

EXCAVATIONS AT SHEFFIELD MANOR 1976

SUMMARY

Discoveries made in the 1976 excavations on the main house site included two new rooms in the west wing, a new wing sub-dividing the inner court and an extension to the east wing. Most significant, however, was the evidence found for successive buildings on different alignments.

INTRODUCTION

The excavation took place from August 9th to 28th 1976, and aimed to explore the potential of the main house site for further archaeological work.

The attached plan shows the position of the excavation trenches numbered XIII, XIV and XV.

SITE XIII

In 1970 two semi-basement rooms leading from the southern tower of the main west front entrance were completely excavated, and a doorway found leading from Room 1 into a third room. In the expectation of finding further substantial remains under the demolition deposits, two 5m squares in a 10m square area were removed. Room 3 was found to be large, 5.9m long by 7.9m wide, and in the surviving 2m high east wall were found the lower parts of two window embrasures opening onto the higher level of the inner courtyard and similar to the window found in Room 2 in 1970. Cistercian wares were sealed in the mixed clay floor make-up, and above the 1706 demolition material were large quantities of sag-gars and wasters from the early eighteenth century pottery operated on the site, including new forms not recovered in the kiln excavation in 1971.

Adjoining and to the south was a fourth room with a stone-lined drain set into the clay subsoil and continuing under the dividing wall into Room 3. A silver groat of 1550 was found in the disturbed floor level and large quantities of window masonry in the 1706 demolition deposits. Nineteenth century disturbance extended to a depth of 1m in the 2.3m deep trench, and little eighteenth century kiln material was found.

The rooms so far excavated all appear contemporary with the west front entrance and towers, for which a date of around 1525 has been postulated on historical and architectural grounds. No evidence was found for earlier buildings or for later alterations.

SITE XIV

A trial trench dug to explore the possible existence of a cross wing in the inner courtyard uncovered substantial masonry and a larger area was opened up. The latest features, sealed below an

eighteenth century road surface, were remains of an apparent west to east cross wing, 9.35m wide and with walls solely of mortared masonry. In the north wall of the building was a 3m x 1.8m foundation for a fireplace and chimney, and stones pitched on end on the uneven bedrock were footings for a floor of which none of the original surface remained. Under the north end of the building, at a point where the bedrock fell away, and where nineteenth century pits cut through the mortared walls, were found clay-grouted foundations of earlier buildings on different alignments and possibly of two phases. However, the excavated wall sections were too small to allow for full structural interpretation, and no direct dating evidence was found associated.

SITE XV

A trial trench, 19m x 1m, was dug to look for a continuation of the east wing, and uncovered stone footings apparently of more than one phase, but eighteenth and nineteenth century drains and garden cultivation had destroyed associated levels. The narrower 0.9m wide middle wall (see plan) seems to line up with the inner wall of the 'porter's lodge' to the south, but no corresponding outer wall was found, suggesting that possibly the rooms did not continue. The wall 1.5m wide, facing the inner court and on a different alignment is unique for the site in that it was set in a 1m deep foundation trench. The 2m wide setting of stone flags 6m to the east was less convincing as remains of a wall, but in the restricted width of the excavation trench full investigation was not possible.

CONCLUSIONS

The excavations have underlined how little is known of the structural development of the main house which is more complex than was anticipated, and have indicated several directions for future work:

- (a) The walls of the southern half of the west wing survive to a considerable depth below ground and warrant total excavation.
- (b) A new wing dividing the inner court awaits total excavation.
- (c) Clearly there are remains of successive buildings on different alignments on the site and future excavations should aim to unravel as much evidence as possible about their relative plans and dates.

P. Beswick
November 1976

SUMMARY

Considerable progress was made in uncovering the semi-basement rooms in the southern half of the west wing, and at the junction of the west wing and newly discovered cross-wing a sequence of 4 building phases was recorded.

INTRODUCTION

The excavation took place from August 8th to August 27th and the aim was to uncover more of the semi-basement rooms in the west wing and to explore the junction of the west front of the house with the cross-wing discovered in 1976. The attached plan shows the positions of both the 1976 trenches (XIII, XIV and XV) and those of 1977, XVI, XVII, XVIII.

SITES XIII and XVII

The 2 remaining 5m squares of site XIII were removed, and an additional area, approximately 5m x 10m was opened to the south (XVII). From the knowledge of the stratigraphy gained in 1976, it was felt safe to remove the top metre of 19th century deposit mechanically, but the remaining 1.5m of 18th century demolition deposit were removed by hand. As in 1976 large quantities of window masonry were found in the demolition deposit, suggesting that the bay projections along the west front formed the footings for lofty mullioned windows.

Room 3 has now been fully excavated and as it contains no fireplace could have been a semi-basement store. A stone-lined tank set into the floor in the N.W. corner by the door, may relate to such usage. Room 4 has not yet been fully excavated but appears to have had a similar function. The drain found in 1976 continues through the length of both rooms, draining southwards. Along the

east side of both rooms a line of three thick slabs, 4 metres apart and 2.5 metres from the east wall, possibly served as padstones for floor supports forming a timber-framed aisle. The dividing wall at the south end of Room 4 is a late addition. It was built as a drystone wall and contains re-used floor slabs, possibly from Room 3 and from the north end of Room 4, where virtually none of the original floors remain. To the south of this wall the original floor slabs of Room 4 survive, and an occupation deposit containing over 100 bronze pins and early 18th century Manor-made pottery found on them suggests that the south end of this wing remained in use for a short period after 1708, the date when the Duke of Norfolk ordered part of the house to be demolished and the rest leased out to tenants. The beginnings of two walls, 3 metres apart and at right angles to the east wall of Room 4, on the inner court side, were uncovered. Their function and relationship to the west wing must await further excavation.

SITE XVI

This area lay between site XIV, excavated in 1976, and the short middle portion of the standing wall of the west front. The mortared walls of the cross-wing discovered in 1976 were found butted up to, but not bonded into the west front. The earlier clay grouted footings on a different alignment, were found to pre-date the west front wall as it now stands. Sherds of decorated Cistercian ware, probably dating from the first half of the 16th century, were sealed in the robber trench of the clay grouted wall. The northern end of the junction of cross-wing and west front remains to be fully excavated. Work in 1977 was held up by the discovery and partial excavation of a brick-lined well, probably of 18th century date.

SITE XVIII

A start was made on excavating the area to the south of Site XVI and overlying the main entrance to the house. The entrance, originally flanked by twin brick-faced octagonal towers, together with the whole southern half of the west wing was added onto the northern portion of the wing probably around the mid-16th century.¹ Excavation of this area as yet is incomplete, but part of a paved area in the inner court directly opposite the entrance has been uncovered, and a southern extension to the mortared cross-wing cuts across the east wall of the entrance block, indicating their relative order in the building sequence.

