Age farmsteads to major ritual sites and pit-alignments – who added additional information to the record of some 2000 more sites which were already known. Whatever the actual total of 'new discoveries' he made, there is no doubt that those 24,291 photographs in the National Monuments Record represent one of the biggest single personal contributions to archaeological knowledge in England.

Jim gave hundreds of talks about his discoveries, enjoying sharing his findings with the public. He regularly reported to the West Midland CBA Conference in Birmingham, and to meetings of the East Midlands CBA and several county archaeology societies, as well many local history groups. He was an entertaining speaker on the subject of Aerial Archaeology and often expressed controversial opinions, but this did not prevent him taking first place in the British Archaeological Awards ceremony on November 21st 1986.

FLIGHTS OVER SHROPSHIRE

Although Shropshire was over 50 miles away from his usual airfields, Jim Pickering carried out some reconnaissance of the county each summer for many years, usually making one or two flights, generally in late July and early August. In July 1974, while still on the RAF Volunteer Reserve, he was based for three weeks at Shawbury Airfield, north of Shrewsbury, and made numerous flights over the county. Apart from this exceptional spell of activity, I have records of 30 flights during the 24 years from July 20th 1971 to July 16th 1995.

Flights to Shropshire often began by following the A5 from the Stafford area towards the site of Wroxeter. The Wrekin provided a good landmark to head for, as it is often visible from twenty or more miles away. A circuit of the Shrewsbury basin might then be followed by a continuation south via the Long Mynd or Wenlock Edge to the Onny Valley around Ludlow and then back east via Bridgnorth and either north or south along the Severn Valley. Sometimes this route was flown in reverse order, following coverage of parts of Worcestershire and on one or two exceptionally promising days we headed south from Ludlow into Herefordshire.

Parishes where sites were photographed include (in the Shrewsbury area) Stanton upon Hine Heath, Moreton Corbet, Shawbury, Ercall Magna, Rodington, Withington, Upton Magna, Uppington, Wroxeter, Longdon, Atcham, Berrington, Meole Brace, Montford, Ford and Great Hanwood, as well as Baschurch and Ruyton-IX-Towns.

Further south, sites were recorded on Wenlock Edge at East Hope and Shipton, down the Onny Valley at Wistanstow, Halford, Bromfield, Ludlow, Ludford and Caynham and in the Clun Valley at Clungunford. On course eastwards, towards the Severn Valley, sites were photographed at Kinlet, Quatt Malvern, Claverley, Bridgnorth and Much Wenlock.

Although the objective was to record summer cropmarks, we sometimes did, in passing, photograph upland earthwork sites along the Long Mynd, around Hopesay, and on Clee Hill. Copies of all these photographs were made by the NMR for their archive and for the planning archaeologists in Shropshire.

THE MOTIVATION

It might reasonably be asked why someone would devote so much time and money to the pursuit of cropmarks. Certainly it was a bit of a mystery to Jim's family. I think there were several factors at work. The first was simply his love of flying, which as he sometimes said had been indulged at lavish cost by the British Government during the Second World War! Whenever he could afford it he flew for pleasure, and the archaeological interest added a purpose to his flying.

A second incentive was the need to record sites before they were destroyed, as has been noticed above. The 'cropmark harvest' was always likely to be a short-lived opportunity to preserve a record of fleeting and vanishing sites, and to ensure the preservation of the most interesting ones.

On flights with Jim I also became aware of a third motivation, which was perhaps the oldest human instinct of all – the hunt. Cropmark hunting on a good day is as exciting as any big-game hunt, and with practice one develops an uncanny ability to predict the appearance of marks even before one can actually see them. This probably relates to the colour of the crop and the topography, but whatever its origin it appeals to a sense of satisfaction we derive from being swiftest and first in the chase. Jim had developed this skill to a high degree, and his experience as a pilot then allowed him to calculate exactly the sequence of orbits and course changes needed to record the sites quickly and completely.

Having made several flights at my own expense since 1999 I have come to the conclusion that, although discoveries remain to be made, and online satellite imagery can be a useful adjunct to plotting, the great age of cropmark discovery is probably over. Each year seems to see less land in arable cultivation. Radio-controlled drones will enable fantastic images to be taken of specific sites, but I find it difficult to imagine

Figure 2 Upper Common, Claverley, near Bridgnorth. The corner of a triple-ditched enclosure of probably later Iron Age or Romano-British date, showing as darker lines of more-slowly ripening corn. Shropshire PRN 04264. *Photograph: Hartley 27/07/1981.*

Figure 3 Goat Hill, Clungunford. A single-ditched rectangular enclosure (*c*.50 ×60m) with an entrance on the eastern long side (left). Later Iron Age or Romano-British in date. Shropshire PRN 00621. *Photograph: Hartley 17/07/1990.*

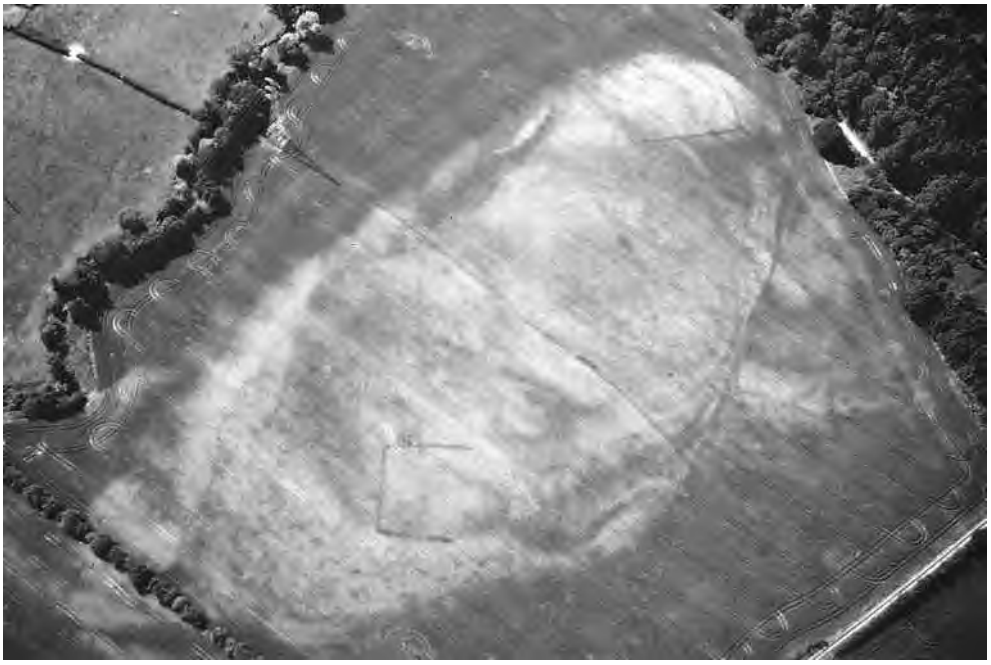

Figure 4 Adjacent rectangular enclosures (both about 50m long) just south of Ledwyche Bridge, Ludford. These two have more-sharply angled corners than the examples above but again are probably of Iron Age or Roman date. Shropshire PRNs 02115 (towards the bottom of the image) and 04596. *Photograph: Hartley 17/07/1990.*

Figure 5 Bronze Age ring-ditch (*c*.30m diameter) showing very sharply in the ripening crop, near Black Barn Farm, near Easthope, Wenlock Edge, Shropshire PRN 00627. *Photograph: Hartley 17/07/1990*.

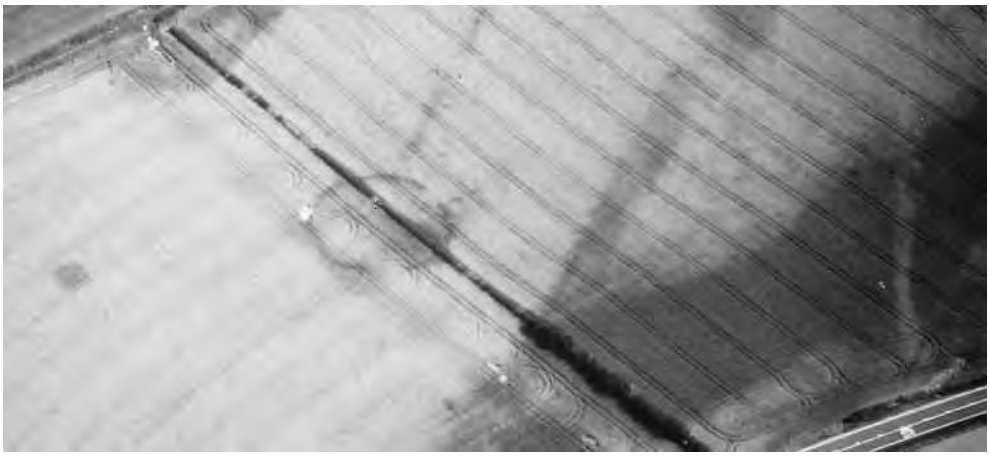

Figure 6 Probable later Neolithic henge (*c*.43m diameter) near Strefford Hall, Wistanstow. Two wide entrance gaps can be seen, with clearly rounded butt-ends ends to the ditches. Shropshire PRN 02054. *Photograph: Hartley 17/07/1990*.

that anything will be able to interrogate and record cropmark information over wide areas as well as a highly-experienced human observer spending hundreds of hours in a light aeroplane.

Together with a small handful of contemporaries, Jim carried out this process of discovery, and was well aware of its importance. In particular he realised, what it is very difficult for anyone to appreciate who has not witnessed cropmark landscapes on a perfect day: the sheer enormous, unbelievable scale of the monuments that were created in the three prehistoric eras and subsequently eradicated during the slow evolution of our own English countryside. He often felt that people who had not shared this experience were almost deliberately dismissive of it, and failed to appreciate what he and his fellow pilots were discovering for them. In 1996, nearly at the end of his flying career, he wrote : 'In 500 or 1000 years' time, the main evidence of Britain's disappearing heritage can only be the air photographs taken in spite of the lack of interest (or even antipathy) of the archaeological establishment.'

NOTES

1 James Pickering AFC, AE, FGS, FSA.
2 B. Cull and F. Galea, *Hurricanes over Malta, June 1940–April 1942* (Grub Street, London, 2001).
3 J. Pickering, 'The Takoradi Route', *FlyPast*, 1991, July and August.
4 J. Pickering, 'The first (or nearly first?) over the hump to China', *Friends Journal*, **15** No.1, 1992, 8–10, 54–56, (US) Air Force Museum Foundation.
5 G. Webster and B. Hobley, 'Aerial Reconnaissance over the Warwickshire Avon', *Archaeological Journal* 121, 1964, 1–22.
6 They began in May 1973 and continued until the end of 1977, when he began to produce thematic articles instead. Copies of all the ones I am aware of are in the Leicestershire Record Office. From August 1979 to July 1996 I have used my own records of flights, which are incomplete as he quite often flew alone or with other passengers.
7 D. N. Riley, J. May and J Samuels, *Early Landscape from the Air: studies of crop marks in South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire* (Sheffield University Press, University of Sheffield, 1980).
8 RCHM(E), *A Matter of Time – An Archaeological Survey of the River Gravels of England*, (HMSO, London, 1960).
9 File in Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
10 C. W. Phillips 'Air-photograph of fields at Barnack, Northants', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 1, 1935, 156–7 and pl. XIX (taken by Mr H. F. Low).
11 J. Pickering, 'The Jurassic Spine', *Current Archaeology* Vol. 6, no. 5, 1978, 140–3.
12 J. Pickering, J and R. F. Hartley, *Past worlds in a landscape: archaeological cropmarks in Leicestershire*, (Leicester, Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Records Service, 1985).
13 R. F. Hartley, 'Aerial Archaeology in Leicestershire' in A. Gibson (ed.) *Midlands Prehistory*, B.A.R. British Series 204, 1989, 95–105

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Shropshire Archives Report for 2015

By MARY MCKENZIE, Team Leader, Archives

20 years at Castle Gates

In July 2015 Shropshire Archives celebrated 20 years at the Castle Gates building. The new Shropshire Records and Research Centre, as it was then called, was formally opened on 24 July 1995. Those of us who were part of the team then find it difficult to believe it has been 20 years, though in many ways the service has been transformed especially with the use of new technology. Computers were just being introduced to the workplace in 1995 and the centre was one of the first new Shropshire County Council buildings to have an integrated IT network. Our customers only had access to one dumb terminal with the library catalogue on it. Things are very different now with over 400,000 catalogue records accessible online as well as images of Shropshire parish registers available through the Find My Past website (findmypast.co.uk). Although the service continued to face unprecedented financial pressures, we look forward to the opportunities of the next 20 years.

Shropshire Volunteering Projects

2015 saw the completion of the two volunteering projects funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England; Volunteering for Shropshire's Heritage and Heritage Heroes. In total the projects engaged with over 400 volunteers at Shropshire Archives and across the Shropshire Museum Service. The projects achieved the following; 124,866 items catalogued, 45,351 items digitised and 14,186 items conserved. A well-attended conference held at Theatre Severn in February 2015 celebrated the completion of the projects.

However the good news is that volunteering has continued following the models established by the projects, with volunteers working across conservation, cataloguing, digitisation and supporting events. Overall 158 volunteers contributed 1,548 days to the service in 2015.

Shropshire World War One Commemorations

Shropshire Archives continued to work with a wide range of county wide arts and heritage organisations to deliver projects and activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War. The website at www.shropshireremembers.org.uk continued to grow with stories contributed by volunteers and other researchers. In September the recreated World War trenches at Park Hall Countryside Experience were formally opened by Lt Col Graham Shannon, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment and have provide to be a very popular experience for all ages, with many school groups visiting from across the West Midlands and beyond.

Community projects

During the year Shropshire Archives worked on a number of successful community projects. These included the Telford Our New Town project managed by Telford and Wrekin libraries and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Shropshire Archives catalogued and digitised over 1,000 photographs from the Telford Development Corporation collection. These are now available online and on the digital tables at Southwater Library in Telford Town Centre.

Events and Friends

In 2015 the Friends' programme included a history day, organised jointly with Shifnal Local History Group, to celebrate the life of Dr Sylvia Watts who sadly died in 2014. Sylvia's contribution to local history in Shropshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands was honoured, and the subjects of talks included Archdeacon Joseph Plymley Corbett and Hannah Cullwick of Shifnal.

In the summer the Friends organised a series of visits to historic houses including Brynkinalt Hall near Chirk and Hatton Grange near Shifnal. The AGM was held at the Perseverance Ironworks in Shrewsbury thanks to the support of Morris Lubricants.

The Friends Annual lecture given by Graham Bradbury in October investigated the fascinating history of military conflicts revealed through artefacts, letters, postcards and family history.

Accessions

Accessions received during 2015 have included:

Telford Methodist Circuit records, 1953-2014 (8963)
Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale Buildings Preservation Trust records, 1975–1996 (8966)
Oakengates Parish records, 19001996 (8971)
Greete Parish records, 1942–1995 (8973)
Shrewsbury Theatre Guild records, 1972–2015 (8974)
Cavan Family records, 17th–20th century (8975)
Wrockwardine Parish records, 1843–1962 (8977)
Church Stretton Women's Institute records, 1949–2009 (8982)
Shrewsbury, Ludlow and Shropshire County Coroners' records, 1932–1944 (8983)
Records of Silhouette, Lingerie and Swimwear Manufacturer, Shrewsbury, 1960s–1970s (8985)
To My Sons: The Diaries of Emma Harding, 1914–1918 (8986)
Atcham Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1846 (8993)
Withington and District Women's Institute records, 1958–2012 (9000)
Bridgnorth Borough records, 18th–20th century (9003)
Shropshire Caving and Mining Club records, 20th century (9007)
Ellesmere Cemetery Burial Registers, 1865–1991 (9008)
Deeds Relating to Property in Church Street, Madeley, 1705–1859 (9009)
Shropshire South Methodist Circuit records, 1977–2010 (9010)
Bridgnorth, Wenlock, Madeley and Shifnal District Marriage notice books, 1883–1968 (9011)
Beckbury Parish Marriage Register, 1837–2013 (9012)
Coleham Primary School records, 1997–2009 (9013)
Wrockwardine Parish records, 1901–1982 (9015)
Bridgnorth St. Mary's Parish records, 1837–2013 (9016)
Mid–West District Home Guard Weapons Training School records, 1940–1945 (9024)
Tasley Women's Institute records, 1957–2009 (9025)
Wrockwardine Wood Secondary School records, 1933–2015 (9035)
Records of the Blessed Robert Johnson Roman Catholic Secondary School, Wellington, 1964–2015 (9036)
Church Patronage Trust records, 1860–1932 (9038)
Papers of the Reverend Samuel Garbet of Wem, 17th–18th century (9043)
Condover Parish records, 2011–2015 (9044)
Whixall Parish records, 1943–2001 (9045)
Ludlow Parish records, 1876–1984 (9048, 9084)
Hopesay Parish records, 1990–2012 (9049)
Wartime Correspondence of W W (Billy) Hayes, 1915–1937 (9051)
Highley Miners Welfare Football Club records, 1961–1971 (9052)
Hanwood, Longden, Annscroft and Pulverbatch Parish records, 1920–2011 (9054)
Ludford Parish records, 2013–2014 (9057)
Baschurch Wesleyan Methodist Chapel records, 1899–1997 (9058)
Records of the Kingdom Hall, Coney Green, Oswestry, 1990–2015 (9059)
Records of Morda Methodist Chapel, 1951–1980 (9060)
Family and estate papers of More and Hope Edwards of Linley, 17th–20th century (9071)
Records of Greenfields Methodist Church, Shrewsbury, 1930s–2012 (9072)
Records of Bridgnorth St Leonard's Primary School, 1946–2010 (9074)
Records of Shropshire (Amateur) Athletic Association, 1947–2001 (9076)
Loton Women's Institute records, 1920–2010 (9079)
Meole Brace Parish records, 1977–2012 (9081, 9082)
Leebotwood and Longnor, Great Ness and Little Ness, Clive Parish Council minutes, 1998–2014 (9083)
Stanton Lacy Parish records, 1999–2015 (9085)
Wace Morgan, Solicitors records, 19th–20th century (9088)
Ellesmere Primary School records, 1950s–2000s (9089)
Records of Severn Trent Water, 20th century (9091)
Much Wenlock Parish records, 1873–2012 (9093)
Church Preen Parish records, 1980–2009 (9094)
Easthope Parish records, 1964–1992 (9095)
Bourton Parish records, 1956–1988 (9096)
Book of Condolences for Paris Attacks, 2015 (9097)
Lydbury North Parish records, 1862–1915 (9099)
Monkhopton Parish records, 1900–1984 (9102)
Bridgnorth St. Mary's Parish records, 1978–1994 (9103)

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Archaeological Investigations in Shropshire in 2009–2011

By CHARLOTTE ORCHARD[1] and GILES CAREY[1]

This article summarises work undertaken between 2009 and 2011 in the County of Shropshire and the Unitary Authority of Telford and Wrekin that was subsequently reported to the Historic Environment Record, Shropshire Council.[2]

The references in brackets prefixed PRN are the Historic Environment Record numbers for individual sites and those prefixed ESA are the Historic Environment Record numbers for individual events or activities such as archaeological excavations. We would like to thank the contributors who provided summaries for some of the reports included in this review.

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TEAM, SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL, 2009–2011

Between 2009 and 2011, the Historic Environment Team (HET) led an aerial survey and reconnaissance project, funded by English Heritage. The 2009–10 flying programs focused on recording earthwork sites and landscapes in low-light and landscape imagery. Poor weather in summer 2009 hampered survey for cropmark sites, although a significant number of new sites were identified. Summer 2010, however, proved to be an exceptional year for cropmark photography and a total of 16hrs 55mins of flying was completed, recording a wide array of detail of known sites as well as identifying previously unrecorded sites. The full results of the programme of survey undertaken in this period have been integrated with the Historic Environment Record, and the digital images are available for consultation at Shirehall.

Also completed by the HET in 2010 was the Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project, again funded by English Heritage. The project mapped and described the locations and characteristics of all historic farmsteads across Shropshire based on Ordnance Survey 2nd edition maps of *c*.1900, published after the final significant period of development of traditional farmsteads and the general use of vernacular materials. Modern maps were then used to identify the rates of survival to the present day. The full results of the project are integrated with the Historic Environment Record.

GAZETTEER OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2009

Acton Burnell SJ 533 019. In October a watching brief was undertaken at Concord College (PRN 13182) as part of scheduled monument consent for the laying out of a new fire exit path associated with alterations and extensions to the kitchen/dining room. The site lies within the scheduled area of the 13th century manorial complex based around Acton Burnell castle (PRN 00287), lying 100m to the southwest of the site. Archaeological monitoring and test pitting established that the shallow depth of both the extant and proposed groundworks for the new path did not have the potential to compromise any features or deposits of archaeological significance. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified and no finds were recovered.

Cherrington, R., 2009. 'Concord College, Acton Burnell, Shropshire: an archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Benchmark Archaeology. ESA 6286.

Acton Scott SO 465 876. As part of the Acton Scott Project, a field walking survey of a known cropmark site (PRN 08499) was undertaken jointly between staff of Shropshire Council, the Portable Antiquities Scheme and

Figure 1 Volunteers fieldwalking at Alcaston in 2009. *© Shropshire Council / Hugh Hannaford. PA220075.jpg*.

volunteers from the project in January. Two transects were walked set at right angles to one another, and recovered a large distribution of Roman Severn Valley pottery. No Iron Age pottery was recovered; although this is often difficult to recognise in the plough soil. It was concluded that the cropmark dates from the late Iron Age to Roman period. A blade of late Mesolithic date was also recovered.

