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## Archaeological Review No. 21 1996

Edited By JULIAN RAWES and JAN WILLS

The Archaeological Review presents brief summaries of archaeological research and fieldwork undertaken during the year. Information is arranged under parishes as shown on the O.S. 1:10,000 series maps, except for the cities of Bristol and Gloucester. The parish name is followed, where appropriate, by the site name or description and grid reference. Contributions for the next review should be sent to 11 Trowscoed Avenue, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 7BP.

### *Abbreviations*

AAU	Avon Archaeological Unit
AR	Archaeological Review
ASMR	Avon Sites and Monuments Record
BaRAS	Bristol and Region Archaeological Services
CAT	Cotswold Archaeological Trust
DAG	Dean Archaeological Group
GADARG	Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group
GAU	Gloucester Archaeology Unit
GCCAS	Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service
GSMR	Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record
H&WCC	Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology Service

**COTSWOLDS AONB HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT.** An historic landscape assessment of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the counties of Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire is being undertaken on behalf of English Heritage and the constituent county councils. Such assessments aim to characterise the present landscape in terms of the visible evidence of the historical processes which have formed it, using modern and historical maps, documentary sources and aerial photographs. The results will be used to enhance the county SMRs, inform strategic planning and land management, and assist the assessment of the impact of development and other land-use change.

Jon Hoyle, GCCAS

**ANDOVERSFORD/WHITTINGTON,** *Wycomb*, SP 025197. In the summer of 1969 an excavation was conducted in advance of the construction of the A40 Andoversford bypass. Work began under the direction of Ken Brown of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum and Mr. Wilf Cox, and was then taken over by Bernard Rawes (*TBGAS* 98 (1980), 11–55). The excavation archive has now been deposited at Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum and will be amalgamated with that previously deposited by Bernard Rawes.

Guy Kilminster, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

**AVONMOUTH,** *Seabank Power Station, Severn Road*, ST 53508250. Monitoring of the groundworks has identified the remains of Seabank Farm which was demolished in the early 1960s. Finds have consisted of numerous sherds of 19th–20th-century pottery and roof-tile fragments together with a limited amount of medieval pottery, all from the topsoil.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

*Seabank to Willow Farm Industrial Estate*, ST 53788353–ST 54548128. The excavation of a trench for a 33 kv electricity line was monitored. A ditch containing several sherds of early Romano-British pottery was identified near an undated enclosure (ASMR 2994).

Tim Longman, BaRAS

*Seabank*, ST 53358259. Two trenches and an auger survey at Seabank, north of Avonmouth on the North Avon Levels, examined organic peat deposits. Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 2.8 m (4 m above O.D.) through the alluvial silts to reveal two of the upper bands of peat of the Wentlooge Formation. The lower organic deposit, lying at 4.32 m above O.D., was sampled for palaeo-environmental analysis and produced a radiocarbon date of approximately 2200 CAL BC. Trench 2 revealed six phases of archaeological deposits including five successive ditches on a SE–NW alignment parallel with the coastline and features associated with the post-medieval farm of Seabank. The ditches were found to date from the 11th to the 18th century, while the farm features, which included a large pond and refuse pits, dated to the 19th and 20th centuries. Deeper excavation within the trench produced evidence for a buried soil horizon at 5.3 m above O.D., 1.4 m below the present ground surface. This deposit produced no archaeological material although its stratigraphy suggests a Romano-British or Iron-Age date. The archaeological work at Seabank suggested a late Saxon date for the earliest period of drainage and reclamation of the saltmarsh.

Peter Insole, BaRAS

*T Quality Yard, Avonmouth Way*, ST 525784. An evaluation revealed a possible Romano-British ditch cut into the underlying alluvium. Environmental evidence indicated an episode of saltmarshes re-established over the abandoned ditch.

Andrew Young, AAU

**BISHOP'S CLEEVE**, *Lower Farm*, SO 94872705. In July 1969 a rescue excavation was carried out after the discovery of a small Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery of mid to late 6th-century date during sand quarrying at Lower Farm. The surviving archive from the excavation has now been deposited at Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum.

Guy Kilminster, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

**BRISTOL**, *Canon's Marsh, The Former Leadworks*, ST 5844572590. Three trial trenches were excavated within the leadworks complex in advance of development. Two of the trenches revealed walls associated with late 19th-century phases of the building, which was gutted by fire in 1950. Finds from landfill deposits suggested this was the 19th-century fill of Tomb's Dock, an 18th-century dry dock backfilled in 1883–4 prior to the construction of the leadworks. The third trench to the west of the main building revealed a wall and associated ditch running approximately E–W. The earliest finds from the ditch fill were 17th-century North Devon gravel-tempered ware. The ditch had been covered with a brick culvert, and a southern wall which ran E–W, parallel to the main wall and ditch, overlay timbers which were sloping into the ditch. It seems likely that the main wall was the original retaining wall between the land of the dean and chapter and Canon's Marsh. Overlying the retaining wall, which had a slightly angled north-running return, was what appeared to be the wall of the garden of the bishop's palace, as shown on Plumley and Ashmead's 1828 plan; associated finds suggested that it was constructed in the early to mid 18th century.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

*Hotwells, Poole's Wharf, Hotwell Road*, ST 572725. Excavation following an evaluation on the site of James Hillhouse's shipyard, later the Clifton Marine Engineering and Shipbuilding Yard, revealed river Avon bank deposits dating from before the construction of the Floating Harbour in 1809 and the remains of several shipyard buildings dating from the early 18th to the late 19th centuries. This site is associated

with the construction both of wooden ships for the Royal Navy and commercial clients and later iron hulls and their internal machinery. Two masonry slipways dating to the early 19th century were also partially excavated. These had been filled in with industrial waste in the early 20th century when ship construction ceased on the site.

Jonathan G. P. Erskine, AAU

*Rose Street/Pipe Lane/Temple Back*, ST 5952572616. An evaluation has revealed traces of the Portwall in Rose Street and at Temple Back. In Rose Street a blocked entrance through the wall led to a bastion found during the 1994 evaluation. At Temple Back a chamber with an arched roof was found within the wall, just south of the site of Tower Harratz. Within the chamber, and looking out from the medieval town, was an arrow loop with chamfered sides. Elsewhere at Temple Back the Portwall was found to have survived at various levels, with a Civil War wall above. About 50 m south of Tower Harratz is a square tower with a possible sally port to the outside.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

*Temple Gate, Portwall Lane East*, ST 5942972413. An evaluation of land between the Grosvenor hotel and the George and Railway public house consisted of three trenches. The first, to the north of the hotel, produced 14th-century Bristol/Redcliffe ware within a robber trench, indicating the possible presence of the Augustinian friary in this area. The second, beneath the arches of the former Victoria Street railway bridge, revealed a possible medieval pathway and traces of the Portwall ditch. Later features included a 17th-century wall and drain, probably associated with the George and Railway inn. The third trench in Portwall Lane East revealed the north face of the Portwall beneath the pavement on the south side of the lane. Surfaces abutting the wall produced finds of early 13th-century Bristol/Redcliffe ware suggesting several phases of an intramural lane.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

**BROCKWORTH**, *Brockworth Rugby Football Club*, SO 89731708. Topsoil stripping in connection with the construction of an additional football pitch was observed. A double linear cropmark, recorded from aerial photography, lay across the central portion of the area. This had previously been interpreted as the remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Little was seen to indicate the presence of more significant archaeology but a low level scatter of pottery fragments was observed over the whole area, including several sherds of Romano-British and medieval date.

Derek Goult, GCCAS

**CHEDWORTH**, *Chedworth 1 long barrow*, SP 0452510580. Previous resistivity and magnetometer survey over the site has indicated the possibility of a broadly rectangular structure defined by pits extending out from the forecourt end, well beyond the scheduled area (AR 20; Fig. 1). Two of these pit-like anomalies were excavated. The northern was a shallow double feature (about 3 m long, 2 m wide, and 0.45 m deep). The southern anomaly was some 2.5 m long, 1.5 m wide, and 0.7 m deep. Finds comprised a few small fragments of flint and sparse flecks of charcoal. Results from analysis of snails extracted from the sediments are awaited.

