

# Medieval Britain in 1959

By DAVID M. WILSON

*Assistant Keeper of British and Medieval Antiquities, British Museum*

and

JOHN G. HURST

*Assistant Inspector, Ancient Monuments Branch, Ministry of Works*

THE COMPILERS of this summary wish to thank all those who have so kindly helped them by giving information about excavations and small finds. They appeal to all who deal with excavations or antiquities in the period with which this journal is concerned to bring to their attention year by year any new finds, in any part of the country, in order that the surveys may be even more complete in future years.

Part I has been compiled by D. M. Wilson and Part II by J. G. Hurst.

## I. PRE-CONQUEST

### ENGLAND

CAMBRIDGESHIRE: BARTON (TL/408559). Four extended inhumations, found lying E-W, may be of early medieval date.

———: ELY-TRINITY (TL/568801). An early medieval hut site was discovered at Wade's Farm.

———: ——— (TL/547812). Pagan Saxon skeletons accompanied by a sword, two shield bosses, a small-long brooch and a great square-headed brooch were found on the Newbarns Road housing estate.

———: STRETHAM (TL/532726). A medieval hut site is reported from Dimmock's Cote.

HAMPSHIRE: ALTON (SU/715387). Two graves of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery were excavated and four others are known to have existed. The contents of the two graves comprised two shield bosses, two shield grips, two swords, four spearheads, spear ferrule, a knife, a bronze strap-plate, a pair of tweezers, two green glass beads, a bronze-bound wooden bucket and a Roman jar. The excavations proceed.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE: ST. NEOTS. Excavations by C. F. Tebbutt were continued at St Neots priory on a site (threatened by building operations) believed to be north of the cloister garth. It was hoped to find the priory church.

At once it was evident that no stone building had ever been built here. It now seems clear, from documentary evidence, that the Norman priory church was to the south of the cloister.

At a depth of slightly more than 2 ft. a regular flat layer of large cobbles set in clay was found, which proved to be a wall foundation 3 ft. wide of a large wooden building. No trace of mortar, stone, brick or even daub was found associated with it. The building had the plan of a church and was orientated E.-W. A chancel, measuring inside approximately 30 × 14 ft., had to the SW. a transept, porticus or aisle 10 ft. wide inside.

On (or a few inches above) the cobble layer, which is in some cases 12 ins. thick, were found about 30 pottery sherds. All are unglazed, developed, St. Neots ware of the 12th century and could only have been deposited after the building was destroyed.

It seems reasonable to suggest that this is the Saxon church (perhaps of Greensted

type), that was built about 1010 A.D. to receive back from Crowland the shrine of St. Neot, which had been sent there for safety when St. Neots priory was threatened and later destroyed by the Danes. It was presumably pulled down some time after 1079 when Norman monks were sent to refound the priory as a cell of Bec.

Unfortunately much of the rest of the plan is under a public path, enclosed by a wall and a factory building.

KENT: CANTERBURY (TR/150575). The earliest stratified deposit yielded part of a clay, bun-shaped loom weight and a bone bodkin-like object, together with a few sherds of grey, knife-trimmed ware, all of late Saxon type.

———: FINGLESHAM (TR/826535). Trial excavation by Mrs. S. Hawkes on the site of the cemetery excavated in 1928 (*Med. Archaeol.* II) revealed further undisturbed graves, of which twelve were excavated. The burials included a man with spear, knife and buckle and a woman with a pot, bronze work-box, iron shears, bone weaving tool and two spindle whorls and the remains of an iron-bound box. The skeleton of a young girl was also found with two pots and a necklace, with beads on silver rings, silver wire rings, repoussé silver pendants and two coins mounted for suspension (a sceatta and a Merovingian gold solidus). These two graves date from the end of the 7th century.

———: KINGSTON DOWN (TR/202519). All the visible tumuli had been opened by Faussett in the 18th century and by Thomas Wright in the 19th. Test trenches were made by Miss V. I. Evison at five different places along a 400-yd. strip threatened by tree-planting, and 16 flat graves were encountered at the southern end; only three of these were undisturbed and they were very poorly furnished.

LEICESTERSHIRE: BIRSTALL (SK/596103). A sword, shield boss, spear and two plain pots of Anglo-Saxon date were found here.

———: BREEDON ON THE HILL (SK/405233). During restoration of the church two pieces of Anglo-Saxon carving have been discovered which add to the previously recorded series. Found in the N. aisle was a panel of three birds in scroll vegetation, in excellent condition, and similar to the main 8th-century series. Recessed in the north wall was the fragment of a cross shaft, 2 ft. long, bearing a number of scenes: Adam and Eve and (possibly) Cain and Abel, a mounted figure and a fallen angel. It must be ascribed to the 10th century.

———: ——— (SK/406233). A late pagan Saxon brooch of equal-armed form was found.

———: OADBY (SP/623998). A very fine cruciform brooch of pagan Saxon date was found.

———: TILTON-ON-THE-HILL (745053). An iron spear-head of Anglo-Saxon type was found.

LINCOLNSHIRE: LANGTOFT (TF/108122-120128). A scatter of Anglo-Saxon pottery has been reported from a site here.

———: LOVEDEN HILL (HOUGH ON THE HILL) (SK/908458). The excavation of this large (mainly cremation) cemetery has been continued by K. R. Fennell. Two areas have been investigated in an attempt to determine the limits of the cemetery—but so far without success. An area south and west of the tumulus which was excavated in 1925/26 has produced a further 40 cremations. Over 170 urns have now been excavated in this vicinity but, except for those in the tumulus, no inhumations have been found here.

A small corner south of the 1955-57 excavation has produced about 10 urns and two inhumations, one of them with a shield-boss and two small bronze appliques with circular silver ends. Eight inhumations have now been located at this end of the cemetery.

———: SLEAFORD. An Anglo-Saxon burial accompanied by a plain pot was found at the Old Place site.

LONDON: South-east angle of Wood Street and Addle Street. During emergency excavations two features of Anglo-Saxon type, though not necessarily of Anglo-Saxon date, were uncovered. One was the portion of a hut-pit with large post-holes set along the sides (but being 6-7 ft. below the cellar surface it was unusually deep for a normal Anglo-Saxon hut). The second feature was a square pit, floored with heavy oak boards, very similar to cellars recorded by E. M. Jope in Oxford.<sup>1</sup>

NORFOLK: MUNDFORD (TL/804939). A large storage jar of Late Saxon Thetford ware was found in a pit cut into chalk (private possession).

———: NARFORD (TF/767137 approx.). A St. Edmund memorial coin was found near Narford Hall (private possession). See *British Numismatic Journal*, xxix, 1959, 190.

———: NORTH CREAKE (TF/852384). A fragmentary silver penny of Offa, B.M.C. type 44, struck c. 795, Canterbury mint, was found (Norwich Castle Museum).

———: NORWICH CATHEDRAL. The carved stone fragments belonging to the medieval bishop's throne at the east end of the choir have been reset and incorporated in a modern throne. An examination of the fragments, carried out in the course of the work, has led to their identification as part of the Saxon bishop's throne and of the contemporary synthronos. The stones have been heavily burnt. They were probably brought from the pre-conquest cathedral at Elmham after suffering severely in the Danish raids. The surface of the stones is badly damaged by the fire and by subsequent weathering, but traces of an *Anglian beast* of 8th-century type can still be discerned. An account will appear in *The Archaeological Journal*.

———: THETFORD (TL/864826). A small excavation, carried out by the Ministry of Works, established the line of the town ditch at Thetford, between St. Margaret's Cemetery, on the London Road, and Red Castle on the Brandon Road. The ditch was first noticed in the 18th century by Martin near St. Margaret's and also near St. George's Nunnery at the southern end of the town, and was rediscovered recently while digging a drain along the south side of London Road.

The ditch is some 11 ft. deep and 40 ft. wide at a point 720 ft. north of London Road; it was shallower near Red Castle, whence it passed westward to merge into the river marshes.

The ditch is probably late Saxon, and the pottery must belong to about the time of the conquest.

———: ———, GRAMMAR SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS (TL/864826). Thetford ware and human bones have been dug up.

———: ———, SCHOOL PLAIN (TL/866830). Trenches revealed a flint road with early 11th-century pottery and a pit with early 10th-century pottery.

OXFORDSHIRE: CASSINGTON (SP/445123). On a site at Purwell Farm, which in recent years has produced huts similar to those found at Sutton Courtenay, Mrs. S. Hawkes cleared a substantial area and found a line of post-holes. E. M. Jope excavated a second pottery kiln of the pagan Anglo-Saxon period on the same site.

———: EYNSHAM (SP/433092). Late Saxon pottery and what is probably the fragment of a bone comb were found near the site of the Saxon minster in Abbey Street.

———: OXFORD (SP/513063). On the site of Messrs. Marks and Spencer's extension in Cornmarket, D. Sturdy excavated a few segments of late Saxon pits and cellars between extensive 12th century pits which covered most of the area examined. The results of this investigation may be of importance when correlated with the discoveries on the Clarendon Hotel site immediately opposite.<sup>2</sup>

SOMERSET: GLASTONBURY. Excavation by the Glastonbury Excavation Committee was continued. Further industrial buildings of pre-conquest age have been explored below the 12th-century levels in the east range. Date and function are uncertain pending

<sup>1</sup> *Oxoniensia*, xxiii (1958), 19 ff.

<sup>2</sup> *Oxoniensia*, xxiii (1958).

detailed analysis of the scanty finds. The remains of an octagonal lavatory in the north-east quadrant of the Romanesque cloister were located. The eastern range, of 12th century date, was explored and shewn to conform in size and position to that which replaced it after the fire of 1184. A trench within the church revealed the stalls of the 13th century monks choir occupying the eastern half of the nave; in the 14th century the choir was moved into the extended eastern arm, leaving the nave clear. A further interim report has been published in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*.

SUFFOLK: ERISWELL, LAKENHEATH AIRFIELD (TL/731803). Over 30 inhumations, with heads to the west, were examined at the U.S.A.A.F. base. Many weapons, brooches, bracelets, beads, etc., were recovered. The site is referred to the 6th century.

———: IPSWICH (TM/16714444). Building operations, on a site at 45 Upper Orwell Street, sectioned a pit cut in natural gravel. Ipswich ware was recovered. This find extends the area on which pottery-making was carried on in the middle Saxon period.

———: WEST STOW (TL/797714). A short period of excavation by Miss V. I. Evison revealed a rectangular pit and other features including a ditch and post-holes, but the area opened was not wide enough to allow interpretation of structures.

YORKSHIRE: EAST RIDDLESTONE HALL. A fragment of a stone cross was found here, probably of 8th-9th century date, it bears a plain cross surrounded by a regular interlace pattern.

———: SEWERBY (TA/205691). Forty-nine graves of an Anglian inhumation cemetery were excavated for the Ministry of Works by P. A. Rahtz. The limits of the cemetery were not found. The graves are irregularly orientated and disposed, and represent roughly equal proportions of male and female, with some children and babies. Most contained grave-goods, including necklaces of beads and pendants of amber, glass, rock-crystal, shale and bronze wire; cruciform, square-headed and annular brooches; wrist-clasps; knives; objects of wood and bronze foil; needles; silver-plated bronze buckles; girdle hangers; a silver disc; much fabric and one shield-boss. Two burials were in coffins (probably of planks); one of these had a well-defined post-hole adjacent to the foot-end of the coffin, probably for a grave marker. The other was the richest grave found, and was marked by a cairn of chalk blocks. The skeleton, probably an adult female, was extended; it was accompanied by a bronze cauldron (with iron handle and triangular lugs drawn out from an everted rim), two necklaces of 203 amber and glass beads, a large gilt bronze square-headed brooch with divided foot, two smaller bronze square-headed brooches, a pair of decorated gilt wrist-clasps, a pair of girdle hangers, an iron ring, an iron knife, a pair of triangular bronze pendants, a wood and shale thread box and traces of fabric. The grave pit was deep and in the upper half, separated from the coffin by a few inches of soil, was a secondary burial. This was also probably an adult female, accompanied by a few grave-goods which could have been those worn on the body. The skeleton was lying face downwards, with feet and elbows raised in a position that suggested a violent burial; part of a quern-stone was found on top of the pelvis. Preliminary examination suggests a dating range for the cemetery of mid-6th to mid-7th century A.D.

### SCOTLAND

ARGYLLSHIRE: ELLARY, ST. COLUMBA'S CAVE (NR/747767). Among the material found in the excavation of this cave, which was used from the iron age to the 19th century, was a bronze balance of Viking type with folding arms, one of which was broken.

———: IONA. Further examination of the interior of Dun Bhuirg confirmed the evidence of the previous years that the fort was occupied before the Columban landing of 563.

Work was continued on the actual monastery of Columba. The vallum was

sectioned in two places north of the abbey. As the ditch here is below the water table certain fragments of wooden objects were recovered, whilst a sherd of a type previously regarded as of 6th- or 7th-century date was found sealed below the counterscarp in one cutting. It now seems that the vallum runs N.-S. below the modern refectory building, across the cloisters (to enclose the structures found in 1958) and out in the angle between the chancel and the W. side of the S. transept of the abbey. In the field S. of the abbey the ditch was located in the SE. corner just by the Releig Orain chapel, and probably runs through the present graveyard to an entrance approximately on the line of the present-day road.

Traces of various buildings were uncovered inside this area. This tends to confirm the idea that the first monastery was centred round Tor Abb.

