

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXX

1980

IMRAY LAURIE NORIE AND WILSON

1981

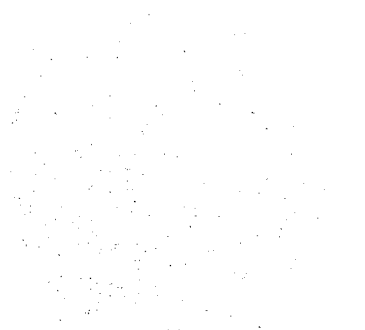
**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY**

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
FOR THE YEAR 1964-1965

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
1965



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1965

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXX

1980

IMRAY LAURIE NORIE AND WILSON

1981

Published for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (incorporating the Cambs and
Hunts Archaeological Society) by Imray Laurie Norie and Wilson Ltd, Wych House,
Saint Ives, Huntingdon

ISSN 0309-3603

Printed in Great Britain at the University Library, Cambridge.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Officers and Council of the Society, 1979-80</i>	
Field Officers' Reports	ix
The Cambridge Archaeology Field Group: Report 3	xiii
A Handlist of the Publications of W. M. Palmer, M.D., F.S.A., Part I J. D. PICKLES	1
Prehistoric Finds from the Central Fenland GILLIAN WILSON	9
Excavations at Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire M. F. SEKULLA	13
A Re-interpretation of Chippenham Barrow 5, with a discussion of the Baker-Associated Pottery A. M. GIBSON	47
An Iron Age Sword and Scabbard from Isleham I. M. STEAD, A. P. HARTWELL, J. R. S. LANG, S. C. LA NIECE and N. D. MEEKS	61
A Romano-British Village at Grandford, March T. W. POTTER and C. F. POTTER	75
Cambridgeshire Earthworks Surveys: IV A. E. BROWN and C. C. TAYLOR	113
A Register of Schools and Schoolmasters in the County of Cambridge, 1574-1700 ELIZABETH KEY	127
Adventures of a Screen: Inigo Jones in Winchester and Cambridge † J. M. G. BLAKISTON	191
The Inheritors of Barnwell Priory P. V. DANCKWERTS	211
<i>Notes:</i>	
A Barbed Spearhead from Barway, Cambridge DAVID COOMBS	235
A Seventeenth-century Bell at Guyhirn C. M. G. OCKELTON	237
<i>Review:</i>	
<i>The Cartularies and Registers of Peterborough Abbey</i> , by Janet D. Martin MARJORIE CHIBNALL	239
<i>Index</i>	241

CAMBRIDGESHIRE EARTHWORK SURVEYS: IV

A. E. Brown and C. C. Taylor

This paper consists of descriptions and plans of another five archaeological sites recorded by students attending field survey courses organized by the University of Leicester, Department of Adult Education, over the last few years.

SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY SCONCE, MARCH (TL 420957; Fig. 1), lies to the S.E. of the centre of March and N.E. of the parish church, on clay at 3 m. above OD. It is situated close to the fen edge in a position of no apparent tactical or strategic importance. Nothing is known of its date or history but it is certainly a small battery or sconce, presumably erected in the 1640's, during the Civil War. It is doubtful whether it was ever garrisoned or used. The site has subsequently been damaged and altered, but it remains a fine example of a relatively rare form of military work.

The battery appears to have consisted of a rectangular area, raised only 1 m. above the surrounding land and encompassed by a shallow ditch. Most of the N.W. part has been damaged and altered. The remaining E. half of the interior is slightly depressed, forming a rectangular sunken area only 0.25 m. deep. At the S.E. and N.E. corners are two bastions, both flat-topped with no trace of a rampart, though there is a low raised area in the centre of the N.E. bastion. At the S.W. corner there appears once to have been another bastion, though it was either never completed or has been partly flattened since its construction. It now consists of a low spread bank 0.5 m. high with slight traces of a surrounding ditch. There is no indication of a N.W. bastion. At the west end of the site are footings of a brick building, possibly a barn. The general rectangular outline of this structure (as well as fragments of 18th century brick) lies to the north of the S.W. bastion with a large mound of rubble to its east. A later ditch 1 m. deep extends from the north end of this mound and turns west and then south-west before returning sharply back south-east to pass south of the S.W. bastion. This ditch is not part of the sconce and indeed must be later than the battery, as it cuts through the ditch of the S.W. bastion. Though the N.E. end of this ditch lies across the area where the N.W. bastion should have been, no trace of this bastion exists on either side of it and as the main sconce ditch to the east fades out well before it reaches the later ditch it seems likely that the N.W. bastion was never constructed. To the west of the site a broad ditch, recut in recent times for drainage, marks the S.E. edge of a block of low ridge-and-furrow.

On a number of grounds it is likely that the sconce is a training work built by unskilled part-time soldiers who knew little of the complexities of 17th-century military engineering. The general siting of the work, facing what in the mid 17th

