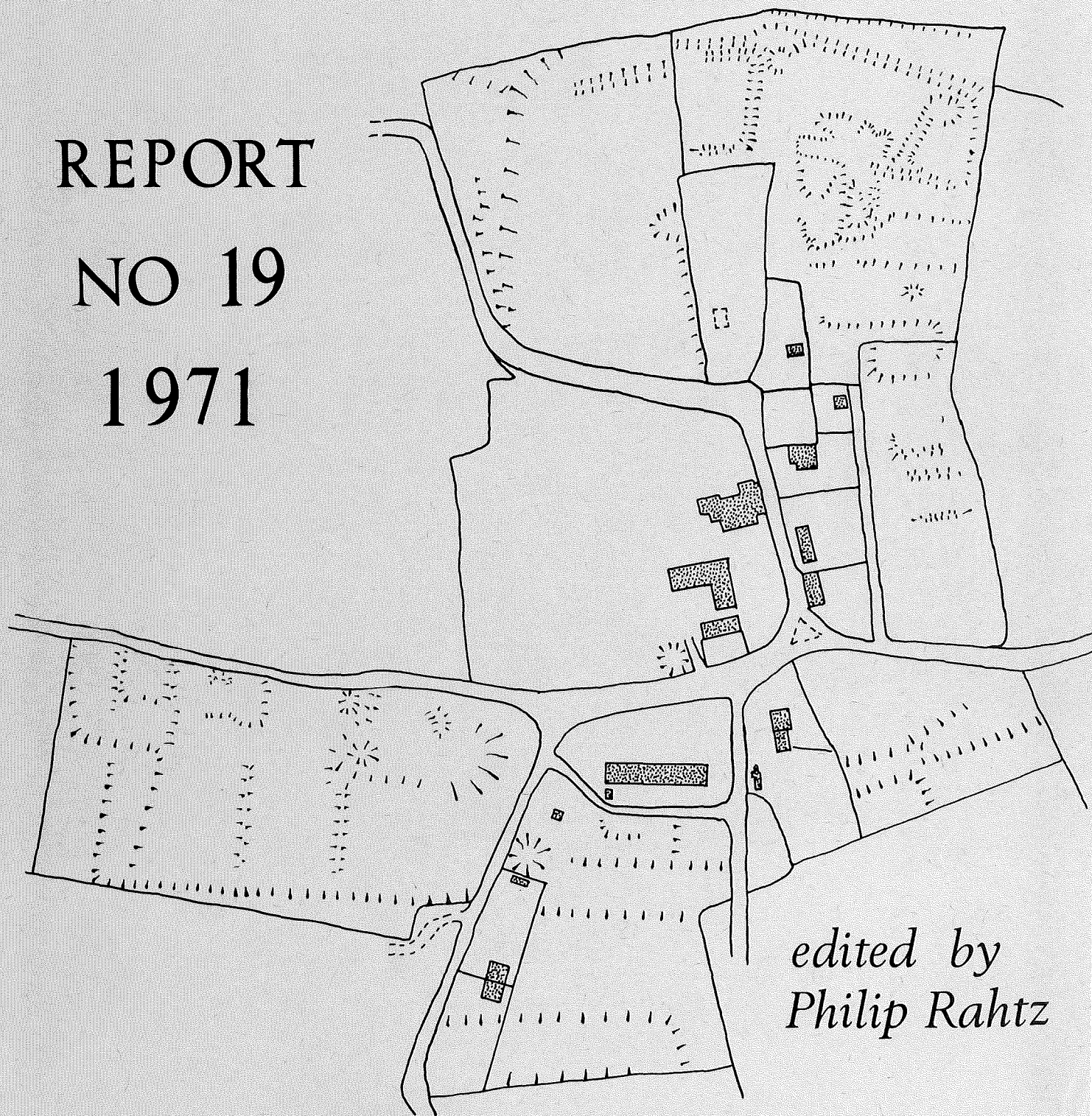


1 MAR 1973

# MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

## RESEARCH GROUP

REPORT  
NO 19  
1971



*edited by  
Philip Rahtz*

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## EDITORIAL

The change of the name of the group from DMVRG to MVRG was agreed at the Group's meeting on the 26th November, 1971. The deletion of the word 'deserted' reflects the wider interests of the group, which include all aspects of the medieval village – its origins, growth, character and decline – and not merely the factors governing desertions. It is true of course that our main area of study is still the *deserted* medieval village, because they are the most readily available for examination – though many shrunken examples (cover) may survive when most DMVs are gone.

The Beresford-Hurst DMV epic has been well received, and some reviews are reproduced in this *Report* (the deletion of 'Annual' was also agreed at the November meeting). The *Report* must now be seen as a supplement to the book, providing the means for those who own the book to keep abreast of medieval village studies.

The new format of the *Report* which was introduced last year has made it more useful and more attractive. Many have been sold at meetings, conferences, and classes and it is hoped that those who buy it casually will be inspired to become permanent subscribers and members.

The saga of Wharram Percy continues to surprise. No excuse is needed for the inclusion of yet another detailed interim report by 'the prolix academic and the taciturn man from the Ministry' (see section 4). Much new information was acquired in the 1971 'quiet' season, and it is heartening that after 22 years, the excavators believe that the site is 'barely scratched'.

Wharram is safe, but attempts to give permanent protection to other key sites have failed (section 5). Sites are being destroyed without respite, and Wharram shows what we are losing in historical potential. As in other branches of archaeology, we are seeing the evidence fade away just as we are beginning to appreciate its extent and value.

PHILIP RAHTZ

## 1. LIST OF OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN	Professor W. F. Grimes, CBE, MA, D Litt, FSA, Director, Institute of Archaeology, University of London, 31-4 Gordon Square, London, WC1
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TREASURER	M. E. Davies, Esq, The Old Crown, Long Crendon, Aylesbury, Bucks.

## 2. RESEARCH IN 1971

### (a) HISTORICAL RESEARCH

E. E. Dodd has completed examining six classes of documents concerned with the DMVs in the British Museum and Public Record Office. 1. Ancient Deeds. 2. British Museum Additional Charters. 3. Feet of Fines. 4. Inquisitions Post Mortem. 5. Ministers Accounts. 6. Rentals and Surveys. County lists are in preparation showing which sites have these documents.

#### Work on the Group's Files and Records

The alphabetical list of over 2,000 sites (up to the end of 1968) has been checked and typed, and a list of new sites since the last alphabetical list of 1963 has also been compiled and typed. This will enable Mr Dodd to look up documentary data for these new sites. An alphabetical list by counties has also been typed with two carbon copies.

1. On the top copy a full list of Dr St Joseph's air photographs will be entered.
2. On the second copy will be noted these sites for which historical data is available – this from Mr Dodd's research.
3. The third list will have details of the present state of each site, and details of any threat or damage – this will be useful as a quick reference.

A list by counties of all these sites which have been considered over the years, and have been rejected for one reason or another has been compiled and typed. More county lists of new sites suggested by local correspondents have also been typed (eg Berkshire, Durham, Suffolk).

The county list of Shrunken sites has also been checked and typed.

Any of these lists will be available at a small charge to research workers in the various counties, so that they can see at a glance which sites have been accepted, rejected, classified as shrunken, or suggestions awaiting further investigation.

This clerical work has all been made possible by a generous anonymous donation, and by the continuing work by Betty Ewins for two days of each week.

Dr J. Sheail and John Hurst have checked the county Gazetteer as published in *Deserted Medieval Villages*. These corrected lists are gradually becoming available in duplicated form. It is hoped to reduce the gradual accumulation of errors which occurred in the past when lists were constantly being retyped.

#### Cumberland and Westmorland

Maurice Beresford and John Hurst had previously examined the 6" OS maps and identified 97 townships in Cumberland and 61 in Westmorland that lacked nucleated settlements, often with ruined and isolated churches. This may be compared with the 8 Cumberland sites named in the Provisional List drawn up in 1963 and the 2 Westmorland sites named in 1954 in *Lost Villages*.

In June 1971 they were able to visit 79 Cumberland sites and 19 in Westmorland, thanks to the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Greaves, Friends' School, Brookfield, Wigton.

In CUMBERLAND 19 sites were rejected because there was no visible earthworks and no firm documentary evidence for a village settlement in the printed sources examined; they lay mostly in areas where settlement in general appears to be non-nucleated. On inspection at close quarters, 11 other sites were classified as being shrunken rather than deserted. Two sites had good-quality earthworks, one in terrain that was superficially highly unpromising, a lakeside site at Scale Beck on Buttermere (NU 155175). 6 sites had B quality earthworks, 11 were C quality, 17 were D, 2 were totally ploughed, 5 were covered by later parks, gardens or building, and 6 were classified as Migrations, class D. This latter category arose from the frequent local occurrence of an isolated church with a remote nucleated village settlement but without any suspicious earthworks near the church.<sup>1</sup>

The better sites, as far as visible remains were concerned, lay concentrated north-east of Carlisle, and were poor elsewhere: indeed all medieval remains that occur in other parts of England (eg ridge and furrow; manorial moats) were poor in the area, suggesting intense post-medieval ploughing. Westmorland formed a marked contrast, having extensive upstanding ridge and furrow in permanent pasture, many crofts on the edge of shrunken villages. Another distinctive feature of Cumberland is the prevalence of isolated churches, some likely to be foundations of Celtic saints and never at the centre of

<sup>1</sup> Since writing this report it has been learned from Dr J. K. S. St Joseph that the apparently totally isolated site of Ninekirks near Broughton is in fact surrounded by crop marks of circular earthworks and timber buildings.

villages, but others with conventional non-Celtic dedications lay in areas of typical nucleated settlement, and must be presumed to have been once accompanied by villages.<sup>2</sup>

In WESTMORLAND, of 19 sites visited, 2 were rejected, 6 categorised as shrunken, and 11 provisionally accepted. Two had A\* quality earthworks, one B quality, one C quality and 7 were D. One of the A\* sites is currently being scheduled as an Ancient Monument, and part of its quality lies in the local limestone used for buildings and field-walls that stand out in the grass. Westmorland displayed the isolated church phenomenon even more strikingly: one fifth of the sites visited.

### (b) DMVs IN WORCESTERSHIRE

**An interim report on work in the county and a classified list** by *Christopher Dyer, School of History, University of Birmingham*

The main purpose of this short report is to put Worcestershire on the map as a county with a considerable number of deserted village sites. The list given here includes 46 places. As Worcestershire is a relatively small county (450,000 acres), this means that the density is about 1 DMV for every 10,000 acres and makes it comparable with Norfolk or Hampshire. Many of the sites lie in the south and east of the county, and that area can be regarded as similar in the density of the distribution of its sites to the adjoining areas of west Warwickshire and north Gloucestershire.

A few sites were listed by the DMVRG in 1958, but systematic work in the county began in the late 1950s with L. F. Simmonds, who published his results in 1961. The author of this report began work in 1962, and he has continued intermittently since then. Recent contributions have been made to the subject by M. Aston, T. Rowley, members of the Worcestershire Medieval Villages Research Group, the staff of the Ordnance Survey, and above all by C. J. Bond of the Worcestershire County Museum. The present list results from the work of all of these individuals and organisations but the present author has been responsible for the selection of sites for inclusion.

The list is intended as an indication of the present state of our knowledge. It should not be taken to mark the completion of work, and I hope in the near future to have visited all of the remaining possible sites, and to publish a detailed gazetteer, with sketch plans (of which 27 have been made already), and documentary evidence.

Worcestershire poses some special problems in the discovery and classification of sites. Much of the county has a settlement pattern characterized by nucleated villages of the normal midland type, but in the north and west of the county there are large parishes and many scattered hamlets. Some of the 'deserted hamlets', like Penton and Shell have been included, but others, like Pinley in Alvechurch (SP 051728), where neither documentary evidence nor the extent of the earthworks suggest a settlement of more than 6 households, have been excluded. Also excluded from the list are unidentified Domesday berewicks. I have, however, listed a number of shrunken sites where settlements still exist, but where earthworks indicate severe shrinkage. These are Cotheridge, Huddington, Kington, Throckmorton, and Upton Snodsbury.

On the documentary side Worcestershire is well served by good manuscript collections in various archives, with a useful selection available in print. However, there are no sources comparable with Rous's list (who mentions only two sites on the Warwickshire border), or the Enclosure Commissions (apart from a fragment of the 1548 presentments). Nor do the 17th and 18th century county historians make much reference to desertion. Most of the sites listed here can be shown to have been villages in the medieval period, with the exception, as yet, of Dordale and Naunton Sheriff, but both have very good earthworks. On the other hand three sites, Craycombe, Impney, and Osmerley, are known only from the documents.

Much more work needs to be done on the date and circumstances of desertion. There is one known early desertion, Osmerley, which came into the hands of the Cistercian Abbey of Bordesley and thereafter disappears from the record. Three quite well documented desertions of the period 1350-1450 are Craycombe, Penton and Woollashill. Bickmarsh and Poden are listed by John Rous, and therefore must have been deserted before c. 1490, and Impney figures in the Enclosure presentments of 1548. Others may belong to a much later period, even in the late 19th century, as in the case of part of Ab Lench.

As with other counties, sites are being destroyed. In the last ten years Ipsley and Mitton have been

<sup>2</sup> Professor Beresford has used the experience in Cumberland to examine the general problem of isolated and ruined churches in England which will be published in the *Festschrift* for Professor Edouard Perroy (a special issue of *Etudes Medievales* ed R. Delort and H. Dubois, to be published late in 1972).



## WORCESTERSHIRE

## Provisional list of deserted medieval villages, 1972

No.	Village	Arch. Classification	1" map	National Grid Reference
1	Ab Lench	B	144	SP 011519
2	Bickley	B	130	SO 641710
3	Bickmarsh	C	144	SP 108496
4	Churchill	B	144	SO 922535
5	Cotheridge	B	143	SO 787545
6	Craycombe	COV	143	SO 999473
7	Croome D'Abitot	P	143	SO 890450
8	Dordale	B	131	SO 925740
9	Dormston	B	130	SO 990576
10	Doverdale	B	130	SO 859660
11	Dowles	B	130	SO 780762
12	Eastington	C	143	SO 832382
13	Elmley Lovett	B	130	SO 865696
14	Grafton Flyford	B	130	SO 962558
15	Hanley William	C	130	SO 674661
16	Hill	B	143	SO 987480
17	Huddington	B	130	SO 943575
18	Impney	COV	130	SO 911639
19	Ipsley	COV(C)	131	SP 064666
20	Kenelmstowe	C	131	SO 945808
21	Kington	A	130	SO 990561
22	Mitton	COV(B)	143	SO 903336
23	Naunton Sheriff	A	143	SO 958523
24	Netherton	C	143	SO 990414
25	Osmerley	U	131	c.SP 045705
26	Pendock	C	143	SO 817337
27	Penton	P	131	SP 016746
28	Phepson	C	130	SO 941598
29	Poden	C	144	SP 127435
30	Rock	B	130	SO 733712
31	Shell	C	130	SO 951598
32	Sodington	C	130	SO 693709
33	Strensham (1)	P(B)	143	SO 910406
34	Strensham (2)	B	143	SO 904404
35	Suthley	B	143	SO 889391
36	Throckmorton	A	143	SO 982498
37	Ullington	P(A)	144	SP 110472
38	Upton Snodsbury	B	143	SO 937543
39	Wadborough	B	143	SO 900480
40	Walcot	P	143	SO 941483
41	Upper Wolverton	C	143	SO 912509
42	Lower Wolverton	C	143	SO 930507
43	Woollashill	A	143	SO 947407
<b>Probable sites</b>				
44	Clevelode		143	c.SO 835470
45	Frankley		130	c.SO 999803
46	Great Witley		130	c.SO 751652

(see also note on Worcestershire by C. J. Bond in following section)

EARTHWORKS AND SETTLEMENTS WEST OF EBBOR GORGE.

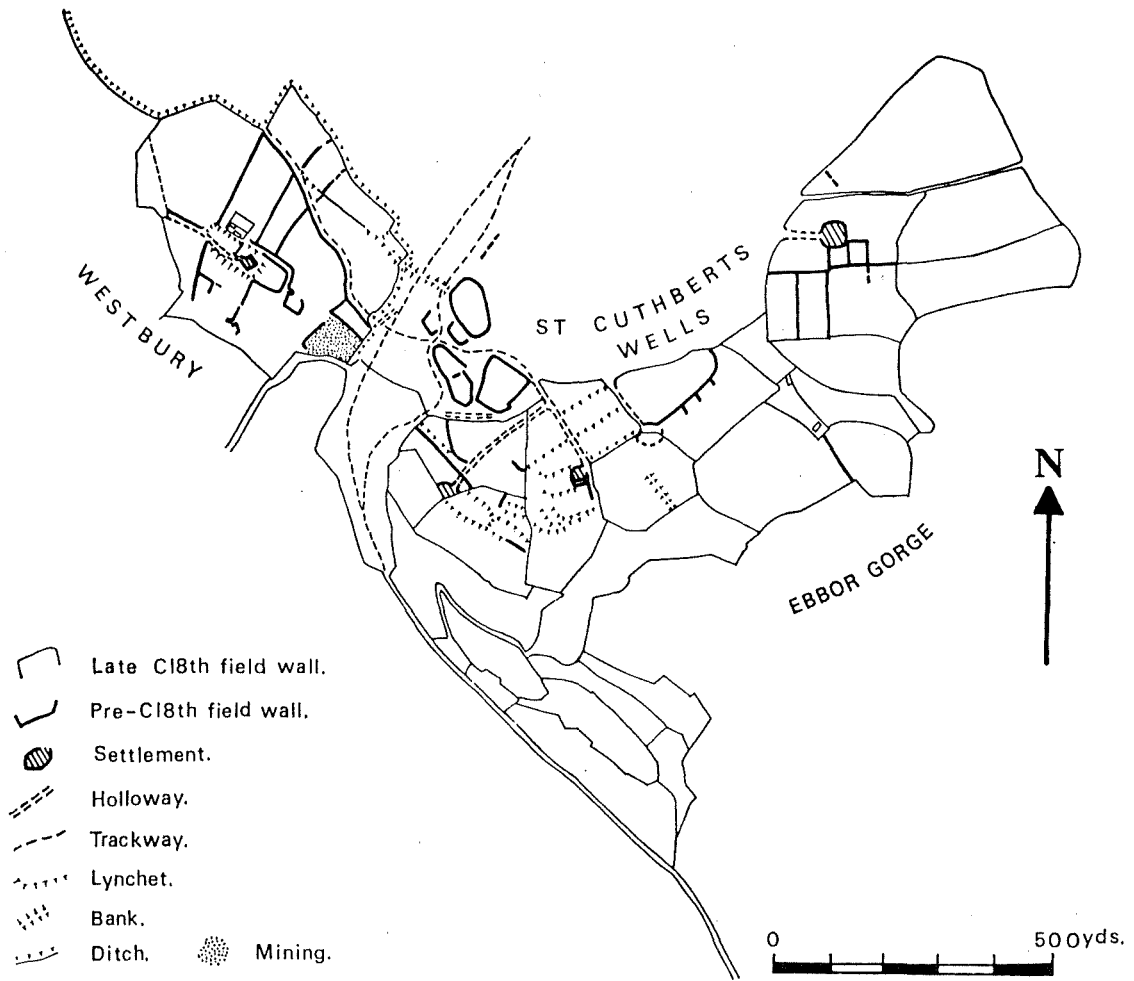


FIG 1 SOMERSET : EBBOR GORGE AREA. Fields and settlements of successive landscapes (surveyed and drawn by A. Everton).



