

THE DESERTED MEDIEVAL RESEARCH GROUP

17th ANNUAL REPORT, 1969

EDITED by P. A. RAHTZ

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LONDON NW1 7EG



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1.

LIST OF OFFICERS

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VICE-CHAIRMAN	:	PROFESSOR H.C. DARBY
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY	:	MRS. M.E. EWINS
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 INGLIS, J.A. Achadh Nan Darrach, Invergarry, Invernesshire.

2.

RESEARCH IN 1969

E.E. Dodd has continued his examination of references to known DMVs at the Public Record Office. He has been working steadily through Rentals and Surveys, and Feet of Fines.

Our local correspondents have continued to send in details of suggested new sites. This information has been card-indexed and as a result the number of possible DMV sites awaiting investigation has risen from 1,270 to nearly 1,400. Mrs. M.E. Ewins has dealt with several written queries each week. Some local correspondents have spent time looking at the Group's files.

M.W. Beresford and J.G. Hurst have commenced their revision of Durham, but this is a long, laborious task as 177 possible sites need to be investigated.

(a)

REPORTS BY LOCAL CORRESPONDENTSESSEX

Fieldwork by E. and J. Sellers continued. At Beauchamp Roding (TL 579098) sherds collected during a contour survey included one small piece of grass tempered pottery. North of Rockell's Farm (TL 468366) are earthworks not shown on OS maps. These may represent the lost Domesday settlement of Wicgepet: further investigation is planned. (see also section 4b).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

N.P. Spry watched two sites threatened by the construction of the M5 (see section 4b).

HAMPSHIRE

S. Moorhouse watched five threatened DMV sites in north Hampshire (see section 4b).

HEREFORDSHIRE

A Study Group led by Miss R. Hickling and Mrs. O'Donnell is working on the medieval settlements. The records of Domesday, the Nomina Villarum 1316, Lay Subsidy Rolls 1334 and Poll Tax Returns of 1377 and 1380 for the county have been collated, and 15 possible sites have been visited. Eight of these show distinct earthworks, the rest have only very slight indications of earthworks. Only 2 out of the 8 sites represent total desertion, the others range from slightly shrunk to very shrunk. Two of the hundreds have

been thoroughly investigated by documents and field-work, and these have shown several possible new sites.

KENT

J. Schwieso, as part of his undergraduate dissertation at Cardiff university, has been working on the DMVs of Kent. He reports that starting from the last DMVRG provisional list some 200 sites in all have been identified for further work. The evidence is not plentiful: the scattered nature of much Kentish settlement, the common use of wood in most areas for domestic buildings, and the unsatisfactory nature of the documentary sources make lonely or ruined churches the starting point for enquiry. Only one village site and six hamlets have so far produced meaningful earthworks. No one period or cause of desertion can be said to be dominant.

LANCASHIRE

Mrs. P. Gilding has now left the county and it is hoped that someone else will continue work in this important area.

LEICESTERSHIRE

T. Pearce reports that the Leicestershire Archaeological Excavation Group are now surveying the DMVs in the county. So far, Knaptoft (SP 29895), Potters Marston (SP 498965), Welby (SK 725209), Foston (SP 604949), Whatborough (SK 772060) and Sysonby II (monastic?) have been completed.

At the request of the Leicestershire County Planning Office, work is now in progress locating shrunken village sites. A card index has been compiled, and when finished the information will be passed on to the C.P.O. for inclusion in their computer programme. It is hoped to incorporate some of these sites as small parks, open spaces etc. in future developments.

Three threatened sites were also watched (see section 4b).

LINCOLNSHIRE

Good earthworks are to be seen in the pasture SW of Sawcliffe Farm (centre SE 911144). House sites and a trackway can be distinguished and there is a large moated site, the ditch of which is flooded throughout all but the driest summers. The geological map reveals that a major fault intersects the Lincoln Cliff beneath the site. On the surface the fault appears to have created a shallow fold, running NW-SW across the Cliff, in which the

village was situated. Although the original settlement was close to the crest of the Cliff the fold appears to have afforded both shelter and a water supply from shallow wells.

A small collection of medieval sherds gathered from the molehills on the site is in Scunthorpe Museum (Index RX SA), as is a larger collection (RX SD) from an adjoining arable field (centre SE 908143). Earthworks in two fields to the south of the site (centre SE 90921421) appear to be limestone pits but there is no evidence of date.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell had another busy year watching seven threatened DMV sites (see section 4b).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Mrs. G. Brown reports that Downton (SP 613801) has been so levelled by building that no traces of buildings remain. On the other hand, at Newbold (SP 517606), the sites of crofts are still visible. A sketch survey has been made and sherds have been collected. Three other possible new sites are being investigated.

NORTHUMBERLAND

J. Godwin has recently taken up an appointment at the Northumberland Record Office, and has started visiting DMV sites and studying the many possible sites which have been suggested over the years.

OXFORDSHIRE

R.T. Rowley, previously the county correspondent for Shropshire, has taken up the post as Staff Tutor in Local History and Archaeology in the Oxford University Delegacy for Extra-Mural Studies. He is hoping to organise work on DMVs in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, centred on a training school in field archaeology at Middleton Stoney (SP 534233) in July 1970.

RUTLAND

Miss C. Mahony has started a series of visits and documentary work in the county.

SOMERSET

Miss A. Hamlin reports that at the University of Exeter a special subject course on Medieval Rural Settlement is offered in the History Department. The subject is approached both from written sources and archaeology. In connection with this course, some work on Somerset DMV documentary sources

has been done.

SUFFOLK

Miss Dyke and D. Dymond have compiled a list of 53 possible sites which they are investigating.

SUSSEX

G. Burleigh, as part of his undergraduate dissertation at Cardiff University, has been working on DMVs in east Sussex. A number of known and suspected sites have been visited, and the documentary evidence is being investigated. A study is also being made of possible shrunken sites.

WARWICKSHIRE

C.J. Bond reports that a three-year programme of field work and documentary research on sites in Warwickshire is drawing to its close, and although a few sites still remain to be visited, a large corpus of sketch-plans of deserted and shrunken village earthworks has now been compiled. One somewhat unexpected pattern beginning to emerge from a preliminary analysis of results is that a number of Feldon villages appear to have shifted from their original site (often represented by the isolated parish church), or expanded away from it, and been resettled as a regular, planned village, which was frequently itself depopulated at a later date. This phenomenon needs further study.

WORCESTERSHIRE

C.J. Bond reports that field visits are continuing on Worcestershire sites, and the original list of suspected sites is subject to continual modification. A number of new sites have been discovered, and several rejected which were originally listed.

The DMV of Ipsley (SP 065665) may shortly be affected by the Redditch New Town Development, and is to be surveyed in Easter 1970.

YORKSHIRE, NORTH RIDING

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Aberg have continued investigating sites in the NE area of this Riding. As well as adding to information on accepted sites, fieldwork and documentary references have suggested ten new possibilities.

IRELAND, CO. TIPPERARY

Dr. R.E. Glasscock has continued the survey of medieval sites in the county assisted by B.J. Graham. Ground survey has been helped by the

increasing number of air photographs taken by Dr. St. Joseph on his short annual visits to Ireland. No sites with outstanding earthworks were discovered this year and the majority of sites where there are ruined castles and/or churches remain problematic. The lack of documentary evidence makes it very difficult - without the evidence of earthworks - to be certain that such sites were ever large nucleated settlements.

Elsewhere in Ireland, inspection on the ground of a number of sites interpreted from the air by St. Joseph as DMVs suggests that in many cases the earthworks are those of old fields or relatively recent settlements and not those of medieval settlements. It is important, therefore, to modify the view expressed in the 1968 report that 'large numbers of DMV sites are now being recognised in all parts of Ireland'. This is an overstatement and the number of sites to which the term DMV may be attached with certainty is still very few.

WALES, MONMOUTHSHIRE

The Rev. Williams has reported on thirty-nine possible sites that he is investigating in the county.

(b)

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

OBLIQUE

J.G. Hurst has continued cataloguing Dr. St. Joseph's air photographs. The large numbers of photographs now taken in the winter as well as in the spring means that listing takes up much more time than previously. It has been possible to complete the work up to the end of 1967.

A generous grant from the C.B.A. has enabled the group to order 750 prints of photographs taken since 1963. It has not previously been possible to purchase any new photographs owing to a lack of funds.

(c)

CONFERENCES AND COURSES

A weekend school on 'Archaeology and the Deserted Medieval Village' was organised by the Department of Adult Education and Extra-mural Studies, University of Leeds, at the University Centre of Middlesbrough. Over a hundred students attended this very successful meeting arranged by A. Aberg. The programme began with a general lecture by Professor M.W. Beresford, to which the public were invited. Lectures were given by P.A. Rahtz, J. Musty, J.G. Hurst and L.A.S. Butler on the excavations at Upton, Gomeldon, Wharram Percy, and Faxton. P. Wade Martins described field-work and excavation on Norfolk villages, and L. Still and A. Aberg led an excursion to DMVs near

Middlesbrough. The conference was fortunate to have the company of Professor Axel Steensberg, of the Commission for Research on the History of Agricultural Implements and Field Structures, Denmark. He chaired a general discussion and gave a lecture on his excavation at Borup Village, Zealand. This included much material unfamiliar to all present, and some amusing anecdotes about the early days of his association with J.G. Hurst and J. Golson.

