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A452 Leamington-Kenilworth Improvements

Environmental Assessment

Part 2: Cultural Heritage

DRAFT 2.0

**Warwickshire Museum
Market Place
Warwick
CV34 4SA**

June 1994

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A desktop assessment of a corridor 1km wide centred on the proposed road and rapid field survey of a of a 300m corridor was carried out by the Field Archaeology Section of the Warwickshire Museum to identify archaeological sites and historic buildings affected by the scheme. This suggested that the effects of the proposals on the cultural heritage will be minor.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

- 1.2 The road corridor contains no Scheduled Ancient Monuments but fifteen archaeological sites, possible sites and findspots were identified (as shown on Drawing 2.1):

*Sites and
Monuments
Record No.*

N.G.R.

WA 1489	Find of prehistoric flints	SP 307696
WA 1490	Site of ford and medieval bridge at Chesford Bridge	SP 307696
WA 1491	Site of medieval mills at Blackdown Mill	SP 311691
WA 2549	Find of Roman Pottery	SP 310691
WA 2552	Possible site of deserted medieval village of Heath	SP 302695
WA 2570	Possible site of Roman villa	SP 299702
WA 2585	Possible site of Yartford Mill	SP 303694
WA 2590	Berlcote deserted medieval village	SP 310699
WA 2598	Site of Toll House	SP 307697
WA 3674	Find of Neolithic/Bronze Age arrowhead	SP 314693
WA 3675	Find of Mesolithic flint axehead	SP 314693
WA 7182	Find of prehistoric flints	SP 301701
WA 7183	Find of prehistoric flints	SP 300700
WA 7187	Find of prehistoric flints	SP 306698
WA 7189	Earthworks south of Dial House Farm	SP 303699

- 1.3 Three of these are affected by the proposals. Some remains of the medieval ford and bridge at Chesford Bridge (WA 1490) may be uncovered but a programme of archaeological observation during construction is proposed. The site of an 18th/19th century toll house east of Chesford Bridge (WA 2598) will be destroyed, although it is likely that the remains of the structure have already been substantially removed by earlier activity. An area of earthworks south of Dial House Farm (WA 7189) will be marginally affected. Earthmoving in this area would also be subject to archaeological observation and restrictions written into the contract documents would prevent the contractor from using the adjoining area for purposes which would disturb the earthworks. The proposals will also affect some small areas of medieval ridge and furrow field system but these are too poorly preserved to constitute a significant constraint.

BUILT HERITAGE

- 1.4 There are no Conservation Areas or Registered Parks and Gardens in the road corridor but it does contain four listed buildings (shown on Drawing 2.1), all Grade II: Dial House Farmhouse, Stoneleigh Road

(LB 1); Blackdown Mill, Hill Wootton Road (LB 2); Chesford Bridge, Kenilworth Road (LB 3); and Hill Wootton Bridge, Hill Wootton Road (LB 4).

- 1.5 Of these, three are affected by the proposals. The existing 19th century Chesford Bridge will be partially demolished although its facade will be re-erected; it will also suffer moderate-severe visual intrusion from a new bridge to its north. Dial House Farmhouse will suffer negligible visual intrusion, and, it and Blackdown Mill will suffer slight increased noise. The effects to Dial House Farmhouse will be mitigated by proposals for off-site planting, subject to the consent of the landowner.
- 1.6 Among unlisted buildings of interest, the stone gateway to Blackdown Manor (OB 1) will be demolished, and two later 19th century houses, Walcote House (OB 2) and Jephson (formerly Wickstead) House (OB 3), which exemplify the Victorian development of Blackdown, will lose small sections of their gardens, a slight-moderate impact. Subject to the landowners' consent the gateway could be re-erected and the effects to the Blackdown houses ameliorated by on- and off-site planting proposals.

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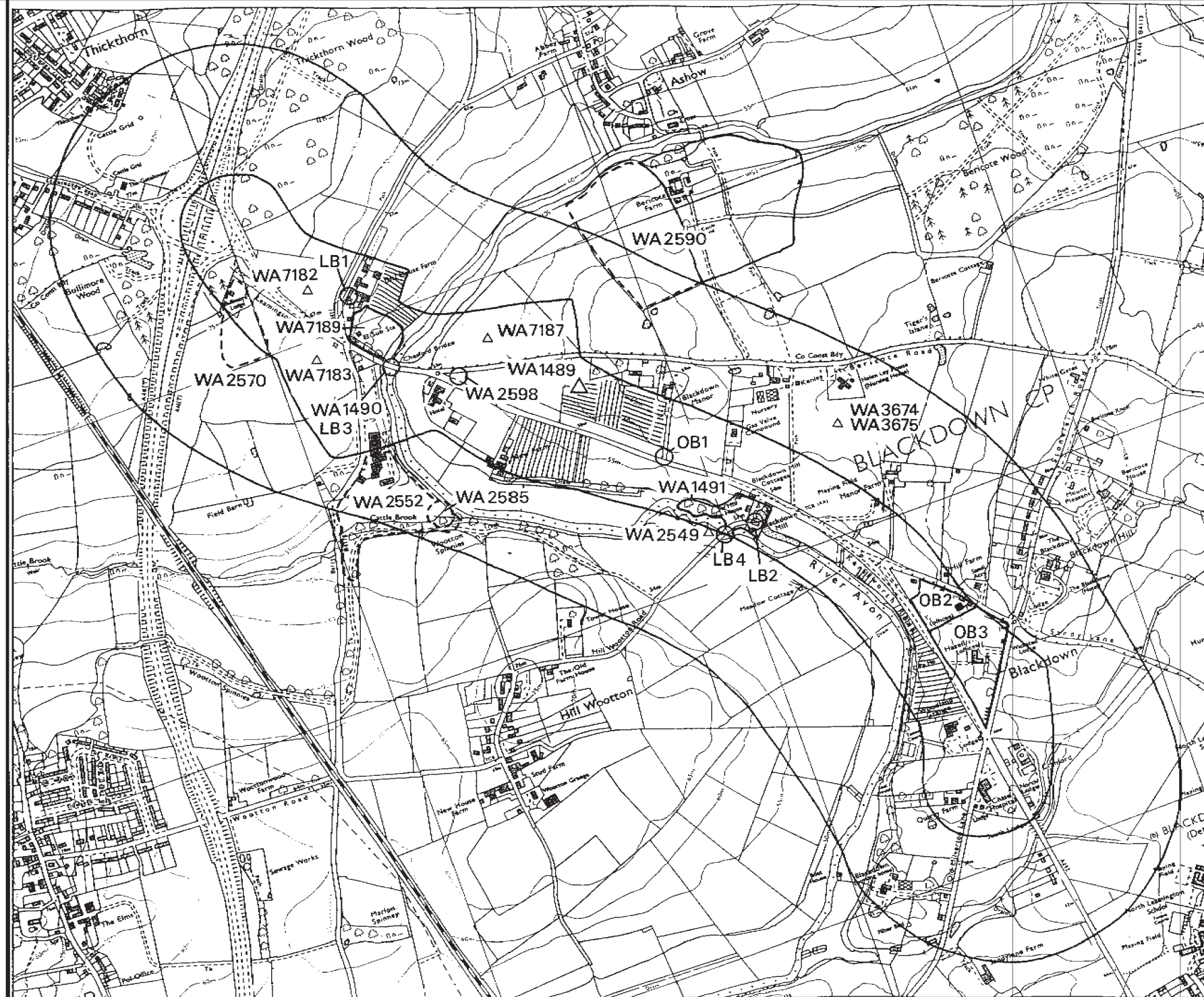
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To assess the impact of the proposed scheme on the Cultural Heritage a survey was carried out by the Field Archaeology Section of the Warwickshire Museum. This survey was carried out in accordance with the Department of Transport *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Environmental Assessment* (DoT 1993). It involved a desktop study covering a corridor 1km wide centred on the proposed road line, and a more detailed walkover field survey within a narrower band 300m wide centred on the road and junction works (Fig. 1). Following the walkover survey and consultation with the County Field Archaeologist, Warwick District Council's Conservation Officer and English Heritage further field survey and trial excavation was deemed unnecessary.
- 1.2 The Cultural Heritage consists essentially of surviving evidence of man's past interaction with the landscape and can be divided into Archaeological Sites and Built Heritage.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

- 1.3 Archaeological Sites can date from all periods from the Palaeolithic to modern times and come in a number of forms, including upstanding structures, earthworks, buried features or scatters of artefacts. They can be ranked in importance into four categories: sites of national importance, which will often but not always be Scheduled Ancient Monuments protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; sites of regional or county importance; sites of district or local importance; and sites which are too badly damaged to qualify for a higher grading. To these can be added possible sites for which the evidence is dubious or unclear, and findspots of isolated archaeological material which do not necessarily indicate the presence of a site. The ranking of the importance of a particular site depends on criteria such as those used to assess sites for Scheduling which include period, rarity, quality of documentation, group value, survival/condition, diversity and potential (DoE 1990, Annex 4; quoted in DoT 1993, Annex II). In addition Warwickshire County Council in January 1994 adopted extra criteria to be applied within the county of local association and amenity value.
- 1.4 Archaeological sites can be affected by road schemes in a variety of ways. Apart from direct destruction or damage by road works, cuttings or landscaping, a site can be affected by vibration or by changes in the water table. The settings of sites are also relevant and can be affected by severance. Where the remains are upstanding they can be affected by visual intrusion and particularly where there is public access to a site there may be impacts from noise and loss of amenity.
- 1.5 These impacts can be graded into four categories:
Severe, where destruction or damage would involve an area fundamental to the site, where severance would result in the complete loss of the integrity of the site, where the proposals would be a dominant element in views, where the quality and amenity of the setting would be radically altered, or where there would be a severe increase in noise;



Archaeological Sites

- Archaeological Site
- Possible Archaeological Site
- Find

Surviving Ridge and Furrow
in 300m corridor

Built Heritage

- LB Listed Building
- OB Other Building of Interest

Fig. 1: Archaeological Sites and Built Heritage



Ridge and Furrow



Probable Ridge and Furrow

Fig. 2: Medieval ridge and furrow field systems visible on air photographs

Moderate, where destruction or damage would affect an important part of the site, where severance would affect the integrity of the site but only peripherally, where the proposals would be a significant element in views, where the quality and amenity of the setting would be significantly altered, or where there would be a moderate increase in noise;

Slight, where destruction or damage would be secondary or peripheral, where the integrity of the site and the quality of the setting would not be significantly affected, where the proposals would intrude in views and affect the quality and amenity of the setting to a limited extent; or

Negligible, where the destruction or damage is confined to a small, peripheral or unimportant part of the site, where the integrity of the site would not be affected, where the proposals would be unobtrusive in views and the quality and amenity of the setting would be unaffected, or where there would be a perceptible increase in noise.

- 1.6 Mitigation of impacts on archaeological sites can be done in a variety of ways: a road can simply be rerouted to avoid sites and their settings; or, vertical alignments can be adjusted so that the road avoids disturbance to the site. In some cases it is acceptable to destroy or damage a site provided that it is properly recorded by a programme of excavation in advance of construction, and in others, where the site is of little importance or the impact is minor, the archaeological recording can be carried out during construction work.