Reavill, P., 2009. 'Fieldwalking at Alcaston, Shropshire: Interim Report', unpublished report, Portable Antiquities Scheme. ESA 6276.

Acton Scott SO 458 898. In September trial trenching was undertaken at Acton Scott Roman villa (PRN 00168) and cropmark enclosure site (PRN 04419). The scheduled villa site was discovered in 1817 during the rerouting of the road, with excavations in 1844 revealing a large stone-built rectangular structure. In the 1980s the scheduled cropmark enclosure was recorded in the same area, possibly representing a farmstead of Iron Age or Roman date, later converted to the villa. The trial-trenching examined the structure within the enclosure, and revealed a spread of rubble possibly representing a yard surface, internal floor surfaces, including traces of an *opus signinum* floor, and a section of collapsed roof comprised of stone roof tiles. These excavations also examined some of the features identified by the 2007 geophysical survey (ESA 6420) outside the eastern side of the enclosure, and located an Iron Age and Roman ditch and a section of the previous post-medieval road. No definite traces of Frances Stackhouse Acton's 1817 or 1844 excavations were identified, although several shallow gullies may have marked some of her trial trenches.

Hannaford, H. R., 2010. 'Second interim report on investigations at the Acton Scott Roman Villa, Acton Scott, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 283. ESA 6536.

Atcham SJ 551 100. In November a desk-based assessment was undertaken to accompany the planning application for improvements to the car park and drives at Attingham Park (PRN 07650). The site is within the area of the registered historic park and close to several listed buildings and a scheduled ancient monument. Subsequently, a programme of metal detecting and geophysical survey was carried out in advance of construction and a watching brief was carried out during groundworks to 'ground-truth' the results of the survey. The objective was to establish what remains might exist of former parkland features, including drives, as well as WWII structures known across this area.

Lambart, C., 2009. 'Attingham Park car park and drive improvements: Heritage statement', unpublished report, National Trust. ESA 6367.

Roseveare, M. J. and Roseveare, A. C. K., 2009. 'Attingham Park Access Improvements: geophysical survey and watching brief report', unpublished report, ArchaeoPhysica, report no. ATH011. ESA 6368.

Atcham SJ 528 111. In October, a photographic record was undertaken of a grade II listed barn at Longner Hall (PRN 18164), in connection with a planning application to partly demolish an existing wall and animal pens.

Bleazard and Galletta, 2009. 'Longner Hall Barns: photographic record', unpublished report. ESA 6375.

Barrow SJ 640 039. In December, a desk-based assessment was undertaken at Hill View Farm, the modern name for the group of buildings of the former Buildwas Mill (PRN 15678). A mill has been documented at the site from the 17th century but is probably considerably older, probably associated with nearby Buildwas Abbey and possibly back to the Saxon period. The surviving brick buildings mainly date to the 18th and 19th centuries but incorporate older fabric of

stone structures. The main watermill is of mid-18th-century date and was subsequently raised; the slightly older adjacent Mill Cottage appears originally to have been industrial, then partly converted to domestic use and extended. The water system is intact, with mill pool, dam, wheel pit and culverted tail race, but most of the milling equipment was removed when the buildings were converted to agricultural use in the 20th century.

Morriss, R. K., 2009. 'Hill View Farm, Buildwas, Shropshire: an architectural and archaeological appraisal', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 469. ESA 6554.

Boscobel: SJ 837 082. In October, tree-ring analysis of timbers from Boscobel House (PRN 01078) identified felling-dates ranging from late 16th century to the mid-18th century.

Tyers, I., 2010. 'Boscobel House, near Brewood, Shropshire: dendrochronological analysis of oak timbers: scientific dating report', unpublished report, EH Research Department Reports, no. 12-1210. ESA 6537.

Bridgnorth SO 714 933. Between August 2008 and January 2009, a watching brief was undertaken at The Smithfield in Bridgnorth during the excavation of service trenches and sections of a new relief road in connection with the construction of a new supermarket. Works undertaken in the north-east part of the site, next to Northgate, revealed two pits and one ditch. The ditch was aligned east–west, at right angles to Northgate and may represent a boundary associated with extra-mural settlement that formed part of Northgate suburb during the post medieval period (PRN 05645). Otherwise modern makeup layers were observed overlying natural deposits. Works undertaken in the car park to the southeast of the site revealed no significant archaeological remains.

Lee, A., 2009. 'Archaeological watching brief of Sainsbury's supermarket, The Smithfield, Bridgnorth, Shropshire', unpublished report, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, report no. 1674. ESA 6283.

Bromfield SO 491 763. An architectural and archaeological assessment of the Gardener's Cottage, Oakly Park (PRN 30669) was undertaken in January to inform repair and restoration work. The Gardener's Cottage is attached to one corner of the walled garden at Oakly Park. It was built in the early 19th century at a time when the main house was being remodelled by C. R. Cockerell and he could have had an input into its design. Subsequently, a rear wing was added but otherwise the building has had few major alterations.

Morriss, R. K., 2009. 'The Gardener's Cottage, Oakly Park, Shropshire: an architectural and archaeological analysis', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 432. ESA 6487.

Chetton SO 685 874. In April and May, a topographic survey, geophysical survey and targeted small-scale excavation investigated the probable site of a water mill at Middleton Scriven (PRN 21747). The topographic survey revealed the water management system for the mill, including a substantial dam, a leat supplying the mill and a possible pond, truncated by land-slip. Geophysical evidence on the expected site of the mill adjacent to the pond was inconclusive despite the presence of strong magnetic anomalies; later excavation proved this to be related to mid-20th-century levelling. Excavations also located a watercourse, potentially the tail race from the mill. The 5m difference between the base of the tail race and the floor of the pond would allow for a substantial wheel; however the location of the pond dam and the mill itself still remains unknown, though is likely to have been disturbed by the land-slip.

Young, T. P., 2010. 'Middleton Scriven Mill, Shropshire, [SO 685873], 2009', unpublished report, GeoArch, report no. 2009/52. ESA 6431.

Chirbury with Brompton SO 249 932. In September a watching brief was carried out during the insertion of a small electrical duct on a verge at Blue Bell Valve adjacent to the site of three scheduled Roman marching camps (PRN 01211, 01213 & 01212). Despite the area's archaeological potential, no archaeological features were uncovered during the groundworks.

Wessex Archaeology, 2010. 'Blue Bell Valve, Chirbury with Brompton, Shropshire (SA308): archaeological watching brief report', unpublished report, Wessex Archaeology, report no.73110.01. ESA 6567.

Church Stretton SO 447 938. In March a community archaeology investigation was undertaken at the Rectory Wood and Field Countryside Heritage Site on behalf of the Rectory Wood Heritage Project. The investigations took the form of an evaluation excavation of two structures, an icehouse and a summerhouse, within a former 18th- and 19th-century landscaped garden with "Capability" Brown connections (PRN 07722).

Hannaford H. R., 2009. 'Archaeological Investigations at Rectory Wood, Church Stretton, Shropshire, 2009', unpublished report, SCCAS, report no. 267. ESA 6525.

Clun SJ 259 064. In winter and spring 2009, a watching brief was carried out during the installation of new path furniture at a number of sites along the Offa's Dyke Path in north-west and south-west Shropshire. No significant archaeological features or deposits were located in the excavations.

Hannaford, H. R., 2009. 'A watching brief on the installation of new path furniture along Offa's Dyke

Path, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCCAS, report no. 269. ESA 6373.

Ditton Priors SO 608 907. In October, building recording and a condition survey were undertaken at Derrington Farm (PRN 23929) to inform the management plan for the repair of the farm buildings.

Joyce, N., 2009. 'Management Plan for the repair of farm buildings at Derrington Farm, Ditton Priors, Shropshire', unpublished report. ESA 6444.

Ellesmere Rural SJ 346 340. In May a desk-based assessment and a walkover survey were undertaken along the corridor of a proposed 2km pipeline between Ellesmere and Whittington, passing through pasture near the farm of Old Marton Hall, Whittington. Both the Old Hall and its barn are designated listed buildings. Historic maps and documentary evidence identified a pond and a stone of unknown date, a possible post-medieval sand pit, and the pipeline known as the Vyrnwy Aqueduct, dating to the later 19th century. The walkover survey identified a further nineteen sites comprising a number of ponds, gate posts, metal inspection hatches for the Vyrnwy Aqueduct, a former boundary, a lynchet, two areas of narrow ridge and furrow, a building platform and a possible levelled area for a building or a backfilled pond. Subsequently, a watching brief was carried out during topsoil stripping along the route of the pipeline easement laid between Ellesmere and Whittington. The topsoil stripping was shallow and did not expose natural geology, and therefore, no archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Clapperton, K. and Maron, D., 2009. 'Proposed pipeline, Vyrnwy LDTM, Old Marton, Shropshire: rapid desk based research and walkover survey', unpublished report, Oxford Archaeology North, report no. 948. ESA 6376.

Clapperton, K. 2010. 'Vyrnwy Pipeline, Old Marton, Shropshire: archaeological watching brief – supplementary report', unpublished report, Oxford Archaeology North, report no. 1013. ESA 6391.

Grinshill SJ 521 238. In 2008–9 a rapid field survey was undertaken of archaeological features on Grinshill. There have previously been finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint from the summit of the hill, but the site is principally known as the source of Grinshill Stone; a high quality sandstone used extensively in buildings in the area from the 13th century onwards. The survey recorded a total of 135 features, mainly associated with post-medieval quarrying on the hill. A number of ruined cottages or settlement sites, probably quarrymen's cottages, were also noted.

Hannaford, H. R. 2009. 'An archaeological survey of Corbet Wood and Grinshill, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCCAS, report no. 266. ESA 6319.

Hadley and Leegomery SJ 654 313. In April, an archaeological evaluation was carried out in connection with a proposed residential development within part of the walled garden (PRN 08470) at Apley Castle (PRN 08468). Excavations in the western half of the early-19th-century walled kitchen garden, some 70m to the west of the still-extant medieval manor house, revealed shallow trenches running east west, with one yielding a clay tobacco pipe stem and another a piece of 18th-century Staffordshire pottery. These trenches are likely to be garden features of early-19th-century date associated with the use of the walled garden. A single sherd of medieval pottery was also recovered.

Tavener, N. 2009. 'The walled garden, Apley Castle, Wellington, Shropshire: Report on an archaeological evaluation', unpublished report, Nick Tavener Archaeological Contractor, report no. 09_14. ESA 6300.

Hopton Castle SO 367 780. In June, Time Team carried out an excavation at Hopton Castle, focusing on its involvement in the Civil War. Geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies which relate to structures: a corner tower (PRN 21677) within the inner bailey likely to be contemporary with Hopton Castle; wall foundations associated with a 17th-century building (PRN 21678); and a number of other rectangular features which have the potential for being outbuildings (PRN 21695). A defensive bank and ditches were also detected. Excavation revealed a number of features. These included two elongated earthwork banks (PRN 21691), likely to have been constructed between the late 15th and early 17th century, with charcoal deposits below the banks possibly indicating the burning of structural timbers during the Civil War. A mortared wall under the north bank was interpreted as part of medieval entranceway defences, by the medieval moat. Evidence of post-medieval re-landscaping was also found following the disuse of the medieval defences, but possibly prior to Civil War activities. Investigation of the 'new brick building', the corner tower (PRN 21677), possible buildings (PRN 21695) other earthworks and possible structures was also undertaken.

Wood, E. *et al*., 2009. 'Geophysical survey report: Hopton Castle, Shropshire', unpublished report, Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, report no. 2009/26. ESA 6415.

Hall, N., 2010. 'Hopton Castle, Shropshire: archaeological evaluation report ', unpublished report, Wessex Archaeology, report no. 71504.04. ESA 6416.

Ludlow SO 512 749. A photographic survey was carried out in March on two blocks of buildings to the rear of 140 Corve Street, Ludlow (PRN 11136) dating to the late 19th and early 20th century.

Figure 2 Time Team excavations at Hopton Castle. *© Shropshire Council / Mick Krupa. ESA6416.jpg.*

Appleton-Fox, N., 2009. '140 Corve Street Ludlow, Shropshire', unpublished report, AFA Series no. 006. ESA 6312.

Ludlow SO 512 747. Between May 2008 and September 2009 an interior and exterior photographic survey and measured building survey (including floor plan, elevation and cross-section drawings) was undertaken of The Reader's House, Ludlow (PRN 11081).

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. 2009. 'The Reader's House, Ludlow. Historic building record: visual record (drawn and photographic survey) interim report', unpublished report, Birmingham Archaeology, report no. PN 1838. ESA 6371.

Ludlow SO 512 747. In July a building survey was carried out at Nos 4 and 5 King Street (PRN 11176 and 11177), in connection with the development of the first floor interior. The properties now form a single property, and are an interesting complex of 18th- and 19th-century buildings that occupy a site of market infilling that dates to the medieval period. The King Street face of the building contributes to the streetscape of Ludlow town centre.

Morriss, R. K., 2009. '4–5 King Street, Ludlow, Shropshire: an archaeological and architectural analysis', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 457. ESA 6380.

Lydham SO 351 892. In July an historic buildings assessment of farm buildings at Lower Lea Farm, was undertaken to accompany planning proposals to convert some to residential use and others into workshops. The complex includes the remains of Lea Castle (PRN 13651), a scheduled ancient monument and Grade II listed building. Adjoining the remains of the 13th- to 14th-century castle is a largely 19th-century house (PRN 17824) and a mid-19th-century cart shed and granary range (PRN 17825), both of which are also listed Grade II. The remaining buildings comprising a late 17th- or early 18th-century Grade II listed timber-framed barn (PRN 13652) and two timber and stone mid- to late-19th-century cowsheds, one of which is Grade II listed (PRN 13653).

Jones, N. J., 2009. 'Lower Lea Farm, Lydham, Shropshire: archaeological assessment', unpublished report, CPAT, report no. 1008. ESA 6353.

Much Wenlock SO 597 987. A desk-based assessment and site visit were undertaken at the disused Lea Quarries (SO 5935 9833) to inform future use. Although the area was subject to previous, small-scale exploitation, Lea Quarry North, incorporating the former Coates Quarry, was only formally established in 1943.

It went on to represent the largest and most successful of the Wenlock quarries. Coates Quarry dates to the late 18th century, operating on a small scale down to the early 20th century. In the 1940s production at the quarry expanded significantly and continued until 1963, when it was temporarily used for processing materials from Lea North. By 1970 the site had become derelict, with machinery either dismantled for re-sale or demolished. The extant processing-buildings at Lea Quarry North represent an interesting, though entirely standard, collection of mid- to late-20th-century fixed quarry structures, whilst a bank of three lime draw-kilns (PRN 21741) represent the sole survivors of quarrying activity at Coates Quarry.

Tyler, R., 2009. 'Lea Quarries, Much Wenlock, Shropshire: archaeological record and heritage assessment', unpublished report, Birmingham Archaeology, report no. PN 2002. ESA6426.

Munslow: SO 523 885. An archaeological survey of Millichope Park (PRN 07742) examined the earthworks in the south-western part of the park; described the remains of the cascades and the contemporary bridge; and recorded the remains of a structure known as the sheepcote. In addition, a walkover survey recorded the presence of other archaeological earthworks and relict structures within the park.

Gough, K. *et al*., 2009. 'Millichope Park: landscape conservation management plan', unpublished report. ESA 6392.

Munslow SO 529 880. In December, a drawn and photographic survey was undertaken prior to the restoration of seven historic cascades and a bridge across Speller Brook in Millichope Park (PRN 07742). The bridge and cascades are first evident on the 1883 OS map, constructed as part of the re-alignment of the stream. The cascades were constructed in locally derived roughly hewn limestone slabs and blocks, forming a series of steps over which the water flowed. Culverts enabled water to pass between dammed sections of the stream during heavy rainfall and could perhaps have been shut off during summer. The later refurbishment in the form of heightening and strengthening of the cascades suggest their use changed to a series of dams, with the original devices for opening and closing the culverts lost or abandoned.

Reid, M. L., 2009. 'Falling watēr: a record of the cascades and an associated bridge at Millichope Park, Munslow, Shropshire', unpublished report. ESA 6393.

Myddle and Broughton SJ 469 235. An archaeological evaluation and condition survey was undertaken between June and July on the retaining wall of Myddle Castle (PRN 01127). The site survives as a raised moated island incorporating sandstone blocks. The retaining wall was of two phases; the earlier characterised by coursed squared blocks of red sandstone, whilst to the west the retaining wall, protruding slightly, was rebuilt, possibly following a collapse. Several of the facing stones are cracked or have badly-eroded faces and the upper three courses lean out. Against the retaining wall a cracked buttress forms a series of steps, possibly giving access to the water-filled moat, as well as providing additional strength. At its base some of the masonry was unconsolidated, and liable to decay and collapse, whilst on top significant cracks between stones have filled with soil.

Reid, M. L., 2009. 'Myddle Castle, Shropshire. Scheduled Monument 32318: an evaluation and condition survey of part of the retaining wall of the moated island and adjoining buttress', unpublished report. ESA 6461.

Oswestry SJ 303 290. Between June and July a topographic contour survey recorded a Bronze Age burnt mound (PRN 21414) and the surrounding area. The burnt mound was discovered during geophysical survey and field evaluation in August 2007 (ESA 6131 & ESA 6132). The survey highlighted the approximate shape of the mound, appearing as a slight rise measuring 8 × 5m and also found that the mound appears to be located adjacent to a defunct watercourse. It was concluded that the mound was typical of West Midlands burnt mounds.

Smith, C. E., 2009. 'Oswalds Park, Oswestry: topographic survey', unpublished report, Cambrian Archaeological Projects, report no. 576. ESA 6322.

Oswestry SJ 301 308. Between June and August trial trenches were excavated in an area of land proposed for development near Oldport Farm. Much of the area had been subjected to relatively deep ploughing, with occupation of the area by a large army training camp during World War II also contributing to the truncation or disturbance of archaeological features. The finds recovered were mainly of mid- to late-18th-century date and later likely to have been deposited through manuring, although some possible Romano-British or medieval pottery was recovered. Five pits and one ditch of post-medieval date were excavated. Two pits were interpreted as tree boles, whilst a sub-oval pit was considered to be of post-medieval or later date. The two remaining pits were mortar-craters or similar from the site's use as a training camp.

Raynor, C., 2009. 'Land at Oldport Farm, Oswestry, Shropshire: archaeological evaluation', unpublished report, Oxford Archaeology, report no. 2009-10/960. ESA 6425.

Pontesbury SJ 433 102. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 17 Church Close, Cruckton, within the Cruckton Roman Villa scheduled ancient monument (PRN 00112). The site was partly excavated in the

1950s, revealing walls, floors and a hypocaust of Roman date but the extent and the precise location of these features remain unknown since the excavation was never published. In September, three evaluation pits were excavated. No archaeological features were recorded, the area having been landscaped during the construction of houses in the 1950s.

Frost, P., 2009. '17 Church Close, Cruckton Shrewsbury: archaeological evaluation', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 322. ESA 6364.

Ruyton-XI-Towns SJ 371 240. A programme of building recording was undertaken at Shelvock Farm in December. The farmstead of Shelvock was mainly laid out in about 1860, when the present farmhouse replaced the ancient Hall (PRN 31239) and a new farmstead was established partly on the site of the old. The new farmstead was unusual in that the early-17th-century style of two structures was retained in the redevelopment of most of its main buildings.

Morriss, R. K., 2009. 'Shelvock Farm, Ruyton-XI-Towns, Shropshire: architectural and archaeological assessment of the farmstead', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 467. ESA 6625.

Ruyton-XI-Towns SJ 393 221. Tree-ring analysis of samples from nine oak timbers at The Grove, Ruyton-XI-Towns, indicates that the earliest phase of felling is represented by the two southern purlins to the roof of what is now the rear, or northern, range of this double pile house. These timbers were felled between early March and early May 1684. A later phase of felling is represented in the ceilings of the first and ground floors to this rear range. The timbers used for these elements are estimated to have been felled between 1787 and 1812, and are almost certainly related to the development and 'Georginisation' of the building, stylistically dated to the late 18th century.

Arnold A and Howard R., 2009. 'Tree-ring analysis of timbers from The Grove, Ruyton-XI-Towns, Shrewsbury, Shropshire', unpublished report, Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory. ESA7347.

Shrewsbury SJ 523 104. Between March and April, a geophysical survey and field evaluation were undertaken in a field to the south-east of the Salop Leisure Centre on the site of a circular cropmark enclosure and associated linear feature (PRN 02495). The geophysical survey located a faint circular feature as well as several linear features, consistent with the aerial photograph, however no trace of the ditch/linear feature on the eastern side of the enclosure was picked up. These were subsequently investigated by the field evaluation and found to be of little archaeological significance. The circular feature located very faintly by the geophysics was not observed in any of the trenches. The linear features were located and found to be land drains and a field boundary ditch. The lack of archaeological evidence within the trenches would suggest that either the features are so ephemeral, possibly due to truncation, that nothing now remains, or that the slightly higher readings on the geophysical survey are coincidental. The evaluation revealed that the majority of the proposed development site is likely to be archaeologically sterile.

Smith, C. E., 2009. 'Emstrey, Shrewsbury Shropshire: geophysical survey and field evaluation', unpublished report, Cambrian Archaeological Projects, report no. 559. ESA 6302.

