HALESOWEN ABBEY

An Historical and Archæological Assessment

A report produced for
Dudley Metropolitan Borough
by Birmingham University Field Archæology Unit

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AN HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Introduction

In July 1985 Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council commisioned Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit to undertake a report on Halesowen Abbey. The report covers specific fields only, namely: A synopsis on the known history of the site, the documentation, description of the monument and its earthworks and a prediction of the nature and extent of the archaeological deposits. A number of post papers have covered some of the above aspects, some are far more detailed than those included in this report and will not benefit from reiteration here. This report is most important for the simple reason that it draws together past work and summarises the 'state of knowledge' to date. It is designed as such to be unemotional and as free of rhetoric as is possible.

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Acknowledgements

My grateful thanks are due to Lord and Lady Cobham for granting me free access to Manor Farm while I have been studying the Abbey site. Also to the Secretary of State for the Environment and to the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England for granting permission for geophysical survey on a Scheduled Monument, and to Alister Bartlett and Basil Turton for carrying out the survey. My grateful thanks, too, to Nina Jaffa for her invaluable help with the measured hachure survey and to Cathy Royle and Andy Copp for advice about setting up the survey. Also to everyone at B.U.F.A.U. who gave advice and encouragement, especially to Andrew Brooker-Carey, and to Ann Humphries and Rose Young for doing the typing.

Andrew P Marsden
October 1986

Note Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit is a professional archaeological unit housed within the University of Birmingham. It exists to carry out research excavation and presentation. For further information contact:

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Glossary

ADVOCATUS	The lay protector and patron of a monastic house.
ADVOWSON	The right of presentation to an ecclesiastical benefice or living
APPURTENANCE	A minor property, right or privilege belonging to another more important, and passing possession with it.
CORRODY	A grant of food and lodging for life.
CRENELLATE	To furnish with battlements
ESCHEAT	The legal term, in feudal law, whereby a fief presented to the lord (often the king) when the tenant died without a successor qualified to succeed under the original grant.
FEE-FARM	A tenure by which land is held in absolute possession subject to a perpetual fixed rent, without any other services.
FREE WARREN	The right, relating to a piece of land, of keeping or hunting certain beasts and fowls.
FRATER	The monastic refectory.
HERIOT	The sender of the best live beast or chattel of a deceased tenant due by legal custom to the lord of whom he held.
NAPRE	A storeroom for linen
PATER ABBAS	The 'father abbot' of a Premonstratensian house, usually the abbot of the house from which it was founded.
PREMONSTRATENSIANS	An order of reformed canons taking its name from the mother house of Premontre in Picardy, founded by St Norbert in 1119/20.
PRESBYTERY	The part of the eastern arm of a church between the choir and the high altar.
RELIEF	A payment made to the overloard by a feudal tenant on taking up possession of the vacant estate.
SCORIAE	The slag or dross remaining after the smelting out of a metal from its ore.

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Chapter I - Description of the Extant Monument

The Site

The site of Halesowen Abbey lies about 10 km to the south-west of Birmingham city centre and 1 km to the south-east of the town of Halesowen in the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley (fig 1). The abbey remains lie among the buildings of Manor Farm (SO 977828), which is approached by a private track from the A456 Halesowen By-Pass (Manor Way). As the A456 is a dual carriageway, access to the farm track may only be gained from the westbound carriageway. The abbey remains and farm buildings are situated upon a slight eminence or spur of land, which falls away quite sharply to the south into the valley of a stream which runs from east to west, joining a second stream at a point to the south-east of the farm buildings. This second stream runs northwards to the west of the farm complex to eventually join the river Stour in Halesowen town, and is also fed by a minor water course which runs through the flight of fishponds to the north of the farm complex. The site is therefore, well-watered, as one would expect for a monastic complex, and the ground in places is not well-drained. The surface geology of the whole area consists of sandstone and grey clays with thin seams of coal and Spirorbis limestone, while there are areas of alluvial deposit along the courses of the streams of the west and south of the farm complex (fig. 2).

The farm is mainly a dairy farm and the fields to the north and south of the farm complex (which contain earthworks of the abbey) are under pasture. The small field between the farm buildings and Manor Abbey Sports Ground is used for growing hay, while the large field immediately to the east of the farm complex is arable land, as is the field which lies between Manor Way and the northern flight of fishponds. Immediately to the east of the latter field there is a disused colliery, but this is well-screened by trees and completely fenced-off (fig. 3).

All the land described above (with the exception of Manor Abbey Sports Ground) belongs to Lord and Lady Cobham and forms part of the Hagley Estate. Previously the land was farmed by a tenant, but within the last year or so the tenant has moved out, and it would seem that the land is now farmed by Lord and Lady Cobham's bailiff (fig. 4).

An area which includes almost all the earthworks connected with the abbey ruins has been designated a Scheduled Monument (fig. 5). In addition to this, portions of the standing remains of the abbey, and the thirteenth-century building in the south-east corner of the farm complex are under the guardianship of the Secretary of State for the Environment (fig. 6).

The Monument (Plates 1 - 13)

a) The Farm Buildings and Standing Remains of the Abbey

The standing remains of the abbey consist of part of the north wall of the Presbytery of the church, the west and south walls of the South Transept, as well as a portion of the south, and possibly parts of the west wall of the building (usually the Refectory), with its undercroft, which formed the south range of the cloister. It is possible that the lower courses of the west wall of the barn which runs along the line of what would have been the south wall of the Nave of the Abbey Church (see fig. 7) are also medieval. It is certainly true that the medieval doorway from the nave of the church into the north-east corner of the cloister is built into this farm building, although it can only be seen from inside the barn, and no trace remains on the outside. Easily the most important of the standing remains, however, is the thirteenth-century building (until recently used as a barn) which lies about 50 m to the east of the main claustral complex.

The north wall of the Presbytery, the South Transept walls and the Refectory wall survive almost to their original height. In the Presbytery wall both jambs of a tall lancet window remain, with the western jamb of another to the east. The moulded corbels for rib-vaulting are also visible, while, on the exterior of the fragment, the north-east angle of the inner transept chapel can be seen. The west wall of the South Transept has two tall lancets similar in design to those in the Presbytery wall as well as the corbels and springing of the main vault in one bay. The south wall has been considerably patched with modern work, but two doorways, one above the other, which connected with the west range of the cloister, can be seen. The upper would have given access from the monks' dormitory, via the night stair, into the South Transept. The south wall of the Refectory consists of two ranges of windows, the lower range marking the vaulted undercroft and the upper range the Refectory, or Frater, which probably had a wooden roof. Five coupled lancets survive in the Frater wall above, while the undercroft was lit by small pointed windows. One bay from the east in the lower range are the traces of a internal wall which divided the undercroft, while to the west of this wall is a pointed doorway opening into what appears to have been a vaulted passage on the south.

The building to the east of the claustral complex has never been satisfactorily described in print and its building history is clearly complex. Although much of the building is thirteenth-century, it has suffered considerable alterations since then, not least the addition of the brickwork on the west gable end and the insertion of two large double-doors when it came to be used as a barn. Notable features of the building are the original transomed two-light upper windows, the corbelled fireplace in the south wall and the graveslab and stone panel depicting a knight built into the interior. It is

the building's two roofs, however, which are particularly fine, especially the western one which has four crown posts, two of them finely moulded. The latter roof, it has been suggested (Molyneux 1984, 50), dates to 1280-1310, and the other may well be of a similar date. Both are described in detail in an article by N.A.D. Molyneux (1984). At present the roof is covered with corrugated iron and the building supported by scaffolding put up by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission. At an earlier date internal buttresses of brick were inserted to help support the building, though when, or by whom, is not known.

The two major descriptions of the ruins in print are those of J.R. Holliday (1871) and in the Victoria History of the County of Worcestershire (1906, iii, 137-9). The latter adds little to Holliday's treatment, except in its more detailed description of the Frater wall. There is a manuscript plan by Holliday in Birmingham Reference Library, and printed plans by Brakspear (1906) and Somers (1932, facing p.8). Figure 8 is an attempt to combine details from these plans with the plan of the standing remains as they exist today.

As has been said, the extant remains of the abbey are now closely integrated with the working Manor Farm (fig. 7). There can be little doubt that they have suffered from this in terms of erosion. As the farmyard is not well-kept there is much vegetation around the ruins, and this, as well as the other buildings and discarded farmyard rubbish, makes a proper study of the stonework impossible at present. A central area around the cloister is also covered with a concrete floor (see fig. 7). There is a nineteenth-century farmhouse (now boarded-up) to the south of the Frater wall and most of the farm buildings are either modern or of the nineteenth century. The building already mentioned, however, along the south line of the abbey church, is probably seventeenth-century, judging from the construction of its roof, and would seem to contain much re-used abbey stone. The timbers employed in its internal construction, including the roof, are also re-used, and may well be medieval. There is also a small barn to the west of the Frater wall which has a pegged roof in its western portion, which may well date it to the seventeenth century. In fact, this western half, constructed of re-used abbey stone, used to be a separate building, for it is joined by an entirely secondary wall to what appears to be part of the west wall of the Frater. As confirmation of this, a wall-scar may be seen in the centre of the latter wall for a wall running on an east-west alignment. Around the farm-buildings, and the site in general, there is much discarded abbey stone, though this should not be confused with sandstone of later date along the farm track leading to Manor Way, which came, apparently, from Halesowen town gaol. The extant remains of the abbey are constructed throughout in local red sandstone, though some of the details are in yellow sandstone, for no apparent reason.

b) **The Earthworks**

The earthworks at Halesowen Abbey are best described in plan form (fig. 9) and will be considered in more detail later in connection with the archaeology of the site, but for completeness, a short description of them is included here.

To the north of the farm complex lies a prominent flight of probably as many as five major fishponds. They extend eastwards from the farm track leading to Manor Way for about 450 metres. Just south of these ponds, beginning at their eastern end, a system of shallow earthworks runs for about 300 metres before joining a more prominent bank and ditch feature, which runs for the rest of the length of the ponds and must be seen as part of a moat for the abbey precinct. There still exists a water-filled section of this moat to the east of the farm building, which would seem to have been joined by a channel to the northern section just described. This northern section of the moat can be seen to be continued on the other side of the farm track by traces of a moat feature which, on the evidence of the 1885 25" Ordnance Survey Map, originally joined a stretch of moat running from north to south on the west side of the abbey precinct. The abbey precinct was thus moated on three sides and had a steep natural drop on the fourth.

The valley to the south of the abbey precinct has been dammed in at least two places to create two large fishponds. A prominent double-ditch feature runs from the southernmost of these two ponds for about 190 metres to the south-west to join the valley of the main stream running from south to north. This feature would seem to be continued by a single bank on the western side of the main stream.

The field to the north of the double-ditch feature has traces of ridge and furrow and a shallow bank and ditch running along its western edge, directly in line with the present farmhouse. This feature appears to have an opening in it about two-thirds of the way along its length, with another bank running westwards to the valley side from this opening. The only other feature to be mentioned at this point is a short but quite steep bank which runs westwards from the north-west corner of the more northerly of the two fishponds to the south of the farm complex. It may well have enclosed another small pond.

Chapter 2 - Documentary Evidence for the Development of the Site

Introduction

In considering the development of the site of the Abbey it is necessary to realise the limitations placed upon such a study by the extant documentation. Apart from scattered references in Crown documents, our main sources of information about the Abbey and its history are the register of Richard Redman, Abbot of Shap, a visitor of the order in England, 1459-1505 (Gasquet 1904-6), the Court Rolls of the Manor of Hales, 1270-1307 (Amphlett 1933; Wilson 1933) and various charters and other documents which survived in the Hagley Muniments and are now mainly to be found in Birmingham Reference Library. The visitation register and court rolls are very valuable for details of life at the Abbey, its relatiosnhip with the Premonstratensian Order in general, and the way in which the abbot's position as Lord of the Manor involved both him and the convent with the inhabitants of Halesowen. The charters in the Hagley Muniments detail, in the main, rights of the abbey to advowsons, grants of land, and leases by the abbey itself, as well as showing the steady growth of the abbey endowment. The abbey's cartulary, however, has been lost (Colvin 1957, 380) and with it, perhaps, some documentary evidence for the development of the site. Like all documentary evidence, that which we have is concentrated in particular areas and deals with the concerns of those writing at the time and not necessarily with the questions we should like to ask from our standpoint. Such as we can retrieve from the documentation about the development of the abbey site is, therefore, somewhat sketchy and incomplete. It can serve best as a background to, and perhaps as a means of testing, archaeological survey work and excavation on the site.

Early History of the Site

The manor of Hales belonged, before the Norman Conquest, to a certain Olwine, but was among the many lands granted by William I to Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury, after 1066. His two sons, Hugh and Robert de Beleme, held the manor successively, but it was forfeited to the Crown with all his other lands on Robert's rebellion in 1102. It was then granted by Henry II to his sister, Emma, who had married David ap Owen, Prince of North Wales, in 1174. There is some doubt about its history after this, though it would appear that Emma restored the manor in c.1193 to Richard I who granted her in exchange rents amounting to its yearly value from this and other manors, rents which she was still holding in 1202. There is, however, an entry in the Hundred Rolls which says that King John had held the manor as an escheat from a certain Owen, which, combined with the addition of the suffix "owen" to the name Hales had led to the suggestion that it passed to David's son Owen before escheating to the Crown (Holliday 1871a; VCH Worcs, iii).

Foundation of the Abbey

In 1214 King John gave the manor of Hales with all its appurtenances to Peter des Roches, his justiciar and Bishop of Winchester, "to build there a house of religion of whatever order he chooses" (Colvin 1951, 179). Peter duly founded a house of Premonstratensian canons, and his deed of foundation can be dated from the names of witnesses to between January and November 1215 (Colvin 1951, 179). John's grant of the manor to the canons was confirmed by him on 8 August 1215 and this was later to be reinforced when in 1251 the abbot and convent received from Henry III a grant of free warren in the manor. The new canons for Halesowen were to come from the existing Premonstratensian house at Welbeck in Nottinghamshire, and according to Bishop Redman's visitation register, they came to Halesowen on 26 April 1218 (Colvin 1951, 180).

Evidence for Building Works

Clearly there must have been buildings of some sort on the site in 1218 for the canons from Welbeck to have been able to move in, but these are likely to have been only wooden constructions, which would gradually be taken down as the abbey buildings could be put up in stone. In the Hundred Rolls for 1274 we find the statement that although King John had given the manor to Peter des Roches to found the religious house at Halesowen, it was his son King Henry who "first built the present abbey" (Colvin 1951, 180). We find confirmation for this in the Pipe Rolls which record payments by the king to Peter des Roches of £17 6s 8d yearly from 1218 towards the building of the abbey; these payments were still being made to Peter's successor as Bishop of Winchester in 1241-2. The king also made specific grants of materials to help with the building of the abbey; in 1223 the Bishop of Winchester received 60 tie-beams from the Forest of Kinver "towards the work of his church at Hales", while in 1233 the king gave the abbot 15 oaks to make stalls for his choir (Colvin 1951, 180). Evidence from the Bishop's own pipe-rolls shows that the work was still in progress as late as 1231/2 when 10 ½d was paid "towards the expenses of the abbot of Hales and brother Richard master of the works at Hales" (Colvin 1951, 181). It may well be that there was a second phase of building in the years leading up to 1293, for in this year the abbot and convent received from Edward I a licence to crenellate "certain buildings which have recently been built within that abbey". We also discover in the Court Rolls for Hales that one Richard the Mason was in trouble at the end of 1293 because he had not finished a hall he was building for the abbot before St. Nicholas's day (Amphlett 1933, i, xciv).

As far as the layout of the abbey is concerned, there is little that can be learnt from the documentary sources, though there are some tantalising references. Apart from referring to identifiable buildings such as the Chapter House and Guest

House, we hear in an inventory taken in 1505 on the death of Abbot Bruges of the "Abbotts Chambre", the "Napre", the "New Chambre", the "Calys" and the "Tresor-House" (Gasquet 1904-6, ii, 264-5). We also find mention in the Court Rolls of the "prison of the lord abbot" (Amphlett 1933, i, xxv). Although the chances of being able to identify any of these rooms or buildings on the ground are probably quite slim, they do at least dispell the notion that all the abbey's buildings were given over to other-worldly and ecclesiastical uses.

Development of other parts of the site

From a purely documentary point of view the evidence for development of the parts of the abbey site which did not contain buildings is slight indeed. It is usual on a monastic site for there to be at least one mill within the abbey precinct, and we have plenty of references in the documents to the abbot owning mills in Halesowen. It would appear, however, that there was no mill belonging to the Lord of the Manor when John made his grant to the abbot and convent in 1215, but one seems to have been built very shortly afterwards, though we have no way of knowing whether or not this stood on the abbey site itself or elsewhere in the manor. Certainly by the time the Court Rolls of Hales begin the abbot is enforcing service at his mill: on 11 March 1275 the abbot's bailiff intercepted a man coming from Frankley Mill with a sack of flour and took it from him; Richard Molley in 1280 was fined for grinding his corn elsewhere than at the lord's mill, and there are many other such cases (Amphlett 1933, i, lxxii). We also find mention in the Court Rolls of the "ditch of the sluices" of the abbot where one Nicholas fished unlawfully (Amphlett 1933, i, 23), and it is probable that these sluices were connected with the workings of one of the abbot's mills, though again not necessarily that on the site itself.

Features which can clearly be seen on the ground are the flights of fishponds to both north and south of the abbey complex. Fish farming was highly developed in the medieval period and particularly within religious establishments. Generally speaking fish, fresh water, was a more common part of the diet that is the case today. Again, there are plenty of references in the documentation to the lord's fishponds, but many are clearly elsewhere in the manor. We find a more general reference 1275 when one Thomas Linacre was charged with fishing in the lord's water (Amphlett 1933, i, lxxxiv). There is also one very interesting entry in the Court Rolls for 1276 which states that one Thomas was to be arrested and brought to the next court because he took away the stakes which carried the nets of the abbot's fisherman (Wilson 1933, xxiv); it could seem that the abbot and convent employed a fisherman to fish their pools for them. Interesting as this may be in one sense, however, such general references bring us no closer to dating the fishponds which can now be seen on the abbey site, and it is clear that there is no way of doing this from the documentation.

We also know that a park was made at Halesowen by the abbot and convent in about 1290; this was still in existence in 1601-2 and then contained some timber trees and firewood trees to the value of £40 (VCH Worcs, iii). We also find on the Tithe Map of 1844 for the township of Lapal that the three fields to the east of the abbey complex were then known as "Lower Abbey Oaks", "Middle Abbey Oaks", and "Upper Abbey Oaks". It is just possible that these fields represent the area of the former park, and even if this is not the case, the area must have been wooded when it was owned by the abbey.

The Tithe Map may also help to fill in further details of the exploitation of the site by the abbot and convent, since some of its other field names seemingly give some indication of former use. The fields to the west and north of the abbey complex, numbered 70 and 73 by the Tithe Commissioners, were known respectively as "Lower Churchyard" and "Upper Churchyard". As these areas would in any case be the usual ones for a cemetery in a monastic layout, the identification would appear to be quite firm. Less so, perhaps, that of field no. 74, which is a small area close up to the stretch of water on the east of the abbey complex, which once formed part of the moat. This area was known as the "Garden" and clearly this may mean that in 1844 it was in use as a garden, but it is possible, at least, that this was the site of the former abbey herb garden. It is certainly a convenient position for this, being very close to the monastic complex.

Post-Dissolution History

On 9 June 1536, the house and all its possessions were surrendered by William Taylor, the last abbot, to the Crown. Either in 1538 or 1539 the buildings were partly demolished and they, as well as the movables, plate, lead and bells from the abbey were sold and the receipts were entered in the Augmentation accounts for September 1539.

The site of the abbey was then granted by Henry VIII to Sir John Dudley (afterwards Duke of Northumberland). During his tenure of the manor, he granted the "mansion of the manor", which was presumably what was left of the abbey, to his servant George Tuckey. Following the attainder and execution of Northumberland in 1553, his widow Joan recovered the manor, which had been settled on her in 1539. She died in 1554-5, leaving the manor to trustees for the use of her three sons, who had been attained for treason. Ambrose the eldest, was to have the house and land to the value of £100, but later in 1555 both he and Sir Henry gave up their share to their younger brother, Sir Robert Dudley, later Earl of Leicester. The latter appears to have settled it on his wife, Amy Robsart, who with him conveyed the manor to Thomas Blount and George Tuckey in 1558. Later that year Blount and Tuckey sold the manor to John Lyttleton, and since then the abbey site has followed the same descent as Hagley, the present owners of the site being Viscount and Viscountess Cobham.