BUILT HERITAGE

- 1.7 The Built Heritage includes buildings, structures, parks and gardens of architectural or historic interest. The most important historic buildings are individually Listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and classified in three grades: Grade I, buildings of exceptional interest; Grade II*, particularly important buildings of more than special interest; and Grade II, buildings of special interest. Areas of special historic or architectural interest can be designated as Conservation Areas. Other unlisted buildings outside conservation areas can also be of sufficient local interest or importance to merit consideration. Important historic parks and gardens are included in a non-statutory register maintained by English Heritage (English Heritage 1994) in which they are classified in three grades: Grade I, parks and gardens of exceptional interest; Grade II*, parks and gardens of great quality; and Grade II, parks and gardens of special interest.
- 1.8 The Built Heritage can be affected by road proposals in a number of ways: demolition or partial demolition of a building, visual intrusion, vibration and noise, severance from linked features, changes to the landscape setting and loss of amenity, particularly where there is public access to a building. The settings of buildings, parks and gardens are also vulnerable.
- 1.9 The degree of impact of proposals on Built Heritage sites can also be graded into four categories (*Severe*, *Moderate*, *Slight* and *Negligible*) using the same criteria as for Archaeological Sites (see 1.5 above).
- 1.10 Possible mitigation measures include locating the route away from historic buildings, keeping the vertical alignment low to exploit natural

screening, screening by the use of cuttings or embankments, and other landscaping techniques such as false cuttings or planting.

2. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

DESKTOP STUDY

- 2.1 The first aim of the desktop study was to identify the known archaeological sites and historic buildings within the corridor. For Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens the lists maintained and published by English Heritage were consulted (English Heritage 1992, 1994). For Listed Buildings the lists maintained by Warwick District Council and published by the Department of the Environment (DoE 1987) were consulted. For other archaeological sites the prime source was the Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) a database of information about archaeological sites in the county maintained by the Warwickshire Museum. Relevant published works relating to the archaeology and local history of the area were also consulted. These are listed in Appendix A.
- 2.2 A high proportion of archaeological sites are discovered from the air. National and local collections of air photographs were therefore consulted. Approximately 19 oblique photographs and 136 vertical photographs (from 14 sorties) showing parts of the assessment corridor taken between 1946 and 1990 were examined (See Appendix A). The early photographs, mainly RAF verticals, are particularly important for showing the remains of medieval ridge and furrow field systems (Fig. 2), most of which do not survive today.
- 2.3 Further documentary research was carried out in the Warwickshire County Record Office, mainly examination of early maps, prints and views and topographical sources giving information such as field names which often reveal the location of sites. The documents examined are also listed in Appendix A.

WALKOVER SURVEY

- 2.4 The walkover survey was then carried out in March 1994 to establish the current condition of the sites and buildings identified by the desktop study, and to determine the likely impact on them of the road proposals. It was also designed to locate previously unrecorded sites that might show as earthworks in pasture or as artefact scatters in cultivated fields, and to identify any unlisted buildings of interest or importance. Most of the corridor lay under pasture but three cultivated fields at the north west end were examined (Fig. 13, nos. 4, 5 and 13), each producing small quantities of prehistoric worked flint along with quantities of post-medieval and modern material. Further details of all the fields examined are given in Appendix D.

CONSULTATION

- 2.5 Consultations with the Warwickshire Museum, English Heritage and Warwick District Council about the impact of the scheme on the cultural heritage began in Summer 1991. As the proposals are a county rather than a national scheme it was agreed with Dr Andrew Brown of English Heritage that the scope of the assessment and mitigation proposals in relation to archaeological sites be discussed with the County Field Archaeologist, Ms Helen MacLagan. Those in

relation to the Built Heritage were discussed with the Conservation Officer of Warwick District Council, Mr A. Mayes, and Mr J. Yates of English Heritage was consulted in relation to the proposed alterations to the Listed Chesford Bridge.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

PREHISTORIC EVIDENCE

- 3.1 The earliest evidence for human activity in the road corridor is in the form of a flint axehead found north east of Manor Farm (Fig. 1, SMR Ref. WA 3675). This dates to the Mesolithic period (c.8500-3500 bc) when the population lived as nomadic hunter-gatherers. A single find like this however probably represents a chance loss rather than an occupation site.
- 3.2 The first significant impact on the landscape by man was made in the Neolithic period when farming communities arrived in Britain around 3500 bc. Forest clearance began at this time and continued into the Bronze (c.1700-600 bc) and Iron Ages (c.600 bc-AD43). The light sand and gravel soils of river valleys such as the Avon valley attracted the early farmers as they were relatively easy to work.
- 3.3 There are some signs of Neolithic/Bronze Age activity in the assessment corridor. There are records of worked flints found between the Leamington and Cubbington Roads (SMR WA 1489, Thomas 1974, 22) and a flint arrowhead has been found north of Manor Farm (SMR WA 3674). The walkover survey collected a total of six worked flints in three of the fields at the north east end of the corridor (SMR WA 7182, 7183 and 7187). However, again none of the finds are of sufficient density to suggest the location of a settlement site.

THE ROMANO-BRITISH PERIOD

- 3.4 By the Roman period (AD43-410) much of the woodland would have been cleared and the area would have been relatively densely settled with scattered farmsteads. A number of Romano-British farming settlements are known in the near vicinity: there was one 2km north east of Chesford Bridge at Glasshouse Wood and there was another just to the north close to Crewe Farm. Further evidence of Romano-British settlement comes from Lillington where there have been various finds of Roman pottery and a burial.
- 3.5 It has been suggested that there was a Roman villa site within the assessment area south of Bullimore Lodge (SMR WA 2570). However no actual evidence for this suggestion can be traced. Indistinct markings are visible on an air photograph (NMR 2216 58/2952/140) but these are unlikely to be of archaeological origin. Field survey revealed no Roman material on the surface at the site and a villa could be expected to produce large quantities. The existence of the site is therefore very doubtful. Two fragments of Roman pottery have been found on the bank of the Avon opposite Blackdown Mill (SMR WA 2549), but again this is insufficient to indicate a settlement site.

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

- 3.6 It was in the medieval period that the landscape really began to develop into its present form. It seems probable that the whole assessment area originally fell within one large early medieval estate centred on Leek Wootton. The parishes of Ashow, Lillington (to which

Blackdown then belonged) and Milverton were all originally chapelries dependent on the church at Leek Wootton.

- 3.7 By the time of the Domesday survey of 1086 the area had been divided into a number of manors, most of which survive as modern parishes. Wootton (Leek Wootton), Kenilworth, Lillington and Milverton are all recorded, and in Ashow there were two manors, Ashow and Bericote. The settlement of Bericote (SMR WA 2590) lay at Bericote Farm on the edge of the assessment corridor. The other settlements will have been at the present village sites outside the corridor.
- 3.8 The only building probably within the corridor mentioned in Domesday is the mill listed in Lillington as worth 6s 8d. This is likely to be the first reference to a mill on the site of Blackdown Mill (SMR WA 1491). The mill remained in use through the medieval period, passing into the hands of Combe Abbey during the 12th century, and in 1291 it was valued at £1 a year (VCH 1951, 163; Booth 1978, 38). The mill was attached to the main manor of Lillington by 1596.
- 3.9 Most of the existing road pattern in the area would also have been established by this time with two main roads converging on the crossing point at Chesford. The road from Kenilworth to Leamington at this time ran along Sandy Lane towards Lillington before turning south towards Leamington. The *Welsh Road*, a major long distance drove road, to Cubbington, Southam and beyond would have followed its current line along Bericote Road. The road from Milverton to Stoneleigh would have existed by this time as would the road from Chesford through Leek Wootton parish to Warwick. The road from Chesford to Ashow is not shown on the earliest map of Ashow of 1597 and it is suggested that the main axis of movement through Ashow would have been a north-south road through Bericote (Clark nd, 23). However it is likely there would have been at least a path across the fields to Chesford Bridge, even though it may not have been shown on the 1597 map.
- 3.10 As its name implies the crossing point at Chesford would have started as a ford, probably originating well before the medieval period. Its importance is underlined by the early construction of a bridge to replace the ford. The first reference to the bridge dates to 1285 when it was in need of repair which was held to be the responsibility of the Abbot of Combe (Cooper 1940, 36; Sapcote 1946, 33). Further disputes about repair are recorded in 1353 and 1370 when an arch had collapsed.
- 3.11 Generally in the middle ages the landscape of the assessment corridor would have been one dominated by large open arable fields, with some meadows along the river and an area of woodland at Thickthorn Wood to the north west. Each village would have had its own system of, generally two or three, open fields divided into strips. Substantial traces of these fields can be made out as areas of ridge and furrow covering most of the assessment corridor on air photographs taken in 1946-7 and later (Fig. 2). In Ashow parish, within the assessment corridor, the area north of the river, *Chesford Field* in 1597, belonged to Ashow and that south of the river to Bericote. The four open fields of Lillington, *Hamm Field*, *Upper Field*, *Nether Field* and *Rye Field* are shown on a map of 1711. In the corridor the area south east of Manor Farm formed part of *Rye Field* while that north west of Manor Farm is

shown as outside the fields and described as *The Heath*. In fact all *The Heath*, except for *Chesford Meadow* along the river, was arable in 1711 (Cooper 1940, 122) and the survival of ridge and furrow over much of it shows that it was also cultivated in the middle ages. However it is likely that it was the last area of the parish to be brought into cultivation and that previously it had been grazing land or waste.

- 3.12 There are also references to an area called *Heath* in Leek Wootton on either side of the *Holbrook* (Cattle Brook) which joins the Avon south of Chesford Grange. According to the antiquarian Dugdale (1730, 271) this contained a settlement called *Heath* but some of the references quoted by Dugdale appear to relate to land in Baginton (VCH 1951, 169) and it is possible that the Leek Wootton Heath was simply an area of land without a settlement. However, a possible site for Dugdale's Heath (SMR WA 2552) has been identified south of Chesford Grange, although there are no surviving traces of settlement remains on the site.
- 3.13 Another feature in this area for which there is more evidence is Yatesford or Yartford Mill. In the early 13th century two thirds of this mill was granted along with land between the Avon and the Warwick-Coventry Road to Stoneleigh Abbey (VCH 1951, 168). By 1326 the abbey had acquired the other third and it still owned the mill at the Dissolution. The exact site of the mill is uncertain. The 'ford' place name suggests a site on a road and it could have stood either just outside the assessment area, where the Warwick Road crosses the Cattle Brook, or within the area, close to the Avon where a path from Hill Wootton crossed the brook (SMR WA 2585).
- 3.14 The distribution of ridge and furrow in the north east part of Leek Wootton (Fig. 2) suggests that the Leek Wotton Heath was also cultivated in the medieval period, although again it may have been brought under the plough at a late date. It is possibly identifiable with an area of uncultivated woodland mentioned in Domesday (VCH 1951, 169). Thus in the assessment area only Thickthorn Wood and the land along the floodplain of the river which would have been meadow is free of ridge and furrow and would have been uncultivated at the height of the medieval expansion of agriculture in the early 14th century.
- 3.15 The later middle ages was a period of decline when a reduced population meant a contraction of settlement and the desertion of some villages. Bericote was one of these. It had a population of about 80 in 1279 (Clark nd, 8) but this dwindled away and by 1542 the village was reduced to a single grange or farm belonging to Stoneleigh Abbey. The village site (SMR WA 2590) reverted to fields and today is marked only by various shallow earthworks, most of which are just outside the assessment corridor.

THE POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD

- 3.16 During the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries the landscape really began to take on its modern appearance. The main development was the division and enclosure of the medieval open fields, although this was a process spread over a period of nearly 300 years. The fields of Bericote were probably enclosed in the 1540s when the village was abandoned. These enclosures are shown on the Ashow map of 1597

although Ashow retained its open fields north of the Avon. By 1649 all of Ashow parish was enclosed. Lillington still had its open fields in 1711; these were enclosed in 1730. Old Milverton parish appears to have been enclosed in 1807, and the final enclosure of Leek Wootton took place in 1822.

