

Offa took possession. A good case, therefore, seems to have been made out for the view that the Witham where the Nuns were settled for some three-quarters of a century is the Witeham of Domesday and the modern Wittenham, not the Witham of which the more distinctive name was Wihtham, now Wytham.

It has been already noted in these pages (84, 85) that Bestlesford, which is mentioned in three charters in connection with the early history of Abingdon, is not Besilsleigh, as has been supposed, but is adjacent to Bradfield and Streatley, and therefore is no doubt a ford at Bestlesdene or Basildon, this being the district where it was intended that the Abbey should be built before the site at Abingdon was chosen.

DISCOVERY OF POTTERY AT OAKFIELD PARK.—I send you, as promised, a few particulars of the Roman remains found in the kitchen garden at Oakfield Park. I am sorry I cannot give you fuller details, but, unfortunately, I did not hear about it until rather late, and, when I went, found that most of the garden had been trenched and turned destroying almost all evidence that might have been obtained. However, from what I observed, there appeared to have been five or six regular rows running across the garden from east to west $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, about 50 feet in length, and 10 feet apart, of burnt earth and calcined stones, intermixed with which were numerous fragments of pottery. The depth at which these were found was about one foot. The severe firing of the stones suggested that they had been subjected to great heat, and had no doubt been fired many times over. The fragments of pottery found show that they belonged to two classes—*hand made* and *wheel turned*; of the former, the vessels appeared to have been of large make, and the paste contained much silicious grit, no doubt to give additional strength; of the wheel turned variety, the vessels were of smaller make and the paste considerably finer, and in some cases showed signs of a glaze (black); other varieties were of a reddish-brown colour and unglazed. The fragments show that they were chiefly parts of cooking pots, but the remains of a bottle, of medium size with handle attached, was also found. A good deal of similar pottery has from time to time been found at Silchester; it has always been looked upon as of local manufacture. The site where these remains were found is not more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Silchester. It may be possible that on this site existed a Pottery which supplied Silchester with coarse and common wares (these were undoubtedly made somewhere near the city), the rows of burnt earth, etc., being where the vessels were fired. There is also plenty of clay suitable for pottery making found in the immediate neighbourhood. Coins of late Roman date have been found in the garden.—J. W. COLYER, Museum and Art Gallery, Reading.