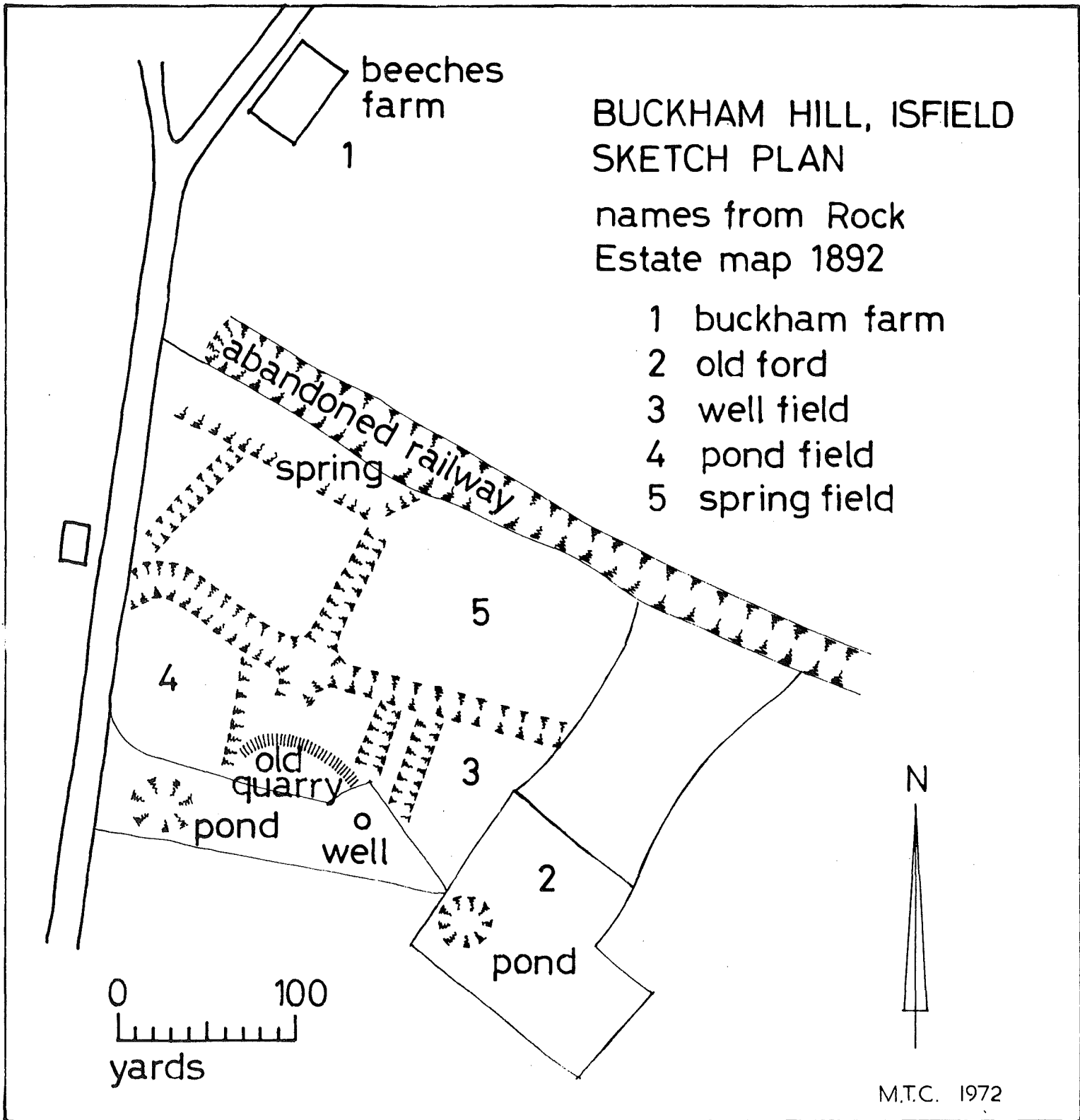
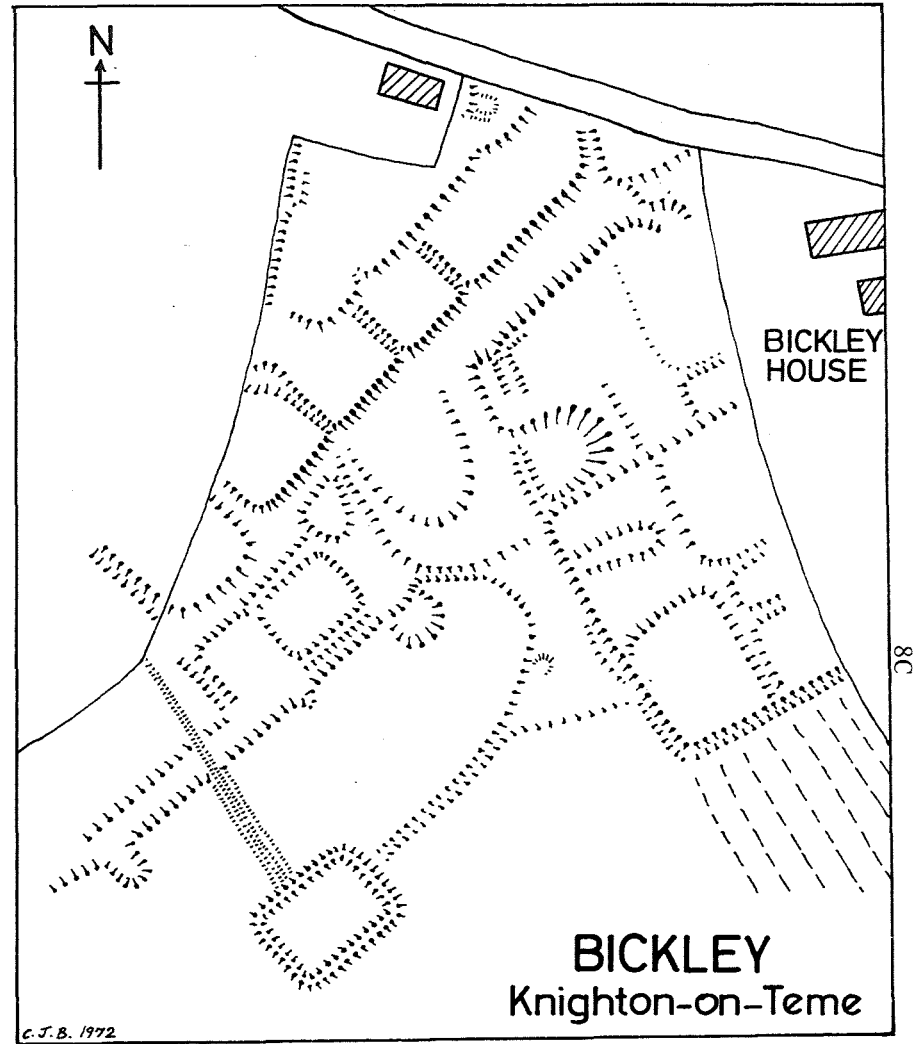
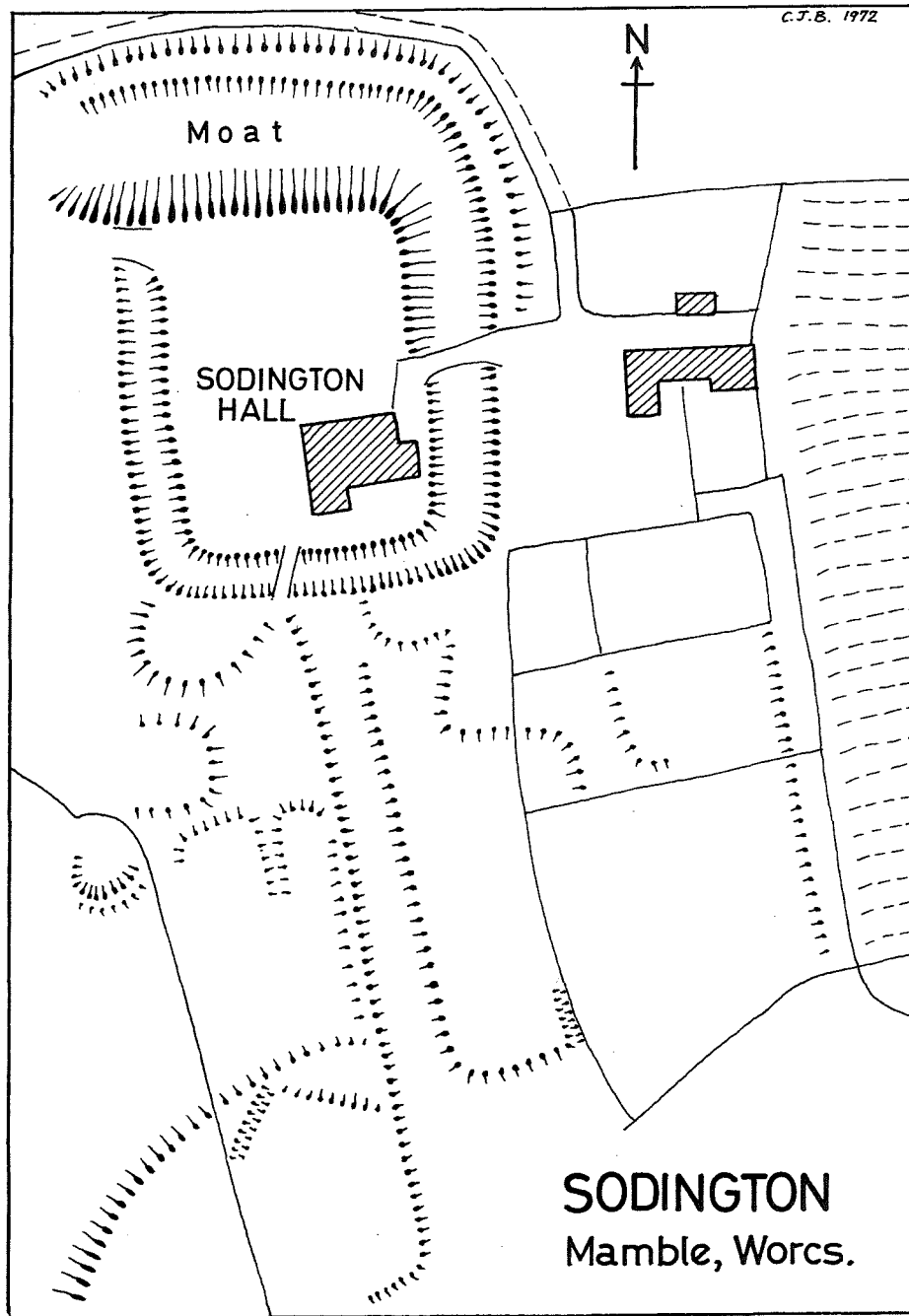


FIG 2 SUSSEX : BUCKHAM. Plan of site



SKETCH PLANS: Approximate Scale in Metres



FIG 3 WORCESTERSHIRE : SODINGTON AND BICKLEY.  
Sketch plans by C. J. Bond

## WORCESTERSHIRE

Field reconnaissance by C. J. Bond in Worcestershire over the past year has been concentrated on the difficult area west of the Severn, particularly in the Teme Valley. Here, generally speaking, nucleated medieval settlements seem to be more sparsely distributed and smaller in size than in the central part of the county. Several of the promising-looking isolated parish churches have failed to produce any positive evidence of village sites in their immediate vicinity. However, a scatter of new sites has been discovered, including Bickley in Knighton-on-Teme (SO 641710), Sodington in Mamble (SO 693709), Hanley William (SO 674661) and Eastington in Longdon (SO 832382). Preliminary recording is continuing by means of sketch plans (eg Fig 3).

Several new sites have also been identified in the preliminary general archaeological survey of the proposed M42 corridor, including Tong (SP 037742), Penton (SP 016745), Febley (SP 060732) and Pirley (SP 049728), all in the parish of Alvechurch.

At Poden, Church Honeybourne (SP 128436), earthworks consisting of a pair of rather sinuous ditches which may delimit the sides of former village green and street, and several house platforms, can be distinguished in the field immediately NE of Poden Farm. These probably represent the village of 'Nedon-juxta-Honeybourne' recorded by John Rous as being deserted by the second half of the C15. The site is surrounded by the ridge and furrow of former open fields.

Trenching for a natural gas pipeline (Churchover - Wormington 24" Duplicate Main) to the east of the site has been watched without much result. The pipeline misses the settlement site itself and crosses the open-field furlong immediately adjoining. No scatter of pottery or other occupation debris has been observed.

Just to the south the pipeline crosses what may have been a fishpond, distinguished in the scrape by an area of silty yellow clay. This pond is of interest because its construction seems to have curtailed the ridge and furrow of the next furlong to the south before its headland - ie it must have been made after that furlong had ceased to be under arable cultivation. It is unfortunate that no documentary evidence for this pond has yet been discovered, as this may have an important bearing on the dating of the desertion of the village.

### (d) AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

John Hurst and Mrs M. E. Ewins continued to look through Dr St Joseph's numerical list of oblique aerial photographs. Flights for 1969 and 1970 were examined.

524 air photographs taken between 1966 and 1967 were ordered; these have now arrived, been mounted and filed. A further 366 air photographs taken in 1968 and early 1969 have been ordered, but not yet arrived. These have been purchased with our annual grant from the CBA of £50, plus a generous anonymous donation of £25, which has enabled us to almost bring the arrears up to date, but there are still 210 prints outstanding from 1967 which ought to be purchased as funds become available.

In addition, we still have to buy 286 prints from the summer and winter flights of 1969, plus 350 prints of the flights from 1970.

## 3. PUBLICATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

- J. R. Armstrong, Ed., *Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Museum Booklet*, 3 (1971), 1-40
- J. Bate and M. Pallisser, 'Suspected Lost Village Sites in Staffordshire', *Staffs Archaeol and Hist Soc Trans* (1970-1971) 31-36
- J. Brooks, 'Eaton Hastings – A Deserted Medieval Village', *Berkshire Archaeol J*, 64 (1970) 1-8
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- J. E. Grundy, 'Notes on the Relationship between Climate and Cattle Housing', *Vernacular Architecture* 1 (1970) 3-5
- D. Gillian Hurst and J. G. Hurst, 'Excavations at the Medieval village of Wythemail, Northamptonshire', *Medieval Archaeol* 13 (1969) 167-203
- G. R. J. Jones, 'The Multiple Estate as a Model Framework for Tracing Early Stages in the Evolution of Rural Settlement', in F. Dussart, ed, *L'Habitat et les Paysages Ruraux D'Europe* (Liège 1971) 251-267
- B. Philp, 'The Discovery of a Saxon Grubenhaus at Keston', *Kent Archaeol Rev* 25 (1971) 131
- B. Roberts, 'The Study of Village Plans', *Local Historian* 9, (5) (1971) 233-40
- J. K. S. St Joseph, 'Air Reconnaissance: Recent Results, 26, Downton, Northamptonshire', *Antiquity* 45 (1971) 298-9 and P1 48
- I. Schollar, F. Verhaeghe and A. Gautier, 'A Medieval Site (C14) at Lampernisse, West Flanders, Belgium', *Dissertationes Archaeologicae Gandenses*, 13 (1970) 1-71
- S. E. West, 'The Anglo-Saxon Village of West Stow: An Interim Report of the Excavations', *Medieval Archaeol* 13 (1969), 1-20
- Vernacular Architecture* 1 (1970) and 2 (1971)

## Appendix: SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR SCOTLAND

- T. H. McK Clough and L. R. Laing, 'Excavations at Kirkconnel, Waterbeck, Dumfriesshire, 1968', *Trans Dumfries and Galloway Archaeol Soc* 46 (1969) 128-39
- H. Fairhurst, 'The Rural Settlement pattern of Scotland with special reference to the west and north', *Liverpool Essays in Geography* W. Steel and R. Lawton, ed (Longmans and the University of Liverpool, 1967) 193-209
- H. Fairhurst, 'The Archaeology of Rural Settlement in Scotland' (Presidential Address), *Trans Glasgow Archaeol Soc* 15 (1968) 139-158
- H. Fairhurst, 'An old estate plan of Auchindrain, Mid-Argyll', *Scottish Studies* 12 (1968) 183-192
- H. Fairhurst, 'A Medieval Island-Settlement in Loch Glashan, Argyll', *Glasgow Archaeol J* 1 (1969) 47-68
- H. Fairhurst, 'Rosal: A Deserted Township in Strath Naver, Sutherland', *Proc Soc of Antiquaries Scotland* 100 (1967-8) 135-169
- H. Fairhurst, 'The Deserted Settlement, at Lix, West Perthshire', *Proc Soc of Antiquaries Scotland* 101 (1968-9) 160-169
- A. Fenton, 'Das Bauernhaus auf Orkney und Shetland', *Deutsches Jahrbuch für Volkskunde* 13 (1967), 50-68
- A. Fenton, 'Alternating stone and turf – an obsolete building practice', *Folk Life* 6 (1968) 94-103
- A. Fenton, 'Clay building and clay thatch in Scotland', *Ulster Folklife* 15/16 (1970) 28-51
- L. R. Laing, 'Medieval Settlement Archaeology in Scotland', *Scottish Archaeol Forum* (1969) 69-79
- D. McCourt, 'Two Cruck-framed Buildings in Wester Ross, Scotland', *Ulster Folklife* 13 (1967) 75-8
- D. N. Marshall, 'The long narrow 'house' at Glenvoidean', *Trans Bute Nat Hist Soc* 17 (1969) 45-8
- A. Small, *Excavations in Uist* (1966)
- A. Small, 'A Viking longhouse in Unst, Shetland', *The Fifth Viking Congress, Torshavn, July 1965* (1968) 62-70
- G. O. Wood, 'Report on the Excavation at Heronhall', *Trans Hawick Archaeol Soc* (1968) 19-22

## 4. BOOK REVIEWS

(a) Jørn Sandnes, *Ødetid Og Gjenreisning* (Universitetsforlaget, Oslo, 1971)**Summary by author**

The main aim of the investigation was to contribute to the research into abandoned sites of the late Middle Ages. Trøndelag was chosen as the area for investigation; it is a region of Norway situated around the town of Trondheim, the boundaries of which can here be taken to be the same as those of the two 'fylker' Sør-Trøndelag and Nord-Trøndelag. The total area is about 41,000 km, the population today about 333,000, 9% of the country.

Within the area for research ten communities were selected for more detailed analysis and in fact so chosen that they formed a cross-section of the whole area from the point of view of physical and economic geography – communities right on the coast, on the outer fjords, in the central agricultural areas round the inner Trondheimsfjord, in the inner wooded valley regions and up in the mountains. For these communities all the more important sources were fully utilised: archive and archaeological material, place names, as well as field research. General statistical investigations on the basis of certain central source series were carried out for the whole research area.

Although the main emphasis lay in the process of dereliction and the agricultural crisis of the late Middle Ages, the history of the settlement before and after this period was also taken into consideration in order, amongst other things, to comprehend the relative extent of the process of dereliction and of the other appearances of crisis, as well as the re-settlement in its geographic and chronological variations.

The central parts of Trøndelag, round the inner Trondheimsfjord had been heavily populated for ages. Prehistoric finds and place names date back unequivocally to the Roman iron age.

Trøndelag (62°–65° North) is the most northerly and quite a large settlement area of Scandinavia, where corn-growing along with cattle rearing has always played an important role. Among climatic considerations the temperature conditions (average temperature of the whole summer, danger of frost) are particularly important and often quite decisive for corn-growing.

After the short introductory survey of the physical and economic conditions, as well as the history of the settlement in the years B.C., the first main chapter of the book ('II. Høgmiddelalder') tried to determine the number of farms ('navnegarder') about 1330 as accurately as possible from criteria (like place names, finds from the ground, and written evidence) and these were discussed in more detail. The names of the farms ascertained thus are found in the appendix (page 346 ff.). This research resulted in exactly 4000 (3934) farms.

The form of settlement in Trøndelag was in historical times always characterised by single farms. Nevertheless, not seldom did one farm ('navnegard') consist of two or more ('bruk'), ie two or more farmers worked and inhabited a (relatively independent) part of the original farm. On the basis of exhaustive research the author concluded that on an average 1.6 'bruk' occurred on each farm and it reached in the whole research area about 6,300 'bruk' or one-family farms in 1300-1350. All statements about the population figure remain very uncertain. The author estimates about 40,000-45,000.

Whilst the history of settlement in South East Norway in the period 1000-1350 was characterised by clearing land and population increase (eg place names with 'rud') the clearing in Trøndelag appears to have been essentially more moderate. An estimated 25-30% of the above mentioned 4000 farms were newly built in this period. On the other hand the division of already existing farms into two or more 'bruk' must have played a relatively larger role.

What now concerns the extent of the settlement in the high Middle Ages is that the borders of the occupied areas on the whole coincided with the borders of agricultural cultivation. There were no larger settlement areas without corn-growing. In the central parts of Trøndelag corn-growing was the most important element of agriculture, in the inner-valleys and wooded districts it was cattle rearing, whilst hunting and fresh-water fishing were of great significance in the mountain regions. On the coast (in Fosen and Namdal) sea fishing and hunting (seals and whales) played a significant role.

Most farmers were already before 1350 'leilendinger', ie they paid the lords of the manor (ecclesiastical institutions, the king, other landowners) a fixed annual rent, 'landskyld' for their farms. The 'landskyld' was paid in Trøndelag in money, corn, and especially frequently in butter. From the thirteenth century on, a fixed 'landskyld' was laid down for all farms as a measurement of output value and a basis of tax calculation. Reckoned in butter the total 'landskyld' in Trøndelag before 1350 amounted to about 30,000 'spann' (a 'spann' of butter = 15½ kg.). This may have amounted to about 20% of the total agricultural production.

The third chapter of the book ('Krisen i seinmiddelalderen') deals with the most important appearances of crisis in the latter part of the Middle Ages, which can be determined: fall of the 'landskyld' and of land prices, the process of desertion and de-population. The most important source is the land book of Archbishop Aslak Bolt, written 1430-1435. The book records more than 1500 farms or parts of farms in the research area, usually with statements about the older 'landskyld' (before 1350) and the new (about 1430). Many farms are shown as being uncultivated or not rented out.

The main results of this chapter were:

The 'landskyld' sank between 1350 and 1430 to 25%, in fact, if all abandoned sites are included, even more. The decline lasted even into the fifteenth century onwards, so that the 'landskyld' – income of the Archbishop about 1500 amounted to only 21-22% of the income before 1350. According to the criteria which exist these figures are representative not only of the property of the Archbishop but also of other lords of the manor.

Land prices sank after 1350 to 37.5%. However, the source material for Trøndelag is very sparse here. Typical of the land prices of 1392-1430 is the great variation (0.9–6.5 'forngilde' Mark per 'spann'), whilst the prices before the crisis were stable.

Only 13.7% of farms in the land book of Aslak Bolt are directly described as uncultivated ('aut'). A more accurate analysis showed however that in reality a much larger portion of the farms of the Archbishop were deserted, according to calculations of the author about 40%. Especially marked was the occurrence of desertion in the younger and smaller farms whilst the old settlements (eg farms with names ending in -vin, -heim, -stad) remain better preserved.

Desertion quotients for the whole of Trøndelag can only be calculated for the period around 1520. Serving as a basis there is on one side the number of farms existing before 1350 (see page 34 ff) and on the other side the number of farms which about 1520 were still worked, according to the account of a tax, which in 1520-21 was to be paid by all farmers according to their means. An investigation criticising source material of the accounts of the tax showed that these as a rule – and with certain modifications – are complete.

Thus the desertion quotients for each 'bygd' or community of Trøndelag were calculated (page 156 ff). On an average for the whole area the desertion quotient amounted to 54% (page 160), with local variations between about 20 and 100. The temporary desertions are included here. Some small communities in the mountains or in the upper valleys lay quite deserted in 1520. For other 'bygder' in the upper valleys and in the wooded districts desertion quotients of 70 to 90 were determined. The central agricultural regions on the inner Trondheimsfjord came out best (desertion quotients 20-50). For those communities situated right by the sea relatively low desertion quotients were also calculated, whilst the process of desertion around the deeper fjords on the coast was again very strong.

If one studies accurately the process of desertion within the separate communities, locally, from farm to farm, variations of a similar kind are shown. In the central parts which were occupied early there was usually only slight, mostly partial desertion ie some, but not all 'bruk' of the divided farm were laid waste. In the remote parts of the 'bygd' which were occupied later eg in adjoining valleys and wooded districts there were desertions in great numbers. Often extensive, adjoining stretches of land lay waste.

Whether the desertion quotient of the 'bruk' was as big as that of the farms, is difficult to determine. Probably however the 'bruk' were deserted in about the same proportion. The population of the research area about 1520 amounted to 20,000-25,000.

There was also field desertion everywhere, which is difficult to trace with the methods used here.

Clear main lines can be traced in the economic distribution of the overall appearances of crisis: the areas where corn growing was most important, basically came out better than the cattle rearing areas. At the same time however cattle rearing gained in significance over the costs of corn growing. An attempt to explain this is found below:

In the coastal districts (Fosen, Namdal) a population and settlement shift from the inland to the sea took place. The outer islands had around 1520 a strikingly high proportion of the total population. This development, which is also evident in West and North Norway in the late Middle Ages, is obviously connected with the appearance of the big fisheries. Even earlier fish had of course been caught, but essentially only for one's own need. From the 14th century on there developed trade with the German merchants of the Hanse in Bergen. The exchange of goods – dried fish for corn for bread making released the fishermen/farmers from their former connection with agriculture. Thus arose on the coast pure fishing communities ('fiskevaer').

The chronological problems of the development of the crisis are closely connected with the causal theories. Earlier Norwegian researchers, with the exception of Schreiner, have been able to establish



very few appearances of crisis before 1350 and have seen the population loss through the 'black death' of 1349-1350 as a decisive cause. The author also finds that Schreiner's theories, eg of a significant migration from the land before 1350, have no support in source material. In Trøndelag too there were only isolated cases of appearances of crisis before 1350. Some few examples of desertion and lowering of the 'landskyld', which until now were not taken into consideration, are nevertheless proved from 1330 in the documents.

As in other European countries like Germany, France and even Denmark, desertion and other crisis symptoms are clearly evident before 1350, the author is inclined to give a certain weight to these examples from Trøndelag and is of the opinion that Norwegian research has given too much emphasis to the 'black death' as a decisive cause.

Research into pollen analysis carried out recently in Trøndelag points to a worsening in climate (fall of summer temperature) and shows a decline in corn growing before 1350.

Both are very important. The author considers this very worsening in climate as a fundamental cause of the crisis in the late Middle Ages. It concerned first of all a crisis in corn growing. Thus the afore-mentioned geographical distribution of abandoned sites is also explained. In the cattle rearing regions: ie in the marginal agricultural districts at an even earlier date, corn growing was now made impossible. And since there could be in the long run no fairly large settlement areas in the inner regions above the corn boundary, extensive stretches were laid waste here. In the central, more favourable agricultural regions corn growing was in fact not made impossible. But here too, the fall in temperature, together with the decline in population through the plague, led to difficulties. The farmers were forced to adapt to cattle rearing. For this the many abandoned sites offered good possibilities, since they could be used as grazing land and pasture land.

Thus the author sees the worsening in climate as an important cause, as well as the plague. Further it is emphasised that the population in the high Middle Ages was probably so high and the settlement so dense in relation to the natural resources that a catastrophe could be caused through relatively insignificant disturbances.

Norwegian researchers are agreed that the Norwegian crisis in the late Middle Ages was of especially long duration. That is also true for Trøndelag. The lowest point was reached here about 1500, in the inner and higher communities somewhat later, about 1550. After that there followed a marked rise. Deserted farms were worked again, the population grew quickly. The last main chapter of the book ('IV. Ny frangang 1520-1660') deals with this period of re-settlement. The geographical and chronological variations of the re-building are studied in connection with the various forms of husbandry and their development.

All together the number of farmers ('brukere') in the research area rose from 2,939 in 1520 to 5,357 in 1610 and to about 7,860 in 1665. At the last period of time, when the first census in Norway was carried out, the land population of Trøndelag amounted to about 54,730 inhabitants (*including* the towns Trondheim and Røros about 60,000).

Most marked was the increase in the fishing communities on the coast, up to 1625, when chronic economic difficulties (falling prices etc) began to have an unfavourable effect there.

The re-settlement was slower in the best agricultural areas, where the extent of the process of abandonment had also been more moderate. From 1650 there were here new cases of abandonment. The most recent is connected by the author with the then relatively high burden of taxation. The taxes were particularly high here, because the (here relatively little reduced) 'landskyld' served as a basis for calculation. On the other hand the wood and valley communities were characterised by a marked increase. The 'landskyld', and with it too the burden of taxation, was very low there. The newly developed mining (Røros, Kuikne, Lökken) played moreover a certain role in the history of settlement whilst the equally new saw mills were of only slight significance.

About 1660 most of the abandoned sites of the research area were being cultivated again. In some districts there remained however a number of continuing abandoned sites. These were found especially in the inner, high-lying communities, where they were fully utilized as grazing or pasture land up to this century.