3.

PUBLICATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

- Addyman 1969 P.V. Addyman 'Late Saxon Settlements in the St. Neots Area: II Little Paxton', Proc Cambs Antiq Soc LXII (1969) 59-94
- Barker 1969 P.A. Barker 'The Deserted Medieval Hamlet of Braggington', Trans Shrops Archaeol Soc LVIII (1968) 122-139
- Barker ed 1969 P.A. Barker ed The Archaeology of Redditch New Town: Progress Report No. 1 (1969)
- Barton 1969 K.J. Barton 'Pickwick Farm, Dundry, Somerset' Proc Univ Bristol Speleol Soc XII (1969) 99-112
- Bond 1969 C.J. Bond 'The Deserted Village of Billesley Trussell' Warws History I (1969) 15-24
- Bryant et al 1969 G.F. Bryant J.M. Steane & B.N. Adams 'Excavations at the Deserted Medieval Settlement at Lyveden. Second interim report'. Journ Northampton Museums & Art Gallery V (1969) 1-50
- Coppack 1968 G. Coppack 'A Medieval Well and Associated Pottery from Keighton, Nottinghamshire' Trans Thoroton Soc LXXII (1968) 51-8
- Harris 1968 A. Harris 'Some Maps of Deserted Medieval Village in the East Riding of Yorkshire' Geographische Zeitschrift LVI (1968) 181-193
- Hurst 1969 J.G. Hurst 'Medieval Village Excavation in England' in Ed K.H. Otto & J. Herrmann Suedlung Burg und Stadt Schriften der Sektion fur Vor-und Fruhgeschichte Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin XXV (1969) 258-270
- Hutchings 1969 J.B. Hutchings 'Milton Ernest - a Field Survey' Beds Archaeol Journ IV (1969) 69-78
- Johnson 1968 W.B. Johnson 'Broadfield Extincta' Herts Past and Present VIII (1968) 12-16
- Jones et al 1968 M.U. Jones V.I. Evison & J.N.L. Myres 'Crop-mark sites at Mucking Essex' Antiq Journ XLVIII (1968) 210-230
- Lincoln Diocese 1969 Into Tomorrow: A Report on the Pastoral Reorganisation of the Diocese of Lincoln (1969)
- Oldfield 1969 F. Oldfield 'Pollen Analysis and the History of Land Use' Advancement of Science XXV 1969 298-311

Stanford 1967	S.C. Stanford 'The Deserted Medieval Village of Hampton Wafer, Herefordshire' <u>Trans Woolhope Nat Field Club XXXIX (1967) 71-92</u>
Taylor 1968	C.C. Taylor 'Medieval and Later Field Shapes in Dorset' <u>Proc Dorset Nat Hist & Archaeol Soc XC (1968) 249-257</u>
Wade-Martins 1969	P. Wade-Martins 'Excavations at North Elmham, 1967-8 : An Interim Report' <u>Norf. Archaeol XXXIV (1969) 352-397</u>
West Dean 1969	<u>Weald and Downland Open Air Museum (1969)</u>

4.

PRESERVATION OF SITES

(a)

PRESERVATION BY M.P.B.W. : (i) Guardianship

R. Tatton-Brown informs us that, as a result of the Group's memorandum to the Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments about Deserted Medieval Villages in 1965, it has been decided to start negotiations with the owners, with a view to taking into guardianship six of the following sites:

1. Wharram Percy, Yorkshire
2. Gomeldon, Wiltshire
3. Hound Tor, Devon
4. Gainsthorpe, Lincolnshire
5. Ingarsby, Leicestershire
6. Over Chalford, Enstone, Oxfordshire
7. Godwick, Norfolk

Seven are included, as one site might fail to materialise when it comes to negotiation with owners. This action is in accordance with the recommendations of the Ancient Monuments Board for England as expressed in their annual report for 1966. Pudding Norton, Norfolk has now been grouped with appendix C sites recommended by the Group.

It has further been agreed that there should be a full-scale display at only one of these sites, namely Wharram Percy in Yorkshire. This is a large site but one which has been steadily excavated over the last twenty years. It contains a medieval church, the walls and parts of the tower of which are still standing. Because of the amount of excavation work already done and because the site is notable in itself, it will be treated as a 'prestige site'. The remains of the church will, if possible, be consolidated and two of the house sites will be laid out to show their different periods of occupation. In the long term, that is after the main work on the church has been completed it will probably prove desirable to appoint a custodian and to arrange a car park off the site. Approval has been given for 'first aid work' on the church in 1970. At the other sites it is not proposed to consolidate and display the stonework. It was thought better that the materials of the

buildings should remain protected below grassy banks, at least within the foreseeable future. There will be a descriptive guardian plate explaining the layout of each village, but no attempt will be made to attract large numbers of visitors to the sites. It is hoped there will be no need for custodians and there will be no signposts on main roads. Any fencing will conform with the local type, generally posts and rails, and grazing will continue, if possible with sheep.

Correspondence with the owners of Gomeldon and Hound Tor is in progress.

PRESERVATION BY M.P.B.W. : (ii) Scheduling

The D.M.V.R.G. Memorandum (13th Annual Report 1965 Appendix D) recommended 66 sites for preservation. Since the appearance of the Memorandum, many of the sites have been visited to check the areas for preservation and to see that they were still intact. In addition, air photographs of the village sites had to be obtained. Seven sites were visited in 1968 and the forms for scheduling were prepared in the spring of 1969. The final four were visited in the summer of 1969 and the forms were completed in the autumn. Sixty-six sites have now been scheduled, or are in the process of being scheduled. It is regretted that it was too late to save two sites, Site 28b Croxall, Staffordshire, and Site 55 Broxholme, Lincolnshire, which were destroyed before preliminary visits could be made. Also, half of site 18a West Hartburn, Durham, was destroyed but the other half is being scheduled.

There are still some parts of the country where it is impossible to recommend sites for preservation because the areas have not been sufficiently studied. If any local correspondents can make suggestions of sites worthy of preservation in these parts, these will be most welcomed.

(b) PRESERVATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Plans are going ahead for Milton Keynes New Town in north Buckinghamshire and it is hoped that Old Wolverton (SP 803412) will be preserved. In the plan for the New Town, it states that:

"In association with the Buckinghamshire County Museum, a number of sites of archaeological interest have been identified, and nearly all these have been included in the linear parks. Particularly it is suggested that the rather fine motte, bailey and shrunken medieval village between Wolverton and Stony Stratford be incorporated into the Ouse valley park, and that its potential for educational uses in association with the higher education centre should be investigated..... The deserted medieval village at Old Wolverton adjoins the campus. It should be retained for its historical value, but put to some

positive use, such as a field study facility for students of history and archaeology."

Further meetings will take place in 1970 to discuss the preservation or the excavation before destruction of other DMVS in the New Town.

THREATS TO D.M.V's DURING 1969

There has been a steady increase in threats during the past year - 58 sites being threatened, 15 of these being carried over from 1968. As in previous years, agriculture was the greatest single threat, accounting for 29 sites. Building development accounted for 12; roadworks, including new motorways, for 9; and pipelines, power lines and quarrying for the remaining 8.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Lower Gravenhurst (TL 113353) J.G. Hurst found during a routine inspection that the large field containing the site was under plough. It is not certain how many years ago this happened as the site has not been visited for 10 years.

Chalgrave (TL 010270) A series of mounds superimposed on ridge and furrow adjoining this DMV was levelled. J. Dyer watched but there were no finds or structures so the mounds remain an enigma!

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Hardmead I D.C. Mynard reports that a major part of the southern part of the site (SP/936470) has been ploughed. The northern arm of this extended DMV (SP 940482) is also threatened but it is hoped to have advance warning so that either a watching brief or an excavation can be arranged.

Hardmead II (SP 936471) D.C. Mynard reports that this DMV was completely destroyed in April 1969 by levelling and ploughing. Examination of the field surface after ploughing produced hardly any pottery and very little stone. Only a few platforms on the south side of the site around Manor Farm still survive and these may be levelled soon.

Lower Burston (SP 842188) As part of further improvements to the farm by the new owner (16th Annual Report 1968 7) the ditch along the hedge line which divides the site into two, was cleaned out and deepened. C.N. Gowning watched the work but there were no medieval finds.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Childerley (TL 357615) A power line is to be erected across the site and it is hoped to have this watched for any finds.

DERBYSHIRE

Barton Blount (SK 209346) The second season (16th Annual Report 1968 7-8) was directed by G. Beresford for the DMVRG (Section 5). The important results have fully justified the further work there.

DEVON

Challacombe (SX 694796) A power line is to be erected across the lower part of the site. It is hoped to have this watched for finds.

Cholwich (SX 586619) There have been reports that this site, including the old farm, is threatened by dumps from the china clay works. Many local objections have been made but the future of the site is still uncertain.

DORSET

Hemsworth (SU 970060) Following the scheduling of the site by the M.P.B.W. the farmer seems to have abandoned his intention of ploughing (16th Annual Report 1968 8). The site was still intact under grass when last visited by the R.C.H.M. in November 1969.

