# Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

Report No 384

December 1995

West Car Park, University of Birmingham A Desk-Top Study 1995

> by Alex Jones

For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux, Iain Ferris or Peter Leach (Directors)
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 5513
Fax: 0121 414 5516
E-Mail: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk
Web Address: http://www.bham.ac.uk/BUFAU/

# WEST CAR PARK, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM A DESK-TOP STUDY 1995

# Contents

1.0	Summary
2.0	Introduction
3.0	The archaeological setting
4.0	The study area
5.0	Discussion
6.0	Implications and proposals
7.0	References and map sources
8.0	Acknowledgements
Appendix	Brief for desk-top study (Birmingham C.C.)
Figures	
Cover	The reconstructed northwest corner of the Phase 1/2 fort, view southwest
1	Location of the Study Area
2	Study area detail (at 1:1250, Courtesy Estate Management Office, University of Birmingham)
3	Sparry's map of Edgbaston Estate, 1718
4	Finch's map of forts, 1822
5	Ordnance Survey map, 1890
6	Ordanance Survey map, 1917
7	Metchley forts, plan of areas excavated
8	Metchley Camp Cottages 1967: main features
9	Metchley forts: ditch sections 1934-6
10	Location of proposed trial-trenches
<u>Plates</u>	
1	The reconstructed northwest corner of the Phase 1/2 fort, view south
2	Detail of the reconstructed corner tower, view southwest

## WEST CAR PARK, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, A DESK-TOP STUDY 1995

## 1.0: SUMMARY

This report provides an archaeological assessment of land located to the south of University Road West, Birmingham, in advance of a proposed development. The sources consulted for this report include the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record, published and unpublished material concerning the Roman fort complex, antiquarian and Ordnance Survey maps.

The southeast corner of a complex of Roman forts lies within the study area. Three main phases of occupation of the Roman forts have been defined by excavation, dating from around AD 48 to approximately AD 120. It is possible that a civilian settlement, associated with the fort's occupation, was located to the south of the fort defences.

## 2.0: INTRODUCTION

# 2.1: The report

This report provides an archaeological assessment of approximately 0.9 ha. of land located to the south of University Road West (heirenafter called the study area: centred on NGR: SP 043835: Figs 1-2), within the campus of the University of Birmingham. Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) were commissioned to undertake this assessment by the Estate Management Office of Birmingham University, in advance of the proposed construction of a Public Health Building. The aim of this report is to provide an assessment of the archaeological potential of the study area, in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Department of the Environment, 1991), and Policy 8.36 of the Birmingham Unitary Development Plan. This assessment follows the methodology set down in a brief prepared by Birmingham City Council (see Appendix below), and a Specification prepared by BUFAU (Jones 1995), both dated November 1995. This report is compiled in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessments' (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994).

## 2.2: Aims

The aims of this assessment (Jones 1995) were:

- (1) To define the level of survival of the buried archaeology associated with the Roman fort complex, in particular within the study area, from site inspection, and a search of published and unpublished reports and maps, photographs and drawings.
- (2) To describe the archaeological context and significance of the fort complex.
- (3) To provide detailed proposals for field evaluation, as appropriate.

## 2.3: Sources

A number of sources were consulted during the preparation of this assessment.

The principal sources of information comprised the archive of the 1967-9 excavations at Metchley Roman forts, and the published interim reports (Rowley 1967, 1968 and 1969). Another source was the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), which contains an up to date record of all archaeological sites, and the reported find-spots of individual artifacts. This information derives from discoveries made during construction, or from reports by amateur fieldworkers, and is supplemented by information from published archaeological reports.

The primary cartographic sources consulted include antiquarian, estate, enclosure and early editions of Ordnance Survey maps. A list of sources is set down in Section 7.0 below.

# 2.4: Topography and land use

The Roman fort complex at Metchley (Birmingham SMR No. 2005) lies on an island of sands and gravels, surrounded by boulder clay (Geological Survey, drift map, sheet 168). Topographically, the fort complex occupies a gently-sloping plateau at between 151-143m AOD. Although the forts are overlooked by higher ground to the north, the complex dominates the lower ground to the southeast, and southwest. Another factor which may have influenced the choice of this location is the availability of a local water supply. The Bourne Brook lies to the south of the forts, and two streams, both fed from springs located to the north of the military complex (Fig 3), are located on its eastern and western sides (Figs 5-6).

The study area adjoins the present Occupational Health Building. It mainly comprises the University West Car Park, although a number of temporary buildings are also located in this area.

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the study area, although the extreme northwest corner of the (larger) Phase 1/2 fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

### 3.0: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

#### 3.1: Prehistoric

Comparatively little information is available concerning prehistoric settlement and activity within the vicinity of the study area. A total of three flint implements of Neolithic date were found during excavations within the Roman fort complex in 1967-9, but these objects were probably stray finds.

Evidence of a complex of undated burnt mounds, located to the west of the fort, was uncovered during trial-trenching (Jones 1988: Birmingham SMR No. 01682A). These sites comprise mounds of heat-shattered pebbles set in a matrix of charcoal-rich soil, often located, as here, alongside a minor stream. A scatter of heat-shattered stone found in December 1995 during a walkover survey of the adjoining Genetics Field, to the north of University Road West (Jones 1995a) could possibly indicate the location of a further burnt mound to the east of the fort complex. Clustering is a typical attribute of these sites (e.g. Hodder 1991, fig 45). Excavation of similar sites suggests they may be dated approximately in the range 1300-900 bc (op cit, 108). These mounds are interpreted alternatively as steam-baths (Barfield and Hodder 1987), or cooking sites, and they provide the bulk of the evidence for early prehistoric activity in the Birmingham area.

Little is known of settlement and activity in the Birmingham area in the immediate pre-Roman period.