———: ISLAY, LOCH ARD ACHADH (NR/312431). A possible Norse habitation site was observed near the modern ruins above the loch.

———: NORTH RONA (HW/809323). A survey of the ancient structures here by members of Glasgow University produced the following information:

The oldest visible building is the 'cell' or oratory of Saint Ronan, which is dry-built, 11 × 7 ft., and pointed internally with mortar. It contains an altar in fair condition and is dated *c.* 700 A.D. To the W. end of this has been added a wider 12th-century nave with an altar on either side of the narrow entrance to the oratory. The church stands in the SE. of an oval enclosure.

The dwellings comprise three complexes, each of which consists of a central rectangular structure surrounded by a variable number of small circular and oval corbelled cells, with associated cattle-pens and stack yards. Two of these complexes are built against the S. side of the cashel wall, and in their original form may have been contemporary with the nave, although inhabited until the early 19th century. The third complex stands apart; associated with it is a building resembling a primitive blackhouse of Hebridean type.

The infield, of about 17½ acres, surrounded by the remains of a head-dyke, has been cultivated in unusually large ridges. Scattered over the entire island are numerous small mounds of field-gathered stones, and also larger circular settings of stones, the purpose of which is uncertain.

To the N. of the peninsula are walls, etc., of 19th-century date.

BUTESHIRE: LITTLE DUNAGOIL (NS/086534). The foundations of two Norse long-houses were defined and a trench through the more westerly one uncovered a bench on the sea-ward side.

DUMBARTONSHIRE: KILMAYOW. An examination of the carved stones, found during the restoration of the chapel some years ago, shows that they formed part of a shrine of the 8th or 9th century. A small cross, also of the 7th or 8th century, was found at the same time and has been reset within the restored building.

ORKNEY: BIRSAY. Further exploration of the Pictish and Norse site on the Brough of Birsay has been carried out by the Ministry of Works (directed by C. A. R. Radford). The enclosure wall of the Pictish cashel has now been traced through three-quarters of the circuit; the area was approximately circular and about 120 ft. across. It is probable that the site was a hermitage, rather than a monastery. Three further house-plans of the Norse period have been recovered, making a total of six. Five were long houses with turf partly faced in stone; the roofs were supported by double rows of posts. These may be dated to the 9th and 10th centuries. The sixth house was similar with a substantial outshot from one of the long walls. The stratigraphical position of the last indicated a date in the 11th century. Work on the great earl's palace of the 11th century confirmed the earlier deduction that it had a centralized plan of the type best represented by the 12th-century Bishop's Palace at Gardar. An official *guide* recording work down to 1957 has been published.

SHETLAND: ST. NINIAN'S ISLE (HU/367207). The lower course of the pre-Norse church was found below the medieval foundations at the S. end of the nave.

## II. POST-CONQUEST

### A. MONASTIC SITES

#### ENGLAND

CAMBRIDGESHIRE: CAMBRIDGE. Excavations in the cloister court, *Sidney Sussex College*, were carried out by P. Salway on behalf of the college. A section across the presumed site of the Franciscan friary church (in the NW. part of the precinct and within the town ditch) revealed part of the S. aisle, the nave (20 ft. in width) and the N. aisle (14 ft.). Projecting from the N. wall was a valence or shallow chapel, outside which four graves were discovered.

The church lay approximately 100 ft. N. of and at right angles to the refectory (or possibly guest-house) which was converted into a chapel for the college in the early 16th century and pulled down in 1776. The church itself had been very thoroughly demolished to provide building material for Trinity and Sidney Sussex Colleges. The most important of the small finds was an extremely large quantity of fragments of stained glass of the late 14th century, of high quality and in good condition. Beneath the later medieval remains were traces of earlier structures, presumably the houses recorded as demolished at the transfer of the friary to this site shortly before 1267.

Commercial excavation for the stilts of the new *Queen's College* block beside Friar's Building, watched by P. V. Addyman and M. Biddle revealed two parallel clunch footings, 10 ft. apart, beneath 17ft. of make-up. Five skeletons were also found. The site is that of the Carmelite friary acquired by the college in 1544.

DEVONSHIRE: PLYMPTON PRIORY (SX/562538). Excavation by Miss V. B. Ledger (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 303) was continued in the area of the church W. of the transepts. The deeply recessed main W. doorway was found, dating to c. 1180. The sleeper wall of the S. aisle remains *in situ*, and was part of the original building. The N. aisle sleeper wall had been completely robbed in the area excavated. The E. and W. processional entrances to the cloister both contained remains of 13th-century archways. The wall between the E. processional entrance and the S. transept was destroyed by fire some time after the early 15th century, and the wall re-built on a slightly different alignment. The floor was also re-tiled. Probably at this period, the floor in the nave N. of this area was raised. Part of a building in the W. cloister wing (probably the outer parlour) was found. Only floor foundations and a drain remained.

DURHAM: MONKWEARMOUTH (NZ/403577). The town council of Sunderland propose to demolish houses in the area of St. Peter's church in a slum clearance scheme and excavations were undertaken by Miss R. Cramp to discover whether any traces remained of the Anglo-Saxon or later medieval monastic buildings. Three trenches on a line N. to S. from the existing 7th-century porch and W. wall of the church revealed continuous occupation of the site from the 13th century onwards, as shown by pottery dated by J. G. Hurst. Wall foundations of the W. range of the medieval monastic buildings were found, and this area seems to have been used for metal working and other domestic activities. The walls were of two different periods; the outer E. wall which was bedded on heavy rubble-stones and stone roofing-tiles from earlier demolished buildings, seems to belong to the 14th-century monastic cell of Durham. The W. wall, which unfortunately partly underlies a modern building, but which may be the enclosure wall, was built in a different technique, and, like the walls of the Anglo-Saxon church, penetrated without foundations into the natural sand. There is no evidence for dating this wall, but it may belong to the temporary refounding of the monastery in the 12th

century by the Worcester monk, Aldwin, who is reported to have re-built the Anglo-Saxon monastery which had been sacked by the Danes in the 9th century. This W. wall, like the rubble underlying the later wall, may have contained material from the Anglo-Saxon buildings, but it is clearly not an original Anglo-Saxon wall since it cuts through a burial ground. Part of a mass burial was excavated in which the skeletons were orientated in a Christian manner but were mostly incomplete. Several had been decapitated, and the skulls that remained showed clear evidence of violent death, either from wounds or heavy blows. It is therefore presumed that these mutilated bodies represent the victims of one of the Viking raids on the north.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: CIRENCESTER ABBEY (SG/023023). B. Reece excavated the supposed site of the abbey of St. Mary. The site was granted in 1564 to Dr. Richard Master, physician to Queen Elizabeth I; he built on the ruins a substantial house, which was destroyed by fire in the 18th century. The present 'Abbey House' was built to replace it. Excavations revealed three main layers: the top one represents the present house, the second the occupation of the earlier house, and the third a destruction layer of mortar and rubble overlying substantial walls and stone-paved floors. This layer is dated by pottery to the 16th century and presumably represents the last phase of the abbey; it contained much moulded stone, 'perpendicular' pillars, cusped panels, etc.

HAMPSHIRE: SELBORNE PRIORY (SU/755345). To clear up disparities in interpretation of earlier seasons' work (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 304), a section from N. to S. across the supposed width of the site was dug by the Rev. G. C. Knapp, revealing extensive traces of walls and flooring to the N. of the presumed limit of the site. These represent the foundations of the chancel of the actual church, and the building excavated earlier was probably the chapter-house and not the lady-chapel. The plinth of a well-laid ashlar wall, 16 ft. long, 60 ft. N. of the S. wall of the chapter-house, will probably prove to be the E. wall of the S. transept of the main church. The Petworth marble bases forming an arcade are now thought to divide the chapter-house into upper and lower areas. Large quantities of vault rib stones and a cross-shaped keystone were associated with this arcade. Small finds include a 14th-century hunting spear, more stamped floor-tiles, a stamped roof-tile, and a silver groat of Edward I.

NORFOLK: THETFORD (TL/867831). Trenches for drains in the grounds of Thetford Boys' Grammar School revealed footings of the walls of the Blackfriars monastery, inhumation burials, and domestic refuse including animal bones and medieval sherds.

SOMERSET: HINTON PRIORY (ST/778592). For work since 1951 (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 305) see now *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, CIII (1958-59), 76-80.

SURREY: MERTON PRIORY (TQ/265699). See SURREY: NONSUCH PALACE (p. 151).

SUSSEX: MICHELHAM PRIORY (TQ/558094). Excavation was undertaken for the Sussex Archaeological Society by Miss Mary Baldwin to recover the plan of the conventual church of the Augustinian priory. The plan of the E. arm has been determined from robber-trenches. Immediately W. of the aisleless choir surviving foundations show that major alterations, probably following a fire, were undertaken after the middle of the 14th century. Finds include decorated slip tiles, worked stone, and a silver half-groat of Edward III.

YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING: HALTEMPRICE PRIORY (TA/050332). On the original site of Haltemprice priory, which was first founded in Cottingham *c.* 1320, the owners uncovered the angle of a stone wall. From the angle the walls (2½ ft. thick and *c.* 2 ft. high) run 14 ft. in one direction and 10 ft. in the other and then disappear into the next garden to the E. where they have been found by probing.

———, WEST RIDING: KIRKSTALL ABBEY (SE/259360). (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 306). The 1959 excavation was two fold. C. V. Bellamy excavated the great infirmary

to find its date and to see if there had been previous buildings on the site. In general, results supported the view of St. John Hope in his architectural description of the abbey published in 1907, but revealed also some new information about buildings in this locality. C. M. Mitchell investigated the walls found S. of the abbey in previous years. These were traced westward and results suggested that they represent a precinct wall and building foundations. An important discovery was a large drain running at right angles to the main drain towards the river.

———, ———: PONTEFRAC T P R I O R Y (SE/463226). C. V. Bellamy continued to excavate the Cluniac priory (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 306) and an interim plan is now presented (FIG. 51). The area E. of the S. transept shows at least three stages of planning. A 12th-century infirmary cloister, E. of the dorter range, was largely absorbed when the decagonal chapter-house was built. There is some evidence of a large drain through the S. range of this cloister, which was filled in during the late 12th century. Wall foundations in the infirmary area are of three different dates but none of the walls has been fully traced yet.

Pottery from 12th-century levels is of shelly East Anglian St. Neots ware and square-rimmed biscuit-coloured northern ware. The 13th- and 14th-century material follows, in general, the character of that found on other N. sites but has certain distinctive features, and the 15th-century levels yield salt-glazed stoneware and Cistercian wares together with descendants of the earlier types.

#### WALES

CAERNARVONSHIRE: ST. TUDWAL'S ISLAND (SH/342259). D. B. Hague excavated the site of a small monastery. The remains of a church 14½ ft. by 24½ ft. (internally) were found beneath a late cottage or 'chapel' which had been built across its W. end. A small sacristy had been added on the N. and a larger extension had been dug into the hillside on the W. Near this a range of buildings extended to the N., as indicated by a system of drains. Terraced enclosures and walls near the church were found to be ancient, but of several periods. Sections were cut across later enclosures near the centre of the island and a round turf hut built by a priest in 1886. No datable finds were discovered, but the absence of an apse suggests that the church is earlier than the 11th century, whilst the addition might have been made by the Augustinian canons in the 14th century or possibly by native monks early in the 13th century.

DENBIGHSHIRE: VALLE CRUCIS ABBEY (SJ/204443). The whole of the masonry of the church has been made secure by the Ministry of Works. The debris from the 19th-century excavation, piled against the outside of the N. wall of the church, has been removed. A start has been made on tracing the walls in the cloister area where a noble of Henry VI was found.

### B. CATHEDRALS AND ECCLESIASTICAL PALACES

#### ENGLAND

WARWICKSHIRE: COVENTRY. After the contractors working on the new cathedral had laid bare the substantial footings of the cathedral church of St. Mary, trial trenches were cut by J. Hemsley across the eastern extremity of the church and the lower courses of the N. wall incorporating 14th-century moulding were uncovered. The great depth of overlying rubble made work difficult but what was achieved showed the possibility of recovering the plan for the controversial E. end if time for a large scale excavation were permitted. In the central area of the old cathedral a very deep shaft revealed some 9 ft. of a massive pillar of Norman construction.