Shrewsbury SJ 492 124. A watching brief was undertaken intermittently between January and February 2009 during improvement works to Old St Chad's Churchyard, Belmont Shrewsbury (PRN 01094). Although located within the general area of recognised archaeological potential, neither significant finds nor archaeological horizons were observed during the programme of work. The watching brief has confirmed that this area of the churchyard comprises made up ground to a depth of 0.4m at least. No undisturbed deposits were excavated during the current programme of works.

Frost, P., 2009. 'Improvements to Old St Chad's Churchyard, Belmont, Shrewsbury: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 306. ESA 6291.

Shrewsbury SJ 494 128. A single evaluation trench was excavated in April along the western side of the entrance to Shrewsbury Castle. No deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were recorded, with extensive post-medieval build up and landscaping identified.

Wellicome, T., 2009. 'Archaeological evaluation: Shrewsbury Castle', unpublished report, Border Archaeology, report no. BA0904SC. ESA 6296.

Shrewsbury SJ 490 125. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in November and December on land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury; one trench was excavated. Possible medieval levelling deposits were encountered within the trench. At least two main phases of post-medieval activity (the latter possibly representing the remains of the first Baptist Chapel (1780)) were identified pre-dating the construction of the existing Baptist Chapel (1877–8) and Sunday School building.

Saunders, K., 2009. 'Land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire: additional archaeological evaluation', unpublished report, Cotswold Archaeology, report no. 09212. ESA 6561.

Shrewsbury SJ 501 106. In December, a desk based assessment was undertaken within a large area of the former parish of Sutton, just to the south of Shrewsbury.

This established that there was an area of high archaeological potential in the immediate vicinity of the former parish church (PRN 10580), the assumed core of the medieval settlement. Outline building analysis was carried out on the parish church, Sutton House (PRN 01596) and Sutton Grange Farm (PRN 27742).

Morriss, R. K., 2009. 'Land at Sutton House Farm, Sutton, Shrewsbury: desk-top evaluation, field survey and building analysis', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 463. ESA 6379.

Shrewsbury SJ 492 124. In October a watching brief was carried out on works to the "dimmery" floor at St Alkmund's Church (PRN 01354). Thickening of the stone work at the base of the tower and the vice (spiral stair) wall was observed in the NE corner of the "dimmery". The wall here had been cut back and thinned, probably during the 1794–5 rebuilding. No other significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered in the monitoring works.

Hannaford, H. R., 2009. 'An archaeological watching brief at St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 271. ESA 6381.

Shrewsbury SJ 497 125. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in August and September, during groundworks associated with improvements of flood defences at the Coleham Head Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) Phase II, Wakeman School, Shrewsbury. Wall foundations, floors and other structures representing the remains of buildings dating to the 18th and 19th centuries were identified during groundworks. This included a number of building frontages along Abbey Foregate and the road leading north, as depicted on the 1st edition OS map of 1881; a late 18th- or early 19th-century gate pier of Abbey House (demolished when the school was built) and a late 18th- or early 19th-century cobbled surface probably representing the surface of the lane leading north from Abbey Foregate. No artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

Davenport, P., 2010. 'Coleham Head FAS Phase II Wakeman School, Shrewsbury', unpublished report, Cotswold Archaeology, report no. 09174. ESA 6389.

Shrewsbury SJ 497 123. An intermittent watching brief was carried out on the second phase of flood alleviation scheme works along the north bank of the Rea Brook, south of 1 Rea Brook Place, between April 2008 and March 2009. Sections of a sandstone wall (PRN 30657) were recorded which had been extensively disturbed during the installation of the existing drainage system.

Frost, P., 2009. 'Coleham Head flood alleviation scheme phase 2 works, Shrewsbury: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 311. ESA 6326.

Shrewsbury SJ 490 127. In February, a watching brief was carried out at Mardol Quay Gardens, Shrewsbury. The work was commissioned in advance of the construction of a sculpture commemorating the bi-centennial of Darwin's birth. The watching brief revealed evidence of modern landscaping overlying 19th-century deposits including a brick path. Numerous examples of a very dark blue/black brick paver stamped "Monk and Newell, Ruabon" were recovered from the path. Monk and Newell of Ruabon (near Wrexham) are recorded as making bricks and tiles between *c*.1880 and 1920. A large fragment of black glazed earthenware was also recovered and was spot-dated between the 18th and early 20th centuries. No deposits, features or artefacts relating to the medieval wharf or bridge were observed.

Sims, M., 2009. 'Quantum Leap, Mardol Quay Gardens, Shrewsbury: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Oxford Archaeology. ESA 6378.

Shrewsbury SJ 498 138. In October a desk-based assessment of the sub-surface archaeology of the Dithering Flaxmill and Maltings (PRN 06731) was undertaken. The assessment was required to inform and support design proposals for the proposed regeneration and development of parts of the site, occupied from 1797 by the Ditherington Flax Mill.

Blythe K., 2009, 'Ditherington Flax Mill, Shrewsbury, Shropshire: archaeological desk-based assessment', unpublished report, Oxford Archaeology North, report no. 2009-10/998. ESA 6796.

St Martin's SJ 325 374. In March/April a watching brief was undertaken at the site of the 19th-century coal mine, Iftonrhyn Colliery, in the Oswestry coalfield (PRN 06539). The observed deposits indicated that the Iftonrhyn Colliery was comprehensively cleared during the operating life of its larger successor to the west of Colliery Road. The tips and deposits of waste from extraction at the later site have obscured the original land surface and only one fragmentary wall from the earlier colliery survived.

Hayes, L. *et al*., 2009. 'Iftonrhyn Colliery: Report on an archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, SLR Consulting, report no. 406.2326.00001. ESA 6287.

Stanton Lacy SO 512 838. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the levelling of the site of a new agricultural building, in the area thought to contain the remains of the postulated Lawton deserted settlement (PRN 00966). A medieval feature was uncovered just outside the north-east edge of the levelled site, but it was not possible to determine its full extent or identify it further. Pottery recovered from the feature was dated to the 13th century. No other archaeological features were identified. The remaining areas of extant ridge and furrow in the former orchard were surveyed.

Doyle, D., 2009. 'Lawton Farm, Stanton Lacy, Shropshire: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Hereford Archaeology Series no. 829. ESA 6313.

Stoke upon Tern SJ 654 282. A historic building appraisal was undertaken at Heathcote Farm (PRN 19214) in February in connection with proposals to alter the Grade II listed farmhouse and adapt part of the barn to residential use. The farmhouse contains a cruck-framed structure dated to *c*.1600 or earlier. The farm is marked on Rocque's map of 1746. Towards the end of the 18th century the then-owner of the farm, John Taylor, rebuilt the farmhouse in Georgian style. The use of large linear bricks suggests this expansion took place sometime after the Brick Tax of 1784. The cruck-framed section of the house was also rebuilt in brick, and shortly after, the west end of the existing property was added. Thereafter little alteration occurred apart from minor improvements where necessary. As a result the farmhouse has an almost complete array of late 18th-century fixtures and fittings.

Frost, P., 2009. 'Heathcote Farmhouse and Barn, Stoke-on-Tern, Shropshire: historic building appraisal prior to re-use', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 312. ESA 6288.

Stoke upon Tern SJ 648 252. An historic building appraisal was undertaken in February in connection with the adaptive re-use of outbuildings at Fairleigh, Ollerton for residential use. The buildings comprise the first smithy on the site dating to the early 19th century and a second smithy building of mid-19th-century date (PRNs 21385 & 21386). The buildings are typical of village smithy architectural style in the form of plain single storey buildings with a wide doorway to accommodate the horse being shod. The commercial use of the later smithy appears to have ceased shortly after 1905.

Frost, P., 2009. 'Outbuildings at Fairleigh, Ollerton, Shropshire (former smithy site): historic building appraisal', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 309. ESA 6289.

Stottesdon SO 662 815. In October a watching brief was undertaken during work to replace the timber handrails on the Old Roman footbridge, Stottesdon (PRN 01206). The arch of the bridge was seen to comprise red sandstone similar to the rest of the bridge. Other than the top of the bridge arch, no significant archaeological features were encountered during the works.

Hannaford, H. R., 2009. 'An archaeological watching brief at the Old Roman footbridge, Stottesdon, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 274. ESA 6411.

The Gorge SJ 669 041. Technological examination of copper ore and slag samples from crucibles excavated at the steel cementation furnace was undertaken between 2008 and 2009. Analyses included examination with a scanning electron microscope, mass spectrometer and X-ray diffractor.

Dungworth, D., Belford, P. and Ixer, R., 2010. 'Upper Forge, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire: the examination of crucibles, copper ore and slag: technology report', unpublished report, English Heritage Research Department, report no. 5-2010. ESA 6538.

Upton Cressett SO 647 927. As part of an investigation of a Roman site at Upton Cressett (PRN 01919), an evaluation trench was excavated in February as part of a student training programme at Birmingham University. This confirmed evidence for two parallel ditches with plot divisions at right angles, as had been seen on geophysical survey undertaken across this area. The site produced an extensive pottery assemblage during fieldwalking, of largely early Roman date. The site was interpreted as a possible roadside settlement.

White R. H., 2011. 'Upton Cressett: an archaeological assessment', unpublished report, University of Birmingham. ESA 6663.

Wellington SJ 650 115. In June, an historic building assessment was undertaken at Edgbaston House and its associated building stock in advance of the proposed regeneration of an area to the rear of Walker Street, Wellington. There are within the Edgbaston House terrace (to include Edgbaston House (PRN 21555), the Edgbaston House annex (PRN 21614) and 11 Walker Street (PRN 21556)) a diverse set of architectural styles that span at least 350 years. Edgbaston House shows three principal phases of building. Phase I dates to *c*.1790 when it can be described as a fine Georgian town residence. Internally, there are a number of surviving fixtures and fittings that show the early development of the building including a mid- to late-19th-century replacement staircase on the ground floor. During its life as a public house (the Sun Inn), sometime before 1831, an extension (Phase II) was added which included a large meeting room on the first floor. At the same time a two-storey annex was built against the eastern gable of Edgbaston House, abutting a medieval terrace (11 Walker Street). The study recommended that the 19th-century and earlier parts of Edgbaston House and its attached terrace were retained and that a detailed historic building survey should be commissioned. During November, a detailed historic buildings survey was undertaken. As part of this survey a full audit of the fixtures and fittings within each of the buildings was made, as well a full description of each room. In addition, following demolition of the modern range of buildings that abutted the rear of the historic properties, each of the rear elevation sections belonging to the historic terrace was recorded.

SLR Consulting, 2009. 'Edgbaston House, Walker Street, Wellington, Telford: historic building assessment and planning application supporting statement', unpublished report, SLR, report no. 406.0203.0004. ESA 6311.

Malim, T., 2010. 'Edgbaston House, Walker Street, Wellington Telford: historic building survey (fixtures and fittings) ', unpublished report, SLR, report no. 406.0203.0004. ESA 6403.

Wellington SJ 650 115. In November and December, excavations took place at Edgbaston House, Walker Street, Wellington in tandem with a programme of historic building recording (see above). The investigation consisted of nine trial trenches excavated across the area of a proposed regeneration scheme in the town centre, a sample of approximately 10% of the total development area. The investigation uncovered deep waterlogged medieval deposits in a zone approximately 4m wide and 20m long immediately to the rear of Nos. 9 and 11 Walker Street. These included a multi-phase ditch (PRN 21617) representing a burgage plot boundary which had been infilled in the 13th or 14th century. The fills of the ditch had very good organic preservation, and the discovery of insect remains indicate that it had contained stable waste, rotting refuse and human faeces, typical of the disposal of cess in an urban environment. It also contained horn cores and animal bone likely to have derived from industrial tanning/horn working activities on Tan Bank to the east. The presence of lime may indicate an attempt to control the smell and insects emanating from the ditch. The boundary represented a plot 45m in length oriented east–west and fronting onto Tan Bank. Two medieval refuse pits (PRN 21619 & PRN 21620) and a timber lined well/latrine (PRN 21618) were located to the west of the ditch, to the rear of No 11 Walker Street. A sherd of pot found in one of the pits dates to the later medieval period (15th to 16th century). It is likely that these features are broadly contemporary with the original construction and use of No 11 Walker Street at which time the ditch to the east had fallen out of use. To the south of these features, the creation of car parking and outbuildings in the 20th century had caused widespread disturbance. A narrow band of surviving buried soil and a 19th-century sandstone wall footing (PRN 21616) were observed between two areas of car parking, representing an older plot boundary between Nos. 11 and 13 Walker Street.

Malim, T. *et al*., 2010. 'Edgbaston House, Walker Street, Wellington Telford: archaeological site investigation', unpublished report, SLR, report no. 406.0203.0004. ESA 6405.

Wem Rural: SJ 488 282. In February, an archaeological, architectural and historic significance assessment was undertaken of a collection of late 19th-century farm buildings at Commonwood Farm. The buildings comprise the stable/store, the granary, the milking-shed and two single storey cow houses together with a Dutch barn. Documentary evidence has shown that the history of the farm site is linked to the Loppington Estate and, in the later 19th century, Wem Mill. The farm buildings date to the late 19th century.

Frost, P., 2008. 'Commonwood Farm, Commonwood, Wem, Shropshire: historic building appraisal', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 308, ESA 6293.

Wem Rural SJ 493 288. An archaeological, architectural and historic appraisal was carried out in April of a large red brick L-shaped barn complex at Lower Pool Farm, Wem. The barn forms the only surviving element of a 19th-century farm complex. The barns are to be redeveloped, whilst maintaining their historic character.

Frost, P., 2009. 'Barns at Lower Pool Farm, The Ditches, Wem, Shropshire: historic building appraisal prior to alteration and adaptive re-use', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 315. ESA 6324.

Westbury SJ 339 096. A structural survey was carried out of three former barns at Vennington Farm, Vennington, Westbury in April (PRNs 21038-21040). This included a baseline photographic record of the structures.

Griffiths M. B., 2009. 'Structural survey of former barns at Vennington Farm, Vennington, Shropshire', unpublished report. ESA 6641.

Woore SJ 739 411. During the winter 2008/9 a detailed measured earthwork survey was undertaken across Pool Hall Farm and the northern section of Park Farm. The survey utilised a Leica differential GPS and was drawn up at 1:2500 scale. Features recorded included quarries, canalised stream courses and areas of ridge and furrow cultivation. The results would suggest widespread survival of archaeological earthworks across the two farms, much of which may be post-medieval in origin but with earlier elements also certainly extant.

Fradley, M., 2009. 'Pool Hall Farm: The Landscape Survey', unpublished report. ESA 6414.

Wrockwardine SJ 624 120. In March a watching brief was carried out during drainage works at St Peter's Church, Wrockwardine (PRN 13013). No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered in the monitored works.

Hannaford, H. R., 2009. 'An archaeological watching brief at St Peter's Church, Wrockwardine, Telford and Wrekin', unpublished report, SCCAS, report no. 264. ESA 6320.

Wroxeter and Uppington SJ 564 082. In January and May a series of watching briefs were carried out at

the Old School House. Previous work in the area had revealed Roman rampart material. During the works, a depth of between 300mm up to 400mm of dark humic loam topsoil was removed from the line of the new drive and a depth of 100mm was removed from the remainder of the garden. Running approximately WNW to ENE in the central part of the garden in the area of the new drive, a band of buff to pink silty clay appeared beneath the topsoil at 350mm depth. The excavation ceased at the top of this clay and none was removed. An area of clay 7m wide NE to SW was exposed; the edges of the clay dipped down beneath deeper topsoil to the NE and SW. The clay did not appear to be *in situ* natural subsoil. It is possible that this clay may have been associated with the remains of the defences or ramparts at the south-west corner of the Roman town, although the main circuit of the ramparts is thought to run some 20m to the south of the Old School House garden.

Hannaford H. R., 2009. 'Archaeological monitoring of groundworks at The Old Schoolhouse, Wroxeter, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCCAS, report no. 268. ESA 6281.

GAZETTEER OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2010

Atcham SJ 538 113. In December, a management survey was undertaken to evaluate the risk of cultivation and related factors to known archaeological sites on the Longner Estate. The assessment was based on a model developed by Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service for Natural England. The assessment was intended to inform a management plan and an application for Higher Level Stewardship. It covered twelve fields in which archaeological sites were known from cropmarks. The initial assessment identified five sites which were at serious risk from a combination of ongoing cultivation and erosion, primarily relating to potato cultivation, with three sites under direct threat. A programme of management was agreed for these fields, which would be subject to a programme of risk monitoring to assess the effectiveness of this regime.

Miller, D., 2010. 'Archaeological assessment COSMIC+ risk assessment of archaeological sites on the Longner Estate, Atcham, Shropshire', unpublished report, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, report no. 1806. ESA 6889.

Bicton SJ 466 153. In May, a programme of historic building survey was undertaken in association with proposals to refurbish farm buildings at Rossall Farm, Rossall (PRN 26970).

Morriss, R. K., Lucy, R. and Little, R., 2010. 'Rossall Farm, Rossall, nr. Shrewsbury, Shropshire: an architectural and archaeological analysis of farm buildings', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series. ESA 7162.

Bridgnorth SO 716 928. In July, a Conservation Management Plan was prepared for Castle Walk, also known as Castle Hill, Bridgnorth, including site visits and a photographic record of the area.

McAlester, T., 2010. 'Conservation Management Plan for Castle Walk, Bridgnorth, Shropshire', unpublished report. ESA 6480.

Bridgnorth SO 716 929. In November, a watching brief was carried out during construction of an extension at Churchdown House, within the outer bailey of Bridgnorth Castle (PRN 05630). No archaeological finds or features were recorded, and the whole area had been disturbed during the import of extensive amounts of topsoil used for landscaping the garden of Churchdown House.

Frost, P., 2010. 'Churchdown House, 14 East Castle Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4AL', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology report. ESA 6503.

Broseley SJ 674 020. In September, renovation work was carried out on the Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, located on the site of a former 19th century Baptist chapel and burial ground (PRNs 21610 & 28097). This work involved the excavation of a number of drainage trenches in the car park on the west side of the centre, the site of the former burial ground. In the course of this work human remains were found. An analysis and report on this initial find was carried out by Teresa Gilmore, Finds Recording Assistant, Headley Trust at the Shropshire Museum Service. A watching brief was carried out on the remaining excavations for the new drains. The partial remains of four skeletons were revealed and lifted. One of these was the upper half of the original find. The top of the skull of a fifth burial was revealed in the base of the contractor's excavations, but was left *in situ*.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'A watching brief at the Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, Shropshire, 2010', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 285. ESA 6507.

Cheswardine SJ 720 255. In November, a level 2 study was undertaken of The Lodge, Ellerton Hall (PRN 19171) in association with proposals for the conversion of the building.

King, M., 2010. 'The Lodge, Ellerton Hall: historical and architectural appraisal', unpublished report, King Partnership. ESA 7385.

Chirbury with Brompton SO 247 932. In January, an archaeological watching brief/test pitting programme was undertaken at Brompton View farm, which lies at the extreme south-west portion of SAM 306 incorporating a Roman camp, round barrow and section of Offa's Dyke, to determine an application for SMC. Much of the Roman evidence has been levelled to the top of the natural subsoil by plough action, most probably during the post-medieval period, perhaps with origins in the medieval period as evidenced by layers 18 and 12. The overall implication is that where Roman layers occurs, their upper surfaces should be at the approximate level of the natural subsoil.

Hankinson, R., 2010. 'Brompton View, near Churchstoke, Shropshire: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, CPAT, report no. 1029. ESA 6394.

Chirbury with Brompton SO 274 999. In February, a magnetometer survey was undertaken of an area of land at Hockleton Farm that contains Hockleton motte and bailey castle, a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 19227; PRN 01220). As part of a management plan for the monument, the farm tenants are seeking to reroute and upgrade a trackway that will run to the north, east and south of the motte. The survey results indicate the presence of a number of anomalies considered to have archaeological potential. A probable former ditch surrounding the motte was located, and other positive anomalies that may indicate either cut features or earthworks were located within the bailey area. Positive and negative linear anomalies were clearly associated with extant earthworks and a ditch within the north-western part of the site (PRN 08479). A negative linear anomaly extending to the north from the edge of the motte ditch appears to correlate with a shallow holloway or track and may indicate the presence of stone. A number of other linear and discrete positive and negative anomalies were located beyond the motte and bailey earthworks and these have been classified as of uncertain origin. To the south of the motte, a series of parallel positive anomalies correlate with the ridges of a ridge and furrow field system (PRN 21205). Susqently, trial trenching was undertaken along the line of the proposed track, which identified a number of features in a trench to the north-east of the bailey, one of which produced medieval pottery of 12th to 14th century date from a charcoal rich deposit which produced a radiocarbon date of between 1290AD and 1420AD. During construction, a watching brief recorded further

Figure 3 Hockleton 2010:Trial trenching at Hockleton Motte. *© Shropshire Council / Hugh Hannaford. P2160003.jpg*.

details of this pit/ditch. It also located the remains of a former trackway which ran along the western side of the bailey, a former field boundary to the south, and a possible headland associated with the ridge and furrow.

Donaldson, K. and Sabin, D., 2010. 'Hockleton Motte, Chirbury, Shropshire: Magnetometer Survey', unpublished report, Archaeological Survey Report Series no. 313. ESA 6422.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'An archaeological evaluation at Hockleton Farm, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 276. ESA 6423.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'A watching brief at Hockleton Farm, Shropshire, 2010', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 280. ESA 6477.