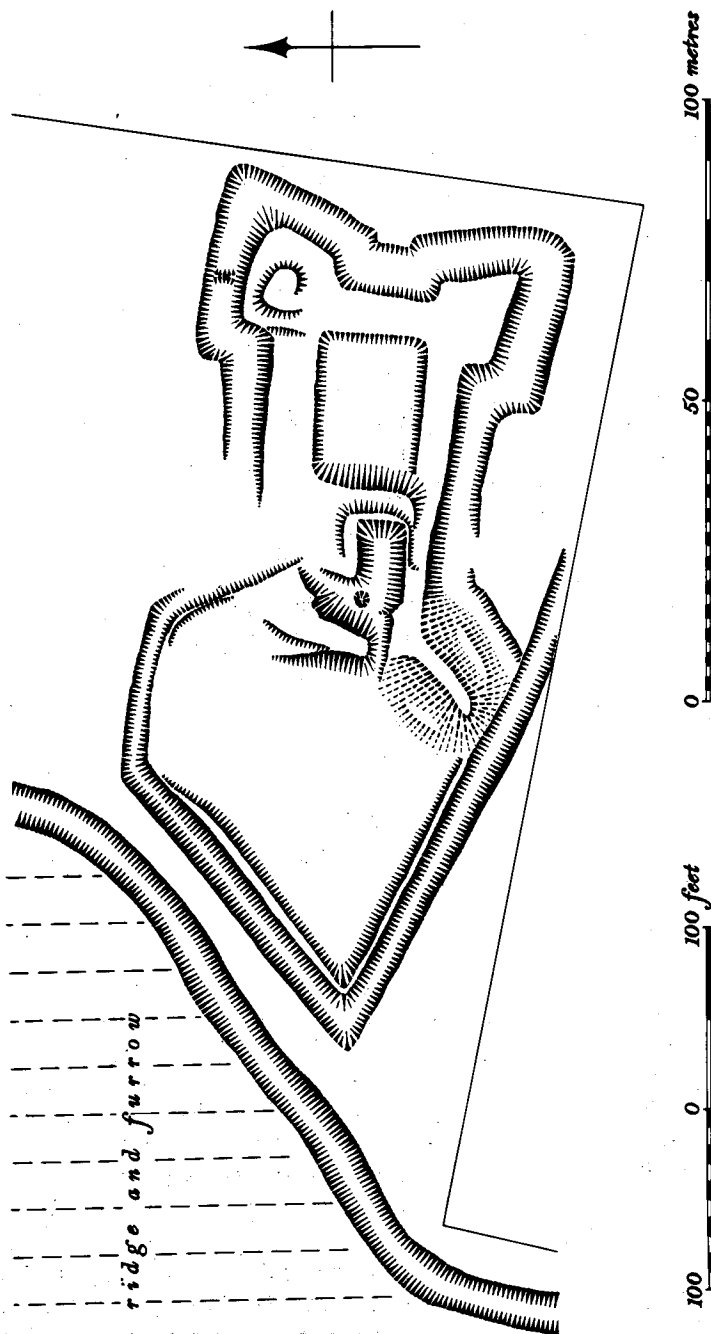


Fig. 1. March: seventeenth-century scone.

century was undrained fenland, suggests that it had no military function. The lack of ramparts or parapets along the sides of the sconce or around the bastions makes it largely unusable. The N.E. bastion is of curious form, hardly a true bastion at all. Finally the fact that there appears never to have been a N.W. bastion also makes it unusable and might imply that it was never completed.

DESERTED VILLAGE OF SAWTRY JUDITH (TL 194823; Fig. 2), lay on the south edge of Sawtry Fen on clay at 5 m. above OD, immediately to the south-west of the site of Sawtry Abbey. The village was once a settlement with its own parish which occupied the southern part of the present parish of Sawtry. Until recently the site of the Sawtry Judith village was always thought to be at Archer's Wood (TL 175813), where there are extensive earthworks, 2.5 km. south-east of the area under discussion here, and west of the A1. However it is now recognized that the Archer's Wood earthworks are the remains of a single moated medieval farmstead and its associated enclosures;¹ thus the position of the village must be looked for elsewhere. The reasons for suggesting that it lay on the site described here will become clear if the history of the village is summarized briefly and the results of archaeological work detailed.

Sawtry Judith is first definitely mentioned in Domesday Book when it is listed as a 10 hide manor held by Countess Judith niece of William the Conqueror with a recorded population of 28, including a priest.² The manor passed to her daughter Maud and then to her grandson Simon de St Liz, Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon. In 1147 the Earl founded the Cistercian Abbey of Sawtry on this site and endowed it with the manor of Sawtry Judith.

The rules of the Cistercians laid down that houses of the Order had to be as far away as possible from the influence of the lay world. As a result, when Cistercian Abbeys were set up at or near existing villages, the latter were often cleared, not only to make way for the monastic buildings but also to achieve the necessary isolation. It is possible that when Sawtry Abbey was founded, the village of Sawtry was deliberately removed. That the village was once on the site of the abbey or at least to the S.W. of it is indicated by two important facts. Firstly, the parish church of Sawtry Judith, which was mentioned in Domesday Book, is known to have remained outside the main gate of the abbey and stood there until the 16th century when the abbey was dissolved. Secondly, detailed fieldwork over the arable land immediately to the south-west of the site of the abbey has revealed large areas of rubble and quantities of pottery. Much of the pottery is of Roman date and thus, together with at least two Roman coins found here in the 1930's, indicates the existence of a settlement of this date in the area. In addition there is a small quantity of early to mid-Saxon sherds suggesting that the site was occupied at least in the 5th and 6th centuries. Sherds of Stamford and St Neots ware show that some form of habitation existed here in the 11th and 12th centuries. However pottery of a later date has also been found on the site, much of it dating to the 13th and 14th centuries, though some is perhaps later. What this pottery and the stone rubble represents is not clear. Some of it may be rubbish from the abbey itself, but it is more likely to indicate continued occupation of the area outside the abbey gate. Even if