(b) M. W. Beresford and J. G. Hurst *Deserted Medieval Villages* (Lutterworth, London 1971)

Review by M. W. Thompson in *Medieval Archaeol* XV (1971), 180-2

On the whole small unwallled human settlements tended to have a limited span of life before their inhabitants moved on elsewhere, and on first sight what strikes one as remarkable is not indeed that

there should have been desertions among villages in the middle ages but on the contrary that the vast majority of them should have survived up to the present day. Among pastoral people a change of settlement is easy and sometimes desirable, while among early cultivators it was necessary because of soil exhaustion. The open-field system of agriculture in this country, as we meet it after its heyday, avoided soil exhaustion by rotation of the fallow field, but the whole method of strips and communal pasture rendered each member of the community dependent on the others. It is, indeed, difficult to think of a system more calculated to discourage someone with a reasonable holding from going elsewhere. A small reduction in the community was not a bad thing — larger shares for those who remained — but a sharp reduction, particularly in a community that was already small, made the system almost unworkable. It came therefore as no surprise to find in Maurice Beresford's first book on desertions (*The Lost Villages of England*, 1954) that the rate of desertion increased greatly in the later middle ages when the general population itself was falling, and that the great majority of abandoned villages had previously had smaller numbers of inhabitants than the contemporary villages that persisted.

That there had been desertions was known to local historians, even if they had merely tried to identify the place-names in their county section of Domesday book, and there had been local studies on this subject before the war, but it was the merit of Professor Beresford in his earlier work that he raised the subject to a national level. Since 1954 he has turned his attention to other matters and consequently on the historical side there are not great advances to report. There has been a large increase in the number of known sites (2,263; county list on pp. 68-69 and individual sites with grid references on pp. 182-212) and no doubt, when a comprehensive list is achieved, the figure will be well over 3,000. Further advance in the subject is, indeed, largely delayed until progress is sufficiently uniform all over the country to allow the matter to be tackled statistically. This would also permit the rather constricting and artificial divisions by counties to be abandoned. At present the distribution map (fig 13) tends to demonstrate not so much incidence as areas of intensive study. By selecting one site it is possible to demonstrate one point, by selecting another just the opposite: so that generalizations to have any validity must have a sound statistical basis. The map certainly suggests geographical factors at work in the south-east, and clearly all kinds of permutations will have to be tested. The study of adjoining villages that were not deserted (fig 4) suggests some element of pairing up and should prove a fruitful line of enquiry.

In his earlier book Beresford espoused the cause of the Tudor moralists, who attributed the desertions to deliberate depopulations by landlords anxious to obtain the profits from wool. It is always satisfying to denounce human wickedness, especially if we confine it to a class which excludes ourselves! There was certainly too much smoke for there not to have been some fire. The author had some difficulty with C15 wool prices in his first work, and the block diagram (fig 1, p. 13) in this one is not entirely happy. Suppose the figures had been extended back to 1300? Open-field farming was always mixed farming, as we can see in the attenuated example at Laxton; the small villages that suffered from enclosure were likely to have plenty of pasture, so why did not the tenants equally gain from increased wool prices? Emparking was also a motive for depopulation. An example familiar to the reviewer is Kirby Hall, Northants., where the large house was started in 1570 but where two plans of the 1580s show a few straggling houses and the church to the south and west of the big house and garden. No doubt shortly after this the owner caused these village remains to be removed; this was the immediate cause of deace, but for the historian the real interest is what factors had brought the village to this shrunken and emaciated deathbed state before its final dissolution.

The main advance in our knowledge since 1954 has not been in the causes or incidence of desertion, but in the impressive quantity of information yielded by the abandoned sites, which throws light on the villages as they were before the time of withdrawal. Mr Hurst has summarized the results of twenty years' work at Wharram Percy and at many other deserted sites. House-plans have been laboriously exposed. Formidable difficulties have been encountered and overcome. Early hopes that medieval pottery could be closely dated proved too sanguine and it tends now to be treated like Romano-British coarse wares. Floor-levels were not definable within the houses and absolute levelling, widely used in peat deposits in Denmark for analogous reasons, has had to be employed. Moreover the 'open-area' excavation, identifying the horizontal surfaces first and then fitting layers to them, marks a virtual abandonment of sectional trench-digging of orthodox archaeology upon the value of which it may well raise doubts. Surely Hurst is less than just to his predecessors when he speaks of the one-period plan (p. 76) being the sole object of the medieval diggers of the early part of the century, since the coloured multi-period plans of St John Hope set something of a model for the rest of Europe. Indeed the wheel has turned full circle, since the plan of Wharram Church (fig 30) looks exactly like one of St John Hope's plans of seventy years ago, except that it lacks the colours. Perhaps the diggers

would have experienced less bewilderment in the early years at Wharram had they been familiar with the kaleidoscope view of medieval building among these pre-1914 scholars.

The medieval village as it emerges in the field is rather different from our idealized version. The main point is the impermanency of the houses and plan. Buildings that were not intended to last more than a generation and that were usually rebuilt on a different axis produced a fluidity which made it easy to alter streets and plans. In contrast to a modern village it was the fields, not the houses, that were the permanent element. The kind of timeless, National Trust feeling that we associate with modern villages is largely due to the erection of permanent buildings since Tudor times. A distant view of a medieval village, like a group of Nissen huts around the church in the bleak landscape of the open fields, could be a disturbing sight for a modern environmentalist!

In the opening chapter of his recent work, *Religion and the Decline of Magic*, Mr Thomas discussed the factors conducive to insecurity in the Tudor environment which encouraged people to have recourse to magic. Similarly one may wonder how the outlook of people living in these ephemeral surroundings was influenced by this fact. I suggested that the constant rebuilding in a rather similar way after fires at Novgorod induced a degree of fatalism. A craving for permanence one might expect and against this transitory secular background one perhaps sees the foundation of monasteries and chantries in a sharper light. The matter will certainly provide food for thought. After the Reformation the peasant house changed from a wasting asset, like a motor car, to a capital investment, often not owned by the occupant.

Much else in Hurst's remarkable summary deserves attention: constructional materials, house-plans and village-plans. The reversion from stone to timber in the later middle ages seems puzzling. Is it due rather to some alteration in the seating of the timbers or infilling of the panels? The probable ubiquity of the long-house and the discussion of the use of this term are valuable. The enlargement of the village-plan by an adjoining foundation is an interesting discovery. To judge by the attenuated example at Laxton, the open-field community generated a very powerful spirit of self-help, one of the most attractive features of the open fields, and one may wonder whether this alone was not sufficient to make such new foundations without invoking the Seigneur (or the spirit of the bastides!). The cleanliness of the houses is another interesting point. This reviewer knows of coal being used for burning lime in C15 building-operations but to find it used as fuel at the bottom of the social scale in peasant houses is surprising.

The book concludes with three sections on deserted villages in Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Except in the recent notorious cases of Irish plantations or highland clearances the lack of documentary evidence makes this a very difficult subject in the Celtic areas. Some modern survivals may throw interesting light on vanished practices in England. It is going to be very instructive to compare the presumably different time of desertion in the Celtic areas with that in this country.

In medieval archaeology the prow of the ship, as it were, has been the study of deserted villages, with the two editors of this book, a remarkable partnership of prolix academic and taciturn man from the Ministry, acting as the bows breaking through the difficulties and prejudice that beset the subject. It has been a long voyage and, while the final port is still not in sight, it is now much easier sailing, for we are seeing really significant results. Spectators like the present reviewer can only stand in silent admiration at what has been achieved, and wish the partners every success in the pursuit of the task to which they have dedicated themselves.

#### **Review by Philip Rahtz, in *Archaeol. J.* 128 (1971), 281-3**

There can be few archaeological topics that have had so early and complete a synthesis as this; the subject is, with a few honourable exceptions, a post-war study, in which the authors have played dominant roles. Not the least of their achievements has been the development of the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group from an elitist seminar to an influential body which virtually controls all work on 'DMVs', decides on major policies concerning their preservation as state monuments, and is given direct control of substantial state funds for the excavation of selected threatened sites. The efficiency with which this has been carried out has given a lead to other similar organizations. This book is a complete survey of what the DMVRG has achieved in the last fifteen years in academic and practical terms.

Beresford opens with a review of historical research since he wrote his classic *Lost Villages* in 1954; it is written in the same disarming, deceptively naive, anecdotal style which has endeared him to so many readers. This is followed by Hurst's survey of the archaeological evidence from 290 sites. Most of the work he synthesizes here has been undertaken either by him, at his instigation, or with his

active encouragement. Much of the work he describes is unpublished, and the published reports are dreary stuff for the student to wade through. It is thus invaluable to have the important results of fieldwork and excavation analysed so thoroughly, complete with comparative plans drawn to the same scale, with a gazetteer of all known DMV excavations. As if this section were somehow not 'history', Beresford has a second innings, what is described as a 'pure' historian's appraisal of archaeological research, selecting those aspects of the field evidence which seem to him of particular significance.

There follow sections on the little known work in Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The essay on Scotland by J. G. Dunbar and H. Fairhurst deals with the pattern of rural settlement and peasant house plans with some excellent photographs of sites which have only recently been abandoned. Lawrence Butler contributes a masterly survey on Wales, which successfully combines both historical and archaeological aspects, with a useful bibliography. Robin Glasscock introduces the virtually untapped material in Ireland, where 'villages' in the English sense of the word are rare. Work is now beginning to develop there, which will be much stimulated by the formation of a group for Irish settlement studies, which he has been largely responsible for instigating. John Sheail has compiled gazetteers of every English county which shows (as the map in fig 13 does visually), that there are considerable gaps, many of which, such as Somerset, the marcher counties, and the north-west, are due more to lack of fieldwork than the survival of most of the settlements. In 1954, 1353 sites were known; by 1968 there were 2,263, and it seems likely that this total will eventually exceed 3,000, a formidable body of potential evidence.

The book is interesting from a historiographical viewpoint, in enabling us to see how attitudes and methods have changed so much in the archaeology of the DMV, and former notions on the medieval village have in many cases been drastically reorientated. The change from grid or trench excavation to that of 'open-area' digging, which is so marked a development of recent years, has been strongly influenced by the work on villages, where anything other than open excavation has been shown to be misleading or destructive. Hurst stresses the dangers of reconstructing peasant houses from surviving vernacular architecture; but conversely many features believed by vernacular architectural historians to be of C16 or C17 origin can be shown by archaeology to have been present in structures of C13 or earlier. He demonstrates the great variety of house construction and plan, which makes the study of regional development of peasant houses an impossible task on the present data. Well-attested now is the change from timber to stone footings in the late C12-C13, perhaps due to timber shortage; most excavations have been of houses with stone footings, but there have been recent notable exceptions, such as Guy Beresford's work at Barton Blount.

Hurst gathers together all available information on walls, doors, furniture, heating, cooking, floors, and roofs, and the function of various house-plans. This section is the first published study of the peasant house based on excavated remains. Important too are the observations on the change from the combined man/animal/work 'long-house' to 'farms' of separate buildings; the possible climatic deterioration shown by the heightening of village earthworks and the proliferation of drainage ditches; the changing position of the peasant house within its enclosure; and perhaps most important of all, the drastic changes in village plan, the relation of manor to village and church. Many if not all 'green' and other apparently planned village layouts are shown to be secondary developments, and not the original Anglo-Saxon form as some geographers would have had us believe.

There are interesting data on medieval skeletons and demographic studies, animals, trade, and household activities. Nowhere has the dynamic character of the evidence here assembled been so well demonstrated as in the authors' excavations at Wharram Percy, where each of twenty-one seasons has been cumulatively of greater interest than the last: there is certainly no sign of diminishing returns here.

The book is dedicated to 'our predecessors and successors in these studies'. The authors foresee that the future of medieval village studies will not lie in the examination of 'that untypical and pathological representative of the medieval settlement, the total failure'. The fully-surviving village is in obvious ways an unsuitable place for archaeological research (a view which may give apoplexy to urban archaeologists). We are recommended in the far future to those villages which were the least partially successful — the shrunken sites. These are more numerous than DMVs and perhaps more likely to survive than the deserted sites, which are so much at the mercy of 'improving' farmers.

In view of this recommendation, it is remarkable that Beresford is obviously still much preoccupied with the problems of desertion, on which his views, though challenged by some historians, have not changed radically since 1954. On the other hand as Hurst's survey shows, the archaeological picture has been totally transformed in the last fifteen years. Archaeologists may have to study DMVs or SMVs, but the subject under consideration is the *medieval village*, and not just the story of its decline

and fall.

The book is well-produced, with excellent plates and figures, among which the house and village plans are of the greatest interest. The price is high, but should not deter serious students, to whom it will be an invaluable reference book, and the classic work on this subject for many years.

**C. C. Dyer in *Midland History* 1. 4 (autumn 1972) 55-56**

This well-produced book represents a land-mark in the study of this subject, and shows how a dedicated group of professionals and amateurs can develop a new area of study with remarkable success. Thirty years ago, a few dozen deserted village sites were known, and few scholars had thought of subjecting them to detailed study. Now, almost 2,500 sites are known, and they have rightly become a major interest for both historians and archaeologists. The Midland region has always been an important area for the study of deserted medieval villages (or DMVs), some of the earliest work was done in Leicestershire and Warwickshire, and as this book shows (p. 39), five Midland counties have some of the highest densities of DMV sites in the country.

This book reports on the work of the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group after nearly 20 years of active research. The co-editors were instrumental in founding the Research Group, and they have contributed the two longest chapters, on historical and archaeological research in England up to 1968. There is also a valuable gazetteer of known sites, a useful bibliography, and important chapters on sites in Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

The book illustrates very well the value of co-operation between historians and archaeologists, but also points to divergencies in the approach to the subject made by these specialists.

Professor Beresford's primary concern is with the date and cause of the desertion of villages. His central thesis, that most English DMVs were depopulated between 1450 and 1485 because of rising wool prices, remains controversial, and recent studies, based on manorial documents, suggest that many DMVs were abandoned over a large period of time, as a result of declining population.

Mr Hurst spreads the net of his enquiry much more widely. For the archaeologist, the sites of DMVs present an opportunity for the investigation of rural life in general in the medieval period. Mr Hurst's chapter summarises the results of work on the whole period from the 5th century to the early modern period, and he is concerned with all aspects of village life that can be investigated by fieldwork and excavation – village morphology, the form and construction of houses, the economy of the village and peasant household, and even the diseases and stature of the inhabitants. Historians may question some of the assumptions, for example, that the main distinction between different sections of village society as reflected in house types would be between villeins and freemen, (pp. 79 and 106-7) or that a landlord could easily impose a new lay-out of property boundaries on his tenants (p. 131). On the other hand, historians must be grateful for Mr Hurst's synthesis of archaeological results, as the areas of enquiry often coincide with current pre-occupations of social historians; for example, the evidence for peasant living standards, or the suggestion of a major change in settlement patterns in the Anglo-Saxon period, which has many implications for those who are re-thinking the accepted orthodoxies on the origins of villages and their field-systems.

This book summarises past research, and also points to further developments. It should have the effect of stimulating further research, such as work on the dynamics of the village as a social community. Professor Beresford has shown that the villages that 'failed' tended to be smaller and poorer than their neighbours – what other factors weakened some communities but allowed others to survive? Historians of the Midlands, the region above all where the village was the predominant social unit, should be able to contribute further to these enquiries.

**Extracts from review in *Times Literary Supplement* 15.10.71**

In the late 1930s, when the next war was imminent, an obscure young lecturer in economic history, called W. G. Hoskins, was cycling out to curious-looking sites in empty fields in Leicestershire, making rough plans, and wondering what these extensive sites really were: professional archaeologists could not place them in any context. By about 1937 their meaning had dawned upon him: they were the visible remains – bumps and hollows – of "lost villages". In a low evening light, the pattern appeared much more regular, with the rectangular platforms of the vanished houses, and the hollow ways that once formed streets and lanes. Then came the pursuit of documents, to see how big these villages had been and when they had been erased from the scene. The search in the green pastures of Leicestershire went on peacefully while bombs rained down on London and notes accumulated.

The first essay in English on deserted villages appeared in 1946 – “The Deserted Villages of Leicestershire” – written during fire-watching nights of boredom in London. The rural pottering went on quietly after the war had ended, with Maurice Beresford – also a young man then – beavering away just over the Warwickshire border along the same line of research. Contact was established, though each pursued his own way, except together to convince the academic pundits at Cambridge that “lost villages” in England was a few and well-founded field of English economic history.

Historians had long been aware that “lost villages” were a feature of economic history on the European mainland, but never seemed to ask themselves about this possibility in England. As late as 1945 the great Professor Clapham wrote that “deserted villages are singularly rare in England” and his successor remained entirely sceptical until the two young men turned up in Cambridge one evening in the summer of 1948 and read convincing papers. The next day there was a wild dash, led by the professor of economic history with great abandon, to see one of the best of the Leicestershire sites, at Knaptoft in the uplands where streams flow slowly down to reach the Humber, the Wash, and the Bristol Channel.

In 1954 Professor Beresford, as he now is, published his *Lost Villages of England*, though even then (as he relates) the distinguished publisher’s reader remained completely sceptical, being bred up in the belief that the outcry about Tudor depopulations was an old myth. Fortunately the publishers, the same then as now, had the courage of Professor Beresford’s convictions, and the first book on the subject was born. The years have passed: a tiny few fought a poor rearguard action against the overwhelming mass of facts, and in 1965 the International Economic History Conference at Munich devoted much time to this field of knowledge. It had received the academic accolade, and the two young men who had cycled and walked to their lonely sites a long time ago can justly feel a certain pride in what they started.

When Professor Beresford published *Lost Villages* the present title is more appropriate, since that which was lost has now been found – it had the faults of a pioneer work, which he engagingly brings to light, and discusses in this splendid new book. It was easier by far to write an entirely new book than to revise the old, not least because the new book afforded the opportunity to include Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, where a great deal of recent work needed to see the light of day. These sections are written by other scholars, but the main body of the book is the result of a fruitful marriage between the historian Maurice Beresford and the archaeologist John Hurst.

**Extract from review by Charles Green, in *Eastern Daily Press* 1.9.71**

... Here, in Norfolk, there is popular belief in the destruction of old settlements by coastal erosion, but not more than five villages *may* have been so lost and of these two are very uncertain indeed. The study is, in fact, well-advanced in Norfolk. K. J. Allison’s fine survey of “Lost Villages”, *Norfolk Archaeology* (1955), was one of the first to be published and his list is still substantially complete, though a few changes in it have since been made, to give us a more recent count of 148.

This is the count given in the present book, which is a remarkable survey, by our two leading workers, of the whole problem in the British Isles and an analysis of what has been accomplished to the end of 1968. Our county list shows ten sites where Saxon structures – as distinct from cemeteries – have been excavated and recorded in varying degrees of fullness. Of the listed post-Conquest settlements, six have been excavated, some fairly extensively and one planned in some detail after ploughing.

Suffolk makes a poorer showing, though study is still in progress. Fourteen sites of Saxon structures have been excavated, but several have not been published at all. The fine work by S. E. West at West Stow, however, is giving us the best picture so far available in England of a pagan Saxon village. But of post-Conquest villages there is not one, and of these only twenty-three are listed. This is certainly but a fraction of the true figure, for immediately one remembers, eg Newton, which stood to the east of Corton. It disappeared by coastal erosion, which began here after the solid piers at the entrance to Yarmouth Haven were erected in 1567. . . . .

**Extract from review by John Ashdown in *The London Archaeologist* 1 (1971) 310-311**

... As these first two chapters were written independently of each other, Maurice Beresford then contributes a short appraisal of the archaeological research from the viewpoint of a “pure” historian to draw the various threads together. For one wild moment one searches ahead to see if John Hurst has contributed an archaeologists’ appraisal of “pure” medieval historians. However, all is well as a county by county gazetteer of 2,263 known English sites and a bibliography completes the first part. This part

of the book also provides a valuable background history to the development of medieval archaeology in this country and a rare insight into the problems of scholars, for the lack of a Cornish section in the *Lost Villages* gazetteer resulted from it falling behind Maurice Beresford's piano. It leads one to wonder if the time lag between 1968, as the closing date for research included in this book, and 1971 results from the publisher having a similarly placed piano. . . . .



## 5. PRESERVATION OF SITES

### (a) PRESERVATION BY DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT

#### Guardianship

Consolidation and work has been completed on the tower at Wharram Percy church and work is in progress on the chancel arch and east walls of the nave. Negotiations for guardianship are still in progress with the Church Commissioners and the Birdsall estate. Negotiations are also in an advanced stage with the owners of Hound Tor, Devon, and Gainsthorpe, Lincs.

It has, unfortunately, proved impossible to take Gomeldon, Wilts., Ingarsby, Leics., Chalford, Oxon., or Pudding Norton, Norfolk, into guardianship. Negotiations have therefore begun with the owners of three other sites: Quarranden, Bucks., Wolfhampcote/Braunstonbury, Warks/Northants. for midland clay sites, and South Middleton, Northumberland for a stone site in the far north.

### (b) PRESERVATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

#### BEDFORDSHIRE

**Cainhoe** (TL 096374) The Bedfordshire County Council will discuss the laying out of this site as a picnic place by the main road when the prospects for obtaining the necessary land have been established.

#### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

**Woughton-on-the-Green** (SP 875376) Negotiations have been in progress with the Milton Keynes Development Corporation to try and preserve this shrunken site. In 1971 a further 41 acres were scheduled to link the main DMV site with the linear park along the river Ouse. This area comprises good ridge and furrow and seems the best area to try and preserve in the Milton Keynes area. It has added significance in view of its association with the DMV. Any other areas of ridge and furrow would be in isolation. In the summer a first development scheme was proposed for development in the area. This unfortunately did not take the new preserved area into account. It was agreed at a meeting attended by Mr C. Gowing that this was not acceptable and it is hoped that a modified scheme will be approved taking the archaeological remains more into account.

There have been no further developments over the preservation of Old Wolverton (SP 802412) see *Annual Report* 1969, p. 12.

#### DURHAM

**Yoden** (NZ 433418) The Peterlee Development Corporation report that pressure of work on other schemes in the New Town have prevented the design of the Eden Lane Public Open Space which includes this DMV, but it is hoped that the situation will change in 1972.

#### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

**Bingham** (SK 714397) Mr Bilton reports that negotiations are still in progress between the County Planning Authority, the Bingham Rural District Council and the Church authorities who own the land.

#### YORKSHIRE ER

**Hilderthorpe** (TA 174656) The Borough of Bridlington report that they have still failed to buy the site and are now considering applying for a Compulsory Purchase Order to enable them to extend the golf course and lay out the DMV site.

### (c) THREATS TO DMVs DURING 1971

More than 40 sites were threatened in 1971; this figure includes multiple threats from New Towns Development Plans. As before, agriculture is the greatest single threat, accounting for 19, housing development and roads account for 5 each, and a new threat from an oil-rig in Yorkshire.

#### BUCKS.

**Milton Keynes** D. Mynard has been appointed as Archaeological Officer to the development corporation and is drawing up a five year programme of excavation for the various threatened sites (see preservation).

**DERBYSHIRE**

**Callow** (SK 257512) The East Midlands Electricity Board constructed an overhead line near the site. This work was watched by Dr P. Strange who reports that the old poles were removed without any disturbance and replaced by a smaller number of double poles. Only one pair of these was near the site. Sizeable holes were dug but as this was at the bottom of the slope the upcast consisted entirely of clean yellow clay obviously clear of any habitation area.

**Bupton** (SK 222375) Dr P. Strange reports that the farmer is proposing to make a new farm road across the site, which he will watch.

**DORSET**

**Melcombe Bingham** (ST 775021) The scheduling of this site brought to light the fact that it was about to be bisected by a water pipeline. An attempt was made to divert the pipe but as this would cost £1,000 it was reluctantly agreed that the line should go ahead and the digging of the trench (which it is hoped will only be 1m wide) will be watched. In these cases it is often the ancillary works, such as contractors' vehicles and the dumping of surplus soil that do the most damage as was the case at Burston in Bucks. (*Annual Report* 1968, p. 7)

**Owermoigne** (SY 772857) This complex series of earthworks (see *RCHM Dorset II South East Pt I* (1970), 184-8) was threatened with bulldozing. D. Viner excavated a sample area (see Section 6). It is proposed to open up a larger area in 1972. The owner has agreed to preserve two of the larger raised platforms and these will be scheduled.