CONCLUSIONS

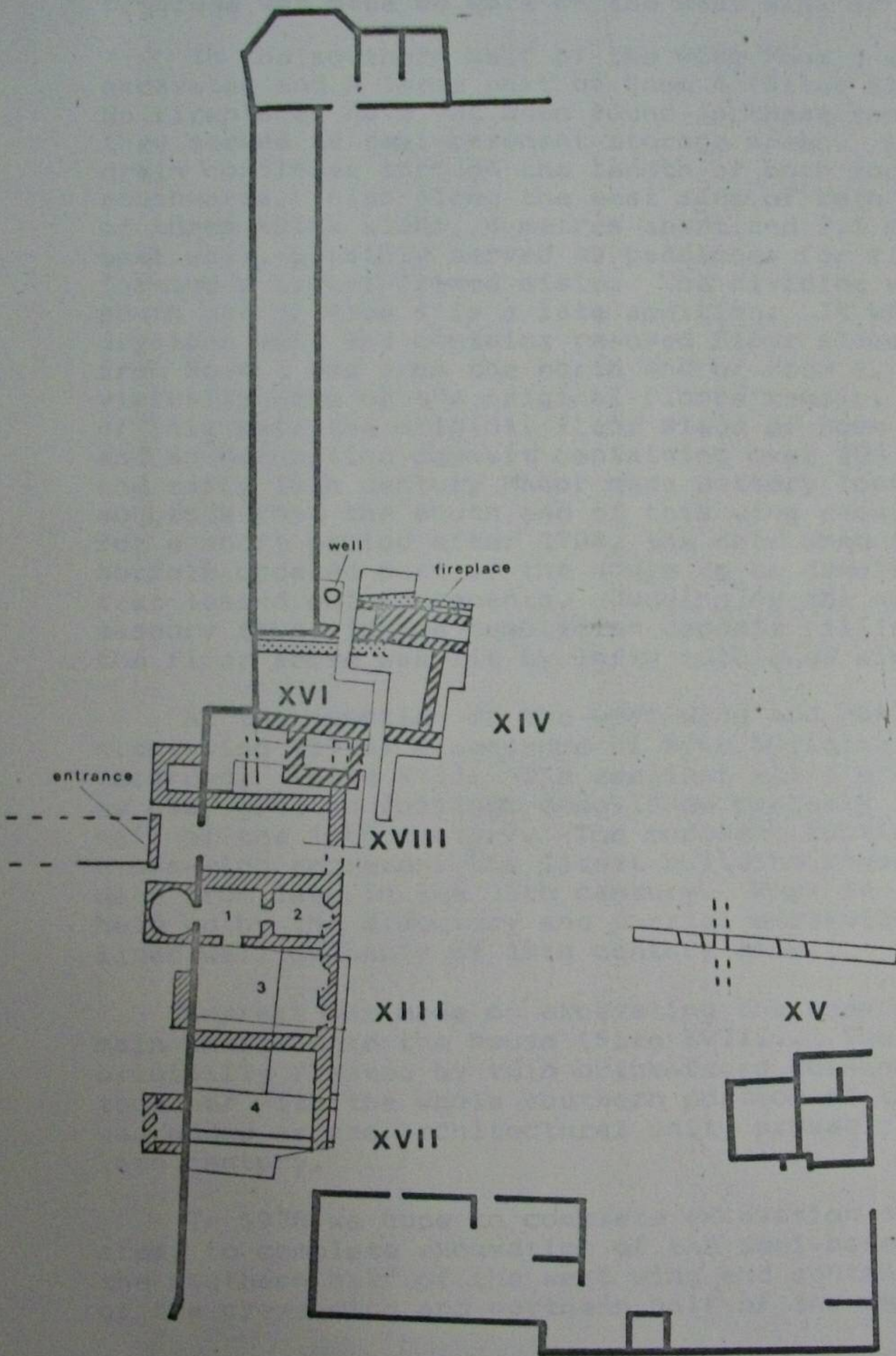
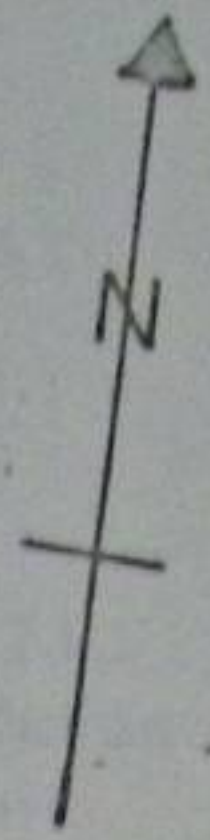
Four building phases have so far been identified in the excavated part of the west wing:

- Phase 1. Clay grouted wall footings on site XVI, demolished probably in the first half of the 16th century.
Function and date of building as yet unknown.
- Phase 2. Short middle portion of west front wall (Site XVI).
Possibly built when Phase 1 wall demolished.
- Phase 3. Southern half of west wing including imposing entrance added around the mid-16th century.
- Phase 4. Mortared walls of E-W cross wing. Date of building not yet known, but probably late 16th century.

P. Beswick, 1977

1. The date of 1525 postulated by earlier writers for the entrance complex needs reappraisal. The combination of entrance towers and lofty bay mullioned windows could be Elizabethan in date. The archaeological evidence is not conclusive.

Sheffield Manor 1976 & 77



1977 EXCAVATIONS AT SHEFFIELD MANOR

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The excavation took place for 3 weeks from 8th August to the 27th, and in spite of bad weather, considerable progress was made on work on the west wing of the house.

In the southern half of the wing Room 3 was fully excavated and a large part of Room 4 (Sites XIII and XVII). No fireplaces have yet been found in these rooms and perhaps they served as semi-basement storage areas. A stone-lined drain continues through the length of both rooms, draining southwards. Also along the east side of both rooms a line of three thick slabs, 4 metres apart and 2.5 metres from the east wall, possibly served as padstones for floor supports forming a timber-framed aisle. The dividing wall at the south end of Room 4 is a late addition. It was built as a drystone wall and contains re-used floor slabs, possibly from Room 3 and from the north end of Room 4, where virtually none of the original floors remain. To the south of this wall the original floor slabs of Room 4 survive, and an occupation deposit containing over 100 bronze pins and early 18th century Manor made pottery found in them, suggests that the south end of this wing remained in use for a short period after 1708, the date when the Duke of Norfolk ordered part of the house to be demolished and the rest leased out to tenants. Judging by the amount of window masonry found in the demolition deposit filling these rooms, the floor above was lit by lofty mullioned windows.

At the junction of the west wing and newly discovered cross-wing (1976) a sequence of four building phases was recorded, (Site XVI). The earliest walls are represented by clay grouted footings, demolished probably in the first half of the 16th century. The mortared footings of the cross-wing represent the latest building phase, and probably date from late in the 16th century. Work in this area was held up by the discovery and partial excavation of a brick-lined well probably of 18th century date.

A start was made on excavating the area overlying the main entrance to the house (Site XVIII). The entrance, originally flanked by twin brick-faced octagonal towers, together with the whole southern portion of the west wing was added as one architectural unit, probably in the mid-16th century.

In 1978 we hope to complete excavation of this entrance area, to complete excavation of the semi-basement rooms in the southern half of the west wing and continue exploration of the cross-wing and northern half of the west wing.

Pauline Beswick

March, 1978

EXCAVATIONS AT SHEFFIELD MANOR, 1978

SUMMARY

From the work carried out between 1976 and 78 several major building phases can now be recognised representing the conversion of a 15th century hunting lodge to a substantial 16th century manor house. The earliest structures of at least two phases lie between the long gallery and the west front entrance, on an E-W axis similar to that of the later cross-wing. Additions were made in the following sequence;

- (1) Long Gallery, early 16th century.
 - (2) Wolsey Tower, before Wolsey's visit in 1529.
 - (3) Entrance flanked by brick towers and S half of W wing, mid 16th century.
 - (4) Mortared cross-wing, late 16th century, before the 6th Earl's death in 1590.
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INTRODUCTION

The excavation took place from July 31st to August 26th, a week longer than the previous year. Work begun in areas XVI and XVIII in 1977 was continued and new areas opened in the northern sector (XIX, XXIV and XXV). All work was carried out by hand. Completion of excavation of the semi-basement rooms in the S half of the W wing had to be postponed until alternative access to the site is available. The attached plan shows the 1978 trenches in relation to those of 1976 and 77.

SITE XVI

A small trench, limited for safety reasons to 2.5m x 1m, examined the northern junction of the cross-wing and W front. It showed the short middle portion of the W front wall, against which the cross-wing abuts, to be earlier than the long gallery wall and therefore the oldest wall still standing on the site. The roughly dressed rectangular blocks of masonry differ from other stone work on the site, and the short length of the wall (8.3m), suggests that it may have formed the gable end of a building on an E-W axis, the long walls of which were perhaps timber framed. Conclusive evidence, however, had been removed by the later building of the mortared cross-wing.

A pitched stone floor found in the long gallery to the N of the cross-wing was similar to the floor found in the cross-wing in 1976 (XIV), but had been repaired with early 18th century kiln material. It was 1.5m below the present floor of the gallery.

SITE XVIII

Further work on the entrance area revealed several complex features. The earliest was a 4.5m length of N/S wall footing, predating the entrance and also earlier than the standing middle portion of the W front described in the previous paragraph. No associated features were recognised.

In the SE corner of the entrance 'lobby' fragments of walling and paving at different levels may be remains of a staircase.

In the inner court the paved area found in 1977 was less extensive than anticipated and in fact lay assymetrical to the entrance from the outer court. To the E of the paving a 0.5m square block of masonry was set in the ground surrounded by stones on edge, as if for a base or padstone. To the S was the start of what may have been a covered walkway, 3m wide.

Under the SE side of site XVIII a deep cutting into the bedrock had been filled with clay. The dimensions and purpose of the cutting have yet to be determined.

Removal of the baulk between XVI and XVIII confirmed the structural sequence suggested in 1977. The 5.5m x 4m projection from the cross-wing is likely to have been a garderobe tower.

SITE XIX

A large area adjacent to XIV was examined to try to resolve the building sequence found in 1976.

The walls to the N of XIV were shown to be not early structures but part of a late rectangular addition (5m x 1.5m) to the cross-wing, possibly footings for a window bay.

To the E of XIV the cross-wing overlay earlier robbed and filled-in wall trenches, whose original plan and sequence was masked by the later building. Two holes, 0.7m deep, for posts 0.3m diameter appeared to be contemporary with the cross-wing. In a 16th century building it is unlikely that they held main structural timbers, because by then these were normally raised above ground on sills or padstones to prevent rotting. They may, however, have formed part of an entrance porch to the wing from the northern courtyard.