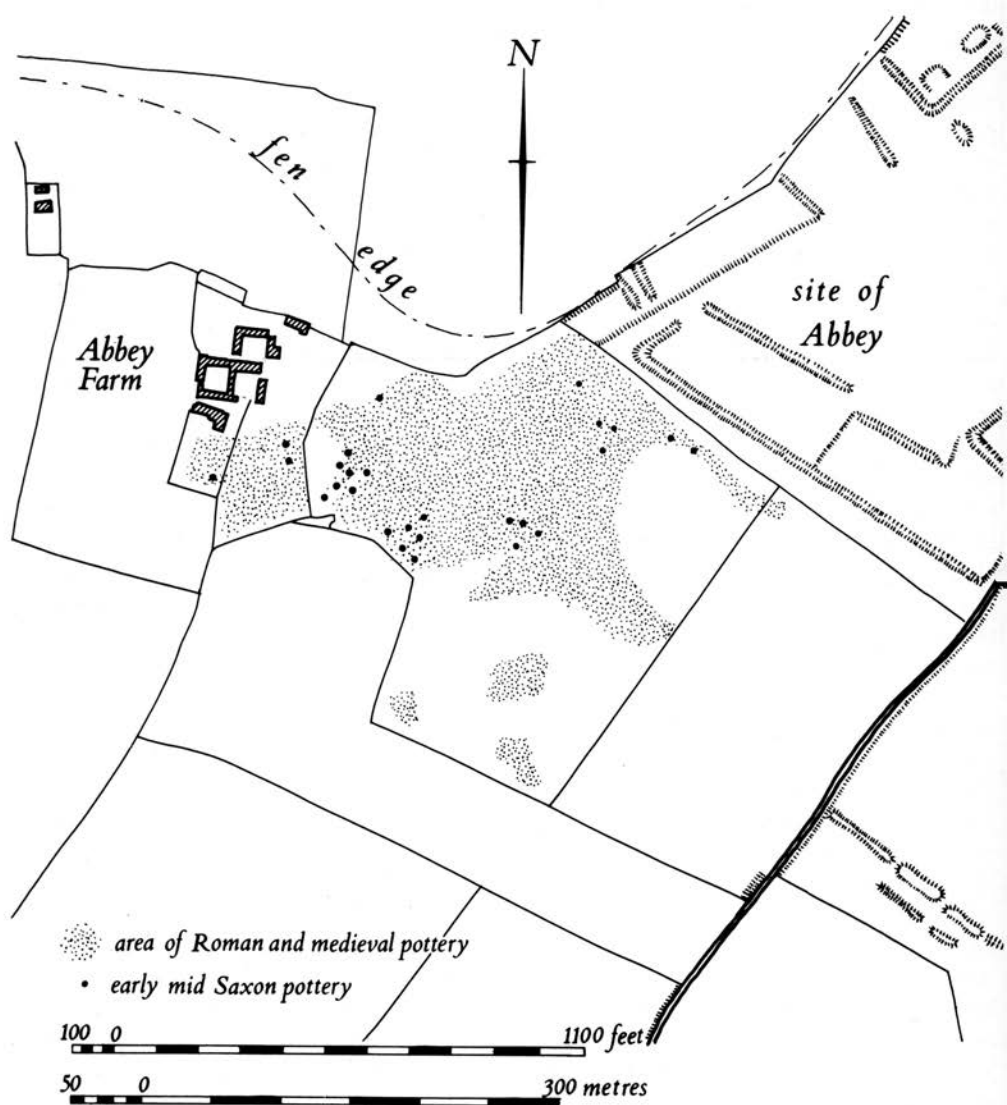


Fig. 2. Sawtry Abbey: deserted village of Sawtry Judith

Sawtry village was cleared when the abbey was founded there must have been some later settlement in the area to provide labour for the varied activities of the abbey, particularly when the strict rules of the Cistercian Order were relaxed.

Nevertheless when the abbey was dissolved in the 16th century and its church and other buildings destroyed, settlement outside it, of whatever form, also disappeared, probably because it no longer had a purpose. The land reverted to agricultural use, and only the present Abbey Farm remains, a little distance away to the west. The farm, now derelict, is of mid- or late 16th-century date though with many later additions and alterations. It contained in its structure considerable quantities of high quality building stone, no doubt taken from the abbey itself.

The village of Sawtry Judith was thus probably abandoned finally in the 16th century, but it is probable that the inhabitants moved away to the present village of Sawtry, 2.5 km. to the N.W. This village was originally two separate settlements called Sawtry St Andrew and Sawtry All Saints, so called after the dedication of their respective churches. In medieval times these two places grew together to form one single settlement. However, the south end of Sawtry village today occupies land which was part of Sawtry Judith parish until the 19th century, and thus the houses there are, strictly speaking, Sawtry Judith village. That there was a settlement here of some form by the 16th century is clear from the present Manor Farm which, although much altered, still contains part of a building of that date. In addition other houses in the same area are of 17th-century and early 18th-century date.³ It may be that these buildings represent the resettlement of Sawtry Judith village, either in the 12th century when the abbey was founded, or in the 16th century when the abbey was dissolved.

The surviving records in the Public Record Office do not indicate the size of medieval Sawtry Judith. It appears to have been included with the other two Sawtry villages in such taxation returns that exist, for example the 1327 Lay Subsidy.⁴ The 1524 Lay Subsidy does list Sawtry Judith as a separate place with twenty-six taxpayers⁵ and in 1674 sixteen people paid the Hearth Tax.⁶ However some of these at least must have occupied outlying farms in the parish.

SAWTRY ABBEY (TL 198826; Figs. 3 and 4). The remains of the Cistercian Abbey lie on the edge of Sawtry Fen on clay at 5 m. above OD. The abbey was founded by Simon de St Liz, Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon, in 1147. Little is known of the history of the house, though it was clearly a place of some importance and its position close to the Great North Road resulted in a number of Royal visitors staying there on journeys to and from the North. The abbey was dissolved in 1536 and in 1537 its site and lands were granted to Sir Richard Williams alias Cromwell. Soon afterwards the church, conventual buildings, gate-house, bell tower and even the old parish church of Sawtry Judith village were demolished.⁷ The stone from the building was removed over the succeeding centuries, the process continuing even into the 19th century. In the early part of the present century some excavations or digging were carried out when the main outlines of the church, guest-house and other buildings were recovered.

