

# Medieval Britain in 1957

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THE COMPILERS of this summary wish to thank all those who have so kindly helped them by giving information about excavations and small finds. They appeal to all who deal with excavations or antiquities in the period with which this journal is concerned to bring to their attention year by year any new finds, in any part of the country, in order that the surveys may be even more complete in future years.

Part I has been compiled by D. M. Wilson and Part II by J. G. Hurst.

## I. PRE-CONQUEST

### ENGLAND

**BEDFORDSHIRE: TOTTERNHOE (SP/999213).** A cemetery and traces of a settlement were found at the end of Marina Drive and were excavated under the general supervision of J. Morris. 13 skeletons were recovered and finds included a large, ribbed spearhead and a hanging-bowl escutcheon decorated with a developed trumpet-pattern of a type closely paralleled at Camerton,<sup>1</sup> which consists of three 'trumpets' emanating from a central spiral. In the same grave (female) was a bone comb, the remains of a leather purse, a knife with a handle bound in coarse linen, and a work-box containing a few fibres of wool and flax. Traces of a chatelaine were also found. Among other finds from the cemetery were a scramasax and a 'small-long' brooch. The date of the settlement is unclear and it may possibly be Romano-British. A waisted bone-pin, in the form of a miniature axe, paralleled by a similar, unwaisted example from Holland,<sup>2</sup> was the only object that might afford a clue to the date of the settlement. The pottery from the site is heavy, crude and featureless. Excavation continues.

**BERKSHIRE: OLD WINDSOR.** In 1953 the Berkshire Archaeological Society sponsored a short season of excavation at Kingsbury, Old Windsor, the site of a palace used by Edward the Confessor and the early Norman kings of England. Remains of the 11th and 12th centuries were found abundantly; but it was soon established that occupation of the site had begun three or four centuries before the Norman conquest.

In view of this the late B. H. St. J. O'Neil, Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments of the Ministry of Works, decided that Kingsbury should be excavated on a larger scale, in anticipation of its development as a housing-estate, and so, in 1954-5 and 1957-8, the most important accessible features of the site were examined under the Ministry's auspices by Brian Hope-Taylor, who has provided the following provisional interpretation of the occupational sequence.

It is almost certain that the original focus of settlement lay on the highest ground, on or near the site of the existing parish churchyard; but it is not possible to excavate in this area and the nature and duration of the Phase I settlement remains hypothetical.

<sup>1</sup> W. J. Wedlake, *Excavations at Camerton, Somerset* (Camerton Excavation Club, 1958), pl. xx. Other parallels occur at Chesterton, Hitchin, Keythorpe, Middleton Moor, etc.

<sup>2</sup> P. C. J. A. Boeles, *Friesland tot de elfde Eeuw* ('S Gravenhage, 1951), pl. li, 9.

Investigation of the available ground nearest to the churchyard, however, has disclosed what appears to be a peripheral zone of secondary development. This is tentatively presumed to represent Phase II. Its structures and associated objects do not suggest that the settlement was then more than a village or farmstead.

A more or less bag-shaped cooking-pot with no refinements of profile, hand-made in grass-tempered ware, is the characteristic ceramic form of Phase II. A triangular plate of gilt-bronze with interlace of the second half of the 7th century was found in a position which suggests that the end of this phase may most reasonably be set between 700 and 750. The earlier date carries the assumption that the object was made between 650 and 675 and that it was soon discarded; whereas the later allows for its manufacture during the last quarter of the 7th century and for its use over a period of 25-50 years.

With Phase III the character of the site changes. It is convenient to treat the ceramic evidence first, and to establish a subdivision. In IIIa, a low, rounded shoulder becomes the dominant feature of the cooking-pots, which are extensively burnished with a bone tool. Shouldered pots with sparse burnishing occurred occasionally in Phase II, but the development of these features in Phase III appears to have been rapid and is certainly significant, perhaps indicating contact with more sophisticated wares from other regions.

The grass-tempered pottery tradition reached its humble peak in IIIb, when diverse new forms made a sudden, seemingly brief, appearance. Outstanding among them is a type of bowl with horizontal lugs standing out from the rim, a form unknown elsewhere. Other types are present in which the lugs tend to conform with those on contemporary East Anglian pottery: some upstanding and perforated, a few others set obliquely to the rim and imperforate. Handled cups and lids, and possibly a pitcher, are other items of the new repertoire. The pipkin, or large ladle (possibly a development from the lugged bowls) completes the series. The level at which this pottery first appears may be dated beginning of the 9th century or earlier, since imported pottery of the first half of the 9th century overlies it. One imported vessel merits special notice: a spouted pitcher of hard, wheel-turned ware, which G. C. Dunning identifies as Tating ware—the only known example of this probably Rhenish product from Britain. The lozenges and strips of tinfoil with which it was originally decorated were removed before it was thrown away, but the adhesive remains to show the pattern. The level in which the fragments of this vessel occurred forms the division between Phases IIIb and IV.

An outstanding structure which was certainly in existence by the end of Phase III is a large and sophisticated mill, with three vertical water-wheels (i.e. with horizontal axles) working in parallel. This was served by a great ditch or leat, which was dug across the neck of the loop of the Thames within which the site lies. The leat was nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile long, its flat bottom was over 20 ft. wide and its maximum depth in the section examined was about 12 ft. Those timbers of the mill which lay below the present water-table were well-preserved. Pollen analysis confirms the probability that the construction of the mill and its leat was accompanied by local deforestation.

The primary deposits in the leat are of heavy gravel, indicating a scour of water that carried all lighter objects, including rubbish, downstream to the river. The few sherds and rims that lodged against large stones are reminiscent of Phase II rather than III, but they are too few for accurate diagnosis. The abundant domestic rubbish stratified above the successive layers of heavy gravel, finer gravel and sand, belongs to the end of Phase III or the beginning of Phase IV. The pipkin occurs commonly, with several lugged forms. Other pottery imported to the region in the 9th and 10th centuries occupies a relatively high stratigraphical position.

The rubbish deposits referred to were thrown in from the east bank of the leat, and were succeeded by a thick layer of burned daub and plaster, which in turn was directly overlaid by a tumble of large blocks of flint, chalk and sarsen, accompanied by thick tile of Roman appearance, tipped in from the same side. Clearly these deposits represent

the life and death of a stone building to the east of the leat which was located after special search and is now being excavated. At present no more specific statement can be made than that it was a domestic building contemporary with the mill, that it probably had glazed windows, and that it possibly had a tiled roof. There are signs of other buildings near by, which at the time of writing remain to be investigated. The evidence points to total destruction by fire in the late 9th or early 10th century.

Historical interpretations of these events must wait on the more refined chronology which will emerge from final analysis of the enormous bulk of the finds; but certain inferences can be drawn at this stage. First, since the large and remarkably sophisticated mill and its leat were made at the same time that deforestation was taking place, they appear to have been introduced in anticipation of a considerably increased yield of grain from the new arable areas, and hence to represent systematic development of the site on a large scale. It was surely being transformed into an estate on manorial lines. The character of the new building at its heart argues that the whole centred on persons of high rank, and the higher quality and diversity of the contemporary pottery and small finds denote a general enhancement of status and widening of contacts. It seems extremely probable that the tradition of royal residence at Old Windsor, which becomes explicit in the reigns of the Confessor and his Norman successors, had begun by the 9th century. The later devastation of the site may represent a Viking raid.

Thereafter, a narrow channel was cut in the filling of the leat, to feed the horizontal water-wheel of a mill of the so-called 'Norse' type. This small leat was re-cut several times before going out of use in the early part of the 11th century.

Amongst the later features of the site mention must be made of the wooden buildings on sleeper beams which made their appearance in the 10th or 11th century; and of the gilt-bronze sword-guard, which can be dated just before the conquest and which has parallels in Sweden.

Old Windsor features in Domesday Book as an important *vill*, surpassed only by the boroughs of Wallingford and Reading; but the decision of Henry I to make the Conqueror's motte-and-bailey at Clewer into a residential castle led to the formation of New Windsor and the abandonment of the royal *vill*. The Easter Court of 1107 was the last held at Old Windsor. The archaeological record shows that minor occupation persisted in one or two areas during the 12th century, but that before its close the plough had levelled the site. A 13th-14th-century building, referred to in contemporary documents as 'the Grange', has been excavated and is the last notable feature of Kingsbury until the 18th century, when Richard Bateman, the friend of Horace Walpole, enlivened the site with his Gothick eccentricities.

———: WINKFIELD (NORTH STREET). A late-Saxon spearhead, with a collared socket, was reported by Mrs. E. G. Kaines Thomas.

HAMPSHIRE: WINALL. During 1955-6 F. Cottrill (Winchester Museum) rescued the contents of seven graves, which had been destroyed by bulldozing. Miss A. Savill, for the Ministry of Works, investigated the site further in 1957 and found sixteen graves. Among the objects were knives, combs, an iron belt-buckle, a spindle-whorl, a bronze tag and a small, wide-mouthed, burnished, wheel-turned vessel. Richer objects also occurred; two small, flat penannular brooches were found with a pair of silver union pins joined by a chain, paralleled at Long Wittenham (Berks.) and dated to the 7th century on the basis of the well known and elaborate gold pins and chains found at Cow Low (Derbyshire) and Roundway Down (Wilts). A single curved pin may be part of a similar set. Also of the 7th century is a large circular brooch of cast bronze, gilt on the front and tinned on the back, with a large central boss forming the centre of a four-pointed star of garnets. In each division of the brooch is a subsidiary boss. Snakes with beak-like mouths appear in opposite corners and small birds in the others. The finds have been given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the Winchester Museum. Excavation continues.

KENT: CANTERBURY (TR/150577). A fragmentary late-Saxon disc-brooch was found during building operations at the King's School, Canterbury. The brooch (nearly 6 in. diam.) is of silver inlaid with gold plates which bear filigree scrolls. The silver is engraved with crude designs inlaid with niello. The brooch, which has been given by the Governors of the school to the British Museum, is still undergoing preservative treatment. It is probably a 10th-century piece and falls into line with the series described by R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford,<sup>3</sup> although the nielloed ornament is more closely paralleled by that on the British Museum house-shaped casket.<sup>4</sup>

————: ———, ST. AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY (TR/155577). Excavation by the Ministry of Works (directed by A. D. Saunders) continued (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 152) at the W. end of the Norman abbey church, uncovering the remains of Saxon buildings below floor level. This produced the plan of a small detached chapel, 29½ ft. by 16 ft. (9.5 m. by 5 m.) internally, with a western apse on the same alignment as the 6th-7th-century church of SS. Peter and Paul and a little W. of it. Pottery from the chapel floor suggests that it was built c. 1000 and a small scrap of Stamford ware below the floor confirmed the late-Saxon association. Towards the middle of the 11th century a semi-circular staircase-tower was added to the E. end. The remains of a massive bell-tower of the early 11th century (found in 1956) are about 16 yd. SW. of the chapel. These discoveries entail a revision of the plan of the W. end of the Saxon church published in *Archaeologia*, LXXVII (1927), 216, pl. xxx. The conjectural rectangular western entrance-tower appears never to have existed and the masonry said to belong to it, as well as the graves near by, have been shown to be post-conquest. FIG. 47.

————: GILTON. A sword and two vessels of yellow-green glass (each about 3 in. high) were found near the site of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated here in the last century.<sup>5</sup> The sword is now in Canterbury Museum, but the glasses remain in private possession. The site was scheduled, after a report of unofficial excavation had been received, and digging ceased (*East Kent Mercury*, 23 May, 1957).

LEICESTERSHIRE: KIRBY BELLARS. The pre-conquest carving formerly in a wall in the village has been removed to the City of Leicester Museum and Art Gallery.

LINCOLNSHIRE: MARKET RASEN. The Mortimer Museum, Hull, has acquired two mounts from an Anglo-Saxon hanging-bowl. One is circular and inlaid with red enamel and bears a cross with pelta-like terminals to the arms, the other is roughly triangular, bearing a debased trumpet-pattern inlaid with red enamel. The coarse quality of the workmanship resembles that of the escutcheons on one of the hanging-bowls from Loveden Hill, now in Lincoln Museum, and of one of the Whitby escutcheons. The cruciform division of the field of the escutcheons of the Scunthorpe hanging-bowl is comparable in craftsmanship and basic design. The roughly triangular piece can be paralleled on the Scunthorpe bowl, which has a secondary piece of ornament attached below the escutcheon. This feature, which also appears on one of the Sutton Hoo hanging-bowls, is not common and the sub-triangular panel of the Market Rasen example is therefore of some importance.

————: SALMONBY. A large faceted crystal bead, given to Lincoln Museum, was found in the same field in which a pagan Saxon hut-floor was cleared in 1954<sup>6</sup>. Several hut sites have been observed there since.

————: THREEKINGTON(?). A small Anglo-Saxon spearhead and some Thetford-ware pottery, said to be from this parish, have been given to Lincoln Museum.