Chapter 3 - Documentary Evidence for the Context of the Abbey.

The Abbey and the Peasantry

a) Halesowen as Manor, Borough and Parish

In considering the context of Halesowen Abbey, it is important to understand the rather complex administrative divisions of the Halesowen area. In 1086, at the time of Domesday Book, Halesowen was both a manor and a parish. The parish consisted of the whole of the manor, an area of some 10,000 acres, plus the townships of Cradley, Warley Wigorn and Lutley. In 1086 the whole of the parish lay in Worcestershire, but when the manor came into the hands of Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, it became part of his county of Shropshire and was only transferred back to Worcestershire under the Acts of 1833 and 1844.

It is the manor, however, which most concerns us here, since it was the manor that was granted to the canons of St. Mary's Abbey by King John in 1215. It is situated in a broken hilly terrain of mixed heavy and light clays and watered by the River Stour, which flows from south-east to north-west. Much of the south of the manor was covered by woods, and some of them, like Uffmoor Wood, still exist today. The hilly terrain of the area affected the structure of local settlement, with the result that a number of small hamlets, rather than large nucleated villages, emerged. In addition to the town of Halesowen itself, there were twelve rural townships in the manor. Oldbury, Langley-Walloxhall, Warley, Cakemoore, Hill, Ridgeacre, Lapal, Hawne, Hasbury, Hunnington, Illey, and Romsley (Razi 1980, 5-6). As shall be seen, the scattered nature of these settlements meant that the lordship was probably imperfectly manorialized, and this created problems for the abbot and convent when trying to impose serfdom upon their tenants (Hilton 1966).

The Borough of Halesowen was later than both parish and manor and was erected by the abbot and convent in the reign of Henry III. It had its own court, and the court rolls of the Borough of Halesowen from 1272 to 1643 survive in good condition (Razi 1980, 6). The town of Halesowen is situated on the right bank of the river Stour, but we have no way of ascertaining the boundaries of the ancient borough, though an Exchequer suit of the seventeenth century mentions crosses on the various roads leading out of the town as the boundaries (VCH Worcs, iii).

b) The Jurisdiction of the Abbot and Convent

The franchise granted to the Abbot and Convent with the manor of Hales by King John was very extensive. The king only reserved to himself justice in cases where the punishment was death or mutilation and in pleas concerning land. At the same time, the rents and services rendered by the tenants of Halesowen to the abbot, as lord of the manor, were much lighter

than those on the older Benedictine estates in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, but comparable with those on the manors of the Forest of Dean, north Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire. Before the abbot became lord of the manor, the annual rent paid by yardland tenants was 3s 4d. and they had to plough and sow the demesne lands six and ten days respectively. All tenants owed the lord one day's "boon work", had to mow the lord's grass and fence his garden, and owed a suit of court every three weeks. The lord took a tenant's best beast on his death as heriot and his heir had to pay relief equivalent to two years' rent, while the villein tenants had to pay 2s. for permission to marry their daughters outside the manor and 12s. inside it (Razi 1980, 9).

If the abbot were to enforce the extensive jurisdiction given to him by King John, there was almost bound to be a clash between him and his tenants. This proved to be the case and what resulted was a struggle lasting a century and a half in which the abbey attempted to force its tenants to pay higher rents and entry fines. The dispute may be studied in detail elsewhere (Homans 1970, 276-284 and Hilton 1966, 159-61), but it involved abbey and tenants in extensive litigation and there was possibly also some violence on the part of the tenants, since in 1278, the year the abbot and convent brought a petition against them, there is an entry in the episcopal register bidding the deans of Warwick, Pershore and Wick to excommunicate those who laid violent hands on the abbot of Halesowen and his bretheren at Beoley (VCH Worcs, ii, 163). Inevitably the abbot and the convent came out on top eventually, and succeeded in doubling the rate of entry fines, enforcing suit at mill, and made customary tenants pay tallages at the lord's will. It appears that labour services remained the same, however, and were commuted into money rents in 1327 (Razi 1980, 9). The dispute itself, however, is very important since it was so unusual. Homans comments:

"Such quarrels were exceedingly rare. If they had been general, the fabric of society would have dissolved in anarchy or revolution. Lords and villeins may have distrusted one another, but active struggles between them were uncommon, if only because the villeins were so little likely to win." (Homans 1970, 284).

The Abbey and the Ruling Class

a) Wider Responsibilities of the Abbot

It has been argued (VCH Worcs, ii, 163) that the abbots of Halesowen took little part in affairs outside their monastery. It would be a mistake, however, to assume that the comparative silence of the documents on this matter means that the abbots did not take an active part in the life of the kingdom in general. Indeed, it would be difficult for them not to do this since Premonstratensian abbots, like those of the other orders,

were in constant demand as collectors of taxes and auditors of accounts, as well as to receive homage on behalf of the king and sometimes even to be emissaries of war and peace (Colvin 1951). Certainly we find the abbot of Halesowen being summoned to the Council of Clergy in 1294, to military service in 1297 and to Parliament in 1295, 1296, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1312 and 1313. This evidence shows that Halesowen's abbots had at least some role nationally even if none of them ever featured more prominently in the general history of the kingdom.

b) **The Abbey's relationship with local lords**

Monastic houses were usually founded by a lay magnate with the express purpose of enlisting the prayers of the monks in the house for his soul and the souls of his family. Such a person would also take on the role of the abbey's protector or advocatus. In return for the right to the abbey's prayers and hospitality (see below) the advocatus would protect the abbey's influence in the secular sphere, secure confirmation of its charters, and generally use his influence to promote its welfare and protect its endowments. Such "maintenance" was almost as necessary to a religious house as it was to a secular person with lands to protect and interests to be forwarded (Colvin 1951).

Halesowen Abbey, however, was founded by a bishop, Peter des Roches, who, as a clerk in holy orders, could not promote the abbey's interests in this way. Other Premonstratensian houses founded by bishops seem to have chosen a lay advocate specifically to act for them in such matters but we have no record of Halesowen making a similar choice. This may have been because, unlike the majority of Premonstratensian abbots, the abbot of Halesowen was a lord and a tenant-in-chief of the king, with baronial status. More likely, however, the abbot and convent did have an advocatus among the lay barons, and there is certainly evidence that they received the patronage of local lords. A possible candidate is John Botetourt, lord of Weoley in the reign of Richard II, who chose to be buried before the high altar in Halesowen Abbey church, a place usually reserved for the founder. He also bequeathed £20 and his green bed to the abbey, £4 and his shield called "Welcome" to the abbot, 13s. 4d. to each canon priest, and 10s. to each novice. Such benefactions were common when lay persons asked to be buried within the grounds of an abbey, and so the practice was usually welcomed.

It is likely that Halesowen, like other Premonstratensian houses, has a good number of burials of local gentry. Apart from John Botetourt, we find Sir Hugh Burnell, in the reign of Henry V, bequeathing his body to be buried in the abbey church near to that of his wife, Joyce, while in his will of November 1507 Sir William Lyttleton ordered his burial within the abbey before the Image of the Virgin Mary, near the place where his first wife lay buried, and made provision for a marble stone with two images and sculptures to be laid over them both (Somers

1932). Another patron of the abbey was clearly John de Sutton, Lord of Dudley, who, in a charter dated 15 August 1337, gave the manor of Warley to the abbot and convent of Halesowen in return for similar prayers and spiritual benefits on his death to those an abbot would receive.

The Economic Content of the Abbey

a) Growth of the Endowment

The Manor of Halesowen, with its members of Romsley and Oldbury, remained the abbey's principal endowment right up to the Dissolution, when it was contributing £133.18s.7¼d to the abbey's gross income of £377.15s.6½d (In national terms this represents a wealthy establishment). The borough of Halesowen would also have brought the abbot income from the borough rents and from licences to trade. Part of the original endowment was Halesowen Parish Church, the rectory of which was appropriated in or before 1270. It was one of the most valuable parish churches in the patronage of an English Premonstratensian House, being valued in 1291 for taxation at £26.13s.4d. Its chapel of St Kenelm at Romsley, erected on the spot where St Kenelm was murdered in 819, also proved a useful source of income to the abbey, as it was an important place of pilgrimage.

It would seem that soon after the foundation of the abbey the advowson of the church of Walsall was granted to the abbot and convent, along with its chapels at Wednesbury and Rushall. Although the abbot temporarily lost the chapel of Wednesbury to the king after a commision of Quo Warranto in 1298, he recovered it again in 1301. Among its other spiritualities the abbey was, by 1535, able to number the advowsons of the churches of Clent and Rowley, Ludley and Cradley and of Warley (VCH Worcs, ii, 163).

The abbey's temporalities were also quite extensive. In 1331 the abbot and convent obtained a grant of the manor of Rowley Regis at fee farm, and now held it for an annual rent of £10.6s.8d payable to the Exchequer, while in 1337 Joan Botetourt, lady of Warley, granted the abbey the manor of Warley Wigorn (Colvin 1951, 183). In 1464 Edward IV granted to Halesowen abbey the lands and possessions of the Augustinian Priory of Dodford near Bromsgrove in free alms. Although the abbot and convent had certain responsibilities to keep the priory in good repair, and provide a prior from among its own canons, as well as paying yearly pension to the bishop of Worcester, the prior and convent of Worcester and the Archdeacon, it would appear that the abbot and convent gained financially, for under their protection the revenues of Dodford increased, and in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535 its demesne lands were valued at 7, while rents and woodlands which had been part of its possessions were valued at £17.13s.1d. (VCH Worcs, ii, 164).

b) The Abbey's Granges and Agricultural Interests

Following the example of the Cistercians, the Premonstratensians were in the habit of forming out of their property some more manageable units, called granges. These granges were basically farms, within easy reach of the abbey, to which they returned their produce, and were under the overall control of the Cellarer, while being controlled by a team of lay bretheren.

In the various sources some twelve names of granges are given as belonging to Halesowen Abbey: Blakeley, Owley, Radewall, Offmoor, Farley, Hamstead, Home Grange, New Grange, Warley Salop, Pircote, Hill, and Whitely. Blakeley was in Oldbury (VCH, Worcs, iii) and may be represented now by Blakeley Hall. The site of Owley Grange in Lapal is now clearly recognisable, while the Home Grange was perhaps the site in Hunnington now known as 'The Grange', where there are the earthworks from fishponds and a former mill. Radewall was in Ridgeacre (VCH, Worcs, iii) and may be now known as Reddall Farm. Offmoor Grange in Romsley was probably situated on the lower land at the northern extremity of the township, somewhat cut off from the higher land to the south (Amphlett, 1930, i, lxix). Farley Grange, also in Romsley, may, on the other hand, be represented by Farlay Farm in the south of the township. Hamstead was possibly the same grange as Blakeley (Amphlett 1930, lxix), while Pircote, according to Nash was in Oldswinford, where there was still a house called The Grange in 1830 (Amphlett 1930, lxix). Hill Grange was presumably in the township of that name, and from the place names on the tithe map of 1844 we might single out the area known as 'Lord's Croft' or the mill site as possible candidates for its position. Whitely is still an existing place name, a mile to the west of Halesowen on the boundary between Hill and Hasbury.

As to the agriculture which was practised at the granges we might well assume that it was similar to that carried out on peasant land in Halesowen, of which there is some evidence in the Court Rolls. Crops included wheat, rye, barley, oats, beans, peas and vetches, while on the pastoral side of the economy, cattle, sheep, pigs and horses were reared. In the pre-plague period arable farming appears to have been dominant, but in the fourteenth century there is good evidence to suggest that there was greater specialisation in pastoral farming at Halesowen (Razi 1480, 7). In general, the fourteenth century, with its economic depression and political instability, combined with extremes of weather, pestilence and famine, brought a reorganisation of assets by religious houses, and often the leasing of granges to lay tenants (Platt 1969). Halesowen Abbey appears to have been no exception here, and we have records of Blakeley Grange being leased twice, in 1329 and 1343, while Owley Grange was leased in 1533 to William Geste and Elizabeth his wife for 8 months yearly. In the reign of Henry VII Radewall Grange was let for 4 months (VCH Worcs, iii).

c) **Mills and Fishponds**

Any Mill in the immediate vicinity of the Abbey would be only one of several mills owned by the abbot and convent in Halesowen. There are many references to mills and millers in the Court Rolls of Hales, and it is difficult sometimes to sort out which belonged to the abbey. The Abbot had 2 mills worth 20s a year in 1291 and the new mill of Hales is mentioned in a Court Roll of 1293, but was burnt down the same year (VCH Worcs, iii). In 1302 there was a new mill at Oldbury and one at Romsley, while in 1294 a neighbouring tenant allowed a watercourse to be made down the centre of his meadow to take water to the Abbot's mill at Abbelely near Oldbury. In 1302 the millers at Blakeley Mill and Walwich Mill were summoned to the Court to take the oath to observe the rules concerning the grinding of malt (Amphlett 1930, lxxxiii). There is also evidence in the Court Rolls for a second mill at Oldbury called Greet Mill and one in Romsley at the place called Volatu, while in 1350 John le Peoleshal received licence to alienate to the abbot and convent three messuages and a mill in Halesowen, Oldbury and Warley (VCH, Worcs, iii).

The abbot had several pools in the various townships and illegally fishing in the lord's waters was a common offence bought to the Court at Hales. The abbot could be the one in the wrong however; in 1275 a new pool had been made between Wallockshale and Oldbury, the flow of water from which broke up the road several times and the land of the neighbours was damaged (Amphlett 1930, i, lxxxv). Nearly twenty years later another road was damaged by overflow from the lord's pool at Romsley, while in 1288 the jury said that the lord ought to mend "a lake below the marsh" at Oldbury (Amphlett, 1930, i, lxxxv). It seems clear that to form both fishponds and millpools, the abbot and convent of Halesowen tampered with watercourses in the same way as many other religious houses. Just before the Dissolution the abbot and convent had altered the course of the stream which formed the boundary between Cradley and Rowley and between the counties of Staffordshire and Warwickshire (VCH, Worcs, iii) and there must have been similar alterations previously of which we have no record. It is hardly surprising, given all these references to mills and fishponds in the documents, that the tithe maps of the nineteenth century record mill sites and pools or sites of pools in Hill, Illey, Cradley, Lutley, Hasbury, Halesowen and Hunnington townships.

d) **Industry at Halesowen**

It is clear that Halesowen had its share of villages engaging in non-agricultural activites: manufacture of textiles, metalworking, leatherworking, woodworking, building, food production and ale-brewing (Razi 1980, 7). Weavers are found in possession of plots of land and dyers are also frequently mentioned in the Court Rolls. A fulling-mill existed quite early, since Thomas the Skinner wilfully drowned himself in the

"Walkenmullenpol" in the later years of Edward I. Coal was found in the Hill township in the time of Edward I and in 1307 a mining lease at "La Combes" was granted by the abbot to Henry le Knyth and Henry del Hulle. There was a bloomsmithy in the area, since the furnace and forge erected on the Stour at Halesowen, replaced it when it ceased to work in 1602 (Schubert 1957, App. V). Certainly the coal from the area would have been naturally used by smiths to work up the iron produced at this and other local bloomeries (VCH Worcs, iii). In the Court Rolls two men, Philip and John are given the surname of Balismith, which shows them to have been travelling smiths (Amphlett 1930, i, xciv). Great quantities of medieval scoriae have been found in the neighbourhood and either worked again or used for road metal (VCH Worcs, iii). In 1304 Nicholas de Yrenmongere witnessed a Halesowen deed. (VCH, Worcs, iii).

It is clear from such references that non-agricultural trades played an important part in the economy of Halesowen, and it is likely that they contributed to the growing prosperity of the town which led the abbot and convent to create the borough of Hales in the reign of Henry III. At the same time there is no evidence of any large-scale industry, as elsewhere, and certainly not of any direct involvment of the abbey in iron smelting as we find at other monastic sites like Kirkstead in Lincolnshire or Fountains in Yorkshire. The lack of documentary references does not rule out the latter possibility but makes it less likely. However, recent research on major abbey sites similar to Halesowen has shown that it was common for such establishments to be a least partially self contained economically. Thus for example one finds evidence for home production of tiles, pottery, brewing and metalworking.

e) Hospitality

According to the Statute of Carlisle the King and his Magnates had founded religious houses as places in which sick and feeble men might be maintained, where hospitality, almsgiving and other charitable deeds might be performed, and where prayers might be said for the souls of the said founders and their heirs. Peter des Roches's charter of foundation for Halesowen Abbey shows that he had exactly these aims in mind for his monastic house. Hospitality was also a key part of the statutes of the white canons as revised in the thirteenth century by direction of Pope Gregory IX: "In every church of our order hospitality shall be observed and alms shall be distributed according to the resources of the place, a guest-house being provided for the reception of the poor and a suitable person appointed to look after them" (Colvin 1951).

Hospitality was commonly pleaded by religious houses as a reason for their poverty and the abbot of Halesowen did exactly this in 1343 when petitioning for the appropriation of the tithes of Clent and Rowley. In this case, however, his argument that Halesowen had to exercise great hospitality because of its

position on a main road would appear to have been true. At a visitation of the abbey held in 1489, when there were only 13 canons resident at the abbey, 20 bushels of wheat were weekly consumed in bread, and 1110 quarters of barley, 60 oxen and 40 sheep, 30 swine and 24 calves were consumed yearly (VCH, Worcs, ii, 164).

Although undoubtedly some food and alms were distriubted at the gate of the abbey, the heaviest burden of hospitality at Halesowen would have been that of entertaining the upper classes of medieval society, who regarded it as their well-established right to stop at an abbey for hospitality. The Halesowen compoti show that rich guests were well-fed. When 'the lord of Dudley and his lady' spent a week at the abbey in 1366, the kitchen accounts record that the carcass of a cow (6s), a calf (2s.1d.), 4s' worth of pork, a sheep costing 2s. 2d., 3 sucking-pigs (4s.6d.) 10 geese (1s. 10½d) some herrings (5½d) and 750 eggs (3s.4d.) were consumed. Some weeks earlier the kitchen accounts record the expenditure of 3s.7d. on "Luxuries bought against the arrival of Sir Richard Fitton and his wife", while 6s. 8d. was spent on the purchase of wine "for the lord of Weoley and his wife, the lord of Dudley and his wife, Sir Richard Fitton and his wife, and for the lord abbot of Welbeck and others" (Colvin 1951).

It was often tempting for an abbot and convent in need of ready money to grant corrodies, a grant of food and lodging for life, although sometimes these were imposed upon them by the king. Halesowen was called upon to grant several corrodies, the usual grant being 18s.8d. "pro coquina" (VCH Worcs, ii, 164). There were other drains, too, on the abbey's revenue in the form of various pensions, but despite this Halesowen was a prosperous abbey, as evidenced by the inventory taken on the death of Abbot Bruges in 1505. The cattle belonging to the abbot and convent are carefully listed and then the abbot's chamber, with its two feather beds, and its "Quylte of white wroght with nedyll worke" is described. In the new chamber was "a feather bed, a quylte covered with red sylke, a red coverlit with dolphins" while the plate in the abbot's chamber included the "silver and gilt" shrine of St Kenelm, a crown of silver and gilt, a sceptre of silver and ornaments, and the shrine of St Barbara's head also 'of silver and gilt' (VCH Worcs, ii, 165).

THE ABBEY AS PART OF THE PREMONSTRATENSIAN ORDER

a) Introduction

The abbey of Premontre, which was to become the mother house of the Premonstratensian Order, was founded by St Norbert in 1119/20. Norbert himself was a great preacher and evangelist but in the main his missionary zeal did not become characteristic of the white canons, except perhaps in Germany. Certainly in France and England the emphasis was much more on

avoiding the company of men and secluded and far-flung spots were chosed for Premonstratensian houses, places similar to those chosen by the Cistercians for their own houses.

Like the Cistercians, the Premonstratensians were a reformed order and the statutes of the white canons reveal a tendency to reduce the responsibility of the individual by the creation of additional conventual offices, and also by laying down a comprehensive code of monastic discipline to be enforced thoughout the order. Unfortunately we have no contemporary description of life in a Premonstratensian abbey in England but we do have the record of an Englishman who entered the house at Ardenne, near Caen, towards the end of the reign of Henry II. He recorded that the life of the canons was exceedingly austere and frugal, their diet almost excessively vegetarian (in accordance with the statues of the order), their labours heavy, their fasts and vigils frequent, and their clothing full of vermin. Nevertheless, he remained there, because he found among the canons 'an especial and singular goodwill, concord, and unanimous peace of mind . . . which supports them in mutual charity". (Colvin 1951).

b) **Halesowen's standing amongst the English Abbeys**

The Premonstratensian houses ranked in order of foundation and Halesowen was a late foundation, being the last daughter house of Welbeck. As far as its wealth and character were concerned, however, it was far from least among the Premonstratensian houses.