Four plans of the site have been published. One is the OS 1:2500 map of the area

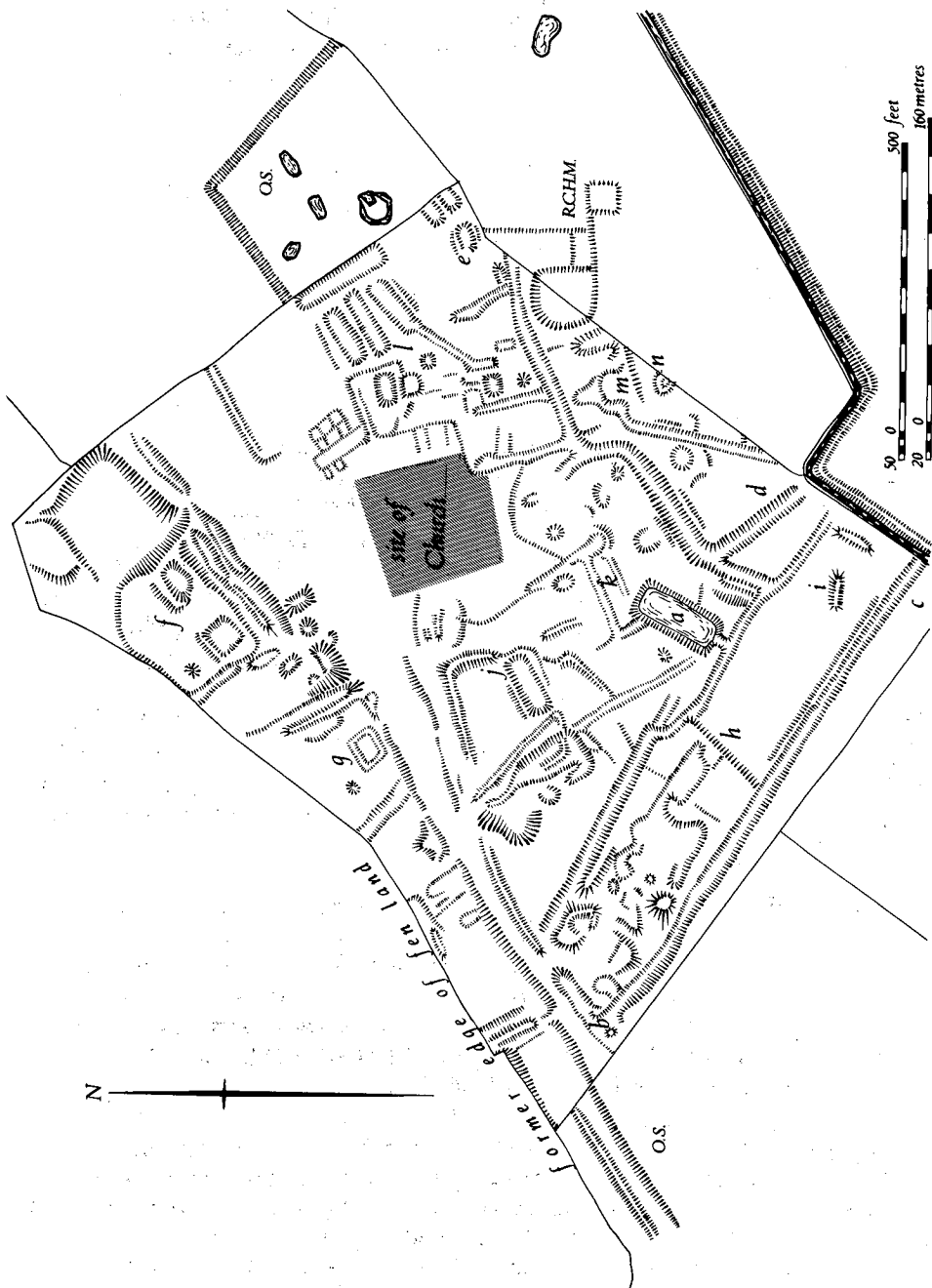


Fig. 3 Swayney Abbey

surveyed in 1887 and not altered since. Another is a large scale plan of the church and other buildings published in 1914 following the excavations a few years earlier.⁸ This plan, though of impressive appearance, appears to be based on the ideal plan of a Cistercian House rather than on the result of the excavation. The third plan was of the earthworks published at the same time as the second. The last plan was produced by the Royal Commission in 1926.⁹ This was little more than the Ordnance Survey plan with the details of the excavated buildings added. However the Commission did plan a small area of earthworks in the S.E. which have now been destroyed. All these plans are substantially correct in outline though many minor earthworks have been omitted. The general site plan published here (Fig. 3) allows a more detailed interpretation of the remains while the plan of the site of the church and cloisters (Fig. 4) gives a better indication of the structures there. Of the previous descriptions of the site, the first, accompanying the 1913 excavation plans, gave a detailed account of the earthworks, though the interpretation of them is perhaps uncritical. The Royal Commission merely listed 'enclosures, ponds, banks and quays' as visible.

The main part of the site is now under permanent pasture and the earthworks well-preserved. The only alterations since 1926 appear to have been the enlargement of a pond ('a' on Fig. 3). However outside this area, all the land which in 1926 was pasture has now been ploughed up. This has resulted in the destruction of the small ditched enclosure at the east end and a scarp and a bank at the west (both marked OS on Fig. 3) and some scarps on the S.E. side (marked RCHM on Fig. 3).