The courtyard itself had been dug over down to bedrock (3m) in the 18th and 19th centuries when the area was divided into cottage gardens. The only noteworthy feature was a substantial stone foundation, circa 2.5m x 1.5m, 3 courses deep, and set 2m deep in a larger pit. The deepest part of the pit lay beyond the W edge of the excavation trench. No indication of the function of either pit or stone foundation was found, and the only dating evidence (saggars and early 18th century kiln pottery) came from the pit's final filling. Perhaps future work will resolve these problems.

SITE XXIV

Exploratory work was carried out in the long gallery to provide information for future archaeological and restoration work. Trenches were laid out either side of a cross wall, and extended into the inner court.

To the S of the cross wall two successive floor levels were identified. The upper and latest floor was 19th century and built on 0.45m of kiln debris, which included glazed bricks and broken flue arches. The lower floor level was associated with the cross wall, itself a late feature not bonded into the walls

on either side. Any earlier floor levels had been destroyed. Related to the lower floor level was a gap in the long gallery wall through to the inner court, where a flagged floor surrounded by walling formed an 'outshut' probably of 18th century date. The long gallery wall to the S of this gap had been completely rebuilt and underlying it were brick settings associated with manor made pottery. It is possible that future work in this part of the long gallery will locate more structures associated with the pottery industry which was in operation at the manor in the early 18th century (see 1971 Interim Report). To the E of the 'outshut' a previously unrecorded 19th century brick arched cellar was found. There was no evidence for an associated building above ground, and the cellar's full extent has yet to be established.

In the long gallery to the N of the cross wall there was an associated flagged floor, 1m lower than the floor which lay to the S of the wall. The fill was all post 1900. The long gallery wall on the inner court side was of two periods. The upper courses carry a plinth which once supported padstones for a timber framed wall, parts of which survived until about 1910. From photographic evidence this framework had been extended in height, possibly during the second building phase which may also have been when the upper stonework of the gallery was rebuilt and the Wolsey Tower added. Unfortunately the later addition of the cross-wall and flagged floor had removed earlier and higher floor levels.

SITE XXV

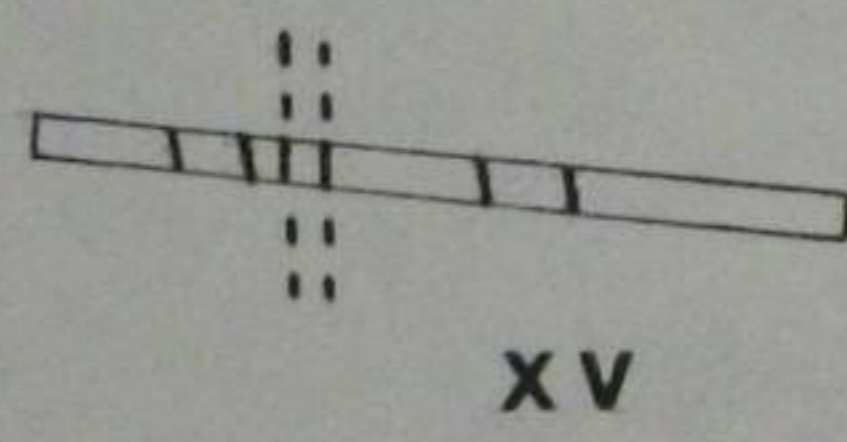
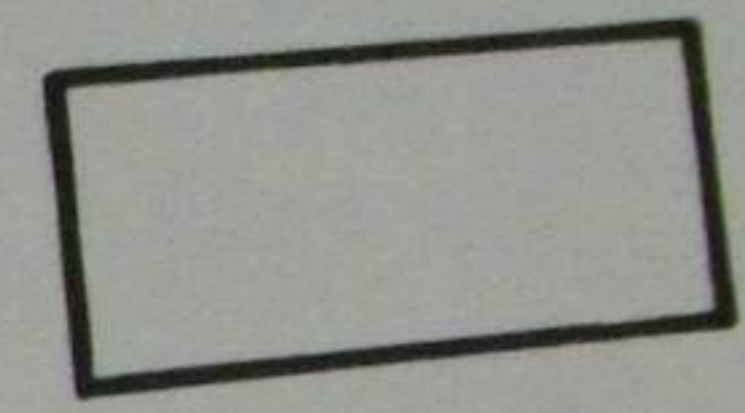
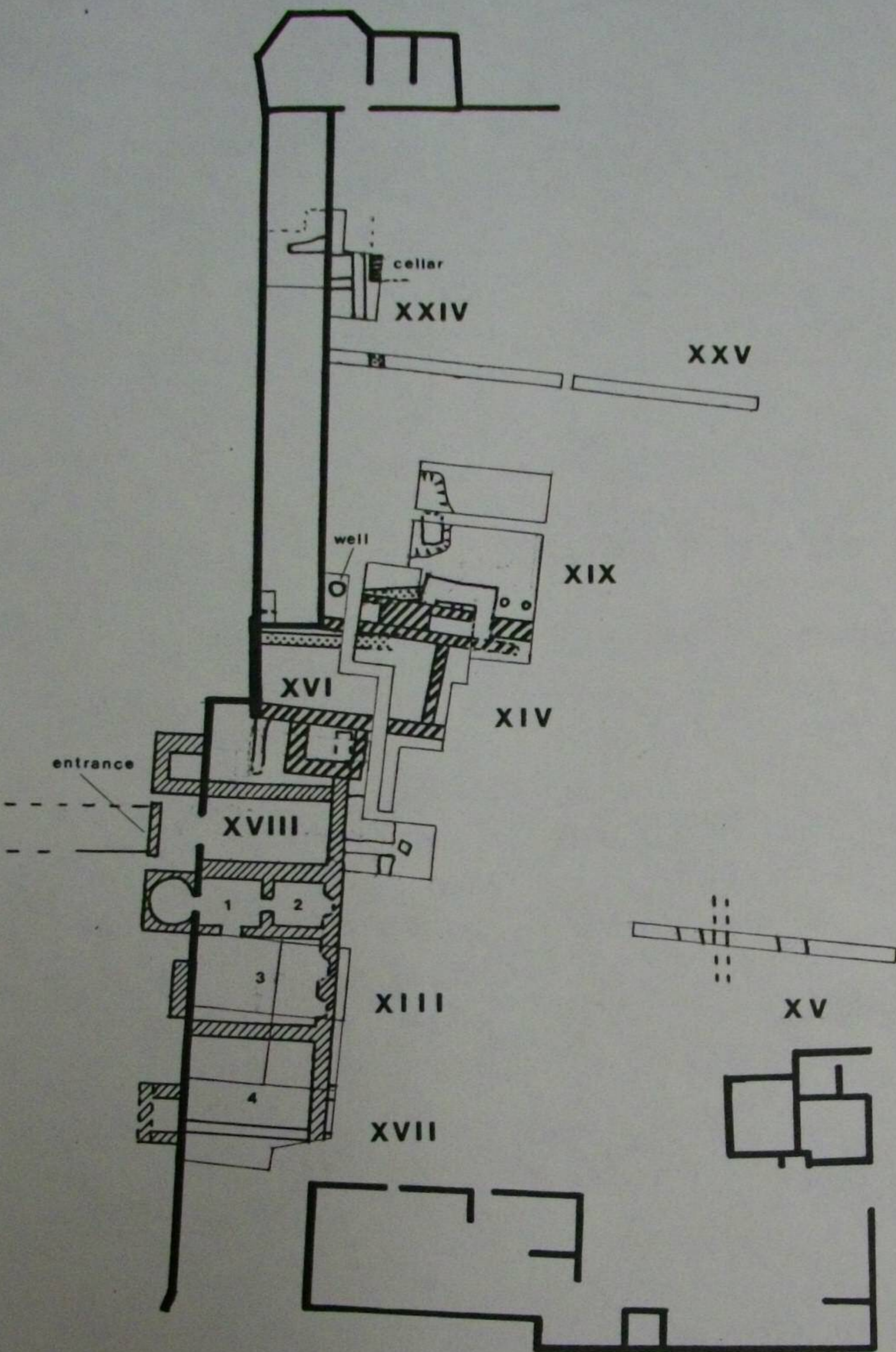
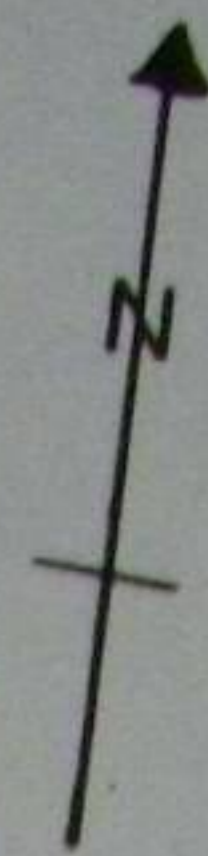
A 1m wide test trench E-W across the northern courtyard confirmed that two thirds of the area had been cultivated down to bedrock in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the W sector, however, two superimposed sets of clay grouted footings on offset alignments were located 3m to the E of the long gallery wall. No associated features were recognised. The inner wall of the long gallery had been rebuilt in the 19th century above earlier footings.