Dr. Alistair Marshall

**CHIPPING CAMPDEN**, *Seymour House Hotel, High Street*, SP 15183927. An evaluation was carried out in advance of proposed development at the rear of the hotel and within the boundaries of tenements of medieval origin. A rubbish pit of the early 14th century was identified, together with the foundations and floor of a 17th-century outbuilding. The rear of the tenement had been truncated by extensive terracing during the 19th and earlier 20th centuries.

Jo Vallender and Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

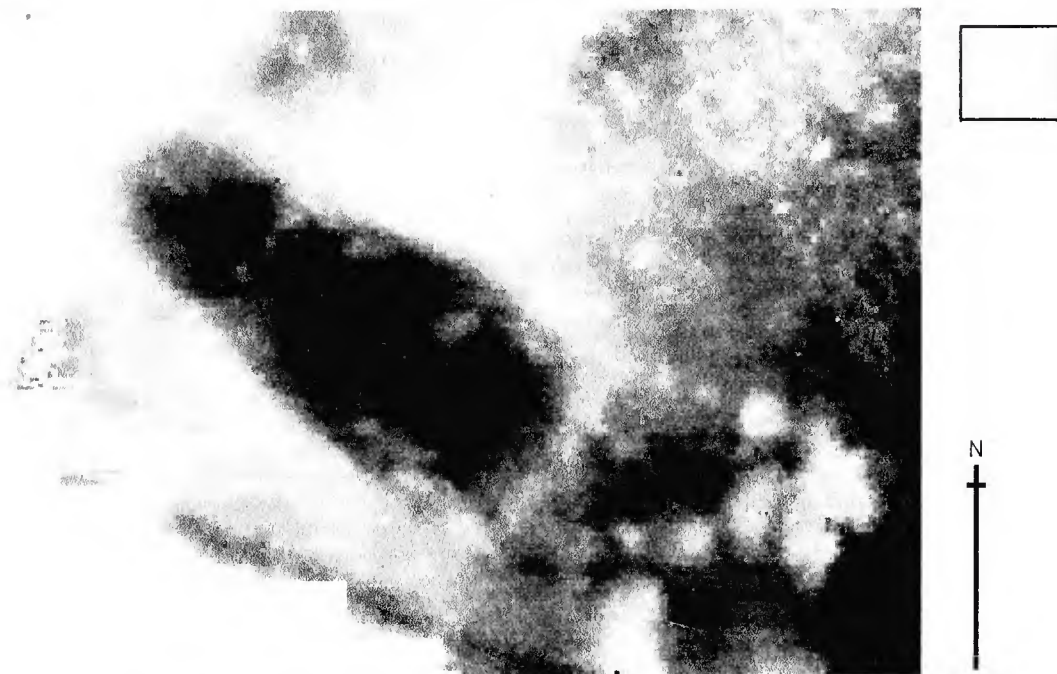


Fig 1. Chcdworth 1 long barrow: resistivity survey showing the main body of the barrow, its side ditches and the possible forecourt structure extending from its broader end. Finer structural details from within the high resistance rubble forming the body of the barrow have been merged to increase general clarity of plan and display the foreground area. Grid North and a 10-m square are shown. The scale of resistance runs from 31–152 ohm.

**CIRENCESTER, 51/53 Cricklade Street, SP 02370190.** An impressive sequence through an inter-*insulae* street and part of its associated frontage was excavated. Twenty successive street metallings were recorded, 2.8 m thick, along with adjacent remains of two successive masonry buildings. The earlier structure, potentially of the late 1st-century date, post-dated several street resurfacings and was cut through a silted street-side ditch. As street levels gradually rose internal floor levels had been correspondingly raised until a severe reduction in available headroom within the building appears to have led to its abandonment. A rubbish pit dug in one corner of the room was later recut as a cesspit, the fill of which contained early to mid 2nd-century pottery, a millstone fragment and an assemblage of well-preserved biological remains, a detailed archaeo-botanical study of which should provide useful information on Roman diet. During the 2nd century this building was partially dismantled and replaced by a new building in which successive floor surfaces contained plant, seed and fuel remains suggesting a utilitarian function, perhaps as a shop or kitchen. It remains uncertain whether the full street sequence survives, 13th/14th-century quarrying having extensively disturbed the late Roman levels.

Alistair Barber and Graeme Walker, CAT

*The Forum Centre, Lewis Lane, SP 0256101875.* An archaeological evaluation was prompted by a proposed rear extension in an area straddling *Insulae* XVII and XVIII. Three trenches revealed deposits interpreted as Roman structural debris at depths of 1.6–1.9 m below adjacent ground level.

Charles Parry, GCCAS

*Former Unitarian Chapel, Gosditch Street, SP 02190214.* Evaluation was undertaken within the graveyard of the 17th-century nonconformist chapel. A series of 2nd-century deposits above the natural gravels may represent the raising of ground levels above a conjectured high water-table in this area during the Roman period. Two stone-packed postholes were also noted, conceivably the ephemeral remains of a timber building or fence. Roman levels were sealed by a medieval rubble horizon and by later graveyard soils.

Alistair Barber, CAT

*The Gables, City Bank, SP 03130123.* Evaluation immediately outside the Roman town defences revealed no evidence of associated wall collapse, defensive ditches or external bastions. Palaeo-environmental analysis of alluvial deposits encountered suggests that during the Roman period the site was marshland, used for rubbish disposal, and that it was later grassland prone to seasonal flooding.

Alistair Barber, CAT

*Oakley Hall, Chesterton, SP 024090.* Evaluation recorded two post-medieval boundary ditches beneath extant ridge and furrow. A subsequent watching brief encountered an infilled stone quarry, from which a selection of 19–20th-century bottle glass was retrieved.

Alistair Barber, CAT

*Powell's School, Gloucester Street, SP 02020203.* A small evaluation revealed alluvial silt deposits which had accumulated from the Roman period onwards.

Nick Turner, CAT

*57 Purley Road, SP 02890181.* A watching brief following earlier evaluation recorded 3rd–4th-century stone walls and an associated surface, sealed by alluvial deposits.

Richard Morton, CAT

*Querns Road, SP 0220801545.* An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in connection with a proposal to create a pedestrianised area, including tree planting. The site lies within the Roman town, immediately east of the line of the Roman ramparts and in the vicinity of the Bath gate. A trench measuring 1.2 by 1.2 m was excavated to a depth of 1 m below the present ground surface. It revealed at least three post-medieval surfaces, which may have related to the site's use as a wharf at the terminus of the Cirencester section of the Thames and Severn canal. Directly below these deposits at a depth of 0.65–0.70 m below the present ground surface a mixed yellowish brown sandy gravel containing charcoal, tile fragments, and Romano-British pottery was found. This may have been part of the earthen bank which formed part of the town defences during the Roman period.

Jon Hoyle, GCCAS

*3 Southgate Mews, SO 02950132.* A watching brief identified a late 1st–2nd-century ditch, sealed by dumps of 2nd–4th-century material.

Richard Morton, CAT

**COBERLEY, Ullenwood, SO 940162.** A survey was undertaken within ancient woodland at Ullenwood. Many features such as sunken trackways, paths, woodbanks, quarrying and boundaries survive protected within the area.

Julian Rawes, GADARG

**CONDICOTE, Cotswold Farm, SP 40202023.** A watching brief recorded two 11th–12th-century pits, a ditch and a yard surface. One pit contained a residual sherd of possible late Saxon pottery.