- 3.17 With the enclosures came the building of farms away from the villages. *Dial House Farm* is first shown on a map of 1776 and Blackdown (*Blakedown*) Manor and Manor Farm (*Blakedown Farm*) are first shown on a map of 1806. *The Old Kennels*, north of Cranford and now demolished, was there by c.1833 and New Farm appears between c.1833 and 1884. These developments are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1 inch map of c.1833 (Fig. 3).
- 3.18 Blackdown Mill continued in use throughout this period. A survey of 1650 mentions the mill house, a corn mill as well as two fulling mills. The plan of the mill on early maps from 1806-c.1833 is similar to that on the 1884 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 (Fig. 4). There is a linear mill pond dammed to the east, the weir leading to the bypass stream to the south west, the mill at the south west end of the dam which carries the road to Hill Wootton which crosses the bypass stream by Hill Wootton Bridge, and a large pool below the dam.
- 3.19 At some point probably during the late 18th/early 19th century the Leamington-Kenilworth road became a turnpike road and a toll house and gates (SMR WA 2598) were established at the junction with Bericote Road. The date is uncertain because the turnpiking of the road is not recorded in the list of Warwickshire turnpikes (Cossons 1946). The toll house was still standing in 1852 (Fig. 5), but by 1884 it had been demolished and replaced by a later building, called Chesford Cottage on a 1905 map, which has also since been demolished. Chesford Cottage is shown on photographs of 1908 after it had been damaged by a motor bus in an early road accident.
- 3.20 Chesford Bridge was the subject of continual litigation about responsibility for repairs between the 1630s and 1690s. Lord Craven of Combe Abbey repaired the bridge in 1664 but the causeways at either end were held to be the responsibility of the immediate parishes. There are references to a flood arch or arches to the east in 1664 but these were totally ruined by 1682. The earliest depiction of the bridge is a picture of the northern side dating to the late 18th century (Fig. 6). At this time the bridge consisted of two semicircular arches separated by a wide pier with a flat pointed cutwater on the northern, upstream side. On either side there were buttressed side walls. This was still the case in 1881 according to a plan of that date (Fig. 7). To the east there was a causeway across the floodplain. Investigations of the causeway in 1885 marked on the plan of 1881 revealed lines of old posts along the edges of the causeway which were probably timber piles. The bridge was rebuilt in 1892 in its current form with three semicircular arches, according to plans which survive (Fig. 8) and it was then adopted as a County Bridge. It was further widened in 1901.
- 3.20 In 1840 (VCH 1951, 161) the southern part of the Kenilworth-Leamington road was diverted to the south onto its current line directly into north Leamington. Following this diversion a development of large houses was created at Blackdown. These included Blackdown Hill House, Wallercote (Walcote) House, Wicksted (Jephson) House which



Fig. 3: Ordnance Survey, 1 inch map, 1st edition, c.1833

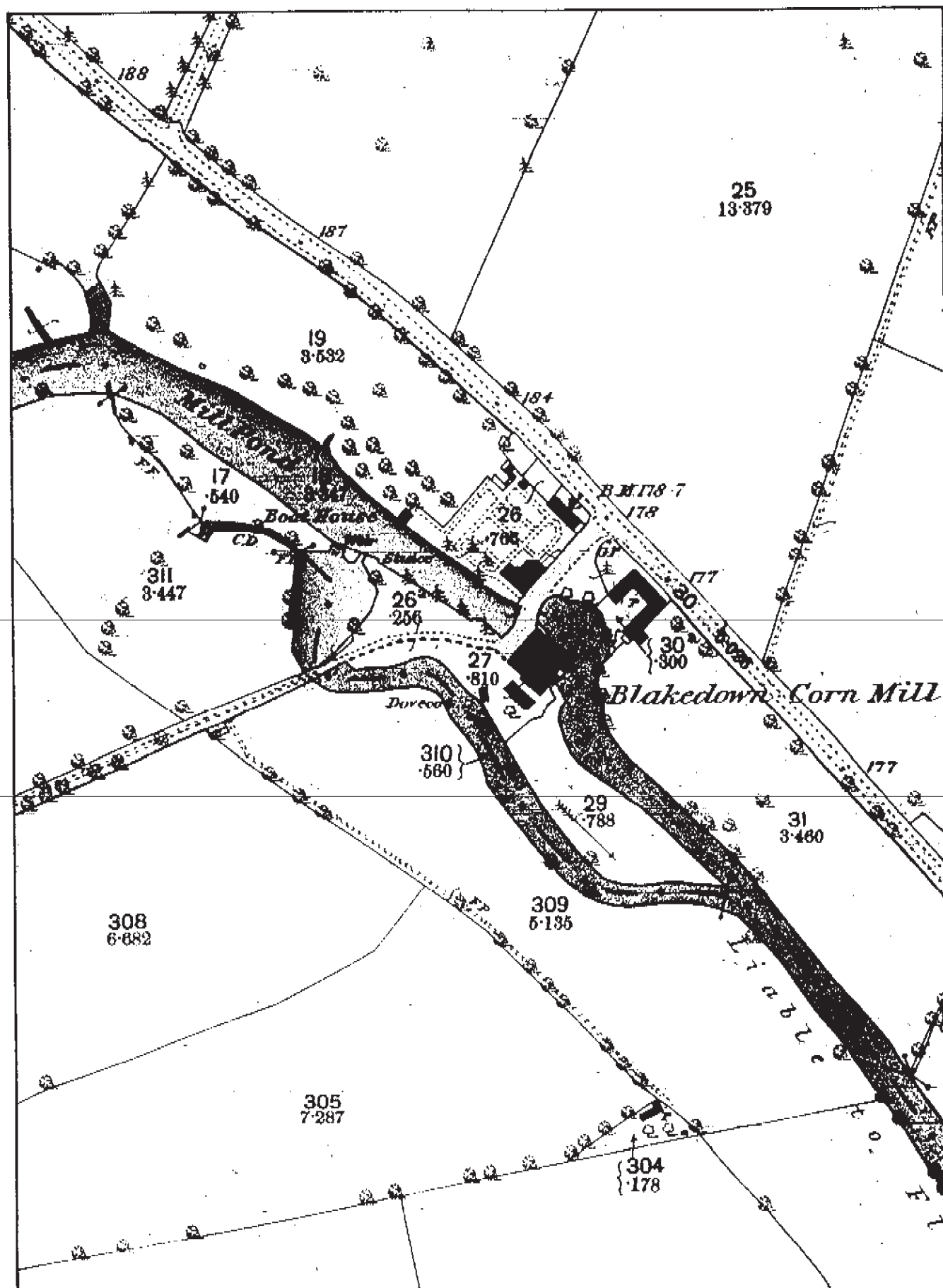


Fig. 4: Blackdown Mill, 1884 (Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 1st Edition)

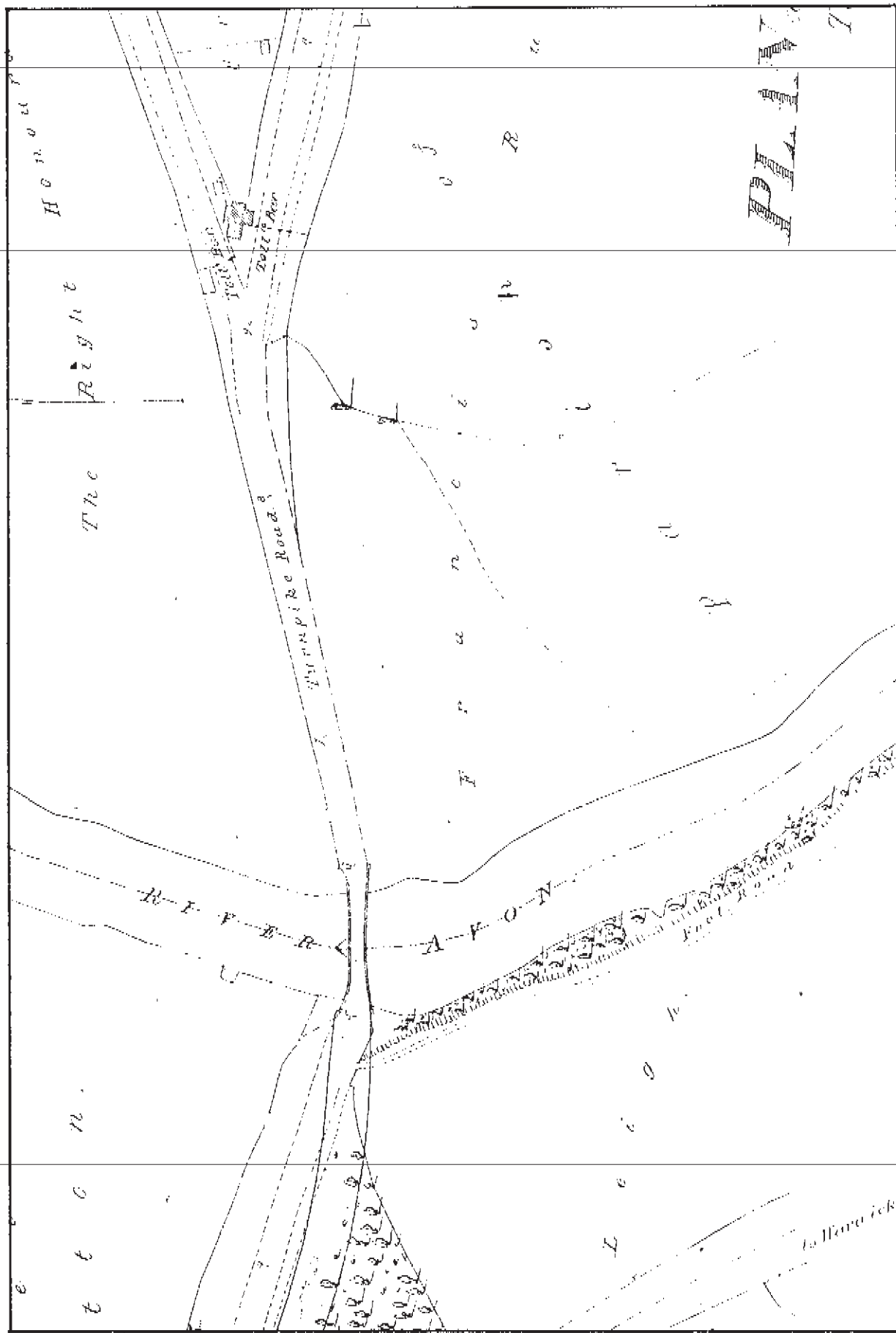


Fig. 5: Chesford Bridge and Toll House, 1854 (WRO CR 1562/3)