Milton Abbas (SU 800024) The building of the new house on the edge of the site (16th Annual Report 1968 8) was watched by J.R. Boyden. Milton Abbey school is at present building a new house for the headmaster on the hillside overlooking the site of the earlier town of Milton Abbas removed by Lord Milton in the last quarter of the C18 to make way for a garden landscape scheme. Although this new house is being constructed on a steep and awkward site to avoid the former town, it is nonetheless near the position of one outlying dwelling shown on a map, now in possession of the school, which was prepared for Lord Milton immediately prior to the demolition of the old town.

The school is keeping watch over the building work and has so far excavated under supervision two pits containing C18 sherds that have been uncovered by the bulldozer.

DURHAM

Archdeacon Newton (NZ 255172) L. Still watched the building of the new barn (16th Annual Report 1968 8) and as expected there were no finds.

Preston le Skerne (NZ 302240) J. Pallister visited the site when the North

Sea Gas pipeline was being laid. Parts of the trench had already been backfilled but the topsoil was not replaced. There was no sign of any structural remains or artefacts.

ESSEX

Beauchamp Roding (TL 579098) Mrs. E. Sellers reports the ploughing of this possible D.M.V. adjoining an isolated church. A survey is being made and it is hoped to dig some test holes (see section 2). Also no signs of any mounds or earthworks in the land adjacent to the pipe line. The pipe trench would seem to be well clear of the settlement.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Manor Farm, Stoke Orchard (SO 915283) Stoke, a pre-Conquest settlement four miles NW of Cheltenham, contained two independent manors. One manor house site appears to survive as a moat north of the church and the second appears to have been at Manor Farm. Here construction of the M5 destroyed two house sites tentatively dated C13 and part of a third, more solid and possibly C14. The latter may be the second manor house. All earthworks and fields were surveyed. Topsoil removed nearby revealed C12-13 material although excavation by N.P. Spry revealed only property boundaries.

Green Farm, Standish (SP 787086) N.P. Spry reports that at Green Farm, Standish, seven miles south of Gloucester, construction of the M5 revealed an extensive but badly ploughed area of occupation, ranging in date from C12 to C16. The site was surveyed but little else was possible except the recovery of pottery from the individual occupation areas.

HAMPSHIRE

Chalton (SU 732160) Southampton University continued their survey of the village with the help of a small grant from MPBW (16th Annual Report 1968 9) see section 5.

Chineham (SU 645540) S. Moorhouse reports that this site has been almost completely destroyed by a new housing estate, part of the Basingstoke Development Scheme. Unfortunately the site was not watched but it is possible that a few platforms remain to the N.E. of Chineham House in the grounds but these could equally be landscape gardening features. This area will remain as a public park (centred SU 644541).

Hatch Warren (SU 616488) S. Moorhouse reports that it was not possible to watch the suggested site for this DMV during partial destruction by the

M4 motorway (16th Annual Report 1968 9). Part of the field to the north of the crossroads was scraped to the natural but produced negative results. The farm manager's wife Mrs. Crowe watched the trenching for pipes between the field and the road leading down to the farm, but no finds were made. However across the road in the field between the road and the cottage known as New Town, there are diagonal terraces sloping down the meadow with sporadic patches of large flints protruding through the turf. It is therefore possible that the Motorway has just missed the site.

Kempshott (SU 589460) (13th Annual Report 1965 16 and 16th Annual Report 1968 9). It was not possible to watch construction of the M4 Motorway through this site, but it was checked after initial grubbing of part of Kempshott Copse and again after partial clearance of the top soil but no finds were made. A large cutting 30 ft. deep and 200 ft. wide was made through the site in July 1969; it was not possible to watch this. The sections were checked, but produced no finds. Soil heaps in the area were also checked but with negative results. The surrounding area was also examined for signs of earthworks, including the densely wooded Kempshott Copse, but apart from a solitary possible platform at SU 599473 no finds were made. The only other possible site in the vicinity of Kempshott House is the golf course immediately to the west of the house.

Popham (SU 555438) A diversion road running parallel with the A30 and cutting through this site is proposed. It is hoped to watch the work if it is carried out. It will not affect the larger part of the site which lies across the sunken way leading to Popham Court, in the field centred at SU 558440. However an artery road of the M4 and A30 junction will cut off the corner of this field furthest away from the earthworks, and it is possible that the movement of heavy machinery may disturb part of the site.

Sherborne St. John (SU 622567) S. Moorhouse reports that sherds ranging from the C14 to C18 were picked up on this largely shrunken part of Sherborne St. John. The site is under the plough and the farmer has not yet been contacted but the OS field officer reported that the site was under pasture in 1957.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Kilpeck (SO 445305) Since the initial ploughing in 1968 of the south part of the site (15th Annual Report 1967 7) the ground has only been lightly rotovated so no further damage has been done. The farmer now wishes to fill in the outer ditch on the north side since it is full of weeds and scrub, but will leave the rampart and the village earthworks intact. The MPBW are trying to prevent this from happening.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Betlow (SP 897172) Dr. J.K.S. St. Joseph reported the discovery of this new DMV and also that it was ploughed. J.G. Hurst visited the site and found that the platforms are still clearly visible but it is not certain without trial excavation whether any of the archaeological levels survive.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Little Gidding (TL 125816) The farmer wants to build a new corn-dryer on the edge of the site. The area immediately adjoining the farm is disturbed although it is included in the scheduled area. It is hoped to watch any work carried out.

LANCASHIRE

Chorley/Leyland New Town. There are seven possible DMV sites within the area designated. These were visited by J.G. Hurst and Mrs. W. Gilding. Work on the DMVs in the area is still at an early stage but no substantial earthworks were seen at any of the possible sites. There are certainly no sites worthy of preservation.

Ulmes Walton (SD 553887) A new prison is to be built on this possible site. The area has however been so disturbed by an army camp and the village may anyway have been on the site of present houses along the main road, that no action is recommended.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Cotes De Val (SP 553887) A new tenant farmer has taken over the west half of the site. He is proposing to dig a silage pit near the farm. This will be watched by T. Pearce. As most of the west part of the site was destroyed during the building of the M1 it is proposed that this area should be de-scheduled and allowed to be ploughed. The east part of the site will remain intact.

Cold Newton (SP 716065) A new house was built in one of the old crofts of the DMV. This was watched by T. Pearce but there were no significant finds. This is hardly surprising as this croft has been under plough for many years. The scheduling of this fine site was turned down in 1958 but it is now hoped to arrange the scheduling of the most important earthworks.

Knaptoft (SP 626895) T. Pearce continued to watch the rebuilding of the farm (16th Annual Report 1968 9). In the event the ground of the car park was built up, not dug away, so there was no damage to this part of the site. Throughout the work the new owners BOCM have been most helpful and it is very gratifying to be able to report the redevelopment of a large farm for pasture with so much ploughing in progress elsewhere.

Sysonby II (SK 739190) This puzzling site (M.W. Beresford & J.K.S. St. Joseph Medieval England 1958 fig. 110) was put forward for scheduling, being another site held over from the 1958 embargo. The owner will co-operate but it may be necessary to agree to a limited amount of drainage. Following a visit by J.G. Hurst and T. Pearce, it is now almost certain that this site was a monastic grange with a central complex and large barns in the outer enclosures. T. Pearce is to make a survey of the site.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Buslingthorpe (TF 080850) Mr. and Mrs. Russell report that two fields to the east of the moated farm-house were drained, levelled and ploughed during the summer. In the field to the S.E. there was a banked enclosure of 3 to 4 acres, with a moat to the north and east. At the west end were earthworks which they have been told were gun positions in the last war. This area was carefully watched but no signs of earlier occupation were found. The few sherds of pottery found in the whole field were to the east where the bank was levelled: one sherd C13 shelly ware, a few sherds of C18 pottery and some slag. The field to the north of this had earthworks in the S.W. corner, elsewhere there was good ridge and furrow. A cobbled area showed in section in a drainage trench. It would appear that the main part of the DMV is untouched.

Goltho (TF 116774) The outer parts of this important DMV were ploughed some years ago (14th Annual Report 1966 15) but the main part of the site was preserved under grass. The farm has now changed hands again and the new owner wishes to level and plough the rest of the site. This does not seem to be a site to make a stand on in view of the fact that part of it is already destroyed. But it does mean that Rand (see below) should be rigorously protected since it is the only other good site left intact in this area of Lincolnshire clays. If Goltho is to be destroyed, more than one croft should be excavated. Ploughing of the outer crofts did not produce any stone so there is a good chance of a sequence of timber-only buildings being present as at Barton Blount, Derbyshire.

Grayingham (SK 934964) This field to the N.W. of the village was levelled and ploughed in March. There were four occupation areas in walled crofts exposed. The pottery found was mainly medieval including Stamford ware, gray gritty wares, decorated, and Humberwares; there was some medieval pottery.

Kelstern (TF 253898) The field to the south of the church was levelled and ploughed in the spring. Field-walking was undertaken by Derek Gore and his

archaeology class from Grimsby Western Boy's School. Occupation sites were near to the church - the pottery ranging from C13 shelly ware to C18 wares.

North Owersby (TF 058950 to TF 055956) Further fieldwalking was led by K. Parrott in fields which have been ploughed for some years, to the north of the village. Pottery was found in four different areas: in one, Saxo-Norman to C18 in association with cobbles, bone and clay pipes. In the others, the pottery was C13-C18.