Mark Brett, CAT

**DEERHURST**, *Cable trench for Environment Agency flow-gauging station*, SO 87002985–SO 86992998. The last of a series of three watching briefs (AR 20) was undertaken during the excavation of a trench to carry a cable. A single sherd of medieval pottery, provisionally identified as Malvern Chase ware dating to between the 12th and 14th centuries, was recovered west of St. Mary's church from a deposit of alluvial clay. The depth of this find, c. 0.7 m, indicated the considerable build-up of flood material since that time.

Derek Goult, GCCAS

*Priory Farm*, SO 87122997. An excavation was undertaken within the scheduled area of Deerhurst priory, a religious house and community dating from the early 9th century. Sixteen rectangular foundation pits and a number of trenches were excavated for a new milking parlour. In general the excavations did not penetrate below modern concrete and hard-core (between 0.75 and 1.00 m thick) and the post-medieval cultivation soil which they sealed. A number of features were cut into the surface of the subsoil at a depth of c. 1.25 m, and although some of these were clearly post-medieval in date, others, which appeared to represent pits and gullies, were evidently earlier and were interpreted as contemporary with the site's use as a priory. As the necessary depth to accommodate the construction of the milking parlour had been attained, it was not possible to investigate these features further, but they indicate that medieval deposits, truncated by later cultivation, are likely to survive on the site.

Jo Vallender and Jon Hoyle, GCCAS

**EBLEY**, *127 Westward Road*, SO 83070474. Excavation identified a previously unknown focus of medieval occupation away from the main recorded settlement at Ebley, possibly a small farmstead or roadside occupation. The earliest definable activity consisted of 11th–13th-century gravel quarrying. During the 12th–15th centuries a fenced boundary was established, twice rebuilt, and in its final phase combined with a ditch. The latest boundary was associated with postholes and wall footings of two structures, one containing a domestic hearth. An assemblage of plant and molluscan remains from the hearth provided a rare opportunity to study medieval economy in the Cotswolds.

Alistair Barber, CAT

**EBBRINGTON**, *1 New Road*, SP 18974000. A desk-based assessment followed by a field evaluation was undertaken in the vicinity of 'The Grove' Roman villa site. Two trenches revealed up to 0.4 m of medieval ploughsoil incorporating copious fragments of abraded Roman brick/tile. No evidence for structures was observed.

Jo Vallender and Charles Parry, GCCAS

**FROCESTER**, *Frocester Court Roman Settlement*, SO 785029. The 36th season of fieldwork completed the geophysical survey which produced evidence of the settlement's boundaries. Some 34 m<sup>2</sup> north-east and south-east of the 1995 area was excavated.

The complicated system of 1st–3rd century ditches shallowed and merged to form one single alignment (Ditch 48/49), which then continued north-eastwards, where its depth increased to over 2 m. To the north-west, evidence was recorded of five more prehistoric ditches/gullies. They lay below extensions of the stone and gravelled surfaces (Roads 1–3) found in 1995, which can now confidently be interpreted as diversions of the original W–E road from the early Romano-British farmstead some 50 m to the west. The diversions crossed the shallower length of Ditch 48/49 at three different points, although direct evidence of bridging survived only at one.

Traces of the limestone rubble surface and mortared stone kerbs of Road 1 were recognised overlying and to the north-west and south-east of one of the earlier ditch alignments. Beyond this the road had apparently turned sharply to the north-east, diverted by a short blind ditch (Ditch 54) to avoid a circular feature of two phases (Structure 22) to the south-east. Phase 1 survived as an incomplete ring of hollows combined with patches of intense burning which enclosed a scatter of post- and stakeholes and a clay-lined oven sunk 0.2 m into the ground. This had been fired from the south-west, was choked with ash, and had been buried under a gravel floor. Structure 22 appears to have been broadly contemporary with Ditch 46/47 which bounded it on its south-western and north-eastern sides and replaced Ditch 54. The latter ran

north-westwards and was cut through the mortar surface of Road 1 to discharge into the new ditch. The end of phase 1 post-dated the adjacent Road 2, which was built of pitched marlstone, and also had mortared-in kerbs. It overlay part of a large depression, as did its successor, Road 3. This sunken area proved to be part of a c. 2.2-m deep gravel pit, of the 1st–early 2nd century.

The evidence for a bridge associated with Road 2 consisted of two large postholes, set 3 m apart in the road on the south-eastern side of Ditch 48/49, and most of a slightly displaced bridge abutment of large stone slabs. It retained two mortared surfaces, but its north-eastern side and most of the evidence for a bridge for Road 3 apart from its rubble revetment had been demolished during later Roman period.

To the south-east of the ditch, Road 3 survived as part of a well-preserved limestone pavement running beside Road 2. It overlay a build-up of rubble spreads and dark soil which covered the south-western edge of a mortared limestone rubble surface running south-eastwards. It was bounded by a fence-line of post-and stakeholes. The form of construction suggests that it may be a continuation of Road 1 overlying the gravel pit. Road 3 was contemporary with two solid, mortar-based, pitched-stone footings 2 m apart and aligned parallel to the side of the ditch; one was cut through Road 2, while the other continued north-eastwards. They suggest a substantial structure, perhaps a semi-monumental entrance at the approaches to the bridge.

In phase 2 Structure 22 was rebuilt. Its northern edge was outlined by a shallow trench cut through part of the areas of burnt gravel and the south-western edge of Road 2. A gravel floor was laid with a new, probably circular, oven. The structure was encircled by Ditch 53, which replaced Ditch 46/47, and, on the north-eastern side, it was cut through the heart of Road 2. A second drain, northward-curving, was also cut into the disused road, although its relationship to Ditch 53 is unknown.

At about the beginning of the 4th century A.D. this area of the site was levelled, mainly with worn, re-used stones and a scatter of floor and roof tile fragments. Rubble infill defining a rectangle of c. 2.5 by 1.5 m, of unknown purpose, and a floor of flat stone including part of a sandstone millstone covering an area of 2.5 by 1.0 m above part of Ditches 53 and 54 were recorded.

On the north-eastern side, two shallow trenches formed a right angle. One arm, which ran south-eastwards, replaced and straightened part of the curve of Ditch 53 through Road 2. The other cut across Road 3 and continued north-eastwards. Three large, worn slabs against the edge, presumably from a demolished bridge, formed the north-western end of a roughly cleared area of road surface. Within this area of dark soil stood a well-constructed raised hearth, of vertical stone edging around a base comprising four *pilae* tiles.

The upper occupation levels and overlying soil produced 25 coins of the late 3rd–mid 4th century and small finds including a late Iron-Age horse terret, a baker's socketed iron peel (paralleled only by an incomplete specimen from Samuel Lysons' 18th-century excavations at Rodmarton), a cornelian intaglio from a ring with a device of Fortuna holding a cornucopia, three ox-goats, one bronze hairpin and a number of broken bone ones, jet inlay, a fragment of shale bracelet, an iron chain hanger with swivel-link, and stone and pottery spindle whorls. An infant burial and a ritual deposit of the skull, foot and leg bones of a sheep were also found.

E. G. Price

**GLOUCESTER**, *Bijou Court housing estate, Kingsholm Road*, SO 83521995. Observations were made of a service trench along an access road, leading off Kingsholm Road. A shallow, possibly medieval, feature with dark greenish silty loam fill extended for 9 m from Kingsholm Road where it was cut by post-medieval sunken road levels. The western edge of sand and gravel workings was recorded 10 m from Kingsholm Road extending east towards the property boundary with the sports grounds, the site of extensive 18th–19th-century gravel workings.

Anthony Patrick Garrod, GAU

*Cathedral, Garth Tank*, SO 83091884. A full drawn survey of the medieval Garth Tank was carried out in advance of it being backfilled to protect it from frost damage.

Wayne Laughlin, GAU



*Cathedral*, SO 83091884. A plan of the Lady Chapel floor and its medieval tile designs has been prepared by the GAU.

An assessment has been undertaken of the south elevation of the nave, prior to scaffolding and restoration. The elevation includes architectural elements of all dates from the 12th century to the 20th. The last remaining medieval statue (on buttress number five from the east) was drawn and photographed before its temporary removal.