## 3.2: Roman

#### Road network

The Roman conquest of Britain was begun in AD 43 from a bridgehead on the southeast coast. The initial advance into the midlands will have used native trackways, although road building will have quickly followed. The XIV legion may have advanced along Watling Street, now partly marked by the modern A5 Trunk Road. By AD 47 much of lowland Britain had been conquered, and as part of subsequent campaigns legionary bases and auxiliary forts were stationed at regular intervals along the main routes of communication.

The location of Metchley is pivotal in the road network established during the Roman military advances in the west midlands. One major route, Ryknild Street, linked Metchley with Alcester to the south, and Wall and Watling Street to the north (Margary 1973, route 18b). Margary described two further routes, linking Metchley with Droitwich to the south (route 180), and Greensforge and Stretton to the north (route 190). A research project is currently investigating the lines of the Roman roads within Birmingham (e.g. Leather 1995, 1995a). This project draws on evidence of Roman road exposures, notably those at Swarthmore Road, Selly Oak (Hetherington and Whitehouse 1969), to the south of Metchley, and at Farquhar Road, Edgbaston (Gunstone 1967, 94), to the east of the study area. This evidence could suggest that the point of convergence between the major routes may have been the area of the modern Selly Park Recreation Ground (Leather 1995a, fig 1), where a change in the alignment of Ryknild Street was first proposed by Walker (1940). This hypothesis suggests that the major Roman route entering the forts may have followed the line of Bournbrook Road, before crossing the University campus, entering the forts by a gate in the centre of their southern side. It is also possible that some of the alternative Roman road lines proposed may be explained by changes in the network consequent upon the abandonment of Metchley fort in the 2nd century (Cadbury 1923).

## Military

Despite the survival of recognisable earthwork banks around the northern part of the fort's perimeter into the 20th century (e.g. Figs 4-6), a Roman context for this complex was not confirmed until as late as 1934, when Roman pottery was collected from the area in advance of an extension to the University Medical School (St. Joseph and Shotton 1937).

The earliest surviving mapped representation of the complex appears on a plan of the Edgbaston estate by Sparry, dated 1718, which depicts the Roman fort as a rectangular enclosure with rounded corners, containing a hunting lodge, located within Metchley Park (Fig 3). Writing later in that century the local antiquarian William Hutton (1783) described the site as follows:

"In Mitchley-park, three miles west of Birmingham, in the parish of Edgbaston, is The Camp; which might be ascribed to the Romans, lying within two or three stones cast of the Icknield Street, where it divides the counties of Warwick and Worcester, but it is too extensive for that people, being about thirty acres; I know none of their camps more than four, sometimes much less; it must therefore have been the work of those pilfering vermin the Danes, better acquainted with other peoples' property than their own;...

No part of this fortification is wholly obliterated, though, in many places, it is nearly levelled by modern cultivation, that dreadful enemy to the

antiquary. Pieces of armour are frequently ploughed up, particularly pieces of the sword and the battleaxe,...

The platform is quadrangular, every side nearly four hundred yards; the center is about six acres, surrounded by three ditches, each about eight yards over at unequal distances; though upon a descent, it is amply furnished with water. An undertaking of such immense labour, could not have been designed for temporary use."

The antiquarian John Finch, writing in 1822 (Fig 4) was more confident of the complex's Roman origin. His description is as follows:

"The ancient vallum and fosse have suffered much by the lapse of time, and by the attempts of the occupiers of the farm to level the ground, and by the unfortunate circumstance of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal passing through it, to make the banks of which the southern extremity of the camp has been completely destroyed. Notwithstanding these various means of destruction, sufficient remains are still visible, by which to ascertain that the original camp must have nearly approached the plan which accompanies this article. Mr Hutton describes a third embankment, enclosing thirty acres, and surrounding the two before mentioned, but I could not exactly ascertain it; on the eastern side there is some appearance of it, but I am uncertain whether or not it is not the natural formation of the ground. On the northwest, there are three decidedly three banks as the ground being more on a level required an extra fortification; and I believe the entrance was on this side. At the eastern angle is a field, still called 'Camp Leasow' where the ancient entrenchments are still distinct....

In shape it exactly resembles those camps, which are most usually considered as Roman...This camp is placed on the side of a hill, and is supplied with water, which is well known to have been considered of great importance by the former people.

The Icknield Street runs within a very short distanc of this camp. From Etocetum, or Wall, to Mitchley is 16 English, or about 21 Roman miles; from Mitchley to Alauna or Alcester is 15 and a half English, or about 20 and a half Roman, miles.

This it is situated nearly in the centre between Etocetum and Alauna; and this circumstance, together with the regularity and great strength of the fortification, seems to prove that it was the intermediate station between them".

The monument was further damaged by the cutting of the Birmingham and West Suburban Railway in 1819, and by the excavation of the Elan aqueduct in 1901.

The 1930s excavations were limited to testing the defensive perimeters of both the larger and the smaller forts (St. Joseph and Shotton 1937; Fig 9). A small research excavation which examined the extreme northwest angle of the defensive perimeter of the larger fort (Webster 1954), was followed by the reconstruction of this part of the fort defences (Plates 1-2), within an area of the complex which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (West Midlands S.A.M. No 1). Large-scale open area excavations, under the direction of Trevor Rowley were undertaken in 1967-9 to examine areas within the southeast, and west of the fort's interior. Rowley published interim reports summarising the results of each seasons work (Rowley 1967, 1968, 1969), which form the basis for later syntheses of the results (e.g. Webster 1981), and the model of fort development provided below. The Rowley

excavation archive is currently being researched at BUFAU, prior to the preparation of a detailed excavation report.

Rowley identified three main phases in the use of the complex (Figs 7-8):

Phase 1: The initial military enclosure, dated around AD 48, which enclosed 10.5 acres was defended by a double ditch and an earth rampart. The interior of this camp contained traces of large timber structures, interpreted as stores buildings, and barrack-blocks.