CONCLUSIONS

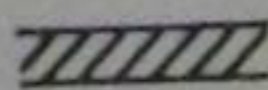
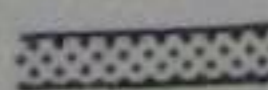
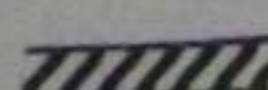
The 1978 excavations have provided significant guidelines for future work, chief of which are;

- (1) The southern courtyard promises to yield evidence of the 16th century layout, and possibly earlier features.
- (2) Further evidence for structures pre-dating the 16th century house is likely to be found under the E-W cross-wing.
- (3) Approximately two thirds of the northern courtyard has been rendered archaeologically sterile by garden cultivation.
- (4) 18th and 19th century disturbance and rebuilding in the long gallery has proved more extensive than anticipated and there will be structural problems during both excavation and restoration. Important evidence of the manor's 18th century pottery industry, however, may be forthcoming.

Sheffield Manor 1976-78



KEY

-  Entrance block
-  Clay grouted footings
-  Mortared footings

1:500

1978 EXCAVATIONS AT SHEFFIELD MANOR

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The excavation took place for four weeks from July 31st to August 26th, a week longer than previously, and this enabled us to bring together the results of the work which has been carried out since 1976 and to establish a building sequence for the West front.

The proposed sequence represents the conversion of a 15th century hunting lodge to a substantial 16th century manor house and is as follows:-

1. Early clay-grouted wall footings, some robbed, found in trenches XIX, XVIII in 1978, and XIV and XVI in 1976 and 1977. They appear to relate to a building which lay on an E-W axis similar to the position of the later cross-wing. Their original plan has been masked by later buildings but presumably they represent the early remains of the 15th century hunting lodge referred to in documentary evidence.
2. Short middle portion of W. front wall (8.3m. long), of dressed rectangular blocks of masonry, which preceded the long gallery to the north and is therefore the oldest wall still standing on the site. It may have formed the gable end of a building on an E-W axis, the long walls of which were perhaps timber framed.
3. The long gallery - added in the early 16th century.
4. Wolsey Tower - added before Wolsey's visit in 1529 at the same time as the upper floor of the long gallery was rebuilt.
5. Change of plan and major enlargement with a newly designed front entrance flanked by brick faced octagonal towers and new apartments in the southern half of the W. wing. Possibly built to an architectural plan in the 1570's and designed to create additional accommodation because of the need to house Mary Queen of Scots and her retinue. The Turret House and new garden layout date to the same period.
6. E-W cross-wing with mortared footings, added in the late 16th century, but before the 6th Earl's death in 1590.

Other discoveries included:

- (a) Evidence for a 'portico' arrangement around the S.W. part of the inner court.
- (b) A major portion of the northern half of the inner court had been dug over down to bedrock in the 18th and 19th centuries as cottage gardens, and in the late 19th century a previously unrecorded cellar had been inserted.
- (c) In Site XIX a substantial stone foundation c.2.5m x 1.3m had been set into a large pit within the inner court, and appeared to date from the 16th or 17th centuries though no indication of function was found.

1978 EXCAVATIONS AT SHEFFIELD MANOR

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- (d) Exploratory work in the long gallery showed that 16th and 17th century floor levels had been destroyed by 18th and 19th century rebuilding, which included important evidence relating to the pottery industry established at the manor in the early 18th century.

In 1979 we aim to continue work in the southern half of the inner court, in the area of the E-W cross wing and on specific features in the northern courtyard.

Pauline Beswick
1979

EXCAVATIONS AT SHEFFIELD MANOR, 1979SUMMARY

Attention was concentrated on the cross-wing and southern courtyard where impressive structural remains of both the 16th century house and the medieval buildings preceding it, were found to have survived. Most notable were:

- (1) A ?medieval structure unrelated to later buildings on the site.
- (2) A large 16th century cellar in the cross-wing.
- (3) 16th century courtyard structures.

INTRODUCTION

The excavation was for a four week period from July 30th to August 26th and, as in 1978, this enabled a larger area to be opened than had been possible in the early years of work on the site. The advantages of a longer excavation period are evident from the considerable advances made in the last two years in our understanding of the site's history.

Further work on the long gallery and north courtyard was postponed because of structural problems and a backlog in the mason's work of consolidation. Investigation was concentrated on the cross-wing and southern courtyard, and all excavation was carried out by hand. The attached plan shows the 1979 trenches - XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, in relation to those of 1976-8.

SITES XXVI & XXVII

The aim was to investigate a further substantial portion of the cross-wing, following on from the results obtained from sites XIX (1978) and XIV (1976).

The earliest feature found was a fragmentary wall of weathered stones and boulders running E-W in site XXVII, with traces of a clay floor to the south, cut into by the S wall of the cross-wing. More substantial remains of this structure were found in Site XXVIII, in which section they will be described more fully.

The cross-wing proved to be more complex in design and structural history than anticipated. Adjacent to the room with the fireplace (XIV, 1976) lies a smaller room, 4.5m x 5m, with a small patch of similar pitched stone floor make-up surviving.

In site XXVI the N wall of the cross-wing is set forward of the line to the W, and inturned to form the E side of a centrally placed 5.5m wide entrance from the N courtyard. The N wall itself is of two building periods, the earlier footings being on a slightly different alignment. On the courtyard side, parallel with the wall is a

line of four post holes, 0.4m to 0.5m deep, for posts 0.2m - 0.3m diameter, cut into bedrock, and comparable with the two found in XIX (1978). From their fill they are contemporary with the 16th century building, but there is no evidence as to whether the posts they held were constructional or whether they formed an architectural feature. The holes are more substantial than the normal builder's scaffolding holes found on the site. One possibility is that they may have held temporary buttressing for an unstable wall. The evidence of two building phases could lend support to such a theory, as perhaps could documentary evidence for minor earthquakes in Sheffield in the latter half of the sixteenth century.

In the N. half of the cross-wing a room, 6m x 3.5m, was cut by a ramp sloping from S to N and corresponding with a gap in the stonework of the N wall. Possibly this represents a collapsed drain originally boxed in wood.

An extensive cellar, 7m x over 4m, discovered in the S half of the cross-wing has only been partially excavated to date. It was cut through bedrock and in parts the walls survive up to 2.0m high. The N wall is earlier than the E wall, and in the NE corner, where the floor has been excavated, a small stone sink with drain hole and stone lid was found set into a flagged floor. In the SW corner a descending staircase was blocked by the later S wall of the cellar, and stepped stonework in the E wall could indicate the position of the replacement stair. The cellar is full of demolition rubble which includes moulded plaster and finely carved stone from internal fittings of the 16th century house. Other finds indicate demolition took place in the first half of the 18th century.

SITE XXVIII

A large area adjacent to the Site XVIII (1977 & 78) and within the courtyard of the 16th century house was opened to see if evidence for the courtyard layout survived and whether features representing earlier building phases were preserved. Both objectives were successful.

In the N part of the trench were the footings of two walls of a building, the third wall of which had been found in Site XXVIII. Stratigraphically it is the earliest structure on this part of the site, and it is interesting that the building techniques differ from any others used on the site in so far as they have been identified by excavation. The foundation course consists of weathered boulders, some 'plough scratched', and the floor is of clay.

The building was 5.5m wide internally by over 5.0m long, and was sealed below the sandy make-up for a flagged area within the 16th century courtyard. The only object found associated, a sherd of Romano-British grey ware, is probably residual. In the disturbed subsoil nearby was found a penny of Henry V, 1420-22, the likely deposition date for which is circa 1440 - 10 (M. Archibald, pers. comm.)

A flint scraper and the butt end of a flaked flint axe, also found in the subsoil suggest the possibility of a prehistoric (?Mesolithic) site located on the sandstone outcrop and destroyed by medieval and post-medieval activity.

The 16th century courtyard level was sealed below 0.6m of later soil and ash deposits. A paved area (4m x 3m), located in 1977

and 1978, and set almost opposite the main entrance, was uncovered in its entirety. A layer of chequered sandy make-up approximately the same width and continuing E, suggests that there was a continuous paved path around the N side of the courtyard.