The white canons, like the Cistercians, did not expect to become lords of manors with an established place in feudal society such as the older Benedictine and Augustinian foundations had had for some time. They were prepared to accept a tract of waste land which could be cultivated by their lay bretheren or used for pasture. Often they received areas of woodland or marshland which could only be used for sheep farming, and many of their houses were economically indistinguishable from the Cistercian ones. Unlike the Cistercians however, manors were accepted if offered, and this was the case with Halesowen, as also with Leiston, Torre and Titchfield. Although retaining granges and other features similar to the Cistercian system of managing their lands, Halesowen did not need to establish large-scale farming interests for, as we have seen, her endowment was notable from the start and continued to grow throughout the history of the house. There could be no greater contrast than between Halesowen and other Premonstratensian houses such as Egglestone, Tupholme and Wendling, which were crippled from the first by lack of adequate endowment, and scarcely able to maintain their statutory number of canons (Colvin 1951).

c) Authority of the Order over Halesowen Abbey

The Abbot of Premontre had ultimate authority over all houses in the order and had the right to visit any house. It would seem that he often exercised this right in England, annually carrying away with him heavy tribute, until the Statute of Carlisle in 1307 rendered such exactions illegal (Holliday 1871a). The Abbot of Premontre's jurisdiction remained, but was somewhat nominal, until in 1512 a Bull of Pope Julius, comfirmed by Henry VIII, deprived him of all jurisdiction and made the Abbot of Welbeck the superior of all the English houses.

We have no record of any visitation of Halesowen by the Abbot of Premontre in person, but after the statute of Carlisle there were visitations by the Abbots of Langdon, Dale, Shap, and other places, who were deputed to act for him. They would be nominated to visit a group of monasteries in their area, called a circary. Circaries were introduced by the Premonstratensians to ease the burden of visiting all their far-flung daughter-houses for father-abbots. There were three circaries established in England, and Halesowen lay in the middle of these (see fig. 11). The visitations by the circators were quite stringent, to judge by the records that we have from Halesowen. In 1478 John Saunders was found guilty of immorality and was banished from Halesowen to the abbey of Dale for eighty days, while a second visitation later that year ordered that a brother who had broken the rule of silence be put on bread and water for one day (VCH Worcs, ii, 165). Such details abound in the visitation registers and give us some insight at least, albeit perhaps an unbalanced one, into life in the abbey.

The right of visitation was also granted to the pater abbas of a Premonstratensian house, usually the abbot of its father house. Thus the abbot of Welbeck was Halesowen's father abbot, just as the abbot of Halesowen was father abbot for its daughter-house of Titchfield. It was the duty of the father abbot to visit his daughter house once a year, to prohibit extravagant building operations, and to be consulted before any of its property was alienated. He was also responsible on the death of the abbot of a daughter-house for appointing a day for the election of a new abbot, either under his personal supervision or that of another abbot deputed by him for the purpose (Colvin 1951). The abbots of Welbeck appear to have visited Halesowen year after year without finding the enormities which the circators reported in their visitation registers, and it seems that, generally speaking, father abbots were more lenient in their visitations. Not that Halesowen ignored the authority of its father abbot: on one occasion the latter wrote to the abbot of Halesowen to beg him to receive back a brother to the convent who had left it without permmission but now wished to return; the abbot of Halesowen wrote back that he would obey the wise counsel of the abbot of Welbeck and take the canon back into the abbey once again (VCH, Worcs, ii, 165).

d) Halesowen in the context of Premonstratension Architecture

There are no instructions in the statutes of the Premonstratensian chapter general as to the arrangement and no prohibition as to the ornament, of the houses of the order, such as occur in the Cistercian statutes. Despite this relative freedom in architecture and planning, the white canons do not appear to have been particulary ambitious in their planning, in England at least, and Halesowen for all its opulence, would seem to reflect this trend.

The church at Halesowen appears to have had the square-sided aisleless presbytery which was a feature of all Premonstratensian houses in England of which we have plans. This was a particularly Cistercian feature, as are the solid walls dividing its transeptal chapels, common in earlier Premonstratensian churches, but more often replaced by open arches in the thirteenth century. It differs from other Premonstratensian houses in lacking the aisleless nave which many of them retained until the Dissolution since, unlike the Cistercians, the Premonstratensians did not use the body of the nave as the quire for their lay bretheren. There is little uniformity in later Premonstratenisan church planning in England and Halesowen is characteristic of this. Earlier Premonstratensian churches were conspicuous in that they lacked a masonry tower, but at Halesowen we have no way, other than by excavation, of establishing whether a tower existed over the crossing; certainly existing remains or foundations have shown that towers either existed or were planned from the first at Talley, Dale and Alnwick.

In the plan of its domestic buildings Halesowen conforms to the usual Premonstratensian pattern, which in general follows very closely that of the Austin Canons. Its cloister is south of the church, as in the case of 24 out of 26 examples in the country for which we have details. In a great many cases the chapter house was divided by a row of columns into two or three aisles, the 2-aisled plan being the most prevalent, and there is the evidence of column bases shown in a photograph taken by the Duke of Rutland during his excavations in the Chapter House at Halesowen (Somers 1938-9, plate 1, facing p.82) to show that this house, too, had an aisled Chapter House. The Dorter at Halesowen appears to have been in the standard position on the first floor of the east range of the cloister, while the Refectory built on the south range over an undercroft conforms to the pattern as it existed at Easby, Alnwick, Shap, Croxton, Dureford, Torre, St Radegund, Dale, Bayham and Dryburgh (Clapham 1923).

Of the other parts of the plan at Halesowen, we are still in ignorance. It would be standard for the western range of the cloister to house the cellarer's department on the ground floor and the guest house above, while of Premonstratensian Infirmaries so far excavated in England, all but one have been in the normal position east or south-east of the main claustral

block. It is for this reason that the thirteenth-century building to the east of the main claustral complex at Halesowen has been described in the past as the Infirmary, but its plan makes this attribution unlikely to be correct (Molyneux 1984, 51).

Chapter 4 - Prediction of the Extent and Quality of the Archaeological Site

Introduction

From the point of view of its archaeology the site of Halesowen Abbey may be divided into two parts: the area of the monastic complex, and the earthworks. In the past, the one has attracted a great deal of attention and the other hardly any at all. There have been a number of minor excavations on the site of the monastic buildings and this is in some ways an aid to evaluation of the archaeological potential of the site. By studying the published material about these excavations it is possible to gain some idea of the quality of the archaeology, through the kinds of finds made there in the past. It is also important to have some idea of where these excavations took place, for in these areas the archaeological strata will have been destroyed. This is not to say that there would be no value in re-excavating such areas, but certainly untouched parts of the abbey complex would give a higher archaeological yield with modern methods. Building foundations may also sometimes have damaged the archaeological stratification.

As far as the earthworks are concerned, the method of evaluation has been a detailed survey of the site. This helps to establish exactly what does exist on the ground so that a preliminary interpretation of the function of the various earthworks can be made. It is on the basis of this interpretation that decisions about further survey work and excavation can be made.

In order to provide a further contribution to the assessment of the archaeological potential of both the monastic complex and the earthworks, some geophysical survey work, consisting of both fluxgate magnetometry and resistivity survey, has also been carried out on two areas of the site. The details of the area covered, as well as the results obtained, are given below.

Previous Excavations on the Site

The first recorded excavations to take place on the site were those of J R Holliday in autumn 1870 with finances provided by the Archaeological Section of the Birmingham and Midland Institute. Holliday was an architect and amateur archaeologist who, in the best nineteenth-century tradition, was at great pains to provide a detailed record (by the standards of the day) of what he discovered. His architectural description of the standing remains of the abbey has not been bettered, and we may take his references to the details of his excavations (Holliday 1871a and 1871b) as being fairly reliable. He also produced a detailed manuscript plan of the abbey (which includes the

positions of the foundations he had traced in his excavations, as well as of two portions of tile floor which he discovered *in situ*), which was left to the Birmingham Reference Library on his death in 1927.

Minor excavations were also undertaken in 1906 by Sir Harold Brakspear prior to the compilation of his plan of the abbey for the Victoria History of the County of Worcester (Somers 1938-9). From 1928 to 1930 a local amateur archaeologist, Frank Somers, traced further foundations of the abbey buildings by excavation, and these are included on a rather small plan of the abbey in his history of Halesowen (Somers 1932). He was also involved in the excavation of part of the wall of the abbey gatehouse and a cobblestone track which came to light in 1938 during widening of the then Manor Lane (Somers 1938-9). The Duke of Rutland conducted minor excavations on the site in 1925-8 and 1934-40 in search of medieval floor tiles (Eames 1980, 12), but we know little about where he excavated. There is a reference to his 1938 excavation of the Chapter House, as well as a photograph in the *Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society* (Somers 1938-9). More recently there is a report in *Medieval Archaeology* (Moorhouse 1971) of an excavation on the supposed site of the Guest House on the occasion of the digging of an electicity cable-trench in this area.

The plans drawn by Holliday, Brakspear and Somers are of some use in assessing where exactly among the abbey ruins they excavated. Fig. 8 attempts to show the results of their excavations on one plan, while fig. 12 makes some suggestions about where their backfilled trenches may lie. This shows clearly that the known disturbance by antiquarians on the site of the main body of the church is extensive. Apart from the pieces of tile pavement which he found *in situ* (marked on fig 8), Holliday also reports (Holliday 1871a) that most of the tiles with more detailed designs which he found were discovered outside the site of the church in the angle formed by the north aisle of the nave and the north transept. Of the Duke of Rutland's discoveries, we know only that the piece of pavement (now in the British Museum) which he found *in situ* in 1934 was located in the north-west corner of the chancel. Unfortunately the British Museum received no plan with the pavement, so it is impossible to say exactly where the find was made or anything about its orientation (Eames 1980, 12). No plan appears to exist, either, of the Duke's discoveries in the Chapter House, though we know that they included foundations, column bases, and stone seats running along the north and south walls (Somers 1938-9, 82). The column bases are clearly visible in the Duke's photograph of the excavation (*ibid*, facing p.82), and this also shows a building and a wall running along the far end of the excavation, which may mean that the Duke was unable to excavate the Chapter House completely. The latter would almost certainly be the case if the building is the one shown in that position on the 1885 Ordnance Survey Map.

The supposed wall of the Abbey Gate House reported by Somers (1938-9, 82) was of sandstone and 3 1/2 feet wide by 16 feet

long, and leading from it was a cobblestone roadway 7 feet wide by 33 feet in length. Although both were preserved at the time by order of the County Surveyor, they have since been destroyed when Manor Lane was widened yet again to make it a dual carriageway. This means that if anything else remains of the Abbey Gate House, it is now under Manor Way and completely inaccessible. It is possible, however, that there are further traces to be found of the cobblestone track - quite a substantial construction to judge by the published photograph (Somers 1938-9, facing p. 83) - which must have led from the Gate House to the abbey complex.

There is no clear indication in the report in Medieval Archaeology of the exact line of the electricity cable-trench dug in 1970, except that it was expected to encounter the west wall of the Guest House (Moorhouse 1971). That it did not do so is of great interest with regard to the results of the resistivity survey recently conducted in this field, and this will be discussed further below. Here it is sufficient to note that the trench did encounter an unsuspected stone wall on a north-south alignment, four courses of which remained beneath the robber trench. This may be compared with Holliday's comment that the foundations which he discovered in his excavations were everywhere very shallow. (Holliday 1871a).

Clearly the most important single class of finds from all these excavations are the medieval glazed floor tiles. Holliday comments that it was the fact that a number of these tiles were found while digging the foundations for a farm building which prompted him to seek the money for an excavation on the site. He was clearly disappointed however, that he did not find more whole tiles, as opposed to fragments, though he was able to piece together some designs. Some of these designs, according to Holliday, were identical to those on tiles found at Chertsey Abbey. He also argues, on the basis of the location of tiles he found (particularly the fragment in the north aisle of the nave), that the nave was paved with small coloured tiles, while the larger tiles with designs were confined to the east end of the church. If Holliday was unhappy about the tiles he excavated, the Duke of Rutland was more fortunate: there are 760 tiles and pieces of tiles which are catalogued in the Rutland collection in the British Museusm, and a number of plain tiles and duplicate pieces of decorated tile, which are uncatalogued and stored in boxes (Eames 1980, 12). Somers appears also to have found some fragments of floor tiles, six of which are now stored in Halesowen Central Library. Even the electricity cable trench produced one complete medieval glazed floor tile (Moorhouse 1971).

Only Holliday is particularly helpful in providing information about other finds apart from tiles. He reports many pieces of stone and plaster, nearly all of which had traces of colour in the form of thin red straight lines on a white background. Others were entirely coloured. He also found several fragments of glass, with what he calls "characteristic

Early English patterns en grisaille" (Holliday 1871a), as well as "considerable amounts of decorated tracery" beyond the east end of the church. There was also a considerable amount of stonework, most of which he dated to a similar period as the standing masonry, though "some fragments of later detail" were found. There are fragments of painted glass among the material from the 1930s excavation in Halesowen Central Library, as well as a fragment of pillar. Not all the finds listed above are now available for study however; Appendix 3 lists those which have been located along with their whereabouts.

Earthwork Survey (plates 14 and 15)

A survey of the extant earthworks at Halesowen Abbey was carried out between 9th and 17th July 1986. Although it had originally been intended to do a full contour survey of the site, it was decided that it would be preferable to carry out a measured hachure survey instead. A contour survey would have taken much longer and might not have registered some of the less prominent features on the ground. The survey was carried out using an Electronic Distance Meter, the readings from which are extremely accurate. As the nearest bench mark shown on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map appears to have been covered over when the dual carriageway, Manor Way, was constructed, it was decided to take readings relative to a Site Datum rather than the Ordnance Datum. The Site Datum (SD) is marked on fig 9, which displays the results of the survey. The position of the Site Datum was established by sighting onto the corners of one of the farm buildings which appears on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map. Readings were taken from seven stations which allowed the greater part of the earthworks to be covered; those areas which were not covered by the survey have been sketched in on fig 9 and their positions are indicated on fig 10.

A sketch plan of the earthworks, drawn by M A Aston and C J Bond has already been published (Bond 1978, 75), though without interpretation. The results of the present survey revealed no significant differences in the major earthwork features (though in fig 9 they are plotted in far greater detail that Aston and Bond were able to achieve). There are however, some differences in the less well-defined earthworks, which amount to differences of interpretation of the features as they exist on the ground. What follows is one interpretation of the purpose of the earthworks, but it unlikely that its major findings would be questioned. Numbers given refer to those shown on fig 9.

The valley to the north of the abbey complex appears to have been dammed in five places along the course of the stream to create a flight of five fishponds (1-5). The dam between fishponds 3 and 4 is now quite a low feature, but clear traces of it still remain. There would seem also to be a sixth fishpond (6) on the other side of the cart track leading to the farm buildings from Manor Way. The evidence for this on the ground is uncertain but the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1885

shows such a fishpond linked to the section of the moat on the west side of the abbey complex (see below).

The water control system for these fishponds would appear to have been quite complex. There appears to have been an overflow channel which ran the length of ponds 1-4, beginning at 8 and joining the moat at 16. Part of the way along its course, at 15, there may have been a small stew or breeding tank. There appear to have been outlets from the ponds into this channel (probably controlled by sluices) at 8, 9, 12 and 14. The pools themselves were also almost certainly connected by sluices, at 13, 11, 10 and probably 7, though there is no trace of a breach in the dam at 7 now.

As has been noted above (Chapter 1) the abbey complex would appear to have been moated on three sides. The eastern stretch (18) still exists and is water-filled. The northern stretch (17) is revealed as a shallow mound and ditch to the north of the farm buildings. It is broken by the farm track, but it seems likely that this was the original entrance point in any case, given the discovery of the gatehouse and cobbled track on Manor Way. On the other side of the track the earthwork evidence for a continuation of the moat is slight, but some confirmation of it has been given by the resistivity survey in this field (see below). The resistivity survey has also confirmed the existence of the western stretch of moat, as marked on the 1885 Ordnance Survey Map. Nothing now remains of this in earthwork form. One can only speculate at the reasons for having a moated enclosure at the centre of the abbey precinct. It is unlikely to be, as has been stated (Moorhouse 1971), an early stage in the development of the abbey precinct, since the area covered is too small, and the abbey owned a great deal of land in the area from the start. It is possible that it may have been dug for reasons of defence, since the abbey faced constant hostility in one form or another from the townspeople over feudal dues. There appears to have been violence at one point (see above) and the abbot and convent may well have feared more. Certainly they applied to the King for a licence to crenellate some of their buildings in 1293.

To the south of the abbey complex are two more large fishponds (19 and 20). Although the southern dam of pond 20 is difficult to trace on the ground, there must have been a pond here, since there is clearly a leat (26) running from it to the ditch feature which crosses the main field to the south of the farm buildings. It must have been a leat letting water from the pond into the ditch and not vice-versa, since the lie of the land only allows water to flow though the ditch from east to west; otherwise it would be flowing uphill.

The single ditch (27), which is joined to pond 20 becomes a double ditch at 28 and 29, and probably had an outlet into the valley on the west at 30. What this feature represents remains uncertain. Aston and Bond have suggested that it formed the southern boundary of the precinct, which seems likely, but it

appears to have had some function in the water control system as well. It is true that at Bordesley Abbey boundary ditches also function as overflow leats, but there would seem to be no reason for the double ditch if this is the purpose of the feature. When the earthwork survey was being carried out the grass across the earthwork at 28 and 29 was very short compared with that surrounding it (see plate 14). This suggests that the ground is particulary dry in this area and may indicate buried masonry of some sort. Combined with the results of the fluxgate magnetometer survey (see below) this certainly suggests that the area is worth further archaeological investigation, but it would be unwise to give it any further designation at this stage. If it does act as a boundary bank, its continuation across the valley may be seen at 31, and the other earthworks at 32 may also be part of the boundary system, but this is still unclear.

The field to the north of the double-ditch feature has a bank and ditch (34) running along its western edge from south to north. It could be a field boundary of some sort and appears to have an opening in it at 35, where the grass is also short, possibly indicating an archaeological feature beneath the surface. The small mound (33) in the north-west corner of the field is unidentified, but may possibly be a windmill mound, though one would usually expect a ditch around the mound in this case. The field itself has traces of ridge-and furrow, and may well not have been ploughed since medieval times.

Close to the farmhouse there is an earthwork which appears to enclose another small pool (25) of uncertain use. It may have joined the large pond (19) at 23 and probably had an outlet into the valley to the south. There were probably sluices from the main pool (19), as well, at 21 and 24. The only other feature which has sometimes been suggested as belonging to the earthwork of the abbey is the flat mound in the bend of the river at 37. This, however, seems more likely to be a natural feature created by the meander of the river. It cannot be the mill site, since there is no sign of a mill pond, or any way of building up a sufficient head of water here to drive a mill. It remains true however, that there is no clear site among the earthworks for the abbey's mill. Although the abbot owned mills elsewhere in Halesowen, there would almost certainly have been one within the abbey precinct. The most likely site remains the double-ditch feature in the south of the site, but there is no firm evidence for this at present.

Geophysical Survey

This was carried out between 15 and 17 August 1986 in two areas of the site where it was hoped the survey would give an indication of the quality of the archaeology under the ground and provide information which would add to the assessment of the archaeological potential of the site as a whole. The areas chosen were the field to the west of the abbey complex (field 5287) and that to the south of the farm buildings (field 6964).

The one was likely to be the site of buildings associated with the monastic complex, the other contained the double-ditch feature which was seen as a possible mill site. The ground in each case was first scanned with a magnetometer and then detailed resistivity and magnetic surveys were made of the two areas respectively. A 30m grid positioned as shown on fig 13 was used to located the surveys, and plots of the results are shown in figs 14 to 17.

Field 5287

Structural remains such as masonry or paved floors are usually best detected by a resistivity survey, but the magnetometer is also likely to indicate an increase in general disturbance if there has been occupation activity on the site, and so can provide useful complementary information. The results at Halesowen were disappointing, possibly because the subsoil magnetic succeptibility value is unusually low and so any feature filled with a significant amount of subsoil is unlikely to be detectable. The general enhancement of suceptibility values which occurs on many soils in the presence of past occupation activity might, it seems, also be inhibited (Bartlett 1986). There was a broad but weak increase in the readings in the centre of the field and some additional areas to the north (see shaded areas on fig 13) which registered disturbances and given the general unfavourable soil conditions there may be some archaeological significance in these readings.