Phase 2: The Phase 1 enclosure was extended to the north by the addition of a 4 acre annexe. Limited excavation within the interior of this annexe suggested that it may not have contained any buildings. Traces of poorly-preserved, irregularly-shaped timber-framed buildings within the interior of the fort were interpreted by the excavator as representing a possible 'caretaker' occupation of the Phase 1 fort.

Phase 3: In this final phase, the earlier defences were deliberately slighted, and a smaller fort was constructed within the interior of the Phase 1/2 defences. This fort was defended by a single ditch and rampart. It contained traces of regularly-shaped timber-framed buildings, including barrack-blocks. The dating evidence obtained suggests this phase may be Flavian, and that the site was abandoned no later than AD 120, a similar date as that suggested for the military disuse of the military complexes at Wall, and Greensforge. There is no evidence for subsequent Roman activity at Metchley.

## Civilian

Although it has been asserted in the literature (e.g. Crickmore 1984, 38; Sommer 1984, 90) that there was no Roman civilian settlement associated with the military occupation at Metchley, it should be noted that few areas outside the defences have been subjected to controlled archaeological excavation (e.g. Jones 1988 and 1989; Atkins 1992: Birmingham SMR No. 05611). Such civilian settlements were initially established to trade with the military, often continuing in existence at other military complexes, such as at Wall (Jones, forthcoming), and Greensforge (Webster 1981; Jones 1995b) long after the departure of the soldiery, including evidence for activity into the 3rd and 4th centuries. Crickmore (1984, 20) has noted that settlement continuity has been demonstrated at centres such as Ariconium and Blackwardine, despite their location on relatively minor routeways.

#### 3.3: Medieval and post-medieval

In the medieval period Metchley was part of the Manor of Edgbaston (Chatwin 1914), described in the Domesday Book of 1086 as containing both arable land and woodland. The name of this locale is thought to be a corruption of the name of a former landowner called Michael. William Deeley's map of Edgbaston, dated 1701 indicates that Metchley was enclosed as a park, devoted to hunting. Sparry's more detailed plan of the Edgbaston Estate, dated 1718 (Fig 3), shows that the interior of the fort contained a hunting lodge. Although the fort's earthworks are not recorded on the 1827 and 1851 Tithe maps of Edgbaston Parish, it is nevertheless possible to trace a plan of the outer fort defences which have become fossilised as rectilinear field boundaries. The field name evidence is also of interest. Field 545 on the Tithe map of 1827 is described as 'Camp Leasow' a name which serves to underline the visibility of the fort's earthworks in this area, which now lies in the angle between the Worcester and Birmingham Canal and University Road West. The remaining field names suggest the fort's area comprised arable farmland or gardens.

Subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping demonstrates the survival of most of the earthwork circuit into the present century, although this mapping also serves to

graphically illustrate the relentless obliteration of the fort's earthworks by agriculture in the period 1890-1917. Also notable is a slight earthwork bank (Figs 5-6), located to the south of the fort, which continues the line of the fort's east side, and appears to return to the east, joining a field boundary (recorded on both sides of the railway embankment), which approximately follows the alignment of the fort's southern side. This earthwork and roughly perpendicular field boundary could define an agricultural enclosure, or even, possibly a southern annexe to the fort complex, hitherto unidentified.

The line of a possible trackway to the northeast of the fort, on a similar alignment to Farquhar Road is defined by two parallel earthwork banks and a field boundary, which could indicate the course of a trackway of post-medieval, or earlier origin.

## 4.0: THE STUDY AREA

# 4.1: Archaeology

The study area includes the extreme southeastern angle of the Phase 3 (smaller) fort, and the southeastern angle of the defences, and part of the interior of the Phase 1/2 fort. A hand-dug trench cut across the line of the southern Phase 1/2 fort defences identified two ditches, and an inner rampart, or bank, composed of material dug out of the ditch (see Fig 9 for examples of ditch profiles). An extensive area excavation (Figs 7-8), conducted in 1967, revealed traces of timber-framed buildings within the interior of the larger, Phase 1/2 fort. Phase 1 was represented by timber-framed buildings, possibly representing barracks or stores, and Phase 2 by smaller, notably irregularly-shaped buildings. Excavation also revealed part of the eastern ditched defences of the smaller Phase 3 fort, and traces of contemporary rectilinear timber-framed buildings. Of particular interest was the identification of Phase 1 timber-framed buildings comprising nine parallel 'compartments' which contained large pits which may have held large containers or vats, possibly for storage.

It is probable that there was an entry gap in the centre of the southern defences of both the Phase 1/2 and Phase 3 forts. This may have connected the main north-south road within the fort (via Praetoria), with an access road, linking the fort with the Ryknild Way to the southeast. At Metchley the Via Praetoria would have run approximately north-south, between the modern laundry block to the north, and the intersection between the projected line of the southern fort defences and the east bank of the canal (Figs 2 and 7), to the south.

It also is possible that the area outside the fort contained defensive outworks, comprising banks and ditches, such as those located at Greensforge (Welfare and Swann 1995, fig 142).

It is important not to underestimate the potential of the area adjoining the fort to the south to contain an associated settlement or vicus, particularly since the area immediately outside this zone of the fort defences has not been tested by excavation. It has been noted that the preference of such a settlement for a location to the south of a fort is 'immense' (Sommer 1984, 43), and that 'the civilians preferred a protected, sunny and well drained slope'. Sommer (1984, 47) notes that such settlements are generally concentrated along a continuation of the line of the *Via Praetoria* outside the southern fort defences.

Although the Phase 1 military camp may have been of a temporary nature, later occupation during Phases 2 and 3, although not necessarily continuous, may well have been sufficiently long-established for the development of such an associated civilian settlement, which could have been sufficiently well-established to continue after the military abandonment of the site.