It is possible to suggest part of the original boundaries of the monastic precinct with some degree of confidence. On the north-west the boundary was presumably the edge of the fenland, though no artificial demarcation survives except for a low scarp at the south-west end. The south-east side was probably marked by the deep ditch ('b'-c' on Fig. 3) which is up to 2 m. deep in places. At its south end ('c') this ditch is cut by a modern drainage dyke, but the original boundary probably turned north-east here along the line of the dyke until the latter turns south-east. Here the precinct ditch reappears and runs north-west again before turning north-east and, after a double bend, continues north-east into the modern arable land ('d'-e'). No trace of any north-east side is visible.

The present entrance to the site is in the west corner ('b') where a modern track runs past the inturned boundary ditch above a scarp 1 m. high. This is likely to be the original entrance to the monastic precinct, though the site of the gate-house which undoubtedly stood there cannot be recognized. Along the north-west side of the track, between it and the fen edge, are a number of shallow ditches extending down the slope with, at the north-east end, a ditched enclosure ('f') with two small ponds within it and a large rectangular depression cut back nearly 2 m. deep in the rising ground but opening out on the north-west towards the fenland. The latter is termed 'Reservoir' on the OS plan, though the evidence for this attribution is unknown. This depression and the ditches are described as 'quays or docks' in the 1913 account though this is most unlikely for they are well above the level of the adjacent fen and, even allowing for the inevitable shrinkage of peat in recent times, they could never have been level with the

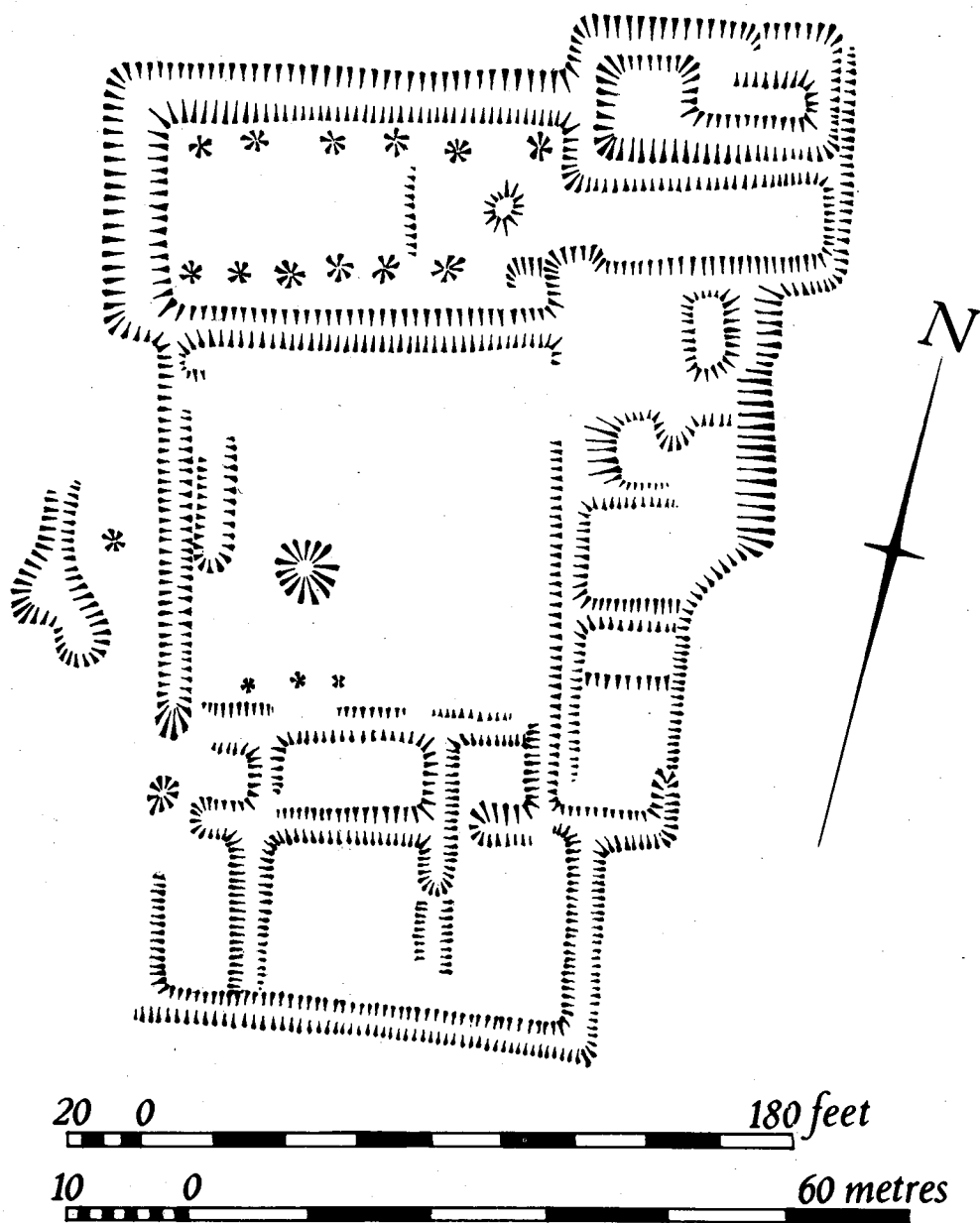


Fig. 4. Sawtry Abbey: site of church and cloister.

fen itself. Nor is there any evidence for a water course leading from them. No function can be assigned to these earthworks. The only clearly recognizable feature in this area is a small ditched enclosure ('g') termed 'Store House' by the OS. It is certainly the site of a building, the ditches being the robbed out foundation trenches. The Royal Commission's plan shows it as being divided internally into three parts by a cross-wall and by three pier bases, but these are no longer visible.