#### WALES

ANGLESEY: ABERFFRAW (SH/350686). D. B. Hague excavated the traditional site of the palace of the princes of Gwynedd, where previous excavation (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III



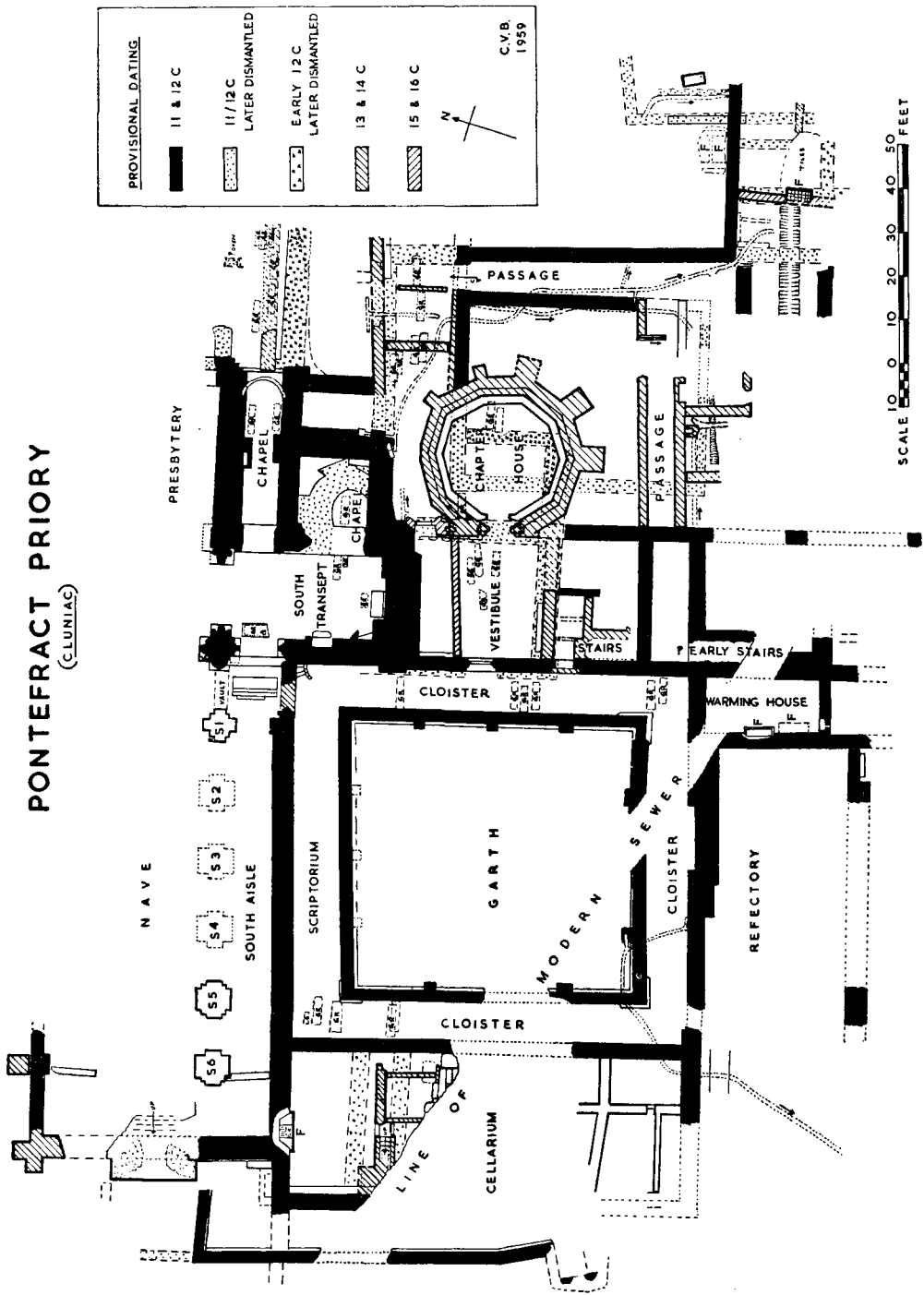


FIG. 51  
 PONTEFRACT PRIORY, YORKSHIRE WEST RIDING  
 Plan showing the different periods in the claustral area (p. 141)

(1959), 306) revealed a 'water conduit'. The conduit proved to be a drain, which with a series of rock-cut post-holes and remains of walling formed part of a long-forgotten 18th-century farm and buildings. Trial trenches in neighbouring fields produced no signs of medieval occupation. It is possible that the site is on the S. bank of the river where the sand dunes extend to quite high ground. As there is no indication of the site on the surface or from the air it seems likely that it will only be discovered during building or trenching operations.

### C. CHURCHES AND CHAPELS

#### ENGLAND

GLoucestershire: GLOUCESTER. A trench for a gas main near the S. side of *Westgate Street*, between nos. 35 and 43, watched by the Gloucester Museum, uncovered two stretches of walling, a human skeleton, and, at a depth of about 5 ft., a plain limestone Norman font with separate base. The walls may well be part of the church of Holy Trinity, demolished in 1698, which used to stand in the middle of the street. The records of the church begin in 1282.

HAMPSHIRE: WINCHESTER. The medieval church of St. Maurice, Winchester, rebuilt except for the tower in the early Victorian period was demolished early in 1958. The excavation by J. C. McCulloch for the Winchester Archæological Society revealed four stages of the development of the site:

(1) Sometime in the 10th century a ditch was cut to drain the site, which had been flooded since late Roman time.

(2) A church built by c.1000 and dedicated to St. Maurice with his comrades and the blessed Pantaleon was represented by isolated patches of the plaster floors and a part of a W. wall.

(3) A Norman church replaced no. 2. Its nave was 50 ft. long and its E. end was contained in a stilted apse.

(4) Probably in the 12th century a S. aisle was added to no. 3 and the E. end was squared sometime in the 14th century. Throughout the medieval period the space to the N. between the High Street and the church was occupied by buildings.

LONDON. The Guildhall Museum report that the restoration of *St. Mary-le-Bow*, Cheapside, E.C.4, revealed the upper part of an early-11th-century newel staircase leading from the present crypt to street level beneath the E. wall of the church's tower. A few features of the medieval church of *St. Stephen Coleman*, Coleman Street, E.C.2, have been seen as a result of the clearance of the vaults and churchyard.

NORFOLK: SWAFFHAM (TF/805108). Ploughing of the site of the graveyard of St. Guthlac's chapel (hamlet of Stow) revealed human remains, medieval sherds (13th-14th century), glazed floor-tiles, a short-cross penny c. 1205-1247, iron slag, a hone, etc.

SURREY: CUDDINGTON (TQ/228631). The village of Cuddington was levelled in 1538 to make room for Nonsuch palace (see p. 151). The excavations undertaken by Martin Biddle on behalf of the Nonsuch Palace Excavation Committee and the Ministry of Works revealed the complete plan of Cuddington church, which lay below the inner courtyard of the Tudor building (plan FIG. 53). The paving of the courtyard had preserved the church fairly intact and only the W. tower and the chancel had been seriously disturbed by the later foundations.

The church (plan, FIG. 52) was built of mortared flint with Reigate stone dressings; the building consisted of four distinct periods, but below the earliest floor were a few post-holes and traces of burning. These indicate the presence of a wooden building before the construction of the first (Period I) stone church, but since they produced no clear pattern and could not be followed up, they cannot be taken as unequivocal evidence for an early wooden church, although this would seem reasonable.

Rights have not yet been granted to use this image in electronic media. Please refer to printed article.

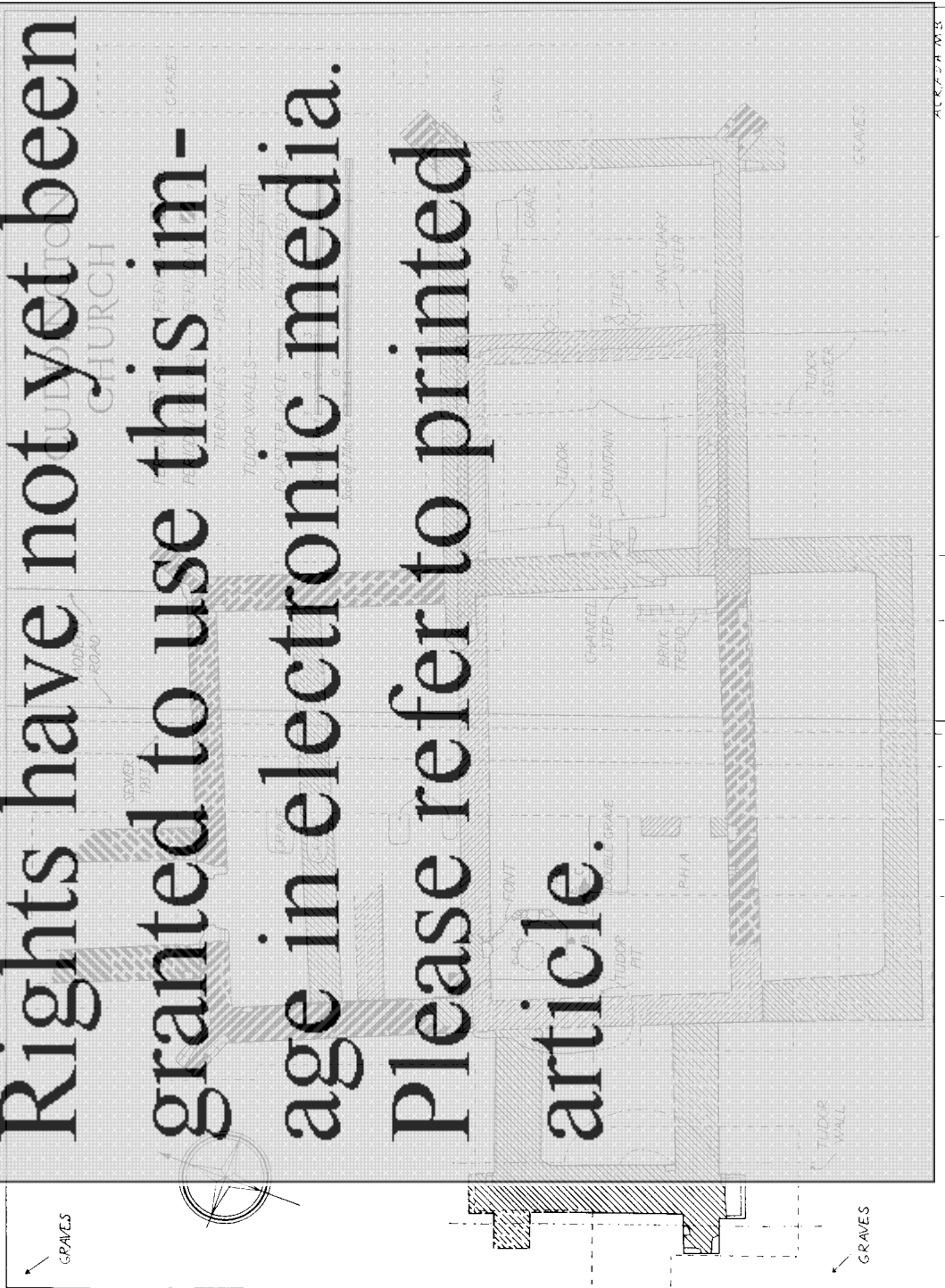


FIG. 52

CUDDINGTON, SURREY

Plan of the church showing the four building periods (p. 143)

Copyright : Nonsuch Palace Excavation Committee

The Period I church was a simple two-cell structure, and is presumably the building mentioned in the early 12th century (there is no reference to the church in the Domesday entry). Some time in the first half of the 13th century this was replaced by a much larger structure with an elongated chancel, N. and S. aisles and a W. tower. The three-lobed, chamfered bases of the responds of the N. arcade still remained in position. This building is probably to be connected with the tenure of the rectory by Walter de Merton in the second quarter of the 13th century (Period II). In the mid-14th century (Period III), the N. aisle was doubled in size, the S. aisle suppressed and new buttresses added to the chancel: this was probably the work of Sir Simon de Coddington. At some later date a N. porch was added (Period IV) and a brick tread inserted before the chancel step. The church was destroyed with the village, in 1538.

An extensive graveyard surrounds the church on all sides: the SE. portion was excavated and over 100 skeletons removed to the Duckworth Laboratory, Cambridge, where they are being studied as the first sealed cemetery from a deserted medieval village.

#### D. CASTLES

##### ENGLAND

CHESHIRE: ALDFORD (SJ/419596). A limited excavation by local residents revealed the outer face of a mortared masonry wall, encircling the top of the Norman motte (? a shell keep). A simple stone piscina was also found and is now in the Grosvenor Museum.

DEVON: PLYMOUTH (SX/483542). Excavation by Miss V. B. Ledger for the Ministry of Works on what is possibly a late-14th-century to early-17th-century fortification to protect Sutton Pool gave no proof of the existence of a castle, but revealed a ditch running W.-E. along the probable line of the S. wall of the castle. The N. side was steep (limestone bedrock) but the S. side was shallow. Its association with the castle is probable. The structural remains consisted of two walls of which neither was earlier than the 17th century. Since considerable amount of quarry chippings were found above bedrock and quarrying is recorded in the area as early as 1511, such activity may have led to the destruction of the castle. Large amounts of 17th- to 19th-century pottery were recovered.

ESSEX: PLESHEY (TL/666144). A training excavation for the Essex Archaeological Society was directed by P. A. Rahtz on this site, which consists of a large elliptical moated motte, 60 ft. high, with a kidney-shaped bailey on the S. side, defended by a bank, 18 ft. high, and an outer moat. On the N. side is the town enclosure delineated by a bank and ditch which encompasses the whole of the modern village. Within this, near the motte on its N. side, are traces of another crescentic bailey, largely destroyed in antiquity, lying at a lower level than the extant one.

Some traces of Roman and earlier occupation were found in the lower part of the old ground surface. The first intensive settlement (Norman), is represented by burnt building-debris (including bricks 13 in.  $\times$  9 in.  $\times$  1 $\frac{1}{4}$  in.), and domestic remains, including pottery which is unlikely to be earlier than mid-late 12th century, extending into the 13th century. This occupation is associated with the rampart and probably followed the fortification of *c.* 1180, rather than that of *c.* 1145. Two Norman buildings were represented by post-holes and a timber-slot, associated with a drainage ditch. The Norman level is sealed by a clay layer, in places 4 ft.-5 ft. thick, laid down in the late 13th century to raise the level of the ground.