# 4.2: Topography and archaeological survival

The study area mostly comprises a car park which slopes gently to the southeast. The adjoining University Road West has been embanked. It is unlikely that the northern zone of this car park has been terraced into the natural slope although the southern zone of the car park has been considerably built-up in places, and this may have aided the survival of archaeological features. The Map search suggests that the area was never built-over (with the exception of the 'Camp Cottages'). However, no information is presently available concerning the sub-surface intrusion caused by the 'University Oil Rigs' located in the extreme southeast angle of the Phase 1/2 fort (St. Joseph and Shotton 1937, plate XXVII). Other buildings located within the study area may have caused some minor degree of sub-surface intrusion.

Analysis of the results of the adjoining Camp Cottage excavation in 1967 may be used as a guide to predict the degree of expected feature survival within the area of the proposed Public Health Building. The excavation results indicated that features of all phases survive well in the northern part of the area excavated, although the remains of Phase 3 had been scoured-out by a combination of ploughing and erosion in the southern half of the area investigated (Fig 8).

## 5.0: DISCUSSION

Metchley is a very important site in the study of the Roman west midlands, although its wider significance has perhaps been underestimated because the results of Rowley's large-scale excavations have long remained unpublished. The importance of this complex is heightened by the identification of defences and associated internal structures belonging to a well-defined archaeological sequence, comprising three principal phases of activity. Its importance is also heightened by the comparative dearth of evidence of Roman settlement and activity within the Birmingham area.

Although extensive investigations have been carried out within the fort interior, important academic questions remain to be answered concerning its chronology, function, and in particular the potential of the complex to be associated with a civilian settlement. Investigations have suggested that the fort does not conform to the usual pattern of internal buildings (e.g. Johnson 1983, fig 19), especially the Phase 2 evidence. Ideally, future investigations should also concentrate upon analysis of charred plant remains, insects and pollen, to provide an understanding of the contemporary environment of the forts.

The data from Metchley can also make a wider academic contribution towards the study of the military subjugation and settlement of the Roman west midlands. Another important research theme concerns the evidence for industrial activity in such an associated civil settlement, the evidence for the economic nexus between the military and civilian populations, and an appreciation of changes in the pattern of settlement in the Roman west midlands.

# 6.0: IMPLICATIONS AND PROPOSALS

# 6.1: Implications

#### 6.1.1: The fort

Excavations at the adjoining Camp Cottages site (Rowley 1968) have demonstrated the survival of elements of defensive and structural elements relating to three phases of activity, although evidence of Phase 3 activity had been removed by later disturbance over part of the area. The features surviving were mainly cut into the subsoil, although a pebble surface also survived. Since the proposed Public Health Building is situated slightly downslope from the excavation site, it is possible that archaeological features in this area could have been truncated by agriculture or erosion, and thus the survival of archaeological features here can only be tested by trial-trenching.

The footprint of the proposed Public Health Building would extend over part of the southern defences of the outer (Phase 1/2), and the inner (Phase 3) fort. The proposed building could also affect those structures within the interior of the forts which are located within the area of the proposed building.

## 6.1.2: Area outside the fort

The archaeological potential of the area outside the Phase 1/2 defences is presently unknown. However, this area could contain evidence of an associated Roman civilian settlement, or of defensive outworks, such as ditches. The evidence, albeit untested, for the possible location of such a settlement in this area is threefold. Firstly, an established preference for civilian settlements located to the south of forts has been suggested by Sommer (1984). Secondly, because of the proximity of the suggested route of the main road entering the fort (Fig 2), and the frequent association between settlements and main roads entering forts. Thirdly, the tentative identification of an earthwork bank to the southwest of the fort, continuing the line of the western defences could suggest the location of a second contemporary annexe to the south of the fort, either for military or civilian activity, although a post-medieval agricultural context for this earthwork must also be considered. However, the lower lying land in the extreme east of the study area, and the zone to the south of the study area may have been too poorly drained for settlement.

# **6.2: Proposals (Fig 10)**

The site is not suitable for fieldwalking, or geophysical survey. The proposals set down below are limited to the examination of areas affected by construction of the proposed Public Health Building (see dwg. 1803/70: Martin Ward and Keeling, Site Plan, Scheme C3). No information is available concerning the location of associated service trenches.

It is proposed that further archaeological evaluation take the form of trial-trenching within the footprint of the proposed building. The three trial-trenches, each measuring 1.6m in width, would be located following the line of the proposed piled foundations. Trench 1 (10m in length) would be located to test the archaeological potential of the interior of the Phase 1/2 fort. Trench 2 (15m in length) would be located to intercept the defences of the Phase 1/2 fort, and to examine the area immediately to the south of these defences. Trench 3 (15m in length) would be located to test the defences of the Phase 3 fort, and to investigate an area within the interior of this smaller fort.

In particular, trial-trenching will aim to determine if the remains of Phase 1, 2 and 3 structures survive within the proposed development area, since the results from

the adjoining Camp Cottages excavation in 1967 indicate only a partial survival of the Phase 3 buildings. The modern overburden in each trench would be removed by machine, preparatory to the hand-cleaning of the uppermost archaeological horizon. A sample of any archaeological features present would be hand-excavated to provide information concerning the survival and significance of archaeological deposits, and to provide datable artifacts, and samples for environmental analysis. Intersections between features will not be tested, to ensure that these are available for examination during a larger-scale excavation, if appropriate.

A report would be prepared outlying the results of the trial-trenching, including consideration of the significance of the results, and providing an outline of proposals for further work, if appropriate.

### 7.0: REFERENCES AND MAP SOURCES

#### References

Atkins, R. 1992. Vincent Drive, Birmingham, An Archaeological Evaluation 1992. BUFAU Report No. 212.

Barfield, L. H. and Hodder, M. A. 1987. Burnt Mounds as Saunas, and the Prehistory of Bathing. *Antiquity* 61, No. 223, November 1987, 370-9.

Cadbury, G (Inr.). 1923. The Roman Roads of South Birmingham. Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society, 1920, XLVI, 22-35.

Chatwin, P. B. 1914. A History of Edgbaston.

Crickmore, J. 1984. Romano-British Urban Settlements in the West Midlands. British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 127.

