

ern Ireland. The bulk of any expansion is therefore likely to occur on the heavy soils of the midlands. The class of sites most seriously affected would probably be the deserted medieval village (DMVs) of this area and their associated field systems.<sup>3</sup>

If livestock populations are maintained as Josling and Lucey expect them to be, the reduction in permanent grass together with the other losses of agricultural land could well lead to a pressure to upgrade rough grazing land. This would involve re-seeding and perhaps drainage work, posing a lesser but not negligible threat to some prehistoric sites on this sort of land, formerly protected by its low agricultural potential.

Thus in a period of ten years, if some current forecasts are correct, some 2 million or more acres of mostly archaeologically undisturbed land could come under the plough. Some estimate of the likely density of sites on this land must now be made. RESCUE have suggested an average density of 4 sites per square mile (i.e., one site every 160 acres) over the country as a whole, but allowing for the relatively late occupation of the heavier soils of the midlands, we shall assume a lower average of one site to every 500 acres. The 2 million acres would

3 M. Beresford *The Lost Villages of England* (1954) 221.

then contain an estimated 4,000 sites, which would come under the plough at an average rate of 400 per annum for the next ten years. While a single ploughing would not be sufficient to destroy the majority of them, it would not take many years of modern ploughing to cause irretrievable damage to many of the threatened sites. Field systems are particularly vulnerable. This rate of damage must be added to that currently proceeding from other causes—urban development, motorways, quarrying afforestation, etc.

**Discussion:** Josling's and Lucey's forecast assumes unchanged policies and may well be too high: if so the extra acreage required would be less than shown here (if Britton's forecast for yield is adopted). On the other hand, the estimates of the proportion of extra land for cereals coming from permanent grass, and of site density may both be conservative. No great accuracy can be claimed for any estimate of the likely rate of damage, but it may be concluded that a high priority should be given to the scheduling of DMVs and the mapping of medieval field systems in grassland areas, and in appropriate cases to their more effective protection under the Field Monuments legislation.

## New Director for Museum of London

FOLLOWING THE retirement of Norman Cook to Wells Museum, Somerset, Thomas Hume has been appointed as Director of the new Museum of London. This Museum which will combine the collections of the London and Guildhall Museums, is due for completion in 1974.

Thomas Hume, married with three children, has been the Curator of the Liverpool Museums since 1960 and has had previous experience of setting up a new museum at Liverpool, which will undoubtedly stand him in stead.

A widely travelled man, he has spent two months in America as a guest of the State Department and American Museums Association, and also lectured in Australia at a U.N.E.S.C.O. conference on museums and education.

The association of museum collections with the people who used them is an asset with which he is endowed and it should help to provide a truly comprehensive display of London's people, growth, industries and character.