**DURHAM**

**Castle Eden** (NZ 427388) This site was ploughed and was walked over to look for pottery.

**Garmondsway** (NZ 346347) Dr B. Roberts reports that this scheduled site which is a single grass field in a sea of arable has been allowed to go to waste this year and is very overgrown and weedy. The position here will have to be watched carefully as another year of neglect could lead to a demand to plough it up. The management of sites is just as important as preservation.

Posts for overhead power lines slightly disturbed the site in November 1971. The few sherds of pottery recovered could be dated to the 13th century.

**Hart** (NZ 472358) The extensive remains of the shrunken village, immediately to the SE of the church were threatened by building development. Trial excavations were carried out by Durham University and after several abortive attempts to locate a building, a late medieval house was located and excavated but the time lost in the early stages of the work prevented the area from being completely uncovered (see section 6).

**Haswell** (NZ 363440) and **Thornley** (NZ 361384) are both possibly threatened by a new major line of pylons. The sites of the pylons are away from the centres of both sites but it is hoped to watch the digging of the foundations.

**Hulam** (NZ 430370) This site is contained in the county list for Durham in Beresford and Hurst 1968. Earthworks in the 1960 DMVRG list were given the category D. A green village that, for Durham, was well documented, was bulldozed and ploughed out in April 1971. Very soon after destruction the site was walked by members of the Departments of Archaeology and Geography of Durham University, and pottery collected in zones which accorded roughly with the tofts marked on the OS 25" Survey. It was impossible to form judgements about the location of houses or yard areas, but a date spectrum for the medieval period was definable from the pottery. The majority of sherds were of C13—mid C14 date, with some of the late C14 or C15. A gap in occupation from the early C16 and during C17 is followed by re-occupation in C18 of one area on the earlier green.

**Middleton Low** (NZ 365109) L. Still reports the ploughing of this site. So far few Durham DMVs have been threatened by the conversion of pasture to arable but the three destructions reported in this one year means that many Durham sites may now be in danger. This makes it doubly urgent for the DMVs of the county to be adequately listed and surveyed (see section 2A).

**ESSEX**

**Wendons Ambo** (TL 510365) Mrs E. Sellers reported that the M11 might go through the site of the medieval chapel but it now seems likely that it will not. Nevertheless it is likely that there was a village round the chapel. Late Saxon finds were located in the area in the 1950s. (*Medieval Archaeol* 3 (1959) 295)

**HAMPSHIRE**

**Oakley** (SU 556152) This site was ploughed, substantial quantities of C12 and C13 pottery were recovered. In view of the lack of late pottery S. Moorhouse excavated a single croft and was lucky enough to find a complex series of timber buildings and pits with a scatter of Saxon pottery (see section 6).

**HEREFORDSHIRE**

**Kilpeck** (SO 445305) is still under threat (*Annual Report*, 1970, p. 16). A close watch is being kept by R. Shoemith who regularly visits to discuss the future of the site with the farmer. The main point at issue at the moment is a hedge line outside the north defences which the farmer wishes to grub up and plough in the ditch up to the bottom of the bank. It is hoped that the south field may be returned to grass after several years ploughing.

**HUNTS.**

**Wintringham** (TL 220594) Trial excavations by G. Beresford produced little evidence for peasant houses in the supposed tofts. The excavation was therefore transferred to the moated site where it was possible to excavate the manorial buildings (see section 6).

**LEICESTERSHIRE**

**South Croxton** (SK 692104) The moated site by the church is threatened with levelling and it is proposed to excavate it in 1972. Surrounding the moat are a series of tofts of the medieval village. The centre of these seems to have shifted to the other side of the church with the abandonment of the manor site. It is suggested that one of these should be excavated, no actual house sites are visible so buildings might take some time to find. The OS will make a survey which may help to clarify the limits of the manorial enclosures and determine which of the tofts are the most significant.

**Holyoak** (SP 645957) This DMV is now completely ploughed. Rough stone foundations were seen throughout. There was evidence of farming and smithing activity. Much of the DMV was disturbed and destroyed by Tudor and later occupation around the farmhouse. The manor site is almost complete on the summit of the hill with crofts extending down the east slope towards the Eye Brook and west over the brow of the hill. The site also stretches south beyond the farm. Some traces of an early village are to be seen below escarpment in north.

**Willowes** T. Pearce reports that this site has been ploughed.

**LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Burreth** (TF 152697) This impressive site of which there is a fine St Joseph air photograph was recommended for scheduling. The reaction of the owner on being asked if he would agree was to level the site and refuse access for an observer to watch for finds or structures. It is therefore regretted that this site has been destroyed without record.

**Goltho** (TF 116774) There has been no further excavation on the peasant houses (*Annual Report*, 1970, p. 19). G. Beresford started to excavate the manor site which was found to be a small late Saxon enclosure which was turned into a ringwork in the 11th century. The centre was filled in in C12 to make a high platform on which was built a timber aisled hall (see section 6). It is hoped to excavate the ringwork and Saxon enclosure in 1972.

**Hawerby Cum Beesby** (TF 268966) The earthworks of the DMV of Beesby, to the east of the road were completely destroyed. Earth was pushed some distance to fill up the valley of the stream. During levelling we noted three house sites on the roadside, one with post-medieval pottery. There was a quantity of squared chalk stones, flints and cobbles, and over the site many large flat stones, possibly pad stones. The pottery finds range from medieval shelly wares and Humber wares to wares of the

18th century. The main part of the site is still under grass.

**Hungerton** (SK 873302) A pipeline was cut near this site, the full limits of which are not known. Nothing was observed which might be medieval.

**Rand** (TF 107791) As was reported previously (*Annual Report*, 1969, p. 18) the destruction of Goltho was only approved because the owner, who also owns part of Rand, agreed to keep this intact. A threat has now developed since Mr Farley maintains that it is not practical to graze this field. This site must be preserved at all costs as it is now the last major DMV left in the Lincolnshire central claylands. Negotiations are in progress between the owner and DOE to see if a compromise can be agreed. This is a crucial test case as it is the first of our 50 sites with a major threat and with no alternative site if preservation should fail.

**West Ravendale** (TF 227997) Mr Robin Shearing reported in December that this DMV was threatened. The site was visited, and found that the fields to the west of the DMV had been levelled and ploughed two years ago. The ruins of what is probably part of the village church are in this area, near this there was middle Saxon pottery, St Neot's ware, medieval shelly ware, Humber wares and Yorkshire pimply ware. There were decorated floor tiles, and ceramic and stone roofing tiles.

**Waddingworth** (TF 186712) and **Wispington** (TF 204716) R. and E. Russell report the ploughing of these sites; pottery was collected.

#### **NORFOLK**

**West Tofts** (TL 837929) This site was recommended for scheduling following a visit in 1970 of sites in the army training area. The army have objected on the grounds that the site is already extensively disturbed and they do not want further disturbance by army units restricted. J. Coad is sure that the bumps are mainly genuine medieval earthworks and not army digging; so it is hoped to continue with scheduling as there are so few Norfolk sites now left under grass.

#### **NORTHANTS.**

**Kelmarsh** This lay on the eastern slope of the hill alongside what is now the A508. Field drains had considerably disturbed the substantial foundations of crofts which had Collyweston type and ceramic tile roofs. The pottery was of good quality and much later than that of the site near the church. The foundations of the houses appear to have been built upon areas of considerable burning.

#### **NORTHUMBERLAND**

**West Whelpington** (NY 975838) M. Jarrett continued his excavations in advance of quarrying (see section 6). A further area of topsoil was removed after consultation, and this was watched by S. Wrathmell in August.

#### **OXFORDSHIRE**

**Slape** (SP 426195) This isolated medieval farm identified by the late Mrs W. Steed, on the edge of Wychwood forest is partly threatened by the straightening of the A34 road. The Oxford and Oxfordshire County museum will carry out a trial excavation to see what medieval remains there are, but as only part of the site is threatened a major excavation of this rare type of site in the Midlands is unlikely.

**Tetsworth** (SP 687016) This shrunken site is in the line of the M40 and was reported by the survey carried out along the proposed route. An excavation was carried out by the M40 committee with promising results; but it will not be possible to do any more since it will already have been destroyed by the spring of 1972 (see section 6).

#### **RUTLAND**

**Horn** (SK 954117) It has been agreed with the tenant that surrounding fields which have no visible earthworks or ridge and furrow, as they have clearly been ploughed before, may be ploughed if the scheduled area remains under grass. The grassland is however very poor and it has been agreed that it will be mowed and harrowed to a depth of 6" before reseeded. This will not cause any erosion of the earthworks or disturbance of the archaeological levels. Miss C. Mahany will visit from time to time and

keep a general eye on the site.

#### **SHROPSHIRE**

**Heath** (SO 556855) This scheduled site is threatened by a pipeline which is proposed across part of the site. It is hoped that this will be watched.

#### **STAFFS.**

**Tamhorn** (SK 180070) Miss K. Wain reported that this site was threatened by gravel working. The plans were checked but it was found that the site was not in fact in the area threatened by gravel digging.

#### **WARWICKSHIRE**

**Great Wolford** (SP 257345) The area of this shrunken village inside its boundary bank was threatened by building. The area is scheduled and it is hoped that the planning application will be refused.

#### **YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING**

**Cottam** (SE 993648) A Canadian oil-rig is prospecting in the field immediately adjoining the DMV site. J. G. Hurst visited and found that although the area of the workings was quite large it was well away from the village which looks quite safe. A watch must be kept though on further developments here.

**Cowlam** (SE 965655) It was not possible to save this site without paying substantial compensation which would not be worthwhile for the surviving portion of the site, so much having already been destroyed (see *Annual Report*, 1970, p. 18). T. C. M. Brewster therefore excavated a sample house site. This was found to be a C17 longhouse and it is proposed to complete the excavation of the whole toft in 1972 rather than sample another area and only partially excavate that as well (see section 6).

**Hilderthorpe** (TA 175655) An application was made to build a house in the eastern corner of the site. No objection was made because this was the area of the demolished farm so the ground would have been very much disturbed. DOE had also agreed that if the village was to be preserved in the middle of the proposed new Golf Course (see *Annual Report*, 1964, p. 9) that we would not object to ribbon building round the periphery. In the event the planning application was turned down on the grounds that the whole area was designated an open space. It is therefore hoped that the whole area may be left open after all.

#### **YORKSHIRE NORTH RIDING**

**Aismunderby** (SE 306685) C. V. Bellamy reports that the farmer has levelled by bulldozer and deep ploughed one of the fields not previously cultivated because of its stoney nature. A large pile of stones, including moulded fragments, was raked off the field. It is now too late to do anything but there is another field still under grass which is not immediately threatened but the farm is likely to change hands in the near future.

#### **TEESSIDE**

The DMVs of **Marion** (NZ 515159), **Newham** (NZ 517133), **Newby** (NZ 510120) and **Tollesby** (NZ 508151) are all now threatened by development though it is still hoped it might be possible to preserve some small areas as open spaces. A. Aberg is negotiating with the Teesside Corporation and the various private developers. One of these sites should be excavated in 1972, the choice depending on how the threats progress (see *Annual Report*, 1970, p. 18).

## 6. EXCAVATIONS DURING 1971

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**Grantchester, Fiddler's Close** Part of a suspected Roman Camp was threatened by destruction in a new school playing field development. Excavations showed that no Roman fort existed but that a C5 Saxon hut and two later, but still pre-C9, linear ditches, one with its bank still intact, survived.

(Dr J. Alexander)

**DORSET**

**Owermoigne (SY 772857)** An area of 190 sq m was excavated within the earthworks of c. 4-5 acres associated with the moated manor site of Moigne Court. Sectioning of the ditch of the enclosure bank surrounding most of the earthworks showed two recuts, both undated. Stripping of part of one central platform revealed a single phase of platform construction in limestone with chalk capping. A single stone wall c. 80cm wide was almost totally robbed, and gave only partial evidence of any building plan. Differential wear of the chalk surface on the north side of this wall indicated slight timber buildings aligned along its length, possibly open-sided lean-to structures. On the south side, post-hole patterns suggest similar if more substantial structures. Dating evidence was almost totally lacking for any of the earthworks investigated.

(D. Viner)

**DURHAM**

**Hart (NZ 471352)** A survey of the shrunken part of the village and excavation of one house area was carried out. The site was totally destroyed by building after September 1971. A regular, single row of tofts north of the beck and east of the Saxon church was defined. Layout of the toft banks on a previously unoccupied area was dated by coin evidence to the late C14; pottery from the whole site consistently confirmed this dating. What was thought from the survey to be the house platform was the sunken ground over an upslope, cobbled backyard: the house itself (fig 4), lying in a partly filled hollow to the south, was heavily destroyed by two trenches and selective robbing. Primarily a squarish stone-built structure 5.50m x 6.80m with stone roof and central hearth, it was surrounded by an eavesdrip drain with a square profile slot at the bottom. On the west side a timber outhouse 3.60m x 3.45m, erected on a stone-packed timber beam, was added with a stone-lined post-hole at the point of junction with the earlier south wall. The north side of the outhouse was replaced by the south wall of a stone-built room 3.15m x 3.40m to complete a unit 9.10m x 6.80m. At the time of adding the outhouses the western toft bank was cut back and a wall built on top; the northern bank was also walled, but the western had none. Finds and pottery from the house area were unremarkable, but plentiful. The subsequent destruction was observed.

(D. Austin and L. M. Thoms for DOE)

**ESSEX**

**Great Dunmow, Westbury House Fields (TL 626219)** The excavation of the Saxon structure located in 1970 was continued but not completed; it appears to have been based upon a central rectangular structure of two bays, each c. 2.75m wide, the span of c. 9.00m being broken by intermediate supports c. 0.75-1.00m inside the external walls, apparently of ground cill construction. This central core supported a simple lean-to structure of semi-circular construction at the west end; there appears to have been a similar, though slightly elongated, structure on the east, giving an overall length of c. 19.00m. Underlying most of the structure was a hollow whose sides were left at a self-supporting angle, giving a reasonably level floor only 2.00m wide. Practical considerations apart, there was some evidence to indicate a timber floor at or near ground level, giving a headroom of c. 1.50m in the space below. A considerable quantity of grass tempered pottery, all plain domestic forms, was associated with the structure, which is not at present more closely datable than to the general Pagan Saxon period.

A second Saxon structure was located and its excavation began; it appears to be a shallowly sunken hut of sub-rectangular plan c. 6.00 by 9.00m overall, though the southern end was badly damaged by ploughing. Traces of rough flooring of gravel, cobbles, and fired clay (not in situ) were present on the clay natural; associated pottery consisted of a few sherds of plain grass tempered ware.

(P. J. Drury for Essex Archaeological Society)

**Mucking, Thurrock (TQ 673803)** Sporadic Saxon sunken huts and apparently contemporary straggling ditches still occur towards the landward limit of the gravel terrace, bringing the total to 102. No evident boundary can be seen. These peripheral huts contain little occupation material, and that mostly annular loomweights, more often of raw than of fired clay, though an amber bead (common in

both cemeteries) was an exceptional hut find. Two 'huts' are unusual, being exceptionally deep (nearly 1m into the gravel) and lacking gable roof post-holes. Quarrying is now returning to the more densely occupied river slope, where huts noticeably contain more finds of all periods, supporting the view that non-Saxon material of whatever period is residual.

A useful local link is that of grass-tempered sherds, decorated with diagonal comb stabbing and now found in three Mucking huts, which compares with similar decoration on complete (presumably grave) pots known from Rainham and Stanford-le-Hope, both on the north Thames bank.

(Mrs M. V. Jones for Mucking Excavation Committee)

**Rivenhall (TL 828179)** Excavations on the villa/church site revealed the following features:

1. A circular well or water-hole, 1.50m deep, with a group of pagan Saxon coarse sand-tempered pottery.
2. A later hearth, lined with Roman tile, with 5th century pottery and a fragment of a conical beaker.
3. A possible sunken hut within a Roman building.
4. Medieval earthworks (rare in Essex); in these were gravel floors, a flint floor set in clay, a 2.5m deep well, boundary ditches, two rectangular tanks, and pits and middens; the finds extend from the C12-C14. There were also the remains of a probable chapel of C13.

The medieval features may represent a DMV or a minor religious house.

5. Evidence for contraction of the medieval churchyard and of a complex structural history for the site.

(K. A. Gomer for DOE and Essex Archaeological Society)

**Little Wenden (TL 509364)** Excavation on the proposed line of the new M11 found C12 occupation following an earlier, aceramic phase.

(P. Drury for DOE)

**Wicken Bonhunt (TL 511335)** Apart from an extensive Mesolithic find and a Roman ditch all the excavated features were of post Roman date. The complex of features represents continuous occupation from the middle Saxon to the medieval period. The middle Saxon period is represented by two buildings, a well, and a possible sunken-floored structure. The late Saxon period consists of two parallel fence slots, a few pits, and a number of post-holes. Most of the features belong to the Saxo-Noramn period, which can probably be divided into three phases of activity. There is a complex of boundary ditches, one of which is associated with a large building, possibly a manor house. There is only one feature dating to the medieval period (a ditch) and this is probably early C13, confirming the documentary evidence of a serious decline at that time. Small finds were numerous including a gilded Viking pin.

(K. Wade for Wicken House and DOE)

## HAMPSHIRE

**Chalton, Clanfield (SU 732160)** Excavations in the Saxon village revealed various timber houses, smaller buildings and fences of the C6 to C7 down-top village. The earliest buildings were of posts set in individual post-holes, and these were later replaced by similar buildings with posts set in continuous trenches. The main houses, 11.50m by 6.25m and 11m by 6.25m respectively, were set end on to each other, with doorways in the mid-points of the facing ends. Each house also had doorways in the mid-point of each side and an internal sub-division 2m from one end. Finds included grass-tempered pottery, iron, bone and bronze objects and food bones.

(P. V. Addyman, Southampton University)

**Deane, Oakley Park (SU 558501)** The complete stripping of the end of one terrace on this small basically C13 terraced platform complex revealed three phases of superimposed timber barn type structures, ranging in date from the early C13 to the early C14. Late C17 to early C19 barns were located in the silted up adjoining contemporary sunken way. The earliest structure on the platform, dating to the first half of C13, was of trapezoidal plan 18m long and 6 to 9.5m wide with an opposed entrance towards the northern gable, 3m wide in its final form. Large quantities of stratified pottery and small finds, including unstratified Saxon and grass-tempered wares were found. The complete plan of a C12 timber building was recovered from beneath the make-up of the lower terraced platform, a number of features being included within the first phase barn of the later platform, suggesting a continuity in occupation between pre- and post- platform phases.

(S. Moorhouse for MVRG)

**Gosport, Grange Road (SU 587002)** Rescue excavation during RN building development revealed a



number of pits, hearths and gullies, together with slight evidence of timber structures over c. 100m sq, suggesting a small C9–C10 settlement. Finds included coarse flint-tempered pottery and two bone implements. Refuse deposited in the features comprised bones of horse, ox and sheep and great quantities of edible marine mollusca. (Portsmouth City Museum)

**Netherton/Facombe** (SU 578377) is situated 450 feet above sea level in a dry valley near Andover in NW Hampshire. The surrounding land is mostly arable with some pasture and forest on a chalk subsoil. The present village of eight cottages centres around a fine C18 rectory, and farm (fig 6). Behind it lies a disused churchyard, from which the church was removed in 1866, and resited in Facombe,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile away, and 300 feet higher than Netherton. The original settlement of Facombe was at Netherton, but after a division of the manor in 1325 the old village became known as (Facombe) Netherton, and the new as Facombe (Upstreet), and the names gradually contracted. Earliest references to Facombe occur in a C9 document granting land there, and in a C10/C11 will. The manor is surveyed in Domesday, which mentions 37 inhabitants, excluding the manorial family. The evidence of the unploughed fields around Netherton points to an even larger settlement in later medieval times.

The *manorial complex* (fig 7) under investigation lies in the field north-west of Netherton churchyard, against the manorial boundary with Linkinholt in the west, and overlooking the Netherton valley in the east. It is surrounded on three sides by a ditch, and, on the fourth, hill terracing partly forms a bank. The north wing of the manor and outbuildings have been excavated. A sunken room, c. 5m wide, and with a floor level c. 0.8m below external ground level, was built on a foundation course of unknapped flint, c. 0.6m wide, offsetting on the outside to a c. 0.5m wide wall in knapped flint, c. 0.6m below ground level. The floor, curving slightly upwards at the walls, was of natural chalk with a small sump in one corner containing two Edward I/II coins. The roof was hipped and tiled, torched with lime.

To the north of this room, attached by unknapped flint walls, was a garderobe c. 3.5m deep, and c. 2.5m by c. 1.9m at the top, with battered sides tapering to c. 2 x 1.5m at the bottom. Its walls were in very good unknapped coursed flint, bonded by fine chalk. The upper half of the north and west walls collapsed towards the end of the garderobe's use, and were rebuilt in very poor quality uncoursed work.

To the east an enclosure wall running parallel with the manor, and then turning east for about 30m, was built of unknapped flint, and formed one side of a structure which utilised the external manor walls. Part of this structure's tiled roof lay flat where it had fallen, complete with ridge tiles. Its floor was of broken roof tiles, trodden in inside and at the entrance, but not appearing inside around the walls. Horse trappings came from the floor and around the entrance, suggesting a stable.

To the west is an outbuilding, partially excavated, in the flint tumble of which four coins dating between 1282 and 1314 were found. To the north are terraced areas used by the manor but cut originally for an earlier stone building.

In the SW corner of the manor complex a round building c. 8m in diameter, with apparently two building periods was partly excavated (1967-8). This has been interpreted as a dovecote, but the lack of guano and the sharply convex floor remain unexplained.

It is apparent that the manor and associated buildings were abandoned, and collapsed. The enclosure wall was partly removed first, and then the roof of the manor slid down over the ruins and on to the floor within. The manor walls were probably partly pulled down, and the remainder collapsed, filling the sunken rooms within, leaving a clear outline in the field to this day. This indicates that there was no subsequent robbing.

The manor building and terracing have removed much of the *earlier occupation*, with the exception of the area between the manor and the enclosure wall. Here four different earlier building periods were found, but the area was not large enough for any complete building plans. The earliest feature was part of a pit, with two large posts in the corners. This was sealed by a large hearth c. 2m in diameter with a packed flint surface to one side, bounded by a slot with post-holes projecting along one edge. Over the hearth lay a cill wall of a single course of flint, c. 0.35m wide, and an associated earth floor with patches of burning. Alongside the cill wall there was a gully, which was recut later, slightly over the wall. Other features included slots/gullies with stake holes in the bottom, and slots with post-holes in the fill, one recut, with a second line of post-holes. The earliest stratified pottery from this area is probably C12.