Around the W side of the courtyard the possible covered walkway or 'portico' found in 1978, continued to run parallel to the W wing, and to overlie a 3m wide clay-filled cutting in the bedrock. Subsidence of the clay had resulted in the original paving having to be relaid. On the courtyard side the boundary of the 'portico' appears to have made use of an earlier wall footing perhaps connected with the cutting in bedrock. Further investigation of these features is needed.

Within the courtyard, beyond the 'portico', a roughly paved area abuts the excavated half of an apparently circular structure, 4m in diameter. The substantial footings comprise three courses of sandstone slabs, clay grouted, and set into bedrock, with a possible entrance from the portico side. The structure appears to stand independent of the house and may have formed part of an ornamental feature within the courtyard. A fountain base is one possibility but no pipe feed channels or drains have yet been found. Total excavation is needed to ascertain its purpose.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The work of 1979 has shown that substantial structural features relating to both the 16th century house and the medieval buildings preceding it, survive in the southern half of the site.

It is recommended that a further excavation by the City Museums Department under the direction of Miss P. Beswick be undertaken in the Summer of 1980 for a period of 4 or 5 weeks to continue with work on the cross-wing and southern courtyard.

November 1979

John Bartlett, Director
Pauline Beswick, Keeper of Antiquities

SUMMARY

Attention was concentrated on the cross-wing and southern courtyard where impressive structural remains of both the 16th century house and the medieval buildings preceding it, were found to have survived.

- (1) A ?medieval structure unrelated to later buildings on the site.
- (2) A large 16th century cellar in the cross-wing.
- (3) 16th century courtyard structures.

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The earliest feature found was a fragmentary wall of weathered stones and boulders running E-W in site XXVII, with traces of a clay floor to the south, cut into by the S wall of the cross-wing. More substantial remains of this structure were found in Site XXVIII, in which section they will be described more fully.

The cross-wing proved to be more complex in design and structural history than anticipated. Adjacent to the room with the fireplace (XIV, 1976) lies a smaller room, 4.5m x 5m, with a small patch of similar pitched stone floor make-up surviving.

In site XXVI the N wall of the cross-wing is set forward of the line to the W, and inturned to form the E side of a centrally placed 5.5m wide entrance from the N courtyard. The N wall itself is of two building periods, the earlier footings being on a slightly different alignment. On the courtyard side, parallel with the wall is a

line of four post holes, 0.4m to 0.5m deep, for posts 0.2m - 0.3m diameter, cut into bedrock, and comparable with the two found in XIX (1978). From their fill they are contemporary with the 16th century building, but there is no evidence as to whether the posts they held were constructional or whether they formed an architectural feature. The holes are more substantial than the normal builder's scaffolding holes found on the site. One possibility is that they may have held temporary buttressing for an unstable wall. The evidence of two building phases could lend support to such a theory, as perhaps could documentary evidence for minor earthquakes in Sheffield in the latter half of the sixteenth century.

In the N. half of the cross-wing a room, 6m x 3.5m, was cut by a ramp sloping from S to N and corresponding with a gap in the stonework of the N wall. Possibly this represents a collapsed drain originally boxed in wood.

An extensive cellar, 7m x over 4m, discovered in the S half of the cross-wing has only been partially excavated to date. It was cut through bedrock and in parts the walls survive up to 2.0m high. The N wall is earlier than the E wall, and in the NE corner, where the floor has been excavated, a small stone sink with drain hole and stone lid was found set into a flagged floor. In the SW corner a descending staircase was blocked by the later S wall of the cellar, and stepped stonework in the E wall could indicate the position of the replacement stair. The cellar is full of demolition rubble which includes moulded plaster and finely carved stone from internal fittings of the 16th century house. Other finds indicate demolition took place in the first half of the 18th century.

SITE XXVIII

A large area adjacent to the Site XVIII (1977 & 78) and within the courtyard of the 16th century house was opened to see if evidence for the courtyard layout survived and whether features representing earlier building phases were preserved. Both objectives were successful.

In the N part of the trench were the footings of two walls of a building, the third wall of which had been found in Site XXVIII. Stratigraphically it is the earliest structure on this part of the site, and it is interesting that the building techniques differ from any others used on the site in so far as they have been identified by excavation. The foundation course consists of weathered boulders, some 'plough scratched', and the floor is of clay.

The building was 5.5m wide internally by over 5.0m long, and was sealed below the sandy make-up for a flagged area within the 16th century courtyard. The only object found associated, a sherd of Romano-British grey ware, is probably residual. In the disturbed subsoil nearby was found a penny of Henry V, 1420-22, the likely deposition date for which is circa 1440 - 10 (M. Archibald, pers. comm.)

A flint scraper and the butt end of a flaked flint axe, also found in the subsoil suggest the possibility of a prehistoric (?Mesolithic) site located on the sandstone outcrop and destroyed by medieval and post-medieval activity.

The 16th century courtyard level was sealed below 0.6m of later soil and ash deposits. A paved area (4m x 3m), located in 1977

and 1978, and set almost opposite the main entrance, was uncovered in its entirety. A layer of chequered sandy make-up approximately the same width and continuing E, suggests that there was a continuous paved path around the N side of the courtyard.

Around the W side of the courtyard the possible covered walkway or 'portico' found in 1978, continued to run parallel to the W wing, and to overlie a 3m wide clay-filled cutting in the bedrock. Subsidence of the clay had resulted in the original paving having to be relaid. On the courtyard side the boundary of the 'portico' appears to have made use of an earlier wall footing perhaps connected with the cutting in bedrock. Further investigation of these features is needed.

Within the courtyard, beyond the 'portico', a roughly paved area abuts the excavated half of an apparently circular structure, 4m in diameter. The substantial footings comprise three courses of sandstone slabs, clay grouted, and set into bedrock, with a possible entrance from the portico side. The structure appears to stand independent of the house and may have formed part of an ornamental feature within the courtyard. A fountain base is one possibility but no pipe feed channels or drains have yet been found. Total excavation is needed to ascertain its purpose.