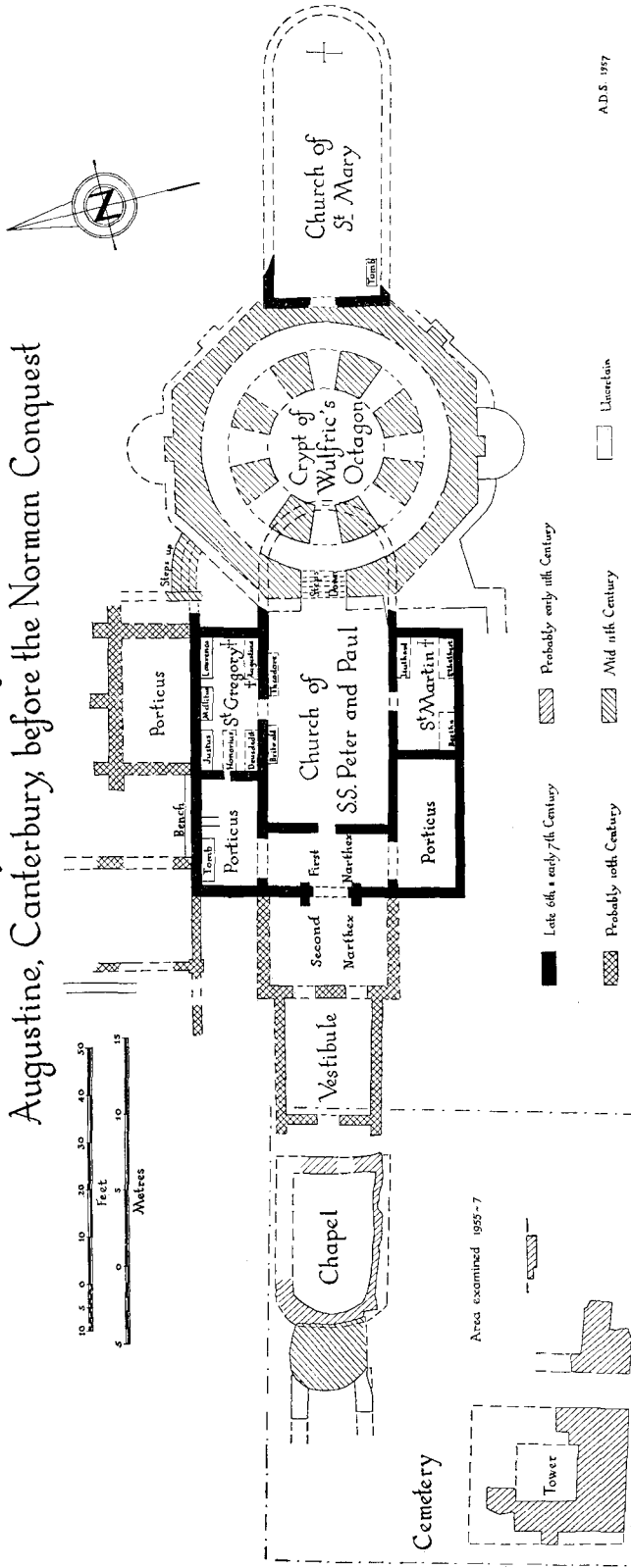
<sup>3</sup> R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, 'Late Saxon disc-brooches,' *Dark-Age Britain* (ed. D. B. Harden, London, 1956), p. 171 f.

<sup>4</sup> D. M. Wilson, 'Two plates from a late Saxon casket,' *Antiq. J.*, xxxvi (1956), 31 f.

<sup>5</sup> B. Faussett, *Inventorium Sepulchrale* (ed. C. Roach Smith, 1856), p. 1-34; *Archaeologia*, xxx (1844), 132.

<sup>6</sup> *Lincoln Archaeol. and Archit. Soc. Reports and Papers*, 1954, n. 24.

# The Saxon Abbey Church of S. S. Peter, Paul and Augustine, Canterbury before the Norman Conquest



A.D.S. 1977

FIG. 47  
 PLAN OF THE SAXON ABBEY CHURCH OF S. S. PETER, PAUL AND AUGUSTINE, CANTERBURY, AS REVISED AFTER  
 THE EXCAVATIONS OF 1955-7 (p. 186)  
*Crown Copyright Reserved*

NORFOLK: GOODERSTONE (TL/757017). A Viking sword of Petersen type L<sup>7</sup> was found without association. Small plates of silver are inset into the guard, a feature which is paralleled on a sword of similar form from Yorkshire, now in private possession, and, on a slightly grander scale, on the sword from Wensley, Yorkshire.<sup>8</sup> The blade of the sword has been deliberately bent back on itself in the middle. Such 'killing' of a weapon is a common feature in Norwegian graves of the Viking age.<sup>9</sup>

———: THETFORD, NUN'S BRIDGE AREA (TL/871823). To locate the nucleus of the late Saxon town, trenches were dug (G. Knocker) in the meadows on the Suffolk side of the river crossings at Nun's Bridge. It was established that an ancient ford existed, but no evidence of Saxon occupation was found.

———: ———, GAS WORKS, SITE OF ST. EDMUND'S CHURCH (TL/869825). Occupation of late-Saxon date, associated with iron smelting, was found, including 5 burials and the heavy flint foundations of a wall running E.-W. with two cross walls at an angle of 86° to it (G. Knocker). It is probable that the walls formed part of the church of St. Edmund, or of a building associated with it and the burials appear to be earlier than the walls.

———: ———, RED CASTLE (TL/864830). An open site of pagan- and middle-Saxon date, indicated by a small amount of decorated pagan pottery and a fair quantity of middle-Saxon pottery with groups of post-holes and hearths was investigated by G. Knocker. The remains of about 60 skeletons were found, most of the skulls being markedly brachycephalic, though four or five were dolichocephalic. One skeleton was buried in a sarcophagus without a lid, made of chalk clunch and flints.

Traces of a small church were found N. of the burial area. The chancel, with altar, and a short length of the S. wall of the nave were uncovered. The chancel was 18¾ ft. wide by 16½ ft. long (about 6 m. by 5.4 m.) externally. The nave had a 1½ ft. (0.48 m.) quoin at its junction with the chancel. The walls were of mortared chalk clunch. Below the floor of the chancel, which was made of chalk cobbles, were some 18 in. of dark soil, which contained pagan- and middle-Saxon pottery and a sceatta of Wigraed of c. 730. A small hearth lay under the E. wall. G. B. Whittingham is of the opinion that the chalk-clunch church dates c. 1030 and that clasping buttresses were added c. 1200. The church was probably destroyed on a single occasion and allowed to fall into decay. He further thinks that the existing building was built round, and replaced, an earlier timber-framed church, perhaps associated with the earlier pottery beneath the floor. The most likely dedication of the church is to St. Martin which, with St. Benet's, are the only two hitherto unidentified early Thetford churches. The burials probably belong to a period which stretches from middle-Saxon times to the 12th century.

These sites were enclosed by a Norman ring-fort, about 350 ft. (116 m.) diam. which had a ditch c. 20 ft. (6.7 m.) deep, outside a bank. The bank was a low bank of mould enclosing a perimeter track between 15 and 20 ft. (5 and 6.7 m.) wide. The fort guarded the second river crossing (Ditchingford), and may have been thrown up during the Anarchy.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: WORKSOP. An iron spearhead (9.4 in. long), found in the neighbourhood of Worksop, is in the possession of G. F. Garner.

OXFORDSHIRE: CASSINGTON, PURWELL FARM. B. Arthur, E. M. Jope and R. I. Threlfall excavated a number of pagan-Saxon house-sites and a small pottery-kiln of the same period.

SOMERSET: GLASTONBURY (ST/501387). In August, 1957, an E.-W. section was cut along the axis of the 13th-century chapter-house at Glastonbury Abbey (directed by C. A. R. Radford). The early ditch, located in 1956 in the N. transept, was found in

<sup>7</sup> J. Petersen, *De norske vikingsverd* (Kristiania, 1919).

<sup>8</sup> *Proc. Soc. Antiq. London*, xxviii (1915-16), 228.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. the spearhead, J. Petersen, *op. cit.* in n. 7, fig. 107.

the eastern part of the chapter-house. It was about 25 ft. (8 m.) wide and 10½ ft. (3·5 m.) deep, with a V-shaped cross-section. On the W. side was the base of the contemporary bank some 30 ft. (9·5 m.) wide; the upper portion had been cut away to level the floor of the 12th-century chapter-house. The silting of the ditch had accumulated slowly over a long period and the ditch can hardly have been perceptible by the beginning of the 12th century. A date before 650 is suggested on archaeological and historical grounds. The nearest analogy is the monastic ditch and bank (the *vallum monasterii*) at Tintagel (Cornwall), which is dated to the 5th or 6th century on the evidence of the imported Mediterranean pottery.

Further work was carried out on the Saxon glass-house first identified in 1956. The sequence shows that the first furnaces were destroyed by the pre-conquest building, which probably dates from the age of St. Dunstan and was certainly destroyed in the late 11th century. The glass fragments are of Carolingian type and a 9th-century date has been suggested. Parts of the furnaces were removed for magnetic and other analyses. The grave of an abbot, probably William Vigor (d. 1223), was found in the chapter-house. It was a reburial after the body had become disarticulated and the leaden staff and chalice had been damaged at the time of translation.

SUFFOLK: BARNHAM (TL/873794). Sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery, now in the Ipswich Museum, were discovered in excavation for sewers on a new housing estate.

———: DRYDALE BOTTOM. Among a group of objects given to the British Museum by J. F. Head was the bronze mount from an Anglo-Saxon bucket. The mount (L. 4·2 cm.) was originally of anchor form, but one of the arms has been broken away. The surviving hook terminates in a formalized animal head.

———: ERISWELL, LAKENHEATH AERODROME (TL/731803). The skeleton of an elderly male was found with a knife, a bronze pin, two annular brooches and a pair of tweezers on a ring.

———: IPSWICH, BUTTERMARKE (TM/162445). Late Saxon pottery and bone skates were found on the site of Martin's Bank (excavated in 1955-6 but not previously reported).

———: ———, COX LANE (TM/166445). The site of the middle- and late-Saxon pottery kilns, found in the 1920s, was investigated by S. E. West. In two cuttings, 30 ft. by 10 ft. (9·8 m. by 3·2 m.), side by side, traces of Anglo-Saxon material were found at a depth of about 6 ft. (2 m.). A ditch and a number of rubbish-pits were discovered, but no buildings. All eleven pits contained pottery of middle- or late-Saxon form—either Ipswich ware or Thetford ware. The pits tended to overlap each other and the stratigraphy showed that the Ipswich ware preceded the Thetford ware, but the finds gave no stratigraphical sequence of Ipswich pottery. Both plain and stamped forms of Ipswich ware were recovered (largely from pit II) and it has been possible to divide the pottery into three distinct sub-types: (1) simple upright rims; (2) rims with an internal hollow; (3) rims with an external hollow. A few fragments of hard pottery, with a burnished line decoration, possibly imported, were also found. No kilns were found but there were large quantities of ash and several wasters. A broad ditch, 10 ft. wide and 6 ft. deep (3·2 m. by 1·95 m.), traversed the site and can probably be assigned to the 9th century.

———: ——— (approx. TM/166423). An Ipswich-ware pot dredged from the river Orwell is now in Ipswich Museum.

———: LOUND (TM/519994). A sherd of middle-Saxon pottery (now in Norwich Museum) was turned up with pottery of early post-conquest date in the remains of a ploughed-out rectangular structure.

———: PAKENHAM, GRIMSTONE END (TL/936693). Further work revealed upwards of a dozen sites of Anglo-Saxon or Romano-British date. The finds are in the Ipswich Museum.

———: WEST STOW (798714). Excavation (by Miss V. I. Evison) was limited to a

small area on either side of a sand quarry. On one side were four iron-age pits and on the other were three pits of the same date and the floor of an Anglo-Saxon hut, on which were found two combs. No structural features could be traced.

### WALES

DENBIGHSHIRE: DINORBEN (SH/967757). An interim report on the excavations on this hill-fort appears in *Bull. Board of Celtic Stud.*, xvii (1958), 296-309.

GLAMORGANSHIRE: DINAS POWIS (31/148722). The excavation of this dark-age fort was continued by L. Alcock, particularly at the entrance, which was a sloping passage, some 6 ft. (2 m.) wide, cut through the solid rock, and closed by a timber gate. In addition to the imported pottery, normal on sites of the Celtic West, several metal objects, with Teutonic rather than Celtic affinities, were found.

### SCOTLAND

EAST LOTHIAN: TYNINGHAM. A trough of red sandstone has been recognized by J. S. Richardson as the remains of an Anglo-Saxon hog-back tombstone. Unlike most of the stones of this sort found in Scotland, it has only a small amount of scale-pattern; instead there are animal figures along both sides, now rather defaced. The stone has been presented to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

LANARKSHIRE: GREENS, NEWBIGGIN, CARNWATH (NY/014469 and 013466). A tombstone, 27½ in. (66 cm.) high, of the 10th-11th century, was ploughed up. Carving on the front is in low relief and includes a central cross and meander patterns; there are very short projecting arms. Another fragment of a stone with carved interlace was found 200 yd. (c. 200 m.) away. The finds are now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

### IRELAND

A full list of the Early Christian antiquities found during 1957, and acquired by the National Museum of Ireland, has been published in *J. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland*, lxxxvii (1958), 115ff. The compilers' attention has not been drawn to any dark-age excavations which took place in Ireland during the year under review.

## II. POST-CONQUEST

### A. MONASTIC SITES

#### ENGLAND

DEVONSHIRE: PLYMPTON ST. MARY PRIORY (SX/562538). Excavation by Miss V. B. Ledger on the supposed site of the church has so far revealed its width as 51 ft. 2 in. The walls, mainly of local limestone, were covered with patterned wall-plaster on the interior, and this was still *in situ* on the S. wall. Remains of a 13th-century archway have been uncovered in the S. wall, with steps to the cloister. Sections of tiled pavement of late-13th to early-14th-century type have been found in the nave. Leaning against the wall near the transept was an altar-table of Purbeck marble. Among the debris there were hundreds of roofing slates and some ridge-tiles of early type.