Rand (TF 107791) Part of this important site has been purchased by the same farmer as Goltho. It is hoped that he will be persuaded to keep it under grass.

Sixhills Fieldwalking was undertaken on three sites which have been arable for several years. In a field (TF 165873) to the NE of the Priory site the course of the old road shows clearly, and in one area cobbles, bone and pottery of C13-C18 were found.

An area to the south of the Priory site (TF 163870) is possibly the site of a tile kiln, as a quantity of broken tiles, some wasters, and kiln furniture was found. There was also an area with medieval pottery and cobbles. An occupation area to the west of the village was also located (TF 169870). The pottery found included C12 shelly wares, medieval and some post-medieval sherds.

Swinhope west of road (TF 217061), east of road (TF 219961). The remaining part of the DMV was levelled and ploughed in the autumn. Heavy earth-moving equipment destroyed most of the evidence of occupation; much earth was moved, sometimes to another part of the field. It is possible that deeply sunken roads are filled with medieval remains. Apart from the two areas a scatter of pottery was found, mainly medieval, but no other obvious occupation areas. Cobbles, large flints and chalk stones roughly squared are on the site. More field walking will be done early in 1970.

Waithe (TA 284005) The fields to the north and south of the church were ploughed about 20 years ago. Fieldwalking, the result of seeing an air photograph showing extensive earthworks, brought to light several occupation areas in the field to the south of the church, with a scatter of pottery; one sherd of hand made, and C13 to C18 pottery; a piece of iron cauldron, copper cauldron and a late C16 child's spur.

NORFOLK

North Elmham (TF 987215) P. Wade-Martins reports on the 1969 excavation in section 5. As this area was apparently an open part of the village green in medieval times, further excavation is not recommended.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Stanford (SP 590789) This site was scheduled during the year. Lord Braye wished to improve a drainage ditch across the site and to lay a new water main for his cattle. This work was watched by Mrs. G. Brown. There were no significant finds.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Barton (NU 080123) The owner proposed a tree planting scheme in the area round the village. As this was away from the village site, approval was given. It was felt this would improve the chances of preserving the main site.

West Whelpington (NY 975838) Dr. M.G. Jarrett reports on the 1969 excavations in section 5. The finding of more early material, including Anglo-Saxon pottery, reaffirms the importance of continuing this excavation.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Bingham (SK 714397) Permission was requested for the laying of various services along the south edge of the site in connection with new building (16th Annual Report 1968 11). This was agreed and will be watched.

OXFORDSHIRE

Thomley (SP 631090) The larger part of this site was ploughed by a new owner who asked for advice when pottery and stone ware turned up. J.G. Hurst and G. Beresford visited and it is hoped some record may be made.

SOMERSET

Bineham (ST 500250) J.G. Hurst visited this threatened site with Miss A. Hamlin (16th Annual Report 1968 11). It was found that the site was very much more extensive than supposed. Besides the crofts threatened at present, it was found that two ploughed fields further east were full of crofts which were still clearly visible. Miss Hamlin hopes to do some trial excavations to determine whether there are still levels in position which would make excavation worthwhile.

Wraxall (ST 495718) This deserted farm site was partially threatened by roadworks connected with the M5. M. St. J. Forrest excavated and his report is given in section 5.

SUFFOLK

Hesley (TM 148683) D. Dymond and S.E. West report that an area of crofts to the side of the green of this DMV has recently been ploughed. It is hoped to make a survey of the house areas which are plainly visible as rectangular areas of clay lump.

Mellis (TM 093743) Two crofts along the west side of this very large green, by the church, have recently been ploughed. One house site at least is plainly visible and it is hoped to make a survey.

WARWICKSHIRE

Biggin (SP 535780) J. Lucas reported that this site might be threatened by a gravel pit for the M1/M6 link. In fact, the gravel is being taken from higher up the slope but attention was drawn to the site. J.G. Hurst visited the site and found that one of the three fields in which the site lay had been ploughed. The future of the rest of the site must now be considered.

Coton (SP 518788) This site is immediately adjoining the M1/M6 link but the MPBW were assured by the MOT and the contractors that the site would be quite safe, as the limits of the roadworks would be fenced off so there could not be any disturbance beyond. However no-one thought to contact the farmer who asked one of the sub-contractors to level the site with soil. Many hundreds of tons were dumped on the site before this was noticed, quite by chance, by J.G. Hurst when he visited Biggin nearby. Further work has now been stopped but the site is no longer worth preserving. J. Lucas hopes to persuade the farmer to leave one or two crofts for excavation in 1971 or 1972 when he ploughs the rest of the site.

YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING

Marton (SE 967842) Part of this shrunken site is threatened with housing and it is hoped to watch the work.

Raisthorpe (SE 855617) Part of this DMV (in the same parish as Wharram Percy) was levelled some years ago (10th Annual Report 1962 7) and the farmer promised to let T.C.M. Brewster know if he did more work. J.G. Hurst visited in July and found that the rest had been levelled to such an extent that the whole field was a solid layer of chalk rubble. Mr. Brewster hopes to make a survey of what he can.

YORKSHIRE, NORTH RIDING

The North Sea Gas pipeline (16th Annual Report 1968 12) was found to go through or near several other DMVs besides Eryholme. J. Pallister

watched and he reports in section 5.

Eryholme (NZ 323094) The trench was cut through the earthworks of the manor site, and most of the mounds on the trench line were removed by bulldozing the topsoil. The corner of a ? house platform was seen during excavation, but owing to the liquid state of the mud it was difficult to tell whether the stonework was wall or collapsed wall. A few sherds of medieval pottery were found at this corner and traces of charcoal. To the north was a large depression which may have been a pond but the side of the trench was in a too bad state to confirm this. The southern corner of the platform was not apparent in the trench sides due to mud and collapse.

Howegrave (SE 317788) The trench has cut a series of banks in the field on either side but owing to wet ground conditions no structures were observed. No pottery was found either, but this could also be due to the wet conditions. Most of the trench was backfilled, only the sections on either side of the road crossing still being open.

Stainsby (NZ 465157) The MPBW made strong representations about the destruction of this site by the new A.19 and obtained the support of the Teeside Corporation (16th Annual Report 1968 12). The line has now been moved over and it is hoped the DMV will be preserved as an open space. This is the first time that a major road scheme has been changed for a DMV.

Woodham (NZ 287267) The pipe line passed through the middle of the earthworks complex as shown on the 25 inch O.S. map. This had already been backfilled and, owing to time available, was not visited.

5.

EXCAVATIONS DURING 1969

CORNWALL

Crane Godrevy, Gwithian (SW 591425) Work was resumed here in 1969, after a lapse of ten years. A C1 - C2 'round' was re-occupied in C12, when a small rectangular dwelling was built; this was enlarged in ? C14 to a long rectangular two-room structure to which wings were added; a second house was built in C16; the site was abandoned in C17 because of sand-blow. There are also associated field-systems. The aim of the 1969 dig was to clear up unresolved problems. Another early C12 house-site was found, c.17 x 8 ft., with an entrance on the west side; there is a curious oblong trench in the centre, possibly for a hearth.

DERBYSHIRE

Barton Blount (SK 209346) G. Beresford for DMVRG on behalf of MPBW

The excavation of crofts A and B was completed in 1969. Crofts C and G

had been extensively damaged by the digging of a marl pit and bulldozing. Fortunately, a small area in front of these crofts had escaped damage. Excavation of this area revealed a C14 house and a C15 barn. The structures built before the C14 were defined by post-holes, sill-trenches, timber-slots and eaves ditches. Later buildings, some of considerable sophistication, were pre-fabricated. The principal posts and studs were placed on stone pads, without sill beams. Finds from the crofts included pottery, from the late Saxon to C15, lead spindle whorls, knives, querns, whet-stones and horse and ox shoes. The village is being surveyed.

The excavation of Croft E, at the end of the village, revealed the remains of three pre-C14 structures, one of which contained a hearth. The plan of this croft, of the C15 was more sophisticated than is usually found in a DMV. There were two superimposed houses, built on the west side of a cobbled farm yard, approximately 50 ft. square. On the opposite side, there was a four-bay barn, 47 ft. long and 18 ft. wide. The principal posts rested on ashlar pads, measuring 18 x 12 x 9 ins. There was a saw-pit in this period.

The house built during the last structural period in Croft A was by the road. It was 44 ft. long and 17 ft. wide, and was divided by a sunken screened passage. Near the screen, in the living room, a hearth was found, over which the remains of a fallen wattle and daub chimney hood were found. A cobbled path had been laid from the door of the house to the road. All the crofts threatened with destruction have now been ploughed. Large ashlar blocks and stones of paths have been brought to the surface. The remains of these structures must now be excessively damaged and further excavation, on this site, would seem to be impracticable. There are still approximately 10 crofts, in different ownership, near the Hall. It is hoped that it may be possible to schedule some of these.

DURHAM

West Hartburn (NZ 358142) Work by L. Still and A. Pallister continued in 1969.

Two further buildings were identified by trial trenches. The sunken roadway was examined in two places; there were no paving or drainage ditches but much evidence of repaired ruts and potholes and general use as village rubbish dump - bones, pottery, iron work, including a double-edged quillon dagger of C14 and an unusual prick spur.