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of new paths and the construction of a new fountain in the cloister garth. At a depth of 0.6 m from ground level was a cobbled working surface which may derive from the reconstruction of the cloister in the late 13th to 14th century. A sample of mostly unstratified Roman and post-medieval pottery was retained. Several 18th-century monuments buried in the 19th century were uncovered, photographed, and reburied. Finds included a Roman melon bead and a stone 14th-century knight's head.

Carolyn Heighway

*Denmark Road High School*, SO 83852193. A further phase of redevelopment at the school was preceded by archaeological recording. Three deep pits of the late 1st or 2nd century were excavated. The site had been heavily truncated by medieval and later ploughing, and therefore no structural evidence survived.

Jo Vallender and Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

*Double Gloucester Inn, Cheltenham Road*, SO 85181924. Observations were made of foundation trenches for a rear extension, 1 m deep, on the site of a Civil War forge. One undated N-S linear feature, 1.2 m wide, and a pit 1 m in diameter were identified.

Anthony Patrick Garrod, GAU

*Guildhall Arts Centre, Eastgate Street*, SO 83251848. Alterations within the lobby necessitated the excavation of a foundation pit in the basement. The pit was hand-excavated to the natural ground surface. The depth of the basement had removed all structural occupation evidence from the *colonia* period and the limited size of the excavation (2.4 by 2.2 m) hindered the identification of any earlier, military, structures. The bases of two late Roman pits, cutting into a uniform clayey loam layer directly overlying natural, were present.

Phil Greatorex, GAU

*Kingsholm Rugby Club, Kingsholm Road*, SO 81221465. Observations were made during the mechanical stripping of topsoil and the excavation of foundations for a new warehouse. A flint scraper was found within alluvial levels. A double-ditched road or trackway, extending SSE across the north-east area of the development, was exposed. Two parallel E-W Roman ditch alignments, bounding the south side of an adjacent villa complex recorded in 1994, were also identified.

Anthony Patrick Garrod, GAU

*London Road, Wotton*, SO 84461893. Observations were made of a service trench in the carriageway outside No. 140, Wotton Rise. A metallated surface made of large pebbles bounded an undefined mortared Lias stone footing. This was sealed by compacted crushed limestone make-up levels associated with the late 19th-century tramway.

Anthony Patrick Garrod, GAU

*Parliament Street/Old Tram Road*, SO 83061818. An evaluation was carried out on open ground between the above roads. Two trenches were excavated by machine to a depth of 1.5 m and then hand-excavated to the natural ground surface. The natural sand and clay subsoil was sealed by a mixed layer of sandy loam containing Roman tile and pottery. This was cut by a total of seven features, including three ditches and three pits probably of Roman date. Running diagonally across the centre of the trench, and cutting one of the Roman pits, was a shallow irregular ditch measuring c. 1.6 m in width. The ditch contained Roman

tile and pottery, a quantity of Dark-Age pottery (Gloucester type fabrics TF300 and TF301) and possible loomweight fragments.

Richard Sermon, GAU

*Severn Trent Water main reconditioning scheme, Kingsholm area.* Observations of a series of boxes dug along the carriageway, each an average of 1 m deep, continued.

*Edwy Parade: south side of carriageway, adjacent to No. 11a Kingsholm Road (SO 83491939).* The edge of the medieval–post-medieval Kingsholm Road alignment was recorded.

*Edwy Parade, north side of carriageway (SO 83391942).* 11 boxes were positioned between Nos. 4 to 24. A undefined linear feature of 19th-century date was recorded below successive metallised surfaces and street make-up levels, possibly on the alignment for the inner ditch of the southern defences of the Kingsholm Roman fortress, the later Kings Ditch for both the royal Saxon palace and the Kingsholm medieval manor, or the boundary ditch of the post-medieval Kingsholm Close. The box outside No. 24 (SO 83391943) exposed the north side of the multi-phased ditch alignment at 4.2 m from the carriageway junction with Edwy Parade. The box outside No. 23 revealed a charcoal saturated occupation layer on a pink estuarine clay floor level at 0.62 m deep, possibly representing the location of a military building within the Kingsholm fortress. In the box outside No. 15 (SO 83381981) the edge of an *opus signinum* floor surface on a brown-buff mortar make-up was recorded above a Lias stone sill, possibly from a Roman building extending east beneath the garden of Kingsholm House.

Anthony Patrick Garrod, GAU

*Spread Eagle Road/Market Parade, SO 83471868.* An evaluation was carried out on land between the above roads in advance of the construction of a new road. Three test pits, each measuring over 1.5 m<sup>2</sup>, were excavated by machine until significant archaeological deposits were located. Excavation continued by hand to a maximum depth of 1m. Below modern disturbance and 19th-century deposits was a 1-m deep layer of dark loam containing medieval and Roman pottery. This deposit also filled a small pit which cut a layer of compact olive green clay loam containing Roman pottery, tile and wall plaster, a 1st-century copper alloy brooch (Hod Hill type 61) and a shale spindle whorl.

Richard Sermon, GAU

*Former Water Board office site, 124–126 London Road, Wotton, SO 84401894.* Observations were made during realignment of an existing sewer; further evidence of the Wotton Roman burial ground was recorded. Evidence of four inhumation burials aligned either N–S or E–W, including a baby of less than 1 year and a child approximately 8 to 10 years old, were recorded in trench sections. Iron nails found *in situ* indicate burial within wooden coffins.

Anthony Patrick Garrod, GAU

*36 Westgate Street, SO 83091875.* During observations of a trench within the floor of the front cellar, evidence of a possible sub-Roman building, consisting of the remains of a raised clay hearth or oven and a shallow sunken feature with an ash and charcoal fill, was recorded at 2.2 m below pavement level. The features overlay a gritty greenish loam layer containing fragmented Roman wall plaster and mortar, with occasional small pieces of red sandstone tile. A contemporary posthole was located 0.5 m south of the hearth. A truncated silt/loam overlay the hearth features, and this was cut by a later posthole containing fallen capping stones and a sherd of 13th-century pottery.

Anthony Patrick Garrod, GAU

**GUITING POWER**, *Guiting Power 1 round barrow, SP 08442446.* Prior to excavation a resistivity survey was carried out over the barrow in order to confirm the results of the 1992 survey (AR 17). The objectives of the excavation were to assess the impact of erosive pressures on such sites, to calibrate data from remote sensing for more extensive application of methods elsewhere, and to provide a basis for further discussion of the function of such monuments, with particular reference to nearby Guiting Power 3 round barrow,

itself also fully excavated (AR 17). Excavation also provided an opportunity to apply results from experimental cremations carried out to aid identification and interpretation of pyre sites. A 20-m square centred on the barrow was excavated to bedrock, leaving a 5 per cent reserve unexcavated to comply with the conditions of the scheduled monument consent. A section of the adjacent quarry pit, about 20 per cent of the total, was also completely excavated.

The patch of old ground surface preserved under the barrow mound contained charcoal indicating activity of later Mesolithic/early Neolithic date (4929+/-78 BP, 3786-3644 CAL BC). A large and intense pyre c. 4 m across had been established on this surface. The burnt base of the pyre was then cleared and a shallow pit dug through it, within which the lower courses of an ovate rubble cairn were constructed. A cremation deposit containing the remains of a mature/older male without grave goods, together with animal bones, was placed in the base of this cairn. To form the central cairn, rubble containing fragments of unburnt and cremated human bone plus some animal bone was piled up with a low extension to the west. Natural clay from the immediate vicinity of the barrow was used to form the core of the mound (Fig. 2), on the surface of which fire-debris with some finds (mainly animal bone, plus fragments of cremated human bone, flint, pottery, and a few stone items) was deposited. A minor fire/pyre base was established towards the outer limit of the mound and at this point a local increase in dumped burnt material was visible over the face of the core. The distribution of burnt material within the core was determined by Bartington magnetic susceptibility meter at 0.1 m slices down throughout its entire depth. At the base of the core this survey was extended to include all of the prospective barrow and its margins. Burnt areas were detected around the margins of the site; they possibly resulted from ritual and other early activity.