Readings for the resistivity survey were taken at 1m intervals using the twin electrode configuration with a 0.5m probe spacing (Bartlett 1986). The results are shown as a plot of the original untreated data (fig 14), and as filtered data in the form of density plots, one (fig 15) giving positive and negative anomalies, the other (fig 16) showing only positive anomalies for comparative purposes.

The anomaly outlined at A on fig 16 appears to be of the right shape for a building of some kind. It stands on part of a raised platform in the field and so may represent the foundations of one of a range of buildings on this platform. In this case the anomalies at B and C may be all that can be detected of less well-preserved and more deeply buried structures. Those as D might represent structural debris, but there is little form to them, so if this is the case they may have been heavily robbed (Bartlett 1986).

The survey also revealed a prominent feature running along the west of the field to its north-west corner (E). There is a remarkable correlation between the shape of this feature and an earthwork marked in this position on the 25" Ordnance Survey Map of 1885. It appears almost certain that the feature concerned is the western stretch of the moat around the abbey complex, and the anomaly at F may well represent its continuation across the top of the field. It is interesting to note that both on the

1885 Map and in the survey results the ditch appears to end before the bottom of the field. This gap may well represent an entrance point and might have some connection with building A and other buildings in the area. Other readings in the field (eg at G) appear to be the result of modern disturbance and cannot be taken as significant. The evidence seems to point to a number of buildings in the south of the field. The north may have burials in it (since the field was called 'Lower Churchyard' on the 1844 Tithe Map), but unfortunately these would not register on the resistivity survey.

Field 6964

As in field 5287 the soil here proved unresponsive to magnetic survey, but those areas which did give a concentration of disturbance (see fig 13) when scanned with a magnetometer were given a recorded survey. The concentration to the south east of the earthwork was unconfirmed by this recorded survey and may have been only a few fragments of iron which fell between the traverses (Bartlett 1986). However, that on the mound was confirmed and the plot is given in fig 17. The increase in activity around the mound may be seen in square 2 on this plot. The traverses in square 2 were recorded at closer invervals than elsewhere (1m) and there are a number of small anomalies which are probably caused by pieces of iron (Bartlett 1986). The anomalies do distinguish this area from the rest of the site but give only the slightest evidence for occupation activity here.

Conclusions from the Geophysical Survey

Little weight can be placed on the magnetometer survey in field 6964 and the double ditch requires further investigation before its purpose can be known with any certainty. The resistivity survey in field 5287, however, has almost certainly revealed one building, and possibly traces of several more. Unfortunately the exact position of the wall discovered in this field during the laying of an electricity cable in 1970 (see above) is not known, but the existence of this wall at least helps to confirm that the interpretation placed on the results of the resistivity survey is probably correct. The survey would also seem to have confirmed the existence of a moat on the west side of the abbey complex, and there is a possible entrance to the complex opposite building A on fig 16.

Distribution of Archaeological Deposits at Halesowen Abbey

The above evidence allows certain areas of the abbey site to be singled out as having known archaeological deposits and others to be suggested as areas with a probable archaeological yield. It should be stressed that in highlighting such areas it is not the intention to suggest that other areas of the abbey

site are of no importance archaeologically. The whole of the scheduled area (and probably some areas outside it) is of archaeological importance. The intention here is to single out those areas which are known to have archaeological deposits and those which, from the point of view of archaeological research, merit further investigation.

1) **Areas of Known Deposits** (fig 18)

These, as one might expect, are all in the area of the monastic complex and its near vicinity. The southern portion of the field to the west of the farm buildings (field 5287) would appear to have the highest archaeological yield among these areas, since as far as is known the archaeological strata survive virtually intact. This is not the case further to the east, however, in the area of the church and claustral complex. Where previous excavations have not damaged the archaeological strata there may well be damage from the foundations of buildings. The most promising area here is probably that between the east claustral range and the thirteenth century building. It would be strange if the latter was originally in such a detached position, and if there are archaeological deposits in its immediate vicinity, they may survive relatively intact, since there have been no previous excavations in this area as far as is known, and the modern buildings in this area probably have foundations which are not excessively deep.

2) **Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest** (fig 18)

Although it is impossible to be sure where archaeological deposits lie, other than what has been detailed above, the whole of the moated area is of great interest. Some areas (for example, the northern half of field 5287) were probably part of the monastic cemetery and others may have contained buildings - Halesowen was a wealthy abbey and wealth in monastic houses often showed itself, as at Norton Priory (Green 1974), in extensive building programmes.

The monastic precinct in general, however, certainly merits investigation. Those areas most likely to yield good results archaeologically are the dams of the fishponds, and the sluices and overflow leats of the flight of fishponds to the north. The double ditch feature to the south also merits further investigation since it has an uncertain pupose but there is some evidence that it is more than just a boundary bank.

3) **Predicted Maximum Extent of the Abbey** (fig 19)

The extent of the precinct is difficult to establish with any certainty. C J Bond has suggested (Moorhouse 1971) that the boundary is represented in the south by the double ditch features and the single ditch on the same alignment across the

valley, in the east by a hedge-line and a low single bank beyond the northern pools, and in the north by Manor Way where the gatehouse once stood. If this is the case then it is possible to give some indication of the maximum extent of the abbey, although the western boundary is still rather uncertain. If it was masked by a bank then this may lie underneath the disused railway embankment to the west of the site.

CHAPTER 5 - THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF HALESOWEN ABBEY

Local

The abbey acts today as a focus for historical and archaeological interest in Halesowen; it has a certain symbolic value for the people of Halesowen which cannot be denied. The local importance attached to it however, is not misplaced. Historically, the abbey was intimately connected with the town and parish of Halesowen, not least because the abbot was lord of the manor. Most townspeople would have been familiar with the abbey, since the majority of them would at some time have been required to attend the Manorial Court, which was probably held in a room at the abbey.

This intimate historical connection between town and abbey shows itself archaeologically in the importance of the abbey as the central element in the archaeology of the town. Any archaeological survey work in the Halesowen district - to identify for example, grange, mill or fishpond sites - would have as its starting point the abbey precinct and its archaeology. In this sense the site has a paramount local importance in terms of its archaeology.

Regional

In a regional context Halesowen must be placed alongside sites like Bordesley Abbey and Sandwell Abbey. At both the monastic buildings have received considerable attention and the deep stratigraphy at Bordesley has made the results of excavation in the church and claustral complex particularly rewarding. It is unlikely that Halesowen would produce results as good, not least because the archaeology is so disturbed. The possible range of buildings in field 5287 might be more important in a regional context since ancilliary buildings within the monastic precinct have up to this point received less attention at Bordesley and Sandwell.

As far as the earthworks are concerned, only Bordesely can match the quality and complexity of those at Halesowen. So much work remains to be done on abbey earthworks, both regionally and nationally, that any archaeological work done at Halesowen in this area cannot fail to be important. It would also provide useful material for comparison with the work being done at Shrewsbury and Bordesley.

The other aspect of the abbey's archaeology which is important in a regional context is the crown post roof in the thirteenth-century building. Crown post roofs in the West Midlands are rare, and Molyneux (1984) has to look to Oxfordshire and Berkshire for comparative examples. He gives only one local example in the roof which existed over the chancel of Solihull church until 1933 (Molyneux 1984, 50).

National

In his book What is History? E H Carr has commented that an event or series of events in the past only become 'history' as such when historians start to write about them. So it is with the town of Halesowen, which now has a national historical importance thorugh the work of Professor Razi and Professor Hilton on the Court Rolls. Many students of A level social history are now familiar with Halesowen though Professor Razi's book (1980). This importance of the town historically cannot fail to lend national importance to the archaeology of the abbey which was so intimately connected with the town. The history and archaeology of town and abbey go together to form an inerconnecting whole and historical and archaeological research should proceed side by side.

For many years it has been accepted that any abbey site in the country has a national importance archaeologically. This of course is true of Halesowen as much as anywhere else, but Halesowen has a particular importance for two reasons. Firstly, there has been little modern research into Premonstratensian houses, and what there has been in the past has concentrated, as might be expected, on abbey plans (see Clapham 1923). This brings us to the second reason, which is the fine preservation of the monastic precinct and earthworks at Halesowen. Monastic precincts have received little archaeological attention until relatively recently. Although the balance is now being redressed at sites like Shrewsbury and Bordesley, there is still much work to be done and a site like Halesowen is of great value in such research.

The medieval floor tiles from Halesowen also have a national importance. The decorated tiles are very detailed and their designs (with details from the story of Tristan and Isolde and from the life of King Richard I) have only been paralleled at Chertsey Abbey. This connection may also be important; we cannot say as yet why tiles which appear to come from the same moulds should appear in houses of different orders of monks and canons.

Conclusions

It is clear, then, from this report, that Halesowen Abbey is a monument of national importance. Particularly worthy of note are its earthworks and hydraulic system, its documentation, its one complete standing building, and the extensive survival of the former ecclesiastical estate. More detailed work along the lines suggested here, would help place the site in its national setting. English Heritage have already begun to make arrangements for detailed recording work on the 'Infirmary' building. It is to be hoped that such work will also be carried out on the other standing remains and that the opportunity will be given for further archaeological and historical research on a site which clearly has great potential.

Appendix 1 - Early Maps as Evidence for the Site and its Development

Unfortunately, there are few early maps which are of much use in tracing the development of the site of Halesowen abbey itself. County maps, either of Worcestershire or Shropshire, such as those of Speed, do not show sufficient detail to be of any use and no early estate maps for the area have yet been located. As has already been seen, the most valuable early map is the Tithe Map and accompanying details for the township of Lapal, where the abbey site is situated. The map is dated 26 November 1844 and may be consulted in the Shropshire County Records Office, or in Halesowen Central Library, who possess a copy of the Map and a transcript of the Tithe Extract (R3.H2. Accession No. H16320). Also valuable is the 25" Ordnance Survey Map for the area, printed in 1885 (Worcestershire Sheet V13), which shows more detail of the earthworks than the modern O.S. 1:2500 map (SO 9783), notably the western stretch of the moat around the abbey complex, which is found on no other map available, but which is confirmed by the results of the resistivity survey recently conducted in that area.

Appendix 2 - List of Early Drawings, Paintings and Engravings depicting the Abbey and its Buildings.

There are a considerable number of illustrations of the abbey, deriving from various sources, as may be seen from the list below. Unfortunately, the majority of these do not depict much more than we are able to see from the standing remains as they are today. It is possible that a detailed study of all the illustrations in conjunction with a study of the extant fabric, might produce additional information about the abbey structures, but such a study did not seem worthwhile for a general report on the archaeological potential of the abbey site such as this. It is worth highlighting two early engravings, however, the 1731 engraving by S. and N. Buck, and the 1825 engraving by John Coney for Monasticon. The former should be the most valuable illustration we have of the abbey and it is clear that in 1731 considerably more of the abbey church was extant than now (Plate 18). However, the engraving is so badly drawn that it is almost impossible to relate it to those parts of the abbey now standing. The Coney engraving (Plate 19), on the other hand, is a very fine illustration of the south wall of the frater, and considerably more detail remained in 1825 than does today.

List of Early Illustrations (as far as possible, in chronological order):

1731 Buck, S. & N. - "The East View of Hales Owen Abbey in the County of Salop ..." in A Collection of engravings of castles, abbeys ... (London 1721-52)

1754 Green, J. - A full-page engraving of the ruins of the abbey accompanying the M.S. in the Society of Antiquaries (M.S. 139) of Charles Lyttleton's "The Parochial Antiquities ..."

1774 Hooper, S. (artist) and Sparro (engraver) - Engraving of "The Abbey" in F. Grose, The Antiquities of England and Wales, vol. 3 (London, 1775).

1789 Parkes, D. (artist) - Engravings of "Part of the Abbey Church" and "The Abbey House etc." in the

Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xix, p.113 (February 1799)

1791 L.H. - "Sketch of a stone coffin found beneath the pavement at Hales Owen Abbey", Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lxi, p.1097 (1791)

1797 et seq. Parkes, D. - Drawings of the tiles dug up at Halesowen Abbey in "Skeytches and Scrappes pycked upp in lonelie Walkes" (M.S.S. 8vo, British Museum)

1799 Caldwall, J. (engraver) - Remains of Halesowen Abbey, in Nash, History of Worcestershire, vol. i, p.490

1801 Parkes, D. (artist) and Storer, J. (engraver) - "The Abbey", published in The Itinerant, 1 January, 1801.

c.1800 Green, B. - 2 vignettes on one plate; the first a s.w. prospect of Halesowen church, the second a view of a small portion of the abbey ruins.

c.1802 Parkes, D. (artist) and Storer, J. (engraver) - a view of the ruins of the abbey in the Copperplate Magazine, vol. v. plate ccxiv (London 1792-1802)

1802 Parkes, D. (artist) and Pearson, W. (engraver) - "Ha Owen Abbey" in W. Pearson, Select Views of the Antiquities of Shropshire ...

1807 Greig, J. (artist and engraver) - "Remains of Hales Owen Abbey, Shropshire", in the Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet for 1807

1808 Parkes, D. (artist) and Basire (engraver) - "Remains of the Abbey Church" in the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lxxviii, p.577 (July 1808)

1811 Parkes, D. (artist) and Angus, W. (engraver) - "Hales

Owen Abbey, Shropshire" in J. Britton and E.W. Brayley, The Beauties of England and Wales, vol. xiii, p.326 (London 1813)

1811 Storer, J. (artist and engraver) - view of the abbey in the Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet, vol. x (1811)

1817 Hearne, Thomas (1774-1817) - Remains of the Monastery of Halesowen. Watercolour in Birmingham Art Gallery

1825 Coney, J. (artist and engraver) - view of the ruins of the abbey in W. Dugdale, Monasticon Anglicanum ... A New Edition, pt. ii, vol. vi, p.926 (London 1830)

1877 Gething, W. - Halesowen Abbey. Engraving mentioned in Halesowen Borough Council, Exhibition illustrating the history of Halesowen ... (Halesowen 1950)

1877 Gething, W. - Halesowen Abbey, north side of church. Engraving mentioned in Halesowen Borough Council, Exhibition illustrating the history of Halesowen ...

1882 Leaver, C. - Halesowen Abbey. Oil painting mentioned in Halesowen Borough Council, Exhibition illustrating the history of Halesowen ...

1895 Pope, Henry - 2 etchings of Halesowen Abbey. Mentioned in Halesowen Borough Council, Exhibition illustrating the history of Halesowen...

1908 Pope, Henry - Halesowen Abbey (sepia touched with blue). Birmingham Art Gallery

1943 Mackenzie, C.V. - Halesowen Abbey (watercolour). Mentioned in Halesowen Borough Council, Exhibition illustrating the history of Halesowen...

Undated:

Halesowen Abbey, Miniature engraving, artist unknown. Mentioned in Halesowen Borough Council, Exhibition illustrating the history of Halesowen ...

British Museum. A coloured west view of the ruins of Manor Abbey, Hales Owen: 1f. 1in x 10 1/2in [M xxxvi. 14.g] A coloured view of part of the ruins of a Manor Abbey, Halewowen: 1' 1" x 10 1/2" [xxxvi.14.L] (see Manuscript Maps, Charts and Plans and Topographical Drawings in the British Museum, Vol. II (Shropshire))

Grazebrook - Engraving of the Abbey. Mentioned in Halesowen Borough Council, Exhibition illustrating the history of Halesowen ...

Noble (engraver) - Hales Owen Abbey, Shropshire. Published by Alexander Hogg. A woodcut facsimile of Sparro's view of the abbey ruins. Mentioned in Halesowen Borough Council, Exhibition illustrating the history of Halesowen...

Prattinton, P. - Worcestershire Prattinton M.S. collection (Society of Antiquaries). Contains a collection of drawings to illustrate his MS. collection, including No.6, a view of Halesowen Abbey; No.8, Ruin of Hales Owen Abbey by T. James Dudliston;

No.9, collections of drawings copied from those in the possession of Mr. Mytton; they include drawings of recumbant figures from the abbey and two tracings of drawings of the ruin.

Appendix 3 - Available Details of Material Previously Dispersed from the Site

Medieval Floor Tiles

1) The Rutland Collection in the British Museum possesses 760 tiles and pieces of tile from Halesowen (numbered L1-L760) as well as a number of plain tiles and pieces of decorated tile, which are not catalogued and are stored in boxes. Almost all the tiles were found by the 9th Duke of Rutland during his excavations. See the British Museum Catalogue by Elizabeth Eames (1980) for further details.

2) The Victoria and Albert Museum's Department of Ceramics possesses eight pictorial tiles from Halesowen Abbey (catalogue numbers c.326 - 1927; c.330 - 1927; c.342 - 1927; c.344-1927; c.354 - 1927; c.362 - 1927; c.376 - 1927). The date of acquisition (1927) confirms that these tiles come from Holliday's collection, since 1927 was the date of his death. Details of the tiles are available from the Keeper, Department of Ceramics.

3) The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge is supposed to have received part of Holliday's collection of material from the site (Eames 1980, 12), but there is now no record of any such material. It does, however, possess a tile removed by the Duke of Rutland in 1934. It is similar in design to No.1814 in the British Museum Catalogue (Eames 1980) and its catalogue number is c.31 - 1936.

4) Halesowen Central Library houses three fragments of decorated floor tiles and three fragments of plain floor tiles which belong to Halesowen College of Further Education and some from the 1930s excavations. Details are available in the County Sites and Monuments Record for Worcestershire.

5) There is a display case of tiles in the Parish Church, Halesowen.

Other Materials

1) The material on loan to Halesowen Central Library also includes five fragments of red painted glass and a fragment of pillar. Details are available in the County Sites and Monuments Record for Worcestershire.

2) The choir stalls with carved misericordes which now stand in Walsall Parish Church were once those of the Abbey Church, Halesowen.