Chirbury with Brompton SO 247 931. In March a watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with widening and resurfacing the A489 road between Pentrehyling and Bluebell Crossroads, Brompton, in south-west Shropshire. This section of the road ran through an area occupied by the Pentrehyling Roman fort, *vicus*, and a number of Roman marching camps. These sites had been investigated archaeologically in the 1980s and 1990s, when finds of probable Late Neolithic date were also made. The 2010 watching brief also located a number of features associated with the Roman fort, *vicus*, and marching camps. These included the probable southern and eastern fort ditches, a number of pits within the *vicus* area, and the possible western ditch of one of the marching camps.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'An archaeological watching brief at Bluebell Crossroads, Brompton, Shropshire, (A489 Bluebell crossroads resurfacing)', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 277. ESA 6446.

Church Stretton SO 452 936. In January, a programme of archaeological observation was undertaken within the medieval parish church of St Laurence, Church Stretton, which recorded significant concentrations of disarticulated human skeletal remains. These remains were largely located within the chancel, at a depth of between 0.2–0.5m below the existing ground level, although another concentration of human remains was identified next to the north wall of the north transept.

Priestley, S., 2010. 'Archaeological observation: St Laurence's Church, Church Stretton, Shropshire', unpublished report, Border Archaeology, report no. BA1006SLCS. ESA 7239.

Craven Arms SO 435 816. In January, a mobile crane in transit to a sewage treatment plant on the south side of the Stokesay village, left the road through the village and overturned down an embankment retaining one of Stokesay castle ponds. The weight of the crane threatened to undermine the retaining embankment and accordingly emergency reinforcement works were made to the bank under archaeological supervision through a watching brief. The emergency repair works entailed the erection of stone-filled steel mesh gabions on the east side of the dam, between the dam and the overturned mobile crane. The base of the gabions were to be set in a trench *c*.2.15m wide by 19m long. The north end of the trench would cut into the toe of the dam by up to 1m depth, the south end by about 0.25m. At the bottom of the trench, the excavations revealed a smooth dark grey silt. Along the western edge of the trench this was overlain by a deposit of dark brown silty loam mottled with buff clay which may have represented eroded material from the dam core. This in turn lay beneath a deposit of dark greyish brown loam with stones up to 0.4m thick. Above this was a soil layer, again of dark greyish brown humic loam up to 0.6m thick, and a similar topsoil 0.3m thick with stones and tree roots. No other significant features or deposits were seen during the watching brief.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'An archaeological watching brief at Stokesay Castle Pool, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 278. ESA 6445.

Ellesmere Rural SJ 346 339. In May, a rapid desk-based assessment survey was undertaken along a 16.5km pipeline from Oswestry to Penley, Shropshire. In order to establish the visible character and extent of the sites identified during the desk-based research, and to identify any additional sites within the study area that had not been previously recognised, a walkover survey was also undertaken. In total, 127 sites were identified during the desk-based research and walkover survey. Of these, 46 were identified following consultation of the Shropshire Historic Environment Record, 26 sites were identified during the rapid desk-based assessment, and 55 sites were identified during the walkover survey.

Bullock, V., 2012. 'Vyrnwy pipeline, Oswestry to Penley: rapid desk-based research and walkover survey', unpublished report, Oxford Archaeology North, report no. 2012-11/1071. ESA 6742.

Ellesmere Rural SJ 364 331. In August, a watching brief was undertaken during the excavation for soakaways and associated drains surrounding St Andrew's Church, Welsh Frankton (PRN 19626), which is of 19th century date. No archaeological finds or features were observed within the development area.

Hanna, T., 2010. 'Archaeological watching brief at St Andrew's Church, Welsh Frankton, Shropshire', unpublished report, A H Archaeology Services, report no. 32. ESA 6954.

Ellesmere Urban SJ 400 347. In June an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the site of a new dwelling to be constructed to the rear of property fronting the High Street in Ellesmere, commonly known as Jesse's Yard. This back-street yard is recorded on Wood's Plan of the town in 1835 and the first edition

Ordnance Survey map of 1874, by which time a row of small dwellings occupied the west side of the site and the outhouses/earth closets that served these dwellings stood along the eastern boundary. By 1974, all these buildings had been removed with the demolition material spread across the site, which was thereafter used as a yard. The watching brief monitored the four footings trenches excavated to support the concrete base for the new build. No archaeological features were revealed, other than evidence of brick foundations associated with the former late 18th/early 19th century dwellings. The site had been much disturbed during the construction of the small dwellings and outhouses in the late 18th century.

Frost, P., 2010. 'Jesse's Yard (rear of no.14, High Street) Ellesmere, Shropshire: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 332. ESA 6451.

Great Dawley SJ 687 072. In December, an intermittent watching brief was carried out on groundworks associated with the regeneration of the Dawley and Malinslee Regeneration Scheme. A vertical brick lined shaft was recorded, associated with mine drainage. A curved drainage culvert was also recorded.

Belford, P., 2010. 'Dawley and Malinslee Regeneration: first interim report on archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Nexus Heritage, report no. 3058. R02. ESA 7376.

Hinstock SJ 695 286. In October, a desk-based assessment and architectural analysis was undertaken in connection with proposals for restoration and adaptation of this currently disused building. The isolated former slaughterhouse at Lockleywood, Hinstock (PRN 31291) was built as a bone manure works around 1904. It was deliberately sited away from other properties and its machinery was probably powered by gas oil or petrol engines, making it an early example of a rural building in this area deliberately designed to make use of them. In the mid-1930s it was converted into a specialist horse slaughterers and continued to be used for slaughtering livestock until the later-20th century. The main building is relatively intact though outbuildings have been demolished. Its position within the landscape and its, albeit short, history give it a degree of local significance.

Morriss, R. K., 2010. 'The Manure Works, Lockleywood, Nr Hinstock, Shropshire: an updated historic building assessment', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 567. ESA 6898.

Hodnet SJ 613 284. In December, a management plan was prepared by Shropshire Council's Historic Environment Countryside Advisor for PRN 00267, a

Figure 4 Aerial view of Hodnet Motte and Bailey Castle, 2009. *© Shropshire Council. SA0908_177.jpg*.

motte and bailey castle on Castle Hill, and the associated remains of a park pale, a fishpond and a formal garden, covering the reduction of the young, self-seeded trees and scrub cover on the motte mound and fish pond. This set out a work programme to be undertaken over two years at the site.

Wigley, A., 2010. 'Management Plan for motte and bailey castle on Castle Hill', unpublished report, Shropshire Council. ESA 6925.

Hopton Castle SO 362 782. An architectural and archaeological assessment of a group of historic but redundant farm buildings at Upper House Farm, Hopton Castle (PRN 24605) was undertaken in July at a level 2/3 standard. Five buildings were surveyed, including a cart shed and granary, a timber-framed barn, a shelter shed, stables and a north range.

Morriss, R. K., 2010. 'Upper House Farm, Hopton Castle, Shropshire: an architectural and archaeological analysis', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 505. ESA 6648.

Ightfield SJ 602 373. In August, a desk-based assessment was undertaken at Church Farm, Calverhall (PRN 24933). The older farm buildings of Church Farm date from the mid to late 19th century and are considered to be agriculturally redundant. They are, however, good exemplars of their type and have been relatively unaltered externally. They are considered to be of local historical and architectural significance and important elements within the landscape character of the village.

Morriss, R. K., 2010. 'Church Farm, Calverhall, Shropshire centred on NGR: SJ 3623 3740: an architectural and archaeological assessment', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 510. ESA 6551.

Little Wenlock SJ 629 082. In March, a watching brief was undertaken during groundworks within the area of the television transmission station on the Wrekin Hillfort (PRN 01069). Only levelling layers associated with the construction of the TV transmitter station in 1974 were encountered, together with outcrops of bedrock.

Belford, P., 2010. 'Archaeological watching brief at the Arqiva Site, The Wrekin Hillfort, Shropshire: Interim Report No. 2', unpublished report, Nexus Heritage, report no. 1003-B. ESA 7093.

Llanfair Waterdine SO 264 827. In December, a watching brief was carried out during the installation of new path furniture at a number of sites along the Offa's Dyke Path in south-west Shropshire. In two of the locations, Middle Knuck B (ODP10 MK–B) and Middle Knuck C (ODP10 MK-C) the new footpath furniture was located on the line of the Dyke ditch, and in both of these locations relatively shallow fills were recorded above the natural bedrock at the base of the ditch. The natural bedrock was encountered at about 0.5m below the ground surface, and the ditch fill was between 0.2m and 0.3m in thickness. Otherwise, no significant archaeological deposits were located in the excavations for the new furniture.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A watching brief on the installation of new path furniture along Offa's Dyke Path, Shropshire, 2010', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 290. ESA 6667.

Llanyblodwel SJ 241 228. Between July and August a watching brief was carried out during repairs to Llanyblodwel Bridge (PRN 01114). The bridge is a fine three-span sandstone structure dating to the early 18th century. However the invert between the piers of the bridge had become badly eroded and so Shropshire Council's Highways and Transportation section put in place a programme of repairs to the bridge. The bridge is a scheduled ancient monument and one of the requirements of the scheduled monument consent was that a programme of archaeological recording should accompany the repairs.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'A watching brief at Llanyblodwel Bridge, Shropshire, 2010', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 284. ESA 6509.

Ludlow SO 509 747. In May, Shropshire Council coordinated an investigation into the structural stability of a section of Ludlow's medieval town wall at the Castle Street car park. The investigations included the excavation of three trial trenches, and it was a condition of the class consent granted for this work that an archaeological watching brief accompanied the groundworks. The sequence of deposits seen in the three test trenches was virtually identical. Possible natural deposits were seen in the most easterly trench, whilst all contained possible rampart material. Evidence for large-scale groundworks was seen in the southern end of all three trenches, and is likely to represent site clearance for the creation of the car park. No other significant archaeological features or deposits were seen during the course of these investigations.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'A watching brief at Castle Street car park, Ludlow, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 281. ESA 6460.

Ludlow SO 511 744. A level 3 analytical record, comprising desk top study, historical and archaeological analysis was carried out in June at 32 Broad Street, Ludlow (PRN 11003), a Grade II listed building, of late *c*.18th-century date, with a 15th- and 16th-century core.

Arroll and Snell 2010. '32 Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire: desk top study, historical and archaeological analysis', unpublished report, PH/kg/481/04. ESA 6458.

Market Drayton SJ 676 341. In February, an architectural and archaeological assessment of the Grade I listed Corbet Arms Hotel (PRN 13972), in the centre of Market Drayton, was undertaken in relation to proposals to refurbish property which has been closed for some time. The Corbet Arms Hotel was formerly the New Talbot, and there are references to a tenement called the Talbot in the High Street in the 16th century. None of the present buildings, all built of brick, pre-date the 18th century. The oldest section is the Georgian Range, probably of the later-18th century and only brought into the main inn site in 1791. The Inn was radically rebuilt in the early-19th century, resulting in the three storey Regency Range, consisting of frontage, rear wing and fine stairs. The last major changes took place in the mid-19th century with the addition of an Assembly Room complex, a very late exemplar of the type. In the late 20th century much of the ground-floor character of the premises was altered by radical remodelling, though some of the upper floors and the Assembly Room itself retain some period detailing.

Morriss, R. K., 2010. 'The Corbet Arms Hotel, Market Drayton, Shropshire: an architectural and archaeological assessment', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 480. ESA 6456.

Much Wenlock SO 642 977. An archaeological and architectural study of Atterley House, an early-18th-century brick-built former farmhouse, was undertaken in January ahead of proposals for the sympathetic extension of the property. The level of analysis was roughly equivalent of a level 2/3 survey.

Morriss, R. K., 2010. 'Atterley House, Atterley, Shropshire: an architectural and archaeological assessment', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 477. ESA 6592.

Munslow SO 529 880. Following on from archaeological recording of the 19th-century cascades in Millichope Park (PRN 07742) in 2009 (see above), restoration works in 2010 required the diversion of the brook and allowed for the recording of the full extent of the surviving features, with the exception of cascades 5–7 which were unable to be recorded due to work schedules.

Reid, M., 2010. 'See how the water plays: a further investigation along the Speller Brook at Millichope Park, Munslow, Shropshire', unpublished report. ESA 6463.

Newport SJ 747 191. An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken in April at a site off Stafford Street, Newport. Five evaluation trenches were excavated. The watching brief element comprised the monitoring of the lifting of a concrete slab and tarmac and the removal of retaining walls. and the excavation of five geo-technical test pits, a vehicle inspection pit and buried fuel tanks. In the northern part of the site a marshy area/pond was identified. This was clearly water-filled during the medieval period as the upper part contained medieval pottery dated from the 13th to early 14th century. A possible revetment for the edge of this feature was identified. The lower parts of these peaty deposits, although undated, could date from before the medieval period, perhaps earlier. In the early post-medieval period and later this area was consolidated by the dumping of material. A cultivation soil seen in some of the trenches dates from the post-medieval period and probably corresponds to the orchard and gardens shown on the Ordnance Survey 1882 map. In other trenches remains of structures which relate to buildings shown on later Ordnance Survey maps were identified. Environmental sampling of the deposits in the northern part of the site was carried out which has provided information on the progression of this environment from a marsh or pond to a drier area of woodland or scrub. Their significance can be set within the context of information available on organic deposits known to exist in Newport and further afield in the wetlands of northern Shropshire and Staffordshire.

Wainwright, J., 2010. 'Archaeological investigations at Stafford Street, Newport, Shropshire', unpublished report, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, report no. 1761. ESA 6566.

Oswestry SJ 295 310. A conservation plan was prepared for Old Oswestry (PRN 00351) in July, funded by English Heritage. The Conservation Plan provided a series of recommendations that respected the cultural and natural heritage of the site. It highlighted the need for a more tightly controlled maintenance regime, based on sound and up-to-date information. In addition, it advocated investigative programmes which would lead to a greater understanding of the site, contributing to an enhanced 'visitor experience'. It considered that local involvement in decision making and implementation would help secure the long term conservation of the site.

Reid, M., 2010. 'Old Oswestry Hillfort conservation plan', unpublished report. ESA 6486.

Oswestry Rural SJ 238 260. In April, a programme of historic building assessment was undertaken of redundant farm buildings at Pentre Issa, formerly Pentre Isaf, Trefonen (PRN 22263), in association with proposals for their conversion.

Baker, N., 2010.' Pentre Isaf Farm, Trefonen, Shropshire: historic building assessment', unpublished report. ESA 6475.

Pontesbury SJ 434 101. An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the site of a proposed lake development at Coppice Farm, Cruckton was undertaken in June. The site is located close to

the remains of Cruckton Roman Villa (PRN 00112) and to the south of the line of the Wroxeter to Forden Gaer Roman Road (PRN 00098). It was therefore considered to have archaeological potential. The desk-based assessment revealed that the site has been used for pasture for at least the last 160 years, but that no archaeological features are known within any of the fields planned for development. The walkover survey did not identify any obvious remains, however it did demonstrate the likelihood that the fields formed part of the land exploited by the inhabitants of the villa.

Pannett, A., 2010. 'Coppice Farm, Cruckton, Shropshire: archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey'. Cambrian Archaeological Projects, report no. 644. ESA 6479.

Pontesbury SJ 401 060. In September, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land to the rear of The Oaklands, Pontesbury, during excavations to provide a summer room extension to the existing dwelling. The development site lies on the boundary of the scheduled area of the ringwork and tower keep castle (Scheduled Monument No. 33836, PRN 01056). The watching brief monitored excavations on the site but no archaeological features were revealed.

Frost, P., 2010. 'The Oaklands, Chapel Street, Pontesbury, Shropshire: watching brief', unpublished report. Castlering Archaeology, report no. 340. ESA 6482.

Ruyton-XI-Towns SJ 371 240. A photographic record of the farm buildings at Shelvock, Ruyton-XI-Towns, comprising a linhay (open fronted farm building), a calf shed and two cart sheds was produced in 2010.

Shirra, J. B., 2010. 'Shelvock, Ruyton XI Towns, Shrewsbury: Linhay, calf and two cart shed photographic survey', unpublished report. ESA 6572.

Ruyton-XI-Towns SJ 392 221. A programme of architectural and historical assessment was undertaken of outbuildings to the rear of The Talbot Dog Inn, Church Street, Ruyton-XI-Towns (PRN 13131) in November. Although the buildings are not listed, they lie within the curtilage of the Grade II Listed inn. These agricultural buildings are presently redundant but are of local historic and architectural significance and worthy of retention and adaptive reuse.

Morriss, R. K., 2010. 'The Talbot Dog, Church Street, Ruyton-XI-Towns: architectural and historical assessment of outbuildings', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 522. ESA 6623.

Selattyn and Gobowen SJ 278 312. A conservation management plan was prepared for part of the Brogyntyn Estate, near Oswestry in December. This was aimed at updating the 2002 Conservation Plan and the 2009 Landscape Management Plan and incorporated significant documentary and cartographic research. In April 2010, as part of the preparation of the plan, a full walkover survey of the estate was carried out to identify all archaeological and historic features of the park and garden and assess their condition and relative significance.

Pannett, A., 2010. 'The Brogyntyn Estate, Oswestry, Shropshire: conservation management plan', unpublished report, Cambrian Archaeological Projects, report no. 646. ESA 6504.

Shawbury SJ 488 125. In August, a photographic record was made of St Chad's Cottage (PRN 10161 & PRN 10162), coach house and garden wall as a condition of planning and listed building consent for the removal of two lean-to structures in poor condition.

Ratcliffe, J., 2010. 'St Chad's Cottage, Claremont Bank, Shrewsbury. Photographic record', unpublished report. ESA 6449.

Shawbury SJ 554 200. In July, the archaeological, architectural and historic significance of a pair of agricultural buildings on the site of the former Shawbury Park Farm, Shropshire, was assessed to accompany planning proposals in respect of conversion of the buildings for residential use.

Frost, P., 2010. 'Barns at Shawbury Park, Shawbury, Shrewsbury; historic building appraisal', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no.338. ESA 6457.

Shrewsbury SJ 498 138. In February, a programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out to inform and support design proposals for the proposed regeneration and development of the site, which was occupied from 1797 by the Ditherington Flax Mill (PRN 06731). The archaeological investigation comprised the excavation of five small evaluation trenches, which were targeted on structures shown on historical mapping of the area. The potential for buried remains of archaeological interest to survive in these areas was established in a desk-based assessment of the site, which was completed in October 2009 (see above). The evaluation was also intended to establish the presence, depth and character of any historical surfacing that may survive beneath the modern ground surface. The results obtained from the evaluation demonstrated that structural remains associated with the former flax warehouse, wash house, maltings lean-to, canal, and workers' housing survived as sub-surface features. Further excavation was recommended.

Vannan, A., 2010. 'Ditherington Flax Mill, Shrewsbury, Shropshire: Archaeological Evaluation (First draft)', unpublished report, Oxford Archaeology North, report no. 2010-11/1045. ESA 6797.

Shrewsbury SJ 494 128. In March five small trial trenches were excavated at Shrewsbury Castle (PRN

01097), located above The Dana on the exterior of the castle's north wall. The work was carried out prior to the possible construction of a path and access steps in order to assess the survival of the archaeological resource in the area. Of the five trenches, four showed intact post-medieval archaeological features, while the fifth showed post-medieval deposits. A wall like feature, identified in trench one, probably represents post-medieval underpinning, possibly as part of the works undertaken by Thomas Telford in the late 18th century. No medieval deposits or features were encountered throughout the evaluation.

Smith, C., 2010. 'Shrewsbury Castle, Shrewsbury, Shropshire: archaeological evaluation', unpublished report, Cambrian Archaeological Projects, report no. 623. ESA 6441.

Shrewsbury SJ 489 126. In April, a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of 1–5 Bridge Street, Shrewsbury was conducted as a condition of conservation area consent and following damage by an explosion.

Base Architecture, 2010. 'Photographic survey; 1–5 Bridge Street, Shrewsbury', unpublished report. ESA 6442.

Shrewsbury SJ 506 120. A condition assessment of the Coade stone sculpture of Lord Hill, atop Lord Hills Column, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury (PRN 10054) was undertaken in June. The report includes a repair history of the column, and a photographic record and statement of current condition and remedial work required.

Nation, M., 2010. 'General Lord Hill, Shrewsbury: conservation report', unpublished report, Taylor Pearce. ESA 6823.

Shrewsbury SJ 499 124. In June, a watching brief monitored the foundation trenches being cut for an extension to the rear of 187 Abbey Foregate. The trenches were dug by hand to a width of 0.6m by 0.85m depth. The earliest deposit reached by the excavations was a layer at least 0.25m thick of a dark greyish brown silty loam, representing a buried garden soil, which produced some 18th-century pottery and clay tobacco pipe stem. This deposit was cut by a feature containing a dark greyish brown sandy silty loam with brick and mortar fragments, likely to have been the fill of a possible rubbish pit. In the north-eastern corner of the garden there was a further deposit 0.3m thick of very dark grey silty loam, also a buried garden soil. This soil layer contained some 17th- to 19th-century pottery, glass, and clay tobacco pipe stem. A dump of mortar with a thin layer of mortar extending to the south lay against the southern edge of this latter garden soil deposit. The mortar, when excavated, was seen to have been a building deposit, possibly associated with the construction of the present house. The mortar lay beneath a deposit of reddish brown sandy clay with pebbles and a further deposit of a clean reddish brown sandy clay, both possibly re-deposited natural. These in turn were sealed by a layer 0.3m thick of very dark grey sandy loam mottled with reddish brown clay, again representing a buried garden soil. This lay beneath the grey crushed stone chippings of the hardcore of the present yard surface and the topsoil of the garden to the south. No other significant archaeological features or deposits were seen during the watching brief.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'A watching brief at 187 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 2010', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 282. ESA 6478.