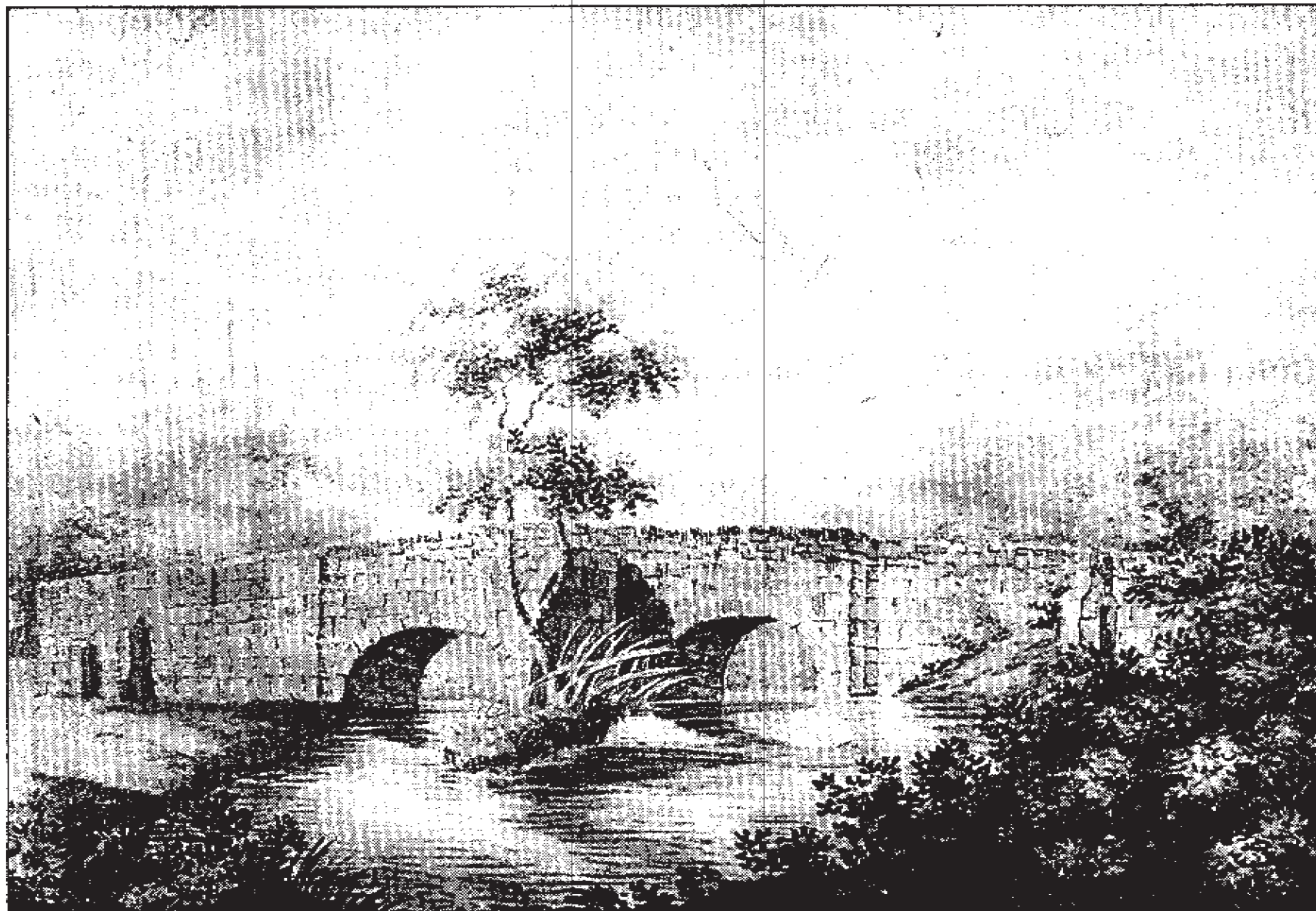


Fig. 6: Chesford Bridge, c.1790, Aylesford Collection (by courtesy of the Archives Service, Birmingham City Libraries)

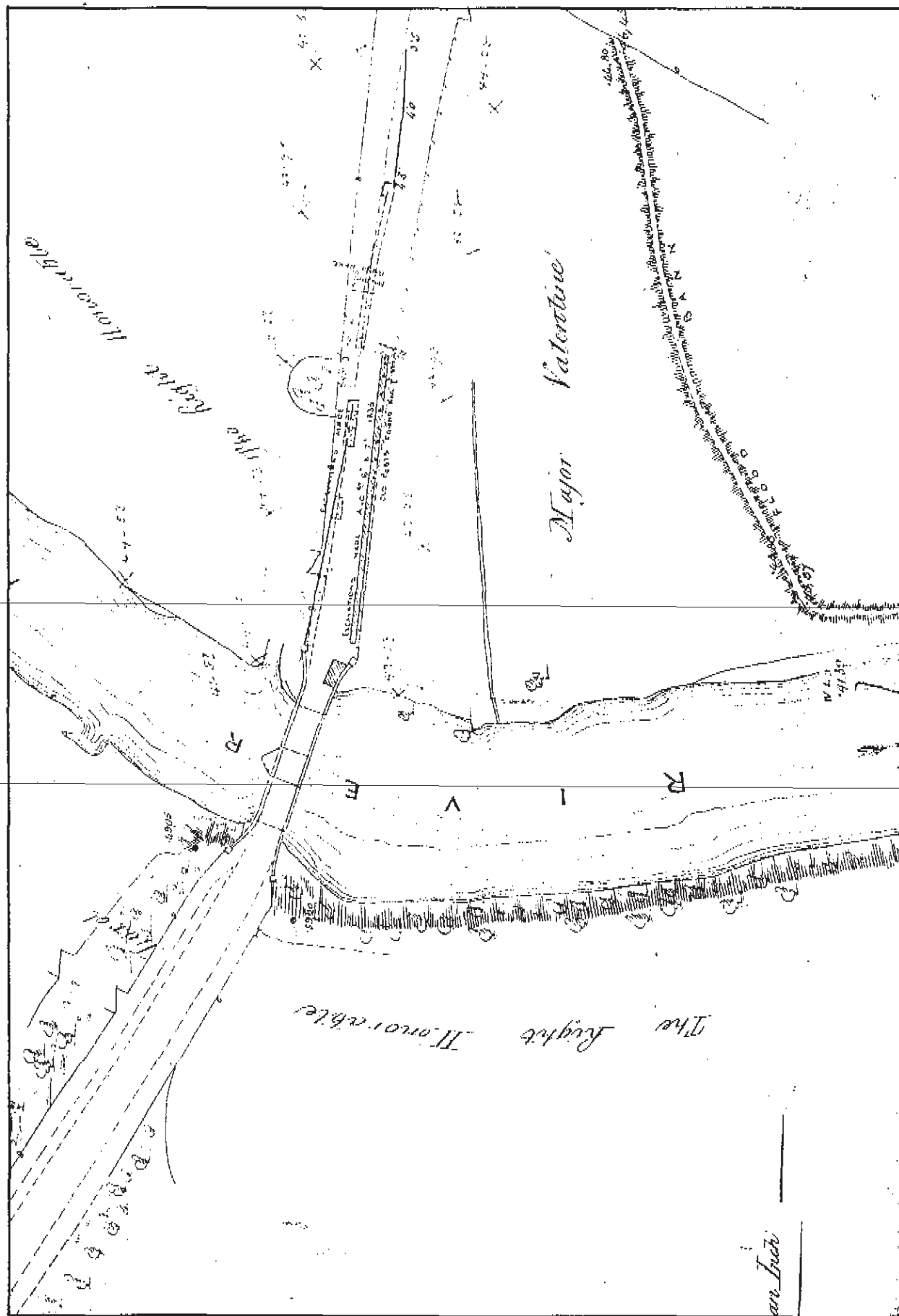
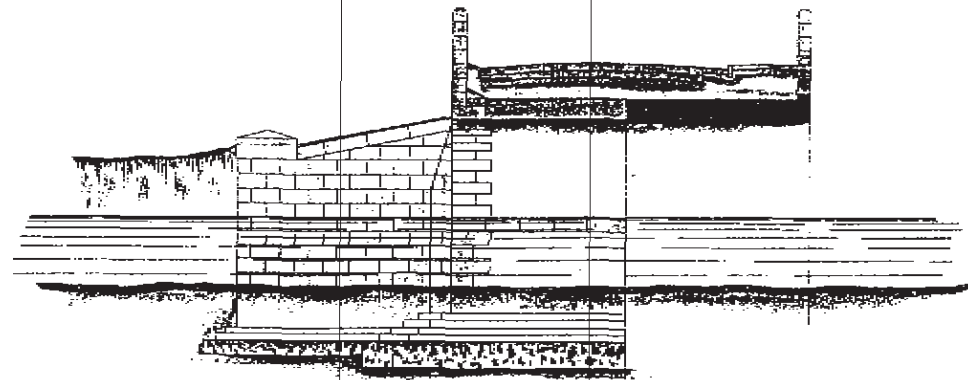


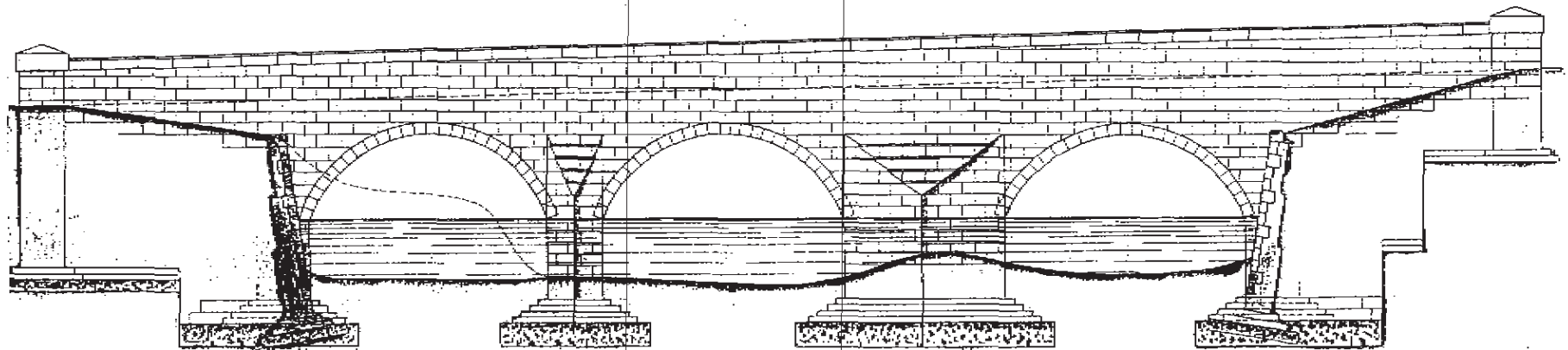
Fig. 7: Chesford Bridge, 1881 (AVRO CR 1562/3)

CHESFORD BRIDGE

Nº 3



CROSS SECTION A B



EAST ELEVATION

Fig. 8: Chesford Bridge, 1892, details from plans for new bridge (WRO CR 1562/3)

had been built by 1884 and Woodland Grange, Cranford, and The Chase which were built between 1884 and 1925. At the northern end of the corridor another large house, Chesford Grange, was built between 1884 and 1905.

- 3.21 Since 1925 the rural character of the area has been further eroded. More houses have been built across the area, and a number of former agricultural buildings have been converted to domestic use. A number of the larger houses have been converted into offices or hotels and another new hotel has been built. Two sports grounds have also been constructed. Blackdown Mill continued to function until the mid-1920s; the mill leat has now been infilled and the former mill building is business premises. A final recent development in 1982 saw the widening of Chesford Bridge as part of earlier improvements to the A452.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

- 4.1 The assessment corridor contains no Scheduled Ancient Monuments but fifteen archaeological sites, possible sites and findspots of material can be identified (Fig. 1). Transcripts of the full SMR entries are given in Appendix B.

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- 4.2 Of these sites, three are affected by the proposals:

Site of ford and medieval bridge at Chesford Bridge (SMR WA 1490)
Earthworks south of Dial House Farm (SMR WA 7189)
Site of Toll House (SMR WA 2598)

Another site, that of the late Saxon and medieval mills at Blackdown Mill (SMR WA 1491) lies close to the road but is probably not affected. The proposals will also affect some small areas of medieval ridge and furrow field system but these are too poorly preserved to constitute a significant constraint.

Site of ford and medieval bridge at Chesford Bridge (SMR WA 1490)

- 4.3 Chesford, as its name suggests, was an important river crossing point from early times. It was clearly in use in the medieval period and may have originated much earlier, possibly in Roman or even prehistoric times. Its importance is emphasised by the construction of a bridge relatively early in the middle ages. The first record of this bridge came in 1285 when it was in need of repair and it was disputed who was responsible for upkeep, and further litigation about repairs is recorded in 1313, 1353 and 1370, when an arch broke (Cooper 1940, 36; Sappcote 1953, 33). It was decided that the bridge was the responsibility of the Abbot of Combe and the causeway that of the inhabitants of the district. Further litigation is recorded between the 1630s and 1690s. Lord Craven of Combe Abbey repaired the bridge in 1664 but the causeways at either end were held to be the responsibility of the immediate parishes. There are references to a flood arch or arches to the east in 1664, which were totally ruined by 1682. The late 18th century picture of the bridge (Fig. 6) shows two semicircular arches separated by a wide pier with a flat pointed cutwater on the northern, upstream side, and buttressed side walls to

east and west. It is likely that this represents the much repaired but essentially medieval bridge. A series of excavations on either side of the road east of the bridge in August-September 1885 (Fig. 7; WRO CR 1652/3) unearthed a series of 'old posts' which were presumably piles for the causeway to the bridge.