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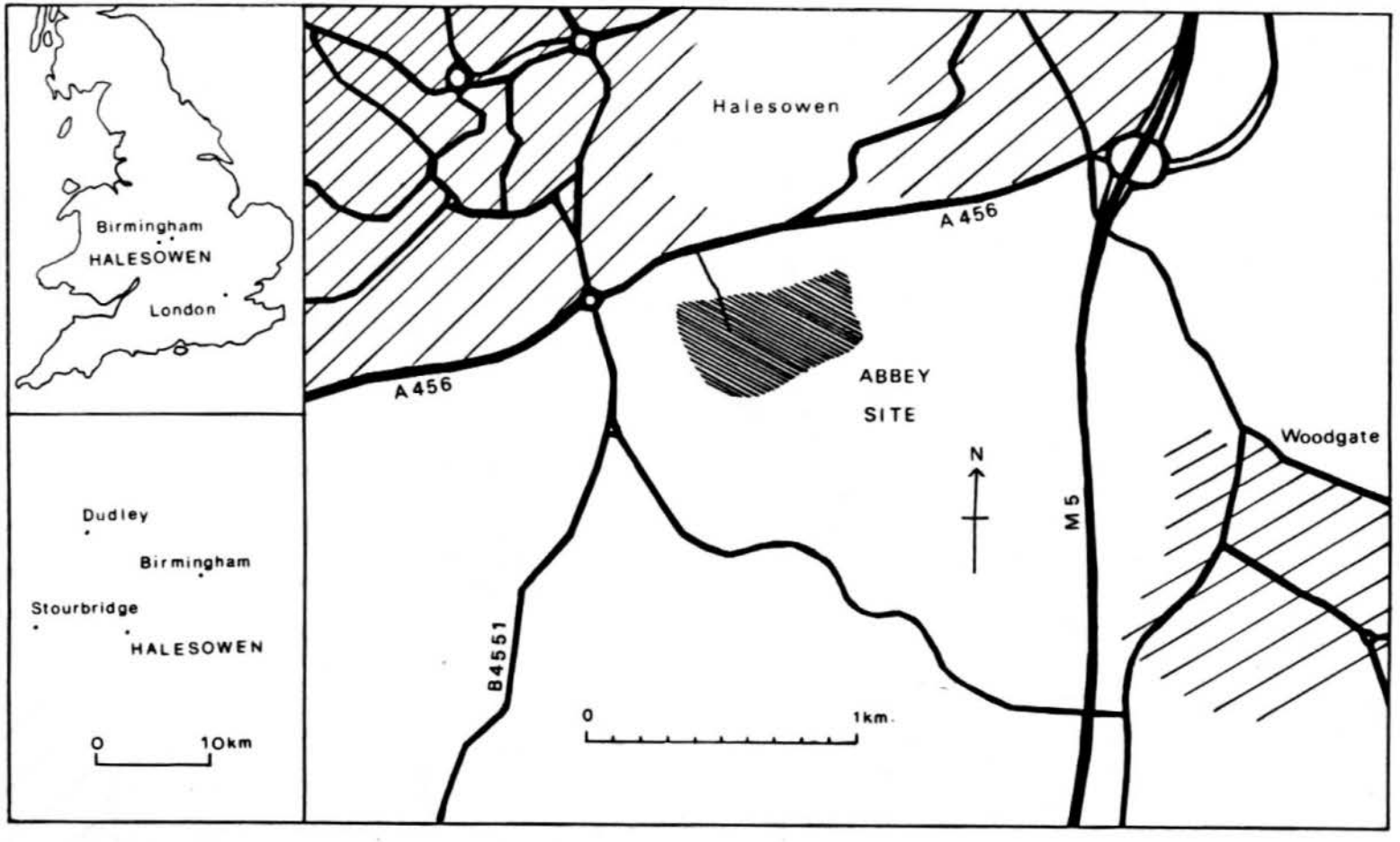

Fig. 1 - Location of the Abbey Site

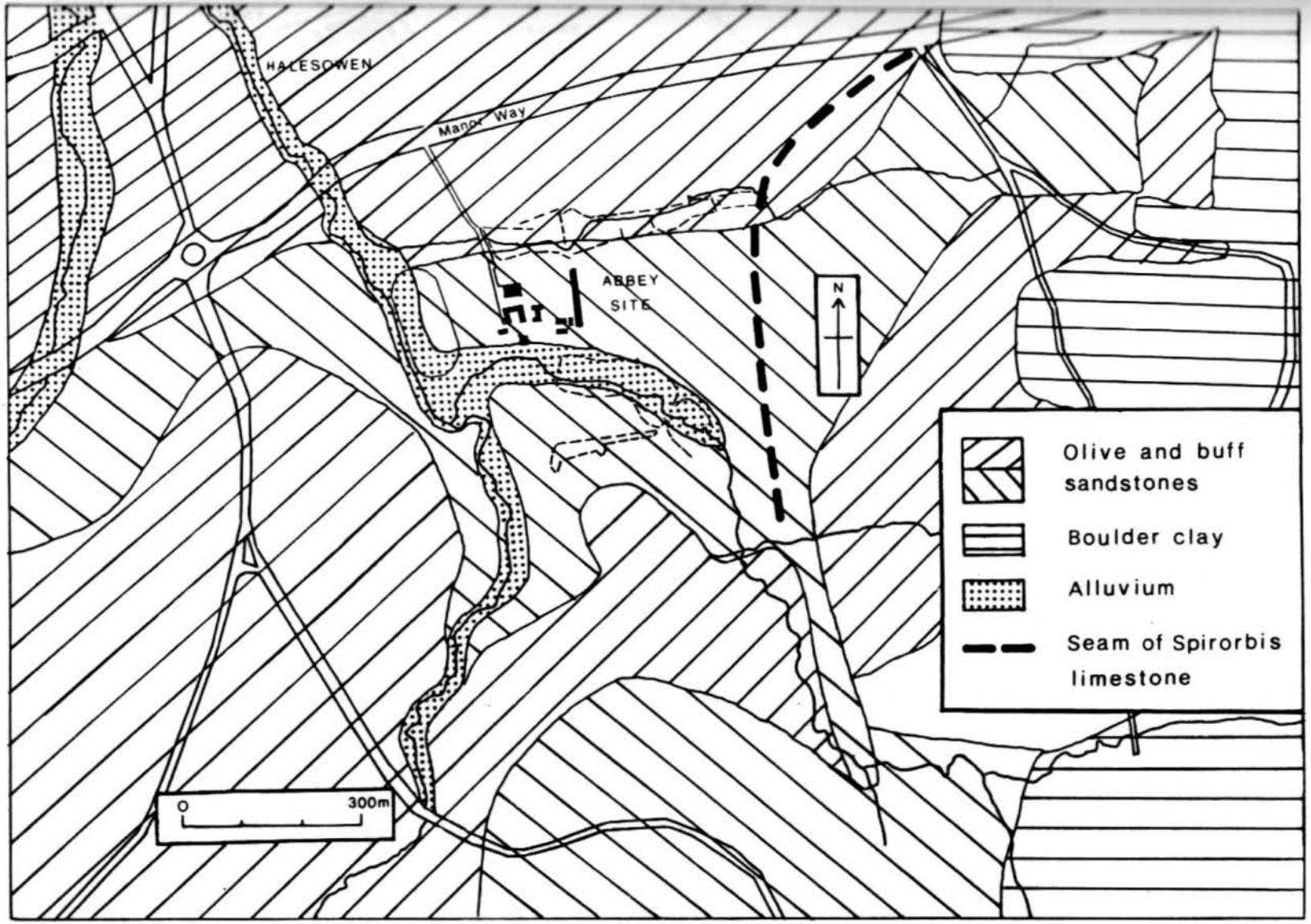

Fig. 2 - Surface Geology in the vicinity of the Abbey Site.

Fig. 3 - Modern Usage of Abbey Site.

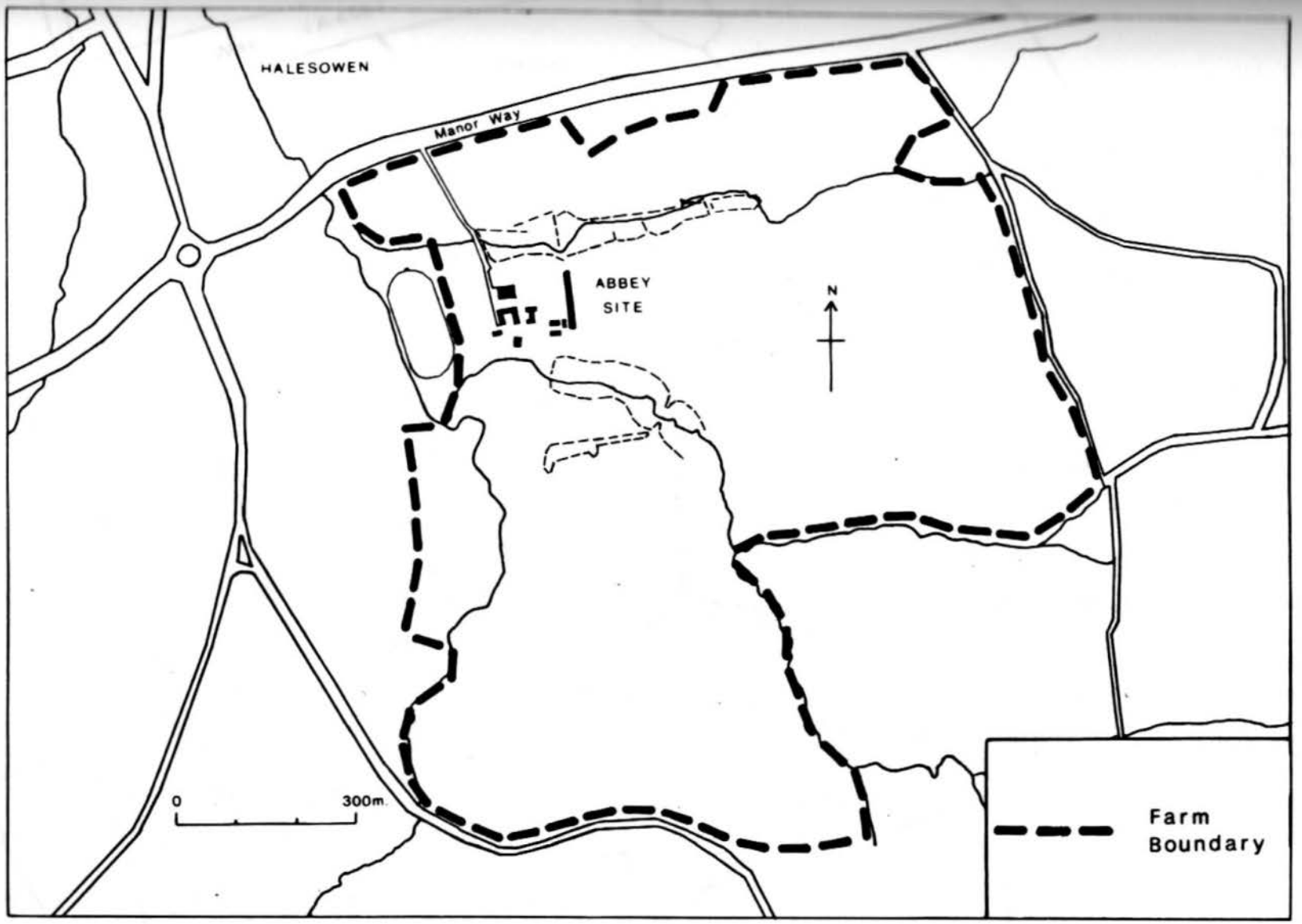

Fig. 4 - Extent of Manor Farm.

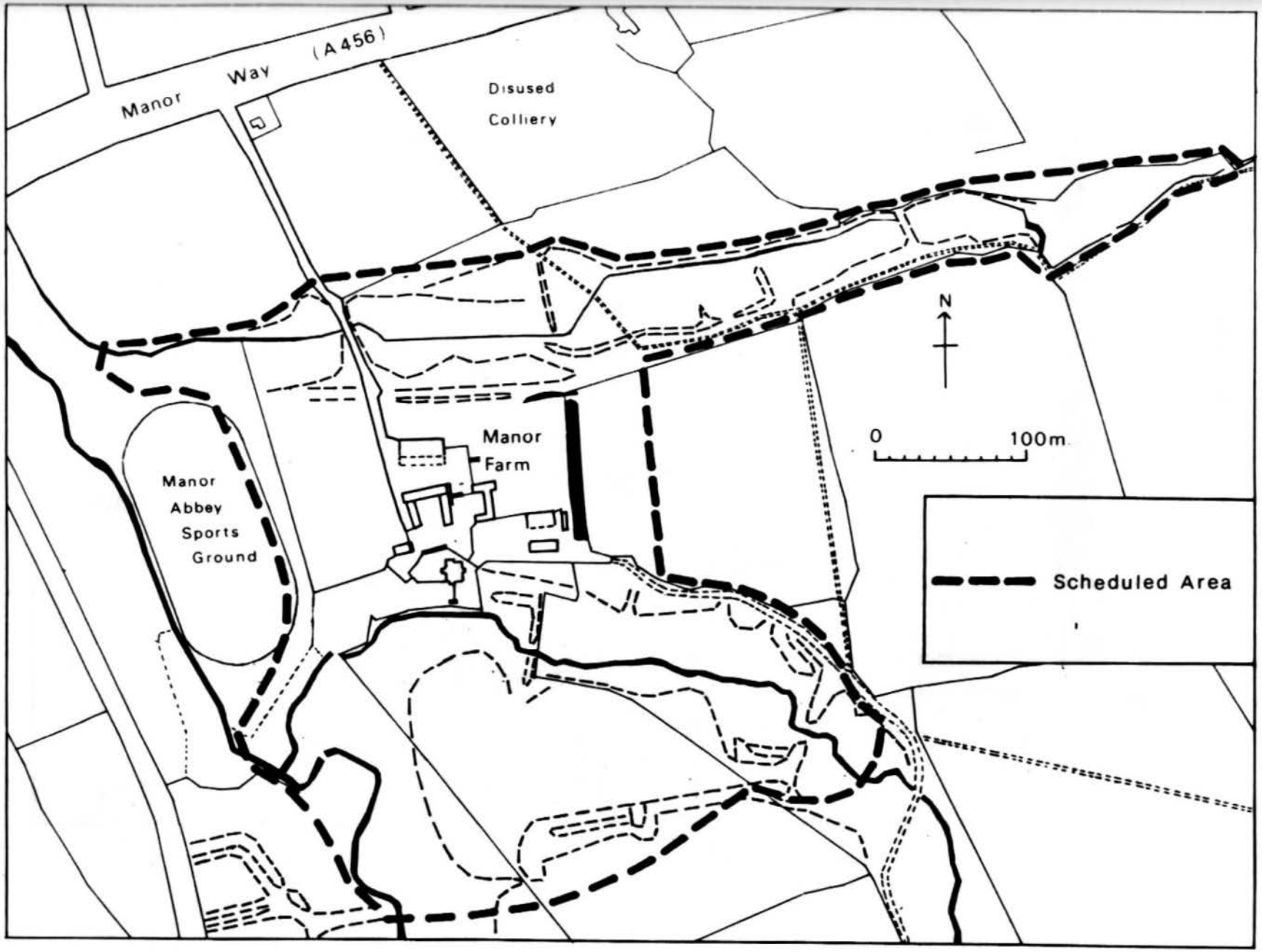

Fig. 5 - Area of Scheduled Ancient Monument.

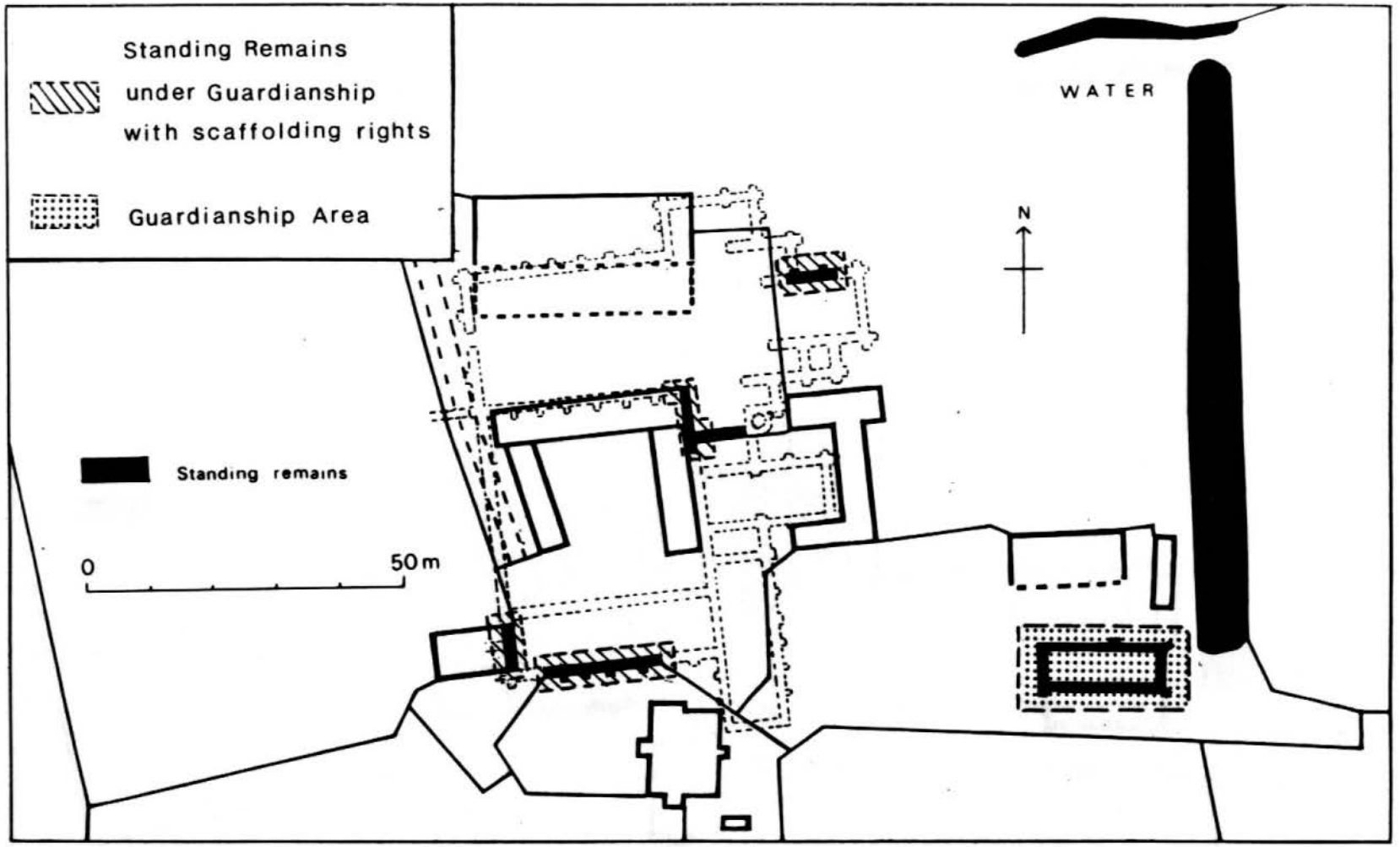

Fig. 6 - Details of Guardianship of the Standing Remains.

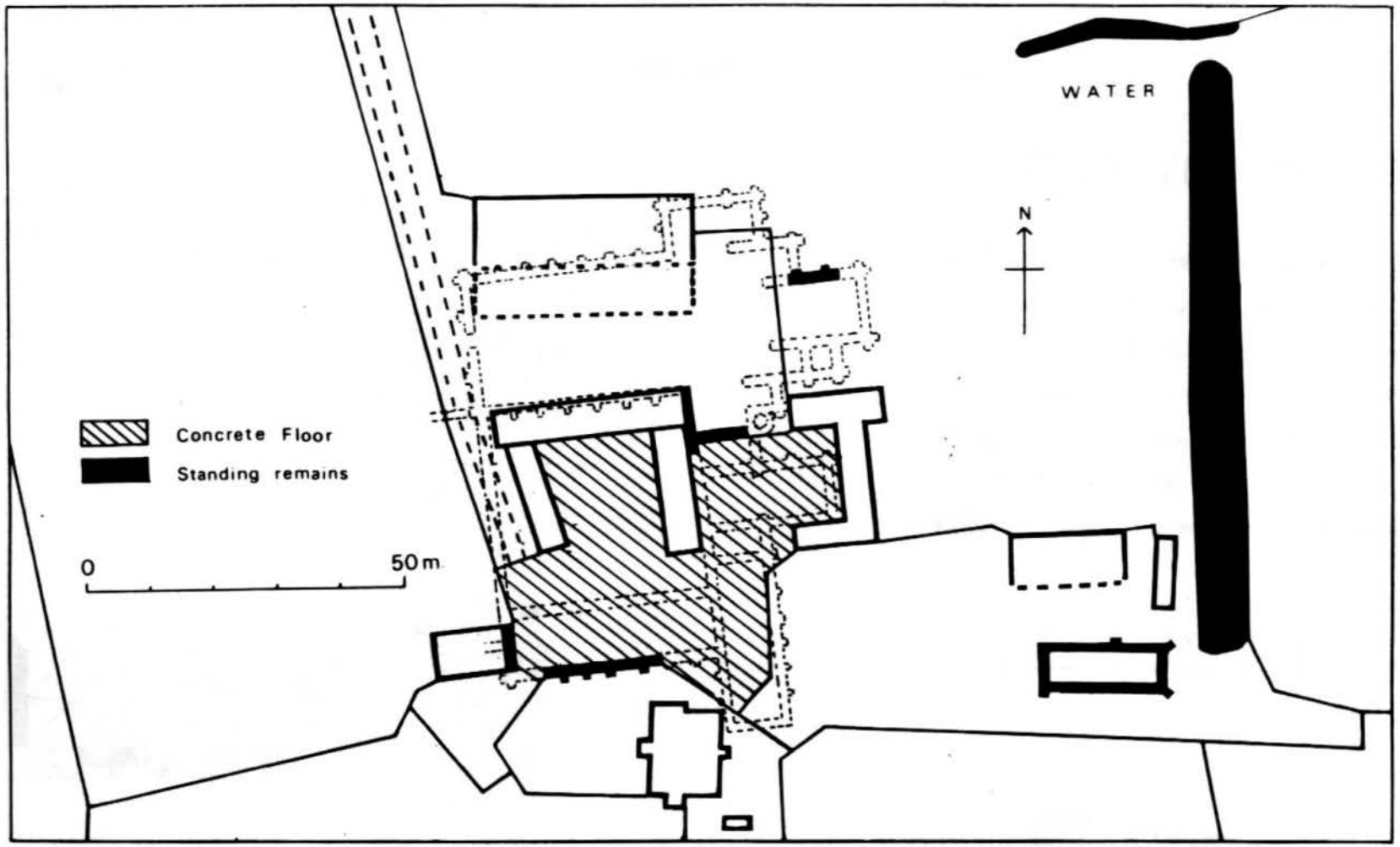

Fig. 7 - Area of Farm Buildings with Abbey Plan superimposed.