Stone for use on the barrow was quarried from a pit, some 1.7 m deep where excavated, which provided limestone slabs for the inner kerb defining the edge of the clay core, rubble for capping the core and possibly, judging by the size of the quarry pit, material for a considerable stone superstructure, later removed by robbing the derelict monument. If stacked on top of the surviving height of the clay core the volume of stone quarried from the pit would have formed a superstructure over 2 m high; if built into space-enclosing structures an even higher structure would have resulted. Whether quarried stone contributed only to the immediate superstructure or was also used for surrounding marginal features, the data suggest the possibility of a stone-built monument of some size and local impact.

Two phases of stone kerb were identified, separated by eroded mound material. A cremation deposit of at least one adult, probably with an additional immature individual, and containing a flint tool and a bronze point was placed just beyond the inner kerb on the north-west margin of the barrow, around and in a pit cut through the intact pyre base. The pyre base was then sealed under a fan of rubble which may have formed the base of a low ramp for access across the kerbing to the top of the mound or may indicate an area for some unspecified marginal activity. A collared urn, the only intact vessel from the site, was placed without detectable contents against the base of the outer kerb. Charcoal associated with the cremation deposits at the centre and the north-west is likely to indicate a radiocarbon date placing the monument within the early Bronze Age (analysis pending) and compatible with much of the pottery from the site; the pottery bears cord decoration and is probably all derived from vessels of collared urn type. A fragment of a small bronze blade with a raised midrib from the rubble of the ring-bank is also of Bronze-Age type. Diagnostic items of flintwork conform to an early Bronze-Age date but the small assemblage includes a crude leaf-shaped arrowhead and microliths which might support radiocarbon evidence for earlier activity. The fill of the quarry pit indicates steady silting from the time of the construction of the barrow to the later prehistoric/Roman period when changed patterns of silting indicated by the magnetic enhancement of sediments plus scattered finds suggest greatly increased cultivation of the area.

Dr. Alistair Marshall

*The Park and The Bowsings*, SP 08322587 and SP 08582588. Further geophysical survey was undertaken at this middle Iron-Age farmstead and adjacent later Iron-Age stronghold and Roman farmstead. Sectional images through the enclosure ditches at both sites were generated by resistivity pseudosectioning in order to calibrate methods for obtaining comparative information on sizes of ditches at similar unexcavated sites, e.g. Temple Guiting, Middle Ground (AR21). Resistivity survey at high resolution was also carried out over the entire enclosure at The Bowsings and key areas at The Park in order to provide supporting data

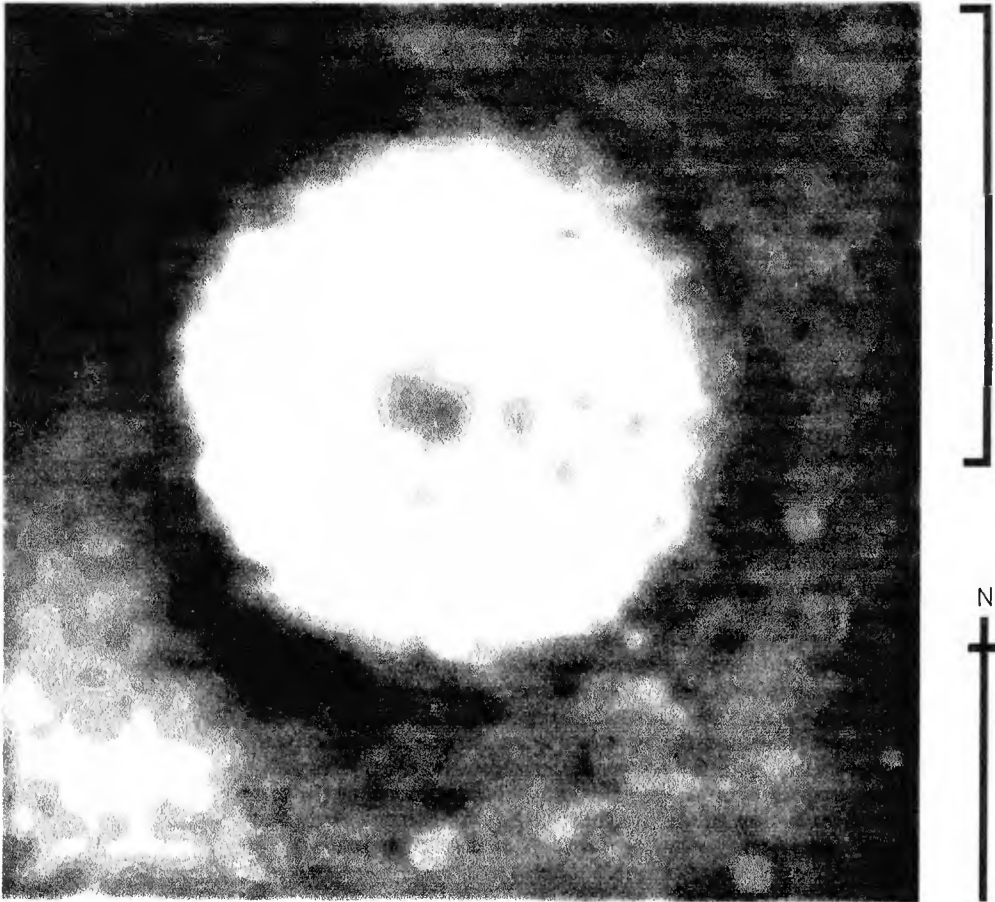


Fig 2. Guiting Power 1 round barrow: resistivity survey showing the clay core of the barrow containing a central cairn and revetted by a rubble ring shown by excavation to contain kerbs. The fan of laid rubble over the marginal cremation extends to the north-west. The ovate quarry pit lies just beyond the north-west edge of the image and is larger than the barrow itself. Grid North and a 10-m scale are shown. The scale of resistance runs from 74–125 ohm.

for this pseudosectioning and also for comparison with completed magnetometer surveys, especially in reference to recognition of zones of direct habitation within such enclosures. The pattern of magnetic susceptibility at the surface of topsoil over selected areas of each site was determined at 0.5 m intervals using a Bartington coil. Analysis showed that enclosure ditches and certain internal features could be detected by changes they exerted within the uppermost layers of topsoil. This work on well-preserved sites forms the initial stages of a further project to help interpret similar but eroded sites where features and evidence relating to internal zonation of the site may only survive as residual changes in surface ploughsoil.

Dr. Alistair Marshall

*Tally Ho Farm*, SP 09822321. Resistivity survey over a low, elongated mound about 30 m long, 15 m wide, and 1.3 m in maximum height, oriented NW–SE, provided no indication of marginal pits or ditches and the type of internal structure seen at known barrow sites.

Dr. Alistair Marshall

*Guiting Manor Farm*, SP 08952499. An evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a new grain store at Guiting Manor Farm adjacent to the area of an Iron-Age settlement partly excavated by Saville in 1974 (Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset, Occasional Paper 7). A magnetometer survey carried out at that time identified a large rectangular enclosure, the location and Iron-Age date of which were confirmed by the recent evaluation.

Jo Vallender and Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

**HAWLING**, *The Manor*, SP 06282290. A watching brief revealed 18th–19th-century wall footings.

Cliff Bateman, CAT

**HAZLETON**, *Hazleton I long barrow*, SP 0719018830. Further investigation of the internal structure of the mound (AR 20) was carried out by resistivity pseudosectioning along and across the midline of the barrow at key points. This survey generated sectional images confirming the overall structure of the revetted mound with its single megalithic chamber, and suggests that the perimeter of the barrow continues beyond the broader surviving end of the mound as an elongated enclosure. Details of the state of preservation over the surface of this possible enclosure were obtained by excavating three 4-m squares to the base of the plough soil, one on either side and one at the end of the structure. As expected, plough erosion of the area was advanced, bedrock being covered only by some 0.25–0.35 m of ploughsoil.