Gunstone, A. J. H. (ed.) 1967. Archaeological Notes: Edgbaston, Farquhar Road. Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society 82, 1965, 94.

Hetherington, R. J. and Whitehouse. The Roman Road Between Gloucester and Birmingham, north of Lickey Hills. *Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society*, 83, 1969, 180-187.

Hodder, M. A. 1981. Burnt Mounds in the English West Midlands, in Buckley, V. (ed.) Burnt Offerings. International Contributions to Burnt Mound Archaeology. Dublin, Office of Public Works.

Hutton, W. 1783. A History of Birmingham.

Johnson, A. 1983. Roman Forts.

Jones, A. E. 1988. Metchley, Birmingham: An Archaeological Evaluation 1988. BUFAU Report No. 46.

Jones, A. E. 1989. Metchley: An Archaeological Evaluation 1989. BUFAU Report No. 74.

Jones, A. E. 1995. Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Desk-Top Study. West Car Park: Proposed New Public Health Building, University of Birmingham. BUFAU, unpublished.

Jones, A. E. 1995a. Genetics Field, University of Birmingham: Archaeological Desk-Top Study 1995. BUFAU Report No. 385.

Jones, A. E. 1995b. Greensforge, Staffordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation 1995. BUFAU Report No 314.12.

Jones, A. E. forthcoming. Wall, Staffordshire: Excavations by Ernest Greenfield, 1962 and 1964. Proceedings of the Staffordshire Archaeological Society.

St. Joseph, J. K. and Shotton, W. 1937. The Roman Camps at Metchley, Birmingham. *Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society*, 1934, LVIII, 68-83.

Leather, P. 1995. The Birmingham Roman Roads Project. West Midlands Archaeology, 37, 1994, 9-11.

Leather, P. 1995a. Selly Park Recreation Ground. West Midlands Archaeology, 37, 1994, 103.

Margary, I. D. 1973. Roman Roads in Britain.

Rowley, R. T. 1967. Metchley, Camp Cottages: Interim Report. West Midlands Annual Archaeological News Sheet 10, 1967, 4-5.

Rowley, R. T. 1968. Metchley, Birmingham: Interim Report. West Midlands Annual Archaeological News Sheet, 11, 1968, 10-11.

Rowley, R. T. 1969. Metchley Roman Fort, Birmingham: Interim Report. West Midlands Annual Archaeological News Sheet, 12, 1969, 24-5.

Sommer, C. S. 1984. The Military Vici in Roman Britain. Aspects of their Origins, their Location and Layout, Administration, Function and End. British Archaeological Reports, British Series, No. 129.

Walker, B. 1940. The Ryknild Street in the Neighbourhood of Birmingham. Transactions Birmingham Archaeological Society, LX, 1936, 42-55.

Webster, G. 1954. Further Excavations at the Roman Forts at Metchley, Birmingham, 1954. Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society, 72-4, 1954, 1-4.

Webster, G. 1981. Rome Against Caratacus.

Welfare, H, and Swann, V. 1995. Roman Camps in Britain: The Field Archaeology. RCHME.

# Map sources

Birmingham	Central Library, Local History
1701	William Deeley Map of Edgbaston
1718	Sparry Map of Edgbaston Estate
1827	Tithe Map of Edgbaston
1851	Tithe Map of Edgbaston
1857	Blood's Map of Birmingham
1904	Ordnance Survey, 2nd edition
1917	Ordnance Survey, 3rd edition

# Birmingham City Archives

Manuscript Plan of the Parish of Edgbaston

# University of Birmingham

1962 Geological Survey of England and Wales, Birmingham: Drift Geology, Sheet No. 168.

## 8.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was commissioned by The Estate Management Office of The University of Birmingham. I thank Mr Robert Talliss of the Estate Management Office, Dr Michael Hodder, Planning Archaeologist, Birmingham City Council, and the Staff of the Local History and Archives Sections of Birmingham Central Library for their assistance. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds, and the text was edited by Peter Leach.

## APPENDIX

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE
Proposed new public health building, University of Birmingham
Brief for archaeological assessment in advance of consideration of planning application

### 1.Summary

Proposed construction of a new public health building in the current West Car Park, University of Birmingham, may affect buried archaeological remains of a Roman fort. This brief is for an assessment of the archaeological impact of the proposed development by means of an archaeological desk-based assessment followed by a field evaluation.

#### 2. Site location and description

The site of the proposed new public health building lies to the south of University Road West, adjacent to the Occupational Health Building. The site is currently occupied by part of the West Car Park, a works compound containing temporary buildings, and a Dutch Barn. The car park is bounded by steep slopes down from its east and south edges, and by the canal on its west.

## 3.Planning background

The proposed development consists of two new buildings with adjacent car parking. Because this includes the site of part of a Roman fort, an assessment of its archaeological implications is required before the planning application is determined, in accordance with Policy 8.36 of the City Council's Unitary Development Plan.

## 4.Existing archaeological information

The development site contains part of the site of a Roman fort, including ramparts and ditches, timber buildings, roads and other features inside the fort, and possibly other buildings outside. The extent of the Roman fort, the dates of its construction and occupation, and the form of its defences and internal buildings, are known from its representation on early maps and from various excavations undertaken since the 1930s. The most recent excavations, carried out from 1967-69, revealed three phases of construction, beginning in the middle of the 1st century AD. The fort was occupied until the early 2nd century. In the area now occupied by the Occupational Health Building, excavations in 1967 revealed remains of all three phases. The first and second phases were represented by postholes and slots for timber buildings, and pits and pebble surfaces. These features were overlain by the ditch and timber-framed rampart of the third phase, and further post holes and slots. The archaeological features located in the 1967 excavation are likely to continue into the area of the proposed new development. In addition, the development site includes the line of the defences of the earliest phase of the fort, and an area outside the fort which may contain further structures.