- 4.4 The ford and medieval bridge do represent an important site of at least regional significance. However they will have both been largely destroyed by later activity. Remains of the original ford are likely to have been removed during the construction of the bridges, while those of the medieval bridge will have been mostly destroyed in 1892 during the construction of the new bridge. It has been suggested that the new bridge incorporated parts of the earlier one (Sapcote 1953, 33) and that remains of early piers are still visible in the river. However, the plans of 1892 (Fig. 8) show a wholly new structure. A certain quantity of rubble is visible in the river on the downstream side of the bridge but comparison of the 1884 and 1905 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps (Figs. 9 and 10) suggests that the new bridge lay exactly over the old one and this rubble is unlikely to represent in situ remains. The construction of the new flood arches in 1892 will have removed much of the evidence for the earlier timber piled causeway and the earlier flood arch or arches mentioned in the 17th century and earlier documents. However it is possible that traces of these may survive between the existing flood arches.
- 4.5 The proposals for the diversion of the river, alterations to the north east side of the existing bridge and the construction of a new bridge to the north east may affect surviving evidence for the early ford and medieval bridge and causeway. A programme of archaeological observation during sensitive earthmoving operations will be arranged to record any such evidence revealed.

Earthworks south of Dial House Farm (SMR WA 7189)

- 4.6 The field between Chesford Bridge and Dial House Farm is called 'The Dingles', probably because it contains a series of earthworks (Fig. 11). These consist of a series of shallow linear hollows running approximately north to south crossed by another curving linear hollow running north west to south east. The hollows deepen towards the river creating a series of upstanding platforms between them.
- 4.7 The explanation of these earthworks is not clear: they do not represent settlement earthworks and are too linear to be the result of quarrying. It is probable that they result from a number of operations of different dates. The north-south hollows perhaps relate to an early trackway or trackways from Ashow down to the river crossing. The east-west hollow however is more likely to be associated with the modern water pipe line which crosses the river in the east corner of the field. Some other elements of the earthworks may also be recent, created as part of a series of jumps for horse riding. The earthworks are therefore unlikely to represent an archaeological site of great importance.
- 4.8 The proposals will result in the destruction of small areas along the southern edge of the earthworks and along the river bank, an impact to be classed as negligible-slight. Again archaeological observation of earthmoving operations will be arranged to record any archaeological features revealed. In addition, restrictions would be written into

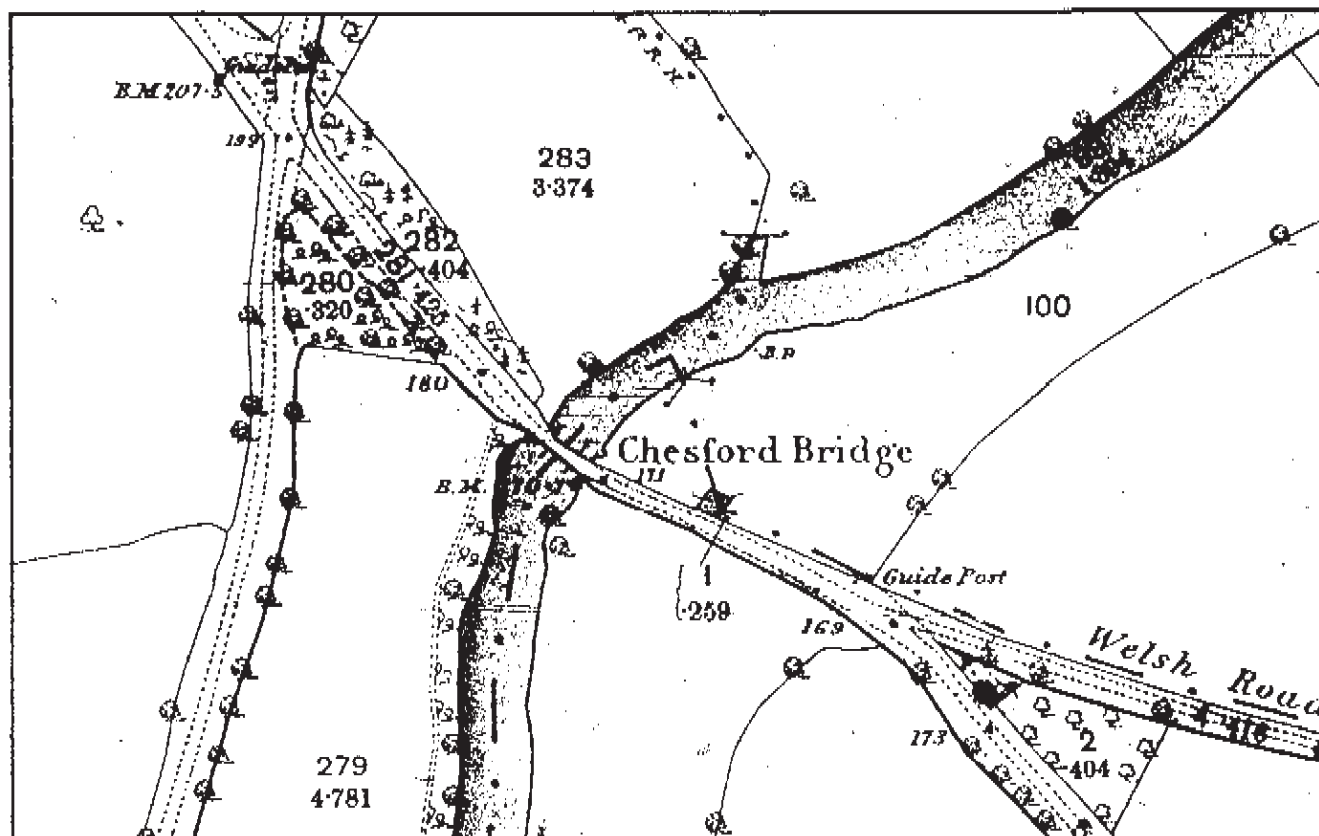


Fig. 9: Chesford Bridge, 1884 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500, 1st Ed)

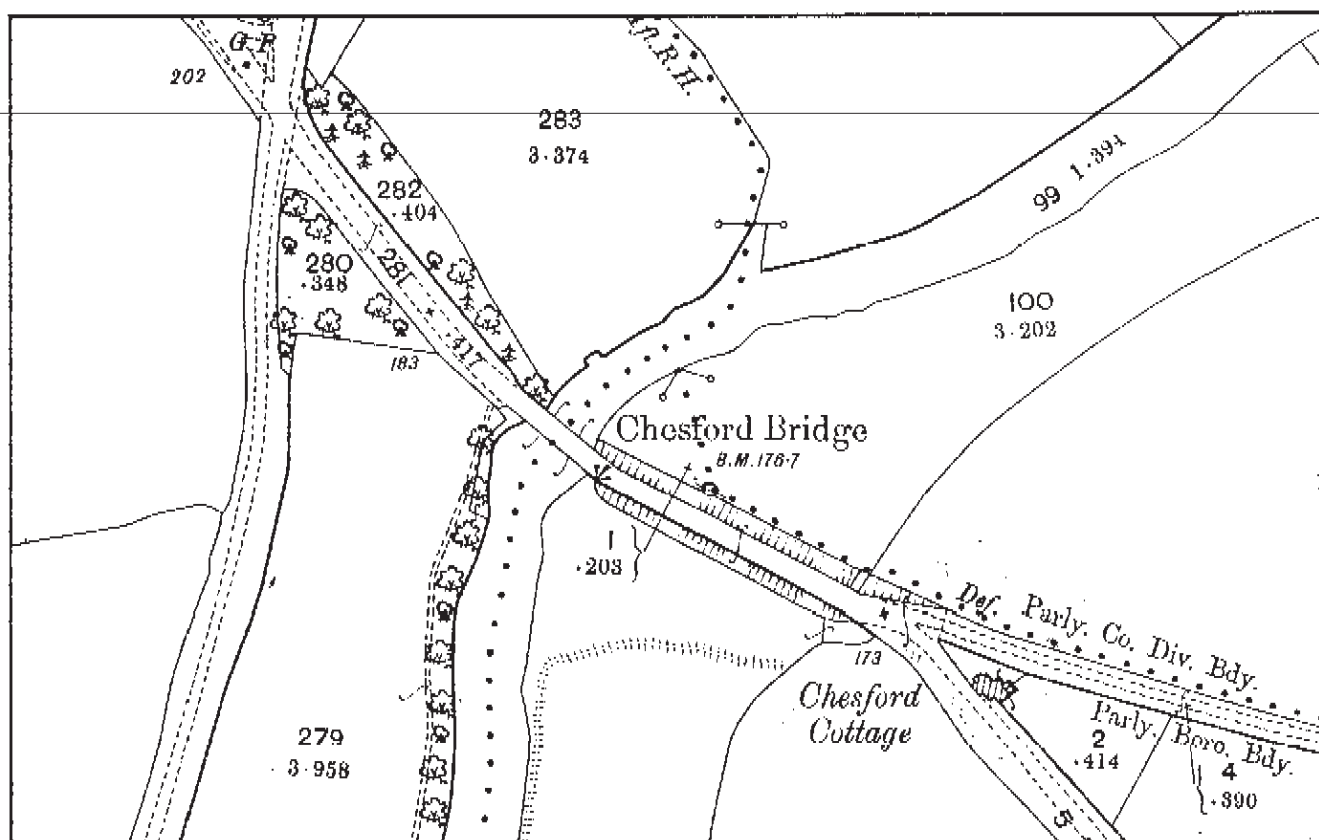


Fig. 10: Chesford Bridge, 1905 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500, 2nd Ed)



Fig. 11: Earthworks south of Dial House Farm (WA 7189)



Fig. 12: Gateway to Blackdown Manor (OB 1)

contract documents to prevent the contractor from using this field for site compounds, spoil heaps or other purposes which would disturb the earthworks.

Site of Toll House (SMR WA 2598)

- 4.9 The toll house is shown to the east of Chesford Bridge on a map of 1854 (Fig. 5, WRO CR 1562/3). It was an irregular cross-shaped building at the junction of the Leamington and Bericote roads with toll bars on both roads. The building's construction would have been contemporary with the turnpiking of the road. However the date of this is uncertain as the turnpike act for this road is not recorded (Cossins 1946), but it is likely to belong to the 18th or early 19th century. By 1884 the toll bars had been removed and the toll house had been demolished and replaced by another building, known as Chesford Cottage. Chesford Cottage is pictured on photographs of 1908 taken after one corner of the building had been demolished by a motor bus (Warwickshire Museum A3670, C1865). It was a small gabled, brick building. Chesford Cottage itself has been demolished within the last 20 years.
- 4.10 The impact of the proposals on the site of the toll house will be severe, resulting in its total destruction. However the site is of little significance, as it has already been largely destroyed. There are 23 toll houses recorded on the SMR in Warwickshire of which 10 survive as upstanding buildings. However this number is likely to be a small proportion of those that existed, as most of the main roads in the county were turnpiked in the 18th-19th centuries.