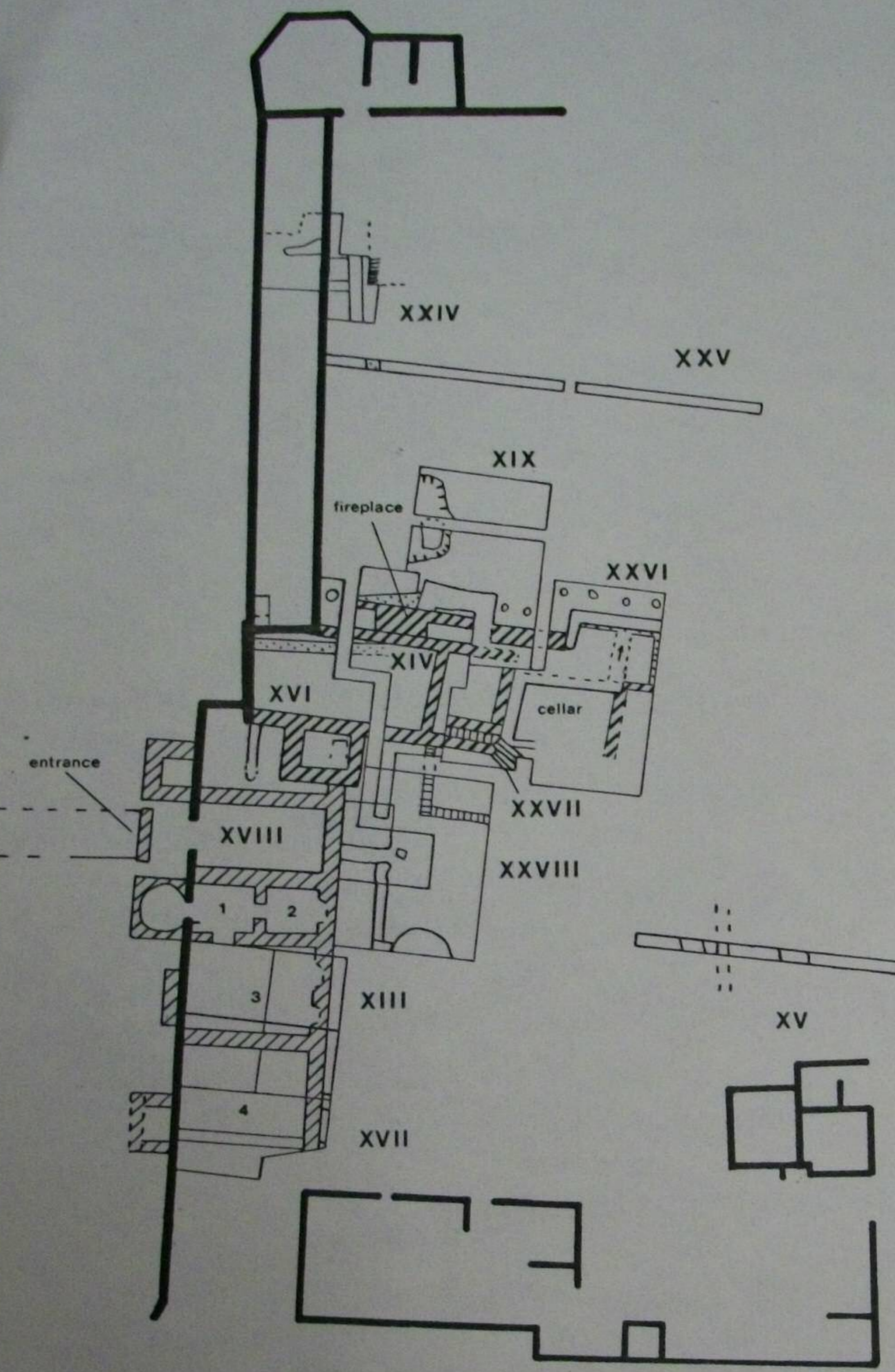
CONCLUSIONS

The work of 1979 has shown that substantial structural features relating to both the 16th century house and the medieval buildings preceding it, survive in the southern half of the site.

Future work should include;

- (1) Total excavation of the cross-wing and adjoining east wing, surrounding the southern courtyard.
- (2) Total excavation of the areas within the southern courtyard not destroyed by 18th and 19th century building.

Pauline Beswick
November 1979



entrance

XXIV

XXV

XIX

fireplace

XXVI

XIV

cellar

XVI

XXVII

XVIII

XXVIII

1

2

3

XIII

4

XVII

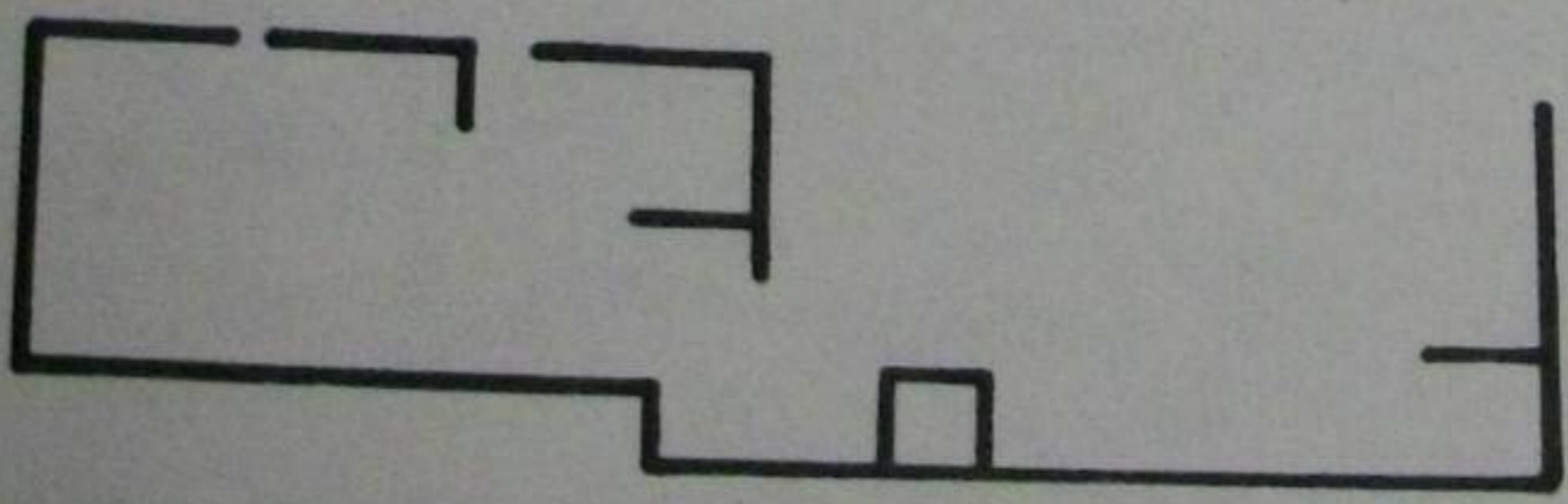
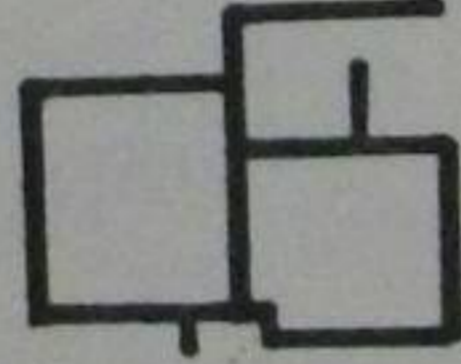
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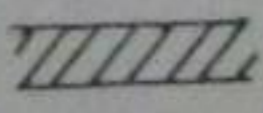
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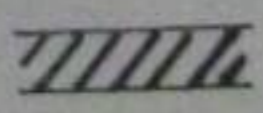
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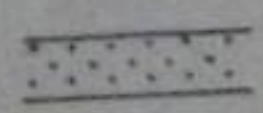
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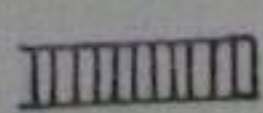


KEY

 Entrance block

 Mortared footings

 Clay grouted footings

 Boulder footings

1:500

SHEFFIELD MANOR

1976-79

SUMMARY

The main achievement was completion of excavation of the cross-wing, dividing the two courtyards, as far east as the modern boundary wall. The chief feature in this wing is a large cellar which comprised possibly 3 rooms, each added at different phases. The demolition fill contained architectural fragments from fireplaces and chimneys. Other discoveries included an early clay-floored medieval building, likely to have formed part of the original hunting lodge and the foundations of what may have been a fountain in the 16th century courtyard.

INTRODUCTION

The excavation was for 5 weeks from July 21st to August 23rd, and the aim was to complete investigation of the major structures partially uncovered in the 1979 season.

Investigation was again concentrated on the cross-wing and southern courtyard, and all the work was carried out by hand. The attached plan shows the 1980 trenches - XXVI, XXIX, XXX and XXXI - in relation to those of 1976 and 1979.

SITE XXVI

The cellar in the cross-wing, discovered in 1979, was excavated totally. In its final form it comprised two and possibly three rooms, each added at different building phases and each with its own staircase;

Room 1, the earliest, and approximately 4.4 m. N/S by 4.0 m. E/W, was located in the NE sector. The surviving walls are clay-grouted and of rough cut stone, and a blocking, 1.20 m. wide, in the NE corner is likely to have been the staircase. Full investigation of this feature, however, cannot safely be undertaken prior to consolidation of the surrounding walls.

Room 2, lies in the NW sector and measures approximately 4 m. N/S by 3 m. E/W. The N and W walls are of mortared ashlar masonry and the staircase, discovered in the SW corner in 1979, was blocked at a later stage.

Room 3, added to the S end of Room 1, appears to represent the final extension to the cellar. It is approximately 4.3 m. N/S by 4 m. E/W and has a staircase in the W side, which was still in use when the house was demolished. This cellar extension appears to have encroached on the area of the southern courtyard and was positioned at the junction of the cross-wing with the east wing. In the final stage Rooms 1 and 2 may have been one room as no trace of a division between them was found. The floor

in this area, however, had been robbed extensively at the demolition in 1708.

The demolition material filling the cellar was remarkable for the number of pieces of dressed masonry it contained. These included carved side stones from two fireplaces together with the lintel stone from one; the base stones from 3 or more chimney stacks; and part of the battlemented top of a chimney similar to that still standing on the S. front. Presumably these pieces represent some of the architectural embellishments of the cross-wing's superstructure.

SITE XXIX

An area 8 m. x 4 m., S of site XXVI, was opened to try to locate further remains of the early clay-floored structure located in 1979 in sites XXVIII and XXVII.

It was found that on the N and E sides the building had been cut by cellar rooms 2 and 3 and their respective staircases. However, the SE corner of the building survived intact, giving external dimensions of 8.8 m. E/W by 7m. N/S. Traces of an internal partition remained, dividing the building centrally on an E-W axis. Little survived of the northern room which had been extensively damaged by the cellar and S wall of the cross-wing. There were traces of a clay floor which had in part been covered by re-used stone roofing slates. The southern room was more intact and comprised 3 units; at the W end a raised clay area 1.50 m. E/W by 2.7 m. N/S; in the central part, a thick level clay floor covering an area 3.75 m. E/W by 2.50 m. N/S; and at the E end a separate rectangular stone foundation, approximately 2 m. E/W by (?) 3 m. (N/S), the N end of which had been cut by the third cellar staircase. Patches of burnt clay on this foundation suggest that it may have been for a hearth and chimney. A series of post holes at the corners of the building and in other key positions indicate possibly an above ground timber-framed structure.