#### 5.Requirements for work

The desk-based archaeological assessment is required to define the likely extent of survival of remains of the Roman fort in the area of the proposed new development, and to put forward proposals and costings for a field evaluation if the desk-based assessment indicates that archaeological remains survive on the site. This will determine the the need for modification of development proposals to ensure in-situ preservation of archaeological remains, or further archaeological recording in advance of development if preservation is not feasible.

#### 6.Stages of work

The desk-based archaeological assessment is to consist of the following:

- (i)Assessment of the survival of remains of the Roman fort, by site inspection and a search of published and unpublished written records, illustrations and maps, and archaeological and geotechnic records;
- (ii)Proposals and costings for subsequent field evaluation in advance of consideration of the planning application, if the results of part (i) above indicate that remains are likely to survive.

#### 7.Staffing

The assessment is to be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and all staff are to be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles in the project. It is recommended that the project be under the direct supervision of a Member or Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

## 8. Written Scheme of Investigation

Potential contractors should present a Written Scheme of Investigation which details methods and staffing. It is recommended that the proposal be submitted to the City Council's Planning Archaeologist before a contractor is commissioned, to ensure that it meets the requirements of the brief.

#### 9.Monitoring

The assessment must be carried out to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning and Architecture, Birmingham City Council, and will be monitored on his behalf by the Planning Archaeologist.

### 10.Reporting

The results of the assessment are to be presented as a written report, containing appropriate illustrations and a copy of this brief. A copy of the report must be sent to the Planning Archaeologist.

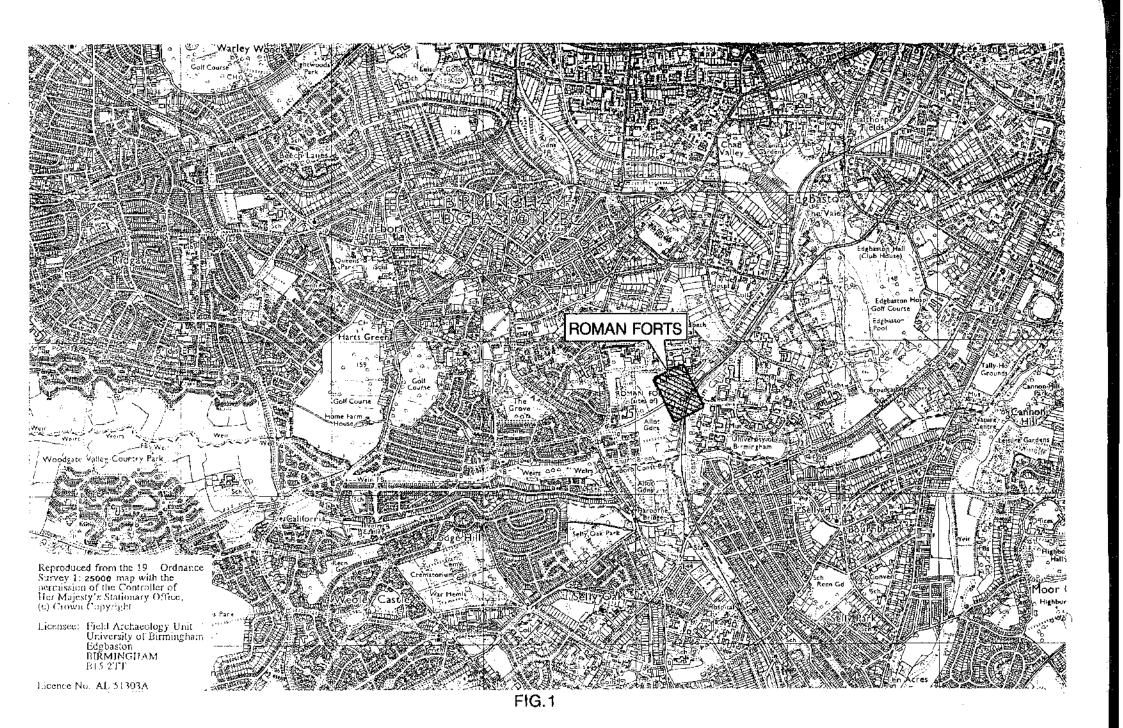
#### 11.Archive deposition

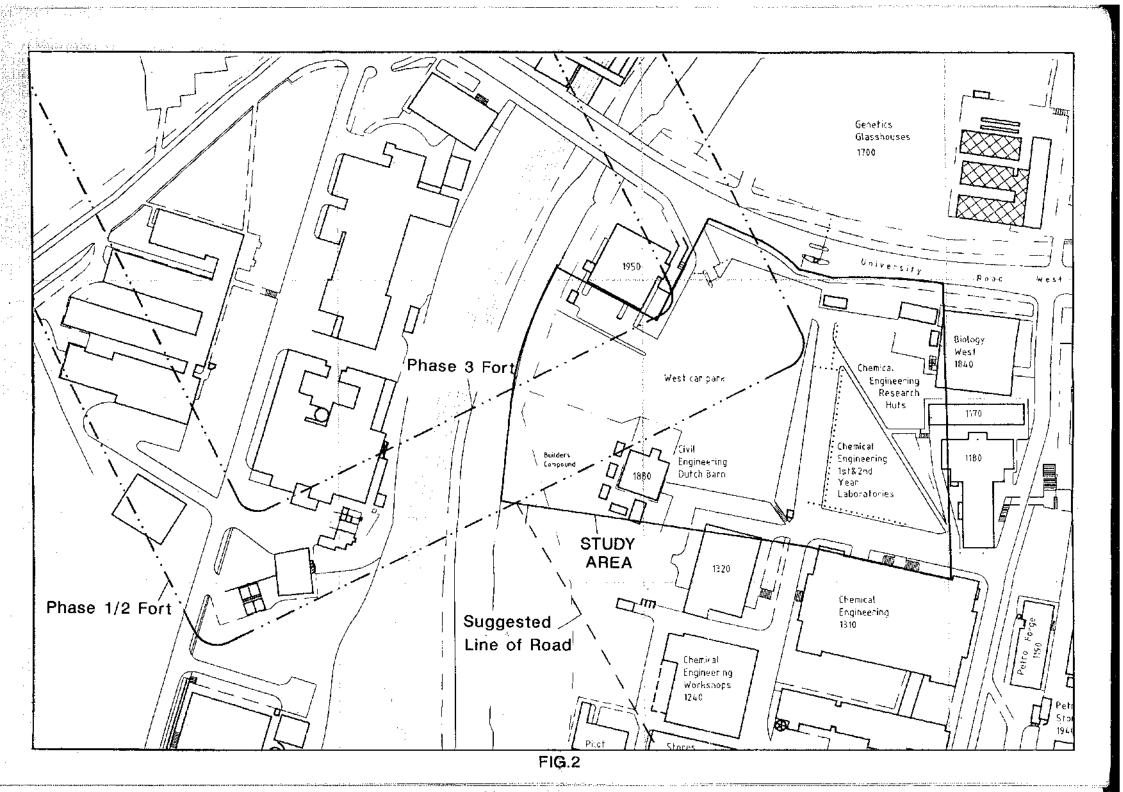
The written, drawn and photographic records of the assessment must be deposited with an appropriate repository within a reasonable time of completion, following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist.