Along the south-west side of the area is a long narrow strip of land, bounded on the south-west by the precinct ditch and on the north-east by a more sinuous and shallow ditch only 0.5 m.-1 m. deep ('h'). This area is divided into two parts by a low scarp. The north-west half is covered by a complex of scarps, banks, mounds and hollows of no coherent form and certainly in part the result of quarrying. The south-east half is devoid of features except for a rectangular flat-topped mound only 0.25 m. high, probably classifiable as a pillow mound ('i') near the south-east end, with a more irregular mound to the south-east again. To the north-east of this strip ('h') is a large area of shallow ditches, low banks and hollows, including at least two ponds. One of these ('a') has been enlarged recently but the other ('j') is in its original form. No other features can be interpreted except for two parallel shallow ditches on the south side ('k'). These are the robbed-out wall footings of a building which was identified as the monastic guest-house and the excavations of 1907-13 are said to have found an aisled building 130ft. by 47ft. However the alterations to the pond to the south-west have destroyed the west end of this building site and the depression left by the two rows of piers cannot be seen clearly.

At the extreme north-east of this site the rectangular ditched enclosure shown by the OS (OS on plan) no longer exists. It is traditionally said to be the monks' garden though there is no proof of this. On the south-west side of this area ('l' on plan) is a complex series of earthworks including four rectangular ponds up to 1.5 m. deep with other slighter and smaller ponds to the south-west and a group of raised platforms and rectangular scarps to the west and north-west. The latter are mainly foundation walls and trenches of former buildings while the ponds are a good example of fishponds and breeding tanks usual at monastic sites. These are probably the 'fishery in the ditches enclosing the abbey' which are mentioned in the Hundred Rolls of 1279.

On the south-east side of the site, and outside the assumed precinct boundary ditch ('m'), is an area of earthworks which, except for a long ditch which is perhaps relatively recent, form no coherent plan. Some at least are quarry pits, and a low mound with a hole in its centre, ('n'), partly cut by the modern hedge, appears to be the remains of a post-medieval brick kiln. Within and around it are quantities of brick of 17th or early 18th century type, including many wasters, and more bricks lie in the arable land to the S.E. The whole area may be the site of a fen-edge brickworks which had no direct connection with the abbey itself.

In the centre of the site are the remains of the church, cloisters and other conventual buildings. As a result of the extensive excavations of 1907-13 what remains on the ground is little more than the trenches cut along wall footings at that time or the holes dug to ascertain the positions of piers. Thus it is not possible to be sure whether the

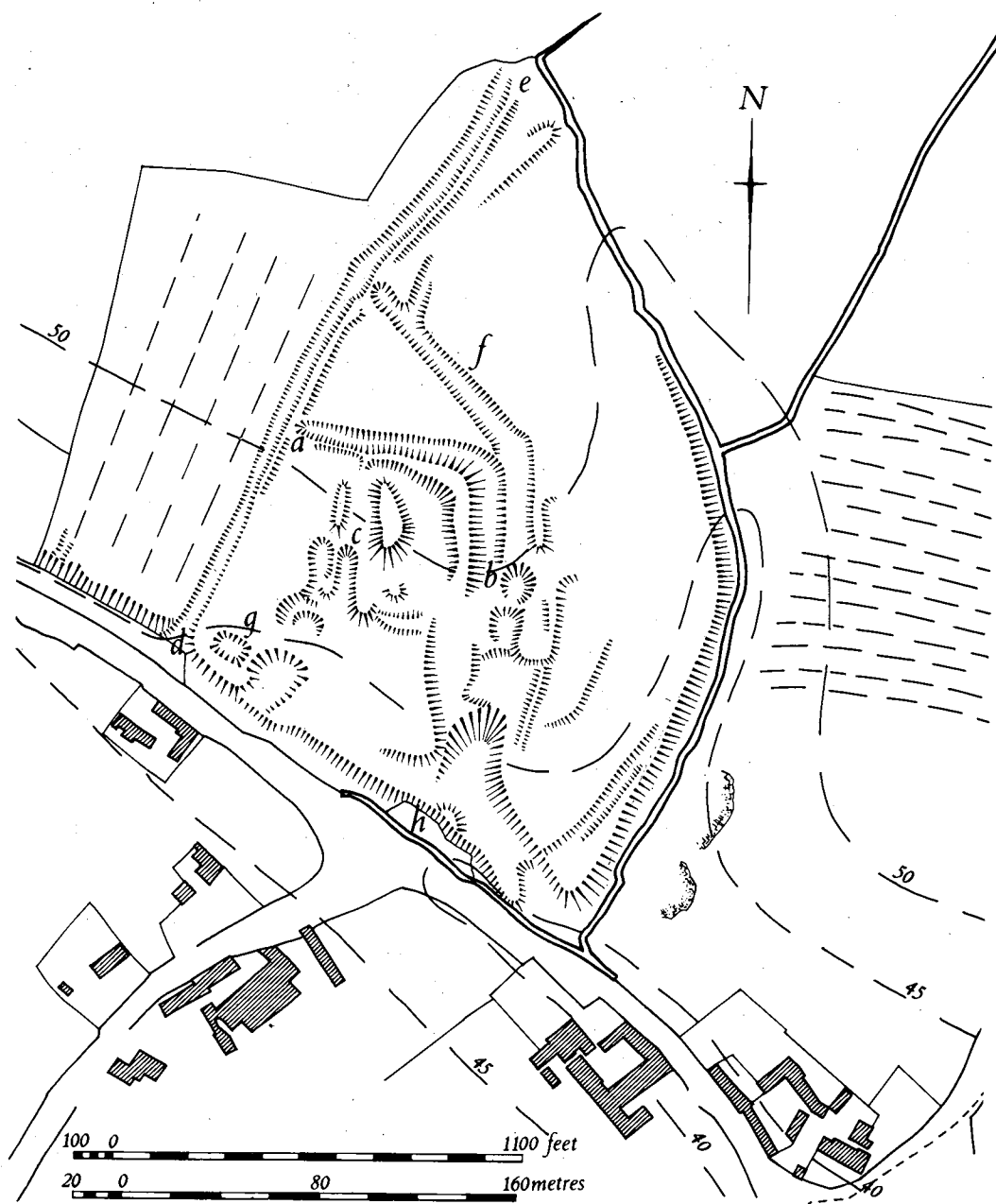


Fig. 5. Molesworth: manor house.