No finds were associated but stratigraphically it is still the earliest structure yet identified on the site and the building techniques differ from all others yet excavated (see 1979 Interim Report). The central subdivision and possible gable-end hearth and chimney appear to rule out the likelihood of it having been, for instance, an early medieval farmstead. Worthy of note is the building's E-W orientation, similar to other early features in the cross-wing area, and also the building appears to have been respected by the first phase of the cellar. It may, therefore, have formed part of the original medieval hunting lodge.

SITE XXX

An area 15 m. by 6 m. was opened adjacent to site XXVI to investigate the cross-wing as far E as the modern boundary wall.

The N wall of the cross wing was found to return S for 4.3 m. to form a projection 6 m. by 4 m. to the north of the cellar and over-looking the courtyard. The sloping 'ramp' dividing

this area approximately in half, which in 1979 was thought perhaps to be a drain, proved to be a robbed out wall trench. On the courtyard side of the projecting rooms were found two further large post holes cut into the bedrock and comparable in dimensions to those found in 1979 (XXVI). A third post hole, out of line, cut through the lower, earlier footings at the NE corner of the projecting rooms.

To the E of this feature the N wall of the cross-wing continues E-W, aligned with the N wall of the cellar, and set back from the frontage line further W. As in 1979 the N walls of the wing were found to be of two building periods with a slight change of alignment.

The S half of trench XXX revealed complex internal room arrangements and showed that a radical re-arrangement had taken place on a number of occasions. In the NW corner the blocking of the first cellar (?) staircase was overlain by the two successive N walls of the cross-wing. Also early was a double drainage system which flowed southwards on a comparatively steep course, possible to join up with the deep cutting found in trench XV (1976). This drain was later cut through by a 1 m. wide E-W wall parallel with the N wall of the wing and possibly contemporary with the first phase N. wall. In the final stage the floors and plastered walls of at least two small rooms were identified. Wall footings about 1.5 m. wide, used in the later stages, are reminiscent of the wide wall footings found in test trench XV (1976) and presumably part of the E. wing. It would appear that in site XXX, the junction of the cross-wing with the E wing is beginning to appear and only further excavation in this area will elucidate the full sequence and function of these rooms.

SITE XXXI

At the S end of site XXVIII a trench 4 m. by 10 m. was opened to excavate fully the apparently circular footings found in 1979.

The feature proved to be non-circular. On the S and W sides the wall footings assumed almost straight alignments from an approximate right angle in the SW corner. In the SE corner a substantial stone-built drain flowed SE-wards. A shallow trench leading up to the S side of the structure may have held a water pipe, which together with the thick clay grouting between all the foundation stones may support the possibility suggested in 1979 that the structure formed the base for a fountain. Possibly secondary were two roughly 0.5 m. square holes set 0.8 m. apart on a central axis and cut through the massive fittings down into bedrock. From their positioning they clearly relate to the structure but their function is not clear.

On the W side the (?) fountain base overlay the footings of a well mortared wall, 1.4 m. wide and running N-S. On the E side the (?) fountain base appeared to have cut through the boulder footings of an E-W wall, 0.9 m. wide. Neither wall could be related to the manor house sequence and their clarification must await future investigation.

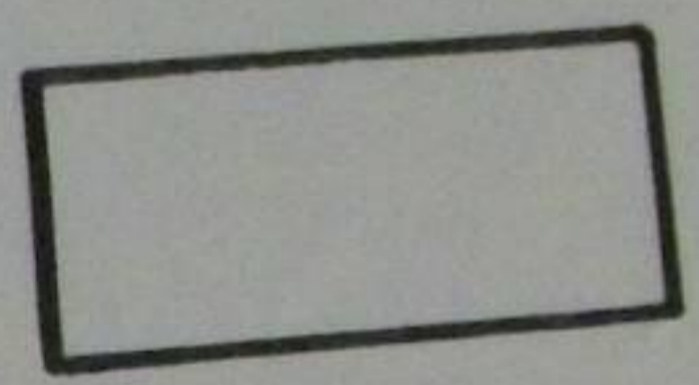
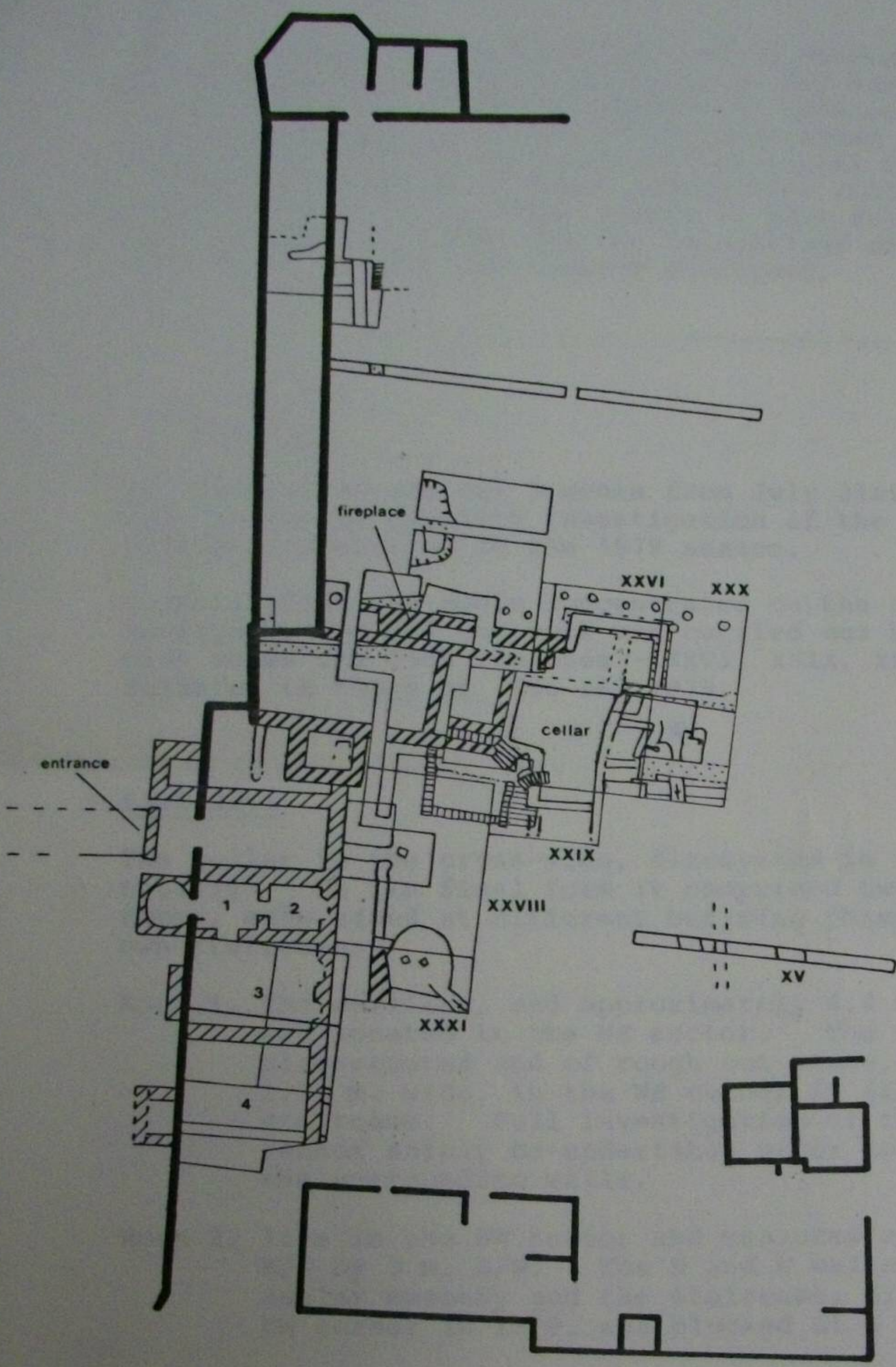
CONCLUSION

The results emphasise the scale of the 16th century house, which was on a par with mansions such as Haddon Hall and South Wingfield. They also underline the complex building development which took place on the site as the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury and Lords of the Manor of Sheffield, transformed a hunting lodge into a grand residence, apparently within a time span of less than 200 years.