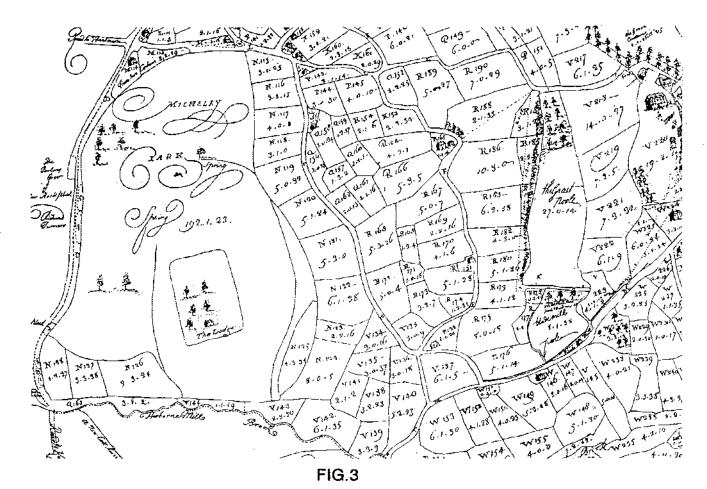
#### 12. Publication

The written report will become publicly accessible, as part of the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record, within six months of completion. The contractor must submit a short summary report for inclusion in *West Midlands Archaeology*.

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE
BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
Date prepared: 13 November 1995
Planning Archaeologist: Dr Michael Hodder 0121-235 3161 fax 0121-235 3666
Birmingham City Council
Baskerville House
Broad Street
Birmingham 81 2NA







Total gobies: a out it great that of the state of the sta

FIG.4

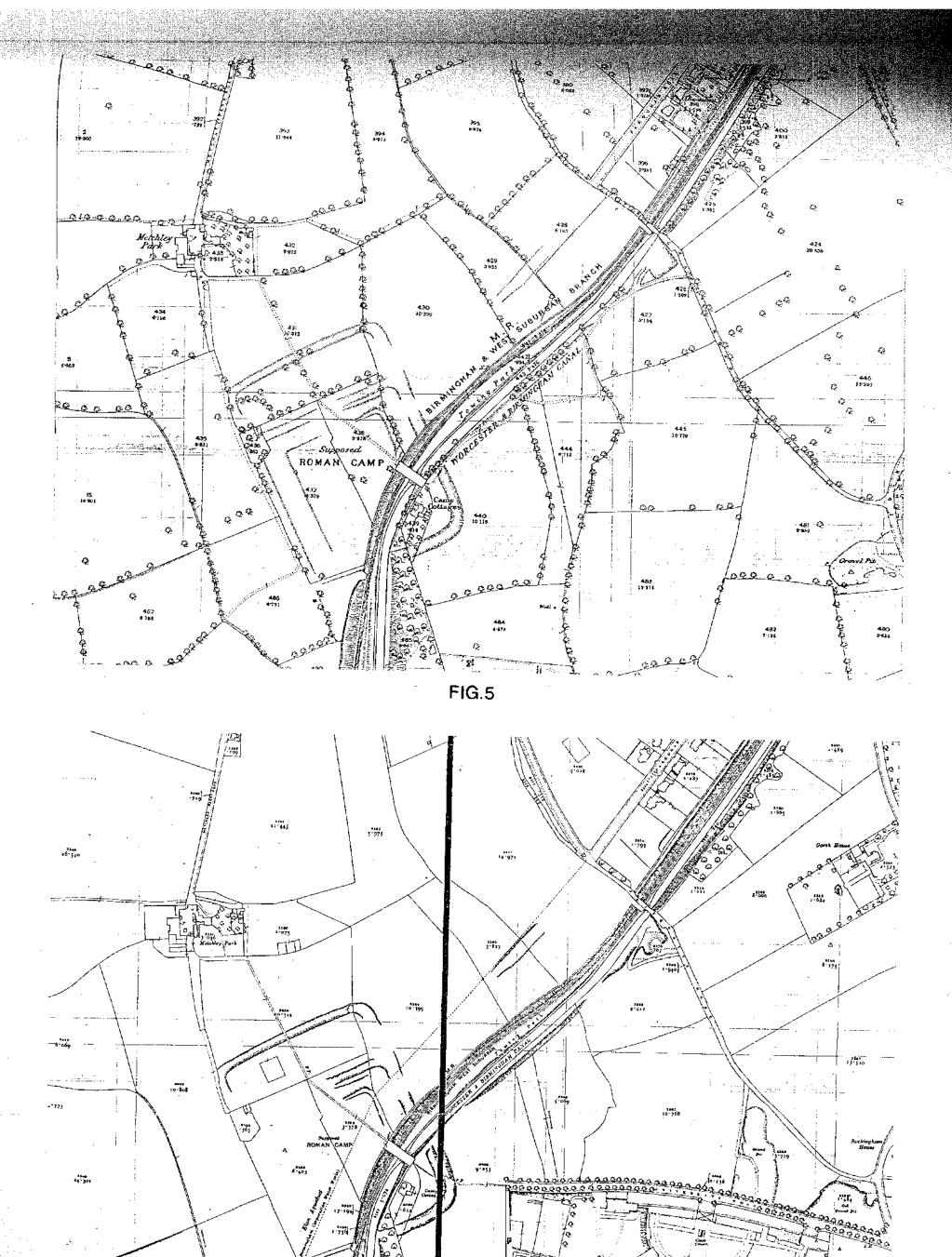
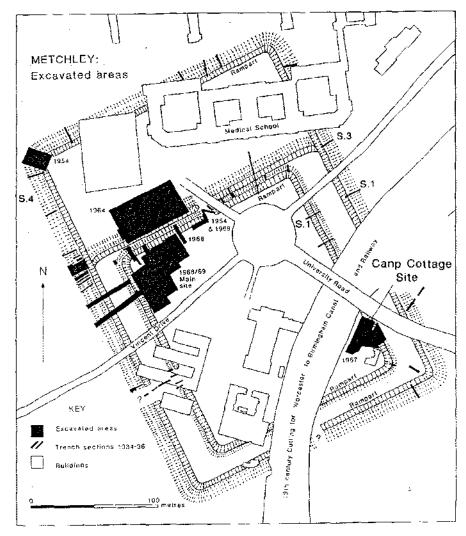