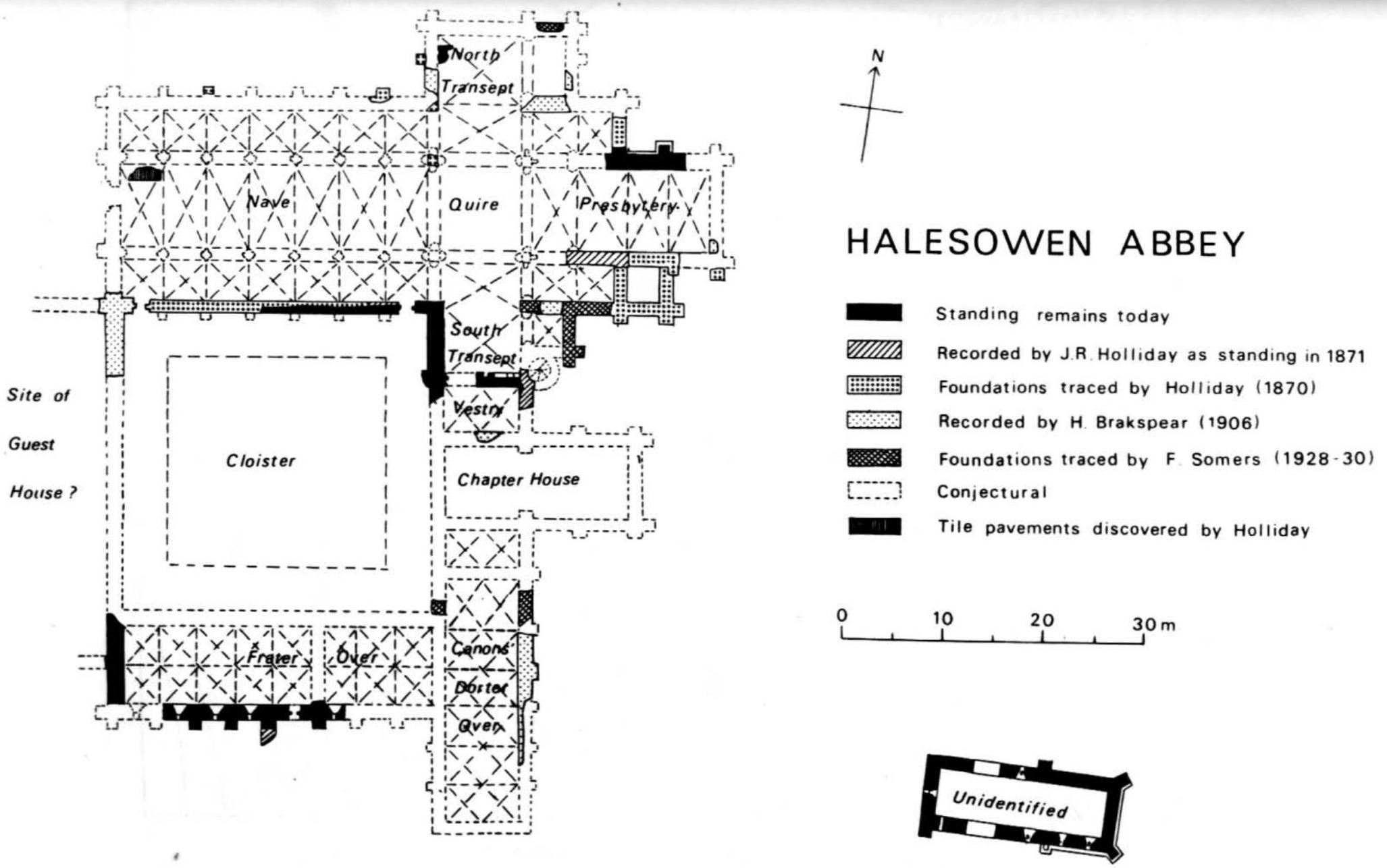

Fig.8- Abbey Plan with recorded results of Previous Excavations.

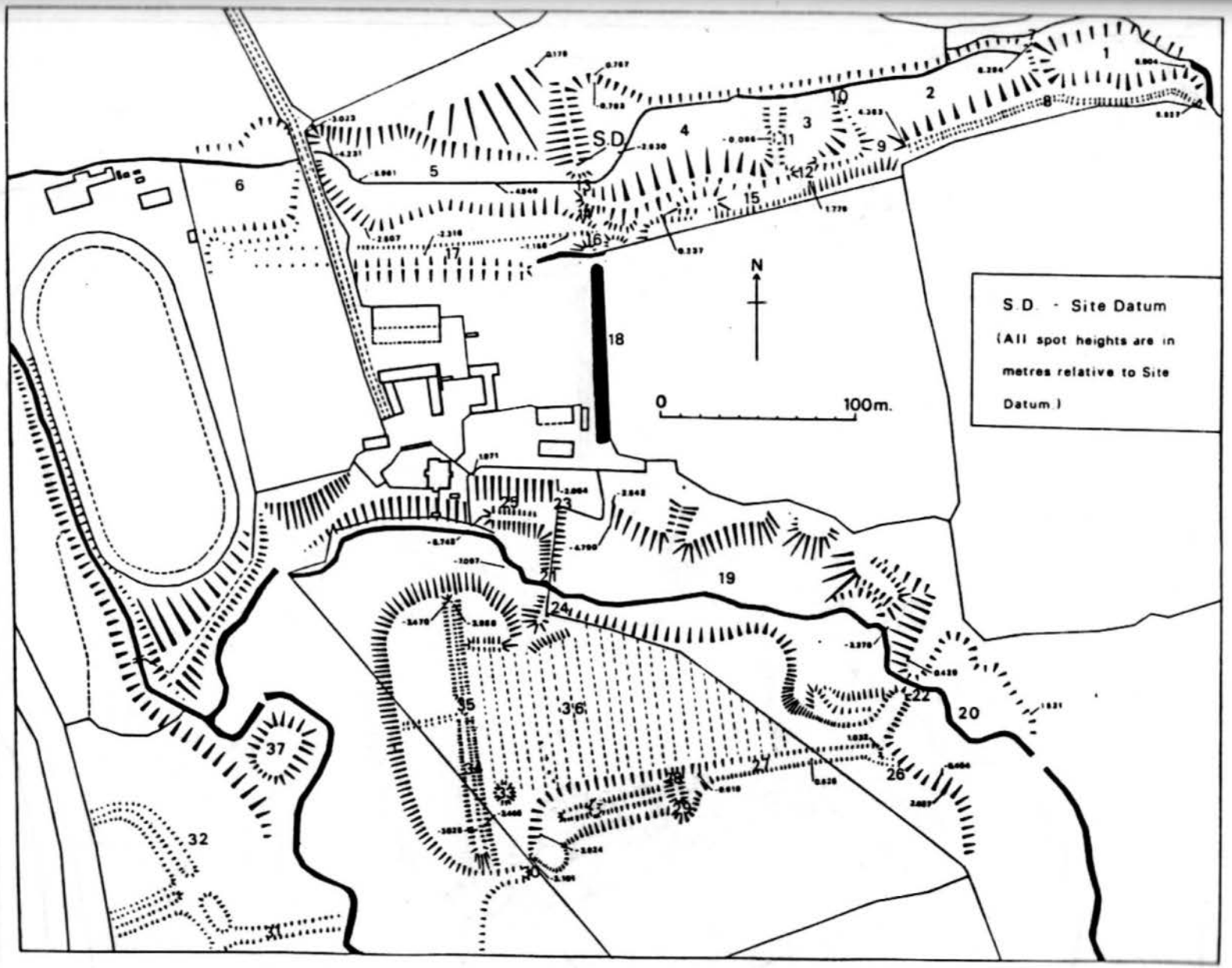

Fig. 9 - Results of Measured Hachure Survey.

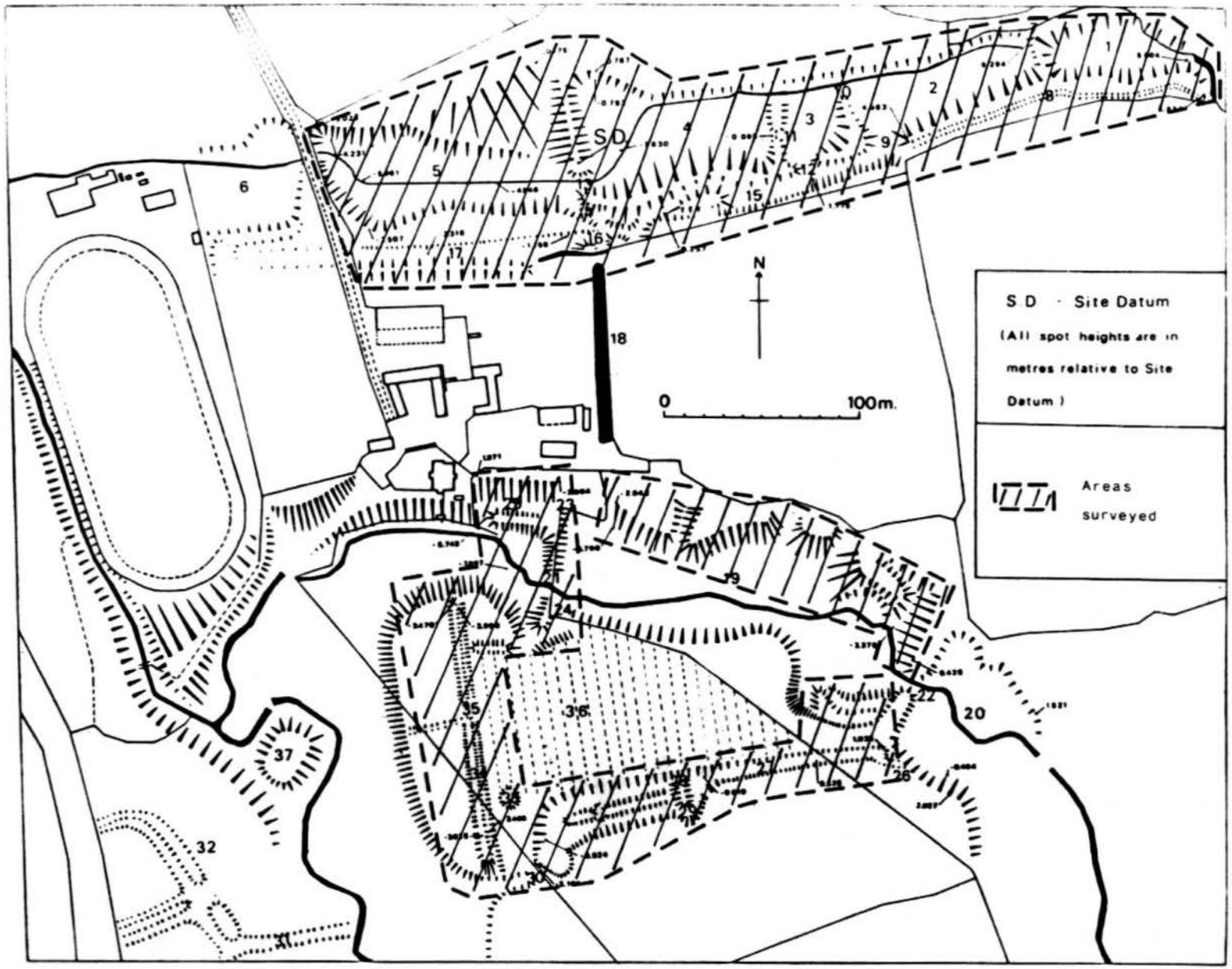

Fig. 10 - Areas covered by Measured Hachure Survey.

Fig. 11 - Location of Premonstratensian Abbeys in England.

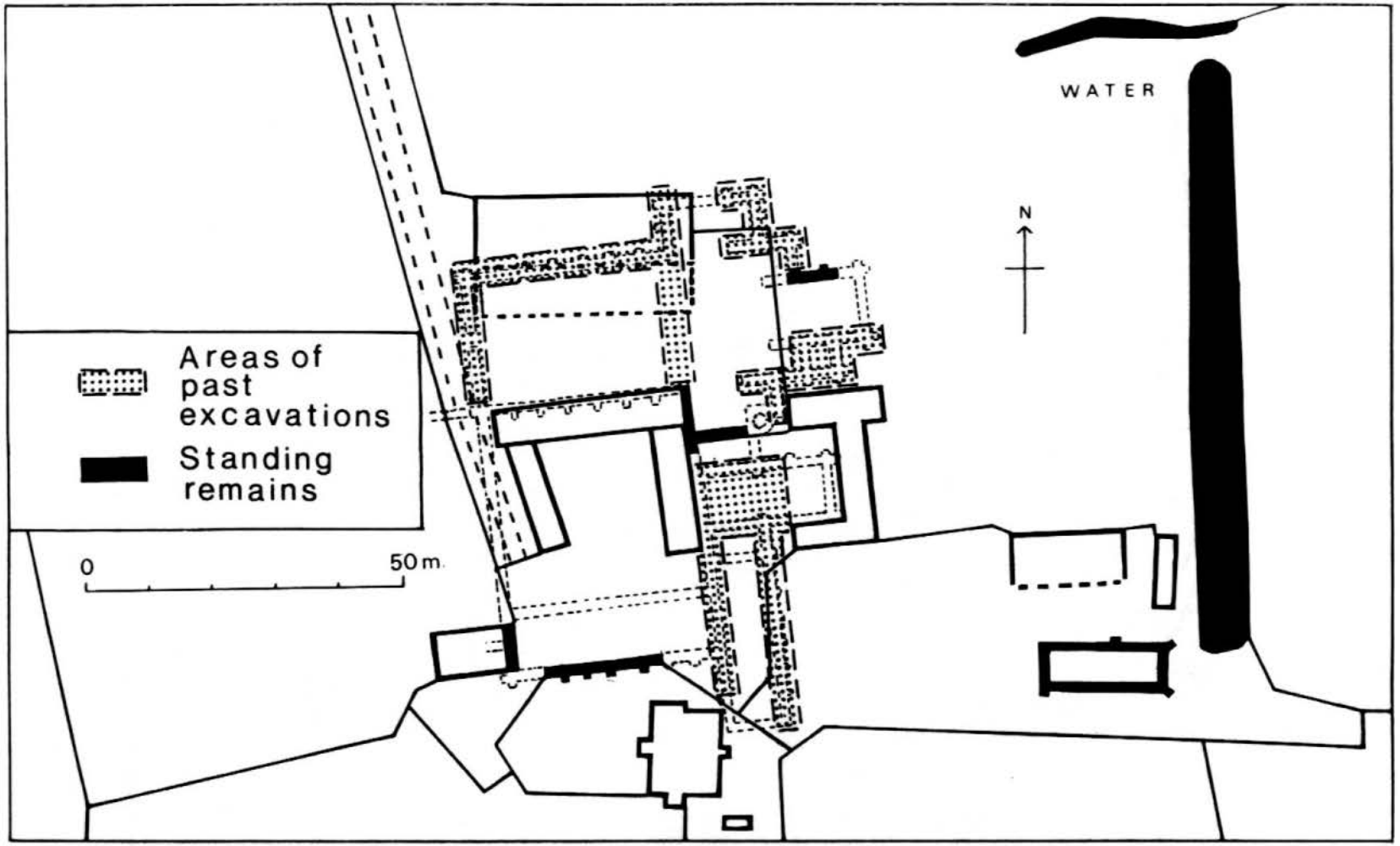

Fig. 12 - Supposed areas of Past Excavations on the Site.

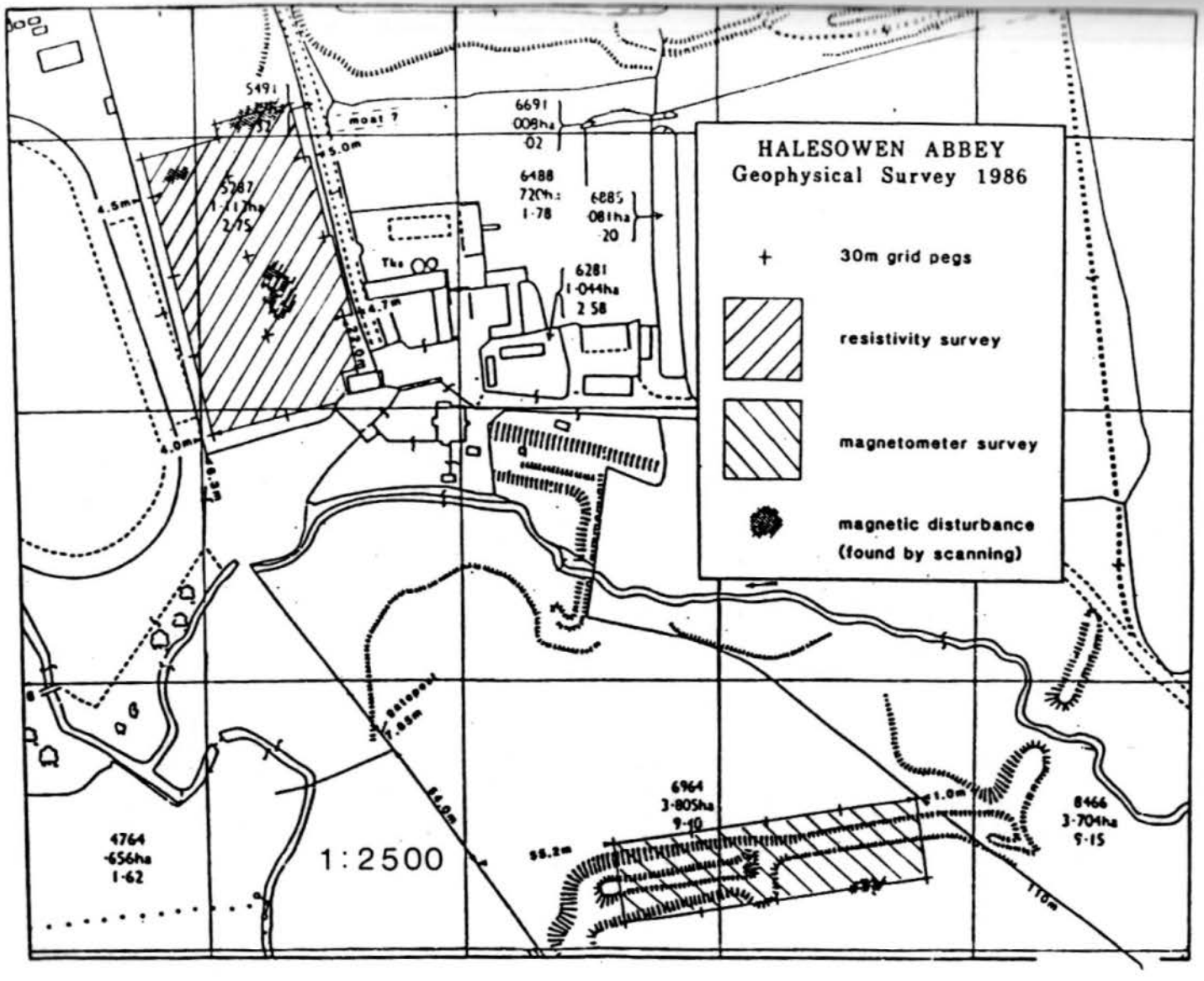

Fig. 13 - Location of Geophysical Survey.