The date of the abandonment of the C14 manor and of the decline of the medieval village is uncertain, but surface finds in the fields in which they are situated show a gap between mid C14 and C19, suggesting that the present contracted size stems from C14. Documentary investigation has so far revealed no positive evidence to support a C14 date for the decline. The division of the manor in

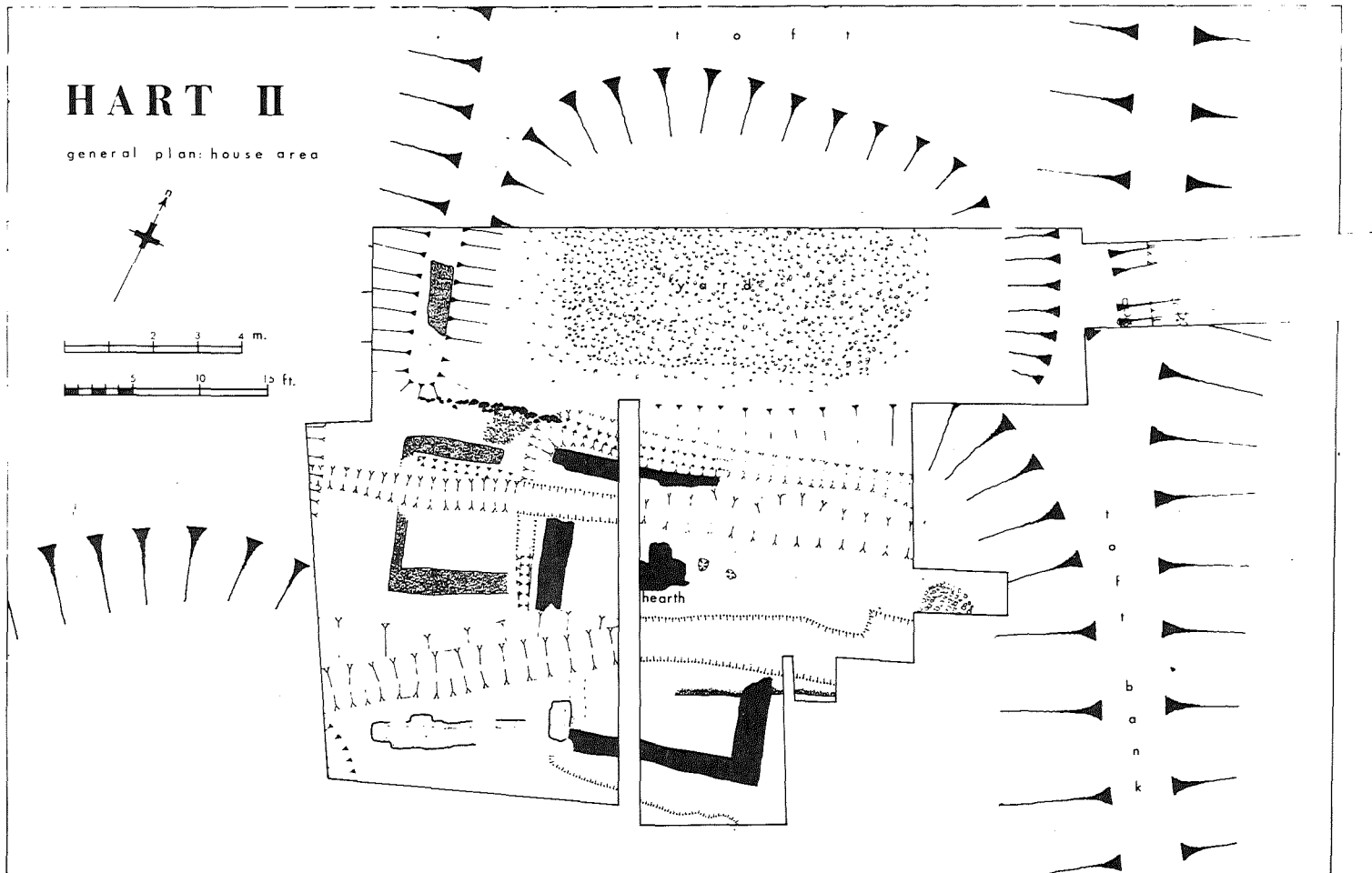


FIG 4 CO. DURHAM : HART. General plan of area of house II

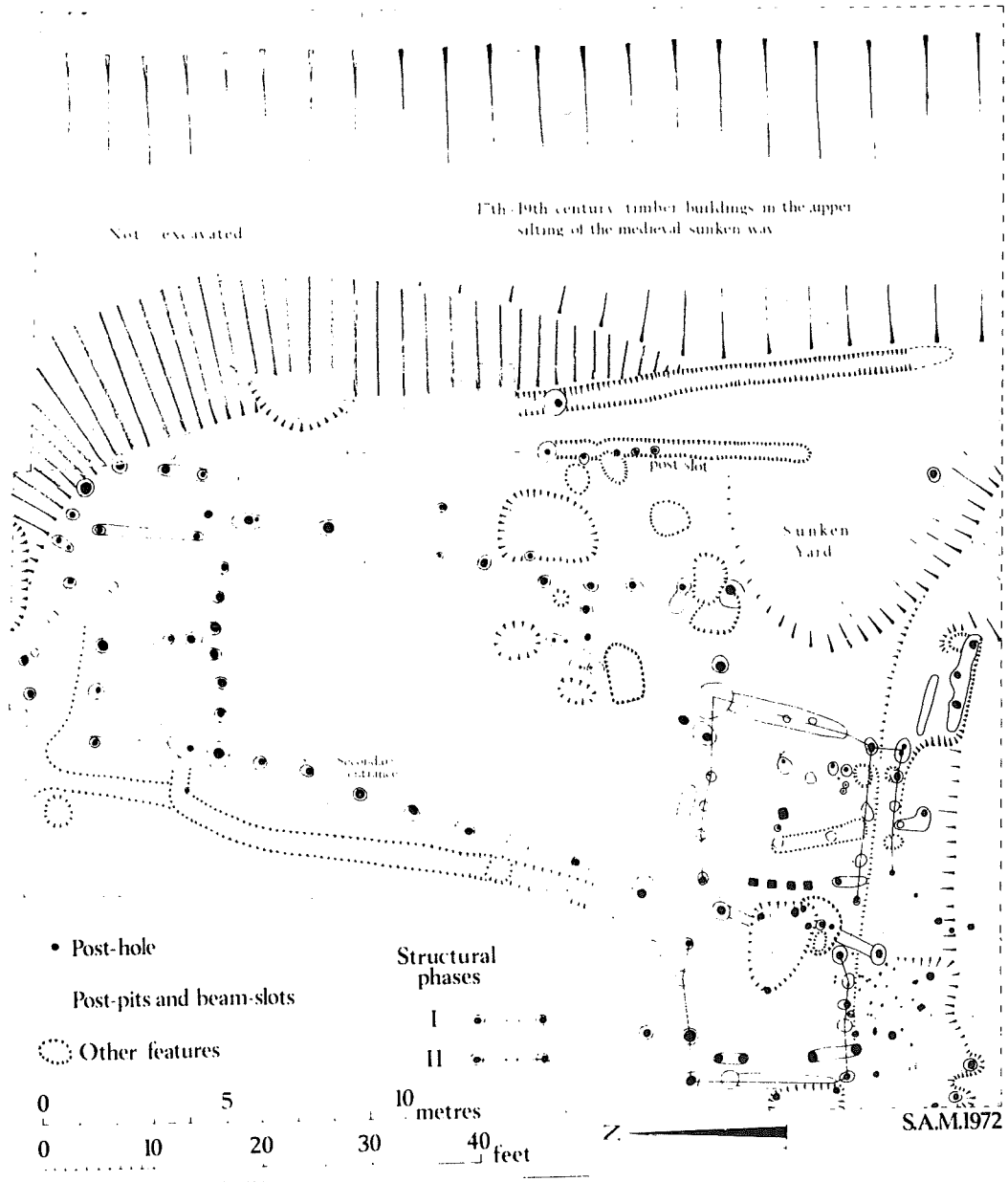


FIG 5 HAMPSHIRE : DEANE Plan of excavation

# NETHERTON VILLAGE PLAN

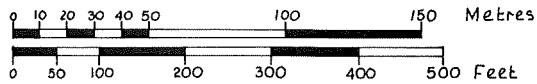
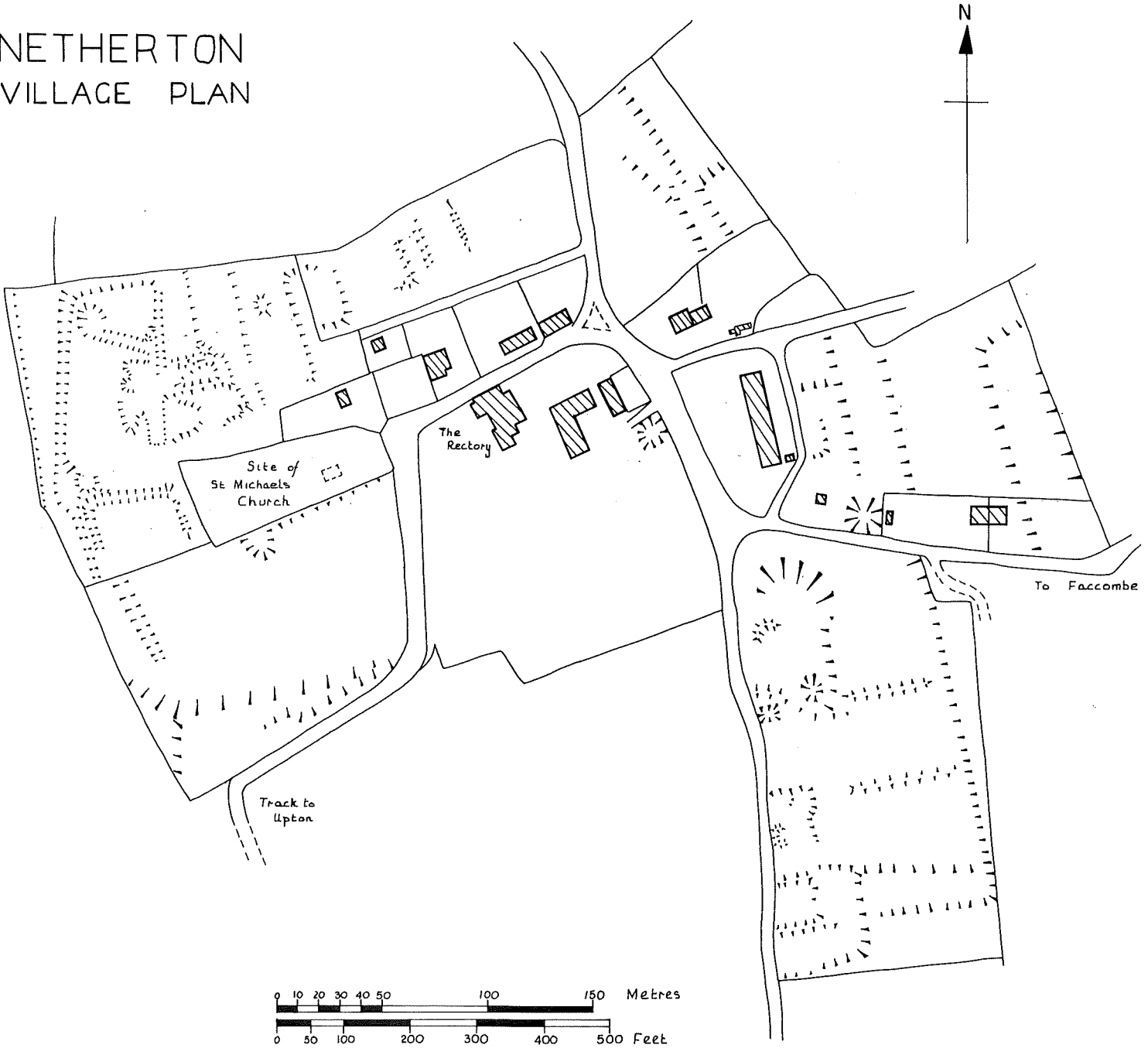
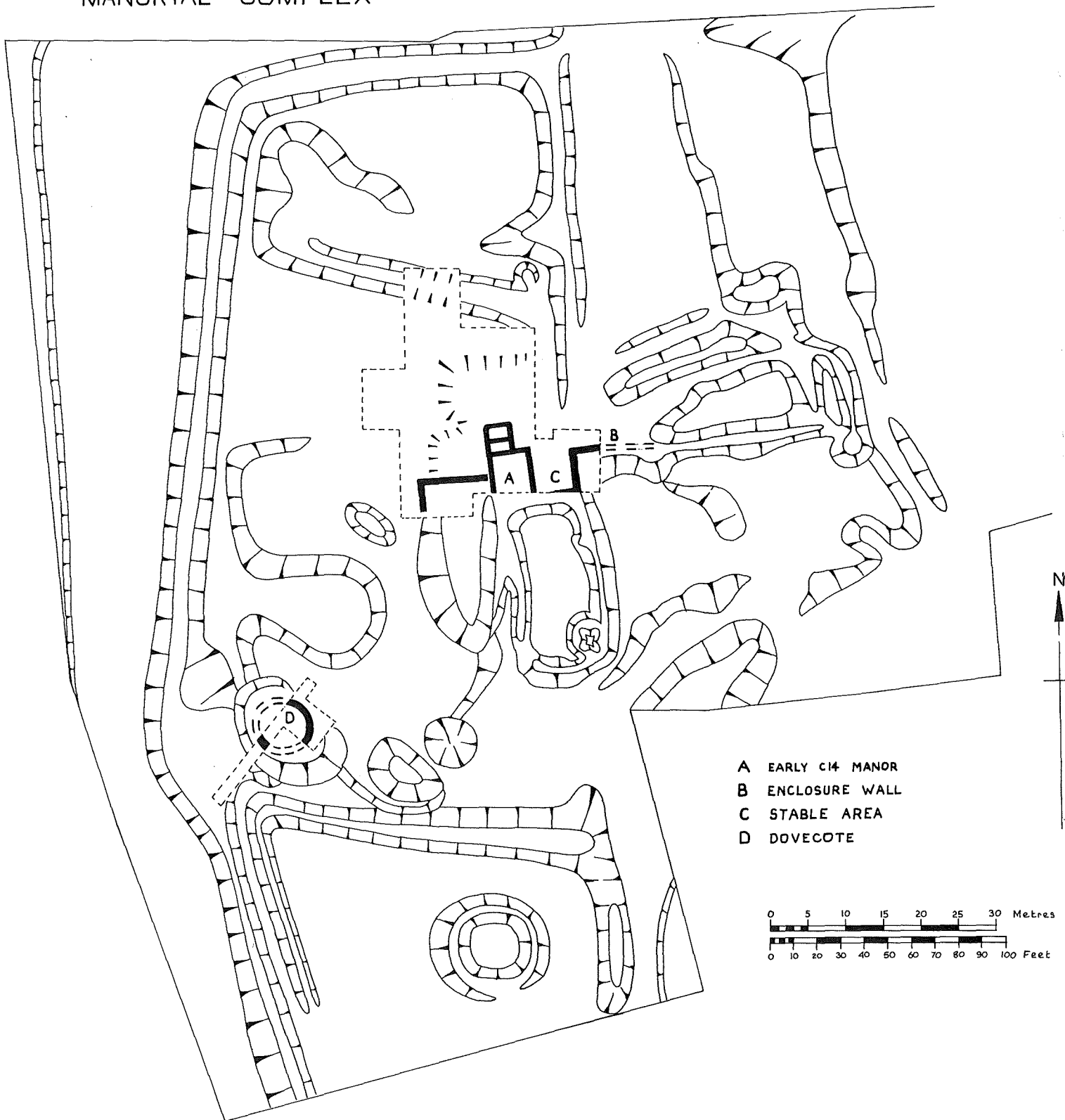


FIG 6 HAMPSHIRE : NETHERTON/FACCOMBE Plan of Village

# NETHERTON MANORIAL COMPLEX



- A EARLY C14 MANOR
- B ENCLOSURE WALL
- C STABLE AREA
- D DOVECOTE

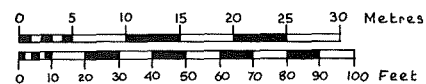


FIG 7 HAMPSHIRE : NETHERTON Plan of manorial complex

1325, and the subsequent division of the remainder of the Faccombe Netherton manor into three between late C15 and late C16, may have contributed to the decline. It is also possible that the Puncharden family, who held the manor from early C13 to late C15, may have shifted their place of residence to the manor of Ellingham, Hants., which they held for the same period, and allowed the Netherton manor to fall into disuse and disrepair.

(Jon Fairbrother for City of London Archaeological Society)

#### HUNTINGDONSHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

**Wintringham** (TL 220594) Much of the deserted medieval village of Wintringham, comprising approximately twenty tofts, the sites of three moated manors and that of a possible chapel, is threatened with destruction by deep ploughing. Many of the earthworks, in the northern part of the village, had been considerably damaged by post-medieval development, but those in the south, the presumed centre of the original settlement and the areas reserved for excavation, were relatively undisturbed. Trial excavation of three tofts in the southern area revealed that they were only occupied for a short period in C13. Remains of a peasant house were found in one toft.

Pottery and other artefacts, found within the manorial area, show that the manor was occupied from the late Saxon period until the middle of C14, when, in all probability, it was rebuilt in the northern part of the village. There was a sequence of timber buildings, constructed on clay sills. In the last period of occupation, the house was built round three sides of a courtyard. The hall, 12.81 x 7.93m, and built on a N-S alignment, was on the west side. A cross-wing, comprising two service rooms, was separated from the hall by a screened passage, set between two opposing doors. That on the west led, by way of a cobbled path, to an outside kitchen and a small bake-house. A door, leading from the raised dais, gave access to the south range of buildings, consisting of the solar and guest rooms, built 3.6m to the east of the hall. A C12 consecrated mensa, 1.22 x 0.61m was found in the kitchen; it was used as a hearth stone.

(G. T. Beresford for MVRG)

#### LINCOLNSHIRE

**Goltho** (TF 116774) The streets and the peasant tofts of the deserted medieval village of Goltho were levelled by bulldozing and deep ploughing during the winter of 1970/71. Many pad-stones and cobbles were brought to the surface, indicating the positions of the houses during the last period of occupation.

The manorial site was excavated, close to the SW corner of the Church. It was occupied from the late Saxon period until the late C12 or early C13. There were three periods of occupation. The late Saxon site was an egg-shaped enclosure, some 110 x 80m. It was surrounded by a bank 5m wide, constructed between two shallow trenches. Late, in C11, a substantial ringwork was constructed within the earlier earthwork. It was surrounded by a moat, 4m deep and 9m wide. The diameter of the site, including the moat, was 70m. In the late C12, the area of occupation was increased by removing the tops of the banks and filling in the centre of the ringwork, thus forming a large raised platform, in the centre of which a timber aisled hall, 20 x 12m, was built. Its post-holes were 90–110cms wide and 45cms deep. The upper and lower ends of the hall were partitioned off, forming two small chambers, 2.2m wide. Two opposing doors, at the lower end, gave access to the hall. A pentice, built against the upper end wall of the hall gave covered access to the chamber and the bower, the latter being 12 x 4.5m and built at the SE corner of the hall. On the NE corner of the site, there was an undercroft, 7 x 2.2m. The roofs were tiled. The site was deliberately slighted when the manor was moved to its present position half a mile to the south of the Church. The dearth of pottery and domestic debris associated with the hall suggests that the last period of occupation was extremely short. Complete excavation of the site is planned for 1972.

(G. T. Beresford for MVRG)

#### NORFOLK

**Congham** (TF 718233) Excavations revealed the site of a Middle Saxon hut. The evidence appears to indicate a new type of Middle Saxon building, measuring 5.5m by 4m. The area of the hut was indicated by dark soil and occupation debris, surrounding a fired-clay hearth, both underlying about one cwt of wattle-marked daub. The only structural evidence was a line of five post-holes down the centre of the occupation debris, presumably ridge posts for the roof. Stratified Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware and iron knives indicate the date of the structure.

(K. Wade for DOE and Norfolk Research Committee)

**Grimston, Pott Row** (TF 706217) The total area now dug is 40 by 12m. On stratigraphical evidence three phases of activity can be discerned. In *Phase I* there were 13 ditches running north-south across

the site and two semi-circular features. The pottery in their filling is a mixture of Thetford Ware of the Grimston type and early glazed wares, confirming that pottery production at Grimston was continuous from the Saxo-Norman to the Medieval period. Also belonging to Phase I were about fifteen post-holes forming a structure 6 x 7+m. In *Phase II* the flint and clunch-lined well was built and a timber building, consisting of 6 large post-holes forming a rectangle measuring 7 by 4m, was erected to the south of it. The pottery associated with Phase II is the decorated green-glazed ware which has readily been assigned to the Grimston kilns in the past.

In *Phase III* a large building measuring about 20 by 5m was indicated by a clay floor with an average thickness of 30cms resting on a hardcore of broken pottery. At the end of this period (and in fact of pottery production at Pott Row) the well silted up and the jugs found in it must represent the last medieval jugs produced on the site.

It is hoped that Thermoluminescent dating will provide absolute dating for the phases.

(K. Wade for DOE and Norfolk Research Committee)

#### NORTHANTS.

**Little Billing** (SP 803618) Trial trenches on the site of part of the medieval village located walls and pits of C12 and C13 date. (D. C. Mynard for Northampton Development Corporation)

**Castor** (TL 125985) In his excavations in the south extension of Castor churchyard in 1957-8 Mr Charles Green discovered a Roman building into the remains of which numerous post-Roman features had been inserted. Among these were a hut and pits of Middle Saxon date (c. 650-850), and also medieval pits and ditches.

In 1970 Middle Saxon pottery turned up in considerable quantity from the debris layer over the North Wing of the *praetorium*. A corner of what may prove to be a hut of this period was found cut into a Roman floor make-up, and much work needs to be done in this area. In 1971 over 30 sherds of Middle Saxon pottery were found in disturbed layers. The pottery comprises Ipswich Ware and hand-made vessels in various fabrics. J. G. Hurst noted a dearth of sherds dating between about 850 and 1050. The early medieval period is represented by developed forms of Stamford and St Neots Wares, and there is much Lyveden ware of the C13 and C14. Shelly hand-made wares exist at all periods.

On the basis of this pottery the huts and pits mentioned above can be claimed to be coeval with the nunnery of St Kyneburgha which is attested in Castor during the Middle Saxon period. Perhaps the huts were part of it, or form a lay settlement attached to it. The gap in the pottery sequence is interesting; Peterborough was sacked in 870, and the nunnery may have been devastated at the same time.

(C. Dallas, G. B. Dannel, and J. P. Wild for Nene Valley Research Committee)

**Lyveden** (SP 984861) Continued excavation on site D (cf. *Medieval Archaeol*, 13 (1969), 285 f; 14 (1970), 203 f., fig 70; and *J. Northampton Museums and Art Gallery*, 5 (1969), 1-50) investigated the C12 iron working area overlaid by 30-50cms of clean river silt and the pottery working complex.

Excavation was also undertaken in the toft immediately to the west, (area G); the boundary banks recovered showed it to be c. 37 x 34m. A kiln (G1) found in the SW corner of the toft was of Lyveden type, ie it had two parallel flues leading into an oven with an apsidal rear wall and centre pedestal. Numerous pits were found, which provided good sequences of pottery, a well, and the base of a circular feature 3m in diameter surrounded by a limestone retaining wall. The finds would suggest that the potter first occupied this toft c. 1250 (slightly later than in toft D) and that both tofts were abandoned at the same time. There was no early iron working on site G.

(C. F. Bryant and J. M. Steane for DOE and Kettering Grammar School)

**Strixton** (SP 905616) The earthworks and surrounding fields of this shrunken village were surveyed in 1965. The plan, with other historical evidence, is reported in *J Northampton Mus Art Gall* 6 (1969) 22-34. A few limited excavations have been made on areas threatened by agricultural improvements.

(i) The site of the C13 windmill revealed two building phases; in the second the central post and four lean-to supports all rested on horizontal cross-beams buried c. 2m down. There was a cobbled yard littered with sherds, bronzes, and a coin of Edward I/II.

(ii) The C13 circular dovecote was well-preserved with 1m thick walls surviving to a height of 1.1m. The overall diameter was c. 6m and there was a central post-hole, presumably for a revolving ladder (potence). The building overlay a late C12 property boundary ditch.

Good sequences of pottery were obtained from both these excavations. The coarse wares



were made at the local kilns of Harrold (Beds.) and Olney Hyde (Bucks.), there were also sherds from vessels of the Potterspurty, Lyveden, and Oxford types. (D. N. Hall)

#### **NORTHUMBERLAND**

**West Whelpington** A substantial area was stripped in the northern part of Croft 1; the results were negative. Further west much of the attention was concentrated on other crofts, with important results. In Croft 15 an Iron Age farmstead was overlain by about 30cm of soil which was apparently the result of ploughing; it contained pottery of C12 and C13, and was limited to the north by a stone building with a curved west end. Its walls consisted of two faces of stones set on edge. A similar structure was found at the west end of site 16, and tentatively dated to C11 or C12. The new building seems unlikely to be later.

On the north side of the village excavation of site 10 (a simple stone enclosure) and site 9 was completed. 9 formed the west end of the terrace of four long-houses which occupied the western half of the northern margin of the village green. It appears that by the early C18 the long-house was no longer fashionable, being replaced by houses and byres with separate entrances; a decline from four to three dwellings suggests that the village may have been shrinking before its final depopulation. Below the stone walls of site 9 were found the trenches of timber buildings.

Most of the croft to the north of site 9 was excavated, and proved to be barren. In the SE part of the croft, below a small stone enclosure, were found traces of timber buildings of at least three periods; the upper fill of one trench produced pottery of C12 or C13. (M. Jarrett for MVRG)

#### **OXON.**

**Middleton Stoney** (SP 534233) Excavation on this castle site have shown that the old village was levelled; traces of walls can still be seen to the north and west of the castle during dry weather. Features excavated may be from a rebuilding of the manor house after the castle had been demolished.