HAMPSHIRE: SELBORNE PRIORY (SU/755345). The Rev. G. E. C. Knapp working on the foundations of the conventual church of the Augustinian priory (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 152) excavated a third of the choir down to the floor level, and found many worked stones of the vaulting ribs, including a well-carved boss, but there was no trace of the high altar.



At Grange Farm, Selborne (SU/738339) the foundations of a medieval building, 31 ft. by 21 ft., were traced—probably the priory grange.

NORFOLK: CREAKE ABBEY (TF/856395). The lower courses of the N. wall of the nave, with its buttresses and N. doorway, and the plan of the missing parts of the N. transept of the abbey church, have been traced by excavation by the Ministry of Works beneath late garden walls on the site.

———: WENDLING ABBEY (TF/938128). This was the most important of the medieval sites threatened by agricultural or industrial activity and examined under the marginal lands scheme by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. The earthworks covering the foundation of the monastic buildings and the dykes and ponds further south were fully surveyed, and the unpublished architectural fragments preserved at Abbey Farm (two Early English column bases, a small capital and part of a window jamb) were recorded.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: RUFFORD ABBEY (SK/645647). The area E. of the house (which incorporates the W. range of the claustral buildings of the medieval abbey) has been trenched by the Ministry of Works to determine the extent of the monastic plan and the condition of the buried remains. Floors and walls were systematically robbed, and much of the plan had to be recovered from robber-trenches. The abbey church lay N. of the cloister and was of classical Bernardine plan, with rectangular aisleless presbytery, transepts each with two E. chapels, and an aisled nave. The E. range was divided into the usual sacristy/library, a rectangular chapter-house projecting eastwards, a parlour, and an undercroft. The S. range contained a warming-house, a frater with N.-S. axis, and a kitchen which was on the same site as the kitchen of the post-dissolution house.

SOMERSET: HINTON PRIORY (ST/778592). Hinton Priory was founded by Ela of Salisbury in 1232. It is the oldest charterhouse in England after Witham. The refectory and the chapter-house block, both roofed and well preserved, remain standing, and parts of the guesthouse are incorporated in the manor house.

Excavations have been carried out at intervals since 1950 by Major P. Fletcher. The great cloister has been found, with fourteen cells and gardens on its E., S. and W. sides (FIG. 48). Each cell consisted of a large room about 20 ft. square, together with an L-shaped room round two sides, possibly with pentice roof. The division of this second room is variable, but cell entrances, hearths, and doorways from cells to gardens follow a uniform pattern. The great cloister alley, paved with tiles and stone slabs and roofed with a pentice, is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide, except on the N. side, where it is a foot wider. A well-preserved portion was found on the S. side of the refectory. To the N. of the great cloister the church, a rectangular building 96 ft. long by 26 ft. wide, the little cloister and the refectory kitchen have been traced. At the NE. corner of the great cloister is a passage, possibly for the use of the lay brothers: two channels of the water conduit, in excellent condition, have been discovered near the NW. corner.

STAFFORDSHIRE: CROXDEN ABBEY (SK/067397). Re-excavation by the Ministry of Works of the transepts and chevet of the abbey church (cf. also *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 153) is serving in general to confirm Lynam's plan of the foundations, and has added the pier base and dividing wall of the N. transept chapels, with parts of their altars, the N. transept buttresses, and a large rectangular foundation in the angle of the transept and the N. aisle of the nave.

SUFFOLK: BURY ST. EDMUNDS ABBEY (TL/857642). Collapsed building material and stone-robbers' debris are being removed by the Ministry of Works from the N. transept of the abbey church before consolidation of the standing remains begins. Excavation below the floor level is not contemplated at present.

———: CLARE FRIARY (TL/770450). Excavations were carried out by P. Dickinson at the request of the resettled friars on the site of the friary church, of which the whole

of the S. wall stands to a height of about 12 ft. The site was partially excavated by Sir William St. John Hope in 1902 and a plan was made.

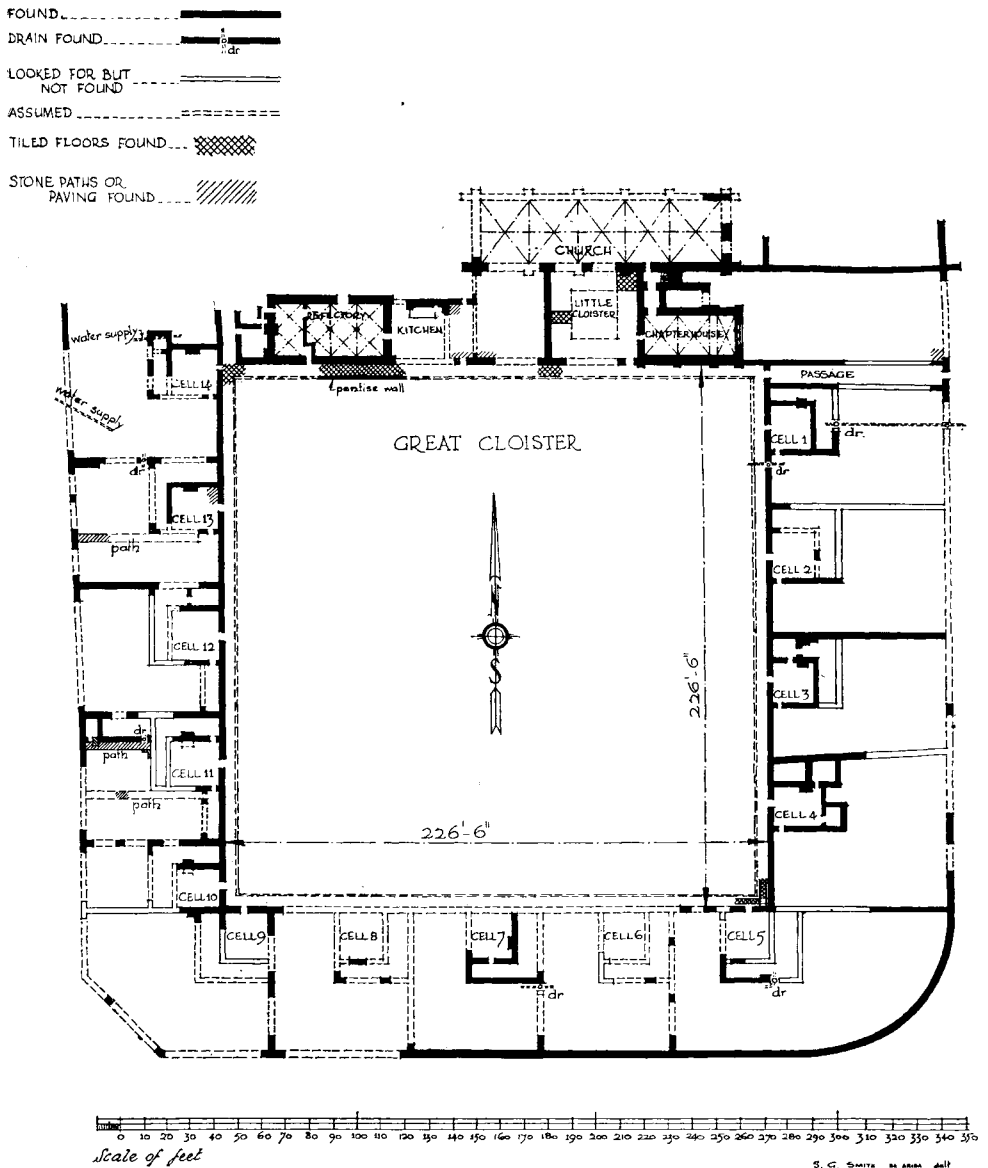


FIG. 48  
 PLAN OF THE 1950-7 EXCAVATIONS, HINTON PRIORY CHARTERHOUSE,  
 SOMERSET (p. 191)

So far the base of the central tower has been uncovered in part, disclosing the central doorway opening to the choir. The walls supporting the E. wall of the tower were about 10 ft. thick. There were two altars at the E. end of the nave. A narrow

walking way separates the E. and W. tower walls. There are indications that the tower was octagonal above the foundation level. The nave had a N. aisle of five bays and one of the aisle buttresses has been found.

An unexplained feature is the noticeable deviation from the axis of the nave that occurs to the N. of the chancel. As all the work is *c.* 1320 the error seems deliberate. However, just E. of the E. wall of the tower is another cross wall of different date. This is probably the W. wall of the original church built *c.* 1250, and if so, the chancel of the later church covers the whole of the site of the earlier church. A further discovery is a chapel of three bays opening from the E. end of the S. aisle, which was widened to form it. It was probably built *c.* 1400 and was the Chapel of the Annunciation. Lying near the centre of the chapel was a grave.

WESTMORLAND: SHAP ABBEY (NY/548152). Excavation of the reredorter by the Ministry of Works (cf. also *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 153) has shown Hope's plan to be inadequate. The E. wall of the reredorter has been found standing to a considerable height beneath silt deposited by the R. Lowther. It is of fine ashlar with a massive chamfered plinth, and it contained three drainage adits, the central one being the main drain. The central and N. drains were blocked in medieval times, and a small chamber was built over the N. drain.

YORKSHIRE, NORTH RIDING: MOUNT GRACE PRIORY (SE/450985). A small excavation was undertaken by the Ministry of Works (A. D. Saunders) to determine whether the E. precinct wall of the great cloister was originally free-standing and subsequently damaged by land slip, or whether it served as a revetment to the hill side, and also to investigate the garderobe arrangements in the E. range of cells.

A trench in the garden of cell 2 showed that the precinct wall had been built as a revetment and in consequence the garderobe had been constructed against the E. wall of the garden. In the N. and W. ranges the nature of the ground enabled the garderobes to be built outside the precinct wall. The pentice-covered walk from the cell to the garderobe had been widened at a later period, but no precise dating material was found.

———, ———: RIEVAULX ABBEY (SE/577850). Excavation by the Ministry of Works (M. W. Thompson) on the area adjoining the infirmary (near the modern visitors' entry) revealed the foundations of several rooms with roughly-built walls. The most interesting of these is a large kitchen with a paved floor, three fireplaces, a washing trough and a stone gutter for catching fat from roasting meat. The ground had been much disturbed in post-dissolution times. The most interesting find was an iron meat chopper. The buildings probably belong to the last phase of the monastery's history and the kitchen presumably served the abbot's hall. The masonry revealed is being consolidated and it is hoped to uncover the area further E. towards the E. end of the church in 1958.

———, WEST RIDING: KIRKSTALL ABBEY (SE/259360). The annual excavations (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 154) were continued by the Leeds City Museum under the direction of D. E. Owen to the S. of the S. range of buildings. In addition the meat-kitchen annexe was further explored. A deep section S. of the refectory showed an interesting sequence of events. This point is some 200 ft. N. of the present course of the river. The bottom of the section showed blue river mud and suggested a northern arm of the river. Into this had been driven stakes, to which were dowelled planks making a small jetty. It is known that the building stone for the abbey came from Bramley Fall quarry across the river and a little upstream. This jetty was clearly the landing-stage for the stone. Within the next century a need for more land was shown by a considerable dump which had been thrown over the jetty and river mud and upon which were built two large buildings. In the 15th century, when these were taken down, a huge deposit of animal bones, perhaps from the meat kitchen near by, collected around their footings. These bones shed interesting light on late medieval farming.

## SCOTLAND

WIGTOWNSHIRE: WHITHORN PRIORY (NX/444404). Consolidation by the Ministry of Works at the E. end has brought to light a medieval burial yielding a chalice and paten, crozier, finger-ring, buckles and fragments of vestments.

## B. CATHEDRALS AND ECCLESIASTICAL PALACES

## ENGLAND

HAMPSHIRE: BISHOP'S WALTHAM PALACE (SU/552173). Consolidation by the Ministry of Works of the E. range of buildings (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, I (1957), 154) has been completed. In the later middle ages the floor-level of this range was lowered and the original doorways in its W. wall were reset in openings forced into the plinth. The central part of the range then served as a bakehouse, and there was a pentice outside the whole length of the W. wall. The basement of the great tower S. of the hall has been cleared of debris. It is divided into two by a spine wall, and has no doorways, access being presumably by means of traps in the first floor.

## WALES

PEMBROKESHIRE: ST. DAVID'S (SM/748256). The Ministry of Works has recommenced treating a section of the precinct wall to the SW. of the bishop's palace, and a small well built in the outer side of this wall has been discovered.

## C. CHURCHES AND CHAPELS

## ENGLAND

KENT: MERSTON (TQ/704722). A. F. Allen completed the excavation (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, I (1957), 155) of this early Norman church; *Archaeol. Cantiana*, LXXI (1957), 198-205.

SUSSEX: OLD ERRINGHAM (TQ/205077). E. W. Holden excavated to the W. of a building with Norman windows known as 'chapel' on the site of this deserted medieval village. Robbed flint wall-foundations  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. thick, of a building 51 ft. by 17 ft. internally, near the chapel were found with some pottery, the earliest being tentatively dated to the 12th century. There was no floor except for the solid chalk, which appeared to have been well trodden. A quantity of fragments of slate gave further evidence of the use of this type of roof-covering in Sussex. The building, possibly used as a farm building up to the late 17th century, had disappeared (except for the chapel) by 1787, as attested by Grimm's drawing from the Burrell MS.