Dr. Alistair Marshall

*Hazleton 3 round barrow*, SP 06971983. A low eroded mound c. 0.5 m in maximum height and 20 m in diameter, rubble strewn but with larger slabs near the centre, lies on a low spur of former ploughland and is almost certainly the site of a round barrow.

Dr. Alistair Marshall

**HIGHNAM**, *Over Hospital*, SO 198814. A small evaluation trench exposed the clay-lined outer ditch of 'The Vineyard', a medieval earthwork which was refortified in the Civil War.

Alan Thomas, CAT

**HUCCLECOTE**, *Land adjoining Hucclecote Resource Centre*, SO 877175. An archaeological evaluation, before building work for a rugby club, afforded the opportunity to carry out a geophysical survey over the site of the known Roman villa. A clear plan of the building and its associated field systems was plotted, and trial trenches were positioned over significant archaeological anomalies outside the scheduled area. Initial interpretation of a circular feature on the eastern edge of the survey grid suggested the presence of an Iron-Age roundhouse but trenching indicated that the feature was a shallow, late Roman, ditch with none of the associated structural elements essential to roundhouse construction. Tentatively the feature is now thought to represent the corner of a field system extending eastwards beyond the survey area. Other trenches identified field boundary ditches of similar date.

Phil Greatorex, GAU

**KINGSWOOD (Glos.)**, *Abbey Gatehouse*, ST 747920. A watching brief was carried out during the replacement of a gas main along Kingswood High Street (ST 74709206 to ST 74709201), passing under the 16th-century gatehouse. Roughly 18 m north of the gatehouse the trench was cut through a wall robbing trench aligned approximately NW–SE, at right angles to two walls recorded on the primary school site c. 20 m to the west. Nine metres to the south the trench was crossed by a second wall. The area between the two walls contained large amounts of masonry rubble and other demolition related materials. Below the gatehouse itself the trench was cut through natural clay. Immediately south of the gatehouse the trench was cut through an undated pit apparently filled with lime mortar. Beyond the pit further rubble deposits were seen to continue as far south as the junction with Abbey Street.

Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

*Avondale, Dye House Yard, ST 74709211.* A watching brief carried out during the digging of foundations for an extension to the east side of 'Avondale' failed to produce any evidence of Kingswood abbey. A number of recent watching briefs in the immediate vicinity (AR 18) suggests that the western limit of physical remains in the area between the mill leat and Dye House Yard may be consistent with Lindley's conjectural plan of the site (*TBGAS 73*, plate xx).

Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

*Kingswood Primary School, ST 74679206.* The foundations for an extension to Kingswood primary school were archaeologically excavated. The site is located 30 m north-west of the surviving 16th-century gatehouse of Kingswood abbey. Whilst the limited extent of the excavation precluded the identification of building plans, it demonstrated that medieval stone buildings are well preserved on the site. Stone features included walls up to eleven courses in height, floor and exterior surfaces, collapsed masonry and roofing materials. At least two late-medieval building phases were identified. One was oriented NE-SW, the other E-W. Preliminary assessment of the pottery indicates that 40 per cent is of previously unidentified local manufacture.

Jo Vallender and Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

*Congregational School Room, The Walk, ST 74779205.* The presence of archaeological deposits under the old schoolroom was brought to the attention of GCCAS by members of Kingswood Local History Society. Salvage recording was carried out on deposits exposed by the removal of rotten floor joists in the eastern part of the building. The schoolroom carries a date plaque of 1845 on its south wall. In the area where the floor had been removed the room had been partly built on the foundations of an earlier structure. On the south side the schoolroom wall overlay a parallel earlier stone wall which extended 0.3 m north into the schoolroom and turned south under The Walk; its western limit was not defined. A small area of stone and mortar surface may have been a contemporary floor. On the north side of the building the schoolroom had also been built on the demolished remains of an earlier wall, which contained the base of a fireplace and a re-used stone with a chamfered edge. The wall turned north towards the mill leat. A third wall running E-W under the centre of the schoolroom was subsequently discovered. Although the dates of these walls could not be established, the evidence suggests extensive survival of well-preserved structures in the area of Kingswood abbey.

Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

**LECHLADE, Sherborne House, SU 21269974.** Evaluation identified an extensive and dense pattern of multi-period linear ditches, pits and postholes. The earliest features sampled dated from the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and later remains were also noted.

Alistair Barber, CAT

**LYDNEY, Church of England School, Church Road, SO 63110281.** An evaluation was carried out at the old church school. The site is within 150 m of a major Roman road and fronted the medieval and later route to the church and harbour. The majority of the site was lacking in deposits or features of archaeological interest and the post-medieval ploughsoil contained low levels of residual finds. A single small pit used for the disposal of iron slag was excavated near the Church Road frontage. The feature produced a single abraded body sherd of probable medieval date. Watching briefs during topsoil stripping and foundation excavation failed to add further archaeological information.

Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

*Lydney Institute, High Street, SO 62900280.* Further excavation in advance of housing development indicated that medieval deposits were limited to one area of the site and that most of the features present were part of the adjacent post-medieval Lydney furnace or the 19th-century institute. Several burnt areas, a probable 17th-century boundary wall, and deposits and pit fills containing large quantities of slag and casting waste were excavated. Elsewhere on the site the majority of cut features were drainage features comprising stone-lined drains, ditches and gullies.

Jo Vallender and Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

**MANGOTSFIELD**, *Emersons Green Village*, ST 6776. A combination of desk-based assessment, evaluations and watching briefs on the site of Emersons Green Village housing development revealed detailed evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British and early industrial activity on the site.

Lynn Hume, Donna Yorkston and Adrian Parry, AAU

*Emersons Green, Area B, and Shermans Green Farm*, ST 666785. An evaluation comprising sixty-three trial trenches identified mainly post-medieval activity. Several field drains were exposed, along with a 19th-century farm pond, an 18th-century drainage gully, and several modern agricultural features. The remains of an 18th-century farmhouse (Shermans Green Farm) were also recorded. It was 'L'-shaped in plan and had been considerably altered during the 19th century. Trenches excavated inside the farmhouse revealed earlier drainage gullies and several amorphous clay-filled pits dating from the 17th century. A sherd of 17th-century tin-glazed earthenware, German Westerwald, numerous sherds of 18th-century combed slipware and several unstratified sherds of Romano-British mortaria were also found.

Georgina Finn, BaRAS

**MATSON**, *Rectory Road housing development*, SO 85071571. A linear ditch, c. 1.5 m wide with a 'U'-shaped profile, a cleaning slot in the military tradition, and a 5-m wide entrance extended across the site. It was interpreted as the boundary and entrance into a 1st-century A.D. farmstead enclosure. Part of a possible eavesdrip ditch or soakaway recorded within the enclosure area contained numerous sherds of native type jars and a rolled rim storage vessel, Severn Valley wares and grey rusticated jars which have been dated to the late 1st century or early 2nd century. Large quantities of charcoal, burnt clay, bones and stones within the above features indicate their close proximity to an occupation area.

Evidence of the site of a possible 2nd- to 4th-century Roman villa was identified in the form of a continuous linear ditch c. 2 m wide, with a 'U'-shaped profile and cleaning slot. The truncated fill contained only occasional sherds of later Seven Valley ware, Oxfordshire colour coated ware and cattle bone.

Two parallel 1-m wide ditches with irregular 'U'-shaped profiles, 2 m apart, extended into the site area. Their fills contained numerous small fragments of local limestone, possibly from disturbed trackway metalling, and sherds of sub-Roman pottery dated to the 5th-early 7th century, which suggested that the features may be evidence of a Dark-Age farmstead trackway.