HAMPSHIRE

Westbury (SU 654237) Earthworks to the S.W. of Westbury House, West Meon, have been shown to S. Moorhouse by G. Walker, a local archaeologist and a

teacher at Westbury House School, and identified as two house platforms with their respective enclosures. They lie on the brow of the hill overlooking Westbury House and the valley of the small River Meon and on the edge of a heavily wooded area on the summit of the hill. To the south of the earthworks the undergrowth is too dense to determine any features while to the north the brow of the hill is terraced but is again too heavily overgrown with bracken and woodland to determine whether this is part of the medieval complex or the effect of landscape gardening in the late C18 which has destroyed any earthworks which existed between those located and the present house. Walker has trenched the most southern platform and found medieval pottery (not examined but in Winchester City Museum). A group of C11 pottery has been found during excavations by Walker under the late C13 chapel to the north of Westbury House (SU 657239). As no later pottery was found on the site it can be assumed that the chapel was re-modelled in the late C13, being originally found in the late C11 or early C12.

The evidence points to the main concentration of the medieval village along the brow of the hill to the west of Westbury House and amends the suggested location (Hants list Annual Report 1966 app A. no. 80) to an area centred at SU 654237.

NORFOLK

North Elmham (TF 987215) The most northern property, south of the park drive, was excavated by P. Wade - Martins for the DMVRG, on behalf of the MPBW. The occupation level discovered was datable to about C16.

One building, which showed as an earthwork before excavation, was found; it measured 60 x 220 ft. Very little of the building itself was found except for a few patches of chalky clay along the walls. In one place however, an outer skin of bricks, one course high, had been inserted. No hearth or any other internal features were found. Around the building was a large flint-cobbled yard.

No medieval occupation was found below as this part of the site was an open green; documents referring to a market on the site from the C14 have been found. Along the side of the sunken street there was an almost continuous line of medieval clay pits. Perhaps clay digging on greens and commons in the Boulder Clay regions of East Anglia was more common than surface indications suggest.

Because the natural surface towards the street had been stripped away in a levelling-out of the site for the flint yards, Saxon features could only be found towards the rear of the property. Here a few post holes and pits with Saxon pottery in their fillings were found.

A plan of the site has been published in Norfolk Archaeology XXXIV, (1969) 368. A summary of the excavations will be published in the second North Elmham interim report in Norfolk Archaeology XXXV (1970).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Mallows Cotton (SP 77734)

Mrs. G. Brown reports that trenches were dug by a local school on top of several platform mounds, fortunately only to the depth of a stone layer below the turf. A more extensive excavation on the edge of a sunken road located masonry of four intersecting walls, with six courses remaining. Another trench, four feet deep, 'on top of a mound to the south of the site, produced a Roman sherd and some Saxon pot and small finds.

NORTHUMBERLAND

West Whelpington (NY 974837)

Excavation by M. Jarrett for DMVRG on behalf of MPBW took place on both sides of the village green. On the north, sites 6 and 7 were completely excavated, with parts of the adjacent crofts; on the south, work continued on the west end of the complex designated site 16. In addition, the square stone platform, in the green south of site 7 (examined cursorily in 1958) was completely excavated.

Sites 6 and 7 : In the latest (post-medieval) phase two sites comprised a single house with two rooms, with a cow-byre to the west. The pottery indicated occupation from C12, but the surviving fragments of medieval walls were too few to establish the plans of the earlier structures. The earliest features were three rock-cut pits, c 0.8 m square; one of these had been deliberately filled and then sealed with clay and flags. The function of these pits is uncertain. In the croft to the north of site 6 was found evidence of a rectangular house, c 8 x 4m; it produced no satisfactory dating evidence, but the extent of robbing suggests that it was probably post-medieval. Similar evidence was found immediately south of site 7, on the green; but here the robbing had been so thorough that the complete plan could not be recovered.

Platform (site 7A): Excavation of this site confirmed that the most prominent feature was a platform, one course high, of large whinstone blocks, and measured just over 3 m square. Walls ran eastward from the N.E. and S.E. corners, but could not be traced for more than c 3.5 m.

Despite the absence of clear evidence, it may be suggested that this was a small medieval house with a platform for a hay-rick at its west end; it may be compared with site 16B, excavated in 1968.

Sites 16, 16C and 16D : Work was continued to the west of the area examined in 1968. Surface indications suggested that only croft walls would be found here, but in fact the stratification was more complex than on any other part of the site. It will not be possible to produce a clear account of the west end of the site 16, for an area c 8 x 6 m revealed evidence of many walls; these had been broken, robbed, repaired and re-used by a succession of builders from C12 to C17. Only the earliest structure (16D), an irregular building of uncertain function, was tolerably complete. To the west of 16D, late croft walls overlay a succession of cobbled surfaces. Below the lowest cobbled area there was a rock-cut drain, and near it a rock-cut post-hole - the first such features found at West Whelpington. It seems probable that these may be associated with a Saxon vessel found nearby. At its north side the cobbling overlay a large pit dug into a pocket of natural clay: this had been deliberately filled in C12. A post-hole at one side might suggest that it was a grubenhaus, but damage by a C19 field-drain precludes certainty. The most northerly part of this area, west of site 16A and immediately south of the pond, revealed a succession of houses, of medieval and post-medieval date (16C).

Frequent rebuildings make it difficult to be certain of the sequence of structures. The best preserved house, measuring c 17 x 4 m, had a platform of rough whinstone blocks at its west end, and at one stage a timber (?) partition divided it into two rooms. It is assumed that this (and similar platforms in sites 19, 16B and 7A) were the base for hay-ricks.

Plans for 1970 : The discoveries west of 16, in an area which from surface indications might have been thought sterile, indicate once more the importance of digging on the widest possible scale in 1970 and subsequent years.

SHROPSHIRE

Abdon (SP 575864)

The site of a prominent platform was opened up some 450 ft to the south of and 30 ft below the medieval longhouse excavated in 1966. The aim of this small excavation by R.T. Rowley was to help determine the extent of the deserted village and confirm documentary evidence suggesting that the lower part of the site was re-occupied in C17.

The base of a dhu structure (5.75 x 9m) lying immediately below the turf level was uncovered and found to consist of three sections. A small northern room (2.25 x 4.6m interior) was partially paved with sandstone slabs and contained a small square of packed dhu stone. A central cross passage with a clay floor (5.7 x 3.2m interior) had east and west entrances each with a broad stone step. The southern room (3 x 5.7m) was paved with dhu stone with a wide drain in the S.W. corner.

The abundance of C17 and C18 slipware confirmed that Abdon had been re-occupied, but apart from a few sherds of medieval cooking pot there was no evidence of earlier occupation. The complete absence of any rubble and the clean, smooth nature of the structure suggested that it had been an open yard during the last phase of its life. The original building had probably been a cow shed or milking area. The structure has been left intact for further excavation.

SOMERSET

Moat House Farm, Wraxall (ST 481732) threatened by M5 operations

(a) Under direction of M. St. J. Forrest - May/June.

The main objectives were to ascertain the nature of the rectangular enclosures flanking Cuckoo Lane on its eastern side and to obtain a date for the features there. The external surrounding bank was sectioned in two places and shown to be a low boundary wall of loosely heaped stone. Fragments of medieval pottery were found sealed inside the wall including part of a Ham Green jug. Inside the enclosure there was a small rectangular building, with unmortared stone walls and a clay floor. The lack of a hearth suggested an outbuilding rather than a dwelling house. Animal remains included a number of boars' tusks. Pottery from the building including Selsley Common and Ham Green wares dated to later C13 or C14.

(b) Under the direction of A.J. Priddy - October.

Resources became available to explore the site further. Excavation of the area adjacent to the rectangular building revealed a rectangular two-roomed house with traces of a hearth and drainage system. The building excavated earlier was found to have an extension projecting a short way to the east which seems to represent an enlargement at some stage in its history. Low stone walls of a type similar to those found earlier underlying the external boundary bank, were shown to cross the enclosure dividing the total area into at least three parts. Finds from the site include a stone mortar, a decorated bronze buckle, the shape of a dagger and a coin probably of Edward II.

It is hoped to continue work on this site during Summer 1970 in the area not affected by road widening.

YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING

Wharram Percy (SE 858642) (20th season) Excavation directed by J.G. Hurst for DMVRG.

The area to the north of the C15 stone long-house was cleared to natural chalk. Unlike the south area, excavated in 1968, there was no disturbance from major quarries but there were only a few post-holes, so the attempt to plan any C12 and C13 timber houses, which preceded the C14 and C15 long-houses, was again thwarted.

The ditch system to the east of the toft was examined. It showed a complex series of recuts. The first period was again devoid of finds, confirming the earlier suggestion that it was originally a boundary between the Saxon village in the valley and the open fields on the hillside. Tip lines observed this season confirmed that the bank was on the east, i.e. on the village side. This would have been most unlikely if it was a boundary for the toft. A natural chalk causeway across this ditch, at the top of a terrace-way up from the valley, suggests that it was an early route up to the fields. When houses were built over the boundary in the former field, a cobbled road was laid across the causeway. Post-holes for a gate were found, with lines of posts for fences.