present survey (Fig. 4) is a plan of the church and claustral range or a plan of where the excavator hoped to find them. Certainly the overall dimensions of the surviving earthworks match the excavation plan. The excavation plan indicates that the nave of the church was of seven bays but on the ground there are seven depressions on the south and only six on the north. Nevertheless, the plan does suggest a simple aisled church with transepts, though there is no real indication of the projection east of the choir. The cloisters are clearly visible with a large depression in the south-west corner which the excavator noted, as well as three small depressions, presumably marking the places where pier bases were found. The site of the chapter house on the east side of the cloister is clearly visible, though the sacristy – between the S. transept and the chapter house – is not. To the south of the chapter house is a rectangular area subdivided into two unequal parts matching the structure shown on the excavator's plan. On that plan the north part is called 'passage to the Abbot's House' in accordance with normal Cistercian plans, but the south part is described as The Frater, though more usually the dormer would have been in this position. There is no evidence on the ground for the southern extension of this building shown on the plan and there termed 'extension of the Frater'. On the south side of the cloister the excavators claim to have found three structures. The warming house at the east end, the refectory in the centre and the kitchen at the west. Three rectangular areas bounded by trenches can be identified on the ground but these are different in shape and size from those on the excavator's plan. Assuming the latter is correct the existing trenches must represent attempts to follow assumed walls which did not in fact exist. No trace remains on the ground of the elaborate west range which the excavator discovered, except for the east wall. Disturbed ground with no recognisable features indicates its site.

MANOR HOUSE SITE, MOLESWORTH (TL 072761; Fig. 5), lies at the north end of Molesworth village, on the summit and sides of a S.E. projecting spur, on clay at between 40 m. and 52 m. above OD. Nothing is known of the history of the site beyond the fact that the field in which it lies was called Hall Yard Close on the Enclosure Map of 1799.¹⁰

The remains are not easy to interpret as at least part of them have been ploughed over and the earthworks much reduced and spread. The main feature is an L-shaped ditch ('a'-b' on plan) only 0.5 m.-1 m. deep which is perhaps the north and east boundary of the manor house itself. On the east there is a low inner bank, much spread, and to the south there are low banks and scarps on the presumed house site ('c').

To the west of the site, a shallow ditch or hollow-way runs up the hillside from the modern road, crosses the spur and extends into the adjacent valley before fading out ('d'-e'). Beyond it to the west are faint traces of ridge-and-furrow. Another ditch or hollow-way ('f') only 0.25 m. deep, runs from the north east corner of the assumed house site, north-west towards the first ditch or hollow-way. On the south-west of the site are numerous low scarps and banks which form no coherent pattern, partly because of spring-line sapping which occurs in this area. There is one small rectangular