## SCOTLAND

ABERDEENSHIRE: SANDS OF FORVIE (NK/022265). W. Kirk excavated on the site of the reputed sand-buried medieval church. The church, probably dating to the late 12th century, was revealed to be of simple oblong plan, 45 ft. by 15 ft. internally, with walls  $2\frac{3}{4}$  ft. thick, built of rough masonry, plastered inside and out with white shelly mortar. Doorways in the N. and S. walls oppose each other across the W. end with a small platform for a font between them. At the E. end there was an altar curve or step and a simple square ambry was let into the N. wall. Finds from obtrusive burials suggest that the church was in ruins and roofless by the late 15th century.

SHETLAND: ST. NINIAN'S ISLE (HU/367207). Between 1955 and 1957 A. C. O'Dell excavated on the site of a chapel which was destroyed c. 1750. The excavation on the inside of the walls and along the N. wall of the medieval chancel and nave has now been completed revealing massive lower walls with a doorway at the W. end. In this clearance was found an 11th-century (?) inscribed cross, now re-erected in the local church. To the N. and outside of the doorway was a massive keel-shaped grave slab.

## D. CASTLES

## ENGLAND

DERBYSHIRE: DUFFIELD (SK/343441). The Derbyshire Archaeological Society under T. G. Manby excavated the remaining portions of this site which had been discovered and partly dug in 1886, and proved it was a motte-and-bailey castle. A natural hill had been scraped round and the top stripped to bed-rock. The first castle (late 11th century) had a timber keep and a dry outer moat. During the late 12th century it was drastically remodelled and the timber keep replaced by a massive rectangular stone one destroyed about 1266. At the base of the motte a dry moat had been created by excavation and embankment, and possibly at this same time the outer moat was converted to a wet ditch, though no dating evidence was found.

DEVON: LYDFORD (SX/509849). Clearance by the Ministry of Works of the debris in the small cellar in the N. corner of the castle revealed a doorway in the spinal wall. Excavation has subsequently shown that the late-12th-century castle was a three-story structure. The lowest story, except for the small cellar, was filled up with stone and building debris, possibly in the 16th century.

OXFORDSHIRE: ASCOT DOILLY (SP/304191). Further excavations by E. M. Jope and R. I. Threlfall show that the stone tower was built, and the clay mound piled against the outside as it was rising.

———: SWERFORD (SP/373312). E. M. Jope and R. I. Threlfall continued their excavation of the motte, which proves to be of piled stone construction, as is that at Middleton Stoney (SP/531233), and seems never to have had any stone tower.

RUTLAND: OAKHAM (SK/863087). Excavations were continued (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 157) at the E. end of the hall by J. L. Barber. Despite considerable stone robbing, the E. wall of the buttery and pantry was recognized, making the pantry 12 ft. by 20 ft., and the buttery at first 18 ft. by 20 ft., but later 21 ft. by 20 ft. These two rooms were separated by a passage 4 ft. wide, leading to the kitchens, which lay 9 ft. further to the E. and were at first 19 ft. across, but later extended to 27 ft.: the N.-S. dimensions are still uncertain. The kitchens had a 6-ft.-wide ironstone floor alongside the W. and E. walls, whilst the central cooking area had a clay floor into which a 3-ft.-wide mortar-lined pit was set. All the buildings noted above appear to belong to the last phase of the castle's development, the second half of the 14th century.

SHROPSHIRE: SMETHCOTT (SO/449995). The main task of the second season's excavation directed by J. X. W. P. Corcoran (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 157) was to trace post-holes on the very much denuded summit of the motte. Although it was found that the medieval occupation layer had been destroyed by more recent ploughing and by natural soil-creep, a number of post-holes were identified. At the end of the season it was not yet possible to decipher the original plan of the wooden structure thus revealed. No artifact other than fragments of pottery were found.

Further attention was paid to the ditch area in the SE. quadrant and a considerable amount of pottery, broadly contemporary with that found in 1956, was found. Other artifacts included parts of a sheet-bronze dress-ornament embodying a central *fleur-de-lys* motive. The purpose of the stone structure discovered in 1956 is still unknown, although further post-holes have been located near by.

WARWICKSHIRE: WEOLEY CASTLE (SP/022827). Work on the interior, started in 1955 (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 157), was resumed by A. H. Oswald. There were five periods of building. Initially, c. 1300-1340, there was a barn or stables with a roof carried on stone bases presumably by wooden uprights; it seems to have been open on three sides. In the second period the level was raised about a foot by depositing building material and the former plan rebuilt with different bases nearly on the same alignments. About 1400 a large massive building reusing tooled masonry was erected on the S. and

existed into the latter part of the 15th century. From the end of that century to perhaps 1650 the site was occupied by what appeared to be poor agricultural buildings with cobbled floors. Water prevented an investigation of the lower, timbered levels previously noted.

Sections were cut across the tower and the bank behind it to natural levels, revealing that towers and walls were built simultaneously (as we know, between 1276-80), and also that an earlier moat had existed before the erection of these defences. The remains of an early (c. 1280-1300) wooden trestle bridge were found on the E. side in the moat. From further work in the moat it became clear that there had been massive destruction of the house in the early part of the 14th century including complete levelling of towers and walls. We cannot yet say whether this represents some upheavals in the troublous times of Edward II or whether it is the result of the transference of the castle from the family of De Somery to that of Bottetort.

Small finds included two well-dated horses' bits of the 15th century, a dated series of tools and arrowheads, dated pottery of the late 15th century and early 16th century and a marked pewter plate of c. 1520, together with exotic imports from Holland and Spain.

WILTSHIRE: OLD SARUM (SU/138327). The Ministry of Works, helped by the Salisbury Field Club, dug several trenches in the outer bailey under the direction of P. A. Rahtz and J. W. G. Musty, to test the continuity of the curtain wall and the existence of a tunnel seen in 1795.

The curtain wall was found in the cathedral sector in the earlier excavations, and was assumed to encircle the outer bailey on the inner side of the outer ditch. Robbing trenches confirm this in the SW. sector, and between the two radial banks on the N. side; in the SE. and NE. sectors, however, there is a bank 6-10 ft. high inside the outer ditch. A trench through this on the SE. side showed it to contain the wall of flint and chalk masonry 11 ft. thick. But in the NE. sector the bank was only chalk rubble and earth, and was in fact the pre-Norman (iron-age) rampart, strengthened with a palisade in the Norman period. The wall was clearly absent in this sector, and its end was found immediately behind the eastern of the two radial banks as a squared-off foundation 9 ft. wide.

The tunnel was found in 1795 (*Gentleman's Magazine*, 1795, pt. 1, p. 95, and 1796, pt. 1, pp. 185-6) after subsidence caused by frost, and followed for 120 ft. A sketch plan showed where the entrance was to the E. of the eastern radial bank, and the tunnel mouth was located at a depth of 8 ft. The tunnel had been partly blocked since 1795, and could only be followed for 52 ft., after which the scree reached the roof. The tunnel is cut in solid chalk, and is about 8 ft. by 8 ft., with a flat-topped, roughly circular section; on the walls and roof are fine tool-markings of a  $\frac{5}{8}$ -in. chisel, and numerous inscriptions of 1801-22. Steps were seen in 1795, but were now buried too deep for their existence to be confirmed. A survey shows that the tunnel must go under the outer ditch and bank, and then rise to an exit in the ground outside. It must be over 300 ft. long, and may be a sally-port or covered entrance. Its date must remain uncertain until it or its surroundings have been further investigated.

YORKSHIRE, NORTH RIDING: HELMSLEY (SE/611837). The Ministry of Works has continued clearing and consolidating the ovens in the NW. part of the inner ward. Preliminary excavation (by M. W. Thompson) did not yield any dating evidence.

#### SCOTLAND

SELKIRKSHIRE: HOWDEN MOTTE (NT/458268). The Selkirkshire Antiquarian Society carried out trial excavations on this site, thought to be the fortress of Selkirk which Edward I ordered to be constructed in 1302. A number of post-holes of a wooden palisade were found along the rim of the mound. A section of stone floor had been laid over a rubble foundation.

STIRLINGSHIRE: DRUM (NS/636954). R. W. Feacham excavated for the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments the promontory fort known as Keir Knowe of Drum. The site had been adapted as a motte, the surface being surrounded by a double stockade and supporting a wooden tower 15 ft. square built on a foundation of nine main posts.

WALES

CAERNARVONSHIRE: CONWAY CASTLE AND TOWN WALL (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 158). The well in the outer ward has now been cleared by the Ministry of Works and is over 82 ft. deep. Conservation of the kitchen tower is in progress. On the town wall, the wall walk and towers from the spur wall up as far as the Bangor arch have been made secure.

GLAMORGAN: CAERPHILLY (ST/155872). The Ministry of Works is restoring the water defences of the castle by putting back the lake on its S. side. Excavations in the inner moat by the E. gate found that the reused medieval timbers that carried the pier on which the drawbridge landed were still in position, as well as small piles possibly from an earlier bridge. A 14th-century bronze jug was recovered, and given to the National Museum of Wales.

MONMOUTHSHIRE: SKENFRITH (SO/457203). Excavation by the Ministry of Works of the recently discovered range on the W. side of the courtyard (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 158) has revealed a complete 13th-century doorway, and a window with its iron bars still in position.

PEMBROKESHIRE: CILGERRAN (SN/196431). The high standing part of the curtain wall on the E. side of the outer ward has been saved from collapse. Work is in progress on the E. of the two great round towers. The removal of debris has revealed the original slate roof still in position on the wall top.

E. TOWNS

ENGLAND

BRISTOL. The town wall in *Baldwin Street* has been examined and trenches have been dug outside it by P. A. Rahtz for the Ministry of Works. The sector of the wall between the gates of St. Nicholas and St. Leonard was exposed after air raids, and will be incorporated in new buildings to be erected on the site. The wall here has two corbelled recesses, set back 7 ft. into the trias marl cliff, which delineated the high ground inside the old town from the marshy area around the R. Frome, and were probably to drain storm water from the area behind the wall to the lower ground below through holes in their back walls.

Outside the wall were many medieval features, probably associated with a building under the adjoining property on the E. side, of which the W. wall was found. There are pits, gullies, drains, a cobbled surface, and a steined pit, probably for water storage. Several hundred sherds found in these features are wholly of the mid-13th to the mid-14th century, and about 10 per cent. of them are imported French wares, including some sherds of polychrome jugs. There is no reason to think that the wall as it exists at present is earlier than the 13th century, though with the diversion of the Frome, completed in 1248-9, the boundary of the medieval city was extended further to the S. The wall must, therefore, have been merely an inner town wall after this date, still necessary as a revetment for the clay cliff. There are no documentary references to any earlier stone wall, though there are references to the granting of murage from 1230 onwards. The site will be watched as building proceeds.

New buildings at *Wine Street* watched by S. Larcombe revealed part of the same

wall, 5 ft. thick, resting on a sandstone ledge. In the construction-trench on the inner side was a loam and sand filling  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. deep: above this was a 1-ft. clay layer. Assuming the filling (which contained stone chips and mortar) to be contemporary with the construction or reconstruction of this wall, and the clay to represent a brief later exposure, this wall can be provisionally ascribed to the 13th century on the pottery evidence.

HAMPSHIRE: SOUTHAMPTON. Excavation by the Ministry of Works and the Friends of Old Southampton continued (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 159) under the direction of J. S. Wachter. At Easter, attention was turned to the town defences on the NE. side between *Polymond Tower and the E. Gate*. Here, a section cut across the wall and bank revealed a bank that was earlier than the wall, but in an extremely eroded form, scarcely more than 3 ft. high (FIG. 49). This is securely dated by documents to c. 1200, when the first murage grants occur. The archaeological evidence confirms this. When the wall was built the front of this bank was cut back and a rubble-cored, stone facing applied. The bank was then heightened. Some of the pottery from this later addition is clearly late 14th-century. It has been assumed that this section of wall was built during the latter half of the 13th century, as the late Bryan O'Neil stated in his paper on the defences (*Aspects of Archaeology in Britain and Beyond: essays presented to O. G. S. Crawford* (ed. W. F. Grimes, 1951), p. 243). Now the excavations showed clearly that the early-13th-century defences were in such a state that the description in the Inquisition could easily apply. Also the nature of the wall at this point was such that it could not have stood alone without support from a retaining bank and this bank is almost certainly of late-14th-century date. Although unfortunately the direct connecting evidence between bank and wall was absent, the presence and nature of the one implies the other. So it would seem that this section of the town's defences, perhaps between *Polymond Tower and East Gate*, was not erected with the general landward-facing walls in the late 13th century. A *terminus ante quem* for their erection in this part is, however, provided by a pardon granted to the townspeople in 1382 for the annual maintenance of their walls, implying that by then the town was completely walled. It is the first mention of maintenance as opposed to direct murage grants. During the 16th century the wall was widened by cutting new foundations in the top of the bank, perhaps with the idea of heightening it.

Examination of the base of *Polymond Tower* and its junction with the E. wall showed a straight joint and considerable difference in depth of the footings. While direct dating evidence was lacking, it would seem that the wall and tower are not contemporary. The line of the inner of the two ditches was here traced for some 150 ft.

Excavations during the summer revealed a large, early Norman timber building to the N. of *Bargate Street*. Although no datable distinction was noted in the finds, at least four different periods in the building's life were identified. Its overall life, however, could not have been long.