Shrewsbury SJ 489 124. In July, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken to the rear of No. 5 St John's Hill, Shrewsbury, during excavations in association with an extension to the property. The stratigraphy uncovered by the excavation work indicated that any evidence of occupation on the site prior to the construction of Nos 3–6 has been removed, perhaps when the area was levelled in the mid to late 17th century. Finds recovered also suggested a *c*.1680s to mid-18th century date for material deposited above the natural red sand. The excavation also provided the opportunity to photograph the battered sandstone foundation of No. 5, which presumably continues below the rear of Nos 3-6, which make up the galleried row house of potential 16th- to 17th-century date.

Frost, P., 2010. '5 St John's Hill, Shrewsbury archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 335. ESA 6437.

Shrewsbury SJ 492 123. In September, Shropshire Council Archaeology Service photographed a drain trench at St David's Chapel, Belmont, Shrewsbury following a report from a member of the public re: red sandstone exposed in groundworks. The drains were already in place and the excavations were further obscured by planks. No confirmation of sandstone was possible.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'Trench at St David's Chapel, Belmont, Shrewsbury', unpublished report. ESA 6902.

St Martin's SJ 303 370. In October, three stiles were replaced on footpaths which crossed the Roman military site at Rhyn Park, St Martins, Shropshire (PRN 00645). Scheduled ancient monument consent granted by English Heritage required that the work was carried out under archaeological supervision. No archaeological features or deposits were seen during this watching brief.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'A watching brief at Rhyn Park, St Martins, Shropshire, 2010', unpublished report, SCAS report no 288. ESA 6495.

The Gorge SJ 672 060. A watching brief was undertaken in 2009–2010 at Lightmoor Extra Care Development at Lightmoor Village, Telford, Shropshire. The site straddles the boundaries of three former fields and was given over to pastureland prior to development. The watching brief was carried out in two stages, the first during the relocation of a hedge, and the second during the removal of topsoil. No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

Kelleher, S., 2010. 'Lightmoor Extra Care, Lightmoor Village, Telford, Shropshire: Archaeological Watching Brief 2009–10', unpublished report, Birmingham Archaeology, report no. PN 2008. ESA 7242.

Uffington SJ 541 151. In March, three stiles were replaced with kissing gates on footpaths at Haughmond Abbey (PRN 00116). In accordance with the scheduled monument consent for this work, an archaeological watching brief was maintained by the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council. No significant archaeological features or deposits were seen in the works.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'An Archaeological Watching Brief at Haughmond Abbey, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 279. ESA 6450.

Wem Urban SJ 515 288. In May an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of the proposed new Meres and Mosses Headquarters on land to the rear of Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire. The site lies within the historic core of the town of Wem, crossed by the projected line of the town's 17th-century Civil War defences (PRN 01637). A single evaluation trench was excavated to a maximum length of 24.8m by 2.2m wide within the footprint of the proposed development. The most interesting features located were two parallel ditches, referred to as Ditch (13) and the earlier Ditch (19). The original profile of Ditch (19) had been severely disturbed by Ditch (13), cut into its north side, and the much later cut for a rubbish pit on its south side. While no finds were recovered from the primary fill of the Ditch (19), the late-medieval to 18th-century ceramic material located at the interface of its primary fill and upper fill suggests the ditch was cut before and likely to have been open during the Civil War period. The fill of the ditch included finds dating mainly to the 18th and 19th centuries suggesting the feature had been cut sometime after the Civil War, probably in the 18th-century period. Although some of the ceramic material located from the fill may date to the 17th-century period, it could have been redeposited during the cutting of the feature. The opportunity for further investigation along the projected alignment of these features may provide firmer evidence of their date and function.

Frost, P., 2010. 'Proposed Meres and Mosses headquarters, Wem, Shropshire; archaeological evaluation', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology Report no. 330. ESA 6443.

Wem Urban SJ 514 287. An archaeological watching brief was conducted in July during groundworks associated with the construction of a sewer on land off Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire. The sewer ran from NGR 351547, 328769 to NGR 351502, 328722 and consisted of two parallel pipes with three manholes located along each pipe. The development was located close to Civil War defences identified by previous archaeological work undertaken in the area (see above). An archaeological feature containing post-medieval material was observed in one of the manholes, though its full extent could not be determined. No other features were observed in the other manholes or in the open cut trench where the ground appeared disturbed.

Wessex Archaeology 2010. 'Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire: archaeological watching brief report', unpublished report, Wessex Arch, report no. 74710.03. ESA 6562.

West Felton SJ 349 244. A programme of architectural and historical assessment was carried out of The Old Maltings (PRN 31280), Weirbrook in October. The maltings are shown on tithe mapping from the mid 19th century and were built along the side of what was then the main Holyhead Road. The site consists of a virtually intact and unaltered maltings building, complete with internal kiln, an extension to that range and a detached stable block. Proposals for adaptive reuse of these buildings were supported.

Morriss, R. K. and Little, R., 2010. 'The Old Maltings, Weirbrook, West Felton: architectural and historical assessment of outbuildings', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 515. ESA 6624.

Whitchurch Rural SJ 541 376. A programme of historic building appraisal was undertaken of a series of farm buildings at Tilstock Hall Farm (PRN 26583), near Whitchurch in October in connection with proposals for restoration and adaptation of some of the buildings.

Morriss, R. K., 2010. 'Tilstock Hall Farm, Tilstock, Shropshire: architectural and archaeological assessment', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series 517. ESA 7047.

Whitchurch Urban SJ 539 419. An archaeological evaluation was carried out during August at London Road on the northern edge of Whitchurch, within a parcel of land covering 3.5ha. This followed on from a desk-based assessment which had identified a moderate potential for the recovery of archaeological remains from the site. At the time of evaluation the site was under pasture. Two trenches, totalling 30 linear metres, were excavated, targeted on an area of potential Roman burials. No significant remains were encountered; the only archaeological feature was a boundary ditch from which a quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered.

Turner, C., 2010. 'Archaeological desk-based assessment: land off London Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire', unpublished report, Phoenix Archaeology, report no. PC353a. ESA 6650.

Simmonds, C., 2010. 'An archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at London Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire', unpublished report, Northamptonshire Archaeology, report no. 10/131. ESA 6651.

Whittington SJ 316 325. A programme of historic building assessment was undertaken in November at Great Fernhill, Whittington. This included documentary research, a basic photographic record and building survey. This concluded that the three farm buildings assessed were of 17th-century date and contemporary with the listed farmhouse (PRN 19147).

Baker, N., 2010. 'A Historic buildings assessment of farm buildings at Great Fernhill, Whittington, Shropshire', unpublished report. ESA 6878.

Worthen with Shelve SJ 374 021. A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of new drainage trenches around an annexe on the east side of the Miners' Dry at Snailbeach Lead Mine, Shropshire (PRN 20340). A sequence of deposits was recorded on the south side of the annexe and beneath a trackway on its north side, although no dating material was recovered from these.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A watching brief at the Miners' Dry, Snailbeach Lead Mine, Shropshire, 2010', unpublished report, SCAS report number 291. ESA 6630.

Wroxeter and Uppington SJ 563 081. In October and November 2009, and February 2010, a watching brief was carried out on groundworks associated with a barn conversion at Glebe Farm Barns, Wroxeter. The development site lay on the line of the southern defences of the Roman city of Wroxeter (PRN 06482). The watching brief recorded waterlogged, or formerly waterlogged, deposits over the northern part of the study area. A small group of pits and linear gulleys containing small amounts of Romano-British pottery were seen in the southmost part of the site. No other significant deposits of features were seen in the course of the watching brief.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'An archaeological watching brief at Glebe Farm Barns, Wroxeter, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 272. ESA 6390.

Wroxeter and Uppington SJ 565 080. In March, an archaeological evaluation was carried out to provide archaeological information ahead of a planning application for the construction of two bungalows at Wroxeter Roman Vineyard, Wroxeter, Shropshire. The evaluation involved the excavation of two trial trenches and found no archaeological features, deposits or finds, suggesting that the general area was not intensively occupied in the Roman period.

Macey-Bracken, E., 2010. 'Wroxeter Roman Vineyard, Wroxeter, Shropshire: archaeological evaluation', unpublished report, Birmingham Archaeology, report no. PN 2051. ESA 6402.

Wroxeter and Uppington SJ 565 095. In Jun an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in respect of a new drainage system at Mytton Antiques, Attingham Estate, Shropshire. In the majority of the area excavated for the drainage trenches of a septic tank, natural geology, consisting of orange sandy gravel was identified at a depth of 0.75m below the current ground level. This was sealed by 0.3m of light brown stony silt subsoil which was overlain by 0.4m of dark brown topsoil. One of the branches of the drainage trenches contained two possible features, a small posthole and, partially revealed to the far eastern end of the trench, a small pit. However, these features contained no datable evidence and are likely to represent modern disturbance. A similar pit was also noted in another of the drainage trenches but was also undated. Possible reasons for the absence of archaeological evidence include recent landscaping activity within the area.

Mann, P., 2010. 'Mytton Antiques, Attingham Estate, Shropshire: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Birmingham Archaeology, report no. PN2095. ESA 6438.

Wroxeter and Uppington SJ 565 088. The hedgerow on the south-west side of the B4380 Buildwas road west of the B3494 crossing (Wroxeter crossroads) was realigned in July in order improve visibility at the junction of these roads; a programme of archaeological investigation was put in place. This investigation included a watching brief on the excavation of postholes for the realigned fence and trial excavation to evaluate the depth of archaeological deposits. Features and deposits of Roman date were recorded, including floor and yard surfaces and the tops of possible walls.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'A watching brief at Wroxeter Crossroads, Wroxeter, Shropshire, 2010', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 286. ESA 6510.

Wroxeter and Uppington SJ 563 081. In November, a watching brief was carried out during the excavation of an electricity cable trench associated with the development of Glebe Farm Barns, Wroxeter. The site lies on the line of the southern defences of the Roman city of *Viroconium Cornoviorum* (PRN 06482). The watching brief recorded an area of cobbled surface, likely to represent a yard surface. It lay at approximately the same depth below the modern ground surface as the cobble and pebble surface seen in the 2002 watching brief on the property to the north (The Old Schoolhouse and Parish Rooms; ESA 4865). This latter feature was

identified as possible rampart material, but in the light of the results from the current watching brief, an alternative interpretation is that it too may have represented a yard surface. However in each case only a very small area of the top of these surfaces was seen, and no adjacent or underlying associated deposits were exposed, therefore any interpretation of these features must remain tentative. No other significant deposits or features were seen in the course of the watching brief.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'An archaeological watching brief at Glebe Farm Barns, Wroxeter, Shropshire, 2010', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 289. ESA 6669.

GAZETTEER OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2011

Acton Burnell SJ 533 019. In October, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in respect of a new drainage system at Parish Church of St Mary, Acton Burnell, Shropshire. No archaeological structures or other features of interest were encountered during the watching brief. Several disarticulated remains were recovered and reburied.

Charles, E., 2011. 'Parish Church of St Mary, Acton Burnell, Shropshire: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, MFL Archaeology, report no. MF-11-453-1. ESA 6689.

Atcham SJ 552 114. In February a magnetometry survey was commissioned by the Shropshire Historical and Archaeological Society to prospect the site of the alleged Saxon Halls site near Upton Magna (PRN 00047) and to seek validation of the cropmarks seen on aerial photographs prior to the site being put into permanent pasture. As expected, based upon experience of previous surveys in this area, the magnetic data was not especially clear, however, sufficient was visible to confirm that the cropmarks do indeed relate to physical structures. Neither possible hall site was clear in the data, not helped by significant interference from overhead power cables; however, sufficient was visible to confirm their existence as structures with earth-cut components. Some additional elements of the presumed Iron Age / Romano-British field system were identified, including a number of ditch and pit fills, augmenting the already considerable complexity of this part of the site.

Roseveare, M., 2011. ' 'Saxon Halls', Upton Magna, Shropshire: Geophysical Survey Report', unpublished report, Archaeophysica, report no. FRG101. ESA 7237.

Barrow SJ 669 026. In December demolition work was carried at The Garage, The Mines, Benthall, Shropshire, in order to prepare the site for redevelopment. The site lies in an area formerly occupied by a clay tobacco pipe factory (PRN 03984), which started in the 18th century and continued production until 1900. A photographic record of the exterior of the structures to be demolished was made prior to demolition.

Hannaford, H., 2012. 'A watching brief on demolition works at The Garage, The Mines, Benthall, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 310. ESA 6696.

Baschurch SJ 431 237. A geophysical survey was undertaken at The Berth as part of a television programme in March. Resistivity, GPR and gradiometer survey identified a number of features of a possible archaeological origin. No anomalies that can confidently be attributed to a central burial chamber (as had been postulated by previous survey on this site) were identified within the survey data.

Smalley, R., 2011. 'Geophysical Survey Report: The Berth, Baschurch, Shropshire', unpublished report, Stratascan, report no. J2862. ESA 6555.

Baschurch SJ 423 219. An archaeological evaluation was carried out in July at the Old Vicarage, Baschurch. Trial excavations on the site located an area of former wet, waterlogged deposits beneath the present lawns of The Old Vicarage, and desk-based research indicated that a pond, possibly a former medieval fish-pond or moat, covered part of the study area up to the mid 19th century. A quantity of late medieval and early post-medieval pottery was recovered from the upper silts of the former pond. No other significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'An archaeological evaluation at The Old Vicarage, Baschurch, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 294. ESA 6587.

Bitterley SO 567 772. A programme of geophysical survey, including gradiometry and GPR survey, was undertaken at Bitterley in April. This work was part of a wider archaeological assessment being carried out by Channel 4's Time Team (see below). In addition, a GPS topographic survey was carried out in the field to the west of Bitterley Court.

GSB, 2011. 'Geophysical Survey Report: Bitterley, Shropshire', Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, report no. 2011/23. ESA 6740.

Bitterley SO 565 774. A programme of archaeological evaluation and community test-pitting was carried out in April as part of Channel 4's 'Time Team' programme, by Wessex Archaeology, following geophysical and topographic survey. The work formed part of an ongoing investigation into the medieval origins of Bitterley and a putative deserted medieval village in the area, being carried out under the auspices of the Bitterley Archaeological Team (BAT).

Wessex Archaeology, 2012. 'Bitterley, Shropshire: archaeological evaluation and assessment of results', unpublished report, Wessex Archaeology, report no. 77501.01. ESA 6741

Boscobel SJ 826 075. A programme of remedial and recording work was carried out in early August on three areas at White Ladies Priory, Boscobel, which had been disturbed by illegal digging activity. The aim was to assess and evaluate the extent and significance of the disturbances on any archaeological features and context displaced as a direct result of this acitivty. This work recorded that the most extensive disturbance had occurred adjacent to the north wall of the priory, where two fragments of bone (possibly human) were recorded within the spoil. Spoil was re-excavated for finds, loose spoil was removed, and scale drawings were prepared of the areas affected.

Sambrook, I., 2011. 'Archaeological remediation and recording at White Ladies Priory, Boscobel, Shropshire', unpublished report, Ironbridge Archaeology Series. ESA 6627.

Bridgnorth SO 716 930. In autumn 2011work began on the construction of a terrace of three town houses at Cartway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Because of its potential historical and archaeological significance, a programme of archaeological work was required to accompany the development. The first stage of this work was to comprise an evaluation of the site following the demolition of existing structures. Trial excavations on the site revealed a single undated posthole. However, a sequence of features and deposits of medieval and post-medieval date – including a medieval cess-pit and a post-medieval cobble path – had been exposed by the demolition work in the north-east corner of the site and these were duly recorded. It was considered that no further archaeological provision was required for the development area.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'An evaluation at 98 Cartway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 306. ESA 6638.

Bridgnorth SO 722 925. In November, a programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out at St James Works, which occupies part of the site of the medieval lepers' hospital of St James (PRN 00390). Trial excavations on the site revealed buried soils containing a small quantity of medieval pottery of 13th- to 14th-century date. No other significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'An archaeological evaluation at St James Works, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 305. ESA 6628.

Chirbury with Brompton SO 323 998. In April, a topographic and geophysical survey was carried out at Hoarstones Stone circle (PRN 00131) by a University of Worcester Student. Topgoraphic survey focused on the position of two round cairns (PRN 02671) in relation to the stone circle. The gradiometer survey revealed anomalies of archaeological interest including a feature interpreted as a pit underneath one of the cairns and a larger feature within the stone circle. Other anomalies indicate ferrous material within the perimeter of the circle and associated with the other mound. The central position of the pit feature further strengthens the interpretation of the mounds as barrows or cairns of Early Bronze Age origin.

Johnson, N., 2011. 'A geophysical and topographic survey at Hoarstone Stone Circle, Shropshire, April 2011', unpublished report. ESA 6575.

Chirbury with Brompton SO 247 931. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in November and December 2010 during the excavation of a new access road and topsoil stripping for a new dwelling at Foggy Bottom Holiday Park, Brompton View, Churchstoke, Shropshire. In July 2011, a further watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a length of service run. Part of the application area lies within the scheduled monument of 'Three Roman camps north-west of Brompton Mill including Tumulus and section of Offa's Dyke' (SAM No. 308) The watching brief identified a total of fifteen features (pits, postholes and linear features), all of which were subsequently preserved *in situ*. Two sherds of Roman domestic pottery were recovered from the upper fills of two of the pits, and a Roman date is suggested for all of these features.

Smith, C., 2012. 'Brompton View, Church Stoke, Shropshire: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Archaeology Wales, report no. 1081. ESA 6816.

Chirbury with Brompton SO 248 933. In September, a watching brief was undertaken during a programme of improvements to water services at Brompton Hall, Chirbury. The scheme entailed works within and adjacent to the scheduled areas of 'Three Roman camps north-west of Brompton Mill including Tumulus and section of Offa's Dyke' and 'Motte and Bailey Castle and line of Offa's Dyke adjacent to Brompton Hall' (SAM Nos 308 and 19210). Despite the very high density of monumental archaeology close to the works, no definitive buried archaeological remains were encountered.

Tuck, A., 2011. 'Brompton Hall, Chirbury, Shropshire, Scheduled Monument No. 308 and 19210: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Wessex Archaeology, report no. 78690.02. ESA 6872.

Claverley SO 785 944. An historic building assessment was undertaken in April at Hopstone House, Claverley

(PRN 11766), a much altered late medieval dwelling. The house has been altered and extended over a period in excess of 400 years and the present building is in need of refurbishment to enable full residential use to modern standards.

Frost, P., 2011. 'Hopstone House, Claverley, Shropshire: historic building assessment', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 351. ESA 6573.

Claverley SO 800 946. An architectural and archaeological analysis of a series of farm buildings was undertaken at Ludstone Hall Farm, Ludstone in December. The older buildings of the farmstead form a coherent assemblage around an always informal yard area and represent over a century of agricultural change. The late-18th- or more probably early-19th-century threshing barn forms the core of the western group of buildings and was always the focus of most farms of this type. Two other buildings that probably date from the early-19th century are the north-east range and the cart shed; though perhaps not as simple as they initially appear to be, they neatly emphasise the north-eastern corner of the enclosure and are both buildings of historical and architectural merit that warrant retention and adaptive re-use.

Morriss, R. K., 2011. 'Ludstone Hall Farm, Ludstone, Claverley, Shropshire: An historic buildings assessment', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 572. ESA 7226.

Clee St Margaret SO 551 830. In July a watching brief was carried out on groundworks for an extension to Cold Weston Cottage, Cold Weston, Clee St Margaret, Shropshire; no significant archaeological features or deposits were seen.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A watching brief at Cold Weston Cottage, Cold Weston, Clee St Margaret, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 301. ESA 6634.

Cleobury Mortimer SO 682 761. In April, a watching brief was conducted at Castle Toot, Cleobury Mortimer (PRN 01185) during extensions and alterations to the existing building. No deposits or finds of archaeological significance were observed during the work.

Crooks, K., 2012. 'Castle Toot, Cleobury Mortimer: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Headland Archaeology, report no. 909. ESA 6867.

Diddlebury SO 508 855. An architectural analysis was undertaken in July at the former National School at Diddlebury, built in 1873 (PRN 16558). This analysis shows that it is of two main phases, but has been considerably altered and is assessed to be of limited architectural or historical value.

Morriss, R. K., Lucy, R. and Little, R., 2011. 'Corvedale School, Diddlebury: an architectural and archaeological analysis and heritage impact assessment', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 551. ESA 6617.

Ellesmere Rural SJ 392 315. A rapid programme of historic building assessment was undertaken in September of Oak House, a Grade II Listed farmhouse. The farmhouse was recorded as of 17th-century date. It is suggested as having been two dwellings originally, *c*.1650, with an extension added in the 18th century, with considerable alterations made in the 19th century.

Tomley, D., 2011. 'Oak House Farm, Tetchill Moor, Elellesmere: a historical assessment of the farm house', unpublished report, J Moody Ltd, report no. PP-01635150. ESA 6702.

Ellesmere Urban SJ 396 346. An archaeological appraisal was undertaken in September of development proposals for land adjacent to The Hollies, Scotland Street, Ellesmere. The Hollies is a Grade II Listed dwelling recorded on Wood's plan of Ellesmere dated 1835, by which time the adjoining garden had been laid out.

Frost, P., 2011. 'Land adjoining The Hollies, Scotland Street, Ellesmere, Shropshire: desk based assessment', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 363. ESA 6928.