Anthony Patrick Garrod, GAU

**MORETON-IN-MARSH**, *Tinker's Close*, SP 20583204. Excavation on land to the north of and adjoining the 1995 excavations identified further traces of medieval arable cultivation dated by pottery to the 11th-13th century and a small number of medieval pits. A small assemblage of Roman pottery hints at Roman occupation to the west of Tinker's Close, nearer the Fosse Way.

Brona Langton and Graeme Walker, CAT

**NEWENT**, *Newent Business Park*, SO 730258. An archaeological excavation in 1994 by GCCAS (AR 19) recorded a Roman metal-working site. As development of the business park continued in 1996 a series of watching briefs was undertaken revealing further evidence of Roman activity in the form of deposits of iron slag and pottery, some contained within pits.

Derek Goult, GCCAS

**NEWLAND**, *Clearwell Farm*, SO 57360862. Archaeological observations were carried out during development at Clearwell Farm, within 30 m of previously identified structures of Roman date known as the 'Stock Farm Villa' (GSMR 5611). With the exception of one residual and thirteen unstratified sherds of Roman pottery no information relating to the adjacent Roman occupation was obtained. The results of the observations during construction, together with those of an evaluation carried out by H&WCC in August 1996, suggest that any cut features of Roman date have been truncated down to the limestone bedrock.

Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

**OLDBURY ON THE HILL**, *Church of St. Arild*, SO 81898821. A watching brief was carried out during drainage works and restoration. The main features recorded were the north porch which had rafters and purlins of re-used braces and trusses from an older roof, possibly a barn; the north-east and south-east buttress foundations which had been eliminated when the quoins were rebuilt in the 18th century along with the chancel; the evidence of the foundations which suggested that the 19th-century rebuilding was on the old plan and that the north porch was an addition to the nave; and the chancel roof which was an elaborate 14th-century 'waggon' roof taken down and inaccurately reassembled, presumably in the 18th century.

Carolyn Heighway

**QUEDGELEY**, *Olympus Park*, SO 81221465. Close to a Roman villa/farmstead, and apparent temple, this site was expected to produce evidence of associated field systems and the southern limit of occupation. Evidence of field systems, in the form of ditched boundaries, was confined to the northern limits of the investigated area, with the largest E-W ditch assumed to represent the settlement boundary. South of this line the only occupation evidence was a short stretch of Roman metalled roadway running approximately due south towards the eastern boundary of the site.

Phil Greatorex, GAU

*Waterwells Farm*, SO 815128. Geophysical survey, trial trenches and test pits have been undertaken on this site with largely negative results. Evidence of occupation prior to the 18th century was confined to the eastern limits of the investigated area and consisted of a single N-S boundary ditch dating to the 2nd or 3rd century A.D. Late post-medieval boundary ditches and a cart track following the southern bank of Daniels brook were also identified.

Phil Greatorex, GAU

**ST. BRIAVELS**, *Brook Farm, Mork* SO 555056. An axehead of London Museum Type V and an Anglo-Saxon spearhead of Type E3 (Fig. 3) were found at Brook Farm.

Alf Webb, DAG

**SHERBORNE**, *Haycroft Farm*, SP 1616. A survey of the 257-ha farm was commissioned by the landowner and was funded by English Heritage under the Survey Grants for Presentation scheme. Approximately 100 sites of archaeological and historic interest were noted. The work complemented a similar survey of the adjacent National Trust estate (AR 18 & 19).

Charles Parry, GCCAS

**SHIPTON**, *Shipton Sollars Manor*, SP 03031803. A survey of the barn, stable and granary revealed a complex series of building phases, suggesting that one or more of the structures might be earlier than the assumed 16th-century date.

Nick Turner, CAT

**SOMERFORD KEYNES**, *Spratsgate Lane*, SU 958024. Further excavation of the Iron-Age settlement at Spratsgate Lane was undertaken in advance of gravel quarrying (cf. AR 20). The 1996 excavation concentrated on the western side of the site where a single complex of structures and enclosures was evident in the form of ditches, postholes and a large pit. A large western boundary ditch was cut by two entrances. The northern of these was defined by two large and several smaller postholes and led into a curving avenue which ran eastwards to a large circular enclosure. The enclosure contained two phases of circular gullies defining roundhouses c. 11 m in diameter. Early in the usage of the site a second circular enclosure was created to the north of the first. It contained the postholes of a further circular structure, also 11 m in diameter, with a rectangle of four small central posts. An isolated small enclosure defined by a shallow segmented ditch was located further north. A single large pit was over 2 m in depth and rich in organic material, including a fragment of a sharpened stake. The location of the feature in line with the entrance



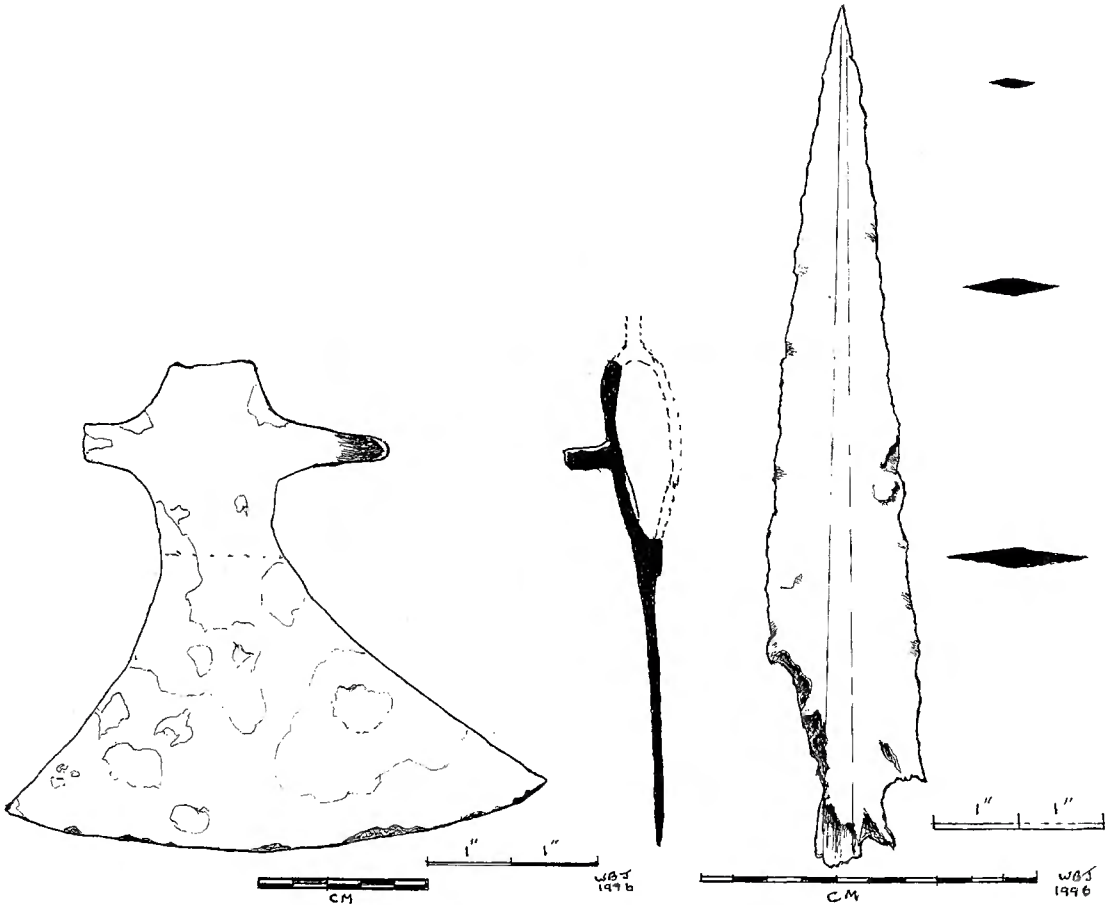


Fig. 3 St. Briavels axehead and spearhead (drawn by B. Johns).

may be significant. Pits similar in form at Shorncliffe (1 km to the east) were interpreted as having been used either for water supplies or for the retting of flax (Hearne and Heaton, *TBGAS* 112, 17–58).