To the S. of *Brewhouse Lane* was found, for the first time, definite evidence of the French raid on the town in 1338. An intense layer of burnt daub, slates and charcoal, associated with 14th-century pottery, was the result of this disastrous attack. Traces of other buildings found should add to the knowledge of constructional methods of the early medieval period. Over seventy rubbish pits were excavated and these provided an interesting series of medieval sherds dating from the early 12th century to the late 17th century. The proportion of imported wares is high, perhaps amounting to about 20-25 per cent. of all sherds recovered.

————: WINCHESTER. Excavations (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 159) carried out by the Winchester Archaeological Society on four sites in St. George's Street revealed medieval layers (13th-14th centuries) and earlier pits, and minor remains of structures. Finds from waterlogged silt of the early medieval period include two timber objects, one being part of the top of a cask. A later pit produced pottery and a 16th-century decorated glass bowl.



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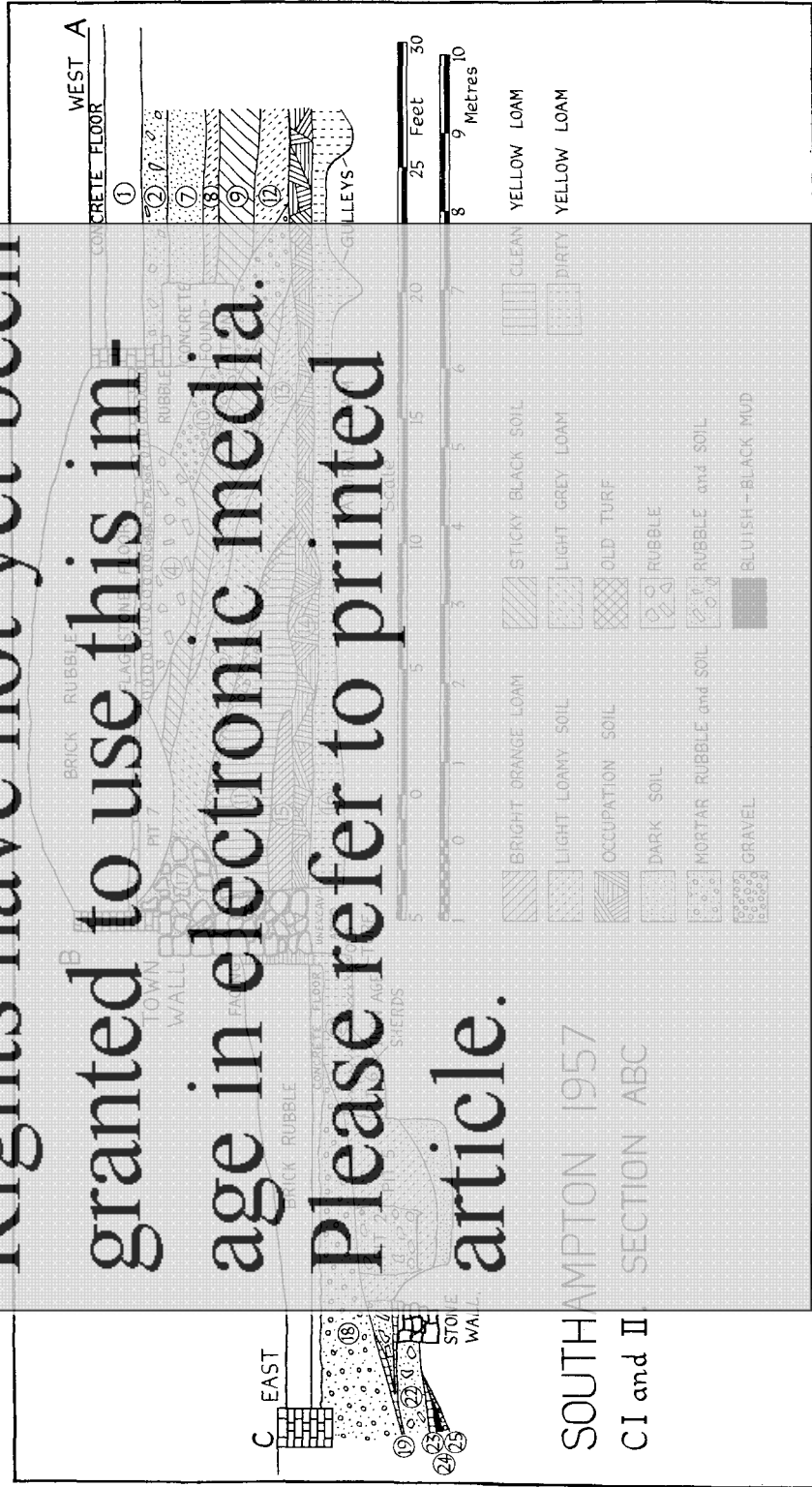


FIG. 49

SECTION ACROSS THE CITY WALL AND BANK, SOUTHAMPTON, BETWEEN POLYMOND TOWER AND THE EAST GATE (p. 198)

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HEREFORD. J. F. L. Norwood watched the building of a new bank at the corner of Offa Street and St. Peters Street. A useful series of pottery from the 13th century onwards was obtained; *Trans. Woolhope Field Club*, xxxv (1957), 329-37.

LEICESTER. A deep well, cut in the natural clay, was found during building work in *Freeschool Lane*. It could not be scientifically excavated but produced much 12th-century pottery and a Norman column capital; *Leics. Archaeol. Soc. Trans.*, xxxiii (1957), 60.

LINCOLNSHIRE: BOSTON. The map of Boston dated 1741 by Robert Hall marks the line of much of the medieval Bar Ditch. Charter evidence shows that the Bar Ditch was in existence early in the 13th century. An excavation by M. W. Barley in the grounds of Fydell House, South Square, on the line of the inner lip of the ditch, revealed a brick wall 2 ft. thick, going down to foundations of brick and stone 6 ft. thick laid on a timber platform. The wall appears to date from the early years of the 14th century, on pottery evidence; further investigation is required before it can be concluded that it was the town wall. Evidence was found of a tile clamp, with parallel banks of burnt earth laid on a spread of stones; this clamp antedated the building of the wall. The Bar Ditch had been piped in a brick conduit *c.* 1725; no clear indications were found of the line of the medieval ditch, which probably lay further E.

OXFORD. *Beaumont Street*. A grave was found under the N. side of the street immediately to the W. of the Playhouse where graves of the Carmelite cemetery were found in 1938 (cf. *Oxoniensia*, III (1938), 173-5). *Broad Street*. Excavations in the forecourt of the Old Ashmolean Building showed the position of the northern edge of the town ditch (cf. *Oxoniensia*, IV (1939), 153 ff.). *High Street*. Three graves were found under the S. side of the road by Magdalen College lodge. Graves have been reported near by since early in the 17th century from the Jewish cemetery, turned over to the Hospital of St. John in 1293. *Magdalen College School*. Excavations on the site of the new science block by members of the school and the Oxford University Archaeological Society showed, under the Civil War fortifications, boundary ditches of the 12th century cutting across an early-12th-century pit. Romano-British and late Saxon sherds were found.

SHROPSHIRE: SHREWSBURY. A mechanical shovel digging on the site of the new Barclay's Bank at the corner of Castle Street and St. Mary's Street revealed a pottery aquamanile in the form of a boar covered with a greenish brown glaze and belonging to the end of the 13th century. The head and the bases of the four legs are missing, but the body, including the handle, is intact.

WORCESTERSHIRE: DROITWICH. Foundations for a new telephone exchange watched by G. Webster revealed remains of a massive medieval building. There were three layers of undressed stones 1 ft. thick, resting on a system of irregular wood piling, at about 9-in. centres, which appear to have a depth of at least 4 ft. to 5 ft.

YORK (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, I (1957), 159). Excavations at King's Square and Petergate were carried out by the Ministry of Works; the corner of a building of Saxo-Norman date, built into the top of the rampart of the Roman fortress at *King's Square*, was found by I. M. Stead. The only other building level was of the 14th-15th century, and to this belonged a number of pits, some lined with wattling, which had been filled with decayed vegetable matter.

On the site of the *Fox Inn, Petergate*, remains of buildings of the same two periods as at King's Square were found by L. P. Wenham, the Saxo-Norman having a groundsel, and the medieval being much better preserved than that at King's Square and consisting of a rammed gravel floor, the footings of a stone wall, and two hearths. A 12th-13th-century pit containing between four and five hundred horn cores, no doubt associated with a horn manufactory, and three medieval decorated leather scabbards

were also found. As at King's Square, the earliest post-Roman pottery found was Saxo-Norman.

Parts of six alabaster panels (illustrated in colour in *The Illustrated London News*, 20 July, 1957, and in monochrome in *Country Life*, 30 October, 1958) were discovered while digging for the foundations of a building in *Hungate*. Four of the panels represent scenes from the life of St. William of York.

## F. ROYAL PALACES

### ENGLAND

LONDON: TOWER OF LONDON. Excavations by the Ministry of Works (P. Curnow) immediately to the E. of the Wakefield Tower uncovered a length of the buried medieval curtain wall running in front of and at an angle to the existing Victorian curtain. It remained to a height of over 6 ft. where it was bonded into the tower. The unbroken ashlar plinth and the bonding suggested that wall and tower were contemporary—*c.* 1225. By the side of the tower a small postern, hitherto unknown, was revealed after the removal of post-medieval blocking. The archway of two chamfered orders with moulded stops opened into a gate-passage within which two steps led on the W. to a doorway which was the original entrance to the ground floor of the Wakefield Tower. At the end of the passage a newel staircase probably led to the Royal Apartments.

The excavation exposed the outer face of the Wakefield Tower to a depth of over 13 ft. below present ground level, but the wall was less deeply founded and its footings stepped up to the E. The plinth of both lay about 8 ft. below ground and was level with that of the earlier (*c.* 1200) Bell Tower and the contemporary S. curtain. These facts suggest that when the postern was constructed the S. curtain was water-washed up to that point. This is borne out by the form of the gateway, which had a raised sill pierced by weep-holes set above an unbroken plinth. When what became the inner moat was filled, probably during the reign of Edward I, the postern, which then lay below ground level, had to be provided with a flight of steps down to it. Traces of these and other modifications were found together with pottery which was consistent with the date suggested for these alterations.

Further excavations beneath the Bloody Tower arch indicated that both it and the postern were originally designed as water-gates, to be commanded by the Wakefield Tower. One of the objects of this excavation was to locate the junction of the earlier wall to the E.—usually attributed to John or Richard I—with the work of Henry III. This was found approximately beneath the W. jamb of the Bloody Tower arch, where the older Purbeck-marble plinth of seven offsets merged into a Reigate-stone plinth of three offsets.

## G. MANORS AND MOATS

### ENGLAND

CAMBRIDGESHIRE. As part of the preliminary work for the earthworks section of the Cambridgeshire inventory of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 22 moated sites, about one-seventh of the total number known to exist in the country, have been visited.

CORNWALL: CRANE GODREVY, GWITHIAN (SW/591425). C. Thomas excavated for the West Cornwall Field Club (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 160). The earliest phase is defined by a small native fort. When medieval resettlement occurred desertion and decay had silted the ditch to within 1 ft. from the top. A small rectangular structure was built in the middle of the fort, the floor of which has yielded midden material and grass-marked pottery, here thought to be at the earliest late-10th or 11th-century in date. This house may represent a shift from the larger dark-age hamlet half a mile away on lower ground, apparently deserted at this period because of blowing sand (see *Proc. W. Cornwall Field Club*, n.s. 1, pt. 2 (1954), 59).

In the 13th or 14th centuries a small sub-manor was apparently created from the Domesday *Tedintone* (today, Tehidy), and was coterminous with that part of G-withian parish, of about 100 acres, isolated from the rest by a small river. The name Crane Godrevy distinguishes this manor from a smaller tenement called Godrevy. This third phase comprises a long-house, rectangular in form, with double-faced, rubble-cored, dry-stone walls. It lies E.-W., is externally 17 ft. by 35 ft. and the eastern third has its floor hollowed to a depth of *c.* 1 ft., the rubble dug out being packed into the deserted 11th-century structure. This, the lower end, is divided from the upper, living end by a wood screen held on staggered posts. Doors for cattle, disposal of manure, etc., still exist. The hearth is at the eastern end, and post-holes point to a gabled ridge roof, with an inner loft, *vulgo* 'tolfit', over the cow-house.

In the 15th century(?) modifications took place. The wood screen was replaced by a stone wall, the cattle house seems to have been made a domestic room, and an outside dairy was added on the N., the cattle entrance being converted into a bay window facing E. The occupants, the family of de Godrevy, appear to have died out *c.* 1600. The house collapsed, and an extensive 17th-century sandblow filled it to a height of some 5-6 ft. A coin of William and Mary lay neatly on this filling, and modern turf had sealed the whole complex.

DERBYSHIRE: THE MOTTES, NEAR BELPER (SK/314502). Excavation of this moated site by the Nottingham University Archaeological Society under D. Manning showed that nothing of substance was built on it. There was a total absence of foundations or post-holes, and a remarkable scarcity of finds. The pottery, most of which was concentrated at the centre of the mound, suggests a late-medieval date, and it seems possible that there was a temporary shelter erected there. If so, it must have been of a very slight nature and cannot have lasted very long.