Site of the late Saxon and medieval mills at Blackdown Mill (WA 1491)

- 4.11 The site of the late Saxon and medieval mills which preceded the existing 18th and 19th century Blackdown Mill (SMR WA 1491) also lies close to the new road line. The first reference to a mill presumably in this location dates to the Domesday Survey of 1086. The mill remained in continuous use through the middle ages when it was owned by Combe Abbey (VCH 1951, 163). In 1596 two millers are recorded suggesting that there were two mills on the site and in 1650 there is a reference to two fulling mill stocks, the corn mill and the mill house (Ibid).
- 4.12 There is no definite evidence as to exactly where these buildings would have stood but the most likely position would be where the present mill stands or elsewhere along the dam to the mill stream. The former mill stream and pond have been infilled but are shown on 19th century maps (eg. Fig. 4). It is probable that the Kenilworth-Leamington road has always marked the north eastern limit of the mill site and therefore it is very unlikely that any early remains will be affected by the proposals.

5. BUILT HERITAGE

- 5.1 The assessment corridor contains no Conservation Areas or Registered Parks and Gardens but it does contain four Listed Buildings, all Grade II (Fig. 1, LB 1-4). There are also three unlisted buildings/structures of some interest that are affected by the proposals and require consideration (Fig. 1, OB 1-3).

LISTED BUILDINGS

- 5.2 The four Listed buildings in the corridor are:

Dial House Farmhouse, Stoneleigh Road (LB 1)
Blackdown Mill, Hill Wootton Road (LB 2)
Chesford Bridge, Kenilworth Road (LB 3)
Hill Wootton Bridge, Hill Wootton Road (LB 4)

Their full citations are given in Appendix C. Three of them, Dial House Farmhouse, Blackdown Mill and Chesford Bridge, are affected by the proposals.

Dial House Farmhouse (LB 1)

- 5.3 Dial House Farmhouse is a late 18th century red brick house with a tile roof. It consists of an original range of two storeys plus attic, with a two storied gabled extension to the north west and a second extension of two storeys and an attic to the south east. The farm is first shown on a map of 1776. It is surrounded by farm buildings most of which have recently been converted to housing.

- 5.4 The building will be affected by negligible visual intrusion and by a slight increase in traffic noise. Both these impacts would be mitigated by proposals for off site tree planting subject to the agreement of the landowner.

Blackdown Mill (LB 2)

- 5.5 The listed mill building is a mixture of 18th and 19th century date. The older part to the north is a three storey brick structure with a large wooden extension housing the waterwheel. There is a tall brick chimney to the rear. The later, southern part has two storeys and an attic with a brick ground floor and a weather boarded first floor. The mill is currently the premises of an antiques dealer. It is surrounded by other buildings which form quite an attractive group and screen it from the current (and proposed) road.
- 5.6 The current proposals do not affect the mill building directly but will result in slight increased noise.

Chesford Bridge (LB 3)

- 5.7 The existing Chesford Bridge was built in 1892 (rather than in the 18th century as suggested by the Listed Building citation) as a replacement for an earlier basically medieval structure (see above). It was widened in 1901. The bridge, the original plans for which survive (Fig. 8), is of

sandstone ashlar, with three semicircular arches with a string course at road level. It has parapets with plain copings and rectangular piers at each end. On the northern, upstream side, the two piers which are of differing widths have triangular cutwaters. On top of these are rectangular supports for a footway added in 1982.

- 5.8 The current proposals are to widen the bridge on the north side having first removed the widening carried out in 1982. The original facade will then be moved northwards and rebuilt on the widened structure. Although the listed structure will be substantially altered, its current appearance will be restored to something more approaching its original appearance. A separate new bridge is to be built on the north side which will obscure views of the listed bridge from the north east and intrude into views from the south west, causing moderate-severe visual intrusion.

OTHER BUILDINGS OF INTEREST

- 5.9 The three unlisted buildings/structures of interest that are affected by the proposals are:

The Gateway to Blackdown Manor (OB 1)
Walcote, formerly Wallercote, House, Blackdown (OB 2)
Jephson House, formerly Wicksted House, Blackdown (OB 3)

The Gateway to Blackdown Manor (OB 1)

- 5.10 The gateway to Blackdown Manor is of sandstone and consists of two square gateposts with low pyramidal tops set back from the road and each linked to a larger gatepost of similar design at the corners of the drive by a low, outward curving open balustrade surmounted by a ridged coping. The driveway entrance has a kerb of reused granite kerbstones. The gate currently contains a modern metal farm gate with metal gate posts. The gateway is probably shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (Fig. 4) and is presumably of 19th century date.
- 5.11 The road proposals require the demolition of the gateway, but it could be re-erected to the north east, subject to the landowner's consent and the design of the new drive. (See also Part 8).

Walcote, formerly Wallercote, House, Blackdown (OB 2)

- 5.12 This is a large Victorian house built between 1840 and 1884. It is currently used for offices. It has some local significance as part of the late Victorian development of large villas at Blackdown which took place after the creation of the modern Kenilworth Road north of Leamington.
- 5.13 The proposals would take a strip approximately 20m wide of the garden to the rear of the house. This represents a slight-moderate impact in cultural heritage terms, which would be mitigated, with the consent of the landowner, by proposals for off-site planting. (See Part 5 for Landscape effects).

Jephson House, formerly Wicksted House, Blackdown (OB 3)

- 5.14 Like Walcote House, Jephson House, formerly Wicksted House, was built between 1840 and 1884, and is also of local interest as part of the late Victorian development of large villas at Blackdown. The house has been enlarged considerably since 1884 with a series of modern flat roofed extensions and its grounds have also been considerably expanded. The house is also currently used as offices.
- 5.15 The proposals would take a strip approximately 15m wide of the garden to the rear of the house. This represents a slight-moderate impact which would be mitigated, with the consent of the landowner, by proposals for off-site planting. (See Part 5 for Landscape effects).

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The road corridor contains no Scheduled Ancient Monuments but fifteen archaeological sites, possible sites and findspots can be identified within it. Of these three are affected by the proposals. Some remains of the medieval ford and bridge at Chesford Bridge may be disturbed but a programme of archaeological observation during construction is proposed as mitigation. The site of an 18th/19th century toll house east of Chesford Bridge will be destroyed, although it is likely that the remains of the structure have already been substantially removed by earlier activity. An area of earthworks south of Dial House Farm will be marginally affected. Earthmoving in this area would also be subject to archaeological observation and restrictions written into the contract documents would prevent the contractor from using the adjoining area for purposes which would disturb the earthworks. The proposals will also affect some small areas of medieval ridge and furrow field system but these are too poorly preserved to constitute a significant constraint.
- 6.2 There are no Conservation Areas or Registered Parks and Gardens in the road corridor but it does contain four Listed Buildings, all Grade II. Of these, three are affected by the proposals. The existing 19th century Chesford Bridge will be partially demolished although its facade will be re-erected; it will also suffer moderate-severe visual intrusion from a new bridge to its north. Dial House Farmhouse will suffer negligible visual intrusion, and, it and Blackdown Mill will suffer slight increased noise. The effects to Dial House Farmhouse will be mitigated by proposals for off-site planting, subject to the consent of the landowner.
- 6.3 Among unlisted buildings of interest, the stone gateway to Blackdown Manor will be demolished, and two later 19th century houses, Walcote House and Jephson (formerly Wickstead) House, which exemplify the Victorian development of Blackdown, will lose small sections of their gardens, a slight-moderate impact. Subject to the landowners' consent the gateway could be re-erected and the effects to the Blackdown houses mitigated by on- and off-site planting proposals.

Appendix A: Bibliography and Sources consulted

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VCH 1951 *Victoria History of Warwickshire, Vol VI, Knightlow Hundred*, London

A.2 Sources consulted

A.2.1 Repositories

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Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England Air
Photograph Collection - Swindon

Warwick District Council Listed Buildings Section

Warwick Library Local History Section

Warwickshire County Record Office

Warwickshire Museum Air Photograph Collection

Warwickshire Museum Sites and Monuments Record

Warwickshire Museum Photograph Collection

A.2.2 Early Maps:

(CRO Warwickshire County Record Office)

Ashow Parish

Plan of the Leigh Estates in Ashow, 1597 (CRO Z141/1-2U)

Survey of the Leigh Estates in Ashow, 1649 (CRO Z159L)

Plan of Ashow Parish and Stoneleigh Abbey, being part of the Leigh
Estates, c.1777 (CRO Z139/5U)

Ashow Tithe Apportionment 1843 (CRO CR569/13)

Blackdown Parish (Lillington Parish)

Lillington Manor and Parish by James Fish, 1711 (CRO CR 26/2/4,
printed in Cooper 1940)

Plan of the Earl of Warwick's Estate, 1806 (CRO Z276/2U)

Lillington Tithe Apportionment, 25th October 1839 (CRO
CR569/163/1)

Plan of part of Lillington and Milverton Parishes by John Moore, 1830s
(CRO Z514/U)

Old Milverton Parish

Old Milverton Parish Inclosure Award, 1807 (CRO QS75/77)

Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe Parish

Leek Wootton Parish Inclosure Award, 1822 (CRO DR38/13)

Chesford Bridge Plans, 1854, 1884 & 1892 (CRO CR1562/3)

Kenilworth Parish

The manor of Redfern and part of the Manor of Kenilworth, survey and plan by James Fish, 1692 (CRO CR143a)

Reconstructed map to accompany the 1757 Kenilworth Inclosure Award, 1976 (CRO Z476U)

General

Ordnance Survey 1831/4 1in to 1 mile 1st edition

Ordnance Survey 1884 1:2500 1st edition, *Warwickshire Sheets 26.14, 26.15, 33.2, 33.3, 33.7*

Ordnance Survey 1886 1:10560 1st edition, *Warwickshire Sheets 26SW, 26SE, 33NW, 33NE*

Ordnance Survey 1905 1:2500 2nd Edition, *Warwickshire Sheets 26.14, 26.15, 33.2, 33.3, 33.7*

Ordnance Survey 1925 1:2500, *Warwickshire Sheets 26.14, 26.15, 33.2, 33.3, 33.7*

A.2.3 Prints, Views and Photographs:

Chesford Bridge, c.1790, painting in Aylesford Collection, Birmingham Library (copy in CRO PV. WOO. LEE. Ches 1)

Chesford Bridge, 1824, pencil drawing, from a scrap book by Phoebe Parkes (CRO Lib A Par)

Chesford Bridge, 1955, photograph of approach and roadway (CRO PH 329/C9/55/1)

Chesford Bridge, 1956, 6 photographs of damage to parapet (CRO PH 329/C9/56/1-6)

Chesford Bridge, 1963, photograph of downstream elevation; 1966, 2 photographs of flood debris; 1960s, 4 photographs of road & parapets (CRO PH 329/C9)

Chesford Cottage, 1908, postcard "Scene of Motor Bus Accident" (Warwickshire Museum A3760)

Chesford Cottage, 3rd August 1908, photograph of damage (Warwickshire Museum C1865)

A.2.4 Air Photographs:

Oblique

<i>SMR Ref</i>	<i>NMR Ref</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Photographer</i>
SP2969/B	SP2969/01	21/07/71	J. Pickering
SP2969/D	SP2969/03	29/06/71	J. Pickering
SP2970/A	SP2970/02	21/07/71	J. Pickering
SP2970/B	SP2970/01	21/07/71	J. Pickering
SP3068/A		30/06/76	Cambridge University
SP3169/A	SP3169/01	29/06/71	J. Pickering

WCC P&T 1-13

WCC Survey for road

Vertical

<i>NMR Ref</i>	<i>Sortie</i>	<i>Frames</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Photographer</i>
274	106/UK/1333	5063, 5210-5213, 7063	29/03/46	MoD
362	106G/UK/1539	3250-3254, 3256-3259, 4167-4172, 4249-4254	23/05/46	MoD
449	106G/UK/1698	2232-2237, 4226, 5232-5237	27/08/46	MoD
596	CPE/UK/1994	2320-2323	13/04/47	MoD
966	541/215	3029-3032, 4017-4021, 4028-4033	15/12/48	MoD
2216	58/2952 F21	139 142	18/06/59	MoD
2216	58/2952 F22	46-49	18/06/59	MoD
11763	OS 63/131	28-32, 35-39, 75-79	09/06/63	OS
10892	OS 65/033	57-62, 76-81, 93-96	09/04/65	OS
10893	OS 65/174	39-43, 69-79	13/08/65	OS
10863	OS 67/227	60-64, 76-83	17/06/67	OS
4868	MAL/67075	116-122, 134-140	05/08/67	
5479	MAL/69006	197-210	01/02/69	
6480	MAL/69007	7-13	01/02/69	
5481	MAL/69008	36-39	01/02/69	

Appendix B: Archaeological Sites within the 1km corridor recorded on the Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record

SMR No. 1489
Site Name
District Warwick
Parish Blackdown
NGR SP307696
Form Find
Period Prehistoric
Type Flint Object
Subtype

Description
 Find of Prehistoric flint.