It is intended that this should be the final season of the current excavation programme and that resources be concentrated on a full analysis of the twelve seasons undertaken by the City Museum since 1968 before any further excavation takes place.

November 1980

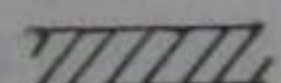
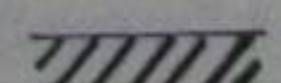
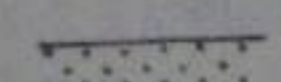
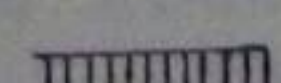
Pauline Beswick



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SHEFFIELD MANOR

1976-80

- KEY
-  Entrance block
 -  Mortared footings
 -  Clay grouted footings
 -  Boulder footings

EXCAVATIONS AT SHEFFIELD MANOR, 1980INTRODUCTION

The excavation was for five weeks from 21st July to 23rd August and the aim was to complete investigation of the major structures partially uncovered in 1979. The attached plan shows the 1980 trenches - XXVI, XXIX, XXX and XXXI - in relation to the areas investigated between 1976 and 1979.

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS

The main achievement was completion of the excavation of the cross-wing, dividing the two courtyards, as far east as the modern boundary wall. The chief feature in this wing is a large cellar measuring 9m. N/S by 7.5m. and 4.0m. E/W. In its final form it comprised 2 and possibly 3 rooms, each added at different periods and each with its own staircase. The cellar walls still survive in parts up to 2.0m. high and the final staircase is intact. The wing was demolished in 1708 and amongst the demolition material filling the cellar were a remarkable number of architectural fragments. These included carved side stones from two fireplaces together with the lintel stone from one; the base stones from three or more chimney stacks; and part of the battlemented top of a chimney similar to that which still stands on the South front.

Other discoveries included a succession of complex room arrangements to the east of the cellar, at the junction of the cross-wing with the east wing (XXX); a small clay-floored and probably timber-framed building, the earliest structure identified on the site, and likely to have formed part of the original medieval hunting lodge (XXIX); and the massive foundations of a structure within the southern courtyard which may have been a fountain base (XXXI).

CONCLUSIONS

The results emphasise the scale of the 16th century house, which was on a par with mansions such as Haddon Hall and South Wingfield. They also underline the complex building developments which took place on the site as the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury and Lords of the Manor of Sheffield, transformed a hunting lodge into a grand residence, apparently within a time span of less than 200 years.

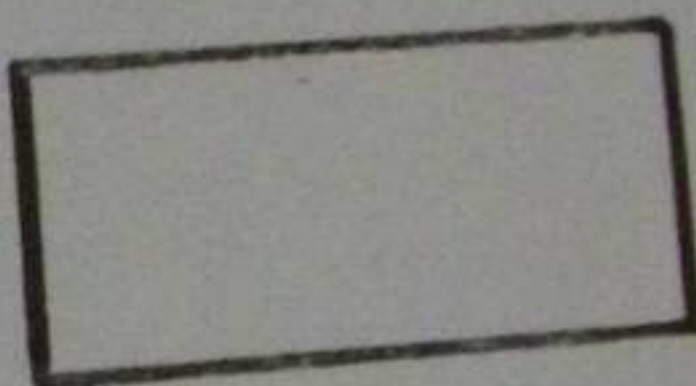
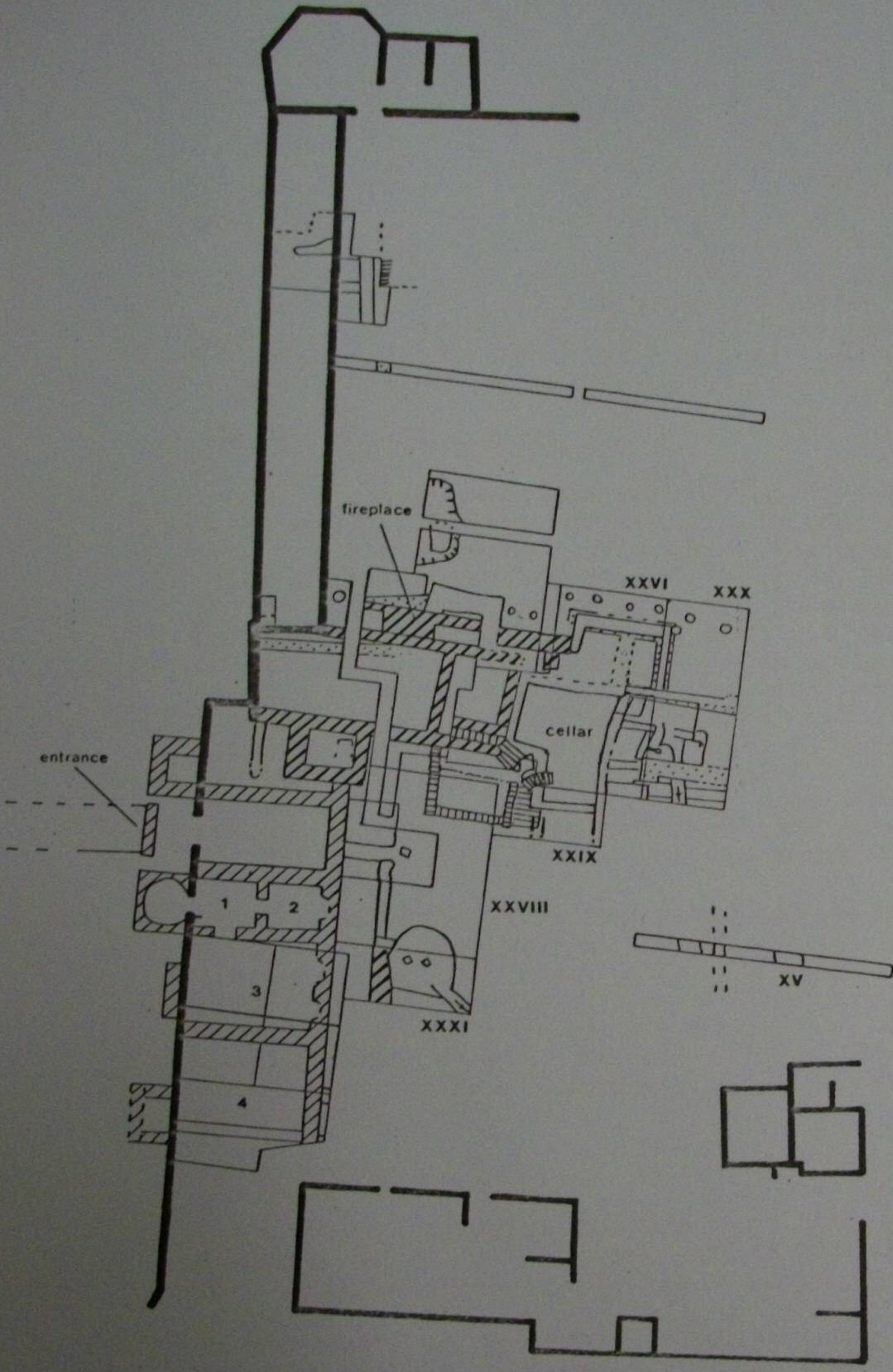
The 12 seasons of excavation which the Museum has undertaken on the site since 1968 have recovered a mass of new structures, finds and information. The real potential of this material, however, will not be realised until a detailed analysis is carried out. Furthermore, such work is essential before the site and finds can be fully interpreted and displayed to the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

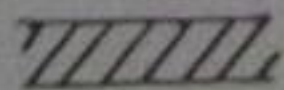
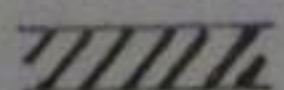
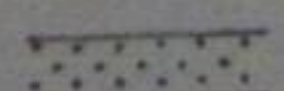
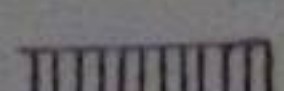
1. That this should be the last season of the current excavation programme, and that a full analysis of the past twelve seasons should be carried out before any further excavation takes place.
2. Such analysis takes time and should be undertaken by one and the same person, a professional archaeologist, working full-time. It is estimated that post-excavation analysis takes at least three times as long to complete as the excavation, which applied to the Manor gives a period of three years required for post-excavation work.
3. Since February 1980, Miss Julie Bond has been employed under a S.T.E.P. Scheme on Manor post-excavation work. The scheme ends in February 1981, and it is strongly recommended that Miss Bond be retained to complete this work with the resources which normally would be used for excavation.

December 1980

John Bartlett, Director of Museums
Pauline Beswick, Keeper of Antiquities



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- KEY
-  Entrance block
 -  Mortared footings
 -  Clay grouted footings
 -  Boulder footings

SHEFFIELD MANOR

1976-80