(D. Benson and T. Rowley for Delegacy of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Oxford)

**Tetsworth** An area of 280 sq m was excavated in Copt Hay field, west of the church, in the SW corner of a c. 200 x 100m ditched enclosure, possibly the original village boundary. The ditch was 1.8m deep and 4m wide, and its bank 0.5m high. It was dated by a Stamford sherd to C11, and was levelled in C12. Was it defensive or a boundary?

Of C12 was a group of (?) cess-pits, a hearth, a rectangular sunken-floored hut 4 x 2m, with stone footings round its edge, and a clay and gravel trackway. A contemporary threshing floor was a 7m diam hollow, with three layers of clay lining, each with a 2.5m diam burnt area; there was much carbonised grain; the burning was possibly associated with corn drying.

Of C13, above the threshing floor, was a square building 6.5m diam, with a construction of dwarf stone walls, beam slots and stake-holes. Another building adjoined its west end, 7.5 x 4m, with internal and external hearths.

Above A was smithing debris, and above B was a cobbled yard, the area subsequently reverting to arable. Finds include a C13 prick-spur and much pot including fine cut-down RB colour-coated pot bases. (Oxford University Archaeological Society)

#### **SUFFOLK**

**West Stow** (TL 797714) This season's work progressed towards the western edge of the site. The north slope of the site was found to be barren of structures but criss-crossed with ditch systems. Ten Saxon huts were found, eight of which were excavated, bringing the total to 60. One of the huts produced an important iron brooch of a late C4 continental type. Five 'halls' are now recognised, repeating the pattern of hall plus hut groups across the whole of the site.

(S.E. West for DOE and Bury St Edmunds Borough Council)

#### **WARWICKSHIRE**

**King's Hill, Finham** (SP 329744) Fieldwork revealed a previously unrecorded deserted medieval village site which lay immediately to the west of the By-Pass route. House platforms are visible on either side of the present lane. Excavation was carried out along the threatened area of the inner furlong headland, and it was shown that the furlong had been laid out by a line of posts approximately 9m apart. No evidence of an earlier field system was produced.

(W. J. Ford for DOE and Warwick County Museum)

## YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING

**Cowlam** Rescue excavations in advance of ploughing were undertaken on the site of the abandoned village. A croft with two houses was selected, for total excavation. One house beside the east to west medieval road was excavated and an area 28 x 18m was cleared. It was anticipated that the house would be C13 or C14; it was in fact C17. This dating is based on the ceramic evidence and the presence of two farthings of Charles II minted *c.* 1679 in wall-fall on the floor of the dwelling. The house was *c.* 18m east to west and 6m wide. The walls, which were constructed of chalk and some sandstone blocks, bonded with marly soil, were 60cms thick. Originally there had been two doorways halfway along the southern and northern sides. In the final stage of occupation the northernmost entrance was blocked. In the centre of the floor, which was of earth, was the base of a stone constructed heart-shaped oven and a hearth of flat chalk and sandstone slabs. A garderobe was attached to the NW corner of the house. There were also the remains of a square building on the SW corner with traces of coal on the floor. The presence of quantities of window-lead and glass indicated the windows had been glazed. Finds included small bronze pins, a bronze shoe buckle, an iron cow-bell, small fragments of finely carved ivory, a bronze spoon and interior green glazed coarse ware.  
(T. C. M. Brewster for East Riding Archaeological Research Committee)

### Wharram Percy (SE 858642) (22nd season)

**ST MARTIN'S CHURCH** (10th season) In previous years the whole inside of the present church had been excavated except for the chancel. A trench 7 x 2m was dug through the centre of the C17 chancel to locate the east end of the early stone Saxon church. It was not possible to dig a greater width because the shallow foundations of the late chancel made it necessary to leave 1m wide baulks to north and south of the trench.

Towards the east end of the nave of the first Saxon stone church were found nine post-holes in three lines forming three sides of the west end of a timber building. The posts were set regularly at 76cms centres. The north and west walls were in straight lines but the south wall was not since the south post of the west wall was offset to the north. In view of the regularity of these post settings and the fact that a square building would just fit within the east end of the first Saxon stone church it is suggested that this structure is a small timber church, *c.* 10m square, with a west porch. There was no dating in any of the post-holes which were all shallow and small in size suggesting a fairly flimsy structure. To the east there were a number of post-holes and a stone hearth of the late Iron Age. These features all contained Iron Age sherds so if the timber building in the nave had been prehistoric, Iron Age evidence would have been found there too. The most telling evidence is the fact that it is placed almost exactly within the first Stone church which could have been built round it in the same way as the second stone Saxon church was built round the first. The presence of three Saxon churches, with four periods, must lead to a revision of dating but it is almost impossible to attempt to give absolute dates to any of the phases, except to say that it is most unlikely all these are post-Danish.

It was found that the first stone Saxon church was smaller than estimated. It was demonstrated that it originally comprised a single cell *c.* 7 x 4.5m internally with its east wall set exactly under the late-Saxon, medieval, and present chancel arches. This wall was *c.* 1m wide, faced with large, ashlar blocks up to *c.* 1m long, showing characteristic Saxon gouged tooling. The wall had a rubble infill and was set on a foundation of chalk blocks in a foundation trench cut into the natural chalk similar to that employed for the north, south and west walls excavated in previous years. The wall was standing one course high.

At a later date a small chancel was added, *c.* 3m long internally. This east wall was built in the same way as the others, of ashlar blocks on a chalk foundation. Particularly noticeable here, and to a lesser extent in the other walls, was the fact that the ashlar blocks overhung the chalk foundation by up to 15cms. This technique was also present at Jarrow. The east wall was *c.* 1m wide and seems to have been set *c.* 2m back from the chalk raft on which it was built, which was discovered in the 1962 excavations. The first one-cell stone Saxon church was built in the edge of the chalk terrace so that to construct the chancel it was necessary to build this eastern chalk foundation to support it. Narrow trenches and boreholes to north and south showed that the chancel was between *c.* 2 and 2.5m wide with a reasonably straight north wall but a very sinuous south one. The two western stones of the chancel's inner face projected up to *c.* 30cms into the chancel and a boring showed that at this point the wall was *c.* 1.60m wide.

No dating evidence or any pottery was found associated with the Saxon chancel. But when the Victorian build up for a chancel platform was cleared out during preliminary work in March, a third pre-Danish coin was found, a bronze *styca* of Archbishop Wigmund of York (837-854). This, together

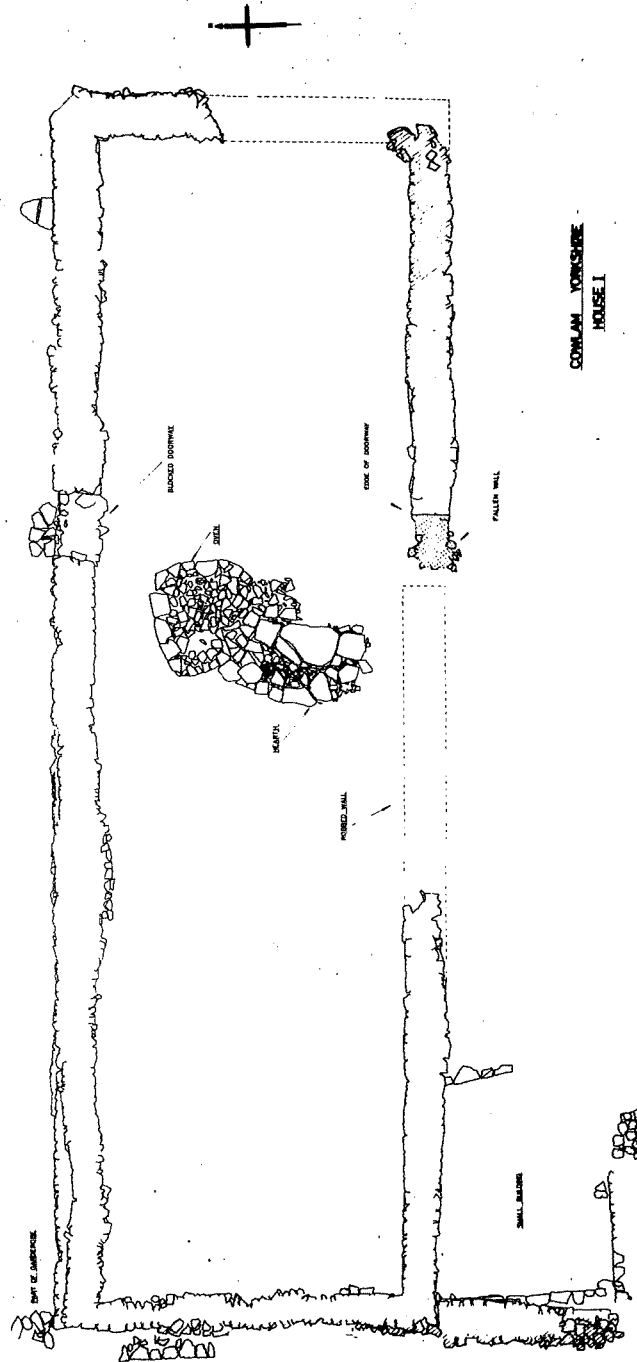
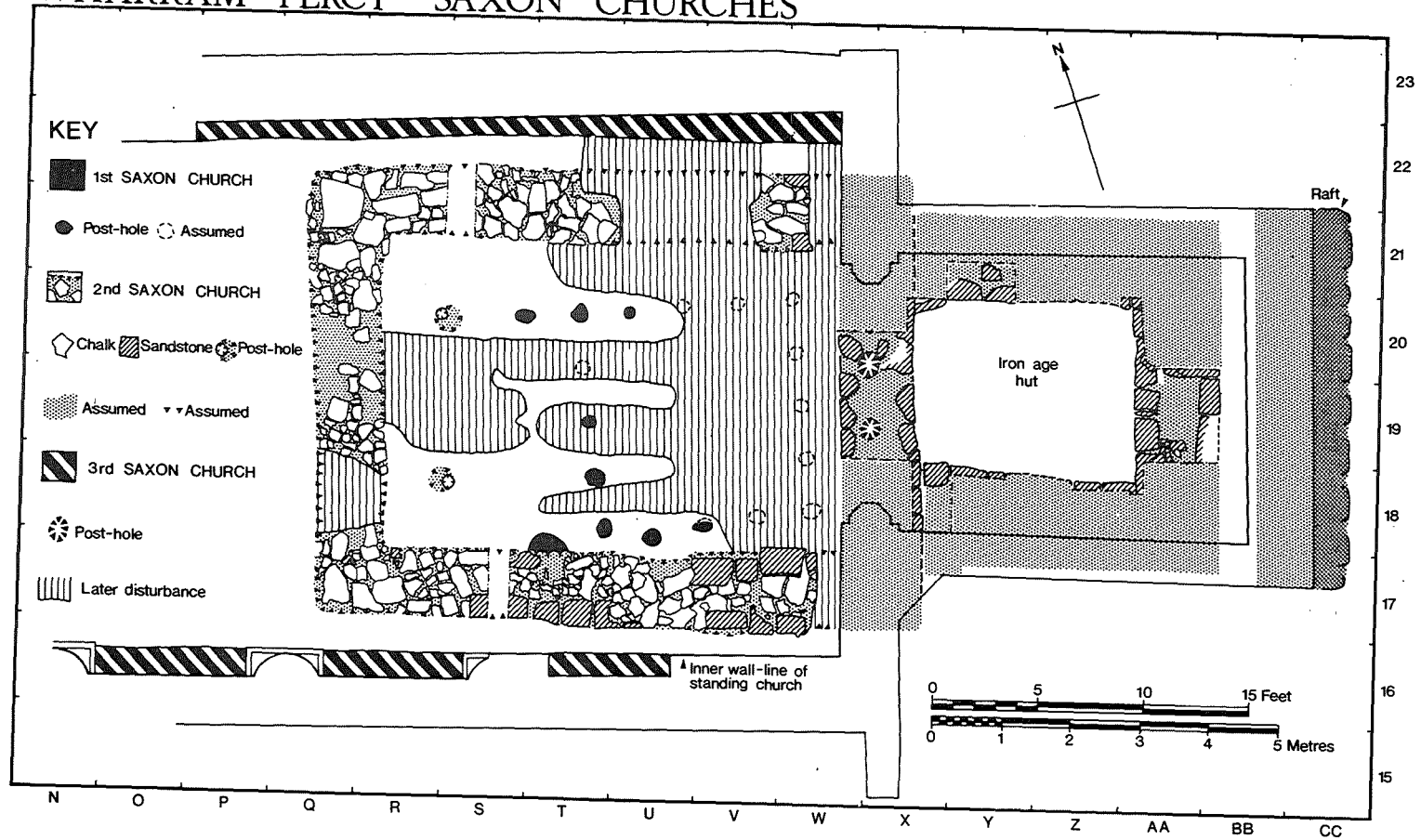


FIG 8 YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING : COWLAM. Plan of 17th century house (18m E-W)

# WHARRAM PERCY SAXON CHURCHES



32B

FIG 9 YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING : WHARRAM PERCY. Plan of Saxon churches

with the two 8th century *sceattas* previously found in the churchyard and the fragment of a pre-Danish cross, strongly suggest that the earliest stone church was pre-Danish. The burials found in 1962 under the east foundation of the Saxon chancel no longer prove a pre-stone-church cemetery as the chancel is now proved to be secondary. Underneath the Saxon floor level, which was covered with a thin destruction layer of sandstone chips, was a thick grey layer containing Iron Age pottery and fragments of a sandstone hearth with several associated post-holes.

The late-Saxon chancel seems to have had a much narrower span than the wide late-Norman (Percy) chancel-arch foundations previously located. During the consolidation of the NE wall of the present chancel by the DOE it was discovered that the chamfered return visible on the SE side was repeated. As these are both on the line of the inner face of the large chancel it would appear that in C13 the Norman chancel arch was entirely removed and the nave opened into the chancel without a break. This arrangement was obviously not found to be satisfactory since it was quickly replaced in C14 by the present chancel arch with its chalk-built top. The Norman, medieval, and post-medieval (1723) floor levels, including a step up into the chancel, were clearly preserved in the chancel, being cut away by only a few graves. An interesting find was a burial in the centre of the chancel with the head just west of the present east wall. This was cut through the Norman floor level and the head was marked by a large chamfered sandstone block with a narrow plank-like slot in the top which presumably held a cross to mark the head of the grave. Unfortunately it was not possible to excavate the rest of the burial which lies under the C17 wall. It is thought to date to C13 or C14 and must have been a person of some importance as it would completely block the centre of the chancel; people would have to pass north or south of it to get to and from the altar.

Consolidation work by the DOE has now been completed on the tower, on the east wall of the nave, and on the present chancel arch from which the scaffolding has been removed. Work is now commencing on the north wall, and the south wall will be tackled in 1972; work on the chancel will complete the task in 1973.

In 1972 it is hoped to excavate the area to the west of the late-Saxon west wall and C11 tower to locate the earlier west tower which was entered from the opening in the present west wall. In 1973 it is hoped to excavate the SE angle of the chancel and nave, under the C19 vestry which is to be demolished, thus completing the excavation of the church both inside and out. This will fit in with the completion of the consolidation work and the laying out and marking of the earlier periods for display to the general public.

**VALLEY SLOPE SECTIONS** A trench 31 x 1.20m was cut down the valley slope from area 6 to the Glebe Terrace between the surviving cottages and the church. This cut across two terraced tracks, one running from the cottage area up to area 5 and the other coming up from the pond area, joining the first just below the scarp. Excavation of the first revealed a quarry cut across it in C13 or C14 but no evidence for the road itself such as the cart tracks that had been found further up the slope. Again on the second terrace no road surface was found but it is likely this may have eroded since medieval times and also been partly cut away by a post-medieval hedge. Between the two terraced tracks the division between the Lower Chalk, with its bands of red, and the Middle Chalk, containing flints, was found defined by a characteristic marl which seems to have slumped at this point.

Excavation at the bottom of the slope, which it had been thought had slumped in geological times, revealed a medieval occupation cut into the hillside. At the bottom was a rounded corner of a chalk building with a hearth made of a re-used millstone of Millstone Grit. Above the destruction level of this building was a second rounded corner of another chalk building on a different alignment. Both structures were datable to C14 and C15. Above was found the complete articulated burial of a horse associated with Cistercian ware.

In view of this unexpected find two further trenches were cut to the south and the north of the first trench. The first was 5m long and the second 6m long, both 1.20m wide. The north trench revealed another structure cut into the hillside comprising a wall, still standing five courses high, built of chalk blocks set in brown clay. The wall appeared to be 1.70m wide but the eastern edge was robbed or had fallen into a pit or quarry. More excavation is required to determine if this was a building or a retaining wall and bank. Pottery dated this structure to the first half of C14.

The south trench also located a substantial wall with a square corner turned in sandstone ashlar. In the debris of this, and both other trenches, were fragments of stone slates. None of the peasant houses were built in this substantial manner so that it must be supposed that here, at the upper western side of the glebe terrace, we have either the C14 rectory or another manor house intermediate between the Norman one under area 10 and the complex double-courtyard, late-medieval manor at the

areas as well as taking seeds to germinate and transplant.

The interior of the manorial barn and the interior of house 15 were mown with the aim of seeing if differential cutting will bring them out more in relation to the rest of the area. The churchyard, which has been badly overgrown for many years, was completely cut, weeded and pruned, and it is hoped to keep this in trim in future years and gradually improve the quality of the grass in time for the opening of the site to the public.

#### GENERAL

The 1971 season was intended as a quiet year between the major series of excavations (1950-70) at the church and the two hill-top tofts which were established in C12, and a five-year programme to be mainly concerned with the lower terrace to the north and south of the church where it is hoped to find traces of the original Saxon village and determine the nature of the pond. The eight trenches dug were a result of our new liberty to dig anywhere within the Guardianship area rather than be restrained as in the past to two fenced areas and the churchyard. The results from these trenches have in many ways transformed several of our ideas about the site and clearly demonstrate to those who say, "surely after twenty years you are simply getting duplicate evidence", that the site is barely scratched. The new Roman and Iron age sites demonstrate that the whole village area was extensively occupied by a complex series of sites before the Saxon village took shape. The finding of substantial stone buildings on the Glebe terrace will mean another major revision since we must have here either a third manor site or an earlier Rectory site before it moved in Elizabethan times to the present cottage garden. The completion of the excavation of the Saxon church has also had many surprises and, besides giving us an extra period, provides increasing evidence for the pre-Danish occupation of the site.

(J. G. Hurst for MVRG and DOE)

## 7. RESEARCH IN 1971 OVERSEAS

**AUSTRIA** (*Professor R. F. Felgenhauer*)

**Stillfried-Grup**, Lower Austria. Excavations were done in the Hügelfeld (Hillfield) area. *Grubenhäuser* pits and nine ovens were found. The latter were arranged round the pit (ed. note: this sounds like a pottery kiln). A trench was dug through the western moat of the fortifications, and in the north gate area. The prehistoric date of the fortification was confirmed; the area was also settled in Roman times. The C12 deserted village used the old defences but reduced the fortified area by a series of artificial ditches.

A card index has been made of the position of houses in DMVs; work continues on the indexing of medieval buildings, fortifications, churches, settlements, and on aerial, ground photography and field survey.

**BELGIUM** (*Professor Dr A. Verhulst*)

**St Margriete** – Roeselare. The excavations at the DMV of St Margriete-Roeselare (province of East-Flanders, Belgium) were not continued in 1971. A full report of the previous campaigns is in preparation.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA – BOHEMIA** (*Dr Z. Smetánka*)

**Kostelec** Intensive field survey of a 10km. square was completed.

**Nemecká Lhota** A C14–C16 house was excavated in this DMV.

**Kozojedy** Part of a village cemetery was dug near St Martin's Church and a small area in the C13 settlement.

**Svidna** Excavation of farm no. 2 was completed. It had 3 rooms, with an oven in the south room. There were two main periods, in the C13–C14 and in C15. Recording has begun of the documentation for a 10 x 10km. square surrounding the DMV.

**SLOVAKIA** (*A. Habovštiak*)

**Field survey** 12 new DMVs were discovered.

**Malá Maca-Várdomb** (Castle Mount) A trial excavation was done on this DMV on a terrace of the R. Dudvoh. Traces of living houses were found, and 3 furnaces.

**Malá Maca** (near the church) Trial excavations here have revealed furnaces and pottery of C11–C16; 39 graves were also dug of C16–C18.

**Budmerice** (DMV of Horný Fancal) Trial excavation of this site located ceramics of C13–C16; the site was abandoned in 1528-32.

**Ducové** Work continued on the fortified farmstead, with its cemetery and houses of the C10–C15. Nearly 1000 graves have been examined.

**Works about DMVs in Slovakia published in 1971.**

A. Habovštiak, "Hmotná kultúra stredovekých zaniknutých dedín vo svetle terajsieho archeologického výskumu na Slovensku" (The Material Culture of Deserted Medieval Villages in the Light of Present Archeological Research in Slovakia).

*Agrikultúra* 10 (1971) 7-28.

A. Habovštiak, "Archeologický výskum stredovekého obdobia na Slovensku" (The Archeological Research of the Medieval Period in Slovakia).

*Slovenská archeológia* 19 (1971) 603-617

**DENMARK** (*Professor Axel Steensberg*)**Torup** Zealand

Some years ago two students, Søren Frandsen and Ole Rud Nielsen, started excavations of a village deserted in the late C16 because of sand-drift. During summer 1969 they uncovered most of a farm consisting of a dwelling house and an outhouse on the west side of a farm yard. The walls of the dwelling house were raised on a foundation of boulders, and there were four rooms, including a dwelling and an entrance room with a large oven; there was another room in the east end, probably living room for the old folk of the farm, in which was also an oven.

In summer of 1971 remnants were found of a medieval dwelling house, partly underneath and partly in continuation of the former buildings. The roof of this house had been supported by posts dug into the ground. On the floor was found a jug dated to c. 1200 and 3 silver coins from the reign of Waldemar II, of the early C13. The excavators have sampled bits of the fireplace-clay for

thermoluminescent dating and have taken other samples for an archaeomagnetic analysis, the results of which have not yet been received.

Next summer the excavators intend to dig a section through the sand-covered fields north of the farm while excavation of the farm itself has to be postponed until the excavators have passed their last examinations. But Danish archaeologists are anxiously waiting for the final results of this investigation because of the good conditions for research at this place.

**FRANCE – COTE D'OR (Baubigny) (J. M. Pesez)**

**Dracy** The aim of the investigation on the site of the medieval village of Dracy was twofold: to obtain the plan of the peasant houses and outbuildings and explore the SE area in which several inhumations had been discovered in 1969. A complex series of buildings was excavated, with hearths, doorways, and stone walls. Remains of burnt planks and cob proved the existence of a first-floor room above a low cellar-like room. The cob floor of an upper room above another building had collapsed on to its floor. Excavation in the area where remains of five human skeletons were unearthed in 1969, led to the discovery of nine more inhumations, which now prove the presence of a graveyard. The graves were cut in the natural clay subsoil, with occasional framing of stones standing on edge. The bodies lay supine, at full length and were oriented east-west (heads to the west). This orientation, together with the absence of grave goods connect these inhumations with the medieval period – not with the first (Iron-age) occupation of the site. Moreover, groups of medieval pottery sherds were found immediately under the skeletons in two different graves. The presence of a graveyard in a medieval village where neither church nor chapel ever existed is somewhat puzzling. Two different hypotheses may be suggested: there is documentary evidence of inhumations “en terre sauvage” in C14 Burgundy, when peasants were too poor to afford a regular funeral; an emergency graveyard might also have been used in the hamlet of Dracy, during the Black Death epidemics, shortly before the final desertion.

– **BRITTANY (G. I. Merrion-Jones)**

A primary survey of the rural domestic buildings of Brittany began in 1970 and will continue over a period of several years. Data is being obtained (a) by the external examination of every dwelling in each of 40 areas chosen by random methods, the data for each house to be analysed by the use of statistical methods, and (b) by the detailed examination internally as well as externally of selected houses both within the randomly chosen areas and elsewhere. For these, totalling several hundred, plans, sections and elevations are being prepared. From the results of the survey it should be possible to classify Breton houses types, to detect regional variations within Brittany, and establish an evolutionary sequence.