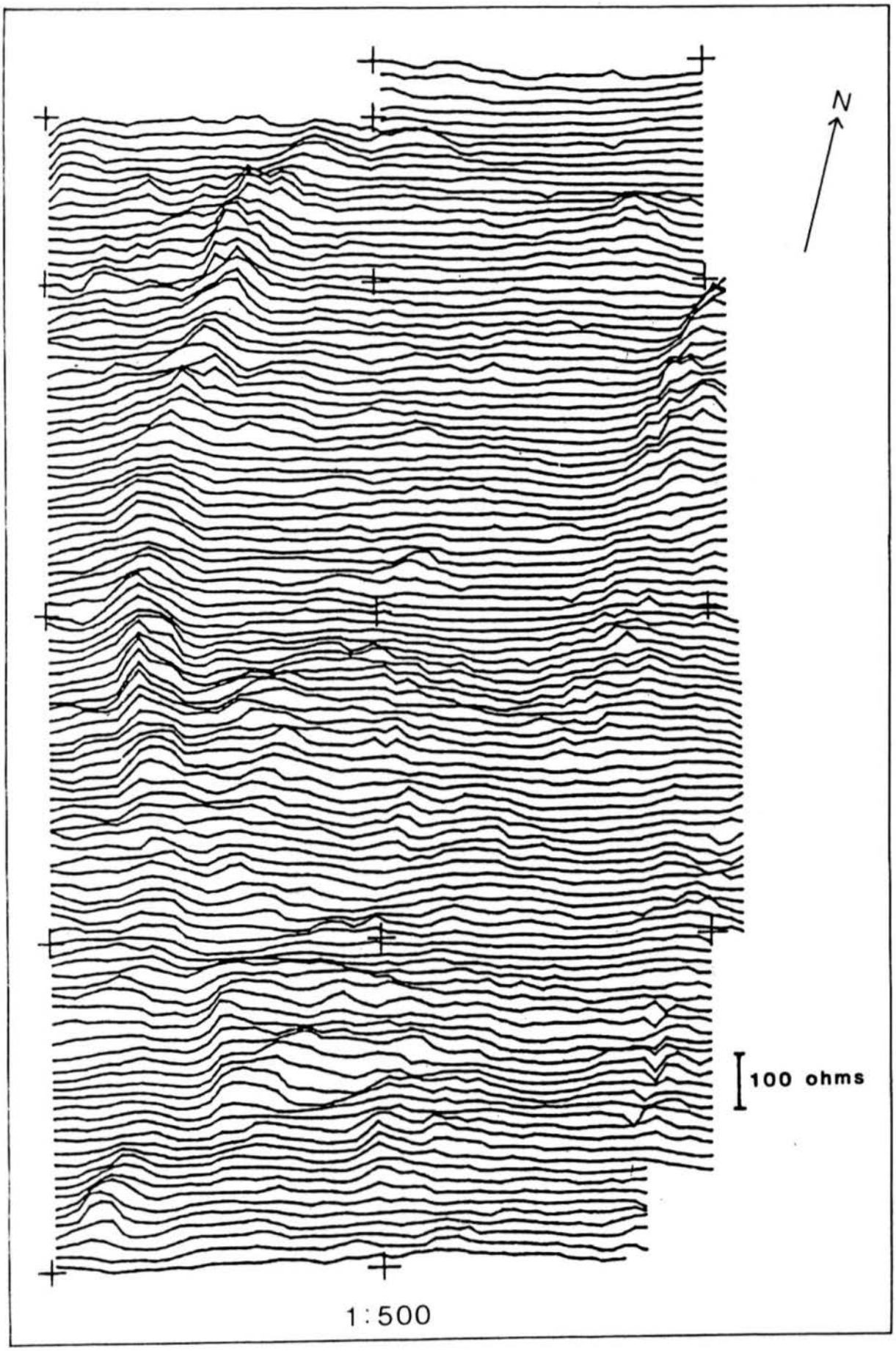

Fig. 14 - Resistivity Survey; original data from Field 5287.

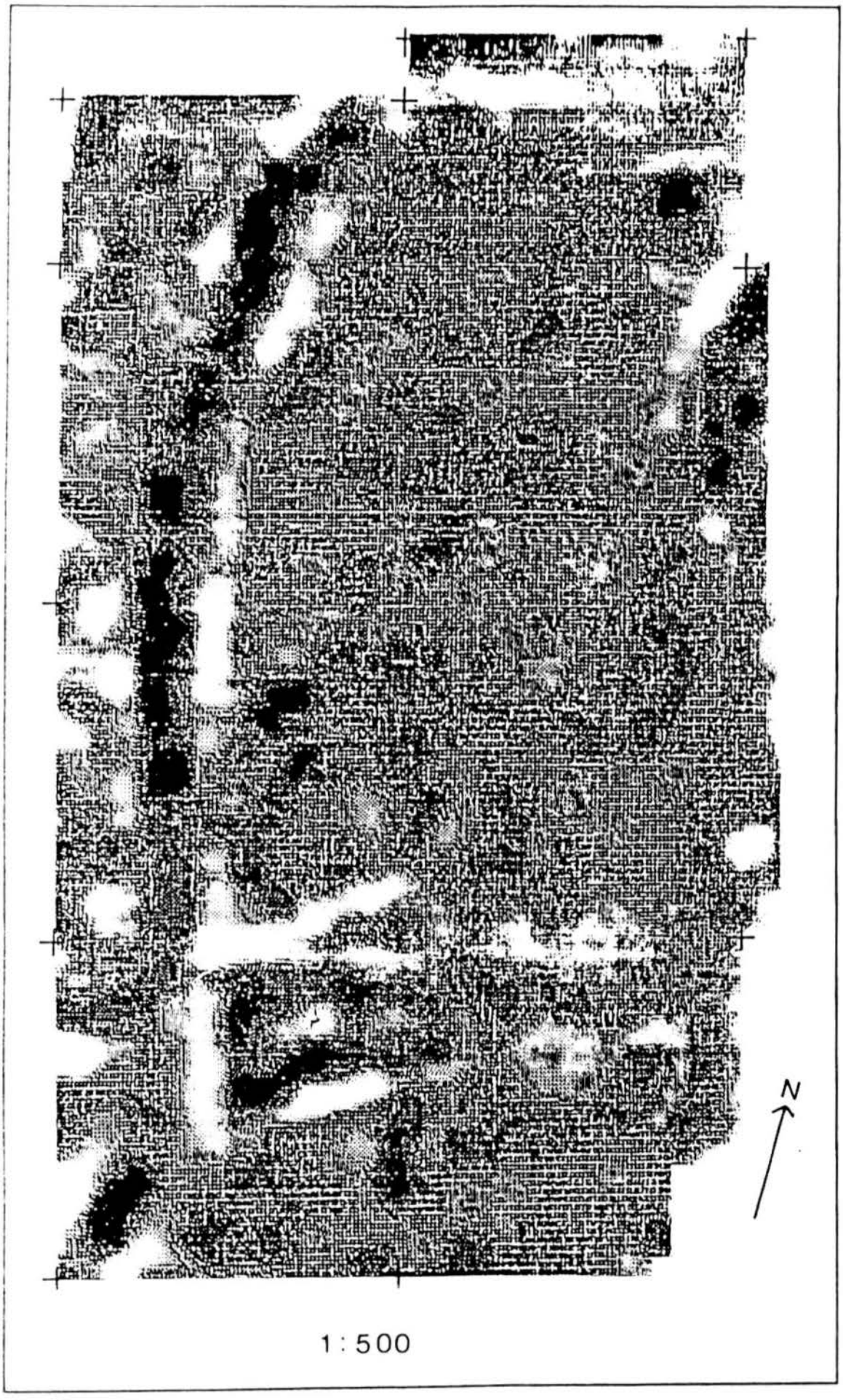

Fig. 15 - Resistivity Survey; filtered data from Field 5287

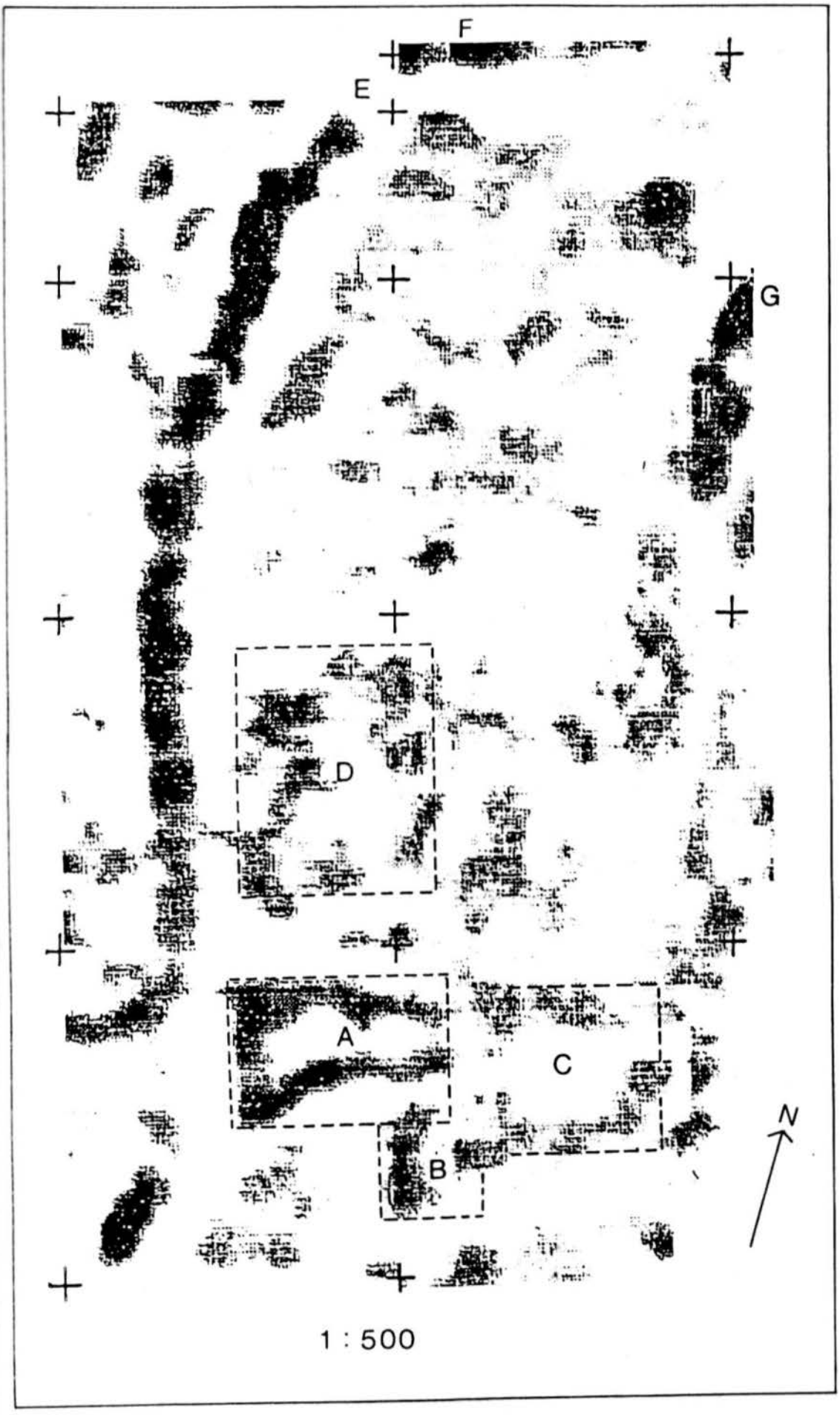

Fig. 16 - Resistivity Survey; filtered data from Field 5287, showing positive anomalies only.

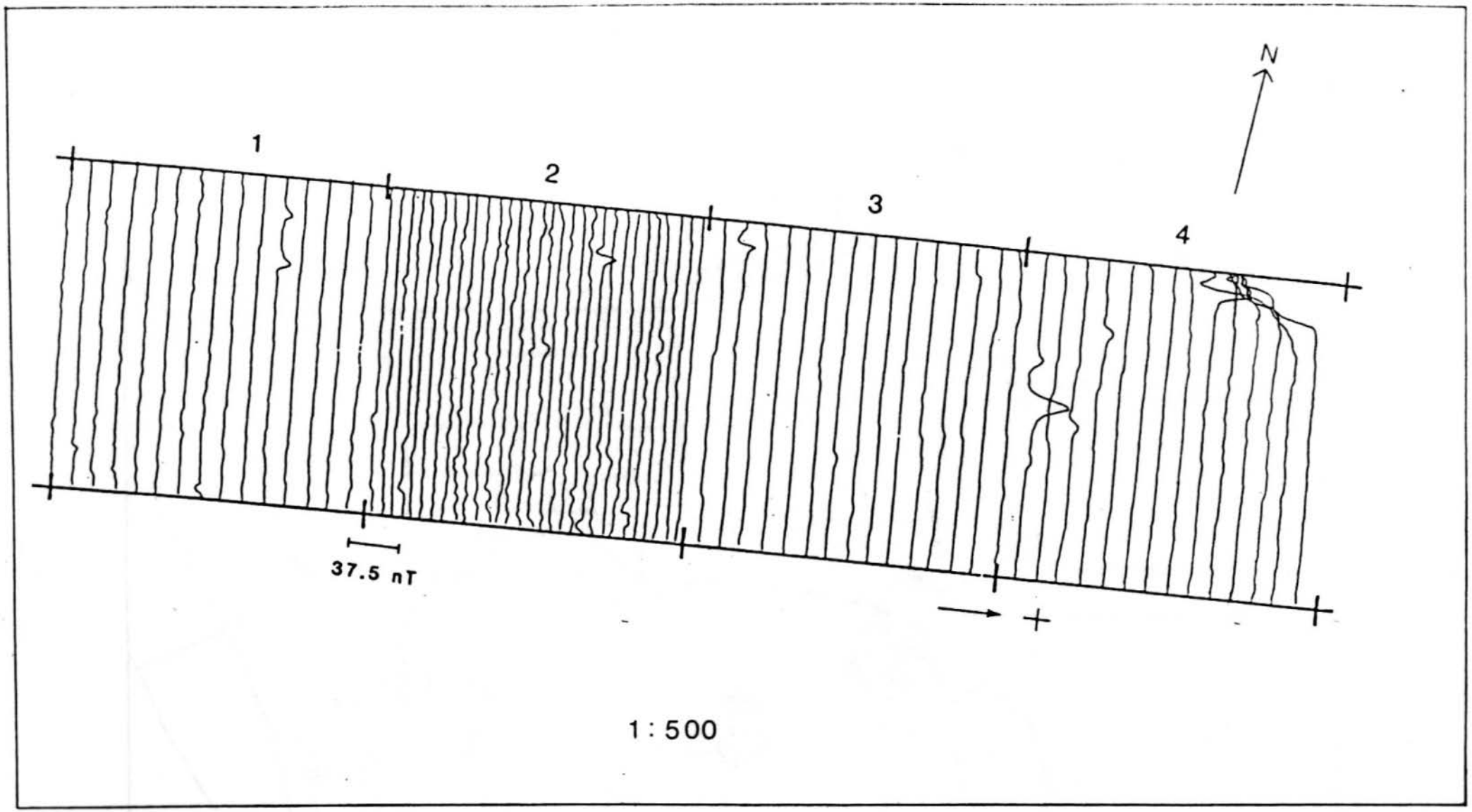

Fig. 17 - Magnetometer Survey; results from Field 6964.

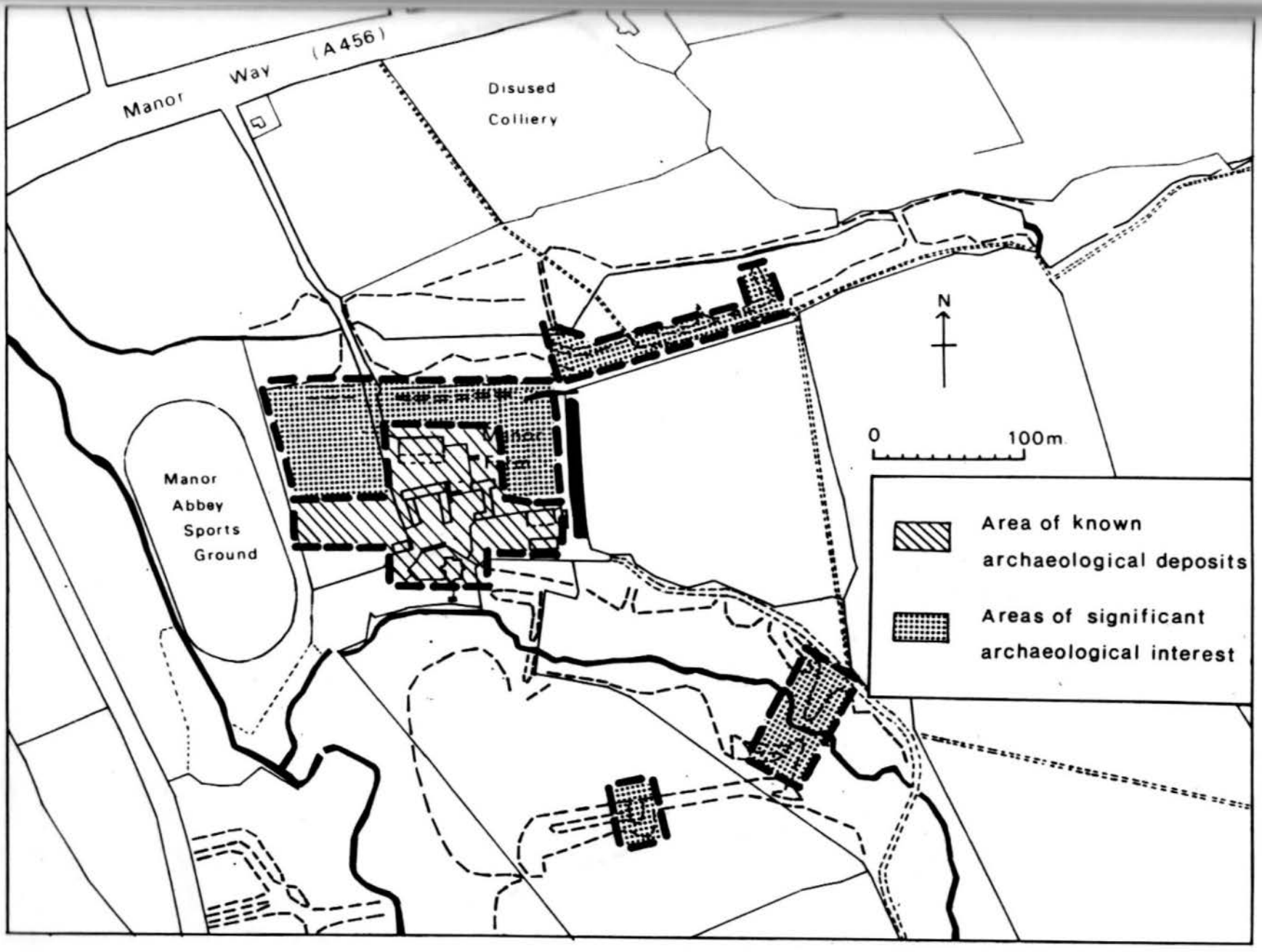

Fig. 18 - Distribution of Archaeological Deposits.

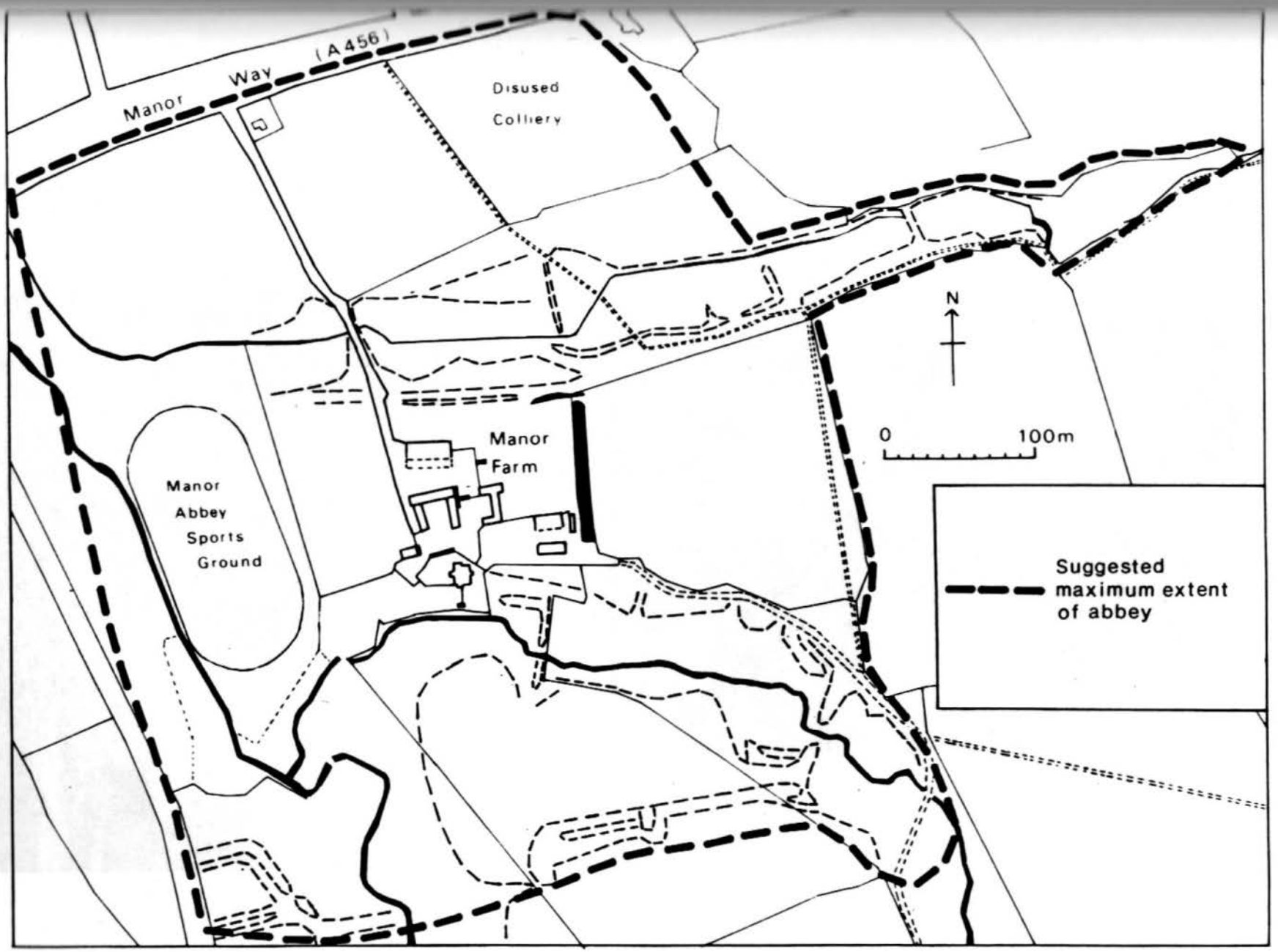

Fig. 19 - Suggested Maximum Extent of Abbey Complex.