On the surface of this make-up several buildings have been found. On the tail of the rampart are three successive phases of minor buildings, mostly of timber, with numerous post-holes, timber-slots, metallated areas, and cess-pits, extending from the later 13th century to the 16th century. On the level part of the bailey was a major building also of three main periods not necessarily related to the three periods in the

minor buildings. The first phase had substantial foundations of deeply-founded rafts of rammed gravel and clay carrying substantial foundations of flint, and later of brick and tile. This building might be the chapel. On its W. side is a heavily-metalled roadway with ruts leading towards the brick bridge; the lowest levels of this road are partly sealed by the latest period of building. A 9-ft.-deep cesspit of the latest period of occupation lay in this area.

Finds include a sequence of pottery of the 12th to the 16th centuries (of which the earliest group is completely sealed), and many items of bronze, iron, glass, lead, and stone, and a few coins and jettons.

HAMPSHIRE: SOUTHAMPTON. Excavations on the site of the motte by F. A. Aberg, for the Southampton Museums, showed that most of it had been levelled in the 19th century, and that nothing remains of the keep. Only the lower 12 ft. of the mound survives, its edges consisting of alternate layers of clay and gravel dipping inwards. A few 12th-century potsherds were found and a robber-trench close to the base of the mound may represent a circuit wall.

NORTHUMBERLAND: NAFFERTON (NZ/072657). Barbara Harbottle and P. Salway, excavating for the Medieval Group of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, found that there had been two periods of occupation. The remains of the first period consist of a rectangular area of approximately 1 acre enclosed by an earthen bank, which once carried a timber palisade, and had a ditch outside it on the N. and S. sides. This was almost certainly the castle built by Philip de Ulecoates *c.* 1218, and demolished at the king's command in 1221-22.

At some later date the site was reoccupied and a stone tower built in the SW. angle of the enclosure, the bank being cut back to receive the W. and S. walls of the building. This tower is 27 ft. square, and enough of its E. side remains above ground to show the traces of a door and window. There are fragments of other stone buildings in the N. part of the enclosure, but their purpose has not so far been discovered.

WARWICKSHIRE: BAGINTON (SP/342748). A trench was cut by P. W. Hemsley across what was thought to be the eastern moat (*Trans. Birmingham Archaeol. Soc.*, LXIX (1950), 44; *ibid.*, LXVII (1947-48), 13). At the extreme end was a stepped retaining wall which had probably been constructed in two periods and to which a buttress was later added. At the middle of the section were foundation blocks mortared on to the natural Keuper sandstone. The upper structures had been robbed away, but a clay bank, originally plastered against the outside wall, was in position, and seems to have acted as a water seal. Over the clay bank lay a large rubbish-tip which also showed the line of the robber-trench. It yielded bronze pins, pin cases, a triangular-bladed needle and an ornamental harness-trapping in the shape of a Tudor rose, which had originally been gilded. A badly corroded silver short-cross coin, probably 14th century, was found together with one 15th-century and one 16th-century jetton. As the pottery also extended from the 14th to the 16th century in date, the rubbish dump would seem to have accumulated over a period of *c.* 300 years.

### SCOTLAND

ABERDEENSHIRE: KILDRUMMY (NJ/455164). Excavations by M. R. Apted for the Ministry of Works (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 308), investigated the defensive and other structures in front (i.e. S.) of the existing gatehouse. These (in succession from N. to S.) were found to be:

- (i) the foundations of the forepart of the gatehouse;
- (ii) a stone-built drain running S. from the gatehouse pit;
- (iii) the foundations of an 8 ft.-thick fore-wall or outer curtain;
- (iv) a 60-ft. ditch deepened towards the castle to form in effect a ditch within the ditch;
- (v) a bank overlying a shallow marker trench.

The drain was contemporary with the gatehouse pit and later than the fore-wall which was in ruin when it was built. The ditch was all of one period in spite of its profile but contained the remains of a secondary feature, probably the foundation of a bridge pier. The relationship between drain, fore-wall and ditch was not finally established.

ANGUS: INVERKEILOR RED CASTLE (NO/688511). Excavation by Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson on a kitchen midden on the slope below the NE. corner of the tower revealed pottery of the 15th and 16th centuries and a large quantity of animal bones.

DUMFRIESSHIRE: CAERLAVEROCK (NY/025656). I. MacIver excavated for the Ministry of Works in the area N. of the gatehouse (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 309), clearing it down to the rock-cut bottom of the inner moat. Substantial remains of four ancient timber bridges were discovered, the earliest contemporary with the construction of the castle in the late 13th century, the latest continuing in use until the castle was slighted and abandoned in 1640. The bridges were similar in basic construction, the roadway resting on upright frames morticed into baseplates. In each case one span of the bridge was movable. The excavation yielded many finds besides the major structural remains. Objects dropped or thrown from the bridges had been preserved in the silt, and a great variety of objects of leather and wood were recovered, as well as a remarkable group of tools and weapons.

#### WALES

CAERNARVONSHIRE: CAERNARVON (SH/478626). The houses built outside the Eagle tower have been demolished by the Ministry of Works and the ditch on which they stood is being cleared.

———: CONWAY (SH/784775). The cellar of the great hall has been dug out by the Ministry of Works (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, II (1958), 197). The wall tops of the E. barbican have been made secure. A start has been made in digging out the steps that led down to the water gate. The wall tops of the kitchen tower have been secured and the debris removed from its basement.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: LLANSTEPHAN (SN/351101). The Ministry of Works has taken guardianship of this monument, and work has started on the great gatehouse.

DENBIGHSHIRE: DENBIGH (SJ/053659). The extent of the ditch outside the gatehouse has been explored by the Ministry of Works and it should soon be possible to clear a section near the entrance.

GLAMORGANSHIRE: CAERPHILLY (ST/155872). The S. lake has been partially restored by the Ministry of Works (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, II (1958), 197) though it has not been possible to bring the water back to its original level as that would cause flooding higher up the stream. The great hall has been paved. Timber bridges have been erected at the E. entrance. The wall round the N. half of the horn-work has been treated.

MERIONETHSHIRE: CASTELL Y BERE (SH/667086). Nearly the whole of the masonry of this castle with its two apsidal-ended towers has been consolidated by the Ministry of Works and a new path leads visitors round to the entrance on the W. side.

MONMOUTHSHIRE: CHEPSTOW (ST/534941). The whole of the great keep has been made secure by the Ministry of Works.

———: RAGLAN (SO/414083). Part of the ditch on the S. side of the Closet tower has been cleared by the Ministry of Works revealing that this 15th-century tower was built just inside the bailey ditch of the 12th-century castle.

PEMBROKESHIRE: CILGERRAN (SN/196431). Work by the Ministry of Works on the E. tower (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, II (1958), 197) is nearly complete. Nearly all the original roofing slates and slate gutters and spouts were found in position on the wall top.

———: PEMBROKE (SM/981016). Work was carried out by the Ministry of Works on the great round keep with funds provided by the owner and the Borough Council. The roof of this magnificent building built by William Marshall *c.* 1200 has now been made safe.

## E. TOWNS

## ENGLAND

CAMBRIDGESHIRE: CAMBRIDGE. P. V. Addyman and Martin Biddle in conjunction with the Faculty of Archaeology, the Cambridge Archaeological Field Club and, on occasion, the Ministry of Works, have undertaken emergency operations and excavation on the following sites in the town:

*Corn Exchange Street*, no. 14. Excavation to establish the depth, nature and rate of accumulation of the archaeological deposits in the threatened Lion Yard area revealed, at the lowest level, an early-13th-century ditch containing a wooden structure. This had been intentionally filled in and about 8ft. of deposit had accumulated above. Pits of the 15th and 16th century, with one good pottery group, were revealed.

*Post Office Terrace*. Excavations below cellar floors on the S. side of the street revealed 12th- to 15th-century pits and four wicker-lined wells, with useful pottery groups.

*St. Andrew's Street, Bradwell's Court*. A building site produced ditches, pits and a wicker-lined well of the 11th to 16th centuries. The burnt debris of a 17th-century house was also examined.

*Sidney Street, Messrs. Boots' Extension*. A large commercial excavation produced many pits dating from the 11th to 18th centuries. Good groups of Saxo-Norman and post-medieval pottery were recovered.

*Sidney Street, Messrs. Woolworth's Extension*. Slight commercial excavation failed to reveal any conclusive trace of the King's Ditch, which should lie in this area.

*Trinity Street*, no. 29. Work in connexion with Angel Court, Trinity College, revealed a pit with Saxo-Norman pottery and a 17th-century pit.

CHESHIRE: CHESTER. The Grosvenor Museum carried out an emergency excavation on the site of *Watergate House*, close to the watergate, and watched the building operations afterwards. The main concern was with the Roman building on the site, but three medieval pits were noted, including one cut into the bed of a filled-up stream, which produced late-13th-century pottery, including a French imported jug.

———: ———, *Messrs. Woolworth's, Eastgate Street*. The Museum also watched the rebuilding at the rear of *Messrs. Woolworth's, Eastgate Street*, and obtained part of the plan of a Roman barrack building. Medieval pits were again noted on this site and one produced a pottery louvre.

ESSEX: SAFFRON WALDEN, THE BATTLE DITCHES (TL/535383). Mrs. A. Ravetz and Miss G. Chapman (Mrs. Spencer) excavated for the Saffron Walden Museum Society the right-angled earthwork near the centre of the town known as the Battle Ditches and reputed to be the remaining part of a rectangular earthwork tentatively called prehistoric by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (*North West Essex* (1916), pp. 259-60), and iron age by Sir Cyril Fox (*Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* (1926), p. 138). The earliest historical record appears to be in a Calendar of Deeds, where it is made clear that in 1305 a field called Lotegoryshale lay within what is described as the Great Ditch.

The bank and the ditch proved to be of simple one-period construction, the bank being composed of the top-soil, boulder clay and gravel dug out to form the ditch. There was no berm and no trace of either revetment or palisading. The ditch was of an irregular V-section. Under the bank a buried land-surface contained traces of a fire, lit immediately before the construction of the bank, perhaps a workmen's fire, as well as many fragments of bone and pottery, ranging from a few that are probably Romano-

British to a few with 13th-century glaze. Most of the pottery, however, was late Saxo-Norman, chiefly St. Neots, but with a few sherds of Thetford ware, and early medieval wares. The silting of the ditch contained a few sherds, one certainly Thetford and the remainder difficult to determine with certainty but probably early medieval. The evidence suggests occupation of the area *c.* 1050 to 1150, the earthwork itself being constructed later, probably during the 13th century. Its purpose is obscure.

HAMPSHIRE: SOUTHAMPTON (SU/419116). Two sites were examined by F. A. Aberg for the Southampton Museums. N. of *Porters' Lane* a number of rubbish-pits dating from the 12th century to the early 18th century were revealed, and the foundations of some early stone walls investigated. Two medieval lime-kilns were also discovered, see p. 162.

At *Spa Road*, near the Bargate, on a site previously investigated by J. S. Wachter (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 310, fig. 103), parts of two timber buildings of the 12th century were found. Rubbish-pits of a similar date were also discovered and a V-shaped ditch, 4 ft. deep and 6 ft. wide, which ran E.-W., parallel with the town walls.

KENT: CANTERBURY (TR/150575). The massively-constructed battering base of a bastion was excavated in the old cattle-market. Built of flint-rubble it is encased with well-coursed blocks of Kentish rag. Stratified deposits within the structure produced pottery which suggests that it could not have been built until *c.* 1390, when it is known that Richard III granted a considerable sum for reconstructing the city defences. It is also clear that the bastion was an addition to the defences, for before its erection, the city wall had been re-faced and the bastion was not bonded into it.

LONDON. Alterations to 21, *Wormwood Street*, E.C.2, revealed that part of the N. basement wall incorporated medieval city walling. Chalk walls forming part of under-crofts were noted by the Guildhall Museum one at, 20-38, *Gresham Street*, E.C.2, and another, which it is hoped may be available for excavation later, immediately S. of *Sugar Loaf Court*, *Garlick Hill*, E.C.4.

Many objects, including pot-sherds, a 14th-century sword, scabbards and other leather and metal-work have been found on the site of the *Public Cleansing Depot*, *Upper Thames Street*, E.C.4.

Several rubbish-pits containing 12th-15th-century material were discovered on the sites of 20-38, *Gresham Street*, *Shirley House*, *Noble Street*, E.C.2, and the *Midland Bank (Overseas Branch)*, *Gracechurch Street*.

NORFOLK: NORWICH, ALL SAINTS GREEN (TG/231082). In digging for foundations of new offices for the Norwich Union Insurance Societies, medieval pottery was found by the Norwich Museum including a complete 13th-century glazed jug.

OXFORDSHIRE: OXFORD. D. Sturdy excavated for the Ministry of Works and the Ashmolean Museum an area 8 ft. by 36 ft. in the centre of the site of *Messrs. Marks and Spencer's* extension at the corner of Cornmarket and Market Street. This was the only part of the site not occupied by modern cellars, which had been completely filled with rubble. The original top-soil overlying the natural gravel was 11 ft. below the surface, and above this were remains of the late Saxon period (10th-11th centuries). This had been largely dug away for later pits and wells, but traces remained of a well and a square pit about 5 ft. across, which was similar to a number of late Saxon cellars found on the other side of Cornmarket. Above this were many later levels formed by the continual deposition of rubbish into the back yard. From the 12th-century surfaces a number of wells had been dug and many shallow basket-shaped pits lined with wattle-work, which must have been used as hot-weather larders.