Results so far obtained show the long-house to be widespread, extending from the Normandy border to Finistere, being the principal form of dwelling until relatively recently. The type appears in a classic form, a rectangular aisleless building housing both man and beast at opposite ends, under one roof, with entry by a common lateral door. The cross-passage and feeding walk so well established in Welsh long-houses are present only in embryo form, and the only fittings so far discovered in the byres are the iron rings set in the walls. The practice of living, sleeping and eating in a single chamber is widespread and furnishings are traditionally of the simplest; box bed, table, chairs and a cupboard or two.

In form and construction the buildings show similarities with Welsh and Irish types. Mostly stone built and of either one-and-a-half or two storeys, the upper storey is used universally for the storage of hay, grain or lighter farm implements, but is occasionally heated to provide additional living space for farm servants or younger members of the family. Roof construction is often light, supporting a covering of slate or thatch. The upper cruck truss is widespread and sometimes occurs in hybrid forms, some having a king-post above the collar. Elsewhere, simple coupled rafters are found, as is the true king-post roof. The beaten earth floor commonly found in the chamber and the byre is also used in the loft, supported by close set lengths of split birch laid across the beams. The ends of the latter, as in some Welsh houses, are often exposed in the walls. A number of long-house derivatives have also been recorded. Investigation will continue during 1972.

– **CALVADOS (Professor M. de Bouard, Caen)**

**Courseulles, St Ursin.** This DMV is not far from a road-crossing, 4km from the sea. Earthworks include house-sites. Excavation showed stone/clay walls surviving to 0.8m. Pot and iron objects suggest a late C13–mid C14 date.

**Périers-sur-le-Don** M. L. Buchet excavated a church of C8–C16, with 50 graves. There was also a Merovingian dwelling, based on a dry-stone wall; there was an internal hearth; pot suggests a date terminating in late C7.











# DRACY - SECTEUR NORD-OUEST

É = 1/200

1971

## LÉGENDE:

-  MUR DE TERRASSE
-  MUR D'HABITATION
-  MUR RESTITUÉ
-  SEUIL CONSTRUIT
-  SEUIL DE TERRE BÂTUE
-  ESCAPEMENT
-  MURGER
-  VÉGÉTATION (PARTIE NON FOUILLÉE)

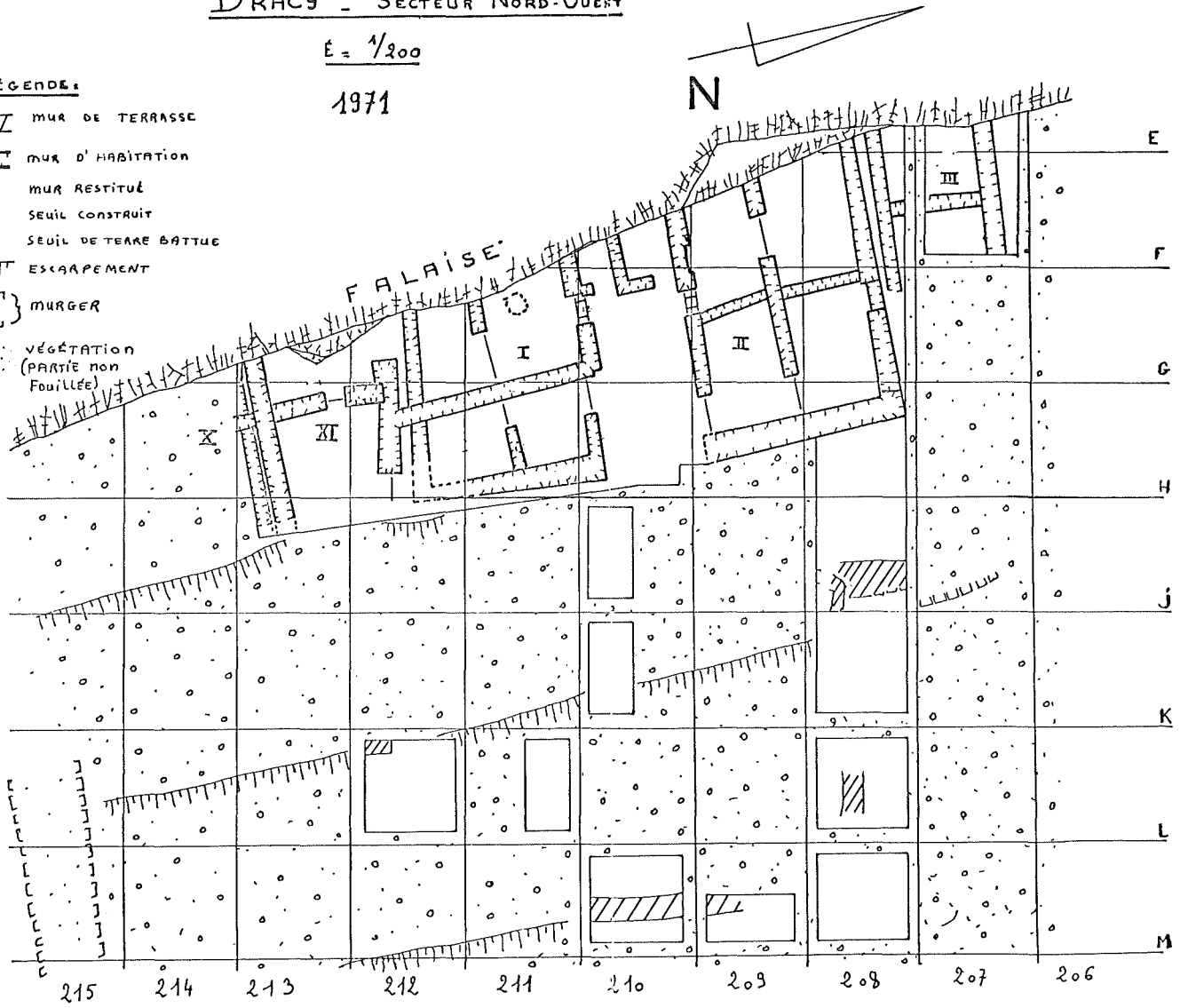


FIG 10 FRANCE : COTE D'OR : DRACY. Plan of excavations  
(J. M. Pesez)

– CENTRAL FRANCE (*Professor G. Fournier*)

**Ronzières** A C12–C13 building was dug partly in the end of a Carolingian rampart, which overlay an even earlier building. It is thought to be part of a village formed in the shelter of the old rampart.

**Cézallier** mountains. Two DMVs have been found at an altitude of 1000m. One (in the parish of Verèche, Puy-de-Dôme) is a small hamlet with four buildings; the other (Terisse, parish of Vèze, Cantal) has ten buildings enclosed by a wall.

**Eure, Sébécourt** In C12 and C13 a village, La Ferrière-sur-Risle was built around an earlier fortified site. Its name at that time, *Novae Ferrariae*, suggests a new foundation, established on this high ground dominating the valley.

**GERMANY**

**Publications** of B. R. D and D. D. R (*Professor H. Jäger*)

**Abel, W.:** Landwirtschaft 1350-1500. In: *Handbuch der Deutschen Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte* 1.Bd. (Ed. H. Aubin and W. Zorn, Stuttgart 1971), p. 300-333

(Deserted medieval villages; development of prices and incomes; change of land-use; ground-rents, feudal-rents and peasant's wages)

**Denecke, D.:** Wüstungs- und Wegforschung in Südniedersachsen. In: *Führer zu vor- und frühgeschichtlichen Denkmälern*, Bd.17, Mainz 1970, p. 17-33

(regional research including map of deserted medieval villages)

**Kühlhorn, E. (Ed.):** Historisch-landeskundliche Exkursionskarte von Niedersachsen, Blatt Osterode am Harz (*Veröffentl. des Instituts für Historische Landesforschung der Universität Göttingen* 2, 2, Hildesheim 1970)

(Text including chapter about deserted villages; coloured map comprising among others: prehistoric and medieval sites [deserted villages, castles, fields], former roads and former industries)

**Niemann, I.:** *Die Entwicklung der Kulturlandschaft auf der Ottensteiner Hochebene* (Diss. phil. Universität Kiel 1969)

(Including chapter about late medieval desertions)

**Neuss, E.:** *Wüstungskunde der Mansfelder Kreise* (Seekreis und Gebirgskreis), 2 parts (Weimar 1971).

(Comprehensive schedule with many excerpts of documents and some maps with sites)

**Machann, R.:** Wüstungen im Steigerwald = *Mainfränkische Studien* Bd. 5 (Würzburg 1972).

(Deserted medieval villages of the Steigerwald-mountains of Franconia – map with sites and schedule)

**Tesdorpf, J. C.:** Ortsnamenänderungen und Wüstungsbewegungen. Ihre Bedeutung für die Siedlungsforschung, am Beispiel von Höri und Schienerberg, Landkreis Konstanz. In: *Berichte zur Deutschen Landeskunde*, Bd. 42, 1969, p. 257-288.

(In connection with the development of medieval desertions a number of shrunken villages changed their names)

**Tesdorpf, J. C.:** Die Wüstungen im Hegau und ihre Bedeutung für die Siedlungsforschung. In: *Hegau* (1969, 1970, 1971)

(The deserted medieval villages of the Hegau –region near the Bodensee– are investigated in accordance with their place-names: –ingen, –heim, –hausen, –hofen, –stetten, –weiler, –beuren).

Scheduling of deserted places of Franconia is being continued by Geographisches Institut der Universität Würzburg.

– BERLIN (*Professor Dr H. Quirin*)

**Düppel** This DMV excavation was completed; the outline of the village in each phase was determined.

**Publications**

(a) Archaeological and historical work group concerning settlements:

A. V. Müller, The contribution of archaeology to the research into the German Eastern settlement as an example of the Berlin investigations (in: *Report of the Constance work-group for medieval history*. N.160 (1970) s.16 ff.).

H. Quirin, Notes on the settlement history of Teltow (*ibid.* s.47 ff.).

W. H. Fritze, Problems of the survival of the Slavonic population in North-East German lands in the High Middle Ages, particularly in Brandenburg and Mecklenburg (*ibid.* s.87 ff.).

(b) Separate publications:

W. H. Fritze, The advance of German power in Teltow and Barnim (in *The year-book for Brandenburg history* Bd. 22 (1971) s.81 ff.).

A. V. Müller, Archaeological researches into the medieval history of Spandau (in *Brandenburg centuries*, publication honouring J. Schultze (1971) s.1 ff.).

H. Quirin, Research problems of the history of settlements as shown by thematic cartography (in *Papers on German local history* Bd. 107 (1971) s. 33 ff.).

– DRESDEN

Dr Coblenz has promised to contribute a combined report in 1973. This will cover the research institutes (museums) of Dresden, Halle, Potsdam, Schwerin and Weimar.

– NORTH-WURTTENBERG (*Dr G. Fehring*)

**Wulfingen DMV** This large rescue excavation was necessitated by the finding of a pottery kiln during building work and the construction of a road. The DMV of Wulfingen is well documented and its former parish church is still in use.

The excavation revealed intensive occupation. The desertion seems to have been the result of the establishment of a new township with the same name on the other side of the river Kocher under the protection of the castle of Hohenburg round about 1240. It was possible to identify 1500 post-holes, but long occupation of the site makes it difficult to establish any plans of these buildings without doubt. Only two houses may be reconstructed, one a dwelling house 8 x 16m with a hearth, the other 5 x 4m marked by wall slots and 4 posts but with no hearth. Eighteen sunken huts, 60cm deep, have been found, with varying numbers of post-holes and roof construction. The numerous loom weights found in them point to their use as weaving sheds. The remains of two stone buildings were found, which belong to the latest phase of the settlement. One, 17 x 12.50m, had a cellar entered from outside in its eastern half. The western half was three aisled with two rows of posts. The second building is only represented by its cellar.

Further features of the settlement were a pathway running parallel to the main front of the building, and four wells; two were stone-lined, and two wood-lined, which gave dates of 626 and 637 respectively.

Evidence of industrial occupation was found: one pit filled with iron slag, a tilekiln and five pottery kilns. Two of the kilns were of pedestal type making rough-walled wheel-turned ware of the Donzdorf type, dating possibly to C7. The rest were the ordinary type and belonged to the late C12 and early C13. The amount of pottery was large but mostly in an unstratified occupation layer; only the wells and the sunken huts produced a sequence. The pottery started in C3 and continued to the middle of C12. Only C5 is so far not represented; there may have been a gap in the occupation.

The settlement was probably made up of individual farmsteads with buildings of various use and type. Due to the dense occupation and the absence of fences it was difficult to identify individual farmsteads, but the wells and the distribution of the finds point to several units of settlement.

There is a manor documented for 1042. A round tower has been incorporated into the church which together with the stone buildings mentioned may have formed part of the manor.

**Field work:** Investigations have been done on DMVs by the 'Elektronenresonanz-magnetometer' constructed by Dr Scollar. Plans were made of two sites: the DMV of Givvehoven near Bonn and of Rheinbachweiler west of Bonn. The plans seem to show *Grubenhäuser* and other structures which can be interpreted as houses with stone foundations of rectangular houses. During 1972 the Rheinisches Landesmuseum intends to prove the results of magnetometer-research by excavations.

– SOUTH-WURTTENBERG area (*Dr G. Fehring*)

**Unter Wassere DMV** The site is situated 500m west of the church; sparse pottery finds hinted at a Carolingian date. The wet conditions of the site, in the valley of the Erpf suggested that remains of wooden structures could have survived. The excavation revealed prehistoric structures and posts dated to C6. A post dated to c. 668 was rectangular with grooves possibly to take tie beams from the outside walls. Another post may have had a wall in simple stave construction attached to it. The date given for these construction types is early, earlier by several centuries than those found at the Husterknupp on the Lower Rhine. The occupation began in C6 and extended through C7 into Carolingian times.

Pottery: Donzdorf ware of C7, and in the second half of the C8, yellow wheel-thrown ware from the Upper Rhine. This settlement seems to be a separate settlement from Erpfingen, and seems to have been deserted in Carolingian times.

– RHINELAND (*Dr W. Janssen*)

**Excavation:** The excavations on the early medieval fortified site at Büderich near Düsseldorf have been continued. The settlement of the period B(C11–C12) has now been excavated totally. Six wooden buildings have been found, all of them constructed in stave technique. Two of these buildings were living houses with fireplaces. Another building seems to have been used to keep cattle in. The settlement was surrounded by a ditch 6m broad and 3m deep. In the NW were found three wooden boats. One had been placed on the inner rim of the ditch, the second one on the outside rim of the ditch and the third one (6m long) crossed the ditch rectangularly. It was used as a small bridge over

the ditch. A suburb was also discovered extending to the west. Here were found only very strong foundations of wood on which houses had been placed. The houses themselves were not preserved; they were presumably taken away when the settlement was abandoned. The chronology of the site shows three periods:—

- A: the first settlement on a foundation of wood, beginning at the end of C10
- B: the second settlement of six houses, beginning during C12
- C: construction of a motte-and-bailey castle in the area of the former settlements at the end of C12 or the beginning of C13 and the construction of the suburb. The castle and suburb survived until the end of C13.

**Lit.:** W. Janssen, *Die frühmittelalterliche Niederungsburg bei Haus Meer* (Neuss 1971), containing the excavation results up to 1969.

## ITALY

### — THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME (*A. Luttrell*)

Topographical and indexing work continues on the School's survey of the South Etruria area to the north of Rome; helpers capable of managing the medieval documentation continue to be especially welcome. The excavation of a group of refuse pits at Tuscania has produced a rich haul of late-medieval pottery which should help date sherds in the School's collections for deserted sites right across the region. Work in the South is published in D. Whitehouse, 'Excavations at Satriano: a Deserted Medieval Village in Basilicata', *Papers of the British School at Rome*, 38 (1970). In July 1971 a group directed by Hugo Blake began the excavation of the Abbadia Celestina and its community buildings at Civitella Benazzone north of Perugia. The School has also collaborated with two initiatives worthy of note: (1) the *Notiziario di Archeologia Medievale* (address: Prof. Tiziano Mannoni, Istituto di Paleografia e Storia Medievale, Via Cairoli 18, Genoa), and (2) the *Notiziario* of the Gruppo Ricerche Archeologia Medievale — Palermo (address: Prof. Carmelo Trasselli, Via Despuches 5, Palermo).

### — LIGURIAN ABANDONED SETTLEMENTS RESEARCH GROUP (*M. Quaini*) (*trans. H. Blake*) (Gruppo ligure di ricerca sulle sedi abbandonate, c/o Istituto di Scienze Geografiche, via Assarotti 31/4, Genova, Italy)

**Historico-geographical research** Research among historical sources and on the ground has been directed towards making a map of settlements deserted in modern and medieval times and towards the study of certain sample areas (Lunigiana, the genovese Oltregiogo and the plain of Albenga). Preliminary historical research has demonstrated that the phenomenon of desertion was extensive in Liguria, mainly of minor rural settlements, in both medieval and modern times. For some areas, such as the Albenga plain, desertion is on a comparable scale to that of medieval Germany.

Given the many-sided interest in the research it was decided to invite historians, geographers, archaeologists and specialists in place-names and urban studies to form an interdisciplinary *Research Group*.

Alongside the historical research, being undertaken also as research theses mainly on the descriptive *catasti* of C16–C17 and on the Napoleonic land maps; a card Index and photographic archive are being set up.

The aims and first results of research have been expounded in the book *Un approccio interdisciplinare allo studio delle sedi abbandonate in Liguria* (An interdisciplinary approach to the study of abandoned settlements in Liguria), which can be obtained from the Group.

**Archaeological research** One of the many villages abandoned in the Albenga plain, for which there is ample historical documentation in the local archives, was chosen for a trial season of excavations in the summer of 1971. The village, Capriola (commune of Ceriale, province of Savona) is a typical hamlet settlement on the quarternary terraces on the edge of the plain. After the planning of the entire area once occupied, Maria C. Paoli Raineri excavated in and outside some medieval looking ruins. Little was found in or of the occupation layers (of C12–C13). Richer were the post-abandonment ones, consisting of material from stone-clearing the surrounding fields. In this way the excavation has provided indirect evidence of land use after house abandonment. More detailed information on the habitation can be expected from the study, now under way, of the finds and structures.

### — SICILY (*F. d'Angelo*) (*trans. H. Blake*)

#### **Publications and activity of GRAM, Sicily**

GRAM publishes an occasional, illustrated, duplicated magazine, obtainable from: Prof. Carmelo Trasselli, Via Despuches 5, Palermo. Contents' summary:

GRAM (Gruppo Ricerche Archeologia Medievale) Palermo

Notiziario of 20 May 1971:

F. D'Angelo, *Il casale di Milocca*; article based on documents of C13 on a medieval centre of thatched houses.

G. Naselli, *Le rovine della Chiesa di Brucato* (ruins of the church of. .); description of the most interesting elements of the monument.

G. Traselli, *La Gurfa*; description of a particular type of Byzantine or late Roman rock-cut village.

C. Gilangeri, *Permanenze di memorie classiche nell'evoluzione di un comune medievale: Halesa e Tusa* (continuity of classical recollections in the evolution of a medieval commune); topographical and place-name problems concerning continuity from the Roman municipality of Halesa to Tusa. .

GRAM

Notiziario of 20 August 1971:

F. D'Angelo, *La ceramica nell'archeologia medievale siciliana*; relationships between archaeology and studies of ceramic remains; research on centres of production of medieval pottery in western Sicily using documents, surface finds and kilns; differentiation between one centre of production from another.

H. Bresc, *Case di legno in Sicilia* (houses of wood in. .); late C13–C14 documents provide evidence of wooden elements of the houses of Messina and Polizzi.

A. Giuffrida, *Pagliai nel secolo XV*; discussion using C15 documents of the size of Sicilian thatched houses.

C. Traselli, *Ancora Notizie su Brucato* (more information on. .); from the reading of two documents are deduced (i) the number and the provenance of the population of Brucato (ii) the year of the destruction of the casale and castello of Brucato.

The programme of the Medieval Archaeology Research Group of Palermo (GRAM) for 1972:

- 1) Excavation in the area of Brucato in collaboration with the VI<sup>e</sup> Section de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes and the Ecole Francaise de Rome
- 2) Systematic and documented research of vanished villages in Sicily.

## NETHERLANDS

**Amsterdam** Institute for Prae- and Protohistory

Department of Medieval Archaeology (*H. H. van Regteren Altena*)

At **Kootwijk** (Gem. **Barneveld**, Gelderland), on the Veluwe, the first campaign has been carried out in the excavation of a settlement of C8–C11. An area of 1 hectare was excavated by the Institute for Prae- and Protohistory of the University of Amsterdam. The settlement lies in a sand dune area which offers unlimited possibilities for excavation.

Nothing is known of the settlement from written records. It lies under an arable soil, which in turn was buried under wind-blown sand in the Middle Ages. The fields were fenced with palisades, which in the last phases also served as shields against the sand drifts. Two large farm-houses belonging to the last phase of the settlement have been partially excavated, and dated by painted pottery of Early Pingsdorf type. A few of the sherds have traces of glaze. From C8–C9, 14 house plans have been recovered, ten of them complete, with lengths varying from 13.50 to 23.50m. They are boat-shaped (*cf.* Warendorf in Westphalia) with a maximum breadth of 6.50 to 7.50m. The houses are in principle single-aisled. In some cases, smaller, less deep posts have been found parallel to the external sides of the walls. Inside four of the houses there were also more or less regular configurations of posts along the walls. Entrances were, in so far as at present determinable, situated in one of the ends and probably 2 x 2 in the sides. In one exceptionally well preserved house site, with two phases of construction, were found traces of the walls, the hearth (on the west side) and a regular row of 'storage cellars'.

Other farm buildings so far comprise two rectangular structures of c. 8 x 4 metres, four square sheds or granaries, and c. 50 rectangular sunken-huts ('*Grubenhäuser*'), all of the simplest type with a post in the middle of each end.

The majority of the houses are oriented E–W, as are also the sunken huts. The houses are situated in regular rows, and are surrounded by palisade trenches along streets meeting at right angles.

Towards the NE the terrain slopes sharply in the direction of a moist depression with a peaty centre, in which there were no buildings, but in which the wells were situated. Of these, thirty were excavated. Apart from a number of wells with plank-lined shafts, the predominant type is the tree-trunk well, consisting of two fire-hollowed halves of the same oak tree trunk. The wells are no more than 1.50m deep, and are to be interpreted as catch-basins for the water retained by an iron-pan layer directly under their base level. This 'oasis' was covered over by plough-soil; there is nevertheless a clear

continuity between the settlement and the fields. The arable fields of C8–C9 have not yet been localised. The small finds comprise hand-made pottery (as at Warendorf), c. 10% imported pottery (chiefly from Badorf and Mayen), an equal-armed fibula (middle of C9), a winged spearhead, fragments of saws and fragments of wooden posts, probably from houses. The unexpected wet soil-conditions create an excellent opportunity to study the ecology of the site.

In the immediate vicinity is a settlement of the Roman period (C2–C3).

The excavation will be resumed in 1972. The Kootwijk project links up with that of **Odoorn** in **Drente**, where in 1966 a settlement of C5–C9 was excavated by the Biologisch Archaeologisch Instituut of the University of Groningen, and which is soon to be published by Prof. Dr H. T. Waterbolck.

For the excavation of **Dorestad**, at **Wijk bij Duurstede** (Utrecht) by the State Service for Archaeological Investigation, Amersfoort, we may refer to the preliminary report for 1967-1968, published in the *Berichten der Rijksdienst voor Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek* 19 (1969) 183-212.

## NORWAY

### – THE NORDIC DESERTED FARMS PROJECT (*A. Dybdahl*)

**Introduction** The nordic deserted farms project is a joint research programme in which historians from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden are taking part. The actual fieldwork began in 1969, with research funds granted by the Research Councils of the respective countries. The aim of the project is to carry out research, jointly in all the nordic countries, on the timing and causes of farm and hamlet desertion and other agricultural crisis phenomena during the Middle Ages, according to a common plan of campaign and using comparable research methods. Despite its official name, the project does not only aim at throwing light on the desertion of farms, in so far as that was one of the numerous effects of the agrarian crisis of the Middle Ages, but, so far as is possible, to map all changes in settlement pattern which took place within the specified period (c. 1300-1600).