To the south of the rectilinear enclosures was a second entrance in the boundary ditch. The area was much less clearly defined due to greater plough damage but it appeared to contain several phases of linear ditches leading to two segmented circular enclosures. An additional enclosure defined by a ditch with internal postholes was added on the outside of the western boundary ditch in this area. A straight ditch running N–S may have defined the boundary between the enclosures and the separate settlement area to the east, excavated in 1995.

Jo Vallender and Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

**SOUTH CERNEY**, SU 0471598060. Ridge and furrow earthworks covering c. 0.3 ha were surveyed in advance of the construction of a car park.

Charles Parry, GCCAS

**STOKE GIFFORD**, *Harry Stoke Lane*, ST 623789. An evaluation of land off Harry Stoke Lane in advance of development produced evidence of late Neolithic or early Bronze-Age settlement and funerary activity, medieval settlement associated with a shrunken medieval village and post-medieval agricultural features.

Jens Samuel, AAU

**STROUD**, *Dudbridge*, SO 83500460. A rapid archaeological assessment of the importance of Dudbridge was undertaken in advance of the proposed demolition of the bridge as part of the development of a new superstore adjacent to it. A bridge crossing the river Frome has been recorded at the site since the 13th century and the lower part of the present bridge, consisting of a small hump-backed stone structure supported on three arches, was recorded as early as 1368. Following the serious flood of 1750, the bridge was repaired and widened, and its hump-backed profile was flattened sometime after 1790, at which time the river crossing was included in the Gloucester to Bath turnpike route. The bridge was preserved, although the course of the river Frome was diverted during the construction of the Ebley bypass in the early 1990s, and it remains *in situ* on the edge of superstore site.

Derek Goult and Jon Hoyle, GCCAS/Jim Hunter, Lawson Price Environmental

**TEMPLE GUTTING**, *Middle Ground*, SP 09142750. Geophysical survey at this Iron-Age enclosure and Roman site included full resistivity survey of the enclosure, resistivity pseudosectioning over its ditches and a survey of magnetic susceptibility by Bartington coil over part of the interior and enclosure ditch.

Dr. Alistair Marshall

**TEWKESBURY**, *Eastern Relief Road*, SO 901316. Throughout much of 1996 a programme of four excavations and an extensive watching brief was carried out in advance of construction of the Tewkesbury eastern relief road. Middle Bronze-Age activity in the form of over 150 pits has been identified in two locations some 250 m apart. There were several different varieties of pits and some are probably associated with bronze casting. These pits had been truncated by later agricultural activity and produced very few finds. A small Bronze-Age settlement consisting of a ditched enclosure containing a 'D'-shaped structure was also excavated.

Two large areas of Romano-British activity (Areas I and II) were also identified. Area I replaced a possible droveway and roundhouse and consisted of a series of concentric rectilinear enclosures, possibly associated with stock keeping. Area II consisted of a large rectangular ditched enclosure measuring at least 100 by 42 m. This enclosure had been repeatedly subdivided into smaller enclosures, one of which contained numerous pits. Both enclosure systems produced pottery largely of 2nd- and 3rd-century date and were probably associated with low-status agricultural settlements.

Several themes have emerged from this work. Bronze-Age metal-working was being carried out on locally high ground within the flood zone between the river Swilgate and the Tirlle brook. Evidence of such activity is extremely rare and is of great interest in understanding Bronze-Age society and settlement. Second, the role of Romano-British sites within the contemporary settlement pattern is of considerable interest, particularly in relationship to nearby villa-type sites at Tewkesbury Park and Southwick Park. Third, these excavations have shown that the heavy Lias clays of the Vale were more densely occupied in the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods than the visible evidence would suggest.

Alan Thomas and Graeme Walker, CAT

**Stonehills**, SO 895312. Four trenches were excavated along the line of a possible routeway from Queen Margaret's Camp, a moated site of probable medieval date. No evidence of the routeway was encountered although some linear ditches were present. To the south of Queen Margaret's Camp more extensive topsoil stripping for housing revealed only ridge and furrow.

Alan Thomas, CAT

**TIDENHAM**, *Mercian Way*, *Sedbury*, ST 54179309. Observation of two service trenches across the line of Offa's Dyke confirmed the survival of a bank constructed of the local red clay below Mercian Way.

Colluvium had built up against the northern face of the bank, which had acted as a field boundary until the early part of the 20th century, creating the terrace profile which was visible in 1996. The service trench was not deep enough to allow the recording of details of the internal structure of the bank, although a darker horizon within its fabric may represent a line of turves.

Jon Hoyle, GCCAS

**UPTON ST LEONARDS**, *Church of England Primary School*, SO 86711518. Ridge and furrow earthworks covering c. 1 ha were surveyed in advance of the construction of a new playing field.

Charles Parry, GCCAS

**WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN**, *Westbury Court Gardens*, SO 71801390. A watching brief confirmed the location of the pond illustrated in Kip's engraving published in 1712.

Hugh Beamish, CAT

**WHITMINSTER**, *Kidnams Farm*, SO 77540827. A desk-based assessment was carried out on the site of a proposed housing development off Hyde Lane, Whitminster. The site is close to an area described as 'Oldbury' on the tithe map, and structures and deposits of medieval or later date extending onto the eastern part of the site were recorded during a watching brief in the 1970s (*Glevensis* 27 (1993), 8–20).

Toby Catchpole, GCCAS

**WHITTINGTON**, *Syreford Mill*, SP 02782017. Excavations by Wilf Cox in the mid 1970s produced a wide range of finds, including Mesolithic flints, Iron-Age pottery and a Romano-British burial site. The surviving site archive has now been deposited at Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum.

Guy Kilminster, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

**WINCHCOMBE**, *Back Lane*, SP 02372843. A watching brief was undertaken in connection with groundworks within the monastic precinct of the demolished abbey of St. Mary. Although an archaeological evaluation in 1994 by GCCAS had identified possible monastic features, no features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Derek Goult and Jon Hoyle, GCCAS

*Church of St. Peter*, SO 23283. In 1996 trenches were dug for the paving slabs for a garden of remembrance at the east end of St. Peter's church. The excavation disturbed burial soil which contained pottery of medieval and post-medieval date and much human bone. Various *in situ* but truncated gravestones were uncovered including one dated 1698. The evidence confirms that the area east of the eastern annex had been used for burial since well before the late 17th century.

Carolyn Heighway

**WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE**, *Wortley Roman Villa*, ST 765918. Excavation continued on the 'cellar', and the partial removal of its floor showed evidence of an earlier floor with associated painted wall plaster. In addition, a cruciform setting of four dressed stone-sided channels was revealed in the centre of the floor, each channel extending from the cellar walls. Lying within one of these channels were two large rolled-up sheets of lead, each weighing over thirty pounds. It is possible that the lead had originally formed a 'font' in the centre of the floor, with the channels providing water which, through seepage, would rise up into the 'font'. Such an interpretation, however, presupposes that the floor(s) of the cellar had been constructed below the water table, which might seem unlikely. Another interpretation could be that the lead and channels formed a sacrarium whereby libations were poured into the 'font' and soaked away through the bases of the channels. The channels and the lead sheets provide further evidence that the cellar has far more in common with the religious 'deep room' of the Lullingstone villa in Kent, for example, than with a simple storage unit. Rusticated pottery no later than 130 A.D. found under the cellar floor has specific military associations and adds further weight to the theory that the earliest phase of the villa was erected by engineers from the Gloucester garrison, possibly as an officer's country house or retirement home.

The isolated building to the south of the main block, thought from aerial photographic evidence to be apsidal, has proved not to be so. There is clear evidence of two phases of medieval robbing of the south wall. The building itself was erected over an earlier metalled surface.

David Wilson