The stone house previously located under the C14 boundary bank between tofts 6 and 7 was fully cleared. This was found to be a small two-roomed house with a central hearth in one room. This is the first house to be found at Wharram which cannot be interpreted as a long-house. The date must await the analysis of the pottery, but it is likely to be late C13 or early C14, when it is thought that there may have been at least three peasant houses in the area later to be occupied by the two C15 houses, 6 and 7, after the contraction of the village. A similar change was also suggested by evidence from area 10.

An important find was a clay-lined pit, possibly for water storage. This contained an almost complete York-type jug with bands of rouletted decoration and remains of about six Staxton Ware cooking pots which should make up into almost complete vessels. From the form of the jug, and the cooking pot rim, a date in the first half of the C14 is probable. This is only the second rubbish pit, containing large pottery sherds, found in twenty years of excavation. The disposal of rubbish and manure is an

important problem to be investigated and it is hoped to arrange field walks in the winter to look for sherds. T.C.M. Brewster reports that medieval sherds are common over fields in the Wolds so, unlike Wessex for instance where evidence for manuring in the medieval period is slight, the rubbish from medieval villages may have been spread over the fields in the chalk Wolds.

St. Martin's Church: the nave (8th season)

It is now known that the Saxon church was constructed so far east that its east end had to be built up on a solid foundation over the sloping hillside. It is puzzling why it was not built further west where there was a flat area of chalk at least 50ft. across. To see if this problem could be resolved the whole area of the Norman nave, west of the Saxon church, was stripped to natural. As this was behind the pews which had protected earlier levels further east from burial disturbance, it was found that the area was honeycombed with burials, and only small patches of natural chalk were preserved. Unfortunately no certain Saxon features were found, so the problem as to what was in this flat area to prevent the building of the Saxon church remains. It is still possible that an answer may be obtained when excavations are possible to the west of the tower after consolidation. If there was a free-standing cross all evidence for this have been destroyed by the burials.

The foundations of the C12 nave were examined. On the north side these were found to be set in a sloping foundation trench which naturally led to great difficulties when the builders tried to level up the courses above. On the south side, on the other hand, the foundations were laid level and set down one course as the slope increased. There was no dating for either wall but this different building construction might suggest two periods of construction. There is still no firm evidence for any structures going eastwards from the supposedly earlier west wall and tower. It is, therefore, possible that the south wall may represent one of these, but the north foundation was removed to build the C12 Percy wall. Otherwise we are left with early walls at the west and east ends (the pre-apse, square end to the chancel) walls with nothing to link them.

A sequence of floor levels was obtained from those areas where graves did not destroy them. Directly on the natural chalk was laid a good quality chalk floor. There was no dating evidence to show whether it was the floor of the elusive C11 church or earlier, but it sealed post-holes containing sandstone chippings so it could not belong to a pre-stone Saxon church phase. On this floor was a level of sandstone chippings which formed the foundation

for floor (A6). As the chippings went into the foundation trench for the Percy church this floor may be confidently dated to the late C12. On the top of this was another levelling layer (A5) with a series of floor levels (A4) on top. These arose from successive repairs throughout the medieval period; sections showed constant patches and resurfacings in different areas. The latest of these was datable by a coin and pottery to 1500. On top was another levelling layer (A3), datable to major repairs in the C17. On top of this was floor (A2), datable by coins to the early C18 and presumably a floor which is documented to 1722. Above this was the C19 levelling-up for pews.

The heating furnace for the 1617 bell-pit, excavated in 1966-7, was found a few feet to the west. This was set two ft. into natural chalk and comprised a narrow channel lined with stones and a round stoke-hole at each end. There were signs of intense burning and large quantities of charcoal. Against the west wall of the nave, south of the tower, was found a small pit for heating lead. This contained many fragments of melted lead and may be associated with the 'thaking' of the roof with lead which is recorded in 1552.

About twenty graves were uncovered. The earliest of these were without coffins but the later ones, which also cut into the heating furnace, were in wooden shaped coffins. A series of coffin handles was collected and it is hoped these will date the burials. A number of the better preserved burials were lifted, and these will provide a useful supplement for comparison with the medieval series from the north aisle area, now being examined by D.R. Brothwell of the British Museum.

The South Aisle

The second bay of the south aisle, with its complex of late walls first located in 1968, was re-opened and extended. The westernmost bay, including the later porch, was also examined. It is still difficult to interpret the structures found. These comprised a widening of the aisle, by only two feet, and two projecting walls, ten feet apart and eight feet long. Immediately inside the aisle were two rows of large, flat stones at different levels. This may be interpreted as either a rebuilding of the aisle on a slightly different line with a porch and steps going down into the aisle or as a rebuilding with two buttresses, the internal stones being interpreted as benches along the wall. There are arguments against both theories. The south end was not closed, as would be normal with a porch; the porch would also be a full bay wide which would be unusual and it is not normal to descend a flight of steps into an aisle from a high level. Given the wide spacing

of the walls, a buttress theory therefore seems more plausible but it is difficult to explain why they should be eight ft. long. It was hoped that the slight widening might be for a wall tomb but no evidence for this was found under the foundations. No dating evidence was obtained but it is now thought that the changes might date to the last quarter of C15, the date of the re-used windows in the blocking of the south aisle; in the same way the re-used windows in the north aisle might date the changes there.

The SW corner of the Norman aisle was uncovered, with its chalk foundation and a few of the ashlar blocks in place. A small pilaster buttress, projecting five ins., was found at the SW corner of the nave. The aisle wall was abutted against this. A series of burials was found along the aisle both in the second bay and in the first bay under the rebuilt porch. There was no dating evidence but they were certainly medieval, being sealed by the debris from the destruction of the south aisle in C16.

The most important find of the year was the fragment of a late C8 or early C9 cross with an incised plait decoration.

YORKSHIRE, NORTH RIDING

Old Boulby Hall (NZ 762 195)

Excavations by A. Aberg for Teesside Museums for MPBW. The site of Old Boulby lies on a South facing slope at an approximate height of 275 ft. O D, halfway between the villages of Staithe and Easington. Work was concentrated on the site of the 'Old Hall' and part of the deserted village.

On the site of the hall three main periods were distinguished:-- I c 1400. Three buildings seem to have existed at this period, the main one being a substantial stone hall 52 x 23 ft. There was also a stone kitchen, badly robbed and levelled, with two large bread ovens. A timber building 34 x 16 ft. probably belongs to this period but no pottery was recovered from the post-hole.

II c 1550. The stone hall of the earlier period continued in use but a new house was built alongside in a position overlooking the village main street. The new house was 121 x 24 ft. with a cross passage and doors 40 ft. from the SE end, and additional doorways in the SE gable and the NE side. The kitchens of period I were cleared away and a stone building 110 x 26 ft. constructed in its place. The second building may have been agricultural.

III c 1750. The medieval hall was partly demolished and a new building constructed out of one gable and side wall, 32 x 19ft. New floors and fireplaces were inserted, and the roof renewed in pantiles instead of

stone slates. One new building was erected, a barn 80 x 20 ft. with double doors and heavy cobblestone floors. Although partially ruined these buildings remained in use until 1860 - 70, for storage and animals. The village and hall of Old Boulby lie along one main road which runs NW - SE; with the hall at the west corner. The area adjacent to the hall, 140 x 60 ft. was excavated. Sleeper beams and post-holes of C13 - 14 timber houses were cut into the clay subsoil.

1. A line of 12 in. post-holes, 15 ft. apart ran across the site for 60 ft.
2. House I 47 x at least 14 ft. wide. It was constructed of sleeper beams. One door was found in the surviving long wall and there was a central fireplace. The house had been rebuilt on the same plan.
3. House II. This overlapped House I but was set at right angles to the village street instead of running parallel. It was 22 ft. long, 16 ft. wide. There were also two open air cooking ovens. Topsoil was stripped mechanically from the rest of the area occupied by the village; further sites were seen, though their planning was impossible. The material salvaged suggests that all were occupied during the C13 and C14 and perhaps earlier, but there was relatively little C16 pottery which infers that the peasant house sites were abandoned by this period.

YORKSHIRE WEST RIDING

Holdsworth (SE 082289) J. Gilks, Area Archaeologist.

Three buildings were examined. The first (pre c 1300) was 40 ft. long of post-holes 3 - 6 ft. apart linked by sleeper-beams. The second had stone footings 37 x 36 ft., of sandstone, with crushed sandstone floor. There was a ?garde-robe in the NW corner, and a fireplace in the SW corner. The third building was erected at the NW corner of the second, c 1400.

The Manor House was built of timber c 1270, and was surrounded by timber and stone revetments. In c 1300 it was rebuilt in stone; it was abandoned in the mid C14, but occupation of the village was continuous. Further observations were made when the topsoil of the village area was removed mechanically. The earlier village, of timber construction, was destroyed by fire; it was replaced in C13 on a smaller scale with stone buildings, around a + junction of roads.

IRELAND, CO. TIPPERARY

Liathmore - Mochoemog (Irish Grid ref. S. 225577) R.E. Glasscock for the Office of Public Works, Dublin.

