

fort across the Derwent at Little Chester during the early years of Agricola's campaigns. The new settlement would seem to belong to the period of consolidation prior to a northward advance.

Much remains to be done and it is hoped to continue with the work in 1968. We now have a clearer idea of the span of life which this site enjoyed; the most pressing problem is to cover a wider area with the survey, spreading our activities to the western side of the A6, where Roman material is said to have been unearthed some years ago, in an attempt to define the extent and dimensions of this pre-Agricolan occupation.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Brian Hartley for his examination of the pottery, to pupils at Bemrose School, Derby, and to members of the Junior Archaeological Section, who assisted me in this work, to Ray Marjoram and Roy Hughes for their support and encouragement and, above all, to the residents of Strutt's Park who kindly allowed me access to their flower-beds and vegetable-plots.

## AN EARTHWORK AT SAWLEY, DERBYSHIRE

By MALCOLM TODD

**D**ISCOVERIES of unrecorded earthworks are not so commonly made that a new and striking example in Derbyshire need excite no comment. Air-photographs taken recently by Dr. J. K. St Joseph<sup>1</sup> have revealed a small rectangular earthwork on the low-lying ground south of Sawley church (SK 474313). The defences of the work consist of a rampart, some 18 ft. wide, and an associated ditch, both of which can be traced on the ground round most of the circuit.<sup>2</sup> The dimensions of the work, measured along the rampart-crests are: north 261 ft.; south 240; east 281; west 286. They give an area of 1.5 acres over the ramparts. In the centre of the west side there are evident traces of a gate-opening, about 21 ft. across, and 40 ft. away to the west lies a mound, some 30 ft. long by 12 ft. wide, positioned like a *tutulus*, but now so formless as to leave its function in doubt. The rampart and ditch are particularly well preserved on the north and west sides, the bank still standing 2½ ft. high. Within the defences, however, there has been a good deal of superficial disturbance, presumably by ploughing.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. J. K. St. Joseph has kindly pointed this new site out to me and provided a photograph.

<sup>2</sup> The line of the ditch is indistinct on the south side, being here obscured by traces of an old field boundary, a few trees of which still remain. Since only a surface survey has been made, many details of the planning of the defences, e.g. the precise width of the rampart, the radii of the rampart-curves at the corners, and the exact arrangement of the rampart ends at the gate-opening, cannot yet be adequately recorded. It is, however, quite certain from a contoured survey prepared by students in the Department of Civil Engineering in the University of Nottingham that the south-west and south-east angles are not based on right angles and that the length of the eastern defences falls short of that of the west side by some 20ft.

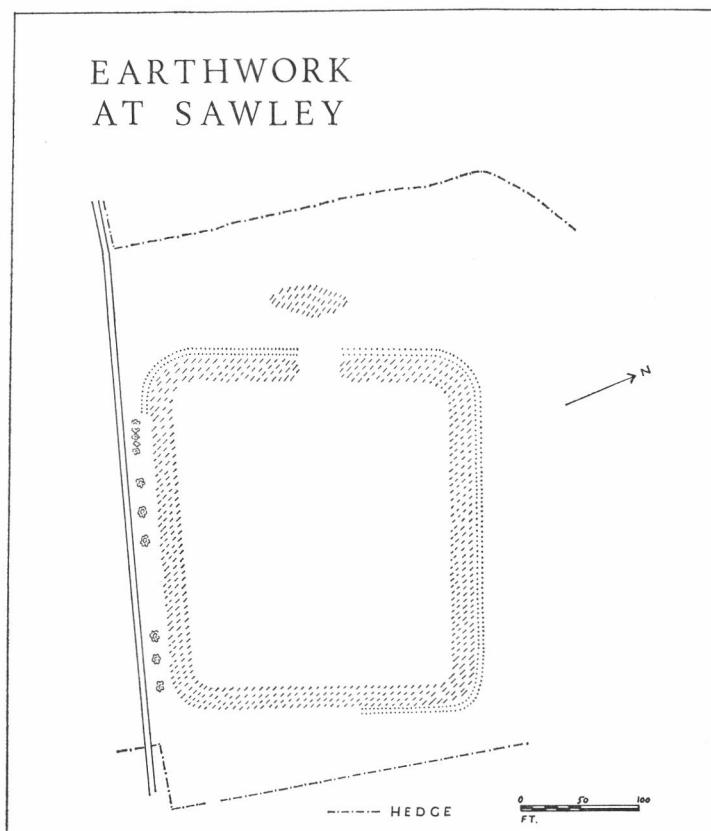


FIG. 6. Earthwork at Sawley.