From time to time, as a new well was dug down into the gravel and the old well filled with rubbish, a new spread of gravel was laid over the whole area. Probably about 1160 or 1170, a new house wall of stone was built 68 ft. back from the street frontage. It was shortly afterwards destroyed in a violent fire, probably that of 1180, and was found



leaning back at a great angle. Beside it was an unfinished well filled with stones tumbled from it. The house was eventually reconstructed in the 13th century with a deep stone-built cellar stretching back 56 ft. from the Cornmarket frontage, with a gravelled yard some 7 ft. below the present surface, with stone walls round it at the end, and with an elaborate stone-built drain running through it. These yard walls were massively reconstructed in the 15th century and the cellar filled in early in the 16th century. In another rebuilding about the end of the 16th century, the house was again extended to a thickness of 64 ft. from Cornmarket and the yard turned into a garden with a gravel path 5 ft. below the present level. In the 17th century the site was raised to the present level and the houses and shops again rebuilt to a depth, front to back, of only 36 ft. to 43 ft. The stone-built cellars of these still survive but the superstructure, rebuilt again early in the 19th century, was demolished early in 1959. Late in the 18th century a large rectangular stone sump was built to serve these buildings and in 1845 the shops and houses fronting Market Street were rebuilt and set back to widen Market Street. These operations did much damage to the earlier levels especially, the excavations for a domed brick sump built for these houses.

**SUFFOLK: IPSWICH.** The purchase of the only remaining fragment of the town rampart by Tollemaches' Breweries led to excavations by S. E. West on behalf of the Ministry of Works. The site abuts on the area known as *Shire Hall Yard* and encloses the rampart, which at one end apparently stood well preserved for a height of some 8 ft. A broad trench was cut through the rampart at the S. end of the property where it was best preserved, and extended across as much of the town ditch as was enclosed. A second trench was cut at the N. end, where the actual bank had been levelled for 19th-century cottages, in order to confirm a feature found beneath the rampart to the S. Twelve phases from middle-Saxon to 18th-century were recognized, giving a most useful sequence for this first section across the town defences.

A full report will appear in this journal.

**WORCESTERSHIRE: WORCESTER (SO/852545).** The first serious attempt to date the early defences of Worcester by excavation was undertaken by the newly-formed Severn Valley Study Group. A cutting 27 ft. long and 4 ft. wide was made at a right angle to the inside face of the wall in the garden of *Clapton's Bakery* at no. 31, Sidbury St. At a depth of 4 ft. the wall was revealed as a substantial construction measuring 6 ft. thick and built with faced sandstone blocks. Between 6 ft. and 7 ft. deep against the wall, thick brown clay gave the first indication of what turned out to be a clay ramp sloping away from the wall. The brown clay gave way to distinct green clay similarly formed. While removing the green clay an increase in the thickness of the wall was noticed. The facing of the sandstone blocks below this point became very rough. Below the green clay ramp a level layer of black humus about 1 ft. thick extended from one end of the trench to the other. The only interruption was what appeared to be an intrusion, probably cut as a drainage ditch at the end of the clay ramp. A fragment of late 12th- or early 13th-century pottery was found in this black humus layer and sealed by the clay ramp. Similar fragments were also found in the clay bank dating it to the same period. A construction trench for the wall (which is of one-period construction) had been dug through the clay bank and humus layer and on to the natural subsoil, proving that this particular wall cannot be earlier than 13th century. The thicker part at the bottom of the wall, i.e. the foundation, was 4 ft. deep.

### SCOTLAND

**STIRLINGSHIRE: FALKIRK, *Silver Row.*** Excavations to find the town wall (alluded to in the 17th century) revealed wall footings in three places on the W. side of Silver Row. In one of these the footings were of shaped boulders  $2\frac{3}{4}$  ft. wide. These are thought most probably to be remains of the 17th-century mansion, Rashiehill House, known to have been on this site.

WALES

CAERNARVONSHIRE: CAERNARVON (SH/478626). The Ministry of Works has purchased the last remaining houses built against the outside of the town wall in Greengate Street for eventual demolition.

———: CONWAY (SH/780777). On the town wall the wall-walk and towers from the spur wall up as far as the Bangor Arch have been made secure by the Ministry of Works and the upper gate treated. A section of the ditch on the N. side of the town has been cleared and the bank in front of the wall restored.

DENBIGHSHIRE: DENBIGH (SJ/053659). The purchase and demolition of a cottage in Tanygwalia by the Ministry of Works has exposed another short section of the town wall.

MONMOUTHSHIRE: CHEPSTOW (ST/532939). The section of the port wall on the S. side of the Dell has been treated by the Ministry of Works.

F. ROYAL PALACES

ENGLAND

SURREY: NONSUCH PALACE, EWELL (TQ/228631). The site of Nonsuch Palace was excavated by Martin Biddle on behalf of the Nonsuch Palace Excavation Committee and by the Ministry of Works. The palace was begun by Henry VIII in 1538, but left unfinished on his death; it was completed by Henry, earl of Arundel after 1556. Returning to royal ownership in 1592, it remained in royal hands until, after a period of neglect during the Commonwealth, Charles II gave it to Barbara Castlemaine in 1670. The palace was pulled down in 1685.

The site was totally excavated except for parts of the W. range. The plan (FIG. 53), shows a building of two equal rectangular courts entered by a gatehouse. A third, smaller, kitchen court lay to the E. The outer and kitchen courts were built of ashlar and brick on foundations of stone and chalk. The inner court building, although on similar foundations, was timber-framed and decorated in a most ornate manner. The plaster panels, framed by the main timbers, were moulded in *alto rilievo* with scenes from classical mythology and antiquity; the main timbers were protected from the weather by panels of slate, carved and gilded with complex early Renaissance designs. Thousands of fragments of this plaster and slate were found and they fully confirm the naming of the palace Nonsuch. Stylistically the decoration is closely linked to the work of Francis I at Fontainebleau, and considered together with the evidence for the first extensive use in this country of the classical orders, it shows that Nonsuch was a vital building in the history of early Renaissance architecture in England. Such Renaissance work as there had been prior to Nonsuch was spasmodic and without any clear development or influence. At Nonsuch it stemmed direct from the continent and later influenced the work at Somerset House and so ultimately the whole of Elizabethan architecture.

The building had complex water-supply and drainage arrangements, and the numerous wardrobe pits contained extensive groups of late-16th- and 17th-century pottery—stoneware, delft and coarse wares—glass and other domestic finds. The remarkable Venetian glass and the Ravenscroft glass are specially noteworthy.

Much of the stone used in the building was brought from Merton priory; the rubble fillings and the foundations produced thousands of fragments of carved medieval stonework of the 13th to the 15th centuries. The site of Merton priory had been so extensively robbed (*Archaeologia*, LXXVI (1926-27), 255-272), that very little stonework remained: the finds at Nonsuch should enable the building history of Merton to be reconsidered.

The village of Cuddington was levelled to make room for the palace; traces of this, including the whole of the village church, were found (p. 143 and plan, FIG. 52).

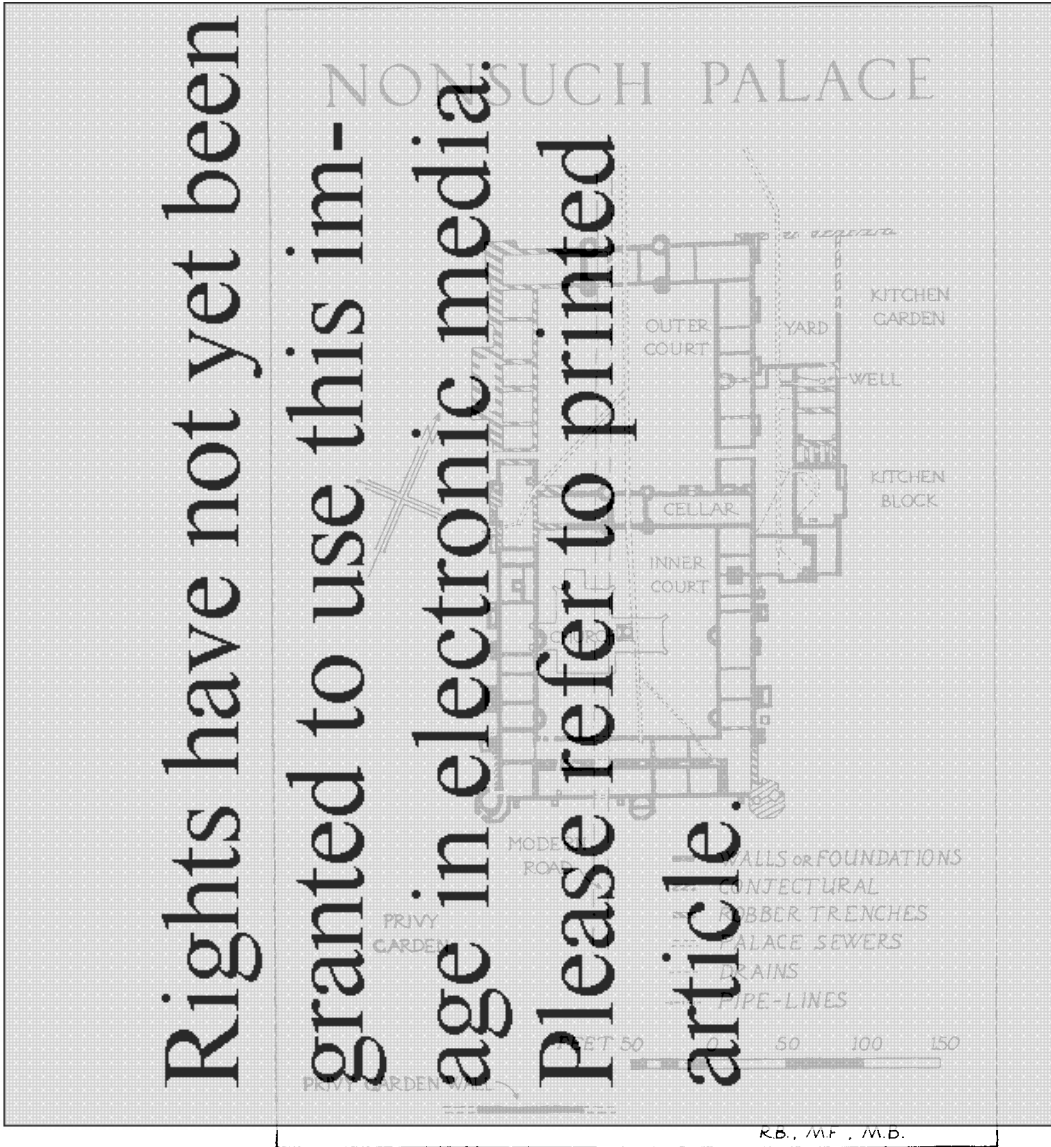


FIG. 53

## NONSUCH PALACE, EWELL, SURREY

Plan showing the two courtyards, kitchen block (p. 151) and the position of Cuddington church (p. 143)

Copyright: Nonsuch Palace Excavation Committee

## G. MANORS AND MOATS

## ENGLAND

HEREFORDSHIRE: BREINTON (SO/473396). Excavations by the Hereford Archaeological Research Group at the earthwork known as Breinton camp showed that it was first occupied in the 12th or early 13th century. There were two ditches, a larger one,

6½ ft. deep, cutting into a smaller and earlier one. Inside these were two enclosure-walls of different periods. Substantial remains of the corner of a cellared building were found in the SE. sector of the enclosure. The site, previously accepted as military in character, is primarily domestic. Documentary research, which is still proceeding, suggests an ecclesiastical context.

HERTFORDSHIRE: STANDON HIGH CROSS (TL/372190). Partial clearance of Sutes Wood brought to light a stirrup-shaped moated area, subdivided by a cross-ditch. Mrs. B. Wilkinson found a fragment of the rim of a bell-mouthed cooking-pot and the base angle of a storage-jar, together with later medieval pottery, on the surface. The site may have been abandoned when the existing 16th-century manor-house was built nearer Ermine Street and the church.

LINCOLNSHIRE: NETTLEHAM (TF/006752). The outskirts of the bishop's manor being threatened by building, an excavation was carried out by Miss V. Russell for the Ministry of Works to see if there were any buildings of importance in this area. The main area examined was more or less level, bounded on the W., S. and SE. by buildings. On the E. side a slight change of level was caused by a stone wall of light construction, possibly a boundary or retaining wall. Just within this wall, close to the N. edge of the area, was a well, 14 ft. deep. The only other traces of buildings were part of a stone wall 8 ft. long and three scattered post-holes. On the SE. side compact buff-coloured sand and lime-stone rubble, tested to a depth of 1½ ft. without finding its bottom, may possibly be a laid floor, but is more probably the natural subsoil which varies considerably from place to place. The area did not appear to have been extensively occupied. No occupation-layers were found, and little charcoal, and the small quantity of pottery was not related to specific levels.

—: SCREDINGTON, HAMBLETON MOAT (TF/097401). This site, threatened by bulldozing and deep ploughing, was excavated by L. A. S. Butler for the Ministry of Works. The well-defined moat had a diamond-shaped platform with sides 130 ft. long surrounded by a ditch 30 ft. wide and outer banks 40 ft. wide. The platform and banks stood about 3 ft. above the general level of the field and the wet ditch lay 2 ft. below it.