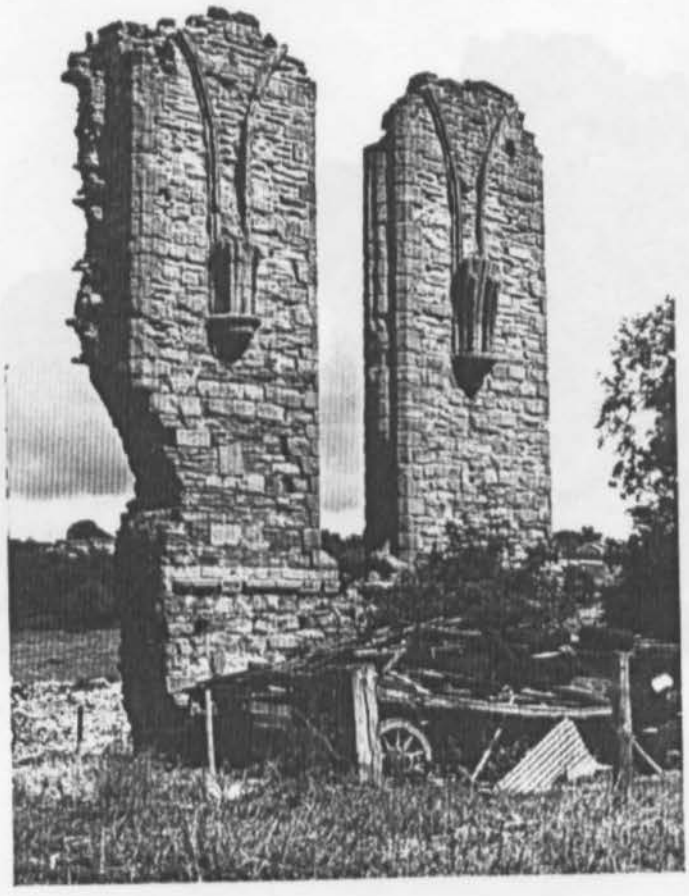

Plate 1 - North Wall of Presbytery from the South West

Plate 2 - 13th Century Building from the South West

Plate 3 - Remains of South Transept from the North East

Plate 4 - Remains of South Transept from the South

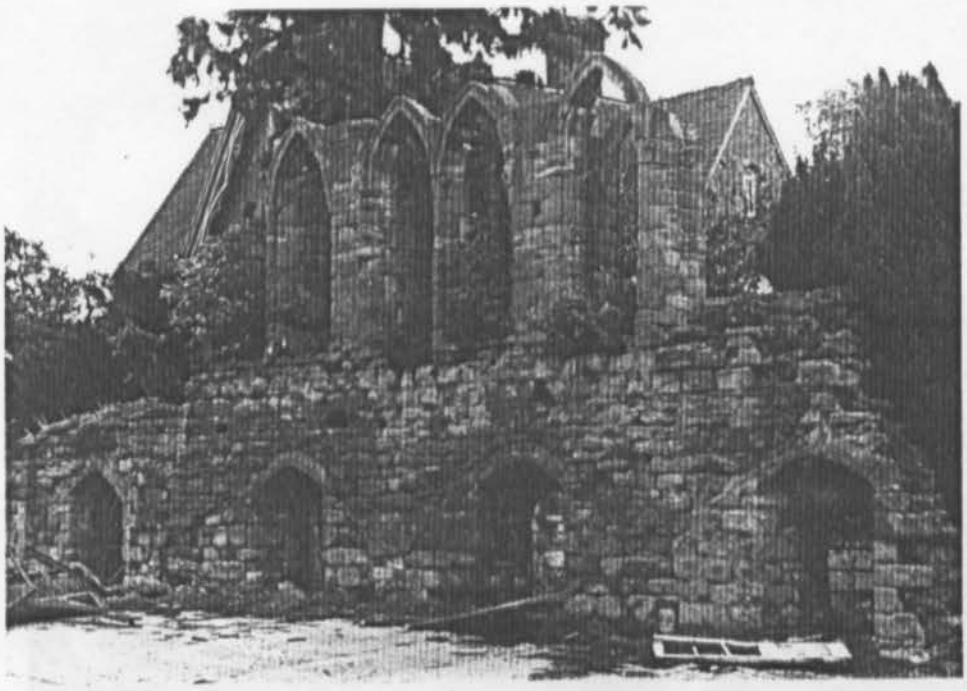

Plate 5 - South Wall of Frater from the North West

Plate 6 - Remains of West Wall of Frater from the East

Plate 7 - Main Farm Buildings and Concrete Floor from South West

Plate 8 - Smaller 18th (?) Century Barn from the South West

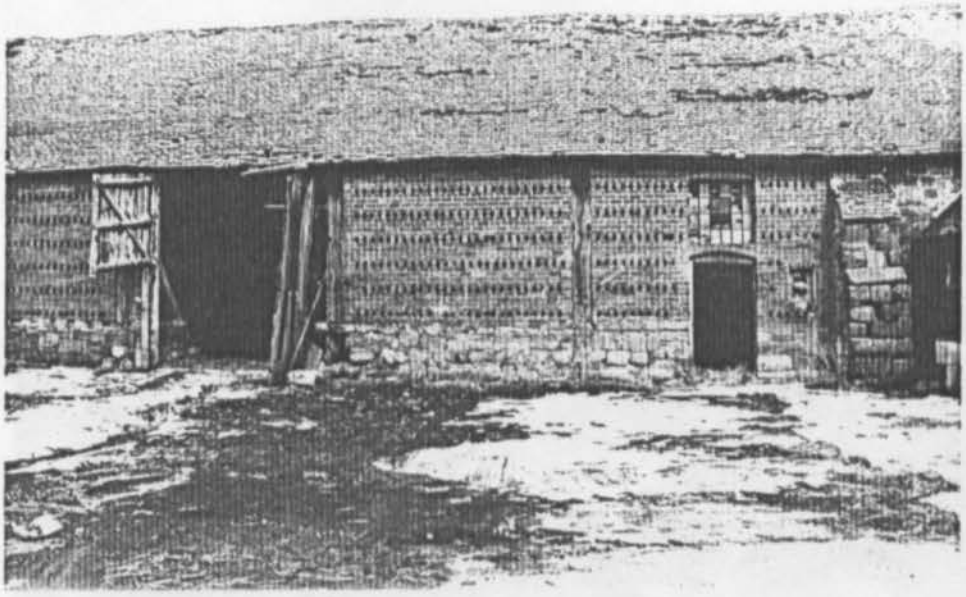

Plate 9 - Larger 18th (?) Century Barm from the South

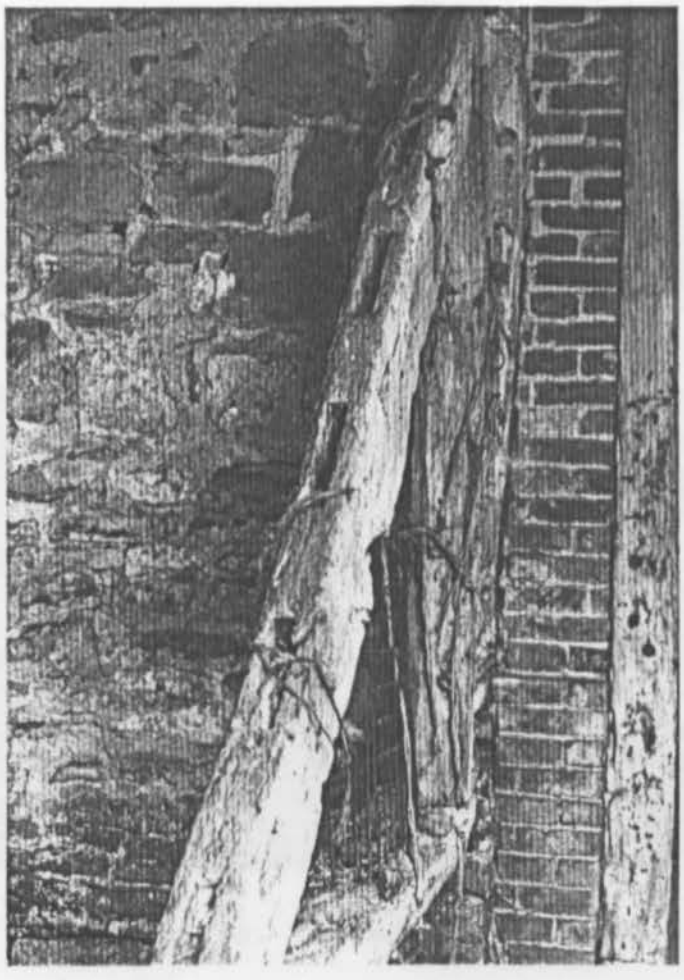

Plate 10 - Re-used timbers in larger 18th (?) century barn.

Plate 11 - Fishpond No. 2 (see Fig. 9) from the West

Plate 12 - Fishpond No. 19 (see Fig. 9) from the East

Plate 13 - Double-ditch Earthwork from the South

Plate 14 - Area of Shorter Grass across Double-ditch earthwork.

Plate 15 - Measured Hachure Survey in Progress

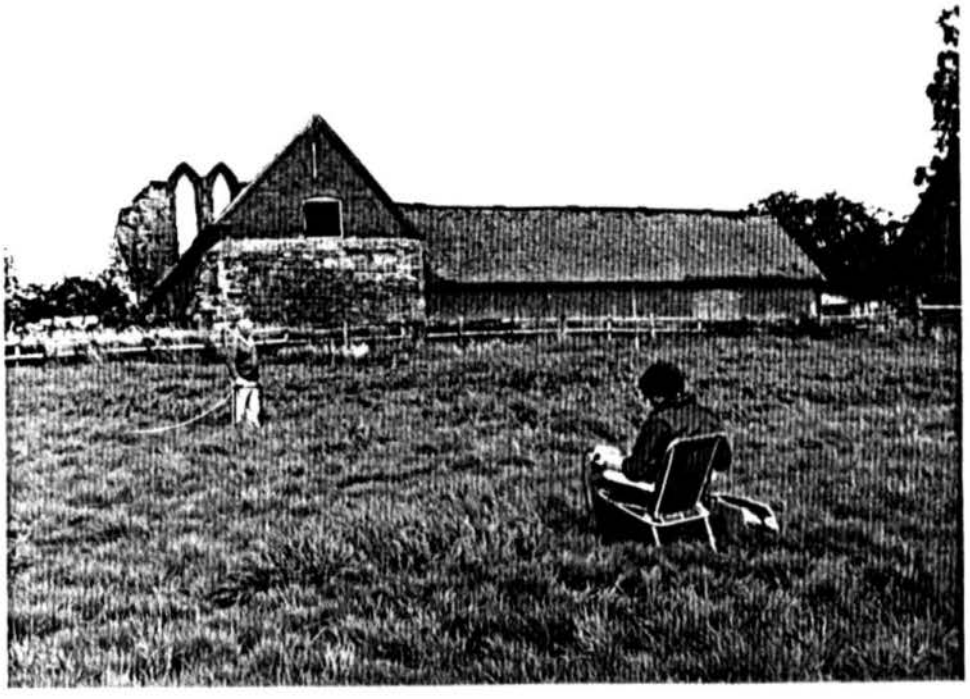

Plate 16 - Geophysical Survey in Progress

Plate 17 - 19th Century Farmhouse from the North East

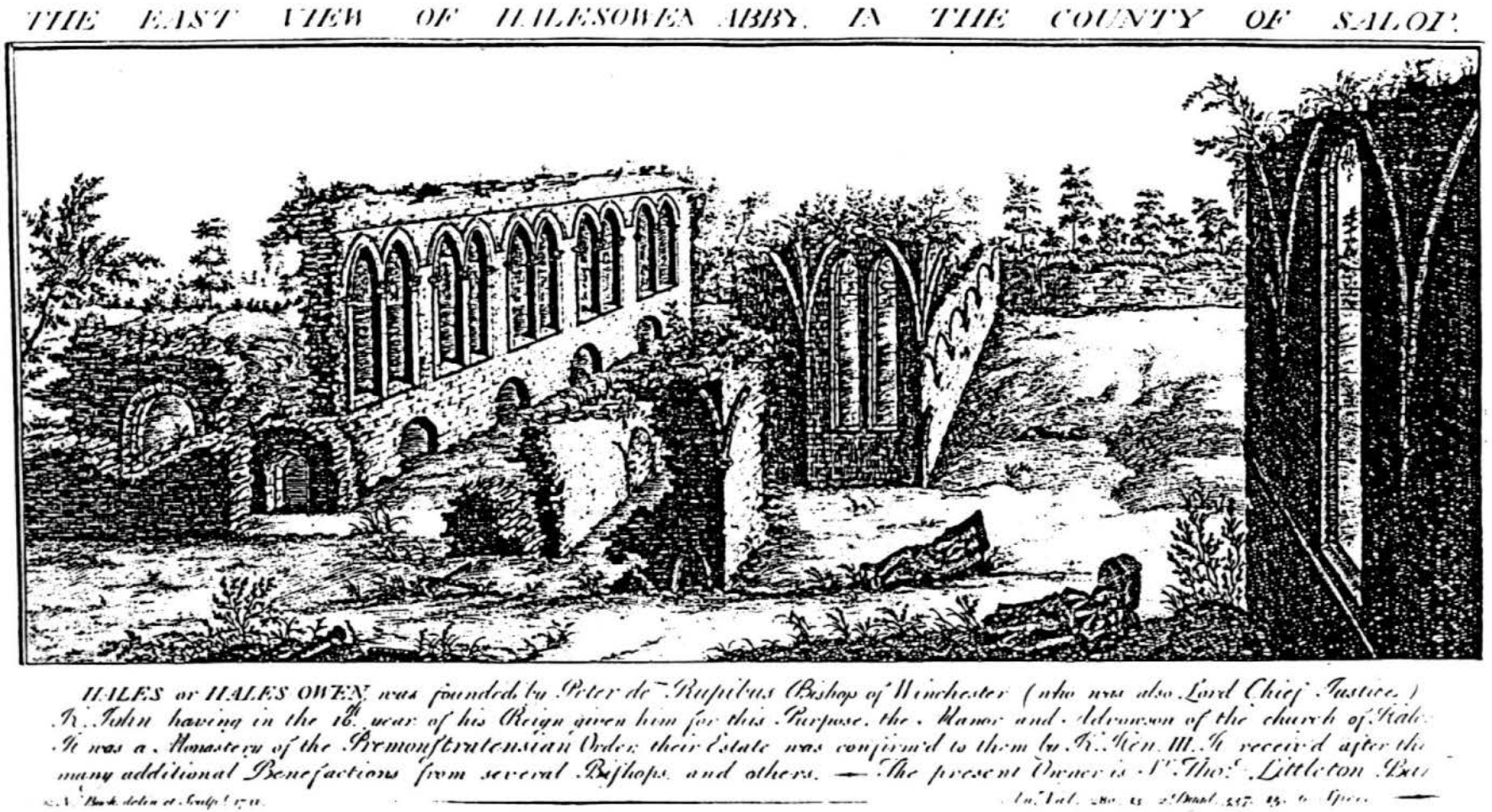

Plate I8 - The abbey ruins in I73I according to S. and N. Buck.

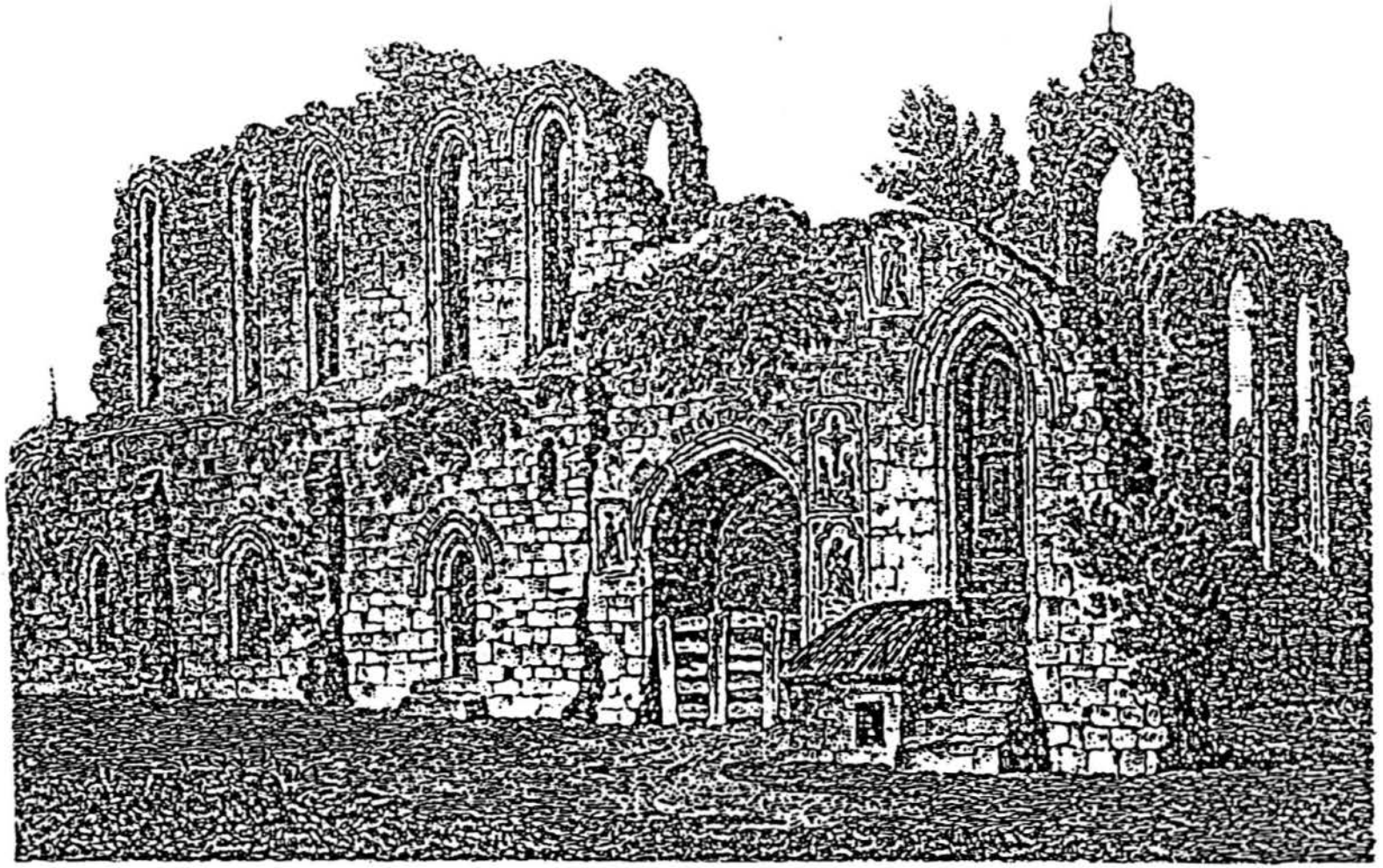

Plate I9 - View of the ruins of the abbey in I825 by J. Coney (for Dugdale's Monasticon).