Harley SJ 596 014. In November, groundworks were carried out for an extension to Church Cottage, Harley, Shropshire. The study area lay within the core of medieval settlement of Harley immediately adjacent to the churchyard of St Mary's Church (PRN 08633). A watching brief during the development revealed no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A watching brief at Church Cottage, Harley, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 307. ESA 6639.

Hollinswood and Randlay SJ 700 074. In April, a programme of archaeological excavation, historic building recording and landscape survey was undertaken at the Stirchley furnaces site in Telford Town Park (PRN 03882). This work was partly undertaken by community volunteers. Substantially well-preserved remains of two of the original blast furnaces survived. These had been built by the Botfield concern in the 1820s and remained in use until the 1880s; they were then adapted as part of the Wrekin Chemical Works, which used the site into the 20th century. The surviving blast furnaces stand up to 6.5m above the original ground surface, although partly buried and collapsed. Surviving features include blowing and casting arches, furnace stacks, passageways, flues and associated structures. The furnaces are tentatively associated with Thomas Botfield's hot blast patent of 1828.

Belford, P., 2011. 'Stirchley Furnaces, Telford Town Park: archaeological investigations', unpublished

report, Nexus Heritage, report no. 3072.R01. ESA 6658.

Hopton Castle SO 366 779. Between 2009 and 2011, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during restoration work at Hopton Castle (PRN 01167). The tower, while having the appearance of a medieval castle sited on a motte, is generally considered to date to *c*.1300, built as a high-status tower house by the de Hoptons. The history of Hopton Castle and the final occupation of the tower are strongly linked to the Civil War period, when Hopton was an isolated Parliamentary outpost in a Royalist county. Hopton was commanded by Samuel More, the author of the diary which gives an account of the month-long siege and eventual taking of the castle. More recounted the Royalists getting into the tower 'through a house of office on the south side'; the 'house of office' being the garderobe. Clearly the most exciting discovery during the watching brief was the garderobe chute chamber and the evidence of breaching during the Civil War siege, which corroborates Samuel More's account of 1664. The extremely well-constructed chamber remains intact, other than the breaching, and, although gated for safety, will provide visual evidence of an important period in England's history for future generations.

Frost, P., 2011. 'Hopton Castle, Hopton Castle, Shropshire SO 3667 7793: archaeological watching brief Sept 2009–Mar 2011', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 353. ESA 6717.

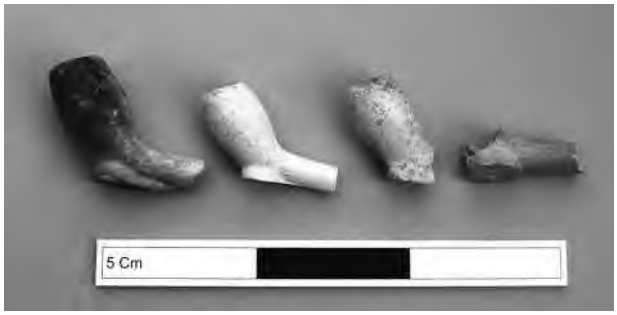

Figure 5 Clay pipe assemblage from garderobe chute chamber, Hopton Castle. *© Pat Frost*

Kinlet SO 711 764. A programme of topographic survey, together with a small area of detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken on the site of the Cleobury Park Furnace (PRN 04634) in February. Tentative interpretation of the site suggests a number of features including a substantial dam, an area of slag as well as the possible furnace site.

Young, T., 2011. 'Geophysical and topographic survey of Cleobury Park Furnace', unpublished report, GeoArch, report no. 2011/04. ESA 6619.

Kinnerley SJ 679 177. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks in October for the construction of a perimeter badger fence in the area of the scheduled ancient monument of Wall Camp Iron Age enclosure (PRN 01108). No significant archaeological deposits were recorded; the few finds recovered were of post-medieval date.

Frost, P., 2011. 'Groundworks at Wall Farm, Shropshire, SJ 681 178: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 368. ESA 6718.

Llanfair Waterdine SO 264 824. In December, a watching brief was undertaken during the installation of new path furniture at 5 sites along the Offa's Dyke Path at Churchtown, Edenhope Hill, and Selley Hall, in south-west Shropshire. These sections of Offa's Dyke were scheduled ancient monuments, and it was part of the scheduled monument consent for the work that it should be carried out under archaeological supervision. The excavations were carried out with minimal disturbance to the ground. Ditch fills and bank deposits were observed at Edenhope Hill and at one of the locations near Selley Hall. Otherwise, no significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered in the excavations for the new path furniture.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'Offa's Dyke Path 2011: a watching brief on the installation of new path furniture at Churchtown, Edenhope Hill, and Selley Hall', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 315. ESA 6697.

Llanyblodwel SJ 241 228. In August, repairs and remodelling were carried out to the north end of Llanyblodwel Bridge, near Oswestry, Shropshire. A level 3 recording of the area of the bridge affected by the works was carried out, consisting of a photographic record and a plan drawing at a scale of 1:50.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'Archaeological recording at Llanyblodwel Bridge, Shropshire, 2010', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 312. ESA 6699

Ludford SO 513 741. A basic photographic record was undertaken in 2011 at Ludford Mill (PRN 10942), following fire and smoke damage and ahead of proposed repairs.

Dean, M., 2012. 'Proposed fire and smoke damage repairs at Ludford Mill, Ludford, Ludlow: specification and schedule of works', unpublished report. ESA 6976.

Ludlow SO 512 744. In June and July, groundworks were carried out for an extension to the rear of 33 Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire. Broad Street lies within the historic core of the medieval town, and is known to have been occupied since the 13th century. A watching brief

was therefore carried out during the development. The foundation remains of a wall of possible medieval date were seen in one of the foundation trenches. Otherwise significant archaeological features or deposits comprised mixed yard soils and rubbish pits of post-medieval date.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A watching brief at 33 Broad Street, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 300. ESA 6633.

Ludlow SO 511 747. Dendrochronological investigations were undertaken between 2006 and 2010 at The Reader's House, Ludlow (PRN 11081), resulting in 18 timbers being dated. One tiebeam was from a tree felled in the summer of AD 1553, but this appears to be either a long-term stockpiled or reused timber incorporated into a later building. Whilst some timbers have actual or likely felling dates in the late AD 1590s and early 1600s, there is preponderance of material felled in the period AD 1613–6, and the logic of the building construction suggests that the porch, some of the framing and floors, and the roof were constructed in the mid AD 1610s, which coincides with the '1616' date inscribed on the porch. This indicates a hitherto unrealised major reconstruction at this time.

Bridge, M., 2011. 'The Reader's House, Ludlow, Shropshire: tree-ring analysis of timbers', unpublished report, English Heritage, report no. 108/2011. ESA 6856.

Market Drayton SJ 675 340. In September, groundworks were carried out for an extension to 4 St Mary's Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire. A watching brief was carried out during these groundworks, but no significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A watching brief at 4 St Mary's Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 303. ESA 6636.

Market Drayton SJ 674 344. A heritage statement was produced for a site near Towers Lawn, Frogmore Road, Market Drayton, Shropshire in November. The site almost certainly contains the remains of a late 18th- or early 19th-century service complex and home farm relating to a large house named The Towers; although most of this probably now survives as sub-surface foundations, part of the service complex remains as upstanding buildings, now converted to domestic housing.

Sargent, A., 2011. 'Heritage Statement: Towers Lawn, Frogmore Road, Market Drayton, Shropshire, NGR: SJ 6750 3447', unpublished report, C Henshaw Archaeological Consultant, report no. MDS11. ESA 6660.

Much Wenlock SO 623 999. During June and July, groundworks were carried out associated with the rebuilding of a first floor extension at the Much Wenlock Museum, at the centre of the historic core of the medieval town in an area known to have been occupied since the late Roman or early Saxon period. A watching brief was carried out during the development. The watching brief recorded a pit and the foundation remains of a wall of probable late medieval date, and yard deposits of 18th- to 19th-century date.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A watching brief at Much Wenlock Museum, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 298. ESA 6631.

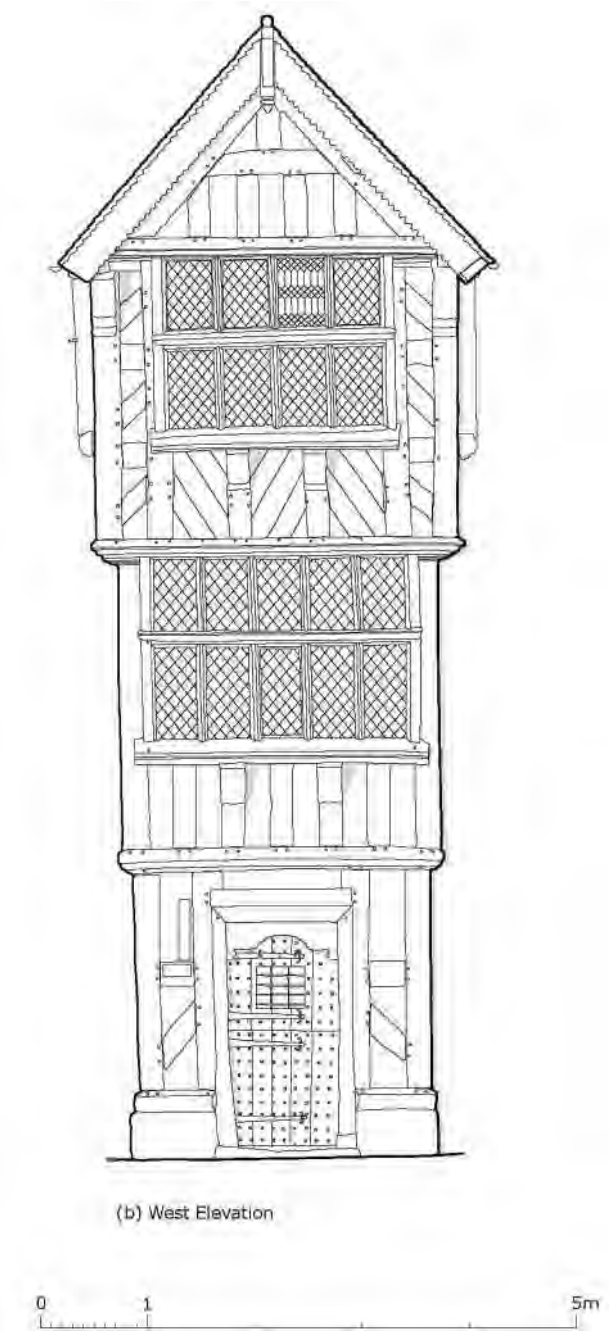

Figure 6 Drawing of west elevation of porch at The Reader's House, Ludlow. *© Ric Tyler. Porch elevations.jpg*.

Munslow SO 529 880. A brief assessment of the general condition of the bridge and cascades at Millichope Park, Munslow (PRN 07742) was undertaken in May, following some limited remedial work; this included a basic photographic record of the structures.

Reid, M., 2011. 'Management of the rebuilt cascades and the restored stone bridge on the Speller Brook, Millichope Park, Munslow, Shropshire', unpublished report. ESA 6647.

Newcastle on Clun SO 256 831. In 2011 a watching brief was carried out during the installation of new path furniture at five sites along the Offa's Dyke Path on Graig Hill, Newcastle-on-Clun, in south-west Shropshire. At three of the sites, new postholes were located on the bank element of the Dyke. Otherwise no significant archaeological deposits were located in the excavations for the new furniture.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'Graig Hill, Newcastle-on-Clun: a watching brief on the installation of new path furniture along Offa's Dyke Path', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 296. ESA 6588.

Newport SJ 745 188. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in December on land at Beech Croft, Upper Bar, Newport. No significant archaeology was revealed and no evidence was uncovered during the assessment to suggest that the east side of the application site has been disturbed other than in modern times.

Frost, P., 2011. 'Land at Beech Croft, Upper Bar, Newport, Shropshire SJ 7454 1883: archaeological evaluation', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 373. ESA 6720.

Norton in Hales SJ 690 349. A watching brief was carried out on geo-technical works at Shiffords Bridge Pumping Station, in August. No archaeological finds or features were recorded. Substantial peat deposits were identified in all of the trenches. While undated, the presence of the peat deposits suggests that this area of the site is unlikely to have been occupied in recent times although the natural environment may have been exploited for food and materials.

Cherrington, R., 2011. 'Land at Shiffords Bridge Pumping Station, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2QS: an archaeological watching brief 2011', unpublished report, Benchmark Archaeology. ESA 6748.

Oswestry SJ 291 296. In January, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 28 Cross Street. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered. Natural ground was recorded at a maximum of 0.80m below ground level.

Arnold, G., 2011. 'Archaeological watching brief at 28 Cross Street, Oswestry, Shropshire', unpublished report, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council Report no. 1812. ESA 6565.

Oswestry SJ 291 297. In February, an outline history and brief analysis was prepared of the fabric of Nos 2–6 Albion Hill in the heart of the medieval town of Oswestry. Nos 4–6 dates to the early 19th century, with No. 2 built in 1832, containing the office and printing works of the printer Samuel Roberts.

Morriss, R. K., 2011. '2–6 Albion Hill, Oswestry, Shropshire: an architectural and archaeological analysis', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 533. ESA 6533.

Oswestry SJ 297 287. An archaeological desk-based assessment and site visit was undertaken in April on land off Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry. The development site lay south-east of the town, within an area of historic and archaeological interest. A watching brief was subsequenly carried out in September and October; no archaeological features predating the modern period were identified.

Frost, P., 2011. 'Land adjacent to the Highwayman PH, Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry: archaeological desk-based assessment and site walk over', Castlering Archaeology, report no. 350. ESA 6558.

Frost, P., 2011. 'Land adjacent to the Highwayman PH, Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 367. ESA 6640.

Oswestry SJ 288 297. A watching brief was undertaken in December on groundworks for an extension to Sebastians Hotel and Restaurant, 43–45 Willow Street, Oswestry, Shropshire. The study area lay within the historic core of the medieval and post–medieval town, and it was considered possible that archaeological remains might be encountered during the groundworks for the development. No significant archaeological features or deposits were seen during the course of the watching brief.

Hannaford, H., 2012. 'A watching brief at Sebastians Hotel and Restaurant, 43–45 Willow Street, Oswestry, Shropshire', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 308. ESA 6725.

Oswestry Rural SJ 293 283. A desk-based assessment and building survey was undertaken of West Coton House (PRN 19855) in December, in association with proposals for its restoration. Weston Coton House, just to the south of Oswestry, is, superficially, a medium-sized mid-19th-century house of rendered brick. However, whilst the house was rebuilt in that period, it retained earlier fabric. The oldest, and by far the most significant, element was a surviving section of a jettied and close-studded timber-framed building, possibly of the later 16th century, that was once clearly a building

of some status. The other section is a brick-built range probably dating to the later 18th century. Externally, the house has been relatively unaltered since the mid-19th century but it is in a poor state and in need of restoration.

Morriss, R., 2011. 'Weston Coton House, Weston Cotton, Shropshire: an architectural and archaeological analysis and heritage assessment', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 552. ESA 6794.

Oswestry Rural SJ 259 254. A programme of archaeological work was carried out on land at Lazy Acre, Treflach in 2011, on a site in close proximity to a section of Offa's Dyke (PRN 01000). The archaeological evaluation comprised two trial trenches located on the line of proposed dwellings foundations. No archaeological finds or features were recorded. A subsequent watching brief also recorded no archaeological features The overall interpretation gained from the evaluation and the watching brief is that the stratigraphy shown in the trenches appears to indicate the area having been lowered then subsequently built back up again. No part of the Offa's Dyke bank appears to survive east of the Lazy Acre and adjoining plot property boundary.

Smith, C., 2011. 'Lazy Acre, Treflach, Shropshire: archaeological evaluation', unpublished report, Archaeology Wales, report no. 1040. ESA 6674.

Quatt Malvern SO 755 882. A programme of historic building survey, recording and assessment of The Dower House, Quatt (PRN 12009), was undertaken on behalf of the National Trust in January, and its associated features with a view to informing the decision-making process in respect of its conservation, adaptation and future use.

Tyler, R., 2011. 'The Dower House, Quatt, nr. Bridgnorth, Shropshire: historic building record', unpublished report, Ric Tyler, report no. 2010-001. ESA 6532.

Richard's Castle SO 512 721. A desk-based assessment was carried out in connection with proposals for the construction of a caravan park at Overton, to the south of Ludlow. Research indicated that the development site lay within the extent of the former RAF training depot at Ludford Park (PRN 31234) and that the postulated line of a Roman road (PRN 02613) ran across the west of the application area. Subsequently, a programme of trial trenching was undertaken of linear features, including the postulated line of a Roman road. A programme of recording was also undertaken of three RAF huts on the site, which were to be demolished as part of the scheme. A watching brief was subsequently undertaken on site clearance works.

Malim, T., 2011. 'Ludlow Touring Park, Overton Road, Richard's Castle, Shropshire: archaeological desk based assessment', unpublished report, SLR, report no. 406.03602.00001. ESA 7155.

Malim, T., 2012. 'Ludlow Touring Park Overton Road, Richard's Castle, Shropshire: archaeological site investigations', unpublished report, SLR, report no. 406.02602.00001. ESA 6795.

Selattyn and Gobowen SJ 287 318. An assessment was undertaken in September of the archaeological, architectural and historic significance of the Coach House, Pentrepant Hall (PRN 30727). Tithe map evidence suggests that the Coach House was rebuilt in its present form in *c*.1840 with the central bay housing horse drawn carriages and the flanking wings providing stabling, workshops and a tack/saddle room. It was later transformed into a workshop.

Frost, P., 2011. 'Coach house at Pentre Pant Hall, Selattyn, Shropshire: Historic Building Appraisal', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 364. ESA 6700.

Shawbury SJ 560 211. An archaeological auger survey and watching brief was undertaken at Shawbury Moat (PRN 01132) in March, on behalf of English Heritage and the Environment Agency. Significant quantities of disturbance and intrusive material were identified in both the auger survey and monitoring during the excavation of the ponds. This came in the form of natural bioturbation but more significantly through the cutting of drainage channels and the dumping of post-medieval and modern material. All artefactual material recovered was late 19th to 20th century in date with the exception of two 16th- to 18th-century roof-tile fragments. A firm clay layer was identified, which, it was considered, is likely to represent the original clay lining of the moat.

Daffern, N., 2011. 'Auger survey and watching brief at Shawbury Moat, Shawbury, Shropshire', unpublished report, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, report no. 1836. ESA 7349.

Shawbury SJ 571 191. Analysis by dendrochronology of a number of timbers from Wytheford House, Great Wytheford (PRN 12371), in April, produced a single dated site chronology comprising 13 of the 14 samples obtained. This site chronology has an overall length of 211 rings, these rings dated as spanning the years 1516–1726.

Arnold, A., 2011. 'Tree-ring analysis of timbers from Wytheford House, Great Wytheford, Shawbury, Shropshire', unpublished report, Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory. ESA 7059.

Shifnal SJ 726 109. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Redhill Reservoir, Telford in November, ahead of the submission of a planning application for

Figure 7 Aerial view of Moat at Shawbury in 2009. *© Shropshire Council. SA0908_044.jpg.*

construction of nitrate improvement structures and associated pipework. The site lies immediately north of the A5, formerly Roman Watling Street and to the south of a Roman military camp/signal station (SAM 1006269) partially excavated in the 1970s during the construction of the reservoir. The evaluation identified significant Roman settlement remains dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. The remains mostly comprised boundary ditches, pits and postholes. Beam slots and frequent fired wattle/daub remains suggest that wooden buildings were present on the site although no floors or surfaces were identified as being associated with them. More substantial buildings may also be present as a large robbed-out sandstone wall foundation was excavated and a single Roman tegula (roof tile) was recovered. Two possible oven/furnace bases were also identified in association with metal-working debris indicating that industrial activities may also have been undertaken on site. Significant quantities of exotic and high status pottery and metal-working finds were also recovered from the site, including a trumpet brooch, two Polden Hill type brooches and a possible military phalera mount. There was no evidence that the nearby military enclosures extended into this part of the site or that Roman Watling Street (SAM 1003811) ran through the evaluated area.

Mann, A., 2011. 'Archaeological evaluation and watching brief at Redhill Reservoir, Telford, Shropshire', unpublished report, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, report no. 1886. ESA 6738.

Shrewsbury SJ 493 124. A desk-based assessment and building assessment was carried out in February at No. 11 Dogpole, Shrewsbury (PRN 10240) in connection with proposals for an extension and internal alterations to the property.

Morriss, R. K., 2011. 'Cromwell's Hotel, 11 Dogpole, Shrewsbury: an architectural and archaeological apprasial', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series no. 530. ESA 6560.

Shrewsbury SJ 490 125. A desk-based assesmsent was undertaken in connection with plans to redevelop 4–5 Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury as part of an overall redevelopment of 71 Mardol. The site lies on the west side of Roushill Bank, a lane within the historic core of medieval Shrewsbury. The development site has probably been occupied since the mid-13th century at least. This assessment recommended that further field evaluation in the form of trial excavation be carried out in order to assess the survival, nature, and significance of any archaeological remains in this area.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'An archaeological desk-based assessment of 4–5 Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 293. ESA 6593.

Shrewsbury SJ 491 123. In June and July, a watching brief was undertaken on groundworks carried out for an extension to 5 College Hill, Shrewsbury. The study area lay within the historic core of the medieval town in an area known to have been occupied since the Saxon period. No significant archaeological features or deposits were seen during the course of the watching brief.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A Watching Brief at 5 College Hill, Shrewsbury, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 297. ESA 6745.