FIG.6

- 56a



METCHLEY: 1967
Camp Cottages site

Unexcavated

Outbuilding

Phase 3

Phase 2

Phase 1

Phase 1 slots, overlain by later features

Matalled surface

FIG.8

FIG.7

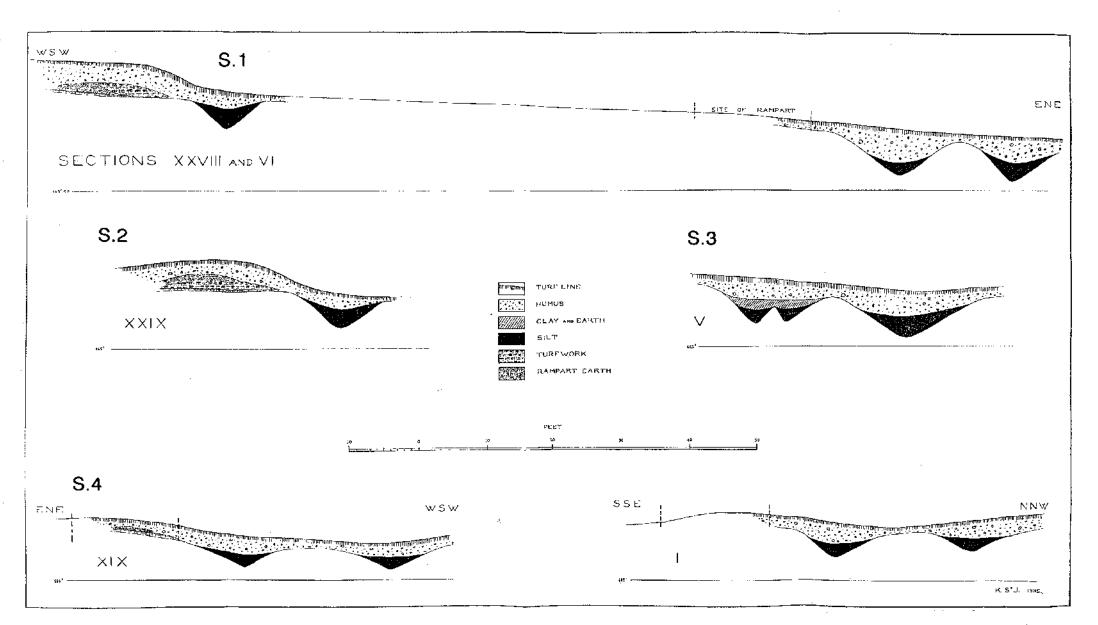


FIG.9

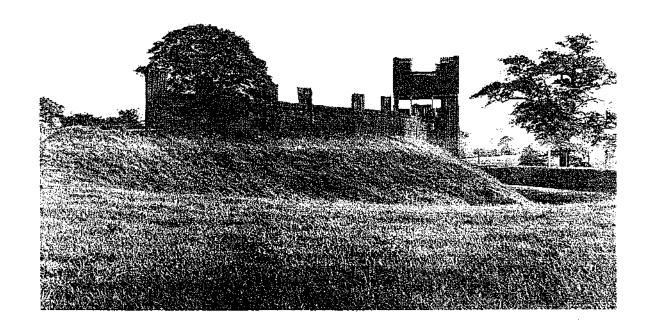


PLATE 1

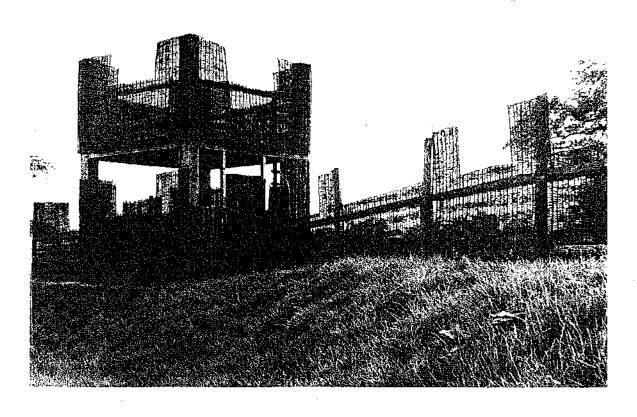


PLATE 2