The plan of the buildings was recovered (FIG. 54), though the site had been extensively robbed. The S. portion contained the domestic complex. Three rooms were placed along an E.-W. axis. To the SE. stood a room with two roughly-made hearth areas (a kitchen) and opening from this was a larger room (a hall). Beyond this to the E. lay a smaller room. At the SW. angle of the main line of rooms stood an apsidal building divided into two rooms. To the N. of this room stood two small ovens, and to the N. of these a building which was perhaps a barn. The NE. quarter of the platform was walled off and may be identified as a stockyard; it also contained rubbish-pits full of oyster and other shells. The foundations of a small three-roomed building were noted on the N. bank during its destruction, but no palisade-trench, nor means of access to the central area appeared. All the buildings were of limestone rubble and large pebbles from the boulder clay, except the hall, where much of the foundations were of squared and tooled blocks of Ancaster limestone. Nowhere did the foundations stand above three courses, which was not surprising, since all the structures were within 18 in. of the surface, being placed on a mound of clay raised 3 ft. above the original ground level. It seems that the buildings on the platform had been reconstructed at some time, since some foundations contained previously-worked stone. The pottery was mainly of the 13th and 14th centuries.

NORFOLK: ASHILL (TF/884032). Medieval sherds and quernstone fragments were found by Norwich Museum on the site of a moated enclosure, recorded earlier by Dr. St. Joseph's air-photographs.

OXFORDSHIRE: CHESTERTON (SP/562213), The Oxford University Archaeological Society, directed by R. E. Lington, excavated in the centre of the village, next to the

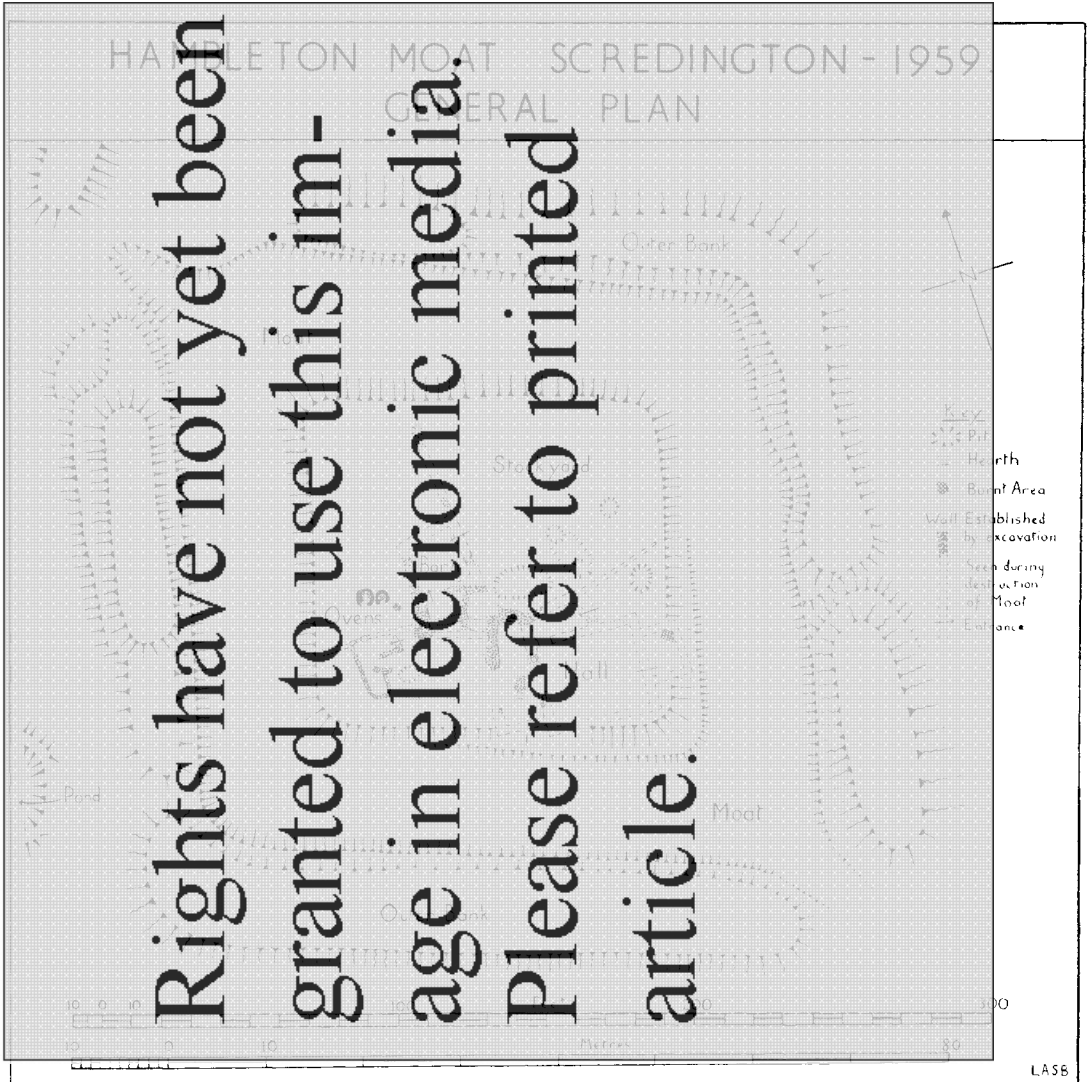


FIG. 54  
 SCREDINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE  
 Plan showing the moat and the buildings of Hambleton manor inside it (p. 153)  
*Crown Copyright Reserved*

church, to see if there was an early Roman fort on the site, as was suggested by the relatively favourable position, the proximity of Alchester, and the name of the village, and seemed to be corroborated by the presence of some fairly prominent banks, in plan and profile not unlike the ramparts of a fort. The supposed rampart proved to be the spread from a much-robbed 13th-century building, and there was no trace of either rampart or a ditch. A survey with a proton magnetometer showed two possible ditches, which were proved by excavation to be of 12th and 13th century date. No Roman

material was found in the excavations, but some useful groups of early medieval pottery were found, and the finds showed that occupation ceased after the 14th century.

SHROPSHIRE: BROCKHURST CASTLE (SO/447925). P. A. Barker excavated to obtain stratified datable pottery of the period 1150-1250. A good series of cooking-pot rims and body sherds, and a few glazed sherds, including the foot of a tripod-pitcher, were found, the majority in sealed deposits. The ditch between the baileys was originally V-shaped, 40 ft. wide and 14 ft. deep, cut in the natural boulder clay, which here overlies the gravel. This cutting across the ditch produced only one sherd, but revealed that the ditch had been re-cut and immediately filled with massive debris and burnt timber. It must have been violently destroyed.

The main S. bailey had had a massive curtain wall, 6 ft. thick, which had been completely robbed, the debris round about showing that it had been built of Longmyndian shale from the hills opposite. Most of the pottery came from remains of timber structures, behind the wall. Two massive post-holes, presumably of the bridge which spanned the ditch and led into the main bailey, were found on the upper slope of the scarp of the ditch, and shallow post-holes of a timber palisade were found on the rim of the outer bailey.

STAFFORDSHIRE: SHARES HILL (SJ/946067). Excavating on the moated enclosure for the Ministry of Works, A. H. Oswald found evidence of three periods of occupation. The earliest in the SE. corner was represented by post-holes, burnt wood and daub, and pottery of 12th-century date.

In the second period, probably the first half of 13th century, the ditch was widened and deepened and the upcast formed an inner rampart. Remains of a 3-ft.-wide curtain wall were found in the N. of the enclosure and in the E. half were sleeper-beam trenches extensive enough to suggest a hall.

From the third period stone footings, probably for timber buildings, suggest a chapel-like building to the NE., a hall 50 ft. by 25 ft. to the W. and another building to the W. of that. Abundant charcoal suggests destruction by fire and there is no trace of occupation after 1350.

SURREY: CUDDINGTON (TQ/228631). Part of the great barn of Cuddington and other parts of the manor-house outbuildings, showing several periods of construction, were found below the W. side of the outer court building at Nonsuch Palace (p. 151).

SUSSEX: STREATHAM (TQ/191201). A considerable area, bordering the N. perimeter was stripped by A. Barr-Hamilton to expose the remains of a range of buildings of which the S. half had been removed by recent bulldozing (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 317). With the exception of a circular chamber at the E. end, the buildings were poorly constructed of water-rounded flints and chalk-marl and, apparently, had been rectangular, the W. part of the range being sub-divided into small compartments with clay floors, of which the upper occupation-level produced quantities of animal bones, shells, ash and sherds of 13th- and 14th-century pottery. The E. portion had a clay floor, reddened by fire and covered to a depth of several inches by ash, and an E. wall with a narrow central recess, lined with fire-damaged blocks of chalk-marl and Petworth marble, abutting on a circular chamber constructed mainly of ferruginous sandstone. This portion appeared to comprise hearth, fire-box and oven.

A further cutting was made at a point half-way between the E. entrance to the site and the river bank, where a single layer of water-rounded flints was exposed, which suggested the metalling of a central courtyard. 13th- and 14th-century pottery has been found in association with every feature so far uncovered.

WARWICKSHIRE: SHELDON, KENT'S MOAT (SP/144863). Excavation by V. H. T. Skipp on the platform and ditch of the enclosure revealed sandstone footings of a rectangular building 28 ft. by 16 ft. with the long side parallel to the inner bank, 24 ft.

from the edge of the ditch. These were rough and without mortar and were probably for a timber building. Associated pottery and tiles were mainly of the 14th century. The building may possibly be the second manor of the de Sheldon family.

WILTSHIRE: ASHTON KEYNES (SU/049943). A small excavation was carried out by Group-Capt. G. M. Knocker, under the auspices of the Cricklade Historical Society. In the E. end of the village is a field, known as Hall's Close, in which are a number of banks and ditches. These resolve themselves into a ring-work at the W. end, measuring about 160 ft. by 180 ft., perhaps once having a tower and surrounded by a shallow ditch, dug into the gravel and lined with puddled clay, presumably to retain the waters of an adjacent spring and to form a boggy obstacle to intruders. Around is a banked inner bailey with a bank some 600 ft. E. and yet another beyond that.

A trial trench was cut through one of the banks of the ring-work and ditch and revealed that a dry-stone wall had once encircled it and that the ditch had been revetted with wooden fascines. Pottery which was found in quantity, is thought by E. M. Jope to extend from the early 12th to the 13th century.

WORCESTERSHIRE: KIDDERMINSTER (SO/830769). Members of Kidderminster and District Archaeological and Historical Society under C. I. Walker and C. C. Nickson, excavated under the floors of slum houses, due for demolition, on the supposed site of the early manor house of Kidderminster. A short length of wall, 5 ft. high, and its robber-trench extending 50 ft. to the N., were found. At the N. end this cuts through a structure which yielded 12th-century pottery. Large quantities of Staffordshire slip ware and other or later wares came from the filling of the robber trench. The wall was a retaining wall with brick facing and a sandstone core, and the building to which it belonged had been demolished some time before the present buildings were erected, probably in the mid-17th century. Traces of timber-framed buildings were found on the upper side of the wall.

## H. FARMS AND SMALLER DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

### ENGLAND

HERTFORDSHIRE: BARNET (TQ/246964). Alterations to the upper floor of *no. 70, High Street* revealed a reused timber wall-plate of very heavy scantling. D. F. Renn found half of a queen-post frame (main post, collar and tie beam with linking struts and posts) in a narrow gap between nos. 70 and 72. The frame had partly rotted and been cut down, but retained traces of wattle-and-daub in the angles. It was probably part of the medieval Red Lion inn, once belonging to St. Albans abbey (see *Bull. Barnet and District Record Soc.*, 1 (1949), for the history of the site).

SOMERSET: DUNDRY HILL, PICKWICK FARM (ST/595663). Excavation by K. J. Barton revealed several house platforms and a sunken way, probably of the 13th century. The house platforms lay on areas cleared in iron-age and Roman times. The site appears to have been abandoned during the early 14th century, but was reoccupied *c.* 1720 and remained in use until 1860.

WARWICKSHIRE: COVENTRY. S. R. Jones completed an investigation of the timber-framed buildings of Coventry to be published in *V.C.H. Warwickshire*, vii. The most remarkable discovery was a late-14th-century range of six small timber-framed houses in *Spon Street*. Terrace construction was known from documents (L. F. Salzman, *Building in England down to 1540*, pp. 418, 432), but the use here of a variant form of the Wealden house for such development, is very surprising. The normal form of this house is well illustrated in N. Lloyd, *History of the English House*, pp. 197 (Otham), and 205 (Bignor). Each unit of the range comprised a single-bay hall and a two-storied bay in which the solar stood above service rooms, and was jettied out beyond them; the range had a

continuous roof with its front eaves flush with the wall of the solar and supported on a plate in advance of the hall wall. Other such houses elsewhere in the city were built in pairs, in the manner already known from Weobley (*R. C. H. M. Herefordshire*, III, pl. 179 (High Street)). Wealden houses also exist in other W. midland towns, e.g. Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon and Henley-in-Arden, but the long range at Coventry is of greater interest as it implies speculative building.

WILTSHIRE: FYFIELD DOWN, WROUGHTON COPSE (SU/139707). Field-work and excavation by P. J. Fowler have shown that a complex of hitherto unexamined earthworks in the vicinity of Wroughton Copse on Fyfield Down represent the remains of a little-known type of medieval settlement superimposed on a Celtic field pattern. This later use of the site can be confined within the early medieval period, and probably to the 12th and 13th centuries.