Shrewsbury SJ 487 126. A desk-based assessment was undertaken in connection with proposals to erect a new teaching block at the Shrewsbury Sixth Form College. The Sixth Form College lies within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval town of Shrewsbury. The assessment identified that the proposed development probably lay within the area of the cemetery of the town's medieval Augustinian Friary (PRN 01466). Subsequently, archaeological evaluation, consisting of two trial trenches and a test pit was undertaken on the site. The severely truncated remains of two early 19th-century cellared buildings were recorded, but there were no surviving archaeological contexts demonstrably earlier than the late 17th century. A narrow strip of archaeology between the two buildings was identified, comprising a ground surface and a soil layer containing finds dateable to the late 17th century. A single sherd of residual medieval pottery was noted.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'An archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Shrewsbury Sixth Form College', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 295. ESA 6585.

Dodd, L. J., 2011. 'Shrewsbury Sixth Form College: an archaeological evaluation', unpublished report, Earthworks Archaeological Services, report no. E1128. ESA 6649.

Shrewsbury SJ 490 124. Between August 2009 and September 2011, a watching brief was carried out on groundworks associated with the redevelopment of The Music Hall, Shrewsbury as a museum and art gallery, a Tourist Information Centre, and café. The Music Hall site incorporates structural remains of Vaughan's Mansion, a medieval stone-built hall dating to *c*.1300. The 2009–10 watching brief (ESA 6412) monitored groundworks in the courtyards. It was seen that the ground level in the courtyards had been reduced in the modern periods down to the natural sandy subsoil. In places there was significant later 20th-century disturbance. A post-medieval or early modern pit cut into the natural sand was partially exposed in the central courtyard, and brick and sandstone walls, possibly belonging to outbuildings, were seen in the western yard. The 2010–11 watching brief (ESA 6694) monitored groundworks within the building itself, principally inside the Music Hall block that occupied the site of the east wing of the former medieval Vaughan's Mansion. The remains of a number of red sandstone foundation walls were found within the Music Hall. These walls were likely to have been the remains of the former east wing of Vaughan's Mansion. A number of contractor's test pits and underpinning pits excavated against internal walls in the Music Hall showed that in places these were built up on red sandstone foundations. It was unclear whether these comprised re-used sandstone or whether they were the foundations of the earlier structure re-used, though the latter appeared to be the case.

Hannaford, H., 2010. 'An archaeological watching brief at The Music Hall, Shrewsbury, 2009', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 275. ESA 6412.

Hannaford, H., 2012. 'An archaeological watching brief at The Music Hall and Vaughan's Mansion, Shrewsbury, 2010–11', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 292. ESA 6694.

Shrewsbury SJ 493 122. In September, a programme of archaeological work was undertaken relating to a programme of residential development at St Julian's Friars, situated within the medieval core of Shrewsbury. Archaeological observation centred upon an area to the south of Beeches Lane and west of St Julian's Friars, where excavation and piling operations were carried out either side of a surviving east–west section of the 13th-century Town Wall and a drawn and photographic record of the wall was compiled. Examination of the fabric revealed evidence of considerable post-medieval repair and underpinning. The upper section of the masonry also showed evidence of earlier impact, with much of the superstructure damaged or missing. Groundworks observation to the north of the wall revealed evidence of considerable truncation of earlier deposits by 19th-century cellarage. These cellars appeared to have incorporated the existing medieval fabric of the wall, which in places had been refaced with brick and render along its northern elevation. Groundworks to the south of the wall revealed a very substantial deposit of 19th- or 20th-century building demolition rubble, extending below the maximum excavation depth. No earlier deposits were recorded.

Logan, W., 2011. 'Archaeological observation and limited structural record: St Julian's Friars, Shrewsbury SY1 1UD', unpublished report, Border Archaeology, report no. BA1124SJF. ESA 7310.

Shrewsbury SJ 461 127. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken from October 2010 to May 2011 during development work on land off Somerby Drive, Shelton, Shropshire.The site lay along the possible

route of two Roman roads, evidence for which has been recorded *c*.1km to the east at Copthorne. No significant archaeological finds or features were identified during the watching brief.

Cramp, R., 2011. 'Archaeological watching brief on land of Somerby Drive, Shelton, Shrewsbury, Shropshire NGR SJ 4613 1285', unpublished report, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, report no. 330. ESA 6643.

Shrewsbury SJ 492 124. An architectural and archaeological analysis, and heritage impact assessment, was undertaken in connection with proposals for alterations to Nos. 39–40 High Street, Shrewsbury. Nos.39–40 High Street includes at least three separate properties that were only amalgamated in the 1960s to form a large restaurant and bar. Whilst No.40 contains fossilised remains of a late medieval timber-framed building above a medieval cellar in its rear range, none of the other standing buildings pre-date the end of the 18th century. The buildings reflect an ancient and complex plot development in the heart of the town and their elevations to the High Street and Peacock Passage contribute to the character of the Conservation Area.

Morriss, R. K., 2011. '39–40 High Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, NGR: SJ 492 124: an architectural and archaeological analysis and heritage impact assessment', unpublished report, Mercian Heritage Series 559. ESA 6749.

Shrewsbury SJ 492 124. A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a service trench across a section of High Street, Shrewsbury in November. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

SLR Consulting 2011. 'Archaeological Watching Brief for 39–41 High Street, Shrewsbury', unpublished report, SLR Consulting, report no. 406.03717.00003. ESA 6751.

Stanton upon Hine Heath SJ 598 243. An historic buildings assessment was undertaken of redundant farm buildings at Heath House Farm, High Hatton in August, in connection with proposals for their future use.

King, M., 2011. 'Heath House Farm, High Hatton: historic building assessment', unpublished report, King Partnership. ESA 6880.

Stoke upon Tern SJ 650 304. An archaeological fieldwalking survey was undertaken in October at Tern Hill Quarry, Market Drayton, Shropshire. The survey recovered a small quantity of finds, comprising two pieces of prehistoric worked flint, a clay tobacco pipe stem and a piece of waste lead from the northern third of the site. The small size of the finds assemblage and the limited range of material recovered is not suggestive of concentrated activity on the site in any period.

Wright, J., 2011. 'Tern Hill Quarry Extension, Shropshire: archaeological fieldwalking survey', unpublished report, Cotswold Archaeology, report no. 11274. ESA 6693.

Uffington SJ 536 137. In March, the construction of a toposcope on the summit of Haughmond Hill was archaeologically monitored. The toposcope was located within the circuit of the rampart of the Iron Age hillfort, Haughmond Hill Camp (PRN 00135). No disturbance to below-ground deposits took place. No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded as a result of the work. During the course of the work, a single flint flake was recovered from the ground surface adjacent to a path some 12m to the north of the working area.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A watching brief at Haughmond Hill 2011', unpublished report, SCAS. ESA 6527.

Wellington SJ 666 104. A programme of geophysical survey was carried out at Arleston, Dawley Road, Telford in January, comprising *c*.1.3ha of geomagnetic and electrical resistance survey. Previous desk-based work had suggested the presence of a chapel within the field. No anomalies indicative of chapel remains were identified in either survey. Probable service trenches and an area of disturbed and boggy ground to the SE of the site were the only features detected.

Villis, R., 2011. 'Land at Arleston, Dawley Road, Telford, Shropshire: geophysical surveys', unpublished report, Archaeological Services Durham University, report no. 2591. ESA 6857.

Wem Rural SJ 503 323. In January, a programme of archaeological, architectural and historical assessment was undertaken of a pair of agricultural buildings on the site of Grange Farm, Poolhead, near Wem (PRN 27299).

Frost, P., 2011. 'Barn at Grange Farm, Poolhead, Wem, Shropshire SJ 503 323', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeol, report no. 344. ESA 6499.

Whitchurch Urban SJ 540 416. A watching brief was carried out at 56 High Street, Whitchurch, within the former Roman fort of *Mediolanum* (PRN 05914); no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Frost, P., 2011. 'Land to rear of 56 High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 362. ESA 6629.

Woolstaston SO 452 984. In September, excavations were carried out for a new electricity supply to St Michael and All Angels Church, Woolstaston (PRN 13410). A watching brief on the groundworks recorded no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A watching brief at St Michael and All Angels Church, Woolstaston, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 304. ESA 6637.

Woore SJ 727 425. An archaeological watching brief was carried out on a stripped area of access roads for a new housing estate at Candle Lane, Woore. In addition, an area approximately 15 × 40m was stripped to investigate the remains of two dwellings shown on the 1838 tithe map. Within the area of the road network the remains of two recent boundary ditches and one boundary hedge were encountered. Four heavily disturbed features associated with a single dwelling were recorded, and pottery dating to 18th to 19th centuries was recovered from the area excavated to examine the dwelling.

Townend, P., 2011. 'An Archaeological watching brief at Candle Lane, Woore, Shropshire September 2011', unpublished report, Northamptonshire Archaeology, report no. 11/208. ESA 6750.

Worthen with Shelve SJ 299 052. A programme of archaeological, architectural and historical assessment was undertaken of an agricultural building on the site of Walton Hall Farm, Worthen (PRN 22058). The barn dates to the remodelling of Walton Hall in the late 16th/early 17th century. It is fundamentally a two-storey timber-framed range with a brick addition towards the south-west corner, and represents a rare survival of its type. Some alterations have taken place over the past century as the fabric of the timber deteriorated in some areas and the brick 'nogging' became unstable. The surviving trusses and framing possess good carpentry detail, including sets of assembly marks.

Frost, P., 2011. 'Barn at Walton Hall Farm, Worthen, Shropshire: historic building appraisal', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 345. ESA 6498.

Worthen with Shelve SO 354 994. An outline building survey and ground monitoring were conducted prior to remedial works to the structural remains of the lower level buildings at Tankerville Lead Mine, Shropshire (PRN 01312). The building survey was conducted to create simple outline elevation drawings of the surviving masonry to identify the levels of preservation and nature of construction material and assist the project architect in planning the proposed conservation works. The removal of spoil and collapsed areas of masonry from the base of the wall was monitored by an archaeologist.

Mayes, S., 2012. 'Tankerville Mine, Shropshire: historic building recording and archaeological watching brief', unpublished report, Headland Archaeology, report no. 915. ESA 6852.

Wrockwardine SJ 619 112. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in October during groundworks associated with the extension of mineral extraction works at Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire. A shallow undated pit containing burnt sand and clay was observed within the development area.

Haines, C., 2011.'Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire: Archaeological Watching Brief', unpublished report, Cotswold Archaeology, report no. 11295. ESA 6659.

Wroxeter and Uppington SJ 562 084. A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken in August during the renewal of the 11kv electricity line and supporting poles crossing a field in English Heritage ownership and located on the northern edge of the modern village of Wroxeter, within the area of the former Roman City of *Viroconium Cornoviorum*. The excavation of the pits on previously unevaluated land provided an insight into the past land-use of Insula XXVIII of the Roman City. The area of the pits in general has clearly been disturbed by ploughing before the 1970s and the mixed contexts revealed no firm evidence of the original date of deposition of layers or finds. Finds were located in all soils and at all depths and the number of finds recovered is extremely high when compared with the size of the excavated pits. The finds recovered were almost entirely Roman in date, residual and mixed in context, number and variety. The datable range of the finds ranges from the 1st to 4th century. Despite the bulk of the assemblage there was a marked absence of late-medieval and modern wares, invariably found on many excavations. In addition only one sherd of 13th-century cooking pot was recovered and one sherd of early post-medieval Midland purple ware. This is perhaps indicative of the absence of habitation within the field in the post-Roman period. The only features recorded were in Pits 5 and 6, the two pits nearer the roadside. The stone surfaces uncovered in these pits appear to represent possible yard areas or the internal surface of non-domestic buildings which were presumably set back from the street frontage to the east. The fragments of building materials, comprising brick, floor tile, roof tile and nails, may have derived from a location nearer the road. Although the building material recovered was Roman in date, it may have continued in use in the Anglo-Saxon period, following the age old practice of re-use. The recovery of finds of potential 2nd- to 4th-century date from below and above the stone surfaces in Pits 5 and 6 prevents attributing an accurate date to the features. However, allowing for post-Roman agricultural disturbance, a 2nd- to 3rd-century construction date seems the most likely.

Frost, P., 2012. 'Overhead powerline replacement on land east of the River Severn, Insula XXVIII, Wroxeter, Shropshire', unpublished report, Castlering Archaeology, report no. 366. ESA 6808.

Wroxeter and Uppington SJ 628 080. In July, a programme of archaeological recording was undertaken on The Wrekin Hillfort, around a cairn (PRN 01782) on the summit, in advance of earthwork repairs. The recording comprised a drawn and photographic record of

the area around the cairn, and included low-level aerial photography.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A survey at the Wrekin Hillfort, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 299. ESA 6632.

Figure 8 The Wrekin 2011: Low-level photography in progress at The Wrekin. *© Shropshire Council / Hugh Hannaford. IMG_0033.jpg*.

Wroxeter and Uppington SJ 565 081. In September, excavations were carried out for a sewage treatment plant and drainage trench at Wroxeter Court, Wroxeter, Shropshire. The study area lay just outside the southern defences of the Roman city of *Viroconium Cornoviorum*. A watching brief was carried out during the groundworks. A single cremation burial pit of probable Early Bronze Age date was seen in the area of the sewage treatment plant pit. No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Hannaford, H., 2011. 'A watching brief at Wroxeter Court, Wroxeter, Shropshire, 2011', unpublished report, SCAS, report no. 302. ESA 6635.

Notes

1 Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council.

2 Further information on all these Events and the related Monuments can be found on the Discovering Shropshire's History website (www.discovershropshire.org.uk). Please contact the Historic Environment Record, Shropshire Council for further information, including access to the original reports: her@shropshire.gov.uk; 01743 254619.

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Book Reviews

HAUGHMOND ABBEY: EXCAVATION OF A 12TH CENTURY CLOISTER IN ITS HISTORICAL AND LANDSCAPE CONTEXT. By Jeffrey J. West and Nicholas Palmer. A4 paperback. 414 pages, 254 illustrations and 49 tables. English Heritage, 2014. ISBN 978 1 84802 062 7. Price: £100.

For more than a generation, virtually every publication of an excavated medieval site within a twenty-mile radius of Shrewsbury has been replete with references such as 'Rátkai, forthcoming', closer enquiry revealing that what was being referred to were the unpublished report texts on material from the excavations at Haughmond Abbey that took place between 1975 and 1979. These covered the north side of the cloister and the adjacent parts of the abbey church, producing, from a sequence commencing with a small cruciform church and associated cemetery of the late 11th/early 12th century, a fine assemblage of artefacts including pottery (reported by Stephanie Rátkai), architectural carved stonework, floor tiles, fine and utilitarian metalwork, and of course human remains. The excavations have now, forty years on, been published in a magnificent volume from English Heritage, and the principal authors and all the contributors deserve the warmest congratulations for their persistence in getting this into print.

Chapter 1, by the principal authors, sets the scene in terms of the medieval abbey, its parent order and the scope of the work undertaken in the 1970s and subsequently; it also emphasises that this is not a comprehensive account of the abbey but an investigation that concentrates on the origins of the community, its architectural development through the processes of re-endowment and regularisation up to *c*.1234, and the architectural development of the cloister from excavated and sculptural evidence. Chapter 2, the historical background, by the late Chris Phillpotts, is consistent with these aims and concentrates on the early history of Haughmond, its patrons, and historical evidence for the development of the precinct and its post-dissolution fate, the latter well illustrated with antiquarian drawings and extracts of estate plans.

Chapter 3, 'Earthwork Survey', by Paul Everson and Trevor Pearson, goes well beyond its remit to examine the planning of the precinct (and its enclosure of a group of natural springs) and the landscape history of its surroundings, but at its heart is the 2002 earthwork survey plan—a fine pull-out hachured plan in the RCHM tradition – which is a revelation, showing the standing abbey buildings as a tiny island in a great sea of earthworks. Chapter 4, by Jeffrey West, begins with a structural analysis of the standing buildings of the church and claustral ranges, commencing with the major rebuilding that took place in the late 12th century, and ends with an account of the *in situ* sculpture by John Blair. This too is an important chapter, not only for comparative studies of the Augustinians' architecture but, more locally, for the sequential use of local building stone and quarries. The chapter is illustrated by detailed stone-by-stone elevations with useful phased interpretative key drawings alongside.

Chapter 5 on the excavations, by Nicholas Palmer and Chris Phillpotts, opens with an account of the early 20th-century excavations on the site and the first discovery of the early (pre–late 12th-century) church. The 1975–9 excavations (by Nicholas Palmer and Iain Soden) are then dealt with over 50 or so pages, clearly organised and well illustrated.

The finds are described and analysed in a single, monster chapter (6), commencing with John Blair on the architectural stonework, notable for its reconstruction of the cloister arcade from the end of the 12th century, followed by Sarah Lunt and Susan Lisk on the important collection of floor tiles, their account including a regional distribution of the types found at Haughmond. Stephanie Rátkai's oft-quoted review of the medieval and post-medieval pottery is another important component of this chapter, and the time-lag between excavation and publication has allowed the Haughmond corpus to be usefully compared with other more recently-derived assemblages, such as that from Shrewsbury

Abbey, as well as those from earlier excavations—Hen Domen, for example. In general the pottery was locally manufactured, with glazed wares predominating: glazed pitchers were apparent from the early 12th century but were phased out towards the end of the century in favour of glazed jugs. This is a significant assemblage, though the close dating provided by the architectural evidence of the rebuilding of the cloister has, as Rátkai says, to be balanced against its uncertain depositional history (brought in with levelling-up material?). The section on the copper alloy objects begins with an account of the Haughmond candlestick base and a Limoges enamel plaque by Claude Blair and Marian Campbell; more everyday objects (belt-fittings, pins, bookbinding fragments and so on) are described by Alison Goodall, followed by Ian Goodall and others on the ironwork and metallurgical waste. The chapter concludes with botany, fauna and the human skeletal remains.

Chapter 7, by the principal authors and John Blair, contains the discussion and conclusions. The 'landscape background' provides a very useful local history placing the abbey on its wooded ridge-top site in a no-man's-land between the basins of the Sundorne Brook and the Roden and Tern. An account of the earliest church follows, with phase plans and a reconstruction, and commentaries on the character of the earliest community, its funerary practices and alterations to the church and provision of its first cloister *c*.1130. Haughmond's promotion from priory to abbey *c*.1150 and the 'great rebuilding' that followed from *c*.1180 are described next, again with reconstructions and comparative plans of Augustinian churches elsewhere. Many other aspects of the planning of the precinct and its later medieval development are then covered before the chapter concludes with the post-Dissolution period, ending with the consolidation of the ruins by the Ministry in the 1950s.

Production standards are high throughout the volume. The line drawings are almost uniformly good, and the artefact, architectural and earthwork survey drawings are of the very highest quality; some of the black and white photography has perhaps lost contrast and clarity in scanning, but is not a problem. In all, the illustrations are good enough that the reader doesn't immediately notice that there is no colour used at all, except on the covers. The only aspect of the volume which came as a slight disappointment to this reviewer was that (as explained in Chapter 1) little space could be given to the standing buildings of the later abbot's hall and lodging, other than in discussion of the Barkers' Mansion House in Chapter 3 (the Earthwork Survey) and in the account of the 1958 excavation of the earlier abbot's hall. But this does not detract from the achievement of a very welcome and significant step forward in the medieval archaeology of the Marches, and the landmark publication of an important English abbey.

NIGEL BAKER

SHROPSHIRE TAXES IN THE REIGN OF HENRY VIII. The Lay Subsidy of 1524-7, the Lay Subsidy of 1543-5 and the Benevolence of 1545. Editor M. A. Faraday. 214 × 278mm. 727 pages, 5 illustrations. Lulu.com 2015. ISBN 978 1 326401 04 7.

Shropshire has been well served over the years with published transcriptions of early taxation rolls. The process began with Revd W. G. D. Fletcher's transcription of the 1327 Lay Subsidy Roll and the Shrewsbury Poll Tax, published in this Society's Transactions during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first of the following century. In 1949 the Society published W. Watkins-Pitchford's *Shropshire Hearth Tax Roll of 1672* which, for all its shortcomings, is still a valuable tool for the study of seventeenth century communities in the county. In 1993 D. and R. Cromarty produced a fascinating analysis of six fourteenth-century subsidy rolls from Shrewsbury, which again was published by this society. Six years later Michael Faraday published *The Lay Subsidy for Shropshire 1524–7* as the third volume of the Shropshire Record Series. The present volume is in part a revision of that work, though 70% of the content has never been previously published.

There are several good reasons for republishing the material from the earlier volume. By self-publishing using the online service Lulu.com, Mr Faraday has freed himself from the editorial constraints involved in producing works as part of a series. He has been able to replicate the format of the original documents, which takes up far more room than that used in the Record Series volume, but is more accessible. Secondly, the new publication takes advantage of technological advances which have been made since Mr Faraday first transcribed the sources in his lunch hours while working in a tax office close to the Public Records Office in Chancery Lane. The whole series published here have been digitally photographed, enabling the editor to go systematically through his earlier transcriptions, filling some of the gaps and making corrections where necessary.

The third and most important factor is the inclusion of a wealth of new material, most notably the taxes of the 1540s. Mr Faraday has included with these the returns for Clun Hundred, which was technically in Montgomeryshire until 1546. Here may be noted an overwhelming number of Welsh patronymics, with hardly an English surname to be seen. The same may be seen, albeit to a lesser extent, in the Hundred of Oswestry, created out of the former Marcher Lordship under the Laws in Wales Act of 1536 (known more generally as the Act of Union.) These returns offer great scope for research into the extent of Welshness in the county in the early modern period. Other previously untaxed areas included Ludlow, exempted from taxation by its royal charter of 1461, but which fell victim to the rapacious monarch in the 1540s.