ESSEX: THORNDON HALL (TQ/623898). Preliminary excavations directed by K. Marshall were carried out on this early-15th-century brick manor-house, reconstructed in 1575-95 (building accounts in Essex Record Office), and demolished in 1763. Excavation revealed structures of three periods. The earliest was a moated building, dated by pottery to the early 15th century, and to be associated with a house dated 1414 by documentary evidence; the latest was Elizabethan.

———: WRITTLE (TL/676068). The final season undertaken by P. A. Rahtz for the Ministry of Works (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 160) was devoted to manual excavation of the hall area and controlled bulldozing and excavation of the remainder in advance of agricultural development.

The area within the moats was stripped to the surface of the medieval make-up derived from digging the moats, which seals only prehistoric levels. The plan of each of three periods (13th, 14th, and 15th centuries respectively) has been recovered, and that of period 1, the royal hunting lodge, is shown in FIG. 50. It appears to consist of three groups of buildings: the main bridge and gatehouse, the kitchen and hall, and the chapel. The excavation of the hall showed this to have been a complex structure of post-holes and timber-slots in clay bedding. It has no E. wall, and it would seem that the kitchen and hall were joined. The combined building survived into period 2, but in period 3 the kitchen was remodelled and the area of the hall gravelled over. The identification of the cob footings to the W. of the hall as the chapel is based on documentary evidence. The heavier foundation in the E. wall might be for the superstructure of a chancel. This building, too, survived into period 2, but was destroyed in period 3, the cloister taking its place.

The back bridge over the S. moat originated in period 1, and, with the gate-house and kitchen, was remodelled in period 2, when the drainage gullies shown in FIG. 50 were filled in. In period 3 the focus of the living accommodation was moved further to the W., and the main bridge was now near the W. end of the S. moat, with many buildings outside, including the extant tithe-barn. The kitchen was rebuilt with brick

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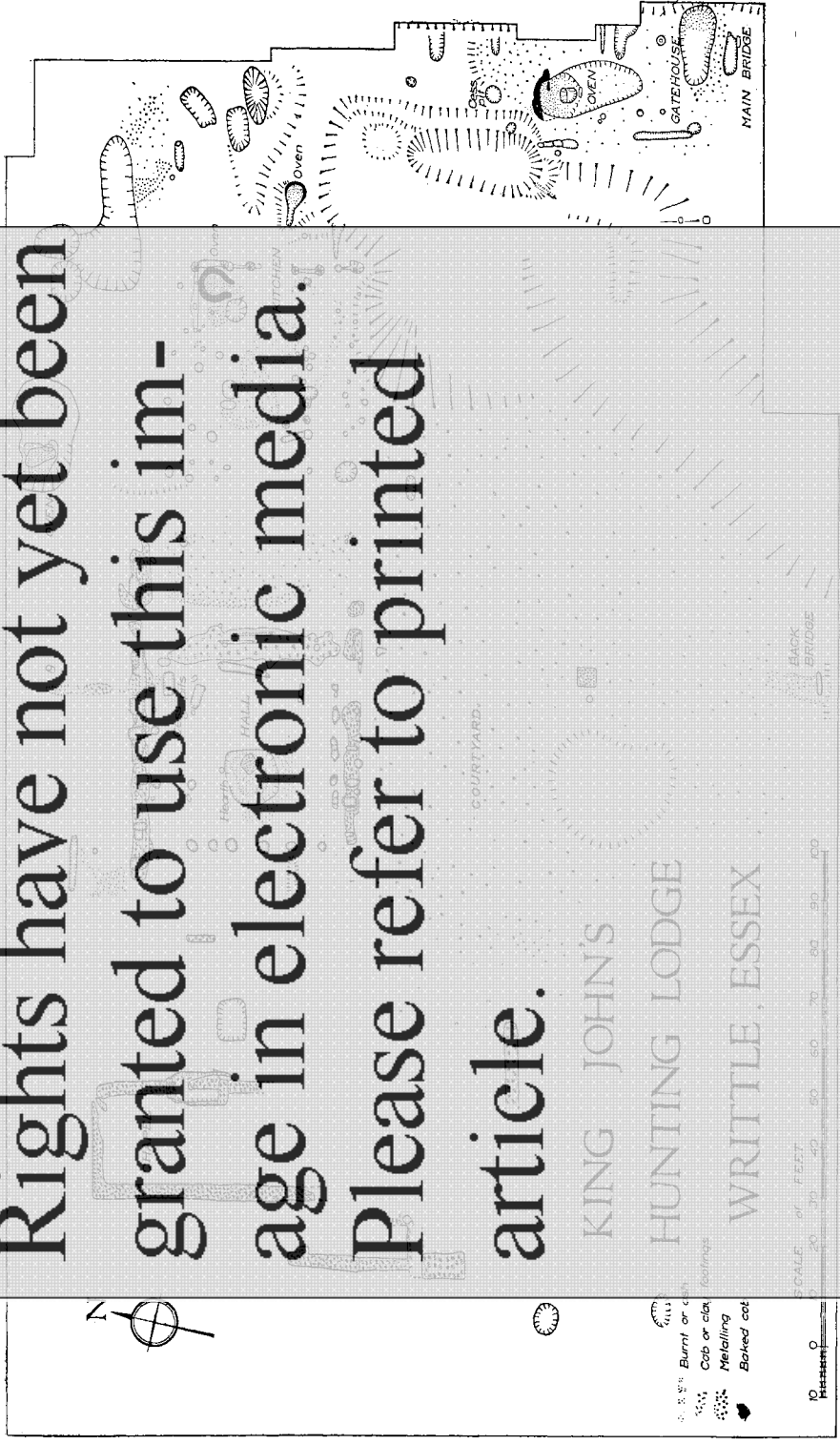


FIG. 50  
 PLAN OF THE 13TH-CENTURY BUILDINGS, KING JOHN'S HUNTING LODGE, WRITTLE, ESSEX (p. 202)  
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footings, and a square cloister with drainage culverts was built over the site of the old chapel. Further to the W., on ground not previously used, was built the great chamber, a complex of rooms on brick footings, including wine-cellar and latrine. These buildings fell into decay after 1521. Small finds were numerous and included coins and bronze objects, a silver spoon, and fragments of 15th-century glass bottles.

HERTFORDSHIRE: ASHWELL, WESTBURY MOAT (TL/264394). Excavations by Mrs. D. G. Hurst for the Ministry of Works revealed no buildings on the made-up ground inside the moat but there were 12th- and 13th-century timber buildings on the old ground surface. The plan of one of these (35 ft. by 18 ft.) was obtained.

KENT: JOYDEN'S WOOD (TQ/509719). An investigation by P. J. Tester and J. E. L. Caiger within the square earthwork situated in woodland between Bexley and Wilmington, and shortly to be built over, revealed the rubble footings of three medieval buildings. The largest of these had undoubtedly been a timber hall-house measuring 62 ft. by 30 ft. Associated pottery suggests a late-13th-century date. Internal partitions to form the domestic offices at the lower end could be clearly traced and there was a shallow porch covering the main entrance. Near the centre of the floor was a large square hearth composed of tiles set on edge. Similar tiles had evidently been used for the roof-covering, as they were scattered over the site at the original floor-level.

One of the smaller buildings was most likely a timber cottage resting on footings of chalk blocks, and, like the hall, its roof was tiled. The third structure was fragmentary and was associated with exiguous remains of what is thought to have been an oven. Two small buildings on this site are already known from researches carried out by other investigators in 1925 (F. C. Elliston Erwood, *J. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.*, n.s. xxxiv (1928), 171-86) and 1939 (H.M. Colvin, *Archaeol. Cantiana*, LXI (1948), 133-4), and it appears that these were closely related to those lately uncovered, the four forming a compact group around the hall. The medieval earthworks enclosing these remains, and some associated field-banks, were described by A. H. A. Hogg in *Archaeol. Cantiana*, LIV (1941), 10-27. A suggestion has been made that the site was connected with the manor of Ocholt, known to have been situated hereabouts and to have been held by Lesnes Abbey.

———: TEMPLE MANOR, ROCHESTER (TQ/733686). The surviving building, now in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works, comprises a 13th-century hall on a vaulted undercroft with 17th-century brick additions at either end. Timber-framed extensions, in part late-medieval, survived until recently. Excavations by S. E. Rigold revealed the foundation trench for the original hall, post-holes for an external staircase or gallery, traces of outbuildings demolished early in the 14th century (after the dissolution of the Templars) and footings of timber extensions on top of the debris. Against these was a 15th-century midden. A good pottery series is associated with the earlier phases.

MIDDLESEX: NORTHOLT (TQ/133841). Excavation of the kitchen block (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, I (1957), 162) was completed by J. G. Hurst and C. Keene. At the S. end a path was found leading down to the moat. The full plan of the NE. end was obscured by later disturbance. A further sector of the 13th-century ditch-system was cleared, producing large quantities of pottery. A quadrant of the cellar was dug out, showing it to be 6 ft. deep with well-preserved flint and chalk walls plastered over on the inside. The base of a flight of wooden steps was found, the bottom step, made of a large baulk of timber being preserved *in situ*.

SHROPSHIRE: EYTON-ON-SEVERN (SJ/573061). P. A. Barker notes that ploughing has revealed remains of sandstone walls, an area of blackened soil, and a pit, possibly remains of the country house of the abbot of Shrewsbury.

———: UPPINGTON (SJ/593087). Members of the Shrewsbury and Ludlow Research Groups have carried out excavations on a ditched enclosure of about 3½ acres between Uppington and Charlton Hill, near the Wrekin. Documentary evidence for

the site is meagre and ambiguous, but 13th-14th-century pottery and pieces of crude wall-plaster on an earthen base have been ploughed up near the centre of the enclosure, where there is a marked stony area. A section cut across the enclosing ditch proved it to be 7 ft. deep and *c.* 65 ft. wide, cut in boulder clay, but dry, and with a portion of the counterscarp lined with pebbles and boulders. The absence of finds in the ditch or in trial trenches near by suggest that the occupied area was small, perhaps a single house, towards the centre of the enclosure.

———: WATLING STREET GRANGE (SJ/722113). Excavation by P. A. Barker before this moated site was levelled produced no structures earlier than 1600, and it seems therefore that later buildings have removed all traces of this grange of Lilleshall Abbey.

SOMERSET: ENGLISHCOMBE (BAREWE) (ST/729620). J. Bolwell continued excavating (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 169) the complex of earthworks. A building 60 ft. by 20 ft. was uncovered with an entrance in the centre of the W. long wall. The stone walls stand to a height of 1-2 ft. The floor is cobbled. Excavation also started on a house site. Fragments of lime plaster were found in the tumbled remains of a wall that lay on a cobble floor.

WARWICKSHIRE: HAWKSLEY (SP/017776). Building work on this manor site, watched by A. H. Oswald, disclosed traces of two timber structures with very massive post-holes and two large cooking-ovens. The dating sequence seems to show that one of the ovens and one of the structures is perhaps of late-12th- or early-13th-century date. The other timber structure seems to have gone out of use in the 14th century and the last oven some time in the 15th century. The moat contained no filling, having been kept clean. There was no trace of an interior bank, and apparently, although this is not certain, no stockade. The original entrance seems to have been used throughout the life of the establishment.

YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING: SHERBURN (SE/957769). During 1947 J. Cundall reported that he had discovered chalk walls associated with 13th- and 14th-century Staxton ware in two depressions in a field at St. Hilda's Farm. Excavation of the eastern declivity, undertaken by T. C. M. Brewster for the Ministry of Works before the site was built on, disclosed an extensive system of dry chalk walls and footings extending beyond the excavated area, and forming a roughly-rectangular enclosure with a much-robbed dividing wall running E. to W. A S. wall, having the remains of a buttress built on the outer face and attached walls extending beyond the limits of the site, was approximately parallel to the N. wall, and at right-angles to a much damaged W. footing. A circular hearth constructed from a large millstone adjoined a well-built, but robbed E. wall. All footings, except one, are contemporary, although the E. side may have been rebuilt when a new room was constructed.

Beneath the floor levels there were 13th-century Staxton pots (see p. 213) peat ash and a clay hearth belonging to an earlier occupation, and on the undisturbed portion of the earthen floor 13th- and 14th-century Staxton ware (see p. 213) and fragments of green-glazed jugs. Mixed with the debris of the robbed walls were sherds dating from the 13th to approximately the end of the 16th century. Other finds include bronze pins, a casket mount, a Nuremberg token and several objects of bronze and iron.

All the walls, except one, are part of a large single-storied structure, modified and added to from the mid-13th to the late 14th century. Extensive wall robbing had taken place some time between this date and the end of the 16th century, but not later, and this had created the two declivities in the pasture. Over all was a mantle of wind-blown sand from the arable land to the W., which varied in depth from 18 in. to 4 ft.

———, ———: WHARRAM PERCY (SE/858646). The main purpose of the 1957 excavation by the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group, directed by J. G. Hurst and M. W. Beresford, was to clear the undercroft of the hall of the 12th-century manor house discovered in 1955 (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 162-4), underneath the 14th- and

15th-century peasant houses previously excavated. The undercroft was set into the natural chalk, 10 ft. at one end and 6 ft. at the other, to allow for the slope of the ground. In places the hole cut was larger and deeper than would be needed for the undercroft. Two of the corners were specially enlarged to insert the building, so the undercroft seems to have been built within an earlier quarry and not in a hole dug specially for it or to provide chalk for building. The walls, which are 4 ft. thick, are built of chalk blocks, either coursed or at random, with a chalk rubble core. No mortar was used, but the blocks were set in a clayey matrix. The inner face was roughly plastered over. The quoins, doors, windows, etc. were all turned in sandstone from the North Grimston quarries about three miles away. Over 150 carved or squared sandstone blocks were found showing late-12th-century fine diagonal tooling. Most of the blocks either had plain chamfers, or were round pillars or simple mouldings difficult to date. But a waterholding base and a waterleaf capital from a pillar supporting the fireplace dated the building to c. 1180-90.