This earthwork has several features, notably the centrally placed gate-opening, the external mound, and the planning of the defences, which are suggestive of a Roman fort, but, on the other hand, there are irregularities which inhibit recognition, on present evidence, as a Roman military work. As the plan demonstrates, it is not a true rectangle, and the corners, although rounded, are tighter than is normal in Roman military architecture. Nevertheless, this rather unusual site is closer in its planning to a Roman fort than to any other type of earthwork. If a fort, it is too small<sup>3</sup> even for the smallest auxiliary unit, the *cohors quingenaria peditata*, and would then presumably be garrisoned by a detachment. The site, only one mile E.N.E. of the present confluence of the Derwent with the Trent, and immediately adjacent to the modern crossing of the latter stream, very surprisingly in view of its relative prominence, appears to have

<sup>3</sup> It cannot be objected that its small size is against its being a Roman fort. Military sites with areas of between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 2 acres are known, for instance at Troutbeck, at Scaftworth (Notts.) and at Pentrich.

escaped record until now, and no other finds of Roman date have been made in this neighbourhood north of the Trent. The only known Roman road in the near vicinity, running from Little Chester almost to the bank of the Trent, passes the Sawley site about half a mile to the north-east. Discovery of the earthwork adds a monument of considerable interest to Derbyshire's visible antiquities, even before excavation enables us to place it in its appropriate historical context.

## A PIG OF LEAD FROM BROOMFLEET, EAST YORKSHIRE

By J. E. BARTLETT

**A** PIG of lead, with lettering moulded in relief, was found in 1967 in a quarry dug for the Yorkshire Ouse and Hull River Authority near Weighton Lock on the north bank of the Humber (SE 874257). Its dimensions were: face  $17\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$  in., base  $23\frac{1}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$  in., height  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in., and weight 175 lb. The pig was sold by the workmen on the site and recovered three weeks later by Hull Museum from a scrap metal merchant. It has since been presented to the Museum by the owner of the land, Mr. F. D. Dennis. It reads SOCIOR LVT BR EX ARG. Socior(um) Lut(udarensium) Br(itannicum) ex arg(entariis), "product of the Lutudarensian partners: British lead from the lead-silver works".

A pig, with the same legend, was found in 1966 at Churchover, Warwickshire (*J.R.S.*, LVII (1967), 206) and another, now lost, is recorded from Belby, near Howden (*J.R.S.*, XXXI (1941), 146).

Due to the circumstances of the discovery it was not possible to establish either the depth at which the pig was found or whether it was directly associated with Romano-British pottery and other material. Very large quantities of samian pottery, colour-coated wares, mortaria and Dales wares, as well as fragments of glass, querns and building stone, were found by the Museum in the sides of the quarry and on the adjacent dumps. No structures, other than ditches and rubbish pits, have yet been identified, but it is clear from the pottery that occupation of the site was extensive and lasted from A.D. *c.* 150 to *c.* 370.

Eleven Roman pigs of lead have now been recorded from north Humber-side and nine of these, with the abbreviation LVT, are certainly products of the Derbyshire lead-mining region. Six<sup>1</sup> were found buried in a group outside the north walls of Roman Brough on Humber; one comes from South Cave, 3 miles to the north; one from Ellerker, 2 miles to the north; one from Broomfleet, 4 miles to the west, and one from Belby,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles

<sup>1</sup> P. Corder records a further pig found at Brough in the 18th century (*Jnl. Brit. Arch. Soc.*, 3rd series, II, 1942).