The introductory chapter gives an overview of the different taxes, with the rationale behind the selection of the material for publication. Until the advent of Henry VIII, subsidies had become quota taxes, where each community was required to raise a specified sum and the government took no interest in who paid and how much they contributed. In 1512 a return was made to assessed taxes, where levies were made upon the wealth of individuals according to graduated formulae laid down by the authorities. The bases for contributions were either income from landed property or the capital value of personal property. The rates charged varied according to the financial needs of the monarch, which were almost always dictated by the demands of warfare. Unfortunately none of these returns include the inventories of each individual's property such as those used by the Cromartys for fourteenth-century Shrewsbury, but despite this they contain much information about wealth and society at the time.

The bulk of this monumental volume (727 pages) consists of lists of taxpayers arranged by townships within each hundred, and by wards for the larger boroughs. Although listing only those members of the community with sufficient personal wealth to be taxed, it provides a valuable resource for family and house historians, as well as for those attempting wider analysis of individual communities. Furthermore, where possible, cross-references are made to Mr Faraday's *Calendar of Probate and Administrative Acts 1407–1550* (Logaston Press 2008). This can raise interesting questions about valuations. For example Walter Rogers of Ludlow was assessed at 24 shillings for the 'Benevolence' of 1545, suggesting a valuation of £24, yet when he died the following year his goods were valued for probate at £50. The previous entry in the register showed that William Mynton of Diddlebury had goods valued at £19 3s 4d in his probate inventory, yet he does not appear in the tax assessments. Similar instances abound, and offer many possibilities for analyses of wealth in the county.

These assessments also provide much information about the population of the different townships listed. Upper Millichope, today a hamlet of some half dozen houses in the lee of Wenlock Edge, contained no less than 29 taxable households in 1543, compared with only 23 for Church Stretton. Similarly, while Culmington itself had only 11 taxpayers, Seifton, a township within the parish, boasted 25. While any attempt to calculate the population of these places using such a restricted section of the community is fraught with problems, these raw figures give an indication of the relative size of the different townships.

It is most likely that genealogists and historians of property will turn to this volume most frequently, particularly in those parts of the county where long leases of 99 years or three lives were the normal form of tenure for farms, giving a great degree of continuity within communities. Local and family historians in Shropshire owe Mr Faraday a debt of gratitude for producing such a valuable work of reference at his own cost. It is a book which should be on the shelves of all with more than a passing interest in Shropshire society in the early Tudor period, and at a time when libraries are closing and archive repositories are reducing their opening hours, purchasing the volume is recommended. It may be obtained from the Editor/Publisher for £29 (paperback) and £34 (hardback) including postage and packing, or online from, Lulu.com. Enquiries to M. A. Faraday, 47 York Gardens, Walton on Thames, Surrey, KT12 3EW (email f2594255@gmail.com).

MARTIN SPEIGHT

THE 1662 DIARY OF PHILIP HENRY (1631-1696). Edited by Raymond Brown. 240 × 160mm. ix + 68 pages. Dr Williams's Trust, 2014. ISBN 978 0 85217 082 3. Price £15, with p&p direct from Dr Williams Library £18.

When M. H. Lee published the *Diaries and Letters of Philip Henry* in 1882 some of the diaries were not available to him, including that for 1662. It was believed at the time to have been lost. However, an 18th-century transcript of the 1662 diary came to light the following year, 1883, but has had to wait until 2014 to appear in print. Ever since their publication in 1882 the diaries of Philip Henry have proved to be of immense importance to historians of the religious settlement following the Restoration in 1660. They rank alongside those of Henry Newcome and Oliver Heywood in shedding light on a most interesting period of British history. Philip Henry's diaries are of considerable interest not just to historians of religion but also to local historians of northern Shropshire, southern Cheshire and Flintshire. The year 1662 was a momentous year for the clergy of the restored Church of England. Those who could not accept all of the provisions of the Act of Uniformity had to resign their livings, and Philip Henry was one of them. His account of his own life and that of his fellow nonconformists in that year is revealed in this diary. It is unfortunate that *The 1662 Diary* has been published without indices to persons and places, and the layout of the text is inconsistent, sometimes single-spaced and sometimes double-spaced and at times lacks clarity. The volume is redeemed however by an accurate rendition of the diary and very full and informative footnotes.

It is to be hoped that in the future a new, corrected, publication of M. H. Lee's 1882 edition of the *Diaries and Letters* will be published.

JANICE COX

SHROPSHIRE WAR MEMORIALS. SITES OF REMEMBRANCE. By Peter Francis. A4 paperback. x + 227 pages. YouCaxton Publications, 2013. ISBN 978 1 909644 11 3. Price £14.95.

On 19 December 2013 the Prime Minister announced new funding of £5m to conserve, repair and protect First World War memorials and burial sites, and to enhance understanding of these through interpretative resources. The funding came from the LIBOR fines. Following this the key partners – Historic England, Imperial War Museums, War Memorials Trust and Civic Voice – embarked upon a series of interconnecting projects, all with a high degree of volunteer input, to increase the number of listed war memorials, to record their condition, and to push forward with grant-aided repairs.

Despite the renewed observance of Remembrance Sunday over the last 25 years or so, war memorials actually remain, for the most part, under-appreciated, and little researched. Part of the problem is their sheer number and variety: most places subscribed to some form of memorial after the First World War (after all, only a few dozen 'thankful' villages had no-one killed), and many commissioned several. Despite a couple of national databases, no-one knows how many war memorials there are in England: probably somewhere in the region of 80,000. Most visible are what we now tend to call freestanding memorials – the crosses, obelisks and Calvaries on village greens and in churchyards. Within churches, schools and factories there are commemorative windows, plaques, and furniture: an almost infinite variety. And then there are the socially beneficial memorials, the provision of which was often supported most strongly by the ex-servicemen: village halls, playing fields, and homes for district nurses.

Thankfully, prompted by the centenary commemorations, county by county memorials are starting to be hunted out, researched, and written about. Shropshire is fortunate that over what must have been several years – modestly he forebears to say how many - Peter Francis has tracked down a huge number of all types: an appendix lists examples (aside from freestanding memorials) under the headings of bells, gates, lecterns and the like, pulpits, organs, screen, memorial halls (19 of these), stained glass windows and battlefield crosses. The last is an especially valuable, and poignant, list, of twelve churches which house original wooden grave markers brought back from abroad, mainly the Western Front. These are perhaps under-appreciated and vulnerable to being tidied away, and at Historic England there are the stirrings of a project to promote their better care. In date, Shropshire's memorials range from medieval examples such as Battlefield church, founded in 1406 as a collegiate church dedicated to the care of the souls of those slain in the Battle of Shrewsbury, to tablets remembering those lost in recent conflicts. Among the most ambitious modern memorials is the 5 metre-high metal cross in the Square in Ludlow unveiled in 2000.

Most, however, were raised in the years immediately after 1919 (although war memorials were being erected elsewhere as early as 1915), and working his way across the county Francis locates and describes them, and tells some of the stories behind their erection, and the men they remember. The sheer compass of the work means that progress is brisk, and in many cases information which a List description would give – when the memorial was unveiled, and who designed it are not given (these details, previously hard to find, can now often be tracked down via the British Library's wonderful online database of local newspapers http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/). That said, even if it sometimes strays into contextual matter at some remove from the main narrative, this is a highly readable text, quite a task for what is essentially a gazetteer. There are some good illustrations, indexes of people and places, and the price is very reasonable indeed. Well done Mr Francis.

Obtainable via Shropshirewarmemorials.blogspot.com.

PAUL STAMPER

WIGMORE CASTLE, NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE: EXCAVATIONS 1996 AND 1998. By Stephanie Rátkai. A4 paperback. 254 pages, 238 figures and tables, 11 colour plates. The Society for Medieval Archaeology (Monograph 34), 2015. ISBN 978 1 909662 19 3. Price £30.

If readers occasionally find themselves doubting the value of very small archaeological trenches dug in very large and obviously complex castles, this monograph should go a long way to dispel any such doubts. Wigmore Castle, just over the county border in north Herefordshire, was taken into state guardianship in 1995. By then it had undergone three and a half centuries of gradual ruination culminating in the collapse of part of the inner bailey curtain wall in 1988. Once in the care of English Heritage it became the subject of an innovative programme of conservation and consolidation aimed at stabilising its fabric without changing its appearance as a romantic ruin, replete with 'soft capping'—controlled vegetation growing on and protecting its wall tops. To investigate the structure of the curtain wall, two trenches were dug within it, in 1996 and 1998, by Marches Archaeology (now, sadly, defunct) and this monograph represents the welcome final publication of the results gleaned from the contractors' archives by Rátkai and her colleagues from Barbican Associates.

The volume follows a traditional format. Chapter 1 introduces the site and the work undertaken in the 1990s. Chapter 2 offers an historical and architectural overview and sets the site in its local historic landscape

context; the architectural summary is of particular importance as a full structural analysis of the standing fabric remains an unpublished archive report. The excavations are presented in Chapter 3, the pottery in Chapter 4, the artefacts in Chapter 5; building materials, faunal remains and plant remains are dealt with in Chapters 6–8. The volume concludes with two chapters of synthesis: Chapter 9, an overview of the excavated evidence and 10, Wigmore castle in context.

All of the finds reports contain material of interest, which is compared with what has been found on other Marches castles and in the neighbouring towns (Ludlow, Leominster, New Radnor). The pottery, for example, is described as generally 'staunchly local', and that of the earliest (late 11th–12th-century) phases 'austere and utilitarian'; exotic imports were confined to just two northern French sherds, offering the merest hint of high-status occupation. The food remains however tell a richer story, and are consistent with those recovered from a multitude of castle excavations, with cattle predominant throughout the sequence but peaking in the mid-14th to mid-15th centuries; there was more pig earlier, more sheep later, plenty of chicken always and evidence of high-status consumption (deer, and swan, peafowl and heron) particularly in the earliest and the latest medieval phases: hunting was always on the menu at Wigmore. This material and its depositional context are worked through carefully in Chapter 8 which also reviews the whole structural sequence. This commenced in the late 11th century with an earth rampart and palisade; a kitchen constructed with earth-fast posts was built within it in the 12th century. The transition to a stone castle had begun by the early 13th century when the inner bailey curtain wall was standing; the wall was partially rebuilt in the later 13th century when the D-shaped east tower was added. A flurry of building activity in the 15th century, unpredicted from the documentary evidence but clear in the archaeological record, may reflect the occupancy of the site by Richard, Duke of York and the symbolic restoration by him of the ancient seat of the Mortimer family.

The great value of this monograph lies less in the size of its excavation trenches than in the inter-relationships between stratigraphy, artefacts and faunal material, what these tell us about patterns of consumption at Wigmore and how these compare with other sites in the locality and in the region. It is a great example of the cumulative value of archaeological data, as another site—in this case having been in danger of being consigned to an archive – is published and added to a slowly-growing corpus alongside other recent, equally welcome, arrivals such as Goodrich Castle. The drawings are well produced and there is a central colour-plate section which includes excellent reconstructions of the castle and village by Dominic Andrews.

The report is also, incidentally, a reminder of the alarming depths of deposit that castle excavators may sometimes encounter – the result either of medieval earth-moving or the retention of accumulating debris within substantial masonry walls: the 1996 trench finally struck natural at a depth of eight metres. The reviewer recalls an anecdote told by the Inspector of Ancient Monuments responsible for the consolidation work in which, having moved a large stone on the surface, he found a vertical hole of similar depth to the 1996 trench: after shining a torch down it, he realised he was looking down a medieval chimney to the hearth on a floor far below.

NIGEL BAKER

DITHERINGTON MILL AND THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. Edited by Colum Giles and Mike Williams. A4 hardback. 160 pages, 118 illustrations. Historic England, 2015. ISBN 978-1-84802-118-1. Price £50.

Ditherington Mill is already well known as the first iron-framed building in the world, a place in history which has ensured extraordinary efforts to secure a future that is commensurate with its significance. When the flax mill closed in 1897, it proved readily adaptable as a maltings, but when the maltings in turn closed in 1987, there was no obvious successor. Since then, there have been many attempts to achieve a viable reuse for the site, but as successive efforts foundered in turbulent economic times, English Heritage took the extraordinary step of acquiring the freehold in 2005, and has been working ever since towards delivering a master plan for the site as a whole, focused on the conservation and re-use of the mill itself.

This book does not therefore need to prove the importance of the mill, since it is already acknowledged as a giant of the industrial revolution, which is of international importance. Its importance does, however, justify further research, and the book sets out in considerable detail the conclusions of work that has been undertaken since 2000. Of course this will be of interest in its own right to students of industrial archaeology, but for Historic England, this is also an essay in contemporary conservation principles, in which a thorough understanding of significance is the necessary context for conservation decisions.

The book's eleven chapters explore themes which set the mill in its historical context, and turn forensic attention to the complex inter-relationships of structure, construction, and operation in the creation of an industrial architecture. For most of the book, it is the buildings themselves which form the subject. This is classic industrial archaeological investigation which reveals a highly sophisticated design process visible in every aspect of these buildings, from the layout of the site – the relationship of buildings to each other—via the organisation of space within each building, to all the

details of construction—not only the basic principles of fire-proof building, but the detail of framing, which was closely related to the installation of steam power and the specific arrangement of processes and machinery. The site is the summation of many aspects of innovation, creativity and experiment, and this book brings home just how remarkable a set of buildings these are.

The book also addresses the question of why here—why should Shrewsbury be host to such a radical piece of industrial architecture? The answer to this question is mainly given through the personalities of its creators and the currents of cultural life that flowed through the town in the later eighteenth century. The book assigns decisive roles to the personalities of John Marshall, Thomas and Benjamin Benyon, and Charles Bage; Clearly their agency was vital, but what it also reveals are all the interconnections of the enlightenment, which deserve even more detailed treatment than this book is able to give: The vitality of intellectual life in Shrewsbury itself is briefly sketched here, as well as the pool of practical expertise which was perhaps the legacy of Shropshire's leading role in the iron industry since the beginning of the eighteenth century. There were also connections to the broader enlightenment of the midlands, in which Derby and Birmingham had preeminent roles, and to other pioneers of industrial design, production and construction, including William Strutt and Thomas Telford. Ditherington mill demonstrates the small world that was the corollary of industrialisation—in everything from the exchange of ideas on the one hand, to the movement of capital and materials on the other.

It is good to see these industrial pioneers at close-hand, facilitated of course by their well-documented lives. The workers themselves are not quite so visible in the pages of this book, and the chapter on the workforce in the nineteenth century is one of the shortest. Although as many as 800 people worked here by 1840, the company provided houses for very few of them, leaving that to the speculative builders of Shrewsbury's suburbs. The exception was in the extensive use that was made of the parish apprentice system, and the survival of the apprentice houses on the site provides a rare and important opportunity to understand more about this happily short-lived episode of labour history. The book touches briefly on working conditions, but it is decisively not a social history.

One of the strengths of this book is that it takes a biographical approach to the building, accounting not only for its original construction and use, but for the ways in which it was adapted and developed over almost a hundred years of use as a textile mill, and the succeeding period of use as a maltings. It also outlines the vicissitudes of more recent times and the struggle to secure a future for the site. There is still a long way to go, which means that the application of this research in practical conservation solutions is yet to be demonstrated. In the final chapter exploring the conservation challenges, John Yates introduces one at least of the issues: should the refurbished mill look like a flax-spinning mill or a maltings? Its primary importance as an iron-framed building relates to its original use, but its remembered history is as a maltings: how are these to be reconciled?

Interesting as it is to understand the historical context of this major monument of the industrial revolution, it would have been even more interesting to see how such a forensic understanding as this book sets out could be applied in practice. This research is claimed to be a vital element in the conservation programme: until that programme has reached a successful conclusion, this point remains unproven. Industrial archaeologists and historians may welcome the early publication of this book, but for anyone interested in the conservation story, it seems premature.

JUDITH ALFREY

The Shropshire Archaeological And Historical Society

The Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society was founded in 1877 (as the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society), and from that time it became, and has remained, the foremost continuous promoter of research into the archaeology and history of the county. The Society's regularly published *Transactions* have become the journal of record for the county's history and archaeology.

In its early years, and for long, the Society organized an annual excursion for its members. In recent times, however, that side of its activity has increased, and there is now a regular programme of summer excursions and a winter programme of lectures, for which speakers well qualified in their specialisms are engaged. Early in December there is also an annual social meeting, and from time to time day schools are organized – sometimes on topics such as industrial archaeology (so important in Shropshire) and sometimes on a subject of current interest such as that provided in 2009 by the Anglo-Saxon treasure found in Staffordshire.

In 1923 the Shropshire Parish Register Society (founded in 1897) amalgamated with the Archaeological Society, and the work of publishing the county's parish registers was continued. After a lapse that work has been resumed, and the most recent achievement has been the publication of the Bishop's Castle register. Work continues on other parishes, and the Society's as yet unpublished transcripts up to 1900 have been digitised and are available online on the Find My Past website. The registers after 1900 (and also those before) are available at Shropshire Archives

In addition to its *Transactions* and the parish-register programme, the Society has published occasional monographs and other works: notable in recent years have been the cartularies (registers of property deeds) of Haughmond Abbey (1985; jointly with the University of Wales Press) and Lilleshall Abbey (1997); Dr Baker's *Shrewsbury Abbey: Studies in the Archaeology and History of an Urban Abbey* (2002); D. and R. Cromarty's *The Wealth of Shrewsbury* (1993) – a detailed study of early 14th-century Shrewsbury people from taxation records, which survive so abundantly in the Shrewsbury borough archive and so rarely elsewhere; H. D. G. Foxall's *Shropshire Field-Names* (1980); and the historic county maps published by Robert Baugh in 1808 (1983) and by Christopher Greenwood in 1827 (2008). These maps, whose detail was unrivalled until the Ordnance Survey began work in Shropshire, give a vivid bird's-eye view of the county before the great changes of the Victorian period. Greenwood's map is available as paper sheets and on a CD. Further details of the Society's publications for sale appear elsewhere in this volume.

In addition to the *Transactions* members receive a twice yearly *Newsletter*, which keeps them in touch with all the Society's activities and work and with its programmes of excursions and lectures.

For further information about the Society, and how to join it, see:

https://shropshirearchaeologyhistory.org

RULES

1. The Society shall be called 'The Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society (with which is incorporated The Shropshire Parish Register Society)'

2. The Society's objects shall be the advancement of the education of the public in archaeological and historical investigation in Shropshire and the preservation of the county's antiquities. In furtherance of those objects, but not otherwise, the Society shall have the power (i) to publish the results of historical research and archaeological excavation and editions of documentary material of local importance including parish registers, and (ii) to record archaeological discoveries.

3. Management of the Society shall be vested in the Council. The Council shall consist of the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected at each annual general meeting; other Council members elected at each annual general meeting; and such other officers as shall be elected by the Council and shall consist of a Membership Secretary, Editor, Editor of the *Newsletter*, Meetings and Field Meetings Secretary, Librarian, Publications Secretary, and any other officers deemed necessary by the Council. Officers shall act in an honorary capacity. Not more than twenty members of the Council (in addition to the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer) shall be elected by the annual general meeting. Members of the retiring Council shall be eligible for re-election and their names may be proposed without previous notice; in the case of other candidates a proposal signed by four members of the Society must be sent to the Secretary not less than seven days before the annual general meeting. The Council may co-opt not more than five additional members for the year.

4. A President and Vice-presidents of the Society shall be elected at an annual general meeting; they shall be elected for five years and shall be eligible for re-election.

5. At Council meetings five members shall be a quorum.

6. The Council, through the Treasurer, shall present the audited accounts for the last complete year to the annual general meeting.

7. The Council shall determine what number of each publication shall be printed, including any complimentary offprints for contributors.

8. Candidates for membership of the Society may apply directly to the Membership Secretary who, on payment of the subscription, shall be empowered to accept membership on behalf of the Society.

9. Each member's subscription shall become due on election or on 1st January and be paid to the Membership Secretary, and shall be the annual sum of £19 for individual members, £20 for family and institutional members, and £23 for overseas members, or such sums as the Society shall from time to time decide. If a member's subscription shall be two years in arrears and then not paid after due reminder, that membership shall cease.

10. The Council shall have the power to elect honorary members of the Society

11. Every member not in arrears of his or her annual subscription shall be entitled to one copy of the latest available *Transactions* to be published, and copies of other publications of the Society on such conditions as may be determined by the Council.

12. Applicants for membership under the age of 21 may apply for associate membership, for which the annual subscription shall be £1. Associate members shall enjoy all the rights of full members, except entitlement to free issues of the *Transactions* and occasional publications of the Society. Associate membership shall terminate at the end of the year in which the member becomes 21.

13. No alterations shall be made to the Society's rules except by the annual general meeting or by an extraordinary general meeting called for that purpose by the Council. Any proposed alteration must be submitted to the Secretary in time to enable the Secretary to give members at least twenty-one days' notice of the extraordinary general meeting. No amendment shall be made to the rules which would cause the Society to cease to be a charity at law.

14. The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of those present with voting rights at either an annual general meeting or an extraordinary general meeting called for that purpose, of which twenty-one day's prior notice had been given in writing. Such a resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by the Society after all debts and liabilities have been paid, the balance to be transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to those of the Society.

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