<1> Worked flints. Between Leamington and Cubbington roads, opposite Blackdown Mill. Private collection.

<1> /Desc Text /Thomas N /1974 /TBAS /Vol 86 /p22 /WMB /Y /

SMR No. 1490
Site Name Chesford Bridge
District Warwick
Parish Blackdown
NGR SP30306986
Form Other Structure
Period Medieval
Type Bridge
Subtype

Description: A Medieval/Post Medieval bridge.

<1> Chesford Bridge is recorded in 1285 when it was in need of repair. It is also recorded in 1313. In 1353 the bridge was not 'in decay'. In 1370 there was an arch broken.

<2> The bridge is also recorded in 1663. Early last century during repairs to the bridge part of it collapsed while a wagon load of stone was being carried across it.

<3> Circa C18 sandstone ashlar bridge over the River Avon. Three semicircular arches with string course at road level. Parapets with plain copings and rectangular piers at each end.

<4> The bridge requires a site visit.

<1> /Desc Text /Dugdale W /1730 //Antiq of Warwicks /p268 /WMB /Y /

<2> /Desc Text /Cooper W /1940 //Lillington /p36 /CRO /Y /

<3> /Desc Text //1987 /LBL /Warwick /p51 /WMB /Y /

<4> /Pers Com /RCH /1989 //////

SMR No. 1491
Site Name Blackdown Mill
District Warwick
Parish Blackdown
NGR SP31086911
Form Building
Period Medieval
Type Mill-Water
Subtype

Description: Remains of a watermill.

<1> A mill, probably this site, is recorded in 1086. Later it became the property of Coombe Abbey. Information on ownership exists for the C16-20. The mill operated until the mid 1920s. The buildings are now the premises of an antiques dealer.

<2> The mill is a mixture of C18 and C19 buildings. The older part is a three-storey brick structure with a large wooden extension housing the waterwheel. The appearance of this building has been considerably altered this century. The waterwheel is in place, but most of the machinery has been removed. In the yard behind the mill are traces of a steam engine which was installed in the mid C19.

<1> /Desc Text /Booth D T N /1978 / /Warwicks Watermills /p38 /WMB /Y /

<2> /Desc Text / /1960 /LBL / / /WMB /N /

SMR No.	2549
Site Name	
District	Warwick
Parish	Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
NGR	SP30976912
Form	Find
Period	Romano British
Type	Pottery Find
Subtype	

Description: Find of Roman pottery.

<1> On the shore silts of the River Avon, two pieces of Romano British pottery found by W Gibbons, 1958.

<1> /Map /JMM / /WM /Annotated Map /33NE /WMB /Y /

SMR No.	2552
Site Name	Possible Site of Heath Deserted Medieval Settlement
District	Warwick
Parish	Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
NGR	SP30156950
Form	Documentary
Period	Medieval
Type	Deserted Settlement
Subtype	

Description: Site of possible deserted Medieval settlement.

<1> The hamlet of Heath was probably in what is now called Hill Wootton but part of it stood on the other side of the Holbroke.

<2> Holbroke is now Cattle Brook. The map in Dugdale places Heath around the above grid reference. The area indicated is grass covered and there is no trace of depopulation.

<1> /Desc Text /Dugdale W /1730 / /Antiq of Warwicks /p271 /WMB /Y /

<2> /Desc Text / /1961 /OS /SP36NW19 / /WMB /Y /

SMR No.	2570
Site Name	
District	Warwick
Parish	Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
NGR	SP299702
Form	Circumstantial
Period	Romano British
Type	Villa
Subtype	

Description: Supposed site of a Roman villa.

<1> Possible Roman villa at the above grid reference.

<2> The field when visited was under crop and there is no available evidence to support the identification.

<1> /Desc Text /WJF / WM /Consultancy Maps /27 /WMB /Y /

<2> /Desc Text /BP /1983 /WMSMR /PRN 2570 / WMB /Y /

SMR No.	2585
Site Name	Site of poss. water mill 400M NE of Blackdown Manor
District	Warwick
Parish	Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
NGR	SP30266942
Form	Documentary
Period	Medieval
Type	Mill-Water
Subtype	

Description: Site of poss. water mill 400M NE of Blackdown Manor

<1> Dugdale mentions a mill called Yartford Mill as being part of Hill Wootton, but gives no indication of its location.

<2> There is some evidence to suggest there might have been a mill along Cattle Brook where it converges with the Avon - a quantity of sandstone building rubble in and alongside the stream, a heavy concentration of footpaths leading to this area, and a location suitable for a mill.

<3> This may be the mill later referred to as 'Woodmyll' at the Dissolution which together with the fields and meadows of 'Yatesford' were granted to James Cruce. There is another possible location for Yateford Mill at SP294 677 - see WA2537.

<1> /Desc Text /Dugdale /1656 /Ants. of Warks. / p270/ WMB /n /

<2> /Site Visit /BP /1983 / / / / /

<3> /Desc Text / / VCH /Vol. 6 /p168 /WMB /n /

SMR No.	2590
Site Name	Site of Bericote Deserted Medieval Settlement
District	Warwick
Parish	Ashow
NGR	SP310699
Form	Documentary
Period	Medieval
Type	Deserted Settlement
Subtype	

Description: Site of a deserted Medieval settlement.

<1> By 1542 it had been reduced to a grange of Stoneleigh, of which it had once been a hamlet, with sixteen persons in Edward I's time. There is a Bericote Wood flanking the Avon. At the N end of Lillington parish, near the Ashow boundary, was Berrycoats Pit furlong, shown in the strip-map of 1711. This indicates that the name may have been applied to that part of Ashow parish over the river from Ashow.

<2> Nothing to be seen of the archaeology of the site (D), period of desertion known, but documentary evidence inferior in quantity (1).

<3> Berricote Close and Berricote Meadows centred on above grid reference.

<4> Shown and described as Bericote - Depopulated Village, at approximately this grid reference on Beighton's map. 1951: No further information as to the exact site. Field name of Town Meadow taken from the 1839 Tithe Award map. Field under crop. 1961: Town Meadow is floodplain and under grass.

<5> There is some evidence in the fields surrounding Bericote Farm that the lost village could have been situated here - ie ridge and furrow, several footpaths converging and a possible hollow way near the farm. A possible mill site has also been found (WA 2582).

<1> /Desc Text /Beresford M /1945 /TBAS /Vol 66 /p100 /WMB /N /

<2> /Desc Text / /1958 /DMVRG /Report 6 / WMB /Y /

<3> /Map /JMM / WM /Annotated Map / WMB /Y /

<4> /Desc Text / /1961 /OS /SP36NW4 / WMB /Y /

<5> /Desc Text /BP /1983 /WMSMR /PRN 2590 / WMB /Y /

SMR No. 2598
Site Name Site of Imperial Tollhouse 100 M SE of Chesford Bridge
District Warwick
Parish Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
NGR SP30676970
Form Site of
Period Imperial
Type Toll House
Subtype

Description: Site of an Imperial tollhouse.

<1> Tollhouse marked at the junction of the A452 and B4115. There were tollpoints on both of these roads.

<2> No trace remains today.

<1> /Map //1884 //Chesford Bridge //CRO /N /

<2> /Desc Text /BP /1983 /WMSMR /PRN 2598 /WMB /Y /

SMR No. 3674
Site Name Flint arrowhead from Blackdown
District Warwick
Parish Blackdown
NGR SP314693
Form Find
Period Neolithic
Type Flint Object
Subtype

Description: Find of a Neolithic/Bronze Age arrowhead.

<1> Neolithic/Bronze Age arrowhead from Blackdown.

<2> Brought in for identification by H Sunley in January 1982.

<3> Now in Warwick Museum.

<1> /Drawing // /WM // /WMBFI 3674 /Y /

<2> /Desc Text //1982 /WM /Enquiry Form /1287 /WMBFI 3675 /Y /

<3> /Desc Text // /WM /Accession Card /4030 /WMB /N /

SMR No. 3675
Site Name
District Warwick
Parish Blackdown
NGR SP314693
Form Find
Period Mesolithic
Type Flint Object
Subtype

Description: Find of a Mesolithic flint axehead.

<1> A Mesolithic flint axehead from Blackdown brought into the Museum by H Sunley. This is a Mesolithic axe-head. The end opposite the cutting edge is pointed rather like a pick. It is possible that it was used as a pick as well as an axe.

<1> /Desc Text /Clayton B /1982 //Enquiry Form /1287 /WMBFI 3675 /Y /

<2> /Desc Text // /Accession Card /4029 /WMB /N /

SMR No. 7182
Site Name Worked flint found during fieldwalking
District Warwick
Parish Ashow

NGR SP301701
Form Find
Period Prehistoric
Type Flint Object
Subtype

Description

<1> Two fragments of worked flint found in this field during fieldwalking.

<1> /Note /Chadderton J /1994 /A452 Assessment / /WMB /Y /

SMR No. 7183
Site Name Worked flint found during fieldwalking
District Warwick
Parish Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
NGR SP300700
Form Find
Period Prehistoric
Type Flint Object
Subtype

Description

<1> Three fragments of worked flint were found in this field during fieldwalking.

<1> /Note /Chadderton J /1994 /A452 Assessment / /WMB /Y /

SMR No. 7187
Site Name Worked Flint found during fieldwalking
District Warwick
Parish Ashow
NGR SP306698
Form Find
Period Prehistoric
Type Flint Object
Subtype

Description

<1> One piece of worked flint was found in this field during fieldwalking.

<1> /Note /Chadderton J /1994 /A452 Assessment /
/WMB /Y /

SMR No. 7189
Site Name Earthworks visible on AP
District Warwick
Parish Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
NGR SP303699
Form Earthwork
Period Undated
Type Earthworks
Subtype Hollow Way

Description

<1> Visible on APs and on the ground. Possible hollow way leading to a ford.

<1> /AP /RAF /1959 /F22582952 / /WMB /Y /

Appendix C: Listed Buildings Citations

6/20 Dial House Farmhouse Stoneleigh Road, Ashow

Grade II

Circa late C18 red brick house. Steeply pitched plain tile roof with gabled ends. Brick modillion eaves cornice. Two storeys and attic with slightly later two-storeyed gabled wing at right angles to main elevation. Segmental-headed window openings with three light casements with glazing bars. Six flush panel door. Two brick chimney stacks.

11/123 Hill Wootton Bridge Hill Wootton Road, Blackdown

Grade II

Small circa late C18/early C19 bridge over the River Avon. Two semicircular arches with keyblocks and string course at road level. Parapets with plain copings and square piers at each end. Partly rebuilt in circa late C19 brick.