Work in the second season was concentrated in the area between the

two churches. The latest feature was a small late C17 house 33 x 10 ft. 9 in. internally. Beneath and around this house there were a large number of burials. A considerable time must have elapsed between the burials and the building of the house as it is unlikely that a dwelling would have been set on an area known to contain burials. There were no earlier houses, but two deep trenches were cut into natural beneath the burials. Excavation of an adjacent area revealed a circular foundation 18 ft. in diameter and hollow in the middle. This is almost certainly the base of a round-tower of the Early Christian monastery. Sections of the curving banks on this site revealed that they had carefully constructed stone cores, in places coursed and faced; their purpose is not yet clear.

After the abandonment of the monastery c C17 the site was not re-occupied until the mid C17 when a dozen or so flimsy houses were erected near the churches and occupied for a few years. The extensive rebuilding and enlargement of the later of the two churches between 1200 and 1600 remains a puzzle.

6.

ACCOUNTSDESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE RESEARCH GROUP
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1969Receipts

Air photographs account			
balance from 1968	£3.	4.	0.
transfer from			
gnl. a/c		17.	6.
General account			
balance from 1968	£99.	13.	5.
sales & subs	£116.	12.	3.
bank interest	£24.	13.	9.
			<hr/>
	£245.	0.	11.

Expenditure

Air photograph account			
prints	£4.	1.	6.
closing balance	-	-	-
General account			
slides	£15.	18.	9.
photos	£ 8.	1.	9.
library	£11.	5.	0.
historical research	£10.	0.	0.
cheque book & bank			
charge		10.	0.
Thyden (expenses)	£4.	10.	11.
Clerical	£12.	5.	5.
transfer to air			
photos a/c		17.	6.
advanced to West Whelpington a/c			£67. 10. 0.
			£177.10. 1.
			<hr/>
			£245. 0. 11.

Note: Because of the need to defray West Whelpington expenses pending funding of the deficit on this excavation by the University of S. Wales the following liabilities were undischarged at the end of the year:

clerical	£16.	11.	0.	
books	£11.	15.	10.	
air photos	£19.	1.	0.	
slides	£5.	7.	0.	
photos	£1.	18.	7.	
due to Wharram Percy a/c	£2.	2.	0.	£56. 15. 5.

The apparent carry forward of £177. 10. 1d. is therefore in reality £120. 14. 8d. and this will be appropriately noted in the 1970 accounts.

Members will wish to know that the West Whelpington deficit was funded by the University of S. Wales and the above mentioned liabilities discharged during the first quarter of 1970.

There will be a tax liability of about £10 during 1970 in respect

of bank interest received during 1969. And £30 is earmarked for the duplication of the questionnaire.

7.

RESEARCH IN 1969 OVERSEAS

AUSTRIA : Prof. Dr. F. Felgenhauer

F. Felgenhauer has undertaken trial excavations at two DMVs near Orth a.d. Donau in Lower Austria. His work at Gang is published but the results of excavations at Dorflerwiese have not yet appeared in print. H. Margle has published the results of similar work at Karpenwerth in the same area. A card index of DMVs in Lower Austria is being compiled.

The sites of four mottes have been excavated in Lower Austria, including the largest and best surviving complexes at Gaiselberg, near Zisterdorf. A collection of maps and air photographs of these defensive sites in Austria is being made. Other medieval studies include an investigation of the old nucleus of Vienna, early medieval churches and ceramics in Lower Austria.

BELGIUM

St. Margariete-Roeselare in East Flanders, 1967 - 69; Dr. A. Van Doorselaer and F. Verhaeghe, Seminar for Archaeology, Ghent University, for Belgian Centre for Rural History.

The village was abandoned after the destruction by a flood of 1376! The excavation was on the site of the 'Hof van Roeselare', or manor, to the south of the church and churchyard. A building with brick foundations, c 9.5 by 6.5 m, was found, with several buttresses; material included roofing-tiles, glazed tiles, mortar and pottery. Another building was found 4 m to the SW and a third was found 18 m to SE. The buildings seemed to be surrounded by a series of deep-water channels, one of which cut away part of the second building.

1. A. Verhulst, Note pour servir à l'étude archéologique des villages désertés en Belgique, in: L'archéologie du village médiéval, Centre belge d'histoire rurale, Publication 5, Louvain-Gand, 1967, 123 - 32

CZECHOSLOVAKIA - Bohemia: Dr. Z. Smetanka of the Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences reports:-

Fieldwork - J. Klapste of the Prehistoric Institute of the Charles IV University Prague started an intensive survey in the eastern part of central Bohemia looking for DMVs in a selected 10 km square. The earthworks of the DMV Lazany, near Stihlice, district of Kolin, were planned.

Excavation - The systematic excavation of the DMV Svidna, near Slany, district of Kladno, was started. In a four month season on farm 3 (U type) the living-part, divided into four rooms and a cellar, a granary, two rooms for cattle linked with the barn, were excavated. In the garden was found a second small house with two rooms, its function is not yet known. The farm is datable by small finds and pottery from the early 14C to early 16C.

Conference - In April 1969 the first National Symposium on the archaeology of DMVs was held in Prague. This included an excursion in Central Bohemia.

Slovakia - Dr. A. Habov^Vstiak, Archaeological Institut of the Slovak Academie of Sciences, Nitra (from November 1969 at Archaeological Institut of Slovak National Museum, Bratislava)

Hubina-Ducove - district Piestany. Many more graves were found, some stone-marked, around a destroyed church (directed by Dr. A. Ruttkay).

Vel'ky Dur-Barc - district Levice. Ridge and furrow fields were found for the first time in Slovakia, on the site of a DMV dating from C12 to C16.

Blatrica-Sebeslavce - district Martin. Four more houses of C16 to C17 were discovered by M. Slaninak, Slovak National Museum in Bratislava and Martin.

In both Institutes, work continued on the collection of historical data on DMVs.

DENMARK

Professor Axel Steensberg reports that a register of deserted medieval sites has been organised in the Nordic countries supported by the Research Councils (Forskningsrad) of the respective countries. In Denmark, Dr. Phil Svend Gissel will act as the chairman. Parallel with the main registration work a few small areas will be chosen from time to time for a closer examination by archaeologists. Museum-keeper J.L. Ostergard Christensen Holbaek will start the first of these projects in the summer of 1970, examining an area with several deserted villages in Hornsherred, west of Roskilde fjord, in order to locate the sites.

Excavations of a site in Drenghsted south of Ribe, in Jutland, dated from the C5. Work has been in progress since 1960 and short reports have appeared in SKALK (1962), 3; (1963), 2; (1967), 4. House sites and ovens for melting iron ore have been excavated.

In North Zealand, two students have excavated three wings of a farm building, probably part of Torup village, which was abandoned c 1650 as a result of a sand-drift. The living house, c 12 by 5 m, consisted of a

small room in the west end (Kammer) and a living room in the middle (Stue). In the middle of this was an open fireplace at ground level, and in the north-eastern corner there was the mouth of a big baking oven. This oven stood in an entrance room in the east end of the house, but it was fired from the living room. Further excavations, with a grant from the Carlsberg foundation, will take place in the summer of 1970, directed by one of the students, Soren Frandsen.

FRANCE

Professor Dr. M. de Bouard reports that the Centre de Recherches Archéologiques Médiévales of the University of Caen have continued for a third season at the Carolingian villa regalis at Doué la Fontaine (Maine et Loire). At Audrieu (Calvados) a ringwork and bailey was excavated by Mademoiselle Annie Renoux. Mottes were excavated at Rubercy (Calvados) by Monsieur Claude Lorren and Saint Sever (Calvados) by Monsieur Bernard Cross,

Professor Gabriel Fournier of the Faculte des Lettres et Sciences Humaines of the University of Clermont reports the following excavations of DMVs.

a) Montchauvet (Haute-Loire) In this village of about 50 ruined buildings, a robbed structure has been excavated and glazed pottery found.

b) Les Roussillous (Cantal) One of the houses of this small abandoned hamlet has been excavated. The plan comprised two rooms as indicated by the foundations.

c) Ronzières (Puy-de-Dôme) On the edge of the cemetery a house with a square plan has been excavated. A timber sill rested on low walls the tops of which contain holes for uprights. A central post-hole had a stone packing. The entrance was closed by a pivoting door. The two angles were occupied by rooms. The date is probably Romanesque.

Thesis:- In a study concentrating on a manor of the late C 14 Mademoiselle Draber has shown that the economic decline in the Limagne septentrionale (Puy-de-Dôme) led to many isolated farms and four villages being deserted (Unpublished thesis).

Publication:- E. Hugoniot, 'Une aire d'habitation du XVe siècle à Bruere-Allichamps (Cher)', Revue archéologique du Centre, (1969), 111-32, described the excavation of an isolated house of the C 15.

The following report was received from the archaeological research group of the sixth section of the École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris).

Saint-Jean-le-Froid: The 1969 excavations (June and July) were

undertaken on the site of a Benedictine priory. Four different phases of occupation could be distinguished, each of them associated with changes in the layout and buildings of this settlement. During Period II, the priory was enlarged. Period III corresponds to the reconstruction of the church on reduced plans when the priory was also rebuilt on a smaller plan. A second bronze-smelting furnace, earlier than the one previously discovered, was revealed: both can be related to the first period of occupation on this site. The 1969 campaign also established more precisely the chronology of the cemetery: the roof-shaped graves are earlier than the priory and the anthropomorphic tombs.