The undercroft is rectangular,  $33\frac{1}{2}$  ft. by  $17\frac{1}{2}$  ft. internally (FIG. 51). Towards the E. end of the N. side is a projection 7 ft. long and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide, the foundation for a fireplace on the first floor. There is a row of three pillar bases running about 4 in. S. of the centre line. A fine doorway, 4 ft. wide, towards the E. end of the S. side led into a courtyard at the same low level, its proportions suggesting that it was about 9 ft. high. The highest surviving parts of the walls, which are about 6 ft. high, show no sign of any window splays, so the undercroft may have been about 12 or 15 ft. high and, as no vaulting has been found, it may have had a wooden roof. It is hoped that it will be possible to reconstruct the fireplace of the hall on the first floor from the fragments found, but there is little other evidence for its appearance. Large quantities of tile were concentrated round the fireplace, so the roof appears to have been tiled round the chimney but thatched elsewhere.

The period 1180-90 for the building of this fine hall and undercroft coincides with the building of the S. and N. aisles of the church and indicates considerable prosperity in the late 12th century for this exposed part of the Yorkshire Wolds. The threshold shows little sign of wear and no 12th-century pottery was found inside the building, suggesting that it was not in use over a very long period. Only about a dozen sherds were found in the packing between the walls and the natural chalk. Of these 10 were 12th-century but 2 are of Staxton-type ware, which is of considerable importance as this pottery has not been found before in contexts earlier than about 1220. The building must have gradually fallen in during the 13th century. The primary filling of the undercroft consists of a thick layer of clayey soil, the matrix in which wall-stones had been set, and broken stones: about 100 tons in all. The NW. and NE. corners, and part of the chimney, remained standing till about 1300, when they were robbed down to the undercroft floor and hearth-base respectively. Other parts of the walls remain standing to a height of 4-8 ft., suggesting that here the upper parts of the building had already fallen down, covering the lower parts and concealing them from the later robbers.

During the first half of the 14th century nearly 100 tons of rubbish were thrown into the hollow to provide a flat foundation for the 14th- and 15th-century peasant houses. This is an interesting comment on the value of land at the period, for it would surely have been easier to leave the hollow and build by its side. An extensive complex of earthworks at the N. end of the village suggests that a second manor house was built during the 14th or 15th century to replace the Norman manor house. The intervening space is filled with a carefully planned series of peasant houses, set gable-end-on to the street in regular-shaped crofts, suggesting that they were laid out at the time the new manor site was built. The Norman village lay between the church and the 12th-century manor but presumably spread northwards during the 13th century, though further excavation would be needed to prove this.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_: WINTHORPE (TA/000453). In 1957 the Lockington Research Team excavated to the N. of the area dug in 1956 (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 164)



WHARRAM PERCY  
MANOR HOUSE

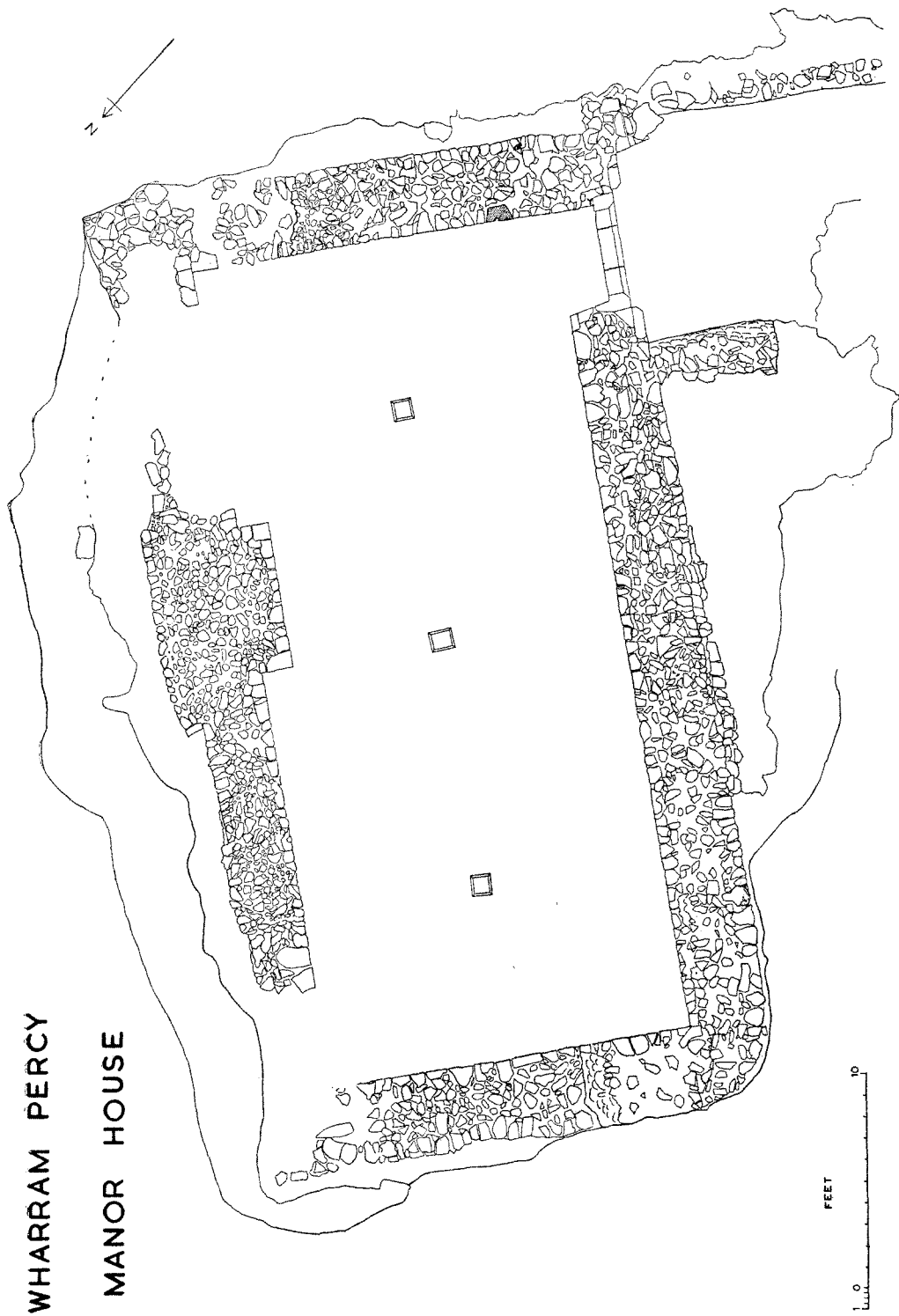


FIG. 51

PLAN OF THE UNDERCROFT OF THE LATE-12TH-CENTURY MANOR HOUSE, WHARRAM PERCY, YORKSHIRE (E.R.) (p. 206)

producing pottery of the 12th and 13th centuries only. It is thought that the original building was here, while its 14th- and 15th-century successor lay to the south. A trench cut across an old stream-bed showed the filling to be of the 15th century.

———, NORTH RIDING: SEDBERGH (SE/661913). A bulldozer levelling between Sedbergh and Millthrop, in a field traditionally called Hall Garth, cracked the covering slab of a well containing late medieval pottery. A 14th-century jug-base and other medieval potsherds were among surface finds elsewhere in the field. W. Thompson in *Sedbergh, Garsdale and Dent* (1892), p. 26, notes the discovery of foundations, a well, a 'moat, clay lined', 'keys of antique workmanship, plain red earthenware and a shilling of Henry VII' (amongst other coins) when in 1890 the field was first levelled. The 1862 edition of the 6-in. O.S. map shows a platform about 200 ft. square in the field. The well lies just outside this platform. The site has now been filled in and a part of the platform may still survive under a garden.

### SCOTLAND

ANGUS: BLACK JACK, CRAIG (NO/710535). Literary evidence of occupation of this promontary in the 15th century has been confirmed by excavation by the Archaeological Section of the Abertay Historical Society.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT: HESTAN ISLAND (NX/838503). C. A. R. Radford examined a small late-medieval structure on an artificial shelf just above the landing. Identified as the hall of Edward Balliol, it is the base of a two-storied building with a hall on the first floor. It stood within a palisaded enclosure, which is referred to as a pele in a contemporary document. There are also remains of an extensive enclosure, probably a meadow for the pasturing of horses, on the summit of the island.

ROXBURGHSHIRE: LINTON TOWER (NT/773262). The Kelso Antiquarian Society, under J. McChlory, excavated the supposed site of the Old Tower of Linton, which was owned by the Somervilles from the 12th century till its destruction by the earl of Surrey in 1523. The earliest of two phases of building had walls  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ft. thick composed of random rubble with dressed inband and outband cornerstones, the whole built with lime mortar, and having a splayed recess. This appeared to be a fireplace, as there were signs of burning on the stone hearth and on the lining of hand-made bricks. The walls in the second phase were only 25 in. thick and butted on to the dressed stone corner, clearly indicating a later date. A doorway 3 ft. wide was uncovered, having dressed stone rebates, chamfered on the outside and rebated to take the door on the inside. On the right-hand side of the doorway was an iron crook in good condition, firmly bedded in with lead. The walls are too thin to be those of the original tower, though the workmanship and finds (glass, lead glazing and pottery) point to a building of some importance.

### WALES

MONMOUTHSHIRE: HEN GWRT (SO/395151). Excavations at this moated site by the Ministry of Works have revealed the existence of stone walls, but these appear mostly to have been robbed to below footing level. The site is being excavated and planned.

## H. FARMS AND SMALLER DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

### ENGLAND

CORNWALL. During demolition before rebuilding E. M. Jope recorded the mid-16th- and 17th-century remains at Mount Edgcumbe, near Plymouth. Some details of the original plan were established by excavation. E. M. Jope also completed plans of a medieval hall-house at Truthall in Wendron, and of others with detached chapels at Shillingham in St. Stephens-by-Saltash, and Trecarrell in Lezant.

KENT: BEXLEY, CRAY HOUSE (TQ/497735). After the discovery of scattered tiles in the garden behind the house exploratory digging by P. J. Tester and J. E. L. Caiger brought to light two small ovens built of broken roofing-tiles set in clay. Much wood ash and some sherds of a 13th-century jug were found. A few yards away some rubble footings came to light but the area available for excavation was too limited to allow these to be uncovered sufficiently to determine the size and nature of the building. G. C. Dunning has recognized among the sherds from this site parts of two medieval green-glazed louvre-pots.

LEICESTERSHIRE: ANSTEY (SK/550085). A pair of cruck-framed cottages at 12 Bradgate Road were recorded before destruction; *Trans. Leics. Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.*, xxxiii (1957), 62.

## I. VILLAGES

### ENGLAND

EXTRACT FROM THE 5TH ANNUAL REPORT (1957) OF THE DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE RESEARCH GROUP:

*General Notes.* M. W. Beresford and J. G. Hurst have revised the list of Hampshire deserted villages and, with the help of H. W. Finn and H. C. Darby, a check has been made of Baring's original list of villages destroyed in the making of the New Forest. Many of the identifications made by Baring and the Victoria County History cannot now be accepted. The list now comprises 33 villages which were completely destroyed at the end of the 11th century.

The list of Buckinghamshire deserted villages has been revised. Nine sites have been deleted as there is not sufficient evidence that they were ever villages. During 1957 the lists for Leicestershire and Oxfordshire were also overhauled taking into account new sites suggested by G. H. Green and E. M. Jope. The final lists still have to be completed, as many of the sites require to be visited or to be photographed from the air in greater detail.

*Air-photographs.* During 1956 J. K. S. St. Joseph took a very fine series of oblique photographs of deserted villages. These were catalogued by J. G. Hurst when they became available in 1957. 327 prints of 200 sites were purchased, including 82 sites which had not been photographed before, mainly in Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Yorkshire. Several new sites have been discovered, including a very fine example at Newbould (SP/517606) in Northamptonshire, for which there is no documentary evidence. The collection from this source now comprises 1,266 photographs of 350 sites.

300 Royal Air Force vertical air-photographs of nearly 200 sites were ordered, and the collection from this source now comprises 1,408 photographs of 1,100 sites. It is hoped to resume ordering prints during 1958 if funds permit.

*Visits to Deserted Villages.* 108 sites were visited during 1957. J. G. Hurst and M. W. Beresford visited 54 sites in *Yorkshire*; J. G. Hurst and P. W. Gathercole, 20 in *Lincolnshire*; J. G. Hurst and R. Blackburn, 15 sites in *County Durham*; and J. G. Hurst 19 sites in *Hampshire* and *Wiltshire*, an area which has been neglected in the past, as the midland and northern sites are of much better quality.

### *Threatened Sites*

CAMBRIDGESHIRE. In ploughed fields adjoining the deserted medieval villages of *Clopton* (TL/300488) and *Castle Camps* (TL/625427) pottery was collected by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments and has been deposited in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge. At the former site, in addition to building debris, some Roman sherds and modern rubbish, there was a considerable scatter of unglazed pottery, predominantly of the 12th century.