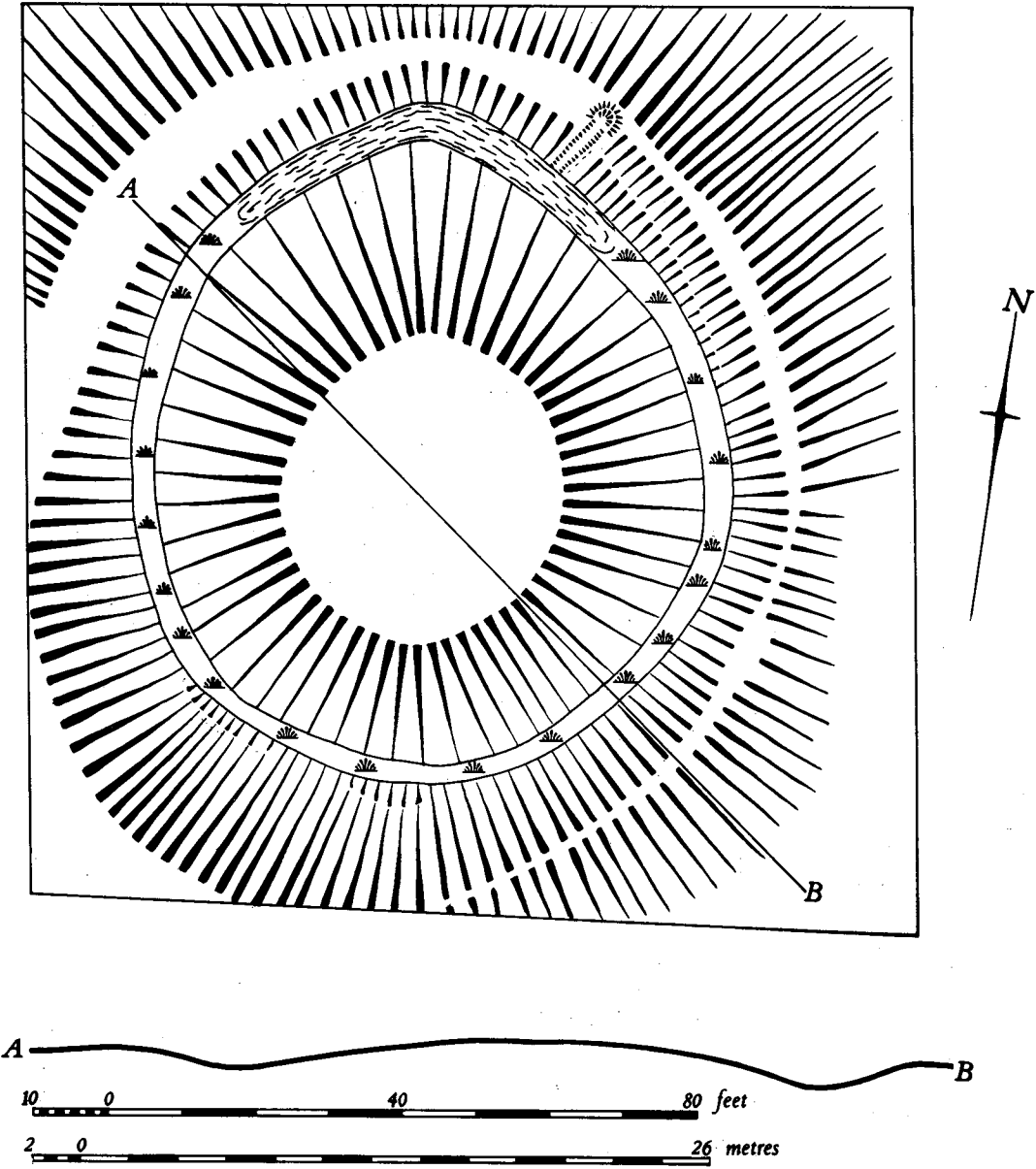


Fig. 6. Kimbolton: castle mound.

pond ('g') 1.5 m. deep in the corner of the site. The small hedged paddock on the south side ('h') is where a building, probably a house, is depicted on the Enclosure Map.

MOUND, KIMBOLTON (TL 094673; Fig. 6), possibly a motte, lies in the park of Kimbolton Castle, south-west of Kimbolton village, on clay at 45 m. above OD. It stands in a small area of woodland, with all the surrounding land under arable and consists of a slightly oval mound 23 m. in diam., 1.7 m. high with a flat top 11 m. across and surrounded by a ditch 1.5 m. deep. Beyond the ditch is a slight outer bank, much spread. It is traditionally known as Castle Hill¹¹ and it is given that name on a map of Kimbolton Park of 1673.¹⁰ There the mound is shown as a circular feature. The woodland to the west is shown with numerous intersecting rides through it; the main ride is aligned on the mound. A later map of 1763¹⁰ shows the mound in more detail, but does not name it. The site is carefully drawn as a raised circular area surrounded by a water-filled ditch on all but the west side. At this point the ditch is shown as blocked and a ramp extends from the edge of the mound to the west. This ramp is aligned exactly on the main ride through the adjacent woodland. No trace of the ramp survives on the ground, but the cartographic evidence cannot be ignored. It would appear that the mound is a small motte that was altered and incorporated into the landscaped park in the late 17th or mid 18th century to form the terminal point of a view along a woodland ride. Subsequently it must have been restored to its original form, perhaps in the 19th century. Additional proof that it was a motte is given by Leland who described the site as 'a plott now clene desolatid ... caallid "Castle Hylle", where appere diches and tokens of old buildings'.¹²

NOTES

1. *PCAS.*, 68 (1978), 67-9.
2. *VCH Hunts.*, I (1926), 351.
3. *RCHM Hunts.*, (1926), Sawtry Judith (4), (5), (6) and (7).
4. *PRO*, E179/122/4.
5. *PRO*, E179/122/190.
6. *PRO*, E179/249/2.
7. *VCH Hunts.*, III (1936), 208-9.
8. *Trans. Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Soc.*, III (1914), 307-74.
9. *RCHM Hunts.*, (1926), Sawtry Judith (1).
10. Huntingdonshire Record Office.
11. *RCHM Hunts.*, (1926), Kimbolton (3).
12. *VCH Hunts.*, I (1926), 287.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

VOLUME LXX

1980

Price £4.00 net for members, £5.50 for non-members

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Officers and Council of the Society, 1979-80</i>	
Field Officers' Reports	ix
The Cambridge Archaeology Field Group: Report 3	xiii
A Handlist of the Publications of W. M. Palmer, M.D., F.S.A., Part I J. D. PICKLES	1
Prehistoric Finds from the Central Fenland GILLIAN WILSON	9
Excavations at Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire M. F. SEKULLA	13
A Re-interpretation of Chippenham Barrow 5, with a discussion of the Baker-Associated Pottery A. M. GIBSON	47
An Iron Age Sword and Scabbard from Isleham I. M. STEAD, A. P. HARTWELL, J. R. S. LANG, S. C. LA NIECE and N. D. MEEKS	61
A Romano-British Village at Grandford, March T. W. POTTER and C. F. POTTER	75
Cambridgeshire Earthworks Surveys: IV A. E. BROWN and C. C. TAYLOR	113
A Register of Schools and Schoolmasters in the County of Cambridge, 1574-1700 ELIZABETH KEY	127
Adventures of a Screen: Inigo Jones in Winchester and Cambridge J. M. G. BLAKISTON	191
The Inheritors of Barnwell Priory P. V. DANCKWERTS	211
<i>Notes:</i>	
A Barbed Spearhead from Barway, Cambridge DAVID COOMBS	235
A Seventeenth-century Bell at Guyhirn C. M. G. OCKELTON	237
<i>Review:</i>	
<i>The Cartularies and Registers of Peterborough Abbey</i> , by Janet D. Martin MARJORIE CHIBNALL	239
<i>Index</i>	241