Ville-le-Moutier (east of Beaune, Cote d'Or): Work continued in July 1969 on the northern mound. The rectangular mound, surrounded by a double moat, was built with the earth derived from the moats. There were several phases of construction. The C13 layout included a broad stone basement of an external wall and several rooms divided by thinner partitions, probably built with lighter material.

Dracy (SW of Beaune, Cote d'Or): The fifth campaign revealed four new buildings in addition to the five houses belonging to the medieval village previously discovered. The plan and layout of the rural house of Dracy becomes more clear: a front-room used as a living-room and in the back, a storeroom with an upper room. However, the buildings may belong to various phases of occupation on the site. One of them, discovered in 1969, more carefully built, may be older (C13) than the others. In the middle of the village, five inhumations were discovered. In spite of the lack of grave goods, they are most probably associated with the medieval village. The presence of a burial ground in such a village, without a church or chapel, needs explanation.

Saran (Loiret, just outside Orleans): The excavation of a C8 and C9 pottery industry was started here in 1969. Three floor-type kilns were investigated together with some related pits and wasters. The pottery is abundant and is like the Junger Mayener Ware (Trier Hospital).

Provence: Mlle. G. D'Archimbaud reports that she is working on her report on the excavations at the DMV at Rougier which was completed in 1968. Conservation of the 3000 small finds and sorting of the pottery is in progress. It is hoped that the report will be completed in 1971 and will be published by the École Pratiques des Hautes Études in Paris.

Mlle. D'Archimbaud is at present excavating a rural chapel and cemetery at Ciagole (Var). The aim is to compliment the Rougier excavation where the cemetery was not located. This site is close to Rougier and was occupied from the 5th - 6th century and from the 10th to 14th century. The report will be published by the Centre d'Etudes Ligures de Bordighera. What is now required is a further excavation to fill the gap between the 6th and 10th centuries.

GERMANY

Rhineland: Dr. W. Janssen of Bonn reports on research in Germany.

1. Historical and geographical work: In 1969 the register of deserted medieval sites in the southern mountain region of the Rhineland, the Eifel, was finished. It covers the region between the Rhine in the east, the Moselle in the south, the Federal Republic's western border and the Cologne-Aachen region in the north. Deserted villages, farms, mills, mines, castles, etc., were collected in a 1500-page manuscript, which is to be printed in 1970. The main aspects of desertion are discussed under distribution, density, chronology and causes of desertion. Any archaeological material collected from the sites was included. From a thorough investigation of written sources, it was discovered that the main periods of desertion in this part of the Rhineland differ from those in other parts of Germany. For example, the first peak of desertion of villages and farms is in c 1250 - 80 when the Rhineland towns were developing. Other peaks are dated to c 1350 - 80, c 1580, c 1680-90 and between 1790 and 1830.

2. Archaeological work: Since 1964, the Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonne, has been investigating a fortified site near Dusseldorf, on the Rhine. At first, it was thought to be a castle of the motte-and-bailey type, but excavation proved it to be merely a fortified settlement. About one third of the site has so far been excavated and four buildings of stave-construction have been found. One was probably a dwelling-house as it contained a hearth. Two of the houses were surrounded by a strong wooden palisade and the other two had some other kind of palisade-fortification. In the middle of the sites, both palisades ran parallel forming a double palisade. It is not clear what the division of the settlement into two parts may mean. The 1969 excavations showed that the buildings were built on a foundation made of timber, branches and clay, etc., amongst which thirteen layers could be differentiated. These foundations were 2.10 m high so that the buildings were raised above the average water level of the course of the old Rhine, where the site is situated. There are documentary references to a 'villa quae Turren dicitur' being situated where the site is and several details point to the site being that of

Turren. The earliest reference to Turren is in a document of 1090 and the latest of 1313 in which the people of Turren are given permission to leave their houses, cease cultivation in the fields and settle in another place. Of the pottery found, the earliest may be C11 and the latest C13. Other finds included wooden tools and vessels, leatherwork and iron tools. Excavations will be continued in May 1970.

West Berlin: Prof. Dr. H. Quirin reports that the Berlin research group has continued to study the settlements of West Berlin under the direction of Prof. Dr. A.V. Muller. The group is promoted by the Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft and draws on the expertise of archaeologists, historians and philologists. It has received help, especially in dating pottery, from Dr. V. Nekuda and his colleagues in Brno. The pattern of early Germanic/Slav settlement of about 1150 to 1200 is beginning to emerge.

The deserted settlement of the Kruppen Fenn (Duppel) was excavated and the plan of the last phase of occupation was found. There were six to eight farmsteads arranged in a half circle. The site dated from about 1200 when the Mark Brandenburg was colonised by the Askanier. This is the first evidence of simultaneous occupation by the Germans and Slavs. A Slav fortification was excavated in Berlin/Spandau, built in the C11 and composed of a massive wooden structure inside a bank.

The group is studying the relationship of German and Slav settlements in the Teltow area. The road pattern and layout of fields are being surveyed and the positions of the church, rectory and manor, and the inn and smithy, are being investigated to see if they are at all significant. Five types of Angerdorfer have been identified and most seem to have developed from a loose horse-shoe arrangement of farmsteads. There are 35 deserted settlements in West Berlin, which were most abandoned in the Thirty Years War.

South West Germany: D. Lutz reports that the remains of three farmsteads were excavated in 1969 at the deserted settlement of Zimmern in Sinsheim. They have an average area of 20 by 30 m and make up about one fifth of the settlement. Remains of houses, sunken huts and pits were found: there were no signs of a social differentiation of any crafts in the village. Pottery dated from the C8 to C14, and it is suggested that the site was deserted when the town of Eppingen and the castle of Streichenberg were established in the parish of Stebbach, which also includes the site.

B. Schelkman reports that three groups of buildings were investigated between 1967 and 1969 at Sindelfingen in Boblingen. All the buildings were wooden and were rebuilt several times. One was a farmstead, arranged around a yard and enclosed by a palisade. The site was founded in the late C11 and was deserted, on the basis of pottery evidence, in the late C13 when the town of Sindelfingen was founded. The area was built over again in 1500.

POLAND

Professor Hensel of the Institute of History of Material Culture, Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw, reports that his department has been conducting archaeological research on rural medieval settlement in central Poland for the last four years. They have recently been busy with excavations in the locality of Spicimierz and have explored in 1969 an area of about 3.75 acres in the fields of the modern villages of Boleszczyn and Smulsko, district Turek.

Traces of a burnt down dwelling hut from the C9 to the early C10 and traces of ploughing of, probably, the same date have been found.

Deep excavation accompanied by surface research has allowed quite an exact determination of the settlement's size, and hydrological studies have managed to clear many problems concerning the contemporary geographical environment.

RUMANIA

N. Constantinescu of Bucharest reports on recent research:

1. Work based on written sources: The long awaited work of the late historian, Coriolan Suciú, has appeared. It is called Dictionar istoric al localitãtilor din Transilvania (An Historical Dictionary of the Settlements in Transylvania) and was published in Bucharest in 2 volumes in 1967. It is founded upon extensive references, covering the period from 1075 up to the present time. The second volume (285 - 442) includes in a separate list the deserted settlements (c. 2000).

The author of this report has published two notes:

i) Sate identificate in Oltenia si mentionate in documente in secolele XIII-XV (1247 - 1500) (Villages identified in Oltenia and mentioned in documents of the C13 to C15), in Atlasul antropologic al Olteniei (The Anthropological Atlas of Oltenia) Bucharest 1968, 214-18 + 1 map (with a list of 100 deserted villages).

ii) Satele medievale din judetul Arges pina la anul 1500. Incercari de geografie istorica (The medieval villages in the Arges Department up to the year 1500. A tentative historical geography) in Muzeul Pitesti. Studii si comunicari (The Pitesti Museum. Studies and Reports), II Pitesti, 1969 167 -78 + 1 map (with list of 15 deserted villages).

2. Archaeological investigations: Archeaological research is being carried on within the area of the town of Bucharest; it is known that there were in the Middle Ages several dozen villages. One of them, named Lupesti (i.e. lupus, Lupu, wolf) has been identified by Panait I Panait in the area of Dealul Spirei (Spirea's Hill) and described to the C16.

Concurrently, investigations have been continued in the Grozavesti area where a village with the same name was mentioned at the end of the C15 (1492) - see Panait I Panait, Insemnari arheologice pe santierele de constructii din Bucuresti II (Archaeological notes on the Bucharest construction sites II); in Materiale de istorie si muzeografie (Historical and Museographic Materials) VII Bucharest (1969) 29-39.

Finally, in Oltenia, in the vicinity of the present village, Bassarabi the precincts of the medieval village Vedul Cumanilor (Kumanski Brod, mentioned in Slavonic documents since 1385) were identified. It was from this place that people crossed the Danube to reach the Bulgarian walled city of Vidin. So far, the investigation (led by D Vilceanu) has succeeded in establishing the topographical and stratigraphical significance of this settlement which dates back to the C14, although there are suggestions that it is older (possibly C12 and C13). Traces of earthen fortifications and numerous houses were discovered, as well as numerous artefacts - the most outstanding of these being glazed pottery with sgraffito decoration.