DORSET: RINGSTEAD (SY/747816). An attempt to erect a radar station on this site was averted and the siting was changed to avoid the house sites.

LEICESTERSHIRE: BESCABY (SY/823263). The farmer bulldozed part of this site but fortunately the area was mainly that of outlying crofts. J. G. Hurst and D. T.-D. Clarke inspected the site, collected pottery and plotted the positions of house sites. The rest of the site has been scheduled by the Ministry of Works.

NORFOLK: BABINGLEY (TF/670263). This site was ploughed in 1957. J. G. Hurst, P. Jewell and B. Campbell surveyed the sites of six 17th-century houses and collected surface finds.

#### *Excavations*

DURHAM: SWAINSTON (NZ/419294). The site occupies an area of about 20 acres and about 10 house sites are still clearly defined. Two at the extreme E. end of S. street were selected for investigation during 1957 by J. Booth and W. W. Taylor for Stockton Technical College and Durham Extra-Mural Department. Excavation of house 1 proved unremunerative. Stonework of a building about 65 ft. long and 18 ft. wide was exposed, but the only clearly-defined wall was on the N. side, and only scattered stones remained to indicate the line of the others. The paucity of finds and the absence of a well-defined floor level and other positive evidence of occupation raised doubts whether it was a house or a barn. Daub, some burnt, and the absence of tiling suggested a half timbered building with a thatched roof.

Sections cut across house 2 showed well-defined walls of stone on the N. and S. sides. Outside the N. wall a pebble surface was uncovered and outside the S. wall was a greyish soil which appeared to be a rubbish dump. Finds were much more numerous than in house 1 and consisted of 15th-century pottery, ironwork, and coal in large quantities. There is no known outcrop in the vicinity, but analysis of the coal showed that it was from an upper seam. Early medieval records reveal that coal was being mined a short distance from Swainston and it is reasonable to assume this to be the origin of the coal, presumably for domestic use. Again, daub and the absence of fragments of tile suggest a similar structure to house 1.

HEREFORDSHIRE: HAMPTON WAFER (SO/577570). S. C. Stanford excavated parts of two buildings, revealing robber trenches and pottery of the last half of the 13th century; *Trans. Woolhope Field Club*, xxxv (1955-7), 337-44.

LINCOLNSHIRE: SNARFORD (TF/051825). When this site, previously discernible as raised platforms with hollow ways between, was bulldozed in 1956 (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 166), early pottery was found on the surface. S. E. West excavated for the Ministry of Works. A complete section was cut through one platform, the rest were explored only at the edges. Where traces of foundation-trenches remained, there was no evidence for buildings in anything other than clay or timber. Of the pottery, unglazed shelly developed St. Neots ware is dominant but there is a small admixture of harder finer ware and some 13th-century glazed ware.

————: SOMERBY (SK/847897). Excavation by D. Corbett for the Ministry of Works revealed 15th-century house foundations. The plan of part of a three-roomed house, with later additions, was recovered together with pottery which indicated that the house could not have been built before the 14th century. The narrow (1 ft.) walls of thin stone were set out on a platform of cobbles over which a layer of clay was spread to form the floors. In one of the rooms this clay floor was overlain by large pieces of thin stone. Although there was evidence of 16th-century additions on made-up ground, their destruction was fairly complete. The later structures must have been less robust than those of the original house, which would have had a timber frame, a thatched roof and wattle- and-daub walls.

Traces of earlier occupation in the form of scatters of pebbles, clay floors, sleeper-beam patterns, channels in the clay and a primitive hearth were also revealed. Two wells were cleaned out. Green-glazed handles of the 15th century were well represented in a large quantity of pottery dating between the 12th and the 16th centuries. Over

100 small finds included knife-blades, buckles, hinges, keys, spurs, horseshoes, and a dagger. Excavation of several streets suggested that they were not cobbled until the 15th or 16th century.

YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING: RIPLINGHAM (SE/963320). The second season's work by J. S. Wachter on behalf of the Ministry of Works (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 166), was concentrated on the complete clearing of one house, and the investigation of the two banks which run across the field on the S. side.

The earliest feature, a small rectangular timber building within the confines of the later building, would seem to date from the 13th century. The building which replaced this appears to have had a much longer life, the final destruction not taking place until at least the 15th century. However, the differences in construction of various parts of this house would point to repeated alteration, there being not less than four different constructional methods employed. The house to the N. was also examined at its S. end. Features on the ground coupled with the excavations show that it was at right angles to the former and rather longer and narrower. The walls were in a better state of preservation and were more homogeneous, but at least three different constructional phases were apparent. One of the most important features to emerge was the method by which timber and stone were used in conjunction with each other, making a positive reconstruction, based on fact instead of theory, more possible.

A section cut across the two banks to the S. of the field showed the larger and more southerly of them to be a well-constructed road of rammed chalk, beneath which was a clearly discernible turf line containing late-medieval sherds. The other and smaller bank had no definite characteristics and seems to have been a hedge bank. A section cut across one of the main village streets showed that there was only one trackway, the ruts being about 4½ ft. apart. The street was about 2 ft. below the level of the houses on either side, and there was at least 10 ft. between the walls of the houses and the respective edges of the street.

———, ———: WHARRAM PERCY (see *Manors and Moats*, p. 206).

———, NORTH RIDING: LAZENBY (SE/340986). Excavation by the Northallerton Grammar School under the direction of Miss I. Telford was continued (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 168) on another enclosure to the E. of that dug in 1956. A scatter of stone, two floor levels with a scatter of charcoal, and 15th-century pottery was found.

## K. INDUSTRY

### ENGLAND

ESSEX. There have been many medieval finds in the *Halstead* area in recent years. Three kilns have been located and investigated: at Attwoods, S. of Halstead (TL/805297), at Gosfield (Acacia House, TL/785301), and Braintree Corner (N. Ripper's house, TL/786327). The first, oval in shape, mainly produced globular pots and tall jugs with rilled necks and single handles; the second (which could be investigated only in part) had similar wares. Both kilns used rough glazes on the jugs; an almost complete jug from the second is in Colchester Museum. The wares can be related to those from Bungay and Rayleigh of the later half of the 13th century. At Southey Green (TL/781318) a mass of sherds, mainly of the 13th century, has turned up, with a scatter in ditches extending to the 15th century; a little further upstream (Hole Farm) a lane has cut through what seems to be a kiln, leaving many plain fragments. What the farmer thought was a kiln has also been ploughed up before being investigated near Harmas Farm (Gosfield). Further, the fields above Foxborough Farm, on the hill of that name, are fairly thick with sherds; and on the bank of the Colne below (at the point where the river comes nearest to the highway) a large dump of sherds of varying dates has been found. J. Lindsay is attempting to obtain as precise data as possible on these and other medieval sites in the area.

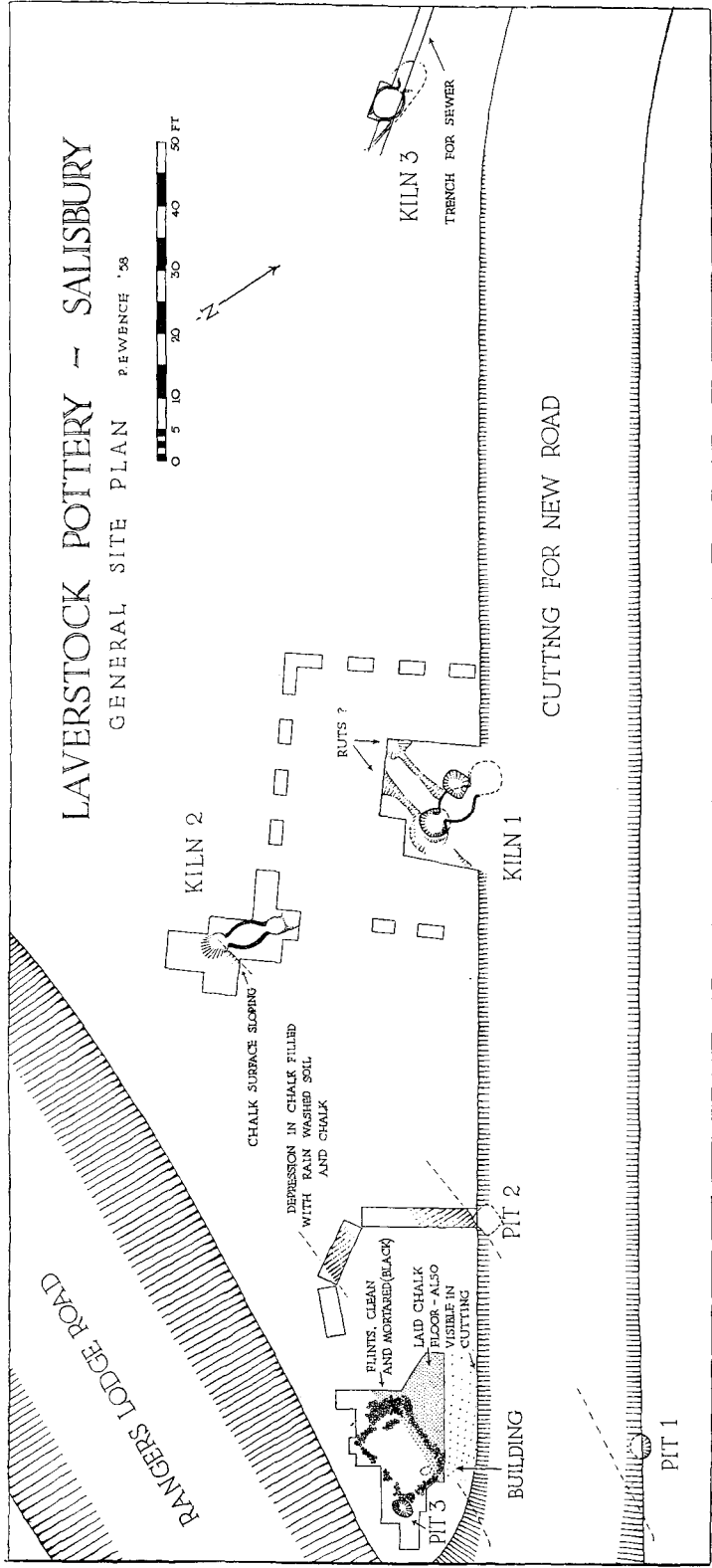


FIG. 52

PLAN OF MEDIEVAL KILNS AND ADJACENT BUILDINGS, LAVERSTOCK, NEAR SALISBURY (p. 213)

HEREFORDSHIRE: WHITCHURCH (SO/548175). Excavation by N. P. Bridgewater of pits near a stream revealed a quantity of 12th- and 13th-century pottery. The presence of slag suggests some industrial activity and there was apparently a mill on the stream.

SUSSEX. We are asked to point out that the roofing-slates referred to in *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 171, as having been collected by E. W. Holden on eighteen sites in Sussex can only be appropriately called 'Cornish' in the generic sense, and the term must not necessarily be taken to imply a Cornish provenience.

WILTSHIRE: LAVERSTOCK (SU/160298). J. W. G. Musty, D. J. Algar and P. F. Ewence have excavated three 13th-century pottery kilns for the Salisbury Museum Excavation Sub-Committee. Discoveries of medieval pottery were first made on the site in 1954, when excavation revealed a number of pits containing pottery, including a large lid, a money-box and numerous examples of parts of richly-glazed jugs. The foundations of a building were uncovered, possibly a potter's workshop, as well as an area of laid chalk adjacent to it—the drying floor upon which newly-thrown pots were dried off in the sun before firing in the kiln (FIG. 52). Near this, D. Truckle noticed burnt clay showing in a new road cutting, suggesting the presence of a kiln. The area of burnt clay was the edge of a kiln, and two further kilns were found in its vicinity. The kilns were oval-shaped ovens fired on a horizontal draught system from a stoke-hole at each end.

Kiln 1 was built on ground where there were previously two cesspits, into one of which part of the side of one oven had sunk, while the floor of one of the stoke-holes had sunk into the other pit. Kiln 2 was 3 ft. beneath the present ground level, and consequently was in a much better state of preservation. The oven walls, which still stood to a height of 2 ft., were made from flints and kiln-wasters which had been plastered with clay and then fired to bake the structure. Kiln 3 was even deeper beneath the ground, and its walls were still standing to a height of 4 ft., although partly damaged by a mechanical excavator. Unlike kiln 2 the structure was entirely of baked clay, and at floor level well-formed baked-clay arches led off to the stokeholes. These flue tunnels were large enough for a man to crawl through. Even at a height of 4 ft. the walls were still vertical, so that the springing of the roof must have been higher still.

A considerable number of wasters had been packed into the kilns on their abandonment, which will throw much new light on the subject of local medieval pottery. Preliminary examination has already demonstrated that they include stamped designs and fabrics similar to those discovered at Clarendon Palace in excavations before the war, and it is therefore certain that these kilns were supplying Clarendon with pottery. It is also extremely likely that Salisbury, Old Sarum and Wilton were being supplied, and the possibility that the pottery travelled ever further afield is to be investigated.

YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING: STAXTON (SE/016791). An intact 13th-century Staxton-ware pit kiln (*Yorks. Archaeol. J.*, xxxix (1958), 445-6) was excavated by T. C. M. Brewster. The kiln was located a short distance due E. of the 'Hare & Hounds' inn and yielded a considerable number of sherds and 3 complete profiles. M. C. Faragher and C. A. Gregory excavated the much damaged remains of another kiln of the same date and type, approximately 20 yards further east.