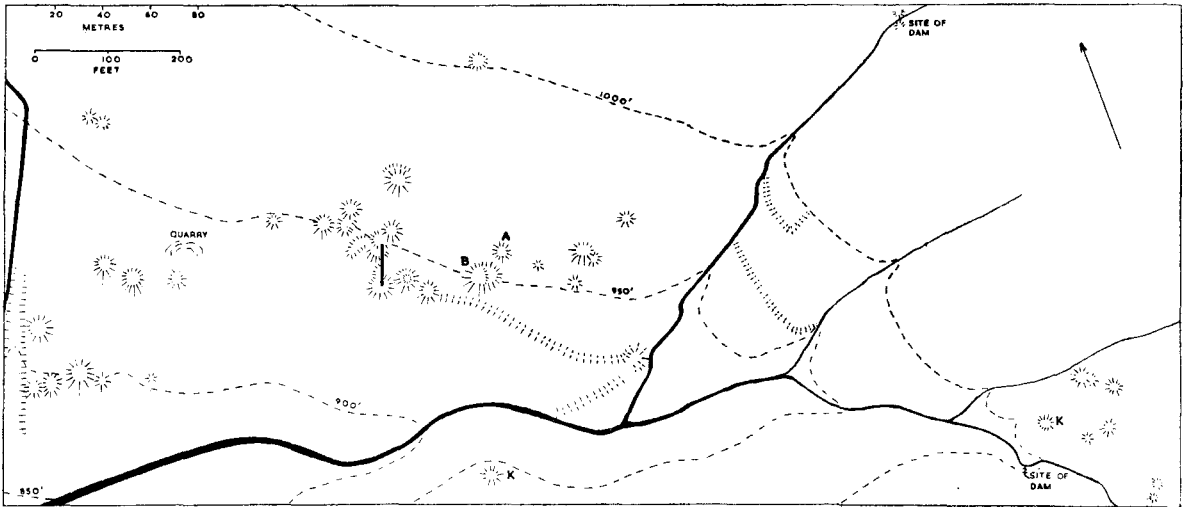


FIG. 55  
BLOCK EARY, ISLE OF MAN

Plan of a group of mounds made up of the collapsed turf walls of temporary huts (pp. 157-8)

Two adjoining enclosures and a long-house were excavated. The purpose of the enclosures was not revealed, but presumably they are to be associated with sheep and/or cattle farming. The majority of animal bones found were of sheep, though ox and horse were also represented. The long-house is about the same size and shape as similar structures elsewhere, though as yet there is no direct evidence for an accurate reconstruction. It is probable, however, that a thatch roof sloped down almost to the ground, the roof being hipped at either end.

It is difficult to be precise about the settlement as a whole. The earthworks do not look like those of a deserted medieval village, and may have had some connexion with downland sheep farming.

*ISLE OF MAN*

BLOCK EARY (SC/400896). P. S. Gelling excavated some of a group of over 30 mounds situated near the head of a mountain valley. They vary in height, but none is much over 6 ft. A few are slightly concave on top, and some have small drainage channels cut round their upper sides (FIG. 55).

The mounds were largely made up of the collapsed turf walls of small, and pre-



sumably temporary, huts. The earliest had been built on the sloping mountain-side, but later, as the collapsed material provided a drier site than the surrounding ground, the same positions were constantly reoccupied. In the mound marked B, which was almost entirely built up in this way, there was found a coin of Stephen. The site may have had quite a long history. In mound A, stone foundations were found underlying the remains of later turf huts, and the earlier of these belonged to a circular building of the type normally associated in the Isle of Man with the pre-Scandinavian period. The two mounds marked K, which appear to be corn-drying kilns, still remain to be excavated.

This type of site is fairly common in the Isle of Man, mainly at the top of mountain valleys, and seven others have been provisionally identified. The second largest, which consists of about 23 mounds, also appears to include corn-drying kilns.

## I. VILLAGES

### ENGLAND

EXTRACT FROM 7TH ANNUAL REPORT (1959) OF THE DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE RESEARCH GROUP:

#### *County Lists*

Revised lists have been prepared for Berkshire and Hertfordshire by M. W. Beresford, J. G. Hurst and R. E. Glasscock and for Gloucestershire with the help of R. Hilton and H. P. R. Finberg. As a positive historical classification (Appendix A, 1957 Report) could, with the information at present available, only be given to four of the 20 Berkshire sites, it has been decided to publish the revised lists without classifying the sites, for they list the large number of new sites found in these counties during the past five years, and also list the deleted sites.

#### *Air Photographs*

J. K. S. St. Joseph took oblique air-photographs of 11 sites for the first time and found four new sites as well as six sites of uncertain character in Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire. These will be investigated as the prints become available.

It is regretted that the Group is not able to issue a catalogue of Cambridge air-photographs as this is the copyright of the University. All written queries about photographs should, therefore, be sent in future direct to Dr. J. K. S. St. Joseph, Curator in Aerial Photography, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge. The Group's collection may, however, always be inspected at the Ministry of Works, Lambeth Bridge House, London, S.E.1.

#### *Classification for the Period Map*

The attempted classification of Berkshire has shown that it is unprofitable for J. G. Hurst and M. W. Beresford to attempt this on a large scale with our present knowledge and the limited spare time available. It was easier with the earlier counties attempted (1957 and 1958 reports) as the documentary evidence had been worked on much more. Application was therefore made during 1958 and 1959 to 18 Trusts to finance work on the historical details, as set out in Appendix B of the 1957 report. Each one of these Trusts has refused to help. The Ordnance Survey map was therefore about to be abandoned, as it would take more than 30 years for the information to be looked up at the present rate of work without financial help, when Professor H. C. Darby very generously made available a research studentship for nine months during 1960. This has been filled by Mrs. B. Grant and it is hoped that this will transform the previous grim prospect.

#### *Threatened Sites*

Sites threatened were nearly twice as many as in 1958, owing to a great increase in ploughing and bulldozing of marginal land. Fifteen out of 21 were threatened for this

reason. Four were saved by scheduling, two were watched during levelling, two will be excavated by the Ministry of Works in 1960 or 1961. Seven were destroyed before action could be taken, but it is hoped they will be watched in future by local bodies who are interested. One site which is to be built on will be excavated. Excavations continue on one quarry site and one was partly destroyed before action could be taken. Two sites threatened by roads were saved and one was watched after being partially excavated.

LINCOLNSHIRE: EAST KEAL (TF/383640). Mrs. E. H. Rudkin reported the bulldozing of this shrunken site near the church. Foundations and pottery from the 12th century onwards was recorded.

———: LANGTON (TF/394704). The enclosures of this shrunken site were levelled though the moated site has been preserved. The bulldozing was watched by L. A. S. Butler for the Ministry of Works and medieval pottery was found but no evidence of structures. It is thought the houses may have been made of cob which would have left no trace.

OXFORDSHIRE: ASTERLEIGH (SP/400224). The farmer extended the quarry, which has already destroyed part of the site, to provide hard core to make a road. Foundations were recorded by the Ashmolean Museum.

WARWICKSHIRE: COTTON (SP/518788) and UPPER SMITE (SP/430825). It was reported that both these sites were threatened by the new motorway, *M.1*. Cotton seems to have been just off the line and the curve near Upper Smite has been slightly changed at the request of the Ministry of Works to avoid the scheduled area. It is remarkable how this road in its course through Northamptonshire and Leicestershire winds between the deserted medieval villages, without actually impinging on any of them. They are usually saved not because of the interest of the road surveyors, but because the road weaves its way round the farms, where the former villages are usually situated, so as to destroy as few buildings as possible.

———: RADBOURN (SP/440570). This site was ploughed during the last war and immediately afterwards. It has been under a grass ley for some years. It was ploughed during 1959 when the farmer reported finding some pottery, and Miss J. M. Morris visited it while a line of electric pylons was being laid across the site, and with the help of the farmer and some school-children collected a large quantity of pottery. Three areas of possible structures were observed.

YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING: GRINDALE (TA/129713). The main area of this shrunken site was levelled. The farmer agreed not to disturb the two most important house sites, and the levelling of the other banks, mainly croft boundaries, was watched by T. C. M. Brewster.

*Excavations*

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE: SEACOURT (SP/486074). The area partially excavated in 1958 (*Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 320) and much of the surrounding ground was bulldozed in the early months of 1959. F. Radcliffe, P. V. Addyman, and M. Biddle were able to recover the greater part of the plan of the stone buildings of the village over a distance of 600 ft. on the line of the Oxford western by-pass (FIG. 56). This area included the main street and most of the central part of the village. Most of the buildings were simple rectangular structures with a single hearth; one was much larger and had an apse-like addition to one of its shorter sides, which may represent a staircase projection. The stone-built phase of the village dates to the first half of the 14th century.

CORNWALL: GARROW (SX/146780). Recent field-work by Miss D. Dudley on Bodmin Moor has shown that there was extensive medieval settlement there, nearly all in the form of single homesteads. Village sites are known and Trewortha and Smallacombe

were excavated in the 19th century. There are a few others and excavation of one on the SE. of Garrow Tor has considerable interest. About eight houses lie in a steeply-sloping field and are of the platform-house type. One being excavated is rectangular, 48 ft. by 20 ft., 'hooded' at the upper end and strongly revetted at the lower end. It is entered by opposite doorways in the long side of the house and the paved threshold gives access to a living-room on the upper side and a stable for the oxen at the lower. The walls are dry-built, of granite, roughly coursed, and still remain 2 ft. high in the living room and about 3 ft. at the lower end. The manger remains *in situ* and is made of granite blocks which are pierced to hold the tethering-ropes. A bed or seat was found in the upper room. Finds are few. The pottery, which is in poor condition, dates the house to the end of the 12th or the beginning of the 13th century.

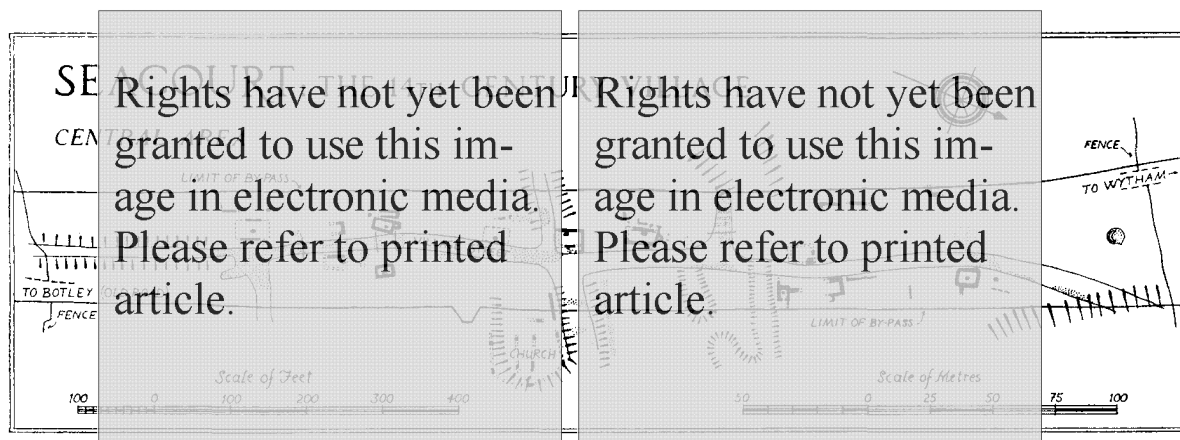


FIG. 56

## SEACOURT, BERKSHIRE

Plan showing the village street pattern and the 14th century buildings on either side (p. 159)

*Crown copyright reserved*

DURHAM: SWAINSTON (NZ/418284). J. Booth continued excavating for the Stockton/Billingham Technical College (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 321). House no. 2 was completely investigated. Exposure of the stonework of the upper house indicated a building about 70 ft. long and 16 ft. wide, with a dividing wall, the W. end of the N. wall being off-set. 15th-century pottery was found.

The lower levels were also investigated to see whether earlier houses existed. One occupation level was found about 6 in. below the upper floor level. Stonework, though not so complete, indicated the presence of two houses, and this was corroborated by two fireplaces in positions indicating different habitations. Large quantities of pottery from this level were identified by J. G. Hurst as typical of the 14th century. A silver penny of Edward I or II, Group X, London mint, of between 1302 and 1310, lay under the stonework at the W. end of the N. wall of the upper structure. It shows some wear and may have been lost between 1325 and 1330. Exploration of the lower level is not complete, but it seems that occupation, while it lasted was continuous. Three houses at two levels suggests a life of about 120 years between 1300 and 1500. The area is in the rather remote SE. corner of the village and it is likely that sites in a more central position would provide evidence of earlier occupation.

LINCOLNSHIRE: WELTON-LE-WOLD (TF/270875). The earthworks of the shrunken village are quite distinct in an 18-acre field. R. J. Smith excavated two trial-trenches,

which yielded numerous sherds dating, on the higher part of the site, to 1050-1350, and on the lower-lying ground to 1350-1450. In the upper trench, a 12th-century plaster wall was excavated, and in the lower one a fine piece of partly-cemented stonework. There appears to have been a gradual shrinking in from the margin of the village.

**NORTHUMBERLAND: WEST WHELPINGTON (NX/975838).** Four house sites were examined by W. W. Taylor and M. G. Jarrett for the Durham University Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies and the Ministry of Works in advance of quarrying (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 323). Pottery of the 12th or 13th century was found on one site, and the village seems to have lasted for years, since other finds confirmed the previous season's evidence that it was deserted in the early 18th century. To the plan of the village has now been added a plan of the open fields.

**YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING: WHARRAM PERCY (SE/858646).** The excavations directed by J. G. Hurst and M. W. Beresford (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 324) had two main aims: (a) to investigate further the extent and nature of the medieval quarries discovered in previous seasons beneath the peasant houses (house 10) and the Norman manor house (see p. 164); (b) to seek the buildings between house 10 and house 12 along the edge of the medieval street where a prominent bump had been noticed in the grass. Further investigation of house 9, whose N. end had emerged in 1958, could, in the time available, only be superficial.

The mound which lay at right angles to the surface earthworks of house 10, between it and house 12, was stripped. It contained an interesting sequence of buildings from the 13th century. At the lowest level, set on natural chalk, was a timber building of at least two periods with timber slots and post-holes cut into the natural chalk. On top of this was a substantial house built of chalk blocks with signs of at least one partial rebuilding. It had two floor levels and a stone central hearth. Two walls were well preserved as there was no later disturbance. These two structures were all within the house 10 toft and belong to the period B2-3 previously found. The timber buildings (C1 and C2) date to the early and middle 13th century and were built on the natural chalk by the edge of the quarries. They must follow on fairly soon after the early-13th-century abandonment of the late-12th-century manor house. The B2 and B3 buildings were built also on natural chalk in the later 13th and early 14th century after the quarries had been filled in. Only their boundary walls were built over the quarries. All four were built sideways-on to the street, as was B1, a 14th-century peasant house, but this was built right over the quarries. The A1-3 buildings of the late 14th and 15th centuries were built gable-end-on to the street, partly over the natural chalk, and partly over the filled-in quarries at a time when their very existence had been forgotten and when the filling was firmly consolidated.

There is therefore in the house 10 toft a sequence of nine building phases from the last quarter of the 12th century until just after 1500, a period of 325 years.

### SCOTLAND

**DUMFRIESSHIRE: MAGGIEMANT KNOWE (NY/041918).** Below the plateau edge, W. of the reservoir, a series of cottage foundations, each with an enclosed garden showing pronounced riggs had been recognized, and can be identified as the hamlet of Knock abandoned in the 18th century.

**PEEBLESSHIRE: LOUR (NT/179357).** Excavations were begun on a house lying within the supposed site of the old village of Lour by J. G. Dunbar and G. D. Hay, on behalf of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The W. half of the house was exposed and it was found that the walls, which were of rubble laid in clay mortar, remained to a maximum height of 2 ft. The finds suggest that the house was occupied in the 17th and 18th centuries.

**PERTHSHIRE: KILLIN, EAST LIX (NN/555302).** Students of the Geography Dept.,

Glasgow University, have constructed a detailed map of the earthworks of the village, deserted a century ago but probably dating back to the 16th century. V. B. Proudfoot excavated a characteristic house just over 50 ft. long. The drystone walls had been plastered internally with clay, the hearth was centrally placed in an earth floor and there was no clear division between living quarters and byre, which, most unexpectedly, occupied the upper end of the long house. This house could not be positively dated before 1800.

## J. OTHER SITES

### ENGLAND

ESSEX: CASTLE HEDINGHAM, CROUCH GREEN (TL/776355). Men laying a sewage system, by Nunnery Bridge, cut into three medieval rubble walls with brick-facing and a culvert (16th to 17th century). The walls were about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ft. thick, powerfully built. There were heavy oak timbers laid parallel with the wall. There is no documentary evidence for any early medieval structure at this end of the village. The nunnery on the other side of the river would be later. The bricks seem of a very early type, perhaps of the same period as the Coggeshall ones.

## K. INDUSTRY

### ENGLAND

HAMPSHIRE: SOUTHAMPTON. Two medieval lime-kilns were found during excavations by F. A. Aberg at *Porter's Lane*. One was a large pit 11 ft. square with slightly convex sides, while the other was a smaller circular kiln 8 ft. in diameter. Both were constructed by digging pits 4 or 5 ft. deep in the natural clay and date to the 13th century.

HERTFORDSHIRE: BARNET (TQ/233964). A dump of 13th-century pottery has been excavated at Dyke Cottage, King's Road, by D. F. Renn. Besides cooking-pots, bowls and storage-jars, there were unglazed jugs and broken kiln firebars. An interim report is published in *Bull. Barnet and District Record Soc.*, XII (1960).

LINCOLNSHIRE: GRIMSBY, CLEE HALL FARM (TA/129713). H. Webster excavated two mounds by the side of a ditch at present 15 ft. wide, 2 ft. deep and 150 ft. long. The ditch ran in a NW.-SE. direction, and is one of several similar ditches in the fields near the site.

*Mound no. 1*, on the NE. side of the ditch at its SE. end, was irregularly shaped, 2 ft. in height and 21 ft. by 18 ft. This mound contained a baked clay floor 2 in. thick and approximately 7 ft. by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ft., surrounded, except for the NE. end, by the remains of a 2-in. thick baked clay wall surviving to a height of 1 ft. with marked inward slope at the top. The wall contained straw or reed, although the floor did not. The wall did not extend round the NE. end, which was open, but was strengthened with stone revetting. The structure appeared to be the floor and sides of a kiln, the open end, supported by the stone revetting, being the stoke-hole. The floor would have been  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ft. above the original ground level, and when the original ground surface was cleared it showed signs of burning, as if hot ashes from the stoke-hole had been raked out on to the clay outside the kiln. Several large stones were found in the mound near the stoke-hole, and may have been connected with a building or shelter over the stoke-hole or with containing walls for the hot ashes from the kiln. Two sherds of late medieval pottery were found in the mound, together with half a tile or brick which was clearly a waster, probably from this kiln. The brick was 5 in. by 2 in. in cross section, but its length could not be determined.

The structure above was found in one side of the mound in such a way as to suggest that two kilns had originally occupied the one mound. No trace of the second kiln could be found, however, except that at original ground level there was a patch of burnt clay corresponding to the patch burnt by the hot ash from the stoke-hole of the kiln still

remaining. The fields near the site contain several ditches and excavations, probably made by digging for clay for brick making in late medieval times.

*Mound no. 2*, on the NE. side of the ditch at its NW. end, was entirely different in character, being extremely regular in shape, 48 ft. in diameter at its base, with a flat top 24 ft. in diameter, and being 4 ft. high. No structure of any kind was found in this mound, which was thoroughly trenched. Some Roman pottery and two medieval sherds were found. One of the medieval sherds lay about 10 ft. from the centre of the mound and at the original ground level, thus showing that the mound was later than 14th century. It may have been used as a mill mound.

———: TOYNTON (TF/395634). Mrs. E. H. Rudkin continued to excavate the kiln (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 325). Flues 1, 3, 4 and 5 were traced to their entrances and no. 4, which had produced the most pottery in 1958, was more fully explored. At its entrance the floor rested on sandstone, with a thick bank of blue potter's clay making a way up to it and a scatter of sherds in it, including part of a large fish-dish, and part of a wide cooking-pot with lines round it and thumbing below the lip. Rake-out material had been cast out on either side; on the N. were four whole jugs, with remains of butter-pots, pancheons, very small jugs, and encaustic tiles of three different patterns. Sealed down by the blue clay, which was roughly 2 ft. deep and 4 ft. wide, was another mass of pottery with jugs both with and without applied clay-strip decoration.

STAFFORDSHIRE: ALDRIDGE (SP/072998). 150 years ago a plan was drawn of earthworks known as Loaches Banks said to consist of three broad banks and three narrow ditches enclosing an area 80 yds. by 25 yds. (S. Shaw, *History of Staffordshire*, (1798), I, 11). After enclosure (1795-1799) the earthworks were lost but have been rediscovered recently by means of the local tithe map. The banks and ditches have been ploughed out save for a length of two banks and a ditch which stretch out to form an angle on waste ground adjoining the pool.

J. T. Gould cut a trench across the surviving banks and excavated an area 10 ft. square inside the angle formed by the banks. The trench was sterile save for one worked flint blade which was found immediately on top of a hard pebble layer which had formed naturally on top of the subsoil where it had been exposed. No sign of revetment was found in the banks which were 12 ft. wide, separated by a ditch 5 ft. wide, but only 18 in. deep. Both consisted of carefully cut and stacked peats which had been put directly on top of the subsoil and covered with sand and pebbles. The peats had dried and contracted leaving vertical gaps between them so that the peats could be removed as cut. When the silt was removed from the shallow ditch it rapidly filled with water to a depth of 1 ft.

The square area was also sterile but for an iron object. It was on top of an uneven layer of charcoal, 1 in. to 5 in. deep which covered the pebble layer. Under the charcoal were four small patches of greyish clay (daub?) partly oxidised. The pebbles were scored by a number of ruts with hard definite edges terminating in shallow post-holes 2 in. to 5 in. deep, some 50 in number. These holes had been pressed rather than dug into the pebbles. They were full of charcoal but one or two also contained slivers of wood not completely carbonized. The holes made no coherent pattern but tended to lie in irregular curves.

No indication of the date of the earthworks was found. The hard pebble layer and the thin depth of soil covering it (1 in. in places) suggests that the turf had been removed extensively at some time in the past and the subsoil exposed to the weather. The large quantity of charcoal, the small amount of clay and the absence of substantial post-holes do not suggest the burning of a wattle-and-daub hut, whilst the absence of small finds suggests that this was not a homestead site.

Charcoal burners are known to have been active in this district in the 14th century, when it was part of Sutton Chase, whilst the opposite side of Bourne Pool was in the royal forest of Cannock. The traditional methods of charcoal burning could well account for the shallow holes and ruts whilst the pebble surface would form an ideal working floor.

It cannot be shown that the banks and ditch were made by burners, but it might form a firebreak if one were needed in a peaty district. Peats were used in making some types of charcoal and water such as would be easily obtained from the ditch was used in making other types.

SUFFOLK: HINDERCLAY (TM/025767). Cultivation at Pump Farm had exposed a dump of sherds of the 15th century, with a few showing lattice decoration that are possibly a little earlier (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 325). Some kiln-roof material seemed to indicate the presence of a kiln, and an area of approximately 250 sq. ft. was excavated by the Ipswich Museum. No kiln was discovered, and extension of the area, was impossible owing to cultivation. Indications of another kiln, as yet undisturbed were noted in the garden of a cottage nearby (TM/022766).

SUSSEX: GRAFFHAM (SU/922182). Miss Keefe and Miss Budd have found large quantities of late medieval wasters in a stream bed just to the N. of Graffham. The area is very wooded with clay pits visible. The pottery is of considerable interest, the more so as this is the first late medieval kiln-site to be found in this part of SE. England. Many of the pots have individual stamps showing a remarkable continuity or resurgence of the early medieval stamps found in S. England (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 34). Pottery with an encrusted decoration of small stone chips was also being made. This is a SW. type. Other forms include bung holes, small costrels, lids and bifid rims typical of the period.

WILTSHIRE: LYNEHAM (SU/023789). Kiln ash, iron slag and quantities of medieval sherds of the 13th and 14th centuries were discovered whilst laying house foundations in *Farthing Lane*. Many of the sherds were obvious wasters and suggest the existence of pottery kilns in the vicinity. No evidence of kiln-structures has so far come to light. A small type-series of the sherds is in Devizes Museum.

YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING: WHARRAM PERCY (SE/858646). Two more quarries were completely cleared by J. G. Hurst and M. W. Beresford (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 318). One was quite shallow; the other immediately to the W. was much larger and deeper. Sections were also cut across six other quarries and the position of three more plotted. All the quarries contained pottery of the first half of the 13th century except that to the SE. of house 9, the only one that was visible on the surface as a depression in the grass. This quarry contained 15th-century pottery.

It would not be possible to determine the full extent of former quarries to the W., SW. and S. of the house 10 complex without further excavation of the areas of house 9 and house 10. It is even possible that they cover all the broken ground between house 8 and house 9, the so-called village green. Their N. and NE. limits seems to be determined, at least for the present complex. How far the rest of the village was set over or among quarries cannot yet be ascertained. There is, however, a late quarry cut into the hillside below house 12 and a visible quarry in the toft of house 20. The great nettle-bed near the manor house at the N. end of the village may also be filled-in quarries. When roughly examined some years ago it was full of soft soil and no bottom was discovered. These surface quarries may well be single 15th-century quarries for house-building material or repairs, and do not seem to be part of a group.

The 10 quarries found under the house 10 area are of a different kind. They seem to lie in groups with at least one baulk of undisturbed chalk coming to the surface in each group; within each group the quarries seem to be dug individually with narrow ridges dividing quarry from quarry and the depth of these ridges from the surface is very varied. The purpose of the quarries has been a great puzzle, for the buildings which are known in this medieval village would hardly have needed all this volume of chalk in so short a time. All the quarries except one date within about 50 years, and it is possible that there are many other quarries besides those found under house 10. Perhaps

the manor house at the N. end of the village dates from the period when these quarries were open. The church was built of sandstone, not chalk. It may be that the answer lies in the last two quarries that were sectioned. In them were extensive traces of burning and it may well be that lime was quarried and burned in them. Little mortar was used in the peasant house building in the village, so that lime probably went to marl the fields, a practice known to have happened in medieval times even in chalky areas.

#### *SCOTLAND*

STIRLINGSHIRE: STENHOUSEMUIR (NS/878834). Emergency excavation in sand-workings producing medieval sherds revealed three kilns built in shallow pits. The second, of oval shape, 6½ ft. on its long axis, stood one course high of boulders and clay packing, with two floors and a stoke-hole. There were two complete vessels in the intermediate filling and a quantity of sherds in the deposit. The third kiln stood five courses high and had its flue-arch intact. There was much fibrous carbonized matter in the sealed pit beneath.