**The Norwegian investigations** The Norwegian research team are attempting to establish, retrospectively, the maximum number of settlement units which existed at the height of the medieval period, and to which the number of farms extant in the late medieval period can be related. A straightforward investigation covering the whole country is obviously an impracticability – if only on grounds of the amount of work involved – and it is therefore obviously very important that the areas of investigation which are chosen shall be as representative as possible. First of all the country had to be regionally divided, on a basis of physico-economic geography, and thereafter suitable and representative areas within each region should be selected for intensive study.

Because the source materials from the Middle Ages are so sparse and haphazard for large parts of Norway, the choice of areas for 'point analysis' had to be made with particular attention to the frequency of the available historical material. To ensure that the results should be as reliable as possible, the retrospective method presupposes an integrated utilisation of all the extant sources whether these are written evidence, archaeological data, toponymic material, topography, biological and biochemical or physical evidence, or rental returns. Furthermore, the investigations must obviously be concentrated on the individual units of settlement in each instance.

Wherever possible appropriate emphasis will be placed on interdisciplinary co-operation; whether, *eg.* there is any interrelation between the results of pollen-analytical investigations and the information supplied by other sources? From a practical standpoint it will be impossible, to any great extent, to undertake archaeological excavations in connection with our own investigations, but any recorded archaeological finds already made in an area will be taken into account. Similarly, one of the basic and generally accepted principles is that fieldwork will be essential.

When the 'point analyses' carried out in the other nordic countries are completed, the intention is that a comparison of all the data collected will be made for the nordic area as a whole. Such a comparison, it is hoped, will provide the basis for reaching more certain conclusions about the causal connections underlying the medieval agricultural crisis than we are able to reach today.

The leader of the Norwegian side of the project is Dr Jørn Sandnes PhD, who has already undertaken a major investigation of the various crisis phenomena (not least the deserted farms problem) in the Trøndelag area of Norway during the Late Middle Ages. See J. Sandnes: *Ødetid og gjenreisning. Trøndsk busetnings-historie ca. 1200-1660 AD*. Universitetsforlaget, Oslo, 1971; the book has a summary in German. (This publication is in the DMVRG Library, Ed.) (See review by author in section 4 above)

A joint report on the 'Stand der Forschung' in the various countries is to be published in Arhus, Denmark, in 1972. For further information, see articles on the subject by A. Holmsen and K. Johannessen in *Heimen*, (Oslo) 15 (1971) and Holmsen in *Svensk Historisk Tidsskrift*, (Stockholm 1971),

or write to "Det nordiske ødegardsprosjekt", Historisk institutt, NLHT, 7000 Trondheim, Norway.

**SWITZERLAND** (*Professor W. U. Gyan*)

– THE FORMER FARM OF MOGERAN

The chronicle of J. J. Rüeger led to the location of this farm, which belonged to the Haagken of Harthusen, and was burnt down c. 1530. Daub, sherds, and tiles were plotted over a large area, and calcium carbonate, phosphate and phosphoric acid concentrations were plotted.

Excavation began in 1971; occupation levels had been destroyed, but a cellar 3.8 x 5.6m and 2m deep survived, with a 3.4m long covered entrance. The walls were 30cm thick and plastered, with an earth floor. Late medieval cellars are well documented in this area. Finds include pottery, a mid C14 bronze mortar, bronze bowls, a bell, a light-stand, a ? coulter, and a ? plough-weel binding. (Ridge and furrow can be seen nearby.) It is thought that the superstructure over the cellar was half-timbered, with a filling of plaited brushwood and clay; the roof was of tiles.

The site fills a gap between the village of Berslingen, which disappeared in C13, and the earliest surviving farmhouses of C16.

## 8. ACCOUNTS

In order to give a more balanced picture of the Group's finances nearer the time of going to press, it seems more appropriate to include the set of accounts for the current year, rather than the year for which the Report applies in other respects. To bring the accounts in line with this policy we have accordingly included the accounts of *last* year (up to 31.3.71) and for the current year (up to 31.3.72).

**MEDIEVAL VILLAGE RESEARCH GROUP ACCOUNT 1st January 1970 – 31st March 1971**

**Income:**

Opening balance at bank	£107.50	see note 1
Repayment by University of S. Wales	177.50	
CBA Grants for air photographs	150.00	
Donation for clerical expenses	25.00	
Donation for typing & cataloguing	35.00	
Subscriptions & sales	43.37	
Sundry refunds	0.60	
Bank interest	35.99	
	£574.96	

**Expenditure:**

Air photographs	88.32	
Slides and other photographs	14.27	
Library	11.79	
Annual report	53.82	see note 2
Typing	10.00	
Clerical & administration	37.22	
Duplicating and printing	19.04	
Tax payment	10.80	
Advance to excavations account	100.00	see note 3
Cash at bank:		
current a/c	£153.27	
deposit a/c	60.68	213.95
Excess of income over expenditure	15.75	
	£574.96	

Note 1: Includes £91.75 in British Academy grant a/c

2: Includes cost of typing and translations

3: Advance to enable West Whelpington Easter excavation to start before receipt of Ministry grant.

**General note:** This year as last accounts have had to be presented which gave an incomplete picture of the Group's affairs. In both periods both credits and debits have unavoidably had to be carried forward from one period to the next. It is hoped that this phase is now over and that in future years a simple account can be presented without tedious explanations.

It will be recalled that last year, ending 31/12/69, we finished the period with a very low cash balance having advanced £177 to cover the deficit on the West Whelpington excavation. This was refunded by the University College of South Wales early in the present period. Nevertheless, we had to hold over settlement of accounts due into the present period amounting to about £57.

Similarly, this year we finished the account having advanced £100 to the excavations account for the reason shown in note 3 above and for different reasons had undischarged liabilities amounting to some £150. All these items were straightened out within a week or two of the opening of the new financial year.

A true picture of our affairs during the 15 months 1/1/70 to 31/3/71 would, taking all these matters into account, be approximately as follows:





**Expenditure**

Air photographs	£151.65	see note 1
Slides and other photographs	10.50	
Library	81.41	
Production of annual report	226.12	see note 2
Typing	26.00	
Clerical and administration	40.42	
Printing and duplicating	13.33	see note 3
Corporation tax	14.17	
	£563.60	

**Reconciliation**

Opening balance at bank	£213.95
Deduct excess expenditure over income	151.02
	£ 62.93
Add uncleared cheque	2.40
Balance at bank on 31st March 1972	£ 65.33

Note 1: This item includes £96.75 for liability incurred during the previous financial year as noted in the last accounts.

Note 2: This item includes £59.62 for liability incurred during the previous financial year as noted in the last accounts.

Note 3: This item includes a cheque for £2.40 uncleared on 31 March 1972.

**SUMMARY:****General Account:**

Balance at start	£122.20
Income	312.58
Expenditure on g'l a/c	369.13
Air photos a/c deficit	76.65
Clerical a/c deficit	15.42
<i>Deficit</i>	26.42
Transfer from British Academy a/c	91.75
Closing balance at bank	£ 65.33

**Air Photographs Account:**

Income	£ 75.00
Expenditure attributable to current year	54.90
Expenditure attributable to previous year	96.75
<i>Deficit</i>	76.65

**Clerical Assistance Account**

Income	£ 25.00
Expenditure	40.42
<i>Deficit</i>	15.42

**British Academy Grant Account:**

Balance at start	£ 91.75
Income	nil
Transferred to general account	91.75
Balance	nil

MAX DAVIES  
Hon. Treasurer  
26.6.1972

## 9. CHANGES OF ADDRESS, NEW MEMBERS, AND RESIGNATIONS

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

BARRY, T. B. 181 Ufton Lane Sittingbourne Kent  
 BERESFORD, G. Saxbys Rolvenden Cranbrook Kent  
 BLAKE, H. c/o G. Harris 20 West Square London SE11  
 BROOK-BOOTH, J. "St Hilaire" 8a Arthington Avenue Harrogate Yorks  
 BROOKS, J. E. The Lady Spencer-Churchill College of Education Wheatley  
 Oxford OX9 1HX  
 BULL, G. B. G. Dr 30 Swan Street Kingsclere Newbury Berks  
 BUTLIN, R. A. Dept of Geography Queen Mary College Mile End Road  
 London 4NS E1  
 CLEMENTS-JEWRY, P. Mrs 102 Westminster Way Botley Oxford OX2 0LP  
 COURSE, S. M. Mrs Dept of Archaeology The University Southampton  
 ELRINGTON, C. c/o Institute of Historical Research University of London  
 Senate House London WC1  
 EWEN-SMITH, B. M. 5 Finch's Field Little Eversden Cambridge  
 FAIRBROTHER, J. 3 Alma Place London SE19  
 GADD, M. Miss Curator Museum and Art Gallery Paynes Park Hitchin Herts  
 GODWIN, J. County Record Office The Castle Carlisle Cumb  
 HALDON, R. Mrs 15 Abbot's Road King's Heath Birmingham 14 7QD  
 HARVEY, J. C. 64 Lea Road Dronfield Sheffield 518 65D  
 INGLES, W. J. 30 Westdale Crescent Kirton Lindsey Gainsborough Lincs  
 KRAIG, B. Dept of History Roosevelt University 430 South Michigan Avenue  
 Chicago Illinois 60605 USA  
 McLOUGHLIN, C. Aycliffe School Copelaw Darlington Co. Durham  
 MORRIS, B. A. Mrs 41 Kirkhill Road Edinburgh EH16 5DE  
 MYNARD, D. C. 43 Hinton Road Northampton

NATIONAL MONUMENTS  
 RECORD Field House 10 Great College Street Westminster London SW1  
 NESBITT, R. R. 66 Kenilworth Road Knowle Solihull Warks  
 SCHWIESO, J. 38a Dartford Road Bexley Kent  
 SELKIRK, W. Mrs 9 Nassington Road London NW3 2TX  
 WARD, J. Miss 65 White Rose Avenue New Earswick Yorks YO3 8AD

## NEW MEMBERS – PRIVATE

ASHDOWN, J. H. 14 Princes Street Tunbridge Wells Kent  
 AUSTIN, D. 1 Alma Place Gilesgate Moor Durham  
 BOLTON, P. M. 15 South Road Faversham Kent  
 BOULTON, D. G. 45 Foundry Street Horncastle Lincs  
 BROWN, A. E. Dept of Adult Education University Road Leicester LE1 7RH  
 BRYANT, G. Providence House Barton-on-Humber Lincs  
 BUCKLEY, A. C. Miss 152 Newton Road Great Ayton Middlesbrough Teesside  
 BUCKLEY, S. Mrs 80 The Headlands Marske-by-Sea near Redcar Yorks  
 FLEMING, J. R. 25 High Street Stony Stratford Bucks  
 FRANCIS, C. C. Mrs 34 Lodden Court Farm Spencers Wood Reading Berks  
 GOULD, J. 307 Erdington Road Aldridge near Walsall W59 0SB  
 HALL, D. N. 322 Newton Road Rushden Northants NN10 05Y  
 HARBOTTLE, B. Miss School of Architecture The University Newcastle upon Tyne  
 NE1 7RU  
 HEDGES, J. D. c/o 23 Dugard Place Barford Warwickshire  
 HOOD, J. c/o R. Shoesmith Y.H.A. Staunton-on-Wye Hereford  
 KENYON, J. R. Pradoc Oswestry Shropshire SY11 4ER  
 KILBURN, M. F. 18 South Terrace Surbiton Surrey  
 PERRY, G. Solihull Archaeological Group 14 Hargrave Road Solihull Lodge  
 Shirley Birmingham  
 PHILPOT, M. W. Scole Common Diss Norfolk  
 PRITCHARD, D. 9/10 Crimea Terrace Penmaenmawr Caernarvonshire N Wales

**NEW MEMBERS – PRIVATE (Contd)**

RAWLING, G. Mrs 48 Westburn Avenue Keighley Yorks  
 SCOTT, K. C. K. 21 Hermitage Way Kenilworth Warks  
 SLOCOMBE, P. M. Mrs 22 Woolley Drive Bradford-on-Avon Wilts  
 STURMAN, C. J. 30 Broadbank Louth Lincs  
 TAYLOR, M. Miss 16 Thoresby Close Bridlington Yorks ER  
 WHARTON, A 5 Pool Rise Springfield Shrewsbury  
 WILLIAMS, P. Mrs Hamish Park Whitbourne Worcs  
 WRATHMELL, S. 56 Field Lane Ravensthorpe Dewsbury Yorks

**RESIGNATIONS**

BALDWIN, N. R. Lark Rise Debdale Hill Old Dalby Melton Leics  
 BRECKSON, S. Miss 5 Scots Terrace St Martin's Richmond Yorks  
 COLVIN, H. M. St John's College Oxford  
 DAVIS, G. E. 122 Leake Road Gotham Notts  
 FEACHEM, R. W.,  
 MA., MSc., FSA., FRGS., Archaeology Officer Ordnance Survey Romsey Road Maybush  
 Southampton SO9 4DH  
 FRYER, H. G. 93 Boundary Road Newark Notts  
 OXTOBY, G. F. 37 Carr Bank Lane Sheffield 11  
 PARISH, J. M. F. 43 Moore Avenue Wibsey Bradford 6 Yorks  
 SWANTON, M. Dr Dept of English Language & Literature University of Manchester  
 Manchester 13  
 SYKES, J. H. 671 Leeds Road Shaw Cress Dewsbury Yorks  
 THOMAS, E. A. 6 Chilton Grove Yeovil Somerset

**NEW MEMBERS – INSTITUTIONS**

BUCKS The Librarian Milton Keynes Development Corporation  
 Wavendon Tower Wavendon Bletchley Bucks  
 DUBLIN NORMAN, J. G., (auditor) Dublin University Archaeology &  
 Folklife Society No 4 Trinity College Dublin 2 Eire  
 HAMPSHIRE The County Museum Service Chilcomb House Chilcomb Lane  
 Bar End Winchester  
 LEICESTER McWHIRR, A. D., Leicester College of Education Scraptoft  
 Leicester LE7 9SU  
 LINCOLN WILSON, C. M. Mrs Curator Museum of Lincolnshire Life,  
 Burton Road Lincoln  
 LONDON MEIRION-JONES, G. I., City of London Polytechnic  
 680 Commercial Road FI4 7HA  
 NORTHUMBERLAND GARD, R. M. MA., County Archivist County Record Office  
 Melton Park North Gosforth Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5QX

**NEW MEMBERS – FOREIGN**

D'ANGELO, F. Dr Gruppo Ricerche Archeologia Medievale Via Despuches 5  
 Palermo Sicily  
 Gruppo Ligure Di Ricerca Sulle Sedi Abbandonate c/o Istituto  
 Di Scienze Geografiche Via Assarotti 31/4 Genoa Italy

**AMOVED FOR LAPSED SUBSCRIPTION****INSTITUTIONS**

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE C. C. Taylor Geography Dept Kenton Lodge College of Education  
 Gosforth

**PRIVATE MEMBERS**

BARRY, J. F. 8 Charles Road Dagenham Essex  
 BROWN, A. S. Miss Apartment 558 395 Broadway Cambridge Mass 02139 USA  
 CUMBERLAND, J. B. Mrs 33 Truemans Heath Lane Hollywood Birmingham  
 HAINES, D. Park Hills 199 Chamber Road Oldham Lancs  
 HAYNES, H. S. Mrs 14 England's Lane London NW3

**AMOVED FOR LAPSED SUBSCRIPTION**

**PRIVATE MEMBERS (Contd)**

HARRIS, P.	73 St Margaret's Road Lowestoft Suffolk
HODGSON, M.	Tumby Woodside Mareham le Fen Boston Lincs
HUGHES, A. M.	175A Iffley Road Oxford
IRVING, R. M.	School House Padbury Buckingham
JACKSON, G.	30 Elizabeth Street Leeds 12
LEDBETTER, R. M.	"Personal" The City Museum Western Park Sheffield
LEWIS, B. A.	59 Chessel Avenue Ritterne Southampton
MOSS, G.	Old Bank House Broad Street Eye Suffolk
NAIL, N.	123 Hoodfield Epsom Surrey
REED, B. B.	7 Saltburn Lane Skelton-in-Cleveland Saltburn Yorks
ROSS, H.	Leighton Villa Wellhead Lane Westbury Wilts
TEVIOT, Lord	21 Eaton Gardens Hove Sussex
THOMSON, R. G.	Oakcroft Gas House Lane Station Road Netley Abbey Southampton
WARD, J. Miss	65 Whiterose Avenue New Earswick York YO3 8AD
WEBLEY, D.	39 Heol Isaf Radyr Glamorgan

## 10. THE WORK OF THE MEDIEVAL VILLAGE RESEARCH GROUP

The Medieval Village Research Group (MVRG) was founded in 1952 with the object of co-ordinating work on deserted medieval villages (DMVs) by archaeologists, historians, geographers, architects, and others interested in this subject.

### 1. Historical Work

In 1954 Professor M. W. Beresford published his book *THE LOST VILLAGES OF ENGLAND* (Lutterworth Press), in which he set out the methods of tracing DMVs by documentary and fieldwork, together with the various periods and reasons for desertion. 1353 DMVs were known when the book was written and since that time another 910 have been identified. It is now apparent that DMVs may be expected in considerable numbers in most parts of the country; correspondents have made suggestions concerning about 1000.

### 2. Fieldwork

Since 1954 a programme of visits to DMVs has been in progress and nearly three quarters of the known sites have now received preliminary visits, and rough sketches of the sites made.

The vertical air photograph cover from RAF sorties of 1945-50 has been examined, and many thousand additional oblique photographs have been taken by Dr J. K. S. St Joseph, Director of Aerial Photography in the University of Cambridge. Details of these can be obtained from him.

There is an urgent need in all counties for local correspondents who would:—

- a. Keep an eye on the best sites and report any threats by ploughing, building, quarrying, roadworks, etc. Each year 15-20 DMVs are destroyed, and only too often the danger is not heard about until it is too late.
- b. Surveys are required of most sites and if a proper measured survey is beyond the capabilities of a local correspondent, sketch surveys showing the general features of the site in relation to the surrounding field boundaries are always useful.
- c. For those sites which have not been visited, or where the location of the site is uncertain, visits are required to report where the site is (or may be), how good the earthworks are, whether the owner is aware of the site, and his general reaction to archaeologists.
- d. There are many problem sites which have never been located and which those who know the district may be able to find from their knowledge of local topography. Others are covered by gardens and shrubberies of private houses and in these cases local correspondents can be most useful in obtaining introductions to look over the grounds and searching for earthworks themselves. Lists of these sites will be found in the 12th Annual Report (1964).
- e. Once a local correspondent is familiar with the characteristic earthworks of a DMV he may well locate new sites. There are still many to be found, especially migrations (out of parks or for other reasons) which leave no trace in the records.

A detailed questionnaire form for making reports is available on request. Please send stamped addressed foolscap envelope.

### 3. Excavation

On the archaeological side, the MVRG excavate each July at Wharram Percy on the Yorkshire Wolds, SE of Malton. Between 1953 and 1960 the Norman manor house and a typical peasant Toft site (Area 10) were excavated; and a sequence recovered of ten building periods from C12 through to the destruction of the village in the early C16. This has provided important information on the plan of the medieval peasant house, and on medieval building methods. Work on a second Toft-site (Area 6) was then undertaken; and the former nave, chancels and aisles of the church have been investigated. Work on skeletal remains is also in progress.

In addition, excavations in other parts of the country have been conducted each year on selected sites by various Universities, local societies and private individuals; and some threatened sites have been excavated by the MOW, now the Department of the Environment. (E.g. Upton [Gloucs.] by Birmingham University; Gomeldon [Wilts.] by Salisbury Museum Research Committee; and Hound Tor [Devon] by Mrs E. M. Minter.)

#### 4. Publications

- (a) The Group publishes each year a *Report* which gives details of work done during the previous twelve months all over the country (50p). Back numbers, issued since 1953, can be obtained from the Secretary (see order form attached) at 25p each, post free.
- (b) Lists have been published for: Norfolk by Dr K. J. Allison in *Norfolk Archaeology*, xxxi (1955); by Professor W. G. Hoskins in *Essays in Leicestershire History* (Liverpool U.P. 1950), 67-107; and by Professor Beresford for Warwickshire in *Trans. Birmingham Arch. Soc.* 1xvi (1950), and for Yorkshire in *Yorks. Arch. Journ.* parts 148-51 (1951-4).
- (c) Two detailed gazetteers, with introductory essays and distribution maps, have been published for Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. These are:  
K. J. Allison, M. W. Beresford and J. G. Hurst, *The Deserted Villages of Oxfordshire* (University of Leicester, Department of English Local History, Occasional Papers no. 17 (1965). p. 48. Price 52½p.  
Same authors, *The Deserted Villages of Northamptonshire* (University of Leicester, Department of English Local History, Occasional Papers No. 18, (1966). p. 48. Price 52½p.  
These are obtainable from the Leicester University Press or through any bookseller.
- (d) A complete national list of sites, together with essays on the work done in Britain in the 17 years since the publication of *Lost Villages of England*, has been published by the Lutterworth Press in 1971, as *Deserted Medieval Villages, Studies*, ed. Maurice Beresford and John G. Hurst (£8.00).
- (e) Provisional lists for the majority of English counties can be obtained from the Secretary. They are typescript and cost a minimum of 15p each. Please also enclose a foolscap stamped addressed envelope.
- (f) K. J. Allison, *Deserted Villages* (Macmillan, 1970), 50p, is a well-illustrated introduction to the subject.

**FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Please return with remittance to the Assistant Secretary, Mrs M. E. Ewins, 51 The Avenue, Kew Gardens, Surrey. Cheques and POs should be made payable to the MVRG.

**CROSS OUT INAPPLICABLE WORDS**

Ordinary membership. I enclose 50p subscription entitling me to the current Annual Report.

Please enrol me as a member.

Past Annual Reports (1953 onwards are in print). Please send me Annual Reports for 19 ..... (25p each year).

COMPLETE SET OF PAST REPORTS (1953-1969) — £4.25p

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24 JAN 1974

R.4.34

Suppl. to Report  
no 17 (1971)

MEDIEVAL VILLAGE RESEARCH GROUP

DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGES

OF NORTH WEST ENGLAND:

a provisionallist, 1971-73

SUPPLEMENT TO MVRG ANNUAL REPORTS, ISSUED TO MEMBERS, SPRING 1974.

TABLE 8 of Deserted Medieval Villages, ed. M.W. Beresford and J.G. Hurst, 1971, p.35, indicated that comparatively little work had been undertaken in 15 counties. It was decided that the three north western counties, Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire, were most in need of study.

Preliminary work in Cumberland and Westmorland in 1971 is reported in the 19th Report, 1971, p. 4-5<sup>(1)</sup> In 1972, M.W. Beresford, J.G. Hurst and J. Sheail completed the examination of the 6" O.S. maps for Westmorland and identified 33 possible new sites. This with the 61 sites identified in 1971 and the 2 sites already accepted, makes a total of 96 sites under investigation. In 1971, 19 of these were visited: in 1972 a further 54 were visited in September by M.W. Beresford, J.G. Hurst and R. Yarwood, leaving a further 23 to be visited. The 42 DMVs, 17 shrunken sites and 18 deleted are listed in Appendix B. The remaining 19 sites still require classification.

(1) Please note a correction to the 19th Report, page 4, note 1.  
For Broughton, read Brougham.



LANCASHIRE  
DELETED 1973

		1" Map	National Grid.
Accrington	Still there	95	SD 760280
Bickerstaffe	Still there	100	SD 446041
Bryning	Still there	94	SD 401300
Burn	No med popn	94	SD 332444
Claughton	Scattered	94	SD 530420
Crimbles	No med popn	94	c.SD 463508
Crosby, Little	Still there	100	SD 325016
Down Holland	Still there	100	SD 365069
Greenhalgh	Still there	94	SD 404359
Heaton	Scattered	94	SD 444604
Hurlston	No med popn	100	SD 402108
Ince Blundell	Still there	100	SD 326030
Langho, Old	No med popn	95	SD 701359
Martin	Scattered	100	SD 425125
Melling	Scattered	100	SD 388003
Osbaldeston	Still there	95	SD 671331
Ramsgreave	No med popn	95	SD 678314
Rossall	No med popn	94	c.SD 313449
Stidd	Monastic	95	SD 654358
Wilpshire	Still there	95	SD 688328