11/124 Blackdown Mill Hill Wootton Road, Blackdown

Grade II (First listed 26.4.84)

Mill, C18 with C19 additions, but with earlier foundations. Brick, with moulded stone eaves cornice to C18 portion (four bays to left). The C19 portion (four bays to right) is brick to ground floor and with weatherboarded first floor. C18 portion has steeply pitched plain tile roof with gabled ends, the C19 portion has a slate roof, hipped at south. Two storeys and attic. Square fixed lights with glazing bars, apart from a centrally placed tall single light window with lattice glazing and a rusticated stone flat arch lintel. Below the window miniature three-bay round arched arcade and below again, an elliptical stone arch over the mill stream, and enclosing a grille through which the water wheel can be seen in position. Two C19 arcaded balconies at first floor level, each supported on a pair of octagonal posts. Gabled hoist projecting from roof in centre. Tall brick chimney stack at rear.

11/125 Chesford Bridge Kenilworth Road, Blackdown

Grade II

Circa C18 sandstone ashlar bridge over the River Avon. Three semicircular arches with string course at road level. Parapets with plain copings and rectangular piers at each end.



Fig. 13: Key to 300m corridor field information

Appendix D: Information on the fields within the 300m corridor

(Fieldwork undertaken March 1994)

Field No - 1
Parish - Ashow
Field name - Thickthorn Wood
Geology - Ashow Formation
Landuse - Woodland
Ridge and Furrow - None
Earthworks - Cutting for the A46 Kenilworth by-pass
Sites/finds - None

Field No - 2
Parish - Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
Field name - Bullimore Wood
Geology - Ashow Formation
Landuse - Woodland
Ridge and Furrow - None
Earthworks - Cutting for the A46 Kenilworth by-pass

Field No - 3
Parish - Ashow
Field name - Satchel de Eye
Geology - Ashow Formation
Landuse - Arable (freshly planted)
Ridge and Furrow - Barely visible on APs, non existent on ground
Earthworks - Boundary with field 4 survives as hollow
Sites/finds - None

Field No - 4
Parish - Ashow/Leek Wootton and Guyscliffe
Field name - Hoves Close
Geology - Ashow Formation
Landuse - Arable (freshly planted)
Ridge and Furrow - Barely visible on APs, non existent on ground.
Earthworks - Boundary with field 3 survives as a hollow
Sites/finds - Fieldwalking; 2 fragments worked flint (WA 7182), 4 fragments hand made roof tile, 56 sherds post medieval pottery

Field No - 5
Parish - Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
Field name - Not known
Geology - Ashow Formation
Landuse - Arable (freshly planted), includes Bullimore Lodge.
Ridge and Furrow - None
Earthworks - None
Sites/finds - Fieldwalking; 3 fragments worked flint (WA 7183), 5 fragments hand made roof tile, 31 sherds post medieval pottery, 1 fragment slag, 1 fragment clay pipe. Also the site of a doubtful Romano-British villa (WA 2570).

Field No - 6
Parish - Ashow
Field name - Home Close
Geology - Ashow Formation and Second river terrace
Landuse - Pasture
Ridge and Furrow - Visible on APs and on ground
Earthworks - None
Sites/finds - Includes Dial House Farm, a listed building (LB 1).

Field No - 7
Parish - Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
Field name - The Dingles
Geology - Ashow Formation and Second river terrace
Landuse - Pasture
Ridge and Furrow - None

Earthworks - Linear hollows visible on APs and on ground. Possible
hollow ways leading to ford (WA 7189)
Sites/finds -

Field No - 8
Parish - Ashow
Field name - Home Meadow
Geology - Alluvium
Landuse - Pasture
Ridge and Furrow - None
Earthworks - None
Sites/finds - None

Field No - 9
Parish - Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
Field name - Not Known
Geology - Ashow Formation
Landuse - Hotel grounds and car park
Ridge and Furrow - None
Earthworks - None
Sites/finds - Possible mill at the S end of the field, but outside the
300m corridor (WA 2585). Also the possible location of Heath deserted medieval
settlement (WA 2552)

Field No - 10
Parish - Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
Field name - Not known
Geology - Ashow Formation
Landuse - Under cultivation
Ridge and Furrow - Barely visible on APs, none existent on the ground.
Earthworks - None
Sites/finds - None

Field No - 11
Parish - Ashow
Field name - Chesford Meadow
Geology - Alluvium
Landuse - Pasture
Ridge and Furrow - None
Earthworks - Slight, possibly end of R and F from field 13. Some
modern disturbance.
Sites/finds - None

Field No - 12
Parish - Blackdown
Field name - Great Chesford Meadow
Geology - Alluvium
Landuse - Pasture
Ridge and Furrow - None
Earthworks - Slight and mostly modern, eg a pipe trench, though one
ridge probably remains of flood barrier shown on the OS map of 1884.
Sites/finds - None

Field No - 13
Parish - Ashow
Field name - Chesford Close
Geology - First river terrace
Landuse - Arable (stubble)
Ridge and Furrow - Visible on APs, non existent on ground
Earthworks - None
Sites/finds - Fieldwalking; 1 fragment worked flint (WA 7187), 40
sherds post medieval pottery

Field No - 14
Parish - Blackdown
Field name - Second Chesford Close
Geology - First river terrace

Landuse	- Arable (stubble). Includes Motel and carparking
Ridge and Furrow	- None
Earthworks	- None
Sites/finds	- None

Field No	- 15
Parish	- Ashow
Field name	- Squire(?) Close
Geology	- Ashow Formation
Landuse	- Arable
Ridge and Furrow	- Visible on AP. None existent on the ground.
Earthworks	- None
Site/finds	- None

Field No	- 16
Parish	- Blackdown
Field name	- The Three Cornered Close
Geology	- First and Second river terrace
Landuse	- Pasture and waste. Western corner contained the Toll House and the later Victorian cottage.
Ridge and Furrow	- None
Earthworks	- Slight and of uncertain derivation. Also two pools. NW pool and earthworks may be remains of quarrying, ('with ground holes'-Tithe Apportionment, 1839)
Sites/finds	- WA 2598

Field No	- 17
Parish	- Blackdown
Field name	- The Barn Close
Geology	- Ashow Formation
Landuse	- Pasture
Ridge and Furrow	- None on the AP but slight remains over most of field
Earthworks	- No indications. Map of 1854 shows a sizeable quarry in the S half of the field
Sites/finds	- WA 1489, Isolated find of prehistoric worked flints

Field No	- 18
Parish	- Blackdown
Field name	- First Chesford Close
Geology	- First and Second river terrace
Landuse	- Pasture
Ridge and Furrow	- Visible on APs, only slight remains on ground in NE half of the field
Earthworks	- 'with ground holes', Tithe Apportionment, 1839.
Sites/finds	-

Field No	- 19
Parish	- Blackdown
Field name	- Little Chesford Meadow
Geology	- Alluvium
Landuse	- Pasture
Ridge and Furrow	- None
Earthworks	- None
Sites/finds	- None

Field No	- 20
Parish	- Blackdown
Field name	- Second Home Close
Geology	- Ashow Formation
Landuse	- Pasture
Ridge and Furrow	- None
Earthworks	- None
Sites/finds	- None

Field No	- 21
Parish	- Blackdown
Field name	- Meadow including Mawhy Piece
Geology	- Second river terrace

Landuse - Pasture
 Ridge and Furrow - None
 Earthworks - None
 Sites/finds - None

Field No - 22
 Parish - Blackdown
 Field name - Garden SW of Mill House
 Geology - Alluvium
 Landuse - Garden (lawn)
 Ridge and Furrow - None
 Earthworks - Infall for Blackdown Mill pond on the SW side
 Sites/finds - WA 1491

Field No - 23
 Parish - Blackdown
 Field name - Butchers Close
 Geology - Ashow Formation
 Landuse - Playing Field
 Ridge and Furrow - None
 Earthworks - None
 Sites/finds - None

Field No - 24
 Parish - Blackdown
 Field name - Spring Close
 Geology - Ashow Formation
 Landuse - Playing field
 Ridge and Furrow - Possible R and F visible on APs, none existent on the ground
 Earthworks - 'with pit', Tithe Appointment, 1839
 Sites/finds - WA 3674 & WA 3675, Mesolithic flint axe head and Neolithic/Bronze Age flint arrowhead

Field No - 25
 Parish - Blackdown
 Field name - The Croft
 Geology - River terrace
 Landuse - Pasture/overgrown
 Ridge and Furrow - None
 Earthworks - Mound at NW end of field probably relatively modern, possibly associated with mill
 Sites/finds - WA 1491

Field No - 26
 Parish - Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
 Field name - Blackdown Meadow
 Geology - Alluvium
 Landuse - Pasture
 Ridge and Furrow - None
 Earthworks - None
 Sites/finds - None

Field No - 27
 Parish - Blackdown
 Field name - Part of Spring Hill
 Geology - Ashow Formation
 Landuse - Pasture/overgrown
 Ridge and Furrow - None
 Earthworks - Ridge, possibly headland, visible on ground
 Sites/finds - None

Field No - 28
 Parish - Blackdown
 Field name - Part of Spring Hill
 Geology - Ashow Formation
 Landuse - Pasture

Ridge and Furrow the ground	- Barely visible on APs in W part of field. None existent on
Earthworks	- None
Sites/finds	- None

Field No	- 29
Parish	- Old Milverton
Field name	- Part of Blackdown Field
Geology	- River terrace
Landuse	- Pasture
Ridge and Furrow	- None
Earthworks	- None
Sites/finds	- None

Field No	- 30
Parish	- Old Milverton
Field name	- Part of Blackdown Field
Geology	- Ashow Formation, Bromsgrove sandstone and mudstone
Landuse	- House grounds and gardens
Ridge and Furrow	- None
Earthworks	- None
Sites/finds	- Victorian buildings

Field No	- 31
Parish	- Old Milverton
Field name	- Part of Blackdown Field
Geology	- Bromsgrove sandstone and mudstone (Ashow Formation beside the river)
Landuse	- Pasture/overgrown
Ridge and Furrow of field	- Visible on APs, on the ground remains visible over most
Earthworks	- None
Sites/finds	- None

Field No	- 32
Parish	- Old Milverton
Field name	- Part of Blackdown Field
Geology	- Bromsgrove sandstone
Landuse	- Arable
Ridge and Furrow	- Visible on APs, none existent on the ground
Earthworks	- None
Sites/finds	- None

Field No	- 33
Parish	- Leek Wootton and Guys Cliffe
Field name	- Ashow Meadow
Geology	- Alluvium
Landuse	- Pasture
Ridge and Furrow	- None
Earthworks	- None
Sites/finds	- None

Field No	- 34
Parish	- Old Milverton
Field name	- Part of Lowes Hill Field
Geology	- Bromsgrove sandstone
Landuse	- Pasture
Ridge and Furrow	- None
Earthworks	- None
Sites/finds	- None

Field No	- 35
Parish	- Old Milverton
Field name	- Part of Lowes Hill Field
Geology	- Bromsgrove sandstone
Landuse	- House and gardens
Ridge and Furrow	- None

Earthworks - None
Sites/finds - None

Field No - 36
Parish - Old Milverton
Field name - Part of Lowes Hill Field
Geology - Bromsgrove sandstone
Landuse - Hospital and car parking
Ridge and Furrow - None
Earthworks - None
Sites/finds - None

Field No - 37
Parish - Old Milverton
Field name - Part of Lowes Hill Field
Geology - Bromsgrove sandstone
Landuse - Pasture
Ridge and Furrow - Visible on APs, none existent on the ground
Earthworks - None
Sites/finds - None

Field No - 38
Parish - Old Milverton
Field name - Part of Lowes Hill Field
Geology - Bromsgrove sandstone
Landuse - Pasture
Ridge and Furrow - Visible on APs, none existent on the ground
Earthworks - Small circular quarry, now with trees
Sites/finds - None